

FUSILIERS NEWS

Our hackle - the badge of history and heroes



Junior Soldiers from the Army Foundation College, Harrogate at a pyrotechnics Light and Noise demonstration

The 1 January 2024 Fusilier Newsletter

In this edition, amongst other articles, read about Fusilier appointments, our 350th Anniversary, two very different exercises from Y Company 1 FUSILIERS, and a best wishes letter from RHQ to HMS Diamond



Maj Gen J Swift OBE
Colonel FUSILIERS

Colonel of the Regiment's Congratulations

The Colonel of the Regiment and all Fusiliers congratulate the following:

◆ **On their promotion to substantive Major in 2024:**

- ❖ **Captain J Cox** (RAF Shawbury att AAC)
- ❖ **Captain N Morley** (currently Adjt 1st Bn)
- ❖ **Captain D Ward** (HQ BFC)
- ❖ **Capt M Gough** (currently MTO 1 RWELSH)
- ❖ **Capt J Hayhurst** (currently QM 1 RANG)
- ❖ **Capt A Fletcher** (C Coy 5 FUSILIERS)
- ❖ **Capt J Rollins** (A Coy 5 FUSILIERS)
- ❖ **Capt D Robinson** (HQ Coy 5 FUSILIERS)

◆ **On their Infantry WO1 appointments in 2024:**

- ❖ **WO1 C Mills** (currently RSM 1 FUSILIERS) to be RSM MRTC at Royston
- ❖ **WO1 D Rourke** (currently RSM 5 FUSILIERS) to be RSM Soldier Academy, Catterick
- ❖ **RQMS (M) M Hale-Smith** to be RSM 1 FUSILIERS
- ❖ **RQMS (T) S Davidson** to be GSM Warminster Garrison
- ❖ **WO2 S Thurlow** to be WO1 DES DGLAND LCA Boxer Trials, Abbey Wood
- ❖ **WO2 C Brooks R ANG** to be RSM 5 FUSILIERS, having previously served with 1 FUSILIERS

The 350th Anniversary of the Regiment

In 2024, we will see the 350th anniversary of the establishment of the 5th and 6th Foot, latterly the **Royal Northumberland Fusiliers** and the **Royal Warwickshire Regiment** before being amalgamated into the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers with the 7th and 20th Foot, **Royal Fusiliers** and **Lancashire Fusiliers** in 1968.

In order to commemorate this anniversary, RHQ FUSILIERS is planning a variety of events and some celebratory merchandise.

The logo for the anniversary has been developed and will be used on Regimental publications etc. throughout 2024.



Sheldon Branch's donation to 1 FUSILIERS Children's Party

Sheldon the Rabbit made his way from Birmingham to Tidworth on the 9 December to attend the 1 FUSILIERS Children's Christmas Party.



He is a gift from the Sheldon Branch of the Fusilier Association (Warwickshire) who also donated £150 for the party's selection boxes, party food and drinks.



Captain David Barton, Unit Welfare Officer 1 FUSILIERS, said:

"Please pass on our sincere thanks to all at Sheldon Branch for the donation and to wish everyone a Merry Christmas"

Exercise **BAHRAIN HACKLE** 2Lt Ross Chapman, 9 PI Comd, Y Coy, 1 FUSILIERS

In November 2023, a short-term training team (STTT) formed from X and Y Companies, 1 FUSILIERS deployed to Bahrain on Ex BAHRAIN HACKLE to run a potential non-commissioned officer cadre for the Bahrain Royal Guard. The aim was simple: to run a professional, challenging, and engaging course which would provide the Royal Guard soldiers with a strong tactical foundation, as well as the essential skills to command troops as NCOs.

"The goal for Bahrain Hackle was to lead and develop the soldiers, giving them the skills that they will require as future leaders."

Cpl Aberdeen, X Coy.

At the heart of the team was the pivotal role of our Junior NCOs. They collectively shared indispensable skills and expertise through their professionally delivered lessons on navigation, contact drills, patrol formations, section attacks, and platoon attacks.



LCpl Bailey and Cpl Perkins
demonstrating weapon carriage
positions for urban operations

Navigating the challenge of a language barrier, the Junior NCOs collaborated with interpreters to deliver their lessons. This experience has bolstered their leadership skills by demanding effective communication, adaptability, and

cultural awareness. They quickly learned to refine their communication skills to deliver their content, relying more on walk-through talk-throughs, rehearsal of concept drills and demonstrations.



**2Lt Chapman oversees live
fire ranges, mentoring the
Royal Guard conducting
staff**

*"I have learnt to
develop myself
as an instructor*

*by working around a significant language barrier.
The experience has opened up my eyes
culturally."*

LCpl Bailey, X Coy.

Overall, this STTT stands as a remarkable opportunity for both armies, not only fostering the learning and development of Bahraini soldiers but also allowing our Junior NCOs to refine and develop their instructional capabilities. Long may such opportunities continue !

*"Bahrain Hackle has been the highlight of my
career to date; this sort of opportunity comes
around once in a career. Being able to work with
the Royal Guard of Bahrain has been a privilege."*

Cpl Perkins, Y Coy.



**Cpl Aberdeen mentors a student
section commander – employing the
powerful "Brecon Point" in the
process...**

HMS Diamond deployment

*Dear Peter and Crew of HMS
Diamond*

I read in the papers at the weekend that you have deployed, at short notice, into the Gulf region on operations in support of

UK interests whilst the conflict takes place in Gaza and the surrounding area. Obviously a deployment just before

Christmas must be a blow to the ship's crew.

1 FUSILIERS are also deployed on operations over the Christmas period in Estonia as part of the enhanced NATO forward presence so mutual pain for both the senior service and the Army.

Regimentally we wish you all the best of luck on the current operation and a safe return whenever that is! Finally, have a good and hopefully peaceful Christmas and we look forward to catching up with you on your return to home waters.

James

Regimental
Secretary, RHQ
FUSILIERS

DIAMOND has since been in action against hostile drones in the Gulf region



Major-General Robert Ross of Bladensburg

During a recent visit to Rostrevor in south Co Down, I found in the town's Church of Ireland a huge wall plaque to the memory of Major-General Robert Ross of Bladensburg, himself a native of Rostrevor and a graduate of Trinity College Dublin. Perusal of the plaque showed that he had commanded the XXth Regiment. He was killed in the siege of Baltimore, Maryland on 12 September 1814 while commanding troops during that siege, an event which caused Francis Scott Key to compose "The Star Spangled Banner".



What brought Ross to Baltimore ? He commissioned into the 25th Regiment in 1789 and served at Maida in 1806 where he commanded the XXth Regiment having taken it over in 1803, and in the retreat to Corunna in 1809, where his command distinguished itself. On 13 June 1813 he was promoted to Major General and given command of the Brigade of which the XXth Regiment was a part.

His Brigade distinguished itself at the Battle of Roncesvalles and he was wounded at the Battle of Orthes in February 1814. On return to duty he was ordered to command 'All British Forces on the East Coast' of the United States and landed at Benedict, in Maryland, in early August 1814. On the 24th August he engaged, and routed, American Militia at Bladensburg, Maryland and, on the same evening led his troops in to Washington DC. He then burnt the White House and the Capitol before proceeding north east towards Baltimore culminating in the siege of Baltimore and conducting operations at North Point before his death by a sharpshooter on 12th September 1814.

DMaj Colin Ashton

At the RHQ Christmas Pub Lunch, the Regimental secretary, presented former Drum Major, Colin Ashton with the Regimental Certificate and Medal of Merit.



**Drum Major Colin Ashton
receives the Regimental
Certificate and Medal of
Merit from Colonel James
Denny**

Drum Major Colin Ashton stood down as Drum Major of the Fusiliers Association (London) Corps of Drums on 2 November 2022 after 22 years in post. He joined the Territorial Army at Balham at the age of 17 in 1982 and served in the Company under

General Ross' distinguished service was recognised by the addition of Bladensburg to the family name, hence Ross of Bladensburg. His memory is well recognised by the wonderfully sited memorial which stands between Warrenpoint and Rostrevor and which provides a beautiful view down the length of Carlingford Lough. Nothing now remains of the Ross of Bladensburg family home at Rostrevor but his memory there lives on and so it should also in the minds of those of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Christopher Dorman-O'Gowan

the command of 5th Bn the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, 8th Bn the Queens Fusiliers and the London Regiment. Colin was a member of the LONDONS cohort on Op TELIC 3 in Iraq where he earned a GOCs Commendation. He is currently a RSM Instructor with the Southwest London Sector ACF.

Over a period of 40 years, Colin Ashton has shown himself to be a totally dedicated and loyal Fusilier always looking to promote the Regiment and he is unreservedly recommended for the award of the Regimental Medal of Merit and Certificate.

Ex FROSTED BLADE

**Lt Harry Bridgford, 8 PI Comd, Y
Coy, 1 FUSILIERS**

In the upcoming Infantry ski championships, of the 35 teams, our seven Fusiliers stand out as the only entirely novice group in training on Exercise FROSTED BLADE.



Some of the Ex FROSTED BLADE Team: Fus Thorp, Fus Rowe, Fus Young, Lt Bridgford and Fus Ellis. The bronze ibex on the left is not competing...

Despite lacking prior competitive skiing experience, these individuals are gearing up to compete against the more seasoned teams. After the training, the team will then compete in the Army Qualifying Championships on Ex PIPEDOWN.

The team is on its way going from zero-to-hero. Without the background that many of the other teams possess, these seven Fusiliers are embracing the challenge head-on, dedicating themselves to mastering the slopes. Their participation in this high-stakes competition is a daunting task. Four members of the team will compete on the A Hill, engaging in the Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super G, and Downhill races. The most daunting race is, by far, the Downhill, reaching speeds of up to 120 kmh with jumps up to 60 meters. This sport was described by the Chief of the General Staff as having the closest feeling to coming out of a Forward Operating Base in Afghanistan.

As they prepare for the upcoming ski championships, these novices aim not only to participate but also to learn, grow from the experience, and, above all, to win. Their presence among seasoned competitors highlights the resilience and devotion developed from military training, showing that with dedication and perseverance, even newcomers can make their mark on the competitive stage.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Col of the Regt visits the Light Cavalry

Former Fusiliers Lee Bott, John Turquand and Malcolm Johnston provided a Guard of Honour for the Lord Mayor of London to launch his Big Curry Lunch appeal for 2024. The Col of the Regt also attended, representing the Chief of the General Staff.



Some people suggested unkind captions like "Colonel of the Regiment has starring role in a Christmas Panto – a modern take on Cinderella and the ugly sisters". As a quality publication, we rejected these

6 June 2024 Recce



From the look on Mike's face, it seems there are a large number of red ink corrections...

Col Richard Carris and Lt Col Mike McDonald at the first recce visit for the unveiling of the Warwick Bobby Memorial planned for 6 June 2024. Mike is going through Richard's plan.



Maj Alex Mills

After a 40 day road trip from a hot Oman to a cold Tallinn in Autumn 2023, Alex and family will be there until March 2024. On promotion to Lt Col, he will become SO1 COS Fwd in Op ORBITAL in Kiev from April - October. From there, he will move to be SO1 CAST/CATT Germany from November 2024. A 3-year post, this will give Anna and the children a settled existence in Sennelager for some time, with which they are understandably happy.

On their Christmas tree
hunt (the local tradition)
with their very patient
German friend...



WHY USE FUSILIERS DIRECT?

When it comes to purchasing military equipment, it is essential to find a reliable and supportive supplier. One such option that stands out is the Fusiliers Direct, our official online store dedicated to serving the Fusiliers. Whilst you may have heard of the online shop, you may not be aware the benefits the initiative brings to the Regiment.

One of the unique advantages of choosing the Fusiliers Direct is that a percentage of the store's generated revenue is paid directly to the Regiment. By making purchases through this platform, you directly contribute to the financial growth of your Regiment. This revenue share can be reinvested into various areas, such as improving facilities, acquiring specialised equipment, sports initiatives or supporting welfare programs for regiment members and their families.

Fusiliers Direct takes pride in stocking a wide range of regimental merchandise, including PT clothing, giftware, and presentation pieces. With a substantial inventory available, they offer a convenient one-stop-shop for all your branded needs, including berets, stable belts, badges, etc, with all items approved by the Regiment.

You may ask why the Regiment doesn't do this. Good question and easy to answer, RHQ does not have the resources to maintain the level of service and quality that Fusiliers Direct offers boasting a quick and easy returns portal and live chat functions.

Also, Fusiliers Direct holds the liability of the stock, in other words the Regiment is not paying to hold over many thousands of pounds worth of stock, money which is better used in support of the serving and veteran members of the Regiment.



*The regiment has already
received £25,000 from sales
made through the store.*

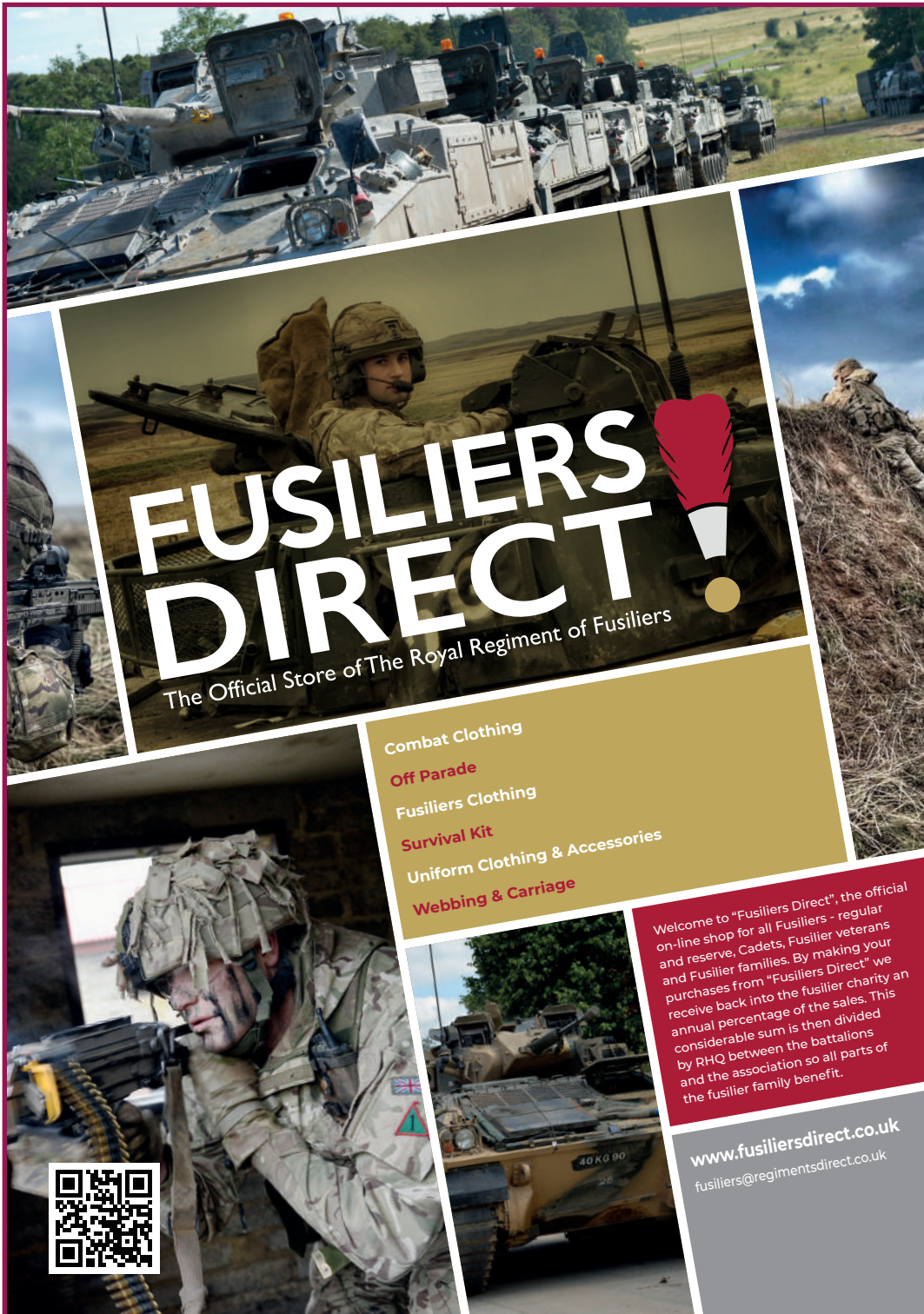
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www.fusiliersdirect.co.uk
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HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Contributions are welcome from anywhere in the Fusilier Family. As a guide, articles should be about 150-300 words, but these are not absolute limits. An accompanying good photo and caption are recommended. Get them to fusiliernews@outlook.com 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.

EDITORIAL POLICIES

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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