

WASC 2313 ●

Superintendents list
(WASU)
SEE ALSO
WASC 10

WASC	Date Start	Date End	WASU - Superintendents and other senior staff (* in Military Superintendents book) - updated on 4/12/2013	WAI	Historic Negative
559	1779	1787	* Captain Sir William Congreve, 1st Baronet. Comptroller of the Mills. First person responsible for the site prior to purchase by the Government. Involved with improving production techniques until 09/02/1789. (1787-1812?)	111	209
	11/10/1787	1805	Mr James Wright (1). Appointed Storekeeper responsible for the site after purchase by the Government.		
	06/04/1805	1818	Mr H S Matthews. Appointed Storekeeper responsible for the site.		
26 & 340	1814	1826	* Lieutenant Colonel Sir William Congreve, 2nd Baronet. Comptroller of the Mills. (succeeded his father, 1st Baronet)	2 & 1320	8
	20/01/1818	17/06/1825	Mr E Middleton. Appointed Storekeeper responsible for the site. (died 17/06/1825)		
	29/06/1825	14/10/1831	Mr C Wilks. Appointed Storekeeper responsible for the site.		
	15/10/1831	1832	Mr James Wright (2) appointed Deputy Storekeeper responsible for the site.		
	13/10/1832	01/07/1840	* Lieutenant Colonel C T Moody CRE. In charge of the Royal Gunpowder Manufactory.		
	02/07/1840	1845	* Lieutenant Colonel C T Moody CRE. Inspector of Gunpowder responsible for the site.		
119	27/11/1845	30/06/1852	Captain Alexander T Tulloh RA. Inspector of Gunpowder responsible for the site.	44	
120	01/07/1852	14/02/1854	* Major C Collingwood Dickson RA. Inspector of Gunpowder responsible for the site.	45	230
	02/1854	03/1854	Capt W Henderson RA. Acting Inspector of Gunpowder responsible for the site.		
121	04/1854	1855	* Colonel William Harrison Askwith RA. Acting Inspector of Gunpowder responsible for the site.	46	
121	18/08/1855	26/02/1868	* Colonel William Harrison Askwith RA. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the site. The first to be given the title Superintendent.	46	
123	27/02/1868	31/03/1875	Colonel C W Younghusband RA. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the site.	47	202
	01/04/1875	25/05/1875	Lieutenant Colonel Young RA. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the site. (died 25/05/1875).		
	26/05/1875	28/06/1875	Captain Morgan RA. Appointed Acting Superintendent responsible for the site.		
124	29/06/1875	30/06/1880	Colonel Robert J Hay KCB. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the site.	48	203
125	01/07/1880	30/06/1885	* Colonel C B Brackenbury RA. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the site.	49	
126	01/07/1885	17/05/1892	* Major General W H Noble. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the site. (died 17/05/1892)	50	
	01/04/1892	30/09/1892	Major F W J Barker RA. Appointed Acting Superintendent during Major General Noble's illness.		
127	01/10/1892	13/07/1894	Lieutenant Colonel W McClintock RA. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the site.	51	
129	31/05/1894	26/07/1894	Major Frederick Lewis Nathan RA. Appointed Acting Superintendent responsible for the site.	53	
128	27/07/1894	20/01/1900	Colonel J B Ormsby. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the site.	52	
129	21/01/1900	04/08/1909	* Lt Colonel Sir Frederick L Nathan Knt RA. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the site. Later appointed Superintendent responsible for the RG & SA Factories - 08/02/1909 to 04/08/1909.	53	40
130	06/08/1909	14/12/1917	* Major Francis Torriano Fisher RA. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the RG & SA Factories.	54	258
131	15/12/1917	11/07/1934	Lieutenant Colonel P H Evans RA. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the site.	55	
132	12/07/1934	31/07/1939	Dr R C Bowden OBE PhD MSc FIC MI ChemE FCS. First civilian to be appointed Superintendent responsible for the site. Beginning of winding down of RGPF.	56	229
133	01/08/1939	31/12/1943	Mr P G Knapman MBE BSc FIC. Appointed Superintendent responsible for the site. Later, ADOF 1944-1950.	57	201
2316	01/01/1944	28/07/1945	Mr R F Smith BSc ARIC AMI ChemE. Appointed Managing Chemist responsible for the site until formal closure as an Ordnance Factory on 28/07/1945. (picture from WASC-1311)	642	
134	1945	1946	Dr F J Wilkins. Chief Superintendent of CRDD.	58	
135	1946	1949	Dr H J Poole CBE. Chief Superintendent of ERDE.	59	
942	1950	1954	Dr C H Johnson CBE. Chief Superintendent of ERDE.	206	
943	07/1954	12/1957	Mr L T D Williams CMG. Director of ERDE.	207	
959	01/1958	05/1959	Mr A Brewin OBE. Acting Director of ERDE.	210	

WASC	Date Start	Date End	WASU - Superintendents and other senior staff (* in Military Superintendents book) - updated on 4/12/2013	WAI	Historic Negative
749	01/06/1959	12/11/1959	Mr W H Wheeler CMG. Director of ERDE.	639	
942	1959	1964	Dr C H Johnson CBE. Director of ERDE.	206	
944	06/1964	09/1976	Dr L J. Bellamy CBE. Director of ERDE.	208	
960	10/1976	05/1980	Dr F H Panton MBE. Director of PERME. Head of RME.	211	
958	07/1980	03/1984	Dr B H Newman. Director of PERME. Head of RME.	209	
2213	1984	1988	Dr Alan J Owen. Director.	634	
2214	03/1988	06/1991	Dr Geoffrey Hooper. Director until June 1991 when the site formally closed.	635	

WASC	Date Start	WASU - Divisional Superintendents - updated 4/12/2013	WAI	WATI	Quickmatch
1842	01/01/1974	Gordon K Adams. Superintendent Materials N/S & S/S	4, 5 & 107	01/12/1993	
1981	01/07/1961	Ron P Ayherst . Superintendent Chemical Engineering	244	01/03/1995	
1842	01/01/1974	Dr Cyril A Beck. Superintendent Explosives N/S	4, 1017, 1311 & 1511		
1981	01/07/1961	Dr S W Bell. Superintendent Propellants 1	1311,1348 & 1506		
1842	01/07/1990	Dr D Bent Superintendent NP1 Hazard Assessment			
1842	01/07/1990	Dr J A Burgess. Superintendent EC4 Inter Services Research Group			
1981	01/07/1961	Dr Ron Campbell. Superintendent Inter Services Research Group S/S	270	01/03/1997	
1842	01/01/1974	Dr Dave G Davies.	244	01/12/1993	
1981	01/07/1961	Les Dingle. Superintendent Propellants Research	4,140,546 & 1311		
421	08/07/1966	Dr Ivan Dunstan. Superintendent Analytical Services	1257, 1348 & 1506		
1842	01/01/1974	Phil R Freeman. Superintendent Propellants 2	107, 644,1494 & 1636	01/01/1937	
421	08/07/1966	Jim Gordon. Superintendent Materials 2 N/S	107 & 644		
1981	01/07/1961	Dr Brian L Hollingsworth. Superintendent Non Metallic Materials 1	174, 1012 & 1311		
1842	01/01/1974	Dr John M Jenkins. Superintendent Propellants 2	443, 1118 & 1511		
1981	01/07/1961	Dr Colin G Lawson. Superintendent Propellants 1	1348 & 1506	01/06/2000	
1981	01/07/1990	Dr T J Lewis. Superintendent NP4 Polymeric Materials & Synthetic Chemistry			
421	08/07/1966	Dr A L Lovecy. Superintendent SE1 Explosives and Intermediates N/S	107, 557 & 644		
1981	01/07/1961	Colin C A G Meek. Superintendent Inter Services Research Group S/S	1482		
1981	01/05/1962	Norman J Parratt. Superintendent Whiskers S/S			
1842	01/07/1990	Dr S Pike. Superintendent NP2 Propellants			
421	08/07/1966	R G Ross. Superintendent Chemical Engineering	644		
1981	01/05/1961	Dr Dave Sims	174, 192, 621, 1226 & 1565		
1981	01/07/1961	Dr Graham Spickernell. Superintendent Propellants 2			
		Dr Dave Tisley. Superintendents Propellants 2	1017 & 1289	01/06/2005	
1981	01/07/1961	John R C Vernon. Superintendent Internal Services Research Group S/S		01/12/1994	
1981	01/07/1961	H Warburton Hall. Superintendent Materials N/S	107, 174 & 644		
421	08/07/1966	E George Whitbread. Superintendent Explosives 2	107, 407, 452, 644, 1017 & 1486	01/12/1992	
421	08/07/1966	Dr Ray L Williams. Superintendent Materials 1	107, 644,1148, 1294 & 1348		
421	08/07/1966	Dr W G Williams. Superintendent Propellants 1	107 644 & 1348		
1947	01/01/1951	L A Wiseman. Superintendent Propellant Research 2			
1981	01/07/1961	Dr G Harold S Young. Superintendent Propellants inc Liquid N/S & S/S	107, 207, 1257, 1275, 1311, 1348,1506 & 1509		
1981	01/07/1961	Hans Ziebland. Superintendent Propellant Research Chemical Engineering	1257, 1275 & 1505		

NOTES: 1. As we do not have joining and leaving dates and promotions and transfers, the latest date/position has been shown for each individual.

2 Bryan Howard, Dave Sims and John Wright have provided information included in the above.

In addition to the WASC numbers shown above there is additional information in WASC 64 (June 1960), 1837 (01/01/1956), 1888 (June 1985), 1946 (01/08/1957) & 2320 (1963).

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SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY, 1779-1945.

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IN THE YEAR 1779 GENERAL SIR WILLIAM (THEN CAPTAIN) CONGREVE WAS SENT TO PLYMOUTH TO EXAMINE THE FLEETS GUNPOWDER, ON WHICH HE REPORTED THAT ONLY FOUR BARRELS WERE SERVICEABLE IN THE WHOLE OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS. THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT ALL POWDER WAS PRIVATELY MANUFACTURED & THAT THE PROOF TO WHICH IT WAS SUBJECTED WAS NOT SUCH AS TO ENSURE ITS BEING OF GOOD QUALITY. THE DISCOVERY OF THE GROSS FRAUDS LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT GUNPOWDER FACTORY AT WALTHAM ABBEY WHICH ABLY SUPERINTENDED BY SIR WILLIAM CONGREVE SUPPLIED THE ARMY & NAVY WITH POWDER OF GREATLY IMPROVED QUALITY.

SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY, WALTHAM ABBEY.

PERIOD		NAME
FROM	TO	
1779		SIR W. CONGREVE. <u>STOREKEEPER</u>
1787	1805	MR. JAS. WRIGHT. (1)
6. 4. 1805	1818	MR. H.S. MATTHEWS.
20. 1. 1818	17. 6. 1825	MR. E. MIDDLETON. (DIED 17. 6. 1825)
29. 6. 1825	14. 10. 1831	MR. C. WILKS. <u>DEPUTY STOREKEEPER.</u>
15. 10. 1831	1832	MR. JAS. WRIGHT. (2)
		<u>IN CHARGE OF THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER MANUFACTORY.</u>
13. 10. 1832	1. 7. 1840	LT. COL. C.T. MOODY C.R.E.
		<u>INSPECTOR OF GUNPOWDER.</u>
2. 7. 1840	1845	LT. COL. C.T. MOODY. C.R.E.
27. 11. 1845	30. 6. 1852	CAPT. A.T. TULLOH. R.A.
1. 7. 1852	14. 2. 1854	MAJOR C.C. DICKSON. R.A.
		<u>ACTING INSPECTOR OF GUNPOWDER.</u>
- 2. 1854	- 3. 1854	CAPT. W. HENDERSON. R.A.
- 4. 1854	1855	COL. W.H. ASKWITH. R.A.
		<u>SUPERINTENDENT.</u>
18. 8. 1855	26. 2. 1868	COL. W. H. ASKWITH. R.A.
27. 2. 1868	31. 3. 1875	COL. C.W. YOUNGHUSBAND. R.A.
1. 4. 1875	25. 5. 1875	LT. COL. YOUNG. R.A. (DIED 25. 5. 1875)
		<u>ACTING SUPERINTENDENT.</u>
26. 5. 1875	28. 6. 1875	CAPT. MORGAN. R.A.
		<u>SUPERINTENDENT.</u>
29. 6. 1875	30. 6. 1880	COL. R.J. HAY.
1. 7. 1880	30. 6. 1885	COL. C.B. BRACKENBURY R.A.
1. 7. 1885	17. 5. 1892	MAJ. GEN. W.H. NOBLE. (DIED 17. 5. 1892)
		<u>ACTING SUPERINTENDENT.</u>
1. 4. 1892	30. 9. 1892	MAJOR F.W.J. BARKER R.A. (APPOINTED DURING GEN. NOBLE'S ILLNESS.)
		<u>SUPERINTENDENT.</u>
1. 10. 1892	13. 7. 1894	LT. COL. W. Mc CLINTOCK R.A.
		<u>ACTING SUPERINTENDENT.</u>
31. 5. 1894	26. 7. 1894	MAJ. F. L. NATHAN R.A.
		<u>SUPERINTENDENT.</u>
27. 7. 1894	20. 1. 1900	COL. J.B. ORMSBY.
21. 1. 1900	4. 8. 1909	BT. COL. SIR F.L. NATHAN R.A. (SUPT. OF R.G. & S.A. FACTORIES FROM 8. 2. 1909 TO 4. 8. 1909)
6. 8. 1909	14. 12. 1917	MAJOR F.T. FISHER R.A. (SUPT. OF R.G. & S.A. FACTORIES.)
15. 12. 1917	11. 7. 1934	LT. COL. P.H. EVANS. R.A.
12. 7. 1934	31. 7. 1939	DR. R.C. BOWDEN O.B.E. PH.D., M. Sc., F.I.C., M.I. CHEM. E., F.C.S.
1. 8. 1939	31. 12. 1943	MR. P.G. KNAPMAN, M.B.E., B.Sc., F.I.C.
1. 1. 1944	28. 7. 1945	<u>MANAGING CHEMIST.</u> MR. R.F. SMITH. B.Sc. A.R.I.C. A.M.I. CHEM. E.

ON 28TH. JULY 1945 THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY WAS CLOSED DOWN AS AN ORDNANCE FACTORY & WAS TRANSFERRED TO CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ARMAMENT RESEARCH DEPT. FOR USE AS AN EXPLOSIVES EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT.

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Portraits of the Superintendents

In 1787 the Gunpowder mills were taken over by the Crown under the direction of Major William Congreve, then deputy controller of the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich.

For many years, the Waltham Abbey works was known as the Royal Gunpowder Factory. After the Second World War, the site became a research establishment with a number of different titles.

These photographs record the directors and superintendents of the site spanning an uninterrupted period from 1845 until the site closed in 1991.

These venerable gentlemen effectively shaped the course of our history.