



HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM BOBSLEIGH - THE VALUE OF ADVENTUROUS TRAINING TO THE ARMED FORCES



The Bobsleigh in the Royal Signals Museum is one similar to one used by Corporal Jacqueline Gunn (nee Davies), who enlisted into the Army in May 1996. She trained as a Telecommunications Operator (Radio) in Blandford, but in 1999 she re-traded to become a Communications Systems Engineer. Her introduction to Bobsleigh racing is an example of how adventurous training works in the Army and how it adds value to the training of men and women in all three armed services. Royal Signals has always given much support to all these activities.

Cpl Gunn was introduced to the sport of bobsleigh racing whilst attending the 3rd Signal Regiment's Army Ice Camp in Norway in October 2000. Her talent and ability was drawn to the attention of the British Olympic Team and she was encouraged by her unit to attend the Team GB trials. Following a successful trial, she was given the opportunity to train with the Olympic Squad at the Centre of Excellence at Bath University where she progressed very quickly. Cpl Gunn was selected to represent Great Britain at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City alongside Cpl Michelle Coy (RAF), this was the first Olympics to include women's bobsleigh. The pair finished in 11th place, which is shown in the picture on left. The two are starting the race, but in the background is her coach, who later became her husband in 2008.

In 2004 Corporal Gunn won the World Push Start Championships with team mate Nicola Minichiello. The pair went on to break several start records the following winter, but by far her biggest achievement in the sport was being a Silver Medallist at the World Championships in Canada in 2005. In 2006 Corporal Gunn was selected to represent Great Britain in the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino as GB1 Brakeman, alongside Nicola Minichiello. The pair finished in 9th place despite one of the runs being the fastest posted in the competition, see picture above on the right.

Following the Olympics in 2006 Corporal Gunn was selected to be developed as a Bobsleigh Driver and during her first season was ranked 2nd overall on the European Circuit along with Corporal Paula Walker who was her brakeman. The pair qualified for the 2007 World Championships and finished in 14th place. Cpl Gunn narrowly missed out on selection for the 2010 Olympic Games and in fact became reserve brakemen for Cpl Paula Walker, who had then taken up driving. Cpl Gunn was one of Great Britain's top brakemen during her 10 years on the team and also excelled as a Driver. She has won several European and World cup medals during her time with the Great Britain team. She retired from racing in 2010.

She continued with her Royal Signals career and was promoted to Sergeant in 2012, when she returned to 11th Signal Regiment to train soldiers in 225 Signal Squadron. She now has two children, aged 4 and 3 and completes her 22 years service in 2018.