

OPERATION BANNER 50th ANNIVERSARY DRUMHEAD SERVICE



**DRUMHEAD SERVICE AND PARADE
TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST 2019
WALLACE PARK LISBURN**

**EVENT ORGANISED BY
NORTHERN IRELAND VETERANS ASSOCIATION
(NIVA)**

EVENT OVERVIEW

1969 saw the British Army deployed onto the streets of Northern Ireland in support of the RUC as the troubles showed signs of getting out of control. Little did anyone know that the troubles would last for 38 years with a terrible loss of life.

2019 is the 50th anniversary of British military forces being deployed in the province of Northern Ireland under Operation Banner. Northern Ireland Veterans Association (NIVA) are sponsoring a Memorial event which is planned to commemorate this anniversary on Saturday 17th August 2019. The venue for this parade will be the Garrison town of Lisburn, Co. Antrim and all are welcome to attend.

Regimental/Corps Standards, Banners and Guidons are welcome.

The format for the event is to be an open air drum head multi religious service to be held in Wallace Park followed by a parade of Veterans which will form up and march off through Lisburn taking in the UDR Statue, the Fun Run bomb memorial and the Lisburn War Memorial where wreaths will be passed to ushers for laying as per the London Cenotaph march.

The parade will then continue on to the start point which will be Wallace Park. (For those who were based in Lisburn, Wallace Park was the large area at the bottom of the hill from Thiepval Barracks).

NIVA has worked closely with the PSNI events team with reference to the parade route and drop off points and parking for coaches. The Police will provide traffic control for the event during the march and also cover all aspects of security.

Our thanks to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) for their assistance in providing infrastructure support for event.

Local businesses are being asked to set up stalls in the park on the day. Local hotels, boarding houses etc within a 10 mile radius will be contacted and asked if a veterans discount could be applied to their tariff, similarly with public transport.

It is hoped to have a network of Taxi services available in Lisburn and transport hub locations as far as Larne Harbour to help Veterans get to the event in good time.

The PSNI advise that arrangements can be made for parking up to 100 coaches and the council will allow the use of their nearby car park which holds approx 500 cars.

Overall Security will be a Police matter and the council's health and safety team have provided a set of guidelines to follow. A one off commemorative lapel badge has been produced to raise funds as medical cover and public liability insurance has to be paid for. Over £7,000 has been raised to date from sales. (Please contact NIVA for details).

EVENT OVERVIEW

St John Ambulance will provide medical cover for the event which will include two ambulances, an emergency trauma unit including resuscitation, mobile units to follow the parade etc.

There will be designated locations along the parade route where veterans can step out of the parade in the event of feeling unwell or tired where assistance will be available if required.

It is hoped to have a number of minibuses travelling with the parade to assist with picking up anyone who requires assistance.

Representatives of those bodies that have assisted in the organisation of the event will be invited, however, dignitaries will be kept to a minimum as NIVA believes the bereaved of the conflict should be the guests of honour.

A number of military style bands have volunteered their services for the parade march, a mix of pipes and drums, fifes and bugles. We also have the services of a silver band which will play to those families wishing to remain behind in Wallace Park during the march itself.

The event will get under way with the Drum Head Service at 11.00hrs.

For forming up, It is hoped to use a system similar to that used on Horse Guard Parade for the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday where those units who are on parade form up in their groups.

After a short introduction, a service similar to what we (NIVA) do at the NMA will be held. The parade will then be handed over to the "RSM".

Unit seniority on the parade and march has yet to be agreed although it is expected that the largest contingents are bound to be those of the RUC and UDR/RIR veterans and whilst each unit will no doubt want to have their standard leading their contingent, the parade will form up with the NIVA standard and Union Flag followed by all standards present, thus ensuring that every standard leads the parade.

This 50th Anniversary event is to commemorate all Veterans who served especially those who paid the supreme Sacrifice, so it is to those veterans that we ask, please get this information out to the greater Family of Veterans.

Please get the word out to friends, Facebook groups and your various Regimental Associations. Although this is still some time away, the earlier we can get the word out, the better.

Further details will be circulated nearer the time so please keep in touch with the NIVA website and Operation Banner Veterans Museum Facebook page and your own Regimental/Association page.



FUNDING

Northern Ireland Veterans Association (NIVA) have commissioned a special badge to commemorate this 50th Anniversary Operation Banner event. It is through the sale of this badge that hopefully all costs to host this event will be met.

If you would like one or more of this badge to remember the 50th Anniversary then please go the Northern Ireland veterans Association web site where you will find the relevant information on how to purchase the badge which is priced at £3.00 plus postage.

Web site address; www.nivets.org.uk

The badges are also available through local representatives of the organising committee.





Operation Banner Veterans Museum is a private collection of uniforms, weapons Regimental memorabilia and much more.

A display that is well worth coming to see, the collection is made up of privately purchased and donated items covering many regiments and Corps who served during the period of the troubles.

The collection represents the service and sacrifice of all who served regardless of Regiment or Corps.....We hope you enjoy the exhibition on the day.





D.COY MILITARY VEHICLE DISPLAY

D Coy are a well known group of Military Vehicle enthusiasts who enjoy displaying their growing range of vehicles at military fairs and exhibitions around the UK and Ireland circuit.

They take great pride in what has developed into one of the best military vehicle collections you are likely to see.

D Coy have been fantastic supporters of the Op Banner Veterans Museum and we are delighted to have them on board.

Come along and enjoy a bit of nostalgia and a chat with the vehicle owners Who will be delighted to answer any questions you may have.





Ulster Aviation Society is a Charitable Society and is a diverse group of enthusiasts, working on a voluntary basis to further public education in the history of aviation.

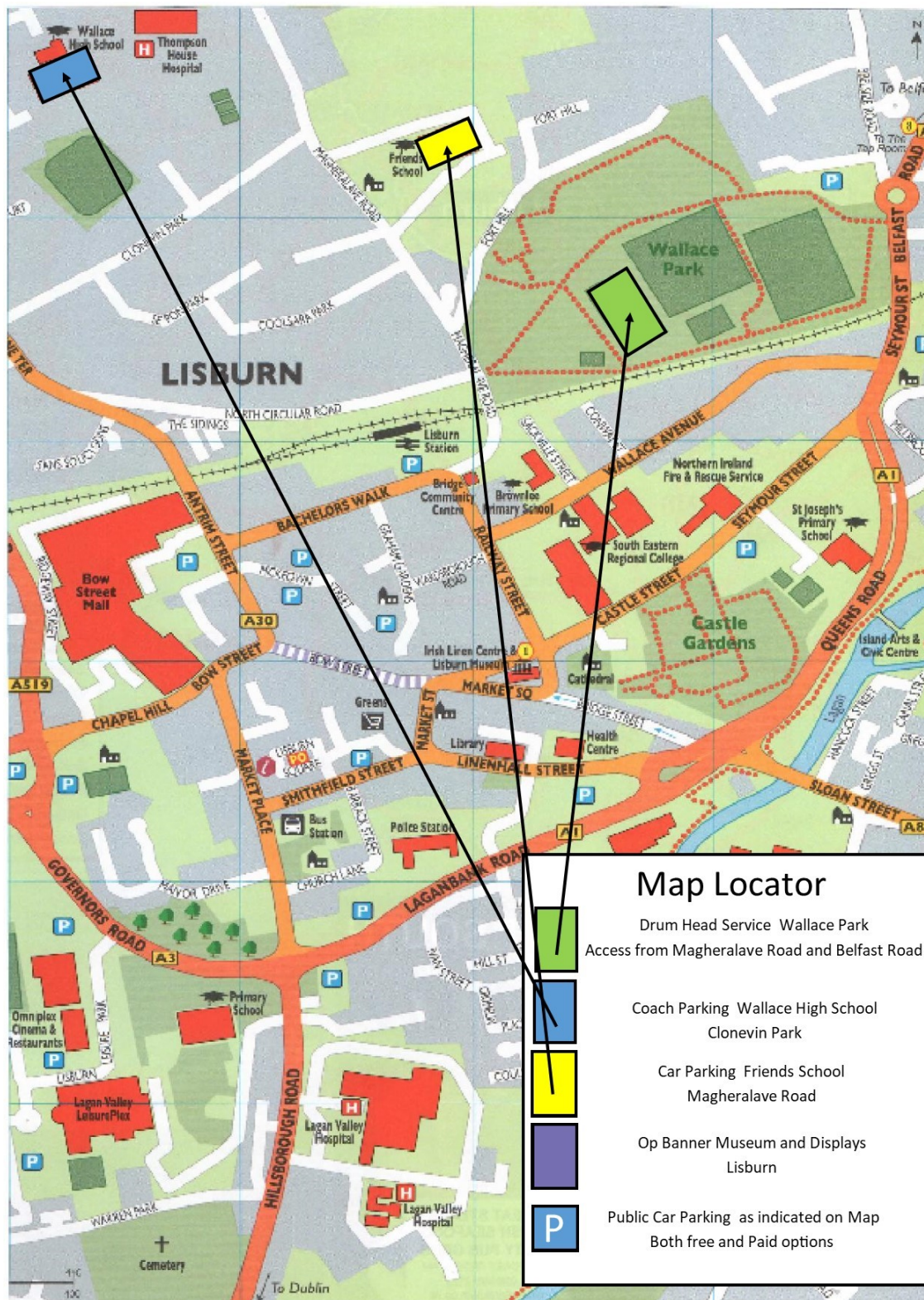
They are also winners of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

UAS are a well known and long established Society and their superb collection of aircraft are housed within two ex-WWII hangars at Maze Long Kesh, outside Lisburn (on the site of the old prison) in N. Ireland.

UAS will have their iconic Westland Scout Helicopter on display which will be beside the Operation Banner Veterans Museum in Lisburn.

They will be very pleased to talk about this aircraft that was one of the first helicopter to be in service during Operation Banner.





HYMN - ABIDE WITH ME

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word,
But as Thou dwell'st with Thy disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient, free.
Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.

Come not in terror, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee.
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

HYMN - I VOW TO THEE, MY COUNTRY

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace.



NATIONAL ANTHEM

*God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!*

The Drum Head Service has come to an end..

Those wishing to parade will now form up

Under the orders of the Parade Commander

Helpline contact details

1. UDR/Royal Irish Aftercare, 02890420145, <http://www.aftercareservice.org/>
2. Royal Irish Regt Benevolent Fund, 02890420629
3. RUC GC Association, 028 9070 0116, <https://www.rucgcfoundation.org/>
4. RUC Widows Association, office@rucgcwidowsassociation.org.uk
5. The NI Police Family Assistance, 028 9076 8686
office@northernirelandpolicefamilyassistance.org.uk
6. NI Prison Service Benevolent Fund, 02892614526
7. Combat Stress, 08001381619, contactus@combatstress.org.uk
8. Veterans UK, 08081914218, veterans-uk@mod.uk
9. Beyond the Battlefield, 02891228389, <https://beyondthebattlefield.org/>
10. Army Benevolent Fund, 0207 901 8900,
<https://soldierscharity.org/about-us/contact-us/>
11. VeteransGateway, 08088021212,
<https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/ask>
12. RAF Benevolent Fund, 0800 169 2942, mail@rafbf.org.uk
13. Royal Navy Benevolent Trust, 02392690112, <http://www.rnbt.org.uk/>
14. S.E.F.F. (028)67722242, info@seff.org.uk
15. Ely Centre, (0)28 6632 0977, info@elycentre.co.uk
14. AAVS Veterans Support, 028 9074 7071, Info@aavsni.com



Thank you for your service and
your attendance today
Lest We Forget