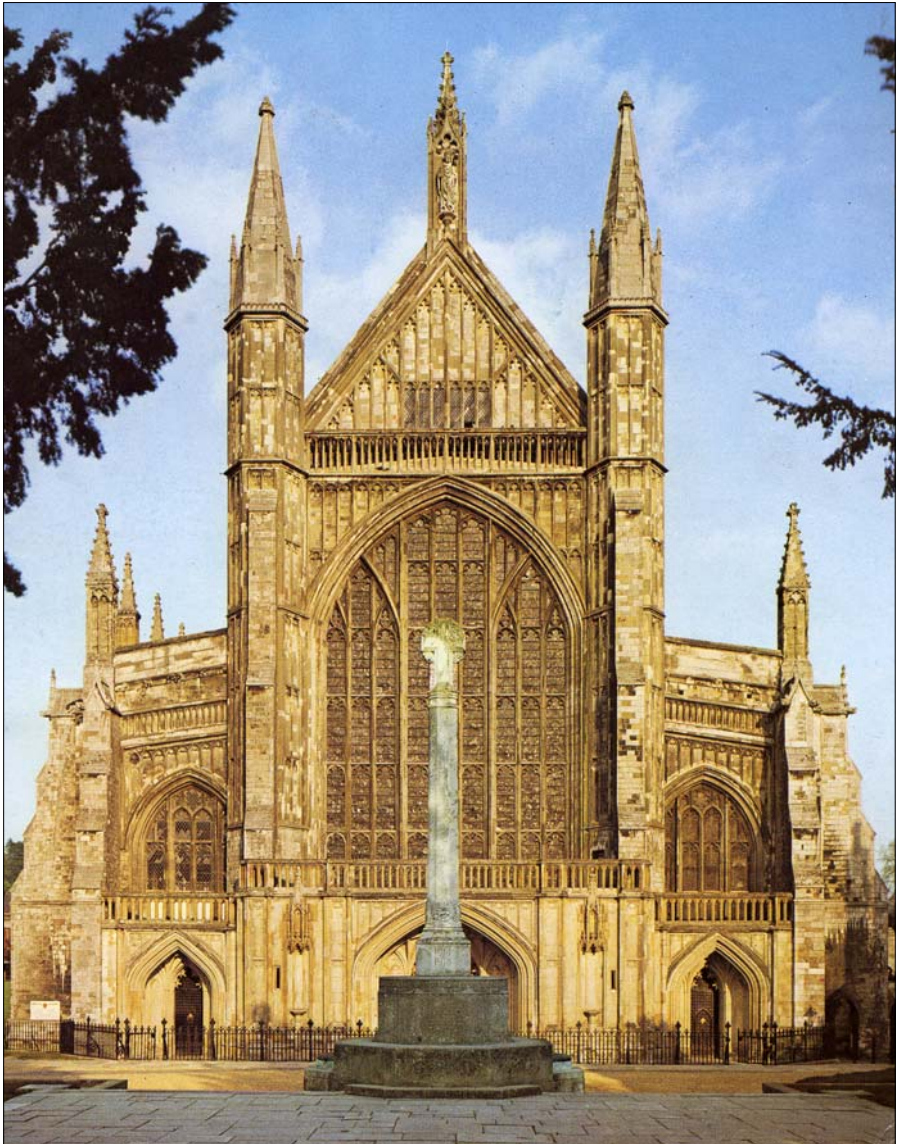


**A Service of Dedication  
in  
Winchester Cathedral**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2008**





## Background

In 1920 the Celer et Audax Club committee obtained permission from the Dean and Chapter of Winchester Cathedral to put on the wall of the Cathedral's South Presbytery Aisle four memorial tablets listing the names of KRRC officers who had given distinguished service to the regiment from 1906 onwards. The qualification for inclusion was officers of General rank, Colonels Commandant and Commanding Officers of regular battalions. Scope was made to include other 60th officers "who have especially distinguished themselves whilst serving in the Regiment, or who have established especial claim upon the Regiment, or who by their position and influence have won distinction for themselves and honour for the Regiment". The final decision as to whose names should be included on the tablets was to be made by the Celer et Audax Club Committee.

A problem arose in 1965 when the four tablets had no room for further names, and the cathedral authorities were not prepared at that time to allocate any more space for further tablets, although space was in fact available. So it was decided to remove the first tablet (1906-1917) and install it in the Winchester Garrison Chapel, and replace it with a new 1965-1994 tablet. However the same problem arose when this tablet was full and there was still a requirement to engrave more names on a new tablet. So a request was made to the Dean for permission to remove the second tablet (1918-1930) and put it next to the 1906-1917, tablet, which by then was in the Light Division Chapel in Sir John Moore Barracks. The Dean was unable to allow this due to a 1990 Act of Parliament which banned the removal of dedicated memorials from churches. However, after lengthy negotiations the Dean and Chapter agreed to allocate space for two additional tablets, on either side of the existing four. So it was that the original 1906-1917 tablet was returned to its original site in the Cathedral, and a 1965-1994 tablet placed on its

left and a 1994-... tablet on the right of the 1948-64 tablet. Unfortunately the two new spaces were narrower than the existing four, and the name of Major-General EAW Williams, originally on the 1965-1994 tablet had to be re-engraved at the top of the sixth tablet.

### **The Dedication Service**

A Service of Dedication of the Sixth Memorial tablet took place in the Cathedral at 2.30 pm on Sunday 13th January, conducted by the Dean, the Very Reverend J Atwell, assisted by the Precentor, Canon M St John-Channell. Present were some 46 close relatives of the fourteen Distinguished Service Officers named on the tablet, and Chairman and members of the Celer et Audax Club Committee, a total of 80. The names on the sixth tablet are:

LT COL RFL CHANCE MC  
LT COL C D'AP CONSETT DSO MC  
BRIGADIER THE LORD HUNT KG GCB DSO  
LT COL THE RT HON THE LORD CHARTERIS PC GCB GCVO QSO OBE  
BRIGADIER CH GURNEY CBE  
BRIGADIER JHP CURTIS MC  
BRIGADIER THE HON RM PARKER  
BRIGADIER THE RT HON THE LORD ALDINGTON PC KCMG CBE DSO TD DL  
COLONEL THE RT HON THE LORD HOLDERNESS PC DL  
COLONEL THE LORD PENRHYN DSO MBE  
FIELD MARSHAL SIR ROLAND GIBBS GCB CBE DSO MC  
COLONEL THE LORD NICHOLAS GORDON LENNOX KCMG KCVO  
BRIGADIER JA HUNTER DSO OBE MC  
GENERAL SIR ROLAND GUY GCB CBE DSO

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The order of service was:

*Welcome by the Dean*  
*A Tribute by Lt Gen Sir Christopher Wallace KBE (text below)*  
*Hymn: "Guide me, O thou great Redeemer"*  
*Reading: Matthew 5. 1.11 read by Brigadier AE Berry OBE*  
*Prayers, led by the Dean*  
*Hymn: "I vow to thee my country"*  
*Last Post and Reveille sounded by Cpl RFW Arnold, The Rifles*  
*Blessing*



1994 -

1994

MAJOR GENERAL E. A. W. WILLIAMS, CB, CBE, MC, DL

1996

LIEUT. COLONEL R. F. L. CHANCE, MC

1998

LIEUT. COLONEL C. d'A. P. CONSETT, DSO, MC

BRIGADIER THE LORD HUNT, KG, CBE, DSO

1999

LIEUT. COLONEL THE RT HON

THE LORD CHARTERIS, PC, GCB, GCVO, QSO, OBE

BRIGADIER C. H. GURNEY, CBE

BRIGADIER J. H. P. CURTIS, MC

BRIGADIER THE HON R. M. PARKER

2000

BRIGADIER THE RT HON

THE LORD ALDINGTON, PC, KCMG, CBE, DSO, TD, DL

2002

COLONEL THE RT HON THE LORD HOLDERNESS, PC, DL

2003

COLONEL THE LORD PENRHYN, DSO, MBE

2004

FIELD MARSHAL SIR ROLAND GIBBS, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC

COLONEL

THE LORD NICHOLAS GORDON LENNOX, KCMG, KCVO

BRIGADIER J. A. HUNTER, DSO, OBE, MC

2005

GENERAL SIR ROLAND GUY, GCB, CBE, DSO

**Tribute  
by  
Lt-General Sir Christopher Wallace KBE DL**

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, Relatives, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I feel very privileged to be standing before you today at this service of Dedication of the sixth King's Royal Rifle Corps tablet to be placed in Winchester Cathedral in memory of those who have given distinguished service to the Regiment since 1906. Today, we honour especially the 14 distinguished officers who died in the years 1996 to 2005 and whose names are recorded on the new tablet. They join the existing list of 160 distinguished officers, whose names appear on the earlier tablets. The sixth tablet, however, will be the last as it is now 42 years since the Regiment ceased to be a part of the Regular Army's order of battle and there are few now still alive who qualify to be honoured in this way.

The 14 names added today constitute a group of particularly distinguished officers; indeed, it is an indication of what a remarkable regiment The King's Royal Rifle Corps was - and, in the eyes of some of us, still is - that 14 such distinguished officers should all have served in the same regiment at much the same time, thus adding considerable lustre to the 60th's already high reputation as a regiment full of very able officers.

Time precludes me from paying tribute to each officer individually. Their names, however, read like a list of the Country's 'Great and Good', amongst them no less than six peers of the realm, a Knight of the Garter, three Privy Counsellors, two former Government Ministers, a Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen, a field marshal, and ambassador to Spain, a four-star general, a Provost of Eton College, a Warden of Winchester College, and the leader of the historic expedition that conquered Mount Everest in 1953. It may also be coincidence, although I doubt it, that nine were Old Etonians.

The list of honours and decorations amassed by the fourteen is also remarkable, including three GCB's, two KCMG's, a GCVO, a KCVO, five CBE's, two OBE's, seven DSO's and five Military Crosses, plus a bar to the Military Cross. The war record of some of the officers is, too, second to none with most of them commanding companies and/or battalions with great distinction

during the Second World War, in one case, remarkably, three different battalions of the Regiment between 1942 and 1945. It was reported of this same officer that 'he was intelligent, provocative, forceful and outspoken, but always generous with praise and encouragement; that he was a leader of courageous resolve and initiative, whose enthusiasm and vitality helped to bring out the best in others; and that he was a strong upholder of Christian values, and took enormous pride in his family and regiment.' In mentioning the attributes of this particular officer, I do not do so to single him out from the others but, on the contrary, to exemplify that much the same might have been, and probably was, written about all the others, for they are the qualities for which 60th officers were renowned and which those of us who have followed in their footsteps have sought to emulate.

Of course an event like today's cannot help but bring back poignant memories for those of you most closely related to those whom we are honouring. I hope, though, however sad you may feel that those you loved are no longer with us, that you will take immense pride in their achievements and in the recognition being given to them by the Regiment in adding their names to the list of distinguished 60th officers already recorded for posterity on the tablets before you, where they may be forever be seen and remarked upon by future generations of worshippers and visitors to this magnificent Cathedral.

Today's event, however, would not have been possible if the previous Dean, Michael Till, and the Fabric Committee of the Cathedral had not given the approval to the addition of the sixth tablet which we are here to dedicate. I also thank the present Dean, James Atwell, for sanctioning the approval of his predecessor and, together with the Precentor, for officiating at our service today. Above all, I would like to thank the Honorary Secretary of the "Celer et Audax" Club, Ian McCausland, who has single-handedly been responsible for seeing this project through from its initiation five years ago, and for organising and administering this gathering today. It has been a labour of love, and fittingly so, as a final act of respect in memory of a group of officers whose distinguished service within The King's Royal Rifle Corps, and subsequently in other walks of life, has reflected great honour and glory upon the Regiment, a fact which we rejoice and for which we are ever grateful.



The service proved a great success, with some impressive singing led by the Precentor (there was no choir or organ). In particular those present appreciated enormously General Christopher Wallace's thoughtfully worded Tribute - it was no easy task for him to do justice to 14 such distinguished Riflemen in just a few minutes, and in this he succeeded without any doubt.

Tea was taken afterwards in the Woodhouse Suite, and all departed rejoicing in the excellent service and a splendid regimental gathering.

Ian McCausland

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