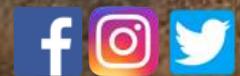




Royal Anglian *News*



Regimental Matters



Poulters' Prize 2020 Awarded

The Regiment warmly congratulates CSgt Andy Howe on being selected for the Poulters' Prize for 2020. This prize is awarded annually 'to the individual who has best promoted the ethos of The Royal Anglian Regiment in a significant way'.

His nomination was for his work in the Training Wing during the COVID restrictions, when access to external training areas was limited. He led the development of an exceptional training facility which now includes various CQB lanes, demonstration areas (Ops, trench positions etc.), troop shelters, IED lanes, and, incredibly, an approved sim-munition 'kill house' based around an old respirator testing facility. It is now so good that it is used every day by members

of the Battalion for individual skills training and has been highlighted by CFA as a shining example of what can be achieved with some imagination and determination.

In the last 21 years he has delivered the same high level of dedication. During his career he has completed every operational deployment that the Vikings have undertaken, and, remarkably, managed to volunteer for additional deployments with other units – one in Iraq with the Grenadier Guards and one in Afghanistan with the Coldstream Guards, only a year after a Vikings deployment.

The Worshipful Company of Poulters are long-standing supporters of the Regiment. They have kindly invited CSgt Howe to a Poulters' event in London later in the year, where the prize will be presented by the Master Poulter.

New Year's Honours List

The Regiment warmly congratulates Maj Jamie Powell on the award of an MBE in the New Year Honours List. Maj Powell's last appointment was outside the Regiment as Chief of Staff of 77th Brigade. He recently rejoined the 2nd Battalion as OC B (Leicestershire) Company, conducting pre-operational training with them, and deploying with them to Mali in December 2020 for a six-month UN tour.

The Regiment also congratulates WO2 (RQMS) Dean Pankhurst PWRR currently serving with the 2nd Battalion, on the award of the MSM



1st Battalion (The Vikings)

The Vikings - Happy New Tier 2021

If anyone thought the Vikings would have a slow and steady start to 2021, they were mistaken! Although most Vikings got a good period of block leave over Christmas (interrupted for many by the last-minute Tier 4 restrictions), they soon hit the ground running again in the New Year.

Due to the ongoing COVID risk, the Battalion executed a staggered return to work so that every Viking could undergo Lateral Flow (quick result) testing before returning to duty. This staggered approach was both welcome and necessary. For C (Essex) Company, who had returned from Kabul in mid-December, this allowed well-earned POTL and Christmas leave to be taken; the Machine Gun platoon from 2 RANGLIAN also detached and returned to the Poachers. B (Suffolk) and D (Cambridgeshire) Company however were required to return promptly to work due to new Op RESCRIPT commitments (the response to COVID).



Enabled by various elements from HQ Company and with significant support from the Training Wing, OC D Company led a large effort to quickly generate support – should it be required – for returning schools, who now had the requirement to deliver Lateral Flow testing to their pupils. Whilst the latest national lockdown interrupted this task, it meant that the combined B and D Company team were in a great place to respond to a subsequent Op RESCRIPT task that developed as the month progressed. More on that next month...

Finally, January also presented a great training opportunity for a mix of soldiers from A, B, C and D Company as they undertook a demanding Public Order training package at Longmoor training camp. The B (Suffolk) Company team laid on a great package, and by the end of it multiple platoons were externally validated as ready to conduct Public Order duties if required. This training is important for several operational reasons, principally the impending Unit Move to Cyprus later this year. As ever with any good Public Order training, many Vikings were left with a variety of cuts, bruises and aching bones as a memento! This training provided the perfect setting for some of the first batch of VAISEC soldiers to exercise with their new platoons. VAISEC (the Viking Advanced Infantry Skills Enhancement Course) is now being run by the Training Wing under WO2 Kennedy, and aims to give further training to new Vikings, induct them to the Battalion, and provide them with the foundation for a successful career with the Vikings. Nothing bonds new soldiers like standing shoulder to shoulder in a baseline!

Alongside mortar live-firing, continued support to operations in Oman, and range-team support to BATUK (Kenya), January has set the bar for what looks to be another busy year for Her Majesty's Vikings.



Public Order training at Longmoor village took place by day...and by night.

2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

The Poachers - Prepare for Fire and Ice



After a well-earned Christmas leave period, the battalion returned and certainly hit the ground running. With the deployment of BHQ and A (Lincolnshire) on Op NEWCOMBE 2 fast approaching, the new year saw mission specific training commence in earnest. Earlier in the month, one hundred and eight persons deployed to a windy and cold Thetford to receive their week's long All Ranks Brief which focussed on the threats that would be faced in theatre and ways of mitigating them. Later on, in the month, the troops deployed to Castlemartin Ranges for Ex PRIMED POACHER which saw a mixture of both dismounted and mounted LFTT.



B (Leicestershire) Company who deployed on Op NEWCOMBE 1 with the Light Dragoons in December 20 have bedded in well to operational life. Their new year has seen them preparing their vehicles and equipment for long range patrolling, conducting local leader engagement with the curious inhabitants of Gao and test firing their weapons at the nearby ranges.

Meanwhile, D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company's focus has firmly switched to readying themselves for Op CABRIT to Poland. This has seen the company conduct further training on their Jackal vehicles, as well as skill at arms training on their weapon systems ahead of Ex STAGS GUNNER 2 also at Castlemartin Ranges, which focuses on mounted close combat. In addition to this, the Reconnaissance Platoon conducted the live fire element of their cadre at Warcop ahead of deploying on Op CABRIT.



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

The Steelbacks - Undaunted by Flood or Pandemic

The 3rd Battalion starts 2021 looking ahead to getting back into the field as soon as it is safe. Everyone is hankering for the to return to the warfighting basics that are the foundation of the Steelbacks. For now, the Companies are focussing on protecting the troops and delivering everything possible online – from fitness to section and platoon tactics. Our Companies' Officers, SNCOs and JNCOs are ever more inventive in delivering this training to maintain their troops' infantry skills. We will be ready to reset and go live as soon as possible.

The Battalion has welcomed home our attachments to the 1st Battalion, The Vikings, from their tour of Afghanistan and earlier this month 3 Steelbacks embarked on a deployment to Kenya in a Force Protection role led by the Queens Dragoon Guards. Our newest soldiers continue to make the most of the precious opportunities to progress, 7 new Steelbacks passed off from their Basic Training at ATR Grantham on the 23rd of January - next stop is the Combat Infantry Course! Their achievement is all the more remarkable given the extraordinary challenges they have faced in getting to this point. Their steadfast resolve to see through the process despite delays, cancellations and friction is excellent and reflects the resilient spirit of our new joiners. Finally, the Steelbacks welcome 12 attested recruits in January and 101 in the training year. They are the future of this Battalion.



UK Operations. The Steelbacks remain committed to playing a part in UK Operations both in maintaining mobilised Military Liaison Officers (to Suffolk, Norfolk and Lincolnshire) and enabling urgent military aide to the civil authorities to support testing and vaccination programme.

Pte Bucar Attestation as a Steelback

From Maj Gav Rushmere, Bn 21C: *Operation RESCRIPT (Covid Response) and UK Resilience has occupied much of the 3 Military Liaison Officers (Maj Ian Robinson, Maj Mitch Pegg and Maj Gav Rushmere) time in the past Month. From the deployment of Army Medics to Lincolnshire Hospital and more recently 30 Army Medics to Norfolk and Norwich Hospital to support the Regional Critical Care surge. The staging point for Norfolk medics was the Army Reserve Centre in Norwich and was ably supported by CSgt Glen Keeble and Sgt Michelle Stone. In the days of 'Virtual Training' even the induction package was live linked from Joint Military Command (East) and co-ordinated by WO2 Matt Waters who is currently deployed as a Battle Captain.*

From going into the N&N Hospital and seeing how under pressure NHS staff are, providing 30 CMT staff seemed like a small contribution, but it was clearly welcome, echoed from the hospital Chief Executive downward.

WO2 Carey (CIS SPSI) has also be deployed in support of the Vaccine Task Force which is part of momentous military effort to support the Vaccination Roll out.



Pic Left - In addition to the RESCRIPT, Flooding has been a feature in the past month with 3 RANGLIAN suppling and delivering sandbags to Bungay residents on Christmas Eve to help prevent home flooding.



Pte Matthews attested into 5 Coy (Peterborough) on 16 Dec 20



Pte Downer Attested 5 Coy on 6 Jan 21



Pte Abi Dowding attested into 5 Coy (Bury St Edmunds) on 21 Jan 21



Ptes Carter and Groom attested 5 Coy (Peterborough) 12 Jan 21

Royal Anglian Museum News

With the Museum being closed, we are doing the best we can from behind the scenes! The IWM last year had made plans to have 10 showcase days this year, which we were really looking forward to being a part of. These are supposed to start in April and we are still fingers crossed that we can have visitors by then.

Behind the scenes we have been planning some gallery works, and hoping to refresh some captions. We have also been answering any enquiries we can. There is also a section of Museum News on the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum website if anyone wants an extra read which is mostly about current events.

In other news, we are still planning to move our reserve collections onto site within the Museum. This will be welcome, and improve ease of access for visitors. We hope we will be able to provide some open days for the public so that all the reserve collection items can also be appreciated. This move however will require a lot of new storage and conservation supplies, so we are working on various grants to fund this.

As we have various pictures from the collections online, here are some favourites at the moment below. All our collections can also be found on our Museum website if anyone wants to pick their own favourites.

Back in the Day...

The first item in our new series is the SLR L1A1, the predecessor to the SA80. From all accounts it was a well-liked weapon, and whenever we have it out on the Museum handling table many veterans come over and share a story or two. It is the British equivalent of the FN FAL, which was a Belgian made weapon. The SLR fired the 7.62 NATO round, and although the FAL was fully automatic, the British SLR was not. The weapons range was given at 800m, accurate range was 300m. The SLR started to be replaced in the mid-80's, but for many Royal Anglian veterans this will always be a favourite.



Corporal Scarborough, 2nd Battalion, in the Chair with his SLR, after winning the Regular Army Queen's Medal at Bisley in 1984.

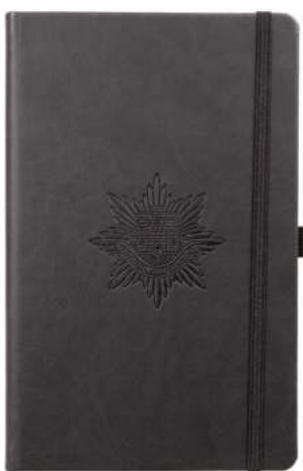
Regimental Diary Dates 2021

Regular updates will be circulated in our Regimental media, and a current list is maintained on our website: www.royalanglianregiment.com

- 10th February - Sobraon Day - 175th Anniversary
- 17th March - Annual Meeting of County Colonels, RHQ
- 17th March - St. Patrick's Day
- TBC Apr - MOBBS Memorial Rugby Match
- 1st April - Regimental Recruiting Meeting
- 5th to 16th April - Easter Leave
- 25th April - Almanza Day
- 5th May - Regimental Museum Trustees Meeting
- 7th May - Regimental Careers Meeting, RHC Chelsea
Regimental Council Meeting, RHC Chelsea
- 18th June - Regimental Representative Event, Great Hospital Norwich
- 25th June - Royal Tiger's Day
- 27th June - Cambridgeshire Reunion, Ely Cathedral
- 30th June to 1st July - Royal Norfolk Show
- 22nd July - Salamanca Day
- 27th July - Talavera Day
- 1st August - Minden Day
Association Minden Day at Bury St Edmunds
- 13th August - Blenheim Day

- 14th August - FEPOW Service, Lichfield
- 4th September - Regimental Rugby
- 5th September - Regimental Day, Duxford
- 26th September - RHC Regimental Service - Royal Hospital Chelsea
- TBC September - Regimental Battlefield Tour.
- 9th October - 4th / 5th Leicestershire Regimental Dinner - Leicester
- 5th November - Regimental Council Meetings, Army & Navy Club
- 5th November - Officers Club Dinner - Army & Navy Club
- 11th November - Opening of the Field of Remembrance
- 14th November - Cenotaph Parade - London
- 14th November - Regimental Remembrance Sunday Service, Duxford
- 11th December - Regimental Carol Service - Bury St Edmunds
- 20th December - British Battalion Page Count 240, Hardback, RRP £20.0

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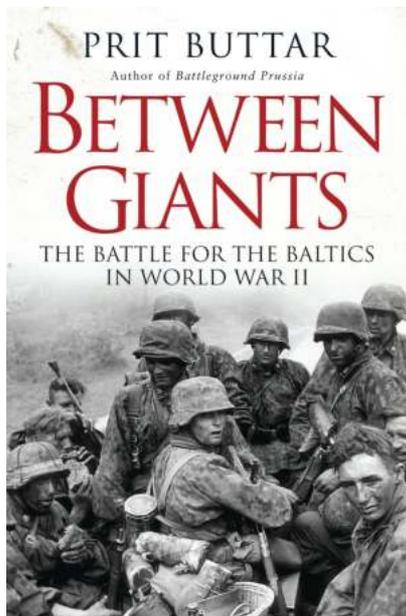


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BETWEEN GIANTS

THE BATTLE FOR THE BALTICS IN WWII

By Prit Buttar

If you are about to deploy on Op CABRIT, this may be just the right pre-reading material for you. The author spends a little time in the opening chapters explaining how the Baltic states were created and events leading up to the 20th century.

All of this is relevant and useful background knowledge, but it is the events of World War 2 that are of most use to any reader wishing to gain an understanding of the current demographics and state borders in the region. Although German troops did occupy the Baltics, it is the invasion of the Baltics by the Red Army in 1944-45 and German defensive tactics that will be of most interest to anyone involved in current NATO operations in Poland and the Baltic states.

The author knows the ground and the history of these campaigns well. The narrative style is straightforward and an easy read. A good set of maps and photographs support the text and together make this a really informative and useful read – worth investing in a copy.

Publisher Osprey Publishing

Page Count 400, Paperback, RRP £14.99

January 2021

AFTER THE WALL CAME DOWN

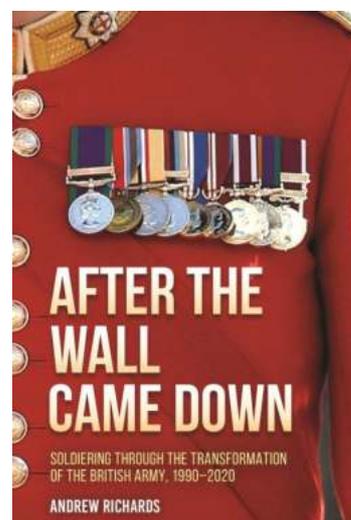
SOLDIERING THROUGH THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY 1990-2020

By Andrew Richards

The generation of young men and women who joined the British Army during the mid to late 1980s would serve their country during an unprecedented period of history. Unlike the two world war generations, they would never face total war – there was never any declaration of war and there was no one single country to defeat. In fact, it was supposed to have been the end of a war, a time of peace and stability. Politicians started to use the term, Peace Dividend. But for those in the military, the two decades following the end of the Cold War would not be a time of peace. Those serving not only faced continuous deployment in overseas operations, but they would also be involved in immense upheavals that took place within the army. The ending of the Cold War, combined with a technological revolution, a changing society at home, and new global threats mean that the Army of the second decade of the twentieth-first century – the army this generation of soldiers is now retiring from – is unrecognisable from the one they joined in the late 1980s. This is the story of the soldiers who served in the British Army in those tumultuous decades.

Publisher Casemate Publishing

Hardback, PP 245, RRP £20.00



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