



JANUARY 2026



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The Larkhill-based team that supplies you Gunner.

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Gunner Rules

Guidance on Submissions

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

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

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

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

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Gunner Publications

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

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GUNNER



JANUARY 2026
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12th Regiment Royal Artillery
live firing on Exercise
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'An honour' - KGA soldier reflects on why the Gurkha Artillery Regiment's historic formation is important for him - and us all.

Lance Bombardier Pawan Gurung

“ I was deployed on Operation Scorpius in Poland when I heard the news – news that would be a defining moment in my Army career.

I had been selected to join the first Artillery Regiment in the history of the Brigade of Gurkhas - The King's Gurkha Artillery.

And as I found myself standing at the cap-badging ceremony alongside 80 others, I was incredibly proud, because it signified not only our formal transition into the KGA, but also the birth of a regiment that stands for adaptability, professionalism and that, I know, will support the enduring legacy of Gurkha soldiers.

Leaving my former regiment, The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment, was not an easy decision. I had spent the past three years there, developing myself and forming the foundations of my military career.

However, when the opportunity to join KGA arose, I knew straight away it was something I wanted. The chance to take on a new challenge - and contribute to a historic formation - made it irresistible.

I began with a two-week induction package which prepared me for life in the artillery and familiarised me with the regiment's history, system, procedures and routines.

This was followed by the Driver Signaller Course and the level 2 Gunner Command System Course, since I am ACS by trade. These gave me the knowledge and skills needed to operate effectively in the Royal Artillery. Learning new systems and procedures was challenging, but the professionalism and support of instructors and fellow soldiers made the transition both manageable and rewarding.

Unforgettable

After training, I deployed to Sennybridge Training Area on my first ever artillery exercise, Combined Warrior 2025. It was a landmark moment, featuring the King's Gurkha Artillery's first ever live fire mission. As a Signaller, I supported artillery activity from the command post ensuring accurate and timely

transmission of fire orders between forward observers and the gun line. I also learned how to set up a command post tactically and rapidly in harsh conditions, adding a hands-on dimension to my training.

Hearing the loud bang of light gun fire during my first fire mission was unforgettable.

Later in the year, I was honoured to be selected to join the gold-winning KGA team on Exercise Cambrian Patrol, one of the toughest and most prestigious international patrolling exercises. Securing the gold medal was an historic achievement for the regiment and set a benchmark of professionalism, discipline and hard work for future KGA teams.

Growing legacy

I have since completed my Gunner to Lance Bombardier ALDP course and returned from another Exercise Combined Warrior, which further built my confidence and experience.

With each deployment my understanding of artillery procedures and ability to contribute effectively within the regiment grows.

I am now preparing and looking forward to the Advanced Signaller and Level 3 Gunner Command System Course - important steps towards becoming fully qualified at my rank and strengthening my skills in support of the KGA and the Royal Artillery.

The transition into the artillery regiment has been smooth and professionally rewarding. Working alongside British soldiers - learning from one another, supporting each other, and upholding Gurkha traditions - has really strengthened cohesion. I'm grateful to all the instructors and soldiers whose guidance has helped us learn our trade.

I'm proud to be part of the early days of the King's Gurkha Artillery. From the cap badge presentation to courses, live fire training and major exercises, each step has reinforced my belief in the regiment's future.

It's an honour to serve right from the beginning - contribute to a wonderful growing legacy. **“**



ROYAL ARTILLERY GOLD CUP

Sandown Park Thursday 19th February 2026



AN AFTERNOON OF QUALITY JUMP RACING

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. Regiments will again be setting up co-located focal points, within a dedicated Gunner area, 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 Winner 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.

General Admission Royal Artillery Package - £36

Discounted to £24 using code: RAPACK26

Includes admission and wristband for selected discounted food and drinks

General admission tickets (no wristband) - £22

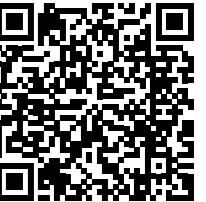
Discounted to £14 using code UBIQUE26

Wristbands will be available to purchase on the day @£12

We can also provide a Veterans Hospitality Experience which includes lunch at £55 PP
Please book directly with the Hospitality team on 01372 477747, quoting code UBIQUE26

Purchase tickets by scanning the QR Code

Tickets can be booked online here
<https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/sandown/events-tickets/royal-artillery-gold-cup-day/>





Royal Garrison Church, Larkhill



In-Pensioners, RHC & Standard Bearers



Mr Tony Broadbent, 3 RHA Red Cypher PPMA



Brigadier (Retd) Mark Pountain CBE, Chairman RAA



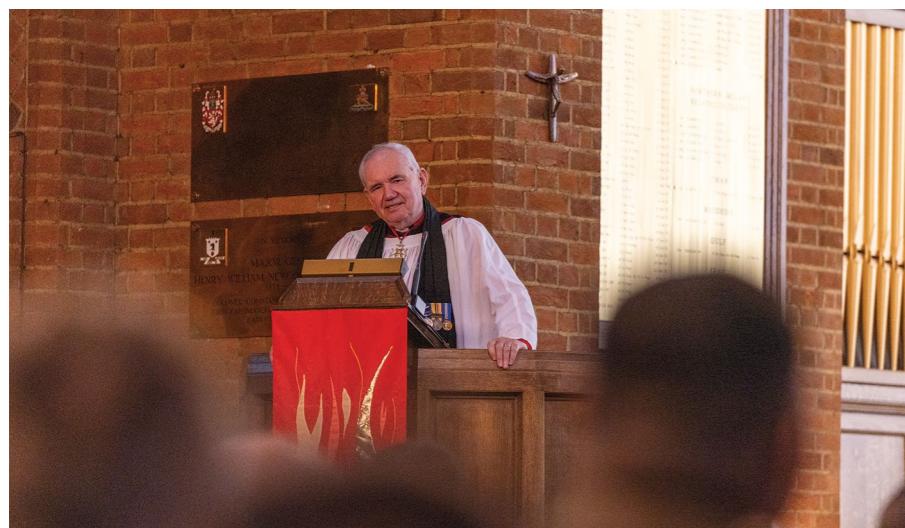
Master Gunner St James's Park and Chair, RAA inspect Larkhill scouts



National Standard Bearer, Mark Ballard



Mr John Dolphin, Birmingham Branch



Venerable Stephen Robbins CB, Honorary Chaplain



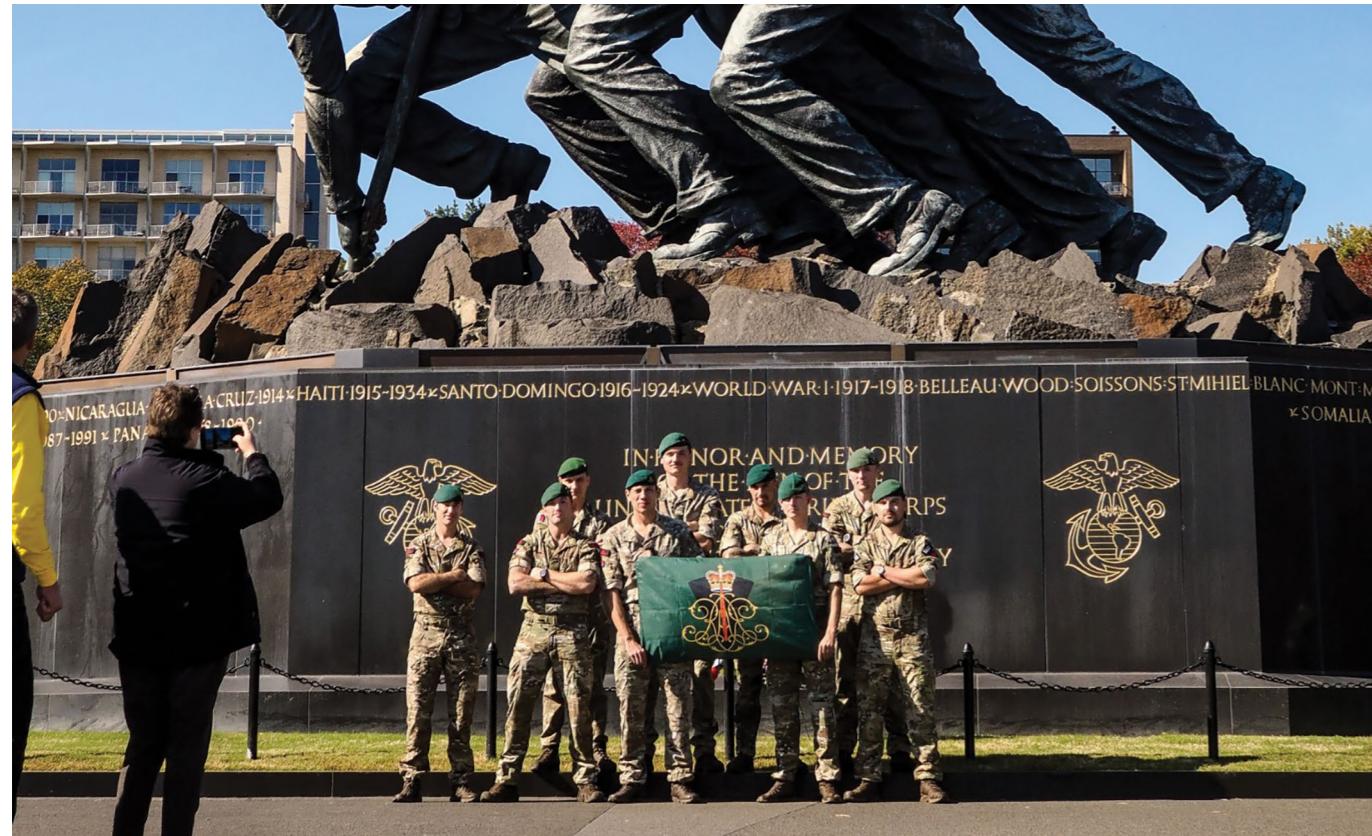
Master Gunner St James's Park inspects Standard Bearers



Standard Bearers



Running with Purpose: Celebrating 50 Years of the USMC Marathon



IWO Jima Marine Memorial

A historic milestone in Washington, D.C.: Exercise SEMPER FI DAGGER

This year marked a significant moment in endurance sports and military tradition: the **50th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps Marathon**. Known affectionately as "The People's Marathon," the event drew thousands of runners and supporters to the streets of Washington, D.C., in a powerful celebration of unity, resilience, and service.

International Participation and Allied Spirit

Among the participants were **10 mixed-rank members** of 29 Commando Royal Artillery, proudly representing their units and countries. Their presence highlighted the enduring bond between allied militaries and the shared values of discipline, perseverance, and mutual respect.

From junior soldiers to senior leadership, the team ran shoulder to shoulder with thousands

of others, embodying the spirit of international camaraderie and military pride.

Perfect Conditions and Unforgettable Support

The marathon route offered a scenic and symbolic journey through the heart of the U.S. capital – from the National Mall to Arlington Memorial Bridge. The weather was ideal: crisp autumn air, clear skies, and just enough warmth to keep runners comfortable.

Crowds lined the streets in full force, waving flags, cheering enthusiastically, and offering encouragement that lifted spirits and pushed runners forward. The atmosphere was electric, and the support from spectators was deeply felt by all participants.

Strong Finishes and Team Pride

All ten 29 Cdo runners completed the marathon with commendable finish times, demonstrating not only physical endurance



but also the strength of their team spirit. Their performance was a testament to their preparation, determination, and the pride they carried in representing their regiment.

Gratitude to Supporting Charities

The 29 team would like to express sincere thanks to the **Royal Artillery Charity** and the **REME Charity** for their generous support. Their contributions were instrumental in enabling the team to deploy and take part in this prestigious event. Without their backing, this memorable experience would not have been possible.

A Tribute to Service and Tradition

As the Marine Corps Marathon celebrates its golden jubilee, it continues to stand as more than just a race. It is a living tribute – to service, sacrifice, and the enduring human spirit. For those who ran, supported, or simply stood in awe, the 50th anniversary was a reminder that some traditions only grow stronger with time.

Semper Fi.

by WO1 Jonathan Payne
Wksp ASM

29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery



IWO Jima Marine Memorial



Standard Bearers marching on



Trumpeters from KTRHA play the Last Post



The Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Band



1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery march past



Wreath-laying commencing



RASM asks MGstJP to take position at the Memorial for the march past



RABSM dressing off 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery



Regimental Colonel, MGstJP and Brigadier Pountain



Left to right Capt Holland RHA, Capt Candy RHA and 2Lt Campbell RA conducting wreath laying

**Busy first few months ...**

Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL commanded by Sgt Paribartan Rai, seconded by Bdr Hikmat Pun Magar



Lama Guru giving prayers and blessing to the soldiers and families



Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall



Brig Charlie Harmer, Col of the King's Gurkha Artillery first official visit



Col of the King's Gurkha Artillery chatting with the families



Soldiers from the King's Gurkha Artillery at the Shri Swaminarayan temple in London



Brig Charlie Harmer, Col of the King's Gurkha Artillery signing the visitors book



King's Gurkha Orderly Officers at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall



Soldiers from the King's Gurkha Artillery at the Shri Swaminarayan temple in London



Gunner voices: Untold Artillery stories forever preserved



Leslie Gosling speaking to the Royal Artillery Museum in 2019

In 2019 the Royal Artillery Museum interviewed Captain Leslie Gosling, who recalled his time serving at the Battle of El Alamein. A clip of this was used in the Master Gunner's El Alamein Day Broadcast that year. Realising the importance of capturing more stories like this, the Royal Artillery Museum launched an Oral History Project with the aim of recording the memories and experiences of the Gunner family in conflict and in military life.

Spearheaded by one of the Royal Artillery Museum's enthusiastic volunteers, the project began to take shape in 2020. With advice from the BFBS, our volunteers were able to complete a series of video interviews covering experiences from Normandy to

Bosnia, recalling time spent in National Service, the BAOR, and Korea. While that initial stage of the project focused heavily on the memories of Gunners from World War II up to the 1960s, we were also able to record recollections from serving members of King's Troop about their role in the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

Speaking to the Royal Artillery Museum about his experience of serving in Korea, Brigadier Brian Parritt recounted one memorable story from the Battle of the Hook in 1953. Located in an area of tactical and strategic importance, when the battle commenced, the order was given for continuous fire. Arriving with extra ammunition, one officer from the RASC – a friend of Brian's from Sandhurst



– saw that the guns were red hot. He leapt from his cab, dunked his towel in a bucket of water and threw it over the barrel. The metal was so hot from the constant barrage that the towel burst into flames. A few weeks later in the officer's mess, the Gunners, including Brian, presented him with a bottle of whiskey and a new green towel!



Brian Parritt in uniform



Brian Parritt speaking to the Royal Artillery Museum in 2021

Among other interviews, we were fortunate to chat with Francis Goode, who served with 4 (Durham) Survey

Regiment in Normandy, as well as Molly Clarke and Grace Taylor, who shared their experiences serving alongside the Royal Artillery as part of the ATS during World War II. Sadly, both Francis and Molly have since passed away. Grace celebrated her 100th birthday last year.

The Oral History Project was badly disrupted by the pandemic between 2020 and 2022, but is back on track thanks to the continued support of the Royal Artillery Heritage Committee. With funding from the Royal Artillery Institution, the Museum has been able to employ a part time Archive Assistant whose main role is to work on the project. Ali Stump joined the team at the start of 2025, having previously worked in the archive at the Science Museum's National Collections Centre.

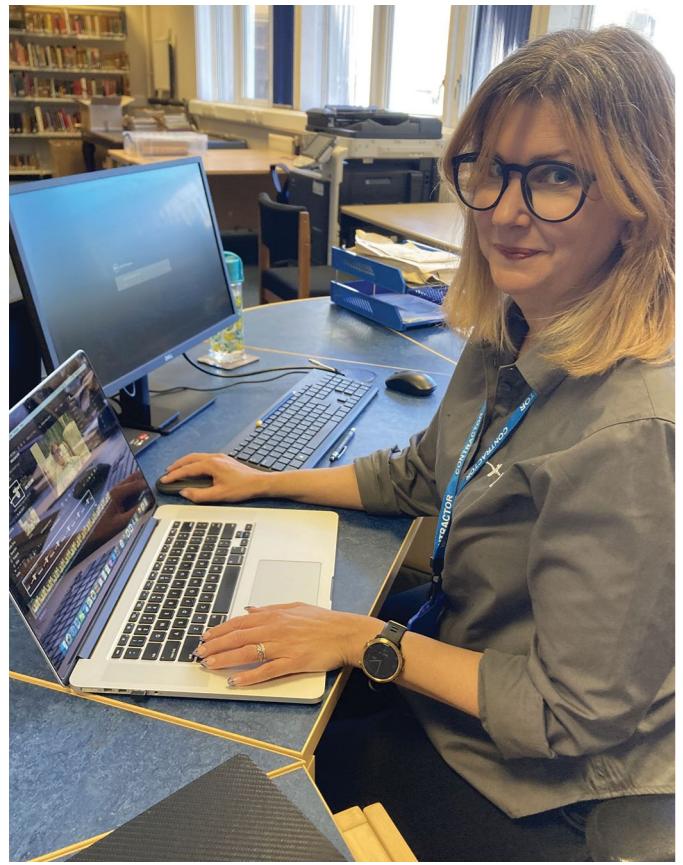
While we are still keen to hear from Gunners with experiences prior to 1960, as the project progresses we will be seeking to interview those who have served in more recent conflicts as well as capturing a range of other stories from the lives of today's Gunners and their families.

We have also started editing the full length interviews to create video shorts, for use on our website and social media channels. We hope they can also be used in future museum displays to help bring the story of the Royal Artillery to life.

In recording these video interviews, the Royal Artillery Museum aims to build an oral history archive that can be used for research, education, and public engagement, that covers many of the operations, theatres and Garrisons in which Gunners of every rank have served.



We need you!



Ali, Archive Assistant at Royal Artillery Museum

www.royalartillermuseum.com
www.facebook.com/royalartillermuseum

Our History

Home > About us > Our History

The Royal Artillery Museum is one of the world's oldest military museums. It first opened to the public in 1820, but the collection is even older than that.

The Royal Military Repository

In 1778, King George III instructed Lord Townshend, the Master-General of the Ordnance, to establish a "Repository for Military Machines" to provide the officers and soldiers of the Royal Artillery with improved training in the science and practice of artillery.



Historian and veteran honoured



Former Master Gunner St James's Park Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory

Major (Retd) Frank Baldwin is a Gunner veteran, military historian, battlefield heritage professional and member of the Commission for Military History. He has published numerous works including **Gunners in Normandy: The History of the Royal Artillery in North-West Europe, January 1942 to August 1944** which he completed after the death of Lieutenant Colonel Will Townend. It is for this work and his contribution to the heritage of the Royal Artillery that Frank was presented with the Alfred Burne Memorial Medal by the Former Master Gunner Sir Andrew Gregory at the RA Historical Society Shrapnel Lectures in October.

by Lt Col R S Clayton
 Royal Artillery Historical Society Secretary



Naked and Afraid: Apocalypse



WO2 Steven Kelly

A 29 Commando Gunner took Royal Artillery grit to Discovery Channel's toughest TV show.

WO2 Steven "Ste" Kelly appeared on Naked and Afraid: Apocalypse. No kit, no comfort—just fieldcraft, teamwork and attitude. Here's how a green beret Gunner applied soldiering fundamentals to survive on camera and why it matters to the Regiment.

"Out there, I had nothing"

When Naked and Afraid: Apocalypse dropped contestants into South Africa's abandoned spaces, WO2 Steven Kelly

swapped Bergan and bashas for the bare minimum: a blade, a fire kit and his head. "On ops you've got logistics and redundancy. Here, you've only got judgement," he says. The shock wasn't the heat or the bites—it was the silence between decisions. That head game is where Commando training pays off: routine under fatigue, humour under stress, and rapid risk assessment when resources are thin.

The challenge: survive, move, overcome

The format is brutal: no food, no water, no clothing, and no guaranteed extraction. Teams must scavenge, build shelter, purify water and



navigate to safety across hazardous ground—glass, rust, thorns, predators and heat. It's not a scenic hike; it's a rolling SERE style puzzle. For Kelly, Day 1 looked like this: site recce, triage tasks, set a water plan before sundown, build heat management into movement, then protect rest. "You can bluff a camera. You can't bluff dehydration," he notes.

Why this is a Gunner story

Commando Gunners are selected for adaptability. Earning the green beret via AACC proves you can think clearly when cold, wet, tired—and the clock keeps running. That habit travelled well to TV: self discipline, initiative, courage, and the ability to laugh when morale is thin. It's Ubique made visible—anywhere, by whatever route duty and glory lead.

The Commando transfer: soldiering that scales to survival

- Basics always:** Weapon becomes blade; ammo becomes water. The drill remains: service it, protect it, account for it.

- Navigation on low calories:** Micro check bearings, pace sensibly, and aim off to features you can actually hit. Poor nav is an energy leak.

- Team before self:** Task allocation—fire, water, shelter, security—beats solo heroics. The best camp is a system, not a stunt.

- Mindset wins days:** Routine (morning checks, evening admin) and humour keep the team cohesive and decision fit.

Lessons for the Regiment

- Resilience is trained, not gifted.** Controlled discomfort from AACC inoculates against shock when variables explode.

- Fieldcraft is a force multiplier.** Fire craft, water sourcing and shelter selection turn "nothing" into margin.

- Narrative matters.** British soldiers showing Values & Standards on global

platforms shapes public understanding of soldiering in 2025.

A word on risk

Television compresses days of graft into minutes. The invisible work is dozens of micro decisions: where to sit to reduce snake strike angles; when to carry embers vs rebuild; how to ration calories against nav legs; how hygiene routines prevent day ending infections. That quiet judgement is what we train—thinking under fatigue.

Why it resonates with Gunners

Artillery is systems thinking. Survival is a system too: inputs (water, calories, heat), processes (movement, security, hygiene), outputs (people who can move tomorrow). Kelly's stint shows that clear thinking under constraint—our bread and butter—travels from gun line to bush line.

Commando Gunner 101 (for families & new readers)

Who? 29 Commando Regiment RA—green beret Gunners supporting Commando Forces.

How? Pass the All Arms Commando Course at CTCRM Lympstone; earn the green beret.

Why? To deliver artillery effects with amphibious and littoral flexibility.

Kit you wish you had (but learn to live without)

- Stove > **ember & patience** (hand /bow drill only works if your tinder prep is gold)

- CamelBak > **purification on repeat** (fetch > filter > boil/treat > protect)

- Basha > **terrain led shelter** (wind/heat/insects dictate design)

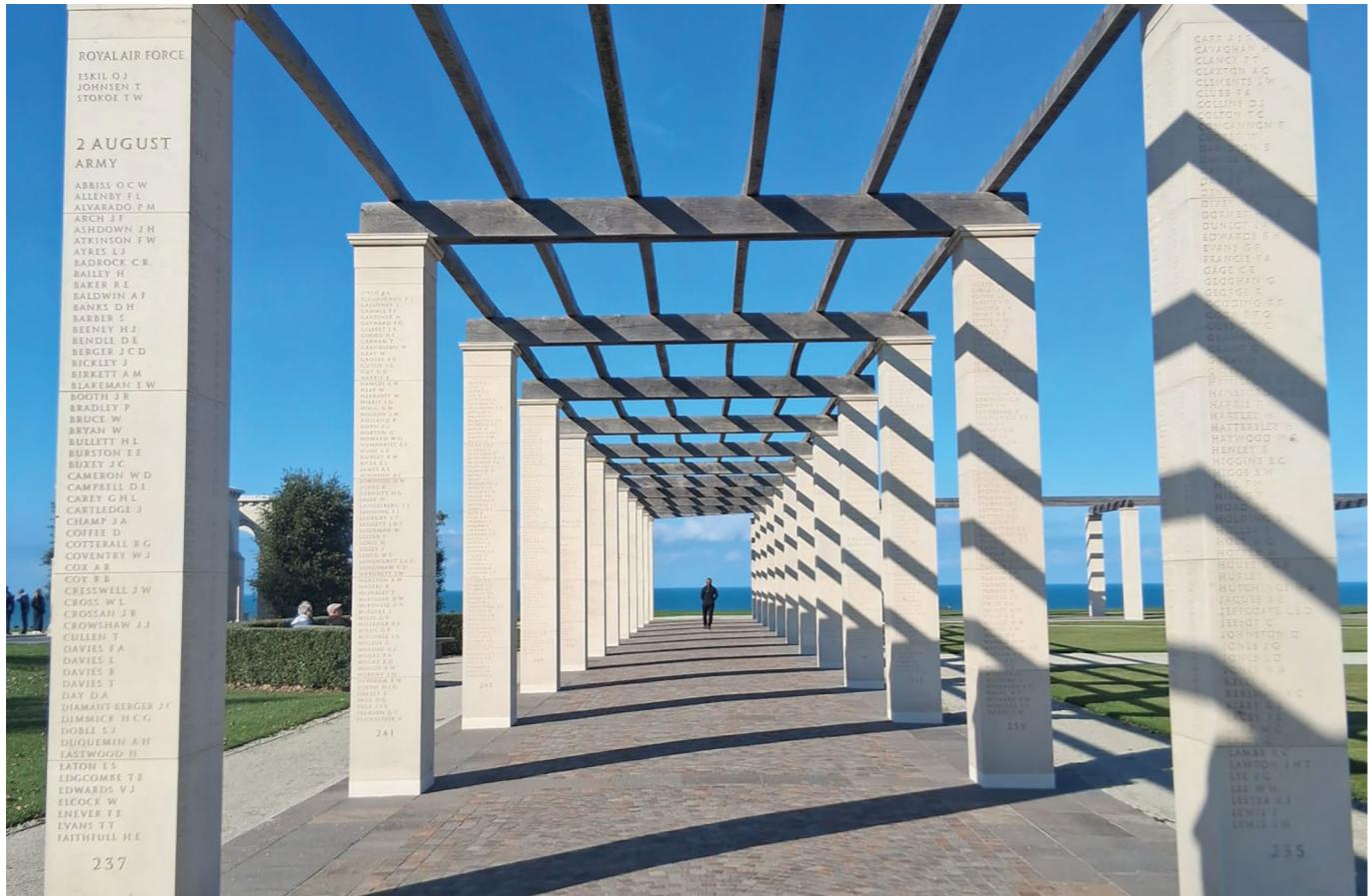
- MED pack > **preventive medicine** (hygiene beats heroics when resupply = zero)

Call to action (unit/community)

Speak to your CoC or contact the 29 Cdo RA careers cell.



Footsteps of history: Learning lessons from D-Day and beyond in Normandy



Normandy Memorial

As part of the Troop Commander Module, the Young Officers (YOs) deployed in October, on Ex YOUNG LIONS, a Battlefield Study to Normandy. The study involved the YOs presenting on a variety of topics and planning problems faced by both Allied and German forces. The YOs applied lessons learnt from the early stages of Operation OVERLORD to modern conflicts, discussing the development of assets and doctrine.

The Exercise commenced at Pegasus bridge after a visit to a local boulangerie, which gave us the opportunity to explore the town and situate ourselves to the study. With Pegasus Bridge looming behind us we began our first stand. As part of Operation DEADSTICK the mission was: 'to capture and seize two bridges over the Caen Canal'. The success

of the mission was largely down to the credible intelligence provided by members of the French Resistance. The Gondrée family were instrumental in exposing the location of the German demolition charges highlighting the enemy's intent of denying the Allies' use of the Bridge. The intelligence stressed the importance of momentum in the assault, as capturing the bridge intact was critical to the Allied advance. Rehearsals were equally as crucial to the success of the mission and are particularly relevant today, given the complexity of modern conflicts. We discussed the low-level training and rehearsals and its relevance to us as Troop Commanders, considering the importance of mission command. Aerial photos proved invaluable to the planning of the mission. The combination of these photos, coupled with pre-invasion planning enabled one of



the most successful glider operations of the war.

The developing aerial reconnaissance capability had its limitations with the US Rangers, led by Lt Col. James Rudder, being misled at Omaha Beach. They believed that gun and heavy artillery positions would be found in the encasements at the top of the cliffs. In the run up to D-Day, however, German forces had become aware of the Allies' knowledge of the gun locations, and as such chose to move to alternate positions over a mile inland. The lack of real-time information proved costly and following the successful capture of the cliff top, the Rangers faced ongoing German counterattacks until they could be relieved by troops from Omaha Beach. At Pointe du Hoc, we considered how the application of modern ISTAR capabilities and the potential co-ordination of Naval Gunfire could have aided the mission. In particular, we discussed whether Naval gunfire would have been a help or hinderance, which segued neatly into a lesson on Battlespace Management and Interoperability, and its importance to us as Gunner Officers.

Innovation was vital in the planning and execution of Op OVERLORD. At Arromanches and the Sexton memorial near Gold Beach, we examined various areas of innovation from Logistics to Hobart's Funnies tanks. After the failed raid at the Port of Dieppe in 1942, a clear solution was vital to the Allies in how to provide the invasion force with reinforcements and supplies without incurring heavy losses. The largest part of Mulberry Harbour B, 'Port Winston', is still

visible from Arromanches. This provided a fitting setting to discuss how the Allies overcame the problem of capturing a port. We talked about the importance of Logistics in enabling future operations and considered how their importance is often overlooked in modern contexts. This is particularly pertinent to us as Troop Commanders in considering the immense burden artillery systems can put on supply chains, highlighting the need to liaise with different capabilities. Equally, we discussed the importance innovative Logistics in order to enable operations.



Le Grande Bunker

In relation to German defences and the utilisation of Artillery in defence, we



visited Longues-sur Mer Battery and Le Grande Bunker. Two key sites of the Atlantic Wall, they offered both varied past lessons and modern considerations. Le Grande Bunker served as a former Command and Fire Direction Post, converted from a French Naval Blockhouse. Here, we explored the museum with its fantastic views across the channel and arcs across the D-Day landing beaches. With modern conflicts focussing on Urban Operations, Le Grande Bunker served as a prominent site for us to consider how to conceal in urban settings.

At Longues-sur Mer, one of our penultimate sites of the Exercise, we studied how Field Marshal Rommel prepared the Atlantic Wall for the Allied invasion. Centred around defensive operations, we heard of the significant challenges the Wall faced with its lack of resources and the limited timeline given for such an ambitious tasking. We looked at how stretched the defensive line was and how Allied deception had led to the heavy fortification further North at Pas-de-Calais. In an era of increasing misinformation, this left much food for thought in undertaking defensive operations in the modern context.

Our final presentation led us to the Château de Caen, situated in the centre of the city where Allied bombing on D-Day caused devastating numbers of civilian casualties. The view from the Château provided the backdrop for a poignant presentation on the Law of Armed Conflict and the realities of war. A topic that is still as relevant today, the bombing of Caen highlighted the consideration of collateral damage versus military necessity.

We focused on the impact that Artillery has had both historically and its potential future application, considering the current effects Artillery is having in current conflicts.

The Exercise included tours of poignant memorials and cemeteries, bringing to life the realities of war. We compared the stark architectural differences between the Allied cemeteries, looking at the reflection pools at the American cemetery above Omaha Beach and the bright colours of the British cemetery at Bayeux. The tours provided a solemn moment of reflection, concluding with the Master Gunner laying a wreath at the cemetery in Bayeux.



American Cemetery Normandy

The Exercise was not without fantastic hospitality provided at the Château du Perron, and equally delightful restaurants around Normandy. This was a highly informative Exercise, bringing past lessons into the present giving the YOs much to consider as we embark on our future careers. Our sincere thanks to all the staff for making the Exercise possible.

by 2Lt Jones RA
Young Officer's Branch
14th Regiment Royal Artillery



Back in barracks: Veteran's surprise return to his artillery home



Kath, Eric and Ruth in front of the Royal Artillery Officers' Mess

National Service in the United Kingdom was a period of mandatory military conscription for men introduced after World War II, running from 1949 to 1963, requiring them to serve 18-24 months in the armed forces. It resolved post-war workforce shortages and became a significant social experience for over two million men (c1.1 million served in the Army)

In November 1957, after a brief period at 67 Training Regiment, Royal Artillery at Oswestry in Shropshire to be kitted out and taught the rudiments of foot-drill (square-bashing using the language of the day), Newly conscripted National Serviceman, Gunner Eric Bebb, having seen other newly mustered Gunners sent off to join Garrisons in the British Army Of the Rhine (BAOR)

in Germany and some to exotic climes such as Hong-Kong, received his posting order to sunny Roberts Barracks Larkhill to join 52 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery as a locator.

Eric recalls not long after arriving in 22 (Gibraltar) Locating Battery, his being sent to Woolwich to learn to become a Battery Clerk and although his discharge papers show his trade as a B3 Clerk, he admitted that his tour in the Battery Office was short lived after his letter to a bank where he had referred to 'receipt of a check'. That wouldn't do at all said the Battery Commander and thereafter, Eric was exiled to the Ration Store until his demob in November 1959 where he recalls having had a wonderful 2 years; close to the rations, entrusted to drive



a truck around the country collecting rations and stores, promoting to Lance-Bombardier and avoiding exercises and parades.

Eric recounted these and other tales to his family down the years and with his 90th Birthday looming on the 30th of October, one of Eric's daughters got in contact with the Garrison to enquire if her Dad might visit the Barracks again as they would be in the area visiting from their homes in Wales for the occasion.

Fast forward a week and the Garrison Management Team arranged for Eric and his daughters Ruth and Kath to be met at the gate on his birthday and shown around the newest side of the Garrison in the west briefly before repairing to the Royal Artillery Mess for a delicious late lunch and some birthday cake complete with singing!



Eric with daughters; Kath and Ruth supervising by 'Armed Science' whilst Eric blows out his candles

During the lunch, Eric and his daughters were very taken aback by the splendour of the Mess that the staff had presented in all its sparkling glory and, after lunch, Colonel Peter Thompson, the Mess Secretary gave the party an excellent talk on the history of the Mess and its Silver Collection over a coffee.

Thanks and farewells and then back on the transport to complete the 'windscreen tour' of the Garrison and try and find a surviving building in Roberts Barracks from Eric's time there. As a member of the Garrison Management Team had served in Roberts Barracks previous to the latest swathe of demolition and rebuilding, Eric was able to glimpse the erstwhile NAAFI Club (the Henge Arms) even though it is currently wrapped in scaffolding as it receives a long overdue face-lift.

Having positioned the transport at the former entrance to Roberts Barracks along the Packway which now comes to an abrupt stop at the new fence line, a glimmer of recognition came over Eric's eyes as he saw the relative positions of the former Henge Arms and the remnants of the Regimental Square as he could recall them from those short 66 years ago.

Eric and his daughters were then delivered back to their car and after final thanks from the family for the hosting and the Garrison Management Team for being given the opportunity to be part of Eric's Birthday celebrations, Eric left with yet more good memories of his time at Larkhill.

by Maj Peter McGill RA
SO2 Coordinator
Garrison Management Team



FIND & STRIKE LONDON DRY GIN

£38.00

FIND & STRIKE epitomises everything that the Royal Artillery does; using high-tech radar and uncrewed systems to find the enemy anywhere and everywhere in order to allow units to strike them. The Find & Strike Gin represents the whole Royal Regiment, just like its tagline and is a gin for the whole Gunner Family: Serving, Retired and their Families. Crafted and distilled by our friends at Hawkridge Distillery, this is the perfect gift for anyone from the Gunner Family. All proceeds from sales goes towards supporting the Gunner family through the work of the Royal Artillery Charities, ensuring the continued raising of funds to support all the work they do to support the serving and retired regiment.





Royal Artillery Afghanistan Veterans

(Royal Artillery Association Branch)

The Royal Artillery Afghanistan Veterans (RAAV) are now accepting members. Members can join the Royal Artillery Association via the link below, when completing the form, in service history, state you wish to join the RAAV.

There is also a Facebook group to keep up to date on all activities, events and information. Use the second QR code below to join the group.

RAAV Facebook Group:



Sign up to the RAA:



Email: raafghanveterans@outlook.com



Royal Artillery Assembly

FRIDAY 15TH – SUNDAY 17TH MAY 2026
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 16th May) – **Just £171.50 Per Person**

2 Night Package inclusive of Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

(Including RA Grand Gala Dinner – Saturday 16th May) – **Just £141.50 Per Person**

Grand Gala Dinner Only – No Accommodation **£30.00 Per Person**

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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Message from the charities' Chairman Brigadier (Retd) Mark Pountain CBE

Dear Members

I write having just attended the St Barbara's Day service and celebrations at Larkhill (St Barbara's Day 4th December), keenly aware that others have done similarly throughout the UK and more widely. As our Honorary Chaplain said, from the newest Gunner to the Master Gunner St James's Park, from the youngest to oldest veteran, we all share a common and unique bond as members of the Gunner family.

That bond is reflected in the work of the RA Association to support comradeship and welfare, and I pay tribute and give thanks to all for their work this year – our new Regimental Secretary Colonel Paul Bates and the RAA team in Regimental Headquarters, the Controller and our charities' trustees, the Regimental Colonel and RASM, the RAA National Executive Committee, all our regional and local volunteers – serving and retired – and more widely all the other groupings who provide a network of support and fellowship, whether formally part of the RAA, affiliated or connected.

As we approach the end of 2026, we remember those we have lost over the last year, and we reach out to those who may be in need, trusting in our common and enduring bond. We think particularly of those families separated

over the coming celebrations through operational commitments.

As I reported at our AGM in May at Blackpool, the Association grew by over 1,000 members since the previous year, and while the membership in our 78 branches throughout the UK remains largely constant, we have extended our virtual 'offer' in a continuing effort to reach all our family and be as relevant to all as we can be. In conversation with BC 5 Bty RA after the service at Larkhill, he spoke of the sharing of stories with the Swedish Artillery about what St Barbara's Day means, which reminded me that our international network was the subject of our latest workshop (Number 6) to understand the potential benefits of stronger RAA ties and closer links with our Commonwealth and key NATO allies' equivalent organisations. We shall be taking that work forward over the coming year.

On behalf of the membership, I take this opportunity to welcome our new Master Gunner and his wife, Lieutenant General and Mrs Elviss, and to thank Lieutenant General Sir Andrew and Lady Gregory most sincerely for their outstanding support to the Association over the last eight years, and to send them our warmest best wishes for the future.

A very happy Christmas to all, a peaceful and joyful New Year, and all the best for 2026!

Mark



St Barbara's Day

The annual St Barbara's day Service at the Royal Garrison Church of St Alban and St Barbara was held at Larkhill.

The service was led by the Venerable Stephen Robbins CB, Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Artillery; Rev Mark Henderson CF, Chaplain to 32nd Regiment RA and Rev Ross Marshall, Chaplain to 19th Regiment RA.



We remembered the serving members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and members of the Association who died during the past year and the importance of the regimental family.

After the service, lunch was held in the RA Officers' Mess.

Thank you to everyone who attended this event to make it successful, and many thanks go to all who were involved with the organising of every aspect of the day.

New Appointment

The Artillery Clerks' Association Committee is pleased to announce that Major General Neil Marshall OBE has accepted its invitation to become the next Honorary President of the Association, succeeding Lieutenant General Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE.

Major General Marshall will formally assume the role on 1 January 2026.



His distinguished military service, leadership, and enduring commitment to the values of the Association have earned him the unanimous support and endorsement of all former Association Honorary Presidents. His experience and vision are expected to further strengthen and inspire the Association in the years ahead.

The Association Committee and members also wish to express their deep gratitude to Lieutenant General Richard Nugee for his outstanding service and valued contributions during his decade



as Association Honorary President. His leadership and friendship have been greatly appreciated by all, particularly throughout the Association's 25th Anniversary Year in 2023 and the commissioning of the Silver Centrepiece.

RAA Battery Grants

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

Find out more information from carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk or through your chain of command.

10 (Assaye) Battery RA, 47th Regiment RA

On 25th September 2025, 10 (Assaye) Battery celebrated Assaye Day, an annual event that celebrates the Battery's formation and honours its distinguished history. This significant occasion provides an opportunity to reflect on the Battery's illustrious heritage, including its pivotal role in the Battle of Assaye and the remarkable bravery of George Horlock VC, among other notable achievements.

The celebrations were enhanced by the attendance of 45 members, both past and present. Among the attendees were the outgoing and incoming Battery Commanders, whose presence symbolised the seamless continuity of leadership and the enduring legacy of the Battery. Their

participation highlighted the importance of this historic occasion as a moment of reflection and unity. Additionally, members preparing to leave the Battery also took part, marking their final opportunity to honour its proud traditions. This unique gathering of personnel, from those newly joining to those departing, exemplified the shared pride that define the spirit of 10 (Assaye) Battery.

The evening's event was a resounding success, made possible by the exceptional support of the Royal Artillery Association (RAA). The complexity of organising such significant occasions would not have been achievable without the resources provided by the RAA, offering essential financial support, ultimately ensuring the celebrations could proceed. Their efforts not only enabled the Assaye Day celebrations to take place but also elevated the occasion, fostering a great sense of pride and belonging among all attendees. Through their contributions, the RAA ensured that the values and traditions of the Royal Artillery continue to inspire and resonate with future generations.

106 (Yeomanry) Regiment RA, 295 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battery RA

On the 5-6 September, 295 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battery Royal Artillery, an Army Reserve unit based in Hilsea, Portsmouth, celebrated a milestone weekend with the Battery's annual birthday event and the launch of the Hampshire Yeomanry Old Comrades Association Dinner.

Part of 106th (Yeomanry) Regiment Royal



Artillery, the British Army's only reserve anti-air warfare regiment, the Battery operates the highly capable Starstreak High Velocity Missile alongside the new Lightweight Multirole Missile. Formed in 2014, 295 Battery is a relatively young unit, still shaping its identity and history. Following the success of its 10th anniversary in 2024, the Battery resolved to make an annual birthday gathering a tradition, celebrating achievements and strengthening the ties between past and present members.

This year's celebration also marked the founding of the Hampshire Yeomanry Old Comrades Association. These associations, first established in the early 20th century, provide a way for veterans to stay connected, uphold traditions, and support one another. The new Hampshire Yeomanry branch aims to keep former members in touch while fostering links with serving personnel. Its mission is not only to honour the spirit and heritage of the Battery but also to offer practical and emotional support to members and their families in times of difficulty.

Generous funding of £1,150 from the Royal Artillery Association enabled the Battery to host both the inaugural Dinner and a family friendly All Ranks BBQ. The two-day event brought together more than 80 officers, soldiers, veterans, and their families for a weekend of camaraderie, reflection, and celebration.

On Friday evening, guests enjoyed a formal three-course dinner at a local restaurant, while Saturday featured a relaxed family

BBQ that gave everyone the opportunity to reconnect in a more informal setting.

On behalf of the Battery Commander, the officers and soldiers—past and present—and their families, I extend our sincere thanks to the Royal Artillery Association. Your generosity made this occasion possible, helping to strengthen our community and celebrate our shared Gunner identity.

14 Regiment Royal Artillery, 34 (Seringapatam) Battery, King's Gurkha Artillery

On the 12th of June, 34 (Seringapatam) Bty was formally redesignated as the first Bty of the Kings Gurkha Artillery (KGA), marking an extremely significant event in the history of both the Brigade of Gurkhas (BG) and the Royal Artillery (RA). The family's day was organised for the 21st of June to welcome Gurkha families and integrate UKTAP families into the KGA.

The day began with an impressive equipment display in 34 Battery's Gunpark, showcasing the unit's capabilities. The festivities then moved to the Garrison events area, where a multicultural food fair featured delicious offerings from Caribbean, Malawian, Fijian, British,





and Nepali cuisines. Families enjoyed a variety of fun activities including an assault course, jungle lane, face painting, bouncy castle, and Fire Truck display.

The event concluded with a lively raffle draw followed by live music and dance, bringing the community together in celebration and camaraderie.

14RA 34 Bty's Family Day brought together GURTAP & UKTAP personnel, forming one of the RA's most diverse Batteries. Families from Nepal, Brunei, the UK & the Commonwealth (Caribbean, Malawian, Fijian) united to celebrate our unique Kaida—the ethos and culture of the KGA. Events like this boost morale, strengthen bonds, and welcome new SP & families into the RA family.



RACF SUPPORT TO THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY

As 2025 comes to a close we have helped our Gunner family by providing 593 grants. If you have a concern about finding the money for something you need, please contact us. We cannot however help with private medical or legal fees. Please do not hesitate to ask for help if you need it. Call SSAFA on **0800 731 4880**, the Royal British Legion on **0808 802 8080** to get a case up to us or contact us on either **0300 159 4560/0300 158 7035**. We can be contacted

Thank You's

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to extend our deepest and most sincere

gratitude for this generous assistance. Your support has come at a time of immense emotional difficulty, and it has brought not only financial relief but also a profound sense of care and solidarity.

It is deeply reassuring to know that we are not facing this moment alone - the compassion shown by the Welfare team, the Regiment, and the RACF as a whole has been truly moving. Your gesture has reminded us of the strength of the bonds we share within this community, and the values we uphold together.

Please do pass on our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in making this possible. Your kindness has made a meaningful difference, and we are genuinely appreciative of the thoughtfulness and consideration shown to us during this time.

GUNNER LOTTERY

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Date	Event	Location
2026		
19 Feb	RA Gold Cup	Sandown Park
20 Feb	YOs' Branch Centenary Dinner	Larkhill
23-25 Feb	WO1 Convention	Larkhill
5 Mar	Alanbrooke Lunch	London
11 Mar	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
12 Mar	MG's Committee Meeting	Larkhill
19 Mar	RA Boxing Final	Larkhill
20 Mar	Gunner 26 Conference	Larkhill
20 Mar	Spring Dinner	Larkhill
12 Apr	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea
17 Apr	YOs' Dine In	Larkhill
7 May	RA Sports Awards Dinner	Larkhill
15-17 May	Royal Artillery Assembly	Blackpool
21 May	Charities' F&GPC Meeting	Larkhill
04 Jun	KGA Formation Parade	Larkhill
18 Jun	Hail & Farewell Dinner	Larkhill
24 Jun	RA Board of Management Meeting	Larkhill
04 Jul	NMA Service	NMA



LAST POST

Notification of Death:

LBdr Morris Shepard
 Bdr Thomas John Adams
 WO1 William James Charlesworth
 Bdr Derek Graeme Parmley
 Richard Howard Dowling
 Sgt Robert Nash
 Capt Hugh Jackson October 2025
 Lenny Brown October 2025
 David "Ronnie" Barker October 2025
 Maj (Retd) Paul Milton MBE October 2025
 Damian "Rick" Holden 30 October 2025
 Bdr Robert William Allen November 2025
 Steven John Diplock 6 November 2025
 Robert Gallacher

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

Subscription Price List

BITTLES - Brig W J (Jimmy) Bittles OBE died 24 October aged 89. Much loved husband of Gerhild and father of Alison and Marie Louise. He was an outstanding linguist, most effectively in his last military job as Military Attaché in Moscow.

BLYTHE - Lt Col (Retd) Gerry E J Blythe passed away on Sunday 23rd November aged 80. Colonel Gerry served in 49th and 47th Regiments, and at AG6. He commanded 104th (AD) Regiment Royal Artillery.

FOWLER - Brig Ian Bruce Robert died peacefully on 3rd November 2025. Much loved husband, father and grandfather.

GOODERSON - SSgt (BQMS) Tony Gooderson passed away suddenly on Monday 27th October whilst travelling to Bournemouth to visit his Great Grandchildren. Tony passed aged 90 from sudden heart failure having exited the travel coach for a 'cup of tea'. My Father served just over his 22 years in the Royal Artillery, having served with 20 Heavy Regiment RA, and 22 Light Air Defence Regiment, later known to be 22 Air Defence Regt RA. My father served in places such as Hong Kong where he met and married my mother, as well as Malaya, I believe Borneo, completed tours of Northern Ireland during the troubles

and is also featured in the book Battle of Bogside. My Father also served in the UK, including Wales and Woolwich, Falingbostel and Dortmund in Germany. He is survived by his wife whose original name is Pui Hong but he called her Mable a name which she continues to be known as to this day at the age of 91. He also had three sons born in a variety of places globally. All three of us followed my father's footsteps into the Army. My father and mother were married for 68 years and were totally devoted to each other throughout and my father will be sorely missed.



TROTT - It is with great sadness to announce the passing of WO2 John Edward Trott on 5 December 2025. John will be missed by all who knew him. John served with the RHA from 3 March 1967 to 25 May 2004. John is survived by his wife Deborah and his two sons Keith and Ian.





Brigadier John Bettridge CBE



Soldier - Principal of the Emergency Planning College and Mental Health Campaigner

John liked to tell how his military career got off to a somewhat slow start. Serving in the ranks for his first year of national service in 1950, he was recommended for promotion to lance bombardier only to be told later that his battery commander had changed his mind. A few months later at the War Office Selection Board for national service commissions he was told by the colonel who chaired the Board "Bettridge, I have been looking forward to meeting you because you are the first fruit porter and packer who has applied for a commission" (John had worked for a few months in a fruit packing firm after leaving grammar school before being called up

and this was noted as his trade on enlistment). He failed that Board but a few months later passed at a second attempt. He subsequently passed out top of his officer training intake and was posted to 4 RHA for the remainder of his national service.

After a spell trying several jobs in civilian life, John was granted a regular commission.

His last Army appointment was Commandant RSA. In 1983 the UK was invited to send a delegation to China to discuss artillery weapons and their future. John as Commandant RSA led the delegation. On arrival in China, he and his colleagues were intrigued to learn that one of their presentations would be attended by no fewer than sixty generals.

John was a keen games player. He captained the Army cricket team in Hong Kong and was an enthusiastic social golfer. Throughout his service he was keen to encourage others to take advantage of the excellent sporting and outward-bound activities the Army offered.

He left the Army in 1984 to become Principal of the Home Office Civil Defence College (near York) and the national Co-ordinator of Voluntary Effort

Tactics at Larkhill followed, after which he became CRA of 2nd Division in Germany and from there attended the one-year course at the Royal College of Defence Studies in Belgrave Square. In 1980 he became Deputy Commandant of the Staff College and at the end of his tour in 1983 was appointed CBE.



in Civil Defence. Towards the end of the Cold War, he was given the challenging task of changing the College into the Home Office's Emergency Planning College with a view to improving the coordination of the national response to major disasters and civil emergencies. During this time, he played an important part in developing a network of the heads of similar colleges around the world which proved useful in helping to share expertise and good practice in emergency planning.

On retiring after 11 years as Principal, John was keen to do something completely different and having always been interested in woodwork, he attended courses in cabinet making and furniture restoration and did many projects for family and friends. Towards the end of his courses, he was encouraged by his instructors to enter a national competition for furniture restoration to be judged by an expert from the Antiques Road Show. John was proud of winning fifth prize although when pressed, he was prepared to admit that only five people had entered!

His organising skills, his sense of humour coupled with a remarkable ability to get on with all sorts of people, stood him in good stead when he subsequently became involved in helping to improve mental health services and care in York. He ran a mental health charity for several years and was in great demand as chair of various mental health boards, committees and working groups.

Towards the end of his time in York, as Voluntary Coordinator of the York branch of Rethink Mental Illness, he did a great deal to help carers of people with severe mental ill health deal with the daunting challenges they faced. This work included bringing carers together to support each other, to discuss coping strategies and give carers a voice in the development of national and local mental health policy.

In 2019 John, his wife Margaret and son, moved to Cornwall to be closer to their family. When Margaret was diagnosed with dementia in 2020, John became her principal carer.

John died on 18 November. He is survived by Margaret and their daughter and son.

Muddy Boots

When the war was over, they stood in the quiet fields no orders, no echoes, only the sound of wind learning their names again.

Their bergens lay heavy in the mud, stitched with years of fear and dust, each strap a memory of someone who never made it to the morning. And then one by one they slipped them off, like shedding the skin of another life.

Boots unlaced, mud crusted, soul worn, they sank to the earth and felt its forgiveness rising through their soles. The weight of miles fell away, and their feet, raw and real again, touched grass that hadn't known blood.

Some wept. Some laughed like children who'd forgotten the tune of joy.

The sky did not salute them it simply opened blue, indifferent, mercifully ordinary.

They carried nothing now but silence, and the faint trembling of hearts relearning how to beat for something other than survival. And somewhere, deep in the dirt, their footprints ended and began again.

Poem by **Miss Millie Walker**
Granddaughter of Andrew Michael Walker who served 22 years in The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery as a Bombardier.



Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Michael Stanley Head 1932-2025



Michael, or Mike (as he was known to many) was born in Brighton on 15th November 1932. He was the fifth child of eleven, with five brothers and five sisters. He was evacuated during the second world war with his brother Peter to South Elmsall, a mining village in South Yorkshire.

On returning home and after leaving school he tried his hand at French polishing and theatre lighting but saw a recruitment advertisement for the Army and despite his Father's best efforts to persuade him otherwise, began his Boys' Service in the Royal Artillery on 2nd June 1948 aged 15. Mike loved the Army and flourished there. He was a talented and successful sportsman for the Army in both football and track and field. His early Army career took him to the Middle and Far East

(Aden, Singapore and Hong Kong), and to various locations in the UK. Later he was posted to BAOR in Germany and in common with his peers he also completed several Op BANNER tours in Northern Ireland in the early 1970s.

He was commissioned in 1974, joining 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment in Dortmund, followed by Quartermaster appointments in 12 Light Air Defence Regiment and 26 Field Regiment, also in Dortmund. He returned to the UK in 1983 to 32 Guided Weapons Regiment in Bulford and ended his regular service in 1987 as QM of 14 Field Regiment in Larkhill.

Mike resisted the urge to put his feet up and assumed a Retired Officer appointment as Commandant Camps on Salisbury Plain Training area until his "second" retirement in 1997.

Mike met his future wife Marianne when stationed in Haan, near Wuppertal and they married in 1964, welcoming their daughter, Roberta, in 1967. Marianne died in 2002 and Mike spent the rest of his life living alone. He missed Marianne terribly but found solace in playing golf and

walking Harvey, his much loved Welsh Springer Spaniel. He also learned to cook and continued to work mainly on a voluntary basis, supporting societies at Tidworth Golf Club and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Charity. He continued to play golf into his very late eighties and power walking for as long as he was able. He became increasingly frail in his last months but remained determined to stay in his own home – which he succeeded in doing. He suffered a significant fall on 3rd October from which he could not recover, and he died peacefully at the Countess of Brecknock hospice in Andover on 6th October. A private service was held at Charlton Crematorium on the 29th October, followed by a gathering to celebrate his life at Tidworth Golf Club. His ashes will be interred alongside Marianne in Germany next year.

He is survived by his daughter.

Please send any donations in Mike's memory to the Countess of Brecknock Hospice whose kindness, care and compassion saw him through his final days.

<https://www.cobh.org.uk/donations/donations/>



RA Historical Society 2026 Programme

Date and Timings	Event	Subject	Lecturer/Lead	Bookings Close
Wednesday 21 January 2026 1930 hrs	Webinar	Panic in London: Goths, Bombs and Rockets in Two World Wars	Dr Linda Parker, Author & Secretary British Modern Military History Society	Sunday 18 January
Wednesday 25 February 2026 1930 hrs	Webinar	The Brassington Animations Part 2 12.5in RML Gun 1885 12in Siege Howitzer 1918	Mr Rob Brassington Animation Designer	Sunday 22 February

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

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

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INFORMATION

BESPOKE WALKING STICKS

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

REUNIONS

YOUNG OFFICERS' BRANCH CENTENARY DINNER

The first of a long series of young officers courses assembled at the School of Artillery on 2nd February 1926 under the command of Maj Wyndham Greene DSO MC, assisted by Maj Ambrose Pratt MC. To celebrate 100 years of the establishment of the first Young Officers' Course, a Centenary Dinner supported by the MGStJP will be held in the RA Mess, Larkhill on **20th February 2026**. The event is open to all former Chief Instructors, Senior Instructors, Adjutants, IGS, MGs, SMIGs, QGIs and civilian staff that have worked within the YOs' Branch. If you are interested in attending, please submit your initial interest by completing your details using the QR code below or emailing WO1 (MG) Mostert on adele.mostert559@mod.gov.uk by COP 28 Nov 25. The RAI have kindly offset the ticket price by 50%. The ticket cost to attend is £30pp. Information will be emailed to all attendees once final numbers are in to confirm your attendance.

40TH FIELD REGIMENT
ROYAL ARTILLERY OFFICERS'
GULF REUNION DINNER
27 FEB 26

The final reunion dinner for officers who served in 40th Field Regiment during the Gulf War will be held in the RA Mess on Friday 27th February 2026 to mark the 35th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait. Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley will be attending as our guest. This is also open to all 40th Regiment Gulf veterans who have subsequently been commissioned. Please contact Colonel Julian Lyne-Pirkis for details via julianlynepirkis@gmail.com

ROYAL ARTILLERY OFFICERS'
ALANBROOKE LUNCH
THU 5 MAR 26

The next Royal Artillery Officers' Alanbrooke Lunch is on Thu 5 Mar 26 at the Army & Navy Club, St James's Square, London. Our guest speaker at this lunch is Anna Kimber OBE Deputy Governor and Head of Operations at the Tower of London. Drinks 1200. Lunch 1245. The Alanbrooke Lunch Club is open to all Gunners officers, Regular and Reserve whether serving or retired. The lunch cost is £80 per ticket. The price includes pre-lunch drink,

wine and port. A cash bar is available after lunch. The dress code for this event is lounge suits or equivalent. To attend the lunches you must be a paid up member of the Alanbrooke Club. There is an annual membership fee of £10 but this is waived for serving officers. To join the Club, please contact Carla Brawn (carla.brawn100@mod.gov.uk), who will be able to provide you with the appropriate forms. Members wishing to attend this lunch should make a bank transfer for £80 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 Secretariat Officer, Mrs Carla Brawn. If you make a bank transfer please email the Royal Artillery Secretariat Officer on Carla.Brawn100@mod.gov.uk to say that you have done so. 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.

To purchase tickets please use the QR code

THE 36TH REUNION OF THE
ROYAL ARTILLERY BOYS
AND JUNIOR LEADERS'
ASSOCIATION

The 36th reunion of The Royal Artillery Boys and Junior Leaders' Association will take place at the Holiday Inn Coventry M6 Junction 2, over the weekend of 2-4th October 2026. Full details and booking form will be published in the January 2026 edition of "Trumpeter", or by contacting the Secretary, Ted McKenzie by email only on exboysra.tm@gmail.com

SPRING DINNER

The Spring Dinner 2026 will be held in the RA Mess Larkhill on Friday, 20th March at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. 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 subsidised cost is £75 per head. For places, please apply to Jennifer McGrath either by email: Jennifer.mcgrath924@mod.gov.uk or for further information please telephone. Places are confirmed upon receipt of payment as follows:

BACS: RAI, 30-11-75, 00957269 (Please prefix payment reference with SD25) Cheque: Made payable to the Royal Artillery Institution. Please note a first come first served basis applies.

Applications for double bed, twin or single accommodation in the RA Mess should be sent to the Mess Secretary, Lt Col Peter Thompson: Peter.Thompson690@mod.gov.uk

Please note that accommodation will be in short supply. Requests for double and twin rooms will be added to a waiting list, and allocations will be made nearer the time. In the event that no further single rooms are available in the main Mess building, applications for standard accommodation can be made through the Central Accommodation Booking Service (CABS) at: DIORDPFI-PACSLAMISTeamGpMail@mod.gov.uk

COURSE

Battle Back Centre Lillehall - Shropshire (RBL)

Veteran MAC - Multi-Activity Course
Mon - Fri Residential

The course costs RBL £4700 for each Veteran it is residential with 3 x meals provided and a bar in the evening - any age, any ability the courses are running on the following dates Mon - Fri arrive by 1100 hrs and away by 1400 hrs.

Mon 12 Jan 26

Mon 25 Jan 26

Mon 09 Feb 26

Mon 23 Feb 26

Mon 09 Mar 26

Mon 23 Mar 26

Each Veteran needs to call RBL - 08088028080 and book a place on the Veteran MAC. Good Mental Health for both Male & Female Veterans.

Regular SP can be referred for the Reg MAC through Welfare Officer.





ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

.....The Regimental Family.....



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7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

All former Airborne Gunner and 7 RHA Officers

We are looking to reconnect with as many past officers that may have lost contact with the community

Please follow the QR code and fill out your details if you are currently not part of the Airborne Gunner and 7 RHA past Officers mailing list. Or alternatively get in touch via 7RHA-AGRDMailbox.mod.gov.uk

Or search Airborne Gunner Reunion Dinner on LinkedIn

It would be great to see as many past members as possible at the 65th Airborne Gunner and 7 RHA Reunion Dinner



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 AARON LEWIS
FOUNDATION

DO YOU NEED OUR HELP?



Since its inception in 2010, the Aaron Lewis Foundation, fuelled by the spirit of volunteerism, has dedicated itself to uplifting the lives of serving personnel, veterans, Regiments and Service Associations across the UK.

Our mission is propelled by a simple yet profound promise: to leave no one behind. From essential equipment to life-enhancing resources, we've answered the call of those in need, transforming lives one project at a time. Whether it's aiding with mobility through wheelchairs, enhancing training with hand weights, or empowering through education with 1st Aid courses, we adapt to the unique needs of our heroes, often collaborating with fellow charities to fulfil our commitment.

Are you, or someone you know, in need of support?

The Aaron Lewis Foundation is ready to help, guided by a few key principles:

- We assist serving personnel, veterans, or initiatives that directly benefit them, such as equipment for sports teams or community projects.
- Our assistance focuses on providing physical items that have an immediate impact on recipients' lives, as opposed to a pool of funds.
- We prioritise requests that address needs not met by MOD or statutory provisions, including match-funding request.

To explore how we might support you or your cause, please contact us at info@aaronlewisfoundation.org.uk for an application form.

About the Aaron Lewis Foundation

Lieutenant Aaron Lewis, of 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, was killed in action in Afghanistan on December 15th, 2008. He was just 26 and on his first operational deployment.

Aaron wanted to make a difference in the world, bringing help to those in need. It was that belief which gave him the courage, hope and enthusiasm to deploy to Afghanistan.

Two years after his death, the Aaron Lewis Foundation was established by his family and friends to continue to make a difference in his memory. With unity and teamwork at its core, Aaron's family, friends and former service colleagues work together to raise funds for causes close to Aaron's heart, providing access to sport and wellbeing for all, while at the same time furthering his legacy.

'Unity-Honour-Heart'

www.aaronlewisfoundation.org.uk

Registered Charity: 1151539

Looking for something different?

We are continuously looking for physically and mentally robust volunteers from the Tri-Services to become Special Observers.

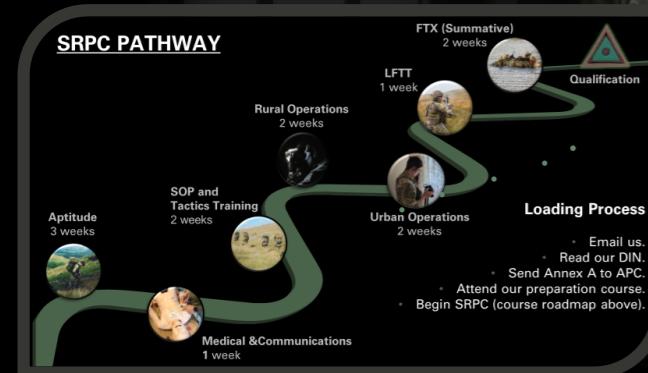
To join us, volunteers must successfully complete the Surveillance and Reconnaissance Patrols Course (SRPC).

For those that are successful we guarantee a unique, challenging and rewarding career like no other in the regular army.

If you want to work with like-minded individuals, conduct high quality training and deploy across the globe; then look no further.

Contact us: 4/73 (Sphinx) Special Observation Post Battery

Email: 5RA-473Bty-Ops-Team@mod.gov.uk Tel: 07773 978878



STA PATROLS

"The British Army's only Long Range, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (STA) Patrols, providing specialist Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Joint Effects in the high-threat environment"



Plenty are capable, fewer are willing.
ARE YOU WILLING?

ROYAL ARTILLERY MENTORING PROGRAMME



Mentee Form

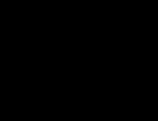


Mentor Form

AN INCLUSIVE PROGRAMME TO NURTURE TALENT AND MAXIMISE POTENTIAL. COMPLEMENTARY ROLE TO ROUTINE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITY, PROVIDING A BROADER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY OUTSIDE OF THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.



INSPIRE OUR TALENTED WORKFORCE; MAXIMISE INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL; IMPROVE THE LIVED EXPERIENCE; DEVELOP SKILLS; BROADEN PERSPECTIVES; OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING.



A PROGRAMME OPEN TO EVERYONE; ALL RANKS; TO BE BOTH MENTORS AND MENTEES.



A RELATIONSHIP AND A PROCESS WHERE A PERSON OFFERS HELP, GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT TO FACILITATE LEARNING OR DEVELOPMENT OF A COLLEAGUE.



"Step into the ring and feel the Gunner intensity!"

"The upcoming Royal Artillery Boxing Show brings together service members for a night of raw power, discipline and warrior spirit."

"Witness non-stop action as boxers battle for Regimental pride, honour and victory. One ring. One mission. Don't miss it."

"Last year the Royal Artillery Boxing Show Finals night witnessed 11 bouts of impressive displays of courage and talent represented by 9 Regiments from across the Royal Regiment with the outcome for the male and female team championships both going to 12th Regiment."

WO1 (RSM) Chris Pollitt, 12 Regiment RA said "Massive congratulations to 12th Regiment RA! This outstanding double success is a clear reflection of the hard work, commitment, and resilience shown by our soldiers and officers.

The level of talent, discipline and fighting spirit on display was exceptional and speaks volumes about the strength of our regimental ethos. Roll on 2026, where we will try to retain the belts"

ROYAL ARTILLERY BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS



16 - 19 MARCH 2026

SPEAK TO YOUR COC ABOUT TAKING PART

Any questions email: simon.parkins230@mod.gov.uk



On 5 November 2025, Brigadier Charlie Harmer, Colonel of the King's Gurkha Artillery (KGA) made his first official visit to the regiment at Larkhill Garrison. He was greeted with a guard of honour and the traditional KGA colour garland.