



MAY 2024



**GUNNER SUNDAY**

**GUNNER 24 ARMY FIRES  
& ISTAR CONFERENCE**

**ROYAL ARTILLERY  
BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

# 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 preceding the magazines publication. Please send to RARHQ-Publications@mod.gov.uk

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# GUNNER



## MAY 2024

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Capt Marcus Bolin Webb 1 RHA  
Front cover photo taken by  
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Plaickner

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**Warrant Officer Class Two Peter Kinsey  
Royal Artillery Battery Sergeant Major**

It's an honour to be appointed as the Royal Artillery Battery Sergeant Major within the Royal Artillery Headquarters. My journey to this appointment started in December 2003 when I joined 47 Regiment RA and was placed in 43 (Lloyds Company) Battery as a HVM Operator. On successful promotion to Bdr I was posted to 24 (Irish) Battery for 2 years before returning to 47 Regiment RA, where I moved from Desert Hawk to a Watchkeeper Detachment Commander. In 2017 I was selected for GCC 34 and on completion I was posted to the Royal School of Artillery as Watchkeeper Ground Crew SMIG. After 2 years in role and 1 year as the Senior Ground Crew within 47 Regiment RA I had the privilege to be appointed the new Battery Sergeant Major of 43 (Lloyds Company) Battery, the Battery I had started my career in, although a lot had changed since then.

Moving into the role as the Royal Artillery Battery Sergeant Major I now undertake the responsibility of representing the whole of the Royal Artillery. Yes, you may have heard that this role has a social part to it, and you would be correct, however, this is just one aspect of the role. Throughout the year we host an array of events from the WO1 Convention, Cadet competition to JNCO Education Day and dinner night. Some of the events and courses I help facilitate are the Commanding Officers' seminar, RA Cadre for the prestigious posting to Sandhurst as an instructor, a plethora of dinner nights, Remembrance Day at Hyde Park, RA Gold Cup and for me one of the most important, the BSMs' seminar for the newly appointed BSMs. This list is not exhaustive, and I have only mentioned a few of the circa 24 events in a 12-month period, all of which are vital to the moral component of our Regiment.

Aside from the delivery of the events already mentioned, I act as a key advisor to the RASM and wider Headquarters on all Personnel facing issues. Having had recent exposure as a BSM, my understanding of key issues facing us all today is vital to ensure the team in RHQ RA understand the needs of the gunner family and continually look for ways to improve the lived experience and policies that govern us.

As the Regimental HQ, we also deal with any request from the wider Army and external agencies. Advising at 3\* level all the way down to what colour green a World War II gun should be painted highlights the complexity and span of what we do in RHQ RA. Most recently we have been asked to provide the Burial Party for two World War I veterans whose remains were found in 2015 and who fell in September 1914. This will be headed up by myself with the support of our small team and 26 Regiment who have kindly supplied 12 Soldiers. Internally I will stand in for the RASM should he be unable to attend events or attend meetings. I also act as the lead on G1 matters for all those that are in the Headquarters including the Corps Engagement Team.

If anyone would like to know more about what the Royal Artillery Headquarters does and what we deliver, or indeed support, please do not hesitate to get in contact. In my short time, I now have a grasp on what RHQ RA can do to help the Gunner community so please ask. I look forward to being your Royal Artillery Battery Sergeant Major and hope to be either speaking or meeting you over my tenure.

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## Best of the Best



Elements of 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and 53 (Louisburg) Battery Royal Artillery deployed to the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Liberty, North Carolina, for the divisional artillery Best of the Best (BotB) competition. A demanding weeklong contest which tested all aspects of our soldiers' expertise.

The two weeks prior to the competition, saw us train in our respective disciplines; one Gun Detachment, a Command Post (CP), a Fire Support Team (FST) and Radar Team from 53 (Louisburg) Battery entirely with US equipment.

The Gun Detachment learnt how to bring the M119 Lt Gun in and out of action, as well as how to emplace degraded and digitally. From there, the guns also learnt degraded and digital fire missions.

The FST learnt NATO calls for fire, the transmission of Close Air Support and Air Attack Aviation orders. Focusing on interoperability they learnt how to use different target acquisition equipment and delivering Fire Missions with a US FDC.

The CP spent a week learning US safety protocols as well as methods of computing data manually and digitally culminating in processing live fire missions.

The Radar Team learnt how to emplace, sweep and search for counter fires. Their training was especially fast and furious, with a steep learning curve, due to how different some of our partner nations systems were.

The competition began with the Ranger PT test; press ups, sit ups, a 5-mile run and finished with pull ups. The British teams



performed well here, supplying the top 3 finishers in the run – LBdr Stothard (F Sphinx Parachute Battery), Gnr Wildish and Lt Kay (both I Bulls Troop Parachute Battery). The first day concluded with a land navigation event around the Fort Liberty training area. Tuesday and Wednesday saw us take on a written exam of US fires doctrine, Certification and live firing serials. The competition concluded on Thursday with a 12-mile ruck march, where the UK FST took first prize, leading into further Radar set up and live fire races showcasing all four disciplines working together. The British team ultimately picked up two awards – the fittest overall team on the PT assessment, and the group ruck march – both going to the FST.

Whilst deployed in America, we also undertook educational visits including to

Washington DC and the National Army Air Museum. Additionally, after the competition a Battlefield Study of Fort Sanders in Knoxville was conducted that allowed for a few days productive rest and recovery.

After a physically taxing competition, the team can be very proud of their performance. They overcame a very steep learning curve on all aspects of their trades to challenge the Americans across all disciplines. It is through such events we deepen an already strong relationship, with our closest ally, so we fight and win together when it matters most.

by SSgt Barnes  
7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery





On Sunday the 28th April the Regimental family returned to the Royal Hospital for Gunner Sunday, spending the day with the In-Pensioners. A large gathering of serving veterans and their families attended the service at the Royal Hospital. The Royal Artillery standard bearers and members of the serving regiment joined the in-pensioners on parade where they were inspected by General Sir AJ Bradshaw KCB OBE along with our very own Regimental Colonel Col RC Harmer ADC.

Photo credit: Michael Patrick



## Gold Badge Lunch, House of Lords on 22nd February 2024



Group photo

Red Cypher is the name of the 3 RHA Past and Present Members and the Regiment's own Charity. Those volunteers who have served Red Cypher with distinction are awarded the Gold Badge as a mark of their contribution to furthering the aims of:

- Fostering esprit de corps, comradeship, morale and the welfare of the Regiment and preserving its traditions.
- Maintaining comradeship and contact between past and present members of the Regiment, fostering mutual friendship and providing for social gatherings.
- Relieving, generally or individually, members of the Regiment, serving and veteran, and dependants, who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.

Holders come from both the serving and retired regiment, with a Gold Badge lunch held every two years. Covid meant that the lunch had not taken place since before the pandemic outbreak, so it was with great pleasure that we were able to gather for the first time since 2019 on the 22nd of February at the House of Lords, with the kind sponsorship of Lord David Richards of Herstmonceux, a former Commanding Officer of 3 RHA and the President of Red Cypher for many years, and of course a former Chief of the Defence Staff.

Thirty-one Gold Badge holders and guests attended the lunch in the Atlee Room.

Colonel Andrew Budd, the current Chairman of Red Cypher, gave some words of welcome and thanks to Lord Richards and to Jeff Smith, a powerhouse within Red Cypher. A Gold Badge was presented to General Barrons, another former Commanding Officer who had helped to establish the formation of Red Cypher.

Following an excellent meal, toasts were proposed to the King, the Regiment, and absent friends. Major General Graham Hollands proposed a further toast in recognition of the reformation of 3 RHA in 1984. General Graham was the last Commanding Officer of 25 Regiment and the first Commanding Officer of the reformed 3 RHA.

Following short addresses from General Barrons and Lord Richards, a group photograph was taken in Westminster Hall where Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II previously lay in state. It was a great privilege for the Red Cypher Gold Badge holders to lunch in the House of Lords. Our thanks and gratitude go to Lord Richards for hosting the lunch and to the Staff of the House of Lords for looking after us so well and helping to make it such a wonderful experience.

by Col (Retd) Andrew Budd  
Veteran Chairman Red Cypher



## Sharp Hall welfare facility undergoes refurbishment



Left to right Mrs Denise Scrivener, Mrs Sandra Stringfellow, Major (Retd) Andrew Dines, Master Gunner St James's Park, Colonel (Retd) Matthew Carter RA and Mrs Sarah-Jane Hatt

Sharp Hall, a central hub for welfare services for soldiers and their families, as well as other community-based clubs and activities across Larkhill Garrison, has undergone a comprehensive refurbishment, transforming into a modern, energy-efficient, and welcoming facility for service personnel and their families. The project, which began in November 2022, was handed back to the Army on January 17, 2024. The aim was to deliver a welfare facility to meet the needs of the local Army community.

Sharp Hall's roots trace back to its original use as a Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) hut during World War I. The building was later renamed Sharp Hall in 1978, honouring General Sir John Aubrey Taylor Sharp, who oversaw its brick construction during his tenure as Commandant of the Royal School of Artillery from 1964 to 1966.

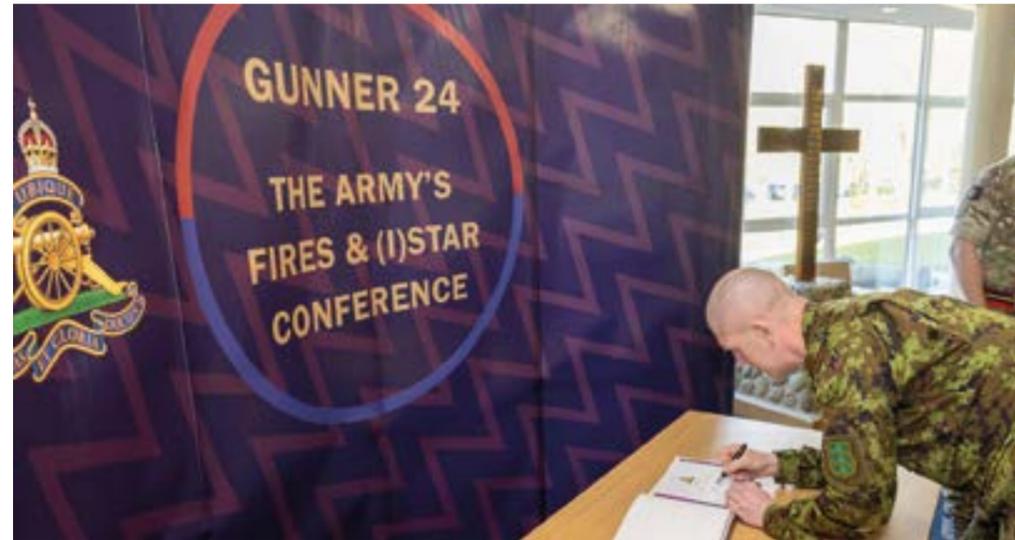
The refurbishment aimed to provide a welcoming facility for the four thousand Gunner soldiers and their families based at Larkhill and the growing community-based projects in the area. It also aimed to enhance the building's energy efficiency by adding insulation to external walls and beneath the concrete floor.

The removal of the unused stage has expanded the hall's space, offering greater adaptability for the Larkhill community.

While the building was handed back to the Army on January 17, the official reopening of Sharp Hall was marked with an unveiling ceremony on Monday, February 26 by Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB DL, The Master Gunner St James's Park.

Allan Thomson, chief executive, ADL, said: "The successful completion of Sharp Hall's refurbishment is a testament to our effective partnership, working together to deliver excellence and our commitment to creating the best possible environment for the evolving needs of our service personnel and their families."

Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Richard Gregory, Master Gunner, St James's Park, said: "Sharp Hall is more than just a building. It is part of our history, I am sure General Sir John and Lady Sharp would all be reassured to know the building is continuing to provide welfare to our soldiers and that the provision reaches beyond just the serving person but now, rightfully, their families as well. "It is a place where we can celebrate, share and support each other."



On Friday the 19th April The Army's Fires & (I)STAR Conference, Gunner 24, took place at Larkhill. The conference focussed on how we meet the challenges of the future and featured presentations from Commander Field Army, Corps warfighting from ARRC and a speech by our Guest of Honour, General Martin Herem the Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces. The conference also featured a historical perspective from Prof Niall Barr of King's College London. The event was followed by the Spring Dinner in the Royal Artillery Mess.



## Regimental Reunion 15-17 March 2024



**HISTORY:** 95 Cdo Regt RA was formed in 1963 with initially 8 (Alma) Cdo Bty and a year later 7 (Sphinx) Cdo Bty, both manned from commando volunteers from across the Royal Regiment and JLRRA. In 1971 29 Cdo and 95 Cdo reorganised to form 29 Cdo Regt RA and 95 Commando Forward Observation Unit (subsequently to reform as 148 (Meiktila) Commando Forward Observation Unit in 1976).

Despite the relatively short history of 95 Cdo, they saw active service in Borneo and Aden, and also covered the Hong Kong riots, where they performed with distinction.

**REUNION:** Those young men who volunteered for Cdo training and joined the regiment are all in their late 70's and early 80's now and unfortunately time has caught up with many of them and the founder members are becoming few in number. Several of the veterans decided to

hold a Reunion weekend in Plymouth this year and they were granted permission to base it in the Sergeants' Mess inside the Royal Citadel by kind permission of the Commanding Officer and the RSM.

The concept was initiated by Des Connolly and driven and coordinated by Jerry Josee. Some 80 plus veterans booked in for the weekend with several bringing their wives and children. The event started with a 'meet and greet' on the Barbican giving the opportunity for everyone to visit their favourite 'watering hole' and reminisce times gone by. Lots of tales were told and old friendships reacquainted. Unlike the old days, most of them had gone back to the accommodation by 10.00 pm!

Saturday allowed people to tour the Royal Citadel and local area during the day, several gravitated back to the Barbican unsurprisingly! Everyone assembled again



at 7.00 pm in the Sgts' Mess and the evening kicked off with some wonderful singing by the Ocean City Barbershop Choir (which contained two former members of the Regt). They were followed by a very talented two piece group who played a catalogue of songs from the 60's and 70's which encouraged people to demonstrate their best 'Dad Dancing' moves and a little bit of dancing around the handbags! They were very relieved when the superb buffet was served. The evening continued with plenty of time to move from table to table and pick up conversations that were started and paused forty years previously in some cases. We were joined by the Regimental contingent of Fijians who supplied bowls of Cava for those brave enough to participate in their welcoming custom. They could relate to some of the legendary Fijians who served with us decades ago.

Some people had brought photo's, albums, and mementos of their service. Some key items were put up for auction and raised considerable funds for charity.

At a sensible hour on Sunday morning, everybody assembled at the Commando Memorial outside the Citadel gates. It was great to see one of the original members from the first All Arms Commando Course, Lt Col Richard Beale MBE RA, arrive from Honiton in good time for the Memorial Service. It was an impressive turn out with nearly everyone in Berets, Ties and Medals. The Service was conducted in style by the Regimental Chaplain and the sun shone for the first time for several days. During the Service Lt Col's Richard Beale and Martin Lambert-Gorwyn read a Roll Call of all the veterans who had passed to the "Gun

Park in the Sky" It was an emotional and sobering moment.

We then walked back to the Sgts' Mess for a welcome Curry Lunch. Before entry however, Jerry had organised another surprise, 4 former members of the Royal Marines Corps of Drums, dressed in the uniform of the Royal Marine Artillery, gave an excellent Drum and Bugle display.

After lunch, the BSM of 23 HQ Bty gave a very interesting resume of the serving Regiment's recent experiences and those coming up in the months ahead. It sounded like a recruiter's dream, with tours to all corners of the globe, equipment upgrades and plans for the future.

The Veterans wished the Regiment well and mentioned if manning was tight and the rejoin age a little more flexible, they would be there in a heartbeat. After lunch, the gathering dispersed having enjoyed an excellent reunion and offering their thanks to all those who made it possible.

### UNITED WE CONQUER

by Lt Col (Retd) M Lambert-Gorwyn MBE RA





## Dr Monica Agnew-Kinnaman celebrates 106th Birthday in Colorado Springs



It's not everyday that you celebrate your 106th birthday! Celebrations took place in Colorado Springs in February 2024 ahead of the 106th birthday of World War II veteran, Dr Monica Agnew-Kinnaman. Monica served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service as a Captain and fought in the Battle of Britain with the Gunners as part of an anti-aircraft unit. She was based initially between Portsmouth and Southampton, with the unit tasked to protect the Solent area. She later moved to a similar role in the Thames Estuary area. Working as part of a combined arms operation, anti-aircraft batteries across the south coast helped ensure Britain could defend herself properly from the

ruthless Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain, especially in the summer months of 1940. Their valiant efforts led to the Nazis abandoning their invasion plans later that year.

Something of a local celebrity in Colorado Springs, where she has lived for much of her life, Monica has taken time to support a range of Service-related activities in the town, including the early Invictus Games and events at the local World War II Aviation Museum. Monica was given a letter of Congratulation and Recognition from the Royal Artillery Regimental Colonel, Colonel Charlie Harmer, and enjoyed a lunch with family and members of



the North America Aerospace Defence Command & United States Northern Command Headquarters staff which included the British Liaison Officer, Colonel John Whatmough.

Monica still has very vivid recollections of war service. She gave a poignant account of the unit's fire missions, including her mixed feelings involved on seeing German aircraft aflame, the efforts of one of her officers to bring a hostile aircraft down by firing his rifle while lying on his back, and the multiple claims of a 'hit' from everyone when there was a success. She was deeply touched by her presentations from Regimental Headquarters Royal Artillery.



### ROYAL ARTILLERY IN WORLD WAR II

The Royal Artillery in World War II expanded not only in size but in scope also. The Regiment, which in 1939 was still coming to terms with mechanisation and its relatively new branches of Anti-tank and Anti-aircraft, found itself, over the next six years, taking on even more roles.

In the air, Gunners found themselves flying spotter planes, parachuting and landing by glider. At sea they manned the guns of armed merchantmen. On the ground they manned their guns, fought as infantry, built roads and landing strips and much more besides.

By the end of the war there were nearly 700,000 serving in the Regiment – about two-fifths of the British Army and about equal with the whole of the Royal Navy.

The purpose of this site is to record as much of this service of the Royal Artillery in World War II as possible. The site is far from complete and I doubt if it ever will be. However, I hope it will be a continually growing resource for historians, model makers and any one with an interest in the Royal Artillery.



**Regular to Reserve Transfer Information**  
**Why would a Regular Service Leaver choose to join the Army Reserves:**  
**What is the offer and how can you benefit?**



**INDIVIDUAL**

- **Commitment:** Min of **ONLY 19 RSDs** for first three years which does not require a 16-day Continuous Training Exercise (this is optional), providing flexibility on the days attended to fit in and around civilian work and family commitments.
- **ONLY** ITRs 2 (SCR) & Core Education required in first three years.
- **Paid** in either ¼, ½, ¾, or full Reserve Service Day (RSDs) pay for a min of 2 hours @ Rank including **5% X Factor**.
- Opportunity to work additional RSDs above the FoE, depending on agreement with the CoC.
- **Rank:** Pte – SSgt can normally transfer across at the same rank. WOs may be asked to revert to a lower rank on entry. Capt's and below transfer in at current rank. There are some opportunities for Maj's to transfer in at same rank depending on unit vacancies.
- **MS:** Reported on and boarded for promotion as usual so career progression is still possible.
- Annual Tax-Free Bounty paid at highest rate **£2084 paid** - once Commitment requirements achieved and paid pro-rata against percentage of year attended (N.B 2023/24 rate stated).
- A Regular to Reserve transfer does not require the soldier to leave the Regular Army first and then re-join the Army Reserves. By competing the correct documentation ([AFE 07547A](#)) at the earliest opportunity, there will be a smooth transfer into the Reserves following their last day of Regular Army service.
- **HTD paid** up to 50 miles @ MMA rates (authorisation for further distances).
- **Pay in lieu of Leave** at approximately 1 RSD for every 10 Days Training.
- Tax-Free Call out Gratuity (COG) for Ops **£633** Tax free e.g., MACA tasks.
- The Army Reserve guarantees service to age 55 for soldiers and age 60 for officers.
- **Pension Abatement:** There is no pension abatement for Army Reserves working on RSDs, so a Regular in receipt of a Service Pension receives all their pension, their reserve pay and is contributing to a further Reserve Service Pension which is paid when due. For concerns ring JPAC 0800 0853600
- Army Reserve **Pension** is accrued in the same way as Regular service for each day served and is paid at 60 or reaching State Pension Age depending on circumstances.
- **Further Work Opportunities.** Reservists can undertake FTRS and other contracts to increase their level of commitment, pay and allowances. Vacancies are accessed via the [SERVE](#) website.
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- Use of unit gym for fitness and access to Occupational Health.
- Armed Forces Covenant benefits where employers are signatories – potential two-week paid leave for annual camp attendance (check employer HR Policy).
- Partial de-kit – retain uniform.
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- Possible to transfer and take an **'agreed'** period of Leave prior to starting a Reserve career, or at any time deemed necessary to fit in with family and work commitments.
- Cap-badge transfer is possible – if you wish to try something different!
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**Upward trajectory in Webb's Olympic quest**



Biathlon ace Capt Marcus Bolin Webb has been reflecting on a positive season of international action as he continues his bid for Winter Olympic qualification.

The athlete has competed in both the IBU and World Cup series, however, the highlight came at the World Championships in the Czech Republic, where he finished 93rd in the sprint and 82nd in the individual 20-kilometre race.

While the results were some distance from the podium places, they formed an important stepping stone towards the 2026 Games and are more impressive given the fact Webb only started in the sport in 2019.

"I was ill the week before the World Championships, so I was not as good as I was hoping to be, but up until that point my racing had been pretty strong" he said as he prepared for the final trimester of his campaign in Austria.

"You have to take these things as they come and then manage the situation - you are bound to lose a week at some point."

"The sprint became a session to get the body going again and I used it as build-up to the individual. I raced very well in that; I was 103rd last year so it was good to jump up 20 places."

"I know there is a long way to go, but it would be incredible to fly the flag for Great Britain and the Army at the Olympics."

Biathlon has a history steeped in military tradition and the Service has produced an impressive 57 Winter Olympians in the Nordic disciplines.

"If the Army wants robust soldiers, it needs them to be doing robust things" he said. "This could be seen as the hardest Olympic discipline and personnel are learning it from scratch."

"They go from being complete novices to competing at World Cup venues at the Army and British Championships - it is a fantastic opportunity."



Warriors All - #FINDandSTRIKE





## New Ski Qualifications for “The Northern Gunners”



LBdr Norton, LBdr Smith, Bdr Daily and LBdr Quinn heading up the slopes on the chairlift

Ex NORTHERN MAGPIE 24 (Ex NM 24) was a 101 Regt RA, Ski Foundation (SF) Adventurous Training (AT) exercise conducted in the French Alps resort of Meribel over the period 8 to 16 Mar 24. A total of 35 personnel attended comprising 5 instructors and 30 students.

The aim of the exercise was to conduct AT as Level 3 distributed training in the form of SF Training to Levels 1 and 2, encourage the development of moral and physical courage to enhance operational efficiency and build on the success of previous Northern Magpie exercises.

Training and confirmation throughout the week was a mixture of skiing and practical chutes, learning how to plan a route and recognise dangers on the slopes from the weather and avalanches.

Army Reserve soldier, Gunner Harrison Turner who serves with our 269 (West Riding)

Battery based in Leeds tells of his training experience:

This was my first introduction to skiing and it was a pleasure to do it with 101 Regt RA. It started with a coach journey from Newcastle to the idyllic French Alps resort of Meribel. On arrival at the cold snowy valley, we began getting ready for the action-packed week ahead. In the evening we received our initial brief highlighting what the week ahead had in store; the remainder of the time was spent preparing our equipment under the guidance of the instructors.

In attendance were skiers of all abilities ranging from those ready to take their next step by completing the SF Level 2 course down to those who had never worn skis before, I fell into the latter category with an aim to pass my SF Level 1 course.

Day one SF Level 1 course was all about the basics, learning to slide on skis for the first



time and then (hopefully) learning how to stop. This proved to be more difficult than first anticipated which resulted in lots of falls, but overall, it was very enjoyable just to get onto the mountains. The highlight of the day was watching the Padre achieve speeds of up to 0.5mph!

Day two introduced me and fellow students to steeper slopes, so much better as we now had space to link turns and really practice what we had learned on day one. After lunch we ventured onto a chairlift for the first time and onwards up the mountain to tackle our first ski run. The first run felt more intimidating than I thought, but we all made it down in one piece.

Day three saw the SF 1 course take on the most daunting challenge yet, the dreaded Sittelle run, which meanders down from the top of the mountain to the resort. This run took the SF1 course out of their comfort zone, with lots of nerves and lots of falls. It took the group an hour to cover a few hundred metres which was a slight blow to our confidence, however; by lunch time we had made it down to the bottom. We had just nailed our first full run, far fewer falls this time and a big boost to our confidence.

Day four the SF 1 course was split down amongst the instructors to help bring along the skiers on a one-to-one basis. Being one of the more confident skiers in the group our instructor took us down a challenging blue run which had moguls, this is where the snow mounds up into huge heaps making skiing much more challenging, but rewarding and exciting. Once past the moguls it was plain sailing down the slope, until we reached a section with a much steeper gradient down to a long flat section. Putting my training into effect, to get enough speed to continue to the flat I pointed my skis downhill and let them run, an exhilarating but very satisfying experience.

The last day was a free ski day, letting those of us who had passed our courses to venture out in groups of three, putting into practice everything we had learned under the watchful eye of our instructor. Our group decided to take on Sittelle once again, the dreaded route from day three, which we nailed first time with no falls.

We then travelled over to Courchevel to spend the rest of our day exploring the long sweeping slopes flanked by trees. This was by far my favourite day, the skiing felt fluid, and the freedom was very enjoyable after a week of very hard graft.

The aim of AT is to push soldiers out of their comfort zone in different, challenging but rewarding environments, allowing soldiers to put into practice, leadership, physical robustness, and mental fortitude. Ex NM 24 achieved its aim and was an unreserved success, engendering comradeship, teamwork and, with the exceptional capacity to develop our Ski Instructors, the Regiment now has a greater capability to generate future SF exercises.

The officer in charge, Capt Dee Crawford said “I’m confident that Ex NM 24 will help towards the continuing goals and challenges that face the regiment. Events like this will also have a most positive effect on recruiting and retention which is even more important with the new levels that need to be attained”.

Gunner Harrison Turner said “I now understand the basics of skiing which certainly put the “adventure” in adventure training. This year Ex NM 24 was fantastic, having successfully completed my SF 1 course. I will now concentrate on completing SF 2, which will allow me to develop my newfound skill further, and become more competent than where I was before attending Ex NM 24”.



## Exercise RACING ICE 2



### What is Skeleton?

Skeleton is one of the three bob track events, where the athlete adopts a face down, headfirst, minimal drag riding position onboard a sleek sled. From a stand still at the track top, the athlete sprints over 20 to 30 metres, accelerating the sled before diving on top. The athlete continues to pick up speed under gravity, aiming to execute the most efficient line possible while negotiating various turns and straights. Reaching speeds of up to 80mph/135kph, the athlete descends the

track, where G forces of over 6 G's can be experienced. Immediate if not intuitive reactions are required to manipulate the sled into the optimum entry and exit point of a bend. The aim is simply to get the fastest possible descent of the track, racing against the clock and competing for the kudos of the fastest time. The sled has no brakes or mechanical steering components and has minimal protection. Steering is induced by shifting the rider's body weight and aerodynamic profile in unison with the track physics.



### Where?

The 2024 season was held in the prestigious location of St Moritz, Switzerland. This historical track holds the title of being the birthplace of skeleton racing, with the first skeleton competition being held in 1903. One of the longest and fastest tracks in the world, it is made up of 19 adrenalin fuelled corners, with a total length of 1,722m. The St Moritz track is unique to any other in the world, it's completely rebuilt by a small crew of track workers every year. The track is reliant on self-refrigeration, and as spring approaches the track melts away, to be rebuilt again next winter. The other unique feature about the track is the corners are named and not numbered like other tracks. So instead of learning corner numbers, we had to remember corner names instead, Horseshoe, Shamrock, and Devils Dike to name a few. This gave the track a sense of character.

### Ex RACING ICE 2

Ex RACING ICE 2 is the Army Ice Sports Championships, incorporating training, development, and pre-selection prior to the Inter Service Ice Championships. The Exercise was held at St Moritz over the period 12 - 17 Feb. Concluding with prize giving and Army squad selection to compete at the Inter Services Ice Championships the following week.

Novice, junior and senior sliders from various corps and cap badges, arrived full of excitement for the first practice slides. The initial day saw all sliders enter the track lower down, to get reacquainted with sliding again and develop their knowledge of the faster corners towards the end of the run. During the practice runs over

the first few days, we grew increasingly confident in our sliding abilities. Looking for more speed and faster times, we were sprinting off the top by the third day. Reaching adrenaline invoking speeds of 80mph and achieving more competitive times. Our track knowledge from learning each corner by walking the track to analyse and study every turn really helped us "see and feel" the track. The Army Championships (due to be held on the Friday) was fast approaching, nerves began to grow, we knew the track inside out and were ready to give it our all.

As nerves and excitement for the race day grew higher, so did the temperature! Due to the glorious winter sun that bathed St Moritz, the natural ice track could not stay cold enough and was effectively melting. Causing the track to be closed and repaired over the next two days. Unsure of when we were going to slide next, we turned to sled maintenance, involving fine tuning our saddle (a rib cage like structure to help keep us on the sled) and polishing the metal 'runners' to remove any small scratches that might hamper our speed. A bit of phys to keep us active and some sightseeing was a must, as the scenery in Switzerland was just breath-taking.

Temperatures dropped enough to allow sliding again by the weekend. We were able to slide and race in 'The Best of the World' competition on Sunday, whilst holding The British Army Championships at the same time. The competition had a total of 47 skeleton sliders from across the globe, three of which were from the Royal Artillery, Bdr Perkins representing 104th Regiment RA, SSgt Grossi representing 12th Regiment RA,



and Maj Whiting from Army Headquarters. Some of the other international sliders were aspiring Olympic hopefuls, including teams from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Japan, and USA. Upon conclusion of the 'Best of the World' & Army Championships, the results were in, and everyone was anxious to see where they had each placed.

**Army Championships Results**

**RA Male Sliders**

Maj Aaron Whiting (AHQ) - placed 2nd  
 Bdr David Perkins (104 RA) - placed 4th,  
 - Also winning 'Fastest Push Start' trophy.

**RA Female Sliders**

SSgt Georgia Grossi (12 RA) - was unable to record a 2nd run due to an unfortunate injury after a strong, valiant effort in her first run (2 completed timed runs required to be placed).

With the 3 Gunnery showing promise in the Army Championships, they were all selected for the Army team and turned their focus to the Inter Services.

**UK ARMED FORCES WINTER SPORTS INTER SERVICE ICE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The UK Armed Forces Winter Sports Inter Service Ice Championships ran from 18 - 24 Feb, and is a further opportunity to develop novice, junior and senior sliders in all ice sport disciplines, specifically to us in skeleton.

News soon spread that the Inter Services was going to be brought forward a day

due to a heavy snow forecast at the end of the week. That meant that the sliders only had two days to show why they should be selected and represent the Army on the two planned race days, Wednesday, and Thursday. The mood of the athletes quickly changed to a more focused mindset, knowing that both days sliding before the Inter Services needed to be fast and as clean as possible, to give themselves a shot at making the squad. The Army squad only has 9 sliding places (5 male, 4 female), with the remaining team members held in reserve. During those practice runs, all three Gunner skeleton sliders had exceptional slides, producing the best times they had since arriving in St Moritz. Competition among the Army sliders was fierce, giving the Staff and Coaches a tough task of selecting the team which was to compete against the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. Bdr Perkins, SSgt Grossi & Maj Whiting were all selected to slide for the Army Team. Having represented the Army Skeleton team at an Inter Services in previous years, all three sliders received their Army Colours from Brigadier Stefan Crossfield (Director Ice Sports British Army). A hard fought and considerable achievement for the individuals and the Royal Artillery alike.

Preparation for the Inter Services began right away. Checking sleds and polishing runners again to find every extra millisecond possible, as we knew the race would be tight against the other services. The Inter Services would run slightly different this year, due to the warm temperatures, we would only have one slide on Wednesday (to help protect the track and give other disciplines a chance to slide too). This meant that the



pressure to slide well was even higher, as time on the track was at a premium. Bdr Perkins putting in a PB of 1 min 15 sec on his first slide, and top speed of 78mph, leading the way for the Gunnery (and the Army). SSgt Grossi and Maj Whiting also having good first slides. Day two quickly came round, with the hopes of clean fast slides dwelling heavily on our minds. Snow had fallen overnight, meaning the track was going to be slightly slower for everyone, this is where the runner polishing will hopefully pay off. Two runs left for our last day of sliding at the Inter Services and all was still to play for. All three Gunnery put down excellent times again and received praise from their competition for their sliding skills. Results would be kept under wraps until prize giving later that evening, along with the other disciplines. A fantastic opportunity for all three services to mingle, relax and enjoy each other's company after two weeks of intense competition.

Unfortunately, the results didn't quite go our way this year at the Inter Services. The RAF with a formidable team as always were the overall winners (18th year in a row!), the Royal Navy taking second place, and the Army in a close third. St Moritz was an amazing track, and we were extremely privileged to race at such a prestigious location. All three Gunner sliders have taken on a huge challenge and left with lifelong valuable experiences, and a firmly established foothold for the Gunnery in Ice sports. A special thanks must be made to 12th Regiment RA, 104th Regiment RA & Army Headquarters, for supporting each of their athletes to represent and compete for the Royal Regiment of Artillery and The British Army.

**Inter Services Championships Results**

**Male Team**

- 1st - RAF
- 2nd - Navy
- 3rd - Army

**Female Team**

- 1st - Navy
- 2nd - RAF
- 3rd - Army

**Why do we do ice sports?**

Ice Sports are fun, fast, exhilarating, all while being paid to learn something new. While this is true, and a large part of why we do it, there are a lot of other benefits that come from these types of activities. They all involve controlled exposure to risk, develop leadership and management skills, teamwork and team spirit, physical fitness, morale and physical courage, among other personal attributes and skills that are vital to operational capability. Decision-making under extreme pressure is practiced all the time and often must be carried out in milliseconds. There is opportunity for soldiers to progress from novice to expert, and eventually coach, expanding on their leadership and management skills. This is particularly evident in skeleton, as you can progress from your novice camp to Inter Services Championships in three weeks and slide alongside GB/Olympic level athletes in the same race in your third week. With this comes a huge sense of achievement and camaraderie through tackling challenges together and helping



each other progress. We know that confident and determined people make better soldiers.



Maj Aaron Whiting RA Army Headquarters

**Real courage and 'guts' required**

It takes a lot of courage to compete in Skeleton, things can go wrong and fast. Hurling headfirst down an icy chute, at incredible speeds, with minimal protection (lycra and shoulder pads) isn't the safest thing mankind ever came up with, but arguably the most fun. The potential for severe injury and accidents is very real. Even just the repetitive nature of accumulating knocks and bumps can cause extensive bruising and tender spots (or the whole side of your body). This is where real courage and guts is required. The fear to not want to take another knock can be distracting at best, therefore, to overcome this fear while maintaining focus to navigate the course successfully is a mental challenge every slider must contend with. Continuing after getting bruised in skeleton is one thing, however, SSgt Grossi took this to a whole new level. While navigating one of the most technical and quickest parts of

the track, she took a massive hit coming out of the corner. This resulted in the sled hitting her in the face at circa 50mph and splitting her jaw open. After consulting with the medics, and given the green light to slide again, she dusted herself off and took to the track. Unfortunately, luck was not on her side, and a similar event unfolded once more. This time there was blood everywhere. All over the sled, in the helmet and all the way down the track. With the adrenaline flowing, SSgt Grossi having been knocked off the sled, climbed back on and finished her run. It's a testament to her resilience and determination to overcome any fear that will have descended upon her, and to have the courage and team spirit to again get back on the track and race for the Army in the Inter Services. A feat even the bravest would shy away from, a true example of resilience, and getting back up when you've been knocked down.

by Bdr David Perkins  
104th Regiment Royal Artillery



Bdr David Perkins 104th Regiment Royal Artillery



SSgt Georgia Grossi 12th Regiment Royal Artillery



REGIMENTAL AND BATTERY DISBANDMENTS

Following recommendations by the Royal Artillery Heritage Committee, the Master Gunner’s Committee has approved a revised Royal Artillery Standing Order covering the instructions for suspended and disbanded regiments and batteries. The Master Gunner’s Committee further approved recommendations for a number of regiments and batteries, which have been in long term suspended animation, to be disbanded.

The practical impact of this change is to relieve the burden on the Regimental Secretary of accounting for, and maintaining, the property of those regiments and batteries in suspended animation. This will allow that property to be redistributed across the Regiment: transferred to the RAHT Collection or the RAI Collection, or otherwise disposed of, as appropriate. It also ensures that the status of our inactive regiments and batteries more accurately reflects the order in which RHQ might seek to reanimate them in the future.

The tables below show those regiments and batteries to be formally disbanded (22 regiments and 36 batteries), and those which will remain in suspended animation.

The updated Royal Artillery Standing Order will be promulgated by RHQ RA and will be applied in the case of the newly disbanded units and sub units.

**Table 1: regiments, currently in suspended animation, to be disbanded or to remain in suspended animation.**

1947 Regt Number	Date of formation	Date of SA	Regimental title on SA	Disband/SA
2	1901	1993	2 Fd Regt RA	SA
6	1940	1968	6 Lt Regt RA	Disband
10	1899	1957	10 Fd Regt RA	Disband
15	1915	1958	15 Med Regt RA	Disband
17	1900	1995	17 Trg Regt RA	SA
18	1927	1969	18 Lt Regt RA	Disband
20	1900	1976	20 Lt Regt RA	Disband
21	1927	1964	21 Regt RA	Disband
22	1947	2004	22 Regt RA	SA
23	1899	1958	23 Fd Regt RA	Disband
24	1918	1977	24 Msl Regt RA	SA
25	1901	1984	25 Fd Regt RA	SA
27	1927	1993	27 Regt RA	SA
28	1933	1956	28 Coast Regt RA	Disband
30	1947	1958	30 HAA Regt RA	Disband
31	1900	1961	31 Trg Regt RA	Disband



33	1947	1961	33 Para Lt Regt RA	Disband
34	1924	1969	34 Lt AD Regt RA	Disband
35	1947	1958	35 LAA Regt RA	Disband
36	1947	1977	36 Hy AD Regt RA	Disband
37	1900	1968	37 Hy AD Regt RA	Disband
38	1915	1960	38 Trg Regt RA	Disband
39	1915	2014	39 Regt RA	SA
40	1900	2012	40 Regt RA	SA
41	1899	1961	41 Fd Regt RA	Disband
42	1900	1977	42 Hy Regt RA	Disband
44	1899	1958	44 HAA Regt RA	Disband
45	1924	1993	45 Regt RA	SA
46	1947	1958	46 HAA Regt RA	Disband
48	1900	1959	48 Fd Regt RA	Disband
49	1900	1992	49 Regt RA	SA
50	1915	1993	50 Regt RA	SA
94	1939	1993	94 Loc Regt RA	SA
95	1941	1977	95 FOU RA	Disband

**Table 2: batteries (in 1947 renumbered order of precedence), currently in suspended animation, to be disbanded or to remain in suspended animation.**

RHA Precedence	Battery	Date of formation	Date of SA	Battery title on SA	Disband/SA
4	V	1793	2013	V Bty RHA	SA
16	M	1809	2023	M HQ Bty RHA	SA
RA Precedence					
20	17	1757	2018	17 (Corunna) Bty RA	SA
21	15	1757	2004	15 HQ Bty RA	SA
23	25	1758	2011	25 Bty RA	SA
26	33	1759	1993	33 JL Bty RA	SA
27	2	1759	1997	2 Bty RA	SA
30	35	1765	2015	35 Bty RA	SA
31	38	1768	2018	38 (Serangapatam) Bty RA	SA
32	128	1768	1958	128 Med Bty RA	Disband
33	39	1770	1993	39 JL Bty RA	Disband
36	40	1771	1993	40 JL Bty RA	Disband
37	44	1771	1972	44 JL Bty RA	Disband
39	41	1771	1982	41 Fd Bty RA	SA
43	124	1778	1958	124 HAA Bty RA	Disband
44	51	1779	1993	51 (Kabul 1842) Bty RA	SA
45	16	1779	2019	16 Bty (Sandham’s Coy) RA	SA
46	50	1779	1972	50 Hy Bty RA	Disband
48	52	1779	2015	52 (Niagara) Bty RA	SA
49	109	1786	1958	109 Fd Bty RA	Disband
50	110	1786	1957	110 LAA Bty RA	Disband
51	54	1786	1984	54 (Maharajpore) Bty RA	SA
55	56	1786	2015	56 (Olpherts’) Bty RA	SA

## REGIMENTAL AND BATTERY DISBANDMENTS



57	60	1791	1968	60 Hy AD Bty RA	Disband
63	69	1793	1958	69 Fd Bty RA	Disband
69	67	1794	1971	67 Fd Bty RA	Disband
70	68	1794	1969	68 Med Bty RA	Disband
71	70	1794	1969	70 Med Bty RA	Disband
72	77	1794	1969	77 JL Bty RA	Disband
76	76	1795	2014	76 (Maude's) Bty RA	SA
77	75	1795	1968	75 Hy Bty RA	Disband
79	78	1796	1968	78 Hy Bty RA	Disband
81	80	1799	1959	80 Fd Bty RA	Disband
82	81	1799	1961	81 HQ Bty RA	Disband
83	82	1799	1958	82 Para Lt Bty RA	Disband
84	126	1800	1958	126 HAA Bty RA	Disband
85	111	1800	1984	111 (Dragon) Bty RA	SA
88	92	1802	1958	92 LAA Bty RA	Disband
89	89	1802	1961	89 Trg Bty RA	Disband
90	91	1802	1958	91 LAA Bty RA	Disband
92	87	1802	1959	87 Fd Bty RA	Disband
93	90	1802	1958	90 LAA Bty RA	Disband
96	95	1803	1959	95 Fd Bty RA	Disband
97	96	1803	1958	96 Para Lt Bty RA	Disband
99	98	1803	1958	98 Med Bty RA	Disband
100	99	1803	1958	99 LAA Bty RA	Disband
105	107	1806	1958	107 Fd Bty RA	Disband
106	104	1806	1960	104 HAA Bty RA	Disband
107	105	1806	1961	105 Fd Bty RA	Disband
108	106	1806	1957	106 LAA Bty RA	Disband
109	108	1806	1961	108 HAA Bty RA	Disband
110	113	1808	1960	113 Loc Bty RA	Disband
119	Z	1824	2014	Z Fd Bty RA	SA
121	145	1826	1977	145 (Maiwand) Bty RA	SA
125	156	1848	1969	156 (Inkerman) Bty RA	SA
126	152	1848	1965	152 (Inkerman) Loc Bty RA	SA
127	27	1848	1976	27 Bty (Strange's Coy) RA	SA
129	160	1854	1963	160 Bty (Middleton's Coy) RA	SA
131	171	1857	1983	171 (The Broken Wheel) Bty RA	SA
133	26	1934	1958	26 LAA Bty RA	Disband

Note:

To be disbanded	
To remain in SA	

Any individual or organisation that has, in the past made presentations to any of the above disbanded batteries or regiments and who wishes to reclaim their presentation, should contact the Assistant Regimental Secretary, Lt Col Richard Carter - richard.carter694@mod.gov.uk



# Royal Artillery Assembly

**FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**  
AT THE NORBRECK CASTLE HOTEL



For what will be one of the largest social gatherings of Gunners, a truly memorable weekend. Enjoy a spectacular programme of entertainment, including dancing to Live Bands, Fantastic Production Shows and International Cabarets. All appearing at the Royal Artillery Grand Gala Dinner Night.

### 3 Night Package inclusive of Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

(Including RA Grand Gala Dinner - Saturday 18th May) - Just **£158.50 Per Person**

### 2 Night Package inclusive of Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

(Including RA Grand Gala Dinner - Saturday 18th May) - Just **£130.50 Per Person**

**Grand Gala Dinner Only - No Accommodation £31.00 Per Person**

#### FRIDAY

- Check in from 3pm
- 3 Course Carvery Dinner
- Entertainment

#### SATURDAY

- Full English Breakfast
- Standard Bearers Competition
- Annual Assembly
- Sunset Ceremony
- Civic Reception
- Gala Dinner
- Live Entertainment

#### SUNDAY

- Full English Breakfast
- Church Service
- Themed Buffet
- Entertainment

To book a Gala Inclusive Package - call **0161 923 0300** and quote **RAANB0524**

Calls cost 13p per minute plus your chosen phone company access charge.

A refundable deposit of **£35** per person is required when booking Gala Inclusive Packages.  
**Please remember to advise the reservationist of your branch when booking.**

For Gala Dinner Only bookings - please call **01253 500 701**

Accommodation reservations cannot be made on this line (01253 500 701)

**FREE PARKING FOR RESIDENTIAL GUESTS, NON RESIDENTS TO PAY AT THE PAY AND DISPLAY.**



### Gunner Sunday

**Gunner Sunday** took place on 28th April at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. A reasonable mix of serving Gunners and veterans and their families were in attendance.

The Regimental Colonel RC Harmer ADC inspected the standard bearers whilst General Sir AJ Bradshaw KCB OBE inspected the Chelsea Pensioners on parade.

### 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 13th July 2024 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 event [www.thegunners.org.uk/events](http://www.thegunners.org.uk/events)



**National Executive Committee - Spring Meeting**

On the 12th March 2024 some of our volunteer committee members who travelled long distances to attend the Meeting the following day, met for supper in the RA Officers' Mess. The National Executive Meeting meets three times a year, whose objectives are to promote comradeship, esprit de corps and the relief of need.



### Norwich Branch

Norwich Branch has had to say farewell to their oldest member, Mrs Elsie Blanchflower who sadly passed away on 19th January 2024. Elsie would have been 100 years old on 8th April and as her family were preparing to apply for her 100th year Birthday card from His Majesty the King, Elsie succumbed to a chest infection and slipped away.

Elsie enlisted at Martineau Hall, Norwich in July 1941 at the age of 17 and after one month's training at Glen Parva Barracks, Wigston, Leicester, she and her colleagues were sent to Park Hall Camp, Oswestry to form 473(M) HAA Battery, 135 Regiment RA where she was trained on Predictor, Heightfinder and Spotter instruments and telephone.

After a brief period here, she was sent to Tycroes Firing Camp, Anglesey for firing practice, which entailed firing at a sleeve being towed by an Anson plane. (If the shell burst too close to the plane, the ladies were in big trouble but there was jubilation all around when the sleeve was hit.)

When training was completed the group were posted to their first site on Tyneside, where Elsie remained for the next 3 years. During this time, she became a gun-layer, which meant guiding the guns by radar.

In 1943, she was posted to Linwood near Paisley in Scotland, then to Bishopton in 1944. It was during this time that D-Day was being secretly planned and one night-time, Elsie and her battery were sent to Winchester. It was here that she witnessed all the Horsa gliders taking thousands of airborne soldiers over to France and Holland – a sight Elsie said she would never forget.

From here Elsie was posted to Southampton and then onto Lewisham in London, where the centre of the city was known as Doodlebug Alley, where they were firing at rockets.

Her last gun-site was in Hurlingham and when the war ended and the artillery batteries were being disbanded, Elsie then became a



technical storewoman at a vehicle reserve depot in Aberford, Leeds, servicing and respraying troop-carriers, jeeps and trucks.

Sadly, for Elsie, it was here that her service days came to an end and she was discharged in April 1946 with an exemplary record.

Elsie was an active member of Norwich Branch for 75 years. Full of life and cheerful, she was a real character and a joy to visit and chat with. She has left a huge gap in the lives of those who knew her and she is greatly missed.

We were immensely proud to have her as one of our members and she was held in great esteem by those fortunate enough to meet and spend time with her.

Ubique.



### RAA Battery Grants

#### 19th Regiment Royal Artillery

#### 13 (Martinique 1809) HQ Battery

13 (Martinique 1809) HQ Battery of 19 Regiment Royal Artillery (The Scottish Gunners) celebrated Martinique day (25th February), the Battery birthday on the 22nd February. The day served as a fantastic opportunity for serving members of the Battery to get together and celebrate the Battery, developing professional relationships between its members as well as sharing knowledge and Battery traditions.

With well over 80% of the Battery in attendance it was good to see everyone together. Usually with being a HQ Battery, we are dispersed around the Regiment or working in small teams within our departments. The day comprised of a photo at the Salisbury Cathedral, a team go karting endurance race and an evening function in the Henry VC WOs' and Sgts' Mess.

The go karting at Haynes motor museum was enjoyed by all even though the rain was torrential, and the track was outdoors. Luckily, the go karting company were well prepared for the weather and issued us waterproof coveralls, a big relief to a few of the soldiers that turned up in shorts and t shirts. The RAO's team were the overall winners of the go karting event, with the RAO, Maj Lynch also setting the track lap record of the competition. He also definitely spent the most time on the track out of everybody racing! The activity was perfect for the day as it gave





everybody a chance to compete against each other regardless of their rank, skill or experience.

The evening function was well received by all. It served as a good platform to share Bty history as well as introduce the JNCO's of the Bty to Mess etiquette. The meal prepared by the Battery chefs was delicious and the entertainment from the pipes and drums was fantastic. There were two prestigious awards given out from the Battery Commander (Maj A G Wright RA) and Battery Sergeant Major (WO2 A J Assad). Best JNCO awarded to Cpl Needham and best Pte soldier awarded to Pte Tamang, for exceptional performance both in and out of work.

I would personally like to thank the Royal Artillery Association for enabling us to conduct this event, with their financial support. This will remain one of the most memorable days of my career.



47th Regiment Royal Artillery

57 (Bhurtpore) Battery

It was an honour for 57 (Bhurtpore) Battery to celebrate its 199th Birthday on the 25th of January 2024. The Battery battle honour was given to us from the siege of Bhurtpore Fort in Delhi territories India in 1825. The Battery fought along with other members of British Forces for the control of the dispute between the two War Lords for their succession.

Bdr Thompson planned the day, being a PTL, the day clearly started off with a physical training activity. This session was intended to

be a 'fun session' but not football or rounders featured during the session! Never less, through determination and grit, the session was completed by all. Following on from this, the Battery members had the opportunity to don some civilian clothing for an afternoon of visiting the Army Flying Museum in Middle Wallop. This provided an element of scene setting and an opportunity to begin the mind thinking about historic events.

To close off the day's celebration, the Battery had an evening dinner night, an opportunity for all ranks to dine together in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Amidst the camaraderie and tradition, the event highlighted the remarkable historical achievements by means of role play from differing ranks, from the siege of Bhurtpore to Operational deployments in Afghanistan, the Battery has a storied legacy of bravery and dedication. As glasses were raised in toast, there was a palpable sense of pride in belonging to a unit with such a distinguished lineage and a commitment to upholding its legacy of excellence in service.

Thank you to all that supported the event by either financial donations or planning and coordination and allowing 57 (Bhurtpore) Battery to commemorate this special day.



**RACF SUPPORT TO THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY**

Can we help you, the RACF are here to help with those essential needs. Can we help you!

Some of the areas we can help with are household goods, funerals, rental deposits, removals, mobility aids, priority debts (rent arrears, council tax arrears, utility arrears), training, care home fees and annual grants.

Two of our biggest area's that our Gunner family required help with were mobility needs and household goods.

To date the RACF have helped to provide 265 families help with essential needs.

If you have worries about finding the money for essential needs, please contact us. We cannot however help with private medical or legal fees.

Please do not hesitate to ask for help if you need it. Call SSAFA on 0800 731 4880, the Royal British Legion on 0808 802 8080 to get a case up to us or contact us on either 0300 167 3998/0300 158 7035.

We can be contacted by email: RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk or through the website.

**Letters of appreciation**

*"We would like to massively Thank, [RACF] for their professionalism, dedication, compassion, empathy, care, support and security with coordinating with the Royal British Legion to release the funds for the accommodation and meals to allow my wife to be close to me during the uncertainty of my situation at the time. Your staff are a credit to the Royal Artillery in giving support to the Gunner family."*

**RA Historical Society 2024 Programme**

Date and Timings	Event	Subject	Lecturer/Lead	Bookings Close	Cost per Head
<b>Date to be notified</b>	Summer Webinar	Siege of Arcot 1751 and Battle of Plassey	36 (Arcot 1751) Battery and 9 (Plassey) Battery	To be notified	Nil
<b>Friday 25 October</b>	Shrapnel Day Lectures and Buffet Lunch Newcome Hall, Larkhill SP4 8QT	<b>Addiscombe: The East India Company Officer Academy</b>  <b>The Armies of the East India Company</b>  <b>The Indian Campaigns of Lord Roberts VC</b>  <b>The Indian Artillery in the Great War</b>	Ms Kate Birbeck  Dr Rosie Lewellyn-Jones  Dr Rodney Atwood  Dr Spencer Jones	Friday 11 October	To be notified

These events are open to all Gunners  
To register please email the RAHS Secretary by the dates shown  
Email Lt Col Clayton, RAHS Secretary: richard.clayton312@gmail.com  
All Gunners are entitled to join the Society. Please contact the Secretary for details.



Date	Event	Location
08 May	Charities Investment Committee	Larkhill
15 May	Charities F&GP Committee	Larkhill
17 May	RA Assembly	Blackpool
18 May	RA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
30 May	RAGCT	Larkhill
20 Jun	Hail & Farewell	Larkhill
01 Jul	Master Gunner's Committee	Larkhill
13 Jul	NMA Service	Staffordshire
18 Sep	RACF Welfare Committee	Larkhill
03 Oct	Alanbrooke Lunch	London
09 Oct	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
16 Oct	Charities F&GP Committee	Larkhill
25 Oct	Alamein Dinner	Larkhill
06 Nov	Charities F&GP Committee	Larkhill
07 Nov	Field of Remembrance	London
10 Nov	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	London
01 Dec	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill
01 Dec	St Barbara's Day Lunch	Larkhill
12 Dec	Master Gunner's Committee	Larkhill

**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 2023 are as follows:

Place	Regt
1	5th Regt
2	32nd Regt
3	19th 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 5th 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!



# LAST POST

Notification of Death:

- Capt Rupert Shoolbred 4 November 2023
- Donald Lewis 1 December 2023
- Peter Jackson February 2024
- Brig John Thomson 23 February 2024
- Col John Steele CB OBE TD 22 March 2024
- Gnr Steve Connolly 2 March 2024
- Roy Ritchie 13 March 2024
- Maj 'Bronco' Lane 22 March 2024
- Maj (Retd) Ed Cookson 31 March 2024
- Brian Shaw April 2024
- John Richard Graves April 2024
- Maj Philip Henslowe 13 April 2024



**CAMPBELL** - Colin Campbell, Captain (Retired), one of life's enthusiasts, died on 31st January 2024, aged 85. From Westcliff Grammar School, he joined the Army, and was posted to the Essex Gunners, 36th Regiment Royal Artillery. Before long his potential was recognised and by the age of 26 he was a Staff Sergeant and was offered a place at Mons Officer Cadet School. He was commissioned in 1966 and, on his Young Officer's Course is remembered for the support he gave to his fellow, greener, subalterns. He joined 5th Field Regiment Royal Artillery in Gutersloh, where, among many other things, he was a highly energetic Gun Position Officer, a silky fly half and a generous and loyal comrade. His natural empathy with his soldiers was obvious to all. Colin finished his 20 year Army career back in 36th Regiment Royal Artillery in Dortmund, and finally left in 1975. He and Sue moved to Kent, where, after qualifying, he became a school teacher, a role which suited his talents perfectly.

**GRAY** - Lieutenant Colonel Peter Reynolds (late RA), aged 93, passed away peacefully at home on 9th April 2024. Beloved husband of the late Muriel, father of Suzanne, Robert, Andrew, and the much missed Jamie, father-in-law to Anna and Jane, grandfather to James, Victoria, Alex, Amelia and Katie, and great-grandfather to Jasper, Theo, Sebastian and Elizabeth.

**GROGAN** - Captain William Grogan. Died Monday 19th February 2024. Born 1942 and lived in Singapore after the war in the far east ended. He joined the Army as a junior soldier at Bradbury lines in April 1958. He joined 19th Regiment Royal Artillery in 1960 and went to 67th Battery. He rose through the ranks to Warrant Officer Class One, and on promotion to Captain in 1980, became the Quartermaster for the Flyout Brigade in Guildford. He was demobbed in the late '80's, and lived in Malta until his death.

**JACKSON** - Lieutenant Colonel Richard Kingston Wyse, died peacefully on 2nd April 2024 aged 87. Devoted husband of Vivien, much loved father of Tim, Sarah and Caroline, and adored grandfather of Victoria, Charlotte, Digby, Alice, Emily and Florrie.

**LACHLAN** - Major Edward Lachlan. It is with great sorrow that we announce the death on 11 February 2024 at the age of 93 of Major Edward Lachlan. He had commanded 13 (Martinique) Battery in 14 Field Regiment and in later life was Chairman of the Isle of Ely and Cambridge Branch of the Royal Artillery Association.

**WHITWORTH** - Major D B D Whitworth. Passed away peacefully in hospital on Sunday 10th March 2024.



## Brigadier Dr J R Thomson QVRM TD DL



Brigadier Dr John R Thomson, a long serving member of the National Artillery Association. John was born and raised in North Ayrshire and, although he settled in Edinburgh from 1989, returned to his family area last year.

Widely recognised by his gentlemanly and pleasant approach to everyone, John had a great sense of humour which he used regularly to place people at their ease, and this was evident in many of his interactions with other people.

A man of honour, with a distinguished military career, John had attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1972 and was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1973. He was fluent in French and attended the "Ecole Militaire" in Paris

in 1988. He also attended the "NATO Defence College" in Rome (1999) and the "Defence Strategic Leaders' Programme" at the Defence Academy near Swindon (2003).

John was BK of 289 (Commando) Battery Royal Artillery a part of 29 (Commando) Regiment Royal Artillery. As a Major, John commanded a Company of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and afterwards joined 105 Regiment Royal Artillery as Second in Command.

In 1991 John took command of 105 Regiment Royal Artillery and hosted Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II when she inspected the saluting troop at Edinburgh Castle. Following promotion to Colonel, John accepted a post at Headquarters Scotland and, later in the 1990's, he was promoted to Brigadier and was appointed Deputy Inspector General - Territorial Army.

In addition, John was a Vice President and former Chairman of the National Artillery Association and member for over 30 years. Chair of the Royal Artillery Council of Scotland, a member of the Edinburgh Branch of the Royal Artillery Association,

John was Honorary Colonel Commandant Royal Artillery and Honorary Colonel of 105 Regiment Royal Artillery and also of Glasgow University Officers' Training Corps (GUOTC). He was also a member of the City of Edinburgh Artillery Officers Association, a Board Member of Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, and a Trustee of Poppy Scotland.

In 2008, he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant, for the City of Edinburgh, to represent Her Majesty the Queen.

His civilian career ranged from the Whisky Heritage Centre in Edinburgh to the Business School of Edinburgh Napier University where he was a Senior Lecturer with extensive lecturing abroad. In later life he added a PhD to his already impressive range of qualifications.

Brigadier John was a constant promoter of the Royal Artillery, the Reserve Forces and the National Artillery Association and who will be sadly missed by all.



## Brigadier (Retd) Alastair Clark



Brigadier (Retd) Alastair John McDougall Clark died suddenly at home on the 5th March 2024. He is survived, and loved, by Margaret, Stephen and Alex. Family flowers only please, and donations if wished directly to the RA Charitable Fund. For those who wish to write to the family, Margaret's address is: 1 Eaglefield, Devizes Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 9JN.

Brigadier (Retd) Alastair Clark joined the Royal Artillery in 1958, spending his first four years in Hong Kong (32 Med Regt RA and 34 Lt AD Regt RA), where he met Margaret, and in Aden. Time in the UK and Germany (and Paris) saw him qualifying as a Russian interpreter and spending much of the latter half of the 1960's working in Cheltenham and Cyprus, the latter at 9 Signals Regiment. After time in the Allied

Command Europe Mobile Force AMF (UK, Norway) and passing ASC 5/111 he was posted as the Army Operations Officer, British Commanders'-in-Chief Mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany BRIXMIS, 1972-74, a role he was proud of.

In 1974 he became Battery Commander of 176 (Abu Klea) Med Bty RA, (39 Med Regt RA), in Sennelager and Lurgan. After a Staff role at Headquarters Artillery Division he returned to Sennelager as Commanding Officer 39 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, where he was glad to be in post for the regiment to gain the Freedom of the City of Paderborn in 1980. During the 80's he served in Woolwich (General Services Officer 1 RA1 Headquarters Directorate Royal Artillery) and Dortmund (Deputy Commander Artillery Division). He spent the second half of the 1980s in Larkhill, as Command Interpreter Gunnery at the Royal School of Artillery, and then, as Brigadier, as the Commandant Royal School of Artillery. He chose the latter post in Moscow for which both he and Margaret were well into training for. In 1993 he retired from the Army, leaving

the posts of Commander Royal Artillery Training Brigade and Regimental Brigadier.

Living in both Pimlico and Salisbury he worked for 10 years in the Black Rod's Department, House of Lords, and was honoured to have run the Operations Room for the Queen Mother's Lying in State in 2002. Moving to Salisbury proper, he was the Chairman of the Salisbury Civic Society until 2013, and he maintained his interest in the City until his death, as he did his role of Chairman of the House of Lords Retired Staff Association.

### 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

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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.

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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.

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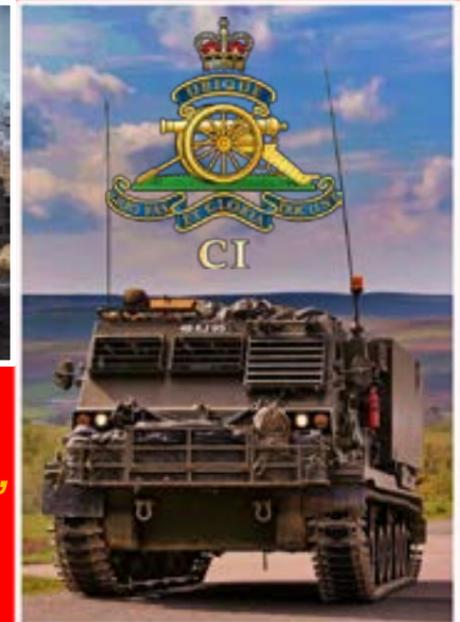


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The 4/5 (Queen's Edinburgh Rifles) Battalion, The Royal Scots were converted to Royal Artillery at the start of World War II, and served as 52 Searchlight Regiment and later as 130 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. 4/5 Royal Scots are an example of many other infantry and yeomanry units that were moved into the RA in World War II.

4/5 Royal Scots, (as 52 S/L Regiment) was engaged in the first air raid of the war against the Luftwaffe attacking the naval base at Rosyth. Later their area of responsibility changed to the east coast prior to moving south of the border. As 130 LAA Regiment, they served in Kent's 'Hellfire Corner' where they were part of the defences against the V1 Flying Bombs, or 'Doodlebugs' and destroyed 35 of them.

These Colours are 100 years old, and are suffering from age and light damage. We are raising £7000 to have the colours professionally conserved to preserve this unique piece of military history for the Royal Artillery and for Scotland. Many of our Grandparents and Great Grandparents served in anti-aircraft in World War II and it is an important legacy to preserve. Every and any contribution towards this effort will be gratefully accepted. No contribution is too little, "every mickle mak's a muckle", as the old saying goes.



Photo credit: Bombardier Ben Watson, 19th Regiment Royal Artillery

Royal Artillery Boxing Championships