



JANUARY 2022



Ex MAYAN STORM

Ex YEOMANS STAR 21

**7 AIR DEFENCE GROUP
BOXING NIGHT**

GUNNER

#oneregiment

The Larkhill-based team that supplies you Gunner.

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

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GUNNER



JANUARY 2022

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Gnr Allaway, 12 Regt RA awarded most spirited boxer

Front cover photo taken by
by LBdr Musto, 58 Bty,
12 Regt RA

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**Colonel Sam Shepherd MBE ADC
Regimental Colonel**

Firstly, I wish you all a very Happy New Year. Secondly, I would like to pay tribute to those Gunners for whom the festive season was spent deployed, either at home or overseas. Thirdly, I would like to congratulate those Gunners recognised in Her Majesty's New Year's Honours List (more details can be found inside Gunner magazine).

As highlighted by the Master Gunner in his Christmas & New Year Message, 2021 was a challenging but highly successful year for the Royal Regiment. Despite the constraints placed upon us by the pandemic, the Gunners, both regular and reserve continued to support operations overseas whilst concurrently playing a full part in UK Operations at home. Exercises continued and September 2021 witnessed the first deployment of the Offensive Support Group for a number of years. 7 (Air Defence) Group have been in high demand and highlights include the declaration of Initial Operating Capacity of SkySabre in October 2022. 29 Cdo Regt RA enjoyed a rare break from deployments whilst hosting the official Mayflower 400 celebrations in the Royal Citadel which marked the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers sailing to America, attended by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal. The Watchkeeper Force increased their flying capability both in Cyprus and the UK, the ISR Brigade continued to provide widespread ISR support to operations and exercises across the world and who can forget 7 Para RHA's part in the withdrawal from Afghanistan. Training has been brilliantly supported by the Royal School of Artillery who finally celebrated their centenary as part of the St Barbara's Day celebrations. In short, the Gunners continue to be in demand at home and across the globe and I foresee another action packed year in 2022. On the people front, the strength of the Gunners continues to grow and throughout 2022, many regiments will enjoy near 100% of workforce requirement – this should enable plenty of opportunity for our people to embark upon all the activities that attracted them to a life less ordinary and COVID permitting I look forward to a return to a full Forecast of Events.

Turning now to the future; given the unprecedented nature of the last two years, I am slightly nervous

about attempting to foretell what the New Year will bring. However, ever the optimist, following the announcement of the Integrated Review (IR), I believe that the future is bright. With two of CGS's sunrise capabilities earmarked for the Gunners; Future Ground Based Air Defence and the Future Land Deep Fires programme, not to mention the plethora of Gunner related equipment programmes due to deliver throughout the 2020s/2030s, for the first time in a number of years, the Gunners have much to be excited about on the equipment front. Whilst the outcome of the IR promises significant opportunity across the Gunners, the road to the IR 'End State' will inevitably be bumpy. There will be unavoidable challenges across all lines of development but perhaps no more so than on the people front and I ask for your patience and fortitude throughout this journey as we transition to an Army of 73,000.

Towards the latter end of 2021, sport made a much welcomed return and whilst COVID continues to wreak havoc with Winter Sports, the first quarter of 2022 offers sport lovers a protein rich programme; appetisers include; the Royal Artillery Point to Point (22 Jan 22), Gunner v Sapper Rugby Match (2 Feb 22), Inter-Unit Cross Country Championships (2 Feb 22), Inter-Unit Boxing Competition (21-24 Mar 22) and of course the much awaited return of the RA Gold Cup at Sandown on 17 Feb 22 (details of which can be found inside Gunner Magazine). On the veteran front, the Royal Artillery Association will finally celebrate its belated 100th Anniversary at the Blackpool Assembly in May 22 and we keep our fingers crossed for full return to Ceremonial Duties for the King's Troop RHA.

Lastly but by no means least, 6 February 2022 will mark our Captain General's Accession to the Throne in her Platinum Jubilee Year; the Royal Regiment looks forward to marking this momentous occasion not only with our traditional Gun Salutes but also in a special undertaking which will be revealed to the Royal Regiment in the very near future. In conclusion, I will finish where I started by wishing you all a very Happy New Year.



ONCE A GUNNER, ALWAYS A GUNNER

Almost fifty years on, two former Gunners reflect on their experience of serving together

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Mac McPherson

In February this year an unexpected e-mail dropped into my in-box from an only vaguely familiar name. Opening it with the caution required in these circumstances, I was amazed to find it was from Nigel Pantling, my Troop Commander in 42nd Heavy Regiment back in 1973. I had not heard from Nigel since he had left us shortly after a mildly exciting Northern Ireland tour which broke up the usual calendar of battery, regimental and brigade exercises typical of life in BAOR during the Cold War, as we prepared for the only theoretical Russian advance westwards.

This chance contact after almost fifty years reinforced powerfully for me the truth of our regimental mantra 'Once a gunner, always a gunner'. And it provided an opportunity for me to reflect on the lessons I had learned in those first few years in the Army. My service had begun not especially auspiciously when, as a scruffy fifteen-year-old with empty pockets and nothing very much to look forward to, I ambled into the recruiting office in Chester on a rainy Spring day rather than shelter amongst the plastic Romans in the local museum. It was the 28th April 1970. I then experienced what has since come to be described as 'the shock of capture': within a week I found myself signed up and at the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Artillery, incidentally reporting there in smart clothes borrowed for the purpose and promptly posted back!

My first lesson in early Army life was that a good rollicking from a Junior Leaders sergeant, regularly experienced at very close quarters and presumably intended as a form of encouragement to do better, was best regarded as a thing of delight. Sgt Hall did not focus on me particularly, but when he did, I thought he might spontaneously combust. Nonetheless, I very much enjoyed my time at Junior Leaders: four meals a day, constant activity – a lot of which was fun – and all much to be preferred to my civilian life alternative.

A few months later, departing from Lime Street Station in No2 Dress with a suitcase and a kit bag for the long trek to 42nd Heavy Regiment in Fallingbostal

in the 'British Zone' in Northern Germany, I had no idea how different Regimental life would be from the expectations I had built up during my training. I am not one for looking back through rose-tinted specs, and I am astonished now when I think of the boredom of those early years. 42nd Regiment was equipped with the tracked self-propelled M107: an expensive fuel-guzzler which could fire a 67kg shell 20 miles, and which was thus not taken out onto the ranges very often. As a result, apart from during the relatively exciting and challenging but quite short annual cycle of live-firing exercises, gunners like me spent many days in the gun park not doing very much at all. And Fallingbostal didn't offer a lot to entertain single soldiers, so there was a culture of drinking after duty which would surely not be tolerated today.

Fortunately, sport was plentiful and provided a much-needed stimulus for me. In particular, I was delighted to find that the annual skiing expedition - Exercise Snow Queen - was always under subscribed, and with some careful 'management' of my Troop Sergeant and the 18 Battery BSM I found it was possible to ski for several weeks each winter. But undoubtedly the real saviour from the tedium of life in barracks was a tour of duty in Northern Ireland under 'Operation Banner'. Over the years, I found myself in Northern Ireland several times, but my first tour started in July 1973, when 42nd Regiment spent four months in Belfast, based mainly in the Republican New Lodge and the Markets areas.

That's how I came to meet Nigel Pantling. 18 Battery was reorganised for Northern Ireland to take in soldiers from 94 Locating Regiment, and I found myself under Nigel's command in the new B Troop. Many of us considered ourselves fortunate to have him as our Troop Commander: he was calm and measured, quick on the uptake and got to know us all in short order. I was not surprised when almost 50 years later he could name almost all the members of B troop like he was reading the nominal roll! He seemed to know what Northern Ireland was all about, and when he led B Troop through the Regimental training programme he was determined to pass on everything he could.



That laid the foundation for a successful tour of duty by a happy team of committed soldiers, including several characters who were memorable – even at this distance – not primarily for their soldiering skills, but who fitted in well.

We had quite a tricky tour in the centre of Belfast. It was less than a year after ‘Bloody Sunday,’ and tensions were particularly high throughout Northern Ireland. B Troop had its fair share of excitement, including car bombs, snipers and booby traps, but fortunately no serious casualties. The encouraging thing, looking back, was the way that we all pulled together in that tour, in a more committed and professional way than we did in the gun park. When I talked to Nigel earlier this year, I found out that he had written about his experience of Northern Ireland in two books of poetry, which I’ve read and enjoyed, and which brought back sharp memories. One of my favourite poems is ‘Vehicle Patrol’ which catches for me the sense of comradeship and duty and yet the ever-present threat of violence which anyone who has served in Northern Ireland will remember.

I remember that not long after our return to Fallingbostal, Nigel left 42nd Regiment on a posting back to the UK and I lost sight of him, although I now know from reading his poetry that he worked in the Home Office and later in the City, and now advises company chief executives. I remained in 18 Battery in Fallingbostal for a time, although I eventually moved to 5th Regiment in Hildesheim (a much nicer place to live!) and after a Gunnery Career Course I went to be a SMIG at the Young Officers’ Branch. This proved highly rewarding, and I have many close friends today who I met as new Second Lieutenants. I wanted to send them out into the world not just with a modicum of technical ability but more importantly to be useful troop commanders who would look after their soldiers, as Nigel looked after us!

Nigel Pantling (then Lieutenant Pantling)

I’m a businessman these days, and one gloomy winter’s day I was idly looking through professional profiles on the networking website ‘LinkedIn’ when I came across one which made me sit up and take notice. Mac McPherson, former Gunner officer, was to be the next High Sheriff of South Yorkshire. Could this be the same Mac who had been in my

troop in Northern Ireland in the early Seventies? A quick glance at his ‘LinkedIn’ CV left me in no doubt: joining the Army at 15, regimental service as a gunner in BAOR, and then rising steadily to RSM of 3rd Regiment, to Royal Artillery Sergeant Major at Woolwich, and then twenty years commissioned service reaching Lieutenant Colonel, with an MBE on the way through. An outstanding military career and now, it seemed, flourishing in the civilian world.

Why was I not in the least surprised at any of this? Because I remembered the young Gunner McPherson clearly. He had struck me on first meeting as one of those young soldiers who perhaps has not had the greatest of advantages in early life, but who nonetheless has the intelligence, quick wit, commitment and approach to soldiering that marks them out as high potential. The Army has always been good at bringing out the best in people like Mac. I had liked and admired him, and it had been a pleasure for me that Mac was in my troop. I’d always been sure he would do very well indeed. Quite how well, I couldn’t have known.

My own route to B Troop in 18 Battery had been different to Mac’s. My father had been a Gunner officer after national service, and the Army had always seemed to me a good way of avoiding life behind a desk. Like Mac, I’d signed up after school, but I’d been fortunate to have A levels that persuaded the Army to send me straight to university. By the time I graduated in July 1971, just about knowing how to wear my uniform and not much more, I found myself reporting to 42nd Medium Regiment in Devizes which (amazingly it seemed to me) was then equipped with 5.5 inch towed guns. I’d barely got myself familiar with these strange dinosaurs from before the Second World War, when the Regiment was sent to Northern Ireland. We were to help implement the Government’s new policy of internment without trial, intended to reduce the operational capacity of the IRA.

Life suddenly became frenetic, exhilarating and unpredictable. As an immature and barely capable officer I found myself in charge of a troop of soldiers facing rioting crowds on the streets of Londonderry. I was educated in soldiering very quickly. And I learned a great deal about loyalty and trust, not least to listen carefully to my troop sergeant whenever he said “I wouldn’t do that if I were you, Sir”, enabling me to avoid doing anything sufficiently foolish to



endanger my soldiers or terminate my career. That first Northern Ireland tour ended early when I was sent to Sandhurst for the ‘ten-week wonder’ training course for newly graduated officers, and by the time I re-joined 42nd Regiment it was a Heavy Regiment in Germany, and life took on a slower pace.

My experience of Fallingbostal was similar in many respects to Mac’s. There wasn’t a great deal to do in barracks, and I had to work hard to keep myself occupied. We were fortunate to have an inspirational commanding officer of the old school in Jasper Browell. (Ironically, in November 2017 Mac and I stood only yards apart at his memorial service in the Royal Garrison Church in Larkhill, without recognising each other). Colonel Jasper had served in the King’s Troop and encouraged his young officers to ride and play polo. I didn’t fancy that, so he appointed me Regimental Sailing Officer (even though I’d never sailed), which introduced me to the waters of the River Weser, the Möhnesee and the Baltic. And, like Mac, I skied as often as I could.

And then, in early 1973, we were warned for another Op Banner tour. Because I’d already served in Northern Ireland, I wanted to pass on to B Troop all I’d learned in Londonderry, to keep us safe, and to be as successful as we could be. I was fortunate to have a terrific group of soldiers, excellent section commanders, and a wise and hugely supportive troop sergeant. The experience of that Belfast tour has never left me. Like Mac, I don’t think I’m prone to see things through rose-tinted spectacles, but I still feel pride in the success of the soldiers in B Troop in keeping the peace through effective patrolling, weapons finds and arrests; in the speed and courage of their response to shooting incidents or bombings; and in their wit, good humour and fortitude despite four months of discomfort and danger.

That sense of pride is what led me, many years and several careers after leaving the Army, to write two books of poetry. Kingdom Power Glory is about my experience of three Northern Ireland tours (as well as about life in the civil service and the City) and Hip Hind Hook is about soldiering in Germany during the Cold War. Why use poetry to write about these things? I suppose because we have such a long tradition of poetry written by soldiers, from World War One and before. And because I found that in a poem I could focus on a single incident, say a moment of danger or boredom, or the personality

of a particular soldier, and bring that to life.

I sent Mac copies of both books, and was pleased when he said they rang bells for him. Perhaps not surprisingly: ‘Vehicle Patrol’ is based upon a bomb attack on the Belfast telephone exchange, when Mac’s and my patrol confirmed the presence of several hundred pounds of explosive in an otherwise innocuous laundry van, cordoned the area and helped evacuate hundreds of civilians from the building, so that the bomb disposal robot (very high-tech back then) could open the van doors, isolate the detonator and defuse the bomb.

That incident taught me – and I imagine Mac too – an important lesson, one that will have been learnt by all who soldiered in Northern Ireland in the Seventies and afterwards, and by those men and women who have since fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. That lesson is what the poem is about. As a soldier, no matter how well trained you are, how well you have prepared, how well you are briefed or led, you need to have good luck. We had good luck that day. Had there been a different time setting on the fuse of that bomb, neither Mac nor I would be here to write about it.

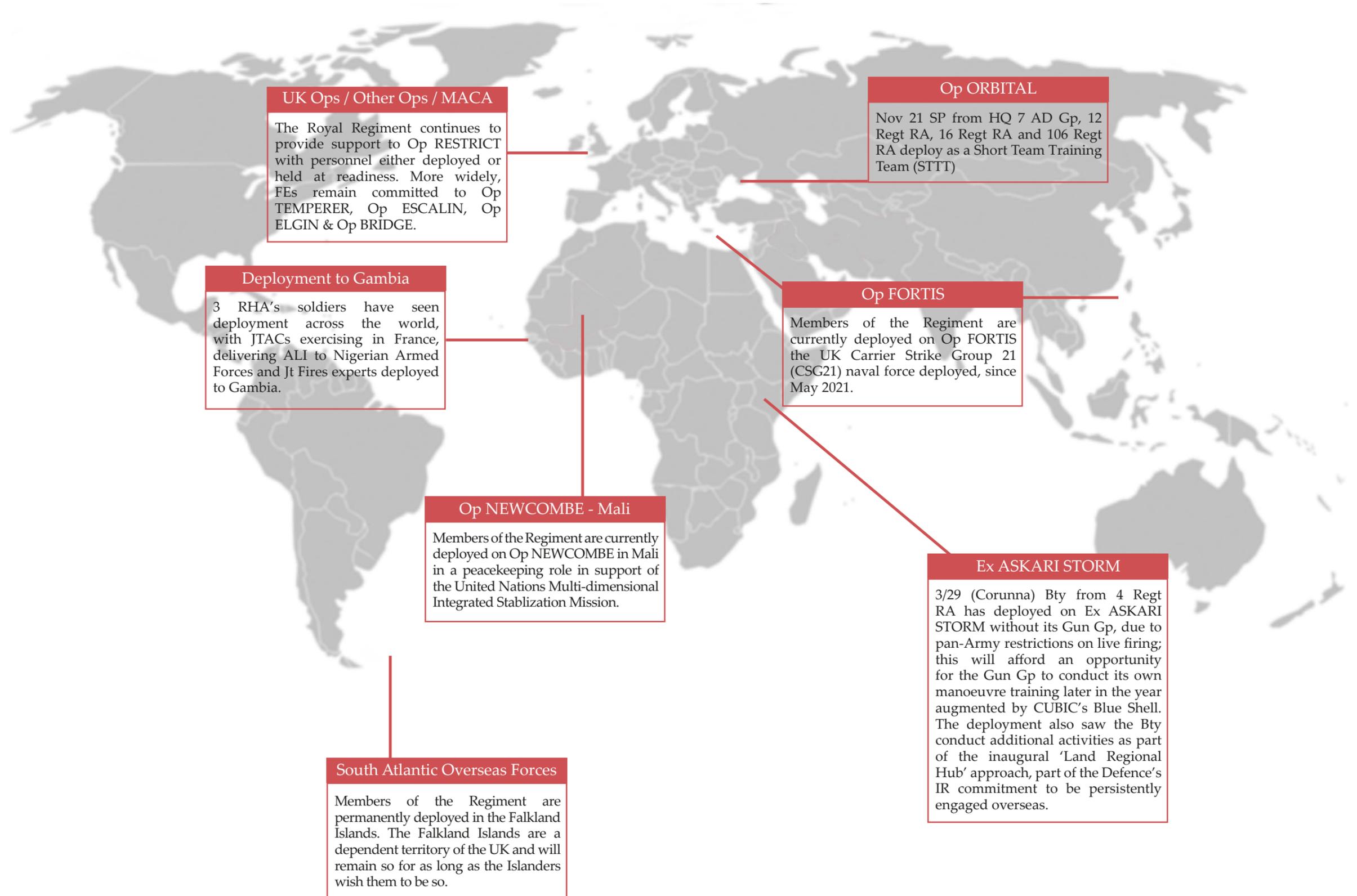
Vehicle Patrol

*It was an ordinary van, Belfast City Laundry
painted on its side, parked in a side street.
Ordinary, although now you mention it,
heavy on its springs, the door taped shut.*

*Anyway, there was room to pull in behind
for a smoke-break. They stopped there -
helmets off, rifles resting across their knees -
for ten minutes. Ten minutes, the time*

*it takes a soldier to crack a few jokes,
finish a cigarette. Also the time
to run a clock down to zero,
to trip a rocker switch, to fire a detonator.*

The Gunners are currently engaged on over 10 overseas operations with formed units and individual augmentees deployed across the globe.





209 (The Manchester Artillery) Battery RA Conferment of the Freedom of the City of Manchester



It had been a long 23 months without a major public appearance, but on 25 October 2021 103rd (Lancashire Volunteers) Regiment Royal Artillery formed up in the City of Manchester in support of 209 (The Manchester Artillery) Battery, who were receiving the Freedom of the City of Manchester. The Freedom of the City is a tradition that can be traced back to ancient Rome and offers soldiers the privilege of marching through the city 'with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed'. 209 (The Manchester Artillery) Battery's presence in Manchester can be traced back to 1804 when a local volunteer militia force was formed and ever since then it has been heavily involved with the city. Whilst it is a huge honour, it is of little surprise that this great privilege was chosen to be bestowed upon the Battery and was one of

only six other occasions this millennium that the honour had been granted by the city.

As the 120 volunteers from the Regiment formed up for the parade on a bright autumn day, the Regiment's band, The Lancashire Artillery Volunteers and the Lancashire Artillery Volunteer Pipes and Drums started to play, attracting a considerable crowd. The Regiment stepped off, marching a short distance before halting outside the City Hall. Here they were greeted by various guests and VIPs hosted by a further 10 members of the Regiment. It was then that the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tommy Judge, the Master Gunner of St James' Park, Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE, CB, DL and the Honorary Colonel of 103rd Regiment Royal Artillery, Brigadier Bill Kingdon inspected the Regiment.



After the Chief Executive had read the resolution, granting 209 (The Manchester Artillery) Battery the Freedom of the City of Manchester, the Regiment exercised their right to the march through the city. The march took the Regiment around the centre of Manchester, looping back to the front of the City Hall, where they saluted the Lord Mayor, the Master Gunner of St James' Park, the Honorary Colonel and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Taylor-Jane Fox.

After the parade, the Regiment joined the guests of the event in the City Library for drinks and lunch, which also saw the promotion of one of our officers, Lt Will Walker of 216 (The Bolton Artillery) Battery, by the Master Gunner of St James' Park to the rank of Captain. Eventually,

the time came for people to get back to their Battery locations around the North-West and Midlands. The event was described by many as a fantastic day and lots of people stated that they were thoroughly enjoying being back in a public setting with the Regiment. A warm thank you must go to Manchester City Council who hosted the Regiment in such fine style, the guests for attending the event and the Regimental 2IC, Maj D Braddock and the Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 (RSM) M Tanton, whose hard work made the event possible.

by Lt T Lord RA
103 Regt RA





Jungle Warfare Training - Exercise MAYAN STORM



Exercise MAYAN STORM is a six week a Jungle Warfare training package conducted by the British army in Belize, Central America. A six person team led by Bombardier Parry, from D Battery, 3 RHA, deployed to Belize and conducted this training package with the Scots Guards in October to November 2021.

When the chance to exercise in the jungle with the 1st Battalion Scots Guards was offered to D Battery, we did not hesitate to get our names in for what will likely be a once in a career opportunity. The jungle is widely recognized as one of the most demanding places to exercise and test yourself as a soldier.

Shortly after our arrival in Belize, acclimatization was conducted just outside Belize City at Price Barracks, home to British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB). This training prepared us well for the conditions we later found under the Jungle canopy.

We then deployed forward to Camp Busby located in the Gallon Jug training area. Our first day under the tree canopy was our survival day, led by Jungle Warfare Instructors (JWIs) from across the British army and the RAF Regiment. This proved to be one of the most enjoyable days in the jungle, where we were taught how to dispatch and prepare several animals including a pig and a chicken, as well as how to set traps, collect water and build shelter.

We were deployed into the jungle as a platoon and fully immersed into the tactical scenario of the exercise. We were given a refresh of lessons taught previously by the jungle warfare instructors, ensuring we practiced twice over. Significant energy went into ensuring a harbor area was established, as this would be essential to sustaining the team could be fully administered for the duration. Once established we searched our surrounding are for the enemy



camp and once found, conducted our Close Target Reconnaissance (CTR), followed by a well-planned camp attack.

Following on from this we took a break from the tactical scenario to conduct six days of Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT), which was to prove the best part of the exercise. Lessons in this phase were taught by members of the Special Forces who had joined us for the live fire package. This was progressive training, starting with pairs fire and maneuver which then developed onto section contact drills and a section attack. The LFTT culminated in a gruelling live fire platoon camp attack and a well-deserved day of rest before beginning our Final Test Exercise (FTX).



The FTX was demanding and began with the first night spent laid up in a long-term platoon ambush. After 18 hours waiting for the enemy, we discovered that they had by-passed our position and were ambushed instead, by our neighboring platoon. Mental resilience training conducted in 3 RHA paid off as we didn't lose our spirit for our second day. We then moved tactically as a platoon through the thick canopy and attacked an enemy camp before exploiting the position and making it our own for the night. The following day we linked up as a company and conducted CTRs onto the large enemy camp. Ready for the final assault and culmination of the exercise spirits were high all around. An early H-hour launched the company

into an attack fought off by a relenting defense and counterattack from the enemy.

Once the objective was clear and the commanding officer had given his approval for a job well done, we returned to Price Barracks and began our Adventurous training package. This included abseiling and caving before being taken by boat from Belize City to the Caribbean Island of San Pedro for 2 days of much deserved R&R.

by Bdr Parry
D Bty
3 RHA





Training for Tomorrow's Conflict



Exercise URBAN TIGER at Imber Village on Salisbury Plain Training Area

34 (Seringatam) Battery (Bty) has always been unique within the Royal Artillery, drawing from six Close Support Regiments across the wider Artillery, including specialists from 16 Air Assault Brigade (Bde) and 3 Commando Bde. As a result, it is the largest Battery in the Royal Artillery. With 14 x L118 Light Guns, 7 x AS90 self-propelled guns and a fleet of over 50 vehicles, the Battery is well equipped to meet its demands as the most fired and deployed Bty in the Gunners.

The Seringatam gun line is highly trained, owing to its significant tempo, it has always pushed training; constantly trialling and testing new ways of operating. Due to this excellence, each soldier has the full trust of the Chain of Command (CoC), empowering them to suggest, plan and test new ideas, thus improving how we are delivering Artillery support to the wider Army.

As part of 14 Regiment RA, the Battery operates as part of the Land Warfare Centre, the re-subordination of the Innovation and Experimentation Group under the Future Solider construct, coupled with the live firing expertise of the Battery has resulted in the Battery being allocated the role of the Close Support Innovation and Experimentation Battery. Within this new role, all members of the Battery, are expected to have a questioning mindset, to be curious about how things are done and, more importantly, suggesting how they may be improved. Supporting the delivery of numerous courses across RSA with significant operational output, 34 Bty is situated perfectly to test and evaluate new

ways of operating and training. Therefore, the Battery are in a position to act as a proving ground for others, in order to assess new concepts in a safe environment.

34 Bty considers three key tenets for every deployment and exercise; deception, manoeuvre and concealment. Employing deception in the form of dummy gun positions and fake track plans has put a marked emphasis on making a habit of reducing their footprint in the field. Referring to the Principles of Defence, this affords the Battery a smaller physical presence and makes it more difficult to be detected by external ISTAR assets.

The Bty now places a higher focus on utilising Artillery Manoeuvre Areas (AMAs) and moving discretely between positions when deployed on exercise. This has highlighted the importance of remaining flexible and adaptable when adopting firing formations. When reacting to different levels of threats that may be posed by any notional enemies, and adjusting defences accordingly, these practices have been employed to good effect by the Battery during both rural and urban exercises.

Perhaps one of the best examples of how the Battery are innovating was Ex URBAN TIGER, which took place in September 2021 at Imber Village on Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA). The summative exercise saw all personnel of 34 Bty honing their urban infantry skills, alongside trialling Artillery-specific training and tactics. The Battery Commander, Maj G Forster RA, alongside the training team, put a heavy emphasis future warfighting environments and



how operating in the grey space will dictate how the Royal Artillery have an effect on military objectives in the future, particularly noting that hybrid conflicts, where the use of Close Support Artillery in Urban environments is likely to be heavily contested, will dominate the majority of future operations, and 34 Bty, as a result, strive to put to test any new and innovative ideas through the Royal School of Artillery (RSA), in order to future-proof current or proposed procedures and practises.

Throughout this progression of multiple Battle Craft Syllabus (BCS) exercises, the soldiers of 34 Bty have gone from basic field tactics and administration on Bodmin Moor, to exercising and implementing Artillery practises in the urban environment, whilst maintaining organic protection. Trialling the way Guns can be transported, hidden and fired whilst operating in an urban environment, alongside a surveillance drone detachment from the RSA, has cemented 34 Bty's presence as an "Innovation and Experimentation Battery".

In late October 2021, the Battery deployed a six-platform AS90 Gun Group for Quick Action exercise serials on SPTA. Over the course of the Exercise the Command Post was used digital firing test procedures to speed up the Quick Action process for armoured platforms. By using existing equipment, typically issued to Gun Batteries, but trialling the way in which it is implemented offers a glimpse at how the Bty will test the limits of extant processes to see what

is possible, shorten the test to TTP to doctrine loops and provide advice on how improved operating procedures could be implemented in the future.

Ultimately, it is the people that truly make 34 Bty the exceptional organisation it is. By adopting a working environment that prioritises inclusivity and diversity, the Battery exploits individuals' differences. This monopoly on how different people think allows them to stimulate change for the better and improve how they operate.

Looking forward to 2022, the Battery will not only continue to push forward with its development of new tactics and equipment, from Live Fire deployments in urban environments to data-linked fire and manoeuvre with AS90, but also to solidify ties with the Yorks Battle Group. In doing so, this will help to drive CAC innovation in the future and cement the Battery as a pivotal and influential unit within the wider Army.





Training for Tomorrow's Conflict





57 (Bhurtapore) Battery explore Gunner Heritage with the Garrison Artillery Volunteers



Exploring Gunner Heritage

On Wednesday 1st December 2021, eighteen members of 57 (Bhurtapore) Battery Royal Artillery, a Watchkeeper Remotely Piloted Air Systems battery, met with the Garrison Artillery Volunteers (GAV) in Larkhill for a day to immerse within Royal Artillery heritage.

The GAV are a volunteer organisation who preserve the skills of our artillery forebearers, including the restoration and maintenance of guns, searchlights and whole host of associated equipment and vehicles. They can regularly be seen demonstrated these skills at events around the country now events can proceed once again. It has been a long time since Gunner heritage has been accessible in a physical form. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and lack of activity such as Battlefield studies and museum closures, an opportunity to return to 'hands on' interpretation could not be missed.

Despite a cold and blustery Larkhill, the GAV gave a very interesting introduction to their organisation and delivered an excellent lesson in Royal Artillery survey from the Second World War to a very attentive audience. Astonished at the accuracy of survey, many within the Battery were quick to identify the benefits of this knowledge regarding work within a GPS denied environment. Further stands on Second World War ammunition, the equipment of 25 pounder gun batteries and on the conservation and restoration of vehicles and equipment, gave a hands on experience with one soldier commented that "I didn't even know any of this was here and it is so interesting to see".

With a few hours dedicated to dry 25 pounder gun drill in preparation for blank firing, much of the Battery, who recently completed public duties firing a 21 Gun Royal Gun Salute from Edinburgh Castle, were astonished at the



simplicity and almost the same gun drill used. Lt McIntyre, who was OIC for the gun salute commented that "it's amazing how they are so similar. It makes you realise that the past need not be so distant, and all soldiers can identify with and experience their heritage in this way". Each soldier had the opportunity to experience each position on the gun detachment before the highlight of the day, putting the dry gun drill into action and conduct a troop sized blank firing drill of four salvos. This activity brought the day as close to the lived experienced possible. A fantastic opportunity provided by the GAV that was not lost on the Battery and an experience that can take with them throughout their future Army careers.



To engage forward, the Regiment's soldiers must not forget the past or simply assume that 'it was different then'. Heritage remains a core element of being a Gunner and surely binds together the moral component of the Royal Regiment. A day spent between 57 Battery

and the GAV has created a relationship that will endure to enable accessible heritage for members of the serving Regiment. The Battery now looks forward to completing a Regimental Air Observation Post study day in and around the Salisbury area, an historic role very closely associated with the Battery's core purpose today.

by Maj M J Martin RA
Battery Commander





**106th (Yeomanry) Regiment Royal Artillery - ExYEOMANS STAR 21
Barton Stacey - Sennybridge Training Area - Manorbier Air Defence Range**



106th (Yeomanry) Regiment's ADE in September 2021 was a change from recent years. After over 24 months of transition from HVM SP to LML, it was time to get back to basics. Deploying into the field for an extended period, living out of a bergen, refreshing basic dismounted combat skills, and enjoying ORP for more than a weekend were just a few of the highlights from our time in the field. The transition process coupled with 18 months of COVID restrictions meant that the Regiment had not deployed in great numbers for some time. Ex YEOMAN STAR 21 was structured to deliver a challenging exercise and strengthen our ethos to train as we fight.

The exercise aims were structured to meet the requirements of Collective Training Levels Alpha and Bravo through deployment on a diverse Field Training Exercise (FTX), and included:

- a. Officer and Soldier Leadership Development.
- b. Application of Basic Soldiering Skills over extended periods.
- c. GBAD deployments focusing on routine.
- d. Tactical firing, integrating the Comd Systems and GW.

The format of the exercise was shaped around the manoeuvre between three different locations and reflected a three-phase operation:

1. Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI)
2. Infantry phase to secure the AO. Foundation of dismounted operations.

3. Air Defence phase, including tactical live firing.

This was an ambitious and complex plan that required a huge amount of preparation to deliver, focussing on three fundamental areas of development: our people, the utilisation of our equipment, and professionalising our Air Defence capability. The exercise was developed to deliver the required level of training to all our Reserve Officers and Soldiers and had to be retention positive. Sub-units were given ownership to prepare their ORBATs, promote the ethos of the ex and ensure that individual readiness was maintained. As a result, the exercise consistently had 75 SP deployed, with over 100 SP taking part in the exercise during some phases.

The Regiment was also delighted to host several high-profile visitors. The Regimental Colonel, Colonel RA Reserves, RASM and WO1 RA Reserves were spoilt with some fine Welsh sunshine on SENTA, whilst the Deputy Comd 3UKXX observed the first ever tactical live firing completed by the Regiment on the Air Defence Range, Manorbier.

Overall, Ex YEOMANS STAR 21 was a hugely successful deployment for 106th RA. The model lends itself for a more dynamic, expeditionary deployment for a Reserve Air Defence Regiment and was received well by all those involved.



The closing date for all competitions in this month's edition is Monday 31 January 2022. The winners will be drawn at random and notified as soon as possible. Don't forget to fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

Easy Sudoku

	1	5				8		2
			4					
6			7	2				
				9		1		
1	8						3	7
		9		7				
				6	8			9
					7			
7		2				4	5	

The objective is to fill a 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

To win the Soldier's Part book - all you have to do is fill out all your details and send it to us at Gunner Publications, RHQ RA, Artillery Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 8QT.

The Gunner Wordsearch

R	U	L	P	E	E	T	S	R	A	I	P	F
E	G	O	A	L	K	E	U	P	E	R	X	O
T	R	S	P	H	E	L	P	F	O	E	W	R
S	A	P	I	F	E	F	P	R	C	T	O	W
O	D	O	C	A	E	A	O	I	H	T	N	A
F	E	N	K	B	R	N	R	D	A	G	I	I
R	F	S	L	E	E	G	T	G	I	N	G	D
I	E	O	I	R	F	N	I	E	D	E	M	T
S	N	R	N	G	T	I	S	R	R	T	A	I
R	D	R	E	E	C	N	T	A	A	O	E	T
U	E	U	U	N	E	N	L	T	P	M	T	S
O	R	T	C	A	T	A	E	I	P	O	C	I
V	M	R	S	R	O	C	C	O	O	R	A	S
A	L	U	E	F	R	A	X	N	H	P	F	S
F	H	N	R	H	P	T	A	M	T	T	O	A

This month you are looking for words that are associated with help, please find which word is not hidden in the grid. They can be found vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards. Good luck!

- | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|
| AID | HELP | RESCUE |
| ASSIST | NURTURE | SPONSOR |
| FAVOUR | PROMOTE | SUPPORT |
| FOSTER | PROTECT | SUSTAIN |



In early 1942 the Third Reich opened a maximum security Prisoner Of War camp in Lower Silesia for captured Allied airmen. Called Stalag Luft III, the camp soon came to contain some of the most inventive escapers ever known.

The 'eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month' of 1918 was supposed to be the conclusion of the 'war to end all wars'. Just twenty-one years after the armistice was signed, Barnsley, its borough and the world braced itself for a global conflict that history would eventually testify to be deadlier than the war that destroyed a generation of Barnsley men and boys. After the Great War, the famous market town stumbled into a new era that promised social change, including universal suffrage, economic and political stability and establishments of new international organisations such as the League of Nations to steer the masses.

Wordsearch - missing word?

.....

Name:

Tel:

Email:

Address:

.....

.....

.....



Thorney Island 7 Air Defence Group Boxing Night



WO2 (BSM) Reynolds, 11 (Sphinx) Bty, 16 Regt RA and his team led by SSgt G Price

On 18 November 2021, Col G Taylor RA CBE was delighted to host an evening of boxing where 8 bouts were contested from members of 12 Regt RA, 16 Regt RA and 7 AD Gp HQ. This marked the return of competitive boxing on Thorney Island after a prolonged absence due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Regimental Colonel S Shepherd MBE ADC was the guest of honour, amongst numerous partners from across the defence and defence industry community. As ever, the Battery's of those boxing also turned out in strength, turning the station gym into a packed-out arena.

There were 6 male and 2 female bouts contested, varying in both weight divisions and experience the boxers went toe to toe with many outcomes coming down to split decisions from the judges. The spirit of the evening and the respect shown between the competitors, post bout, demonstrated how boxing stands as

one of the best tests of the Army's core values, notably respect for others and discipline.

The pick of the contests were Gnr Allaway Vs Gnr Leeming, for which Gnr Allaway won the most spirited boxer for his outstanding performance (pictured) alongside Sgt Hockley Vs Gnr Wratten-Wood who won the bout of the evening for their contest (pictured). Capt Sam Wise RA (7 AD Gp HQ) won boxer of the evening for his performance.

Head coach for 12 Regt RA Sgt Parkins commented "All boxers from across the Station displayed all the values & standards expected of them during training which was assisted by two weight world champion Steve Collins, Sgt Wheatley and LBdr Lilly and what they produced in training was displayed in an excellent and competitive night of boxing. I am proud of every person that fought on the night and am eager to take these individuals



forward for the RA Boxing Competition in March 2022".

The bout contestants were:

Bdr Hannah (16 RA) Vs LBdr Ryan (12 RA)

Gnr Whitehead (12 RA) V Gnr Boyd (12 RA)

Gnr Cripps (12 RA) Vs Gnr Bentley (12 RA)

Capt Wise RA (7 AD GP HQ) Vs LCpl Hoult (12 RA Wksp)

Sgt Hockley (16 RA) Vs Gnr Wratten-Wood (12 RA)

2Lt Munrow-Smith RA (16 RA) Vs Gnr Kraska (16 RA)

Lt Cave (16 RA) Vs Gnr Anderson (12 RA)

Gnr Allaway (12 RA) Vs Gnr Leaming (12 RA)

A special thanks goes out to WO2 (BSM) Reynolds, 11 (Sphinx) Bty, 16th Regiment Royal Artillery and his team led by SSgt G Price for all their efforts to make the evening a success. Additional thanks go to the Pipes and Drums of 19th Regiment Royal Artillery for their half time performance to entertain the masses.

Both teams now look forward to a well-earned break over the Christmas period before training begins to attend the Royal Artillery Finals in March.

by Lt B Cave RA
16 Regt RA



Gnr Allaway receiving his award for the most spirited boxer from Commander 7 AD Gp Col G Taylor CBE RA



Sgt Hockley (blue) and Gnr Wratten-Wood (red) go toe to toe in the bout of the evening



Photo credits: Sgt Howe, 9 Battery, 12 Regiment RA and LBdr Darren Musto, 58 Battery, 12 Regiment RA



On Sunday 5th December 2021, the Royal Regiment of Artillery celebrated St Barbara's Day and the Centenary of the Royal School of Artillery with a Service held at The Royal Garrison Church of St Alban with St Barbara.

The service was led by Maj The Rev Roger Grafton CF, Chaplain to 14 Regt RA accompanied by The Ven Stephen Robbins CB, Honorary Chaplain to the RA.

Despite a bitterly cold northerly wind a large gathering of the serving regiment, veterans and their families attended the service, with lunch being served at the Royal Artillery Mess afterwards. Prior to the service, 14 smartly turned-out Standard Bearers paraded before the Master Gunner St James's Park.

At the beginning of the service the new Standard of 'Red Cypher', 3rd Regiment RHA's, Charity and Past and Present Members was presented and dedicated.

This year we also witnessed the blessing

of the new RSA Standard, as part of their Centenary celebrations. The Standard will join the other Regimental Standards that hang in the Garrison Church.

Prior to lunch, a superb historical display by the Garrison Artillery Volunteers was held outside the Royal Artillery Mess depicting artillery through the 100 years the RSA has been at Larkhill. An impressive spectacle that held everyone captivated. The Master Gunner St James's Park and the Commandant RSA fired one round of gunfire to celebrate the occasion.

Many thanks go to all who had been involved with organising every aspect of a day that was appreciated and enjoyed by all who attended.





A (1st City of London) Battery, Honourable Artillery Company



2021 has been a busy year for A (1st City of London) Battery. Our soldiers have deployed alongside their Regular counterparts at 7 PARA RHA live firing on Exercise CYPHER STRIKE, completed P Company and the Basic Parachute Course, and had the great privilege of firing a 41 Gun Salute at the Tower of London as part of Operation FORTH BRIDGE to mark the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

After the last year and a half being spent in and out of lockdowns, when the opportunity to get into the field presented itself to the soldiers of A Bty they jumped at it. 5 A Bty soldiers deployed alongside 7 PARA RHA on Exercise CYPHER STRIKE in the FSTs, on the Gun Line and within the RHQ. The first week was spent at an old airfield living in luxury concrete hangers going through pre-deployment checks, studying parachute drop zones, reporting lines and memorising rendezvous points. Once into the exercise the

guns expended a serious number of rounds, with Drummer Prior being fortunate enough to be signalling for an FST in F Bty. He was even able to call in his own Fire Mission by the end of the exercise: "an experience I won't be forgetting in a hurry!" he said.

Another highlight of the exercise for our soldiers was spending some time in the Joint Fires Cell during a period of intense activity (a bit of a brain melt, according to one!). During this period, they were able to speak to American aviation through the Joint Tactical Air Controllers who were kind enough to take the time to teach them about their own capabilities. They were also very grateful to the officers and soldiers of F Battery who went out of their way to ensure they were looked after. There was a genuine passion - particularly from the NCOs - to ensure that any knowledge they could pass on would be shared with our Reserve soldiers.



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IT PAYS TO UNDERSTAND YOUR PENSION





Royal Artillery Association - #oneregiment, #onefamily

Message from the Chairman

Brigadier (Retd) Mark Pountain CBE

Dear Members
2021 draws to a close, and while Omicron is the new concern (it sounds like something out of 'Transformers'), I am pleased to say that we were able to organise and deliver the majority of our planned events this year, even if the RA Gold Cup Meeting at Sandown and the RA General Assembly in Blackpool had to be cancelled. Some highlights:

- We stayed connected, through MS Teams and Zoom for meetings of the National Executive Committee (NEC) and the AGM, and through social media and the website more generally. 'Hybrid' meetings are the new norm, as we continue to exploit technology, though we mustn't underestimate the importance of 'face-to-face'.
- We were able to hold a much bigger Ceremony in July at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) than last year, wonderfully supported by the 'Royal Artillery Band North' aka the Band of the 103rd (Lancashire Volunteers) Regiment RA, as well as 27 Standard Bearers – thank you.
- 'Gunner Sunday' in October at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, again with some restrictions, but with about 80 attending.
- The RA Ceremony of Remembrance at the Gunner Memorial in Hyde Park, hugely well attended by a large contingent of the Regimental family.
- St Barbara's Day Service at Larkhill, no doubt celebrated in other parts of the UK as well.
- I should also record a number of successful Regional and Branch assemblies and meetings, and a small but significant ceremony at the NMA in early October to remember the 288 artillerymen lost along with a great number of other POWs when the SS Lisbon Maru was sunk in 1942.



In addition to our events, there has been the financial and welfare support we contribute as part of the Regimental effort. In sum, doing what we do: remembering, celebrating and helping our Regimental family.

A big 'thank you' you to all staff and volunteer helpers for all for you've done and all you do, and to all our Members, stay safe, and best wishes for the Season's celebrations and for the coming New Year,

Mark Pountain

Newbury & District Branch

The Newbury and District Branch of the Royal Artillery Association laid up their Standard of 25 years and dedicated a new Branch Standard on Saturday 9th October 2021.

Reverend Keri Eynon presided over the Service, which was held in Newbury's Royal British Legion Club and was attended by Colonel Matthew Carter, the Regimental Secretary, and Mrs Janine Westropp, the President of the Newbury Branch of the Royal British Legion. Other guests included Councillor Clive Hooker, Chairman of West Berkshire Council, Councillor Gary Norman, Newbury's Deputy Mayor, and Colonel Mike Relph MBE, the Artillery Association's Branch President.

Newbury's Royal British Legion Standard was paraded in honour of the dedication of the new Standard, and the Branch's affiliations with the regular army were marked by a detachment of soldiers from 74 Battery (the Battle Axe Company) Royal Artillery, from Larkhill Garrison.

Trevor Lisseman, Branch Secretary, said "It was a privilege to arrange the Service of Dedication for the new Standard, which embodies the honour and traditions of the Royal Artillery Association". Colonel Relph added "The Branch is grateful

BOOK EARLY
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

WELCOME BACK

The Royal Artillery Assembly

FRIDAY 20TH - MONDAY 23RD MAY 2022
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 21st May) - Just **£152 Per Person**

2 Night Package inclusive of Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

(Including RA Grand Gala Dinner - Saturday 21st May) - Just **£126 Per Person**

Grand Gala Dinner Only - No Accommodation **£25 Per Person**

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

To book a Gala Inclusive Package - call **0871 222 0031** and quote **RAANB0522**
Calls cost 13p per minute plus your chosen phone company access charge.

A refundable deposit of **£30** 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 352 341**

Accommodation reservations cannot be made on this line (01253 352 341)

PLEASE NOTE PARKING CHARGES APPLY - £3 FOR 24HRS PARKING FOR RESIDENTIAL GUESTS ONLY



to all those who attended this important event, and particularly to Colonel Matthew Carter who represents Headquarters Royal Artillery, which contributed so generously to the cost of the new Standard".

Mrs Janine Westropp, who has been a Branch member for 27 years said "Today is very special for the Newbury Branch of the Royal Artillery Association, and I send them many congratulations on behalf of the Royal British Legion and myself. My late Husband Michael and I have been members of this excellent branch for many years and during this long period have seen many different events and changes. We have also seen the wonderful support and friendship this Branch has always given to members. I wish them well in the future".

The current Standard Bearer, Mr Mark Ballard, had the honour of carrying the new Standard.

Newbury and District Branch of the Royal Artillery Association meets at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the RBL Club Newbury. Gunner veterans interested in joining will be made very welcome.



East Kent Branch

PCSO Adrian Butterworth (Treasurer of East Kent Branch RAA) was determined that the memorial in Trinity Memorial Gardens, Margate, would look at its best in readiness for this year's Remembrance service. As a veteran, who served in the Royal Artillery, the cause is also close to the PCSO's heart.

Adrian said: "I attend the Remembrance Service every year. A while ago I spoke to a woman who said the paved area was covered in dry grass and she mentioned how nice it would be to clean it up. I thought it was a great idea, so I spoke to other agencies to see if they wanted to get involved. I just took the idea by the reins and drove it forward.

Obviously the council would normally have carried out the maintenance of it, however I just thought it would be nice to give something back to the community."

The clean-up operation was carried out on Wednesday, November 3 and saw boots on the ground from Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Thanet District Council and Kent County Council, as well as Margate's Mayor and local councillors, who were all



happy to pick up a tool and get the job done. Veterans from Age UK also came along to help out with the work.

PCSO Butterworth is hoping that his actions will inspire others to consider whether they can do and added "A simple activity such as this can have a big impact on where you live.



Joan Wanklyn Memorial Prize

The Joan Wanklyn Memorial prize is a bursary to be presented each year by the Royal Artillery Association in memory of Miss Joan Wanklyn who was, for many years, our Regimental Artist.



(King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery - oil on board - is reproduced by kind permission of Jess Hills - www.jessicahillsart.com)

The Bursary comprises a cheque of £500 and is to be presented at the RA Assembly to the artist who produces a piece of work judged worth of exhibition at the following year's Assembly. Applications are open to the sons, daughters and grandchildren of Serving or Retired members of the Regiment, regardless of rank or station, who have reached the tertiary stage of education and are in or about to begin their first year of a course at a recognised College or University to study art in its broader form.

Contact Emma Pagan-Skelley on 01980 845895 or Emma's email for further details emm.Pagan-Skelley100@mod.gov.uk .



ROYAL ARTILLERY CHARITABLE FUND

Once a Gunner, always a Gunner

A message from the Chair of the Welfare Committee

Maj A Dines TD, LLB, MBE

The 'Gunner' charities support the life and ethos of the 'Gunner' Regimental Family, both serving and retired. This is an especially important role.

The Welfare Committee oversees the direction and day-to-day workings and performance of the charities in fulfilling this role for the benefit of all Regimental Members and their dependants within our Gunner Family.

We are still living through a global pandemic which has severely tested our resilience and ability to cope in tough and difficult times. We will all have our own and diverse experiences but it is clear that the effects for some will have been very hard perhaps through lasting effects upon their health or well-being or in losing their job, working reduced hours or receiving lower Universal Credit payments.

If people need our help then the key is how can we make sure they know we are here to support.

I would, therefore, just like to emphasise the following areas:

- The range of welfare support that can be provided by the Regimental Charities is diverse. The report from the Welfare Team below gives some clear indicators as to the areas of support provided in 2021.
- The Regimental Charities must make sure that as many 'Gunnery and their families and dependants' know about and are able to access the support services that can be provided by us.
- The role of the Welfare Team is to signpost, provide information about potential welfare support and then process those welfare applications, as appropriate. The Team works closely with SSAFA (as they



case manage welfare applications) and the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) who can provide additional funding support for welfare bids (with other charities).

- So, if you, or anybody that you might know, potentially needs help please do encourage them to give their names to their local RAA branch, SSAFA, RBL, ABF, Unit Welfare Teams or the Welfare Team itself (contact details below). If not, can you please make contact on behalf of that person?

Before signing off I would like, on behalf of the Trustees, to give my heartfelt thanks to all members of the RACF and RAA teams for their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm this year in delivering this most important service and role on behalf of the Regiment.

With my best wishes to you all for the New Year 2022.

Andrew Dines

The Cornwall Cup



Fundraising is vital for the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund if we are to keep supporting all our individual cases and our Regiments. As part of the regimental family, I hope that the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund, if not already, will become the 'Charity of first choice' to all serving Gunners.

The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund is very grateful to everyone who has fundraised on behalf of the Charity and looks forward to your support in 2022.

This was held on Monday, 25th October, 103 years after Captain Bate's death. In attendance were the BC, BSM and Lance Bombardier Scot from 457 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battery Royal Artillery, the current descendant of the Regiment in which Captain Bate served in World War 1. Also, there were Ramon



ROYAL ARTILLERY INSTITUTION

Ceremony to Re-Dedicate The Grave of Captain Alan Bate Royal Garrison Artillery, Territorial, Monday 25 October 2021

RAI Support Restoration of 1918 Gunner's Grave

There are a number of military graves in Great Malvern Cemetery, including those of several World War 1 veterans. One of them is Captain Alan Bate, an Officer in the Territorial Army, who died on October 25th 1918, just a few days before the end of the War. He died whilst serving on Horse Sand Fort in the Solent, guarding the entrance to Portsmouth Harbour with 12-inch and 6-inch coastal guns. Although he was not from Malvern there were family connections, and his body was brought to Malvern to be buried.

Captain Bate is buried in a private, not a Commonwealth War Grave Commission grave and, therefore, it is not maintained at public expense. Over the years, it had fallen into disrepair, with the large cross laid on the ground. Tim Kidwell and Tony Hacon, both from Malvern and former Royal Artillery officers themselves, decided that something needed to be done.

With the help of the Malvern Town Council, they contacted John Bate-William, the great-great-nephew of Captain Bate. John's father, Arthur, was himself a Royal Artillery Officer, and John was happy that the restoration work go ahead and Tim and Tony set about the task – how hard could it be?

The task involved fund-raising, getting specialist advice on what needed to be done, getting the cross reset by an expert, cleaning the stonework, weeding the grave and putting new gravel stones down. After all this hard work, Tim and Tony felt that an appropriate ceremony was required to mark the occasion.

John Bate-William said " It was a remarkable day, a fascinating and moving ceremony, and it was wonderful to see Alan remembered by such a wonderful company. Little would those who were at his graveside in 1918 have dreamt that Alan's sacrifice would be commemorated more than a century later, with Regimental comrades in attendance. "



Wyre, the chairman of the Malvern Branch of the Royal Artillery Association, and the standard bearer, Frank Higgins, the County Chairman of The Royal British Legion and the County Standard Bearer also attended. Mr Kevin Street, a Malvern music teacher kindly came to play Last Post and Reveille over the grave. The service was conducted by ex-chaplain, the Reverend Tony Whalley. Royal Artillery veterans of the from the local area came to pay their respects. John Bate-William told of Captain Bate's early life whilst Tony gave a summary of service and Tim read the lesson.

John Bate-William said " It was a remarkable day, a fascinating and moving ceremony, and it was wonderful to see Alan remembered by such a wonderful company. Little would those who were at his graveside in 1918 have dreamt that Alan's sacrifice would be commemorated more than a century later, with Regimental comrades in attendance. "

Tony and Tim would like to thank everyone who helped in this project, especially those who came to do the hard work in the summer, and military grave restorer Steve Roberts for his expertise. Special thanks must go to the RAI for its generous donation towards the costs and to all who donated online. Without all these people and their generosity in giving of time and money, this project could not have been completed and Alan Bate's grave would have remained a poor reflection of his memory.



Capt Alan Bate RGA



RACF



RACF Welfare Report

As at 10 December the RACF Welfare team had awarded £492,613 in grants to 567 members of our Royal Artillery regimental family. We have awarded £67,019 to serving Gunners and their dependants with the remaining £425,594 going to our veterans and their dependants. The area where help was needed most by our veterans was with Annual Grants, which we award to help our veterans and their dependants who are past state retirement age and who need extra help with day to day living costs. We know the extra that we award to our most elderly veterans makes a huge difference to their quality of life.

We awarded £67,748 to help our veteran and their dependants with essential household goods. We have helped many of our veterans with mobility grants and so far, this year we have awarded just over £45,000 to support them with mobility aids. Sadly, we have awarded £43,632 in bereavement grants to help with funeral costs. £32,542 has been awarded to help those with critical household arrears and a further £22,071 helped our veterans with general needs. £26,612 was awarded to help some of our veterans living in care homes. We have also helped with wellbeing grants, help with training costs, travel costs, house maintenance costs, education, debt and house move funding. Christmas grants totalling £28,600 have been made to 357 serving and retired recipients.

Are you struggling or do you know of any member of our Regimental family that need our support and help? If you do let us know. Call SSAFA on 0800 731 4880, the Royal British Legion on 0808 802 8080 or contact us on either 0300 167 3998 or 0300 158 7035. We can be contacted by email: RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk Please don't hesitate RA Charitable Fund Application - RA Association (thegunners.org.uk)



INFORMATION

GUNNER 'ZIG ZAG' SPORTS BLAZERS AND BOATING JACKETS
Many of you would have seen the success of the first run of 30 of the new Gunner Sports Blazers. There is still sufficient cloth for a further 12-15 blazers to be made. They are made to measure by Club Colours Ltd in Suffolk, with cloth from an English mill. Cost is approximately £220 each and they take about 4 weeks to make. If you are interested, please contact Mr Alan Middle 01473 231378 or 07801798508 or visit the website at www.clubcolours.co.uk

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

REUNIONS

ROYAL ARTILLERY BOYS AND JUNIOR LEADERS' ASSOCIATION REUNION
Following the very successful 30th reunion in Oct 21, the organising committee has already confirmed a booking for next year's reunion. It will be over the weekend 22 Oct 22. Booking details and Gala Dinner menu will be published in the January edition of "Trumpeter" which is issued to all subscribed members. If you wish to be included and are not a member of the Association, please contact the Secretary Ted McKenzie by email exboysra.t@gmail.com or call 07900 806235.

SCOTTISH GUNNERS REUNION DINNER
Regrettably, the Scottish Gunner Reunion Dinner scheduled for 3 Sep 21 will be cancelled due to continuing social restrictions in Ministry of Defence establishments. We plan to hold the next Reunion Dinner in the autumn of 2022 placing us back on our normal biennial schedule. We will seek to inform you all of the revised date as soon as we can. If any former Highland, Lowland or Scottish Gunners wish to register their interest for 2022, please email Capt Abbie Lawrence, the Dinner Secretary,

on scottishgunnerreunion@gmail.com. The facebook page will also remain open, so please stay connected.

13 MARTINIQUE BTY RA REUNION 2022

The reunion dinner will take place on Sat 23 Apr 22, at the Copthorne Hotel, the Waterfront, Brierley Hill, Dudley DY5 1UR. Bookings are to be made with the hotel direct on +44 (0)1384 482882 - Quote 13 MARTINIQUE REUNION. All other enquiries - K Brooks-Usher 07834287426 (text only).

YORKSHIRE GUNNERS REUNION DINNER

5 Regt RA will host the Reunion Dinner for serving and retired officers in the RA Mess, Larkhill on Fri 11 Feb 22. Any former officer of the Regiment who wishes to attend should please contact the Dinner Secretary, Maj Rob Fidler by email at Robert.fidler160@mod.gov.uk. The Regiment is always keen to update its Past Serving Members database and as such, even if you are unable to attend this Reunion Dinner please do email the Dinner Secretary your details.

RMAS SMC 28 REUNION - 2022
(Passing Out April 1982)
James Archibald (11 Pl, Salemo Coy, SMC 28) is trying to make contact with all Gunners from SMC 28. If applicable (or you know someone who would be) please email contact details and mobile number to jlarchibald@icloud.com. Specifically looking for DM Cullen, RA Dare, CJ Mason, GAR Masters, PD Robinson, AM Smith, RP Warren, Tony Faith (DS), Jamie Marment (DS), Tony Faith.

SPRING DINNER

The Spring Dinner 2022 will be held in the RA Mess Larkhill at a date tbc at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The dinner will take the form of a Ladies' Guest Night and is open to officers of the Royal Regiment, serving and retired, and their guests. There will also be some regimental guests. The Master Gunner St James's Park, Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB DL, will preside. Dress for serving officers is Mess Dress – ceremonial evening (soft shirt) and dinner jacket (black tie) with decorations for retired officers/civilians. The cost is £60 per head. Please apply to Jennifer McGrath email: Jennifer.mcgrath924@mod.gov.uk or telephone 01980 845788. Places are confirmed upon receipt of payment as follows: BACS: RAI, 30-11-75, 00957269 (please prefix payment reference with SD22). Cheque: Made payable to the Royal Artillery Institution.

ROYAL ARTILLERY OFFICERS' ALANBROOKE LUNCH THU 3 MAR 22



The next Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Lunch is on Thu 3 Mar 22 at The Army & Navy Club, St James's Square, London. Drinks 1200. Lunch 1245. Our Guest speaker is The Rt Hon Lady Rose of Colmworth DBE, Justice of the Supreme Court. The Alanbrooke Lunch Club is open to all Gunners officers, regular and reserve, whether serving or retired. The lunches cost £59 and the price includes pre-lunch drink, wine and port. A cash bar is available after the lunch. To attend the lunches you must be a member of the Alanbrooke Club. There is an annual membership fee of £10 but this is waived for serving officers. Members wishing to attend this lunch should make a bank transfer for £59 to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (Sort code 30-11-75. Acc number 00568858) annotating your transfer with your initial and surname or send a cheque made out to 'Royal Artillery Charitable Fund' to the Regimental Secretariat Assistant, Mrs Emma Pagan-Skelley. If you make a bank transfer please email the Regimental Secretariat Assistant to say that you have done so. Any excess of funds will be donated to the RACF at the end of the year. Do spread the message amongst your Gunner friends, and of course you may bring a guest (who may be non-military) should you wish, or bring a group of friends you served with. Commanding Officers are asked to encourage and facilitate attendance by their officers. If you wish to join us please contact the Regimental Secretariat Assistant Emm.Pagan-Skelley100@mod.gov.uk



THE DUNCAN COMPETITION 2022

The Duncan Essay Competition is sponsored by the Royal Artillery Institution which is piloting a new approach this year. Previously a purely essay-based competition, a more modern approach will be adopted for 2022. Whilst the traditional essay format will remain submissions will also be accepted via other mediums including podcast, animation, power point presentation or any alternative format that enables the same level of analysis expected of the original essay competition. See the rules below for details.

The competition is open to all ranks who are serving members of the Royal Artillery (Regular and Reserve). All submissions are to be sent to RHQ RA Adjt no later than 25 Mar 2022. Additional direction and guidelines regarding RA Unit submissions will be issued by Formation HQs.

The Prizes are as follows;

- 1st Place - £1500.00
- 2nd Place - £1000.00
- 3rd Place - £750.00
- 4th Place - £500.00

The entries will be graded and judged by a designated panel and invigilated by the Regimental Colonel, their decision is final. Results will be published in Gunner Magazine and the RA DOWNREP.

Competition Rules:

- Questions are to be chosen from one of the titles provided by RHQ RA below.
- Submissions must be original work but can be from a single author or by collaboration.
- Virtual submissions must be pre-recorded and last between 15 - 25 mins.
- Essay submissions must be written in accordance with the Joint Services Command and Staff College Essay Writing Guide January Edition 2014. Essays not submitted in the correct format may be discounted. Please contact RHQ RA for a copy of the writing guide.
- The essay word count remains between 2,500 and 3,500 words in length and must be unclassified. An abstract is not required.
- All submissions illustrated with pictures, diagrams, charts and graphs must have the source stated for copyright purposes.
- To avoid a marking bias, all submissions must be anonymous and submitted using a nom de plume/pseudonym displayed in the top right corner of presentations and on the header on each page of essays.
- A covering letter must accompany each submission to include the rank, name, contact details and the author's chosen pseudonym which will be retained solely by the RHQ RA Adjt.
- Submissions must be received by RHQ RA electronically.
- All submissions will become the copyright of the RAI and may be reproduced in journals, magazines and presentations belonging to or associated with the RAI, at the discretion of the Regimental Secretary.

DUNCAN ESSAY COMPETITION TITLES 2022

1. Post COVID-19, what are the command and leadership challenges likely to face our junior officers and soldiers over the next 5 years and what should we be doing to mitigate them?
2. The Integrated Review and Defence Command Paper talk about the importance of Interoperability with our Allies and Partners. What do we mean by this and how is this achieved in terms of Joint Fires and Effects?
3. Reinforcement, resilience, reconstitution and regeneration: Does the RA Army Reserve need a new Unique Selling Point?
4. Jack of all trades, master of none; how should a smaller Royal Artillery focus its resources to continue to deliver a broad spectrum of capability?
5. How should the Deep Recce Strike Brigade prosecute the deep fight? How can the network of deep reconnaissance sensors be used to target the enemy at greater range?
6. With the increasing proliferation and sophistication of Unmanned Air Systems, do we need to review ground manoeuvre doctrine and what is the impact for Ground Based Air Defence?



LAST POST

Notification of Death:

Maj Brian William 28 October 2021
 Steve Richardson November 2021
 Fred Pullen November 2021
 Capt John Nigel Dawson November 2021
 Kevin Faragher 11 November 2021
 John Joseph Green 18 November 2021
 John Whitley December 2021
 Jim Baker December 2021
 Ashley Taylor December 2021
 Jimmy Burns 23 December 2021
 LBdr Jack Mynett January 2022

GAHAN - Lt Col G P (Gerry) Gahan died peacefully on 20 October 2021, after a long illness, bravely borne, at the age of 88. Beloved husband of Jean, and a much-loved father and grandfather, he will be sorely missed. A Memorial Service took place to celebrate his life on 10 December in Cheltenham, and was attended by many friends and family. Gerry was commissioned in 1953 and was part of the RMAS contingent that lined the route on Coronation Day. He subsequently served in the UK, BAOR and Cyprus. He was a good sportsman, a very competent Gunner and a good friend. RIP

STARKEY - Col Henry Starkey MBE died on 21 September 2021 aged 91, after a short illness. After leaving school, he joined the military cadets at Sandhurst Military Academy, where he was awarded the Tombs Memorial Prize, a ceremonial sword. (He donated the sword to the Royal Artillery Museum Handling Collection at Larkhill, shortly before his death.) He was commissioned in 1949, and his service career was divided between regimental and staff duty. In the former, he served with field and anti-aircraft units - his active service was in Korea and Malay 'confrontation' (where he describes spending most of the year waiting in a tent as the war was over!); then stationed in Menden (Germany), and Pembroke Dock. Henry graduated from Staff College as Territorial Army Brigade Major in Liverpool, and served with the British Army of the Rhine in Herford, Münster and a year with a US Army Regiment in Baumholder. He was sent to North Borneo and Brunei, while his family was accommodated at Barton Stacey (Hampshire). After moving 14 times in 12 years, Henry and his family finally settled in Winchester, and he spent the remainder of his service as a staff officer in senior appointments in the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, and south England. During this period he was awarded the MBE. He retired from the army in 1983 as a Colonel. Following his military career, he was employed as a Bursar at King Alfred's College (now Winchester University). Finally, he moved to Chipping, in the Lancashire fells, where he spent the last years of his life. He was a quiet, thoughtful and generous man, and very well respected by everyone who knew him.

WATERS - Gnr Bert Waters 1943 - 1949
 16 December 2021

Served: 2nd Bn The Essex Regiment, 25th Bty 195th Med Fd Regt Royal Artillery, 6th Bn The Durham Light Infantry, 2nd Bn Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire LI, 2nd Bn The Royal Berkshire Regiment



At the Remembrance Day Parade in St Helen's where he retired. Once a Gunner - Always a Gunner!

Subscription Price List

To addresses in the UK and BFPO:

The Gunner - £24
 The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £10
 The Gunner and The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £34

To addresses in Europe:

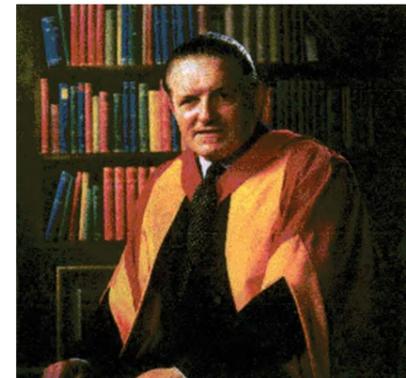
The Gunner - £39
 The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £14
 The Gunner and The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £53

To addresses in the rest of the world:

The Gunner - £49
 The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £17
 The Gunner and The Journal of the Royal Artillery - £66



Colonel Professor Alan Clive Roberts OBE



Alan Clive Roberts sadly passed away on Tuesday 30 November 2021 a former Pro-Chancellor, Chairman Court and Council, the University of Leeds 1986-2000. A Fellow and former Vice President Royal Society of Medicine and Chairman Academic Board. President Technology in Medicine Section and a member of Council. In 2017 Awarded The Medal of The Royal Society of Medicine for Services to Medicine. He served as an Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty the Queen 1980-1984 and is a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for the County of West Yorkshire. The Gentleman Usher of the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor and a Justice of the Peace. Professor Roberts is a Consultant Clinical Scientist and former Director of the Centre for Clinical Prosthetics, Department of Plastic and Maxillo-Facial Surgery and Director of Research and Development for Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. He is a former Chairman of the Bradford Research Ethics

Committee National Research Ethics Service and Professor of Biomaterials in Surgery at the Academic Surgical Unit, School of Medicine, University of Hull and Honorary Professor of Biomaterials, University of Bradford and a Visiting Professor Brunel University.

He was Hon Regional Dean, Royal Society of Medicine Northern and Yorkshire Region and former Treasurer of the Royal Society of Medicine. He is Director of the Biomaterials Research Unit, the University of Bradford, founder and former joint Director of the Institute of Health Research of the University and Bradford Teaching Hospital NHS Trust. He was appointed Chief Executive and Clinical Director of Prosthetic Solutions, Institute of Pharmaceutical Innovation University of Bradford in 2006. He was appointed the UK member of the EU Medical Ethics New Generis Project Advisory Board in 2006 - based in Maastricht and is a former Chairman of the Editorial Board, Journal of Clinical Ethics. He has extensive international experience in the field of Clinical Prosthetics and Bio-Materials in Surgery and acts as an expert witness in the High Court and in the preparation of Medico-Legal Reports regards Prosthetics, Implants and Biomaterials. He is Chairman of the advisory board

for Ethical Tissue, Institute of Cancer Therapeutics University of Bradford. Awarded Bio-Bank of the Year 2016.

He was awarded the Prince Philip Medal in 1970 for outstanding research achievement in the field of Implantation Materials in the Human Body, made MBE in 1982 and appointed OBE in 2002.

He was awarded the Insignia Award in Technology in two disciplines. First, in 1969, in respect of his work in Reconstruction of the face by Prosthetic Means and again in 1976, in respect of Material Science in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. In 1992 was awarded the Badge of Honour for distinguished services to the Red Cross. In 2001 was appointed a Commander of the Most Venerable Order of St John. In 2010 Her Majesty the Queen was graciously pleased to sanction his appointment as a Knight of Justice KStJ for services to Medicine.

In 2011 he was made a Knight Commander of The Military Constantinian Order of St George, KCMCO for services to Global Health. In 2016 Made a Knight, Grand Officer Order of the Eagle of Georgia for services to Medical Technology. He is a Companion of the Order the League of Mercy. In 2017 Awarded the Medal of Merit of Georgia.

He has held visiting professor



appointments to the Universities of Indiana, Texas and Pennsylvania, USA, as well as the Universities of Bordeaux, France; Utrecht and Twente, Netherlands; St Paulo, Brazil; University of Teheran, Iran; Tsurumi University, Japan; Jakarta, Malta and Moscow. He has also been guest lecturer to the Royal College of Surgeons of England on three occasions. He gave The Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh and The Royal Society of Medicine Stuart Lecture for 2009. He is a member of the advisory board. The University of Malaysia School of Medicine. A former Examiner to the University of Sheffield School of Clinical Dentistry and an Examiner to the University of Malta Dental & Medical School. He was a Council of Europe Fellow to Sweden in 1968 and holds the Voluntary Service Medal of the Red Cross and UN Medal. The Institute of Science and Technology awarded him the Merit and Achievement Award for Medical Materials Science in 1972. The Royal Society of Medicine in 2010 awarded him its highest distinction, Honorary Fellowship for Services to Medicine his name has been placed on the Wall of Honour at the Royal Society of Medicine in London.

Following research at Manchester University in Colour Simulation of Human Skin by Polymers, he was awarded the

Research Degree of Master of Philosophy in Materials Science in Surgery. He received his PhD Doctorate from the University of Bradford in Biomedical Sciences with particular reference to research into Adhesives in Reconstructive Surgery and Wound Healing. The result of this research received a drug licence in 1993 (INDERMIL) and is now used world-wide in the field of surgery. His research has produced a further licence in 2006, granted for a Prosthetic Adhesive and Skin Cleansing System (ZEFLOSIL). Awarded Drug Tariff status 2009. He is a Chartered Biologist, a Companion of Honour, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers and a Member Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine. He was elected an Honorary Life Member of the United States Army Medical Research Society and Honorary Life Member of the City & Guilds of London Institute. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, a Fellow of the City & Guilds of London Institute, a Fellow of the Linnean Society, and Fellow of the London Medical Society and is a Member of the New York Academy of Sciences. He has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* by the University of Leeds, the Degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa* by the University of London,

the Degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa* by the University of Bradford and the Degree of Doctor of Technology *honoris causa* Brunel University.

He was President of the Bradford Medico-Chirurgical Society 1998 (Founded in 1863) and was a member of the Research Advisory and Liaison Committee, Northern & Yorkshire NHS Executive, and was a member of the National Advisory Board NHS Executive on Intellectual Property and he was Chairman of the Quality of Life Committee Head & Neck Working Group Yorkshire Regional Cancer Organisation. He was a member of the Board of Medilink. He was Vice Chairman of the Senior Awards Committee City & Guilds of London Institute, and was President of the City & Guilds Association in 1997-2003. Is President of the British Institute of Surgical Technologists 1998-. He is an Honorary Liveryman of the Clothworkers' Company and a Freeman of the City of London. He was Deputy Chairman, Council of United Kingdom University Councils 1993-98. County President of the British Red Cross for West Yorkshire 1986-2003 and was a Member of the Red Cross National Council 1987 and a trustee of the Hull and East Yorkshire Medical Research Centre, 1995-2008. He is President of the Royal British Legion for Leeds District and former County



President of SSAFA for West Yorkshire 1983-2017. President of the NSPCC for Leeds, and a Trustee of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. He is a Trustee of Action for Rehabilitation from Neurological Injury Trust 2008. Trustee and Registrar of The League of Mercy 1999 - Trustee The Maritime Heritage Foundation 2010 and Chairman, West Riding Artillery Trust 1995. He was also the Chairman of Council The Order of St John, South and West Yorkshire and a former Member of Council, North Yorkshire and Teeside, Order of St John 2002-2004. He is a regular contributor to medical and dental literature, and has published textbooks and scientific papers in his discipline. His research and development in medical science has been featured in BBC's *Tomorrow's World* and *QED* and on TV and radio programmes and is a biographee in Who's Who. 'The Roberts Clinic for Prosthetic Reconstruction' is named after him at St Lukes Hospital Bradford. His current research involves novel materials to dissipate light on the surface of prosthetic skin to achieve aesthetics and function. Also the development of technology to achieve aesthetics and function in breast reconstruction.

He has a lateral career with the Reserve Army and awarded the MBE. As a Lieutenant Colonel he Commanded Leeds University

Officers' Training Corps from 1972-1979 and on promotion to Colonel was appointed Deputy Commander Territorial Army 2nd Infantry Division from 1980-1983, and ADC to Her Majesty the Queen 1980-1984 followed by the appointment of Commandant Yorkshire ACF from 1983-1987, awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1969. He has three bars to the Decoration. He is Honorary Colonel of 269 (West Riding) Battery 101 (Northumbrian) Regiment Royal Artillery, and formally Honorary Colonel of 269 Observation Post Battery, 19 Regiment Royal Artillery (24 Air Mobile Brigade), 1993-1999. 106 Air Defence Regiment Royal Artillery 1999-2007. Honorary Colonel, Leeds University Officers Training Corps 1990-1999, and Honorary Colonel, Yorkshire ACF (North & West) 1993-2005 and appointed Regimental Colonel Leeds University Officers Training Corps 1999-. He was appointed Honorary Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1996, the highest honour that the Royal Artillery can bestow on a non serving officer. He is a Member of The Honourable Artillery Company. He was Vice Chairman, Military of Yorkshire and Humberside Reserve Forces & Cadets Association 1987-2000, and Chairman of its Joint Services Cadet Committee 2000-2008 and a Trustee Yorkshire Cadet

Trust. He is Chairman of the Military Education Committee of the University of Leeds. Past National Chairman Council of Military Education Committees Universities, United Kingdom Universities (COMEC) 1990-1996. Alan is married to Margaret, and has two sons Martin and Adrian. His hobbies are sculpture and silver; he is an accomplished silversmith with his own hallmark. His miniature military figures are to be found in museums and collections.



T L Fuller an unrivalled photographer

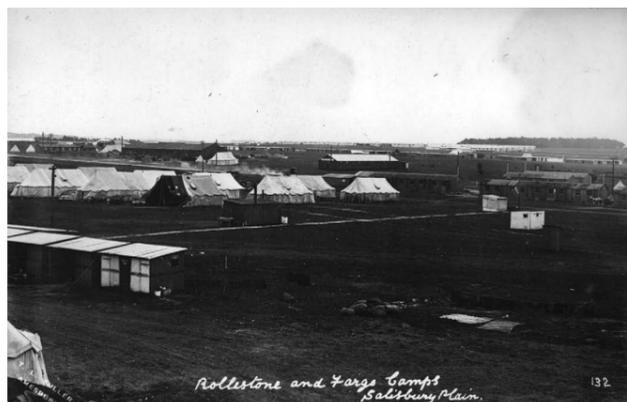


Thomas Lionel Fuller of Amesbury who was well known on Salisbury Plain for his photographs of military events. By 1959 Mr Fuller had half a century of photography behind him having started work on Salisbury Plain in 1911.

He noted that the demand from military men for photographs of themselves was enough to keep several firms busy, and he decided that he might do well to set up his own business.

Taking photographs for national newspapers. Sometimes with an important picture on his plate, he would cycle to Andover, catch a train to Waterloo and go to Fleet Street to sell his picture. Mr Fuller had plenty of opportunity to photograph the famous and even got to know some of them. Among these were King George V and Lord Kitchener.

His more memorable photographs include some of the old army at exercise on the Plain with mounted troops at the gallop, later the military aeroplane trials at Larkhill in 1912 were among the earliest aviation photographs taken. He also photographed the first fatal military aircraft crash in which Capt Lorraine and Staff Sgt Wilson were killed at what was then called Airman's Cross.



Every November, the Shrewton Branch of the Royal British Legion lay wreaths on the memorials to the three army pioneer fliers who were killed when flying from Wood Road before World War one - Captain Lorraine and Staff Sergeant Wilson at Airmans' Cross and Major Hewetson at the south end of Fargo Plantation.

Major Hewetson was a Gunner (Royal Field Artillery), he was killed on 17 July 1913 not far from the Garrison Church and there is a commemorative slab in the field just off the path that leads down to Strangways.





The Royal Artillery Gold Cup is one of the oldest events in the Racing Calendar. The inaugural event was held in 1862, although it was not until twelve months later – 156 years ago – that the now familiar race title came into existence when it was staged at Eltham. Following in the footsteps of the Grand Military Meeting, which was first held in 1841, the meeting immediately proved extremely popular with members of the Regiment. The first winner was a horse by the name of Chickahominy, ridden by Captain John Ruck-Keene.

Sandown Park first hosted the meeting in 1878 which was notable for the success of Swift, who provided Lieutenant Henry Dalbiac with the second of four consecutive winning rides in the race. Dalbiac was another colourful character of the early days of the Gold Cup. He served in several of the Imperial campaigns that took place in the late 1800s and thereafter became the subject of Kipling's famous work "The Jacket". It was not only Sandown Park that hosted the Royal Artillery meeting in its fledgling days. Several tracks in the south London area were used in the 1800s and into the 20th century, including long-forgotten circuits at Croydon, Bromley, Plumstead and Aldershot.

The Great War halted virtually all racing activities across the country and the 1914 Royal Artillery Meeting was the last for six years. Finally the meeting was revived in 1920 and the race was run for the final time at Aldershot, transferring back to its familiar home at Sandown Park the following year. The race was halted during WWII and in 1949 after a period of ten years, the Royal Artillery Gold Cup was run again. Times were still hard, with the majority of the Army serving overseas and rationing, both human and equine, still in force the continuation of the meeting was a major struggle. The popularity of the meeting remained strong, but the availability of suitably qualified jockeys was a problem and in 1960 the decision was made to open the race to former as well as serving Gunner officers. It was to be the first of many changes to the qualifications of the race that nowadays allow former and serving members of all ranks of the Armed Services to compete.

The late 1970s and 1980s was a golden period as far as equine heroes were concerned. In 1978 the race was privileged with the presence of former Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Ten Up. By then enjoying a more sedate life in hunter chases, Ten Up proved that the old class was still there by landing the Royal Artillery Cup that year and going onto land the prize twice more in 1980 and 1982. The rest of that decade was dominated by two horses – Quarrier and the remarkable De Pluvinel. Quarrier, owned by Major Sir Kenneth Butt and ridden by Tim Thomson-Jones, won the race in 1984, 1986 and 1987, but it was the exploits of De Pluvinel that still dominate the record books. De Pluvinel ran in the Gold Cup no less than eight times from 1982 to 1990.

The Royal Artillery Gold Cup went from strength to strength in the 1990s and into the new millennium. One of the loudest cheers heard at the meeting for many a year was in 1996 when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother received the famous trophy as the owner of the successful Norman Conqueror. Her Majesty had been an enthusiastic supporter of the meeting and had presented the Gold Cup for well over thirty years; it was fitting that for once she got to receive rather than present the trophy. The 11 years from 1998-2009 saw a dry spell for Gunner riders, broken in 2010 when Captain Harry Wallace won on Mr Big for owner Maj John Thorneloe who served in the Indian Mountain Artillery. It was a sad reminder that soldiers today are often put in harm's way as John's son Lt Col Rupert Thorneloe WG had been killed in Afghanistan the previous year.

The last ten years have seen no shortage of eventful, important and poignant renewals of the race, with Lance Bombardier Sally Randell becoming the first woman to win the Royal Artillery Gold Cup in 2011 on Surenaga under the ownership of 100 Yeomanry Regiment RA(V). In 2015, it was business as usual for the owner-trainer-rider combination of Maj Mike Shaw, Paul Nicholls and LBdr Jody Sole as they followed up Gwanako's 2013 success with Cowards Close. 12-months later, Jennys Surprise took the 2016 renewal amid emotional scenes in the winners' enclosure. The eight-year-old looked well beaten but rallied under pressure to deliver a 'dream come true' win for Brodie Hampson in her first ride in the race. The feat was made even more special as Hampson was riding for her father, who was given just 30 days to live at the beginning of December. Sgt Mark Hampson, who served in 47 Regiment Royal Artillery for 22 years, was 'chuffed to bits' to see his daughter win for the first time in his colours following many attempts. He sadly passed away just three months later. Brodie continued to do him proud in last year's renewal as she rode a perfect race on Carlos De Fruitier to give her two Royal Artillery Gold Cups to her name.

Capt Guy Disney and the David Pipe-trained Rathlin Rose made history in 2017 and 2018, becoming the first dual winner since De Pluvinel. Disney, who lost his lower right leg when his vehicle was hit by a grenade while serving in Afghanistan in 2009, is the very first amputee jockey to win at a professional racecourse in Britain. A unique event in the Racing Calendar, it is a credit to the Committee that the Royal Artillery Gold Cup is as popular as ever. Without their commitment and fortitude, and the wonderful support of Sandown Park, the annual gathering would surely be but a distant memory. It remains one of the Royal Artillery's flagship days, hugely enjoyed by the Regiment and the racing public alike and long may it continue to be so.



Celebrate the only official All Ranks Regimental Reunion with a unique day out at the historic Royal Artillery Gold Cup on Thursday 17 February at Sandown Park Racecourse.

Entrance tickets* are available using the promotional code 'UBIQUE' through the Sandown Website www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/sandown/events-tickets/royal-artillery-gold-cup-day or on 0344 579 3012. For further information contact WO2 RABSM Webber on 01980 845 620.

*To access Esher Hall and benefit from reduced bar prices you will need to purchase the entrance ticket and wrist band by opting for the 'Adult Ticket Plus Wristband' option.

We hope that serving and retired members of the Regiment will join us in Esher Hall, which has good access onto the Grandstand with an excellent view of the racecourse.





Date	Event	Location
2022		
17-21 Jan	RA RMAS Cadre	Larkhill
5/6 Feb	Reserve Conference	Larkhill
17 Feb	Royal Artillery Gold Cup	Sandown
9-11 Mar	WO1's Convention	Larkhill
16 Mar	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
21-24 Mar	RA Boxing	Larkhill
8 Apr	Subalterns' Dining In	Larkhill
17 Apr	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea
date tbc	RA Spring Dinner	Larkhill
28 Apr	RA Sports Dinner	Larkhill
20-22 May	RA Assembly	Blackpool
21 May	RAA NEC Meeting	Blackpool
9 Jun	Founders Day	Royal Hospital Chelsea
16 Jun	Hail & Farewell	Larkhill
02 Jul	RA Service of Remembrance	NMA
17-18 Jul	Festival of Sport	Larkhill
8 Sep	Sunset Ceremony	Larkhill
13 Oct	Awards Dinner	Larkhill
20 Oct	Central Sgts' Mess Dinner	Larkhill
21 Oct	RA Alamein Dinner	Larkhill
10 Nov	Field of Remembrance	Westminster

The Royal Regiment wishes to congratulate the following:

Appointment to the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath

Lieutenant General Stuart Richard Skeates CBE

Appointments to and promotions in the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

as Commanders CBE

Major General Simon Howe Brooks-Ward CVO OBE TD VR Army Reserve (Hon Col KT RHA)

as Members MBE

Major Daniel Anthony Jones MBE RA
 Warrant Officer Class 2 David Kingsley Gosney MBE
 Staff Sergeant (now Warrant Officer Class 2) Dominic Jason Bellman MBE

Meritorious Service Medal

Warrant Officer Class 1 (now Captain) Stuart James Paine
 Warrant Officer Class 2 Darren Edward Howell Rogers

CGS Commendations

Lieutenant Colonel M E Brocklesby RA
 Major J S Burnett RA
 Major D J Tyler RA
 Major (now Acting Lieutenant Colonel) S Harvey RA
 Captain F Kavanagh-Williamson RA
 Staff Sergeant S P Young
 Bombardier A R Coburn

Army Three Star Commendations

Captain (now Major) E F Hall RA
 Captain A J Finlay RA
 Captain S Hayward RA
 Warrant Officer Class 2 P A Darling
 Staff Sergeant A J C Gibbs

Commander Strategic Command Commendations

Major S A Manning-Degobertière RA

29 COMMANDO REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

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7 Para RHA

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Royal Artillery
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Charity Side Saddle Dash Race 11.00am
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Sort Code: 30 99 88
or
Postcode: _____ UK Sterling Cheque: Royal Artillery Association
Tel No: _____

For overseas orders and multiple packs contact the RAA via the website at the attached link:
<https://www.thegunners.org.uk/contact> Send your order with payment to The Royal Artillery Association:

The Royal Artillery Association, Artillery House, Artillery Centre, RA Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 8QT

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- Gunners - who achieved in other fields.
- Links - with the Honourable Artillery Company, former Infantry and Yeomanry Regiments.
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