



## Regimental Matters

### Appointments

No 4 Board Mar 17:

- Lt Col B M Allen - SOI Land Oct 17
- Lt Col T J Irwin-Parker - ACSC (R) 17

London Gazette Extracts Feb 17

### IRC

- Capt O M Arnold Nov 16
- Capt N D Barron Nov 16

### Army Reserve

- Lt M J Blayney to be Capt Dec 16
- OCdt B O Scott to be 2Lt Oct 16

### MSM

- WO2 L J Pearce
- WO2 M I Willsher

## Diary Dates

April 2017

- |    |   |
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| 2  | Chapel Sunday - Warley                                  |
| 6  | Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Committee Meeting |
| 15 | Grimsby Association Lunch                               |
| 25 | Almanza Day   |

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# 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

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## Vikings in Oman

Soldiers from the Vikings' Reconnaissance Platoon are currently training in Oman as part of Ex JEBEL STORM with the Poachers. They're working as part of a joint British and Omani Company Group which has seen them teaching each other how they operate, training to deal with the demanding terrain of the Jebel Plateau and a bit of time to experience some of the local culture. Look forward to a few more updates as they progress through what is a demanding but unique training opportunity.





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## 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

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### Louisiana and Nigeria

A (Norfolk) Company deployed to Louisiana to take part in an integrated Exercise with members of the US Army. The deployment developed an understanding of each nation's tactical and operational procedures. A 24 man team deployed to the Nigerian Army School of Infantry in Jaji. They are currently half way through their 4 month deployment where they are providing short notice pre deployment training to Nigerian soldiers. This is mainly focussed around Skill at Arms, Counter-IED and Medical Training, all of which are vital skills to assist The Nigerian Army in their continued fight against Boko Haram.



In boxing, the Poachers were drawn against 3 PARA, when were unbeaten since 1991. The team went out of the competition after a very hard fought match losing 5-2.

### Presentation of a Cheque for Regimental Benevolence

The Poachers have run fantastic fundraising for Regimental Benevolence, raising a heroic £18,000. The focus of their fundraising was a charity boxing event, kindly supported by friends, sponsors and supporters of the Poachers and the Regiment. It was a big event to organise. The cheque was presented to the Colonel of the Regiment when he visited the Battalion in Kendrew Barracks on 20th February 2017. The Poachers have always been famous as the Regiment's Boxing Battalion, and they are now famous for their fundraising as well, for which the Regimental Benevolent Charity is hugely grateful.



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## 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

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### 1 (Norfolk and Suffolk) Company



1 Company out recruiting in the fine city of Norwich at Chapelfield Gardens.

### 4 (Lincolnshire) Company

On the evening of Wednesday 22 March, the High Sheriff of Lincolnshire, Mrs J G A Hughes DL, visited 4 (Lincolnshire) Company during their training night. After inspecting the parade, the High Sheriff was given a presentation on the Battalion and Company. She then saw elements of both military and fitness training before being shown some of the arms and equipment in use. We are very grateful for the High Sheriff taking time out of her busy schedule to visit the Company and were encouraged by the interest that she took in the training and recruiting processes.





# Literary News

AFGHANISTAN - Britain's War in Helmand ISBN : 978-0-9557813-3-9

BRITAIN's armed forces spent a decade in Afghanistan, first deploying to the north followed by a move into Kabul, Kandahar and Helmand. More than 100,000 personnel from all three services served in what became known as Operation HERRICK.

The 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment were among the first to deploy, arriving in Kabul in 2002 then in 2007 the Regiment fought a 'bloody summer' when it deployed as part of 12 Mech Brigade. Now the first historical account has been published by DRA Publishing which documents the conflict in ten chapters and profiles the challenges of the initial 'baptism of fire' faced by UK forces in 2006 as well as the achievements made across Helmand.

Among the many accounts of bravery are the Grenadier Guardsman who won a Victoria Cross. The Royal Marines who went back to rescue a colleague at an old fort in Garmsir and the Riflemen who were hit by two massive IEDs and gave medical care under fire in one of the most courageous incidents of the war which saw five soldiers killed.

In 2007, A Company 1 R Anglian (The Vikings) relieved the Royal Marines at Nowzad and within days found themselves under enemy fire. The courage of the Vikings was tested when Private Chris Gray was shot in a face to face firefight with the Taliban and his colleagues soldiers evacuated him under heavy fire.

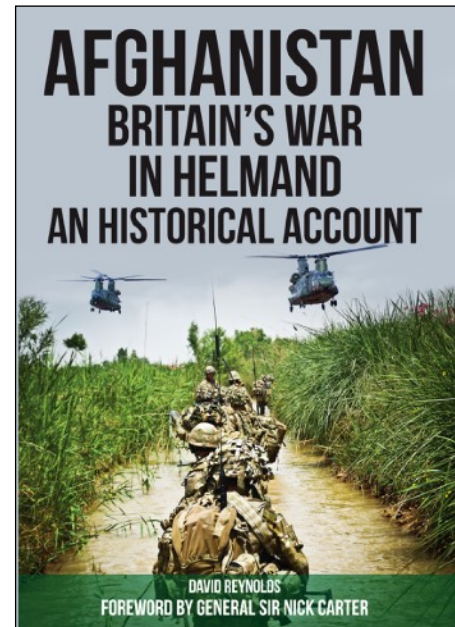
A film crew was with the patrol and recorded the harrowing scene, but despite the best efforts of his colleagues to save him, he sadly died from his wounds.

By the end of the tour the unit had reportedly killed 1,000 Taliban and received plaudits for their efforts in talking the fight to the enemy. The book pays special tribute to every man and woman who was killed in the conflict and lists the



deployment of each brigade and its units, some like the RAF and Army Air Corps who had an enduring presence in Helmand.

It is available from high street book shops at £25 or direct from the publisher at the discounted price of £20. Email: [office@dramedia.co.uk](mailto:office@dramedia.co.uk) or call direct 01752 403333.



Not content with the 'Face of the Army Calendar 2016' article in 'Castle', a certain officer appears again, names to the editor, please!

BILL TANCRED "AN ORDINARY OLYMPIAN BUT WHAT A LIFE" ISBN:  
978-1-911311-13-3 (Leiston Press, Masterlord Ind Estate, Leiston, IP16 4JD)

If any member of the Regiment is interested in purchasing a copy then please email:

[billtancred@gmail.com](mailto:billtancred@gmail.com)

The cost of this autobiography (Paperback, 336 pages and numerous photographs) is £15.00 which includes P & P.

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## 100th Birthday Celebration

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### Lunch at the Netherlands Embassy to honour Major Ken Mayhew RMWO on his 100th Birthday

On the 16th February 2017 a lunch was held at the Netherlands Embassy in London to honour Major Ken Mayhew who has just celebrated his 100th Birthday. Ken is one of only four living recipients of the Netherlands RMWO (Ridder (Knight) Militaire Willems-Orde). As a Capt in Jun 44, Ken was OC Carrier Pl in 1 SUFFOLK, one of 36 SUFFOLK Officers when they landed. His considerable exploits are detailed in the Regt History, where it is recorded that after three months of continuous fighting through France and the Netherlands, 9 Officers were killed, 21 were wounded and Ken was one of 6 who fought through the lot and was there at the end.



The senior hosts were HE Simon Smits, the Dutch Ambassador in London, and Capt (N) Wolter Silleviss-Smitt, the Netherlands Defence Attaché. The main visitors from the Netherlands were General Tom Middendorp, the Netherlands CDS, and Major Marco Kroon, who is one of the other three living Knights of the Military William Order. Other guests from the Regiment included The Colonel of the Regiment, Lt Gen Phil Jones, The President of Regimental Association, Maj Gen Simon Porter, The President of the Suffolk Regiment Association, Brig Tony Calder, The County Colonel for Suffolk, Lt Col Mark Wenham the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, Lt Col Guy Foden, and OC B (Suffolk) Company Maj Graham

Goodey. Cant (Retd) Henry Simpson who served with the 1st Battalion also attended, his father had served Ken Mayhew.

The presence of the Netherlands CDS and the Ambassador illustrated the great compliment, which the Netherlands paid to Maj Ken Mayhew, and to his extraordinary service with the Regiment in the Netherlands seventy two years ago.

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## Pte Christopher Cox VC, 7th (Service) Bn, The Bedfordshire Regiment

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On the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Soldiers from D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company deployed to northern France to conduct a battlefield study and also attend the 100 year commemoration of the actions of Pte Christopher Cox VC at Achiet-Le-Grand.

The ceremony was organised by Mr Phillipe Drouin, a resident of Achiet-Le-Grand, who took it upon himself in 2006 to look up the heroes that liberated his village during the Great War. It was then that planning started on a permanent memorial to Pte Christopher Cox VC. The memorial was made by builders from Bedfordshire and with Bedfordshire Brick, it was then unveiled in 2007 on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Action that Pte Christopher Cox won his VC. The unveiling was also attended by soldiers from D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company. The soldiers from D Company were proud to represent The Royal Anglian Regiment and most importantly remember Pte Christopher Cox VC.



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## 11 Essex Regiment Ancestor Research

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Recently we have had a short article sent to RHQ for inclusion in the Regimental Newsletter. The article was researched and prepared by a former "Poacher", Pte (Retd) Andrew Thomas. The article recounts Andy's Great Uncle Jackson Bacon who was born in Haverhill in 1894 and was sadly killed in 1917.

"Jackson was born in Haverhill in 1894 to Stephen Bacon and his wife Kate, nee Marsh. They had married in 1890 and for at least the next twenty years were living at 85 High St, Haverhill. By 1911 they had had nine children, but four had died.

At the age of 16 Jackson was working as a milk boy. When war broke out he enlisted at Warley, Essex as Private No. 35760 in the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Essex Regiment.

He must have come back to Suffolk on leave, in the spring of 1917 as he married Rose Jane Bowers, who was working as cook to a farmer's family at Kirkby Hall, Castle Hedingham in Essex. Not long after returning to the front, Jackson was killed in action on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1917. He was awarded the British and Victory Medals and he is remembered on a plaque on the Loos Memorial.

In the South West Suffolk Echo of 21st July 1917:-

"Readers will regret to learn that Mrs J. Bacon has received news that her husband, Pte J. Bacon, 356760, 11th Essex Regt., was killed in action on June 28th. Pte Bacon, who was well known in Haverhill and district, was a son of Mr. and Mrs. S Bacon of 85 High Street, Haverhill. Second Lieut Ernest S. Fitch has written to Mrs. Bacon as follows:-

"It is greatest sorrow that I write to inform you of the death in action of your husband. He was killed while assisting to get a badly wounded officer across No Man's Land. Your husband was good soldier and a brave man, and during the attack behaved with the greatest bravery and devotion to duty. I was his Platoon officer and I cannot tell you how sorry I am to lose him. Although gone from here the spirits of the brave men like your husband lives on. Assuring you of my deepest sympathy with you in your great loss"

In this time of Centenary commemorations of WWI, it is pertinent to remember the personal loss and tragedy that that conflagration brought to so many families.

