



James Thornton

Junior Officer (Royal Engineers)

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Commissioned British Army officer (Royal Engineers) and graduate of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Commands a troop of 28 soldiers with responsibility for training, welfare, discipline, and equipment valued at £2.4 million. Completed a 4 month operational deployment to Kenya and achieved the highest combat fitness test pass rate (96%) in the squadron.

Experience

Troop Commander (Second Lieutenant), 36 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, Maidstone

Aug 2025 – Present

Commanding a troop of 28 soldiers within a field squadron, responsible for combat engineering tasks including bridging, demolitions, and field fortifications.

- Commands a troop of **28 soldiers**, responsible for their individual training programmes, welfare, and discipline, with quarterly OJAR reporting to the squadron commander
- Completed a **4 month operational deployment to BATUK (Kenya)**: constructed field fortifications for a battle group exercise, built a 40 metre Bailey bridge, and ran 3 community engagement projects with local villages
 - Achieved the **highest CFT pass rate (96%)** in the squadron and improved the troop's weapons handling test results from 82% to 98% over 6 months
- Managed troop equipment valued at **£2.4 million** including military vehicles (MAN SV trucks, JCB HMEE), engineering stores, and communications equipment

Officer Cadet, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Camberley

Sep 2024 – Aug 2025

44 week commissioning course developing leadership, military skills, and academic knowledge.

- Completed **6 assessed field exercises** ranging from 5 to 14 days, including the final exercise in the Brecon Beacons (10 days)
 - Passed **28 leadership assessment events** covering command tasks, planning exercises, and tactical decision games
 - Finished **12th out of 268 officer cadets** in the overall order of merit for the September 2024 intake
 - Elected **Junior Under Officer** for the final term, responsible for coordinating 30 cadets in the platoon

Education

BA (Hons) in Geography, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne

Sep 2021 – Jun 2024

Upper Second Class Honours (2:1). Modules included Geopolitics, Environmental Risk Management, GIS and Remote Sensing, and Development Studies.

- Dissertation: "**Military Infrastructure and Environmental Impact: A GIS Analysis of British Army Training Areas on Salisbury Plain**" — mapped land use change across 12,000 hectares using satellite imagery from 2010 to 2024
 - Held a **Army Undergraduate Bursary** throughout the degree, attending military familiarisation events during holidays

A-Levels in Geography (A*), History (A), Mathematics (B), Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne

Sep 2019 – Jun 2021

Achieved A*AB. Combined Cadet Force (CCF) member throughout sixth form, achieving the rank of Cadet Sergeant Major.

Skills

Troop Command (28 Personnel) • Operational Planning & Orders Process • Field Engineering (Bridging, Demolitions, Fortifications) • Equipment Management (£2.4M Portfolio) • Budget Management (£18K Quarterly Training Budget) • Risk Assessment & Safety Management • GIS & Geospatial Analysis • Radio Communications (Bowman/BATCIS) • Physical Fitness Standards (CFT, PFA) • Report Writing (OJAR, SITREP, OPORDER)

Certifications

Queen's Commission (British Army), Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Aug 2025

Young Officers' Course – Royal Engineers, Royal School of Military Engineering

Aug 2025 – Dec 2025

Military Driving Licence (Category C+E), Defence School of Transport

Sep 2025

Emergency First Aid (Battlefield Casualty Drills), Army Medical Services Training Centre

Jan 2025 – Jan 2028

Languages

English (native)

Projects

BATUK Deployment – Bailey Bridge Construction

Jan 2026 – Apr 2026

Led the construction of a 40 metre Bailey bridge across a seasonal river in Nanyuki, Kenya, as part of a battle group training exercise.

- Commanded **28 engineers** over a 3 day build period, completing the bridge 6 hours ahead of the tactical deadline
- Managed the logistics of transporting **18 tonnes of bridge components** across 60 km of unpaved roads using MAN SV trucks

Community Engagement Project – Laikipia County School

Feb 2026 – Mar 2026

Planned and delivered a community engagement project alongside the operational deployment.

- Led a team of **12 soldiers** in constructing a 3 classroom block extension at a primary school near Nanyuki, including brickwork, roofing, and painting
- Coordinated with the **Laikipia County education office** and the school headteacher on design, materials, and handover

Extra Curricular Activity

Army Rugby – 36 Engineer Regiment XV

Sep 2025

Play flanker for the regimental rugby team. Played 14 matches in the Army Rugby Union inter-unit competition during the 2025/26 season. The team reached the quarter finals of the Army Cup.