

# The Crossed Quills

Issue 11

December 2007



The Magazine of the



# Artillery Clerks' Association



by the  
Honorary President  
Maj Gen Peter Currie CB

How time flies! I was quite shocked when Joe Falzon wrote asking for my annual contribution to Crossed Quills, for it seems only yesterday that I was writing the last one. So yes, life at The Royal Hospital Chelsea really is that busy. But what is so special about this famous old institution is comradeship. It is a wonderful community of old soldiers who have shared experiences and a shared culture. Whatever rank they might have reached, and whatever bit of the Army they might have served in, they are all in the same club; and by that I do not mean the In-Pensioners Club where the cheapest beer in London is to be found and some of the best company.

Reflecting on this it struck me how similar the Artillery Clerks Association is in many ways to The Royal Hospital Chelsea. Its members are, of course, much younger (on the whole - no names no pack drill!). But what the Association is ultimately about is comradeship: like-minded people with shared experiences and a shared culture meeting together because they value their common heritage and appreciate the deep companionship that comes from that. At

risk of being accused of name-dropping, Carol Thatcher was here a while ago, for she generously donated her winnings from I'm a Celebrity get me out of here to the Royal Hospital. As she was leaving at the end of the evening, she turned to me and said: You Army people are incredibly lucky. You really are members of the best club in the world. How right she was, and she would have said exactly the same thing had she been at one of our annual re-union dinners.

Comradeship is more than friendship. It has no price, but great value. This association is a living demonstration of that fact.

I look forward very much to seeing you in February at Woolwich.

*Peter Currie.*

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# chairman's notes

by

Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM

Once again we find ourselves on the doorstep of another edition of Crossed Quills as the editorial team gets the production of our 10th Issue underway. You can imagine my relief when I heard recently that Andy Tibble has persuaded his old contacts at RMA Sandhurst to continue to print our magazine to the same professional standard as in recent years.

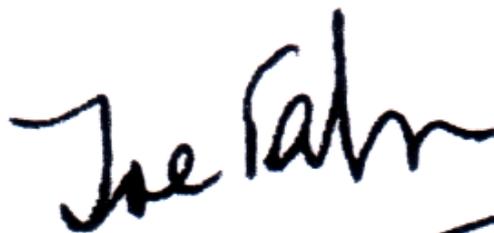
Our Association is now in its 8th year during which we have gone from strength to strength. Successive memorable Annual Reunion Weekends, a steady increase in membership, an excellent website and a quality magazine are testimony of the energy of the Association in the glow of which we should all take pride. May long it continue.

We are really very fortunate to have a supportive Honorary President and a dedicated and committed Committee. We must not forget that Paul Corker and Ian Constantine still have to contend with the pressures of service life. I would like to thank them both and Mel Charlton and Andy Tibble, on your behalf, for their individual and collective contribution most often willingly undertaken in their precious spare time.

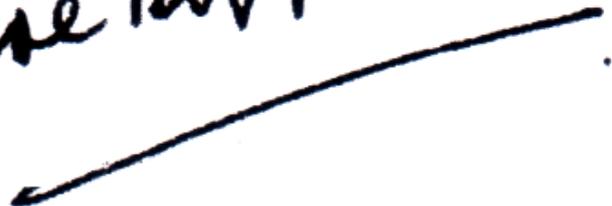
I would also like to congratulate Ron Holmes who single-handedly organised our first Reunion Dinner in Germany in October. It was a most enjoyable and memorable weekend thanks to Ron's attention to detail. I look forward to this event becoming a regular feature in our calendar.

So, as we celebrate another successful year for the Association, let us reflect on our individual responsibilities to continue to improve and expand our membership base, to keep in touch, to support Association events and to help the Committee chart the future as our parent Regiment moves away from its spiritual home in Woolwich...

I must end these notes by paying a special tribute to Andy Tibble and Mel Charlton for all the unostentatious work that, alone at their respective computers, they have put in to the making of this current issue of Crossed Quills.



Joe Falzon



by  
Mel Charlton (former WO1(SMAC))

It's that time of the year again when the Committee spring in to action to produce the various bits and pieces for Crossed Quills. Team work is the key word and we have a damn good team!! Despite the fact that we all have our every day jobs to attend to the Committee (which includes our Honorary President) still finds time to attend to Association matters. A most busy Chairman Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM working behind the scenes. Major Paul Corker continues to provide an excellent service as Treasurer (most of the year from Iraq), David Stotan as Webmaster, Ted Morgan as Welfare Officer, Joe Hoggins BSc as Historical Secretary and Andrew Jones as Standard Bearer. Area Secretary contact details have been provided for members within the magazine.

Andy Tibble MSM is to be congratulated on convincing the Reproduction Cell at RMA Sandhurst to continue to publish Cross Quills now that Ian Constantine has moved to pastures new. Please note (especially those members who are behind in the payment of their Annual dues) that we now have to pay for the postage to get Crossed Quills to you. Thank you to our Historical Secretary Joe Hoggins BSc who took several photographs over the Reunion Weekend and are depicted in this magazine.

Many congratulations go to SSGts Alf Alvin, Bob Smith and Daz Ward on being promoted to WO2 (SQMS). Well done to you all. Daz Ward is to be further congratulated on recruiting several new members into the Association since he himself joined.

The last 12 months has been quieter than normal (apart from celebrating my 60th

birthday) on the Association front with new membership being quite minimal. Despite that we have achieved the 20 mark in membership and with your help and assistance we look forward to welcoming many new members in the forthcoming 12 months. Take a look at the Wanted for Membership page. There must be someone on the list that you can cajole into joining.

Members are being quite reluctant to part with their 'war stories' and photographs for publication. My bottom drawer is getting leaner. Once again a special thanks to Maj(Retd) John Reynolds in Medicine Hat Canada for producing Part II of his Ramblings. Despite the death of his wife Edna on the 10th May this year, John still persevered and produced his article. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family John on the loss of Edna. May she rest in peace.

Please take note of the Historical Secretary's plea for articles, stories, photographs for the intended publication of the book, "The History of the Artillery Clerk". It would be a coup to have the book published but we must get sufficient items together to justify publication.

The Reunion last April was the first under WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine's direction. It went well despite the Guest of Honour bailing out at the 11th hour with too short a notice to contact someone else, despite the gallant efforts of our Chairman Joe Falzon. Thank you to our Honorary President Maj Gen Peter Currie who stood in at the breach at the last moment to cover for an absent Guest of Honour. Thank you General Peter for your unstinting support. In addition the RA Band were

secretary's report

absent from Woolwich on public duties. Fortunately Ian's wife Caroline who is the Bandmaster of the AAC Band 'loaned' us a string quartet for the evening (free of charge). In addition we had a piper from the RA Band who lamented us all (at minimum cost). Thank you for your first Dinner Ian. We all look forward to the Farewell to Woolwich Reunion Dinner being held on Sat 27 Feb 07.

During April the Chairman Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM wrote to The Private Secretary to Her Majesty the Queen with congratulations on Her Majesty's 80th birthday. A reply was received from Her Majesty which is depicted below.

As I write Area Secretary Germany WO2 Ron Holmes is organizing a Reunion Dinner

to be held on Saturday 21st October in the Sgts' Mess 12 Regt RA Sennelager Germany. Several members are making the effort to travel over to Germany to attend, plus we are taking IP Duggie Waterhouse with us. By the time we go to print you will be able to read Ron's report on the Dinner plus a selection of photographs else where in the magazine.

Once again the Association purchased 200 RAA 2006 Grand Draw tickets at a cost of £50.00. One ticket was allocated to each member (including those who are behind in their payment of Annual Subscriptions). The draw took place at Larkhill on 8th August with a 1st prize of £1000.00, a 2nd of £500.00 and a 3rd of £150.00 plus 10 prizes of £50.00 each. Unfortunately there were no winners from the Association. Better luck next year.

Andy Tibble has kindly taken on the appointment of Assistant Secretary despite his busy schedule working for Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. Andy's main responsibilities will be to assist the Secretary in his duties, coordinate the production of Crossed Quills and also to encourage individuals (with your help) on the Wanted List to join the Association. His appointment of Area Secretary South has been taken over by Graham Brown. Both these appointments will be ratified at the AGM being held on 17 February next year. Thank you to both Andy and Graham for accepting these appointments.

For those members who knew him, Brigadier (Retd) Bill Winder passed away on Tuesday 7th March 2006. I attended a Memorial Service for Bill which took place on Wednesday 26th April at the Garrison Church, Larkhill. I was fortunate to have served twice with Bill, first when he was CRA 4 Armd Div Herford from 1980-82 and secondly as Controller Army Welfare Service from 1997-99. He was an eloquent Irish gentleman. Rest in peace Brigadier Bill.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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

Please convey my warm thanks to the President, Committee and Members of The Artillery Clerks' Association for their message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of my eightieth Birthday.

As your Captain General, I much appreciate your kind words and, in return, send my best wishes to you all.

ELIZABETH R.

21st April, 2006.

Tom Webb (who is 73 this year) is the first member of the Association to appear on National TV wearing the Association tie. Tom appeared on the BBC 1 TV Breakfast Programme on Monday 12th September last year along with Dr John Low. They were both interviewed by Natasha Kaplinsky and Dermot Murnahan at 7.20 and 8.20 am. They spoke on the subject of "Hearing Difficulties and what the NHS are doing about it". Tom kindly sent me a DVD of the interviews and several newspaper cuttings one of which is depicted in the magazine. No room for them all Tom but well done.

Since December 2000 when our Association Standard was dedicated at the Garrison Church Larkhill, we have supported the St Barbara's Day Service at Larkhill. This year the parade and service normally held at Woolwich will be combined with the service at Larkhill on Sunday 3rd December. Members who live within reasonable travelling distance of Larkhill are requested to support the Service. Andrew Jones our Standard Bearer travels every year from Middlesex to attend and support the occasion. Lunch is provided in Messes after the Service.

My annual plea to keep me up to date with your promotions, awards, change of address, telephone number, e-mail address etc. Thank you.

In closing I wish you to turn your thoughts and prayers to the several members of the Association who are ill at home and also to those members and family members who are deployed on operations overseas. May God be with you all?

I look forward to seeing you all again at the 73rd Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association (Farewell to Woolwich) Dinner being held in the Sgts' Mess Woolwich on Saturday 17th February 2007. I shall of course see you in the bar on the Friday night. My kindest personal regards to you and your families and best wishes for Christmas and New Year 2007.



Ubique.

www.artyclerkassn.org

# Veteran thanks Star as hearing aid given

A 72-year-old war veteran has thanked the Shropshire Star after struggling for nearly two years to get a hearing aid.

Mr Thomas Webb, of Foxleigh Crescent, Wem, had to wait nearly two years for a hearing aid, and believes it would have been much longer without the publicity his efforts received. The pensioner had feared he could be completely deaf, or even dead, before getting an appointment after writing many letters to health bosses without positive reply.

But after Mr Webb's story appeared in the pages of the Shropshire Star it was not long before he appeared on breakfast television, and with that followed a knock on the door from Scrivens, one of the UK's largest optical and audio aid retailers, who were quick to offer their services.

Scrivens arranged for Mr Webb, who has spent 24 years in the armed forces, to be tested by one of their specialists at his home and provided him with a hearing aid.

Despite this success, however, Mr Webb was still annoyed the NHS had not been any help. That is until the turn of the year when he finally got a call to Whitchurch Hospital on January 27 where two hearing aids were provided.

Mr Webb said: "The saga concerning my

## By Andy Rogers

quest for a hearing test and a hearing aid has now been satisfactorily sorted out.

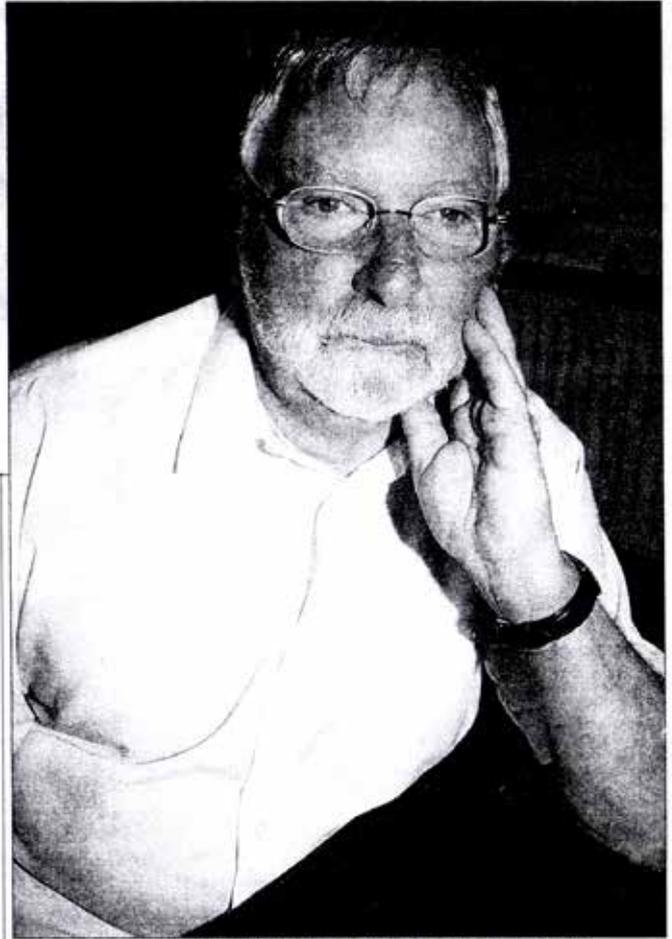
"It's wonderful, but without the Shropshire Star I think I would have still been waiting now for an appointment.

"I even went on breakfast television to talk about what was happening, and that was certainly an experience.

"Scrivens were the first on the scene after the story went into the paper and they really helped out, and now I have been into hospital and everything has been sorted out.

"I haven't got anything to shout at the Government for now though, that's probably why they did it."

Mr Webb also thanked North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson for raising his case and helping him to get a hearing aid.



Thomas Webb, from Wem, has struggled to get a hearing aid



Does anyone recognise the Squad Leader in this photograph? One clue is that it was taken at the Jnr Ldrs Regt RA, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warks circa 1965.

# Association Committee 2006 – 2007

Honorary President	Maj Gen Peter Currie CB
Chairman	Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM
Secretary	Mel Charlton - former WO1(SMAC)
Assistant Secretary	Andy Tibble MSM - former WO1(SSM)
Reunion Secretary	WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine AGC(SPS)
Treasurer	Maj Paul Corker AGC(SPS)
Welfare Officer	Ted Morgan - former WO2(QMS(AC))
Standard Bearer	Andrew Jones - former Sgt(AC))
Association Padre	Rev Dennis Brett - former WO2(QMS(AC))
Webmaster	David Stotan - former WO2(QMS(AC))
Historical Secretary	Joe Hoggins BSc - former WO1(SMAC)

## Regional Secretaries

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

association committee

## 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 Welfare Secretary Ted Morgan.

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

### The North West

- consisting of Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire. Contact Dennis Norris at dn001k3794@blueyonder.co.uk

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

**The Midlands** – consisting of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Leicestershire, Hereford and Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Contact Steve Callaghan at steve.callaghan@vincipark.co.uk

**The East** – consisting of Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Essex,

Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Contact Chris Berry BA at berry3@tinyworld.co.uk

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

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

### The London Area.

Contact Steve Truslove at stevetruslove@aol.com

**Scotland.** Contact Ted Fairbrass at tedfairbrass@btinternet.com

**Germany.** Contact Ron Holmes at ronandkadja@aol.com

**Rest of the World.**  
Contact the Association Secretary

by  
David Stotan – former WO2(QMS(AC))

I am pleased to see that our bulletin board is still being well supported and proving to be an excellent place for our members to exchange information for the good and benefit of all. And thankfully the odd fun story does find its way onto the page, keep up the good work Paddy! Not a lot has changed on the website this period but if anyone has any suggestions for content please do feel free to contact me and I will see what can be done. I do intend to create a site map page with links to all areas of the site but unfortunately this is still work in progress. I will do my very best to sort this out as soon as possible during the next few months.

For a change I am not going to include anything about virus's in this edition of The Crossed Quills but just for a change I am going to highlight the growing problems faced by SPAM and Phishing emails, annoying aren't they! We all have a responsibility to protect our home computers, not only for our own personal security, but also to prevent our machines being used as zombies or botnets by criminals for illegitimate purposes. It's a sad fact that most SPAM and phishing emails actually originate from our own compromised home computers.

The following links will take you to websites offering online security advice.

<http://www.staysafeonline.info/>

<http://www.identitytheft.org.uk/protect-yourself.htm>

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/default.mspx>

The following news story from August

highlights just how important it is to ensure your personal data is kept secure. Many of us are not taking enough precautions when getting rid of our old computer equipment and media.

**“UK bank details sold in Nigeria”**  
Bank account details belonging to thousands of Britons are being sold in West Africa for less than £20 each, the BBC's Real Story programme has found.

*It discovered that fraudsters in Nigeria were able to find internet banking data stored on recycled PCs sent from the UK to Africa.*

Leaving data on a computer is an extremely risky thing to do for a number of reasons. On a personal level it can help a criminal steal your identity which can lead to financial loss and enormous emotional and psychological stress. The most effective way of rendering the information unreadable is to remove and physically destroy the hard drive, for example, by hitting it with a hammer (take care to protect your eyes)

This may be most appropriate if the device will not work and therefore, cannot be properly wiped.

Wiping computer data from a hard drive is not an easy task. A common assumption is that deleting or formatting a hard drive will be enough but in fact the data is still recoverable.

There are a number of methods to “delete” data from a computer's hard drive (e.g., highlighting a file and pressing the Delete key, or emptying a recycle bin or trash folder, using system utilities to reformat the disk). These methods do not remove the data, they simply make space available for

webovmaster's report

the system to use when next required. The data remains on the disk.

Readily available software tools can be used to restore the data. These are even free such as those shown below:

Darik's Boot & Nuke - 95, 98, ME, NT, XP, 2000 - Free - <http://dban.sourceforge.net>

Eraser - 95, 8, NT, XP, 2000 and DOS - Free - <http://www.heidi.ie/eraser/>

Note:

This above links have been extracted from an article "how to wipe your drive" and does not mean I endorse any of these products, but I just wanted you to be aware what's available from the Internet for Free. If you're not confident in installing such products and running them please seek professional advice or services first.

Do remember that "Delete" or "Format" does not mean Erase.

## Wanted - Army Numbers

In order to complete records the following members are requested to inform the Secretary of their army numbers (present or former):

Brian Bailey, Pip Bailey, Jim Findley, Stu Hunt, Tresh Matthews (both please), Dennis Phillipson BEM, Alex Ross, Steve Seymour, Gordon Timmis, Ron Waterfield, Andy West, Chris Wood, John Yeowell

## Artillery Clerks' Association Ties

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

Mr Roy Deal MBE, CGTW, School of Army Aviation, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 8DY



## Membership Recruiting - Eligibility for Membership

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

# by Major Paul Corker AGC(SPS)

## Opening Remarks

At the time of writing this report I am sat at home on Post Operational Tour Leave from Iraq. Reading my notes from last year I thought that I would be in a position to support the Committee and you the members consistently for the next two years. Well how wrong I was!! Days after our successful 2006 Reunion I was off to Iraq once more, this time employed in the Headquarters National Support Element. To those members who came along and said hello, I would like to thank you and hope to see you at the Reunion Dinner in 2007 (safely). I am back to work on 17 October 2006 and would be delighted to answer all questions put before me. That said, let me now summarise the financial strength of the fund.

## Statement Of Account As At 30 Sep 06

<i>Assets (A)</i>		<i>Liabilities (B)</i>	
Current Account	£1,095:75	Function	£940:62
Deposit Account	£2,187:49		
Shop Stock	£ 403:00		
<i>Total Assets</i>	<i>£3,686:24</i>	<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<i>£940:62</i>
<i>Total Cash (A – B)</i>	<i>£2,745:62</i>		

## General

The fund remains healthy and does not include known debtors in the final totals. Assets last year totalled £4,049:59 compared with £3,686:24 in 2006. The function has decreased from £1,688:42 to £940:62. This is due to the support given to the 2006 function and was within the planning estimate of the Committee. Cash available to the fund has risen from £2,361:17 to £2,745:62.

## Subscriptions

This is my major area of concern. The level of outstanding subscriptions is far too high. I will be writing to all members to clear outstanding subscriptions shortly but I ask all of you to contact me and I will let you know immediately if you are an "honest debtor". To give you some idea of the current debtors, these are shown as:

Long Term Debtors	£515:00
Short Term Debtors	£255:00 (2006 subscriptions)

## Mandate System

All members are strongly encouraged to subscribe by this method. Forms are available from the Treasurer. There are 49 members not subscribing by this system.

treasurer's report

## Gift Aid

To date I have received £805:82 from the Inland Revenue. I do ask politely, that if you are one of the 74 members who are yet to complete the 'Gift Aid Declaration Form' then please contact me soonest. The Taxman pays the fund £1:41 for every subscription received. Therefore it makes very good financial sense for you to contact me for a declaration form. I will be asking the Taxman for the 2006 return which should bring £200+ to the fund.

## Shop

The shop has a total of 31 ties @ £13:00 each. This equates to £403:00 in shop stock as shown by the Statement of Account.

## Insurance

The fund remains under the insurance umbrella of Towergate Wilsons.

## Summary

I give a special thank you to all members of the Committee who have made the last twelve months hugely successful and have given me support when I have been absent in Iraq. If I have one message for all members please support the fund fully and clear your outstanding subscriptions as quickly as possible, subscribe by the mandate system and complete the Gift Aid Declaration Form. My number in Folkestone has changed and I am contactable on Folkestone Military (94281) 2301 or Civilian (013030 225301). Again, I wish you all the very best for the remaining few months of 2006 and hope to see you all early next year.

# welfare officers report

by  
Ted Morgan - former  
WO2(QMS(AC))

Another year gone and nothing to do. Of the six or so referrals we have had, both Joe and Mel have been able to deal with them without referral to me. This is to be expected when you realise the breadth of welfare work Artillery Clerk's are expected to do. However we do totally rely on you all to advise of any Artillery Clerk in distress, this is a totally confidential service and we will do our utmost to try and alleviate the problem, from respite care to holiday homes – we know someone who does!!

If any members need job advice, whether they are still serving or retired, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01332-371217 during working hours or 01332-678418 out of hours. I will be happy to help.

## Last Post

Mrs Edna Reynolds  
wife of Major(Retd) John Reynolds  
passed away in Medicine Hat,  
Canada  
on Wednesday 10 May 2006

Rest in Peace

by  
Joe Hoggins BSc (former WO1(SMAC))

Everyone who attended the penultimate AC Dinner at Woolwich in March 2006 thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as, I am sure, has been the case since the first AC Re-Union Dinner that was held in Austin's in Cannon Street, not too far from the Mansion House, on 24th November, 1923.

It will be a sad occasion when, in February 2007, our association with Woolwich comes to an end. During my research into the annual dinners, the first dinner I could establish, without any doubt in my mind, that was held at Woolwich was on 27th January 1963 with the Guest of Honour being General Mansergh, the Master Gunner (unless anyone knows any different? (as I do not have any record of any dinners been held in 1960-62)).

I know many of you have contributed photograph's and articles for the proposed book on the History the AC, but there must be hundred's who have at least one memorable photo of their time as a Gunner to WO1 artillery clerk, which you could loan us! A few words describing the photo is all that is required. (Put your name on the back of the photo).

If I could have a 'genie in the bottle wish' it would be that I could have at least one photo and short article from a clerk, who eventually made AC, in each Gunner Regiment and Headquarters, going back as far as possible. This would make writing a book so much easier!!

For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to send me an article or photo, please make an old man happy and let me have something, however small! Dig those photo's out now – all subscribers will be credited. Honestly, this book celebrating

the Artillery Clerk cannot happen without a small contribution from almost every AC!

For those in current RA Regiments, including TA Regiments, who have access to regimental history – can I please ask you to dig out any photo's of Regimental or Battery offices in a normal barrack environment but also especially offices in weird and wonderful places, such as one I can remember, albeit not with too fond memories, is the Sailor's Rest in Londonderry (not that I have any photo's!!!).

If I don't see you before I do hope to see you at the Farewell to Woolwich AC Re-Union Dinner on Saturday 17th February, 2007.

historical secretary's report

# officer fitness reports

The British Military writes performance ratings as Officer Fitness Reports. The form used for Royal Navy and Marines fitness reports is the S206. The following are excerpts taken from actual “206’s” ....

- His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.
- I would not breed from this Officer.
- This Officer is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't-be.
- When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
- He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.
- He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
- Technically sound, but socially impossible.
- This Officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope- always spinning around at a frantic pace, but not really going anywhere.
- This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- When he joined my ship, this Officer was something of a granny; since then he has aged considerably.
- This Medical Officer has used my ship to carry his genitals from port to port, and my officers to carry him from bar to bar.
- Since my last report he has reached rock bottom, and has started to dig.
- She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
- He has the wisdom of youth, and the energy of old age.
- This Officer should go far - and the sooner he starts, the better.
- In my opinion this pilot should not be authorized to fly below 250 feet.
- This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
- The only ship I would recommend this man for is citizenship.
- Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.

# Minutes of the Artillery Clerks' Association Annual General Meeting Held on Saturday 8th April 2006

## Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman opened the Meeting by welcoming all those in attendance.

## Apologies for Absence

There were 24 apologies for absence, the majority of which were listed in the Dinner Menu Card.

## Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 9th April 2005

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

Proposer     Mick Johnson  
Seconder     Major Russ Lee RA

## Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 9th April 2005

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 9th April 2005..

## Chairman's Report

The Chairman stated that:

- It was nice to see everyone in attendance. In particular to Alex Forbes-Ross and congratulated him on his award of the RAA Gold Medal.
- There was a legal need to hold an AGM, and to give everyone the opportunity to examine the accounts.

- The Committee were looking ahead and thinking about next year and future venues.
- The evening was tainted with sadness about the news about George McGilvery. First consultations informed George that he had a small tumour in his lung and was due to start a treatment programme on Friday. A further consultation discovered that the tumour was twice the size. The Chairman had spoken to his wife Carol and discovered that George was far too depressed to receive visitors and was scheduled to receive chemo. The tumour was non aggressive but was affecting his vocal chords. Members were requested to sign a card for George.
- There had been difficulties with the Guest Speaker and General Willcocks was unable to attend the Reunion Dinner. Several individuals had been approached without avail. Brig Bounsell had accepted at short notice and then cancelled. The only guest was the RSM 16 Regt RA.

- The Chairman stated that it was very nice to see members who had not attended for a while including Willy Wallace after his heart attack.

- Membership now stands at 196.

## Secretary's Report

- Unfortunate death of former WO1(SMAC) Eric Frost who died during January this year aged 90. Former WO1(SMAC) John Baik (formerly known as Lambert) also died during January this year aged 69.

annual general meeting

- Congratulations to SSgts Alf Alvin, Daz Ward and Bob Smith on being selected for promotion to WO2 in the FY 2006/07 since our last Meeting.
- Ties for sale this weekend at a cost of £13.00 from Roy Deal MBE.
- A total of 200 Grand Draw raffle tickets have been bought from the RAA for £50.00. One ticket has been allocated to each of the 196 members and the remaining 4 tickets to the Association. The draw will take place on 8 Aug 06 and the 1st prize is £1,000.00. Good luck.
- Reminder to keep the Secretary informed of any changes of rank, address, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, awards etc, etc.
- Bob Lewney had telephoned the Secretary to apologise for his non attendance with the following message for members, "Sorry I can't be with you tonight. I have been in hospital with septicaemia, shingles and asthma. I hope that you all have a good evening". The Secretary mentioned that this was the fourth dinner that Bob had missed since 1963.

## Treasurer's Report

Liquidity State as at Sat 8 Apr 06:

### Assets

Current Bank Balance	£3,730.25
Deposit Bank Balance	£2,178.24
Shop Stock	£ 416.00
Total Assets (A)	£6,324.49

### Liabilities

Function	£3,081.07
Total Liabilities (B)	£3,243.42
Available Cash (A-B)	£3,081.07

Proposed as a true record by Mick Grenham  
 Secunder Jim Cussell BEM

### Notes:

- Subscriptions.* Prior to the financial year 2006 there is £515.00 owed in outstanding subscriptions. For 2006 there remains 48 members outstanding totalling £240.00. This would result in an additional £755.00 to be credited to the General Purpose Fund.
- Mandate.* 46 members are not paying by the Standing Order Mandate. Members are continuously encouraged to subscribe by this method.
- Gift Aid.* The Treasurer has received a total of £805.82 from the

Inland Revenue. There are 74 members who are yet to join the gift aid scheme.

- Treasurer's Update.* I will issue a letter in May 06 calling for members to clear their outstanding subscriptions. They will be invited to join the mandate system and the gift aid.

## Welfare Secretary's Report

The Welfare Secretary Ted Morgan reported that there had been 9 cases (10 with George McGilvery) since his last report. The main problem was not being informed of cases. Last year he had been directly involved with Willy Wallace who had had a quadruple heart by-pass. Ted requested that all members keep either himself or the Secretary informed, and to keep the information flowing. He informed everyone that members were able to request assistance from SSAFA, the RBL and the RAA. Ted urged everyone once again to keep the information flowing in order that he can look after colleagues in his capacity of Welfare Secretary.

## Historical Secretary's Report

The Historical Secretary Joe Hoggins BSc made a plea for members to dig out old menu cards from previous dinners in order that the anomaly with the Reunion Dinner numbers can be sorted out.

## Reunion Secretary's Report

The Reunion Secretary WO1 Ian Constantine gave a comprehensive briefing on the format of the Reunion Dinner and the evening.

## Any other Business

- Election or re-election of Committee*

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

Chairman - Lt Col(Retd) J F Falzon BEM  
 Secretary - Mel Charlton

Treasurer - Maj Paul Corker AGC(SPS)  
Reunion Secretary - WO1(SSM) I  
Constantine AGC(SPS)

Proposer Bill Young  
Secunder Maj(Retd) Pat Verdon

b. *Election of Area Secretaries*

The Secretary proposed and Maj(Retd) Dave Cussell seconded that WO2 Ron Holmes be accepted to fill the vacancy of Area Secretary Germany.

The Secretary proposed and Maj Russ Lee seconded that Roy Deal MBE be accepted to fill the vacancy of Area Secretary West vice Des Riley moving North.

(All members were in favour of these proposals)

c. *The Future of Woolwich*

The future of Woolwich was mentioned and the date of the 2007 Dinner was discussed. A provisional date of 21 Apr 07 was suggested. After note. Due to the London Marathon being held on Sun 22 Apr 07, the 21st is now considered impractical). The 2007 Dinner would be the last dinner in Woolwich and the theme would be "Farewell to Woolwich". There would probably be a restriction with accommodation. We would have to look for an alternative venue and the Mess in Bramcote was mentioned as a possibility. The facilities in Larkhill would not be available until 2009 and the Midlands was mentioned as a possible location for Dinners post 2007.

d. *Association Funds*

The Chairman mentioned as funds were healthy and that we would be having a special farewell to Woolwich that one or two members could be sponsored to attend. Help could be given to individuals to comply with the objective of Comradeship. At this point John Lindley suggested that we may subsidise

individuals to the sum of £10.00 per head. Dennis Norris stated that the subsidy should go to assist people who can't make the Dinner, ie can't afford to attend because of costs. The question was raised as to how we can identify these individuals.

e. *Crossed Quills*

The Chairman stated that Crossed Quills had been produced at RMA Sandhurst as a goodwill gesture. The Reunion Secretary was leaving Sandhurst and the facility to print Crossed Quills would no longer be available. A costing had been made and it would cost approximately £2K to produce the magazine in its present format. Bill Young generously offered to have the magazine produced in black and white format only. This was considered to be a backward step. The Committee would continue to seek alternatives.

f. *Vote of Thanks*

John Lindley proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for all their hard work. The Chairman stated that this vote of thanks should extend to all members of the Committee including our Webmaster David Stotan.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Meeting was decided to be Sat 21 Apr 07. After Note: Due to the London Marathon being held the following day this date is now impractical to hold an AGM and Reunion Dinner. ***The AGM and the 73rd Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association (Farewell to Woolwich) Diner will be held on Saturday 27th February 2007.***

Mel Charlton  
Secretary



# 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 Memers.** 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.

association charter

(2) An informal Dinner to be held at a frequency and location to be decided by the Committee, to include wives, girlfriends and widows.

(3) A very limited welfare service. This essentially means that the Artillery Clerks' Association, in promoting contacts between members, provides a network through which help can be given to any member. The focus for this activity within the Association is the Secretary.

## Organisation

8. The affairs of the Artillery Clerks' Association will be overseen by the Artillery Clerks' Association Committee. The Committee will meet at intervals decided upon by the Chairman, and will comprise of:

- a. President (Honorary).
- b. Chairman.
- c. Secretary. Responsibilities cover:
  - (1) Association Membership.
  - (2) Correspondence.
  - (3) Providing a focus for the Association's welfare work and links to the RAA.
  - (4) Production of a periodic newsletter.
  - (5) Coordinating the activities of the Area Representatives.
- d. Treasurer. Responsibilities cover:
  - (1) Maintenance of a bank account entitled the "Artillery Clerks' Association".
  - (2) Accounting for all the finances of the Artillery Clerks' Association.
  - (3) Presenting a Statement of Account to the Committee (as and when required) and annually at the AGM
- e. Regional Representatives. Responsibilities cover:
  - (1) The recruitment of new members.
  - (2) Maintaining an area membership list.
  - (3) Coordinating travel to Reunions and other Association activities.

Areas covered are:

- (1) Northern Ireland.
- (2) Scotland.

(3) Wales.

(4) The North West consisting of Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire.

(5) The North consisting of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside.

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

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

(8) London Area

(9) The South consisting of Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent.

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

(11) Germany.

(12) The Rest of the World – covered by the Secretary.

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

#### Fees

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

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

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

# 72nd Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner

## Friday 7th – Sunday 9th April 2006

### by WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine AGC(SPS)

The 72nd Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner took place at Woolwich over the weekend of Friday 7th April to Sunday 9th April 2006.

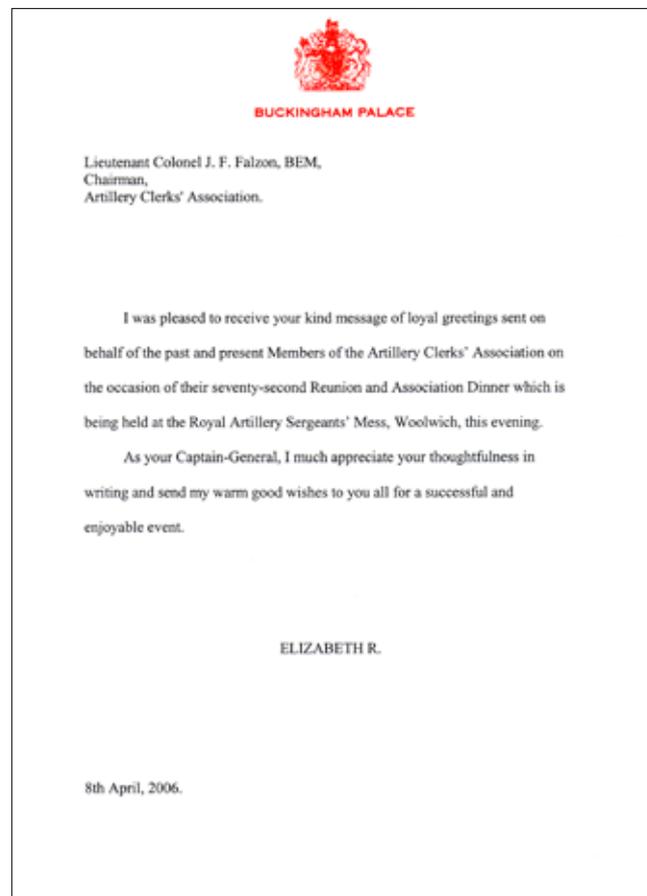
The Reunion started in style with a large number of Association Members arriving on Friday evening and meeting for a small sherry in the Sergeants' Mess where old friendships were rekindled and tall stories were told.

Following a good response from Association members, over 60 former Artillery Clerks' sat down for Dinner on 8th April in the presence of Major General Peter Currie CBE, the Association Honorary President and WO1(RSM) PJ Jacques MBE, RSM 16 Regiment Royal Artillery,

the Associations affiliated Regiment. Dinner was, as ever, excellent, with the Mess Staff under the expert eye of Mrs Mary Faulkner providing superb service. We were entertained throughout by the String Quartet of the Band of the Army Air Corps and were further entertained by a pipe set given by Miss Olivia McClellan, a musician with the Royal Artillery Band. Following this the Reunion Secretary spoke briefly, welcoming all to the Reunion and proposing a toast to "Absent Friends". RSM 16 Regiment then gave an informative "State of the Union" report, reiterating that the RASM is a firm supporter of the Association. The Guest of Honour was then introduced and thanked for stepping in at the eleventh hour as the principal guest. Maj Gen Currie gave a delightful response, which was warmly received by all those in attendance.

Following the speeches the Artillery Clerks' Association retired to the Ayres Lounge where the Reunion continued into the early hours of the morning.

The 73rd Reunion and Association Dinner is scheduled for the weekend of 16 – 18 February 2007. Next years Reunion is likely to be the final one in the splendour of the Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess in Woolwich before we relocate and all Association members are encouraged to attend.



# Friday Night



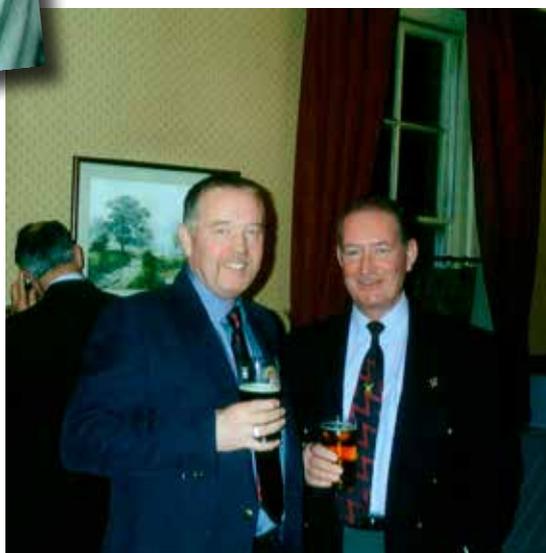
Brian Leadbetter, Tom Webb and Duggie Waterhouse with William Wallace and Mel Charlton (Secretary) behind

Maj(Retd) Richard Ancliffe BEM gesturing to the assembled



WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary) talking to a guest with Des Riley and Brian Morgan behind

William Wallace and Mel Charlton (Secretary) enjoying a pint





Tom Webb, Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer) and Graham Brown (Area Secretary South)

Mel Charlton (Secretary) and Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman) discuss the AGM



Anne-Marie at the bar with Graham Brown and Andrew Jones in discussion behind



## Saturday Breakfast

WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary) enjoying a hearty breakfast on Saturday Morning





Several members at breakfast, Saturday morning.



## Saturday Night



Maj Gen Peter Currie CB (Honorary President) chats to Dennis Norris (Area Secretary North West) on arrival



Des Riley, WO1(RSM) Paul Jacques MBE (Guest), WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary), Maj Gen Peter Currie CB (Honorary President), Mel Charlton (Secretary) and Maj(Retd) Richard Ancliffe BEM at the top table

Lt Col(Retd) Vic Holdaway BEM, Roy Deal MBE, Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman), Maj Gen Mike Shellard CBE (Honorary Member) and Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer) at the reverse top table



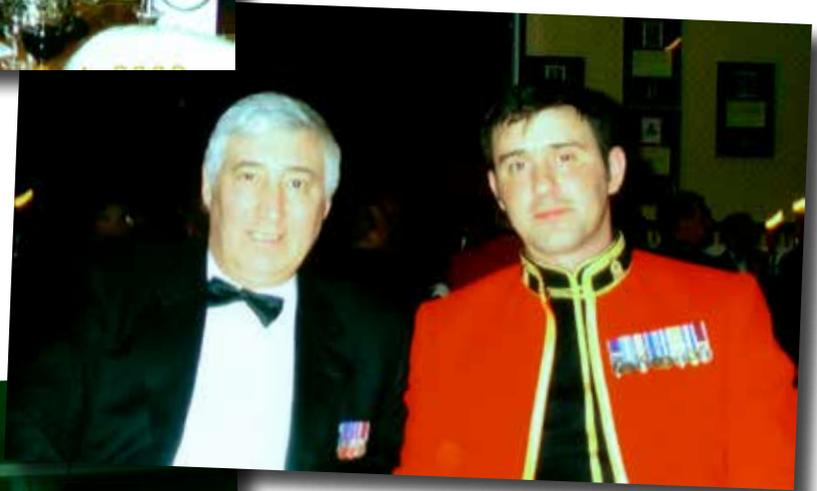
Various view of the Reunion Dinner





View of the Reunion Dinner

Joe Hoggins BSc (Historical Secretary) with his son and guest WO1(SSM) Frank Hoggins



Mick Honston, Dennis Norris (Area Secretary North West) and Steve Read

WO1(RSM) Paul Jacques MBE (Guest) enjoys a pint with Maj Russ Lee and Lt Col (Retd) Vic Holloway BEM





Graham Brown (Area Secretary South) chats with Bill Johnson, Mick Grenham and Ray Lewis MSM

Below: Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer) and SSgt Steve Paton

Below: Jim Cussell BEM and Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon



Below: Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer) making sure that his balls are in place



Clockwise - Maj (Retd) Dennis Crawford BEM, Maj (Retd) Richard Ancliffe BEM, Geoff Hyatt, Duggie Waterhouse, Andrew Jones and Ted Hall

# 201 Members as at 14 Nov 06

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

LISTENERS

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# Ramblings of a Retired AC

By

Major(Retd) and former WO1(SMAC) John Reynolds

## Part II

O

I disembarked from HMT Dunera at Southampton on the 3rd June 1954 and proceeded home on disembarkation leave. I was able to celebrate my 24th birthday at home and made up for missing my 21st birthday with my family. On completion of my leave I reported in to the Depot RA (Fd Wing) at Woolwich hoping that there would be a posting order back to Hong Kong waiting for me. My hopes were dashed when I was told that there were no orders for me and I would be taken on to Held Strength until RA Records decided my future.

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As a transitee, I was at the beck and call of the BSM and was usually detailed off to conduct drafts around the Depot to collect/hand-in tropical uniforms, jabs at the MI Room etc. I did manage to convince the BSM that, as an AC, I did not perform such mundane duties as Orderly Sgt or Guard Comd and managed to skive out of those duties.

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One day just after lunch, as I was supervising a fatigue party, a Regt Policeman came and told me that I was to report to the RSM immediately. I thought at first that I would be told that my posting order was in. Then I realized that it would not need the RSM to tell me that – I then started to try and think what I had done wrong that would need me to report to him directly! When I got to his office he said nothing other than that the Adjt wished to speak to me – curiouser and curiouser! After I had been marched in and came to a halt, the Adjt said “Congratulations Mr. Reynolds. You are hereby promoted to Acting WO1(SMAC) forthwith and posted to HQRA 52nd (Lowland) Div in Glasgow as Chief Clerk”. My heart sank into my boots. I thought that my chances of getting back

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to Hong Kong and getting married had gone down the drain. The Adjt then went on to explain that the Chief Clerk had died from a massive heart attack and that as I was on the HS with no posting order issued, I was to do the job until such time as a Promotion Board could be convened and a proper replacement found. I was told to get myself organized to leave for Glasgow the next morning. In those days you were issued with a movement order listing the destination and the times of trains with connections etc, and a rail warrant. It was also customary to travel in uniform.

Most of my kit was at my home in Kennington, so I was going to be a bit pushed to get organized and on my way by the first train the next day. I went to the Clothing Store to get issued with WO1 badges of rank and this raised the first problem. The storeman looked at my Sgts stripes and then told me that he did not believe that I had been promoted to WO1. It took a request to see the RQMS who phoned the RSM to confirm that I was, indeed, entitled to the badges of rank. A similar problem arose at the Tailors Shop but, once again, was sorted out by a phone call to the RSM for confirmation.

I managed to get everything sorted out and departed London the next morning, the 26th August 1954, on the first train to Glasgow. On arrival in Glasgow I enquired of a policeman how to get to Maryhill Barracks. He told me to go out of the station, cross the road to a tram stop and catch any tram to Mulguy – he neglected to tell me that it was spelt Milngavie! Needless to say, several trams came and went before the penny dropped and I finally got on a tram. I got off just outside

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the barracks which, at that time, was the Depot of the Highland Light Infantry.

I entered the Guard Room to find a HLI Sgt sitting behind a high counter. I asked him how to get to the Sgts Mess. He asked me, in a rather snotty tone, why I wanted to know that. I just placed my elbows on the top of the counter so that he could see the "Tate & Lyles" on my sleeves and said "Because, Sgt, I have just been posted here and need to find my accommodation". He leapt to his feet and stuttered that he was very sorry and asked was I Mr. Reynolds. I replied that, yes, I was he. He then informed me that as there was no accommodation in the Sgts Mess for a WOI, I was to be accommodated in a place called the Soldiers' Home, which was just across the road from the barracks.

The Soldiers' Home was run by a couple of old ladies and accommodated various military personnel, mainly TA permanent staff of small units, who could not be accommodated in military accommodation. This meant that I was issued with Living Out Allowance and could arrange my own meals. This saved me from having to continually explain to members of the HLI Sgts Mess how a 24 year old could possibly be a WOI.

All good things must come to an end and RA Records came up with a replacement and I reverted to Sgt(AC) and was posted back to the Depot RA, this time to the Coast & Ack Ack Wing, on 18th January 1955. Before leaving HQRA 52 (Lowland) Div I had a farewell interview with the CRA, Brig J.L. Proudlock, who asked where I was being posted to. I explained the situation about waiting for a posting back to Hong Kong and the reason. He said nothing other than thanking me for stepping in at short notice and doing a good job. As I left his office I heard him pick up the phone but paid no attention to this at the time.

On reporting in to the Depot, I found that there was still no posting order and that I

was back to doing the same thing that I had been doing in Fd Wing. I did not enjoy marching squads of draftees around and scived out of this as much as I could, which was not too difficult. About 10 days later a posting order suddenly appeared posting me back to HQRA 40 Inf Div at Far East Farm Camp in the New Territories for a three year tour. My next problem was to tell my parents that I was not only being posted back to Hong Kong, but would be marrying a Chinese girl when I got there. I won't bore you with the details of that little episode in my life!

On the 3rd March 1955 I reported aboard HMT Empire Fowey as a member of the advance party and was detailed to work in the Ship's Orderly Room. This was a fairly cushy number. The Ship's Commandant, RSM, ORQMS and Medical Staff were all permanent troop ship staff and spent their time sailing back and forth in troop ships with their permanent base being at Southampton.

The office work was not onerous and I could sleep in a small office instead of in a standee down on the troop deck. The worst part of the job was having to wake up early every morning and play reveille for the troop decks on the PA system. One morning, after a heavy night in the bar, I inadvertently flipped a wrong switch and played reveille throughout the whole ship, including the crew's quarters and the first class cabins. I was hauled in front of the Ship's RSM and given a right royal bollocking, then another one from the Adjt and then the Ship's Commandant. Insult was added to injury when the RSM marched me up to the bridge where I had to apologise to the Ship's Captain. That night, in the bar, I somehow got Brahms and Liszt, but don't recall having to pay for a single drink!

On board, en route to Hong Kong was 15 Med Regt RA. I got to know the 2IC, Adjt and RSM, WOI(RSM) George Galbraith, quite well. The CO, Lt Col W.R. Holman, MC, RA, had stayed in the UK to ride in the Grand National and would be flying out to join the regiment later. I had told the RSM about my posting back to HQRA 40 Inf Div and the reason. As the regiment would be stationed in Gun Club Bks in Kowloon, he told me that any time that I was in town and needed a bed for the night I could feel free to use his mess.

During this four week "cruise", courtesy of Her Majesty, we had shore leave at the usual places Port Said, Aden, Colombo and Singapore.

An Acting Sgt in 15 Med Regt was busted to Bdr when he was caught coming out of his wife's cabin early one morning. It was the custom for Officers and their families to travel First Class, WO's/Ssgts and their families Second Class, Sgts and junior rank families traveled Third Class and Sgts and below traveled on the troop decks. This meant that the Third Class families, depending upon the sizes of the family, often had to share cabins. The husbands were allowed into the cabins from about 0700 hrs to 2200 hrs to

help with the kids. This Sgt's wife was lucky enough to have a cabin on her own so one night he decided to sleep with her but was caught leaving in the morning. He was charged with "Failing to Comply With Ship's Standing Orders" i.e. being out of bounds. I asked the Ship's RSM why there was this discrimination between the ranks of SSgt and Sgt. He explained that it was the fault of the Navy because of their custom of having separate messes for CPOs and POs and because there were often naval drafts on board troop ships, we had to conform to their customs.

We arrived in Hong Kong on the 1st April and after disembarkation I found myself reporting in to the Chief Clerk, by now WOI(SMAC) Gordon Jacobs, who wanted to know if I knew why I had been posted to the HQ. Apparently, they were up to full establishment and there was no job for me. Now the penny dropped, it seemed that Brig Proudlock had contacted RA Records and told someone to post me to Hong Kong, and that is what they did. I was held Surplus to Establishment and was given any odd job that was going which really did not bother me.

I had, obviously, made contact with Edna at the earliest opportunity and confirmed that her grandmother had approved our marriage. I submitted my application to get married and had to go through an interview with the local Padre who turned out to be a padre that had been on the troopship. He was quite concerned that I was applying to marry a local Chinese girl after I had been in the Colony for only a few days and did I really know what I was doing! I had to explain to him that this was my second tour and that I had known Edna now for quite some time. He seemed satisfied with this and approved the application.

One of the odd things about Hong Kong was that although there was a HQRA 40 Inf Div, there was no HQ 40 Inf Div. The role of div HQ was carried out by HQ Land Forces Hong Kong. HQLF was in the process of setting up a Div Battle School at Sai Kung and although the establishment had not yet been approved by the War Office, they wanted to start the ball rolling. To this end they trolled all the units in the Colony looking for various people to get the place up and running. One of the jobs was a chief clerk and HQRA 40 Inf Div saw the chance to rid them selves of me so off I went to Sai Kung to start setting up the orderly room.

One Friday morning I received a phone call informing me that I had to report to the DAA & QMG of HQ Hong Kong & Kowloon Garrison at 1400hrs on that afternoon. I thought that I might as well take some civvies and overnight kit and stay in town for the weekend.

I duly reported in to HQ HK&KG and was told by the DAA & QMG that I was to be posted to a unit in Singapore or Malaya – he was not sure which unit it would be. There was an unwritten policy at that time that any serviceman applying to marry a local girl would be posted to Singapore or Malaya, and vice-versa. I informed him

that I knew that the policy was unofficial and that I would appeal. After being dismissed I walked down Chatham Road to Gun Club Bks and saw RSM Galbraith and checked that it would be OK for me to stay in the Mess for the weekend. He said that was OK and asked why was I looking so po faced. I told him of the posting to Singapore. The next morning I was awakened by the Provost Sgt and told to report to the RSM, in uniform, as soon as possible. When I got to the RSM's office he marched me straight in to see the CO, whom I had never met before. The CO told me that the RSM had explained my predicament and asked if I would like to join 15 Med Regt. I replied in the affirmative but said that I knew he already had a chief clerk. I was told not to worry about that and was marched out. On the 9th June 1955, I was posted to 15 Med Regt and their CC was posted to Singapore – I never did find out why he departed so suddenly. Once again my luck was in!

15 Med Regt was a happy regiment with only two btys, 7 (Sphinx) and 38 (Seringapatam). All the clerks were National Servicemen so there was a pretty high turnover. One of these was a character called Gordon Honeycombe who, on the weekends when he was not on duty, used to read the English news on Radio Hong Kong. He later worked for ITN but was fired in 1977 when he supported the national fireman's' strike on national TV.

I was finally able to get married on the 1st October 1955 in St Andrew's Church in Nathan Road, Kowloon. As Edna's father had disowned her she no one to give her away. George Galbraith, the RSM, very kindly stood in and did the honours.

On the 10th October 1956, the Regiment, together with 25 Fd Regt from Whitfield Bks, was called out in Aid of the Civil Power to control severe rioting that had broken out in Kowloon. During the start of the rioting, the wife of one of the Scandinavian Ambassadors, together with



a taxi driver, were burnt to death in the taxi on Nathan Road. The riots were quite severe and lasted several days. Many of the Triads took the opportunity to strike at their rivals, so there were gang wars going on as well as the rioting and widespread looting. A couple of infantry bns from the New Territories were brought in to help.

In 1956 mess kit for the Sgts Mess was introduced. This consisted of No1 Dress trousers, black shoes, soft white shirt, black bow tie, royal blue cummerbund and white monkey jacket with half size brass RA titles on the epaulets. Rank badges were two thirds size gold wire worn on the right arm and affixed with press studs. We were not allowed to wear miniature medals, but instead wore miniature medal ribbons – with my lonely little GSM ribbon I was often told that I had a bluebottle on my lapel! Fortunately, someone realized that the wearing of just miniature medal ribbons looked ridiculous and the RA Dress Committee approved the wearing of miniature medals. Prior to this the usual mess dress for mess functions was No 1 Dress, or No 3 Dress in the tropics.

On 25th September 1957, the Regiment embarked on HMT Nevasa for the UK. On

arrival the Regiment was to disband with a small rear party going to Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, to wind things up. Everyone else would go on disembarkation leave and then proceed to their new units. This made a huge amount of work for us clerks. We had to make out leave passes, travel warrants for everyone, including families, and also travel warrants and reporting instructions to new units. Coincidentally, also on board was 173 Loc Bty who were also returning to the UK to disband.

After closing down the Regiment at Oswestry, I was posted on the 16th February 1958 to the RA Clerks' School at Woolwich on a three year tour as an instructor and promoted to Acting SSgt. Here I met my old instructor, Jim Camies, who was now a WOI(SMAC) and Senior Instructor, and Les Tidy who had been a student on the same course as me back in 1949. Les was also an instructor.

I had only been at the School for about 5 months when I was told that six acting SSgts were to be reduced to Sgt and that I was one of them. I had not really enjoyed Woolwich, so I insisted on a posting which, at that time, was my right. I was then posted to a three year tour to 654 Lt Ac Sqn AAC which was a new sqn forming at Hildesheim. On the way to BAOR I met up with Don Cormack who had also been demoted and was being posted. He was on his way to Detmold to join HQ 1 Lt Ac Wing AAC. Both these units were part of the newly formed Army Air Corps. I arrived at Hildesheim late on a Thursday evening and on Friday morning reported in to the Sqn Comd, Maj RM Begbie, RA. I contacted the SSO and was told that a quarter had already been allocated and that my family would be called forward. That afternoon I started unpacking the office equipment and setting up the office. On Saturday morning I was still in the process when the CO sent for me. I was told that the Comd 1 Wing, Lt Col DPD Oldman, DFC, RA, wanted the senior sgt at the HQ and that happened to be me. That same afternoon a truck arrived from Detmold with Don and I then moved to Detmold. Don got the quarter that had been allocated to me. When I arrived at Detmold I was told that I would have to wait four or five months before a quarter would be available. That posting lasted less than 48 hrs!

Starting an office in a new HQ and a newly formed Corps was a very interesting challenge. I had to learn quite a few RAF procedures, particularly with respect to aircraft documentation and accidents. The establishment, to begin with, was quite small and everyone including drivers, cooks, pay clerks, storemen, had to be competent in aircraft marshalling and ground handling. I flew with the CO and qualified as an Observer. An amendment was submitted to upgrade the chief clerk's position to SSgt and, pending MoD approval, I was promoted to Local SSgt.

I think that it was around this time that the establishment for the regimental chief clerk was upgraded to Ssgt(AC)/WOII(QMSAC) with a Sgt(AC) as assistant chief clerk and the Lbdr(AC) and Bdr(AC) ranks were abolished.

I started this job with the expectation of being there for three years but, once again, fate intervened. As all the HQRAs in BAOR had to take on the additional responsibilities of a garrison HQ, the Sgts position in AQ Branch was upgraded to SSgt. So, after only 11 months in HQ 1 Lt Ac Wing, I found myself posted to HQRA 4 Div at Herford as CC AQ/Herford Garrison and promoted to Acting SSgt(AC). The Chief Clerk was WOI(SMAC) Bennie Bennett.

Life at HQRA 4 Div was good and the job was interesting. There was the usual round of BAOR exercises and the annual Div Arty Practice Camp. Edna and I made friends with several local German families, two of whom we still correspond with. After two and a half years at Herford, I received a posting to the Hong Kong Detachment of HQRA 17 Gurkha Div in Hong Kong.

Air trooping to the Far East was now in operation and tours had been reduced to two years. It so happened that we were to fly out on the 6th January 1962 from Stanstead with Caledonian Airways. This happened to be the worst winter in decades and things came to a grinding halt. Having been driven to Stanstead from the Movements Centre at Victoria, we were told that the flight had been cancelled and were then taken to the RAF Transit Hostel at Hendon. After a quick meal we went to bed. Having got the kids to bed, by this time we had two children, we were just settling down when one of the hostel staff came around banging on doors and telling us to get ready to move back to Stanstead as soon as possible. So we all dragged our kids out of bed, got back on the bus and returned to Stanstead. Once there, we were told to keep the kids awake and as soon as the pilot had made up his mind it was OK to take off, we would board and leave. After about two hours we suddenly got the word and rushed on board and as soon as everyone was settled in we took off. As far as I can remember, we landed at Istanbul, Bombay and Delhi to refuel. At each place we had to wake the kids up, get off the plane and wait in small, cramped and stuffy waiting rooms. Because it was the middle of the night at each stop-over, there was nothing open where we could get a drink or snack. The whole trip took about 26 hrs and the only saving grace about the whole miserable episode was that as it was not a RAF flight, we could buy alcoholic beverages on the plane.

The Hong Kong Det of HQRA 17 Gurkha Div was a bit of an oddity. The main HQRA was in Malaysia with the Div HQ based at Seremban. The HK Det consisted of a GS0II RA, a GS0III RA, Ssgt(AC) Chief Clerk, a Bdr clerk and a couple of Dvr/Ops, and we operated as G Branch of HQ Hong Kong and Kowloon Garrison. The Garrison Comd was a Gunner Brigadier and doubled as CRA Hong Kong. Our operational role was to command all the Gunner units in Hong Kong and the New Territories. Our peace time role was to work with the Hong Kong Police when providing Aid to the Civil Power.

On the 1st September 1962 I was promoted to WOII(QMSAC). On the 31st March 1963 the HK Det HQRA 17 Gurkha Div was

disbanded and I was attached, surplus to establishment, to HQ HK & KG. I had volunteered to join 29 Commando Regt which was to be posted to Singapore and rather than send me back to join them in the UK I was then attached to 20 Commando Bty (Amphibious Observation) Bty an independent bty based in Whitfield Bks in Kowloon, which was earmarked to come under command of 29 Regt when they arrived in Singapore. I was held as surplus to establishment with not a great deal to do so I volunteered for a parachute course at the Far East Parachute School at RAF Changi in Singapore. Shortly after returning from the course I was told by the BC that my posting to 29 Regt had been cancelled by did not know why. The next thing that I knew was that I was to be promoted to WOI(SMAC) and posted to Artillery Branch HQ BAOR to take over from WOI(SMAC) John French.

The positions of the MGRA and the Chief Clerk Artillery Branch were double-hatted. We were also Commander Artillery and Chief Clerk of Artillery Division HQ Northern Army Group. This meant that the chief clerk ran two offices – the Artillery Branch office which was manned by RA clerks and the Artillery Division NORTHAG office which was manned by British, Belgian and Dutch clerks. Artillery Branch HQ BAOR had no operational role and in war time would cease to exist with everyone, less the MGRA and Chief Clerk, going in to the BAOR battle casualty replacement pool. HQ NORTHAG operationally was a bit of a joke. In the two years I was there we had only one exercise and it took them over a week to get the HQ established in the field. I believe that, eventually, the MGRA moved to Bielefeld and replaced the CCRA 1 (BR) Corps and Artillery Branch BAOR was disbanded.

After two years I was posted back to HQRA 4 Division at Herford as Chief Clerk and took over from WOI(SMAC) Brian Wolstenholme. Brian and I had already served together before as Bdr(ACs) at HQRA 40 Inf Div in Hong Kong. One year

later I was selected for a Limited Service Regular Commission and posted to 14 Light Regiment as Assistant Adjutant.

All in all I thoroughly enjoyed my time as an Artillery Clerk, though it did occur to me that I seemed to move around a lot more than most others – 16 units (a couple twice) not including 68 and 55 Training Regiments, the Depot RA, and the div battle school at Sai Kung. It also seemed that I changed rank a bit more often than most – 12 times! Still, I would do it all again.

## Last Post

Sadly former WO2(QMS(AC))  
George McGilvery died on  
9 November 2006. George was  
a good man, love and respected  
by all that knew him. Our deepest  
sympathy and condolences go to  
George's wife Carol and family.

Rest in peach Brother George.

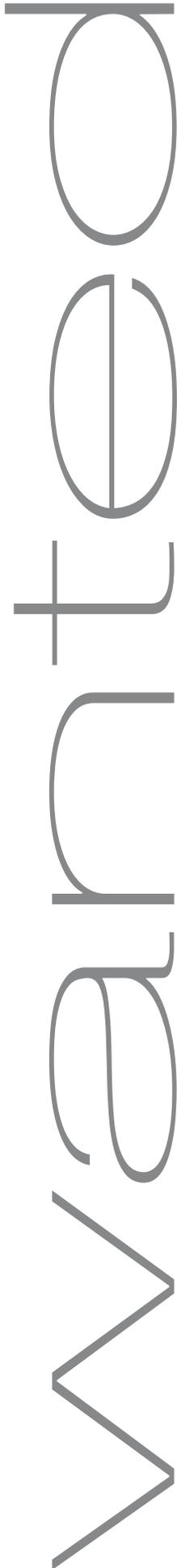
In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt drawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we live  
In Flanders' fields

Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high,  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders' fields



in flanders' fields



# WANTED

## for membership of the Association

John Adams	Derek Donovan	Kev Keast	Colin Stephenson
Peter Allwright	Dave Dunn	Roy Kinsley	Trevor Stokes
Ron Anson	Steve Edgeley	Dick Kibble	Paul Stratton
Bob Barber	Paul Evans	Steve Lee	Bernie Swift
Ron Baynes	Paul Fairbank	Mick Lynch	Frank Thorne
Campbell Borthwick	Vic Ferguson	Ron Marsh	Dave Townley
Adrian Boxall	Dick Finch	Eric Miller	Jock Stewart
Dave Brookes	Derek Gauci	Maurice Metcalfe	Dave Stoneham
Dave Askham	Les Gillard	Mark Lindsay-Smith	Derek Taylor
Gary Barker	Chris Gluning	Derick Lund	Tom Taylor
Dave Boswell	Paul Green	Alistair McKenzie	Charlie Thompson
Alan Broomhead	TH Fairweather	Harry Lomax	Jimmy Treanor
Ron Allen	PE Field	George Martin	Alex Stelfox
Jimmy Anderson	Bill Heaven	C McCusker	Joe Stockhill
Robbie Astick	John Haddow	Steve McKenna	Roy Swann
Derek Baldry	CJ Hamley	Ken Moore	Bill Tasker
Baz Barry	Clif Fields	John Nicholas	Graham Telford
Benny Bennett	Dave Fisher	Bill Ogilvie	Harry Thompson
James Bond	Keith Garbett	Gil O'Mallo	Bob Thompson
Ron Bristo	Mike Greening	Andy O'Neill	Bob Walkinshaw
Dave Burfitt	Bob Hagen	Pete Oxley	Nigel Waring
Tom Carmichael	Brian Harrington	Pete Murphy	Chalky White
Sandy Cran	Ted Harvey	John Osman	Harry Waldron
Mick Carter	Andy Holder	Jim Peggie	LS Warren
Fred Carroll	John Hopkins	Ken Peacock	Kev Watkins
Chris Chamberlain	Steve Hoyle	Duncan Pettit	Fred Westwell
Dick Cliffe	Derek Hughes	Dave Parkinson	Mick Williams
Andy Collins	Tab Hunter	Peter Petts	John Turner
Alan Cosgrove	Adrian Harrison	Clem Pooke	Derek Taylor
Tom Browne	Mick Hopkins	John Pratt	Chris Williams
Stuart Carnegie	Pete Hubbard	Bill Pattison	RVM Walker
Les Carton	Pete Hutchinson	Paul Pery	Geoff Whitby
Bill Charlsworth	Terry Hart	Len Price	TC Williams
M Collinge	Nick Powell	Mick Price	Tony Wilson
Paul Buxton	Adrian Hawker	Gaz Prottley	Malcolm Wynn
Jeff Carter	Eric Hubbard	Dave Robertson	Brian Wolstenholme
Merv Chadwick	Tony Hunt	Dick Scatcherd	
S Cornwell	Steve Jones	Alan Seal	
Keith Creswell	Bob Kindness	Syd Simpson	183 Potential New Members
Pat DeMaria	Jack Knott	P Robinson	
John DeMaria	John Lane	Fred Pulfer	
Mick Dunn	Brian Hyland	Mick Regan	Plus any member of the AGC(SPS) who served in the Gunners as a clerk and has subsequently been promoted to Sgt or above.
Harold Deacon	Steve Jukes	Ron Reid	
P Drury	Trevor Kemish	Graham Roberts	
Mel Durrant	Alan King	Tom Rooney	
Roger Escott	Dave Langstaff	Jim Rostron	
Karl Ezard	G Jacobs	Mick Scaife	
Fred Cullingford	Alan Jeffery	Dave Scott	Anyone missing ???
Jim Diamond	Chris Jones	Martin Smith	

# Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal

The Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal is a commemorative medal which the Government of Malaysia would like to award to eligible British Citizens. To qualify for the medal you must have served in Malaysia for 90 days between 31 Aug 57 and 12 Aug 66 or in Singapore between 31 Aug 57 and 9 Aug 65.

If you have not applied for the medal please send a SAE for an Application Form to:

Mr Fred Burden  
Membership Secretary  
National Malaya and Borneo Veterans  
Association  
44 Meadgate Avenue  
Chelmsford  
CM2 7LQ



## Poppy Support

The Royal British Legion has launched **Poppy Support** - an umbrella brand for our wide -ranging welfare services for serving and ex-Service people. Nearly 10.5 million people are eligible for Poppy Support - that's one in six people in the country. It could be you, or someone you know. Visit [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk) to find out more.



Application Forms should not be submitted for any other dates than those shown above. Be sure to include your service number, unit you served and the exact dates of service.

For further information and details visit [www.nmbva.co.uk](http://www.nmbva.co.uk).



12 Lt AD Regt RA JNCOs' Mess, Dortmund circa 1968/69  
Second from left Bdr Graham Flint, third from left Bdr Mel Charlton.  
(photograph by kind permission of Graham Flint)

## Post Script

A belated congratulations to Phil Spencer on his promotion to Lt Col. Well done Phil, our first Lt Col AGC(SPS) member.

# Nicholson Troop

## Nicholson Troop, Junior Leaders Regt RA taken during 1963.

Photographs by kind permission of the Secretary.



Bottom picture: Left to right - Geordie Hoggins, Mick Hoile, myself, Chris Chamerlain, Nick Shearman

# The Reunion and Association dinner (Germany) by WO2 Ron Holmes LSL/AGC Area Secretary Germany

## 'Friday Night'

What a weekend we had, it was a blast. The first Artillery Clerks dinner in Germany since 1992. With the kind permission of WO1 (RSM) Steve Turner, 12th Regiment Royal Artillery, Dempsey Barracks, Sennelager; members of the Artillery Clerks' Association met in Germany for the first time in fourteen years. The weekend started with a Friday evening preamble in the Sgts' Mess. The shuttle run brought the last group in to the mess at midnight. Much to Duggies' relief beer and sandwiches were awaiting him and the rest of the late party in the comfortable surroundings of the Sgts' Mess. Joe informed us of the airport customs bemusement at meeting a Chelsea Pensioner. The medals on Duggies' chest caused the alarms to go off and the staff worried about how to deal with the situation. Duggie was about to strip off when Joe Falzon intervened and managed to persuade the staff that it was not worth the hassle and the thought of Duggies 1930s bathing costume being exposed to the public was too much to bear. You do not have to have been there to imagine

what the situation was like. The bar closed at 0100 hrs, however, a substantial carryout allowed the evening to carry on into the small hours and allowed a few of us to catch up on old times and chuckle over the airport customs story. It was a brilliant start to the weekend.

## 'A trip down memory lane'

The next morning started off with a leisurely brunch discussing who was fit enough to make the trip down memory lane. Eventually a party of seven of us decided to take a mystery tour via the NAAFI Max (as it is now called) whilst some others decided to sample the delights of the Sennelager strip. With Willie Wallace's 3 Litre bottle of Vodka and Pat Verdon's stash of cigars safely tucked away we proceeded on our journey (all were wondering how Willy was going to smuggle this large bottle through customs and board a plane!!). I reminded the party to part with some cash for Seymour our driver, as recompense for spending his weekend carting us between the airports and around the country side. Pat Verdon's observant humour and eye for interpreting situations mentioned that

it did look a little odd that seven white men stood around a black man at the side of a mini bus in the NAAFI car park handing out cash. We all leaped into the bus and scooted off chortling and laughing at the situation, none more so than Seymour.

With map in my hand and six back seat drivers, all giving it both barrels, we embarked on our journey.



Duggie, Adam, Bob Smith and Ian Constantine

reunion dinner germany

We passed Normandy Bks and the Sennelager strip which brought back a few funny memories for some on the bus. I am positive I saw Mick Hutchinson marching down the strip towards a well known bar. I asked our driver to head for Lippstadt as it was the closest town on the map that had an Artillery Clerk connection; it was mentioned in the discussion at brunch that morning. Whilst moving along nicely, passing through familiar country side heading towards Lippstadt with the banter and jokes flowing, Pat Verdon asked if anyone in the party had actually served in Lippstadt! There was a moment of silence! That was it. Mick Hutchinson had served in Lippstadt and he was not on the bus! Six back seat drivers then persuaded me to turn the bus around and head for the next destination on the map; Salamanca Barracks in Soest (actually, it's in the middle of nowhere outside Soest). We arrived at the miserable remains of Salamanca Bks. The sky was grey, it had started to drizzle and that summed up Salamanca Bks; no change, just simply miserable. Pat Verdon had served here several hundred years ago and remembers the two Canadian churches outside, which had been turned into a store and a photo studio. The rest of the camp has been turned into



small work shops and some dodgy looking second hand car lots. The Guardroom, much to our amusement had been turned into a Grill Imbiss.

We then carried on to our next destination. The departure from Salamanca Bks was almost poetic; the drizzle stopped and the sun came through the clouds in blaze of sunshine turning it a blue and golden autumn day. My skilled map reading took us on the scenic route to Menden via some pretty but unnecessary locations, delaying our journey by about half an hour. It certainly added a bit of mystery to the tour. The scenery was breath taking as we passed through the hills and the valleys surrounding the Mohne See on our way to Menden. The reflective moment, taking in the sunshine and golden scenery was promptly shattered as we all burst in unison into a rousing rendition of the "Dam Busters" as we passed the famous dam. We passed through Arnberg which brought back happy memories of an infamous medieval dinner held in the castle by 50 Missile clerks back in 1986. I am sure the owner will never forget the COs' wife Sally Dumas chucking a huge turnip across the hall which bounced off an antique piece of armour on display, starting of a huge food fight. Needless to say we never went back. It might even have been the night the Paymaster got arrested and had to be bailed by the Adjt or was that another night out with the lads? Happy days.



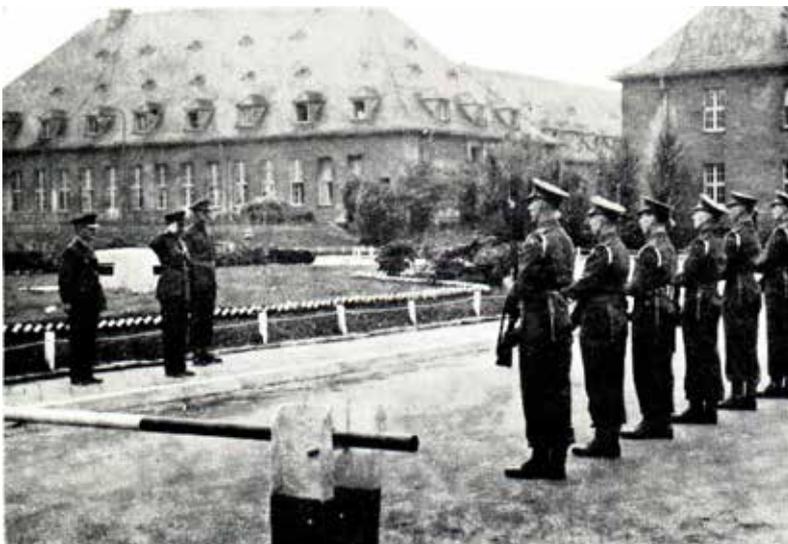
We finally arrived in Menden, the roads looked vaguely familiar but to be on the safe side we stopped off at a Burger King for a fat boy snack. The manager confirmed the directions to the 'Alte Kaserne', Northumberland Bks. Five minutes later, driving down Bismark Strasse we came upon the front entrance to the old barracks. What a change, apart from the cobbled car park in front of what used to be the guardroom, it was almost unrecognisable.

The camp had been turned into a large housing estate. All the Bty Blocks have



RHQ, with balconies and flowers (Chief Clerks' office top left window).

been turned into flats and apartments. The old Sgts Mess is now a Kinder Garten and the old 69 US Det block has been turned into a supermarket. Pat Verdon and Joe Falzon visited their old quarters not far from the barracks just passed the Officers Mess which had not changed much. We passed my old flat in Ost Preussen Strasse on the way to the back gate and apart from a bit of colour nothing had changed much. The back end of camp looked remarkably untouched with the old LAD and MT still standing. The new LAD built at great expense prior to handing back the barracks has been taken over by a private company. The Regimental square and the launcher hangars have made way for very smart houses and well kept gardens. It was at this moment we all wished we had



Northumberland Barracks Menden 1946

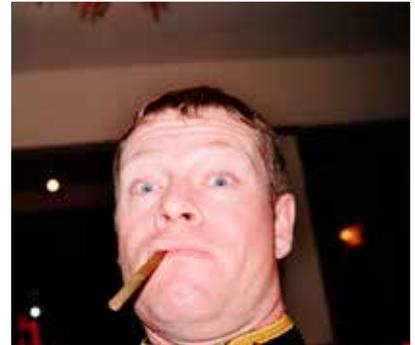
white suits and Geiger counters. Imagine the locals' faces as we tell them that we were trying to trace missing missiles. You had to be there!

Sadly we did not have time to venture further west towards Dortmund as it was time to turn around and head back for Dempsey Bks. There were a few tired heads on the return journey

## 'The Dinner'

Video fast forward; we arrived and had time for a short rest and shower before moving into the mess to prepare for the group photo. Panic stations, the guest of honour Lt Col S R Skeates MBE RA representing the CRA 1 (UK) Armd Div (CO 26 Regt RA) has not arrived at the appointed time and the troops were getting restless with the bar beckoning. Eventually, two pints later he arrived and the photo shoot commenced. I think you will see the results are quite good.

The setting was perfect, the table was laid out to perfection and nineteen Artillery Clerks sat down to a superb dinner in the warm and congenial atmosphere of the 12th Regiment's Sgts' Mess with four guests. The Mess Manager Paul Phillips and his staff did the Regiment proud. The RSM gave a succinct "state of the union" address on behalf of the RASM who sent his apologies for not being able to attend. Lt Col S R Skeates MBE RA spoke on behalf of the CRA and gave us an extended update of RA current affairs and praised our Association for keeping the Gunner connection and continuing to grow in membership. Mr Vice, newly promoted WO2



(SQMS) Bob Smith gave the "Loyal Toast" and our Chairman Joe Falzon read out the "Loyal Message" from Her Majesty the Queen. Joe took the opportunity to present a cheque for £770 donated from the Artillery Clerks'. I was inspired by Dennis Norris' message on the Association Web Message Board titled 'Fallen Sons'. I asked Mel to see what the Association could do to start the ball rolling. The committee authorised a £250 donation to encourage the rest of us to follow. RSM 12th excepted the cheque and has since confirmed that it has been put towards the families of the 'Fallen Sons' of 58 Bty currently serving in Afghanistan including a member of 4th Regiment Royal Artillery attached to the Battery.

As PMC for the evening I informed all present that we had 44 apologies, too numerous to read out at the table and three short notice cancellations. All cards, letters and copies of e mails had been carefully filed in a folder for all to read and peruse at their leisure after the dinner. There were many funny anecdotes, poems, regards and best wishes from old friends. Bill Morlands' Jockanese poem has been sent of for an expert translation. A few ACs sent their apologies as they were inconvenienced by their current tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mary Johnston wrote on behalf of Mick who is unable to attend due to illness. She passed on their best wishes to us all and hopes that Mike can make it to the 73rd Artillery Clerks' Farewell to Woolwich Dinner next year. Many of us based here in Germany very much look forward to doing so.

It was a wonderful night with many memories being shared and old acquaintances catching up on who is doing what and where. Thanks to the many photo images sent to me, I managed to put on a power point slide show of AC photographs from the past. Some of the black and white jobs were hysterical. It was also amusing to see how much hair the present company had compared to the photos of old. Steve Seymour stood in front of all attending and gave an Italian opera aria "Time to say good bye" much to the bemusement of the RSM who was not use to such sophisticated



classics being performed in the mess. I do not think anyone else was either but it was amazing. Hats off to you Steve, you are a brave man or just completely barking. It's something to look forward to at the Farewell to Woolwich dinner.

The bar finally closed at 0400 hrs or thereabouts. The next morning (wrong); that morning, I woke up to find a note from Adam Martin written on a menu card pinned to the door. It read; "Your boots are in the bar area". "Your camera has been secured in the guard room". "The last penguin was escorted to bed at 0830 hrs". "Regards, last man standing, Adam". Who was the last penguin? I am guessing it was Duggie Waterhouse. Most of us managed brunch but Duggie was notable in his absence. He mentioned later that he was disappointed that he could not just go to breakfast from the bar. The first group was preparing for the shuttle run to Paderborn airport when Duggie realised that he could not find his Chelsea IP hat. Panic, the bus is about to arrive and we cannot find the hat. I managed to get the manager on his mobile, confirming that it was locked behind the bar. Needless to say we got it out in time and the party go back home in good order to continue the bodily recovery process.

Making sure the next pax was sorted for the last shuttle run, I found Steve Seymour wandering the accommodation corridors looking for his coat and keys and feeling sorry that he had missed brunch (I will not describe what I actually saw as it would have to be censored). I then called the Mess manager on his mobile (just getting ready to watch the big match). He kindly came in again and retrieved it from behind the bar.

My blow by blow account of the weekend may seem like 'War and Peace'; blame Pat Verdon, as he had caught me in an unguarded moment whilst passing the port at the 2004 Woolwich dinner and got me to volunteer to do a Germany dinner. Luckily, we will have another Germany Dinner

next year, compliments of Adam Martin (I second that). He hopes to arrange it with 4th Regiment Royal Artillery. Oops sorry 4th, have you not been approached yet!! Good luck Adam, I will certainly support you.

Sorry to those who could not make it. It was a memorable weekend.

Ubique

Ron Holmes



*Back Row:* Mr W M Wallace, WO2(SQMS) R J Holmes LSL (Area Secretary Germany ), Mr T L Matthews, Mr J M Charlton (Association Secretary), WO1(SSM) M K Meek LSL, Mr I A A Campbell, WO1 J M Hutchinson LSL, WO2(BSM) I W Battersby (PMC 12 Regt RA), Mr P Deverall, SSgt A L Martin, WO2(SQMS) S Leale (RAOWO 12 Regt RA), Mr D Norris (Area Secretary North West), Mr S R Seymour, WO2(SQMS) R Smith LSL,

*Front Row:* Mr G Flint, IP D W Waterhouse, Maj(Retd) R Ancliffe BEM, WO1(RSM) S J Turner (RSM 12 Regt RA), Lt Col S R Skeates MBE RA (CO 26 Regt RA – Guest of Honour), Lt Col(Retd) J F Falzon BEM (Association Chairman), Mr D A Riley, WO1(SSM) I F Constantine (Association Reunion Secretary), Maj(Retd) P J Verdon



29th Artillery Clerks' Reunion Dinner  
RA Sgts' Mess, Woolwich  
Saturday 5 November 1966

Standing at the rear, WO1(SMAC) John Reynolds and Sgt(AC) Ray Dickinson in No 2 Dress

## How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: \* # 0 6 # A 15 digit code will appear on the screen.

This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. When your phone get stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody does this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones. Please spread this useful information around,

## On parade

The Chairman caught up his friend Peter Gauci (ex-JLRRRA, 20 Regt, Bdr Clerk) whilst on holiday in Malta at the National Service of Remembrance held at the War Memorial in Floriana on Sunday 12th November 2006. Peter has recently been appointed as the Director of Operations and Sales, Go-Mobile - the leading communications company in Malta. It is worthy to note that Joe and Peter were last 'on parade' together at Bramcote in 1965 - over 40 years ago.





72nd Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner  
Woolwich, London  
Saturday 8th April 2006



5th Row Mr RH Lewis BEM, Mr W Young, Mr BH Rose, Mr G Brown, Mr ST Trustlove, Mr SV Read, Mr MI Grenham, Mr GO Hyatt, Mr CG Day, Mr D Riley, Mr W Wallace, Mr GK Janik

4th Row Mr HJ Cussell BEM, Mrs WD Johnston, Mr B Morgan, Mr EJ Hall, Mr BJ Leadbetter, Mr I Grant, Mr J Lindley, Mr JC Lane BEM, Mr R Cooper, Mr TE Webb, Mr M Hester

3rd Row Mr E Morgan, SSgt S Paton, WO2(SQMS) DG Silver, Mr J Hoggins BSc, WO1(SSM) F Hoggins AGC(SPS), SSgt DA Ward, Capt TV Matthews AGC(SPS), Sgt JT Allen,  
Sgt SA Whelan, WO2(SQMS) NU Perkovic, SSgt SA Snowdon

2nd Row Mr AJ Jones (Standard Bearer), Mr D Norris, IP DW Waterhouse, Mr GA Lowthian, Mr M Johnston, Mr RH Deal MBE, Capt(Retd) RA Jeavons, Olivia McLennan (Piper)  
Front Row Maj(Retd) D Crawford BEM, Maj(Retd) P Verdon, Maj(Retd) DJ Cussell, Maj P Corker AGC(SPS) (Treasurer), WO1(RSM) PJ Jacques MBE RA (FSM 16 Regt RA),

Mr JM Charlton (Secretary), Maj Gen APN Currie CB (Honorary President), Lt Col(Retd) JF Falzon BEM (Chairman), Maj Gen MFL Shellard CBE,

WO1(SSM) IF Constantine AGC(SPS) (Reunion Secretary), Maj R Lee RA, Lt Col(Retd) VC Holdaway BEM, Maj (Retd) R Anccliffe BEM