



* * * *Garrison Living History Group – Press Release* * * *

October 2013



General Swaps Combats For Battledress

General Sir David Richards has become the Patron of *'The Garrison'* the Artillery Living History Group, an educational and historical team who depict the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

The recently retired Head of the Armed Forces has traded in his modern camouflage for the serge of the 1940s and in his new position will be reliving the role of the Gunner during the Second World War.



As an enthusiastic military historian General Richards says he is looking forward to working with the group and earning the King's shilling, "An understanding of the past is vital if we are to succeed in the future. The Garrison's knowledgeable and cheerful battery of re-enactors brings a key part of our nation's history to life and encourages a new interest in it amongst all those who watch them. I am delighted to become their Patron."

Keith Brigstock, *'The Garrison'* Sergeant Major is thrilled to welcome the General on board, "We are honoured to be associated with the Royal Artillery's most senior soldier, he has had a distinguished career and will be a great inspirational Patron."

"As with any Gunner Fireplan, the timing is perfect", says Keith. "We have an extremely busy year ahead; with the mixed Ack Ack Battery with the only working Mk 1 150cm Anti Aircraft Searchlight in the World and our Battery of 25 pounders we are already booked up for the 70th Anniversaries of D Day and Operation Market Garden. As curators for a newly acquired WW1 18 pounder we will also be carrying out official displays for the Centenary of the Great War."

The Living History Group are always on the lookout for new soldiers a military background is not necessary but a interest in the history of the Second World War is an asset.

The Detachment meets regularly at events all over the UK and will be holding an annual training camp over the Easter weekend. For more information or an informal chat about joining up call Keith on 01672 564562 or visit www.thegarrison.org.uk

NOTE TO EDITORS:

1. The Garrison is spread across 3 regions, the main HQ is at the historic Tilbury Fort in Essex, a second in Wiltshire and the third northern section from Yorkshire.
2. We portray 4 Royal Artillery Batteries: 441 Bty, 124th (Northumbrian) Field Regt RA (TA), 82 Bty, 25th Light Anti Aircraft Regt RA both were in the 50th Tyne Tees Division, 273 Bty, 69th Field Regt RA, 49th Infantry Division and 301 Bty, 93rd (Mixed) Searchlight Regt RA (TA). The 93rd was famous at the time for being the only all female regiment in the history of the British Army.