

Sept 17-18.

Keep silent - coverage could be colourful, & don't mean technical. Joining over the Russian. Gun from old mining area. Musical drive very nice. Story anyway lets try. J.

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5th September 1960

Sent form with 2 names.
(P. Whitaker) (C. Payne) 4/9/60.

News Editor
Pictures Editor

Crimean War Battle celebrations at the Royal Citadel

PLYMOUTH - 17th and 18th September

8 (Alma) Field Battery, Royal Artillery, are to celebrate the victory at the Battle of Alma with a pageant and display. An invitation has been also sent to the Royal Welch Fusiliers who as the 23rd Foot, played a gallant part in the capture of the enemy guns. 800 guests, parents and friends of the Battery have been invited, and between two and three thousand members of the local public are expected.

Two Chelsea Pensioners aged 73 and 86 - both served with a 8 Field Battery - will be present at the celebrations.

Highlight of the celebrations will be the handing over of a Russian gun captured during the battle. The gun which has been in the Rotunda Museum at Woolwich since 1873, will be presented by Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Kinnins, Colonel Commandant the Royal Artillery.

Correspondents wishing to attend are requested to return the attached proforma at their earliest convenience.

The officer with whom the correspondents should make contact at the Citadel is Captain A.G. Attoe, RA.

Background Notes

Programme - Saturday

- 2.30 pm Visitors arrive at North Road Station
- 3 pm Colonel Commandant arrives
- X 3 pm Display and Pageant ?
- X 3.10 pm Handover of the Russian Gun
- X 3.20 pm Display of Historical uniforms
- X 3.30 pm Musical Drive
- X 3.45 pm Battery layout demonstration
- 4 pm Tea and tour of barracks
- 6.30 p m Battery dinner for the Battery past and present
Buffet supper for parents and wives.

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Programme cont

9 pm All ranks dance

Sunday

10.30 pm Drumhead service and Church Parade at the Citadel.

Chelsea Pensioners

Sergeant Ugall Albert Victor Deering, DCM aged 73½.
Royal Field Artillery. 21 years service.

Sergeant Thomas Edward Slatter, aged 86. Royal
Field Artillery. 2 years service.

Historical Note

Raised on 1st March, 1755 as Captain Roger MAITLAND'S Company, this unit became 1 Coy, 3 Battalion RA in 1825 and retained its title until 1st July 1859, when it became 1 Battery, 4 Brigade RA. In 1889 it was designated 12 Field Battery and on 1st April 1947, its number was changed to 8 Field Battery RA. Since then it had taken part in nearly all the major campaigns in which the British Army has been engaged. These include:-

18th Century	The American War of Independence
18th & early 19th Century	The Napoleonic Wars
19th Century	The Crimea, at which it won it's honour title of ALMA awarded in 1954. The First and Second China Wars,
20th Century	The First World War as part of 7th Division in FLANDERS & ITALY. The Second World War in the WESTERN DESERT and in NORTH WEST EUROPE.

The majority of it's service in between wars, during the last 200 years has been spent abroad, a very considerable time being spent in INDIA.

Since 1945 it has served in:-

GERMANY	1945 - 1951
CYPRUS	{ 1951
EGYPT	{ 1951 - 1953
GERMANY	1953 - 1957
CYPRUS	1957 - 1960

/over

In 1954 the honour title of ALMA was awarded to the Battery. The Battery had the distinction of firing the first round in the Crimean Campaign on 20 Sep 1854. Quoting from a dispatch written by Field Marshal Sir EVELYN WOOD:-

"I witnessed a most inspiring sight. The Battery was encamped near Lord RAGLAN'S HQ and after we had fallen in they passed our camp at top speed, the teams stretched down, and every driver riding his horse. I was so impressed by the set determined looks on the faces of the men, that I have never forgotten it. In silence we watched the Battery pass on until it seemed they came into action in the midst of the RUSSIANS, and in a few minutes the enemy fell back".

The 18 pounder gun - that is to be presented was found in the Great Redoubt along with a 32 pounder howitzer, that still had two black horses in the traces; this gun was absorbed into the battery and was doubtless the origin of 'E' Field Battery being known as 'Black Battery' and adopting black harness. This tradition is maintained today by carrying black leather on the guns.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Saturday 17 September 60

1. 1400hrs. Gates Open.
2. 1445hrs. All guests requested to be seated.
3. 1500 - 1600hrs. Pageant and Display.
4. 1600 - 1700hrs. Tea and inspection of equipment, Barracks and Battery Museum.
5. 1830 - 2345hrs. Buffet dance for the Battery Parents and families at the Dolphin Rooms, Co-op Society, PLYMOUTH.

Sunday 18 September 60

1030hrs. Drum Head Church Parade and march past at The Royal Citadel.

The Battery has approximately 100 guests staying for the weekend.

Approximately 600 other guests have been invited to the Pageant and Display.

Among those who have accepted are :-

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of PLYMOUTH,

The Major General Commanding Royal Marines, Plymouth Group,

The Air Officer Commanding RAF Plymouth

and Two Chelsea Pensioners who have served in the Battery.

The Guest of Honour is Lieutenant General Sir Brian Kimmins

K.B.E., C.B. Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal

Artillery for 1960.

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