



JANUARY 2023



REMEMBRANCE  
Ex IMJIN REFLECT

HUNTER TRIALS

# GUNNER

#oneregiment



The Larkhill-based team that supplies you Gunner.

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### 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.

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# GUNNER



## JANUARY 2023

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This year's Rugby World Cup sees wheelchair tournaments included in the festival of Rugby League. The Royal Artillery will be represented by veteran James Simpson who served with 4/73 (Sphinx) Special Observation Post Battery, Royal Artillery. Front cover photo taken by SWpix.com

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## AN END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER GUNNER ST JAMES'S PARK

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR ANDREW GREGORY KBE CB DL

2022 has been a year of many emotions and calls upon our Regiment. Thankfully, the disruption caused by Covid over the last two years has been much reduced, though at the start of 2022 we still had significant numbers of Gunners supporting the vaccination programme and test and trace. The Regiment should be proud of the considerable assistance it has provided to the NHS since 2020 that has allowed the Nation largely to return to normality and to live with this virus.

The most internationally significant event of 2022 has been Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. Whilst celebrating the courage of its population as they have endured great loss of life and other hardships, we are also living with the consequence on food and energy prices. From a military perspective, as well as highlighting the importance of the moral component of fighting power, especially sound leadership, and strong logistics, it has showcased the criticality of all our capabilities when warfighting. The Chief of the General Staff has prioritised five areas for expansion: air defence, precision munitions, unmanned air systems, electronic warfare and logistics; the majority are delivered by the Royal Regiment. In addition, the Royal School of Artillery has provided intensive instruction for large numbers of Ukrainian Gunners, allowing them to return to the conflict better prepared to defend their country.

In February, the Regiment along with the Nation celebrated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, a unique and remarkable event. To mark it and following Her Majesty's wishes, we have joined The Queen's Green Canopy Project, committing to planting a copse of 70 assorted native trees within the perimeter of Larkhill Garrison. Planting commenced in December with a formal ceremony on St Barbara's Day. Sadly, Her Majesty, our Captain General of seventy years, died aged 96 on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022. As the world and the Nation mourned Her passing, the Regiment was proud to honour Her life and Her service with gun salutes before and during the State Funeral on 19<sup>th</sup> September, all conducted with great precision, and in other ways. F Sub Section of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery were immaculate as they moved Her Majesty from Buckingham Palace to lie in State at the Palace of Westminster. Close to 600 members of our Regiment were directly involved in the ceremonial activities with many more in support; all fulfilled their various roles superbly. As Master Gunner St James's Park, I was inundated with complimentary remarks on how well the Regiment had done its duty.

The Regiment was joined by representative detachments from the Royal Regiments of Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Artilleries, marking their respect for and farewell to their Captain General. Their visits, accompanied by their Colonels Commandant and Head of Regiments marked probably the only time since the Coronation of Her Majesty that the four Heads of Royal Regiments have met, albeit under sad circumstances.

This year we have also commemorated the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Falklands War, the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of our Commando Gunners, and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein. They celebrate the spirit, efforts and determination of our forebears and serve as examples for our current generation to emulate, something, I observe, that they are doing extremely well.

Post Covid, Regimental sport is making a comeback with some notable performances including the Gunner victory over the Sappers in cricket and the 2<sup>nd</sup> placing of the Gunner parachute team in the Army championships. Regimental life is alive and well despite some very busy programmes. In that vein, thank you and well done to all Gunners, serving and retired, and to our families, for the many areas of work and support that go unmentioned, but which are core to the Regimental family functioning successfully. Keep safe, and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Colonel R C Harmer ADC  
Royal Artillery Regimental Colonel

As we begin a new year that will without doubt be just as full of surprises as 2022, I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to our readership with a retrospective look at the last twelve months, a year crammed with good, but also the not so good. With our people returning from vaccination and testing roles, our return to 'normality' post-COVID-19 brought commemoration events, sporting triumphs, and Russian aggression against Ukraine being met by the kind of determined and stoically passionate defence that only an existential fight can generate. This year has had it all.

We saw a return to a very well attended Royal Artillery Gold Cup and Reunion in the same month as we celebrated our Monarch's Platinum Jubilee, and the Royal Artillery Assembly at Blackpool saw a return to the scale we are more accustomed to. The opportunity to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign at the National Memorial Arboretum was particularly special on such a beautiful day in June, to be followed shortly after by our own RAA Remembrance Service, supported wonderfully, as we so often are, by The Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Band.

We lost soldiers through tragic circumstances and cruel illnesses. We lost Her Late Majesty The Queen, our Captain General, but in all cases, the Gunners stepped up and were front and centre in paying our respects and those of our country. From gun salutes to mark Her Late Majesty's passing and His Majesty The King's Accession, to escorting our Captain General's coffin down the Mall, and lining the route for her final journey through London.

In the operational space, Gunners have been involved in more than 11 concurrent operations overseas and more at home, with many of our number on standby to have supported the country through national strike action across the Christmas break by the time you read this. Again, our people will have to be prepared to lose their own Christmas to enable the people we serve to have theirs. This operational activity throughout 2022 was of course all in the context of the output of the Integrated Review and the declaration of CGS's 4+1 – the latter having the Gunners at its heart, with 'three' of the 'four' (Deep precision strike, Air Defence and Uncrewed Aircraft Systems)

being fundamentally ours. 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery (The Wessex Gunners) are already standing up 42 (Alem Hamza) Battery as the fourth Mini-UAS sub-unit, and in mid-December it was confirmed that 137 (Java) Battery would also be coming out of Suspended Animation to become the fourth armoured High Velocity Missile (Self Propelled) (HVM(SP)) sub-unit. Although neither has come with an increase in workforce yet, we should take heart from the fact that the Integrated Review left the Gunners alone in terms of strength, while other capbadges have taken significant reductions.

In RHQ RA over the last six months, and as guardians of RA Personnel Policy, we have reviewed and enhanced how we manage our people. We now select our volunteer Basic Training instructors through an APC-enabled selection process which kicks off with a 'look at life' opportunity for potential instructors led by the RASM. The first of these selection boards has already run and was keenly contested, not least because of the career-enhancing opportunities service as an instructor offers. Concurrently we are working on redesigning the arduous courses policy to enhance pass rates and identifying ways to support the Gunnery Staff Course for both officers and soldiers. Separately, the Gunner Net is taking shape. Designed to improve what is available for those in need, particularly with regard to signposting and support to mental wellbeing and enhancing resilience, across our whole Gunner family: Regular, Reserve, dependants veterans and cadets. It will be launched in the New Year.

Our charities continue to support our family whenever need arises, and at the time of writing, £607,000 of support grants has been awarded across the Regiment, with 83 cases (£81,000) being serving soldiers and their families. Once a Gunner, always a Gunner has never been more true.

2022 has been laced with everything, and the Gunners have been front and centre for all of it. That has been the case for almost 307 years and we should expect it to endure. I look forward to what 2023 brings and look forward to meeting, listening to and supporting as many of you as I can in the coming twelve months. Happy New Year to you all. Ubique.





Royal Artillery Memorial at Hyde Park







## 21 Gun Royal Salute to mark the occasion of the King's Birthday



On the 14th of November 2022 T Battery, 12th Regiment Royal Artillery had the honour of travelling up to Edinburgh castle to fire a 21 Gun Royal Salute to mark the occasion of the King's Birthday. Marking the occasion of the King's Birthday is always a great honour, however, this was compounded even further by this being the first King's Birthday Royal Gun Salute for many years. A crack team of 25 Soldiers and Officers travelled up the week prior to stay in Redford Barracks to attend the gun saluting course run by 106th Regiment Royal Artillery.

The course convened on the Tuesday with the aim of getting all soldiers from zero to hero as many of the course had never worked on the L118 Light Gun, let alone operate it under the pressure and watchful eyes of the public. The course

was first classroom based, giving us the understanding of the operation of the gun then by the end of the first day the crews were assembled, and the drilling began. The Detachment Commanders consisting of Sgt Spoor, Bdr Corner and Bdr Haines swiftly assembled the crews ensuring everyone understood the role required and spent the first two days drilling the basics of crewing and moving a gun. They all picked this up with fantastic ease and enthusiasm under the professional instruction of 106th Regiment Royal Artillery.

Once everyone had got a handle of the gun operation and how a Royal Gun Salute works the real work began. Drill. This required not only combining the newly gained knowledge of the operation of the Light Gun but to then combine this with the words of command spoken by the Troop



Commander and Troop Sergeant Major. This certainly tested everyone involved especially the Troop Commander having to learn the order of the parade along with the appropriate drill words to match.

Having mastered this under more relaxed conditions the rehearsals and run throughs began. Redford Barracks rang out with the words of command and noises of the gun crews opening the breach and loading shells from 9-4 for the next two days, ensuring that everyone knew their new role and things were running smoothly. They passed the RSMs inspection with ease and everyone was declared ready for the parade.

The day of the parade came, and the team were up at 0500 hrs for an early breakfast and transport to Edinburgh castle for 0630 hrs ready for dress rehearsals and to set the stage for success. After several run throughs at the castle and getting the team ready and fired up we were lucky to receive a rousing chat from Major General Bruce OBE KStJ VR DL that got the soldiers in the mindset needed to succeed.

The parade began at 1145 hrs with the pipes and drums and the march on from Hospital Square from the Gun Crews, as they marched up the hill and to the guns they were greeted with swathes of the public and several cameras. Despite this, the team acted with total professionalism and marked their locations on the gun. Lt Vincent then marched out to greet them on the guns and the Royal Salute Commenced.

Like clockwork the Royal Salute began on cue at 1200 hrs, with the first round being fired by the Gun Crew of Sgt Spoor. The crews fired the further 20 rounds with the 10 seconds between each round counted

by Sgt Ward. With the final round fired the National Anthem played and then a rousing three cheers for the king was rung out at Edinburgh Castle. Closing out the Royal Salute the Lord Provost of Edinburgh was invited to inspect the soldiers before the march off commenced closing out a well drilled and professionally executed Royal Gun Salute.

An experience many won't forget, stepping out of normal trade roles into ceremonial and being a part of history is certainly a reason many people join the Army and especially the Gunners. The soldiers of 12th Regiment Royal Artillery performed with excellence and professionalism giving a good account of themselves and the Regiment.







## Military Skills Competition - Athens, Greece



Being part of 101st (Northumbrian) Regiment Royal Artillery always throws up some interesting opportunities. From Saturday the 30th of July to Saturday the 6th of August soldiers from 101 Regt RA (Lt Smith, 2Lt Kent and Gnr Dobryzinski), 3&4 PWRR and the HAC were joined by OCdts from Oxford and Northumbrian OTCs to compete in the CIOR MILCOMP being held at the Hellenic Military Academy. CIOR, (the Confederation of International Officer Reserves), is an organisation that brings together officers and soldiers from across NATO and allied nations for both annual conferences and military skills competitions.

Upon landing in Greece, the British team joined all of the foreign contingents in the Hotel Xenophon – situated near the centre of Athens. The first night brought the chance for members of the Regiment – along with the rest of the team – to start getting to know the NATO teams that would soon become our competitors. Over beers the teams began to integrate as they spoke of the challenges to

come and learnt about the differences between our respective reserve forces. As gunners, the men of 101 Regiment RA were heartened to meet our counterparts from the Romanian army – we will forgive them for serving in air defence not strike!

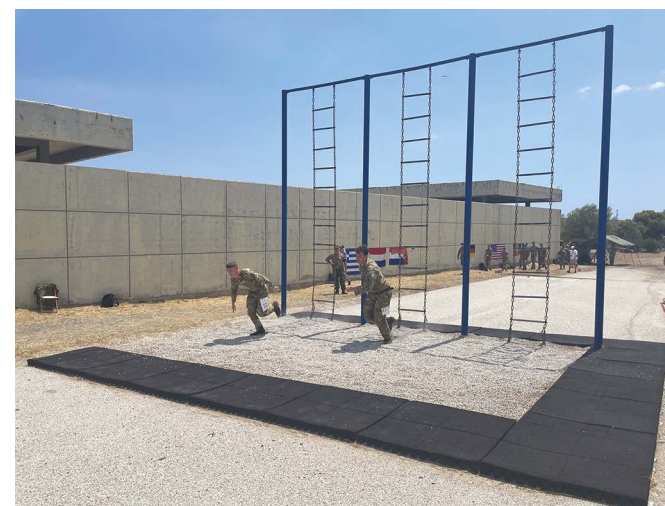
The next morning, the teams travelled to the Hellenic Military Academy – an institution that predates NATO – for the opening formalities of paperwork as well as an opening address by the Hellenic Army's Head of Officer Training. Following this there was a tour of the academy, with a particularly sobering moment as the teams passed the roll of honour listing the names not just of commissioned officers that had died in Hellenic military service but also those Officer Cadets under training that had given their lives on active service.

That evening came the formal opening ceremony with speeches from both the local Greek delegation and the President of CIOR. Accompanying the speeches was good hospitality in the Greek tradition with a spread



of cooked meats. The competition began in earnest the following day with practice runs across all of the events – a necessity for the British team consisting of so many first-time competitors.

Opening the actual competition was the land obstacle course – a gruelling 500m course consisting of 20 challenging obstacles that required teamwork and determination from every competitor in the three person teams. Later that day the competitors battled on into the water obstacle course with every British team putting in a strong performance to get points on the board.



The competition continued unabated the next day with teams entering the 10-mile orienteering challenge. The teams battled through the Greek sun to complete this challenge which tested both their endurance as well as their ability to navigate off a range of maps. Immediately upon completing the orienteering, the teams were sent straight onto the grenade throwing challenge – with three targets – two on the ground and one in a window.

The following event was supposed to be rifle and pistol shooting however, it was cancelled due to the heat and risk of fire. This opened up the opportunities to take in the culture and visit the Acropolis of Athens.

Whilst these events concluded the military pentathlon, there was still more to come, as the teams engaged in a combat casualty care (CCC) competition, along with a test on Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC).



Overall, the British team and the men of 101 Regiment RA found the competition a great opportunity to build individual character and institutional friendships with our partners across NATO – with the competition leaving most of the British team hungry to return to Finland in June 2023.



by Lt K Smith RA  
101st (Northumbrian) Regiment Royal Artillery





## Think Tank Gunners

*"Typical Gunners – they get everywhere"*  
Lieutenant Colonel in charge of cross Whitehall and Parliamentary communications.

For the first time in the history of the Chief of the General Staff Fellowship and CGS' independent think tank the Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research (CHACR) Royal Artillery Officers are employed in all three roles. Major Will George RA is the CGS' Fellow at Chatham House, Captain Pat Hinton RA is the CGS' Fellow at RUSI, and Major Luke Turrell RA is the Executive Officer of CHACR, having finished a CGS Fellowship this year.

But what is a CGS Fellow? Why does it matter? And, speaking bluntly, what is the value to the Royal Artillery?

Firstly, CGS Fellowships are periods of full time or part time study to gain a higher educational qualification such as a Masters degree or a Doctorate (PhD). There are also opportunities to spend time working at a UK based think tank such as RUSI or Chatham House. CGS Fellowships are designed to increase the Army's intellectual capability and professional body of knowledge by enabling selected officers and soldiers to develop their cognitive skills. CGS Fellows are therefore selected based on their academic ability and ability to feed that knowledge back into the Army to inform strategy, capability, and doctrinal developments.

The 'why does it matter' bit should therefore be fairly self-evident. At a time of rapid change in a complex geopolitical world, having people in the Army with a broad and comprehensive education and links to a global network of experts is crucial to ensure Army strategy, capability and doctrine decisions are as well informed as possible.

CGS' Fellows like Maj George and Captain Hinton collate and contribute to the most up-to-date research that directly influences Army and Defence policy at the highest levels. They also ensure their colleagues have the base knowledge to make informed judgements, tell

uncomfortable truths and ask difficult questions.

Maj Turrell, following the removal of the Assistant Head post, briefs the 2\* Management Board. This is a sub-committee of the Army Executive Committee (ExCo) and ensures CHACR is supporting Army decision making but also looking where the Army isn't looking, at threats beyond the horizon. Equally, central to CHACR's role, is the criticality, at every rank, of a 'brains-based approach' so that whilst preventing being out-fought, we also prevent being out-thought. This is done through conferences, lectures and discussions. The CHACR conference 'Making sense of a confusing world' on 9 Dec 2022 included world class military and academic speakers and was a huge success. To register for a place at the next conference on 'Mobilisation' go to [www.chacr.org.uk/events/](http://www.chacr.org.uk/events/)

And finally, what is the value to the Royal Artillery? This has two interconnected elements. It means right now Royal Artillery officers are gaining the very best education both academically and in the workings of UK defence and security that they'll bring back to the Royal Regiment to inspire others. It also enables them and others to better argue the case for battle and war winning Royal Artillery capabilities.

In the battle for influence the Royal Artillery have cleverly seized the high ground. It is now for future generations of officers and soldiers to ensure we are neither out-fought nor out-thought.

by Maj Luke Turrell RA



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## Exercise IMJIN REFLECT - Normandy Battlefield Tour



Pointe Du Hoc

On Monday 26th September 170 (Imjin) Battery led a week of reflection looking into Operation NEPTUNE, the Normandy landings of D-Day in 1944. Soldiers from across 12th Regiment Royal Artillery came together to learn about the significant events that took place on June 6th, 1944. As a group we investigated the stories and experiences that all services faced on that fateful day.

On Monday we all got together and had a detailed presentation on the events leading up to WWII delivered by Lt Bates RA and WO2 Norris, who together had plenty of knowledge to deliver to the soldiers taking part in the study. We spoke about the reasons that led up to the war and the rise of Adolf Hitler. This was very much a discussion, with plenty of participation from across the board. From there we split off into five syndicates including the directing staff to each research and deliver our own presentation on a significant event during D-Day.

On Tuesday we visited the D-Day Museum in Southsea, Portsmouth. This is a very good

museum with lots of detail looking into the rich history of D-Day including an original Landing Craft that was found in 2014, refurbished and moved to the museum in 2020. The museum had plenty of relics and personal accounts from people who went through the extremely difficult task of making D-Day possible and the success it was. I would recommend a visit to the museum to anybody that has the slightest interest in military history.

Early on Wednesday morning we departed Thorney Island to head over to France to continue the study in Normandy where it all happened. Our first stop was the Memorial De Caen Museum which was a great experience. Just like the D-Day Museum it had lots to explore with an underground bunker used as a command post by the Germans during WWII, it is 80m long with different rooms for different purposes. My experience of that bunker was very eerie, putting into perspective the working conditions of the people who led Axis command and control in Caen during the



war. The museum also concentrated on WWI and the Cold War, so it was interesting to see what happened both before and after WWII. It really gave us all some context we could refer to over the next few days.

The following day we headed out to Dead man's corner at Carentan where we were delivered the first presentation on Carentan by Lt Bates RA, 2Lt Crouch AAC, and WO2 Norris. This was a very detailed and interesting presentation that spoke about the events of Carentan, the outcome, effects, tactics used and leadership of the event. I personally enjoyed the part about Lt Col Cole who led a bayonet charge when all odds were against him and his men. I feel like it showed real bravery and leadership being able to lead a bayonet charge in those conditions and still be able to inspire faith and courage in those men.

From Carentan we made our way to Pointe Du Hoc. The significance that Pointe Du Hoc had on the whole invasion was explained and it was evident how difficult it must have been for the soldiers from 2nd Ranger Battalion to scale the 100 Foot vertical cliff wall. I then went on to talk about Lt Col James Earl Rudder and all the good he did preparing and commanding his men in an important mission on D-Day. Lt Dennis RAA then talked about the Tactics used for the assault. It was especially captivating being in the bunkers at the peak of Pointe Du Hoc and looking out into the English Channel trying to imagine the sheer scale of the allied armada. The next location we visited was Gold beach, where we visited the Arromanches 360 museum and had a brief from the third syndicate. They spoke about the events of Gold beach and the usefulness of the Mulberry Harbour essential allied resupply.

The final stop of the day was the Bayeux Cemetery where we held a small act of remembrance to reflect and pay respects to all those who served and died in Normandy. I had a look around and noticed the young age a lot of the men and women were, this really hit hard

for me and made me realise the impact that the war must have had on not just those in the conflict but the family and friends of those that sadly never returned home.

Friday, the final day of the tour we started off at Merville Battery. I really enjoyed experiencing this location as it showed the courage and comradery that the airborne soldiers who liberated this location had within themselves and for each other. I really enjoyed the presentation here as it had all the details and accounts of those who were there, and this really brought the story to life and along with the scene set at the location itself made for a great event to focus on.

Lastly, we stopped at Pegasus Bridge, where we had a guided tour from the curator of the museum. We were shown the original Pegasus bridge and a reproduction glider that allied forces used to land in the area. Standing on the bridge you can see the bullet holes and shrapnel marks all around it, clearly showing the brutality of fire fights at the time.

All in all, I and the rest of the team really enjoyed our time in Normandy and the week as a whole, we all agreed that we learned a lot and definitely have a better perspective on the Normandy landings and WWII as a whole. Thank you to the RACPD and the RA BSM for their non-public funding, without which this Battlefield Tour would not have been possible. I would recommend it to anybody, especially serving soldiers to take up the opportunity to visit Normandy and to really take in the sacrifices given, fighting for the freedom of Europe and what it sometimes takes to build a world of peace and humanity.

by Bdr McIntee  
170 Battery  
12th Regiment Royal Artillery





## Exercise PICOS UBIQUE - Mountaineering exercise to Northern Spain



Left to right Musn Hipkiss-Hicks RA, Gnr Fairclough RA, Musn Camblin RA, Drum Major Bailey RA, Gnr Howe RA, 2Lt Townsend RA and Capt Busby RA

Seven Reservists from 103 Regiment Royal Artillery recently completed a Summer Mountaineering Expedition to Northern Spain in the remote and unspoilt region of the 'Picos de Europa' National Park. The trek covered the 3 main areas of the Eastern, Central and Western Massif ticking off the iconic 'Naranjo de Bulnes' tower, the 'Cares Gorge', Covodonga and the isolated high altitude villages of Sotres and Bulnes. The scenery was spectacular and the going tough with climbs over 700 metres each day and the odd 'via ferrata' style cables as hand-rails on the sides of steep gorges with the final day achieving a very credible 1500m ascent to an altitude of 2,243 metres. Whilst on the Expedition Hurricane Danielle had featured in the Mediterranean but missed Spain in the end. The exercise completed 93km and 5,000m of climbing over 6 days.

Concurrently the exercise also delivered an Adventure Training qualification 'Summer Mountain Foundation' course. Three of the Team Members are Musicians in the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Band.

by Capt William Busby RA  
103rd Regiment Royal Artillery







## Exercise CROWN CANNONS



In October 2022, the Royal School of Artillery and members of 14th Regiment Royal Artillery deployed on Ex CROWN CANNONS, a Battlefield Study (BS) in North Macedonia to learn from WWI's Forgotten Front (The Salonika Campaign). Often considered as a side show of the Great War, and typically overlooked as a BS for better known sites on the Western Front. The deployment created an opportunity to learn lessons in an environment which was new and largely unknown to all.

A pre-study day in Newcome Hall led by Lt Col (Retd) Whitchurch, who set the scene and explained why the British Army was involved in the Balkans war. Thoughtfully delivered, the day encouraged group participation, discussion, and debate. This was followed by practical demonstrations of 18pdr gun drills and even the loading and unloading of pack ponies with a superbly

compliant volunteer pony, Disco. This style of delivery was very well received and enabled everyone deployed to North Macedonia with a great baseline understanding.

We landed in Skopje in the early hours of Monday 3 October and took a bus to Lake Dojran, our home for the week. After some much needed rest, the first afternoon continued to build understanding of the sites we would visit. We learned that in 1915, Germany's ally Turkey needed ammunition and military equipment to freely move through the Balkans, via the Danube River or the Vienna to Baghdad Railway. This led to a secret agreement with Bulgaria which saw the Bulgarian Army (now allied to the Central Powers) mobilised. They would subsequently seize a swathe of ground through the Balkan peninsula, from the Adriatic to The Black Sea through modern day Albania and North Macedonia.



Serbia requested help from the triple Entente (Britain, France, and Russia) and assistance came in the form of a French led Allied Army with seven British Divisions. Our focus would be battles around Pip Ridge, and Petit and Grande Couronne, high features west of Lake Dojran held by the Bulgarians which British forces were tasked to seize and hold.

Over the next three days, we walked the ground of these key battlefield sites, covering up to 24km per day. It became clear just how difficult the Allied Army's task would be. The Bulgarians occupied all the vital ground in dug-in, often concrete-reinforced positions with mutually supporting, interlocking and combined arms arcs over any approaches from the south (the direction of the British advance). They had taken the time, whether knowingly or not, to apply principles of defence and had good communication and logistical lines to their rear. In addition, they were familiar with the terrain and the climate, extremely hot in the summer and bitterly cold in the winter.

The Allied Army, by comparison, was ill-prepared with very limited useable support from guns, poor individual kit issue (no winter clothing) and mixed interpretations by Commanders of ambiguous orders received from higher. We discussed whether the operation would even go ahead today, but the reality in 1915 was that it must, regardless of the size of the task against them.

Throughout, lessons were learned which are absolutely relevant today. It became clear how logistics are key to success and how most battles ultimately fail through logistical constraints, something we are currently seeing on the news almost daily.

We learned about the importance of intelligence, communications and clear command and control. A lack of these factors contributed hugely to British losses on the Salonica Front, with commanders often making decisions in isolation without a sound understanding of the bigger picture. In some instances, there was little knowledge of how the battle was unfolding or of activities conducted by flanking formations. We also learned about the Principles of Defence and Offence, and how today's doctrine has been developed by learning from the past. For example, Bulgarian successes and ability to hold ground were achieved through a meticulous application of DAMROD, something which was really evident when standing on their defensive positions.

The Battlefield Study concluded at the location of the 22nd British Division, where our Padre delivered a small service. A wreath was laid as a mark of respect and gratitude to these forgotten soldiers who fought in such harsh conditions on the Macedonia Front.

This BS was unlike any other I have been fortunate enough to attend. Walking the ground, up and down ravines, through thick scrub and seeing British and Bulgarian positions in person offered a tangible sense of understanding. Previous BS have been conducted very differently and often by way of an 'on-the-bus, off-the-bus' coach tour, bouncing from stand to stand through France. Our guides and North Macedonian hosts were hugely welcoming and hospitable. Importantly, we were able to use modern doctrine as a handrail to learn lessons and discuss problems which are as applicable today as they were 100 years ago.

by WO2 (QGI) J S Black  
Gunnery Staff Course





## Royal Artillery soldiers deliver peacekeeping training



Training at the Gambia Armed Forces (GAF) Training school, Bakau

Initially established in March 2000, the British Peace Support Team Africa (BPST (A)) is the UK's flagship programme for delivering peacekeeping training and capacity building assistance to partner nations across sub-Saharan Africa.

Based in Nairobi, Kenya, the team has a full-time staff of 40 military and civilian personnel, training around 9,022 military, police, and civilian personnel from over 20 African countries annually.

BPST (A) contributes to the Africa Peace Support Operations (APSO) CSSF Programme by delivering and facilitating training for peacekeepers and senior leaders deploying to United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) missions. The organisation's aim, in support of the APSO programme, is to enable African

countries and institutions, including the AU, to more effectively manage the continent's security challenges, and mitigate the threat of conflict.

The APSO programme has two specific intended outcomes:

1. That select African Troop/Police Contributing Countries (T/PCC) are better able to deploy quality contributions to UN/ AU peace operations; and,
  2. That the AU is better able to establish, manage, support, oversee, plan and generate forces for Peace Support Operations (PSOs).
- Since August 2021, BPST (A) has been commanded by Colonel Alexander Wilson. Part of its staff include members of the Royal Artillery.

2022 has seen BPST(A) continue its trainings to different partners across Africa.



We highlight some that took place in the second half of the year which include:

**East Africa - Kenya:** PDT training for ATMIS

A UK Short Term Training Team (STTT) of 22 personnel supported by BPST(A) were deployed to Kenya for about three weeks, for the 'African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) pre-deployment training (pdt)' to over 650 Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) personnel in Isiolo.

Some of the topics covered during the training included 'Operating in Built Up Areas (OBUA)', 'Close Quarter Battles (CQB)', and 'stoppage drills in the urban environment'.



A UK Short Term Training Team training with the Kenya Defence Forces in Isiolo, Northern side of Kenya, about six hours drive from Nairobi City

At the end of the training, Second Lieutenant Toby Hudson, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, and who was one of the leaders from the training team said:

"The training was good fun, but more important was the course we were supporting as part of the British Peace Support Team (Africa). The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) that we trained, the 3rd Kenyan Rifles, are

off to Somalia soon, so it's really good of us to be able to deliver that training to them, hopefully provide them with some value before they go to Somalia on what is really an important deployment for them."



A UK Short Term Training Team training with the Kenya Defence Forces in Isiolo, Northern side of Kenya, about six hours drive from Nairobi City

**West Africa - the Gambia:** PDT training for the Gambian Armed Forces (GAF) support to UN pledge

In the Gambia, the BPST(A) supported a 10 strong UK STTT in training of the Gambia Armed Forces (GAF) to complete a 3 week training programme delivering pre-deployment training to a 250 strong GAF Quick Reaction Force Company (QRF), at the GAF training school in Bakau, Gambia.

The team was preparing to deploy on a United Nations Peacekeeping operation in Africa. The end of the training was





celebrated with a football match, with lots of enthusiastic supporters!

Some of the training objectives included:

1. Ensuring that the GAF have an awareness and understanding of the Prevention of Sexual Gender Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation Acts and International Humanitarian Law.

2. Developing and evaluating the GAFs understanding of the immediate action drills upon contact, to include threats likely to be encountered as UN QRF (small arms and IED).

3. Developing and evaluating the GAFs understanding of the impact of varied operating conditions, including differing terrain and threat environments, on tactical vehicle manoeuvre.

4. Developing and evaluating the GAFs understanding of C-IED skills and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Search.

5. Developing and evaluating the GAFs understanding of the role and functions of the CofC at all levels, in all likely situations.

Some of the highlights of the training included a visit by his Excellency David Belgrave OBE, the UK High Commissioner to the Gambia, and the Gambia Armed Forces Chief of Defence Staff, Major General Yankuba Drammeh, who got a chance to speak with both the trainers and the participants.

At the end of the training, Lieutenant Colonel Gee Jenner (BPST(A) - West Africa Head) said:

*"This was one of the most successful Short-Term Training Teams (STTTs) we have had in the Gambia. The soldiers established an amazing rapport with each other, and at the closing ceremony, the Gambian soldiers even pooled money from their own pockets and*

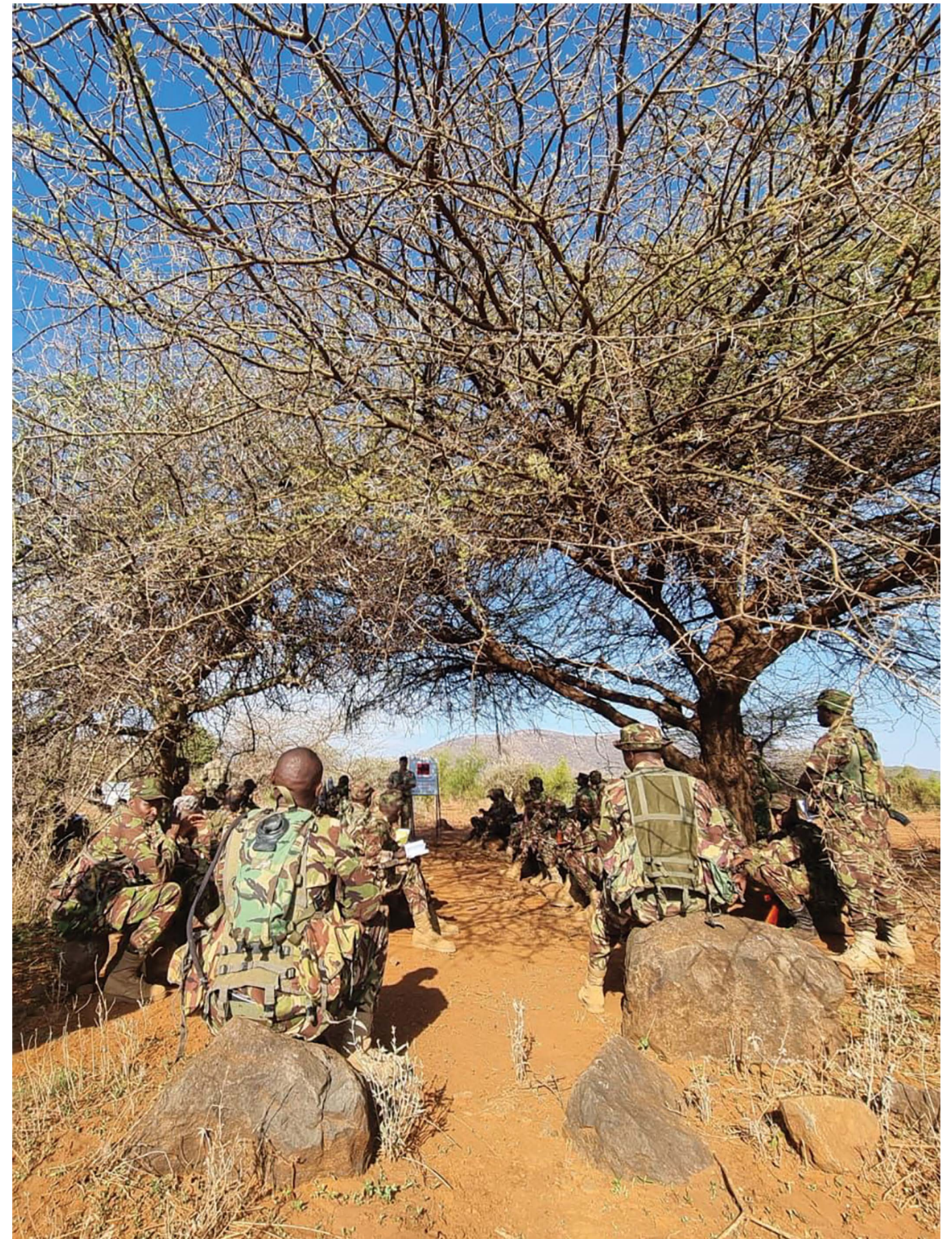
*bought all the British instructors presents to remind them of the time they spent with them. The closing ceremony was recorded for national media and the presence of the British High Commissioner David Belgrave OBE and the GAF Chief of Defence Staff Major General Yankuba Drammeh was an indication of the impact of this training to both countries. Sadly, we lost the football match 6 -1 on the final day!"*

by Millicent N Muriithi  
Communications Manager  
British Peace Support Team (Africa)



Training at the Gambia Armed Forces (GAF) Training school, Bakau

**BRITISH PEACE SUPPORT TEAM (AFRICA) - an integrated team, building continental capacity for UN/AU Peace Support Operations**



Training in Isiolo, Kenya, under an Acacia tree, with participants sitting on makeshift chairs





## Air Defence Enhances the Commando Gunner Capability



Traditionally Air Defence Troop Royal Marines has been underutilised, misunderstood, and misemployed, due to a distinct lack of requirement in recent modern warfare. On Mon 31 Oct, Air Defence Troop Royal Marines formally changed command from 30 Commando IX Group Royal Marines to 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery. This move will see the Commando Fires Regiment once again having an organic Air Defence capability at its disposal.

For the past 20 years, the dictation to deploy organic Air Defence hasn't been required. Air superiority has been one sided and operational focus and commitment has prevented the development of modern anti air tactics. This has resulted in a significant lack of force understanding as the threat air power poses and also developed a wider view that Ground Based Air Defence

should be employed in a protective or defensive static role. Times are however slowly changing and with today's threats, displayed ever so recently and often in the recent conflict in Ukraine, proving the need for a capable air defence capability.

With the change in command, Air Defence Troop will benefit in a multitude of ways. It will be able to more easily integrate into the UKCF construct; through stronger representation, SME understanding and opportunity. Over time and with appropriate representation at all levels, it can build the Commando Force understanding of Air Defence of how it can support the force. There is also the identification that under the UK Commando Force, an effective Anti-Air capability can outweigh the adversary with devastating effect in hunter and support roles to LRG's. Whilst transformation into the UK



Commando Force continues to develop, it has given us the needed freedom to develop new, offensive tactics and cement previous defensive skills. Ex GREEN DAGGER 21 allowed us to showcase the effect that a credible offensive capability can offer the Commando force. Operating within the established Littoral Response Groups will be complex, the increased training opportunity allowing integration of AD Tp directly into these Headquarters, STRIKE Teams and Enhanced-FST's will improve and develop our capability and what the Troop can offer to the Commando Force.

Capability development will be crucial in our success. Future employability will find individuals in positions at reach and requiring more of the traditional marine. Skills and tactics will be developed to ensure that whilst our ranks primary role remains, the ability to offer additional skill to an E-FST, STRIKE Team or Headquarters will be available. The current UAS threat is not just an air defence issue, we will trial and offer unique systems to detect and defeat this new battlefield threat.

The opportunity for capability and force development within 29 Commando Regiment is limitless. With close links into 7 Air Defence Group, the Royal School of Artillery and the Land Warfare Centre the Troop will be at the centre of experimentation with new and exciting systems, developing new defensive and offensive tactics to ensure air defence is once again considered at all levels of the planning process.

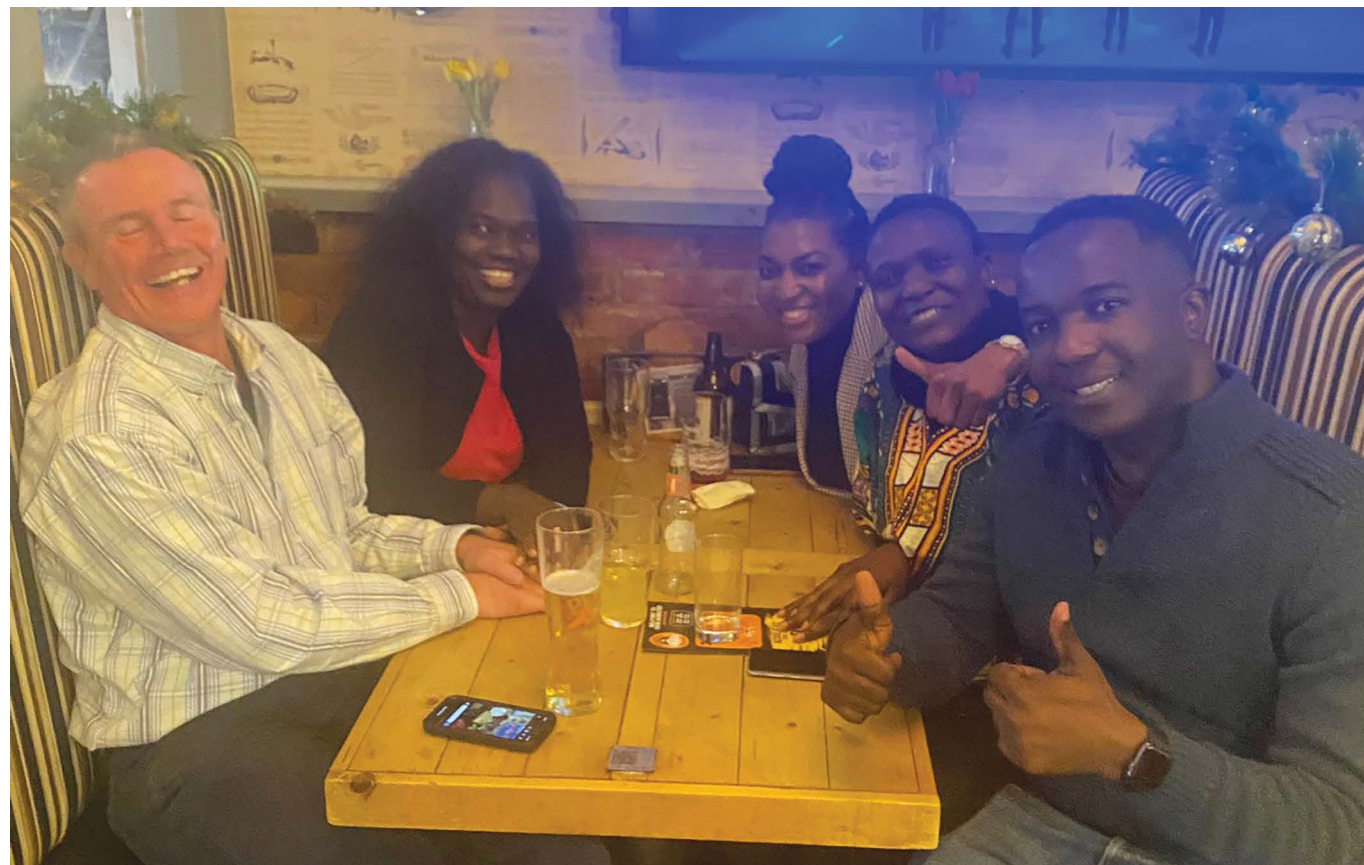
by Sgt Liam Strudwick RM  
Air Defence Troop  
79 (Kirkee) Cdo Bty RA







## Gunner Inclusion Group (Foreign and Commonwealth) Social Event



For those who may still be unaware, the Foreign & Commonwealth (F&C) Gunner Inclusion Group (GIG) is a pan-Gunner forum designed to improve inclusivity across the Royal Regiment. The group aims to identify and discuss ways to achieve a truly inclusive work force and provide an open and interactive environment to raise issues. The F&C GIG is chaired by Lt Col Leister who is the Chief Instructor for the RA Capability & Assurance Team in the RSA.

As part of the key objectives of the GIG, the committee organised a social gathering at the Stonehenge Inn in Larkhill on 22 Nov 2022. The intention was to offer individuals from across the Garrison an opportunity to meet up and enjoy some food, drink and hopefully make new friends. The event commenced mid-afternoon (to facilitate those who couldn't attend in the evening) and it saw a steady footfall of circa 100 service personnel throughout the day. It was attended by representatives from every regiment in the Garrison and across the rank spectrum from Gnr to Lt Col. It was also wonderful to see some Regimental Sergeant Majors and Battery Sergeant Majors from the Larkhill units. As hoped, the function had a friendly and relaxed atmosphere which generated plenty of mingling and free flowing conversation. Encouragingly, the landlord of the Stonehenge Inn (Dan)



said that it was the most multi-cultural evening he had ever seen on his premises.

Throughout the event, members were seen sharing ideas and experiences and generally discussing the current issues of the day. Arguably, the highlight of the evening was the 'cultural quiz' that was delivered by SSgt Ricardo Tannis from 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery, which proved to be as educational as it was enjoyable. The winning team (plus google) were presented with prizes which topped off the jovial atmosphere of the evening.

The event was certainly worthwhile, and this has inspired the committee to plan a bigger event in the summer of 2023. Of note: the secondary aim of the 2023 event is to widen the participation and involve more RA Units from outside the Larkhill Garrison, so spread the word! The GIG welcomes everyone to their functions, whatever their culture, age, gender or sexual orientation. Simply put, the more people who attend GIG functions the merrier, as we believe that dialogue between our people is key to identifying and resolving our issues.

Our plea to everyone is to broadcast the news about the RA GIG, it exists as a mechanism for every diverse cohort in the RA to raise concerns or issues. The GIG welcomes anyone and everyone's views, and more importantly we will reply to all comments or suggestions.

The F&C GIG can be contacted on our group mailbox: [ArtyCen-Gunner-Inclusion-GpFC@mod.gov.uk](mailto:ArtyCen-Gunner-Inclusion-GpFC@mod.gov.uk) and all messages are handled with complete confidentiality.

Finally, a big thank you to the Larkhill Regiments and especially the Royal Artillery Association (RAA) for their generous funding to support the event; we literally couldn't have done it without you.

by WO2 Asumadu-Aboagye





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

Please note that with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> 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:

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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](mailto:gunnereditorial@artycen.ra.mod.uk)

Telephone: 01980 63 4204

If your standing order mandate has not been set up or received by 31<sup>st</sup> 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:

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Tracey Brigstock presenting the Winner of the Open Class Bdr Alanna Scott, King's Troop RHA, riding Farra (a Troop lines horse)

The weather was especially kind at the Royal Artillery Cross Country Course on Knighton Down, Larkhill for the 2022 Army and Royal Artillery Hunter Trials on the 16th October 2022. Some 164 Serving, Veteran, Dependent and civilian competitors took on the 20 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 Captain Bryan Elliott RA, CVHQRA, and Tracy Brigstock of the Royal School of Artillery with considerable assistance from a raft of knowledgeable Serving, Veteran and civilian volunteers, and in accordance with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's and British Eventing's regulations.

#### The Military results were:



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

1st Bdr Alanna Scott, King's Troop RHA, riding Farra (a Troop lines horse)  
2nd Sgt Neil Hubbard, King's Troop RHA (Reserve), riding her own Prusseltown Cavalier



3rd Bdr Hannah Brasher, King's Troop RHA, riding Long Run (a Troop lines horse)



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

1st Lt Lana Hughes RA, 32 Regt RA, riding her own Blackjack  
2nd Lt Col Stephen Coulson INT CORPS, riding his own Silent Assistant  
3rd Maj Hannah Hewins RLC riding her own Simba



#### Class 3 - Novice (Fences up to 80cm)

1st LBdr Declan O'Rourke, King's Troop RHA riding Sergeant (a lines horse)  
2nd Police Officer Hollie Dixon Metropolitan Police riding Maesmynach Heliwr  
3rd Lt Lana Hughes RA, 32 Regt RA riding her own Windhill Stan



#### Class 4 Pairs (Fences up to 80cm)

1st Capt Amy Cooper & Maj Dan McRink, King's Troop RHA riding McAllister & Pesto (lines horses)  
2nd Gnr Laura Parker Eland & Gnr Alex Gerrard, King's Troop RHA, riding Wimbleball & Thorn (lines horses)  
3rd Gnr Olivia Taylor & Bdr Zara May Sallis riding Sprinter Sacre & Whirlaway (lines horses)  
All horses are King's Troop RHA lines horses



#### Class 5 Intermediate (Fences up to 90cm)

1st Maj Kirstie Deakin-Main riding her own Cotswold Prince  
2nd Maj Rose Lambert riding her own Fines Fox  
3rd Gnr Millie James, King's Troop RHA riding Favour (a lines horse)





## The Royal Artillery Assembly

**FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**  
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 13th May) - Just **£152 Per Person**

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

#### FRIDAY

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

#### SATURDAY

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

#### SUNDAY

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

To book a Gala Inclusive Package - call **0871 222 0031** and quote **RAANB0523**

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

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

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### Canterbury Branch

On 13th October members of Canterbury Branch gathered to remember Captain Leslie Gosling and held a short memorial ceremony. Captain Gosling's daughters, Gill and Angela and Son in Law, Stephen Brandt attended the Service and provided refreshments afterwards at their home. The Branch intend to mark this event annually to honour and remember Captain Gosling.

Three Standards were on Parade; Canterbury (Joe Correa), Kent District (Doug Kay) and Dover (Harry Hopper). The wreath was laid by Dennis Gabb and John Bishop conducted the proceedings.



### Early Development - National Riders' Branch

History was made in October not only did a bunch of leather clad, fury faced bikers, ex Gunners of course, meet at the National Memorial Arboretum for a photograph, they were also the founder members of what is hoped to be the Royal Artillery Association – Riders' Branch.

Association branches have historically always been based on geographical locations; the riders branch however is one of the first planned, virtual branches. We came together at the annual 'Ride To The Wall' event held at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire, RTTW is a unique motorcycling event which gives motorcyclists an opportunity to gather together at a place of remembrance, to pay their respects to our fallen service men and women and in doing so, raise funds solely for the purpose of perpetuating their memory and recognising the sacrifice made.

Who will be the Royal Artillery Association Riders' Branch?

The photograph is of those gunners who attended the inaugural event in the Gunner Garden. It's not unusual for the weather to be less than kind but this year the sun shone on those who travelled from far and wide to make this event a successful one.

It has often been said amongst those gunners who attend the NMA on wet and windy autumnal Saturday in October each year, that we really should have our own motorcycle club. So, Paul Lucas took the initial plan forward which was timely as the RAA had started to look at. The plan is to have national interest based branches to complement the current geographical branch system. From some small seeds of an idea, we have gone on to make great strides. So, moving forward the idea from Paul was quite easy really.



The RAA Riders' Branch is one of our first planned virtual branches, and now has a presence on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/636629624840410>

The Branch also has their own patch to show membership of the Branch, that patch is sewn onto a cut, the cut being a leather waistcoat worn by motorcycle riders.

From day one in the regiment, anyone who has served, automatically becomes a life member of the Association, when leaving the services





unless those service leavers sign up for a local branch their contact is generally lost. The Riders' Branch only requisite is that to be a member of the Facebook page, you sign up to be a member of the Royal Artillery Association.

We are open to anyone who has served or is still serving in the Royal Regiment, who is a motorcyclist of any sort or is no longer able to ride for whatever reason. In the first few weeks we have grown to around ninety members who have joined the Royal Artillery Association and received their patch, which is fantastic news. As the Riders' Branch grows you will start to see us attending RAA sponsored events such as the RA Service of Remembrance.

### Plymouth Branch

On a very wet 5th November 2022 the Plymouth Branch of the Royal Artillery Association, with local Cadets and Supported by the standards of other arms, branches and the Royal British legion came together at Ford Park Cemetery Plymouth to commemorate Captain Henry VC.

Before the Service the Local Plymouth cadets helped to commemorate and remember all the 38 Gunners Buried in Ford Park Cemetery, who died in WWI and WWII. The Cadets located the graves and placed a poppy cross on them as an act of Remembrance for their Service and Sacrifice.

Once the Cadets had returned a Service of Remembrance for Captain Henry VC was held in the chapel, due to the heavy rain, where wreaths were laid at the altar and later transferred to the grave site by the Chairman Kevin Langshaw and Branch member Tony Triscott.



Finally, Kevin and Tony laid a wreath at the commonwealth memorial to remember all those who had made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the country in all the wars.

### Aigburth-Merseyside Branch

**Hands across the water:** Aigburth-Merseyside Branch Standard Bearer Harry Heatley was contacted by Dave Laird, the nephew of an ex-gunner Michael Anthony Downes. Mike served with 470 Lt AA Regt in 1959/60 to 1964. Then after contracting TB he later badged to Royal Army Service Corps: 912 Anti-Aircraft Company, both units located at the Brigadier Toosey Barracks, Home of 103 Regiments 208 Bty (The Liverpool Gunners). Mike now a resident in Vancouver, was returning home to visit his family and was seeking access to the barracks, of which he held so many memories. He also requested some History about the unit. Harry contacted the Battery and a date and time was arranged for a visit. Meanwhile The Branch Secretary was able to produce the unit history, and also provide a copy of our presentation on the 8th King's Battalion (The Liverpool Irish) who fought with the Canadian 3rd Division on Juno Beach, Op OVERLORD.

When Mike left service with the Gunner's he handed back all his kit, only having a Cup presented to him by the battery for his 21st Birthday. Harry together with LBdr John Hodgekiss and SSgt Mark McLoughlin hosted Mike and Dave, the lads where able to provide Mike with a beret and an RA Association Polo Shirt. We received the following e-mail from Dave.

*"Thank you so much Peter, you and Harry did so much for our Mike, he came away with tears of joy in his eyes in the car, he's been really unwell over the last few years, he said that was the best medication he could ever have, told Harry will pop in next week with a few presents for you, Harry and the two lads we met, they were just brilliant to him, again thank you so much Dave"*

It really goes to emphasise our creed of "Once a Gunner Always a Gunner"



### East Kent Branch

#### EAST KENT BRANCH HAND OVER ALBERT TO MAURICE HOUSE

In October members of East Kent Branch, RAA gathered at Maurice House, the Royal British Legion care home in Broadstairs, to make a special presentation to the staff and residents.

For many years our Branch has been the proud owners of a bust depicting a WWI soldier, and finally we have presented it to the care of Maurice House where we hope it will be displayed in perpetuity.

Originally, the bust was created and entered a competition to be included on the Royal Artillery War Memorial and earned the [unknown] sculptor a Certificate of Merit. Later it was presented to the Gunners' Club in Ramsgate.

On the closure of the Gunners' Club it found new premises, being given to the Ramsgate Branch, RAA. When, subsequently, the RAA Branch closed arrangements were made for the bust to be placed into the custody of 17 (Trg) Regt RA stationed in Woolwich. Eventually finding its way to 16 Regt RA.

During the intervening years ex members of Ramsgate, Margate and Broadstairs RAA Branches reformed as East Kent Branch, RAA and attempts were made to bring the bust back to its rightful custodians.

After several attempts to reclaim the bust, it was finally presented back to the Branch at a

ceremony in Woolwich where the bust was accepted by Cath Solly, Branch Secretary on behalf of its members and it resided for many years in the RBL Club, Ramsgate where the Branch held its meetings.

When Mr Albert Glynn, a WWII veteran and veteran of the 1941 Battle of Crete was elected Branch President, the bust was affectionately nicknamed Albert RA in his honour.

On the recent closure of the Ramsgate RBL Branch, 'Albert RA' was returned to members of the RAA.

Having no suitable place to lodge the bust the Branch agreed to donate it to Maurice House with whom the local RAA has a very long and enduring association and where many Gunners (including Albert Glynn) spent their last years and where many relatives of East Kent Branch members are currently employed.



### Wrexham Branch

On Friday 11th November, the year six pupils at Acton Park School presented a special Remembrance Day Assembly, reflecting upon those who have been killed, injured or affected by conflict.

The school has an historic link to the American Army, 400th Armoured Artillery Battalion whose soldiers were billeted in Acton during the Second World War. Connection to the present-day artillery is retained through a link with the Wrexham Branch Royal Artillery Association, a relationship which, the Headteacher is keen to preserve and maintain.

The Remembrance Day Assembly has become a long-established tradition at Acton Park School





and each year, members of the Wrexham Branch are invited to join pupils, parents, members of staff and governors to contemplate and honour the sacrifice of so many who gave their lives in support of freedom and democracy.

Poetry, written and narrated by the pupils, painted emotional scenes which refused to shy away from depicting the realities and horrors of war. The hard work, research and preparation were evidently reflected in the exceptionally high standard of production and presentation. The 'Last Post', followed by two minutes' silence and the National Anthems, concluded the performance.

On Saturday 22nd November at Wrexham's Yale College, The Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham visited the RAA stand to chat to Branch Members at the Wrexham Military Music Pageant.

Mr Ron Bailey and Mrs Joyce Toth represented the Wrexham Branch on 7th October at the Major of Wrexham's Charity Ball.



### RAA Secretary Visits

As I mark the end of my first 6 months, during which it has been an honour to be your Association Secretary. I was reflecting on how many of you I have managed to visit. Whilst the summer was filled with a number of regional events, which were a great way of meeting large numbers of you, the winter events have been very much more individual branch focused.

I have been privileged to be invited to a whole host of events including Winter Balls, Xmas Lunches and Christmas Dinners. I have been looked

after supremely by Shoeburyness, nourished in Norwich and treated to a wonderful evening in Wrexham. I have been fortunate to meet all our branch members along with other guests which have included Chelsea Pensioners, distinguished local dignitaries, as well as some of our fantastic serving Gunners who are superbly engaging with their local or affiliated branches. As I write this (deadlines to make) I still have several invites still to fulfil including Canterbury and Newbury, I am also looking forward to closing a number of visit plans in the new year to South Wales, Northern Ireland and Germany.

My visits have been made even more special in that, for many after a challenging couple of years it has been the first time you have also been able to come together. For now, all that is left for me to do is wish you all the best for Christmas, and I hope for you all, all that you hope for yourselves in 2023.

### 94th Field of Remembrance

Her Majesty The Queen Consort opened the 94th Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on 10th November 2022. The Annual event marks the start of the nation's Remembrance commemorations and has been held every year since 1928.

Last Post was sounded from the parapet of St Margaret's Church by a bandsman from the Scots Guards.

After the observance of two minutes' silence, The Queen Consort toured the Field meeting veterans, representatives from the military organisations and members of the public. As we remember the fallen, The Queen Consort met three Mothers of Royal Artillery Officers'; Captain Tom Sawyer RA - 29 Cdo Regt RA, Lieutenant Aaron Lewis RA - 29 Cdo Regt RA and Captain Alex Eida RHA - 7 PARA RHA.

### We Will Remember Them

#### Elizabeth Cross Presentation

On the 15th November 2022, Brigadier JGE Stenhouse DSC MBE, Commander 11th Security Force Assistance Brigade hosted the presentation of the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll to families of three servicemen; Major Edwin Alexander RA, Corporal Andrew George McIlvenny Royal Engineers and Private Peter John Davies The King's Shropshire Light Infantry.



The presentation was made by His Majesty Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esquire to Mr Andrew Gillett, nephew of 187361 Major Edwin Alexander Andrews who was KIA, October 1958 in Cyprus.

### RACF Fundraising

Members of 32 Regiment RA conducted a 1k Row, 2k Run and 3k Cycle continuously for 45 hours over 28-30 November, raising an amazing £1,762 for the RACF. Thank you to everyone involved.

Members of 46 (Talavera Bty) and the QM Tech Dept took part in a half marathon run the scenic route of Alton Towers on 12th November raising funds for the RACF, fundraising £1,286. A great achievement.

### 5 Regiment RA

53 (Louisburg) Bty successfully completed a gruelling 70 mile march to Newcastle along Hadrian's Wall to raise money for the RACF, finishing under their 24 hr target in just over 22 hrs. Great effort 53!

K (Hondegheem) Bty completed a fitness event covering the distance from Marne Barracks to Hondegheem, France - 1,200 of cycling, rowing, running and skiing, raising £385. Great team work.

### RACF SUPPORT TO THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY

At the end of October this year the RACF have helped to pledge 665 grants totalling £548k. The area where the most help is needed was household goods and we awarded £96k to help Regimental family to those struggling to fund household goods such as cookers, carpets and other essential household items. £91k was granted to help with mobility support including EPV's, riser recliner's and mobility items. Other areas include funeral grants, critical household arrears, house moves, care home fees and house maintenance costs. Our unit welfare officers and their teams have been instrumental in providing us with case's for our Serving Regiments and we have provided £65k in help.

If you have a concern about finding the money for something you need, please contact us. We cannot however help with medical or legal fees.

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

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

### Thank You's

*'Thank you very much; I shall put it towards my oil order'*

*'Thank you so much for all of your help you have made a difference to my life.'*

*'At this time of year it is greatly appreciated'*

*'My family and I would like to send huge thanks... hugely appreciated and most definitely needed...god bless'*

*'I feel humbled by your generous gesture - it will most certainly be put to good use'*





# New Year. New Pension Choices. Join us. Job done.

Making the right pension choices at key stages in your Service career is crucial to your long-term financial future (even choosing the right time to leave can have a significant impact on the pension you receive). But 2023 brings with it, added complexity.

By now, you will be aware of the McCloud case and the resulting Remedy. This affects all those serving on or before 31 st March 2012 and on or after 1 st April 2015 (including service leavers). You will have to choose between the benefits of your legacy scheme and AFPS15 for the remedy period. And the choice will be available to service leavers from this October onwards.

Whether you continue serving or are in Resettlement, this will involve making a critical choice. To be sure you make the best of your options, join the Forces Pension Society and access the guidance provided by our expert team of Forces Pensions Consultants. It could be the best New Year resolution you make.

## Independent, not-for-profit

Independence is vital to our work, 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 Sector Pensions.

We are funded by our Members' subscriptions. Any surplus helps fund our outreach programmes of Roadshows, Webinars and our attendance at CTP Employment Fairs.

## Visit: [forcespensionsociety.org/join-now/](https://forcespensionsociety.org/join-now/)

Annual membership for you and your spouse/partner is just **£43**. You will have exclusive access to our Forces Pensions Consultants, our informative Members' Webinars and you'll receive our bi-annual e-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 travel policies) plus a great deal more.



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## IT PAYS TO UNDERSTAND YOUR PENSION

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68, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, London, SW8 1RL  
Tel: 020 7820 9988 E: [memsec@forpen.co.uk](mailto:memsec@forpen.co.uk) [www.forcespensionsociety.org](http://www.forcespensionsociety.org)



## NOTICES

### REUNIONS

#### 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. Please contact the reunion lead, WO2 Wheeler at: [30batteryrcoy@gmail.com](mailto:30batteryrcoy@gmail.com)

#### 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](mailto:richardanderson@alsgroup.co.uk) and I will send you all the 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. 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.

#### ARMY APPRENTICES NATIONAL ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF ARMY APPRENTICES

13th-14th May 2023, Mickleover Court Hotel, Derby DE3 0XX, and the National Memorial Arboretum. Contact: [info.armyana@gmail.com](mailto:info.armyana@gmail.com)

#### ATTENTION ALL EX-25 ERS

2024 will see the 40th anniversary of the demise of the best gun Regiment of its day. We have just celebrated the 38th disbandment reunion in the usual fashion, kind courtesy of 204 Battery at Kingston Park, Newcastle, with circa 120 in attendance. There is still an intent to run the same again next year (Fri 16 and Sat 17 Jun 23).

The planning dates are therefore Mon 24, Tue 25 and Wed 26 Jun 24. Indeed Tom Robson has managed to secure a number of quality rooms at the County Hotel and the Vermont and will underwrite the accommodation for the period through his company as a charitable benefit. We have made provisional arrangements with Newcastle's St Nicholas Cathedral, for a commemoration/celebration service hopefully supported by the Newcastle Scottish Pipes and Drums with 25 pounder gate guards and uniformed ushers provided by 101 Regiment RA, for 1500 hrs Wed 26 Jun. We will also be providing live entertainment and a finger buffet all at no cost to those attending. So at the moment participants should arrive on Mon 24 for a free day. Tue 25 you have the choice of afternoon tea for the ladies and a pie and pint for the men or whichever way round you prefer! Wed 26 Cathedral Service at 1500 hrs and as mentioned above this would be followed by a reception for our guests and a party in the evening as the main event. Come on boys and girls none of us are getting any younger and to aim off for a 50th celebration might be pushing it a bit so this is the big chance for one rememberable great reunion. Please sign in or request to join '25 Regt RA - 40th Anniversary' for further information.

#### ROYAL ARTILLERY OFFICERS' ALANBROOKE LUNCH THU 2 MAR 23



The next Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Lunch is on Thu 2 Mar 23 at The Army & Navy Club, St James's Square, London. Drinks 1200. Lunch 1245. The Alanbrooke Lunch Club is open to all Gunners officers, Regular and Reserve, whether serving or retired. The lunches cost £65 and the price includes pre-lunch drink, wine and port. A cash bar is available after 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 £65 to the Royal Artillery Benevolent 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 Benevolent Fund' to the Regimental Artillery Secretariat Officer, Mrs Emma Pagan-Skelley. If you make a bank transfer please email the Royal Artillery Secretariat Officer 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 Royal Artillery Secretariat Officer Emm.Pagan-Skelley100@mod.gov.uk*

#### SPRING DINNER

The Spring Dinner 2023 will be held in the RA Mess Larkhill on Thursday, 20 April at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. The dinner will take the form of a Regimental 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. For places, please apply to Jennifer McGrath either by email: [Jennifer.mcgrath924@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Jennifer.mcgrath924@mod.gov.uk) or for further information please telephone 01980 845788. Places are confirmed upon receipt of payment as follows: BACS: RAI, 30-11-75, 00957269 (please prefix payment reference with SD23) 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 15 Jun 23. 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 23. 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. Please contact Mrs Emma Pagan-Skelley - [emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk) or Tel 0300 155 6172





# LAST POST

Notification of Death:

Alex Kutscherawy 11 November 2022  
Pete Falon 25 November 2022  
Rowland Flitcroft November 2022  
Derek Varley November 2022  
Ray Adams November 2022

**BRAYSHAW** - Maj Clive Reginald Brayshaw MBE died on 14 November 2022 at his home in Balmaclellan, Kirkcudbrightshire.

**PARTRIDGE** - Gnr Malcolm Partridge 22 Jan 1933 - 03 Nov 22. Malcolm first had an interest in the Military joining 223 SQN Air Training Corps on 10 Jun 1950 Cadets. 22476955 Gnr Malcolm Partridge enlisted into National Service 5 Apr 1951 - Old Park Camp, Oswestry following basic training completed 18 Apr 1951 he was posted to 40 Field Regt RA BAOR 14 in Dortmund Germany where he specialised in Comms what we call today G6 - during his time in Germany Malcolm took up boxing as a sport and represented 40 Regt RA as part of the Army Boxing Team and was very successful. In Feb 52 Malcolm volunteered for Service in Korea until Dec 52 mentioned in despatches for bravery - serving with 14 Fd Regt RA Fox Troop 13 BTY. Malcolm received the Korean Medal, UN Medal & the Oak Leaf and a mention in despatches for Bravery & distinguished service published in the London Gazette on 9 Sep 1952 signed by Antony Head then Secretary of State for War. Decorated by Gen Sir James Cassells in the field the youngest British Soldier to be decorated in Korea at the age of 19 yrs & 3 mths. Malcolm recalls a night in Dec 1952 when the enemy attacked, then withdrew and had left a Xmas tree and presents

at the bottom of their hill. Malcolm att to the Kings Liverpool Regt was the last man out on Xmas Morning and at 0530 hrs was sent to Pusan for Xmas Dinner. Poem written by Pte D H Keenen - whilst serving with Malcolm in Korea:

*When the smoke of Battle Thickens  
And there's blood upon the trail  
Keep the shrapnel moving forward  
Bursting through the front like hail  
Do your duty like a Gunner  
Let the beggars know what we are sending  
What's expected from  
The Royal Artillery.*



**Malcolm you have served your Queen & Country - Stand down - God speed.**

**PILLING** - WO2 Brian Pilling died unexpectedly whilst orienteering in Southwood Country Park, Farnborough on 15 October 2022 aged 74. All his 28 years of military service was spent with 7 Para RHA in Aldershot and Germany. Much loved and missed by family and friends.

## RA Historical Society Winter Programme

Date and Timings	Event	Subject	Lecturer/Lead	Bookings Close	Cost per Head
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.



# Captain AAPN (Sandy) Rogers HAC



With the passing of Sandy Rogers the HAC has lost one of it's really great characters. He was a real eccentric with boundless energy and an irrepressible sense of humour. He was at almost every HAC event, often behind his camera. He seemed to know everyone and remembered all their names.

Sandy was born in Snaresbrook, Essex in 1935. His father was an engineer and the family moved first to Doncaster during World War II, where he worked on weaponry and then to Bradford where he was involved in the manufacture of parts for Lancaster bombers.

Sandy went to Bembridge School, which had moved from the Isle of Wight to Coniston in the Lake District for the duration of the war. The school followed the experimental ideas of John Ruskin, the Victorian philosopher and writer and provided an unconventional education lacking in formal structure which suited Sandy admirably, allowing him to get up to all sorts of mischief.

Called up for National Service in November 1953 he joined 69 Regiment RA in Oswestry as a gunner. He later transferred to the Army Emergency Reserve and then to the Territorial Army, joining B Battery HAC in June 1958 as a driver/wireless operator for a Matador gun tractor. As a full-time student at the time, he could sometimes take time off to collect the 25-pounder ammunition for salutes from the Hyde Park Magazine, and deliver it to the Tower of London.

In 1962 work took him north and he was attached to 253 Regiment RA (The Bolton Artillery) and while there was selected for officer training. In the 1967 cuts the regiment was disbanded. Sandy transferred to RARO, but was back in the HAC again by 1970, serving in the Officers' Battery. In 1973, with the advent of the stay-behind OP role for the HAC he joined 2 Sqn under Brian Kay. In 1974 he transferred to CVHQ RA at Woolwich, serving as a watchkeeper Arty Ops in 4 Armoured Division.

In 1985 he transferred again to the Home Service Force and was appointed 2IC of E (Leros) Company HSF, 5 Queens(V) in Canterbury. In 1992 he somehow managed to swing camp with 2 Queens in the Falkland Islands. Later that year the HSF was disbanded, but as a qualified engineer he was able to obtain an attachment to 133 (Kent) Workshop Coy REME (V) and attended annual camp in Suffield, Canada where his main function was to recce and report

on workshop facilities prior to the main deployment. He finally retired from military service on his 60th birthday in 1995.

In 1979 he had become one of the founder members of the HAC's Light Cavalry. He took part in the HAC's centenary visit to its sister company, the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts in Boston in 2003, riding in the June Day procession and in 2008 he joined a party which visited India as guest of the President's Bodyguard, an elite household cavalry regiment of the India Army.

His professional life was very varied. He studied as an electrical engineer at Regent Street Polytechnic, working as a ship's engineer in the holidays, travelling around the world. He then worked at AEI at Trafford Park before moving down to London, and then to Dover, working in various engineering posts including selling diesel electric railway engines internationally. The manufacture of harpsichords and sailing boats followed, made at home in Faversham on the dining room table, and in the garage. Not only did he build boats, but when he needed to transport them, he would make a roof rack as well. At least one harpsichord was delivered to what was then Yugoslavia, driving his very battered Hillman Avenger over the Alps in the depths of winter without a working heater! After that he worked as an engineer in an art college, and then





changed altogether to become a fundraiser first for the Missions to Seamen, and later the Sea Cadets. His last venture was to make and sell handmade terracotta tiles, fired in a kiln he'd built.

In the 1970s, while recovering from a serious hand injury, he took up painting and became a very accomplished watercolour painter. A number of his works, often painted on his travels, became his Christmas cards and many recipients have kept theirs. One year, when serving with CVHQ, the officers of 4th Armoured Division mobilised Sandy for an exercise with paintbrushes and easel. He produced a beautiful watercolour of the area where the exercise was taking place, framed it and it was presented to the departing GOC.

Some of Sandy's and his wife Patsy's friends were quite bohemian and unconventional - artists, musicians, sailors. One HAC member, calling

in to see him, came upon an art club session taking place with naked ladies disporting themselves in his garden as sitters for his artist friends.

He had learned to ride during National Service, and was so keen he was riding only a week after he'd badly broken his foot. Unfortunately, he met the nurse who had plastered his leg in the middle of a cornfield (with her boyfriend) who ticked him off severely for riding with a leg in plaster, particularly when she discovered riding had broken the plaster! He was a member of the HAC Saddle Club and won the Sphinx Trophy in the jumping competition held at King's Troop in St John's Wood in 1995.

He was a member of the Light Cavalry Rifle Club. Sometimes arriving at his front door you might have been forgiven for thinking that a kettle had boiled dry, but no, Sandy was boiling up lead on

the kitchen stove to make bullets for his 1853 muzzle-loading rifle.

He also had a strong sense of civic duty, chasing and tackling thieves, making citizens arrests, even obliging one young man to scrub clean the wall on which he'd ill-advisedly urinated.

The Revd Simon Rowlands, vicar of St Mary of Charity Faversham, who took his memorial service recounted how, shortly after arriving in Faversham he was mobilised for six months' service in Afghanistan as a reservist chaplain. Sandy visited his wife Gail every week for those six months, to check that all was well with her.

Sandy is survived by his wife Patsy, his son Ben and daughters Jane, Charlotte and Emily. As one friend commented, "I can't imagine any dinner or HAC event without Sandy."

**Richard Peters & Emily Rogers**

## Brigadier John Rigby

Brig John Rigby, who has died aged 96, saw active service in World War II, Palestine and Borneo and played a notable role in the MOD's direction of operations in Cyprus in 1974.

Rigby was old enough to join up in 1944 but too young to serve on operations before the war ended a year later. In Palestine in 1947 as a young officer he was responsible for guarding a terrorist internment camp and at one point had an "important meeting" with the King of Jordan (but by the time he told his family aged 94 he could not remember why!) In 1974, several months after he led the establishment in the MOD of the

first tri-service military operations hub, Turkey invaded northern Cyprus and the new creation's usefulness was immediately tested. At one meeting the Foreign Secretary, Jim Callaghan, suggested that the RAF target Turkey's supply routes into Cyprus which implied strikes on mainland Turkey, a NATO ally. Seeing little support from the Defence Chiefs, he turned to Col Rigby, probably the most junior officer in the room, to seek his opinion. Rigby supported the conventional military advice which did not help Callaghan but as a career move was wise.

After months of sleeping in the office and providing briefings 24

hours a day, 7 days a week, Rigby was promoted to Brigadier and given command of the artillery missile base in the Outer Hebrides.

John Richard Rigby was born in Folkestone on August 5th 1926. His father, Capt Tom Rigby DSO, MC, RHA, was a veteran of World War I, while his mother, Ruth Brown, was the daughter of an Australian missionary and chaplain to the Residence in Hyderabad, India. Aged six the young John Rigby was left in England at a boarding school to be looked after by his paternal grandparents and maiden aunts while his parents and younger sister moved back to India.



The sense of abandonment remained with him for the rest of his life. However, he enjoyed Winchester College during the war, where he was Head of his House, a successful games player and emerged with the classical and analytical education for which that school is famous. While there he set the school record for high jump which stood for several decades, and in 1946 was also the British Army's high jump champion.

He left Winchester College in 1944 and joined The King's Royal Rifle Corps (60th) who were based just across the road from his school. After basic training and six months as a Rifleman he was commissioned in 1946 but was too late to see action in the War. Later in his career he observed that "either you had or you hadn't" fought in World War II, and as a career soldier he noted the added camaraderie among those who "had". By 1948 he also faced the drastic cuts in military personnel so transferred to the Royal Artillery where a regular commission in his father's regiment looked a better bet than remaining in the Black Mafia as the Rifle Corps/Greenjackets were known. The move turned out well and he joined Chestnut Troop, Royal Horse Artillery in 1949 and served in Tripoli and the Canal Zone, at one point being summoned to see the regional Commander Royal Artillery, one Brig Tom Rigby.

In 1957 he attended the Staff College at Camberley, an initial training which was followed up later in his career as both student and then instructor at the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer. He made friends on these courses with whom he worked

regularly during the rest of his career, especially Nigel Bagnall (later CGS and Field Marshall) with whom he worked in the MOD, in Borneo and as commanding officers of their regiments in Germany. From 1967-70 Rigby commanded 94 Locating Regiment in BAOR where his non-technical background provided traditional common sense and leadership for a highly technical military unit. When Soviet tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia in what became known as the Prague Spring in 1968, the cold war became decidedly hot and every regiment in Germany sat in armoured vehicles with the engines running waiting for the order to deploy, which thankfully never came. After this command and his time as an instructor at Latimer he was promoted to Colonel and posted to Hong Kong as Chief of Staff in HQ Land Forces. Hong Kong has always been a dynamic and unusual city and in the 1970s had its own challenges. China was closed, impoverished and still suffering the Cultural Revolution (and communist riots on the streets of Hong Kong had dominated 1968-70). The Vietnam war brought endless US troop ships and Vietnamese refugee ships to Hong Kong harbour. The great and progressive Governor, Sir Murray Maclehoose, was modernising the city and providing a limited welfare state. Rigby had an interesting job at the heart of much of what was happening and his family were able to take full advantage of an enjoyable military ex-patriate lifestyle.

In 1974 he was posted back to the MOD in London to a new tri-service military operations hub where most of his stint was consumed by the Cyprus crisis. In 1975 on promotion

to Brigadier he commanded first the Artillery missile range in the Outer Hebrides and then a TA Artillery Brigade and Chester Garrison. After 5 years in command appointments (and the last two as an honorary ADC to the Queen), he retired early in 1980, aged 53, not wishing to return to a more humdrum life in a pre-retirement staff job. He was a robust commanding officer, a "safe pair of hands," and a skilful staff officer. He did not suffer fools gladly which combined with a short temper could be disconcerting but he was well liked and respected by those with whom he worked. He had a strong sense of humour, a quick wit and a modern turn of phrase which reflected his love of the English language.

After 36 years constantly on the move, 23 while married, he was keen to return to the family house in Suffolk to try a more settled life. For ten years he commuted to Chelmsford as a director and vice chairman of the British Red Cross in Essex and Suffolk. He also became associated with numerous ex-army and local charities, but ultimately devoted most time to Long Melford's Holy Trinity Church, a beautiful building the size of a cathedral which Simon Jenkins placed in his top ten in the country in his book, "1,000 Best Churches in England". He had always been a keen golfer and played well into his '80s with a wide circle of golfing friends.

In 1956 he married Patricia Mary-Rose McKillop (known as Tissa), the daughter of Capt Alec Murray McKillop (DSC RN) and Frances (nee Playfair). She survives him, as do their three children, Simon and Charlie who both spent some of their '20s in the army, and Juliet.

**Simon Rigby**





## Press Release

**Why The Forces Pension Society is pressing the Government on issues concerning your pension.**

**Maj Gen Neil Marshall, CEO, Forces Pension Society**

**Right now there are two big issues affecting Armed Forces Pensions.**

The first you will be aware of, and that's the 2015 Remedy (McCloud). The Society pressed government not only to correct their mistake but to choose the remedy that will work best for Forces personnel. Our efforts were successful, resulting in Deferred Choice Underpin being selected, putting you in the best possible position to make an informed choice at the point of your departure. But the implementation of the remedy is highly complex and meeting the October 2023 deadline is proving challenging for the Government to achieve. We will monitor this closely, continue holding the Government to account and reporting on progress.

**The second issue is about who pays for the Government's initial mistake.**

When AFPS15 was introduced, a cost-control mechanism (CCM) was established to ensure Public Services Pensions were maintained within a fixed range (+/- 2%) to protect taxpayers and scheme members alike. The latest calculation found that the cost of member benefits has fallen by 4.1% of pay, and an improvement to the 2015 Scheme for the Armed Forces was agreed. But this was suspended whilst Government considered the consequences of the costs associated with the 2015 Remedy.

Government now wants to include these costs (estimated at £17Bn) within the CCM calculations, denying members' previously agreed improvements to their benefits. In effect, this could mean that those serving our country will have smaller pensions in order to pay for the Government's error. A judicial review is being undertaken to resolve the dispute.

The Society's view is that both the letter and the spirit of the previous agreements means this Government should do the right thing now and absorb the costs of the 2015 Remedy.

**If you want to find out more about the Forces Pension Society's work and how you can become a Member, visit [www.forcespensionsociety.org](http://www.forcespensionsociety.org). We give you a voice where it counts, on the representative bodies for Armed Forces and Public Sector Pensions. And the larger our membership (currently approaching 65,000), the greater our influence**



## THE COMBINED SERVICES POINT TO POINT LARKHILL RACECOURSE

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## POINT TO POINT Race Meetings 2022-2023 Season

MEETING	DATE	First Race Start Time
Avon Vale	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	11.00 am
The Larkhill Racing Club	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	11.30 am
The Royal Artillery	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	11.30 am
Combined Services	Sunday 05 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	12.45 pm
South & West Wilts	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	12.00 noon
New Forest Hounds	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	12.30 pm

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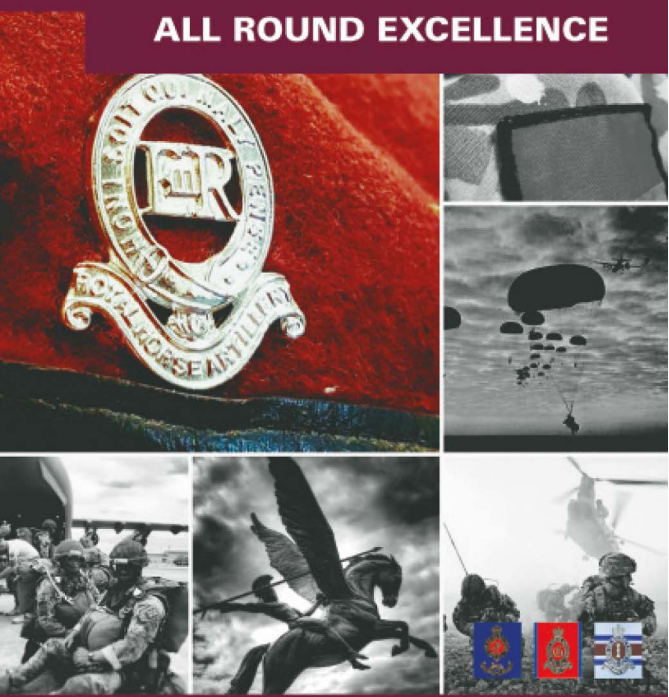
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# 7 Para RHA

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# 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 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Tickets at the discounted price of £14 can be booked online at <https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/sandown/events-tickets/royal-artillery-gold-cup-day/> using the 'Ubique' promotional code. Bookings are now open.



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. This will include:

- Two-course buffet including dessert
- Pay as you go bar (Card payments only)
- Private lounge, with shared tables
- Gallery Badges and admission tickets included

£45 per person, please contact the Sandown Park hospitality team on 01372 477747 or by emailing [London.Hospitality@thejockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:London.Hospitality@thejockeyclub.co.uk)

Please quote the 'Ubique' promotional code

Entry to The Gallery will be restricted to badge holders only until 1400.

Please note that for 2023 entry to the whole course is being offered at the standard Grandstand entry price of £14.00.

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](mailto:emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk) . Tel: 0300 155 6172



