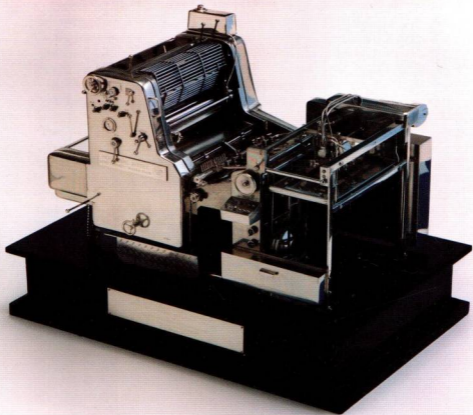


THE RANGER

Newsletter of the Defence Surveyors' Association

Spring 99' Edition



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Front Cover illustration

The silver centre-piece

In keeping with other centenary events the DSA decided that it wished to mark the 250th Anniversary of Military Surveying being celebrated in 1997. After some discussion it was decided that a piece of silver should be commissioned and that it would commemorate an aspect of Military Survey's work hitherto not represented in silver, namely printing. With the generous support of the Corps of Royal Engineers, Messrs Beeby and Powell were given the task. So began an incredible piece of model engineering made more challenging as Mr Powell only had photos and plans to work to and did not know the names of all the components. Nonetheless he produced an exquisite model of a Heidelberg Sord printing press. It was formally presented to Brigadier Wildman, the Director of Military Survey, by Major General Barton, Chairman of the DSA and by Colonel Sherry, acting Engineer-in-Chief. The piece was in front of Her Majesty, the Queen, during luncheon when she visited Hermitage in June 1998. The model is a superb piece of craftsmanship and engineering precision, and will be cherished by Military Survey, who are most grateful for the generosity and initiative of the DSA

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The Newsletter and its Readers

Your Committee are making every effort to give you a better, and possibly more frequent Newsletter. It is hoped that the 1998 edition and this one are moving in the right direction. However to keep up the momentum **YOUR** help is needed.

Papers

Each issue requires two or three full length papers on any appropriate topics, no matter what aspect of surveying they cover. This is only possible if readers are willing to send in suitable items or alert the Editor (addresses inside front cover) to people who have done something interesting and who may possibly be persuaded to write it up.

They may be papers that have been presented before so long as it was to a mainly different audience, or they can be brand new papers. The topics can vary from cartography to satellite surveying or engineering to geodesy. It may be best though, in a newsletter of this sort to avoid matrix algebra or other complicated mathematical expressions. They are best kept for the erudite journals.

Submission

Whilst it is preferred if the text is sent on disc or failing that, typed, nothing is ruled out so long as it is legible. So if you are not PC conversant then pen and paper will suffice.

Shorter items

A variety of shorter items are always welcome. This may be announcements of coming events, humorous pieces seen elsewhere or experienced first hand, shorter technical items, reports on conferences or other meetings, obituaries, appointments or any other snippet that you feel other readers will find interesting.

The onus

It is for readers to help maintain the quality and size of the Newsletter by keeping the Editor supplied. If enough is forthcoming (including illustrations) then it could be that two issues a year become possible. To achieve that however more advertising will be required so please also let us know of any contacts you have who may be persuaded to advertise.

DEFENCE SURVEYORS' ASSOCIATION

Formerly the Field Survey
Association

The DSA is a registered charity
whose objectives are:

- * to maintain a permanent liaison between officers serving in the Forces, retired officers and civilians working in the Defence domain who have an interest in Survey,
- * to keep abreast of current Survey issues,
- * to recognise the most significant contributions to Survey by serving officers through the award of annual prizes.

The Association publishes the RANGER newsletter and organises various social occasions and technical visits for members.

The Council of the Association has plans for widening membership and improving its services to members. If you want to keep in touch with the survey profession and friends in the organisation come and join us.

The Articles of Association permit membership, subject to election by the Council, to all Officers and Warrant Officers who are engaged in *Survey* subjects and to suitably qualified civilians. In addition to these qualifications, a candidate for membership must also be known personally to at least two Members, who, as sponsors, must satisfy the Council that he or she is a fit and proper person to be granted the privileges of membership.

The cost of membership is a modest £10 per year payable by standing order on the 1st January. New members, joining while still serving, get free membership for the remainder of the year in which they join.

Those desirous of becoming Members should contact the Association at its registered address or telephone the Hon Treasurer on 01635 204 306

New Members

Capt Bob Payne (A 1997 Prize
winner)

Brig. John Elder

Membership Register

The Membership Register has been updated and we find that we have no addresses for the following members:

J R Bollard

J H T Fairhurst

L J Turner

A H Winchester

C D Avenell

If anyone knows of their present whereabouts please inform the Secretary.

50th Anniversary of 135 Survey Engineer Regiment TA

Formal celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the formation of 135 Survey Engineer Regiment TA will take place on Saturday 17th April 1999. There will be a marching parade and Open Day at Ewell with the band of the Royal Engineers. Any former members of the Regiment or Squadron, and families, who want to be involved should get in touch with the Squadron for further details.

MILITARY SURVEY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

One of the most successful events that marked the 250th anniversary of Military Survey was the major reunion of military and civilian staff. It was apparent from the many comments following the reunion that there was the need for an organisation to act as a focus for all former military and civilian members of Military Survey. Since then, various options have been investigated leading to the conclusion that a functional branch of the Royal Engineers Association (REA) would be the most appropriate organisation to meet the requirement. Consequently, in January 1999, HQ REA authorised the formation of such a branch.

It should be noted that it is not intended to replace existing associations or reunions that already take place for specific groups but to complement them. With that in mind, the initial functions of the branch are likely to be limited to an annual meeting/reunion, identifying any welfare cases to the appropriate authority and possibly publishing a newsletter.

The following have volunteered to serve on the inaugural committee in the posts indicated:

President

Major General (Retired) R Wood

Chairman

Colonel (Retired) N T Fickling

Secretary

Major (Retired) A A Gordon

Treasurer WO1 (Retired) L Morgan

Membership will be open to anyone, military or civilian, who has served or is currently serving in a Military Survey unit in either a technical or support role.

The 1600 people listed in the 250th Anniversary database will each receive a letter in the spring inviting them to join the branch. Anyone eligible for membership who did not receive a personal invitation to the 250th Anniversary in 1997 can obtain information from the secretary at 1 Majorca Avenue, Andover SP10 1JW

LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

The Association has decided to mount a competition to design a Logo to represent the present and future activities and interests of its membership, which now cover the complete spectrum of data acquisition and the management of special information.

The competition is open to both members and non members of the DSA. The entries will be judged by a panel appointed by the DSA Council, the winner of the adopted logo will receive a cash prize of £200 which will be presented at our AGM in 2000. Entries should be submitted to the Secretary David A Wallis before December 31st 1999. The address for entries is 161 Cooden Drive, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 3AQ

**135 OFFICERS DINING CLUB
50th ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

By kind permission of the Officer Commanding, the 135 Officers Dining Club met on 31st October 1998 at Mercator House, Ewell for a Grand Banquet prepared by Trevor Jones, their Chef Extraordinaire, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of 135 Survey Engineer Regiment TA. It was a record turnout with 22 members and 21 guests dining. The President of the Club, Colonel W H Hore, presided and spoke after dinner about the early history of the Regiment based on the theme of friendships made during 50 years.

"On the 5th October 1948 a directive was issued by the Director of Military Survey, General 'one-arm' Brown, appointing Lt Colonel Mike Collins to Command 135 Survey Engineer Regiment TA which only existed on paper. General Brown became our first Honorary Colonel and his photograph is in the 'rogues gallery' on the stairs. The 'rogues gallery' gives me great pleasure and is one of the things that I started. Colonel Collins moved on to be Commandant of the School of Military Survey and Major Colin Wylie took over as CO, and it was he who started the Regiment. He now lives in Salisbury and sends his best wishes.

"The reason for establishing this unique unit arose just after the War when it was a requirement that 18 months of full time National Service

should be served followed by 4 years part time service in a TA unit. So there had to be a Military Survey TA unit. The only original members apart from Colin Wylie are Roy Baker and myself, a couple of dinosaurs! My theme is friendship and Colin and Roy are two of my best friends developed over 50 years with 135.

"The original Regiment consisted of 337 Topographic Squadron at Chessington, 338 Cartographic Squadron at Southampton with the Ordnance Survey, 339 Lithographic Squadron in London with the HQ Squadron at the Duke of Yorks, Sloane Square. Originally, recruitment of Officers was by recommendation of Officers who had served in the War. Lt Colonel Lew Harris, who became Brigadier, suggested to Colin Wylie that, as I was the Senior Geography Master at Portsmouth Grammar School, I might be in a good location to start 338 Cartographic Squadron. Colin Wylie came to see me and we sat in his car on the sea front at Southsea as he drew on a board the positions of three huts for 338 to be established in a great bomb hole which Jerry had left at the Ordnance Survey, and in due course these huts were built and the Squadron started. "Colonel Bill Browne was the first TA CO. He was a New Zealander, had been Chief Surveyor for the Anglo Persian Oil Company and had had a very distinguished career during the War. He commanded for 2 years before returning to New Zealand and I became CO for 5 years. As Senior Geography

which is a very happy coincidence. That unit departed and the Drill Hall was taken over in 1947 by No 7 Anti Aircraft Workshop Bn REME which was disbanded before we moved in.

"The seventh camp was at Stiffkey in Norfolk with its notorious Vicar who ended up in a barrel in Blackpool. That was my last camp. In 1967 the Regiment was reconstructed to 135 Field Survey Squadron and in 1985 again reconstructed to the present unit. From 1978 to 1984 I was the second Honorary Colonel of the Squadron following the late Brig Arthur Walmesley-White and I feel that that was a very great distinction.

"Finally, how has 135 affected me personally? Firstly, from being the Senior Geography Master at Portsmouth Grammar School I was appointed Headmaster of Bec School. It was a fine grammar school, which had suffered very severely from the political problems of that time. I have no doubt that I was appointed because I was a Half Colonel commanding a TA Regiment and so they thought that somebody was going to come in and sort things out; I can tell you that I wasn't known as the Bastard of Bec for nothing! Those were the days when corporal punishment was permitted! In 1962 I was, to my great surprise, appointed as Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey. I hadn't the foggiest idea what a Deputy Lieutenant was or anything about it. Now I am the second senior Deputy Lieutenant in Surrey.

When problems were developing about the political future of Bec, I was appointed Headmaster of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford and was subsequently told that I was appointed because they wanted a Deputy Lieutenant as Headmaster! So you see that 135 has had a considerable influence on my career. The other thing about Bec is that, had I not gone there, I would not have met she who must be obeyed!

" That brings me to the end, except to say that the Officers Dining Club was set up and the first lunch was at Ewell on 19 January 1992. This was due to an idea from Ian Russell who felt that we ought to have some opportunity to maintain the friendships we had made in 135, and this all climaxes with our grand dinner this evening. Our first function is to maintain the friendships we have made and then to assist the Squadron in any way that we can.

"Ladies and Gentlemen I give you the toast: 135, the Squadron and Officers Dining Club past, present and future."

After the toast, the President presented the Officer Commanding with a beautiful illuminated History of 135 Survey Engineer Regiment TA, which had been prepared by Roy Baker.

**DEFENCE SURVEYORS'
ASSOCIATION - PRIZES 1997**

Extracts from winning citations

Royal Artillery Prize

Major G C Price

Major Geoffrey Price has served in the Royal Artillery for 34 years. He joined as a Junior Leader RA and trained as Surveyor RA. Subsequently, he qualified as a Royal Artillery Surveyor Class 1, then he was selected to attend the year long Warrant Officer Class 2 (Assistant Instructor in Gunnery) Locating course, which included the study of RA survey as well as specific Artillery Intelligence techniques and Counter Battery equipments. His professional reputation continued to develop in these technically demanding and highly competitive professional disciplines; having served as a Warrant Officer Class 1 (Master- Gunner Locating) and so he was commissioned as a Technical Instructor in Gunnery (Locating) For the past four years, he has commanded the PHOENIX Military Team.

PHOENIX is Surveillance and Target Acquisition System based around an unmanned aerial reconnaissance vehicle and involves a number of modern survey techniques including GPS.

Geoffrey Price is a man of many talents, a detailed planner possessing an abundance of enthusiasm, an extraordinary depth of technical

knowledge and a strong brand of pragmatic leadership. He is held in the highest respect and great affection by all those who have come in contact with him in the course of his duties, whether it be during the course of his Regimental duty, or as an instructor at the Royal School of Artillery or, more particularly - in recent years, as Officer Commanding, The PHOENIX Military Team. He has the happy gift of being able to mix easily and confidently with all those involved in the PHOENIX Project from Generals and Managing Directors involved in the procurement of PHOENIX to the youngest Gunner learning to operate it

It is thought that Major Price's long service as a Royal Artillery Surveyor and, in particular, his unique contribution to the successful outcome of the PHOENIX Project is worthy of serious consideration for the award of the Defence Surveyors' Association - Royal Artillery Prize 1997 and it has the Director Royal Artillery's fullest support and approval.

Royal Navy

Lieutenant Ian Austin

The Royal Navy nominates Lieutenant Ian AUSTIN, Royal Navy, for the 1997 Defence Surveyors' Association Award for his consistently outstanding conduct and contribution to Hydrographic Operations in HM Ships ROEBUCK and HERALD. A practical surveyor of the highest calibre, his in-depth knowledge, borne from experience, and innate ability to co-ordinate limited