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MM2027 TRIP LETTER 1

Monty's Men 2027 – "Mountain & Flood: 'The Dandy Ninth'" 25 Years of Monty's Men

INITIAL PROVISIONAL DATES: Saturday 10 April 2027 to Saturday 17 April 2027

Gentlemen,

Further to the WARNING ORDER LETTER in October, this trip letter provides additional information. Please read the whole letter. **If you want to come to MM2027, then further action is required by you. The deadline for response (submission of an online web form with basic information and a £50 deposit) is Monday 1st December 2025.**

Intention:

The intention is to take a full company of infantry into the FIELD PHASE so we require three full rifle platoons and a company HQ element including company HQ echelon. We will also explore other essential logistic supporting services including RASC and RAMC personnel.

This letter sets out:

- How to book onto the full '2027 FIELD PHASE';
- Expected costs for MM2027 and what you get for your money;
- Announcement of the chosen portrayal for the MM2026 BATTLE SCHOOL and the MM2027 FIELD PHASE;
- Trip expectations from the organising team and dates for the proposed MM2026 BATTLE SCHOOL.

If you are not already on the FACEBOOK page – "**MM2027 Trip Attendees**" you should be! Anyone who does not commit to the trip will eventually be removed from that trip page. The trip page will be made 'private' and will not be viewable to the public once initial deposit deadlines are passed. The **MM2027 Trip Attendees** Facebook page will be the main avenue of communication going forward wherever possible.

Booking on MM2027 – The Web Form & Trip Deposit:

At this stage, the TRIP DEPOSIT and any instalments we outline are for the main **MM2027 FIELD PHASE** (To be clear – the projected costs in this letter do **not** include expenses for the MM2026 BATTLE SCHOOL).

So why ask for a deposit? Put simply, we need commitment...

The difference between a trip for 10 and 120+ people is significant. It takes about a year to get everything in place and we need to know who is coming now, at least a year in advance to be able to effectively plan and make it happen.

A good example is the permissions for our event from the local police with an approved armourer is a minimum 9-month process. A huge undertaking. **GET BOOKED IN NOW** or we cannot guarantee that you will be involved. Once we have filled the company and supporting roles we will likely consider a reserve list and we may have overstrength command elements.

To book on and secure your place you need to do the two things below:

- **Complete the MM2027 Web Form:**

The web form is our opportunity to get key **basic** information which will also help us to reconcile web forms with Facebook names and payments made. In the past we have had problems with reconciling payments. Real names differ in some cases to those used on Facebook. In addition, PAYPAL accounts or payment methods used to not tie up easily to other things. As such, you will provide the essential information to enable us to cross reference and easily reconcile. Please complete the MM2027 Web Form here: **MM2027 ATTENDANCE WEB FORM**

- **Pay the deposit of £50:**

The £50 deposit can be paid via PayPal (via FRIENDS & FAMILY) to:

MM2027@montys-men.org.uk

Please use the same PAYPAL address for all of your payments. Just think how difficult it can become to reconcile if payments come from multiple sources.

The deadline for the completion of forms and deposits is: Monday 1st December 2025.

Trip Costs:

Trip costs are forecast as £225. The instalments will break down as below:

- £50 – Initial Deposit
- £150 – Split into three further £50 instalments
- £25 – 'Post Field Phase' costs such as food etc

Once we have deposit numbers we will confirm what all the actual costs are and when they are due. Payments are always staggered as much as possible to help attendees afford the trip. REMEMBER that this is a **non-profit event**. Everyone pays an amount in a cooperative effort to facilitate the event. This includes the organisers, vehicle owners and everyone involved.

Your trip payment will cover the following costs:

- Site fees and any post FIELD PHASE accommodation or facilities like toilets and showers;
- Vehicle stencils;
- Fuel for our authentic period transport, including financial support to help with the cost of getting period vehicles to the event and back to their respective start points;
- Food whilst on field phase (reproduced COMPO rations);
- A contribution to ammo for Bren guns for the company;
- A contribution to assist in the development cost of event photographs by AFPU.

What it will **not** cover is:

- Any costs associated with facilitating or attending the MM2026 BATTLE SCHOOL;
- Your transport to and from the RV point;
- A correct WW2 period cap badge (we will provide guidance on this);
- The cost of your Windproof Smocks (and trousers if you want them). The cost is expected to be approximately £150 for a smock to £300 for a full set but we will clarify this when known.
- Your insignia (we will provide guidance on this so please do not pre-empt by buying it);
- Any kit you need to acquire to meet the uniform regulations such as a Tam O'Shanter;
- Hire of an appropriate weapon if you do not have one;
- Blank ammunition and things like smoke grenades;
- Any bar food or drinks (beer etc) or food or spending money;
- Any other expenditure in relation to trip attendance.

"THE DANDY NINTH" - Unit Announcement & MM2027 Kit Regulations Published:

52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division has already been announced. As always, we know unit selection is eagerly awaited. The unit portrayal for MM2026 BATTLE SCHOOL and MM2027 FIELD PHASE will be 7th/9th Highland Bn Royal Scots (155th Infantry Brigade).

The Royal Scots is the oldest and most senior infantry regiment of the British Army. The Regiment's heritage dates back to 1633 as The Royal Regiment of Foot, 1st of Foot (also known as Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard). What better way to celebrate 25 years of Monty's Men than to portray the 1st of Foot. Another nickname for the 7th/9th was the 'Dandy Boys' or the 'Dandy Ninth' as they retained their status as a Highland Battalion and wore kilts for formal wear and not trows.

Of course, the portrayal of a unit within 52nd Lowland Division also links with the production of the Windproof Smock. We have already portrayed 1st Bn and 6th Bn KOSB and 6th Bn RSF. This left it between the Cameronians, HLI, Glasgow Highlanders or Royal Scots. Any would have been a good choice, but when it came down to it, the 7th/9th just seemed right. The senior battalion in the senior brigade in the Division, a Territorial (Volunteer) battalion (we all are volunteers!) and portrayal of the 1st of Foot has long been a long standing goal of the MM organising team. So here we are...

The kit regulations have been published alongside this letter. The suggestion is that you obtain a bi-metal ROYAL SCOTS cap badge (red felt backing for the centre) as soon as possible. Specific guidance will be provided for officer's cap badges once officers are appointed. Note that you should NOT go out and obtain insignia or tartan yet. We will provide specific named sources to go to for these. In the past we have had some keen but impatient individuals go out and get insignia from non-approved sources anyway. Please... wait for instructions in this regard.

"TAM O'SHANTER"

You will need a Tam O'Shanter. If you do not have an original Tam (they are quite hard to find), you will need to obtain a reproduction. Decent repro manufacturers are:

- Sean Foster (based in the USA – if you can't trace him on Facebook shout out);
- Dickie Knight of 'Khaki on Campaign' – khakioncampaign@yahoo.co.uk

If ordering a Tam O'Shanter from Sean Foster or Dickie Knight, please state you want the Tam to be the WW2 variety. There were essentially two types. One with a split headband and one with a fixed headband. The split headbands are the earlier type and there are two eyelets tied with a khaki tape bow. From as early as 1940, the patterns apparently changed and Tams were manufactured with the fixed headband. It is also believed that the crown size reduced from around 12" to 11". **Fixed or split headbands are acceptable. The crown size to be no bigger than 12".**

If you want to order a Tam from Sean Foster or Dickie Knight, get moving urgently to ensure you have it for the event. If you want to arrange bulk purchases for a section or whatever, you may be able to arrange for discounts. We, as trip organisers, will NOT be arranging for bulk purchases of Tams.

Note that What Price Glory (WPG) or Soldier of Fortune (SOF) Tams are NOT acceptable. Converted GS caps are NOT acceptable. Modern, small Tams are NOT acceptable.

About Insignia

The insignia for some past events has often been issued to attendees pre-assembled and stitched to serge patches. For MM2027, it will be issued unmounted in its constituent parts. Pictures of 7th/9th Royal Scots show the insignia directly applied to BD. We will issue a diagram to assist with application and instructions. If you wish to stitch the patches onto a serge patch, you may. You will be directed to approved suppliers of insignia. Please do not pre-empt this.

More Information About Monty's Men...

In essence, Monty's Men is little more than a co-operative of like minded individuals and an 'umbrella' to get together and co-operate for 'larger' scale WW2 British special events under a single badge or representation.

These trips are 'cooperative efforts' by all attendees to facilitate a memorable and immersive living history experience. Because the costs are shared, they are completely dependent on people paying their share in full and on time.

We have updated a 'Questions & Answers' (Q&A) document which explains more about Monty's Men. This will help to answer things like why we formed Monty's Men, what the FIELD PHASE is and so on. This is available in PDF format in the FILES section on the MM2027 Monty's Men Facebook Page.

ORDER OF BATTLE (ORBAT)

The focus of this trip is an infantry portrayal. This is the priority in allocation of attendees and the roles available are obviously dependent on the quantity of attendees and vehicles on the trip.

For the infantry, it is planned to operate as a full company with a Bn HQ element necessary for oversight, contingency planning and administrative duties.

There will need to be RASC and RAMC elements and there will be the AFPU / War Correspondent element. Other elements **may** be required as the trip evolves but the priority is based around the infantry portrayal. Volunteers for various roles will be sought once the trip attendance is better understood. The same goes for rank appointments. The rank structure from trip to trip is not set in stone and once the trip attendance is known, we will consider approaching people to lead. Should you commit to the trip you will be assigned a role within the ORBAT and where possible we will align that with your desire (in terms of Rifleman, Bren Gunner, RASC driver, RAMC etc not in terms of leadership position within the platoon). It should be noted that, whilst we will look to maintain the structure and shape from previous trips, we must remain flexible and things may have to be changed.

If you and a few friends want to come along together in a group and stick together in the ORBAT, that is fine. We normally like to split people up to get people to mix and gel and network but if this is an issue, we can try to accommodate. This is covered in the Q&A document, so please have read... and please do not flood the admin team at this stage with requests to be put in sections or platoons with other individuals.

If you want to be considered for a rank appointment and responsibility, then you need to commit as early as possible and you need to be prepared to do administrative work to support the organising team on the run up to the trip. Long periods of 'radio silence' or failing to answer messages or assist chasing other attendees is not acceptable. The sooner you are through the door with a deposit, the better. We cannot hold rank appointment slots open awaiting commitment. The ORBAT will be shaken out in early 2026.

We will be looking for volunteers to delegate tasks to. This includes liaison with the armourer, MT organisation, rations, insignia and so on... please let us know on the form if you are willing to help. If you have rank, you will be expected to help.

COMPO Rations

As we wish to be as authentic as we can during the field phase we will again put together COMPO crates. Precise shopping lists and packing guides for crates will be provided. Modern labels will be replaced with period reproduction labels. This artwork will be available for you to download and print. We can go into more detail about this later.

Questions & Communications

It would be best if you are not already on the Monty's Men FB page to get yourself on there to keep up to date with communications. If you have any questions, please raise them on the Monty's Men Facebook page, but rather than flood the pages with questions, ensure you have read these letters first.

MM2026 BATTLE SCHOOL

If you want to mark the date in your diaries, we will be looking at Friday 2 October to Sunday 4 October 2026 for the dates for the BATTLE SCHOOL. We will communicate more about this in due course. But put it in your diaries.

Expectations

Monty's Men aim to give YOU a fully immersive, engaging, challenging experience. For the organising team, the pressure to provide that experience can be, at times, overwhelming. We go to great lengths to get it right and provide attendees with value for money. All the organising is done by the team for free all in our own time.

In return we have only two asks. Number one, that you make the same effort. We make it as easy as possible to conform to the standards by publishing extensive kit regulations. We ask that you do your best to meet them. It is a standard which we see as a race to the top, not a race to the bottom. If you are not sure on something, ASK your chain of command. We have under 18 months to go before the field phase. That is plenty of time to engage with the MM team. We have lots of knowledge and in many cases once people get to know you, kit gets loaned where required. The second ask is that you respect where you are placed in the ORBAT and work positively within your team. At the end of the day it is all voluntary, but the success of a trip relies on EVERYONE working together.

SO WHAT NOW?

If we do not have sufficient numbers to make the trip viable at the cut-off date of 1 December 2025, then we will cancel the trip and refund the deposits made. This makes commitment a safe bet. Commit and pay a deposit. If the trip is a GO, then all good. If the trip is cancelled through lack of attendance, you get refunded.

We cannot wait forever for people to make their minds up and commit. If everyone holds back to see if there will be a trip, or if apathy kicks in, then we find ourselves in a 'chicken and egg' scenario. If you are going, you have to make your mind up and commit. To justify this and manage your expectations, we are less than 18 months away from the proposed event.

You need to do the following:

- **If you are not already on the FACEBOOK group, go and join and answer the joining questions. Search for: 'MM2027 – Attendees Group'**
- **Complete the Web Form via this link: [MM2027 ATTENDANCE WEB FORM](#)**
- **Pay your £50 deposit by 1st December 2025. Use PAYPAL to pay via FRIENDS & FAMILY to:**
MM2027@montys-men.org.uk
- **Find the MM2027 Kit Regulations on the Facebook page.**

We will provide further detail in future letters.

Kind regards,

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