

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 may be celebrated by church parades or social functions and may be observed instead of Royal Artillery Day. 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 Headquarters 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 providing).

Appointments The Captain General. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The title, which was taken into use in 1951, superseded that of the Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Artillery.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 earlier Master Gunners were responsible for the artillery defence of Whitehall Palace and the Palace of Westminster. 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 and has honorary status over all Commonwealth Artilleries.

Colonels Commandant The Colonels Commandant Royal Artillery are appointed to assist The Master Gunner in his duties. Although the establishment of Colonels Commandant is 24, a voluntary limit of 10 was adopted in 1996 of whom two may be Colonels Commandant Royal Horse Artillery.

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. The duties include visiting Royal Artillery Stations and units and representing the Regiment at public events. He may also be asked to deputise for the Master Gunner on appropriate occasions.

Honorary Colonels Commandant Up to three gentlemen of distinction with Gunner connections may be appointed as Honorary Colonels Commandant.

The Director Royal Artillery The Director Royal Artillery is the professional head of the Regiment.

The Royal Artillery Sergeant Major The RASM, an appointment created in 1989, is the Senior WO1 in the Regiment responsible for providing advice on all soldier matters to the Master Gunner and the DRA.

The Regimental Controller/Comptroller The Regimental Controller/Comptroller is usually a Colonel Commandant who is appointed by the Master Gunner to act as Controller of the Royal Artillery Institution and Comptroller of the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund and the Royal Artillery Association. As such he is Chairman of the RAI Committee and Chairman of the Board of Management of the RACF and the RAA. He also oversees the affairs of the Retired Regiment and acts as the link between it and the Master Gunner and the DRA.

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 General Secretary The General Secretary is responsible for Regimental Benevolence and Comradeship. He manages the day-to-day running of the RACF.

Honorary Colonels All TA Gunner Units have Honorary Colonels appointed by Her Majesty The Queen on the recommendation of the Military Secretary, the Master Gunner and the DRA. They are recognised army appointments.

Honorary Regimental Colonels Every Regular Gunner Unit has an Honorary Regimental Colonel appointed by the Master Gunner in consultation with the DRA.

Organisations

The Regimental Council of the Royal Artillery The Regimental Council of the Royal Artillery was established in 1996 and consists of the Master Gunner's Committee, the Royal Artillery

Institution Committee and the Board of Management of the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund and Royal Artillery Association.

The Royal Artillery Institution The RAI, founded in 1838, is responsible for funds, property and support to the serving Regiment including sports, the Royal Artillery Band, historical affairs, ceremonies and events, management and improvement of Regimental capital property, central messes, publications, and direct support to Units, recruiting and education.

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 and non commissioned officers and privates of the Royal Artillery embarked on foreign service. It acts as the benevolence agency for all serving and retired Gunners and their families in need.

The Royal Artillery Association The RAA was formed in 1920 to provide a network in every part of the British Isles and Commonwealth where feasible, to assist with welfare and comradeship of Royal Artillery serving and retired men and women, their families and dependants. It's Patron is Her Majesty The Queen. www.theraa.co.uk

The National Artillery Association The NAA was formed in 1863 to advance and promote the science and practice of artillery in the TA through competitions. This they continue to support.

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

Regimental Publications

- **The Gunner magazine** (monthly)
- **Royal Artillery Journal** (biannual)
- **Blue List** (annually)

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 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 Regimental Secretary.

The Royal Regiment of Artillery



Aide ~ Mémoire

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.
2007	Regimental Home moved from Woolwich to Larkhill.

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. Otherwise the precedence is LG and RHG/D, RHA, RAC, RA following by other Arms and Services.

Colours The Colours of the Royal Regiment of Artillery are its Guns or Guided Weapons. When on parade on Ceremonial occasions the Guns and Guided Weapons 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.

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.

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 hearing 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 and the Master Gunner, the representative Colonel Commandant and the DRA. 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.

Salutes All RA units both Regular and TA 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 TA 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.

The Royal Artillery Band The RA Band is one of eight State bands and is commanded by a Director of Music and under the presidency of the Regimental Colonel.

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 round 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 his rank, will say "*The Queen*" before drinking the Toast, no other words will be added. In the Royal Artillery Headquarters 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 his 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.

Passing Snuff Snuff is passed after the second round of Port. On receiving the snuff box an officer should, if taking snuff, tap once, open the box, take snuff, close the box, tap again and pass. If not taking snuff, tap three times and pass.