

A SHORT HISTORY

1849



1976

22

MAP PRODUCTION SQUADRON ROYAL ENGINEERS

A SHORT HISTORY OF 22 MAP PRODUCTION SQUADRON 1849 – 1976.

Preface by the Director of Military Survey Major General J. Kelsey R.E.

The 22nd Company, Royal Sappers and Miners was raised by Royal Warrant on 1st March 1849. Since that date, although both the title and the role of the Company have changed, it has supported the Services in both peace and war in areas ranging from Great Britain and France, South Africa, the Far East and the Middle East.

22 Map Production Squadron has been an integral part of 42 Survey Engineer Regiment since 1948 and due to re-organization it is unfortunate that it is to disband. Its functions, however, will continue to be carried out in the future by the oldest Survey Unit – 13 Map Production Squadron, Royal Engineers.

John Kelsey.

Foreword.

I am privileged to have been asked to compile a short history of 22 Map production Squadron RE having served in the Squadron on a number of occasions, commencing as a young Sapper in late 1951 in Egypt, returning in 1960 as a Sgt/SSgt in Cyprus, returning yet again in the United Kingdom 1963 as SSgt/WOII. After receiving a commission I returned once again in 1972 as the Print Troop Commander and leave the Squadron finally as Second in Command.

Throughout the years I have always considered 22 Squadron to be not only the best Squadron in the Regiment but also in the Corps, and I feel sure that after reorganization and redesignation as 13 Map Production RE, this tradition will continue.

Capt. B.F. Gerhard RE
1976.

Origin.

Under a Royal Warrant given at St. James's on 26th May 1716 a regular Corps of Engineers was formed. The Corps consisted of 28 persons without military rank though all were of officer status. On 14th May 1759 the officers of the Corps were given military rank, each officer receiving his commission signed by the King.

A further Royal Warrant given at St. James's on 25th April 1787, and addressed to "Our Right Trusty and Right Entirely beloved Cousin and Counsellor, Charles Duke of Richmond, Lenox and Aubigny, Master-General of Our Ordnance", bestowed the Royal title to the Corps.

The origins of the Companies of soldiers can be traced to the Corps of Military Artificers, created at Gibraltar by Royal Warrant dated 6th March 1772, with the Royal title being bestowed in 1787. On 4th August 1812 an order was issued by the then Master-General of the Ordnance, directing that the Corps of Royal Military Artificers should thereafter be styled the Royal Military Artificers or Sappers and Miners. On 6th March 1813 this title was changed to the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners.

Formation.

Though 22 Map Production Squadron, Royal Engineers has had a relatively short career as a Survey unit it has had a long and varied history with a multiplicity of roles since it first came into existence on 1 March 1849 as a Service Company of the Royal Sappers and Miners. Over the years the unit has served in many parts of the world carrying out a variety of tasks, and in 1941 had the misfortune to be in Hong Kong when the colony was overrun by the Japanese. After remaining in abeyance from 1942 until 1948 it formed up again as 22 Cartographic Squadron in 42 Survey Engineer Regiment on its formation at Fayid, Canal Zone (Egypt) on 1 September 1948. During its "Survey" period the unit continued with its multiplicity of roles beginning as a Cartographic Squadron, changing to a Production Squadron, converting to a Lithographic Squadron and finally ending its survey career as a Map Production Squadron.

Early Years.

The unit first came into existence when it formed up at Woolwich as a Service Company of the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners on 1 March 1849. The Royal Warrant however was not signed until 22 August 1849. Besides authorizing 22 Company the Warrant authorized an overall increase by eight Companies; from fourteen to twenty two in the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners. The increase in the number of companies had already taken place and the Royal Warrant regularised what had already happened.

A Service Company in the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners can be equated to a Field Squadron in the Royal Engineers today in that the majority of the men were Combat Engineers with a percentage of skilled tradesmen and were responsible for the field fortifications, bridges, minefields and dugouts of the day.

During the next twenty years it was based at the following locations : -

Chatham	1850	1851
Kensington	1851	1852
Cape Colony	1853	
Mauritius	1854	1859
Chatham	1860	1862
Portsmouth	1863	
Hong Kong/Yokohama	1863	1866
Mauritius	1866	1867
Cape of Good Hope	1868	1869
Chatham	1869	

While at Kensington the Company assisted in the construction and running of the Great Exhibition.

In the London Gazette of 17th October 1856, it was announced that, "The Queen has been graciously pleased to direct that the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners shall hence forward be denominated the Corps of Royal Engineers". This event ended the separation of the officers from the men, who for a long time had been officered by the Royal Engineers, and the rank and file previously called Privates of the Royal Sappers and Miners were to be known as Sappers of the Royal Engineers.

1870-1919.

In 1870 the unit was reorganized as a Telegraph Company and was based in London for the next fourteen years until 1884, when 22 Company and 34 Company were absorbed into the Telegraph Battalion R.E. Later in the year a new unit, 22 Submarine Mining Company was raised at Chatham but with a section in Bermuda during 1884-5. During this period, Submarine Mining Companies were responsible for the defence of Naval Harbours and the protection of ships in harbour. Mines were knitted to the sea bed, connected to a detonating circuit and exploded by electrical means. Later on the Brennan Torpedo, guided by wires to the target controlled by Sappers on land came into use. During 1885 the unit moved to Pembroke Dock and then on to Gosport in 1886, where it remained for five years. In 1891 the unit moved to the Isle of Wight where it reorganized as a Fortress Company in 1905. The advent of the larger naval gun had made Submarine Mining Companies redundant and all reorganized as Fortress Companies, where the expertise in electrical installations proved invaluable. 22 Fortress Company moved from the Isle of Wight to France in July 1918 on reorganization as a Works Company, remaining there until disbandment in 1919. Locations during this period were : -

London	1870	1884
Chatham/Bermuda	1884	1885
Pembroke Dock	1885	1886
Gosport	1886	1891
Isle of Wight	1891	1918
France	1918	1919

1919 – 1948.

In the latter part of 1919, 603 (Portsmouth) Fortress Company was redesignated 22 (Portsmouth) Fortress Company and was in the Isle of Wight until early 1920 when the unit moved to Gosport where 604 Company was absorbed. The Company became responsible for Defence Electric Light (DEL) (Searchlights) at Portsmouth and for the administration of boys at the School of Electric Light (Searchlights) at Gosport. In 1921 awards were won for rescue at sea and in 1924 a Boys Drum and Fife band was formed. The Company remained At Gosport until absorbed by 4 Fortress Company RE in October 1932. In October 1934 a new unit was raised in Hong Kong as 22 Anti Aircraft Searchlight Company RE but reorganized as 22 Fortress Company again in 1935. It remained in Hong Kong until the Colony was overrun by the Japanese in December 1941. Locations during this period were as follows : -

Isle of Wight	1919	1920
Gosport	1920	1932
Hong Kong	1934	1942

1948-1976.

In April 1948, whilst in Fayid, Canal Zone (Egypt), 512 Field Survey Company was reorganized as 19 Field Survey Regiment and in August 1948 absorbed the remnants of 13 Field Survey Squadron working in Transjordan. On 31 August 1948 this Regiment reorganized again and formed up as 42 Survey Engineer Regiment. On this date existing Squadrons were allocated the following Squadron numbers : -

19 Topographic Squadron
 22 Cartographic Squadron
 32 Lithographic Squadron

During the late 1940's and early 1950's, 22 Cartographic Squadron was employed on a variety of Fair Drawing, Slotted Template and Multiplex tasks. Some of these tasks were : -

1:10,000	Canal Zone (Egypt).	
1:10,000	Egypt Town Plans.	
Various scales	Iraq Town Plans.	
1:50,000`	Levant.	
1:50,000	Kenya.	
1:100,000	Palestine.	
1:100,000	Iraq/Iran	Slotted template and fair drawing
1:100,000	South Levant	

1:250,000	Sinai.	
1:250,000	Bayir	A Multiplex task
1:500,000	RAF Series.	
1:25,000	Egypt, with overprints for the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1954.	
1:2,500	Cyprus, in preparation for the move of Middle East Land Forces to Cyprus.	

In 1953 the system of fair drawing had to be altered when an electrical fire broke out in the Camera Studio of 32 Lithographic Squadron and two large Gallery Cameras were completely destroyed and the third badly damaged.

During the Squadron's stay in Fayid, both officers and men were accommodated in tents. The men, however, utilized the abundance of large packing cases and old glass negatives to produce excellent wooden walls with sliding glass windows instead of the more normal canvas.

In October 1955 the Squadron moved to Zygi Camp, Cyprus, as part of 42 Survey Engineer Regiment. The Squadron soon settled down in its new location and whilst the rest of Cyprus was in a turmoil with the EOKA troubles the Regiment and of course the Squadron enjoyed a fairly peaceful existence in what was termed the "EOKA rest area". These troubles obviously gave the Squadron a great deal of extra work in addition to the normal "series mapping" then being produced.

Addendum :-

PRO WO 181/815 is a report by Maj A.G.B. Buckley MC RE, OC 22 Sqn, on road classification of the 1955 editions of the Cyprus 50K series.

On 18 August 1960, 22 Cartographic Squadron merged with 32 Lithographic Squadron to become 22 Production Squadron consisting of three Troops, Air Survey, Carto and Print. During this time, agreement on the Sovereign Base Areas was reached with the provisional Cyprus Government and the Regiment had the task of preparing and producing all the maps, traces and overlays required for the agreement. This again was in addition to the Middle East and Near East mapping then being produced. Besides the EOKA troubles, two other crises occurred during the Squadron's stay in Cyprus. The first was in Lebanon where American Marines landed from the sea, and the second was in Kuwait in June 1961 where 23 Infantry Brigade and 2nd Parachute Battalion were air-lifted in. In both cases the unit played a prominent part by quickly revising and printing Town Plans of Lebanon and large and medium scale mapping of Kuwait; the work involved non-stop production until all mapping requirements were completed. The Squadron remained at Zygi until June 1963 when the Regiment returned to the United Kingdom and its present location – "A" Camp, Barton Stacey.

22 Production Squadron then split up once again and reformed as 22 Lithographic Squadron. The Squadron spent the first six months unpacking and installing all its equipment in an old cookhouse. The Squadron was reorganized on a two-troop basis, a Static Troop in the existing Building 94 and a Mobile Troop fully equipped with a Mobile Train of :-

- 2 x Princess Machine Semi-trailers.
- 1 x Platemaking Semi-trailer.
- 1 x Camera Semi-trailer.
- 1 x Camera/Darkroom Semi-trailer.
- 1 x Graining/Guilotine Semi-trailer.

During 1964 and 1965 the Mobile Troop was employed on various exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom and the Static Troop on series reprinting tasks.

In October 1967 the Mobile Train was handed over to 13 Field Survey Squadron, which had returned to the United Kingdom from Aden in June 1967, and 22 Squadron reorganized its manpower to accommodate two-shift working on the existing static equipment.

In 1969 the old printing machines were replaced by three new Crabtree Countess Double Demy printing machines with the best one of the old Ensign machines being retained.

On 16 March 1972 the Regiment reorganized again, with 13 Field Survey Squadron losing its independence and officially becoming an integral part of the Regiment. At the same time 47 Cartographic Squadron merged with 22 Lithographic Squadron again to form up as 22 Map Production Squadron. Later on in 1972 Print Troop of the new Squadron won 1st Prize for its entry "Junk Bay" (1:25,000 Series) Hong Kong" in the Industrial Section of the "Excellence in Lithography" competition organized by the 3M Company. Air Survey Troop went to Norway on Exercise Carto Norge '74 as the first stage in the production of twelve sheets of Series M711 1:50,000 Norway. As a Map Production Squadron all three Troops were fully occupied on normal series mapping as well as a host of other

mapping tasks. During this period all three Troops worked two, and at times, three shifts per day as pressure of work dictated.

Between October 1975 and March 1976 the old Crabtree Ensign and the three Crabtree Countess printing machines were replaced by two Heidelberg SORDZ and two Roland RZU6 printing machines. This major re-equipment programme ensured that the Squadron is capable of printing all types of maps and charts with the exception of the largest of the Aeronautical Chart series.

Locations during the period 1948-1975 were as follows : -

Fayid, Canal Zone, Egypt	1948	1955
Zyyi (Cyprus)	1955	1963
Barton Stacey	1963	1976

It is intended that in due course one of the Squadrons of the Junior Leaders' Regiment at Dover will be designated 22 Squadron and the number will thus be retained by the Corps.

Though the number 22 has been lost by Survey the spirit of the Squadron will live on as it absorbs the Repro Troop of 13 Field Survey Squadron and though losing Air Survey Troop to 19 Topographic Squadron, will continue to function as 13 Map Production Squadron whilst still remaining part of 42 Survey Engineer Regiment.

The Squadron is proud to number among its early Survey Officers Commanding, Brigadier F.M. Sexton OBE, soon to be Major-General, Director of Military Survey.

During the Squadron's period as a Survey Unit there have been some notable sportsmen. There is insufficient space in which to record all who have represented the Corps and Army abroad or even just the Corps in the United Kingdom. Those who have represented the Army or above and have won a major championship are listed as follows : -

Rugby	SSgt Braybrook, now WO1	Roslyn Park U.S. Portsmouth Hampshire Army Combined
	Spr Harvey, now LCpl	Army
Hockey	SSgt B.F. Gerhard, now Capt.	Capt RE Hockey Club 1964-65 London Welsh Army Welsh Hockey Association Wales
Golf	LCpl W. Moody	Corps Chgampion 1972, 1974.
Shooting	Sgt P.A. Cox	RERA Non Central Corps Champion 1972-1973
Canoeing	LCpl G. Cooper, now Cpl	Army
	Spr Hazell, now Cpl	Army
	Sgt Webb, now SSgt	Army
	Spr Smith, now Cpl	Army

Officers commanding the Squadron during its Survey career are as follows : -

Capt J.H. Harris	Sep 1948	Dec 1949	
Maj J.W. Tayler	Dec 1949	Mar 1950	Later Col
Maj D.J. Suter	Mar 1950	Jan 1951	Later Lt Col
Maj J.W. Tayler	Jan 1951	Apr 1951	Later Col
Maj B.N. Winchester	Apr 1951		
Maj D.J. Suter	Apr 1951	11 Feb 1952	Layer Lt Col
Maj F.M. Sexton	11 Feb 1952	7 Jul 1952	Later Brigadier
Maj J.A. Simpson	7 Jul 1952	May 1953	Later Lt Col
Maj B.N. Winchester	26 Aug 1953	10 Jan 1954	
Maj R. Bowen	10 Jan 1954	24 Aug 1954	

Dear Dixie,

I received the short history today and, with the exception of the Royal Warrant, word-processed it as follows. In the course of which I was tempted to take small liberties with Jerry Gerhard's original. The purpose of this was to provide something on 22 Sqn for the DSA web site, though it is a little inactive at the moment. I will return the original by post shortly.

Thanks very much,

Alan,

We spoke. I will not submit this to Peter Walker until the site is again active.

Bill, I daresay you could add something from your time in the Canal Zone, but this was the brief history as published on disbandment. That said, should you wish to add anything, I am sure the web site would accept anything gratefully when it is again functioning.

Mike