

## A fitting end to time in Command.

On the 22 April 2021 Kineton Station bid farewell to its current Station Commander. This is a role that is not only challenging in the day to day of managing soldiers but also in the plethora of issues borne out of managing the largest ammunition depot in Europe.

When a Station Commander/Commanding Officer leaves a unit, it is a military tradition that the soldiers generally play some sort of trick on him or her. This is due to the fact many soldiers will never be under his or her command ever again, the soldiers use the opportunity to be a tad cheeky but respectful. When saying farewell to the Station Commander it was clear that while we could all pull some sort of trick on him we decided that because his positive impact and influence coupled with his inspirational leadership was so far reaching, we decided to say farewell in a very different and unique way. As serving members of the Armed Forces we would all consider ourselves Royalists and none more so than our Station Commander. So with that in mind a couple of soldiers approached the British Motor Museum at Gaydon and see if they were able to lend the Station a car that had previously belonged to a member of the Royal Family.

When the soldiers approached the Museum they were met with Mr Tony Merrygold, Vehicle Collection Manager for the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust who walked them around the cars and gave them a detailed breakdown of the vehicles which could be used.

There was only one car that fitted the bill. A 1992 Daimler DS 420 which had one previous careful lady owner - the Queen Mother. A military operation then ensued to ensure that the car could be delivered on to the Station without anyone knowing about it. The car was delivered and stored in a garage overnight on the base. The next day the Station Commander was then informed by the Regimental Sergeant Major that he will have one last tour of the camp where he can take one last final look as the Station he commanded. With that the Station Master Driver drove the car up to the Officers Mess to collect him and give him his final tour of the Station. With his love for cars and royalty, it was easy to see the appreciation and emotion on the Station Commander's face.

The last leg of his final tour of the station saw all soldiers line the exit road out of camp and as the car passed they respectfully clapped the Station Commander off. Here as the car passed each soldier would begin to clap. This was a very heart-warming gesture from the soldiers and demonstrated to the Station Commander he was loved and respected by all. Not many Station Commanders or Commanding Officers receive this kind of praise from their soldiers.

The Station is eternally grateful to the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust for the loan of a special car with such historical significance. This was truly the cherry on the cake for the Station Commander on his final day in command, thank you.



The Queen Mothers Car made it to camp and was hidden for the evening.



The Queen Mothers Car being taken to the Officers Mess to collect the Station Commander



The Station Commander left (Lt Col J Williams RLC) and his Regimental Sergeant Major (WO1 RSM Banks RLC)



The Station Master Driver Left (WO2 (SQMS) N Gillan, Station Commander Centre (Lt Col J Williams RLC) and right the Regimental Sergeant Major (WO1 (RSM) M Banks RLC)



The Station Commanders final drive out of Station.