





COLONEL F.T. FISHER C.B.  
SUPERINTENDENT R.G. & S.A.F.

1909 - 1917

512/445

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11 Jan 1980

Dear Miss Dean

COLONEL F T FISHER

I am afraid we have very little to offer on the subject of Colonel Fisher, except for the enclosed photograph taken during his period of office as Superintendent of the RGPF.

No obituary is available from ~~either~~ The Times or the RA Journal. However, you could consult the Waltham Abbey and Sevenoaks Press (when he died, on 15 May 1938, Fisher lived at Rocklands, Granville Road, Sevenoaks, Kent).

Details from Who Was Who show that Fisher was born on 17 January 1863; his father being W R Fisher, a barrister at Lincoln's Inn. He was schooled at Harrow and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. In the Royal Artillery from 1882 to 1913, he became Colonel substantive in 1913. Posts of authority held include Superintendent of the Royal Arsenal 1901-7; Superintendent of Experiments, Shoeburyness, 1908-9; and Superintendent of the RGPF Waltham Abbey and RSAF Enfield Lock 1909-17.

This 'Establishment' background is very much reflected in the man who signed the 1909-10 RGPF annual report and regretted the loss of boy labour for purely economic reasons (photocopy enclosed). He was not a reformer!

We can see this military mind at work behind reorganisation of procedures at the RSAF, detailed in the annual report of the RSAF for the same year. There is much mention of "economy" and "costs". An improvement in the booking of piece work, involved "the formation of a central card section" which was to be "staffed by book-keepers drawn from the Factory", and not replaced". Altogether an efficient holder of the post of Superintendent.

I hope this information will be helpful to you. Apart from an approach to the Sevenoaks and Waltham Abbey Press, I can only suggest that you might gather more details from an approach to the Library of the Royal Artillery Institution, Royal Military Academy, Academy Road, London, SE18 4DN (Tel: 01-856 5533 Ext 2523).

Yours sincerely

G H S PRYOR  
Librarian  
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# MISCELLANY

## A LIST OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FROM THE WEEKLY TELEGRAPH 1915-17

- 1915 Jan 1 Serious floods, many workshops of RGPF under several feet  
Jan 19 Nobel's pay system severely criticised  
Apr 2 RGPF worker charged with theft  
Apr 16 New dwellings for Nobel workers in Sewardstone Road  
Apr 23 Soldiers entertained at Nobels  
Apr 30 The King and Lord Kitchener visit Waltham Abbey Mills  
May 7 Account of King's visit to RGPF  
May 14 Government stores, the case for Waltham Abbey  
Jun 18 Mrs Churchill visits Nobel Factory at Farm Hill  
Aug 27 RGPF employees Union. Cubicle huts for munition workers  
Sep 17 Government workers, rise of wages granted.  
Dec 3 Charles Adams accidentally knocked down by motor car driven by Col. Fisher, Supt. RGPF  
Dec 10 Darkened streets tragedy. Mrs Young, wife of RGPF worker went to factory to hand in medical certificate for husband - fell in river in dark and drowned.  
Dec 24 The Liquor Order; Waltham Abbey munitions workers protest
- X 1916 Jan 7 Govt. worker tragic death-Samuel Berry of RGPF blown in to River Lea  
May 5 Women in Royal Factories. Some 4000 women to be taken on at RSAF, RGPF munition factories  
Jun 16 Sir Frederick Nathan, formerly Supt, visits RGPF  
Sep 22 Child labour in Nobels Factory
- 1917 Jan 12 Roads in bad shape due to heavy traffic and weather. Ministry of Munitions should provide Council with labour and grant railway facilities to bring in necessary material  
Feb 22 Nobels Fire Brigade Dinner  
Feb 23 Chewing Cordite! Acetone and cordite being chewed in factory  
Mar 30 Danger to RGPF. Live match found in fibre bale sent from Edmonton factory

It would be fascinating to follow up some of these stories. Presumably the original papers are all archived somewhere.

DOES THIS REMIND ANYONE OF SOME OF THE STOREMEN AT WALTHAM ABBEY?

