



214 (North East) Multi-Role Medical Regiment

*(Formed by amalgamation of 201 (Northern) Field Hospital
with 212 (Yorkshire) Field Hospital in 2023)*

Introduction

214 (North East) Multi-Role Medical Regiment was formed under the British Army's Future Soldier programme on 21 October 2023 by the amalgamation of **201 (Northern) Field Hospital** in Newcastle and **212 (Yorkshire) Field Hospital** in Sheffield. These two units became squadrons (**201 Hospital Squadron**, in Newcastle, and **212 Hospital Squadron**, now located in Leeds, within the new formation, which has its Regimental Headquarters in Coulby Newham, Yorkshire.^{1,2}

Simultaneously, 250 Medical Squadron (Hull) was re-subordinated from 254 Medical Regiment to form **250 Support Squadron**, in Norton, and 251 Medical Squadron (Sunderland) was re-subordinated from 225 Medical Regiment to form **251 Medical Squadron**, alongside the two Hospital Squadrons. There are detachments in Newton Aycliffe, Hull and Sheffield.³

The Formation Parade was held at Kirkcudbright in Galloway, Scotland during annual training camp, with a march past and salute led by the Commanding Officer of 214 MMR, Colonel Paul Jackson KHN, attended by Commander 2 Medical Brigade, Brigadier Phil De Rouffignac, and 214 MMR Honorary Colonel Sir Andrew Cash.

¹ See the detailed illustrated histories of **201 (Northern) Field Hospital** and **212 (Yorkshire) Medical Regiment** on the Friends of Millbank website, to complement this brief history: <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/previous-units/>

² **214 (North East) Multi-Role Medical Regiment**. British Army website <https://www.army.mod.uk/learn-and-explore/about-the-army/corps-regiments-and-units/royal-army-medical-service/214-north-east-multi-role-medical-regiment/> (accessed 25 February 2025).

³ Newton Aycliffe Detachment <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/army-reserve/find-a-reserve-centre/north-east/newton-aycliffe-greenwell-road/>; Hull Detachment <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/army-reserve/find-a-reserve-centre/north-east/hull-anlaby-road/>; Govserv - 214 MMR Recruiting Page <https://www.govserv.org/GB/Newcastle-upon-Tyne/510078072451230/214-Multi-role-Medical-Regiment---Recruiting-Page#location> (accessed 25 February 2025)

The unit is aligned to the UK's Combat Aviation Brigade Combat Team (BCT).

Future Soldier re-organisation (2023)

Major changes occurred in the Army Medical Services from 28 February 2023 under the Future Soldier programme, with a reduction in the number of Close Support Regiments and the formation of Multi-Role Medical Regiments (MMRs), with field hospitals merging with medical regiments to form single units under a unified command.⁴ Four of the ten Reserve field hospitals were merged, and nine MMRs were created in the Army Reserve.⁵⁻⁶ The newly established Royal Army Medical Service now has two Regular and nine Reserve MMRs, in addition to four Regular Medical Regiments and three Nationally Recruited Reserve units.⁷ 2 Medical Brigade has been re-designated as 2 Medical Group, still based in Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall, near York.

201 Hospital Squadron – a very brief history

201 (Northern) Field Hospital was part of Hospital Group North before the radical transformation under Future Soldier. The RHQ and 'B' Squadron were in Fenham Barracks, Newcastle Upon Tyne, with 'A' Squadron [lineage derived from 223 (Durham) Field Ambulance] in Newton Aycliffe, and 'C' Squadron in Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland. It was under the operational command of 1 UK Division, delegated to Commander 2nd Medical Brigade.

The unit traced its lineage through successive Territorial and Reserve military hospitals centred on Newcastle, following formation of the Territorial Force (TF) in 1908.. It was the first TF General Hospital to be established in the north,⁸ being proudly raised in March 1909 as the **1st (Northern) General Hospital**, with the commissioning of the first nine officers in Armstrong College (now Newcastle University). During the First World War, 1st (Northern) General Hospital became **59 General Hospital** and deployed to France on 29 April 1917. **1st (Northern) General Hospital** reappeared in the Army Order of Battle of October 1919 and was renamed **4th (Northern) General Hospital** in July 1939, deploying to Dieppe in September. It then covered the withdrawal from Dunkirk before itself being evacuated. In 1942 the unit deployed as **4 General Hospital** to Sudan and then joined 8th Army in Egypt. After being disbanded in January 1946, the unit reformed in July 1947 as **4th Northern General Hospital**, subsequently being re-designated as **201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC (V)** on 1 April 1967, and in 1995 as **201 (Northern) Field Hospital RAMC**

⁴ Future Soldier (programme published 25 November 2021; British Army Website <https://www.army.mod.uk/learn-and-explore/army-of-the-future/readiness/future-soldier/> (last accessed 25 February 2025). Future Soldier Guide https://www.army.mod.uk/media/15057/adr010310-futuresoldierguide_30nov.pdf)

⁵ The four Reserve Field Hospitals that merged were 201 with 212, and 207 with 208. See Previous Unit histories on the Friends of Millbank website.

⁶ The nine Reserve MMRs are numbered 202, 203, 206, 210, 214, 215, 243, 254 and 256 MMRs respectively.

⁷ See Current Units, on Friends of Millbank website <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/current-units>

⁸ In the north is correct. However, the honour of the first TF hospital to be set up goes to the **First Eastern General Hospital**, in Cambridge. This had its first annual camp in June 1908, and reached its full peacetime establishment by September 1908. See: Guillebaud, Philomena. *From Bats to Beds to Books – The First Eastern General Hospital (Territorial Force) in Cambridge – and what came before and after it* (Fern House, 2014) 2nd edition, p.10.

(V). The Volunteers designation was dropped when the Territorial Army was renamed the Army Reserve on 1 October 2014.⁹

Many unit personnel deployed as volunteers to Saudi Arabia in the First Gulf War (Op GRANBY) in 1991, the Balkans in the 1990s, and on Ops TELIC 1 and 2 (2003). 201 Field Hospital itself deployed twice as a formed unit to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 7A (2007 – 2008) and on Op HERRICK 15B (2012), each time forming the lead Unit at Camp Bastion Hospital in Helmand Province.

212 Hospital Squadron – a very brief history

212 (Yorkshire) Field Hospital was based on Endcliffe Hall, a Victorian Manor House three miles from the centre of Sheffield. The unit historically raised detachments within the South Yorkshire and Humberside areas, with a large detachment in the East Midlands (in Nottingham), which was transferred to 202 MMR in 2023 under the Future Soldier programme.

The unit traced its lineage, through various amalgamations and reorganisations, to the **3rd West Riding Field Ambulance** and the **3rd Northern General Hospital** raised in Sheffield after the formation of the TF. Captain William Allen MC, a member of the 3rd West Riding Field Ambulance, was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on the Somme in September 1916.

On the outbreak of the First World War the **3rd Northern General Hospital** became a Base Hospital in Sheffield, while the **3rd West Riding Field Ambulance** raised two further field ambulances. All three West Riding Field Ambulances deployed to France in 1915.

The TF was re-constituted in October 1921 as the Territorial Army. In 1922 all three Field Ambulances in the West Riding were amalgamated to form **146 West Riding Field Ambulance**, with its HQ in Leeds, and its 'B Company' in Sheffield. In 1939, B Company reformed as **147 (West Riding) Field Ambulance**. It deployed successively to Norway and Northern Ireland, and then France after D-Day, eventually crossing the Rhine into Germany. In 1943 a cadre of 147 (WR) Field Ambulance was detached to form **225 Parachute Field Ambulance**. After the war, 146 (WR) Field Ambulance was re-established in Leeds, while 147 (WR) Field Ambulance continued in Sheffield.

In 1938, **1/4th General Hospital** was formed in Leeds and went to France in February 1940 as the **18th General Hospital**, returning from Dunkirk in May. The 18th General Hospital subsequently went to Egypt in 1941, serving in India 1942-44, and after the war returned to Leeds, reforming initially in 1947 as **4 (Northern) Casualty Clearing Station**.

Various TA re-organisations and amalgamations followed in 1961, 1967, and 1970, resulting in the formation of **212 (Sheffield) Field Hospital (V)** on 1 March 1970, and its re-designation as **212 (Yorkshire) Field Hospital (V)** on 31 March 1988. In recent years the unit has deployed twice as a formed unit. It was the first TA field hospital to deploy into Afghanistan, in 2007 on Op HERRICK 6A, and four years later it became the

⁹ The relevant legislation was Defence Reform Act 2014. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/20/contents> (accessed 25 February 2025)

first TA hospital to deploy a second time in this campaign, in 2011 on Op HERRICK 13B, each time forming the lead element within Camp Bastion Hospital.

250 Support Squadron – a very brief history

250 Support Squadron was formed when 250 Medical Squadron (Hull) was re-subordinated from 254 Medical Regiment in November 2023. Its history dates back to the Second World War.

150th (Northumbrian) Field Ambulance formed up in Hull in 1938 in support of 50th (Northumbrian) Division. In 1939 the Field Ambulance was mobilised and from 1940 to 1942 saw service in Egypt, El Alamein, Fuka, Cyprus, and Palestine. In 1942 the unit returned to North Africa, participating in the Battle of Gazala. May saw the start of a prolonged period of fighting in a shallow depression known as the 'Cauldron', between Knightsbridge and the 150th Brigade Group Boxes. The unit was overrun and many survivors became Prisoners of War. As a consequence of this the unit was disbanded.

In 1947, the unit reformed as **150 (Northumbrian) Field Ambulance (Volunteers)** at East Hull Barracks, Hull and in 1960 the unit formed **No 51 Field Dressing Station** at Londesborough Barracks, Hull. In 1967 the Field Ambulance and the Field Dressing Station amalgamated to form **250 (Hull) Field Ambulance RAMC (Volunteers)** and moved to Wenlock Barracks, Hull.

On 1 December 1999, following the 1998 Strategic Defence Review, **250 (Hull) Field Ambulance (Volunteers)** amalgamated with 5 Field Ambulance to form 5 General Support Medical Regiment in Preston, with the two field ambulances becoming individual squadrons in the new regiment. The squadron assumed the name **B (250 Hull) Medical Squadron (Volunteers)**.

On 1 April 2009 the squadron was re-subordinated to 3 Medical Regiment, newly formed under the Improved Medical Support to a Brigade (IMSB) concept. The Regiment deployed to Afghanistan in support of 4 Mechanised Brigade on Op HERRICK 12 (April – October 2010), and again on Op HERRICK 17 (October 2012 – April 2013).¹⁰

On 1 July 2014, as a result of the Army 2020 reforms, the recently re-titled **250 Medical Squadron** was re-subordinated to 2 Medical Regiment. Barely four years later, on 1 December 2018, 2 Medical Regiment was disbanded,¹¹ and **250 Medical Squadron** was re-subordinated to 254 Medical Regiment.

In November 2023, under the Future Soldier programme, the Squadron moved again, being re-subordinated to 214 (North-East) Multi-Role Medical Regiment, to become **250 Support Squadron**.

¹⁰ 3 Medical Regiment would be drastically affected by the Future Soldier programme. Its Regimental HQ and Support Squadron were disbanded on 28 February 2023, and its two Medical Squadrons were re-subordinated to Regular Field Hospital units to create Multi-role Medical Regiments. 5 Medical Regiment was re-designated as the new 3 Medical Regiment. See 'Previous Units' history of 3 Medical Regiment.

¹¹ The disbanded 2 Medical Regiment was reformed in a different guise in 2023 under the Future Soldier programme, when 4 Armoured Medical Regiment was re-designated as 2 Medical Regiment.

251 Medical Squadron – a very brief history

This Reserve Squadron, based in Sunderland, has come under the command of a bewildering sequence of units in the twenty-five years since the start of the millennium, when **251 (Sunderland) Field Ambulance RAMC (V)** became a squadron within **5 General Support Medical Regiment**, in 2000.

The Squadron derives its lineage from **151 Light Field Ambulance RAMC** (formed in 1937) and its successor units, namely **151 (Northern) Field Ambulance (TA)**, **251 (Durham) Field Ambulance RAMC (V)** and **251 (Sunderland) Field Ambulance RAMC (V)**. The latter became a squadron within **5 General Support Medical Regiment** (2000-2006), thereafter being re-subordinated successively to **225 General Support Medical Regiment** (2006-2014), **3 Medical Regiment** (1 August 2014-2018), **254 Medical Regiment** (1 December 2018-2019), **225 (Scottish) Medical Regiment** (2019-2023), and most recently **214 (North-East) Multi-Role Medical Regiment** (2023 – date).

Notes for researchers

This brief history of **214 (North East) Multi-Role Medical Regiment** should be read in conjunction with the detailed histories of its immediate predecessors, **201 (Northern) Field Hospital** and **212 (Yorkshire) Field Hospital**, as well as those of **254 Medical Regiment**, **225 Medical Regiment**, and the pre-Future Soldier iterations of **2 Medical Regiment** and **3 Medical Regiment**, published in the Previous Unit Histories on the Friends of Millbank website, <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/previous-units>.

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If you notice any errors or wish to submit new material for inclusion in future updates, please contact the author, Col (retd) David Vassallo L/RAMC at chairman@friendsofmillbank.org

Published by Friends of Millbank, in Current Unit Histories, <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/current-units>

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