

Catch up with the
Regimental family at
work, rest and play

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Congratulations on Fusilier appointments

The Colonel of the Regiment and all Fusilers congratulate the following on their appointments:

- **Maj RP Elsey PWRR** currently XO 5th Fusiliers to be Lt Col (LE) as SO1 Optimisation and Build Estate, Land Warfare Centre, Warminster
- **Lt Col BD Weston R ANGLIAN** (formerly a Fusilier) currently CO 2 R ANGLIAN to be SO1 Army News, Directorate of Defence Communications, MoD
- **Lt Col JS Skelton PWRR** (formerly a Fusilier) currently CO 2 PWRR to be Chief of Staff , HQ 102 Logistics Brigade, Grantham

MPCT & Fifth Fusiliers join forces



The Motivation Preparation College for Training (MPCT) is a unique training College that helps 16-23 year olds develop their fitness, vocational qualifications, and employability skills to help prepare for employment, including rewarding careers in the British Armed Forces.

In July 2018, MPCT opened three new Military Preparation centres in the North East in Newcastle, South Shields and Bishop Auckland.

What a hugely successful and positive day the launch event turned out to be. Managing Director Huw Lewis firstly addressed the VIP filled congregation, educating them on what MPCT does and has done for previous learners via vivid case studies. Mrs. Sue Wilburn, Lord Lieutenant of Tyne & Wear then spoke encouragingly about the opportunities that MPCT can provide for young people, and formally declared the colleges open.

It's been an extremely busy period since the MPCT launch event in July, particularly at MPCT Newcastle at St Georges Army Reserve Centre, the home of X Company 5th



Fusiliers. MPCT Newcastle exceeded our recruitment target in the first three month of opening which has led to the formation of a second College in Newcastle, at MPCT Anzio House, HQ 5th Fusiliers. Learners have taken part in numerous activities and high-profile events across the North East, many of which have been supported by the 5th Fusiliers including a trip to Otterburn Ranges to watch SF GPMG live firing. The

learners had a fantastic day thanks to Capt Mick Straker and Sgt Tony Bateman.

Thanks to 5th Fusiliers, MPCT were able to take part on the Newcastle Remembrance Parade, a fantastic learning experience for everyone involved. Marching through Newcastle Centre in front of thousands of people who were paying their respects will live in the memories of all learners who took part.



After the parade we were all invited back to St Georges Army Reserve Centres for a well-earned curry to end the day's activities,



thanks to Capt Mick Straker and his team.

For more information on courses in your area visit www.mpct.co.uk or call 0330 111 3939

*Ronnie Corbett
MPCT North Regional Operations Manager
and CSgt 5th Fusiliers*

Fusiliers supporting the Warrior upgrade programme



Major Matt Selby and Warrior drivers from 1st Fusiliers are closely involved with the Warrior AFV upgrade programme. Maj Selby is the Assistant Programme Manager and some of our experienced Fusilier drivers and gunners are helping put the programme through its paces.

There will be a full article in Fusilier Journal 2018, due out in March 2019, but this is a trailer of what is to come.

Cpl Collins-Cooper, 1st Fusiliers, training on a Warrior Upgrade demonstration vehicle



People & Places

The last "Fighting Fifth" for the Former Area Secretary (Northumberland)



Capt (ret'd) Tony Adamson receiving a presentation from Newcastle Race Course. Tony was the Area Secretary (Northumbriand) for many years before retiring in April. On a cold, wet but fun day, Tony was presented with a commemorative collage of photos for providing the link between the Fusiliers and the Race Course for the annual "Fighting Fifth" meeting over the years.

Maj (ret'd) John Sneesby and Sarah were in Wellington, New Zealand on 11 November and watched a very moving Remembrance ceremony there. John later bumped into Willie Apiata, who won NZ's most recent VC in Afghanistan. John chatted for a while, trying not to notice the VC ribbon when it was right in front of him. A typical VC holder, Willie was modest and delightful and he rubbed noses with John – called a “hongji” and a great honour.



Maj (ret'd) John Sneesby with his extremely natty man-bag. Inexplicably, Willie Apiata VC doesn't have one too...



Officer Cadets Dan Griffin and Harry Isaac, who commissioned into the Fusiliers in August 2018. Welcome to the Regiment.

Visiting Montgomery Barracks in Berlin



When the last Fusilier departed the front gates of Montgomery Barracks in March 1985, they left Berlin as a totally different place to what it is now. For a start, it was West Berlin.

The Berlin Wall which was thrown up overnight on 13 August 1961 to keep East Berliners from defecting to the West was still in place and not pulled down till November 1991.

The world-famous Spandau Prison built in 1876 was still home to its one and only prisoner, the notorious Rudolf Hess who was Adolf Hitler's nominated deputy. The Prison was only demolished after Hess' death in 1987 and is now very fittingly a shopping centre for the few remaining British Forces stationed in Berlin.

The Cold War was still real. In the same month that we left Berlin, President Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union. We had no idea that this would lead to world shaking events.

So, you could imagine the excitement of the 42 former 3 RRF Fusiliers and their families when finally in August 2018 after 18 months of phone calls and emails, we managed to get the British Embassy's clearance to visit Montgomery Barracks.

The reunion started on Friday 23 November, meeting up in the Irish Bar at the Europa Centre, one of the very few remaining bars from 1985. It was great to see so many old friends who had travelled the world to be there, especially Lt Seton Kendrick who had travelled over 26 hrs and four flights to join us.

After breakfast on Saturday, we all met at Alexander Platz and boarded the coach funded by RHQ (many thanks) and set off on the 40 minute drive to the Barracks.

We were met by the current RSM, WO1 Thomas Korn from 1 Medical Regiment who lives in the Barracks. He gave us an opening brief and basically gave us free rein to go wherever we wanted, provided we didn't enter any buildings. We all spent the next two hours reminiscing about the great years we had had, and told the RSM many stories, two in particular:



1. Seton Kendrick's arrived at the Officers Mess and was told his room wasn't ready. However, they had managed to set him up out the back of the mess in a small building (shown left - it housed the generator) where he spent three long days and three even colder nights. Finally, the PMC took pity and showed him his real room in the Mess.

(It was an Army-wide tradition to play this kind of trick on every brand new subaltern who joined their units for the first time. Ed)

2. 4 Platoon on parade outside B Company office dressed for PT in blue shorts and red vest, the CSM WO2 John Buckley called us to attention and 4 Platoon Sgt Ronnie Waters saluted Maj Cleveland, the CSM Barked "Sgt Waters you don't salute in PT kit" Ronnie's reply "I would salute my OC Naked Sir"

We all ended up in the Officers Mess which is now houses a memorial to the British soldiers who were posted to Berlin. There is a great photo of the CO and WO1 (RSM) Tony Gosling handing over to the 1st Royal Highland Fusiliers. RSM Korn allowed us to do some Regimental toasts in the Mess to absent friends, and we then formally thanked him and his unit, presenting him with Regimental Coins on behalf of the Regiment.

We had a group photo outside the old Bn HQ - although a few absentees sneaked off to look at their old married quarters.

After everyone personally thanking RSM Korn for his hospitality, we boarded the bus to go for a group meal in the Hofbrahaus.

The group then descended onto the Park Inn Hotel to celebrate Maj Mick McDonald's 60th Birthday in style, with all the locals joining in.

On Sunday everyone had a free day to visit Checkpoint Charlie and other places of interest before a final meet up and departures back home.

Thank you to everyone who attended; to the British Embassy in Berlin; to RHQ; and to WO1 Thomas Korn for his amazing hospitality.

Captain Mick Straker
PSAO X Coy
5th Fusiliers

Notices

Fusiliers Direct – product of the month



FUSILIERS DIRECT
The Official Store of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Flag

St George's Cross with RRF Regimental Crest

Single sided mirror image hemmed all around with high quality eyelets.

Size: 120cm x 80cm

ONLY £19.99

www.fusiliersdirect.co.uk

Mozzagroga Commemoration – 7 Feb 19

The battle of Mozzagroga in Italy took place on 7 February 1943 and the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers was brigaded with 1st/5th Royal Gurkha Rifles. The battle will be commemorated by a brief ceremony outside the Church of Holy Sepulchre London. Representatives from the Indian High Commission will attend. Association members are invited to arrive in the Garden of Remembrance outside the church by 1040. The ceremony will end shortly after 1100 and members may book in for the pub lunch that day by contacting the Association Office on 020 3166 6910/11.

Walking with the Wounded - May 19

Capt Straker will be entering a team "England's Fusiliers" into the WWTW Cumbrian Challenge in 2019, hoping to retain the fastest over 50s team for the 3rd consecutive year.

Walking with the Wounded supports those who served. They target veterans who have fallen the furthest, men and women struggling with mental health issues, unemployment, homelessness or caught in police custody. By providing early intervention programmes and speeding up access to therapy we are changing the lives of veterans and, crucially, their families.

England's Fusiliers will be entering the "Tough Challenge": 24 Kms over some of the highest peaks in the Lake District.

Our aim is to raise £1,500 and you can help us reach this target by donating on the Just Giving page at : http://www.justgiving.com/Englandsfusiliers?utm_id=121

Army vs Navy Rugby Match – 4 May – improve our behaviour

From the Deputy Chief of the General Staff:

"The Army and Royal Navy Rugby Unions will compete for the Babcock Trophy at Twickenham on 4 May 2019. We now routinely fill the stadium to capacity. The event is hugely popular, televised on Sky Sports and generates revenue which is put directly back into the game. It is a uniquely high-profile occasion which enhances our reputation.

I wish to address some behaviours that undermine our celebration of some of the best aspects of service life. The police report from the 2018 game is most disappointing. We are significantly out of kilter with civilian behaviour at all the other Twickenham matches. Current behaviours in the general vicinity prior to, during and after the match - in service stations, train stations, pubs and clubs - can no longer be tolerated. "Traditions" of alcohol-fuelled travel to the event, particularly those on coaches and transiting service stations, do little to help. The event is becoming increasingly resource intensive due to an augmented requirement for policing and the ensuing clean-up operation.

So we need to act:

1. First, I have directed that we will no longer hold preliminary matches at Kneller Hall on the same day.
2. Second, we have brought forward Kick Off to 1400hrs with bar timings tailored appropriately.
3. Third, you all need to review travel arrangements and to consign offensive public acts of urination and vomiting to the past.
4. And finally, we know that both serving service and veterans have a part to play in improving our behaviours – and ask them to do so.

We wish this historic and prestigious annual sporting event to serve as a demonstration of disciplined physical robustness, courage and commitment – the battle-winning qualities that we promote and develop in our people. Before and after match behaviour must not therefore detract from this public display of service qualities.”

The Auf Wiedersehen BAOR Military Train tour

Below are details for the AUF WIEDERSEHEN BAOR military train tour from Manchester to Berlin in June 2019. The organisers are keen to give heads-up to everyone who served in Germany, BAOR, BFG, or Berlin Infantry Brigade as there is no "Served in Germany Association", even though more than a million people did.

The train will be despatched from Manchester on 11 June by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.

The organisers acknowledge that the tour is expensive, but the train will be extremely luxurious with more dining cars than the Orient Express.

If you wish to know more, please contact Neil Howard (not RHQ). He is the Project Manager and can be contacted on 07941 56923



PRESS INFORMATION

LAST BRITISH MILITARY TRAIN TO BERLIN AND AIR LIFT 70th ANNIVERSARY TOUR – CELEBRATING SEVEN DECADES OF ANGLO-GERMAN FRIENDSHIP ON LAND, IN THE AIR, AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Release: 26 November 2018

The iconic Berliner British Military Train is to be revived – for only the second time since German reunification to form the backbone of the largest Joint Service BAOR/RAF-G reunion since the Berlin Wall fell. It is running from Manchester to Berlin in June 2019 to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift and the role of military engineers and logisticians in the post war recovery of Germany from 1945 to 1949 – the worst man-made humanitarian crisis in modern European history.

The UK section will be steam-hauled from Manchester to Harwich by loco 60163 Tornado – itself an Anglo-German engineering project, named in honour of the RAF GR4 aircraft, and the continental leg will use the historic Rheingold train. .

En route the train will call at Arnhem for a “Bridge too Far” Cocktail Reception and private viewing of the Airborne Museum, into Germany at Wesel where, after Arnhem, the British 21st Army finally crossed the Rhine and arrived in Germany, their home-from-home for the next seven decades, three nights “back to barracks” as guests of the Luftwaffe at Fliegerhorst Fassberg for the official Day of the German Armed Forces Air Lift 70th flying display, and a multi-faith Service of Thanksgiving at the Monument where Montgomery accepted the Nazi surrender in 1945. The journey ends with a Blockade Buster commemorative drive from Helmstedt (Checkpoint Alpha) to Berlin remembering the only time in human history that cancelled trains have been replaced by an Emergency Air Service.

Project Manager Neil Howard said “We know from operating the 2012 Berliner British Military Train tribute that Cold War warriors have an appetite to visit old friends and old haunts in like-minded professional company. This is not a Battlefield Tour, or a conventional railway enthusiast jaunt. It is an off-duty staff ride through 70 years of contemporary history that you can take a loved one on and which serves better Gin. In the highest tradition of British forces in Germany, the train has more restaurant and bar cars than the Orient Express! ”

First Class fare is £2999 per person if you or your partner served in Germany and details can be found at www.coldwarexpress.co.uk

ENDS

Further information: Neil Howard. Tel 0044 7941 569239 Email: neil.howard@coldwarexpress.co.uk

How to contribute

Contributions are welcome from anywhere in the Fusilier Family. Articles should be no more than 150 words, ideally with a good photo and caption. Get them to midsec@thefusiliers.org by the 25th of each month.

Archive copies are held in the Regiment's Dropbox account.

Please note that the Editor and RHQ make every effort to ensure factual accuracy and whilst we might edit articles for reasons of space, we do not censor them. Any mistakes are purely accidental and no harm or slander is ever intended.

Photos

The Editor accepts photographs for publication on the understanding that those submitting them have, where required by data protection legislation, obtained consent to publication from those depicted. Anyone who believes this is not the case or has a DPA related concern should contact the Editor.

