



# Musketeer

*Journal of the Small Arms School Corps*



*47<sup>th</sup> Edition - Sept 2018*

### **Copyright & Handling Instructions**

The information contained within this publication is British Crown Copyright and the intellectual property rights belong exclusively to the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Material and information contained in this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system and transmitted for MOD use only.

### **Security**

This OFFICIAL document is issued for the information of such persons who need to know its contents in the course of their duties. Any person finding this document should hand it to a British Forces unit or to a police station for its safe return to the Ministry of Defence, Def Sy, Main Building, Whitehall, LONDON SW1A 2HB with particulars of how it was found. The unauthorised retention or destruction of this document may be an offence under the Official Secrets Acts 1911 – 89 or other legislation.

This information is released by the United Kingdom Government to international organisations and national governments for defence purposes only. The information must be afforded the same degree of protection as that afforded to information of an equivalent classification originated by the recipient organisation or nation, or as required by the recipient organisation or nation's security regulations. The information may only be disclosed within the Defence Departments of the recipient organisation or nation, except as otherwise authorised by the UK MOD. This information may be subject to privately owned rights.

Front Cover

The new SASC memorial unveiled at the National Memorial Arboretum

Crown Copyright



# Musketeer

## Journal of the Small Arms School Corps

COLONEL IN CHIEF

His Royal Highness The Duke of York KG GCVO CD ADC(P)

COLONEL COMMANDANT

Lieutenant General P N Y M Sanders CBE DSO

COMMANDANT

Colonel N Cowey MBE

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel (AIW) P A Redding

CORPS ADJUTANT

Captain (AIW) A Moyle

REGIMENTAL SECRETARY

Warrant Officer Class 1 Corps Sergeant Major (Corps SM) A Blair

# Contents

- 1 **SASC Comrades Association Officials**
- 2 **Contents of the Journal**
- 4 **Foreword**  
Colonel Commandant SASC
- 5 **Preface**  
Commanding Officer SASC
- 6 **Editorial**  
WO1 (Corps SM) A Blair
- 8 **SASC Seniority Roll**  
WO1 (Corps SM) A Blair
- 12 **SASC Candidates**  
WO1 (Corps SM) A Blair
- 13 **HQ SASC**  
WO1 (Corps SM) A Blair
- 14 **Retirements**  
WO1 (Corps SM) A Blair

## Articles

- 22 **Management of Lethal Risk**  
HQ SASC
- 24 **SASC Memorial**  
Commanding Officer SASC



**The British Army Combat Shooting Team (BACST)**  
Page 63



### **A Royal Visit**

*The visit of His Royal Highness The Duke of York KG GCVO CD ADC(P), Colonel in Chief SASC, at the Infantry Battle School.*

*Page 26*

- 26 **A Royal Visit At The Infantry Battle School**  
WO2 (DSM) John Parkinson
- 28 **Loan Service In The Sultanate Of Oman**  
Maj (AIW) Ellis Harverson MSc
- 28 **The Sultans Armed Forces Training Regiment (SAFTR)**  
WO2 (QMSI) Greg Dickson
- 32 **Why Are The Omanis So Good At Shooting?**  
WO2 (QMSI) Warren Owen
- 34 **Life at ASLS**  
WO1 (SMI) P Tremain
- 37 **Mortar Division "Its Not A DARK ART"**  
WO2 (QMSI) John Salter
- 39 **The Life Down Under**  
WO2 (QMSI) Steven Scoular
- 43 **Un-Belizeable**  
WO2 (QMSI) Shaun Stewart
- 47 **RAF 100'**  
WO2 (QMSI) Hensby
- 51 **Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Overseas Region Defence Training Estates Kenya (DIO OR DTE (K))**  
WO2 (QMSI) Al McCrea



- 76 **SASC Shooting 2018**
- 78 **Methuen 2018**
- 80 **Notices**
- 87 **SASC Forecast of Events 2018-2019**

- 53 **SMI Professional Development Period 2018**  
SMI 'Legs' Wilson
- 55 **STTT Bermuda**  
Sgt (SI) Fyfe
- 57 **Realities of War**  
WO1 (SMI) Alfie Steele
- 60 **Ex Gustav Gauntlet**  
SSgt (SSI) Barney Walker
- 63 **The British Army Combat Shooting Team (BACST)**  
WO2 (QMSI) R Wareing
- 65 **A Blast from the Past**  
WO1 (Corps SM) A Blair
- 70 **SASC Past and Present**  
WO2 (QMSI) A Tester
- 72 **Football - 165 Years Of Hurt**  
WO2 (QMSI) A Tester
- 74 **Carp Fishing In The SASC**  
WO2 (QMSI) S Abbot



**The Life Down Under**  
*Page 39*

# Foreword

Lieutenant General P N Y M Sanders CBE DSO

Colonel Commandant

I have been Colonel Commandant of the SASC for approaching five years and have seen our organisation go from strength to strength. Firstly, recruiting and manning are as strong as ever and I welcome the four new members of The Corps who were successfully 'badged' in June with more to follow in October. Sgt Ratcliffe became our first successful female candidate in June and we look forward to many more female members joining our ranks in the near future. Also, we have seen SASC employability move into exciting new ground with the establishment of a 3 Commando Brigade post as well as progress towards other areas where we can apply our considerable knowledge and expertise.

My most recent engagement with the Corps was at The National Memorial Arboretum where I had the privilege of unveiling our own dedicated memorial to remember those that gave their lives in the service of the Nation. Our collective identity is strong and we continue to organise comrades and heritage events for all as it promotes the togetherness a small family-like organisation such as the SASC should enjoy. The freedom of Brecon celebrated our 25 years at home with the Infantry Battle School, and it is clear how our esprit de corps continues to grow.

At home, SASC personnel continue to ensure there is a safe place to train in the UK and increasingly overseas by assuring Host Nation ranges for use by UK Forces. Operationally, SASC personnel support deployments all over the world providing advice on the management of lethal risk, including UK Forces integrating with other nations and capacity building through assistance to STTTs.

As you may know, training delivery is one of my key priorities at Field Army level as we are developing our ability to mobilise, deploy and reinforce at scale. We must seize what I see as a narrow window of opportunity to restore our warfighting foundation. This is why we have developed the Battlecraft syllabus which is fundamental to transforming core warfighting skills and I see marksmanship and skill at arms are one of the key elements of this. The SASC lead on all Brigade, Division and Defence wide shooting competitions, they also lead on the highly successful tri-service sniper competition.

Capt Mark Robinson has now handed over responsibilities to Capt Neil Guerin as British Army Combat Shooting Team (BACST) captain and Maj Ady Kyle is the Coach for the British Army Reserve Operational Shooting Team (BAROST). Both are doing well and their involvement is producing encouraging results. SASC personnel fill the coaching roles for all regular overseas competitions, a key defence engagement activity. Marksmanship standards continue to improve across the Field Army, largely aided by SASC XTT and Div OSTT support and advice. Those who truly excel will be recognised through individual marksmanship and Army 100 badges and this in turn will act as an incentive for all to master this key element of soldiering.

Finally, I must say that this has been a great year with some significant milestones in our history, I look forward to seeing many more in my time as Colonel Commandant.



# Preface

## Lieutenant Colonel (AIW) P A Redding Commanding Officer

This will be my third and final introduction for the SASC's in-house journal, now called Musketeer from the previously titled Man at Arms. I don't intend to be too reflective and wax lyrical about my time as CO, as there will be time for that over the next 6 months or so! What I do want to do, however, is mention the notable events that have occurred over the last year, many of which are recorded in the journal.

The first such event, illustrated by the front and back cover, is the unveiling and dedication of the Corps' memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum on Wed 5 Sep 2018. I have written a small article inside but I do want to use this preface to personally thank all of you that attended and especially those that were intimately involved - John Hawkyard, Neil Guerin and Al Blair. Events such as this are important for our heritage, shared history and provide an excellent means of raising our profile. We have already had the 2017 Brecon Freedom Parade and the launch of the SASC History Book in Apr 2019 will complete the set.

As with last year, I want to publicly thank those that contributed to the training and selection of the shooting team and all that participated. You all did so well and helped to reinforce further the reputation of the Corps as a force in combat marksmanship. Further details are inside - please be enthused and take part in 2019 either as part of the shooting team or with the British Army Combat Shooting Team.

You will all be aware of the fatal training accidents that occupied the time and energy of many SASC personnel. Where you have been asked to investigate, write reports, change policy or speak up at various hearings you have my gratitude as you all represented the SASC well. The rest of us will be affected by the findings and recommendations as policy will have been amended and we are at the forefront of ensuring all 3 Services are aware of the changes.

Other elements of our mission continue at pace and the journal is full of interesting articles where you explain what you do, how you do it and the worldwide locations in which the activities took place. Thank you to all that took the time to contribute to another excellent Musketeer. My annual thanks of course go to SMI Rob Owen and the Corps SM for their time in producing and editing the journal.

Finally, you will all have seen or felt the impact of the increasing number of departures of some soldiers and officers from the Corps. This may have resulted in short notice moves and postings not in keeping with your preferences. Where you have stepped up to the plate and done the right thing you have my thanks and I am confident you will benefit in the longer term. On behalf of the Corps, I thank those that are leaving, many of which are recorded in this journal, for their service and loyalty and I wish them all the success in the world. Be sure to come back and share your stories with us in the future.

Enjoy the journal; I commend it to you.



# Editorial

## Corps Sergeant Major (Corps SM)

### Warrant Officer Class 1 A Blair

I know it sounds cliché but I have to say this year has flown by. The Corps continues to strive forward having had an exceptional year. You only have to continue reading to see there are no limits to individual's achievements and awards. The only question remains is who will be the stars in the journal next year? The potential is there!

The competition for promotion still remains fierce, and this year on current facts we will remain under strength for substantial WO2s due to the NTT from our soldiers and officers. However, this will level out the following year and will continue to do so - there is no concern with SASC manning.

A2020 is still a hot topic and its development of Special Infantry Group (SPIG) and the introduction of AJAX/MIV may be pivotal for the SASC as we have the potential for us to grow to support the new army structure.

The aspirations for soldiers to be assigned overseas is at a high and there are not enough jobs to meet demand. Not surprising as you focus your attentions to the overseas articles inside that have been written by soldiers and officers expressing the lives they lead with great opportunities.

Once again the Corps shooting team grows in strength, and you should already be considering getting your weapon out when any opportunity arises. Also don't be afraid to speak to Capt Neil Guerin (BACST Capt) about the opportunity to lead a team overseas; this was an opportunity I loved and would do it again in a heartbeat.

A significant time has been marked in SASC history! An initiative that started some 3 years ago with the Commanding Officer has come to an end. The SASC memorial stands proudly within the NMA and I implore you all to visit as it is a great honour to those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The use of social media platforms is ever more present and an excellent way to communicate and also sell the brand of the Army / SASC. Let's use social media as a tool to recruit and further establish the importance of the SASC across Defence, the only caveat I have is that you use the current policy #DIGITALARMY.

The future of the SASC belongs to you all! Please continue to explore the avenues of innovation; identify areas for improvement; continue to ask questions; display selfless courage and remember the key is to communicate.



**KITE IN LINE**  
Image Intensified Weapon Sight



FROM **CWS** TO **FTS** - SUPPLYING THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES FOR MORE THAN FOUR DECADES

**DESIGN | DELIVER | SUPPORT**

Image Intensified | Thermal | Fused - Sighting Solutions

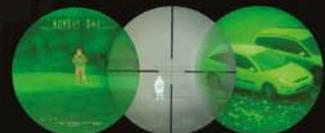
- Supplying the British Army for over four decades
- Over 100000 sights supplied to over 56 countries worldwide
- Fully ruggedized equipment utilising the latest technology

**DRAGON** - Uncooled Thermal Imagers

**MERLIN** - Image Intensifiers



Email: [sales@uk-qioptiq.com](mailto:sales@uk-qioptiq.com) || For the latest information visit: [www.qioptiq.com](http://www.qioptiq.com)



# SASC Seniority Roll as at 20 Sep 18

by WO1 (Corps SM) A Blair

Service No	Rank	Name	Unit	Future Availability	Sub Date	ROD
557170	Lt Col	PA Redding	HQ SASC	09/05/2019	23/05/2016	09/05/2019
557766	Lt Col	CM Rose	HQ DIO	24/04/2019	20/08/2018	19/08/2021
561803	Maj	KW Liddell	ATC (P)	17/07/2019	31/07/2010	19/09/2021
563753	Maj	SR Hanson	RMAS	23/05/2018	31/07/2011	02/09/2022
565492	Maj	E Harverson	LSP Oman	21/07/2018	31/07/2012	02/12/2023
24713332	Maj	N Hirst	DOSG	24/04/2019	31/07/2013	28/08/2023
24815454	Maj	RW Watson	ICSC (L)	26/04/2018	31/07/2013	06/02/2021
24779515	Maj	KNC MacMahon	DOSG	01/05/2018	31/07/2015	16/11/2023
24771730	Maj	SP James	ITC Catterick	08/08/2019	31/07/2015	11/12/2019
24818366	Maj	A Renton	3UKXX OSTT	24/07/2019	31/07/2017	01/04/2021
24742808	Maj	RC Lynch	BMATT	29/05/2019	31/07/2017	22/08/2020
24756929	Maj	L Jenkins	ITG	10/07/2019	31/07/2017	01/04/2021
24797767	Maj	GW Palmer	HQ SASC	24/04/2019	02/04/2012	01/04/2022
24830627	Capt	TJ Byrne	BATUK	01/04/2019	03/04/2013	02/04/2023
24800805	Capt	M Robinson	HQ 12 X	25/07/2019	10/06/2013	09/06/2023
24844265	Capt	AJ Moyle	HQ SASC	24/04/2019	29/07/2013	28/07/2023
24865938	Capt	S Dunn	TDT ARMCEN	26/06/2019	07/04/2014	06/04/2024
25023361	Capt	G Smith	SCHINF	11/04/2018	16/06/2014	15/06/2024
24726068	Capt	ML West	MTMC (I)	13/04/2019	07/07/2014	05/09/2023
24809939	Capt	JR Hawkyard	AFC (H)	20/03/2019	13/04/2015	12/04/2025
25012545	Capt	GJ Dobbs	Navy HQ - Fleet	10/04/2019	24/04/2015	23/04/2025
24909204	Capt	MB Symonds	DTC	02/04/2018	02/04/2016	01/04/2026
25051389	Capt	B May	HQ 16 X	04/04/2018	04/04/2016	03/04/2026
24728506	Capt	JW Rennie	ATR Winchester	04/04/2018	04/04/2016	03/04/2026
25049549	Capt	NJ Guerin	Trawled - ARTD	02/04/2019	02/04/2017	01/04/2027
25029584	Capt	GP Swaby	SWS Warminster	02/04/2019	02/04/2017	01/04/2027
25026095	Capt	DP White	RAF (H)	29/05/2019	29/05/2017	28/05/2027
25039976	Capt	GJ Black	Cyprus	19/06/2019	19/06/2017	18/06/2027
25016569	Capt	KM Johns	IBS LFTT	04/04/2018	02/04/2018	12/06/2018
24763985	WO1	RM Owen	HQ Inf - Pubs	21/08/2019	19/04/2004	15/03/2022
24945713	WO1	G Bowden	HQ FTC	26/03/2020	04/04/2016	10/09/2021
25040977	WO1	PN Greene	FTU	02/04/2020	04/04/2016	14/05/2019
24945980	WO1	SR Taylor	IBS	04/04/2018	04/04/2016	21/05/2021
25053415	WO1	P Hirst	HQ ITG	11/04/2018	11/04/2016	22/06/2020
25051131	WO1	A Blair	HQ SASC	27/03/2019	02/04/2017	15/08/2021
25108186	WO1	AM Green	HQ 3 X	09/04/2020	03/04/2017	26/09/2024
25050623	WO1	PM Tremain	ASLS	03/04/2019	03/04/2017	30/07/2021

Handling Instructions: For MOD Use Only

Service No	Rank	Name	Unit	Future Availability	Sub Date	ROD
25037043	WO1	RJ Wilson	TDC SWS	24/04/2019	24/04/2017	03/12/2019
25048066	WO1	DL Wilbond	Falklands	22/05/2018	22/05/2017	14/02/2020
25032431	WO1	AK Steele	ATC (P)	27/05/2019	27/05/2017	30/06/2019
25030473	WO1	BM Trainner	ITDU	11/04/2018	02/04/2018	01/07/2019
25042579	WO1	R Varley	ITC	03/08/2017	02/04/2018	23/09/2019
25042206	WO1	MD Hutchison	22 SAS	05/06/2019	02/04/2018	30/09/2019
24721209	WO2	CT Briody	ITC	29/05/2021	01/05/2006	29/05/2021
24818194	WO2	JR Salter	SWS DI MOR	09/04/2020	02/12/2006	17/06/2021
25038407	WO2	SJ Murphy	3UKXX OSTT	27/03/2019	19/06/2009	24/07/2022
25046025	WO2	PS Mather	IBS LFTT	24/04/2019	30/06/2010	01/12/2020
25044820	WO2	EP Wood	DIO Germany	15/05/2019	30/06/2011	04/09/2020
25042988	WO2	M O'Brien	HQ 16 AA X	21/03/2018	30/06/2012	04/05/2020
25052157	WO2	SJ Stewart	BATSUB	13/03/2018	30/06/2012	22/08/2021
25051667	WO2	KAB Ward	3UKXX OSTT	N/A	02/04/2013	02/05/2018
25030811	WO2	D Blackett	20 X	18/08/2019	02/04/2013	18/08/2019
25110579	WO2	A Tester	HQ SASC	27/04/2019	02/04/2013	23/07/2024
21169962	WO2	N Gurung	1UKXX OSTT	29/05/2019	02/04/2013	21/01/2023
25055950	WO2	JW Parkinson	IBS DSM	20/03/2019	08/04/2013	13/01/2022
24876874	WO2	M Harry	DIO Castlemartin	26/08/2023	15/04/2013	27/08/2023
25082066	WO2	IK Arnott	SRR	01/10/2018	02/04/2014	08/06/2022
25103584	WO2	GA Dickson	1X DCC	16/04/2020	02/04/2014	07/08/2023
25054628	WO2	RW Wareing	1XMCC	09/04/2020	02/04/2014	29/10/2021
25096029	WO2	SJ McGarvie	IWD DCCT	04/04/2019	02/04/2014	22/03/2023
25086077	WO2	S Bradley	BATUS	17/04/2019	02/04/2014	19/05/2025
25063220	WO2	BJ Tainton	DIO SPTA	26/03/2020	02/04/2014	12/12/2021
25036980	WO2	PT Mellish	AFC (H)	26/11/2018	02/04/2014	26/11/2018
24935622	WO2	S Cooke	SFSG	08/05/2019	28/04/2014	17/07/2023
25080615	WO2	PJ Edwards	DIT DSO	21/10/2018	02/04/2015	04/08/2022
25057805	WO2	CA Pourezza	1UKXX OSTT	05/06/2019	02/04/2015	15/08/2021
25153139	WO2	SG Muir	12 X	22/05/2019	02/04/2015	09/06/2026
25058537	WO2	BI Whale	MTMC ( C )	01/05/2019	02/04/2015	07/11/2021
25065664	WO2	JM Norris	22 SASC	17/07/2019	02/04/2015	20/02/2022
25034389	WO2	N Farrer	SWS DI	26/07/2020	02/04/2015	26/07/2020
25100477	WO2	D Pettersen	IBS SAA	24/04/2019	02/04/2015	29/05/2023
25118620	WO2	JM Smith	Cyprus	01/05/2019	06/04/2015	27/08/2024
25138072	WO2	LM Lawson	RMAS	30/10/2018	01/04/2016	18/08/2026
25091967	WO2	SW Scoular	Australia	03/04/2019	04/04/2016	03/08/2023
25131345	WO2	DK Tucker	Brunei	08/05/2019	04/04/2016	25/03/2025
24881666	WO2	FT Hamilton	DIO OTA	04/04/2019	04/04/2016	13/04/2021
21170125	WO2	T Rai	ATC (P)	03/04/2020	04/04/2016	10/05/2023
25150144	WO2	M Vernon	1 ITB	13/03/2019	04/04/2016	30/03/2027
25195888	WO2	WA Owen	LSP Oman	21/08/2019	04/04/2016	02/12/2029
25097931	WO2	BGR Jackson	2 ITB	04/04/2018	04/04/2016	22/04/2025

Handling Instructions: For MOD Use Only

Service No	Rank	Name	Unit	Future Availability	Sub Date	ROD
25061180	WO2	BL Arnould	CTCRM	04/04/2018	04/04/2016	24/04/2022
25108676	WO2	JW McCallister	ARMCEN DSM	06/03/2019	02/04/2017	28/03/2025
25103223	WO2	SI Abbott	1UKXX OSTT	20/06/2019	02/04/2017	22/11/2024
25096898	WO2	AJ Hensby	RAF (H)	31/03/2019	02/04/2017	12/05/2024
25130679	WO2	T Wood	DIO CANADA	28/03/2019	02/04/2017	25/03/2025
25195411	WO2	JK Grieve	1UKXX OSTT	01/08/2018	02/04/2017	20/02/2029
25132325	WO2	M Black	RMAS	10/04/2019	10/04/2017	10/02/2027
25201171	WO2	PA Liston	ATC (P)	10/04/2019	10/04/2017	06/02/2029
25083563	WO2	LM Collins	1 ITB	05/06/2019	05/06/2017	03/03/2027
25111661	WO2	TC Richard	MTMC (I)	17/07/2019	02/04/2018	15/01/2025
25057657	WO2	MJP Fowler	1UKXX OSTT	14/10/2018	02/04/2018	13/11/2021
25123036	WO2	NM Ellis	1UKXX OSTT	04/04/2019	02/04/2018	11/11/2025
25107216	WO2	AL McCrea	BATUK	17/04/2019	02/04/2018	15/12/2024
25140082	WO2	Carty	RMAS	19/08/2020	02/04/2018	17/09/2025
25136556	WO2	DA Pugh	LSP OMAN	26/03/2020	02/04/2018	30/07/2025
25095188	WO2	SG Ward	DIT DSO	29/01/2020	02/04/2018	08/03/2023
25183393	WO2	AS Grierson	IBS - PCD	30/04/2020	30/04/2018	03/12/2028
25133621	A/WO2	K Kerr	IBS	16/04/2020	02/04/2016	06/02/2026
25167929	SSgt	JD Davies	3UKXX OSTT	03/04/2020	02/04/2016	02/03/2027
25129577	SSgt	WP Dale	1UKXX OSTT	10/07/2019	02/04/2016	23/03/2026
25083912	SSgt	KJ Thompson	3UKXX OSTT	01/03/2019	02/04/2016	10/08/2022
25108578	SSgt	DW Bagshaw-Wickett	SWS-Mor	02/04/2018	07/04/2016	12/12/2022
25066702	SSgt	CD Phillips	IBS	15/06/2019	02/04/2017	08/08/2022
25109105	SSgt	JG Sebok	3UKXX OSTT	05/06/2019	02/04/2017	02/12/2024
25116103	SSgt	M Bannister	SWS	01/08/2019	02/04/2017	22/05/2024
30059327	SSgt	JP Lewis	IBS	15/09/2018	02/04/2017	03/05/2032
25068719	SSgt	SA Murphy	SWS	02/04/2019	02/04/2017	02/12/2026
25189237	SSgt	B Alcorn	IBS	15/06/2019	02/04/2017	09/06/2030
24934497	SSgt	DJP Lynch	AFV Gnry Sch	04/04/2019	02/04/2017	12/10/2025
25207003	SSgt	JJ Ford	SWS	02/04/2019	02/04/2017	30/07/2029
25107131	SSgt	BT Walker	AFV Gnry Sch	27/02/2020	02/04/2018	22/08/2025
25175661	SSgt	GS Longstaff	IBS	02/06/2020	02/04/2018	17/08/2027
25194656	SSgt	M Richardson	IBS	02/06/2020	02/04/2018	13/05/2029
25063295	SSgt	GG Rowlands	SWS	10/10/2018	02/04/2018	20/09/2032
25108702	SSgt	G Jones	IBS	10/09/2018	02/04/2018	29/11/2023
25116803	SSgt	S Crook	IBS	02/10/2019	02/04/2018	12/06/2026
25210111	SSgt	MJ Brown	MTMC (C)	15/06/2019	02/04/2018	08/01/2030
25135764	SSgt	AM Addison	IBS	02/10/2019	02/04/2018	25/06/2025
25114402	SSgt	J Cooke	IBS	02/10/2019	02/04/2018	04/10/2025
30047271	A/SSgt	TJC Cole	IBS	20/10/2020	20/10/2016	23/02/2032
21171243	A/SSgt	S Gauchan	IBS	23/04/2020	20/10/2016	23/12/2027
25217818	Sgt	MP Anderson	SWS	10/11/2019	15/09/2014	26/02/2030

Handling Instructions: For MOD Use Only

Service No	Rank	Name	Unit	Future Availability	Sub Date	ROD
25193303	Sgt	M Graham	IBS	30/06/2021	10/08/2016	26/06/2029
30027146	Sgt	LP Andrews	IBS	20/10/2020	20/10/2016	17/06/2031
25119393	Sgt	GM Nicholson	IBS	20/10/2020	20/10/2016	05/12/2025
25139583	Sgt	IF Fyfe	IBS	20/10/2020	20/10/2016	19/04/2027
25169703	Sgt	MA Skewis	IBS	20/10/2020	20/10/2016	12/12/2027
25200883	Sgt	CP Adams	IBS	30/06/2021	30/06/2017	27/02/2029
25206858	Sgt	P Adamson	IBS	30/06/2021	30/06/2017	08/05/2031
25183182	Sgt	C Griffen	IBS	30/06/2021	30/06/2017	15/10/2027
30049953	Sgt	AWK Nichols	IBS	30/06/2021	30/06/2017	15/03/2020
30023921	Sgt	JD Watton	SWS	30/06/2019	30/06/2017	09/02/2032
25222545	Sgt	M Bailey	SWS	27/10/2022	27/10/2017	15/09/2032
25168076	Sgt	AS Campbell	IBS	27/10/2022	27/10/2017	15/02/2024
25166762	Sgt	Jennison	IBS	27/10/2022	27/10/2017	15/03/2026
25176723	Sgt	RL Smith	IBS	27/10/2022	27/10/2017	22/08/2027
30091964	Sgt	SV Stamps	SWS	27/10/2022	27/10/2017	16/05/2033
30115215	Sgt	SJ Van Aswegen	IBS	27/10/2022	27/10/2017	20/03/2034
25039382	Sgt	Brooks	IBS	11/07/2021	08/06/2018	26/07/2030
30050328	Sgt	Ratcliffe	IBS	11/07/2021	08/06/2018	22/06/2032
25101146	Sgt	Weaver	IBS	11/07/2021	08/06/2018	17/01/2029
30028396	Sgt	Kelly	IBS	11/07/2021	08/06/2018	26/08/2031
549386	Maj (v)	C Adams	TAG	N/A	04/08/2006	17/05/2020
551641	Maj (v)	RJ Bissett	TAG	N/A	01/10/2006	09/01/2019
551497	Maj (v)	A Atkinson	TAG	N/A	19/10/2006	18/05/2021
24590803	Maj (v)	A Kyle	TAG	N/A	02/04/2007	14/06/2019
553172	Maj (v)	G Skinner	TAG	N/A	30/07/2007	01/04/2019
563485	Maj (v)	O'Connor	TAG	N/A	11/09/2011	10/09/2025
24753117	Capt (v)	AG Green	TAG	N/A	31/07/2017	18/12/2018

# SASC Candidates

by WO1 (Corps SM) A Blair



## Candidate Photo Course 1701

*From left to Right: Capt (AIW) Black, Sgt (SI) Campbell, Sgt (SI) Smith, Sgt (SI) Jennison, Sgt (SI) Van Aswegen, WO2 (DSM) Parkinson. Missing Sgt (SI) Bailey, Sgt (SI) Stamps*



## Candidate Photo Course 1702

*From left to Right: Capt (AIW) Black, Sgt (SI) Ratcliffe, Sgt (SI) Kelly, Sgt (SI) Brooks, Sgt (SI) Weaver WO2 (DSM) Parkinson*

# HQ SASC

by WO1 (Corps SM) A Blair



## **QMSI Course**

*Back Row: SSgt JG Sebok, SSgt B Alcorn, SSgt C Philips, A/WO2 J Lewis*

*Middle Row: SSgt M Bannister, SSgt JJ Ford, SSgt DJP Lynch, SSgt SA Murphy*

*Front Row: W11 A Blair (Corps SM), Lt Col P A Redding (CO SASC), Capt AJ Moyle (Adj SASC)*

# Retirements



## Major Mick P Lynch

Maj Mick Lynch enlisted into the Kings Division in 1988 and following a year at the Junior Infantry Battalion, Ouston, he joined the 1st Battalion The Green Howards in 1989 as the Regiment celebrated its Tercentenary. Initially posted to Catterick he served in both MILAN and recce platoons and completed operational tours of Northern Ireland before moving to Germany in the Armoured Infantry role. Whilst in Germany he completed numerous armoured exercises at BATUS and an operational tour of Bosnia before returning to the UK as a Schools Instructor at the AFV Gunnery School.

In 1998 he transferred to the Small Arms School Corps and completed further tours with the Northern Ireland Training Regiment, Infantry Trials and Development Unit, Training Advisory Group (United Kingdom) and as the Corps RSM within HQ SASC. Since transferring to the SASC he has also completed operational tours of both Iraq and Afghanistan.

On commissioning in 2010 he was appointed as the Training Officer at the Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn; this was followed by a tour as SO3 J7 within HQ JFSp(A) during Op HERRICK 16. On return he took up the appointment of Training Officer at the Reinforcements Training and Mobilisation Centre before moving to HQ School of Infantry as SO3 G7 Training Policy. Following promotion to Major he commanded both the 3rd and 1st (United Kingdom) Division Operational Shooting Training Teams before retiring to start a second career with the Civil Service as the Training Safety Officer at Warcop Training Centre.

He is married to Debbie and lives in North Yorkshire where he enjoys golf, riding his Triumph motorbikes, rock climbing and rugby (union, not that league rubbish). Unfortunately the rugby these days is mainly as a spectator.



## Major Dave Milton

Major Dave "Treacle" Milton joined the Royal Anglian Regiment attending the Queens Division Depot in May 1988. Initially posted to Germany with the 3rd Battalion "The Pompadours" and then switching to the 1st Battalion "The Vikings" in 1992 due to the amalgamations. Having enjoyed the 2 year Londonderry tour so much previously there was no hesitation in volunteering for a 6 month tour of West Belfast as a Royal Anglian Platoon with the Devon and Dorset Regiment, integrated into C Coy which had a young soldier by the name of Gaz Palmer.

In January 2000 after completing 2 years as an instructor and Platoon Sgt at Depot Queens Division the decision was made to attend SASC Candidate Selection. On the whole an enjoyable experience even if the QMSI "H Harverson" tried not to make it so. There were five that got through, Justin Hazelwood (no long double barrelled name in those days), Scotty Monair, Steds Stedman and Lee Jenks. Scotty and I were in the same squad on Jnr Brecon a few years before, we had been Brecon drinking buddies during the course but not seen or heard of each other again until day one of the candidate course, it was reassuring to see a friendly face.

As was the normal route, an initial posting to IBS followed, the set up was slightly different in those days with SCBC and PSBC being two separate Divisions. Fortunately, only a year on each wing was to be endured as a posting to PCD Warminster on promotion to SSgt would follow. Luckily a few months on JWIC in Brunei also broke up the monotony of teaching those early courses. If there is one memory from that time it would be the Friday afternoon drink in the Sgts Mess, there was a really good feel to both wings and we all used to let our hair down and have a few beers with the wives and partners joining us later (if they didn't have the hump because we were in the bar). Great characters, a good laugh and what was needed after another hard week.

PCD whilst in Warminster was a great place to work, the SASC guys were also tactics instructors and the Infantry CSgts likewise for LFTT. Extended in post for six months as part of the move to Brecon this was definitely one of the best postings in a long career. Gaz Palmer (that D&D bloke I met years before) was the other SASC instructor with a young Rob Owen and Ewan Campbell as the QMSI's, there was also a young Capt by the name of Redding, you may have heard of him.

There was a new QMSI post with the SRR and Milton's name was on it, the draw back was holding the DCCT post for a few months waiting for the SRR start date. It would be fair to say that DCCT really wasn't going to float any boats however there was a saving grace. Herbie Herbert (also known as battle buddy) didn't just make that period in time bearable, he made it an enjoyable time that holds fond memories, a top man. Promotion to WO1 and an assignment to ITDU followed, at a time when there was money to support trials it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say I travelled the world for two years, Vegas was one highlight but there were so many more, good times doing a great job.

If in the early years of an SASC career someone would have been whispered that Dave Milton would one day be the Adjt of the Corps they would have been accused of madness but so it would be. From the outside looking in you always wonder what's occurring in HQ SASC, I can say without a shadow of doubt that Col Kev Sandison was a true leader and made a huge difference that would often go unnoticed due to the nature of the beast. With Mac MacMahon and Ben May not forgetting of course the lovely Belinda we had some memorable times.

A final post to Sennybridge was always the plan before dropping smoke and moving on. Although I'm now leaving it doesn't feel like that as a FTRS post with 203 Fd Hosp awaits in my home town of Swansea.

Along the way I have met some great people that I know I will remain in touch with for the rest of my days, Al Moyle, Billy Marr, Jeff Hirst, Mikey Johns and John Hawkyard to name a few. Having always been an avid supporter of Corps social events there is no doubt I'll be kicking around in the future, just as you thought he was gone for good. I wish you all the very best in the future, 30 years in a blink but I wouldn't change a thing.



## Capt Ian Milton PGCert CMgr FCMI

Ian joined the Army in 1995, having passed Infantry training he joined the 1st Battalion Kings Own Royal Border Regiment and served his first five years as the Armoured Infantry Battalion in Catterick Garrison before switching to light role Battalion in 2000.

In 2005, Ian transferred to the Small Arms School Corps. His first appointment was for 18 months with the Infantry Weapons Division before being selected to take up the Staff Sergeant Instructor posting at the Operational Training Advisory Group (OPTAG). Whilst serving with OPTAG he delivered training to Op Telic and Op Herrick units in the UK and in Germany.

In 2009, Ian was promoted to QMSI and posted to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS). Whilst in post he was selected to assist with the Sandhurst Cup team competing in the United States Military Academy West Point and won the competition bringing the sword back to the RMAS. Also, keen to take on any challenge, he entered the RMAS pace sticking competition where his team came second (three years in a row!) and were selected to compete in the world championships where they finished 7th out of 16 teams.

In 2011, Ian was posted to the Special Reconnaissance Regiment (SRR) in Hereford where he was assigned to the training squadron where he assisted with the SRR selection, squadron pre-deployment training and the delivery of range qualifications. Whilst in post Ian was awarded the LS&GC medal.

In 2012, Ian was selected to be the 1 Mechanized Brigade QMSI (now AI Bde) working in Brigade HQ where he was heavily involved with the Mission Specific Training during Pre-deployment training ensuring all Battle Groups deployed to Afghanistan on H18 ready for the operation. Whilst deployed, Ian was attached to 2 SCOTS as the lead mentor to the Afghanistan Police in the Helmand Police Training Centre.

Ian was selected for promotion to WO1 in December 2013 and assumed the role as the SMI of the Infantry Battle School in April 2014. Whilst in post Ian set up the Defence Train The Trainer V2 Franchise which will be placed into the Section Commander Battle Course as of 23 Aug 15, the only place outside ASLS to be awarded the Franchise status. In 2015, upon achieving the A100 marksmanship credentials, Ian was selected as the British Army Combat Shooting Team coach in for a successful tour of Australia.

Ian was selected for commission in 2015 and spent his final 2 years as an Investigator working for the Defence Accident Investigation Branch.

Ian will be residing in Farnborough with his family and will be spending his free time developing cricket opportunities for disabled children. Ian would like to wish all members of the SASC all the very best with their chosen career paths and thanks everyone for their support.



## Capt Mark 'Dougie' Douglas

Back in 1994 aged 19, Mark (yes, that's his real name) decided to quit his agricultural engineering apprenticeship in Dumfries, sell his tools – still regrets not keeping them and joined his local Scottish Infantry regiment, The Kings Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB).

On completion of his training at ATR Glencorse and ITB Ouston, Dougie joined the Battalion who were then based in Weeton Camp, Lancashire in the PRB role and within weeks enjoyed the many delights of South Armagh. He remained in a Rifle Coy throughout his time with the KOSB and deployed on various OTXs with the Battalion, done some ceremonial stuff in Edinburgh as well as two further tours of Northern Ireland. Dougie completed SCBC in 1998 and a year later, after being in the Army for a whopping 5 years was posted from Cyprus to ATR Glencorse as a Recruit Instructor. It was whilst serving at Glencorse that Dougie found a niche for instructing and enjoyed the training environment. On advice from Mick Graham and Ray Watson he was encouraged to apply for the SASC and began his candidate training in 2001 under the watchful eye of his favourite candidate WO Geoff Hirst.....To this day he still remains Geoff's favourite candidate.

On completion of candidate training and after many late nights preparing lessons into the wee small hours with his sparring partner Dobbys, Dougie swapped his Tam O' Shanter for a beret and was posted to Brecon to begin his SASC career. Dougie followed the customary small arms path by instructing on the SAA and LFTT wings within IWD and after volunteering and completing the tactics phase of PSBC was assigned to the Platoon Commanders Division as a SSI. As a WO2, he was selected to be the Candidate Warrant Officer at HQ SASC and conducted 4 courses; he became very familiar with Warcop Trg area as a QMSI with 1ITB Catterick and was the first QMSI to be assigned to the Operational Readiness Wing of SFSG.

As a WO1, Dougie served at AFC Harrogate before being selected to return to HQ SASC for the prestigious appointment of Corps RSM. Being a keen runner and 300 club member he represented a number of the units he served with at Cross Country and maintained a sub 9 min PFA run time throughout his 22 years career.

He was commissioned in 2014, pondered reverting back to Mark, but decided to stick with Dougie (keeping it real!) and was assigned to LAIT which then merged into the Defence Accident Investigation Branch. For family reasons Dougie decided to leave the Army after 24 years' service and spent his final assignment with HQ SCHINF as SO3 Trg Policy. He intends to live with his family in Lanarkshire and catch up on all the dad stuff he missed. He wishes to thank his children Isla and Archie for their patience and his wife Kaye for the "occasional reality check". Dougie is grateful for his time with the Small Arms School Corps and wishes to thank those he 'shoots the shit' with for their support and friendship.....Choose Life!



## Capt David Galloway

Capt David Galloway first entered through the gates of Junior Infantry Battalion Ouston on the 15th September 1987, this was to be the first day of the eleven month Junior Leadership programme, culminating with him winning the Commandants Cup at Junior Bisley. On completion of training, it was off to Berlin and onto the 1st Battalion the Kings Regiment (1 Kings). During his time with 1 Kings he saw the collapse of the Berlin wall before deploying to Bally Kelly, Northern Ireland (NI) serving as a member of the Close Observation Platoon (COP). On completion of the two year COP tour Capt Galloway left the Armed Forces for a period of twenty two months before re-joining 1 Kings during public duties in Hounslow. On reenlistment Capt Galloway decided to drive forward and strive to better himself gaining promotion along the way. The remainder of his Kings service saw yet another tour of NI as well as deployments across the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe.

In early 2000, 1 Kings embarked on the process of converting from Light Role Infantry to Armoured Infantry where he attended the AFV Gunnery School (AFV GS) Regimental Instructor Gunners course. It was during this time that he found his niche within the delivery of instruction leading him on to his first external post at the AFV GS. During his time at the AFV GS Capt Galloway made the decision to attend SASC candidate selection training, where on successful completion he was posted to the IBS, Brecon. During his time within the SASC he served within the following posts: IBS, AFV GS, BATUS, TAG UK, ITDU, AFV GS, LFG, and FTU before receiving the Queens Commission in April 15.

His first post as a Commission Officer was to be back at the AFV GS as the Training Development Officer, this was a demanding role and it was his achievements within this post that lead him onto 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade (20X). After a short period within 20X Capt Galloway made the decision to leave the Armed Forces and make the move to work within the Security and Space Industry, now working for Lockheed Martin.

David and his family have settled in Nantwich, Cheshire which affords him the freedom to travel advising on future development of AFV programmes.



## WO2 (QMSI) Karl Ward

Warrant Officer Class 2 Karl Ward joined the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment (The Vikings) in 1996. During his time at 1 Royal Anglian he deployed on 3 operational tours in Northern Ireland one which was a residential tour in Londonderry for two years. He also deployed to Afghanistan as a Section Commander. He was recruited into the SASC by WO2 (QMSI) Sullivan, who at the time was a Sgt in the Infantry Weapons Division (IWD), when he attended the Section Commanders Battle Course 2001.

Karl transferred into the Small Arms School Corps in 2004 and was assigned to IWD Brecon for 6 months and then he moved to Support Weapons School in Warminster to be employed within Mortar Division as an instructor. After 4 years of teaching within the Mortar Division he was posted to IWD to teach on the Skill at Arms course and Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT) course. In 2010 he was posted to Platoon Commanders

Division QMSI. The trips to Belize were one of his favourite highlights of the latter part of his career! During that time, he was promoted to QMSI and moved to Catterick as the QMSI in the 1st Infantry Training Battalion.

In 2014 Karl was posted as the Defence Infrastructure Organisation QMSI in Kenya with the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK). He will always remember the range clearances with Tropic Air and how this posting allowed him to experience Africa at its finest! In 2015 he was then posted to the LFTT wing within IWD as Divisional Instructor where he was able to use all his experience gained from his career to help the future QMSI's of the SASC and oversee the teaching of the future Range Conducting Officers of LFTT within the British Army. In 2017 he was posted to 3 UK Division Operational Shooting Training Team to see out his final year within the Army.

Karl has served 22 years within the Army and has thoroughly enjoyed every single minute of it. During the past 8 years he has had the extreme pleasure to share his experiences with his Wife Marie and his 3 Children, Brooke, Grace and Addison. He would like to thank them for their undying support and patience. He would also like to thank WO1 (SMI) Mark Hutchison, Capt (AIW) Peter Hirst and WO1 (SMI) Brian Trainner for being such important friends and role models in the last few years.

He leaves the Army to open a Gymnastics Club in South Wales with his wife. He has enjoyed coaching gymnastics since 2016 and felt that with his wife already holding the appropriate qualification to own a club and his ambition to own a business that the two could be and have already been brought together. Along with his wife he is now the owner/Managing Director of Islwyn Gymnastics Club in Blackwood in South Wales. He would like to wish every member of the SASC the very best for the future and hope that they enjoy every minute.



## WO2 (QMSI) Paul Mellish

WO2 (QMSI) Mellish was born on 29 Nov 1975. He joined the Army on 26 Nov 1994 and conducted training with the Queens Division Company at the phase one Depot Basingbourne. He joined the 2nd Battalion the Princess Of Wales Royal Regiment in 1995 and was immediately posted with the Battalion on a two year residential tour of Northern Ireland. He served for 14 years in the Regiment and during his time served in Oman, Kenya, Belize and Kuwait. He also served a further three OP BANNER operational tours of Northern Ireland, he also completed Operational tours of Bosnia and Iraq and an assignment to ATR Winchester in 2007.

He transferred to the Small Arms School Corps (SASC) in 2009 and was an instructor at the Infantry Battle School (IBS) on the Skill at Arms (SAA) Wing before moving to Live Fire Tactical Training in 2012. He was then posted to the Operational Shooting Training Team (OSTT), 1 UK Armoured Division in Germany, as a Staff Sergeant Instructor and delivered a number of Train the Trainer and Range Management courses. He was then promoted WO2 QMSI within OSTT 1 UK Division and Advised on Overseas Exercises and delivered Combat Marksmanship Development training to units. He finishes his 24 year service at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate as the QMSI Military Training.

He has been married to his wife Louise for 13 years and has one child called Natalie who is 10. His main interests are Shotokan Karate; currently a brown belt with 2 stripes and participates in as many Karate competitions as possible all over the UK.

On leaving the Military he has aspirations of working with young offenders and has already settled in the North Yorkshire area.

He wishes all members of the Small Arms School Corps every success in both their professional and personal lives



## WO2 (QMSI) Neil Harden

WO2 (QMSI) Neil Harden joined the Army in the August of 1991 and conducted his training at Depot Bassingbourn. He then went on to join the 2nd Battalion the Queens Regiment then after amalgamation in September 1992 the 2nd Battalion the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment. During his 16 years in 2 PWRR he served as part of 5th Airborne and conducted tours of Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq and the UK.

Neil joined the SASC in January 2009 having been recommended for the Corps by now SMI Ross during an AA SAA instructor's course. He was initially assigned to IWD Brecon after completing phase 2 of candidate training; however, in June of 2009 he was posted to the Mortar Division in Warminster. He instructed as both a Sgt and SSgt on all course taught at the division. On promotion to WO2 he then assumed the role as Divisional Instructor Mortar Division and he would hold this post until leaving the Army and Corps in December 2017

Neil is leaving the Corps to start a new career as Publican within the hospitality trade. He has settled his family in the Warminster area and looks forward to his civilian career and future challenges outside of the Army. Neil would like to thank all of the people that assisted and supported him with his military career especially his wife Clare and all members of the Mortar Division, new and old, for the eight happy years he roamed the corridors. Gentleman, Rounds Complete.

# Management of Lethal Risk

Maj (AIW) Gary Palmer

## Incident investigation

The SASC 'old and bold' will all recall the moral dilemma they faced when the screen of their Nokia 3210 lit up with the SO2 SASC's phone number at 1600 hrs on a Friday – Do I ignore it and quickly get a treble whisky down the hatch before he rings back or do I answer it and take what's coming?

The establishment of the SASC SO3 post in the Land Accident and Investigation Team and subsequently the Defence Accident Investigation Team (DAIB), significantly reduced the dreaded phone call. However, this means fewer SASC officers and warrant officers are being exposed to investigations and therefore restricting their professional development.

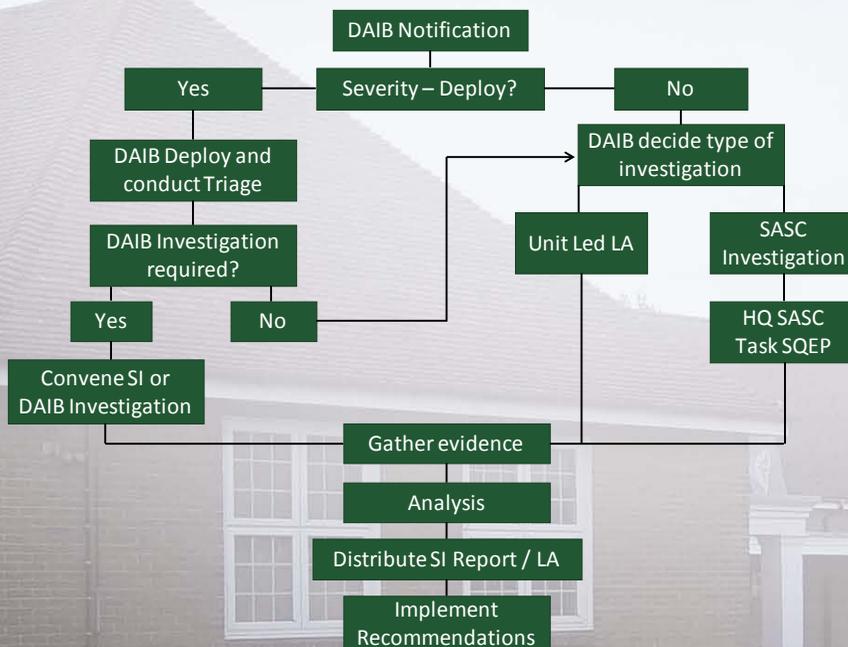
You should all be aware that SASC officer and warrant officer Job Specs are to list accident investigation as one of their responsibilities, regardless of post and you should be prepared to deploy to either investigate or provide subject matter expertise. Anecdotally, many in the Corps are not fully aware of the process applied by DAIB when they receive of notification of an incident – the diagram below explains this.

Army Command Standing Order (ACSO) 1118 – Army lessons Process', provides the direction on the production of a Learning Account in Annexes A and B. This is currently the preferred format for reports submitted to HQ SASC for onward distribution to DAIB. Therefore, I advise serving Corps officers and warrant officers to familiarise themselves with these annexes. Shorty, Commander Field Army will be issuing direction, subordinate to ACSO 1118, strongly recommending that when unit LAs are being produced for incidents involving Infantry Weapon Systems and Pyrotechnics, they are to seek assistance from the SASC personnel within their chain of command. In the interim, Corps members are to lean into unit investigations within their formations to ensure the lessons identified and subsequent recommendations genuinely prevent recurrence.

## Platoon Weapons Optimisation

Many of you will be aware that a study was commissioned into how the Infantry Platoon was organised, and more to the point, what weapons it is equipped with. This was completed under the Army Combat Platoon Weapons

<sup>1</sup> [https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/defnet/Corp/Army/Publications/ACSO\\_1118.pdf#search=ACSO%201118](https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/defnet/Corp/Army/Publications/ACSO_1118.pdf#search=ACSO%201118)



Experimentation banner which reported in 2016. Some of those recommendations have now been adopted and it is important to understand the changes to the Platoon Weapons Mix highlighted below are capability driven rather than financial.

The main changes have been the removal from service in Jul 18 of the Light Support Weapon<sup>2</sup> for all and the Light Machine Gun<sup>3</sup>. (LMG) except for Joint Force Command units (JFC). These weapons are being replaced by two additional L85 A3 Rifles and a L129 Sharpshooter Rifle in each section. All iterations of the Combat Infantryman Course starting from September 2018 onwards, no longer include LMG training and will instead start General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) training up to the Annual Combat Marksmanship Test.

The aspiration is also to uplift each Light Infantry platoon with two additional GPMGs which will provide commanders with options on how to employ their GPMGs and configure their sections. The typical Platoon and Section ORBAT is shown with the changes below.

You will have noticed a change which, understandably has proven to be more controversial, is the removal from Army service of the M640 60 mm Lt Mortar<sup>4</sup>. Hence the recent change in Pamphlet 21 of the SA (90) series qualifications to SA (18) to cater for the Lt Mortar no longer being taught at Brecon. The M640 will remain in service for the Royal Marines, Royal Air Force (RAF) Regiment and JFC units. The courses delivered at the Commando Training Centre in Lympstone and RAF Honington will continue to include the M640 and will award the SA (I) and (O) (18) qualifications.

<sup>2</sup> <https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/defnet/Corp/DINSdefEquipment/2018/2018DIN04-121.pdf#search=LSW>  
<sup>3</sup> <https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/defnet/Corp/DINSdefEquipment/2018/2018DIN04-122.pdf#search=LMG>

<sup>4</sup> <https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/defnet/Corp/DINSdefEquipment/2018/2018DIN04-133.pdf#search=M640%20DIN>



# SASC Memorial At The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA)

## Commanding Officer

I was unable to attend the unveiling of the Corps plaque at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) back in July 2014 but I travelled to Staffordshire sometime later to see it for myself. As I made my way right to the back of the NMA and through the wood line I was struck by how hidden away it was and how it didn't necessarily reflect the significance of the Corps across Defence. It was also rather underwhelming when one considers it represented the lives lost in the name of the SASC, its antecedent regiments and all those who have served in its ranks.

It was at that point I decided to do something on a grander scale and create a memorial that would provide a legacy for the SASC in a location recognised as the Nation's centre for remembrance. As I assumed command in June 2016 I appointed Capt John Hawkyard as the project officer and he has led superbly from that point. He has been ably assisted by my 2 Corps Sergeant Majors, Neil Guerin and Al Blair, who I am forever grateful to.

There was plenty to think about, not least the design. You may remember I asked you all for your creative and imaginative ideas to help to shape the design. It is fair to say the responses were limited, maybe they were lost in the post, but those that did contribute might recognise their ideas turned into reality. Ultimately we came up with a design, hurriedly drawn on a whiteboard, as the Stonemason was arriving for our first meeting. Thankfully Nick Johnson, a renowned local sculptor responsible for many memorials at the NMA, was able to take our childlike scribbles and skilfully turn them into a workable plan.



After several trips to the NMA and many meetings in HQ SASC we finally had permission to erect the memorial and a plan of action for the construction and dedication ceremony. The money for such a project has to be found from non-public funds and so kind donations from the SASC Weapons Collection and Landmarc Support Services, along with our own fund, created the conditions for success. Fast forward to the summer of 2018 and Nick was busy creating the memorial in his Westbury workshop.





The SASC memorial is made from Portland Stone and set on a granite base. The 3 monoliths represent the tri-service nature of our work and the 19th Century Musketeer a recognised symbol of the School of Musketry. We have reflected on our antecedent regiments by including their cap badges on the plinth and our heritage by including reference to the freedom we enjoy in Hythe and Brecon. The weapons engraved on the wall are synonymous with the SASC and more widely with the evolution of musketry.

After considerable time and effort, and no little skill, Nick was ready to transport the memorial to the NMA and finalise it for the dedication ceremony. On Wednesday 5th September 2018, serving members of the Corps, comrades and guests arrived for the formal Dedication ceremony. During the service our Colonel Commandant, Lt Gen Patrick Sanders unveiled the memorial. Thank you to all those that attended; it made the event more worthwhile. I hope you agree it is a fitting memorial that will feature permanently in the NMA and is an important part of the Corps' history. You should try and visit when you can!



# A Royal Visit At The Infantry Battle School

WO2 (DSM) John Parkinson

The Infantry Weapons Division was given the great pleasure of hosting the visit of His Royal Highness The Duke of York KG GCVO CD ADC(P), Colonel in Chief SASC, at the Infantry Battle School. HRH was met by the Lord Lieutenant of Powys (The Hon. Dame Shân Legge-Bourke) who then introduced him to Lt Gen P NY M Sanders CBE DSO (Colonel Commandant SASC), Col N Cowey (Commandant SASC) and Lt Col PA Redding (Commanding Officer SASC). After brief introductions and handshakes, HRH was then taken to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where he was given an SASC update by the Commanding Officer.

## Capability Demonstration

The main serial of the visit was a capability demonstration conducted at the Dismount Close Combat Trainer (DCCT) by staff from both the LFTT and the SAA wing. Capt 'Mikey' Johns was first up. He gave a detailed brief on the new Platoon weapons mix and updated HRH with some of the main differences between the SA80 A2 and the SA80 A3. HRH asked many questions about the various weapons on show and was particularly pleased to see the SA80 A3 being used and the reintegration of the GMPG at Section level.



The next serial give HRH the opportunity to see staff from the SAA wing use Virtual Battle Space 3 (VBS 3)<sup>1</sup>. HRH was given a brief overview of the capabilities the VBS3 trainer provides to commanders, that helps enhance live training. The overview included the use of Artillery Joint Fires, Mortar, UAV, Fixed and Rotary wing aircraft, wheeled & tracked vehicle platforms, and the control of soldier

<sup>1</sup> VBS3 simulates any environment for military training so users can learn how to think, communicate and make decisions in a wide range of scenarios. The Virtual Battlespace series is the "flagship training game" of the U.S. Army's Games for Training Program of Record and its predecessor VBS2 has been used by the majority of NATO partners for more than five years.



groups. He was shown the main exercise control station and how the operator can change any intended plan, allowing Commanders to think on their feet, as well as the operation of the remote UAV camera giving a live feed of the scenario to those on the ground. He was keen to understand the benefits it had to soldiers and questioned if VBS3 was widely available. HRH was informed that due to the cost of the training system, users only had the capability in a specific building, but at the Infantry Battle School up to 30 individual stations could be used at any time and that locations could be linked together. He spent time with the individual soldiers training on the stations and was shown a scenario, created by Sgt Andrews, of a Fire Team coming under effective enemy fire whilst conducting a patrol. HRH then moved into the heavy weapons suite where WO2 (QMSI) Pettersen give him a brief introduction on the Support Weapons capabilities that the DCCT can also provide.



### Reception

During his brief visit, HRH also took the time to speak to several members of the Corps, including their families and young children. Prior to his departure, Sgt (SI) Ratcliffe, one of the newest members of the SASC presented the Colonel in Chief with a Man at Arms statue. HRH gave some final words detailing the important work that the SASC do in support of the wider field Army before departing.



# Loan Service In The Sultanate Of Oman

By Maj (AIW) Ellis Harverson MSc

The Sultanate of Oman is one of the UK's key strategic partners in the Middle East and the UK-Oman bilateral defence relationship, which is one of the closest to the UK outside of NATO, helps underpin that partnership. His Majesty the Sultan pays a close interest in the loan service team and its personnel. He regards them as the UK's most tangible demonstration of the bilateral defence relationship and he has done so since British support during the Dhofar Campaign in 1968-75. That said, the first formal treaty agreement between the Oman and the UK can be traced back as far as 1646. This was between the Al-Ya'ribi clan and the British East India Company that resulted in a treaty guaranteeing trade, religious and legal rights for British merchants operating in the Oman. So, it is safe to say that the Oman and the UK have been mates for a long time; and the UK intends to keep it that way!

So what? Well, through the loan service team's presence and activities the long standing bilateral defence relationship is sustained and strengthened. It is the UK that Oman primarily turns to for advice, support and example within the defence domain. The UK is the Oman's partner of choice and it must remain that way for the strategic benefits it provides to both nations. This makes the loan service team, of which there are three SASC personnel, very important to both the Oman and the UK.

## Geography

For those whose geographical knowledge might be 'challenged', the Oman is in the Middle East. It is bordered to the North West by the UAE, to the North by the Gulf of Oman and Iran, to the East by the Arabian Sea and to the West by Yemen and Saudi Arabia (who are currently engaged in a conflict). Muscat (Oman's Capital city) is approximately 3600 miles from London.

## The Job

As well as me (I am the Force Advisor Infantry Weapons (FAIW)) there are two QMSIs amongst the "eighty" strong loan service team. WO2 (QMSI) Greg Dickson is the advisor to the Sultan's Armed Forces Training Regiment and WO2 (QMSI) Warren Owen is the Assistant FAIW although this title is slightly misleading as his main effort is to support the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces International Marksmanship Unit (you know, the team that wins everything at Bisley!) and not to assist me. Both of the QMSIs have written their own articles that follow on from this one where they explain a little about their role. My role as the FAIW is to advise the Royal Army of Oman (plus the Navy, Air Force and other members of the loan service team from time to time) on all matters regarding small arms ranges, training and training safety. A fairly large project that I initiated was the development of a Range Safety Management System because, well, they don't have one and they would benefit considerably if they did have one. We also, as an SASC triumvirate, arrange short





*Being serious on the mountain sniper range.*

term training teams from the UK to deliver training and advice to units in the Oman and we arrange visits to the UK for Omani officers so they can see how things are done in our schools and within the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. In addition, we help the Omanis with the procurement of equipment; most notably WO2 (QMSI) Warren Owen was the crucial link man in the procurement of steel sniper targets for the new tactical sniper ranges on the Jebel Ahkdar mountain (he also designed the ranges), he assisted with the procurement of a large number of modified SUSATs for the Army and he is currently engaged in a project to obtain radio-controlled targets for a new IBSR in Salalah.

This may sound fairly routine to many and it would be if it was not in the Oman! Yes, the pace of work is somewhat slower than we are used to in the British Army but the job here does present other challenges that we are not so used to in our Army. The interpersonal skills of patience, tact and diplomacy are key when working with Omanis, much more so than when working in the UK. One must also get used to the Omani culture when doing business, this involves a great deal of exchanging pleasantries, eating dates and drinking quhua (coffee) and shaay (tea), sometimes for what seems like an age before the business subject is addressed (although I don't mind that so much). This can be very frustrating for some that are used to the fast UK pace, but if one wants to make progress then one must adapt to the Omani way and it does take some getting used to. And of course, not forgetting, this is all done in Arabic!

### **The Life**

Work aside, the life in the Oman is excellent. The job comes with a very generous set of loan service pay and financial allowances, the house (3 storey villa) is rent free and if you are a Major or above you get a free car and free fuel. Shopping is expensive but the allowances more than compensate for this. There is much to do here too. In addition to the social activities, WO2 (QMSI) Greg Dickson mentions in his article, there are great water sport activities available as well as many gymnasiums and fitness centres (weight training is my thing because it is safe and therapeutic). There are many great holiday destinations fairly close by. The UAE is the obvious one but India and the Maldives are not too far and the Oman is half way to the Far East from the UK. There are bars that serve alcohol if you are that way inclined and the Omani people are very tolerant, friendly and welcoming.

There is also time; something not always available in the UK due to the pace of life! That time can be used not only for the sporting and social activities but also for personal development if that appeals. I had time to complete a Master's Degree during my first year here, which I am glad to say, contributed towards Project FAJR 18 – the review into Royal Army of Oman officer training and education.

### **Summary**

Having been here for some 17 months now I can truthfully say that this is one of the best assignments I have had since being in the Army. The work is very satisfying, the perks are great and the opportunities are plentiful and unique. I recommend that an assignment in the Oman, whether that is as the FAIW or one of the QMSIs, should be high on your priority list if you fancy a challenging job that offers something different in an unfamiliar yet welcoming environment.



*Me: Weight training is safe and therapeutic.  
Also me: Broken arm from weight training.*

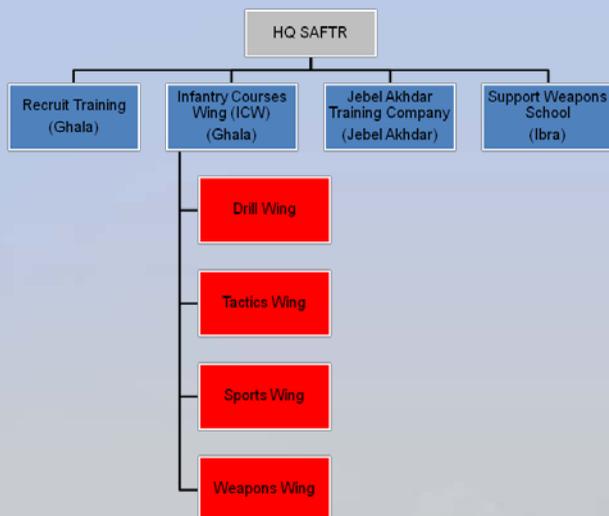
# The Sultans Armed Forces Training Regiment (SAFTR)

By WO2 (QMSI) Greg Dickson

I write this article as I come to the end of an extremely enjoyable two years in the Sultanate of Oman. And I can, as I'm about to head back to the UK, confirm that the rumours are true, the Omanis do have more time off than WO1 (SMI) Andy Green! Hard to believe, but it's true.

SAFTR was built in the 1950's with the assistance of the Royal Engineers and is situated in the Al Ansab area of Ghala at the base of a large mountain range that surrounds Muscat to the South. Originally tasked to provide soldier basic training for the Royal Army Oman (RAO), SAFTR's role over the years has grown and now includes promotion and specialist courses and training. Split between 3 main locations in northern Oman, SAFTR is set up in a similar way to that of SCHINF, working to the Training Director of HQ RAO.

## SAFTR Task Org



## Loan Service Role at SAFTR

Holding the only British Loan Service appointment in SAFTR, my primary roles are to advise CO SAFTR, Ameer (Brigadier) Sultan Bin Mohammed Bin Salim Al Madhani on recruit training and range safety related matters, along with assisting toward the UK Defence Engagement mission, ensuring that the strong bond between the UK and Oman remains intact.

Due to a current recruitment drive to increase the manning of the Royal Oman Police between 2016 and 2018, Army recruitment has been on hold. The absence of recruits has allowed me to focus my attention on the courses run within ICW. This Wing is similar to the IBS Wales element of SCHINF back in the UK. It delivers a variety of courses including drill, tactics, SAA instruction and range qualifications, with a constant stream of phase 3 students from all cap badges and ranks, attending the courses throughout the whole year.

The main RAO initiative during my time in post, has been Project FAJR 18. FAJR 18 was an internal review of how officers are trained and educated throughout the early years of their careers. The subsequent release of this review has meant some major changes to the Platoon Commanders course run at ICW. Previously the course was run as a refresher and confirmatory course, conducted 2 years after Officers finished initial training allowing further promotion. Since the implementation of FAJR 18, the Platoon Commanders course has been extended to 10 weeks from 6, and is now more leadership focused. The RDA qualification of the old course has now been moved to the Sultan Qaboos Military College (Omani RMA), to be delivered during officer initial training. In its place at SAFTR is a live firing package where officers are able to test and hone their skills in command and platoon tactics.



FAJR 18 has also affected the assignment length for officers posted to SAFTR, ensuring that they are now rotated over a 2 to 3 year period. Previously it was possible for officers to be posted in and remain for periods of over 6 years. This at times, made it very difficult to suggest any sort of change, due to some officers losing motivation and becoming too comfortable in their routine. Whilst FAJR 18 is ongoing in its implementation, HQ RAO are now in the early stages of FAJR 23, where a similar review will be conducted of other ranks training and education.

### Life in Oman

As mentioned in the start of the article, the Omanis have very different working hours to that which we are used to. The normal working day is between 0700 and 1300 Sunday to Thursday, with an hour taken for breakfast at 0900 hrs. The reason for this? The heat! From late April to mid October, the heat can push well beyond 45c, making sitting in an air-conditioned office uncomfortable never mind soldiering.

### So, what to do with all this time off?

Oman has plenty to offer. Said to be the jewel of Arabia, Oman is a country with an accommodating culture, vast sand dunes and deserts, spectacular coastlines, dramatic mountains and fascinating history. Weekends normally consist of the exploration of old forts and traditional Omani architecture, venturing into the mountains to visit typical Omani villages and walking through the countless wadi's. For those who like things a bit more adventurous, dune bashing at Wahabi sands, jet skiing along the coast of Muscat or chartering a local boat to experience game fishing can all be done and is relatively inexpensive for the service you receive. Muscat also has a number of bars and night clubs to be explored, but at nearly £10 a pint, nights out tend to be few and far between.

Golf is one of the main sporting activities for the Loan Service team in Oman, with some stunning courses that can be extremely testing and long. Having only taken up golf on my arrival to Oman, its safe to say if have made very little in the way of gains since. Leaving with the same 28 handicap I started with back during my first game with Maj (AIW) Ray Watson and WO2 (QMSI) John Salter. One thing I am sure of, is that the course maintenance staff at my local club will be very sad to see me go; no longer will they be able to cash in on finding all my lost balls.

### Summary

I would truly recommend Oman to anyone considering taking one of the many overseas postings the SASC has to offer. The job offers countless challenges that are unheard of in similar jobs in the UK and offers the chance to get a good insight to how the MOD and government delivers a full Defence Engagement package. My family have thoroughly enjoyed our time spent in Oman and would jump at the chance to return in the future, if the opportunity was to arise.



*Tuna caught game fishing off the coast of Muscat*



# Why Are The Omanis So Good At Shooting?

By WO2 (QMSI) Warren Owen



There is a myth that one often hears, which is “the sole purpose of an individual in the Omani shooting team and his existence on this earth is to shoot internationally for the SOAF (Sultan of Oman’s Armed Forces)”

This statement could not be further from the truth. The Royal Army Oman (RAO) is modelled on the British Army; admittedly an old British Army, but still in line with most of our general principles and procedures. This, when it comes to shooting competitions, includes a rigorous qualification process that one must progress through in order to compete at international level. Soldiers (including clerks, drivers and technicians etc) will compete annually in Unit, Brigade, Army and Tri-Service SAAMs in order to qualify for the next level up in the same way that the British Army does.

So the answer to the question “why are the Omanis so good at shooting?”... It is, really a cultural thing. Oman is heavily divided into many different ways of living and life styles. If you look at the make-up of the Omani shooting team you will find it is heavily manned with Bedouins (Arabs of the

desert) these guys have had some form of firearm in their hands from the age of 3-4. Some even required to use their weapons in order to put food on the table. Their success comes down to experience and “trigger time”. They have been applying the principles of shooting from such a young age it is now second nature. The only change required for these individuals is learning how to shoot competitively under competition rules and conditions. The fundamentals of shooting are already ingrained.

Another advantage is the high regard in which shooting is held within the Omani forces, even at the lowest level; it is an honour for an individual to compete internationally. They will often turn down courses, including promotion courses, to compete in competitions at Bisley and Brunei. This is because from the lowest level it has been their life, they invariably shoot with pride, train hard and rehearse - so the results are inevitable. Then and only then will they be selected for the SOAF shooting team where they can be refined into a highly motivated and proud international competition marksman.

The SOAF shooting team is also financially driven with individuals being rewarded with cash incentives (personally from the SOAF, not competition prize money). This is for the amount of silverware they bring back to the Oman (winnings from a competition). They have the opportunity to bring home over 4 months wages for a weeks worth of competition. It certainly gives every member that something extra to push for.



The RAO have a well-established team and the same faces tend to qualify year in year out. It has been my main effort to change this pattern for the longevity of the team. I have focused on introducing new firers to the Unit and invested the time and effort into extracting the experience and knowledge from the "shayba" (old man). The differences on the score cards between the SOAF team and the other international teams have closed in recent years. This is because other countries are advancing quickly with technology and leaving the Oman behind a little in this regard. It is another effort of mine to move the Oman on with the times as other countries skill levels are rapidly increasing simply due to the technology available to them. The future success of the Oman shooting team could be lesser if they do not embrace technology and invest in the "shabab" (young man).

As members of the British Army we have to be careful not to deploy on Defence Engagement tasks with a naive and narrow minded attitude that the British Army is the best in the world and we are solely there for the receiving nations benefit. It is important that we stay open minded and extract what others do well. If we were to adopt some of the Omani incentives for our shooters and give them that extra drive it is highly likely that we would see the standard of marksmanship and pride increase considerably.

The SOAF shooting team do need recognition by other international teams as it would be very easy to employ a specialist team made up from Bedouins located in the out sticks of the Oman. These would not be soldiers they would just wear the uniform and shoot. This team would be exceptional, but the SOAF have no intention of doing this as they understand the value of an Operational Shooting Competition and this would not be a true reflection of the Army abilities... plus it would give truth to the myth.



# Life At ASLS

WO1 (SMI) P Tremain

## *"A Different Language"*

**D**uring my HOTO I realised that this place speaks a different language.

My first meeting (one of many) with the CI went something like this: *"ARTD have done a TGA. We have come up with a new TDC which will be in line with the JSP, DTC and ATC. The TGA have found that trainers are missing something. We'll add the TDC to the DTTT but only on the centralised and not the distributed or the consolidated. We need to look at the RPS and make sure we follow the DSAT process and the MTS. Conduct an RA and TOA and pass on the TNR to the TRA and TDA and see what they think, as it may affect the SOTT and our SOTR."* (I'm sat there thinking..... (sorry, these thoughts can't be published) but there's a lot of 'we' being mentioned!).

CI. SMI *"What are your thoughts?"*

Me. *"Err.... Sorry you lost me on the first TGA, can you run that by me one more time.?"*

After that I ended up loading myself onto every course at DCTS to see if I can make any sense of what he was on about.

### **Training Governance Review (TGR)**

The ARTD Staff Leadership School has been through some significant changes over the last 12 months. This has been largely due to the Training Governance Review which resulted in ARTD being disbanded and training being split into 2 formations:

1. Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command (ARITC) which is commanded by Major General P A E Nanson CBE. ARITC is an amalgamation of some elements of ARTD and the Sandhurst Group.
2. Land Warfare Centre (LWC) which is commanded by Major General T Hyams maintained its original name and those other elements of ARTD moved across to join this organisation.

Due to the Training Governance Review ASLS found itself answering to both masters. But it was decided that our position would be better suited under ARITC, to that end we have a new name: Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command Staff Leadership School (ASLS).



### Trainer Development Concept (TDC)

Most of my time over the last 12 months has been working on Project Re-Design. This project was the fallout of the Training Gap Analysis (TGA) conducted by ARTD. ASLS was tasked to look at its current suite of defence trainer courses and how these can be improved or modified to support the TDC. The team (2 of us) at ASLS found that none of the courses were really aligned to each other, but the biggest gap that was found were of those personnel that went in to a command or management role in a defence training establishment. To that end the ASLS Staff course was binned as it was rubbish and the Commanders and Returners course were designed and are currently being piloted.

ASLS were also given the task to design and the T4 delivery of the TDC Coaching and Mentoring modules.

ASLS are now delivering the following courses:

- Commanders Course Part 1. Course length is 4 days and is aimed at Unit 2ICs, RSMs, OCs. The course will inform commanders of their personal Care of Trainee (CoT) roles and responsibilities and those of their staff. It will also cover up to date policy and requirements of management in a defence training environment including things such as; TQM, QIPs, SWOT Analysis and Estimates.
- Army Instructor Leader (AIL). Soon to change its name to the Army Trainer Leader (ATL). This course length is 5 days and runs concurrently with the Commanders course with an extra day added to the end.
- DTTT Ph 1&2. Course length is 10 days broken down into the following: 9 days of DTTT v2 as we know it and 1-day TDC covering critical thinking and decision making.
- Returners Course. (I didn't choose the name). Course length is 4 days and is aimed at those who already have a level 3 or above certificate in education and training and have been away from the training environment for a period.
- Army Trainer Mentor. Course length is 4 days. This course has been re-invigorated and you will have had to attend one of the above courses before you can apply for this.
- Care of Trainee. Course length is 1.5 days and is aimed at training development and service support staff.
- DTTT Ph3. This course has replaced DIT. ASLS run this course for the Army Reserves only the course length is 5 days split over 2 weekends.

### Accreditation

The civilian accreditation and qualifications that supports our courses has currently been suspended due to the contract expiring on the 1 Sep 17. There is a plan in place for this to be reinstated and someone is working on it. So please "wait out" Defence Engagements

ASLS are tasked on a regular basis to assist with defence engagements overseas. Unfortunately, we cannot facilitate all of them due to manning constraints. Over the past 12 months ASLS have deployed its Trainers to Oman and Kenya to deliver composite DTTT courses. This has been a great opportunity for the ASLS trainers to deliver their material outside of the confines of the ASLS bubble.

ASLS were also tasked by DCOS ARTD to conduct a defence engagement visit to the Italian NCO Leadership School in Viterbo which is about 80km NW of Rome. The school was established on the 10 July 1965 as the Army NCO school and in 1998 became the Army NCO and Platoon Leader School. This clearly required the SMI and CO to conduct the initial visit to ensure the suitability. During our visit we deployed to the Monteromano Training Area where we got to observe their NCOs issuing platoon orders and then conducting the live fire platoon attacks. Their hosting was top notch and we even got to spend some time sightseeing in Rome.



## Personal and Professional Development

At ASLS there is plenty of opportunity for the organisation as a group or individuals to conduct CPD.

The staff have been involved in setting up and delivering themed dinner nights followed by a Battlefield study keeping in line with the theme. There were 2 themes this year, one was the 100th anniversary of the Great War and the second was the Battle of Arnhem during WW2 both of which were a great success.

*This is what I imagined my boat would look like when asked if I wanted to go sailing.*

At ASLS we have built into our training year suitable time for the organisation to conduct AT. In 2017 we had an AT package organised for a week in the Grand Canyon but the budget got pulled from us shortly before. We did manage to pull something together and spent a week sailing on the Solent and around the Isle of Wight with the Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Centre in Gosport. My idea of sailing and what we had to do over that week were the polar opposites of each other. I expected to be sat on some yacht drinking Gin and sunbathing, but no instead 7 of us were crammed in a giant canoe having to graft in the pouring rain. (We did manage a few gins in the evening).

This year ASLS as an organisation have planned a trip to Spain in September 18 for some AT.



*Clearly my expectations were too high.*

# Mortar Division "Its Not A Dark Art"

WO2 (QMSI) John Salter

*"Its only dark if you can't see the target!"*

So what swings around comes around. There was me sitting in 1X HQ as the MCC rep, happy as Larry, when I hear that I've been selected to move back to Mortar Division as DI after an 11 year absence. What could have changed in that time? Not a great deal, it will be fine, were my first thoughts and at least I'll get an office to myself. So off I trundled across to the other side of Salisbury plain to do a week hand over and bugger me all the kit has changed bar the Mortar. So what I'd like to do over the next few paragraphs is explain some of the kit/training that Mortarmen use, to get the bombs on to target without earning an MBE (Mortar Bombs Everywhere) or in fact "Dropping Short" as some of the non-educated, like to tell me constantly.

Firstly we'll start with the Target Locating Equipment (TLE). Mortar Observers or the Mortar Fire Controllers (MFC's) have to be able to support their Units in all weathers, night and day. Thankfully there is kit that can enable them to do this a lot more efficiently than the old LP7 HHLRF (Hand Held Laser Range Finder) and Spyglass or like some of you are probably thinking Map, compass and Bino's "like in your day John". We now have eye friendly lasers and accurate GPS systems that not only give your position but will give you a direction, range and accurate grid reference to the target when used in conjunction with a laser. MFC's now have a night capability to see targets at medium to long ranges and can see the imagery in colour and can set the magnetic deviation so no need for ICE calculations. A lot of you have probably heard of the Surveillance System and Range Finder (SSARF) which gives the MFC the all-weather and night capability. There are also two further pieces of kit most commonly used by the MFC. The Defence Advanced Global Positioning System Receiver (DAGR) and The Dismounted Equipment Target Locating (DETL).

SSARF Pictured above can work in either normal optical sight mode with an X6 magnification or in the Thermal sight mode with up to X15 magnification all be it with a reduced field of view. It has a built in GPS system and laser range finder which is accurate +/- 5m and can laser targets between 75m to 20km. It is a class 1 eye safe laser so can be used on most ranges or training areas. Although slightly bulky it is an effective piece of equipment put to use by the MFC's and also RECCE.



DETL pictured below has a magnification of X5 or in night mode X3. It can measure targets from 5m out to 10km. As long as it has been calibrated correctly it will be accurate +/- 5m, bearings will be accurate to +/- 3 mils. When used with DAGR by means of a cable connection the grid of the target will be as accurate as the operator has been with his lasing. The DAGR is also used on the Mortar line to gain an accurate bearing to apply to the C2 sight, so the sight reads the grid bearing at which the barrel points. This enables the Mortars to come into action a lot faster than in the past.





They say you can't teach old dogs new tricks? I beg to differ. If, however, anyone would like to see the kit "a bit more close and personal" don't hesitate to ask and I'll get one of the instructors to go into a bit more detail and get a bit of hands on practice. We, as a Division, are also always after young, keen SIs and SSIs to carry on the Mortaring tradition down in sunny Warminster. So if you'd like more Information give me a call.



Once the MFC has sorted his end, he'll send the information required to the Mortar Line where it will be entered into the Fire Control Application (FCA) (a posh and expensive calculator) to work out the Charge, Bearing and Elevation to place onto the individual Mortar. Again I was welcomed to Mortar Division with something that looked a bit like an FCA but a lot smaller.

Luckily FCA2 as it's now called has the same functionality but much better Bty life and other improvements to make it more user friendly and accurate. Other things that have changed since my last stint has been to bring the courses run here at Mortar Division, more into line with Brecon under the SCHINF umbrella. To that end we also do the 8, 5 and 2 milers and PT on a regular basis (nearly broke into a sweat just writing that). We also have an exercise called "Heavy Carry" where the students will carry 55lbs + Mortar kit + Weapon + Water so about 100 – 120lbs dependent on the students job on the Mortar Det. Course content has also changed with a lot more emphasis on Tactics and training using simulation due to cost of ammunition, training estates, vehicles, fuel the list goes on. The SAA side to the courses still continues with the Instructors both SASC and Regimental getting stuck in with IP's and watching TP's on the Standards Cse. Instructor monitoring being covered on the Advance Cse along with fire Planning, fire discipline, range work etc etc. It was also good to see that we are still a Tri-Service Division teaching Marines and RAF Regiment as well as foreign students from time to time.



# The Life Down Under

## WO2 (QMSI) Steven Scoular

**N**ow I half expect a number of you to just turn the page, I can hear you saying here we have another QMSI gloating about being in Australia, having a swan and so on and so forth. However, let me tell you it is no swan and I am not gloating. If anything, I am going to sell this job opportunity to the current and future QMSI. Nonetheless, the weather has been amazing and having a BBQ on Christmas day is still something that I cannot get my head around.

I was informed by HQ SASC that I had been selected to take up a role at the Australian school of Infantry in Singleton, New South Wales. My initial thoughts were of excitement and apprehension as I was moving my young family to the other side of the world; would my wife, after showing a willingness to explore this far from home eventually change her mind or would the Corps find a different role for me to take up. It felt like an eternity from receiving the assignment order to getting on the plane at Heathrow.

We flew from Heathrow to ABU DHABI (a city I recommend people visit if you haven't already done so) and stayed there for 24 hours. The second leg of the journey was pretty painful but we eventually landed in Australia at 2200 hrs local time. I had never put into perspective how large Australia actually is until the plane was over the North West point and it was still a 5 hour flight to Sydney. We flew over with Etihad airways and I cannot fault them one bit. My boys were 3 and 1 at the time so the on board nanny's = God send! Typically I brought the Scottish weather across with me and it rained for our first 3 days. A heavy shower and whole country goes into meltdown. We spent a couple of days exploring Sydney and then moved onto Singleton.

Singleton is a town on the banks of the Hunter River in New South Wales, Australia. Singleton is 197 kilometres (122 miles) north-north-west of Sydney, and 80 kilometres (50 miles) northwest of Newcastle. At June 2015, Singleton had an urban population of 16,921. Now if I can describe the attitude towards Singleton amongst the Infantry soldiers, imagine the attitude of individuals when they are told that they are posted to Brecon or Fallingbostal, well that is how the Aussies feel about the place. It doesn't help that it is encircled by wineries and coal mines and those two areas are the main reason why the cost of living is more expensive than the surrounding areas. And its claim to fame is that Singleton has one of the world's largest sundials (some useless information for you.)

My first day of work consisted of taking notes during the Australian Defence Force Range Qualification (ADFRQ) course. This is the LFTT equivalent akin to PCBC LFTT, but more demanding. The junior officers have completed a number of years at university, paid for by defence followed by one year at the Royal military college, Duntroon, so in their eyes that is five years military service. It can be quite testing when trying to get the point across when dealing with Range safety and at times not focusing on Infantry tactics. After QMSI Mather left Australia to return to the UK it was all hands to the pump, the hardest part was learning the differences in terminology and the time it takes for Australians to understand the Scottish accent. In hindsight it takes no longer than it used to take RGR soldiers to understand me when teaching on IWD.

The School of Infantry runs regular courses from January to December from a number of different departments. The



school caters for phase 2 and phase 3 students. There is Depot Company who train phase two Infantry soldiers and they deliver the Infantry low level tactics over a period of 15 weeks. Tactics wing which includes Platoon team who conduct the Officer and NCO tactics courses, Company team who deliver two CSM Tactics courses per year and Range Qual who deliver a number of ADFRQ courses and Senior Range Instructor (SRI) courses. Then you have Specialist wing which runs all Sniper, anti-tank, Fire support and Pioneer courses. As you may have noticed Mortars have not been mentioned as those courses are run from the school of Artillery in Puckapunyal, Victoria.

The ADFRQ course has a number of similarities to the way LFTT courses are run in the UK. There are some differences which I will name, the trainees here do not participate in a formative LF scenario or an additional night serial and they will only complete one summative assessment. The trace work is pretty much the same apart from in Australia they will draw a part circle trace, once all enablers are complete and regardless whether they have been graded Ready or Not Yet Ready they will move onto the summative assessments and they will replicate the same type of trace as the enabler. One of both enabler and summative will be completed on TASMIS, the Australian version of BAMMS. The SRI course is more of a theory based course, with numerous external speakers either in person or via video link who can deliver valuable information on how each supporting platform can be utilised during a combined arms live fire activity. The trainees are then assessed on their ability to back brief on a defensive and an offensive scenario they will have time to research the relevant doctrine and consult with supporting personnel.



So what is an SRI, well an SRI or single service equivalent is qualified to review and advise Commanders on the range planning, also mentor and assist inexperienced OIC Practice and SSs to conduct range training. They are also qualified to conduct range qualification training. Accordingly, though not a safety appointment they are a critical capability in the ADF range safety system. SRI are expected to build their expertise within units by actively assisting units develop and conduct live fire range training. The duties of an SRI include but are not limited to:

- a. Reviewing range planning as part of the checking and verifying of RDA traces. SRI does not need to be qualified on the weapon or ammunition nature to be used when verifying a trace.
- b. Mentoring and advising less experienced OIC Practice/SS staff during the planning and the conduct of live firing.
- c. Auditing range practices for CO/OC to ensure that they are conducted safely and in accordance with doctrine.
- d. Conducting range qualification/re-qualification training.
- e. Assisting with range siting boards.

So as you can gather within the ADF an SRI is quite an important figure with the planning of live fire ranges and also the issuing of qualifications. With all that responsibility the appointment normally falls to a nominated CSM within an Infantry battalion.

The pace of life at the School of Infantry across all departments has more balance than most units both in the Australian Defence Force and the British Army. The Duke of Gloucester cup which is where all regular Infantry battalions enter a team to conduct a number of military scenarios over a week long period and the winning team represent Australia during the Cambrian patrol. The role of the QMSI during the competition is with, no surprise, a member of the range staff during the live fire phase. The week ends with the Royal Australian Infantry Corps conference and Corps dinner.

I got the pleasure of being involved in an Anzac Day service, where I was asked to lay a wreath as a representative of the UK. Anzac day takes place on the 25th April. It is a day where the whole country comes to a standstill. For those of you who don't know what ANZAC day is, it is observed to honour the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who fought at Gallipoli against the Ottoman Empire during World War I. More than 11,000 ANZACs died at Gallipoli and more than 23,500 were wounded. From my experience with the School of Infantry ANZAC day is the equivalent to our Remembrance Day but on a much larger

scale, even though they do commemorate on Remembrance Sunday it is not as large an occasion as the 25th April. At 0530hrs the Dawn service will begin across Australia before a day of parades and socials. ANZAC Day is the only day in the calendar year where Gambling is legal in Australia and by gambling I mean the Game of heads and tails or two up as it is known in Australia, they play for silly amounts of money.



I have been fortunate to travel to a number of locations with work and seen some amazing sites. Brigadier Andrew Harrison Late Parachute Regiment is the Defence Advisor to Australia and he requested that all available service personnel attended a four day package at the High commission in Canberra where we got briefs on a vast array of subjects

relating to Australia and threats both international and domestic. We also had the privilege of meeting and chatting with both the High Commissioner, Her Excellency Menna Rawlings CMG and the deputy High Commissioner First Secretary - Dr Ruth Wiseman. To finish off a very interesting Professional military education experience we attended the dawn service at the Australian war memorial, again another must see for any service personnel visiting Australia.

On a sour note during my first three months in Australia 5 RAR, one of the Infantry Battalions, had a fatality during an LFTT activity where Private Jason Challis was killed having only been in the Battalion a matter of months. At this point WO1 Dave Allen who most of you remember from Brecon, myself and the Senior Instructor of Tactics Wing travelled to Darwin to conduct ADFRQ refresher training to the Battalion. Apart from the main reason we were in Darwin the place is the hottest and most uncomfortable any ginger male from Scotland can feel and experience, nonetheless it does have some amazing and interesting sites. Huge saltwater crocodiles in and out of captivity; also the quickest sun set I have ever seen in my life at Mindil beach and Mindil market which, after doing some research, is known worldwide. Also a 200kg Sumatran tiger called "Quintus Rama" who is the mascot of the 5th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment.



I must admit the family time which we have had during our time in Australia has been excellent. My wife and kids have met some lovely people who have no doubt made their time here more enjoyable. The scope to get out and about and do the touristy thing has been valuable and we have memories that will stay with us forever. However you have to remember that whilst in the UK driving for 10 hours can get you into the middle of Europe, in Australia that will only get you from Singleton to the Gold coast. So travel and destination requires some planning! It is an opportunity that I am honoured to have been given both in my professional career and also my family life. If some of you think I talk funny you want to hear my son, English accent with a lot of Australian pronunciation thrown in. I was also fortunate enough to spend an afternoon with the Barmy army during the day one of the 5th Ashes test at the Sydney cricket ground and that alone was an outstanding experience. It didn't quite beat the fireworks at Darling harbour to celebrate the beginning of 2018 but all and all an excellent day even though I forgot to pack the factor 50.

What does the future hold for the ADF and the improvements to Land Range Safety? In the immediate future the Commander Forces Command has ordered that a number of working groups are implemented to ensure the safe planning and execution of live fire practices. The death of Pte Challis has come as a wakeup call to a number of unit and sub unit commanders who now have live fire ranges as the number one priority during their tenure. Refresher

training for LFTT ranges has been implemented, no different to our DLE based training. However, this is an annual test which all qualified members must conduct. This testing has two parts, one part being a LWG 7-3-1 (PAM 21) open book test and the second part being a number of practical stands. On the improvement of live fire practices in Australia the following is, or has, been implemented: the use of drones, to robotic targetry, to the online range planning tool, all of which have been accepted as key elements to improve the operational effectiveness of a unit and the skills and drills at the lowest level.

To conclude; the Australian posting is unique for a number of reasons, more so because the ADF do not have a specific Corps who deals with advising range safety. They heavily rely on the SRI as previously stated. The QMSI position is highly respected across the school and also across the Army. Especially at the school the opinion is that no one knows ranges more than the QMSI. There are no major differences on the layout of the doctrine as the Australian doctrine is based on PAM 21 so hitting the ground running is no issue. I fully recommend this assignment to any QMSI. It is an opportunity that does not get handed out very often so grasp it with both hands. It will probably be the best married quarter you have ever lived in. It is an appointment I have thoroughly enjoyed yet somewhat frustrating; however a job I would do again. This account has been of my experience I am not saying that all experiences are the same but it is what you make of it that will determine how enjoyable it has been.



# Un-Belizeable

## WO2 (QMSI) Shaun Stewart

In 2016 QMSI Wilson wrote a rather good piece on BATSUB which ended up in the Corps Journal which you can read because if you need me to remind you about TLFTT or LFTT and day to day business of an SASC soldier you may be in the wrong job! I'll keep the military side of it short.

BATSUB still ensures 2000-6000 troops get a retention positive 4-6 week package usually specialising in jungle warfare including survival skills and LFTT. I work for DIO Range Control and check all the RASP's and Traces etc, write the RSO's and police the estate, I assist on the recces and guide the Unit to be as safe as possible. They also get help and assistance from the two OSTT or their BDE Advisor. Because BATSUB doesn't deliver training and only supports it very few of the 28 Mil staff actually leave camp, just my department. So last year everyone attended a two day basic skills package and leading up to it was uproar, people going sick, begging to be

the duty officer and stay in camp and general unhappiness and sheer fear of death. But we put together something that was educational and fun for them and after being tabbed into the jungle a whole 150 metres from the drop off point they soon relaxed into their new home for the duration and had fun. My skilled jungle employees showed them how to survive in the trees, catch and kill animals, prepare and cook it etc but that's enough shop talk don't you think.

It's a long story how I ended up here but it's one most of us have experienced, being drip fed information for a long period to go somewhere, doing the family planning and research then going somewhere completely different last minute. Then year's later getting the job you were told you had three years ago LOL! But 'I absolutely love it,' still glad I got a second chance and by far my best posting. I will be devastated when it ends but the future calls so I'm not digging in. I've always preferred hands on work, being out on the area with the troops and never been happy sat behind a desk so this job is perfect. At least 60% of my time is away from the dreaded DII and emails that burden and blight my life and I can often set my own routine for inspections, visits etc. The TSO (INF) and myself often travel together but have the redundancy to split tasks if needed.

Belize is an austere and backdated country still since it gained its independence in 1981. They have an amazing positive attitude out here in the Caribbean. There are no political issues between the UK and Belizien governments. We are very welcome here and fully supported by the local population.

This is the perfect job for the right person and one of you will have to be slotted in every two years. Everyone wants to know the financial aspect so I'll just tell you I take home £4950 - £5200 a month as an unaccompanied highest level QMSI. If I was accompanied it would be very similar but the allowance would change. I currently get lower LOA than a PAD but get £25ish LSA daily for being separated, but even the unmarried get LSA as its classed as a small station over here. If I was a PAD I'd get more LOA and lose the LSA unless on exercise. But the extra money is as its intended for, used to cover the additional costs of living as safe quality foods such as fruit which is imported to sustain a healthy lifestyle can be very expensive. But if you're one who likes to live on fast food, pot noodles and take away's then that selection is dirt cheap out here and you could save a fortune. There is an £860 claim you can make for one return flight annually to offset some of



the cost which is usually around £1000 plus hotel fee for an overnight in the states on the inbound journey.

BATSUB is moving towards being a family orientated facility with two year accompanied posts being the norm and with increase of families comes increase in welfare and funding but there are a few issues still on-going. Wives can't work so get bored and complain easily, especially the ones that can't drive. As a 'Ruffty Tufty' old Infanteer I'm less sympathetic to them as I had this same issue in Kenya with my wife Shelley. She didn't get bored and used the time to get fit doing marathon training, did distance learning, online teaching, childcare and safe guarding courses, relaxed, travelled (without me usually) and sunbathed by the pool. The majority of the issues the wives face or complain about here are self-generated through lack of imagination. There is no quality education for kids over 12 so best board your kids if they are mature and should note there are only 6 SVC flights a year if your children still get exeat weekend's mid-term from boarding. BATSUB does have dispensation for mums to meet the kids half way in Miami to escort them back to Belize and then take them to Miami for return to school. Family planning is restricted due to the ZIKA virus risk so it's not ideal if you're planning on having some kids. There are no after school clubs such as football, rugby, karate or boxing etc for kids to get involved in yet.

For single or married unaccompanied guys you need to be in a strong position to manage here with no financial or G1 issues going on, be it totally single or have a girl friend or wife who trusts you implicitly. Single/unaccompanied guys here have a tendency to go off the rails with drink and women who will try to latch on to the wealthy high earner

who could get them out of Belize. Obviously any problems spilling from your personal life into your work life doesn't go down well and could risk the future of the SASC PID. The CofC here consist of all LE officers inc the Colonel who will quite happily shut the door for a one way chat, stick you on a flight out or in one case call the RMP/Police himself to conduct an independent review of somebody's actions.

But don't take all that the wrong way, this place is amazing. As I mentioned the locals have the best attitudes of any nation I've ever been to, they are naturally happy, helpful, jovial people who don't fret too much or take life too seriously. Facilities in camp are always improving and upgrading thanks to a permanent team of DIO engineers. We now have an Olympic size open swimming pool to use and recently got new gym equipment which is protected for just staff to use so Units don't trash it. The families are much happier now the pool is there and they have been given a house to use as a community area for the younger kids and we have



through self help installed a children's play park. Obviously the PADs get their own house and the rest of us all share the remaining houses/bungalows. It's rank orientated so I share with another WO2 in a fully furnished three bed bungalow. We have separate double rooms with double beds and happily share the rest of the house. We divided the kitchen cupboards in half to stop mixing up our food and we have our own fridges also. We self cook as there is no cook house for permanent staff. This is where some guys really fail if they have never learnt to look after themselves. Accommodation, electricity, wifi for the singlies etc out here is all free so that's

another £200-300 saved. The old Warrant Officer and Sgts Mess is now an all ranks bar where we can socialise and host events. The bar is set up with a projector hooked up to some welfare gizmo's and we get all the SSVC new release movies a few weeks after they launch in UK so we can see them by hosting a weekly movie night. There is also a two screen cinema off camp down the road in Belize City anyway. I was in charge of entertainments for 6 months of my time here and hosted casino nights, steel band Caribbean summer ball and prizes, Halloween fancy dress, New Year Karaoke and Disco, Belikin Beer Brewery tour, Caye trips, temple trips to Guatemala, Adventure Training style activities etc.



On average I work around 8 weekends a year and there is always plenty to do and get involved with when I'm off work. I am more well-travelled and know the country better than many of the locals. I sold my 'get to work' car in UK and had a 2008 Jeep Patriot shipped over at public expense to allow me to explore. I have been to several temples across the country and in Guatemala, such as Xsanantunitch, Altun Ha, Cahal Pech, Lamanai, Tikal, Carracol and El Pilar. I've explored several water networks and waterfalls doing lots of river swimming. I have become involved with conservation and became friends with staff at animal rehabilitation centres such as Wild Tracks in Northern Belize who specialise in rescuing and helping Manatee and Monkeys. Last summer I brought my 16 year old son out for a month and got him two weeks living and working there as life experience (Surrounded by Australian, Canadian, American, Thai students aged 18-25 in short shorts and very loose clothing or just wearing bikini's) and another two weeks living and working from a research station called Monkey Bay where he worked with the National Geographic



excavating a Mayan temple in a region called Cayo looking for the body of a king from almost 1500 years ago.

Being in the Caribbean there is plenty of sun and crystal clear sea to enjoy. Off the coast are the Cayes and reef waters and down the road is Placencia. Diving, snorkelling, swimming with sharks, manatees, turtles and dolphin at Hol Chan, kayaking, wind surfing or just drinking beer in a beach bar is available at a low cost. Being British Army, BATSUB and tax free means we usually only pay around 25% of what it costs a tourist or local to participate in. Cave tubing on a rubber ring through underground river networks, zip lining, quad biking, sport fishing, repelling, hiking and much more is also within an hour's drive. Slightly further you have Mexico two hours away and what a night out! I went a few times, always did some bulk shopping, ate out the whole weekend. Corona beers at the hotel pool throughout the day and had an all nighter (pubs/clubs are 24hrs in Mexico) with friends in a night club called 'Rox.' When I counted my change I had spent around £80-100 in two days. Tattoos are big money in the UK now and out here you can get the work done just as professionally for much less. I had 9 hours work done restoring and adding to my back piece and only cost me £200.

I have found since I arrived that almost all of the population of Belize is connected in some way, if you make one friend you

make ten. If you ask someone where you can find a boat to hire for Saturday, they will dig out their phones, make some calls and within half an hour bombard you with options and contact numbers. I start each week thinking what can I do this weekend and go from there. My friends and contacts in the community constantly message me flyers and information on things going on or trips away and if I'm not working that's where I'll be because this place is Un-Belizeable!





## WO2 (QMSI) Hensby

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force and last year marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Air Force Regiment. I want to take some time to tell you about just some of their 100 year history.

On the 17th of April 1903 the first recorded powered flight was made in a Kitty Hawk America by brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright. This was achieved using a combination of an aerofoil wing and an engine attached to marine propeller. Initially military commanders saw this as a folly and didn't see much use for the early flying machines. However, with increased development, the fixed wing aircraft started to prove capable of military applications and on the 13th of April 1912 The Royal flying corps was formed under the command of Brigadier-General Sir David Henderson. A month later The Air Battalion of the Royal Engineers was also formed. This paved the way for the Royal Navy to create its own aviation branch and on the 1st July 1914, The Naval Air Service commanded by Commander C R Samson was born. It wouldn't be long until these organisations were put to the test.

### World War I

On the 28th July 1914 Kaiser Wilhelm II plunged the world into war. This was to be war of attrition with formations being held in trenches for long periods of time. One of the only ways to break the stalemate was going over the top of the trenches to attack the enemy positions, however the soldiers would have to go into an attack almost blind to the enemy strength and positions. This was where military

aviation came into its own. The pilots initially flying the BE2 aircraft would over fly the enemy trenches and take photos to be used by the ground commanders. This was not without risk, the aircraft were unreliable and often crashed with the pilot unable to bail out as he was not issued with a parachute! The other issue was Germans in such aircraft as the Fokker Triplane made famous by Manfred von Richthofen "The Red Baron". This Aircraft was far superior in both manoeuvrability and armament to the BE2. It was equipped with 2x 7.62 "Spandau" IMG 08 Machine guns with contantinesco interrupter gear which meant they didn't fire through the propeller blades, as opposed to the Webley pistol or the 303 Lewis Gun that was not synchronised thus couldn't be fired forward of the aircraft. However we developed our own more advanced aircraft in the form of the Sopwith Camel and the S.E.5. The Lewis Gun was then complemented by the Vickers Machine gun fitted with contantinesco interrupter gear.

During The Great war Brigadier-General Hugh Trenchard (pictured below) took Command of the Royal Flying Corps with the now promoted Lieutenant-General Henderson being assigned to London to take the post of Director-General of Military Aeronautics. On the 28th November 1917, the Air Force Bill received the Royal Assent paving the way for the formation of the Royal Air Force. On the 1st of April 1918 The Royal Airforce was born and Hugh Trenchard was appointed as the Chief of The Air Staff, earning him the title of "father of the Royal Air Force" which he and others disputed should belong to Lieutenant-General Henderson.



Initially the RAF took control of a Royal Naval Air Service land facility named HMS Daedalus, This was renamed RAF Cranwell and established as the Officer Training School. A year later a facility previously loaned to the Royal Flying Corps to train aviation engineers was bought from the land owner for a sum of £112 000. Lord Trenchard established No.1 School of Technical Training designed to train NCOs as ground engineers. Maybe as a pure coincidence but the fact remains the RAF NCO Rank structure was adopted from the Army and the officer ranks adapted from the Naval structure. However in contrast to the Military mind-set prior to RAF's formation, Trenchard actively sort talent within the Airmen and NCO cohort, offering Commissions and even pilot training to the more able candidates regardless of social standing.

### 1919-1939

Between the World Wars the RAF was tasked to lead the British forces In Iraq. It was thought by many in higher command that an air platform could be used to solve armed conflict as opposed to a ground lead assault. This was proved to be ineffective; however, many lessons were learnt from this campaign, not least the importance of force protection. This led to the formation of the RAF Armoured Cars Companies (pictured below) equipped with Rolls Royce armoured cars. Their job was to patrol the airfield along with Iraqi raised formations issued with Short Magazine Lee Enfield rifles and Vickers Machine guns (one of which can be seen in the RAF regiment museum today). This would eventually pave the way for the RAF regiment to be formed



on 1st February 1942.

### World War II

Once again Germany plunged Europe into war, forcing Britain to declare war on Germany on the 3rd of September 1939. This was to see the RAF and its capability tested to its limits with its finest hour to come. In June 1940 the Luftwaffe started its assault Britain with continued bomber raids and fighter skirmishes from the bomber escorts, the RAF where outnumbered 4-1. The RAF were shooting the German raiders at a rate of 2-1 however, this was still not sufficient enough to quell the German onslaught. It wasn't until the Luftwaffe made the tactical decision to switch from bombing the airfields to bombing cities and hubs of industrial activity, the RAF could regroup. This proved to be a fatal error on the part of the Luftwaffe with RAF Fighter Command dealing a devastating blow to the German offensive in the September. This action didn't halt the bombing of mainland Britain, but it did stop the desire for an invasion of Britain by Germany. Sir Winston Churchill commented "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few".

Fighter command was only one part of the RAF's contribution to WW2. Bomber Command under Sir Arthur Harris had the task of bombing Strategic targets throughout Germany and the rest of enemy occupied Europe. Initially bombing raids saw a large number of losses, one example of this was 82 Sqn flying Bristol Blenheim Bombers out of RAF Watton (my home Town). They were tasked with conducting a raid on Aslborg Airfield, Denmark on the 13th August 1940. Only one aircraft returned out of the 12 bombers tasked with the mission and that was due to mechanical failure meaning the aircraft had to return home. This, and other instances, prompted a rethink of tactics and technology. It was decided that night precision raids was the safest option. This increased the success rate dramatically, technical advances also had an equally important part to play. One such example was 617 Squadron (The Dam Busters) raid on the dams of the Ruhr Valley on the 16-17 of May 1943. Barnes Wallace invented a bomb that would bounce on the surface of the water and then sink once it reached the dam. This meant the blast was centred at the weakest part of the dam ensuring mission success, rendering



the industrial infrastructure within the valley ineffective until September of that year. Due to the continued success of Bomber Command more and more targets were being destroyed however this also caused civilian casualties. This was apparent in the bombing of Dresden between 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> February 1945. The whole city was raised to the ground and the morality of bombing was put into question. Due to this fact it took 70 years for the nation to officially recognise the sacrifices made by the bomber crews. They were finally official acknowledged by the bomber command memorial being unveiled on the 28 June 2012.

### **Bomber Command Memorial**

The RAF also took part in clandestine operations thought out the war. Dropping Special Operations Executive operators and French resistant fighters into occupied Europe. This was done by parachuting the operators into the occupied areas; however, once the missions and tasking were complete the operators needed extraction. They used the Lysander aircraft for this task. The French resistance would set up a temporary airfield at a predetermined area and signal the aircraft to land by means of touch light. Once landed the aircraft could be on the ground for no more than 3 minutes for fear of discovery. Another type of clandestine operation was conducted in the jungle. How this was achieved was to drop a radio operator onto the ground and allow him to call in air strikes to undermine the enemies progress. In both cases you can see early examples of land air integration, so heavily relied on in recent conflicts.

### **Cold War**

With WW2 coming to an end it was seen that Germany had to be divided into 4 areas controlled by the French, British and Americans to the west and the Russians to the East encompassing Berlin. Although Berlin fell into the Russian sector it was again divided similarly to the rest of German

among the four allied nations. This arrangement was not harmonious and political discord descended upon the previously allied nations. This came to a head in 24th June 1948 and the Russian blockaded Berlin refusing road access to the other nations. This meant that for almost a year the RAF had to fly its share of 2.3 million tons of supplies into Berlin to sustain the city. The blockage was eventually lifted on 12th may 1949, however, this marked the start of the cold war.

One of the main threats during the cold war was nuclear attack. Britain and the rest of the allied powers felt that the only way to stop a nuclear attack was to have its own nuclear capability to act as a deterrent. The RAF answer was the V Force. This was made up of the Vickers Valiant, Avro Vulcan and the Handley page Victor. These aircraft would carry a nuclear payload named the blue steel missile and would strike if ever a nuclear attack on mainland Britain was executed. Although such an attack never happened these aircraft were pivotal to the escalation and eventual de-escalation of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, probably the closest the world has ever come to outright nuclear war.

### **Falklands Conflict**

Eventually the Royal Navy took on the role of the nuclear deterrent so the V force was re-rolled and retired out of service. This was not before one of the force, the Avro Vulcan bomber was to take its starring role in the Falklands conflict. Black buck 1-7 had been equipped as long range ground attack aircraft. They were tasked with bombing Port Stanley airfield. In May 1982 part of the Black buck force took off from the Ascension Islands, it reached Port Stanley delivering a payload onto the airfield. They achieved one direct hit on the runway at Stanley. This was a massive logistical and technical achievement with no less than 13 air to air refuelling sessions being carried out, along the 8000 mile journey, although little



physical damage was done a massive psychological blow had been dealt to the Argentine aggressors. The Falklands also saw Royal Air Force and Royal Navy pilots battle in the skies with the Argentinean Mirages protecting land and sea based forces from attack. The RAF were operating the newly purchased Chinook helicopter resupplying land based forces with the supplies they needed to win the Falklands war.

### **Present Day**

The RAF has continued to support operations throughout the world (Northern Ireland, Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti and Libya). Their role remains as varied as it has always been from aid missions to ground attack missions on both rotary

to fix wing Aircraft. The RAF, is as all other services continually evolving to meet changing needs and new technologies. By the time this article goes to print the first delivery of F35 Lightning to 617 Sqn (the Dam Busters) will have been completed. Now with the 100th Anniversary it gives us time to reflect on the impact the RAF has had on both modern conflict and humanitarian missions in which they have been involved. Up and down the country Airforce units are preparing celebrations to mark the century that culminated with a fly over London on the 10th July this year.



*More information can be found on the celebrations at <https://www.raf.mod.uk/raf100/>*

# Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Overseas Region Defence Training Estates Kenya (DIO OR DTE (K))

WO2 (QMSI) Al McCrea

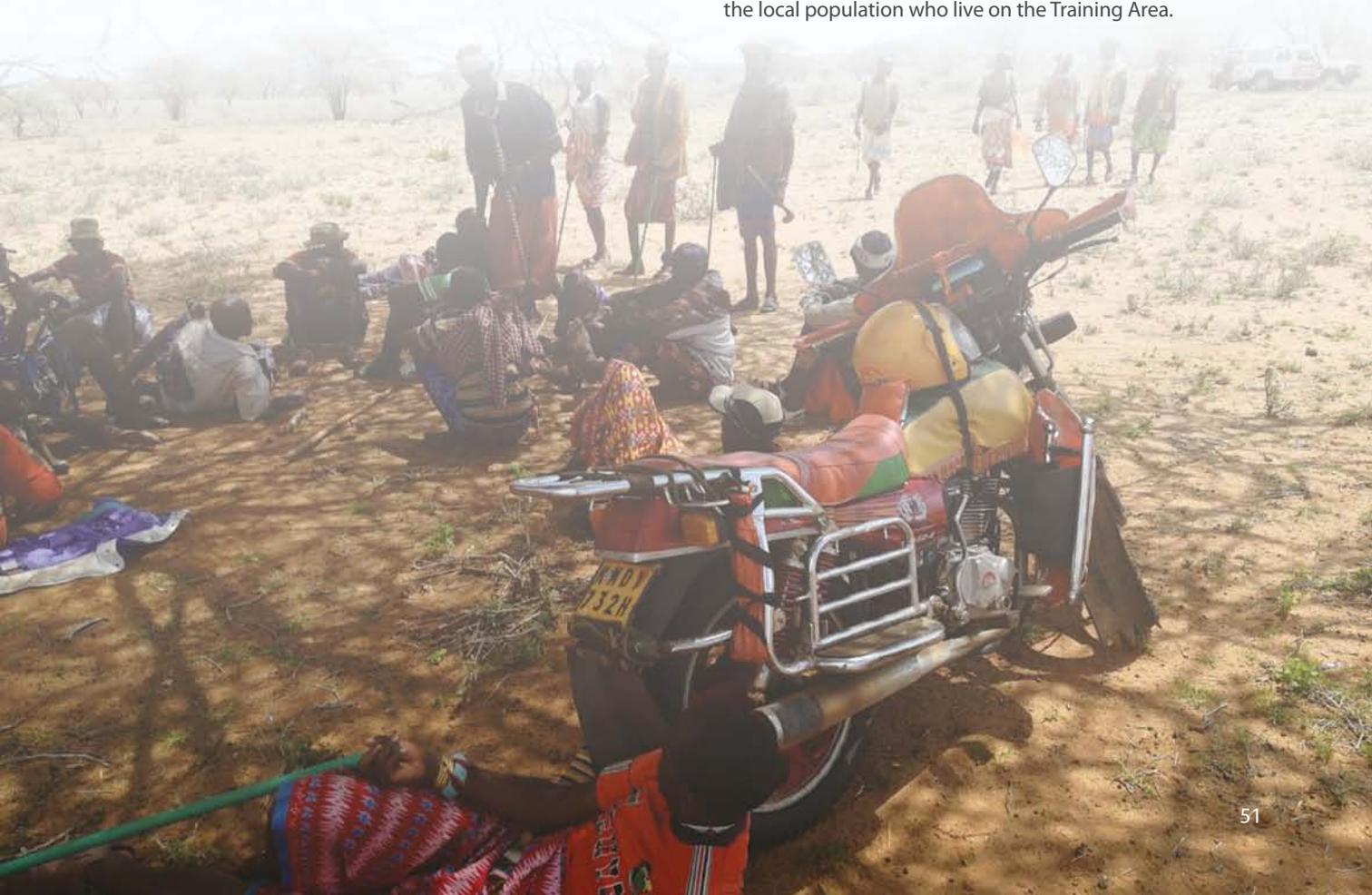
**D**IO OR DTE (K) is a small organisation consisting of seven Military and eighteen Range Wardens responsible for managing fourteen different Training Areas totalling over 2000 sq km. The team is split into three groupings, HQ, which houses the Training Safety Officer, QMSI, Range Officer, CQMS and a Store Man. The North, which consists of a Training Safety Marshall, 2IC and ten Range Wardens. The South, which is similar to the North Team, just with fewer Range Wardens.

HQ has overall control of all Training Areas and liaises closely with Kenyan Defence Headquarters to de-conflict the use of all Training Areas, which have a shared use. It has to work closely with the Kenyan Air Force (KAF) and the Kenyan Defence Force (KDF) to ensure Battle Groups get maximum use of the Training Areas.

The North is solely responsible for managing Archers Post Training Area, which is approximately nine times the size of Sennybridge Training Area. It houses Two Operational Bases, SIMBA which holds up to 750 personnel and TWIGA that can hold 250. It also contains a Sunken Village, which is a purpose built range designed to take a Rifle Company through Complex Terrain scenarios.

The South is responsible for managing all other Training Areas, which total around 900 sq km. They have one Operational Base, SWARA; which is designed to house the Battle Group during build up training.

Our set up is designed so that we can support up to six Battle Groups a year and several smaller exercises. This comes with lots of unconventional challenges. The biggest one is range clearances. A lot of time has been invested into understanding the local population who live on the Training Area.



We continually track where everyone is living, how many cattle they have, what days they go to water, where they intend to graze and what days they go to market. This understanding is vital when trying to advise what areas to use for Live Firing. A mistake could find a Company waking to find five thousand cattle in the middle of their RDA. In addition to the local tribes on the area, countless wildlife has to be moved. It must be done carefully so as not to risk injury. The movement is coordinated by two helicopters, ten vehicles and Range Wardens that are dropped off by helicopter into remote locations. In addition to clearing all ranges we have a severe problem with the weather. Rain causes flash flooding and will quickly make routes impassable making it impossible to function on the Training Area. Even more disruptive is when the rains are heavy enough to flood range control!

This year has seen the complete refurbishment of Objective Silver (Sunken Village). The Royal Engineers completed it during two separate specific exercises giving the tired facility a new lease of life. This now allows full use of HE Grenades in conjunction with Combined Arms Training.

In addition to supporting training, we also deliver our own training. We are committed to investing time and expertise into our staff. We understand in order to maximise output the foundations within the organisation must be solid. Offering Annual Mandatory Training to ensure that all staff remain

current and competent is our number one priority. We explore and exploit unique training opportunities staging training scenarios that expose our staff to severe and testing environments. This allows all team members to understand the roles and responsibilities of all appointments. Giving the team diverse and expert knowledge allows them to deliver a solid and reliable service to the end user.

So far this training year our team has conducted additional medical and casualty evacuation training. This involved providing treatment and triage to several casualties, coordinating an evacuation via helicopter and stepping up into senior appointments to test all members off staff.

After some well-earned time off we provided an additional two-phase course. Part one map reading, including day and night navigational exercises. Part two consisted of specialist range warden training, offering in-depth knowledge of Weapon Danger Areas, range facilities and the basic mechanics of how a range is planned and conducted.

Furthermore we stand ready to support two back-to-back Battle Groups, followed by an additional two after Christmas leave. These exercises will run alongside the KAF conducting live firing with F5 Jets and Cobra helicopter and the KDF running heavy weapons ranges. This will require careful management, relocating over two hundred people and ten thousand cattle.



# SMI Professional Development Period 2018

WO1 (SMI) 'Legs' Wilson

*There are no strangers, just friends you haven't yet met.*

The idea of reinvigorating the SMIs Professional Development period first occurred to me whilst I was sat in my office on a dark bleak January day in Warminster; surely there must be a way to manufacture a day off without it coming off my annual entitlement.

The aim of the professional development period was simple, the chance to gather as the senior cohort of SASC soldiers, where we would welcome those selected for promotion to SMI, but more importantly to bid farewell to those selected to commission. This would be one of their last functions as a soldier before they let go of their personalities, sense of G4 responsibilities and general navigational skills!

With a little bit of planning and a lot of help from SMI Rick Greene the plan was forming. What started off as an idea of a curry night in Warminster, suddenly turned in to a couple of days out in London, what could possibly go wrong?

Due to the nature of some individuals' posts, they were understandably unable to attend, with many committed to exercises overseas or busy with other tasks; although SMI Daz Wilbond in the Falkland Islands could have made more of an effort!

The professional development period started on a Thursday with us all arriving at Wellington Barracks London to take over our accommodation. Thursday night was to be a slow affair with nothing formal planned, a bit of ground orientation led to the group frequenting a few of the local establishments in and around Wellington Barracks, Covent Garden and the surrounding areas. It was good to see a few faces from the past and get the chance to meet new friends. It is amazing how quickly personalities in the Corps change; before you know it, you know nobody apart from a few guys that you were on the shop floor with and those that you have met in passing at Corps reunions and parades etc.



The Northern contingent were not happy with the breakfast Friday morning, the cost was in excess of £2.50, SMI Pete Hirst murmured something about kids and dinner money, before smashing down about 5 cups of strong tea.

After breakfast we headed off to 10 Downing Street; behind the famous highly polished black door, we were instructed to leave our mobile phones and all devices capable of receiving or sending a Wifi signal in the pigeon holes provided whilst we were shown through to the hall and waited for our chaperone.

As we walked through to the cabinet office it dawned on us all that 10 Downing Street is a lot bigger on the inside, with a museum feel to it. Presenting halls with silver in display cabinets, full wall portraits and the famous stair way with pictures of every prime minister that has been elected in to office.

The cabinet office is situated at the back of the building, with the uniquely boat shaped table, designed so each individual can see one another from wherever they are sat. It wasn't long before our tour guide got the idea just how this tour was going to go. Whilst the information he was delivering was interesting, I doubt it was as interesting as some of the questions being posed to him. Which one is Boris Johnsons Pencil? On correctly identifying the said pencil it would soon become a souvenir, followed closely by the Prime Ministers pencil! An impromptu cabinet meeting was chaired by SMI Alfie Steele, whilst sitting in the Prime Ministers chair, I'm sure the power went to his head slightly. Our guide was under pressure to tell the group the secrets of various Prime Ministers, although to his credit he didn't give much away, although. He did mention that the current Prime Minister was a lot kinder than a few he had worked for previously and that the Secretary State of Defence, the Rt Hon Gavin Williamson was a "great bloke and a personal friend". He clearly had a few more stories to tell, but he certainly wasn't going to share them with us!

The state rooms were also a highlight of the tour and unlike visiting a stately home or museum this was a working building. We thought nothing of sitting on the furniture where numerous world figures and heads of state have previously sat during official visits. We concluded our visit by taking pictures outside the door of 10 Downing Street and headed off to the Palace of Westminster, more commonly known as the Houses of Parliament.

Heading in to the palace of Westminster we met our guide for the tour, who we were not sure would make it all the way to the end. She looked a little worse for wear but she did a great job showing us around. The palace was heavily bombed during WWII; so much so that the building had to be rebuilt Prime Minister Winston Churchill decreed that the House of Commons should be remade from the rubble of the old house and you can still see evidence of that to this day, with misaligned masonry in a number of places. Like the tour of 10 Downing Street, this was both informative and appropriate for our day's activity. Each member of the group managed to take something away with them, for some it was the fact that Lords get paid £300 a day for just turning up (SMI Paul Tremain was not happy) for others it was the more cultural things, with SMI Rick Greene and SMI Alfie Steele getting involved in a debate regarding the Scottish influence on Houses of Parliament and the Six Nations rugby result the previous week.

After our visits were complete we headed off back to a pre-arranged rendezvous point, for those that know Wellington Barracks, it was just across the road. The group split with some members heading off back to their commitments; apparently they had received orders from the long haired chief of domestic staff and had to leave London without delay! Those few of us that remained decided to head back to the centre of London where we managed to get in to the Top Secret Comedy Club on Drury Lane. A line-up of 3 stand-up comedians each with their own unique outlook on current issues kept us well entertained. The rule when attending a comedy club is never to sit anywhere near the front row, a young guy celebrating his 20 Birthday was receiving some serious incoming from all comedians, but took it all in good nature, somewhat dispelling the myth that all young people are part of a snowflake generation.

Overall a great couple of days was had by all attending, and my thanks go to SMI Rick Greene, who without his planning would have made the visit almost impossible to arrange at such short notice. For all that made the effort to attend, thank you for making it a worthwhile experience. As discussed we need to up the bar next year (or just get to the bar) and see where the next SMI Professional Development period (I still can't believe we got any with calling it that) leads us. For those hoping for promotion this year to SMI I certainly look forward to you joining us in March 19, for those leaving us either on commissioning or leaving the Army, you have no excuses your hard work is over!



# STTT Bermuda

## Sgt (SI) Fyfe

I am currently employed within Infantry Weapons Division, located at the Infantry Battle School in sunny Brecon. Since completing phase two candidate training I have delivered a number of SCBC, AA SAA, DTTT and RMQ courses.

I was recently offered the opportunity to develop my experience by deploying to Bermuda to facilitate training. For those who may not know, Bermuda is a 21 square mile Island located on the North Atlantic and off the east coast of North America. It is comprised of 138 small islands, 20 of these being inhabited. My task was to assist in the training for the Royal Bermuda Regiment (RBR).

I relished the chance for this once in a lifetime opportunity, so as you can imagine, I grasped it with both hands. The RBR are primarily a reservist regiment with a small contingent of permanent staff to conduct training. The reservists attend at least one drill night per week and at one weekend per month; they also conduct annual training in America. It surprised me how committed they were to their Regiment despite being part time. However, after spending some time with them I realised they were more like a family due to the size of the island.

During the first week Maj Skinner and I delivered an RMQ course for 12 soldiers comprising of both reservists and full time personnel. They appeared to be very motivated to learn from the outset and worked hard for me making my job easier. The weapons they use include the G36 (5.56 mm assault Rifle) generally used on the boats, the Berretta and the Arwen Riot Gun. In the last two years they started to use the SA80 A2. I quickly discovered their weapon handling was lacking due to limited exposure with the weapon. Although with my guidance this was quickly rectified.

Due to the size of the island the facilities available for training are fairly limited, there was a 25 m Barrack Range available for the RMQ course allowing more time than I anticipated on the beach. There is also a 100 m Beach Range; however, this can only be used during certain months of the year.

The course went well despite the limited facilities available leading to all 12 of them passing the training with no issues. This allowed some free time at the weekend to go visit the sights of the island, including the bars. I'd like to tell you that I spent the weekend preparing for the DTTT course that was to follow, but then I would be lying. It was spent soaking up



the sun on the beautiful sandy beaches, drinking beer on speed boats (I wasn't driving) and being dragged on pub crawls by the people we had met the previous week.



The only down side to Bermuda is that everything is so expensive, to give you an idea. It cost around 6 dollars for a loaf of bread; fortunately they provided us with an allowance for our food which covered our expenses. However, it did not include alcohol, which averaged around 11 dollars each.

During the second week I taught a reduced DTTT Course to a new set of students, most of which were permanent staff. As previously mentioned the lack of exposure to the SA80 A2,

I decided to include it into their teach backs to give them a little more hands on. Their instruction was mixed as expected but they improved greatly during the week. They seemed to embrace a different way of teaching and were excited to push their new found knowledge onto others.



Overall it was a successful trip and I would strongly recommend that if you get the opportunity to go to Bermuda, you embrace it as I did. It was an experience that I will remember for a long time and hopefully I will get the chance to return, even if it's just for a holiday. I met some great people and it was a great feeling knowing that they have learnt so much. It was a very rewarding experience.



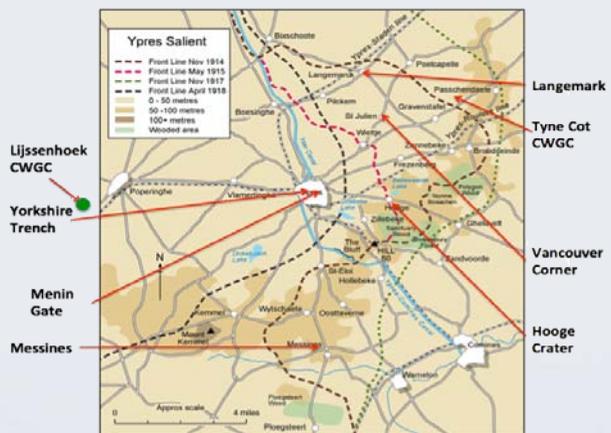
# Realities Of War

WO1 (SMI) Alfie Steele

This year for the journal I have decided to write an article on Ex VALIANT SPIRIT (Realities of War) or more commonly referred to as a Battlefield Study. This activity forms part of the course folder of the Common Military Syllabus (CMS) for recruits in basic training. It's a two day visit to Belgium studying the battles of Ypres during WW1. It is an important part of a recruit's military education, reinforcing the core values and standards of the British Army and engendering a feeling of esprit de corps.

I will focus on the overall main events of the short trip rather than turn this into a history lesson. So, with that in mind, why do we bother sending recruits off on a perceived jolly for a couple of days in what is an already heated training programme.

Well in my opinion it is vital that recruit training seeks to not only develop the knowledge and skills required to be a soldier, but also aims to inculcate the attitudes, expressed through the values and standards, which the Army demands of all its personnel. Many of the attitudes are developed vicariously through the lessons laid down in the CMS and of course through role modelling. It is under these lessons that military ethos, and the values and standards of the British Army are taught, discussed, put into context and learnt. We all know military ethos is vital for success on operations and in barracks, and therefore it is vital that it is delivered in the way most likely to bring about a positive attitudinised change congruent with the Army's needs. It is for these reasons that recruits need to attend a Realities of War package where the qualities of a British soldier have been displayed most comprehensively and evocatively.



### Day One

On the first day of the activity the recruits get an early breakfast before departing by coach from ATC Pirbright at around 0630hrs. The training team (TT) complete usually go on every exercise along with a guide that is normally picked up en route to the Eurotunnel Shuttle. During this journey the recruits are quickly put into the correct mindset as a DVD of the First World War is played followed by the BBC documentary "Our War" which covers more recent events from Afghanistan. The crossing is short and soon the coach arrives in France and then the guide starts to put the whole trip into context through his wealth of knowledge. He explained an overview of the Salient, an area surrounding Ypres in Belgium which was the scene of some of the bloodiest battles of WW1.



The day is then spent traveling to various sites that include both British and the German cemeteries. The German cemetery of "Langemark" was a real eye opener for the recruits as it was stark contrast to any British cemetery. The small area contains over 44,000 German soldiers including the famous fighter ace Werner Voss who is credited with 48 kills. Other sites that were visited during the day were the "Hooge Crater Museum", various battlefield locations and "Menin Gate".

Menin Gate was constructed as both a war memorial and a memorial to the missing at the end of the First World War in the town of Ypres. It is 120ft long and 66ft wide structure, engraved with around 54,000 names of officers and men who died during the first 3 years of the war. Every year since 1929, at 2000hrs, the traffic is stopped and a member of the

local Fire Brigade sounds the Last Post under the memorial arches. This is an act by the Belgian people 'to commemorate and express the eternal gratitude to the soldiers of the British Empire who fought and fell in the defence of the town'. The recruits and the TT all parade at this site in combats and have a small part to play in the parade when they lay a wreath.

### Day Two

The next day was another early start to visit a plethora of locations and included "Black Watch Corner" (my own former regiment). This memorial was only recently constructed and it was here that the 1st Battalion the Black Watch halted the Russian Guard in the first battle of Ypres. Other sites that were visited were Vancouver Corner which was the location in April 1915 that saw the first use on the Western Front of gas in sufficient quantities to be identified as a new weapon.

On the last stand to be visited an Act of Remembrance was conducted by the unit padre. This was held at Tyne Cot cemetery which commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen who died in the Ypres Salient from August 1917 and whose graves are not known and a further 12,000 burials. The site is unique not just because it's the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world but also because it still contains four German bunkers.



The recruits during this day as they did on the first were set homework in advance so that they could brief, discuss and contribute to each of the stands. This was led by their own Section Commander, however, the recruits still delivered elements of this by explaining what it must have been like then and how it compares to their training at Pirbright. This was further reinforced by the whole TT throughout the various stands by adding that touch of context to what the guides were briefing.



It was good to see everyone was given some free time to reflect on what they had seen and heard but it was soon time again to get back onto the coaches for one final trip back home to Pirbright. The coaches pulled up on the parade square at around 1930 hrs of day two and signalled the end of their Reality of War experience.

### **Summary**

In summary Ex VALIANT SPIRIT was used to further inculcate the core values and standards of the British Army that are paramount within the CMS. Each stand provided the recruits with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the qualities of a British soldier and consider the nature of conflict. This is likely to have been the first time that they have truly considered the consequences of warfare and their decision to undertake a career within the Armed Forces.



# Ex GUSTAV GAUNTLET

## SSgt (SSI) Barney Walker

I have always been interested in history, particularly military history but never had the opportunity to attend a Battle Field Study. So, when the chance to travel to Italy arose, I jumped on it.

The Study consisted of two parts, a pre-study in the Tank Museum where we had the chance to view first-hand the vehicles and some of the weaponry used during the Italy campaign by both the Allies and the Axis powers.

The second half of the Exercise consisted of a week-long deployment to southern Italy with a plan to follow the advance of the Allies from the beach landings in Anzio and Salerno (Op AVALANCHE) as they pushed to Rome. The plan was to liberate Rome in ten days but took one hundred and forty days and saw some of the bloodiest fighting in the whole of the war.

To add some context, I will briefly lay out the situation in late 1943. The Germans had been defeated in Stalingrad and pushed out of Russia at great cost to the Russian people and Army. Churchill believed that following the defeat of the Axis in North Africa an invasion of the soft under belly of Europe (Italy) would force the Germans to completely withdraw from Russia and potentially force them out the war early. After some initial set backs and misgivings from the Americans (whose eyes were focused on the Normandy landings) the plan was agreed for an amphibious landing in September on the beaches of Salerno by British and American forces.

So as with most military adventures we set off from ARMCCEN at the ridiculous time of 0100hrs accompanied with a semi frozen steak bake and packet of crisps to sustain us on our flight to Italy. After an unbelievably long coach journey we arrived in Salerno to find a rather run down and tired looking Italian city. Luckily for us the flight containing the Headshed had been delayed by several hours, so we set off to find the nearest beach or cold beer whichever came first! After a very refreshing swim and well-deserved beer or two or three etc we made our way back to the hotel to enjoy what would become the first of several long drawn out three course meals, we quickly learnt that timings to the Italians are flexible and dinner is a very serious affair!

Day one began as the week would follow, we would visit an area of particular interest and two of the party would then deliver their allocated section of the battle. We would then break off into syndicates and further discuss the action. We compiled lessons learnt and compared the doctrine of the time to the current doctrine and how such action would be fought now in the modern environment with modern military capabilities.

Each syndicate would then deliver its thoughts to the group before getting back on the bus and moving on to follow the path the allies made.

Day two, three and four saw us in the town of Cassino overlooked by the Monte Cassino Abbey. In all there were



four battles to finally take Monte Cassio with both sides taking huge casualties. Some very brave men on both sides fought battles which would be hard to comprehend these days especially with the current swing to risk aversion we seem to have adopted post TELIC and HERRICK. Some of the German defensive actions are astonishing, for example one hundred and fifty German paratroopers holding off four battalions of British infantry for four days until finally being forced to withdraw. A lot of the attacks and counter attacks took place at night, uphill against heavily fortified positions.

We were to remain in Cassino for most of the Study week and even got to visit the Abbey, which itself is difficult to describe in words. It was built to remember Saint Benedick the founder of the Benedick monks (he is buried under the Abbey) It's also worth noting the Abbey was rebuilt after the war due to allies dropping 443 tons of munitions on top of it after mistakenly believing it to have been occupied by a German Battalion, one of most controversial decisions of the war.

It was during this time in Cassino that I had the honour to meet a veteran of the Anzio landings. The ninety-five-year-old had been on his way home from Africa when his ship was diverted, and he was told he was to become a Battle Field Casualty Replacement BCR for the landing. Again its worth noting that some soldiers were deployed for years at a time, as well as being an absolute legend he was also still "hanging one on" at 0130 most nights in the hotel bar! Putting some of our group to shame.

Day five saw us move to Rome via Anzio, the landings at Anzio went much better than the previous landings at Salerno. Clearly some of the lessons had been learnt, for example at Salerno the Infantry landed without Anti-Tank weapons and paid a high price when confronted by German Panzers and Self-Propelled Guns (SPG). That said Anzio was still a brutal battle! At some points it resembled the kind of fighting not seen since World War 1. It became a war of attrition with people being the main commodity. We also had the privilege of visiting some of the many Commonwealth War Graves; and it was a humbling experience. It included a German War Grave visit which was a first for me.

We arrived in Rome on Friday afternoon, I was shocked by the scale and pace of the city! Everyone in Rome is in a hurry, scooters were flying in and out of traffic with very little regard for what ever rules of the road Italians have.... If any!

After the generic, don't ruin it for everyone, brief we deployed en mass, in Rome! The inevitable rank ranged groups made their break for freedom and soon three or four groups of sun burnt squaddies went their separate ways. There was talk of strip clubs and underground raves, I went for the middle ground and decided to go and see the Colosseum by night, I wasn't disappointed! The scale and grandeur is breath-taking probably more so by night. What wasn't so impressive was the price of a pint, which had gradually risen on the way to Rome and settled at eight euros a pint! As for the rest of the night... well what happens in Rome stays in Rome!



We came together on Saturday morning for a final wash up and final lessons learnt from Commander ARMCCEN. Some people were slightly worse for wear and fashionably late but all were accounted for. The Commander spoke in detail about how hard it is to get funding for such trips in the current climate. It was very much a study as opposed to the "tours" of the past. Each syndicate leader summarised in detail on the key points from the week; training being a vital element as well as robustness and courage of the combat soldier. I was left wondering how the so-called Selfie generation would fair in a total war scenario and what role the Corps would play today.

The study was brought to a close and we were once again released into Rome with a promise that not making the next timing would guarantee in you making your own way home! I had planned to visit and enter the Colosseum but was put off by the huge crowds, so it was off to the Vatican! Where else!?

Having walked for miles and deciding that flip flops was the wrong choice of footwear I finally arrived at the Vatican and was left speechless. I am not particularly religious but even I couldn't help feeling slightly impressed by the power of the church in Rome, its everywhere and dominates the city. After a long and delayed journey, we eventually arrived home in Bovington at around 0500hrs on Sunday morning.

Like many others I have been told on numerous occasions "never volunteer for anything". For once I am glad I ignored that advice, I had a brilliant week. I was able to visit three of the biggest tourist destinations in the world in one sitting! It was great a experience at zero personal cost (minus beer tokens of course)and I am hugely grateful for having the opportunity to attend.

Its quite easy to sit at your desk and think that's not for me or I am too busy, but the work will always be waiting for you when you get back!



# The British Army Combat Shooting Team (BACST)

## Exercise WALTZING MATILDA 17

Lt R Goodman RHA, BACST Captain, WO2 (QMSI) R Wareing, BACST Coach

*"Talent hits a target no one else can hit; Genius hits a target no one else can see."*

Arthur Schopenhauer

**K**angaroo's everywhere, hundreds of them- but we were not in Australia for a safari. In May 2017 we had the chance of a lifetime to travel to the South Pacific and represent the British Army at AASAM (Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting), the Australian military's flagship marksmanship competition.

Team selection began in April in Warminster with twenty-four of the top shots from across the Army qualifying from AOSC 16. The aim was to select twelve firers and train them to compete in Australia. The selection process took part over eight days and began with POA work and ramping up to operational shooting assessments. The competition was fierce and all twenty-four men were already at a high standard from day one.

The selection process was made clear to the men from the first morning- "there are twelve seats available on the flight and twenty-four of you. Work hard and enjoy it". They worked

incredibly hard over the selection process as did the team captain and coach. A top tip for the future would be to secure an office with IT available to you 24-7! There is a fair share of administration to be done in terms of communicating with the Liaison Officer in Australia as well as the airlines and airports however this was a fantastic learning experience and we gained a lot from it.

We were also on the hunt for an admin team which would ideally consist of a SNCO/WO in the CQ/RQ role and essentially a class one armourer. We found these in two great blokes, WO2 Ty Starke RE and Sgt Steve 'Woody' Woods REME. These men performed to an exemplary standard in role and were an asset to the team, making things so much smoother day to day. Sgt Woods almost became an ASSAM asset as he turned out to be the most experienced armourer at the competition and was conducting training for other armourers from Australia and New Zealand.



Victoria in May can be cold and wet, so teams should be prepared for this and take the adequate kit and equipment. We arrived after the 23-hour flight around 2300hrs local and were met by the liaison officer. There was enough time to grab a brew before the hour drive north to Pukapunyal Military Training Area and into our barracks. The barracks were very basic but comfortable, similar to one of our transit camps.

There had been a change to the competition budget in 2017 so the luxury of getting our own team hire vehicles was replaced by a bus service which left the armoury at 0630hrs and began to ferry teams back from the range from around 1500hrs resulting in long days on the range often with a lot of downtime. The days out on the ranges were always interesting due to the number of participating teams- a total of 20 including many NATO and international partners from the US Army, USMC, Canada, France, New Zealand and Australia as well as a variety of Australian Asia-Pacific regional partners such as Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Japan and Indonesia. Wildlife was abundant and a range clearance by a kind of aboriginal bush scream through a megaphone seemed to be the technique to shift the large groups of Kangaroos that were grazing. Frequent visits by the odd Emu, cockatoos and even our liaison officer WO2 Charles King made for interesting moments on occasion.

**DDH and Host Nation Range Assessment**

One of the roles the QMSI has during this exercise is to ensure that the activities fall within the safe system of training. A risk assessment is carried out and findings brought back to the BACST captain in order to keep the DDH certificates up to date. This is to be completed during every visit to that host nation range complex in order to assess on an annual basis to ensure safety.



**Performance**

Our aim and mantra from the beginning of team selection was to win! The team believed it could be successful and we believed that by the end of the competition, we were. 2017 was one of the most successful years for the British Army Combat Shooting Team competing at AASAM since their first involvement in the competition back in 1988. We collected medals and a trophy on a team and individual basis as follows:

The Guardsman Challenge	Team	1st
Long Range Rapid – 450m	LCpl Yogesh Ale (30 Sig Regt)	2nd
Service Rifle Long Range Individual Aggregate	LCpl Yogesh Ale (30 Sig Regt)	3rd
Long Range Snap – 450m	LCpl Yogesh Ale (30 Sig Regt)	4th
Obstacle Course	Team	3rd
Long Range Team Aggregate	Team	4th

Of particular note is LCpl Yogesh Ale of 30 Sig Regt who achieved remarkable success in the Service Rifle Long Range matches. With strong performances from the entire team we were able to secure 4th place in the team aggregate for the Long Range matches as well as 3rd for the Obstacle Course- which was testament to the team’s combination of fitness and marksmanship.

The most satisfying win was that of the Guardsman challenge where the BACST triumphed over a particularly strong Australian Defence Force team. The Guardsman Challenge had not been won by the British Army for over 15 years and it was a fitting finish to a hard two weeks of competition.

**R & R**

Once the competition was complete and the weapons had been maintained, inspected and secured, it was time for 4 days of travelling Australia’s east coast. Everybody took full advantage of this unique opportunity and crammed in a lot of travel in a short space of time- flying to Brisbane, Sydney, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and Melbourne all within 4 days! All back in one piece the team RV’d back in Melbourne the evening before facing the epic flight back to the UK.

AASAM 2017 was a tremendous success for the British Army Combat Shooting Team- long may the retention of the Guardsman Trophy continue!

# A Blast From The Past

by WO1 (Corps SM) A Blair

Needless to say this meeting was very well run, because in addition to our two Syndicate Officers in SA Wing, Capts Colborne and Amber, the following SASC were involved as Range Conducting Staff:

Capt Brown  
SMI Prince  
SMI Corrigan  
QMSI Romer  
SSI Gallagher

All giving a true indication of how range practices should be run.

I am pleased to report that for the second year running the Corps won the two medals awarded for management of butts, QMSI Geddes and SI Dickson being this year's winners. A just reward for a very difficult job well done.

The above achievements show very clearly the true value of the part our Corps plays in the Skill at Arms field, and this is of course in addition to the vast number of SASC trained officers and NCOs we send back to their units qualified as master and sub-unit coaches. Let us hope they are allowed to practise what they have been taught.

## AROUND SHOOTING

by

CAPTAIN J C PATERSON

Once again Bisley comes and goes. Once again the SASC as a whole did not perform well. It was quite alarming to see the number of Corps members walking about at Bisley with mil-boards instead of weapons! How can we teach shooting if we do not practise? How can we be expected to win without practice? So the cry goes up that we should withdraw from competition shooting, which would be disastrous. I believe that we can once again reach the top, given the chance. Whilst we have to produce instructors for courses before and during Bisley, the rest of the Army can afford to keep off these courses NCOs who are noted shots. Whole teams can be kept back from postings abroad so as they can compete at Bisley. Yet out of the mirk comes forth a few flickers of hope. SSI Cooke continued to improve. QMSI Harverson also continued to pop them in, but the most improved shot in the Corps must be QMSI Byrne. He gave a creditable account of himself throughout Bisley and he ran a team for his Depot as well. Oh - he also plays golf! Well done Paddy.

Once again I have looked in vain for SASC names in the Army Small-Bore teams. There is more to be learned in SB shooting than in any other type. Younger members would be surprised at just how much information can be gained from shooting and marking cards, but before you start being the organizers of leagues and teams why not start and improve your skills? Proof of this is in the case of QMSI Menzies who is regularly plotting an average 97. Now I'm sure he can talk with conviction when teaching, because he has taught in the past without doing it himself. I've heard it said that it is just .22 and is easy, too easy to be bothered about. Incidentally I heard a well known professional golfer say that the only way to teach golf is to get out and show people what can be done. It is said that Menzies and Paterson have been seen on Glencorse golf course chasing the wee ball!

Maybe the methods being used to teach shooting are putting people off. Our pamphlets seem to reach out too far in doctrine. We used to teach weapon training as a medium towards teaching how to teach. In doing so we stuck to basics. These basics were taught very thoroughly, therefore students who had a leaning towards shooting could go away and build on the sound grounding they had been given, and bring out their own methods with their own type of people. You cannot teach a man from Glasgow as you would a man from a small village in Surrey, Lincoln or Norfolk. Queen's Own Highlanders cannot be taught in the same way as men from East Anglia or Devon.

I was fortunate enough to be selected as coach to the Army Team competing in Canada. The team in the main came from the Queen's Lancashire Regiment. When I met up with them they had a host of fancy ideas, most of which were like icing on a cake which had no middle. The fancy ideas were built on a very shaky basis. So it was that the first part of our training was showing them just how much they did not know. They turned out to be a credit to our Army and I'm sure individually they are now better shots in all weapons, not just rifle. One of the examples of sticking to the basics is WO2 Lalbahadur who was a member of the team. No wonder the Gurkhas do well at Bisley. They stick to the basics and pay attention to detail.

Being at the Scottish Infantry Depot has shown me just how badly off the Army is for shooting coaches and shooting expertise. It has nothing to do with time not being available. Northern Ireland is always being blamed but we seem to be shy at practising the basic skills required of an Infantryman. I have seen shots being fired from ridiculous positions when the lying position as taught would have been better and successful, but I'm then informed that this is what you must do in NI (target missed of course). I see in the Soldier magazine that girls are being taught how to shoot the pistol. I wish the men were taught first, especially the young officers.

I think I have moaned enough and would now like to put forward a few concrete suggestions to help raise the standard of shooting in battalions and the Army as a whole, not just for Bisley. Soon we will have to be thinking of the weapon of the 80s. To achieve this change-over we should be starting now. Shooting a new rifle should not be more difficult than shooting those we've had in the past.

- a. Let us forget the American Marksman Manual (we can beat them any time).
- b. Let us return to teaching the basic principles as applied to using a catapult, rifle, gun, bow and arrow or golf club.
- c. Let us teach how to coach by being able to perform ourselves.
- d. Teach how to run ranges properly so as we can gain maximum time to teach how to pass the standards expected in each stage of TBS.
- e. Let us remember that APWT is only the middle stage of our training.

COMPETITION SHOOTING

by

CAPTAIN A WILSON MBH

RASAM 1980 RESULTS

STAGE 1

Name	RouPELL	Whitehead	Associa- tion	Moving Tgt	Total	Position
SI Anderson*	124	136	113	28	401	405
QMSI Ashford*	124	104	125	12	365	534
QMSI Byrne	144	140	165	26	475	79**
QMSI Campbell	128	104	132	35	399	410
SI Cooke*	140	144	173	43	500	21**
			(11th)	(11th)		
QMSI Cairns	116	124	132	36	408	369**
SI Dimmick*	-	108	142	-	-	-
QMSI Grant*	132	120	164	40	456	149**
QMSI Harverson	144	144	164	22	422	291**
QMSI O'Reilly	124	124	148	31	427	276**
Capt Paterson	140	148	122	31	441	217**
		(36th)				
QMSI Patey*	156	108	164	31	459	137**
	(2nd)					
RSM Smith	136	140	148	30	454	157**
Capt Stephens*	124	100	122	32	378	475
QMSI Swift	116	120	151	32	419	306**
SMI Wilson	148	116	124	33	421	302**
Capt Wilson*	136	120	127	33	416	323**

\*School of Infantry Team  
\*\*Qualified for Stage 2

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

Name	Roberts	Total	Position	Army 100	Grand Total	Position
QMSI Byrne	164	639	71	161	800	69th
SI Cooke	172	672	17	173	845	15th
QMSI Cairns	-	-	-	-	-	-
QMSI Grant	164	620	131	-	-	-
QMSI Harverson	152	632	92	157	789	85th
QMSI McFarlane	172	594	224	-	-	-
QMSI O'Reilly	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capt Paterson	140	581	283	-	-	-
QMSI Patey	124	583	272	-	-	-
RSM Smith	148	602	194	-	-	-
QMSI Swift	140	559	355	-	-	-
SMI Wilson	176	597	214	-	-	-
Capt Wilson	172	588	248	-	-	-

NRA RESULTS (SCHOOL OF INFANTRY TEAM)

SI Anderson received a Silver Medal and three Bronze Bars:

WANTAGE	-	47
QUEEN MARY	-	162
SERVICE RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP	-	372

SI Cooke received a Silver Medal and five Bronze Bars:

BISLEY BULLET	-	33
STANDING	-	49
STEPHENS	-	44
IMPERIAL TOBACCO	-	105
SERVICE RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP	-	395

SI Dimmick received a Bronze Medal and two Bronze Bars:

BISLEY BULLET	-	33
QUEEN MARY	-	159

QMSI Patey received a Bronze Medal and two Bronze Bars:

WANTAGE	-	47
QUEEN MARY	-	159

METHUEN

<u>Name</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Position</u>
SI Cooke	167	} 14th out of 26 teams
QMSI Herverson	140	
QMSI McFarlane	123	
Capt Paterson	146	
QMSI Patey	167	
RSM Smith	166	
Total	909	

Reserve: QMSI Swift

Well that about wraps it up, however it should be noted that in addition to the results above it is well worth mentioning the following:

Three members of the SASC made it into the Army 100.

SI Cooke achieved 3rd position in the Sniper Aggregate Match.

Capt 'Pat' lent his considerable experience to the British Army Team when they visited Canada, needless to say they did extremely well.

QMSI Cairns was selected for the Army Pistol Team - the Army came 2nd in the Whitehead Cup. QMSI Cairns's name continues to appear many times in various documents depicting his prowess with the pistol. Well done.

As usual, numerous teams which collected the silver had SASC either as their coach or were in the team, e.g:

Minor Units Championship	- Guards Depot
The Western Command Cup	- Guards Depot
The Gloucester Regiment Cup	- Scottish Inf Depot Glencorse
The 18th Hussars Cup	- Guards Depot
Junior Soldiers Unit Championship	
Major Units, The Malta Cup	- Jnr Gdsm Wing Guards Depot
Minor Units, The Minor Units	
Malta Cup	- Jnr Para Coy
The Parachute Regiment Cup	- IJLB

So all in all some high spots mixed in with some 'bad luck'. I'm assured that 'bad luck' will disappear as soon as we acquire time to practise, however, because of our task in life at present, the luxury of full time training for anything like the period required to compete with the top firers/teams at Bisley is a pipe dream.

QMSI Patey did an excellent job as coach of the School of Infantry team and deserved better returns - thank you. He had at least one consolation - he made it into the Methuen team and produced a creditable result.

I would not like to finish without thanking everyone taking part in the School of Infantry team for their hard work - to wish QMSI McFarlane and the 1981 team every success (under difficult circumstances) and hope they get plenty of the important ingredients - luck!

# SASC Past & Present

by WO1 (Corps SM) A Blair





# Small Arms School Corps (SASC) Football - 165 Years Of Hurt

## WO2 (QMSI) A Tester

After a string of 3 straight defeats a new look squad had a point to prove. Due to some last minute changes, the team had to change the set up from 4-2-3-1 just before kick-off to 4-1-4-1. With the Corps flag flying high, the game kicked off. The Corps started nervously, and needed a wake up call as a well struck shot during the opening play was kept out by the safe hands of debutant keeper Sgt Dan Weaver.

BAE pressed well and were forcing some early pressure. The solid ground seemed to get the better of one of the BAE lads, as a 50/50 challenge ended his game early with a dislocated shoulder. Some good play in the middle of the park and some well placed lofted passes over the top using the left channel to WO1 Mark Hutchison, this managed to stretch the BAE team and allowed for a bit more space to play in. The breakthrough came from an in-swinging corner on the left by CSgt Marc Starkey which was then flicked on from the near post by SSgt Dave Lynch into the path of SSgt Stu (The Salmon) Murphy which left the keeper grasping at thin air, 20 minutes gone and it was 1-0 to the Corps. The next 10 minutes saw few chances for either sides as both teams were exchanging possession in the middle of the pitch, with some tasty challenges being thrown in from both sides.

A nice clearance from the right by WO2 Jim Norris and a slice from the BAE left back gave the Corps a throw in, just inside the BAE half. The ball was sent to WO2 Adam Tester, who made a deceiving run into the 18 yard box and saw his shot blocked, only to deflect into the path of Sgt Mark Graham who calmly slotted it home, 2-0 to the Corps. A couple of half chances fell to both teams just before the break with WO1 Mark Hutchison going close on a couple of occasions, however, the whistle went and Corps were leading 2-0. A charismatic half time team talk led by SSgt Dave Lynch and some much needed fluids and a spare pacemaker fitted for WO1 Mark Hutchison, the second half got under way. The second half will be forever in the memories of those present as WO2 Adam Tester v BAE Systems. Get the number 8 they shouted from the away end (Corps Gazebo). BAE Systems got off to the better start and it was clear they felt hard done by from some dubious first half decisions. They soon created the first chance of the half by some high pressing of the ball and the ball broke kindly for the BAE striker inside the Corps 18 yard box and he slid it low and hard, 2-1. The next 15 minutes saw an upbeat BAE create some good passages of play but this brought the best out of the Corps centre back pairing of SSgt Jason Davies and SSgt Karl Thompson, often making some important last ditch challenges to keep the score at



2-1. With the wind gathering speed towards the Corps goal, the BAE left winger decided to try a cheeky lob of Sgt Dan Weaver and it looked a certain goal, only for him to calmly pad it onto the cross bar and collect. The Corps then started some good plays down the right with WO2 Jim Norris and SSgt Stu Murphy linking up well and were able to make some ground by the strafing runs of WO2 Adam Tester. The Corps started to claim the majority of the first and second balls with some good link up play between the midfield and Sgt Mark Graham.

We started to play the ball around their midfield and back four. On the left, SSgt Gaz Longstaff cleared down the channel, some pressure by WO1 Mark Hutchison and Sgt Mark Graham saw BAE suddenly on the back foot, the ball then spilled from a loose pass out from the BAE defence and WO2 Adam Tester passed the ball into the net, 3-1 to the Corps. The Corps started to take control of the game with driving runs out from the back by SSgt Karl Thompson which meant the Corps were able to push up the pitch. The Corps switched from 4-1-4-1 to 4-4-2 in the hope of finishing the tie

off. WO2 Adam Tester picked up the ball up from a pass out of from the back and descended on the BAE defence to then be hacked down 25 yards out from the BAE goal, however, the resultant free kick flew someway over.

Mid way through the second half, SSgt Mat Bannister, another debutant, coming on to replace SSgt Stu Murphy, made an electric start by rugby tackling the BAE left back. Brave in the challenges SSgt Dave Lynch and CSgt Marc Starkey made light work of the oppositions midfield and slowly built up a consistent flow of chances but the Corps just lacked the clinical finish. The next chance fell when BAE attempted to play out from the back and on playing the ball through to the centre, the ball was intercepted by WO2 Adam Tester to make an unchallenged run from the edge of the centre circle towards goal and fire in for a 4-1 lead. Some tired legs and cramp from both sides meant the last 5 minutes felt like half an hour. On the last kick of the game, BAE picked up the ball on the left and slotted the ball in behind to their CF and rounded Sgt Dave Weaver for BAE's second, 4-2.

Final score SASC FC 4 - BAE Systems 2. We are very thankful for the support shown by all those that released players to play for the Corps and for BAE Systems for making the long journey down, a return fixture is definitely on our radar. Special thoughts are with the injured Pat Wilkes from BAE Systems who left the field early in the game, we hope you make a speedy recovery.



# Carp Fishing In The SASC

## WO2 (QMSI) S Abbot

**D**uring my time in the Army there has always been different aspects affecting how and when I can get out on the bank. Firstly, the ever enduring task of balancing work, family and my hobbies, by that I mean keeping the missus and kids happy. I started my career in the Infantry with the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment and then transferring to the Small Arms School Corps some five years ago. During my 18 years in this varied and sometimes very busy job it has seen me travel to various countries either on operations or training to name just a few Jordan, Belize, Iraq, Afghanistan, America and Canada and Brecon. One thing that has remained constant is my love of angling, especially carp fishing.

Now in the military this can be a strange subject, often being greeted with that look of confusion quickly followed by the question "do you eat them?". When the season really starts during the warmer months and the "oh, now you are having more time off than John Wayne's safety catch" comments start. I know this is just jealousy that the fact that I'm off grafting at a fishing lake for 48 hours and getting paid for the pleasure is hard to swallow for some people. I on the other hand usually do it with a massive smile on my face!

The one thing I have found is that even during my time in the infantry and after transferring is the fact I love being outside. The fresh air, the smells that depends who you are bivvied (fishing tent) up next too. The fact it's just you the water and those at times intelligent creatures I call carp. For me it's not about trying to chase the biggest fish at all times, now don't get me wrong I love a big girl gracing my net once in a while but for me this needs to remain something I love doing. I think it can be the same for many different people who have a sport or a hobby if you truly love doing it you will be passionate about it and that will ultimately come across if you are asked about it. I am certain that I do bore some people but hey it's my thing and I like it.

Now for those of you out there that have never fished before I'm going to give you a run down on the basic tactics and equipment I use. I'm going to start with the equipment all you need is a rod, reel, line, weights, hooks, bait, alarms, bivvy, bed-chair, buzz bars, landing net, unhooking mat, warm kit, wet kit, food, water, end tackle, marker rod and a spod rod to name just a few key items. Depending on budget and how passionate you are this can range from £20 to £20,000 it's completely up to the angler or his wife whoever is in charge.



Regarding location this can range from a Boating lake in South Wales to a haunted in-land sea in Germany. Now like most of you reading this I enjoy being competitive but it is the fact that I am pitting my wits against a fish which is the part most non anglers struggle with. While the Carp themselves are not the most intelligent of creatures they do learn by association, if every time you ate a piece of yellow fruit you found yourself in what they perceive as a battle of life and death (they don't die) to then be pulled out the water and have a camera shoved in your face you would learn to stop eating yellow fruit. The larger carp adapt to this environment and learn what is and isn't safe to eat eventually the animal instinct to feed will take over but the hard part is getting them to trip up.

Now some of the most memorable sessions I've had in the past range from not actually catching anything for nearly six months, watching QMSI Michael Fowler take a nose dive, all the way to fishing the haunted lake in Germany. I'll start with the not catching anything, now these creatures I like to look at have a habit of not always playing ball. However, if they happen to live in a 100 year old lake then this presents challenges all of its own, when the lake is made up of 4ft of water and 4ft of 100 year old silt that acts like quick sand when you throw anything into or onto it. Finally, after six months I figured it out and caught the smallest carp I had seen for years. My love affair with this 14 acre pond continued throughout my time instructing on the Infantry Weapons Division.

At this stage I would like to also introduce my Fishing partner, some of you I know have had the pleasure of being bored by us on more than one occasion. QMSI Michael Fowler also shares this hobby of mine and we do spend a lot of time together outside of work. One of the funniest moments I can recall was a trip to a complex of lakes just outside Newark. We found a couple of spots we liked and proceeded to set up, before I went to bed I distinctly remember telling him to be careful of the wet grass on the slope down to his rods. Then at 0530 the next morning I heard his alarm burst into life followed by an almighty splash as 6ft 2 Fowler decided to take an unplanned dive straight into the lake and to add insult to injury he lost that fish in the weed. As with any good squaddie, I laughed a lot then decided to help him out.

While I was posted in Germany I decided to go exploring and found a stunning lake in the forest around a 30 minute drive from Celle, this place was stunning crystal clear water surrounded by German forest and the creepy old guy who owned it! Now, through a series of translated letters over the course of a month we agreed that for the fee of €20 we could fish for a week. So the day came we arrived at the lake and the old guy wasn't there as normal people would we presumed that he must be out. We proceeded to set up and fish that night the lights of the cabin came on and we started hearing

footsteps and tins rattling. The next day we went over to the cabin to pay and the door was locked. When I say cabin, I mean the creepy old moss covered caravan with pots, pans, dead fish skulls and all sorts hanging from it. The day came and went and the lights and footsteps continued. The next day a younger guy arrived who happened to speak perfect English he then informed us we would have to leave as his dad the "old guy" had died in the cabin weeks ago. The look on our faces must have been a picture, we proceeded to inform him what had been going on to which he shrugged his shoulders and said he wasn't surprised. I can honestly say that I never returned to that lake even though we did talk about it a few times.

Onto the present day my recent exploits have seen both myself and Michael taking more of a role in the match style carp fishing as over the last three years we have been members of the Infantry Carp Team. This group is gaining in popularity every year, and to gain a place in the team we fish six qualifying events at six different venues around the country and the top six anglers are then chosen to represent the infantry in the Inter Corps Competition, this year's competition is held over three lakes in Staffordshire. The competition sees over 50 anglers competing for the trophy with a BBQ and social that allows you to catch up with other liked minded anglers from across the Army the night before.

If I have inspired anyone to try carp fishing or indeed any angling then please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. Tight lines and hope to see you on the bank some time.



# SASC Shooting 2018

WO2 (QMSI) Ian Arnott

After a 2-year hiatus from DefOSC, I had already decided that this year I would find some white space in the calendar and attempt to make it third time lucky to enter the Army 100 (spoiler alert, I didn't), so when the calling email arrived it was duly replied to in record time; count me in!

This year's journey started back in February on a cold and damp Monday on Number 1 Range at Pirbright, from the interest received by WO1 (SMI) Trainner and the plan he had formulated, I was already slightly nervous that I may not make the grade, however after a quick zero with groups under the 80mm required by the SMI, we were good to go. The remainder of the week was spent practicing Application of Fire from combat positions from 25 to 500 meters. At this point things were looking promising, we had a core of firers, at the correct start standard and ready to launch into the next training week in early May.

By the time May rolled around we had naturally lost some firers as work priorities took precedence, however the small number that did manage to get away from work spent an enjoyable week, hosted by 1X and WO2 (QMSI) Dickson at Bulford Ranges. The time was mainly spent on pistol development and getting points of aim for the Urban Contact Match. At the end of the week we had confirmation of the team and were ready for the final training camp in early June.

We reconvened in early June at Pirbright, not wishing to slum it in Brunswick Camp, the SMI pulled a blinder with assistance from WO1 (SMI) Tremain and managed to get us Z-Type in the ASLS Block for the entire 3 weeks; we, as a team, cannot express our gratitude enough!

The beat-up training continued daily, not only on the range but also on the team WhatsApp group, I would love to divulge some of the conversations, however in respect to data protection they will remain confidential, apart from our new target design.....

I proudly present the Fig 11 "Grierson"



Everything was going well with the range practice, we managed to get onto all the right ranges and conduct all the shoots by calling in favours here and there and facilitating others. A big thanks to WO2 Scotty Henderson who helped us out with the mover on more than one occasion. So, range practices going well, most of the team in situ, waiting on the guys from IWD to join us, when we receive final confirmation that they are not coming! Step up WO2 (QMSI) Carl Pourreza and SMI Trainner, dust off your webbing, you're on!

In no time the competition week rolled around, we were like finely tuned machines, thanks in part to our sponsorship deal.

I don't want to bore anyone with the details of each of the 8 Individual matches or the 6 Team matches, as once you're on the firing point the only thing that matters is "sight picture and trigger squeeze", something that WO2 (QMSI) Grierson obviously forgot when he was beaten on the Defence Assessment and Advanced Fleeting Encounter by yours truly (it's important to focus on small victories!). I'm sure it



was around this point that the banter started flying thicker and faster than it had previously and to up the ante it was decided by Q Grierson that we should have a photo at the end of the competition, in place order, holding the pocket of the person who scored higher than they did. Safe to say that Q Grierson was devastated when he had to hold SMI Trainer's pocket at the end.

We fought well overall, the team returned 5 from 8 into the Army 100, we finished in the top 10 as a team and faired middle of the road in the Methuen. A lot of positives to build on for next year; even for the 3 that didn't make it, the closest being me, 15 points or 4 targets short of the magic number, I class the event as a success. Not wishing to make excuses, the 3 that didn't make it were simply not good enough, the standard was very high. The Army Hundred

line being set at 1263 out of 1720, representing a hit rate of 73.4% compared to last year's 69.4%.

I will endeavour to return next year, hit more than I miss and hopefully get that little metal badge.

The SASC DefOSC Role of Honour:

- WO2 (CSM) Nabs Gurung – 16
- WO1 (SMI) Bri Trainer – 39
- WO2 (QMSI) Al Grierson – 49
- WO2 (QMSI) Si Ward – 80
- WO2 (QMSI) Lee Lawson – 83
- WO2 (QMSI) Arnie Arnott – 117
- Capt (AIW) Pete Hirst – just outside!
- WO2 (QMSI) Carl Pourreza - well outside!



# Methuen 2018

## Can we win the Methuen Cup?

Well, we are improving year after year. Two years running we have chosen the firers from those that have just competed in the Army Operational Shooting Competition (AOSC). The theory being, the firers chosen, are still in the shooting bubble/ competition mode. However, I pose a question to you all, should we train separately for the Methuen?

## Things to consider?

- AOSC is now adapted to be operationally focused, therefore there is minimum to none firing on Century range.
- Methuen Cup shooting practices are focused on "gravel belly" tactics with the exception of the run down.
- The focus is to choose where you want your rounds to be placed on the target, not just hit the quick opportunity targets portrayed throughout AOSC.

Please share your ideas and comments to the Corps SM. On a final note, a big well done for all of those that represented and supported the SASC shooting team this year. It is a credit to your character, It's not easy to 'practice what we preach'!





# Notices

## Honours and Awards

**The Queen's Birthday Honours List – MBE**  
WO2 (QMSI) J Liddy

**The Queen's Birthday Honours List – Meritorious Service Medal**  
WO1 (SMI) B Trainer

**General Officer Commanding Commendation**  
Capt (AIW) M Robinson

**The Second Sea Lord's Commendation**  
WO2 (QMSI) B Arnould

**Initial Training Group Commanders Commendation**  
WO2 (QMSI) R Wareing







*Initial Training Group Commander's Commendation  
Presented to  
**WO2 (QMSI) R Wareing**  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2018*

Since April 2016, WO2 Wareing has been the QMSI for 2 ATR and, in this appointment, has been excellent, supporting the squadrons in all aspects of their training of recruits and staff. Most notable has been his drive to improve the marksmanship standard for recruits. Through patience, dedication and excellent mentoring, WO2 Wareing has improved 2 ATRs' ACMT results for recruits by over 8% in the last 12 months, a significant achievement.

It is further testament to WO2 Wareing's performance that he is not only able to deliver high quality training for recruits, but that he has also found the time to plan and conduct training courses for 2 ATR's JNCOs ensuring that they are capable, confident and knowledgeable. Over the course of the last year he has spent approximately 20% of his time running courses, which not only positively impact on recruits, but also the professional development of 2 ATR's staff.

Mr Wareing's coaching and mentoring skills have not only directly impacted on Pirbright, but on the wider field army. Mr Wareing was hand-picked to coach and manage the British Army Operational Shooting Team that went to Australia to compete against many other international teams. Not only did the team arrive well prepared, through effective and expertly managed build-up training, it achieved what no other British team has managed in 15 years by winning the Guardsman Trophy, as well as many medals and podium finishes.

Perhaps the real indication of Mr Wareing's professionalism and regard is the fact that, on any given day, the full spectrum of instructors, from Cpl to WO2, can be found in his office, asking for advice. WO2 Wareing has the complete trust of his Chain of Command, is very highly respected by his peers and subordinates alike, and is a most deserving recipient of a Commander ITG's Coin.



WO2 B Arnould - 25061180

### The Second Sea Lord's Commendation

Warrant Officer Arnould is employed as the Small Arms School Corps (SASC) Quarter Master Sergeant Instructor (QMSI) at Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM). He is responsible for overseeing the safe planning and execution of all live firing at CTCRM. Crucially, Arnould instructs on the Personal Weapons and Royal Marines Young Officer Small Arms qualification courses as well as validating all other small arms courses across the 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines. This exceptionally demanding workload sees QMSI Arnould travelling across both the UK and overseas training areas, as well as within all Wings of CTCRM throughout the year.

Immediately upon arriving at CTCRM, Arnould conducted a comprehensive and detailed review of the existing courses and processes in place within the Centre, something that he conducted entirely off his own initiative and his desire to improve processes and training. While he was quick to identify, praise and highlight areas of best practice, he was also relentless in implementing measures to resolve areas that needed improvement. Most impressive in this latter work, has been his ability to deliver change using his strength of personality to form exceptional working relationships with the teams delivering training; encouraging them to take the initiative to highlight areas of weakness themselves. This has produced an extremely positive environment where relevant questions are asked and best practise is being delivered. He has greatly enhanced the reputation of the SASC, for which he is an excellent ambassador. This has directly benefited training delivery across the centre and, by proxy, the wider Royal Marines.

Arnould has been in extremely high demand throughout his time at CTCRM so far. He provides highly competent assurance to the HO, manages an extremely demanding assurance burden of 47 training weeks per year and advises confidently on policy. To improve efficiency he is extremely diligent in disseminating best practice and briefing new safety rules. Further to his role at CTCRM, QMSI Arnould also fulfils a number of 3 Commando Brigade commitments. Examples of this include when he deployed to Norway and then Latvia, with a week's notice, to inspect ranges and advise on safety issues regarding training with foreign nations. His professionalism and subject matter knowledge has directly enabled the Brigade Units to train safely but effectively within their wider defence engagements in recent years.

Arnould's commitment and professionalism has been beyond question. No issue has daunted him and he has displayed an enthusiastic, supportive and professional approach throughout. His professionalism sets a shining example to the young Platoon Weapons Instructors that work alongside him.

Outstanding among a highly capable cadre of instructors, WO Arnould's significant contribution to the operational effectiveness of the Commando Training Centre and the wider Corps is extremely deserving of formal recognition.

*Written by Lt Col G Duncan RM*

## Announcement of Promotions (Jul 17 to July 18)

### **Promotion to Lt Col**

Maj (AIW) SR Hanson

### **Conversion to Reg (C)**

Maj (AIW) R Watson

Maj (AIW) G Palmer

### **Selected for ICSC (L)**

Gapped

### **Promotion to Major**

A/Maj (AIW) G Palmer

### **Commissions Apr 18**

WO1 (SMI) P Hirst

WO1 (SMI) M Johns

WO1 (SMI) S Taylor

### **To WO1 Dec 17 (Selected)**

WO2 (QMSI) M Hutchinson

WO2 (QMSI) P Mather

WO2 (QMSI) M O'Brien

WO2 (QMSI) B Trainer

WO2 (QMSI) R Varley

### **To WO2 Feb 18 (Selected)**

A/WO2 (QMSI) Carty

A/WO2 (QMSI) Ellis

A/WO2 (QMSI) Fowler

A/WO2 (QMSI) McCrea

A/WO2 (QMSI) Pugh

A/WO2 (QMSI) Richard

A/WO2 (QMSI) Ward

SSgt (SSI) Bagshaw – Wickett

SSgt (SSI) Dale

SSgt (SSI) Grierson

SSgt (SSI) Thompson

### **To SSgt Apr 17 (Selected)**

A/SSgt (SSI) Addison

A/SSgt (SSI) Brown

A/SSgt (SSI) Cooke

A/SSgt (SSI) Crook

A/SSgt (SSI) Jones

Sgt (SI) Longstaff

Sgt (SI) Richardson

Sgt (SI) Rowlands

Sgt (SI) Walker

## Births

Congratulations to:

Capt Pete Hirst and his wife Sarah on the birth of their baby girl "Willow" born Mon 12 Feb 18.

WO1 Al Blair (Corps SM) and wife Claire on the birth of their son "Jamie" born 23 Sep 17

WO2 McAllister and his wife on the birth of their baby girl, River.

SSgt Davies and his Fiancé Lucy on the birth of their son, born Thu 21 Dec 17.

Sgt Cole and his wife Melissa on the birth of their son, Bentley born Fri 4 May 18.

Sgt Graham and his wife Hayley on the birth of their daughter 'Marnie' born 5 Nov 17

## Deaths

We regret to advise members of the following deaths:

Maj (Ret'd) John Paterson passed away in the early hours of 29 Apr 18.

Robert Howard a long serving member of the Corps. Robert died in Hospital on Sun 18 Feb

Maj (Ret'd) Doug Stockman passed away on 6 Jan 18 in Peterborough City Hospital.

Capt (Ret'd) Tom Ferguson MBE passed away in Hythe

### **Notice to Members**

Please notify the Regimental Secretary if you have information regarding births, marriages or deaths of members associated with the Corps.

Dates, locations and any known arrangements are kindly appreciated. As some comrades are in most cases retired for a number of years, it helps if any service and family details can be provided.

On notice being received, details are provided on the SASC Comrades Association Website under the News – marriage, birth or deaths page.

# SASC Forecast of Events

Graham Evans passed away on 17 October following a 7 month battle with cancer.

## 2018

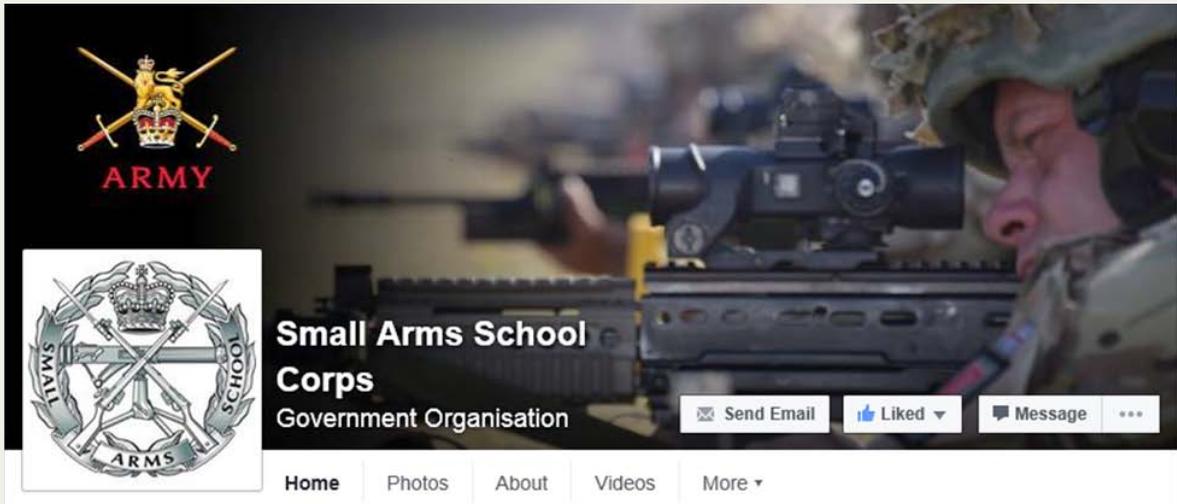
Day/Date	Event	Location	Remarks
Sat 27 Oct 18	SASC Officers' Supper Night	Warminster	
Sun 11 Nov 18	Remembrance Parade	Hythe	SASC personnel to parade in Hythe..

**Note:** Unveiling of the SASC Memorial at the NMA in 2018. Details are to be confirmed.

## 2019

Day/Date	Event	Location	Remarks
Thu 4 Apr 19	Commissioning Lunch	Warminster	
Thu 25 Apr 19	SASC Study Period	Infantry Battle School Brecon	Scale A for all serving SASC. Regt Dinner in Mess Dress (without wives) - dining in and out of CO SASC.
16-20 Jun 19	Operational Shooting Competition	Bisley	
Thu 20 Jun 19	Methuen Day	Bisley	
Sat 13 Jul 19	Corps Reunion	TBC	For all comrades with informal social on Fri 12 Jul.
31 Jul – 9 Aug 19	QMSI Course	Warminster/Shrivenham	
Thu 12 Sep 19	Officers' and SMIs' Study Period	TBC	Lunchtime start and evening social for all.
Sat 26 Oct 19	SASC Officers' Supper Night	Warminster	Dining out of previous CO.
Sun 10 Nov 19	Remembrance Parades	Local, Brecon, Hythe and Warminster	SASC personnel to parade locally, IWD will march in Brecon. Corps SM to lay the wreath and parade with comrades at Hythe.

**Note:** The forecast of events up to 2021 will be published by HQ SASC before the end of 2018.



### **The SASC Official Facebook Page Requires Your Help!**

The page has been designed by British Army Media to enhance recruiting and awareness of worldwide Corps activity.

The page covers Training, Defence Engagements, Overseas and mainland deployments and Corps History. Send your headline stories and photos to the SASC Corps SM/Reg Sec without delay and help raise the profile of the Corps.

### **Musketeer 2019 Articles**

It is down to every member of the Corps both past and present to keep 'Your' Journal alive and fresh with articles.

#### **Formatting**

Please type using MS Word and save as a .doc file without any document protection. There is no need to indent paragraphs, sub paragraphs only need to be numbered and we will format. Indicate in the article where photos are to be placed and send the photos in a separate file with as High Res as possible. Photos below 1MB are useless and are blurred/pixelated on print.



Headquarters Small Arms School Corps Headquarters Infantry

Waterloo Lines, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 0DJ.

Civ tel: 01985 222612 Mil tel: 94381 2612

Regimental Secretary email: [regsecsasc@hotmail.com](mailto:regsecsasc@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.sasc-comrades.org](http://www.sasc-comrades.org)



Dedicated to  
the Officers and Soldiers  
who served their Country  
in the Small Arms School Centre  
and its forebears from 1752



To deliver  
marksmanship standards,  
provide instructional expertise  
and manage lethal risk  
to guarantee  
operational effectiveness