



FUSILIERS NEWS

The Fusiliers – Forever England, Forever Friends, Forever Family

**1 FUSILIERS
Battlegroup
PT in Estonia**



The 1 December Fusilier Newsletter

In this edition, read more about 1 FUSILIERS in Estonia, presentation of new Colours to the Lorne Scots, reports from Marne Tour 2023 and Rorke's Drift and stories from a variety of Fusiliers, serving and veteran.

1 FUSILIERS Fus Calderwood selected for the British Army Boxing Team

British Army Boxing has recently selected Fusilier Calderwood for the Boxing season.

His Grandfather was a Central Area Region Boxing Champion and this led him into boxing.

He has had numerous Fights and Wins, and was a Northwest Region Champion!

*So good luck
this season!*



1 FUSILIERS Battlegroup's Armoured Engineer Squadron in Adazi, Latvia conducting multinational sapper training

1 FUSILIERS in Estonia

In the last weeks of October, following a period of post-ex maintenance and Battlegroup HQ planning, the 1 FUSILIERS Battlegroup received orders for the Estonian National Military Defence Plan. This started the planning for the Battlegroup's role within the 1st Estonian Brigade and larger Estonian Defence Force National Military Defence Plan.

On top of this C Squadron Queen's Royal Hussars and our Z Company deployed to the CTA to conduct SPC ranges. Meanwhile a portion of our Armoured Engineer Squadron deployed to Adazi, Latvia to conduct multinational training organised by the Canadian enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup.

The busy week didn't stop the Battlegroup from an excellent 'bonding' CO's PT session, as well as a well-organised 5-a-side inter-company football competition, won by Z Coy.

November saw the focus continue with the estimate and planning for the National Military Defence Plan, amongst other training.



More sapper training

Presentation of new Colours to the Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin And Halton Regiment)

During October, Colonel Brian Gorski, Lieutenant Colonel Mike McDonald and Captain Andy Harris represented the Regiment at the presentation of new Colours in Canada to the Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment). Many might be asking why?

In the 1920s, Major Cecil Corkett was a senior officer in the Peel and Dufferin Regiment eventually commanding the Regiment in January 1932. Though a native of Brampton, Canada, he enlisted in 1914 as a subaltern in the 2nd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, with whom he served at the Battle of the Somme. After being wounded three times, he was invalided home and “relinquished his commission on account of ill health caused by wounds”.

In 1922 he re-joined the Peel and Dufferin Regiment and at his urging, the Regiment sought an alliance with the Lancashire Fusiliers. In November 1929 the Peel and Dufferin Regiment was informed that the King approved

the alliance. To symbolise the link, permission was received for

the Peel and Dufferin Regiment to adopt the white facings of the Lancashire Fusiliers.



Scots to wear the primrose hackle “as a token of the regard and affection which had grown between the two regiments”.

Another important link was made in 1977 when our Colonel in Chief His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, was also appointed Colonel in Chief of The Lorne Scots.



The presentation of new Colours, in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour, Elizabeth Dowdsell.

When the Lorne Scots learnt in 1966 that the primrose hackle was to be relinquished as part of the Fusiliers amalgamation, they requested that they be given the honour of wearing that hackle as part of their headdress. When the Colonel of the Regiment attended the Lorne Scots Officers’ Dinner in 1966, he announced that permission had been granted for The Lorne

The main event, the presentation of new Colours, took place on Sunday 15 October in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour, Elizabeth Dowdswell. The parade was a splendid affair carried out with aplomb and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Rob Fraser and the Battalion received well deserved congratulations.

The Lorne Scots hospitality did not stop with the parade. The six visitors were hosted with such generosity and friendliness by various Honorary Colonels and retired officers in their homes and who went out of their way to make sure we were looked after. Thanks go to Honorary Colonels (serving and retired) Craig Hayman, Gary Reamey and Bill Adcock, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Gary Love and Major (Retired) Clive Snape, not forgetting their wives of course. They excelled in hosting all of us.



We were hosted with generosity and friendliness

Special mention must be made of the efforts of Bill Adcock, Scot Ching and Stu Sherriff in developing the museum to its present state. Scott, in his spare time, also organised the whole weekend with time for both educational and social visits to Ottawa, Toronto, Algonquin and Niagara Falls.

In summary a great visit that cemented the relationship between the two Regiments. Long may it continue.

Murray Richards, Freeman of Nuneaton & Bedworth



On Armistice Day in Bedworth, Colonel Steve Burton, Colonel Warwickshire, congratulated Murray Richards on his nomination to be a Freeman of Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Murray organises many military events in the Borough and one of his rewards as a Freeman is that he can now drive his sheep down the High Street.

Marne Testimonials

"Being only a junior Fusilier, I count myself tremendously lucky to have been given the opportunity to accompany those of our wider Regimental family



who attended this year's anniversary. As an experience, I found it both enjoyable and valuable. To have been

able to simply sit in the company of Fusiliers whose collective service stretches back to Korea was a singularly enlightening privilege. And the chance to represent the Regiment in a ceremonial capacity at such an early stage in my own service was, I felt, a great honour. "

**Fus Hal Dixon X Coy 5
FUSILIERS**

"From the outset the trip was well organised and thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was a pleasure to

Marne Report 2023

The 109th Anniversary of the 1st Battle of the Marne Association event can be safely recorded as the best ever. We have been attending for over 20 years. The participation of serving Fusiliers doubtless contributed greatly to the success. The brilliant weather (almost too warm – 30C +) also contributed.

It was heart-warming to witness and experience the interaction between today's Fusiliers and veterans from previous years.

Departing from Balham early on Thursday 8

September we arrived at our hotel for an enjoyable social evening.

Friday saw us attending a moving Remembrance Ceremony at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's magnificent War Memorial at La Ferte sous Jouarre, upon which are inscribed the 3,765 names of all British soldiers who died at the outset of WW1 at Mons, Le Cateau, during the retreat from Mons, and the battles of the Marne

and Aisne but with no known grave.

Names are inscribed on separate tablets for each regiment involved, including of course the Northumberland Fusiliers, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Royal Fusiliers and Lancashire Fusiliers. Our former comrades are thus, as ever, not forgotten. The Fusiliers have established a



The group parading at La Ferte sous Jouarre at CWGC War Memorial on the first day

close relationship with La Ferte sous Jouarre where the BEF drove the German armies out of the town at the start of the Marne battle.

They tell us that no other regiment remember their dead like the Fusiliers. The town entertained us royally after the ceremony.

Returning mid afternoon to our hotel in Dizy just north of Epernay, the evening was a night out in Epernay - a lovely town with many bars and restaurants. The Rugby

represent the Fusiliers on all 3 parades and play a part in remembering the fallen at The Battle of Marne. The whole trip was a good way to meet Association members from the past and hear their stories from when



they served. The togetherness was second to none for the entire five days. I encourage more younger Fusiliers to attend, not only for the history of the Fusiliers but for them to integrate with the Association whilst paying our respects to the fallen”.

Sgt Shaun Smith HQ Coy 1
FUSILIERS

World Cup had just started so bars with TVs were popular. **(Ed. A common theme is developing of a drink being taken and why this was the best trip so far !)**

Saturday 10 September was a free day until mid-afternoon when we went to Sezanne for the first of the official ceremonies organised by our French hosts. At a cemetery containing French and British war dead we paid tribute to the French fallen in the Marne battle and they did likewise to ours. The BEF fought alongside the French armies as staunch allies in this momentous battle. We were warmly entertained at a drinks reception afterwards, following which we dined together at a splendid old-fashioned restaurant in Sezanne - a lovely small town.

Sunday meant an early start to be at Mondement in time for the main ceremony of the weekend. Mondement is where the large and impressive memorial to the Marne battle is located, it being at the centre of the battle's start line. Local dignitaries, French and German military and many visitors attend. National Anthems and other marches were played by the magnificent band of the French Hussards, the only remaining French cavalry

band. At conclusion of the ceremony, all gathered in the adjacent Mondement Chateau for a champagne reception, followed by for what can only be described as a magnificent Lunch of Friendship at nearby Connantre. We then attended a German ceremony in the late afternoon to remember the fallen of our former foe. Time heals.

Early evening saw us back at our hotel ready to pack bags prior to returning home the next day arriving in Balham in the early evening.

The trip dates in 2024 are 5 – 9 September.

Assembling the party commences in the New Year but expressions of interest are welcomed now when questions can be answered. Wives and partners are welcomed. The modest cost per person may surprise you due to subsidies from RHQ.

If interested, please contact Richard Adams on

mondement1@gmail.com

or

07961 452182

Rorke's Drift – 22 January 1879

The Zulu reserve army of King Cetshwayo had not expected to fight on the 22 January 1879 but it was an encounter with a scouting party from the remaining force from Lord Chelmsford's camp at Isandlwana which led to the battle that followed.

The Zulu reserve force had not taken part in the Isandlwana battle in the of the morning of the 22nd January but were sent to act as a cut-off between Isandlwana and the Buffalo river which formed the boundary between British controlled Natal and the land of the Zulu ruled by King Cetshwayo. Rorke's Drift mission was located in Natal and the Zulu king made it clear that no Zulu army was to cross into Natal.

However, the commander of the reserve force, a body made up of the older men in the Zulu army, was a half-brother to the King and felt he could get away with disobeying a royal



Rorke's Drift Mission hospital now rebuilt. Original roof was thatch

command for what was to be simply a mopping up operation so that his warriors could "wash their spears" as the other regiments had done earlier in the day.

The Zulu regiments to be involved in the Rorke's Drift action crossed the Buffalo River downstream of the Drift itself and swung behind the mission settlement descending on the objective from Shiyane Hill just south of, and behind, the Mission station.

The battle at Isandlwana could be heard from Rorke's Drift but it was only by 3 pm that news of the outcome of that engagement came to the Mission station. Stragglers who had escaped the battle came to the mission to confirm the

original news. Both Lt Chard of the Royal Engineers and Lt Gonville Bromhead of the 2/24th Regiment (2nd



Memorial to the dead of the 24th Regiment

Warwickshires)

decided to defend the mission station, not least because there were patients in the hospital building who would be more vulnerable if moved towards Helpmekaar, threatened by a superior Zulu force whilst on the road.

Mealie Bags and biscuit boxes were taken from the stores and used to form barricades. The line of those barricades still remains marked in the ground by cobble stones. Two waggons were also used in the line of defence, running between the store house and the hospital some 30 yards away, on the south side of the location. Facing a Zulu force of about 4,000 men were some 150 men made up of soldiers of the 24th Regiment and various attached personnel including The Reverend G Smith (Ammunition Smith!)

The fight began between 1630 and 1650 hrs and the whole perimeter set up by the defenders was besieged. By 1800 hrs the hospital building was under serious attack and the thatched roof was set alight (see the diorama photo). The defenders evacuated the building by 1930hrs and retired behind the biscuit box wall which ran north from the corner of the store house to the perimeter. They were now shielded from the sniping from

the heights of Shiyane Hill to the south of the location. For the rest of the evening there were fierce Zulu assaults on the remaining defended position causing the defenders eventually to abandon the cattle kraal and to focus on the mealie bag redoubt constructed in the evening for a final defence. By about 2200 hrs the Zulus had run out of energy and their attacks became fewer. The defenders were also tiring and the last Zulu firing ended at about 0400 on the following day.

In the cold light of morning the defended area looked like a charnel house. Zulu dead were littered all over the originally defended area some piled on top of others.

It is difficult to put a figure on the Zulu dead but some 351 were recovered the next day and buried and others were located in and about the area for days to come. It has been estimated that about 600 were killed in the fight and many others seriously wounded.



Memorial to the Zulu dead. The leopard represents the Zulu king lying on a pile of Zulu shields, representing the fallen warriors

Rorke's Drift was relieved later in the morning when elements of Lord Chelmsford's force which had spent the night at Isandlwana after the defeat there, moved to Rorke's Drift, much to the delight of the now very tired defenders. The Zulu attackers began to melt away between

midnight and dawn, exhausted, hungry and thirsty returning home not to be mustered again for about two months. The defenders lost 15 men that night and 10 others were badly wounded.

And of the battlefield now, it is virtually intact. The location of the original defence line of mealie bags and biscuit boxes is laid out on the ground, the hospital building has been rebuilt and now houses a good museum and the store house has been rebuilt as a small Lutheran chapel. The cattle kraal is still there, and like the other buildings, rebuilt.



Diorama showing the battle at about 6.30 pm. Hospital on the right is now on fire. Line of biscuit boxes runs north to south on the left of the photo

Is it worth a visit? Undoubtedly the answer is in the affirmative and taken with a walk of the Isandlwana battlefield worthy of a stay in a local hotel or guest house in nearby Dundee for a couple of days. Below the battle site is the Rorke's Drift Hotel which gives splendid views of the Buffalo river both up and down stream and is splendidly appointed. Go.

Christopher Dorman O'Gowan

PEOPLE AND PLACES

A Fusilier become Master Cutler of Hallamshire

Charles Turner DL was installed as the 384th Master Cutler of Hallamshire on 3 October 2023. This position dates back to the Act of Parliament in 1624 which established the Company of Cutlers as a Manorial Court to control the trade of cutlery in "Hallamshire and 6 miles compass" - the Sheffield postcode in today's terminology.



The Master and Mistress Cutler

This industry grew and developed through tools and steel production to now encompass all the manufacturing industries in the region. The Master Cutler acts as the Voice of Manufacturing for all of South Yorkshire with over 350 Freemen all of whom are active manufacturers

Charles served with 1, 2 and 3 FUSILIERS between 1986 and 2003 and his son Ed is currently 2IC Z Coy 1 FUSILIERS.

After retiring, Charles took over the family business, Durham-Duplex, which has manufactured in Sheffield since 1910. The Company makes industrial blades and machine knives that are sold around the world. He is a modern cutler and has the scars to prove it !

Charles would be delighted to welcome any Fusiliers to the Magnificent Cutlers Hall if they are visiting Sheffield.

Warwick Walk & Talk

After walking in Sutton Park in the summer, the Warwickshire Walk And Talk group have continued their search of WW1 and WW2 trenches in our area by visiting the Lickey Hills in South Birmingham.



The trenches were manned to give cover for the Longbridge Factory during WW2. Most of the Group had served in the 5th (Warwickshire) Bn and memories flooded back of wet weekends digging trenches in a cold and damp Otterburn.

(The Longbridge factory was a British Leyland assembly line, famed for 1980s classics as the Maestro and the Allegro...Ed)

An update from Steve Warrilow – former 3 FUSILIERS

"After leaving the Army, I ran a successful business from 1990-2016 under the name 'TheFusilier' designing and



producing and manufacturing fine scale models, some of which are shown here.

Since retirement, I still do some modelling work, but I have done a lot of charity walks. For example, I have walked the 1000km Camino de Santiago trail from St Jean Pied de Port in France to Finisterre in North West Spain. I have

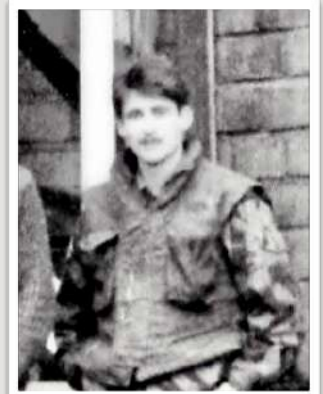
done this five times one for the St Ormond's Children Hospital charity.

I also did a "One Man" Battlefield tour, visiting W Beach at Gallipoli where the Lancashire Fusiliers won their "6 VC's Before Breakfast". You can still see the barbed wire and metal pickets below the waterline. I also visited the whole peninsular up to Anzac Cove and Suvla Bat. I also toured the WW 1 battlefields on the Somme and Ypres.



**Walking the Camino just outside Pamplona
on Perigrino Monumento**

Not surprisingly, I am now recovering from two knee replacements having worn them both out – but I'll be back..."





Rowing for Blue Marine charity

In December 2023, John Ashton, former 2 FUSILIERS, will be rowing 3,000 nautical miles unsupported across the Atlantic Ocean.

Widely regarded to be one of the most challenging endurance events globally, more people have reached the summit of Everest than have finished [The World's Toughest Row](#).

His team, '[The Big Oardeal](#)' includes three other veterans. They will be rowing 24/7 for over 6 weeks, dodging sharks, facing 30ft+ waves and burning 6,000+ calories per day.

John is raising money for [The Blue Marine Foundation](#) and if you would like to support him on this adventure you can donate via his [JustGiving](#) page.



Fusiliers in the NE

North East Fusiliers and wives attending the All Arms Services Dinner Night held in Blyth on the 21 October. It was a very good night.

NOTICES

Are you a veteran? Share your views now!

The Office for Veterans' Affairs (OVA) has launched a new consultation to gather evidence on the experience of Armed Forces Veterans.

The consultation will enable the OVA to better understand veterans, their families, and their experiences in the community, as part of the Government commitment to make the UK the best place in the world to be a veteran. The consultation is seeking evidence on the needs of veterans and their families, but it is open to all. Visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for further information and details of how to respond to the survey before it closes on 4 January 2024.

Why has the consultation been launched ?

The consultation will enable the OVA to build a better understanding of veterans so that they can assess the effectiveness of current policy and services, and shape strategies so that they are fit for the future. They are interested in gathering evidence on veterans' experiences and the support they receive from organisations, including local services, charities, families, social clubs, associations and employers. The results will be used by the Government to design better policies to support veterans and prevent them from being disadvantaged.

What does the consultation cover ?

The consultation focuses on areas that affect veterans, including health, housing and education, as well as several others.

It explores a number of themes including:

- * Health and Wellbeing
- * Employment, Education and Skills
- * Making a Home in Civilian Society
- * Finance and Debt
- * Veterans and the Law
- * Community and Relationships

- * Collaboration between organisations
- * Coordination of Veterans' services
- * Data on the Veteran community
- * Public perception and understanding
- * Recognition of Veterans
- * Economic contribution of veterans

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/supporting-our-veterans-a-consultation>

The FemBER-Vet Study

The Female Brain and Endocrinological Research – Veteran Study

Readers in the North East may be interested in participating in a study examining brain health outcomes for veterans, especially in the female population. Funding for the study is supported by The Office for Veterans' Affairs and has been reviewed and given ethical approval through the Northumbria University Ethics Committee. Suitable volunteer participants will be invited to attend a research visit at the team's laboratory in Northumbria University, Newcastle. Data is being collected from male and female veterans, and non-veteran females, aged 35 or older.

"This is a multi-institution project run by Northumbria University and Imperial College London. We are interested in understanding differences in health outcomes between female veterans, male veterans, and female civilians (women with no history of military service). Specifically, we are interested in differences in brain health: biological and motor

functions, thinking, memory and emotions. Some American studies suggest that veterans have poorer health outcomes than people from the general population, but female veterans have the poorest, especially in terms of thinking and memory. We are interested in learning more about why such disparities between these groups exist. Gaining a fuller understanding of differences in brain health outcomes between veteran populations and the general population will help prepare better healthcare services for veterans through tailored therapeutic strategies."



Are you a British Military Veteran interested in taking part in Brain Health research?

Brain Health refers to the overall state of the brain, including aspects such as memory, thinking, mood as well as biology (structure, hormones) and motor function (muscles).

We are researchers interested in understanding how lifetime and military experiences influence brain health in veterans. We are inviting female and male veterans aged 35 years and older to our study.

If eligible, you will be invited to a Research Visit at Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne to complete some tasks relating to brain health. You will receive £30 high street shopping voucher and be reimbursed for your travel.



For more information, please contact, Elliott:
e.i.atkinson@northumbria.ac.uk



Fusilier Stories

Fusilier Stories is an exciting project to collect and tell the stories of fusiliers and our families. The stories are published on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@TheFusiliers-history: Recent films include:



[https://youtu.be/LXoqVjYMqkM?
si=NI6PJvcYsTC0hDaf](https://youtu.be/LXoqVjYMqkM?si=NI6PJvcYsTC0hDaf)



[https://youtu.be/5Y_l4W5VctU?
si=T0Dy9V2IFkf23sel](https://youtu.be/5Y_l4W5VctU?si=T0Dy9V2IFkf23sel)

Please watch them, give them a thumbs up and subscribe to the channel to help support the project.

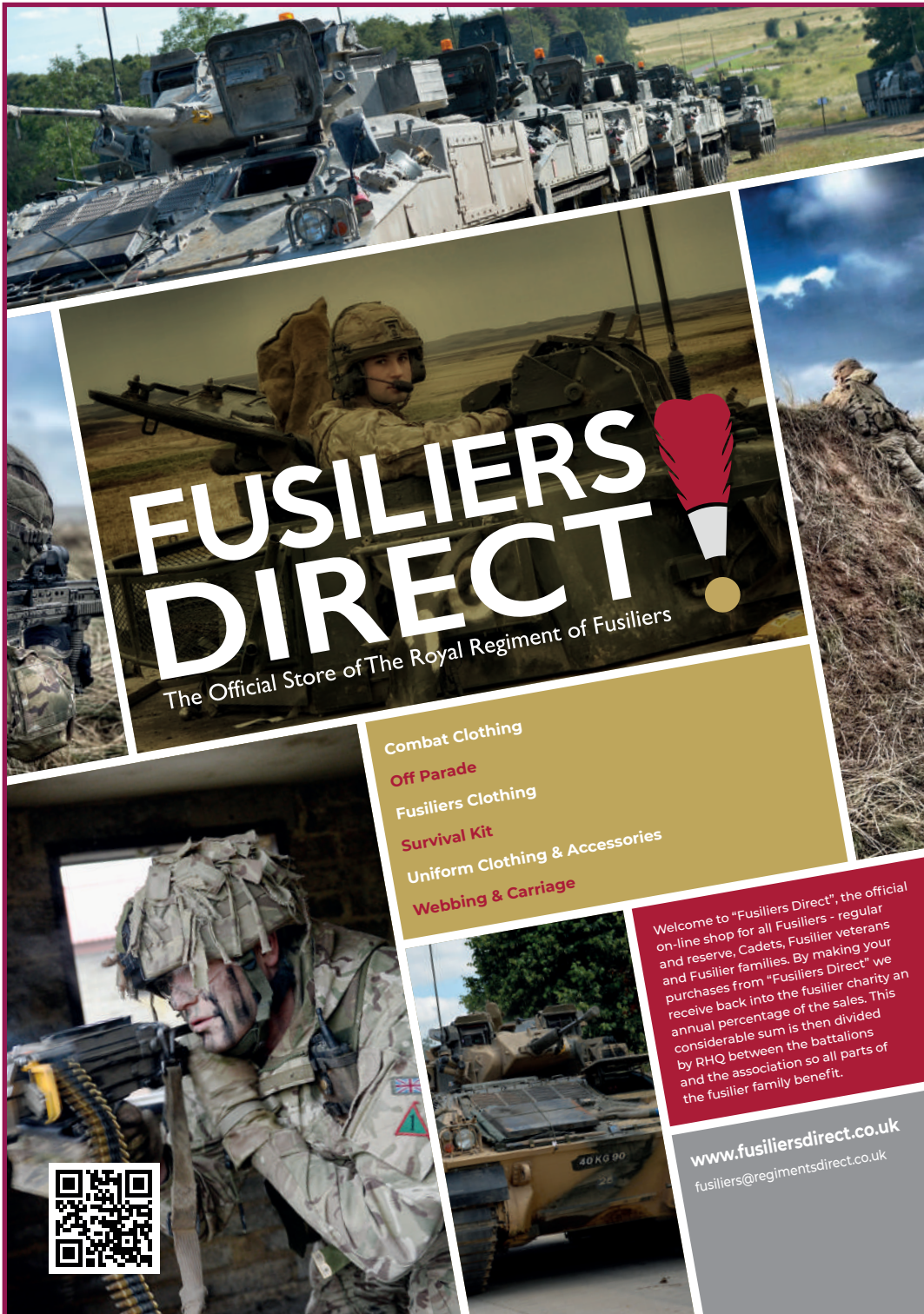
Get Involved

If you would like to be interviewed as part of the project send an email to fusilierstories@fusiliersconnect.com.

We are particularly looking forward to interviewing Fusiliers who served in Korea with the RNF and RF, during the Cyprus EOKA Emergency with the Royal Warwicks and during the 3 RRF Spearhead deployment to Cyprus in 1973.

If you were involved in these operations or know someone who was please contact us at fusilierstories@fusiliersconnect.com

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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 fusiliernews@outlook.com by the 25th of each month.

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

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Any mistakes are purely accidental and no harm or slander is ever intended.

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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.

Non Endorsement of products or services

The Newsletter is not a place for personal or classified adverts as we do not want to be seen as endorsing or approving the product or service in question.

The only endorsements / adverts allowed in the Newsletter are those from Fusiliers Direct or those that directly benefit the Regiment.

Obituaries and Deaths

Obituaries are published in the annual Fusilier Journal, not this Newsletter.
Significant deaths of Fusiliers during the year are reported by a Notice sent out by RHQ FUSILIERS.



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