



NOVEMBER 2022

THE STATE FUNERAL OF HER
MAJESTY THE QUEEN, OUR
CAPTAIN GENERAL

Ex CYPHER DEVIL

ROYAL ARTILLERY SPORTS
PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION

GUNNER

#oneregiment

The Larkhill-based team that supplies you Gunner.

Executive Editor: Maj Simon Howe
RA

Editor: Miss Cheryl Bolla can be reached on: (Mil) 94322 5652 (Civ) 01980 84 5652

Subscriptions Manager: post vacant
(Mil) 94322 2204 (Civ) 01980 63 4204

Gunner Rules

Guidance on Submissions

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

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

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

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

For daily Media Comms updates follow Twitter Royal Artillery Media
Facebook Royal Artillery Media
Instagram Royal Artillery Media

Gunner Publications
RHQ RA,
Royal Artillery Barracks,
Larkhill, Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
SP4 8QT

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect official opinion in any way. All articles and photographs published in The Gunner become copyright of Gunner Publications and must not be reproduced without permission from the Editor. Space will determine whether or not articles and photographs are published.

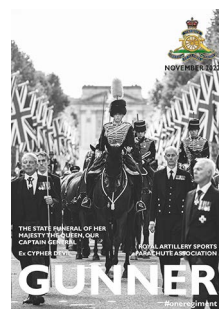
GUNNER



NOVEMBER 2022

Registered Charity Number 1122002

CONTENTS



The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery conveyed the coffin of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the George Gun from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall for the Lying in State.
Front cover photo taken by Cpl Cameron Eden

FEATURES

- 4 Guest Editorial The Master Gunner St James's Park
- 5 Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II funeral
- 6 State funeral - 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery
- 8 State funeral - 104th Regiment Royal Artillery
- 10 State funeral - 4th Regiment Royal Artillery
- 12 State funeral - 19th Regiment Royal Artillery
- 14 State funeral - Honourable Artillery Company
- 16 State funeral - 14th Regiment Royal Artillery
- 18 State funeral - 105th Regiment Royal Artillery
- 20 State funeral - 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery
- 22 Ex CYPHER DEVIL - 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery
- 24 Looking back - Air Observation Posts

EVERY DAY IS AN OPEN DAY AT CHAFYN GROVE SCHOOL

CALL 01722 333423 TO BOOK AN INDIVIDUAL TOUR



EXCELLENT DAY AND BOARDING EDUCATION
FOR GIRLS AND BOYS 3-13.

WWW.CHAFYNGROVE.CO.UK
BOURNE AVENUE, SALISBURY

SPORT

- 28 Royal Artillery Sports Parachute Association (RASPA)
- 32 Inter-Corps Tug of War Champions 2022

REGULARS

- 34 Royal Artillery Charities News
- 40 Forecast of Events
- 41 Notices
- 42 Obituaries & Death Notices



**MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER GUNNER ST JAMES'S PARK
LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR ANDREW GREGORY KBE CB DL**

"All current and former members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery are greatly saddened to hear of the death of our Captain General, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As the longest serving British Monarch in history, Her Majesty's unquestioning duty and dedication to the Nation, to the Commonwealth and to Her Armed Forces will be deeply and profoundly missed.

Her Majesty's interest in, and engagement with, all aspects of Her Regiment throughout Her reign has been of the greatest importance. As the Nation and the World mourns, our thoughts are with His Majesty The King and all members of the Royal Family; I know that I speak on behalf of all current and former members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and the Royal Artilleries of the Commonwealth in offering our deepest and most heartfelt condolences at this difficult time."

GOD SAVE THE KING



**Gnr Kyle Asquith
Trumpeter
King's Troop**

I was at home on my first day of leave when I got the message to come back, a message that sprung every one of us in the Regiment into action. I was in Harrogate at the time so it took around four hours to get back. As soon as I arrived it was all systems go at 01:00 in the morning. We got all the kit ready as fast as possible at the Forward mounting base and managed it all with excellence. Firing the day after death is not something that comes easy. I was in the same position doing Centre section commanders horse holder, the skill in the riding was a lot higher than before because normally during September time it is less busy because of the break between the Birthday parade and Remembrance. The feeling when the first round of 96 went off was one of adrenaline but also pride and sadness, it marked the death of Her Majesty, a magnificent woman who served this country for longer than most of us have been alive, it was an honour to be a part of indeed.

The Queen's funeral after we fired for the gun carriage being taken by the Royal Navy to Wellington Arch we formed up next to Apsley gate. Swords were drawn and the National Anthem played. Royal salute was given from the 2IC Captain Amy Cooper and every member of the armed forces got goose bumps as it played, a surreal feeling I cannot explain. Then the hearse came past with Her majesties coffin and seeing the crown, the royal standard draped, The royal family

following close behind, it's a once in a lifetime opportunity that I got to see with my own two eyes. Someone I signed the oath of allegiance to, I had a sense of pride, that we delivered something that Her late Majesty would have loved and have been so proud of, her armed forces performing the best send off in front of half of the world.





Preparations to conduct a Death Salute at 1300 hrs 9 Sep 22



Upon the announcement of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II death, and the subsequent calling of Op BRIDGE, 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery began their preparations to conduct a Death Salute at 1300hrs on 9th September 2022. The Regiment's Op BRIDGE commitment is currently aligned to F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery Royal Horse Artillery. Due to the nature of being in 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team, members of the Battery are used to being called upon at short notice, and this event was no exception. The BSM enacted the Battery recall plan and within an hour of the notification signal members of the Battery, who were dispersed across the country on exercises and courses, making haste back to Colchester, each man eager to do his duty for our departed sovereign.

A parade timing of 0630 on Friday 9th September was set, allowing the final bits of preparation to be conducted. The gun detachments were meticulous in ensuring the vehicles were spotless, and the guns were

ready for firing. As soon as the BSM was satisfied with the standard of equipment, we began our final rehearsals covering all potential issues that could be encountered, including failure to fire procedures so the Fire Mission would continue along at the intervals required. Rehearsals continued right up until we departed Merville Barracks, allowing each detachment the time to feel comfortable with the process we were following.

Traditionally, Gun Salutes in Colchester are held within Castle Park, the location in which the Battery conducted the Platinum Jubilee Gun Salute just a few months prior. As fortune would have it the Park was occupied by a Beer and Sausage festival, however robust war gaming several months prior had identified Colchester & East Essex Cricket Club as a suitable alternate location. Three Guns were deployed from Merville Barracks and travelled through the city under a police escort, arriving at the Cricket Club and driving straight onto the grass, much to the horror of the groundman.



As the dignitaries from across the county and members of the Brigade Headquarters arrived, the crowds around the outfield began to build in anticipation of the first round. The Battery was led by Major Douglas Collett RHA, with Lt C Newman RHA taking control of the timings and myself ensuring that the correct number of rounds had been fired, a harder task than one might appreciate! As the Battery was marched on by the BSM, the atmosphere began to build, with each person involved understanding the enormity and immense honour that came with being part of such a symbolic event, the commemoration of our longest reigning Monarch. The Battery conducted a ninety-six gun salute with one round being fired every ten seconds, The Lord Lieutenant of Essex received the Death Salute on behalf of the Sovereign.

The following day began in a similar vein with rehearsals, leading to the twenty-one Gun Proclamation Salute, commemorating His

Majesty King Charles III ascension to the throne. Over the course of the two days, the members of F Para Bty conducted themselves with the upmost professionalism as usual, going about their duties with a great deal of enthusiasm. Having had the privilege of conducting Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee Salute, the Battery certainly didn't expect to be called into action again so soon after. Nonetheless, they were afforded the opportunity to be a part of the country paying their respects to Queen Elizabeth II, our Captain General.

by Lt Hugh Jolly RHA
F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery
7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery





Reservists from 104 Regiment Royal Artillery responded en masse to Op BRIDGE



As the news broke that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had passed away, reservists from 104 Regt RA responded en masse to the Op BRIDGE call back procedure and started making their way to Cardiff from their Bty locations at Worcester, Bristol, Newport & Abertillery. Already late in the evening, direction was soon issued by JMC Guns that HHr would be at 1300hrs the following day. This allowed a workable timeframe to issue ceremonial uniform, collect ammunition and conduct initial rehearsals.

D Day arrived and travel across the City Centre was seamless thanks to the blue light escort from South Wales Police. On arrival at Cardiff Castle, the 11th century Keep loomed large, dominating the Castle grounds where we were to deliver this historic and momentous task. An eerie mist covered the Castle Green almost as though the legends were true and a dragon had lain guard overnight, its breath still visible in the cold and damp early morning.

The hour was upon us and four ceremonial guns stood ready on the Castle Green. Many

of the soldiers on parade had stood in this exact spot less than 18 months earlier firing the Death Gun Salute for HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. COVID restrictions meant that event was closed to the public, not so today. In typical Welsh fashion the heavens had opened a few minutes prior and the thousands of people with multi coloured umbrellas stood as a stark contrast to the grey backdrop of a Nation in mourning. Not a word was spoken and as the guns roared into life so too did the sunshine. The Welsh flag unfurled and an immaculate display of 96 rounds was fired led by the parade commander – Capt Rees and supported by the steadfast No 1s – WO2 Fox, SSgt Burrows, Sgt Giudice & Sgt James, with a combined experience of over 300 Salutes. A dignified and sombre round of applause followed and so began our final farewell to Queen Elizabeth II.

D + 1 - Manning, timings and routine now firmly established, we prepared to fire our second Salute in acknowledgement of the



Principal Proclamation which was to be read from the balcony at St James's Palace at 11am. Emotions and expectations were still running high but so too were spirits and the sense of pride, honour and sadness was tangible. As expected, the Salute was delivered to the highest of standards and provided a focal point in the City, which served to galvanise the people of Wales at this time of mourning.

D+2 - Regional Proclamation Day. Rehearsals had been underway since D Day and a Proclamation Guard made up of 26 men of the 3rd Battalion the Royal Welsh, supported by the band of the Royal Welsh and accompanied by Shenkin IV - the iconic regimental goat mascot of the Royal Welsh led the charge. Colleagues from the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force lined the route and the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan made the announcement in Welsh followed by the Wales Herald of Arms Extraordinary in English. Another flawless delivery by the gun detachments on parade before a rousing performance, for the very first time of God Save the King followed by Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.

A few days of respite followed before reforming on D + 6 to conduct rehearsals for His Majesty King Charles III first visit to Wales as Monarch the following day. A change in mood was now apparent and the weight and sadness of previous days seemed somewhat lighter. The honour of firing a Royal Salute as HMK's foot touched Welsh soil for the first time was thrilling. His Majesty was scheduled to arrive at Pontcanna Fields by helicopter and a tasking of 2 door openers was received by the regiment. Bdr James and LBdr Tomkins of 211 (South Wales) Bty were the chosen ones and a conversation between Bdr James and His Majesty lasting over a minute became the highlight of the day – to be the first soldier in Wales to speak to the King is quite a story for any future grandkids!

As fate would have it, D + 7 coincided with Owain Glyndwr Day and in true 'rebel'

fashion, a number of supporters for the last native Prince of Wales descended on Cardiff Castle expressing disappointment and anger that Glyndwr Day events had been cancelled. Soon silenced though by the outpouring of love and respect for their former Prince, now King Charles and delighted by the news that after more than 25 years, the Country had a new Prince and Princess of Wales. The King landed, the guns fired, and the crowds roared – a moment in time, a new beginning and a renewed sense of hope.



The regiment is beyond proud of the professionalism, dedication and commitment to duty demonstrated by its soldiers and officers over this 8-day period, it has been nothing short of remarkable. Perhaps more remarkable though has been the care, kindness and consideration shown by every member of the regiment to one another – teamwork at its absolute best. A herculean effort by all, not least the entire G4 team led by SSgt Lewis who tirelessly supported throughout and the RTWO – WO2 Ellis who provided assurance, guidance and a sense of calm. All that is left to say is Da Iawn and Diolch Yn Fawr to one and all.

God Save The King.

by Capt Jasper RA
104th Regiment Royal Artillery



96 Round Gun salute



Executed with precision and honour. Members of the 4th Regiment Royal Artillery fire the 96 round Royal Salute in York Memorial Gardens.

Our Last Duty

As a thousand shards of steel flew through the air, tearing through anything in their way, the Men and Women of the 2nd Royal Anglian Battle Group moved towards their objectives. Artillery, Mortars, Air, Light and Heavy Machine Guns, 3/29 (Corunna) Battery Tac Group of the Fighting Fourth were orchestrating the effects of many assets to help their supported arm to fight and win.

Having organised this complex training, the Combat Ready Training Centre were in complete support of our team when the humbling and unforgettable call came through. Although devastated by the news of the death of Her Majesty the Queen; and knowing of the imminent task to relocate from Salisbury Plain to North Yorkshire the Gun Group continued to provide their vital fire support.

"It was a shock. The QGI announced the sad news during a slight pause in the firing. We didn't have the time to process it, we had to continue to compute our firing data"

– 2Lt Nick Kelly CPO 3/29 Battery.

Our mission, though quite straight forward was made more complex by being engaged on a Combined Live Firing Exercise. A 96 round Gun Salute. One round for every year of Her Majesty's life at our saluting station in the City of York. 200 miles away. Our last duty to our Queen.

In Alanbrooke Barracks the headquarters team were reacting to updates as they came in, supporting our people on the ground and aiding their extraction. Our Workshop personnel returned into work in case our equipment needed their expertise, the RSM directed personnel changes to the guard force, supported by providing advice and oversight and the Regiment came together to provide any support as required. It was a whole team effort.

Firing the 96 round gun salute was a momentous occasion. Sombre and fitting. Marking the long life and reign of our Queen. Taking the salute was Mrs Johanna Ropner the Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire and she was accompanied by Brigadier General



Jean Laurentin, the temporary General Officer Commanding 1st (United Kingdom) Division. Each gun was ordered to fire in turn, breaking the silence of the 1000+ onlookers. Smoke hung in the air of the York Museum Garden, our saluting station and on completion of the salute the smoke was cleared by a huge down pour.

"Although a day of great sadness, having the opportunity to be a part of this momentous day was truly an honour that all of us involved will never forget"

– Bdr Kyle Goodman Gun Number One 3/29 Bty.

arrival of the Fighting Fourth and another on the completion of the salute, the crowd allowed their emotion to pour out on what marked this point in history. Our first duty to our King. The only Royal Salute taken in Northern England and representative of the Fourth Regiments professionalism, dedication and ability to react at pace, coming together as one team. The next stop? Back to Salisbury Plain, live firing and tactically training alongside our supported Battle Group.

God Save The King.

The next day was a more jubilant affair. You could sense it in the crowd. There was a buzz in York on the day that we proclaimed His Majesty King Charles III. A 21 Round Gun Salute on the proclamation of our new King. With a rapturous round of applause on the



Making time to be ready



19TH Regiment Royal Artillery



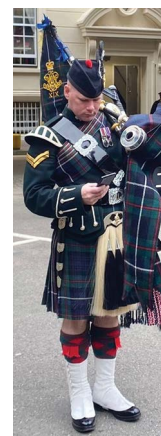
Since taking up appointment as Pipe Major of 19th Regiment Royal Artillery (The Scottish Gunners), I have been training the members of the 19RA Pipes & Drums in state ceremonial funeral music. Over a number of years, we have rehearsed the music in between all our usual tasks of mess nights, event tattoos, regimental parades and deployments.

When the day arrived, we were immediately stood to and sent to a holding camp in Longmoor along with other Pipes & Drums units and the Director and his team from the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming (ASMB&HD). Long days and nights of rehearsals commenced, from HMS COLLINGWOOD Portsmouth to Wellington Barracks, Combermere Barracks and practicing Windsor processions.

Monday the 19th of September will be forever etched in our memories as we stepped off from Wellington Barracks. Representing the nation to the world as we paraded down to Westminster and then to Westminster Abbey, playing for His Majesty the King and his family to mark the passing of their late mother Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, was a privilege we will never forget. It was a strange combination of playing proudly

but also with sorrow in our hearts. Following Westminster, we headed to Windsor to lead the cortège through the Windsor Grounds, marching down streets lined by soldiers, musicians, the press and the many thousands of members of the public out to pay their respects. To be a part of the Massed Pipes and Drums as they played the final tune for Her late Majesty - Flowers of the Forest - certainly would put a lump in anybody's throat. I am immensely proud of the 19RA Pipes and Drums band and all they have achieved to commemorate an incredible sovereign.

– Pipe Major Trevor Macey-Lillie (Sgt), 19th Regiment Royal Artillery (The Scottish Gunners)



Bde Beattie

Once I had received the call that I was needed for the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I made my way from Inverness to join the members of 19RA Pipes & Drums at Longmoor camp. We had a tough week of rehearsals ahead of us. During the early hours of the morning in London, we practised to ensure all was perfect for the day



of the funeral. On the day, we all knew what was needed from all of us and it was a great honour and privilege to play for Her Majesty. As we played Flowers of the Forest I had a tear in my eye, leading the cortège to St George's chapel. It was an amazing experience, and I am proud to have been part of the State funeral. It is something I will always remember and be telling my grandchildren about in years to come.



LBdr Beveridge

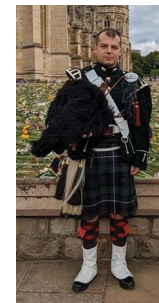
I had first played for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2010 at Balmoral Castle and Buckingham Palace. Through my piping in the Army, I was invited as a guest to the garden party at Buckingham Palace which was an experience beyond what I could have imagined.

In May 2016 on the Royal Artillery 300th Anniversary I played for Her Majesty again as part of 19th Regiment Royal Artillery (Scottish Gunners). Having had the honour of playing on the day of the Queen's funeral, I will always remember with pride the final time we marched and played for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It was a difficult and tiring week of preparations and rehearsals, but in the end we gave Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the perfect goodbye.



LBdr Hollowell

Taking part in the state funeral was a truly unforgettable experience. Being a newer member of the Pipes and Drums, I struggled at first with the training but when we eventually settled into the rhythm, I surprised myself with how much playing ability I had developed. I used to serve at King's Troop before I moved to 19RA Pipes and Drums, so during the rehearsals it was great to see and recognise my colleagues from King's Troop all taking part in the funeral as well. It was a truly memorable day to play in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



Gnr Grace

Taking part in the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was so surreal. I did not believe I would ever take part in such an event in my army career, and it is one which I do not think that I will have the honour of being part of again. The week prior to the funeral was long and arduous but everyone did their part to ensure that after 70 years of service to the country and Commonwealth, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was sent off in true military style as the whole world watched. My family was beyond proud, as I was myself. The band has grown in confidence following this experience and has become better known throughout the Royal Artillery and the British Army as a result.



Gnr Baker

It was great being a part of history. I am so proud of myself for being part of the procession, as are my family and friends who were watching us at home on the TV. It was an emotional day for everyone. I did get a bit choked up seeing the hearse drive past with Royal Standard and the casket of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The whole day is a memory I will cherish for ever.



Marching Detachment at the Head of the Army procession group



As the day of 8th September 2022 came to a close and Honourable Artillery Company personnel were reflecting with their families on the role HM the Queen had played in their lives, a number were offered the honour to step up and play a part in history. The HAC were to provide a marching detachment at the head of the Army procession group as HM the Queen moved from Westminster Abbey to the Wellington Arch.

Assembling early the next morning 26 members of the Honourable Artillery Company, who had the late Queen as their Captain General, attended their London barracks to draw ceremonial clothing and then make their way to Pirbright for a week of rehearsals for the most important ceremonial event of their military careers.

The 24 soldiers and two officers from the oldest regiment in the British Army ranged from newly qualified entrants to the regiment, to those who'd served over a decade but all arrived with an enthusiasm to learn.

As training began the troops had their first challenge – learning to march and conduct drill in the somewhat challenging slow and sombre pace of 75 beats a minute. The more experienced members of the detachment quickly brought out their personal metronomes to ensure that their performance was one that would make the second most senior unit of the Army Reserve proud.

The hours of training were long, the work was hard and the effort required to ensure ceremonial kit was to the very highest



standard. However every member of the detachment conducted themselves with dutiful pride and respectful positivity, knowing this was a chance to honour the late HM Queen and the first opportunity to serve HM King.

As the day rolled by the detachment, alongside the rest of the funeral procession, were driven to Wellington Barracks in the early evening where they then nestled down for some rest and final preparation.

The respectful excitement as the moment came for the HAC to step off was palatable in the air, and the 24 soldiers and their two officers took their place in a historical moment that will be with them for the rest of the lives.

The parade itself felt like it flew by, despite being several hours in length, and every moment was filled with emotion as

the importance of the event washed over those marching. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity, those who participated will never forget and their families and friends share in this pride.

But even larger than just those Honourable Artillery Company Personnel on parade, it was a moment for a regiment that dates its history back to a royal charter in 1537 by King Henry VIII and who had the honour of the late HM Queen serving as its Captain General to show its respect.

God Save The King.

by LCpl Canning
Honourable Artillery Company





96 Rounds fired in commemoration of Her Late Majesty



Photo credit: Sarah Mason, Training Innovation Centre, Larkhill

14th Regiment Royal Artillery has a unique role within the Royal Regiment, providing initial trade training for all RA soldiers through 24 (IRISH) Bty and 1st Bty – The Blazers and Officers through the Young Officers' Branch as well as driving innovation and experimentation through 34 (SERINGAPATAM) Bty's collaboration with the Experimentation and Trials Group.

On the announcement of the passing of Her Late Majesty, our Captain General, the Regiment was again called to fulfil a bespoke role under Op BRIDGE and salute Her passing at Stonehenge. All gun salutes generate pressure on the most junior soldiers, to execute flawlessly on a public stage and always for an important occasion. This felt especially heightened on 9 Sep 22, located at one of the most recognisable sites

in the world and performing a once-in-a-generation parade. With crowds in their hundreds and the world's media watching the young men and women of the Regiment, all conducted themselves with absolute professionalism in supporting the nation in its act of remembrance and mourning.

As Her Majesty often noted, her life was one of service. The 96 rounds fired in commemoration of Her Late Majesty, with a precision of drill and conduct perfectly exemplified the qualities for all who serve to lead. On parade were service persons both at the beginning of their military career and those with many years' service. Our Captain General was a figure head and commander to respect and admire for all.

God Save The King.



Photo credit: Sarah Mason, Training Innovation Centre, Larkhill



A final salute for our Captain General



Following the announcement by Buckingham Palace that Her Majesty the Queen had passed, we as a regiment knew the upcoming days would be tough, sombre and unlike anything we had ever seen before.

Op UNICORN was in place. We knew we were living through the most crucial and essential part of our military career. It felt strange that we were now living in a new era, as it was only in 2016 that Her Majesty the Queen celebrated 300 years of the Royal Artillery with a royal review at Larkhill, and now, the Regiment is mourning her death.

We all, up until this point, took an oath to our late dear Queen. As soldiers, we've all stood in front of her photo and proudly stated the following:

"I swear by almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II"

Those words live with every soldier as this is the first step in a fantastic career in the British Army.

Until her last moment, the Queen had shown unstinting support to generations of soldiers during her long reign; and the British Army's admiration for their late Queen is second to none. And this was evident from the support we received from the Reservists of 105 during Op UNICORN, as we had troops fly back from all over the world to be part of this moment; and to show fondness to their late dear monarch.

For me, Her Majesty the Queen was the living embodiment of the values and standards of the British Army:

1. Her respect for others across Britain and the world was amplified by those who knew her well.
2. Her loyalty to her role as Monarch, Head of the Commonwealth and her Armed Forces will never be forgotten.
3. Her selfless commitment to her role as Queen will be hard to forget.
4. Her sense of duty was evident in her own military service.



For the next week, Edinburgh Castle was our home; the mood was like nothing we had felt before. Dark clouds saddened the sky during our rehearsals; the rain bounced off the gun barrels, and our troops were dutiful but overcome with sorrow.

The spirit of Edinburgh and the world was dejected.

The 9th of September 2022 will live with the reservists of 105 forever. The moment was here. And as the world's press focused on Edinburgh Castle, the soldiers of 105 marched towards the gun for the 96 gun salute. The day we dreaded had arrived.

As we marched closer to our guns, the sun began to rise over Edinburgh Castle. The spirit of Her Majesty the Queen was felt.

I speak for all when I say we felt pain over the mourning period as it was like we knew Her

Majesty personally. She had always been in our lives, and it felt like only yesterday that we were at Edinburgh Castle to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and now only three months later, we mourn our dear Queen.

The 96-gun salute rang out over the city of Edinburgh, and as a regiment, we took the time to reflect on the years of Her Majesty The Queen's reign.

105 Regiment Royal Artillery also welcomed His Majesty The King with a royal gun salute for his first time in Edinburgh as our new monarch.

God Save The King.

by Gnr Sean Patrick Deary
207 Battery (Glasgow Gunners)
105th Regiment Royal Artillery





A Gunner Veteran attends the state funeral



On the 2nd of June 22, I was honoured to be awarded the MBE for services to Veterans and their families, specifically service to the Regimental Charity of 3rd Regiment RHA, 'Red Cypher'. I understood this award as a collective recognition of all the veterans I had worked with since leaving the Army in 1995 and all the individuals I had served with throughout my service in 3rd Regiment RHA, 1st Regiment RHA, 17th Training Regiment RA, The Junior Leaders Regiment RA, 45 Field Regiment RA and 19 Field Regiment RA.

On Saturday 10 September 22, I was surprised, at home, by a phone call from the Cabinet Office, asking if I would like to attend the State Funeral of Her Majesty the Queen. They informed me that recent recipients of the MBE were being offered an

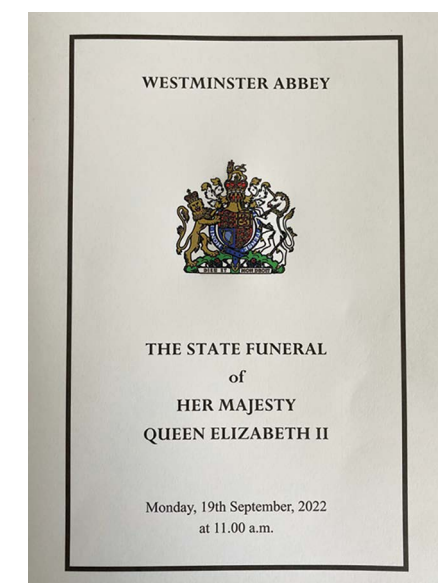
invitation, and asked me if I would like to attend. My answer of course was yes, but I did suspect that perhaps my invite might be an elaborate practical joke! The Cabinet Office informed me that the next step would be for me to receive an official invite by special delivery and that I was to be at the Abbey by 0830hrs on Monday 19 September 22. I felt very emotional and humble, but at the same time thrilled that I had been invited and given the opportunity to be part of such a historic occasion, while representing the Royal Regiment of Artillery, the Past and Present Members of 3rd Regiment RHA and all my friends and family. A very proud and special feeling.

The day went by as a blur, reveille was at 0430hrs, breakfast 0500hrs, detachments front (inspection by my wife Dee)



0515hrs, move at 0530hrs, train at 0544hrs. There was only one carriage from Thorpe le Soken but as we got closer to London more people boarded and excitement grew. I arrived at Westminster Abbey at 0815hrs and had entered the Abbey by 0850hrs. We were seated for a long time until the Coffin Procession departed from Westminster Hall but this gave me time to reflect on the enormity of the occasion and my personal thoughts on the day, especially on what an honour and a privilege this was. I was surrounded by all levels of society but all with the same mission to say farewell to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Being inside the Abbey, even though we had a detailed programme, were not fully aware of what was happening outside but as soon as the massed pipes and drums started playing you knew that Her Majesty's Coffin was on its way from Westminster Hall to the Abbey. For me this was the most emotional time thinking of family and friends who were no longer with us. The Abbey doors were open and the shrill of the pipes became louder and louder as the procession drew closer to the Abbey and then the silence as the procession halted. I was only able to view the procession into the Abbey from side on but it was for me an emotional and profound experience and a privilege to be able to be so close to, and part of, this great country's farewell to The Queen our Captain General.

by Captain (Retd) Bob Lodge MBE RHA
3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery





Exercise CYPHER DEVIL



G Battery conducting acclimatisation training

G Parachute Battery (Mercer's Troop) Royal Horse Artillery and elements of H, F and 53 Bty deployed to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The main purpose of Exercise CYPHER DEVIL was to develop proficiency on US Joint Fires Equipment, and to understand gaps in the UK-US Joint Fires Interoperability Battlebook. Throughout, G Bty worked closely with 3-319th AFAR of the 82ND Airborne Division, who are also known as 'The Gun Devils'; and having shared experience of the evacuation from Kabul last summer, the relationship had a strong start.

Airborne Acclimatisation

With humidity levels ranging between 75-90% and temperatures reaching 37°C, G Bty's exercise started with demanding acclimatisation training. For those in the Bty who had never been to Fort Bragg before, this proved to be quite an experience, as it soon became apparent that our friends across the Atlantic conduct PT in a unique way. PT in Fort Bragg includes roadblocks, Airborne motivational music and cadence singing. With over 50,000 troops located in Fort Bragg, morning PT proved to be a memorable experience

for the Bty, whilst setting the soldiers up well for the intensive training that was about to begin.

Ensuring no opportunities were missed, the Bty made the most of the facilities on post during the Labor Day weekend and organised a water sports afternoon with a BBQ in the North Carolina sun. Enjoyed by all, it was an ideal activity to finish a busy first week.

Familiarisation Training/Exercise

After the Labor Day weekend, G Bty commenced an intensive training package alongside US Master Gunners to familiarise British detachments with the M119 howitzers. In addition, other elements of the Bty integrated with their US counterparts to pursue their own interoperability objectives from the CP and FSTs to the LCMR and Med SMEs.

Whilst the focus of the exercise was to familiarise British detachments with the M119 howitzers, all elements of the Bty deployed into the field to identify and understand the gaps in the UK-US Joint Fires Interoperability Battlebook. The exercise began with a heavy drop of a M119 howitzer and Humvee platform. Although jumps



were called off for the British due to unforeseen circumstances, almost 1000 Americans jumped onto the DZ just after sunset to kickstart the FTX.

The insight into an American heavy drop was particularly useful for the Bty. With over 30 heavy drops per month, the US Airborne Gunners routinely maintain multiple howitzers rigged up throughout the year ready to respond to any event. The experience provided some interesting thoughts for the Airborne Gunners to think about on our return to the UK for future capability development.

During the exercise, the FST carried out multiple fire missions using US CFF and US TAS equipment as well as receiving lessons about US FISTER TTPs on the establishment of OP's and patrolling. As an integral link into the wider Fires community, 616 TACP continued to build on their relationship with 14 ASOS, conducting live controls and gaining insight in cutting edge battlefield and sim training technology.

All America Week

Towards the end of the exercise, personnel took part in All American Week celebrating the 82ND ABN Division's history with veteran and current paratroopers. Starting with the divisional run, the entire division ran a 6-mile route with family members and veterans lining the route and included M119 howitzers firing blank rounds, an AH-64, Black Hawks and Chinooks flying

overhead with veterans handing out beers along the route. This proved to be a very memorable experience for all and demonstrated the pride and sheer scale of the 82ND ABN Division.

Competing in the divisional 7-a-side football competition and team 10-mile road race, the UK Airborne Gunners finished strongly, reaching the semi-finals in the football, and coming 5th in the team 10-mile run. A considerable achievement for a small sub-unit measuring up against an entire Division!

The week finished with the 82ND Airborne Division Parade with over 20,000 soldiers involved. This was a spectacular display of the mass and firepower of our American allies. Following a traditional exchange of gifts between the Bty and our Gun Devil hosts, the opportunity was too good to miss with several members of the Bty being promoted from LBdr to Bdr, and Bdr to Sgt in an extraordinary parade capitalising on the bond we share with the Gun Devils.

To conclude, it is evident that the friendship between 3-319th AFAR Gun Devils and G Parachute Battery (Mercer's Troop) has been strengthened on Exercise CYPHER DEVIL and we can be confident that this relationship will continue to go from strength to strength as 7 Para RHA continues to build on UK-US Joint Fires interoperability with our US counterparts in the 82ND ABN Division.



Battery promotions



80th Anniversary of the first engagement of the enemy by the Air Observation Post



Auster AOP Mark 6 of No 651 (AOP) Squadron being cleared of its camouflage netting at Souk el Arba landing ground, Tunisia, in readiness for an artillery-spotting sortie while attached to 12th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, of 6th Armoured Division, on the Bou Arada front

The Air Observation Post (AOP) provided airborne artillery observers during and just after the Second World War. The pilots, who were also the observers, the signalers and the drivers were all from the Royal Artillery. Their Auster aircraft were supplied and maintained by the RAF.

The AOP idea was developed by members of the Royal Artillery Aero Club in the 1930s and by dogged determination and support from several sources was officially established when "D" Flight was formed on 1st February 1940 and sent to France on 19th April that year as part of the British Expeditionary Force. There it carried out trials with 1 RHA but these were interrupted by the German invasion and the flight was ordered home.

From 1940 until 1942 the AOP concept was refined and tested on exercises in the UK. The AOP was not used by Eighth Army in the Western Desert but was included in the order of battle of First Army in the invasion of North Africa in November 1942, in the form of 651 Squadron. Now for the great day. On 25th November 1942 Charles Bazeley, commanding 651 Squadron, co-operated with 175 Field Artillery Battalion, US Army, in support of 5th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment in their attack on Madjez. The same day another pilot fully directed a shoot against a German tank squadron at Medjez Bab with great success. The AOP had come of age. Remember the date, a milestone in the development of the Royal Artillery.



From these early beginnings the AOP grew to provide 15 Squadrons, each of 12 aircraft and, after North Africa, they served in Sicily, Italy and then particularly North West Europe after D-Day, while one squadron served in Burma. Several hundred Gunner officers were trained as pilot observers during the war, of whom 67 were killed and 128 were decorated. The greatest cause of casualties was being hit by our own shells.

After the campaign in North Africa the Allies landed in Sicily and then Italy.

1973 658 Squadron was ordered to ground any pilot who flew 80 hours a month. It is staggering to realise that the pilots of the generation before flew twice that amount and just carried on. The tasks, apart from directing gunfire, included contact patrols, tactical recce, liaison, aerial photography and a few bombing missions. These were carried out in early November 1944 by 657 Squadron at the request of and with the bomb aiming skill of members of No 1 Demolition Squadron (Popski's Private Army) using 4.5 inch mortar bombs, 25 Pounder shells and hand grenades.

The main effort of the AOP, however, took place in North West Europe after D-Day, where there were four corps in the Second British Army. Each corps had a squadron under command with a further squadron at Army level to support the Army Groups Royal Artillery (AGRAs) (known, until recently, as artillery brigades). That is a total of 60 Austers. The 1st Canadian Army had a similar establishment. Targets ranged from single gun destruction shoots to the combined fire of three corps (about 600 guns).

After the war the AOP saw action in Malaya and Korea but the end came with the very different threat from the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and the amalgamation in 1957 of Army flying into Army Aviation and then the Army Air Corps.

Remember 25th November 1942, 80 years ago and celebrate the brave men of the AOP 1940-57.

by Peter Hope



651 (AOP) Squadron - Auster Mk 6 landing at Castel Benito Tripoli



651 (AOP) Squadron - Auster Mk 6 landing at Tripoli

During the campaign there five Squadrons, including 663 (Polish) Squadron engaged the enemy, it was not unusual for a pilot to fly up to 170 hours a month on operations. Like all Gunners they were never placed in reserve but pilots received two weeks leave per year. In contrast, during the Cold War in Germany, Army pilots typically flew 30 hours a month. In Northern Ireland in

**IMPORTANT****Your 'Gunner' and Royal Artillery Journal Subscription**

Please note that with effect from 31st October 2022, we will no longer be accepting cheques in payment for 'Gunner' and RA Journal subscriptions. This is in order to streamline our processes in the light of gapped staff posts and to reduce costs. If you have previously paid by cheque, you now need to set up a bank standing order. You can either do this via your online banking or using the form overleaf, which should then be returned to:

Gunner Publications, RHQRA, Artillery Centre, Larkhill, Wiltshire SP4 8QT

If setting up online, our bank details are overleaf. If using this method it is important that you notify us when the standing order has been set up and provide us with the reference details.

If you have any queries please contact the editorial team:

Email: gunnereditorial@artycen.ra.mod.uk

Telephone: 01980 63 4204

If your standing order mandate has not been set up or received by 31st October 2022, we will assume you no longer wish to subscribe, and your subscription will automatically be cancelled.

You are able to view the magazine online via the RAA website [Gunner Magazine - RA Association \(thegunners.org.uk\)](http://thegunners.org.uk)

Please note our price list:

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

Gunner Magazine Subscription Standing Order Form

Please complete in CAPITALS using Black ink:

To: The Manager Bank **(Your branch address please)**

Address

Postcode

I wish to subscribe **ANNUALLY** to Gunner Publications for the amount £.....and in words pounds.

For The Gunner pay £24, £39 or £49 per annum; for The Journal of the Royal Artillery pay £10, £14 or £17 per annum; and for the Gunner and The Journal of the Royal Artillery pay £34, 53 or £66 per annum. (See enclosed price list for your information)

Please pay Lloyds TSB plc, Coxs and Kings, Sort Code 30-11-75 Account Number 00629393

the same amount annually until further notice starting on (date)
(please allow at least four weeks for us and your bank to process your form)

Please debit my account; account no..... sort code.....

Quoting CRM Ref: Gunner/.....

Signed **Date**

Name (title, initials, surname, **Regt No**).....

Address

Postcode **Email address**

GIFT AID DECLARATION (delete if not applicable)

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made:

Today ☐ In the past 4 years ☐ In the future ☐ (Tick all applicable boxes)

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

I will notify the Gunner Magazine – Registered Charity Number 1122002 if I:

- Want to cancel this declaration.
- Change my name or home address.
- No longer pay sufficient tax on my income and/or capital gains.

Signed **Date**

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your self assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please return when completed to: Gunner Publications, RHQ RA, Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill, Wiltshire, SP4 8QT.



The Armed Forces Parachute Championships 2022



RASPA A Team at the National Skydiving Championships at Skydive Hibaldstow. The Team can be seen launching a 'Bow' out of the door.

In 2022 the Royal Artillery Sports Parachute Association (RASPA) aimed to build on the successes of 2021 by increasing participation at the Armed Forces Parachute Championships (AFPC) in Jul 22 and to enter a team into the British Skydiving National Championships in Aug 22. Training prior to the AFPC took the form of a tunnel camp that allowed team selection. Given the increase in numbers of the association we were able to field teams in 2 categories for formation skydiving, but an understanding of a start point was needed. After team selection was completed and the teams were built there was an opportunity to hold a training weekend prior to the AFPC that would give the teams an opportunity to understand how they worked in the sky prior to the competition starting.

Although the tunnel is a great training aid, it can't simulate the all-important exit from the aircraft, after a weekend that saw some highs and lows of training the competition commenced at the Army Parachute Association Netheravon. The four-way formation skydiving at the AFPC was conducted over 6 jumps with teams randomly allocated formations from available options depending on the team's category (Rookie, A, AA, or AAA). The RA teams were entered into Rookie and A due to the differing experience and skill of the teams. The glorious summer heat wave of Jul proved both a blessing and a curse with the phenomenal weather enabling jumping for extended periods but the heat forcing closures at other times. Both teams competed well over the week, with the Rookie team securing



Bronze in their category and the A team narrowly missing a spot on the podium. The following individuals represented RASPA in the Rookie Category, Gnr Harry Morrissey (32RA), LBdr Phoebe Griffiths (47RA), Sgt Adrian Lewis (32RA), LBdr Seb Sergeant (5RA) and Sgt Mike Rutherford (7 Para RHA).



The Rookie team on the podium after securing a Bronze Medal Position at the AFPC22



The whole of RASPA with a photo opportunity with Col H Baker RA - President of Royal Artillery Parachuting

The 'Black Swans' team – a junior cohort from 7 Para RHA was successful in winning the junior Accuracy awards which is an excellent achievement given that all members of the team were under 50 jumps at the time of the competition. Special mention must also go to Sgt Willis

who took Silver in the Junior Individual Accuracy.

National Championships – Skydive Hibaldstow

After the relative success at the Armed Forces Parachute Championships, the Royal Artillery 'A' team was selected to enter the British Skydiving National Championships but in the Rookie category given their junior status at the national level. The event was held at Skydive Hibaldstow in Brigg and so the formation team comprising of Maj Lucy Scott (AHQ), Sgt Pete Foster (103 RA), Bdr Dalian Moore (19 RA), Capt Richard Clark (1 Avn BCT), with Maj Iain Rutherford (5 RA) as the camera flyer headed there for the first time in memory a RA team has competed at the national event. As with



The team after the prize giving ceremony. RASPA were awarded a Silver medal at the British Skydiving Championships

the AFPC the competition started with a draw of the formations but this time for 8 jumps rather than 6. Competition jumps are typically different to a normal weekend at the drop zone, dropping the height from 15,000ft to only 10,500ft. This gives jumpers only 35 seconds of working time from exiting the aircraft to



having to move away from each other to safely open their parachutes. This short window is all that would be allowed for teams to score points and means that the team had to be very focussed on their goals.



RASPA A Team in the 'Satellite' Position over Salisbury Plain Training Area



Once the draw was complete the A Team then knew the series of skydives that they would be conducting the following day. The evening was packed with the team running through the skydives and completing last minute checks prior to settling down for the evening. After an early start the team undertook its first skydive and settling into the routine that they had developed during the AFPC. The team then went on to complete 6 of

the 8 jumps in the first day and after an entire day of jumping, practices, mock-ups and briefs the team were sat on 39 points and currently placed third going into the evening with the RAF Hurricanes team in 1st Position on 43 and a civilian team 'Children of the Corn' a close second on 41.



The Silver Medals awarded to the team at the National Championships

The final day saw the last two jumps of the competition. All three teams in the top three had an average jump score of roughly 7 per jump so it was all to play for on the final day. Only 3 points separated the top three teams so any great or bad skydive could shift their position. The Artillery team kept its consistency and ensured that the final two jumps of their competition scored a 6 and an 8 respectively, which certainly guaranteed a medal position. After another strong jump by the RAF Hurricanes, they placed 1st, the 'Children of the Corn' mistook the



tiebreaker jump for the final jump and so scored 0 dropping them to 4th with another civilian team (Black Phoenix) taking 3rd. They were too far off the pace to compete and so this left the RA team in 2nd place. The team will now focus its attention on the Indoor skydiving championships to be held at iFly Basingstoke in Dec where they will look to enter 2 teams as well as a winter tunnel camp in order to prepare the team ahead of the 2023 season. All of this could not be achieved without the help of the Royal Artillery Sports

Funding, the support from the Regiments and the wider artillery and RASPA are exceptionally grateful for this support and the opportunity to continue to train and compete.

If you are a newly qualified Skydiver, or already certified and you want to get involved, please contact the RASPA Chairman (Maj Iain Rutherford) or Secretary (Capt Richard Clark).

by Capt R Clark RA
SO3 G3
1st Aviation Brigade Combat Team



The Rookie Team at the Armed Forces Parachute Championships. (Left to right LBdr Seb Sergeant (5RA), LBdr Phoebe Griffiths (47RA), Gnr Harry Morrissey (32RA), Sgt Adrian Davies (32RA), Camera Flyer Maj Iain Rutherford (not pictured Sgt Mike Rutherford (7 Para RHA))



Gunners pull to glory - Inter-Corps Tug of War Champions 2022



Squad picture

Tug of War pits two teams of eight pullers against one another in a test of strength, fitness, loyalty, commitment, and mental resilience. It is a sport that shares many of the Values and Standards of the British Army. It is a sport that represents commitment, dedication, and friendship. The Teams compete in several weight categories. Female teams compete in 520Kg, 540Kg, and 560Kg weight categories, whilst Male teams enter the 560kg, 600Kg, 640Kg, and 680Kg weight categories. There is also a mixed team (four females and four males) that compete in the 580Kg or 600Kg weight category. Each pull consists of three ends using a best of three format. The objective is to win by pulling the opposition team 4m forwards over the centerline and thus resulting in a win.

On the 11 July 2022 the Gunner squad assembled for a condensed two-day training camp at Larkhill under the tutelage of Sgt Samuel (1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery). The squad were

put through their paces, with some intense training sessions. The team trained hard, but it was also important to get to know those from other teams that we would usually be competing against. By the end of day two, 36 female and male pullers across the Royal Artillery were selected to compete at the 2022 Inter-Corps Tug of War Championships. The teams had gelled, and we were ready to compete.

Before we left for the main event on 13 July, we were presented our Gunner jersey's by Capt DJ Evans RA (19th Regiment (The Scottish Gunners) Royal Artillery) the Gunner Team Manager. This was a very special moment for all involved.

The 2022 Inter-Corps Tug of War Championships was held and hosted at 3 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps (Abingdon). The Gunners had an outstanding day winning five of the seven weight categories. The teams were outstanding, the Female team finished first in every weight



category, whilst the Male teams came first in the 640kg and 680kg, the Mixed 4x4 teams achieving first, second, and third. The combined results secured the Gunners the 2022 Inter-Corps Champions title.

For many this was their first season pulling and they have learnt so much about the sport. Tug of War is a sport for all our soldiers and officers, it is the epitome of team cohesion.

by Gunner Black RA

19th Regiment (The Scottish Gunners) Royal Artillery



Male squad



Ladies squad



Scottish Region RAA Summer Meeting

The Scottish Region Royal Artillery Association Summer Meeting took place on Saturday 27th August 2022 at the 105th Regiment RA, 207 (City of Glasgow) Battery RA and hosted by the Glasgow Branch RAA. Present were members from all six Scottish RAA Branches (Ayrshire, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kingdom of Fife, West Lothian and Tayside) together with serving members of the regions affiliated regiment, 105 Regt RA. RAA HQ was represented by Maj Dickie Davis, Secretary of the RAA, who made the long journey on what should have been a bank holiday weekend. His attendance and support was most appreciated.

The occasion was primarily an opportunity for serving and non-serving members of the RA and RAA to come together and commemorate lost comrades followed by an afternoon of celebration to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee year.

The event started with a Commemoration service conducted by the Padre of 105 Regt RA, Maj Mike Goodison. Every branch lost members during the Covid period and in most cases were not permitted to attend the funerals because of restrictions. Therefore, it was most appropriate on this occasion to commemorate all seventeen members who had passed-on. The Region and each branch then laid wreaths at the Glasgow Branch memorial bench.

The members then moved indoors to be met by a street party décor creating an appropriate backdrop for fun and competitive inter branch games.

The final proceedings were the prizegiving to the games winners followed by the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Capt (now Maj) Dennis Paterson and then the Regions most prestigious award, the Catherine Cockwell Memorial Award, which was presented to Col Donald Cameron for outstanding commitment to the Scottish Region RAA.



North Germany Branch

During Summer leave the RASM and 5 other members of the RA visited the North Germany Branch in Celle. Everyone had a wonderful evening; catching up, sharing stories and the RASM gave an update on the Regiment. They are invited to take part in the Schutzenfest Rheda-Wiedenbruck to reinvigorate links with Gutersloh. This was an opportunity to meet more retired members of the RA in the local community and the RASM would encourage all veterans in Germany to reach out to the RAA or Michael Bridgeman to join the Branch.



Plymouth Branch

Mr Tony Triscott the Standard Bearer and Mr David Cameron, Branch Secretary of the Plymouth Branch of the RAA attended a Memorial Service for the Gunners of the Home Guard who lost their lives in Torquay in August 1944.



The service that was held on the 11th August was conducted at the memorial site on Corbyn Head Torquay and was led by Colonel Arnold on behalf of the Royal British Legion Torquay, supported by the Royal British Legion Paignton and Brixham and Plymouth Branch RAA.



South Lancashire PWV Branch

A few members South Lancs St Helens branch attended the St Helens cemetery for Veterans memorial garden dedication and unveiling service.

The service was attended by the Mayor of St Helens Councilor Sue Murphy, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mr David Steel QC DL, Col S Boardman MBE, DL Armed forces ambassador, Revd R Shuttleworth and around Six Standards and 50 Veterans.

Partnership and project overview by Mrs Marlene Downey, a few years ago, Veterans of the Saints community development foundation were approached by St Helens Council Bereavement services with proposal that an area in the cemetery be developed into a memorial garden to honour the men and women laying at rest in this Cemetery, who have served in their country in armed forces.

Deputy Lord Lieutenant unveiled the memorial on Saturday 3rd September 2022 at 11.00am



Bolton Branch

Members of Bolton Branch attended a Service of Commemoration for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Bolton Parish Church on Sunday 19th September 2022.



Biggleswade Branch

Six members of Biggleswade Branch joined members of the local RBL Branch for a visit to the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden for a very interesting day, amongst their exhibits of aviation and land transport, science, technology and weapons of war.



Wycombe & District Branch

The RAA Secretary, Major Dickie Davies and WO2 (BSM) Richards 9Bty, 12 Regt RA joined the Branch who celebrated their 14th Anniversary on 28th September 2022. Dickie presented an Award to Mr Tony Pears as he has retired as the Branch Standard Bearer.





Lewes Branch

On Sunday 21st August 2022, Lewes Branch held a Church Service for the Dedication of their new Standard at St Anne's Church in Lewes. The Service was extremely fitting and Members then went on to our Home at St Mary's for our Summer BBQ.



At the recent Branch Meeting, members raised a toast to our late Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and a royal toast to His Majesty King Charles III - God Save the King.



Tyneside Scottish Branch

Tyneside Scottish Branch Visit to France

The Tyneside Scottish Branch visited France in September 2022, travelling to the city of Arras.

The city was the scene of a major Battle of 1917, and again in 1940, the latter including actions by the 50th (Northumbrian) Division. The Tyneside Scottish fought in the area during both World Wars.

Branch members visited the First World War battlefields. This included the Wellington Caves where British troops sheltered before the Battle of Arras. Key to the battle was the siezing of Vimy Ridge a task for the Canadian Army. A memorial to those lost dominates the feature.

In World War Two, men from the Tyneside Scottish fought a vital blocking action at Ficheux, near Arras, in May 1940. The Branch conducted a commemoration ceremony with their old friends of the Somme Battlefield Pipe Band to remember those lost in the action.

TS Branch members conducted a Battlefield Tour of Dunkirk. The tour followed the corridor established to allow the British Expeditionary Force to withdraw to the perimeter around Dunkirk, before moving to the evacuation beaches and the Mole in Dunkirk harbour.

The opportunity was taken to lay a wreath at the Dunkirk Memorial to remember the Tyneside Scots commemorated there.



Buxton - Assembly and AGM

On the weekend of the 19-21 of Aug the North West and North Wales held their Assembly and AGM at Buxton. Having had several homes over the years since leaving Blackpool to make way for the National Assembly, the Assembly was once again hosted by the team at the Palace Hotel.

Unfortunately, due to a surge in bookings post COVID the assembly had to be held earlier in the Month and with summer school holidays still ongoing, the numbers attending were a little down



on previous years. Needless to say the 45 attendees and guests including Col Matthew Carter (Regt Sec) as well as CO 103 Regt RA (Lt Col Taylor-Jane Fox) all gathered for what proved to be a lovely, entertaining and educational weekend.

The AGM went well with reasonable attendance from the Branches and a splattering of presentations from both the Association and 103 Regiment RA. Culminating in a lovely dinner on the Saturday evening the highlight as you would expect from this part of the world, being the Backwell Tart for dessert.

With many attending staying post church service on Sunday morning, I think it would be remiss of me not to highlight what a fantastic location Buxton is.

I took the opportunity with my wife Julie to take in some of the breath-taking scenery on a number of walks over the weekend as well as visiting the team at Buxton Press, who for those who are not aware produce our very own Gunner Magazine and the Royal Artillery Journal, in fact as I discovered during my visit, we the Gunners are their oldest customers and have been producing Gunner Magazine since issue No 1.

With so many opportunities from hiking, mountain biking and caving to more relaxing activities like taking in the famous waters and spa, I think we would do well to promote this event and whilst the North West and North Wales can hold their AGM, how nice it would be for a wider Gunner community to take advantage of the room rate and opportunities that Buxton can provide for the weekend and then join the larger group in the evening for the Gala Dinner and entertainment.

Watch this space... ☺

RAA Association Secretary, Major Dickie Davies



Swiss Officers' Artillery Association Annual Assembly

I was honoured to be able to attend the SOGART Annual Assembly and Autumn Conference on the 10th of September.

The Swiss Officers' Artillery Association have very kindly been inviting representation from across its neighbours and NATO colleagues for a number of years. This year the event took place in Luzern and was hosted supremely by Lt Col EMG Florian Federer the Current Président of the Association. In line with our own charitable articles there was a strong emphasis on comradeship and prompting the 'Esprit de Corps' of the Artillery within the Swiss Army which has far greater alignment to the wider community due to the nature of how their predominantly reserve and initially conscript force is supported. This year there was also representation from industry as the Swiss Artillery are on the cusp of their own equipment update program.

Wider links and friendships play a hugely important part to the Assembly. The connections that were made with other groups such as Brig Gen Heribert Hupka the President of the German Artillery Association were deemed as important to the Swiss as to themselves and a central part to the whole event.

Another surprise was just how important family was placed on the event and the wives, husbands and partners were equally supported and considered during the event with their own program of events.

I have compiled a larger report on my attendance, which can be made available in due course, but as a snapshot I would like to thank SOGART for a wonderfully, interesting, educational, and engaging event, particular thanks to Major Nicola Rauch who acted as my liaison throughout from initial booking to final farewell and thanks to all for a truly insightful introduction to our Gunner brethren and other national association groups.

RAA Association Secretary - Major Dickie Davies





Royal Artillery Association Battery Grants

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

Find out more information from emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk or through your chain of command.

Recently the RAA supported 1st Bty (The Blazers) Birthday event.

'I would like to thank the RAA for supporting the 1st Bty (The Blazers) Birthday event.'

The event started with the Officers', SNCOs' & ORs' sitting down for Breakfast held in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess.

Later in the afternoon the Bty came together again in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess for a BBQ and some refreshments. It was a delight to host members of the RAA, they gave a brief on the great work they do for the serving personnel within the wider Regiment. A short passage of the Bty History was read by Bdr Miller to remind the serving personnel of those that have come before them.

Overall the event was a great success and the members of the Bty had a great time. Again I would like to express on behalf of 1st Bty (The Blazers) our thanks to the RAA for supporting our Birthday and we look forward to holding more events.'



RACF FUNDRAISING

14 Regiment RA

Members of 34 Bty (Seringapatam) fundraised for the RACF in August. They completed a static event; cycling 1,241.1 miles and rowing 76.7 miles in 12 hours.

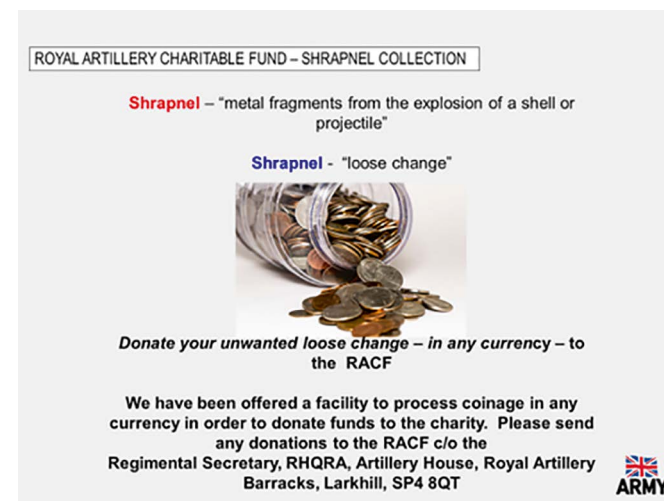
Bdr Rowlinson handed over a cheque for £806.21 to the Welfare Secretary, Sarah-Jane Hatt.



105 Regiment RA

207 (City of Glasgow) Bty held a static cycle in Glasgow on 31st August raising funds for the RACF and the ABF. The combined distance was 912 miles between each of the 105 Regt RA Battery locations.

The Bty raised an amazing £500 for each of the charities.



RACF SUPPORT TO THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY

So far this year the RACF have helped 591 Gunners, veterans and dependants in need providing just over £480,000.

At the end of September our highest requested need was household goods providing £88,000 to those struggling to fund household goods such as cookers, carpets and essential household items. Other areas include support to our serving soldiers pledging £56,000 and also £64,000 was granted to help with mobility support. Other areas include funeral grants, critical household arrears, house moves, care home fees and house maintenance costs.

If you are struggling financially to replace those much needed items, have unexpected bills causing you financial hardship, reach

out to your Regimental Charity for support. We cannot however help with private medical or legal fees.

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

We can be contacted by email: RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk, RA Charitable Fund Application - RA Association (thegunners.org.uk)

A little note to say:

"I am still completely over-whelmed by the news...so, so lucky...completely changed my life and took away so many worries and stress. My Late husband would be so happy for me and so grateful."
66 yr old Gunner widow - new KHAT beneficiary

"We will always be thankful to the RACF for helping us in times of need...(my) Family will be comforted in this time of sorrow...I am so grateful for your timely financial help...I will be relieved from my financial burden."
30 yr old serving Gunner - £500 General Needs

"This has helped huge! PTSD is a battle that I'm still fighting, but the support is huge now."
37 yr old Gunner veteran - £500 Priority Debt

"Thank you so much (for my) new fridge-freezer. I am so grateful and now have great peace of mind I have a reliable appliance."
83 yr old Gunner widow - Annual Grant beneficiary



Date	Event	Location
2022		
10 Nov	Field of Remembrance	Larkhill
13 Nov	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park
04 Dec	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill
2023		
16 Feb	RA Gold Cup	Sandown Park
02 Mar	Alanbrooke Lunch	London
09 Mar	RA Boxing Finals	Larkhill
15-17 Mar	WO1s Convention	Edinburgh
16 Apr	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea
Apr (date tbc)	RA Sports Awards Dinner	Larkhill
20 Apr	RA Conference (Gunner 23)	Larkhill
20 Apr	Spring Dinner	Larkhill
12-14 May	RA Assembly	Blackpool
15 Jun	Hail & Farewell	Larkhill
1 Jul (tbc)	RA Service of Remembrance	National Memorial Arboretum
13 Sep	Sunset Ceremony	Larkhill
05 Oct	Alanbrooke Lunch	London
20 Oct	Alamein Dinner	Larkhill



REUNIONS

RA CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

The RA Ceremony of Remembrance will take place on 13 Nov at the RA Memorial Hyde Park. The event is open to all to attend. Anyone wishing to have reserved seats is requested to contact Mrs Emma Pagan-Skelley, email emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk or post to: Mrs Emma Pagan-Skelley, RHQ RA, RA Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8QT Please note seats will be reserved on a first come first served basis, tickets will not be issued. All retired members of the regiment who attend are invited at the end of the Ceremony to join the march past. All are required to be seated by 10.30am at the latest. In the event of wet weather, bring water proofs. There is no wet weather programme.

ST BARBARA'S DAY

The annual St Barbara's Day Church Service will be held in the Royal Garrison Church of St Alban with St Barbara, Larkhill on Sun 4 Dec. The Service will start at 11 am and is expected to last about an hour. Following the Service there will be a curry lunch in the RA Mess at a cost of £17.50 per head. Any serving or retired officers and families who wish to attend are requested to send their name, address, telephone number or email, car make, model, colour and registration

number, to: Mrs Emma Pagan-Skelley, RHQ RA, RA Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8QT together with a cheque (payable to RAI). Alternatively, responses can be made by email to emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk and payments made by BACs to Sort Code: 30-11-75 Ac No: 00957269 Ref: StB(name) RAA Branches will be contacted directly to confirm attendance.

30 BATTERY REUNION

30 Bty intend to hold a Bty reunion on Sat 29 Jul 23. The format for the reunion will be an equipment & heritage display on Thorney Island, followed by a formal dinner in the evening held at a local hotel. This reunion is open to all serving and retired members of the Bty. If you wish to express your interest to attend please contact the reunion lead, WO2 Wheeler at the following address: 30batteryrcoy@gmail.com Once returns have been collated and there is sufficient interest to make the event viable, further details will be sent out.

INTAKE 51 AT THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST

To mark 50 years since our commissioning there is to be a reunion of intake 51 at Sandhurst on Thursday 9 March 2023, exactly 50 years to the day! The day will start at 10.30 with coffee in the Indian Army Room followed by a short service in the Academy

chapel and then a lunch. Please make contact with Richard Anderson at richardanderson@alsgroup.co.uk and I will send you all the details. If you are still in contact with other non gunner members of intake 51, please pass on these details.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARTILLERY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION AND REUNION DINNER

The 25th Anniversary of the Artillery Clerks' Association will be held in the Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Larkhill over the weekend of Fri 23 to Sun 25 Jun 23. A full programme of events is being planned. This uniquely special Reunion weekend is open to all members of the Artillery Clerks' Association and partners. A new silver Centrepiece especially commissioned to mark this significant milestone will be unveiled prior to the Reunion Dinner on Sat 24 Jun 23. The Association web page will be updated regularly with a list of those who have confirmed their attendance. Visit this site on a regular basis to keep current with developments. Notification of attendance must be completed and sent, either by post, email or using the link within the Association Website to the Reunion Secretary no later than Thu 1 Jun 23.



POINT TO POINT Race Meetings 2022-2023 Season

MEETING	DATE	First Race Start Time
Hursley Hambeldon	Sunday 27 th November 2022	12.00 noon
Avon Vale	Sunday 18 th December 2022	11.00 am
The Larkhill Racing Club	Sunday 1 st January 2023	11.30 am
The Royal Artillery	Saturday 21 st January 2023	11.30 am
Combined Services	Sunday 05 th February 2023	12.45 pm
South & West Wilts	Sunday 26 th February 2023	12.00 noon

Come racing at the Gunner Point to Point Course at Larkhill



LAST POST

Notification of Death:

Ian Sheppard 25 August 2022
Anthony Tarff August 2022
Ronald Smith August 2022
Sgt Lionel 'Jim' Gregge 18 September 2022
Maj (Retd) R F Couldrey 27 September 2022
Terrance Lewis October 2022
Bob Doran October 2022

BRISTO - Capt (Retd) Ronald (Ron) Bristo (Chief Clerk) RA
Ron started his military career on the 24th March 1960, having enlisted in Carlisle. He joined the Royal Artillery and was sent to Oswestry to complete his basic training, here he served with 165 Battery RA of 18 Training Brigade and 17 Training Regiment RA. Ron's first posting was to The King's Troop RHA, notably on two occasions during his career, once as a Gunner to Bombardier, and also as a Staff Sergeant. Ron also served as a bombardier with 10 (Assaye) Battery, 37 Heavy Air Defence Regiment RA. He was promoted to Sergeant and Staff Sergeant with 19 Field Regiment. From here, Ron went to the Junior tradesmen's Regiment in Troon where he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2. Ron also served at Headquarters British Forces Antwerp as a WO2. Ron's final posting as a SNCO was at the Royal School of Artillery in Larkhill where he served as a Warrant Officer Class 2. After twenty years and 128 days (1980), Ron took a commission and was posted to 16 Air Defence Regiment RA as a Second Lieutenant, during this posting he was promoted to Captain. He also served at

Headquarters Royal Artillery 4th Armoured Division, Herford. Ron then left the regular Army in 1985 as a Captain and became a Territorial Army officer (Permanent Staff Administrative Officer) with 105 Air Defence Regiment in Edinburgh. Ron finished his military career off in 1987. He received the Queens Jubilee medal and Long service and good conduct medal. He was immensely proud to have served in the Royal Artillery. Ron fought a 10 year battle with cancer, but sadly died on the 24th August 2022.

FREEMAN - Lt Col (Retd) Geoffrey Freeman RA - late 12 Air Defence Regiment and Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill - died on Thursday 6 October 2022 at the age of 91.

MACKENZIE - Lt Col Alexander Ian MacKenzie died peacefully in his sleep on 8th October, aged 87, at St Monica's, Westbury Fields. The funeral will take place at Clifton Cathedral, Bristol on Tuesday 8 November at 12.00 noon. Rather than flowers please consider a donation to the MND Association.

RIGBY - Brig John Rigby. On 31st August, aged 96, died peacefully after a short illness. Beloved husband of Tissa for 66 years, father of Simon, Juliet and Charlie plus 9 grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Donations if desired to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund or St Peter's Church, Mildenhall, Suffolk can be sent to W A Deacon Funeral Services, Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9PY.

RA Historical Society Winter 2022 Programme

Date and Timings	Event	Subject	Lecturer/Lead	Bookings Close	Cost per Head
Wednesday 9 November 2022 1900 for 1930 hrs	Webinar	The Brusilov Offensive in Russia, 1916	Dr Spencer Jones, RA Historian	Sunday 6 November	Free
2023					
Wednesday 11 January 2023 1900 for 1930 hrs	Webinar	To be notified		Sunday 8 January	Free
Tuesday 25 April 2023 1100 hrs	Two lectures at Larkhill, lunch and RAHS AGM	To be notified		Tuesday 11 April	To be notified

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

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



Brigadier J (John) L A Painter 1925 - 2022



Captain O'C Fox Troop 1956

From 1956 until 1958 I was very privileged to have served as a Troop Sergeant with "Fox Troop" under the command of Captain Painter (as he was then).

He had already been in action in the battle of Normandy shortly after D DAY. Then again in the Korean War. He joined the SAS, commanding A Squadron fighting the C Ts in the Malayan jungle. So he was more than qualified, when tasked to form a specialist training troop (Fox Troop) for selected mustering RA Junior Leaders.

From the start, we could all tell that he was a true leader. He never had to earn the respect of his men. It always came automatically. He was a real gentleman, and although he never suffered fools gladly, he was always fair but

firm. He also had a wonderful wicked sense of humour.

I can remember taking the first intake of Fox Troop Gunners out to the Grenade ranges at Trawsfynydd North Wales to practice throwing grenades. Everything was going smoothly, when all of a sudden a grenade fell into the throwing pit. I must say that I nearly had a heart attack as I dragged the thrower behind the wall waiting for the inevitable explosion, which never happened. Captain Painter then came over with a big smile on his face, because it was he who had dropped an unprimed grenade into the bunker just to check our reflexes, making sure that everyone understood the drill.

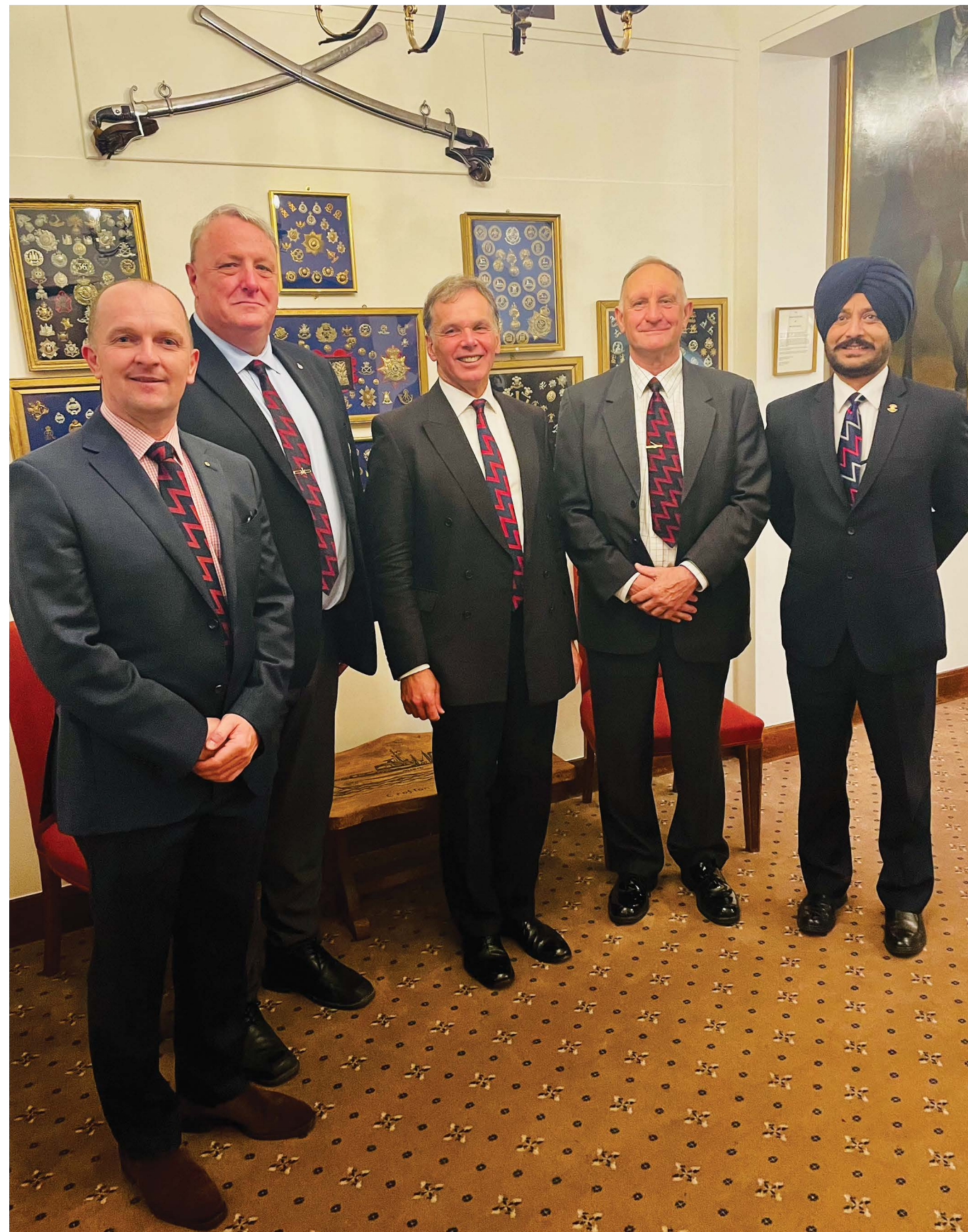
We have kept in touch for over 60 years and back in 2002 we made our final pilgrimage up Mount Snowdon, which was our main training area with Fox Troop all those years ago. Three of us. John Painter, Chris Simpson (ex-lieutenant instructor) and I, arranged to meet up for a nostalgic reunion in our "Old stomping ground" Snowdonia. We stayed at the Pen Y Gwryd Hotel, a place that we knew very well, as it was our old "Watering Hole" where we

had spent many a happy hour washing down a well earned pint after a strenuous climb.

We had planned to once again climb the mountain using the easy "Pyg Track" route. However! Old age, with its aches and pains had crept up on us, so we decided to go up on the Mountain Railway instead. When we got out at the summit station, we climbed the last few metres, and stood together on the very top of the Mountain, knowing that this would be the last time we would do it. On the way down, we sat quietly in the railway carriage, each with our own reminiscing thoughts, and as we watched the young climbers making their way up alongside the railway track, I could have sworn that there was a nostalgic tear in each of our eyes.

Wonderful Memories never to be forgotten.

RIP Dear friend (22567170 Ray Marsh)

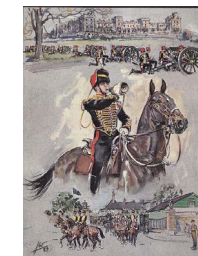


The Master Gunner St James's Park meets Colonels Commandant and Head of Regiment of the Commonwealth Royal Regiments of Artillery with a special guest from the Indian Artillery, at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London, 15 Sep 22

Left to right: Brigadier Damien Hill - Head of Regiment Royal Australian Artillery. Brigadier General David Patterson - Col Comdt Royal Canadian Artillery. Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory - Master Gunner St James's Park. Brigadier Paul Southwell - Col Comdt Royal New Zealand Artillery. Brigadier Vikramjit Singh Gill - Military Adviser, High Commission of India, Indian Artillery



The King's Troop Association Christmas Cards 2022



The CO's Trumpeter
by Joan Wanklyn

The CO's Trumpeter by Joan Wanklyn 1969 with best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.
Price - £10.00 per pack of 10

Name: _____
Address: _____

Post Code: _____
Telephone number: _____
Quantity Required: _____

***Please add an extra £3.50 per 10 cards for overseas European postage**
Send orders with payment by UK Sterling cheque
made payable to: **W G Clarke**
to 199 Bulford Road, Durrington, Salisbury Wilts SP4 8HB.

Regimental Christmas Cards Order Form



A The Royal Garrison Church of St. George
£6.00 per pack of 10
incl. p&sp*.
105x148mm.
With Best Wishes for
Christmas and the New Year



B The Regimental Family
£7.00 per pack of 10
incl. p&sp*.
105 x 148mm.
With Best Wishes for
Christmas and the New Year



C The Royal Artillery War Memorial in Winter
£6.50 per pack of 10 incl.
p&sp*.
105x148mm.
With Best Wishes for
Christmas and the New Year



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



E Foiled RA Badge
£9.00 per pack of 10
incl. p&sp*
140x102mm.
With Best Wishes for Christmas
and the New Year


Name: _____ Quantity required: _____
Address: _____

Postcode: _____
Tel No: _____

A _____ **D** _____
B _____ **E** _____
C _____ **Total:** _____

***Please add an extra £4.00 per 10 cards for overseas European postage**
Payment to **Royal Artillery Association** BACS Account 00181906 Sort Code 30 99 88 or send UK Sterling cheque to:
Royal Artillery Association, Artillery House, Artillery Centre, RA Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 8QT
All money raised goes to the RAA. For enquiries please e-mail cas.thoburn603@mod.gov.uk

29 COMMANDO
REGIMENT
ROYAL
ARTILLERY





UNITED WE CONQUER
148 (MEIKILA) COMMANDO
FORWARD OBSERVATION BATTERY

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

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

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

3CDOK-29CDRCMO@mod.gov.uk



UBIQUE LODGE

Become a Freemason today

Contact us via email
Ubiquelodge1789@gmail.com


**ONCE A GUNNER
ALWAYS A GUNNER**

7 Para RHA
ALL ROUND EXCELLENCE



VOLUNTEER FOR THE AIRBORNE GUNNERS!

Call us on: 01206 815554 or 94660 5554
Follow us: facebook.com/airborneartillery



GARRISON PRI

Our notebooks are bound with a soft-feel PU or a hard leather effect cover. Each with approximately one hundred lined sheets and include a ribbon page marker. A full range of colours and sizes are available.

Printed



Embossed



Get custom notebooks made for your unit. There is no setup fee for orders of 10 or more embossed notebooks.



You send us your logo and let us know how many notebooks you want. We will guide you through the process. It doesn't take long at all.



T-shirts and mugs also available
Visit us on www.garrisonpri.co.uk or find us on Facebook
Larkhill Tel: 01980 653 749 for stickers or garment enquiries
Bulford Tel: 01980 633 806 for picture framing enquiries

Royal Artillery Gold Cup

Sandown Park 16 February 2023

The Royal Artillery Gold Cup, first run in 1862 and one of the oldest events in the horseracing calendar and a flagship day for the Gunners, will take place at Sandown Park on Thursday 16th February 2023.



Building on the success of the 2022 race meeting, when a record number of Gunners met in the Sandown Park Esher Hall, even better facilities are being offered for the 2023 meeting, with the hope of attracting even greater numbers, especially from the retired regiment and families.

Regiments will again be setting up co-located focal points, within a dedicated Gunner area, this time in the Surrey Hall, which forms part of the main concourse on the ground floor. This venue puts the Regiment very much at the centre of the day, with immediate access to the racecourse and bookies on one side and to the Parade rings and the Winners Enclosure on the other. It also makes a range of catering outlets more easily available, with convenient bars and food outlets, providing greater choice and the opportunity to have a drink and meet with friends.

Serving and retired members of the Regiment will be able to meet fellow Gunners in the Surrey Hall, but there will also be an option to book a two-course buffet lunch in The Gallery, which is on the first floor of the Grandstand and has its own bar and views over the track. It is hoped that will be an attractive option to those who wish to enjoy a sit-down meal in slightly more formal surroundings. Bookings will be taken online when booking entry tickets and entry to The Gallery over lunchtime will be restricted to badge holders only.

The runners in Royal Artillery Gold Cup are all owned by those with a Gunner connection and the Steeplechase Committee have already been approached by two possible owners / trainers. Any Gunner unit wishing to discuss entering a leased horse should contact the Chairman of the Steeplechase Committee, Maj Charlie Lane at: charlie@coachroadfarm.co.uk

Use this link <https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/sandown/events-tickets/royal-artillery-gold-cup-day/> to learn more about the day and to buy your entry and concessionary lunch tickets using the promotional Code UBIQUE.

Please note that for 2023 entry to the whole course is being offered at the standard Grandstand entry price of £14.00. Details of lunch prices and booking arrangements will be online shortly.

Further details will be available to Regiments and Veterans through the normal channels shortly.

Any questions should be directed in the first instance to Mrs Emma Pagan-Skelley, Royal Artillery Secretariat Officer at emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk . Tel: 0300 155 6172

