

The Crossed Quills



The Magazine of the
Artillery Clerks' Association

Edition 13
December 2009

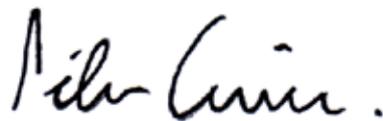
Foreword by the Honorary President Maj Gen Peter Currie CB

If one was a pessimist one would no doubt be in the depths of despair at the moment: the credit crunch is hitting our pockets, the exchange rate makes holidays hideously expensive, global warming is said to be threatening our future, the sense of drift in Afghanistan is palpable, Defence looks due for a big hit after the election, and the English press is already presuming the World Cup is 'coming home'. Yet despite all this we have so much for which we should be thankful, and top of the list comes friendship.

The Artillery Clerks' Association is a wonderful example of lasting friendship built on shared experiences. I am coming to the end of my time as Honorary President, and I can say without hesitation that my association

with the Association has been an undiluted pleasure. I have also found it inspirational, in the sense that what you have done in building and holding together this tight knit group of people is a marvellous example to others of what can be achieved in the name of friendship. Long may it last.

I am delighted that my successor as Honorary President is to be Lieutenant General Sir Freddie Viggies. What a good choice! Like me, I am certain he owes a huge debt to the Artillery Clerks of years gone by who will have kept him on the straight and narrow in his early days at regimental duty. Ubique



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

Autumn has a habit of stealing up on me as fast as the reminders I receive at this time of year from Andy Tibble to put pen to paper and complete my piece for Crossed Quills on time.

This year has been a rather mixed one for me as Chairman. I missed our Reunion Dinner last April in favour of a free trip to Las Vegas to celebrate my 40th wedding anniversary, courtesy of my two sons. However, a guilty conscious compelled to attend the recent reunion in Germany. This edition carries reports and photographs on both of these equally successful events.

I have been saddened by the news from Devizes; The diagnosis is not encouraging and our secretary and

his family need our prayers through this difficult time.

I am pleased to report that our Association and the Royal Charitable Fund have jointly contributed towards a summer holiday in Malta for his children – a small gesture which I know that Mel appreciated and that his children much enjoyed.

We have also just said good-bye to our Honorary President, Maj Gen Peter Currie. Gen Peter has always been there when the Committee needed guidance, direction and help. He has agreed to remain part of us as an Honorary Member, but that depends on a vote at our next AGM – I am confident that we will get that proposal through!!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggies, a distinguished Gunner, a soldiers' soldier and now Black Rod, as our new Honorary President. Gen Freddie is looking forward to joining us at our next Reunion in Larkhill on 24th April 2010.

Let us not forget our members who are currently in Afghanistan and other operational areas or in training with their units to deploy in the next few months. We all have at one time lived together, worked together and sometimes fought together while serving to defend our country from our enemies and preserve the freedom for all future generations. We have every reason to be proud of our individual and collective service, as we look forward to welcome our serving members back home safe and unharmed

I hope you enjoy the full flavour of this issue of your magazine. We are indebted as usual to Andy Tibble who puts all this together single-handedly. We are also as ever grateful for the commitment and hard work shown by our Committee. Please continue to support and encourage them to deliver what you need – I encourage you to pick up the phone when you have a moment and just let one of us know how your are getting on. That is what comradeship is all about.

I will leave with you one definition of the word comrade to ponder. "a person who shares one's interests or activities; friend; companion, or; a fellow member of a group. The origin of the word is from an Old French word 'camarade' (meaning: roommate).

With every best wish.



Secretary's Report by Former WO1(SMAC) Mel Charlton

As I start this report we appear to be entering into an Indian summer. What a surprise, let's see how long it lasts!. It has been another reasonably quiet year on the Secretarial front, and now time to write another report.

We had a most excellent Reunion Dinner at Larkhill under the auspices of Capt Ian Constantine which you can read about elsewhere in this magazine. On behalf of all attending members, a big thank you Ian. Ian has kindly retained the mantle of Reunion Secretary until a replacement is forthcoming. I regret not been able to attend the Germany Reunion this year. As you can see from WO2 Ron Holmes' report, a good time was had by those in attendance. A special thank you to Marty Hester and Hauke Michelson (Our German Honorary Battery Clerk) for supplying photographs of the Larkhill Reunion.

Congratulations and well done to WO2(SQMS) Will Stirman on being selected for promotion to WO1 and also to SSgt's Budgie Burgess, Mike Cottrell and Woody Woodford on being selected for promotion to WO2(SQMS) in the FY 2009/2010. Also congratulations to Steve Callaghan who has successfully attended the CFCB at Westbury and has been granted a TA Group B Commission in the Army cadet Force as a Second Lieutenant. Other than that the Committee has not been informed of any other promotions or awards or anything else during the last 12 months. Thanks to WO2(SQMS) Derek Ralphs for keeping me up to speed.

Donations for the magazine have been received from Jim Cussell & Dennis Norris as well as our regular subscribers.

I had the pleasure of travelling to Northumberland to attend the wedding of Major Bob Cowan and Tracylee Cruickshank. The ceremony was held at The Chapel, Albermarle Barracks on Saturday 21 March 2009 and afterwards a wonderful reception was held in the Officers' Mess 39 Regiment Officers' Mess. A great time was had by all and many congratulations to Bob and Tracylee. Bob sent me a couple of photographs which are depicted elsewhere in the magazine.

On Monday 13th April 2009 our Chairman Lt Col Joe Falzon and his wife Josephine celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary which I also had the pleasure of attending. A Thanksgiving Mass was held at St Barbara's Church, Larkhill and afterwards at 32 Regiment RA Officers' Mess for luncheon. Congratulations to Joe and Josephine.

Death of Bob Day 18 May 09. An Eulogy read out at the funeral by Brig Chris Burson, Chairman of the Enheim and Alemein RAA Branch. Our Standard Bearer Andrew Jones represented the Association at the funeral and bore our Standard. Sadly another two brother Artillery Clerks have died since my last report. Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Paddy Corbett who passed away on Saturday 12th September 2009 and Former Sgt IP George McKinnell who was one of our Chelsea Pensioners who passed away on Thursday 19th November 2009.

Thank you to those members who keep contact. A special mention to Major John Reynolds in Medicine Hat Canada who sends regular e-mails and Bill Johnson who sends me a postcard whenever he goes on his travels with his daughter Susan.

I must mention my own special thanks to the outgoing Honorary President General Peter Currie. Thank you for your support General Peter. You have been very supportive of our Reunion Dinners and you have been fun company for us all.

The St Barbara's Day Church Service will be held in the Garrison Church Larkhill on Sunday 6th December 2009. Once again Andrew Jones our Standard Bearer will be representing the Association at this Service. If you live within reasonable travelling distance, please do support this event.

The 76th Arillery Clerks reunion will take place over the weekend of the 23rd to 25th April 2010 at Larkhill. Maj Gen A R Gregory, Director General(Personnel) has kindly accepted our invitation to be the guest of honor at this dinner.

Please enjoy the festive season. May I wish you a your loved ones a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As usual please remember in your thoughts and prayers for those who are ill at home or are looking after someone who is ill or infirm. In addition please remember those members who may be deployed on operations during the festive season. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Take care.

Ubique



Assistant Secretary's Report

by Andy Tibble MSM (former WO1(SSM))

The time has just flown by this year and now I find myself producing the next edition of the Crossed Quills. Once again the magazine has grown in size! I would like to take this opportunity in thanking those Association members who have contributed to this edition by forwarding articles and photographs to Mel or myself for inclusion into this edition. Issue 14 of the Crossed Quills is due to be published by the end of November 2010. I would be most grateful if you all could look through your individual archives to see if you have something that

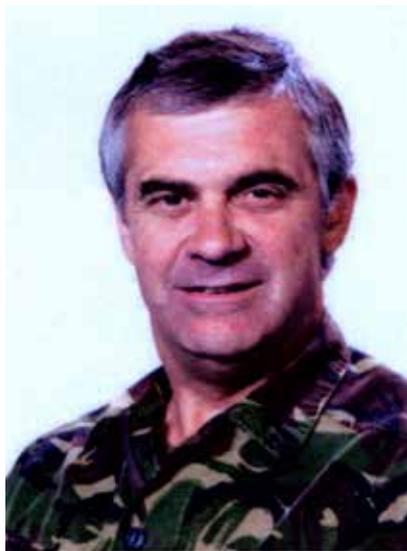
you would like to be published in next years' edition. These articles, with photographs, should reach me by no later than Monday 6th September 2010. Please remember to forward all articles in typed script where possible, including a CD-ROM with the article on, along with any photographs that you may have. The photographs will be returned back to you once they have been scanned onto the system.

There are currently 174 Potential New members on the Wanted List who were Artillery Clerks', but have

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

Honorary President (Designate)

Lieutenant General (Retired) Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL



Lieutenant General Sir Freddie Viggers was commissioned from Sandhurst into the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1972. He served in Germany and the UK in command and staff posts and attended the Army Command and Staff Course in 1983. He commanded 3rd Regiment royal Horse Artillery and, following a rout in the Ministry of Defence Directorate of Defence

Policy, he became Commander Artillery, Headquarters 3 (UK) Division in December 1994. This tour included attendance on the Higher Command and Staff Course and deployment to Bosnia. He was promoted to Major General in March 1999 and returned to Bosnia to command Multinational Division (South West) until January 2000. After 3 years as the Chief of Staff to the Army's Commander in Chief, he deployed to Iraq, serving in Baghdad as a Senior British Military Representative. He was awarded the CMG for his work there. He became Adjutant General on promotion to Lieutenant General in April 2005 and was knighted in the 2007 New Year's Honours List. He became a Deputy Lieutenant in the County of Hampshire in July 2008 and retired from active duty in the following October. He was appointed Gentleman User of the Black Rod in April 2009

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

I hope that you all have a good Christmas and New Year. Please remember those members and families who are ill at home and also those members of the Association who are deployed on operations during the festive season. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

See you all at Larkhill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy'. The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Association Committee 2009 - 2010

Honorary President	Maj Gen Peter Currie CB
Honorary President (Des)	Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL
Chairman	Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM
Secretary	Mel Charlton - former WO1(SMAC)
Assistant Secretary	Andy Tibble MSM - former WO1(SSM)
Reunion Secretary	Capt Ian Constantine RA (awaiting volunteer)
Treasurer	Maj Paul Corker AGC(SPS)
Welfare Officer	Colin Davidson - former WO1(SMAC)
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 LSL/AGC(SPS)
Rest of the World	The Secretary

Contact with Area Secretaries

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

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

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

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

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

The North West -

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

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

The Midlands -

Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Leicestershire, Hereford and Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Contact Steve Callaghan at ao@inracf.demon.co.uk

The East –

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

The South –

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

The West –

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

The London Area.

Contact Steve Truslove at stevetruslove@aol.com

Scotland. Contact Ted Fairbrass at tedfairbrass@btinternet.com

Germany. Contact Ron Holmes at ronandkadja@aol.com

Rest of the World.

Contact the Association Assistant Secretary, Andy Tibble.

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

I was contemplating which subject to cover in this issue of Crossed Quills when I received an email from our Secretary asking me to confirm whether or not a notification about a serious virus passed onto him by another association member was genuine. The subject on the forwarded email was “

the fact that they indicate the virus will do nearly impossible things, like blow up the recipient's computer and set it on fire, or less sensationally, delete everything on the user's computer. They often include announcements claimed to be from reputable organizations such as Microsoft, Norton Anti-Virus or McAfee. These sources

it or sending it on to others be sure to check the list of known virus hoaxes. Try this website http://www..sophos.com/security/hoaxes/index_h.html.

Remember: Never open an email attachment unless you know what it is--even if it's from someone you know and trust.

- Always remain vigilant
- Never open a suspicious attachment

Subject: **HUGE VIRUS COMING!!! PLEASE READ & FORWARD**

I checked with Norton Anti-Virus, and they are gearing up for this virus! I checked Snopes (URL above :), and it is for real!! Get this E-mail message sent around to your contacts ASAP. PLEASE FORWARD THIS WARNING AMONG FRIENDS, FAMILY AND CONTACTS! You should be alert during the next few days. Do not open any message with an attachment entitled 'POSTCARD FROM HALLMARK,' regardless of who sent it to you. It is a virus which opens A POSTCARD IMAGE, which 'burns' the whole hard disc C of your computer. This virus will be received from someone who has your e-mail address in his/her contact list. This is the reason why you need to send this e-mail to all your contacts It is better to receive this message 25 times than to receive the virus and open it. If you receive a mail called 'POSTCARD,' even though sent to you by a friend, do not open it! Shut down your computer immediately. This is the worst virus announced by CNN. It has been classified by Microsoft as the most destructive virus ever. This virus was discovered recently by McAfee, and there is no repair yet for this kind of virus. This virus simply destroys the Zero Sector of the Hard Disc, where the vital information is kept. COPY THIS E-MAIL, AND SEND IT TO YOUR FRIENDS. REMEMBER: IF YOU SEND IT TO THEM, YOU WILL BENEFIT ALL OF US.

This is a typical computer virus hoax which warns the recipient of a nonexistent computer virus threat and as you can see in this example it tells the recipient to forward it to everyone they know. The well meaning person who does so is actually perpetuating the chain e-mail effect, which is the intended payload of the person who created it in the first place.

Most hoaxes are sensational in nature and easily identified by

are quoted in order to add credibility to the hoax. So it isn't difficult to see why people forward this type of email onto friends or work colleagues. There are lots of viruses out there but some aren't really out there at all! Virus hoaxes are more than an annoyance, as they lead to complacency as users tend to ignore all virus warning messages leaving themselves vulnerable to a genuine attack. Next time you receive an urgent warning message, before ignoring

Minutes of Artillery Clerks' Association Annual General Meeting held on Sat 19 April 2009

Unfortunately, the minutes of the Artillery Clerks' Association Annual General Meeting are currently not available and therefore, will be published at a later date.

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.

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

Opening Remarks

The year has gone so quickly, well it has for me. I have been OC in Winchester for a year now and Glasgow is already trying to assign me elsewhere. I have requested an extension but who knows where I will be when I write my next report!! There have been many things that have kept me occupied this year, selling a house and buying another one. My latest house is overlooking a Championship golf course but I am keeping the location a secret. I went to my old Regiment's reunion last year (45 Fd Regt) so I hope Mel put my cheque behind the bar and some of you managed to get a drink out of me. Bradford was a good night out and my old BSM is still having counseling upon learning that the Army had commissioned me!! So without any further waffling let me show you what your money is doing and where it is currently sitting.

Statement of Account As At Fri 31 JUL 09

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash	£ 20:00	Function	£ 335.68
Current Account	£807:61		
Deposit Account	£2,254:43		
Stock	£273:00		
Total Assets	£3,355:04	Total Liabilities	£335:68

Total Cash Available (Assets –Liabilities) GPF = £ 3,019:36

General

Although there has been a slight reduction in assets the fund has remained financially on par with the statement last year. Assets in Aug 08 totalled £3,818:07, however the reunion fund has decreased by £615:07 to £335:68. This is due to additional expenses incurred from the dinner held at Larkhill. Total cash available to the fund has increased by £132:04 to £3,019:36.

Subscriptions

One of my efforts as Treasurer is to reduce the level of outstanding debtors. I have written to members and the response has been somewhat lacking this year. In order to give you a true feel for the amounts outstanding I have divided the totals as follows:

- a. Long-Term Debtors. Total £395:00.
- b. 2009 Subscriptions. Total £265:00.

The total subscriptions outstanding is £660:00

Mandate System

58 members are not subscribing by the mandate system. Please contact the Treasurer for the forms. This will alleviate the problem of the Treasurer chasing outstanding debtors and give members more time for pursuits such as golf!!

Gift Aid

To date I have received £1,561:14 from the Taxman. The latest cheque, £223.75 for 2009 is about to be paid into the account. So please if you are one of the 63 members, yet to complete the declaration form then get in touch with me. The fund may claim £1:25 (reduced by the chancellor in 2009) for every £5:00 a member has subscribed to the fund.

Shop

There are currently 21 ties in stock at a give away price of £13:00 each. The value of stock is therefore £273.00.

Insurance

The fund remains under the insurance umbrella of Towergate Wilsons.

Summary

My only concern regarding the fund is outstanding debtors. I really don't know what else I can do to recoup the money. My writing to individuals has had a poor response and apart from naming and shaming those members then I am open to suggestions.

The books of the account are fully in date and are ready for audit. I wish you all the very best for the remainder of the year and I hope to see all of you in 2010.

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

As many of you are well aware I have been attempting to obtain photographs of former venues of the AC Dinner's, but I am not having much success at all. Roy Deal has however identified that one venue, Victoria Mansion Restaurant, on Victoria Street, now forms part of New Scotland Yard and used to house an ACIO. I have written to the Police at N.S.Y. but I have not had a reply, but I will keep pursuing them. Nor have I had any joy with getting any details at all from the ACIO. If anyone has any info of this ACIO on Victoria Street, or knows someone who does, I would be grateful for any lead.

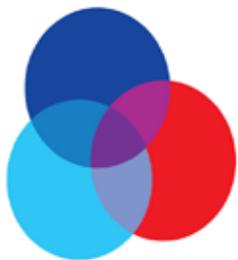
There is a 'gap' in known details of Reunion Dinners number 56 to 61 (1993 to 1998 with NO dinner being held in 1995). This leads onto another dilemma – somehow the dinner held on the 9th March

1996 was shown as the 62nd, whereas, under my calculations it could have only been number 58 (at best). Does anyone have any details, however small or flimsy, of any dinners in the 1990's? (This was the time I left the army and because of work couldn't make many of these dinners). I know that the 55th was held on the 14th Nov 1992 but I do not know who chaired this or who the Guest of Honour was. Any clues?

John Reynolds gave me some info on the RA Clerks School in Woolwich. If anyone has any photo of the Clerk's School I would appreciate a copy however bad. The same goes for the AC Wing at the JLRRA at Bramcote.

The process of obtaining info is becoming more and more difficult so all help would be greatly appreciated."

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency - SPVA



Service Personnel & Veterans Agency

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

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

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

The formation of SPVA has led to the provision of a fully integrated set of 'through life' personnel services to our serving and veterans community - where a

single contact with the Agency will grant access to customer information and advice on pay, pensions, compensation payments, records of service and medal entitlement.

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

The responsibility for all pension provision, whether a War pension or an Armed Forces pension falls under the direct control of SPVA, reducing the risk of omitting or duplicating information and providing for the first time, a truly joined up pension service. There is a free helpline on 0800 169 2277 and further information is available online at: <http://www.veterans-uk.infor/>

Your RAA On-Line

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

Artillery Clerks' Association Charter

General

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

Eligibility

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

Purpose

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

Organisation

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

c. Secretary. Responsibilities cover:

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

d. Treasurer. Responsibilities cover:

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

e. Regional Representatives. Responsibilities cover:

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

Areas covered are:

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

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

Fees

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

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

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



Quincentennial of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms

The photograph above of Her Majesty's Body Guard of The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms was taken on 4th June 2009 following a parade which was part of a day celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the founding of the Body Guard by King Henry VIII in 1509. The day started with a church service conducted by the Bishop of London, who is the Dean of the Chapels Royal. This was followed by a parade in Colour Court, St James's Palace, during which Her Majesty The Queen attached a riband to the Honourable Corps' Standard. The riband can be seen in the photograph and reads THE

NEAREST GUARD 1509-2009. The Axe Keeper, Major (QM) Pat Verdon had a pivotal role on the parade - his first since he passed out at Oswestry in 1959!! He paraded with the riband on a pike which was blessed by the Bishop. Her Majesty then removed the riband and attached it to the Standard.

There are three Gunners in the photograph: Colonel Robin Broke LVO, former CO 3 RHA 2nd row fourth from left; Major Michael Webster, former CO The King's Troop RHA 3rd row second from right; and Pat Verdon 5th Row on the right in morning suit.

Artillery Clerks' Association Ties

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

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



75th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner

The 75th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner took place in the Central Sergeants' Mess, Larkhill over the weekend 24-26 April 2009. As ever the weekend started with the early arrivals meeting for a drink and the chance to rekindle old friendships on the Friday evening. The night was well supported with 25 Association members arriving in time to enjoy a pint and some good natured banter.

The Reunion proper commenced with the Association Annual General Meeting on the evening of Saturday 25 April. This was followed by the obligatory photograph, coordinated by the Reunion Secretary who was heard to mutter the phrase "herding cats" on several occasions before the camera shutter went down. However the resulting photograph was worth the effort. Pre-dinner drinks followed which allowed the Guest of Honour, Major General Michael Charlton-Weedy the opportunity to meet members of the Committee as well as catch up with his former Adjutant, the Association President Major General Peter Currie. The remaining guests were Lieutenant Colonel Thornhill, Commanding Officer of 14 Regiment Royal Artillery, the Associations newly affiliated Regiment, WO1 Lloyd-Butler the Regimental Sergeant Major of 19 Regiment Royal Artillery and the PMC, WO2 Felton.

Accompanied by a Piper from 19 Regiment Royal Artillery, the Top Tables sat down to an excellent meal. Our compliments once again to Head Chef

Andy Clarkson, the Mess Manager Steve Rowe-Cousins and to all the staff who looked after us so well throughout the evening. Entertainment throughout the meal was provided by a Brass Quintet from the Royal Artillery Band led by Staff Sergeant Thomas, ending with an outstanding rendition of the Post Horn Gallop. After a final bagpipe set by LBdr Ballantyne the Dinner concluded with the speeches; the Honorary President Major General Peter Currie read the Loyal Message from Her Majesty the Queen. The Reunion Secretary then gave the usual thank-yous and called for a toast to "absent friends." The Reunion Secretary then introduced WO1(RSM) Lloyd-Butler who updated the Association on the current status of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Major General Charlton-Weedy then gave his speech, raising memories of old comrades and asking the assembled Guests to toast the Artillery Clerks'. It was then time to retire to the bar and

continue the motion into the night. Friendships, old and new, were rediscovered and the reputation of the Association as a thriving, fun and sociable organisation was strengthened.

The 76th Artillery Clerks' Reunion will take place over the weekend 23rd - 25th April 2010. The Guest of Honour will be Maj Gen A R Gregory, Director General (Personnel). All Association members are encouraged to attend, the more the merrier is definitely true when it comes to reunions! For further details please contact the Reunion Secretary, Capt Ian Constantine, on 01980 656550 (BK 127(Dragon) Bty, 19 Regt RA, Bhurtpore Bks, TIDWORTH, SP9 7AS).

Friday Evening



A



B





C



D



E

- A. Ron Holmes and Mel Charlton
- B. The Friday night crew!
- C. Mel Charlton, Ron Holmes and Hauke Michelsen smile for the camera
- D. Joe Phelps, Tom Webb, James McNamara, and Graham Brown listen to another dirty joke for Mrs Webb!
- E. Enjoying the night air - Hauke Michelsen, Ron Holmes, Ian Constantine and Brian Morgan.
- F. Mel Charlton and Dave Cussell both scrub up well.
- G. Ron Cooper, Jim Cussell, Dave Cussell, David Brown and the Honourary Present Maj Gen Peter Currie
- H. Joe Phelps, Brian Leadbetter and James McNamara

Saturday Evening



F



G



H



- A. The Top Table
- B. Awaiting the Loyal Toast
- C. The comfort break arrives just in time!
- D. The Top Table - enjoying the conversation
- E. When you press this the little man jumps over the car and you get 10 points
- F. Dennis Norris and Steve Seymour smile for the camera
- G. Tim Matthews eyes his plate with suspicion!
- H. Ron Holmes checking he has enough for just one more before bed!



I

J



K



M



L



N

O



- I. Still standing!
- J. 3 RHA reunion - Asst Chief Clerk, Chief Clerk and Bty Clerk (Ian Constantine, Brian Morgan and WO1 Andrew Lloyd-Butler - RSM 19 Regt RA)
- K. John Haddock, just happy to be in Mess Kit again
- L. "Then the actress said to the bishop"
- M. The usual suspects!
- N. ". . .and the bishop took one look at them"
- O. Still on their best behaviour

Reunion Dinner Germany, Mansergh Barracks Gutersloh Saturday 10th October 2009

The Royal Artillery Clerks Germany weekend took place with the kind permission of WO1 (RSM) Bernie Burnett, 26th Regiment Royal Artillery, Mansergh Barracks, Gutersloh; ten ACs had an exuberant weekend. We all met up in the Mess bar (cheapest in NATO) to re-acquaint ourselves over a few sherbets until the wee hours. Our Honorary Member of the Association present, Hauke brought us a large bottle of Jaegermeister which went down very smoothly during the evening. Ron Cooper said that it was terrible medicine but

staunchly accepted it in lots of small portions. Chairman Joe was keen to see what the "Music Temple" was all about as we had talked about our escapades from last year. Yes we were foolish/blathered enough to jump in a taxi to sample this delight of local entertainment just so that we could remind ourselves how old we really were. The pictures tell all you need to know.

Saturday morning started off with a leisurely brunch and then a minibus trip through a golden October country landscape to Detmold. Steve actually made it this time

for our cultural visit to Detmold Museum. See group photo in front of the "Horse of the Apocalypse".

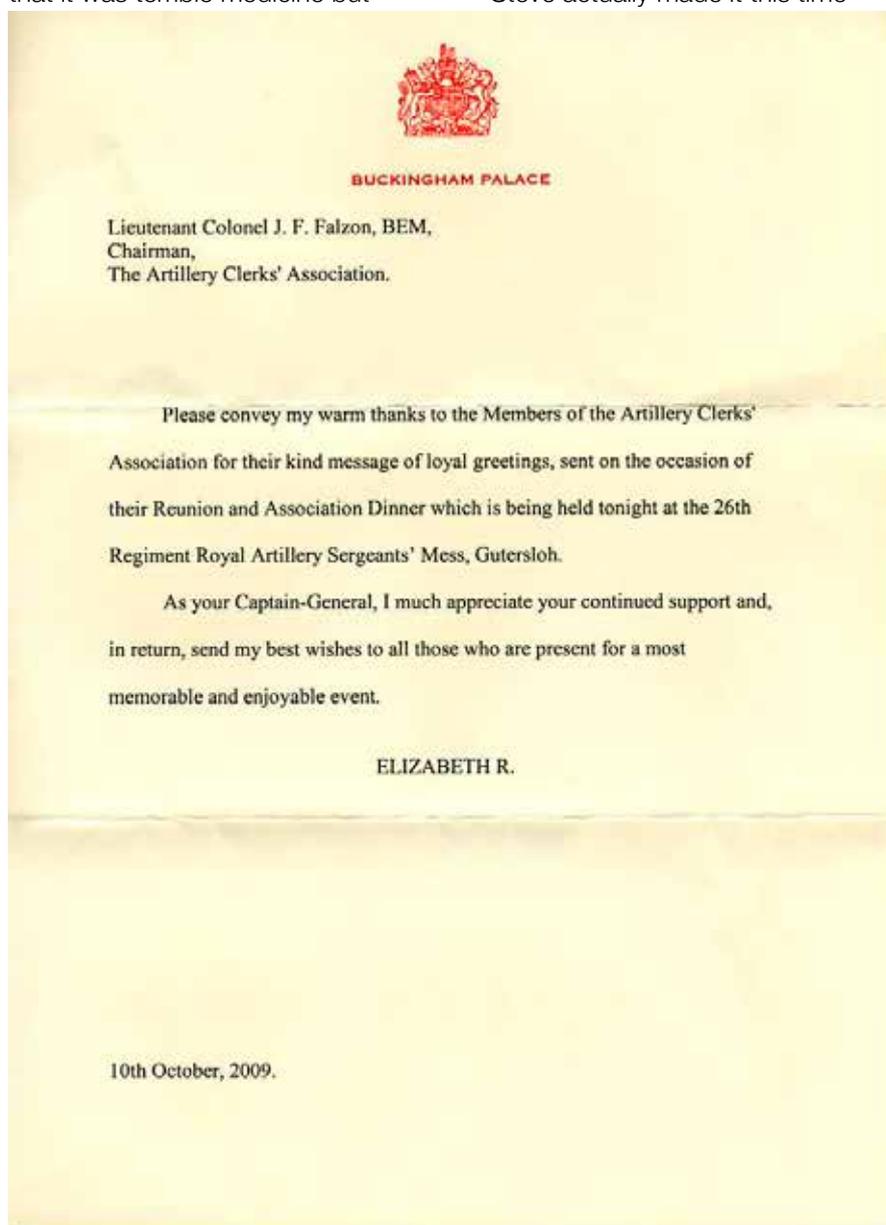
Twelve of us sat down to a superb dinner in the warm and congenial atmosphere of the 26th Regiment's Sgts' Mess. The Mess Manager and his staff did the Regiment proud. Steve Seymour our Mr Vice gave the loyal toast and the Chairman read out the "Loyal Message" from Her Majesty the Queen. The many apologies and messages received had been carefully filed in a folder for all to read and peruse at their leisure after the dinner. Despite the small numbers, it was a great night with many memories being shared and old acquaintances catching up on who is doing what and where. WO1 (RSM) Bernie Burnett and the RAWO, WO2(SQMS) Paul Edwards were excellent hosts and were astounded by the breadth of Gunner experience that was present in such a small gathering.

The RSM proposed to the Chairman that we make this a special occasion next year, using one of his Regimental Functions to subsidise the event, inviting other members of the Regiment to meet the ACs. He was impressed by our camaraderie and what we told him about our association; he felt that there are many other Gunners in Germany who would very much enjoy meeting us on such an occasion.

Sorry to those who could not make this memorable weekend and many thanks to those that sent their kind words and greetings in their absence.

Ubique Ron Holmes

See the full compilation of photos on the AC web site.



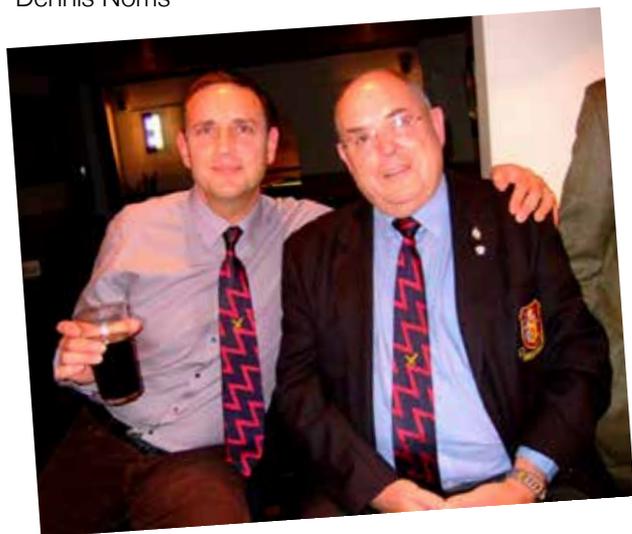
Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, 26 Regiment Royal Artillery, Friday 9th October 2009



Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon MBE (Chariman), Hauke Michelsen, Steve Seymour, Andy Tibble MSM (Assistant Secretary), WO2 Ron Holmes, Ron Cooper and Dennis Norris



Steve Seymour wearing his 'Hogwarts' thinking hat!



WO2 Ron Holmes and Ron Cooper



A Cultural visit to the Detwold Museum



Left to right: WO2 Ron Holmes, Dennis Norris, Ron Cooper, Andy Tibble MSM (Assistant Secretary), Steve Seymour, Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon MBE (Chairman) and Hauke Michelson.

Artillery Clerks' Dinner, Mansergh Barracks Gutersloh Saturday 10th October 2009



A



B



C



A



E

D

A: Left to right: Maj (Retd) Richard Ancliffe BEM, Hauke Michelson, Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon MBE (Chairman), WO2(SQMS) Paul Edwards (RAWO 26 Regt RA), Ron Cooper, Dennis Norris, Steve Seymour, Tim Mathews, Pete Deverall, WO1 (RSM) Bernie Burnett (RSM 26 Regt RA), WO2 (SQMS) Ron Holmes, Andy Tibble MSM (Assistant Secretary).

B: Andy Tibble MSM (Assistant Secretary) and WO1 (RSM) Bernie Burnett RSM 26 Regt RA

C: 50 Msl Regt Reunion, left to right: Tim Mathews, Andy Tibble MSM (Assistant Secretary), WO2 (SQMS) Ron Holmes, Pete Deverall and Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon MBE (Chairman)

D: Hauke Michelson presenting a bottle of 'Gun Fire' to the RSM 26 Regiment Royal Artillery, WO1 (RSM) Bernie Burnett

E: Dennis Norris and WO2 (SQMS) Paul Edwards, RAWO 26 Regt RA



F



G



H



J

I

F: Tim Mathews and Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon MBE (Chairman)

G: Rear: Tim Mathews and Andy Tibble MSM (Assistant Secretary), Front: Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon MBE (Chairman) and Steve Seymour

H: Ron Cooper, Steve Seymour and Maj (Retd) Richard Ancliffe

I: Ron Cooper and Steve Seymour testing out 'The Gun Fire'

J: Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon MBE (Chairman), Dennis Norris and Pete Deverall

1942: Malta gets George Cross for Bravery

Although primarily intended to mark individual acts of gallantry, the George Cross has, on the express recommendation of the Sovereign, been awarded twice on a "collective" basis. The first by King George VI in 1942 to the Island of Malta and the second by Queen Elizabeth II in 1999 to the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

MALTA 1942

During the Second World War, Malta's strategic position enabled her to strike at the Axis forces in the Mediterranean, disrupting their operations in North Africa and elsewhere. The ship-repairing facilities were invaluable to the British Fleet. Malta had to be defended but the early months saw much damage as the islands' inadequate air defences comprised of three aged Gloster Gladiator biplanes which the locals immediately christened Faith, Hope and Charity. Defences were eventually upgraded with the arrival of Hurricane and Spitfire fighters.

Less than 24 hours after Italy entered the war in June 1940 the first air-raids by the Italian Air Force occurred, which then increased with the involvement of the Luftwaffe. Through 1941 and 1942, 3,000 raids occurred, towns and the industrial areas around harbours were heavily damaged and much of the population was evacuated to the island's centre. Thousands of inhabitants and British defenders were killed or injured. Malta was the most heavily bombed place on earth - proportionately (in area) more bombs fell on Malta than on the English industrial town of Coventry. As the convoys carrying precious supplies were attacked and sunk, the islanders suffered serious deprivation and disease.

As it transpired, although April

1942 was the final month of the Luftwaffe offensive, it was possibly the most difficult period of the siege so devastatingly enforced by the Axis powers. The island and its population were not to experience any relief until the final months of 1942 when supplies and aid began to reach the defenders in significant quantities.

By August 1942 the situation was desperate. The arrival of the battered remains of a convoy on the 15th August was ascribed by the inhabitants to a miracle, interceded by the Virgin, on whose Feast of the Assumption it occurred.

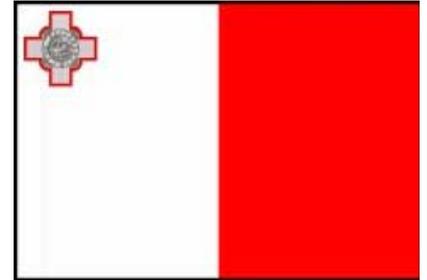
All over the world people had followed the resistance of the islanders and those trying to bring aid by sea and air. In April 1942 King George VI, in a dramatic and unprecedented gesture, conferred the George Cross on the tiny Mediterranean island. The award was made in a letter dated 15th April 1942 from His Majesty to the Governor of Malta, Lieutenant General Sir William Dobbie GCMG KCB DSO, which read as follows:

"To honour her brave people I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history."

The population received the honour to recognise their courage under sustained enemy attacks during World War II. Malta - Britain's "unsinkable aircraft carrier" - was of vital importance to the Allied war effort. Its people endured air raids and a naval blockade which

almost saw them starved into submission.

The news of the award of the George Cross was internationally welcomed as it served in a tangible way to mark the heroism of all concerned. A depiction of the George Cross was added to the Maltese national flag soon after the



award was made and the honour is still proudly borne today by the Maltese as their flag is raised outside the European Parliament Buildings in Brussels.

The George Cross was presented by Field Marshal Lord Gort VC GCB CBE DSO** MVO MC, the recently appointed Governor, to Sir George Borg MBE, Chief Justice, who accepted it on behalf of the people of Malta on the 13th of September in the ruins of the Palace Square, Valetta. The George Cross was subsequently taken to every part of the islands so the Maltese could see their award.



The George Cross and King George VI's letter on display on the Palace Square Valetta, September 13, 1942

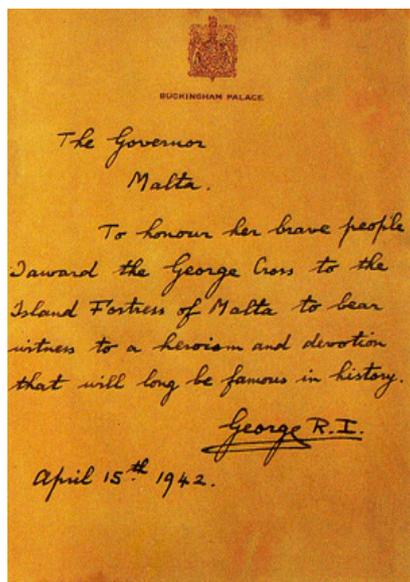
On his visit to Malta in December 1943, President Roosevelt read the following citation,

"In the name of the people of the United States of America I salute the Island of Malta, its people and defenders, who, in the cause of freedom and justice and decency throughout the world, have rendered valorous service far above and beyond the call of duty.

Under repeated fire from the skies, Malta stood alone but unafraid in the center of the sea, one tiny bright flame in the darkness - a beacon of hope for the clearer days which have come. Malta's bright story of human fortitude and courage will be read by posterity with wonder and with gratitude through all the ages.

What was done in this Island maintains the highest traditions of gallant men and women who from the beginning of time have lived and died to preserve civilization for all mankind."

December 7th 1943 Franklin D. Roosevelt



The George Cross and original letter from King George VI are on display in the National War Museum, Valetta.

The eight George Crosses awarded for services in Malta in World War II

December 1940 Captain Robert Llewellyn JEPHSON JONES, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

For most conspicuous gallantry in carrying out very hazardous work in carrying out bomb disposal work in the early months of the war in Malta.

December 1940 Lieutenant William Marsden EASTMAN, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

For most conspicuous gallantry in carrying out very hazardous work in carrying out bomb disposal work in the early months of the war in Malta.

March 1941 Sergeant Raymond Mayhew LEWIN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Despite his own injuries, returned to crashed aircraft which was on fire to rescue his injured second pilot

April 1942 The brave people of the ISLAND FORTRESS OF MALTA

To bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history.

June 1942 Acting Lieutenant Commander William Ewart HISCOCK DSC, Royal Navy

For great gallantry and undaunted devotion to duty in disarming an unexploded torpedo in St. George's Bay.

July 1942 Leading Aircraftman Albert Matthew OSBORNE, Royal Auxiliary Air Force

Fearless in numerous fire-fighting and rescue operations during the fierce enemy attacks on Malta. One of the bravest airmen on the island.

September 1942 Captain Dudley William MASON, Merchant Navy, Master, s.s. "Ohio"

Showing indomitable courage, seamanship skills of the highest order and determination during Operation Pedestal, so that, in spite of the most persistent enemy opposition, the s.s. Ohio, with her valuable cargo, eventually reached Malta and was safely berthed and unloaded.

November 1942 Lieutenant Dennis Arthur COPPERWHEAT, Royal Navy

Great bravery during an operation to scuttle a stricken and burning ship crammed full with ammunition blocking the entrance to the Grand Harbour and posing a serious threat to the port installations and shipping operations.

Researched and Compiled by Lieutenant Colonel J F Falzon BEM

With grateful contributions by The Victoria Cross and George Cross Association



Typewriters at the Trot by Dennis Norris - (Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Chief Clerk of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery

It had seemed a good idea whilst sat in the Sergeants' Mess sharing a bottle of Taylor's Port between the Warrant Officers at the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery; the RSM WO1 David Warren, the Equitation Instructor (EI) WO2 Kevin Woods and the two new boys to the Troop, the RQMS WO2 Peter Moorhead and Myself as Chief Clerk. The RSM had instigated the idea that it would be a good idea if all the Warrant Officer's in the Troop could take an active part in some of the parades and, perhaps even ride on Queen's Birthday Parade – better known as Trooping of the Colour. The EI, although supportive of the idea, was insistent that the RQMS and I would have to successfully complete a 'Troop Recruits Ride' and earn our spurs by being passed out by the Commanding Officer of the King's Troop. With the usual bravado and jokes about attaching a typewriter to the saddle and consuming copious amounts of port and brandy, we both agreed to attend the next recruits ride due to start in the October.

To my great surprise, the conversation was not forgotten and the RQMS and I were held to our promises made whilst in a 'relaxed' state and our names duly appeared on the course attendance list for the recruits ride. This meant starting work in the Troop Lines (stables) at 04:30 each day preparing the horse you were going to ride by mucking out, rolling back the horses bedding and feeding your allocated mount before putting on the horses bridle and saddle and parading in the riding school ready to mount by 05:30. Each of these skills were mastered in their turn and involved getting uncomfortably close to the kicking and biting parts

of these large and sometimes unpredictable animals. You were allocated horses daily by the Section Sergeant and everyone in the recruits ride had to ride each horse at some time. We all did have our favourites of course, mine was Wisecrack, a bay mare with a good temperament who seemed to understand when she had a novice on board. Nobody wanted to ride Harry – he was known as 'Harry the B****d' and had a habit of giving you a kick or a bite when you were mucking him out or putting on his tack; however, he was a safe and agreeable ride once you got on board. There was also 'Benny the Bolt' to avoid when possible; he was good as gold in the stable but had a habit of trying to throw its rider into the boards at the side of the riding school and then bolting to the other side of the riding school!

The recruits ride consisted of 12 members of the Troop, all new Gunners with the exception of the RQMS and I and we became known as 'the wrinklies' due to our advanced ages (in comparison to the rest of the ride). As the training progressed, we all mastered the art of making the animal walk and stand still whilst under some sort of control. As horses are

pack animals, their instinct is to do whatever the other horses are doing and it takes great effort and skill to get the horse to leave the pack at your beck and call – especially when the horse knows it has a novice rider on board – there were times when it was unclear who was in control of whom during the training rides. We eventually moved on to trotting the horse both at the 'rise' and then the very difficult to master 'sitting trot' – I can only describe the sitting trot as sliding down a corrugated iron banister - including all the associated soreness! We also learned how to ride at canter, change diagonals at the trot and had some fun riding the horses bareback to compete at tug of war on horseback or play a type of murder-ball with the intention of dragging your opponents off their horses. During the games the wrinklies proved on many occasions that age, cunning and treachery can overcome youth and agility.

At the end of the course was the passing out ride where each rider had to show they could competently handle their horse carrying out a number of exercises both as a group and as individuals showing that you could handle





the steering and go through all the gears (walk, trot and canter). Thankfully I had been allocated Wisecrack for this ride (rank does have some privileges!) and I passed out without any major incidents and was presented my spurs by the Commanding Officer.

Back in the Sergeants' Mess celebrating our achievement, the RSM and EI pointed out that although we had passed the basic ride, we still had some way to go before we were ready to take our place on the parade. Further training was arranged to improve our riding 'seats' and teach us how to ride to attention, also draw swords and salute with the sword without taking off the horses (or your own) ears. Having spent two months learning how to steer the beast with two hands and my legs, we then had to master steering the animal with one hand whilst carrying a sword at attention – this resulted in some close shaves (literally) for both the horse and myself. The riding was augmented by learning to ride in team with the guns and carry out 'whip drill' and also trips to Larkhill to join the RA Hunt and spent many hours galloping over the Wiltshire downs to improve riding skills during which time I and never saw a single fox!

There were a number of rehearsals prior to the actual parade, but even so, on the morning of the

parade whilst mounting my horse in front of all the visitors to the Troop I must admit there were a number of butterflies flapping about in my stomach. The parade itself went by without any particular problems (I was by then becoming a half decent jockey) and it felt good to be part of the spectacle with hundreds of tourists snapping away with their cameras as the Troop carried out their well rehearsed procedures walking and trotting from St John's Wood to Green Park via Marble Arch before cantering into action to fire the gun salute before re-forming as a Troop to take their place at the 'right of the line' and leading the procession past the Queen at the salute. I was particularly pleased that both the horse and I still had our ears at the end of the parade.

On return to St John's Wood and after the dismount we all retired to the Sergeants' Mess as was usual to greet and entertain the guests of the Troop. It was particularly poignant for myself as this was my last day in uniform in the Army as I was due to start my resettlement course the following Monday. I have not worn a military uniform, or rode a horse again, since that day – Queens Birthday Parade/ Trooping the Colour in 1993.

The Elizabeth Cross

The first Elizabeth Crosses and Memorial Scrolls are to be granted from 1 August 2009 (and will be retrospective to the end of the Second World War). The Elizabeth Cross is made of hallmarked silver and is in the form of a cross with a laurel wreath passing between the arms. The arms of the Cross bear floral symbols representing England (Rose), Scotland (Thistle), Ireland (Shamrock) and Wales (Daffodil). The Elizabeth Cross will be granted to the next of kin of Armed Forces personnel killed on operations or as a result of terrorism in a mark of national recognition for their loss.

Next of kin will receive the Elizabeth Cross - a sterling silver emblem in the shape of a cross over a wreath - plus a Memorial Scroll signed by The Queen which will bear the name of the person who died.

The Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll will not just be granted to families who have lost loved ones in the recent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; The Queen's recognition will also be available to the families of those who died in conflicts dating back to 1948, including the Korean War, the Falklands conflict and operations in Northern Ireland.



Prior to AC's Roll by (Former WO1 (SMAC)) Jim Cussell BEM

During the 1939 – 1945 war everyone up to the age of thirty-five were required to register for military service. However, not everyone did military service as this was dependant on the last figure of the registration number which you were allocated. This figure (which I believe was periodically changed) determined whether an individual became a 'Bevin Boy' and served their time underground in the coal mines instead of the armed forces.

In late March 1945 I received notice to attend the Portsmouth Recruiting Office for a medical and I was duly informed that I was medically fit for military service. This came as a bit of a shock as during the previous year I had volunteered to join the armed forces only to be told I was too small.

On my eighteenth birthday, I received my papers telling me to report to Calvary Barracks, Colchester on 3rd May 1945 for primary training. Our mentors for this period were from 'The Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry'. Our intake was lucky really as on 8th May 1945 Victory in Europe was declared and we were given a day off and could go into town. A group of us decided to celebrate by having a drink, but on entering the pub I was asked to leave. The Landlord said that Army Cadets were not allowed to drink, not even for Victory. (This is a censored version of his actual words as they were pretty strong and left no doubt on what he meant).

Six weeks later our training came to an end and we were posted to our various regiments. I was told that my unit was a RA Mounted Regiment. Visions of horse riding were paramount in my thinking. In reality it was Royal Artillery but the regiment was for the training of driver / operators. No horses or mules!! The driver training period was four weeks in 15cwt Chevrollets or Bedford trucks with a Dodge wagon available occasionally. Fault finding and daily

maintenance was also taught during this period.

On passing the driving test we were passed on to the signal training section where we were taught Radio procedures on 19 and 22 wireless sets which I thought were very primitive. The signalling side went very well but I was unable to reach the required standard for Morse code so I failed to pass the signal side of the course.

Early September 1945 I was posted for extended driving tuition to 227 (Driver/Training) Regiment RA in Rhyl, North Wales. This consisted of driving 'Quads' initially but having limber and gun attached as we progressed and more extensive maintenance schedules were also included. A lot of fun was had on the course particularly on water-proofing the engine and going on a simulated landing draft ramp. This ramp was designed to represent entry in to the landing craft with about ten feet of level ground before heading down the ramp at the other side into five feet of water. The object was to approach the ramp at a reasonable speed easing the throttle on the level and then slowly go down the ramp into the water, keeping the vehicle in gear. Entering was not too bad but once the water came inside the vehicle and reached your nether regions you nearly always took your feet off the accelerator consequently flooding the engine via the exhaust. Yes it happened to me!!

The entire course eventually passed out a week before Christmas and we were given fourteen days embarkation leave. We then had to report back to a holding regiment situated in Brandon, Norfolk. This turned out to be 112 Regiment RA (I believe). A rumour was rife that we were going to the Far East. Alas this proved to be false as we entrained at Brandon on a troop train to Newhaven in Sussex. After a lot

of delays we arrived at the cross Channel Ferry Port and embarked on what I think was the 'Royal Daffodil'. The crossing was so rough and many on board were incapacitated, a Subaltern being sick down my greatcoat having failed to make it to the ship's side in time. On arrival at Dieppe we were transported to a Transit Camp on the outskirts. A day or so later I was approached by an officer who apologised for messing up my greatcoat and reimbursed the cost of having it dry cleaned. To say I was amazed would be an understatement.

Six days later we were assembled to board a train to Toulon which was known as the Medlock route. We were glad to reach Toulon two days later as by this time we had more than enough of French Railways with wooden slotted seats. We were transported to a transit camp outside of town which at first looked as though the huts were sited on a marsh as they had duckboards through the middle of them.

I was soon to depart from this 'luxurious' place to board the troopship 'Orbita' which had previously been a German vessel. An uneventful cruise to Port Said followed. On going ashore we were met by the locals saying 'Dirty Post Cards, Johnny?' or 'you want some Spanish Fly Johnny?' These vendors were chased off by the military police as we boarded a train for Cairo.

At this stage we were informed we were going to Grant Depot in Almaza, very near to Heliopolis International Airport where the RAF had a base. We were soon on the move again to 152 Transit Camp situated in Abassia Garrison to which I was posted as being attached for Admin purposes but my duties were governed by 201 PRO Coy CMP. In short I was to become a member of the garrison police with the rank of local unpaid acting Lance Bombardier. I enjoyed

the work although the hours were sometimes anti-social. The social life was good with our own Mess and we were often entertained by Corporal Tommy Cooper who used us as guinea pigs for his new gags. In fact he was made an honorary member of the mess. He also gave me the nickname of 'Chico', presumably because of my size.

Life was good for thirteen months but then came the withdrawal of British forces from Cairo. We were to be situated with 152 Transit Camp in the Canal Zone at Fayid and I was posted to them for RP duties where I remained for three months. It was then time to move on again to 71 HAA Regiment RA who were located in the Tripoli area. Another 'Luxury' cruise of the Med on the troopship 'Empire Battleaxe' calling at Tobruk, Benghazi and then Tripoli. The regiment was located at a camp in the town of Zavia, 50k from Tripoli which had originally been occupied by an Italian regiment who had been ousted during the desert campaign. Obviously most of the inhabitants were Arab but there was also a large community of Italian descent.

On arrival at Zavia I was told to report to 188(AAFC) Bty RA, an independent battery located in a small barracks on the opposite side of the road. The buildings were very solid concrete structures, the only downside being there were no windows, just a piece of Hessian to cover the apertures in the event of rain. The Hessian could also be lowered should there be a sandstorm. The floors were of a type of quarry tile which had to be washed and given a coat of DERV once a week. The radar equipment appeared to be of a 'Heath Robinson' design. The antennae were a number of wooden rods screwed together and from whichever way you viewed it when erected it resembled the Roman numeral 'X' which were inserted into a fitting on top of the box wagon. A number of blips could be seen on the radar screen the difficulty was in deciphering which one was an

aircraft. However, six weeks later I was informed I was due for LIAP (Leave in addition to Python). This was a period of 28 days UK leave prior to completion of a three year term, (Python). The next day I was told to pack my kit and report to the guardroom by 1300 hours. I was on my way home. Arriving at the docks in Tripoli I reported to the Movement Office and was then escorted to a LCT, (Landing Craft Tank) 'Dieppe' for onward passage to Malta. The ship sailed early evening calling at Benghazi and Tripoli on route. We were accommodated on the tank deck and allocated a space for a camp bed. By the time we reached Malta four days later we were very cramped.

On arriving in Grand Harbour we disembarked and were conveyed to a transit camp at Ghain-Tuffieha to wait onward transmission to the UK. The great day, seven days later, arrived for us to board the troop ship 'Circassia'. She had been requisitioned from the P & O line for carrying troops during the war and soon after this she was due to be returned to P & O. This was an uneventful journey except in the Bay of Biscay where the sea was quite choppy. We landed at Liverpool and boarded a troop train which took us to Euston Station and from there we had to make our own travel arrangements home. My 28 days leave passed by quickly, due I think to being asked on many occasions, 'are you home again?' (bearing in mind this was my first home leave in seventeen months) and 'when do you go back?'

Anyway it was soon time to go back to the Liverpool transit camp at Maghull. It was a bind drawing bedding as we were woken early next morning to prepare to board the RMS 'Samaria' for our return to Malta and then on to Tripoli. We sailed at about 1600 hours down the Mersey and had an enjoyable journey to Malta, on arrival at Grand Harbour, Valetta we transferred to a very small boat, the 'Eola' for the overnight passage to Tripoli. Haversack rations were

provided (one cheese and one jam sandwich each) but a freak wave ruined the lot and also toppled the tea urn resulting in 21 hours without food and drink, as well as everyone on board being saturated.

Once I arrived back at Zavia life continued on radar training interrupted quite frequently by Regimental duties. Roundabout Christmas 1947 a statement had been made in Parliament that demob dates had been brought forward which meant my date was somewhere between the last week in February and the first week in March which were for Group 68C.

February soon came round and all ranks in Group 68C were cleared to leave Tripoli and proceed to Malta. We then had to wait ten days before the troop ship 'Franconia' arrived. During the wait in Ghain-Tuffieha we were allowed to go to Valetta where after a few drinks I misbehaved on a couple of occasions (nothing very serious).

At last the day dawned when we boarded the 'Franconia'. We had a very pleasant voyage to Liverpool arriving on 28th February 1948 and were demobbed the following day. The only crib was that as I lived in the South of England (as did many others) I had to go to York for demob whilst all the other 'southerners' went to Guildford. I was issued with the usual demob clothes and went home on 81 days demob/overseas/accumulated leave.

I am sure that some of you reading this are wondering what it has to do with Artillery Clerks. The answer will be revealed in another story at a later date. It will however explain why I was a late starter on the AC's Roll.

Atillery Clerks Association - Members list as at 24 Nov 09

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

WANTED

for membership of the Association

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

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

Mark Lindsay-Smith
Derick Lund
Alistair McKenzie
Harry Lomax
C McCusker
Steve McKenna
Ken Moore
John Nicholas
Bill Ogilvie
Gil O'Mallo
Pete Oxley
Pete Murphy
John Osman
Jim Peggie
Ken Peacock
Duncan Pettit
Dave Parkinson
Peter Petts
Clem Pooke
Nick Powell
John Pratt
Bill Pattison
Paul Perry
Len Price
Mick Price
Dave Robertson
Dick Scatcherd
Alan Seal
Syd Simpson
P Robinson
Fred Pulfer
Mick Regan
Ron Reid
Graham Roberts
Tom Rooney
Jim Rostron
Mick Scaife
Dave Scott
Martin Smith
Colin Stephenson
Trevor Stokes
Paul Stratton
Bernie Swift
Frank Thorne
Dave Townley
Jock Stewart
Dave Stoneham
Derek Taylor
Tom Taylor
Charlie Thompson
Jimmy Treanor

Alex Stelfox
Joe Stockhill
Roy Swann
Bill Tasker
Graham Telford
Harry Thompson
Bob Thompson
Bob Walkinshaw
Nigel Waring
Chalky White
Harry Waldron
LS Warren
Kev Watkins
Fred Westwell
John Turner
Derek Taylor
Chris Williams
RVM Walker
TC Williams
Tony Wilson
Malcolm Wynn
Brian Wolstenholme

174 Potential New
Members

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

W YOU NEED

Bob Day

Former Sgt Bob Day passed away on Monday 18th May 2009. An Eulogy was read out at the funeral by Brig Chris Burson, Chairman of the Enheim and Alemein RAA Branch. Our Standard Bearer Andrew Jones represented the Association at the funeral and bore our Standard. Bob was a very keen supporter of the Association and will be missed by all those members who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Rest in peace brother Bob

Paddy Corbett

Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Paddy Corbett passed away on Saturday 12th September 2009 after a short illness. Paddy was renowned for writing many quirks on the message section of our website which has kept everyone in the Association very amused. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Rest in peace brother Paddy

IP George McKinnell

Former Sgt (AC) IP George McKinnell passed away at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on Thursday 19th November 2009 after a long illness. George, when he was well enough too, always attended the Reunion Dinners and was a very keen supporter of the Association. His absence was missed when he was no longer able to attend reunion dinners. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Rest in peace brother George

75th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner, Larkhill
Saturday 19th April 2009



Back Row: Mr D Norris, Mr J Taylor, Mr M I Grenham, Mr W M Young, Mr E Vallis, Mr D C Manchester, Mr R Cooper, Mr B Morgan, Mr J Phelps, Mr W Wallace, Mr P J Hayes,
Mr T L Matthews, Mr H Michelson, Mr S V Read

Middle Row: Mr A J Jones (Standard Bearer), WO2 Felton, Mr I Morris, Mr J Lindley, Mr J McNamara, Mr M Johnston, Mr T E Webb, Mr D J Baldry, Mr M Hester, Mr H J Cussell BEM,
Mr B J Leadbetter, Mr S R Seymour, SSgt R Penhallurick, Mr J M Hutchinson, WO2 R J Holmes, LBdr Ballantyn (Piper)

Front Row: Mr R H Deal MBE, WO1(RSM) A Lloyd-Butler (RSM 19 Regt RA), Maj (Retd) D J Cussell, Maj J W S Haddock RA, Lt Col M J Thornton RA (CO 14 Regt RA),
Lt Col (Retd) D P Brown BEM, Capt I F Constantine RA (Reunion Secretary), Maj Gen M Charlton-Weedy CBE (Guest of Honour), Maj Gen P Currie CBE (Honorary President),
Mr J M Charlton (Secretary), Lt Col (Retd) A N Mott, Maj R N O Cowan AGC(SPS) Maj R Lee RA, Mr R A Jeavons, Mr G Brown