



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF 
FUSILIERS 

England's Infantry at its very best

Newsletter  1 September 2020

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Farewell to our departing Colonel of the Regiment



1st of September marks the date when the current Colonel of the Regiment, Major General PAE Nanson CB CBE hands over the Colonelcy to Brigadier J Swift OBE.

“On behalf of all serving and veteran Fusiliers and their families and our Fusilier Cadet community, I want to publicly thank General Paul for the last 5 years as the Colonel of the Regiment. During his tenure both he and Lu have worked tirelessly on behalf of the Regiment.

The Regiment is in good heart and recognised for its professionalism, dedication and doing things the Fusilier way. Our reputation and profile are very high across the Army and we are in a good position today to accept any challenges that come our way. The fact that we are in this position is down to the leadership and guidance that General Paul has provided.

All members of the Regiment wish General Paul, Lu, Milly and Henry the very best for the future and for the new challenges ahead of them.

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions the Regiment has not be able to formally thank and say farewell to General Paul and Lu. Once the Covid 19 situation becomes clearer it is intended to have a formal farewell to both General Paul and Lu.”

Col JW Denny MBE, Regt Sec



Welcome to our new Colonel of the Regiment

On 1 September 2020, we welcome Brigadier J Swift OBE as Colonel of the Regiment.

Brig Swift has been a Fusilier since 1995, with a wealth of experience to call on:

- After Commissioning into the Fusiliers in 1995, Brigadier Jon deployed as a Platoon Commander to Bosnia and Northern Ireland. After further time in Province as a company operations officer, he moved to 2 FUSILIERS as an armoured infantry company second in command. This was followed by two memorable years as an instructor at the RMA Sandhurst.



- On returning to 1 FUSILIERS, he completed tours as the Operations Officer and Officer Commanding the Recce Group in 2002, deploying in that role for Op TELIC 1. Moving from one desert to another, this was followed by a year as the British exchange officer at the US Army National Training Centre in California. He was awarded the US Meritorious Service Medal in 2004.
- In 2006 he was posted to Afghanistan to command A Company 2 FUSILIERS on Op HERRICK 4; he was Mentioned in Despatches in 2007. Company command was followed by two appointments in the MOD, including as Military Assistant to the Master General of the Ordnance and Director Battlespace Manoeuvre.
- On promotion in 2010, he deployed to Afghanistan as Commander of the BASTION Training Centre. Subsequent command of 1 FUSILIERS included Op HERRICK 18 in 2013, deploying as Transition Support Unit Nahr-e Saraj for which he was awarded the OBE. In 2014 he returned to capability development, first as the senior requirements manager for armoured vehicles in the DE&S and then as the Assistant Head for Capability Plans in Army HQ.
- He commanded 38 (Irish) Brigade in September 2017 for two years before becoming Head of Ground Manoeuvre Capability at HQ Army in October 2019.

We all look forward to supporting and working with Brigadier Jon.



5 FUSILIERS update from Op TOSCA

The Fusiliers on OP TOSCA 32 have now passed the half-way point and are beginning preparations for the handover to 6 RIFLES in October, so that they're able to continue the good work of the Battle Group (BG).

Minden (Operations) Company continue to do good work securing the Buffer Zone (BZ), conducting patrols,

dominating the ground and identify violations and incursions by the soldiers along both Ceasefire Lines. The BG's efforts have been recognised by HQ UN Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP), amongst others, for our professionalism and the results that we achieve on the ground. As well as this, Minden Company also provide security for the barracks and provide the quick-reaction force to respond to incidents in the BZ.

At the beginning of July, Minden Company took part in UNFICYP's military skills competition, with teams finishing 1st and 3rd in the march competition and then 2nd and 4th on the pistol range, something that we don't get to practise often. Overall, the result put us in 1st and 3rd place ahead of the second round of events, comprising driving and military knowledge. Unfortunately, those events didn't quite go our way, as the event was during our demonstration week and saw us drop to 2nd overall. Disappointing, but overall a very good performance from our two teams who didn't have as much time to practise as most of the other teams. However, as an infantryman, it was very pleasing that we dominated the march and shoot.

The last few weeks have been rather busy. In mid-July the BG had to contend with a week of demonstrations to mark the anniversary of the 1974 Coup and the Turkish intervention. These take place



at the three crossing-points in our sector and see groups of 300-400 demonstrating by waving flags, singing, chanting and reading speeches. Although peaceful in recent years, there is always the possibility that they may become violent. Accordingly, the demonstration season saw platoons forward mounted to support UN Police (UNPOL), working alongside police from the north and south in protecting the integrity of the BZ and, if required, to provide a public order capability. Fortunately, this wasn't required this year as the demonstrations all passed peacefully.

The following week, Minden Company supported several engagement events at Ledra Palace, including a visit from Commander of British Forces Cyprus (BFC), General Robert Thompson, and a dinner night when the BG hosted National Guard officers from the Republic of Cyprus (RoC). This entailed providing additional security and honour guards. When COVID 19, restrictions allow, this will be repeated with officers from the Turkish Forces in the north, showing our impartiality as a UN force.

Also that week, the BG celebrated Salamanca Day, a Regimental Day for 7 RIFLES, who lead the BG, though it is also a battle honour of the Fusiliers. This consisted of a lesson on the conduct and significance of the battle, followed by a socially distanced BBQ for the soldiers. The



Celebrating the Regimental Days

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess was then hosted by the Officers' Mess. On the 1st of August, we also celebrated Minden Day, a Regimental Day.

The Company has recently received a couple of reinforcements, welcoming Fusiliers Young and Dinnie to the Company. There are also a number of Fusiliers elsewhere in the BG, including those in Support Company, who provide logistical and medical support to the BG, as well as the signallers and medics and UNPA. Newly arrived LCpl Little is working in the Influence Group and Capt Angus Burns still continues to 'Win OP TOSCA' as the Operations Officer.

We're currently around half-way through the Operational Stand Down (OSD) and Adventure Training (AT) period, meaning most of the soldiers have had at least one week elsewhere on the island, with some gaining a qualification in the process. Several soldiers have been to Dhekelia to conduct rock climbing, kayaking, mountain biking and some even scuba diving. Others have had time off relaxing or been on cultural visits, including waterparks and go-karting.

In late July, UNFICYP held a try-a-triathlon at UNPA, with support from the BG to provide lifeguards, marshals, physical training instructors and admin staff. A number of the BG took part in the event, with Fusilier Dwight of Support Company finishing 3rd overall in his very first triathlon. This week also saw the BFC 'Bay to Bay' Swim take place, consisting of a 1-mile swim across a bay. This event is hugely popular across all British Army and RAF units stationed here. LCpl Campbell, a medic in Support Company, went across to watch. Due to a last-minute dropout, she took the available place and, in a field of around 70, finished second in the



LCpl Campbell with her 2nd Place prize

women's event. LCpl Campbell was actually first out of the water but was beaten in the short dash to the finish line. A remarkable effort, especially considering the swimming pool at Ledra Palace has not been available so she's been unable to train.



While all this has been going on, Minden Company has still been taking the opportunity to conduct progressive training to develop our soldiers and gain qualifications. The Company is ran cadres for Team Medic and Basic Radio User, as well as preparing to deliver a Train-the-Trainer package (i.e Methods of Instruction for our veteran readers). As we've been unable to return anyone to the UK for courses, we're also conducting a JNCO cadre, which will qualify Fusiliers who pass the course for promotion to Lance Corporal.



Its not all Adventure Training...

As it stands, we're busy and about to get busier. However, it's all in order to ensure that we retain our operational output, i.e. maintaining the security and integrity of the BZ, while also using the opportunity to develop our soldiers. Even on peacekeeping operations, we're still able to improve our war-fighting capability and bring better-trained and experienced soldiers and officers back to 5 FUSILIERS.

Major John Marcon
OC Operations Company, 5 FUSILIERS on OP TOSCA 32

News from the 'Office for Veterans Affairs'

In July, two interesting initiatives were announced by the 'Office for Veterans Affairs' (OVA). One will support veterans taking up new employment; and the other details changes to the National Census in 2021 that will improve the OVA's information systems about where veterans are living and their status.

The first initiative was described in our 1 August Newsletter. The second is described below.

Parliament approves 'Veterans Question' in the 2021 National Census

- The inclusion of the 'Veterans Question' in next year's Census has been welcomed by veterans' groups and charities and builds on the Government's first ever veterans strategy, which was launched in 2018.



- Minister for 'Defence People and Veterans', Johnny Mercer said:

Allowing veterans to identify themselves in the next Census is a key step in ensuring that all of government provides the best support possible. Better information means better support and today is a positive step forward in providing that.

- The move will allow central and local government to better understand the profiles and needs of the ex-military community. This in turn will allow for stepped-up services for veterans, with better data and understanding, allowing for more targeted and efficient support. Data from the Census will be an important part of ensuring that mental health support for former service personnel is as effective as possible.
- It is estimated that there are currently around 2.2 million veterans in the UK. The rich diversity of this community underlines the importance of improving data, so that policies and support can be better targeted.
- The next census is due to be held on 21st March 2021 and results will be available the following year.
- More details are at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/parliament-approves-veterans-question-in-next-census>



3rd Viscount Montgomery visit to the Fusilier Museum (Warwick)

Henry, 3rd Viscount Montgomery, grandson of FM Montgomery of Alamein, recently revisited the Fusilier Museum (Warwick) to loan them some **superb items**. He also spent time looking around the Museum and was briefed by Col John Rice on the transition of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment to the Fusiliers and on plans for the future of the Museum. The items on loan are:



Lt Col John Rice, Viscount Montgomery and Maj David Seeney

An M3A5 General Grant II tank

which he used at the Battle of El Alamein. The turrets rotate, as do some of the wheels and the track links move. It was presented to him by Leamington Spa Borough Council when they made him a Freeman of the town. The base is a piece of phosphor

bronze salvaged from the battlefield at El Alamein; and the wooden base is from a piece of wood presented by the City of Coventry from a building destroyed by German bombers in 1940.

The coffee pot was presented to Monty on relinquishing the Colonelcy of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

The sugar bowl was presented by the wives of 1st Bn The Royal Warwickshire Regiment to Monty's wife as he finished his time as CO of the Battalion.

The two Staff College "Owls" were presented to him for his time as DAAG at the Staff College in the early 1920s, and on the occasion of his visit to unveil a portrait of himself.

Commemorating VJ Day in Newcastle with 5 FUSILIERS

On 15 August, the CO 5 FUSILIERS, Lt Col S Burton MBE, together with veterans from Fusilier Association (Northumberland), commemorated VJ Day at the City of Newcastle ceremony.



Notices

'Fusiliers Direct' – Product of the Month



FUSILIERS DIRECT
The Official Store of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

White Mug with Fusilier Hackle and Cap Badge

The Durham printed mug is a popular Dye Sublimation promotional mug (Also known as the Cambridge). Dye Sublimation enables you to achieve bright eye catching designs on mugs. This will enable you to really showcase your Regiment's cap badge.

- Capacity: 330ml Weight: 260g,
- Product Size: 90 x 80 mm,
- Print Area: 200 x 90mm.

ONLY £5.75

www.fusiliersdirect.co.uk

All events below are subject to change or cancellation, depending on the COVID 19 restrictions in place at the time. Watch out for RHQ FUSILIERS announcements.



Fusilier Association (London) – Branch events in 2020

The four London Area Branches have made use of the facilities at RHQ having their reunions and annual dinners in the Mess. Maj McCarthy, RHQ (S) Secretary will always try to prioritise the Association branches that are wishing to book the room. It is a special venue and one that we know you are proud where to host guests. The current Branch events for 2020 are

9 October	1RF & RRF Branch reunion
16 October	City of London RF/RRF Branch reunion
4 December	City of London RF/RRF Branch reunion
11 December	1RF & RRF Branch reunion

The Association 1st Battle of the Marne Pilgrimage – Sep

Despite ever ongoing uncertainty about travelling outside the UK and health concerns of some attendees, the annual trip to the Champagne region of France is still on at time

of writing. Numbers have reduced but a hardcore of determined Fusiliers still wish to remember the sacrifices of our former comrades in the BEF in 1914. Dates are 10th to 14th September 2020. A few hurdles yet to overcome but the outlook is hopeful.

Richard Adams.

Central Branch Annual Dinner – 10 Oct - Cancelled

Sadly, the 2020 Central Branch Dinner on 10 Oct has been cancelled due to the COVID 19 restrictions.

The 2021 date will be Saturday 9th October 2021, so please put this date in diaries now.

2020 Whitehall – Nov

NB. *We have not heard anything from RBL regarding numbers. This will be updated once we hear from them.*

Once again, the Fusiliers will be attending the RBL Remembrance Parade in London in November. Our application to attend as the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers has been successful and we have asked for 60 places. RBL will tell us on the 29 June how many places they have given us.

As at 18 April, we have 41 names who want to attend. If others wish to attend, please email Steve Fitt, Secretary Fusilier Association (Lancashire), at:

errolfitt476@btinternet.com.

Please note that if you are not 100% sure about attending, please do not apply. In previous years, no-shows have meant places have been lost which could have gone to others. An accompanying carer counts as one place.

In September & October tickets and joining instructions will be sent to associations for forwarding to individuals.



The Fusiliers Association Northern Ireland Branch, St Georges Day reunion – April 2021

This reunion will be held over the weekend of 23 - 25 April 2021, and will be the 40th anniversary of the handover / takeover between the 2nd and 3rd battalions. The event is open to all Fusiliers and attached support arms. The details are below:

Tickets

Tickets are £30 each. The cost for attending and not having a meal will be £15 each. Please note we have had to limit the number for the dinner, so please book early. If you would like more information please email any of the below:

Roger Marston adidriver@hotmail.com
Paul Manuel Paulmanuel59@yahoo.co.uk
Craig Hepburn Craig_hepburn@btinternet.com

Programme

- Fri 23 Apr – meet for drinks at the ex-Servicemen’s Club at 2000
- Sat 24 Apr – A trip to visit the Palace Barracks Memorial Garden. We need to advance information of who is attending and will use a single coach for ease of entry.
- Sat 24 Apr – St Georges Dinner

Starter	Traditional Vegetable Broth
Main	Turkey & Ham with Chipolata, Sage & Onion Stuffing & Chef’s Gravy. Served with Seasonal Vegetables & Potatoes.
Dessert	Trio of Mini Desserts
Tea or Coffee	

Includes half bottle of wine per person.

Please inform us as soon as possible of any Vegetarian requirements.

The evening will begin at 1900. Dinner is 2000, the bar will be open until 0100.

Dress: dinner suits, lounge suits, blazers, medals. Dress for women is evening / cocktail dress.

- Sun 25 Apr – sights of Northern Ireland at your leisure



Accommodation

None reserved but there is an abundance of local B&Bs to fit all budgets that can be found on Trip advisor. A typical cost is £90.

“Minden Madness” - 2021

After this year’s unavoidable cancellation, the Rain Bar in Manchester has been booked for the 2012 Minden Madness for Friday 30 July 2021. We will have the full use of the upstairs room.

There will be a toast to all the Regimental members who have passed away since the last Madness.

In the build-up to this year’s gathering, Howard Lycett and his team had raised £1,000 from various sources. This has now been donated to the MacMillan Cancer Support, via the family of the late Major Terry Gammons.



How to contribute

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

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

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

Photos

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

