

# THE Sustainer



Journal of The Royal Logistic Corps | WINTER 2017





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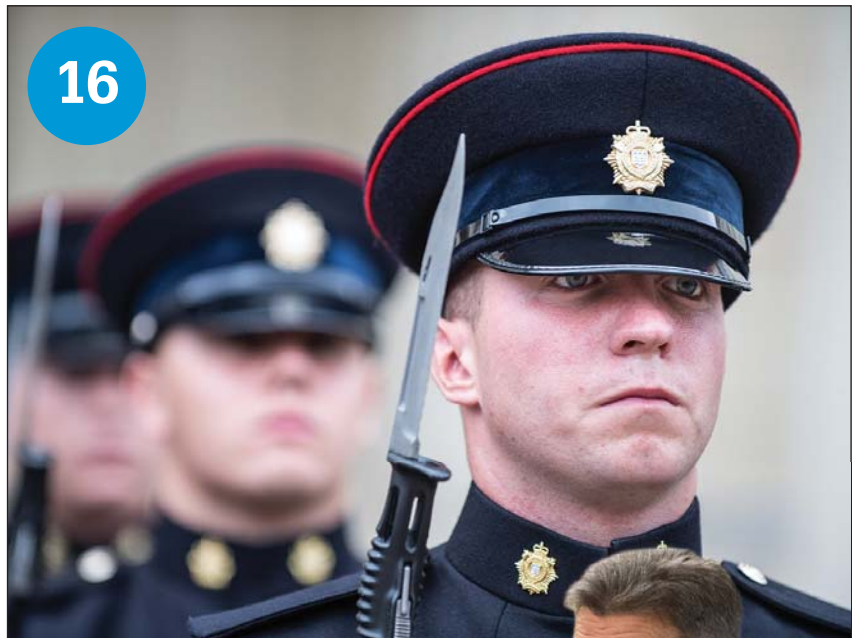
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## EDITORS' NOTE

### With the winter issue of *The Sustainer*, 2017 is drawing nearer to a close, and what an interesting year it has been.

The year has seen plenty of achievements for The RLC and this issue demonstrates some of the very latest successes.

Perhaps one of the most notable achievements of the latter part of the year are the gold medals won by ex RLC soldiers at the Invictus Games. You can read about the stories behind the achievements in this issue.

It's heartening to see our people progress through the Corps and get even stronger, even when life throws some of its biggest curve balls. There are also two personal stories in this issue which illustrate the strength and courage it takes to be an RLC soldier.

One details the transition of a soldier to civilian life after retirement from the Corps and the other details one soldier's journey to the Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB) and moving from the regulars to the reservists. Both life-changing events.

Continuing on the defying adversity theme, be sure to read the article marking the 50th Anniversary of the start of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK.

To mark the occasion, two RLC soldiers look at their experiences of serving as openly gay officers and why it is important to recognise individual diversity.

You don't have to look too far to read about some shining examples of talent with the coverage of the Army Photographic Competition, the Military Skills Competition and the largest cookery exercise of the year, Ex JOINT CATERER.

We also acknowledge some of the biggest sporting feats of the latter part of the year, RLC Sailing, clay shooting and badminton.

At this special time of year, our thoughts turn to friends and family, those that are here to celebrate with us and those who are absent.

Don't lose sight of what's really important in life and make sure you live your life to the full every day, you're definitely in the right profession to be able to do that!

A very happy and healthy new year to you all.

**Anne-Marie Causer**  
RLCSustainer@gmail.com

**Charter:** The Sustainer records the activities and achievements of the Corps family, its units and personalities, as well as the organisations of the Forming Corps and their Associations. It keeps soldiers of today in touch with each other and soldiers of yesteryear in touch with the Corps of today. The Journal is not only a means of cohesion and communication within the Corps but also a source of research material for posterity.

#### Editorial Staff

Editor: Miss Anne-Marie Causer BA (Hons)

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**Graphic Design:** David Blake

**House Rules:** Copy should be typewritten, with minimal use of abbreviations. It is requested that units send separate text and photographs/graphics files via email. Cos and OC's should approve their unit entries before submission. The SUSTAINER should be prepared in blocks of 450 words with separate supporting photographs; longer contributions will inevitably be cut!

**Photographs:** Photographs must be sent in digitally, exceptions can be made occasionally for clear hard copy photographs. Digital photographs must be high resolution and have been taken with a minimum of 3 million pixels. Do not embed images into text documents. Photo captions should be typed and added at the end of the word document. Colour slides are not acceptable; neither are cuttings from newspapers or magazines.

#### Closing Dates for THE SUSTAINER:

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**Front Cover:** 3 Reg on Public Duties



## Junior soldiers march towards new careers

**The Army Foundation College in Harrogate saw over 650 teenagers graduate this summer from the Army's flagship training establishment for 16 to 17 year olds.**

The college in Penny Pot Lane, Harrogate runs two types of course – a 42-week long course and a shorter 22-week course, both which train junior soldiers destined for a wide variety of Army careers.

Lieutenant Colonel William Strickland OBE, the College's Commanding Officer said: "It has been long and hard, and sometimes emotional. I congratulate all of the Junior Soldiers and their instructors on a job very well done."

"The majority proved equal to the test and they are the future of the British Army. We are proud of their achievements and we are looking forward to their bright futures."

The Junior Soldiers on the longer 42-week course marched off the square to the second phase of their training in the Infantry, Royal Artillery, Royal Armoured Corps and The Royal Logistic Corps.

While a company of Junior Soldiers on the shorter 22-week course, designed for other cap badges, headed for the longer more specialist phase of their training which could include becoming a vehicle mechanic with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer or a communications systems operator with the Royal Signals.

The courses both provide a unique combination of military basic training and vocational training to the Junior Soldiers. The graduation parade at Uniacke Barracks was the finale and thousands of relatives and friends watched the Junior Soldiers pass off the square.



## Late Entry Commissions

Congratulations are offered to the following individuals who were selected for a Late Entry Commission in the 18-19 promotion year:

W01 P J Alcorn	W01 S M Jack
W02 P Archer	W02 D E E Kelly
W01 M L Archer	W01 B P O'Donnell
W01 J N Avent	W01 J L Powell
W01 W G Barkness	W01 A R Prentice
W01 M I Bloomfield	W01 K J Rickerby
W01 C Boyle	W01 J G Robinson
W01 P S Broom	W01 M S Sander
W01 G D Bruce	W01 B A Smith
W01 G A Clarke	W02 T H Stringer
W01 L A Davies	W01 J P Sumner
W01 M A Gwilt	W01 G R Taylor
W01 S L Hamilton	W01 D W Towers-Clark
W01 M Howe-Ellis MBE	W01 J M Wilson-White

## The William and Grace Trust

**The William and Grace Trust has been set up with a generous donation from a benefactor, who wishes it to be used to "relieve in cases of need, hardship or distress, serving or former members of The RLC and its predecessors and successors who are injured or killed whilst undertaking, having undertaken or being trained to undertake EOD duties."**

The Trust is extended to dependants of such personnel and also to those who are involved in supporting such duties or who had at one time been involved in such duties. A further extension to the Trust was agreed in 2012 making all those in The RLC EOD Community (past and present) plus their dependants who are in need, potential beneficiaries. Trust membership was further expanded by a Resolution at the Nov 14 meeting to reflect more appropriately the whole EOD community.

### Application for Grants

The RLC Soldiers, Veterans and Families Support Officer (SVFSO) is responsible for disbursement of grants in accordance with his delegated powers. Applications for grants should come from Commanding Officers of units involved in EOD operations, but may also be identified as eligible by RHQ The RLC during the course of normal applications from SSAFA Forces Help, The Royal British Legion and other service charities.

## Apologies for the error

In the autumn 17 issue of *The Sustainer* 'View from the Bridge' column on page 4, it states that at the Sovereign's Parade King Hussein of Jordan took the salute. King Hussein died a number of years ago, the salute was in fact taken by his son King Abdullah II. We apologise for the error.

# A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

An RHQ Perspective

Looking forward, 18 promises to be every bit as exciting. There will of course be challenges that I know we will face head on along the way. Improving the manning and deployability of the Corps is the one that we all have a part to play in

**Welcome to the winter edition of *The Sustainer*. Since our last publication the Corps has once again been extremely busy, be it contributing to operations, conducting training, winning Army level sporting competitions, participating in adventure training and much more besides; you have all contributed to the rich tapestry of life in our wonderful Corps.**

You will read articles that range from supporting the Humanitarian relief effort in the Caribbean, to operations in Africa, the conclusion of 7 Regt's hugely successful deployment on Op TOSCA in Cyprus (I write this as I am travelling back from an impressive visit to Cottesmore, which included the presentation of operational medals by HRH The Princess Royal) and many others, such as the one out on the Russian border in Estonia.

Closer to home, 3 Regt has been 'front of house' conducting Public Duties in London and Windsor; most of our units have also been engaged in developing their core and trade skills during an intensive autumn exercise season and every unit found time to take part on the annual Military Skills Competition in Deepcut. I commend all of these articles to you.

As I write, I am approaching the end of my first year in post and I have spent a little time reflecting on what has been a hugely rewarding and constructive period for the Corps. Many of you will know that I am passionate about The RLC and I can't, nor do I want to hide, the pride I have in being your Colonel. The Corps SM and I have been on a bit of a crusade to ensure that all members of the Corps collectively, as well as individually, feel the same way. Having been fortunate to visit hundreds, if not thousands of you this year, whether on exercise, in barracks, training or on operations, it is the quality of the individuals that stands out. Proud tradesmen and women, leaders, at every level, dedicated to delivering excellence is evident everywhere.

We, therefore, have the evidence, history (who knew that we had received more operationally gallantry awards than any other cap badge since our formation) and professional acumen to justifiably feel confident and comfortable in the Corps to which we all belong. As we approach our 25th anniversary since formation, I know that this will continue to grow. We are held in the highest regard across the Army and must maintain our standards and continue to contribute as fervently to all aspects of military life to ensure that this remains the case.

Looking forward, 18 promises to be every bit as exciting. There will of course be challenges that I know we will face head on along the way. Improving the manning and deployability of the Corps is the one that we all have a part to play in. We are meeting our targets for young officers; in fact, the current Troop Commanders' Course of 32 is the largest on record, but there is more to be done to assist with the recruitment of our soldiers.

At this year's RLC Conference, all unit commanders and their RSMs were briefed on the current situation and it's reassuring to know that they are all keen and willing to help out where and when required. Plans are being developed which will come to fruition early next year to ensure that we continue to receive the lifeblood that the Corps needs to attract in order to meet our commitments. Commitments which, for 18 include another unit level deployment to Cyprus, more prestigious Public Duties in London, the development of the A2020(R) proposition for both the Regular and Reserve and the preparation of the move of The Corps' home to Worthy Down (now scheduled for summer 19); we certainly have a lot to look forward to.

We will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary since our formation and the Corps SM will, by the time *The Sustainer* hits the streets, have issued a warning order capturing the plan for RLC 25. Make sure you read it so that you know what is happening and more importantly, know when you can engage in what I am sure will be a wonderful way to commemorate this milestone.

All that is left is for me to do is to wish you all a wonderful festive break, for those fortunate to be able to take one, and I wish every one of you and your families a happy and prosperous 18 and I look forward to seeing you all next year.

**C J Francis  
Colonel RLC**



## FROM THE RANKS

**At this time of year there is nothing closer to my heart than Armistice Day and the remembrance services that all soldiers and officers will be taking part in, but particularly that of the Corps. I was fortunate enough to represent the Corps at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster and to take the forming Corps veterans on parade during remembrance Sunday at Deepcut, what an absolute privilege. The Commanding Officer and RSM of 25 Training Regiment orchestrated an immaculate parade with its phase two soldiers all of whom were excellent. We even had Pte soldier read out a poem that he had written himself.**

Earlier this month, the Colonel and I attended the ceremony of inscription at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA). I had the honour to be present of the unveiling of LCpl Vakalaca's name on the memorial stone and although a poignant occasion, it was also a moment of great pride to see LCpl Vakalaca's name up there with many that have gone before him and who too, have made the ultimate sacrifice. At the time of his death, LCpl Vakalaca was a Logistic Supply Specialist who was serving with 7 Regiment in Kenya. Our continued thoughts are with his family.

Over the last few issues of *The Sustainer* I have focused on how well we are doing as a Corps, whether that be, military skills, operations, on exercise or on the sports pitch. This term, though, I thought, I would bring a challenge or two; or three.

1. The number of soldiers that are subscribing into the Day's Pay Scheme (DPS) has been in decline recently and we must improve the uptake. The DPS provides the necessary funds (in the region of half a million pounds) to look after serving and ex serving soldiers with benevolence needs. "It gives a hand up, not a hand out". It also provides funding to ensure that our soldiers receive contributions of financial support for representative sports and Adventure Training opportunities. It's fantastic what some of our people have had the opportunity to do with support from the DPS. This is a registered charity and is run legitimately by your Corps in accordance with Queens Regulations; the expenditure is published annually in *The Sustainer* and at the RLC AGM. I urge the Chain of Command to dust off the nominal roles and do a check to see if your people subscribe. It is most important too that those serving within phase two training establishments get amongst their people and give them the choice and opportunity to take advantage of the scheme. This RLC DPS is your charity – Please support it.
2. Having paid many a visit to the Army's phase one training establishments I am most confident that we are getting it right with the selection and training of our men and women. We must not rest on our laurels however and continue to get this right. It is continuing to add to our already great reputation that we have and are still enhancing all the time. I would like to emulate this with our selection of those soldiers who have an aspiration and the talent to become Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) instructors. As an example; on the recent Corporal – Sergeant Promotion board, there were 36 people recommended to go to RMAS to instruct at the world's premier military leadership school. Of those, only five attended the recent RMAS instructor cadre. If we are recommending people, they must come forward to allow us to maximise their talent. We can and should be doing this better!
3. Last challenge - In The RLC, we retain our men and women better than any other cap badge in the Army, both soldiers and officers. Where we are not as good, is in the recruitment space. We all have a responsibility here and can make a difference. When you go home to your families and friends over the Christmas break, tell people how good our Corps is, how well we look after our people, what we are doing operationally, where we are serving, the promotion opportunities, the diversity of our organisation, the diversity of our trades and the option to change within. There are opportunities to gain educational and academic qualifications as well as our success in the sporting arena and the fantastic opportunities for first class AT. It would be fantastic if you could come back to me after Christmas and tell me about a mate that you have recruited. Let's see just what we can achieve here. Over to you!

Thanks for all your efforts in 17. Have a great Christmas and come back safe and sound with bags of energy to take into 18.

Your Corps Sergeant Major.

**SWR Owen  
Corps Sergeant Major RLC**



**I was fortunate enough to represent the Corps at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster and to take the forming Corps veterans on parade during remembrance Sunday at Deepcut, what an absolute privilege**

# A VIEW FROM UNDER THE HEADSET

Head of Trade - Driver Communications Specialist Trade

Fellow Communications Specialists, this is my first Sustainer column submission since assuming my appointment as Head of Trade for the Driver Communications Specialist trade. First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you within our outstanding trade for the hard work and dedication you have put in during another demanding year. I look forward to getting out and about and visiting units through the next six months to talk to our most important people, you, our troops at the coal face.

## Trade proponent

The Corps' Professional Development Committee (PDC) has directed that each trade within the Corps is to have a Full Colonel as a trade proponent, to support the work that I do as Head of Trade and to champion our case when necessary. I am delighted to announce that Col M J Comer (at HQ ARRC) has been appointed as our trade proponent. I know he is a great fan of the trade and understands the vital role we all have in providing communications. I am sure you would like to join me in welcoming him to the Comms Spec family.

## Manning

As with many other trades across the Corps, we have challenges with recruiting and retention. At present, our outflow exceeds inflow and the main areas for concern are Pte (80.8% manned) and Cpl (84.3% manned). Work is being done on retention, however, more 'hands on' doing our role on a daily basis will help keep people interested and aid in retention at grass roots level. I encourage everyone to play an active part in retaining our Comms Specs by getting them communicating, as this is what brought them to the trade in the first place. The Corps has recently reproduced new and fresh recruiting media for all trades to appeal to today's society and aid in recruiting the next generation of communicators. If you



have any fresh ideas for recruiting and retention, I would really love to hear them. Please feel free to email me directly at DSTpt-TrgDel-CIS-trgOff@mod.uk, regardless of your rank.

## Training and CPD

As technology advances, so does the way we do business. The arrival of BCiP 5.6, due to roll out in 2018, brings with it a need for change in the delivery of training. On-going at the moment, is a review of current regular and reserve courses being delivered across the trade. This is looking at what can be changed to benefit the Comms Spec's on the ground at all levels, with the focus being standardising the content to enhance unit capability and strengthen unit delivered training. This should help to keep everyone current and competent.

Accreditation has gone from strength to strength for the trade with the full backing of the Corps. One of the many elements of CPD available has been the highly successful PG Cert in wireless communications, delivered by Ubi-tech

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through the University of Wolverhampton. Not only has this course given excellent civilian accreditation but has also expanded the knowledge base of those that have attended the course in different aspects of communications.

Well done to all those that recently attended the PG Cert course in Aug for taking time during the summer leave period to develop their own communications skills and learn many more new skills. I look forward to seeing you all graduate in the New Year.

Congratulations go to WO2 Jez Parker of 6 Regt RLC who became the first of many to graduate from Wolverhampton University on 22 Sept.

## Look forward

In future articles I will endeavour to keep you all abreast of current issues and developments within the trade. At the end of Nov, we will be holding the next RSWO working group to inform communications managers of future changes and hear feedback from the shop floor.

W01 (SSM) G D Crawford

## British Forces in Germany – Share your experiences

The British Forces in Germany (BFG) Legacy Project is beginning and you can be a part of it by sharing your experiences for a high quality glossy coffee table book: 'British Forces in Germany – The Lived Experience.'

By the time the last units in 20 Armoured Brigade leave Sennelager

in 19, British Forces will have been stationed in Germany for nearly 75 years.

HQ BFG is now looking for civilian stories of British / German relationships formed during this lengthy period and where possible, photographs or images of items connected to these happenings.

Please email your stories into

the Legacy Project Officer at: bfg-hq-legacyproject-ogpmailbox@mod.uk or by post to HQ BFG, Catterick Kaserne, Detmolder Str 440, 33605 Bielefeld.

More information from www.BFGnet.de or on Facebook: @BFGnet



# Bi-annual predecessors' lunch

**The Royal Logistic Corps SM has hosted the bi-annual predecessors lunch at the Central Sergeants Mess, Deepcut.**

Personnel attended from across the Corps, including RLC Officers and SNCO's, Civilian Employees from the RHQ and pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

"It is important we look after our Corps family and this is one of the many ways that we reach out," said WO1 Shaun Owen.

This event is very important to Corps heritage and helps it to maintain its familiar relationship with its members long after they have retired.

Until the 17th Century, the state made no specific provision for old and injured soldiers. Care for the poor and sick was provided by the religious foundations. Most of this provision ended following the dissolution of the monasteries during the reign of King Henry VIII.

In 1681, responding to the need to look



after these soldiers, King Charles II issued a Royal Warrant authorising the building of the Royal Hospital Chelsea to care for those "broken by age or war".

Sir Christopher Wren was commissioned to design and erect the

building. Sir Stephen Fox was commissioned to secure the funds necessary to progress the build.

The chosen site, set adjacent to the River Thames in the countryside of Chelsea contained the uncompleted building of the former 'Chelsey College'.

In 1692, work was finally completed and the first Chelsea Pensioners were admitted in February of that year. By the end of March, the full complement of 476 were in residence.

Some 300 army veterans live at the Royal Hospital today, including those who have served in Korea, the Falkland Islands, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and World War II. Others may not have served in campaigns, but all understand what it means to be a soldier and the potential sacrifice that it entails.



# GLOBAL ADVANCE

A snapshot of The RLC across the world



## KENYA

### Ex ASKARI STORM 1

106 soldiers and officers from 13 Regiment RLC are deployed on Ex ASKARI STORM providing support to the 3 Para BG.



## CANADA

### BATUS

One officer and 20 soldiers from 27 Regiment have been deployed on Ex Prairie Storms 1 and 2 conducting 3rd line logistic support. One officer and 14 soldiers also deployed in support of Ex IRON STRIKE, providing 3rd line support to a conceptual experimentation exercise supplementing 21 General Support Squadron 3 CSLR.



In addition to deploying a number of Movement Controllers on the ground, 29 Regt RLC has also processed through the JAMC the entire deployment of Operation RUMAN in the Caribbean. Led by WO2 Madeline Llewellyn-Jones in theatre and WO1 Marc Richardson in the UK, this sterling effort from Regimental personnel contributed to the resounding success of the UK's Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief mission in the region.



## POLAND

### Op CABRIT

1 Regiment has 37 personnel deployed in support of 5 RIFLES Battlegroup on Op CABRIT. They are providing 2nd line support to part of the UK force participating in NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence in the Baltic States and Poland.

## CARIBBEAN

### Movement Control

AFGHANISTAN

**8 Weapons Intelligence Section**

11 EOD Regt RLC currently provides a Weapons Intelligence Section Warrant Officer (WISWO) to support UK forces based in Kabul. Additionally, a three-person Close Support Ammunition Team has been deployed to assist with the 'Relief in Place' of Op TORAL troops.



CARIBBEAN

**Op RUMAN**

Soldiers from 6 Regt RLC have deployed on Op RUMAN to provide humanitarian assistance in response to the devastation caused by hurricane Irma. Personnel from the Regt have deployed as part of a joint, tri-service task group supporting British overseas territories.

1

NEW ZEALAND

**Ex LONGLOOK 6**

One 4 Regiment RLC soldier is deployed in New Zealand on Ex LONGLOOK. This is an exchange programme, where he will be working within the New Zealand Army LSS trade equivalent. He will deploy on numerous exercises with them, one of which is one of the largest exercises the New Zealand Army take part in.

6



ESTONIA

**NATO LIVEX**

In Oct, 17 personnel from 10 QOGLR deployed on a NATO LIVEX which aimed to test the ability of NATO members to enable movement through their countries under NATO Crisis Response Management. Staying in host nation military barracks and sampling their rations along the way, the team transited through five countries from GERMANY to ESTONIA in a convoy of vehicles including five HETs carrying CR2, AS90 and TROJAN.

## Army Personnel Centre | CSS | RLC Soldiers' and Officers' Wings



**501 Soldiers' Wing:** Lt Col JN Williams  
**501 Officers' Wing:** Lt Col M Collins

**MS Mission:** "Manage the careers of officers and soldiers in accordance with the needs of the Army in Defence in order to sustain the delivery of the required number of capable and well-motivated individuals."  
**Soldiers' Matters**

### Promotion boards

The LCpl – Cpl promotion board was conducted between 26 Jun - 7 Jul 17 to select soldiers for promotion in the promotion year 1 Oct 17 to 30 Sep 18. There were 640 soldiers who were eligible to go to the board and 595 were assessed as being above the quality line; 380 were selected for promotion. This represents a 63.8% chance of promotion across all trades.

The Pte – LCpl promotion board was conducted between 4 - 15 Sep 17 to select soldiers for promotion in the promotion year 1 Oct 17 to 30 Sep 18. There were 770 soldiers who were eligible to go to the board and 756 were assessed as being above the quality line; 447 were selected for promotion. This represents a 59.1% chance of promotion across all trades.

### Arrivals and departures

In Oct, RLC Soldiers welcomed Mrs Catherine McQuillan to the team; she works in Section 5 and will be responsible for the career management of the Air Dispatch, Mariner, Marine Engineer, Port Operator and Pioneer trades.

### 90 Day Notice of Assignment policy

All personnel should be aware that where possible the APC is directed to issue 90 days' notice prior to a soldier's assignment. In the majority of cases this

will normally align itself with the six promotion boards that are conducted each year. This allows career managers at APC to assign soldiers at the start of the promotion year:

- Pte – Sgt the promotion year is 1 Oct – 30 Sep.
- SSgt – WO1 the promotion year is 1 Apr – 31 Mar.

When soldiers are assigned they should understand that their career managers will use the board release date as the formal notification date. An example of this is that if a Cpl was selected for promotion to Sgt; the board release date in 17 was 8 Jun. The soldier's promotion year starts on 1 Oct, therefore when the soldier's career manager issues an assignment order the 8 Jun 17 will be used as the formal notification date. If a soldier is to be assigned as a matter of routine and 90 days' notice is not achievable, the soldier will be requested to confirm in writing that they are content to accept less than 90 days' notice of assignment. This of course is not always possible and in extremis soldiers can receive directed assignments at short notice when the needs of the service must be met. All career managers at APC however do endeavour to give all soldiers 90 days' notice of assignment where possible and in line with the current policy.

### Employability board trial

The RLC is currently trialling the employability board process; the trial is due to conclude in Nov 17. At the end of the trial, RLC Soldier Wing will have conducted this process for every

promotion board that was conducted in 17. The process is designed to identify if soldiers are fit to be employed in their role as a JNCO, SNCO or WO and in line with the current aim of CLM:

*To ensure delivery of NCOs and WOs capable of executing effective command, leadership and management in all conditions, to be role models for their subordinates, and contribute to team ethos and operational effectiveness.*

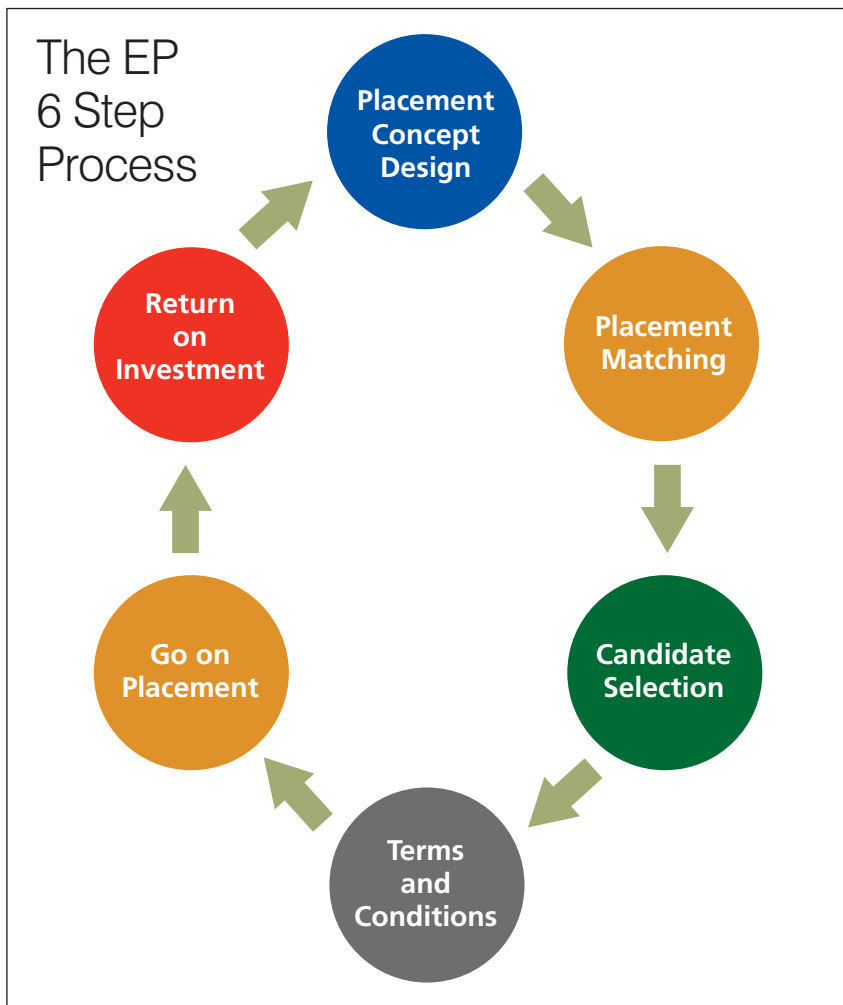
To attend CLM, the chain of command must confirm that a soldier is fit to attend the course and that they have successfully completed all of their annual MATT training. If a soldier is not in a MFD grade, then they should be in possession of an Appendix 9. The chain of command has a responsibility to ensure that in line with current PAP 10 policy all Appendix 9 forms are uploaded onto PAMPIS; this should be confirmed every 28 days at unit health committees. It is essential that the chain of command ensures that FISS, ODR and PAMPIS are up to date in order that the employability board members can make a fully informed decision. There will be more to follow on this once the trial is complete and RHQ RLC has made a final decision on whether to implement this process.

## Officers' Matters

In this edition of The Sustainer Magazine, The RLC Officers Wing would like to update and remind the audience on a couple of matters which we hope are of interest. We have included some recent announcements and initiatives that should be of interest to readers. If you



APC Officers completing their PFA on Glasgow Green



need further advice please always contact your chain of command and your Career Manager (CM).

**External placements**

As well as the routine business of RD and Staff appointments that we are all accustomed to, there are new and emerging opportunities for officers (and soldiers) to complete External Placements (EP). There are two types of EP – either in industry EP(I) or in Academia EP(A).

The EP programme is a method by which our officers and soldiers can develop their knowledge, skills and experience (KSE) by placing them temporarily into an industry or academic organisation. These EPs provide some fantastic opportunities for our people to up-skill and further professionalise as logisticians, managers and leaders. Recent examples of EP(I)s that have a real logistic flavour include placements at: Kuehne Nagel, DHL, Amazon, TfL and Jaguar Land Rover.

Boards for EPs are held in Sept and Mar. More information can be found in ACSO No 3231 or the Jobs page on MS

Web. If you are interested in an EP, please contact your CM and they will be able to give you further advice.

**The RLC Professional Technical Courses (PTC) Board 18**

PTC qualified Officers deliver critical capability to The Army and wider Defence. Each year we select 29 junior officers, plus ten reserves, to be loaded on PTCs which represents 43% of eligible junior officers across the Corps.

PTC qualified officers have many opportunities available to them which include greater opportunity to be deployed on OCE tours, STTTs and other Defence

Engagement activities; undertake training appointments and serve with Para, Cdo, and Special Forces units.

As well as RRP incentives, another draw for PTC qualifications are the extra Sub-Unit and Unit command appointments, as well as staff posts (that can increase chances of promotion), that only some of our PTC qualified officers can fulfill. All units are requested to support and advertise the opportunities that PTCs can offer our young officers.

**Termination process**

It is understood that all officers will leave the Army at some point. Some officers decide that they do not wish to serve out the full length of their contract (or Commission) and therefore request to leave the service prematurely. Those officers that wish to apply for Premature Voluntary Retirement (PVR) are reminded to first read AGAI Vol 2 Chapter 38 which contains details of the PVR process, the responsibilities of the individual and of the chain of command. Officers are also advised to seek pension advice from Defence Business Services (DBS) Veterans (formerly SPVA), as well as independent advice before applying to PVR.

Officers are also reminded to become familiar with the Tri-Service Resettlement and Employment Support Manual – JSP 534. This useful document explains the resettlement process with information on how to access resettlement support, how to use learning credits and allowances and advice on the use of Graduated Resettlement Time (GRT) and Terminal Leave. It is worth reminding readers that Service personnel are not permitted to undertake paid civilian employment during their GRT (including IRP), as personnel using GRT are on duty. Service Leavers are entitled to undertake paid employment whilst on termination leave, annual leave or off duty periods with their COs permission and in accordance with Queens Regulations.

Key RLC MS Dates for Spring 18	
15-26 Jan 18	FCR 1 delivered (Capt to Maj)
17-18 Jan 18	Adjt Symposium - APC
01 Feb 18	No. 4 (Pink List) Promotion Board Results Published
15 Feb 18	No. 2 Board Results Published
15 Mar 18	BTC Board Results Published
28 Mar 18	No. 4 Board Results Published
12 Apr 18	No.5 Grade 2 Board Results Published

By **Maj B Ekman**

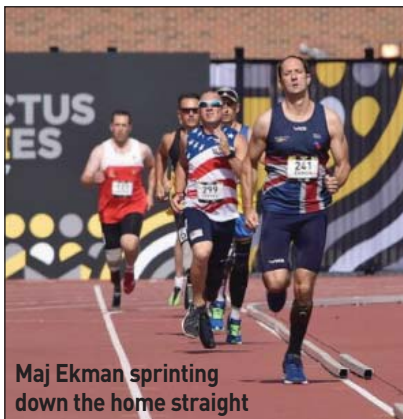
*Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.*

**Maj Bruce Ekman was injured in an IED strike on his MASTIFF armoured personnel vehicle whilst moving with 42 Commando Royal Marines in Afghanistan in 2011. The original prognosis was that his left foot would have to be amputated and he was CASEVAC'ed out of Afghanistan back to the UK for the operation.**

Fortunately, the expert Military Surgeons at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham were able to save his foot. After undergoing a triple fusion in his left ankle he has, with the help of a prototype offloading running brace, made a near full recovery and was selected to representing the British Armed Forces in the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto Canada.

*In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

HRH Prince Harry, who created the games specifically for wounded, injured and sick armed services personnel after serving in Afghanistan in 08, opened the games with a touching tribute to the hundreds of competitors: "Invictus is about the dedication of the men and women who served their countries, confronted hardship and refused to be defined by their injuries. Invictus is about the families and friends who face the shock of learning that their loved ones have been injured or fallen ill and then rally to support them on their journey of recovery. Above all, Invictus is about the example to the world that all servicemen and women, injured or not, provide above the importance of service and duty."



**Maj Ekman sprinting down the home straight**

# INVICTUS Games 2017



**Thumbs up for SSgt Hursey**

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.*

From 23 to 30 Sept 17, Toronto hosted the biggest Invictus Games yet. The competition saw more than 550 competitors from 17 nations compete in 12 sports over eight days. All competitors were either serving or veteran service members from participating allied nations who have become ill or injured during or as a direct consequence of their service.

Maj Ekman competed in the Athletics, Swimming and Rowing events. His biggest achievement was winning the gold medal in the 1500m race which was televised live on BBC1. Maj Ekman wasn't alone in the gold rush as Martin Tye put in two gold medal winning performances in Rowing and Powerlifting. The RLC was well represented at the games with strong performances by Maj Elizabeth Winfield, SSgt Joanne Hursey, Craig Winspear, David "Scott" Darroch and Tara Roberson.

*It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.*  
**INVICTUS by William Ernest Henley**

The word 'Invictus' means 'unconquered'. It embodies the fighting spirit of the wounded, injured and sick service personnel and what these tenacious men and women can achieve, post injury. The Games harness the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a



**HRH Prince Harry meets Scott Darroch**



**Tara Robertson meets the Invictus Mascot**

wider understanding and respect for those who serve their country. All of the competitors had overcome challenges to be at the Invictus Games. Some had cheated death to survive horrendous injuries, some have recently recovered from illness or have overcome PTSD or emotional challenges that, until very recent years, would have seen them written off and ignored.

If you know someone, either serving or who has left the military, who is wounded, injured, sick or possibly struggling with an emotional or mental illness then please encourage them to register for the 2018 Invictus Games, which will be held in Sydney, Australia.

**There was a two-minute silence observed nationally and wreaths were laid commemorating those Servicemen and women killed in all conflicts since the First World War.**

"I am proud to stand alongside members of the Armed Forces and veterans at the Cenotaph to reflect on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice," said Gavin Williamson, Defence Secretary.

"On Remembrance Sunday we remember all conflicts including our heroes from more recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Around the globe there are currently thousands of troops deployed in 25 operations in more than 30 countries, often putting themselves in danger to make us safer and more secure at home."

This year, HRH The Queen viewed the ceremony from a balcony of the nearby Foreign & Commonwealth Office, alongside HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Prime Minister also attended the service along with Defence Secretary, Gavin Williamson, and other members of the Cabinet, former Prime Ministers, The Chiefs of Staff and over 700 regular and reserve personnel.

For the Royal Family, Her Majesty's wreath was laid on her behalf by HRH The Prince of Wales. Wreaths were also laid by HRH The Duke of Cambridge, HRH Prince Henry of Wales, HRH The Duke of York, HRH The Earl of Wessex, HRH The

## Marking Remembrance Day



**The nation fell silent as HRH The Queen and members of the Royal Family joined the traditional Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph in London on 12 Nov.**

Princess Royal and HRH The Duke of Kent.

Following the ceremony, thousands of veterans from the Second World War and more recent conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan, marched past the Cenotaph.

The Armed Forces also marked Remembrance wherever they were in the world, from guarding NATO's eastern border to striking Daesh in Syria.

This year's service also commemorated the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele, where the fields of Flanders saw enormous bravery and vast sacrifice.

■ **Read more about how The RLC marked Remembrance Day in the spring issue of *The Sustainer*.**

## Major fundraising for children's charity

**Major James Hugo Marshall RLC is offering bicycle repair and servicing and mobile phone screen fixing services to raise money for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy charity, Harrison's Fund.**

He was inspired to start his fundraising after his wife returned from a team triathlon training camp in the Lake District where one of the participants was Gary Fegan whose young son, Cormac, suffers from the life-limiting disease.

Major Marshall, who currently stationed at the Defence School of Transport in Leconfield, said: "Being an Army Officer and a triathlete, I know how easy it is to take physical fitness for granted."

"When I looked into Harrison's Fund I found the video of the charity's founder, Alex, completing Challenge Denmark along with Gary Fegan and others and found it truly inspirational."

He pointed out that with the condition affecting as few as 100 boys each year, there simply is not the public pressure to conduct the research and development needed for a treatment.



**A Major in The RLC is turning his hand to some odd jobs to raise money for a children's charity**

But the simple fact is the condition might not be severely curtailing the lives of so many boys if sufficient money could be raised to facilitate the research. So far Major Marshall has raised more than £520.

■ **Harrison's Fund is named after 11-year old Harrison Smith from Surrey who was diagnosed with Duchenne. The charity is currently funding 12 research projects in the US and the UK.**

# Taking pride in who we are

This year has seen the 50th Anniversary of the start of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the United Kingdom. The repeal of the Sexual Offences Act in 1967 began the human rights campaign that has fought for a more inclusive society for people in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+) community.

The UK Armed Forces ended their discrimination by lifting the ban on gay people serving in 2000, after hundreds of service personnel in the preceding years had been investigated and thrown out due to their perceived or actual sexual orientation.

After an unprecedented show of support from the Army's LGBT Champion, Lt Gen Patrick Sanders CBE, DSO, 2Lt Jordon Owen and Capt Richard Cann look at their experiences of serving as openly gay officers and why it is important to recognise individual diversity.

## Tell us a bit about yourselves, who you are serving with?

**2Lt Owen:** We both serve with 157 (Welsh) Regt Royal Logistic Corps, I command A Troop, 580 (Glamorgan) Transport Sqn and Rich sits within 249 (Cardiff) HQ Sqn as the Regimental Signals Officer.

I joined the Army Reserve in 15 when Rich invited me to come along after we had been chatting about the prospect of joining whilst at rugby training one night.

**Capt Cann:** I joined the Army in 2001 and had seven years as a Regular soldier before leaving to try something different. I rejoined and commissioned into the Army Reserve in 13.

## What is it that you do as your civilian employment?

**Capt Cann:** Well I have had quite a laundry list of different jobs ranging from bar work to being a Cabaret singer, but for the past three years I've been involved in recruitment. Firstly, for the Civil Service and now for the Regt, looking specifically at Officer Recruitment.

**2Lt Owen:** I've been a secondary school language teacher for about five years.

## Did you have any reservations about joining up because of your sexual orientation?

**2Lt Owen:** No. I joined the Army to be a soldier, an officer and to serve. Obviously, I was aware of the Equalities Act 2010 and the protection that is enshrined



2Lt Jordon Owen marching alongside Tri-Service colleagues in Glasgow Pride 2017

within the law but it didn't really cross my mind. Being gay is only one part of my identity and to be frank, it was pretty far down the list when considering if the Army was the right career for me.

**Capt Cann:** Also no, but that was because when I joined at 16, I didn't consider myself to be gay. In fact, conversely my thought process was that if I joined up then I would prove to people that I wasn't gay! The macho perception of the Armed Forces was such that I saw it as a way to hide my true self. It wasn't until 07 whilst serving in Iraq (Op TELIC 10), that I finally came out. I think that the Army and indeed the world today is a very different place, generally for the better, but we still aren't there yet.

## Have you ever come across any discrimination that was directed at you due to you being gay?

**2Lt Owen:** No, certainly not within my military career. As a young officer and troop commander I'd prefer to be seen as exactly that. Don't get me wrong, I'm not one to hide who I am but at the same time the fact that I am gay is only one

part of who I am. My ability to do my job is higher on my priority list.

**Capt Cann:** When I first came back off of tour in 07, someone broke into my room and turned it over leaving a rather expressive homophobic letter for me to find. Of course, the chain of command and the correct authorities were notified and although the culprits were never found, I think it was handled correctly. That said, for me, that was an isolated incident in terms of direct discrimination. However, I do think there is still a level of general ignorance that gets passed off all too easily as "being too PC" when challenged. Is there an endemic problem? I don't think so, just pockets of ignorance.

## What do you think would be the best strategy to combat the ignorance or intolerance that still survives within the Armed Forces?

**Capt Cann:** I am lucky to have been involved with some of the strategies employed by the Armed Forces over the past four years within my role on the Army LGBT Forum committee. The committee is made up of volunteers, both



regular and reservists, of all ranks that work in conjunction with members of the community and the Army's policy makers in Army HQ to aid understanding. The Army LGBT forum is mirrored by the both the Royal Navy (Compass Network) and the Royal Air Force (Freedom Network) and of course work together to share common thoughts and best practice. Each service competes to feature in Stonewall's *Workplace Equality Index*, which is a list of the top 100 Employers. That is only one example at a policy level, but at the lowest level, I think the best strategy is the use of role models and allies, by people calling it out when they hear it. That said there is no magic wand that will stop prejudice entirely.

**2Lt Owen:** I'd agree. I think that almost by osmosis, the more people that are out and living authentically will end up challenging any stigma, ignorance or intolerance. The traditional cascading approach has its place but I think reverse mentorship also has a place too. That's where allies come into their own.

**You've both marched in London Pride in the past, this year you marched in both Glasgow and Cardiff. Are Pride Marches still seen as a political protest organised exclusively for the LGBT community? Why is it important for you to attend these events?**

**2Lt Owen:** Firstly, I think it is important to point out the fact that marching at Pride Events is not exclusively for LGBT people. Allies of any orientation or identity march

alongside us. You make a good point about the protest beginning of pride. Pride movements sprang up after the Stonewall Riots in New York in 1969. Members of the gay community were reacting to the manner in which the police dealt with a raid on the Stonewall Inn, Greenwich Village. Riots sparked and continued for three days. The movement that followed started in 1970 and has changed over the years to what it is seen to be today.

**Capt Cann:** For me, Pride today can be split in to two areas. First there is the celebration of how far society has moved on since 1967. The LGBT+ community does enjoy many more freedoms compared to 50 years ago and the world is a better place for it. However, we are not there yet. Secondly, yes there is still an element of protest, as just because we (the LGBT+ community) in the UK enjoy a relative level of equity with our heterosexual counterparts doesn't mean we should ignore the fact that homosexuality is still punishable by death in over 70 countries around the world.

With that in mind, solidarity would be the buzz word or theme of the protest for most that engage in protest at Pride events. However, there are also individuals that protest and lobby against issues facing the community in this country and also individuals that disagree with the direction of the movement and would like to see a more hardline stance.

Where do the Armed Forces stand on this? Simply put, we march side by side

with our community and allies in solidarity and celebration of the freedoms we enjoy today in recognition of shared our history and in faith that tomorrow can be better for all.

It is also important to bear in mind the external messaging is important too. Individuals and organisations that see the UK Armed Forces marching and being part of these events are witnessing, not only the pride that the forces take in their people, but also sets the standard to other nations around the world.

**What would be your advice for anyone within the LGBT+ community considering a career in the Army or maybe someone serving who isn't "out"?**

**Capt Cann:** If it's about coming out - take your time, it really doesn't matter how long it takes or when you do it, what matters is that you are comfortable. In my honest opinion, the Army is more concerned that you are capable of doing your job than your sexual orientation or gender identity. You cannot function properly and be your most efficient if you are carrying that kind of burden. If you are considering coming out then it must be on your terms.

**2Lt Owen:** In terms of potential career, I think Rich covers it there, if you are considering a career then do it! I have had a blast so far, granted - it has its challenges, like going on guard at 2am in the pouring rain whilst on exercise, but the people you meet and the experiences you gain are brilliant.



Members of the 1st marching contingent in Wales at a reception with Mr Gay Wales 2017, Mr Ben Brown (former soldier in Royal Welsh) and Deputy Commander 160th Infantry Brigade Col Lance Patterson, before Pride Cymru 2017

**A Squadron of soldiers from Abingdon based 3 Regt, Royal Logistic Corp have swapped their role of supply for a bit of spit and polish as they took on the honour of guarding Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.**

Usually these troops are more accustomed to driving heavy trucks across great distances delivering all the equipment, stores and supplies needed to keep a modern-day army sustained and fighting fit in the field, but for six weeks they were thrust into the international limelight and onto the screens of tens of thousands of tourist smart phones as they took the place of the Queen's Guard.

They spent weeks in preparation, learning the intricate drill movements and when they had practiced and practiced...they practiced just that little bit more! They knew that they would be the public face of the British Army, on show in front of millions. Any slightest error or foot out of place and social media would ensure it would be instantly shared around the world. As one would expect for such a prestigious role, uniforms needed to be nothing short of immaculate and before every guard mounting hours of 'bulling' old Army speak for boot polishing, starching and ironing was done for each soldier to pass muster.

Each period of guard duty lasts two days and when mounting the guard in London, the troops assembled on the parade square in Wellington Barracks, which overlooks Buckingham Palace.

After their final inspection and in front of five thousand craning spectators, they

## 3 Regiment Public Duties



then snapped to attention and stepped off marching out of the barrack gates behind the Band of the Grenadier Guards across

and in to the forecourt of the Palace for the time-honoured ceremony of the changing of the guard.



Photo Credit: Crown Copyright - Sgt Rupert Frere RLC Photographer





# RLC Military Skills Competition

**This year, 60 teams participated in a re-worked version of the event which put the conceptual component at the forefront, whilst retaining the arduous physical nature of the competition.**

This led to some surprising results and veterans of the competition were wrong-footed by the changes, especially after the increased physicality of the 16 competition, which placed the demanding obstacle course at the end of the competition.

## RLC Military Skills Competition 17 incorporated:

- A military knowledge test consisting of questions on MATTs, along with questions on general military knowledge, vehicle (and Colonel RLC) recognition and facts on the Corps and wider Army.
- The demanding NATO obstacle course at Princess Royal Barracks.
- A falling plate shoot, where teams were given two minutes to hit ten targets from 200m using no more than 30 rounds of ammunition.
- A navigation exercise, the shortest route of which was six miles. In the past this has been a physical test, but this year it was made more challenging by a series of mentally taxing problems at checkpoints, and the remembering of key pieces of information in order to complete a patrol report at the end of the navigation exercise.

The teams entering the competition were diverse, with the youngest participant aged 18 years and two months and the oldest participant only a few months from their 60th birthday. The oldest combined age of a team was 241 years and the youngest 115. The nature of the competition means that the perfect team needs to balance maturity and knowledge with youthfulness and exuberance in order to win (the notable exception to this being the impressive performance of veterans at this year's event, winning the Lamb trophy, the falling plate shoot and finishing second in the military knowledge test).

The overall winners of the Lamb Trophy (Best Reservist team) was the 159 RegT Veterans team. Overall winners of the Gore Trophy (Best Regular team) were 17 Port and Maritime Regt. Congratulations to the winners of the

individual events of the competition.

With the 17 competition now complete, planning is already underway for the 18 event with an equally challenging event being planned. Well done to all teams who took part. 25 Regt is already looking forward to seeing teams trying to defend this year's trophies for what is hoped to be another well supported and arduous event.

## Winners

### Obstacle Course (All categories).

17 Port & Maritime Regt RLC Male Team

### Falling Plate (All categories).

29 Regt RLC Veterans Team

### Military Skills Stands (All categories).

3 Regt Mixed Male and Female Team

### Navigation (All categories).

29 Regt RLC B Team



By **Capt J Binskin-Barnes**

**RLC chefs have been awarded unique placement opportunities in three very different high-class kitchens in central London. Numerous chefs so far have profited from these experiences, co-ordinated by the DCWO W01 Damien Marsden in London District.**

**Merchant Taylors' Hall** nestled in the heart of the City caters for receptions, special events, weddings and private dining experiences and is voted one of the best venues in London. RLC chefs have been working in four-week placements at this amazing venue, cooking a wide variety of dishes under the experience of Head Chef Richard Trant.

**Pte Sameya Harrower and Pte Aaron Forbes- 1st Bn Irish Guards (7-28 Sept 17)**

We volunteered to attend a four-week work placement at Merchant Taylors' Hall, a Livery Company in the city of London. When we arrived, we were thrown straight into the full swing of how a professional kitchen was run. The pace and tempo of working in a professional kitchen is like being on a very busy exercise, only the ingredients used at Merchant Taylors are the best money can buy as the budget is much bigger.

We were made to feel part of the team straight away and were given master classes by the Executive Chef from preparation all the way through to service. We even got the chance to run the pass with the Head Chef (the long-flat surface where dishes are plated and picked up by waiting staff. The chef who "runs the pass" each night is in charge of letting the cooks know what they will be cooking as orders come in). This was a great experience as we were finalising dishes together with great team work and communication all around.

Working at Merchant Taylors has certainly given us more experience in handling pressure and learning how to make some amazing dishes. It has also given us new ideas to try for Regimental Dinner Nights. The people there are a great team and definitely know what they are doing. They all have a vast array of experience and just to learn one thing from them is a privilege.

■ <http://www.mtaylorsevents.co.uk/>

**Roast Restaurant** is located in iconic Borough Market and offers classical British cooking using many of the ingredients from the market itself.

# Working the experience in high-class London



Serving 400-600 covers a day for breakfast, lunch and dinner the high-tempo restaurant has been a wide-eyed experience for the RLC chefs. They have spent four weeks learning from Head Chef Stuart Cauldwell who took them through their paces.

**LSgt Chris Atkins HCR & Pte Michael Mercer 5 Rifles (4-28 Sept 17)**

We really enjoyed our time at Roast and the staff made us feel very welcome, the Executive Head Chef demonstrated various master classes with us and tasked us in different areas.

We spent the beginning of the week getting to know the kitchen, we worked in various departments. We started on sauces on day one which we found very interesting and we were surprised to see them making fresh stock daily. When working with the chef in charge of

producing the sauces, we helped him with the mise en place which started with picking parsley and moved onto edible flowers. It was good to get involved with all aspects of sauces.

As the week went on, we moved on to the grill which was a shock. That particular lunch time, the restaurant had about 200 covers which really put us through our paces but we thoroughly enjoyed it. We cooked steaks and Wagyu Burgers during service (Wagyu is a type of cow which is massaged and fed beer, making it a very expensive cut of meat). Later on during the week, we were put in pastry which we really enjoyed as the pastry chefs got us involved in key dishes. We went back to pastry later in the placement as we enjoyed it so much. Next, we worked the fish section which was great, again cooking food we have prepared before, such as scallops.



During our time on placement, Roast held functions as well as daily service. One of the functions was for 100 people and we were in charge of producing the canapés. We don't get a chance to make canapés in our usual daily routine so it was good to get a refresher, especially using the fresh ingredients bought from the market.

We found this experience very interesting as we learnt a lot of new skills and hopefully one day we will get the opportunity to put them into practice in barracks. We would definitely go back to Roast given the opportunity.

■ <http://www.roast-restaurant.com/>

**The Goring Hotel** is a 5\* hotel in Belgravia, London. The hotel was awarded Hotel of the Year London 2017 by AA Hospitality Awards and Executive Chef

Shay Cooper has been awarded a Michelin star two year's running. The hotel was appointed the Royal Warrant in 2013 and has close ties to the military, General Manager David Morgan-Hewitt is an honorary Maj Gen and is The Honorary Catering Advisor to the British Army. He and Chef Shay have opened the doors to one of these three unique experiences for RLC chefs, being able to cook in a Michelin star restaurant and learn new skills not available in kitchens at unit level.

#### **LCpl Lewis Jameson 1CG and LCpl Luke Pettinger NISP (4-22 Sep 17)**

Working in The Goring was amazing opportunity for LCpl Pettinger and I to broaden our skill set within the catering industry. We have experienced a whole new level of cooking and were often put out of our comfort zone, we learned a



whole new way serving due to the Michelin starred restaurant in one of the best hotels in the world. This is completely different to the contract style catering that we are used to, but now we shall be able to put these new skills into practise back at our units to teach our peers and continue to progress our trade as Chefs.

The ingredients we used on a daily basis were by far the best we have ever worked with, from fresh lobsters to fresh truffles and it has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated team of chefs and the Executive Head Chef, who is one of the best chefs in the country. We are very grateful for the opportunity and especially the time that The Goring staff took to allow us to adjust to the varied roles we undertook. We are looking forward to seeing what the future brings and hopefully carrying on a partnership, potentially even returning the favour by introducing them to life in a field kitchen.

■ <http://www.thegoring.com/>

#### **Going forward**

Four of these chefs were selected to represent the Army in the parade des Chefs as the finale of the inter-services competition Ex JOINT CATERER in Shrivenham, which took place on 10 - 12 Oct. The skills they have learnt and are soon putting into practice is a testament to their commitment to these work experience placements and their eagerness to improve as tradesmen.

The relationship between The RLC chef trade and these destination venues and restaurants is matchless and we hope that it continues into the future. Any chefs ranked Pte or LCpl who would like to apply for these fantastic work experience opportunities should ask their FSWO or chain of command to contact HQ London District DCWO on 94631 2025.



**The Army Photographic Competition winners have been announced with Army Photographer Sgt Rupert Frere taking the 'Photographer of the Year' crown with his professional portfolio of images portraying military life during the past 12 months.**

Winners were announced on Wed 25 Oct at a ceremony held at the Imperial War Museum in London, where Chief of the General Staff General, Sir Nicholas Carter, handed out prizes to winners and runners-up in 16 categories.

Command Master Photographer W01 (Conductor) Will Craig, said: "I have been running the Army Photographic Competition for the last four years and this year has seen the highest amount of entries ever. The images have really captured the judges' attention, as well as the public having a sneak preview seeing the online category."

"I'm also delighted with the video categories this year, we have doubled the entries making life extremely hard for the judge BBC cameraman Stu McKenzie to choose. I hope everyone will enjoy the images and if you haven't won, there is an opportunity to enter next year."

### Photographer of the Year

As well as winning the Professional Portfolio, Sgt Frere based at Army HQ in Andover, also came first in the Professional Story, Social Media Video and Multimedia Video categories as well, proving there is more than one string to the former bomb disposal operator's bow.

Sgt Frere said: "It's a great honour again to win the Army Photographic Competition, especially for the Portfolio. It's an opportunity to show the versatility of my work throughout the year. And, I

# Army Photographic Competition winners announced



think this year I had everything from ceremonial through to operational in each category, which was nice."

Sgt Frere, who has undertaken three operational tours of Afghanistan, finished his stint as the London District photographer, documenting the ceremonial activities and training exercises around the Household Division earlier in the autumn. He has since settled back into Army HQ life, at the

ready to photograph major events for the wider Army at home and overseas.

"I'm in my tenth year this year as an Army Photographer," he says. "The best thing about it is the jobs I've done, the places I go and people I work with and the opportunity to see the Army as a whole."

### Best overall image

Best overall image, a portrait of a soldier on exercise, was taken by South African-born Sgt Jonathan van Zyl, who is also based at the Army HQ.

He said: "It's absolutely great news. I really didn't expect to win. I've seen some of the other entries and I didn't think I stood even half a chance."

Sgt van Zyl, transferred to the Photographic trade two years ago from 1st Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regt (1PWRR) where he was an infantry soldier for 11 years, based in Germany.

"This is my first pro competition I've won," he said. "In 2013 I won best portrait in the Amateur category, so, it was finally that jump from amateur to pro. I realised then that I wanted to do this full time."

He explains how the winning portrait came about during Exercise Northern Strike in America with 3PWRR. "It was one of those moments, you just saw it and you took it. It wasn't planned or



anything, but it works," he said. "I think it's the soldier's eyes, looking into his eyes, it draws you into it." Jonathan's photograph also won the Professional Portrait category.

Sgt van Zyl, who completed a tour of duty in Afghanistan and three in Iraq during his time with 1PWRR, got the photography bug about seven years ago following the birth of his son.

### Open to the public

New this year was 'Op Camera', a category that was open to the public and which was won by Royal Navy photographer Petty Officer Owen Cooban, of Crawley. His image of Chelsea Pensioners paying their respects at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday landed him the first prize.

Owen started out as a Photographer in the Royal Navy back in 2001 and in his own words says, "It's a real privilege to be able to travel the world – it offers up such fantastic opportunities that lead to some great photographs."

### Amateur winner

Bombardier Murray Kerr from Glasgow, who has been a reservist for 13 years, previously served on Op Herrick 7 in Afghanistan as a Gunner.

He won the Best Amateur Portfolio category for the second year running.

Bombardier Kerr, photographs the Army as part of his reservist role, working at the world famous Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, Surrey, and meticulously records images from all the exercises the officer cadets are put through during their hugely challenging year of initial training at the academy.

He said: "Taking pictures for the Sandhurst Group is such a great experience. It really is a centre of excellence. The officer cadets work so hard to get to climb the steps and commission into the Army, as such you always get such good photo opportunities in all weathers, night or day. The professionalism of the directing staff who make it all work set such a high standard that you are seeing people at their very best."

Photographic entries were judged by Peter Macdiarmid, London News Pictures and Nigel Atherton, editor Amateur Photographer Magazine. Video categories were judged by BBC cameraman Stuart McKenzie. This year saw the highest ever number of entries, with 780 photographs submitted throughout all the categories. Videos were double the number last year at 52.

### WINNERS

**Professional Portfolio:** Sgt Rupert Frere

**Overall Professional Army PR Image:** Sgt Jonathan van Zyl

**Professional Portrait:** Sgt Jonathan van Zyl

**Professional Sport/Adventure Training:** Mr Guy Butler

**Professional Category Soldiering:** Mr Ian Griffiths

**Professional Story:** Sgt Rupert Frere

**Best Online Image (voted by the public):** Mr Paul Clark

**Cadet Life:** CSGT Jess Tappenden-Rowell

**Operation Camera (public):** PO Owen Cooban, RN

**Amateur Portfolio:** Bdr Murray Kerr

**Amateur Portrait:** WO2 Ben Houston

**Amateur Sport/Adventure Training:** Mr Richie Willis

**Amateur Category Soldiering:** Cpl Mark Lerner

**Professional Video:** Cpl Tom Evans

**Professional Social Media Video:** Sgt Rupert Frere 'Beating Retreat'

**Multimedia:** Sgt Rupert Frere 'Pride'

### RUNNERS UP

**Professional Portfolio:** Sgt Rupert Frere

**Professional Portrait:** Mr Guy Butler

**Professional Sport/Adventure Training:** Sgt Mr Guy Butler

**Professional Category Soldiering:** Sgt Jonathan van Zyl

**Professional Story:** Cpl Darren Legg

**Cadet Life:** CSM Lucy Waller

**Operation Camera (public):** Mr Jason Bryant

**Amateur Portfolio:** LCpl Joe Taylor

**Amateur Portrait:** LCOH Adam Blackmore-Heal

**Amateur Sport/Adventure Training:** Mr Norman Brown

**Amateur Category Soldiering:** Cpl Ian Chapman

**Professional Video:** Sgt Gary Kendall 'Ice Maidens'

**Multimedia:** Sgt Jamie Peters 'Blessing Before Ops'



■ The annual Army Photographic competition is open to all regular and reserve personnel, staff and cadets of the Combined Cadet Force, Army Cadet Force, University Officer Training Corps (Army), and MOD civilians and contractors who work directly with the Army.

**Exercise Joint Caterer, the annual flagship event for Armed Forces and MOD civilian caterers, took place at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham and drew to a close on Thurs 12 Oct. The one question which played on everyone's mind as they entered the competition was which Service team would win overall.**

The Army team scooped the title last year and have spent weeks preparing in advance, fine tuning their menus and ensuring that they properly demonstrated the versatility and expertise of the modern Army chef. Unfortunately, their hard work, determination and professionalism didn't quite pay off and the Army didn't manage to keep their title this year. Instead the overall winners for Joint Caterer 2017 were the Royal Air Force with the Army coming a very close second.

Despite the disappointment, some teams managed to secure Best in Class which included the Parade Des Chefs, where teams prepared and cooked a three course meal for up to 84 diners and the Defence Engagement Challenge, where teams (two chefs and one non-food handler) in a field kitchen had to cook and serve a VIP buffet lunch for 40 people to a fixed cost per head. Individuals' Best in Class also came from the Centrepiece Display with some outstanding fat carving skills demonstrated in the form of the 1st Armoured Division Rhino. Many more individuals were presented gold, silver and bronze awards which they were over the moon with and looked forward to improving on for next year.

WO1 Roger Hart, Command Food Services Warrant Officer said: "Despite us not managing to take home the title of overall winners, this year's event has

# Army cooks up a storm on Ex JOINT CATERER



been absolutely outstanding. The level of skills shown by the competitors has surpassed all their training practice and delivery. I look forward to the competition next year and seeing if we can once again take that title."

The event allowed chefs from across all three Services to compete in a wide range of culinary classes, with the main focus on operational catering. The aim of the competition is to challenge chefs at the highest level and to demonstrate the ways in which military caterers can support operations whilst honing their craft and skills. Professional judges, drawn from the civilian hospitality industry, ensure that competitors are judged by their peers from the wider catering world.

The chefs have been through a rigorous selection process to earn their

place in the competition, for some it's been an intense couple of weeks. LCpl Donna Cox, from Rotherham in South Yorkshire is the Head of Section for Plates on the Army Buffet team. She said: "There are 15 of us and we've trained for three weeks, producing two starters and two main courses. As the plates are for display only, it's quite a hard process because we can get penalised for the smallest imperfection."

"In a hot kitchen, you can hide any defects with sauces and garnishes but with the buffet display, every plate must be identical and look as good in the evening as it did on the morning you plated it. The display today is the best it's ever looked, we are a junior team, it's been a roller coaster but we are very proud, I think whatever the outcome we are all hoping to come back next year."

Ex JOINT CATERER 2017 has been fierce but great fun. Geoff Acott MBE, Chairman of Judges, said: "Ex JOINT CATERER is about showcasing and recognising the skills and attributes of military chefs whilst giving them the opportunity to learn and improve."

"There has been some stunning work here, which can rate against anyone in the world. Coming here fires their imagination, delivers what needs to be delivered operationally but also puts them on the road to saying that they are as good as the top-level chefs from the civilian culinary world, the day-to-day job is just different. They may be feeding soldiers, but they are capable of the very best as well."



Photo Credit: Crown Copyright - Sgt Rupert Frere RLC Photographer



By **Maj R Barratt**

**This year MGL's Red Tab Cabal was expanded to include two other usually separate events, his Commanding Officers and Senior Retired Officers briefing.**

The large Tela theatre venue allowed this to be enhanced further with the addition of our SO1s at WTE, Heads of Trade, our RSMs and independent Sqn's OCs. Late in the planning it was confirmed that the CGS, Gen Sir Nick Carter had accepted an invitation to address the Corps on the subject of 'Reduce Logistic Need'.

The day was finished off in style at the Corps Dinner Night in the HQ Officers' Mess, which was one of the best yet and our SNCOs enjoyed a curry night in the Bellew Road Mess.

Hosting a large conference when the Defence School of Logistics were running a full programme of courses and a near full cohort of phase 2 trainees could have been an expensive issue to resolve. Step in the Quartermasters staff, namely the QM(T) Capt Sean Birchnall and the RCWO, WO2 Brindon Caunt, supported by three volunteer chefs and a work party from 27 Regt to build a tented Mess facility! It is testament to their experience and willingness to 'get things done' that proved to be instrumental in the success of the day. Furthermore, the support of DLS, Col John Atkins' team was key in order that classroom and briefing facilities were made available when their priority is, quite rightly, to the routine training output required of them by HQ DCLPA and ARTD.

None of us would appreciate the prospect of a full day of Powerpoint briefings and so the 'Army Conference format' was adopted where, after Gen Poffley's welcome and some scene setting by the Corps Col and Comdt DCLPA (Brig Steve Shirley) attendees were grouped into syndicates expertly organised by the Chief of Staff, Lt Col Andrea Zanchi and the small RHQ team.

Six large syndicate groups led by our OF5s discussed Ethos and Recruiting, the two key issues that are at the forefront of the minds of our senior leadership as we continue to support Recruiting Group and prepare for the move to our new home at Worthy Down.

The syndicate discussions were attended by our 1\* Officers and the resulting feedback has been distributed throughout the Corps. For those who may not have seen it, the notes are available on the RHQ Moss page within the 'RLC Conference' folder.

In essence, there was a broad

# MGL's Cabal – The RLC Conference 17

“A hugely impressive information operation”



consensus that the Corps (via our Regt's) will have to do even more to support our Recruiting through an increased presence (Regt Recruiting Teams) and local engagement. There was a common view that we have a Corps and a profession to be immensely proud of and we must be the first to demonstrate it when working alongside our wider Army and civilian recruiters.

Identifying the right role models and influencing the gate-keepers (parents, guardians, schools and colleges) was identified as vital ground. From an Ethos perspective, our presence will be enhanced as we celebrate our 25th anniversary and bring back our Stable Belt as well as rotating our key events such as the Corps weekend and Military skills competition to key centres of mass i.e. hosted by our Regt's.

Consideration is also being given to the popular choice of a second 'home of the Corps' that gives us the option to host our key dinner night functions at an alternative venue to Worthy Down. This is still a work in progress as WELLESLEY preparations continue and we plan for our 25th Anniversary at Corps weekend 2018 (RLC 25).

After a 'Back to Basics' presentation from Comd 101 Log Bde and a detailed update on Army 2020R, our key note speaker the CGS, Gen Carter outlined the strategic context behind the requirement

to reduce logistic need in order to support Divisional War Fighting within a structure that could demand ever more resource. To achieve this, automated supply and a 'back to basics' understanding of J4 supply is required across the Army post the Op HERRICK experience. A copy of his full speech is also available on The RLC MOSS page.

Thank you to all that helped in the background, attended MGL's Conference and for the engagement with The CGS and subsequent feedback and appreciation of a job well done.



By **Capt S Floyd**

**This year 159 Regiment was lucky enough to deploy to sunny Cyprus on its Annual Deployment Exercise 'LION STAR 4'. Every year the soldiers have to complete their two-week camp in order to maintain basic soldiering skills, whilst also learning new ones. This year tested them as they were running around in combats, with weapons and gear in temperatures rising to almost 30 degrees!**

After a very long and uncomfortable flight, the soldiers arrived at Bloodhound Camp just as the sun was rising. After a power nap, they hit the ground running and went straight into lessons. The next few days were spent conducting low level training such as map reading, advance to contact and patrolling drills. Once they had reached the required standard, they deployed into the field for the following five days.

Out on the ground was tough, not only due to the scorching temperatures but also the unforgiving ground. This gave the reservists a really good understanding of how to look after themselves in adverse conditions, as well as how to react to, locate and defeat the enemy. The two troops did exceptionally well and the field phase culminated in a dawn attack which went to plan.

Following a long week, the soldiers were delighted to hear 'ENDEX' and enjoyed a fantastic breakfast in the field courtesy of the Regimental Chief Warrant Officer (RCWO) and his team. They stocked up on some much needed food after the delights of being on rations for the past few days.

The next week saw them on the Adventure Training (AT) phase. This is just as

**Cpl James March directing staff on Ex LION STAR 4**



# EX LION STAR 4



**Cpl Jackie Lucas (Section Comd) issuing arcs of fire during a stop short**



**One of the Regt's drivers supporting the exercise**

important as the field phase, especially with reservists whose minimum commitment is just 27 days per year. This enables the soldiers to conduct training and be placed outside of their comfort zone in a more informal setting. It also helps foster team cohesion.

The AT included hill walking, mountain biking, rock climbing and water sports with Pte Sophie Duke being labelled as a modern-day Spiderwoman during the climbing! The Regt was also lucky enough to have one of its own soldiers, LCpl Teresa Moloney delivering mountain biking.

Developing a close unit can be difficult due to the Reserve Commitment so this type of training is essential for forging bonds, which may end up being tested in operational situations. Placing people outside their comfort zone introduces them to what it is like to feel fearful and to learn the skills to manage this in tough and tricky situations.

Ex Lion Star 4 was also one of the last duties as CO for Lt Col Mark Comer. He has handed over to Lt Col Patrick Allen and the Regt wishes them both well in their future roles.



**159 Regt on parade at Bloodhound Camp**

By **Capt V Sorrell**

**In Mar 17, 7 Regiment Group deployed on Op TOSCA 26. It deployed with various attached personnel including 52 reservists, soldiers from the REME, the Royal Engineers, the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and a doctor from the RAF.**

Op TOSCA is a United Nations peacekeeping mission. United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) is on island to supervise ceasefire lines, maintain the integrity of the Buffer Zone (BZ), undertake humanitarian activities and support the Good Offices Mission of the UN Secretary-General. The British contingent deploy to Cyprus for a six-month tour, whilst other contingents are posted to the island for one to three years.

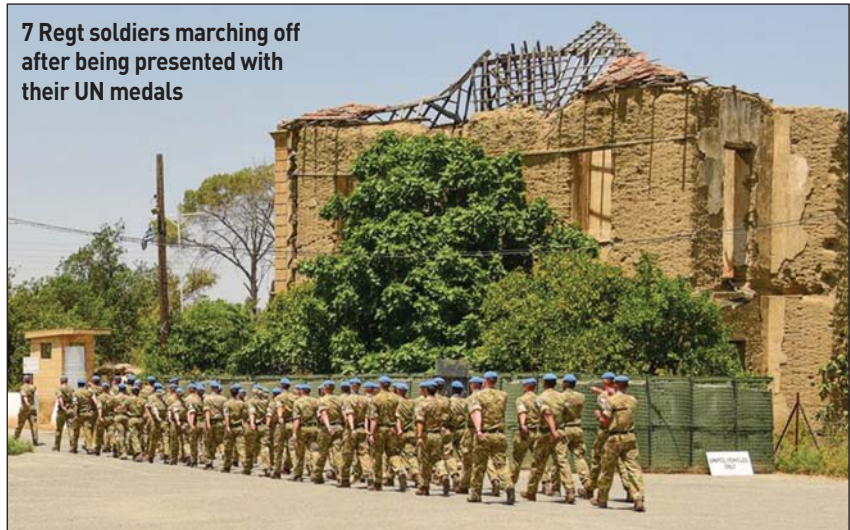
7 Regt Group is split down into various roles on the deployment. Operations Company (Ops Coy) is responsible for patrolling the BZ between Northern and Southern Cyprus. Due to the sensitive nature of the BZ, especially during recent weeks as the peace talks collapsed, Ops Coy have a complex role in which they are required to use their negotiating skills to resolve issues at the lowest level on the ground.

As well as patrolling 24 hours a day, Ops Coy has worked hard to make the BZ a cleaner and safer place to work, re-opening routes which were previously impassible. They have formed some strong relationships through liaison with those who have interests within the BZ, such as farmers and hunters. Also, they have had a busy tour monitoring large numbers of protests. They were on standby to protect the integrity of the BZ had the protests become unfriendly or the protestors tried to penetrate the BZ.

Support Company (Sp Coy) is responsible for the care and maintenance of Ledra Palace Hotel (LPH) and Wolsey Barracks, as well as providing real life support to all the soldiers on Op TOSCA 26. The iconic nature of LPH means a lot of events are held in the Officers' Mess. Sp Coy often provides the catering to restaurant standard for the event as well

# Op TOSCA 26

**7 Regt soldiers marching off after being presented with their UN medals**



**S2 troops liaising with a farmer in the BZ**



as maintaining the security of LPH and immaculate Honour Guards for guests. Specifically on Op TOSCA 26, one of the Leaders' Dinners was held at LPH, which was an extremely high profile event which drew in a lot of media.

Whilst the majority of the Regt is based at the iconic Ledra Palace Hotel, it also has a cohort of soldiers based in the United Nations Protected Areas, they are the Mobile Force Reserve and work directly for the Force Commander.

The Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) is a multinational sub-unit with a mission 'to maintain a state of high readiness and training to allow rapid deployment throughout the UNFICYP AO in support of operations as directed by the Force Commander'. Op TOSCA 26 has seen the MFR conduct security operations to support the meetings of the two Cypriot leaders, forward mounted to Nicosia, as rapid readiness public order troops and the operations platoon has been on standby as a reserve for public demonstrations.

The platoon has also found time to make the most of being on such a beautiful island with so many things to see and do. It has taken part in various sporting events such as a marathon and 15km run in the Troodos Mountains, a one nautical mile Bay2Bay open water swim and various triathlons and cycle races.

It has also organised two major charity events. The first was a 24-hour stair climb to raise money for the London Community Foundation on behalf of the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire. The second was a running and cycling relay race through the BZ to raise money for two children's charities on the island, one in the north and one in the south.

**Ex ORZEL UNITY BZ Charity Relay**



**The start of Bay2Bay**



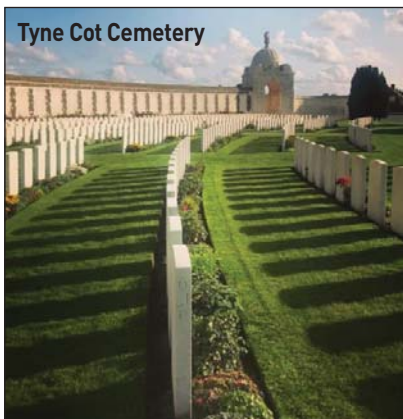
By **Cpl G Sanders**

**On the 11 Sep, both civilian and military personnel from the Defence College of Logistics, Policing and Administration (DCLPA) embarked on a Battle Field Study - Ex Western Front held in France and Belgium.**

On arrival at Calais, the team travelled to Arras in France to develop its understanding of the significance that Wellington Quarry played during the Battle of Arras. The museum is a realistic experience of the environment the soldiers had to endure; so everyone donned their WW1 helmets and travelled 20 metres underground. This gave the deployed personnel from DCLPA a huge insight into the conditions that 24,000 soldiers called home during WW1. At a constant temperature of 11 degrees and with no natural daylight, this was an excellently preserved part of history with original markings and artefacts cleverly arranged with projected videos of the soldiers during WW1 and WW2.

At the start of day two it was time to meet the guide Mr Rod Bedford and travel to Neville St Voast, a German War Cemetery. The team learnt that all German graveyards mark their dead with one iron cross for every four soldiers, this is to symbolise comradeship in life and after death. The sight of thousands of iron crosses was a stark reminder to how many German soldiers were lost. Even more sobering was the sight of a mass grave with 15,288 soldiers that stretched along the side of the graveyard.

After a short look around Neville St Voast War Cemetery the group travelled to Vimy Ridge, a memorial that displays the front line between the German and Canadian soldiers. This was a very well-kept memorial site which allows visitors to walk around both sides of trenches and across 'No Man's Land' giving them a real perspective of how close both front lines were.



**Tyne Cot Cemetery**

# Ex Western Front



**The last Post ceremony held at the Menin Gate Ypres, three members from Worthy Down laid a wreath to remember the fallen**

Here, the team took another trip underground to see a Canadian communication cell, where the guide Tyler turned off all modern-day lighting to allow everyone to experience how little light there was to work in. He also explained about early methods of protection against chemical warfare, which was soaking a cloth in urine and holding it over your nose and mouth.

The group then went on to visit a fantastic Canadian Memorial which allows visitors to see the significance of the area around Vimy Ridge and why it was protected so fiercely.

Travelling to Ypres, the group visited Hooge Crater Museum for lunch and the guide demonstrated the different stages of the British Front Line. At the end of the day there was a visit to two cemeteries:

Tyne Cot which is the largest Commonwealth Cemetery with 11,976 soldiers buried and Essex Farm Cemetery where the poem in Flanders Field was written by John McCrae. This is also where the youngest soldier to die is buried aged 15.

Day three saw a visit to In Flanders Field Museum in Ypres, where visitors are given a poppy wrist band which allows them to interact with display videos and learn more about the realities of war and life in Ypres.

After spending time looking around Ypres, the group prepared for an evening



**Essex farm Cemetery**

of reflection and attended the last post ceremony at the Menin Gate where a wreath was laid in respect of all those fallen. This is held every evening at 2000hrs and is a moving tribute that is part of daily life giving thanks for the courage and self-sacrifice of those that fell in the defence of Ypres.

Trips like these are important to all service and civilian personnel, allowing everyone to learn about the history and heritage of the British Forces and the sacrifice they made for the Commonwealth.

By **Pte A Cummings**

**On Sat 22 Jun, 13 reservists set off for adventurous training (AT) in Cyprus. The expedition took eight Pte's and two LCpl's, together with two instructors and the expedition leader, to the Troodos Mountains.**

The build up to the trip had seen Regimental HQ pull together to overcome cancelled RAF flights and they eventually all made it to Troodos by Sunday night. After the stifling heat in Akrotiri, it was a relief to be up in the slightly cooler mountain air! On Monday they woke up to a glorious morning with the prospect of an excellent week ahead. After collecting the mountain bikes and equipment, the group set out for a gentle acclimatisation walk.

"The aim of the expedition was to foster a spirit of adventure and this it certainly did," said Pte Andrew Cummings. "Everyone eventually met at RAF Akrotiri. Although most were lagged after the flight, bonding was immediate and all were eager in anticipation of the forthcoming training events."

Over the next few days, the training was rigorous. The hillwalking instructor Lt Chloe 'Geologically Sound' Kirkham-Smith introduced the team to the circuits.

After being thoroughly briefed, the team embarked upon the main trails of the area named Kaledonia, Persephone, Artemis and Atalante.

They were designed to push soldiers both mentally and physically, but the team was also able to witness the immense beauty of the area, take in the unpolluted clean air and experience the waterfalls.

The team got the opportunity of a

# Ex TRIDENT CYPRUS



**151 Regt enjoyed a cultural visit to ancient Kurion**

lifetime visiting one of the most beautiful places on earth.

"During the hillwalking, we were lucky to have a tour guide well versed in geology," added Pte Cummings. "We are now able to differentiate between Ophiolite and Harzburgite. Thank you, Ma'am!"

On moving on to mountain biking "Now you have hiked it, get ya bikes you're going to mountain cycle it," bellowed the keen instructor SSgt Tony 'Yum Yum' Gibson.

After a thorough but necessary risk assessment, the team was given the confidence to hit the mountain using the Army's Gucci Bikes. This was an opportunity to demonstrate individual and teamwork skills, as along the journey, blood, sweat, scrapes, punctures, broken

chains, over the handlebars stunts, lizards and even snakes, tested the nerves. But the team was given a great insight by our instructor who knew his stuff! Thank you, Staff.

This was all overseen by the expedition leader Lt Danielle Ashton who was on point for the handovers, punctuality timings, and co-ordination of the entire expedition. She displayed 'Total Professionalism' throughout, was an asset to the team and one who lead by example. Thank you, Ma'am.

For the cultural day, the team took a trip to ancient Kourion and, if the request to extend the time spent there by another 45 minutes is anything to go by, the group clearly found it interesting.

The afternoon was spent relaxing in Paphos. With four different Sqn's in attendance it was a great opportunity for soldiers to get to know each other across the Regt. The broad spectrum of personalities led to some great conversations throughout the week and it's fair to say that everyone genuinely enjoyed getting to know each other.

In a similar fashion to the flights out, there were some hurdles to overcome with getting everyone back to the UK. Two days later than planned all the expedition members were back in the UK.

The trip rewarded regular attenders to training nights and weekends by challenging them in a new environment and the instructors were pleased to see soldiers progress throughout the week. It also inspired some to look into gaining AT qualifications for themselves so that they can lead similar trips in the future, allowing others to benefit from AT.

**Hill walking in the Troodos mountains**



# The RLC Ammunition Trade Supporting Op INHERENT RESOLVE

By **Maj D Prktak**

**A recent photograph taken in Baghdad highlights the diverse mixture of jobs that current and late RLC ammunition-qualified personnel (ATOs and ATs) are currently doing in Iraq.**

WO2 Kay Howells has been an Ammunition Technician for 13 years. Holding the highest EOD qualifications, she is currently the Weapons Technical Intelligence (WTI) WO for Op SHADER. She is the WTI lead for IED threats across the Iraq Area of Operations and coordinates exploitation and movement of Captured Enemy Material (CEM) to support the 2\* Commanding General's (CG's) information requirements.

Her role is Ammunition Technician essential due to the technical qualifications and knowledge needed. During her tour, she has improved the flow of CEM to Tactical Exploitation Facilities and has been essential in planning and executing the first stage of partnered exploitation in collaboration with Iraqi forces.

Maj Dom Prtak RLC is Chief of Staff C-IED within the US-led Div HQ, Op INHERENT RESOLVE-Iraq, based in Baghdad.

He is responsible for planning, coordinating and supervising the output of this 26-strong multinational staff branch, managing the branch's battle rhythm, controlling its interactions with the rest of the 73-member coalition and reporting its activities to interested parties worldwide. As an RLC ATO, his technical knowledge contributes strongly to his Op SHADER role, after some time away from the ammunition trade.

Lt Col Danny Rea RLC is the Executive Officer to the CG. In this role he coordinates the CG's Command Group, organises battlefield circulations, attends all the CG's Key Leader Engagements and staffs all the CG's correspondence with higher formation.

During his tenure, Lt Col Rea has seen the liberation of Mosul, Tal Afar, Anah and Rayannah – engaging with senior Iraqi leadership and all Task Force Commanders within the Land Component on Op INHERENT RESOLVE.

Brig Gareth Collett CBE (late RLC) has been a high threat ATO for 25 years and is currently the Defence Attaché in



**From left to right: WO2 Kay Howells, Maj Dom Prtak, Lt Col Danny Rea, Brig Gareth Collett CBE, Lt Col Dave Ashman, Capt Al Ness, Maj Andrew Boyce**

Baghdad. He is the senior British military diplomat in Iraq and during his two-year tenure he has witnessed the liberation of Ramadi, Fallujah, Mosul and Ninawa province from the grip of Daesh.

As a fluent Arabic speaker, his explosive engineering expertise has been in constant high demand, specifically during the creation of a humanitarian explosive hazard clearance model that has been adopted by the national authority and international demining community. His efforts in this area have delivered robust assurance mechanisms for all force elements involved in stabilisation and subsequent reconstruction. Gareth is also the Ambassador for the Felix Fund Bomb Disposal Charity.

Lt Col Dave Ashman RLC is Chief C-IED within the US 1st Armoured Div HQ. As one of only two UK Branch Chiefs in the 2\* HQ, his role requires the oversight of all C-IED training for ISF at Building Partner Capacity locations, as well as the recovery

and exploitation of CEM, which has a direct impact on UK Homeland Security.

His role within the Div HQ provides the CG with a C-IED advisor and as a branch which straddles both J2 and J3, his team provides J2 C-IED Intel assessments and coordinates the support of US EOD teams to the deployed task forces.

Capt Al Ness RLC is the SO3 J2 within the C-IED branch supporting Op INHERENT RESOLVE, based in Baghdad. Fulfilling an assignment normally held by the Int Corps, his primary role is the collation, fusion and dissemination of all IED intelligence in support of the wider C-IED effort. This directly supports Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition partners by informing the development and updating of Tactics, Techniques and Procedures, as well as contributing to targeting and network attack operations.

Maj Andrew Boyce RLC is OIC IED Exploitation at the Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal School, Besmaya. Working side-by-side with Iraqi EOD operators, Maj Boyce and his team of Exploit NCOs triage and forensically analyse IED components collected throughout theatre to produce actionable intelligence.

Over the past four months, everything from simple pressure plates and timed IEDs to novel and sophisticated devices, including improvised flamethrowers, have been dealt with by Maj Boyce and his team, playing a significant part in the fight against Daesh.

**A recent photograph taken in Baghdad highlights the diverse mixture of jobs that current and late RLC ammunition-qualified personnel (ATOs and ATs) are currently doing in Iraq**

By Maj P Lawrence

**With 28 RLC Officers and other ranks (ORs) The RLC is well represented in the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) HQ based in Innsworth Gloucestershire. The RLC is at the heart of providing SME advice, planning and execution of Logistic support to multinational operations, and at the forefront of developing NATO Logistic concepts and doctrine for operations at Joint Task Force, Land Component and Corps levels of command.**

The RLC representation is split primarily between the Enabling Command, that can branch out of HQ ARRC as a standalone HQ responsible for the reception, staging and onward movement (RSOM) of troops by reinforcing or leading NATO's Joint Logistic Support Group (JLSG) and Support Division, led by Brig Alan McLeod and is responsible for the planning and execution of NATO Logistic Operations at whatever level the ARRC is required to deploy.

Throughout the last quarter, RLC Officers have been at the heart of planning and executing a multitude of multinational exercises. The most high profile was Ex NOBLE JUMP, to exercise the deployment of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). This saw troops from seven nations deploy to Cincu training area in Romania, demonstrating rapid deployability in real time.

Two thousand troops and five hundred vehicles deployed by road, rail, sea and air through Greece, Bulgaria and Romania. This massive logistic undertaking was planned by the plans teams of EC in close coordination with the Multinational Division South East (MND(SE)). The team then deployed to Bucharest to assist the HQ with the execution of the plan. Whilst it was a relief to not have the usual EXCON serials of disaster the team still had to deal with diplomatic clearance issues, air traffic control strikes,

# The RLC in HQ ARRC



**Lt Col Moreton, having finished his ice cream, briefing on the beach landings of Op DRAGOON as part Ex ARRCAD E BUGLE 1**

breakdowns, road closures and civil disturbances blocking convoys.

Maj Chris McSherry and WO1 Marcus Pope deployed to Poland as part of the Land Component Command LOCON to the JFC Naples Command Post Exercise, providing component Logistic and LOGFAS SME advice. With the focus now turning to Ex ARRCAD E FUSION 17, the core plans team, led by Lt Col Chris Stuart, has led the logistic planning at Corps level with multinational logistic planning and coordination across five divisions and eight separate troop contributing nations.

With a central focus on logistic support and organised by Maj Phil Lawrence, a multinational cohort of HQ staff officers deployed to Southern France to conduct a Battlefield Study of Op DRAGOON, the Allied invasion of Southern France. Looking at the issues of over the shore logistics, contested port operations and catastrophic success, the study brought out a number of logistic lessons relevant to the contemporary environment.

On the sporting front, there have been several notable successes from RLC Officers in the HQ. The HQ ARRC domination of Army Triathlon continued, with Lt Col Chris Stewart and Capt Mark Matthews leading the charge, the team eventually won both the Sprint and Olympic distance Army Championships, as well as made up almost half the team at the IS champs. Lt Col Mick Moreton has been crowned Corps Clay Target High Gun and WO2 Mick Straughan, for the second year running completing the Round Brown Sea Island Swim - 6.5km in skins (non-wetsuit)! He placed 21st of 300 swimmers in a respectful time of 1hr 56mins.



**WO2 Straughan, braving the cold and swimming in 'skins' in the round Brownsee Island Race**

By **Capt C Pearn**

**I joined the Army as a 16-year-old straight from school in 1988. Back then, I joined the RA as a Heavy Gunner on the (M110) 203mm and later on the multiple launch rocket system (MLRS). I had many exciting times and travelled to many different countries around the world on operations. Twelve years later, I joined the Royal Army Physical Training Corps (RAPTC) as my main love was Physical Development (PD) (PT/Sport/AT). The next 16 years saw eight different roles in some amazing locations.**

Promotion marked time for me in 06 because I made the decision to go down a career path that meant I would not be promoted past my current rank of WO2. This new role was a specialist sub aqua diving one, that at the time, only I could do within the RAPTC. This path saw me remain in diving for the next seven years as the Chief Instructor of two different Joint Service diving centres. It also qualified me in diving to the very highest level and as such I was in high demand, this opened the door to many epic diving expeditions around the world and countless instructor examining opportunities for the National Governing Body. Life was good.

My Regular Colour Service finally came to end in Dec 13 and although this was a sad day, another door opened when I was employed on an FTRS contract as an RAPTC Quarter Master Senior Instructor (QMSI) at ATU(WM). This was an exciting time for me because I loved being a PTI and I had never worked with the Reserves before. It also showcased to me the talent being recruited into the Reserves as part of Op Fortify. Shortly after joining the ATU, my CO and the TM (my line manager) started planting the seed that I would make a good officer in the Reserves. As time went on, the more I started believing it too. My Soldier Joint Appraisal Reports (SJARs) all backed this up.



# My Journey to the Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB)



It was when Adventurous Training Group (ATG(A) recruited for a Civil Service SO2 Adventurous Training Desk Officer in Donnington that my career path would change again and move me closer to where I am today. Accepting that job, not only allowed me to influence something close to my heart, adventurous training, but it also gave me the opportunity to join the Reserves.

I was invited to attend an open evening at my local RLC Unit, 123 Sqn, in Telford. Serving as a Reservist in the RAPTC was something I was not keen on as it would have resulted in me dropping a rank (to SSgt) and never progressing past that. This clearly would scupper any chance of promotion completely. During the evening, I made this clear to the Sqn Chain of Command and they were very supportive. I knew that evening that I wanted to join them and become a Logistician in The RLC.

After over 27 years in green as a full-time soldier, I joined 159 Regt last year. From day one, I was employed as a Tp Comd with a view to attending AOSB. In my time to date, the Regt has encouraged me to be a fully participating senior soldier. I am in a unit that love what I love – they enjoy the green stuff, PD and they have fun along the way. They also have good quality people, at all ranks. All the good things in the regulars are still here but the things I didn't enjoy so much seem to have disappeared. What is there not to like about being a reservist?

Over the past year, with the unit's help, I have prepared for AOSB. This has required a big commitment from me and has taken up a large part of my spare time. AOSB is not something to be taken lightly, especially for senior soldiers. Although we have so much experience, on average, we are not as fit mentally and physically as we were twenty years previously. To help with my preparations, I attended two separate potential officer days in Canley at the unit's HQ and two SSE weekends in Grantham. These were all very useful and helped me understand some of the areas tested on AOSB. They also taught me how to complete them effectively. For anyone attempting AOSB, I would highly recommend attending these events. In my opinion, not doing this kind of preparation is like entering the Olympics with no training – there will always only be one outcome.

AOSB was more challenging and more enjoyable than I thought it would be. The first day wasn't so enjoyable for me, consisting of mainly theory based tests one after another, along with a fitness assessment, with the events not ending until 2000hrs. The second day was just as crammed with activities, including group discussions, several interviews, a planex, a lecture and various lessons. The final day included command tasks on the best command task area I have ever seen and finished off with the final race.

Disappointingly, you do not receive feedback on your result for two days after dispersal. Understandably though, the assessment staff, mostly Lt Cols, have many different assessments to score correctly and grade accordingly, which takes time. The course report comes approximately two weeks later and is very detailed regardless of the assessment outcome.

My journey into the Officer Corps has been a memorable one and something I am immensely proud of. Attending AOSB rather than the regular Army 'LE' equivalent has meant I have not done things the easy way, which of course makes the achievement all the more satisfying. I look forward to many rewarding years in the reserves.



By **WO2 M Lucas**

**Ex WO2 Mark Lucas, Pioneer by trade, left The RLC in August this year after a successful 24-year career, finishing his time as a SSM with 11 EOD Regt RLC. He reflects on the last two years transitioning into civilian life.**

The end of my career always seemed to be quite far away and unreal, nothing to worry about. Then, when I entered my last couple of year in the Army, reality hit home and I knew I had to start thinking about my "Life after the Forces". Many options were suddenly available to me but I wasn't sure which direction to take in my life. During my resettlement period, I managed to narrow down my future career choices by networking with peers and attending career fairs.

I also mapped my military qualifications across to get them accredited to the civilian environment, which is vital to get the recognition for the experience and training you gain during the years you have served. It really helped when it came to writing my CV and providing evidence of my skills to potential employers.

But most importantly, it demonstrated my strength in the welfare arena, having spent the majority of my Army career as a trainer and mentor for young recruits and serving soldiers. Focusing my job search on 'Welfare', I applied for a Welfare Officer Job with the Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS) covering the Aged Veteran Medical Welfare Support Project in Herefordshire.

Given that the charity was formed more than 70 years ago, I was really surprised I had not come across the organisation before. Today, DMWS operates all over the UK, Germany, Northern Ireland and Cyprus. It provides an essential and independent medical welfare service to the Armed Forces community from when they receive medical treatment, ensuring no one goes through the worry of injury or illness alone.

I have joined the organisation at an extremely exciting time, recent new projects with the Police, the NHS and the Probation Service demonstrates the demand for more professional medical welfare support to those who put themselves in harm's way to protect the nation. It is a fantastic organisation to work for and I haven't looked back once.

The experience and skills I gained from the Army help me immensely in my new role and have given me the confidence to be successful in my job. I am currently working as a Welfare Officer for the Aged Veterans project in Herefordshire, one of

# Soldier to veteran – Life after The RLC



the new projects DMWS recently got funding for with the aim to improve the life of aged veterans in the council.

To get the project rolled out effectively, a lot of networking and communicating with other charities and organisations is needed, as well as establishing relationships with the NHS trusts and local hospitals.

I love the fact that every day is different; I may meet new service users and carry out a first evaluation of their needs and identify possible issues that may affect their wellbeing (debt, housing etc.) or I accompany veterans to hospital visits, clinic and outpatient support, signposting them to other organisation's and services including the planning for post hospital discharge support.

Quite often, I help to explain and resolve any medical care issues, supporting the bereaved and terminally ill and most

importantly provide a confidential listening ear. I feel honoured to provide our Veterans with the support they need and deserve, while at the same time reducing pressure on NHS staff by dealing with non-medical issues. The job really gives me a sense of purpose and achievement. Since joining DMWS I have already completed a Level 3 Diploma in Welfare Studies and a Mental Health First Aid course. The training offered and delivered is excellent.

My transition from soldier to civilian has been challenging after such a long career in the Army but by maintaining a positive attitude I am now able to enjoy my new career as a Welfare Officer. I met some truly exceptional people within the Corps and have made some friends for life. Now my new adventure has started and I am looking forward to adding some new memories to my fantastic ones from my time in The RLC.

By **Lt Col A Woods**,  
The RLC Director

**The Royal Logistic Corps Foundation is the focus for engagement between the Corps, industry and academia; sharing best practice, knowledge and mutual understanding amongst logistics professionals.**

This year's Foundation programme has been busy and the national and regional events have been well attended.

**Log Safari**

On 17 Jul, The RLC Foundation was delighted to host corporate members and colleagues from the Armed Forces for a seminar titled "Motivating the workforce in Military and Commercial environments", followed by Ex LOG SAFARI on the training area at Deepcut.

This event adds a new dimension to our ongoing commitment of bringing together logistics professionals from industry, Army and academia.

Brig Martin Moore, CBE HoC CSS Army HQ, gave a presentation about Whole Force Approach (WFA) underscoring the need to develop "effective, agile and resilient capability delivered by an integrated, pre-planned and affordable mix of Regular and Reserve military, civilian and industry as a first choice to meet Defence Outputs."

Lt Col Kirsten Dagless continued this theme by unpacking the critical topic, "How to Motivate Your Workforce - A Military Perspective". Different sources of motivation were explored - intrinsic, extrinsic, social and achievement, with the recognition that intrinsic motivation has the most impact. This talk highlighted a situational approach to motivation and helped highlight ways that the traditional military approach to leadership will need to adapt to meet the flexible goals set out in the WFA.

The need for a flexible, more responsive approach to leadership and training was highlighted further through the presentation by Paul Brooks, founder of the Ardenia Group, who drew examples from his extensive experience in the logistics sector with Unipart (amongst other roles) to highlight approaches to motivation and training in industry. One theme that emerged was the need to be responsive to your workforce and work with them to uncover the wider purpose that helps motivate and sustain meaningful work.

Participants then had the opportunity to visit different stands where RLC skills and trades were on display. Serving



13 Air Assault military planning event

# The RLC Foundation

soldiers described the training necessary to gain qualifications that are vital both for military service and key to second careers within the civilian environment. Trade skills on display included bomb disposal, postal and courier services, supply and transport, catering, fuel storage and handling, munitions storage and air despatch operations.

**Military Planning Event**

On 26 Jul, 13 Air Assault Support Regt hosted a Military Planning event at Friday Woods Training Area, Colchester. The RLC Foundation's corporate members had expressed a strong interest in understanding how the Army goes about

analysing its tasks, making decisions and contingency planning. This was an excellent opportunity to see first-hand how the military makes decisions and subsequently executes the orders process.

A tactical setting provided the backdrop to an interactive session between the military and the Foundation's corporate membership. This included a detailed explanation and demonstration of the estimate process (the 7Qs), a look at how an operational HQ is set up and operates in the field and an explanation of some of the unique challenges faced by military logisticians at all levels. After an initial briefing on an operational scenario, corporate members were divided up into syndicates to identify the most dangerous and most likely events that may affect the overall mission and how they can be handled to mitigate the risk they pose. At the end, all syndicates took part in a plenary session which made for a lively debate about the differences and planning parallels between industry and the military. The risks are different, whilst commercial uncertainty threatens business viability and therefore profit, military uncertainty threatens the mission and ultimately lives.

The RLC Foundation Autumn Lecture took place on the 12 Oct and The RLC Foundation awards dinner on 8 Nov. A full report will be published in the next edition of *The Sustainer*.



Improvised field catering at Log Safari

By **Maj S Walmsley**,  
RLC Museum Manager

**35 years ago, members of our forming Corps took part in an operation 8,000 miles away, where they supplied, equipped and supported a small Task Force to enable them to liberate British territory captured by a hostile foreign power.**

The Falklands War in 1982 demonstrated the Corps ability to support a military force over a great distance, in an extremely hostile and unforgiving environment, to eventual military success.

**The Royal Corps of Transport** played a pivotal role in moving the Task Force and its equipment, both in the UK where chartered trucks, special trains and the Territorial Army were deployed, at sea and also at movement control points throughout the UK.

17 Port Regt RCT personnel were deployed on Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, Merchant Ships and utilised their own Landing Ships, Mexifloats and Port Crews to assist the operation.

On the island itself, RCT Snowcats provided much needed mobility due to the boggy conditions, air despatch dropped essential supplies to forward locations and helicopter handlers were kept busy loading stores, who along with RCT Port Operators, kept the passage of stores flowing ashore.

**The Royal Army Ordnance Corps** were responsible for the initial out load of all the ammunition and warlike stores required to support the Task Force from its Depots throughout the UK and Germany. RAOC Ord Sqns with the Commando Log Regt and 81 & 91 Ord Coys, attached to 5 Infantry Bde, provided ordnance support on the islands.

From the tiny beachhead at Ajax Bay, hundreds of tonnes of stores and ammunition was stockpiled and used to replenish the troops. This process harried by constant air attack, a lack of mechanical handling equipment and insufficient fuel storage capability.

**The Army Catering Corps** kept the Task Force sustained throughout this operation, providing field kitchens in conditions so appalling that they were reminiscent of the Crimean War in the 1850s. This is where Alexis Soya first invented the Soya Stove, to enable soldiers for the first time to receive centralised properly cooked hot food.

# The Falklands War 1982



**A mexifloats unloading men and vehicles with MV St Edmund in the background**

The Cuneo painting shows ACC chefs attached to 3 Para and illustrates the equipment in use and conditions in which it was used. Any ACC veteran with photographs of their activity in the Falkland's War is invited to contact the Museum, as there are very few photographs of the ACC during this conflict and would welcome any for the archive.

**The Royal Pioneer Corps** contributed a Defence Platoon to the Task Force, which was initially tasked with the defence of radio rebroadcast stations, often located on isolated hilltops. However, this role changed to assisting with air defence, using their GPMGs, as the Argentine air force attacks increased.

Supporting the conflict back in the UK saw pioneers doing back to back shifts, moving vast quantities of ammunition out of the Central Ammunition Depots, filling jerry cans and driving trains. Unfortunately, The RLC Museum also has no photographs of this Section in the Falkland's and again would welcome any veteran from this Defence Platoon sending in copies of photographs for the archive.

## Gifts for the Frontline

However, it was not all work. Each soldier of the Task Force was given a bottle of commemorative beer called "Task Force Special Ale" to drink on the way home. The author of this article still has his unopened bottle at home. This follows a tradition of providing such gifts to soldiers at war, which probably started with woollen hats being knitted for the soldiers at Balaclava. This was followed by official gifts, such as chocolate from Queen Victoria in 1900 to soldiers in South Africa and was followed by tins of cigarettes in 1914 from Princess Mary during WW1.

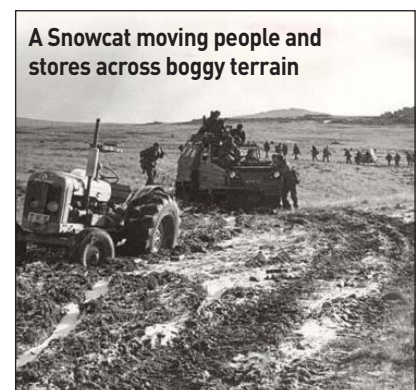
Soldiers on operations today can expect all sorts of gifts and goodies to be provided from a grateful nation and in more modern times small frisbees, combs, suncream and even yo-yos, have been included in the packages provided.

## The End of the E- Bluey

The RLC Museum has recently taken ownership of an E-Bluey machine, which we have added to our mock up FOB at the museum. Many soldiers, including those who have served in Iraq and in Afghanistan, have benefited from these machines, because nothing raises morale more than correspondence from a loved one, which was as true in WW1 as it is today, no matter how the letter is processed.

However, we know very little about E-Bluey machines and believe that they were used from around 2000 until 2017. They have now been replaced with a system called INTouch.

So apart from seeking any E-Bluey documents or related pamphlets for the archive, before they are discarded, the Museum is also seeking a "postie" who can help produce signs for the new machine and explain how it works.



**A Snowcat moving people and stores across boggy terrain**



# 1 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

## Bicester

CO: Lt Col N Crew • Adj: Capt C Campbell • RSM: WO1 Z Sharif



Op CABRIT

**One of the highlights of this quarter saw 1 Regiment taking part in Ex LOG SUPERSTARS, a Bde level Inter-Regiment sports tournament designed to test teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship.**

The event saw ten participants per team competing in a series of football, volleyball, hockey, basketball, cross country and Crossfit leagues over four days. Special mentions made to Pte Benjamin Townsend and LCpl Simon Vodi for their efforts in the cross country and Pte Jessika Luckhurst for her efforts in the hockey.

### CT 2

In Jul 17, 1 Regt in its entirety deployed on Ex RHINO STORM to conduct CT2 training. Feedback from the Regt was extremely positive and every individual benefited from the well planned scenarios which challenged all ranks. Due to the dedication and hard work shown, the CO was happy to grant CT2 status to the Regt.

### 74 Sqn

74 (HQ) Sqn has combined supporting regimental activities and deploying task groups in support of external operations and exercises. In Jul, the Sqn deployed on Ex RHINO ADVANCE a CT2 validation exercise. Operating around the Salisbury Plain Training Area the Sqn delivered Real Life Support to Regimental dependants, whilst carrying out CPERS handling and redeployment training. Various deployments have occurred in support of Brigade taskings. These have included communication specialists and chefs deploying on Ex RAMPANT DRAGON with 157 Regt. Most recently Logistic Supply Specialists have deployed to Barbados and the British Virgin Islands on Op RUMAN.

### 2 Sqn

2 Sqn deployed a Tp Comd and elements in support of 157 Regt on Ex RAMPANT DRAGON, part of its Annual

Continuous Training package. The Ex was designed with a military skills phase based in Altcar and a FTX in Catterick. Between these two stages were four road moves, a good opportunity for all to practice their convoy drills and for Tp Commanders their navigation!

The training culminated with the FTX stage in Catterick for three nights.

### 12 Sqn

OC 12 Sqn, Maj Bruce Ekman has set the tone and standard for the upcoming year and in doing so has done the Sqn, Regt and Corps proud by bringing home gold from the Invictus Games in Toronto. Competition from the USA, Romania, Estonia, Ukraine and France was insufficient to stop Major Ekman from winning gold in the men's 1500m IT1 event.

12 Sqn has been continuing its support and pivotal role in Op CABRIT, forming the bulk of the CSS Tp in theatre during the first rotation of the operation. Following a late summer, the troop were preparing for a bitter winter before being relieved by 4 Regt in early Nov. Sept and Oct saw preparations commence for the Staff College Land Component Briefing for which 12 Sqn is The RLC lead, the display is set to be a great success, showing off what the Corps can achieve whilst deployed.

### 23 Sqn

23 Sqn has sent seven of its soldiers from the LSS trade out to the Caribbean in order to support OP RUMAN for the disaster relief after numerous hurricanes have swept through the region. They have also worked alongside 12 CS Sqn to support the Staff College Land Component Brief (SCLCB).

### Light Aid Detachment (LAD)

The LAD ran a "Splat Attack" fund raising event in aid of North of England Children's Cancer Research. All in, they have managed to raise £2575 for a very worthwhile cause.



## 3 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Abingdon

CO: Lt Col S Cooke • Adjt: Maj J J Tester • RSM: WO1 M Robertson



On parade

**Led by 31 Squadron, but taking soldiers from across the Regiment, 3 Regiment has begun its duties guarding Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London. Preparations began just after summer leave, with the drill team from the Irish Guards joining the Regt to put the aspiring guardsmen through their paces.**

Bolstered by the smell of bee's wax, boot polish and brasso in the air; cries of "Get back!" and expressions of excitement at excellent performances, the Sqn settled into its new temporary home in Hounslow full of confidence that its footwork was up to standard.

Although the Greatcoat's and Blues looked perfect, it is somewhat surprising that the Sqn's diligent tailor retained any of his striking purple hair, as he worked around the clock to cloth upwards of 80 soldiers and officers. Never-the-less, the final pips, ribbons and buttons were adorned (not to mention the various waist adjustments following summer leave) and 31 Sqn, with all of its attachments, is now representing the Corps on the forecourt of HRH the Queen's residences.

### BATUS

The Regt was back to BATUS in Sept and Oct for EX IRON STRIKE. This experimentation exercise saw 21 Sqn providing the logistic support to 1 Brigade and the Household Regt. Frequent trips up the Rattlesnake road on DROPS loaded with supplies helped the Army understand how best to implement the emerging STRIKE concepts. In addition to the exercising troops, 32 Sqn had soldiers taking up roles as Temporary Deployed Staff in BATUS during the second half of the year- it has been a busy BATUS season for 3 Regt!

### Adventurous Training

Over the summer stand down period, members of 35 Headquarters Sqn and the Light Aid Detachment deployed to Malta on EX TIGER DIVER, a diving expedition led by Lt Wayne Derham. The exercise primarily focused on individuals gaining their BSAC Ocean Diver qualification and included a visit to the wreck of HMS Maori, a tribal-class destroyer sunk by German aircraft in 1942. All personnel gained their diving qualification, a great tan, and even managed to undertake some cultural trips to the historic military installations on the island.

### Sport

Those from 32 Sqn that have remained in Abingdon have still managed to find time to have a bit of fun amongst the barrack routine. SSgt Paul Birkbeck entered a team into the recent RLC Cycling Championships. The team placed a commendable fifth in the competition but credit must be given to Pte Hannah Austin who came second in both the Cross Country eliminator and the Cross Country 1.5hr Enduro. In addition to this, Cpl David Mezals found the time to lead the Regimental team at the recent 101 Brigade Superstars Competition. Despite having only 48hrs to pull together a crack team, his unbelievable competitive spirit resulted in the team coming second in the competition.

The Army Inter Units Netball Competition was held at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre from 12 to 13 Sept 17. The 3 Regt team, led by Capt Amanda Game, did extremely well with an outstanding performance from Sgt Michelle Smith, who was the team's Goal Shooter (GS). Other notable performances came from Cpl Sammy Lee and Cpl Mel Bird, both producing an outstanding level.



## 4 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Abingdon

CO: Lt Col C I Hanson • Adj: Capt M J Ruocco • RSM: WO1 K Adams

Lt Ben Gourlay  
delivers orders  
to his troops



**Like the rest of the Corps, 4 Regiment has had a very busy year! As well as conducting the usual routine tasks involved in regimental life and maintaining a live stores account for 12 Brigade, it has deployed on numerous exercises, conducted adventurous training and been very successful in the sporting arena.**

### Ex PRAIRIE STORM

Operationally, the key focus for the Regt has been preparing for Readiness at the end of 17, culminating in a deployment to Canada on Ex PRAIRIE STORM. During the arduous 35-day training exercise as the Brigade Support Group (Forwards) [BSG(Fwd)], the Regt worked hand in hand with 1 Yorks Battlegroup, integrated with 13 soldiers and officers from its sister Army Reserve Regt, 154 (Scottish) Regt. It also welcomed a host of augmentees from other cap badges to bolster the capabilities of the Regt.

Soldier first,  
tradesman  
second



The highlight of the exercise for most of the troops was the Live Fire Tactical Training Range package. This was provided to the BSG (Fwd) by BATUS to build up the Regt's core shooting and marksmanship competency. The key focus of the exercise as a whole was pushing the boundaries of the capability of the CSS elements to protect itself from a highly capable enemy force. The unit against a free thinking conventional enemy force which attacked it with dismounted infantry, armoured vehicles and mass artillery. It developed tactics to overcome this threat, which culminated in the final attack on the BSG by a company of the most capable armoured vehicles in the enemy arsenal, resulting in the BSG (Fwd) firing over 160 anti-armour missiles in three hours. Particular thanks must go out to the attached arms

for their hard work and adaptability during this highly experimental exercise.

The deployment was summed up succinctly by (Acting) Cpl Paul 'Smudge' Smith, who acted as the CO's comms specialist throughout the exercise. "I've been to BATUS six times in the past six years," he remarked on his return to Camp CROWFOOT. "This was definitely the toughest, but also the most enjoyable."

### AT in Newquay

The Regt's most recent AT expedition was to Newquay where 17 soldiers and officers participated in mountain biking, coastering and hill walking along Cornwall's coast line. The expedition was enjoyed by all who went and pushed everyone out of their comfort zones at some point, most notably jumping off high rocks into the sea whilst coastering!

### Sport

Over the last few months the Regt has had a highly successful and full sporting calendar. Five members of the Regt were selected to go forward for the Corps rugby squad, with 2Lt Simon McIlveen and Cpl Keith Bird showing they have the skill necessary to immediately represent the Corps at the Inter Corps Championships.

Cpl Bird subsequently selected for the 35-man squad for the first XV and attended the Corps training camp in Cardiff. Pte Lewis Croston, Pte Anakay Fowler-Wright and Pte Molly Pettifer represented the Regt at the Inter Regimental Swimming Championships. Cpl Aiden Peers took part in Corps road cycling, and SSgt Scott Doeg and Cpl Anthony Jones, the mountain biking. Lastly, the Sqn entered a team to the Oxford Dragon Boat Race. Following an exceptionally close race, and despite a mid-river collision, the team managed an excellent second place, trailing the winners by only 0.3 seconds!

This is only a snap shot of life within 4 Regt, however you can see that it is living the CO's mantra of *Enjoyment, Excellence, Employability and Education in everything* it does. 4 Regt continues to push the boundaries of operating within a conventional conflict against a peer plus enemy, delivering outstanding support to its dependent Regt's in all environments, achieving sporting excellence at all levels and ensuring every soldier has an enjoyable time as possible.



4 Regt LAD rescue the  
Armoured Cavalry



# 6 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Dishforth

CO: Lt Col T J Crossland • Adj: Capt J R Harris • RSM: WO1 J Sumner

Regimental  
Battlecamp



**Building from an extremely busy yet rewarding quarter in the summer, which culminated in the hosting of the Brigade Sports Day, 6 Regiment has continued along the same trajectory in the run up to its mandated Collective Training exercises. The Regt took a period of staggered leave to ensure that there was personnel in camp at all times, who were available to service all Regimental functions in preparation for the autumn period.**

### Battlecamp

After months of hard work and late nights, the Regimental Headquarter's vision of a Collective Training package came together for the inaugural Battlecamp. Regimental Battlecamp is a three week package that seeks to combine CT1, live ranges and a 'leadership week'. Its aim was to provide a safe environment for Pte soldiers and JNCOs to develop their leadership styles and to demonstrate their potential for future promotion.

The Regt celebrated the success of JNCO promotion boards. 27 LCpl's from 6 Regt were selected for promotion to Cpl. In a similar vein, 6 Regt also celebrated the commissioning of four new Tp Comds, who are due to join the Regt in Dec.

After several months of work to create an area for the Regt's JNCOs to relax and socialise within the camp, the Corporals' Club opened its doors for its

Opening of the  
Cpls' Club - 6  
Regt CO with Cpl  
Darryl Tate,  
Cpls' Club  
Presentations  
Member



'Bring a Boss' night. The CO was requested to formally open the Club.

The Regt also achieved sporting successes in a number of disciplines. The men's football team formed two six-a-side squads and competed in a competition in Grantham. With an unfavourable draw (6 Regt A team vs 6 Regt B team) in the semi-final, the B team progressed to the final to play 7 Regt. Pipped at the post, 6 Regt came away as runner up, but being crowned plate winner in the process. In the UK (N) triathlon race at AFC Harrogate, 6 Regt had a number of successes. However, a standout performance from Pte Warren Parkin saw him win the junior division. A great achievement especially as it was his first ever triathlon.

As part of 102 Logistic Brigade's adventurous training package, Ex HALBERD ENDEAVOUR, personnel from the Regt deployed to Cyprus and took part in a number of activities. 6 Regt experienced mountain biking and rock climbing through to the ultimate exhilarating thrill of parachuting.



Regimental PT session

### Charitable recognition

In an ongoing mission to raise money for charitable causes, 62 Sqn has taken part in a number of physically demanding tests and has also come up with ingenious ways to generate money on behalf of the Army Benevolent Fund. A lot of work has been put in by a number of personnel from the Regt and 62 Sqn, particularly WO2 (SSM) Andy Parker and Sgt Jason Leslie.

6 Regt is now looking forward to CT2/3 and a brief lull in the battle before it commences support to UK Operations.



Commissioning Parade - The Corps Col and Corps SM with CO 6 Regt and four new Tp Comds joining 6 Regt



## 7 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Cottesmore

CO: Lt Col S A Cornell • Adjt: Maj C Cousins • RSM: W01 P Jordan

Loading stores  
into the back  
of a six tonne  
MAN SV



**Following the devastation of Hurricane Irma and the launch of Op RUMAN, 7 Regiment was requested to support. A total of 22 troops deployed to the Joint Air Mounting Centre (JAMC) from 68 Sqn, a mix of suppliers and drivers. Getting notified of the deployment, first thing on a Monday morning was a bit of a shock to the system, however the soldiers took it in their stride. Their mission was to assist 50 Sqn, 29 Regt with the processing and onward movement of freight and personnel to the Caribbean, via RAF Brize Norton.**

Arriving late on a Monday evening, a twelve hour shift system was established. Surprisingly, there were no volunteers to go straight onto the night shift, so the lucky team was voluntold and took the news with good humour.

The teams consisted of two VITAL operators, three suppliers and four drivers. The first team went straight to work preparing and binding essential equipment that the Commando Logistic Regt needed to take to Barbados. The VITAL operators were also present to certify that all equipment was correctly recorded and tracked as it moved through the supply chain. As equipment was being called forward, drivers were on hand to ensure it was loaded correctly before transporting the freight to RAF Brize Norton, where it was transferred to aircraft bound for the Caribbean.

Drivers from 68 Sqn have been continuously utilised by 29 Regt as and when they are needed. This has included a request for drivers to go to Hereford to collect satellite equipment from British Telecom that was crucial in theatre.

**Drivers from 68 Sqn have been continuously utilised by 29 Regt as and when they are needed. This has included a request for drivers to go to Hereford to collect satellite equipment from British Telecom that was crucial in theatre**

Overall, troops from 7 Regt have contributed towards the movement of 74 tonnes of freight, 52 tonnes of baggage, four tonnes of weapons and five vehicles and trailers that have moved through the JAMC so far, as part of Op RUMAN. All those detached have since been able to move into a routine, seeing all trades being utilised 24/7 to provide on-going support, helping 29 Regt to meet the continuous demands placed upon them.

### Inventory Management Cell (IMC)

Army HQ identified the need to manage inventories better throughout the Adaptive Force (AF). It was decided that 7 Regt would take ownership of the exploitation of the AF inventory on behalf of 1 (UK) Division.

The IMC is managed by SSgt Andy Aston with three soldiers under his command. A monthly Root Cause Report (RCR) is created by Army HQ and is then exploited by the IMC to ensure the units of 1 (UK) Division are managing their inventories efficiently. The IMC uses the Management Information System (MIS) to investigate the report and ensure units are better informed in the management of their inventory.

Although this role isn't the most glamorous, it allows units to increase efficiency and provides better value for money across the division.

### Ladies Rugby

This Rugby season five members of 7 Regt were selected to play for the RLC (W) Rugby Union side. Lt Gemma Pearson, Sgt Kayley Butler, Cpl Abi Lang, Pte Emma Lomalagi and Pte Lu Owens joined the other 20 Corps players in a UK based training camp and Inter-Corps 10's tournament where they reached the final but unfortunately lost out to the REME. All five ladies were re-selected to play in the first league fixture against the AMS. Lt Pearson was chosen to captain the side and all the girls got a full 80 minutes ending with a well fought draw at 17-17. The next game will see the team face the Royal Navy in Nov!



Left to right - Pte Owens, Sgt Butler, Lt Pearson, Cpl Lang and Pte Lomalagi





## 9 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Hullavington

CO: Lt Col A J C Geary • Adj: Capt K Vannerley • RSM: WO1 P Broom

The Regimental  
cycling team  
with their  
silverware



**Following re-subordination to 104 Logistic Support Brigade back in May, 9 Regiment's feet have not touched the ground. Against a backdrop of being at permanent Readiness, the summer months were filled with a host of unit visits and readiness checks which included the General Officer Commanding, Force Troops Command Maj Gen Tye Urch and the High Sheriff of Wiltshire Lady Penny Marland.**

The Regt welcomed Maj Jon Coningham as OC 66 Fuel & General Transport Sqn, Maj Levi Ashley as OC 84 Medical Supply Sqn and Maj Rich Gardner as OC 90 HQ Sqn, bidding farewell to Maj Andy Richardson, Maj Owen Brook and Maj Doug Ingram.

### Training

Prior to summer leave, the sub units completed Ex PANTHERS VENOM 17, across various locations in the UK. 66 F&GT Sqn conducted driver training and combat logistic moves between Buckley Barracks, Longtown, and Swynnerton, whilst Petroleum Troop supported Ex FINAL FLOW at the Primary Bulk Fuel Installation (PBFII) on Hullavington airfield.

95 Supply Sqn conducted technical training in the Supply Training Facility (South) and exercised receipting and issuing stores on Hullavington airfield. 90 HQ Sqn and Comms Tp deployed to Salisbury Plain.

In Sept, the Regt deployed on Ex IRON VIPER 17 to validate the Vanguard Enabling Group HQ and test a composite sqn of drivers, pet ops, and suppliers.

### Deployment – Op RUMAN

Being at permanent Readiness meant that Capt Nick Covington and WO1 Brian O'Donnell from the Sustainment Fusion Cell (SFC), were deployed at short notice in mid-Sept in support of Op RUMAN. This was the UK Government's military support to supply humanitarian and disaster relief to the Caribbean Islands. Working within the Joint Force HQ means the SFC are controlling all Real Life Support contracts on the island. WO2 Ross Edwards from 84 MS Sqn also deployed to support the redeployment of the force, tackling issues such as Dangerous Goods cargo and priority lists for all deployed units.

### Successes

The summer months have seen 9 Regt succeed in areas both on and off the sports field. On the LCpl to Cpl Board, the Regt was delighted to see 18 soldiers selected for promotion.

On the sporting field, 9 Regt has continued to show it has some amazing sportsmen and women. Arrival into 104 Log Sp Bde was firmly cemented when the Regt won the Bde festival of sports held at South Cerney. The female Regimental swimming team became Corps Champions, the male waterpolo team became Corps Champions. The Regimental netball team won the Army Inter-Unit competition to become Army Champions and the female Athletics team became Army Champions.

On bikes, 9 Regt was crowned road and combined cycling champion at the Corps event held in Abingdon, with LCpl Jack Webb winning the individual road race before going on to secure a fourth place in the Inter-Services. On the Enduro bikes, SSgt Kalum Hicks represented the Army at the International six day Enduro in France, and the European Enduro Championship in Germany. In rowing, Maj Nicola Roberts took some soldiers to The Netherlands to represent the Army in the Breda International Regatta.

### Invictus Games

A real sporting highlight for 9 Regt was seeing SSgt Jo Hursey from 66 F&GT Sqn being selected to represent GB at The Invictus Games. SSgt Hursey competed in sitting volleyball, golf, athletics (discus) and swimming. She performed incredibly well and was a true ambassador for the Regt and Corps. SSgt Hursey said: "I have met some extraordinary people and shared laughs and tears with old and new friends. Although I haven't come home with any medals, I have smashed some PB's. I have also been a part of everyone else's journey, no matter how small it was. It was humbling to watch so many people achieve stuff that only dreams are made of." Well done SSgt Hursey.



# 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment

## Aldershot

Comd: Lt Col P S Reehal MBE • Adj: Capt A E Petherbridge • RSM: WO1 D Rai

**Capt Jenny Milton** captained the regimental cross country team at the Army's Cross-Country Relay Championship



**Throughout 17, a key focus of 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (10 QOGLR) has been support to British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS). This continued throughout the summer with the Regt providing over 100 personnel to support armoured exercises on the prairie.**

Providing real life support to thousands of people, the QOGLR contingent has provided valuable support and developed its professional knowledge of operational logistic support. There have also been opportunities to obtain Range Management Qualifications and assist in the running of Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT) packages for exercising troops. Elsewhere, 10 QOGLR has personnel deployed to Op CATAN in Somalia, where they are acting in support of the United Nations and AMISOM.

### Ex TIMBER TRUSS

In the UK, life has continued at its usual busy pace. Currently on the committed year, personnel are spread far and wide. However, opportunities for collective training have been exploited to allow the Regt to maintain and develop operational capability. In Jul, a composite Sqn based around 28 Fuel and General Transport Sqn provided support to Ex TIMBER TRUSS, The RLC Troop Commanders' Course final exercise. This was an opportunity for the Sqn to go back to basics and exercise in its core role as a Transport Sqn, while a Supply Tp from 1



**36 Sqn** deployed on AT

Supply Sqn enabled the Troop Commanders' course to be tested on the spectrum of logistic activities they have been learning.

### Further activities

Prior to summer leave, 36 HQ Sqn deployed on a multi-activity AT package, Ex DHARILLO KHUKURI. Members of the Sqn participated in mountain biking and hill walking in a comprehensive package organised by Cpl Debindra Limbu QOGLR in the Lake District.

Despite the demanding pace of life, AT remains an important part of regimental life with several Type 3 Expeditions due to take place before Christmas. Meanwhile, Lt Josh Edwards and LCpl Dhiraj Rai deployed to British Gurkhas Pokhara in Nepal to represent the QOGLR at Regional Selection (West) for The Brigade of Gurkhas Intake 18. Staff from across the Brigade of Gurkhas spent one month in Pokhara assessing a range of physical and mental tests to select the very best soldiers for the next intake. Over 3,000 potential recruits attended for around 270 spaces in the Brigade.

**Providing real life support to thousands of people, the QOGLR contingent has provided valuable support and developed its professional knowledge of operational logistic support**

### Sports

On the sporting field, 10 QOGLR has been just as busy. The summer began with the 100 Km Trail Walker Race which saw three regimental teams, including the RAO Detachment, compete.

For the first time in regimental history, a team of QOGLR wives entered and in miserable weather conditions completed the 100km in less than 30 hours. Moreover, SSgt Sanchu Lama led the mountain bike and road cycling teams to success in The RLC Cycling championship finishing runners up. Finally, the 10 QOGLR cricket team managed to reach the Army finals for the first time. After a hard fought match, they were awarded runners up in the competition and in doing so created regimental history.





# 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Didcot

CO: Lt Col B K Howard • Adj: Capt L Shepherd • RSM: WO1 M Jowett

SSgt J Cutting  
trailing the new  
Harris T7 RCV



**11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment (11 EOD) continues to deliver EOD capability and Ammunition Technical Support worldwide. This quarter has included 908 EOD tasks in support of Military Aid to Civil Authorities across the UK and overseas deployments to 15 countries on Operations and Exercises.**

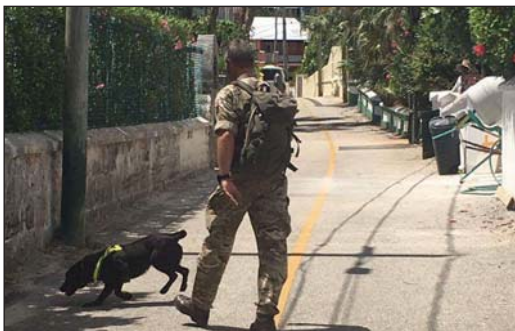
## 35th America's Cup

WO2 Liam Kidman and LCpl Craig Whitelaw recently deployed to Bermuda for six weeks as members of a small EOD & Search detachment, providing support to the 35th America's Cup. The sailing event saw teams from America, New Zealand, Sweden, Japan, Great Britain and France competing against each other in multi-million pound yachts to win the oldest international sporting trophy in the world – the America's Cup.

The island of Bermuda has its own home defence force, The Royal Bermuda Regt (RBR) which shares responsibility for EOD with the Bermudan Police Force. Between them they deal with between five and ten Conventional Munition Disposal tasks each year, however neither has in-depth experience of IED disposal. With an increased threat of IEDs during the event, the EOD & Search Detachment, which contained personnel from 11 EOD Regt, 1 MWD and elements of HQ 29 EOD and Search Group, were tasked to assist.

Prior to the event, familiarisation took place with the RBR's EOD equipment alongside continuation training with their EOD teams. Each morning before opening to the general public, the two British EOD teams conducted a full search of the venue using explosive search dogs. Once opened, the dogs were either used as a deterrent at the entrance points, or

A search of the site in Bermuda with the search dogs prior to the America's Cup



for sporadic patrols that were conducted throughout the day, the EOD teams remained on ten mins notice to move throughout.

Being on standby at the sites also allowed the EOD teams to train with the local security forces, teaching them more advanced techniques in EOD to help them provide a more proficient capability in the future. By the end of the event, good friendships had been made with the RBR and Police and it meant that another very successful America's Cup closed without incident.

## Eastern National Robot Rodeo

In Aug, SSgt Jamie Cutting and Cpl Sarah Jackson travelled to Atlanta, Georgia, USA, to take part in the 2017 Eastern National Robot Rodeo. The Robot Rodeo is a competition principally between US military and civilian EOD teams although guest teams are invited. Each team must complete a series of tasks with a new remote-control vehicle (RCV) within an EOD scenario.

Manufacturers from across America bring new technology for each EOD team to use. The idea of the tasks is to trial the RCV's capabilities and test the user's ability to handle new technology with a limited amount of training time.

Each task involves a different challenge ranging from: Working in close quarters, working in the dark, lifting/carrying heavy objects and self-driving tasks using only the RCV's technology. Some tasks involved working together with another EOD specialist; the British EOD team worked with the USA Air Force EOD Team in order to complete a task that required the use of three RCV's at one time.

It was an insightful week seeing another other country's way of using RCV's and seeing what future technology is out there. Final scores saw the British EOD team placing second with the USA Navy EOD coming first.

## EX OCCUPIED FELIX

On 17 Jul, a number of soldiers and officers from 621 EOD Sqn boarded the ferry from Portsmouth to Guernsey, ready for a week of history and team cohesion. For some of the group, this was their first trip away with the Army, having recently joined the Sqn.

The Guernsey Police Bomb Disposal unit greeted the team and ensured they had a fantastic time throughout. An expert guide was provided, as well as almost unrestricted access around the WW2 German fortifications, many of which you would never believe existed! The bunkers ranged from small pillboxes to enormous complexes, which could house over 100 men, to five storey concrete observation towers that were built using slave labour in only 14 days.

As well as strengthening relations between 621 EOD Sqn and Guernsey Police, a thought provoking and interesting week was had by all who attended.



## 13 Air Assault Support Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Colchester

CO: Lt Col M Genko • Adj: Capt S Spencer-Small • RSM: W01 R Falls

Nijmegen  
Marches  
Challenge team



**This year was the 101st Nijmegen Marches Challenge. To take this on, a mixed team of 18 Army and RAF personnel from RAF Brize Norton, both Regular and Reserve, travelled to Nijmegen, The Netherlands to participate in the international four-day event.**

From 47 Air Despatch Sqn it was Pte Leanne Lord that flew the flag for the Army Units based at RAF Brize Norton. To prepare for the four-day, 100 mile event, training started in earnest in Jan 17 and by Apr 17 the team undertook the RAF two-day March qualification event held at RAF Cosford. To qualify for Nijmegen, teams must complete a 50-mile route over two days wearing MTP uniform and carrying 10kg. The team didn't struggle, but the realisation that Nijmegen would be double the distance was a sobering thought!

After a couple of days of preparation, day one was soon upon them. The excitement in the camp was palpable as everyone was eager to start and at 0500 the team left camp under the iconic boots and helmet to begin their 25 mile march. Soon after leaving camp, the military teams join the civilian route where everyone is cheered on by thousands of well-wishers lining the route. Tired but elated to have the first 25 miles under their belts, the team prepared for day two.

The second day was extremely hot with high humidity, meaning teamwork and determination were required by all to complete the allotted distance. On day three the heavens opened, however, the team was spurred on by the ever-present crowds lining the streets. Singing marching songs was a great way for the team to pass the miles and having been joined by a Danish Army team, they were four ranks wide, singing loudly which saw the miles quickly go by.

By the end of day three, the whole team had covered 75 miles and it is fair to say that they were all in some degree of discomfort! The last day was all about breaking through pain barriers and doing whatever it takes to get to the finish line. With all 18 team

members still going, they had no intention of letting anyone quit at this late stage and pulled together to get everyone through the last day in good spirits.

Spectators that lined the route provided a morale boosting distraction and parties, bands and a constant supply of food and drink (non-alcoholic of course!) made the last day highly memorable for all involved. After a long final day, they arrived at the military checkpoint to receive their well-deserved medals and form up as a combined British Military Contingent.

The reward for completing Nijmegen is the award of the prestigious Vierdaagskruis, or the Cross of the Four Day Marches. This five pointed medal is an official Dutch decoration that can be worn on Dutch military uniform.

The team highlight was the final 5km walk through the city. With just under one million people line the streets giving out hugs, drinks, cheering and singing. The atmosphere was electric!



Pte Lord in  
The Netherlands



## 17 Port & Maritime Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Southampton

CO: Lt Col K Dagless • Adj: Capt H Travis • RSM: WO1 G Richards

Lt Louise Tester watches on as aid is brought to the shore via the MEXEFLOTE during Op RUMAN



**MOUNTS Troop, drawn from across 17 Port & Maritime Regiment's capabilities, boarded RFA MOUNTS BAY in May 17. Their role is to provide security and be prepared to provide Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief to UK Overseas Territories within the Caribbean, principally within the hurricane season (Jun – Nov).**

Hurricane IRMA, JOSE and subsequently Hurricane MARIA, has left many residents within this region without food, water, shelter or power. The Regt's specialist trade groups, such as Mariners and Marine Engineers, have facilitated the littoral manoeuvre of critical humanitarian aid from ship to shore. This has been conducted using the MEXEFLOTE and the Combat Support Boat offloading over various beaches and into the damaged ports all of which is being loaded, managed and discharged by Vehicle Support Specialists (VSS) and Port Operators. MOUNTS Troop have been deployed to Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Regt has played a vital role in the immediate response throughout this devastating hurricane season. The CO of RFA Mounts Bay, Captain Steve Norris said: "MOUNTS Troop have been key to the ships success on Op RUMAN with their highly trained and committed personnel. Furthermore, they have the ability to deliver large quantities of aid, stores, personnel and vehicles ashore. Their involvement has been a real game changer and every member of the Troop should take a huge amount of pride in the support they have given to the people of the UK Overseas Territories in their hour of need."

Further to the destruction caused by Hurricane IRMA, the ship is currently preparing to provide

OC 53 Sqn Maj Jack Dempsey briefs the troops on the importance of keeping current with back to basics soldiering skills



additional aid in the wake of Hurricane MARIA. These two force five hurricanes have made this a challenging tour with further severe coastal flooding expected. The Regiment has Force Prepared additional elements to deploy and support this operation including MEXEFLOTEs and an Army Work Boat.

### Ex IRON VIPER

52 Port Sqn deployed a Logistic Beach Unit onto Browdown beach to enable the littoral manoeuvre of 9 and 27 Regt as a theatre entry method for Ex IRON VIPER. The exercise is designed to test the Brigade's combined abilities if deployed. The exercise has seen a standard MEXEFLOTE, a Maxi MEXEFLOTE and Army work boats, used to land vehicles and soldiers ashore, in a similar fashion to that used in the Falklands and Iraq.

### Ex SEAHORSE WARRIOR

The Regt has been practicing and developing its skills with CT1 and CT2 exercises throughout the summer. 53 HQ and Enabling Sqn were the latest to deploy on exercise and get back to basics practicing their soldiering skills, before moving to Bramley training area to test the Sqn's SOPs.

The Sqn then established an RHQ before transitioning into 24 hour operations, with the Vehicle Support Specialist assets setting up a Vehicle Replenishment Supplement area. The Vehicle Support Specialists then relocated to Stafford to provide real time support to VANGUARD vehicles, putting the Class One's skills to the test ensuring all the vehicles were ready to deploy at a short notice.

### Sports

To date, the Regt has continued to enjoy a successful year in the sporting arena. The Dolphins were presented The Chris Cox Memorial Plate by Brigadier Martin Moore, president of RLC Rugby, after beating 29 Regt to win the plate final at the Williamson Trophy 15s Tournament.

The Regt's angling team has retained its reputation as the top team in the Army. Seven soldiers from the Regt were selected to represent the Army team in the recent inter-services Championships, held in Marchwood. The team beat the Royal Navy before narrowly losing to the RAF.

The Regt also competed in the RLC Mountain Bike Championships in Abingdon. After a hard two days of racing in very wet conditions, the team, consisting of Capt Simon Macey, Lt Marc Woollacott and Cpl Ian Milham, produced some excellent results, including first in the team event. The Regt also had had some outstanding individual results, with Lt Marc Woollacott coming first in both the Eliminator and Endurance races and Cpl Ian Milham coming third in both events.



# 25 Training Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Deepcut

CO: Lt Col M A Scannell • Adj: Capt S Foster • RSM: WO1 D Burditt

Ex SILVER  
STALLION



**109 Squadron's main effort is the professional and personal development of Initial Trade Training (ITT) soldiers to prepare them mentally and physically for the Field Army.**

109 Sqn is the base for most of The RLC ITT, less the driver trade. It consists of two Troops which administrate and provide the training, a Training Wing to provide continuous training and field exercises and an Ops Cell which helps provide a smooth transition through the ITT pipeline.

Ypres Tp trades are Ammunition Technician, Postal and Carrier, Movement Controller, Petroleum Operator, Mariner and Marine Engineer. Marne Tp is focused upon Logistic Supply Specialists.

As the last stage of the training, pipeline soldiers must deploy and pass a field training package held at Longmoor. Run alternately by Troop Commanders Lt Alex Nunn and Lt Adam Rough, this package is designed to remind, revise and test all of those deployed to ensure that only those deemed suitable will progress to Field Army. Those that pass are rightly proud of their achievement and deemed ready to post to a unit.

25 Training Regiment prides itself on giving soldiers as many sporting opportunities as possible such as (but not limited to); rugby union, netball, hockey, football and skiing. Under the expert rugby guidance of Sgt Adam Tyson, the Regt produced a clean sweep and won the Corps Shield, Bruce Sevens Trophy and Williamson Trophy.

The Regt has also entered into other sports competitions throughout the year including; Army Inter-Unit Netball, Grantham Football Sevens and Hockey. Skiing is also a large part of life at 109, this year 32 soldiers will be taught how to race ski and attend Divisional and RLC skiing competitions under Capt Rebecca Ritchie.

The Regt has been focused on the flagship event of the year, The RLC Military Skills Competition. As well as organising the events, the Regt entered three teams. Despite not being able to win the Gore Trophy as the hosting Regt, this will not deter the soldiers to try and get the best score.

### CLM

85 Trg Sqn continues to deliver regular and reserve Command, Leadership & Management training to all

selected WO's, Sgt's and Cpl's within the Corps. The Sqn also provides the Potential Instructor Cadre and The RLC Pre Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) Cadre to prepare selected personnel for their subsequent appointments in the training environment. In addition to this, the Sqn also runs a Coaching and Mentoring course where personal can gain a level 5 CMI qualification.

The Sqn consists of SHQ, one SNCO Division and two JNCO Divisions. To date this year, the Sqn has provided 14 Junior CLM courses, nine Senior CLM courses, six WO CLM courses, three JPIC course, two RMAS Cadres and three Coaching and Mentoring courses.

In Jul, the Sqn delivered an internal MATT week run by the SSM, WO2 Colin Hunter. In Aug, the Sqn conducted a study week consisting of targeted lessons focused on improving individual leadership within the Sqn, developing effective writing and current affairs debating.

On the sporting front, Cpl Nigel Stephen continues to represent the Corps at cricket where he played a pivotal role in a highly successful season for The RLC.

The Sqn would like to congratulate Sgt Anthony Smith and Sgt Anthony Gelling, who have recently returned from Brecon having successfully passed the Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course.

The Sqn bids farewell to the OC Maj Steve Hook (MBE) and welcomes Maj John Frame into the chair. The Squadron also welcomes a few additions to the team with SSgt Colin Martin, Sgt Craig Birley and Cpl Lynsey Meakin.

Units are reminded that RHQ The RLC now load all CLM courses and the information on how to bid is on the Defence Learning Environment along with all course information.





## 27 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Aldershot

CO: Lt Col J C West • Adj: Capt T P Armitage • RSM: WO1 W Eagle



19 (Tank Transporter) Sqn transport loads during Op CABRIT in Estonia

**This quarter has seen 27 Regiment maintain and build upon an already busy tempo as it prepares for its Readiness period as Theatre Logistic Regt (TLR) 2 in 18 and 19. Despite a wide summer leave window, the Regt has seen swathes of manpower deploy overseas, most notably to Canada on PRAIRIE STORM 2 and to Estonia on Op CABRIT. There have also been numerous Adventurous Training (AT) expeditions taking place at Sqn level throughout the quarter.**

### BATUS

8 (Fuel and General Transport) Sqn has seen a large chunk of the Sqn deploy to BATUS in support of 105 Sqn throughout the summer. Continuing the good work put in on PRAIRIE STORM 1, the Troop fulfilled the role of the 3rd Line TLR Transport Troop. This is notable because in previous years this function had been performed by a Close Support Logistic Regt, taking troops away from the exercise itself.

With 8 Sqn providing the backfill, it allowed the exercising Battle Group's manpower a chance to focus on its primary role. The troops' routine was busy, conducting two transport loops a day delivering vital supplies and personnel directly to the Brigade Log RV and then returning any salvage, personnel and stores as required. They were also heavily involved in the weekly maintenance days which delivered a field kitchen, shower units and high priority spares out to the Battle Groups on the ground. The exercises provided valuable training enabling the soldiers to hone a number of their core trade skills, including convoy drills, cross country driving and lashing and loading.

### 91 (Supply) Sqn

Meanwhile, 91 (Supply) Sqn has been busy with an AT expedition to the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Ex MOROCCAN WOLF was a hillwalking expedition with the goal of reaching the summit of Mount Toubkal at a height of 4,167m. The trek was a success, with the 20-strong team covering 75 kilometres over the ten days and a total of seven vertical kilometres.

### 77 HQ Sqn

77 HQ Sqn has also been engaged in AT, albeit in much less exotic locations and far closer to home. Deploying to Weymouth on a multi-activity package that included rock climbing, sea kayaking, hill walking and mountain biking, personnel were treated to typical British July weather of constant rain and howling wind.

Despite this, morale remained admirably high, as many of the soldiers were trying activities for the first time and pushing themselves out of their comfort zones. Team-building activities and educational visits to museums were included in the evening schedule in order to enhance the cohesion and military knowledge of the Sqn. Overall, a successful AT package which saw the Sqn bond and push each other (literally) to new heights.

However, perhaps the highlight of this period involved 19 (Tank Transporter) Sqn and its ongoing deployment on Op CABRIT in Estonia. The Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) NATO initiative has been led by 5 Rifles, with 19 Sqn preparing and transporting Heavy Equipment Transporters (HETs) for a planned five-year detachment. Throughout the deployment, the Sqn has been called into action to move armoured vehicles from the point of disembarkation forward, often involving convoy moves of five days or more.

It has also been involved in joint exercises with the Estonian Army and supported numerous media events in an attempt to reassure the Estonian population. A highlight of the deployment for the Sqn was the support to the premiere of the Transformers film in the Estonian capital Tallinn, despite some very narrow roads and tight fits for the HETs!

Overall, the operation thus far has been a success. Despite contending with the ever changing Estonian weather, with troops experiencing dry tarmac one minute and inches deep snow the next, the Sqn has completed over 500 loads, travelled in excess of 30,000km and enabled four NATO exercises.

### A look forward

Overall, a successful and productive quarter for 27 Regt. A busy winter period is to follow with Ex IRON VIPER, the 101 Log Bde CT3 exercise, on the horizon, followed by Ex DRAGON II, a Bonds of Friendship interoperability exercise in Toul, France, which is also one for the soldiers to look forward too.



## 29 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps South Cerney

CO: Lt Col C G Munce MBE • Adjt: Capt R D Irvine • RSM: WO1 M A Scott

29 Regt troops parade through Cirencester, exercising their freedom of the town as part of the 900 year anniversary of the Abbey



In addition to operations and exercises, the Firm Base tasks never cease in 29 Regiment. In the UK, the Joint Air Mounting Centre (JAMC) has, at short notice, successfully deployed personnel on Op RUMAN, whilst the support to HQ British Forces Germany (BFG) has remained unfaltering. With autumn well and truly over, Lt Col James Rhodes has paraded for the last time as CO at the Cirencester Abbey 900, a unique opportunity for the Regt to exercise its freedom of the Cotswolds.

### Op RUMAN

Op RUMAN was officially called during the early hours on 7 Sept. An immediate response and disaster relief effort for the British territories in the Caribbean battered by the scale five hurricanes that completely flattened large parts of the islands. It was an amazing effort with leading elements of 3 Cdo Bde deployed from Plymouth and arriving at the JAMC within six hours of notification.

The movement's team, headed by WO1 Marc Richardson, processed in excess of 40 tonnes of freight and nearly 1000 passengers through a packed JAMC over a period of five days. An effort only made possible with the support of 1 and 7 Regt's, whose assistance was gratefully received during the fast-paced deployment. Movement Controllers and Postal Courier Operators from the Regt have also joined the effort in the Caribbean with some deploying for the first time, a fantastic opportunity to put their growing trade knowledge into action. Dedicated to providing all soldiers and officers with opportunities to personally develop and challenge themselves, the past few months have been no exception.

In Jul, 59 Sqn accompanied by an enthusiastic CO, took on the confidence course at Copehill Down, a difficult array of obstacles to navigate. 99 Sqn coordinated a CT1 exercise with soldiers from the 39th Transportation Battalion, US Army deploying to Sennybridge Training Area and in Sept, 20 members from across the Regt took part in Ex CENTURION DEEP. The exercise consisted of sub aqua diving in Malta under testing conditions resulting in a number of successful awards.

### Freedom of the Cotswolds

In Cirencester, the town commemorated the 900th anniversary of the founding of the Abbey of St Mary the Virgin on 17 Sept. The town council invited the Regt to 'exercise its freedom' and march through the town accompanied by the music of the Band of the Army Medical Services. The Freedom of the Cotswolds was granted in 05 to 29 Regt, but this was the first time that right had been utilised.

Lt Col Rhodes led the parade in front of a large crowd, with Col RLC and The 9th Earl Bathurst taking the salute, on which he commented: "It has been a fantastic opportunity for us to not only take part in the Abbey 900 celebrations but also exercise the Regt's right to the freedom of the town. This is my last day in command and I am very lucky to be able to take part in such a prestigious event and lead the Regt through Cirencester."

### Hello and goodbye

It wasn't to be the only farewell for the CO, the Regt ensured he was given a real Centurion farewell. Lt Col Rhodes gave his final speech in front of the Regt before making his way to the JAMC to depart to Andover on flight RR583. It was then up the baggage belt and onto a chariot to be paraded to the front gate.

Lt Col Rhodes is succeeded by Lt Col Colin G Munce MBE who is no stranger to the work of 29 Regt having previously been posted within the Regt on a number of occasions.

29 Regt remains proud of its service personnel working diligently and professionally across the globe, while looking forward to other challenges over the coming few months.



29 Regt bids farewell to Lt Col Rhodes as he hands over command of the Regt to Lt Col Munce MBE





## 150 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Hull

CO: Lt Col A Hinton • Adjt: Capt E Hanley • RSM: W01 P Doherty

Members of  
150 Regt aside  
the Çanakkale  
Martyrs'  
Memorial



Following high turnover throughout the summer, 150 Regiment has welcomed a new Training Major, QM, Adjt and RSM into the RHQ. Lt Col Ian Booth has departed on promotion to BFPO, Northolt, and has been replaced as Training Major by Maj Anthony Hutcheon. Maj John Bagley has replaced Maj Mark Thompson as the QM and Capt Simon Banks has been replaced by Capt Emerson Hanley as Adjt.

Finally, W01 (RSM) Andy Rotherforth has departed the Regular Army, following 24 years of service, to be replaced by W01 Peter Doherty. 150 Regt wish W01 Rotherforth good luck in his transition to the Army Reserve and look forward to seeing him back at the Regt in due course.

150 Regt continues to provide integral support to a range of Army, Corps and Bde activities. This has included personnel deployed on Op TOSCA 26, a battlefield study to Gallipoli, providing the real life support to the Nijmegen Marches and organising the 102 Log Bde adventure training event Ex HALBERD ENDEAVOUR.

### Ex EASTERN BRIDGE

In Jun, officers and soldiers of 150 Regt and its regular paired unit, 6 Regt, deployed on Ex EASTERN BRIDGE. The battlefield study focused on the Gallipoli campaign during the First World War and allowed personnel to learn about different phases of the campaign. The Exercise included an extensive itinerary, re-tracing the events that led to the capture of Constantinople (now known as Istanbul). It culminated with a thought provoking Remembrance Service at the Helles Memorial.

### Nijmegen Marches

The 101st Nijmegen International Four Day Marches took place in Jul in The Netherlands. Teams and individuals from all Services and Cadet organisations formed the British Military Contingent (BMC). Participants are required to march approximately

40km over different routes on each of the four consecutive marching days. The Marches are the largest event of their kind in the world attracting 45,000 participants, including 5,000 military personnel from over 30 nations.

150 Regt was required to lead with the provision of Rest Area Support Staff as part of the BMC Support Staff, the first time a reserve unit had been given the lead for the event. The Nijmegen Marches were a huge success and the efforts of 150 Regt personnel was a key component of that success.

### Sport and AT

During the summer, 150 Regt took the lead in the organisation of the 102 Log Bde AT concentration - Ex HALBERD ENDEAVOUR. In addition, the unit also had 72 personnel taking part in the numerous AT opportunities that the exercise offered, all of whom received a great deal from the occasion. On the sporting front, 150 Regt entered the Army Reserve Football 6s competition held at Grantham over the period 12 to 13 Aug 17. Despite having a very inexperienced squad, the team reached the final of the Plate Competition after two days of very competitive football. A strong second half performance in the final saw 150 Regt victorious and return to Hull with much deserved silverware. After a strong result, 150 Regt now looks forward to performing well in the forthcoming Army Cup.



Army Football 6s Competition Plate Winners



# 151 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Croydon

CO: Lt Col D T Miller • Adj: Capt J Wooldridge • RSM: W01 V Chappell

**Lt Col Miller takes over command of 151 Regt from Lt Col Taylor MBE**



**151 Regiment welcomed a new CO, Lt Col David Miller in Aug. Congratulations on his promotion and best wishes to the outgoing CO Col Mike Taylor MBE.**

The new CO joins as the Regt is busy preparing to deploy on Annual Continuous Training, with not one, but two exercises running this year. The first will see soldiers testing their trade training on a mounted exercise across the UK. The second will prepare teams for competing in the Gore Trophy, The RLC Military Skills Competition.

On top of the minimum of two training weekends a month and numerous recruiting events, personnel have been, as always, busy out and about on the steady drumbeat of recruiting and civilian engagement events.

### British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS)

Lt Tom Loyn was deployed to BATUS from Apr to Aug, in command of a Troop of Gurkhas from our paired Regular Regt, 10 Queens' Own Gurkha Logistic Regt. He was in charge of Stores Tp during Ex PRAIRIE STORM, providing an essential layer of command to over 80 personnel. In addition, Lt Loyn was employed in the Sqn Operations Officer role, co-ordinating rear supply loops and delivering the Op Hygiene capability to the exercising Battle Groups.

Lt Loyn integrated well, commanding soldiers from across The RLC, both regular and reserve, and learned a lot on this hard-working, but enjoyable deployment. It was an invaluable experience for him to command regular soldiers in an operational environment.

**Sgt Shaw working as a Steward at Wimbledon**



### All England Lawn Tennis Championships

The Armed Services have worked as Service Stewards at Wimbledon since 1946. Military personnel are required to act as Stewards in very high-profile posts

such as the Royal Box, Centre and Court Number One, as well as the players' facilities. Sgt Jermaine Shaw was ecstatic to be selected as a Steward, despite the long hours! Duty meant being polite, pleasant, humorous and confident whilst dealing with responsibilities included meeting, greeting and giving information to the visitors. He had the opportunity to see some famous personalities; Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic, Venus Williams and Garbine Muguruza to name a few. There were long queues for the main courts and the main priority was to ensure safety and order at times. Sgt Shaw was lucky enough for it to be sunny for most days. There were some good tennis matches and a great atmosphere.

### Armed Forces Day

Preparation for 210 Sqn's Parade through Morden in South London began weeks before, with troops, under the watchful eye of the SM, practicing drill and marching to brush off any cobwebs.

Very early Sat morning, a works party went over to Morden Park, where the parade was due to finish up, to set up their tents to be used by local faith groups for teas, coffees and other refreshments. Sqn equipment was also on display with camouflaged vehicles out for the public to see. The Mayor of Merton, Councillor Marsie Skeete, inspected the parade accompanied by Maj Dexter Bransby, OC, who introduced the contingents including the Scout Band, the Sea Cadets and the local Gurkha Veterans Association. Once content, she moved to her dais outside the council buildings, the Scout Band began to play and the parade moved off, flanked by officers from the Metropolitan Police.

The parade moved past Merton Civic Centre, saluting the Mayor and continued up to the service in the park. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant and local faith groups led the praise for the Armed Forces, thanking them on behalf of their respective communities. The Scout Band piped up for the last time to play the National Anthem and then all were able to enjoy the refreshment and interest stands. For 210 Sqn, once all the tents and vehicle camouflage was taken down, it was back to the Army Reserve Centre for a BBQ and a kick-about in the truck yard.

### Regimental celebrations

Congratulations are due to various members of the Regt: Maj Andrew Gifford and Maj Ed Lewis who were both promoted to Lt Col; 2Lt Natalie Gardner, who was presented with the MacRobert Sword at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst; The London District Summer Golf Competition Stapleford winner Division Two, SSgt James Mckenzie and Runner-up Division One, Capt Sumanchandra Rai; The Regimental Shooting Team for finishing second in the Army Reserve Operational Shooting Competition.



## 152 (North Irish) Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Belfast

CO: Lt Col A Chambers • Adj: Capt T Hartle • RSM: WO1 J P Donaghue

The Worshipful  
Company of  
Fuellers were  
impressed with  
the quality  
control of the  
Regt Pet Ops



The main effort for 152 (North Irish) Regiment has been the final push to achieve Full Operating Capability following the re-role to a bulk fuel Regt in 14. For the longer serving soldiers, this was the third change in eight years having been an Ambulance Regt until 07 and then a Transport Regt with DROPS until 14.

The biggest challenges have been the technical Petroleum Operator roles – getting soldiers to Class 1 in just three years, as well as getting reservists instructing on the Bulk Fuel Carrying Vehicles. This was achieved on the Annual Continuous Training and the CO was able to show Brig Neil Thorpe OBE, the new Commander 104 Log Sp Brigade the soldiers in action training for their role to support the Field Army on exercises and operations around the world.

**Annual Continuous Training (ACT) – Longmoor**  
Between 9 and 22 Sept, 121 soldiers from 152 (North Irish) Regt deployed on an intensive period of trade training. Following a very successful drive from Scotland to South England that was commanded by the JNCO's, the soldiers were based primarily at Longmoor Camp. Some soldiers were dispersed to Bovington for the cross country circuit, Westmoors for HAZMAT courses and even RMAS for the ranges, among other places.

Packets lined up  
for an early start  
on the drive  
back to Belfast



The main effort of the exercise was to train RLC drivers to become competent fuel operators and drivers of the vehicles that the Regt holds, the Unit Support Tanker (UST) and the Combat Support Tanker (CST). Additional to this training was the standard fare of MATTS, leadership training and map reading exercises. Additionally, an extensive Basic Close Combat Skills package was organised by Cpl S Hanna with assistance from the RSM. Although this involved training all the soldiers present, it targeted JNCO's preparing for CLM courses where basic close combat skills (BCCS) has reportedly been weak. The success of this was immediately felt by so many 152 Soldiers passing PNCO and CLM courses recently.

Visiting the unit was Brig Thorpe, Brigadier Harvey from FTC, Hon Col Robert Scott and delegations from the Worshipful Company of Fuellers and the Defence Petroleum Training Sqn, both of which the Regt shares close ties and which have supported the Regt throughout the re-role. All had a chance to speak to the soldiers as well as see the training in action.

Positive feedback from the exercise was very forthcoming. Reserve soldiers liked being empowered with leading on training and with guidance from the Permanent Staff and senior officers, a very organised and cohesive package was delivered.

Following this, the Regt goes into a slightly quieter period preparing for more ceremonial and social functions before the rush of the new year.

The main effort of the exercise was to train RLC drivers to become competent fuel operators and drivers of the vehicles that the Regt holds, the Unit Support Tanker (UST) and the Combat Support Tanker (CST)



## 154 (Scottish) Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Dunfermline

CO: Lt Col A Wilkinson • Adj: Capt T J Oliver • RSM: WO1 S Bowie



Getting to grips  
with the BATUS  
vehicle fleet

**In Jun 17, 154 (Scottish) Regiment deployed to the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Canada to undertake Ex PRAIRIE STORM 2. To support its twinned Regt, 154 (Scottish) Regt provided a further 13 soldiers and officers who travelled from Glasgow to Abingdon in the week prior to the start of the exercise.**

On arriving in BATUS, the reserves were integrated fully into 60 Close Support Sqn. They slotted straight into role alongside their regular counterparts and got to work taking over the BATUS vehicle fleet, which is some of the hardest worked of the British Army with, perhaps, the exception of vehicles deployed on ops.

The Battle Group and a forward operating Brigade Support Group (BSG (Fwd)) then moved out onto the BATUS training area, which is roughly the size of Wales. The BSG (Fwd) was comprised of a RAMC Medical Sqn, REME Equipment Support Company, RMP detachment and of course, 60 Close Support Sqn and 75 HQ Sqn.

The Canadian prairie sounds like a fascinating place however, it can actually be a very challenging operating environment. The heavy clay soil bakes to rock solid on hot days and is criss-crossed with tank tracks and wheel ruts after many years of the Canadian and British Armies using it to practice operations. Nights can be crystal clear and bitterly cold with frost lying on the ground the following morning, following days where the peak temperature was in the high 30s.

When it rains, the hard clay dissolves into a heavy, cloying mud which causes vehicles to get bogged in and slide off the steeply sided roads substantially increasing the challenge of driving both on and off road. Another challenge the prairie throws up is with navigation, there are no points of reference to speak of and beyond the various roads that break up the training area, there is often very little to see beyond grass and gophers.

The exercise moved through a number of phases of progressively increasing difficulty and tempo. Initially supporting the YORKS Battle Group deployment, 60

Sqn spent the first week shaking out into its respective sub-units and beginning to in-load supplies and materials whilst establishing routine in the field.

During the second and third weeks of the exercise, the two task troops rotated through a comprehensive range package which started from a basic zero shoot before progressing through a live pairs fire and manoeuvre range, building up to a full live section fire and manoeuvre. There was a practice shoot for firing from the top cover position on a MAN SV truck which was then further developed onto a Combat Logistic Patrol (CLP) shoot.

The range package culminated in a defensive shoot during daylight hours, which also saw the Light Anti-tank Weapon (LAW) being fired, before concluding again after full dark with a further defensive shoot illuminated by pyrotechnics. This was an excellent range package and a superb opportunity to practice weapons handling for the regular and reserve soldiers alike, many of whom may not have had the chance to participate in some of these shoots before.

The exercise moved into its final TES Ex phase once all of the deployed personnel and vehicles had been certified free from explosives. This involved soldiers and vehicles being fitted with sensors and lasers being calibrated to weapon systems.

Over this final couple of weeks, the BSG (Fwd) was pushed towards breaking point as the opposing forces rolled over the soft Combat Service Support echelons, having slipped around the forward line of friendly forces. Here, they were met with fierce aggression and were eventually repelled by use of LAWs and mobility protection vehicles.

For the soldiers of 154 Regt, this eight-week deployment was a superb opportunity to practice working alongside one of its sister Regt's and to build on the twinned relationships in preparation for potential deployment of future operations around the world.



## 156 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Liverpool

CO: Lt Col T Gould QGM RLC • Adj: Capt C Monk • RSM: WO1 B Gallagher

**Lt Col T Gould  
crowns 234 Sqn  
as champions of  
the Commanding  
Officers  
Challenge 17**



**As 156 Regiment dined in its new Co, Lt Col Tim Gould, it bid a fond farewell to OC 236 Sqn, Maj Gemma Page, posted to ITU Catterick and PSAO 381 Sqn, Capt Steve Firth, who leaves on retirement after 42 years of service.**

The Regt continues to work through the training year, deploying on Ex MASTERS STRIKE, our annual collective training exercise in Barry Buddon, Scotland, holding the Regular Reserve Activation Trial and preparing for Ex LION STAR ONE, an overseas training exercise taking place in Cyprus early 18.

### Commanding Officer's Challenge 2017

The CO's Challenge is an arduous and training taxing weekend that aims to develop soldier leadership skills and identify any potential future Officers' from within the ranks of the Regt. Travelling deep into the remote countryside of the Lake District, the weekend took place in the beautiful Ennerdale Valley at Lower Gillerthwaite Field Centre, The RLC adventure training lodge. Each Sqn entered a team into the competition and spent the weekend vying for the coveted CO's Trophy. A centralised navigation exercise preceded a series of competitive command tasks in what turned out to be a closely fought contest. With only one point separating the top three teams after an arduous endurance run, it was 234 Sqn under the leadership of Sgt Gareth Rowland, which was eventually crowned champion of the CO's Challenge 17.

### Ex MASTERS STRIKE

The Regt deployed on its Annual Collective Training exercise in Barry Buddon, Scotland from the 16 to 30 Sept 17. The newly installed Training Maj, Maj Foz

**Travelling deep into the remote countryside of the Lake District, the weekend took place in the beautiful Ennerdale Valley at Lower Gillerthwaite Field Centre, The RLC adventure training lodge**

Foster, led the Regt back to basics with a clear focus on developing core soldiering and trade skills under the stormy rainclouds and tumultuous winds of Scotland. The exercise commenced with challenging driver training under the steely-eyed SSgt Mark Milns. First parading, fault finding and vehicle recovery drills preceded some arduous LR and SV cross country driving on the Sterling Training Area. The Regt then moved through an ambitious Individual Battle Shooting Range (IBSR) package resulting in a night shoot. Congratulations go to Pte Craig Wilson for the winning the accolade of best shot in the Regiment, whilst the professional range package delivery by SSgt Paul Prendergast and his team is duly noted.

After a series of field craft, patrolling and orders lessons during windows of background activity, the soldiers dismounted close combat skills moved swiftly to the centre stage as the Regt deployed into the field. The consolidation of all this back to basic training was an impressive final attack at dawn on the thistle laden hills of Barry Buddon.

### Regular Reserve Activation Trial

The Regt hosted the Regular Reserve Activation trial for the North West region of the UK. In order to aid better understanding of the regular reserve capability, Army HQ and APC invited over 10,000 regular reserve personnel from across the country to an information briefing day. With a particularly impressive turnout in the North West, 156 Regt briefed and hosted over 375 confirmed attendees at its HQ Sqn Army Reserve Centre on Mather Avenue. A roaring success on many fronts, the regimental recruitment team managed to bolster its Op FORTIFY efforts by swiping some low hanging fruit in the form of a captive audience of engaged ex-soldiers.

### Looking forward

The Regt now switches its focus to preparations for Ex LION STAR ONE, an overseas training exercise taking place in Cyprus early 18.

■ If you are a service leaver and are settling in the North West, please contact the ROSO on 0151 729 2044 to discuss employment opportunities at 156 Regt.





# 157 (Welsh) Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Cardiff

CO: Lt Col A M Madams • Adj: Capt R Rudge • RSM: WO1 A Lodwig

The group in the Dolomites Mountain Range, Northeast Italy



**157 Regiment deployed on its annual adventure training expedition to the Dolomite mountain range in Italy near the Austrian border. The event took place at the end of Aug which meant glorious sunshine and hours of traffic tail backs from holiday makers.**

Capt Mike Billings organised the event based against a previous expedition to the area conducted by Maj Pete Harrison three years ago. The aspiration was to walk the Alta Via One route which is a WW1 battle line between the Austrians and the Italians, clearly represented by the cave networks the group encountered near Lagazuoi.

The Regt deployed from Cardiff to Italy on a two-day road move through France, Germany and Austria, covering 1000 miles in each direction. The walk started at Lake Di Braise in the Dobbiacco region and moved south towards Cortina. With an altitude on average over 2000 metres, which is considerably higher than Ben Nevis in the UK, the Dolomites proved to be a significant challenge and not for the faint hearted.

Sunset on the vehicle park during Ex RAMPANT DRAGON 17



Training was with WO2 Terry Robst from 104 Regt RA, a hill walking instructor with a substantial level of experience and a former member of 157 Regt as the previous Motor Transport WO (MTWO). Maj Pete Harrison and Cpl Ian Patterson were the group's two highly experienced walking instructors from within the Regiment. The Regt was extremely well served by the three instructors who took great care and time in ensuring that the soldiers were tested in a safe manner.

The AT proved to be a huge success achieving all of its aims to test and train the soldiers and to ensure that they are resilient for future Ops.

### ACT 17

ACT 17 was another huge success for the Regt with over 96 soldiers deployed. They left their ARCs on 9 Sept to Altcar Training Camp to conduct a range package and to collect simulate loads (simmo) from Swynnerton, before travelling to Kirkcudbright. This phase simulated arriving at an SPOD before deploying to Catterick Training Area via Warcop Convoy Support Centre.

The Regt deployed in direct support of 20 Bde as its notional dependant unit. The Task Sqn under Maj Trevor Stead conducted distribution point exercises which simulated the cross loading of stores from the Regt to 20 Bde units whilst in hostile enemy territory.

A notable success was that of 249 HQ Sqn which established a secure Bowman network for the Regt throughout. This was made possible by the hard work of 249 HQ Sqn with the support of attached Communication Specialists from 1 and 3 Regt.

Supporting the Regt throughout the ACT were 2Lt Oli Roberts and 2Lt Ed Scott of 1 Regt, who facilitated the ACT immensely as Troop Commanders. The fuel need throughout was met by the Regt's UST (fuel tanker) team who gained a great deal of experience from ACT, following the Regt around the country meeting the unit's fuel needs.

All personnel returned to Hullavington Airfield to return the simmo prior to returning to the Army Reserve Centres for a post-exercise wash up.



## 158 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Peterborough

CO: Lt Col A Parker MBE • Adj: Capt C Boyden • RSM: WO1 J Goodridge



158 Regt  
stand together

**The summer months saw 158 Regiment generate momentum towards its Annual Deployment Exercise (ADE) situated in Oksbol, Nordborg, Denmark. The exercise was designed to test the Regt in its core skills and operational role, focusing on logistic planning, command and control at all levels and the battle-craft required to enable transport operations.**

The ADE provided a unique but refreshing challenge to all members of 158 Regt. In the build up to the deployment, the permanent staffs of the Regimental HQ were tested with the ever-changing logistic plan for the delivery of freight and vehicles to Esbjerg, Denmark. This, combined with liaison with the Host Nation Army, tested every member of the team, none more so than the newly posted in Training Maj, Maj Ian Tyrrell.

The deployment phase of the exercise was kept deliberately similar to deploying to an operational theatre. The Regt's soldiers and officers deployed from the APOD of East Midlands Airport on a RAF Voyager and landed in the heart of Denmark at Billund International Airport. There then followed a short coach ride to Military Base Aksebjellerjren, where RSOL took place in preparation to deploy straight onto the exercise area.

The exercise phase was co-ordinated and controlled by OC 203 (Loughborough) Sqn, Maj Darren Knight, with support from attached arms from 104 Bn REME and 7 Regt.

The exercise was designed to match a tempo which would allow the soldiers to develop their core skills and establish a routine in a harbour area from the off. This provided a challenge for all, as the Danish

weather exacerbated the training environment by delivering double the average rain fall for the month in the first two weeks of Sept.

Despite the testing weather, the field deployment element of the exercise proved to be a great success. Junior soldiers were tested on military skills, including driving in challenging conditions, JNCO's were empowered as commanders of packets and two new officers to the Regt were tested as logistic planners in their roles as Tp Comd and OC.

The exercise saw a total of 16,000km covered across the 44 vehicles in the fleet; this was achieved through the use of convoy road moves, DP's and routine vehicle moves. Exercising in a foreign country added to the complexity of deploying on operations overseas due to different driving conditions and back to basic map reading. The exercise also saw the visit of the Hon Col, Col Mark Underhill who was delighted to join the soldiers on a convoy move to conduct a DP operation. It brought back many memories! Equally, the opportunity to host four employers from the East Midlands added flavour to the whole event and highlighted what to do to a group that had limited prior knowledge.

The second stage of the exercise focused on military skills, equipment care and an educational visit to look at the Danish involvement at the battle of Dibbol. Soldiers from the Regt were put through their paces in a military skills competition which focused on a section attack, lashing and loading a vehicle and a NATO assault course. This was followed by march and shoot, an element of the exercise which was well received and enjoyed by all. The Regt is now looking forward to next year's exercise in Altcar, England.



# 159 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Coventry

CO: Lt Col P Allen • Adj: Capt R Jones • RSM: WO1 R Clarke

WO1 Pearn to  
Capt Pearn



159 Regiment has had a busy few months with its Annual Deployment Exercise, a handover/takeover of CO's and getting ready for the bespoke recruitment programme 'Access to Logistics'.

### Sports

As things continue at pace, there are still so many sporting achievements, too many to list them all. Some include second place at Bari Cup for hockey, second place at the Reserve Football, Reserve Winners at the Cricket and retaining the title as the Reserve Winners at the 102X Sports Day.

Individually, Pte Julie Jacques did a fantastic job at her first ever Sprint Triathlon placed second female overall and first Novice. Well done Pte Jacques!

### Ex LION STAR 4

For the second year running, the Regt was lucky enough to deploy to sunny Cyprus on its ADE Ex LION STAR 4. This year tested the Regt greatly as soldiers were running around in combats, with weapons and gear in temperatures rising to almost 30 degrees! They did an exceptional job.

Ex LION STAR 4 was also sadly one of the last duties as CO for Lt Col, now full Col Mark Comer. He

Runners up  
hockey team at  
the Bari Cup



Pte Wallis, Bde Comd coin winner with his Grandfather

has handed over the reins to Lt Col Pat Allen who has already got stuck in. Welcome on board Sir.

The Regt prides itself on offering opportunities and they are far and wide. It currently has 19 soldiers deployed to JSMTC, Op TOSCA, Op TORAL, BATUS and on AT. It has 12 Soldiers mobilised with 7 Regt on Op TOSCA with soldiers gaining invaluable experience in real time situations. Obviously being in Cyprus has had its perks too, especially over the summer months.

### Access to Logistics (A2L)

Aside from the ADE, the main focus of the Regt has been on the bespoke Access to Logistics (A2L) course. A2L offers someone the ability to become a soldier in around ten weeks, finishing with a licence to drive military and civilian vehicles plus £5,500 in the pocket! This year the Regt currently has 17 candidates in the pipeline. The Regt looks forward to welcoming them with open arms as Logisticians and Combat Medical Technicians.

Recently the Regt was honoured to have the Bde Comd of 102X visit 237 Sqn whereby he was given various different briefs about the 'Midlands Logisticians'. During the evening, WO1 Cliff Pearn was presented with his new pips after successfully completing his AOSB, welcome back Capt Pearn. WO2 Peta Chapman received her official Queens Commission and both Pte Lee Wallis and Pte Adian Duut received Bde Commanders medals for exceptional actions. A massive well done to all those who received honours or awards!

■ 159 Regt is always looking for new Logisticians, Drivers, Chefs, Medics and HR Specialists, whether civilian or ex regular. The opportunities for travel are second to none. Why not join for these amazing experiences? Search for the Regt on Facebook @159Regiment.





## 162 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Nottingham

CO: Lt Col D E Jenkins • Adj: Capt M Taylor • RSM: WO1 D Jackson-Smith

**Team Osprey  
after crossing  
the finish line in  
Plymouth**



**Whilst the majority of 162 Regiment had departed on some well-deserved leave, several members of the Regt were busy representing 162 Regt abroad and in the waters at home.**

### Canadian Forces Small Arms Concentration Competition

Flying the flag for the Regt in Canada were Pte's Peter Harries, Krzysztof Skubis and Alan Wood, who departed Heathrow airport on Tues 29 Aug as part of the Army Reserve Combat Shooting team, taking part in the Canadian Forces Small Arms Concentration Competition at the Connaught Ranges in Ottawa.

The competition consisted of a series of different pistol and rifle shoots covering both rural and urban contact shooting, before culminating in the 'Biathlon Competition', which tested each competitor's fitness, speed and accuracy, whilst being placed under duress.

All three soldiers performed excellently and, although they didn't win any of the competitions, learnt a huge amount that will not only benefit their own shooting skills but also undoubtedly rub off onto other members of the shooting team. It was also helpful to improve the overall level of combat shooting throughout the Regt.

### Fastnet Sailing Race

Closer to home, the Regimental Administrative Officer (RAO), Maj Bruce Spencer, LCpl Allison Bibby, LCpl John Scott and Pte Harry Davies competed in the gruelling Fastnet sailing race, as part of a combined 162 and 165 Regt entry. Having battled gusts upwards of 35 knots during pre-race training in

the Solent, the team, in their yacht Osprey, were ready and raring to cross the start line on Sat 5 Aug. Battering the harsh weather of the Irish Sea, which proved too much for other competitors, Team Osprey completed the 605-mile race in just less than four days and crossed the finishing line at Plymouth in a credible 26th in its class.

### New OCs

With Maj Shaun Hoskin taking command in Swindon, 280 Sqn has hit the ground running. Focusing predominantly on Op FORTIFY events, the Sqn recruiters have visited The RLC Corps Open Day, the Trowbridge Royal International Air Tattoo, the Pride event in Swindon and a Steam Rally in South Cerney, drumming up support for 162 Regt and the Army Reserves.

All of which have had a positive impact, as the number of potential recruits attending drill nights has sharply increased. Not focusing entirely on its attract function, 280 Sqn has seen personnel take part in numerous trade courses, training activities and events. This has included 104 Log Sp Bde's Battlefield Study into the WW2 Allied Invasion of Italy, Dismounted Close Combat training on Salisbury Plain and the completion of a successful MATTs weekend at South Cerney.

Aug saw Maj Grant Carnegie-Brown assume command at Middleborough, bringing with him a wealth of experience and a draft of fresh ideas; which has rapidly seen the Squadron Forecast of Events fill up. Passionate about engaging with the local community, he has quickly set about exploring new and novel ideas on how best to further the links that 282 Sqn has with the varied and diverse communities which surround it.

### Goodbye

On Fri 21 Jul the Regimental Clerk, Miss Val Savage, left Bilborough Army Reserve Centre for the final time on retirement. Having served in excess of 40 years in the same job, Val had become part of the establishment and there was nothing which she couldn't assist or sort out with a quick phone call or sage bit of wisdom. We wish her the best of luck for her well-deserved retirement and hope she enjoys her time off.

**Regt Clerk  
Val Savage's  
retirement do**





# 165 Port & Maritime Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Plymouth

CO: Lt Col P Skinsley • Adj: Capt D Withers • RSM: WO1 C Henbest



Det Comd  
Course  
LCpl Murray and  
LCpl Bowser

During the past few months, 710 (Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars) Operational Hygiene Squadron (RBH) OH has supported the Field Army with OH provision for exercises and deployments across the globe. It currently has Cpl Dave Gill, LCpl Mike Ford and Pte Phil Hollyhead from 265 Port Sqn in Canada with BATUS. It has also just completed Ex CHAMELEON in RAF Leuchars (Scotland) where nine members of the Squadron rotated through the exercise over a 27-day period and previous to that provided OH support in Newquay on Ex JOINT VENTURE.

Unfortunately, a number of the Sqn's live tasks both at home and overseas, were withdrawn, including the deployment to Morocco, which was cancelled at short notice – a challenge for those

Army reservists who had arranged leave from their civilian employers. Much work has been done in the background in support of those members from the Sqn who were selected for this year's ADE, Ex LION SUN in Cyprus.

The Sqn's Army Reserve Centre has also been the host of OH training to both regular Army and Army reserve personnel with the Class 3 OH Operators Course and the Detachment commanders Course. Its small recruiting team led by Sgt Lisa Wild and ably assisted by LCpl Paul Cain and Pte Natalie Mitchem has worked hard to publicise the unit amongst the local population, both in the community and on the radio.

### AT in Cornwall

265 Port Sqn conducted AT in Cornwall over the weekend of 1 to 3 Sept. The activities were coasteering, hill walking and a visit to a Cider Farm.

Coasteering was very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Arranged through EBO Adventure Activities, the delivery was exceptional with fully trained and competent instructors. All personnel were tested and embraced the challenge, attempting all cliff climbs and high jumps into the sea. A fantastic experience, which was different from the normal AT all so often experienced, boosted morale.

The apple picking and farm tour was well received by everyone, well done to LCpl Ross for coming up with this. An afternoon helping to pick apples in the orchards and a tour of the real estate afterwards washed down with refreshments was certainly a good team builder. A chance to relax and unwind combined with a sense of giving something back to the local community.

On Sunday, the Sqn took a leisurely walk along a coastal path to stretch off the legs. The weather was torrential, but the lads were so hyped up from the previous day's activities it didn't dampen their spirits. The RSM tagged along for this event too and was clearly impressed with the positive attitude and effect the team building weekend had achieved.

Det Comd Course  
LCpl Bowser



AT in Cornwall



# 167 Catering Support Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps Grantham

CO: Lt Col J A Cattermull • Adjt: Maj S L Conway • RSM: WO1 D Samuel

LCpl Amanda Whitehurst receives instruction on the grenade launcher from SSgt Andy Chalmers



**High demand for 167 Catering Support Regiment's soldiers continues with 17 chefs supporting ARRC, SF and 104x exercises in Sept alone. We have run a fully loaded PNCO cadre on behalf of 104 Log Bde qualifying 27 Pte's for promotion. A great achievement!**

## RLC Cycling Championships

The RLC Cycling Championships took place at Abingdon from 7 to 8 Sept. The turnout wasn't as high as expected but nevertheless, the competition was fierce!

Comprising of Maj Sarah Conway, Capt Sue Chittock, WO1 Darren Martin-Chambers, WO2 Brian Firbank, Sgt Dave Hayball and LCpl Ant Curtis, we sent a mixed team of road and mountain bikers to defend our triumphs of 16.

Each day comprised of two different events for each discipline, albeit the mixed relay on day two had to be cut short due to the torrential rain that made conditions treacherous. The well-organised event was suitable for both novice and experienced cyclists and definitely whetted the appetite for future RLC cycling events.

As for defending last year's wins – The Regt came away as RLC Reserve Cycling Champions and Minor Units MTB Champions! Capt Chittock and Maj Conway earned second and third place females on the Novice road race. WO2 Firbank also earned a commendable fifth place in the MTB Endurance event. Roll on next year!

## Regimental Recruiting and Mentoring Team (RRMT)

The RRMT has been joined by Pte's Callum Grimes, Luke Harris, Neil Davies and Stephanie Chou, regular soldiers from the Regt's newly paired 9 Regt which will create three distinct recruiting teams for our UK-wide activities.

The RRTY is also joining forces with members of the Corps Engagement Team (CET) to deliver what is

becoming an annual event at the National Recruiting Centre, Upavon. From a large field kitchen to catering displays, it will provide taster pots to the hard-working Candidate Support Managers fostering closer working relationships whilst reminding them that Chef is the second largest trade in The RLC.

## Annual Continuation Training (ACT)

In Aug, the Regt deployed to Newquay on its ACT. Wetter than expected, troops were not deterred as they rotated through Special to Arm (StA) catering training, Military Skills training and Adventure Training (AT).

The StA training combined classroom based revision with practical demonstrations and real time catering to exercising troops. 111 Sqn soldiers thrived under the instruction of WO1 Chris Marsden and his team, with less-experienced soldiers stepping up as section leads to produce creative, nutritious meals under tight time constraints.

The long hours and unseasonal weather did not dampen spirits as the dining facility was transformed with helpful acronyms and quick battle orders. Military Skills instructors also received top table privileges in a shameless attempt to gain brownie points before we entered the field phase of the training. The training met all of its objectives and the soldiers walked away with greater skill and confidence.

ACT started for 112 Sqn with deployment into the field. With junior personnel in command appointments, the Sqn was given its harbour location, an outward route and some basic intelligence on the enemy.

Deploying at 0100hrs, the Sqn quickly got into location and established its platoon harbour. By midday the first recce patrol had deployed and on locating the enemy, gathered a wealth of information before returning to the harbour area.

That evening, the platoon captured an enemy soldier whilst out on patrol. Interrogation revealed the intent to set up defensive positions, which the Sqn subsequently attacked and destroyed before the enemy could get established. Every soldier felt they had learnt something and there was a great sense of achievement felt by all.

The AT consisted of coastering, mountain biking and a 13 mile cliff path walk. Regimental personnel WO1 Mark Murphy and WO2 Firbank led the walking and mountain biking, catering for all levels of fitness and abilities. One of the highlights of the package was the high wire walk at the beautiful Lusty Gaze beach. Balancing between two cliffs, 'disco legs' were a regular occurrence but nevertheless, the experience was declined by very few! Long days of arduous, cold and wet training produced a few aching limbs but lots and lots of smiling faces as they looked forward to local fare of home-made pasties and cream teas!



## 20 Transport Squadron The Royal Logistic Corps London

OC: Maj K Tilby • SSM: W02 A Salihu



The team gather together

**20 Transport Squadron is an extremely small independent unit comprising of both military and civilian staff, which has the huge task of providing transport support to all units and individuals throughout London District.**

This can range from transporting members of the Royal Family and their staff to various locations across the UK, as well as moving troops in and around London for ceremonial duties. The Sqn also undertakes a wealth of driving details for high ranking Military and Government officials, as well as the routine provision of vehicles for service personnel to attend appointments, deploy on exercise or to get away on some much needed AT.

### Activities

Still shaking out from a hectic ceremonial season, the Sqn has been involved in supporting the Royal International Air Tattoo, as well as being heavily involved in providing transport capability to OP TEMPERER. All of which are manpower intensive and time sensitive, especially as the routine details must also be met.

In addition to its core business, normal Sqn business continued with an equipment care (EC) training day and Sqn PT to brighten the mood. For those of you vaguely familiar with Central London, you may have seen the Sqn (well the ones not on detail anyway) often weaving its way through the tourists and commuters in Regent's Park and Primrose Hill (We've been told the view from the top is pretty good, We're yet to be convinced as we're usually licking the blades of grass for moisture whilst conducting hill reps). The only hill in Central London and the Sqn's PTIs found it!

### On the sporting front

Sport plays a massive part of Sqn life and on top of the normal Wed sports afternoon, SSgt Urie Hill and

Pte Dan Tottle recently represented the Corps at Cricket. The 2IC (Capt Paddy Anderson) and Pte Tottle (there's a pattern forming for those with a keen eye) almost had a clean sweep of both the individual and team prizes at the London District golf competition (they're high handicappers, apparently). The SSM, W02 Sal Salihu has continued in his role with coaching the Army Judo team and Pte Jesse Chapman won a silver medal in his weight category at the Army Judo championships. Finally, Pte Jamie Woodall has also been called up to attend an Army U23 football training camp.

### Adventure Training

With all of the above going on, it's important that the Sqn gets some quality respite and after a bit of summer leave, 16 members of the Sqn deployed to the Harz Mountains in Germany for some well-deserved AT. Organised by Sgt Gavin Halliday, the Sqn participated in hill walking and mountain biking (some people actually experienced making the summit of The Brocken in atrocious conditions, but if it isn't raining, it isn't training). Most routes were attainable by all standards and normally included at least one stop to enjoy a coffee and a bit of cake (it was rumoured that the SSM was even seen enjoying a hot chocolate or two, but he won't admit it, two minutes on the lips...). There was also an opportunity for a cultural visit to the V2 rocket museum and the Mittelbau-Dora concentration camp.

### ...and finally

At the time of writing this article, the Sqn is looking forward to a cultural and families day organised by Cpl Kev Harbour, as well as looking ahead towards its commitments with supporting the numerous Remembrance activities that will take place across London in Nov.



## Logistics Wing, Cyprus Operations Support Unit (COSU)

### Cyprus

OC: Wing Commander C Brown • OC JLS: Maj C Ralling • JLS WO: WO J Evans

Sgt Stewart in front of some of the vehicles he is responsible for



**Vehicle Support Section (VSS) is located within RAF Akrotiri and is currently headed up by Sgt Stuart Ball with the current manning of three Cpl, two LCpl and three civilian staff. The section is responsible for the upkeep and management of 80 Green Fleet assets which are required to support a range of tri-service exercises (an average of 24 per year), the most common being Ex LION SUN.**

VSS is also responsible for the issue and receipt of all new white fleet vehicles with British Forces Cyprus (BFC), issuing 100+ and backloading 100+ disposal vehicles. The section has also provided support to the ever growing and busy Op SHADER campaign.

With all this going on Sgt Ball has organised and conducted Pre CLM Cadres with the help of various members of the unit, for personnel preparing for their relevant CLM Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) or Junior Non-Commissioned Officer (JNCO).

Members of the section also took part in the annual 453 March for Poppy Day which helped raise over £10,000 for the RBL Poppy Appeal.

#### Equipment care

Equipment care is run by Cpl Lee Davidson and Cpl Rufus Palmer as part of RAF Akrotiri mechanical transport (MT). They are solely responsible for the bookings and fault rectification of all white fleet held by the MT. Cpl Davidson has taken part in various

road cycling races around the island and has also taken part in the tour of Limassol (164km).

#### MT Episkopi

MT Episkopi is the MT detachment for the Western Sovereign Base Area (WSBA) of Cyprus. It is currently run by Cpl Craig Smith and his two civilian staff. He is responsible for the operation of 144 white fleet vehicles ranging from fire engines to cars for HQ BFC and the Episkopi Garrison. It is a busy department due to the administration of a large amount of transport requests whilst maintaining the fleet. Cpl Smith has recently taken on the running of the Akrotiri Mixed Martial Arts Club (AKI MMA Club).

#### MT Dhekelia

MT Dhekelia is the MT detachment for the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA) of Cyprus. It is currently run by Sgt Rob Stewart and is responsible for the smooth operation of 151 white fleet vehicles ranging from fire engines, ambulances, police cars, customs vehicles, minibuses, pantecs and cars for the administration and daily running of ESBA.

The department is manned by one (RLC) SNCO and nine civilian staff. MT Dhekelia also manages the transport requirements for visiting exercising units through hire cars, fuel keys and general logistic support. The extensive fleet is broken down into both 'User' and 'Pool' fleet to accommodate the various agencies required for the running of the ESBA and Dhekelia Station as a whole. It is a hectic section with the balance of a large amount of transport requests and maintaining the fleet for the various servicing and inspections, plus the issue of temporary and full F/MT 600's.

**VSS is also responsible for the issue and receipt of all new white fleet vehicles with British Forces Cyprus (BFC), issuing 100+ and backloading 100+ disposal vehicles**

RLC soldiers being put through their paces in COSU's pre-CLM Cadre





## Defence Munitions (DM) Kineton Station Temple Herdewyke

CO: Lt Col W A Davidson • RSM: W01 S Belcher-Marks



Warwick Castle  
Dinner Night

**This year, Kineton Station celebrates its 75th Anniversary. That is, 75 years of receipting, storing, maintaining and issuing the military its Weapons, Ordnance, Munitions and Explosives (WOME). 75 years of training Ammunition Technicians and Ammunition Technical Officers in the core elements of their trade as well as Improvised Explosive Device Disposal. 75 years of building a station community, supporting local village and county communities, entertaining a wide range of visits, enduring continuous change and supporting Defence's operational and training WOME needs.**

The anniversary events started on 24 May 17 with station personnel undertaking the first of eight weekly ten-mile marches with the intent of completing a 75-mile march around the Warwickshire area. The aim of the march was to promote Kineton Station to the local community and inform it of the unit's 75th Anniversary and main celebratory events.

The main celebrations were carried out over a three-day period. A Regimental Dinner Night for 120 people was held on 20 Jul in Warwick Castle, where the Station Officers' and WOs'/SNCOs' Messes respectively hosted military and regional VIP guests. This was followed by a Veterans Day on the 21 Jul, where the station invited back ex-forces personnel to see how 'CAD Kineton' had changed. The celebrations culminated on the 22 Jul, with a Freedom of Warwick Parade in the morning, where the unit marched from Warwick Castle through Warwick town centre with drums beating and bayonets fixed. Shortly after the parade, Kineton Station opened its gates to the general public where the unit held a Station Open Day and a 'party in the park' event.

All of the events were delivered with the pride and

professionalism that are associated with the military, civil servant and contractor personnel who work at the station. In doing so, it has definitely strengthened the unit's ties with the local communities and provided opportunities for people to engage with, meet and better understand what the military and serving civil servants do at Kineton Station.



Ammunition Production then



Ammunition Production now



## Joint Helicopter Support Squadron (JHSS) Hook, Hampshire

CO: Maj T G Shaw • SSM: WO2 L Snelson

Ex SPECIALIST  
HOOKER



**As the year comes to an end, there is no winding down period for the Joint Helicopter Support Squadron (JHSS) at RAF Benson. It has been a very busy period with various operations, exercises and training packages to support the Puma and Chinook force worldwide.**

Sept saw JHSS support Op RUMAN with three Heli-Handling Teams (17 persons), who were held on 12 hours NTM. Concurrent to this commitment, the Sqn has had teams and individuals deployed on Op TORAL, Op SHADER, Op TAURUS and BFSAI. Whilst maintaining continued UK National Standby (held at RO), running tactical load parks for RAF Odiham and Benson and delivering frequent Defence Landing Point Commander courses to the wider Services.

### Ex SPECIALIST HOOKER

While the Sqn remains at High Readiness to deploy, it continues to maintain the specialist skill sets required to support helicopter training and operations. This has seen a troop level exercise organised by two of the Sqn's Team Leaders, Cpl Christopher Magee and Cpl Simon Sloan, who deployed by road from RAF Benson to Bramley Training Area with various Sqn vehicles, ranging from Land Rover to DROPS.

This brought in a realistic scenario that the Sqn faces regularly, where small teams headed up by a Cpl deploys with his or her team at short notice. The troops were given tasks that were challenging but pertinent to the loads that the Sqn is expected to rig for carriage by helicopter.

This also gave the section commanders the practice they required in order to ensure the loads were correctly rigged and safe to fly once airborne. These loads included a 105 Artillery gun plus ammo sim, Land Rover with trailer and simulated netted loads plus much more, with the Sqn's Chinook colleagues from RAF Odiham assisted in the moving of the loads around Bramley Training Area.

With a busy schedule, the Sqn also conducted navigation and downed aircraft scenario which tested the troops in their overall response and co-ordination levels for this scenario. The outcome of the exercise turned out to be a great success and no doubt will be repeated again next year dependent on commitments elsewhere across the globe.

### Op RUMAN

Op RUMAN is the latest overseas commitment the UK has deployed to in order to support and supply humanitarian aid which is currently required to support the Caribbean after the devastating effects of Hurricane IRMA.

The Sqn was working alongside its colleagues from RAF Benson and RAF Odiham to deliver first class specialist support throughout the operation. This is where the JHSS benefits from its diversity in having different services and cap badges working together.

With the variety of experience, willingness and professionalism to deliver underslung capabilities for chinook and puma helicopters, the Sqn has been able to pack and prepare all the specialist equipment that is needed to ensure it is able to conduct the various tasks in the Caribbean. It currently has 17 personnel deployed from the Sqn situated across the British Virgin Isles, assisting in the preparation of the under slung loads for carriage by helicopter.

As one can imagine this is a very testing time for the troops out there, as the teams are working in very difficult, yet challenging conditions due to the extent of the damage that has been caused by the hurricane. With the imminent arrival of Hurricane MARIA, the second category 5 to hit the area, operations were ceased for three days until it was safe to continue. This has not dampened spirits amongst the troops as they are very keen to continue with the task of ensuring the underslung loads with humanitarian aid are packed and ready to distribute to the victims of the hurricanes throughout the Caribbean.

### Falkland Islands

The end of Sept saw a new team deployed to the Falkland Island (BFSAI) in order to replace the previous team who have been on a three month attachment, as part of the annual Joint Helicopter Command (JHC) continued commitment.

The team consists of one Helicopter Handling Instructor (HHI) and four Defence Landing Point Commanders (DLPC). Once deployed to the Falkland Islands, they are required to provide support to the Chinook force and civilian British international fleet. Tasks whilst deployed on the Island consist of the safe recovery of various BV 206 vehicles being carried under slung by Chinook back to Mount Pleasant Camp.

The team is also required to conduct passenger handling duties for the safe movement of troops embarking onto the aircraft for their range packages and exercise simulations, along with ensuring the weekly ration supplies reach their different locations within the Islands. On occasions when there has been downtime, the team could still be called upon to complete various pax handling tasks to enable individuals to be conveyed to various wildlife locations during their down time to places such as Carcass, Sea lion and Pebble Island.



# Logistic Support Squadron, Commando Logistic Regiment Royal Marines

## Barnstaple

OC: Maj J Vain RLC • SSM: WO2 M Smith RM

Preparing to deliver aid to the Caribbean



Stunning serenity, note the SPOD in the distance

**As the Regiment learnt that the UK planned to send aid as well as troops to assist with the devastating effects of Hurricane Irma, Royal Logistic Corps and Royal Marines Soldiers from the Squadron were mobilised Under OP RUMAN.**

Personnel who deployed did so whilst epitomising the Army's standards. The level of commitment to ensuring that the Sqn deployed as a professional organisation was exceptional. Soldiers volunteered to work in a myriad of tasks all under the combined aim of achieving an objective, all were inspired to make a difference and were undeterred by long working hours.

With reduced personnel remaining within the Sqn, yet still having daily sustaining requirements, Pet Op soldiers have been exemplary in learning new skills in order to assist Technical Spares Troop.

Whilst deployed, the Sqn has been tasked with a plethora of tasks ranging from liaison officers in both the British and US Virgin Islands, assisting in the supply and distribution of stores to persons in need, as well as receiving petroleum requirements and capabilities.

With over 60% of the Sqn being deployed, the remaining Rear Operations Group (ROG) still have commitments to forecast for, including an eight week exercise in the United States working with 45 Commando and the USMC. The work effort involved in ensuring that no task is missed is a testament to soldiers' attention to detail, superb effort!

### Large scale exercise

In preparation for Ex BOLD ALLIGATOR later in the year, a Troop minus was deployed to work with the US Marine Corps. This exercise forged good relations with the Sqn's American counterparts as the unit practiced and honed its tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs).

### UK Resilience Ops

Alongside all other commitments the Sqn remains on High Readiness to support 3 Commando Brigade's Resilience Operation demands. Most notably it has deployed men in a professional manner and at short

notice to facilitate in securing the country when the UK terror threat recently reached critical.

### Lance Corporal Cox

Having been selected to represent Zimbabwe in the Men's Rowing Single Scull event in Italy over the Easter period, LCpl Stephen Cox produced some impressive times during racing to reach the 'A' final.

An amazing feat of achievement saw him become first ever athlete from Africa to reach the stage, resulting in fifth place out of six overall in a fiercely contested group. At Army level, LCpl Cox has won the Championship Double Sculls at Metropolitan Regatta and qualified as one of the top 12 rowers in the UK to race in the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta.

Wearing Army Colours, helping promote wider recognition of Army sport at the highest profile Regatta, he and his team raced a very fast Quad Scull, only to be narrowly beaten by another International crew.

LCpl Cox has had a tremendous season, he has been selected by the Army Sports Control Board for a BAE Scholarship, been awarded RLC Sports Colours, has won The RLC "Young Sportsman of the Year" award and has also been nominated for the forthcoming Army Sports Awards in the same category.

Looking forward, the future looks bright for this talented soldier. He has been invited to represent Wales at the forthcoming home Internationals Regatta, which consists of one athlete from each of the home countries. He has also been selected by Zimbabwe to represent the country at the World Championships and the All Africa Games.

**Having been selected to represent Zimbabwe in the Men's Rowing Single Scull event in Italy over the Easter period, LCpl Stephen Cox produced some impressive times during racing to reach the 'A' final**





## Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Support Battalion (ARRC) Gloucestershire

CO: Lt Col N Thomas QDG • Adj: Capt A Mortimore • RSM: WO1 L Callow PWRR

WO2 Paul  
Stephens  
winning the  
lineout



**Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Support Battalion (ARRC) has welcomed a new CO on the return from summer leave. Lt Col Nicholas Thomas QDG has joined the Battalion following a posting as the Military Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff at Army HQ and has fully embraced the diverse and unique challenge of his new role.**

He has arrived at a time of change for the Battalion and with it the start of the exercise season and a new concept for the deployed ARRC HQ. This new concept is being built and tested for the first time this year and focuses on a smaller and more mobile footprint on the ground. With an emphasis on deception and protection, it is proving a much welcomed challenge by the soldiers of the Battalion.

### Ex WYVERN CENTAUR

The new concept has seen soldiers from the Battalion deploy on Ex WYVERN CENTAUR testing the concept of building small operational HQ in urban and rural locations. Headquarters have been built utilising buildings of opportunity and small clusters of tents with a focus on concealment from both sight and sound and emission detection.

This new concept, built by the Battalion will create a more operationally focused Headquarters that is more capable of working and surviving in the contemporary operating environment.

The majority of exercising personnel will be based at Imjin Barracks this year, a move away from the days of RAF St Mawgan. This has seen the Battalion provide accommodation, feeding and medical cover for the majority of the HQ, an excon and contingents from 10 QOGLR and 6 Regt swelling the camp population to 1700 at its peak.

### Visiting Chosen Hill School

On the non-exercise front, Battalion has continued to make great strides to improve community engagement with the local population and schools. Chosen Hill School, a local academy trust school sent eight year ten students to the Battalion to undertake work experience. Departments from across the Battalion proved to be excellent hosts and gave the students and interesting and varied week that included improvised cooking, first aid, IED awareness and range packages. Both the students and their hosts thoroughly enjoyed the week and the chance to experience something out of the ordinary. The range packages proved to be the most popular element of course.

### Sport

The Battalion Football team hosted Forest Green Rovers U21 side, a National League 2 team. The battalion gave them a taste of drill, military PT and general Army life. Following this busy morning and a curry lunch, the Battalion football team met the Rovers on the pitch where despite much heart and determination, they were defeated 9-0. This result was perhaps not a surprising result given the skill of the opposition.

Imjin Station also held its annual International Families day at the end of Aug featuring stands by each of the 28 Nations represented across ARRC and the Support Battalion. This saw a wide variety of national food, drink and culture for all to enjoy. The AGC band graced the stage with a contemporary music concert and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

### The look ahead

Looking to the coming months, the Bn has been striving for success on the sporting side of life. The rugby team recently played its first fixture vs 7 Regt and after a hard-fought game came away with a win. The Nordic and Alpine Skiing teams are gearing up for the coming season and will be competing in the Divisional Championships in Feb 18. The cross-country team is looking to build on its success in the RC (South) League and are entering Junior and Vets teams into the upcoming race meets.

The Battalion's Cambrian Patrol team has been hard at work preparing for the competition spending time in the Brecon Beacons and Dartmoor cementing their field craft skills. It covers navigation, radio communications, CBRN, media training and battlefield first aid, among others. 2Lt Nathan Halliday has put his team through its paces and is confident of a good showing in the coming weeks.

Looking forward, the Bn will be completing the autumn series of exercises and looking to CT 1 and 2 training, Level 3 AT including scuba diving and skiing, battlefield tours and more in the new year.



# 132 Aviation Supply Squadron Royal Logistic Corps Ipswich

CO: Maj E Stokes • SSM: WO2 G Richards

LCpl Waweru presents the host with the Sqdn presentation, a print of the Apache Attack Helicopter



With the Squadron entering its busy exercise season in support of the Apache AH, its main focus turned to that of Ex CRIMSON EAGLE 17 with its direct support on the ground, as well as the less publicised support provided from back home at Wattisham Flying Station. Despite the realities of exercise support, the Sqdn still managed to conduct AT at The RLC lodge in Low Gillerthwaite, CT1 training and maintained Op TEMPEREH, R2 and R5 commitment throughout.

### Community engagement

As the summer approached, it was important to hold a families event in order to maintain the strong family bonds already in existence. This was achieved with a Squadron Family BBQ held at the Wattisham Station Community Centre. Independence Day was the theme selected by the Sqdn committee. The day was a great opportunity for the OC to get to know the families, particularly of those deployed.

Also in the summer, LCpl Jackson Waweru organised a highly successful visit to the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. The iconic Chelsea Pensioners hosted the Sqdn exceptionally well and wetted the appetites for future care – particularly Cpl Dudley Frederick, being the closest to reaching the minimum age requirement! This was a great introduction to Pte Iftekher Ahmed on his first day at work within the Sqdn from Phase 2.

### Exercises

In Jun, the Sqdn conducted CT1 on the Caerwent training area in South Wales. The Sqdn achieved all training objectives ensuring that soldiering skills are sufficiently developed in preparation for future CLM courses.

Jun then saw the preparations begin for the annual Ex CRIMSON EAGLE in California, USA, whereby seven members of the Sqdn deploy for three months

in support of the Apache AH. Headed by SSgt Will Foulds, the team was responsible for the provision of aviation equipment support materiel and were split between two twelve hour shifts. Whilst a great opportunity for those deployed, temperatures in excess of 42 degrees Celsius meant that working practices were often challenging. The team did however, manage to each attend adventure training package and received some good down time, making the most of their time in the States.

It is also important not to forget that the Logistic Focal Point (LFP) is supported by twenty four hour manning throughout the exercise period. This ties six personnel into the three shifts back in camp. They were responsible for the issues and consignment tracking of all spares bound for Ex CRIMSON EAGLE, time differences and licence acquisition for customs into the USA add to the need for this duty.

### Promotions

The Sqdn would like to congratulate the following on their promotions from Cpl to Sgt; Cpl Dudley Frederick and Cpl Roger Mugabe. LCpl to Cpl A/Cpl Nigel Mulley, LCpl Jessie Edge, LCpl Jackson Waweru, LCpl Joe Bircher and LCpl Shirk Mathurin. Congratulations once again, all fully deserved.

**As the summer approached, it was important to hold a families event in order to maintain the strong family bonds already in existence**



The Ex CRIMSON EAGLE team at El Centro, California under SSgt Foulds



## Defence Petroleum Training Squadron (DPTS)

**Dorset**

CO: Maj N Swift • Sqn WO: WO2 C Lamb

DPTS  
Permanent Staff  
with the Officers'  
Petroleum  
Course on  
a bund



**Fuel Training across Defence continues in the sleepy hollow of West Moors, Dorset. The Squadron is responsible for the delivery of 14 different courses, such as The RLC Petroleum Operator Trade courses, RAF aviation fuel courses and All Arms Bulk Fuel Vehicle Operator courses. The Sqn has a throughput of over 600 students per year, ranging from phase 2 trainees to the Officers' Petroleum Course.**

RAF Fuels have recently augmented the Sqn, making this Defence's premium fuel training delivery location. Four additional courses are now provided, including the RAF fuel operator and manager courses, ocean terminal course and the compressed gases course. All defence fuel training now comes under single command of the Logistic Specialist Training Wing based in RAF Halton.

This year has seen an exceptionally talented Officers' Petroleum Course of eight students, including officers from Australia, New Zealand and the RAF. They have all completed the technical 31 week course and are now on their way to fuel appointments across Defence.

The three RLC appointments this year went to 27 Regt, 10 QOGLR and 13 AASR and their incumbents are now well trained to deliver specialist fuel advice to their Regts and Bdes, as well as command their Petroleum Troop. The course sponsor, ACDS Log Ops is currently reviewing the course to make it more relevant for the future and is investigating accreditation options with the Energy Institute. The 'Golden Jerrican' was awarded to the top student, Capt Tom Saddleton, 10 QOGLR.

### Ex TIGER ARCHAEOPTERYX

As well as fuel training, DPTS has found time to escape on Adventure Training (AT) immediately after summer leave. Ex TIGER ARCHAEOPTERYX took place in the wet and windy conditions of Snowdonia, North Wales.

A group of ten personnel undertook a week's mountaineering for less than £2 per head, accumulating valuable log book experience, developing leadership skills and building their courage and confidence. Sgt Scott-Mullin's heroic scramble on hands and knees up Snowdon's tourist path was testament to how controlled AT can place individuals outside their comfort zone and face their fears in relatively safe, challenging environments.

On the sporting side, DPTS hosted a pilot cycle race intended for novice to expert cyclists across The RLC and DCLPA. This was held on a flat, fast closed road circuit around the petroleum depot and was won by a team from HQ DCLPA, led by Brig Steve Shirley. The day consisted of an individual Time Trial, Team Time Trial and finished with a Criterium Race. This event – Ex DIESEL DOG, will be held again next summer and will hopefully grow from strength to strength.

Finally, West Moors looks forward to equipping a new 'welfare building' to address the limited out of hours entertainment and leisure facilities in this remote location. A HIVE, SSVC Cinema and All Ranks Club for our trainees is being bid for, utilising grants from the Army Welfare Fund and others. The Sqn now seeks to refine its operations in preparation for the forthcoming Ofsted season.



**The Officers' Petroleum Course get to grips decommissioning a Primary Bulk Fuel Installation with the assistance of 66 Petroleum Sqn at 9 Regt in Hullavington**



## 821 Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search Squadron

### Wimbish

OC: Maj A Hambley • SSM: W02 G Masters

Members of 821 EOD&S Sqn with international paratroopers for International Jumps Week



**Soldiers and officers from 821 Explosive Ordnance Disposal & Search Squadron have enjoyed another busy but rewarding period over the past few months with personnel deployed to locations all across the world, including Nigeria, Canada, Tunisia, Ukraine, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Australia, Korea and more locally, the exotic training area of Thetford.**

#### **NIGERIA - Short Term Training Team (STTT)**

In Jul, a team of 11 EOD & Search trained soldiers deployed to the Nigerian Army School of Military Engineering (NASME) in Makurdi, Nigeria. Their aim was to teach them the basic skills used for finding and then rendering safe any IEDs they may encounter.

The Nigerians received instruction in the maintenance and use of the VALLON metal detector and search team skills and drills, including isolations, road parties and confirmation drills. The Nigerian forces operate in a similar way to us and watching the Nigerian soldiers work was proof that the students had taken it all in.

As soon as the students finished the course they were deployed immediately. This was brought home when news reached us of a Nigerian Soldier who had lost his life due to bad marking drills, which solidified the importance of what was being taught.

#### **Ex WILDJACK FIRE**

In Sept, the entire Sqn deployed to Stanford Training Area (STANTA) for Ex WILDJACK FIRE. The first week was spent honing its battlecraft skills and on the ranges conducting pistol and rifle shoots with background activities for medical training and Biological and Chemical Munitions Disposal (BCMD) revision. Evenings were similarly busy with time split between equipment preparation, command tasks, navigation exercises and leadership training. After a hard week, the Sqn was rewarded with a BBQ and some down time before phase 2.

821 had prepared meticulously for the second phase of the exercise and it was time to put it to the test, deploying to the fictional country of "Arnland" in order to stabilise the failing state and push back the invading "Torrike" forces to the north.

The exercise called upon the Sqn's battlecraft skills, as well as IEDD capability, by providing real-time tasks from an unorthodox setting. Operating from a covert harbour location, the Sqn was deployed on tasks to find and clear areas containing everything from conventional munitions to CBRN related incidents and IEDs, in line with an escalating enemy threat.

Even on day one it proved a tough task trying to clear a route wide enough to accommodate LCpl Alex Kirby's reversing skills. Thankfully, this was overcome as the Sqn dealt with the mines that had been emplaced on the route to slow the advance.

This was a rare opportunity for the whole Sqn to work closely together and test and adjust standard operating procedures under challenging but realistic conditions. Overall it worked well and served as a good stepping stone for those personnel that had recently carried out role specific training and authorisation, allowing them to carry out their duties in support of the Air Assault Task Force (AATF).

#### **Op ORBITAL**

A four-man team deployed in Aug to distribute an STTT package to the Ukrainian army and delivered four Basic Counter Explosive Ordnance courses.

The first course consisted of 12 members of the Ukrainian EOD, initially they were stuck in their ways but soon saw the benefit of using the Sqn's procedures and quickly became very competent. The other courses were a mix of infantry, recce, and medics.

All of the courses performed well and this culminated in a large presentation where gifts were exchanged between the British and Ukrainian forces over local vodka and dried meats.



## 2 Operational Support Group The Royal Logistic Corps Grantham

OC: Lt Col A O G Hoey • SSM: WO1 A Clayton

Lt Mechenes  
enjoying a little  
culture and  
history during  
the R&R phase



**It has been an incredibly fast paced and demanding period for the Group thus far. It is best to start off with a massive thank you to Maj James Phillips who had the 'good fortune' of fulfilling the dual roles of the Training Maj and Acting Commanding Officer for almost a year.**

A true professional in every sense, he carried out both roles with enthusiasm, gusto and not a whimper. Now that Col Aidan Hoey is in the driving seat, he can go back to being a fulltime Training Maj and look after his good lady who is expecting their first child in Jan 18.

### Operations and exercises

The Group continues to have individual augmentees deployed on Op TORAL and Op KIPION. Other key activities over this period have included training for RLC Mil Skills, the Group's continuous support to RLC Silver Stars, participation on Ex TARRANTO WOLF & Brigade Festival of Sports and coordinating a Level 2 National Recruiting Event at The Rutland Showground.

However, the main focus of the period was the Group's Annual Continuous Training (ACT) in Oct, which had to be relocated from Warcop to Grantham Station at short notice due to losing out to a unit with higher priority bidding. The primary aim of the ACT this year was to run Labour Support and Contract Management courses to train and maintain a sufficient pool of trained personnel within the unit and the Army as a whole.

**The Military Reserve Exchange Programme (MREP) is an annual Tri-Service event that gives reserve officers and soldiers the opportunity to carry out a reciprocal exchange between the UK and the US**

There have been some notable changes to the Group's orbat during this period. Lt Col Dennis Dillon (SO 498 Lab Sp Unit) and Lt Col Carol Bratcher (SO 499 Contr Mgt Unit) join Lt Col Hoey, who took command of the Group in Oct. The Group also bade sad farewell to Lt Col Sheryl Stonehouse, WO1 (RSM) Andy Watson and Mr John Flaxman, after long years of service to the Group.

### Military Reserve Exchange Programme

The Military Reserve Exchange Programme (MREP) is an annual Tri-Service event that gives reserve officers and soldiers the opportunity to carry out a reciprocal exchange between the UK and the US. The exchange programme is normally conducted during the host nation's Annual Continuation Training (ACT) to allow the participants to expand their training opportunities, enhance their understanding of equipment and to embrace the culture of the host nation.

2 Op Support Group actively encourages all members of the unit to volunteer for the exchange programme and this year's lucky candidate was WO1 Mark Hobson who is currently the Regimental Signals Warrant Officer (RSWO) for 500 Communications Troop.

After an informative presentation at Chilwell, WO1 Hobson was partnered with 1Lt Matthew Mechenes, who is the G6 Staff Officer for the 33rd Military Police Battalion stationed in Illinois. 1Lt Mechenes arrived at London Heathrow on a cold, wet windy 'summer's day' and seemed to not enjoy the drive to Grantham (apparently, we are driving on the wrong side of the road). He was given 12 hours rest to catch up with his admin prior to attending the ACT, which consisted of presentations, briefings, equipment familiarisation, visit to the Maritime/Air platform and a little R&R.

The second part of the MREP involved WO1 Hobson travelling for 30 hours which included a flight across the pond, two internal flights and a car journey from La Crosse Regional Airport, before arriving at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin.

He was greeted by the Battalion Commander, LTC Justin Towell (Lt Col in UK terms) who introduced his HQ staff. After a short brief, it was time to get some overdue sleep prior to deploying into the field at first light. 1Lt Mechenes escorted WO1 Hobson around the MP companies and witnessed lots of salutes, which were accompanied by the customary 'Hoo-ah'. The following week was a mixture of working from the Battalion HQ, being on communications duty with the radio detachment and observing the MPs get tested on different exercise scenarios. This was all done whilst trying to avoid the ticks, mosquitos, snakes, wild dogs and bears. WO1 Hobson returned back to England slightly older and a lot wiser.



## Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Munitions and Search Training Regiment Bicester

OC: Lt Col R Hallett • Adj: Maj M Conlin • RSM: WO1 P Marconi RE



The Sqn at the Forrest of Dean

**Munitions Training Squadron has had another period at full throttle, teaching The RLC's Ammunition Technical Officers, Ammunition Technician Class One and Class Two courses whilst continuing to provide a surge of All Arms Ammunition, Storage and Transportation courses across Defence, in line with recently policy changes.**

The Sqn has also partaken in events to commemorate the 75th mile anniversary of Kineton Station, which included a staged 75-mile march, covering the local community footprint, and a parade at Warwick Castle to exercise the freedom of Warwick that was bestowed upon Kineton Station in 13.

The parade was followed by a Families' Day in Kineton that was open to the general public and featured various displays including one from The RLC's Silver Stars parachute display team.

### Adventurous Training

In spite of this busy period, the Sqn has found respite in the form of a two-day low-level Adventurous Training (AT) package; this involved mountain biking and hill walking at the Forest of Dean, to which nine of 12 military instructors at Munitions Training Sqn were able to attend.

The Sqn conducted introductory mountain biking to give the beginners instruction into the techniques and principles of the sport, with the view of taking the group onto a red trail in the afternoon.

This red trail itself had a good variation of terrain, which gave the beginners the opportunity to practice

the skills they had been taught in the morning. The day was a success and every member of the group had both learnt something new and pushed themselves mentally and physically.

The second day was a continuation day at Cannock Chase, which gave the team the opportunity either to take on a more technical cycle route or to go hill walking in the local area to enable members of the Sqn to practice their map reading skills.

At the end of the package, several members of the group approached the instructors with an interest in conducting more mountain biking. They had been 'bitten by the bug' and wanted to find the opportunity within the Sqn's busy programme for further training, with the view of attending instructor courses in the future.

**The Squadron has also partaken in events to commemorate the 75th mile anniversary of Kineton Station, which included a staged 75-mile march, covering the local community footprint, and a parade at Warwick Castle to exercise the freedom of Warwick that was bestowed upon Kineton Station in 2013.**



# Silver Stars

OC: Maj R M McSpadden

**The Silver Stars Parachute Display Team has just finished another busy season following the mandatory pre-season training exercise that took place in Apr. 23 demos were booked, however, only 18 took place as a result of bad weather conditions.**

Although three experienced members of the team deployed overseas just before the season commenced, three new members joined the ranks. As with many types of sporting activity injuries can be a factor, in this case with the Team OC Maj Rick McSpadden fracturing a vertebra at the start of the season placing him on DZ party duties and then Maj Dave Pickersgill spraining his ankle on the last display. It must be an officer thing!

During the peak of the season, the team managed to enter several individuals in the Armed Forces Parachute Competition at Netheravon taking part in the Formation Skydiving, Canopy Formation and Accuracy categories. W01 Vance Allen 'Big Al', from Abington Station, won first place (Gold) in the senior individual accuracy.

Following an eighteen month review of army parachute display teams, concluding with a Military Judgement Panel, The RLC Silver Stars, along with three other army parachute display teams, will be taken into CORE Army funding. This means that the team, although part-time, will receive



**RLC Team at the Armed Forces Parachute Competition (Front Row – LCpl Will Ross, SSgt Andy Clark, Cpl Jamie Hart, W02 Sei Hughes, Capt Ami Calway, Rear Row – Pte Sunny Tumbahanghe, LCpl Scott Cozens, Sgt Dean Hoskins, Maj Dave Pickersgill, LCpl Jeff Boateng with W01 Vance Allen taking the photo)**



**Sgt Dean Hoskins providing guidance**

its display tasking from HQ Regional Command from 18.

In addition, team members will now be entitled to T&S as well as other benefits such as funding for training and new equipment. Next Apr, the team will deploy to Cyprus for a rigorous two-week pre-season training camp under the watchful eye of the current team leader, Sgt Dean Hoskins, in order to get current and new members ready for the 18 demo season.

During 18, the Sport Parachute Association (SPA), intends to ramp up its support to new RLC soldiers who wish to

enter sport parachuting. It is hoped that each RLC Regt encourages at least 15 of its personnel to attend a basic free-fall AT course each year at Netheravon and if any soldiers or young officers wish to carry on in the sport they will receive support from the SPA.

If a Regt wishes to conduct an Accelerated Free Fall expedition, the SPA, as well as members of the display team, will provide the instructors and admin support to the respective Regiment. Please contact Maj McSpadden for more information.



**RLC FS Team at the flight-line (W02 Hughes, Capt Calway, SSgt Clark, Cpl Hart & LCpl Ross)**



**W01 Vance Allen winning Gold in the Senior Individual Accuracy Competition**

By **Capt R Lambert**

**It has been a successful end to the season for The RLC equestrian team, competing in various military events across the country in order to represent the Corps.**

Three team members transported their horses to RAF Cranwell in late Sept to compete at the RAF Championships 17. It was a busy three days of competition in all three disciplines, with thought-provoking dressage tests, challenging show jumping courses and demanding cross-country fences. The riders: Maj Becky Darke, Capt Georgie Mawbey and Capt Rose Lambert, all performed well and received high scores and placings in all three disciplines including; first and third in dressage and fourth and fifth in their section for the three-day event in its entirety.

In early Oct, Maj Darke had great success at the RN dressage championships near Chepstow, completing various tests, including her very own produced dressage to music test, a first for any RLC rider.

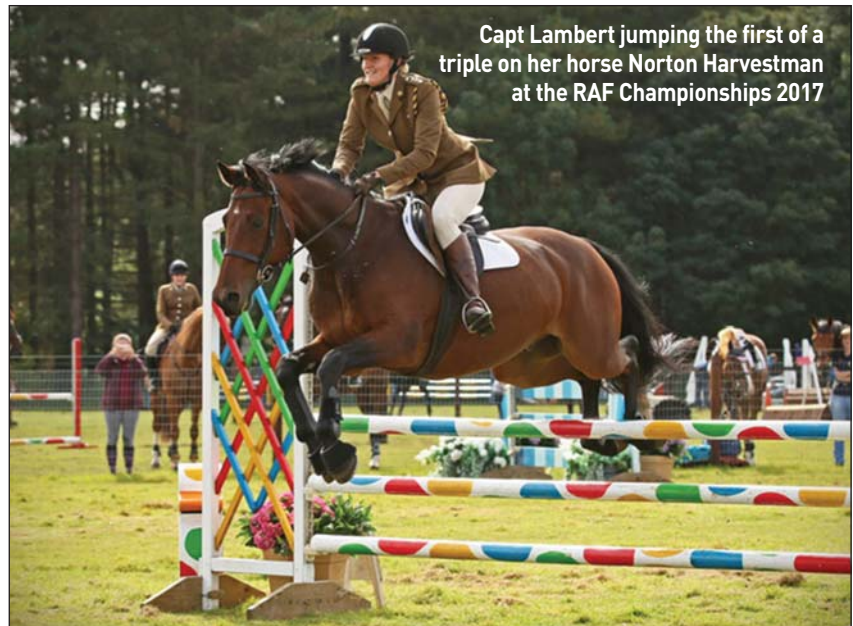
Pte Holly Hall was on the winning team at the British Army Reserves at the 46th Samur Challenge 17 in France. RLC team members competed individually at the Army Royal Artillery Hunter Trails (ARAHT) at Larkhill, Salisbury. This was a great day out for the team with thrilling military obstacles over a five and a half minute gallop! Capt Mawbey came seventh in the 80cm class and Capt Lambert had four faults with a stop at a coffin ditch in the 90cm class! Pte Hall rode both of her horses in the 90cm class and had an exceptional clear round on her brand-new horse (as seen in the photo!) with her other horse making a silly mistake at the 'tractor cart fence'!

In mid Oct, the team will attend the Army Championships for 17, held at the Defence Animal Centre in Melton Mowbray. This is a three-day event based on show jumping, again with some more challenging fences and a finale of a show jumping derby with tricky obstacles designed to dare even the most able and brave horse and rider.

2 RLC riders, Capt Lambert and Pte Hall are also entered to make a combined Army team to compete at a team-chasing event with the Cotswolds hunts. This will certainly be an exciting event with hopefully some amusing photos to come and a chance to win the military cup!

Please follow our Facebook page 'RLC Mounted Sports Club' and get in touch if you wish to join the club - we cater for all abilities and can provide horses for those who do not have their own.

# RLC Equestrian



**Capt Lambert jumping the first of a triple on her horse Norton Harvestman at the RAF Championships 2017**

Courtesy of Hambleton Photography



**Capt Mawbey riding her horse Prince aka Nemesis the 'Gun line rail fence'**



**"Good clearance!" Pte Hall jumping her new horse WKD San Remo**



# RLC Clay Target Shooting Championships

By Maj A Meager

In 16, the RLC Rifle Association took the sport of clay target shooting under its umbrella in an arrangement that will help drive the sport on within The RLC in the coming years. Through this new arrangement, the Corps held its first RLC Clay Target Shooting Championships at the Army Rifle Association (ARA) Clay Target Range at Bisley Training Area on 21 Jun 17.

The initial intention for this inaugural competition was to keep it small and manageable for the organisers and the invitation was only sent to the formed Regt's of the Corps. However, the news managed to slip outside of the Corps and before long there was a plethora of guests that wanted to enter. This was allowed and the event hosted guest teams from the REME (including some RLC Regt LADs), two from 3 PARA and individuals from the King's Royal Hussars (KRH) and Army Air Corps (AAC), among others.

The scene was set for a good day of shooting and the weather did not let the day down. On a particularly glorious Wednesday in Jun, the first shots rang out and the competition was underway. The requirement to compete as a team for The RLC team competition was to have a team of three personnel who were on the strength of a unit; two of these must be RLC to count and the other can be from any of the attached capbadges.

In the future, this can be from any formed unit as nearly half the Corps serve outside of RLC Regt's.

Eight RLC teams entered from both regular and reserve Regt's and all teams posted respectable scores. However, the main aim of the competition was to allow personnel to enjoy the sport with a hint of friendly rivalry. It was in this spirit that novices were encouraged to compete alongside, and under the guidance of, more experienced shots. Coaching which is normally frowned

SSgt Baxter ready to receive the targets



**Winners of the Team Competition – 17 Port & Maritime Regt.**  
From L to R: Pte Brookfield, SSgt Baxter and SSgt Meager (REME)

upon during competitions, was permitted and encouraged.

The competition was in the format of a 100 bird (clay targets) event across ten stands. The day went off without a hitch and it is beholden thank the organiser SSgt Micky Baxter and his team from 17 Port & Maritime who put on a fantastic competition which was enjoyed by all.

## Unit results

It was very tight between the top two teams with only nine targets between the two of them at the end of the day. The eventual winners were 17 Port & Maritime Regt RLC with 230 out of 300 targets.

## Individual results

The individual results are listed below and there were a number of categories to reflect the broad range of shooting experience that was present. These individual competitions are in line with other competitions held by other Corps'.

## The future

This was the first Clay Target championships held by the Corps and it is now the aim to hold these in Jun each year. The event unfortunately clashed with the Army Operational Shooting Competition this year due to availability of the ground. However, they will be de-conflicted in future. This is the preferred month for the competition due to the weather and the Army Championships

taking place in May and the REME championships taking place in Jul.

It is the aim of The RLC Rifle Association to host taster sessions on a regular basis to invite personnel to try out this enjoyable and testing sport. The dates of these sessions will be promulgated once they have been de-conflicted with the ARA Clay Target calendar.

In addition to taster sessions, the Corps will lay on training sessions to help coach and develop personnel to become better shots and enable them to compete more readily for their units within competitions.

The RLC will discuss with other Corps' the opportunity of holding Squad competitions. These will feature an open invitation to members of the Corps to take part in the shooting event with the top ten scores from each Corps being used to decide the winning Corps.

The future aim is to develop the sport of Clay Target Shooting within The RLC in order that the Corps can have more entrants in the big competitions and have more personnel vying to be part of the Army Team. Currently, the personnel that are succeeding at this are either those who have taken this up externally, or belong to a very small number of Regt's that have invested in the sport. The aim will be to enable personnel to be involved in this sport without prior participation or being fortunate enough to be in a Regt that already has an established team.

**Table 1 – Individual Results**

Ser	Competition	Position	Name	Regt / Unit
1	Corps High Gun	Winner	Lt Col Mick Moreton	ARRC
2	RLC Reserve High Gun	Winner	SSgt Henry Marshall	156 Regt RLC
3	Ladies High Gun	Winner	Pte Charlotte Preece	9 Regt RLC
4	RLC Under 23 Competition	Winner	Pte Dean Brookfield	17 Port & Maritime Regt RLC
5	Guest High Gun	Winner	SSgt Pete Meager (REME)	17 Port & Maritime Regt RLC

By Lt S Hurst

**On Sun 6 Aug 17, The RLC Sailing Association entered a team of ten on board HMSTY Kukri into the biennial Rolex Fastnet Race, organised by the Royal Offshore Racing Club.**

The race starts from Cowes on the Isle of Wight and travels west along the south coast, past the Scilly Isles, around the Fastnet rock, off the south west point of Ireland, and then back to Plymouth. The Corps entry completed the highly regarded offshore race in a time of four days and 15 hours.

Preparation for the race started long before the starting canon from the Royal Yacht Squadron, with members of the team completing mandatory first aid, survival at sea and safety courses to enable the team to compete. Then on the Friday before the race, half the crew met up in Joint Service Adventurous Sail Training Centre (JSASTC) in Gosport to pick Her Majesties Sail Training Yacht (HMSTY) Kukri up and take her round to Marchwood port where she would be berthed up till the Sunday morning. It was here that she was lightened and race prepared, with almost 800kg of excess and unnecessary equipment removed.

The yachts were broken down into different category's due to their IRC ratings with Kukri being in the IRC 2 Class against 64 other similar yachts and two other identical Nicolson 55 foot yachts also from JSASTC. Other classes included the Volvo Ocean racers on their leg zero of the round the world race, Alex Thomson on Hugo Boss and the French multi hull, Concise ten, who would go on to win the race in 46 hours.

Each class had its own start time, ten minutes apart near the Royal Yacht Sq'n's

# Ex SEAHORSE FASTNET

## The Rolex Fastnet Race 2017



clubhouse in Cowes. The whole of the Solent was filled with competing yachts, spectators and tourists on ribs and helicopters above providing live coverage. After a busy week of sailing for Cowes week, the electric atmosphere remained for another day as the Fastnet Fleet got on their way to the rock and back.

During the race, the crew were split into two watches, red and green, each spending four hours on and then four hours off, occasionally waking the other watch for the man power required for sail

changes etc. This system, along with the hot bunking during the off periods, meant that each crew member should be able to get enough rest between shift but also not get too tired whilst on shift.

Over the first few hours of the race the fleet split in two, some heading inshore and others heading out to sea due to the various opinions of their tacticians. The crew of Kukri went inshore and managed to avoid the worst of the tides, climbing their way up to 21st at one point. Although once out in the rough seas of the Irish Sea, this had slipped to 41st around the rock.

Just as the crew started to get into the routine of the shifts, cooking and making way towards the rock the yacht suffered engine failure, although no forward thrust is allowed during the race, engines can be run to recharge the instrument batteries and navigation lights. This did not look good and if it couldn't be fixed fast, the race would be over for the crew. After a tense hour or so and a lot of "taps" with a hammer the engine jumped back into life. This caused more problems over the next few days each time the team tried to start it.

As well as the sailing, ongoing shifts were responsible for cooking and cleaning. Doing anything onboard a cramped yacht is difficult but it gets even





harder at 45 degrees, even making a brew became tricky. Surprisingly, one day in the middle of the Irish Sea, WO2 Paul Penny managed to produce a breakfast of poached eggs, much to the delight of the off going wet and hungry watch.

After a rough night beating into the wind of the Irish Sea, the crew saw the sun rise up over mill pond calm seas with the rock over in the distance. Even though there wasn't another yacht in sight as the sun rose, the fleet was still closing down and became more and more bunched up in the calm winds as they rounded the rock.

A quick celebration at the rock and then it was back to the race, but this time crossing the Irish Sea was much calmer since the yacht was now running with the wind and not against it. This also meant the team were able to fly the spinnaker, adding another level of complexity to the crew since two people were now constantly trimming and grinding it to keep it at its maximum power.

Once rounding the Scilly Isles the crew was on the home straight, as was a lot of the fastnet fleet. Whilst running down wind the sea was full of all the different colour spinnakers but the joint service colours of Chaser, another Nic55 stood out the most.

Although consistently 1.5Nm behind, the yacht's presence could be felt and in the early hours of Thurs morning it managed to pass Kukri and get hold of a 0.5Nm lead. Speed over ground for both yachts pushing over 10 knots it was a game of cat and mouse but in identical vessels. Even after hours of trimming the sails to give every bit of power available, Kukri could not claw back the lead from Chaser and crossed the line 45 mins behind after a drop in wind close to the line.

The horn from Plymouth lighthouse signalled the end of the race for Kukri



and her crew from across the Corps completing the race in 4 days 15 hours and 22 mins. They finished 46th in class and 219th overall.

Due to time constraints almost as soon as she berthed in Plymouth, the crew had to slip again in order to make it back to Gosport to hand her back over to JSASTC on the Sat. After already spending almost five days racing at sea, another 24 hours was not high up on many peoples' lists of things to do, along with the rough weather it didn't make for a very pleasant crossing. Back in Gosport, Kukri was cleaned, put to bed and handed back over to the JSASTC staff.

Although the Fastnet race is only once every two years, there are plenty of chances for others to get involved whether a novice or an experienced

sailor. For more information search RLC Sailing Association on Facebook or email queries to [RLCSailing@gmail.com](mailto:RLCSailing@gmail.com)

**Skipper** - WO2 Stew Southwick  
**Mate** - Maj Mark Jones

#### Red Watch

Watch Leader - Col Eddie Corrigan  
Brig Simon Hutchings  
Capt Toby Hartle  
Lt Stefan Hurst

#### Green Watch

Watch Leader - WO2 Paul Penny  
Capt James Kilburn  
Capt Sam Kennedy  
Pte Kalli Bowyer

By **Maj J Howell**  
RLC Cricket Club Manager

**After narrowly losing in the final of the one-day competition, The Power Cup to the Royal Artillery in Jul, The RLC cricket team stormed to victory in the three-day Army Inter-Corps T20, beating the Royal Engineers in the final at Aldershot.**

The RLC worked hard to get to the final day of the competition winning close games against the Engineers and the AGC on day two. This meant that The RLC took on the REME in the first semi-final on day three. The RLC were put into bat and amassed 204 for 3 with Pte Tade Carmichael top scoring with 85, LCpl Denson Narayan hitting 48 and SSgt Augustin Robertson and Pte Dan Tottle chipping in with 25 and 22 respectively.

The REME came hard in their innings but a regular fall of wickets and some tight bowling meant they could only reach 166 for 7.

On to the final to play the RE, who defeated the Infantry in the other semi-final. The RLC won the toss and elected to bat and went even better than in the semi-final reaching 207 for 5 off their 20 overs. Again, it was LCpl Narayan and Pte Carmichael who did the damage, hitting 74 and 53 with cameos from SSgt Robertson and LCpl Kenyon Grant both scoring 23 each.

Despite an optimistic opening to their run chase, the Engineers never really looked like setting up a grandstand finish. Requiring 10 an over was a tall order, a task made harder when they lost one of their openers early on. A steady stream of wickets ultimately made the outcome clear, with Sgt Desmond Plummer's spin outfoxing the Engineers batsmen. From 33 for 3, the Engineers innings never recovered. Skipper, LCpl Narayan took the final wicket as The RLC wrapped up a 64-run victory. Scoring at over 10 runs an over for both the semi-final and final was some achievement by The RLC. Winning the competition was a fitting end to a successful season.

# RLC CRICKET – Army Inter-Corps T20 Champions



The winning team



Pte Carmichael launching the ball for a 6



Another RE wicket falls



The RLC skipper LCpl Narayan accepting the trophy

# RLC Badminton Tour – Nepal 17

By Maj B Evans

**Sun 28 Aug 17: Delayed flight (tick); racing through airport (tick); money-tickets-passport (tick)....and we were on the way! After a considerable amount of effort and time to organise a long overdue Corps Badminton Overseas Sports Tour, a group of 12 officers and soldiers exploited the 10 Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (10 QOGLR) contacts and settled on an exhilarating two weeks in Nepal.**

The introduction was fast and furious – just like the country itself. A winding and rickety drive from Kathmandu to Pokhara took in excess of six hours, but the traditional Nepalese reception at the destination meant for a wonderful surprise. Organised by Cpl Netra Gurung and Cpl Ramu Rai, the welcome party had done their jobs well and the team was now complete! It quickly became apparent how incredibly proud and excited “Team Gurkha” were to show off their wonderful traditions and landscapes.

In Pokhara, cultural activities were intertwined with badminton training acclimatisation and the all-important match day. Much effort had gone in to develop the squad in preparation for this tour. With two Army players, the Corps Team had a wonderful 16/17 season. Crowned Ladies Inter Corps Champions and Men's Inter Corps Runners-up, this was a team performing to the highest of standards. Expectations were justifiably high for success in Nepal before the team hit the 17/18 season beginning in Oct.

The first match against Tangle Kot Samaj (TKS) Badminton Club was preceded by a high-tempo three-hour training session. In part the squad was staying active to avoid the mosquitos, however, much needed serve and smash drills was the focus of the session. Suffice to say there was not a dry t-shirt in the house as the team endured training in the 38-degree heat!



RLC Badminton Team

There was no doubt the opponents were checking out the standard as much as the team was at the combined training session; the team must have impressed as the National Nepalese Ladies No 2 was present and ready for a game. The mixed doubles pairing of Pte Lok Thapa and Capt Lauren Shepherd was the match of the day; a hard-fought encounter saw the Nepalese pairing win, but only after a very close third and final game!

With Pokhara the home of Gurkha selection, it would be remiss of the team not to have tabbed up into the hills. With Cpl Ramu Rai putting his well-honed PTI skills to use, a short boat ride across Lake Phewa delivered the team to the start of a one hour “hills session”! Everyone lived to tell the tale and enjoyed some fabulous views of the Annapurna trekking circuit mountain range, a mere snippet of the Himalayas!

The second half of the tour saw the team enjoy the delights of Kathmandu. Durban Square in Patan introduced the team to the history of Nepal. Surrounded by both Hindu and Buddhist temples, the role of the Gurkha's liberating the country from three divided Kingdoms provided an interesting perspective to this fascinating country. LCpl Mekh Magar and LCpl Amerdeep Rana assumed the roles of ‘tour guide’ and were very happy to inform the group of many interesting facts about the Nepalese culture.

The devastating effects of the 15

earthquake surrounded this cultural visit. With much support from the UN and independent country aid, improvement programmes to rebuild schooling, temple restoration and road resurfacing was extensive. It is clear Nepal has a long journey ahead to repair the damages.

When hosting BGN DCOS and the Nepalese DAs, the importance of engaging in such overseas tours was evident. It was lovely for all 12 players on this tour to contribute to such a worthy cause.

Aptly organised by Cpl Pankaj, both badminton matches in Kathmandu were played at the Nepalese Armed Police HQ with the competition coming out in force. The men's doubles matches were very competitive with The RLC team narrowly victorious over a hard-fought competitor. Making the most of court time saw some excellent training matches also. Cpl Wyn Dakin paired up with both British and Nepalese partners and completed four arduous matches consecutively!

With cultural, language, infrastructure, domestic and political differences so evidently clear between the UK and Nepal – it was the badminton that united!

It is hard to summarise such a diverse overseas tour as this, so here are a few interesting stats. Throughout the duration of the team's 14-day tour of Nepal: 120 shuttle cocks were used; in excess of 1000 mo-mo's eaten; 16,000 kilometres travelled and 1344 litres of water consumed. And after ten years involved in RLC Badminton, Lt Col John Gaudoin finally got to enjoy an overseas tour! Namaste.

RLC Badminton currently holds the following trophies: Ladies Inter Corps Champions; 10 QOGLR Open Army Unit Champions. Participants of all levels are invited to come along and join in at team competitions. For further information please contact Capt Lauren Shepherd [lauren.shepherd943@mod.gov.uk](mailto:lauren.shepherd943@mod.gov.uk) or by phone 94234 3348.



Maj Evans and Capt Shepherd prepared for action

# RLC flies the flag for European Netball

**The England Roses won four out of four matches at the Netball Europe Open Championships 17 to retain their title in Cardiff.**

This year's Championships saw three players from the Army compete. Private Fern Davies represented Wales while Lance Corporal Adi Bolakoro and Corporal Alisis Nawele took to the court for Fiji.

Pte Fern Davies joined The Royal Logistic Corps in 14. Already having her first cap for the Welsh U19's squad she was quickly utilised in The Royal Logistic Corp and Army Netball Teams.

With her talent not going un-noticed, she gained her first senior cap for Wales in 14 at the age of 18. Pte Davies was invited to attend the Army Sports Awards in 15; this is where she placed as runner up in the 'Rising Star' category. It was during this year that she was able to play for The RLC at inter-corps where the team placed as runner's up and then for the Army at the Inter-Service Championships, where she came away a champion.



Credit: Ian Lovell

In 16, Pte Davies signed for the Celtic Dragons and still sits firmly within the team, this has helped raise the profile of netball within the Army and in the same year she was awarded RLC Young Sportswomen of the Year.

She has progressed rapidly with the training and coaching provided from Welsh netball and progressed to lead the U21's squad as Captain.

Pte Davies has had a physically demanding military career with juggling full-time training and work but has managed to continually develop, gaining herself a place at the South Africa Test Series, New Zealand Test Series and nine European Championships at junior and senior level.

In addition to all of this, Pte Davies is currently increasing her profile and national status by offering coach master classes to Dragon and Welsh fans and children. When she finally gets some 'down time', Pte Davies usually finds herself playing rugby and competes in athletics for the UK Armed Forces. She is the current champion in the 100m hurdles – an all-round athlete!

■ Thanks to *Netball Magazine* for the reproduction of this article in part

## Rowing shows no sign of plateauing

By RLC Rowing Team

**The RLC Rowing Club has been demonstrating its strength across the ability spectrum, with rowers competing on the international stage, as part of Army crews and with a strong foundation at the novice level.**

Most impressively, LCpl Stephen Cox represented Zimbabwe at the World Rowing Championships in the USA, rising to 29th fastest in the world in the fiercely competitive discipline of single sculling. We wish the current RLC Young Sportsman of the year luck in his quest to race at the Tokyo Olympics. Additionally, both LCpl Cox and Capt Larry Wells qualified to race at the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta, which attracts competitors from across the globe. They both raced well, but were unlucky to draw eventual finalists in their heats, thereby curtailing their progression.

At the novice end, 12 soldiers have



LCpl Cox (nearest) racing on the World Stage

taken up rowing this year after attending the week-long learn-to-row courses, which take place throughout the warmer months. At the Army Regatta held in Abingdon, 9 Regt and Kineton Station won in the Novice Coxed Four and Coxed Quad respectively (both have four rowers, but the former is one oar each and the latter two). SSgt Laird and Cpl McGuigan had a nail-bitingly close race to the line against the PT Corps in the final of the Doubles, maintaining the narrowest of leads right up to the line. Cpl Fuller also achieved a win in the Women's Single Scull.

In Sep 17, an RLC crew ventured to

Holland to compete at the Breda International Regatta. The coxed four, undeterred by the gruelling 5km race, are already planning next year's trip.

Most recently, The RLC competed at the Joint Services Regatta in Reading where it demonstrated their dominance over the RAF and had several close seconds behind the PT Corps. Kineton's novice quad stormed to victory again, and rowers from The RLC were in the winning Army crews in the Women's Eight and Four and the Masters' Pair. Well done to everyone who raced!

■ POC: [rlcrowing@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:rlcrowing@armymail.mod.uk)



The team in the thick of it vs the Royal Navy

By 2Lt H Christiansen

This year saw The RLC competing in Division 2 of this, the second oldest polo tournament in the world, a great leap up from previous years. The match on the Saturday was against the Royal Artillery, a very strong and capable side as always.

Lt Lucy Col Anderson was the Team Capt and following a brief tactics talk through, we mounted up and took to the field to clash with the Royal Artillery. The opposition started with a half goal advantage due to their reduced handicap. The first chukka was a little slow, with both sides seeking to get into the head of the opposition and work out their play. The goals started to trickle through from the second chukka on, both sides laddering up, meaning there was always only one goal between the two; the mark of a well-balanced match.

Alas, this was not enough with both sides reaching four goals but with the Artillery

## RLC POLO - Captains & Subalterns Tournament 17

stealing the match on account of that extra half goal handicap (IE, 4½ : 4). It was a strong start to the tournament, the team having played well and with no fouls being committed but disappointing nonetheless.

Sunday brought us up against the big guns of the senior service, the Royal Navy, an experienced and well-established team. It was a tough match from the first whistle; both sides fighting had to be victorious. First blood went to the Navy with a couple more follow up goals. Luckily The RLC, now under Capt James Wilson as Team Capt, was able to get its act together, calm down and start pushing the ball between the posts, narrowing the gap. Again, like with the Artillery the day before, we were able to keep the goal difference between the

teams minimal. With some hard ride-offs and strong goals from Capt Wilson and Maj Nigel Prescott, despite his being trampled in a fall, we were able to end the match on a draw at 5-5. This was an excellent result against a stronger and more experienced team than our own.

This year's Captains & Subalterns was a testament to the team's effort and training, bringing us up from the lower divisions. In a tournament of 20 teams, we now lay in seventh place in UK military polo!

Our thanks go to Lt Col Anderson for her tireless team management and captainship. Congratulations to our RLC Division 2 team of: Lt Col Anderson, Maj Prescott, Capt Wilson, Lt Nick Lowe and of course myself, 2Lt Henry Christiansen.



2Lt Christiansen spoiling the Navy's fun



Capt Wilson takes aim

Credit Melissa Bastin at Polo Images Photography

# RLC Enduro

By Capt J Ottaway

**From the 13 to 15 Oct 17, Units from across the Army, the RAF, both Regular and Reserve, as well as foreign troops, took part in the Army Enduro Championships held in Bovington.**

9 Regiment entered a team of six in a competitive field of 98 riders, which included a number of professional riders who compete at the highest levels of the sport. Following three days of hard fought riding, 9 RLC came away with a plethora of silverware.

SSgt Kalem Hicks won the overall event, taking the crown of 'Army Enduro Champion' by one second. With help from LCpl Liam Philips, 9 RLC once again became the Army Enduro Team Champions.

LCpl Abi Childs won the Overall Female class and riding alongside LCpl Richard Penfold, helped win the Overall Novice team completion. LCpl Penfold also came second in the Novice class and won The RLC Novice competition.

An amazing weekend for 9 RLC Enduro riders and the wider Corps team, competing against a talented and multi cap badged field of riders.



SSgt Hicks "warming up"!



9 Regt collecting their silverware



Team RLC pushing hard for the win



The team and support crew on completion of the final stage



# Financial Support to RLC Sports and Adventure Training

Sport is a major element of army life and encourages fitness, team spirit and the will to win. Sporting success helps promote esprit de corps at all levels and reflects both on individual sportsmen and women, teams, units and the Corps as a whole; everyone likes a winner and to be a part of (even as a supporter) a winning team.

The Corps, through your contributions to the Day's Pay Scheme, is able to disburse significant funds to numerous sports and adventure training activities, some of which have been listed below.



Furthermore, in pursuit of the Corps significant interest in sport and adventure training, it is worth noting that expenditure over the past three years via The RLC Association Trust is as follows:



Year	Sport	Adventure Training
2015	£315,000	£110,000
2016	£282,000	£98,000
2017*	£316,000	£94,000

\*At time of going to press in Oct 17



Angling	Basketball	Cross Country	Golf	Netball	Rugby League	Squash
Aquatics	Boxing	Cycling	Hockey	Orienteering	Rugby Union	Tennis
Athletics	Canoeing	Equitation	Ice Hockey	Parachuting	Sailing	Triathlon
Badminton	Cricket	Football	Motor Cycling	Rowing	Shooting	Winter Sports

## RLC swimmers at the World Masters Games

By **RLC Swimming Team**

**Every four years the World Masters Games (WMG) is hosted by a different city, this year's competition required a trip half way around the world to Auckland, New Zealand.**

The WMG is an international sporting event created for athletes old enough to be classed in the Masters category for their particular sport. All sports that would be expected to appear at the Olympics are included, with athletes from all over the world aged between 25 and 105 competing in their respective age groups. A number of recently (and some not so recently) retired Commonwealth and Olympic athletes ensured that the standard of competition was very high throughout.

As expected, this opportunity was extremely popular and the competition to make the Army squad was tough. Three swimmers from The RLC made the final squad after a rigorous selection process. This involved a year of training with a civilian swimming club and competing at a number of large scale events, including the European Masters Championships in



### Our highly successful swimmers

London. Pte K Baildon (9 Regt), Pte K Webber-Marks (13 AASp Regt) and Capt L Darrock (29 Regt), along with the rest of the 16 strong Army swimming team, arrived in Auckland on 19 Apr 17 ready to race.

After an opening ceremony inspired by Maori culture and some acclimatisation, The RLC swimmers delivered some strong performances over the seven days of competition. They came away with several personal best times and six medals in the following events:

- Pte Baildon:
  - Bronze – 4x50m Medley Relay
- Pte Webber-Marks:
  - Bronze - 4x50m Medley Relay
- Capt Darrock:

- Silver – 2.5km Open Water Swim
- Silver – 100m Butterfly
- Bronze – 200m Butterfly
- Bronze – 4x50m Medley Relay
- Bronze – 4x50m Freestyle Relay

The opportunity to travel to such an incredible part of the world and compete in an international sporting event is rare. Those involved are extremely grateful to both their respective Regt's and the Corps for providing funding to support the trip.

For any budding swimmers that are interested in getting involved in the future, please visit The RLC Swimming Facebook page for information on upcoming events. The World Masters Games 2021 is due to take place in Kansai, Japan. If by 2021, you will be aged 25+ and you are motivated enough to train hard, then attendance at this event is a real possibility, regardless of your current level of fitness or swimming ability.

Other sports represented by the British Army in New Zealand included football, hockey, table tennis, surf sports and orienteering. Keep yourself fit and look out for future opportunities.



Cpl Craig Beasley

**Cpl Craig Beasley was born in Doncaster on 12 Oct 1988. Spending his childhood in Doncaster, he was schooled at Bally St Infant School and Northcliffe Comprehensive. From an early age Cpl Beasley had a passion for boxing and the Army, joining the local cadets and boxing club.**

Cpl Beasley will always be remembered for being the joker of a group. His large group of friends stayed close to him throughout his life, with his parent's house often full of these friends. In addition to boxing and cadets when he was younger, Cpl Beasley enjoyed motor-cross, with his dad fixing his bike every time Cpl Beasley pushed the bike too far!

First joining the Army as a 16-year-old, he went to AFC Harrogate before leaving after a short period of time. A number of civilian jobs later,

Cpl Beasley re-joined the Army at age 20 and then didn't look back.

Cpl Beasley joined 3 Regt RLC as a Pte soldier and promoted to the rank of Cpl without leaving the unit. A qualified physical training instructor, Cpl Beasley was extremely fit and his PT sessions were something to be feared and enjoyed in equal measure. He boxed for the Army and his coaching of the Regimental and Corps boxing teams was particularly successful.

Cpl Beasley passed away on 21 Aug 17 after sustaining fatal injuries from a road traffic incident.

Cpl Beasley married Steph and they had two children, Sophie and Joseph, with a little girl due to be born soon. He leaves behind this family, his parents and two brothers.

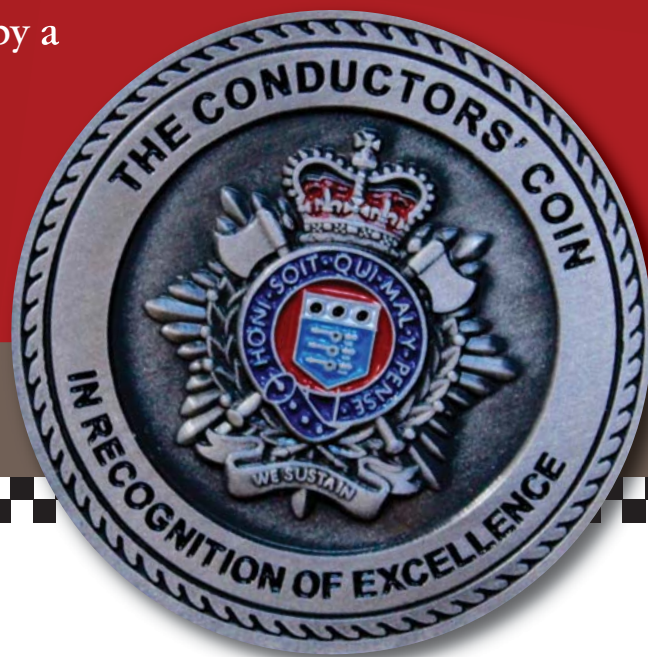
## LAST POST

**Abraham** – On 17 Oct 17, Mr G Abraham RCT  
**Baxter** – On 18 Oct 17, Maj Gen I Baxter CBE RCT  
**Birchall** – On 19 Sept 17, Mr P Birchall RAOC  
**Bond** – On 29 Jul 17, Maj D M Bond MBE RCT  
**Borrett** – On 20 Sept 17, Lt Col M Borrett RCT  
**Cheesmore** – On 30 Aug 17, Maj P D Cheesmore RAOC  
**Farren-Jones** – On 17 Oct 17, Mr D Farren-Jones RCT  
**Forwell** – On 6 Jul 17, Mr P M Forwell RAOC  
**Furby** – On 11 Oct 17, WO1 B K Furby RAOC  
**Gibson** – On 27 Aug 17, Maj P Gibson MBE RAOC  
**Greenaway** – On 16 Aug 17, Maj D Greenaway BEM RAOC  
**Gregan** – On 12 Aug 17, Col J L W Gregan RAOC  
**Hart** – On 16 Oct 17, WO1 R J Hart BEM RAOC  
**Hearn** – On 12 Aug 17, Mr T Hearn RCT  
**Hewitt** – On 24 Sept 17, Maj D C Hewitt RAOC  
**Hodgson** – On 27 Sept 17, Maj G Hodgson RAOC  
**Jamieson** – On 2 Oct 17, Mr A Jamieson RCT  
**Lickman** – On 22 Aug 17, Lt Col B M Lickman RAOC

**Lofts** – On 26 Oct 17, Mrs M Lofts RCT  
**Mather** – On 2 Sept 17, Mr B Mather RCT  
**McWatt** – On 30 Oct 17, Mr J M McWatt RAOC  
**Moxlow** – On 14 Jun 17, Mr W Moxlow RAOC  
**Newcombe** – 28 Sept 17, Mrs S Newcombe RCT  
**Nichol-Smith** – On 19 Jul 17, Maj T Nichol-Smith RAOC  
**Phillips** – On 17 Sept 17, Maj A A C Phillips BEM RAOC  
**Reed** – On 20 Jun 17, WO1 K M Reed RAOC  
**Rolison** – On 26 Oct 17, Mr J Rolison RAOC  
**Rothwell** – On 1 Aug 17, Capt K J Rothwell RAOC  
**Saddington** – On 20 Jul 17, Maj A P Saddington RAOC  
**St Johnston** – On 4 Oct 17, Lt Col I St Johnston RCT  
**Twigger** – On 16 May 17, Mr C W Twigger RAOC  
**Turner** – On 22 Jul 17, Maj J I Turner RCT  
**Webber** – On 4 Sept 17, Maj M J Webber TD RCT  
**Williamson** – On 15 Jul 17, Mr W Williamson RAOC  
**Wright** – On 5 Oct 17, Mr T W Wright RAOC  
**Yates** – On 15 Oct 17, Lt Col E S Yates RCT

# The Conductors' Coin

**Conductor (Cdr)** is an appointment held by a few selected Warrant Officers Class 1 in the Royal Logistic Corps and is the most senior appointment that can be held by a non-commissioned Warrant Officer in the British Army



The Conductors' Coin is an award designed to recognise excellence amongst soldiers of the Royal Logistic Corps at the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 and below

## Award Details



100 coins will be shared annually (proportioned to trade manning levels) between those holding the appointment of Conductor.



Coins will be allotted to those trades without an appointed Conductor



Units wishing to nominate an individual for an award should contact the individual's CEG Conductor



A certificate will accompany the award and details will appear in the RLC Sustainer magazine.

## The Award

Rewarding a soldier, outside of the official Honours and Awards List, for work 'over and above' that expected, is an excellent way to recognise tradesmen within the Royal Logistic Corps.

The Conductors' Coin has been produced to award the most worthy and deserving candidates below the rank of WO1. Evidence of noteworthy achievements, above and beyond that of an individual's expected work, is to be considered for the award. This may include an achievement in the course of military duty or in extra-curricular activity that benefits the Corps (for example, voluntary or charitable work, sporting achievement or dedication and commitment to their trade and others). A candidate's service and conduct should be of the highest order, acting as an example to others and reflecting credit on themselves, their unit and the Corps.



## Know Someone?

To nominate a person for a Conductors' Coin, please speak to an appointed RLC CEG Conductor

Or visit the RLC Heads of Trade Moss Page:

<http://cui1-uk.diif.r.mil.uk/r/71/LogSp/RLCHeadsOfTrade/default.aspx>

# You don't always get what you pay for.

# Sometimes you get an awful lot more.

**For only £15 you could save over £500**

The RLC Foundation is part of a charity that supports your personal development and offers you the chance to save money and take advantage of some great free offers!

These offers include a 7% discount at over 60 major retailers, a saving of up to 50% when eating out with the Gourmet Society or Tastecard, and you can also enjoy up to 56% off family days out and sporting events.

The RLC Foundation has been set up to help every member of the RLC and their families.

**Signing up for these member benefits will help members of the RLC both today and tomorrow.**



Sign up now by visiting:  
[www.rlcfoundation.com](http://www.rlcfoundation.com)

