



206 (North West) Multi-Role Medical Regiment

**(Formed by amalgamation of 207 (Manchester) Field Hospital
with 208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital in 2023)**

Introduction

206 (North West) Multi-Role Medical Regiment was formed on 1 September 2023 by the amalgamation of **207 (Manchester) Field Hospital** and **208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital**, also subsuming **64 Medical Squadron** in Chorley from the disbanding 3 Medical Regiment, under the Future Soldier programme.¹

206 MMR has one pre-hospital squadron and two hospital squadrons. Its Regimental HQ is in Chorley,² with **57 Support Squadron** in Blackpool,³ **64 Medical Squadron** in Chorley,⁴ **207 (Stockport) Squadron** in Stockport,⁵ and **208 Hospital Squadron** in Liverpool,⁶ each squadron bearing the lineage of its forebears. There are also A, B and C detachments in Manchester,⁷ the Isle of Man,⁸ and Carlisle respectively.⁹

The unit, together with all other British Army Reserve medical units, is under the operational command of Headquarters 2 Medical Group, in Strensall, North Yorkshire.

¹ See the detailed histories of **207 (Manchester) Field Hospital** and **208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital** on the Friends of Millbank website, to complement this brief Unit History: <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/previous-units/>

² 206 Multi-Role Medical Regiment. <https://www.facebook.com/206MMR/> (accessed 23 October 2024)

³ 57 Support Squadron, in Blackpool <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/army-reserve/find-a-reserve-centre/north-west/blackpool-parkinson-way/> (206 MMR sub-units shown here were all accessed 23 October 2024)

⁴ 64 Medical Squadron, in Chorley <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/army-reserve/find-a-reserve-centre/north-west/chorley-devonshire-road/>

⁵ 207 (Stockport) Squadron, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1479543102698399/>

⁶ 208 Hospital Squadron, in Liverpool <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/army-reserve/find-a-reserve-centre/north-west/liverpool-sarum-road/>

⁷ A Detachment, in Clifton, Manchester. <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/army-reserve/find-a-reserve-centre/north-west/manchester-clifton/>

⁸ B Detachment, in Douglas, Isle of Man. <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/army-reserve/find-a-reserve-centre/north-west/isle-of-man-lord-street/>

⁹ C Detachment, in Carlisle. <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/army-reserve/find-a-reserve-centre/north-east/carlisle-the-castle/>

Future Soldier re-organisation (2023)

Major changes occurred across 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 (MMR) containing both Role 1 pre-hospital and Role 2 hospital squadrons under a unified command.¹⁰ Four Reserve field hospitals were merged (including 207 and 208), and nine MMRs were created in the Army Reserve.¹¹⁻¹² There are now two Regular and nine Reserve MMRs, in addition to four Regular Medical Regiments and three other Reserve units.¹³ 2 Medical Brigade in Strensall was downsized and re-designated as 2 Medical Group, with the Reserve units under its command.

Formation of Royal Army Medical Service (2024)

On 15 November 2024, the three Corps of the Army Medical Services (the Royal Army Medical Corps, the Royal Army Dental Corps and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps) amalgamated to form the Royal Army Medical Service, with the approval of His Majesty the King.¹⁴

The new Royal Army Medical Service flag comprises the three colours of Dull Cherry, from the RAMC; Athol Grey, from the QARANC; and Victoria green, from the RADC and also for Project Victoria, under which the new Corps had come into being.¹⁵⁻¹⁶ The RAMS colours are shown above the unit insignia on the title page.



The cap badge and motto of the Royal Army Medical Service

¹⁰ 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/> (accessed 11 November 2024). Future Soldier Guide https://www.army.mod.uk/media/15057/adr010310-futuresoldierguide_30nov.pdf)

¹¹ The four Reserve Field Hospitals that merged were 201 with 212 (to form 214 MMR), and 207 with 208 (to form 206 MMR).

¹² The nine Reserve MMRs are numbered 202, 203, 206, 210, 214, 215, 243, 254 and 256 MMRs respectively.

¹³ See Current and Previous Unit Histories on Friends of Millbank website <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/current-units> and <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/previous-units>

¹⁴ This had been announced in Parliament on 15 October 2024. <https://www.army.mod.uk/news/the-royal-army-medical-service-created-to-ensure-british-army-healthcare-is-fit-for-the-future/> (accessed 15 October 2024).

¹⁵ See <https://www.forcesnews.com/services/army/historic-creation-new-royal-army-medical-service-officially-marked-sandhurst> (accessed 16 November 2024)

¹⁶ British Army modernises medical services to keep soldiers fighting fit. *British Army / News* 20 November 2024 <https://www.army.mod.uk/news/british-army-modernises-medical-services-to-keep-soldiers-fighting-fit/>

64 Medical Squadron – a brief outline of its history

To be inserted. Between 2014-2023 this Squadron formed part of 3 Medical Regiment, before the latter's disbandment and re-organisation. See 'Previous Units' on the Friends of Millbank website.

207 (Stockport) Hospital Squadron – a brief outline of its history

This Squadron bears the lineage of 207 (Manchester) Field Hospital, which had been based at Sir William Coates House in Kings Road, Old Trafford, Manchester. The 'Manchester Medics' trace their origins to the formation of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps (VMSC) in Manchester in 1885 by a pioneering young doctor, William Coates. On the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908, the Manchester Companies of the VMSC were replaced by a General Hospital (the 2nd Western General Hospital) and three Field Ambulances, supporting the East Lancashire Division (TF). This became the first TF Division to deploy overseas during the First World War, and it was its medics who were among the last to leave Gallipoli in January 1916. The Division eventually saw service in Egypt, Gallipoli, Sinai, Mesopotamia, France and Flanders. Meanwhile, the 2nd Western General Hospital became the largest home-based Military Hospital of the First World War, with some 25,000 beds under its command.

Many changes occurred in subsequent years, with reconstitution of the Territorial Force as the Territorial Army in 1921, defence cuts and unit amalgamations in the early 1930s, followed by belated expansion and mobilisation during the Second World War. The Territorial Army was reformed in 1947, and then underwent a major re-organisation in 1967, at which stage the Manchester Medics became **207 (Manchester) General Hospital RAMC (Volunteers)**. Following the end of the Cold War, the unit was downsized to become **207 (Manchester) Field Hospital (Volunteers)** in 1995.

The Old Trafford Depot at Kings Road was named Sir William Coates House in 2005.

208 (Liverpool) Squadron – a brief outline of its history

Please refer to the history of 208 Field Hospital within 'Previous Units' on the Friends of Millbank site, <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/previous-units/>.

The direct link is https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/downloads/208-Field_Hospital.pdf.

Notes for researchers

This brief history of 206 (North West) Multi-Role Medical Regiment should be read in conjunction with the detailed histories of its immediate predecessors, particularly 207 (Manchester) Field Hospital and 208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital, published within Previous Unit Histories on the Friends of Millbank website, <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/previous-units>.

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 djvassallo@aol.com

Published within Current Unit Histories, <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/current-units>