



THE
ARTILLERY CLERKS'
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

May 98

Edition 01

*** FOREWORD ***

By the Chairman
Lieutenant Colonel J F Falzon BEM. Royal Artillery

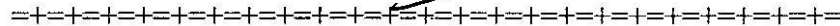
I am deeply honoured to write the foreword to this, the first edition of The Artillery Clerks' Association Newsletter, as the first Chairman. As the midnight oil burns in my study at home, I cast my mind back to the Re-Union Dinner on the 7th March. I seem to remember a certain anticipation by Mel Charlton as to whether I would take up his offer to head the Committee. At the time I thought it odd that anyone would want to pass up the chance of gaining such valuable experience....a few months on, and I am a little wiser!!

This newsletter gives some insight into the scope of our Association. There is much we can do, both individually and collectively in promoting comradeship amongst our members, in seeking out and encouraging ex-Artillery Clerks to join our Association, and to then start using our wide network to assist those members who for one reason or another might need a helping hand.

I can only encourage you at this point to enrol. Having done that, then those of you with a little bit of spare time may like to do some detective work in tracking down some of those listed below. It is the Committee's intention to publish the inaugural membership list with the next edition of the Newsletter, which will also hopefully include details of the Regional Secretaries. So there is a lot to be done...

On a personal note, may I thank all of you for the good wishes I received since accepting the invitation to become the first Chairman. It is a real privilege for me; I assure you that this initial enthusiasm will not wear off.....

With every best wish to you all.


Joe Falzon

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

There are well over 300 names on the Association database. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following 64 Former Artillery Clerks, they are requested to forward details to the Secretary ASP:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Jimmy Anderson | Derek Baldry | Campbell Borthwick | Dave Boswell |
| Dennis Brent | Alan Broomhead | Bill Charlsworth | Dick Cliffe |
| Ron Cooper | Paddy Corbett | Alan Cosgrove | Fred Cullingford |
| Derek Dalrymple | John DeMaria | Pat DeMaria | Mel Durrant |
| Steve Edgeley | Paul Evans | Dick Finch | Keith Garbett |
| Danny Gauci | R Gillespie-Smith | C J Hamley | Ted Harvey |
| Andy Holder | Steve Hoyle | Tab Hunter | G Jacobs |
| Chris Jones | Steve Jones | Trevor Kemish | Dick Kimble |
| Alan King | John Lambert | Dave Langstaff | Harry Lomax |
| Derick Lund | Alistair Mackenzie | Ron Marsh | Ron Melvin |
| Pete Murphy | Bill Ogilvie | John Osman | Chad Palmer |
| Ken Peacock | Clem Pooke | John Pratt | Mick Price |
| H Richardson | Graham Roberts | Dave Robertson | Dick Scatcherd |
| Alan Seal | T D Stokes | Dave Stoneham | Graham Telford |
| Frank Thorne | John Turner | Harry Waldon | Kev Watkins |
| Geoff Whitby | T C Williams | Malcolm Wynn | Bill Young |

THE ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE

- Chairman:** Lieutenant Colonel J F Falzon BEM RA
Quartermaster General & Andover Station
Monxton Road
ANDOVER
Hants SP11 8HT

Telephone: (01264) 382560
- Treasurer:** Captain P Corker AGC (SPS)
Regimental Administrative Officer
32 Regiment Royal Artillery
Roberts Barracks
Larkhill
SALISBURY
Wilts SP4 8QU

Telephone: (01980) 675568
- Secretary:** Warrant Officer Class One R M Testi AGC (SPS)
Headquarters Adjutant General's Corps Centre
Gould House
Worthy Down
WINCHESTER
Hants SO21 2RG

Telephone: (01962) 887648
- Reunion
Secretary** Warrant Officer Class One J M Charlton LSL/RA
Army Families Advice Bureau
Headquarters Land Command
Erskine Barracks
SALISBURY
Wilts SP2 0AG

Telephone: (01722) 436461
- Regional
Secretaries** To be advised

SECRETARY'S NOTES

It seems an age since Saturday 7th March and the Reunion Dinner but my uncharacteristic temperance for this annual event has left me with many fond memories. I guess like me, most of all you enjoy meeting up with old pals and comrades to chew the fat. Seeing our very own Chelsea pensioner, Dougie Waterhouse as 'last man standing' at about 0510 hours was impressive but not as much as seeing him on the way to the showers some six hours later, suggesting we meet him at the bar at lunch time. I'm only sorry Mel and I had to disappear. If Paul Davies is reading this, when I said you could take the winnings from our victory in the Snooker match I expected a beer at least!

Down to business and there are a number of points I need to cover. Firstly, membership of the Association. Application forms which can be found on page 11, along with the £5.00 joining fee should be forwarded to me soonest. The Charter also mentions honorary membership and we would welcome any nominations you may have. It is envisaged that at some point membership cards will be issued which will afford the same privileges as the RAA. Secondly, returns for both the photograph and tie can be found on pages 9 and 10. A copy of the photograph is on page 8 which doesn't do justice to the original. I have seen it and can assure you of its excellent quality and great value, mounted with names at £15.00 each. Similarly, the tie issue has almost been resolved and they will soon be available from Des Riley at £8.00 each.

As you will read in the Charter, the Association will rely on the help of Regional Secretaries and I was encouraged when a couple of you came forward and volunteered your services at the Dinner. The Committee has decided to run the regions broadly along the lines of the recently superseded 'old' divisional boundaries. Please look at the composition of the regions and, if you have already volunteered, confirm you are still willing to help. Alternatively, if you haven't already expressed an interest in becoming a Regional Secretary and would like to do so, then please let me know soonest.

The Charter also mentions the Secretary is a point of contact regarding Welfare matters. If you have any concerns whatsoever, then please don't hesitate in contacting me. Whilst I cannot help directly myself, I can inform the necessary agencies on your behalf or simply furnish you with further information.

Finally, the date for the 65th Annual Artillery Clerks' Reunion Dinner will be Saturday 6th March 1999. I know that some of you expressed a desire to go back to a November Dinner and possibly include a service of remembrance on the Sunday. Others suggested a date in early Summer. The committee decided that, working on the assumption that seventy attended this year's (and it should have been many more), March is not a bad month to hold it. In closing, I look forward to seeing many of you next year at Woolwich and if you have any questions at all regarding the Association, then please write or telephone.

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 Sergeant to Warrant Officer Class 1, either serving or retired. Membership may also be granted, with the recommendation of a former Artillery Clerk, 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 Members. Honorary Membership of the Association is specially designed to cover the widows and relatives of deceased Artillery Clerks. Other special cases for honorary membership will be considered on merit 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 reunions 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.

Organization

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 the 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) Scotland
- (2) Wales
- (3) The North West consisting of Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, and Cheshire.

(4) The North consisting of Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham, Cleveland, Yorkshire and Humberside.

(5) The Midlands consisting of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Leicestershire, Hereford & Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire.

(6) The East consisting of Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

(7) London and The South consisting of Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Greater London, Surrey, Sussex and Kent.

(8) The West consisting of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire.

(9) Germany.

(10) The rest of the world - covered by the Secretary.

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

Fees

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

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

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

THE 64TH ARTILLERY CLERKS' REUNION AND ASSOCIATION INAUGURAL DINNER

The weather was kind as the former Artillery Clerks, both serving and retired, descended upon Woolwich to attend the 64th Artillery Clerks' Reunion Dinner on Sat 7 Mar 98. Prior to the Dinner, members assembled in the Eyre's Lounge of the RA Sergeants' Mess, Woolwich to be briefed on the formation of an Artillery Clerks' Association. The decision to form an Association was unanimous. Lt Col Joe Falzon BEM RA kindly volunteered his services as Chairman, WO1 (SSM) Mark Testi AGC (SPS) as Secretary and Capt Paul Corker AGC (SPS), although not present at the Dinner, has since notified his intent to volunteer for the post of Treasurer. The decision was met with a warm response and the Artillery Clerks' Association was declared duly formed by the new Chairman. The Association was formed to promote comradeship amongst its members, both serving and retired and to provide a focal point for all members of the Association.

The Guest of Honour, Maj Gen Mike Shellard CBE, Colonel Commandant RA, representing the Master Gunner St James's Park, and guest WO1 (RASM) Alan Durrant, joined the assembled group in the Ballroom for a Reunion photograph which is shown on the rear page.

After pre drinks, Dinner commenced chaired by WO1 Mel Charlton LSL/RA. After a most excellent meal, with entertainment provided on the piano by two young Greek ladies from the Music Department, Goldsmith College, Newcross, a short break was taken.

Following the loyal toast, the Chairman proceeded with his speech of thanks to the various individuals who had helped to make the Reunion a success. A special welcome was made to the various guests and a special mention about Sgt Merv Chadwick of 22 Regt RA. There was no Reunion Dinner in 1995 as the last of the Artillery Clerks' moved out of Woolwich leaving the Reunion bits and pieces in suspended animation. Sgt Chadwick stepped in and recovered the bits and pieces and built up a database and organised both the 1996 and 1997 Reunion Dinners single-handed. Without the initiative displayed by Sgt Chadwick, the Reunions may have become history. In appreciation of his hard work the Guest of Honour Maj Gen Shellard CBE made a presentation to Sgt Chadwick, from all those in attendance. The Chairman then read out the numerous greetings and apologies from around the world.

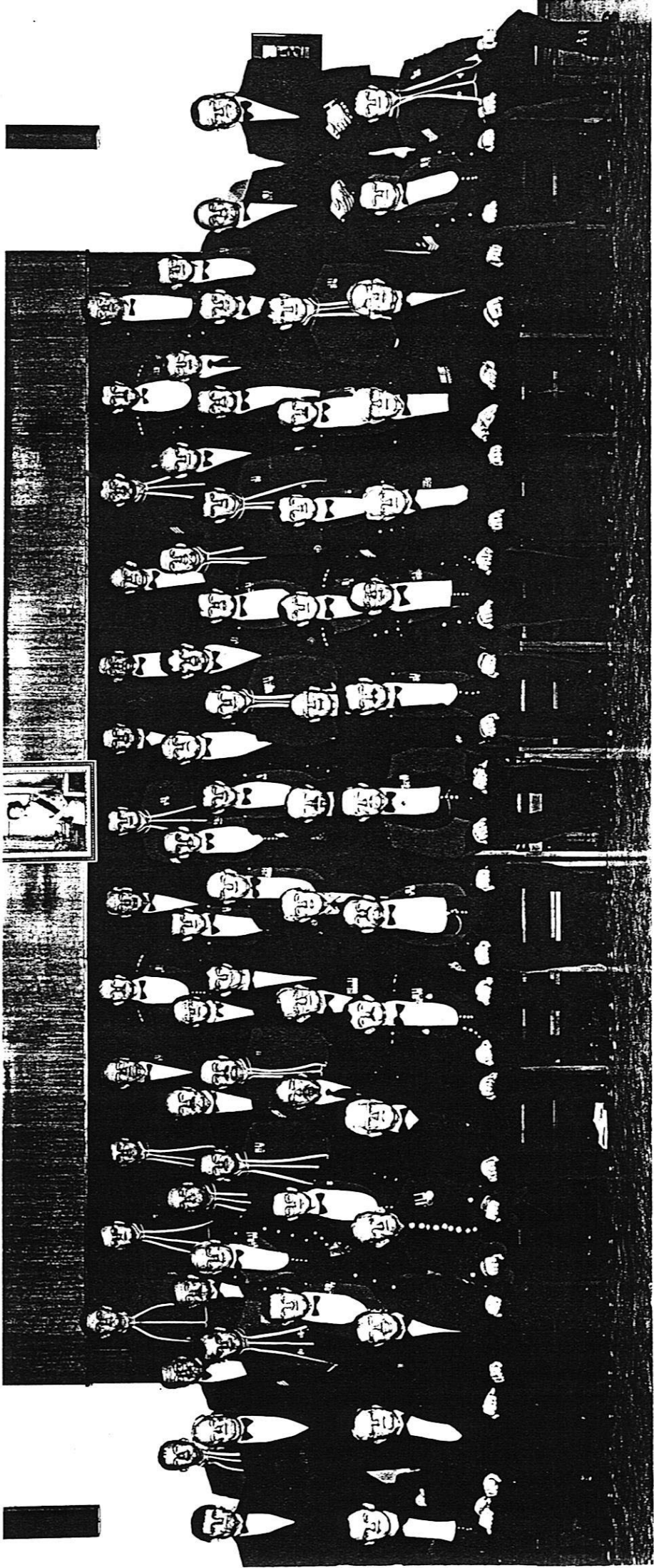
On a sad note the untimely death of former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Colin Turner and Maj (QM) John Cross AAC were remembered and a toast was made in their memory.

During the Dinner, our guest WO1 (RASM) Alan Durrant was presented. He then proceeded to give a 'State of the Union'. The Reunion Dinner was the final official function that WO1 Durrant attended in his capacity as RASM prior to his commissioning and assumption of the the post of BK J Bty, 3 RHA.

The Guest of Honour Maj Gen Mike Shellard CBE was then presented. He then read out a message from Field Marshall The Lord Vincent GBE KCB DSO, Master Gunner St James's Park which read, "To all those attending the Artillery Clerks' Dinner at Woolwich on 7th March 1998: Despite being unable to join you on this special occasion, I am delighted to hear that the Artillery Clerks have decided to continue with their Annual Dinner again this year. I understand also that there has been an encouraging response to the invitation to attend, and I welcome this wholeheartedly. Artillery Clerks served their Regiments, and the Royal Artillery has a whole, with endless hard work, patience and dedication over many years of loyal service. Though all too often taken for granted, their diligence ensured exceptionally high standards of administration were achieved and maintained, displaying flexibility and resilience at every level of command. Everyone here today can be justly proud of their achievements, and I welcome this opportunity to record my admiration and gratitude to all of you. I am certain that your Dinner will an occasion of sharing happy memories, greeting old friends and recalling the great days of Artillery Clerks throughout the Royal Artillery. I send my congratulations to the organisers of tonight's dinner; my sincere greetings to you all; and my best wishes for the future. Long may occasions like this flourish."

In closing the Chairman stated that now that an Artillery Clerks Association had been formed, Reunions would go from strength to strength, but aims could only be achieved by everyone's efforts in tracking down new members and encouraging their attendance.

The Reunion continued in the Eyer's Lounge until the early hours of Sunday morning with In Pensioner Dougie Waterhouse providing a fine example.



RETURNS NO LATER THAN FRI 5 JUN 98 PLEASE

From: _____

To:

WO1 J M Charlton LSL, RA
Army Families Advice Bureau
Headquarters Land Command
Erskine Barracks
SALISBURY
Wilts SP2 0AG

Dear Mel,

64TH ARTILLERY CLERKS' ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - PHOTOGRAPH

1. Please send me _____ copy/copies* of the reunion photograph @ £15.00 each.
2. My cheque for £_____ made payable to 'THE ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION' is enclosed.

Signed

Date

RETURNS NO LATER THAN FRI 5 JUN 98

From: _____

To:

WO1 (SSM) D A Riley AGC (SPS)
Headquarters
4th Armoured Brigade
British Forces Post Office 36

Dear Des,

ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION TIE

1. Please rush me _____(qty) Artillery Clerks' Association Tie/Ties* @ £8.00 each while stocks last.
2. My cheque for £_____ made payable to the 'ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION' is enclosed.

Signed

Date

**APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP OF
THE ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION BRANCH
OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION**

To:

WO1 (SSM) R M Testi AGC (SPS)
Headquarters Adjutant General's Corps Centre
Gould House
Worthy Down
WINCHESTER
Hants SO21 2RG

PART 1 - APPLICATION

1. I hereby request membership of the Artillery Clerks' Association Branch of the Royal Artillery Association. I agree to abide by the Charter and the decisions made by the committee on behalf of the Association.
2. I agree to pay an initial joining fee of £5.00 and thereafter an annual membership fee of £5.00 payable to the treasurer by 31st January.
3. I enclose my cheque for £5.00 made payable to 'THE ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION' in respect of my joining fee.
4. My personal details are:

Surname..... Initials..... Forenames.....

Title/Rank (Serving/Ex) Decorations/Post Nominals

Address..... Home Telephone

..... Work Telephone

..... Fax

..... E-Mail

DOB Spouse's Name

Signed Date

PART 2 - SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL

***1. Serving or Retired Former Royal Artillery Clerks**

I certify the applicant is a serving (or retired) member of the Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support) in the rank (or former rank) of sergeant or above. He served as a clerk in the Royal Artillery in the rank of Gunner to Bombardier prior to transfer. He is duly proposed and I recommend him wholeheartedly to the Association.

OR

***2. Honorary Member**

I certify the applicant meets the criteria laid down in the Charter for honorary membership. He/She is duly proposed and we recommend him/her wholeheartedly to the Association. *I attach a separate letter explaining the details of this special case for consideration by the Committee.

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

Name:

Name:

Signature:

Signature:

* Delete where not applicable

