

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BRITISH ARMY TRANSPORT REGIMENTS



Royal Army Service Corps
Royal Corps of Transport
Royal Logistic Corps

Table Of Contents

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS	2
History	3
Ranks	6
Notable personnel	7
See also	7
External links	7
ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT	8
History	9
Regiments	9
Trades	11
Port and Specialised Support Trades, Port and Maritime specialists	11
RCT personnel served in additional roles	12
Additional Officer Information	12
External links	12
ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS	13
History	14
Museum	14
Cap Badge	14
RLC units include:	15
Regular Army	15
Notable minor units and joint units with a large RLC element include:	20
Disbanded Units:	20
Army Reserve	21
Former units	21
Headquarters	22
Master General of Logistics	22
Publications	23
VICTORIA CROSS	23
See also	23
External links	24

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS



Royal Army Service Corps

George VI Royal Army Service Corps badge. Motto: *Honi soit qui mal y pense*

Active 1888-1965

Allegiance [United Kingdom](#)

Branch [British Army](#)

Role Military administration

Garrison/HQ [Buller Barracks, Aldershot](#)

Nickname(s) *The Moke Train or the Commos*

Motto(s) *In Arduis Fidelis (Faithful in Adversity)*

March *Wait for the Wagon*

The **Royal Army Service Corps (RASC)** was a [corps](#) of the [British Army](#) responsible for land, coastal and lake transport, air despatch, [barracks](#) administration, the [Army Fire Service](#), [staffing](#) headquarters' units, supply of food, water, fuel and domestic materials such as clothing, furniture and stationery and the supply of technical and military equipment. In 1965 its functions were divided between other Corps ([RCT](#) and [RAOC](#)) and the RASC ceased to exist; subsequently, in 1993, they in their turn (with some functions of the [Royal Engineers](#)) became the "Forming Corps" of the [Royal Logistic Corps](#).

History

For centuries, army transport was operated by contracted civilians. The first uniformed transport corps in the British Army was the **Royal Waggoners** formed in 1794. It was not a success and was disbanded the following year. In 1799, the **Royal Waggon Corps** was formed; by August 1802, it had been renamed [the Royal Waggon Train](#). This was reduced to only two troops in 1818 and finally disbanded in 1833.

A transport corps was not formed again until the [Crimean War](#). In 1855, the **Land Transport Corps** was formed. This was renamed the **Military Train** the following year.

In 1869, there was a major reorganisation of army supply and transport capabilities. Before 1869, supply duties had been the responsibility of the [Commissariat](#), a uniformed civilian body. In 1869, the commissaries of the Commissariat and the officers of the Military Train amalgamated into the Control Department under a Controller-in-Chief. The following year the other ranks of the Military Train were re designated the **Army Service Corps (ASC)**, officered by the Control Department. In 1870 the control department was absorbed into a new [Department of the Surveyor General of the Ordnance](#) and the former post of Controller-in-Chief was abolished.

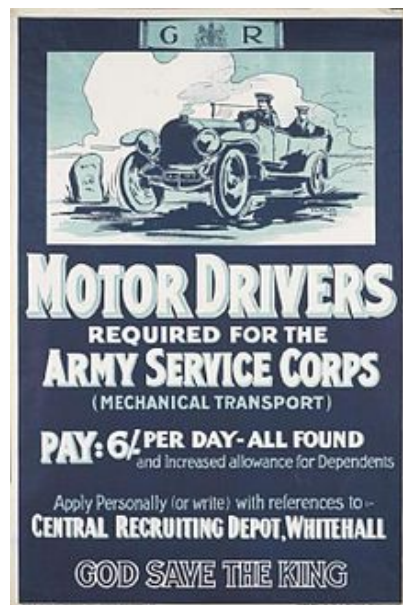
The Department of the Surveyor General of the Ordnance retained the Control Department and further structured into four new divisions superintended by a director; the first was the Supply and Transport Division formed from the merging of the former commissariat, purveyors and barrack departments, the second was an Artillery and Stores Division that absorbed the former contracts, clothing, ordnance and stores departments and the third was a Contracts Division. The fourth division created was called the Control Establishments Subdivision that became responsible for the administration of the control departments staff.

In November 1875, the Control Department was abolished and its work in regard to field service was allocated to two new departments the **Commissariat and Transport Department** and the [Ordnance Store Department](#) (which later developed into the [Royal Army Ordnance Corps](#)).

These two departments remained part of the department of Surveyor General of the Ordnance. In 1878 the Control Establishments Subdivision's name was altered to the Commissariat and Transport Establishments Division under the supervision of a Commissary General.

In January 1880, the Commissariat and Transport Department was renamed the **Commissariat and Transport Staff** and the Army Service Corps was renamed the **Commissariat and Transport Corps**. Finally, in December 1888, these two bodies amalgamated with the War Department Fleet to form a new Army Service Corps, and for the first time officers and other ranks served in a single unified organisation.

In 1887 Department of the Surveyor General of the Ordnance and its head was abolished; its former functions were then distributed among the several divisions of the Military and Civil Departments: the work of the Supply and Transport Division was allocated to the [Quartermaster General's Division](#).



The ASC subsequently absorbed some transport elements of the [Royal Engineers](#). In 1918, the corps received the "Royal" prefix for its service in the [First World War](#) and became the Royal Army Service Corps. It was divided into Transport and Supply Branches.

Before the [Second World War](#), RASC recruits were required to be at least 5 feet 2 inches tall and could enlist up to 30 years of age (or 35 for tradesmen in the Transport Branch). They initially enlisted for six years with the colours and a further six years with the reserve (seven years and five years for tradesmen and clerks, three years and nine years for butchers, bakers and supply issuers). They trained at [Aldershot](#).

Alone among the "Services" (i.e. rear echelon support corps), RASC personnel were considered to be combatant personnel.

In 1965, the RASC was merged with the Transportation and Movement Control Service of the [Royal Engineers](#) (which was responsible for railway transport, inland water transport, port operations, and movements) to form the [Royal Corps of Transport](#). All its supply functions,(including the supply of vehicles, their care and preservation in storage and delivery), along with the staff clerks, were transferred to the [Royal Army Ordnance Corps](#), leaving the new RCT solely responsible for transport and movements. In 1993, the RCT and RAOC were merged to form the [Royal Logistic Corps](#), the modern descendant of the ASC.

Ranks

Officers of the Control Department, Commissariat and Transport Department, and Commissariat and Transport Staff held different ranks from the rest of the Army. From February 1885 they were given honorary military ranks, which they held in conjunction with their commissary ranks.^[9] Officers of the ASC and RASC held full military rank.

Army rank	Control Department rank	Commissariat & Transport Department rank	Commissariat & Transport Staff rank	
Second Lieutenant	Sub-Assistant Commissary	Sub-Assistant Commissary	Quartermaster	
Lieutenant	Assistant Commissary	Assistant Commissary	Deputy Commissary-General	Assistant
Captain	Deputy Commissary	Deputy Commissary	Deputy Commissary-General	Assistant
Major	Commissary	Commissary	Assistant Commissary-General	
Lieutenant-Colonel	Assistant Controller	Assistant Commissary-General	Assistant Commissary-General	
Colonel	Deputy Controller	Deputy Commissary-General	Deputy Commissary-General	
	Controller	Commissary-General	Commissary-General	

Notable personnel

- [Category:Royal Army Service Corps soldiers](#)
- [Category:Royal Army Service Corps officers](#)

See also

- [Cathedral of St Michael and St George, Aldershot](#) (annual service, East Window, and photo of memorial chapel)
- [15 Air Assault Close Support Squadron RLC](#)

External links

- [Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Association](#)
- [The Army Service Corps, 1914–1918](#)

ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT



Royal Corps of Transport

Royal Corps of Transport regimental badge

Active	1965–1993
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Country	Worldwide
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Allegiance	United Kingdom
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Branch	British Army
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Garrison/HQ	Buller Barracks, Aldershot
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Motto(s)	<i>Nil sine labore</i> ("Nothing without labour")
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March	<i>Wait for the Wagon</i>
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The **Royal Corps of Transport (RCT)** was a [British Army Corps](#) established to manage all matters in relation to the transport of men and material for the Army and the wider Defence community. It was formed in 1965 and disbanded in 1993; its units and trades were amalgamated into the [Royal Logistic Corps](#). The Depot and Training Regiment RCT was at Buller Barracks in [Aldershot](#).

History

This was formed in 1965 from the transport (land, water and air) elements of the [Royal Army Service Corps](#) (RASC) and the movement control element of the [Royal Engineers](#) (RE). The Royal Army Service Corps' functions of supply and transport were separated. The RCT became responsible for transport whilst supplies became the responsibility of the [Royal Army Ordnance Corps](#). In 1993, following the [Options for Change](#) review, the [Royal Logistic Corps](#) (RLC) was formed by the amalgamation of The Royal Corps of Transport, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the [Royal Pioneer Corps](#), the [Army Catering Corps](#), and the Postal and Courier elements of the [Royal Engineers](#).

Regiments

Regiments of the [Royal Corps of Transport](#) with regiment, with last name, before disbandment:

- 1st Armoured Division Transport Regiment
- 2nd Infantry Division Transport Regiment
- 3rd Armoured Division Transport Regiment
- 4th Armoured Division Transport Regiment
- 7th Tank Transporter Regiment
- 8th Transport Regiment
- 10th Corps Transport Regiment
- 14th Air Dispatch Regiment
- 15th Air Dispatch Regiment
- 17th Port Regiment
- 20th Maritime Regiment
- 21st (Northern Ireland) Transport and Movement Regiment
- 23rd Transport and Movement Regiment
- 24th Regiment
- 25th Regiment
- 26th Transport and Movement Regiment
- 27th Regiment
- 28th Transport and Movement Regiment
- 29th Transport and Movement Regiment
- 30th Regiment
- 31st Regiment
- 32nd Regiment
- 33rd Maritime Regiment

- *Other Units part of the Royal Corps of Transport*
 - Maritime Group, [Royal Corps of Transport](#)
 - Headquarters Air Dispatch Group
 - 1st Regiment, [Royal Malta Artillery](#)
 - 2nd Transport Group
 - Logistic Support Group Regiment
 - Gurkha Transport Regiment
 - Parachute Logistic Regiment
 - Cyprus Logistic Unit
 - 395 Air Dispatch Troop
 - 401 Troop
 - 402 Troop
 - 403 Troop
 - 404 Troop
 - 405 Troop
 - 407 Troop
 - 410 Troop
 - 414 Pack Transport Troop
 - 415 Maritime Troop
 - 416 Troop
 - 460 Port Troop (Falkland Islands)
 - 486 Movement Control Troop
 - 497 Movement Control Troop
- *Reserve Regiment*
 - [150 Transport Regiment](#)
 - [151 Transport Regiment](#)
 - [152 Transport Regiment](#)
 - [153 Transport Regiment](#)
 - [154 Transport Regiment](#)
 - [155 Transport Regiment](#)
 - [156 Transport Regiment](#)
 - [157 Transport Regiment](#)
 - [160 Transport Regiment](#)
 - [161 Ambulance Regiment](#)
 - [162 Movement Control Regiment](#)
 - [163 Movement Control Regiment](#)

Trades



The Royal Corps of Transport consisted of a number of different specialist trades. These included:

- Driver was the primary trade of the RCT and as such private soldiers held the rank 'Driver'.
 - Driver (Responsible for General Duties and Driver tasks).
 - Driver Radio operator
 - Driver Tank Transporter
 - Driver Air Dispatcher

In conversation, the 'Driver' element was often omitted from these other Driver roles, even though the rank abbreviation of Dvr remained.

Clerical trades also completed basic driver training before going on to specialise

- Clerk - Working within RCT Squadrons.
- [Movement controller](#) previously referred to as Traffic Operator

Port and Specialised Support Trades, Port and Maritime specialists

Again basic driver training was required

- [Driver Port Operator](#)
- [Driver Railwayman](#) (79 Railway Squadron RCT)
- Mariner (Seaman)
- Marine Engineer
- Pilot - Hovercraft - for a very short period. Pilot was not really a trade but an appointment

RCT personnel served in additional roles

- Staff car Driver could be carried out by any driver trade and additionally by those that carried out the Staff car Driver's course at the Army School of Mechanical Transport - (Later Defence School of Transport).
- Airborne Forces as a Parachutist but stayed in trade, so not for sea, port and railway trades. N.B. Parachutist was never a trade in the RCT. However, 63 Parachute Squadron RCT was part of the Airborne Bde.
- Royal Marines ([Commando Logistic Regiment](#)) Having completed the 'Army Commando Course'
- Special Duties Teams in Northern Ireland
- Master Driver

Additional Officer Information

The RCT provided the first Service Support Officer to the Commanding Officer

[22 SAS](#)

(Brigadier Andrew Massey RCT, Later SAS, CO 22 SAS 1984–87)

Andrew Christopher Massey, soldier: born [Carlisle, Cumberland](#) 18 April 1943; MBE 1979, OBE 1987; Commanding Officer, SAS 1984-87; Deputy Director, Special Forces 1990-91, Commandant, RCT Training Centre 1992-93; married 1977 Annabelle Cunningham (one son, one daughter); died [Hereford](#) 19 August 1998.

External links

- *["Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Association"](#)*.
- *["The \[unofficial\] site of the Royal Corps of Transport"](#)*.
- *["Website of the Air Despatch Association"](#)*.

ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS



Royal Logistic Corps

Active	5 April 1993 - present
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Country	United Kingdom
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Branch	British Army
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Role	Logistics
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Garrison/HQ	Worthy Down Station, Winchester
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Motto(s)	"We sustain"
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March	<i>On Parade</i> <i>Lion, Sword and Crown</i>
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Commanders

Regimental Colonel	Colonel J C West ADC
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Colonel-in-chief	The Princess Royal
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The **Royal Logistic Corps** (RLC) provides [logistic support](#) functions to the [British Army](#). It is the largest [Corps](#) in the Army.

History

The Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) was formed on 5 April 1993, by the union of five British Army corps:

- [Royal Engineers](#) Postal and Courier Service
- [Royal Corps of Transport](#)
- [Royal Army Ordnance Corps](#)
- [Royal Pioneer Corps](#)
- [Army Catering Corps](#)

The RLC comprises both Regular and [Army Reserve](#) units. The RLC is the only combat service support corps of the British Army with [battle honours](#), derived from the usage of previous transport elements of [the Royal Waggon Train](#), and their successors as cavalry. The battle honours are:

- [Peninsula](#)
- [Battle of Waterloo](#)
- [Lucknow](#)
- [Taku Forts](#)
- [Peking](#)

Museum

The [Royal Logistic Corps Museum](#) was based at [Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut](#) near [Camberley](#) in [Surrey](#), but was closed prior to a move to [Worthy Down](#) near Winchester where it was to reopen in April 2021.

Cap Badge

The RLC [cap badge](#) is an amalgamation of the cap badges of the forming corps:

- The laurel and garter band is from the [Royal Engineers](#)
- The Indian star is from the [Royal Corps of Transport](#)
- The shield in the centre is from the [Royal Army Ordnance Corps](#)
- The crossed axes are from the [Royal Pioneer Corps](#)
- The [motto](#), "We Sustain", is from the [Army Catering Corps](#)

The inscription on the garter band "[Honi soit qui mal y pense](#)" can be translated as "Evil to him who evil thinks".

RLC UNITS INCLUDE:

Regular Army

Unit (with Army 2020 names)	Current Location	Future Location	Notes
1 Regiment RLC (1 Close Support Logistic Regiment RLC)	St David's Barracks	St David's Barracks	To merge with 1 CS REME
3 Regiment RLC (3 Close Support Logistic Regiment RLC)	Dalton Barracks	Dalton Barracks	
4 Regiment RLC (4 General Support Logistic Regiment RLC)	Dalton Barracks	Dalton Barracks	
6 Regiment RLC (6 Force Logistic Regiment RLC)	Dishforth Airfield	Alanbrooke Barracks	

Unit (with Army 2020 names)	Current Location	Future Location	Notes
7 Regiment RLC (7 Force Logistic Regiment RLC)	Kendrew Barracks	Alanbrooke Barracks in 2029	7 Regiment's history is heavily influenced by tank transporting and the Mixed Service Organization (MSO). The MSO was formed of Polish exiles and Prisoners of War who could not return home after World War II and served the British Army until the end of the Cold War. The Regiment's symbol is a Polish eagle (Orzel) on a Polish flag and a motto in Polish, Bialo Czerwoni ('the White and Reds').
9 Regiment RLC (9 Theatre Logistic Regiment RLC)	Buckley Barracks	Buckley Barracks	

Unit (with Army 2020 names)	Current Location	Future Location	Notes
10 Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment RLC (10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment)	Gale Barracks, Aldershot	Gale Barracks, Aldershot	
11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search Regiment RLC (11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment RLC)	Vauxhall Barracks	Vauxhall Barracks	421 Headquarters Squadron 4 x EOD Squadrons
13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC (13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC)	Colchester	Colchester	

Unit (with Army 2020 names)	Current Location	Future Location	Notes
17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC (17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC)	McMullen Barracks / Sea Mounting Centre, Marchwood, Southampton	McMullen Barracks / Sea Mounting Centre, Marchwood, Southampton	Part of 104 Logistic Support Brigade. 51 Port Squadron, 52 Port Squadron, 53 Port Squadron, 54 Port Squadron, 79 Squadron, 17 Regiment Workshop, REME
25 Training Support Regiment RLC	Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut	Worthy Down in 2019	[12]

Unit (with Army 2020 names)	Current Location	Future Location	Notes
27 Regiment RLC (27 Theatre Logistic Regiment RLC)	Travers Barracks	Aldershot	To merge with 2 Close Support REME.
29 Postal Courier & Movement Regiment RLC	Duke of Gloucester Barracks	Duke of Gloucester Barracks	Part of 104 Logistic Support Brigade . Made up of 55 (HQ) Movement Control Squadron, 50 Movement Control Squadron, 59 Movement Control Squadron, and 80 Postal and Courier Squadron. ^[16]
2 Operational Support Group RLC	Prince William of Gloucester Barracks	Prince William of Gloucester Barracks	

- RHQ The RLC. located at the "Home of the Corps", [Worthy Down Station](#), near Winchester. Headed by Col RLC.
- British Army Photographers, small trade group of professional photographer and videographers posted globally covering Army Media and instructing in specialist photography.
- [Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Munitions and Search School \(DEMSS\)](#) formerly the [Army School of Ammunition](#) until 2009. [15 Air Assault Close Support Squadron RLC](#) (not mentioned in Army 2020). Attached to 13 Air Assault Support Regiment.
- ARRC Support Battalion (an All Arms unit with logistic squadrons making up the bulk of the battalion)

Notable minor units and joint units with a large RLC element include:

- 20 Logistic Support Squadron, London District
- 89 Postal and Courier Unit, ([Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe](#), Belgium)
- 105 Logistic Support Squadron, ([British Army Training Unit Suffield](#))
- [132 Aviation Supply Squadron RLC](#), part of 7 Battalion REME within [16 Air Assault Brigade](#)
- Cyprus Service Support Unit, ([British Forces Cyprus](#))
- Joint Helicopter Support Squadron, RAF Benson, a combined RLC / RAF unit.^[19]

Disbanded Units:

- 2 Logistic Support Regiment RLC, based at [Gütersloh](#). Formally disbanded in July 2014.
- [8 Artillery Support Regiment RLC](#) - The Regiment formed in 1964 at [Munster, Germany](#) as 8 Transport Column, RASC at the height of the Cold War.
- [12 Logistic Support Regiment](#) - Disbanded at Abingdon on 12 December 2013.
- 19 Combat Service Support Battalion - a combined unit with a logistical squadron and an Equipment Support company. Disbanded N Ireland December 2012.
- 23 Pioneer Regiment - a specialist pioneer unit with artisans, defence and Force Protection elements. Disbanded at Bicester November 2014.
- 24 Regiment - disbanded in Germany, 30 January 2014. Part of [104th Logistic Support Brigade](#).

Drivers, Technicians, EOD all selected from the RLC.

- 44 Support Squadron, ([Royal Military Academy Sandhurst](#))
- [Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment RLC](#) - formed 1994 and disbanded on 31 May 1997

19 tank transporter squadron

Army Reserve

- [150 Regiment](#)
- [151 \(London\) Regiment](#)
- [152 \(North Irish\) Regiment](#)
- [154 \(Scottish\) Regiment](#)
- [156 Regiment](#)
- [157 \(Welsh\) Regiment](#)
- [158 Regiment](#)
- [159 Regiment](#)
- [162 Regiment](#)
- [165 Port and Maritime Regiment](#)
- [167 Catering Support Regiment](#)
- [383 Commando Petroleum Troop](#)

Former Units

- [155 \(Wessex\) Transport Regiment](#)
- [153 The Scottish Transport Regiment](#)
- [160 Transport Regiment](#)
- 161 Ambulance Regiment
- 163 Movement Control Regiment
- 164 Transport Regiment
- 165 Pioneer Regiment
- 166 Supply Regiment

Headquarters

The Corps Headquarters is at [Worthy Down Barracks](#) near Winchester. It is headed by a Colonel (Colonel RLC) as the professional head of the Corps. Col RLC is responsible for the Moral Component, regimental infrastructure and support and works to Commander Home Command. Col RLC remains responsible for the [Corps of Drums](#), which often parades with the RLC Band. (AG).

The RLC Band was formed in 1993. It provides musical support wguile also representing the Royal Logistic Corps, and on occasion, the wider British Army. The are only able to produce no more than 12 working ensembles at a time. These include a marching band, big band, fanfare team, and acoustic groups.

Master General of Logistics

There is also a ceremonial head (instituted in 2009), who heads the Corps and its wider family such as the Associations and Cadets, known as the

Master General of Logistics (MGL). Holders of the post include:

- General Sir [Kevin O'Donoghue](#) (2009-2012)
- Lieutenant General [Mark Poffley](#) (2012–present)

Publications

The Sustainer is the magazine of the RLC Association. The Waggoner remains the Journal of the RASC/RCT Association. The RAOC Gazette that of the RAOC Association and the Pioneer of the RPC Association. The Review is an annual magazine of essays published by the Corps.^[24]



Royal Logistic Corps landing craft, the [RCL Arezzo](#)

VICTORIA CROSS

The RLC has five Victoria Cross holders; Five derive historically from establishments that eventually became the [Royal Corps of Transport](#).

- Private [Samuel Morley VC](#). Military Train. 15 April 1858.
- Private (Farrier) [Michael Murphy VC \(forfeited\)](#). Military Train. 15 April 1858.
- Assistant Commissary [James Langley Dalton VC](#). Commissariat & Transport Department. 22 January 1879.
- Second Lieutenant [Alfred Cecil Herring VC](#). Army Service Corps. 23 March 1918.
- Private [Richard George Masters VC](#). Army Service Corps. 9 April 1918.

See also

- [Royal Logistic Corps Museum](#)
- [Royal Army Service Corps](#)
- [Options for Change](#)
- [Loss of Strength Gradient](#)
- [British logistics in the Boer War](#)
- [British logistics in the Falklands War](#)

External links

- [The Royal Logistic Corps](#)
- [Royal Engineers Museum: Royal Engineers Transportation and Postal and Courier Services](#)



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I have edited the content in as much as I have removed all the references but left in all the links.

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