



71st Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner



Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess
Royal Artillery Barracks
Woolwich

Saturday 9th April 2005

Guest of Honour

Major General A S Ritchie CBE
Commandant Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

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Guest

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

ENTERTAINMENT



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

Programme of Music

Under the direction of Lance Bombardier Simon Duggan Royal Artillery

Waltz	Nights of Gladness	Ancliffe
Classical	Suite in D	Bach
Modern	Bittersweet Symphony	Verve
Selection	South Pacific	Rodgers
Film Music	Schindler's List	Williams
Trumpet Solo	For All We Know	Coots
Classical	Pavane	Faure
Tango	Jealousy	Gade
Paso Doble	Don Jose	Charrosin
Violin Solo	Czardas	Monti

The Loyal Toast

Post Horn Gallop

The Royal Artillery Slow March

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 18
April 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	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)

The Royal Artillery Clerks' Section

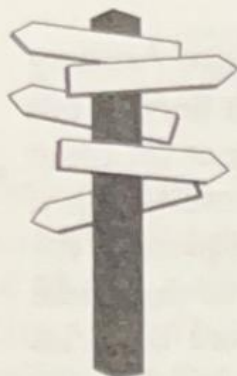
Army Order 54 of 1903 authorised the formation of the Artillery Clerks Section. St John Brodrick, at "Our Court of St James's, signed it this 21st day of March 1903, in the 3rd year of our Reign By His Majesty's Command." The Army Order was the notification to the Army of the Royal Warrant that authorised 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.



MESSAGE BOARD

Message from Taff Bellis

Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous 2005. All the very best.

Message from Ted Hall

Gentlemen, my apologies for being absent. My wife, Barbara, and I are in America with our whole family celebrating our 30th Wedding Anniversary.

Message from Russ Lee

My warmest regards to all members of the Artillery Clerks' Association. I cannot attend this year because I will be in Thailand. Best wishes to all.

Message from Alan Witts

Sorry I cannot be with you all this year. The golf season has started and there is a lot to be done. Have a great evening, drink plenty in the bar. If you are near Brügger and fancy a round, call in; if you don't play golf, there is always the 19th hole for a drink. All the best.

Message from Mark Gaines

Sorry I cannot be with you. I hope you have a smashing evening and a good 2005.

Message from Dave Smith

Working in the Far-East, fortunately missed the flood, only back for Christmas period. Hope goes smoothly for you, will endeavour to keep in touch. Best wishes to all.

Message from Tony Skinner

I'm sorry I am unable to be with you at the Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Dinner again this year. My thoughts will be with you and I trust you will have an excellent time eating, drinking, talking, drinking, telling tall stories, drinking, holding onto the bar, drinking, falling over, being put to bed, waking up, pi..... Waking up again, pi Oh! The sheer hell of it all! You do it year after year—it's got to be worth it!! Cheers.

Message from Vic Holdaway

I'm sorry I cannot attend this year. Family commitments must take priority. I wish you all an enjoyable Reunion.

Message from Chris Piper

Gentlemen, I'll be seeing you all next year when I will be wearing 'Black Tie'.

Message from Geoff Janik

Sorry I cannot make it yet again due to work commitments. All my best regards to you all.

Message from Jeff Williams

Greetings to fellow members of our Association. My regrets for not being able to attend. Next year it will be different!

Message from Mike Shellard

I'm sorry that duty prevents me attending this year's dinner. My best wishes to the President, Committee and all members present. I look forward to seeing you next year.

Message from Pete Bunn

I am sorry I am unable to be with you. I send my best wishes to all the members and for the continued success of the Association. Ubique!

Message from Ken Ward

To our honoured guests, former ACs and all who are attending the dinner, my very best wishes to you all. May you have a healthy and prosperous 2005. Best wishes.

Message from Joe Phelps

It was my intention to come to the dinner this year but I will be in Arizona on that date. Would be pleased to hear from all who know me. Good luck to you all and eat well and don't forget to drink lots.

Message from Ron Flemmings

I am now in my 81st year. The year 2004 was not a good year for me. I had cataract operations on both eyes and also laser treatment on my left eye. I have to read the small print of a newspaper with a magnifying glass. I have also been diagnosed a diabetic, which is a nuisance as I have to be careful about what I eat and drink. I am on medication for the diabetes. The medication (tablets) will not cure it but will control it. So it seems Old Father Time is catching up with me and taking its toll.

The good old Army spirit of camaraderie keeps the Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner alive and I wish Association members the best of best wishes.

Message from Trevor Spurr

All my very best wishes to all attending the Reunion Dinner.

Message from Gary Tyson

Sorry I can't be there (again). My thoughts and best wishes will be with you. Have a great evening. All the best.

Message from Brian Leadbetter

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this year's Reunion. I applied for, and was accepted, as a Magistrate on the Leeds Bench last year and after induction and ongoing training now sit on the Bench—I mention this as having retired I find it extremely interesting and rewarding and wonder if this would be of interest to ex-Arty Clerks who are retired from full-time employment and have time to spare.

I would like to wish you all the very best. I'm sure you will all have the usual great evening.

Message from James McNamarar

My sincere good wishes to you all!

Message from Peter Bradburn

Unfortunately I have social obligations this weekend—namely my grandson's fifth birthday party. Missable on penalty of death!

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to wish my brother members good health and happiness for the future. God Bless.

Message from Trig Tregower

My apologies once again for not being able to make myself available for the 71st Reunion, though having checked with the Budget Manager, she has decided to spring a surprise for my weekend!!

I trust that this weekend will go as swimmingly (!), drunkenly in the case of Mark Spring!, as ever.

Message from Adam Martin

Dear brothers, again sorry I can't be with you tonight as I am on an all expenses paid holiday care of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, sun, sand and sod all sex. FHM has been banned by the censors, so instead I've got Crossed Quills Issue 8! I never realised how stirring Andy Tibble's recount of the 70th AC dinner was and you don't want to know what happened to the pictures page, it's the men in uniform that do it for me, being an openly gay lesbian trapped in a man's body has its advantages in Basra. Just the other day outside my 5 star poncho the OLT (Open Latrine Trench) was replaced by a one man mortar shelter, which is great as when there's an attack I can run as fast as I like, dive for the trench and have a soft landing, there's also no problem with over crowding as no one dares come near, apart from the flies of course..... Sorry have you just eaten? My warmest regards to all those who know me, have a good one and maybe I'll see you next year.

P.S. The last five minutes has been complete bollocks, but most of you will be to Brahms and List to care, God bless. The only gay in the village.

Message from John Dixon

I would like to wish all the best to members attending the Reunion Dinner on the 9th April and that they have a most enjoyable weekend. Kind regards

Message from Tony Mott

Unfortunately I am unable to make this year's Reunion. Have a good weekend and all the best.

Message from Mark Testi

G'Day

Unfortunately, I am unable to be with you on this special occasion but I know you will all understand as I am currently in the Australian Army based in Sydney. Life in general is good and both myself and the family are thoroughly enjoying our time in Australia. I do hope that you all have a most enjoyable evening and best wishes to all those attending.

