

# The Crossed Quills

Issue 3

June 1999

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## Foreword

by Major General Mike Shellard CBE, President of the Association

Welcome to our Newsletter in its new format – You will find elsewhere a report on the dinner held last March, and I won't pre-empt that except to say that it was a most enjoyable and successful occasion. I would most strongly recommend it to any of you who might be considering attending next year.

I am pleased that we are playing an increasingly active part in the affairs of the Royal Artillery Association. I am also conscious of the need to take fully into account our connections with the Adjutant General's Corps. There will be much discussion on this topic in the months to come, with strong views being expressed from many quarters.

In all of this we need to remember that comradeship and mutual support form the corner stones of our Association.

My very best wishes to you all, and I hope to see you at the next Reunion dinner.

*Mike Seward*

## Chairman's Notes by Lt Col Joe Falzon

The 6th March seems a few light years away already but it was extremely good to meet up with so many of our members, to successfully negotiate the first Annual General Meeting and to enjoy a marvellous dinner. A complete report is published in this Newsletter.

Our Guest of Honour, Maj Gen Steele made a comment that ours is the most geographically dispersed Branch in the RAA. Up to now the Committee members have all been fairly close together on the fringes of Salisbury Plain. By the time you read this Mark Testi will be doing pre-Bosnia training, Paul Corker may find himself in Northern Ireland with 32 Regt, and I will be starting my final tour with JSCSC in Bracknell.

However I assure you that we will continue to serve you and somehow we will find a way to do the job we were re-elected to do at the AGM. Mel Charlton has taken over the secretarial duties until such time as Mark returns from his operational tour of duty.

I hope that you find the new format and title of our Newsletter to your liking. We would welcome your constructive comment, as well as any contribution for inclusion in the next issue (planned for Nov/Dec 99).

*With Every Best Wish  
Joe Falzon*

## Secretary's Notes by WO1 Mark Testi

To echo what the Chairman said in his notes, it does seem "light years" since we gathered at Woolwich. I thought it went particularly well this year and I enjoyed it immensely. Having watched Mel Charlton operate for 2 years now at close hand, it is easy to understand why. He is painstaking in his attention to detail and puts a huge amount of time and effort into planning and executing our reunions. I would like to go on record here by thanking him personally and on behalf of those of you who attended.

Much has been achieved during our 1st year and it has been particularly pleasing to have reached a membership base of 123. Hopefully this Newsletter will generate yet more interest. I mentioned at the AGM that the RAA requires members' army numbers for their records and some of you kindly gave your details. I still have lots of gaps though and if

you are a member and haven't given your army number then please telephone or write to Mel. We are making arrangements to have our own Branch Standard and once the funding has been agreed an order will be placed.

We now have Regional Secretaries for all areas except Wales; thanks to all those who have volunteered. They now have lists of members in their areas and can hopefully co-ordinate transport to future reunions. This may put the event within reach of more members and boost numbers attending. Aside from next year being important because it is the Millennium, 2003 will be the centenary of the Artillery Clerk and I'm sure you wouldn't want to miss that so please store it away in the back of your minds. I may be premature but if you have any views on the centenary and how you see it going then please let us know.

Enclosed with this Newsletter are forms for membership, bank direct debit and tie orders. All members are requested

to complete the direct debits and pay their annual subs in this manner. Those who haven't paid their subs for this year are requested to do so soonest. It is all too easy to forget to pay a small amount once a year but I would just remind you that you signed an agreement to pay £5 subs annually as at 31st January. Our account is always taut and your subs are our only source of income.

I have recently taken up a new appointment with 3 CS Regt RLC in Abingdon and as the Chairman has already mentioned, I am off to 'Bozz', as it is affectionately known, until next Spring. Consequently, I have handed over my duties to Mel for the time being. God willing, I will see many of you at next year's Dinner.

*Mark Testi*

### **Artillery Clerks' Association Branch Membership As at 1st July 1999 (in alphabetical order)**

Ches Allen	Walter Carney	John Dixon
Dick Ancliffe	Mel Charlton	Jim Doran
John Baik	Lawrence Collingwood	Paddy Ennis
Brian Bailey	Ian Constantine	Joe Falzon
Pip Bailey	Paul Corker	Jim Findlay
Taff Bellis	Bob Cowan	Ron Flemmings
Chris Berry	Kev Crump	Terry Foster
Martin Birch	Dave Cussell	Chris Freeman
Graham Brown	Jim Cussell	Eric Frost
Phil Buckingham	Colin Davidson	Walter Gaines
Martin Butler	Paul Davies	Martin Geddes
Steve Callaghan	Bob Day	Ian Grant
Charles Camies	Roy Deal	Mick Grenham
Iain Campbell	John Dewberry	Ted Hall

## Branch Members List - continued

'H' Hammond	George McKinnell	Andrew Salmon
Steve Hawke	James McNamara	Alan Sawdon
Phil Headford	Dave Manchester	Vince Scott
William Henry	Tim Matthews	Steve Seymour
Martin Hester	Tresh Matthews	Mike Shellard
Geordie Himlin	Martin Meek	Sid Siddall
Vic Holdaway	Brian Morgan	Tony Skinner
Paddy Hope	Ted Morgan	Phil Spencer
Ron Holmes	Bill Morland	Trevor Spurr
Mick Hutchinson	Andy Moss	Dave Stotan
Geoff Hyatt	Paul Mudd	Andy Sykes
Geoff Janik	Richard Nichol	John Taylor
Dick Jeavons	Dennis Norris	Mark Testi
Bill Johnson	Clive Nuttall	Andy Tibble
Mick Johnston	Nick Perkovic	Gordon Timmis
Andy Jones	Chris Piper	Steve Truslove
Fred Jones	Eddie Platts	Gary Tyson
Derek Kelsey	Jim Pottle	Pat Verdon
Clive Knaggs	Steve Prowse	William Wallace
Brian Leadbetter	Derek Ralphs	Dick Walmsley
Russ Lee	Steve Write	Ron Waterfield
Ray Lewis	John Reynolds	Duggie Waterhouse
Bob Lewney	Neil Ridout	Andy West
Alan Lowthian	Des Riley	Alan Witts
Leo Lyall	Brian Rose	Chris Wood
Tommy McCarthy	Alex Ross	Yogi Yeowell
John McDermott	Arthur Rowell	Bill Young



*The main objects of the Royal Artillery Association are the promotion of Gunner Welfare and Comradeship. They are defined in the Rules of the Association as follows:*

To organise serving and retired members of the Royal Artillery with the object of furthering the welfare of past and present Gunners and their dependants.

To create and foster a bond of comradeship between all who are serving or have ever served as Artillerymen in any capacity whatever, and, with this object in view, to encourage and organise social reunions.

By the establishment of Branches, Ladies' Sections and Gunner friends in every part of the world. To safeguard the interests of all Gunners, their families and dependants.

To bring to the notice of the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund and Branch Welfare Officers all cases of Gunners or their dependants in need, sickness or distress.

To establish and maintain contact with other public or private organisations which concern themselves with the welfare of the Forces and their dependants, and to ensure that full consideration is given to the claims of all Gunners.

To assist in raising funds for the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund.

## MESSAGE FROM MEL CHARLTON – THE REUNION SECRETARY

The latest Reunion Dinner was if I may say so, a resounding success. Thank you to the individuals who sent messages of thanks after the event. I actually travelled down to Woolwich on the Thursday prior to the Dinner, and I am never alone. Last year Des Riley came along (deployed to Macedonia this year), and for the second year in succession Mark Testi accompanied me to help tie up loose ends. A perfect team I might add. Quite a lot of frustration and hard work goes on behind the scenes, but it is always well worth the effort. It is so satisfying to see individuals, who make the effort to attend, enjoy themselves so much. As usual we had the last minute cancellations for various reasons, etc. Then there are the people who pay and forget to come – who mentioned Richard Ancliffe! One of the highlights of the Dinner is the reading out of the greetings and messages from those not able to attend. It would be nice if more of you made the effort to send a greeting or message – they are very much appreciated. From a personal point of view, where are my own friends and colleagues for over 20 to 30 plus years – it would be nice to hear from you!

This Newsletter goes out, not only to Association members (there are 123 of us!) but to all former Artillery Clerks' on the database – about 350 names. It is directed to you all. Membership is not a pre-requisite to attend Reunion Dinners. Remember it is the Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner. However, I also wish to point out that members of the Association pay for the cost of sending out this Newsletter. For £5 a year plus guaranteed life membership of the Royal Artillery Association, may I propose that you also consider joining the Artillery Clerks' Association Branch.

*The Millennium  
Reunion Dinner will  
be held in Woolwich  
on Saturday 8th  
April 2000*

Saturday 8th April 2000 has been agreed as a firm date for the 66th (Millennium) Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner. The Mess at Woolwich can sit 130 for Dinner (and more at a push). I have already booked accommodation in the Mess and there are another 99 available bed spaces to be block booked through Woolwich Garrison QM. This is a great improvement in accommodation availability. I am working on a Guest of Honour.

I shall be writing to you all in due course with firm plans for the Dinner. Please make the effort. You have the date in your diary now – no excuses! Approach your Area Representatives to start co-ordinating transport. It is never too early to start planning. Why travel to Woolwich individually when a mini bus may well be organised for a group from your area.

The article which will be appearing in the July edition of GUNNER magazine is repeated in this Newsletter. See you at the Millennium Dinner in April 2000.

**ARTILLERY CLERKS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 1999**

**Item 1 - Chairman's Report**

- Opening Remarks. The Chairman welcomes all those attending.
- State of the Union. Membership stood at 121.
- Regional Secretaries. The Chairman thanked those who had volunteered to be Regional Secretaries. The posts covering Scotland, Wales and the North were still vacant.
- Branch Standard/Bearer. The Committee intended to obtain a Branch Standard in time for the 1999 Remembrance Day Parade. Funds, and a volunteer to act as bearer, are being sought.
- Dress for Reunion Dinners. After much discussion it was decided that there would be no change, for the time being, to the current format, i.e. Mess Kit for serving members.

**Item 2 - Secretary's Report**

- Ties. The new Branch Tie was now available for sale.
- Members' Army Numbers. RAA require army numbers as part of their documentation. All members were requested to inform the Secretary of their details in due course.

**Item 3 - Treasurer's Report**

- Statement of Account. Assets - £2061.22, Liabilities - £1240.70, Balance - £820.52
- Direct Debit. In future members will be given the opportunity to pay their annual subscription by direct debit. Application Forms will be included in the next Newsletter.

**Item 4 - Welfare Secretary's Report.** Nothing to report.

**Item 5 - Election of Committee Members.** Committee and Regional Secretaries all re-elected by unanimous vote.

**Item 6 - Any Other Business**

- **Vote of Thanks.** Vote of thanks recorded for the Committee's work during past year.
- **Future of Newsletter.** Proposal to continue, for the time being, to send out the Newsletter to all those listed on the database, irrespective of postage and associated costs, was supported and carried.
- **Annual Subscription.** Proposal to leave annual subscription of £5 unchanged was supported and carried.

**Item 7 - Regimental Reunion Dinner.** The Reunion Secretary spoke on the format of the Reunion Dinner.

## The 65th Artillery Clerk's Reunion And Association Dinner

The advance party attending the 65th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner met in the RA Sgts' Mess Woolwich on Fri 5 Mar 99, proudly sporting their new Association ties (and those who didn't soon did so). Despite the maroon and blue zig zag design, depicting gold crossed quills and 'AC', a rude "scaly-back" dared question as to whether it was the 14 Signal Regt tie!

Sat 6 Mar saw the arrival of many old and yet new faces, with special thanks to those who travelled from as far afield as Scotland and Germany. Previous accommodation concerns had been dispelled with the help of the Offrs' Mess Secretary, Maj Paul Griffiths, who managed to accommodate several members in transit accommodation.

Dinner was preceded by an Annual General Meeting of the Branch, led by the Chairman Lt Col Joe Falzon, who was flanked by the Secretary, WO1 (SSM) Mark Testi and the Treasurer, Capt Paul Corker. Following the well received AGM, members assembled in the RA Sgts' Mess foyer to await the arrival of the Branch Honorary President, Maj Gen Mike Shellard, the Guest of Honour Maj Gen Mike Steele, Regimental Comptroller RA, and guests Maj (Retd) Bill Blunt and the RASM, WO1 John Le Feuvre. A Reunion photograph was taken.

After pre drinks and a 5 minute call from a trumpeter from the RA Band, dinner commenced, chaired by the Reunion Secretary WO1 Mel Charlton LSL/RA. The Mess Manager, Mrs Mary Faulkener, and her team of ladies marvellously orchestrated the dinner. A special mention must be made of the excellence and quality of the much remarked upon meal, created and provided under the guidance of the RCWO, WO2 Joe Bailey and his supporting catering staff.

Entertainment for the evening was provided, much to the joy of those attending, by the RA Orchestra, led by Sgt Clive Bix. The Post Horn Gallop was the "cream on the cake" - a very much missed event in previous dinners. Our thanks go to the Director of Music, Maj Geoff Kingston, for the provision of such professional and entertaining musicians.

Following the break, the Reunion Secretary proceeded with his speech of thanks to the various individuals who had helped to make the Reunion a success. A special welcome was extended to the various guests, including the Royal Chelsea Hospital In-Pensioners in their vibrant colours. A most welcome list of apologies and their various amusing comments and messages were read out. Our guest, Maj Bill Blunt, was thanked on his retirement, for all his hard work whilst manning the Artillery Clerks' desk at RAMRO, and was presented with a plaque by Maj Gen Mike Steele, on behalf of all former Artillery Clerks.

During Dinner, WO1 (RASM) John Le Feuvre was presented. He then proceeded to give a most informative "State of the Union" report. The RASM is once again thanked for making our Reunion one of his own official functions, thereby providing a most substantial saving to those in attendance.

*The Post Horn Gallop was the "cream on the cake" - a very much missed event in previous Reunion Dinners*

## The Royal Artillery Clerks' Association

### The Committee

#### Chairman:

Lt Col J F Falzon BEM RA  
Andover Support Unit  
Monxton Road  
Andover  
Hants SP11 8HT  
(Tel: 01264 382560) (Until 20 Aug)

#### Secretary/Reunion Secretary:

WO1 J M Charlton LSL/RA  
Army Families Advice Bureau  
Headquarters Land Command  
Erskine Bks  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire SP2 0AG  
(Tel: 01722 436461)

#### Treasurer:

Capt P Corker AGC(SPS)  
RAO 32 Regt RA  
Roberts Bks  
Larkhill  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire SP4 8QU  
(Tel: 01980 675568)

The Guest of Honour, Maj Gen Mike Steele was presented in the form of a resume of his career. He welcomed the Artillery Clerks' Association as the most recently formed most geographically dispersed and most rapidly growing Branch of the RAA.

In closing the Reunion Secretary stated that membership stood at 120 (now 123) and that the Branch was very fortunate to have Maj Gen Mike Shellard as Honorary President and Lt Col Joe Falzon as Chairman. He reiterated that the Association would only go from strength to strength if everyone continues to track down new members, and encouraging them to join the Association and attend Reunion Dinners.

The 65th Reunion carried on traditionally in the Eyer's Lounge until the early hours of Sunday morning, with In Pensioner Duggie Waterhouse once again providing a fine example, this time accompanied by two RAOs, who shall remain nameless for the time being at least.

*(Afternote which did not appear in GUNNER - it was CORKER and COWAN!!!!)*

## Our Regional Secretaries

### North West:

Mr A C Davidson (Colin)  
15 Manor Drive  
Dowbridge  
Kirkham  
Preston  
PR4 2ZN  
(Tel: 01772 490533)

### North:

Mr V A Scott (Vince)  
2 Compton Avenue  
Sprotbrough  
Doncaster  
DN5 8EE  
(Tel: 01302 390319)

### Scotland:

Mr E Fairbrass (Ted)  
1 Levanne Place  
Gourock  
Renfrewshire  
PA19 1AX

### Midlands:

Mr S P Callaghan (Steve)  
2 Northumberland Avenue  
Nuneaton  
Warwickshire  
CV10 8EJ  
(Tel: 01203 373354)

### East:

Mr C J Berry (Chris)  
17 Antelope Avenue  
Grays Thurrock  
Essex  
RM16 6QT  
(Tel: 01375 390790)

### London and the South:

Mr S T Truslove (Steve)  
Winterburn Cottage  
70 London Road  
Stone  
Dartford  
Kent, DA2 6AN  
(Tel: 01322 220041)

### West:

WO1 J M Charlton LSL/RA (Mel)  
Army Families Advice Bureau  
Headquarters Land Command  
Erskine Barracks  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire, SP2 0AG  
(Tel: 01722 436461)

### Germany:

WO1 (SSM) D A Riley (Des)  
Staff & Personnel Support Branch  
Headquarters  
4th Armoured Brigade  
British Forces Post Office 36  
(Tel: Osnabruck Mil Ext 2246)

### Welfare Secretary:

Mr E Morgan (Ted)  
123 Reginald Road South  
Chaddesden  
Derby  
DE21 6NJ  
(Tel: Office - 01332 371217)  
(Tel: Home - 01332 678418)

## Section IV.—CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS.

Consult the "Army Act," and "Queen's Regulations," Section 6.

### Powers of Commanding Officers—Case of Privates.

1. Imprisonment with or without hard labour, 168 hours (7 days).

This amount may be extended to 21 days for "absence without leave," provided that the term of imprisonment does not exceed the term of absence. Should imprisonment exceed 7 days, no minor punishment can be added for offence of absence. Imprisonment up to 7 days to be awarded in hours, beyond 7, in days.

A combined award of imprisonment and C.B. may be given up to 28 days, but the total amount of combined punishment due to more than one award must not exceed 56 consecutive days, and not more than 7 days' imprisonment can be awarded at a time.

2. Deprivation of pay, optional in cases of absence not exceeding 5 days, and may be combined with imprisonment or C.B.

When absence exceeds 5 days, deprivation of pay for days of absence is compulsory, therefore no award necessary.

Absence for 6 hours, whether wholly in one day or partly in one and partly in the next day, to count as one day.

3. Fines for drunkenness, according to scale, may be combined with other punishment.

4. Stoppages for loss or damage, &c., occasioned by misconduct (*vide* A.A., Cl. 138).

5. Confinement to barracks not exceeding 28 days, carrying with it punishment drill for 14 days, may be combined with imprisonment with hard labour, deprivation of pay, or fine. On board ship, stoppage of liquor ration for same period.

6. Extra guards or piquets for offences connected with guard or piquet duty only.

7. Admonition.

Any soldier ordered by his commanding officer to suffer imprisonment, fine, or deprivation of pay, has a right, if he so request, to be tried by district court-martial, instead of submitting to the award.

### Case of Non-Commissioned Officers.

1. Reprimand or severe reprimand.

2. Deprivation of any post considered to be in the nature of an appointment.

3. Deprivation of acting rank, paid or unpaid.

For the following offences a soldier may be either punished summarily by his commanding officer or tried by regimental court-martial, without reference to superior authority:—

1. Resistance against lawful custody or escort.

2. Breaking out of barracks, camp, or quarters.

3. Neglecting to obey an order.

4. Absence without leave not exceeding 21 days.

Absence from parade or school.

5. Being without bounds, or in any prohibited place.

6. Drunkenness (except sentry on post).

7. Making away with, or losing by neglect, any article of equipment or regimental necessaries.

8. Wilfully injuring any officer's, soldier's, or public property.

9. Ill-treating a horse used in the public service.

10. Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (*vide* "Queen's Regulations," Sec. 6, para. 35).

### Summary Court-Martial.

May be convened on active service by an officer in immediate command of any portion of troops under authority of A.A., Sec. 55, should convening officer be of opinion that an ordinary court-martial cannot conveniently be assembled. For instructions, *vide* Rules of Procedure, 104 to 122.

Should consist of three officers, if available, otherwise of two. Members should have one year's service at least, and if possible, three years. President, if practicable, not below rank of captain. Provost-Marshal, prosecutor, or witness for prosecution not available as members.

If of three officers, has powers of general court-martial, if of two, those of district court-martial, when only summary punishment or imprisonment can be awarded. A sentence of death or penal servitude must be confirmed by the officer commanding the force.

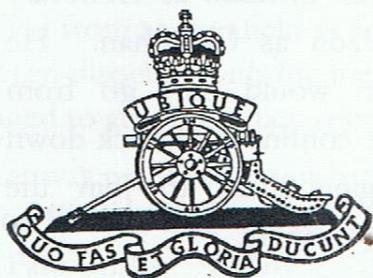
### Field General Court-Martial.

May be convened by any officer in command of a detachment abroad to try offences against the inhabitants of the country, committed by the men under his command, supposing that a general court-martial cannot be assembled.

Should consist of not less than three officers; convening officer may preside if none other available. President, if possible, not below captain's rank.

Has powers of general court-martial, but sentence must be confirmed by officer having power to confirm sentences of general court-martial.

Sentence of death must be carried unanimously.



Extract from HANDBOOK FOR FIELD SERVICE  
Compiled under the superintendence of the Royal Artillery Institution on 24<sup>th</sup> March  
1884. Part X of the Handbook deals with OFFICE WORK IN THE FIELD