

The Crossed Quills

The Magazine of the Artillery Clerks' Association



Edition 21
December 2017



The Royal Artillery Association Forecast of Events



2018		
20 March	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
29 April	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea
18-20 May	RA Assembly	Blackpool
19 May	RAA NEC Meeting	Blackpool
21-25 June	International Artillery Associations Reunion	Italy (Chairman RAA)
7 July	RA Service of Remembrance	NMA, Alrewas
30 June	Armed Forces Day	National
8 August	RAA Grand Draw	Larkhill
4 October	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
9 November	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
11 November	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park Corner
2 December	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill Garrison Church

Foreword by Association President - Lt Gen Richard Nugee CBE



It is wonderful to be writing the Foreword for this great magazine. As General Freddie was fond of writing, this is a superb vehicle for communication, along with the website and the unstinting efforts

of the team at the helm of the Association. We are all in their debt for the amount of extra effort they put in to keep the Association young and vibrant, and in tracking down people who could and perhaps should join us. I wish them huge thanks, up front, for all the work they do; it doesn't happen by accident.

By the time you read this one of the stalwarts of the Association will have retired, for I think the 3rd time, after more than 50 years of Service to the Crown. I very much hope he continues as always to be at the front of the Bar when we meet for many years to come. I had the honour and privilege of saying a few words as Richard Horner celebrated 50 years as boy, man and grandfather in the Royal Artillery, doing what he always did best which was making us laugh as well as delivering the expertise expected of a wise sage, which is what he had become. It seems to me that this combination of wise advice, understanding the situation and offering suggestions with a sense of humour is something that is the epitome of the Artillery Clerk. And as we continue to develop the latest National Security Capability Review, I wonder if these qualities are more needed than ever.

Perhaps I could say a few words about the NSCR, which to all intents and purposes is another Defence Review, but one where Defence is not the biggest component, as it is being led by the National Security Advisor on behalf of the Prime Minister, rather than being led by the Defence Secretary. Needless to say, though, despite the fact that Defence is one of many strands, it appears to be the most important and insightful - I hope you would expect nothing less. The NSCR is designed to ensure the UK has the capabilities to tackle today's threats, not just yesterday's wars. UK is a leading member of NATO and the review will mean Britain is better placed to work with allies to tackle intensifying dangers from cyber-attack, ballistic missiles to Russian belligerence on Europe's borders. No decisions have

yet been made. But a central element will be our People and the notion of a designed Whole Force, which includes civilian, military and industrial elements working much more closely in future.

Last Autumn I had the great privilege of going to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, and I would thoroughly recommend it for anyone who has not been there. It has grown very significantly in the last few years and the new Visitor Centre and Exhibition area I think are a great addition. My wife and I spent some time looking around, after of course starting with the RA Garden of Remembrance, which I believe is one of the most imaginative, if quietly understated sites there. But the number of memorials, the mock up of a WW1 trench system (far at one end of the arboretum) and the sheer size of the place is inspiring - and even some of the trees are finally growing to be a reasonable height!

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the Founding of the Association which will be a cause of much celebration. 2018 will also be the anniversary of the end of the 1st World War, and just as my grandfather had looked to be home by Christmas in 1914, by this time 100 years ago, little did he know that he would be home by December 18.

I would like to wish you all good health and good fortune in all your future endeavours. I very much hope to see you all at the next Reunion Dinner on Saturday 9th June 2018 - I am delighted that the Master Gunner will be with us to celebrate our 20th Anniversary together.

84th Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion and Dinner Saturday 9th June 2018

The 83rd Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion and Dinner will take place at the Royal Artillery Central Sergeant's Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 9th June 2018. Further details can be found by visiting our website at www.artyclerkassn.org or on the calling letter which is enclosed with this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'.

The Master Gunner, General Gregory has accepted our invitation to join us at the dinner as our Guest of Honour.

Report by Association Chairman - Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM



Continuing the theme I set in the 2016 edition of *The Crossed Quills* when I introduced the three C's - **Celebration, Confidence** and **Challenge** - I would like to move on to the next set of five C's - **Commitment, Connection, Competence, Communication** and **Caring**.

Commitment grows from our unwavering desire as members to contribute to the long term success of our Association. However, there is always room to strengthen our individual and collective commitment by reinforcing our support to the Committee on every occasion.

We need to continue to talk to each other and regularly **Connect** to see how everyone's doing and where we're going. We already do this very well through our Facebook and Website where we frequently post welcoming messages of solidarity and enduring friendships.

We all know that confidence, mutual trust and resilience grow from **Competence** - these guide the energies of the Committee and every single member to keep on pursuing the aims and benefits of the Association.

Communication is the most important component with any successful organisation or project. The Crossed Quills is our flagship vehicle to communicate with our members and share our experiences - to inform our peers and friends, and to hopefully attract new members.

It is important that we remain a **Caring** Association - one that embodies a culture of genuine caring to its members in need through actions and deeds at all levels.

We are extremely fortunate to enjoy the wonderful commitment and hard work shown by our Committee, past and present, as well as our Germany Reunion Secretary and Standard Bearer. Please continue to support and encourage them to deliver what you need, be it magazines, websites, parades, reunions comradeship, mutual support or just a friendly chat over the phone. On behalf of the entire Membership, I would like to thank Andy Tibble, Roy Deal, Paul Corker, Dennis Norris, Stephen Read, Leo Lyall, Ron Holmes and Andrew Jones most sincerely

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of your own magazine

With every best wish

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Falzon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

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



This has once again been another busy year which has passed since the production of the last edition of 'The Crossed Quills'. The Association once again has been actively represented by our Standard Bearer, Mr Andrew Jones at various events throughout the UK during the last 12 months. Further details can be read

later on in the magazine. On behalf of the Committee and members I would once again like to thank Andrew for his commitment in representing the Association at so many venues throughout the year.

We had a most excellent Reunion Dinner which was held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Central Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 10th June 2017 under the auspices of Mr Roy Deal. The Association was proud to welcome Colonel Richard Collinge OBE (Regimental Colonel) as our Guest of Honour and WO2(TSM) Sui from 14 Regt RA as our guest. A full report on the Dinner by our Reunion Secretary can be read later in the magazine. On behalf of those members who attended, I would like to say a big thank you to Roy for all of the hard work that he put into this dinner, making this a most memorable evening and a most enjoyable weekend. This was Roy's first Reunion Dinner at the helm as the Reunion Secretary. Further details regarding the 83rd Artillery Clerks' Association and Reunion Dinner that took place at Larkhill on Saturday 10th

June 2017 is enclosed with your copy of 'The Crossed Quills' along with the report on the Germany Dinner. Thank you also to Mr Albert Rhoades for supplying photographs from the Reunion weekend for this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'.

All Area Secretary's were asked to engage with all members of the Association who currently live within their areas of responsibility. The aim of this exercise was to re-engage with our members and also to encourage them to attend future dinners or at least to get some feedback from them as to why they are no longer participating. The Committee can then address these issues in order to improve attendance levels. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Area Secretary's for their continued support over the past year.

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

Former WO2(SQMS) H Hammond who passed away on the 19th July 2008. (only found out through Vince Scott on the 7th December 2016).

Former Sgt(AC) Paul McMahan who passed away on the 22nd July 2016 aged 60.

Former WO1 (SMAC) John Lane who passed away on 19th November 2016.

Former WO1(SMAC) John Taylor who passed away on 3rd March 2017.

Former WO1(SMAC) Bill Morland who passed away on 18th March 2017.

Former WO1 (SMAC) Bill Johnson passed away on 4th August 2017

The 84th Artillery Clerks' Reunion will take place over the weekend of the 8th, 9th and 10th June 2018 at Larkhill. Further details will be forwarded to all members by our Reunion Secretary shortly. This is the only opportunity for all members of the Artillery Clerks' Association to meet up over a weekend in the UK and therefore, it would be good to seek the support of all members in supporting this event each year. Should any members have any concern regarding transportation to/from the reunion, this should be included on your Reunion return when sending them back to Ian, so that we can contact you directly to possibly provide any assistance where possible, such as car sharing or even arranging for a group of members to travel by mini bus to the event. I can appreciate that this might be slightly more difficult for those travelling from Germany to the UK. If you wish to attend and have transport issues,

then you should speak to Ron Holmes or myself as soon as possible as we may be able to come up with a possible solution to ensure that you are able to attend. Our Germany Reunion Secretary, Ron Holmes organises/coordinates an excellent Reunion Weekend in Germany every year and it would be really good to see those Artillery Clerks' who live in Germany supporting this event especially if you can't make it to the UK dinner each year. Further details will follow in due course.

Once again 'Crossed Quills' continues to grow in size! I would like to take this opportunity in thanking those Association members who have contributed to this edition by forwarding articles and photographs for inclusion into this edition. Donations for this year's magazine have been received from the Committee members, Mr Andrew Jones, Lt Col Russ Lee, Lt Col Vic Holdaway and Maj John Reynolds. Many thanks for your contribution. Issue 21 of the Crossed Quills which is due to be published and by the end of December 2017. I would be most grateful if you could all look through your individual archives to see if you have something of interest, old photographs that you would like to be published in next years' edition. These articles, with photographs should reach me by no later than Friday 31st August 2018. Please remember to forward all articles in typed script where possible, including a CD-ROM with the articles on, along with any original photographs that you may have. The photographs will be returned back to you once they have been scanned onto the system.

Our current membership stands at 206. There are currently 162 Potential New members on the Wanted List who were Artillery Clerks', but have not yet joined the Association. I am sure that there are Potential Members on the Wanted List that you know of their whereabouts. I would ask all Members of the Association to make a consolidated effort this year to try and encourage them to join the Association. Recruiting has currently slowed down and I urge you all to try and motivate either a formerly appointed Artillery Clerk or former Junior Rank Clerk's in the Gunners who has subsequently been promoted to Sgt or above within the AGC. A copy of the Application for Membership is enclosed within this edition of the Crossed Quills. Further copies can be obtained from the Secretary. I recently wrote to all Area Secretary's regarding the importance of making and keeping in contact with those members within their areas of responsibility as well as encouraging them to see if they could trace those members on the wanted list down for possible recruitment into the Association. I have since received some feedback from some Area Secretary's in response to letters that they have sent to members in their areas. Thank you to those of you have replied. For those of you who have not come

back to me, grateful if you could do so as soon as possible please.

The following former Artillery Clerks joined the Association during 2017:

Former Bdr Tony Coombe who joined on 14th September 2016. Tony lives in Llanfechain, Wales.

Former Sgr Merv Chadwick who re-joined on 29th January 2017. Merv lives in Gainsborough.

Former Bdr Andy Lamb who joined on 25th May 2017. Andy lives in Witney.

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

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

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

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

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing every member a belated Prosperous New Year.

See you at Larkhill, if not sooner.

Ubique.



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



Ties are available for £20 each and we only have 2 sets of cuff links/tie pins remaining for £28.50 each set. Please wear your tie with pride on the Friday evening and for those who have managed to hang onto the older versions and new members – join us and buy the new high quality version for 2018.

If anyone has any ideas about items they would like the committee to procure and sell please send in your ideas for consideration and discussion. I continue to update the contact list so if you have moved, got a new e mail address or telephone number please let me or Andy know.

Artillery Clerks' Association Ties

The Association tie is of a silk/polyester Gunner zig zag design depicting the crossed quills and the 'AC' in gold. Please send a cheque to the value of £20.00 made payable to The Artillery Clerks' Association to:

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



Life after Service



Joe Phelps, Standard Bearer at Bury St Edmunds Armistice Parade - November 2016

Association Committee 2017 - 2018

Honorary President	Lt Gen Richard Nugee CBE
Chairman	Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM
Secretary	Andy Tibble MVO MSM - former WO1(SSM)
Assistant Secretary	Roy Deal MBE - former WO1(SSM)
Reunion Secretary	Roy Deal MBE - former WO1 (SSM)
Treasurer	Maj (Retd) Paul Corker
Standard Bearer	Andrew Jones - former Sgt(AC))
Association Padre	Rev Dennis Brett - former WO2(QMS(AC))
Welfare Secretary	Dennis Norris - former WO2(QMS(AC))
Webmaster	Leo Lyall - former SSgt
Historical Secretary	Stephen Read - former WO2(QMS(AC))

Regional Secretaries

North	Brian Morgan – former WO2(QMS(AC))
North West	Dennis Norris – former WO2(QMS(AC))
Midlands	Steve Callaghan – former WO2(QMS(AC))
East	Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell
South	WO1 (SSM) Paddy Butler
West	Roy Deal MBE – former WO1(SSM)
London Area	Andrew Jones – former Sgt(AC)
Scotland	WO2 (SQMS) Tam Millsip
Wales	The Secretary
Northern Ireland	The Secretary
Germany	Mr Ron Holmes MSM former WO1(SSM)
Rest of the World	The Secretary

Contact with Area Secretaries

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

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

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

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

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

The North West -

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

The North – Durham, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside. Contact Brian Morgan at morgan_45@hotmail.co.uk

The Midlands –

Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Leicestershire, Hereford and Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Contact Steve Callaghan at artyclerk1@btconnect.com

The East – Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Essex, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Contact Dave Cussell at dave.cussell@gmail.com

The South – Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent. Contact WO1 (SSM) Paddy Butler at paddy.vysk@gmail.com

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

The London Area.

Contact Andrew Jones at ajones@bradfordswissport.com

Scotland. Contact Tam Millsip at 1UKXX-G1-SPS-PATWO-Stirling@mod.uk

Germany. Contact Ron Holmes at ronandkadja@aol.com

Wales/N Ireland & Rest of the World.

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

Treasurer's Report by Major (Retd) Paul Corker



General

What a mixed year 2017 has been for me!! It started with an unexpected heart attack; I thank you all for the kind words and messages to me and Julia, I was happy to make it to the reunion however, I hope it was evident that I behaved myself as I was under strict doctor's orders to do so. I did manage a small

glass of port. The good news is that as far as my doctors are concerned, I have made a good recovery and all my vital signs are back to normal!! My cholesterol levels have come down from 6.9 to under 4 but sadly, the endless line of morning tablets will have to be part of my daily routine for the rest of my life. All is good though. I expressed to Andy that I wanted to attend the reunion this year; although my health was not good, I just wanted to see old friends because you never know which year is going to be your last one. I hope to be 'on parade' for many years to come. On a more positive note, Julia and I enjoyed our first anniversary in the 'eternal city' of Rome in May so all was well.

I congratulate Roy on the splendid reunion this year; with it being his first at the helm, it was good that everything went so smoothly, Ian, thank you for your support and friendship over the years and for making the expenditure balance. I wish you and the family all the very best in France. As agreed at the 2016 AGM, the fund supported the 2017 reunion and I hope that the hard work of the committee continues to encourage

Statement of Account – 31st August 2017

ASSETS

Current Bank Account	£ 1,307.42
Deposit Account	£ 2,003.31
Shop Stock	£ 430.34

Total Assets (A) £ 3,741.07

AVAILABLE CASH (A – B) £ 3,741:07

a solid attendance for many years to come.

Under guidance of the committee, I continue to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Association's Funds. The team has produced another high performance and I hope that many members take up the invitations to Germany and Malta. All looks really positive for the future. I have managed to move the finances to the 21st century with on-line and telephone banking, for which I thank Joe and Andy for their support. I am working with HMRC on 'Gift Aid' to ensure our backlog of funds is received as quickly as possible. .

Just some parish notes. Please check your bank statements before January 2018 and where necessary, change your annual subscription to £10. Pay subscriptions by 'direct mandate and if not already done so complete the 'Gift Aid' declaration. Your support is extremely valuable to me and I once again personally thank all members. I report that the fund is 'fit for purpose' and I will take all the necessary steps to maintain its long-term sustainability.

Main Action Areas

Outstanding Subscriptions	- £1,840 (this is for all members).
Mandate	- 34 Members not paying by Direct Mandate
Gift Aid	- 34 Members failed to completed Declaration Form

LIABILITIES

Function £0:00

Total Liabilities (B) £0:00

Summary

The fund has continued to support the needs of its members and is financially strong. Ongoing issues; to reclaim money owed by the HMRC for Gift Aid, to chase outstanding subscriptions totaling £1,840 and to convert those members who are still paying £5 annual subscriptions.

All invoices for the 2017 reunion have been settled. The reunion fund does see a zero balance however, the General Purpose Fund has the strength to support future events, if called upon. There is no doubt that that the fund is well established and managed to meet any challenges that may come along.

Standard Bearer's Report by Andrew Jones (former Sgt (AC))



Gunner Sunday , The Royal Hospital Chelsea - 30 April 2017

On Sunday 20 April 2017, I was very honoured and privileged to be the Standard Bearer at The Royal Hospital Chelsea for Gunner Sunday.

The Gunner Sunday was attended by many members of The Royal Regiment of Artillery and also present on the same parade were members of The Kings Own Scottish Borderers.

The parade is formed up at 10.45am, in Figure Court in front of the statue of King Charles II. This also includes all the Gunners retired "in pensioners" in the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

We marched on to the parade square for a formal inspection by The Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. After we fall out, we then attend the chapel of the Royal Hospital for worship and church parade. During the service, there is a collection, all the money collected is directed to the Royal Hospital for the care of the in-pensioners, and the chapel.

After the service is finished, you are invited by the in-pensioners to the bar for a drink and Sunday lunch. The cost is only £10 (tickets from Andy Tibble).

This is a most rewarding and enjoyable day, to represent the Artillery Clerks' Association at this event.



In pensioner with Andrew Jones at Hyde Park Corner



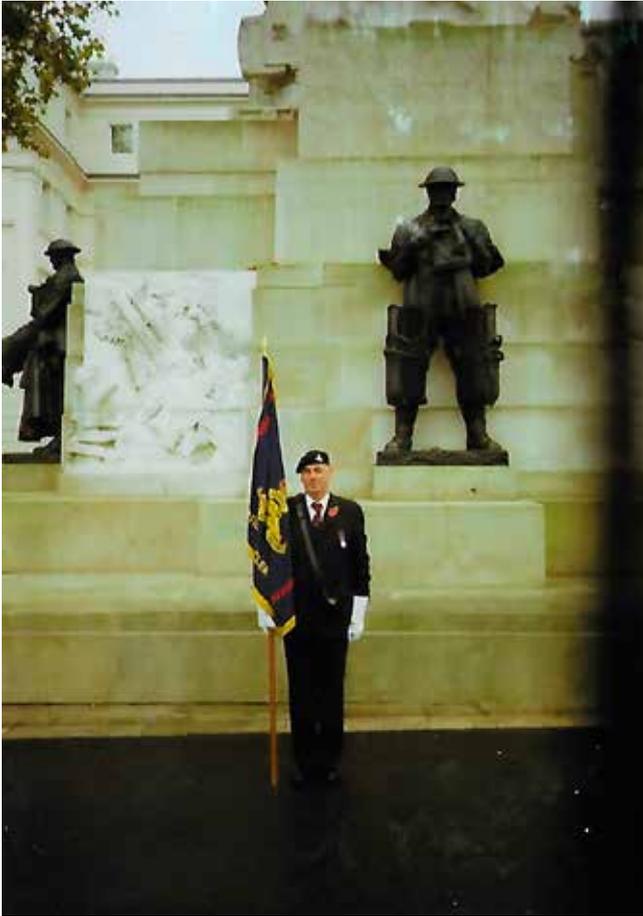
The Artillery Association standard flying proudly at the RA Memorial on Hyde park corner



RA standard bearers at the RA Ceremony of Remembrance



Andrew Jones with members of King's Troop RHA at the RA Ceremony of Remembrance



Andrew Jones at the RA Memorial

St Barbara's Day Service and the Dedication of the Tercentenary Chapel and Cloister



Mr Geoff Hyatt, Lt Col Russ Lee, Lt Gen Richard Nugee (President), Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer) and Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman)



A service to commemorate the Battle of Passendaele

On Sunday 30 July 2017 at 1500 hours, I attend the a service to commemorate The Battle of Passendaele this was held at the war memorial at Flackwell Heath, near High Wycombe.

The service was led by Rev Martin Courtney, Associate Minister for the Christ Church Flackwell Heath.

The minister and the standards lead those assembled to the War Memorial.

The service include the hymn. Abide with me.

The service also included a reading of the poem "In Flanders Field" by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies grow
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 dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
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.

John McCrae

An autographed copy of the poem from *In Flanders Fields and Other Poems*. Unlike the printed copy in the same book, McCrae's handwritten version ends the first line with "grow".

The first chapter of *In Flanders Fields and Other Poems*, a 1919 collection of McCrae's works, gives the text of the poem as follows:

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 dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
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.

As with his earlier poems, "In Flanders Fields" continues McCrae's preoccupation with death and how it stands

as the transition between the struggle of life and the peace that follows. It is written from the point of view of the dead. It speaks of their sacrifice and serves as their command to the living to press on. As with many of the most popular works of the First World War, it was written early in the conflict, before the romanticism of war turned to bitterness and disillusion for soldiers and civilians alike.

The service continued with The exhortation, last post, one minutes silence, reveille, laying of the wreaths, the lord's prayer, the national anthem and finally the blessing.

I was very proud and honoured to be invited to attend this event.

After the service, I was invited to reception at the Royal British Legion Flackwell Heath, for a curry lunch and tea & coffee. PS and "a cold beer!".



Photograph from *The Advertiser*, August 3, 2017



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



We have a number of individuals who are currently being monitored and supported by members of the Association due to their ill health or infirmity and the committee will continue to monitor their progress.

The Association has agreed for their details to be added to the "Veterans gateway"

site that has been set up by the Royal British Legion.

What is the Veterans' Gateway?

In November 2016 the Ministry of Defence announced £2 million of funding from the Covenant Fund for a one-stop service to better support British Armed Forces veterans in need.

The service responds to calls from veterans' charities and groups for help in navigating the wide range of services and organisations set up to support those who have served in the Forces.

The service will be the first point of contact for veterans and their families to access information, advice and support on a range of issues including healthcare, housing, and employment.

It will allow information and services from partners to be accessed from one place and all enquiries will be followed up to ensure that veterans receive the right support.

The Veteran's Gateway will provide website, online chat, phone line and text message services available to any veteran, from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day.

Veterans can access face-to-face support through the Veterans' Gateway network of partners and organisations across the UK and overseas.

For the Association, we see the following advantages:

- An extra link to the Association Welfare Secretary for Association members.
- Further advertising for the Association with the possibility of contact by those on the 'missing list'

- A link in for the Welfare Secretary to the RBL and associated welfare support.

The website is www.veteransgateway.org.uk and will be included in the next edition of Crossed Quills.

We have all just received an update on the Associations Financial position, and we are not a cash rich Association, but what we are 'rich' in is comradeship and friendship.

As we get older and some of us become more infirm that comradeship and friendship can be worth more than any financial support that can be obtained. I am aware, through social media and my role as Welfare Secretary, of many excellent examples of individuals in the Association supporting members who are unwell and I would encourage this to continue. We have all served in many Regiments and made friendships that will last a lifetime and a telephone call, a short visit with the chance of a pint, or a cup of tea and a walk down memory lane or even a short message over social media can raise the spirits of a friend and colleague who may be feeling low due to their personal circumstances particularly if they are currently unable to attend the re-union dinner due to their condition.

Veterans' Gateway

There is a huge network of organisations supporting the Armed Forces community, so finding the right one for your needs can be tricky. The Veterans' Gateway make it quick and easy by being your first point of contact for whatever support you need, whether you are based in the UK or abroad.

Many of the team are veterans themselves so they understand the issues that people face after leaving the Armed Forces. They work with people on a one-to-one basis, connecting them with the right support as soon as possible.

Who is part of Veterans' Gateway?

Veterans' Gateway is made up of a consortium of organisations and Armed Forces charities, including The Royal British Legion, SSAFA – the Armed Forces charity, Poppyscotland, Combat Stress and Connect Assist.

Our connection with additional *key referral partners* and *information organisations* – both within and outside the Armed Forces sector – means we can get you to the right organisation who can help.

Funded by The Armed Forces Covenant, this is the first time a group of this kind has come together formally to deliver a service to help the Armed Forces community. *Apply to become a Veterans' Gateway supporter.*

Get in touch

You can speak to one of the team by *phone or email*. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to put you in touch with the help you need, or direct you to the information you are looking for.

Find information and advice

You can use our *Self Help service* to find information yourself. This includes advice from a range of organisations covering issues from employment, finances and housing, to independent living, mental wellbeing, physical health, and families and communities.

Keep up to date

Follow the latest developments in support for the Armed Forces community by connecting with the Veteran' Gateway on *Facebook* and *Twitter*, and visiting the *News section*.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND (ABF) The Soldiers Charity

Why does The Soldiers' Charity exist?

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Webmaster's Report by Leon (Leo) Lyall (former SSgt)



It has been a year now since the launch of the revamped Association website. The site incorporates some of the data that was already available from the old website but with up-to-date browser technology, updated web software, new data with better security.

The new site is much quicker and now has a brighter design.

There has been much work put into completing the tasks I set myself in last year's Webmaster Report to add more content and complete some of the areas of the website:

- New pages were added to cover details of the Association:
 - The Charter;
 - The Committee;
 - Member List;
 - Area Secretaries, and;
 - The Artillery Forecast of Events.
- The History page has now incorporated the details and forms for the Historical Secretary's Family Tree (details and data supplied by Stephen Read);
- A Welfare page has now been added where all of the associated links that were at the bottom of each webpage in the website are now in one place;
- The Reunion pages have been revamped and split into two areas. We now have the Reunion Dinner information page, covering UK and Germany Reunion details. The Reunion Gallery pages are now separate, proving all the images from past reunions where they have been made available to me;
- The Shop page now shows all the details and images of the Association stock (details and pictures provided by Roy Deal); A "Membership Application" link is added to the navigation which opens the Membership Application Form;
- There is now a link to our sponsor unit at Larkhill, 14 Regiment RA.

At the end of March 2017, due to the hosting package with 123-Reg (our hosting company) expiring, the website went offline. Hosted on an old platform and

having reached the capacity limit (previous package agreement) it just stopped working.

To get the website back online I had it move to a new platform with 123-Reg:

- The platform is now up-to-date with new technology to enhance the functionality of the website and its contents;
- It has a limitless capacity, and;
- It has a cheaper annual cost to the Association for the hosting package.

In addition to the new platform that the website is now hosted on, the security of the data held is important and the confidence that any collected data in the future is secure. The webmaster is looking to add enhance functionality to the site such as the facility to book for the Reunion Dinner online, make a Member area which requires logon to access more secure data. To take the website forward, securely, it is to be enhanced by converting to Secure Shell Connection (SSL). This will add more features:

- The secure collection of data;
- Transaction confidence;
- Enhance data security;
- The reassurance to your visitors and make every transaction a confident one.

On the Internet, our new web is being looked at. There has been interaction between the public and the webmaster on occasion which has helped the passage of information on important matters. The website has enabled the transfer of information of forthcoming events.

The Webmaster requests that members advertise a link to the Association Website on their respective sub-unit association Facebook sites to see if there are any potential members out there that would otherwise be unaware of the Association.

The Association website is only as good as the detail put into it and it is imperative that up-to-date information is provided. The website belongs to the Association, membership. To keep it up-to-date and provide new ideas. Where you feel there is room for improvement and where you'd like articles or pages added contact the Association Secretary (secretary@artyclerkassn.org) and/or the Webmaster (artyclerks.webmaster@gmail.com) accordingly.

The Artillery Clerks' Association Website

<http://www.artyclerkassn.org/>



The AC badge is a click to the Home page.



- HOME
- ASSOCIATION
- MEMBERSHIP
- CHARTER
- AREA SECRETARIES
- FORECAST OF EVENTS
- CROSSED QUILLS
- MESSAGE BOARD
- SILENT QUILLS
- STANDARD
- REUNION
- HISTORY
- SHOP

Artillery Clerks' Association - Home

Welcome to the Artillery Clerks' Web Site.

To date there are 211 Artillery Clerk Association members.

Please use the members' Message Board to keep in touch with us. Navigation is in the left hand navigation opposite.

The 'Reunion' webpage has yet to be fully completed. When completed will provide information regarding the date of the next reunion.

Should you come across any problems in accessing pages or links on this site please email the [Webmaster](mailto:artyclerks.webmaster@gmail.com) indicating for inclusion on this website to artyclerks.webmaster@gmail.com

The new Artillery Clerks' Association Website has incorporated much of the original information from the original website.

A new, simple, layout is designed to assist members to easily locate required information quickly and easily.

ASSOCIATED LINKS

- The Royal Artillery Association
- World Veterans Federation
- British Veterans UK
- Service Personnel & Veterans Agency
- Home for Veterans
- SSAFA
- Union Jack Club
- Victory Services Club
- The Royal British Legion
- Help for Heroes
- World Veterans Federation
- ABF - The Soldiers Charity
- Veterans Aid

site search by freefind



A new search facility is ever present on the navigation pane, along with a link to the external Association Facebook page, "Crossed Quills".

Some pages incorporate links to more detailed subject information

Artillery Clerks' Association - Reunion

[Reunion Dinner Details - UK](#) [Reunion Dinner Details - Germany](#)

Please send anything for inclusion on the website to artyclerks.webmaster@gmail.com

The Crossed Quills

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



Artillery Clerks Family Tree

Work continues on the Artillery Clerks Family tree with new members being identified and details added through the efforts of the very active members of the Cross Quills Facebook group. A question that has been raised is: 'Who can be included in the Family tree?' The answer to this is as follows:

'The Artillery Clerks Family tree has been set up to record those that have held the appointment of 'Artillery Clerk'. In usual practice and precedence this would restrict inclusion to those that achieved the rank of Sergeant Artillery Clerk and above. It is appreciated that there are many who loyally served their Country and the Royal Regiment but left before they achieved promotion to Sergeant. I also understand, although I have never seen this confirmed, that in the distant past Lance Bombardiers and Bombardiers were also awarded the appointment of Artillery Clerk. To be inclusive as possible of the wide community of Royal Artillery Clerks I am happy to accept entries from anyone who served as a Clerk in the Royal Regiment. Especially if this encourages people to provide more information about the Artillery Clerks they served with.'

Having stated the above, the reality is that I work full time, filling an interesting and challenging role in Army Headquarters. This means that my time is at a premium and I do not get as much free time as I would like to process Family Tree entries. As readers will no doubt appreciate, domestic and family duties have to take priority. So, if the answer above results to a significant increase in information being sent to me, whilst I will be very happy, please be patient whilst I find the time to add it into the database.

Photos, historical documents and anecdotes

Many interesting photos, links and anecdotes are posted on the Facebook group. If you find anything interesting, as well as publishing it to Facebook, please send me the file or link so that I can archive it and arrange to have it added to the History section of the Association website.

South Area Secretary Report 2017 by WO1 (SSM) Paddy Butler



Just a quick update up on what I have been up to as Association representative for the South of England. Part of my role as the regional representative for the South of England is to act as a conduit for the Association Committee and if any Association Members are in need of any kind of assistance, or if I become aware of any members in the South requiring

help, support or assistance then I would make contact with the Committee or other relevant agencies to alert them and put in place any support that may be required. I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to the Members of the Association that live in the South and ask you to please confirm your details with me. This will ensure that we hold your correct details so please email me your details or even just make contact with me via my email paddy.vysk@gmail.com.

It was my intention to hold a function outside of the re-union dinner in our area last year. However, there was no uptake on this. If members wish me to organise a function within our region, I am more than happy to do so. At present Andy Tibble and I meet up on a regular basis when our diaries permits for us to have a social few beers within the Sandhurst area. Andy & I are willing to travel if members fancy a bite to eat/beer every three months or so within our region. Please let me know if this is viable.

I will be leaving the Army in April 2018, so this will be my final report as a serving member. Soon I'll be embarking on my resettlement prior to joining the majority of our brethren as "former serviceman". I will be remaining in Sandhurst, just around the corner from Andy Tibble. Us clerks don't travel far! I'm happy to remain your Secretary if you wish.

I have not received any correspondence from members since my last report and it is still my intention not to hound people via e-mail, so if people require any assistance please drop me a line.

Fortunately I was able to attend the 2017 Reunion after missing the 2016 one and a great event it was. I would like to thank once again, all those who organised this memorable event. Especially WO1 Alf Alvin for adding a bit of "rouge" to the occasion.

2017 was an interesting year for me as I was integral in the move of the new Defence College of Logistics, Policing and Administration from Deepcut to Worthy Down. The new College building cost £350 million and houses the current clerical training facilities for Defence going forward for the next 50 years or so. A far cry from what was previously held at Deepcut and the bottom part of Worthy Down camp as the "old sweats" would remember. This new collegiate facility is as good as any third level educational facility in the private sector, so military administration is in good hands for the future. It now just leaves me to wish All Members of the Association to have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you either at a local Function or the Annual Reunion in 2018.

My Best Regards to You All, Ubique

North Area Secretary Report 2017 by Brian Morgan (former WO2)



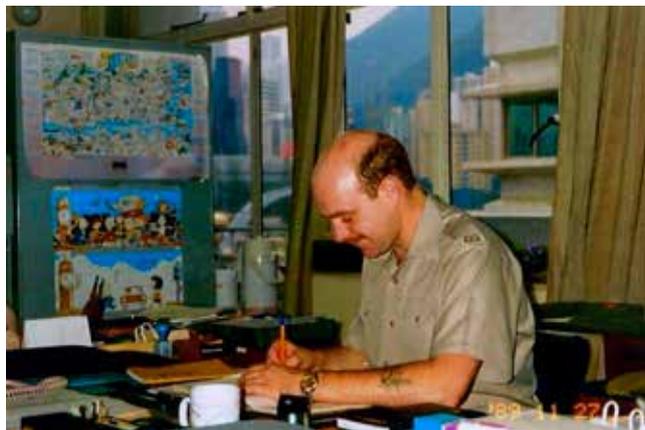
Just a quick catch up on what I have been up to as Association representative for the North of England. I send out a small letter to association members living in the North and Paddy Ennis very kindly responds each time he receives one of my short newsletters, he is still active

and in reasonable health. Unfortunately, his wife had a heart attack some years ago and he does not like to leave her on her own which is why he does not attend the Annual Reunion & Dinner in Larkhill.

If I could take this opportunity to reach out to any Association members living in the North if you could please confirm your details with me as I do not get a great deal of response. This may be because I do not hold the correct details or you may have changed address, please email me your details to morgan_45@hotmail.co.uk.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the 83rd Artillery Clerks Reunion and Association Dinner in Larkhill in June this year as I had only just returned from Hong Kong where I was taking part in an International Dragon Boat Festival with Purple Warriors. A trip which I can only describe as truly inspirational and deeply humbling experience.

When I flew out of Hong Kong in August 1991 to assume my new appointment as Chief Clerk 3 RHA I



Sgt (AC) Morgan Chief Clerk JSPRS HQBF Hong Kong 1991

had no idea when or indeed if I would ever return with the impending hand back of the colony to China. It was therefore with much excitement and anticipation that I boarded the Virgin Atlantic flight from Heathrow to Hong Kong on Sunday 28th May along with the other impaired and disabled serving and former armed forces personnel who make up the Purple Warriors Dragon Boat Club. I am eligible to paddle for the Purple Warriors due to injuries I have to my neck, knees and back from my military service (military parachuting not good for you!). The Founder and Chairman of Purple Warriors is a former Gunner Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Bedford, we served together in 7 Para RHA in the 80's he was FOO/BK and I was the Battery Clerk G Para Battery RHA. On the Saturday evening we were very kindly invited and hosted by the Quartermaster Eton Rifles to Eton College, the QM Eton College CCF Steve Farley MBE also served with Nigel Bedford and myself at 7th and it was great catching up with one another and remembering old times.

We arrived in Hong Kong on Monday 29th May and were given time off to adjust to the jet-lag and climate. The Hong Kong Branch of the Royal British Legion very kindly volunteered to provide us with a guide and we enjoyed a guided tour on an open top bus of Hong Kong and Kowloon.

Twenty-six years on and there were many changes in this extremely crowded and vibrant location however, there were still many famous landmarks and locations that remain including the former British Forces Headquarters formerly HMS Tamar now occupied by the PLA and my old married quarter in Victoria Barracks was still standing although totally crowded out by numerous high-rise shops, buildings, banks and hotels.

The team had been training hard for this international event as well as raising funds to get to Hong Kong since the beginning of the year and now we were in Hong Kong we didn't want to let ourselves down and the Marine Division of the Hong Kong Police very

kindly agreed to host us and allowed us to use their facility in the New Territories to train and prepare for the International Dragon Boat Festival. Although an impaired team we were entered in the competition to race against able bodied teams as well as in the Paradrageon category which is for disabled teams.

The Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Festival is a huge event with over 115 teams competing in various categories. The event takes place in Hong Kong harbour adjacent to the former British Forces Headquarters and the old Prince of Wales building and HMS Tamar were the backdrop to our races.

Despite our best efforts in the main competitions against able bodied teams we made it to several finals but unfortunately were unable to finish in a podium place to win any trophy/medals. On the final day of racing we were racing in the Paradrageon category and we were immensely proud to finish in Bronze Medal position, a great achievement for a team that had only been put together a little of 12 months earlier and most members of the Purple Warriors having never been in a Dragon Boat before in their lives.

It is deeply humbling being part of this group, many have suffered life changing injuries or impairments such as PTSD as a result of their military service and have overcome much adversity just to get in the boat let alone win a bronze medal at an International competition.

On the Monday after the Dragon Boat festival we were invited to the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal British Legion and were very well looked after by our hosts including a 94 year old veteran who was captured by Japanese when they invaded Hong Kong during WW2.

The Purple Warriors continue to take up a large proportion of my free time and I have only recently returned from the British Dragon Boat Association National Cup Finals at the National Water sports Centre in Nottingham where the crew continues to improve and impress and were recognised for their efforts with the Most Improved Team award by the other Clubs. Because of our efforts in Hong Kong we have now been invited to take part in the IDBF World Club Championships in Hungary in July 2018 so it would appear I won't be relaxing and putting my feet up anytime soon.

As we slip from Summer into Autumn and the dark winter nights start to arrive I wish you all well, seasons greetings and best wishes for 2018 and I look forward to meeting up with you all again at the next Reunion.

Ubique



Firing a Royal Salute HMS Tamar, Hong Kong



Purple Warriors loading the boat before another race (HQBF in background)



26 years after leaving Hong Kong and 17 years after leaving the Army proudly representing my country again



Flying the 3 RHA flag the PPMA Regimental Charity very kindly sponsored myself and Natasza Telfer to assist with the cost of getting us to Hong Kong. Natasza is an ex LBdr from 3 RHA who was injured whilst serving in Afghanistan and as a result now has severe nerve damage and is in almost constant and permanent pain she also suffers with PTSD

Artillery Clerks' Association Charter

General

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

Eligibility

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

Purpose

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

Organisation

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

c. Secretary. Responsibilities cover:

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

d. Treasurer. Responsibilities cover:

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

e. Regional Representatives. Responsibilities cover:

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

Areas covered are:

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

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

Fees

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

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

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

Artillery Clerks Association - Members list as at 31st December 2017

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

Membership stands at 206

WANTED

for membership of the Association

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

Clif Fields
Dick Finch
Dave Fisher
Keith Garbett
Derek Gauci
Les Gillard
Chris Gluning
Paul Green
Mike Greening
John Haddow
CJ Hamley
Bob Hagen
Brian Harrington
Terry Hart
Ted Harvey
Adrian Hawker
Bill Heaven
Andy Holder
John Hopkins
Mick Hopkins
Steve Hoyle
Eric Hubbard
Pete Hubbard
Derek Hughes
Tony Hunt
Tab Hunter
Jim Hutch
Pete Hutchinson
Brian Hyland
Alan Jeffery
Chris Jones
Steve Jones
Bob Kindness
Jack Knott
Steve Jukes
Kev Keast
Trevor Kemish
Dick Kibble
Alan King
Roy Kinsley
Dave Langstaff
Steve Lee
Mark Lindsay-Smith
Derick Lund
Mick Lynch
C McCusker
Steve McKenna
Alistair McKenzie
Maurice Metcalfe
Eric Miller
Ken Moore

Pete Murphy
John Nicholas
Bill Ogilvie
Gil O'Mallo
John Osman
Dave Parkinson
Bill Pattison
Ken Peacock
Duncan Pettit
Peter Petts
Clem Pooke
Nick Powell
John Pratt
Len Price
Mick Price
Fred Pulfer
Mick Regan
Ron Reid
Graham Roberts
Dave Robertson
P Robinson
Tom Rooney
Jim Rostron
Dick Scatcherd
Mick Scaife
Dave Scott
Syd Simpson
Martin Smith
Alex Stelfox
Colin Stephenson
Bill Tasker
Jock Stewart
Joe Stockhill
Trevor Stokes
Dave Stoneham
Paul Stratton
Roy Swann
Bernie Swift
Derek Taylor
Tom Taylor
Graham Telford
Bob Thompson
Harry Thompson
Frank Thorne
Jimmy Treanor
Dave Townley
John Turner
Harry Waldron
RVM Walker
Bob Walkinshaw
Nigel Waring

LS Warren
Kev Watkins
Fred Westwell
Chalky White
Chris Williams
TC Williams
Tony Wilson
Brian Wolstenholme
Malcolm Wynn

162 Potential New Members

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

WE NEED

YOU

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Central Sgts' Mess Larkhill, Saturday 10th June 2017

Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman, Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM opened the AGM by welcoming everyone to Larkhill and to the Central Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess. He extended a special warm welcome to those Members who had travelled long distances to get to the Reunion, those who were attending for the first time (Tony Combes and Terry Cooper) and Alf Alvin who was returning to the fold after a few years absence.

The Chairman noted that, for various reasons, there were several notable absentees this year (Richard Horner, Russ Lee, Peter Gauci, etc), all of whom had taken the trouble to send in their apologies. Nonetheless the Chairman said that he was pleased that a good number of Members have rallied to the call and were present for the full weekend.

The Chairman reminded all those present that the AGM was a unique opportunity for the views and proposals from Members to be discussed. He urged everyone to contribute as much as possible.

Apologies for Absence

There were 21 apologies for absence, the majority of which were listed in the Reunion Dinner Menu Card.

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 18th June 2016

The Chairman said that the Minutes had been circulated in advance via Crossed Quills (Issue 20) and that it was not intended to read them at the meeting.

A proposal by Mick Hutchinson and seconded by Dennis Norris to confirm that the Minutes were a true and accurate record was CARRIED Unanimously.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 18th June 2016

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 18th June 2016.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman once again thanked everyone for supporting the Reunion weekend and added that it was a great pleasure to see that the attendance is fairly similar to last year with 38 sitting down to dinner. He appreciated that everyone is busy these days and noted

that some Members had travelled long distances despite some major distractions up and down the country.

The Chairman said that the evening will have elements of sadness because of absent friends such as John Taylor and Bill Morland. He said that as Members reflect on individual impact in our lives we should also think about their families and friends left behind.

He reminded Members that both our former Honorary President Lieutenant General Sir Freddie Viggers, and his successor and current Honorary President Lieutenant General Richard Nugee - the current Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (People) - would be joining later, together with our principal Guest of Honour, the Regimental Colonel, Colonel Richard Collinge.

He recalled that this was Roy Deal's first occasion as the Reunion Secretary - he had stepped up to the plate and had done an excellent job in the background getting everything ready for the weekend.

He publicly thanked all the Committee Members for the huge amount of work they do throughout the year. The combined contribution of Andy Tibble, Roy Deal, Paul Corker, Dennis Norris and Leon Lyall (as our new webmaster) is immeasurable. He expressed a view that the Association would not be able to thrive and succeed without these dedicated individuals, ably supported by Andrew Jones and Steve Read.

The Chairman thanked David Stotan for his many years on the Committee as the Webmaster, for setting up and maintaining the platform and for making sure there was a smooth handover to Leon Lyall halfway through the year.

The Chairman concluded by saying that he has just returned from Malta where he met up with Peter Gauci. He added that Peter was very disappointed that he could not make the trip to UK this year and that he sends his best wishes to everyone.

Finally, he thanked everyone for their continued support.

Secretary's Report

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

• Membership

The membership of The Artillery Clerks' Association currently stands at 206. Last year the total stood at 210.

- **New Members**

Former Bdr Tony Coombes who joined the Association on 14th September 2016. Tony lives in Llanfechain, Wales.

Former Sgt Merv Chadwick who joined the Association on 29th January 2017. Merv lives in Gainsborough.

Former Bdr Andy Lamb who joined the Association on 25th May 2017. Andy lives in Witney.

- **Deaths**

Former WO2(SQMS) H Hammond who died on the 19th July 2008. (only found out through Vince Scott on the 7th December 2016).

Former Sgt(AC) Paul McMahon who died on the 22nd July 2016 aged 60.

Former WO1(SMAC) John Lane who died on the 19th November 2016.

Former WO1(SMAC) John Taylor who died on the 3rd March 2017.

Former WO1(SMAC) Bill Morland who died on the 18th March 2017.

- **Honours & Awards.**

Nothing to report.

- **Promotions.**

WO2(SQMS) Alf Alvin (Now WO1) who was promoted to WO1 (SSM) on the 24th October 2016

- **Membership – Wanted List.**

The Secretary explained that there are currently 168 potential members listed on "The Wanted List" who were former 'Artillery Clerks.' He urged everyone to look through the list which was published in the recent 'Crossed Quills' to see if they recognise anyone who might be living nearby, and then to try to encourage them to join the Association.

- **Change in personal details**

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

- **Crossed Quills**

Items for Crossed Quills Issue No 21 are to be forwarded to the Secretary by Friday 1st September 2017. The Secretary urged members to put pen to paper and to send in articles that they would like published along with any photographs that they may have. All photographs would be returned as soon as possible on receipt.

- **Recruitment**

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

- **Standard Bearer**

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

13th November 2016 – RA Ceremony of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

4th December 2016 – St Barbara's Day Service, Larkhill

3rd April 2017 – Funeral of Former WO1(SMAC) John Taylor in Chelmsford

29th April 2017 – Gunner Sunday (Royal Hospital Chelsea)

4th June 2017 – The laying up of Standards of the Dunkirk Veterans Association (High Wycombe)

Due to attend:

12th November 2017 – RA Service of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

3rd December 2017 – St Barbara's Day Service, Larkhill

Area Secretary's

The Secretary mentioned that all Area Secretary's had been asked to engage with members of the Association who currently live within their areas of responsibility. The aim of this exercise is to re-engage with our members and to encourage them to attend future dinners or at least to get some feedback from them as to why they are no longer participating. The Committee can then address these issues in order to improve attendance levels.

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

St Barbara's Day Service

St Barbara's Day Service will be held at Larkhill in the Church of St Alban the Martyr on Sunday 3rd December 2017. The Service will be followed by lunch in the Sgts' Mess. Further details will follow in due course, however, all members, especially those living close to Larkhill were encouraged to attend. The Secretary urged anyone who was considering attending to inform him as soon as possible so that he could reserve places at the Service and in the WO's & Sgt's Mess for lunch afterwards. He pointed out that availability for lunch is always very limited.

Assistant Secretary's Report

The Assistant Secretary, Mr Roy Deal MBE, informed those present that those members wishing to place an order for ties or cuff links should contact him direct on either roydeal@hotmail.co.uk or Roy.deal288@mod.gov.uk

Stock held
Ties: 19 ties at £20.00 each.
Cuff links/lapel pins – 2 on hand at £28.50 each

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Major Paul Corker, made the following comments:

LIQUIDITY STATE AS AT SATURDAY 10th JUNE 2017

ASSETS	
Cash	£ 00.00
Current Bank Balance	£ 1718.24
Deposit Bank Balance	£ 2003.31
Shop Stock	£ 465.50
TOTAL ASSETS (A)	£ 4187.05
LIABILITIES	
Function	£ 0:00 (To be confirmed)
TOTAL LIABILITIES (B)	£ 0:00 (To be confirmed)
AVAILABLE CASH (A-B)	£ 4181.05

He particularly emphasised that:

Subscriptions. Non-payment: up to year 2016 was £1350.00 and for 2017 is £490.00. For 2016, 31 members paid only £5:00. This total is dropping as members change their direct debits. Total debtors are £1,840.00.

Mandate. 34 members are not paying by the Standing Order Mandate. Members are continuously encouraged to subscribe by this method.

Gift Aid. The Fund has received a total of £2,374:81 from the Inland Revenue. There are 34 members who are yet to join the gift aid scheme. Annual income is approximately £300.00. HMRC have not paid us since 2013 in which the Treasurer is chasing.

Suspensions. In accordance with the Association's policy on suspension, the Treasurer has written to all members who have not paid their subscriptions for

a period of 3 years. There are currently 45 members shown as 'suspended'. There are a possible 9 for 2017.

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

2016 Income and Expenditure Report (As at 31st December 2016) submitted to the RAA)

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

Income	£1578.76
Expenditure	£1838.15
GPF	£-259.39 Excess of income over expenditure

Insurance. The insurance for the fund is valid until 31 Mar 18 It is placed with Towergate Wilsons. The cost this year was £326.23. This includes personal accident cover for the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Reunion Secretary, Standard Bearer and Regional Secretaries.

Shop. There are 19 Association Ties in stock @ £20.00 each. There are 2 sets of cuff links and lapel pins @ £28:50 each.

RAA Draw Tickets. Annually we support the RAA Draw by purchasing tickets. Each member has been allocated a ticket with the remainder held by the Association.

Ian Constantine proposed and Dave Cussell seconded that the Treasurer's Report is accepted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.

Welfare Secretary's Report.

The Welfare Secretary, Mr Dennis Norris informed those present that the Association has several individuals in ill health who are currently being monitored and supported by Members of the Association. He said that the Committee will continue to monitor their progress. The Association has agreed for us to be added to the "Veterans gateway" site that has been set up by the Royal British Legion.

What is the Veterans' Gateway?

In November 2016 the Ministry of Defence announced £2 million of funding from the Covenant Fund for a one-stop service to better support British Armed Forces veterans in need. The service responds to calls from

veterans' charities and groups for help in navigating the wide range of services and organisations set up to support those who have served in the Forces. The service will be the first point of contact for veterans and their families to access information, advice and support on a range of issues including healthcare, housing, and employment.

It will allow information and services from partners to be accessed from one place and all enquiries will be followed up to ensure that veterans receive the right support.

The Veteran's Gateway will provide website, online chat, phone line and text message services available to any veteran, from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. Veterans can access face-to-face support through the Veterans' Gateway network of partners and organisations across the UK and overseas.

For the Association, we see the following advantages:

- An extra link to the Association Welfare Secretary for Association members.
- Further advertising for the Association with the possibility of contact by those on the 'missing list'
- A link in for the Welfare Secretary to the RBL and associated welfare support. The website is www.veteransgateway.org.uk and will be included in the next edition of Crossed Quills.

He added that having received an update on the Association's financial position, we are not a cash rich Association, but he stressed that what we are 'rich' in is comradeship and friendship.

As we get older and some of us become more infirm that comradeship and friendship can be worth more than any financial support that can be obtained. He added that he is aware, through social media and his role as Welfare Secretary, of many excellent examples of individuals in the Association supporting members who are unwell. He strongly encouraged this to continue.

Dennis concluded by saying that everyone present had served in many Regiments and made friendships that will last a lifetime. He noted that a telephone call, a short visit with the chance of a pint, or a cup of tea and a walk down memory lane or even a short message over social media can raise the spirits of a friend and colleague who may be feeling low due to personal circumstances, particularly those who are currently unable to attend the re-union dinner due to their condition.

Historical Secretary's Report.

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

General History. There is little to report on the gathering of historical information relating to Artillery Clerks. The recent find by Terry Cooper, of a WW2 era book relating to the role of Regimental Artillery Clerks, which he shared on Facebook was very interesting and I encourage all members to share anything that they hold or come across.

An investigation is to be carried out as to whether it is feasible to create a repository on the Association website to hold a library of historic documents, photos and links that may be of interest to members. If anyone has any earlier photographs which they could either scan them in or send to me that would be appreciated. The originals will be return as soon as possible after receipt.

Artillery Clerks' Service History. There has continued to be a slow but steady growth in the service history as new members join the Association and add their service details to the records. The tree currently consists of 505 Artillery Clerks servicing at 136 units, in 96 locations.

Information on how to gain access to the tree and to submit information into it can be found on the History page of the Association website.

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

Webmaster's Report

The Webmaster, Mr Leon Lyall made the following comments:

October 2016 saw a revamped Association website launched on the Internet. The website incorporates much of the data that was already available from the old website but with newer browser technology and updated web software. The new site is much quicker and now has a brighter design.

The new website incorporates an external link to our Facebook site; "Crossed Quills" and also keeps the external Association Message Board.

Since the Webmaster Report in Edition 20 of our annual "Crossed Quills" magazine there have been a few changes to the launched website:

New pages were added to cover details of the Association:

- The Charter;
- The Committee;
- Member List;
- Area Secretaries.

The History page has now incorporated the details and forms for the Historical Secretary's Family Tree;

The Standard Bearer page has been completed where we can now track the activities of our Standard;

The Reunion pages have been completed with many past event picture galleries and details concerning the Reunion Dinners, with the appropriate forms;

The Shop page now shows all the details and images of the Association stock;

A "Membership Application" link is added to the navigation which opens the Membership Application Form.

At the end of March 2017, due to the hosting package with 123-Reg (our hosting company) expiring, the website went offline. Hosted on an old platform and having reached a (previous package agreement) capacity limit and just stopped. To get the website back online I had to move it to a new platform with 123-Reg:

- one which is now up-to-date with new technology to enhance the functionality of the website and its contents;
- has a limitless capacity, and;
- has a cheaper annual cost to the Association for the hosting package.

The new web is being looked at as there has been interaction between the public and the webmaster on occasion which has helped the passage of information on important matters. The website has enabled the transfer of information of forthcoming events.

The Webmaster requests that members advertise a link to the Association Website on their respective sub-unit association Facebook sites to see if there are any potential members out there that would otherwise be unaware of the Association.

The Association website is only as good as the detail put into it and it is imperative that up-to-date information is provided. The website belongs to the Association, membership. To keep it up-to-date and provide new ideas contact the Association Secretary and/or the

Webmaster accordingly where you feel there is room for improvement and where you'd like articles or pages added.

Data Protection. The Webmaster asked those present if they were content for their photographs to appear on the website. *All those present were in favor of this*

A vote of thanks to Leon Lyall for all the work he had done on our website was proposed by Steve Seymour and seconded by Bill Young.

Germany Secretary's Report.

The German Secretary, Mr Ron Holmes MSM informed those present that now we are in 2017 things are looking good on a personal front and I am now able to make long term plans. As we can see from this June 2017 dinner, numbers are getting thinner. Sadly, it is more so for Germany. Nevertheless, he plans to have a shindig of some sorts on Saturday 2nd December 2017 no matter who turns up, most likely in Sennelager with a visit to the first Christmas market in Paderborn. I will not make firm plans for a proper dinner as I know we never get more than about ten bodies together. That said the nature of Sennelager accommodation allows for me to sort something at short notice with the help of our man in the middle - Bob Smith and a dinner of some sorts is available in the Senne Hussar.

Reunion Secretary's Report

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

Election or re-election of Committee

The Secretary stated the following elections or re-elections are as follows:

Election of Webmaster (Mr Leon Lyall)
Vice: Mr David Stotan

Election or Re-election of the Committee for 2017/2018

Chairman	Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon OSJ BEM
Secretary	Mr Andy Tibble MVO MSM
Assistant Secretary	Mr Roy Deal MBE
Treasurer	Maj (Retd) Paul Corker
Reunion Secretary	Mr Roy Deal MBE
Welfare Secretary	Mr Dennis Norris
Historical Secretary	Mr Stephen Read
Webmaster	Mr Leon Lyall

Ian Constantine proposed and Richard Jeavons seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.

Any other Business

The Chairman, Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM made the following comments:

The Royal British Legion continues to support the Association with the postage cost for the circulation of The Crossed Quills. This saves the Association a considerable amount of money every year.

Terry Coombes had been instrumental in getting in touch with several potential Members. The Chairman hoped that these vital contacts would persuade individuals to become fully paid up Members of the Association.

The Chairman floated the idea of Members and their partners meeting in Malta at some point in the future. There was support to the proposal which will be developed further.

The Chairman informed those attending that Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory was appointed Master Gunner St James's Park in May 2017 and that he had written a letter of congratulations on behalf of the Association.

The Chairman referred to the Grand Pilgrimage event which was being organised by The Royal British Legion in 2018 – it was hoped that at least up to 1000 Standard Bearers would attend. It was agreed in principle that if the opportunity presented itself the Association should consider sending Mr Andrew Jones, Standard Bearer and the Association Standard to the event. An update would be given at the next AGM.

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

The Secretary proposed that a vote of thanks be made to Mr David Stotan for his long-term contribution at Webmaster to the Artillery Clerks' Association website.

Andy Tibble proposed, and Steve Seymour seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.

The Secretary informed those present that the Regimental Sergeant Major of 14 Regiment Royal Artillery, our affiliated Regiment had been in touch to inform me that 34 (Seringapatam) Battery

had been affiliated to the Association and would establish a link and working relationship in providing any support in terms of events or manpower if required. *Subsequently to the AGM, the Battery Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class 2 Dylan Evans has been in touch with me to see how he and the Battery can support the Association in the future.*

Mr Steve Callaghan asked if a mini-bus could be provided on a Saturday afternoon during the reunion weekends to take members down to Salisbury. *Mr Roy Deal informed those present that they would consider this request.*

Major Denis Crawford informed those present that Mr Steve Jones sent his best regard to all those members attending the reunion dinner.

Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM will take place at Larkhill on Saturday 9th June 2018.

Andy Tibble
Secretary

83rd Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner

Saturday 10th June 2017 - Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Larkhill

In time honoured tradition the 83rd Reunion gathered at Larkhill on Friday 9th June 2017 to get the weekend off to a good start. The turnout for Friday night was good with new members attending for the first time getting a good feel for how the weekend will be. The turnout was good with 15 members attending and only one member not wearing the AC tie (Leo). The Friday evening was relaxed and as ever good fun with many embarrassing pictures to prove just how relaxed we were.

The main event on Saturday kicked off with the AGM quickly followed by the annual photograph. We were pleased to see both General's Richard Nugee and Freddie Viggers able to attend, both still very sharp and aware, able to re-call some of the good Chief Clerks, and those Artillery Clerks' remembered not just for their clerical skills. It was good to welcome our Guest of Honour Colonel Richard Collinge the Regimental Colonel and WO2 "chop" Sui who bravely deputised for the RSM 14 Regt prior to attending his WO's course the following day.

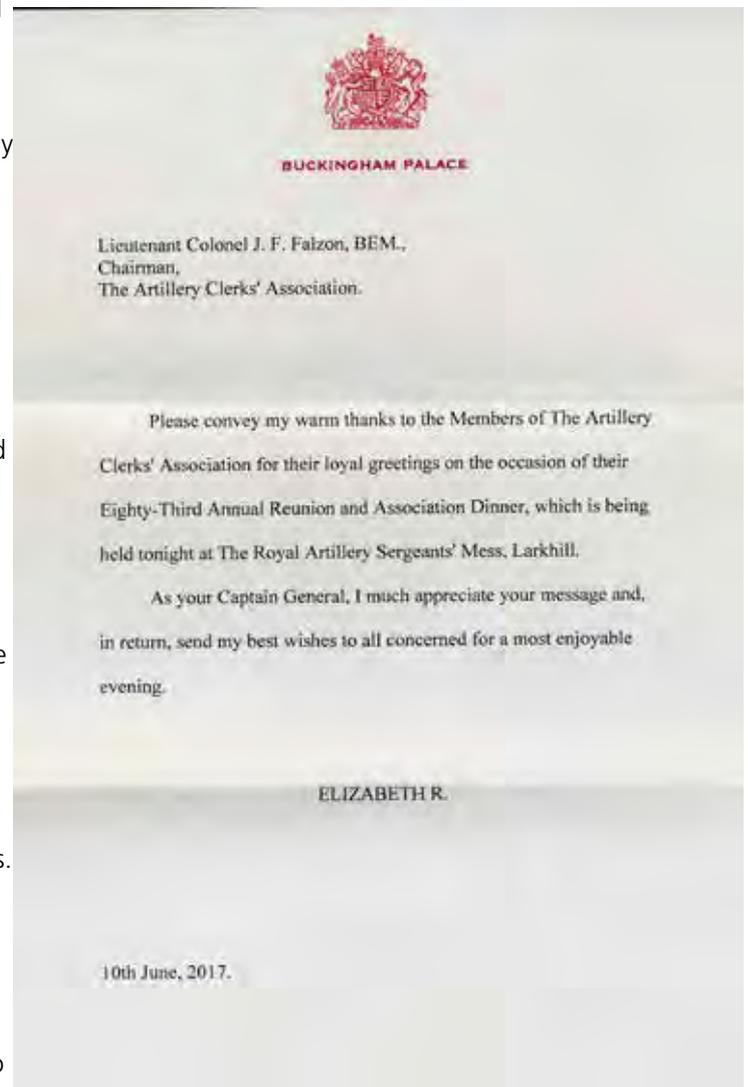
The meal and the arrangements for the evening were up to the usual exacting standards and as Artillery Clerks' we are fortunate to get the continued support from 14 Regt RA and the use of such excellent facilities.

With only a few minor hiccups during the dinner from Roy and Joe we continued the evening with excellent music from the Sandhurst Silver Band Quintet and an excellent speech from Colonel Richard, who certainly felt under pressure under the watchful gaze of the two Generals'.

The evening continued in the normal manner around the bar, where we were all able to recall old memories and refresh friendships, whilst making new ones for those members attending their first reunion. The whole weekend was finished in true style with the stauncher members meeting for breakfast and continuing the banter before bidding each other a safe journey and farewell.

I will finish with a plea, as this was my first dinner as the Reunion Secretary I got first-hand experience of the effort and time spent by the committee members to ensure the weekend goes well. You can repay that effort by attending the 84th Reunion on the weekend of 8th and 9th June 2018 at Larkhill. Details, as ever available on the AC Webpage.

I hope you all had a good weekend and see you soon.



84th Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion and Dinner Saturday 9th June 2018

The 83rd Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion and Dinner will take place at the Royal Artillery Central Sergeant's Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 9th June 2018. Further details can be found by visiting our website at www.artyclerkassn.org or on the calling letter which is enclosed with this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'.

The Master Gunner, General Gregory has accepted our invitation to join us at the dinner as our Guest of Honour.



1. Col Richard Collinge (Guest of Honour) and Lt Gen Freddie Viggers
2. WO2(TSM) Sui (Guest) and Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary)
3. Maj (Retd) Dennis Crawford, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) and Col Richard Collinge (Guest of Honour)
4. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), Lt Gen Richard Nugee (President), Maj Ian Constantine & Mr John Lindley
5. Mr Leo Lyall, Mr Marty Hester & Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell
6. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Col Richard Collinge (Guest of Honour) and Mr Roy Deal (Secretary) addressing the Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion Dinner



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7. Col Richard Collinge (Guest of Honour) addressing the Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion Dinner
 8. Left: Mr Richie Nicol, WO1 (SSM) Alf Alvin, Mr Des Riley & Mr Mick Grenham, Right: Mr Steve Seymour
 9. Mr Mick Grenham, Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell & Mr Marty Hester
 10. Left: WO1 (SSM) Paddy Butler, Mr Dennis Norris, WO2 Chris Norris & Mr Terry Cooper
 Right: Mr Steve Callaghan, Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mr Dave Manchester,
 11. Lt Gen Freddie Viggers & Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer)



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12. Left: Mr John Lindley, Right: Mr Marty Hester, Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell, Mr Mick Grenham & Mr Des Riley
 13. Left: Mr Joe Phelps, Right: Mr Dave Allen, Mr Clive Nuttall, Mr Terry Cooper, WO2 Chris Norris & Mr Dennis Norris
 14. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) reading out the Loyal message to the Artillery Clerks' Association Dinner
 15. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) presenting the RAA Standards Badge to Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer)
 16. Mr Ron Holmes, Lt Gen Richard Nugee and WO Hauke Michelson with the famous 'Artillery Fire'
 17. WO1(SSM) Paddy Butler, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Bill Young and Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer)



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- 18.Col Richard Collinge (Guest of Honour) & Maj (Retd) Paul Corker (Treasurer)
- 19.Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary), Lt Gen Freddie Viggers & Lt Gen Richard Nugee (President)
- 20.Mr Clive Nuttall, Mr Terry Cooper, Mr Joe Phelps & Mr Tony Combes
- 21.Mr Steve Seymour, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Col Richard Collinge (Guest of Honour)
- 22.Mr Geoff Hyatt, Mr Dennis Norris & WO2 Chris Norris
- 23.Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell & Mr Ron Holmes
- 24.WO2 (SSM) Alf Alvin and Lt Gen Richard Nugee (President)



Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer) having been presented with the Royal Artillery Association Standard Bearers Badge

Reunion Secretary's Germany Report by Ron Holmes MSM (former WO1(SSM))

After announcing in Larkhill last June that I would arrange an Artillery Clerks' dinner in Germany this year the time finally came although in a different format than is usual. Due to the lack of numbers and the further occurrence of unforeseen circumstances it was deemed that a dinner in Sennelager with the mess accommodation, venue booking etc had to be cancelled.

However, the small group of Germany ACs who live in my local area around Bielefeld, Ostwestfalen we decided to have a small dinner with partners in the Senne Bauernhof Museum Restaurant on the 2 December 2017. Hauke Michelsen came up from Köln with Irene to meet up with Tim Matthews and Gilly, Pete Deverall and Birgit and Myself with Kadja. I also invited an old colleague, ex AAC/AGC (served with Gunners) Ian Brown and Ellen who we knew from 1 Div. Sadly Pete had to cry off at the last minute due to illness.

We had a lovely evening and excellent meal in fantastic surroundings of a historic farmhouse with a large

hearth crackling away, enhancing the congenial atmosphere. I gave apologies for those who could not attend, we toasted absent friends and of course gave a toast to our Captain General after reading out the loyal message.

Ubique, Ron



From left to right: Ian Brown, Ellen Brown, Irene Michelsen, Gilly Matthews and Tim Matthews.



Tim Matthews and Ron Holmes



Ron Holmes and Hauke Michelsen



Hauke Michelsen and Ian Brown

By Maj (Ret'd) John Reynolds

RUSIMH



www.rusimh.ca

This site exists to help the RUSIMH to promote Canadian and allied military institutions, personnel and veterans. Additionally, this site will promote the construction of a monument to the WWI citizens, soldier and units of the Medicine Hat area.



Me and CWO Arnie Macauley RCAF (Ret). Arnie is dressed in the uniform of the RCA circa 1800's. Arnie is also the most decorated warrant officer in the Canadian Forces. He was the boss of the Search & Rescue Techs.



Ribbon cutting ceremony. Left to right: Capt(Ret) Matt Klimaszewski RCA, RUSI President, Ted Klugston Mayor of Medicine Hat, Eldon Wells, President of the Medicine Hat Royal Canadian Legion.



Me sitting on one of the two seats that have been installed for visitors. Behind these two seats will be 5 story boards telling the history of the monument. Standing behind me is my younger son Major (Ret) Jeremy Reynolds RCAF. He now resides in Calgary and flies for a Canadian airline called WestJet. He did a 3 year exchange with the USAF flying the C-17 and was involved in the invasion of Iraq and was awarded the US Air Force Medal for flying 40 plus combat missions and he is allowed to wear it with his Canadian medals.



The monument. We still have to get the bare earth seeded and we are negotiating a deal with a local landscaper to come and hydro seed it for us, and the city is going to connect the lights that we have installed for night time illumination. We have also undertaken to set up a trust fund to pay the electricity bill.

Bestowing the 'Royal' title

The South Alberta Light Horse has enjoyed a 26 year friendship with the Medicine Hat United Services Institute having hosted meetings of the Institute at the Falaise Road Mess at Patterson Armoury almost since the Institute's inception.

The Institute includes members of the SALH, Defence Research and Development Canada Suffield, British Army Training Unit Suffield, The Royal Canadian Legion, Canadian Forces Base Suffield and prominent civilian leaders and keen civilian supporters of the military from the Medicine Hat Area.



Cpt. Scott Payne
SALH

The Institute meets monthly to discuss current military topics and to host guest presenters from around the world. The presentations are about current and historical operations, equipment, defence research, training and personnel.

The February meeting featured Pastor Joe Leavengood, a former Judge Advocate of the United States Air Force, who spoke about his part in the coalition powers' efforts to help rebuild the Iraqi justice system to facilitate the Iraqi people to prosecute Saddam Hussein and former Iraqi leaders for their crimes.

The Institute has also been a platform for members of the SALH and Medicine Hat Police Service to recount their experiences on numerous International operations and the 2013 floods in Medicine Hat.

The Institute was formed by a small group of officers from the local area at the urging of founding President, Major (Retired) John Reynolds, formerly of the Royal Artillery of the British Army. The Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies at Whitehall, London, Great Britain (www.rusi.org) dates back to 1831 and is the inspiration for many similar institutes around the world and across Canada, including Medicine Hat's Institute.

The Institute has arranged several visits of Royal Canadian Air Force planes and helicopters including fly pasts for the 60th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and of the introduction of the new CC-177 Globemaster in 2007 for which Major



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The two Presidents, Major Paul Mast (left) and Major John Reynolds (right) proudly display the letter which granted the Institute the 'Royal' title inside the Don Kylo Library.

Reynolds' son Major Jeremy Reynolds was the pilot.

The Institute supports many worthy causes and events such as the Annual Sapper Stock Run and the cleaning of military headstones for Decoration Day in June. The Institute established The Don Kylo Library, named after the former Medicine Hat Police Chief who was a member of the Institute and the SALH.

Last year Major Reynolds recommended to the current President Major (Retired) Paul Mast that the Institute should request to be granted the title 'Royal' from her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for being the pre-eminent military support and education organization in our area for 25 years. The Sovereign gave her permission for the Institute being named 'The Royal United Services Institute of Medicine Hat' on November 1st, 2013.

Members of the Regiment wish to congratulate the Royal United Services Institute of Medicine Hat for being honoured by the Queen of Canada and to thank them for their support of the South Alberta Light Horse, its members and the Regimental Museum for the past quarter century.

For more information about the SALH or the Royal United Services Institute of Medicine Hat contact Captain Scott Payne at 403-594-1476 or at scott.payne@forces.gc.ca.

The Little Blue Book - Extract 2 by Lt Col Vic Holdaway

Following my article in edition 20 of The Crossed Quills I will fill in some of the sections I by passed e.g.

Section II

The Captain General.

4. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been graciously pleased to assume the appointment of Captain-General of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. (London Gazette Supplement dated 8th April, 1952).

Section III

The Master Gunner, St. James' Park

5. The Master Gunner is the head of the Regiment in all Regimental matters. He is the channel of communication between the Regiment and the Captain-General.

He presents officers at Levees and at the first Levee of the year he presents the Regimental State to the Queen.

6. The selection for appointment as Master Gunner, St James' Park, is made by the Sovereign, on the recommendation of the serving and retired Colonels Commandant at their annual conference. The appointment is now normally vacated when the holder attains the age of 70 years. The appointment dates back to 1263.

Section IV

The Director, Royal Artillery

7. The Director, Royal Artillery, at the War Office is adviser to the Army Council and the General Staff on all technical and other matters connected with the Royal Artillery. He also advises the Military Secretary on the appointments of senior Royal Artillery officers.

8. In addition, he is the senior serving officer in a Royal Artillery appointment and as is the official link between the Regiment and the Master Gunner. He issues instructions on regimental matters on the latter's behalf.

9. He is, ex-officio, a member of all the major regimental committees.

Section V

Assistant Adjutant General, Royal Artillery

11. The Assistant Adjutant General, Royal Artillery, is the head of the War Office Branch (A.G.6) dealing with all personnel questions in the Regiment.

12. The main function of the Branch is to implement the policy laid down by the Director of Personnel Administration in the best interests of maintaining the efficiency of the Regiment in its Order of Battle.

13. The Branch deals with matters of policy for all ranks and with individual postings in the case of officers. It also deals with certain domestic Regimental matters on behalf of the Director, Royal Artillery.

14. Officers of all ranks on the active list may seek an interview with an officer of A.G.6 on personal questions relating to their careers or appointments. Applications for such interviews will be made in advance and should state the nature of the points to be discussed.

15. The procedure for an interview with any official at the War Office on purely personal questions is laid down in Queen's Regulations, 1955.

16. Expenses in connection with interviews are not admissible as a charge on public funds.

17. Letters should be addressed :-
The Under-Secretary of State for War (AG6),
The War office, London Road,
Stanmore,
Middlesex.

Section VI

Order of Precedence

19. The various sections of the Royal Artillery will take precedence as follows:-

Royal Horse Artillery
Regular Units
A.E.R. Units
T.A. Units
War formed units.

Within these sections units will take precedence in their numerical order.

20. When units are on parade with their guns and/or other equipment, the precedence on parade may be varied at the discretion of the Commander at the time.

21. When detached Batteries from Regiments, or Independent Batteries or Troops, are on parade

with complete Regiments, the larger formation has precedence over the smaller.

22. TA Batteries in TA Regiments are lettered and take precedence among themselves alphabetically. If on parade away from their Regiment they will take precedence according to their Regiment's number, below Regiments with RHQ on parade but above any independent batteries.

23. The order of precedence of RHA Batteries and other lettered Batteries is as follows:-
ABCVDEFGHIJKLMNOPWXYZRSTU

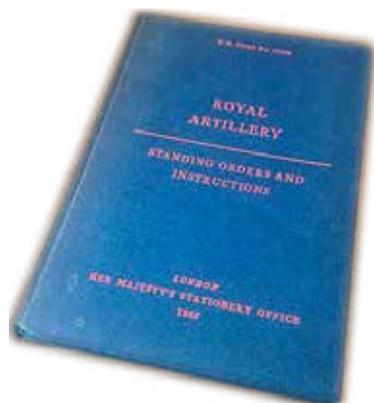
24. Where lettered Batteries have lost, or lose in future, their RHA status they will retain their lettered title but will take precedence among other regular Batteries in accordance with the following numbers:-

A 61	M 123
B 62	N 125
C 63	O 130
V 64	P 131
D 65	W 133
E 66	X 134
F 83	Y 138
G 86	Q 140
H 101	Z 141
I 102	R 142
J 103	S 146
K 121	T 147
L 122	U 183

25. Where RHA Regiments lose their RHA status they will retain their numbers and the consequent precedence.

26. A Regiment will retain its precedence according to its number irrespective of the numbers and precedence of the Batteries which form it.

If only I had this information when I was in Egypt in 1952 – 55. The arguments that raged in the Sgts Mess bar over precedence inevitably ended up with me being expected to confirm one theory or another.



ANZAC Day 2017 by Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM

ANZAC Day Commemorative Service – Malta connection

In 1915, the start of the Gallipoli Campaign, Malta had been a British Colony for 100 years. Apart from many Maltese Nationals serving in the British Armed Forces in the First World War, some 800 volunteers supported the Gallipoli Campaign. Almost 60,000 sick and wounded Allied servicemen were evacuated to Malta (dubbed as the Nurse of the Mediterranean) from the Dardanelles – many thousands of them were Australian and New Zealanders.

Anzac Day has been observed in Malta on the 25th April, since 1916 and it is held at the Pieta Military cemetery as it contains most Anzac Day graves (231) on the island.

Our fellow Gunner AC Peter Gauci, who is the Standard Bearer for the Royal British Legion, Malta Branch is seen here in the wreath laying service together with other institutions of the Armed Forces in Malta.





Mr Peter Gaucia, Standard Bearer in Malta

War Graves Visit - 100th Year Anniversary by former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Dennis Norris

In July 2017, whilst travelling to Hungary to watch the Hungarian Grand Prix, I took the opportunity to visit the war grave at Bethlehem Farm Cemetery of a relative who was killed just over 100 years earlier at the battle of Mesnes in Belgium.

I have known about "Uncle James" since I was a child when visiting my Great Grandparents and Grandparents grave with my mother in Charnock Richard, near Chorley in Lancashire where his name is commemorated on the gravestone.

Below is a couple of paragraphs of what I have been able to research about him:

2678 Private James CROMPTON

James Crompton was the Brother of my Grandmother – Alice Crompton. He was born in Westhoughton, Bolton, England in 1887 and went to school in Wingates, Bolton. On leaving school he became a coal miner and in 1913 at the age of 26 he emigrated to British Columbia in Canada to work as a Coal Miner and then in 1915 left Vancouver for Australia again to be a Coal Miner.

In October 1916 James Crompton volunteered and enlisted into the Royal Australian Infantry to go to Europe to fight on the Western Front. He departed Australia on 9 November 1916 and travelled to the UK on board MV Benalla arriving in the UK (Davenport) on 10 January 1917. He was sent to 10th Training Battallion at Durrington* Camp (near to Larkhill) on Salisbury Plain for further training before being shipped

to France on 26 April 1916. He was sent to the lines of Mesnes Ridge in Belgium on 4 May 1917.

James Crompton was Killed in Action on 8 June 1917 at the battle of Mesnes Ridge. He is buried near to where he was killed in action at Bethlehem Farm East cemetery, just south of Mesnes village in Belgium.

As an aside – I have read that Corporal Hitler was stationed at Bethlehem Farm in 1914/15 when the farm was used as a German HQ where he was a wireless operator. During the Second World War Herr Hitler, as German Fuhrer, went to Bethlehem farm and gave the farmer's wife a bunch of flowers for looking after them during the Great War.

Dennis Norris

*At the time of writing, my Son is a serving Warrant Officer at Larkhill Camp plus my Grandson and Granddaughter both play football for a school in Durrington village.



Memories



Mr Terry Cooper behind RHQ 94, Locating Regiment Royal Artillery - circa 1980

They were taken circa 1980 whilst I was 94 Locating Regiment RA.

The group photo was taken outside the RHQ building. Lt Col White requested no headgear was to be worn;



Front row L-R; Mick Scaife (RIP), Ray Lewis, Capt Anderson, Capt Reynolds, Lt Col Whyte (RIP), Maj Sjoberg, ?, Russ Lee.

Back Row L-R; Terry Cooper, Ron Marsh (RIP), Smudger Smith, John Lindley, David Appleton, Taff Hayes, Pete Hutchinson, Jeremy Pitman, Neil Powell, Andy Welling, Dave Bradley.



Maj John Reynolds in the barrack block verandan, Pulau Blakang Mati, Singapore, 1951



Maj John Reynolds by the back door of the regimental office, 1st Singapore Regt RA, 1951

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lifelong support for members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force and RAF. We want to make sure that our beneficiaries are able to live in comfort and with dignity.



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DEMENTIA CARE

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here are lists of events throughout the year including commemorative and fundraising events, fundraising on behalf of those that we care about.

Category View

Christmas Celebration
Monday, 4 December 2018

Start the festive season with the region's annual Christmas celebration, including a concert and a great Christmas meal!

London Marathon
London, 23 April 2017

Bike Ride
London, 27 June 2017

Rugby
London, 27 August 2017



MEET CENTRES

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FINANCES

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

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The Royal British Legion supports serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families.

If you need help, call our Contact Centre helpline on **0808 802 8080** from **8am to 8pm, 7 days a week** (calls are free from UK landlines and main mobile networks) for all enquiries.

From overseas: **+44 (0)20 3376 8080** (full rate)

Or send us an email at info@britishlegion.org.uk.

The Royal British Legion's Head Office and postal address is:
 199 Borough High Street
 London SE1 1AA

83rd Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner
 Royal Artillery Warrant & Officers' & Sergeant's Mess, Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill
 Saturday 10th June 2017



4th Row – Mr RJ Holmes MSM, Capt (Retd) RA Jeavons, Mr DC Manchester, Mr TC Cooper
 3rd Row – WO2 (SQMS) C Norris, Mr SP Callaghan, Mr RJ Nichol, Mr M Hester, Mr MI Grenham, Mr J Lindley, Mr LJ Lyall, Mr GO Hyatt, Mr J Phelps, WO1 (GE) H Michelsen
 2nd Row – Mr AJ Jones (Standard Bearer), Mr D Norris, Mr SR Seymour, Mr WM Young, Mr DG Allen, Mr C Nuttall, Maj (Retd) P Corker (Treasurer), Mr DG Stotan,
 WO1(SSM) PG Butler, Mr AR Combes, Mr DA Riley, WO1(SSM) BJ Alvin MSM, Mr JM Hutchinson
 Front Row – Maj (Retd) DJ Cussell, Mr RH Deal MBE (Reunion Secretary), Lt Gen Sir FR Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL, Lt Col (Retd) JF Falzon OSJ BEM (Chairman),
 Colonel Richard Collinge OBE (Guest of Honour), Lt Gen RE Nugee CBE (Honorary President), Mr AM Tibble MVO MSM (Secretary), WO2 TSM) P Sui (Guest),
 Maj IF Constantine RHA, Maj (Retd) D Crawford BEM

