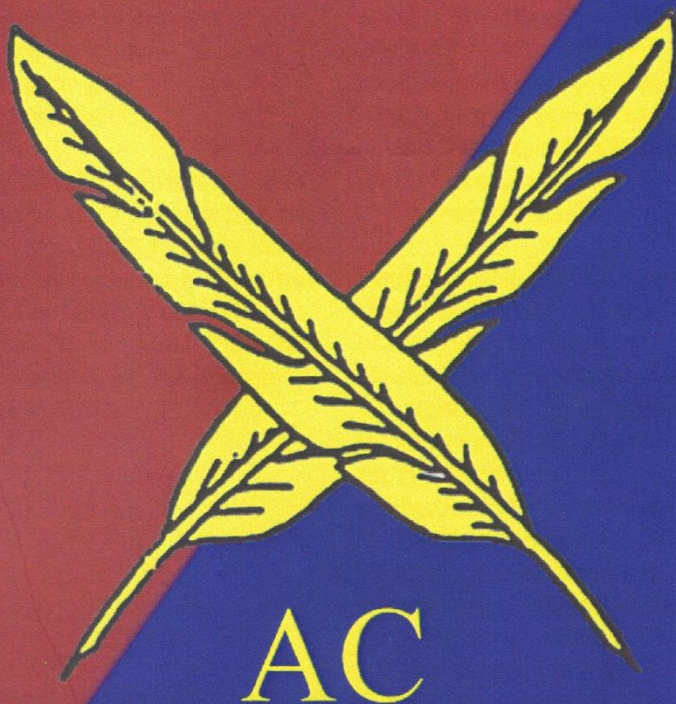


ARTILLERYCLERKS'ASSOCIATION
THE CROSSED QUILLS

ISSUE 9 NOVEMBER 2005



**Foreword by the
Honorary President
Maj Gen Peter Currie CB**

Another edition of Crossed Quills means another year has gone by, a year during which each one of us will have had different experiences and faced new challenges. In my last foreword I reflected on the remarkable sense of continuity and community this thriving Association represents, and the way in which it sustains old friendships. Nowhere was this more evident than at our last Reunion Dinner in the Mess at Woolwich. On that occasion we not only had a great deal of fun, but had the chance publicly to acknowledge and honour the contribution of a number of World War II veterans by presenting them with the Veterans' Badge. With Chelsea Pensioners sitting alongside and enjoying the company of Association members who were still serving, the occasion

spoke volumes about the unique nature of military comradeship where the shared experiences of service cross all barriers.

With that in mind, it is a pleasure to report that the Association continues to expand, with membership having now moved on to nearly 200. I am sure we can do even better, so no let up please in your efforts to dig out friends and colleagues from the past who are not yet members.

I look forward very much to seeing all of you again in the Spring. I have recently taken over as Lieutenant Governor of The Royal Hospital Chelsea, so if any of you are in the area do not hesitate to get in touch.

Peter Currie

**Chairman's Notes
By
Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM**

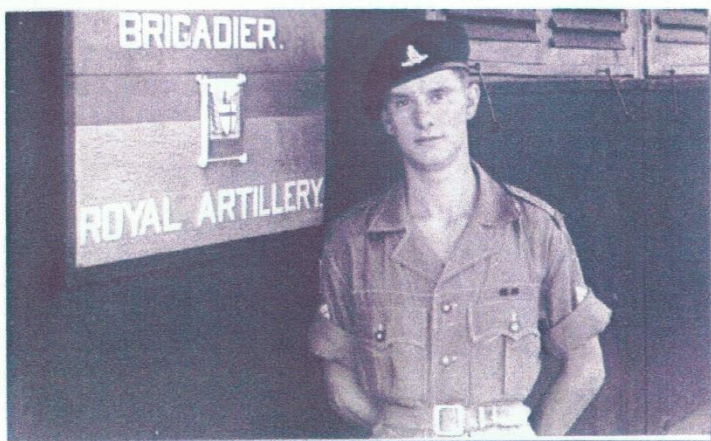
At this time of year I just cannot escape the clutches of the Association Secretary who hounds me and drives me to come up with my annual message to you. This edition of The Crossed Quills is only possible due to a huge effort by Ian Constantine, egged on by the ever-persistent Mel Charlton, and supported by all the contributors far and wide. I give them all full credit for putting together another outstanding edition, which goes a long way to ensure that our Association remains a vibrant, strong and growing organisation.

Looking back, this has been the 60th Anniversary year of the end of the Second World War and possibly the last significant opportunity for us to say thank you to the men and women of that generation who sacrificed so much on our behalf. The Association honoured it's World War II veterans (Bob Lewney, Jim Cussell, IP Dougie Waterhouse, IP George McKinnell) with appropriate aplomb at the Reunion Dinner, with particular mention in the Captain General's message read out by the Honorary President, and the issue of the Veterans Badge. Due to an oversight Bill Johnson was sent his badge at a later date.

Looking forward, The Crossed Quills, issued in November, always sees the beginning of a chain of events with a good deal of significance for our Association. On the 27th November, a number of us based on Salisbury Plain, accompanied by our Association Standard Bearer, will be attending the St Barbara's Day Church Service and lunch at Larkhill. In February, the planning for the next Association Weekend and Reunion Dinner starts in earnest, gradually gearing up and culminating with an intense period of activity in the four weeks leading up to the 6th April 2006.

We are extremely fortunate in the wonderful commitment and hard work shown by our Committee, past and present. Please continue to support and encourage them to deliver what you need, be it newsletters, websites, parades, reunions, comradeship, mutual support or just a friendly chat over the phone. On behalf of the entire Membership, I would like to thank Mel Charlton, Andy Tibble, Ian Constantine and Paul Corker most sincerely.

Joe Falzon



In Issue 8 of Crossed Quills we published this picture of a handsome Bdr taken circa 1950's at RA Branch, GHQ FARELF, Tanglin Barracks. Unfortunately no one recognised that it was none other than Major (Retd) and former WO1(SMAC) John Reynolds whose 'Ramblings of a Retired AC' appear within this Edition of Crossed Quills.

The Association Website

www.artyclerkassn.org

The website is maintained by our own Webmaster
David Stotan

Historical Secretary's Report by Joe Hoggins BSc (former WO1(SMAC))

As many of you know, I started some seventeen years ago, researching the History of the Artillery Clerk, and in particular the Annual Reunion Dinners. In mid 1990 I spent a few days in Woolwich speaking to Major(Retd) Dennis Rollo asking him specific questions regarding the Artillery Clerk. He gave me a number of useful leads to follow, but the majority of time was spent looking through Gunner Magazine's where I was able to discover the numerical order of our dinners so far. Many of you will have seen published in Crossed Quills, the article that I also discovered in Army Orders from 1903 regarding the pay of the Artillery Clerk.

I have been meaning to, even before I left the army in April 1991, write a book about the Artillery Clerk but have never had the time to do so. With your help and the assistance of the Committee, I hope this can now come to fruition.

With your help in providing me with at least one article

and as many photographs as possible this could really happen. The article could be serious or of a humorous nature; in fact anything relating to life as a clerk of any rank (Gunner to Lieutenant Colonel) in the Royal Artillery.

We have had many excellent photographs, especially of the Annual Reunion Dinner from John Reynolds, but others relating to regimental life also. Any photographs submitted will, of course, be returned once scanned but, for ease of reference, please put your name on the back!

Just before I left the army I was promised by the DRA (General Pennicot) that there was no danger of losing the Artillery Clerk - it was set in stone! I doubt whether this decision will ever be reversed but, just in case it is not, and before we all go to the 'Great Office in the Sky', it is time to remind people who are still serving and those who have hung up their quills, who the Artillery Clerk was.

Please help!

Army Numbers

The following members are requested to inform the Secretary of their present or former service number:

Bill Bailey, Pip Bailey, Jim Findley, Stu Hunt, John Lindley, Tresh Matthews (both please), Joe Phelps, Dennis Phillipson BEM, Alex Ross, Steve Seymour, Gordon Timmis, Ron Waterfield, Andy West, Chris Wood, John Yeowell

Welfare Officer's Report by Ted Morgan - former WO2(QMS(AC))

We have had three referrals this year. The first was from an 83 year old Artillery Clerk, referred by Mel Charlton, who just wanted to talk to other Artillery Clerks. He now rings about once a month and we sort the world out.

The second was a very similar case but wanted to find his medals. We managed to source a company (not MOD) that could supply for half the MOD price. This was an ex Bdr Clerk from the 1940s.

The third is ongoing and is moral support for a wife

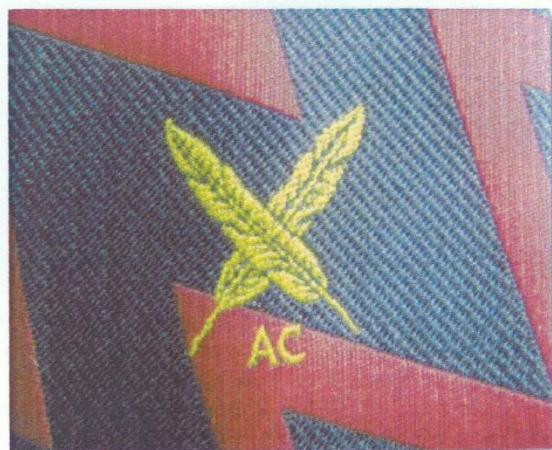
of a current member who is in hospital with a major medical problem. We have to rely on referrals from members. Now you can see how the system works. We aim to be in touch within 24 hours and in most cases resolve them quite quickly. All cases are strictly confidential.

If any members need job advice or welfare assistance, whether they are still serving or retired, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01332-371217 during working hours or 01332-678418 out of hours. I will be happy to help.

Artillery Clerks' Association Ties

The Association tie is of a silk/polyester Gunner zig zag design depicting the crossed quills and 'AC' in gold. Please send a cheque to the value of £13.00 made payable to The Artillery Clerks' Association to:

Mr Roy Deal MBE
CGTW
School of Army Aviation
Middle Wallop
Stockbridge
Hampshire SO20 8DY



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

Our Committee Meeting in September is always the jump start for the production of Crossed Quills although I do start putting items together immediately after the production of the last one. Contributions are always appreciated and remind me of teeth extractions if you get my drift! A special thanks to Maj(Retd) John Reynolds for his first part of 'The Ramblings of a Retired AC'. To Bob Day who proved that he does read Crossed Quills properly and had an all expenses paid trip to Gibraltar. You can read his article elsewhere in this magazine (sorry we didn't publish the photograph of the beautiful guide from the tourist office Bob). Thank you also to Maj Russ Lee whose photographs we are still using from last year, and finally a big thank you to the Historical Secretary Joe Hoggins BSc and Ray Dickinson MBE for providing the vast amount of photographs taken over the reunion Weekend. Unfortunately there was not sufficient space to publish them all.

As mentioned by the Chairman in his Notes, the St Barbara's Church Service Larkhill takes place on Sunday 27th November at the Garrison Church of St Alban the Martyr commencing at 11am. All members and families, within reasonable travelling distance of Larkhill, are requested to support the occasion. The Sgts' Mess are kindly providing a free curry

lunch after the Service. If you haven't received an individual letter please give me a call or send an e-mail. Our very supportive Standard Bearer Andrew Jones shall as always be in attendance along with those of the Wessex Region and the Queens Standard Bearer. Andrew will also be parading the Association Standard at the RA Ceremony of Remembrance being held at the RA Memorial, Hyde Park Corner, on Sunday 13th November 2005. Thank you for your continued support Andrew.

The highlight of the Association calendar is our Annual Reunion Dinner. This year was the last for WO1(SSM) Andy Tibble MSM in his capacity of Reunion Secretary. The Reunion Dinner was a splendid affair with Andy pulling out all the organ stops for the occasion which included music from Pipe Major Ian Fraser from 19 Regt RA. The support was tremendous with the informal attendance on the Friday night becoming more and more popular. During the Reunion Dinner WWII veterans and belatedly Bill Johnson were presented with Veterans badges by our valued Honorary President Maj Gen Peter Currie CB. It was tremendous to see so many new and old faces. Maj(Retd) John Reynolds travelled all the way from Medicine Hat in Canada. One of my own Chief Clerks was in attendance namely Ray Dickinson MBE who

(along with Bill Morland) was one of my mentors who put me on the straight and narrow during my young and foolish days which I won't go into. It was good to see Terry Hope BEM, Sid Evans and Ron Waterfield who kindly brought along Bob Lewney in his car from Bristol. It was good to see you all!

I would like to thank Andy on behalf of all members for his hard work in making the Reunion Dinners such a success during his tenure as Reunion Secretary. Andy is now a civilian and works for Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. We wish you every success in this very high profile job Andy. In addition Andy has also taken over the duties of Area Secretary South. This was made possible by splitting the duties of Steve Truslove as Area Secretary London and South.

WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine has replaced Andy Tibble as Reunion Secretary. Ian's wife Caroline is the WO1 Bandmaster of the AAC Band which was formerly the RA Alanbrooke Band which I administered whilst holding the appointment of Chief Clerk 26 Regt RA in Dortmund from 1977 to 1980. We all look forward to next April Ian.

WO2(SQMS) Ron Holmes kindly took over the appointment of Area Secretary Germany which had been vacant for some time and promises a bumper Reunion Dinner in

Germany during October 2006. His appointment will be ratified at the next AGM. Area Secretary West and tie man WO1 Des Riley has retired from the army to join the civilian ranks and now resides in his own home back in Lincolnshire. Roy Deal MBE kindly took on the role of Area Secretary West and tie man from Des. This appointment will also be ratified at the next AGM. David Stotan continues to provide an excellent active service as our Webmaster and Ted Morgan as our Welfare Officer. Thank you to everyone for all your support and hard work.

Congratulations go to the following members who have been selected and probably promoted since my last Report. SSgts Wil Stirman and Ian Williams, to WO2. Sgts Brian Burgess, Tony Meek and Tam Millsip, to SSgt. Belated congratulations go to Tresh Matthews on his commissioning. If I've missed anyone out, I shall polish the crystal ball for next year.

It is once again my sad duty to report the death of the following former Artillery Clerks. Maj(Retd) and former WO1(SMAC) Derek Dalrymple, former SSgt(AC) Gerry Gipson, former Sgt(AC) Charlie Welsh, former WO2(QMS(AC)) Campbell Borthwick, former Sgt(AC) Ron Melvin and former WO1(SMAC) and Maj(Retd) Don Cormack MBE. Don had turned down promotion to Lt Col during

his career in favour of returning to 101 Regt RA(V) as a PSAO. Derek, Ron, Charlie and Don were not members of the Association but I am sure that they would have eventually become members. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their loved ones. Rest in peace, brother Artillery Clerks.

During March this year I sent out a recruiting mail shot to several potential members which included a copy of *Crossed Quills Issue 8*. The response was seven new members joined us. Sadly I also learned of the demise of Campbell Borthwick and Ron Melvin from their widows. Former WO1(SMAC) and Maj Staff QM (Retd) Benny Bennett wrote to inform me that his sight was deteriorating and was slowly going blind and declined our invitation to join the Association. Please continue to recruit as many new members as possible into the Association.

Every year the Association purchases 200 Grand Draw raffle tickets from the RAA for £50.00. One ticket is allocated to each member and the remaining to the Association. Even those who are behind in their dues are still in a position to win £1,000.00 every year. Please reciprocate this gesture.

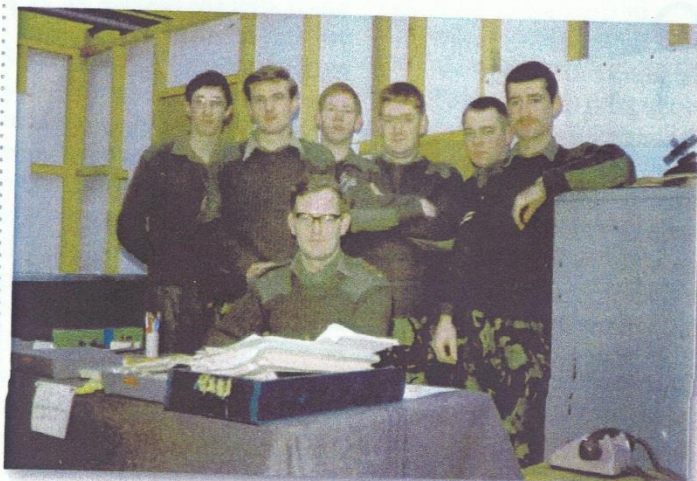
Our Hon President Maj Gen Peter Currie CB has recently taken over the appointment of Lieutenant Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Good luck in your new appointment General Peter. Perhaps you can keep an eye on our resident members Duggie Waterhouse, George McKinnell and Tommy McCarthy.

For your information the RAA/RACF are moving to Larkhill with effect from 30 Nov 05. I am still working on Area Secretary Responsibilities and hope to finalise that soon.

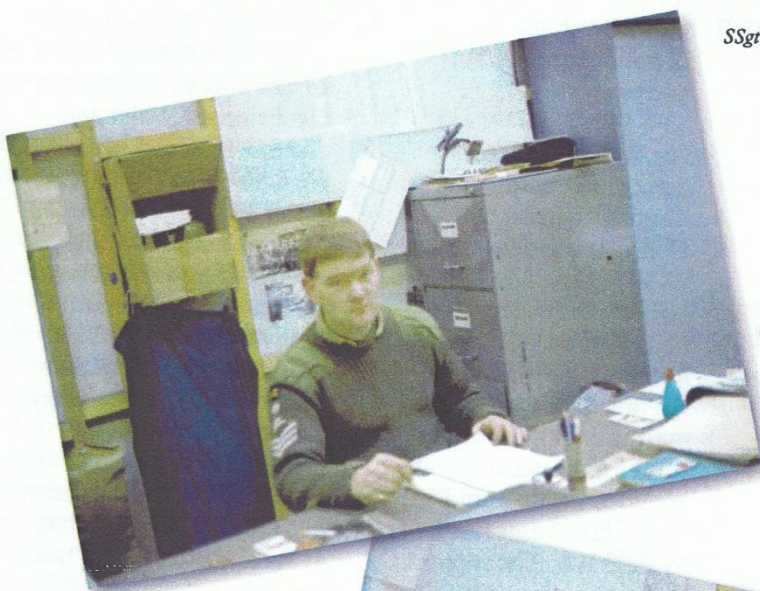
In closing may I wish you and your loved ones all the very best for Christmas and the New Year 2006. Please keep in touch my brother Artillery Clerks and continue to support your Association. See in Woolwich in April next year, wearing your Association tie of course!

Ubique

RHQ Staff 22 Lt AD Regt RA Drumahoe Factory, Londonderry, December 1971



*Gnr Charlie Walsh, Sgt(AC) Ken May,
Gnr Jimmy Treanor,
SSgt(AC) Bill Morland, Gnr Steve Jones,
Bdr Mel Charlton,
seated Capt Stuart Vasey (Adjt)*



Chief Clerk, SSgt(AC) Bill Morland



Asst Chief Clerk, Sgt(AC) Ken May

Photographs by kind permission of the Secretary

Treasurer's Report 2005

By

Major Paul Corker AGC(SPS)

Another year older and it will soon be that time to go into the loft and get the Christmas decorations down. I know the Treasurer only reports on the financial side of the Association but that would be rather boring and not much fun. What a good reunion 2004 was, or like many I think it was? From a personal point of view I would like to thank Andy for all the headaches I've endured over the last years. What a superb job he has done as Reunion Secretary and I wish him all the best. I am now in Folkestone, yes they have got me out of Winchester and I'm living in the Commander's Mess (also PMC). So if you are ever travelling to France and need a quiet pint then do call in. There is nothing new in my report but it is always heartening to see that the committee is looking after the financial aspects of the Association with long-term sustainability top of their agenda. A strong financial clout enables us to support the needs of our Association and our members. If anyone should have any questions then please don't hesitate to contact the Secretary and I will do my best to answer them all. I will be sending out, quite shortly a letter to those who are behind in their subscriptions, a reminder regarding the benefits of 'Gift Aid' and the direct mandate system. Apart from that may I wish you all the best and hope to see you at the next reunion.

Statement of Account as at Thu 20 Oct 05

<i>Assets</i>		<i>Liabilities</i>	
Cash	£ 0:00	Function	£ 1,688:42
Current Account	£1,436:71		
Deposit Account	£2,173:63		
Stock	£439:25		
Total Assets	£4,049:59	Total Liabilities	£ 1,688:42

Total Cash Available (Assets - Liabilities) GPF = £ 2,361:17

Notes on the Statement of Account:

General. The fund has remained financially on par with the statement last year. Assets as at 30 Sep 04 totalled £3,632:57, however the reunion fund has increased by £849:30 to £1,688:42. Total cash available to the fund however has decreased by £432:28 to £2,361:17.

Subscriptions. My main effort as Treasurer has been to reduce the level of outstanding debtors. I have written to members and the response has been disappointing, I ask all, who believe that they could have outstanding subscriptions to contact me as soon as possible. In order to give you a true feel for the amounts outstanding I have divided the totals as follows:

- a. Long-Term Debtors. Total £510:00.
- b. 2005 Subscriptions. Total £205:00.

Mandate. 48 members are not subscribing by the mandate system. Please contact the Treasurer for the forms.

Gift Aid

To date I have received £585:86 from the Taxman. So please if you are one of the 75 members, yet to complete the declaration form then get in touch with me. The fund may claim £1:41 for every £5:00 a member has subscribed to the fund. This year I have asked the taxman for £207:27. This could improve with members submitting their gift aid forms.

Shop

Roy Deal is running the shop. There are currently 33 ties in stock at a give away price of £13:00 each, totalling 429:00 in stock. The surplus of £10:25 will be transferred to the GPF.

Absence of Treasurer

Now that I'm situated in the peace and quiet of the Kent countryside I hopefully will be on call for the next two years.

Summary

This has been another year where I have failed to give my full support the committee due to military commitments however, it looks much better for 2006. The books of account are fully in date and clearly show that the fund has long-term sustainability. As Treasurer I will continue to encourage members to clear outstanding subscriptions, elect to join the mandate system and to complete the 'Gift Aid' forms ensuring income to the fund. The income is consistent with previous years and expenditure is within the parameters set by the committee. My only concern is the amount of cash tied up in outstanding subscriptions. I am contactable on Folkestone Military (94281) 2103 or civilian (01303 225103). I wish you all the very best for the remainder of the year and I hope to see all of you in 2006.



Webmaster's Report by David Stotan - former WO2(QMS(AC))

At the time of writing this article no fewer than 16886 hits have been made on the home page and 7659 hits on the Message Board! To the best of my knowledge the site has been available to almost all users since my last report. However, I am aware that some members have had difficulties navigating around the site via the designated buttons and I will cover the top cause of this in the next paragraph. In addition I am pleased to say that the Message Board continues to be well used so a big thank you for your contributions.... well done to Paddy Corbett for his article entitled Tiger, Tiger Burning - You have been warned!

Okay one of the main reasons that some members were unable to see or activate the buttons on the site was because these buttons require JAVA Software to make them work! Following Microsoft defeat in its long standing legal battle with Sun Microsystems to have the rights to include JAVA in its operating systems Bill Gates has had to remove it! Therefore all new Microsoft Operating systems no longer ship with JAVA Software. This still left Microsoft with a headache posed by earlier releases of their software which still shipped with JAVA. This problem was sneakily overcome by the release of Windows XP service pack 2 (SP2). Once users installed this SP it automatically removed all previously installed JAVA

software. So the pesky culprit was SP2 and this is why some users found that they could no longer see or use the navigation buttons on the site.

The fix was and is simple, all you need do is re-install JAVA from the registered owners "FREE OF CHARGE". The link to the relevant website is shown below:

http://www.java.com/en/download/windows_automatic.jsp

For those of you who want to cut out the middle man and get straight to the message board the link below is for you:

<http://www.artyclerkassn.org/board2go.htm>

Some of you may have noticed we now have a photograph Gallery, accessible from the **Home Page**. Each photograph is represented by a thumbnail copy of the photograph. All you need do to view it in actual size is to double click on the thumbnail and you will be taken to the enlarged photograph.

If you would like to share your photographs (try to keep them clean) then this is what you need to do:

- Add a caption to each photograph.
- Do not send too many photographs in one email as will only cause your email to take an age to be sent and for me to download it.

- Photographs must be sent to stotand@hotmail.com this is the only account I have with enough storage space to accept photographs.

And finally, as always just a quick work on the virus situation of which there are currently more than 100,000 threats in existence. In addition to genuine viruses, the Virus Information Library contains useful information on virus hoaxes, those dire email warnings about disk-eating attachments that sometimes land in your inbox. A Virtual Card For You and SULFNBK are two of the best-known hoaxes, but there are many others. Next time you receive a well-meaning virus warning, check the McAfee Virus Information Library - hoax page before you pass the message on to all your friends. The Library can be found at <http://vil.nai.com/vil/default.asp>

"WHAT IS REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Horse. "It's just a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become REAL".....

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly; except to people who don't understand."



RHQ 94 Loc Regt RA 1982 - 1984

Front Row: Bdr Ron Marsh, Sgt(AC) russ Lee, WO2(QMS(AC)) Dave Tyler, Capt Walters, Lt Col IBR Fowler RA, WO1 Ollie Cockburn, Pre ?, Sgt(AC) Keith Berry, Bdr John Lindley

Back Row: Gnr ?, Bdr Dave Appleton, Gnr ?, Gnr ?, Bdr Ginge hayes, LBdr Smudge Smith, Bdr Pete Hutchinson, Gnr ?, Gnr Salter, Gnr ?, Gnr ?, LBdr ?.



*Association Standard Bearer Andrew Jones talking to the Larkhill Garrison
Commander Col TMA Fleetwood and Maj(Retd) John Turner RAA
Wessex Regional Representative St Barbara's Day Larkhill 28 Nov 2004*

For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for the dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death August and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And the glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall not grow old, as we are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We shall remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables at home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep behind England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Last Post

In Memory of our departed Brother Artillery Clerks

former WO2(QMS(AC)) Campbell Borthwick died 4 Mar 2001

former Sgt(AC) Ron Melvin died 1 Sep 2001

former SSgt(AC) Gerry Gipson died 12 Nov 2004 aged 83 years

former Sgt(AC) Charlie Welsh died 30 Nov 2004 aged 53 years

Maj(Retd) and former WO1(SMAC) Don Cormack MBE died 26 Jun 2005

Maj(Retd) and former WO1(SMAC) Derek Dalrymple died 10 Jul 2005 aged 66

Rest in peace



Ramblings of a Retired AC
By
Major(Retd) and former WOI(SMAC) John Reynolds

I left school at the age of 15 just at the end of World War II. My education was pretty sparse, though I could read and write. I got a job as a messenger boy in the office of a company near the Temple Tube Station in London. There were three of us messengers and we were "under command" of a Royal Artillery Association Commissionaire Sgt. I don't know if any of these blokes are around any more, but during and just after the war they could be seen all over London. They wore a No 1 Dress style uniform with highly polished Gunner cap badge and buttons (no Staybrites in those days!). Our job was very menial, delivering mail etc to the various offices and running errands for the more senior members of the staff. I remember that one of my regular weekly jobs was to get the manager's tea ration from Twining's in Fleet Street. About two months before I was called up for National Service I was promoted to junior clerk in the general office. This, again, was a fairly menial job entailing the separation of invoices, mailing the original and filing the duplicate, answering the phone etc.

On reaching the age of 18 I received an invitation to serve King and Country for eighteen months. I originally wanted to do my National Service in the Navy, but they would only take me on as a three-year regular. I, therefore, opted for the Army and was influenced by our

commissionaire to select the Royal Artillery as my first choice of regiment/corps.

I reported to 68th Training Regiment RA at Birch Lines, Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, on the 7th October 1948. 68 Regt was where we were issued with our uniforms, taught the basic foot drills and put through selection tests to determine suitability for training. We had to parcel up our civilian clothes and send them back home. One other thing that we had to do at this time was to sign a form remitting 7 shillings of our 21 shillings weekly pay to our dependents. 14 Shillings a week was not very much when you had to buy blanco, brasso, boot polish etc out of it. Because I was able to assemble a bicycle pump and place a selection of different shaped pegs into the correct holes, the PSO said that I had "excellent manual dexterity". He therefore recommended me for training as an Operator Fire Control (old-fashioned name for air defence radar operator) with alternates of Driver and Clerk. What I really wanted to be was a driver.

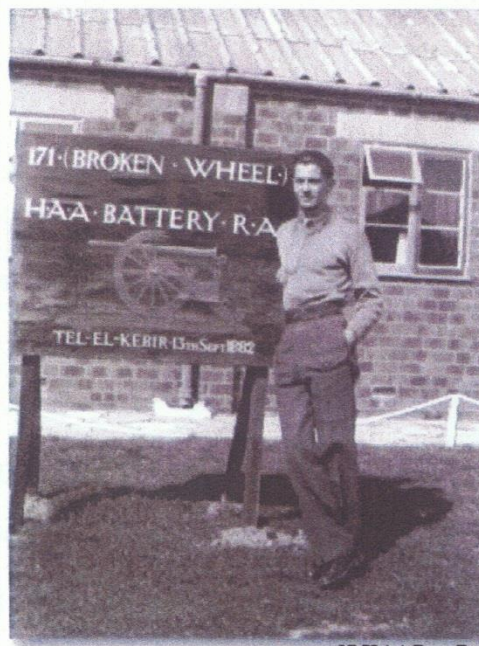
On the 20th October 1948 I was posted to 55th Training Regt RA at Tonfanau Camp just North of Towyn in Merionethshire in North Wales. The next two months were spent learning how to operate the American SCR584 radar set and I never did really get the hang of it. After the

first two weeks of training I was appointed Squad Lbdr. This meant that I wore a yellow band on my shoulder straps and was responsible for marching the squad around and for discipline in the barrack room when the Squad Bdr wasn't around. I found that I enjoyed the foot and arms drill, but found the technical training boring. I was charged once for forgetting to open the vanes on the generator radiator and the damn thing overheated and nearly seized up! I am not sure how, but I got off without punishment. I did not manage to pass the trade test but was classified as a "Potential OFC for further training".

During training we had all filled in forms stating our wishes for postings. I applied for a posting to Hong Kong. At the end of training we were all lined up outside the barrack room

dressed in Field Service Marching Order all ready to travel the world! As the Bdr worked his way down the alphabetical list there were people going off to Singapore, Hong Kong, Germany, Trieste, Egypt, Aden and other exotic places. When my name was finally called I was told that I was posted to 37th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regt RA here at Tonfanau Camp. I was depressed to say the least. Tonfanau was not the most pleasant camp and was, in those days, pretty isolated with only two trains per day out of the place. Getting into Towyn was not very easy either as there was no direct road between the two, only a muddy track for about three miles. I picked up my kit bag and marched up the road to the RHQ of 37 HAA Regt, which was at the top end of the camp. After reporting in I was told by the Adjt that I was posted to

171 (The Broken Wheel) HAA Bty which was detached to Morfa Camp in Towyn. The other two batteries in the regiment were 10 (Assaye) and 111 (Dragon). This was pretty good news because it was only a 10-minute walk into town and the Bty acted as the Camp Staff for the HAA Practice Camp that was also situated at Tonfanau. This meant that there



37 HAA Regt RA,
Tonfanau Camp, North Wales 1949

would be access to the ATS girls who served with the TA Regts coming for their annual practice camps!

One thing that none of us enjoyed was the stupid bull that we had to endure. I never really saw the point in having to find enough pieces of wood to make a box to fit around my mattress and inside my large and small packs in order to make them perfectly square. The most stupid thing of all was having to spend our first weekend digging up turf from the cliffs by the sea and making a lawn around our barrack room, mowing it every weekend and then, immediately after the pass-out parade, tearing it all up and dumping it over the cliff so that the next intake could not use the same turf.

A 15cwt Tillie truck took me to Morfa Camp and dumped me outside the Bty Office. When I reported to the BSM he asked me my trade. I told him that I was a Potential OFC on the SCR 584. He told me that I was out of luck as the Bty was equipped with the British B3. Typical of the Army to post someone to a unit which did not have the equipment that he was trained on. The BSM scanned my documents and saw that I had been a clerk in civvy street. He told me that the bty office was short of a clerk and asked if I would like to change my trade to clerk. As a bty clerk I would not have to do guard duties, could wear shoes in the office and wear open neck battle dress with a tie. I was not really concerned about doing guard duties or being able to wear shoes and a tie. I also

really felt that I would like to do something different from clerking for the next 15 or 16 months. He then said that as a member of BHQ Troop I would have a room (or bunk as we then called them) of my own. Apparently Morfa Camp had been an RAF fighter base during the war and when the Bty moved in and took over, this block, which had been the NCO pilots' accommodation, was allocated to BHQ Troop. I volunteered immediately to change my trade. The necessary War office approval to change my trade was obtained and I was then sent to the RA Clerks' School in St John's Passage at Woolwich to attend Course No 44 from 26th February to 9th April 1949. Our instructor was Sgt(AC) Jim Camies and one of the other students was Gnr Les Tidy. Nine years later Les and I would be back at the Clerks' School as Ssgt(AC) Instructor's and WOI(SMAC) Jim Camies was the Senior Instructor. I lived at Kennington, which is only an hour's bus ride away, and I spent every night at home meeting up with my mates. I slept at home and returned to Woolwich each morning, usually only just in time to get on parade outside the school. I managed to pass the course, but only just, with a grading of Clerk DIII Learner.

Towards the end of 1949, a permanent staff for the HAA practice camp was established and the Bty rejoined the regiment at Tonfanau. Many of the officers and senior NCOs had served in India and much Indian was used in

the regiment. I am not sure if it was Hindi or Urdu, but we did not have lunch, we had Tiffin, weapons were issued from the Arms Kote and dhobi was issued and collected on Monday mornings – it was published like this on Part I Orders. When you heard someone shout "Hitherao, jaldi" you knew that it meant "Get here, on the double", and when the BC asked for his ghari and syce you knew he wanted his vehicle and driver. I am not sure if I have used the correct spelling for these terms.

I was promoted to paid acting Lbdr on the 1st October 1949 and then to paid acting Bdr on the 2nd March 1950 and became the battery chief clerk. I was due for demob from National Service in May 1950. One of the TSMs, WOII Ray Evans, had become the BSM. Ray was an Anglo-Indian and had done his boy's service with the Boys' Bty in India. He told me that I had good career prospects if I signed on as a regular. I had not really considered this, though I had found that I liked the responsibility and authority that the army gave me. When I was promoted to Bdr I went home on a couple of days leave to see about getting my job back when I was demobbed – by law, the firm had to give me a job. I was told that my job as a junior clerk had not been held open for me, but I could come back as a senior messenger boy. I was not impressed by this and decided that the army was the life for me after all.

I returned to Tonfanau and signed on as a regular

soldier on the 13th April 1950 for 5 years with the colours and 7 years on the reserve. I was promoted to War Substantive Bdr on the 29th August 1950. Prior to the introduction of the Peace Time Promotion Code on the 1st April 1952, there were three stages to each promotion, the first was promotion to Unpaid Acting rank then, after holding this rank for 21 days you were then promoted to Paid Acting rank and six months later you would be promoted to War Substantive rank.

Many years later I discovered a very interesting fact about Tonfanau Camp. Prior to the war, anti-aircraft live firing was carried out Watchet. Sometime before the outbreak of war in 1939, it had been decided in some part of the War Office that a new School of Anti-Aircraft Defence should be built at Tonfanau. Suitable buildings were designed and the work put in hand, but few, other than the inhabitants of Tonfanau, seem to have been aware of it. So it was with consternation that in 1942 the newly established Director of Anti-Aircraft and Coast Defence in the War Office heard that a new school of which he had never heard was ready for occupation. You can check this statement in "History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – Between the Wars 1919 – 39", page 89.

On the 1 May 1951 I was posted to the Depot RA (Fd Wing) for drafting to Singapore for a three-year tour. I was a part of Draft DBCUF (ERE Unspecified) with no idea to what units we were to be posted

The accommodation at Woolwich was spartan to say the least. I was allocated a bed in the ground floor of one of the old barrack blocks, which had originally been the stables. The floor was a still cobblestone and mangers were still attached to the walls. For those who never knew the old Depot RA, look at the middle photograph on page 48 of "Between the Wars 1919 - 39". The barrack blocks still looked exactly the same right up until the last time I saw them in 1959.

After two weeks embarkation leave and a week of getting several jabs, drawing tropical kit etc, we set by train off for Southampton on the 23rd May. We boarded the SS Empire Medway, which was to be our home for the next four weeks. Our draft was allocated space in the lowest deck in the ship and below the water line. There were no portholes and no air conditioning. We were each issued with a hammock, pillow and a couple of blankets. Mess decks were several long tables bolted to the bulkhead and seated about 16 people. Getting in and out at mealtimes was quite a performance. We sat back to back with the next mess deck and you had to sit down on the bench, which was also bolted to the deck, and shuffle along sideways until all but the last two were seated. Each day two of us had to take turns to collect the meals in large dixies from the cookhouse on the main deck. By the time we had struggled down to the deck, which was especially difficult

going through the Bay of Biscay, the food was just one big all-in stew. I was lucky in that I was never seasick. I was made NCO IC Canteen Carrying Party which entailed reporting to the Purser every morning and replenishing the various bars, canteens around the ship. Because this was a daily chore and had to be carried out before breakfast, my crew did not have to perform guard or fire piquet duties. We



Somewhere at Sea on HMT Empire Medway, 1951

were told that the Empire Medway had been an old German ship that had been commandeered as part of the war reparations - she was certainly a very old ship and not very well suited to trooping with very limited deck space. Like Pete Bunn's SS Dilwara, the Empire Medway was not stabilised and the trip through the Bay of Biscay was extremely unpleasant. After dropping us off in Singapore she continued on to Hong Kong and Japan. I later heard that the authorities considered her to be unsuitable for carrying troops, returned to the UK empty and was

consigned to the breakers yard.

We had our first shore leave in Port Said. Bumboats with their fresh fruits and tacky souvenirs surrounded the boat with lively bargaining going on and goods being passed up to the troops in wicker baskets and the money going back down the same way. Port Said was a dirty place with lots of street urchins offering us the services of their "beautiful

sisters" who would give us a good "jig-a-jig" for a very reasonable price! Needless to say, shortly after sailing from Southampton we had been given lectures, with very colourful pictures, of the dangers of contracting VD.

Sailing through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea where the temperatures were very high was extremely uncomfortable, particularly down on our troop deck at night. One night a couple of us decided that it was too unbearable on the troopdeck so we took our hammocks up on to the main deck and went to sleep up there it was only marginally cooler, but at least the air was fresher and there was a bit of air movement as the ship sailed along. At about 5 am the next morning we were rudely awakened by the ships crew soaking us with their hoses as they washed down the deck.

They were all lascars and thought that this was quite funny. When we slept on deck again we made sure that we were up early and out of the way before they washed the decks down. I must say that, once awake, I quite enjoyed this part of the day. Everything would be quiet except for the sound of the ship moving through the water. I would just sit and watch the flying fish and dolphins keeping pace with us.

Our next stop was Steamer Point in Aden where, once again, we were given shore leave. Aden was even grottier than Port Said with very little for us to see or do. Most of us headed for the Seamen's Mission for a decent meal of sausage and chips and a couple of beers.

Our third and last stop for shore leave was Colombo in Ceylon (now called Sri-Lanka). There was much more here to see and do. For most of us it was the first time that we had seen many fresh tropical fruits - remember that rationing was still in force in England and even tinned fruit was considered to be a luxury. I saw my first fresh pineapple and decided to buy one. When I got back to the ship I discovered that I did not have the slightest clue as to how I should cut this thing up. Some bright spark suggested that it should just be sliced up like a watermelon. There were no other suggestions so that is what I did and shared it with a couple of my mates - it tasted delicious! The problem came next morning when we awoke to find that the corners of our mouths were very sore and

we found it difficult to talk. Apparently the juice of a fresh pineapple is a bit acidic and it burnt our mouths.

On the 19th June, halfway between Ceylon and Singapore, I celebrated my 21st birthday. We were rationed to two cans of beer per day but a couple of my mates very kindly gave me a can each so that I could celebrate in style.

We docked in Singapore on the morning of the 22nd June and the morning was spent getting our kit together and watching the hold baggage being unloaded. After lunch our draft was called forward for disembarkation and as we lined up on the dockside a WOII from Field Records appeared. He called out our names, told us which units we were to be posted to and then handed us over to a representative of the unit. When my name was called I was informed that I was posted to 1st Singapore Regt RA. I had never heard of this regiment before and had no idea what it was. I was met by none other than the Chief Clerk himself, Ssgt(AC) Nick Carter. We got into a truck and while we were driving he explained that the regiment was a Malay regiment and that there were very few British Other Ranks (BORs) in it. All the officers were British and many of the senior ranks were duplicated with Malay Other Ranks (MORs). There was a British RSM, WOI(RSM) Rex Annally, and a Malay WOI, WOI(RSM) Jamin Bin Marsom.

There were two positions in RHQ, which were ranked higher than normal. The Adjt was a major and the chief clerk was a Ssgt(AC).

The truck arrived at Jardine Steps by Keppel Harbour and we boarded a ferry that was operated by the RASC Maritime Coy based on Pulau Brani. The ferry took us to Pulau Blakang Mati, which, in those days, was just a jungle-covered island with a military barracks.

I was accommodated in a bunk on the upper floor of I Block that was just behind RHQ and completely separate from the main barrack area. There were only about 12 of us with the whole block all to ourselves. Most of the other people in the block were REME, RAPC and ACC. We also had our own kitchen with two Chinese civilian cooks. The dining room was on the lower floor of the block.

That evening I went to the NAAFI and was introduced to Tiger and Anchor beers and found that they were very tasty and rather potent! The next morning I was introduced to the tropical way of living for soldiers. I was awakened by my Sikh

batman, or bearer as they were often called, with a mug of hot tea and two biscuits. I went for a shower and on return to my bunk I found a neatly starched olive green uniform laid out, my belt blancoed, brasses polished and boots shining. My bed was made up and floor swept. When I returned from work in the evening I just dumped my soggy uniform on the floor, went for a shower and when I came back the uniform was gone, my civvies laid out on the bed, and the bed made up ready for sleeping – all this for about half-a-crown a week. There was also the camp char-wallah who came around the barrack rooms and would serve hot tea and could produce an egg banyo in no time at all. There was also a woman, who we called Sew-Sew, who came around about once a week and would do any sewing or darning that we needed done. Our dress in 1 SRRA was olive green (OG) shirt and shorts, with hosetops, boots and puttees during the day, and trousers with long sleeved shirts at night. We also had to take a Paludrine tablet once a day to prevent malaria. Our headdress was a stiff felt jungle hat with the brim

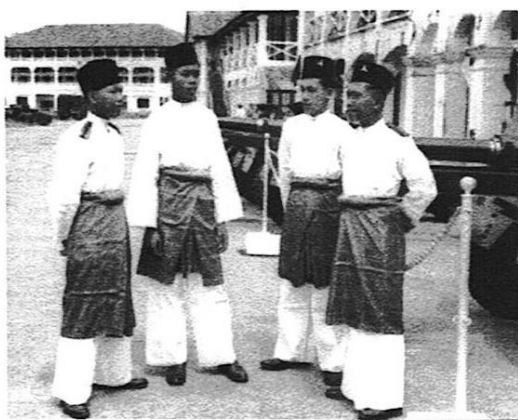
turned up on the left with a red and blue diamond flash and the Gunner badge superimposed, and red and blue puggaree's around the crown.

When I reported for work I found that I was the only BOR, apart from Nick Carter, in the regimental office. There were

three Chinese and Malay civilian clerks and one MOR Gunner who was the Regimental Runner. My position had been added to the establishment so that there would be a BOR presence in the event of the chief clerk being ill or away on leave. All the battery clerks were MORs.

Shortly after my arrival in the regiment we were called out on IS duties in Singapore. A big trial, the Maria Hertog Trial, was causing friction between the Chinese and European members of the community, particularly the Dutch. Anyway, I was dumped off on my own at a small police station with instructions to liaise with the Singapore Police and phone in all requests for assistance to the regimental CP. I had no rations and had to eat in the police canteen. In the UK in those days, ethnic restaurants were very rare and we had not got used to eating oriental food as we are today. I lost a few pounds over those three days, which I really did not need to.

On return to Blakang Mati I got talking to Nick Carter about my future. I was quite looking forward to serving with the regiment for three years. It was a cushy posting and the island was like a small paradise. He advised me that if I stayed as a Clk GD there was virtually no possibility of promotion and if I wanted to get ahead, I should apply for appointment to the Artillery Clerks Section. If I did this, then I would most certainly be posted out of the regiment. I submitted my application and to my



*1st Singapore Regt RA, Pulau Blakang Mati, 1951
RSM Jamin Bin Marsom (right) with members of Regt Police
wearing Regimental No 1 Dress*

surprise, I was accepted. I was appointed substantive LBdr(AC) with the war substantive rank of Bdr(AC) and on 31 August 1951 was posted to RA Branch GHQ FARELF in Tanglin Barracks in Singapore. I was to replace Bdr(AC) Bill Heaven.

The chief clerk, WOII(SMAC) Stan Spruce, told me that if I wanted promotion to Sgt(AC) I would need to get classified as a Clk BII. Thanks to WOII Ray Evans in 37 HAA Regt, I already had my ACE 3rd and 2nd Class. I duly attended a Clerk BII course at the RASC School (Far East) in Nee Soon from 5th to the 24th November 1951. During the course I had met up with a couple of Kiwi Gunners from 16 Fd Regt RNZA who were on R & R from Korea. I only just managed to pass the trade test - the final sentence in my course report read "His final paper was disappointing in view of his other work on the course, he lost marks mainly through omitting detail in many of his answers". It was rather difficult completing a trade test when suffering from a gigantic hangover from the Kiwi's farewell party the night before.

Life at GHQ was still fairly pleasant, as it was easy to get into the fleshpots of Singapore, I still had a bearer to clean my kit and the work was not onerous. The only difference was that we had to mount armed guards on the armoury and the office area. Because we were all clerks with more NCOs than privates, Bdrs/Cpls mounted as Marching Relief and LBdrs/LCpls

mounted as guards. The offices were just plywood shacks with attap roofs and raised about 2 feet off the grounds. There was no air conditioning except for wide-open windows.

Singapore in 1951 was still a very run-down city and had not changed very much since Pete Bunn's days. In fact it was probably slightly worse for wear after the war. I was lucky enough to return, as a tourist, in 1985 and was amazed at the transformation. It was a beautiful modern city with lots of wide-open spaces and lush greenery. I was even more amazed with Pulau Blakang Mati. It is now called Sentosa Island and is a huge theme park with golf courses, hotels, aquarium, etc. It was good to see that they had preserved one military part of the island at Fort Siloso.

The 1st April 1952 brought many changes to the army. The WarTime Promotion Code was cancelled and the PeaceTime Promotion Code introduced. A couple of years before, RA Records at Sidcup had produced "The Royal Artillery Shadow Promotion Roll" which placed all WO's, senior NCO's, and AC's in the order of seniority that they would have been under the peace time promotion code. In the case of the Artillery Clerks' Roll it included LBdr(AC) to WOII(SMAC). In some cases, the individual would be placed two, and sometimes three, ranks lower than the one actually held.

This held implications for me. I was to revert to LBdr(AC) on the 1st April

and would then be surplus to establishment. This meant yet another posting. This time it was to another command completely. I was posted to HQRA 40th Infantry Division in Hong Kong. I don't know how he did it, but Stan Spruce managed to get me on a RAF flight to Hong Kong. Two days flying, via the Philippines, was better than a week on another troop ship.

I will always remember one amusing incident. The Branch had submitted a transport request, whilst I was still a Bdr, to take me to RAF Changi to catch my flight which was on a Sunday afternoon. A Chinese clerk in the transport office thought Bdr was an abbreviation for Brigadier. This resulted in a staff car for me and a Landrover for my kit, turning up outside the barrack room to take me to Changi. The rest of the blokes in the barrack room were very, very impressed!

Needless to say, when I reported in at RAF Changi, I found that the flight was delayed until the next day. This meant me staying in the transit accommodation and eating in the RAF OR's dining hall. I found that they had white tablecloths on the table and the food was very good. We flew out on the Monday morning in an Andover. We had a refueling stop at Labuan in North Borneo and then flew on to the US air base at Clark Field in the Philippines for an overnight stay. When we went for breakfast the next morning I was asked by the cook how many eggs would I

like and how would I like them - I asked for three, sunny side up, and got them. Remember Britain and the army was still on food rationing. We only had one fresh egg once a week and that was for breakfast on Sunday mornings. The rest of the week we had to eat powdered eggs which, in those days, was not very palatable.

We continued our journey the next day and I cannot remember whether we stopped anywhere to refuel, or flew directly to Hong Kong. Anyway, we arrived at RAF Kai Tak late in the afternoon and, needless to say, there was no one to meet me and the RAF did not know what to do with me. They wanted to get rid of me so they dumped me off at HQ Hong Kong & Kowloon Garrison which was located in the Old Railway Hotel in Middle Road near the junction of Nathan and Chatham Roads. It was early evening and the HQ was closed but the duty clerk phoned HQRA 40 Inf Div which was located in Far East Farm Camp near Castle Peak in the New Territories. They sent the duty truck down to pick me up and I eventually arrived in my new unit quite late.

Far East Farm Camp was just that, a camp. It consisted of 4 or 5 one story brick buildings, several large Quonset huts, and tents. A barbed wire fence surrounded the camp itself. The camp was also shared with 27 (Strange's) Lt Bty RA. It was pretty primitive, even for 1952. The ablutions were corrugated iron structures with the

lavatories being just cubicles with "honey buckets" which were emptied daily by Chinese contractors.

I was billeted in a tent with three other clerks from HQRA. It wasn't too bad during the summer months as we could take the walls down to allow for free air circulation. The main problem was during the monsoon season when the torrential rain would often result in the tent floor being just a patch of mud. I found that we still had bearers (called batmen in Hong Kong), charwallahs etc, except that they were all Chinese instead of Indians. The local tailoring and cobbling contractors would also come around the tents

in evenings, measure you up for new clothes and shoes, and take payment on a weekly basis on paydays.

I reported for work the next morning and found that the Superintending Clerk was WOI(SMAC) Freddie Pask, the Chief Clerk 'G' was Ssgt(AC) Smudger Smith (I never did find out his first name), and the Chief Clerk 'AQ' was Sgt(AC) Bill James. I was to be the AQ clerk working under Bill James and we became firm friends and stayed in touch right up to his death about 8 years ago. Shortly after I arrived Bdr(AC) Brian Wolstenholme was posted in from the Training Brigade HQ at Oswestry. He was promoted to Sgt(AC) not

long after his arrival and worked under Smudger Smith in 'G'.

I found that living in a tent could on occasion be quite hazardous. I was doing some Egyptian PT on my charpoi after lunch one day when the tent suddenly collapsed on top of me. Apparently, once a year at Ching Ming, the local Chinese were allowed into military camps where there were Chinese graves in order to give them an annual clean up. One of the main guy ropes of our tent had been tied to a part of a grave right behind us and one of the Chinese men just undid it and let the whole thing collapse on top of me.

There was not much entertainment in the camp. One weekend a few of us went walking in the hills behind the camp where we found a stream. We figured that, if we could build a small dam, we would have a small pond for swimming. We "acquired" some sandbags and built the dam. This made quite a good little pond and we often went up there at weekends for a swim. One Saturday we thought that we could improve our tans by swimming and sunbathing in the nude. Whilst laying in the sun getting a good tan we suddenly heard giggling, when we looked up there was a group of Chinese girls who had been further up in the hills cutting grass for animal fodder. We never swam or sunbathed in the nude again!

During my service with HQRA 40 Inf Div I was placed on a charge on two occasions. The first time,

as a Lbdr(AC), was for allowing the driver of a 3-tonner to exceed the speed limit whilst I was sitting in the cab with him. I got a Reprimand for this offence. The second time was as a Bdr(AC) when all the occupants of our tent were charged for being drunk on parade at 0800 hrs on a Monday morning. In those days we could only get beer in the NAAFI and one Sunday our Chinese batman sold us some home made rice wine. It tasted good and we woke up on Monday morning feeling good, went for breakfast and went on parade. We suddenly found ourselves staggering around and a trifle incoherent. Apparently, the tea that we had with our breakfast, had the same effect as drinking all over again. Anyway, when we explained to the OC what happened we were let off with a severe warning against the dangers of drinking home brew. It seemed that a few squaddies in Sek Kong had been drinking one of these local brews and had gone blind. After that we stuck to drinking San Miguel in the NAAFI.

Some time in December 1952, Freddie Pask told me that 14 Fd Regt were coming back to Hong Kong from Korea. They would be moving into Quarry Camp and were coming without a chief clerk. I was promoted Local Bdr(AC) and sent to join the advance party in Quarry Camp. I ran the regimental office for several weeks until a new chief clerk was posted in. When I returned to HQRA I found that I had been promoted to substantive Bdr(AC) on the 26th January 1953.



HQRA 40 Inf Div, Far East Farm Camp, New Territories, Hong Kong 1952.
LBdr(AC) John Reynolds, Pte Stan Harvey (RAOC) and Gnr Dixie Dean

I was posted to 173 Loc Bty in Whitfield Bks 13 Apr 53 and promoted to Acting Sgt(AC) and then to substantive Sgt(AC) on the 27th April 53. Whitfield Bks was situated on Nathan Road right in the heart of Kowloon and was a huge change from Far East Farm Camp. It was a purpose built barracks and we shared it with 34 LAA Regt and a Gurkha Tpt Coy. The bty shared officers and sergeants messes with 34 LAA Regt. When I returned to Hong Kong in 1985 as a tourist I found that the barracks had been demolished and turned into a very nice park.

Life in Kowloon was much more interesting than in the New Territories. There were shops, restaurants, cinemas etc. One Saturday afternoon I went to the cinema to see the movie "The Cruel Sea". Whilst standing in line to buy my ticket I saw a beautiful Chinese girl a few places ahead of me. She was with a girl friend and I thought that she was the sort of girl that I would like to get to know much better. I also knew that it would not be easy, as most respectable Chinese girls did not usually make friends with British soldiers. There was a small café attached to the cinema and, after the show, I went there to get a cold drink and who should be there but the girl and her friend. I thought "Nothing ventured, nothing gained" so I went to their table and spoke to them. The friend was the most talkative and I found that her name was Suzy and the other girl was Edna Lee. Somehow or other, I managed to get Edna to agree to a date. We found

that we got on well and we then dated on a regular basis. I knew that I was due to be posted back to the UK in May of 1954 and that this was the girl that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with so I asked her to marry me – she laughed at me! Anyway, after she realised that I was serious, she said yes. The next problem was that her parents lived in Boston, Massachusetts. Her paternal Grandmother, with whom she was living, was the de-facto head of the family in Hong Kong said it would be OK except that Edna would wait for me and if I returned within one year of my return to the UK, then we could get married – but that is another story.

My next step was to apply for a second tour, which I knew, would be difficult to get, but I had no choice but to try. I submitted my application to the BC, Major GC Willis, MC, RA, who immediately asked the reason for this request. When I told him that I intended to marry a Chinese girl he advised me, in all seriousness, that if I married a Chinese girl I could consider my military career over and that I should reconsider my intentions. It was a good thing that I ignored his advice. Anyway, he did support my application and submitted it to RA Records in Sidcup, though this was no guarantee that

I would get my second tour. I sometimes wished that I could have met Maj Willis again before I retired to let him see how wrong he had been.

I embarked on the HMT Dunera on the 3rd May 54 for my return to the UK. We had the usual shore leaves in Singapore, Colombo, Aden and Port Said.

I am not sure, but I think that I must have set some sort of record having served in four different units in two different countries and gone from Bdr down to Lbdr and back up to Sgt all within the space of three years. It was hectic but great fun and I would do it all again. To be continued.

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No nomination
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The Secretary

Veteran's Holiday, Gibraltar, September 2004

By

CG(Bob) Day, B.Ed (Hons), Cert.Ed.

If any proof is needed that I read 'The Crossed Quills@ throughout, then this is it! I read something like: "How about an article on your trip to Gibraltar?"

O.K. This is it.

I should make it clear from the beginning that I did NOT serve at any time in Gibraltar during my army service. However, I had spent several holidays there or visited from Spain. My claim was simply that I served with 23 (Gibraltar) Battery, as a Battery Clerk, for a time back in sixties.

The reply from Woolwich was swift and told me that my application had been forwarded to Gibraltar House, London. Within a week I had been accepted, and all paperwork, and a special badge, had been forwarded to me. I had to get myself to Luton Airport and there report to a certain lady.

I arrived at Luton airport sporting my special badge and was immediately recognised by a group of elderly ladies. They turned out to be ex WRENS who had served in Gibraltar

Chelsea Hospital. He was in his eighties but we got on famously, we shared a room as sleeping accommodation, and he was always mobbed when he wore his uniform down the Main Street. We were told that we would have to pay for drinks but were 'treated' in most of the pubs. I also met up with two ex infantry men, one from the Middlesex Regiment, Barry Thompson, another one from the Fusiliers. They wanted to visit their old haunts so one evening we did a most fabulous pub crawl around Gibraltar. Did we pay for drinks? Well we offered, but to no avail. We did not get paralytic but a great time was had by all.

We were met at Gibraltar by British Legion officials and a photographer who took a group picture. Then on to the War Memorial for a short Service of Remembrance, and then to our accommodation.

Our sleeping accommodation was in the, one time, Sergeants' Mess of Lathbury Barracks, now used as a Retreat. Up near the Apes. (Were they trying to tell us something?) Breakfast was always served there, but all other meals were taken at various establishments around Gibraltar, and always with wine on the table. Transport was available, on each hour of the day, so that we could

get down to the town with ease. (But, it was only about a twenty minute walk to the town centre.)

There were many visits laid on to places of interest, and always in the company of a beautiful girl from the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

A highlight was a visit to the airfield for an RAF Open Day that included a flying display by Tornados and another flying display team and also with static exhibits. Later, we were taken out on a Dolphin watching trip near the Straights of Gibraltar and saw hundreds of them chasing a shoal of fish.

From Lathbury Barracks we could see cruise ships 'coming and going' including the new QM2, the Van Gogh, and a Carnival Cruise line ship, and many others.

This week of quality time came to an end too quickly, and on arrival at London airport we dispersed to our



Veterans' being welcomed in Gibraltar

So, tongue in cheek, and on the strength of my service in the aforementioned Battery, I applied to Woolwich, during August 2004, for a place on Gibraltar's 'Veteran's return holiday'. A holiday with all expenses paid by the Gibraltar Government to celebrate, and say thank you, to service personnel for protecting the 'Rock' for the 300 years of it being a British Colony.

during the war. Then other veterans' came over, and before long, we were all good friends. I suppose there were about sixty veterans altogether.

The week I attended was RAF week, so there was a preponderance of RAF vets. (Why were they born so beautiful?) No matter, I met Jack, a fellow Gunner and an In Pensioner of



Jack, 2 RAF types, Bob

homes, but with lasting memories of a very friendly people who desperately want to remain British.

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

Artillery Clerks' Association Charter

General

1. The Association, entitled the "Artillery Clerks' Association" was formed at Woolwich on Saturday 7th March 1998. This Charter is being adopted to guide its activities. The Charter may be changed at any time by the Committee to reflect the wishes of the Association members.

2. The Aim and Object of the Artillery Clerks' Association is to promote comradeship amongst its members, both serving and retired and to provide a focal point for all members of the Association. The Association is essentially an old comrades association of former Artillery Clerks, either serving or retired.

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

Eligibility

4. *Full Members.* Full membership of the Association is open to any former Artillery Clerk in the rank range from Sergeant to Warrant Officer Class 1, either serving or retired. Membership may also be granted, with the recommendation of a former Artillery Clerk or member of the Association, to clerks who served in the Royal Artillery in the rank range from Gunner to Bombardier, and have subsequently been promoted to Sergeant in the Adjutant General's Corps.

5. *Honorary Membership.* Honorary Membership of the Association is specially designed to cover the widows and relatives of deceased

Artillery Clerks. Other special cases of honorary membership will be considered on merit by the Committee and voted upon by the Committee and voted upon by the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Honorary members may not vote on matters voted upon at the AGM.

6. *Authorization.* Membership of the Association may be sought by anyone under these rules. In the event of there being some doubt regarding application, the Artillery Clerks' Association Committee will arbitrate. The Association Committee has the right to refuse any application for membership, or cancel any existing membership, for example, for disciplinary reasons.

Purpose

7. The specific purpose of the Association is to provide:

- A focal point for comradeship, largely through periodic reunion of:
 - A formal Annual Reunion Dinner.
 - An informal Dinner to be held at a frequency and location to be decided by the Committee, to include wives, girlfriends and widows.
 - 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:

- President (Honorary).
- Chairman.
- Secretary. Responsibilities cover:
 - Association Membership.
 - Correspondence.
 - Providing a focus for the Association's welfare work and links to the RAA.
 - Production of a periodic newsletter.
 - Coordinating the activities of the Area Representatives.
- Treasurer. Responsibilities cover:
 - Maintenance of a bank account entitled the "Artillery Clerks' Association".
 - Accounting for all the finances of the Artillery Clerks' Association.
 - Presenting a Statement of Account to the Committee (as and when required) and annually at the AGM
- Regional Representatives. Responsibilities cover:
 - The recruitment of new members.
 - Maintaining an area membership list.
 - Coordinating travel to Reunions and other Association activities. Areas covered are:
 - Northern Ireland.
 - Scotland.
 - Wales.
 - The North West consisting of Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire.
 - The North consisting of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, Cleveland,

North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside.

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

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

(8) London Area

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

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

(11) Germany.

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

Minutes of the Artillery Clerks' Association Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 9th April 2005

1. Opening Remarks by Chairman

a. The Chairman, Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM, opened the Meeting at 1720 hours by giving a warm welcome, especially to the Senior Citizens, those who had travelled from far and wide to be there (Canada/Malta), those who were there for the first time and Committee Members. The Chairman emphasized Senior Citizens because the theme of the Reunion Weekend was to commemorate and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. The Chairman stated that at least three members were in attendance who served during that conflict. The whole nation will shortly get in tune with these celebrations as we rapidly approach the 8th May (VE Day) and 15th August (VJ Day).

2. Apologies for Absence

There were 26 apologies for absence and their names and messages would appear in the Dinner Menu card or mentioned during the Reunion Dinner.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3rd April 2004

The Secretary explained that the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 3rd April 2004 had been printed and distributed in Edition 8 of The Crossed Quills, and unless any member had any objection, they would not be

read out again. There were no objections.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3rd April 2004

The Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3rd April 2004 were approved.

Proposer:

Mr Graham Brown

Seconder

Mr Andrew Jones

All members were in favour of this proposal

5. Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3rd April 2004

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3rd April 2004.

6. Chairman's Report

a. The Chairman reminded members that an AGM was an open forum for debate and although restricted by time wished this to be our annual opportunity for two-way discussion. He said that although Members may feel that the Committee is well capable of handling the Association's Affairs it was important to know what the Members' aspirations and wishes were for the good and benefit of the Association.

b. The Chairman reported a total Membership of 198 members.

7. Secretary's Report

a. The Secretary reported the unfortunate deaths of former SSgt(AC) Gerry Gipson who had died on 12 November 2004 aged 83 and Sgt(AC) Charlie Welsh who died on 30 November 2004 aged 53. Charlie Welsh had not been a member of the Association but in the fullness of time was expected to have joined.

b. Congratulations were recorded to:

- Major Tony Mott promoted to Lt Col since our last Meeting and posted to DRA.

- Capt Phil Headford promoted to Major since our last Meeting and posted to 40 Regt RA as the RAO. After note. The Secretary suspects that due to an oversight he did not read this out at the AGM.

- Belated congratulations to Capt Tresh Matthews one being commissioned since our last Meeting.

- SSgts Wil Stirman and Ian Williams on being selected for promotion to WO2 since our last Meeting.

- Sgts Brian Burgess, Tony Meek and Tam Millsip on being selected for promotion to SSgt since our last Meeting.

- WO1 Andy Tibble on being awarded an AG's Commendation on 1 July 2004.

c. The Secretary confirmed that:

- Ties were on sale from WO1 Des Riley at a cost of £13.00.

- A total of 200 Grand Draw raffle tickets had been bought from the RAA for £50.00. One ticket had been allocated to each of the 198 members and the remaining 2 tickets to the Association. The draw was to take place on Tuesday 12th April 2005 and the first prize was £1,000.00. Good Luck. (After Note - unfortunately the Association had no winners)

- A recruiting mail shot had been sent out during March this year to 195 potential members. They had been sent a copy of Crossed Quills Edition 8, an Application for Membership and a covering letter. Results of the mail shot at the time of the AGM were:

- 7 new members (so far).

- Mrs Borthwick phoned to inform the Secretary that her husband Campbell Borthwick had died 4 years previously.

- Benny Bennett wrote to inform the Secretary that his sight was deteriorating and was slowly going blind and declined our invitation to join the Association.

(The Chairman proposed that a follow up be made by the Welfare Secretary with St Dunstan's. A follow up was made with Benny who was in

fact a former WO1(SMAC) and Major (SQM). He had thanked the Association for our kind response to his visual problem, further stating that he was currently in good hands and was being pretty well cared for. He also sent his best wishes to all members of the Association).

- The Secretary had received a letter from Mrs Marilyn Melvin post AGM informing him that her husband former Sgt(AC) Ron Melvin had died during September 2001.

d. The Secretary reminded members to keep him informed of any change of rank, address, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, awards etc etc. A mail shot had been sent out and 20 of them had bounced back as being undelivered.

8. The Treasurer's Report

Liquidity State as at Sat 9 Apr 05

Assets

Current Bank Balance	£2,499.57
Deposit Bank Balance	£2,160.24
Shop Stock	£ 493.25
Total Assets (A)	£5,153.06

Liabilities

Function	£2,179.12
Total Liabilities (B)	£2,179.12
Available Cash (A-B)	£2,973.94

- Prior to 1 Jan 05 there are 102 subscriptions outstanding. This would result in £510.00 to the fund. 2005 funds currently outstanding stand at 26. This would result in

£210.00 to the fund. **Total outstanding is £720.00.**

- There are 43 members not subscribing by the direct mandate system. The Treasurer holds the list of those members not subscribing. If anyone would like to check please contact him. Copies of the mandate were available and the Treasurer reminded individuals to send them to their own bank and not to him.

- The Reunion Fund stood at £2,179.12 and would be reduced when the Reunion Secretary had cleared his bills.

- Insurance** – The insurance for the fund is valid until 31 Mar 06. It is with Towergate Wilsons. The cost this year was £162.02 and included personal accident cover for the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Reunion Secretary and Regional Secretaries.

- Gift Aid** - £1.41 income for every £5.00 an individual has paid to the fund. The Treasurer will check whether or not the Chancellor has improved on this during this financial year. The Gift Aid allowance began on 6 Apr 00, therefore it is good to report that a sum of £585.86 has been received from the Tax Man to date. The Treasurer will ensure this continues annually as subscriptions are received. This should take place in Maj/Jun. For those who failed to reply to the Treasurer's initial request another declaration form will be posted to you to complete. Please return

to the Treasurer as soon as possible. Copies were available for individuals.

- Shop** – Ties cost £13.00 and there were 37 in stock.

Maj(Retd) Dennis Crawford BEM proposed and Mr Graham Brown seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. All were in favour.

9. Welfare Secretary's Report

The Welfare Secretary Mr Ted Morgan stated that he had the easiest job going, reporting the fact that he had no welfare cases to deal with over the previous twelve months. Ted also stated that the system can help individuals and that everything was kept confidential to the extent that he was the only individual to know and deal with welfare cases.

After note: Others members of the Committee do not get involved in welfare cases. It is purely between Ted and the individual requesting help or assistance.

10. Reunion Secretary's Report

a. The Reunion Secretary briefed attending members on the format for the evening.

b. **Reunion photographs** - would cost £21.00 (£16.00) black frame and £25.00 (£20.00) mahogany frame. The cost in brackets would be the actual cost after a £5.00 subsidy from Association Funds.

c. **Artillery Clerks' Association Cuff Links and Tie Pin** – were available for

order at a cost of £23.50.

11. Any other Business

a. Election or Re-election of Committee

Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM stated that it had been a privilege to continue as Chairman for another year where we continue to see growth in our Membership. He said that he was backed by an active and noteworthy Committee and acknowledged their huge contribution, in professionalism, time and commitment to the well running of the Association. In addition to those on the top table, i.e. the Secretary, Treasurer and Reunion Secretary, he included the Webmaster, Standard Bearer, Historical Secretary, Welfare Officer and Area Secretaries. Their hard work is clearly appreciated by all as well, because of the good turn-out at each and every Reunion Weekend. The Committee comprised as follows were elected/ 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) Ian Constantine AGC(SPS)
Proposer	Maj(Retd) Dennis Crawford BEM
Seconder	Mr Jim Cussell BEM

All members were in favour of this proposal.

b. Replacement Regional Secretary Germany

A volunteer was requested from the floor to fill the vacant post of Regional Secretary Germany. The Secretary stated that it had been mentioned in the past that whoever is appointed would be expected to organize a Germany Reunion Dinner in October each year. As this had proved a little daunting, this was no longer expected but it would be nice if the Germany Secretary could hold a Reunion Dinner if he could find the time.

After Note. There was no volunteer forthcoming at the AGM. Post AGM and during the Dinner following discussion between Maj(Retd) Pat Verdon and WO2(SQMS) Ron Holmes, (who was detained elsewhere during the AGM) that Ron had volunteered to take over the reins of Germany Secretary and to organize a Reunion Dinner in Germany. Well done Ron.

c. Secretary London and South

The Secretary proposed that the Secretarial Area London and South be split and WO1(SSM) Andy Tibble MSM assumes the appointment of Area Secretary South and Mr Steve Truslove will look after the London Area.

Proposer
The Secretary
Seconder
WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine
AGC(SPS)

All members were in favour of this proposal

d. Proposed Amendment

to the Association Charter

The Secretary proposed an amendment to the Association Charter para 2, eligibility to be amended to read "Membership may also be granted, with the recommendation of a former Artillery Clerk or member of the Association, to clerks who have served in the RA in the rank range from Gnr to Bdr and have subsequently been promoted to Sgt in the AG Corps.

After note. In order that there is no confusion to this proposal it is explained that this change now means that a member who was a former RA Clerk in the rank range from Bdr to Gnr and was proposed into the Association by a former appointed Artillery Clerk may now as a member himself, propose a new member into the Association.

Proposer
The Secretary
Seconder
Mr George McGilvery

This proposal was accepted by all members

e. Numbering of Reunion Dinners

Maj(Retd) Pat Verdon stated that as he held a copy of the Menu Card for 30th Reunion Dinner held in 1967, how comes that today's Reunion Dinner was the 71st. The Secretary stated that an obvious error had been made and it would be investigated.

After Note: Investigation continues.

f. Proposed Vote of

Thanks to the Reunion Secretary

Maj(Retd) David Cussell proposed a vote of thanks to the Reunion Secretary.

g. Future Location of Reunion Dinners

The Reunion Secretary explained to Members that he had been informed by the RASM that should the Committee decide to move the Reunion Dinner to Larkhill after the closure of Woolwich, that the Silver Service saving of approximately £1000.00 would continue. The Chairman pointed out that the subject would be discussed at a future AGM.

12. Date of Next Meeting

There being no further business from the floor, the Meeting closed at 1800 hours. The next Annual General Meeting would be held on Saturday 8 April 2006.

*Mel Charlton
Secretary*



Asst Chief Clerk Sgt(AC) Russ Lee, Chief Clerk WO2(QM(AC)) Keith Berry, REME Chief Clerk and Discipline Sgt, Sgt(AC) Paul Stratton enjoying 32 Regt RA Sgts' Mess Function circa 1995-97

Photograph by kind permission of Maj Russ Lee RA

198 Members as at 17 October 2005

Sparky Allen
Alf Alvin
Richard Ancliffe
Al Artley
John Baik
Brian Bailey
Pip Bailey
Brian Bassett
Taff Bellis
Chris Berry
Martin Birch
Dave Boulton
Peter Bradburn
Denis Brett
Graham Brown
David Brown
Phil Buckingham
Pete Bunn
Budgie Burgess
Martin Butler
Steve Callaghan
Iain Campbell
Walter Carney
Mel Charlton
Rob Clarke
Lawrence Collingwood
Ian Constantine
Ron Cooper
Paddy Corbett
Paul Corker
Mike Cottrell
Bob Cowan
Dennis Crawford
Kev Crump
Peter Currie
Dave Cussell
Jim Cussell
Colin Davidson
Paul Davies
Steve Davies
Bob Day
Roy Deal
John Dewberry
Ray Dickinson
John Dixon
Jim Doran
Paddy Ennis
Rog Essex
Ted Fairbrass
Joe Falzon
Foxy Fox
Jim Findlay
Ron Flemmings
Graham Flint
Alan Foot

Eric Frost
Mark Gaines
Brian Garthwaite
Martin Geddes
Gerry Gipson
Ian Grant
Mick Grenham
Ian Groom
John Haddock
Ted Hall
'H' Hammond
Chris Harvey
Steve Hawke
Phil Hayes
Phil Headford
Marty Hester
Alan Hill
Geordie Himlin
Joe Hoggins
Ron Holmes
Vic Holdaway
Paddy Hope
Richard Horner
Stu Hunt
Mick Hutchinson
Geoff Hyatt
Geoff Janik
Dick Jeavons
Bill Johnson
Mick Johnston
Ted Jones
Andrew Jones
Derek Kelsey
Clive Knaggs
Ralph Lalabalavu
Dave Larcombe
Brian Leadbetter
Russ Lee
Ray Lewis
Bob Lewney
John Lindley
Alan Lowthian
Leon Lyall
Dave Manchester
Tommy McCarthy
John McDermott
George McGilvery
George McKinnell
George McLachlan
Paul McMahon
James McNamara
Adam Martin
Tony Martin
Tim Mathews
Tresh Matthews
Martin Meek
Tony Meek
Tam Millsip

Eddie Mills
Brian Morgan
Ted Morgan
Bill Morland
Ian Morris
Andy Moss
Tony Mott
Paul Mudd
Richard Nichol
Dennis Norris
Tony Nuttall
Nick Perkovic
Joe Phelps
Dennis Phillipson
Chris Piper
Eddie Platts
Jim Pottle
Steve Prowse
Derek Ralphs
Steve Read
John Reynolds
Neil Ridout
Des Riley
Jim Roast
Brian Rose
Alex Ross
Arthur Rowell
Alan Sawdon
Vince Scott
Steve Seymour
Mike Shellard
Chris Shuter
Sid Siddall
Doug Silver
Tony Skinner
Bob Smith
Dave Smith
Brian Smith
Snowy Snowdon

Phil Spencer
Mark Spring
Trevor Spurr
Will Stirman
David Stotan
Dave Straw
Andy Sykes
Ritchie Syme
John Taylor
Mark Testi
Andy Tibble
Gordon Timmis
Trig Tregower
Frank Trimby
Steve Truslove
Mel Turpie
Dave Tyler
Gary Tyson
Pat Verdon
Dave Vesty
Dick Walmsley
William Wallace
Daz Ward
Ken Ward
Ron Waterfield
Duggie Waterhouse
Tom Webb
Andy West
Ronnie Whelan
Wills Williams
Jeff Williams
Ian Williams
Alan Witts
Chris Wood
Al Wood
Woody Woodford
Den Wright
John Yeowell
Bill Young



**71st Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner
Friday 8th - Sunday 10th April 2005
by WO1 (SSM) A M Tibble MSM AGC(SPS)**

On the evening of Friday 8th April 2005, several Association members joined together in the Royal Artillery Barracks, Sergeants' Mess bar to form the advance party in Woolwich, for the 71st Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner. Prior to the Reunion Dinner on the Saturday evening, an AGM, chaired by Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon BEM was held. The present Committee less for the current Reunion Secretary, WO1 (SSM) Andy Tibble were re-elected to carry on in their present appointment. Due to the fact that WO1 Andy Tibble is due to leave the

army in May 2005, his replacement WO1 (SSM) Ian Constantine was elected to take on this appointment. These re-elections were warmly received by those in attendance. Following the AGM, all members assembled in the Dining Room to await the arrival of the Guest of Honour, The Commandant of The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Maj Gen A S Ritchie CBE. Honorary President, Maj Gen A P N Currie CB and invited guests, the Regimental Colonel, Lt Col J R M Gower RA, Station Quartermaster, Maj M F Gleeson MBE, Membership Secretary of the Royal



Guest of Honour chatting to the Webmaster, David Stotan and Area Secretary London Area, Steve Truslove

Artillery Association, Capt (Retd) A L Solly and the Royal Artillery Sergeant Major, WO1 (RASM) Tosh McIntosh. A reunion photograph was taken and is shown on the rear of the magazine.

A trumpeter from the RA Orchestra sounded and the Reunion Dinner commenced, chaired by the Reunion Secretary, WO1 (SSM) A M Tibble MSM. The top table was piped into Dinner by Pipe Major Ian Fraser from 19 Regt RA. Members sat down to a most excellent meal provided by the RCWO, WO2 Dave Barrow, Sgt Gavin Dickerson and Dennis Angus. The evening as always was orchestrated under the very professional care of the Mess Manageress, Mrs Mary Faulkner, assisted by 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 Royal Artillery Slow March. The Honorary President, Maj Gen A P N Currie CB then read out a Loyal Message which had been received from Her Majesty The Queen. The Loyal Message was well received by all those in attendance.

After the interval members and guests were entertained with a pipe display provided by Pipe Major Ian Fraser from 19 Regt RA. The Honorary President, Maj Gen A P N Currie CB explained that this year we were celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the World War II Veterans and subsequently presented a Veterans Badge to Bob Lewney, IP Duggie Waterhouse, IP George McKinnell and Jim Cussell. The Reunion Secretary then gave a hearty welcome to all those attending members and thanked all members present for supporting the Reunion and Association Dinner. Thanks were given to those who had travelled



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Lieutenant Colonel J. F. Falzon, BEM,
Chairman,
The Artillery Clerks' Association.

Please convey my warm thanks to the Members of the Artillery Clerks' Association for their message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of their seventy-first Reunion and Association Dinner which is being held tonight at the Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Woolwich at which the sixtieth Anniversary of Victory in Europe will also be celebrated.

As your Captain General, I much appreciate your kind words and, in return, send my best wishes to you all for a successful evening during this significant celebration.

ELIZABETH R.

9th April, 2005.



Four ex Jnr Ldrs meet up together for the first time since 1964, Peter Gauci, Joe Hoggins BSc (Historical Secretary), Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman), Mel Charlton (Secretary)

great distances to be with other members of the Association on this special occasion in particular to Maj (Retd) John Reynolds who had travelled all the way from Canada. The Reunion Secretary welcomed the Guest of Honour, Maj Gen A S Ritchie CBE, Regtl Col, Lt Col J R M Gower RA, Station QM, Maj M F Gleeson MBE, Membership Secretary of the RAA, Capt (Retd) A L Solly and the RASM, WO1 (RASM) Tosh McIntosh.

The unfortunate deaths of former SSgt (AC) Gerry Gipson and former Sgt (AC) Charlie Welsh were reported and a toast was taken in their honour. 26 greetings and apologies were read out from members who were unable to attend. It was mentioned that we currently have members from the UK and as far a field as Canada, Belize in Central America, Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, New Zealand, Australia, Cyprus and Germany, indicating the universal spread of the Association. A toast was given to absent friends. It was mentioned that no other branch of

the RAA can boast such a diverse membership. The Artillery Clerks' do truly live up to our motto of 'UBIQUE'.

A special mention was also given to our senior citizens who were present, Marty Hester (70), Tom Webb (71), Jim Cussell (77), Bob Day (75), Bill Johnson (77), Bob Lewney (84), Ray Dickinson (67) and John Reynolds (74). Also a special mention was given to two of our Artillery Clerks Chelsea Pensioners, Duggie Waterhouse (78) and George McKinnell (81). A welcome was also given to Duggie's friend from the Royal Chelsea Hospital, In Pensioner Steve Griffin.

Congratulations were expressed to Lt Col Tony Mott RA on promotion to Lt Col, Maj Phil Headford BEM AGC(SPS) on promotion to Maj, SSgt Will Stirman AGC(SPS) and SSgt Wills Williams AGC(SPS) on being selected for promotion to WO2 and to Sgt Budgie Burgess AGC(SPS), Sgt Tony Meek AGC(SPS) and Sgt Tam Millsip AGC(SPS) on being selected for promotion to SSgt.

A special mention was made to our webmaster, David Stotan who continues to work very hard on our behalf having built up a very streamlined and useful website which has brought all of our Association members together. It was mentioned that our website is looking very good. Appreciation was shown by attendees. Also a special mention was made to our Standard Bearer, Andrew Jones who had paraded the Association Standard at the St Barbara's Day Service at the Garrison Church, Larkhill on Sunday 28th November 2004, the Gunner Sunday Service at the Royal Chelsea Hospital on Sunday 16th May 2004. It was mentioned that Andrew would also be parading the standard at the Royal Assembly, Woolwich on 14th May 2005, the Gunner Saturday at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on Sunday 15th May 2005 and also at the World War II 60th Anniversary Commemoration Parade in London on 10th July 2005. Appreciation was shown by attendees.

During dinner, the RASM, WO1 (RASM) Tosh McIntosh was presented.



Tom Webb and WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine enjoying a pint with three In Pensioners

He gave a most informative "State of the Union" report. The RASM was once again thanked for the support that he continues to give the Artillery Clerks' Association. The Guest of Honour, Maj Gen A S Ritchie CBE, was presented in the form of a resume of his career. He gave a delightful and very informative response, which was warmly received by all those in attendance.

The Reunion Secretary stated that the Association continued to go from strength to strength with 198 members, that we were universally spread throughout the world, and that no other branch of the RAA could boast such a diverse membership. The Association truly lived up to our motto of 'UBIQUE'. It was further mentioned that due to the diversity of membership, the Reunion Dinners 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 thanked everyone for their continued support over the past 5 years since he had been the Reunion Secretary and hoped that they would continue to give their support to his replacement WO1 (SSM) Ian Constantine who will take over as the Reunion Secretary after this Reunion weekend. He then went on to wish everyone all the very best for the forthcoming year and looked forward to seeing everyone at next year's Reunion which would take place at Woolwich over the period 7th to 9th April 2006.

The 71st Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner continued into the early hours of Sunday morning in the Ayre's Lounge where Maj Paul Corker, SSgt Daz Ward and IP Duggie Waterhouse were last seen at 0700 hours.

This was a culmination of a very special and successful Reunion weekend. Once again the Artillery Clerks' Association had fulfilled its objectives of Companionship, Friendship, Celebration and Remembrance. A most excellent weekend which was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended?



Secretary Mel Charlton, IP Duggie Waterhouse, IP George McKinnell, Reunion Secretary WO1(SSM) Andy Tibble MSM



Five ex Jnr Ldrs meet for the first time since 1964, Mick Grenham, Mel Charlton (Secretary), guest Pete Gauci, Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman) and Joe Hoggins BSc (Historical Secretary)



IP George McKinnell meets the Guest of Honour, Maj Gen Andrew Ritchie CBE



Top table WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine, WO1(RASM) Tosh McIntosh, WO1(SSM) Andy Tibble MSM (Reunion Secretary), Guest of Honour, Mel Charlton (Secretary), Ray Dickinson MBE



Geoff Hyatt, John Taylor and Ray Lewis MSM



View down the left leg with WO2(SQMS) ron Holmes at the end



View up the right leg with Jim Cussell BEM and Marty Hester at this end



Reverse top table from the right, Maj(Retd) Dennis Crawford BEM, Maj(Retd) John Reynolds, Maj P Corker (Treasurer) Maj Gen Peter Currie CB (Honorary President), Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman), Lt Col James Gower (Regt Col)



Honorary President Maj Gen Peter Currie CB awards a Veteran's Badge to IP Duggie Waterhouse



Veteran's Bagde being awarded to Jim Cussell BEM



Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman), Guest Peter Gauci, WO1(SSM) Andy Tibble MSM (Reunion Secretary), David Stotan (Webmaster) and Mel Charlton (Secretary) enjoy an after Dinner pint



WO1(SSM) Martin Meek explaining to Dennis Norris (Regional Secretary West) why he did not appear on the main group photograph



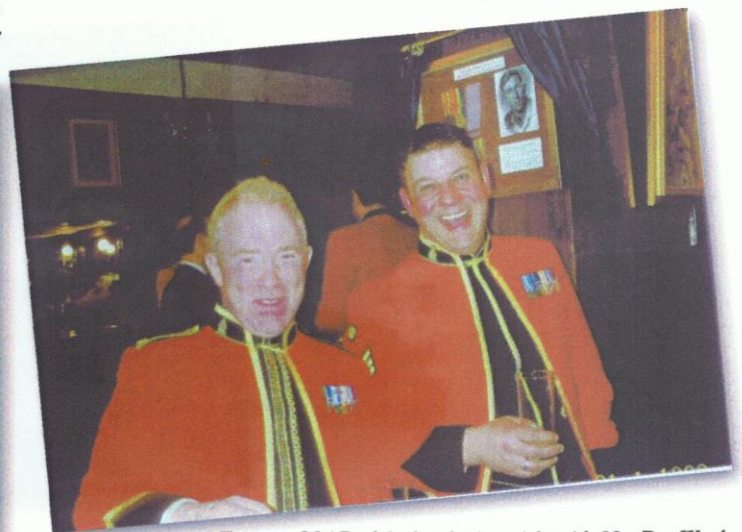
WO1(RASM) Tosh McIntosh centre talks to Roy Penhallurick and WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine



John Wilson MSM and Alan Lowthian whose attention is drawn elsewhere



Veteran's Badge being awarded to IP George McKinnell



Treasurer Maj Paul Corker sharing a joke with SSgt Daz Ward



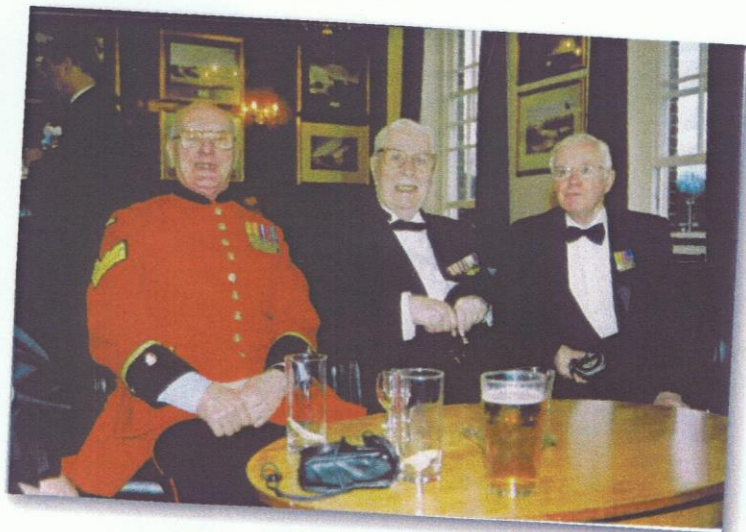
Reunion Secretary WO1(SSM) Andy Tibble MSM with Hon Taylow



WO1(SSM) Ian Constantine and Capt Tresh Matthews



Mick Johnston and Historical Secretary Joe Hoggins BSc



Three of our veterans, IP George McKinnell, Bob Lewney and Bill Johnson

71st Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner
Woolwich, London
Saturday 9th April 2005



7th Row WO2(SOMS) RJ Holmes
 6th Row – Mr ST Trustlove, Mr GO Hyatt, Mr SJ Read, Mr JM Grant, Sgt RA Syme, Mr J Taylor, Mr C Shuter, Mr G Brown, Mr DG Storian

5th Row – SSgt BJ Alvin, WO2(SOMS) DJ Ralphs, SSgt DA Ward, SSgt SA Snowdon, Sgt SA Whelean, Sgt I Morris, WO2(SOMS) MA Spring, SSgt MJ Cottrell, Mr P Gauci, Mr MI Grenham, Mr D Norris

4th Row – Mr RT Waterfield, Mr DJ Wilson MSM, Mr GA Lowthian, Capt(Retd) TP Hope BEM, Mr IE Pottle, Mr GF McGilvery, Mr R Cooper, Maj(Retd) JH Reynolds, Mr R Penhallurick,

Mr KT Crump, Mr JF Lindley, Mr SD Evans

3rd Row – Mr AJ Jones (Standard Bearer), Mr J Hoggins BSc, WO1(SSM) IF Constantine, WO1(SSM) DA Riley, Capt TV Matthews AGC(SPS), Capt(Retd) RA Jeavons, WO1 JM Hutchinson,
 Mr RH Lewis MSM, Mr E Morgan, Mr M Johnston, Pipe Maj I Fraser

2nd Row – Mr M Hester, Mr R Dickinson MBE, Mr JR Lewney, Capt(Retd) AL Solly, Maj(Retd) D Crawford BEM, IP GRB McKinnell, Maj(Retd) DJ Cussell, Mr HJ Cussell BEM, Mr CG Day,
 Mr TE Webb

Front Row – Mr WD Johnson, Maj(Retd) PJ Verdon, Maj MF Gleeson MBE RA, Lt Col(Retd) DP Brown OStJ, BEM, WO1(RASM) G McIntosh, Mr JM Charlton (Secretary),
 Maj Gen AS Ritchie CBE (Guest of Honour), Lt Col(Retd) JF Falzon BEM (Chairman), Maj Gen APN Currie CB (Honorary President), WO1(SSM) AM Tibble MSM (Reunion Secretary),
 Lt Col JRM Gower RA, Maj P Corker AGC(SPS), Maj PA Headford BEM AGC(SPS)