



# THE DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT

## INTRODUCTION



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Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Regimental Newsletter. You will see that the format has changed and it is hoped it will make it more attractive.

The pace of life across the Regiment does not slacken and over the last 6 months we have had Kingsmen deployed in the South Atlantic, Africa, the Baltic States and Australia, as you will read.

In May, 1 LANCS trained in Estonia and at the end of the exercise, the Colonel of the Regiment signed a **Bond of Friendship** with the Estonia Scout Battalion in the presence of HRH Prince Harry. This link began in 2006, shortly after our amalgamation when our reserve battalion, 4 LANCS, trained in Estonia and joined with the Scouts in Exercise KALEV EXPRESS. Since then, we have served alongside each other in Afghanistan. It therefore seemed fitting to mark this close link and make another step in what will be a developing friendship.

1 LANCS exercised our **Freedom of Hyndburn** with a parade through Accrington on 1<sup>st</sup> July. You will appreciate the added significance of the date as it was both the anniversary of our formation and of the battle of the Somme. The latter of course being so significant to the town and ourselves because of the Accrington Pals. Whilst all our Pals battalions have an illustrious and proud heritage, it is the Accrington Pals example of determination, loyalty, courage and the sacrifices they and their families endured that nationally has perhaps come to symbolise the endeavours of all the Pals battalions. It was also the first time that the Freedom of Hyndburn had been exercised since it was first granted to the QLR in 2002. It was glorious weather and we were magnificently received by the people of Accrington and royally looked after by the Mayor and Hyndburn Council. We will continue with our regular programme of Freedom Parades, but now also have a new Freedom to add: that of Maryport, which we hope to exercise later this year

**Recruiting** for Regulars is going well but we can not be complacent. There has been an improvement in Reserve recruiting and while it remains a challenge, but far from impossible to reach our targets. The news from 4 LANCS also clearly demonstrates that there is real intent behind the plan to create a fully integrated Army.

In many areas we continue to **support our people** very well. The concern is for those in **transition** from Service life who have left in recent years. Rather than seeing themselves as veterans, with the perceived connotation in the minds of many that it refers to the older and retired, they view themselves as ex-servicemen, far from retirement and still wanting, or needing to work. They are facing the challenges of finding new jobs and careers, buying homes, wrestling with the concept of a society that expects resilience and finding that you are very much on your own. They are perhaps not for joining a regimental association branch and therefore our challenge is how do we keep connected, communicate, meet their needs and stay relevant. We are by no means unique. These issues are being faced by all Regiments and the RBL amongst others. There is no magic solution, but inevitable we will need to evolve to meet the change and with that we must expect changes in RHQ and our focus.



1 LANCS soldiers boarding their flight to Estonia



Troops from 1 LANCS marching through Accrington

## 1 LANCS

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion completed its seven-month operational commitment as the UK Standby Battalion at the end of May. Training is now the main focus in preparation for a battle group exercise in Kenya next year ahead of the unit move to Cyprus.

In terms of major exercises, the Battalion completed a battle group live firing exercise in March, with an attached Foreign Legion company, and Burma Company deployed to Estonia for most of May. Given events in Ukraine this became a very high profile deployment and they were joined on their flight by the Secretary of State for Defence. They were also later joined by HRH Prince Harry, the Estonian President and Chief of Defence and the Colonel of the Regiment at a ceremony to mark the formal Bond of Friendship between The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and the Estonian Scouts Battalion. **Corunna Company will exercise in Poland in August.**

Battalion shooting success has been marked by a second place finish in the 4 Mech Brigade skill at arms meeting and fifth in the tri-Service sniper competition. In sport the rugby league team defeated 1 MERCIAN again to win the Coleridge Cup and the alpine ski team continued its successful winter campaign by finishing fifth at the Army Championships, the highest placed Infantry team.

Summer adventurous training is underway and three expeditions have taken place to conduct mountain biking and hill walking in the Alps and the Pyrenees. More are planned for the autumn.

Finally the Battalion was hosted incredibly well as it marked the Freedom of the Borough of Hyndburn in Accrington on 1 July.

## 2 LANCS

Since the last newsletter was published in February 2014 the Battalion has maintained a high tempo by undergoing a diverse and challenging mix of activities ranging from high intensity live fire training to Dragon Boat racing.

**The Battalion's main effort has been the force generation three Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC) groups for deployment during 2014 – 15.** Blenheim Company deployed to the Falklands in April 2014 with Chindit Company replacing them in June 2014 and Arnhem Company deploying in November 2014 – January 2015. The FIRIC deployment represents a phenomenal opportunity for each Company to conduct complex field firing with fire support from mortars, fast jets and naval war ships. Low level leadership is also tested by a demanding security patrol programme undertaken in support of the Falkland Islanders.

The rifle companies have focused on Mandatory Annual Training Tests (MATTs) training and have conducted both live and blank exercises in preparation for the FIRIC deployments in Otterburn, Salisbury Plain and Warcop. Dettingen Coy has conducted support weapons cadres and will deploy supporting elements for each of the FIRICs.

The Battalion has been assigned several Regular Army Assistance Table (RAAT) tasks during 2014, most notably for the Operation HERRICK 20 Mission Specific Training in support of 20 Armoured Brigade. Short Term Training Team (STTTs) have also been sent to Uganda and Burundi (in conjunction with 4 LANCS) as the Battalion seeks to broaden and deepen its contribution to, and understanding of, East Africa. The Battalion re-subordinated from 1 Mechanized Brigade to 42 (Infantry) Brigade on 1 June 2014 and will begin to prepare for a Battalion level exercise in Kenya during the summer of 2015.

The Battalion is enjoying being based in Weeton Barracks at the heart of the regimental recruiting area. It allows 2 LANCS to collaborate very effectively with 4 LANCS and to maximise exploitation of local community engagement opportunities. Community engagement highlights have included Dettingen Company finishing an admirable second place in the Preston games Dragon Boat racing and members of Arroyo Company being interviewed by BBC Radio 1 to tell the nation about the importance of the 70th anniversary of D-Day. The Battalion provided substantial support to Armed Forces Week in June centered on Blackpool and St Annes.



HRH Prince Harry with soldiers from 1LANCS



On exercise in The Falkland's



The Preston Military Parade

Having recently returned from operations the Battalion is investing heavily in sport and adventurous training. To date soldiers have undertaken rock climbing in Spain, trekking in Morocco, sky diving in Germany and skiing in France. With limited time to train, the Battalion is excelling in several sports, finishing second in the Infantry Football Cup Final, second in the Army Novice Boxing Championship and second in the Army Rugby League tournament. The Battalion has its eyes set on winning all three competitions (and more) this time next year!

**“With limited time to train, the**

**Battalion is excelling in several sports, finishing second in the Infantry Football Cup Final, second in the Army Novice Boxing Championship and second in the Army Rugby League tournament.”**

## 4 LANCS

In what is a first for the Army Reserves, 4 LANCS sent a Platoon under command of Lt Sam Nutter to Australia to participate in a two week Australian Reserve BG level exercise (EX POLYGON WOOD). Arriving in Sydney the Platoon went straight into an **RSOI package, focusing on the Australian Army’s weapon systems, optics and** Importantly the deadly wildlife that the lads may encounter in the bush.

RSOI complete the PI moved to Singleton Training Area where they met and integrated with BG Waratah lead by 2/17 Royal New South Wales Regiment. After a few days training with the BG, they deployed into the bush for EX POLYGON WOOD. Working as part of a Coy group the PI were quickly into the thick of the action conducting a number of clearance patrols, ambushes and advance to contacts. The exercise culminated in a BG attack onto a MDP, with the 4 LANCS element playing an integral part of the clearance of the right hand flank of the MDP.

Endex saw the platoon move back to Sydney where they were given 3 days R&R as reward for the hard work and outstanding performance by all within the platoon. This is the largest of our deployments, with the battalion also having deployed training teams to Uganda and Burundi. Kingsmen have also taken part in adventure training in South Africa and skiing in France.



Lt Col Mc Gann delivers BG orders prior to the final attack on Singleton Training Area

## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

July was a period of **change in the battalions** with Lt Col Hamish Cormack taking Command of 2 LANCS and replacing Lt Col Neil Unsworth who has moved to the Defence Academy and Lt Col Tony Royce replacing Lt Col Johnny Lighten in 4 LANCS.

The following **Command Appointments** have been announced:

CO 1 LANCS - Feb 16 Maj (for Lt Col 15) PR Driver

CO 4 YORKS - Nov 15 Maj (for Lt Col 15) M Yates

ITC - May 16 Lt Col PJ Tingey

ITDU - Jul 16 Lt Col N Serle

For **Promotion**:

Col (for Brig 15) FM Lawrence OBE – Oct 15 Deputy Commander General 1<sup>st</sup> (US) Inf Div

Maj (for Lt Col 15) JS Russell - Jan 15 to be SO1 Kings Division

**Honours and Awards:**

**We are delighted to announce that Capt (Retd) Bob Bonner, Chairman of the Manchester’s Museum in Ashton under Lyne received the MBE in the Birthday Honours list for his sterling service over many years to the regimental museum there.**

## JULLUNDER BRIGADE

We began the commemorations to mark the sacrifices of our battalions in World War 1. The first such event was in March when we participated in the Liverpool Remembers concert at the cathedral. On the 13th June we provided a colour party and 2 guards from 2 LANCS at the rededication of the Preston Cenotaph. As noted, the Hyndburn Freedom Parade also commemorated the Accrington Pals. At the end of August we will have a new regimental presence at the unveiling of the Liverpool Pals Memorial.

Later this year we will commemorate actions of the **Jullundur Brigade Commemoration** at the Indian Army Memorial at Neuve Chapelle on Tue 28 Oct, which have progressed markedly and what should be a most significant event.

The Jullundur Brigade, encompassing British, Indian and now Pakistani successor Regiments, as well as the multi-cultural (ethnic, religious and ritual ) complexion of the Brigade represent a microcosm of British society today as in evidence in many of our county towns and cities and the communities from which we now recruit.

**There is clear resonance between the Government's aims and objectives for the centenary celebrations to be reflective, educational and relevant to our modern society with the celebration of an episode in our Regimental history in which British and Commonwealth soldiers stood together for the common good.**

Since that time a significant number of British citizens of Indian and Pakistani origin have settled in our Regimental area; some may have had relatives of older generations who fought in **the Brigade; these "golden threads," allied to the healthy and ongoing affiliations between the modern Regiments, represent today, as then, the very strength of our shared Commonwealth values.**

It is for these reasons that as a Regiment we will lead an inclusive commemoration on 28 October. The importance of what we are planning has been recognised by the Army and wider on a national scale. The result is that we have received significant support for our community engagement.

At the commemoration, beside the **2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's Colours, guards and the King's Division Band** there will be a 35 strong party of cadets. Members of the Jullundur Brigade Association and Branch standards will also be present. We also hope to have the Lord Mayor of Manchester and Mayors of Tameside and Blackpool (twined with Neuve Chapelle)

Significantly, children representing over 17 schools from Tameside, Ashton, Manchester and **'our own' primary school in Weeton will be there: a 100 strong party: The school involvement is part of a wider educational piece and as part of a HLF funded project the Heritage Learning Team of Lancashire County Council Cultural Services as education lead. This year long WWI project will run from Sep 14 till Sep 15 with the first key milestone being the Neuve Chapelle visit. .**

## REGIMENTAL REMEBERANCE SERVICE

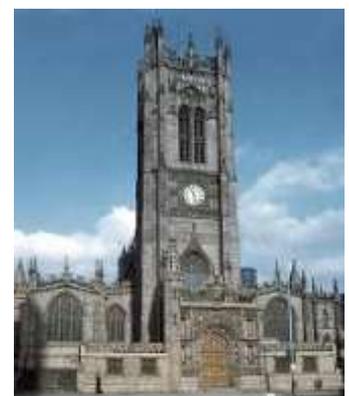
You are also reminded of the Regimental Remembrance Service at Manchester Cathedral on 11 Nov. Battalions will make maximum effort to attend and it is hoped as many members as possible of the wider regimental family will also join them.



Indian Army Memorial at Neuve Chapelle



The Band of the King's Division will be in attendance



The Regimental Remembrance Service will be held at Manchester Cathedral

## REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL

In the Oct 13 Newsletter we informed you of the intention to commission a significant **memorial to the Regiment's fallen. Since then, we have selected a stone mason and he** has been guided in his work by a cardinal points specification approved by the regiment board. In outline, this set out that the new memorial should encapsulate:

The Lion of England. This should be the prominent feature of the memorial. The Lion should be an exact representation of the Regimental collar badge.

A Kingsman representation (not necessarily a statute). The regimental **definition of what is a 'Kingsman' should be incorporated appropriately in the**

Our link to the North West must be brought out, preferably by a map or other suitable device such as compass points and the memorial being orientated towards the North West.

Our 3 immediate antecedent regiments must be represented and for example, there could be a bench dedicated to each. Clearly, our current badge, **The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, would need to be prominent.**

The memorial should be enclosed to create a sense of intimacy and with the entrance path and/or the ground within the enclosure. There should be a single point of entry/exit from/to the North West. Overall, whilst wishing it to be readily recognisable, we would aspire that it retains a sense of simplicity.

The monument should be made from, or at least include materials from the North West and include our regimental colours within it. Durability and ease of maintenance are key considerations.

**We have approved the stone mason's initial proposals and we hope to have a detailed design to approve at the autumn Regimental Board in October. We remain on track for the monument to be ready in time for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

**“Our link to the North West must be brought out... the memorial being orientated towards the North West”**

## DRESS

Serving personnel should note the following changes or confirmation of Regimental Dress Policy, which will be incorporated in to the Regimental Handbook:

**WO2s** are to wear:

Regimental Blue-Gray shirts in Barrack Dress. Sourced from the approved regimental supplier: a change to Regimental Dress Regulations.

Issued black shoes in Barrack Dress: no Change to Regimental Dress Regulations.

The issue metal cap badge in the side hat: no change to Regimental Dress Regulations.

**Officers Tropical Mess Dress (No 11 Dress).**

Temperate pattern mess jacket epaulettes are to be worn: a change to Regimental Dress Regulations.

The backing cloth of the glider is to be cut out to 1/8<sup>th</sup> of an inch. This also applies to WO1s. The decision confirms that of the Regimental Board of 22 Nov 13. **Note:** professional tailored, cut out cloth gliders are in stock and available from the Regimental Shop.

## SOUTH OF ENGLAND ASSOCIATION BRANCH

The main event for the Branch continues to be its annual lunch. This was held in London towards the end of March and was attended by a wide range of members of all ranks and ages, both serving and retired, as well as some of their wives and children. The lunch is always very informal with the priority being banter and war stories, all exaggerated by the effects of wine. Many of those lunching were then tempted by John Sutcliffe to carry the **afternoon into the evening at his son's excellent restaurant a few stops away on the Tube.** Needless to say even more wine was enjoyed and the banter and stories became bawdier, resulting in a few people missing their trains home.

This year we combined the Lunch with our AGM. Thankfully the AGM took place in the morning whilst things were still sensible. Thanks were given to John Moorby who retired from 14 years as treasurer and he was replaced by willing volunteer Chris Suss-Francksen. We are still looking for a couple of Vice Presidents, preferably from a KINGS or KORBR background as the committee is currently over represented with QLR and LANCS. The job of Vice President is not onerous; it is simply to provide wisdom and guidance to the Committee and Branch when required and consists of just one meeting a year.

As well as our annual Reunion Lunch and AGM, the Branch also represents the Regiment at two significant events in the South, laying the wreath at The Field of Remembrance and the unique honour of attending the Trafalgar Day Parade. The Branch would always welcome anyone who is interested in participating in either of these occasions.

Inevitably as every year passes our members get a year older, which has sadly led to many of our regulars finding travel too difficult. However we have had a welcome influx of new members who served in the 90s and 00s which has swelled the ranks. Membership of the South of England Branch is open to all members of the regimental family who live or work south of the M56, we even have quite a few members who live abroad. Our ethos is very much that of a family regiment, and we enjoy the friendships we develop at our annual lunch. We are also on hand to provide a point of contact for support and welfare issues. For more information on membership contact the Branch Secretary, Duncan Sutcliffe, by email [duncan@sutcliffeinsurance.co.uk](mailto:duncan@sutcliffeinsurance.co.uk)



Branch annual lunch in London

## MUSEUMS

### Carlisle Museum of Military Life.

Please note that the public opening of the new museum is planned for Fri 12 Sep. Details can be found at:

[www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org/](http://www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org/)

### Lancashire Infantry Museum.

The museum will re-open following on Tue 2 Sep following the completion of a 4-year, £200,000 major redevelopment programme, which has seen the creation of three new galleries. The re-opening is by invitation only, but details of the changes can be found at:

[www.lancashireinfantrymuseum.org.uk](http://www.lancashireinfantrymuseum.org.uk)



Carlisle Castle. The home of The Carlisle Museum of Military Life



The Lancashire Infantry Museum

## HMS LANCASTER

We continue to develop our links with HMS LANCASTER and last month a party of 10 from across our battalions were able to take up their very kind invitation to join them on a sale day from Portsmouth. We hope to reciprocate shortly.



HMS Lancaster

**REGIMENTAL POLICY DECISIONS**

While we will not be publishing the deliberations of the Regiment Board, it is appropriate that all members of the Regimental Association (which includes serving as well as veterans) are informed of policy decisions made by the Board. A rolling Record of Decisions has therefore been produced, which captures regimental policy decisions made since formation. This is attached. It is the intention that in future this will be hosted on the Regimental Website.

**TACTICAL RECOGNITION FLASHES**

All those serving at E should have received their three Lion of England TRFs. If any one has not, then contact RHQ if you are a Regular and 4 LANCS if you are a Reservist. Remember that the Lion of England is the only TRF to be worn. It should also be noted that members of the ACF and CCF badged LANCS do not wear a TRF but their appropriate badge.

**REGIMENTAL HAT PRINTS**

Caroline Wood, the wife of Lt Col Nick Wood, has painted a collecting of Regimental head wear and is selling prints of this unique piece. If anybody would be interested in purchasing a print they should get in touch with the RHQ shop who will facilitate the order.



**REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS**

RHQ LANCS  
 Fulwood Barracks  
 Preston  
 Lancashire PR2 8AA  
**Phone:** 01772 260 362  
**Web:** [www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/23996.aspx](http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/23996.aspx)  
**Email:** [RHQLANCS@gmail.com](mailto:RHQLANCS@gmail.com)

**REGIMENTAL SHOP**

RHQ LANCS shop  
 Fulwood Barracks  
 Preston  
 Lancashire PR2 8AA  
**Phone:** 01772 260 591  
**Web:** [www.dukeoflancastersregimentsshop.co.uk](http://www.dukeoflancastersregimentsshop.co.uk)  
**Email:** [RHQLANCSshop@gmail.com](mailto:RHQLANCSshop@gmail.com)



4Lancs on Overseas Training Exercise in Australia

SEARCH

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