



MAY 2025

UNITED KINGDOM COMMANDO  
FORCE IN THE HIGH NORTH  
Ex VIGILANT ISLES 24

ROYAL ARTILLERY  
VICTOR LUDORUM RUGBY

# GUNNER

#FINDandSTRIKE



The Larkhill-based team that supplies you Gunner.

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### Gunner Rules

#### Guidance on Submissions

We welcome articles and pictures on all Regimental matters these articles must be submitted through the chain of command, in accordance with the Gunner content framework.

Articles must be written in Microsoft Word. Photographs must be original JPEGs; at the highest resolution; (not embedded in the article).

When using abbreviations in an article, please write the abbreviation in full, followed by the abbreviation in brackets.

Articles must be received by the 15th day of the month preceeding the magazines publication. Please send to [RARHQ-Publications@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RARHQ-Publications@mod.gov.uk)

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# GUNNER



## MAY 2025

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**CALL TODAY**  
**0345 600 8080**







**Colonel (Retd) Paul Bates MA BEng (Hons) PGCAPHE FCMI**  
**Regimental Secretary Royal Artillery**

In just the seven days before I sat down to write this editorial, your charities disbursed more than £15,000 to serving and retired Gunners – when they needed it most.

Your charities do amazing work, every minute, every day, every week, every year.

Everything from support in times of devastating bereavement, mobility assistance, vital mental health assistance, and the purchase of household goods to help with travel costs.

On top of this, we granted more than £5,000 to units/sub-units in support of community events such as Battery Birthday celebrations and families' days. And, we released over £12,000 to Gunner sports teams, and individuals, to allow them to flourish (including grants to enable teams to tour overseas).

It is an honour for me to be invited to write the guest editorial for this edition of Gunner as I take up my new role of Regimental Secretary and CEO of the RA Charities from Matthew Carter who retires after seven years of tremendous service to The Royal Regiment.

I thought I knew how incredible the charities were but, I'll admit, I did not know exactly how broad, how deep, and how crucial they are - and what a profound difference they make to so many people's lives; to those of us who have or are proudly serving and those who love them.

The RA Regimental Charities comprise three main charitable organisations: The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF) focused on 'individual welfare' for serving and retired members of the Gunner family (through individual case support and via welfare grants to units); The Royal Artillery Institution (RAI) focussed on 'organisational welfare' (grants to units, heritage, support to adventurous training and sport, improving the lived experience of soldiers, support to regimental events (Remembrance, Sandown, etc); The Royal Artillery Association (RAA) focussed on 'community welfare' (support to the veteran community through the

RAA Branch network and strengthening links between the serving and retired regiment).

Since the beginning of the year The RACF has made grants totalling £147,000 to 182 individuals in need. Of this £21,000 was to 23 members of the serving Regiment. For this year, another £95,000 has been allocated to Gunner units, via grants, to provide welfare support at unit level. In total we expect to disburse over £800,000 this year in support of welfare. In doing so, we live by the mantra: "Once a Gunner, always a Gunner". You only need to have served one day in the Royal Artillery and we will take care of you, when the need arises, for the rest of your life.

The RAA will disburse over £200,000 this coming year on supporting the vibrant veteran network centred around 86 active branches and strengthening the relationship between the serving and retired regiment through grants to Batteries and Units. The RAA also deliver some of our key events such as the RA Assembly in Blackpool, Gunner Sunday at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the annual Gunner gathering at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Since 1 January The RAI has delivered £178,000 to sports teams/individuals, heritage, support to Initial Trade Training, projects to improve the lived experience of soldiers, adventure training and support to Regimental Events. By the end of the year support to similar activities will see the RAI grant in excess of £600,000.

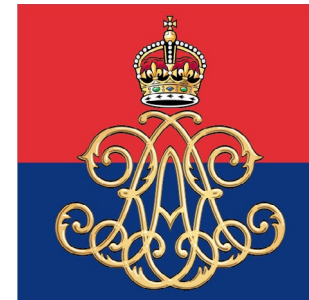
I look forward to meeting many more of you at the events in our packed calendar – the RA Assembly, the National Memorial Arboretum, Hyde Park Corner, Sandown to name but a few.

I'll finish where I started, it's an honour to be in this role and as I settle into it, I think of the quote attributed to Theodore Roosevelt that drives my approach to all things:

*"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care".*



Donate here!



Colonel PJ Farrell OBE ADC  
Regimental Colonel Royal Artillery  
Regimental Headquarters Royal Artillery  
Royal Artillery Barracks  
Larkhill  
Wiltshire  
SP4 8QT

All ranks of the Royal Regiment of Artillery

29 Apr 25

Dear Gunners,

**FORMATION OF THE KING'S GURKHA ARTILLERY**

Many of you will have heard rumours about the formation of the King's Gurkha Artillery (KGA) and some will have seen recent coverage in the press, including the announcement in Parliament yesterday. I would like to formally share the details behind this hugely exciting moment in the history of the Royal Regiment and the Brigade of Gurkhas. For the Royal Regiment, the Gurkhas bring a wealth of experience and skills; for the Brigade of Gurkhas, the KGA offers exciting, different career opportunities.

The KGA has been approved by His Majesty The King, our Captain General, and is now established. The initial tranche will consist of 70 transferees from across the Brigade of Gurkhas, arriving in Jun 25; and 20 new Gurkhas, from recruiting intake 2025, who will complete their training at ITC Catterick, arriving in Larkhill in Nov 25. Subsequent years will continue to see a combination of transfers and new recruits, building to an overall strength of 400 by 2029. In common with all other Gurkha cap badges, the direct entry officers will be on UK terms of service; late entry officers will be Gurkhas. All KGA personnel will be employed in the Close Support discipline, initially training on Light Gun, then Archer and ultimately the Mobile Fires Platform.

The KGA Headquarters will be co-located in Larkhill with 14 RA. Commanding Officer 14 RA will be resourced with a small team – Gurkha Major, Adjutant and Sergeant Major – to enable them also to be Commander KGA. The initial workforce will fill 34 Bty then, as the numbers increase, it is planned that the KGA will populate an existing battery in 1 RHA, 19 RA and 4 RA.

The formation of the KGA is a significant milestone in our history and an exciting view of a bright future. They will add strength, breadth and diversity to our ranks, and I have no doubt will establish themselves as key members of the Gunner family.

If you have any further questions, please engage with your chain of command or RHQ RA.

Best wishes,

Paddy





## United Kingdom Commando Force in the High North - WINTER DEPLOYMENT



7 Bty Nils Direct Fire Range

As the global security environment shifts our adversaries are refocusing. The thawing of the transpolar and northern sea routes has created a strategic flashpoint - increasing Russian interest in the region. This pivot has been accelerated by significant technological advancement, brought on by the Russo-Ukraine conflict, and the ascension of Sweden and Finland into NATO. Just over the border from Norway is Murmansk - home to the Russian Northern Fleet and nuclear second-strike capability. The deployment of Russian Anti-Access Area Denial (A2AD) assets would significantly hinder naval and air freedom of manoeuvre in the region, constraining NATO's ability to respond to a Russian incursion or aggression. Consequently, the Scandinavian coastal region and mountainous plateaus

have become a potential flashpoint on NATO's northern flank.

United Kingdom Commando Force (UKCF) offers a unique capability within defence - specialising in operations in extreme cold weather and mountain warfare, including ski-borne infantry manoeuvre and over-snow reconnaissance vehicles. UKCF is an advance force, intended to degrade enemy A2AD assets and strike deep targets, enabling theatre entry for a NATO Joint Force. UKCF provides this capability by specialising in littoral raiding and special operations on high value enemy assets, operating as a disaggregated force of small teams.

Excellence in Arctic warfare is not a given — it's earned through rigorous training. This is why British commandos have been



training in the High North since the 1980s. To guarantee the abilities of UKCF personnel, all individuals expecting to exercise in the High North are required to undertake the rigorous Cold Weather Warfare Course (CWWC). Spanning multiple weeks, the course teaches the fundamentals of ski-borne manoeuvre and equips personnel with the skills to thrive and fight in the harsh arctic environment where temperatures frequently dip below -30 degrees. The CWWC teaches skills that are crucial to operate safely and effectively. On completion of foundation courses, subunits undertake special to arm training, further familiarising themselves with equipment and refining tactics, techniques, and procedures for operations in the High North. This phase not only enhances readiness but also ensures every soldier is familiar with their role in the broader mission.

The 2025 deployment culminated in a divisional multi-national training exercise, JOINT VIKING. The exercise saw 7 (Sphinx) Commando Battery Tac Group

enable targeting of enemy assets in the deep utilising the full spectrum of NATO strike assets. For the Gun Group, JOINT VIKING 25 was an opportunity to hone interoperability with host nation and NATO partner forces - ensuring robust communications networks and refining tactics. The exercise also identified unique areas for equipment development and acquisition; ensuring UKCF remains at the cutting edge of extreme cold weather warfare. Winter deployment provided ample time for personnel to grow close ties to their international opposite numbers, allowing everyone to understand the differences in how each nation works and areas for improvement.

As the High North becomes more contested, UKCF's unique skillset is more relevant than ever. Multi-domain fires and targeting provided by 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery are central to the United Kingdom's contribution to NATO and deterring a resurgent Russia.

by Lieutenant Daw RA  
Gun Position Officer  
7 (Sphinx) Cdo Bty  
29 Cdo Regt RA



7 Bty Nils interoperability





## Exercise VIGILANT ISLES 24



Troops hit the hills during the final phase of Ex VIGILANT ISLES

Between 10-29 Jan 25, F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, 7 Para RHA, deployed a 3 person FST to Japan on a bilateral exercise with the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force (JGSDF) known as Ex VIGILANT ISLES 24. As part of B Company Group 3 PARA, members of F Bty conducted partner training including; capability demonstrations, lessons on kit and equipment held within an FST, air assaults, cultural days and a final exercise.

Having arrived in country the Company Group conducted a Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (RSOI) package followed by Company-level training to familiarise ourselves with the training area. This involved navigation, medical and blank firing training, as well as doing partner training with the JGSDF. We conducted aviation assaults, passage

of lines and resupply demonstrations with JGSDF to optimise our integrated operation when working together on the exercise. During the final exercise the Company Group operated as a light role company having conducted an aviation insert initially utilising a wide fleet of CH-47 and UH60s. Throughout, the FST had a JGSDF FOO attached to them including MFCs, this gave an excellent insight into the way the JGSDF control and deliver fires.

Ultimately, this was a brilliant exercise and despite it being a small team it allowed members of 7 Para RHA to develop our understanding of how our allies work.

by Captain Jack Hill RHA  
FST Commander  
F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery  
7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

# SUPPORT IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE

It is always better to speak to someone than to speak with no-one!

## CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

**Army Welfare Service**  
Accessible, independent, confidential and professional specialist welfare services to soldiers and their families with any personal or family difficulty.

Open: Monday - Thursday 08:30 - 16:30  
Friday 08:30 - 16:00  
Tel: **01904 882053**

**Speak Out**  
Confidential bullying, harassment and discrimination helpline.

Open: Monday - Friday 0830 - 1700  
(except Bank and Public holidays)  
Web: [Army-SpeakOut@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Army-SpeakOut@mod.gov.uk)  
Tel/M: **96770 4656** Tel Ctr: **0306 7704656**

**Dispute Resolution & Support Service**

The Army Mediation Service (AMS) uses independent mediators to resolve conflict in a confidential setting  
Email: [Army-Mediation-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Army-Mediation-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk)  
Tel: **0306 7707 691**

**24-Hour Military Mental Health Helpline**

Free, confidential helpline available to all serving military personnel, their families and friend that may have concerns.  
Open: 24/7 Web: [combatstress.org.uk](http://combatstress.org.uk)  
Email: [helpline@combatstress.org.uk](mailto:helpline@combatstress.org.uk)  
Tel: **0800 323 4444** Text: **07537 173 683**

**SSAFA**

Confidential personal support and social work services for the military community

Web: [ssafoa.org.uk/help-you/forcesline](http://ssafoa.org.uk/help-you/forcesline)  
Tel: **0800 731 4880** open 9:00 - 17:30 Mon - Fri

**Samaritans**

Provides a safe place to talk about anything that's bothering you 24/7.

Web: [samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org) Email: [Jo@samaritans.org](mailto:Jo@samaritans.org)  
Tel: **116 123** open 24/7

**Shout**

Shout is the UK's first free, confidential, 24/7 text support service. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope.

Text **SHOUT to 85258**

**BEREAVEMENT**

**Cruse Bereavement Care**

Offers advice and support when someone dies.  
Open 9:30 - 17:00 Mon - Fri (excluding bank holidays), with extended hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, when open until 20:00.  
Web: [cruse.org.uk](http://cruse.org.uk) Email: [info@cruse.org.uk](mailto:info@cruse.org.uk)  
Tel: **0808 808 1677**

## ADDICTIONS

**GamCare**  
Free support for anyone affected by gambling harms across UK.

Web: [www.gamcare.org.uk/get-support/talk-to-us-now/](http://www.gamcare.org.uk/get-support/talk-to-us-now/)  
Tel: **0808 8020133**

**National Gambling Helpline**

Freephone **0808 8020 133** 0800 - Midnight  
365 days a year.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

A support group for men and women who share their experiences and strength with each other to help others recover from alcoholism.

Web: [alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)  
Email: [help@aamail.org](mailto:help@aamail.org) Tel: **0800 9177 650**

## RELATIONSHIPS

**Relate**

Can help you make the most of couple and family relationships, past, present or future. Provides help even if you're not currently in a relationship.

Web: [relate.org.uk](http://relate.org.uk)  
Email: [Relate.Enquiries@relate.org.uk](mailto:Relate.Enquiries@relate.org.uk)  
Tel: **02392 827 026**

## DOMESTIC ABUSE

**Aurora New Dawn**

A specialist team for the Army and RN providing advice and support for those experiencing domestic abuse, sexual violence and stalking.

Web: <https://www.auroraand.org.uk/services/the-armed-forces/>

Email: [armedforces@auroraand.org.uk](mailto:armedforces@auroraand.org.uk)

Tel: **023 92 479254**

**Respect - Men's Advice Line**

Advice, support and information for men experiencing domestic violence and abuse.

Web: [mensadviceline.org.uk](http://mensadviceline.org.uk)  
Email: [info@mensadviceline.org.uk](mailto:info@mensadviceline.org.uk)  
Tel: **0808 801 0327**

**Women's Aid**

Advice, support and information on domestic abuse and violence. Open: 24/7

Web: [womensaid.org.uk](http://womensaid.org.uk)

Email: [helpline@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:helpline@womensaid.org.uk)

Tel: **0808 2000 247**

## VICTIM SUPPORT

**Victim Support**

Free and confidential support to help you move past the impact of crime. Open: 24/7 To contact visit:

Web: [victimsupport.org.uk](http://victimsupport.org.uk)  
Tel: **0808 1689 111** (free)

**Victim Witness Support Unit**

The Defence Victim Witness Care Unit (VWCU) provides support and guidance for victims and witnesses during their journey through the Service Justice System.

Tel: **07974 074259** (8am to 4pm - Mon to Thurs, 8am to 3:30pm - Fri)  
Email: [people-dscc-vwugroup@mod.gov.uk](mailto:people-dscc-vwugroup@mod.gov.uk)

## DEBT AND FINANCE MANAGEMENT

**Money Helper**

Money Helper joins up money and pensions guidance to make it quicker and easier to find the right help. MoneyHelper brings together the support and services of three government-backed financial guidance provider.

Web: [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk)

**National Debtline**

Open 09:00 - 20:00 Mon - Fri and 09:30 - 13:00 on Sat.  
Web: [nationaldebtline.org](http://nationaldebtline.org)  
Tel: **0808 808 4000**

## EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

**Calm**

Helpline for Men in the UK who are down or who have hit the wall for any reason and need to talk or find information and support. Open: 5pm - Midnight

Web: [www.thecalmline.net](http://www.thecalmline.net)

Tel: **0800 585858** 5pm - Midnight 365 Days a Year

**Sane**

Provides expert emotional support and specialist information for you if you are concerned about your own or someone else's mental health.  
Open: 04:30 - 22:30 7 days per week.  
To access the Sane anonymous support forum via.

Web: [sane.org.uk](http://sane.org.uk)

Tel: **07984 967 708 / 02038 051 h790**

**Papyrus**

Dedicated to the prevention of suicide and the promotion of positiveness mental health / wellbeing in young people.

Email: [pat@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org)

Tel: **0800 0684141** Text: 07860 039

**Army LGBT+**

It offers peer support, mentoring and networking opportunities and resources on inclusive leadership and implicit bias.

Email: [www.armygbt.org](mailto:www.armygbt.org)

Twitter: @ArmyLGBT

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

**The Survivors Trust**

Web: [thesurvivorstrust.org](http://thesurvivorstrust.org)

Email: [info@thesurvivorstrust.org](mailto:info@thesurvivorstrust.org)

Tel: **01788 550554 / 0808 010 818**

## PERINATAL

**Defence Maternal Mental Health Support**

Pregnant Service women or those in the first 12 months after birth can self-refer in confidence. DCMH Colchester

Tel: **01206817057**

## EATING DISORDERS

**BEAT Eating Disorders**

Need Help Now

Tel: **0808 801 0677**

Email: [help@beateatingdisorders.org.uk](mailto:help@beateatingdisorders.org.uk)

If you are in distress  
and do not feel able  
to keep yourself safe

PLEASE DIAL

**999**

Version 1.0 MARCH 2025







## Exercise WESSEX STORM



Ex WESSEX STORM

In February 7 Para RHA deployed N Para Bty's Tac Group and F Para Bty's Gun Group to support 4BCT's Ex WESSEX STORM. Unlike previous incarnations of this exercise the entire Brigade was exercised against a free-play enemy, rather than a single Battlegroup.

The Army's desire to implement lessons from Ukraine saw us experimenting with a wide array of new capabilities and methods of employment while simultaneously going 'back to basics'. Consequently, alongside experiments with FPV drones and loitering munitions we were digging in, conducting CBRN fire missions, and constantly moving around AMAs to limit our exposure to Counter-Battery fire.

A highlight of the exercise was our experimentation with the Hellsing One-

Way Effector, a cutting-edge loitering munition. It immediately proved to be a vital force multiplier. Analysis post exercise showed that Fires accounted for over 65% of all enemy kills, rising to 75% on some later missions. The Hellsing's significant contribution to this tally confirms this is vital battle winning technology that the Royal Artillery must acquire and exploit at the earliest opportunity.

Overall, Exercise WESSEX STORM was a pivotal training event, pushing our Regiment's capabilities to new heights in both traditional and modern warfare.

by Captain Charlie Watson RHA  
Adjutant

7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery



# THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

## Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

RACPD is delighted to have secured the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (AFCFT) funding to support our Qualifications and Confidence for Spouses and Partners (QCSP) Project. This project will help Service spouse/partners re-engage with learning, gain qualifications, and build confidence, morale, and employability.

Advice and Guidance is available to help you access the information you need to start your learning journey, tailored specifically for you and your needs.

For details of how to get started, or just help with the next steps towards your goals, see the RACPD website or RACPD facebook page.

Email us in the south to [Info@racpd.org.uk](mailto:Info@racpd.org.uk) or to [northadmin@racpd.org.uk](mailto:northadmin@racpd.org.uk) in the north, for further details.



## Your stories

This section is dedicated to hearing from our learners about their experiences of doing various courses, and, how achieving the qualification/s will aid in their futures.



I'm Dennis Frimpong, ASP operator by trade in the 5th Regiment Royal Artillery - The Yorkshire Gunners. I recently completed my Level 1 and 2 in English and Maths at the RACPD Learning Centre here in Marne Barracks.

RACPD Catterick is a safe place for Royal Artillery Gunners to develop themselves. RACPD fosters amazing kindness towards their students and anyone who visits the Learning Centre for career development courses. I am truly amazed by the care and warm reception I received as soon as I entered the Learning Centre. It truly embraces the entire Gunners both near and far: academically, socially and professionally.

The Learning Centre also specialises in learning differences. They are experts at teaching young Gunners with learning difficulties like dyslexia and other diagnosis. Being at the Learning Centre for apprenticeship courses has increased my self-confidence and improved my presentation skills, as I had the opportunity to present a topic during my Level 2 speaking and listening.

I have learned to believe in myself. The key assets of the Learning Centre is the ease for every learner to fit in irrespective of your cultural background. They provide a comprehensive and well-rounded career-oriented course for soldiers to development themselves and use after their military service. I have come to appreciate RACPD and the hard work of its staff. They are doing outstanding work here in Marne Barracks and their support goes beyond an academic journey.

I would highly recommend that all service personnel contact the RACPD team to complete their outstanding courses and use the opportunity to learn more about the career path courses and the resources they provide.

Gnr Dennis Frimpong





21st March 2025



Chief of Staff Lt Col Talbot-King holding court



The Master Gunner St James's Park introduces CGS General Sir Roly Walker KCB DSO



The Master Gunner St James's Park presents the Cornwall Cup to CO 32 RA, Lt Col Sam Harvey



CGS signs the RHQ RA Visitor's Book



Over 160 of RA Officers and Soldiers attended Gunner 25



Maj Duncan Couchman receives his CGS's Commendation from General Walker



CGS briefs Gunner 25



The Master Gunner St James's Park presents Brigadier Cook with the Alfred Burne Memorial Medal



Lt Gen Mead briefs Gunner 25





20th March 2025



The Regimental Colonel, Col Paddy Farrell, greeting RHQ RA Guests



Spectators from across the Gunners supporting their chosen boxer



LBdr Boyd 12 Regt and LCpl Holberry 29 RLC do battle



Pipe Major Macey-Lillie



The Royal Artillery Belt



The MGStJP presenting the Royal Artillery Mens Belt to the Best Male Team - 12 Regt



Trumpeters of the King's Troop RHA



VIP's applauding another excellent boxing display



Regimental Colonel presenting the Royal Artillery Women's belt to the best Female Team - 12 Regt





Brigadier Pountain and Colonel Farrell, Inspecting Officers



In-Pensioners waiting to get on parade



Brigadier Pountain, Colonel P Bates & In-Pensioners



RAA Standard Bearers



RA Chelsea pensioners and RAA Standard Bearers form up on Figure Court



Spectators enjoying the day



RAA Standard Bearers on parade



The Coldstream Guards Band

The Regimental family joined the In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for Gunner Sunday on 13th April 2025. The day began with a parade of the In-Pensioners and Standard Bearers followed by Choral Matins at the Palm Sunday Service in the Chapel. After the Service, a curry lunch was held at the In-Pensioners Club.

Photo credit: Michael Patrick





## Exercise BULLS SCHOLAR BATTLEFIELD STUDY (BFS)



Hora Sfakion viewpoint

This March, 24 members from 7 Para RHA deployed on Ex BULLS SCHOLAR, a battlefield study (BFS) to Crete led by I Bty (Bull's Troop) RHA.

Operation MERCURY saw 22,000 German paratroopers jump into Crete in May 1941; an act that is widely regarded as the first mass airborne invasion. The resulting weeks saw Crete fall to the Axis forces and mass evacuations to North Africa from the Allies. It also however, convinced Winston Churchill into pushing for the founding of our own British Airborne Forces, recognising their potential significance in future battles. A fitting example of the odds stacked against Airborne Forces in what would be I Battery's first BFS since its re-animation as an equipment Battery.

The week saw SP visit Maleme airfield, Chania and Souda Bay; locations where large numbers of German paratroopers jumped into on the 20th May 1941, and subsequent early battles took place. Members of the Regiment also retraced the 40-mile march, along which the defeated New Zealander, Australian, Greek and British troops slogged to their evacuation point at Hora Sfakion. This journey included stopping at key sights along the withdrawal route including Lt Gen Freyberg's Cave where the commander of Commonwealth Forces on the Island oversaw the evacuation. Throughout the week there was much discussion comparing airborne and artillery equipment and tactics of the past to the present, as well as the similarities between



the 10 Fallschirmjäger Commandments and our own Pegasus Ethos.

Overall, an excellent and educational week had by all, with special thanks to Rik Jenkins and Alan McWilliams, former G

Bty and Green Howards, for their excellent support and local knowledge which added significant value to the study!

by Lance Bombadier Wildish and Gunner Cooper  
7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery



Souda Bay CWG



**BREMONT ROYAL ARTILLERY WATCH**

The Bremont S301 Royal Artillery timepiece is exclusively available to past and present personnel of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, and is limited to 100 pieces.

A portion of all proceeds will go to the RA Charitable Fund.

For more information contact: [military@bremont.com](mailto:military@bremont.com)

**BREMONT**  
CHRONOMETERS

TESTED BEYOND ENDURANCE



**MASTER GUNNER VISIT TO HEADQUARTERS ALLIED RAPID REACTION CORPS**



Master Gunner and Chief JFIB Brigadier Alston

The Joint Fires and Influence Branch (JFIB) of HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) were delighted to welcome the Master Gunner to Imjin Barracks, Gloucester. The Branch briefed the Master Gunner on how they integrate Royal Artillery capabilities including surveillance, fires and ground-based air defence into Corps operations and how the Corps plans and delivers multi-domain targeting. The Master Gunner had the opportunity to meet Gunners of all ranks from across the HQ and was briefed on how the ARRC is working increasingly closely with 7th Air Defence Group, which joins the ARRC Group later this year.

**RA Historical Society  
2025 Programme**

Date and Timings	Event	Subject	Lecturer/Lead	Bookings Close
Wednesday 21 May 1930 hrs	Webinar	The Walcheren Expedition 1809	Dr Martin Howard	Friday 16 May
Wednesday 18 June Day Visit	Royal Logistic Corps Museum, Worthy Down	Lecture: D-Day Logistics 1944  RLC Museum tour	Lt Col Chris Barrington Brown  Museum guide	Wednesday 4 June

These events are open to all Gunners. To register please email Lt Col Clayton, RAHS Secretary: [richard.clayton312@gmail.com](mailto:richard.clayton312@gmail.com) by the dates shown

All Gunners are eligible to join the Society. Please contact the Secretary for details.





## His Majesty's Lord Lieutenants Certificate for Meritorious Service



Left to right Battery Commander 203 Battery, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, Lance Bombardier David Scott and Commanding Officer 101st Regiment Royal Artillery

On the evening of 25th March 2025 Army Reservist, Lance Bombardier David Scott who serves with 203 (Elswick) Battery in Blyth received His Majesty's Lord Lieutenants Certificate for Meritorious Service from the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, Doctor Caroline Pryer. The evening was attended by civil dignitaries, senior military personnel, serving member of the Armed and Cadet Forces and families of the recipients.

During his service with 203 (Elswick) Battery, Lance Bombardier Scott has been employed in the role of a level 3 Multiple Launch Rocket System Operator. He has a passion for the development of soldiers and furthering their careers so has completed the Defence Maintenance Instructors course which teaches soldiers to drive and operate

the Multiple Launch Rocket System, he has also completed the Defence Train The Trainer Course, this allows him to train soldiers which gives them the knowledge and ability to teach First Aid to members of the Regiment.

Lance Bombardier Scott is currently studying at Sunderland University to become a paramedic and combines his studies with his Army Reserve service and working part time for Emergency Response Medical Services. His Army Reserve service has seen him deploy in June 2021 to Estonia on Operation CABRIT, a NATO lead exercise where he was mobilised alongside his Regular counterparts. He has also deployed to White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, in the United States of America and across the United Kingdom to conduct live firing



with the Regiments battle winning Multiple Launch Rocket System.

### The citation stated:

"Lance Bombardier Scott has proven to be a highly effective, loyal, and committed soldier who is always at the forefront of unit activities. His devotion and dedication to 203 (Elswick) Battery unequivocally makes him a worthy recipient of His Majesty's Lord Lieutenants Certificate for Meritorious Service.

Lance Bombardier Scott is married to Clair and has three children Alastair, Lydia, and Francesca.

For his exemplary service, hard work, effectiveness, contribution, skills, commitment, loyalty, and devotion to duty

Lance Bombardier Scott is awarded His Majesty's Lord Lieutenants Certificate for Meritorious Service."

The Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, Doctor Caroline Pryer said:

"I was delighted to have honoured the soldiers and thanked everyone for supporting the recipients. She added: "I am so pleased to see so many people here and I am delighted to present so many awards. Without the support of family and friends' organisations like these would not be able to function. Good job everyone."

by Captain Graham Donkin RA  
Permanent Staff Administration Officer  
203 (Elswick Battery)  
Army Reserve Centre







# Arm yourself with the best possible pension. Join us. Job done.

There are numerous ways you can influence and enhance your pension income. Making the best choices over the course of your career at key pension decision points; considering buying pension top-ups (one of the benefits of AFPS15); understanding how changing tax regimes can impact you; dealing with changing personal circumstances and even choosing the best time to leave - these can all make a significant difference to what you'll receive.

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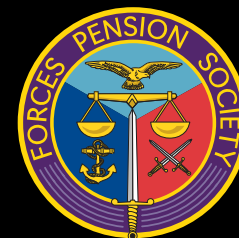
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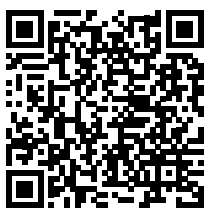
You'll also have access to our wide range of membership benefits from discounts on new cars to insurances, including our latest range of travel policies.



SCAN ME



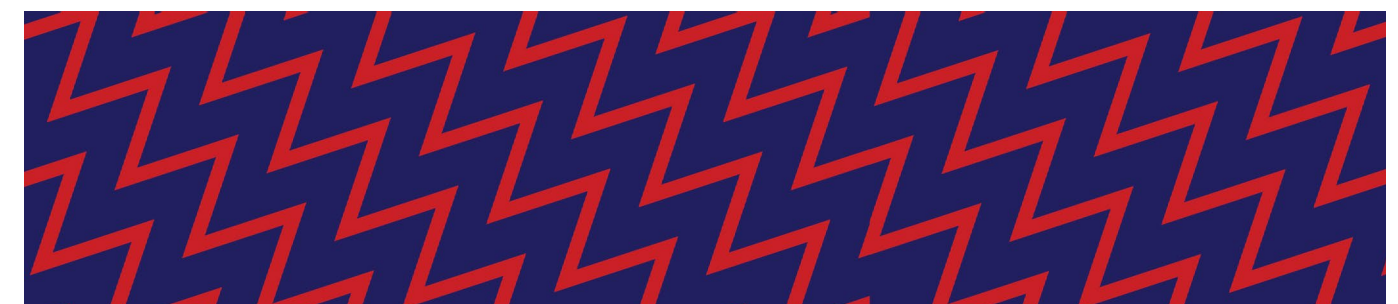
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## FIND & STRIKE LONDON DRY GIN

£38.00

FIND & STRIKE epitomises everything that the Royal Artillery does; using high-tech radar and uncrewed systems to find the enemy anywhere and everywhere in order to allow units to strike them. The Find & Strike Gin represents the whole Royal Regiment, just like its tagline and is a gin for the whole Gunner Family: Serving, Retired and their Families. Crafted and distilled by our friends at Hawkridge Distillery, this is the perfect gift for anyone from the Gunner Family. All proceeds from sales goes towards supporting the Gunner family through the work of the Royal Artillery Charities, ensuring the continued raising of funds to support all the work they do to support the serving and retired regiment.







## Larkhill Garrison Sergeant Major's Farewell



Mr Buck (second from left) enjoys Lunch in the Royal Artillery's Central Sergeants' Mess

On Wednesday 12 March, Larkhill Garrison bade farewell to its Garrison Sergeant Major, WO1 John Buck on completion of his 26 years' service.

Due to his pursuing as much resettlement courses in gamekeeping and wildlife management as he could possibly attend, it proved difficult to 'pin him down' in order to arrange a fitting farewell.

By exploiting a very slim window of opportunity when he was fixed to handing back his quarter, along with the assistance of our Project Allenby Connaught Industry Partners, we put together a last minute surprise lunch for him where he was joined by his Management Team colleagues.

After being told to 'parade' at the Team offices for 1030 that morning, he was whisked away for an early, early, pre-

lunch pint of his favourite 'Black stuff' in what is rumoured to be the smallest Battery Bar in the world that is fortunately tucked away at a secret location in Wiltshire that's known to the Management Team. After a few memories reminisced, he was then shuttled back to the Management team offices where his colleagues had assembled for embarrassing speeches and pressies.

Here we learnt, to no-one's surprise, that in his formative years he slept with the Values and Standards of the British Army booklet on his nightstand and that he used to get up and do area cleaning before the duty NCO had been around to do the same, he received a bundle of presentations gifted by his Team and his colleagues in the Central Sergeants' Mess, his favourite; a whisky tumbler fittingly inscribed.



That done, transport provided at short notice by Aspire Transport Services was waiting outside to ferry him to the Central Sergeants' Mess where, again at short notice, a table had been laid a-la Mess Dinner Night by our Sodexo Team for him to enjoy a delicious 3 course lunch. The day was nicely rounded off with a few libations in a cosy Wiltshire tavern with many lamps

being swung together with his Garrison Management Team colleagues.

Due to workforce restructuring, the Garrison Sergeant Major Post is not set to be refilled and other Sergeants' Major in the Garrison must try to plug the very large gap that Mr Buck leaves in his wake.

by Major Peter Magill RA  
SO2 Coordinator  
Garrison Management Team



Only because 'it's good for you'. Early doors 'black stuff' in the Pokey Wee Hole





This Christmas, TEAM V3NTURE, consisting of Capt Charles Newman, (7 Para Regt RHA) along with friends Capt Rob Treasure (1 RIFLES) and Capt Robert Cross (1 Welsh Guards), became the first military trio to row any ocean.

After several years of planning and preparation, the trio took part in The World's Toughest Row-Atlantic, fleet of 2024. This 3,000nm unsupported ocean rowing race takes place every December, departing from La Gomera, in the Canary Islands, and heading to Antigua. Crews that take part face intense heat, vast Atlantic swell, extreme weight loss and the constant threat of sea sickness.

On 11th December 2024, the team pushed off on their 8-metre RX45 Ocean rowing boat, knowing that until they navigated their way safely to Antigua, they were exposed to mother nature at her finest. Many blisters, bum sores, hallucinations and even a Saharan sandstorm later, the team reached dry land; rowing into English Harbour after 40 days, 17 hours and 40 minutes.

On reflection, Charlie said "it was the relentlessness that made this race so

unique". From day one, they looked to hold an unforgiving shift pattern of 2-hours rowing and just one-hour off the oars. This left little time for rest and recovery and as the days past, their bodies slowly broke down as they fought against the constant salty spray. Moreover, basic admin such as making meals or washing bodies became a near impossible task in the endlessly choppy seas.

The 7th boat out of 38, winners of the trio category and first military crew to finish, TEAM V3NTURE have raised near £200,000 with a £20,000 going toward each Regimental Charity, including the RACF. A huge well done to Charlie, Rob and Rob!



by Captain Charles Newman RA  
Parachute Battery (Bull's Troop)  
7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery



# GBAD REUNION 25

Calling all serving and veteran GBAD Officers',  
Warrant Officers' and SNCOs'...

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

1330 hrs – 2359hrs

Enjoy an afternoon of Cricket (Comd 7AD Gp first XI  
vs Ex-GBAD XI), High Tea, Operational Displays,  
Dinner Night... and plenty more.



**£60pp – Limited spaces!**

POC: Major Edward Fry RA | Battery Commander | 58 (Eyre's) Battery | 12th Regiment Royal Artillery | Baker Barracks | Thorney Island | Hampshire | PO10 8DH | Email: [Edward.Fry147@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Edward.Fry147@mod.gov.uk)





26th March 2025



4th Regt RA v 12th Regt RA - Big tackle



Purvis Warriors v UAS Hawks - Scything tackle made to stop a try



4th Regt RA - Royal Artillery Rugby League 9s 2025 champions



Strong carry into contact in the 12th Regt RA v 4th Regt RA



Royal Artillery Rugby League 9s Trophy



4th Regt RA celebrating their victory



A textbook 3 man tackle in the Purvis Warriors v UAS Hawks game




Breakaway try by the UAS Hawks



WO2 Chave (Assistant Manager RARL) presenting the trophy to winning team Captain, LBdr Virimi of 4th Regt RA







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The 4th Regiment Royal Artillery has JTAC & TACP roles available at OR2 to OR4 (Pte to Cpl) now. Use the QR code or link to register your interest.



## Gunner Sunday

The Regimental family joined the In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for Gunner Sunday on 13th April 2025. The day began with a parade of the In-Pensioners and Standard Bearers followed by Choral Matins at the Palm Sunday Service in the Chapel. After the Service, a curry lunch was held at the In-Pensioners Club.



## Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance

The Royal Artillery Association will conduct the Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas on Saturday 5th July 2025 commencing at 1100 hrs. All members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and their families are welcome to attend. Please find further details of the events [www.thegunners.org.uk/events](http://www.thegunners.org.uk/events)



## Lewes Branch



Lewes Branch were invited to visit their affiliated Bty, 43 Bty, Lloyd's Company at Larkhill Camp on 6 February 2025. They were given a tour of Larkhill Garrison by Sgt Mark Mawby, who arranged for a viewing of the Watchkeeper TUAS and gave a demonstration of its capability.



WO1 (RSM) Nothard invited the Branch members to lunch in the WO's and Sgts' Mess, presenting each member with a mess polo shirt; a very kind gesture, which was gratefully received. For some of the Members, it had been more than 40 years since they had visited Larkhill, and some had never been in a Mess before, so it was a real eye opener to see the modern Gunners in operation.





That afternoon the group received a guided tour at the RA Museum, where they were given a presentation on military aviation. Some members greeted the guns like long lost friends...

In the evening, the members were joined in a local pub by the BSM, Nicky Hunt and several other Officers and SNCOs for dinner and many stories, both new and old were shared.

The Branch had a great time and thank all those who made their day very special.

The following day they visited the D-Day Museum in Southsea.



### Northern Ireland Gunners Exercise Lionheart Reunion Dinner

In September 1984, Exercise Lionheart took place in Northern Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. It was the largest British reinforcement exercise held since the Second World War, involving over 130,000 troops. The 1 Br Corps FTX element, Exercise Spearpoint, involved 97,000 men and over 750 MBT. New equipment included the Challenger tank, tracked Rapier, Saxon APC and Tornado aircraft.

Northern Ireland Gunners from 102 (Ulster and Scottish) AD Regt RA (V) (now 105 Regt RA) took part, Commanded by Lt Col John Steele. The Regiment was proudly piped onto the Ferry taking us to the European mainland and our first deployment locations as low level air defence equipped with the Blowpipe missile system. The Exercise was a success for the Regiment, and together with our fellow Gunners from 207 Battery, based in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and 212 Battery from Dundee and Arbroath, much was learned in preparation for a possible major European conflict that was never far from our thoughts in those days.

For the past 30 years, former members of the Northern Ireland Officers' Mess and their successors, have met in Coleraine, the home of 206 Battery, for an annual Lionheart Dinner. The brainchild of then Troop Commander, now Major (Retd) Sam Irwin, the gathering has become a firm calendar fixture. This year, on Saturday 8th March, eighteen of the old, but also not so old, and bold assembled as usual for the 30th Anniversary dinner. In attendance is Lt Col Murray Barnes, Regimental Second in Command on Exercise Lionheart, unfortunately, in recent years we have lost both the then BC 206 Battery Maj Ian McLean, and more recently Commanding Officer Lt Col Steele. Nevertheless, the craic was mighty as we say, and the stories still bear repetition, even after 30 years.



### Scottish Regional Committee

On Saturday 12th April members of the Scottish Regional Committee, and Chairs and Representatives of the Scottish Branches attended a back brief by Colonel Jim Kinloch. Thanks to Deputy Lieutenant of Fife Jim Leggat who gave attendees a private tour of the National War Memorial. Thanks also to District Gunner Dave Beveridge for the photo opportunity following the firing of the One O'Clock Gun. The day was rounded off by a late lunch and some refreshments.



### RAA Battery Grants

One of the charitable objects of the Association is to promote comradeship, fostering esprit de corps and preserving traditions. Each year the Association makes funds available to Batteries in the form of annual grants to help fund Battery events, improve conditions for members of the Battery and their dependants.

Find out more information from [carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk) or through your chain of command.

### 19 (Gibraltar) Battery, 19th Regiment Royal Artillery

19 (Gibraltar) Battery of the 19th Regiment Royal Artillery consists of a TAC Group (Fire Support Teams) and an Air Troop (Lloyds Troop). Having recently re-subordinated from 26RA and jumping straight into Regimental Training Cycle there had been little to no opportunity for the Battery to muster in its entirety till the start of this calendar year.

Exercise GIBRALTAR COHESION was devised to celebrate all Battery members in-station by building the moral (morale), physical and conceptual component, with the aim to develop cohesion after numerous deployments from the Tac Group and Air Troop. The members celebrated a successful training year with a look-forward to the start of a fresh CABRIT cycle as the Air Troop begin to deploy from March onwards.

The Royal Artillery Association generously provided partial funding for this event that





would not have otherwise been able to take place. The funding was used towards a day's outing Paintballing that saw 2 teams battle it out across the woodlands of Exeter Hills followed by an evening of Axe Throwing competitions.

**Story from the RHQ RA Home Team**

Following many years of campaigning, in November 2022, the British Government announced the creation of a new medal intended to recognise the contribution of military and civilian personnel that took part in the various programmes aimed at developing nuclear weapons to be used by the British Armed Forces. The announcement was made to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the first UK nuclear test. In July 2023, the design of the new medal was released, with a commitment that many eligible veterans would receive their medals by Remembrance Sunday in November 2023.

Ms Karen Taylor who works here at RHQ RA in Officer Recruiting was recently awarded the medal posthumously on behalf of her Father. Chief Technician - Roy Albert Grant who served on Christmas Island in 1957.

The sadness that her father never physically received the medal in his lifetime, does not detract from the pride Karen and her wider family feel in the fact that Roy's service and dedication has now been recognised.

Karen proudly holding her father Roy's medal, on a recent RHQ RA OP TEAMWORK day.

The medal features a crowned effigy of Charles III facing right with the inscription CHARLES III DEI GRATIA REX FID DEF on the obverse, while the reverse shows an atom design surrounded by olive branches, with the words NUCLEAR TEST MEDAL beneath. It was manufactured by Worcestershire Medal Service.

The ribbon has a central white stripe, with symmetrical stripes of yellow, black and red, and sky blue stripes on the outer edge – the blue is intended to represent the sky and the sea in the Pacific, where the UK's nuclear tests took place.



Roy (far right) during some down time on Christmas Island

**CORNWALL CUP**



The Cornwall Cup is awarded at the Regimental Conference in the Spring to the Regiment, Gunner establishment or sports club that raises the most funds in the previous year for the RACF. The funds can either be raised by a Regiment, a Battery or an individual or group of individuals on the posted strength of a Gunner unit or belonging to an RA Sports Club. The award is based on funds received by Artillery House from 1st January through to 31st December. Totals are as at 31st December each year.

The results of the Cornwall Cup for 2024 are as follows:

Place	Regt
1	32nd Regt
2	12th Regt
3	4th Regt

The RACF is extremely grateful for the efforts of all those units who have been able to raise funds for the charity, in addition to the significant sum donated by individuals through the service pays giving scheme each year. Donations such as this enable us to continue to support individual serving and retired members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, and their families, who are in need, as well as supporting the serving Regiment with grants to support welfare and comradeship.

Many congratulations to 32nd Regiment for raising the largest sum. We would encourage all regiments to consider the RACF when organising sponsored events during the current year - Charity begins at home!







## RACF SUPPORT TO THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY

The RACF to date has provided 182 Gunners help with household goods, bereavement costs, annual grants and other essential items. The RACF has provided £147k in help this year alone. Can we help you or someone you know? Reach out to us so we can help our Gunner family. Unfortunately we cannot help with needs such as private medical or legal fees.

The team is here to help and we can be contacted by email: RARHQ-RACF\_WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk, or via our website RA Charitable Fund Application - RA Association (thegunners.org.uk). We aim to respond in 3 working days. We can signpost you and discuss the next step to help. Our office number is 01980 634309 if you would like to speak to someone or leave a message. If your serving pop in and see your UWO for help and advice.

Or

Call SSAFA on 0800 731 4880, the Royal British Legion on 0808 802 8080 to get a case up to us.

## Thank You's

*"I want to express my heart felt gratitude for your time and support during a very challenging period in my life. Your assistance made it possible for me to travel to Australia to be with my father, who was in critical condition. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for being there for me when I needed it the most. Your support allowed me to be with my dad during a critical time, and I will always remember your kindness". - Serving Soldier*

*"Myself and my daughter would like to thank you and the royal artillery association for the kind gift card you gave us. It is much appreciated, and we would both like to wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and happy new year" - Serving Soldiers family*

# BRITISH ARMY VETERAN?

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Help us support our soldiers through sport and in return you'll get the chance to **WIN BIG, with £30,000 of cash prizes** up for grabs every week.

Find out more [www.armysportlottery.com](http://www.armysportlottery.com)





Date	Event	Location
2025		
16-18 May	RA Assembly	Blackpool
17 May	RAA NEC Meeting	Blackpool
26 May	Artillery Day	
08 Jun	Armed Forces Day	National
11 Jun	RA Board of Management	Larkhill
19 Jun	Hail & Farewell Dinner	Larkhill
24-26 Jun	Gunner vs Sapper Cricket	Larkhill
05 Jul	NMA Service	Staffordshire
25 Jul	YOs' Dining In	Larkhill
02 Oct	Alanbrooke Lunch	London
15 Oct	RA Awards Dinner	Larkhill
24 Oct	Alamein Dinner	Larkhill
06 Nov	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
09 Nov	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park
27 Nov	Sports Awards Dinner	Larkhill
05 Dec	YOs' Dining In	Larkhill
07 Dec	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill Garrison Church



LAST POST

Notification of Death:  
Paul Valter February 2025  
LBdr Jim Lewis 4 March 2025 (Died age 103)  
Kenneth Woodards 5 March 2025  
SSgt Terry Swallow 9 March 2025  
Michael Regan 13 March 2025  
Major Phillip Potter 15 March 2025  
Sgt Ian Todd 19 March 2025  
Gunner John Bradshaw March 2025  
Ray (Ginge) Sewell March 2025  
Capt Jim Laycock 7 April 2025  
Sgt Billy Borthwick April 2025  
Richard Brown April 2025

**BAILEY** - Ronald George Bailey - Wrexham District Branch. Ronald (Ron) sadly died after losing a long and arduous battle to recover from major cancer surgery. Ron opted to undertake extended National Service 1954 – 1957, serving as Gunner Bailey 23218139 in A Troop, 35 Battery, 25th Field Regiment RA. Ron deployed to Malay and enjoyed his overseas adventure before returning to civilian life in Wrexham, North Wales to raise his family. In 1995, adhering to the mantra ‘Once a Gunner always a Gunner’ Ron became a member of the Wrexham Branch RAA and from 2004 until his passing, served variously as Welfare Officer, Chairman and President. He was Wrexham’s longest serving member. Immediately before his cancer surgery last year, Ron was tremendously honoured to receive the RAA Award of Merit, a suitable and well-deserved reward for many years, dedicated service to the Association. Ron was a legend within the local veteran community, working tirelessly for the benefit of the Wrexham Branch membership and the wider RAA. This colossal, influential and highly regarded figure will be sorely missed by all but will remain forever in our thoughts as our president, comrade and dear friend.



**BRAKE** - Colonel John Albert Brake (Late RA) died on 1st April 2025 aged 95 years. Loving husband to Pam (deceased 2008) and devoted father to Victoria, stepfather to Nicola and Andrew, step grandfather to Davina and latterly much loved companion of Ruth.

Subscription Price List

To addresses in the UK and BFPO:  
The Gunner - £24  
The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £10  
The Gunner and The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £34  
  
To addresses in Europe:  
The Gunner - £39  
The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £14  
The Gunner and The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £53  
  
To addresses in the rest of the world:  
The Gunner - £49  
The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £17  
The Gunner and The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £66

**WINCHESTER** - Lieutenant Colonel N W Winchester (Bill) passed away age 92. Bill Winchester joined the Royal Regiment in 1950, serving in Tripoli, BAOR, Korea and Malaya with 48 Fd Regt RA, 3 RHA in Perham Down, Kenya and Aden, and 1 RHA in BAOR and their two year tour of Aden. He also served in The King’s Troop RHA for two years. He was then commissioned, serving at the School of Artillery, with 45 Med Regt RA in N Ireland and BAOR, HQ DRA, 32 GW Regt RA and 26 Fd Regt RA. He retired from the Army in 1988 but continued as SO1 Disc HQ BAOR until 1998, after which he retired to Sussex. A keen sportsman, he was an accomplished horseman, hockey player, orienteer and cross-country runner. He was married to Ruth Winchester for 55 years, who pre-deceased him in 2010.







## DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**MACDONALD - BOWSER** On the 16th June 1965, Gunner Brian Macdonald to Pamela Bowser at Martha Street Registry Office, Glasgow. We spent most of our service in BAOR with 42 Medium Regiment, 24 Missile Regiment and latterly with 47 Field Regiment. Now dividing our time between Camberley and Kyrenia.

## REUNIONS

### HAIL & FAREWELL

The next Hail and Farewell will be held at the RA Mess on 19th June 2025. In addition to those new LE officers being dined in, all those officers retiring, but not serving at Regimental Duty, after a pensionable engagement, are welcome to attend, with partner, as guests of the Regiment. The dress for the event is Black Tie, Timing 1900 for 1930. Subject to numbers you are welcome to invite additional guests at your expense. If you would like to attend please contact Carla Brawn carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk or Tel 0300 160 9714

### 20 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY (DISBANDED 1975) ANNUAL REUNION

20 Regiment Royal Artillery (Disbanded 1975) will be holding its Annual Reunion on 6, 7 and 8 June 2025. All ex members, widows and families of ex members are welcome to attend. Further details can be obtained from johndavidwalburn@yahoo.com or on 20 Regiment Facebook page.

### RAA CARLISLE BRANCH

Calling all gunners in the North of England scottish borders region RAA Branch Carlisle needs your support. Please contact RAA Secretary richard.davies557@mod.gov.uk

### THE 35TH REUNION OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY BOYS AND JUNIOR LEADERS' ASSOCIATION

The 35th reunion of The Royal Artillery Boys and Junior Leaders' Association will take place at the Holiday Inn Coventry M6 Junction 2 on the 2nd-5th October 2025. Full details and booking form will be published in the January 2025 edition of "Trumpeter", or by contacting the Secretary, Ted McKenzie by email only on exboysra.tm@gmail.com

### YOUNG OFFICERS' BRANCH CENTENARY DINNER

The first of a long series of young officers courses assembled at the School of Artillery on 2nd February 1926 under the command of Maj Wyndham Greene DSO MC, assisted by Maj Ambrose Pratt MC. To celebrate 100 years of the establishment of the first Young Officers' Course, a Centenary Dinner supported by the MGStJP will be held in the RA Mess, Larkhill on **20th February 2026**. The event is open to all former Chief Instructors, Senior Instructors, Adjutants, IGs, MGs, SMIGs, QGIs and civilian staff that have worked within the YOs' Branch. If you are interested in attending, please submit your initial interest by completing your details using the QR code below or emailing WO1 (MG) Mostert on adele.mostert559@mod.gov.uk Further information will follow toward the back end of 2025.



### 1 RHA REUNION DINNER 14 NOV 25

The 73rd 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery Officers' Mess Reunion Dinner will be held at the Royal Artillery Mess, Larkhill on Friday 14th November 2025. Would any former officer of the Regiment who wishes to attend and who has not received details of the dinner by 1st October 2025 please contact the Dinner Secretary, Major R D Wills RHA on Robert.Wills814@mod.gov.uk

## INFORMATION

### BESPOKE WALKING STICKS

Mr David Roberts - King's Troop RHA Veteran who suffers with PTSD and has done for many years has been making bespoke walking sticks to assist with his symptoms. David has made them for fellow service Veterans and also many celebrities including Philip Schofield, Sir Michael Palin, Martin Clunes and Bear Grylls. If you would be interested in owning your own personalised stick - please contact David on Tel 01646 279716, or email droberts8641@gmail.com or visit <http://bespokesticks.art>

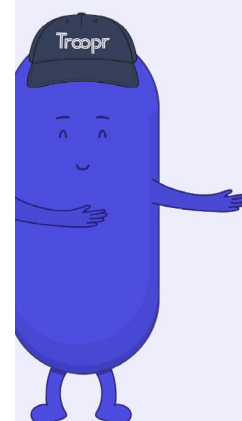


# Troopr

### About Troopr

**We are the one place to go to promote your opportunities to the Armed Forces community.**

Troopr is a platform designed to connect Forces-friendly organisations with the UK Armed Forces community. By creating a profile, your organisation can easily share tailored opportunities, including jobs, events, services and discounts, to a highly engaged audience. It's a powerful way to show support for the Armed Forces community, attract skilled talent, and build lasting relationships with our Armed Forces community.



### Why Partner with Us?

- Tap into a pool of veterans, military people and their families.
- Position your organisation as a proud advocate for the Armed Forces community.
- Promote your jobs, training, events, and services to a dedicated audience.
- Make a lasting impact by supporting our Armed Forces community.

### How it Works

- 1 Join the Directory:**  
Become part of our trusted network of Forces-friendly organisations.
- 2 Post Your Opportunities:**  
List jobs, events, services, and more with ease on Troopr's platform.
- 3 Engage the Community:**  
Connect with veterans, personnel, and their families seeking opportunities and support.

[troopr.co.uk](https://troopr.co.uk)

29 COMMANDO REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

**UNITED WE CONQUER**  
148 (MEIKTIL) COMMANDO FORWARD OBSERVATION BATTERY

As part of Surveillance and Reconnaissance Squadron Group, you will deliver Joint Fires and Targeting to 3 Commando Brigade and play a pivotal role in shaping the battlefield. You will infiltrate the area of operations as part of a small team of specialists by parachute, submarine, raiding craft, light armoured vehicle, or ski.

Once fully trained, you will receive Supplementary Pay and Parachutist Pay of up to £3,800 per year in addition to your basic pay.

We are actively searching for robust, driven and intelligent individuals from the Army, Royal Marines, and Royal Navy to join our ranks. We offer the opportunity to be trained in an unparalleled set of skills, unique within Defence.

3CD0X-29CDRCM@mod.gov.uk

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ALWAYS A GUNNER**



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## DO YOU NEED OUR HELP?



Since its inception in 2010, the Aaron Lewis Foundation, fuelled by the spirit of volunteerism, has dedicated itself to uplifting the lives of serving personnel, veterans, Regiments and Service Associations across the UK.

Our mission is propelled by a simple yet profound promise: to leave no one behind. From essential equipment to life-enhancing resources, we've answered the call of those in need, transforming lives one project at a time. Whether it's aiding with mobility through wheelchairs, enhancing training with hand weights, or empowering through education with 1st Aid courses, we adapt to the unique needs of our heroes, often collaborating with fellow charities to fulfil our commitment.

### Are you, or someone you know, in need of support?

The Aaron Lewis Foundation is ready to help, guided by a few key principles:

- We assist serving personnel, veterans, or initiatives that directly benefit them, such as equipment for sports teams or community projects.
- Our assistance focuses on providing physical items that have an immediate impact on recipients' lives, as opposed to a pool of funds.
- We prioritise requests that address needs not met by MOD or statutory provisions, including match-funding request.

To explore how we might support you or your cause, please contact us at [info@aaronlewisfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@aaronlewisfoundation.org.uk) for an application form.

### About the Aaron Lewis Foundation

Lieutenant Aaron Lewis, of 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, was killed in action in Afghanistan on December 15th, 2008. He was just 26 and on his first operational deployment.

Aaron wanted to make a difference in the world, bringing help to those in need. It was that belief which gave him the courage, hope and enthusiasm to deploy to Afghanistan.

Two years after his death, the Aaron Lewis Foundation was established by his family and friends to continue to make a difference in his memory. With unity and teamwork at its core, Aaron's family, friends and former service colleagues work together to raise funds for causes close to Aaron's heart, providing access to sport and wellbeing for all, while at the same time furthering his legacy.

'Unity-Honour-Heart'



## Looking for something different?

We are continuously looking for physically and mentally robust volunteers from the Tri-Services to become Special Observers.

To join us, volunteers must successfully complete the Surveillance and Reconnaissance Patrols Course (SRPC).

For those that are successful we guarantee a unique, challenging and rewarding career like no other in the regular army.

If you want to work with like-minded individuals, conduct high quality training and deploy across the globe; then look no further.

**Contact us: 4/73 (Sphinx) Special Observation Post Battery**  
**Email: [5RA-473Bty-Ops-Team@mod.gov.uk](mailto:5RA-473Bty-Ops-Team@mod.gov.uk) Tel: 07773 978878**

**SRPC PATHWAY**

FTX (Summative) 2 weeks

Qualification

Urban Operations 2 weeks

Rural Operations 2 weeks

SOP and Tactics Training 2 weeks

Medical & Communications 1 week

Aptitude 3 weeks

Loading Process

Email us:  
 Read our DIN.  
 Send Annex A to APC.  
 Attend our preparation course.  
 Begin SRPC (course roadmap above).

# STA PATROLS

"The British Army's only Long Range, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (STA) Patrols, providing specialist **Surveillance, Reconnaissance** and **Joint Effects** in the high-threat environment"

**ARMY**  
BE THE BEST

Plenty are capable, fewer are willing.  
**ARE YOU WILLING?**

# ROYAL ARTILLERY MENTORING PROGRAMME

AN INCLUSIVE PROGRAMME TO NURTURE TALENT AND MAXIMISE POTENTIAL. COMPLEMENTARY ROLE TO ROUTINE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITY, PROVIDING A BROADER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY OUTSIDE OF THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.

**WHAT?**

INSPIRE OUR TALENTED WORKFORCE; MAXIMISE INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL; IMPROVE THE LIVED EXPERIENCE; DEVELOP SKILLS; BROADEN PERSPECTIVES; OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING.

**WHY?**

A PROGRAMME OPEN TO EVERYONE; ALL RANKS; TO BE BOTH MENTORS AND MENTEES.

**WHO?**

A RELATIONSHIP AND A PROCESS WHERE A PERSON OFFERS HELP, GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT TO FACILITATE LEARNING OR DEVELOPMENT OF A COLLEAGUE.

**HOW?**

**Mentee Form**

**Mentor Form**

## REGIMENTAL REUNION SAT 27 SEP 25

- ARRIVAL RECEPTION 1930<sub>HRS</sub>
- DINING - THREE COURSES 2000<sub>HRS</sub>
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 2100 — 2359<sub>HRS</sub>

## PRESTONFIELD HOUSE EDINBURGH

- AUCTION & RAFFLE 2200<sub>HRS</sub>
- VENUE CLOSES 0100<sub>HRS</sub>
- £70 PER PERSON

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