

FUSILIERS NEWS

The Fusiliers – Forever England, Forever Friends, Forever



The Estonia deployments have assumed significant importance since 2022

The multinational logistics command team in Estonia, when 1 FUSILIERS was deployed as part of the NATO contingent there

The 1 December Fusilier Newsletter

In this edition, read about the new Memorial to Armed Forces LGBT+ veterans, the Memorial Services for those 3 FUSILIERS killed on Op BANNER, and Association reunions.

The new Memorial to Armed Forces LGBT+ veterans

At the end of October, HM the King attended the dedication of the new memorial to Armed Forces LGBT+ veterans at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire. At the event the King laid flowers alongside the Chief of the Defence Staff. The day was organised by the Royal British Legion, Office of Veterans Affairs, and the charity "Fighting with Pride." It was attended by many veterans discharged under the ban on LGBT+ service, including Fusiliers, which was only lifted in 2000.

Lt Col Matthew Clarke FUSILIERS commanded the parade, which was comprised of 48



HM The King at the NMA

Royal Navy, Army, and RAF LGBT+

personnel. Their participation highlights the significant cultural change which the Armed Forces have undergone in the past 25 years, making it a fantastic, diverse and inclusive employer today.

The Regiment have recently recognised and welcomed back LGBT+ veterans, thanking them for their valuable contribution to the nation. Lt Col Clarke said:

"As a gay officer myself it's been a hugely significant day and amazing to meet infantry veterans unjustly discharged in the 1970s and 80s, and Fusiliers who proudly served more recently in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Any Fusiliers wishing to know more should contact [RHQ](mailto:info@fightingwithpride.org.uk) or info@fightingwithpride.org.uk



The Memorial



Lt Col Matthew Clarke



Memorial Services commemorated the 50th Anniversary of 3 FUSILIERS South Armagh Tour

On 21-22 November, the Regiment of Fusiliers hosted a programme of special events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the South Armagh Tour of Northern Ireland and to remember fellow soldiers who were killed in action.

Events included a special service of Remembrance at the Fusilier Museum (Bury) on Friday 21 November for invited guests, followed on the Saturday by simultaneous wreath laying services at the gravesides of six Fusiliers at 1100. These took place in Stretford, Oldham, Isle of Man, Whitley Bay, Bromley, and Colchester with a seventh ceremony also taking place in Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

The names of the six Fusiliers who were killed in conflict or through acts of terrorism in South Armagh are:

- Cpl David Llewellyn – Newcastle - Died 28 Sep 75
- Cpl Edward Gleeson – Bromley – Died 9 Oct 75
- Sergeant Simon Francis – Colchester – Died 21 Nov 75
- Fusilier Peter McDonald – Stretford, Greater Manchester – Died 22 Nov 75
- Fusilier Michael Sampson – Isle of Man – Died 22 Nov 75
- Fusilier James Duncan – Oldham – Died 22 Nov 75

The South Armagh tour was part of Op BANNER, the British Armed Forces' operation in Northern Ireland from 1969 to 2007. It was the longest continuous

deployment in British military history with the Regiment deploying 35 times.

South Armagh was once described as 'The most dangerous posting for any British Soldier in Northern Ireland.' The six Fusiliers were killed on operations during that tour by explosive devices and ambushes.

Lt Col Mike McDonald, Regimental Secretary (North), and the brother of Fusilier Peter McDonald said

"As a Regiment we wanted to mark the 50th anniversary of the South Armagh tour as well as paying tribute to those Fusiliers who lost their lives whilst serving. It is extremely personal to me as I lost my brother in South Armagh on the 22nd of November. Having services and simultaneous wreath layings will be a poignant time where we can remember them all together. Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported our quest and ensured the memorial events take place across the country. We will remember them."

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Lancashire Fusilier Bandsmen reunite

Six former Bandsmen who had served in the 1st and 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers Bands had a reunion in Olive's Kitchen at the Fusilier Museum (Bury) on Saturday 11 October. It was the first reunion since COVID brought everything to a halt.

Plans are already underway for a reunion in 2026.



L-R Geoff "Wee" Forrester, Joe Shepherd, Derek Broadbent, Peter Swensson, Roger Ratcliffe and Bob Shelton 1952 - 1955.
Joan Forrester accompanied her husband, Geoff.



The Annual Coventry Dinner

In October, Central Branch of the Warwickshire Fusiliers Association (Warwickshire) held their annual dinner in Coventry.

Many guests attended from all Battalions, both past and present, alongside Coventry's current Lady Mayor, the previous Lord Mayor and friends from Canada

The Regimental Padre said grace before the dinner and a fantastic evening was had by all

NOTICES

Deployment memorabilia

The Fusilier Museum (Bury), the official Regimental Museum requests the following items from the following deployments: Northern Ireland, Kuwait, Iraq, Kosovo /Bosnia and Afghanistan:

- ❖ Operational Maps
- ❖ Operational Orders
- ❖ Videos on deployment
- ❖ High quality photographs (with names of people /location / date on back) digital and hard copy.
- ❖ Personal stories / diaries
- ❖ Important items / artefacts / equipment

Please send them to the Fusilier Museum (Bury), care of Ria Bagshaw. Ria can be contacted at:

ria.bagshaw@fusiliermuseum.com

mob: 07961 030306 or 0161 763 8962 on
Mondays and Fridays

The Museum address is Moss St, Bury BL9 0DF



**Fusiliers Direct - our modern day PRI Partner for
over 10 years**

THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF
**FUSILIERS
DIRECT**

**FOR BULK OR CUSTOM ORDERS PLEASE
EMAIL ENQUIRIES@AMMOANDCO.CO.UK.**

**A PERCENTAGE OF EACH ORDER IS PAID
BACK TO YOUR REGIMENT**

**UNIFORM & ON PARADE
AT EASE
CLOTHING
PRESENTATION & GIFTWARE**

WHY USE OUR PRI?

Profit share with the Regiment • MoD licence approved • Live chat & easy returns
• Large choice of approved products • Fast & secure • Next day delivery

£27,874 Returned to the Regiment to date



HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Contributions are welcome from anywhere in the Fusilier Family. As a guide, articles should be about 150-300 words, but these are not absolute limits. An accompanying good photo and caption are recommended. Get them to fusiliernews@outlook.com by the 25th of each month.

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

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

EDITORIAL POLICIES

Photos

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

Non Endorsement of products or services

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

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

Obituaries and Deaths

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



020 3166 6909

www.fusiliersconnect.com

RHQ RRF, HM Tower of London, EC3N 4AB