

## **REGIMENTAL NOTICE – NEW REGIMENTAL DAYS**

The Colonel of the Regiment at the Fusilier 50 Gala Dinner held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018 announced that the Regiment would be creating three new Regimental and Traditional days to celebrate and commemorate the service of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers over the last 50 years.

The Regimental Council have agreed that the three days will be **Northern Ireland**, the **Middle East** and **Afghanistan** and agreed the dates on which they will be celebrated.

### **NORTHERN IRELAND (OP BANNER) DAY – 15 JUNE**

*In the Regiment's 50<sup>th</sup> year the Regimental Council have decided to mark the operational service and sacrifice of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers on Operation BANNER with a new Regimental Day (15<sup>th</sup> June) which will be known as the Northern Ireland (Op BANNER) Day.*

*Operation BANNER was the operational name for the British Armed Forces' operation in Northern Ireland from August 1969 to July 2007. Whilst a tri-service operation, the Army was the face of the support to the civil power throughout the Troubles, primarily consisting of support to the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and from November 2001 the Police Service of Northern Ireland. At the height of operations in the 1970s, there were about 28,000 British troops deployed. It was the longest continuous operation in the history of the British Army.*

*The Fusiliers' first tour in Northern Ireland began on the 16th June 1970, and the Regiment's last tour was a two-year residential tour of Belfast between 2003 and 2005. In all, the Regiment deployed 35 times on Operation BANNER. This equates to 21 years of Regimental service in support of the people of Northern Ireland and it is estimated that over 16,000 Fusiliers served during the period.*

*During Operation BANNER twenty-seven Fusiliers were killed and many injured whilst in Northern Ireland or by terrorist action in Great Britain.*

### **MIDDLE EAST THEATRE (GULF AND IRAQ) DAY – 28 FEBRUARY**

*Since its formation in 1968 the Regiment has served in the Middle Eastern Theatre on two wars, Operation GRANBY, the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi forces and Operation TELIC, the invasion of Iraq and subsequent stabilisation operations. In the Regiment's 50<sup>th</sup> year the Regimental Council have decided to mark the operational service and sacrifice of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in the Middle Eastern theatre with a new Regimental Day (28<sup>th</sup> February) which will be known as the Middle East Theatre (Gulf and Iraq) Day.*

#### **Operation GRANBY**

*Operation GRANBY was the operational name given to the British military operations during the 1991 Gulf War whose aim was to liberate Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion in August 1990. In all 53,462 members of the British Armed Forces were deployed during the conflict.*

*The Third Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers deployed on Operation GRANBY from its barracks in Deilinghofen, Germany in the autumn of 1990 and by New Year's Day were complete in Saudi Arabia. On the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1991, following the Iraqi refusal to comply to the United Nations deadline to withdraw its forces from Kuwait Operation DESERT STORM began with the Air campaign. After intensive build up training, the Land Campaign began on the 24<sup>th</sup> February and by 0800hrs 28<sup>th</sup> February was complete with the Iraqi agreement to a*

ceasefire. During the 97 hours of the Land battle the Fusilier Battlegroup had advanced 350 kilometres from the Saudi border to the northern approaches to Kuwait City.

During Operation GRANBY six Fusiliers were killed alongside three Privates from the Queen's Own Highlanders, who were attached to C Company in a 'friendly fire' incident. A further Fusilier was killed whilst training immediately after the cessation of hostilities.

Subsequently the Regiment was awarded the battle honour **Gulf 1991** which appears on the Regimental Colour.

### **Operation TELIC**

Operation Op TELIC was the operational name under which all of the United Kingdom's military operations in Iraq were conducted between the start of the Invasion of Iraq on 19 March 2003 and the withdrawal of the last remaining British forces on 22 May 2011. The bulk of the mission ended on 30 April 2009.

The First Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers deployed on Operation TELIC in February 2003 as part of 1 (UK) Armoured Division which was involved in operations in southern Iraq around and in the city of Basra. They were instrumental in the capture of Basra and then the subsequent stabilisation operations. Following the defeat of Iraqi forces and the removal of Saddam Hussein, the Coalition Forces continued to mount stabilisation and support operations in Iraq until 2011. The First Battalion conducted a further two six-month deployments in 2005/6 and in 2008. The Second Battalion also deployed company sized reinforcement groups whilst based in Belfast and Cyprus between 2005/8. During Operation TELIC four Fusiliers were killed and there were numerous injured.

It should not go unmentioned that many officers and soldiers from the Regiment, both Regular and Reserve, deployed as individual reinforcements to other units and HQs on many occasions throughout Operation TELIC. Subsequently the Regiment was awarded the battle honour **Iraq 2003** which appears on the Regimental Colour.

### **AFGHANISTAN (OPERATION HERRICK) DAY – 4 OCTOBER**

In the Regiment's 50<sup>th</sup> year the Regimental Council has decided to mark the operational service and sacrifice of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers on Operation HERRICK with a new Regimental Day (4<sup>th</sup> October) which will be known as the Afghanistan (Operation HERRICK) Day.

Operation HERRICK was the operational name for all British military operations in Afghanistan from 2002 to the end of combat operations in 2014. It consisted primarily of the UK's contribution to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), along with some support to the US-led Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF). From 2006 the focus was on counter-insurgency operations against the Taliban, in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan. At the height of the campaign in Helmand Province, there were 137 UK bases and approximately 9,500 UK troops stationed there. Increasingly, they fought alongside the fledgling Afghan forces, engaging the full spectrum from high-intensity combat to stabilisation operations, in order to help give the Afghan people a safe environment to rebuild their country.

The Fusiliers' first tour in Afghanistan was in 2006-2007, when members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion deployed on several occasions to Helmand Province, as part of the Theatre Reserve Battalion (TRB). This included A Company's defence of the Northern Helmand town of

*Nowzad in the summer of 2006, and C Company's deployment to Sangin the following year. Fusiliers were also deployed to Kajaki and Musa Qala during this period.*

*From March to October 2009 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion deployed as a Battalion on Op HERRICK 10. The Battalion was split over several locations. A Company was attached to 2RIFLES Battlegroup (BG) in Sangin, with troops in Forward Operating Base (FOB) NOLAY and FOB JACKSON. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion BG was deployed to Musa Qala, with BG HQ in the District Centre and B Company deployed to the North in Patrol Base (PB) WOQAB, close to the enemy front-line. This deployment took place over the most dangerous period for British troops in Afghanistan. Sadly, seven members of the Battalion, all from A Company, were killed during the tour.*

*From May to October 2013, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion deployed on Op HERRICK 18. The Battalion was based primarily in Main Operating Base (MOB) PRICE, alongside their Bosnian and Danish comrades, with elements deployed forward to PB LASHKAR GAR DURAI. The Battalion conducted stabilisation operations, as well as deliberate strike operations, as it sought to provide security and stability for the people and legitimate government of Helmand Province.*

*It should not go unmentioned that many officers and soldiers from the Regiment deployed as individual attachments to other units and HQs on many occasions throughout the war in Afghanistan.*

*During Operation HERRICK eight Fusiliers were killed and many injured whilst on operations in Afghanistan.*