



# 70<sup>th</sup> Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner



Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess  
Royal Artillery Barracks  
Woolwich

Saturday 3rd April 2004

# Guest of Honour

Major General J C M Gordon CBE

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## Guests

Colonel SCJ Hutchinson

Warrant Officer Class 1  
(Royal Artillery Sergeant Major) G McIntosh

Warrant Officer Class 2  
(Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant) G Webb

# ENTERTAINMENT



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

### Programme of Music *Under the direction of Sergeant Phil Jarvis Royal Artillery*

|           |                    |             |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------|
| March     | Blaze Away         | Holzmann    |
| Suite     | D Major            | Bach        |
| Selection | The Sound of Music | Rodgers     |
| Waltz     | Covent Garden      | Strauss     |
| Selection | Show Boat          | Kern        |
| Air       | Annie Laurie       | arr Hartley |
| Solo      | Czardas            | Monti       |
| March     | El Capitan         | Sousa       |

### The Loyal Toast

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### Post Horn Gallop

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### The Royal Artillery Slow March



**Piper**

**Colour Sergeant N Hall**  
**The Royal Highland Fusiliers**  
**(Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment)**

by kind permission of the

**Commandant**  
**Royal Military Academy Sandhurst**

## 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  
Artillery  
3038  
April 1903

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.<br>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 Ron Flemmings*

I moved from York to Leeds in July 2003. I have moved into a Retirement Home which is Warden assisted. I am waiting to go into St James's Hospital (Jimmy's) for a cataract operation on both eyes. I was 79 years of age last January. Leeds has the buzz of a dynamic and vibrant city. There are more new hotels and shops, a £5 million revamp of the classy Victorian arcade and many more developments. Leeds United Football Club are not playing well. What is important to me is my roots, and they are entwined in Kippax and Allerton Bywater where I was born and brought up.

I send the best of wishes to the Artillery Clerks' Association and its members. The Committee are doing a good job. I thought the No 7 edition of "The Crossed Quills" was excellent.

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### *Message from Tony Mott*

Unfortunately, over the period of this year's dinner I will be deployed on Op TELIC 4 and therefore will not be able to attend. I am sure the evening will be a tremendous event and I would like to pass on my regards to all those attending.

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### *Message from John Dixon*

I wish that you all enjoy a happy Reunion and have a good night.

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### *Message from Pat Verdon*

Sorry I can't be with you all this year. My best wishes for a successful Reunion.

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### *Message from Ian Williams*

Good to see many recognisable faces! Hope to finally make a Reunion soon. 'Ubique'.

*Message from John Reynolds*

I am sorry that, once again, I am unable to attend the Reunion. Old age, health problems and high travel insurance etc all combine to make travel to the UK more difficult. I hope that you all enjoy a wonderful weekend. Please give my regards to Bill Johnson, Inky Holdaway, Mel Charlton and anyone else who might be old enough to remember me.

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*Message from Richard Ancliffe*

Sorry I can't be with you this year. We flew out last night for a holiday in India and Sri Lanka, Gaviscon in one bag and Imodium in the other. Hope you don't need the same! Have a good one.

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*Message from Bill Morland*

Gentlemen, having spent some 30 years of my total service in the Sergeants' Mess, I can say without doubt that many of my finest memories (and the lack of them!) revolve around the Mess and that fine body of men who have earned the right to enjoy its privileges. Since no one can become a member of the Mess without first earning the right to belong, it is, as I was frequently heard to proclaim to anyone who would listen, the most exclusive club in the world. Good fun, entertainment, conversation, and the "odd drink or three" in relaxed surroundings with excellent companions. Mary and I will long remember the very real friendships which have endured over the years. These few lines written by Robert Burns on the window of a hostelry in Sanquhar (Ayrshire) sum it up for me:

ENVY, if thy jaundiced eye,  
Through this window chance to spy,  
To Thy sorrow Thou shall find,  
All that's generous, All that's kind;  
Friendship, Virtue, Every Grace,  
Dwelling in this happy place.

Our regards to you all gentlemen  
Eat, Drink and Be Merry  
For Tomorrow, if tradition remains,  
You will definitely NOT feel like it!!

Ubique

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*Message from Geoff Janik*

Regrettably, again I cannot make the Reunion due to work commitments. All the very best to you all.

*Message from Dennis Phillipson*

"Ahlen-Wasahlan" - My thoughts are with you all - God Bless you all.

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*Message from Alf Alvin*

Another year with excuses such as postings and courses. Best wishes to you all and have an excellent weekend. See you all next year??? Ubique

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*Message from Gary Tyson*

Sorry I'm not there with you tonight, but I'm in Cyprus shooting for the Army, well someone had to do it. Have a great night. All the best. Ubique.

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*Message from Ian Groom*

Sorry I can not make the Dinner. Please pass on my regards to those that know me and I hope you all have an extremely enjoyable evening.

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*Message from Brian Dunn*

Unfortunately I am unable to attend this year's Dinner. I do hope that you all have an enjoyable evening.

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*Message from Jeffrey Williams*

Please accept my regrets - I will be away on holiday in Cancun, Mexico.

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*Message from Steve Callaghan*

It is with much regret that I shall be unable to attend this year, due mainly through my involvement on renegotiation of one of my contracts and the re-tender process and hopefully retention for a further 5 + 2 years of another of my contracts. I do also have an involvement with the initial site visits with a view to a company tender bid being submitted on 3 others. I hope that the main negotiations will be very successful and that I shall still be gainfully employed and able to attend next year. My very best wishes to all those fellow Artillery Clerks present this year. It is my hope that a few more of us with regret letters being read this year will be sitting down next year, you can count me in.

*Message from Adam Martin*

Dear Brothers, sorry I can't be with you tonight as on the 16 January 2004 my daughter April Phillipa was born, 6.8lb. I am currently enroute to see grandparents, aunties, uncles, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews and cousins all on three hours sleep a night! No one told me it would be this much fun!! Have a drink on me, I'll be thinking of you whilst I'm bottle-feeding at 3 in the morning. I have found the weapons of mass destruction missing after the war in Iraq, I found them whilst changing 'Pips' nappies, another joyous part of fatherhood that didn't come across right in the 'scratch and sniff guide to fatherhood' book. God bless Ubique.

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*Message from Mick Grenham*

Unfortunately my work commitments are such that I will be unable to attend this year. I wish all those attending a happy time at the Reunion and good health during the coming year so that I may meet you all at the 71st Reunion.

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*Message from Andy Sykes*

Once again I send my apologies because I cannot attend this dinner due to my bad back. It is hoped this will be cured this year, so next year I will be able to attend. I wish all honoured guests, members and friends the very best for this evening and the rest of the year. Ubique.

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*Message from Mick Johnston*

Sorry I can't be with you all this evening. My best regards go out to you all and I hope to be there next year.

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*Message from Ian Constantine*

Unfortunately I am unable to attend. I would like to wish you all an enjoyable evening.

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*Message from Mick Hutchinson*

To all Artillery Clerks past and present gathered to celebrate the 70th Reunion, I wish you a very successful dinner this evening. Regards to the usual clique, namely Martin Meek, Dennis Norris, Willie and young Derek Ralphs and his gang. Look forward to seeing you all again next year. Regards.

*Message from Paul Corker*

It is with great regret that I am unable to attend this evening, however, I am just about to deploy on operations in Iraq. I would like to wish you all an enjoyable evening and hope to see you all next year.

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*Message from Mark Testi*

Greetings from downunder. Having only ever missed two Reunions and those due to Op tours, you will all be in my thoughts this weekend and maybe for the first time, I will actually miss the British Army. I do wish I was there this evening like last year, chewing the cud again with Derek Gilbert and smoking another one of his expensive cigars, seeing the same old faces, and hopefully some new ones, and having a laugh and joke with my old mates. To name but a few, Mel Charlton, Des Riley and Paul Mudd, there are far too many more to name. In closing Mr Chairman (Joe), honoured guests, friends and fellow Artillery Clerks, it only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Reunion, enjoy the evening and I will return one day. Ubique.

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*Message from Mark Spring*

I am sorry that I can't be with you this evening. I would like to wish all members a hearty meal and wish them well for the rest of the year and will see you all in 2005.

