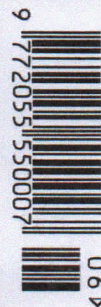


www.lancmag.com

June 2019

£2.45



Lancashire

& North West magazine



Art in Manufacturing

The inspirational story of Faye Bailey

Antiques Roadshow at Lytham Hall

Big Garden Birdwatch celebrates its 40th Anniversary

Dame Gracie Fields (1898-1979)

Northwards from Preston to Lancaster

Furniture by
moda

A member of the Training Team instructing Zambian soldiers.



Major Andy Holgrove (left) with friends.



The 9-strong Short Term Training Team. The helicopter is not one of ours!

4 LANCS NEWS

Reported by Andrew Harris

4 LANCS is shorthand for the 4th Battalion of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. It is an Army Reserve or part time battalion which recruits from the north west and is based in 9 locations throughout our region. 1 LANCS and 2 LANCS are the regular – full time – battalions. 3 LANCS was disbanded a year after the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment was formed by merging three historic regiments in 2006 - and its soldiers dispersed to bring the other regular battalions up to strength. This is the story of one of the recent deployments of 4 LANCS which illustrates how part-time soldiers can fulfil important roles as well as their full time counterparts.

The Central African Republic is probably the worst country in the world. The UN's Human Development Index ranks it 188 out of 188 countries. In 2017 it had the lowest GDP – or wealth – per head in the world and is estimated to be the most unhealthy country. Life for the population of about 5.4 million people has been dominated by coups, conflict, poverty and repression since independence from France in 1960. Civil war and insurgency resumed in 2012 which has caused some other African countries to send army units to try to protect civilians and keep the peace so far as they can. One such country is Zambia which rotates units of 1,000 soldiers to the CAR – but they need to be trained for this role.

The British Army is respected around the world. This enables it to develop the role of training less-experienced



TOP: The Training Team with members of the Zambian Unit. Sgt Andy Cook is left and Major Andy Holsgrove 4th from the right. ABOVE: Andy Holsgrove instructing Zambian soldiers in crowd policing tactics.

armies in everything from peacekeeping to all-out warfare. For example, 2 LANCs is moving south this year from Weeton Barracks near Blackpool to become a 'specialist' battalion equipped to train foreign forces. In the meantime this is exactly what a team of nine – led by 4 LANCs – is doing in Zambia by training more than 1,000 Zambian soldiers before they deploy to the Central Africa Republic for peacekeeping duties. The UK aim is to improve security overseas, promote conflict management and reduce instability where it is at risk.

In defence language the mission is to undertake DE

(Defence Engagement) to support a PKO (United Nations Peace Keeping Operation) by providing PDT (Pre-Deployment Training) via a STTT (Short Term Training Team) to a ZDF BG (Zambian Defence Forces Battle Group) before it deploys to CAR (Central African Republic) as planned by the British ADOC (the Army Deployable Operations Centre) with ROE (Rules of Engagement) stipulated by the UN (United Nations) if they encounter an AG or Armed Group. The aim is to provide a SASE (Safe and Secure Environment) by POC – the Protection of Civilians.

The Training Team is a mix of Regular and Reserve soldiers with a huge range of experience and knowledge. The British Army deployment is not a warfighting role but there is now a strong emphasis on effective and robust peacekeeping. The team training the Zambian unit is commanded by Major Andy Holsgrove and Sergeant Andy Cook from the A (Ladysmith) Company of 4 LANCs which has a strength of about 100 soldiers based in Liverpool. Both have leave of absence from Merseyside Constabulary but Constable Andy Cook is not to be confused with Chief Constable Andy Cooke with an 'e'. In his military role he is a Reserve Infantry Platoon Sergeant with unrivalled experience for the task in Zambia. Andy Holsgrove is a former regular soldier. Their combination of military and police experience is ideal for this task.

The mission in Zambia is a challenging 12 weeks of military training in a harsh and austere environment. The terrain is particularly tough and temperatures are often in the mid-30s celsius which even the most fit can find difficult. Where the Zambian Battle Group lacks capability the training team has to find a remedy by May 2019. After that they are on their own but much better equipped for their role thanks to our soldiers.

For our July 2017 article about the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment visit www.andreweharris.co.uk and go to 'Published Articles'.