

# The Crossed Quills

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The Magazine of the  
**Artillery Clerks' Association**

Edition 19  
December 2015



Raised by Royal Warrant at Woolwich in 1716 the Royal Regiment of Artillery will celebrate its Tercentenary on 26 May 2016. In order to mark this historic milestone, a series of commemorative activities, collectively known as Royal Artillery 300 (RA300), will take place over the next few years. These activities will occur simultaneously to World War I centenary and Waterloo 200 commemorations.

The planned activities are designed to: **Remember** the sacrifices of our forebears through a Service of Thanksgiving at Salisbury Cathedral: **Celebrate** and parade our current equipment and capabilities at Knighton Down, Larkhill at the Royal Artillery Review: **Challenge** ourselves through UBIQUE 300 - a circumnavigation of the globe: **Educate** ourselves and **engage** with different generations through studying the battles of the past: **Demonstrate** our past and present capabilities at Fire Power Artillery Day and finally support the wider Defence commemorative events.

20th December 2015 (WWII)	Gallipoli Salute & Civic Reception. (Commemoration of 5th City of Glasgow Bty).	Glasgow (Details TBC)
19th May 2016 (RA 300)	Service of Thanksgiving. (Free admission, ticketed event. Open to RA Regular, Reserve, Veterans & their families. Tickets via Chain-of-Command and RA Associations)	Salisbury Cathedral
26th May 2016 (RA 300)	The Royal Artillery Review	Larkhill.
12th November 2016	The Lord Mayor's Show	London (Open to all)
13th November 2016	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	The Royal Artillery Memorial, Hyde Park Corner (Open to all)
4th December 2016	St. Barbara's Day Church Service	Larkhill Garrison Church (Open to all)
12 November 2017	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	The Royal Artillery Memorial, Hyde Park Corner (Open to all)
Sunday 11th November 2018 (WWI)	Armistice Day Centenary Commemorations. RA Ceremony of Remembrance	The Royal Artillery Memorial, Hyde Park Corner (Open to all)

# Foreword by Association President

## Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL

It is always at this time of year, fresh from our annual family holidays, that I receive a gentle reminder from the Association Chairman to put together my contribution for Crossed Quills. I am always pleased with this opportunity because I look upon our magazine, in conjunction with the website and Facebook, as a vital communication vehicle.

Put together they serve to show the breadth of our Association brand and highlight stories from our community. I hope that they also serve to empower our Committee and members across the Association take ownership of the content.

2016 is going to be a significant year for a number of reasons – ranging from the 400th Anniversary

of William Shakespeare's death, to the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme to the 300th Anniversary of the birth of the Royal Regiment. Ubique 300 will culminate with a review of the Regiment by the Captain General. I hope that you all have the opportunity to engage in one way or another with these commemorations in reflection and in comradeship. I also understand that Paul Corker is getting married in 2016!!

And of course the Association will be meeting again for its annual Reunion Weekend and Dinner at Larkhill on Saturday 18th June 2016. I hope to see as many of you as possible.

Like all the dates that we must remember, your President is

also getting on! Now I'm 64 (remember the song?), it is time for me to pass the baton on to another worthy man or woman who is ready to take the Association forward and enjoy the role as much as I have. This I will do in saying my farewell at our Reunion Dinner in 2016. You will know that my own life has faced its own challenges and I have been hugely encouraged by your friendship and support. I am sure that this will continue into the future. Thank you, very much.

Finally I would like to thank all those who have had a hand in putting this magazine together – it is a credit to you all and to the Association.

# Report by Association Chairman - Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM

It gives me great pleasure once again to present to you this edition of Crossed Quills. I am sure that this edition will help in bringing back the nostalgic moments of our Association in 2015 (and far beyond!) as we look back on another year of progress and success. As far as I am concerned, as your Chairman, it is the success of our members that I would wish to celebrate most – especially those who have recently joined the Association, those who have received national recognition, those who have been promoted, those who have made the transition from service to civilian life and those who have continued to support and contribute to the wellbeing of the Association.

Our Annual Reunion Weekend and Dinners in Larkhill and Germany are the formal expression of the core element of our work – the expansion of our comradeship and companionship. The success of the 2015 Reunion Weekend is a source of pride to all – Committee Members and Association Members alike – as manifested in the many messages posted on Facebook and our website, and the many photographs featured in this magazine. Next year the Reunion Weekend will be the last one organised by Ian Constantine – we are still looking to hear from a volunteer replacement, who ideally should understudy Ian in the preparations leading up to the Dinner in June 2016.

In late September I was delighted to announce that Maj Gen Richard Nugee, ACDS (PC) & DSS, had accepted by invitation to take over the mantle of Honorary President from Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers with effect the 2016 Reunion Dinner. This news was met with unanimous acclaim on our social media.

On the 26th May 2016 the Royal Artillery will celebrate its 300th Anniversary. As part of the celebration of this significant milestone, the Royal Artillery is conducting a west to east circumnavigation of the globe, which commenced in Woolwich on 15th May 2015, and finishing at our Regimental home in Larkhill.

A baton, designed to represent the Regiment's 300 years, is being carried around the globe, before being presented to the Captain General when Her Majesty reviews the Regiment at Larkhill on the date of the Regiment's Foundation. On 10th July 2015 the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) in collaboration with the 105th Regiment Royal Artillery celebrated this Anniversary with a spectacular gun salute in Valletta. Peter Gauci, one of our members, was present. The public of Salisbury, including a number of our members, turned out in force on the 28th June 2015 to greet the soldiers and officers from 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery, who were honoured with the Freedom of the City of Salisbury. The Regiment, currently based in Larkhill, accepted the honour on behalf of the entire Royal Regiment of Artillery in a ceremony held in the heart of the historic city.

Congratulations to Mr Andy Tibble MSM MVO who became a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) in the 2015 New year's Honours List.

I want to finish by thanking all those who are playing their part in helping in building up our Association – from Andrew Jones, our Standard Bearer, to the various Area Secretaries and to all of those of you who go the extra mile to help attract new members.

I wish you all the best for a prosperous, healthy and successful 2016, and look forward to seeing you all again at the Reunion Dinner on 18th June 2016.



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

Once again this has been yet again another very busy year which has passed by so quickly since the production of the last edition of 'The Crossed Quills'. 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 13th June 2015 under the auspices of Maj Ian Constantine RHA. The Association was proud to welcome Colonel Matthew Carter as our Guest of Honour, and the Secretary of the Royal Artillery Association, Captain Alan Solly as our guest. A full report on the Dinner by our Reunion Secretary can be read later in the magazine. On behalf of those members who attended, I would like to say a big thank you to Ian for all of the hard work that he put into this dinner, making this a most memorable evening and a most enjoyable weekend. Mr Ron Holmes MSM (Germany Reunion Secretary) organised a very successful Germany Reunion weekend that took place in Sennelager on Saturday 28th November 2015. Further details regarding the 82nd Artillery Clerks' Association and Reunion Dinner at Larkhill on Saturday 18th June 2016 is enclosed with your copy of 'The crossed Quills' and details

regarding the Germany Reunion in 2016 will be sent out in due course. Thank you also to Mr Ron Holmes MSM for supplying photographs from the Reunion weekend for this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'.

All Area Secretary's were asked to engage with all members of the Association who currently live within their areas of responsibility. The aim of this exercise was 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. The Committee can then address these issues in order to improve attendance levels. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Area Secretary's for their continued support over the past year.

Sadly I have to also report of the death of two our Artillery Clerks who has sadly passed away since the last report:

Former WO2(QMS(AC)) Dennis Phillipson who passed away on 21st May 2014. I was only recently informed of this by his wife.

Former Sergeant (AC) Tom Webb who passed away on Wednesday 19th August 2015. Tom was a great supporter of the Artillery Clerks' Association where he regularly attended the reunions both at Larkhill as well as in Germany when he was able too. He will be missed by all those members who knew him. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) and Mr Chris Shuter represented the Association at Tom's funeral.

The St Barbara's Day Church Service was held in the Garrison Church of St. Alban the Martyr, Larkhill on Sunday 6th December 2015. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), Lt Col Russ Lee, Andrews Jones (Standard Bearer) and Ken Russell represented the Association. The 2016 St Barbara's Day Church Service will be held in the Garrison Church of St. Alban the Martyr, Larkhill on Sunday 4th December 2016. If you live within reasonable travelling distance, please can I urge you to support this event and get this date into your diary please?

The 82nd Artillery Clerks' Reunion will take place over the weekend of the 17th, 18th & 19th June 2016 at Larkhill. Further details will be forwarded to all members by our Reunion Secretary shortly. 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 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 coordinates 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. An expression of interest to keep the Germany Reunion's going was raised and will be looked at by Ron. 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, Lt Col Vic Holdaway, Steve Callaghan, Dick Jeavons and Alan Lowthian. Many thanks for your contribution. Issue 20 of the Crossed Quills is due to be published and by the end of November 2016. 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 Thursday 1st September 2016. 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 210. There are currently 165 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.

The following former Artillery Clerks joined the Association during 2015:

Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Harry Lomax who joined on 6th January 2015. Harry lives in Stratford-on-Avon.

Former Sgt (AC) Dave Allen who joined on 6th January 2015. Dave lives in Nottingham.

Former WO1(SMAC) Pete Oxley who joined on 30th January 2015. Pete lives in Cheltenham.

Former WO1(SMAC) Charlie Thompson who joined on 22nd May 2015. Charlie lives in York.

Former LBdr Jon Bevan who joined on 25th May 2015. Jon lives in Swansea.

Former Sgt (AC) Dave Hamilton who joined on 5th June 2015. Dave lives in Leigh near Wigan.

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, Brian Bayliss, Steve Paton, Phillip Buckingham, Dave Smith, Chris Wood, H Hammond, Neil Ridout, Mel Turpie, Ian Williams, G Williams, 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](http://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..

Mr Stephen Read (Historical Secretary) gave those members present at the AGM at Larkhill an update on the progress that had been made in drawing up the Artillery Clerks' Roll 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. Those members who have information to pass on or wish to gain access to the

Roll should contact Steve as per the details in Cross Quills or by emailing Steve at: [ArtyClkProject@gmail.com](mailto:ArtyClkProject@gmail.com). Can I please urge all members to forward to Stephen any information; photographs that you may have that you believe would be of historical interest. 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 Stephen for the time that he has put into this on-going project.

In the meantime I would like to take this opportunity in wishing every member a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Please remember those members and families who are ill at home and to those members of the Association who are deployed on military operations during the festive season. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

See you at Larkhill, if not sooner. Ubique.

Andy



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

New ties are in, good quality but unfortunately to cover the costs the price for each tie is now £20 which will cover the cost of production, etc. Please contact me if you are still waiting for a tie. I also still hold 5 sets of cuff links @ £28.50 each, again orders through my e mail address [roydeal@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roydeal@hotmail.co.uk) will be fine.

Still happy to meet any AC's for coffee if you ever visit Andover 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 £20.00 made payable to The Artillery Clerks' Association to:

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

# Association Committee 2015 - 2016

Honorary President	Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL
Chairman	Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM
Secretary	Andy Tibble MVO MSM - former WO1(SSM)
Assistant Secretary	Roy Deal MBE - former WO1(SSM)
Reunion Secretary	Maj Ian Constantine RHA
Treasurer	Maj (Retd) Paul Corker
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	Stephen Read - former WO2(QMS(AC))

## 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	Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell
South	WO1 (SSM) Paddy Butler
West	Roy Deal MBE – former WO1(SSM)
London Area	Andrew Jones – former Sgt(AC)
Scotland	The Secretary
Wales	The Secretary
Northern Ireland	The Secretary
Germany	Mr Ron Holmes MSM former WO1(SSM)
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](mailto: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](mailto:morgan_45@hotmail.co.uk)

### The Midlands –

Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Leicestershire, Hereford and Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Contact Steve Callaghan at [artyclerk1@btconnect.com](mailto:artyclerk1@btconnect.com)

### The East –

Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Essex, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Contact Dave Cussell at [dave.cussell@virginmedia.com](mailto:dave.cussell@virginmedia.com)

### The South –

Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent. Contact WO1 (SSM) Paddy Butler at [paddy.vysk@gmail.com](mailto:paddy.vysk@gmail.com)

### The West –

Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire. Contact Roy Deal MBE at [roydeal@hotmail.com](mailto:roydeal@hotmail.com)

### The London Area.

Contact Andrew Jones at [ajones@bradfordswissport.com](mailto:ajones@bradfordswissport.com)

**Scotland.** Contact The Association Secretary, Andy Tibble at [andytibble@btinternet.com](mailto:andytibble@btinternet.com)

**Germany.** Contact Ron Holmes at [ronandkadja@aol.com](mailto:ronandkadja@aol.com)

### Rest of the World.

Contact the Association Secretary, Andy Tibble at [andytibble@btinternet.com](mailto:andytibble@btinternet.com).

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

During the Month of August I read an article posted by Lookout an enterprise security solution provider for mobile device users giving details of a reach of security to an Italian company called "Hacking Team" which sells spyware to governments and other organizations. - Some might say rough justice! Following some of the details which emerged following the security breach they have compiled a list of useful information what you should know to help you stay safe.

Spyware is a kind of targeted malware on both PCs and mobile devices that collects a broad amount of data about a person or organization without their knowledge. It then sends this data to the attacker(s) who typically gather that data for the purpose of espionage (spying) or criminal/ financial gain.

Just like your personal computer your mobile devices store and access huge amounts of data and that data is extremely valuable. So by keeping yourself protected, you can stay ahead of threats and safeguard your security and privacy. Keeping yourself protected, you can stay ahead of threats and safeguard your security and privacy. Malware can get onto your device in 2 ways:

1. An attacker gains physical access to your device
2. An attacker tricks you into downloading an app via an email, SMS, or other message

Ways to protect yourself:

- Keep a passcode on your phone. A lot of spyware sold

on the market requires that the attacker have physical access to the target device to install this software. Putting a passcode on your phone makes it that much harder for them.

- Don't download apps from untrusted third party marketplaces or links online. Spyware can be distributed through all of these means. Only download from official and vetted marketplaces such as the Apple App Store and Google Play.

- Don't jailbreak your device unless you really know what you're doing. Because jail broken iOS devices are inherently less protected, they are more vulnerable to attack when security protection measures aren't properly enabled.

To finish off I would ask each member to send me a portrait picture of themselves (head and shoulders) as I am hoping to place your picture adjacent to your contact email address on the committee and member's page which I believe will be a useful addition to the site. Obviously if you do not wish to do so then that's fine. For those who would like to do so please send it as a jpeg size approximately 400x400 kb's to [webmaster@artyclerkassn.org](mailto:webmaster@artyclerkassn.org).

**Help stop spam**



**remove all e mail  
addresses and use Bcc  
when you forward  
messages**

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

As Welfare Secretary I am pleased to report that all welfare cases ongoing are currently at a satisfactory state with individuals receiving the appropriate support of the Association. As always, a reminder that the committee will consider all calls for welfare support for any Association Member submitted to myself or any other committee member – contact details are available on the website and in Crossed Quills and if you are more social media savvy, you can also make contact through the Facebook group.

I am aware that in recent years a vote was taken not to invite wives and partners to this annual dinner. However, it is becoming a consideration that for some of our more elderly and/or infirm members of the Association, the support of their wife, partner, friend or relative may facilitate the Members attendance at the dinner, when otherwise this would be impossible. I hope that the committee would have the support of the members to assess each case on it's individual merits and agree the attendance of an appropriate person, male or female, to support a fellow Association Member to attend the annual dinner.

# ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND (ABF)

## The Soldiers Charity



Why does The Soldiers' Charity exist?

We are The Soldiers' Charity. We give lifetime support to serving and retired soldiers and their families. They risk so much for us, but for them, it's just doing their job. In return, we provide financial assistance when they are in real need. That's what we've been here to offer for 70 years.

The grants we give break down into seven broad areas. You can read about each of these here.

**Annuities:** to help supplement the incomes of older veterans or their widows living alone on basic pensions.

**Care home fees:** modest top-up grants to help with the cost for older veterans or their widows, where local authority grants are insufficient.

**Bursaries:** to help with education and training and include: Funding for training colleges that help retrain soldiers with disabilities

and training course fees and essential equipment for individual soldiers Support for ex-soldiers taking higher education courses to start on new careers after leaving the Army. Help with funding for continuing education for the children of soldiers who have died or been severely disabled in service.

**Holiday schemes:** for families under stress. Each year, more than 200 families benefit from short breaks at Pontins and Warner holiday resorts. An annual grant to the Guild of St Helena allows service children with special needs to have a holiday.

**Special Funds:** We administer special funds to assist soldiers who have been injured while on active service in Northern Ireland, The Falklands Campaign or The Gulf War. Dependants of those killed in these campaigns may also qualify for help from the funds. The George Purse Trust provides grants to those who live in South Wales and are in need of respite care.

**General Needs:** Grants can be made for a wide variety of purposes, as long as there is a clear need which cannot be met from other sources e.g. statutory grants and benefits, local funds etc. One in five of these grants are made towards mobility aids e.g. wheelchairs, stair-lifts, special beds etc.

### **Current Operations Fund:**

Launched in 2007 by the ABF the Current Operations Fund supports soldiers injured or families of those killed as a result of their Service during the current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Fund was set up as a direct response to the mounting numbers of serving soldiers and their families in great need who require immediate help. The grants cover everything from retraining a disabled soldier for a new career to providing holiday funds for a war widow and her children.



*Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) and Mr Peter Gauci at Veterans Day in Malta*

# Treasurer's Report by Major (Retd) Paul Corker

## General

Another year as a civilian!! I do not know what all the fuss is about. It was great to meet many of you in Larkhill this year and I do believe it is the most behaved I have been since my first event in 1983. Not even Dave Cussell could get me to misbehave!! 2015 has been a steady year for the Association and I am content that due to the committee's hard work and your loyal support the fund remains 'fit for purpose'. The transition to raise subscriptions to £10 per year has gone smoothly but I would ask all to check their bank statements and where necessary, please change your annual subscription to £10. We will get there in the end. I continue to chase long-term debtors and although it is with regret that I, on behalf of you must now suspend some memberships, I think it is absolutely necessary. HMRC are still dragging their heels with regards to 'Gift Aid' repayments but I will chase this with endeavour through 2015 and 2016. I continue to thank all members for their continued support to me but more importantly to the Association. The funds are healthy however, we have spent the surplus which was showing in the 'Reunion Fund'. I am content that the funds are sufficient to provide a financial service to the myriad of issues that may come along in 2016.

## Main Action Areas

The following is highlighted for members:

Outstanding Subscriptions - £1,635:00  
Mandate - 32 Members not paying by Direct Mandate  
Gift Aid - 12 Members failed to completed Declaration Form

Statement of Account – 31st August 2015

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Bank Account	£ 1,680.26	Function	£0:00
Deposit Account	£ 2,001:81		
Shop Stock	£ 88:00		
<b>Total Assets (A)</b>	<b>£ 3,770:07</b>	<b>Total Liabilities (B)</b>	<b>£0:00</b>

**AVAILABLE CASH (A – B) £ 3,770:07**

## Summary

The fund is financially strong however, there are issues I need to address, Gift Aid from the HMRC, outstanding subscriptions and converting those members who are still paying £5 annual subscriptions.

All invoices for the 2015 reunion have been settled and although the fund reads a zero balance, the main account is strong enough to support future events. Ian has ensured that the account has been well maintained.

With only a third of the year remaining my focus is beginning to switch to 2016 but the fund has been balanced to the penny and it shows a healthier cash holding when compared to the same time last year. I can only thank the committee and all members for their assistance in ensuring my role as Treasurer continues to be an easy one. Good luck and best wishes to all.

## Historical Secretary's Report by Stephen Read (former WO1 (SMAC))

### Artillery Clerks' Family tree

Enclosed with this edition of the Cross Quills members, who were Artillery Clerks, will find a report detailing the information held on them in the Family Tree. Can members please:

If the sheet is blank then no information is held on your service. Please either email or post to me as much information, as you are able to remember, on:

The units you served in, the appointments you held and the dates, and locations of these postings.

The dates of your promotions  
Any information about the SMACs, Chief Clerks, Assistant Chief Clerks or fellow Artillery Clerks you served with.

If the sheet contains information about your service, please check the details and then email or post me any corrections, updates or additions.

Contact details are at the end of this article.

### **Artillery Clerk anecdotes**

The service of most Artillery Clerks was active, colourful and often funny. To try and capture a flavour of the lives we led I proposed at this year's AGM (and it was passed) that the Association start to gather anecdotes from members that could build a record of our service. Can members please email or post to me the anecdotes they have. Do not be concerned if you are unable to write great sagas; very, very few people are authors. Please send me whatever you can, I will type it up, send it back to you for checking and then, once the text is agreed, find a way of publishing the story to members.

### **Artillery Clerk historical resources**

If member hold any documents, articles or photos that might be of historical value to the Association can they please let me know so that I can arrange with the owner to either take the original into the care of the Association (if the owner wishes to donate it) or to obtain a copy. Items of interest include: Seniority rolls, promotion orders, posting orders, photos, magazine articles, course nominal rolls etc, etc

### **Contact details:**

Email address: *ArtyClkProject@gmail.com*

Postal address:  
Mr S Read,  
22 Canada Rise,  
Market Lavington,  
Devizes,  
Wiltshire,  
SN10 4AD

# North West Area Secretary Report 2015 by Dennis Norris former WO2 (QMS(AC))

The BAOR Reunion at Sennelager on 18th October 2014 was well represented by the North West with Willie Wallace and Robbie Astick joining Dennis Norris at the Dinner. An excellent reunion and dinner was provided in the NATO Sergeants' Mess in Normandy Barracks followed by the usual festivities in the bar where the beer, the stories and banter flowed to the early morning. Willie Wallace had booked the early 'red eye' flight out of Paderborn to Manchester on the Sunday morning and it was a close run thing whether he would need to fly back still fully kitted up from the dinner. Personally, I had booked the early evening flight, so after joining the remaining AC's with hangovers on the Sunday morning to an excellent 'full English' at the Hussair in Sennelager with copious cups of coffee, said my farewells at a more leisurely pace before travelling to Paderborn airport for the return trip. Unfortunately, due to a problem with the local flight, I ended up stranded in Munich for the night in a local hotel courtesy of Lufthansa. Dorothy is still convinced I had met up with Martin 'Jock' Meek in Sennelager and decided to have an extra night on the 'strip'!

On 13th March 2015 I attended the funeral of an Ex Gunner at Warrington Crematorium. A call had been put out on the RA Association Facebook page to support this funeral as the ex Gunner had passed away aged 89 with only one brother living and no friends. The local ex Servicemen's club, who had been asked to help pay for the funeral, were concerned that the service would be sparsely attended. I was very pleased to find that on my

arrival that there were numerous RA ties and badges in attendance and that during the service, there were standing room only. It is always great to see that the adage "once a Gunner, always a Gunner" continues right to the end. The brother was particularly moved by the attendance of so many ex servicemen who attended – even though no one actually served with him or knew him.

The 86th? Artillery Clerks' Reunion Dinner took place at Larkhill on Saturday 13th June and most of the usual North West stalwarts attended. Unfortunately, Willie Wallace, one of the North West Regulars was unable to attend this year, but we hope to see him at the next reunion – although he did send some funds that helped the port to flow well into the after dinner speeches. Paul 'Geordie' Corker, who has recently moved to the North West (Southport area) was in his usual good humour as we discussed getting together for a game of golf as he is now the Secretary of Hesketh Golf Club. Although the North West is usually well represented at the reunion dinners, it would always be great to see more individuals and if anyone would like to attend, but are having difficulties with transport, please feel free to make contact with myself through the website to discuss how we can help as an Association.



# 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.

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.

# Artillery Clerks Association - Members list as at 31st December 2015

Sparky Allen	Jim Findlay	Tim Mathews	Dougie Silver
Dave Allen	Ron Flemmings	Tresh Matthews	Tony Skinner
Alf Alvin	Graham Flint	Ken May	Bob Smith
Richard Ancliffe	Alan Foot	Tommy McCarthy	Dave Smith
Al Artley	Foxy Fox	John McDermott	Brian Smith
Alan Ashcroft	Peter Gauci	George McLachlan	Snowy Snowdon
Robbie Astiot	Martin Geddes	Paul McMahan	Phil Spencer
Brian Bailey	Ian Grant	James McNamara	Mark Spring
Pip Bailey	Mick Grenham	Martin Meek	Trevor Spurr
Derek Baldry	Ian Groom	Tony Meek	Will Stirman
Brian Bassett	John Haddock	Eddie Mills	David Stotan
Brian Baylis	Colin Haine	Tam Millsip	Dave Straw
Taff Bellis	Ted Hall	Hauke Michelson	Andy Sykes
Chris Berry	Dave Hamilton	Brian Morgan	Ritchie Syme
Jon Bevan	Graham Hampton	Bill Morland	John Taylor
Martin Birch	Gary Harland	Ian Morris	Mark Testi
Dave Boulton	Adrian Harrison	Andy Moss	Mark Thorington
Peter Bradburn	Chris Harvey	Tony Mott	Charlie Thompson
Denis Brett	Steve Hawke	George Mould	Andy Tibble
Graham Brown	Phil Hayes	Paul Mudd	Gordon Timmis
David Brown	Phil Headford	Richard Nichol	Trig Tregower
Phil Buckingham	Martin Hedges	Dennis Norris	Frank Trimby
Titch Buckley	Marty Hester	Tony Nuttall	Steve Truslove
Budgie Burgess	Alan Hill	Andy O'Neill	Mel Turpie
Martin Butler	Geordie Himlin	Pete Oxley	Dave Tyler
Paddy Butler	Joe Hoggins	Steve Paton	Gary Tyson
Steve Callaghan	Vic Holdaway	Jim Peggie	Dave Vesty
Iain Campbell	Ron Holmes	Roy Penhallurick	Freddie Viggers
Walter Carney	Paddy Hope	Nick Perkovic	William Wallace
Rob Clarke	Richard Horner	Paul Perry	Dick Walmsley
Lawrence Collingwood	Stu Hunt	Joe Phelps	Daz Ward
Ian Constantine	Mick Hutchinson	Alan Phillips	Ken Ward
Paul Corker	Geoff Hyatt	Dennis Phillipson	Ron Waterfield
Stan Cornwell	Geoff Janik	Chris Piper	Andy West
Mike Cottrell	Dick Jeavons	Eddie Platts	Ronnie Whelan
Bob Cowan	Bill Johnson	Jim Pottle	Geoff Whitby
Dennis Crawford	Mick Johnston	Garry Prottey	Wills Williams
Kev Crump	Andrew Jones	Steve Prowse	Jeff Williams
Peter Currie	Ted Jones	Derek Ralphs	Ian Williams
Dave Cussell	Derek Kelsey	Steve Read	Mick Williams
Colin Davidson	Clive Knaggs	John Reynolds	Alan Witts
Paul Davies	Ralph Lalabalavu	Howard Richardson	Chris Wood
Steve Davies	John Lane	Neil Ridout	Al Wood
Roy Deal	Dave Larcombe	Des Riley	Woody Woodford
Pete Deverall	Russ Lee	Jim Roast	Robert Worley
John Dewberry	Ray Lewis	Brian Rose	Den Wright
Ray Dickinson	John Lindley	Arthur Rowell	Bill Young
John Dixon	Harry Lomax	Ken Russell	
Jim Doran	Alan Lowthian	Alan Sawdon	Membership stands at 210
Paddy Ennis	Leon Lyall	Vince Scott	
Roger Essex	Peter Lynch	Steve Seymour	
Sid Evans	Dave Manchester	Mike Shellard	
Ted Fairbrass	Adam Martin	Chris Shuter	
Joe Falzon	Tony Martin	Sid Siddall	

# 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  
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  
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  
Derick Lund  
Mick Lynch  
C McCusker  
Steve McKenna  
Alistair McKenzie

Maurice Metcalfe  
Eric Miller  
Ken Moore  
Pete Murphy  
John Nicholas  
Bill Ogilvie  
Gil O'Mallo  
John Osman  
Dave Parkinson  
Bill Pattison  
Ken Peacock  
Duncan Pettit  
Peter Petts  
Clem Pooke  
Nick Powell  
John Pratt  
Len Price  
Mick Price  
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  
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

165 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

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Central Sgts' Mess Larkhill, Saturday 13th June 2015

## 1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman opened the AGM by welcoming everyone to Larkhill and the Central Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, and extended a special warm welcome to the overseas visitors. He also welcomed Charlie Thompson, Dave Allen, Pete Oxley and Colin Haine who were attending the Reunion for the first time as new Association members. He hoped that everyone would enjoy the evening and that it sets the foundation for the newcomers to want to attend future reunions.

The Chairman pointed out that there was quite a long Agenda to get through, and then went on to urge everyone to contribute as much as possible to all debates.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

There were 19 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 7th June 2014

The Secretary said that the Minutes had been circulated in advance via Crossed Quills (Issue 18) and that it was not intended to read them at the meeting. A proposal by Bill Young and Mick Grenham to confirm that the Minutes were a true and accurate record was CARRIED Unanimously.

## 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 7th June 2014

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 7th June 2014.

## 5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman once again thanked everyone for supporting the Reunion weekend. He added that whilst it was pleasing to see that the attendance list was similar to last year, in spite of the change to the original date and the distractions of long journeys and bad weather here and there. He added that it was sad to have to record that Graham Brown and Tom Webb were not able to attend due to ill health. The Chairman said that Mike Johnson was an inspiration to all – and thanked him and Mary for making the long journey from Scotland.

The Chairman said that he was delighted that General Sir Freddie Viggers would be attending the dinner. He informed the members that he has kept the General up to speed with the health and wellbeing of the Association with regular updates. He added that this year the search for a Guest of Honour has been fraught with frustration and at times despair. However, the Committee were pleased to confirm that Colonel Matthew Carter, former CO of 5th Regiment had accepted the invitation to join us, together with Captain Allan Solly, Membership Officer of the Royal Artillery Association, as our guests for the evening.

The Chairman concluded his report by publicly thanking all the Committee Members for all the work they do throughout the year. He singled out the significant

contribution of the two main driving forces behind the Reunion, Ian Constantine and Andy Tibble, who have both got hugely busy day jobs.

He went on to congratulate Andy Tibble, who was invested with his MVO the day before.

The Chairman concluded by saying that the annual effort to publish and circulate "Crossed Quills"; together with the upkeep of our website, control of our finances; Standard Bearer representational work, keeping up the Germany Reunion; getting to grips with our Historical records and archives, are all commitments and roles which need to be acknowledged.

The Chairman once again thanked everyone for their continued support.

## 6. Secretary's Report

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

### Membership

The membership of The Artillery Clerks' Association currently stands at 210. Last year the total stood at 205.

### New Members

Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Harry Lomax who joined on 6th January 2015. Harry lives in Stratford-on-Avon.

Former Sgt (AC) Dave Allen who joined on 6th January 2015. Dave lives in Nottingham.

Former WO1(SMAC) Pete Oxley who joined on 30th January 2015. Pete lives in Cheltenham.

Former WO1(SMAC) Charlie Thompson who joined on 22nd May 2015. Charlie lives in York.

Former LBdr Jon Bevan who joined on 25th May 2015. Jon lives in Swansea.

Former Sgt (AC) Dave Hamilton who joined on 5th June 2015. Dave lives in Leigh near Wigan.

### **Deaths**

Former WO2 (SQMS) Dennis Phillipson who died on 21st May 2014.

### **Honours & Awards.**

Andy Tibble MSM (Secretary) became a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) in the 2015 New Year's Honours List.

### **Promotions. Nothing to report.**

### **Membership – Wanted List.**

The Secretary explained that there are currently 168 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.

### **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 19 are to be forwarded to the Secretary by Tuesday 1st September 2015. The Secretary urged members to put pen to paper and to send in articles that they would like published along with any photographs that they may have. All photographs would be returned as soon as possible on receipt.

### **Recruitment**

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

### **Standard Bearer**

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

7th December 2014 – St Barbara's Day Service

26th April 2015 – Gunner Sunday (Royal Hospital Chelsea)

1st May 2015 – UBIQUE 300 Launch (Fire Power Museum, Woolwich)

10th May 2015 - VE Day with the RAA High Wycombe

Due to attend:

15th August 2015 – VJ Day with the RAA High Wycombe

8th November 2015 – RA Service of Remembrance at Hyde park Corner.

6th December 2015 – St Barbara's Day Service, Larkhill

### **Area Secretary's**

The Secretary mentioned to those present that all Area Secretary's had been asked 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. The Committee can then address these issues in order to improve attendance levels.

The Secretary went on to thank all of the Area Secretary's for their continued support over the past year.

### **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 6th December 2015. 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. The Secretary urged anyone who was considering attending to inform him as soon as possible so that he could reserve places at the Service and in the WO's & Sgt's Mess for lunch afterwards. He pointed out that availability for lunch is always very limited.

### **7. Assistant Secretary's Report**

The Assistant Secretary, Roy Deal MBE, informed those present that he would continue to assist the Secretary with the drive to recruit new members to the Association and would be happy to get a network of Civil Service Artillery Clerks together. He invited those members wishing to place an order for ties or cuff links to contact him direct on either [roydeal@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roydeal@hotmail.co.uk) or [Roy.deal288@mod.uk](mailto:Roy.deal288@mod.uk)

### **Stock sold since last Reunion**

2 ties and 1 Set of cuff links/lapel Pin.

### **Stock held**

Ties: Nil stock.

Cuff links/lapel pins – 4 on hand at £28.50 each

**Ties.** *Ian Constantine proposed and David Stotan seconded that a new order for 25 x woven silk Artillery Clerks' Association Ties be placed as soon as possible at a price of £17.83 + vat as soon as possible. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.*

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Paul Corker, made the following comments:

#### LIQUIDITY STATE AS AT SATURDAY 13th JUNE 2015

ASSETS	
Cash	£41.50
Current Bank Balance	£4074.47
Deposit Bank Balance	£2001.54
Shop Stock	£114.00
<b>Total Assets (A)</b>	<b>£6231.51</b>
LIABILITIES	
Function	£2532.03
<b>Total Liabilities (B)</b>	<b>£2532.03</b>
<b>Available Cash (A-B)</b>	<b>£3699.48</b>

He particularly emphasised that:

**Subscriptions.** Non-payment: up to year 2014 was £1,045 and for 2015 is £1,025. For 2015 65 members paid only £5:00. This total is dropping as members change their direct debits. Total debtors are £3,070:00.

**Mandate.** 76 members are not paying by the Standing Order Mandate. Members are continuously encouraged to subscribe by this method.

**Gift Aid.** The Fund has received a total of £2,374:81 from the Inland Revenue. There are 56 members who are yet to join the gift aid scheme. Annual income is approximately £150:00. HMRC

have not paid us since 2013. Our take continues to be £1.25 for every £5 individuals contribute. The Treasurer urged all members to complete a Gift Aid declaration. The Treasurer said that he was on the case.

**Suspensions.** In accordance with the Association's policy on suspension, the Treasurer has written to all members who have not paid their subscriptions for a period of 3 years. There are currently 48 members shown as 'suspended'.

**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.

**Debtors.** Subscriptions are £10 annually and should be paid on or close to 1 January. As directed the Treasurer has issued a letter to members requesting their payment. To date 2 members have decided to terminate their membership.

**Mandate.** The Treasurer urged all members to pay by mandate as this would ease and simplify the administration burden.

#### 2014 Income and Expenditure Report (As at 31st December 2014) submitted to the RAA)

A copy of the report which was submitted to the RAA, signed by the Chairman and Secretary was available at the AGM for members to examine. In summary, the declared end state was:

**Income** £1349:03  
**Expenditure** £ 608:29  
**GPF** £+740:74 **Excess of income over expenditure**

**Insurance.** The insurance for the fund is valid until 31 Mar 16 It is placed with 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.

**Shop.** There are nil Association Ties in stock. There are 4 sets of cuff links and lapel pins @ £28:50 each.

**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.

*Richard Horner proposed and John Taylor 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, Dennis Norris informed those present that all on-going welfare cases were currently at a satisfactory state with individuals receiving the appropriate support from the Association. He pointed out that the Committee would consider all calls for welfare support for any Association Member submitted to himself or any other Committee member – contact details are available on the website, in Crossed Quills and through the Facebook group.

He went onto say that he was aware that in recent years a vote was taken not to invite wives and partners to the Association annual dinner. However, it is becoming a consideration that for some of our more elderly and/or infirm members of the Association, the support of their wife, partner, friend or relative may facilitate the Members attendance at the dinner, when otherwise this would be impossible. He hope that the Committee would have the support of the

members to assess each case on its individual merits and agree the attendance of an appropriate person, male or female, to support a fellow Association Member to attend the annual dinner.

*Dennis Norris proposed and Mr Mick Grenham seconded that the second paragraph in the Welfare Secretary's Report above is accepted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.*

## **10. Historical Secretary's Report.**

The Historical Secretary, Mr Stephen Read made the following comments:

Due to a change of job within the MOD and other factors he had not been able to do as much as he had hoped over the last 12 months. He highlighted the following:

Artillery Clerks' Family tree. The family tree currently holds details of 428 Artillery Clerks. There are, however, many current members who have not submitted any information. He added that he will discuss with the Chairman and Secretary whether it would be possible for him to send out, with the next edition of Cross Quills, either individual members career histories or, where none exist, a form to complete and return to provide information.

Association History. The Committee is reviewing its history archive. Those members holding any documents or photos relating to the history of the Association were invited to forward them to the Historical Secretary. Arrangements will be made for original documents and photos to be copied and then returned back to the originator.

Experiences as an AC. It would be of interest to gather, for the future, information about the personal experiences of Artillery Clerks.

There have been a number of interesting articles in past editions of Cross Quills in which people have talked about their experiences. Any contribution, however short or simple, would be most welcome.

Those members who had information to pass on or wished to gain access to the Roll should contact him as per the details in Cross Quills or by emailing him at: [ArtyClkProject@gmail.com](mailto:ArtyClkProject@gmail.com)

## **11. Germany Secretary's Report.**

The Germany Secretary, Ron Holmes MSM informed those present that he would be running the 2015 Germany Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion. This would take place at Sennelager (Senne Hussar) on Saturday 28th November 2015. Details will follow shortly on Facebook, email and calling letter.

## **12. Reunion Secretary's Report**

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

### **Afternote:**

The Reunion Secretary briefed that there would be an anticipated underspend due to overcharging following the introduction of Pay as You Dine in Larkhill. Unfortunately it was established that the overall costs of this year's Reunion had come in more than originally planned following an increase in accommodation fees (tied in with PAYD). This new situation would result in there being no change to the cost of the 2016 Reunion.

## **13. 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 MVO MSM  
Assistant Secretary  
Mr Roy Deal MBE  
Treasurer  
Maj (Retd) Paul Corker  
Reunion Secretary  
Maj Ian Constantine RHA  
Welfare Secretary  
Mr Dennis Norris  
Historical Secretary  
Mr Stephen Read  
Webmaster  
Mr David Stotan

*Ron Holmes MSM proposed and Bill Young seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.*

The Secretary also stated that the position of Area Secretary South had become vacant due to Mr Graham Brown stepping down after many years in this position and that WO1 (SSM) Paddy Buler had agreed to join the Committee as Area Secretary South

*John Lindlay proposed and Mick Hutchinson seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.*

The Secretary also stated that the position of Area Secretary London had become vacant due to Mr Steve Truslove stepping down after many years in this position and that Mr Andrew Jones had agreed to join the Committee as Area Secretary London

*WO1 (SSM) Paddy Butler proposed and Dennis Norris seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.*

## **14 Any other Business**

a. The Chairman informed those present that the Committee had been looking at the format of

future Reunions away from the military environment at Larkhill. The Committee had come to the conclusion it would be possible to run a formal dinner at slightly a higher cost than we currently pay for now, the cost of accommodation and bar would be significantly much higher. The Chairman went on to say that the Committee would continue to look into alternative options and would welcome any details, along with a breakdown of costs, from members who attend other Reunions etc.

b. It was agreed that a survey would be carried out, probably linked to the next edition of Crossed Quills or on-line, to produce fresh evidence from the membership on the preferences touching on future formats of the Reunion weekend, including the dinner. It is hoped that the findings will be incorporated into a report to be presented at the next AGM.

c. John Lindlay recorded a vote of thanks to the Artillery Clerks' Association Committee and members for all of the work that they had done on behalf of the members over the past 12 months.

d. Ian Constantine announced that he is due to leave the Army in 2017 and therefore, as a result, would relinquish the appointment of Reunion Secretary after the 2015 Reunion Dinner. He just wanted to make his intentions known early so that the Committee had sufficient time to identify a replacement.

### 15. Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM will take place at Larkhill on Saturday 18th June 2016.

Andy Tibble  
Secretary

# 81st Artillery Clerk's Reunion and Association Dinner, Sergeants' Mess Larkhill Saturday 13th June 2015

In time honoured tradition, the 81st Artillery Clerks' Reunion gathered in Larkhill on Friday 12th June 2015 to get the weekend off to a proper start. Turnout for the Friday evening was good with over 20 members making the effort - including our Secretary Andy Tibble who had to hot foot it from Buckingham Palace following his investiture as a Member of the Victorian Order. The Friday evening was, as ever, a fun

night with a number of first time attendees getting a proper taste of what the association is all about.

The main event of the weekend kicked off at 1700 hours on Saturday 13th June with the Annual General Meeting, followed immediately by the formal photograph to mark the event. Members were pleased to see General Freddie, our Honourary President, looking fit and strong



and were also pleased to welcome the Guest of Honour Colonel Matthew Carter. Following Pre-Dinner Drinks attendees made their way to the Dining Room, taking their seats to accompaniment of the Sandhurst Silver Band Brass Quintet led by Jonathon Bowden. The meal was up to the usual high standards of Head Chef Sam Lynch with the service provided by the Mess Staff under Mess Manager Zoe Soane also first class. Our time at the table was capped by an excellent speech from the Guest of Honour, who managed to provoke many memories as well as a number of rye smiles.

## Friday Evening



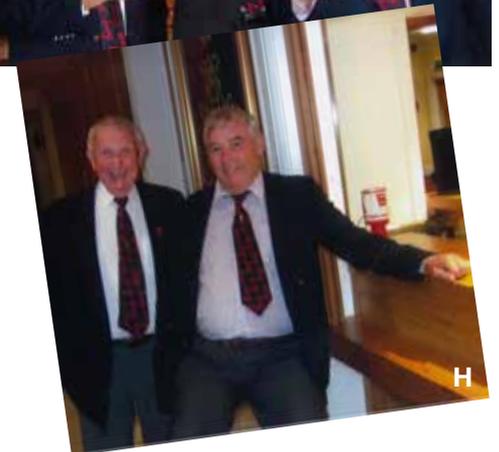
The evening finished in the normal manner, with the gathered members pulling up a sandbag and swinging a lantern! For many this is the best part of the weekend, where old friends can get together over a pint and relive the best (and the worst) times of their exalted military careers. It was pleasing to see the Guest of Honour enjoying himself so much and push it out until last orders!



As ever I will finish by imploring all members to make the effort for the 2016 Reunion, scheduled for the weekend of 18th June 2016. Please support the Association and ensure the future of the Reunion in the Sergeants' Mess.



Ubique  
lan



## Friday Evening

- a. *Front Row:* Mr Bill Young, Mr Roy Deal (Assistant Secretary), Mr Mick Grenham, Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary), Maj Dave Cussell, Mr Steve Seymour, Mr John Taylor,  
*Middle Row:* Mr Clive Nuttall, Mr Colin Haine & Mr Pete Oxley  
*Rear Row:* Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mr John Allen, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Dennis Norris (Welfare Secretary), Mr Joe Phelps, Mr Martin Hedges, WO1(SSM) Paddy Butler & Mr Chris Shuter
- b Mr Dave Allen and Mr Pete Oxley
- c Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Steve Seymour & Mr Dennis Norris (Welfare Secretary)
- d Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mr John Taylor, Mr Clive Nuttall & Mr Colin Haine
- e Mr Dennis Norris, Mr Ron Holmes & Mr Chris Shuter
- f Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary), Mr Chris Shuter & Mr Ron Holmes
- g WO1 (SSM) Paddy Butler, Mr Roy Deal (Assistant Secretary) & Mr Steve Seymour
- h Mr Joe Phelps & Mr Martin Hedges

## Saturday Evening



### Saturday Evening

- a Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), Col Matthew Carter (Guest of Honour) & Lt Gen Freddie Viggers (Honorary President)
- b *Left:* Mr Dave Manchester, Mr Pete Oxley, Maj Dave Cussell, Mr Bill Young, Mr Chris Norris  
*Right:* Capt Alan Solly (Guest), WO1(SSM) Paddy Butler, Mr Colin Haine
- c Mr Mick Johnston, Mrs Mary Johnston, Capt Allan Solly (Guest) & WO1(SSM) Paddy Butler
- d *Left:* Mr Joe Phelps, Mr Dave Allen, Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer)  
*Right:* Mr Geoff Hyatt, Mr Mick Grenham, Mr Peter Gauci & Mr Stephen Read (Historical Secreratry)



e *Left:* Mr Dave Stotan, Mr Roy Deal (Assistant Secretary), Mr Dave Manchester, Mr Pete Oxley, Maj Dave Cussell, Mr Bill Young, SSgt Chris Norris  
*Right:* Mr Mick Johnston, Mrs Mary Johnston, Capt Alan Solly (Guest), WO1(SSM) Paddy Butler, Mr Colin Haine  
 f Mr Pete Oxley, Maj Dave Cussell & Mr Bill Young  
 g Mr Steve Seymour & Mr Charlie Thompson  
 h Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary) & Lt Col Richard Horner  
 i Mr John Taylor & Lt Col David Brown  
 j Mr Clive Nuttall & Mr Mick Hutchinson



k Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Lt Col Russ Lee  
 l Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) and Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary)  
 m Mr Dennis Norris (Welfare Secretary) & SSgt Chris Norris  
 n Mr Geoff Hyatt & Mr Ron Holmes  
 o Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer), Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary) & Col Matthew Carter (Guest of Honour)  
 p 50 Msl Regt Reunion  
*Front:* Mr Mick Johnston, Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Mr John Lindley  
*Rear Row:* Mrs Mary Johnston, Mr Charlie Thompson, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Mr Ron Holmes

# Artillery Clerks' Association Dinner weekend Sennelager 27th-28th November 2015

The Royal Artillery Clerks' Association Germany 2015 weekend took place in Sennelager. Partners were invited to the dinner as requested by popular demand at the last AGM in Larkhill. Also a first, for the first time since we re-started Germany re-unions in 2006 (suspended since 1992), we chose a venue outside the wire (the NAAFI run Messes were simply too expensive for small groups). The Senne Hussar is a pub on Thun Strasse at the back of Normandy Bks and proved itself to be an excellent location and venue for small dinner parties. Run by Mike Hirst, former QRH Sgts' Mess manager we had an informal dinner with all the table trimmings of a full regimental dinner with a top notch three course meal with all the wine and port you could drink for 35 Euro.

I gave the Gunner Grace to start the proceedings and Mike Hutchinson gave a gallant toast to the ladies during the meal. The loyal message and toast was given and I read out some of the messages from absent friends. We also had a very nice message from General Freddie, extolling the importance of keeping these re-unions going and wishing us all a smashing weekend in Sennelager. Hauke Michelsen kindly brought a bottle of 'Artilleriefuehr' which has become the traditional tippel to toast absent friends. All attending gave a resounding sign of appreciation to Mike Hirst, his good wife Jane and staff for their service and efforts in ensuring we had a wonderful evening.

The NATO Sgts' Mess kindly provided rooms free of charge which made it easier on the pocket. Overall it was a really nice

weekend and having our partners with us added a nice touch of flair to the occasion which I wish to repeat next year. Although originally planned for 20 attendees, in the end we had 13 at the table and had a thoroughly enjoyable dinner and made enough noise for double that number.

Hauke Michelsen (German equivalent of a WO1 (SMAC)) is to be congratulated as he has just been informed by the German Ministry of Defence Awards Committee that he is to be awarded the "Bundeswehr Verdienstkreuz in Gold" for his outstanding contribution and services to the German Army over the last 40 years. Similar to our MSM. A big well done to Hauke.



*Left side:* Kev Lane, Sylvia Lane, Kadja Holmes, Ron Holmes, Jane Wills, Bob Smith

*Head of table:* Mick Hutchinson

*Ride side:* Robbie Astick, Marc Astick, Hauke Michelsen, Irene Michelsen, Pete Deverall, Kevin Cooney

# A year in the life of Royal Artillery Clerks' Standard Bearer 2015

## by Andrew Jones (former Sgt (AC))

I have been the Royal Artillery Clerks' Association standard bearer for the past 15 years.

I am very honoured and privileged to hold this very important role within the Artillery Clerks' Association.

I try my best to attend as many functions and engagements as possible throughout the year.

During the year from 1st Jan 2015, I have carried out the following:

### **Sunday 26th April 2015. Gunner Sunday Royal Hospital Chelsea**

I am always pleased to attend Gunner Sunday at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The parade is held in main arena of the hospital. There is an inspection followed by a church parade. We then retire to bar with the Chelsea pensioners for a few drinks.

This year while at the curry lunch, I was introduced and met members of the Royal Artillery Association Branch from Flackwell Heath & High Wycombe.

This is only about 30 miles from my home along the M40, they asked if I would to attend there VE & VJ parades to mark the end of World War Two.

Without no hesitation, I of course accepted, by the way I had already had a couple of pints of beer by the time they asked me!

### **Friday 1st May 2015. Ubique 300 Launch Royal Arsenal – Captain General's Baton (CGB)**

This was a long day and very early start! I had to be up early to be at Woolwich in front of building 40 at the firepower museum complex for 1000 hours for rehearsals for the parade starting at 1100 hours.

Working my way from Uxbridge the last stop on the underground in West London to Woolwich in South London carrying the standard and a small back pack through the London in the rush hour on the London underground, is quiet and adventures journey!

I finally made it to Woolwich on time. The Kings Troop, The Royal Artillery Band, and all Regiments of the Royal Artillery sent a contingent for this parade.

This was a historic and unique opportunity to take part in the celebrations of 300 years of the Royal Regiment. The parade went well and the weather was good to us, this was followed by lunch.

### **Sunday 10th May 2015 & Saturday 15th August 2015. The 70th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War VE & VJ Day**

I had never been to Flackwell Heath War Memorial before in High Wycombe. This is a very well kept war memorial with flowers and very well kept areas. The war memorial is in walking distance of the Royal British Legion. All the standard bearers form up here and march to the war memorial. Here the padre and the mayor and all the local people watch the parade. There is lots of laying of wreaths and a two minute silence with a bugle, we then



march back to the Royal British Legion. This is followed by a drinks in the bar and lunch. After lunch they had music and started playing all the old songs from the 1940s, a great day was had by all.

### **Sunday 8th November 2015.**

I will be attending the Royal Artillery Remembrance Parade at Hyde Park corner.

### **Sunday 6th December 2015**

I will be attending St Barbara's Day. If any members who live in the local area would like to attend, you are then welcome.



*St Barbara's Day Service at Larkhill on Sunday 6th December 2015. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), Mr Ken Russell, Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer) and Lt Col Russ Lee*

# Farewell 26 Regiment, hello HQRA 3 Division by Lt Col Vic Holdaway

The Regiment returned from disembarkation leave at the end of August 1963. 159 (Colenso) Battery was rescued from suspended animation and the regiment was brought up to strength. One new arrival was Major (QM) Charles Camies, former OIC RA Clerks School. Once we had unpacked and organised the RHQ offices we got into UK office mode. We were under command HQRA Eastern Command.

Horseshoe Barracks had an old world feel about it. We shared the barracks with the military staff of P & EE Shoeburyness. Their working day was governed by the tide and they wore a strange uniform from another age. We on the other hand, had left UK wearing battledress and returned to be issued with combat dress and boots cobbly wobbly. The WOs and Sgts Mess was shared with the P&EE Staff, including WRAC senior NCOs. They did not take kindly to having their tranquil life disturbed by raucous men. Initially single WOs and Sgts were accommodated in World War 1 huts adjacent to Shoeburyness train sidings. Not the quietest of places but, once the mess accommodation in barracks had been upgraded, life became more civilised. We of course found time to explore the delights of Shoeburyness and Southend.

Once RHQ was sorted out we settled into a rather pleasant routine. In the meantime the gun batteries were getting to grips with the 5.5 inch gun and the roads of Essex were cluttered up with Matador gun tractors and 3 ton vehicles, all bearing 'L' plates. Individual training for TARAs, signallers etc was also underway.

Once the drivers and gun numbers were suitably trained it was on to troop and battery training, creating even more chaos on the local roads. Then it was Christmas and we all went on block leave.

1964 started with a shock. The regiment was put on standby as Spearhead Reserve unit, ready to move at short notice. Gunnery training was abandoned and we went into infantry and IS mode. The call came in mid-February. We were allowed to take a limited number of landrovers/trailers and a restricted amount of freight. The vehicles went to RAF Lyneham ahead of the main body. Q Mov pre-checked the regiment which was then loaded by chinks into coaches which wended their way to RAF Lyneham where Britannia and Hastings aircraft awaited. The Adjutant and I were on the last flight and flew out on 23 February. After a night in Polheimedia Transist Camp RHQ was sent off to Western Cyprus to find somewhere to set up camp. We found a large house on the outskirts of Ktima that had been ransacked by the Greeks. The Turkish owner was more than happy for the British Army to occupy his house. 16 Battery were almost opposite in an old police station. 159 Battery occupied some buildings in the copper mines at Polis and 17 Battery remained in reserve in the transit camp.

26 Regiment came under command HQ Western Area, which was basically HQRA 3 Division enhanced with troops from the Divisional Signal Regiment. The Areas were under command HQ 3 Division located in Nicosia. The Turkish house could not

accommodate everyone. The Regimental ops room and office were on the first floor. The ground floor held the officers' and sgts' messes, the guardroom, armoury and medical centre. The cookhouse and soldiers' accommodation was outside under canvas. The remainder of the area was the vehicle park and chopper pad. Extra vehicles had been drawn from theatre reserve to provide ration and fuel supplies.

The next four weeks were spent patrolling in the Area in an attempt to stop the Greeks and Turks from killing each other, not totally successfully. Besides the routine office work there were floods of returns to be rendered twice daily, usually by radio as we only had one telephone on the Cypriot system. This was totally insecure and unreliable and at one point was cut off altogether. The Greeks also had a habit of blocking the road with farm machinery at irregular intervals. The RAF provided a Sycamore chopper to bypass the blockage and move mail, hospital patients etc.

Overnight on 26/27th March the United Nations took over. On 26th March we received the daily abuse from the local school children. On 27th March, with UN Flag flying and our UN berets on show we were cheered! At about this time I was warned for posting to HQRA 3 Division in August on promotion to WO1 (SMAC). With the advent of UNICYP HQ 3 Division became UN HQ. HQ Western Area was dispensed with and HQRA 3 Division returned to the UK. In the process the CRA, Brig D Crane had fallen out with his Chief Clerk, WO1 (SMAC) Les Higgs, so my posting was brought forward.



*RHQ 26 Regt Ktima, February 1964*

RA Records found a relief for me in remarkably quick time and a rather bemused Mike Greening arrived. After a weeks handover and farewell visits to the gun battery I left 26 Regiment on 10 April after almost 12 years as Chief Clerk. After rescuing my kit from Shoeburyness I went on 7 days leave before reporting to HQRA 3 Division in Bulford. Following a weeks takeover from Les Higgs I was promoted WO1 (SMAC) on 1st May 1964.

HQRA were the poor relations of HQ 3 Division. We occupied two World War 1 huts away from the

main HQ building. HQRA was heavy a top heavy organisation. CRA, BMRA, DAA&QMG, Staff Captain, WO1(SMAC), WO2 (QMSAC), NO clerks, one TARA, one store man, four drivers and one batman. The CRA was also Commander Bulford Garrison but, thankfully that came with its own staff. As Division HQ was in Cyprus we were also Rear HQ 3 Division. The Divisional artillery consisted of two Light Regiments, a Medium Regiment and a Light Air Defence Regiment. The Light Regiments were under command of their respective Brigades but HQRA was responsible for their technical

training. The other two regiments were under command. At a later date 7 Parachute Regiment RHA came into the fold. As Chief Clerk I looked after the CRA and BMRA, whilst WO2 (QMSAC) George Milburn looked after the DAA&QMG and SC (A).

I had barely had time to work out who did what before the BMRA, Major Mike Perkins, announced that HQ3 Division had been allocated a LCT for beach landing exercise. In the absence of Divisional HQ we would do it. The Divisional Signals Regiment's MTO was not best pleased at the news as he had to waterproof assorted Landrovers and trailers. However on the appointed day we embarked at Portland and sailed to Worbarrow Bay and did our beach landing without disaster. After bivouacking overnight on Lulworth Ranges we returned to Bulford, single vehicle running, by various routes decreed by the BM. Clearly life in HQRA 3 Division was going to be interesting. A new CRA - Brig John Goddard arrived in September, HQ 3 Division returned from Cyprus later in the year and we ceased to be Rear Div. HQ. After the Admin Inspection season was over we stood down for Christmas.



*WO2 George Milburn, WO2 Don McCormack, Mrs Milburn, Mrs McCormack and WO1 Vic Holdaway at 5 Lgt Regt Farewell Ball, 22nd May 1964*

1965. Early in the New Year a new GOC - Maj Gen 'Monkey' Blacker took over. He decided that Divisional HQ and the Signal Regiment needed sharpening up. A minimum of two one hour PT sessions per week and regular route marches over roads and cross-country were the new regime, in which the GOC was an enthusiastic participant. HQRA was responsible for organising practice camps, particularly the CRA's exercise. Over the next few years I renewed my acquaintanceship with Salisbury Plain, Sennybridge, Otterburn, Okehampton, Stanford PTA and some new areas including

Germany, Northern Ireland and Libya. There were also some private arrangements between the CRA or BMRA and landowners. In September The BM and I went on exercise with HQRA 4 Division in Germany to sharpen up our non-existent skills in nuclear planning. This was followed by an exercise in Libya. The GOC had decided he needed a Tac HQ and annexed HQRA, beefed up with officers, drivers, signallers etc from Div HQ and the Signal Regiment. The CRA and DAA&QMG remained in UK as Rear HQ. The Sappers had built a very comfortable camp at Bomba on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, complete with an old World War 2 air strip. However, on arrival the GOC decreed he wanted to be where the action was, hurried recces

Garrison loaned the GOC a well equipped office truck, complete with bed. We also borrowed a ration truck and water bowser. The latter was essential and provided enough water for the basics, but not enough for showers. I won't go into the more mundane problems we encountered but I was thankful that we had managed to find a slot in one of our vehicles for the Divisional Catering Adviser, an expert in field cooking. On return to Bomba there was a stampede for the sea. Before returning to the UK we had time to visit the Roman ruins of Cyrene and Appolonia, then it was back to Bulford, and normal business resumed.

1966. In April 39 Infantry Brigade in Northern Ireland were having a major exercise and HQRA was

there was a week long adventure training exercise, walking the Pennine Way, mainly through the Yorkshire Dales, led by the Staff Captain who's map-reading skills were somewhat eccentric. In August I had two weeks leave and returned to Northern Ireland to walk the Mourne Mountains. We had a change of CRA, Brig Drew Bethell, one of my former COs in 26 Regiment, took over. Major David Archibald had already taken over as BMRA. In September a rather too energetic PT session put me in hospital for 2 months whilst the doctors tried to decide what the problem was. Apparently torn stomach ligaments don't show up on X-rays. However I was let out for two weeks sick leave and returned just in time to go on Christmas leave.



*GOC's TAC HQ Libya*

followed. We also had to draw up a long list of stores needed to supplement our light scales kit. These were signalled to Cyprus and arrived within 48 hours! We left Bomba and moved inland to a site on top of a hill which was more to the GOC's liking. The fact that it was solid rock made erecting our 6'x6' shelters and assorted other tentage nigh on impossible. Thank goodness for sandbags, filled miles away and transported up the hill. HQ Tobruk

designated as Exercise Control, with enhancements from Divisional HQ and the Signal Regiment. We flew with our vehicles from RAF Benson to Nutts Corners Airfield in Co Antrim in Argosy aircraft "below radar height". We were based in Lisburn, the regular occupants were bog-trotting further North, for the next three weeks. When not required for duty the BM organised sports and mobile map reading exercises, i.e. swanning around the countryside. In June

1967. The year started with a 5 mile cross country route march. Most of the year was spent wandering around the UK on exercises. Some were in conjunction with 38 Group RAF. Besides the usual training areas RAF airfields at Benson, Keevil, Leconfield and Driffield were all on the visiting list. Late in the year I was informed that I had been selected for a QM Commission in the year 1968/69. WOI(SMAC) John Lane was due to be commissioned in early 1968 but, unfortunately, failed his medical and I was brought forward. WOI(SMAC) John Diamond took over from me in January 1968 and I went off on a QM Course where I entered an alien world of storekeeping and accounting. So ended my career as an Artillery Clerk. Ironically, six years later I ended up as a Section Officer in RAMRO, responsible for all Nuclear Regiments, Heavy and Light Air Defence Regiments and the dreaded 100 List of batmen, housemen, grooms etc who remained on the strength of their regiments but were employed elsewhere. My tour also included

the move from Foots Cray to York. One of our brand new clerical staff was ex WO2 Mike Greening. He was rapidly move sideways to become Chief Clerk.

Would I do it now? No, there are no serving Artillery Clerks now.

## The Crossed Quills 2014 by Steve Callaghan (Former WO2 (QMS(AC)))

Yes, it is himself again; typing away for all that he is worth for the Crossed Quills Magazine. I must admit that when I first received the Magazine, I did what I always do and quickly skimmed through the pages and pictures contained therein. I thoroughly enjoyed the moments of AC memories that the pages unfolded for our eyes, and also to make a mental note to read areas more deeply at a later date.

300 years 2016 for the Regiment, although in truth it is really 300 years for 'The Royal Regiment of Artillery' and one we should all look to embrace. Sue and I were recently pleased to be able to celebrate with the Gurkhas here in Nuneaton when they had a wonderfully moving celebration day which enabled them to lay a memorial and most wonderful tribute to mark their 200 years of service to our Queen and Royal Family.

The stories that unfold with these pages are wonderful, and a true testimony to the memory and recollection of those AC members who recall the same. It somehow seems as if I have led the sheltered life of an AC, in that my memories

cannot hold a candle in truth to those who honor our pages with their recollections of service and time as an AC. I guess I truly enjoy the recollections of fellow ACs more than I would a best seller by any other author. Sometimes we can see of truly wonderful awards that we would otherwise not be aware of, the recent MVO to Our Andy is one such, truly wonderful and tremendous moment that we would otherwise not have been privy to. I still recall being present when Ron Holmes was notified as receiving the MSM in the Birthday Honors, priceless. Such wonderful memories, wonderful times for recollection. Read on and there is my friend Dennis Norris, picking up a second LS&GC Medal, would we have known if not for the Crossed Quills. I seem to recall not having a pint to celebrate, perhaps Dennis and I will put that right in 2016.

I am totally at fault as I suffered an intrusion into my then email account, in which I had opened up contacts with my Midland AC Members, I had to completely delete the system and therefore lost the list of AC members within my area, in early 2014 and have never recovered. If you are still there, please feel free to contact me on the email as registered on the website. Maybe we can organise something on travel for the 2016 and 300 years dinner. I would not wish the AC Reunion to come to a halt, although, yes with dwindling attendance it may well become a reality. But then I am a pessimist or should that be a realist or a whateverist?

So reading on I then came to Vic's rendition for the Quills, it was somewhat nice to know that the turmoil with the Horseshoe Barracks that I got to know as a young lad of ten coming on eleven was all down to Vic and 26th Regiment moving into the Barracks. I am about to go home to Shoeburyness for the first time

in 12 years and if the stories I am hearing from families are correct, Vic you will be shocked. I do recall spending some time while growing up playing Rugby with some of the Fijians and Lala one and Lala two were two I genuinely recall with fondness, I also recall the sadness a few years later on. Anyway Vic, the Horseshoe Barracks are now nothing as you may recall, in fact it took away quite a mountain of memories in our 30 minutes' drive round. The main gates are there but now bollards block entry, you enter either by the "New Barge Pier Road" or alongside the old West Gate entrance. There has been quite a considerable amount of residential builds done, so much so that the Old Clock tower is still there as is the parade square; some of the soldiers' accommodation blocks are all now converted into flats and others demolished and now houses, the stables have gone and houses built, the old Barrack Church remains, but now close by is the New Hinguar School build within the grounds, there is also a Sainsbury Local. The Cricket Pitch and clubroom remain all other areas have been built on. The few houses that were once at Hilly Marsh have been demolished and a mini estate has been built. There is currently a battle going on as they also wish to build on the Gunners Park area, the old rifle ranges but now a Gunner Memorial area, they have already cut across is with the two new entries I mentioned earlier. This battle has been ongoing for two years or so. The old Cambridge Hotel outside the Barracks, has been converted into a really up market swish hotel/pub indeed. I very much doubt that I will ever feel the call to venture down Shoeburyness way again.

# A (Junior) Artillery Clerk - Getting the timing right? by Dick Jeavons (former WO1(SMAC))

I don't remember much about the Winter of 1972. Having finished near the top of the course I would be going to work in RHQ for a while, before being posted to my first 'adult' unit.

RHQ was somewhere I'd never been into, only seen, dozens of times, near the main gate. All I knew was that it was where important people worked and that I wasn't allowed to use the front entrance. Filled with some trepidation and a mild dread I marched (bog chaining) down towards the RHQ. I knew where the building was, but had no idea of the route to the back door, or how I would get in.

However, I was confident 'cause I was a TARA, albeit on my way to gain some experience in my newly acquired secondary trade. I was also a member of Alanbrooke Troop, 39(Roberts) Battery, which I had constantly drummed into me, was the best troop in Bramcote - who was I to argue with my Troop Sergeants (Trevor Beswick and Les (The Lad) Heliwell) - but more importantly I was a Mustering Gunner. All in all, being just over 6ft tall, I was a relatively big cheese in these parts!!

I passed the Medical Centre, continuing down towards RHQ on the left. I could see the Guard Room, down the incline and over on the right. I really didn't want to be too close to it 'cause that's where 'Jerry' ruled the roost. Bombardier 'Jerry' Dransfield was the RP Sergeant (I was never sure how that worked, as he was a Bombardier), he was bright and shiny (well his kit certainly was), but very loud and constantly used lots of words my mother wouldn't want

to hear, he always carried a stick, a big one.

Despite my brisk marching, RHQ didn't seem to be getting any closer, but Jerry's lair was. I knew I was heading in the right direction, but still wasn't sure which way to go. I would have to stop and ask someone. Strangely there was no-one about. Then I noticed movement ahead, I focused. I'd only ever seen him at a distance, but I instantly registered that it was the RSM (WO1 H J Smith) and he was heading my way, aaaarrgh!!

WO1(RSM) Smith was pristine, his shoes were like mirrors, his uniform fitted, was always immaculate and had razor sharp creases, in exactly the right places. The weak Winter sun glinted on the brass work on his stick - much bigger and shinier than Jerry's - he was striding out with vigour and purpose, directly towards me - I imagined terrified, suicidal rodents throwing themselves on the traps rather than encounter him.

I was the sort of soldier the RSM dined on for breakfast, he was still advancing and closing in my direction, at speed. The thoughts that I was exactly where I was supposed to be at that precise moment and that I was heading to where I had to be, never even entered my head. I was transfixed by the incoming RSM who must have had me square in his sights by now. Was my beret straight? My belt brasses shiny? - they were gun metal - phew!! Haircut? - two days ago, by 'Ken Dodd' the 'Regimental' barber. Was I smart, marching correctly, were my boots bulled enough (toes AND heels)???

The RSM wouldn't, surely couldn't,

know me, there were hundreds of uniforms, Junior Leaders and Permanent Staff on camp. I'd never been in trouble, we'd never been introduced and I'd not spoken to him during my time at Bramcote. He had addressed me once, from a distance, during a Saturday morning drill parade on the square, but I didn't think he'd remember the 'Right Marker in the Centre Squad of the Rear Ranks'. It was inevitable that the RSM and I were going to meet now and there seemed no way I could avoid it, but I was no rodent.

'Hello, Good Morning, how are you?' What the .....? The soft gentle and welcoming voice greeted and surprised me, it certainly wasn't the RSM's, it came from the hitherto unseen Miss Whittle, the WRVS lady, who had walked up a smaller path to my left. I executed a swift halt but before I could respond to the greeting, a voice from 10 yards away boomed out 'Good Morning Miss Whittle' - that was certainly the RSM. Without breaking his step and in the same breath he barked 'Junior Gunner Jeavons, don't stand there talking, get yourself down to RHQ, you're late'. My right arm twitched, but I resisted the urge to salute, 'Yes Sir' I responded and set off again for RHQ. Damn, he did know my name (how?), I'd certainly be for it, whatever 'it' was, at some point in the future.

I wasn't late. According to the clock on the tower it was 0850 hrs and I had to be in RHQ for 0900 hrs, so the RSM was mistaken and infallible - but I certainly wasn't brave enough to take an opportunity to tell him!! Junior Gunner Paul McMahon came

marching (bog chaining) towards me, 'I've been sent to find you and you're late' he said. We marched together down the hill, in silence just in case the eyes in the back of the RSM's head, or 'Jerry' spotted us talking whilst marching. I sure we would have been hauled in, even for breathing through the wrong nostril. With RHQ only 20 yards away and the clock showing 0852 hrs, I wasn't late!! 'Oh yes you are' explained Paul as we entered RHQ by the back door, '0900 hrs really means 0845 hrs' - did it, or was he just siding with the RSM?

Paul, having been on the same course as me and having worked in RHQ for a whole day, had been instructed to show me around when I arrived and get me in to see the Chief Clerk. I was impressed by the interior of the building, all was smart, the corridor was carpeted down the centre with burnished tiles on either side, there were healthy looking pot plants everywhere, pictures, shields and memorabilia on the walls, there was a brightly lit cabinet full of sparkling silver trophies. It was generally quiet and comfortably warm, all seemed ordered and calm, there was a familiar smell of polish and the window brasses (my daily job back in the block), gleamed.

Paul swiftly gave me the tour, pointing out the RSM's office - I shivered, even though I knew he wasn't there, but thought I might be in the near future, to answer for 'it' - then the Adjutant's (Captain Starmer-Smith, apparently always involved with Rugby - or was that his brother?). The CO's office was next, the door was open but Lt Col Budd wasn't in. I remember it looked spacious, the carpets and furniture were very plush - one day I'd have an office like that!! I don't recall the 2IC's office (or even who he was) but I must have seen it. Then I was outside the Chief

Clerk's office, as I waited to go in, I heard a clock chime 0900 hrs - I wasn't late!!

I marched smartly into the office, halted in front of the polished wooden desk, stood to attention and announced in a loud and clear voice that I was '24247287 Junior Gunner Jeavons, Alanbrooke Troop, 39 (Roberts) Battery, Sir'. Even though my right arm twitched again and a robotic voice inside my head said 'Halt - 2 - 3 salute', I over-rode them and didn't - I also decided not to confirm 'Pay and Pay Book correct, Sir'. The somewhat bemused and smartly uniformed man on the other side of the desk stood up, looked me straight in the eyes and told me that he was 'Bond, James Bond'....really?

## Remembrance Sunday Malta 2014 by Steve Callaghan (former WO2(QMS(AC))

Sue and I had been looking for somewhere nice to spend a holiday and also to celebrate her 60th birthday. We settled on Malta and also invited her sister to join us as well. It was to be an extremely fun filled holiday and we were blessed to be able to see some sights others do not, that is without the local knowledge. So I am sure that you can imagine our absolute delight to have Peter G as our island friend and guide. We had booked a very nice hotel which as it turned out we would actually be staying very close to where Peter lived and he kindly arranged to pick us up for a day and we would have a sightseeing tour of some Island spots. It was brilliant. We also got to see the 148 ton Artillery Cannon close

up; in fact it was totally awesome just standing next to it. They do fire this on occasions, but we missed that event. Seeing how the Gunners filled their days during a back in time enactment was also fun along with the charging and firing or an assorted range of muskets showing the development of the gun and rifle. The pool at the hotel was refreshingly cold, but the hot showers alongside soon warmed you through, ready to lie back and catch some of the Sun.

Sue and I were also honored to be able to take part in the Remembrance Sunday parade and so suitably dressed and attired, Peter collected us from our hotel and off we went. The day is somewhat of a blur and Peter was chuffed to be asked to be the RBL Standard Bearer for the day. This was followed by a lunch meal, a little extra sightseeing and then back to the hotel to pack ready for our return flight the next day. I have to say, we enjoyed the meal, but oh so glad that we gave the delicacy of garden snails by the potful a miss for the more refined palates amongst us.

Thank you Peter, you made our stay and Sue's birthday celebration all the better indeed.



# Is there life after Artillery Clerk(ing)?

## What did you do after the Army Dad? by Alan Lowthian (former WO2 (QMS(AC)))

Came the day when I was formally informed that I was being made redundant as the emphasis was being switched to less facilities management and more 'intelligent client' (don't ask!) portfolios. The company car was handed back and I started the job hunt again in earnest now. The FM grapevine came in handy. An engineering consultancy (FHP) who I had employed at Somerset House was looking for someone to carry out data collection of systems in properties where there was a timing device. There was a fear that come the millennium changeover all digital and some other timers would throw a 'wobbly' at 000000 and lock up or shut down or worse. So I had some temporary work in London and the SE. I visited many buildings in the 3 – 4 months of the contract from Margate to Maidstone and all over the metropolis. I won't bore you with any detail but it kept me busy and paid well; also I was able to keep ears open for other work.

We had employed a Project Manager on some major building works on the Somerset House portfolio. He was bidding for a prestigious Facilities Management post at a major property and he asked me to help him with the bid. We prepared all the figures and a proposal for operations.

We set off to the property to present our bid. I was unaware at this time where it was so imagine my surprise when we ended up at Lancaster House next door to Clarence House on the Mall, which was then home to The Queen Mother. Lancaster House is an amazing place, used for

international conferences and large important dinners. The talks between Ian Smith and Robert Mugabe were held there.

We duly said our piece and left our costing proposal. I was called a few days later and told we had won the bid and would I like to manage the job? Another Grade 1\* listed building – but what a place! The house was closed during the summer and we had to schedule all redecorating, repairs, major servicing during this time – four months. There are some large golden columns in the main hallway flanking the sweeping stairs and they are covered in real gold leaf. They were retouched every year and it is a specialist job. We used the company who gilded the Albert Memorial outside The Albert Hall. Fascinating watching them 'float' the gold leaf off the backs of their hands and onto the columns. The real cut glass chandeliers had to be taken apart and cleaned very carefully! The really large one in one of the rooms had to be lowered down to access it. We decided to check the wire rope holding it up and do a load test on it; again a very specialised job. When it was being lowered I had the vision of the 'Only Fools and Horses' sketch where Uncle Albert released the wrong one and it crashed down! But it was lowered into a scaffold support successfully, cleaned and the rope tested to twice its required load and all was put back safely. A lot of redecorating was done at this time too.

There were many tasks to carry out during the closed season, so no time to sit back. I discovered that no maintenance had been carried out on the many lifts – they

had been repaired if and when they had failed/broken down. There are a set of very specific regulations appertaining to the care and maintenance of all types of lifts which must be carried out at particular times during a lift's lifetime. These comprise monthly inspection and tests to ascertain the safety of the ropes or hydraulic equipment, door safety edges, door locks, car travel and safe stopping systems. As well as regular 'grease and oil' checks. All this must be recorded in the lift log which has to be available for the annual safety inspection by an independent engineer. He can order the lift taken out of service too if there are any deficiencies or if he deems the equipment unsafe. So no pressure. This is when I had a disagreement with the client's house manager – a dragon of a woman, who thought she knew it all and her word was law! I had to show her the regulations regarding the use and care of lifts – which she dismissed as all red tape and not relevant to Lancaster House. I was not prepared to have my reputation nor did the company I represented involve with any possible incident because of her intransigence, so I tendered my resignation. However there were other FM jobs which I did for a few months after that. But I felt it was time to move on. I had been commuting into London from Woolwich for over fifteen years and so was looking for something nearer home.

Networking was the buzz word and was not understood by many, but it was then a valuable 'tool' which we in the know would use frequently, if only to have a beer and a chat with someone

who might be of help. And so it was that I heard about a position not yet advertised for a FM at a Medical facility to be built in Woolwich. Just the ticket! I had the details for the submission, so I polished up the CV, sent it off and waited. I was invited to attend for interview and advised to be prepared to give a 5 min appraisal of myself and what I could bring to the post. Bread and butter! It was to be a whole day of isometric tests and a session of discussion. No problem. The interviews were too held at a building on Shooters Hill, 5 mins from my front door. I duly reported and the day began. It was to include all the short listed candidates, some 6 hapless souls from a variety of disciplines but with a building and maintenance background. The first test was the isometric profiling – did them and on to the next. A 5 min presentation about oneself. It was to be given with the other candidates present (not had that before) and being a gent I offered to go last. Sat through the offerings of the five and duly noted their failings. There was one who had a 'Powerpoint' presentation of his CV, a lady who had a vu-foil show with her achievements. And then it was my turn. I went to the lectern, took off my watch noting the time, threw my notes on the floor, ad libbed and bluffed for exactly 5 mins then sat down. A silence – oops had I blown it? After a lunch of rather tasty sandwiches where we met some of the management staff who were doctors and the Practice Manager, the next item was a group discussion with the theme of how we would turn this new work place into an 'area of excellence' and what qualities were needed, both of staff and managers. Blank faces –so I grasped the nettle – so to speak – and started organising the group, one to write on the white board, one to set down our agenda and the remainder to put

forward points for discussion and me as chairperson. We finished about 4pm and went on our merry ways. I had a call the next day asking me to attend for a further interview with the senior partner of the Practice. I duly went and had a long discussion with him about all aspects of running the building. It was then that I learnt the property was to be built in the council car park on the S Circular road in Woolwich not far from the free ferry. I was offered the position there and then. To start work ASAP as the local Health Authority wanted a project manager to be the liaison between the clients and the contractor before the first turf (tarmac!) was cut. So my next job in Facilities Management started. I had given my notice at FCM, left Lancaster House and 'The Dragon Lady'. As I was leaving I learnt that she had been replaced as the Foreign and Commonwealth had taken responsibility for the place from the Home Office and she was 'surplus'.

POWIS FACILITIES  
MANAGEMENT.  
FERRYVIEW HEALTH CENTRE  
Before 1999



I settled into a temporary office in one of the Practice rooms in Francis St until the new Centre was built. The Practice was split over two sites. One in Market Street, Woolwich and the other where I was. There were four doctors but was to increase to 10+ in the new centre. I now had some quick learning to do as the

work was due to start in May on site and it was now March 1999. I attended the first of many site meetings and was invited to take 'the chair' as the client rep. The client was in fact the local Health Authority, I was to be the liaison and their project manager until the job was completed and then the Practice was to purchase the building and run it. I decided that a separate company was needed so that there could be a divide and better control. With the blessing of the senior partner Powis FM was inaugurated, me and an assistant! Once the project started it moved at a pace. The car park was taken over from Greenwich Council, fenced off, and site huts placed there. The first of many phases started. Because there is a railway line running beneath the site some extensive piling and supports was needed and had then to be inspected, tested and cleared by the railway authority as fit for purpose. Once done the footings and base were established; it had to be strong enough to take a four storey building, so many testing moments and tons of concrete poured around steel reinforcements. I think about 1000 tons of the stuff was poured over a two week period and as it was quick setting it had to be right first time. The base finished the real building could start. Now the fun bit – Ferryview Health Centre (as it was christened) is composed of 66 (yes 66) Portakabins all piled up and bolted together. They came by road from the factory in York on the back of huge transporters. Nine a day came down and was parked on the lower road (Woolwich Church St) and was then called forward singularly as they were required. Little boxes etc.

A slick operation with a huge hi-lift crane lifting each one off the back of its transport and in to position



to be fastened down. When they were all there the fit out started and took six months before I could start getting the furniture and fittings (medical) in. Once the mechanical and electrical fittings had been done then I was called upon to witness and sign off all the fixed wiring, operation of the heating and see the two part state of the art Fire Alarm system was functioning correctly. There are two hydraulic lifts which had to be load tested and check that the wind down system worked and I knew how to operate it. There were CCTV cameras in the basement car park which again had to be tested and the tape system set up. There were lots of bits and pieces still to finish but the major items were good so I signed it off with a caveat of 12 month liquidated damage cover so that any system malfunctioning was the responsibility of the contractor. Once the commissioning was completed and the local Building Control satisfied and happy we could get down to the client fit out. There were two other tenants to accommodate too, the local Midwives and Oxleas Mental Health outpatients unit. I sourced all the Med Centre equipment, special beds and couches, and all the rest of the office furnishings as well as reception furnishings for two areas. I managed to overspend on the budget allocated but could account for it all so no problem there. Come the day we were to open to the patients/clients, we had to get all the files etc from four locations round Woolwich into their respective

areas in the new medical centre. Easy peasy really – not! The removals company had priced for four van loads and staff too so when I had a phone call from the ‘movers that they would need two loads from the midwifery locations alarm bells rang. I sped off to the Memorial Hospital on

Shooters Hill to find that there were lots of filing cabinets and five more midwifery staff to accommodate. I agreed the extra costs and made sure that the local NHS Trust would pay for it all. Come the end of the Saturday move day all the five locations were safely located in the new centre.



Post April 2000 Sunday was spent getting the place ready to receive patients on Monday. 10 consulting rooms, 4 nurse's treatment rooms, reception ready. All signage in place and everyone knew where everything was. Kept the doctors away so that all went smoothly. On Monday morning at 8.30 am the automatic doors opened to loads of people-most had come to view it and some to register so it was busy from the first day. We had installed a new lateral filing system to easily accommodate 20,000 patient records and allow a 10% increase. And so began my induction into the ways of the NHS, Totally new concept for me but once I had

mastered the anagrams (worse than the Army) and had my office established it went fairly well. My immediate boss was the senior GP of the practice and he let me get on with most things as long as I kept him informed. I soon learnt about computer wiring net and microwave transmission technology as well as the complexities of waste disposal in the NHS. Whilst with Drivers Jonas, the surveying and management practice, I had successfully completed the NEBOSH course in Health and Safety (another set of letters after the name). I used this to establish all the statutory requirements for managing a property accessed by the public. Like weekly fire

alarm tests, monthly lift inspections, door access controls checked, auto door maintenance, sterilising apparatus checks and logging. Boiler maintenance and other M & E equipment checks. I had to write a whole new set of Facilities Management 'rules' and ensure their implementation. A Health and Safety document was produced and after consultation with the tenant, Service Level Agreements were again

produced. These ensured that the diverse operations in the building could function seamlessly for each party. So four more years went by with the usual dramas and incidents to deal with. Car parking was a nightmare. There were 60 odd spaces allocated in and around the Centre. Everyone wants a space, but 150 into 60 does not compute so it came down to allocation by space occupied and rented in the workplace.

The Ferryview Health Centre was officially opened in November 2000 by Cherie Booth (Mrs Blair). Name dropping again!

Because of the uniqueness of the construction and use we had many parties wishing to look over it. The principal contractor, Yorkon, liaised with me and we showed many different organisations from hospitals to schools over the building in the first year alone. I was getting itchy feet. It was a case of 'been there' done that' got the T-shirt syndrome, and I needed a change. Again the FM network came into use. I had seen a position at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich advertised. The ex-military hospital had been sold to the NHS and converted at great expense to a general hospital of 500 beds. They wanted a manager to oversee the M & E part of the Private Finance Initiative contract. This was costed at upwards of £30 million annually alone. I duly applied but did not get it. So I rang a contact and asked if he knew anything more. He had heard that they were splitting the post into two elements, one M & E and the other Security, Catering, Cleaning. I rang the individual named as the contact to ask why I had been rejected. He was so taken aback that he invited me for an informal chat. I duly met up with him, presented him with all the bits of paper relevant and proceeded to tell him why I was the man for the job. He then took me to see the Head of Finance who offered me the post subject to a CRB check and a medical. Bingo! I was off. I asked the Practice to release me early from the months notice which they did after a phone call from the QEH.

My next 'tour of duty' in the NHS commenced.

#### QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL NHS

I had an office overlooking the local sports club playing field about as far away from the main hospital as possible but a pleasant outlook nevertheless. The thing

I soon learnt about the NHS is that they love their meetings and even have meetings about meetings. My colleague who started work at the same time also suffered this to the extent that we got together and decided to see if we could consolidate them into fewer and with less participants. We dispensed with a 'consultation' and just did it. Word soon got out that those two new managers were flying in the face of established tradition and were up to something sinister! Some quiet diplomacy was needed which we did by advising the principal people we needed at the meetings that the minutes we issued could then be passed to their subordinates for information. That worked well and it meant that the few meetings we agreed to went swiftly and were more productive than the previous ones where 20+ people attended. The PFI contract was a massive and complex entity and the documentation alone ran to some 30 ring binder size volumes. Here was a whole new set of disciplines and procedures to be aware of. Not least relations with the unions. There were two reps, one was a long in the tooth chap who did as little as possible but liked to throw his weight around if he thought the senior management was involved. The other was lady who had been in the union business since Boadicea was a lance corporal and taught the Romans to fight dirty! But we got on very well once she knew that I wanted to ask her opinion on lots of items. I always kept her informed when I felt it necessary. There was a Health and Safety rep with sole responsibility for all aspects so I was not involved and I made sure that he knew that. He would sometimes ask my advice about anything to do with electrical or engineering issues.

Parts of the old QEMH were still in use as lecture rooms and offices I was concerned that there could be

asbestos in places. Sure enough there was. I insisted that it be identified, quantified and suitably marked. Luckily it was not in exposed places so was low key for removal.

A bit of background here may be useful. The QE Hospital is owned by a private company and they then run all the services for the operation of the unit by employing the appropriate contractors except for the NHS nursing and care elements, which are run and administered by the hospital's management. There is also a secure unit which houses those with severe mental health problems. So you can understand the hostility there can be between the 'us and 'them schools. It was our job to liaise between all these and arbitrate where necessary and find amicable resolution – or not – as the case often was. As the whole annual contract was worth in excess of £40 million, we had to look very closely to the correct running and administration of all the leased elements and ensure that value for money was achieved. On a personal note, the medical I had, identified that I had diabetes, I had had an arthroscopy which was not healing or improving my walking. I had also fallen down for no apparent reason a couple of times, (I know, 'take more water with it'), so I was referred to a neurosurgeon who put me through a series of tests over a nine month period and came to the conclusion that I had Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (PPMS). There is no cure nor can the speed or severity of the disease be given. So there it was. I informed my boss and the Director of Finance who told me I could work as long as I felt able but he would support and endorse any other decision I made. As there was a lot of area to cover and walking around the vast complex was becoming increasingly difficult to manage, I decided to call it a day and retire.

Because I had been in the NHS pension scheme for 7 years the medical retirement option was beneficial which I gratefully took. And left the employed ranks in March 2006 – another farewell party and more bottles of malt! I was sorry to leave but I also felt that I could not fulfil my obligations to the post adequately either so reluctantly I departed.

Retirement was a strange state having worked since leaving school all those eventful years ago. But I had my hobbies, fishing, woodturning, diecast model collecting and now I could sit down and build that model rail layout I had dreamed about. Seven years on I still have not finished the layout and there are some models still to find and collect. Up until the Gunners departed Woolwich Garrison, now Woolwich Station, I had the Arty Clerks dinners to look forward to but as the PPMS does what it says on the tin I find I am restricted somewhat so life goes on without. I have no complaints and I can honestly say that since I departed from earning the Queen's shilling I have been UBIQUE in jobs for the last 29 years.

The Kings Troop is now firmly ensconced in their new quarters in Woolwich, albeit with an infantry battalion alongside them.

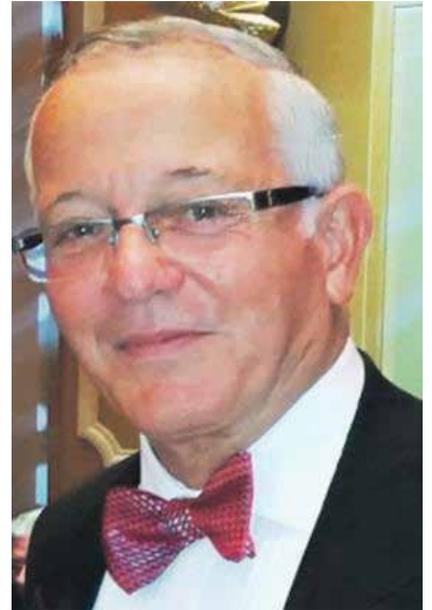
I make no apologies for the protracted details of my 'Afterlife' But it helps to fill the "Crossed Quills' for 3 episodes.

If any of you wish to ask me about any aspect of the story do please contact me. I shall be happy to have a chat.

## World Veterans Federation appoints their new Secretary General

We congratulate Lt Col Joseph Falzon who was appointed Secretary General of the World Veterans Federation (WVF) in late November 2015. The Federation, based in Paris, is the world's largest international veteran organisation, with 172 member associations from 96 countries.

Lt Col Falzon is also Chairman of The Artillery Clerks Association, a Trustee of The Royal British Legion, an active Provincial Councillor of the Catenian Association and an Officer of the Sovereign Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem (Knights of Malta).



## Congratulations

Congratulations to WO2(SQMS) Snowy Snowden on being selected for promotion to WO1 (SSM). Well done Snowy.



*Andy Tibble (Secretary) and Mark Testi catching up on the Rocks in Sydney, Australia in November 2015.*

**81st Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner**  
**Royal Artillery Warrant & Officers' & Sergeant's Mess, Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill**  
**Saturday 13th June 2015**



*3rd Row – Mr RJ Holmes MSM, Mr J Phelps, Mr MI Grenham, Mr SV Read, SSgt C Norris, Mr D Norris, Mr J Lindley, WO2(SQMS) CP Haine, WO1(SSM) PG Butler,  
 Mr RH Deal MBE (Assistant Secretary), Mr P Gauci*

*2nd Row – Mr AJ Jones (Standard Bearer), Mr MJ Hedges, Mr DG Allen, Mr C Shuter, Mr J Taylor, Mr CR Thompson, Mr C Nuttall, Mr DG Stotan, Mr DC Manchester, Mr PL Oxley,  
 Mr SR Seymour, Mr GO Hyatt, Mr WM Young, Mr JM Hutchinson*

*Front Row – Maj (Retd) P Corker (Treasurer), Mr M Johnston, Lt Col (Retd) RH Horner MBE, Maj JF Constantine RHA, Lt Gen Sir F Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL (Honorary President),  
 Col M Carter (Guest of Honour), Lt Col (Retd) JF Falzon OSJ BEM (Chairman), Mr AM Tibble MVO MSM (Secretary), Lt Col R Lee MBE RA, Capt (Retd) A Solly (RAA), Maj (Retd) DJ Cuswell*



The front and back cover form individual parts of a larger painting. The painting hangs in the Wellington Room, Old College, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, depicts the Battle of Waterloo - 18 June 1815.