

Hythe School of Musketry



The School of Musketry was founded in 1853 and set up at Hythe, Kent. The first mention of the establishment of the School was in the Army List of 1854 when it was referred to as the School of Musketry, a name it bore until 1919 when its name was changed to the Small Arms School. In September 1855 a Corps of Instructors was added to the establishment, consisting of 100 First Class, and 100 Second Class Instructors who, as soon as they were sufficiently experienced (except for three who remained at Hythe), were distributed to Depot Battalions and Regiments as required. These men were the Corps of Instructors of Musketry, a misnomer as muskets were being withdrawn from service. The original badge of the School was crossed rifles surmounted by a crown. In 1929 the present badge as shown below was introduced, comprising of crossed rifles and a Vickers machine gun, surmounted by a crown and surrounded by a laurel wreath. The title Small Arms School Corps also came into being at this time. In 1969 the School moved from Hythe to Warminster, Wiltshire where Headquarters S.A.S.C. remains to this day. The plaque in Military Rod, Hythe as shown above marks where the former entrance to the School of Musketry, and later the Depot of the Small Arms School Corps. Hythe Museum contains memorabilia depicting the civic and social history of the town, together with a reminder of the importance of the Small Arms School Corps. The Small Arms School Corps exercised their 'Freedom to March' through the Cinque Port town of Hythe, Kent during its 150th Anniversary on 20 August 2003.



Roll of Honour

The Great War

1914 -1919

BRETT, HERBERT EDWIN. Colour Serjeant (Instructor Musketry), 30.
National Rifle Association School of Musketry. (Hythe).
Died Friday 3 December 1915. Aged 45.
Born Jewin Crescent, Jewin Street, City of London.
Son of James and Jane Brett.
Husband of Ethel Mary Brett (née Malin) of "New Ways," Weeden Lane,
Chesham Bois, Amersham, Buckinghamshire.
Buried Southend-on-Sea (Sutton Road) Cemetery, Essex. Grave Ref: F. 5445.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Brett family resided at "Valencia," Baxter
Avenue, Prittlewell, Essex. Aged 30, Herbert was recorded as being the head of
the house by the enumerator, and as being employed as an Insurance Clerk.
Herbert's father was a well known Detective who served in the City of London
Police for several years, and who features in more than one painting by the
English Artist William Powell Frith (1819-1909).

GRINDLEY, T. Company Serjeant Major (Instructor Musketry), B/144.
National Rifle Association School of Musketry.
Died Friday 19 September 1919.
Buried Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington, London.
Commemorated on Screen Wall. L.8. 8. RN. 22716.

KENNEDY, JOHN RICHARD.

Company Serjeant Major (Instructor Musketry), 708.
National Rifle Association School of Musketry.
Died Saturday 22 March 1919. Aged 37.
Born Marylebone, London. Enlisted London.
Son of Charles and Jane Kennedy of Marylebone, London.
Buried East Finchley Cemetery and St. Marylebone Crematorium, London.
Grave Ref: W. 4. 6.
Formerly 1157, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
At the time of the 1891 census, the Kennedy family resided at Edward Street, Marylebone, London. Head of the house was 36 year old Chelsea, London native Charles Kennedy, who was employed as a Plasterer.

KENT, C. W. Colour Serjeant (Instructor Musketry), 306.

National Rifle Association School of Musketry. (Hythe).
Attached to the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment.
Died Wednesday 21 April 1915. Aged 56.
Husband of Ruth Maplesden Kent of 52, Larch Road, Cricklewood, London.
Buried Ludgershall (St. James) Churchyard, Wiltshire. Grave Ref: M. 9.
Recipient of the Volunteer Long Service Medal.

REED, HORACE WILLIAM. Colour Serjeant (Instructor Musketry), 407.

National Rifle Association School of Musketry.
Died Tuesday 10 October 1916. Aged 40.
Born Portsea Island, Southampton, Hampshire.
Son of William and Susanna Reed.
Husband of Georgina C. A. Reed of 7, Ampthill Road, Southampton, Hampshire.
Buried Portsdown (Christ Church) Military Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire.
Grave Ref: C. 69.
It would seem very likely that William's first wife Elizabeth (née Wren), who he had married in 1900 had died in childbirth. Elizabeth's death was registered in the Southampton, Hampshire, Registration District during the first quarter of 1901. At the time of the 1901 census, Horace was recorded by the enumerator as being aged 25, employed as a Brewers Clerk and the head of the house at 24, South Front, Southampton, Hampshire. Also shown residing at the house was Horace's three month old daughter Elizabeth A. Reed, who was obviously named after her late mother.

TOVEY, D. Lieutenant.

National Rifle Association School of Musketry.
Died Sunday 5 May 1918.
Buried Worplesdon (St. Mary) Churchyard, Surrey.
Grave Ref: South-West of Church.

WESTRUP, ROBERT GEORGE.

Company Serjeant Major (Instructor Musketry), B/669.

National Rifle Association School of Musketry. (Bisley).

Died Friday 27 December 1918. Aged 24.

Son of Robert James Westrup of 112, Oakridge Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Buried High Wycombe Cemetery, Buckinghamshire. Grave Ref: 141.

Formerly a member of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Robert was wounded in France in May 1915.

The Second World War

1939 – 1945

HACKMAN, NORMAN SWINTON.

Warrant Officer Class II (Company Sergeant Major Instructor), 6398852.

Small Arms School Corps.

Died Saturday 20 December 1941. Aged 27.

Born Birmingham. Resided Reading, Berkshire.

Son of Robert Cavalier Hackman and Christine A. Hackman (née Hay) of West Worthing, Sussex.

Husband of Catherine Hackman (née McCall).

Buried Henly Road Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire.

Grave Ref: Block 2. Grave 1523.

Pre war member of the Royal Sussex Regiment.

NOONAN, HERBERT. Sergeant, 3776784.

Small Arms School Corps.

Attached to the 7th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

Died Thursday 2 December 1943. Aged 23.

Born Birkenhead. Resided Manchester, Lancashire.

Son of Stephen Noonan and of Louisa Noonan (née Hocking), of Moss Side, Manchester, Lancashire.

Buried Great Harwood Cemetery, Blackburn Road, Blackburn, Lancashire.

Grave Ref: Grave 3686.

Originally enlisted in The King's Regiment (Liverpool).

YOUNG, GEORGE.

Warrant Officer Class II (Company Sergeant Major Instructor), 7808298.

Small Arms School Corps.

Died Monday 20 October 1941. Aged 52.

Born Oldham, Lancashire. Resided Kent.

Husband of Mrs. M. A. E. Young of Cranbrook, Kent.

Buried St. Margarets Churchyard, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent civic war memorial.



Although the Small Arms School has not been at Hythe for many years, each year without fail on Remembrance Sunday, a wreath is laid at the Hythe, Kent civic war memorial in remembrance of those who died whilst serving at the SMALL ARMS SCHOOL. In addition to the regimental badge in the centre of the wreaths, a card is attached inscribed "From the Commanding Officer and all ranks of the Small Arms School Corps. In remembrance and with thanksgiving."

Long may the above tradition continue over very many more years to come.





