

The Crossed Quills

The Magazine of the Artillery Clerks' Association

Edition 25
December 2021



LEST WE FORGET

RAA Forecast of Events

2021 - 2022

2021		
20 May	RAA AGM	Video conference Details to follow
26 June	Armed Forces Day	National
3 July	RA Service of Remembrance	NMA, Staffordshire
6 October	RAA NEC Meeting	Details to follow
24 October	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea
11 November	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
14 November	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park Corner
5 December	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill Garrison Church
2022		
February	RA Gold Cup	Sandown Park
16 March	RAA NEC Meeting	Details to follow
24 April	Gunner Sunday	RHC
20 – 22 May	RA Assembly	Blackpool
21 May	RAA NEC Meeting	Blackpool
2 July	RA Service of Remembrance	NMA
5 October	RAA NEC Meeting	Details to follow
10 November	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
13 November	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park Corner
4 December	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill Garrison Church



Foreword by Association President

Lt Gen Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE

Every year seems to be extraordinary at the moment! While 2020 might be one to forget (the hottest year on record and the start of the pandemic) 2021 is not one that will fade fast. The success of the vaccination programme, helped by the Armed Forces in so many ways (from vaccinations themselves to the planning of the campaign) and the unlocking and lifting of restrictions that it has allowed, have been the marvel of the world. It is such a relief to be able to meet friends and family in as normal a way as we can for many, and yet it is also noteworthy that people have remained cautious, with the wearing of masks and consideration for others very much in people's minds. As soldiers we are trained to expect the unexpected and take the unpredictability of operations in our stride. The ups and downs of travel and restrictions not being lifted may be inconvenient and annoying, but we tend to just get on with it. We learn early that the 4 tonner in front of you is unlikely to be the end of the route march, so when it turns out to be, there's smiles and laughter all round!

And in a summer that seemed to alternate between heatwaves and flooding in the most unlikely of places due to the torrential rain, who could forget the Olympics. Team GB's second most successful

medal total abroad and equalling the medals in London, 4th in the Medals table (only behind the 2 most prolific sporting nations, USA and China, and the hosts Japan), medals in more disciplines than any other nation, records broken everywhere and to cap it all a bronze medal for Gunner Karris Artingstall. Proud to be a Gunner! Perhaps the rowers missed Major Heather Stanning...

It seems a very long time since we have had a traditional AGM and dinner free of the pandemic. And like many other organisations, last year was the first year that a physical get together was missed. The pandemic has been brutal for some, but I am delighted to report that, at the time of writing and as far as I am aware, none of the members of the Artillery Clerks Association have passed away as a result. When looking for reasons to be cheerful, that must be one. And another that 31 members had the chance to meet in person on 23 October, a day never to be forgotten as the anniversary of the start of the Battle of El Alamein in 1942, 79 years ago. And perhaps, instead of all the dire news we hear every day (I saw that even a newspaper journalist recently suggested that we should not look at the news all the time as it was too depressing!) we should take the inspiration of Alamein as the guide for the next year; within a year the allies had fought all the way to Rome and it was clear the tide had turned. The Gunners played a huge part in El Alamein, and I am sure that wherever you

are you will play your part in looking forward to a happier year than the one we have just been through.

Can I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a great look forward to the New Year, when we might have a bit more of a 'normal' time, free of restrictions and able to plan for the future!



Report by Association Chairman

Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM

collectively continued to deliver a high-quality service by embracing and investing in the available technology, finding new ways of communicating, collaborating and supporting our Association members.

The internet has facilitated much of this, but it really has been down to the agility and adaptability of our Secretary (Andy Tibble) and Webmaster (Leo Lyall) who have ensured that our services and support activities have continued unabated. Notably we have become adept at bringing our Association members together on Microsoft Teams. Whilst “get together” and “catch up” meetings have been conducted on this platform practically every Sunday evening, our biggest technical challenges have been the larger gatherings of the AGM and Association Committee meetings. Will we be able to return to more normal activities next year? I certainly hope so. The large ex-services charity players, such as SSAFA and the Legion, are predicting that the impact of the pandemic is likely to remain with us and their beneficiaries for years to come.

Remarkably, however, our Association is in rather good shape right now; with progress made this year on governance issues touching on honorary membership and suspension of lapsed members. I am pleased to stay there is also a growing awareness that our 25th Anniversary in 2023 is getting closer, and that we must have a proper celebration. There is a little bit more information about this within this edition of *Crossed Quills*

Let’s hope that next year the news and our lives will not be governed by the effects of climate change – relentless heatwaves, storms, flooding, gradually eroding coastlines, wildfires, loss of habitats and threats of extinction of vulnerable species. We need to appreciate more the beauty and goodness that is all around us, be it the people we meet or the natural environment, which we routinely exploit for our own reward.

Finally, I would like to wish all our members and their families and friends a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

No one could have predicted back in March 2019 that we would have seen such a remarkable turn of events across the world, throughout the country and within our Association at home and abroad. The pandemic has dominated and turned our lives upside down.

I pay tribute straightaway to our Committee members for the way they have dealt with the unique challenge of COVID-19. I genuinely believe that any success we have enjoyed have stemmed primarily from the dedication of all our Committee members. They all adapted quickly and took the impact of this strange environment in their stride. They



Report by Association Secretary

Andy Tibble MVO MSM (former WO1(SSM))

This has continued to be an extraordinary year which has passed so quickly since the production of the last edition of ‘*The Crossed Quills*’. It has been a very unusual year for the Association due to the continued restrictions around COVID-19. It is however, reassuring to see that

we are now trying to get back to a normal routine as much as possible. These restrictions have meant that the various events that our Standard Bearer, Mr Andrew Jones would have normally attended over the past year have been cancelled. On behalf of the Committee and members I would

once again like to thank Andrew for his continued commitment in representing the Association. I would also like to pass on my thanks to the Committee for all of your support throughout this year.

We had a most excellent Reunion Dinner which was held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Central Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 23rd October 2021 under the auspices of Mr Roy Deal. The Association was proud to welcome the Regimental Colonel, Colonel Sam Shepherd MBE ADC as our Guest of Honour and Battery Sergeant Major 34 (Seringatam) Battery, WO2 (BSM) Gemma Begley and SSgt (BQMS) Charlene McAndrew as our guests. On behalf of those members who attended, I would like to say a big thank you to Roy for all the hard work that he put into this dinner, making this a most memorable evening and a most enjoyable weekend. Further details on the 86th Artillery Clerks' Association and Reunion Dinner that took place at Larkhill on Saturday 23rd October 2021 can be read later in this edition of 'The Crossed Quills.'

All Area Secretary's are asked to continue where possible 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 and also to encourage them to attend future dinners or at least to get some feedback from them as to why they are no longer participating. The Committee can then address these issues to improve attendance levels. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Area Secretary's for their continued support over the past year.

The 87th Artillery Clerks' Reunion will take place over the weekend of the 10th – 12th June 2022

at Larkhill. The calling letter for this reunion weekend is enclosed with your edition of 'The Crossed Quills'. 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 minibus 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.

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 Steve Callaghan, Richard Jeavons & John Reynolds. Many thanks 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 Friday 2nd September 2022. 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 sent back to you once they have been scanned onto the system. Issue 26 of the Crossed Quills is due to be published by the end of December 2022.

Our current membership stands at 135. There are currently 206 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 can be obtained from the Secretary.

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 over the past year. Unfortunately, as you are all aware a lot of our members tend to visit Facebook (Crossed Quills) 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 please to visit the Artillery Clerks' Association website at regular intervals please to see what messages have been placed on the message board and 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.

The St Barbara's Day Church Service will be held in the Garrison Church of St. Alban the Martyr, Larkhill on Sunday 4th December 2022. If you live within reasonable travelling distance, please can I urge you to support this event and get this date into your diary's. If you wish to attend, please inform the Secretary

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 Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

See you at Larkhill, if not sooner. Ubique.

Andy

Report by Assistant Secretary

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 2021 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.

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.



Association Committee 2021 - 2022

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

Regional Secretaries

North	Brian Morgan – former WO2(SQMS)
North West	Dennis Norris – former WO2(QMS(AC))
Midlands	Leo Lyall - former SSgt
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	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)
Wales	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)
Northern Ireland	Andy Tibble MVO MSM – former WO1(SSM)
Germany	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 Area Representatives in the Governing Regulations of the ACA 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 Northwest@artyclerkassn.org

The North – Durham, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside. Contact Brian Morgan at North@artyclerkassn.org

The Midlands – Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Leicestershire, Hereford and Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Contact Leo Lyall at Midlands@artyclerkassn.org

The East – Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Essex, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Contact Dave Cussell at East@artyclerkassn.org

The South – Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent. Contact Paddy Butler at South@artyclerkassn.org

The West – Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire. Contact Roy Deal at Reunion-sec@artyclerkassn.org

The London Area.

Contact Andrew Jones at London@artyclerkassn.org

Scotland. Contact Andy Tibble at Secretary@artyclerkassn.org

Germany. Contact Ron Holmes at Germany@artyclerkassn.org

Wales/N Ireland & Rest of the World.

Contact the Association Secretary, Andy Tibble at Secretary@artyclerkassn.org



Report by Treasurer

Major (Retd) Paul Corker

General

To begin my 2021 report I would like to say a very warm welcome to all our members and their loved ones. Where has 2021 gone? I bet there are a few people thinking exactly the same! COVID is here to stay and I hope we are managing all aspects of this pandemic as safely as possible. I wonder when I will be called for my 'booster jab', possibly along with my flu jab? I have no doubt that our visits for jabs will become an annual event. Just stay safe and positive in these uncertain times.

For those members who have been away or not involved in our Sunday gatherings what have we as an Association been up to? Leo has been instrumental in organizing our 'virtual meetings', these have included an AGM and various committee meetings. The Sunday 'get togethers' have been a great success and gives our members a platform to catch up with friends.

As part of the committee meetings we have updated our Charter. The area which I have been heavily involved in is the governance of the fund. With Andy's assistance and my knowledge of accountancy the guidelines and responsibilities are clear and succinct. I also thank the committee for their clear direction in order for me to

provide the support of Treasurer. The long term goal is to ensure that the fund has long-term sustainability and a solid platform to meet the ever changing needs of the Association. The committee continues to put in the additional hours to produce an excellent service to you our members. With private time a special commodity to us all, I thank them for their continued professionalism. The website continues to provide an excellent platform for the committee to do their business and for members to gain the information they need to actively support the Association. Leo, thank you once again for your excellent knowledge in producing this much needed application. It is also my pleasure to say that our fund has financially assisted one of our members this year. We are a family and therefore we are here for one another. Due to COVID 19 my main effort to ensure that HMRC pays the outstanding 'Gift Aid' income to the Association as soon as possible has been somewhat derailed however, this remains the top of my action list. I hope to have this completed by the end of 2021.

Just some parish notes. As I previously alluded to, the website is a fantastic platform that we all should embrace and use

to improve what we do as an Association. You will find an 'Artillery Clerks' Action List' which highlights those members who for some reason need to complete some outstanding administration. Please take time to look at this and where necessary complete your information. It would be nice to complete this as soon as possible.

To recap Please check your bank statements before January 2022 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 form which can be found on the website. I value your support; your assistance in helping me is extremely rewarding and all of our combined efforts ensure that the fund is 'fit for purpose'.

Main Action Areas

Outstanding Subscriptions- £1,565:00 (this is for all members)

Mandate - 17 Members not paying by Direct Mandate

Gift Aid - 24 Members have not submitted the Declaration Form

Summary

The fund continues to be financially sound and has the

Statement of Account - 1st September 2021

ASSETS

Current Bank Account	£5,885.32
Deposit Account	£2,013.34
Shop Stock	£300.00

Total Assets (A) £8,198.66

AVAILABLE CASH (A-B) £6,202.66

LIABILITIES

Function	£1996.00
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Total Liabilities (B) £1996.00

strength to support the needs of its members when required. My ongoing issues: to reclaim money owed by the HMRC regarding Gift Aid, to clear outstanding subscriptions totaling £1,565.00 and to ensure all members change their annual subscription to £15. There are no outstanding invoices; therefore this statement is a true reflection of the worth of the fund. The General Purpose Fund has the strength to support future events,

should you the members decide that. The fund is on a strong financial footing and continues to be ready to meet unknown challenges should it be called upon.

Wishing you all the very best.

Report by Standard Bearer

Andrew Jones (former Sgt (AC))



On Tuesday 3rd August 2021, I represented the Artillery Clerk's Association at The Governor's review of the In-Pensioners of The Royal Hospital Chelsea in London.

The parade was in the presence of General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE DL.

Prior to the parade the Governor visits the In-Pensioners and staff in the Infirmary. At 10.30 hours the band commenced playing in the elegant Figure Court which lies at the very heart of Wren's original design for the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

At 10.45 hours the In-Pensioners parade formed up in Figure Court under the command of

the Regimental Sergeant Major. Those able to march form up in four Guards companies, whilst the remainder occupy seats on the Parade Ground. The Regimental Sergeant Major then hands the parade over to the Parade Commander and the Officers fall in.

The Governor of The Royal Hospital Chelsea then enters Figure Court and the parade commences. After the inspection, the In-Pensioners marched past by guards' companies. After his address the Governor calls for three cheers for "our pious Founder" King Charles II, followed by three cheers for Her Majesty The Queen and finally three cheers for the Reviewing Officer. A long fanfare is then sounded followed by The National Anthem.

All those on parade are then invited to a free lunch on the South Terrace.

This was a most wonderful and enjoyable event to attend. I would strongly recommend this event for

members of the Artillery Clerks Association members to attend in the future.





Report by Welfare Secretary

Dennis Norris (former WO2 (QMS(AC)))

It has been another difficult year for us all as Covid-19 continues to disrupt all our lives and plans and worst of all, has taken some comrades that I have served with before their time.

As the North West Secretary in addition to my duties as Welfare Secretary, I represented the Association at the funeral of David Hamilton, a victim of Covid-19, in Leigh Greater Manchester during the Winter lockdown.

As individuals were not allowed to travel outside their local areas at the time, the standard bearer was provided by the RA Association from St Helens who also provided four volunteers to form a guard of honour and to ensure Dave and his family had the send of that all ex-servicemen deserve. Although I had not served with Dave, I was able to link in with Vince Scott and Mick Hutchinson who had both been his Chief Clerk to put together a eulogy to deliver to the family, who it was a pleasure to meet.

I like to think that the future is brighter as the vaccine roll out progresses at pace and although there are likely to be further hurdles to get over, not least as the virus mutates to get past our defences, life is starting to get back to something like what it was prior to the pandemic. A decision will take place shortly regarding the further easing of restrictions,

and there are already plans taking place to boost vaccinations for the Winter and there is no doubt, life has changed and will continue to do so.

Please remain vigilant everyone, take the vaccinations on offer and try to remain safe and I look forward to meeting up again over a pint or two at Larkhill in the future.

Veterans Welfare Service

The Veterans Welfare Service (VWS) provides a professional help and advice service to veterans or anyone supporting a veteran, their families and dependants.

VWS is run by the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) Veterans UK and provides free one-to-one support to veterans or anyone supporting a veteran, their families and dependants, with a national network of welfare managers across the UK and Republic of Ireland.

We work together with the Royal Navy, British Army, and Royal Air Force, local authorities, voluntary organisations, service charities and Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees to provide a free welfare service that promotes independence, maintains dignity and provides continuous support through life.

How we can help

We make it easier for you to access the help and services you need by providing advice and support:

- through either telephone contact or, if needed, during a home visit
- with the transition from service to civilian life
- to bereaved families
- if there are changes in

disablement

- with any life event that needs welfare assistance
- with any forms and help completing them if needed.

If you need help

There are 4 Veterans Welfare Centres, providing advice and support across the UK. If you need any help, phone or email the welfare centre nearest to where you live or the Veterans UK helpline.

Centurion (London, SE and SW England)

Tel 02392 702232

Email: Veterans-UK-VWS-South@mod.gov.uk

Kidderminster (South and Central Wales, Midlands and East England)

Tel 01562 825527

Email: Veterans-UK-VWS-Wales-Mid@mod.gov.uk

Norcross VWC (NW England, Yorkshire and Humber, North Wales and IOM)

Tel 01253 333494

Email: Veterans-UK-VWS-North@mod.gov.uk

Glasgow (Scotland, NE England, NI and ROI)

Tel 0141 2242709

Email: Veterans-UK-VWS-Scot-NI@mod.gov.uk

Veterans UK helpline

Freephone (UK only): 0808 19142 18

Telephone (overseas): +44 1253 866 043

Email: veterans-uk@mod.gov.uk

Normal Service: 8.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Report by 34 (Seringapatam) Battery, 14 Regiment Royal Artillery

Personalities

Battery Commander (BC) Maj Glyn Forster RA



The BC is the Officer in Command of the Battery. They lead on deployments, set their intent

on how they want the Battery to develop and operate, and ultimately carry the responsibility of the Battery's actions. In order to command a Close Support Battery, they must have been a Fire Support Team Commander in a previous role.

Battery Captain (BK) Capt S Jones RA



The BK serves as the second officer in command under the BC. Often guiding the BSM, having been a

Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), and advising the BC, the BK is an absolutely fundamental asset to the Battery. In the field, the BK controls all logistics, signals, and ammunition, and is responsible for the smooth technical operation of the Battery.

Battery Sergeant Major (BSM) WO2 G Begley



The BSM is the BC's right hand. They are the senior soldier in the Battery and ensure the Senior NCOs are kept

in line. Assisting in any running of the Battery, and carrying out any actions, as dictated by the BC, the BSM is the main driving force behind the Battery.

The BC's Ethos

"34 (Seringapatam) Battery is unique within the Royal Artillery, drawing from over 5 Regiments from the wider Artillery, including specialists from 16X and 3CdoX, it is the largest battery in the Royal Artillery. With 14 x L118 Light Guns, 7 x AS90 tracked guns and a fleet of over 50 vehicles, the battery is well equipped to meet the demands of the Royal School of Artillery, firing more rounds than any other sub-unit in the wider Gunners.

This tempo provides significant opportunities, ensuring the Seringapatam gun line is highly trained and that they have the freedom to trial and test new ways of operating. Each soldier is empowered to suggest, plan and test new ideas, improving how we are delivering artillery support to the wider Army.

Innovation and Experimentation are at the core of 34 Bty and drive its ethos, this requires all members of the Battery from Gunner to Officer to be responsible for questioning how things are done and, more importantly, suggesting how they may be done better. With access to significant training and support, 34 Bty is situated perfectly to test and evaluate new ways of operating and training, allowing the Battery to be a proving ground for others to assess new concepts in a safe environment.

It is the people that truly make 34 Bty the exceptional organisation it is. By adopting a working environment that prioritises inclusivity and diversity, the Battery exploits individuals' differences. This monopoly on how different people think allows us to stimulate change for the better and

improve how we operate."

- Maj G Forster RA

Live Firing and Exercising Commitments

34 Bty is the sole provider for all fires, assets and exercising troops for RSA. Courses range from training low-level technical skills to qualifying the commanders of a Fire Support Team (FST), embedded with an infantry unit, calling in fires on the ground in order to have an effect on the enemy. As a result, the Bty conducts Live Firing on SPTA for up to 18 weeks of the year.

Due to this being an Extra-Regimental Employment (ERE) posting, there is a huge danger of complacency setting in. Therefore, the BC constantly pushes for change and versatility and, subsequently, practises such as AMAs, firing by Data and trials of Camouflage and Concealment are continuously and successfully employed, so as to repel monotony and lethargy.

Additionally, the Battery have been conducting a series of 'Soldier First' exercises across the country, with the most recent being Ex URBAN TIGER in September 2021. Throughout this progression, the personnel of 34 Bty have gone from basic field tactics and administration on Bodmin Moor, to exercising and implementing both infantry and artillery practises in the urban environment, using Imber Village on Salisbury Plain. Trialling the way Guns can be transported, hidden and fired whilst operating in an urban environment alongside a surveillance drone detachment from the Royal School of Artillery has set in stone 34 Bty's presence as the "Innovation and

Experimentation Battery” of the Royal Artillery.



Webmaster Annual Report 2021

This year there have only been minor changes to the website. Due to a lack of activity in all aspects of life with cancellations to all functions there hasn't really been much to update. The website has been in a state of limbo (haven't we all!).

One of the minor changes to the layout has been the “**Notices**”. They now have their own dedicated webpage, and the link can be found in the left-hand navigation of each webpage. This now gives the “**Home**” page the splash and welcome for the Association before going into business. Members are requested to regularly check the website for up-to-date information.

There is another new webpage added to the website that is dedicated to the Association Newsletter and provides an

Report by Webmaster

Leon (Leo) Lyall (former SSgt)

archive of all past publications just in case someone wants to refer to something in one of the past publications. The newsletter has been regularly published via Mailchimp four times a year since starting in December 2018 with additional publications for notifications of important issues such as the virtual AGM, EGM and just recently the Message from the Master Gunner regarding Afghanistan.

Members should ensure they use the secure link to our website and ensure the address link starts HTTPS:// as shown here <https://www.artyclerkassn.org/> This will ensure that you have an encrypted end-to-end link from the server to your device.

Our Crossed Quills page on Facebook is another means of getting information to the membership. It is now a closed group with 141 members. Important messages, updates and information are regularly replicated from the Association website as a means of backup to ensure the whole of the membership is informed accordingly.

MS Teams is still going, and a regular Sunday get-together is held at 19:00. Meetings are only

down to a regular few these days and would always welcome more members. The annual general meeting was again held online this year due to the Larkhill Reunion being switch to later in the year. Joining the Association MS Teams site is easy:

- First members need to email the webmaster via artyclerks. webmaster@gmail.com
- Once your email address you want to use is provided, I will set up an account in the software.
- You will receive an email invitation to join.
- You need to click the link in the email and sign up to Microsoft.
- Once you have been accepted you will be able to sign into the Association TeamSite.
- **NOTE:** It is advisable to download the software to your pc/laptop to enjoy the full MS Teams experience; using your phone or an iPad is not advised.

There is plenty of information and training links on our website at <https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/ac-ms-teams.htm>



Report by Historical Secretary

Stephen Read (former WO1 (SMAC))

As the days get shorter and the nights draw in we all start to have a bit more time on our hands. I have already asked that you consider going through that box of old photos, the one that has sat in the cupboard for far too long and which you promised yourself you would sort through one day. Some of you have already started to do this and I thank those that have sent photos to me as a result. Can I now please encourage more of you to spend a bit of your time doing the same? Any photos that you come across of your Army days, if they are relevant to your

time as an Artillery Clerk, please consider sending me a copy of the archive. It would be good to keep those memories alive so that they are not lost with the inexorable passing of time.

I am not, I am afraid to say, a great Facebook user but I do occasionally follow the great work that Terry Cooper does on the Association page to track down ex Artillery Clerks and to send people birthday wishes. Many of these names I do not recognise and do not appear in the Clerks' Family tree. Whilst some of these names will not wish to join the Association can I please encourage any of you that served with them, and have knowledge of their service, to pass what you can recall onto me so that I can add their details to our records in the AC family.

A final thought, it would be good to document where Artillery Clerks were trained and by whom. I, for example, completed my Class 3 course at the Clerical Training wing at Bramcote in 1974/75. My instructor was, I think, WO2 QMS(AC) Gouchi. Later, around 1984 I went back to Bramcote to complete a Staff Assistant Royal Artillery course and my instructors were Mr Alan King and Mr Pete Murphy. In between times, around about 1979/80 whilst a Battery Clerk with J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery at Paderborn, I completed my B1 Clerks course at the RAOC training school at Verson. No idea who my instructors were. Where were you trained and by whom? Let me know.



Report by South Area Secretary

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.

To craft a foreword to such a worldly experienced membership for this edition has proved difficult. The good news is that 2020 has come and gone. 2021 gives us hope, with the vaccination rollout and the opportunity of travel for those able to "Green Listed Countries".

This pandemic has taken many close friends and comrades, many

before their time. The fact that members of the Association were invited to these remembrance services within the limited numbers is commendable. It shows that families find solace in difficult times, but remain steadfast and find comfort in sharing military stories of their loved ones with fellow comrades.

It's been great to see that the weekly MS Teams meetings have continued throughout 2021. So nice to see smiley faces on the "big screen". Having our second virtual AGM shows our resourcefulness in that the "show must go on" and is starting to appear like "business as usual". Obviously meeting socially at Larkhill would have been the preferred option once again. It is great to see that our annual together at Larkhill in October 2021 is going ahead and a tremendous time will be had had by all. For those who would have been unable to attend this event, we look forward to next June where something approaching normality will have returned and we can meet without so-called social distancing.

This will be the second edition of "Cross Quills" printed which is more unusual from that original envisaged for quite different reasons, I'm sure. Hopefully many of us will have been able to find some snap shots of our service to embellish these papers. Hopefully this should evoke memories for all concerned of a previous happier times.

I'm still working at The Forces Pension Society as their Deputy Head of Membership. Although this has been remotely for the best part of 18 months now. This affords me to keep ties with the Services and you will be pleased to know that we are Royal Regiment heavy at Vauxhall.

One of our Vice-Presidents is Lord Richards and I always remind him

of when 4th Armoured Brigade Headquarters Sergeants' Mess dined him out as Commander with a reverse Regimental Breakfast starting at 0730hrs. Boy was that a long day at the office for both of us. I will be meeting up with him at our Society's 75th anniversary celebrations in September. I will pass on the Associations warmest greetings to him.

Our chairman is Lt Gen Sir Gerry Berragan. He always requests me to pass on his very good wishes 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 present to him annually since his arrival in 2018. 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 RA during the Falklands campaign is one of our Directors. He also requested to pass on his good wishes to members of the Association that know him.

We have recruited yet another former Gunner within the last year as our new Roadshow Manager; Maj Alison Waddie. She served in a Post 1992 era where some of her clerks in the AGC were former Artillery Clerks and understands the comradeship and professionalism that these personnel brought to the regiments.

Former WO2 Colin Thomas remains with us as a Pension

Consultant. Colin served 35 years, 22 in the Royal Regiment and 13 on the LSL. He wishes to pass on his regards to all members of the Association that may know him.

I still reside in Sandhurst, just around the corner from Andy Tibble and Clive Nutall in Yateley. We meet up occasionally when our diaries permit, normally at "The Cricketers" in Yateley for a bite to eat and mull over fond times most recently in June.

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.

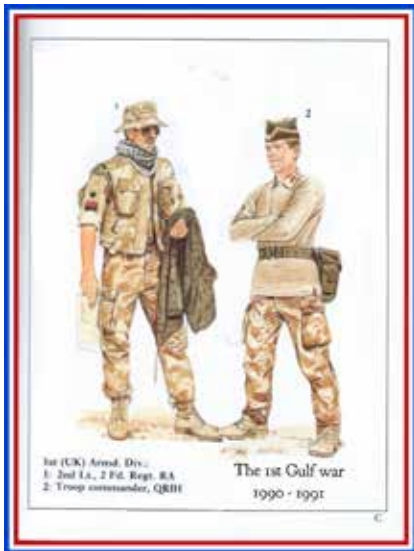
Fortunately I will be able to attend the 2022 Reunion and am looking forward to meeting you all there.

It now just leaves me to wish All Members of the Association, to have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2022. Keep safe, calm and carry on.

My Best Regards to You All,
Ubique.



Do you think Geordie Corker knows who was the model for figure No1 on the following page?



Report by Reunion Secretary Germany's

*Ron Holmes MSM
(former WO1(SSM))*



Life in Germany 2021

There is no such thing as BFG anymore and you're lucky if you manage to get a jar of Marmite out of what's left of the NAAFI in Sennelager where the last 300 troops dwell. Brexit is hitting the shelves hard! The Pandemic highlights that UK somehow got their strategy seemingly right and Germany didn't and still haven't. A large percentage refuse to be

vaccinated and there is rampant negative propaganda campaign which seems to have a lot of listeners. I am thinking about some sort of Germany reunion for next year, but it will not be easy as there is no mess accommodation or transit left that we could use in Sennelager. In the end it will be a local restaurant in Bielefeld with a reasonably priced hotel nearby. I know Tim Matthews, Hauke Michelsen and myself with partners will be there. Maybe Andy Moss might turn up as a nice surprise ;-). It would be nice to see a few more arriving from UK. My report, short and sweet and looking forward to meeting fellow ACs in October.

Ubique
Ron

ACF to AC to ACF

*by Steve Callaghan
(former
WO2(QMS(AC)))*

If there is one thing that we have had absolutely plenty of these past 16 months or so it has to be the gift of time and quietness. I have found that you can really fill your time quite productively in the quietness of time. I have the photograph in my living room of when I took the LNR ACF parade at Sennybridge as the County Adjutant, but for the first time as a Lt and in SD, the previous year at Castle Martin was as a 2Lt, dressed in Combats but County Adjutant nonetheless and formally appointed at the end of that Camp. That was the Camp when many were going down with sickness and high temperatures, which lasted several days and was quite

infectious. I recalled that Col John Ludlam (RFCA) had ribbed me about being put into the position of the County Adjutant as a 2Lt, he was sure it was illegal. I remember my response as being that the appointment was always far more important than the rank. I will always hold Col John in the highest regard. But it was these early thoughts that had me thinking about when it all started, it was back in 1964/65 I think when I joined the then 7th Essex ACF, Shoeburyness Detachment. We were initially badged as Essex Yeomanry but being with a Gunner Regiment we rebadged to RA in 1965. That certainly pleased my father as he was mighty proud of the family Callaghan long service affiliation with the Royal Regiment of Artillery as he always called us. "Just remember son", he would say, "we were the first Royal Regiment", I have never forgotten. Our local Regiment at this time was 36 Hy AD Regt RA and I believe that our Association Chairman may also have some fond recollections of the Horseshoe Barracks, although by that time I think I had already joined up as a Junior Soldier or I was in the last stages of enlistment. Although in truth, Shoeburyness never really recovered following the loss of our own Gunner Regiment and the shops slowly closed and in time the Barracks was sold off to private developers. The old rifle ranges have now been designated as "Gunnery Park", although the P&EE still has some role to play I believe.

So I have been rummaging through some old photo boxes and recalling the thoughts of what I was doing at that carefree time. It was here that I came across the only ACF photo I have of that time, we were getting ready to go to Annual Camp in Thetford, Norfolk and unlike today's ACF, we carried our own Lee Enfield's and travelled in the back of 4 ton trucks in khaki

uniforms and not combat dress as they do today. It was a very good camp and I remember the ice cream seller as his ice cream was huge and lovely; you certainly got value for money. Just prior to leaving the ACF back in 2015 I was really delighted to learn that our Detachment Commander way back then; Lt Carlton went on to be the Colonel Commandant, he was also an extremely nice ACF Officer. Well I would say that as he promoted me to Cdt LBdr not long after I had passed my ACF Parts 1 and 2 on the 6 June 66, I remember the date well because of all the 6's. In the photo, we were the front rank of three, but not altogether for the photo, I am second on the left, at the far right end in Cdt Bdr Jimmy Cheeseman, we met again years later in late 1976 both as Full screws on our Clerk Advanced course in Germany, he was on it with his wife (both RAOC), I finished as top student which was very pleasing. As I recall, Steve Hoyle, my CC seemed upset that I had been rtu'd through a broken nose, as Tony Mott had told him; following his rant, he did become much friendlier and happy when I gave him my slip (AB 54!!) showing that I had in fact passed early and as top student. Tony I recall was called in for a few words.

There were several areas to the ACF parts 1 and 2, and one I remember well was the signals phase, I really enjoyed that side and I guess it was no surprise at the time when I joined 143 Bty, 49 Fd Regt in January 1970 at Roberts Barracks, Larkhill, that I would look to become a Regimental Signaler and passed my Course while I was still badged REME as it was while I was transferring into the Gunners from the Army Apprentice College in Arborfield, Reading. It was a good course and I finished second to Gnr Dick Pierchod (127 Bty), which ultimately booked my

passage to such places as Khesan and Pinarisar in Turkey with the AMF(L) Oct-Nov 70 with 13 (Martinique Bty), as a rebroadcast signaler and yes I do have some really good memories from this exercise, especially sitting high up in the mountain areas to be most effective and of being attacked by wild dogs, who seemed to thrive on Compo rations!! Or just listening and watching the town criers waking up their villages in the valley below us. I even had the pleasure of making a cup of coffee for Gen Gobi (Italy) the then Commander AMF (L), this was while I was attached to the American side for the second phase of the exercise. They were all basically on a rest from Vietnam at the time, I met a couple of really good guys here Spec 4's Byron and Wallerhan and they also seemed to love our compo!!, strange chaps

But I digress; it was during my time in the ACF that I was able to enjoy such a wide range of activities and sports, which really stood me in good stead. I played football and rugby to a County standard, I boxed for the Detachment, didn't like that much but got through my 3 fights losing in the final to a Cadet called "Coco" Cavenny, Southend Detachment, who went on to join the Royal Engineers. I met him again in 1969 at the Junior Leaders Soldiers boxing and yep, I lost to him again, I think I retired from boxing at that moment. I also represented the County in sports at 100 yds, 220 yds and the long jump, I still have my long jump medal to this day. I remember having to travel into Colchester for the County football trials, not the simple localized selection process that they have in today's more modern ACF. These were always held on a Saturday and very competitive they were as well. I recall from the Thetford Camp, that while I was a secondary school

striker, I actually played in goal, for some strange reason, but we did well and won the final at Camp, nice.

It seems funny now to recall, that in November 70 I was a signaler in Turkey and then in August 71 I had my own Battery Office in Hohne, West Germany. Following on my time in the Gunners and ultimately as an Artillery Clerk, it was kind of strange to find that I would finish my work time back in the ACF family, yes the quiet time these past lockdown months has brought a flood of memories to the fore, perhaps I should write a book, but then again having the knowledge and recollections that I have; means that I managed to put together a whole career under the Gunner cap badge that meant so much to my Dad. I does give me a great sense of pride in the achievement, as counting it all up, gives me 50 years from being an ACF Cadet to a Regular Gunner Serviceman and then back to service with the ACF. Yes, as Rudyard Kipling said it:

"There is a word you often see, pronounce it as you may –

'You Bike,' 'you bikwe,' 'ubbikwe' – alluding to R.A....."

or to me just good old "Ubique" it has certainly served me well.

Governing Regulations of the Artillery Clerks' Association

Version 4 (As at 21st October 2020)

PART ONE - ADMINISTRATION

Introduction

1. As part of the 2020 reform of the Artillery Clerks' Association's Charter, supporting Governing Regulations have been introduced to enshrine the fundamental structures, roles, responsibilities and principles for the governance and operations of the Association.
2. They also provide the framework for the Chairman and Secretary of the Association to comply with and implement Committee decisions.
3. This document has been checked to ensure it conforms to the current Equality and Diversity legislation.

Ethical Principles

4. Association business shall be conducted with regularity and propriety.

The Honorary President

5. The Honorary President of the Association is nominated by the Association Committee and elected by the Full Members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to serve an indefinite term. The Honorary President is not a member of the Association Committee but works closely with Committee Members to ensure efficient management of the Association.

The Association Committee and Regional Representatives

6. The Association Committee is the governing body of the Association and is charged to conduct the affairs of the Association for the good and benefit of all Members, in good faith and for a proper purpose. The responsibilities of the Association Committee are set out in Clause 15 of the Charter.
7. All members of the Association Committee are volunteers, who receive no remuneration apart from minimal personal expenses, authorised as necessary by the Association Chairman, for their work on behalf of the Association.

8. Composition of Committee

- a. The composition of the Association Committee is set out in Clause 16 of the Charter.
- b. Co-opted Members of Committee. The Committee may co-opt additional temporary Committee Members or appoint project officers to perform specific tasks (for example, the duties of Germany Reunion Secretary) which cannot be undertaken by the Committee itself.

9. Regional Representatives

- a. Regional Representatives are appointed by the Association Committee for an indefinite period to cover the following geographical areas:

(1) Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

(2) Scotland.

(3) Wales.

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

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

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

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

(8) London Area

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

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

(11) Germany.

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

Meetings

10. Meetings of the Association Committee, chaired by the Association Chairman or in his absence by the Association Secretary, are to be convened by the Association Chairman or Association Secretary on an “as required” basis. There shall be a quorum when at least four of those with voting rights are present. Decisions at meetings shall be determined by a majority vote with the Chairman of the meeting having the casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

Responsibilities and Duties of the Association Committee

11. The Association Committee is responsible to the Honorary President and membership for the efficient day to day management and administration of the Association.

12. The Association Chairman

- a. To maintain contact between the Honorary President, the Association Committee and the Members.
- b. Fostering ‘esprit de corps’ by perpetuating the ties of comradeship, friendship and mutual support throughout the Association.
- c. To preserving the traditions of the Association.
- d. Vet and authorise personal expenses applications presented by members of the Association Committee.

13. The Association Secretary

- a. Maintenance of an up-to-date Register of Members to enable the Association to keep Members fully informed of all its activities and to enable Members to contact one another.
- b. Custodian of the Association’s correspondence.
- c. Compilation and circulation of the Association Magazine – Crossed Quills.
- d. Coordinating the activities of the Area Representatives.

e. Carrying out such administrative work as the Association Committee may delegate.

f. Act as the Association Data Protection Officer, responsible for ensuring that the General Data Protection Regulations policy for the Association is current and adhered to.

g. Providing a focus for the Association’s links to the Royal Artillery Association (RAA) and Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF).

14. The Assistant Secretary

a. To stand-in or assist the Association Secretary as and when required.

15. The Association Treasurer

a. The responsibilities and duties of the Association Treasurer are set out separately in Part 2 – Financial Regulations.

16. The Welfare Secretary

a. To assist present and past members of the Association, and their dependants, who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.

17. The Reunion Secretary

a. Organisation of the annual Reunion weekend.

18. The Webmaster

a. Maintaining a website as a medium for electronic dissemination of information about any aspect of the Association’s activities as well as maintaining the Association’s Facebook page ‘Crossed Quills’.

19. The Historical Secretary

a. Encouragement of and support for the collection and preservation of memorabilia and other material that may contribute to the development of the Association’s history archive.

20. The Regional Representatives

- a. The Recruitment of new Members.
- b. Maintaining an Area Membership list.
- c. Coordinating travel to Reunion and other Association activities.

Provision for Winding Up

21. In the event of the Association being wound up or dissolved, any balance remaining in its Fund after the settlement of all outstanding liabilities and debts, together with any other assets belonging to the Association, shall - at the discretion of the Association Committee - be donated to the RAA and/or the RACF, as appropriate.

PART TWO - FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Introduction

1. These Financial Regulations govern the conduct of financial management by the Association and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the Association Committee and ratified by the Full Members at an AGM or EGM.

2. The Association Treasurer is responsible for the effective supervision and management of Association finances. The purpose of these Regulations is to provide sound arrangements for internal financial management, accounting and control, and to promote compliance with the Association's legal and financial obligations, including the management of risk.

Source of funds

3. The funds of the Association may be derived from joining fees, annual subscriptions, donations, fund-raising activities, grants, interest and any other sources approved by the Association Committee.

Management of funds

4. The Association must open an account with a financial institution from which all expenditure of the Association is made and into which all the Association's revenue is deposited.

5. Subject to any restrictions imposed by the Full Members at an AGM or EGM of the Association, the Association Committee may approve expenditure on behalf of the Association.

6. The Association Committee may authorise the Treasurer to expend funds on behalf of the Association (including by electronic funds transfer) up to a specified limit without requiring approval from the Association Committee for each item on which the funds are expended.

7. The Association Treasurer has delegated authority to sign all cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments.

8. All Association income must be paid promptly into the Artillery Clerks' Association bank account and be accounted for properly. All Association expenditure must be paid from the Artillery Clerks' Association bank account and be accounted for properly with supporting statements and/or invoices.

9. With the approval of the Association Committee, the Association Treasurer may maintain a cash float provided that all money paid from or paid into the float is accurately recorded at the time of the transaction.

10. The Treasurer, at the end of every month is to balance the account journal to the bank statements received from the nominated bank and report any discrepancies to the Association Secretary.

11. The Treasurer is to annually close the accounts as at 31st December and open them on the 1st January.

12. The Treasurer is to maintain the Association's Subscription Register and regularly update the Secretary of all issues that warrant the committee's attention.

Responsibilities and Duties of the Association Treasurer

13. The Association Treasurer is accountable to the Association Committee and membership.

14. Maintenance of a bank account entitled "The Artillery Clerks' Association"

15. Ensure that monies received are paid into the Association as soon as practicable after receipt.

16. Ensure that shop stock is correctly entered into the accounts so that financial reports are a true reflection of all assets held.

17. Make any payments authorised by the Association Committee or by the Full Members at an AGM or EGM of the Association.

18. Accounting for all the finances of the Association in compliance with these Financial Regulations.

19. Prepare and present a Statement of Account to the Association Committee (as and when required) and annually for the approval by Full Members at the AGM.

20. Coordinating the Association Insurance policy.

21. Ensure that at least one other Committee member has access to the accounts and financial records of the Association.

Financial records

22. The Association Treasurer is to maintain financial records that:

- a. Correctly record and explain all transactions, financial position and performance.
- b. Ensure the prompt production of income and expenditure information, statement of balances, or record of receipts and payments and additional management information as requested by the Association Committee from time to time.
- c. Correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance.
- d. Enable financial statements to be prepared as and when required.

23. The Association Treasurer is to ensure that Association financial records are retained for 7 years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.

Financial statements.

24. The Association Treasurer is responsible for:

- a. The preparation of the financial statements.
- b. If required, the review or auditing of the financial statements.
- c. The certification of the financial statements by the Association Committee.
- d. The submission of the financial statements to the AGM of the Association.
- e. The lodgement of the financial statements and accompanying reports, certificates, statements and fees to the Royal Artillery Association (RAA).

Insurance

25. The Association Treasurer shall:

- a. Effect all insurances and negotiate all claims on the Association's behalf.
- b. Keep a record of all insurances effected by the Association.
- c. Be notified of any loss liability or damage or of any event likely to lead to a claim.

- d. Ensure that the members of the Association Committee are included in a suitable form of security or fidelity guarantee insurance.

Shop Stock

26. The Association Treasurer shall:

- a. Obtain stock sheets and prices from the Reunion Secretary.
- b. Ensure that the correct prices for stock are entered into the Account Journal.
- c. Ensure that the accounts submitted to the AGM and the RAA contain the correct worth of stock held within the Association.

Suspensions

27. The Association Treasurer shall:

- a. In accordance with Clause 10 of the Charter monitor all subscriptions paid annually. Should members fail to pay subscriptions for 3 consecutive years then the Treasurer is to inform those individuals that should their arrears remain to be unpaid then they will be suspended.
 - b. Inform the Association Secretary of all members who have been suspended.
-

Charter of the Artillery Clerks' Association

Edition Number 3 dated 12th June 2021

Adopted by the Association Members on 12th June 2021



Guide to Major Amendments within Edition 3

1. The original Charter was written on the formation of the Association in 1998.
2. Edition 2 was extensively rewritten to take account of the recommendations emanating from the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on 6th June 2020, and the desire by the membership for a full review to make the Charter fit for purpose.
3. Edition 2 was adopted by the Association Membership on 26th July 2020.
4. Edition 3 refined the criteria for Honorary Membership, introduced the requirement to include "Conflict of Interest" as part of future Agenda and set out the procedures for the Dissolution of the Association.
5. Edition 3 was adopted by the Association Membership on 12th June 2021.

Title

1. The Association shall be called The Artillery Clerks' Association, hereafter referred to as "the Association".

Aim

2. The aim of the Association is to provide a focal point for all members; to promote and celebrate a common bond through comradeship amongst its members, both serving and retired, so that they can maintain close links with each other.

Charter

3. The Charter for the Association is to be maintained by the Secretary and is to be published in the Annual Magazine and on the Website.

4. The Charter is to be reviewed every three years or whenever there is a major change in policy affecting the Association.

5. The members are to ratify the Charter and any amendments which are made to it, as approved by the Association Committee, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). Once approved the Secretary is to promulgate the changes to members through the medium of the Annual Magazine and the Website.

Affiliations

6. The Artillery Clerks' Association is affiliated to and is a Branch of the Royal Artillery Association (RAA). All members of the Association will be granted membership of the RAA on acceptance.

Membership

7. **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. Full membership may also be granted, subject to approval by the Association Committee and the ratification of the membership at an AGM or EGM, 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.

8. **Honorary Membership.** The prescribed conditions for Honorary membership of the Association are:

- a. Widow or relative of a deceased Full member of the Association.
- b. Incumbent and former Honorary Presidents of the Association.
- c. Former clerks who served in the Royal Artillery in the rank of Bombardier with distinction and worthy of consideration.

Nominations for Honorary membership shall be considered by the Association Committee and then submitted with due notice for ratification by a majority vote by those members present and entitled to vote at an AGM or EGM.

There shall be a maximum of twelve Honorary members (not including incumbent or former Honorary Presidents of the Association).

Honorary members may not vote on matters voted upon at an AGM or EGM.

Honorary Membership will initially be approved for a period of three years. Thereafter the roll would be reviewed or revised as necessary by the Association Committee and reaffirmed annually by the membership at an AGM or EGM.

9. **Authorization.** Full and Honorary membership of the Association may be sought by anyone under these rules. In the event of there being some doubt regarding application, the Association Committee will arbitrate. The Association Committee has the right to refuse any application for Full or Honorary membership, or cancel or suspend any existing membership, for example, for disciplinary reasons or failing to pay the annual membership fee.

10. **Suspensions and Cancellations.** The Association Committee is to place those members with annual membership fees in arrears of three consecutive years on the Suspensions List maintained by the Treasurer. A Membership Suspension that is not reinstated within a further three-year period will result in the Cancellation of the Membership.

Benefits of Membership

11. The Association is to provide a focal point for comradeship, largely through the organisation of:

- a. A formal Annual Reunion Dinner.
- b. Informal "Get Togethers" to be held at a frequency and location to be decided by the Association Committee, to include wives, partners, and widows.
- c. A limited welfare referral 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 or widow. The focus for this activity within the Association are the Secretary and the Welfare Secretary.
- d. An Association Magazine (The Crossed Quills) is to be produced annually in January or February and should include a resume of the previous year's events. The Magazine should be circulated to members by email or post, and on the Association Website.

Membership Fees

12. The Membership fee is determined by the AGM and is payable by all members on the first day of each calendar year.

13. There is to be a fee to join the Association which equates to the extant membership fee irrespective of the month of joining.

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

Members of the Association Committee

15. The affairs of the Association are to be conducted by the Association Committee. The Association Committee is responsible for maintaining the Charter of the Association and for the formulation and approval of all policy concerning the Association. It will also be responsible for issuing directives to the members concerning the implementation of policy and the management of the Association.

16. The Association Committee is composed of:

- a. The Chairman of the Association.
- b. The Secretary.
- c. The Assistant Secretary.
- d. The Treasurer.
- e. The Reunion Secretary.
- f. The Welfare Secretary.
- g. The Historical Secretary.
- h. Webmaster.
- i. The Regional Representatives approved by the members.

Association Meetings.

17. All the following meetings of the Association may be held by virtual means with a live link:

- a. The Association AGM, chaired by the Chairman or in his absence by the Secretary, is to be held each calendar year.

(1) All Full members are entitled to attend with the right to speak during any discussion and vote on any resolution. Honorary members may

attend as observers only.

(2) The following shall be the business of the AGM and included in the agenda:

- (a) Conflict of Interest.
- (b) Adoption of the accounts for the previous year.
- (c) Consideration of any resolutions proposing amendments to the Charter, raised in advance by the Association Committee or individual Full members.
- (d) Consideration of issues of general policy raised in advance by the Association Committee or individual Full members.
- (e) Elections of Association Committee members.
- (f) Nominations for Honorary membership recommended by the Association Committee.
- (g) Annual review of Honorary members up to a maximum of twelve.

(3) The quorum for an AGM shall be fifteen Full members, including Association Committee members, either present or available via live link. A resolution agreed by a majority of Full members attending an AGM duly convened and held shall be deemed valid and effective.

b. Any EGM convened by the Association Committee as and when necessary chaired by the Chairman and in his absence by the Secretary:

- (1) All Full members are entitled to attend with the right to speak during any discussion and vote on any resolution. Honorary members may attend as observers only.
- (2) The Agenda will be determined by the Chairman and the Secretary.
- (3) The quorum for an EGM shall be fifteen Full members, including Association Committee members, either present or available via live link. A resolution agreed by a majority of Full members attending an EGM duly convened and held shall be deemed valid and effective.

c. Association Committee Meetings (ACM), chaired by the Chairman or in his absence by

the Secretary, are to be convened by the Chairman or Secretary on an 'as required' basis.

- (1) All Association Committee members are entitled to attend with the right to speak during any discussion and vote on any resolution.
- (2) The Agenda is to be determined by the Chairman and the Secretary.
- (3) The quorum for an ACM shall be four. A resolution agreed by a majority of Association Committee members present at an ACM duly convened and held shall be deemed valid and effective.

18. **Agenda and Minutes.**

- a. Agendas are to be issued for the AGM, EGM and ACMs by the Secretary three weeks prior to the meeting.
- b. Formal Minutes are to be taken at all meetings. The Minutes of the AGM and any EGM are to be made available to members via the Association Magazine and the Association Website.

Data Protection

19. Data held on the Association database will be subject to the conditions of use laid down by the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 which supplements the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018. No information about individual members will be passed to any outside individual, organisation, or body without the individual member's permission. A list of members, less contact details, may be held on the Association website.

20. The Secretary is to be the Association Data Protection Officer and is responsible for ensuring that the GDPR policy for the Association is current and adhered to.

Dissolution

21. The Association may be dissolved by the vote of not less than five-sixths of entitled voting members present at a properly convened AGM or EGM.

22. Such an AGM or EGM, however, shall not be operative in regard to the dissolution of the Association unless 25 per cent of the entitled voting members at the time are present.

23. In the event of dissolution of the Association, all funds, property (including the Association Standard)

and archives of the Association (subject discharging thereout all outstanding liabilities) shall be made over to the RAA, in compliance with the Royal Artillery General Administrative Instructions.¹

24. The RAA Secretary² assumes the responsibility for the dissolution of the Association in the event that such an AGM or EGM cannot be convened for the purposes of determining dissolution.

¹ Part 5, Clauses 21, 44-46

² Part of the Royal Artillery Association Secretary's role is to monitor active membership etc. and to instigate early discussions with branches that look as if they are drifting towards their demise.

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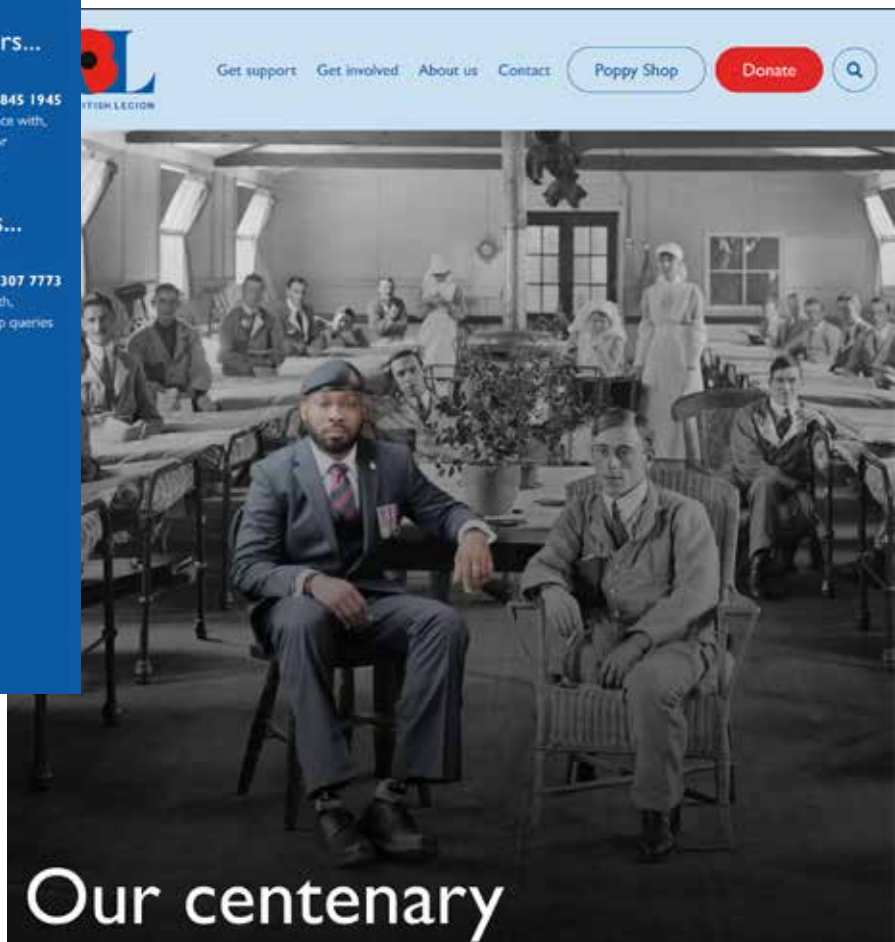
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Our centenary

Artillery Clerks' Association Membership List as at 31st December 2021

Dave Allen	Brian Dobson	John Lindley	Ken Russell
Sparky Allen	Paddy Ennis	Harry Lomax	Alan Sawdon
Alf Alvin	Sid Evans	Jason Lloyd	Vince Scott
Richard Ancliffe	Ted Fairbrass	Leon Lyall	Steve Seymour
Alan Ashcroft	Joe Falzon	Dave Manchester	Chris Shuter
Robbie Astick	Jim Findlay	Tony Martin	Sid Siddall
Derek Baldry	Peter Gauci	Tim Mathews	Dougie Silver
Brian Bayliss	Martin Geddes	George McLachlan	Bob Smith
Steve Beard	Ian Grant	Eddie Mills	Snowy Snowdon
Taff Bellis	Mick Grenham	James McNamara	Phil Spencer
Chris Berry	John Haddock	Jim Mutch	Trevor Spurr
Jon Bevan	Colin Haine	Hauke Michelson	Will Stirman
Peter Bradburn	Ted Hall	Brian Morgan	David Stotan
Denis Brett	Dave Hamilton	Ian Morris	Dave Straw
Graham Brown	Adrian Harrison	Andy Moss	Andy Sykes
Phil Buckingham	Phil Headford	George Mould	Phil Syddall
Paddy Butler	Martin Hedges	Richard Nichol	Alex Taylor
Steve Callaghan	Marty Hester	Dennis Norris	Mark Testi
Iain Campbell	Alan Hill	Richard Nugee	Andy Tibble
Merv Chadwick	Geordie Himlin	Tony Nuttall	Gordon Timmis
Rob Clarke	Trev Hind	Pete Oxley	Trig Tregower
Lawrence Collingwood	Joe Hoggins	Jim Peggie	Steve Truslove
Tony Coombes	Vic Holdaway	Roy Penhallurick	Gary Tyson
Terry Cooper	Ron Holmes	Nick Perkovic	Dave Vesty
Ian Constantine	Richard Horner	Duncan Pettit	Freddie Viggers
Sid Copeland	Mick Hutchinson	Joe Phelps	William Wallace
Paul Corker	Geoff Hyatt	Chris Piper	Daz Ward
Stan Cornwell	Dick Jeavons	Eddie Platts	Chris Wood
Bob Cowan	Mick Johnston	Jim Pottle	Al Wood
Dennis Crawford	Andrew Jones	Steve Prowse	Robert Worley
Kev Crump	Ted Jones	Derek Ralphs	Bill Young
Peter Currie	Trevor Kemish	Steve Read	
Dave Cussell	Clive Knaggs	Michael Regan	Membership stands at
Colin Davidson	Ralph Lalabalavu	John Reynolds	135
Roy Deal	Russ Lee	Howard Richardson	
Ray Dickinson	Ray Lewis	Des Riley	

WANTED

For membership of the Association

John Adams	Ron Baynes	Tom Browne	Mick Carter
Ron Allen	Brian Bailey	David Brown	Les Carton
Peter Allwright	Pip Bailey	Dave Burfitt	Chris Chamberlain
Jimmy Anderson	Martin Birch	Titch Buckley	Bill Charlsworth
Ron Anson	James Bond	Budgie Burgess	Dick Cliffe
Al Artley	Dave Boswell	Martin Butler	M Collinge
Dave Askham	Dave Boulton	Paul Buxton	Andy Collins
Bob Barber	Adrian Boxall	Tom Carmichael	Fred Cullingford
Gary Barker	Ron Bristo	Stuart Carnegie	Alan Cosgrove
Baz Barry	Dave Brookes	Jeff Carter	Mike Cottrell

Sandy Cran
Keith Creswell
Paul Davies
Steve Davies
Harold Deacon
John DeMaria
Pat DeMaria
John Dewberry
Jim Diamond
Derek Donovan
Jim Doran
P Drury
Mick Dunn
Dave Dunn
Mel Durrant
Roger Escott
Roger Essex
Karl Ezard
Steve Edgeley
Paul Evans
Paul Fairbank
TH Fairweather
PE Field
Cliff Fields
Dick Finch
Dave Fisher
Graham Flint
Alan Foot
Derek Gauci
Les Gillard
Paul Green
Mike Greening
John Haddow
CJ Hamley
Bob Hagen
Gary Harland
Brian Harrington
Terry Hart
Ted Harvey
Adrian Hawker
Chris Harvey
Steve Hawke
Phil Hayes
Bill Heaven
Andy Holder
John Hopkins
Mick Hopkins
Steve Hoyle
Eric Hubbard
Pete Hubbard
Derek Hughes
Stu Hunt
Tony Hunt
Tab Hunter
Pete Hutchinson
Brian Hyland
Alan Jeffery

Chris Jones
Steve Jones
Bob Kindness
Jack Knott
Steve Jukes
Kev Keast
Derek Kelsey
Dick Kibble
Dave Langstaff
Dave Larcombe
Steve Lee
Mark Lindsay-Smith
Derick Lund
Mick Lynch
Adam Martin
Ken May
Tommy McCarthy
C McCusker
John McDermott
Steve McKenna
Alistair McKenzie
Martin Meek
Tony Meek
Maurice Metcalfe
Eric Miller
Tam Millsip
Ken Moore
Tony Mott
Paul Mudd
Pete Murphy
John Nicholas
Bill Ogilvie
Gil O'Mallo
Andy O'Neill
John Osman
Dave Parkinson
Steve Paton
Bill Pattison
Ken Peacock
Peter Petts
Paul Perry
Alan Phillips
Clem Pooke
Nick Powell
John Pratt
Len Price
Mick Price
Garry Prottey
Richie Pryor
Fred Pulfer
Ron Reid
Robert Richardson
Neil Ridout
Jim Roast
Graham Roberts
Dave Robertson
P Robinson

Tom Rooney
Jim Rostron
Dick Scatterd
Mick Scaife
Syd Simpson
Tony Skinner
Dave Smith
Martin Smith
Mark Spring
Alex Stelfox
Colin Stephenson
Jock Stewart
Joe Stockhill
Trevor Stokes
Dave Stoneham
Paul Stratton
Roy Swann
Bernie Swift
Ritchie Syme
Bill Tasker
Derek Taylor
Tom Taylor
Graham Telford
Bob Thompson
Charlie Thompson
Harry Thompson
Mark Thorington
Frank Thorne
Dave Townley
John Turner
Mel Turpie
Dave Tyler
Harry Waldron
RVM Walker
Bob Walkinshaw
Nigel Waring
LS Warren
Kev Watkins
Andy West
Fred Westwell
Ronnie Whelan
Geoff Whitby
Wills Williams
Ian Williams
Mick Williams
Chalky White
Chris Williams
TC Williams
Tony Wilson
Brian Wolstenholme
Alan Witts
Den Wright

206 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.

(As at 20th September
2021)

Minutes of the Virtual Annual General Meeting held on MS Teams on Saturday 12th June 2021

1. Agenda Item 1 - Opening Remarks by the Chairman

- 1.1 The Chairman, Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM, opened the AGM by welcoming all members present to the second virtual AGM for the Association. He said that it is a shame that we are not enjoying this glorious weekend in each other's company at Larkhill.
- 1.2 The Chairman wished everyone an enjoyable evening together. He said that the AGM will finish with the usual Loyal Toast and a toast to absent friends.
- 1.3 The Chairman mentioned that he had informed the Private Secretary (PS) to HM the Queen that Association members were meeting virtually for their AGM and invited the PS to pass on our combined loyal greetings to our Captain General. The reply from HM the Queen was read out to those present.
- 1.4 The Chairman went on to draw the attention to those present to the meeting protocols which had been circulated in advance. He also reminded the Honorary members present that there were attending only as observers and that they could not vote on any matter that was put to the vote.
- 1.5 Finally, he encouraged all members to make the most of the opportunity and to contribute as much as possible to all debates.

2. Agenda Item 2 - Conflict of Interest

- 2.1 The Chairman invited all those attending to declare any interest held, directly or indirectly, in an existing which would conflict with any discussion during the meeting. He explained that this could either be done in conflict of interest will be recorded in the minutes.
- 2.2 He went onto say that the meeting was quorate as there were more than 15 full members present. Therefore, any proposal or resolution carried by a majority of the full members present would be deemed as valid and effective.

3. Agenda Item 3 - Apologies for Absence

- 3.1 The Secretary informed those present that he had received 12 apologies for absence from the following:

Mr Steve Beard	WO2(SQMS) Jason Lloyd
Mr Adrian Harrison	Mr Leo Lyall
Mr Marty Hester	Maj (Retd) John Reynolds
Mr Joe Hoggins	Mr Des Riley
Lt Col (Retd) Vic Holdaway	Mr Steve Seymour
Lt Col (Retd) Richard Horner	Mr Bob Smith

4. Agenda Item 4 - Approval of the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held on Saturday 26th July 2020.

- 4.1 The Chairman said that the Minutes of the EGM held on Sat 26 Jul 20 had been circulated in advance via Crossed Quills (Issue 24) and that it was not intended to read them at the meeting.

A proposal by Mick Grenham and seconded by Bill Young to confirm that the Minutes were a true and accurate record was CARRIED Unanimously.

5. Agenda Item 5 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the EGM held on Saturday 26th July 2020.

1.5 There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the EGM held on Sat 26 Jul 20..

6. Agenda Item 6 - Adoption of proposed Amendments to the Association Charter

6.1 The Chairman presented that the proposed amendments to the Association Charter which had been circulated and published in various forms in advance. He explained that, in summary, the proposed changes were:

Para 8c – Refining the qualifications of Honorary Membership (suggested by Lt Col (Retd) Richard Horner).

Para 17a – Inclusion of Conflict of Interest declaration in future Agendas to formal meetings (again suggested by Lt Col (Retd) Richard Horner)

Para 21-24 – Additional paragraphs on the process of Dissolution of the Association, first raised by Mr Steve Read, then followed up with advice from the Regimental Secretary (Col Matthew Carter), pro bono legal advice and some other Association members with experience in these matters).

A proposal by Michael Regan and seconded by Stephen Read to confirm that the adoption of all 3 amendments to the Association Charter be accepted was CARRIED Unanimously.

Secretary's Note – Edition 3 of The Association Charter, incorporating the above changes has been posted on the Association website.

7. Agenda Item 7 - Chairman's Report

7.1 The Chairman opened his Report by saying that 2020 and 2021 (so far), will go down in history as two of the most unusual years. The Covid-19 pandemics caused many people, including members of our Association, personal sadness, distress and difficulties. He added that he was sure that the consequences will continue to have a negative impact for a considerable time.

7.2 He mentioned that as an Association our normal planned events had to be either adjusted or cancelled. Last year, the Reunion weekend and dinner were cancelled and this year we have postponed them until October, when hopefully we will be able to meet without too many restrictions. He added that together with the Royal Regiment we could not commemorate and celebrate the 75th anniversaries of VE-Day and then VJ-Day as we would have liked and that there was no option but to hold the National Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day virtually.

7.3 The Chairman went on to say that despite these disappointments we should all be extremely proud of the way the Association has responded. Our first virtual AGM was well attended and a success, as was the EGM a couple of months later. The opportunities for members to catch up every Sunday on MS Teams has been ever present for those who wanted to stay in touch. A bumper edition of Crossed Quills was published and circulated ahead of time. And most importantly the Committee has continued to support those members and widows in need with the help of the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF).

7.4 The Chairman went on to say that after successfully negotiating the previous Agenda item we can now move on with our revised Charter. The next challenge for the Association Committee was going to be how to address the situation with Membership Suspensions and Cancellations. We estimate that we have over 50 members in this bracket, so we must consider very carefully what to do next, when and how.

7.5 The Chairman urged the Committee to start making some firm plans on how we are going to approach the 25th Anniversary since the Association was formed – hence the item for discussion under AOB.

7.6 Finally, The Chairman concluded by thanking all the Committee Members for all the work they do. The members owe Andy Tibble, Leo Lyall, Paul Corker, Roy Deal, Dennis Norris, Steve Read, Ron Holmes and Andrew Jones a huge amount of gratitude for their combined hard work and commitment which goes on

behind the scenes.

8. Agenda Item 8 - Secretary's Report

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

- **Membership.** The membership of The Association currently stands at 192.

- **New Members**

Former Bdr (AC) Robert Richardson who joined us on 26 Jun 20 as an Honorary Member. Robert lives in New Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

WO2 (SQMS) Jason Lloyd who joined us on 26 Jul 20. Jason lives in Wareham.

Former Sgt (AC) Mel Collinge who joined us on 7 Mar 21. Mel lives in Windsor.

- **Members Leaving**

Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Alex Taylor has decided to leave the Association with effect from the 1 Mar 21.

- **Deaths**

Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Alan Lowthian who died on 2 Aug 20, aged 75.

Former Sgt (AC) Dave Hamilton who died 7 Jan 21.

Former WO2(QMS(AC)) Martin 'Benny' Hedges who died 20 May 21, aged 72.

- **Honours & Awards.** Nothing to report.

- **Promotions.** Nothing to report.

- **Membership – Wanted List.** The Secretary explained that there are currently 159 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 25 are to be forwarded to the Secretary by **Wed 1 Sep 21**. 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.** The 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 represented the Association at the funeral of Former WO2(QMS(AC)) Alan Lothian which took place in Plumstead on 26 Aug 20. Andrew Jones was also planning to attend the following Regimental events;

Tue 13 Jul 21 – Governor's Review of In-Pensioners (Royal Hospital Chelsea)

Sun 14 Nov 21 – RA Ceremony of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner.

Sun 5 Dec 21 – St Barbara's Day Service, Larkhill

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

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

- **St Barbara's Day Service.** St Barbara's Day Service will be held at Larkhill in the Church of St Alban the Martyr on **Sun 5 Dec 21**. 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.
- **Artillery Clerks' Association Website.** The Secretary mentioned that the Artillery Clerks' Association Website was constantly being kept updated by the Webmaster and that it contained a lot of useful information and links that is for the good and benefit of our members. He urged all members to visit the website on a regular basis as well as the Crossed Quills on Facebook. The Secretary went onto thank Mr Leo Lyall, Webmaster for all the hard work that he had done to ensure that we have an excellent website.

9. Agenda Item 9 - Assistant/Reunion Secretary's Reports

- 9.1 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.

- 9.2 The Assistant Secretary went on to say that members should wear the Association tie with pride during the Reunion and at any social gatherings, to clearly show that we are an elite association and proud to be so. He urged those who have managed to hang onto the older versions and new recently joined members to invest in the new high-quality version for the next Reunion.
- 9.3 He also invited members to put forward ideas about items they would like the Committee to procure and sell to celebrate our significant 25th Anniversary coming up in 2023.
- 9.4 Reunion Secretary's Report.** The Reunion Secretary mentioned that he continues to try and keep within a budget for the dinner night. He said that keeping the costs at a reasonable level remains a constant challenge whilst maintaining the standards of a full Regimental Mess Dinner night we all come to expect. He had that he has booked a quartet from the Wiltshire Police Band on a standby basis for our next Reunion in October.
- 9.5 He went onto say that it is a shame we had to cancel the 2020 Reunion but hoped that the long absence will encourage more attendance from members at the 2021 Reunion on the weekend 22 – 24 Oct 21 (numbers permitting). He will continue to remain flexible in its format and any new suggestions that will improve attendance are more than welcome. He 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. He urged everyone to do their best to join us in October.
- 9.6 The Reunion Secretary then:

Proposed that the costs for the Reunion Dinner on Saturday 23rd October 2021 be capped at £50 for those attending and that any additional expenditure for the evening that exceeded the income generated is covered by the GPF up to a maximum of £750.

The proposal was seconded by Mick Grenham, put to the vote, and CARRIED Unanimously.

10. Agenda Item 10 - Treasurer's Report

10.1 Maj (Retd) Paul Corker, presented the following Liquidity Sate as at 12 Jun 21:

ASSETS (A)	
Cash	£ 00:00
Current Bank Balance	£ 4806.70
Deposit Bank Balance	£ 2013.29
Shop Stock	£ 300.00
TOTAL ASSETS (A)	£ 7119.99
LIABILITIES(B)	
Function	£ 353.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES (B)	£ 352.00
AVAILABLE CASH (A-B)	£ 6767.99

10.2 He particularly emphasised that:

- **Subscriptions.** Total outstanding subscriptions is £1,610. Only 14 from 2021.
- **Mandate.** 17 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 24 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 it is hopefully that arrears will be recovered soon. A meeting with HMRC to be re-scheduled for the middle of 2021.
- **Suspensions.** In accordance with the Association's policy on suspension, the Treasurer has written to all members who have not paid their subscriptions for a period of 3 years. There are currently 57 members shown as 'suspended'. There are a possible 2 more to be added in 2021.
- **Treasurer's Updates.** All members are reminded of their subscriptions within the Crossed Quills and at the AGM. They are also invited to join the mandate system and gift aid.
- **2020 Income and Expenditure Report (As at 31 Dec 19 submitted to the RAA).** The Treasurer said that the financial report, which was submitted to the RAA, shoes an end state in 2020 as:

Income	£2,324.64
Expenditure	£1006.25
GPF	+£1,138.39 (Excess of Income over Expenditure)

- **Insurance.** The insurance for the fund is valid until 31 Mar 22. 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.
- **Support to the RAA.** The Association, via the Secretary continues to support the RAA when called upon to do so.
- **Concluding Remarks.** The Treasurer urges Members to change their Standing Orders to £15. He

undertook to continue to chase outstanding subscriptions and those who have been paying £5 from 2013 and now the change to £15 from 2019.

Stephen Read proposed and Dennis Norris seconded that the `Treasurer's Report is accepted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.

- 10.3 The Chairman thanked THE Association Treasurer for his concise report and for all the work he carries out on behalf of the Association as Treasurer.

11. Welfare Secretary's Report.

- 11.1 The Welfare Secretary, Mr Dennis Norris, informed those present that 2020/21 has been another difficult time for us all as Covid-19 continues to disrupt our lives and plans and worst of all, the pandemic has taken some comrades that he had served with before their time.
- 11.2 He mentioned that as the North West Area Secretary, in addition to my duties as Welfare Secretary, he represented the Association at the funeral of David Hamilton, a victim of Covid-19, in Leigh Greater Manchester during the Winter lockdown. As individuals were not allowed to travel outside their local areas at the time, the standard bearer and four volunteers to form a guard of honour were provided by the RA Association from St Helens. This ensured Dave and his family had the send off that all ex-servicemen deserve. Although he had not served with Dave, he was able to link in with Vince Scott and Mick Hutchinson who had both been Dave's Chief Clerk to put together a eulogy to deliver to the family.
- 11.3 The Welfare Secretary went on to say that he would like to think that the future is brighter as the vaccine roll out progresses at pace and although there are likely to be further hurdles to get over, not least as the virus mutates to get past our defences, life is starting to get back to something like what it was prior to the pandemic. A decision will take place shortly regarding the further easing of restrictions, and there are already plans taking place to boost vaccinations for the Winter and there is no doubt, life has changed and will continue to do so.
- 11.4 Finally, he asked everyone to remain vigilant everyone, take the vaccinations on offer and try to remain safe. He looked forward to meeting up again over a pint or two at Larkhill in the future.

12. Historical Secretary's Report

- 12.1 The Historical Secretary, Mr Stephen Read, informed those present that over the last year work has continued to create a record of our predecessors with information being added from the London Gazette, records of the Monarch's Birthday and New Year's Honours Lists, Royal Garrison Artillery WW1 Medal records and, most poignantly of all, Japanese records of Artillery Clerks that were captured in Singapore and Hong Kong and became POWs. One young Sgt did not survive long in captivity, but another appears to have made it through to the end of the war and returned to the UK. He has also recently uploaded a folder of photos that were passed to him by Joe Hoggins. He has not had an opportunity so far to properly edit them but hopes that members will, none the less, find them interesting.
- 12.2 He mentioned that the search for new sources of information continues, and he extended his usual request for regimental details and photos. He also requested that anyone who is surfing the web and comes across any interesting historical sites containing details of ACs, to pass details on to him.
- 12.3 The Historical Secretary mentioned that it was his intent for the coming year to restart efforts, that stalled at the beginning of the year due to family bereavement, to find ways to make elements of the Google history content available through the Association website.

13. Webmaster's Report

- 13.1 The Webmaster, Mr Leo Lyall, informed those present that the role of webmaster incorporates not only the administration of the Association website but also the Facebook and Microsoft Teams sites. The website is now at a state where only minimum alteration is required during the year.

- 13.2 He went onto say that this year one major change to the layout of the website has occurred. The “Notices” are now on a separate page and the link to it is via the left-hand navigation. This now gives the “Home” page the splash and welcome for the Association that it deserves, before going into business. Members are requested to regularly check the website for up-to-date information.
- 13.3 The website is secure, and the link in the browser address bar MUST start with HTTPS:// as shown below:
- <https://www.artyclerkassn.org/index.html>***
- 13.4 He mentioned that should any member have anything they would like to add to the website then they should liaise with the Secretary or himself in the first instance.
- 13.5 He added that Facebook is now a closed group restricted to members of the Artillery Clerks’ Association only. It is monitored and administered by the Secretary and himself. Members are advised not to rely solely on this media for up-to-date Association news and notices but to always check the Association website first. Our Facebook page can be accessed via:
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/40892256023/?fref=nf>***
- 13.6 MS Teams has been up-and-running now for over a year and has held lots of informal Sunday meetings and last year’s AGM and EGM. To gain access a member must send their email address to: ***artyclerks.webmaster@gmail.com*** where an invite will be sent for enrolment. Information regarding our MS Teams site can be seen at:
- <https://www.artyclerkassn.org/webpages/ac-ms-teams.htm>***
- 13.7 The Webmaster also highlighted the Association newsletter which aims to keep members up to date with what is going in the Association. These are circulated quarterly along with any other special editions for important announcement such as the AGM or EGM.
- 13.8 Finally, the Webmaster informed those present that the Association website contains lots of information pertinent to the running of the Association with up-to-date notices, forms and various other relevant snippets that help inform decisions for all members. There is a wealth of welfare information and links to many helpful websites. In all, with our website along with Facebook, Teams, and the Newsletter we have a very informed and engaged Association.

14. Germany Secretary’s Report.

- 14.1 The Germany Secretary, Mr Ron Holmes, informed those present that he continues to keep in contact with Hauke Michelsen and Tim Matthews and they intend to have a small get together as soon as the situation improves. There are a couple of other ACs who wish to remain in the background without connection to our Association.
- 14.2 He went on to mention that now that he knows that the Chairman is planning a visit to Germany in January 2022, he hopes to maybe have a small mini re-union to coincide with this visit.
- 14.3 He added that he is hoping to plan to have a proper AC Germany dinner in Autumn/Winter 2022 in Sennelager. Ron mentioned that he now has connections with the Sennelager station, however, he will not be able to make any firm plans until much later this year once they know what their commitments are for 2022.
- 14.4 He finished his report by saying that, together with Hauke, he very much looks forward to seeing fellow members at Larkhill in October.

15. Election or re-election of Committee

15.1 The Secretary confirmed the following re-elections for 2021/2022

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

Michael Regan proposed, and Mick Grenham seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.

15.2 The Secretary confirmed the following change to the Area Secretary for the Midlands

Incoming: Mr Leon Lyall
Outgoing: Mr Des Riley

Mick Hutchinson proposed, and Clive Nuttall seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.

15.3 Honorary Membership. The Secretary informed those present that the following Honorary Members have now had their Honorary membership for a period of three years or more and in accordance with the Association's Charter this now needed to be reaffirmed annually by the membership at an AGM or EGM. The following members have confirmed that they would like to continue with their Honorary membership:

Mr Jon Bevan	Mr Terry Coombes
Mr Steve Beard	Mr Peter Gauci
Mr Terry Cooper	Mr Trevor Hind
Mr Paddy Butler	

15.4 The Secretary added that Mr Robert Worley had indicated that he wished to withdraw his Honorary membership with immediate effect.

A proposal by Ron Holmes, seconded by Bill Young, that the Honorary Members listed above have their honorary membership renewed for a further 12 months was CARRIED Unanimously. This will be reviewed again at the AGM in 2022 in line with the Associations Charter.

16. Any other Business

16.1 Association 25th Anniversary - 2023. The Chairman highlighted that the Association would be celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2023. He took the opportunity to ask if any members were interested in being part of a sub-Committee which would take on the organisation of this event. The Chairman mentioned that he had written to Richard Horner to see if he would be interested in chairing this sub-committee and awaited a reply. The Chairman then proceeded to outline what events could possibly take place during this special anniversary year. Further details will follow in due course. The Treasurer mentioned that the fund looked healthy and that we might consider commissioning a piece of silver to commemorate our 25th Anniversary.

16.2 Vote of thanks. The Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to Des Riley for his commitment as Area Secretary Midland and the work that he had done to try to bring together our members in his area during his tenure.

16.3 Suspensions. The Treasurer drew attention to his earlier report and said that there are currently over 50 members who have now not paid their annual subscription for the past 3 years or had not responded to requests to reinstate their membership over the last 6 years. He went on to say that this will be discussed at the next Committee meeting and will be taken forward to an AGM or EGM in the future.

16.4 Honorary Membership. Stephen Read asked the Committee if it would not be possible for membership to be granted to Honorary members for a longer period than the current 3 years with an annual review thereafter. The Secretary said that his preference would be not to extend this period any further due the fact that the Association has a limit on 12 Honorary Members at any one time. He added that a shorter review period would allow the Committee to assess the overall contribution of each individual Honorary Member to the aims and ethos of the Association. This will give the Committee the opportunity to freeing up vacancies for other more deserving potential Honorary Members. The Chairman assured members that this development would be reviewed and discussed further at the next Committee meeting.

17. Date of Next Meeting

17.1 The next AGM will take place at Larkhill either on Saturday 4th or 11th June 2022.

Report by Reunion Secretary

Roy Deal MBE (former WO1(SSM))

I hope everyone enjoyed the 2021 Reunion in Larkhill, it was great to get together again and have members travelling from afar, Germany, Malta, France to name a few, such commitment is what makes us an elite Association. Unfortunately, we did have members who were unable to attend for various reasons and rest assured they were not forgotten as we raised our glass in the traditional manner to toast Absent Friends.

I certainly found the dinner entertaining; the Guest of Honour Col Samantha Shepherd was entertaining and gave an excellent review of the Gunners and all they have been involved in over the last 2 years. There is still lots going on in the Gunner's future, manning continues to look good and opportunities are plentiful both at work and play. With the BSM and BQMS 34 Bty in attendance providing a glamorous evening for us all. I am sure some good pictures were taken by individuals over the weekend, please share them on the AC Association web page via Leo, and thanks to Dave Stotan, you may even see pictures of me on my knees cleaning!

Maintaining the standards of a full Regimental Mess Dinner night we have all come to love was well supported by Elaine and the Mess staff with Head chef Sam once again ensuring we were well fed. I thought the Wiltshire Police Band were very different and continue to look at these types of opportunities to keep costs down whilst providing good entertainment for the evening.

I do hope we can encourage more attendance from members at the 2022 Reunion on the weekend 11 – 12 June 2022. I will continue to remain flexible in its format and any new suggestions that will improve attendance are more than welcome. 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, so please try to join us.



Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Michael Regan, Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mr Peter Gauci & Mr Clive Nuttal



1. Mr Terry Cooper
2. Mr Robbie Astick demonstrating to Association members what to do when you spill your beer!
3. Mr Michael Regan
4. Mr Brian Morgan and Mr Ron Holmes
5. Mr Robbie Astick and Mr Mick Hutchinson
6. Mr Ron Holmes
7. Mr Robbie Astick, Mr Paddy Butler, Mr Bill Young & Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell
8. Mr Clive Nuttall & Mr Ron Holmes
9. Mr Richard Jeavons, Mr Geoff Hyatt, Mr John Lindley & Mr William Wallace
10. Left: Mr Robbie Astick & Mr Paddy Butler, Right: Mr Steve Beard & Mr Andrew Jones



11. Left: Mr Terry Cooper, Right: Mr Clive Nuttall, Mr Bill Young & Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell
12. Mr Ron Holmes, Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary), Col Sam Shepherd (Guest of Honour) & Maj (Retd) Ian Constantine
13. Mr Des Riley & Mr Brian Morgan
14. Mr Ron Holmes & Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary)
15. Col Sam Shepherd (Guest of Honour) & Maj (Retd) Ian Constantine
16. Mr Ron Holmes, Mr Roy Deal (Reunion Secretary) & Col Sam Shepherd (Guest of Honour)
17. Mr Kevin Lynn & Mr Albert Rhoades
18. Mr Richard Jeavons, Col Sam Shepherd (Guest of Honour) & Mr Geoff Hyatt
19. Lt Joe Falzon (Chairman) addressing the Association with a thumbs up from Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers (Honorary President)
20. Col Sam Shepherd (Guest of Honour) addressing the Association
21. Mr Peter Gauci, Col Sam Shepherd (Guest of Honour) & Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman)
22. Mr Clive Nuttall, Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Mr Mick Hutchinson
23. Mr Peter Gauci & Col Sam Shepherd (Guest of Honour). Inset: Mr Brian Morgan & Maj (Retd) Ian Constantine



24



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- 24. Mr Ron Holmes, Mr Chris Shuter, Mr John Lindley & Mr Kevin Lynn
- 25. Mr Chris Shuter & Mr Stephen Read
- 26. Mr John Lindley & Lt Col Russ Lee
- 27. Mr Steve Seymour
- 28. Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers (Honourary President) & Mr Brian Morgan
- 29. Mr Kevin Lynn, Mr Richard Jeavons & SSgt (BQMS) Charlene McAndrew (Guest)
- 30. Mr Bill Young, Mr Mick Grenham & Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell
- 31. Mr Geoff Hyatt & Mr Richard Jeavons
- 32. Mr Des Riley & Mr Terry Cooper
- 33. Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers (Honourary President), Mr Brian Morgan & Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman)
- 34. WO2(BSM) Gemma Begley (Guest), Col Sam Shepherd (Guest of Honour) & SSgt(BQMS) Charlene McAndrew (Guest)

Everytime I met the Duke, he impressed and engaged

by Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM

The recent “call to action stations”¹ from Andy Tibble was very opportune.

Earlier this year, you could not fail to be moved by the outpouring of public grief, recognition and praise on the death of HRH, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. “Duty” and “service” were words that appeared in so many of the personal reflections on the Duke’s life and his contribution to the Nation, Commonwealth and Her Majesty.

Some writers mused on how disappointed he must have been to see younger members of his family indulgently revealing their inner desires and conflicts on prime-time television to justify their actions and feed the prurient curiosity of the public.

I had the privilege of meeting Prince Philip many times, in London and overseas. In 2008 I was representing Malta at the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) at their triennial 4-day Conference taking place in Accra, Ghana. The Duke joined us for the Conference in his capacity as RCEL Grand President (a post he held for 41 years). On the 2nd day of the Conference, I was encouraged to propose Malta as the venue for the next Conference. The alternative proposal came from Mauritius. So, at short notice, I put together a rushed PowerPoint presentation commending the benefits of holding an international conference in Malta and went into a head-to-head battle with the delegate from Mauritius who was well prepared. Knowing the affection and connections which

the Duke had for Malta I was under extreme pressure; however, although nervous I was quietly confident that the simple majority vote needed from the other 52 delegates would go my way. And so it did – four years later, in May 2012, we all assembled in Malta for the Conference based at the Malta Hilton. Unfortunately, the Duke was not able to attend. This was a great shame as it was a most successful conference – still talked about to this day by those who attended. The Hilton, the Malta Tourism Authority, the office of the UK High Commissioner and corporate Malta all did us proud in every respect.



Service or Remembrance - RCEL Conference - Ghana 2008



Prince Philip congratulating me on securing Malta as the venue for the 2012 RCEL Conference.

Commonwealth countries contributed greatly during both world wars, providing armed forces personnel and essential materiel. Millions of men and women became casualties, and those fortunate enough to survive returned home to face new realities. Many moved on with their lives, but others continued to suffer from wounds, deteriorating health and abject poverty. The need for assistance was enormous partly because some of their countries considered the care of Commonwealth veterans the responsibility of the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, this kind of thinking left thousands destitute. But the League responded and continues to do so today. It was created in 1921 as the British Empire Services League, but in the late 1950s the charity changed its name to the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League and in 2003, by royal assent, to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League. It has 56 member organizations in 48 Commonwealth countries where today 65,000 eligible veterans are identified.

The 31st RCEL conference in Malta was officially opened with a welcome address from the then

Prime Minister, Dr. Lawrence Gonzi, who spoke proudly of his country. “You can travel for 40 to 60 minutes from one end of Malta to the other and in that time experience over 7,000 years of history... One of the smallest nation states...it is the fifth densest in population.” The Prime Minister continued, “Our small nation shares the values that inspire the work of the League—charity, compassion, assistance and care... Malta through its long history has proved its worth. We have always risen to the challenge by turning nice words into action...”

I was left with the firm impression that Dr. Lawrence Gonzi was genuinely honoured to be amongst the delegations from all parts of the Commonwealth. His final words were “You keep alive the stories of war, but more importantly, the story of peace. Freedom cannot be taken for granted...your work makes us proud...your work is as much about the present as the past... Malta is proud to host you.”

And, in a nutshell, that was the message from the Conference: the RCEL continues to help veterans in need today and will adapt and change to meet the needs of tomorrow, even after the last Second World War veteran has gone. Sadly, there will always be more veterans and, sadly, there will always be need.

¹ “Action Stations is a naval tradition, and it is an announcement that would be made on a naval warship to signify that all hands, all those serving on that warship should go into battle stations.”

Firsts in First

by Dick Jeavons (former WO1(SMAC))

It was January 1973 in West Germany and the Russians were coming. 1 RHA had ‘crashed out’ from Hobart Barracks in Detmold and deployed to its reserve areas. Nature had delivered a perfect example of Winter to the now bitter and snowy Biesterberg hills, this could turn out to be a very cold war.

Ready to meet the invaders, but armed only with determination, Gunners King and Jeavons had stood ready for their first action with the Regiment. Probably out of concerns for our health and safety and to shield us from the sub-zero temperatures, but more likely wanting to keep us out of sight and in reserve, BSM Canderton had confined both of us to a locked 432 Command Post, with strict instructions not to open it up to anyone but him.

Mindful of security and the BSMs instructions I looked out through the thick glass observation slit in the rear door. Although bright daylight outside, all I could see was a slightly distorted, dim, dark humanoid shape, featureless and seemingly wearing some sort of mask. The shape was animated, trying to communicate and although it appeared urgent the sounds were too muffled and garbled to be making any sense to either Andy or I. For all we knew the enemy could have overrun our position and was now trying to take us prisoner. We couldn’t understand the crude attempt at communication (possibly Russian?), the dark (green?) clothing didn’t look like anything either of us had seen before and since it clearly wasn’t the BSM we decided to stay put inside the 432. The BSM commands and we obey,



It was quiet and still, the only movement was time passing by, then, noise. Not so much banging, more a series of muffled, dull thuds on the heavy, rear door of the 432. Apparently someone wanted to come in.

over the hills and far away.

A few minutes later the assault on the back door resumed, this time it seemed more urgent and much louder. Through the observation slit I could see two figures, but I

also heard a familiar voice, it was the BSM, instructing either 'King or Jeavons get this door open now'. Hesitantly – who knows the Russians might have captured the BSM and forced him into revealing our whereabouts – I unlocked and opened the heavy armoured door, daylight and cold air flooded in. Outside both figures were dressed in dark green suits and wearing masks, gas masks. On the chest of each was a strip of black tape, white writing on it identified the wearer, one said Canderton, the other read RSM.

WO1(RSM) Garnett seemed to go ballistic, which I suppose was appropriate for a Warrant Officer in the Royal Artillery. He didn't appear to accept the BSMs explanation as to why Andy and I were safely inside a locked down 432, shielded from the elements. Neither Andy or I were invited to speak. The BSM said that we were both NIGs (New Intake Gunners) who had only been in Germany and the regiment 3-4 days. Neither of us had been issued with weapons, webbing or NBC kit (all the stuff they had on) as stores were closed during Christmas Block Leave. It transpired the RSM had been our first 'visitor' to the locked 432 and I suspect he was a bit miffed that neither Andy or I had recognised him or opened the door. In our defence we hadn't been introduced to the RSM, so wouldn't know him from Adam (especially as he first appeared to us in dark, unfamiliar clothing and a mask), we were only following the BSMs orders, so clearly we must be OK. Despite all those mitigating factors and a lively RSM-BSM 'discussion', it looked as though Andy and I (probably the BSM too) weren't going to be absolved and were for 'it' – a probability bordering on certainty!!

'It' arrived about 10 minutes later. The BSM sent Andy and I over to the tented field kitchen

complex, instructing us to report to the Cook Sergeant, for fatigues. Given his profession the Cook Sergeant (whose name escapes me), would not be a man to trifle with. During his career he must have delivered pain and torture to countless ravenous soldiers, mainly by inflicting third degree burns on what once were perfectly edible ingredients, thus transforming them into something else. Not so much cordon bleu, more cordoned off. He set Andy and I to work and we spent most of the day outside, up to our elbows in lukewarm greasy water, scrubbing a never-ending stack of dixies and cauldrons with wire wool, attempting to remove all traces of the day's culinary delights, a job that might have been made easier with chisels. Cooking don't get tougher than this! Later, with most of the scum de la scum having been washed away, Andy and I were given a spade, a heavy cardboard box and instructions to 'bury this lot over there by those trees'. The Cook Sergeant said we should hurry up as everyone would be returning to Detmold within the hour. As Andy and I scraped and dug through the snow, ice and rock-hard soil, I could only imagine the German farmer's reaction, when in Spring he unearthed a trove of gold coloured tins marked 'Potato Powder', 'Mock Turtle Soup', 'Cheese' (Possessed) and 'Margarine' – the contents of the latter three always appearing to be a strange green colour – not quite the crop he'd be expecting.

I was assured that although it could appear mundane and repetitive, filing and dispatch was vital and contributed to the smooth running of RHQ. As the new junior, it was my role.

One early task was to re-write the address book and produce envelope address labels, RAMRO, Fooks Cray, Sidcup, Kent DA14

5JD will forever be etched on my brain. Maintaining the Booking In Book (for incoming correspondence) was another daily chore assigned to me, along with the First Sight File.

In principle the First Sight File was a good idea, it aimed to ensure correspondence was seen (and hopefully actioned) quickly. It ought to have worked smoothly but there were often numerous pitfalls, ie; the Adjutant going to the mess for coffee break (extended well beyond 30 mins), someone hanging on to the file, removing items, or passing the file to the CO, 2IC, RSM, without telling anyone.

Adding file numbers to correspondence could be tricky, but became a bit easier when the file list was up to date. I quickly learned that Summer (or Winter) Sales was an exercise, rather than a Wives Club shopping trip and that Exercise Snow Queen involved ski-ing and might be filed on Exercises General, Exercises BAOR, Adventure Training or the Ski-ing file.

In addition to being aware of what was going on, maintenance of the Booking In Book and First Sight File gave me the early 'head's up' that 1RHA would deploy to Belfast in 1974.

My first posting - first by name, first by nature?

by Dick Jeavons (former WO1(SMAC))

This article should be read whilst appreciating that 48 years ago the electronic wizardry we rely so much on today was yet to be invented, or just not available, so please temporarily forget I Pads, PC's, mobile phones, laptops, Google, et al.

Three of us were lined up outside the Alanbrooke Troop Commander's Office. Our Troop Sergeant (Les 'The Lad') Helliwell marched us in for interview. The new(ish) Troop Commander, Lieutenant (Richard) Crawshay was a big man, but his office was tiny. Somehow Sergeant Helliwell managed to manoeuvre, in short, sharp, jerky (drill-type?) movements, Mustering Gunners Ashford, Moorhead and Jeavons into the confined space and squeezed himself in behind us.

Seeing Sergeant Helliwell's success at cramming all five bodies into a space designed for a small selection of bumpers, mops and brooms, Lieutenant Crawshay announced he was delighted to inform us that we had been 'selected' for 1st RHA (clearly this wasn't aimed at Sergeant Helliwell), which he said was a fine regiment, but was not forthcoming as to how the 'selection' had been achieved. Since I was a few months older than the others, I was told I would join the regiment first, immediately after Christmas Leave and that 'Nellie' Ashford and Pete Moorhead would follow on later. Although questions were invited, I didn't take the opportunity to point out that there must have been an error, because on my 'dream sheet' I'd put 1st Blazers Battery (in Singapore) as my first posting choice and hadn't written anything relating to 1st RHA! At least the 1st bit was correct, my Troop

Commander was clearly delighted with the selection and who knows, there might have been some advantage to my first posting to the frozen wastes of NW Germany rather than the balmy climes of Singapore, which I may have overlooked. So I kept quiet.

The brown envelope arrived in the post with some Christmas cards and was addressed to my Dad (handwritten, using a ruler). It contained several documents all about me!! The Junior Leader's Final Report was graded Good, but I had to explain to Dad that 'Gunner Jeavons having No Sounding Ability' didn't mean my career would be curtailed, unduly blighted or that I would never get promoted, it was just recording that I'd apparently failed to get anything tuneful out of a bugle or trumpet on cold Saturday mornings in Bramcote.

The Posting Order detailed that I was posted to 1st RHA, BFPO 41 on 5th January 1973, in the substantive rank of Gunner. Other than knowing BFPO 41 was somewhere in Germany, the exact location of 1st RHA was a mystery. My mother asked if BFPO 41 would be close to her brother, who was a WO1 Staff Clerk in BFPO 40, we had no idea at the time, but subsequently discovered that Detmold was nowhere near Rheindahlen!

The Movement Order offered few clues on German geography, but detailed I had a RAF flight to Gutersloh and from there I would take military transport to Detmold. Our family copy of the Reader's Digest European Atlas had a couple of pages covering Germany but no mention of these places, or BFPO numbers.

I remember little about the Gutersloh flight, other than meeting a lad named Andy King. He had recently finished training in Woolwich and was posted to 1st RHA, he was going to do something called Arty Int. The weather in Germany was cold, the big 44 seater white bus had around half a dozen people in it and the heater didn't work, Andy and I were the only ones going to Detmold.

The bus dropped us at the gate to Hobart Barracks and there was someone there to meet us. Gunner (Microbe - never did find out the reason or his proper first name!) Farnsworth was in HQ Battery, 1st RHA. He was a singly and would take us down to our accommodation, which was about 120 yds away. It was dark and snowing, as we lugged our cases down the road Microbe gave us a potted history of the barracks, the regiment and life in Germany, including where to get the best bratties (Willie Sanders) and German beer (Halfway House) in Detmold. The cookhouse and NAAFI were closed, so no chance of a 'growler' (neither Andy or I were sure what it was or even if we might have wanted one) and because most of the regiment was still on Christmas Leave, none of the Battery Bars were open. After seeing Andy and I into a room in the block Microbe said he'd give us a knock for breakfast and take us to the BSM next morning.

WO2 Brian (Candy) Canderton was the TSM of G Troop (wasn't sure what that was, having never had a TSM before), but Acting BSM of HQ Bty. BSM Canderton was a big man with a loud, jovial and friendly character, strangely unusual and un-nerving for a Sir! (it no doubt stood him in

good stead for his post Army employment as a Beefeater some years later). He gave Andy and I a quick briefing on the regiment and daily routine, told us his troop had recently returned from Salalah (where-ever that was) and that most of the regiment were still on leave, which explained why there weren't many bodies around or currently living in. He mentioned something about crash outs, cleanliness of the accommodation, the Hakedahl married patch being out of bounds to singlies, dress, drinking and cigarette coupons. BSM Canderton was going to be Andy's boss, Bdr Westwell was waiting outside his office to take me over to RHQ.

RHQ was about 75 yds away from the block, Bdr (Fred) Westwell took me in through a side door, the front entrance being for Officers and Warrant Officers only. The main office was up on the first floor and in his 'scouse' accent Fred (Bdr to me then) gave me a quick rundown of the offices and introduced me to the staff. The Chief Clerk (Mick Carter) was still on UK leave, SGT(AC) (Brian) Bailey was standing in, but would soon be posted out, on promotion. Bdr (George) McLachlan was the Docs Clerk, he (Fred) was the Discipline Clerk, Gnr Dave Fisher worked on Part 2 Orders and Gnr Howard Wheeble (another singly) was the Movements Clerk. I was destined to be the Filing and Dispatch Clerk. However, Fred said all that might change once the Chief came back, next week!!

It was about 0200 hrs and the sirens were really loud, doors were being banged on and 'Active Edge' or 'Crash Out' shouted every few seconds. Only having been in the regiment for 3 days I didn't really know what to do or expect, but recalled the BSM saying something about crash outs on day 1. In essence; Soviet forces were coming over the inner

German Border and the entire British Forces in Germany were being stood up to combat them.

Dressed in green combat kit I 'fell in' outside the block in the snow with the other singlies, it was bitterly cold. BSM Canderton told the assembly this was indeed a crash out, that the regiment would be deploying to the designated reserve areas and would be away from camp for at least 24 hrs. Given most of the regiment was still on leave, those now in camp (plus 'pads' from the quarters) would have to move or crew the guns and support vehicles. Great stuff, although ready to repel the invading hoards, I couldn't drive and hadn't been allocated a weapon, however I had done ok in recruits 'milling', worked for James Bond (WO2 QMSAC) and the pen was supposed to be mightier than the sword, so why should England (or Germany) tremble?

There were sufficient RHQ personnel to man the Binnars and duplicators (both spirit and ink versions) so, being a new boy SGT Bailey 'lent' me back to HQ Bty. The BSM told me to crew a 432 (tracked vehicle) command post, along with Gnrs (Crasher) Kimmet and Microbe (even the BSM called him that!). Once all the cam nets, poles, map boards, gerry cans and other miscellaneous items had been loaded up we were ready to roll and after an inordinate amount of time, just waiting, that's exactly what 1st RHA did.

I'm sure the seemingly endless convoy of wheeled and tracked vehicles roaring along the snowy roads of Detmold was a fine sight, although the residents of this normally quiet town, having been woken and disturbed by the noise and vibrations of Her Majesty's finest, may not have seen it that way – still it was for their own good... wasn't it? My own view was somewhat restricted,

bouncing around in the dark belly of the 432, with only a tiny rear door window to see anything through.

The sun had come up – there was nothing anyone could do to stop it. Biesterberg with its rolling hills, pine trees and carpet of crisp white snow looked like a picture from a Christmas card or calendar. A closer look at the immediate area we were in revealed deep furrows, gouges and thick mud created by numerous tracked vehicles getting into positions. Crasher and Microbe swiftly got me into action, helping them disguise the shape of our 432 using an assortment of poles and nets. Other crews were carrying out the same frantic activity around their vehicles.

BSM Canderton was moving round, checking the position, advising each crew on the effectiveness of their efforts. I noticed he had a weapon and was wearing a set of webbing, I didn't have any of that stuff. The call to breakfast came, Microbe gave me a tin plate and a KFS out of a storage box and we walked over to a tented area enveloped in billowing clouds of steam, he had webbing on too. A webbingless and weaponless Andy King was also at breakfast, after getting our sausage, bacon, beans and egg, pandemonium suddenly broke out. Everyone was running about yelling, Gas, Gas, Gas (fast reacting baked beans?) The BSM saw Andy and I, he directed us, in no uncertain terms, to make our way over to the 432 at speed, get inside, close the door and not open it up for anyone, but him. Meanwhile outside, in the crisp, cold, clear air of the German countryside, our breakfasts were congealing on the plates and for all we knew the Soviets could have been advancing on the other side of the hills.

Suddenly it was all still and strangely quiet, too quiet.

Being an Artillery Clerk

by (former Major John Reynolds)

Being under lock-down because of the Covid pandemic, has given me time to reflect on the day that my Chief Clerk, SSgt (AC) Nick Carter, in 1st Singapore Regiment RA in 1951, told me that, if I wanted to proceed beyond the rank of Bdr as a clerk, I would have to become an Artillery Clerk. I already had my ACE 2nd Class, but I needed to upgrade to Clerk BII to have the necessary basic qualification to make an application. Nick Carter managed to get me on to a BII course very quickly at the RASC School in Nee Soon. I managed to pass the course, but only just. It was here, at the RASC School, that I met my first RASC Staff Clerk. There were four of these blokes on the course and they explained that, after basic training at the RASC Depot, they did the Staff Clerks course and were then posted to various HQs and that they did not expect to be posted to an RASC unit as a clerk. Of this four, one was serving with GHQ FARELF, and the other three were with HQ Singapore Base District. More about Staff Clerks later.

The next step was for an AF B2048, headed in red ink "Application for Appointment to the ACs Roll", to be completed by the CO with a recommendation. This was then sent directly to RA Records in Sidcup where it was handled by the section that dealt with ACs for consideration. Fortunately, there was a vacancy on the Roll and I was appointed LBdr(AC) with the seniority date 26 January 1952. At the time I was a War Substantive Bdr, so I continued to wear the stripes and get paid as such. There was one other problem – the regiment did not have an establishment for a junior NCO Artillery Clerk, but

Artillery Branch, GHQ FARELF, did. So I was posted to Artillery Branch GHQ FARELF as a WS/Bdr(AC) on the 31 August 1951. This posting did not last long, the Army had decided to do away with the War Time Promotion Code, which it had carried on using even after the war ended, and introduced the Peace Time Promotion Code, to be effective 1st April 1952. All War Substantive ranks were cancelled, and everyone had to revert to a substantive rank that had already be calculated by the various Record Offices. I had to revert to substantive LBdr(AC), but the vacancy was for a Bdr(AC). Once again I was on the move, this time to HQRA 40 Infantry Division at Far East Farm Camp in the New Territories in Hong Kong, where I filled the vacancy for a LBdr(AC) in the AQ Branch of the HQ under Sgt(AC) Bill James. The odd thing about this posting was that even though there was an HQRA 40 Inf Div, there was no actual HQ 40 Inf Div. After I had been there for a couple of months, 14th Fd Regt came to Hong Kong from Korea and moved into Quarry Camp just a few miles up the road from us. Their Chief Clerk had been brought off the troop ship in a stretcher and admitted to 33 General Hospital. The regiment requested someone from HQRA to fill the position until Field Records in Singapore could find a replacement. I was promoted to Local Bdr and sent to do the job. It was quite interesting as a Substantive LBdr(AC) to be the Chief Clerk of a regiment. Field Records eventually found a Sgt (AC) and came to take over. My next interesting experience as an Artillery Clerk was in August 1954, as a very, very, junior Sgt

(AC) I was on the Held Strength of Field Wing at the Depot awaiting a posting. I was sent for by the Adjutant (I wondered what heinous crime I was guilty of) and on arrival in his office I was informed that I was posted immediately to HQRA 52nd (Lowland) Division in Glasgow as the Chief Clerk and was promoted, immediately, to Acting WOII(SMAC)! I was also informed that it was only a temporary promotion as the chief clerk had died suddenly and I was to hold the fort until a promotion board could be convened to find a permanent replacement. The job lasted 4 months, and I then reverted to Sgt (AC) and returned to Woolwich. I found it very interesting working with the TA.

In 1956 we held the first and last Artillery Clerks' Reunion in Hong Kong. During the course of a conversation someone bemoaned the fact that the infantry and armoured regimental orderly rooms were staffed by a WOII(ORQMS) and a senior rank as assistant chief clerk, whilst Gunner Regimental Offices were run by Sgts. As the most junior Sgt (AC) present, and Chief Clerk of 15th Medium Regiment, I commented that, surely, we should take pride in the fact in the Gunners a Sgt(AC) could do the job of a WOII and senior NCO in the infantry and armoured regiments! It was many years before the Gunners managed to get the regimental chief clerks positions ungraded to the same level.

In 1958, RA Records declared that 6 acting SSgt (AC)s had to relinquish their acting ranks and revert to Sgt (AC). At the time I was a SSgt (AC) instructing

at the RA Clerks' School in Woolwich. I really did not like it there, so I asked for a posting and I was posted to Detmold to a new AAC unit called HQ 1st Light Aircraft Wing AAC. The AAC had been formed the year before and consisted mainly of Air OP Squadrons manned by the Gunners, and Light liaison Flights crewed mainly by remnants of the Glider Pilot Regiment. The Corps did not have an establishment yet for Other Ranks, so the RA continued to fill all the OR positions. It was interesting forming a new HQ in a corps that was trying to find a new path away from the old Air OP system. Starting with an empty office, some boxes containing regulations, manuals, and stationary, and working long hours proved to be very interesting, but very satisfying and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

At last – Staff Clerks! In August 1964, on promotion to SMAC, I was posted to Artillery Branch, HQBAOR. On arrival I soon found that most of the EREIII jobs in the HQ were filled by Gunners. They were employed in the mail room, stationery office and as runners for various senior officers. One of these runners was based in the C-in-C's office under the Superintending Clerk. One day this Gunner appeared in my office with a file for the MGRA. I happened to look down at his feet and saw that he was wearing brown shoes, so I immediately ordered him to go back to his barrack room and get his issued black shoes or boots, and to never again wear brown shoes in uniform. Instead of doing as I had ordered, he went back to his Superintending Clerk to complain, and this bloke immediately phoned me and asked who I thought I was to order his staff around and why had I ordered him to change his shoes. I responded that, as the senior Royal Artillery Warrant

Officer in the HQ, I had every right to correct any improper dress worn by Gunners. I also added that in my REGIMENT, the wearing of brown shoes was a privilege allowed by Warrant Officers Class I, and that if his CORPS did not have a problem with that, then that was his problem. This job was interesting because both the MGRA and I were double-hatted. The MGRA was also the Commander, Artillery Division, HQ Northern Army Group, and I was also the Superintending Clerk (the first time that I had ever been called that) of Artillery Division, HQ Northern Army Group. I had two clerks' offices, the Artillery Branch BAOR clerks, which included one Sgt (AC), and the NORTHAG clerks which included a Belgian SSgt, a British Bdr Clerk GD, and Dutch and German LCpls.

I felt that I had been extremely lucky to have been an Artillery Clerk, and to have been given the unique opportunity to experience so many different postings. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would do it all again.



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