



**69th (Centenary) Artillery Clerks'
Reunion and
Association Dinner**



**Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess
Royal Artillery Barracks
Woolwich**

Saturday 5th April 2003



Guest of Honour

**The Master Gunner St James's Park
General Sir Alex Harley KBE CB**

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Guests

Colonel M B Cooper

Major (Retired) J W Timbers

**Warrant Officer Class 1
(Royal Artillery Sergeant Major) D J Gilbert**

THE COMMITTEE

Honorary President
Maj Gen Mike Shellard CBE

Chairman
Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon BEM

Secretary
Mr Mel Charlton (former WO1 (SMAC))

Reunion Secretary
WO1 (SSM) Andy Tibble AGC(SPS)

Treasurer
Maj Paul Corker AGC(SPS)

Welfare Officer
Mr Ted Morgan

Padre
Rev Denis Brett

Webmaster
Mr David Stotan

Standard Bearer
Mr Andrew Jones

Historian
Mr Joe Higgins

Regional Secretaries

North - Mr Vince Scott
North West - Mr Dennis Norris
Midlands - Mr Steve Callaghan
East - Mr Chris Berry
London and South - Mr Steve Truslove
West - WO1 (SSM) Des Riley LSL/AGC(SPS)
Scotland - Mr Ted Fairbrass
Wales - no nomination
Germany - WO1 Roy Deal LSL/AGC(SPS)

MENU

Paté and Melba Toast

Orange Sorbet

*Pan Fried Pork Fillet
with a
Lemon & Peppercorn Sauce*

*Buttered New Potatoes
Parisienne Potatoes
Medley of Vegetables
Broccoli Dansk*

*Tart Normande
Cream*

Cheese Board

Coffee & Mints

ENTERTAINMENT



The Royal Artillery Orchestra *(by kind permission of the Director Royal Artillery)*

Programme of Music *Under the direction of Lance Bombadier Simon Duggan*

Paso Doble	Amporita Roca	Texidor
Waltz	Liebesleid	Kreisler
Selection	The Dancing Years	Novello
Solo	For All We Know	Coots
Opera Extract	Les Toreadors	Bizet
Classical	Adagio	Albinoni
Western Selection	Boots and Saddles	Hanmer
Film Theme	Diamonds Are Forever	Barry
Violin Solo	Czardas	Monti

The Loyal Toast

Post Horn Gallop

The Royal Artillery Slow March



Piper
Lance Sergeant N Macrae

by kind permission of

Major P Copeland MBE
F Company
Scots Guards

The Royal Artillery Clerks' Section

Army Order 54 of 1903 authorised the formation of the Artillery Clerks Section. St John Brodrick, at "Our Court of St James's, signed it this 21st day of March 1903, in the 3rd year of our Reign By His Majesty's Command." The Army Order was the notification to the Army of the Royal Warrant that authorised this change. St John Brodrick was Secretary of State for War and was signing "At His Majesty's Command". The establishment of the RA Clerks Section did not, in itself, require a Royal Warrant, but financial provision for the change could only be achieved by an amendment to the Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion of the Army. The Warrant clearly sets out the rank and pay of members of the Royal Artillery Clerks Section but it provides no information as to where these clerks would be employed nor is there any mention of why it was found necessary to form the Section. Presumably there were clerks employed in the Artillery before April 1903 but not in the form that was created by the Warrant. War Office File No. 18/ Artillery 3938 might well have held some clues to this question but the file does not seem to have been preserved as a Public Record. However, there were two major changes in the organisation of the artillery in the four years preceding the Royal Warrant, which may have been the reason why the Clerks Section was formed.

Until 1899 there was, in the Royal Artillery, no higher permanent command structure than the battery. Most of the batteries existing today are part of a Regiment, which has a Commanding Officer, an Adjutant, Quartermasters and a Pay Officer with suitable staff in support. Until 1899 each battery was responsible for its own affairs under the Battery Commander and the Battery Captain with a Quartermaster Sergeant and a Pay Sergeant. The Battery Commander corresponded direct with such Departments as the Record Office, the Army Clothing Department, the Deputy Adjutant General RA, the Ordnance Department and the Pay Department on all matters to do with the discipline, pay and promotion of officers and soldiers and the clothing and equipment on charge to the battery. Wherever there were two or more batteries in a particular district Lieutenant Colonels were appointed to oversee the batteries, but these officers had no staff and no authorisation to interfere in those matters where the Battery Commander was authorised to deal with the War Office direct. It has been said that the Lieutenant Colonels could not even expect to take their batteries to firing camps. The Lieutenant Colonels were appointed each year to command practice camps but the batteries which attended might not have included any from their own districts, the batteries being simply ordered to attend a Camp of Instruction commanded by a named Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1899 this all changed. The experiences of the German and French Artillery in the Franco-Prussian war had been studied in detail in the British Service but there were as many views as there were those prepared to comment on these matters. Furthermore the introduction of quick-firing guns had resulted in a change in the nature of the employment of field artillery and, consequently, the need for revision of drills and deployment. What slowly emerged was that there was a need for a permanent unit of field artillery of two or more batteries commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel and staff in peacetime who would train and organise the unit for war. Eventually a plan was produced to group batteries in a particular area into what were to be called brigade divisions each of three batteries. The brigade division headquarters was quite small, consisting of the Commanding Officer, an Adjutant, an Orderly Officer, a Brigade Sergeant Major (RSM of today) and a handful of batmen and horseholders. These brigade divisions began to form as the artillery moved off to join the forces in South Africa and, indeed I Brigade Division RFA consisted of the three field batteries then in South Africa. Unfortunately the artillery which fought in the South African War were not long employed in the brigade division scheme and were soon in action as independent batteries, and indeed sections (of two guns), when the war became very mobile. There was, therefore, by 1902 very little experience of the employment of the brigade divisions in operations of war.

The problems of organising the forces which went to South Africa had resulted in the War Office accepting that there had to be a proper command structure in peacetime ready to be deployed in war, and in March 1902 a Special Army Order was published setting the organisation of the field army in the United Kingdom into permanent Corps, Divisions and Brigades, each with its establishment of artillery. Commanders and staffs were authorised for the Corps and Divisional artillery and it is at this point that the need for a specialist group of clerks, Artillery Clerks, must have been perceived. In addition there was, of course, a need for such clerks at brigade division and battery level so that specialist clerks could support the whole of the staff work of the artillery in peace and in war.

It is believed, therefore, that the Army Corps Scheme, as it was called, was the reason why the Artillery Clerks Section was formed and the Section can be closely associated with the major reorganisation of 1902 and onwards, the principals of which are still with us today. One might well say that if there had been Artillery Clerks in post in 1902/3 the War Office File on the subject might have been preserved for prosperity.

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 to the pay and promotion of soldiers employed as clerks in Our Royal Artillery; **18**
April 1903 **Artillery**
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

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

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

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

By His Majesty's Command,

Sr. JOHN BRODRICK

(Extract by kind permission of the Royal Artillery Institution)



MESSAGE BOARD

Message from Taff Bellis

Apologies for not attending. Hope you all have a good one with lots of hangovers!!

Message from Geoff Janik

Sorry I cannot make it yet again this year. All the best to you all.

Message from Brian (Fred) Bassett

Sorry I cannot be there with you all but I am out of the country. I would like to wish you all a great evening. I must say that it will be a tough night for big Ian as he will have to buy his own drink instead of me. Once again, have a great night.

Message from Martin Birch

Greetings from 3 RHA. Unfortunately I am unable to make this year's Centenary celebrations. Regards to all. UBIQUE

Message from Eric Frost

To the Association members I send my very best wishes for a happy and memorable weekend, may the New Year fulfil all your hopes and satisfy all your needs and may your knowledge and bearing provide the ability to face the future whatever 'changes and chances' it may bring.

Message from Gerry Gibson

Greetings to you all – and a successful weekend. Old age and ill-health preclude me from attending – wish I could be with you all.

Message from Jeffrey Williams

May I pass on my regrets for not being able to attend the 69th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner. Please pass on my regards and greetings to all, especially to Mel Charlton who I served with in 12 Lt AD Regt RA. I am one of those who has met the 4th sign of the Astrology, I need to go for regular check-ups (to ensure I don't meet it again!). This date has coincided with the dinner.

Message from Tom Taylor

At last I have been invited to the AC's dinner but 'sods law' I cannot attend this one. I am away on a training course for 10 weeks to become a Harbour Police Constable. Regards to you all and I am looking forward to seeing you all in the not too distant future. Regards and best wishes.

Message from John Reynolds

I had intended to attend this year's Reunion. However, my plans have had to change. I am having a new house built and because we have had such an unusually mild winter so far ((we had a "brown" Christmas) the contractors are ahead of schedule and have forecast completion by the last week of March/first week of April. This means that I will be fully involved in selling my old house and moving into the new one. Please give my regards to Bill Johnson, Inky Holdaway, Mel Charlton and anyone else who might remember me.

Message from Dennis Phillipson

"Ahlan Wasalan". My best wishes go out to you all on this very special evening. Sorry I cannot be with you but rest assured I am thinking of you all. Best regards to you all.

Message from Tam Millsip

I cannot attend due to being deployed in March 2003. Kind regards to all.

Message from Dave Smith

Just signed a contract to work in Thailand for the next 6 months. Hope you are not too busy to enjoy the year yourself.

Message from Den Wright

Unfortunately I find myself serving in the Province rather than enjoying your company at the Reunion and Association Dinner. All the best to anyone that knows me, hope you have a fantastic weekend. Hope to see you all next year. Best wishes.

Message from Dave Manchester

Sorry I can't be with you on this special Reunion Dinner as I will be in Shanghai (China) visiting my daughter. I will see everyone at the next Reunion Dinner. Have a great weekend and dinner.

Message from BJ Alvin

Due to family commitments, I am unable to be seated with you tonight. I am, however, as always, honoured to be a member of the Association and will continue to give my support if not presence to this auspicious occasion. Have an enjoyable evening and please accept my kind regards and best wishes for the Centenary.

Message from Pete Bunn

It is with great regret that I am unable to attend the Reunion Dinner, especially as I so recently learned of the Association's existence. Age and certain medical problems make it impossible. However, I send my very best wishes to the Association and all its members and trust that this will be a very successful weekend for all and that the Association will continue to flourish. It would have given me immense pleasure to have seen the Royal Artillery Band Beating Retreat on the Front Parade where I so proudly drilled 70 years ago! I wish you all good health and good fortune.

Message from Georgie Himlin

I hope you all have an excellent night. Sorry I can't be there.

Message from Budgie Burgess

Thank you very much for the invitation. I would have loved to have attended and met up with some old friends. However, events down south have kept me from the opportunity to make my first Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion. I hope to see you all next year. All the best.

Message from Ian Williams

Yet another one I miss due to posting/courses. I will get there eventually. Hope you all have a fantastic evening.

Message from Chris Piper

On this the 69th (Centenary) Artillery Clerks' Reunion I wish you all good cheer and not too large a hangover! Hopefully I will see you all next year.

Message from Alan Hill

Unfortunately, once again I cannot attend. I wish everybody attending a successful weekend and an enjoyable dinner. I left it as late as possible to answer but work and commitments make it impossible to attend the dates involved. Many regards to all.

Message from Ron Flemmings

I am now in my 79th year. Last year I had 3 falls here in York. With a cataract in each eye, I am apprehensive about travelling. I wish the Artillery Clerks' Association continued success and I do appreciate the amount of work that the Committee put in. Kind regards to all.

Message from Iain Campbell

Only a war would have stopped me attending this Centenary Year Reunion Dinner. Guest what!! Have a really great night gents and drink one for me.

Message from Leon Lyall

The last year has flown by with one Reunion seemingly coming up behind finishing the last (not that I was available for that one either). Again commitments keep me from attending. Congratulations to all those serving members on their promotions ... was it Field Marshal for Corker? Ha! Also well done to those honoured by The Queen with a gong. And last but not least, all the very best to all the Arty Clerks in all your future endeavours. Hope to see you at the next Reunion (considering I'm not committed again!).

Message from Russ Lee

Sorry I cannot attend the dinner and be with you all this evening. Sadly we are involved in training the Royal Wessex Yeomandry all weekend but I hope the weekend and dinner are a great success. See you next year. Regards to you all.

Message from Adam Martin

Dear Brothers, I can't be with you tonight as some bloke with a dodgy moustache who looks like the biker from the Village People, has been causing a nuisance again. I've dug out my deserts that I wore last time I was in this neck of the sand dunes, it's amazing how clothes shrink 3 sizes when they have been hanging up for twelve years!!

I am also sorry that I can't defend my rearguard record of 0615 hrs Sunday morning with Nick Perkowicz. I would like to set the record straight, Nick hadn't quite got his land legs back by the end of the morning, HMS Font Parade must have been going through rough seas and throwing up a lot of spray as Nick also had his eyes closed for at least the last hour or three.

Have a great night, have a beer on me, I'll be praying for you, I to experienced the 'Mother of all Hangovers' last year. They say we should be home by Christmas! "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be afraid, what can man do to me?" God Bless.

Message from Rob Clarke

Due to unforeseen circumstances I will be unable to attend tonight. I do wish all of you an enjoyable Centenary, especially the guys from old who knew me from 22 Regt plus Andy Jones who continues to do an outstanding job carrying the Association standard. Hope to see you all next year. UBIQUE

Message from Paddy Hope

Due to recent illness I am unable to attend this year's Reunion. Have a great weekend.

Message from Vince Scott

It's with heavy heart that I am unable to attend the Centenary Dinner. My daughter's wedding is looming large and a massive drain on the old beer tokens and fun money. I am sure you will understand. Please pass on my regards and regrets to all those present. I shall miss the Saturday morning/afternoon preamble prior to the dinner. Last year's was a hoot! Remarkably how sensible one can be despite the presence of one 'Jock Meek'; although it was tempting to try and keep up with him (hope he makes the dinner this year). I am sure the day will be a smashing affair with all the dignified ceremony that the occasion warrants. UBIQUE - and cheers; regards to all members present.

