



Mark Harding &lt;theraalewes@gmail.com&gt;

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**Newsletter - June 2020**

1 message

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**Cas Thoburn** <thoburnc603@mod.gov.uk>  
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To: "theraalewes@gmail.com" <theraalewes@gmail.com>

10 June 2020 at 12:00



# • The Gunners •

## Newsletter - June 2020

Welcome to the The Royal Artillery Charities newsletter. This is where you can keep right up to date with all the Regimental Family's news and information.

If you have any news for the Gunner website or the Newsletter from your regiments, branches, districts and regions we would love to receive them. Please ensure that you have permission to share information and images.

**The Gunners**



## Centenary Message sent to all Members of the Royal Artillery on 26th May 2020

Wishing us all a 'Happy Centenary!' on this day, The Master Gunner St James's Park joins us in recognising and celebrating the formation of the Royal Artillery Association on this day one hundred years ago. Please see below.

Best wishes, and stay safe!

Mark

Brigadier Mark Pountain CBE

Chairman

### MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER GUNNER ST JAMES'S PARK

"Dear Members of the Royal Artillery Association,

One hundred years ago today, on the 26th May 1920, the Royal Artillery Association was formed. Its objectives remain the foundation of its activities today, namely to embrace and support anybody who is or has been part of our Regimental family; that includes those who are currently serving, veterans, families, widows and widowers, dependants and more. Amongst its services, the Association is proud to provide comradeship, welfare support and advice – including when leaving the Army. It is a fundamental aspect of what makes the Royal Regiment of Artillery a proper 'family' and gives substance to the cry, 'Once a Gunner, Always a Gunner'. And it is underpinned by the considerable commitment of so many of you who give your time and energy in order to ensure, across the Regiment, from the newest and youngest recruit to the most senior veteran, we take pride in our collective heritage, traditions and, perhaps most importantly, our ability to be there for each other.

We had intended to celebrate this significant milestone at our annual Regimental Assembly at Blackpool which should have taken place last weekend. Very sadly, Covid-19 put paid to that, though we still hope to gather over the first weekend in October

instead. The Assembly in Blackpool was the opportunity also to recognise another equally important change that occurs today – 26th May 2020, namely that the Royal Horse Artillery Association is joining the Royal Artillery Association as a national branch. I am delighted this is happening, for, while we can and should continue to be proud of the histories of our batteries and regiments and of where each of us has served, we are 'One Regiment' and having one Association that embraces all Gunners will strengthen that ethos.

On your behalf, I have sent the following message of Loyal Greeting to Her Majesty The Queen, our Captain General:

*I would be grateful if you would convey my humble duty to Her Majesty The Queen, and inform Her Majesty that on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its formation, on 26th May 1920, the serving and retired members of the Royal Artillery Association wish to convey their loyal greetings to Her Majesty The Queen, their Captain General and Patron.*

*Her Majesty may be interested to note that on 26th May 2020, the Royal Horse Artillery Association will join the Royal Artillery Association as a national branch, this further cementing the concept of 'One Regiment'. The Royal Horse Artillery Old Comrades Association was actually founded on 9th February 1907; the inaugural meeting, convened by Captain J Bruce Webster at St Stephens Restaurant, Bridge Street, Westminster, was attended by more than sixty former Horse Gunners. The planned combined National Assembly to celebrate the centenary and the coming together of the Royal Horse Artillery Association with the Royal Artillery Association has been delayed from May and provisionally rescheduled for October.*

*I will of course forward any reply we may receive from Her Majesty in due course.*

While I know that many will be sorry that current circumstances do not allow us to gather in the ways we would have wished to celebrate the Centenary of our Association and the joining together of the Royal Artillery and Royal Horse Artillery Associations, please still take great pride in the importance and significance of today's date. Hopefully many of you will be able to get together virtually, with friends and fellow Gunners, in your own ways and with your memories, in the knowledge of shared comradeship and the strength of fellowship that comes from being a Gunner. At this time of physical isolation, being part of a larger family has never been more important. You are never alone; please always remember that, and please never 'suffer in silence' for the Regiment is always your Regiment and is there for you.

Let us hope we can get together in October".

With my best wishes

Andrew Gregory

Master Gunner St James's Park

**The Master Gunner has subsequently received the following reply from Her Majesty:**

*Please convey my warm thanks to the Serving and Retired Members of the Royal Artillery Association for their loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of the One Hundredth Anniversary of their formation which was celebrated on 26th May.*

*As your Patron and Captain General of the Regiment, I was interested to learn that the Royal Horse Artillery Association have now become a National Branch of the Association.*

*I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, as you mark this significant milestone in your history, I send my best wishes to you all.*

**· RAA Assistant Secretary – Cas Thoburn ·**

I would like to wish you all a Happy 100th Birthday! I know celebrations were not how we all planned them, but that didn't stop us. We had celebratory messages from the Master Gunner St James's Park and our Chairman; with our Branch Standard Bearers parading proudly in a video for social media. Some of us also held social distancing tea parties and Branches laid wreaths in private ceremonies.

I am delighted that you continue to contact the Charities via social media and emails during what is such a challenging time. As COVID 19 started to impact our lives, we at the Charities adapted to new working practices from home, with family members 'booking out' the computer at home so we can all continue to work, on line meetings, home schooling and scheduling the daily exercise route, the dog now hides at the sight of his lead! The weather has been so good to us and I am sure your garden and home are looking better for it. But not all of us have enjoyed the time at home, as we watch the daily government updates with significant numbers of family members who have lost loved ones, people who are now unemployed and the impact of mental health. Our Welfare Team have been working hard to ensure that our Gunner community are supported during this pandemic and if you know someone who needs help, please [contact us](#).

As last week was international 'Volunteers Week', we would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Branch Members, Committee Members, Trustees, the Serving Regiment, external organisations and YOU, who provide us with guidance and assistance. The Charities could not do it without the good spirit and kindness you provide to our Gunner community and that is more evident during this time.

Please keep in touch with the [website](#) for news updates on events and information. Unfortunately our events scheduled to take place during the first half of this year were cancelled but the Royal Artillery Assembly is rescheduled to take place from 2-4 October

2020, this will be a fantastic reunion for our Gunner community to celebrate 100 years of the Association.

Do keep in touch with me with any articles for the Gunner website and Newsletters to promote our Charity with events, reunions and fundraising. Please note, my email address is [RAA-Asstsec@artycen.ra.mod.uk](mailto:RAA-Asstsec@artycen.ra.mod.uk) I can also be contacted on my working from home email, [CasRAA@outlook.com](mailto:CasRAA@outlook.com)

Until we meet in October at Blackpool, I would like to wish you and your families the very best of health.

## · Events ·

Many of you will have read the statements on our website from the Chairman, Brigadier Mark Pountain updating us on Gunner Sunday and the RA Service of Remembrance. We continued to monitor the developments closely and liaise with Events Teams as soon as the pandemic started to change our social lives but unfortunately due to the impact of the Coronavirus, and the restrictions and advice from the Government, we unfortunately had to cancel the events.

## RA Assembly

The RA Assembly has been rescheduled to take place on 2-4 October 2020, where we can gather and celebrate the Royal Artillery Association's 100th Birthday.

Those who have booked through the Norbreck Castle Hotel for accommodation and the Gala Dinner, please contact the hotel and your booking will be transferred to the new date. If you wish to cancel, please contact the Hotel for a refund.

If you have booked into alternative accommodation you will need to check the situation with the respective hotel/B&B.

**Further details of the event will follow, once we receive guidelines from The Norbreck Castle Hotel and they are open to the public. The poster below is for information only.**

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused.

**BOOK EARLY**  
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.






# The Royal Artillery Assembly

CELEBRATING YOUR ASSOCIATION'S CENTENARY

— Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th October 2020 —

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.

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**3 Night Package inclusive of Dinner, Bed & Breakfast**  
(Including RA Grand Gala Dinner - Saturday 3rd October) - Just **£152 PER PERSON**

**2 Night Package inclusive of Dinner, Bed & Breakfast**  
(Including RA Grand Gala Dinner - Saturday 3rd October) - Just **£126 PER PERSON**

**Grand Gala Dinner Only - No Accommodation £25 PER PERSON**

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FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check in from 3pm</li> <li>• 3 Course Carvery Dinner</li> <li>• Entertainment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full English Breakfast</li> <li>• Annual Assembly</li> <li>• Standard Bearers Competition</li> <li>• Sunset Ceremony</li> <li>• Civic Reception</li> <li>• Gala dinner</li> <li>• Live Entertainment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full English Breakfast</li> <li>• Church Service</li> <li>• Themed Buffet</li> <li>• Entertainment</li> </ul>

**To book a Gala Inclusive Package - call 0871 222 0031 and quote RAR2020**  
Calls cost 13p per minute plus your chosen phone company access charge.

**A refundable deposit of £30 per person is required when booking Gala Inclusive Packages.**  
Please remember to advise the reservationist of your branch when booking.

**For Gala Dinner Only bookings - please call 01253 352 341**  
Accommodation reservations cannot be made on this line (01253 352 341)  
**PLEASE NOTE PARKING CHARGES APPLY - £3 FOR 24HRS PARKING FOR RESIDENTIAL GUESTS ONLY.**

Norbreck Castle Hotel, Queens Promenade, Blackpool, FY2 9AA. [www.britanniahotels.com](http://www.britanniahotels.com)

· The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund ·

## We Are Here For You

RACF grants and donations for during the COVID lockdown so far, 137 cases £89,971.

The category with biggest spend is mobility (£15,668 20 cases), then Annual Grants (£14,360 16 cases) and most wanted help with household goods (£14,341 34 cases).

The Master Gunner runs SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity; their helpline, Forcesline, will stay open. If you become aware of a member of the Gunner family in need, in the first instance please contact SSAFA (0800 731 4880 or, from the SSAFA website, by email or web chat) or the RBL. They can access funds not just from regimental families but from the wider service charities such as ABF. If however they are unable to make a timely response, please contact the welfare team using their 'working from home' email at [sarahjane.hatt374@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjane.hatt374@gmail.com) and we will liaise with the other agencies to release funds where there is an urgent need. Please don't suffer alone.

*Thank you letters:*

*A Gunner Veteran*

*I would like to convey my deepest thanks to you for assisting me financially in my greatest hour of need. After 16 years in the Armed Forces, I never for one second thought I'd need the help of any military charities. However, several years later, I found myself in the worst situation in my life; being domestically abused by my 'partner' and trying to the best of my abilities to protect my children and myself. With the aid of a local domestic abuse charity, I was able to process my life events and find the strength to leave my partner. Unfortunately, at this time a house sale fell through, which left me without the finances to leave, yet still in desperate need to escape. Your financial support allowed my children and I to do just that, escape a horrific situation and find safety and happiness. For that, both my family and myself will be forever indebted to the support I was provided by military charities. I thank you for allowing my children and I to live in safety, you will always be in my thoughts.*

*Many, many thanks*

*A Serving Gunner*

*I would like to start by saying thank you, and it comes from the very bottom of mine and my family's hearts. The money that you and the Royal Artillery Charitable fund have provided has eased such a difficult time for us.*

*I am so grateful for you enabling me to put my child to rest and peace. You have given me and my partner some closure at this extremely difficult time.*

*At a time in my life when I was starting to lose faith in humanity, the Army and the Royal Artillery, this made me once again extremely proud to be part of such a brilliant organisation as this one. Once again, I would like to express my most heartfelt thank you to all those that form part of the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund.*

### How We Help



Tilly aged 4 (daughter of our Finance Secretary) who sent in her beautiful artwork to display with the RACF weekly reports on FaceBook.







## NHS care for the Armed Forces community, April 2020

The NHS is responsible for providing all hospital and most community services for serving personnel (except for mental health, general practice and rehabilitation services). The NHS also provides nearly all community, general practice and hospital services for the families of serving personnel, reservists and veterans. Included as part of this are the following dedicated services and initiatives to support the Armed Forces community.

### NHS mental health services for veterans

**The Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS)** is for serving personnel approaching discharge from the military, reservists (active and non-active) and veterans with mental health difficulties. The service provides a range of treatment, from recognising the early signs of mental health problems and providing access to early support, to therapeutic treatment for complex mental health difficulties and psychological trauma. Help may also be provided with housing, employment, alcohol misuse and social support.

**The Veterans' Mental Health Complex Treatment Service (CTS)** is for ex-forces and reservists (active and non-active) who have military related complex mental health difficulties that have not improved with previous treatment. The service provides intensive care and treatment that may include (but is not limited to) support for drug and alcohol misuse, physical health, employment, housing, relationships and finances, as well as occupational and trauma focused therapies.

Both services are available across England and accessible via the TILS. Individuals can self-refer or ask a GP or military charity to refer them. As part of their service offer, families are supported to access care and treatment where appropriate. Further information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

### Veterans Trauma Network (VTN)

The [VTN](#) provides care and treatment to those with a service-attributable physical health condition. Located in 12 major trauma centres (Plymouth, Oxford, London (three centres), Birmingham, Nottingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Cambridge, Brighton and Middlesbrough), with links to five specialist NHS trusts (Frimley Park, Preston, Salisbury, East Grinstead), the network works closely with Defence Medical Services, national centres of clinical expertise, the TILS and CTS, as well as military charities, to provide a complete package of care. It is run largely by healthcare professionals who are either veterans or serving personnel. GPs can email [england.veteranstraumanetwork@nhs.net](mailto:england.veteranstraumanetwork@nhs.net) to refer veterans to the service.

### Veterans Prosthetics Panel (VPP)

The VPP provides funding on a named veteran basis to NHS Disablement Service Centres (DSC) to ensure that veterans who have service related limb loss can access high quality prosthetics regardless of which DSC they attend. More information [here](#).

### Armed Forces personnel in transition: Integrated Personal Commissioning for Veterans Framework (IPC4V)

[IPC4V](#) is a personalised care approach for serving personnel who have complex and enduring physical, neurological and mental health conditions that are attributable to injury whilst in service. It provides a framework for effectively planning and delivering personalised care in line with the Armed Forces Covenant. Central to this is an improved discharge planning process, starting approximately nine months before these individuals leave the military. This means that the MOD, health and social care, Armed Forces charities and other organisations involved in the care of these individuals are brought together at an earlier point in the care pathway, ensuring care and support arrangements are in place as they transition to civilian life and beyond.

### Personalised care for veterans with a long term physical, mental or neurological health condition or disability

Ex-forces with a complex and life-long health condition may be eligible for the [veterans personalised care programme](#). Eligible individuals will have a single personalised care plan for all their health and wellbeing needs that is developed with them and a range of organisations, including health and social care and military charities. To apply, individuals should contact their local [clinical commissioning group](#).

### Veteran friendly GP practice accreditation

Over the next five years, NHS England and NHS Improvement, together with the Royal College of General Practitioners, are rolling out the [veteran friendly GP practice accreditation scheme](#) across England. This scheme, which is intended to help ensure practices are equipped to best care for veterans and their families, has already accredited over 770 surgeries.

### The Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance (VCHA)

The [VCHA](#) aims to improve NHS care for the Armed Forces community by supporting trusts, health boards and other providers to identify, develop and showcase the best standards of care. To date, over 40 trusts have been accredited as 'Veteran Aware', having demonstrated their commitment to eight core manifesto standards, including signing the Armed Forces Covenant, raising awareness of veterans' healthcare needs among staff, and establishing links with local support providers.

For further information, email [england.armedforceshealth@nhs.net](mailto:england.armedforceshealth@nhs.net), visit [the NHS website](#) or see this [leaflet](#).

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April 2020, version 12

· Fundraising for your Charity ·

The Charities revised their fundraising platform last year and we now use Charity Checkout. If you are fundraising for the RACF/RAA or giving the Charity individual donations, please click [here](#)

## · The Gunner Lottery ·

Gunner Lottery was launched last year for the benefit of the Gunner charities. The hope is that the Lottery can raise much needed funds and raise awareness of the good work done by the Royal Artillery charities.

You can take part as an individual or syndicate; Battery, Regiment or RAA Branch. You could be in with a chance of winning the top prize of £25,000 each week.

The Draw takes place every Friday.

JOIN TODAY [Gunner Lottery](#).



## · Branch News ·

Over the past few weeks as a nation we have celebrated Her Majesty The Queen, 94th birthday, the liberation of Bergen-Belsen on 15th April 1945, Captain Tom Moore captured our hearts with fundraising a phenomenal amount of more than £32M for NHS charities, our Facebook page turned red, white and blue on VE DAY 75 and our Gunner community celebrated the Royal Artillery Association's 100th birthday on 26th May 2020.

The RA Branch Standard Bearers paraded on VE DAY 75 and on the Royal Artillery Association's Centenary, take a moment to look on the website's [Gallery](#).

## D Day Memories of a Normandy Veteran

## 6th June 1944

A personal account of D Day from Captain Leslie Gosling, President of Canterbury Branch, aged 104.

"At 4am, June 6th 1944, 7th Armoured Division occupied an area close to Tilbury Docks, the quayside undulated as a result of earlier German bombing, and embarked on a Liberty ship. We steamed down river, anchored off the North Foreland and a convoy assembled there. A few hours later, the convoy steamed through the Channel and when we got close to Calais, two destroyers on our left flank steamed rapidly along and laid a smoke screen between us and the French coast. As a result, the German batteries were unable to see us as a target. During the day we moved steadily along the coast between France and England and an announcement was made over the ship's radio that a landing had been made at 4am that morning. As we approached Normandy, there was an incredible sight ahead, a great mass of shipping lying off the French shore. There was quite a forest of masts, a balloon barrage overhead, and two battleships, a battle cruiser and a first war Monitor (gun platform). Out on the horizon the ships were shelling the French coast behind the beaches. The British ships were anchored off the Normandy coast, and looking towards the shore there were many landing craft partly destroyed by German shelling, half submerged in the sea.

Eventually a landing craft came alongside and the members of 3 RHA climbed over the deck rail, down scrambling nets and dropped into the landing craft. Each craft carried about 15 or 20 men. We then advanced towards the shore. By this time all the dead had been removed from the initial landing. The landing craft dropped its front bow and we waded into the sea, chest deep, and proceeded through to the beach holding our weapons above our heads. By a remarkable feat of coordination, our tanks and guns were already on the coast road above the beach. We waded ashore up the beach, straight into our vehicles, proceeded inland to the front edge of the small bridgehead and immediately went into action.

My role was that of coordinating fire orders from our observation posts. The German coastal defenders immediately opened fire on us and we commenced firing on them. I established a headquarters right in the front of the small perimeter. I had an Ack (Assistant) and a signaller. The signallers coming up from behind laid a landline cable from the front of the bridgehead where I was, back to the beach where the guns were in action. I gave fire orders to my Ack which were telephoned down to the gun line. I gave the angle and range for the guns to fire on the German defending troops. We knew that the Germans would respond quickly and attempt to stomp out the initial landing area. We then occupied a small Normandy cottage which fortunately had very thick walls and small windows. There were two OPS observation posts manned by two of our officers just slightly ahead of me. I received the fire orders from these officers as targets presented themselves, and gave the orders to my Ack who passed them down the telephone lines to the guns. We continued spasmodic firing during the day.

The Germans responded quickly as we expected and opened fire on the beaches and the shelling severed my 'phone line', the bravery of the signallers carrying out the repairs by crawling on their hands and knees to repair the line should be mentioned. We knew that the Germans would quickly bring up reinforcements and after a night of heavy shelling, a tiger tank supported by German infantry advanced on us. This was the first ever tiger tank that we had seen, although we had heard about them when I was in the desert. Unknown to me, one of our anti-tank guns was sited on my right flank on a sunken road, its barrel just above the grass. It opened fire and knocked out the tiger. Shortly afterwards, my commanding officer and several divisional officers came to see the tiger tank, the first we had encountered.

I had orders from my battery commander to bale out and abandon everything, and to get back to the small force that occupied the bridgehead. I had spent a whole day and night passing fire orders and being shelled and had had no sleep for most of these two nights. Following my order to withdraw, I got into my bedroll and slept for 23 hours.

More reinforcements were landing all the time and the bridgehead slowly expanded as more troops came ashore. My battery commander asked me to go back to the beaches and collect a late-arriving officer. I used my jeep (I had both a jeep and a Sherman tank) and as I drove back to the beachhead, I passed the first airfield to be established by the RAF. There were several hurricanes and spitfires on the small grass strip and German shells were landing between the planes. I hurried past, down to the beach, picked up my officer passenger and returned with him, hurrying past the airstrip and delivered him to regimental headquarters. We withstood very heavy German shelling, they quickly transferred German troops and guns from the Russian front to reinforce their Normandy resistance. By now, more British troops had landed and a general breakout from the bridgehead commenced. From then on, it was advance all the time".

## Canterbury Branch

On your daily exercise you will have noticed rainbows displayed everywhere; windows, houses, drives, foot paths and flag poles. They make us smile and lift our spirits, displaying a beautiful array of colours. As we clapped our hands for the NHS and Key Workers every Thursday night at 8pm, John Bishop showed his appreciation by showcasing his home with a light display.



In these trying times the rainbow is a sign of solidarity and hope, with better days to come for us all.

## Bolton Branch

John Edward, President of Bolton Branch enlisted in The Bolton Artillery on the 2nd December 1959 until the 2nd December 1978, serving 19 years.

"Friday 29th May was the 80th year of the death of my name sake, John Edwards. 919181 Gnr John Edwards was killed in action, on the 29th Of May 1940, when "The Bolton Artillery" was ordered to retreat to Dunkirk. My young brother, Roland, and I laid a wreath on behalf of the Edwards family, on Cenotaph in Nelson Square, which is dedicated to "The Bolton Artillery". John is laid to rest, along with 25 other WW1 and WW11 soldiers in a small Churchyard in, Beveren-Ijzer Alveringem, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. There are 25 other British soldiers laid to rest in this small cemetery".



### Kingdom of Fife Branch

### Jimmy Sinclair, celebrates his 107th Birthday

Jimmy Sinclair from Kirkcaldy and a member of the Kingdom of Fife Branch. Jimmy recently celebrated his 107th Birthday. As Scotland's oldest man and the last surviving

soldier who served with Chestnut Troop in the 7th Armoured Division. Jimmy served in a number of notable battles; Siege of Tobrok, Monte Cassino and El Alamein.

As part of the recent VE Day celebrations Jimmy recently featured in a photo series commissioned by Legion Scotland and Poppyscotland.

Since this photograph was taken in early May, it is with great sadness that we have to notify you, Jimmy passed away on 27th May 2020.



## · Regimental News ·

### 4 Regiment Royal Artillery

#### Gunner Zac Cusack - 10th Anniversary

Over the Bank Holiday weekend celebrating VE Day 75, Stephen Whittle had a neighbourly chat regarding the Royal Artillery flag in his garden, with the grandfather of Gnr Zac Cusack, 4 Regt RA.

Gnr Zak Cusack of 97 (Lawsons Company) Battery was killed in action on 26th May 2010 by small arms fire in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand Afghanistan whilst serving as part of a Fire Support Team, attached to Malta Company, 1st Battalion the Mercian Regiment.

Stephen posted a notice on the RAA facebook group asking for assistance to obtain a flag or pennant to present to Zac's grandparents on the 10th Anniversary. The RAA connected Stephen with RSM 4 Regt RA, who visited Zac's family on the 26th May 2020 to make the presentation.

At the 4 Regt RA Regimental Memorial, a minutes silence was observed and the BK of 97 (Lawsons Company) Battery paid his respects on behalf of the Regiment and the Battery.



## 19 Regiment Royal Artillery

### The Wilkinson Room

The Wilkinson Room was officially opened at the WO's and Sgt's Mess on Monday 24th February 2020. David's wife Rachel, family and friends joined WO1 (RSM) Savage and Mess Members to commemorate this special occasion.

Sergeant David Wilkinson of 5 (Gibraltar 1779-1793) Battery was killed in action on 1st July 2007 while on patrol with Queen's Company, 1 Bn Grenadier Guards on the western outskirts of Gereshk, in Central Helmand Province.





## 104 Regiment Royal Artillery

### Ex Dragon Virtual Challenge

'After EX BORDERER'S STRIKE was cancelled due to COVID-19 situation, 104 RA were determined to still stay active. 266 (GVA) Bty decided to create EX DRAGON VIRTUAL CHALLENGE, a virtual inter-battery PT competition. The challenge took place on 15 May and it was a race NHS Nightingale Hospital London, and back, from the regimental HQ in Newport. A journey of 358 Miles! After the race, each battery would also complete: 1,040 twist sit-ups, 1,040 burpees and 1,040 knees to chest. Any money raised would be equally split between the NHS and the RACF.

The original fundraising goal was for the Regiment to raise £4,160, however, after over £11,600 was raised it became clear the Regiment would have to do more. On the day of the event, 104 RA ran/cycled 2703 miles, 11,507 burpees, 21,442 knees to chest and 20,387 sit-ups. The winning battery was 266 (GVA) Bty who raised £4,053.75 and was the first battery to complete the challenge.

It was an absolute pleasure for the Regiment to have to the opportunity to give back to two organisations from which many of our soldiers have benefitted directly. We hope to be able to run a similar event in the future when things return to normality'.

Below are photographs of the Commanding Officer and his family after completing Ex Dragon Virtual Challenge and BSM 266 (GVA) Bty taking a well needed break after cycling 161 KM.



## C Company, Suffolk ACF

Cdt LBdr Daniel Reeve (aged 15) from Felixstowe RA Detachment, C Coy, Suffolk ACF used his 3D printer to make clips to secure face masks and gowns for the NHS and Key Workers. Cdt LBdr Reeve said "I saw other people printing parts like this on the internet, and because I have a 3D printer I thought I should help out".

Suffolk ACF then set up a fundraising page to raise funds for the NHS, St John Ambulance and Suffolk Community Fund by completing the #sevenpointfivechallenge during May as part of the VE Day 75. All the cadets have been busy making a difference in their local community by helping those in need. The cadets set the target of £3,000 and currently have raised over £6,000. **INSPIRE TO ACHIEVE**

Suffolk ACF made headline news in the East Anglian Daily Times, read the full [story](#).

Felixstowe RA Detachment are affiliated to 7 Para RHA.



## · Royal Artillery Museum ·

The Master Gunner St James's Park updated us all on the developments regarding the proposals to build a new Royal Artillery Museum at Avon Camp West. This plan has now been halted. Part of his message read *"Our significant financial, staff and volunteer commitment to these discussions and plans were conducted in good faith and this decision came as a total surprise considering the detailed discussions we have had over the years with the Army leadership, and with other stakeholders and interested parties."* The full statement can be read [here](#).



## · Community and Companionship ·

# Looking out for our Own The RA Charities can keep you in touch with the Regimental Family

**Join Your Association Here**

## · Gunner Magazine ·

Do you Subscribe to the Gunner Magazine? If not then you can subscribe [here](#)

**Due to working from home with limited access to information, we are unable to publish Gunner magazine at present. The RA Journal will be delayed until approximately one month after we are able to return to work.**

**Thank you for your patience and understanding.**

## · Last Post ·

### Tara Louise Fullerton-Markham

It is with much sadness the Regimental Headquarters has to inform you of the death of our much loved colleague and friend, Tara Louise Fullerton-Markham.

Tara joined the Gunner family in 2013 as the Welfare Assistant to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund and more recently took on the role as Subscriptions Manager for Gunner magazine. Tara made a real difference to those she encountered, and would always help and assist anyone, serving or retired in any way she could. She will be deeply missed at the Headquarters and across the Royal Artillery.

Tara died suddenly on Monday 16th March 2020. Our heartfelt condolences and sympathy go to her husband Shane, parents Mary & Dave and her extended family.



# REJOINERS: YOUR NATION NEEDS YOU

## THERE ARE TWO ROUTES AVAILABLE TO REJOINERS:

**Fast Track Pathway.** Is A Veteran Who:

- Left the Regular Army within the last 36 months.
- Is returning to the same Main Trade and capbadge.
- Had no less than 24 months remaining engagement or commission.
- On leaving had a medical grade of Medically Fully Deployable or Limited Deployable and can self-declare they have had no significant injury or illness.
- Have no unspent convictions.

**Regular Rejoinder Pathway.** This is for veterans who left the Regular Army but who are not eligible for the Fast Track. Your pathway is approximately 8 weeks, but can vary based on medicals, security vetting and interviews.

### Fast Track Pathway - 4 weeks



### Regular Rejoinder Pathway - Approximately 8 weeks

**Age limit.** The upper age limit for all rejoinders is 57.

#### How to apply?

<https://apply.army.mod.uk/how-to-join/entryoptions/regular-army-rejoinder>  
or call the rejoinder team on 0345 600 8080

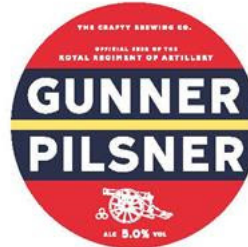
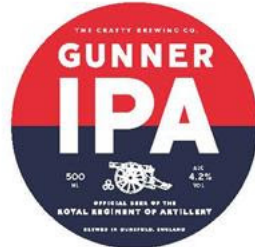
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## The Royal Artillery Craft Beers

*We are proud to announce the arrival of two very special guests.*



### THEY TASTE GOOD. THEY DO GOOD.

Champions in their own right, these fine craft beers were hand-picked in June 2019 by a tasting committee of over 90 Gunner soldiers. Gunner IPA and Gunner Pilsner are more than simply great-tasting, flagship examples of the brewer's art. For every litre of beer sold, The Crafty Brewing Co., will make a donation to Royal Artillery Charities – to fund sport, adventure and challenge activities for all Gunners – be they regular or reserve.

So now, when you raise a glass of your very own Royal Artillery craft beer – to slake a thirst, make a toast or in tribute to absent friends – you'll be putting a smile on more faces than just your own.

These delicious Gunner craft beers make their debut this evening and are provided courtesy of The Crafty Brewing Co. for you to enjoy. They will shortly be available in keg and 500ml bottles to every Royal Artillery Mess and for purchase online from November 2019.

To place your advance order visit [www.craftybrewing.co.uk](http://www.craftybrewing.co.uk)



#### TASTING NOTES:

##### **Gunner IPA – ABV 4.2%**

*Gunner IPA is a modern classic. It is a golden amber, lightly-hopped IPA bearing all the hallmarks of its four international hop superstars – Simcoe, Chinook, Amarillo and Perle. Refreshing citrus and pine notes are mellowed by toasted fine English crystal malts.*

##### **Gunner Pilsner – ABV 5.0%**

*Gunner Pilsner is a refreshing, full-flavoured, mellow craft lager. Expertly crafted with pale malts and the prince of 'noble' hops – Tettnang. This pilsner is conditioned for 12 weeks and naturally carbonated for a crisp, mouth-filling quaff.*



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No: 238197. Artillery House, Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill, Wilts  
SP4 8QT

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