

## Events from the History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery

- 1346 Battle of Crécy. First recorded use of cannon.
- 1544 Term 'Train of Artillery' noted for the first time.
- 1678 Appointment of Master Gunner of Whitehall and St James's Park instituted.
- 1716 First two Companies of Artillery formed by Royal Warrant at Woolwich.
- 1720 Title "Royal Artillery" first used.
- 1722 Royal Regiment of Artillery of four Companies formed.
- 1741 Royal Military Academy set up in Royal Arsenal at Woolwich.
- 1748 Presidential Artilleries of Bengal, Madras and Bombay formed.
- 1756 Royal Irish Regiment of Artillery formed.
- 1762 RA Band formed in Minden (contains the oldest British orchestra).
- 1778 RA moved to RA Barracks (Front Parade) on Woolwich Common.
- 1793 First Troops of Royal Horse Artillery formed.
- 1801 Royal Irish Regiment of Artillery incorporated into the Royal Artillery.
- 1806 RMA moved to Woolwich Common for RA and RE officers.
- 1819 Rotunda given by Prince Regent to celebrate end of the Napoleonic Wars. First military museum and training centre.
- 1832 Regimental Mottoes granted.
- 1855 Control of the Royal Artillery was transferred from the Board of Ordnance to the War Department.
- 1859 School of Gunnery established at Shoeburyness, Essex.
- 1862 Presidential Artilleries of Bengal, Madras and Bombay transferred over to the Royal Artillery.
- 1899 The Royal Regiment divided into two separate branches:
  - Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery.
  - Royal Garrison Artillery.
- 1924 The Royal Regiment once more became one Regiment.
- 1947 The Riding Troop RHA was renamed The King's Troop RHA.
- 1951 The appointment of Colonel-in-Chief became Captain-General.
- 1989 The appointment of the first RASM.
- 2007 Regimental Home moved from Woolwich to Larkhill.
- 2012 Regimental Headquarters renamed RHQ RA on demise of the post of DRA.
- 2016 Regimental Tercentenary.

## Annual Events

**Royal Artillery Day (26 May).** The Anniversary of the Formation of the Regiment.

**St Barbara's Day (4 December).** St Barbara's Day is the official celebration of St Barbara, the Patron Saint of Artillery and may be celebrated by church parades or social functions. St Barbara's Day is an appropriate day for exchanges of greetings or celebrations in conjunction with the Artilleries of allied foreign armies.

**Remembrance Day.** The Royal Artillery Ceremony of Remembrance takes place annually on Remembrance Sunday at the Royal Artillery Memorial at Hyde Park Corner.

**Spring and Alamein Dinners.** These prestigious dinners are held at the Royal Artillery Mess, Larkhill in the Spring and Autumn of each year and are opportunities to entertain both VIP and personal guests. All officers of the Regiment may attend (space permitting).

## Traditions of the Royal Artillery

**Precedence.** The Royal Horse Artillery, when on parade with its guns, takes precedence over all other Regiments and Corps of the British Army.

**Colours.** The Colours of the Royal Regiment of Artillery are its Guns or Weapon Systems. When on parade on Ceremonial occasions the Guns and Weapon Systems are to be accorded the same compliments as the Standards, Guidons and Colours of the Cavalry and Infantry.

**Mottoes and Arms.** The Regimental Mottoes and Arms were granted by King William IV in 1832.

### Mottoes:

- *Ubique* - Everywhere.
- *Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt* - Where Right and Glory Lead.

A general Regimental Order was published in 1833 which stated that the word 'Ubique' was to be substituted in lieu of all other terms of distinction hitherto borne on any part of the Dress of Appointments, throughout the whole Regiment. The motto 'Ubique' thus took the place of all battle honours conferred on the Regiment prior to that date and all which have been earned by the regiment since then. The Regiment proudly refers to 'Ubique' as its Battle Honour.

**Arms.** The Coat of Arms of the Regiment is the Royal Arms and Supporters over a gun with the mottoes Ubique and Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt on scrolls above and below the gun. (See frontispiece).

**Regimental Marches.** The following Regimental Marches may be played at concerts, guest nights, 'At Homes' and similar occasions in the order given below. When only one Regimental march is played the Royal Artillery Slow March is to be used.

- *The Royal Artillery Quick March (from 1983 to date)* - an arrangement of the British Grenadiers and the Voice of the Guns.
- *The Regimental Trot Past* - The Keel Row.
- *The Regimental Gallop Past* - Bonnie Dundee.
- *The Royal Artillery Slow March (from c.1836 to date).*

**Patron Saint.** St Barbara, whose Saint's Day is 4th December.

**Gunner Tie.** The Regimental tie design is a zigzag red line on a blue background. The line represents the lightning which, according to legend, killed Dioscorus in retribution for beheading his daughter Barbara for refusing to marry a heathen suitor. Before her death she turned to Christianity and was later canonized. In the early ages St Barbara was frequently invoked to grant safety during thunderstorms and with the advent of artillery, became the Patron Saint of Gunners.

**Gunner Brooch.** The Gunner brooch is based upon the Grenade badge and is worn by female gunners in place of a gunner tie.

**Badges, Crests and Cyphers.** The Regimental Cap Badge and Crest is a Gun surmounted by a Crown with the Regimental Mottoes on scrolls above and below the gun (approved 1902). The Royal Horse Artillery Cap Badge and Crest is the Royal Cypher encircled by a Garter bearing the Royal Motto "*Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense*" - "*Woe to he who thinks ill of it*". It is surmounted by a Crown over a scroll bearing the words Royal Horse Artillery, the badge has no backing and the centre is not coloured. (Granted in 1948). The Regimental Monogram consists of the letters R and A reversed and interlaced and surmounted by a Crown. The Monogram may be used instead of the Crest on notepaper etc. The Grenade badge has been used since at least 1831, and has been worn mainly as a collar badge but also as a cap badge for the field service cap. Although called the 'Grenade' badge its artillery origin is that of a mortar shell. It was originally without the 'Ubique' scroll.

**Standard.** The Royal Artillery Standard (approved in 1947) is for ceremonial use only, and is flown by RA Headquarters and formations, units and sub units during visits by Royalty, the Master Gunner, the Representative Colonel Commandant and the Regimental Colonel Commandant. When flown at a Regimental Headquarters the Regimental Number is inserted in white Arabic numerals in the lower portion. It is not carried on parade.

**Regimental Flag.** The Regimental Flag is flown for day-to-day use at Headquarters but is not carried on parade.

**Trumpet Calls.** The following trumpet calls are authorised for the Royal Artillery: The RA Regimental Call, The RHA Regimental Call and the King's Troop RHA Call.

**Honour Titles.** Honour Titles may be granted to individual batteries to commemorate exceptional acts of service by the unit or a major part thereof. They are not to be confused with Battle Honours such as are conferred on cavalry and infantry regiments.

**Alliances, Affiliations and Bonds of Friendship.** The Royal Regiment of Artillery has alliances with the Artilleries of other nations and affiliations with other regiments and ships of the Royal Navy. Some batteries are able to wear honorary distinctions in recognition of services in the field.

**The Royal Artillery Collect.** The Royal Artillery Collect may be used on occasions when appropriate.

*Lord Jesus Christ, who dost everywhere lead Thy people in the way of righteousness, vouchsafe so to lead the Royal Regiment of Artillery that wherever we serve, on land or sea or in the air, we may win the glory of doing Thy will.*

**The Royal Artillery Commemoration.** "Let us remember with thanksgiving and honour before God and man, All ranks of the Royal Regiment of Artillery who have died giving their lives in the Service of their Sovereign and their Country".

**(All)** "We will remember them"

**Salutes.** All RA units both Regular and Reserve perform Gun Salutes which are fired at set saluting stations as laid down in Queen's Regulations for the Army. However on other appropriate occasions and when authorised, a Feu-de-Joie may be fired.

## Ceremonial

All RA units both Regular and Reserve perform ceremonial duties when required. In particular the:

**The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery.** The King's Troop RHA forms part of the Household Troops. The Troop carries out ceremonial duties as ordered by General Officer Commanding The Household Division, in particular the firing of salutes on State occasions.

## Mess Customs

**The Regimental Grace.** The Regimental Grace as formerly used at the Royal Military Academy Woolwich, will normally be used in messes:

*For what we are about to receive - Thank God.*

**The Loyal Toast.** The following is the procedure for drinking the Loyal Toast in Officers' Messes of the Royal Artillery. After the port has been passed the President will tap the table, stand up and say, "*Mr Vice - The Queen - Our Captain General*". (If the Vice President is a female officer the phrase Madam Vice will be used). Everyone will then stand up with glass in hand. The Vice President will say "*Ladies and Gentlemen - The Queen*". If a band is present the National Anthem will then be played in full before the Toast is drunk. After the Vice President has spoken or the band has finished playing, each officer, whatever their rank, will say "*The Queen*" before drinking the Toast, no other words will be added.

In the Royal Artillery Mess, Larkhill, there is no Vice President. The President announces the Loyal Toast in the fashion "*Ladies and Gentlemen - The Queen, Our Captain General*". Everyone will then stand up with glass in hand. After the President has spoken or the band has finished playing, each officer, whatever their rank, will say "*The Queen*" before drinking the Toast, no other words will be added. If a band is present the National Anthem will be played in full.

## Appointments

**The Captain-General.** Her Majesty The Queen is our Captain-General. The title, which was taken into use in 1951, superseded that of the Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Artillery. It was His Majesty King George VI, when dining in the Royal Artillery Mess at Woolwich, on 4th December 1950, who expressed his wish to be known by that title. The title had been used previously in the 17th and 18th Centuries and was the most senior of General Officer ranks.

**The Master Gunner St James's Park.** The Master Gunner is the head of the Regiment in all Regimental matters and the channel of communication between the Regiment and the Captain-General. The appointment was instituted in 1678 and was originally known as Master Gunner of Whitehall & St James's Park. The appointment of Master Gunner St James's Park is held by a distinguished Royal Artillery Officer selected by the Captain-General on the advice of the Colonels Commandant. The Master Gunner St James's Park holds honorary status within all Commonwealth Artilleries.

**Colonels Commandant.** The Colonels Commandant Royal Artillery are appointed to assist The Master Gunner. Although the recognised establishment of Colonels Commandant is 24, a voluntary limit of 10 was adopted in 1996.

**Representative Colonel Commandant.** Each year the Master Gunner nominates one of the Colonels Commandant to act as Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Regiment of Artillery. The tour of duty is from 1st April to 31st March. Duties include visiting Royal Artillery units and representing the Regiment at public events. The Representative Colonel Commandant may also be asked to deputise for the Master Gunner on appropriate occasions.

**Regimental Colonel Commandant.** The Regimental Colonel Commandant is appointed from among the serving Colonels Commandant. This role, assisted by an Executive Committee is to provide unified leadership across the Royal Regiment of Artillery uniformed enterprise. The Regimental Colonel Commandant represents a serving 'One Regiment' view to the Master Gunner and can be used as an interface between the Royal Regiment and the Army.

**The Regimental Colonel.** The Regimental Colonel is the serving regimental head of the Royal Artillery and commands Regimental Headquarters Royal Artillery. The Regimental Colonel is responsible for directing RA personnel policy as well as regimental, heritage and commemorative activity. The Regimental Colonel represents the interests of the Royal Regiment and supports the chain of command to deliver the moral component of fighting power.

**The Royal Artillery Sergeant Major.** The RASM, an appointment created in 1989, is the Senior Warrant Officer Class 1 in the Regiment and is responsible for providing advice on all soldier matters to the Colonel, Regimental Colonel Commandant and the Master Gunner St James's Park.

**The Regimental Controller/Comptroller.** The Regimental Controller/Comptroller is a Colonel Commandant who is appointed by the Master Gunner to oversee the regimental family outside that of the military chain of command. The Controller oversees the affairs of the retired Regiment and acts as the link between it, the Master Gunner and the Regimental Colonel. The Controller is supported by a Committee which assists in providing oversight of the wider regimental family aspects of the Royal Artillery, including those that support the serving regiment.

**The Chairman of the RA Board of Management.** The Chairman of the RA Board of Management is a Colonel Commandant and is the Chairman of Trustees of both the Royal Artillery Institution (RAI) and the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF) which meet together as the RA Board of Management. The RACF is the sole corporate trustee of the Royal Artillery Association (RAA).

**The Chairman of the RAA.** The Chairman of the RAA is an RACF trustee who has been nominated by the Association members and whom chairs its National Executive Committee (NEC).

**The Regimental Secretary.** The Regimental Secretary is responsible for the management and supervision of the Regimental Secretariat, the day to day business of the RAI and coordination of the Master Gunner's activities. The Regimental Secretary is also responsible for Regimental Benevolence and Comradeship and manages the day-to-day running of the RACF and its associated charities.

**Honorary Colonels.** All Reserve Royal Artillery units have Honorary Colonels appointed by Her Majesty The Queen on the recommendation of the Military Secretary, the Master Gunner St James's Park and the Regimental Colonel. These are recognised army appointments.

**Honorary Regimental Colonels.** Every Regular and Reserve unit has an Honorary Regimental Colonel appointed by the Master Gunner in consultation with the Regimental Colonel and the Commanding Officer of the unit.

## Organisations

**The Regimental Council of the Royal Artillery.** The Regimental Council of the Royal Artillery was established in 1996 and consists of the combined membership of the Master Gunner's Committee and the RA Board of Management.

**The Royal Artillery Institution.** The RAI charity was founded in 1838. Its primary charitable objective is to promote efficiency within the Regiment. The RAI is responsible for funds, property and support to the serving Regiment in areas such as sports, historical affairs, ceremonial events, management and improvement of regimental capital property, central messes, publications, recruiting and education as well as direct support to units.

**The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund.** The RACF is the regimental charitable fund of the Royal Artillery. It dates from 1839 when it was formed to provide relief for wives and children as well as non-commissioned officers and gunners of the Royal Artillery embarked on foreign service. Its charitable objectives are to promote efficiency within the Regiment and the provision of benevolence and welfare support across the Regimental family.

**The Royal Artillery Association.** The RAA was formed in 1920 to provide a Gunner network across the British Isles and wider Commonwealth (where feasible), to assist with the provision of welfare and comradeship across the Gunner family. Its Patron is Her Majesty The Queen. Today its charitable objectives are to: promote efficiency across the Regiment by supporting comradeship, esprit de corps and regimental ethos as well as the provision of assistance to serving and retired Gunners and their families in need. The RAA's affairs are overseen by the National Executive Committee (NEC) which comprises from each of the Associations regions. [www.thegunners.org.uk](http://www.thegunners.org.uk)

**The National Artillery Association.** The NAA was formed in 1863 to advance and promote the science and application of artillery throughout the Royal Artillery Reserve. The NAA support an annual competition to achieve this aim.

**The Royal Artillery Councils of Scotland and Northern Ireland.** These councils represent the Regimental interests on a wide range of local issues.

## Regimental Publications

- **GUNNER**, the regimental magazine (bi-monthly)
- **Royal Artillery Journal** (biannual)

## Regimental Prizes

- **The Royal Artillery Honours and Awards Panel** meets annually to award prizes for service to the Regiment by officers and soldiers. Details can be obtained from the Regimental Secretary and are publicised annually through the chain of command and in the Gunner Magazine.
- **The RAI** awards prizes for work in connection with the development of Artillery matters. Details can be obtained from the Assistant Regimental Secretary.
- **The RACF** awards the Cornwall Cup annually to the Royal Artillery unit, establishment or sports team that raises the most funds for the RACF.
- **The RAA** makes a number of awards each year. These include: the RAA Cup which is awarded to the regiment or establishment that has provided the best service within the year to the RAA; the Kerr Cup which is awarded to the Battery which has demonstrated meritorious actions or achievement in support of the RAA and; the Mansergh Award, which is awarded for outstanding acts of bravery or other noteworthy achievement by an individual not recognised by another award.

# The Royal Regiment of Artillery



## Aide-Mémoire

### Master Gunner's Vision for the Royal Artillery

The Royal Regiment of Artillery stands together, proudly united by a shared identity, ethos, and sense of purpose. It is central to meeting the Army's and Defence's aims in the multi-domain battle as well as being internationally effective. Professional and energetic officers and soldiers, whose talent must be maximised, are the beating heart of the Regiment. The Regiment cherishes and honours our history and heritage, our traditions, and the legacy of all who have served. We provide a network of through-life support and comradeship for the whole Regimental family. The Royal Regiment of Artillery is recognised and respected across all sectors of the Nation. It maintains its proud links with the Royal Artilleries of Commonwealth Nations.