



The Fusiliers

'Catch up' with the Regiment at work, rest and play

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Great War Fusiliers remembered at Manchester Piccadilly

The Fusiliers were invited by Virgin Trains to take part in a ceremony to rededicate a memorial to the 87 railway workers who died serving in the Great War. Twelve of these were Lancashire Fusiliers.

The new stone memorial replaced the original memorial plaque, missing since the 1960s. The ceremony took place on Platform 10 of Piccadilly Station, Manchester and was well supported by the Regiment. The Association Standards were on parade, supported by members of the Salford and Oldham Branches. The Lancashire Corps of Drums provided the Drum Major and a drummer in full uniform and the Lancashire Band provided the bugler.

The Regimental Recruiting Team was present, as was the Fusilier Museum. The Lancashire Area Secretary laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment.



Drum Major, Lancashire Corps of Drums

First Fusiliers in Latvia

In June, the First Fusiliers sent a large contingent to Latvia for Ex SABRE STRIKE. 1RRF Battalion HQ and Y Company joined units from the United States, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Lithuania.

It was a great opportunity to work alongside other nations, which provided a unique training experience.



Joint planning in preparation for the FTX with BG HQ and Y Coy 1RRF, D Coy 40 Cdo RM, C Coy 2 Bn from the Norwegian Army and a mix of USMC.

Lt Col Ben Walters – MBE on 11 Jun 16



A relaxed Lt Col B Walters MBE

The Colonel of the Regiment and all Fusiliers congratulate Lt Col Ben Walters on the award of Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services in the post of SO2 Ops and Trg whilst at Regional Command which was published in the Queens's Birthday Honours on 11 June 2016.

The Fusiliers London Off-Site Museum

The Fusiliers Museum (London) opened their off site exhibition on Wed 1st June at the Barbican Music Library. The title of the exhibition is Rowland Philipps Scout, Soldier of the Somme.

The exhibition explores the life of inspirational Scout leader and soldier Roland Philipps, who fought and died on the Somme in July 1916 with the 9th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

The exhibition opened with a talk, 'The Shadow of the Somme: Understanding the Battle in 1916 and its Legacy' from Mark Connelly, Professor of Modern British History at the University of Kent.

The exhibition will remain in place in the Barbican until August.

A guest at the the exhibition studying all that was on show



Prof Mark Connelly, Stephanie Killingbeck-Turner, Assistant Curator, and Caroline Pantling, Heritage Service Manager Scout Association.

Sheldon Branch Tour the Normandy Beaches

At the end of May, 30 members of the Sheldon Branch undertook a three day tour of the Normandy battlefield beaches. We left Birmingham NEC by coach early on the Monday, hoping to reach our hotel in Caen before nightfall – but as the coach broke down on the French motorway, we eventually arrived at 0400 hours on Tuesday.



Sheldon Branch at the Tiger tank preserved at Vimoutiers

After a delayed start for some solid sleep and a late breakfast, Mr Gary Ashley our excellent tour guide, took us to Pegasus Bridge and the first of many excellent museums.

We visited Ranville War Cemetery and paid our respects to those buried there. After lunch it was

onto the British and Canadian landing beaches, Sword (where 2 R WARWICK landed), Juno and Gold. There, the exploits of WO2 Stanley Hollis VC were explained. We ended the day at Arramanches with the remains of the Mulberry Harbour.

On Day 2, we visited the American landing beaches, Omaha and Utah, starting at the impressive and moving US War Cemetery. We saw the Major Richard Winters memorial and after a visit to the Utah beach museum, ended the day at the German War Cemetery where the distinguished tank commander Obersturmfuhrer Michael Wittman is buried.

The last full day was spent viewing Hill 112 with its Churchill tank memorial. After lunch in Falaise we drove along the “corridor of death” from Trun to Chambois, along which Major David Currie of the Canadian Army was awarded the VC. The photographs of German death and destruction along the “corridor” were overwhelming to see.

On Friday morning we left Normandy for a much smoother journey home, reaching the NEC at 1930.

Sincere thanks are due to Neil and Bonnie Gregory for their organisation of our excellent few days in Normandy. Next year they are planning a trip to Wormhout and the Dunkirk beaches.

153 Detachment is the Best



153 Detachment of SW London Sector ACF, commanded by SMI Billy Allan, won the Best Detachment Award. No wonder they are all thumbs up (and generally at the same angle...)

Fusilier pilgrimage to Monte Cassino and Anzio

In May 2016, Mrs Diana Home the wife of Gos Home, a Fusilier since 1953, led this annual pilgrimage, taking over at short notice from Bob Keating who sadly was not well. Some 25 Fusilier veterans and a similar number of friends of the Regiment spent a week at a delightful hotel on the coast, some 50 miles south of Rome.



Royal Fusilier veterans at the Monte Cassino Cemetery



Colonel Matthew Festing, late Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, (Prince & Grand Master of the Knights of Malta), lays the RNF wreath at the Anzio cemetery

At Monte Cassino we held a short Service in the CWGC cemetery beneath the Abbey. We were then given a tour of the magnificent Abbey rebuilt after the war when it had been completely destroyed.

At Anzio we held a more impressive Service at the Beach Head CWGC cemetery. It was attended by a number of Officers and Soldiers from the

Corpo Militare who kindly supplied a bugler for the Last Post. The Royal Northumberland Fusilierwreath was laid by Colonel Matthew Festing late of the RNF TA. He had come down from Rome where he is the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of the Knights of Malta. This is an extensive world wide Organisation that spends £140 million a year on charitable projects.

A delightful Australian Chaplain conducted the short service to remember the Fusiliers buried in the beautifully kept cemetery. All being well, we hope to plan a similar pilgrimage for next year.

3 RRF's Winning Boxing team - 1990

Tom Murphy, ex-3

RRF, sent us this photo:

"This is the victorious 3RRF team that last won the Army Championship in 1990. John Buckley was our coach. You will also notice a devilishly handsome chap kneeling down bottom right. That's me."

It is great to be reminded of the Fusiliers' proud boxing history and how the First Fusiliers are continuing the tradition.

But we have some advice for Tom - he should have gone to Specsavers....



Back Row L-R: LCpls Deurdin, Hill, Hughes, Cpl Brown, Fus Nelson, the Noble twins,

Front row L-R: LCpl Dean, Fus Johnson, Stonehouse, Wales, Armstrong, LCpl Murphy

Warwickshire ACF in action in the Midlands

Throughout June, Warwickshire ACF has had a month of competitions at County, Regional and National level:

- Starting the ball rolling was the Regional Athletics competition. Warwickshire ACF were the clear winners with 19 cadets qualifying for the 'Nationals' where 5 subsequently won medals in their classes:

Gold: Cdt K Lightfoot, Tennial Grange, 200m

Silver: Cdt E Creswell, Rugby, Discus; Cdt AB Bawa, Leamington Spa, Shot; Cdt K Colgrave, Glascote, Discus; Cdt Cpl Ryan, Nuneaton, Shot

In between these, the County Drill and First Aid competitions were held:

- The Drill competition was held on the Drill square of 30 Sig Regt, adjoining the County's Weekend Training Centre and was judged by the RSM and one of his drill NCOs. A very high standard from the 4 teams (*"higher than the standard seen from the regular soldiers on the base"* – RSM), with the winners being Gallipoli Coy
- The County First aid competition held on the same day was won by Al Basrah Coy

The Officers' Mess held their annual dinner on the weekend of the Brigade Skill at Arms meeting at which our 4 County teams swept the Board, coming 1,2,3 and 6th out of 16 teams. We also providing the winning pairs team and winning individual shot.

The Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May was free of competitions; however elements of 3 companies were at Leek in the Staffordshire Moorlands undertaking APC expeditions along with DoE silver expeditions in, unusually for the area, fine weather.

Sportsmen at the Somme

On Tuesday 21 June the RBL launched an event highlighting the contribution of sportsmen at the Battle of the Somme. This was held at RHQ and supported by some very successful sports people who have all represented their countries internationally.

If you look carefully, two ne'r-do-wells from RHQ manage to photobomb every shot...



Sir Nick Faldo



Sally Gunnell and Mike Gatting



Peter Shilton

www.thefusiliers.org in use at RHQ



*Regt Adjt, Capt Ben
Everson checking the
date of the battle of
Albuhera on the RHQ
website*

The new RHQ RRF website is now live and can be seen at www.thefusiliers.org

It will grow overtime and will also host some interesting pages in the run up to the Fusiliers' 50th Anniversary.

The News items will support this Newsletter and both will complement each other. Like the Newsletter, you are welcome to submit news items, but please note the website will need photos of at least 800 pixels wide, preferably 1200. and in JPEG / JPG / PNG format.

Commemorate 141 days of the Battle of the Somme at the NMA

During the Summer, the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) will be commemorating the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme with 141 days of activities. A Candlelit Vigil will be held on the evening of the 30th June and a Remembrance service on the 1st of July to mark the beginning of the Battle, with a live video feed broadcasting the international service of Remembrance from the Thiepval Memorial in France.

A special commemorative lunch is available for pre-booked groups after the service on the 1st July for which early booking is recommended.



The Fusilier Memorial at NMA

The NMA will also be commemorating the 19,240 British soldiers who lost their lives on the 1st day of the battle through a mass visual art installation throughout the commemorations.

Further details of the NMA Centenary programme can be found at www.thenma.org.uk

Notices

*Call 020
3166 6909
before you
visit RHQ*

Due to security requirements and a planned revised layout of the West Gate entry point of HM Tower of London, the arrangements to visit RHQ have been changed. For details, call Linda on 020 3166 6909.

BBC NI are making a documentary on tourism and are apparently interested in speaking to ex-servicemen who served there and may want to return to Belfast as a tourist.

If anyone has heard of this and is considering taking part, please speak with RHQ first so that we can offer advice on the implications.

Central Branch RRF Dinner

The Central Branch dinner will be on Sat 17 Sep 16 at the Village Hotel, Dolomite Avenue, Coventry CV4 9GZ.

Dinner is £30 per person; for those who do not want dinner, the cost is £20pp. Rooms are £60 B&B for a double room, £50 B&B for single room. For all details, email Pete Fazakerley at petedeb@talktalk.net.

The Colours of the former 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers will be laid up on Sunday 9 October 2016 at St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick.

As the capacity of both St Mary's Church and Shire Hall will restrict numbers to 300, the order of priority for attendance will be:

1. Members of Fusilier Association (Warwickshire)
2. Ex 2 RRF outside Fusilier Association (Warwickshire)
3. All other Fusiliers.

*No further reservations
can be made as we are
already over the 300
capacity, with a full
reserve list*

The pre-registration process is now closed and no further reservations can be made as **we are already over the 300 capacity, with a full reserve list.**

Please note that there will be a small charge for the Shire Hall reception, in order to minimise costs to the Regiment.

Army vs. Navy Rugby – 29 Apr 17

Many people have asked whether the Regiment can secure a section of seats for the Fusiliers at the annual Army vs. Navy rugby fixture at Twickenham.

Area Secretary London is investigating with the Army Rugby Union (ARU) about pre-allocating some seats. There's a condition: if ARU agrees, the tickets would be paid up-front by Area Sec London. So anyone interested in the purchase of tickets (plan on £25-30 each) will have to pay a deposit in advance.

Tickets generally go on sale in November and sell out quite quickly.

To test this idea, those interested should email Major (Retd) Mick McCarthy on hqlondonfusiliers@gmail.com. Please title the email ARMY V NAVY Tickets.

*London Area Sec
is investigating
Fusilier tickets for
the match*



www.regimentsdirect.co.uk/fusiliers



This month's Fusiliers Direct

product is their new stormproof regimental golf umbrella. In regimental colours, it has 'The Fusiliers' printed to one yellow panel.

The umbrella has a fibreglass ribbed frame which makes it more flexible and resistant to windy weather and when

fully open the umbrella has a canopy of 130cm.

To order, visit <http://www.regimentsdirect.co.uk/fusiliers/royal-regiment-of-fusiliers-golf-umbrella>

Dates for the Diary

26 July - Col of the Regt Regimental Orders RMAS. Wng O out.

9 October - 2 RRF Colours laid up - Warwick

We intend to replace this section with a subset of the new central Forecast of Events, which will give more detail across all the Fusilier Family. Watch this space.

Contributions

*150 words +
photo +
caption by the
25th of the
month*

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.