



ARMY

**REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
THE ROYAL WELSH**

Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF14 3YE
Telephone: 0292 078 1207
Email: richard.tuffney112@mod.gov.uk
Website: www.theroyalwelsh.co.uk



Charity Commission Number: 1166089 CRM:0001188

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 06 / June 2026

Upcoming Diary Dates

2026

Saturday 25th July 2026: Regimental Reunion South (Cardiff)

Saturday 5th September 2026: Regimental Reunion North (Wrexham)

Saturday 12th September 2026: Royal Welsh 20th anniversary "Party in the Park", Cardiff Castle

Friday 9th October 2026: RWF Officers' Association Annual Dinner, London

Friday 27th November 2026: Royal Welsh Officers' Society Annual Dinner, Cornerstone Cardiff

2027

Sunday 24th January 2027: Isandlwana / Roke's Drift Memorial Service, Brecon Cathedral, followed by lunch in Dering Lines

Friday 16th April 2027: Royal Regiment of Wales Lunch (The RAG, London). Organised by Lt Col (Retd) Peter Kerruish and Col (Retd) J Pughe-Morgan

14-18 June 2027: Regimental Association of The Royal Welsh Battlefield Tour, 's-Hertogenbosch and Ypres



Introduction

Welcome to the June 2026 edition of the RHQ The Royal Welsh Newsletter.

This month's issue brings exciting updates as we continue to observe the Regiment's 20th Anniversary celebrations, highlighted by the much anticipated "Party in the Park" at Cardiff Castle and the release of our commemorative Tribute 43 Welsh Whisky and Regimental Watch.

We also take a moment to celebrate the proud achievements of our personnel, from well-deserved CGS and CFA Commendations in the King's Birthday Honours List to the inspiring nominations of CSgt Jones and veteran Steve Owen at the upcoming Welsh Veterans Awards.

Alongside this, you will find comprehensive updates from the 1st Battalion's ongoing deployment on Op CABRIT in Estonia, a look back at the 2015 Presentation of New Colours by Her Majesty The Queen, and all the details regarding upcoming regimental reunions, battlefield tours, and Regimental Association events.

Editor's Note:

The views expressed in these articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of Regimental Headquarters.



King's Birthday Honours List 2026

Congratulations to all Welsh Warriors recognised in the King's Birthday Honours List 2026, a well-deserved result of your professionalism and outstanding contribution to defence. Particular recognition must go to LCpl Harris (1 R WELSH) for being awarded a CGS Commendation, demonstrating selfless commitment and leadership typically found well above his rank:

"LCpl Harris showed exceptional leadership and compassion following the death of a fellow soldier, uniting his Battalion through purposeful action. He organised high-profile charitable events, overcoming significant logistical challenges with calm professionalism. His inclusive leadership strengthened morale, cohesion, and community engagement at both unit and regimental levels. He consistently exceeded the expectations of his rank through selfless service."

3rd Battalion citations can be found on Dragon Connect, with the full list published on the British Army website.



The Royal Welsh 20th Anniversary Celebration: “Party in the Park” at Cardiff Castle – Over 1,600 Tickets Claimed So Far!

Join us in celebrating 20 incredible years of The Royal Welsh and 337 years of antecedent history! We warmly invite all serving personnel, veterans, and your families and friends to mark the occasion at our special Party in the Park at Cardiff Castle.



[CLICK HERE TO GET YOUR FREE TICKETS](#)

Join us for a wonderful day of history, music, and camaraderie!

Date: Saturday, 12th September 2026

Time: 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Location: Cardiff Castle

It is going to be a **GREAT DAY OUT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY** with activities for all ages:

- **Main Arena:** Enjoy music from the Regimental Band, meet our famous Regimental Goat, and watch thrilling historical re-enactments.



- **Vehicles & Kit:** Get hands-on with frontline military equipment and climb aboard the mighty Warrior and Ajax armoured vehicles!
- **Family Fun:** Keep the kids entertained with a bouncy assault course, camo face painting, and dedicated children's entertainment.
- **Food, Drink & Shopping:** Explore the Veterans Village, browse the shops, grab a bite from our food trucks and bars, or relax in the Family Picnic Area.

Regimental family tickets are available now and are completely **FREE!** Over **1,600** tickets have already been claimed, so secure your spot today. Scan the QR code below or on the attached flyer, or visit this link: [GET YOUR FREE TICKETS HERE](#)

For more information, feel free to email info@theroyalwelsh.co.uk or call 02920 781207.



**THE ROYAL WELSH
20TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

CARDIFF CASTLE
SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026, 1100-1700
A DAY OF HISTORY, MUSIC, AND CAMARADERIE

**PARTY IN THE
PARK
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL**

OPEN TO ALL SERVING PERSONNEL, VETERANS OF THE ROYAL
WELSH AND ANTECEDENT REGIMENTS, AND THEIR FAMILY
AND FRIENDS.

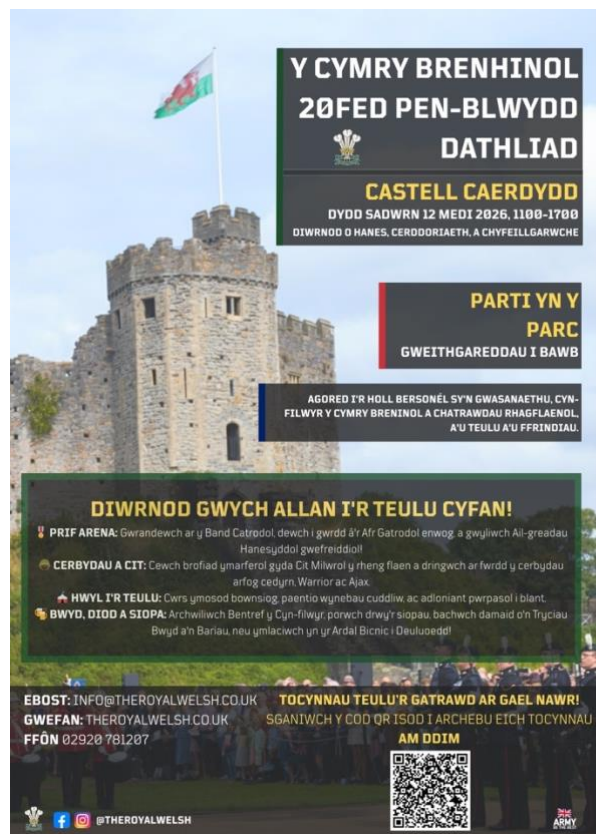
A GREAT DAY OUT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

- 🎵 **MAIN ARENA:** Hear the Regimental Band, meet the famous Regimental Goat, and watch thrilling Historical Reenactments!
- 🚗 **VEHICLES & KIT:** Get hands-on with frontline Military Equipment and climb aboard the mighty Warrior and Ajax armoured vehicles.
- 👨‍👩‍👧 **FAMILY FUN:** Bouncy assault course, camo face painting, and dedicated children's entertainment.
- 🍔 **FOOD, DRINK & SHOPPING:** Explore the Veterans Village, browse the shops, grab a bite from our Food Trucks and Bars, or relax in the Family Picnic Area!

EMAIL: info@theroyalwelsh.co.uk **REGIMENTAL FAMILY TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!**
WEBSITE: theroyalwelsh.co.uk SCAN THE QR BELOW TO ORDER YOUR **FREE** TICKETS
TELEPHONE: 02920 781207



   @THEROYALWELSH 



**Y CYMRY BRENHINOL
20FED PEN-BLWYDD
DATHLIAD**

CASTELL CAERDYDD
DYDD SADWRN 12 MEDI 2026, 1100-1700
DIWRNOD O HANES, CERDDORIAETH, A CHYFELLGARWCH

**PARTI YN Y
PARC
GWEITHGAREDDAU I BAWB**

AGORED I'R HOLL BERSONEL SY'N GWASANAETHU, CYN-
FILWYR Y CYMRY BRENHINOL A CHATRAWDAU RHAGFLAENOL,
A'U TEULU A'U FFRINDIAU.

DIWRNOD GWYCH ALLAN I'R TEULU CYFAN!

- 🎵 **PRIF ARENA:** Gwrandewch ar y Band Catrodol, dewch i gwrrd â'r Afr Gatrodol enwog a gwylwch Ail-greadau Hanesyddol gwefreiddiol!
- 🚗 **CERBYDAU A CIT:** Cewch brofiad ymarferol gyda Cŵt Milwrol y rheng flaen a dringwch ar fwrdd y cerbydau arfog cedryn Warrior ac Ajax.
- 👨‍👩‍👧 **HWYL I'R TEULU:** Cwrs ymosod bwnsiog, paentio wynebâu cuddliw, ac adloniant pwrpasol i blant.
- 🍔 **BWYD, DIOD A SIOPA:** Archwiliwch Bentrêf y Cyn-filwyr, parwch drwy'r siopau bachwch dmaid o'n Triciau. Bydd a'n Bariau, neu ymlaciwch yn yr Ardal Biclic i Deuluoddi!

EBOST: info@theroyalwelsh.co.uk **TOCYNNAU TEULU'R GATRAWD AR GAEL NAWR!**
GWEFAN: theroyalwelsh.co.uk SGANIWCH Y COD QR ISOD I ARCHEBU EICH TOCYNNAU
FFÔN 02920 781207 **AM DDIM**



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Royal Welsh 20th Anniversary Welsh Whisky Tribute

As part of the Regiment's 20th Anniversary celebrations, RHQ is pleased to announce the release of a limited-edition Welsh Whisky created in tribute to the 43 Victoria Cross recipients from the antecedent regiments of The Royal Welsh since 1856.



This commemorative release represents both a celebration of the regiment's heritage and an opportunity to support its welfare and benevolence initiatives. Bottles are priced at £35 each, with a maximum purchase limit of two bottles per order. Purchasers may also request preferred bottle numbers between 1 and 300, although allocation cannot be guaranteed.

Orders must be placed no later than **31st August 2026**.

Collection points will include RHQ Cardiff, RHQ Wrexham, Hightown Barracks, Regimental Reunion North, the Cardiff Castle "Party in the Park" event, and several additional regimental gatherings through 2027.

Please note that bottles cannot be posted and may only be collected by individuals aged 18 or over. All profits generated from sales will directly support regimental welfare and benevolence.

Tribute 43 Whisky: Individual VC Winners Named Bottles

Following the very successful launch of the 300 limited-edition "Tribute 43" bottles of Welsh Whisky, RHQ is now launching 43 exclusive **INDIVIDUALLY NAMED BOTTLES** to commemorate the 43 recipients of the Victoria Cross awarded since 1856 to members of the antecedent regiments of The Royal Welsh.



Each bottle is unique and dedicated to one of the regimental VC winners. Each bottle will feature an embossed VC replica badge, with an image of the recipient and the citation of the action carried out. To place a bid for your limited-edition VC recipient whisky, please email Maj (Retd) Adrian Kent at adrian.kent118@mod.gov.uk

Please note: The recommended retail cost of these unique, limited-edition VC recipient whisky bottles is £45.00. Select your preferred VC winner (VC bottle number) and a sealed bid for your max price. Maximum 1 bottle per order.

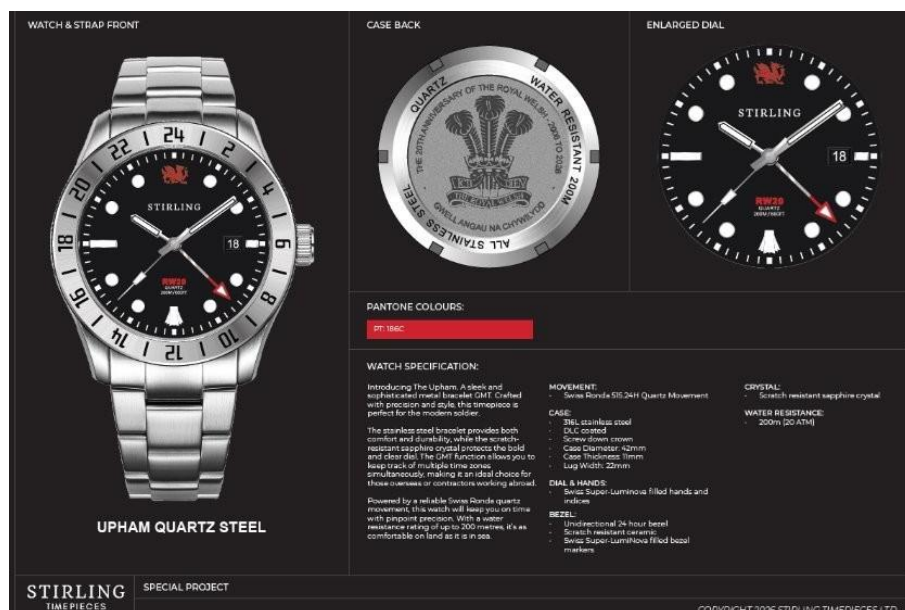
There are only 43 bottles available, 1 for each VC winner. This offer will be available in this form once, and all stock will be pre-sold. This is a limited-edition run. If an individual VC recipient bottle has not been bid for, it will be offered for general sale at £45.00.

All bids must be placed by **31st July 2026**. Bottles can be collected from 5th September 2026 onwards (locations are listed on the attached form).

Bottles cannot be delivered by post. Collection can only be made by persons aged 18 and over. The information supplied here will be used solely for the fulfilment of your whisky order.



Royal Welsh 20th Anniversary Regimental Watch



Stirling Timepieces have produced a Regimental Watch commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Regiment.



The Regimental Watch is now live with the order page. Use the link below and Passcode: **UnlockRoyalWelsh20**

[Royal Welsh 20th Anniversary Regimental Watch](#)



The following points are important to note:

The cost is £495 basic. It comes with a black rubber strap, an interchangeable black NATO strap, a Pelican case, a metal warranty card, and the option to add the following:

- a. Before going to checkout, tick the box under the title to order a steel, dress strap bracelet for an extra £100 if you wish.
- b. Be sure to register with Stirling to claim an additional free NATO ('G1098') strap in your colour of choice by clicking 'CLAIM FREE STRAP' on the bottom left of the screen.

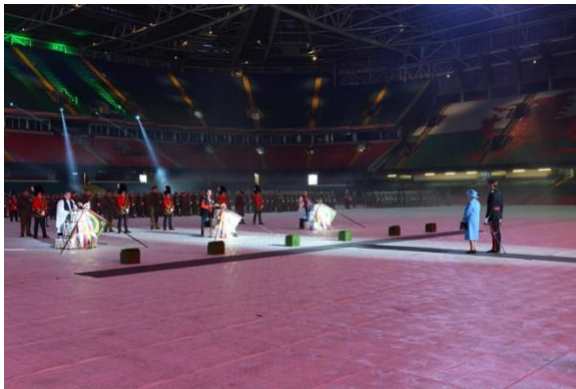
With every order, a donation is made to Combat Stress. Payments can be split over a period of 3 monthly payments with Klarna or through ClearPay.

The order window currently closes on **1st July 26**. This has been set to give two months for orders, before then going into production and delivering watches to customers within 3 to 4 months.



On This Day in Royal Welsh History: The Presentation of New Colours at the Millennium Stadium (11th June 2015)

On this day, 11th June 2015, the Welsh capital hosted what was described as one of the most significant events in the short history of The Royal Welsh. Following the historic merger of the 1st and 2nd Battalions to form the new 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh, Her Majesty The Queen visited Cardiff to present the Regiment with their New Colours.



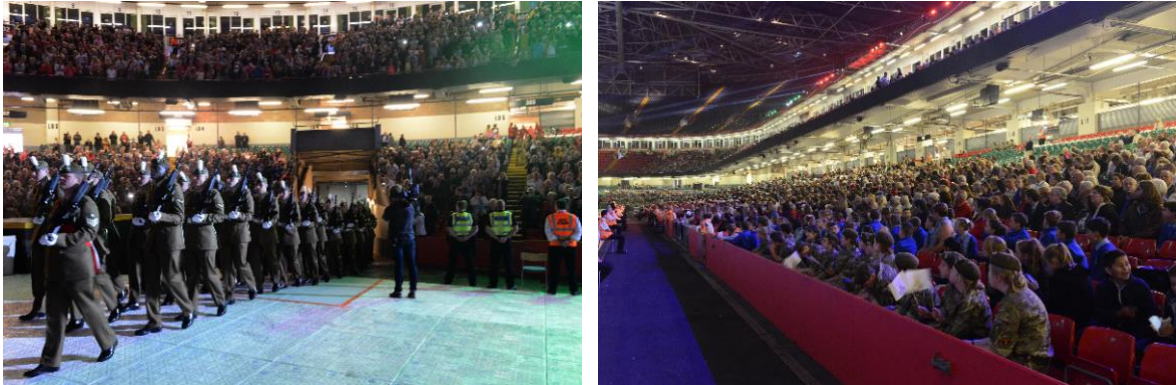
It was a day that perfectly blended military precision, royal prestige, and great Welsh pride.

A March Through the Capital

The day's events began at Cardiff Castle. At 09:00 hrs, nearly 600 regular and reserve members of The Royal Welsh stepped off to exercise their Freedom of the City, marching proudly through the streets of Cardiff.



Their destination was the Millennium Stadium, carefully chosen after years of planning to accommodate as many regimental families as possible and to avoid any unpredictable Welsh weather with its closed roof. Outside the stadium, the Regiment's long and decorated history was on full display. Flanked by Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicles, soldiers re-enacted battles from colonial wars wearing replica uniforms.



Inside, an audience of 10,000 - including over 2,000 schoolchildren - awaited. The stadium's big screens showcased images and videos of the Regiment's history. Soon, the distant sounds of the Regimental Band, led by the beloved regimental goats, echoed as they marched through the 'Dragon's Mouth' and onto the pitch.

The Ceremony and The Queen's Arrival

Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel PJ Clayton MBE, the parade was a spectacular sight. Before the new Colours could be received, the old antecedent Colours of the 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales, and The Royal Welsh Regiment were marched off in slow time to Auld Lang Syne. At 11:30 hrs, Her Majesty The Queen, acting in her role as Colonel-in-Chief, arrived alongside the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier PML Napier OBE. After receiving a Royal Salute, the Queen reviewed the parade from the State Review Range Rover.



Following a Service of Consecration led by Regimental Chaplains, The Queen stepped forward to officially present the three sets of New Colours. She then addressed the parade, thanking the Welsh people for their enduring support during recent conflicts and throughout the Regiment's decorated history.



Music of Wales

An event of such magnitude in Wales would not be complete without world-class choral music. Providing a stirring soundtrack to the day were three esteemed choirs: the Brecon Male Voice Choir, the Voices of the Valley Children's Choir, and the Ystradgynlais-based Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe Male Choir.

A Royal Feast: Welsh Produce and a Special Vintage

Following the formalities and official photographs, the Queen and her guests retired to the President's Lounge for a spectacular Regimental lunch. The menu, personally selected by Her Majesty, was a true celebration of Welsh culinary excellence:

Starters: Poached organic salmon mousse with a fennel and mango salad, or Pantysgawn goat's cheese and roasted pepper timbale with basil oil.

Mains: Herb-crusted rump of Welsh lamb with Pembrokeshire potato fondant and a rosemary and redcurrant jus, or wild mushroom ravioli in a Pen Las cream sauce with parmesan flakes.

Dessert: A decadent chocolate torte served with Halen Mon salted caramel cream.

To accompany the meal, the Regiment selected its very first official wine, imported from Bordeaux. Sourced by Cardiff-based Fine Wines Direct UK, the Château du Seuil wines



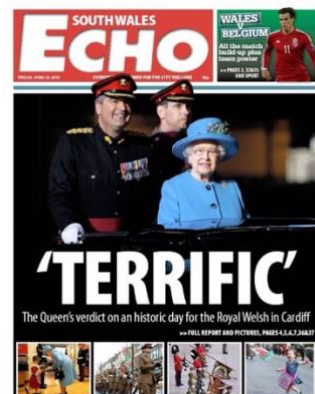
(Graves Blanc 2013 and Graves Rouge 2010) came from a vineyard owned by a Welsh family for nearly 30 years. Bought by Bob and Sue Watts in 1988, the estate is now run by their Llancarfan-born daughter, Nicola Allison, and her husband Sean.



Regimental Adjutant Captain Ben Phillips noted that the wine, boasting a unique Welsh connection, was the perfect way to toast the Regiment's rich military heritage on such an auspicious day.

A Day to Remember

The historic day concluded at 12:45 hrs following the luncheon. Before bidding farewell to her Regiment, Her Majesty signed the Visitors' Book and was presented with a beautiful posy of flowers by the Regimental Sergeant Major's daughter, who was dressed in traditional Welsh attire.



11th June, 2015, remains a shining milestone in the long, proud history of The Royal Welsh - a day when the Regiment, the people of Wales, and their Colonel-in-Chief came together to honour the past and dedicate the new Colours for the future.



1st Battalion: Op CABRIT Update - Ex SPRING STORM

Between 18–22 May 2026, 1 R WELSH BG deployed to Voru County for Ex SPRING STORM 26, operating against a 2 SCOTS Battlegroup in a demanding and highly realistic training environment. Conducted across the challenging terrain of southern Estonia, the exercise capitalised on Training on Public Land, enabling soldiers to operate amongst the local civilian population and infrastructure. This added a layer of realism that cannot be replicated on traditional training estates, forcing commanders at all levels to consider civilian presence, movement control, and the information environment while maintaining tempo against a capable adversary.



A key feature of the exercise was the increased use of Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS). These assets proved instrumental in locating enemy positions, tracking manoeuvres, and rapidly passing targeting information. The integration of UAS into the kill chain allowed 1 R WELSH to coordinate fires with greater speed and precision, demonstrating the growing importance of aerial reconnaissance and digital targeting in modern infantry operations.



Equally critical was the success of the ISTAR group, whose persistent surveillance and reconnaissance tasks—often conducted under the cover of darkness—set the conditions for effective offensive action during daylight hours. Their ability to identify enemy dispositions, confirm routes, and develop the intelligence picture ensured that manoeuvre elements could strike with confidence and purpose.

Exercise SPRING STORM was both a rigorous test and a highly rewarding experience. Training alongside the Estonian civilian population not only strengthened interoperability in a deployed context but also showcased the professionalism and adaptability of 1 R WELSH. Ultimately, the exercise provided a robust and dynamic challenge to the 2 SCOTS Battlegroup, while reinforcing the BG's readiness for operations in complex and contested environments.

Op CABRIT 18 update – Headquarter Company

Since arriving in Estonia, HQ Company has maintained a high operational tempo, supporting a range of exercises and key events with professionalism and dedication across all platoons and departments.

CIS

After SPRING STORM, CIS Platoon has focused on platoon-level training, combining theory and hands-on practice with our essential kit and equipment. We've tackled written assessments to sharpen the team's knowledge of communications using BRU and IPRO final tests as a guide. On the practical side, we've dusted off crucial skills like using field phones and laying line, vital for defensive positions and ensuring reliable communication. These skills, though rarely used unless in defence, are key to our operational readiness. We've also carried out vehicle maintenance and repaired damaged kit, ensuring we can mobilise quickly and efficiently as a platoon. Looking ahead, we're excited to run small exercises that will enhance our teamwork and overall effectiveness. CIS Platoon is building momentum and ready to face any challenge with confidence and skill!



MT

MT Platoon has been exceptionally busy, providing vital support during exercises such as BOLD DRAGON and the multinational SPRING STORM. While these exercises were not overly strenuous, much of MT's work has been behind the scenes within camp. With a small, deployed team and an even smaller contingent remaining in the UK, Fusiliers have admirably taken on multiple roles to ensure all tasks are covered. As always, MT remains the heartbeat of the Battlegroup, ensuring all vehicle demands are met and that transport continues to run smoothly for both military and adventure training tasks. Despite the fast pace, all members



are looking forward to upcoming rest and recuperation and the adventure training package in the coming months.

RAO's

The Op CABRIT G1 Admin Cell has maintained an exceptionally high operational tempo throughout Op CABRIT 18, ensuring all personnel arrived in theatre efficiently and in good order. The G1 Cell has demonstrated outstanding flexibility, routinely operating beyond core functions. MPAs have taken on additional responsibilities such as acting as PA to the Commander CABRIT and fulfilling the Forces Cashier role. They have deployed alongside sub-units on all major exercises, delivering G1 and iHub support in the field, and have also been employed as Bulldog drivers when required. This adaptability has been instrumental in maintaining operational effectiveness and was formally recognised when an MPA received a 1* Coin from the Estonian Brigade Commander. The team has prioritised efficiency, managing compassionate cases effectively and submitting PERSREPs on time. Overall, G1 processes have been delivered to an exceptional standard by a diverse, resilient, and highly capable team.

Catering

The first half of Op CABRIT 18 has been an exceptionally busy period for the Catering Department, FLF(E). Feeding approximately 2,500 NATO personnel daily, including British, French, and Estonian contingents, has been a demanding but successfully managed task. The team consistently delivered first-class catering support during Ex Bold Dragon, Ex Spring Storm, and numerous VIP visits. Their dedication has been recognised with regular praise from higher command. A particular highlight was the King's Birthday Party, where the department catered for around 700 VIP guests at the residence of His Majesty's Ambassador to Estonia, Mr Ross Allen. The service was described as excellent and the best food experience the Ambassador has had at these events in five years. This achievement reflects the team's professionalism, commitment, and the vital role they play in supporting morale and representing the Armed Forces at high-profile occasions.



RAP

The medical group has played a crucial role in maintaining the safety, safeguarding, and operational readiness of personnel throughout training exercises and events. They have provided medical oversight during sniper competitions, demolition pit operations, trench warfare training, and the ongoing NCO cadre exercises. By monitoring evolving training environments and supporting casualty response planning, the team has contributed significantly to the successful execution of high-tempo exercises. The medical group has also focused on internal upskilling and leadership development through continuous clinical training and JNCO-led leadership days.



QM'S

The QMS Department has worked tirelessly to maintain operational availability during Op CABRIT 18, completing over 20,000 transactions with exceptional dedication and efficiency. Their meticulous preparation for Logistics Support & Integration (LS&I) has been crucial in sustaining the operational tempo, enabling rapid response and resource allocation. Additionally, the department has effectively coordinated UK-based workstreams to ensure alignment between theatre requirements and home support. This relentless commitment has been vital in upholding the high standards of readiness and availability demanded by the operation, reflecting the QMS Department's pivotal role in mission success.

LAD

Since returning from Ex SPRING STORM, the LAD has remained busy. Recognising the importance of mental health during demanding operational tours away from family and friends, LCpl Sanderson organised a morning of briefs and interactive discussion sessions led by



mental health nurses, the RMO, the Padre, and the Welfare Sergeant. Key topics included immediate action drills for suicide risk, supported by the mnemonic SAFER (Stay, Ask, facilitate safely, Engage, Refer). The event was well attended by the LAD and aimed to encourage personnel to recognise behavioural changes in peers and to access mental health resources without hesitation. The morning was a great success, with hopes to roll out similar sessions across the Battlegroup for the remainder of the tour.



HQ Company continues to demonstrate resilience, adaptability, and professionalism across all departments, ensuring operational success and the welfare of all personnel during Op CABRIT 18.

1 R WELSH BG 4x4x48 Challenge for Combat Stress

On 24 June 2026, personnel from The 1 Royal Welsh BG deployed on OP CABRIT 18 in Estonia will take on the 4x4x48 challenge to raise awareness and funds for military mental health support.

The challenge consists of running 4 miles every 4 hours for 48 hours straight — testing physical endurance, mental resilience, fatigue management, and teamwork.

We are undertaking this event in recognition of the mental health struggles faced across the Armed Forces community and to support those who continue to fight battles long after operations and deployments end.

[JustGiving Link](#)



Mental health affects serving personnel, veterans, friends, and families alike. Too often, these struggles happen quietly and behind closed doors. This challenge is about encouraging conversations, raising awareness, and showing that support is always available.

While this event will be physically and mentally demanding, it is also about unit cohesion, resilience, and looking after one another — values that sit at the heart of military life. All funds raised will go to Combat Stress, who provide specialist treatment and support for veterans experiencing PTSD, anxiety, depression, and other service-related mental health conditions.

Every donation, share, and message of support is hugely appreciated. Thank you for supporting military mental health and backing the 1 Royal Welsh 4x4x48 challenge.

IN AID OF
COMBAT STRESS
1 ROYAL WELSH BATTLEGROUP PRESENTS

4 x 4 x 48

MILES HOURS 2 DAYS

24/06/26 @ 1000 POC: SGT IMRIE (D COY)
EMAIL: RUSSEL.IMRIE638@MOD.GOV.UK

THE RULES ARE SIMPLE. 4 MILES, EVERY 4 HOURS, FOR 48 HOURS. NO SKIPS. NO QUILTS.
REST, SCOFF, HYDRATE RECOVER... BUT STAY DISCIPLINED. DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

ANY AND ALL DONATIONS SUBMITTED
VIA THE FOLLOWING QR CODE ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

ALL DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TO COMBAT STRESS



1st Battalion marks The King's Birthday in Tallinn

In celebration of His Majesty The King's official Birthday, personnel from 1 R WELSH deployed to Ambassadors' House, Tallinn, Estonia, and took part in a commemorative event reflecting regimental pride and the enduring connection between The Royal Welsh and our Colonel-in-Chief.



The event included the ceremonial placement of the Coghill Sword by the Ambassador, serving as a powerful symbol of sacrifice, legacy, and the enduring bond between the Regiment, the Crown, and its allies.



Formal proceedings were complemented by hospitality, with food such as traditional fish and chips, and chicken tikka masala. Generous refreshments from multiple local providers helped facilitated informal engagement, fostering camaraderie, and strengthening relationships with the host nation partners.



The event was further enhanced by a live performance from 'Blue Red Blue' Household Division's specialist contemporary band, who not only performed traditional songs such as national anthems, but also provided a selection of varied music which greatly livened up the event. With the sun shining as the event came to a close, the Ambassador and CO gave leave for the colours to be marched off, giving a symbolic end to a fantastic day.

3rd Battalion: CSgt Jones Leads the Way: Wrexham Veterans FC Inspires Community and Earns National Recognition

CSgt Jones of A Company 3 R WELSH and the Wrexham Veterans football team are being recognised as finalists in the Welsh Veterans Awards 2026, following his outstanding work establishing and developing Wrexham Armed Forces Veterans Football Club (AFVFC) - a thriving initiative that continues to make a significant impact on the local veteran community. What began as a simple idea—to bring former service personnel together through a shared love of football - has evolved into a powerful support network that extends far beyond the pitch. Under CSgt Jones' leadership, Wrexham AFVFC has grown into a close-knit community offering camaraderie, well-being support, and a renewed sense of purpose for veterans and their families.

Building More Than a Team

CSgt Jones describes the club's development as his proudest achievement to date:

"Our greatest achievement to date has been founding and developing Wrexham Armed Forces Veterans FC into a thriving and supportive community for veterans. What started as an idea to bring former service personnel together through football has grown into a club that provides friendship, camaraderie, well-being support and a sense of belonging for many veterans and their families."



The initiative has quickly gained momentum, attracting a wide range of veterans from across the Wrexham area. Weekly training sessions and fixtures provide a structured and supportive

environment, helping individuals maintain physical fitness while also reinforcing mental resilience and social connection.

Beyond sport, the club has become a vital touchpoint for veterans transitioning to civilian life. Members regularly cite the value of reconnecting with individuals who share similar experiences, helping to combat isolation and promote overall well-being.

Making a Difference Off the Pitch

In addition to building a strong team culture, Wrexham AFVFC has demonstrated a firm commitment to giving back to the wider community. In its first year alone, the club raised an impressive £12,500 for local charities, supporting a range of causes that benefit both veterans and civilians.



This fundraising success highlights the ethos behind the club - service, even after service. The players and volunteers continue to dedicate their time and effort to initiatives that strengthen ties between the Armed Forces community and the wider public.

Recognition at the Welsh Veterans Awards 2026

Being shortlisted as a finalist in the Welsh Veterans Awards marks a significant milestone for CSgt Jones and everyone involved with the club. The awards celebrate individuals and organisations that demonstrate exceptional commitment to supporting veterans across Wales. Reflecting on the recognition, CSgt Jones said:

“Being shortlisted is recognition of the journey we have been on and the difference the club continues to make within the Wrexham veteran community. I am grateful for the opportunity and proud to represent such an outstanding group of people.”

The nomination serves not only as recognition of his personal dedication but also as a testament to the collective effort of players, volunteers, families, and supporters who have contributed to the club’s success.

A Credit to the Battalion and Community

CSgt Jones’ initiative reflects the very best of Army values - leadership, selfless commitment, and service to others. His efforts have enhanced the reputation of A Coy and the wider unit, showcasing how military skills and ethos continue to benefit society long after operational duties end.

As Wrexham AFVFC continues to grow, it stands as a model for similar initiatives across the region, demonstrating how sport can be a powerful tool for connection, recovery, and community building.

Well done to CSgt Jones and everyone involved in Wrexham Armed Forces Veterans FC. The entire unit wishes you the very best of luck at the Welsh Veterans Awards 2026.



Finalist for Role Model of the Year - Welsh Veterans Awards 2026

Please join us in congratulating Steve Owen, who has been named a finalist in the Role Model of the Year category.

Steve served with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh and underwent an above-knee leg amputation in 2016 as a result of injuries sustained during service in Afghanistan in 2010.

Following his amputation, Steve made it his mission to give back to the military community. He has dedicated himself to supporting veterans and service personnel, providing encouragement, understanding, and a sense of community for those who may be facing challenges or simply seeking the support of others with shared experiences.

Since becoming an amputee, Steve has completed almost 1,000 charity miles through a series of demanding endurance walks. His efforts have raised vital funds for military charities, helping them deliver essential support to veterans, emergency service veterans, and their families during times of need.

Steve has also been nominated for Military Charity Fundraiser of the Year. Reflecting on these nominations, he has expressed how honoured and humbled he feels that others have taken the time to recognise his work and put him forward for these awards.

Steve continues to champion his mission with determination and resilience, committed to supporting others and spreading a positive message throughout the veteran community. Congratulations, Steve, on this well-deserved recognition, and best of luck at the awards.



Royal Hospital Chelsea - Governor's Review of the Pensioners

This year, RHQs and Regimental guests were invited to attend the Governor's Review of the Chelsea Pensioners in London on Tuesday, June 2nd. This is an historic ceremony, where the Chelsea Pensioners parade in advance of Founder's Day – celebrating King Charles II, who established the unique community in 1692.



It was an early start to the day due to the tube strikes and a very wet morning in London, which led to some spectators taking on the festival poncho look for the start of the parade. Thankfully, the weather held off for the inpatients marching onto the parade and the inspection phase.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea was founded in 1692 by King Charles II as a response to the neglect and hardship faced by soldiers who had served their country. Inspired by Les Invalides in Paris, he envisioned a place of dignity, community, and lifelong care for British Army veterans.

Today, 283 pensioners live at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, where they benefit from the military camaraderie, a vital sense of belonging, and lifelong care. We currently have three in-patients at the Royal Hospital Chelsea: Harry Puttick BEM (RWF), Charlie Cox (Welch Regt, SWB and RWF service) and Gareth Pugh (SWB).

It was an honour and a privilege to be in attendance for this parade. In attendance were:



Adrian Kent (Assistant Regimental Secretary), Colin Jones (Assistant Regimental Secretary North), Maj Stuart Lawrence (Snr Maj 3 R WELSH), WO1 Dean Howard (RSM 3 R WELSH), WO2 Filipe Franco, (TRG-WO 3 R Welsh) and CSgt Mark Evans 48 (CQMS HQ Coy 3 R Welsh)



Regimental Association of The Royal Welsh Marching Contingent for The Cenotaph Sunday 8th November 2026

The Regimental Association of The Royal Welsh have been successful in securing 25 marching slots for The Royal British Legion's Cenotaph parade on Sunday 8th November 2026. For those wishing to march at this year's iconic event, please submit your names to RHQ no later than **24th July 2026** at the following address:

Email to Maj (Retd) Adrian Kent at adrian.kent118@mod.gov.uk or by post to: Maj (Retd) Adrian Kent, Assistant Regimental Secretary, RHQ The Royal Welsh, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, CF14 3YE.



Tickets will be allocated using a ballot system, and individuals will be notified in plenty of time if successful. Priority will be given to those who have not marched previously. As a reminder, you must be able to complete the march; travel and accommodation are at the individual's own expense. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Ex-service personnel from the UK and the Commonwealth who have served the Crown.
- Retired emergency services personnel from the UK and the Commonwealth who have served the Crown.
- Partners or first-generation family members of those who served in His Majesty's Armed Forces and have died. This only includes the following:
 - Wives, husbands, partners or civil partners
 - Siblings
 - Parents
 - Children
- A carer of a veteran requiring wheelchair assistance.

As this is a veterans' parade, serving personnel, including full-time and part-time reservists, are not permitted to take part. Civilians cannot take part unless they meet the eligibility criteria above.

Bargoed and Blackwood Branch: Small Parade at Caerphilly Borough Council Offices

The Bargoed and Blackwood branch was invited to a photo opportunity by Councillor Teresa Heron (Armed Forces Champion), which involved raising the flag to show support from the Veterans of the Caerphilly Borough ahead of the Armed Forces Day. The branch was represented by Chairman WO2 (Retd) K J Heaven, 1 RWF, and branch members Steph Davies, ex DERR, Chris Sanders, ex 1 RWF, and Lorraine Davies, head of the Branch Wives and Partners Association (WAPAS)

Other personnel present were members of About Turn Wales, a Veterans charity, Councillor Teresa Williams Heron, Ken Terry (Royal British Legion), Staff of CCBC and members of Caerphilly Veterans Hub. The Standard was loaned by Caerphilly Veterans Hub and Teresa expressed a huge heartfelt thank you to all present and those that have gone before.





Rhodesian African Rifles Regimental Association gifts regimental property to The Royal Welsh

On Thursday, 18th June 2026, the Rhodesian African Rifles Regimental Association (RARA) presented four items of regimental property to the safekeeping of The Royal Welsh, in a short ceremony held at the Regimental Museum in Brecon.



Photo (Left to Right): Colonel Rob Dickinson (Regimental Secretary), Amanda Rosewarne (Museum Curator), Mr John Wynne-Hopkins (Property Member, The Rhodesian African Rifles Regimental Association (RARA), Brigadier Russ Wardle OBE (Regimental Museum Committee Chair), Mrs Rosemarie Harris (Trustee, Museum Committee) and Mr Richard May-Hill (Trustee, Museum Committee) attended the ceremony.

In 1957, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II approved an affiliation between The South Wales Borderers and the Rhodesian African Rifles (RAR), recognising their close cooperation and friendship during counter-insurgency operations in Malaya. The RAR, RAR Regimental Association, The Royal Regiment of Wales, and now The Royal Welsh have valued that affiliation ever since.

The RARA intends to disband in 2027, when they hope to lay up the Colours presented on 12th July 1953 by the Queen Mother to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (Borrowdale, Salisbury (the modern-day Harare, Zimbabwe)). The RARA plans to leave in place several legacy projects, particularly in Zimbabwe. One example is their teacher training initiative, which supports the relatives and dependants of their regimental veterans—their much-loved Masodja—to qualify as teachers.

A significant portion of the RARA property will be entrusted to the National Army Museum in London. The RARA were therefore delighted to learn that the Regimental Museum Committee of the Royal Welsh has accepted these unique items from their regimental history, and that The Royal Welsh has accepted taking custodianship of these key RAR items, which have now been presented and donated to the Royal Welsh in perpetuity. The latest items presented yesterday join other items of RAR property that they have previously presented to the RRW, including the RAR Colours and the silver rhino Chipembere March and Shoot Trophy. Today, the Chipembere trophy is still presented to the winners of the annual March and Shoot Competition in 1 R WELSH.

Once formally brought onto the regimental property books the intent is for the items to be put on display in 1 and 3 R WELSH, and the Regimental Museum.



The Somme 110 by Martin Everett

On 1 July this year, we remember the 110th anniversary of the beginning of the Somme offensive, which continued until 18 November 1916. This operation stands out as one of the largest and deadliest series of battles of the Great War. For Welsh soldiers, the offensive included the notable 38th (Welsh) Division assault on Mametz Wood—a moment immortalised by David Peterson's prominent Welsh Red Dragon on its stone plinth featuring our three regimental badges. It is almost impossible to fathom that some 29 battalions from our antecedent regiments took part in the Somme offensive. The cost was immense, as thousands of soldiers lost their lives and many more were wounded.

Among the many who endured the horrors of the Somme was Dr James Dunn, who served as the Medical Officer of the 2nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers (2 RWF). In 1938, he anonymously published a unique account of life in this infantry battalion during the Great War. His book, *The War the Infantry Knew*, provides a vivid narrative of the demanding and harrowing events faced by soldiers in the trenches. This account, which covers the years 1914 to 1919, was assembled from Dunn's own notes and personal recollections gathered from over fifty members of the battalion. The work remains a powerful testament to the courage of the soldiers and is considered one of the unsurpassed chronicles of the Great War.



James Dunn was born in Auckland, New Zealand, and died in Glasgow on 30 March 1955 at the age of 85. He qualified as a doctor in Edinburgh and pursued further medical studies in Leipzig and Vienna. Dunn's military career began as a trooper with Montgomeryshire Yeomanry – 49th Squadron Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa, where he was awarded the

Distinguished Conduct Medal and was mentioned in Lord Roberts' despatches in June 1902. After the outbreak of World War One, he was commissioned as a temporary Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) in January 1915 and initially served with the 19th Field Ambulance RAMC before being posted to the 2 RWF. From early November 1915 to late May 1918, Dunn served as the Regimental Medical Officer until he was evacuated wounded after attending a wounded fusilier in 'No Man's Land'. His bravery and commitment to the wounded of the battalion were recognised with the Military Cross (at the Somme), a bar to the Military Cross, and the Distinguished Service Order. Perhaps his greatest honour was being referred to by his comrades as '*Perhaps the greatest Royal Welchman who never wore a Flash*'.

An illustrated Talk: The Royal Welch Fusiliers and the History of Hightown Barracks

Join us for a fascinating illustrated talk by Nick Lock titled "The Royal Welch Fusiliers and the Year of Wonder, A History of Hightown Barracks." This event will explore the rich local and military heritage of the regiment and its historic Wrexham home.

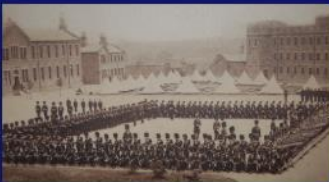
The event will take place on **Wednesday, 15 July 2026, starting at 7:00 PM**. It will be hosted on-site at Hightown Barracks in Wrexham. Tickets are £5 each, and refreshments will be provided for all attendees during the evening.

To secure your spot, please book your tickets in advance through Eventbrite at the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-royal-welch-fusiliers-and-the-year-of-wonder-a-history-of-hightown-tickets-1991461472874?aff=oddtcreator>

The Royal Welch Fusiliers and the Year of Wonder, A History of Hightown Barracks



An illustrated talk
by Nick Lock



7pm Wednesday 15 July 26
at Hightown Barracks, Wrexham
Tickets £5 Refreshments provided
Book your ticket at:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-royal-welch-fusiliers-and-the-year-of-wonder-a-history-of-hightown-tickets-1991461472874?aff=oddtcreator>



Event Reminder: Regimental Reunion (South) - Saturday 25th July 2026

Following on from the successful event in 2025, which saw over 150 serving and former members from The Royal Welsh and antecedent regiments sitting down for a curry lunch and a pint before heading into Cardiff City centre. This year's Regimental Reunion South will take place from 11:30 hours on 25th July 2026 in the form of an informal Curry / Braised BBQ Beef & chips luncheon in the Ty Llewellyn Army Reserve Centre and then afterwards at the Gatekeeper Pub, Cardiff.

This year will see the reintroduction of the Branch Standard Bearer's competition; the annual winners of the Regimental Reunion South and North competitions will not only win a small trophy in recognition but will also be appointed as the two Regimental Association Standard Bearers for the next year. (further details will be issued to all Association Branches shortly).

The Reserve Centre bar will be open from 11:30hrs, and tickets cost £10 for a Curry / Braised BBQ Beef & chips lunch & a pint. Car parking is available on site at no cost.

It is hoped that this luncheon could be a prelude to Association members attending the Royal Regiment of Wales annual informal get-together, also held in Cardiff on the same day (Gatekeeper Pub, Westgate Street), or for those members of the Association who just wish to gather, meet, and greet in a casual setting for a curry luncheon and a pint. Wives/partners are also very welcome to attend.

It is hoped that members of the Regimental Association, regardless of their cap badge, will come and join us for this curry luncheon and a few beers. It will be a chance for us to get together in the wonderful setting of Ty Llewellyn Reserve Centre in Central Cardiff. For some, it might be a welcome break from the day's shopping, for others, a chance to meet and greet, including wives/partners who would not have seen each other for a long time.

We look forward to sharing a much-deserved beer with you all over lunch.

Outline Programme

10:30hrs: Ty Llewellyn Army Reserve Centre will open for the Standard Bearers competition. The inspection/competition will be complete by 1200 Hrs.

11:30hrs: Upstairs bar opens.



12:30hrs: Luncheon: This year, there will be an alternative Braised BBQ Beef & chips option to the Curry lunch. This will take place in the form of a Buffet Lunch in the main hall. Please indicate on your return if you would prefer:

Menu A: Chicken Curry | **Menu B:** Braised BBQ Beef & Chips

The timing of the Bar will stay flexible, and those wishing to join the Royal Regiment of Wales gathering will be able to do so, whenever they wish. Those wishing to stay and have a few beers into the afternoon will also be able to do that bar will close at 18:00hrs.

Luncheon Costs 2026: The cost per head for the Curry Luncheon will be £10.

Returns to: RHQ R WELSH, Adrian.kent118@mod.gov.uk - Maj (retd) A Kent by Friday 10th July 2026.

Payment: The preferred payment option is Electronic Payment using the following bank details: Sort Code: 16-19-26, a/c: 10464749.

Please ensure you reference your payment using Name **RS26** (e.g. **KentRS26**).

Payments can also be made by cheque to the value of £10.00, made payable to 'The Royal Welsh Regimental Welfare and Benevolence Foundation', sending them to:

Major (Retd) Adrian Kent
Regimental Headquarters The Royal Welsh
Maindy Barracks,
Cardiff, CF14 3YE

Dress: The dress is to be smart casual.

Timing: Ty-Llewellyn will open its gates from 10:30, and the bar will open at 1130 hrs.

Parking: You will have the privilege of FREE parking at TY LLEWELLYN (vehicles can be left overnight with prior arrangements).

Save the Date: Regimental Reunion North 2026 (Wrexham)

We are delighted to announce the details for The Royal Welsh Regimental Association – Reunion North, taking place on **Saturday, 5th September 2026**, in Wrexham. This year's



gathering promises to be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, remember, and celebrate together at Hightown Barracks and the Wynnstay Hotel.

Programme of Events – Saturday, 5th September 2026:

09:15 hrs | Association Standard Bearers (North) Competition (Hightown Barracks). A 30-minute grouped competition. The winner will be appointed the Association Standard Bearer (North).

11:00 hrs | Service of Remembrance (St Giles' Church, Wrexham). A short service to remember the Fallen and members who have passed away in the last year. During the service, a plaque will be unveiled honouring Major General, The Reverend Morgan Llewellyn CB OBE OStJ DL (Colonel of the Regiment, The Royal Welch Fusiliers 1990–1997). Standard Bearers are welcome to attend with Standards.

11:15 hrs | Ladies' Coffee Morning (Mess, Hightown Barracks). Hosted by A Company, 3 RWELSH. Tea, coffee, and cakes will be served. Cost: £2.00 per person.

13:00 hrs | Curry Luncheon (Main Hall, Hightown Barracks). Join us for a buffet lunch. Cost: £10.00 per person (includes one beer).

17:00 hrs | Bar closes at Hightown Barracks.

18:00 hrs | Group Reunion Photograph (Outside the Wynnstay Hotel).

18:30 hrs onwards | Evening Entertainment (Wynnstay Hotel).

Accommodation: We have secured a discounted rate at the Wynnstay Hotel for the weekend (Friday 4th – Sunday 6th September) at £200 per room (including breakfast). To book, please contact the hotel directly on 01978 291010 and quote: "**The Royal Welsh Reunion Discount.**"

Next Steps: Please mark your calendars! The official Calling Notice and meal return forms will be issued at the end of July. We look forward to seeing you there.

Battlefield Tour of 's-Hertogenbosch and Ypres in 2027: 14th–18th June 2027 (4 Nights)

The Regimental Association of The Royal Welsh is currently planning a battlefield tour to 's-Hertogenbosch (Holland) and Ypres (Belgium). The Battle of 's-Hertogenbosch (22nd–27th October 1944) was a crucial World War II engagement in the Netherlands where the 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division, supported by the 7th Armoured Division, liberated the city from



German occupation. Additionally, this tour will offer attendees the opportunity to take part in the historic 100th-anniversary celebrations of the Menin Gate in Ypres.

Itinerary & Accommodation:

- **Departure (Monday, 14th June 2027):** Coaches will depart from Hightown Barracks, Wrexham (North Wales) and Maindy Barracks, Cardiff (South Wales).
- **Outbound Travel:** Overnight sea crossing from Harwich to the Hook of Holland (accommodation in shared four-berth cabins).
- **'s-Hertogenbosch (2 Nights):** Accommodation at either the Golden Tulip or Good Seasons Hotel (breakfast provided).
- **Ypres (1 Night):** Accommodation at either the Novotel Hotel or Albion Hotel (breakfast provided).
- **Return Travel (Friday, 18th June 2027):** Morning DFDS Ferry from Calais to Dover, returning to Wales by late afternoon.

Please note: We are unable to offer single rooms. Hotel accommodation will be in shared twin or triple rooms, while those attending with partners will be accommodated in double rooms.

Cost & Payment:

The outline cost of this memorable tour is **£500.00** per person (we are currently investigating potential funding avenues, such as veterans' grants, to assist with reducing this final cost).

- **Deposit:** A non-refundable deposit of £50.00 per person is required to reserve your place.
- **Final Payment:** The final balance must be paid in full by 1st February 2027.
-

Allocation & Administration:

Due to coach hire charges, we are strictly limited to 52 seats per coach (initially one coach for North Wales and one for South Wales). Places will be allocated on a **first-come, first-served basis**. RHQ will continually monitor demand and adjust coach hire as needed. All attendees must ensure they hold a valid, in-date passport and personal travel insurance.

How to Reserve Your Place:

To secure your place, please get in touch with Capt (Retd) Colin Jones MBE on 0331 1457 800 or at Colin.Jones885@mod.gov.uk.



Save The Date: RWF Fest 2026 - 26th September 2026

Our 4th year of this popular event, hosted in Hightown Barracks, Wrexham, with details of speakers and full programme to follow soon!



The Steps to Glory: An Evening in Conversation - Wednesday 22 July, 1830 hrs

Lt Col (Retd) Simon Shephard and Dr Victoria Carr join Dr Ed Flint to discuss *The Steps to Glory*, their study of British officer commissioning from 1660 to the eve of the First World War.

The book asks a question anyone who has held a commission will recognise: who gets in, and why? Shephard and Carr trace every route into Britain's armies across 250 years, from purchase and patronage to competitive examination, taking in the militia, yeomanry, volunteers and cadets alongside the regular forces. Their research draws on previously unpublished material from The National Archives, the National Army Museum and the British Library, alongside the Sandhurst Collection.

Drinks in the Old College Main Entrance from 1800 hrs. The discussion and Q&A run from 1830 hrs to 1930 hrs in the Indian Army Memorial Room, followed by a book signing in the Le Marchant Room, canapes and access to the Sandhurst Museum.



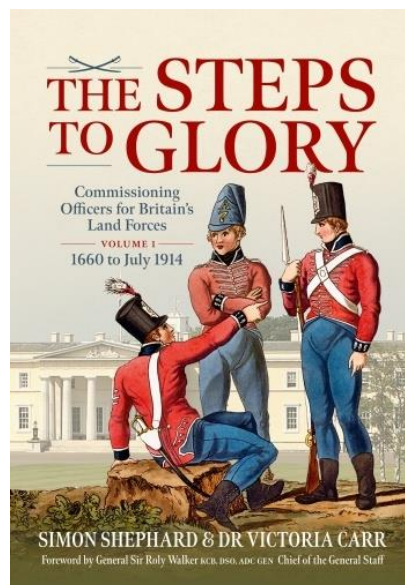
Dress: lounge suit or equivalent. Tickets are £20 via [Eventbrite](#). The price comes off a signed copy on the night. Further copies available for £40 (RRP £45).

By kind permission of Major General Nick Cowley OBE, GOC Army Initial Training Command and Commandant RMAS, in conjunction with the Academy Library, Sandhurst Collection and Sandhurst Trust. Contact Simon Shephard: TSTG.1660.2025@gmail.com or 07818 720156.

The Authors

Lt Col (Retd) Simon Shephard, MA, served 42 years in the Army and attended Sandhurst in 1991. He commanded a Personnel Recovery Unit and served as a Deputy President at AOSB. He has contributed to *The Darkest Year* (Helion, 2022) and *London Pride* (Helion, 2026), chairs his local WFA Branch and sits on the Council of the SAHR.

Dr Victoria Carr EdD is a headteacher with a doctorate in educational leadership and two MAs. She commissioned into the Intelligence Corps Reserve in 2021 and has completed two further MAs since. She is a Senior Research Fellow of the Centre for Army Leadership and sits on the board of Women Empowering Defence.



Yours sincerely,



Richard Tuffney



RHQ Contact DetailsCardiff

RHQ Telephone number: ~~0292 078 1207~~ (No longer working)

RHQ Group Mailbox infhq-union-rwelsh-0gpmmailbox@mod.gov.uk

Regimental Secretary: robert.dickinson889@mod.gov.uk 0303 377 9900

Regimental Adjutant: harry.merriman101@mod.gov.uk 0303 370 2661

Richard Tuffney: richard.tuffney112@mod.gov.uk 0303 388 2862

Kate Badcock: catherine.badcock100@mod.gov.uk 0303 372 0937

Adrian Kent: adrian.kent118@mod.gov.uk 0303 380 7209

Rachel Hill: rachel.hill759@mod.gov.uk 0303 379 0693

Wrexham

Colin Jones MBE colin.jones885@mod.gov.uk 0331 145 7800

