

The Crossed Quills

The Magazine of the Artillery Clerks' Association



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Edition 23
December 2019

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**86th Artillery Clerks' Association
Reunion and Dinner Saturday
13th June 2020**

The 86th Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion and Dinner will take place at the Royal Artillery Central Sergeant's Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 13th June 2020.

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'.

Foreword by Association President - Lt Gen Richard Nugee CVO CB



It is difficult to know where to start with so much going on at the moment at national, local, Army and Defence levels but as I sit typing this, the areas of central London that have had Extinction Rebellion colourful tent 'villages' on cross roads, major

streets and Trafalgar Square until recently, are being cleared by the Police, to allow a little more normality to the working and living environment. No more will my meetings be against a backdrop of drums and loud hailer proclaiming for the climate, or on my cycle home will I have to thread my way through tents and banners across the whole road. It may be easier, but a little less colourful!

Much has been going on in my space (personnel) as well this year. Flexible Service has been introduced, so that Service Personnel can 'dial down' their commitment and yet stay in the Regular forces, either by working a shorter week or by opting not to deploy for a period of time. The Future Accommodation Model has been introduced in Faslane, HM Navel Base Clyde, where it has been seen as very popular as it offers much more choice to individuals as to how to live their lives. Instead of just being offered a Quarter or SLA, there is choice available to live in subsidised accommodation where you want to live. And we have also started to allow couples who are not married but who can prove a long term relationship to live together in surplus Quarters. Hundreds of couples have already taken up the opportunity since the policy went live in April.

We are in the process of helping set up the Office for Veterans Affairs in the Cabinet Office who will take forward the numerous good ideas that came out of the Veterans Strategy and Consultation, that took place at the beginning of the year. Part of the OVA's remit, apart from ensuring closer and stronger coordination across Government, is to act as a focal point for Veteran Forums (we are setting a Veterans Council) we can hear directly from veterans of their concerns. We will also be using the Veterans Gateway more, to ensure that all veterans know where to go for information and if they have a concern. Hopefully we will be creating an app to put on every veteran's phone. And shortly we will be announcing how veterans can apply for a veterans card

- those leaving the Services already get one but we need to open it up to those who have already left.

And at Defence level, Joint Force Command will shortly be renamed Strategic Command and will become responsible for Space and Cyber, both growing areas for the future as we understand how to harness the digital age across Defence. This is an area where we need to be right at the front of technology and development - an exciting prospect for some (I am not sure I can claim to understand it all!)

At a national level, now that the General Elections is over, you will be as aware as I about what might happen on Brexit and the trade talks to come - interesting times as they say, and certainly a great deal of unknown futures in store! In the Army we ought to be more resilient than most I think, as we are so used to the uncertainty of battle, and of the requirement to plan knowing that 'the enemy has a vote' and so the outcome will not look like the plan at all. And we are not bad at contingency planning as a result. Perhaps we could teach others a thing or two, not least to 'stay calm'!

But there is one certainty; the next Dinner will be on 13 Jun 20 at Larkhill, and after failing to attend last year (for which may apologies) I have every intention of attending, and have already changed my plans to be there. I hope to see you there!

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Lt Gen Richard Nugee

All members of The Artillery Clerks' Association would like to warmly congratulate our Honorary President, Lt Gen Richard Nugee for featuring in the 2020 New Year's Honours List.

The award of the CB (Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath) is richly deserved, which will bring a great deal of pleasure to General Richards family, his work colleagues and his many friends in the Association and the Royal Regiment.

We all count ourselves extremely fortunate to have General Nugee as our Honorary President

Report by Association Chairman - Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM



Well, we knew that 2019 would be a busy year, but never imagined that it would be quite as busy as it has proved to be. Our decision in 2018 to right size and relocate closer to Salisbury town centre was justified as we can now benefit from this vibrant city has to offer. Our extended travel and celebrations package round our Golden Wedding Anniversary all

went as planned leaving us with many fond memories. In September I was appointed as the National Vice Chairman of The Royal British Legion for the next three years – a huge responsibility which I am determined to carry out well and diligently.

2019 was also a memorable year for many anniversaries, commemorations and national events recalling 75 years on from the operations that liberated Italy, France, and ultimately Europe, from a sinister and oppressive regime. As always all of these commemorative events were very moving and seemed to carry more emotion than we have known in the past.

Our own Association also came of age in 2019 as we reached our 21st anniversary since our formation in March 1998. I recall that at our AGM in June I pointed out that at least 10 of those present for the 2019 Reunion weekend also attended the inaugural dinner in Woolwich, which was attended by 67 Artillery Clerks.

I mentioned, with regret, that 8 or 9 of those who had attended the dinner in 1998, have since passed away (Mel Charlton, Jim Cussell, Bill Johnson, Pat Verdon, George McGilvery, I P Waterhouse come to mind).

Looking forward to 2020, the Government has decided that the Early May Bank Holiday will move from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Acknowledging 75 years since VE Day with a commemorative bank holiday is absolutely fitting. It is our duty to keep the events of the past alive in collective memory. It is importing that the nation takes a moment to reflect on the significance of this date, as a milestone that changed the course of history for the whole world.

A couple of years ago I called Crossed Quills a 'live, vibrant and quality' magazine. Thanks to Andy Tibble, this issue continues to live up to that high level of excellence and will serve as a permanent and enduring record of every facet of our Association. Thank you to all those who have contributed articles and photographs.

All that remains is to wish you all well in whatever you are doing and to look forward to catching up with you all at our 2020 Reunion weekend in Larkhill.

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 stroke.

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



Once again this has been another busy year which has passed so quickly 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 continued dedication and commitment in representing the Association.

We had a most excellent Reunion Dinner which was held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Central Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 8th June 2019 under the auspices of Mr Roy Deal. The Association was proud to welcome the new Regimental Secretary, Colonel Matthew Carter as our Guest of Honour and the Battery Sergeant Major 34 (Seringapatam) Battery, WO2 (BSM) Nick Rodgers 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. Further details regarding the 85th Artillery Clerks' Association and Reunion Dinner that took place at Larkhill on Saturday 8th June 2019 can be read later in this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'.

All Area Secretary's are once again kindly requested to engage with all members of the Association who currently live within their areas of responsibility. The aim of this exercise is to re-engage with our members 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.

The 86th Artillery Clerks' Reunion will take place over the weekend of the 12th, 13th and 14th June 2020 at Larkhill. The calling letter for this reunion weekend is enclosed with your edition of 'The Crossed Quills' and can also be found on our website. 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 Roy, so that we can contact you directly to possibly provide any assistance where possible, such as car sharing or even arranging for a group of members to travel by mini bus to the event. I can appreciate that this might be slightly more difficult for those travelling from Germany to the UK. If you wish to attend, however, have transport issues, then you should speak to Ron Holmes or myself as soon as possible as we may be able to come up with a possible solution to ensure that you are able to attend. Our Germany Reunion Secretary, Ron Holmes organised a very successful Reunion Dinner in Bielefeld, Germany on Saturday 30th November 2019. Further details can be read later on in the Crossed Quills.

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, and Marty Hester. Many thanks again for your contribution. 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 Monday 31st August 2020. 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. Edition 24 of

the Crossed Quills is due to be published by the end of December 2020.

Our current membership stands at 200. There are currently 159 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.

As you know, Leo Lyall our Webmaster has continued to dedicate a lot of time and hard work to make sure that the Artillery Clerks' Association website is highly presented and very informative. I continue to receive a lot of feedback about our look website and would like to thank Leo for all of his hard work. Unfortunately, as you are all aware a lot of our members tend to visit Facebook in particular our 'Crossed Quills' page to leave messages etc. This is clearly a good way for our members to communicate and keep each other up to date on events. I would, however, like to urge you all to visit the Artillery Clerks' Association website at regular intervals please to see what messages have been placed on the message board and also to see details of forthcoming events both as an Association but also within the RAA. Please remember this is our website so we need to support it as well. Your support would be gratefully appreciated.

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 Healthy and a Prosperous New Year.

See you at Larkhill, if not sooner. Ubique.

Andy



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.



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



The Association ties are available from Roy Deal for £20 each. Please wear your tie with pride on the Friday evening and at social gatherings, we are an elite Association and proud to be so. For those who have managed to hang onto the older versions and new members who have

joined us why not buy the new high-quality version for the 2020 Reunion. If anyone has any ideas about items they would like the Committee to procure and sell to celebrate our next significant 25th anniversary in 2023, please send in your ideas for consideration and discussion to Andy or Joe.

D-Day 75th Anniversary Commemorative stamps issued by Royal Mail



Association Committee 2019 - 2020

Honorary President	Lt Gen Richard Nugee CVO CB
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	Des Riley – former WO1(SSM)
East	Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell
South	Paddy Butler – former WO1(SSM)
West	Roy Deal MBE – former WO1(SSM)
London Area	Andrew Jones – former Sgt(AC)
Scotland	WO2 (SQMS) Tam Millsip
Wales	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)
Northern Ireland	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)
Germany	Mr Ron Holmes MSM former WO1(SSM)
Rest of the World	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)

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 Des Riley at desriley@shy.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 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

Another year finds me writing the annual report and to all members I convey my sincerest best wishes to you and your families. Due to last minute family issues I missed another reunion weekend but I promise with luck on my side I will be there in 2020. I have settled well in to my new home but the

garden is proving a tough nut to crack but due to that stubborn 'Geordieness' I will see the job done. I am due to have my annual medical tests shortly but I feel well and hopefully there will be no problems for me.

Roy has quickly picked up on the reunion front and the members I have spoken to enjoyed a great weekend in Larkhill. The survey recently conducted confirmed members wanted the current arrangements to continue and that Larkhill will be the venue for many years to come. The cost to GPF for the 2019 function was less than £200; thus proving a well thought out programme and good value for money. Once again I thank Andy for giving my report to the AGM and it is another beer I owe him.

Under clear direction from a hard working committee, I continue to ensure that the fund has long-term sustainability to meet the ever changing needs of

Statement of Account – 2nd September 2019

ASSETS

Current Bank Account	£ 2,282.02
Deposit Account	£ 2,009.66
Shop Stock	£ 300.00

Total Assets (A) £ 4,591.68

AVAILABLE CASH (A – B) £ 4,591.68

LIABILITIES

Function	£0:00
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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 £1,555.00 and to ensure all members change their annual subscription to £15. All invoices for the 2019 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 the fund is on a strong financial footing and is ready to meet any future challenges that may come along.

the association. The team continues to produce an excellent service to all our members and I must thank Joe, Andy and Roy for their support in making my life as Treasurer that little bit easier. Thank you also goes to Leo for his work on the 'website' which includes a must read by all members. My main effort is to ensure that HMRC pays the outstanding 'Gift Aid' income to us as soon as possible. I will give an update at the 2020 AGM.

Just some parish notes. Please check your bank statements before January 2020 and where necessary, change your annual subscription to £15. Pay subscriptions by 'direct mandate and if not already done so complete the 'Gift Aid' declaration which can be found on the website. 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 on behalf of all members I will continue to work hard to ensure it remains so.

Main Action Areas

Outstanding Subscriptions - £1,555 (this is for all members)

Mandate- 35 Members not paying by Direct Mandate

Gift Aid - 32 Members failed to completed Declaration Form

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



As the Royal Artillery Clerks Association Standard Bearer, I attended the Royal Artillery Association D-Day service and Act of Remembrance at Wooburn Green near High Wycombe War Memorial on Sunday 9 June 2019 at 1200hrs.

A memorial service was held in the village to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Normandy landings

More than 100 people paid their respects to those who fell in the 1944 Allied invasion of Northern France to free the area from Nazi control.

Veterans, families and young children met at the memorial ground on Sunday 9 June 2019 at 1200hrs laying wreaths, singing hymns and reflecting on the historic day in World War Two.

Village vicar Mr Martin Wallington was there to make a speech, as were the parish council, as information was read out on the details of the day and of those from the village who gave their lives for their country.

The Last POst and national anthem were played, while a two minute silence was also observed.

The service was put on by the High Wycombe branch of the Royal Artillery Association and member Mr George O'Leary was pleased with the outcome.

He said: 'It went very well indeed. I dare say there was probably about 10 people there in all'.

'There were youngsters, mothers and fathers, grandparents bringing their children and grandchildren - it was very good'.

'It was a team effort all the way round.'



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



I am pleased to report that at present there are no outstanding welfare cases ongoing within the association. As always, if you know of an association member who would benefit support from the association, please make contact with myself or any of the association committee. Any support given will be dealt

with sensitively and in confidence.

Some of you will probably know that I work for Greater Manchester Police and for the past year I have been involved in an initiative that GMP has been supporting called **Project Nova** which supports ex-armed forces personnel who have been arrested or are at risk of arrest.

It has been recognised that our armed forces personnel come from a very regimented environment and a minority find it hard to transition back into civilian life. These veterans are more at risk of a downward spiral and can lead to drinking, anti-social behavior, other criminal conduct and become involved in domestic abuse.

Project Nova is operated by staff with a blend of experience from the armed forces, Criminal Justice System and charities. The staff are skilled at engaging with veterans and understand their experience of military service, and their transition back to civilian life.

Project Nova undertakes a needs assessment for each individual and puts in place specialist support from a network of military charities and other organisations. They then keep in touch ensuring that the veteran has that support and an on-going point of contact to help prevent any further offending and intervening early if they do.

As a police force GMP come into contact with members of the community who would benefit from this charity and GMP signed the **Armed Forces Covenant** in 2015 which is a pledge by an organisation, whether public or private, to treat our armed forces personnel, past and present, their families and the cadet forces, fairly. It is run by the Ministry of Defence and supported by the Home Office.

As part of this there is also the **Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS)** which encourages

employers to support Veterans and inspire others to do the same. The scheme encompasses bronze, silver and gold awards for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to veterans and the armed forces community.

GMP currently holds the silver award but is aiming to be a gold award holder by 2020, an accolade held by only one other force nationally.

GMP recognise the skills of veterans and are actively recruiting ex Armed Forces personnel to be Police Officers, Support Officers Call Handlers and Radio Operators and numerous other Police Staff roles. It's easy to refer some, simply email info.nst@projectnova.org.uk or call 0800 917 7299. This could be for someone under arrest or someone you see struggling in the community.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND (ABF) The Soldiers Charity

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. Dependents 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.

The Royal British Legion

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



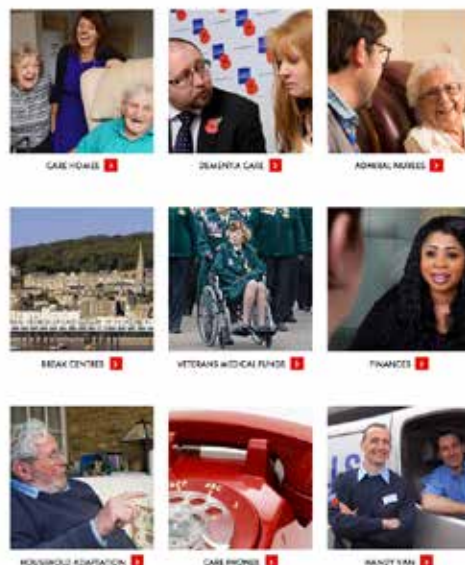
TO THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN AND THE FUTURE OF THE LIVING
The Royal British Legion provides lifelong support for the Armed Forces community – serving men and women, veterans, and their families.

GET SUPPORT



VETERANS AND FAMILIES

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



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



The Association Website

The Artillery Clerks' Association website can be found at <https://www.artyclerkassn.org>. The website provides members a snapshot of the Association Committee, Area Secretaries, the current membership list, and the

Charter. It has a host of information pertinent to our membership such as details and information regarding the Reunion Weekend, past and present Cross Quills editions, the state of our finances, Silent Quills and much more. Notices are put up on the Home page regularly and there is an area of the website covering interests, health and wellbeing, as well as the gallery. Members are encouraged to visit the website regularly for up-to-date information and new notices. Please send any contributions to artyclerks.webmaster@gmail.com.



The Association Newsletter

During Christmas last year I put together the inaugural Association Newsletter which has been followed by three others. The newsletter is designed to reach out to members direct with news and information that they may find useful regarding the Association in between Reunions. Generally, feedback has been positive about this incentive and only a few have unsubscribed so far. Anyone wishing to subscribe to the newsletter can sign up by clicking the green button which is located on every page in the website.



The newsletter is provided by Mailchimp which, other than the advertising, is free to the Association. Each campaign is recorded to provide statistics. Over the four newsletter outings the following findings have been found:



- The newsletter is going out to around 129 members which have provided valid email addresses;
- 78% of the newsletters were opened;
- The reunion area of the website provides the most interest for members.

If any members would like to contribute to the newsletter, or the website, please send details to

artyclerks.webmaster@gmail.com. I am looking for items such as local breakfast clubs that members go to, local or national events that members would be interested in attending, or advertising that members may be interested in. The more information packed into the newsletter and/or website the better.

Interests & Ideas

There is an area of the website providing information which could be of interest to members, namely **Interests & Ideas**. There are links to other external websites that contain offers or information that may be of benefit to members such as the **Forces Discount Card**, the **Union Jack Club**, or battlefield tours with **Ledger Holidays**. Part of this area concerns Technology which provides advice on cyber security. Even the most security savvy people get caught out so taking on the tips provided on the site links here could save untold future grief.



Web Archive

If there are any members that are looking for information from the Association website old or present, there is a facility called the Web Archive where you can go back to old versions of the website. This can be found at <https://web.archive.org/web/20110624095851/http://artyclerkassn.org/>



AC Website 24 Jun 2011



AC Website 2 Oct 2016

YOUR WEBSITE NEEDS YOU!

<https://www.artyclerkassn.org>

The screenshot displays the website for the Royal Artillery Clerks' Association. It features a navigation menu on the left with the following items: HOME, ASSOCIATION, MEMBERSHIP, CHARTER, AREA SECRETARIES, FORECAST OF EVENTS, INTERESTS & IDEAS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, CROSSED QUILLS, and MESSAGE BOARD. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'Artillery Clerks' with a banner and a row of 'The Crossed Quills' magazine covers; 'Treasurer' with a banner showing banknotes and coins; and 'Standard Bearer' with a banner of flags and a sub-menu for 'Standard Home', 'Standard Duties 2016', 'Standard Duties 2020', 'Standard Duties 2017', and 'Standard Duties 2018'. Below the 'Standard Bearer' section, the text reads: 'The Royal Artillery Clerks' Association Standard Bearer - Mr Andrew Jones (former Sgt(AC))'. A small photo of Mr. Andrew Jones in military uniform is visible in the bottom right corner.

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



Work on the Artillery Clerks family tree continues but as I have now exhausted the knowledge of active Association Members any new sources of information would be very welcome. Can I request that members that communicate with ex Artillery Clerks, who are not members of the Association, on Facebook

and other social media applications, ask them to send me their service histories. My email address is ArtyClkProject@gmail.com.

At a recent work meeting a your RE Major (like Policement they all look young now!) made the extremely dubious statement that they felt that our successors, the AGC(SPS), see less active service then other Army personnel. As I considered this surprising statement, I thought about all of the thousands of Artillery Clerks that served in the two world wars and saw more than their fair share of action. As the Major was quickly but politely, re-educated my thoughts turn to the fact (Yes, it was not the most exciting of meetings but I am sure we have all attended the like) that we will never understand what the vast majority of our predecessors experienced as most of them are long dead. If any ready comes across the journals or diaries of ex ACs I would be grateful for the opportunity to ready through them. I also feel that we should try and ensure that these memories are safely stored for future generations.

I have recently been trying to write down the war time memories of my 99 year old father, who joined the TA Royal Signals in 1937 and was demobbed in 1947. His service was far ranging but by no means unique, mobilised and went to France with the BEF in 1939, evacuated from Dunkirk, sent to Egypt, Al Alamein, invasion of Sicily, invasion of southern Italy, north through Italy including Monte Cassino and crossing the Gothic Line, ended the war near Bologna. If you get the opportunity, talk to old veterans, their experiences of war as very young men is enlightening and humbling in equal measure.

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



Just a quick update up on what I have been up to as Association Secretary for the South of England area. 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 this 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 permit 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 am now 18 months into "Transition" after leaving the Army in April 2018. Working at The Forces Pension Society as their Deputy Head of Membership, affords me to keep ties with the Services and you will be pleased to know that we are Royal Regiment heavy at Vauxhall. Our chairman is Lt Gen Sir Gerry Berragan and I managed to bump in to him at our AGM in Southwark Cathedral earlier in the year. He wishes to pass on his regards to any members that worked with him during his career. The Chief Executive is Maj Gen Neil Marshall, former CO and current Honorary Colonel of 1 RHA. He has also served with 7 RHA, 19 Regt RA & 39 Regt RA. Every month we look forward to receiving **Gunner** magazine which keeps us informed on the current state of nation of the Royal Regiment. He also looks forward to reading **Cross Quills** which I presented him with last year. He still resides within the Salisbury area and loves listening to **The Guns** firing on the Plain every now and then and is also available for dinner nights if invited. Maj Gen Bill Moore, former CO of 7 RHA and previously of 4th Regt during the Falklands campaign is a member of

our Council. He also wishes to pass on his good wishes to members of the Association that know him.

What an amazing year 2019 was with Colin Thackery winning **Britain's Got Talent** and putting the spotlight well and truly on the Royal Regiment and The Chelsea Pensioners. I'm sure Marty Hester exhausted all of his app votes to ensure victory. If any members are in the Vauxhall area of London, please look me up for a coffee and a chat especially if you are on route to The Oval for any cricket as it's just around the corner.

I still reside in Sandhurst, just around the corner from Andy Tibble and Clive Nutall in Yateley. 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 2019 Reunion and would like to thank all those concerned in organising and executing a very successful weekend. I personally had a great time and thank Andy Tibble for the lift to Larkhill, just hours after landing back into Heathrow from the D-Day Landings memorial service. His air miles must be enough now to travel anywhere worldwide.

It now just leaves me to wish All Members of the Association to have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2020 and I look forward to seeing you either at a local Function or the Annual Reunion in 2020. My Best Regards to You All, Ubique.

North Area Secretary Report by Brian Morgan (former WO2)



Dear Fellow Artillery Clerk,
Just a few lines to catch up with association members in the North of England, my apologise for not having been in touch with members for some time but hope this finds you are all keeping well.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond my control I was unable to attend the 85th Annual Reunion and Association Dinner at Larkhill; I was away on a family holiday in Spain and only arrived back in the UK on Sat 8th June but trust that everyone who attended had a splendid time. I hope you have all been keeping up with the association and events via the web page and the Facebook page and you have received the latest edition of Crossed Quills.

It is a pleasure to be a member of the association and I have been most grateful in receiving correspondence from brother artillery clerks who are members but for various reasons are unable to attend the annual Reunion and Dinner in the Mess at Larkhill. I have become something of a Biannual attendee at the reunion with my participation in Dragon Boat events, holidays/wedding etc. but do hope to be in attendance at the 20th Anniversary event in June 2020.

We live in a frantic world and busy times and it is sometimes difficult to make time for everything and so I must take the opportunity to thank Joe Falzon, Andy Tibble, and Roy Deal for all their efforts on behalf of the association and it would be remiss not to mention the sterling effort Leon Lyell and all the work he has done on the Crossed Quills page on Facebook and the Artillery Clerk's web page, sterling efforts, well done and thank you.

Part of my role as the regional representative for the North of England is to act as a conduit for the Association Committee and if any Association Member is in need of any kind of assistance or is aware of any of our members in the North who require help, support or assistance then please do not hesitate to contact me. On the note of help and welfare, this has at times been quite a challenging 12 months for me; I had been under a fair degree of work related stress the added pressure over the reduction in salary and the uncertainty of redundancy was obviously having a negative effect on my health and wellness.

I had been feeling rather low for some time but had been reluctant to visit my GP, then just before Christmas I realised that I needed some help and accepted the advice of the doctor in relation to medical assistance. At the same time I was signed off work with depression and I contacted the Help for Heroes Recovery Centre at Phoenix House in Catterick who were absolutely brilliant. I'm sure many will recognise that it's only when you start to feel better that you actually realise how poorly you had been.

I had received emails from Help for Heroes for some time as they had helped fund the trip to the International Dragon Boat Festival in Hong Kong in 2017, I identified that the recovery centres through the country run a variety of courses to assist and support serving and former members of HM Forces. I had a psychological evaluation and it was agreed that they could provide me with cognitive behavioural therapy and one to one counselling. I attended a 3 day Health and Wellbeing Course at Phoenix House which was absolutely brilliant, a mixture of class room work, physical activity, and therapy including yoga and cookery classes! The centre is absolutely outstanding

and being back in a military environment was quite cathartic. After just three days I felt much better, having completed 10 weeks of one to one counselling and more importantly I am feeling happier and more positive than I have been in a very long.

I am currently involved with a pilot project at Phoenix House which involves one to one session of compassionate mind therapy. So all in all this is helping me immensely, it's very true the sayings "it's good to talk" and "not all injuries are visible" because I don't think I could have got to where I am today without seeking out help and assistance.

I do my best to try and keep myself as reasonably fit and healthy as I can and still paddle and dragon boat race I am also attending regular Yoga classes at Phoenix House which has helped immensely to help me relax and cope with life's stresses.

I travelled to Cardiff on 9th March for a Rugby Club reunion with a difference, whilst serving as Chief Clerk JSPRS in Hong Kong I played rugby with the Tigers Rugby Football Club and have many fond memories from my time in the Far East. There was about 12 former players and a number of wives and partners in attendance some who hadn't seen one another for over 28 years but it was like most military get together and it was like only yesterday and in no time the beers were flowing along with the stories. As we were in Cardiff and the 6 Nations was on it wasn't long before we were all in fine voice and cheering on our respective nations in the rugby.

On the 14th July I joined some former members of 7th Parachute Regiment RHA in Newcastle along with a large number of other Veterans from all services and a wide variety of Units/Corps and cap badges including a sizeable contingent of other Gunners, who were all coming together under the umbrella Million Veterans March protesting against the prosecution of Northern Ireland Veterans. The event was very well organised and marshalled and included a large contingent of motor bikes known as Rolling Thunder, having formed up and accompanied by pipes and drums we marched a short distance to the BBC headquarters where we held a small protest outside the premises before moving across the road and a number of speeches were made. After the speeches concluded we formed up again and marched into the centre of Newcastle be preceded by the rolling thunder of the veterans on motor bikes it was quite an impressive sight and the general public showed their support throughout the march. After a small wreath laying ceremony at the cenotaph the group marched to the Early Grey Memorial, where further speeches were made. As is tradition in the

military the day continued in a local hostelry where the beer and banter flowed in equal amounts.

Whether this or any of the other similar demonstrations that have been taken place throughout the UK are having any impact or made the general public aware of the protest is difficult to say, suffice to say there was no coverage in the press or media and given that a large demonstration had taken place outside the BBC North East offices it didn't even get a single mention on the local tv news which does raise the question is there some kind of media blackout taking place over these prosecutions and are the NI Veterans being treated unfairly?

In the meantime I hope that you are all keeping well and if there's anything I can do for any of you please do not hesitate to let me know, I look forward to catching up with some of you in the not too distant future. Take care, fond regards

Brian

Ubique



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 2019

Sparky Allen	Joe Falzon	John McDermott	Mark Spring
Dave Allen	Jim Findlay	George McLachlan	Trevor Spurr
Alf Alvin	Graham Flint	Martin Meek	Will Stirman
Richard Ancliffe	Alan Foot	Tony Meek	David Stotan
Al Artley	Peter Gauci	Eddie Mills	Dave Straw
Alan Ashcroft	Martin Geddes	Tam Millsip	Andy Sykes
Robbie Astick	Ian Grant	James McNamard	Ritchie Syme
Brian Bailey	Mick Grenham	Jim Mutch	Alex Taylor
Pip Bailey	John Haddock	Hauke Michelson	Mark Testi
Derek Baldry	Colin Haine	Brian Morgan	Mark Thorington
Brian Bassett	Ted Hall	Ian Morris	Charlie Thompson
Brian Bayliss	Dave Hamilton	Andy Moss	Andy Tibble
Steve Beard	Graham Hampton	Tony Mott	Gordon Timmis
Taff Bellis	Gary Harland	George Mould	Trig Tregower
Chris Berry	Adrian Harrison	Paul Mudd	Frank Trimby
Jon Bevan	Chris Harvey	Richard Nichol	Steve Truslove
Martin Birch	Steve Hawke	Dennis Norris	Mel Turpie
Dave Boulton	Phil Hayes	Richard Nugee	Dave Tyler
Peter Bradburn	Phil Headford	Tony Nuttall	Gary Tyson
Denis Brett	Martin Hedges	Andy O'Neill	Dave Vesty
Graham Brown	Marty Hester	Pete Oxley	Freddie Viggers
David Brown	Alan Hill	Steve Paton	William Wallace
Phil Buckingham	Geordie Himlin	Jim Peggie	Daz Ward
Titch Buckley	Trev Hind	Roy Penhallurick	Ron Waterfield
Budgie Burgess	Joe Hoggins	Nick Perkovic	Andy West
Martin Butler	Vic Holdaway	Paul Perry	Ronnie Whelan
Paddy Butler	Ron Holmes	Joe Phelps	Geoff Whitby
Steve Callaghan	Richard Horner	Alan Phillips	Wills Williams
Iain Campbell	Stu Hunt	Chris Piper	Jeff Williams
Merv Chadwick	Mick Hutchinson	Eddie Platts	Ian Williams
Rob Clarke	Geoff Hyatt	Jim Pottle	Mick Williams
Lawrence Collingwood	Dick Jeavons	Garry Prottey	Alan Witts
Tony Coombes	Mick Johnston	Steve Prowse	Chris Wood
Terry Cooper	Andrew Jones	Derek Ralphs	Al Wood
Ian Constantine	Ted Jones	Steve Read	Woody Woodford
Paul Corker	Derek Kelsey	Michael Regan	Robert Worley
Stan Cornwell	Trevor Kemish	John Reynolds	Den Wright
Mike Cottrell	Clive Knaggs	Howard Richardson	Bill Young
Bob Cowan	Ralph Lalabalavu	Neil Ridout	
Dennis Crawford	Andy Lamb	Des Riley	Membership stands at 200
Kev Crump	Dave Larcombe	Jim Roast	
Peter Currie	Russ Lee	Ken Russell	
Dave Cussell	Ray Lewis	Alan Sawdon	
Colin Davidson	John Lindley	Vince Scott	
Paul Davies	Harry Lomax	Steve Seymour	
Steve Davies	Alan Lowthian	Chris Shuter	
Roy Deal	Leon Lyall	Sid Siddall	
Pete Deverall	Peter Lynch	Dougie Silver	
John Dewberry	Dave Manchester	Tony Skinner	
Jim Doran	Adam Martin	Bob Smith	
Paddy Ennis	Tony Martin	Dave Smith	
Roger Essex	Tim Mathews	Brian Smith	
Sid Evans	Ken May	Snowy Snowdon	
Ted Fairbrass	Tommy McCarthy	Phil Spencer	

WANTED

for membership of the Association

WHOS ABSENT?

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
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
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
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

159 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.

Is it you?



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Central Sgts' Mess Larkhill, Saturday 8th June 2019

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 and extended a special welcome to those who travelled long distances to get to the Reunion and those who were attending after a long absence.

He encouraged everyone to get engaged at the AGM as it was a unique opportunity for proposals for the good and benefit of the Association to be discussed

Apologies for Absence

There were 18 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 9th June 2018

The Chairman said that the Minutes had been circulated in advance via Crossed Quills (Issue 22) and that it was not intended to read them at the meeting.

A proposal by Ian Constantine 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 9th June 2018

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 9th June 2018.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman started his report by once again thanking everyone present for supporting the Reunion weekend. He explained that, for several reasons, fewer members than usual were able to come to the Reunion weekend. Although there were some notable absentees this year the Chairman was confident that all the main ingredients were in place to ensure an enjoyable evening for all.

The Chairman then announced that it was a matter of regret that the Guest of Honour, Major General David Cullen, the Regimental Controller, had sent in his late apologies. Family related difficulties had conspired to get in the way. However, Colonel Matthew Carter, the new Regimental Secretary, had kindly stepped up to take the General's place.

The Chairman pointed out that the Association came into being on Saturday 7th March 1998, 21 years ago. He added that at least 10 of those present also attended the inaugural dinner in Woolwich, which was attended by 67 Artillery Clerks. He mentioned, with regret, that 8 or 9 of those who had attended the dinner in 1998, have since passed away (Mel Charlton, Jim Cussell, George McGilvery, IP Waterhouse came to mind). He added that it was perhaps the right time to look at how attendance at future Reunion weekends could be improved.

Finally, he thanked all the Committee Members for their huge contribution, usually during their spare time, throughout the year. The combined efforts of Andy Tibble, Roy Deal, Paul Corker, Dennis Norris and Leo Lyall (as our webmaster) was immeasurable. These dedicated individuals keep the Association alive and thriving. The Chairman also thanked the Regional Secretaries, Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer), Steve Read (Historical Secretary), Ron Holmes (Germany Region Secretary) and Terry Cooper who has continued relentlessly to seek out potential new members for the Association.

The Chairman concluded by thanking both 34 Battery and the Royal British Legion for their continued support and sponsorship.

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 200. Last year the total stood at 206.

- **New Members**

Former SSgt(AC) Michael Regan who joined us on the 23rd April 2019. Michael lives in Sleaford, Lincolnshire.

- **Deaths**

Former SSgt (AC) Ken Ward – 3rd August 2018 - Aged 80

Former Sgt (AC) Brian Rose – 31st December 2018

Former SSgt (AC) Brian Smith – 7th May 2019

- **Honours & Awards.**

Nothing to report.

- **Promotions.**

Nothing to report.

- **Membership – Wanted List.**

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

- **Change in personal details**

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

- **Crossed Quills**

Items for Crossed Quills Issue No 23 are to be forwarded to the Secretary by Monday 9th September 2019.

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:

Sunday 11th November 2018 – RA Ceremony of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

Sunday 2nd December 2018 – St Barbara’s Day Service, Larkhill

Sunday 14th April 2019 – Gunner Sunday (Royal Hospital Chelsea)

Sunday 9th June 2019 – 75th D-Day parade at High Wycombe

Due to attend:

Sunday 1st December 2019 – 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

dinner 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.

- **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 1st December 2019. The Service will be followed by lunch in the Officers’ 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. Lunch will be in the Officers’ Mess this year for those wishing to stay 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 should contact him direct on either roydeal@hotmail.co.uk or Roy.deal288@mod.gov.uk

Stock held: Ties: 15 ties at £20.00 each.

He went onto to inform those present that the Committee will look at and consider whether we should commission an item to celebrate our 25th Anniversary

Treasurer’s Report

In the absence of The Treasurer, Major Paul Corker, the Secretary, Mr Andy Tibble passed to those present the following comments:

LIQUIDITY STATE AS AT SATURDAY 8th JUNE 2019

ASSETS	
Cash	£ 00:00
Current Bank Balance	£ 3351:07
Deposit Bank Balance	£ 2008:66
Shop Stock	£ 300.00
TOTAL ASSETS (A)	£ 5659.73
LIABILITIES	
Function	£ 919.50
TOTAL LIABILITIES (B)	£ 919.50
AVAILABLE CASH (A-B)	£ 4740.23

He particularly emphasised that:

- **Subscriptions.** Total outstanding subscriptions is £2,360:00.
- **Mandate.** 33 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 30 members who are yet to join the gift aid scheme. Annual income will now be approximately £300:00 from 2013. HMRC have not paid the Association since 2013 and I am working with them to rectify this. Meeting scheduled for June 2019.
- **Suspensions.** In accordance with the Association's policy on suspension, I have written to all members who have not paid their subscriptions for a period of 3 years. There are currently 44 members shown as 'suspended'. There are a possible 9 for 2019.
- **Shop.** Stock held is £300.00. 15 ties at £20 each.

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

• **2018 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT (As at 31 Dec 18 submitted to the RAA)**

I have a copy of the report which was submitted to the RAA, signed by the Chairman and Secretary. I will go in to more detail if required but the end state was:

Income	£1483.08 (explain if required)
Expenditure	£1006.05 (explain if required)
GPF	£+477:03 (Excess of Income over Expenditure)

- **Insurance.** The insurance for the fund is valid until 31 Mar 20. It is with the firm Towergate Wilsons. The cost this year was £331:80. This includes personal accident cover for the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Reunion Secretary, Standard Bearer and Regional Secretaries.
- **Shop.** Shop stock consists of 15 ties @ £20:00, therefore totaling £300.00. There are no cuff links and lapel pins remaining.
- **RAA Draw Tickets.** Annually we support the RAA Draw by purchasing tickets.
- **Conclusion.** Members are requested to change

their Standing Orders to £15. Treasurer chasing outstanding subscriptions and those who have been paying £5 from 2013 and now the change to £15.

Steve Beards proposed and Marty Hester 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 all welfare cases ongoing are currently at a satisfactory state with individuals receiving the appropriate support of the Association.

I am pleased to report that at present there are no outstanding welfare cases ongoing within the association. As always, if you know of an association member who would benefit support from the association, please make contact with myself or any of the association committee. Any support given will be dealt with sensitively and in confidence.

Some of you will probably know that I work for Greater Manchester Police and for the past year, I have been involved in an initiative that GMP has been supporting called **Project Nova** which supports ex-armed forces personnel who have been arrested or are at risk of arrest.

It has been recognised that our armed forces personnel come from a very regimented environment and a minority find it hard to transition back into civilian life. These veterans are more at risk of a downward spiral and can lead to drinking, anti-social behavior, other criminal conduct and become involved in domestic abuse.

Project Nova is operated by staff with a blend of experience from the armed forces, Criminal Justice System and charities. The staff are skilled at engaging with veterans and understand their experience of military service, and their transition back to civilian life.

Project Nova undertakes a needs assessment for each individual and puts in place specialist support from a network of military charities and other organisations. They then keep in touch ensuring that the veteran has that support and an on-going point of contact to help prevent any further offending and intervening early if they do.

As a police force GMP come into contact with members of the community who would benefit from this charity and GMP signed the **Armed Forces Covenant** in 2015 which is a pledge by an organisation, whether public or

private, to treat our armed forces personnel, past and present, their families and the cadet forces, fairly. It is run by the Ministry of Defence and supported by the Home Office.

As part of this there is also the **Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS)** which encourages employers to support Veterans and inspire others to do the same. The scheme encompasses bronze, silver and gold awards for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to veterans and the armed forces community.

GMP currently holds the silver award but is aiming to be a gold award holder by 2020, an accolade held by only one other force nationally.

GMP recognise the skills of veterans and are actively recruiting ex Armed Forces personnel to be Police Officers, Support Officers Call Handlers and Radio Operators and numerous other Police Staff roles.

I will publish the details of how to contact the charity in the next edition of Crossed Quills:

It's easy to refer some, simply email info.nst@projectnova.org.uk or call 0800 917 7299. This could be for someone under arrest or someone you see struggling in the community.

Historical Secretary's Report

The Historical, Mr Stephen Read made the following comments:

I would like to echo the Chairman. My thanks go to Terry Cooper for the great work that he has done searching Facebook and the wider internet, for details of living and deceased Artillery Clerks. The span of what he has found is wide, covering individuals that served prior to WW1 right the way through to those who served with us in more recent times but who are not Association members. I found of special interest of especial interest the WW2 era Army list that details some 131 WO1 (SM(AC)s. It was a surprise to find some familiar names listed such as Norris, Tasker, Holmes, Vernon, Tyler, Higgins & Taylor. Coincidence or relations of Association members?

In addition to members and historical references Terry, and others, have also posted some interesting photos on Facebook that I have been able to download and copy into Word documents for temporary storage. If other members have photographs, that might be of interest to the Association, please let me know, as it would be good to be able to take copies of them for our historical archive.

With the wealth of information that has been unearthed over the past year it is a challenge to know how best to make it available to the wider membership. With the support of Leo Lyall I am considering how the History pages of the website can be organized and laid out to make the information readily available. I am minded to break the section down into World War 1 and before, Interwar Years, World War 2 (1946 to 1960) then by decades thereafter. Member's thoughts on this would be much appreciated.

Germany Secretary's Report.

The German Secretary, Mr Ron Holmes MSM informed those present that he was not intending to organize a reunion in Germany 2019 due to closures. He did go onto say that if anyone wanted to come over in October/November 2019 (date to be confirmed), he would arrange for a dinner to take place in a local restaurant. Individuals, however, would be responsible for arranging their own transport and accommodation. Further details will follow in due course.

Webmaster's Report

In the absence of The Webmaster, Mr Leo Lyall, Andy Tibble passed to those present the following comments:

The Association website hosting package was renewed for another year earlier this year at a cost of £71.86.

The website has not changed much since the 2018 Reunion as there has been only a small amount of information provided from the membership. Changes made to the site have been items such as notices on the Home page, membership changes (leavers/additions), and reunion updates.

As continually stressed, the website will be at a standstill without input and as there has been little or no input, there has been little or no update.

One major drive since the last report has been the formulation and publishing of the AC Newsletter. This inaugural newsletter was published in December 2018 with the second following in April this year. The next newsletter is expected to be published in August.

The idea behind the newsletter is to reach out to the membership via their email to promote the AC website as a hub of information for Association matters and keep members updated on items such as the reunion weekend. There are 128 people subscribed to the newsletter from our membership of 206 members. On the two occasions we have published approximately, 80% clicked-on and opened it. Feedback from the initiative has been welcoming to the idea.

All of those members present raised a vote of thanks to Leo Lyall for all of his hard work.

Reunion Secretary's Report

The Reunion Secretary, Roy Deal, gave a comprehensive briefing on the format of the Reunion Dinner and the evening. Roy went on to inform those present that Hauke had very kindly requested to cover the costs of the Port for this evening dinner.

Election or re-election of Committee

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

- Election or Re-election of the Committee for 2019/2020

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 Robbie Astick seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.

Any other Business

The Secretary also stated that an application for Honorary Membership of the Artillery Clerks' Association had been received from former Bdr Brian Dobson. This had been proposed by WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes MSM who provided a report to those members present why he was supporting this application. This was voted on by those members present.

WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes MSM proposed and Mr Steve Seymour seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.

Future Format of Association Reunion Dinners. The Chairman facilitated a discussion/consultation on the date/venue/format/cost of future Association Reunion Weekends to gauge members' feelings and thoughts on the preferred way ahead now that the Association has "come of age" and reached its 21st Anniversary since the inaugural dinner held in Woolwich on 7th March 1998.

This discussion was prompted to a degree by the

decline, year on year, of members attending the Reunion Weekends at Larkhill (averaging no more than 33 in recent years), and the desire to improve attendance.

The second stage of this consultation was to reach out to the wider membership not present at the AGM and to tease out more evidenced views in order to help the Committee determine the way ahead for the 2020 Reunion Weekend and beyond.

Members will be aware that over the past three years the Committee has looked into the viability of other alternative venues such as the Union Jack Club and the Victory Services Club in London and Gamecock Barracks in Bramcote, Nr Nuneaton. All three alternatives have been discounted due to the combined cost of a Banqueting Room (with bar) hire, accommodation, catering and, important for some, bar prices.

Larkhill is now the Royal Artillery Centre of Excellence where we are fortunate enough to enjoy the support of 34 Battery, the RARSM, the Regimental Secretary and the ability to retain our traditional regimental dinner format.

The Committee would like to hear your views and will be grateful if you can respond to the survey link below as soon as possible but no later than Sunday 30th June 2019.

(Secretary's Note: This was sent out to all members as part of the Association Newsletter).

It was proposed that the sum not to exceed £500.00 be transferred from GPF to defray the cost of this of the 2019 Reunion Dinner. (Secretary's Note: Please note that in June 2019 the Chairman authorised the transfer of £207.75 from the GPF to offset the 2019 Reunion Dinner costs).

Phil Headford proposed and Dave Cussell seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.

Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM will take place at Larkhill on Saturday 13th June 2020.

Andy Tibble, Secretary

Association Survey – Results and Conclusions

You will recall that the Association Committee instigated an e-survey following the discussion at the last AGM to seek out the views of our members on the future format, venue and date of our Annual Reunion weekend. The survey was sent out to 129 subscribers (63% of the membership). The survey results based on the **42 returns (33% take up)** that were submitted are as follows:

2019 Reunion: All those who attended gave a rating of **Excellent/Very Good**.

Future Reunion Weekends should take place at Larkhill

24 (57%) Strongly Agree, with 7 (17%) Somewhat Agree
8 (19%) Neither Agree or Disagree, and 3 (7%) Somewhat Disagree
Strongly Disagree – 0 (0%)

Your preference from potential dates for the 2020 Reunion:

19 (45%) opted for 21/22 March 2020, with 23 (55%) preferring 13/14 June 2020

Would you be more interested in attending if accompanied with your partner:

7 (17%) voted for this change, with 12 (29%) against. 6 (14%) voted "No"
17 (40%) Neither Agree nor Disagree.

Additional Analysis:

Those who are regular supporters of the Reunion each year:

- 25 replied with 14 (56%) opting for the next reunion to be held on 13/14 June 2020, with 11 (44%) preferring 21/22 March 2020..
- The consensus is that the Annual Reunion should remain in the same format and venue, without wives attending. Members acknowledge that the current package we enjoy at Larkhill offers optimal value (money, quality, service, support) not available anywhere else.

Those that have not attended a recent Reunion:

- 17 returns were received from members who have not regularly supported the Reunion each year. 9

(53%) opted for next Reunion to be held on 13/14 June 2020, with 8 (7%) opting for 21/22 March 2020.

- Reasons given for non-attendance range from "I don't attend as wives should be allowed to come along", to "Location is not ideal", to "Ill health prevents me from travelling".

Conclusions. Considering the discussions at the AGM and the returns that have been provided (disappointing as they are), the Association Committee unanimously agree that:

- Membership of the Association has, for several years, remained at a similar level. Whilst attendance at the Annual Reunions has fallen, in comparison to the numbers 20 years ago, there now seems to be a core of 30 - 40 regular attendees who have supported the events in recent years.
- In common with other veteran and old comrade associations, over time membership of the Association and attendance at Reunions will dwindle.
- We would not attract more members to attend Reunions by moving away from Larkhill or by including our wives/partners.
- We currently have a great package in Larkhill which is not available anywhere else in the country.
- We benefit from the support of a resident Battery and the wider Artillery community in Larkhill.
- The Annual Reunion weekend and dinner should remain in its current format at the Larkhill Mess, for as long as there are enough numbers attending to justify it and the Association can afford it.
- **And finally – the next Reunion Weekend will be held in Larkhill, in its current format, on 13/14 June 2020**

85th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner Saturday 8th June 2019 - Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Larkhill

I hope everyone enjoyed the 2019 Reunion in Larkhill, I certainly found the dinner entertaining, and we managed to break new ground with the Wiltshire Police Band, some good pictures were taken by individuals over the weekend, please share on the AC Association web page via Leo. You will be pleased to know we came within budget for the dinner night and keeping the costs at a reasonable level remains a constant challenge. The hosting from members of 34 Bty is always appreciated and we are lucky to have such a willing Battery supporting our association, long may it continue. Hope everyone found the walk around the temporary RA Museum enlightening – they looked after us very well, perhaps the silver display in the Officers' Mess for 2020! it would be great to see more people participate on the Saturday event .

The 2020 reunion on 12th and 13th June 2020 will continue in the well-established manner, and should people continue to support the event of Saturday I will hopefully be able to find something to entertain us. I would really like to see the numbers attending the dinner increase, which would really make the effort the committee and guests put into the event even more gratifying, we have provided nearly 12 months' notice for those with busy calendars, please try to join us.

Roy Deal

Friday 7th June 2019





1. WO1 (GE) Hauke Michelsen, Mr Dennis Norris, Mr Dave Stotan & Mr Steve Callaghan
2. Mr Mick Grenham, Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine, Mr Michael Regan & Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell
3. Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Mr Ron Holmes
4. Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine, Mr Terry Cooper, WO1 (GE) Hauke Michelsen, Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mr Dennis Norris & WO2 Chris Norris
5. Mr Ron Holmes, Mr Terry Cooper, Mr Michael Regan & Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell
6. Mr Paddy Butler, WO1 (GE) Hauke Michelsen, Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Mick Hutchinson & WO2 Chris Norris
7. Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell, Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine & Mr Terry Cooper
8. Mr Clive Nuttall & Mr Robbie Astick

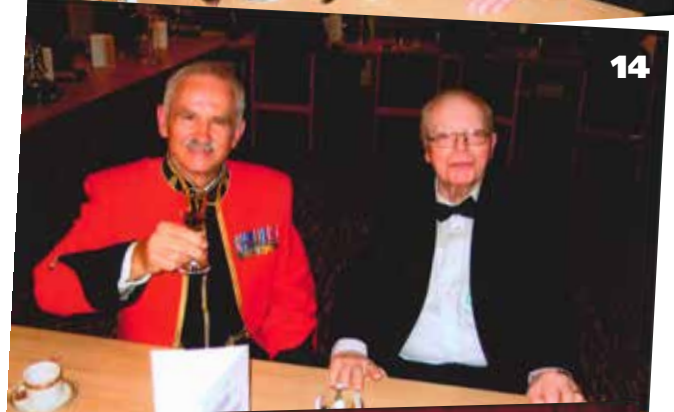


9. Mr Dennis Norris, Mr Steve Seymour, WO1 (GE) Hauke Michelsen, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Mr Steve Callaghan
 10. Mr Mick Hutchinson & Mr Dennis Norris
 11. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Steve Callaghan & Mr Mick Hutchinson
 12. WO1 (GE) Hauke Michelsen & Mr Steve Seymour
 13. Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell, Mr Terry Cooper & Mr Michael Regan

Saturday 8th June 2019



1. Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine, Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer), Mr Paddy Butler & WO2 Steve Beard
2. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon (Chairman), Col Matthew Carter (Guest of Honour) addressing the Association & Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary)
3. Maj (Retd) Ian Constantine, WO2 (BSM) Nick Rodgers (Guest) & Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary)
4. WO2 Steve Beard & Mr Paddy Butler
5. Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon (Chairman) addressing the Association.
6. WO2 Steve Beard, Mr Terry Cooper & Mr Ron Holmes
7. Mr Marty Hester, Mr Bill Young & Maj (Retd) Richard Ancliffe
8. Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary), WO2 (BSM) Nick Rodgers & Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine



9. Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell & Maj (Retd) Phil Headford
10. Mr Ron Holmes & Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine
11. Mr Ron Holmes & Mr Michael Regan
12. Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Col Matthew Carter (Guest of Honour)
13. Mr Peter Gaudi, Mr Andrew Jones, Mr Robbie Astick & Mr Mick Hutchinson
14. WO2 Steve Beard & Mr Michael Regan
15. Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Col Matthew Carter (Guest of Honour)
16. Mr Andrew Jones & Mr Mick Hutchinson



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17.Mr Dennis Norris & WO2 Chris Norris

18.Mr Stephen Read & Mr Dave Stotan

19.The Wiltshire Police Band

20.Mr Mick Grenham & Mr Geoff Hyatt

21.WO1 (GE) Hauke Michelsen, Mr Peter Gauci & Mr Andrew Jones

22.Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary), Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), WO2 (BSM) Nick Rodgers & Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine

23.Mr Ron Holmes, Mr Michael Regan, Mr Terry Cooper & Mr Robbie Astick

24.Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Mick Hutchinson, Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Mr Clive Nuttall



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25. Capt (Retd) Richard Jeavons, Mr Dave Manchester, Col Matthew Carter (Guest of Honour) & Maj (Retd) Phil Headford

26. Mr Dennis Norris, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary), Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine, Mr Steve Seymour & WO1 (GE) Hauke Michelsen

27. Mr Harry Lomax, Mr Dave Stotan & Mr Stephen Read

28. Mr Mick Hutchinson, Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon (Chairman), Mr Mick Gresham & Mr Clive Nuttall

29. Capt (Retd) Richard Jeavons, Mr Dave Manchester, Mr Geoff Hyatt & Mr Steve Seymour

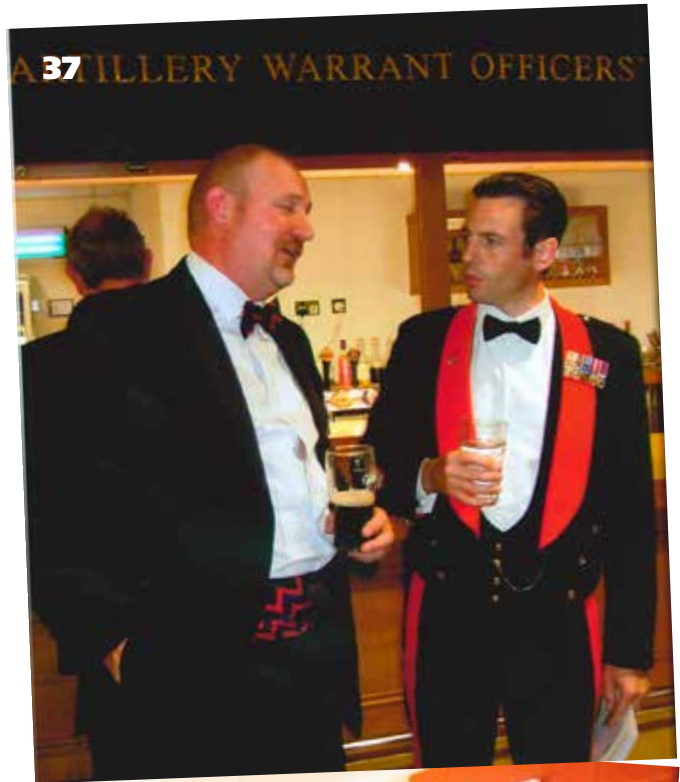
30. WO2 Chris Norris, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Mr Dennis Norris

31. Mr Geoff Hyatt, Mr Paddy Butler & WO2 Steve Beard

32. Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary), Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & WO2 (BSM) Nick Rodgers (Guest)



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33. WO2 Steve Beard & Mr Paddy Butler

34. Mr Dave Manchester, Maj (Retd) Phil Headford & Capt (Retd) Richard Jeavons

35. Mr Harry Lomax & Mr Clive Nuttall

36. Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell, Maj (Retd) Phil Headford & Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine

37. Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine & WO2 (BSM) Nick Rodgers (Guest)

38. Maj (Retd) Iain Constantine & Mr Andrew Jones

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

Our Association managed to get a few bodies together for a small informal Germany AC dinner on the 30th November 2019 in the Senne Museumshof Restaurant, Bielefeld,

We had a really nice evening with super food, wine and company. A big bonus was Chris and Julie Shuter coming across from UK to attend the dinner. Having sampled the Bielefeld Christmas Market they arrived in time to attend the long awaited dinner. In attendance we had association members: Pete Deverall, Hauke Michelsen, Chris Shuter, Tim Matthews and myself. I had two guests, Paul Durkin, ex 47 and 26 Regt RA who is also my colleague in Gütersloh (where we started our Army adventures many years ago). Also a very good friend Dave Owen, former Green Jackets WO1 SSM (Infantry Clerk) who came to Germany in 1959 as a young Green Jacket and now lives local. Some Gunners may now know him as Station WO, Celle when 94 Locating was around. Of course the evening was made more special with our partners attending, also ensuring decorum was upheld despite plenty of liquid refreshments.

You will see by the photos attached we had a great evening. We also made sure to give a bumper toast to absent friends, saluting our Captain General and the association. Also included in the photos is the long awaited AC Dinner 2018 photo in Catterick Bks.

I look forward to seeing you all in Larkhill in 2020.

Ron, Ubique



74 Independent Medium Battery (The Battle Axe Company) Royal Artillery by Mr Marty Hester (Former WO2)

The Korean War is now history but the recent move of 74 (The Battle Axe Company) to 47 Regt, the Regt where I finished my career with inspired me to look out this article written by a friend of mine and was published in the Gunner a few years ago.

I served in Korea with the Battery from April 1953 to April 1954. Luckily, there was a truce in July 1954. At this time, I was not a Clerk but a Driver/Operator used as FOP but on occasions had to work on the guns. The man who wrote all of this, George Welling is like me, nearly 85 and quite a few years ago, he wrote all of this in the Gunner and the British Legion and managed to recruit about 25 of us Battle Axe veterans and for years we attended reunions at whatever Regiment the Battery had at the time. Each Regiment would invite us to Battle Axe Day on 24th February each year, there would be a parade, and the veterans would be treated like Royalty. Sadly, this year there was no announcement in the Gunner of the Day nor did we get invites!

This Guy George whilst in Korea and crossing the frozen Imgin River fell through the ice and was rescued by helicopter and flown straight to hospital (American) in Japan where an American General visited and pinned a Purple Heart on the bed of each patient. George tried to tell the doctor (a Colonel) that he was British but the doctor told him he could not return the medal to the General. Well that is the story!

Marty Hester

74 Independent Medium Battery (The Battle Axe Company) Royal Artillery by George Welling

From comments in Morning Calm, and also Gunner Magazine, it is abundantly clear, that it is not commonly known, 74 Independent Medium Battery (The Battle Axe Company) 32 Medium Regiment Royal Artillery served in Korea.

After each publication, I always receive many irate phone calls from ex members of the Battery, with always

the same complaint, and I quote "does nobody know 74 Battery served in Korea?"

May I take this opportunity to explain to the less knowledgeable? (The Battle Axe Company) Royal Artillery landed in Korea in March 1953 with eight 5.5 Howitzers, the largest British Guns fired on the Korean Peninsula.

The Battery Commander was major A. J. Batten D.C.M RA with Troop Commanders, Captain Paddy Ryan now Brigadier Ryan with (A) Troop, and Captain Richard Trant (now General Sir Richard Trant KCB DSc) with (B) Troop.

Whilst in Korea the Battery provided general support for the whole of the Commonwealth Division also supporting The American 2nd Infantry Division, also The American 1st US Marine Division, plus The Turkish Brigade and 1st Republic of Korea Infantry Division.

Prior to the arrival of 74 Battery, the Commonwealth Division has relied upon the Corps Artillery of the US Corps, under whom it was serving.

This was a most important reinforcement, which enabled Brigadier Gregson's counter-battery staff to reach out to enemy Artillery positions, well beyond the reach of the 25 pounders of the field Artillery Regiments.

The Battery fired no less than 56,000 rounds in the period March to July 27th, a total weight of 2450 imperial tons of high explosives; I am not talking small shells, each 5.5 inch projectile weighed in at 96 pounds. In one twenty four hour period the Battery fired no less than one thousand four hundred and forty seven rounds, mainly at North Korea and Chinese gun positions and infantry who were desperate to take the Hook, the gateway to Seoul.

Under normal conditions a 5.5 Howitzer, weighing 6 tons had a 10 man gun crew, but as Korean Veterans well know conditions in Korea were hardly normal, our ten men crews had to split into two crews so that we were able to keep up the barrage day and night.

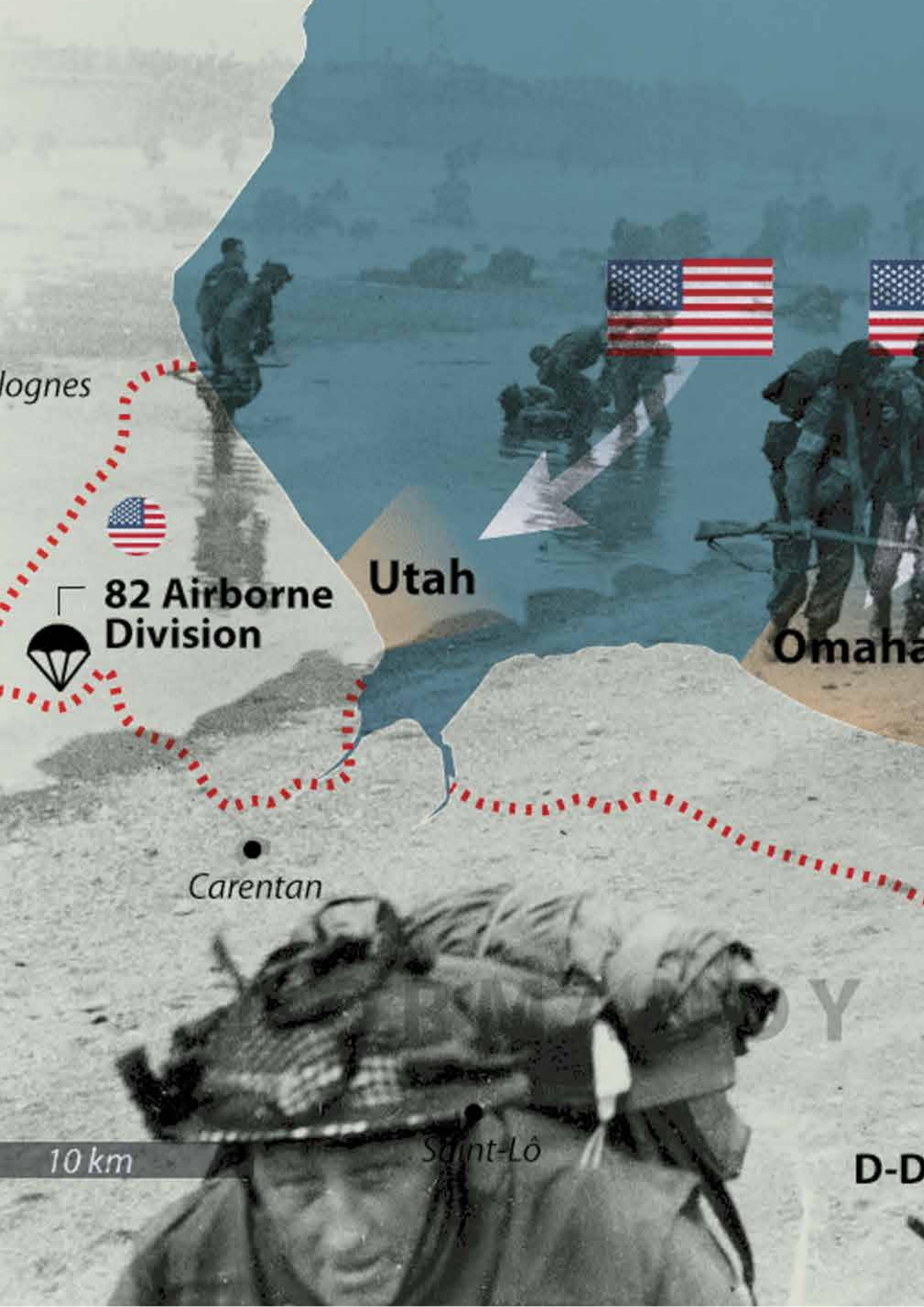
On several occasions, the breaches glowed red, and on more than one occasion, necessitating the barrel needing changing twice in 48 hours, caused by the heat of continuous firing.

Like it or not, the sleeping men had to be awoken to help in moving this 6 tons of solid steel, the spades alone weighing three hundred pounds each, and sometimes buried up to 18 inches in the ground, every man was needed, and at times five or six from other Guns.

85th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner
Royal Artillery Warrant & Officers' & Sergeant's Mess, Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill
Saturday 8th June 2019



3rd Row: WO2 (SQMS) SM Beard, Mr TC Cooper, Mr MI Grenham, Maj (Retd) DJ Cussell, Mr DG Stotan, Mr R Astick, Mr D Norris, Mr SR Seymour, WO1 (GE) H Michelsen, WO2 (TSM) C Norris
2nd Row: Mr AJ Jones (Standard Bearer), Mr SV Read, Mr PG Butler, Mr M Regan, Mr C Nuttall, Mr M Hester, Mr WM Young, Mr HE Lomax, Mr GO Hyatt, Mr SP Callaghan, Mr P Gauci, Mr DC Manchester & Mr JM Hutchinson
Front Row: Maj (Retd) Richard Ancliffe, Maj (Retd) IF Constantine, WO2(BSM) Nick Rodgers (Guest), Mr AM Tibble MVO MSM (Secretary), Colonel Matthew Carter (Guest of Honour), Lt Col (Retd) JF Falzon OSJ BEM (Chairman), Mr RH Deal MBE (Reunion Secretary), Capt (Retd) RA Jeavons, Lt Col (Retd) PA Headford BEM & Mr RJ Holmes MSM



lognes



82 Airborne
Division



Utah

Omaha

Carentan

10 km

Saint-Lô

D-D