



Regimental Matters

Legion d'honneur Presentation 6th June 2016

On the 72nd anniversary of D Day, Major Will Meddings of B (Suffolk) Company presented the Legion d'honneur to Bill Brownsell, Bill landed with the Second Wave on Queen White sector, at Sword Beach at 0825 6th June 1944 with the 1st Bn Suffolk Regiment, part of 3rd Infantry Division. He continued to take part in the beachhead fighting until being wounded, and finally evacuated back to England three weeks later. The medal presentation took place at the Boot Inn, Sarratt, Hertfordshire with many members of Bill's family present.

Promotion

The Regiment congratulates Brig R W Wooddise MBE MC on his forthcoming promotion to Maj Gen in the post of GOC 1st (UK) Div - Feb 17



London Gazette Extracts May 2016

Retirements:

- Lt Gen P D Jones CB CBE - May 16
- Maj D J Stefanetti - Mar 16

SSC:

- OCdt K A Forsyth - Type to enter text
2Lt Apr 16
- OCdt T P Lister -
2Lt Apr 16

- OCdt P D Wrigley -2Lt Apr 16

Appointments

- Maj A P Wolfe ACSC 20 Aug 16



FLYING FOR FREEDOM
in partnership with HELP for HEROES



A FILM BY KIRK WATSON

A WING AND A PRAYER

An inspiring story following Flying For Freedom's epic and unforgettable 2000 mile journey from Land's End to Ben Nevis

'A WING AND A PRAYER' is showing at these open air/hangar venues.
Come and meet the team, see the aircraft, watch the film, join us for a bbq and drinks or bring a picnic

GATES OPEN AT 1900. FILM SHOWING AT 20.30. Suggested donation £5. Children FREE

1 JULY Cotswold Airport, Kemble, Glos	8 JULY Earls Colne Airfield, Essex	14 JULY, 1930hrs Aboyne Community Centre, East Scotland
4 JULY Dunkeswell Airfield, Devon	10 JULY Rufforth Airfield, York	
6 JULY Thruxton Airfield, Hampshire	12 JULY East Fortune Airfield, Edinburgh	17 JULY St Michael's Airfield, Preston, Lancs

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Note: Dates and time are always subject to change as we are governed by the weather!
So please check our Facebook page or Twitter account for the latest updates

Diary Dates

July 2016

- 1 Battle of Somme Commemoration
Westminster Abbey
- 2 Thurrock Armed Forces Day
- 3 Chapel Sunday
- 22 Salamanca Day
- 26 Association Salamanca Day Warley
- 27 Talavera Day
- 30 Northampton Parade and Laying up of 2nd
Bn Regt Colour
- 31 Association Minden Day

August 2016

- 7 Chapel Sunday Warley

1st Battalion (The Vikings)

Vikings Boxing

Viking boxers were knocked out to meet His Royal Highness Prince Harry during a training session ahead of a Regimental Charity boxing night.

Prince Harry was at the Double Jab Amateur Boxing Club to further his understanding of how sport can be used as a platform for education, training, employment and personal development. During his visit he met some of the regular visitors to the gym including the boxers from the Vikings.



Public Order Training for Op ELGIN

B (Suffolk) Company has just completed its public order training for Op ELGIN, a standby task to deploy to the Balkans if required. The civilian population and rioters were played by A (Norfolk) Coy, HQ Coy and members of 2 R Anglian, who all seemed unusually capable rioters putting B Company through its paces. As you can imagine, there are now a few battered and bruised soldiers on all sides.



D (Cambridgeshire) Company

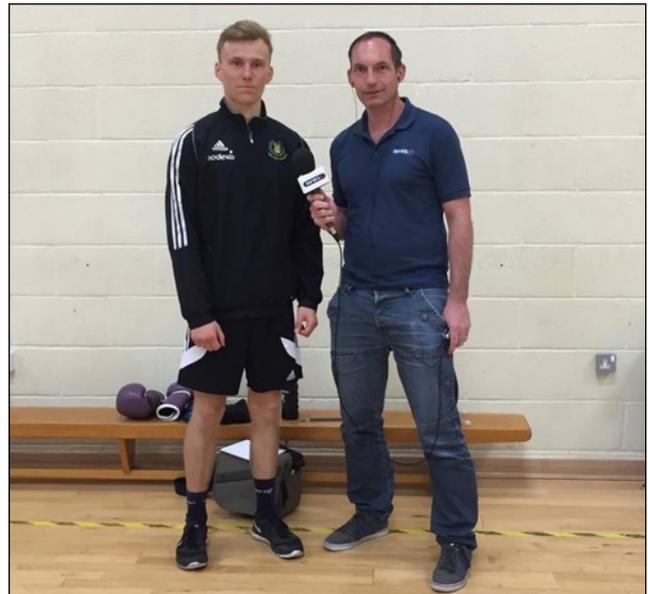
While A and B Coy have been conducting Public Order Training, D (Cambridgeshire) Company has been fighting through positions in the Falkland Islands. This has been some brilliant training for D Company which is now getting ready to return back to the UK after handing over its responsibilities on the Islands to 4 PARA. Once back the Bn will be all in one country for the first time since January.



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Private Pete Love

The Poachers are hugely proud of Private Pete Love and would like to congratulate him on winning the Army Individual Elite Category Welterweight title. Private Pete Love is the son of a former Poacher Battalion boxer and he is part of the Army Boxing Team and trains full time with the Army team in Aldershot.



7 Brigade Sports Day

A few shots from the 7 Brigade sports day, where The Poachers gave a good account of themselves across the board.



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

4 Company Help Celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday in Louth



To celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, the Trinity Centre in Louth held a 'Royal' tea party instead of its normal weekly Fish on Friday meal. Appropriate entertainment was provided by Cherie who sang a range of traditional songs from the 1930s and 1940s. The colour scheme for the event was, obviously, red, white and blue.

Two of those attending wore a contrasting range of colours in the form of Army uniforms. Sergeant Marc Edgar and his wife, Private Tracey Edgar, represented the British Army. Both soldiers are reservists from 4 Company based in Grimsby and Lincoln. This is the

second time that 4 Company has been involved with the Trinity Centre as two reservists recently visited the Memories Matter group (Dementia Café) where they demonstrated some of the kit and equipment that they use and the type of exercise rations that are currently issued to our troops.

Recce for Steelback Velo 17

The Recce has been completed and planning is underway to take 14 Steelbacks to the Alps in June 2017 to take part in a road bike expedition. CSgt Waters (3 Coy SPSI) is planning the event which will cover parts of the beat-up race route for the Tour-de-France.



Steelback Typhoon

Seemingly the perfect name for the weekends exercise, fast, furious and wet; mainly wet.

Starting with the arrival at the FOB, all troops were keen and ready to get stuck into the Fighting in Woods and Forests (FIWAF) phase, which was seen throughout the weekend by all ranks. No matter how wet, cold, tired or hungry, soldiers kept on fighting the good fight. It was impressive (due to the huge turnout) to see multiple platoon strength formations advancing on woodblocks, where all knew a well dug in enemy was lurking. As soon as the first crack of rifle fire was heard, the quiet wood block became a storm of rifle fire with men advancing quickly onto the enemy positions dispersed within. I found it interesting to see how different people coped with the different and never ending challenges of FIWAF. Poor visibility, difficulty to maintain communications, fatigue and struggling to keep formations/momentum. Rather than quitting and giving up, they made it happen, with team work, high levels of grit and good skills.

This exercise was an intense one, but it was worth the combined efforts of all taken part with operations running late into the very wet Saturday night/ Sunday morning. Very little sleep was had by all and the big push on the Sunday was done with everyone giving 100%, this must have been seen by the CO who allowed a small respite by calling off the Roberts cup event.

Typhoon, a violent storm carrying forward fury and destruction, seen in the spirit of all on the exercise.



Association News

Centenary of Swiss Care of British POWs at Chateau D'Oex, Switzerland

On 30th May 2016 the first train carrying severely wounded British POWs arrived at Chateaux D'Oex after an inter-government agreement. Famously the arrival into Swiss care under the Red Cross was described as going "From Hell to Heaven". The Times of 30 May 1916 lists the 27 seriously wounded officers on the first train and included two from our forebear Regiments: Capt. Ernest Orford, Suffolk Regt and Lieut J.W. Reynolds, 8th Lincolns.

As a small part of preparation for the commemoration RHQ and the curators of the Suffolk Regiment and Royal Lincolnshire Regiment museums researched the two officers and were able to provide the organisers with some detail, which added colour to the commemoration of the Swiss care of our wounded POWs.



A. I. 24 Prisonniers de guerre anglais à Château-d'OEX. L'arrivée.

Capt Ernest Orford was OC C Coy, 2nd Bn and was severely wounded and captured at Le Chateau on 24 Aug 14. In May 16 the Regimental Gazette was able to reports on the care he received at Chateau D'Oex: "We are glad to hear that his wound, which has been open for twenty two months, has already begun to heal" The research also produced photographs of Ernest Orford as a POW in Magdeburg and details of his recovery and life after the war.

Lieut. J.W. Reynolds was very severely wounded and captured after fighting his way up Hill 70 near Loos on 27 Sep 15. The extent of his injuries was detailed in his confidential interview now held in the National Archives. Lieut Reynolds's initial injuries resulted in the loss of his right arm, later a shell severely damaged his ribs and after spending the night on the battlefield untended, he was shot through the hand and a piece of shell passed through his foot before he was eventually found and evacuated. That Lieut. J.W. Reynolds recovered is also a testament to his care at Chateau D'Oex. The research also produced a photograph of Lieut J W Reynolds among his fellow Officers in the 8th Battalion.

The Regt sent the message below and a bouquet: "The Royal Anglian Regiment would like to offer its heartfelt thanks for the great kindness afforded to our wounded soldiers by the good people of Chateau d'Oex and by all the Swiss nation. From our forebear Regiments, in particular Capt Ernest Orford of the then Suffolk Regiment and Lieut J W Reynolds of the then Lincolnshire Regiment who were two of those welcomed by you from the very first train on 30th May 1916, exactly 100 years ago today – please accept

this bouquet as a modest token of our deep gratitude on behalf of our soldiers who were made most welcome here and given the chance to convalesce and recover in peace” The commemoration was attended by our current Ambassador to Switzerland, Sir David Moran. The photo below shows his predecessor, Evelyn Grant Duff addressing the POWs at Chateaux D’Oex in 1916,

In 1916 this was a symbolic event of national significance. The Times reported that over 10,000 people dressed in their Sunday best were at the railway station at Lausanne at 5 in the morning when the train stopped for refreshments.

Full details of this event can be found at <http://stpeters.ch/draft-programme-ww1-centenary/>

