



JULY 2023

CORONATION OF THEIR  
MAJESTIES KING CHARLES III  
AND QUEEN CAMILLA

Ex DYNAMIC FRONT

ROYAL ARTILLERY RUGBY

# GUNNER

#FINDandSTRIKE



The Larkhill-based team that supplies you Gunner.

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

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# GUNNER



## JULY 2023

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## CONTENTS



The Royal Artillery contingent marching toward their positions. Formed up in six ranks with bayonets fixed, ready to make their contribution to the historic Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

## FEATURES

- 4 Guest Editorial Royal Artillery Sergeant Major
- 5 The Coronation - King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery
- 6 The Coronation - 206 (Ulster) Battery, 105th Regiment Royal Artillery
- 8 The Coronation - 104th Regiment Royal Artillery
- 10 The Coronation - The Honourable Artillery Company
- 11 The Coronation - 101st Regiment Royal Artillery
- 14 The Coronation - 4th Regiment Royal Artillery
- 15 The Coronation - 5th Regiment Royal Artillery
- 17 10 (Assaye) Battery, 47th Regiment Royal Artillery
- 19 Multi-National Field Artillery Brigade
- 22 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery
- 26 214 Battery (Worcestershire) Royal Artillery
- 29 Burial of an unknown soldier 14th Regiment Royal Artillery



## SPORT

- 31 Army Rugby Mobbs Memorial Match
- 32 UK Armed Forces (UKAF) American Football

## REGULARS

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





### The Royal Artillery Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One Sanders

In the privileged appointment of Royal Artillery Sergeant Major, or indeed for any of my Corps Sergeant Major peers, there is always a lot of nervous excitement around the prospect of being involved in key ceremonial events. To be able to represent the Royal Artillery and my 17 predecessors, and act as the Royal Artillery Sergeant Major on the King's Coronation, was an experience I will treasure and never forget.

I do not pretend to think of myself as an expert at drill, yet feel deeply that it is the cornerstone of military discipline. I was taken aback at the effort, coordination, and at times the personal pain and sacrifice of so many to ensure that the Royal Artillery executed in style; it was exactly what all of us would expect. From saluting stations to the London marching contingent, the Pipes and Drums, and let's not forget the

immaculate King's Troop RHA, each delivered with perfection. All those behind the scenes who enabled us all to create life memories, cannot be forgotten; you were all as important as those on parade.

The journey was long, and for some, extremely tiring (and sore), but it was most definitely worth it. To stand in the garden of Buckingham Palace and hear over 4,000 Service Personnel give three cheers for His Majesty, and to see the look on his face, will live with me for the rest of my life.

#FINDandSTRIKE



### The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery Historic Gun Salute during the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla



On Saturday the 6th of May 2023, the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery played a crucial part in the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. As the Saluting Battery of His Majesty's Household Troops, the King's Troop were integral to the ceremony surrounding the Coronation.

Officers and soldiers including Mounted Gunners, Farriers and Tailors were on parade with 90 military working horses. Six gun teams, each containing six horses pulled their World War I era 13 Pounder Quick Firing Howitzers in procession ahead of firing the historical Coronation Salvo Salute. The Troop fired all six guns at once on Horse Guards Parade the very moment the Crown was placed onto King Charles III's head. The Troop then joined the main procession to Buckingham Palace alongside service personnel from across the tri services and the Commonwealth.

One soldier on parade was Gnr Marama who rode in Detachment behind one of the gun teams. 'As a member of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, I never thought I'd have the honour of being part of such a historical event such as the Coronation of our beloved King. To say that I was both proud and amazed would be an understatement. Firing the Salvo and hearing it ring out as the King was crowned, surrounded by the weight of history and tradition is a moment I will never forget. I felt like I was part of something truly special. I was grateful to be there, honoured to have the opportunity, and awed by the magnitude of the moment'.

To find out how to join the King's Troop Royal Artillery; visit [www.army.mod.uk/artillery](http://www.army.mod.uk/artillery). Follow the King's Troop RHA on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

by Lt Rebecca Bee RHA  
King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery





The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III



Hillsborough Castle

The official ceremony took place in the village of Royal Hillsborough, the home of the royal residence in Northern Ireland. Under grey skies, the rain held off as 2,000 people gathered in the grounds of the castle to watch the coronation service live on a large screen. At the moment His Majesty was crowned at Westminster Abbey in London, the salute was sounded by reservists from the 206 (Ulster) Battery of the 105th Regiment of the Royal Artillery.

Assistant Commander Matt Wills, the most senior Army reservist officer in Northern Ireland, said it was a privilege to take part in the ceremony. He said: “Today is a fantastic day, it is the coronation of our new King and we are here celebrating it at Hillsborough Castle. What a day to celebrate and what a venue to be at. It is a hugely important day and in particular for the Army Reserve in Northern Ireland.”



Photo credit: Jonathan Deighan Photography



Photo credit: Jonathan Deighan Photography





## The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III



Cardiff Castle

104th Regiment Royal Artillery hold the responsibility to conduct gun salutes for the primary saluting station in Wales. Those selected were lucky enough to take part in the King's Coronation 21-Gun salute on Saturday 6 May at Cardiff Castle. This event for many is a once in a lifetime event, it was a huge honour for the Regt to be part of this tremendous occasion. The sense of pride for those present in Cardiff was plain to be seen from those firing the guns to those conducting enabling activity. It was a huge privilege for us all to be part of this historic event and one I'm sure that will stay with us forever. All events the Regt take part in are hugely important, but this event was one like no other and one that will remain with us all as a poignant day.

The Regt arrived at Cardiff Castle early in the morning under a police escort in the pouring rain as we hoped for a break in the

weather. The event was setup with cheer although many soaked to the skin in plenty of time to enable some rehearsals prior to the salute. Cardiff Castle showcased the event brilliantly on the day with large screens set up for members of the public to watch the Coronation. As we changed in the battlements of the castle there was optimism as the sky began to brighten. The salute was a success and ran smoothly with the weather holding off for the main event and a large gathering of public had come out in force to watch. It was a great opportunity for members of the regiment to come together and work on this historic event in Cardiff and showcase the great work the regiment undertakes.

by Gnr Haynes  
217 Battery  
104th Regiment Royal Artillery







## The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III



Tower of London

The Honourable Artillery Company have been conducting gun salutes at the Tower of London since 6 May 1924. Prior to this, the duty was held by the Royal Regiment of Artillery. A (1st City of London) Battery, Honourable Artillery Company, the HAC's Reserve Battery to 7th Parachute Regiment RHA, maintained the ceremonial tradition by firing a 62 round Royal Salute for the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. This follows a busy period in which the HAC fired salutes following the HRH Duke of Edinburgh's Death, the Platinum Jubilee, HM The Queen's Death, and The Accession of King Charles III. The 62 rounds are broken down into the standard 21 round salute, plus an additional 20 rounds due to the Tower of London being a Royal Palace and Fortress, and a further 21 rounds as a gift from the City of London. The Band of the HAC provided a musical backdrop to the gun salute. Also in attendance were the HAC Pikeman and Musketeers and Light Cavalry, who lined the entrance to the Tower of London.

The Regiment also had the honour of committing personnel to the Coronation procession, providing a marching detachment, colour party, and street liners. They wore Regimental full dress of scarlet tunic and bearskin, similar in pattern to that of the Grenadier Guards, substituting silver for gold, as decreed by William IV in 1830. This was the first time that the HAC rank and file has worn full dress as a formed group since 1914. This was an honour for the personnel selected from across the Regiment's sub-units.

In addition, 25 members of the HAC Corps of Drums supported the Household Division by leading Foot Guards street liners onto the Mall. 6 paraded with the Welsh Guards Corps of Drums and 18 paraded alongside the Coldstream Guards Corps of Drums including the Drum Major leading.

by SSgt Brown  
Permanent Staff Instructor  
A (1st City of London) Battery  
Honourable Artillery Company



## The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III



6 May 2023 marked the Coronation of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen and, as part of a marching contingent representing the Royal Artillery, 8 Army Reserve Officers and Soldiers from 101st Regiment Royal Artillery were invited to take part in the celebration. It was an occasion that would serve as the highlight for all who took part.

The day of the coronation came after 3 weeks of physically demanding work with long days of rehearsals and many hours preparing our dress. This involved practising drill on parade squares, dress inspections and numerous full-scale rehearsals in London to ensure that turn out was immaculate and each drill movement was perfected.

The training was progressive, starting in Marne Barracks to ensure our basic drill was up to standard before moving to Longmoor and finally Sandhurst to conduct final drill practises and rehearsals. It was very challenging but worth the effort.

When the big day finally arrived, we moved to the staging area at Wellington Barracks. Every minor detail was covered to ensure we were best prepared and ready for the occasion. All who took part, from across the Army and the wider Armed Forces, were honoured to take part and there was a fantastic sense of teamwork and a desire to ensure the military was successfully represented by the lucky few who were selected to march on the day.

We followed the route of the Coronation, in reverse, up to our start point at Horse Guards Parade and we waited there for the Coronation Ceremony to finish. From there, we started our march to the Palace. The Mall was packed with adoring onlookers offering their support and ready to observe the impressive drill that had been developed for this very parade. A personal highlight of the occasion was being part of the 4000 strong crowd of service personnel offering their three cheers to the newly crowned King and Queen. Once the marching was complete, the only thing left





to do was to regroup at Waterloo station and make our way back to our staging areas for a well-deserved rest.

Overall, this was something that everyone who took part will remember for the rest of their

lives. It was one of the proudest moments in my career and I'm grateful to have been given the opportunity. Now to rest my feet.

by Capt Chris Fearn RA  
101st Regt RA







## The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III



York Museum Gardens

Fourth Regiment Royal Artillery had the honour of firing a twenty-one-gun salute in York Museum Gardens on the Seventh of May 2023 marking the coronation of His Majesty the King and Queen Consort. Troops from 88 (Arracan) Battery, 4th Regiment Royal Artillery, formed a saluting troop of three L118 Light Guns. At 1201 hrs on Coronation Day, at the exact moment the St Edward's Crown is placed on The King's head, a six-gun salvo was fired on Horse Guards Parade, and gun salutes were fired at saluting stations across the UK, in overseas territories, and on His Majesty's ships at sea. The first round being fired on proclamation of "God save the King" by the Archbishop of Canterbury. On taking post at the saluting station, the Troop was inspected by the Lord Mayor of York, Councillor David Carr and Major General Thomas Bateman General Officer Commanding 1st UK Division. The Troop

Commander, 2Lt Bradley Telford of the Army Air Corps, was presented with a ceremonial firing certificate in honour of the occasion.

The saluting troops displayed outstanding precision and professionalism when conducting the parade and salute which reflected the deep reverence and respect surrounding the rich history of gun salutes. Gun salutes have existed for centuries as a sign of respect or welcome, both on land and at sea, marking special occasions or military honours. Ships, when on goodwill visits to foreign ports, discharged all their guns seaward on arrival thus indicating to the authorities ashore that they came in peace with empty guns. In ancient times, even numbers were associated with mourning, therefore the number of these gun salutes was always odd and this tradition has been carried on until today. Beholden to this deep history, this gun salute fired on the coronation of a King.

by 2Lt Bradley Telford RA  
4th Regiment Royal Artillery



## The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III



Three cheers Buckingham Palace garden

On 17th April 2023, following a much-welcomed period of leave, seventeen members of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery and eight reservists from 101st Regiment Royal Artillery were selected as the Royal Artillery marching contingent for His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation Parade.

Following introductory briefs to establish the tone and demonstrate the honour associated with this once in a lifetime event, every detail was agonised over, searching for every adjustment, down to making sure each button was correctly aligned. For some of the contingent this was their first exposure to weapon drill, and they faced a steep learning curve. After a week of fine instruction, the team reached a standard ready for their first drill test. This was the Regimental Colonel's first glimpse at the marching contingent and a chance for him to assess if the RA marching contingent was ready for what lay ahead.

Following a good showing on the drill square and the inspection satisfying the detailed eye of the Regimental Colonel, the contingent was deemed fit to deploy on the next stage.

Two days later, the marching contingent arrived in Longmoor Camp with the rest of the our procession group which included some 400 people. This included twenty-four personnel from every Infantry Cap Badge, Royal Signals, Royal Engineers and of course the Royal Artillery. The next day involved a quick assessment on the Longmoor parade square from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst instructors to confirm the standard of drill was acceptable. Passing with flying colours, the marching contingents then progressed on to learning the "12s into 6s" manoeuvre (a new drill movement required to manoeuvre into Buckingham Palace). Covering 12km and conducting on average two full rehearsals, in barrack dress; each day was no small





feat, and all were tired at the end of the day. With the daylight rehearsal at RAF Odiham on the horizon, many were relishing the chance to wear issue boots again for this event.

As the daylight rehearsal approached the Royal Artillery Colonel and RASM joined the procession group. The RA Colonel would march proudly in front of the RA contingent, with the RASM controlling the rear. The Gunners occupied the prestigious position on the very front right of their procession group.

The daylight rehearsal was a full replication of the route planned on the day. The main runway exactly matching the length of the Mall and the northern taxiway mirroring Whitehall's distance. A sports pitch was even used to mimic the grounds of Buckingham Palace's Garden. After two full rehearsals the GOC deemed the day a success. For many this was one of the highlights of the week. A rare opportunity to parade through the streets of London in a mix of moonlight, murky street lighting and luminescent office buildings that followed. Arriving at Waterloo Station aboard the specially scheduled trains and stepping through the concourse felt like stepping out of a football stadium's tunnel onto the pitch. An amazing number of people had gathered to see the arrival of the troops and then step off from Waterloo. Many will not forget the Coldstream Guards Colonel's first order bellowing down the street.

Marching over Westminster Bridge was a once in a lifetime opportunity and listening to Big Ben strike as we approached halfway felt to many as if they were in a dream. Upon arriving at Wellington Barracks, a 3-hour wait was needed while other elements of the parade moved into position. Medics and tailors were on hand to fix both feet

and uniform issues. We were then launched back out from the Barracks and experienced marching down the Mall for the first time. Upon reaching Whitehall we were subjected to an hour and 15-minute wait at ease.

After returning through Waterloo and back into Longmoor a rest day was utilised to reset the body and kit. A final rehearsal day followed at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst focusing on the "12s to 6s" and last little pinch points. One last day of relaxation and kit preparation, with last inspections of Number 1s and boots conducted. Finally, the day of the Coronation had arrived.

At 0300 hrs on 6th May 2023, Longmoor Camp was a hive of activity. The Overnight Rehearsal had established the clear order of events, which were flawlessly executed again through the day itself. A short hop by coach to the local train station, then the special train into Waterloo. Again, that huge feeling of adrenaline and energy build up as we stepped through the open ticket barriers. Crossing the Westminster Bridge, this time live on Sky News at 0730 hrs.

Upon the arrival at Wellington Barracks the excitement of the day was noticeable, with everyone ready to perform and put on their best display of drill. Eagerly waiting to be launched, we waited for three hours. This time marching down the Mall with the bulging crowds and the quiet, steady beat of the drum added to the anticipation. The long wait on Whitehall was less of a mental challenge having already accomplished it on the overnight rehearsal and with plenty to distract oneself with, especially as the crowd helped maintain plenty of morale in the drizzle of London.

by Lt Ryan Powell RA  
5th Regiment Royal Artillery



## Assaye Enduro - MTB North Wales



10 (ASSAYE) Battery 47 RA deployed to North Wales for a week's Mountain Biking.

Fourteen members of 10 (ASSAYE) Bty travelled to Wales for 3 days of mountain biking and multi activities. We were faced with difficult weather conditions, but all individuals made the most of the challenge and enjoyed the trip.

Day one saw us being shown basic manoeuvres, body position, berms and how to navigate other obstacles we may find on the trail, as well as getting taught how to safely check our bikes. We started with the climb to the top of Llandegla Mountain. The snowy trails gave way to amazing views across the valley. Once we had reached the top we had started with the blue trail descent as the majority of the group were beginners. The trails were rocky descents with plenty of obstacles

and long berms allowing us to gain some speed.



The second day brought us more joy as we once again climbed the 1200ft to the top Mountain, however this time we would





take the more challenging red route back down which was definitely a much harder trail. With the route having steeper drops and more speed it really caused you to focus on the trail ahead and get a bit of the thrill factor, whilst allowing us to gain more confidence navigating the route.

For the final day we had a short journey from our accommodation at Caple Curig to Zip World. Boasting the longest zipline in Europe, travelling 1km over a disused quarry, as someone who is scared of heights this really gave me an adrenaline rush. In the afternoon we took on the caverns travelling over 1000ft underground into an old slate quarry for 18 holes of mini golf!

Overall, the entire week was a really solid experience. The challenging activities really brought people in the Battery together trying out new and exciting things outside of the working environment.

by Gnr Harris  
10 (Assaye) Battery  
47th Regiment Royal Artillery



## Exercise DYNAMIC FRONT 23



MN FAB Group Photo

### “Many weapons – one mission”

The Multi-National Field Artillery Brigade (MN FAB) controls the fires and counter-fires on behalf of the Joint Air Ground Integration Cell (JAGIC) for the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps.

### Introduction

In March, 17 Soldiers and Officers from 101 Regt RA, NRHQ RA and HQ 1 DRS BCT joined together to form the MNFAB HQ on Exercise DYNAMIC FRONT in Oksbol, Denmark which is the home of the Danish Artillery and includes a large live fire training area which supports close air support and naval gunfire. The FDC with command posts from 88 Bty and 3/29 Bty of 4th Regiment RA and also took part as one of the Artillery Regiments allocated to the MNFAB. This was the largest exercise to be

held in Denmark for many years and this is their story.

### MNFAB Concept

MNFAB is a stand-up HQ which forms, on orders, to support HQ ARRC and is built around a UK spine. NATO nations provide other key appointments such as the Deputy Commander and Chief Refines (G35) whilst the remainder of the HQ is formed of service personnel from several of the NATO Armies which this year included UK, Italy, France, Turkey and Greece.

The MNFAB is an exciting and relatively new concept which deployed as a UK only element for the first time in 2020. Since then, conceptual development has continued and Ex DYNAMIC FRONT 23 was the second MNFAB deployment in less than a year – no mean feat for an organisation with such a





significant task and, from a UK perspective, formed largely of Reservists.

The MNFAB may be thought of as the Corps FDC and performs many of the tasks that those familiar with a UK Regimental FDC will understand. These include processing fire missions and the allocation of resources in addition to coordination and control of movement and logistics for the Fires Units and STA assets under command.

### Exercise DYNAMIC FRONT

Exercise DYNAMIC FRONT is an annual multi-national exercise designed to improve allied and partner nations' ability to execute multi-echelon fires, and test interoperability of both tactical and theatre-level fires systems in a live environment.

The objective is to ensure that NATO forces are equipped with the capability to execute lethal fire support in wide-area ground combat across Europe and MNFAB is key to achieving this.

Dynamic Front has grown in size and three FABs took part this year and the exercise spanned Europe, from Denmark through Germany to Romania.

The MNFAB took on fire units from 4th Regiment Royal Artillery (UK), 1st Danish Artillery Regiment, 93eme Regiment d'Artillerie de Montagne, Field Artillery Group I/11 from the Spanish Artillery and 2nd Cavalry Regiment Field Artillery Squadron (US) with a troop of Polish guns from 4/2-5 FA.

For a British soldier Ex DF is a great opportunity to work alongside our allies and to learn an incredible amount about their Artillery. Whilst each nationality has its own unique characteristics, none less than the British, together we are stronger for it.

The exercise began with an ASCA (Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities) 'university'

which trained operators to use the ASCA equipment which for those not yet familiar, enables digital fires interoperability by allowing fire control systems from NATO nations to communicate with each other.

The next phase of the exercise was dry firing and a challenging tactical scenario designed to replicate a NATO deployment. By the end of the week the HQ was dealing with up to 6 missions simultaneously with a variety of target sets and methods of control which challenged the FDC team with its complexity, particularly in terms of prioritisation of targets. The FDC team within the MNFAB comprised individuals from France, Greece, Turkey and the UK working together to allocate missions to Danish, Spanish and US fire units demonstrates the truly multi-national effort. Added complexity was injected by movement planning for AMAs and contingency planning for future Ops.

To keep us honest we had the "Vampire" assessment team from the US Army's 17 Training Command. Vampire is an apt name – the entire sensor to shooter chain from the Joint Forces Land Component Commander to the launcher, gun, mortar or ship was timed, analysed and fed back for continuous improvement. The Vampires also inject fast-balls with glee, such as the Spanish vehicle fleet being given contaminated fuel, preventing their transit between AMAs, which gave the S4 a real challenge. You can't hide from the Vampires.

A maintenance day at the end of the first week allowed for a much-needed day off for the team. Denmark is home to the 'Lego' brand and although Legoland was still closed for the winter a trip to the 'Lego House' in nearby Billund proved very popular



whether it be for the opportunity to re-live childhoods or to purchase presents for loved ones on return home. Those less interested in Lego went for a sightseeing drive around a local Fjord or visited the local town of Esbjerg where coffee, cake and a modern art museum delivered some cultural education.

The second week was the live fire phase. Although in some respects this was not as challenging in terms of complexity, integrating units from other nations with a range of equipment it demonstrated the importance of NATO standards. As a Gunner, controlling equipment from other nations is fascinating. Many of us will recognise the AS90 turret on a K9 chassis that is the Krab. Just as interesting is the digitisation of the gun where the Number One is able to generate their own fire mission and fire multiple round simultaneous impact (MRSI) missions. On Dynamic Front 23 the MN FAB controlled US M777, French Caesars, Polish Krabs, Danish Piranhas, Spanish and British FDCs with notional M109s and Light Gun.

Multi-Domain operations are key to MN FAB capability and although we were unable to integrate the planned F16 Air

sorties due to the weather, the Maritime component with NGS from the German Flagship of Standing NATO Maritime Group 1, FRG Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the Portuguese NRP Bartolomeu-Dias were integrated into the Land Fires plan and directed by 148 Bty, 29 Cdo Regt RA.

### Conclusion

Ex DYNAMIC FRONT 23 has been an important step on the pathway to developing this stand-up HQ capability, building from the concept demonstration last year to deliver genuine growth. The next 18 months is expected to see continued development and later this year the MNFAB HQ will send observers to Ex Defender in Romania to develop the concept and consolidate the lessons from Dynamic front. The MNFAB HQ will deploy once again in 2024 as part of the ARRC, this time to Finland on an enlarged Ex DYNAMIC FRONT where it is hoped that a vertical slice from 1 DRS BCT will be in support and include MLRS from all three of our launcher Regiments, and an Italian MLRS Regiment amongst others.

by Lt Col Adam Greenfield RA  
NRHQ RA and Woolwich Station



Danish 120mm Mortars Firing from Pirahna





## Soaring Spirits



Stalker VXE30

A short while ago the Desert Hawk III drone was quietly retired from British Army service, ending a relationship that began in 2006.

There was no grand ceremony or commemorative flight, but for many within 32 Regiment, Royal Artillery the occasion was momentous.

This aircraft had, after all, been a faithful companion in Iraq and Afghanistan, enhancing reconnaissance capabilities and helping to save lives.

For the foreseeable future, the Regiment's personnel will be mainly using two versions of AeroVironment's highly capable Puma uncrewed aerial system (UAS) – the AE and the larger high endurance LE.

As the Army's only unit dedicated to operating smaller UAS, 32 Regt will also have access to the American manufacturer's



Puma Launch

Wasp platform, in addition to Parrot Anafi micro-drones for short-range tasks.

Also, by early 2025, the formation is scheduled to reach full operating capability with the incoming Stalker fixed-wing and



Wasp

Indago 4 rotary-wing drones – additions that will create a formidable and flexible fleet of UAS for the Service to exploit.

"Our regiment needs lots of different aircraft to carry out various tasks so, ideally, we can cherry-pick from a range of assets to obtain the best one for any given situation," says commanding officer Lt Col Simon Briggs (RA).

"Different platforms allow you to get different sensors into various parts of the battlefield under different conditions.

"For example, Stalker is bigger than the Puma, with more sizeable payloads and an endurance of more than eight hours, so we would use those two systems differently."

The AE has been employed by the Army in limited numbers since 2016, mainly for deployments such as Op Newcombe in Mali. But the decision to purchase more Pumas to replace the Desert Hawk was triggered by the launch of the LE, together with the introduction of a new long-range tracking antenna and fresh funding for the Royal Artillery's UAS capability.

"The DH III had started to be seen as a bit of a burden by battlegroups," Sgt Michael Cupper, an instructor with 32 Regt said.

"I think its performance and outputs had

fallen below people's expectations – it had become unreliable and its footage was often pretty shaky. It was showing its age, I guess."

The procurement of more Wasp and Puma drones has been timely for the unit because it is being expanded from three batteries to four to meet increasing demand for UAS capability from across the Field Army.

And the good news for brigade combat teams deploying on operations or exercises is that the Puma will give them pan-battlefield coverage, with an operational range extending to 40km or more and long endurance that will help provide crucial intelligence on enemy formations' movements.

In fact, its figures beat the Desert Hawk III's in every category, with both AE and LE models enjoying superior flying performance, range and payload.

"It's a much cleverer bit of kit too," explains Bdr Joshua Greatrix.

"For example, it can work out for itself the speed it should cruise at to get the best endurance from its battery, and its picture quality is loads better thanks to impressive electro-optical and infra-red sensors and the gimbal and gyro, which stabilise the images."

Sgt Cupper adds: "I flew the Puma AE in Mali a couple of years ago as a detachment commander and it was great to use.

"We pushed it hard, scouting ahead of the Long-Range Reconnaissance Group to observe isolated villages, nomads and any other signs of life out in the desert.

"We often flew 20km over the course of two-and-a-half-hours in more than 40 degrees Celsius and it never failed us.

"The system offers so much more to a battlegroup than the Desert Hawk ever could because if you're soaking an area for





a few hours and viewing high quality feed, you're going to get a much better picture of the pattern of life and be able to identify threats more effectively."

The fact that the Pumas are, for now, the mainstay of 32 Regt is already creating a ripple of interest across the Service, says Lt Col Briggs.

One outstanding feature their predecessor lacked was the technology to help artillery guns and rockets zero-in on targets.

"Once the necessary training and permissions have been cleared we'll be in a position where our Puma teams can call for fires by sending an eight-figure grid directly to the gunlines," continues the officer.

"You need a lot of training to do that for safety reasons because there is huge potential for blue on blue, especially on a fluid battlefield, but some of this drone's kit is game-changing for us.

"It allows us to see on screen where a round lands and with two clicks get an automatic correction for the gunline.

"Every single time we've trialled this feature we've enjoyed great success – it's no surprise visiting personnel are always impressed by the power of Puma's array of Istar capabilities."

The regiment is now looking at a well-funded and busy future – a situation that has been helped by the proliferation and innovative use of drones in the Ukraine war and other recent conflicts including Nagorno-Karabakh, not to mention their successful use by the British Army on deployments including Mali and Kosovo.

A large stock of Pumas is now in place at the unit and conversion training has begun in earnest.

On the day Soldier visited the regiment, drills were being practised on Salisbury Plain to hone bungee launches and manually controlled landings. The latter is carried out when GPS jamming, aircraft damage or weather conditions make the drone's automated landing procedure impossible to execute safely.

"The session is going really well, everyone's enjoying it," notes Sgt Cupper, who completed a train-the-trainer course for the system in the US last year.

"We're developing our capability, our flying skills and learning how to counter an enemy's ground fire.

"We did some trials in Wales with the Infantry trying to shoot the Pumas down and not many were hit because of their size, speed and the altitude they fly at."

"And we're learning more about hiding the electronic signal we connect to the drone with, which can give away your position on the ground because trackers can latch on to the source."

Troops are also exploring lots of new ideas to explore the boundaries of the Pumas' potential, something that's being encouraged among all the personnel, says Lt Col Briggs.

"I recently set my signals team the task of securely streaming live full-motion video from a Puma flying in Kenya back to Colchester in as close to real time as you can get," he adds.

"The crew needed to work out how to encrypt the feed in Kenya, then send it to the UK, convert it into useful intelligence and send that data back to the point of relevance on the battlefield.

"One of my staff sergeants came up with a



viable solution by, basically, joining together bits of existing kit the Army currently uses." environment as fast-moving as the world of UAS, relevance is everything."

"It's that kind of innovation and lateral thinking, for which the Regiment is well known that will help keep us and this capability relevant – and in an







## Rededication of plaque in memory of Lieutenant Arthur Galbraith

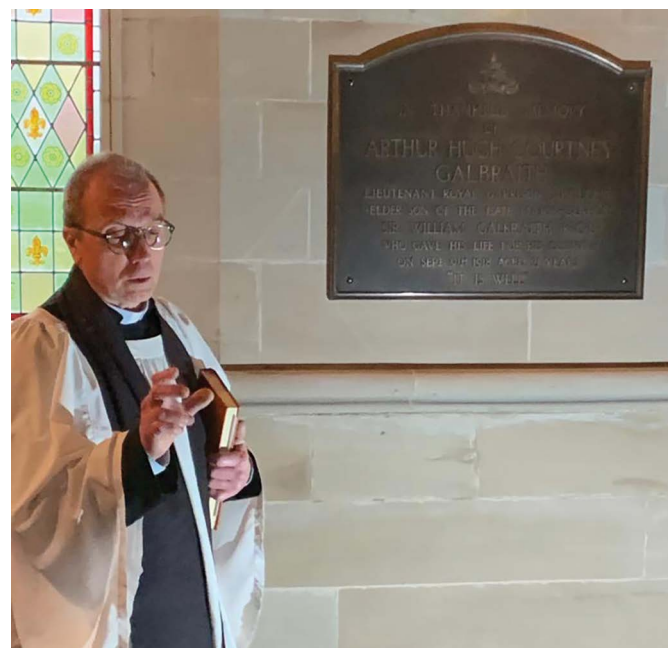


Last Thursday evening, 24 Worcestershire residents and representatives from 214 Battery (Worcestershire) Royal Artillery, gathered at the lovely Malvern Wells Cemetery Chapel to hear the Reverend Geoff Vevers, of the church of St Andrews and All Saints Church, re-dedicate a plaque to the memory of Lieutenant Arthur Galbraith, who served in the Royal Garrison Artillery in the First World War and was killed near Ypres on 9th September 1918.

Late last year, Army veterans Steve Healy and Tim Kidwell, along with cemetery warden Steve Maude, discovered the plaque, stored with others, in the Cemetery Chapel cellar. It had been removed from St Peter's, 300m up the road, when the Church was de-consecrated in 1994.

With permission from the Parish Council and the Cemetery Manager, Michelle Alexander, the plaque was recovered and restored by West Malvern resident, John Pole, to the excellent

condition you can see here. The team mounted the plaque in the Chapel last month.



So what of the man? Arthur Hugh Courtney Galbraith was born on 22nd July 1897 in India



(which is now part of Pakistan), the son of Major General Sir William Galbraith KCB and of Lady Helen Mary Galbraith. In 1901 the family had returned to the UK soon moved to Lutwyche (a house which is now 3-3A Grundy's Lane), Malvern Wells.

With the First World War raging, Arthur joined up and passed out of the Woolwich Military Academy in May 1916. Landing in France on 5th November 1917, he served as an officer with the 284th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.



During July 1918, as part of the British counter-offensive which would end the War, Arthur and his Battery moved to an area around Ypres in Belgium and there followed a week of gas artillery bombardments on both sides.

The Brigade War Diary records for the night of 30/31st Aug. Gas attack on 284 Siege Battery at Froidmont near the town of Nesle. Officers' Mess in the centre of the concentration, and 8 officers were immediately, badly gassed. 10 officers and 44 soldiers died of wounds.

One of his brother officers tells this story: "284 siege battery were very unlucky. Their Officers' quarters were smashed-in one night by a gas shell, and unfortunately all the Officers were so near as to become casualties. Lieutenant Galbraith, was among the unfortunate ones. He died a few days later from the effect of gas

poisoning: a braver or more cheery soul one could not possibly have wished to meet."



Arthur Galbraith did indeed die from gas poisoning on 9th September 1918 at a base hospital in Rouen. He is buried in France at the St Sever Cemetery Extension near Rouen. This plaque was most likely to have been commissioned by his mother and younger brother, Ian.







## Burial of an unknown soldier of The Royal Field Artillery



Their name liveth for evermore

The remains of a Royal Field Artillery soldier were discovered north of the village of Ginchy on the Somme during preliminary work to install wind turbines. The unknown soldier was found with a shoulder title indicating that he most likely belonged to the Royal Field Artillery.

Extensive research carried out by JCCC showed that the casualty was most likely a Gunner belonging to, or attached to 20th (Light) Divisional Artillery, who were located in 'Toc 7 Valley' from 25 September until November 1916, where the remains were discovered.

Conditions in the valley were bleak, with the Gunners continuously exposed to the elements and enemy artillery fire. The book 'A History of the Twentieth (Light) Division' gives the following description of their time there:

*'The batteries were in a valley about 800 yards north-east of Delville Wood, known from its map reference as Toc 7 Valley. It was a most unpleasant*

*place. Within a length of a mile all the guns of the whole artillery covering 20th Division were crowded together, being in places only ten yards apart. The gun-pits were very rough at first, consisting of a sandbag parapet with a tarpaulin or matting over the gun. The men lived in slits in the ground, with a sheet of corrugated iron over the top and a great deal of water at the bottom. The Germans knew well enough that our guns were concentrated in this valley - the only place in the neighbourhood that gave any flash cover - and shelled the positions continually. There was great difficulty at this time in getting up ammunition, all of which had to come by night over the exposed ridge east of Delville Wood.'*

DNA testing was carried out for the missing Gunner belonging to or attached to 20th (Light) Divisional Artillery who was killed during this period. However, as of yet, no match has been found.

He was therefore, buried as an unknown soldier of the RFA on 20 June 2023.



- Warm bronze finished stainless steel case
- Bespoke warm metallic black dial
- 12 marker changed to NATO Howitzer symbol
- Zigzag in subdued grey across centre
- Internal bezel printed in Mils scale
- Seconds hand with tipped in Regimental colours
- White luminous hands taken from white lanyard
- *UBIQUE* microprinted at 6
- Monogram printed in subdued grey at 6: Choice of King's Crown/Queen's Crown, subject to order levels
- Brown leather strap echoes cross belt
- St. Barbara's lightning symbol printed in red on 4th date to highlight St. Barbara's day
- St. Barbara in relief in the centre of the caseback; caseback will always be vertical
- *ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY* etched in relief above; *SPECIAL EDITION* BELOW
- 25 characters of personal engraving included
- Brushed warm bronze finish stainless steel case and bezel
- Domed sapphire glass with anti reflective coating
- Screw in strap bars
- Internal rotating timing bezel
- Individually tested to 200m in water
- Interchangeable straps
- Swiss quartz movement
- 3yr battery life & low battery warning
- Caseback will always be vertical

£425 on brown leather strap  
£495 on matching steel bracelet

From every watch sold, Elliot Brown will donate £40 to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund

Express your interest at: [bit.ly/EBxRRoA](https://bit.ly/EBxRRoA) or via the QR code:







## Press Release

### Forces Pension Society: can you help identify a Veteran with an unclaimed pension?

As part of a campaign to encourage Veterans with unclaimed pension benefits to come forward with their claims, the Forces Pension Society encourages you to help identify anyone you think might qualify. We know there are thousands of Veterans who have not yet made their claims. Our recent Freedom of Information request showed that during the 24-month period alone, between 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022, over 4,000 Armed Forces pensions went unclaimed.

The AFPS Annual Report (July 2022) identified a larger total of 16,518 unclaimed benefits, with some Veterans having more than one entitlement.

#### Maj Gen Neil Marshall, CEO of the Forces Pension Society said:

**“We can all play our part in encouraging Veterans we know, to come forward if they have not claimed their preserved pensions or preserved lump sums. These can be significant amounts of money. For example, a preserved pension of £1,500 for someone who left in April 1985, would now have a value of £4,500 pa.**

**Anyone serving after April 1975, now aged 60 or over, could have an unclaimed pension. AFPS pensions earned before April 2005 are payable at age 60 but will not be paid automatically – they have to be applied for.**

**“We urge you to encourage anyone who might be eligible, to visit the Veterans’ Gateway website without delay:**

[https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/395](https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/395)

**“Of course the Government also has a role to play in signposting the issue to the Veterans’ community, and we continue to encourage them to do just that.”**

The Forces Pension Society is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that acts as a pension watchdog for the entire military community. If you would like to find out more about our work and how we empower our Members to make the best pension choices, visit our website – [www.forcespensionsociety.org](http://www.forcespensionsociety.org)



## Mobbs Memorial Match



Tries from Gnr Senitiki Nayalo and Sgt Connor O'Reilly (both 7 Para Regt RHA) were not enough to give the Army Rugby Union team victory in their final appearance in the Mobbs Memorial Match.

The duo's efforts saw the Reds firmly in contention in the clash with Bedford Blues before a yellow card for Rfn Vereimi Qorowale (Rifles) tipped the contest in their rivals' favour.

Bedford, who included a number of Northampton Saints academy players in their ranks, went on to win the fixture 38-10 in what was the soldiers' last run out ahead of the Inter-Services.

Relaunched in 2012, the Mobbs Memorial Match has seen the Army take on Bedford and Northampton in alternating years, but the pressures of the professional game have made it increasingly difficult for the

opposition clubs to commit to the tie in its current mid-season berth.

They will now play the match as part of their pre-season preparations.

Edgar Mobbs starred on the field for Northampton, England, the Barbarians and East Midlands and lost his life in the First World War while serving as a Lieutenant Colonel in 7th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

“It has been an important and special fixture for us and with this being the final iteration involving the Army, it has been a touch more poignant,” said head coach Lieutenant Colonel Tim Osman RA.





American Football - sponsored by NFL's New York Jets



On the 12th May 2023 UK Armed Forces American Football (UKAF) took part in a Friday Night Lights event versus the US Visiting Forces (USVF) at RAF Lakenheath. Although being held within the UK, UKAF were the away team for this fixture. The game was sponsored by the NFL's New York Jets, who provided both teams custom jerseys and the winners belt! The event took place at the fantastic venue of Lancer Field within RAF Lakenheath, UKAF were set to play 3 games, against 3 different teams, meaning we had to play 3 times in comparison to the US teams one game per team.

Game one started with two back to back unanswered UKAF scores, on the back of a fantastic grab from 2Lt Will Luck RLC on a contested catch that went UKAF's way. Army QB Martin Brown took the Army to

a 18-14 lead with not much time left on the clock. Unfortunately, UKAF then threw an interception that was taken for a score, with little time left before the final whistle, UKAF could not score resulting in a loss of 20-18.

Game two started as a very close affair. With the score at the half being 0-0 things were looking good for UKAF as the Americans grew concerned about the growing success every play for the UKAF offence and defence. Then the worst luck happened and QB Martin Brown AGC(RMP) injured his Achilles mid play, still managing to complete a pass for a first down. This meant UKAF were down to just two QBs and the most experienced player on the field being injured. UKAF then threw two back to back interceptions that both ended in scores. The full-time score was 22-0 to USVF, this



result, unfortunately confirmed the US forces had won the silverware regardless of the game three score.

Game three was another close game against a team that did not want to let up, although RAF QB Cameron found his rhythm at the right time and UKAF took full control of the game with some fantastic drive saving plays. Some big defensive turnovers gave

the offence the ability to run the clock out, leading UKAF to a 13-6 victory. The day was a huge success, and all the players and coaches are already looking towards next year's event and how we can bring home the silverware.

by SSgt (QGI) Day  
RPAS Analyst  
Requirement Setting Team (Joint Effects)







### Canterbury Branch

On Sunday 21st May Canterbury Branch recently attended a Service at St Mary in Castro (Dover Castle) to celebrate Foundation Day. Standards were paraded on behalf of Kent District, Dover and Canterbury Branches and the lessons were read by Canterbury Branch Chairman, John Bishop. After the short service a short wreath laying ceremony was held at the Anglo American Artillery Memorial on Langdon Cliffs, Dover.



### Shoeburyness Branch

The Royal British Legion marked National Service 60 at the National Memorial Arboretum on 16th May 2023. Branch member and former National Serviceman Pat Nixon attended the event to commemorate the ending of National Service 60 years ago. Pat served in West Germany from 1956-1958 as part of 88 (Arracan) Battery, 41st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.



### Regiment Artillery Assembly

Given that last year's event was the return of the Assembly after the break caused by COVID, I was a little concerned that after that surge in interest, that numbers and attendance might be down this year, this was before the Army and Navy Rugby game had been moved to the same weekend due to date changes created by the Coronation. Thankfully my concerns were unfounded as once again we all came together in great numbers. On the weekend of 12th-14th May, the Royal Regiment of Artillery hosted over 336 Gunners, both serving and retired, along with special guests to join them in Blackpool at the Norbreck Castle Hotel for the AGM and Grand Gala Dinner.

The Friday evening saw the National Executive Committee coming together for the Master Gunner St James's Park Dinner which also saw the return of several old friends and colleagues, amongst their number being Lt Col Nigel Cooke, returning to Blackpool with many of our veteran community (who Nigel will have undoubtedly helped), commenting on how nice it was to see our former RACF Welfare Officer back within the ranks.

This year's program had undergone some significant changes in the running order of the event. One of the drivers for this was to ensure the Standard Bearers Competition returned with a vengeance, particularly as this year it would provide the platform for the selection of the National Standard Bearer. Turning out in all weathers, often at short notice, regimental standard bearers provide visible support to both serving soldiers and veterans at a variety of events up and down the country, ranging from services of remembrance to military parades to family funerals. In so doing, they bring a degree of flair, dignity and respect that is admired and appreciated by all in attendance. Mark Ballard, Newbury and District Branch Standard Bearer, was successful in winning the competition and appointed the National Standard Bearer. Mark's turnout, the quality of his drill, and his bearing on parade marked him out from his fellow competitors to win the award, which was presented by the Master Gunner St James's Park in the afternoon. WO1 (RASM) Sanders L is thanked for pulling together a quality team to run, judge and support the competition.



The Assembly began with an address from the Master Gunner, Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB DL, always capturing the topics of the day and the general mood, he spoke about some of the challenges both on the home front and abroad in the Ukraine, as well as the King's Coronation just the week before, he tempered this with a request for patience, with regards to confirmation of the announcement of our Captain General and in turn possibly a hopefully similar announcement with regards to Patron of the Gunner Charities. He closed with how pleasing it was to see strong numbers of both past and present members in attendance. The Regimental Colonel, Col RC Harmer ADC also touched on Golden Orb (The Coronation) but also Operations, Capability and rounded it all off with a section on 'Gunner Purpose' bringing into the light for the first time for many veterans the new Gunner Find and Strike message. In addition, the Assembly also received a presentation from the RAA Chairman Brig Mark Pountain CBE, and the Regimental Secretary Col Matthew Carter which focused on the work that has been ongoing in the development of the Association in line with several Working Groups that have been undertaken over the year since the last Assembly. The final presentation, was the collective update from both 12RA and 16RA on how Air Defence has been promoted, invested, utilised and grown over the last 12 months included many references to the ongoing war and support to the military both regiments are giving to Ukraine. Both RAA and Air Defence presentations were very well received and promoted discussion and questions that reach well after the open forum and through the remainder of the weekend.

The annual awards this year were presented by the Master Gunner St James's Park. Each year various awards are presented to individuals as well as the Branch/Regiment for outstanding service and support to the RA Charities. There were many winners this year and Artillery House would like to send its warmest congratulations to the recipients of all the awards. Of note it would be remiss not to highlight a couple of very notable awards; Royal Artillery Association Medals were awarded to Mr David Hadjicostas MBE Shoeburyness & South Essex Branch and Mr Trevor Lisseman Newbury & District Branch, both awards were thoroughly deserved and well received and acknowledged by the gathered audience. The prestigious Mansergh Memorial Award was presented to Gunner K

Davies 47 Regiment RA. Gnr Davies's lifesaving actions were truly remarkable and there was hardly a dry eye in the house out of emotion, admirations or pride, a truly deserved award to a remarkable young woman who is a credit to her family, her regiment and to us all in the Gunner family.

The RAA AGM was chaired by Brig Mark Pountain CBE who delivered his Chairman's Report focused on RAA events and activities over the past 12 months, the Chairman was assisted and supported by the Regimental Secretary Col Matthew Carter who during his address focused on this year's financial report. This brought a close to the formal proceedings with everyone retiring to bar for refreshments and a catch up before the evening's activity.

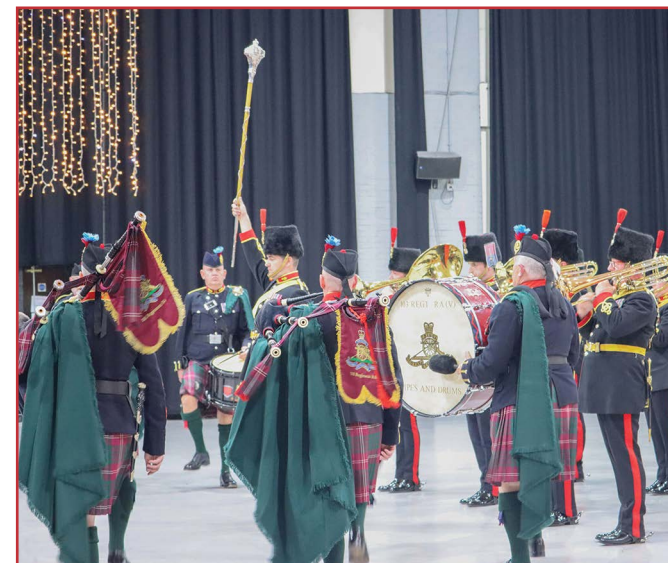
The Sunset Ceremony, which was attended by the Mayor of Blackpool, was spectacular. We as Gunners are truly blessed to be able to call on the Lancashire Artillery Volunteer (LAV) Band, who were immaculately turned out, the band were also once again superbly supported by the Pipes and Drums, and it is with sincere thanks to 103 Regt RA who not only support with the band but also supply displays, workforce, and equipment throughout the weekend. The LAV Band also routinely provide an opening set for the Gala Dinner, but I have to say this year along with the Pipes and drums, out did themselves with a magnificent musical program that entertained the Gala Dinner well into the evening.

It would be remiss of me to write this report without specific acknowledgment to all those who made this year's Royal Artillery Assembly such a resounding success, particularly the RASM and his team along with a whole host of individuals both serving, veterans and not forgetting the outstanding support the management and the team at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, who all come together to make the weekend such a worthwhile and successful event.

So, a huge 'Thank You' to you... The Association Members, Veterans and Serving Soldiers from across our Regiments who turned up and supported. The weekend completely exemplified the strong comradeship within the whole Gunner community and 'esprit de corps' that this and occasions like it seek to promote.

Look forward to seeing you next year, We'll Meet Again Date – 17th-19th May 2024.





A special thanks to our photographer, Mollie Ballard from Newbury & District Branch. To view more photographs, please visit her website [www.mollieballard.wixsite.com/mbphotos](http://www.mollieballard.wixsite.com/mbphotos)

2022 TROPHY WINNERS

AWARD	WINNER
MANSERGH MEMORIAL AWARD	Gunner K Davies 47 Regiment RA
RA ASSOCIATION MEDAL	Mr David Hadjicostas MBE Shoeburyness & South Essex Branch
	Mr Trevor Lisseman Newbury & District Branch
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT	Mr George Weston Aigburth-Merseyside Branch
BURTON CUP Most money per capita to Heritage	Norwich Branch
ARTILLERY HOUSE CUP Most money raised overall by a Branch for RACF/RAA	Norwich Branch
CATERHAM CUP Runners-up to Artillery House Cup	Plymouth Branch
EIRE CUP Most effort & Support to its branch throughout the year	Wrexham Branch
RA ASSOCIATION CUP – Regimental Action or achievement of particular merit	105 Regiment RA
RA ASSOCIATION KERR CUP - Battery Action or achievement of particular merit	43 Battery (Lloyds Company) RA 47 Regiment RA
RA ASSOCIATION ABU KLEA TROPHY Best Turned out Standard Bearer	Mr Chris Burns Ayrshire Branch
STANDARD BEARER'S COMPETITION (Appointed National Standard Bearer)	Mr Mark Ballard Newbury & District Branch
RA ASSOCIATION PRIZE FOR YOUNG OFFICER	Second Lieutenant ES Holland RHA





### 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 [emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:emm.pagan-skelley100@mod.gov.uk) or through your chain of command.

### 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery

#### The Meiktila Spring Dinner Night/Op TELIC 20 Anniversary Dinner

On the evening of Friday 31st March, nearly 100 serving and former members of 148 (MEIKTILA) Commando Forward Observation Battery sat down to dinner in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Royal Marines Hamworthy Poole; to celebrate and commemorate the 20th anniversary of Operation TELIC and to remember the members of the Battery who lost their lives during the Conflict.

The evening commenced with superb welcome drinks from Drop Zone; a veteran owned company. Dinner was a splendid affair and the wine flowed and the food was delicious and served impeccably by Julie and her team of Mess staff. A huge thank you to The RSM at RM Hamworthy for allowing us to use his mess to hold our dinner there, The Mess manger 'Smudge' was extremely helpful and helped to make the evening such a success.

The serving BC of 148 Bty during Op TELIC was Col (Retd) Philip Shephard-Walwyn who delivered a fine speech which covered every aspect of the battery's activities, not just at the sharp end but also the vital work carried out by the rear party.

The current serving BC Maj Birtwistle spoke of the unsung heroes of the Squadron like the Gunner who stowed away to go to war, the Marine who conned his way down to Ascension and the Sqn members on exchange with the Army who managed to return to the San to be able to go to war.

Finally, Bdr Hamzat gave a fantastic Bty update to the room and had everyone in tears of laughter

with his dry sense of humour. The evening ended where all good evening's end - in the bar, with lots of war stories 'flying' about.

Our truly grateful thanks go out to the Royal Artillery Association for their generous donation that the organisation gave the Battery to be able to put on such a truly memorable event. Everyone agreed that the night was a success.



### Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance

The Royal Artillery Association will conduct the Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas on Saturday 22nd July 2023 commencing at 1100 hrs. All members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and their families are welcome to attend. Please find further details of the event [www.thegunners.org.uk/events](http://www.thegunners.org.uk/events)



### Lewes Branch

Lewes Branch Royal Artillery Association held their 2023 Annual Dinner which combined the 30th Anniversary of the reformation of Lewes Branch on Saturday 27th May 2023 at The John Harvey Tavern in Lewes.

Invited guests included; RAA Association Secretary, Maj (Retd) Dickie Davies and his wife Julie, along with Lt Dexter Fletcher, WO2 (BSM) Pete Kinsey and WO2 John Godwin-Smart (Ops WO) from our Affiliated Battery, 43 Bty (Lloyds Company) RA. 43 Bty were presented with the Royal Artillery Association Kerr Cup at the RA Assembly, and brought the trophy with them to have a photo with their nominating Branch.

The evening was a great success, members and everyone had a great time.

### RACF Fundraising

#### 101 Regiment Royal Artillery

205 Battery conducted a cycle fundraiser for the RACF on the 4 Feb. Gunners from 205 (3 DVA) Battery undertook a charity bike ride which raised over £500 for the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF). The ride was conducted on exercise bikes covering the distance of 517 km: the distance from the 205 Battery Army Reserve Centre to the RACF offices in Larkhill.



### RACF SUPPORT TO THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY

To date in 2023 we have helped our Gunner family by providing 339 grants.

**Just over £264,000 has been pledged to help those in need.**

18% of all cases thus far have been towards household goods.

13% of our cases have been towards mobility items such as riser recliners, EPV's and mobility needs.

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 167 3998/0300 158 7035.

We can be contacted by email: [RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RARHQ-RACF-WELFARE-MAILBOX@mod.gov.uk)

*Thank You's*







Date	Event	Location
2023		
28 Jul	YOs' Dining In	Larkhill
14 Sep	Sunset Ceremony	Larkhill
09 Mar	RA Boxing Finals	Larkhill
04 Oct	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
05 Oct	Alanbrooke Lunch	London
20 Oct	Alamein Dinner	Larkhill
09 Nov	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
12 Nov	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park Corner
03 Dec	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill Garrison Church
08 Dec	YOs Dining In	Larkhill
13 Jan	Ex SNOW STORM 24	Flachauwinkl, Salzburg, Austria
1 Jul 2024 (tbc)	RA Service of Remembrance	National Memorial Arboretum



REUNIONS

**30 BATTERY REUNION**  
30 Bty intend to hold a Bty reunion on Sat 29 Jul 23. The format for the reunion will be an equipment & heritage display on Thorney Island, followed by a formal dinner in the evening held at a local hotel. This reunion is open to all serving and retired members of the Bty. Please contact the reunion lead, WO2 Wheeler at: 30batteryrcoy@gmail.com

**ATTENTION ALL EX-25 ERS**  
2024 will see the 40th anniversary of the demise of the best gun Regiment of its day. We have just celebrated the 38th disbandment reunion in the usual fashion, kind courtesy of 204 Battery at Kingston Park, Newcastle, with circa 120 in attendance. There is still an intent to run the same again next year (Fri 16 and Sat 17 Jun 23). The planning dates are therefore Mon 24, Tue 25 and Wed 26 Jun 24. Indeed Tom Robson has managed to secure a number of quality rooms at the County Hotel and the Vermont and will underwrite the accommodation for the period through his company as a charitable benefit. We have made provisional arrangements with Newcastle's St Nicholas Cathedral, for a commemoration/celebration service hopefully supported by the Newcastle Scottish Pipes and Drums with 25 pounder gate guards and uniformed ushers provided by 101 Regiment RA, for 1500 hrs Wed 26 Jun. We will also be providing live entertainment and a finger buffet all at no cost to those attending. So at the moment participants should arrive on Mon 24 for a free day. Tue 25 you have the choice of afternoon tea for the ladies and a pie and pint for the men or whichever way round you prefer! Wed 26 Cathedral Service at 1500 hrs and as mentioned above this would be followed by a reception for our guests and a party in the evening as the main event. Come on boys and girls none of us are getting any younger and to aim off for a 50th celebration might be pushing it a bit so this is the big chance for one rememberable great reunion. Please sign in or request to join '25 Regt RA - 40th Anniversary' for further information.

**1 RHA REUNION DINNER**  
The 71<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Royal Horse Artillery Officers' Mess Reunion Dinner will be held at the RA Mess, Larkhill on Friday 10th November 2023. Would any former officer

of the Regiment who wishes to attend and who has not received details of the dinner by 1st October 2023 please contact the Dinner Secretary, Major Alison Smith on 0300 1667279 alison.smith694@mod.gov.uk

**7 AIR DEFENCE GROUP  
GROUND BASED AIR DEFENCE  
REUNION DINNER 2023**  
7 Air Defence Group will host the Ground Based Air Defence Officers' Reunion Dinner 2023, which will take place on Saturday 8th July 2023 in the Officers' Mess on Thorney Island. To register interest and receive a formal invitation please respond to the QR code below.



**ALAMEIN DINNER**  
The Alamein Dinner 2023 will be held on Fri 20 Oct at the RA Mess, Larkhill. The dinner will take the form of a Regimental Guest Night with partners and is open to officers of the Royal Regiment, serving and retired, and their guests. There will also be some regimental guests. Dress for the serving officers is Mess Dress - Full Ceremonial Evening, (stiff shirts) decorations. For retired officers/civilians it is evening dress (white tie, long dresses) with decorations. The cost of the tickets will be £65 per head. For places apply to Jenny McGrath by email: jennifer.mcgrath924@mod.gov.uk 01980 845788 and payment can be either: BACS: RAI, 30-11-75, 00957269 (Please prefix payment reference with AD23) Cheque: made payable to the Royal Artillery Institution. Please note a first come first served basis applies.

ROYAL ARTILLERY OFFICERS' ALANBROOKE LUNCH  
THU 5 OCT 23



The next Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Lunch is on Thu 5 Oct 23 at The Army & Navy Club, St James's Square, London. Drinks 1200. Lunch 1245. Our guest speaker will be announced nearer the time. The Alanbrooke Lunch Club is open to all Gunners officers, Regular and Reserve whether serving or retired. The lunches cost £65 and the price includes pre-lunch drink, wine and port. A cash bar is available after lunch. To attend the lunches you must be a member of the Alanbrooke Club. There is an annual membership fee of £10 but this is waived for serving officers. Members wishing to attend this lunch should make a bank transfer for £65 to the Royal Artillery Benevolent Fund (Sort code 30-11-75, Acc number 00568858) annotating your transfer with your initial and surname or send a cheque made to 'Royal Artillery Benevolent Fund' to the Regimental Secretariat Officer, Mrs Emma Pagan-Skelley. If you make a bank transfer please email the Royal Artillery Secretariat Officer to say that you have done so. Any excess of funds will be donated to the RACF at the end of the year. Do spread the message amongst your Gunner friends, and of course you may bring a guest (who may be non-military) should you wish, or bring a group of friends you served with. Commanding Officers are asked to encourage and facilitate attendance by their officers. If you wish to join us please contact the Regimental Secretariat Assistant Emm. Pagan-Skelley100@mod.gov.uk



# 7<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

Readiness  
Opportunities  
Professionalism  
Challenge



Scan the QR code to start your journey, or  
email [7RHA-Recruiting@mod.gov.uk](mailto:7RHA-Recruiting@mod.gov.uk)



IN MEMORIAM

## LAST POST

### Notification of Death:

Lt Col Godfrey Hugh Wynne Goodman 27 November 2022  
Lt Col Donald Elliot OBE 5 April 2023  
Maj M T (Tulley) Taylor 13 April 2023  
Maj (Retd) Kevin Young 22 April 2023  
Gnr William "Billy" Mossop 28 April 2023  
WO2 (SMIG) Sam Cunningham 11 May 2023  
Maj Philip Statham 13 May 2023  
Capt (Retd) Joseph Andrew Bird 15 May 2023  
Bob Geordie Wilson 29 May 2023  
Harold 'H' Fenton 29 May 2023  
Sion Jones May 2023

**CHARGE** - Gordon John Charge passed away on 24 Apr 23. A full service career both in the ranks and as officer. He served in numerous theatres including several tours of NI, the Borneo campaign and the Cyprus UN intervention. He was RSM at Junior Leaders Regiment RA and went on to become the QM at Larkhill. He was immensely proud of being a Gunner.

**EDEN** - John Arnold MBE RA Maj (Retd) died peacefully on 16 Apr 23 aged 89 years at Hays House Nursing Home, after a long and bravely fought illness. Much loved husband of Chrissie, loving father to Sophie and James.

**MAHAN** - Lt Col David Mahan (Retd) sadly passed away at home on Wed 3 May 23 after a long illness, his wife and youngest daughter were by his side. He joined as a Gunner at the age of 17, commissioned in 1987 to Captain and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2002. He leaves behind his wife Cynthia Mahan, his loving wife of 53 years. His eldest Daughter Fiona and youngest Daughter Julie. He was the very proud Grandfather to Megan and Harvey.

**WALKER** - Les Walker passed away 25 May 23. A Gunner in the RA between Jan 1961 and Sep 1966. He was also with 7 RHA for a few years and served with them in Aden back in 1965.

## WITNESS APPEAL

Defence Serious  
Crime Command

### DEFENCE SERIOUS CRIME UNIT APPEAL FOR WITNESSES

The Defence Serious Crime Unit are currently investigating a Serious incident which occurred in Germany in 1984.

If you were a member of 6 Battery, 27 Field Regiment Royal Artillery and were part of an exercise to Germany between 1 April and 20 April 1984 please contact the DSCU Bulford Office by: 31 March 2023

Calling: **01980673640** or  
Emailing: **SIBRMP-3InvCoy-32Sect-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk**

Quoting Investigation Reference Number: **03524/22**.



For emergencies always dial **999**

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# Colonel Brian George Nicholson OBE RA



Brian died peacefully at home on 14 May 23 aged 80.

Inspired OTC commander and later, defence attaché Jakarta, whose greatest campaign was raising two daughters.

Brian Nicholson commissioned into the Royal Artillery, like his father, grandfather and earlier generations, continuing a long and distinguished family tradition of Army service. He saw active service in Northern Ireland as well as overseas service in Germany and Hong Kong, which included a role in planning the 1997 handover. Having got the bug for foreign postings, Brian went on to command BMAT in Ghana serving under Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlins, before being selected as the Army Defence Attaché in Jakarta.

On leaving the military, Brian joined the Ex Commonwealth section of the Royal British Legion,

continuing his travels to the far flung corners of the Commonwealth.

He was awarded an OBE in 1985 for his command of East Midlands UOTC. As CO he was in his element taking the cadets on adventurous sailing and skiing expeditions, inspiring the next generation of servicemen and women.

In retirement he was often to be found out on Salisbury Plain with his beloved Labrador Guinness attempting to assist the RA Shoot in its attempts to preserve the local pheasant stock. Another hobby was writing, and Brian published a number of action books with his hero John Gunn saving the day. All proceeds of his book sales were donated to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Brian and his wife, Dru, enjoyed an adventurous lifestyle living overseas with their two daughters, Charlotte and Sasha, who survive him.

Above all, he was a proud, loving and dedicated father and grandfather.

# Major Philip Reginald Statham 1935 - 2023



Philip Statham was born in Kent in 1935 and entered service in the Royal Artillery in 1953. He completed his basic training at Oswestry before being offered a commission at Sandhurst which he completed in July 1955. His paternal ancestors founded one of the biggest perfumeries in the World, Statham and Yardley.

After training at the School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery he was posted to 77 HAA Regt. RA in BAOR.

There followed 2 years at Shrivenham on the Degree Course before he became a GPO with 25 Regt. RA at Bulford.

In 1959 he went on active service to Cyprus and was based in Davlos near Kyrenia.

Postings between BAOR and UK followed, interrupted by a 6-month secondment in 1966 to the British Forces HQ in Guyana, an experience he described as delightful.

After Staff College at Camberley in 1968 he went to 2 Regt. RA at



Barnard Castle, then onto the Royal Radar Establishment at Malvern before posting to 20 Regt. RA and out to Londonderry in 1972 during some of the very worst events of 'The Troubles'.

After Northern Ireland he served on the Worldwide Inspector of Establishments, with the Quality Assurance Directorate at Woolwich, and up to Scotland as Deputy Superintendent Proof and Experimental Establishment.

In 1980 he returned to Woolwich, then onto Shoeburyness where he spent the remaining 11 years of his long career managing weapons and ammunition trials, retiring in 1993.

Major Statham was a very intelligent, articulate, kind and gentle man, liked and respected by all who knew him. Married to Caroline, with 2 sons, Charles and Christopher, and a daughter who tragically died very young, he loved family life as much as he loved Army life. A keen golfer, cricket player and bridge player, he wrote beautiful and humorous poetry, often commentating on the political and social events going on around him, and he loved his dogs, particularly Labradors.

His funeral took place in Shoeburyness on 30th May 2023. He was carried to church on a 25 pounder Gun draped in the Royal

Artillery colours, accompanied by Standard bearers and RAA Branch members from Shoeburyness and South Essex. A perfect send off for a lovely man who was a gunner to his very core.

Rest in Peace Sir. Duty done. A good life well lived. Ubique.



## RA Historical Society 2023 Programme

Date and Timings	Event	Subject	Lecturer/Lead	Bookings Close	Cost per Head
September	Webinar	Virtual Battlefield Tour to The Sedan Battlefields of 1870, 1940 and 1944	Brig Jon Cresswell		Nil
Friday 20 October	Shrapnel Lectures, Newcome Hall, Larkhill and Buffet Lunch	Four Lectures on China, its history and its position in the modern world	Lt Col Peter Thompson	Friday 6 October	To be notified
November	Webinar	To be notified	Col Michael Phillips		Nil

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

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









Photo credit: Defence Imagery, Cpl Andrew Grayson

4th Regiment Royal Artillery seen here at York-Museum Gardens, firing a 21 Gun Salute for the Coronation