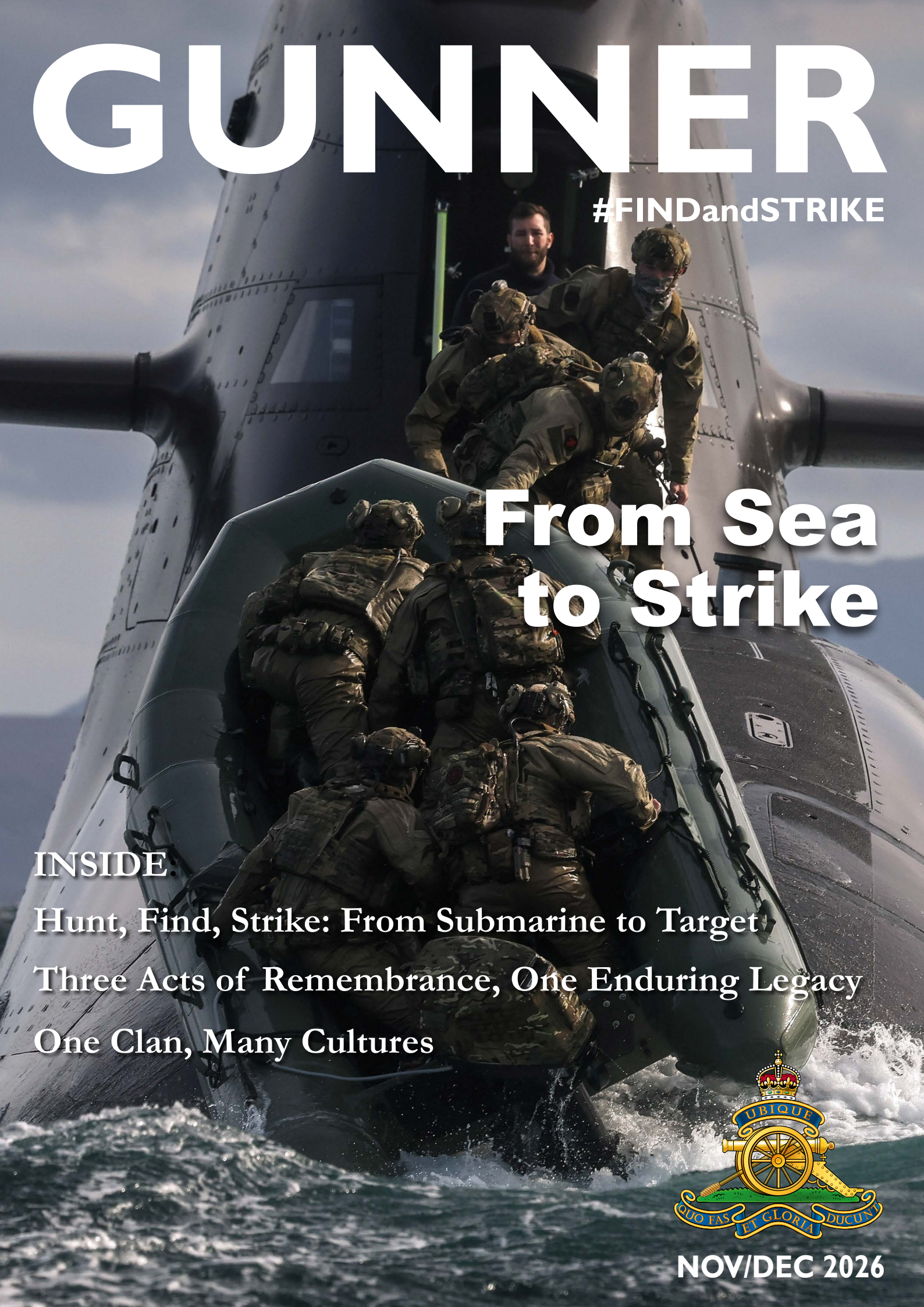
GUNNER

#FINDandSTRIKE



From Sea to Strike

INSIDE:

Hunt, Find, Strike: From Submarine to Target

Three Acts of Remembrance, One Enduring Legacy

One Clan, Many Cultures

UBIQUE

QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT

NOV/DEC 2026

The Larkhill based team that supplies you Gunner.

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Send us your stories!

We'd love to hear all your news. Email articles (once they have been approved by your chain of command) and pictures to RARHQ-Publications@mod.gov.uk And if you also have video, please let us know - we'd love it for our social media channels. Photographs should be original JPEGs, at the highest resolution, (not embedded in the article) and please, if you use abbreviations, can you write them out in full first time!
Articles must be received by the 15th day of the month preceding the magazine's publication.

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GUNNER

NOVEMBER 2026
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Photograph: Defence Imagery

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ROYAL ARTILLERY GOLD CUP
Sandown Park Thursday 18th February 2027





AN AFTERNOON OF QUALITY JUMP RACING

The Royal Artillery Gold Cup, first run in 1862, is one of the oldest events in the horseracing calendar and a flagship day for the Gunners. Regiments will again be setting up stands, within a dedicated Gunner area, in the Surrey Hall, which forms part of the main concourse on the ground floor. This puts the Regiment very much at the centre of the day, with immediate access to the racecourse and bookies on one side and to the Parade rings and the Winner Enclosure on the other.
It also puts us close to bars and food outlets, providing the opportunity to have a drink and meet with friends.

- General Admission Royal Artillery Package: £24 using discount code UBIQUE27
This includes admission and wristband for selected discounted food and drinks
- Standard Grandstand ticket: Discounted to £24 using the code UBIQUE27

We can also provide a Veterans Hospitality Experience which includes lunch at £55 PP
Please book directly with the Hospitality team on 01372 477747, quoting code UBIQUE

Purchase tickets by scanning the QR Code

Tickets can be booked online here
https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/sandown/events-tickets/royal-artillery-gold-cup-day/

POC please email Carla.Brawn100@mod.gov.uk

#FINDandSTRIKE



They wear our cap badge, share our Gunner identity and could become the next generation of the Royal Artillery. Here, Brigadier (Retd) Stuart Williams, Royal Artillery Colonel Commandant (UOTCs and Cadets) explains how by building stronger connections with Army Cadets, the Regiment has a valuable opportunity to inspire young people and strengthen our wider Regimental family.

"Our Army Cadets are an amazing youth organisation, and a little engagement goes a long way - and links directly to the 'Engage to Attract' initiative.

The Army Cadets (Army Cadet Force and Combined Cadet Force Army (CCF(A)) are one of the Army's best kept secrets.

This 73,000-strong youth organisation - the Army's corporate social responsibility programme -provides opportunity and life skills to children and young people aged 12 to 18. It also provides a great many recruits to the Army. Statistics from the Army Foundation College (Harrogate) in 2021 showed 25% of the annual intake were former Cadets, the statistics will be the same, if not higher, in 2026.

Across the country we have Army Cadets, and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers, proudly wearing our cap badges. Believe it or not, we have 105 ACF detachments and 10 CCF(A) contingents that are cap badged Royal Artillery which is, at any one time, approximately 2,250 cadets who derive a sense of belonging with the Gunners. From the Highlands of Scotland to Thorney Island, our Gunner Cadets are 'Ubique'.

The recently re-energised Exercise Ubique Hunter, the annual Royal Artillery Army Cadet Competition, is our major regimental engagement event. It sees cadets travel from far and wide to spend a weekend at Larkhill being both challenged and inspired by the Royal Regiment's officers and soldiers.

Yet there is more that we can do. A little goes a long way and the best engage-to-attract activity can be one or two super talented and engaging soldiers visiting a local detachment or contingent on a parade night.

All Army cadet engagement aligns with the regimental headquarters' inflow campaign, reinforced by the Master Gunner who, when recently discussing Army cadets, said: "… engagement with our Army cadets has to be a good thing, it is engage-to-attract, and has a direct link to recruitment…"; it is in our interests to do so, this is the next generation.

All regiments and headquarters are encouraged to deliver engagement experiences that motivate and inspire a desire to learn more about a career in the Royal Artillery; a chance to shape the leaders of tomorrow. The RA Army cadets are part of our Regimental family, why wouldn't we want to inspire them?"

Gunner magazine has been bringing you the narrative since 1919

HUNT, FIND, STRIKE: FROM SUBMARINE TO TARGET



From beneath the waves to effects on target: Royal Artillery specialists showcased their multi-domain fires on Exercise Strike Warrior 26.

For 148 (Meiktila) Commando Forward Observation Battery, 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, the exercise was an opportunity to demonstrate one of the Regiment's highly specialised capabilities: integrating sensors, observers and weapons across the land and maritime domains.

During the exercise, 148 Battery conducted a Full Mission Profile alongside a German Navy submarine and Portuguese warship.

The serial began with a submarine link-up and boat drills before Special Observer Teams conducted a simulated submarine infiltration and discreet small-boat insertion towards the target area.

After making a tactical beach landing, the teams established an Observation Post from which they coordinated live Naval Surface Fires from the Portuguese warship against the designated target, before conducting a successful extraction.

The complexity was significant. The submarine provided Intelligence,

Surveillance and Reconnaissance support before deploying the Special Observer Teams ashore, while the Portuguese warship provided the firepower.

For the Royal Artillery, that integration is the point.

148 Battery specialises in deploying Special Observer Teams into complex environments by sea, land and air, where they can identify and understand targets and coordinate effects from the most appropriate platform. It is a specialist capability delivered in support of the UK Commando Force and NATO operations.



The activity came during a wider programme of training, when the Battery also delivered its Naval Fires Operator Course to new observers and personnel from across 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery.

Students progressed from mission planning and long-distance patrolling to occupying and sustaining covert Observation Posts, conducting persistent surveillance and target acquisition, and coordinating Naval Fires against dynamic targets.

The training involved NATO warships from the Netherlands, Portugal and Canada, giving Royal Artillery observers the opportunity to practise integrating allied firepower in a demanding environment.

As 148 Battery's Operations Officer explained:

"This level of complexity and coordination between live maritime, sub-surface and land-based assets has not been achieved by 148 Battery for almost 30 years."

The Battery's focus is increasingly on preparing Special Observers for a contested battlespace, particularly in the High North,



and developing the skills required to coordinate multi-domain fires and targeting.

For the Gunners, Strike Warrior demonstrated something fundamental to modern artillery: firepower is not simply about the weapon that delivers the effect. It is also about the people who can find the target, understand it and connect the right sensor to the right weapon at the right time.

148 BATTERY FAST FACTS

PART OF 29 COMMANDO REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

SPECIALISTS IN NAVAL FIRES AND TARGETING

DEPLOY SPECIAL OBSERVER TEAMS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR

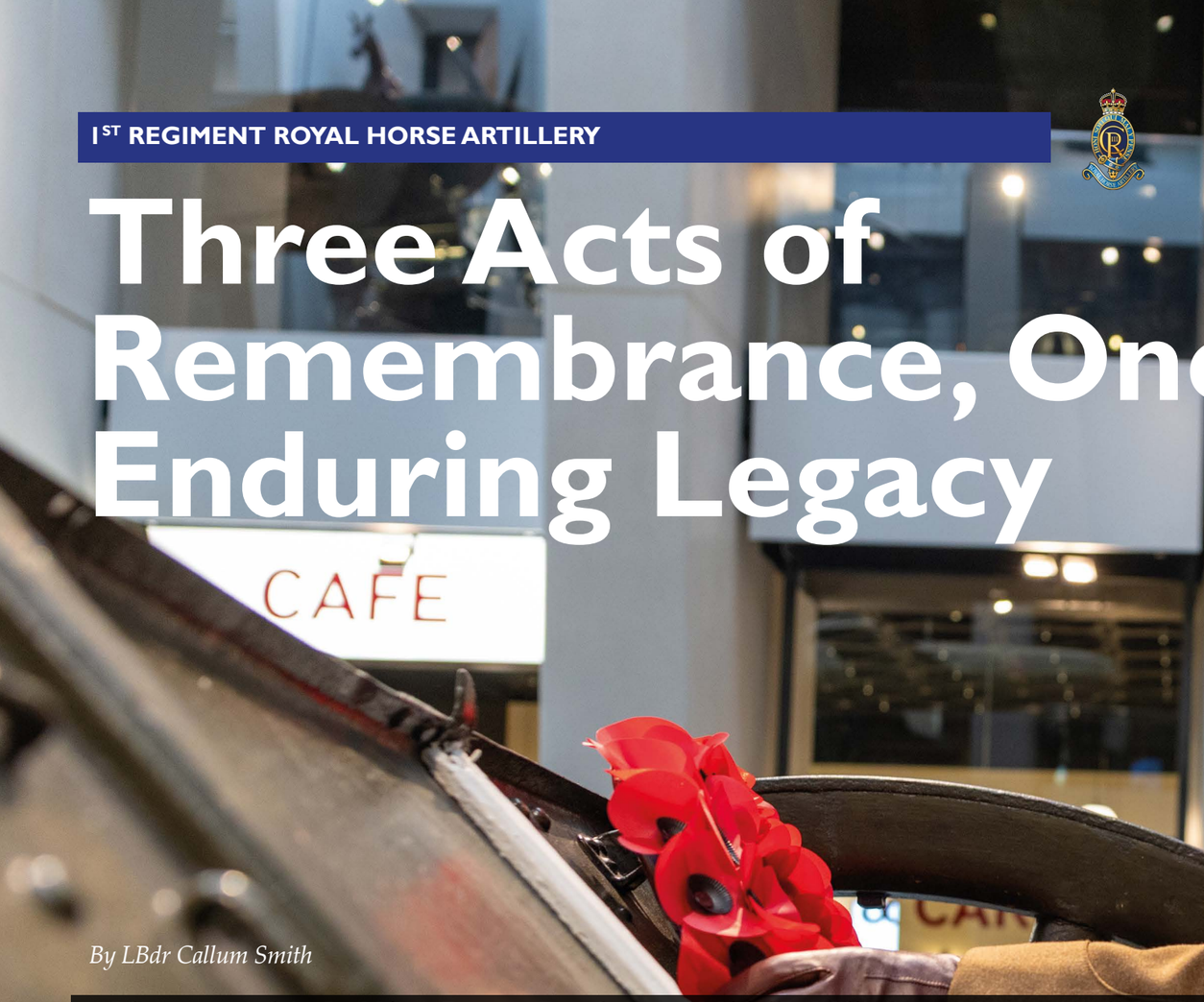
TRAINED TO OPERATE DISCREETLY IN CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS

FIND, UNDERSTAND AND TRACK TARGETS

COORDINATE EFFECTS ACROSS LAND, MARITIME AND AIR

SUPPORT THE UK COMMANDO FORCE AND NATO OPERATIONS

Three Acts of Remembrance, One Enduring Legacy







By LBdr Callum Smith

I have served in L (Néry) Battery Royal Horse Artillery at both 3 RHA and 1 RHA and feel lucky to be part such a storied organisation.

Our honour title was awarded following the Battle of Néry which took place in Northern France on 1 September 1914.

L Battery was part of the British Expeditionary Force's reconnaissance screen when it was ambushed in the small village of Néry. Outnumbered and caught by surprise, our soldiers fought against a much larger German force. Despite very heavy casualties, one of L Battery's guns kept firing and against all odds managed to stop the German Division's advance.

The bravery of L Battery's soldiers and officers was recognised with three Victoria Crosses, a Légion d'Honneur and two Médalle Millitaires. Moreover, their determined and selfless actions helped turn what could have been a disaster into a famous victory and shaped L (Néry) Battery's values: respect, resilience, and responsibility.

Our most recent commemorations were borne out of a visit to the Imperial War Museum last year; me and a few of the other soldiers discovered the original receipt for a wreath which was placed on the famous Néry Gun just after the war.

This inspired us to look further into the story of the soldiers who fought at Néry in September 1914 and to make sure we could honour their sacrifices.

The first port of call was the Poppy Factory in London; staff there, and a number of veterans, supported us in creating our own wreaths to honour those who had fought in the battle. We then worked with the Imperial War Museum to run a series of workshops for both Army cadets and children from local schools, educating future generations about the history of the battle, the honour of Victoria Cross awards and how the values of respect, resilience, and responsibility continue to matter to L (Néry) Battery today.

We then took the wreaths we had made to the Néry Gun itself. At H-Hour (5:40am) on the anniversary of the battle, we paraded at the Imperial War Museum with hundreds of members of public in attendance and honoured the fallen from the battle - the Battery Sergeant Major placed the wreath on the battle-damaged gun whilst Gunner Adams read out the list of those who had fallen - it was a truly special moment.

From there we drove to France where we visited the actual battlefield in Néry. Even though the battle was 112 years ago, the French villagers are still incredibly grateful for our predecessors' actions and proud to be associated with us.

They organised a gala lunch in our honour. This was followed by commemorations with the villagers, diplomats from the British Embassy, veterans from L (Néry) Battery, and representatives from the French Government; together we marched through the streets of Néry to the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery and laid the remaining wreath on the graves of those killed at the battle.

Being involved in these events has been truly incredible and has reaffirmed my pride to be in L (Néry) Battery Royal Horse Artillery.



Battery Commander Ben Murphy presents the mayor of Néry with a painting of the battle



Néry townsfolk were treated to a battery parade

Picture credit: Joe Bates



Bdr Royon Stoner placing a wreath at Néry cemetery

Our Gunners Making History



Lance Corporal Grace Cussons has become the first female Army Reservist to successfully complete the demanding Pre-Parachute Selection – and she is one of us!

Grace received her maroon beret at a parade at ITC Catterick and has transferred into A (1st City of London) Battery, HAC, under the tactical control of 7PARA RHA.

Her success was inspired by close friend and fellow soldier, Captain Elizabeth Godwin, who was going through the selection process and suggested Grace attempt the course too - in their final chat before her tragic passing in a car accident.

"Lizzie was a massive champion for women achieving their potential," said Grace. "She always said the biggest barrier to women succeeding is them telling themselves they can't do it.

"The last conversation we had, I said I'd always been interested in going for P Company and she said I should just do it.

"After she passed away, I felt like I should do it in honour of her."

The road to P Company requires intense, self-driven preparation and discipline.

A challenge multiplied when balancing a busy civilian job. Grace leads the UK sales division of a large company.

On how it felt to put on the famous airborne force's maroon beret for the first time, she said: "I don't think it has sunk in. It's been a year I've been training for this.

"It feels completely surreal. It's such a privilege to serve with 16 Air Assault Brigade. I feel really lucky and thankful to everyone who's helped me get through it.

"To be the first, I feel like the Emiline Pankhurst of the Reservists. There were generations of women that tried to get women the vote but don't get the recognition that she did.

"There have been so many women that have attempted such incredible feats in the military context, both sporting and arduous course, who don't get that recognition because they didn't quite get past the final milestone. I stand on the shoulders of some awesome men and women."

One Clan, Many Cultures





By Maj Oli Davies

Clanfest – a day dedicated to 19th Regiment Royal Artillery community, culture and comradeship - has once again brought together serving personnel, families, veterans and friends of The Scottish Gunners.

Supported by volunteers from across the Regiment, the event provided an opportunity for the Clan to come together, strengthen friendships and create new ones.

Hear the clan

The Pipes and Drum set the tone with a stirring performance. Fresh from an exceptionally busy period and already preparing for the Edinburgh Tattoo 2027, their display showcased the talent, professionalism and heritage that remain at the heart of 19RA.

'Cibi' war dance

The Pipes and Drums were followed by a memorable moment from the Regiment's Fijian community. A traditional welcome song and a powerful performance of the Cibi war dance served as a fitting reminder of the diversity, strength and character that continue to define today's Royal Artillery.

Cultures, traditions and diversity

One of the most popular features of the day was the work of the Culture Committee. With representatives from 13 nations, visitors were treated to a display of cultures, traditions and hospitality from across the Regiment.

Traditional food proved particularly popular, with families and visitors enjoying the remarkable diversity that exists within the Regimental community. The event highlighted how people from different backgrounds, cultures and experiences continue to serve together under a shared Gunner identity.

Let the games begin

As always, friendly rivalry was never far away. The annual Tug of War competition drew competitors from across the Regiment, with every Battery eager to ascend the winners' rostrum. Following a series of fiercely contested rounds, 13 (Martinique 1809) Battery took both the winner's trophy - and a year's worth of bragging rights!

Quality timeout in a busy world

Clanfest provided a valuable opportunity for serving personnel and their families to spend quality time together away from routine commitments. In a Regiment whose people continue to deploy worldwide on operations, exercises and commitments, events like this remain an important reminder that the strength of the Clan extends far beyond the workplace.

Our greatest strength

As the Royal Regiment continues to evolve and meet the challenges of the future, Clanfest is an important opportunity to celebrate what has always been one of its greatest strengths: its people. It also underlined that the Scottish Gunners remain firmly committed to our culture, heritage and identity.

This has been a superb start point as we build towards two significant opportunities next year: exercising our Freedom of Inverness and supporting the Edinburgh Tattoo

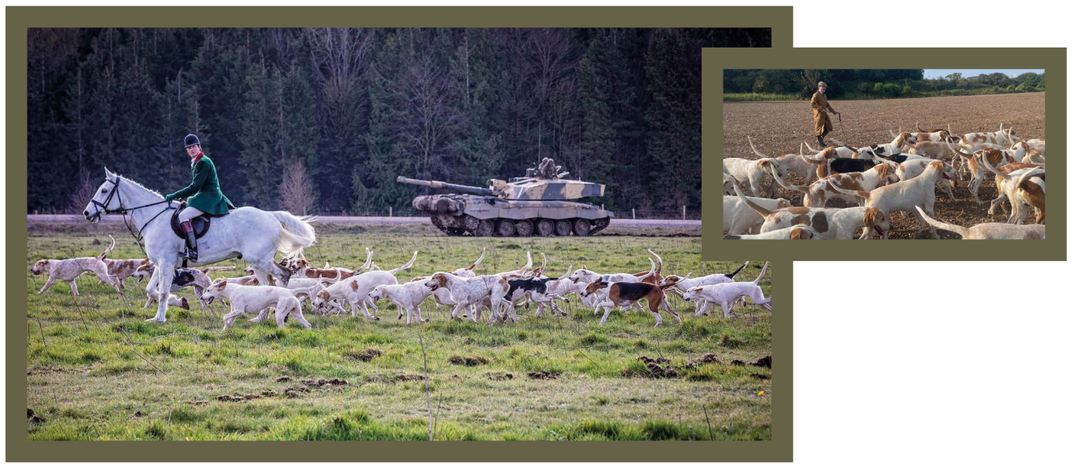
Both will provide important platforms to showcase the Regiment, strengthen our links with Scotland, and celebrate the enduring spirit of the Gunner family.

The success of Clanfest 2026 was only possible by a generous donation from the RA charities, the dedication and hard work of SSgt Rai and his team, and the many volunteers who supported the event.



Hounds, Horses and ‘Spicy Orienteering’

Opportunities you won’t find elsewhere in the Army are part of what makes the Royal Artillery special. And one of its most unusual is the Royal Artillery Hounds.



By Capt Joe Gregg

Once, many of the most distinguished regiments in the British Army had their own pack of hounds, maintained to promote sport and morale within the unit. Today, there is only one regimental pack of hounds left in existence: the Royal Artillery Hounds.

Kennelled in Bulford, these special animals are a lesser-known contingent of Gunners, and most importantly, they are for everyone, of all ranks and backgrounds, to enjoy!

The Royal Artillery Hunt conducts drag hunting on Saturdays and occasionally Wednesdays (sports afternoons) throughout the season, which runs from mid-October until late March.

Drag hunting does not involve hunting animals - instead, a scented rag is dragged along a predetermined route on horseback, quad bike or foot, creating a trail for the hounds to follow.

It is incredibly impressive to watch as they run for miles at great speeds, constantly sniffing out and following the line laid for them.

The RA Hunt often uses cross-country runners to lay the line, making it great phys as well as great fun. Think of it as **“spicy orienteering”**, except you’re navigating the countryside with a pack of very friendly hounds in pursuit.

The purpose of the sport is to follow and watch the hounds as they perform the impressive task of working together as a pack to find the end.

Each day begins with a “meet”, often accompanied by sausage rolls, cake and a small glass of port before everyone heads out on the first line. It’s a great social occasion and a chance to meet people from across the Regimental community.



The hounds are best followed on horseback, but you can also watch on foot or by car, with the Secretary or one of the Masters able to suggest the best places to see them working. Subscriptions and daily visitor rates are significantly discounted for Service personnel, with further reductions for serving members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

And you don’t need to spend a day hunting to get involved. The Hunt Supporters’ Club runs events and socials throughout the year, while the annual summer puppy show introduces the latest litters before their first season.

At kennels in Bulford, the hounds are cared for year-round by the Kennel Huntsman, a permanent member of staff. Every morning, the hounds need to be exercised, which involves taking around forty hounds, or “twenty couple” in hunting terminology, out onto Salisbury Plain to stretch their legs.

It is, without doubt, one of the best ways to start the day. This sport has the full backing of RHQ RA and most chains of command would be happy to grant a late start once or twice a week to a selfless individual who is willing to roll up their sleeves and help maintain the Regiment’s hounds.

If they can’t be persuaded then, in the summer, when the sun is up early, you can easily walk out with hounds and be back at Larkhill for first parade at 0830hrs.

If you would like to get involved in the Royal Artillery Hunt in any capacity, please reach out to the Royal Artillery Hunt Secretary at secretary@royalartilleryhunt.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can contact Captain Joe Gregg on Joe.Gregg100@mod.gov.uk.

47TH REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

Hooked on victory: 47 RA pair land Royal Artillery carp championship

By SSgt Ronnie Smith

With high temperatures, relentless competition, personal bests tumbling and fish seemingly queuing up to be caught - the 2026 Royal Artillery Carp Group (RACG) Championships had it all.

Held at the famous Brasenose Two at Linear Fisheries, the Championships are the pinnacle of the RACG season, bringing together anglers from across the Royal Artillery to compete for the title of RA Carp Champion. They also provide a platform for anglers to develop their skills and put themselves forward for selection to represent the Royal Artillery at the Inter Corps Carp Championships and, ultimately, Army Tri-Service level.

The RACG has competed at the ICCC for more than a decade, with the team's progress over the past five years establishing it as one of the Army's leading carp fishing teams.

Competitors arrived at B2 in July to bright sunshine and high-pressure conditions. Following the AGM, attention turned to the all-important peg draw, with defending champions Capt Jimmy Cain RA and Maj Chris Parry RA hoping to secure an impressive third consecutive championship victory.

Despite the heat, B2 lived up to its reputation as one of the country's premier carp venues. Fish were being caught across the lake, with reports of 30lb-plus carp quickly circulating. As the hours passed, the leaderboard remained incredibly tight, with only a few pounds separating the leading pairs.

Then came the breakthrough.

WO2 Tyler Brimson and Bdr Christopher Evans, both 47 RA, found the fish and began piling on the weight. Evans landed an impressive personal best of **40lb 14oz,** while both anglers recorded PBs during the competition. Their haul ultimately proved impossible to overhaul.

When the final horn sounded on 22 July, **109 carp** had been officially recorded, with every pair catching fish and several anglers securing new personal bests.

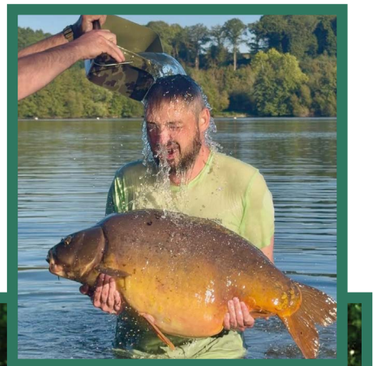
The final podium saw WO2 Ryan Zietsman (7 PARA RHA) and Sgt Shane Thomas (RSA) take third, with WO2 James Palk (14 RA) and SSgt Lewis Harrison (26 RA) finishing runners-up.

The 2026 Royal Artillery Carp Champions were **WO2 Tyler Brimson and Bdr Christopher Evans, both 47 RA.**

With fierce competition, superb catches and outstanding camaraderie, the Championships set a new benchmark for the RACG - and provided plenty of evidence that, when it comes to Army carp fishing, the Royal Artillery means business.

With thanks to the RA Charities for supporting this event.

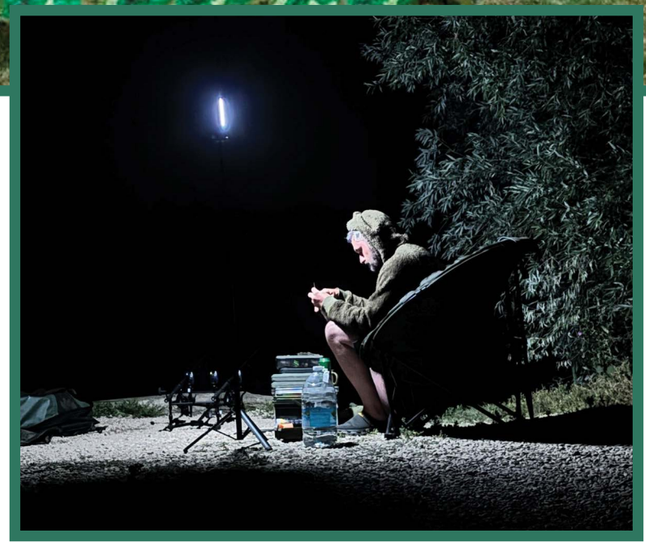
The RACG welcomes Regular and Reserve personnel of all abilities. To get involved, contact Bdr Chris Evans at Christopher.Evans215@mod.gov.uk, or find RA CARPERS on Facebook and @RA.Carpers on Instagram.







Carp Champions WO2 Tyler Brimson and Bdr Christopher Evans both 47 RA



ALLIED AIR POWER AND PRECISION FIRES UNITE ON FLASH EAGLE

As lessons from contemporary conflicts continue to shape military training, NATO Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) gathered in France and the UK for Exercise Flash Eagle 26-4, a three-week programme designed to strengthen allied interoperability and prepare forces for the demands of large-scale combat operations.

By Maj Sam Smeddle

Over three demanding weeks, Fox (Air) Troop, 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, joined with American and Spanish controllers, and worked alongside French Air Force aircrew, in a realistic large-scale combat operations environment, controlling 28 aircraft and completing 35 live controls - while refining the skills and procedures that underpin effective allied air support on future operations.

The first phase took place at the Suippes Air Weapons Range in north-eastern France, where multinational teams focused on the planning, coordination and control of Close Air Support within a complex and contested battlespace. Working alongside French Air Force Rafale and Mirage 2000D aircraft, JTACs conducted a combination of dry and live controls, integrating joint fires and air support in scenarios designed to reflect the challenges of modern conflict.

Beyond maintaining individual competence, Flash Eagle provided a valuable forum for allied nations to exchange tactics, techniques and procedures while strengthening mutual understanding of national operating methods.

Training alongside partner nations enhanced collective effectiveness and reinforced the standardised procedures that underpin NATO operations.

Returning to Larkhill for the final phase of the exercise, personnel employed the Nautilus simulator to deliver a series of high-tempo and high-complexity scenarios designed to test decision-making under pressure.

Reflecting lessons from contemporary conflicts, these serials enabled participants to complete currency requirements while further developing their ability to operate in dynamic and demanding environments.

Across the training period, JTACs controlled 28 aircraft and completed 35 live controls, while also supporting French Air Force pilots working towards operational and flight lead qualifications.

Flash Eagle 26-4 proved a valuable opportunity to sharpen JTAC skills, strengthen enduring NATO partnerships and demonstrate the professionalism of Fox (Air) Troop operating alongside allied forces.

As collective defence remains central to NATO activity, exercises such as Flash Eagle ensure allied JTACs remain ready to deliver effective and responsive air support whenever and wherever required.

1ST REGIMENT ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY



Exercise CYPHER CYCLONE: Forging 3 RHA's Future

The future battlefield belongs to the force that can sense, decide and strike first. Exercise Cypher Cyclone gave 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery the opportunity to prove it can do exactly that.

By Maj S L Jones RHA, BC J (Sidi Rezegh) HQ Bty RHA

Deploying to Salisbury Plain for three weeks of collective training, the Regiment conducted its first large-scale exercise as an MLRS force. Operating across a dispersed battlespace and linked by data, digital systems and resilient communications, Cypher Cyclone tested the ability to generate combat power and deliver deep fires at the speed demanded by modern warfare.

More than just another field exercise, it marked a significant milestone: with C Battery RHA split between Op CABRIT and PCC6, the remainder of the Regiment saw a full-scale deployment, including all echelons, since re-rolling from the Light Gun to MLRS.

The deployment was preceded by a considerable effort across the Regiment to generate and prepare the fleet. Significant Equipment Support challenges had to be overcome to ensure vehicles, launchers and support platforms were available for the exercise.

Through the dedication of REME personnel, civilian contractors and unit staff, 3 RHA successfully generated the combat power required to deploy the Regiment at scale, providing an early demonstration of the teamwork and determination that would characterise the exercise.

Dispersed across SPTA, the exercise provided a realistic test of the Regiment's ability to command, sustain and fight a distributed force. The scale of the deployment challenged commanders and soldiers alike, demanding effective coordination across a wide area while maintaining the agility required of a modern Deep Fires unit.

The exercise was structured around progressive training objectives, beginning with Training Level Alpha and a visit from Commander 1st DRS Brigade, Brigadier Chris Wild, before advancing through Bravo and Charlie serials. Each phase increased in complexity, building competence at every level before culminating in a Regimental phase that brought together all elements of the force. This final stage validated not only the Regiment's readiness, but its ability to generate combat power as a cohesive MLRS force.

A defining feature of Cypher Cyclone was the focus on communications as a critical enabler



of lethality. In the MLRS era, the destructive power of rockets alone does not create battlefield advantage; success depends on the ability to identify targets, pass information rapidly and deliver effects faster than an adversary can react. Put simply, our lethality begins with our ability to communicate.

Operating across such a dispersed area tested command and control networks to their limits. Throughout the exercise, the Regiment made extensive use of DARKSKY, exploiting data to build a shared understanding of the battlespace and support decision-making at every level. Combined with FC BISA, commanders and staff were able to refine the systems and processes that connect sensors, headquarters and launchers. The speed and accuracy with which information was shared directly influenced the Regiment's ability to deliver timely and effective fires.



Cypher Cyclone reinforced a key lesson for the future battlefield: the force that can understand, decide and act quickest gains the decisive advantage. For 3 RHA, that means harnessing data, exploiting digital systems and ensuring resilient communications to maximise the lethality of our launchers. Every fire mission, every movement and every decision relied upon effective communications and information exchange.

The summer heatwave tested both personnel and equipment, requiring disciplined leadership and robust force health protection measures to maintain operational effectiveness. Despite challenging conditions, soldiers across the Regiment displayed resilience, professionalism and determination throughout.

The final Regimental phase was observed by the Regimental Colonel and Honorary Colonel, showcasing the progress made throughout the exercise and the professionalism of 3 RHA's soldiers. Their visit underlined Cypher Cyclone's importance as a key step towards validation later this year and came as the Regiment prepares to receive its first six M270A2 launchers, providing a significant boost to the capability.

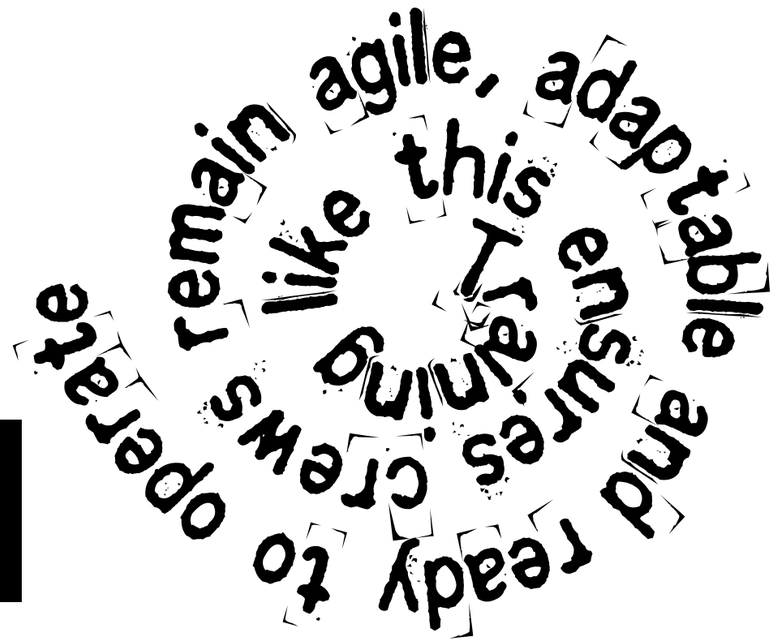


Exercise Cypher Cyclone demonstrated the Regiment's ability to deploy, sustain and operate at scale as a modern MLRS force. Most importantly, it proved that while our rockets provide the effect, it is our people, data and communications that generate true battlefield lethality.

3RD REGIMENT ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY

3rd RHA is part of 1st Deep Reconnaissance Strike Brigade.

The regiment is also known as the Liverpool & Manchester Gunners.



3rd RHA was formed in 1938 from existing batteries with roots tracing back to the late 18th century.

The regiment is currently based at Albemarle Barracks in Northumberland and is known for its role in providing deep fires to support manoeuvre forces through long-range engagements.

GURKHA GUNNERS CONQUER THE CHALLENGE





Trailwalker remains one of the most demanding and prestigious events in the Brigade of Gurkhas' calendar, bringing together military and civilian teams to tackle a gruelling 100km endurance march and run.

Completed in teams of four, the challenge tests physical resilience, mental toughness, teamwork and determination, while also raising vital funds for The Gurkha Welfare Trust.

The King's Gurkha Artillery (KGA) once again demonstrated its strength by fielding five teams at Trailwalker 2026. Representing both serving personnel and members of the KGA Ladies' community, participants embodied the values and fighting spirit that define the Gurkha Gunner family.

The KGA teams competing this year were:

- 34 (Seringapatam) Battery Team
- E Battery Team
- RHQ KGA Team, aptly named Never Too Old for Trailwalker
- KGA Ladies Team
- KGA Ladies Relay Team

Throughout the demanding course, competitors faced a stern test of endurance, pushing themselves through fatigue and challenging conditions. Yet every kilometre covered reflected the resilience, determination and unwavering commitment that characterise Gurkha Gunners.

A particularly notable achievement came from 34 (Seringapatam) Battery, who secured an outstanding 9th place overall, completing the 100km course in an impressive time of 11 hours and 3 minutes. Their performance was testament to months of preparation, discipline and teamwork.

While placings and times are important, Trailwalker is ultimately about much more than competition. The event showcases the strength of the Gurkha community, the bonds forged through shared hardship and the willingness of participants to support a worthy charitable cause.

On behalf of the Colonel KGA, Commander KGA, Gurkha Major and the entire KGA Pariwar, congratulations go to all those who took part. Their commitment, teamwork and endurance throughout the challenge are truly inspiring and bring great credit to the King's Gurkha Artillery. Trailwalker 2026 once again proved that the Gurkha Gunner spirit remains as strong as ever.

Jai KGA!

A Day of Reflection, Inspiration, and Strength







47 Regiment Royal Artillery brought together soldiers, mental health professionals and inspirational speakers for a Regimental Resilience Day aimed at strengthening the personal and professional qualities that underpin operational effectiveness.

Held at Newcome Hall at the Royal School of Artillery, the event was conceived by WO2 Wayne Byles, the Regiment's Unit Welfare Warrant Officer, to explore resilience not as an abstract concept, but as a practical skill shaped by experience, leadership and teamwork.

The day opened with powerful presentations from WO2 Katie Strickland and Captain Charlie Millar of the Department of Community Mental Health. Drawing on their professional expertise, they examined resilience from a holistic perspective, highlighting the importance of team cohesion, leadership, morale and the confidence to seek support when needed.

Their presentations addressed subjects including trauma, legacy abuse and practical coping strategies, while emphasising the role of sleep, emotional regulation and mental conditioning in maintaining operational readiness. The sessions set the tone for a day focused on honest discussion and personal reflection.

Rather than focusing on rigid categories, the event explored resilience as a whole-person concept, touching every part of life, both in and out of uniform. Discussions ranged from physical endurance and mental agility to emotional regulation and the importance of strong social bonds.

Real stories

These ideas were brought to life through real stories that highlighted the power of connection, honesty, and perseverance.

Major Jennifer Stephenson RA shared her journey as a member of the Ice Maidens - the first all-female team to cross Antarctica coast to coast using muscle power alone - and the All-Arms Commando Course. Speaking openly about moments of vulnerability, during Arctic preparations, and the silent support of her teammates, she highlighted the value of self-awareness, the importance of speaking openly about difficulties and the quiet support provided by trusted teammates.

Former 22 SAS soldier and bestselling author Phil Campion recounted his experiences during Operation Barras, using them to illustrate the importance of leadership, mentorship and positive role models.

His message resonated strongly with the audience as he emphasised the influence individuals can have on those around them and the importance of making sound decisions under pressure.

A person is only ever "two bad decisions away from losing everything", he said, underscoring the need for grounded leadership and resilience.

Melvyn Downes, also former 22 SAS, shared the remarkable story of his journey from facing racial harassment to becoming one of the first British-born Black soldiers to serve in the SAS. Reflecting on the influences that shaped his life, SAS founder David Stirling and his father Sammy Downes, he spoke about the values of self-discipline, classlessness, humility and humour – and the unrelenting pursuit of excellence – all of which shaped his resilience.

The day concluded with a formal dinner in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, attended by senior NCOs and officers, which gave an opportunity to continue conversations and reinforce the unity and mutual respect that is central to regimental life.

Regimental Resilience Day was more than a one-off event; it was a catalyst for cultural change and a demonstration of the Regiment's commitment to investing in its people.

It opened conversations, challenged assumptions, and reminded us that even the strongest among us need support.

The overwhelmingly positive response to it has already sparked discussion about future events, ensuring resilience remains not only a topic of conversation but a lasting part of the Regiment's culture.



ST BARBARA'S DAY 2026

This year we will be celebrating St Barbara's Day on 6 December 2026 at the Royal Garrison Church of St Alban with St Barbara, Larkhill. Outline timings for the Service are as follows:

1000 Standard Bearers arrive at the Church to receive a briefing.

1040 Congregation to be seated.

1100 Service begins.

After the Service, lunch will be served in the Royal Artillery Mess, places are limited (booking is required).

For anyone wishing to attend, please contact: cas.thoburn603@mod.gov.uk



132ND NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

Committee members met at Larkhill for the 132nd National Executive Meeting. During the meeting, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Mr John Bishop, who is retiring after 14 years in the voluntary role of Southern Regional Representative.

The following day, several members had the opportunity to visit the Garrison Artillery Volunteers and Royal Artillery Museum to view their impressive collection of guns, equipment and vehicles. Of particular interest was the ongoing refurbishment of the Sexton.



CARP ANGLING GROUP

The The Royal Artillery Carp Angling Group conducted an overseas visit to Lac Lepinet, France, providing members with the opportunity to develop their angling skills and gain valuable experience on a challenging French venue. The group enjoyed an outstanding week, landing 80 carp and achieving eight individual personal bests, including a superb 51lb fish. Changing weather conditions, wind direction and the lake's topography required anglers to adapt their approach throughout the week, developing skills in feature finding, accurate rig placement, watercraft and bait application.

Junior members particularly benefited from learning alongside more experienced anglers and applying new techniques in a competitive environment and confidence in fishing larger expanses of water and beneficial practical experience that can be taken forward into future angling. A member was fortunate to land five carp, including a new personal best of 36.4 lb.

The group would like to express its sincere thanks to the Royal Artillery Association for its generous support, which helped make this valuable overseas opportunity possible and enabled members to develop their skills, experience and camaraderie.



3RD TIME LUCKY - RAA SEC REGIONAL VISIT NORTHERN IRELAND

One should never start with an apology, but having planned and had to cancel on two previous occasions it was with great anticipation and a little trepidation that I disembarked the ferry in Dublin and start my drive north to Coleraine. My concerns were utterly unfounded as I received the warmest of welcomes across the region.

The highlights of the next three days are probably too many to mention in this short piece and anything after the Bushmills Distillery visit feels a little blurry... the Coleraine Branch Meeting at 206 Battery (B Troop) after the recent refurbishment was hugely educational, the wonderful lunch at Portballintrae and the remarkable visit to the RNLI team at Portrush and whilst I would want to list everyone for their support and welcome, to understand President of the Branch, Robin's story of commitment to the volunteer service both as a Gunner and his whole life manning the Lifeboat was simply humbling.

Onto Newtownards and day two of the visit but not before a quick walk to the Giants Causeway and a visit to the Titanic Museum. Again, a great meeting and the support our branches get from 105 Regt RA and 206 Bty is fundamental to the success of the RAA in the region.

The highlight of the Newtownards visit was the incredible work, dedication and story of the War Years Remembered Museum which focuses on First and Second World War Irish military and social history, including vehicles, medals, uniforms, the highlight by far being the Lieutenant Colonel Robert Blair "Paddy" Mayne DSO, collection, a founding member of the SAS native of Newtownards and fact not widely known started his military career as a Gunner. I had the privilege of visiting his grave in Newtownards on my way home.

The last official serial of my visit was the Quarterly Regional meeting where I was able to present Dr John Fox (Regional Rep) with his Bronze Service Pin, followed by lunch at the Ulster Reform Club in Belfast which essentially brought this flying visit to an end. All I would like to say is 'thank you' to everyone for their patience initially and their support on what was a truly great visit for not only me but also my wife Julie.

To all members but especially the committees, I say thank you and see you all again soon, although given the amount of Ulster Fry's I ate, not until I embark on a serious fitness and diet session...



SCUNTHORPE BRANCH

The RAA Scunthorpe Branch celebrated its 15th Anniversary Autumn Ball at the Wortley Hotel, Scunthorpe, on 17 October 2026. The event brought together 96 guests, including branch members, serving soldiers and veterans from across the cap badges, together with invited guests from the wider Royal Artillery family.

During the evening, Mrs Freda Stow, Welfare Officer, was presented with the RAA Silver Medal in recognition of 10 years' service. The presentation was made by Major Dickie Davies, RAA Secretary, who also spoke about the RAA and the wider Royal Artillery family.

The anniversary celebration was described as a fantastic evening of food, entertainment and comradeship, providing a fitting occasion to mark this important milestone for the Scunthorpe Branch.



RAB&JLRRA 36TH ANNUAL REUNION

On the weekend beginning Friday, 2 October 2026, the 36th Annual Reunion of the Royal Artillery Boys and Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Artillery took place in Coventry. This year's reunion was attended by 117 former Boys and their partners.

The weekend began with arrivals on Friday, followed on Saturday by a trip to RAF Cosford to visit the Royal Air Force Museum. The highlight of Saturday evening was the Gala Dinner, before everyone said their farewells and dispersed on Sunday.

Entertainment at the Gala Dinner came in several forms. QuickSilver, a bugle quintet from the Royal Green Jackets and Light Infantry, entertained us with five sets of bugle calls. They were followed by a set from a band made up of ex-Boy drummers drawn from the audience.

We were also delighted to be entertained by Colin Thackery, winner of Britain's Got Talent and a Chelsea Pensioner from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, together with singer Kirsten Osborne, who kept the audience entertained right through until midnight.

Alongside the Gala Dinner and other activities, we also held the Association's Annual General Meeting. Throughout the weekend, Steve Collins' mobile history room, featuring his fantastic collection of memorabilia, was available for everyone to browse and enjoy.

It was a fantastic weekend and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Our thanks go to everyone who helped make the reunion such a memorable occasion.

The next reunion is planned for the weekend of 8-10 October 2027. We look forward to seeing everyone again!



1 RHA PPMA DINNER 2026

The annual 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery Past and Present Members Association (PPMA) Dinner returned this year, bringing together 130 serving soldiers and veterans in Nottingham for another highly successful gathering.

Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nottingham city centre, the event marked a change of venue aimed at making attendance easier for veterans through improved transport links and more affordable accommodation. The weekend began with battery reunions across the city, giving former comrades the opportunity to renew friendships and share memories before the main event.

A light-hearted highlight of the preparations saw the Regimental Sergeant Major and WO2 Chadd attempting to dismantle a Pack Howitzer to get it into the hotel. Despite determined efforts, the gun ultimately remained outside, much to the amusement of those involved.

The dinner was attended by former Commanding Officer Major General David Cullen CB OBE and Colonel Paul Bates, RA Regimental Secretary, alongside serving and former members of the Regiment. Guests heard an update from the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel AM Richardson MBE RHA, before a toast was made to Absent Friends, reflecting on those who remain part of the regimental family.

The continued growth of the PPMA highlights the enduring strength of the 1 RHA family. Attendance has increased from around 50 members just five years ago to 130 this year, firmly establishing the dinner as one of the Regiment's key annual events.

The Regiment also expressed its gratitude to the Royal Artillery Association, the PPMA Committee and the serving soldiers whose commitment and hard work ensured another memorable weekend celebrating the bonds between past and present generations of Gunners.

Ubique



RED CYPHER - 3 RHA PPMA DINNER 2026

Around 80 serving and veteran members of 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery gathered at the prestigious Iconic Room, Freemasons' Hall, Nottingham, on 19 September 2026 for the 26th Annual Red Cypher Past and Present Members Dinner.

The evening was presided over by the new Red Cypher President, Major General (Retd) Matthew Sykes, who was joined by his predecessor, General Sir Richard Barrons, Lieutenant Colonel Alasdair Felton RHA, Commanding Officer 3 RHA, and Red Cypher Chairman, Colonel (Retd) Andrew Budd.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for former and serving members of the Regiment to reconnect with old comrades, renew friendships and share memories of service. The strong turnout reflected the enduring spirit and camaraderie that exists throughout the Red Cypher family.

The dinner was supported by both Red Cypher, the Regimental Charity, and the Royal Artillery Association. Through community welfare and support grants, these organisations help ensure such events remain affordable and accessible, enabling serving personnel and veterans alike to maintain valuable social connections and continue supporting one another long after their service has ended.

The success of the evening once again highlighted the strength of the Regimental network and the importance of preserving the friendships and welfare support that bind the Royal Regiment community together.

RAA BATTERY GRANTS

One of the charitable objects of the Association is to promote comradeship, fostering esprit de corps and preseving 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 from carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk or through your chain of command.



4TH REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY - BACKYARD ULTRA

Around 100 runners from 4th Regiment Royal Artillery took on the Regiment's inaugural Backyard Ultra, held in memory of Gnr Hatton.

The challenge required runners to complete a 6.7 km loop every hour, continuing until they reached their limit. Many achieved personal milestones, from their first 10 km to marathon distances and beyond.

After an impressive 16 hours, WO2 Handyside of 88 Battery was the final runner remaining, completing approximately 110 km and taking first place.

Supported throughout by the wider Regimental family, the event demonstrated tremendous endurance,

determination and team spirit. Funding from the RAA Charity helped make the event possible, while local vendors also raised funds for FOREVER4TH.

Above all, the event provided a fitting opportunity for 4 RA to come together and remember Gnr Hatton. Following its success, it is hoped the Backyard Ultra will become an annual Regimental challenge.

One loop. One hour. One more lap.



Please donate to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund & Association

More than £1m is granted annually – and you only need to have served for one day in the Royal Artillery to be part of our family for life; "Once a Gunner, always a Gunner".

Donate at racf.enthuse.com

The Royal Artillery Association was established on 26 May 1920 by the RA War Commemoration Fund to create a 'Gunner Friend' network organisation in every part of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth

295 (HAMPSHIRE YEOMANRY) BATTERY ROYAL ARTILLERY 106 (YEOMANRY) REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

295 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battery RA marked its annual Battery Birthday celebrations on 4-5 September 2026, bringing together officers and soldiers to celebrate the unit's achievements and growing traditions.

Based at Hilsea, Portsmouth, and part of 106th (Yeomanry) Regiment Royal Artillery, the Army Reserve's only reserve air defence regiment, 295 Battery operates the Starstreak High Velocity Missile and Lightweight Multirole Missile (LMM) systems.

A highlight of this year's event was the Battery Commander's decision to bring together the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes for a joint celebration, strengthening relationships and reinforcing the strong sense of identity within the Battery.

The event was supported by a £950 grant from the Royal Artillery Association, whose continued support helps Batteries and Regiments build cohesion and maintain the vital connection between serving soldiers and veterans.

295 Battery expressed its sincere thanks to the RAA for helping make the celebrations possible and for its ongoing commitment to the wider Gunner family.

Supporting the Gunner family when it matters most

WELFARE TO DATE

- 531 people supported
- £525,000 awarded
- 91 serving soldiers and families assisted
- £115,000 provided to serving personnel
- £106,000 spent replacing essential household appliances

No Gunner should face hardship alone.

Life can change in an instant. An unexpected bill, illness, family crisis, relationship breakdown, or financial hardship can quickly place immense pressure on serving soldiers, veterans, and their families.

When those challenges arise, the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF) is here to help.

Over the past year alone, the RACF has supported 531 members of the Gunner family, providing more than £525,000 in assistance.

Following a period of homelessness, one veteran was allocated an adapted bungalow with a wet room, grab rails and a profiling bed to support their mobility needs. Living with complex health conditions including cerebral palsy, chronic spinal issues, PTSD, visual impairment, and memory difficulties, they faced significant challenges to their independence.

The RACF helped fund essential household items and worked with health professionals to arrange assessments and create a safer, more accessible home - maintaining independence as while continuing to access care and rehabilitation services.

Another Army Reservist was supported following medical discharge. We helped bridge the uncertainty between leaving service and receiving statutory benefits by enabling them to meet day-to-day living expenses.

On average, beneficiaries received £989.

Where the Money Comes From?

This support comes through the generosity of donors, trusts, legacies, Service Day's Pay subscribers and those who support the Gunner charity community.

We Are Here to Help With

- Essential household items and appliances
- Utility and critical household arrears
- Food and day-to-day living costs during periods of hardship
- Emergency assistance following unexpected life events
- Signposting to specialist support organisations

If you know a fellow Gunner, veteran, family member, or member of your RA Association who may be struggling, please reach out to us.

Need Help?

For advice, support, or to discuss a potential case, contact the Welfare Team:
☎ 0303 379 4560
☎ 0303 378 7035
✉ RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk
Alternatively, contact:
SSAFA: 0800 731 4880
Royal British Legion: 0808 802 8080
Contact can also be made through the RA Association website.

The RACF exists for one simple reason: no member of the Gunner Family should face hardship alone. Whether serving, retired, young or old, help is available when it is needed most.

The new RCH 155 is here!

It's automated.
It's mobile.
It's lethal.
155mm artillery on a proven Boxer platform



Picture credit: Bdr Ben Watson

600kw engine
100km/h
700km range
8 rounds a minute
30 projectiles
144 charges

EVENTS

NOV		8
RA CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE	HYDE PARK CORNER	
NOV		25
RA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT	LARKHILL	
DEC		6
ST BARBARA'S DAY	LARKHILL GARRISON CHURCH	
FEB		18
RA GOLD CUP	SANDOWN	
MAR		4
ALANBROOKE LUNCH	LONDON	
MAR		10
RAA NEC	LARKHILL	
MAR		18
RA BOXING FINALS	LARKHILL	
APR		18
GUNNER SUNDAY	ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA	
MAY		15
RAA NEC	BLACKPOOL	
JUL		3
RA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE	NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM	
OCT		7
ALANBROOKE LUNCH	LONDON	
OCT		13
RAA NEC	LARKHILL	

LAST POST

Notification of Death:

NICHOLSON - Lieutenant Colonel John Nicholson MBE died peacefully at his home in Moretonhampstead, Devon, on Saturday 3rd October at the age of 82. Beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to many. Funeral to be held at St Mary and All Saints Church, Dunsfold, Surrey on Friday 20th November at 11.30am.

STIRLING - Sergeant Walter (Wally) Stirling died peacefully at home on 28 August 2026, following a long period of illness. After leaving the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Artillery in 1969, Wally was posted to 30 Battery, 16 Lt AD Regt, where he served predominantly as a radar operator on a Bofors 40/70 detachment. He was later promoted to Sergeant and appointed as one of the 12 detachment commanders who completed the conversion to the Rapier weapon system in 1978. During his time with 16 Regiment he served five tours of Northern Ireland, in Belfast, Londonderry and Armagh. Wally was the beloved husband of Jackie, who sadly passed in 2008: He was a devoted father to Lisa, Helen and Andrew and a much loved grandfather to Coral, Lucius and Samson. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES FOR OUR SISTER PUBLICATION THE JOURNAL

To addresses in the UK and BFPO:
The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £10

To addresses in Europe:
The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £14

To addresses in the rest of the world:
The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £17

RA Historical Society Shrapnel Lectures 2027

DATE AND TIMINGS	EVENT	SUBJECT	LECTURER/ LEAD
2027	LECTURE THEME	REINFORCEMENTS AND RESERVISTS	
Tuesday January 19 or 26 1930 hrs	Webinar	The Elswick Battery in the Boer War and beyond	To be notified
Tuesday 23 February 1930 hrs	Webinar	'If you organise the British Army, you'll ruin it': Haldane and the reconstruction of the Army 1906-12	Dr Spencer Jones, RA Regimental Historian
Tuesday 20 April Congreve Lecture Day, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill	Lunch and AGM Newcome Hall & RA Mess	Britain's German Reinforcements: The Hessians in The American War of Independence New Engines of War: The Impact of Railway's on Reinforcement and Resupply	Dr Rodney Atwood Dr Michael Phillips

These events are open to all Gunners. To register please email Lt Col Clayton, RAHS Secretary: richard.clayton312@gmail.com

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

Captain Martin Pearson TD 1947-2026: Service, Duty and Family



Martin Pearson died at the University Hospital of Wales on the 31st July 2026, having suffered from cancer.

He was Cardiff born and bred and had spent most of his life in the city. After Llanishen High School, where he excelled at mathematics, he worked for the GPO before transferring to what is now HM Revenue and Customs and became an Inspector.

Martin joined the Territorial Army at the age of 17, serving in 282 (Glamorgan and Monmouth) Field Regiment. On re-organisation in 1967, 282 Regiment became part of 104 Light Air Defence Regiment RA(V), and he served in the Glamorgan Yeomanry Troop, based at Ely Barracks and later at Maindy Barracks in Cardiff.

Participation in the firing of Royal Salutes was always a special part of his military service.

He took part in the major BAOR Exercises in the 1980s and became Troop Sergeant Major before being promoted to BSM of 211 (South Wales) Air Defence Battery whose Headquarters was at Raglan Barracks in Newport.

During his military career he worked with the 25-pounder and Bofors guns, and the Blowpipe and Javelin surface to air missile systems.

His sharp intellect, people skills and familiarity with figures led to Martin being commissioned into the Adjutant General's Corps where he served as Assistant Paymaster in 104 Regiment before moving to 157 (Wales and Midlands) Logistic Support Regiment RLC as RAO(V) (where he was at a difficult time Adjutant for four months) and the Wales University Officer Training Corps where he provided audit support.

He retired from the Territorial Army in 2007 after more than 40 years' service. He had been awarded the Territorial Decoration, Commander in Chief's Commendation and two Lord Lieutenant's Certificates.

In retirement he was on hand to apply his experience to various organisations including the Miskin Mill Scout Village and as Treasurer of both the South Wales Royal Artillery Officers' Association and the Army Benevolent Fund Glamorgan Appeal.

Martin was above all a family man. He is survived by his wife Beverley and his daughters Nicola and Sarah.

A Life of Duty: Colonel Norman Davies MBE OBE (1933-2026)



Norman Davies was born in May 1933, the son of an hotelier who had served on The Somme in World War I with the RHA, but who died in 1937 leaving Norman and a younger sister.

Norman was six when World War II broke out in 1939. As a child he experienced the blitz in Liverpool. His early life was spent in North Wales, before joining Sandhurst in 1952. His compulsory pre-Sandhurst four months service in the ranks was spent in The King's Regiment (Liverpool), which convinced him that he would not wish to serve in the infantry!

After Sandhurst, he joined 56 others on 41 Young Officers' Course at Larkhill. Dying to travel outside UK he completed the Wish List as 1. FAREAST; 2. MELF; 3. BAOR; and 4. UK, anywhere but Wales. He was duly posted to 37 HAA Regt at Tonfanau on the west coast of Wales, but greatly relieved to discover the regiment was due for disbandment with the demise of HAA Command.

Up country

A year later he travelled by troop ship to join 1st Singapore Regiment RA on the island of Blakang Mati (now Sentosa) off Singapore. His first 18 months were spent in an AA battery, and he then achieved his ambition to be posted 'up-country' to the mainland of Malaya as the second officer in a section of two 3.7in AA guns firing into the jungle in the ground role. He always felt this was the nearest possible experience to being in the Indian Army. The section had 50 Malay soldiers from TSM down to Gunner and about 10 vehicles. The section was usually allocated to a brigade, and it was the responsibility of the Section Commander to make the arrangements for the collection of ammunition and, dry and fresh rations. It was a great life with the Battery Commander based at Kuala Lumpur over 100 miles away!

Daunting

In 1958 he 'earned his jacket' on posting to 4 RHA in 7th Armoured Brigade, based at Hohne, BAOR and equipped with the M44 Howitzer mounted on a tank chassis. Being relatively soon after World War II most of the senior ranks in the regiment were bemedalled veterans with much wartime experience. It was a daunting scenario for a subaltern, albeit with active service experience in Malaya.

In 1961-63 he had his first experience of service outside the RA as a staff captain in HQ 11th Infantry Brigade at Minden, BAOR. From 1963 to 65 he served as a wing commander at the Army Apprentice School at Chepstow, Monmouthshire, training apprentice tradesmen for the RE. During this period, he had the good fortune to observe the building of the Severn Bridge from Aust to Beachley.

In 1965-66 having passed the Staff College Entrance Examination he attended the Technical Staff Course at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham at the conclusion of which he was selected to go on to the Staff College at Camberley thus earning the coveted 'double blue' and ptsc, psc.

In 1968-69, on the basis of his performance at Camberley, he served as Military Assistant to the Chief of Staff, a German major general, at HQ Northern Army Group at Rheindahlen, Germany; a demanding appointment for which he was made MBE.

In 1970, after nine years away from guns and gunners he was posted to 3 RHA, first at Detmold, BAOR, with Abbot, then at Colchester with 105mm pack howitzer and latterly the 105mm light gun. After a year as BC C Bty he became 2IC; an unwelcome move in a tour which itself was interrupted with two full tours and two short emergency tours in Northern Ireland.

In 1972-74 he returned as a GSO1 to the Staff College Camberley en route to the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College, at Kingston, Ontario, to serve a two- year tour as the UK exchange GSO 1 (DS).

Eventful tour

The next two and quarter years saw him as CO of 4th Regiment, first at Catterick then at Aldershot, all with the 105mm light gun. This included an eventful tour in Belfast. He felt proud to be the only former member of 4 RHA to command 4th Regiment in its new guise. His final appointment on promotion to Colonel was Military Director of Studies at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham.

On retirement from the Army in 1980 he became the Registrar/Chief Executive of the General Dental Council, the statutory body that regulates the dental profession.

On retirement in 1996, after 16 years with the GDC, he was appointed OBE and was thrilled to learn he was able to wear both the OBE and the MBE as they were in different divisions of the Order.

In retirement he served for some 12 years as a Justice of the Peace in Northeast Hampshire. He was heavily involved in Service charities as chairman of the local branch of the Royal British Legion and with the Army Benevolent Fund.

He is survived by his wife Penny, son Peter and daughter Clare together with four grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Army Benevolent Fund

Remembering Sgt Tony Hunt, A Gentleman Gunner

By Nigel Hunt



Sgt Tony Hunt was born on 16 March 1929 and served in the RA from 1947-73. He died in June aged 97.

He was a kind and gentle man who lived every day to the best of his ability and always tried to help others. After six years' regular service he left the Army but joined back up again after four years to complete a 22-year career.

Born in Streatham, London, he never knew his parents and at the age of six or seven was sent by the Waifs and Strays Society to live with a family in Norfolk. The oldest of seven or eight boys, he lived the classic lifestyle of getting up early, feeding the chickens, lighting the fire, and then having a two-mile walk to school.

World War II meant leaving school at 14 and supporting the war effort, which he duly did, and worked as a stoker's assistant on the steam trains of the London Midland Scottish Railway.

Leaping aboard

In April 1947 he joined the General Service Corps at Northampton, aged 18, due, in part, because he was broke and anyone joining got a 'King's Bob' (5p at the time).

Tony served in several Regiments which started when he was posted to Woolwich Grand Depot. At the time, the accommodation blocks had first floor verandas and individuals could jump down onto the horses, if they were skilled enough, before trotting off for a gallop on Woolwich Common.

In February 1948 he was posted to Itzehoe, Germany to join 27 Heavy Regt RA and was trained on the 25 Pdrs, before being posted to C Bty RHA, 5 Regt RA in Roberts Bks, Osnabruck.

In early 1950 the regiment moved to Robert Lines in Larkhill. It was during this time that a prank on his best friend ended up with a short stay at Colchester Glass House; he hid his friend's best boots moments before Guard Mounting ...and his friend reported them stolen.

His next move was to join 63 Heavy Anti-Aircraft (HAA) Regt RA at Shoeburyness, which was an experimental unit at the time. This was short lived and in August 1950 he was posted to 27 HAA Regt in Hong Kong, where he joined 6 Independent Bty at Tates Cain, a mountain OP and HAA Gun Bty position defending Hong Kong and overlooking Victoria Harbour. By now he had served over five-and-a-half years, and they offered him his first stripe but wouldn't pay him, so he left and got demobbed instead.

Four years later in October 1956, he rejoined the RA at the age of 26 when he initially trained as a Radar Operator but soon moved to the Motor Transport trade.

He joined 57 HAA Regt RA at Orsett Camp near Grays in Essex before the Regiment moved to Gravesend and then, in November 1956, moved to Cyprus on Security Duties. The soldiers lived in tents just outside Limassol. The General Service Medal 1918-62 with 1955-59 Cyprus clasp was awarded to those who did 120 days. He only did 117 days, so missed out on a medal at the time, although in 2014 the criteria were reduced to 90 days, and so eventually he became eligible.

In March 1957 he joined 10 Assaye Bty, 37 Guided Wpns (GW) Regt RA at Piddlehinton Camp near Dorchester where he worked on the Thunderbird Surface to Air missile system, and then joined 36 GW Regt RA, its sister Regiment, before in Aug 64, being posted to Q Sanna's Post Bty, 5 Field Regt RA at Perham Down, near Tidworth.

He often mentioned this Bty and "four VCs before breakfast", which it won in the Second Boer War.

In August 1964, the Regiment moved to Gutersloh in BAOR where he stayed until April 1969 when it moved back to the UK at Wing Bks, Bulford, and he moved to P The Dragon Troop Bty RA.

Scotland bound

In May 1969 he was posted to Edinburgh Castle and joined 24 Cadet Training Team, before returning to 5 Regt RA in February 1972.

A four-month tour to Northern Ireland ensued before returning and joining 32 Light Regt RA. 5 Regt RA were back off to BAOR and he was due to leave the Army.

In his last few months in the Army, he managed to attend a 'Saddlery and Leather' course for resettlement which held him in good stead for his next adventure, which was to become a Master Saddler.

In May 1973 he eventually left the Army as a Sgt, having served a total of 22 years Colour Service and nearly four years' Reserve Service, a total of 26 years and 99 days, when he moved, with his family, back to Norfolk.

Whilst learning to be a Saddler, he supplemented his income as an HGV driver and then later getting a job working at Thetford Battle Area (STANTA as its now known) as a Civil Servant, which he secured through an old Gunner QM colleague.

In May 1994, at the age of 65, he retired from the Civil Service and continued with his saddlery, eventually became a Master Saddler. He gave this up eventually in his early 80s and took up making model replicas of olden day carts from the early 1900s.

Although suffering from cancer, Tony died peacefully at home surrounded by family. He was a loving husband to Moira and beloved father to three sons, Nigel, who currently serves in the RA, Michael, who unfortunately died in 2023, and Jonathan.

The title of "Master Saddler" is awarded by recognized bodies such as the Society of Master Saddlers (SMS) in the UK, which oversees training, qualifications, and continuous professional development to maintain high standards in the craft.

REUNIONS

103 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY: ST BARBARA'S DINNER 26

On **5th December**. At 216 Battery, 103 Regt RA, Nelson Street, Bolton BL3 2RW. Open to officers of 103 Regiment RA, serving and retired, and their guests. For places, please apply to Alexander.Lane102@mod.gov.uk

4RA REUNION DINNER 28 NOVEMBER

The 4th Regiment Royal Artillery (The North East Gunners) Officers' Mess, Reunion will take place at The Army and Navy Club, London on Saturday 28 November. Former officers of the Regiment who wish to attend and have not received an invitation are kindly requested to contact the Dinner Secretary, Capt Al Wicking RA at alexander.wicking101@mod.gov.uk

GUNNERY CAREER COURSE NUMBER 5 4OTH ANNIVERSARY REUNION SEPTEMBER 2027

Anyone who was on the course, please contact Les Smith on leslie.smith@talktalk.net

FOR SALE

MESS KIT

No 1, No 2 and Mess Kits complete with caps, belts and ancillaries. Suit 40-42 inch chest 42 inch leg. Contact Capt (Retd) Alistair Smith on +447557 938670 or email athsmith1964@gmail.com

EVENTS

RA CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday 8th November
1030am till 11.15am
RA Monument, Hyde Park Corner
Reserved seating available here: https://buytickets.at/royalartillery/2298551

The event is open to all to attend and anyone wishing to book reserved seats is requested to do so. Please note that this is a free event, however seating is limited and will be issued on a first come first served basis. All attendees are required to be seated by 10.30am at the latest and are advised to dress accordingly for the weather as this is an open air event. All retired members of the regiment who attend are invited at the end of the Ceremony to join the march past. Any queries are to be directed to Mrs Carla Brawn, Email: carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk or via **telephone 0303 380 9714.**

LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Will you remember them?

Change starts with a Will

The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund has provided support to the Gunner wider community. We are committed to ensuring support is there to veterans, helping our historic heritage, and nurturing the unique community that makes the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund so special.

Leaving a gift in your Will is a simple yet powerful way to help secure this future.
Your generosity ensures that the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund can continue to provide welfare support, and quality of life, not just today, but for generations to come.

Every legacy, large or small, has a meaningful impact. Whether you're updating an existing Will or writing a new one.

REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARDS ORDER FORM 2026

A 
Foiled RA Badge
£14.50 per pack of 10
incl p&p*
140x102mm
With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year

B 
The Regimental Family
£10.00 per pack of 10
incl p&p*
105x148mm
With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year

C 
The Royal Artillery War Memorial in Winter
£10.00 per pack of 10
incl p&p*
105x148mm
With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year

D 
RA Coat of Arms with Ribbon
£15.50 per pack of 10
incl p&p*
171x127mm
With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Name and address:

Tel No:

Quantity required:

A
B
C
D

Total:

*Please contact the RAA for additional overseas postage. Payment to **Royal Artillery Association** BACS Account 00181906 Sort Code 30 99 88 or send UK Sterling cheque to: Royal Artillery Association, Artillery House, Artillery Centre, RA Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 8QT. All proceeds raised are in aid of the Royal Artillery Association. For enquiries please email **fay.chapman107@mod.gov.uk**

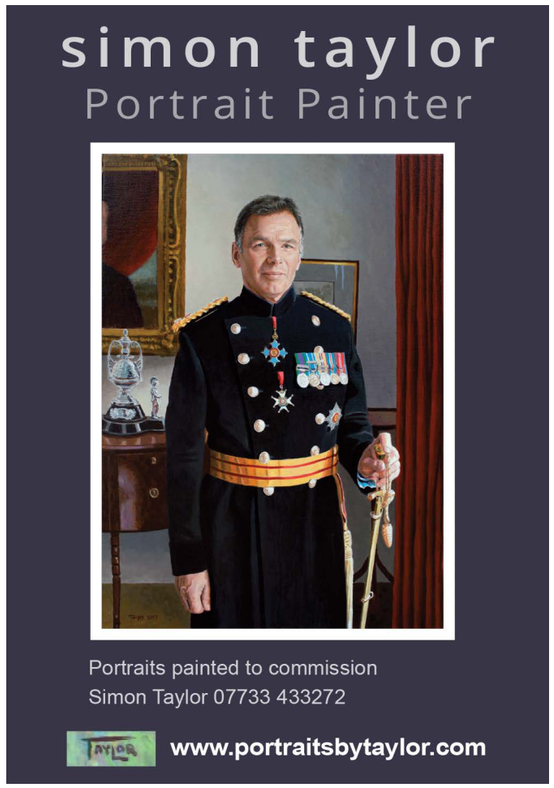





Looking for something different?
We are continuously looking for physically and mentally robust volunteers from the Tri-Services to become Special Observers.
To join us, volunteers must successfully complete the Surveillance and Reconnaissance Patrols Course (SRPC).
For those that are successful we guarantee 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.
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Email: 5RA-473Bty-Ops-Team@mod.gov.uk Tel: 07773 978878
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"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"
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BE THE BEST
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Medical &Communications
1 week
SOP and
Tactics Training
2 weeks
Rural Operations
2 weeks
LFTT
1 week
Urban Operations
2 weeks
FTX (Summative)
2 weeks
Qualification
Loading Process
Email us.
Read our DIN.
Send Annex A to APC.
Attend our preparation course.
Begin SRPC (course roadmap above).
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


HAC NORTHERN TROOP
THE OFFER
JOIN THE HAC AND USE YOUR EXPERIENCE TO GROW THE SPECIAL OP CAPABILITY
Train for a minimum of 27 paid days a year to earn your tax-free bounty of up to £2000!
Opportunities for training include:
✓ Support 1 (Special Op) Sqn HAC during their monthly training weekends.
✓ Refreshing and upskilling your core skills alongside 4/73 Bty in Marne Barracks during the week (there are no drill nights).
✓ Train the next generation of Special Observers on SRPC
✓ Be part of the CAPDEV and rapidly growing Special OP Tech Surveillance.
✓ Two-week annual deployment in the UK or overseas.
✓ AT, Sport, Battlefield Studies.
✓ Multiple opportunities for short, medium and long-term deployment on, or in support of Operations


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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.
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Remembering, the ‘Affair at Nery’

Soldiers of today’s L (Nery) Battery look out across the French battlefield of their heroic World War I predecessors



Picture credit: Joe Bates