



Royal Anglian *News*

March 2020

Regimental Matters

COVID 19

The Battalions of the Regiment have a number of tasks supporting the response to COVID 19, which are being planned and delivered now. These will be covered shortly in Army and Regimental media.

MESSAGE FROM OUR COLONEL-IN-CHIEF, HRH THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester has asked me to convey his best wishes to all your soldiers, officers, staff and volunteers while we enter this unprecedented period of uncertainty and worry. He is very much aware of the concerns that your people will have at the moment as this pandemic develops and would want you to know that you are all very much in his mind.

HANDOVER OF RSM OF THE 2ND BATTALION

The Regiment congratulates WO1 (RSM) Jonny Rawdon as he takes over as RSM of the 2nd Battalion from WO1 (RSM) Steven Mactavish.

London Gazette Mar 20

Captain B. HUMPHREYS Royal Anglian Regiment 30137201 from Short Service Commission 7 November 2019 to be Captain with seniority 12 December 2018.

DEPARTURE OF DEPUTY REGIMENTAL SECRETARY (COMMUNICATIONS AND HERITAGE)

The Regiment thanks Maj (Retd) R G Corcoran MBE, known to all as Corky for his five years as our Deputy Regimental Secretary. He developed our journal *Castle* and our newsletter the *Royal Anglian News* into their current form, and they are widely appreciated in the Regimental family, for which we are grateful. Corky was proud of his roots and friends in the old 3rd Battalion (The Pompadours), and never failed to bring Irish Whisky into work on St Patrick's Day to mark his shared 3rd Battalion, Essex and Irish heritage. At his farewell lunch, Corky was presented with a bound copy of all the *Royal Anglian News*, published in his time as Editor. Corky has left to become the Regimental Secretary of the Military Provost Staff in Colchester, and we wish him and his cars, all the very best.



1st Battalion (The Vikings)

Vikings Continue Their Preparation for their own Ex WESSEX STORM

After elements from across the battalion (drawn from A, B, C and D companies) supported 2 R ANGLIAN on Ex WESSEX STORM 1/20 last month, the Vikings continued their own preparations for Ex WESSEX STORM 6/20 in Apr 20.

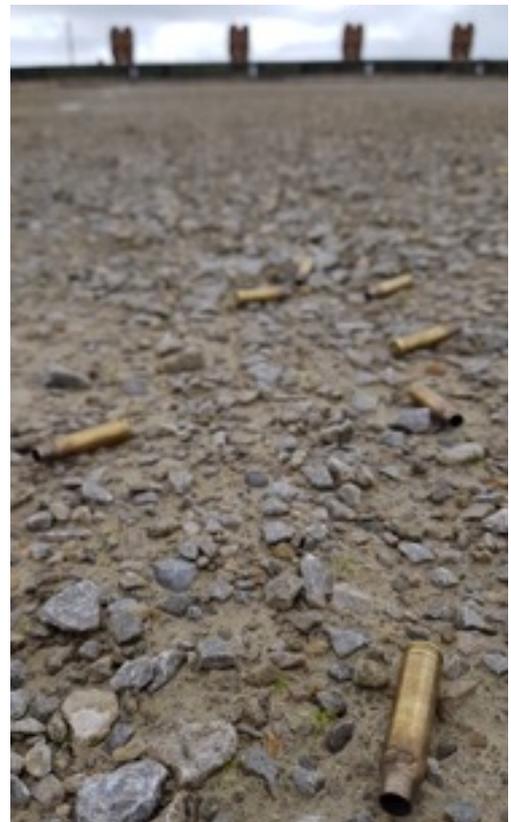


As a Light Role battalion (as opposed to Light Mechanised, like the Poachers), the Apr WESSEX STORM will be different in construct, but certain preparations remain the same. WESSEX STORM provides an excellent opportunity for live-firing, including at Company level. In preparation for the CALFEX, companies have been busy conducting the qualifying shoots required to undertake these demanding range packages.

During March, elements of A (Norfolk), C (Essex) and D (Cambridgeshire) companies were on the ranges at Lydd and Hythe. The week-long package allowed the Vikings to complete build-up shoots before conducting the Annual Combat Marksmanship Test (ACMT). A host of other ranges were run including: GPMG shoots; longer-range sharpshooter shoots; moving target and automatic shoots; night shoots (including with night vision and lasers); close-quarter battle shoots; and a CBRN shoot in respirators.

The ranges allowed our excellent NCOs and young officers to do what they do best: use their training and experience to improve the standards of shooting and collectively mentor and develop our soldiers. Sniper platoon shared their extensive knowledge and experience with the sharpshooters of B (Suffolk) Company, helping hone their skills on this battle-winning weapon and developing the next generation of marksmen. On ranges experiencing 40 mph gusts, this was no mean feat!

After a successful week's ranges, the battalion are a final step closer to being ready for Ex WESSEX STORM 6/20 in mid-April.



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Poachers plunge into the deep on Ex BELIZE POACHER

Early March for the Poachers was the recovery from a successful WESSEX STORM. This saw some outstanding work from the G4 side and the Coy Tech Sgts. In Light Mechanised Infantry there is a lot more than manpower to extract but a huge variety and number of vehicles to be returned to Kendrew Barracks and other organisations this was done via road move, HET and even by rail!



Concurrently to this Ex BELIZE POACHER saw twenty soldiers and officers from the Battalion deploy to Belize for two weeks of sub-aqua adventurous training.

The Poachers were based on Caye Caulker, an internationally recognised dive location of outstanding beauty, taking a number of experienced and novice divers through the BSAC syllabus. The expedition qualified eight new Ocean Divers, two PADI Sports diver cross overs and six twin set qualified divers.

Troops experienced both a new culture and cuisine; enjoying the Caribbean 'go- slow' mindset after a busy previous month on Ex WESSEX STORM.

Although a close call, with planes being grounded around them, the Poachers were able to recover just in time to the UK to support Army's efforts in countering the effect of COVID 19.



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

Ex SHARPSHOOTER

The last weekend of the training year is always Annual Training Tests focused to ensure as many 3 Royal Anglian soldiers qualify for their Certificate of Efficiency and receive their Bounty.

This year 1 (Norfolk and Suffolk) , 3 (Essex and Hertfordshire) and 5 (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) Companies deployed to West Toft camp, Archers and Curlew Ranges to fire their Annual Marksmanship Test and complete their Casualty Drills and CBRN test.

This was followed by Fitness Test on Sunday Morning. Military Fitness Tests have changed significantly over the past year and are no longer conducted as a BFT or ACFT, instead it includes activities such as Fire and Manoeuvre, Jerry Can Carry and Two consecutively executed Loaded Marches which for many soldiers would have been their first attempt at the new tests.

As a 'thank you' 5 Company also organised for their soldiers an afternoon of Ten Pin Bowling and a Sunday lunch in Brandon.

Due to National events, a level of uncertainty has now forced most army reserve activities to cease, we continue to plan whilst waiting to see how the situation develops.



Regimental Association

Events

The usually busy programme of Regimental and Association events in the Spring and Summer has been suspended, and a new programme of events will be published as soon as is possible.

Castle

Castle 2019, our 100th edition was distributed in early March.

New Regimental Website

Up to date news on the Battalions and on the Association can be found on our new website, which was launched last month: www.royalanglianregiment.com Regimental Bulletins

RHQ circulated four Regimental Bulletins in March which are also on the Regimental Website:

- Bulletin 14-20 Death Of Harold George
- Bulletin 15-20 Link to February's *Royal Anglian News*
- Bulletin 16-20 Temporary Closure of Regt Museum and temporary suspension of Services at Regt Chapel
- Bulletin 17-20 Message from our Colonel-in-Chief Cover

COVER PHOTO

A 1st Battalion D (Cambridgeshire) Company Sniper collecting data on Hythe ranges, identity protected.