

## MAJOR RICHARD DEAN RUSSELL MC (1897-1901)

He was born on 10 March 1884.

During WW1 he served in the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) and Royal Field Artillery. He was awarded the Military Cross (no further details). The HAC website contains the following information :-



- He was admitted to HAC on 11 April 1904 at the age of 20
- Occupation jute-shipper and merchant (pre- 1914)
- B Bty throughout: Dvr, Bdr 13 July 1908, Cpl 21 June 1909, Sgt 11 October 1909, BSM 1 November 1911.
- Transferred to Reserve Bty Ammunition Column 1 November 1913: BSM; transferred to Reserve Coy 20 April 1914.
- Served in WWI (regtl no. 52): to B Bty Ammunition Column 3 August 1914: BSM; transferred to 2/B Bty: 2/Lt 7 November 1914; seconded to RHA & RFA 22 February 1915 as T/Capt.; Capt. Commanding RHA & RFA B Bty 156 Bde 21 March 1915; to France 11 December 1915, wounded on the Somme 17 July 1916 and evacuated to England 17 July 1916; served with RFA 5B Reserve Bde 10 March-31 July 1917 and with RFA 5A Reserve Bde 1 August 1917-22 May 1918, both in Ireland; commanded C Bty 156 Bde 33 Div. RFA in France 22 May-17 June 1918;
- Appointed Acting Major commanding RFA 33 Div. II/16V Bde 17 June 1918-11 June 1919 (when suffered a breakdown of an old wound)
- Military Cross awarded 6 November 1918.
- Remained in France after the Armistice; demobilised 3 December 1919.
- HAC: Reserve of Officers. Gazetted Capt. & Adjt RA (TA) 1939.
- Served in WWII with the Home Guard, XIX Platoon: Pte until 1944. HAC: Father of the Regiment 1973, succeeding Russell Rumney (*q.v.*). Presentations to the Company: A&HAC medals (presented by his daughter, Mrs Stevenson Clarke, in 1984). Company also holds Russell's officer's sword.
- Died 2 September 1984 - completed eighty years' membership.
- HAC Archives holds photograph of Russell on horseback in 1915 (see below) and one of 1980, plus his personal photograph albums, which contain many images of him. Photographs published in *War Illustrated* 6 March 1915 and *HACJ* no. 427, pp. 68 and 70.

On his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday he became the longest paid up member of the Honourable Artillery Company for 400 years. He received a personal message from the Queen – she is Colonel in Chief of the Regiment. The following picture was taken on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, when although his sight and hearing were poor, he not only remembered all the surnames of the boys the College when he was there, but their forenames as well. He was also able to remember the names of comrades in WW1.

He died in his 101<sup>st</sup> year on 2 September 1984 and was Father of the Royal Artillery Company.

There is a window in his local church (St.Andrew's, Limpsfield Chart, Surrey) in memory of him – see next page.

My thanks to Ian Barber and HAC for their help on this and to Ian for providing the splendid photo of the church window.



In loving memory of  
EVA MARY CLAYTON RUSSELL  
14th. March 1889-15th. April 1976  
RICHARD DEAN RUSSELL M.C.  
10th. March 1884-2nd. September 1984  
dear parents of Patricia Mary Glyn Clarke





No. \_\_\_\_\_ Army Form E. 635.

**Territorial Force.**

**EMBODIMENT.** *Reserve*

**NOTICE TO JOIN.**

No., Rank and Name } *Battery*  
*(52) Sergeant Russell R.D.*  
*"B" Battery Hon. Art. Company,*  
*(2nd City of London Horse Artillery.)* Regt. or Corps.

Whereas the Army Council, in pursuance of His Majesty's  
 Proclamation, have directed that the *"B" Battery Hon. Art. Company*  
*(2nd City of London Horse Artillery)*

\_\_\_\_\_ be embodied on the *fifth*  
 day of *August* 1914.

You are hereby required to attend at *Armoury House, Finsbury, E.C.*  
 not later than *9 a.m.* o'clock that day. Should you not present  
 yourself as ordered you will be liable to be proceeded against.

*M. Sinclair* *Capt & Adj.*  
*Adjutant.*  
 for *C.O. Hon. Artillery Company.*

**ARMILLERY COMPANY**  
 Date *4.8.14*  
**ARMOURY HOUSE, FINSBURY, E.C.**