



MARCH 2022

Ex KHANJAR OMAN
MISSION SUPPORT TEAM

WINTER SPORTS
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GUNNER



MARCH 2022

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Colonel Lindsey Forbes TD VR
Colonel Royal Artillery Reserves

As the French say: plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

One might be forgiven for thinking we have been here before, particularly those of my vintage: when I joined the Territorial Army, as it was in those days, the Army had just fought a major conflict, we had a Conservative Government with a large majority, and we were facing a threat in eastern Europe.

It could be suggested that we have not moved on, at a superficial level. But you don't even need to scratch the surface to recognise that so much has changed.

There were no females in the Royal Regiment when I joined. That is not to say women hadn't served in the Gunners - they did but as attached arms. My mother served as an ATS Sgt in an Ack-Ack battery during World War II. It was only in 1991 that women were invited to serve in the Royal Regiment.

We have moved from prosecuting and dishonourably discharging gay and lesbian soldiers to a position where the British Army is now one of Stonewall's top hundred employers. And they now march with pride on LGBTQ+ parades across the country.

As we reflect on the recent Op TEAMWORK and more broadly on our culture, it is not where it should be. One only has to look at other large institutions to see how destructive unacceptable behaviour can be – consider all the issues that have overtaken the Metropolitan Police recently. And we in the Army risk being judged as a whole based on the actions of the few. The behaviours that we are now aware of could fundamentally threaten to impact on our operational output. What I am suggesting is nothing we have not discussed in the past: to live our standards and values and to demand the behaviours that this implies. How we treated others in the eighties cannot be tolerated in the Army of today.

In 1985 we fully expected TA units to deploy to their general deployment positions in Germany: my Regiment's were along the River Weser.

During the intervening period we have moved from that. And whilst we made it easier for TA and latterly Army Reserve soldiers to serve with distinction in both Iraq and Afghanistan we, as Gunners, did not deploy them as formed units. That is about to change, with the implementation of Future Soldier. The Army Reserve will have a much larger part to play – in fact it will form almost 1/3 of the deployable forces. No one underestimates the amount of work that will be needed by our Reserve units to meet the challenges of both Homeland Resilience and Warfighting activities. But I am convinced that they, like their wartime predecessors, will step up to the challenge.

Maybe in 40 years' time, when I am an elderly member of the retired regiment, I will read an article in Gunner saying how much the Royal Regiment has changed - and how much it has stayed the same, with Artillery still winning wars.



THE INTEGRATED REVIEW AND FUTURE SOLDIER

LT GEN SIR ANDREW GREGORY KBE CB DL MASTER GUNNER ST JAMES'S PARK

I wrote in November 2021 detailing the changes to the Royal Regiment of Artillery brought about by the Integrated Review and the 'Future Soldier' programme.

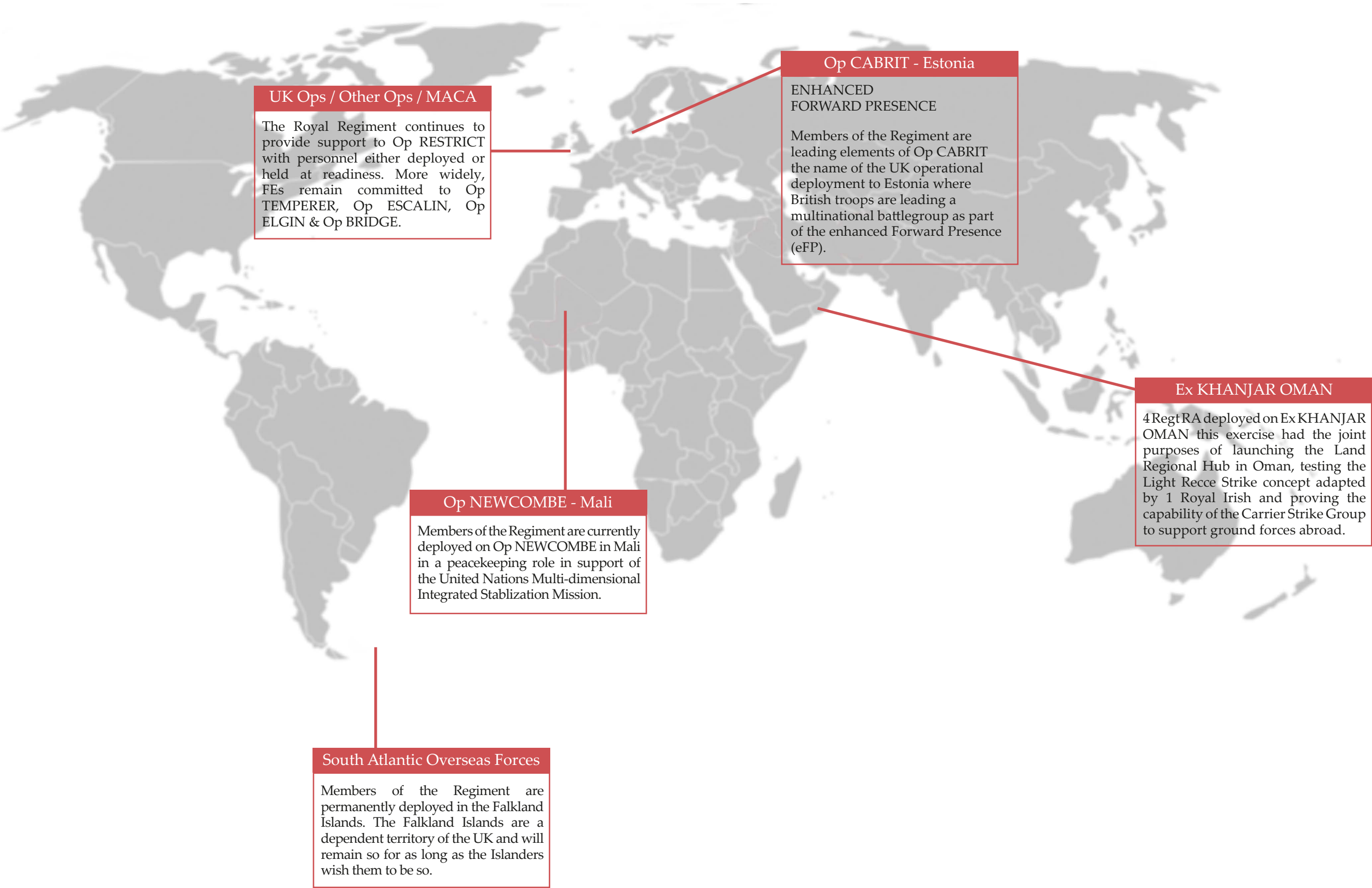
As you will recall from my initial correspondence, the overall outcome of this work has been extremely positive for the Royal Regiment. While large parts of the Royal Artillery will be unaffected in terms of geography, laydown and capability, there are still some significant changes at both regimental and battery level. Having consulted with the Royal Artillery Heritage Committee and the Chain of Command, I am pleased to announce the detail of these changes:

- 1st Regiment RHA will gain L (Nery) Battery RHA as a Tactical Group Battery from 3rd Regiment RHA.
- 3rd Regiment RHA will re-role to the MLRS with C Battery RHA and D Battery RHA equipped with M270 launchers. J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery RHA will become the Regimental Headquarters Battery as J (Sidi Rezegh) Headquarters Battery RHA and the title of M Battery RHA will be placed into suspended animation.
- 7th Parachute Regiment RHA will be restructured. Its gun batteries will be; F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery RHA, G Parachute Battery (Mercer's Troop) RHA and I Parachute Battery (Bull's Troop) RHA. The Regimental Headquarters Battery will become H Parachute Headquarters Battery (Ramsay's Troop) RHA. In addition, N Battery (The Eagle Troop) RHA will join the Regiment as a Tactical Group Battery from 3rd Regiment RHA to become N Parachute Battery (The Eagle Troop) RHA.
- 19th Regiment RA will gain 19 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Battery RA as a Tactical Group Battery from 26th Regiment RA.
- 32nd Regiment RA will gain 42 (Alem Hamza) Battery RA, as a fourth MUAS battery. The battery title will be reinstated into the Order of Battle from suspended animation.

The timelines for these changes will be promulgated in due course by the Chain of Command, with every effort being made to minimise disruption to officers, soldiers and their families.

Andrew Gregory

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





Section Commanders' Battle Course (SCBC) TAC 2102



Sgt Speakman attended the SCBC as a requirement, prior to him attending the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst cadre. The SCBC Tactics is an 8-week residential course split into 5 phases: Foundation package (week 1), Offensive operations (weeks 2 and 3), Complex terrain (week 4), Enabling operations (weeks 5 and 6) and the Field Training Exercise (FTX) (weeks 7 and 8).

In the first week of the course the days were filled with many physical and individual tests, such as military knowledge, map reading, navigational exercises, and lessons late into the night.

Weeks 2 and 3 saw the course really come to light in terms of physicality and tempo. It involved section attacks into casualty evacuation and command appointments, building into platoon attacks and live fire; all of which are evaluated and contribute to the grading of each student.

Week 4 moves into the urban phase with complex scenarios and an introduction to operations in woods and forest (OIWAF), operating and fighting in woods and trenches, finishing the week off with a water obstacle crossing.

Weeks 5 and 6 are by far the most physically demanding, you are learning all about the orders process, giving those orders to your

section and platoon commanders. This was a long 2 weeks with very little sleep, putting everything we learnt into practise.

Weeks 7 and 8 includes the final exercise which is 8 days long. This is where you test all the above, everything you've learnt and pushed to the very limits of your physical capability. During this final stage, you are constantly being assessed towards your final grade.

The SCBC is long and arduous, it requires the right preparation prior to attending, both physically and mentally. The course is a clear reminder that the Army infantry is a world leading fighting force made up of some very high calibre soldiers. By the end of this course, you are almost guaranteed to be a better individual and section commander which sets you up for a strong career.

I found the course testing of my previous experience. The days were extremely long and eventful, physically it was demanding due to the amount of exercises on the syllabus, and the time spent in the field. I found that the calibre of the LCpls' were very high and impressive, both in fitness and field craft knowledge. Time spent analysing our mission set and developing my orders through the combat estimate was key to success and highly beneficial.



In lieu of 148 (Meiktila) Bty's full battle rhythm, I spent a lot of time prepping for this course. I would suggest those that attend in the future not only physically prepare with loaded marches, core, and lower body training but mentally prepare in conjunction with their fitness. A key suggestion would be to revise cue cards that cover military knowledge as this gave me the advantage over most when tested. In addition, I used a 48hr exercise on Burmese Chase to deliver a full set of orders and gain some constructive feedback from my TC and peers. This was through spending several evenings with Officers running through the orders process and refreshing my mind on platoon and section attacks.

Advice for potential RMAS candidates would be to attend the RMAS 'Look at Life'

where they explain everything thoroughly, you get to meet the instructors and see Sandhurst for yourself. Utilise key figures in the regiment that have been to Sandhurst, this definitely helped me. Keep up to date with current affairs and military knowledge. I would suggest the Economist 'Espresso App' which is free through the military and is a daily world in brief neutral news source. Try and be comfortable in delivering lessons and think of diverse ways to deliver this, be creative and passionate.

by Bdr C Speakman RA
148 (Meiktila) Bty
29 Cdo Regt RA





Fast & Furious

The deep fires units are not only expanding, they're becoming more lethal



The Future Soldier programme's intention is to transform the British Army into a more agile and lethal force with integration at its very heart.

Nowhere will this be more evident than with the evolution of the deep fires units operating the multiple launch rocket system (MLRS).

The Royal Artillery Regulars of 26 Regiment and their Reserve counterparts from 101 Regiment currently operate the platform. They are to be joined by 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, which is switching from the Light Gun to become the Army's second Regular deep fires unit by 2024.

Together, they will provide the Service's only all-weather long-range attack capability as part of the new Deep Recce Strike Brigade Combat Team.

Around 30 MLRS are currently in service, but this will be increased to at least 40 after the upgrade, with both 3 RHA and 26 Regt equipped with two batteries.

The personnel of 101 Regt will provide a third battery to support warfighting operations.

A small number of platforms will also be held back for training and research purposes.

However, the Army's sweeping modernisation plan isn't just about quantity, it's also focusing on quality. And that's where a half billion-pound investment to upgrade the equipment and its munitions comes into play.

Over the next five years MLRS assets will be sent in small batches to the US military's huge maintenance facility, Red River Army Depot in Texas, where they will be stripped out, the



hulls refurbished, and a suite of cutting edge systems installed to replace existing kit.

As a result, the Service's long-range missile capability will be improved in virtually every conceivable area.



"The entire fleet will be upgraded, making it more lethal and much better in every way," explains Lt Col Chris Wild RA, Commanding Officer of 26 Regt.

"The Army needs to ensure we are competitive against a near-peer adversary and some of our potential enemies have real range in terms of rockets and guns. To fight them and win we need the same. We have the edge when it comes to our soldiers, so now it's time to enhance our kit."



One of the - if not the - most important upgrades is to the load launcher module (LLM) and firing computer, which will be replaced by new versions.

One huge advantage they will provide over the incumbent kit is the ability to fire a wide

array of munitions, not just the M31 precision rocket and its extended 150km-range variant but weapons still in the development pipeline, such as the US precision strike missile which can hit targets around 500km away.

"We can fight the deep battle now, but the technology we are going to get means we will be able to destroy targets at much greater range," says Lt Col Wild RA.

"MLRS gives us up to 84km range at the moment, but when it is upgraded this will be increased.



"We will also be more interoperable, giving us the ability to fire a wider range of munitions helping us to fight alongside our NATO partners and allies."

The officer continues: "Work is also under way to allow the MLRS to fire a guided, medium-range, high precision Exactor-type rocket. That doesn't mean we are phasing our Exactor, but it does mean we will have more tactical flexibility for deploying this kind of weapon."

Another important component of the new module will be the speed at which it can be raised and manoeuvred into position.

"If you receive a multi-target mission it can take a few minutes to input each set of coordinates and get the LLM to raise and move around," says detachment commander Sgt Lee Morley RA.

"But the new version moves much quicker thanks to electric rather than hydraulic



power, so it will cut that time significantly. When upgraded, MLRS will be able to fire all 12 of its rockets in just 90 seconds.

"That's really important because it means we can fire and then move off quicker, which is vital for our survivability as the system's capability means it will always be a high priority target."

Other modifications include new, more fuel-efficient engines and running gear that give greater driving range. Composite rubber tracks will replace the current steel versions to lower noise levels inside and out and improve fuel consumption, while better armour and a modified, enlarged cabin will provide greater safety and comfort for those on board.



These may seem rather mundane changes next to flashy supersonic long-range missiles, but for the crews that operate these beasts the changes can't come soon enough.

"These are fantastic bits of kit when they're working but they are old so they do have reliability issues," says LBdr Liam Jaggard.

"In general, we are very happy the new platforms will start arriving in a couple of years - I think most of us feel it's overdue and needs to happen."

LBdr Ed Darby agrees. "The Americans are a bit ahead of us with this kit so it's vital that we are on a par if we're going to operate properly alongside them in combat," he says.

"On the flip side, the new version will have rubber tracks and I'm not sure how I feel about that."

"Changing them won't be as straightforward as it is with the current version's steel ones but until we can get hands-on and practise in different areas, we don't know what they will be like."

Speaking of which, training in an array of environments will be high on the agenda once the new platforms arrive.

"In order to be ready to receive this new equipment we are looking at how best we fight with it," acknowledges Lt Col Wild RA.

"With longer range weapons we can be more spread out across the battlefield and all the launchers can potentially engage on the same target at the same time."

"We are looking at our procedures and doctrine to focus more on dispersal and constant movement - in soldier terms, that is 'shoot and scoot'."



"Our tactics were rooted in the Cold War era, relying on mass and the fact that the enemy couldn't return fire quickly, whereas we now know they can. If we are all grouped together and static, we are going to get killed."

"The challenges the detachment commanders will have is that in future they will genuinely be dispersed and on their own. They will need to understand the battle picture, how to navigate tactically and how to run a small team for extended periods."

"Meanwhile, the challenge for the command post and battery commanders is to coordinate fire, sequence the resupply of ammunition, manage the battlespace and operate with other units all across a larger area."

One of those battery commanders is 26 Regt's Maj Steph Manning RA, who has been driving sub-unit level training to get personnel thinking about operating in different environments, and perpetual motion and dispersal.

"We need to improve troops' navigation



skills," she explains. "Our annual Matts include nav, of course, but moving around in the dark, under the pressure of combat, in a large noisy vehicle is an entirely different world."

"We must get better at that if we are to fully exploit the potential of the upgraded MLRS and we are also looking at using it in the urban environment, partly because it is stealthier on rubber tracks."

"We will look at everything from communications to questioning what the cam and concealment requirements are, to the impact of the asset on the local population, the management of firing points and moving around once you've launched."

"Even the demands of the logistic resupply chain are much more complex in an urban area and among people."

"We are looking to mix up our training more because if we do deploy we are probably not only going to be operating in somewhere that looks like Salisbury Plain," says LBdr Jaggard.

"We are going to have to move through built-up areas and it's going to be a challenging task learning how to do stealthy or fast movements in that terrain, although the vehicles are surprisingly nimble and move around streets well."

His commander, Sgt Morley, is in no doubt that the importance of the deep fires capability will increase further once the potential of the new platforms is exploited.

"In my career I've been on Light Guns and the AS90 and I prefer working with MLRS," he says. "It's the only all-weather long-range strike capability we have and in future it will deploy to more places than the guns."

"The great thing about the programme is that everything is being stripped off and refurbished or replaced and that includes the comms package, which is being improved so we can become part of the digital battlespace. Lots of these lads will be around long enough to see the full benefits of that."

One of them is 28-year-old LBdr Darby, who believes the modifications are essential.

"There is a huge buzz around 26 Regt," he adds.

"I might be biased but I really do think that long-range artillery tech like this is the future of warfare."



"We are going to have to move away from static gun lines - especially with aerial drone systems which are now so common and potentially lethal on the battlefield."

"Being able to strike a deadly blow from long range and keep moving is the way forward."

"And myself and many others here are really looking forward to using this exciting new kit."





Exercise KHANJAR OMAN



Whilst the majority of 4th Regiment Royal Artillery were getting ready for winter exercises in the UK the TAC group from 97 Battery (Lawson's Company) RA deployed on Ex KHANJAR OMAN. This exercise had the joint purposes of launching the Land Regional Hub in Oman, testing the Light Recce Strike concept adapted by 1 Royal Irish and proving the capability of the Carrier Strike Group to support ground forces abroad.

The first obstacle to be overcome in Oman was the heat. In the early days of the exercise temperatures exceeded 40 degrees in the middle of the day and the battlegroup needed to be prepared for this. An acclimatisation program was developed to ensure that we would be ready to be deployed into the desert for a robust exercise. This culminated in a 10km march with full kit and weight, and once completed everyone was confident that they could perform in the harsh environment.

The other pressing task was to prepare vehicles and equipment that had spent two months on a RORO being delivered to Oman. This period presented an ideal opportunity to mix with our relevant subunits and start

to understand how we would be operating together. The Battlegroup was led by 1 Royal Irish and supported by a Squadron of Scots Dragoon Guards. 97 Battery provided two complete FSTs to these manoeuvre subunits, further supported by a TACP and JFC minus at BGHQ with one JTAC embedded with the Royal Army of Oman Reconnaissance Regiment as well. These FSTs were mounted in Jackal and it was pleasing to see that the transition to working within a multi-platform subunit with B Coy 1 Royal Irish was seamless.

With everything prepared the Battlegroup was now ready to deploy into the desert. Over the next three weeks they would undertake four separate missions of increasing complexity and requiring greater levels of integration amongst both UK and Omani forces. Mission Zero was focused at the subunit level and on getting used to our new environment. Each subunit operated with an extremely broad frontage; therefore Battlespace Management became of the utmost importance for the FST. The key challenge was to remain mobile, able to provide targeting data but also accessible to our commanders.



Communications were an enduring issue throughout the exercise. The hot and sandy conditions of the desert limited the range of HF comms by up to 40%. One of the key objectives of the exercise was to have subunits operating at reach from BGHQ and so they had to be innovative in delivering solutions. Sgt Fletcher and Bdr Cooper made themselves invaluable to the Battlegroup and their subunits through their Comms experience.

Mission One delivered integration at the Battlegroup level. Objective BRONZE was assessed to be an enemy strong point at platoon strength with a prestige weapons cache which we were to capture and conduct sensitive site exploitation at in order to gather further J2. This task in particular provided some key limitations for Joint Fires. Pre-H fires were designated by investing a FSI, Bdr Hodgkinson, within the Royal Irish Reconnaissance Platoon to develop targets on the objective. As part of the experimentation on the exercise they were given access to a MOSKITO Target Designation device, able to provide range, bearing and grids of targets.

The enemy position was located within a deep wadi that had restricted to vehicles. Because of this the raiding force from B Coy formed a Z muster 4 km off position and tabbed onto the objective. Pre-H fires utilised GMLRS to conduct clinical strikes on key targets. Light Gun and Mortars were used to conduct a demonstration to the south, in Free Fire Area Thor. Using the psychological effects of artillery on the enemy rather than lethal effects into an urban area. The raid was completed quickly with dismounted forces bounding over the difficult terrain, with SCOTS DG acting in both fire support and isolating the enemy force on position.

From here the Battlegroup pushed further out into the desert and began its integration phase with the attached Omani Reconnaissance Regiment (ORR). Each subunit provided a demonstration of their capabilities focused mainly on the Foxhound and Jackal. The ORR

operated out of re-engineered civilian 4x4s with mounted machine guns and .50 cal. Naturally the Battlegroup had a lot to ask the ORR about how to best operate in the heat, how to make best use of comms and how they gave targeting information. Bdr Wilkinson was embedded within the ORR as a JTAC to advise on Joint Fires.

With integration well underway we began our preparations for the attack onto Objective SILVER. This was a Coy level position centred around a small village. This more complex target set was resourced with increased assets. This time Bdr Ziolkowski was embedded within reconnaissance and deployed in Wildcat reconnaissance helicopters into the vicinity of Objective SILVER. For the attack B Coy were given a Wildcat and Apache acting as a pair to help break onto the position.





Capt Gandy, acting as B Coy JTAC, controlled the pair using the reconnaissance capability of the Wildcat to provide real time targeting information for the Apache to strike. This was deconflicted by the FST Commander, Capt Tombs and allowed the FST to provide incredibly effective precision fires onto the objective. The Battlegroup were keen to allow their soldiers to understand the full effect Joint Fires can have and this was demonstrated via an accurate TES effect. Pre-H fires provided an over 80% casualty rate to enemy forces, with mass regeneration in their position being required.

Once again, the SCOTS DG isolated around the objective to ensure the enemy had no withdrawal or reinforcement options. There was a heavy investment of kinetic activity in this period aimed at degrading the enemy force and fixing them on their position. The B Squadron FST, led by Capt Westcott provided fires onto choke point positions to fix and destroy enemy as they attempted to re-deploy from the target area.

Mission Three was a final clearance operation involving several objectives taking three days to complete culminating in the defeat of enemy on their stronghold, Obj GOLD. B Coy and B Sqn were first tasked with the clearance of enemy off Obj TITANIUM and ALFRED. B Coy set fire support in overwatch of the position, once again the FST developed targets with recce. These fires scattered the enemy from their position and directly into the anti-vehicle ambush that was set to the west. The combination of fires and an ambush supported by Apache was devastating to the enemy. Simultaneously B Sqn were securing Objective ALFRED to act as a Coord area in advance of the final attack. This gave Capt Westcott and his team their first chance to act on the offensive and prosecute targets as the tactical situation presented them.

B Coy and B Sqn then reorganised their ORBATs to allow the B Sqn to take on additional mass to hold ground and give extra fire power to the B Coy. B Sqn then launched an attack to clear enemy on Obj ATLAS, a key crossing point in the area. This enabled the final advance

of B Coy for their attack on Obj GOLD.

This attack was to destroy an enemy FAA before they could begin their assault on host nation forces. B Coy received a pair of Apaches to support their advance. The FST worked together well, and the effect of their fires was devastating and set the conditions for a successful defeat of enemy on GOLD. The apaches were used primarily in pre-H fires as once they broke onto the position the Battlespace would be too tight to use anything but Precision Fires under Card Alpha.

This action spelled the end of the tactical phase of the exercise. Now the Carrier Strike Group was in place for a Joint Personnel Recovery serial. Sgt Fletcher and Bdr Hodgkinson joined a composite team from the anti-tank and recce platoons to rescue a downed pilot with support from Wildcats, Apaches and multiple F-35 flights. This was an incredibly complex scenario and provided some of the first CAS training for F-35.



This was an immensely high pressure scenario for both the JTAC and the aircraft. Indeed this was the first time F-35 and Apache had prosecuted targets together so was a real proof of concept. This was a realistic and highly complex scenario that helped prove the concept of F35 CAS and opened the door for future training opportunities.



The importance this exercise was stressed by the Distinguished Visitors Day that followed the tactical phase. Defence Minister Ben Wallace visited the Battlegroup with GOC 1 Div and representatives from across the Omani government. The display was a narrated walk through of the final attack from the tactical phase, highlighting the importance of combined arms and ALI.

With the exercise complete there was only vehicle administration and packing that stood in the way of some well-earned AT packages and cultural days with multiple activities across the country. Up in the north there was a chance to take in the city and take part in some sailing, whereas further inland troops had the opportunity to do mountain biking or hill walking. The former taking soldiers up Jebel Sham, the highest point on the Arabian Peninsula and traversing the Jebel Akhbar, the Grand Canyon of Arabia.

For the Air Troop there was further work to do. Ex MAGIC CARPET was an air exercise taking place in Thumrait, in the south of Oman. The aim is to assist the Typhoon pilots of 2 Sqn

and 12 Sqn in gaining their currency before deploying on Op SHADER. Capt Gandy and Sgts Fletcher and Pratt were given an abundance of controls, taking pilots through their first live strafe runs and culminating in dropping live Paveway IVs. The complexity of the ranges was variable, with Spadeadam Research and Testing on hand to provide realistic mock-ups of targets and even EW signatures of Air Defence assets to build a rich scenario for all involved.

Ex KHANJAR OMAN represented an amazing opportunity for the officers' and soldiers of 97 Battery. TES effect from surface to surface combined with live air gave us lots to think about to support the battlegroup with best effect. The amount of resource applied, especially through air and aviation, gave them a lot to play with and a chance to show our combat arms colleagues of the variety of what we can provide for them. As highlighted in the Integrated Review, exercises in Oman will become much more regular in coming years and 4th Regiment was happy to lead the way.

by Capt Nick Gandy RA
497 Bty (Lawson's Coy)
4 Regt RA (The Fighting Fourth)





16th Regiment Royal Artillery Changing of the Colours Parade



Thu 27 Jan 22 marked a very special day for 16th Regiment RA, marking the first time the Regiment has received new colours in over forty years. Bidding farewell to Rapier, which has served the Regiment faithfully for so long, Sky Sabre was officially welcomed at a parade full of military pomp and ceremony at Baker Barracks on Thorney Island.

Sky Sabre marks a huge leap forward in the UK Armed Forces capability to defend itself from fast attack jets, missiles and air dropped bombs. Its accuracy and agility mean it is capable of intercepting an object the size of a tennis ball travelling at Mach 1. The system is comprised of three separate elements: radar, battle management suite and launcher. The three combined provide a highly effective defensive asset which will undoubtedly serve the nation for many years to come.

The day started with coffee in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where honoured guests were greeted by the Regiment. The CO, Lt Col Chris Lane MBE RA, welcomed them all before Cdre Jonathan Lett RN, Commander British Forces South Atlantic Islands, also spoke and thanked Rapier and the Regiment for their many years of service in defending the Falkland Islands and providing a 24/7 air defence capability. Guests were then invited to Navy Square for the Changing of the Colours Parade.

With the Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Lt Gen Sir Chris Tickell KBE, acting as the inspecting officer, alongside other honoured guests including Commander 7 AD Group, the RA

Regimental Colonel, 16 Regt's Honorary Colonel, industry partners and veterans, over one hundred members of the Regiment marched onto the square alongside British Army Band Tidworth. After being inspected by Lt Gen Tickell, the Regiment presented arms as Rapier drove off the square for one last time. Having bid a fond farewell to Rapier, it was time for Sky Sabre to be welcomed formally into the Regiment. To a specially written piece of music aptly titled 'Sky Sabre Fanfare', composed and performed by the British Army Band Tidworth, Sky Sabre was saluted into service by the Regiment to mark the arrival of the Regiment's new colours.

Following on from the parade, the Regiment provided an equipment display for it's guests outside of the Officers' Mess. For this they were joined by Ben Wallace MP, Defence Secretary, who flew in especially for the occasion! Greeting serving personnel and guests alike, he spoke of his excitement at the arrival of Sky Sabre into service and the huge advancements it presents for British Air Defence. This was all followed by a delicious curry lunch in the Officers' Mess for all those who attended.

The day was a roaring success, for both serving personnel and guests, and marks a new era for both 16 Regt and British Army Air Defence. It was also the last major event for outgoing CO, Lt Col Chris Lane, who has now left 16 Regt to serve as the MA to Deputy Chief of the General Staff.

by Capt James Billingham RA
16 Regt RA





Gunners Support the African Union Mission to Somalia



Capt Magnus Thompson RA (left) and Capt Patrick Phillips RA visit a Ugandan FOB

Deployed to Mogadishu in March 2007, the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) has become the Union's longest running, largest, costliest, and deadliest operation. Since 2007 the mission has successfully degraded the Al-Qaeda affiliated group Al Shabaab (AS) and driven it out of key population centres. Today 18,000 AMISOM peacekeepers continue to fight to secure a country 10 times the size of Helmand province, and work to handover security responsibility to the fledgling Somali National Army. With formed military contingents from 6 African Nations, supported by police and staff officers from the other 54 states of the African Union, it is a truly diverse mission.

Supporting AMISOM is the Mission Support Team (MST), a team of 7 British Officers providing advice and support in specialist roles. For the past 6 months two of these officers have been Gunners: Capt Patrick Phillips in the role of SO3 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), and Capt Magnus Thompson as the Military Assistant to the AMISOM Head of Mission Support.

Capt Thompson (formerly 4 Regt RA) supported Maj

Gen Fidza Dlodlu of Eswatini who is responsible for logistics, signals, and medical support to the mission. As such, he liaised with the UN and an array of other actors to ensure that the mission continues to function in spite of the great distances and complex terrain in Somalia.

As SO3 ISR Capt Phillips (formerly 32 Regt RA) worked alongside contractors and a team of AMISOM and Somali National Army (SNA) staff officers, developing the cell's functionality and experimenting with ways to enhance a vital capability to best support operations against Al Shabaab.

Although mainly working from Mogadishu Airport, the MST was able to visit sector headquarters and forward operating bases, to better understand the issues facing ground holding forces. An AMISOM FOB is usually the safest location in the region, so refugees and civilians regularly set up makeshift villages around many of these locations, providing the MST a glimpse into the harsh realities of daily life for ordinary Somalis.

During the six months from September 21 – March 22 AMISOM faced many challenging tasks. Security provision to complex and often violent elections, major clearance operations, developing the nascent Somali



National Army (SNA), and even a possible coup were just some of the complex tasks AMISOM faced.

Employment in the Mission Support Team (MST) is an empowering and diverse experience. Staff work independently in a large and often under-resourced mission. This requires high degrees of tact, diplomacy, and imagination to provide innovative solutions to problems in a complex multinational headquarters.

On a lighter note, the deployment presented opportunities to conduct morale enhancing activity. Of particular note Maj Nathan Tyler RA (Chief of Staff Op TANGHAM) directed the more junior Gunners to deliver an event celebrating St Barbara's Day. The result was a pizza night hosted by Capt Thompson, followed by Capt Phillips' "gun building" competition where personnel were challenged to build a functioning artillery piece. Some truly inspirational ideas were trialled with a variety of propellants and projectiles used. Despite a near miss with a potato/lighter fluid/deodorant combination, no one was seriously injured and the event was well received.



Maj Nathan Tyler RA (COS TANGHAM) cuts the St Barbara's Day Cake

Service in Somalia is a challenging, complicated, and immensely rewarding. Progress is slow but evident, and the Royal Artillery can be proud of its longstanding contribution to the international community's efforts to rebuild a nation that has not seen peace since 1990.

by Capt Magnus Thompson RA and Capt Patrick Phillips RA
Mission Support Team



The UK Mission Support Team board a UN M18 Helicopter



Capt Thompson RA with 2 Ugandan Gunners next to a 120 mm mortar



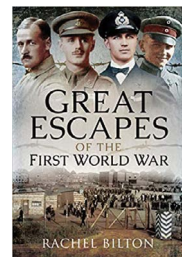
The closing date for all competitions in this month's edition is Monday 11 April 2022. The winners will be drawn at random and notified as soon as possible. Don't forget to fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

Easy Sudoku

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

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 Great Escapes of the First World War - 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.



Wordsearch - missing word?

.....

Name:

Tel:

Email:

Address:

.....

.....

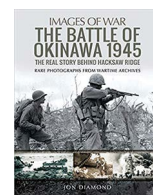
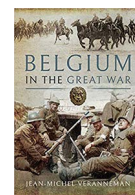
.....

The Gunner Wordsearch

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

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

CERAMIC	GLAZE	SPONGE
CHINA	KILN	VARNISH
CLAY	MOULD	WATER
FIRING	POTTERY	WHEEL



In August 1914, the German Empire invaded neutral Belgium in order to outflank the defences of the French army. Unexpectedly, the Belgian army resisted and fought on, holding a small part of unoccupied Belgian territory north of Ypres, alongside the British and French armies, until the Armistice of 1918. Because of their heroic defence, Belgium and its King, Albert I enjoyed enormous international prestige after the war.

The American campaign to capture Okinawa, codename Operation ICEBERG was fought from 1 April to 22 June 1945. 350 miles from Japan, Okinawa was intended to be the staging area for the Allied invasion of the Japanese mainland. The Japanese Thirty Second Army defenders were on land and the Imperial Navy at sea fought tenaciously.



Working at 1st Artillery Brigade as a JNCO



I was asked if I wanted to go to 1st Artillery Brigade (1 Arty Bde) in Oct 2019. Initially, I was a bit apprehensive because I didn't know anything about 1 Arty Bde or what I would be doing. The thought of working in an officer heavy environment put me on edge because I thought I'd be constantly expected to work and be held accountable to a completely different level. However, the actual workspace setting is a lot different from what I expected.

The initial worry of working at a high level, always on the go and without a general understanding of the job quickly changed once I started working there, the environment giving me the confidence in my job role and myself. The Brigade is a brilliant learning environment – I learned a lot from being around officers such as how to give them information in a structured way. It gave me the confidence to brief higher ranks and to have the practical knowledge to support them through an issue. We are treated as an adult, we can learn from our mistakes and are guided through the learning curve. I can go to an SNCO about a problem and I am given more responsibility and have become more confident in my judgement, which opens up what I can do as a junior rank.

Seeing how a Brigade HQ is run gave me a wider understanding how the Army is utilised. I had a narrow view at Regiment but working at Brigade gave me an understanding of why we do things at Regiment. It was an eye opener and put things into place of how we accomplish the wider mission.

The places we get to go to are really good: Going on Warfighter 2019, a multinational exercise sounds a bit daunting but the experience was brilliant – we set up the Joint Air Ground Integration Centre (JAGIC) and Div Arty. I've never seen anything being done like that. We didn't want to let the Brigade down and were given the freedom and trust to be capable and go enjoy ourselves during our time off and explore the area. I spent 2 weeks in Houston, Texas then flew to JWA (Joint Warfighter Assessment) in Seattle which was easily my favourite exercise.

My key take-away is working in a Brigade gives a lot of flexibility because we work at a different standard.

We have been trained how to teach FC BISA and HF which is an opportunity I don't believe I would have gotten as a LBdr serving at unit, and is beneficial as it would hold us in good stead for when we go back into Regiment as a Bombardier.

My advice would be to take postings external, posting such my JNCO post in 1 Arty Bde, if it is available to you. The experience and the environment are completely different to what you would have previously known, and the things you would be able to do and the opportunities you get are unlike any other.

by LBdr C Jones
JNCO
G6 Arty





Winter Sports Training in 47 Regiment Royal Artillery



It has been a long time since the Regiment was able to engage fully with winter sports due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. November 2021 saw the 47th Regiment Royal Artillery Biathlon and Alpine teams deploy out to Skeikampen, Norway and Les Deux Alpes, France. This was to participate alongside other Gunner Regiments in the long-awaited and most welcomed Ex NORDIC GUNNER 21 and ALPINE TIGER 21.

During Ex NORDIC GUNNER, with poles in hand and (mostly correct) skis on our feet, the team experienced their first Biathlon training session. Composed of much shouting, broken equipment, and many falls, these first few hours confirmed that which was suspected but did not yet know for sure: yes, we were all novices and mastering these tricky techniques would require commitment, hard work and no shortage of a sense of humour. In arduous conditions, with temperatures reaching -20 C, the first week began with Classic Nordic Skiing. It was like Bambi on ice, but with grins on our

faces and a steely determination to improve, the team persevered. By the end of the week, we had not only developed confidence in our ability to ski long distances at speed but had competed in our first inter-unit sprint race. Our adrenaline and pride were brimming.

Before the team knew it, we were on the start line for the final Cross-Country race of the Exercise - a gruelling 10km with no dearth of morale-sapping uphill. Our numbers were called and one by one, and roughly 45 minutes later, we crossed the finish line. The team put in fantastic performances across the board, but special mention to Gnr Tait who excelled, finishing 2nd overall in the Junior Novice Female category. A job well done!

Concurrently, Ex ALPINE TIGER was taking place. The Alpine team started off with half of them having never skied before at all! This led to more faces in the snow than skis! However, with the help of the excellent ESF French instructors and the Gunner family, the



team learnt at an exponentially outstanding rate. Starting with slalom, they were taught how to start and stop using the hockey stop. This came in more useful than we thought it would! We then proceeded to learn how to turn sharply soon leading to carving allowing us to navigate the gates of a slalom race with speed and agility. Over the weeks the novices in the team built their confidence and soon began to go off piece with the ESF instructors while exceeding speeds of 60km/h! Great fun!

With newfound skills and fortitude, the team proceed into the seeding races. Boots strapped tight, poles firmly in hands, they approached the starting gate of 300-meter giant slalom. On the words "Go" all hurled themselves forward from the starting gate gaining speed as we dropped into the course. Three weeks of training led up to what felt like a lifetime, but only consisted of on average 55 seconds of weaving through gates cutting through the snow. With legs burning they were then thrust through the finishing gate and attempted to stop, which sometimes consisted of jumping off skis into the snow. Overall, the 47 Regt RA Alpine team raced to extremely

competitive standard regardless of the fact half the team were novices. The Regiment is looking forward to training and racing with the gunner family next season.

Unfortunately, due to the rise of the Omicron variant in Europe and the UK the RA Alpine and Nordic team could not deploy back out for the Championships. However, 47 Regt RA Winter Sports Teams committed a great deal of effort and determination to the training before Christmas, it was a real privilege to take part in Ex NORDIC GUNNER and ALPINE TIGER 21. A true manifestation of military training - an amalgamation of physical and mental robustness, team cohesion, and adventure - Winter sports veritably encapsulates the essence of sport and Adventurous Training in the British Army. The Regiment is incredibly proud of both teams' efforts and already we look forward to next season. Well done to everyone involved and thank you to the instructors and organisers who made this experience possible. For more Winter sports, follow @royal_artillery_nordic on Instagram. Search @47regt_ra.

by 2Lt Bertschinger RA and Lt McQuade RA
47 Regt RA





Sgt Oldfield and Gnr Mitchell with their "loot"

As ever, the weather was really behind us as at the Royal Artillery Cross Country Course on Knighton Down, Larkhill for the 2021 Army and Royal Artillery Hunter Trials on 10 October 2021. Some 203 Serving, Veteran, Dependent and civilian competitors took on the jumping efforts on each of the four courses built and maintained by Lt Col Andy Welsh and John Hoare. The Event was again run faultlessly by Capt Bryan Elliott, NRHQ RA and Tracey Brigstock with considerable assistance from a raft of knowledgeable Serving, Veteran and civilian volunteers.

The Military results were:



Class 1 - Open (Fences up to 1m 05)

1st LBdr Brasher, King's Troop RHA, riding Long Run (a Troop lines horse)
2nd Bdr Megan Benney, 26 Regiment RA, riding her own horse Quattro



3rd Capt Amy Cooper, King's Troop RHA, riding her own horse McAllister

All three went clear, with no time penalties. Placings were decided by closest to the 'Optimum' time.



Class 2 - Restricted Novice (Fences up to 70cm)

1st LCpl Emma Powne riding "American"
2nd Maj Harriet Chapman riding "Ballysex Boy"
3rd WO1 Danny Rae riding "Graphite"



Class 3 - Novice (Fences up to 80cm)

1st Musician Lucy Perring riding "Ballinercaring Moonfleet"
2nd Maj Kirstie Deakin-Main RA, NRHQ RA riding "Cotswold Prince"
3rd Maj Anna Kirkin RA, NRHQ RA riding "Lily"



Class 4 Pairs (Fences up to 80cm)

1st Sgt Oldfield and Gnr Bellamy, King's Troop RHA riding "Fairfax" and "Somme"
2nd Gnr Mitchell and Gnr Cooke, King's Troop RHA riding "Lourdes" and "Lanclan"
3rd Gnr Stake and Gnr Parker-Wimbleball
All horses are King's Troop RHA lines horses



Class 5 Intermediate (Fences up to 90cm)

1st Gnr Mitchell, King's Troop RHA riding "Lourdes" (a Troop lines horse)
2nd Sgt Oldfield King's Troop RHA riding "Fairfax" (a Troop lines horse)
3rd Cpl Philip Maloney riding "Coolaney CJ"



14-15 February 1942: Two Nights of Hell



Capt Richard 'Dick' de Warrene Waller was just 20 when, as a Royal Artillery gunner, he was posted to Hong Kong in 1936. It was something of a halcyon stint where they 'worked half a day for a half day's pay'. The rest of the time was given over to sailing and recreation. His background was military through and through, with his father being an Artillery colonel who served his career in India after winning a contest to get an army commission. His great-great uncle, Col Robert Waller, was in the Bengal Horse Artillery, and had seen action in two Sikh Wars and the North West Frontier. In 1842 Robert was taken hostage, with his wife Annie and their daughter Selina, when Akbar Khan incredibly persuaded Gen Elphinstone to hand over several women, children and wounded officers, in return for supplies and a safe escort for his army. The family was released nine months later.

Dick was born in India and, after boarding school at Wellington College, the tall young man was commissioned as a RA captain after time at Woolwich Arsenal. He was soon after sent on his own Asia adventure first to Hong Kong, thence Singapore a couple of years prior to hostilities.

Assigned to the Royal Artillery 118th Field Regiment it's probable that his battery was assigned to airfield defence around Seletar on the east of the island. 'He was injured when strafed or bombed while in a vehicle,' his son Robert would tell me. 'He had one or two visible bullet wounds.' Now Dick lay on the floor of a boardroom of the overcrowded Alexandra British Military Hospital Singapore with a mattress, surrounded by about 30 others on a sultry Saturday afternoon, 14 February 1942.

The hospital found itself isolated in no-man's-land as the frontline shifted ahead of the rampaging Japanese. The battle-weary enemy entered the hospital, savagely bayonetting soldier-patients in their beds, and orderlies and medics where they worked.

'They came into the room and ordered all of us to go downstairs,' said Dick. Downstairs and out the door they went, to an open space of ground 'where about 200 prisoners had already collected, all walking-wounded cases, one with his arm and chest in plaster,' according to Waller. 'Our hands were tied behind our backs with small pieces of rope and we were then tied together in parties of six.'

Waller remembered the torturous walk as being 'encouraged by prods with bayoneted rifle butts. A Japanese soldier harangued us for a few minutes on the criminality of fighting Japan.'

They were then marched across the railway line adjacent the hospital, towards the Sisters' Quarters, and shoehorned into one of three small rooms of what appeared to have been a servants' quarters block behind.

Dick squeezed into the 4m x 4m space with up to 70 other patients, soldiers and orderlies. Waller was – with Capt John Brown, a 22-year-old Dental Corp officer – the senior officer present in that room. 'The windows were nailed up by the Japanese.' Through a gap in the barricaded door, he spotted some movement. 'I saw some Japanese soldiers taking away about one dozen bottles of whisky from out of the Sisters' Mess.'



Many of the inmates had not had a drink of water since the previous day. 'Many of the men suffered severely as a consequence,' said Waller. 'There was a lot of noise among the prisoners owing to their extremely nervous condition.' Japanese and British artillery fire was flying all about as the night attacks wore on.

False placatory promises were made. "If you will keep quiet I will try to get you back to the hospital tomorrow", the enemy officer said. Other Japanese 'inflamed by the whisky' were angry about the noise in the huts during the night.

Come the morning, Waller reported machine gun fire 'and what may have been the sounds of fighting. It seemed an Allied counter attack may have been under way. Shelling from our own artillery continued intermittently every half hour. A Japanese, who from his appearance and dress I judged to be an officer, looked through the window and swore at us.'

But at last the Japanese began to take prisoners from the building in twos and threes. The prisoners were taken out and disappeared off to the right, as seen by others facing towards the Sisters' Mess.

'We thought they were being taken away for a drink, but I saw a Japanese soldier wiping blood off his bayonet and heard groans and screams,' said Waller. As a manacled group passed out of sight, another shell thudded in dangerously close. 'One of the windows was blown open by a shell,' is how Waller saw it, as he and others made a desperate bolt for it.

A Japanese machine gun crew opened up at point blank range, their standard-issue Type 99-1 gun spitting out 550 angry rounds per minute. 'The two men in front of me were shot,' said Waller as he scooted away to a position near the blazing Normanton oil tanks a few hundred metres away, and found a hiding place, where he remained secreted – semi-submerged in a barrel of oil – overnight. Japanese patrols passed nearby searching for escapees. Meanwhile, Singapore had surrendered, the battle for the island was over. But he dared not move.

The next morning, a curious sight presented itself at the captured hospital. 'After hiding I walked back to the hospital and was there picked up by a Japanese sentry and taken inside,' said Waller, who would be the fourth of only five known survivors from up to 200 who'd been crammed into those squalid quarters. Amazingly his own family would know nothing of his daring escape feat until after his funeral in 2010.

This is an edited extract from 'A Bleeding Slaughterhouse: the Outrageous true Story of the Alexandra Hospital Massacres, Singapore, February 1942' by Stuart Lloyd, now available on Amazon. Catmatdog.com/ableedingslaughterhouse





Save The Date

14-15 May 22

THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMANDO GUNNERS

**FREEDOM OF THE CITY PARADE
FAMILIES DAY
MILITARY DISPLAYS
FOOD & DRINK
ALL RANKS REUNION
CHURCH SERVICE**

The Royal Citadel, Plymouth, PL1 2PD



Commando Gunner 60
Since 1962
United we Conquer!



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?



WOMEN IN THE ROYAL ARTILLERY



30 YEARS +1 ANNIVERSARY DINNER



SATURDAY 9TH APRIL 2022

Victory Services Club W2 2HF - £75 per ticket

Regimental Headquarters Royal Artillery will host an anniversary dinner on 9 April 22 to celebrate 30 years of women serving in the Royal Artillery. The dinner will be held at the Victory Services Club and will include, a pre-dinner drink, a three-course meal with wine, followed by tea and coffee.

This event will showcase the achievements of women in the Royal Artillery with guest speakers, music and pictures. Those wishing to attend can use QR code above, or contact Rachael.Lock940@mod.gov.uk to book a place.

Bank details
Account Name: RAI
Sort Code: 30-11-75
Account Number: 00957269
Reference: WOMEN30TH



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This New Year, resolve to discover how to get the most from your pension; you may be surprised at the number of options you have to enhance your income. And if you're in Resettlement it's vital to ensure you have all the information you need. Even the timing of your departure can make a significant difference to your income.

By joining us, you can benefit from the individual guidance tailored to your personal circumstances, provided by our Forces Pensions Consultants.

Independent, not-for-profit

Independence is vital to our work. We've been championing Armed Forces Pensions since 1946, calling governments to account whenever we spot unfairness or injustice in the system. We also give you a voice where it counts, on the representative bodies for Armed Forces and Public Services Pensions. We are funded entirely by our Members' subscriptions. Any surplus helps fund our outreach programmes of free-to-attend Roadshows at bases throughout the country and our Webinars and attendance at CTP Employment Fairs.

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Annual membership for you and your spouse/partner is just **£42**. You will have exclusive access to our Forces Pensions Consultants, our informative Members' Webinars and you'll receive our bi-annual newsletters and magazine, Pennant. You'll also have access to our wide range of membership benefits from discounts on new cars and white goods, to insurances (including our latest range of covid-protected travel insurance policies), low-cost money transfers and a great deal more.

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Gunner Sunday

Gunner Sunday at the Royal Hospital Chelsea will take place on Sunday 24th April 2022. Branches and Regiments are strongly encouraged to send representatives and bring along their friends and relatives.

Please contact the RAA Assistant Secretary via email to book your place and obtain full details. cas.thoburn603@mod.gov.uk

1000hrs: Assemble and meet in the Octagon Colonnade by the chapel.

1015hrs: Pensioners and RAA Standard Bearers form up.

1130hrs: Parade finishes and chapel service begins.

After the service the club will be open to meet and chat to the pensioners over a drink.

Dress: Suits or blazer with Gunner/Regimental tie.

Lunch: After the service, a curry lunch will be served at Royal Hospital Chelsea. Tickets for the lunch cost £12pp and will be issued by the RAA office, on a first come basis as numbers are limited.



Falklands 40

In 2022 we mark the 40th anniversary of the end of the Falklands Conflict. The Royal British Legion will be commemorating this important milestone with a special event held at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on Tuesday 14th June. Falklands 40 will recognise the service of the 30,000 sailors, marines, soldiers, airmen and merchant

mariners who served in the Falklands War, along with the many civilians who supported the Task Force and remember the sacrifice of those 255 British personnel who lost their lives.

In the afternoon, there will be a commemorative event centred around the Armed Forces Memorial. This will feature veteran testimony from key points in the conflict as well as the Act of Remembrance.

On the morning of the event there will be an opportunity for unit associations to conduct intimate commemorations at their respective memorials within the Arboretum. We are currently considering how we might conduct this aspect of the day but are working on the principle that it should be led by members of the Regiment and Association who deployed during the conflict. Please contact the RAA (see below) if you would like to be involved.

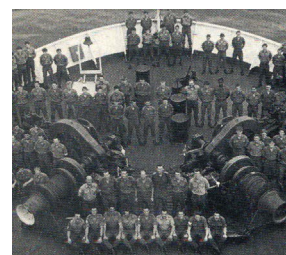
The RBL's Falklands 40 is set to be a very special occasion, commemorating the conflict that ended 40 years ago.

Veterans of the Falklands Conflict, their families and participating civilian organisations are invited to attend the event on the 14th of June at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

All those wishing to attend must register through their appropriate association, this is a ticketed event. Registration is now open and if you wish to attend please email the Royal Artillery Association – cas.thoburn603@mod.gov.uk

We ask that all names are submitted before the registration window closes in late April.

E-tickets will be issued to individuals closer to the event. Doors will open at the NMA from 0900 with the central Act of Remembrance Service taking place at 1330.



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

Norbreck Castle Hotel, Queens Promenade, Blackpool, FY2 9AA. www.britanniahotels.com



Lewes Branch

On 28th January 2022 Lewes Branch held their AGM 2022 at St Mary's Supporters Club in Lewes. Twenty-two members attended the AGM, followed by a buffet supper and drinks after the Meeting.



Shoeburyness & South Essex Branch

Shoeburyness and South Essex Branch held their AGM on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 at the Naval and Military Club, Southend-on-Sea. The Regimental Secretary, Colonel Matthew Carter was presented with a cheque for £1,000 to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund for fundraising activities held by the Branch throughout 2021.

A warm congratulations to Peter Urquhart who was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Regimental Secretary.



Tyneside Scottish Branch

A new Chairman - Major Lee Byers TD VR hands over the role of Branch Chairman to Major (Retd) Ian Jones TD VR.



Sidcup and District Branch

After the Branch meeting in January, Sidcup Branch members enjoyed a well-earned post meeting curry and a social catch up.



29 Commando Regiment RA

The gym staff at 29 Commando Regiment RA conducted the Annual Commanding Officers Regimental Charity Christmas XC Run at Saltram House. The event was to fundraise for 3 charities, one being the RACF and to expose the Regiment within the wider community testing components of fitness and to showcase their strong Commando spirit.



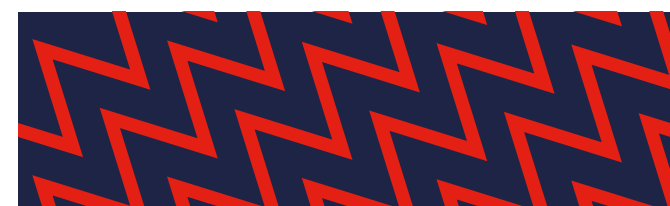
47 Regiment RA

On Saturday 15th January Cuthill-Well Troop, 57 (Bhurtpore) Battery set up a fundraising event in Salisbury Market Square. Members of the troop took on the epic 2,121 mile challenge to static cycle the distance of the Tour De France in 24 hours to raise funds for the RACF. A big thank you for raising an amazing £942.33 and supporting your Gunner Charity.



16 Regiment RA

What a way to start 2022! WO2 Chris Pollitt, BSM 32 (Minden) Battery took on the personal challenge to row 10km per day throughout January to raise funds for the RACF. Messages on Chris's twitter feed ... 'It was an epic month of ups and downs....the blisters are horrendous; my hands are ruined, and I am in need of new shoes....yet it was all worthwhile'. Thank you BSM for raising an amazing £960, your focus, positivity and competitiveness, made every blister worthwhile. Thank you for your support and we enjoyed following your journey.





The Cornwall Cup Results 2021

The Cornwall Cup is awarded to the Gunner regiment, regular and reserve, or Gunner establishment or RA sports club that donates the most funds for the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund in the course of the year. The funds can either be raised by a Regiment, a Battery or an individual or group of individuals on the posted strength of a Gunner unit or sports club.



Regt	Total	Placing
5 Regt	£8,801.50	1
14 Regt RA	£2,948.60	2
26 Regt RA	£2,562.02	3
16 Regt RA	£2,500	4
7 Para Regt RA	£1,760	5
29 Cdo Regt RA	£1,357.57	6
47 Regt RA	£1,292.12	7
3 Regt RHA	£403.91	8
103 Regt RA	£77.86	9
Total £21,744.83		

The RACF trustees are extremely grateful to all those Regiments, Batteries and individuals who took part and raised funds for the charity.

An absolutely fantastic result from 5th Regiment, with each Battery taking part in a range of events during the year.

Donations such as this enable us to continue to support individual serving and retired members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery who are in need, as well as supporting the serving Regiment with grants to support welfare, sports and comradeship.

The total is somewhat lower than 2020 (£35,258), so there is plenty of scope for other regiments to join in and raise funds and compete for the cup during this year!

In terms of how RACF funds are being spent.....

RACF SUPPORT TO THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY

In 2021 the RACF provided £545,277 in individual grants to 1032 serving Gunners, veterans and families.

As at 15 February, the RACF Welfare team have awarded £75,125 in grants to 94 members of our Royal Artillery regimental family. We have awarded £68,708 to our veterans and their dependants and the remaining £6,417 to our serving Gunners and their dependants.

The largest area of support so far has been with annual grants. These are available to help those in our regimental family who are over pensionable age and are struggling with daily living costs. So far this year we have awarded £19,720 to those in this age group who are finding it hard to make ends meet.

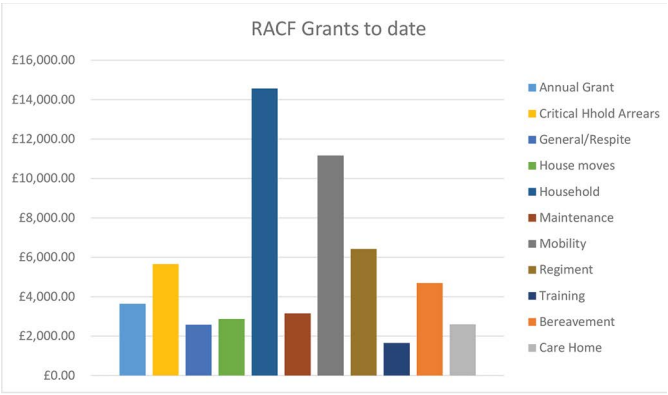
We have awarded £14,564 to help those who needed new household goods, £11,166 with mobility grants, £5,627 with household bills such as rent, electric and gas arrears and we helped others struggling with funeral costs, house maintenance costs, house moves, training, care home top up fees and others with general needs grants.

If you are struggling or know another Gunner, whether they be veteran or serving, who needs some financial support with something that they need, please ask us for help. We are there for all our regimental family members.

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)



With the energy market crisis and soaring costs many of our Gunner family could be facing financial hardship, the RACF anticipate many will struggle to find the extra money and worry about how they are going to find it. We have seen a rise in cases for general needs and household goods showing our Veterans and dependants are under financial pressures and hardship already. Please call SSAFA on 0800 731 4880 or the Royal British Legion on 0808 802 8080 to get a case to us and let the RACF ease that stress and worry where we can.

For 2022, the RACF has made the following provision

Individual welfare grants: £661,000

Regimental welfare grants: £87,600

Regimental Sports: £65,000

88 Year old Veteran's Dependant - Annual Grant:

'Thank you so much.... everything is so uncertain at the moment... help(s) to know I can keep warm'

Veteran dependant - RAA Member

'Thank you so much.... Another year gone by... and what a year... enjoying meetings... always on the lookout for the (RA)... many thanks.'

84 Year old Veteran

'I cannot put it into words my thanks to you... being an ex-Regular I thank you as it is most welcome'

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.



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





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.tm@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).

RMAS SMC 28 REUNION - 2022

(Passing Out April 1982)

James Archibald (11 Pl, Salerno 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 on Fri 1 Apr 22 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. Please note a first come first served basis applies.

HAIL & FAREWELL

The next Hail and Farewell will be held at the RA Mess on 16 Jun 22. In addition to those new LE officers being dined in, all those officers retiring, but not serving at Regimental Duty, after a pensionable engagement, are welcome to attend, with partner, as guests of the Regiment. Please note that this includes those that are leaving up until Dec 22. The dress for the

event is Black Tie. Timing 1900 for 1930. Subject to numbers you are welcome to invite additional guests at your expense. If you would like to attend please contact Mrs Emma Pagan-Skelley - emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk or Tel 0300 155 6172

20 REGT RA 2022 REUNION

We will be holding our Reunion at the Holiday Inn Coventry on the weekend of 19th/20th August. General catch up on Friday evening followed by a formal dinner on Saturday. All former members of the Regiment and those attached at anytime are welcome to attend. For details, please email reunion.20regt@gmail.com or call/message David McDaid 07747 478179.

CALLING ALL COMMAND GUNNER OFFICERS!

The Commanding Officer and Officers of 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery request the pleasure of your company at The Commando Gunner Officer Reunion Dinner to be held at The Royal Citadel, Plymouth on 13 May 2022. Black Tie, Medals, Carriages 0130. RSVP to Ops Officer 148 Meiktila Cdo FO Bty william.farquhar100@mod.gov.uk

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



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

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 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. Please contact the Regimental Secretariat Assistant Emm. Pagan-Skelley 100@mod.gov.uk

RA Historical Society Spring 2022 Programme

Date and Timings	Type of Event	Subject	Lecturer/Lead	Registrations Close	Cost per Head
Wed 27 Apr 1100 hrs	AM Two Lectures 3 course Lunch PM Society AGM All at Larkhill	Gunner Generals in Hitler's Headquarters The Battle for Monte Cassino	Col Michael Phillips Prof Peter Caddick-Adams	Wed 13 Apr	To be notified
16-22 May	RAHS Battlefield Tour 2022	The English Civil War Part Two	Maj Nigel Daniel	To be notified	See Prospectus
June	On-Line Webinar	To be notified			

Open to all Gunners

To register please email the RAHS Secretary by the dates shown
Zoom Log In details will be emailed to all who register for webinars
Email Lt Col Clayton, RAHS Secretary: richard.clayton312@gmail.com

LAST POST

Notification of Death:

Stephen Tony Richardson 28 November 2021
 Bill Hornby 21 December 2021
 Jim Baker December 2021
 Robert (Bob) Colman December 2021
 WO2 Graham "Smudge" Smith 2 January 2022
 LBdr Jack Mynett 3 January 2022
 Paul Hughes 5 January 2022
 Frank Taverner 8 January 2022
 BSM Gerry Brien 20 January 2022
 Mr C Ward 28 January 2022
 Michael Kidney 28 January 2022
 Maj Stan Morson 31 January 2022
 Col Neil Sharp 31 January 2022
 Simon Scott Cooke January 2022
 Jaysley Beck January 2022
 Micky Finn January 2022
 Vic Gosling January 2022
 Lt Col Payne 3 February 2022
 Mick Conlin 3 February 2022
 Lt Col Alan Wilmshurst 4 February 2022
 Gnr A Skeleton 11 February 2022
 WO2 Derek Coles 14 February 2022
 Mr J Ellis 21 February 2022

EDWARDS - Maj Brian William Edwards unexpectedly died at home on 28 Oct 21, aged 82. Beloved husband of Heidi, loving father of Linda and Deborah and proud grandfather of two.

HODGE - Brig D H Hodge OBE DL (David) died peacefully on Fri 21 Jan 22. He passed away at a Care Home in Surrey with his two children, Alasdair and Fiona (Mrs Douglas Storrie) at his side. Brig Hodge served, in 5 RHA in Hong Kong and Crickhowell, commanded D Bty in 3 RHA and later commanded 5 Regt in Hildesheim. He was the first Hon Regt Col of 5 Regt. Anne, his wife, died 5 years ago. He retired on 11 Jun 83.

JOHNSTONE - Jimmy James Johnstone 26 Jul 39 - 11 Nov 21 Jimmy (pictured No 2 on LMG) was 13 when he joined the RA Cadet Unit, located within 359 Medium Regt RA(V) in Edge Lane Bks. He must have liked it because by the time he was 18 he was a Cadet WO2. So it seemed only natural that when he did join the TA he joined 359. Jimmy was a Battery Surveyor on the 5.5 Inch Gun with the rank of SSgt, when on amalgamation in 1967 he left Edge Lane (B Troop) and transferred to 103 Air Defence Regt (V) 208 Bty's Control Troop in Aigburth, Liverpool. Jimmy was moved to the BCP (Bty Command Post) and then on to Radar, and, as SSgt was the radar number 1 until the conversion to Blowpipe in 1977. Upon conversion Jimmy was promoted to WO2 and returned to B Troop as TSM. In late 1978 then moved to A Troop as its TSM until he retired in November 1979. Jimmy's service

didn't end there though as both his daughter Paula and his son had joined the Sea Cadet unit in Speke. He went from "Dad's taxi service" to actually staying and helping. He helped so much that he ended up becoming OIC (Officer in Command) running the Speke Unit. His next role was that of District Officer responsible for Merseyside's 9 Sea Cadet units plus Knowsley Lake Boating Station, with the rank of Lt Commander. Following this when he went to the Huyton Unit and was Unit Finance Officer. He was still in post when he passed away. During his long service he was awarded the TA Medal and Bar, The Lord Lieutenant's Certificate and the Cadet force medal.



PEARSON - WO1 (RSM) W (Wally) Pearson. Served in 1st, 3rd and the King's Troop RHA, as well as the HAC and 71st HAA Regt RA. Died on 16 January 2022 aged 93.

SUTTON - Sgt Alan (Sooty) Sutton. Sadly we have been informed of the loss of Sgt Alan Sutton, 2nd Field Regt & 103 Regt HQ Bty. He passed away on 24 Jan 22 after his short battle with Cancer. Our condolences have been sent to his wife Adrian and his daughters Marie and Ann-Louise. On visiting Adrian she informed me Alan was born in Peru, picking up the first of 5 languages Spanish and then Portuguese, later during his 18 years in Germany. During their 17 year marriage they travelled to Greece and his talent and love of language seen him add Greek to his list. It was not a surprise because during his time in 103 Regt he assisted work in the RCP and on the many Signals Courses run bi-annually in the regiment, it was clear Communication was his passion, many a soldier will have benefitted from his teaching all the tricks of the trade that he had mastered over the years. The only language he found it difficult to understand was "Get the ale in" I think that was part of his PSI training. Alan joined the Royal Regiment with 2nd Field Regt at 18 serving over 22 years latterly as a PSI at HQ Bty 103 Regt in Deyesbrook Barracks. Moving later to Jubilee. He then joined 103 as a Territorial serving 8 years, the last 3 rebadging to the AGC. Serving 30 years in all. A much loved friend and respected member of the mess.



Major Reginald James (Reg) Millard



Major Reg Millard passed away peacefully on January 4 2022 aged 80; a memorial service was held to celebrate his life and career on 25 January 2022 at Ponteland in Northumberland.

Reg was born into a military family; his father was also a Gunner and had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal while BSM of K Battery for his role in the famous action at Hondeghem in May 1940. After leaving the Duke of York Royal Military School in 1958, Reg entered RMA Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1960. His initial appointment was to 37 Regiment in Dorchester, equipped with the Thunderbird surface to air missile. Subsequent postings saw him serving in the UK and Germany; however, it was his knowledge and practical expertise in field gunnery that drew him towards a career with the Gunnery Staff.

As an IG, Reg was to become well known for his ability to both teach and inspire confidence in others. He could be a hard taskmaster; those who were not prepared to

apply themselves could discover that they were the subjects of a direct and forthright debriefing. However, he was also gifted with a puckish sense of humour that could win over the less confident and encourage them to achieve more than anticipated. This was especially true when Reg was assigned as Training Major of 101 Regiment Royal Artillery in Newcastle. Reg understood the volunteer soldier better than most and struck up a strong rapport across the regiment. He could be found at the various battery drill nights, observing and encouraging all. He trained the regimental OP parties to operate on light scales, using only that which they could carry. Training weekends in Invertron would be enlivened by the fact that a sandbagged OP had been prepared instead of the usual desk and chairs.

In the mid 1980s Reg was posted as the exchange IG at the Australian School of Artillery in Manly. He settled well with his antipodean counterparts, who welcomed his professionalism and straight talking manner. In his first year he was assessed to sit high in the top 10 of the 50 or so British officers on exchange. Sadly it was at this time that Reg's wife Adrienne passed away after a short battle with cancer. Reg returned to UK and the UKLF Gunnery Training Team (North) based in York. There he not only reaffirmed his relationship with 101 Regiment but also enjoyed time at his family home on the A68, close to Otterburn.

It was at a 101 Regiment Summer Ball in 1990 when Reg

was introduced to Gae Eddison; daughter of a Gunner, sister of an infantry officer and well versed with military life. Meeting Gae was the catalyst for change and Reg decided to take early retirement in 1991. He accepted an appointment as a civil servant in the UK Range Safety and Inspection Team, responsible for the inspection of a variety of military ranges of varying sizes. This allowed for a more regular life and Reg and Gae settled in North East. Reg was a staunch supporter of the Northumberland Volunteer Artillery Association and through this kept abreast of Gunner matters with a keen interest.

On his retirement in 2006 Reg continued his military connections by joining SSAFA and being responsible for activities in the Tynedale Branch in Northumberland, one of the largest geographical areas. He was also a keen sportsman, being an excellent hockey and rugby player as young officer and remaining a keen and active tennis player right up until his untimely death.

The often over used phrase "he was an inspiration to others" is entirely apposite when speaking of Reg. He measured himself and others by his high personal standards. For some the fixed look of determination and exasperation made them realise they had fallen well short; for others it was that pat on the back, as rare as a Paul Hollywood handshake on 'Bake Off', that signalled the ultimate praise. He had a profound impact on many and will be greatly missed not only by Gae and his son Andrew but also by the many friends and colleagues, whose lives were enriched by his company.



Date	Event	Location
2022		
9-11 Mar	WO1's Convention	Larkhill
16 Mar	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
21-24 Mar	RA Boxing	Larkhill
1 Apr	RA Spring Dinner	Larkhill
8 Apr	Subalterns' Dining In	Larkhill
9 Apr	30 +1 Anniversary Dinner	Victory Services Club
24 Apr	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea
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
14 Jun	WOs' & Sgts' Mess E2 Dinner Night	Larkhill
16 Jun	Hail & Farewell	Larkhill
02 Jul	RA Service of Remembrance	NMA
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
13 Nov	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park
29 Nov	Officers' Mess E2 Dinner Night	Larkhill



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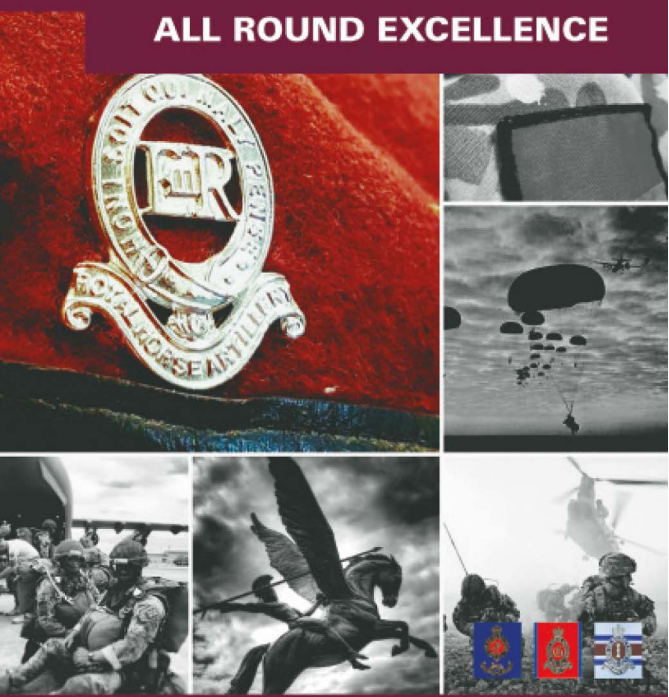
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7 Para RHA

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Mike Watson

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*The Master Gunner St James's Park,
Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB DL,
has sent, on behalf of all ranks, serving and retired,
of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, and from
Her Royal Regiments of Artillery across the Commonwealth,
a message of Loyal Greetings to Her Majesty our Captain General,
on the occasion of Her Platinum Jubilee
on the 6th of February 2022.*