

The Artillery Clerks' Association
Crossed Quills



7th Issue
November 2002



President's Foreword by Maj Gen Mike Shellard CBE

It is very pleasing to be able to start by congratulating all concerned with the steady rate of growth of our membership. It takes a lot of time and effort - but it's certainly worthwhile. I was delighted to see so many members at our re-arranged Annual Dinner at Woolwich on Saturday 19th October this year. General Peter Currie, recently retired as Deputy Adjutant General and newly appointed as Colonel Commandant Royal Artillery, did us all proud as our Guest of Honour, as did the Royal Artillery Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class 1 Gilbert.

We shall soon be into the Centenary Year of the formation of our Association. More news about that elsewhere in the newsletter.

Meanwhile I wish you all well and hope to see as many of you as possible at our Centenary Dinner on 4th and 5th April 2003.

Mike Shellard

Major General Mike Shellard CBE

Mystery Entertainer



Can anyone spot this Artillery Clerk (retired of course) entertaining at the Argyll Theatre, Birkenhead in 1938. One clue only is that he was 10, possibly 11 years old at the time. No it isn't Mark Testi, Paul Corker, Joe Falzon BEM, Des Riley or even Joe Hoggins, Vic Holdaway or George McKinnell. Send your best guess by e-mail to the Secretary at: artyckassnsec@yahoo.co.uk

Chairman's Notes by Lt Col Joe Falzon

The world seems in turmoil. The events that set humanity scattering in all directions to find new values and refuge came almost exactly a year ago. Former foes are now friends and former friends are now allies. Through these difficult times our Association has continued to flourish and we can look forward to our centenary dinner and re-union next year, in the company of the Master Gunner, with great anticipation and expectation.

As members of our Association we have achieved much to be proud of. In my opinion the greatest enduring strength born out of our ranks is our determination to keep growing, and to feel enriched by our friendship and goodwill.

This magazine, coming direct to you, is an obvious example of one such achievement. In it news of other substantial milestones is recorded. Not only do these achievements bring recognition to the Association but they also bring great credit upon those who had the vision and the commitment to make them happen.

It is incredibly difficult to turn out a quality magazine, but Andy Tibble and Mel Charlton have done just that. This is a great achievement by them both who unsurprisingly have had to fit this work in between their other demanding full-time jobs. I am sure there are lots of other subjects you would like to see covered in *The Crossed Quills* - why not make it one of your objectives to put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and write that article you know you have inside you? We all want to read it and it will certainly take the pressure off the editor.

It has been another good year..., as I said last year, please continue to help your Committee to deliver what you need, be it newsletters, websites, parades, reunions, comradeship, mutual support or just a friendly chat over the phone.

With every best wish

Joe Falzon

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

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since I handed over the reins of Reunion Secretary to Andy Tibble and took over the Secretarial responsibilities from Mark Testi. It has been in many ways a turbulent period both for me, and I suspect for many others. 11 September 2001 sits deep in everyone's hearts. Leaving the army on 17 July last year after 38 years and 213 days was not easy. I had been warned by those who had ventured out of the 'bubble' before me, that life wasn't all that easy after all. In order to escape the torture of a small married quarter, my wife Kathy and I decided to settle in Wiltshire and back in 1998, bought a house in Shrewton, a lifetime away from my roots in County Durham. "Phew, I can hack it", I thought. I decided to take time out and have micro surgery performed on my eyes to correct short sightedness. After three operations and various check ups, I was finally given the red light on 22nd January to drive legally without glasses. Having previously shaved off my moustache on 6th August, I now looked in the mirror and thought "just who the heck is that?" or words to that effect.

Christmas 2001 and New Year 2002 was spent in South Africa enjoying the sun, culture, wild animals and visits to historic Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana. Then back to the reality of the UK.

On 25th February I started working as a civilian again (my first civilian job since December 1962), as a Regional Administrative Manager with a Facilities Management Company. Let me not bore you, it was bloody awful. "Oh please let me back in the army again" I thought in the back of my mind. The best is yet to come. On 24th May I was warned that I was to be made redundant. Immediately I applied for another job, was accepted and went back and gave notice to terminate my employment to avoid being given redundancy. On 24th June I started work with Jolly Property Services in Wilton as the Assistant Property Manager (Block Management). I shan't bore you more, but please take a look at www.jolly.co.uk. Please don't send

me any e-mails at work. On the home page click the "Contact us" button on the left hand side. Life has been non stop since I started. I regret having neglected my own relations, my friends and even the cat left home! I apologise to you all, and hopefully by the time we go to print, I would have re-established the faith of my relations and my friends, and hopefully the cat would have returned! On top of all that my computer decided to die on me in slow motion. After many frustrating weeks, including being off the air and unable to type, it was declared u/s by a computer 'expert'. So tongue in cheek and biting the bullet I spent the rest of this years' pocket money in one go, purchasing a new computer!

Now that I've told you all about me, what about you guys?? Several members keep in regular contact and others I don't hear from, from one year to the next. In this day of e-mails, mobiles and high tech home telephones, in the words of Victor Meldrew, "I don't believe it". Many thanks to John Reynolds, Vic Holdaway, Bill Johnson, Ted Hall, Fred Jones, Arthur Rowell, Pete Bunn and Bill Morland for their most welcome contribution to this magazine.

Congratulations to Richard Horner on being promoted to Lt Col and Bob Cowan, Paul Corker, John Dewberry Ian Groom and Russ Lee on their promotion to Major. Congratulations also go to Snowy Snowdon, Foxy Fox and Ad Martin on their promotion to SSgt. Congratulations to Mark Testi on being awarded the MSM. We were all saddened to hear of the death of both Terry Foster and Kevin Smythe (whom I know would have eventually become a member). May God look after you both in the Great Office in the Sky! Please remember that I am no longer serving and rely on you all to inform me of promotions, award of medals, change of address and new e-mail addresses etc. Don't forget.

Membership is flourishing, be it at a slow rate. You can see elsewhere in this magazine that we have a Wanted List with the potential to increase our

membership by at least 200. So perhaps we can all make a conscious effort to increase our numbers. Come on, you must know at least two or three potential members, each and every one of you. By the time you receive this edition of Crossed Quills, preparations will be well under way for the Centenary Dinner next year. For the uninitiated, the Artillery Clerks' Section was first formed on 1 April 1903 and 5 April 2003 is the nearest Saturday 100 years after this date.

The Reunion Dinner on Saturday 19th October 2002 was brilliant. For those who attended I don't need to remind you. For those that couldn't make it, you missed a fantastic weekend. Our Reunion Secretary, Andy Tibble is a dedicated star. Thank you Andy from us all.

It is very worthy of note to mention the names of other members of our Association who are 'doing their bit' for the RAA, namely Alex Ross as Chairman of the Woolwich and Plumstead Branch, Chairman South East District and South East Region, and Regional Representative on the National Executive Committee. Joe Phelps is the Secretary of the Bury St Edmunds Branch of the RAA, Bob Day the Secretary of the Enham Alamein and Andover Branch and James McNamara the Secretary of Melton Mowbray Branch. Well done all of you.

In closing, I would like to mention the work that goes on behind the scenes from our Area Secretaries, the Webmaster, David Stotan, the Welfare Officer, Ted Morgan, our Standard Bearer, Andrew Jones and our newly appointed Historical Secretary Joe Hoggins, and of course the continued dedication of the Treasurer Paul Corker and our Chairman, Joe Falzon.

Finally, please remember those members who are ill or have been ill over the recent months. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. God bless!

Please keep in touch and remember that my crystal ball was handed in on demob! See you in April.

Ubique - Mel

68th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner Saturday 19th October 2002

In a cooler month on a Friday night in October, several association members joined together in the Royal Artillery Barracks, Sergeants' Mess bar to form the advance party in Woolwich, for the 68th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner. Prior to the Reunion Dinner on the Saturday night, an AGM, chaired by Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon, was held. The present Committee were re-elected in their appointments, which was warmly received by those in attendance. Mr Joe Hoggins kindly agreed to take on the appointment of Historical Secretary and Mr Dennis Norris kindly took up the appointment of North West Secretary which had become vacant. Following the AGM, all members assembled in the Dining Room to await the arrival of the Guest of Honour, Maj Gen APN Currie CB, Hon President, Maj Gen Mike Shellard CBE and guest, WO1 (RASM) Derek Gilbert. A Reunion photograph, shown on the rear cover of this edition of the Crossed Quills, was taken.

A trumpeter from the RA Orchestra sounded and the Reunion Dinner commenced which the Reunion Secretary, WO1(SSM) Andy Tibble, chaired. Members sat down to a most excellent meal provided by the Acting RCWO, Sgt Warren McCorley and Maury McCallum. The evening was orchestrated under the very professional care of the Mess Manageress, Mrs Mary Faulkner, assisted by Mrs Cindy Baker, plus all the ladies and staff. A leader plus 7 from the RA Orchestra, under the direction of Sgt Phil Jarvis, provided excellent entertainment during the meal, including the Post Horn Gallop and a finale of the The Royal Artillery Slow March.

After 'ease springs' the Reunion Secretary gave a hearty welcome to attending members and thanked them for supporting the Reunion and Association Dinner. Thanks were given to those who had travelled great distances to be with other members of the Association. The Reunion Secretary welcomed the Guest of Honour, Maj Gen Peter Currie. The senior guest, WO1 (RASM) Derek Gilbert, was also welcomed, along with the Acting RSM, WO2 Kev Shelton, the RSM of our affiliated Regiment, 16 Regiment Royal Artillery.

The unfortunate deaths of former WO2(QMS(AC)) Terry Foster and former Sgt (AC) Kev Smyth were reported and a toast was taken in their honour. Thirty-two greetings and apologies were read out from the UK and as far afield as the USA, Canada, Germany, France, Cyprus, and Riyadh in the Middle East and Belize in Central America, indicating the universal spread of the Association. A toast was given to absent friends.

A special mention was also give to our senior citizens who were present, Bob Day, Vic Holdaway, Jim Cussell and Bob Lewney.

Congratulations were expressed to WO1 (SSM) Mark Testi who was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), Maj Richard Horner on promotion to Lt Col, Maj's Paul Corker, Bob Cowen, John Dewberry and Ian Groom on being promoted to Maj and also SSgt Tresh Matthews on being selected for a commission in the AGC(SPS). Congratulations also went to those recently selected for promotion, Sgt's Snowy Snowden, Foxy Fox and Adam Martin to SSgt.

During dinner, WO1 (RASM) Derek Gilbert was presented. He gave 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 Guest of Honour, Maj Gen Peter Currie, was presented in the form of a resume of his career. He gave a delightful response, which was warmly received by all those in attendance.

A special mention was made of the hard work that Dave Stotan had done in the running of our very own website. Appreciation was shown by attendees.

A special mention was also made of Mr Andrew Jones who had paraded the Association Standard at the St Barbara's Day service at the Garrison Church Larkhill on 9 December 2001 and also at the Army 2002.

In closing, the Reunion Secretary stated that the Association was going from strength to strength with 177 members, that we were universally spread throughout the world, and that no other Branch of the RAA could boast such a diverse membership. It was further mentioned that due to the diversity of membership, the Reunion Dinner was the only opportunity that members had together to enjoy each other's company. Unlike other branches of the RAA, members were unable to get together on regular occasions and for that reason Reunion Dinners must never cease and requested continued support for them.

In closing, the Reunion Secretary wished everyone all the very best for the forthcoming year and looked forward to seeing everyone at next year's Reunion which would be the Associations 100th Anniversary of the Artillery Clerks'. This will take place at Woolwich over the period 4th and 5th April 2003.

The 68th Reunion and Association Dinner continued into the early hours of Sunday morning, in the Ayre's Lounge. Perhaps a gallant mention should be made of a couple of individuals who nearly didn't make it to bed. At 0615 hrs, both WO2 Nick Perkowicz and SSgt Adam Martin were seen leaving the bar!!

A good weekend, was had by all members who attended!



Photograph by kind permission of Maj (Retd) John Reynolds

Gnr John Reynolds, attending Unit Clerks Course No 44 (26 Feb-9 Apr 49). John describes himself as an indifferent student, who at the time was still a National Serviceman and lived in Kennington and was much more interested in nipping home every evening to see his old pals. He graduated from the course as DIII Learner Clerk

Reunion Secretary's Report by WO1(SSM) Andy Tibble AGC(SPS)

The 69th (Centenary) Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner will be held in the Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Woolwich, on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th April 2003. The dress will be lounge suits on Friday 4th April 2003 and Mess Dress for serving members and black tie (with medals please) for retired individuals on Saturday 5th April 2003. A brief outline of the programme of events on Friday 4th, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th April 2003 will be as follows:

Friday 4th April 2003

- | | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| Early am | - | Exhibition placed in Foyer Sgts' Mess. |
| 1900-1945 hrs | - | Beating of the Retreat by the Royal Artillery Band (Front Parade). |
| 2000-late | - | Cocktail Reception/Buffer Supper (Sgts' Mess). |

Saturday 5th April 2003

- | | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| 1100-1400 hrs | - | Visit to Firepower Museum. |
| 1230-1400 hrs | - | Bar Open (Ayres Lounge). |
| 1700-1800 hrs | - | Artillery Clerks' Association Annual General Meeting (Ayres Lounge). |
| 1815 hrs | - | Guests Arrive (Reception Foyer Sgts' Mess). |
| 1830 hrs | - | Guest of Honour and President arrive (Foyer Sgts' Mess). |
| 1845 hrs | - | Reunion Photograph (Front Parade). |
| 1900 hrs | - | Reception Continues – Guest of Honour shown display (Foyer Sgts' Mess). |
| 1915 hrs | - | Reunion Dinner. |

Sunday 6th April 2003

- | | | |
|------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 0930 hrs onwards | - | Breakfast/Brunch (Messes). |
| 1100 hrs | - | Church Service (Station Church). |
| 1300 hrs | - | Curry Lunch (Sgts' Mess). |

Further information can be obtained from the Reunion Secretary, WO1 (SSM) Andy Tibble, on (9) 4261-2250 or 01276-412250 or by visiting the Artillery Clerks' Website at www.artyclerk.fsnet.co.uk

The Association Committee 2002-2003

Honorary President.....	Maj Gen Mike Shellard CBE
Chairman	Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM
Secretary	WO1 (SMAC) (Retd) Mel Charlton
Treasurer	Maj Paul Corker AGC(SPS)
Reunion Secretary	WO1(SSM) Andy Tibble AGC(SPS)
Welfare Officer	WO2(QMS(AC)) (Retd) Ted Morgan
Standard Bearer	Sgt(AC) (Retd) Andrew Jones
Padre Rev	Rev WO2(QMS(AC)) (Retd) Denis Brett
Webmaster	WO2(QMS(AC)) (Retd) David Stotan
Historical Secretary	WO1(SMAC) (Retd) Joe Hoggins

Regional Secretaries

North	WO2(QMS(AC)) (Retd) Vince Scott	North West	WO2(QMS(AC)) (Retd) Dennis Norris
Midlands	WO2(QMS(AC)) (Retd) Steve Callaghan	London and South	Sgt(AC) (Retd) Steve Truslove
West	WO2(SQMS) Trig Tregower	Scotland	Sgt(AC) (Retd) Ted Fairbrass
Wales	No Nomination	Germany	WO1 Roy Deal LSL/AGC(SPS)
East	Capt (Retd) Chris Berry	Rest of the World	The Secretary

Members List as at 26 November 2002 - Total 179

Sparky Allen	Rog Essex	John Lindley	Mike Shellard
Alf Alvin	Ted Fairbrass	Alan Lowthian	Si Did Siddall
Richard Ancliffe	Joe Falzon	Leon Lyall	Dougie Silver
Al Artley	Foxy Fox	Dave Manchester	Tony Skinner
John Baik	Jim Findlay	Tommy McCarthy	Bob Smith
Brian Bailey	Ron Flemmings	John McDermott	Brian Smith
Pip Bailey	Graham Flint	George McGilvery	Dave Smith
Brian Bassett	Chris Freeman	George McKinnell	Snowy Snowdon
Taff Bellis	Eric Frost	Paul McMahan	Phil Spencer
Chris Berry	Mark Gaines	James McNamara	Mark Spring
Martin Birch	Martin Geddes	Adam Martin	Trevor Spurr
Dave Boulton	Gerry Gipson	Tim Mathews	David Stotan
Peter Bradburn	Ian Grant	Tresh Matthews	Dave Straw
Denis Brett	Mick Grenham	Martin Meek	Andy Sykes
Graham Brown	Ian Groom	Tony Meek	John Taylor
Phil Buckingham	John Haddock	Tam Millsip	Mark Testi
Pete Bunn	Ted Hall 'H' Hammond	Brian Morgan	Andy Tibble
Martin Butler	Steve Hawke	Ted Morgan	Gordon Timmis
Budgie Burgess	Phil Hayes	Bill Morland	Trig Tregower
Steve Callaghan	Phil Headford	Andy Moss	Frank Trimby
Charles Camies	Marty Hester	Tony Mott	Steve Truslove
Iain Campbell	Alan Hill	Paul Mudd	Dave Tyler
Walter Carney	Geordie Himlin	Richard Nichol	Gary Tyson
Mel Charlton	Joe Hoggins	Dennis Norris	Pat Verdon
Rob Clarke	Ron Holmes	Tony Nuttall	Dave Vesty
Lawrence Collingwood	Vic Holdaway	Nick Perkovic	Dick Walmsley
Ian Constantine	Paddy Hope	Joe Phelps	William Wallace
Ron Cooper	Richard Horner	Dennis Phillipson	Daz Ward
Paddy Corbett	Stu Hunt	Chris Piper	Ken Ward
Paul Corker	Mick Hutchinson	Eddie Platts	Ron Waterfield
Bob Cowan	Geoff Hyatt	Jim Pottle	Duggie Waterhouse
Dennis Crawford	Geoff Janik	Steve Prowse	Tom Webb
Kev Crump	Dick Jeavons	Derek Ralphs	Andy West
Dave Cussell	Bill Johnson	Steve Read	Wills Williams
Jim Cussell	Mick Johnston	John Reynolds	Jeff Williams
Colin Davidson	Andrew Jones	Ian Ridge	Ian Williams
Paul Davies	Fred Jones	Neil Ridout	Alan Witts
Steve Davies	Derek Kelsey	Des Riley	Chris Wood
Bob Day	Clive Knaggs	Jim Roast	Al Wood
Roy Deal	Ralph Lalabalavu	Brian Rose	Woody Woodford
John Dewberry	Dave Larcombe	Alex Ross	Den Wright
Ray Dickinson	Brian Leadbetter	Arthur Rowell	John Yeowell
John Dixon	Russ Lee	Alan Sawdon	Bill Young
Jim Doran	Ray Lewis	Vince Scott	
Paddy Ennis	Bob Lewney	Steve Seymour	

Artillery Clerks' Association Ties

WHAT tie do you wear on a Friday? The Association tie is available from Des Riley at a cost of £11.00 each. The ties are of a silk/polyester quality, of zig zag design depicting crossed quills and 'AC' in gold. Send your cheque made out to 'Artillery Clerks' Association' to:

W01 Des Riley LSL/AGC(SPS)
 DGES(L) D Res 5a(5)
 DLO Andover, Monxton Road
 Andover, Hants

Being a Soldier

As you are an Englishman
it's as if right from the start
you're destined to be a Soldier,
the Army a vital part;
down through all those ages,
Agincourt, the Somme,
South Africa and India,
battles of right or wrong

When your turn comes
you're mustered, recruited for the fray
not of your own making,
to hold you, night and day.
So, you take up the musket,
sword or lance or gun;
respond to call of duty,
chastened by the drum.

Our fathers fought, they suffered
at Verdun and Passchendaele,
and we in turn did battle
at Casino and Grenadier Hill, then
later, in Korea and folly Falklands
fight, fatalists ready to soldier,
and, if need be, forfeit life.

From Private up to General
we're defenders of our realm;
protectors of a sweet land,
from Corporal to Colonel.
hearing the last post sounded but,
for so many no reveille;
sleeping on, not seeing their dawn
in distant hill or valley.

Back in 1997, former WO1(SMAC)
Arthur Rowell, who is 82 this year, had
a book of poem and prose published
entitled TRUTH. In response to
Secretary Information Letter No 1,
Arthur kindly forwarded a copy of the
book to the Secretary for the
Association. This poem is an extract
from TRUTH. Thank you Arthur.

In Memory of our departed Brother Artillery Clerks

Terry FOSTER
Died 3rd April 2002
Aged 64 years

Kevin SMYTH
Died 2001

**Rest in Peace Brother
Artillery Clerks**



RHQ 26 Fd Regt RA, Terendak Camp, Malacca

On a dull day in July 1963, proving multi-national is not a new idea.. Standing left to right - Saffa bin Davd, Malaysian, Regt Runner. Gnr Sneddon, Australian, Clerk. Gnr Ralph Lalabalavu, Fijian, Clerk, later to become WO2(QMS(AC)). LBdr Miners, British, Post Orderly. Yunos, Malaysian, Gardener. Sitting left to right. LBdr Austin, Tobagon, Clerk. WO2(QMS(AC)) Vic Holdaway - later to become Lt Col. Bdr Emerson, British, Clerk.

(photograph by kind permission of Lt Col(Retd) Vic Holdaway BEM)



50 MSL Reg RA, Practice Camp, Rheinshelen Camp Germany - August 1965

RHQ Staff - standing from left to right Bdr Mick Coulson, WO2(QMS(AC)) John Pisani, LBdr George Round, Gnr Mel Charlton, kneeling LBdr David Savage, Gnr Jock Lowe

(photograph by kind permission of WO1(SMAC) Retd Mel Charlton)

WANTED

(For Association Membership)

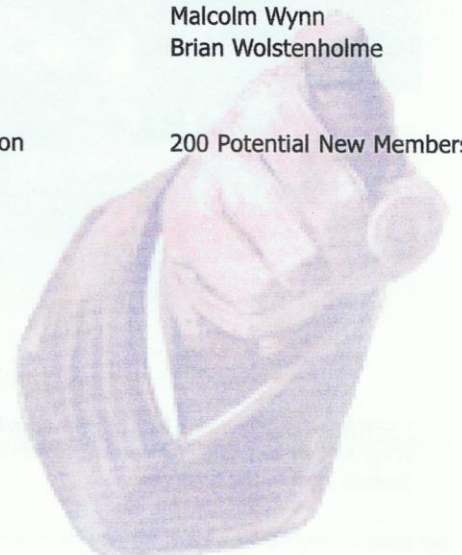
John Adams
Peter Allwright
Ron Anson
Bob Barber
Ron Baynes
Campbell Borthwick
Adrian Boxall
Dave Brookes
Dave Askham
Gary Barker
Dave Boswell
Alan Broomhead
Ron Allen
Jimmy Anderson
Robbie Astick
Derek Baldry
Baz Barry
Benny Bennett
James Bond
Ron Bristo
David Brown
Dave Burfitt
Tom Carmichael
Sandy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

Derek Donovan
Dave Dunn
Steve Edgeley
Paul Evans
Paul Fairbank
Vic Ferguson
Dick Finch
Derek Gauci
Les Gillard
Chris Gluning
Paul Green
JH Fairweather
PE Field
Bill Heaven
John Haddow
CJ Hamley
Clif Fields
Dave Fisher
Keith Garbett
Mike Greening
John Gray
Bob Hagen
Brian Harrington
Ted Harvey
Dennis Hinton
Andy Holder
John Hopkins
Steve Hoyle
Derek Hughes
Tab Hunter
Adrian Harrison
Mick Hopkins
Pete Hubbard
Idris Hughe
Pete Hutchinson
Terry Hart
Adrian Hawker
Eric Hubbard
Tony Hunt
Steve Jones
Bob Kindness
Jack Knott
John Lane
Brian Hyland
Steve Jukes
Trevor Kemish
Alan King
Dave Langstaff
G Jacobs
Alan Jeffery
Chris Jones
Ted Jones
Kev Keast
Roy Kinsley

Dick Kimble
Steve Lee
Mick Lynch
Ron Marsh
George McLaughlan
Eric Miller
Maurice Metcalfe
Mark Lindsay-Smith
Derick Lund
Alistair McKenzie
Tony Martin
Ken May
Eric Mills
Harry Lomax
George Martin
C McCusker
Steve McKenna
Ron Melvin
Ken Moore
John Nicholas
Bill Ogilvie
Gil O'Mallo
Andy O'Neill
Pete Oxley
Pete Murphy
John Osman
Les Price
Jim Peggie
Ken Peacock
Duncan Pettit
Nick Powell
Dave Parkinson
Peter Petts
Clem Pooke
John Pratt
Bill Pattison
Jim Peggie
Paul Perry
Mick Price
Gaz Prottley
Howard Richardson
Dave Robertson
Dick Scatchered
Alan Seal
Syd Simpson
P Robinson
Fred Pulfer
Mick Regan
Ron Reid
Graham Roberts
Tom Rooney
Jim Rostron
Mick Scaife
Dave Scott

Martin Smith
Coiln Stephenson
Trevor Stokes
Paul Stratton
Bernie Swift
Frank Thorne
Dave Townley
Jock Stewart
Dave Stoneham
Tom Taylor
Charlie Thompson
Jimmy Treanor
Alex Stelfox
Joe Stockhill
Roy Swan
Bill Tasker
Graham Telford
Bob Thompson
Bob Walkinshaw
Nigel Waring
Chalky White
Willy Williams
Harry Waldon
LS Warren
Kev Watkins
Fred Westwell
Mick Williams
John Turner
Derek Taylor
Chris Williams
John Wilson
RVM Walker
Charlie Welsh
Geoff Whitby
TC Williams
Tony Wilson
Malcolm Wynn
Brian Wolstenholme

200 Potential New Members



The Association Website

Have you visited the
Artillery Clerks'
Association web-site yet??
Take a look at

www.artyclerk.fsnet.co.uk.

The site is maintained by*
our own Webmaster
David Stotan.



Instructors at the RA Clerks' School, Woolwich 1958

Left to right - SSgt(AC) John Reynolds, Sgt(AC) Les Gillard, WO1(SMAC) Jim Camies, SSgt(AC) Fred Carroll, SSgt(AC) Eric Miller, Sgt(AC) Roy Kinsley, SSgt(AC) Len Price

(photograph by kind permission of Maj(Retd) John Reynolds)



RA Clerks School, Woolwich - 1958

SSgt(AC) John Reynolds last course as an instructor before reverting back to Sgt(AC) and posted to BAOR to form HQ 1 Lt Ac Wing AAC at Detmold. Names of students are not known, but does anyone recognise themselves? That certainly looks like Graham Flint in the back row.

(photograph by kind permission of Maj(Retd) John Reynolds)

Minutes of the Artillery Clerks' Association Annual General Meeting held at Woolwich, London on Saturday 19th October 2002

1. Opening Remarks by Chairman

- a. The Chairman Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM opened the meeting at 1730 hours by stating how nice it was to see so many new faces, as well as some lapsed members, attending the Reunion. He also particularly welcomed those who had travelled great distances to come to Woolwich.
- b. He went on to explain that it was necessary to hold AGMs to give members the opportunity to discuss formal business. He requested a two way involved debate and ideas for the Centenary to be discussed.

2. Apologies for Absence.

There were 32 apologies for absence and their names would be read out during the Dinner.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 31 March 2001.

The Chairman explained that the minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 31 March 2001 had been printed and distributed in Edition 5 of The Crossed Quills, and unless any member had any objection, they would not be read out again.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 31 March 2001.

The minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 31 March 2001 were approved. *Proposer:* Mr Jim Cussell BEM *Seconder:* Lt Col Richard Horner MBE RA.

5. Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 31 March 2001.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 31 March 2001.

6. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave a general update as follows:

- a. Membership stood at 177. He urged those present to support him in his objective to reach 200 before the Centenary next year. The Chairman suggested that we should all work on a theme of 1.2.3. ie 1st February 2003 as a deadline, and that enrolment forms should be sent to prospective members.
- b. The Committee had had a busy year and that both he and the Secretary had started their second careers. He said that the Reunion Dinner planned for April had been postponed at short notice due to the death of HM The Queen Mother and that the impending Firemen's Strike may have caused problems. He registered his thanks to WO1 Andy Tibble as Reunion Secretary and Mr Mel Charlton as Secretary for keeping the presence of the Association visible. He also thanked the Standard Bearer, Mr Andrew Jones, who had attended the St Barbara's Day Church Service and the Army 2000 at Larkhill.
- c. Mr Joe Hoggins had accepted the position of Association Historical Secretary and would be given the opportunity to speak later.

7. Secretary's Report

- a. WO1 Mark Testi awarded the MSM.
- b. Maj Richard Horner MBE promoted to Lt Col.
- c. Capts Paul Corker, Bob Cowan, Ian Groom and John Dewberry MBE promoted to Maj.
- d. Sgts Snowy Snowdon, Foxy Fox and Adam Martin promoted to SSgt.
- e. Former WO2(QMS(AC)) Terry Foster had died on 3 April 02 aged 64.
- f. Although not a member, former Sgt(AC) Kev "Taff" Smyth had died during 2001.
- g. Warning Order - the St Barbara's Day Church Service would be held at Larkhill on Sun 1 Dec 02 and that all members within travelling distance would be sent an attendance letter.
- h. Ties were on sale at a cost of £11.00. Afternote. WO1 Des Riley has now become the tie man and orders should be placed directly with him.

- i. 200 RAA Raffle Tickets had been allocated to the Association. The Association had paid the £50 for the tickets and each of the 178 members had been allocated one ticket, with the remainder going to the Association. Prizes were 1st £1000, 2nd £500, 3rd £150 plus 10 prizes of £50 each.

8. **The Treasurer's Report.** The Secretary read out the report in the absence of the Treasurer Maj Paul Corker:
Liquidity State as at Sat 19 Oct 02

Assets	
Current Bank Balance	£2,954.35
Deposit Bank Balance	£2,128.74
Shop Stock	£ 90.00
Total Assets (A)	£5,173.09

Liabilities	
Function	£3,161.75
Total Liabilities (B)	£3,161.75

Available Cash (A-B) £2,011.34

Notes: **Subscriptions.** There are 33 members outstanding their 2002/2003 annual subscriptions. This would result in an additional £165.00 to be credited to the General Purpose Fund.

Mandate. 46 members are not paying by Standing Order Mandate. Members are continuously encouraged to subscribe by this method.

Oct 22 Function. All declared bills as at Wed 16 Oct 02 have now been cleared.

9. **Welfare Secretary's Report.** The Welfare Secretary had nothing to report. He went on to say that help was there for members and dependants if required, and that there may be people out there who need assistance. He needed to be made aware of all individual cases where we may assist. The Secretary mentioned that there was a nameless member of the Association who had broken up with his wife and was living in a cellar in Germany.

10. **Reunion Secretary's Report**

- a. The Reunion Secretary briefed attending members on the format for the evening.
- b. The Chairman explained that Maj Gen Currie had been serving when he was originally invited to attend the April Dinner and that he was now retired. Maj Gen Shellard may stand down as Association President as his present appointment as Regimental Comptroller RAA may cause a conflict of interest. (Afternote: Maj Gen Shellard has kindly agreed to remain as our Honorary President at least until May 2003)

11. **Any other Business**

- a. **Election or Re-election of Committee.** The Committee comprised as follows were re-elected in their appointments.

Chairman	Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon BEM
Secretary	Mr Mel Charlton
Treasurer	Maj Paul Corker AGC(SPS)
Reunion Secretary	WO1(SSM) Andy Tibble AGC(SPS)

Proposer Lt Col Richard Horner MBE RA
Secunder Mr Andrew Jones

- b. **Replacement North West Area Secretary.** Mr Dennis Norris was proposed and accepted to replace Mr Colin Davidson as the North West Secretary:
Proposer WO1 Mick Hutchinson LSL/RA
Secunder Mr Raymond Lewis MSM

- c. **Return Reunion Dinner to October.** After some discussion a unanimous vote was taken to return the Reunion Dinner to October each year:
Proposer Maj Tony Mott RA
Secunder Mr Andrew Jones

- d. **Centenary Reunion Dinner 4/5 Apr 03.** The Chairman proposed the following format for the Centenary Reunion:
Fri 4 Apr Beating of the Retreat, followed by Buffet Supper.
Dress Lounge Suits.

Sat 5 Apr AGM, Photograph, Reunion Dinner, (Guest of Honour Master Gunner). Dress Formal.

Sun 6 Apr Church Service, lounge suits.

The Chairman stated that this was to be a special weekend. Members were welcome to get involved. He wanted to seek help but was persuaded by the Secretary and Reunion Secretary that it would not be necessary. An exhibition was to be created with the help of the Historical Secretary, Mr Joe Hoggins, comprising articles, photographs etc from members. The Chairman further stated that the event deserved recognition. There would be a Loyal Message and a formal Dinner.

Mr Vince Scott proposed that wives to be included, in this one off and very special occasion, on the Friday evening and Sunday morning. A discussion from the floor followed with no definitive decision being made at the time.

The President proposed the Beating of the Retreat be held at the Firepower Museum.

The President then requested Mr Joe Hoggins to speak on the subject of historical records and the proposed book 'History of the Artillery Clerk'. Mr Joe Hoggins took the floor and requested that members supply details including photographs of Reunion Dinners and any other interesting items. He mentioned that Maj (Retd) John Reynolds had sent several photographs. That the first Reunion Dinner had been held in 1923 and any subsequent photographs, memorabilia, anecdotes etc could be put together for 2003. Details could also be used for the proposed publication of a book entitled 'The History of the Artillery Clerk'.

The President requested that individuals living in the local area may wish to assist in the setting up the exhibition side of the Centenary, with display boards etc. Any volunteers would be appreciated and maybe Maj Ian Groom or Mr Derek Kelsey could assist.

12. **Date of Next Meeting.** There being no further business from the floor, the meeting closed at 1825 hours. The next meeting would be held on Saturday 5th April 2003.



Above: RA Clerks School, Woolwich 1958
Instructors, SSgt(AC) Eric Miller and SSgt(AC) John Reynolds

Right: A young and thrusting instructor, SSgt(AC) John Reynolds
pictured at the RA Clerks' School, Woolwich, in 1958



(photographs by kind permission of Maj(Retd) John Reynolds)

Royal Artillery Clerks' Convention Woolwich, January 1963



Rear Row : Left to Right - W.O.II (QMSAC) Clancy, M.J.; S.sgt. (AC) Moore, K.C.; S.sgt. (AC) Grigsby, J.R.W.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Wolstenholme, B.J.; Sgt. (AC) Banks, L.H., B.E.M.; S.sgt. (AC) Allen, H.D.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Lane, J.C., B.E.M., Sgt. (AC) Jones, E.F.; S.sgt. (AC) Stickings, G.F.; Sgt. (AC) Ross, A.F.; Sgt. (AC) Smith, R.E.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Phebey, H.; S.sgt. (AC) Terrans, J.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Harris, S.R.; S.sgt. (AC) Mills, G.E.; Sgt. (AC) Whitmore, M.G.; S.sgt. (AC) Pisani, J.; S.sgt. (AC) Vincent, P.

Third Row : Left to Right - W.O.II (QMSAC) Ainslie, S.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Owen, J.W., B.E.M.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Milburn, G.W.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Hughes, A.E.; Sgt. (AC) Vernon, H.F.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Miller, E.; S.sgt. (AC) Dixon, J.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Greening, M.J.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Kinsley, R.W., B.E.M.; S.sgt. (AC) Lynch, T.W.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Thompson, H.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Waterhouse, D.W.; S.sgt. (AC) Croucher, R.E.W.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Whitham, F.; S.sgt. (AC) Perry, E.S.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Price, L.E.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Johnson, W.

Second Row : Left to Right - W.O.I (RSM) Wheelhouse, W.K.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Beach, G.; S.sgt. (AC) Weston, P.P.A.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Cran, A.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Grech, J.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Kibble, H.M.; S.sgt. (AC) Hanley, J.P.; S.sgt. (AC) Saliba, C.; Sgt. (AC) Dansey, B.; Sgt. (AC) Hornby, J.B.; S.sgt. (AC) Allan, J.; S.sgt. (AC) Diamond, J.; S.sgt. (AC) Maxfield, H.A.A.; S.sgt. (AC) Busby, A.C.L.; Sgt. (AC) Carroll, J.O.; W.O.II (QMSAC) Field, P.E.; S.sgt. (AC) Parsons, M.; Sgt. (AC) Fairweather, T.H.; W.O.I (SMAC) Buxton, F.W.P.; W.O.I (RSM) Adams, W.H.

Front Row : Left to Right - W.O.I (SMAC) Bennett, N.B.J.; W.O.I (SMAC) James, W.; W.O.I (SMAC) Evans, E.T., B.E.M.; W.O.I (SMAC) Jones, F.T.; W.O.I (SMAC) Terry, H.A.; W.O.I (SMAC) Skinner, T.H.; W.O.I (SMAC) Baines, J.A.; Col. M.T. Crawford, M.B.E.; Brig. P.R. Hemans, C.B.E., A.D.C.; Maj.-Gen. E.J.H. Bates, O.B.E., M.C.; Brig. H.R.L. Hodges, A.D.C.; Col. R.A. Pont, D.S.O.; Lt.-Col. (QM) G.C. Abbott, R.A.; Lt.-Col. D.S.Lucas, R.A.; W.O.I (SMAC) Poor, J.; W.O.I (SMAC) Barber, L.J.; W.O.I (SMAC) Woodford, G.; W.O.I (SMAC) Longman, K.L.; W.O.I (SMAC) Bridger, L.J.; W.O.I (SMAC) Higgs, L.G.

Update from the WebMaster - David Stotan (Former WO2(QMS(AC)))

By now most of you will have realised that there have been a few changes to that all important 'Message Board' and sadly the 'Guest Book' is no more! This change was forced upon us by the imminent closure of BeSeen who hosted these facilities free of charge and sadly they were no longer able to do so. However, I think the latest version of the Message Board is far superior and much easier to get to grips with. I will be actively removing older messages to prevent the Message Board becoming too cluttered so don't be alarmed if one of your older messages disappears.

The Message Board is an excellent place to exchange ideas and keep in touch with each other and I would encourage you to use it as much as possible. The main difference with a message board as opposed to the Guest Book which most of you were getting used too is the fact that you can follow the flow of the conversation far easier. Each new subject is given its own heading in bold and underlined and the name of the person posting the message with the date and time left is shown next to the subject heading. When someone replies to your posted message each response will be prefixed with "re" and will appear as a sub heading beneath your message. Responses to these additional replies are also prefixed with "re" and added as a sub, sub heading and so on!

Some of you may have experienced difficulty in viewing the link buttons on our web pages.

This was due to upgrading my software and the inclusion of Java Virtual Machine to run the hover buttons and I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused anyone. The only way to remedy this for those of you who do not have this particular language installed on their PC's is to download the Virtual Java Machine which is available at:

<http://java.sun.com/getjava/download.htm>

The website will check your PC to see if an automatic install will work on your PC. If not there are instructions available on the site to do this manually.

Regards
David Stotan
Webmaster

ARMY ORDER 54 OF 1903

Pay and Promotion of Clerks, Royal Artillery

EDWARD R.I.

A.O.54 **WHEREAS** We deem it expedient to amend the regulations relating 18
April to the pay and promotion of soldiers employed as clerks in Our Royal Artillery; **Artillery**
1903 3038

OUR WILL AND PLEASURE is that all soldiers who may hereafter be permanently employed as clerks in Our Royal Artillery shall form a section to be called the Artillery Clerks' Section, and shall, from the 1st April 1903, be paid and promoted as follows:

	Rank	Pay s. d.	Class for Allowances.
1ST DIVISION			
On Promotion from the 2nd Division	Warrant Officer	5 6	16
2ND DIVISION			
On promotion from 3rd Division.	Company Sergeant Major	4 0	17
After 3 year's service with pay at 4s per day.	Quarter Master Sergeant	4 6	16
After 3 year's service with pay at 4s 6d per day.	Quarter Master Sergeant	5 10	16
3RD DIVISION			
On appointment	Acting Bombardier	2 0	20
After one year's service in the division	Bombardier	2 6	20
After 2 year's service with pay at 2s 6d a-day.	Corporal	3 0	20
After 2 year's service with pay at 3s a-day.	Sergeant	3 6	19

No increase of rank or pay under this article shall be allowed, unless specially recommended by the officer under whom the non-commissioned officer is serving.

Given at Our Court at St. James's this 21st
day of March, 1903, in the 3rd year of Our
Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

Sr. JOHN BRODRICK

(Extract by kind permission of the Royal Artillery Institution)

Artillery Clerks' Association Charter

General

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

Eligibility

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

Purpose

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

Organisation

8. The affairs of the Artillery Clerks' Association will be overseen by the Artillery Clerks' Association Committee. The Committee will meet at intervals decided upon by the Chairman, and will comprise of:
 - a. President (Honorary).
 - b. Chairman.
 - c. Secretary. Responsibilities cover:
 - (1) Association Membership.
 - (2) Correspondence.
 - (3) Providing a focus for the Association's welfare work and links to the RAA.
 - (4) Production of a periodic newsletter.
 - (5) Coordinating the activities of the Area Representatives.
 - d. Treasurer. Responsibilities cover:
 - (1) Maintenance of a bank account entitled the "Artillery Clerks' Association".
 - (2) Accounting for all the finances of the Artillery Clerks' Association.
 - (3) Presenting a Statement of Account to the Committee (as and when required) and annually at the AGM.
 - e. Regional Representatives. Responsibilities cover:
 - (1) The recruitment of new members.
 - (2) Maintaining an area membership list.
 - (3) Coordinating travel to Reunions and other Association activities.

Areas covered are:

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

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

Fees

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

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

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



RA Clerks' School, Woolwich
(Shrapnel Barracks)

Course No 12 'C' Class - 29 Sep - 7 Nov
1941.

Left to right from top: LBdr Archibald, Bdr Roberts, LBdr West, Bdr Farrell, Bdr Folland, LBdr Galley, LBdr McBrae, LBdr Marshall, Bdr Fred Jones, Gnr Crewes, LBdr McCartney, Sgt Maj Taffs, Lt Turley, SSgt Dare, Sgt Newman, Gnr Bowley.

(photograph by kind permission of
WO1(SMAC) Retd Fred Jones)



RA Clerks' School, Woolwich

Unit Clerks' Course No 44 - 26 Feb - 9 Apr
1949.

Gnr John Reynolds is back row left. Several attendees who attended the course signed the back of the photograph. Deciphered names are, Bernard Crump, K J Yates, Peter Oliver, Thomas Leishman, J Atkinson, J Welsh, Duncan Brown, Stan Burke, N Hood or Hook, Michael Bartlett, T Dawson, Peter Brown, Delford?, A Hayles, J B Jarvis, J Hughes and Les Tidy. The instructor in the middle of the front row is Sgt(AC) or was it SSgt(AC) Jim Camies who retired as a Major.

(photograph by kind permission of
Maj(Retd) John Reynolds)

What is a Beadle?

Ted Hall retired as Chief Clerk RA Depot at Woolwich in 1984 as a WO2(QMS(AC)). He saw an advert in the Services Resettlement Bulletin for "Beadle to a City Livery Company" and thought it was something to do with horses, but he still got the job! He was appointed in 1984. He is often asked at reunions "What is a Beadle?" The following is an extract from a newsletter of the Worship Company of Skinners. The word originated as Bedel and he was the person responsible for looking after a church within the City of London in Medieval times. He was the Parish Constable, social worker and almoner to the Parishioners within the church Ward. Later as the Wards grew to encompass more than one church, an Alderman or Sheriff was appointed to administer the Ward and he had a Ward Beadle. The Parishes appointed Churchwardens to look after their property. In the fourteenth century when some of the Guilds of London were forming as Livery Companies and building their own Livery Halls for meetings and hospitality, they appointed their own Beadle. He was the first elected officer of the Company and his duties included security and maintenance of the Livery Hall. He was used as the point of contact between the Master, Wardens, Court of Assistants and Livery in general and he was responsible for finding suitable Apprentices for the members. He was responsible for the discipline of members, especially the Apprentices, and his stave is his staff of office. The gown that he wears denote the "colours" of the Livery Company and he acts as a rallying point for members when all the Companies are on parade for the election of Lord Mayors and Sheriffs. Whilst most of the Court and Livery lived and worked within the Square Mile, the Beadle was able to summon them personally, but as people became dispersed there grew a need for someone who could write and so use the new postal services to summon members. The learned Clerk then began his rise in importance to his position today as the chief executive of the Company. The Beadle continues to be the Ceremonial Officer and nowadays, assisted by computers and e-mail, corresponds with members and is their first point of contact. Ted is now the longest serving Beadle responsible for a Livery Hall in the City and currently the Chairman of the City of London Beadles' Guild.

The photograph depicts Ted Hall on the left and the Beadle to the Merchant Taylors' Company. The Skinners' and Merchant Taylors' are part of the Great Twelve ancient Livery Companies of the City. They were both granted their Royal Charters by the young King Edward III in April 1327. When the Companies were put into an order of Seniority they both disputed who should be 6th and 7th place. It came to a head in 1684 when the Mayor of London Robert Billesdon was to be presented to Westminster. All the livery barges formed up on the Thames for the procession. Skinners and Merchant Taylors both tried to get into 6th position, which caused chaos! Mayor Billesdon sent for the Masters of the two

Companies and decreed that they would share seniority, being senior alternate years. With the exception that if the Lord Mayor was elected from either of the two companies, that Company would be senior during his year of office. He also decreed that they should host a dinner to celebrate this decision. At Easter of every year, the Master, Wardens and Beadles report to the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House for the ceremony. This is where the photograph was taken. The decree made by Mayor Billesdon in 1684 was the origin of the expression: To be at "sixes and sevens".

RHQ Staff - standing left to right Bdr Mick Coulson, WO2(QMS(AC)) John Pisani, LBdr George Round, Gnr Mel Charlton, kneeling LBdr David Savage, Gnr Jock Lowe
(photograph by kind permission of WO1(SMAC) Retd Mel Charlton)





1 RHA Sgts' Mess after the BAOR Artillery Clerks' Dinner 1958

"The morning after the night before" Left to right, Sgt(AC) Harry Waldren, WO1(SMAC) Ken "Knocker" Knowles, WO1(SMAC) Nameless, Sgt(AC) Duggie Waterhouse, Sgt(AC) George Davidson, SSgt(AC) Jack Lane and SSgt(AC) Bill Johnson.

(photograph by kind permission of WO1(SMAC) Retd Bill Johnson)



OC and Instructors at the RA Clerks School, Woolwich 1958

Standing: Sgt(AC) Ken Moore, Office Staff, Sgt(AC) Roy Kinsley, Sgt(AC) Les Gillard. Sitting: SSgt(AC) Len Price, SSgt(AC) Eric Miller, WO1(SMAC) Jim Camies, Maj(QM) G E (George) Abbot, SSgt(AC) Fred Carroll, SSgt(AC) John Reynolds

(photograph by kind permission of Maj(Retd) John Reynolds)



Reunion Dinner - RA Sgts' Mess, Woolwich 1966

Above: Left to right - WO1(SMAC) Johnson, not recognised, WO1(SMAC) Owen, Lt(QM) J Reynolds, not recognised, WO2(QMS(AC)) Boot, not recognised, Capt (QM) J Camies RA - OC RA Clerks' School, Woolwich

(photographs by kind permission of WO1(SMAC)Retd Bill Johnson)

Reunion Dinner - RA Sgts' Mess, Woolwich 1966

Below: Left to right - WO1(SMAC) Miller, Owen, Johnson and Clancy. The head on the extreme right belongs to WO2(QMS(AC)) Dick Kibble, former Chief Clerk 1 RHA



Some reminiscences of the Regular Army 1932-1941 Woolwich - 1932 - 1935

Pete Bunn was born on 22nd November 1911. He joined the Royal Artillery on 19th February 1932 and became a LBdr(AC) (Acting LSgt) in 1935 as Chief Clerk with Scottish Defences in Edinburgh. His last post as an Artillery Clerk was as SM(AC) Chief Clerk at The School of AA Artillery at Manorbier in South Wales. In 1942 Pete was commissioned Lt(QM) and finished his Army Service as Capt(QM) in October 1945. Pete joined the Association on 20th September 2002 at the age of 90. The following is the first part of his recollections of the Regular Army up until 1935.

This is not about the Second World War, it is merely my memories of service in the Regular Army prior to the War. I must also make it clear that I accept that some of the facts and figures may have become distorted over time but it is my genuine, if imperfect, recollection of things as they were.

In my late teens I developed a desire to see the world and made some enquiries as to the possibility of emigrating to South Africa where I had relatives. However my enquiries elicited the fact that I would have to find a sum of money, the exact amount I cannot recall, in order to go there. I did not have that amount of money, whatever it was. At this time, of course, travel abroad was quite out of the question for the ordinary man in the street. Only the rich and famous could avail themselves of this luxury.

I worked as a clerk in a Solicitors' Office in London, typing legal documents and doing some shorthand. Strangely enough these mundane skills were to have a considerable effect on my military career.

My thoughts then turned to the Service but I cannot recall now whether I considered the Navy or whether they were not accepting new entries at that time. I think it was the latter. If was, of course, the time of the Great Depression, and there was a rush to join the Services. However, I opted for the Army and went straight for the top - the Household Cavalry. They were not taking new recruits! OK, I'll go for the Guards. They

were taking recruits - but no - the minimum height was 5' 11 1/2" and I was a mere 5' 10 1/2".

What do I go for now? My first choice had been with the Household Cavalry, with the horses, riding breeches and spurs. The Royal Artillery had horses, riding breeches and spurs - and so it was that on the 19th February 1932 a somewhat bemused youth presented himself to the Recruiting Officer at Warley Barracks, Brentwood in Essex for enrolment in the Royal Regiment of Artillery and thus began my 14 years service in the Regular Army.

Incidentally, the Army Depot at Warley no longer exists. It was a depot of the Essex Regiment, but is now the site of the main offices of the Ford Motor Co.

Before the actual swearing in we were given lunch (or dinner as it was then called). I cannot recall what the meal consisted of but I do remember that when I had finished the main course I went back to the cook for my sweet (or pudding) whereupon he turned the plate upside down and plonked the pudding thereon. It was my first experience of labour-saving. After all it was before the advent of dish-washers!

I was then sworn in and given the "King's Shilling" - (5 pence) and sent off on leave until 4 March when I was to report to the Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich.

Red Barracks, which was that part of the Woolwich Depot to which I was posted, consisted - among other things - of two Training Brigades - the 1st and 2nd. Each of these comprised a large square surrounded by stables for the horses and immediately above these were the barrack rooms for the recruits. It very soon became apparent that the horses came first and the recruits second.

On arrival we were split into groups of 20 (Squads) each with its own Sergeant. The Sergeant was teacher, taskmaster, torturer; he taught discipline, how to overcome your fears, how to live with one another and to act as a team - in short he was a moulder of character who instilled in your pride in what you set

out to achieve and the ability to live with one another whatever the differences in background. I had the greatest respect for them. I always remember a day we were marching back into barracks from the Drill Parade and the Sergeant shouted, "come on now, stick those chests out, you are the smartest Squad in the Brigade", and, at that moment, we certainly were! Their discipline could be harsh but it was always fair. One hears today of bullying in the Services - it was something I never encountered.

The first thing we had to do was to report to the Quartermaster's Store to collect our Army gear. In the early part of training we were not issued with proper uniform only brown denims - jacket and trousers - and these were washed every couple of weeks. I was issued with a pair of boots - untreated and almost white leather - and was told to get the bootpolish out and blacken them. This I proceeded to do and had successfully coloured one of them when we re ordered to parade outside. The Sergeant did not seem unduly put out by the appearance of a recruit with one black and one white boot but I was somewhat embarrassed!

At 6am on our first morning we were awakened by Reveille and ordered to report to the stables to take the horses to water. No mug of tea or a wash - the horses needed a drink! To say that one took the horses to water is not strictly true. You were told to lead two horses to the water-trough - in fact the horses literally carried you to the water. The only people who had any control over the horses were the regular grooms. To the horses recruits were for playing with. When we had to groom them as often as not one would back you into a corner of the stable and lean gently against you until the groom came to your rescue.

There was a large washhouse - cold water only. We would wash and go off to breakfast but did not shave. We had large pint size mugs and we always brought one back half full of hot tea in order to have a shave using the tea to produce a lather. Bedding was pretty basic by today's standards. We slept on an iron framed bed upon which were

placed three "biscuits". These were coir filled canvas squares. There was a canvas pillow similarly filled but which did have a cover. I cannot remember whether it was two or three blankets - but no sheets. You slept in your long-johns to counteract the roughness of the blankets. Despite this apparent frugality we slept like logs and I have never liked a soft bed since!

Pay was 2 shillings a day (10p). You were paid 5 shillings (50p) and 10 shillings (£1) on alternate weeks and any money accrued was paid to you when you went on leave which was about every three months - compulsory saving! If you passed your third class certificate of education you got an extra 3d (1p) a day and extra for second, first and special certificates but I cannot remember the amounts. Stoppages were 11d (5p) a month for washing plus payment for any kit you lost.

The period for training for a recruit was 14 weeks and consisted of foot drill, rifle drill, gun drill. P.T and education. Incidentally as soon as a Squad was formed recruits were divided into two categories - Gunners and Drivers. If you were tall you were a gunner - if short a Driver. The former manned the gun itself and the latter rode the horses that drew the gun.

Foot drill and rifle drill I loved and as we progressed we performed drill on the Front Parade in front of the public who used to come and watch us. In time we became so proficient that we would perform drill movements without commands but just with blasts on a whistle. It all made one feel rather good.

The guns were 18 pounders (the size of the shell) and we used to have to manhandle them into position and learn how to load and fire them - and clean them - of course.

P.T I find somewhat difficult. I was not strong and I found the ropes and bars hard going but I improved as time went by. I did have some interesting times with the wooden horse. You were required to run up, leap onto the springboard and vault gracefully over to the other side. I had the first bit off all right but when I leapt onto the springboard instead of vaulting gracefully I crashed into the horse, and nearly knocked myself out. Unfortunately, having failed once I was required to try

again - and again! This was painful, frustrating and not a little embarrassing. However, one day it was my turn again and everybody was expecting the usual fiasco when I took off, landed on the springboard, thrust out my arms and proceeded in a graceful arc to the other side. I think the Instructor was a bit disappointed but I was over the moon so to speak.

The education classes were very good but more of that later.

We were eventually issued with uniforms and as we were not allowed out of barracks until about two weeks before out Passing Out and had little money to spend in the Naafi, a great deal of our evening time was spent cleaning our kit. Boots and spurs were the main items. Boots had to have toes and heels that were as smooth and shiny as patent leather. This was achieved by applying polish, spitting on it, and then working the mixture into the leather with the aid of a bone-handled toothbrush - "spit and polish". Many hours were spent doing this while discussing matters of great moment - such as "Does anybody remember what a girl looks like?"

The underside of the boot under the instep also had to be polished. The spurs and the metal heel plates on the boots were burnished with a pad of steel links to produce the necessary shine. The leather grips on the riding breeches and the tapes that held the puttees in position had to be blanched - khaki.

Kit inspections were another important event. I think the Sergeant-Major did one very day and the CO about once a week. The daily one was fairly routine but for the CO the floors had to be scrubbed as well and everything that could be polished was polished. In fact for the CO's inspections we would prepare the room the night before and sleep in the passage outside!

Occasionally there were raids by Squads on each others barracks rooms - they were usually quite harmless but men were known to finish up with their privates fetchingly decorated a striking khaki colour.

After 14 weeks we finished our training and duly "passed out". We were given 14 days leave at the end of which we would be posted to various units throughout the UK. But this was not to be for me.

In the middle of 1932, after my leave, and following the completion of my recruits training, I returned to the Depot at Woolwich fully expecting to be posted to a regular Unit for further training. A rule existed at that time that no recruit could stay at the Depot on completion of recruit's training and, having been posted, could not return for a period of six months. I do not know what was behind this rule but it was so.

I learned that instead of being posted away I was to have an interview with the Depot Commander, a Brigadier. It transpired that my CO, on learning that I was a shorthand-typist - something of a rarity in the army at that time - decided that I could be of help in dealing with his correspondence. I duly reported for interview by the Brigadier who, it transpired, was Coach of the Oxford Boat Race Crew. He dictated to me a piece relating to the coaching of a boat race crew and I was told to type it. This I did and I was dismissed and told to report back to my Unit. A couple of days later I was told that I was staying at the Depot and was to report to Brigade Office.

I was to remain at the Depot for about three years and during this period I went through three distinct phases - a period as a Pay Clerk - a period as Clerk to the Regimental Sergeant-Major - and a period in the Brigade Office.

The period as a Pay Clerk was quite uneventful.

The period as Clerk to the Regimental Sergeant-Major was much better. RSM Lariat was an Irishman and a true RSM of the old school. He struck fear into everyone, especially junior Officers! I remember one occasion when I was with him and two young officers passed - he saluted and barked at one of them - "Sir! do you think you are the Prince of Wales - please put your hat on straight". You may remember that the Prince of Wales always wore his cap at a rakish angle.

There were also perks attached to this job. I no longer had to live in the barrack room but slept in the RSM's office. My three biscuits were placed on the office table at night and I slept thereon while listening to Jack Payne and his band on my radio - much better company than snoring and smelly feet! - not an uncommon phenomenon in the Barrack Room! In addition, instead of having to parade for meals I could go in

for a meal at any reasonable time. Such was the status of the RSM that some of his aura attached to me as well - and very nice too!

There was one aspect of my position at that time which did not turn out too well! I had decided that, if possible, I would like to learn to ride and the RSM agreed that I could do so and arranged with the Warrant Officer in charge of equitation for me to have lessons. In retrospect I came to the conclusion that this Warrant Officer (junior to the RSM) had no great love for the RSM and saw a way of having a knock. I duly reported to the riding school and was given a mount. We trotted round a couple of times and I was then instructed to jump a small hurdle - about 1 ft high Needless to say the horse and I parted company in mid-air. The next thing I had to do was much more interesting! You were required, while trotting, to take your feet out of the stirrups, lean forward, throw your legs back, and dismount. Then, while still running beside the animal, you grabbed the saddle made a two-footed leap forward and, using the momentum of the horse, threw yourself back and upward into the saddle. This is what was meant to happen but not for me. You will remember that I told you earlier that the horses new the recruits - and I was still one as far as the horse was concerned - well, I went through the motions - leapt forward and threw myself up to the saddle, except that at that moment the nag decided to throw his hind quarters into the air. Instead of landing in the saddle I landed at the side of his rear end and back to the ground. This happened at least three times and I never made it. He was a very clever horse! I did do a little riding after that but not a great deal.

When I had returned from leave on completion of my recruit's training and found that I was not to be posted to a regular unit I had begun to consider what my future was to be. I had enlisted for 6 years plus 6 years in the Reserve so that I had another 5 1/2 years to go. On investigation I decided that the best course was to acquire a "trade". Trades consisted of such things as Gunnery Instructors, Artificers, Armourers, and others which I cannot recall. The one that interested me was Artillery Clerk - not an inspiring title but one I thought

would suit my limited talents. These "trades" carried with them increased rates of pay, and what was more advantageous, a measure of automatic promotion once you were qualified. Incidentally the enlistment period of 6 years plus 6 in the Reserve was the minimum. It was very common to hear men saying "roll on my 6 years" - but when it came to the crunch 90% signed on for the further 6 years - as I did myself in due course.

Having chosen a course of action I decided that my priority was education. This was provided by the Army Education Corps and was first class. I had won a scholarship to a grammar school when I was younger but I still had to take the army examinations. These consisted of 3rd, 2nd, 1st, and Special Certificates. I eventually passed the first three exams, which I required to become an Artillery Clerk and the decided to have a go at the Special Certificate. This was, I believe, equivalent to what use to be called "matriculation", probably A level now. I only mentioned this latter exam as an example of what a difficult subject Economics is. I thought I would have a go at English and Economics. We had a mock exam and I attained 87% in Economics In the exam paper I got 18%!! I did pass English!

In due course I sat the Examination for Artillery Clerk. An interesting point here. One did not have to know King's Regulations and the Army Pay Warrant (the Army Bibles) off by heart - what you had to do was glean the answers to the questions from the books themselves which you had with you during the Exams. This is not quite so odd as one might think. Both these books covered a multitude of matters and they could never be learned by heart - you had to learn what particular section you had to go to find the information you wanted.

I passed the exam and was promoted Lance/Bombardier (AC) Unpaid Lance/Sergeant, and posted to Headquarters, Scottish Defences at Leith Fort, Edinburgh. This was some time in 1935.

Band of Brothers by WO1 (SMAC) (Retd) Bill Morland

What have they done to the
Gunnery?

Those unthinking Treasury Narks.
They've disbanded that loyal Band of
Brothers,
Who were so proud to be Artillery
Clerks.

Many an Adjutant or Subbie
Will acknowledge, with expression
quite trite,
The Chief Clerk of Arty persuasion,
Who nudged him to the path that
was right.

And many Artillery Generals,
Awaiting appointment to St James's
Park,
Will acknowledge the help they were
given,
By their hard working Artillery Clerk.

The appointment became an
obsession,
Which cost many Members their
wives.
And, sadly, this pursuit of excellence,
Even robbed some of their lives.

It was pride that drove us to do it,
Pride in being quickest and best,
Ubique forever our watchword,
As we battled to outshine the rest.
Pride in The Regiment was rampant.
Sadly this pride is no more.
Who can be proud of a Regiment?
Whilst only on loan from a Corps!

This year an infantry soldier,
Next year a Sapper - or worse.
How can a long-suffering Gunner
Enjoy being PA to a Nurse!

We hear that time heals all
problems,
That one day we ACs will "waste
out".
Thou the Army may continue without
us, It's going to be poorer - no doubt!

But I'm proud that I served with the
Gunnery.

Proud that I left my mark,
And was one of that Big Band of
Brothers
Who were appointed Artillery Clerks.

Ubique



6th Row - WO2(SQMS) AG Moss, Mr GO Hyatt, Mr MI Grenham, Mr SV Read, Mr M Johnston, Mr ST Truslove, Mr GA Lowthian, SSgt AL Martin, Mr E Morgan, Mr D Norris, WO1 JM Hutchinson

5th Row - Mr JE Pottle, Mr R Cooper, Mr SP Callaghan, WO2(SQMS) DJ Ralphs, Sgt JT Allen, SSgt TV Matthews, WO2(SQMS) NU Perkovic, SSgt MA Spring, Mr G Brown, Mr PJ Davies, Mr KT Crump

4th Row - Mr DB Larcombe, Mr VA Scott, Mr WM Wallace, Mr PM McMahon, Mr RH Lewis MSM, Mr WM Young, Mr DC Manchester, Mr AH Sawdon, Mr GF McGilvery, Mr EJ Hall, Mr J Hoggins, Sgt RJ Woodford
3rd Row - Sgt PJ Hayes, SSgt PJ Mudd, Sgt DV Wright, SSgt DG Silver, Sgt RA Clarke

2nd Row - Mr AJ Jones (Standard Bearer), Mr CG Day, WO1(SSM) RM Testi MSM, Mr JR Lewney, WO1(SSM) DA Riley, Capt (Retd) RA Jeavons, Capt (Retd) DG Tyler, WO1(SSM) IAA Campbell, Mr HJ Cussell BEM, Mr E Morgan, Mr D Norris, WO1 JM Hutchinson

1st Row - Capt PA Headford BEM AGC(SPS), Maj (Retd) DJ Cussell, Maj R Lee RA, Maj (Retd) PJ Verdon, Lt Col (Retd) DP Brown BEM, WO1(RASM) DJ Gilbert, Mr JM Charlton (Secretary), Maj Gen APN Currie CB (Guest of Honour), Lt Col (Retd) JF Falzon BEM (Chairman), Maj Gen MFL Shellard CBE (Honorary President), WO1(SSM) AM Tibble (Reunion Secretary), Lt Col RH Horner MBE RA, Lt Col (Retd) VC Holdaway BEM, Maj AN Mott RA, Capt MJ Birch RA