



# Royal Anglian *News*



March 2021

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# Regimental Matters

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Cover Image Pte Rockson, B (Suffolk) Coy, Photo by Pte Woodbridge, VMOT, 1st Battalion (The Vikings).

## **London Gazette - 1 Mar 2021**

The Regiment warmly congratulates the following Officers on the granting of Regular and Intermediate Commissions:

Major N D Barron Royal Anglian Regiment 30065753 from Intermediate Regular Commission 5 November 2020 to be Major with seniority 31 July 2018

Major T M Duncalfe Royal Anglian Regiment 25196652 from Intermediate Regular Commission 5 November 2020 to be Major with seniority 31 July 2020

Intermediate Regular Commission - Captain C L Miles Royal Anglian Regiment 30039536 from Short Service Commission 5 November 2020 to be Captain with seniority 13 April 2016

## **London Gazette - 8 Mar 2021**

The Regiment warmly congratulates the following Officers on the granting of Intermediate Regular Commission:

Captain D B Parker Royal Anglian Regiment 30161422 from Short Service Commission 5 November 2020 to be Captain with seniority 13 August 2019

Captain D W Rawdon Royal Anglian Regiment 25223322 from Short Service commission 5 November 2020 to be Captain with seniority 6 April 2020

Captain J R Tracey Royal Anglian Regiment 30117088 from Short Service Commission 5 November 2020 to be Captain with seniority 11 April 2018

## **Regimental Bulletins Issued Mar 2021**

Bulletin 105 issued 2 Mar 21 - Notice of the Death of Capt (Retd) John Lincoln MC

Bulletin 106 Issued 3 Mar 21 - Notice of a Charity Walk in Support of Veterans

Bulletin 107 Issued 3 Mar 21 - The Royal Anglian News February Issue

Bulletin 108 Issued 4 Mar 21 - Regtl Battlefield Tour 2021 Information

Bulletin 109 Issued 4 Mar 21 - Royal Hospital Update

Bulletin 110 Issued 8 Mar 21 - Notice of the Death of Major (Retd) Charles William (Bill) Byham

Bulletin 111 Issued 16 Mar 21 - Notice of the Death of Mr Ernie Brett, Cambridgeshire Regt

Bulletin 112 Issued 16 Mar 21 - Notice of the Death of Capt (Retd) Rory Milligan

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# 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

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## The Vikings - Fully Committed to Training in Activities in March

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March was another busy month for the Vikings with training, exercises and deployments happening across every Company. The month also heralded Major James Walters first full month in command of A (Norfolk) Company; his friends and colleagues have warmly welcomed him back to Vikings. A combined Battle Craft Syllabus (BCS) exercise alongside C Company provided the ideal opportunity for A (Norfolk) Company to continue the focus on their warfighting foundation, but only after attendance on Ex VIKING SHIELD 2, training and validating the Company in Public Order (as is required for deployment later this year).

Alongside their own training programme, again re-focusing on infantry Battle Craft, B (Suffolk) Company again took the lead in delivering another VIKING SHIELD package, making use of the raft of Public Order instructors the Battalion now has trained in anticipation of any future deployments overseas. As well as supporting this activity and their own BCS exercise, C (Essex) Company also managed further time on the ranges this month, with 30k of 7.62 GPMG ammo used to begin developing the next generation of GPMG gunners. We also completed some routine rifle shooting (culminating in the ACMT) at Hythe ranges.

All five Companies have sent students on an internal Potential JNCO course being run by Lt Rob Smith, the RSM and a small training team based up near Catterick for the duration of the cadre. Whilst this training would normally be delivered pan-QUEENS Division, COVID has forced individual Battalions to temporarily run some courses internally in order to ensure a continued supply of junior commanders. Unsurprisingly, the RSM jumped at the chance to help mentor and develop the next generation of Viking JNCOs.

Other elements of HQ Company have been just as busy this month. Alongside the routine enablement of the Battalion, CIS Platoon have been committed to BGHQ training, ahead of a CAST planned in the coming months. This training was the first time the current BGHQ team had come together to practice planning and execution, and it was a productive run out ahead of Ex VIKING STORM planned for May.



Capt Russell and Sgt Johnson brief MinAF as part of a STTT deployed to Ghana, West Africa

Alongside this, Capt Dan Russell (recently returned from ITC Catterick as IO Des) and Sgt Johnson (current Int Sgt) deployed at short notice to Ghana as part of a month-long Short Term Training Team (STTT). Alongside providing training support to the Ghanaian Armed Forces they also met MinAF (James Heapey MP, an ex-RIFLES officer) as part of his visit to West Africa.

March should also mark the conclusion of the support provided by D (Cambridgeshire) Company to Op RESCRIPT, with all Vikings due to stand down and return to routine duties by the end of the month. As this short article hopefully captures, yet another productive month for the Vikings!

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# 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

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## The Poachers - Maintaining an Operational Focus from Mali to Poland

March has been another productive month for the Battalion with MST in its final stages for Op NEWCOMBE and Op CABRIT for A (Lincolnshire) & D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company respectively.

At the start of the month, A (Lincolnshire) Company focussed on individual MST with a particular emphasis being placed on C-IED drills, and soldiers being trained on the Horn IED detection kit. A small team of soldiers from the company has also been trained as an All Arms IED Search Team, which gives us an enhanced organic search capability. The company has also been finalising their Team Medic training which is an intensive course run over three days. Later on in the month the company deployed to Warcop ranges to conduct live firing with their Foxhound vehicles which they will be expected to operate out of for up to thirty days at a time whilst deployed in Mali.

B (Leicestershire) Company are currently deployed on Op NEWCOMBE with the Light Dragoons BG. March saw them conduct a thirty day patrol in searing forty degree temperatures from their main operating base in Gao. The patrol focused on conducting local leader engagement in isolated villages. Many of these villages had not been visited by the UN for a long time.

The start of the month saw D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company, at Castlemartin ranges conducting Ex STAGS GUNNER 2. The exercise involved live firing from their Jackal vehicles, as well as firing NLAWS, and Javelin missiles at the culmination of the exercise. The Company then took well earned leave prior to deploying to Poland on Op CABRIT this April.



D Coy live firing Javelin AT Missiles at Warcop.



Finally, congratulations go to WO2 (CSM)s Price & Tanner who have taken over as the Company Sergeant Majors of C (Northamptonshire) & D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company respectively.

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## 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

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Olympic Weightlifting in the Army Reserve by  
Army Weight Lifting Coach, Cpl Shane Caswell

After serving ten years with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, I transferred to the Army Reserve as a 'Steelback' the day following my official release.

My final two years as a regular soldier were spent as an athlete on the Army Weightlifting Team which I have been fortunate enough to carry on into my reserve service.

It all started with a beginner's workshop at Middle Wallop, run by one of the Army Coaches, Craig Spicer. I completely fell in love with weightlifting and decided to continue it in my own time. I followed my own programme initially, nothing too serious but enough for me to start lifting more and more. After some time, I was asked to attend the first ever Army Championships, held to select the team for the first Inter-Services Weightlifting Competition. It was brilliant to be selected for the Army Team of six Male and six Female lifters. I attended as many of the training days as I could, around my normal day to day duties.

The Inter-Services Tournament took place in August 2019, with the Army Team emerging victorious over the Navy and the RAF. This was the first time I had represented the Army, and I could not wait to do it again. Fortunately, since then I have been lucky enough to do it on many occasions.

During my resettlement I concentrated on my Coaching Qualifications. This would help in my civilian career post regular service, when I opened my own gym. After being awarded my British Weightlifting Level 2 Qualification I was approached by the Army Weightlifting Head of Performance, now personal Coach, WO2 Chris Williams RAPTC. Chris asked if I would take the lead on weightlifting within the Army Reserve community. Without hesitation my answer was yes! Now, not only do I get to represent the Army as an athlete, I also have a role in the development of future athletes, and this is all possible because of the reserves.

My first year in this role has obviously been affected by COVID-19. A lot of what I wanted to achieve has been put on hold, but with things now on the up, I will be looking to make a big push for the sport within the reservist community.

I encourage anyone interested in weight lifting, whether you are a complete beginner, or highly experienced, to take that first step and to get in contact with either myself or your units RAPTCI for more information. Weightlifting has opened numerous doors for me in the past two years. I have just taken part in my first national championships, and I am currently undertaking selection to represent Team England at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. All of this possible because of Army Weightlifting, and taking the opportunity to attend that beginners workshop a few years ago.

## Steelbacks Re-launch the Roberts Trophy - Who will be Champion Company 2021?

The Inter Company Competition is an annual event in which 3 R ANGLIAN Companies compete for The Roberts Trophy. The competition will be run through a training year (Apr to Mar) with the winner announced on Ex STEELBACK CHALLENGE, the victors being crowned 'Champion Company' and awarded The Roberts Trophy. The CO will fund an appropriate celebratory event for the victors. The RSM has commissioned a 'Champion Company' flag for the winners to fly in the subsequent year.

## Welcome to the Regimental Family

The CO, 3 Royal Anglian welcomes the following newly attested individuals the Battalion and wider Regimental Family:

Pte Sophie Woolard - CMT - 3 Company, Hitchin

Pte Jack Lynch - INF - 3 Company, Chelmsford

Pte Daniel Wilson - INF - 3 Company, Chelmsford

Pte Evans - INF - 5 Company, Peterborough

Pre Saville - INF - 5 Company, Peterborough



Pte Daniel Wilson

## Shop direct here

**Royal Anglian DIRECT**  
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A percentage of all profits go to the Regimental Trust and is used to support the welfare and benevolence activities of the Regiment.

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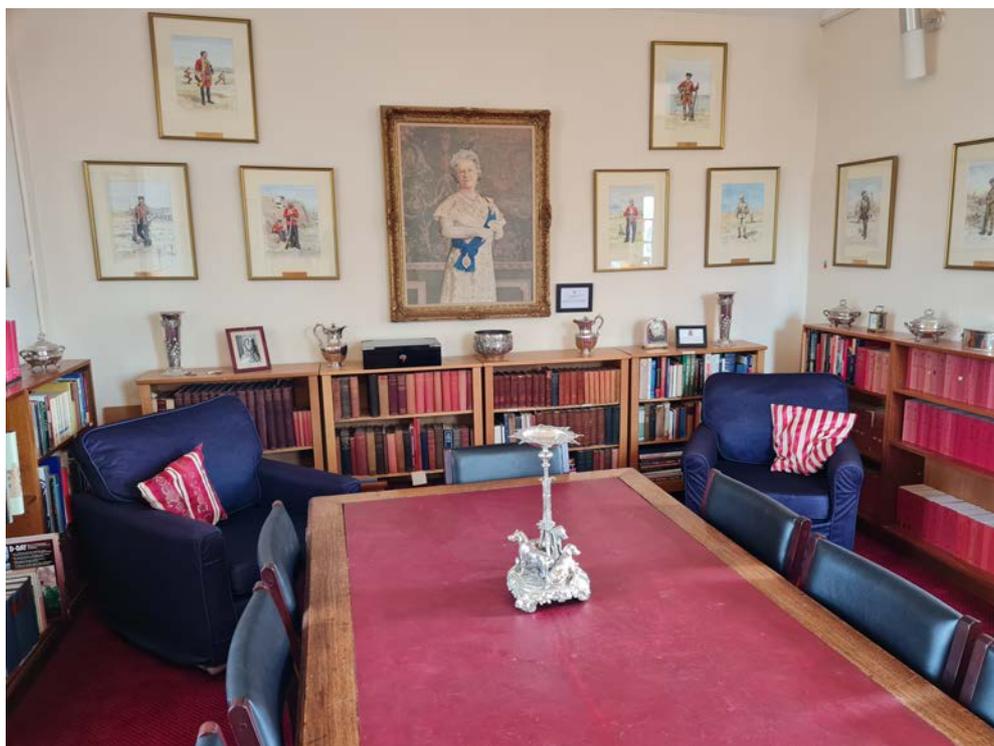
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# Regimental Library

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One of the many services offered by Regimental Headquarters at The Keep in Bury St Edmunds is access to our Regimental Library. Located within RHQ, the library is available to any Royal Anglian, past or present. Access is normally during office hours by pre-booking. The library is contained within very pleasant and historical surroundings, it is an ideal for setting for studying all aspects of our regimental history. The regiment's books are catalogued, and broadly divided into sections beginning with the Royal Anglian Regiment, and then proceeding to the Forebear Regiments. Further to these main sections, the library also has a large section devoted to more general military history. Among other items there are volumes devoted to the Great War and the Second World War, the Boer War, the Crimean and Peninsula Wars as well as items of more general military history. There is also a good selection of volumes of The Army List.

Having had a chance to browse the library myself I have found many interesting books including histories of all of our antecedent regiments, a thirteen volume history of The Great War by The Amalgamated Press published from 1914 – 1918, The Invasion of the Crimea in eight volumes from 1876, a history of Sandhurst, a Who's Who in Military History, and a Companion to the British Army.

In order to share the library with the regtl family, RHQ are intending to regularly review books in the Royal Anglian News, The Castle Magazine, and on our website. In the meantime, if anyone wishes to use the library for research, whether personal or unit sponsored, please feel free once COVID restrictions are finally lifted, to contact RHQ and arrange a visit.

**Stephen Dunning - Chief Clerk**

**Tel 01284 752394, Email: [INFHQ-QUEENS-RANG-groupmailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:INFHQ-QUEENS-RANG-groupmailbox@mod.gov.uk)**

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# The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum

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## Op Family - Your Chance to Contribute to the Royal Anglian Story

We created a project called 'Operation Family' which will allow us to share the stories of our soldiers and their families. This has been run through our social media pages, where we put out calls for stories, photos and anything else our community wants to share, relating to their experiences of having loved ones in the Regiment.

The objective is to create a temporary display of these stories in the museum to show the importance of family to our Regiment. We hope to collect a variety of experiences from anyone with children, partners, parents or siblings serving, and from anyone who wants to share their story about being in the Royal Anglian family.

This project is an opportunity to get stories into the museum that haven't yet been told, so we welcome anyone who wants to get involved to contact us on Facebook or Twitter. You can also follow the posts on our social media pages using the hashtag #OperationFamily.



## Museum Opening Date

It has now been confirmed that IWM Duxford can reopen on 12 April 21, but only as an outside venue, and at a reduced price. We are hoping to use this opportunity to engage with the public as much as possible, and have talks or tables outside to show our collections. This has only just been decided so please bear with us. We will ideally have staff and volunteers working outside on the weekends. Watch out for a Regimental bulletin for updates and specific details.

## Reserve Collection

Our collections that aren't currently on display are to be moved and we have hopefully secured a place on site at Duxford for these. This would mean greater access to the collection for both the staff, and museum visits. It is a hard time to be moving the collection, but it will allow for more to be done with them in the future as at the moment, they are housed over an hour away from the Museum.

We are starting to look forward to what is hopefully an exciting year with a new site for the collection, as well as re-opening the Museum after a long lockdown. We are also looking forward to proposed visits from both Cadet groups, and the Regiment in the summer months.

**For further information contact Melissa Kozlenko at:  
[royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com](mailto:royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com)**

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# Almanza Day - 25 Apr 1707

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The War of the Spanish Succession, which lasted from 1701 to 1714, was brought about by disagreement between the European nations over who should succeed King Charles II of Spain, who had died in 1700 with no clear heir. Had the French candidate been accepted, the thrones, and empires, of France and Spain would have been united, tilting the global balance of power. To prevent this, England formed an alliance with the Dutch Republic, Portugal and others to promote the Austrian candidate.



In 1707 an Allied force under the Earl of Galway was in South East Spain, aiming to march on Madrid. It encountered a far superior French and Spanish force at Almanza, which Galway decided to attack on the morning of 25th April. At first things went well, as the assault developed on the Allied left, and in the centre, the Portuguese troops on the right, however failed to follow up, and were subsequently driven off by French cavalry. This left the flank of the advance exposed and the bulk of the allied force was soon overrun. It was only by some gallant rearguard action that part of the force, hardly more than a quarter of those originally committed to the battle, was able to withdraw.

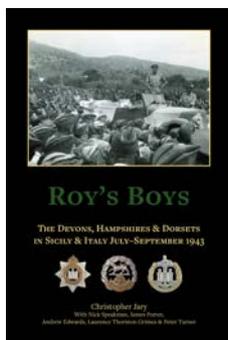
Stuert's Regiment of Foot, later to become the 9th (East Norfolk) Regiment of Foot, performed with conspicuous gallantry in this rearguard action, and took heavy casualties. As Almanza was a significant defeat, no battle honour was awarded. However, it is believed that as a result of its conduct there, Queen Anne granted the regiment the right to wear Britannia. The badge was certainly in use by the Regiment later in the 18th Century. Although, the first official record that can be traced is a letter of 30th July 1799 'confirming' the Regiment's right to it, and it is on the Regt Colour to this day. Blood's Regiment of Foot, later to become the 17th (Leicestershire) Regiment of Foot, also took part in the battle of Almanza, with almost the entire regiment being killed or captured.

Almanza Day used to be celebrated by the Royal Norfolk Regiment, but on formation of the 1st East Anglian Regiment in 1959 the custom rather fell into disuse. It is however marked today by the 1st Battalion.



The Battle of Almanza - 25 April 1707, Painting by Ricardo Balaca

# Regtl Library



## ROY'S BOYS

The Devons, Hampshires & Dorsets in Sicily & Italy July-September 1943

By Christopher Jary, with Nick Speakman, James Porter, Andrew Edwards, Laurence Thornton-Grimes & Peter Turner

The story of 231 (Malta) Brigade is fascinating, progressing from being the defenders of besieged Malta, to fighting through the mountains and towns of Sicily and Italy.

This new history successfully adds a new dimension to the official brigade and battalion histories that most historians reference when compiling their own narrative of this intriguing brigade,.

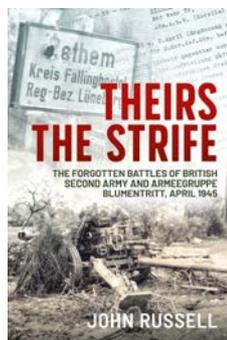
The quality and depth of this new history is second to none. The authors have included a host of useful supporting maps and photographs.

This is a top draw formation history, carefully crafted to ensure an informative, technically correct, and absorbing narrative. It really does place the reader on the ground with the men that fought under Roy Urquhart's command before Arnhem.

If you want to gain some insight into life in a WW2 brigade, and how the British Army trained, lived and fought in the Italian campaign, this is a great place to start.

Published By Semper Fidelis Publications, Soft-back, pp206.

RRP £15.00



## THEIRS THE STRIFE

The Forgotten Battles of British Second Army and Armeegruppe Blumentritt, April 1945

By John Russell

The final months of the Second World War in NW Europe are often hastily glossed over by military historians in their summary of the events leading up to the German surrender in May 1945. This is a crying shame, and does great dis-service to the British Army campaign, and the men and women that fought their way into Germany.

This latest release goes a long way toward recognising the effectiveness of the British Second Army, and elevating the campaign to a more deserved place of prominence. It is an outstanding history that challenges many of the myths that surround the performance of both British and German units at the time.

The historical narrative is well crafted, engaging, and critically, supported with excellent maps, and a generous array of photographs. Interestingly, the author has also included links to video footage of the various battlefields and actions referred to in the book.

If you are thinking of coming along on the Regtl Battlefield Tour, this excellent book would certainly be worth a few hours of your time before setting off for the Netherlands and Germany.

Published by Casemate, Hardback, pp502.

RRP - £25.00