



Regimental Matters

Queens Birthday Honours

The Regiment warmly congratulates Maj Gen Ralph Wooddisse on being awarded the CBE in the Birthday Honours.

Major General R W Wooddisse CBE MC

The Regiment warmly congratulates Major General Wooddisse on his promotion to Major General and on taking over as General Officer Commanding 1st (United Kingdom) Division in May 2017.

Major General Wooddisse joined the Army in 1991 after completing a degree at University College London. His first posting was to the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment, an armoured infantry battalion based in Germany. In the first part of his career he served in a number of junior officer appointments within his unit, saw operational service in Northern Ireland and Bosnia, and trained extensively in Canada, Norway, France and Brunei.

In 2000 he was selected to command a rifle company before attending Staff College for 2 years. Post Staff College, he returned to sub-unit command where he deployed on a number of operations of varying length and intensity, including to Iraq. His first staff job was as the Military Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, a post which included a 9 month tour to Kabul as part of HQ ISAF. On completion of his staff tour he served as a member of the Directing Staff at the Advanced Command and Staff Course from where he returned to Iraq on a short-notice operational tour. He assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment in March 2009, first in Germany and then in Cyprus from where he commanded the Theatre Reserve Battalion. After completing the Higher Command and Staff Course he served in the Ministry of Defence where he was responsible for military planning for a variety of operations and contingencies. He commanded 38 (Irish) Brigade between 2013-15 and served as the Assistant Chief of Staff J3 at PJHQ between 2015-2017. He assumed command of 1st (United Kingdom) Division in May 2017.



Major General Wooddisse is married to Louise and has 3 daughters aged 14, 13 and 11. When the demands of military and family life allow, he enjoys running, hill-walking, cycling and reading.

London Gazette Extracts May 17

IRC

- Capt A C Peters from SSC Nov 16

SSC

- OCdt J C Beale 2Lt Apr 17
- OCdt H Deed 2Lt Apr 17
- OCdt D W Rawdon 2Lt Apr 17

Diary Dates

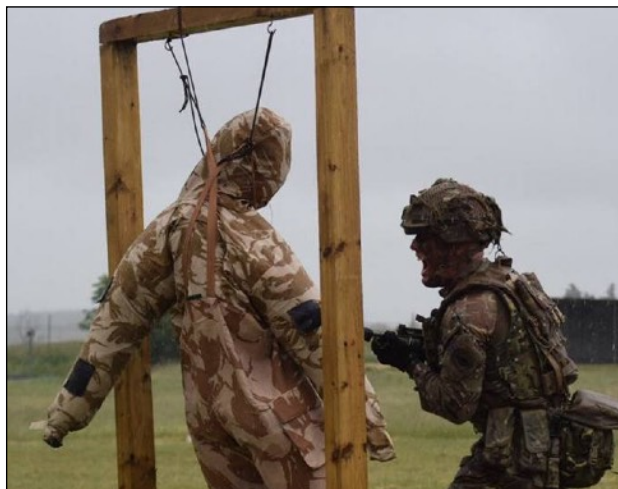
July 2017

2	Chapel Sunday - Warley
6	Talavera Day Celebration- Kendrew Bks
16	Cambs Assoc Reunion - Ely
22	Salamanca Day
27	Talavera Day
30	Royal Anglian Regt Assoc Minden Day - Bury St Edmunds
31	Hertfordshire Regiment WWI Memorial Unveiling - France

1st Battalion (The Vikings)

Inter-Company Bayonet Competition

It's easy to get fixated on the army's impressive technology. However ultimately infanteering can come down to a soldier and his bayonet. The battalion ran a demanding bayonet range as an inter company competition, won by B (Suffolk) Company, to test their aggression, skill and effort.



Exercise Wessex Storm

Pte Cuthbert from the Anti Tank Platoon searching for the Platoon Commanders and Support Company Section Commanders whilst they conduct an infiltration exercise in Copehill Down village. Vikings Battlegroup Ex Wessex Storm.



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Since the last update we have completed the last week of Ex AGILE POACHER which saw A and B Companies conduct live fire training in Otterburn to Company attack by night, with mortar and machine gun support. For this, we tied in with the Viking mortar cadre, who conducted their live firing in direct support of the overall exercise - a positive outcome for both battalions! We then had a week of well-earned leave after 3 weeks of exercise before returning to work to prepare for Ex BASELINE

POACHER. During that preparation week, 18 Poachers, 1 Viking and a Steelback joined the Regimental



Association on the Annual Pilgrimage to Normandy for a mix of remembrance services and battlefield visits which the junior soldiers especially enjoyed - many of them having done nothing similar in the past.

A real highlight for a lot of them was talking to WW2 Suffolk Regiment veteran Cecil Deller and hearing the stories he had to tell. BASELINE POACHER commenced the following week for 2 weeks and has been an excellently delivered Public Order training package - a mandated capability for deploying to Cyprus. It's given the soldiers

something new to get to grips with (it's not taught at Catterick) and a chance to display some good controlled aggression. Behind the scenes, the Poachers chef team came 7th/16 in the Army Sustainer annual cooking competition - cooking high class food in a 12 x 12 tented field kitchen.



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

Exercise Minden Sunrise

With the Battalion moving into its OBUA training phase, HQ, 2 and 4 Companies deployed onto STANTA Friday night to begin an introduction of the basics of OBUA. Due to the wide ranging experience and ability of those present an early start on the Saturday morning was called for to give all soldiers the maximum level of training time.

Exercising troops were broken down into Company groups and spent the morning and most of the afternoon moving round a series of battle lesson stands to build the fundamental skills of Urban warfare. This included methods of entry, two, three, and four man room clearance, using assault equipment and dealing with the ever tricky problem of stairs,



Although we were promised rain there wasn't a cloud in the sky and the temperature began to rise steadily as the troops carried out their lessons. With so much to cover the lessons moved at a solid pace, but never at the expense of learning and time was always made to practice the drills that were challenging. By late afternoon the battle lessons were complete and the Companies were brought together and orbated into a Platoon plus in preparation for the Battle Exercise. With this soldiers moved into a higher gear, with commanders cutting about conducting battle prep and preparing

their sections for the next morning deliberate operation. With the Platoon Commander preparing and writing his orders the sections got on with rehearsals, putting the final touches to their work from this morning. With orders complete and everyone understanding their role in the wider plan the platoon got their head down, all the while the Enemy forces were using the defence stores to impede the planned attack.

At 0300hrs the Platoon plus woke and started loading their kit and equipment for their move to the Drop of Point, 4k South of Eastmere Village. With minutes to go they were in the FUP awaiting H Hour, Sgt McGarrell calmly controlling the reserve Sections as Mr Willman took his fire support and assaulting elements forwards. As every watch struck the allotted



hour the fire support opened up and the assaulting elements sprang into action. Having practiced with ladders the previous day the first team was up and over the outer compound wall in seconds and



scrambling up a second ladder into the building moments later. Despite the early hour the day was already warm and for the next 3 methodical hours the platoon worked hard to clear the north of Eastmere Village. Moving assault equipment forward as soon as one building was clear to allow the attack to continue, never give the Enemy a moment to re-group and counter. Even once the platoon had reached its Limit of Exploitation it was tasked with a hasty assault on one last building. With sweat dripping down their features the platoon squared its shoulders to the task and through a thick cloud of smoke and fire launched into the final building.



Throughout both the battle lessons and the battle exercise all the Companies worked hard, and learnt a lot. There is still much more to learn and practice and there is a renewed eagerness to try it all again on Exercise Steelback Typhoon.



Cenotaph Remembrance Parade 2017

Cenotaph Remembrance Parade 12 November 2017

Headley Court Charity

The Headley Court Charity was established in 1940 and in 1947 decided to acquire the estate at Headley Court in Surrey for the purpose of providing a facility for the medical rehabilitation of pilots and aircrew of the Royal Air Force. The facility opened in 1949 and the objects of the charity have since expanded to provide medical rehabilitation for all members of the armed forces.

In 2018, the clinical facility will move to a new purpose built facility at Stanford Hall in the East Midlands and the MOD will vacate Headley Court.

In recognition of the significant role that Headley Court has played in the lives of so many servicemen and women over almost 70 years, the Royal British Legion has kindly agreed that a Headley Court Charity contingent of 70 veterans drawn from former patients and staff should form part of the Remembrance Parade for 2017.

This is a once only occasion.

Former patients and members of staff who are veterans are invited to register their interest at the contact address below.

Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope which will be used to forward your ticket. Also please indicate whether you are a former patient or former member of staff, specifying the year that you were at Headley Court and in the case of former staff members, the appointment held.

Security is tight and entrance to St James will only be permitted on surrender of an appropriate ticket. You are advised to register early. Tickets for carers can be provided.

Register with:

WOI (RSM) Andy Barthram RLC

Regimental Sergeant Major

Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre

Headley Court

Epsom

Surrey KT18 6JW

Armed Forces Charities are invited to cascade this calling notice to their membership

Anthony J Stables

Chairman Headley Court Trustees

2Lt Frank Bernard Wearne VC

Frank Bernard Wearne was the second of three brothers, all of whom served in the First World War. That only one of the three survived demonstrates how great the losses of junior officers were.

Two of the three brothers attended Bromsgrove School: F. B. Wearne joined in 1908, at the age of fourteen, and left in 1912. He was followed to the School by his younger brother, G. W. Wearne, who later served with the Canadians and was the only brother to survive the war. The eldest brother, Keith Morris Wearne, did not attend Bromsgrove but became a regular army officer, joining the First Battalion of the Essex Regiment from Sandhurst before the First World War.

F. B. Wearne showed considerable promise at School, winning a scholarship in 1908 and rising to become Head Monitor before leaving in 1912. He was also a member of the First XV and a corporal in the O.T.C. (what is now the C.C.F.). He went up to Corpus Christi, Oxford as a commoner in 1913.



At the outbreak of war in August 1914, Wearne immediately volunteered for service in a Public School Battalion. He later obtained a commission in the 3rd Battalion of the Essex Regiment, presumably choosing this regiment because of his older brother's association. After training he was sent to the Western Front and received his baptism of fire at the Battle of the Somme, where he was badly wounded on July 3rd, 1916. So severe were his wounds that he was only deemed fit enough to return to active service in May the following year, 1917.

May 1917 was a sad month for the Wearne family. It saw the return of Frank Wearne to the Front and the death of his older brother, Captain K. M. Wearne, on the 21st. When Wearne returned to the Front in May 1917 he was attached to the 11th Battalion of the Essex Regiment. This was based near the town of Lens in Northern France, and was manning trenches facing the enemy just east of Loos (Northern France) or resting at a small village behind the front called Les Brebis.

So it was that at 7.00 p.m. on the evening of the 28th June, 1917, over a hundred men assembled in a large dugout at the junction of Scots Alley and the British Reserve Line. A box barrage was laid on by the artillery, presumably to force the Germans to take cover. At a little past 7.10 p.m. Parties A and B left their trench and rushed the German front line. A few minutes later Party C and the Australians followed.

Party B, led by Wearne, had also succeeded in taking their section of the enemy front line, to the left. But it was here that the fighting was at its most intense. The Germans repeatedly attacked down the trench and over the top from their support trenches. Wearne's party exacted a terrible toll upon the Germans, with sustained rifle fire, but the situation was becoming desperate and many of his men had been killed or wounded; in fact of the sixteen men who held this point on the left flank only one escaped without injury. Wearne knew that if the left flank collapsed then his comrades in Parties A and C, already hard pressed themselves, would be overwhelmed and the raid a failure. At the point when the German attack was at its

most dangerous, Wearne performed an act of the utmost daring and bravery. He leapt onto the parapet of the trench, exposing himself to a hail of machine-gun and rifle fire, and then ran along the top of the trench firing his revolver and throwing bombs down at the enemy below. This courageous example encouraged his men to follow him and the surprise and ferocity of this attack, from an unexpected quarter, threw the Germans back.

Although Wearne succeeded in temporarily repulsing the German attack, he was severely wounded. Despite this, he refused to leave his men and stayed at his post organising the defence of the left flank. He received a second serious wound just before the whistles sounded the withdrawal and sadly, as he was being dragged away from the German positions, was hit for a third time and killed.

The raid was deemed a success, despite the fact that almost fifty percent of the attacking force had become casualties. Two officers had been killed and one wounded; ten other ranks were killed and six reported missing believed killed; thirty other ranks were wounded. Wearne was recommended for the Victoria Cross by his commanding officer, Colonel Spring.

The citation for Wearne's VC, awarded posthumously, appeared in the London Gazette of the 31st July, 1917. This was read to the School on the first day of Michaelmas Term 1917 by the Headmaster, R. G. Routh.

Wearne's Victoria Cross was the sole VC to be won by a member of the Essex Regiment during the First World War, and is one of only six won by this famous old county regiment since the Victoria Cross was instituted. Wearne's VC was presented to his father at Buckingham Palace by George V. Sadly the medal was auctioned at Sotheby's in 1977 for £7,000 and its present whereabouts are unknown.

From the citation for the Victoria Cross:

'By his tenacity in remaining at his post though severely wounded, and his magnificent fighting spirit, he was enabled to hold on to the flank.'



This formal photograph taken outside the old Bromsgrove School Chapel shows the 1st XV Rugby team of 1911. The boys are aged between 16 and 18. All went on to serve in the First World War. Some were decorated; some wounded; some died. One, Frank Bernard Wearne, won the Victoria Cross.

Rear row left to right: E.P. Price, J.B.S. Lewis, A.S. Travers, D. I'A Hall, W.L. Roberts, F. B. Wearne
Front row seated left to right: S.G. Vaughton, L.W. Townsend, E.G. Edlmann, R.L. Spreckley, C.K. Thursby-Pelham
Front on ground: R.J. Wilson

VC Unveiling

There will be an unveiling of a VC paving stone in Norwich to commemorate Corporal Sidney Day VC of The Suffolk Regiment, who was born in Norwich. The ceremony is going to take place on 26 August 2017 at 11am on St Peter's Street, Norwich in front of the Norwich War Memorial. Regimental (The Royal Anglian Regiment/The Suffolk Regiment) attendance at the unveiling will be led by Brigadier Tony Calder OBE DL (Chairman of The Suffolk Regiment Association). In addition there will be a uniformed party from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, led by the Battalion Second in Command. There will also be members of the Friends of The Suffolk Regiment present

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regimental Memorial

As part of the centenary commemorations of the First World War Historic England have been conducting a survey of all war memorials throughout the country to ensure that they are being maintained to the correct standard. As a result of this work the listing of certain memorials has been examined. The Regimental Memorial located outside the Keep in Kempston, once the Regimental Depot and where each November a Remembrance Parade takes place, is to have its Listing raised from Grade II to Grade II* recognising the importance and architectural value of this beautiful monument.



Royal Tigers Association Weekend

The ROYAL TIGERS Association (RTA) held its annual re-union weekend in Leicester over the weekend 17 - 18 June, which included a number of events including the unveiling of a granite commemorative stone by Major General Tony Pollard at the barracks in Glen Parva, spiritual home of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

Later the same day a headstone was unveiled at the grave of Sgt Tommy Marston MM, who for far too long had been left in an unmarked grave. A hero of World War I, Tommy's family worked with the Regiment to ensure he was given the headstone he justly deserved. The BBC covered the story and the report can be seen on the link below.

[Marston - YouTube](#)

Following the usual Association Dinner on Saturday night members attended the Cathedral for the Regiment's annual service in the presence of Dame Jennifer, Lady Gretton DCVO, JP along with the Mayor and Mayoress of Leicester. After the Service the old comrades marched from the Cathedral Square to the City Hall during which the Lady Lord Lieutenant, Lady Jenny, took the salute. Everyone then returned to Devonshire House for a first class luncheon.



Regimental Battlefield Tour 2017 Normandy

The Royal Anglian Regimental Battlefield Tour and Pilgrimage to Normandy 5-9 June 2017

On 5th June thirty six old comrades and retired members of the Regiment, along with 20 serving Officers and Men drawn from all 3 Battalions departed for the Normandy Beaches to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of D-Day.



Capt Ken Mayhew and Cecil Dellar

After a moving ceremony at Hillman, Les Amis du Regiment Suffolk hosted the group to a fine dinner in a local restaurant.

On Wed 7th June the Group was enthralled listening to Maj Bob Filby MC talking through the assault on Essex Wood by his Battalion 73 years earlier. No one present could have failed not to have been touched by this incredibly vivid personal tale of heroism.

On 6th June the group attended a ceremony at the Royal Norfolk Memorial followed shortly afterwards by a similar event at Chateau La Londe where there is a Memorial to the Suffolk Regiment. We were honoured to be in the presence of Capt Ken Mayhew who though a mere 100 years old laid the wreath alongside a fellow Suffolk veteran, Cecil Dellar.



Cecil Dellar at the Norfolk House Memorial



Maj Bob Filby MC briefing movingly at Essex Wood



Peter Welby-Everard laying a wreath at Herouville where his late father commanded



Maj Bob Filby MC lays the Essex Regiment wreath

That afternoon a visit to OMAHA Beach in beautiful sunshine allowed us time to reflect on the sacrifice made by the American army on D-Day with an opportunity to visit the stunning Visitor Centre and the vast cemetery.

The final day was spent first visiting the scene of bitter fighting involving the R. Lincolns at Herouville where Peter Welby-Everard, son of the then Commanding Officer, laid a wreath at Le Bourg church. The afternoon was spent discussing Op GOODWOOD and viewing the ground from various points before paying our respects and laying wreaths at Banneville La Campagne CWGC. Our thanks go to Tony Slater for masterminding the tour, his fellow guides Tom Prior and Mike Beard and to our 3 veterans of Normandy who immortalised this special pilgrimage.



Lt Col Mike Beard setting the scene



Examining memorabilia at the Visitor Centre



Serving Poacher laying the Regimental wreath



Maj Tim Brown briefing Cpl Middleton



The Regimental Association at the Royal Norfolk Regiment House Memorial at Norfolk House on the 73rd Anniversary of D Day

Association News

It is with regret that you will note that Malcolm Rogers is due to leave St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds, in the near future. He has been a very strong supporter of our Regimental Chapel and a good friend to the Regiment. Malcolm will be leaving St Mary's Church in July, to take up the post of Chaplain of St Andrew's, Moscow and Archbishop's Apokrisarios (representative) to the Patriarch. His last service will be on Sunday 16 July at 10:30am at St Mary's. All those who wish to convey their thanks to Malcolm are encouraged to attend.