

CENTENARY YEAR FOR ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS

1978 is the centenary year of the Royal Army Pay Corps and the event will be marked at various locations all over the world. The main celebrations in the UK were held on 30 June and 1 July at Worthy Down and nearby Winchester, Hants.

Worthy Down, home of the RAPC since 1960, is the technical hub of the Corps. It contains the RAPC Computer Centre, which maintains the Army's manpower data base in addition to its more obvious function of processing officers' and soldiers' pay worldwide. Also at Worthy Down are the Corps' Training Centre, which instructs individuals, military and civilian, of all categories and age groups up to the highest professional standards, and the Command Pay Office, which provides a wide range of financial services to the Army.

Although the first mention of the title "Army Paymaster" in this country goes back to the reign of Elizabeth I, it was not until 1797 that Paymasters were first formally appointed to regiments of the British Army. In 1878, the Paymasters were formed into a new organisation called the Army Pay Department, from which has developed the modern Royal Army Pay Corps, and it is the centenary of that event which is being celebrated this year.

The soldier clerks who assisted the Paymasters were formed into the Army Pay Corps in 1893 and by the end of the First World War the Department and the Corps were together responsible for the pay of nearly 10 million people, an achievement which was recognised by the granting of the designation "Royal" in both titles in 1920. Later the same year the two merged into a single Corps under its present title.

During the Second World War members of the Corps served in every theatre of operations. Today, members of the RAPC are to be found in all but the very smallest of units in the British Army and they accompany their regiments wherever they go. Corps personnel are currently serving in 27 different countries.

CARDIFF PARADE

On Saturday 3 June of this year a Queen's Birthday Parade was held at Cardiff Castle.

It was a joint parade involving 104 Lt AD Regt (V) RA whose Commanding Officer is Lt Col Kenneth Grapes and 3RRW commanded by Lt Col Brian John TD.

On parade the artillery element was commanded by Capt Hugh Bartle-Jones whose troop known as the Glamorgan Yeomanry fired the appropriate salute.

3RRW Guard of Honour was commanded by Maj Terry Flower, and 3RRW detachment fired three feux de joie.

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff inspected both guards and the Band of 1RRW which was on parade, and then took the salute at the march past.

The event was rounded off by a party in the Mediaeval Banqueting Hall of Cardiff Castle. Amongst the many guests were GOC Wales Maj Gen Arthur Stewart-Cox accompanied by his wife, Col Sir William and Lady Crawshay, Col and Mrs Charles Greenwood Col Bill Gibbs, Col and Mrs Leonard Clapp and Col and Mrs Kenneth Treasure.

CO HOLDS THE BABY



When one-year-old Gavin Bonner, son of Cpl George Bonner and his wife Pat was christened recently at St Paul's Cathedral, who was left holding the baby? Lt Col Foster Hurd, CO 6/7th Bn The Queen's Regt. Cpl Bonner, originally a volunteer in the Middlesex Regt now merged with 6/7th Queen's claimed his right to have his son christened at the font of the Middlesex Regt in St Paul's. Nearly 100 people were at the ceremony including a number of colleagues from 'B' Coy 6/7th Queen's in which Cpl Bonner, 19 years a volunteer, with six months active service in Aden in 1965, now serves. Centre in the picture are (from left) Lt Col Hurd with Gavin Bonner, SM Derek Harwood and the proud father himself.

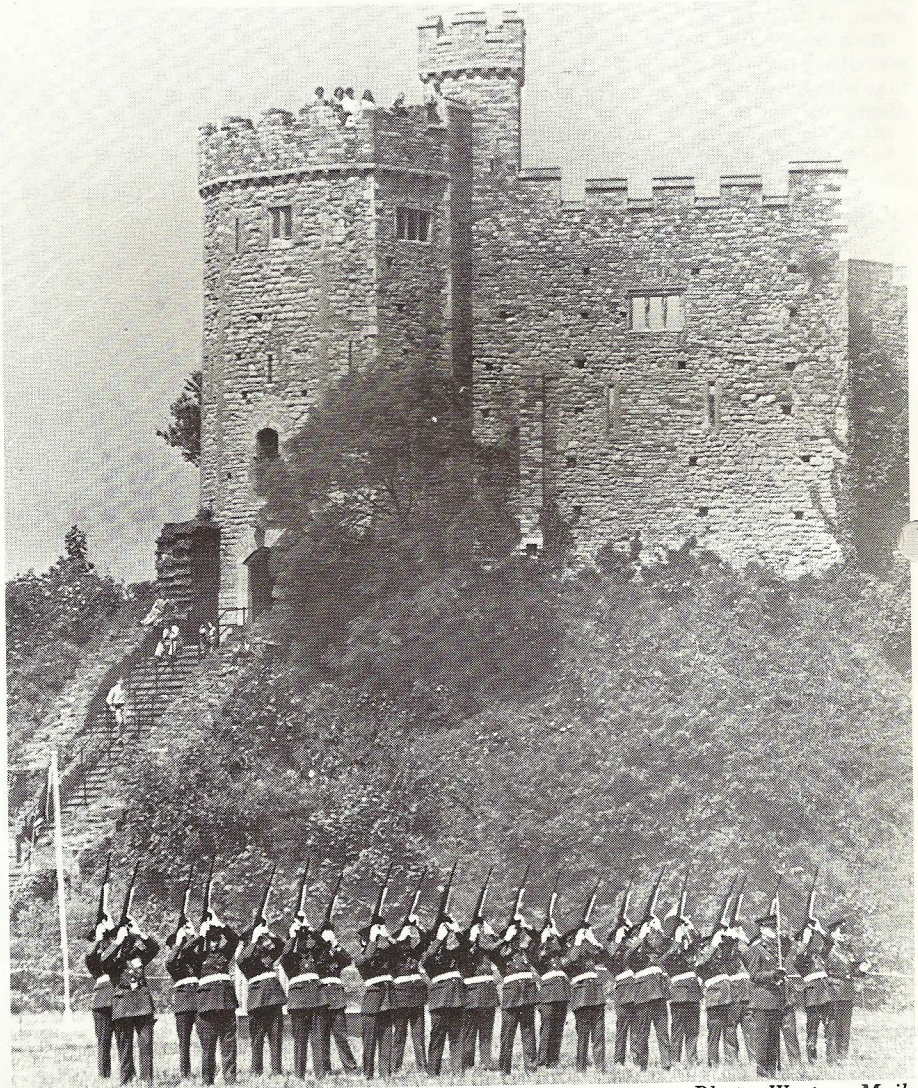


Photo: Western Mail

Part of the 3RRW Guard of Honour firing a 'feu de joie'. In the background is the Keep of Cardiff Castle. The officer in the foreground is Capt Martin Everett.