



## Regimental Matters

London Gazette Extracts Aug 17

IRC (LE):

- WO1 N S Reader to be Capt Jun 17

### Senior LE Officer

The Regimental family may like to know that Major Phill Blanchfield is taking over from Lt Col Danny Mackness as the Regiment's Senior LE officer. For many years, the Senior LE Officer has been invited to



attend our Council meetings, where the Council and the Regiment have benefitted from sound LE advice. Although Lt Col Danny Mackness has left the Regular Army, he is due to take up an SOI's appointment with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation in the new year on a Full Time Reserve Service contract, and we wish him well with that. Maj Phill Blanchfield is currently at Sandhurst as the Chief Instructor for the LE course and we look forward to seeing him at Council Meetings as soon as he is back from his six month tour in East Africa.

## Diary Dates

### October 2017

3 Chapel Sunday - Warley

### November 2017

3 Regimental Council Meeting

3 Officers Club Dinner

9 Field of Remembrance

12 Regimental Remembrance Service -  
Regimental Memorial - IWM Duxford

19 Beds & Herts Association Reunion

### December 2017

3 Chapel Sunday - Warley

9 Regimental Carol Service - St Marys  
Church - Bury St Edmunds



# 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

## D (Cambridgeshire) Company in Nigeria

We saw on BBC News last week the good work being done by D (Cambridgeshire) Company in Nigeria. The company have deployed as part of the British Army's commitment to assist the Nigerian Army in their fight against Boko Haram in the North East. The emphasis has been on delivering low level tactics training to the Nigerians; this last week focusing on Counter IED tactics, battlefield casualty drills and basic fire and movement. Most of these lessons are delivered by Junior NCOs in their 20s, it is a testament to their training that they are able to do so with such quality and confidence.





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## 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

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### Poacher PNCO Cadre

Private soldiers from the Poachers have undergone the first step towards their first promotion to Lance Corporal during the Battalion's Tactics Cadre in Brecon this week. Those who prove themselves to be fit and tactically sound potential leaders will go forward to the Potential Junior NCO (PJNCO) course run by the Queen's Division Courses team. It is important to strike a balance between potential and experience - but there's no lower-limit on candidates' time served. If you're keen and able then you will be supported towards promotion.



### Savanaca Koroibulileka

This month marks 1 year since the loss of Koro, a proud Poacher for many years who retained close ties with the Bn after leaving through playing Rugby for Oakham RFC Official. The Bn will continue to remember him through the Koro Man of the Match trophy presented at the annual Morris Lewacei Memorial Match against Bourne Rugby Club.

Rugby player Savanaca Koroibulileka's legacy 'lives on'  
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-41362383>



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## 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

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### Exercise Lion Star 6

120 Soldiers from 3 Royal Anglian along with two Officers from the American National Guard, deployed to Cyprus on Ex LION STAR. Based out of Bloodhound Camp and Troodos Station, the first week engaged soldiers in Skills Training, Adventure Training (Mountain Biking and Rock Climbing) and the inevitable guard duties. The second week focused on a four day Field Training Exercise and was supported by 9 soldiers from 2 Royal Anglian. The FTX involved Company attacks on Paramali Village and Klousha Dam. Following his closing address to soldiers, the CO, Lt Col Woodeson, presented soldiers with Commendations, Long Service Medals and promotion rank slides. OTX 17 culminated in a Water sport's day at Tunnel Beach before recovering back to the UK.



### Cambrian Patrol Training

As an alternative to OTX in Cyprus, 13 soldiers remained in the UK to carry out Cambrian Patrol training under the critical eye of WO2 Knight (SPSI – HQ Coy). The soldiers, all carrying 20kg and covering vast distance over arduous terrain, all completed the navigation phase with the final route taking them to the top of Pen 'y' Fan. The second week of tactical training was conducted on Leek Training Area, starting with the orders process! The Patrol encountered CPERs, CASEVAC, CBRN as well as conducted many recces in order to produce detailed patrol reports for subsequent operations.



The conditions have now been set and all will need to continue their fitness in order to achieve a good result come the competition in October!

### Employers Visit

Four Soldiers' Employers from across the 3 R ANGLIAN AO visited training during the LION STAR OTX to gain an insight into the role of the Reserve Soldier and training they conduct on overseas exercises. The trip was sponsored by East Anglia and East Midlands RFCA.





## Regimental Day

The Regimental family turned out in force for another sunny Regimental Day at Duxford. The elegant Drumhead service was kindly led by the Reverend Tony Rose, Assistant Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment, supported by the Reverend Iori Price, Chaplain to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, who preached. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion provided an immaculate Colour Party and Major Bob Grenfell mustered the Associations Standards. Colonel Simon Browne laid a wreath on behalf of the Regt, Col Charles Thomas on behalf of the Association and Mr and Mrs Roberts, parents of the late LCPL Craig Roberts on behalf of the fallen. Capt Peter Hudson and the Regt Band supported the service wonderfully, entertained us in the afternoon during the Picnic, and closed the day at the Memorial.

.The 2,500 members of the Regimental family enjoyed a day of meeting old friends and comrades.



## Regt Rugby Match

### Regimental Rugby Match

This year's match took place at Corby where the Regiment played a bruising encounter against an experienced XV from Stewarts and Lloyds RFC. Lt Col Danny Mackness read the names of the Fallen prior to kick off as the players formed a hollow square (See Photo below). The game was open and entertaining with both sides running in some good



tries albeit the home side just came through on top. The match was well supported in particular by former 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Pampadours, and it is very exciting to have a new Reserve outpost just opened in Corby as part of No2 (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire) Company, 3 ROYAL ANGLIAN.

The 2018 fixture is planned to take place near Southend, Essex.

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## Sharrad's Day In The Sun

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Can you imagine what's it's like waiting almost 60 years to place a headstone on the grave of someone who has died? Well, that's exactly what happened Saturday last, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, when a memorial headstone in the shape of a cairn was unveiled over the last resting place of Sharrad Gilbert, Hinckley's highly decorated Boer War and First World War veteran and in many other ways a remarkable man.

The sun shone brightly as a large congregation gathered in St. Catherine's Church in Burbage to commemorate in a service of prayer, reflection and recall of Sharrad's life. The service was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Lady Gretton, the Mayor of Hinckley and Bosworth, Cllr Ozzy O'Shea, Chairman of the County Council Cllr. Janice Richards and the Chairman of Burbage Parish Council, Cllr. Stan Rooney.



There was also a military presence from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment, No 2 Company, a successor unit to the Leicestershire Regiment – WO2 Balbir Nagra and Corporal Marc Clay represented the unit. The Royal Yeomanry, (the Derbyshire and Leicestershire Yeomanry) formed a Lance Guard with Staff Sergeant Darran Hall and Corporal Jason Edwards, from E Squadron (Leicester) representing the unit. Staff Sergeant Hall has two operational tours of Afghanistan and lives in Burbage – echoing Sharrad Gilbert's own service.

A replica set of Sharrad's medals formed the centrepiece on the altar. At the very last moment, a Boer war expert and enthusiast, Mr Stephen Dance, arrived from St. Albans with Boer War relics in the form of an old slouch hat and bandolier, the type used by Sharrad Gilbert and his comrades. These were added to the altar display.

There was an ex-services contingent of banners from Hinckley and District, Loughborough and Broughton Astley. The Union standard was carried by Mr Chris Lincoln, Chairman of the Hinckley and District branch of the Royal British Legion.

Members of Burbage Church Choir led the singing ensuring that the church was full of reverential sound. The Mayor read from the Gospel of Matthew – the sermon on the mount – “blessed are the peacemakers”. We were there to commemorate a life of devotion, loyalty, faithfulness and service before self - 35 years service in the Leicestershire Regiment and 74 years of working in the local hosiery industry. Yes, in 1947 the Hinckley Times recorded that Sharrad had just retired at the age of 80. We recalled that Sharrad was an acclaimed author of a book on the Boer War – “Rhodesia and After” – a book still in print

over 100 years after it was written. All of this life was led and served out of the limelight by a shy, unassuming and somewhat reclusive man.

The initial impetus for the project came from members of the Burbage Heritage group and local medal enthusiast, Stephen Kellaway, who had long desired to mark Sharrad's connection in the churchyard with the village. His old house was recently demolished to build a new housing estate and the fear was that there would be little tangible left in the village. The problem was that the location of Sharrad's grave was lost until most recently when records resurfaced, due to the work of Martin Mellor and the actual grave could be pinpointed.



Last November (2016) in the Hinckley Times, an appeal was launched to try and raise the £4,500 necessary to commence work on the headstone. Appeal leaflets had to be designed and paid for, so that the public could be made aware of the intentions to commemorate Sharrad's life of service. The steering group had to seek church permission first for the design and layout of the headstone. With this permission secured it was possible to describe to people in some detail what was being attempted. The Royal Anglian Regiment made a generous contribution to the cost of the headstone.

So it proved to be a warm and sunny day, as the memorial headstone was decked in a Union flag in preparation for the short ceremony at the graveside. The lilt of bagpipes played outside the church entrance as the congregation, from far and near, began to gather. Thus, it was that a milestone in the history of the village was created – Sharrad Gilbert could no longer be dubbed the forgotten hero. Presentation copies of Sharrad's book were given to the dignitaries and each of the military personnel received a Victoria Cross keyring, courtesy of Mr Stephen Kellaway.

The Church bells rang out a quarter peel, as those at the graveside made their way back to the church. Yes, of course, normal life went on in the village – a farmer's market, the usual round of village life in all its great panoply but woven into the warp and weft of the village's history, the injustice of an unmarked grave had now been put right. This was Sharrad's day in the sun.



## Book Review

Lewis a former 3 East Anglian, then 3 Royal Anglian Officer from 1961 to 1967 when he joined the Colonial Service.

He served in 8 Colonies/territories before independence/handover, - Cyprus, Malaya, Singapore, Borneo, Berlin (British Sector), Aden, Solomon Islands and Hong Kong.

In the Shadow of Empire (front and back cover below), which includes 3 East/Royal Anglian service in Malaya, Berlin and Aden, including the 'battle of Sheikh Othman mosque'. More information and copies are available from [www.MartinLewis.co.nz](http://www.MartinLewis.co.nz) at NZ\$20 (before postage), or email [lewis@nettel.net.nz](mailto:lewis@nettel.net.nz).

19 year-old Martin Lewis set out to see the world.

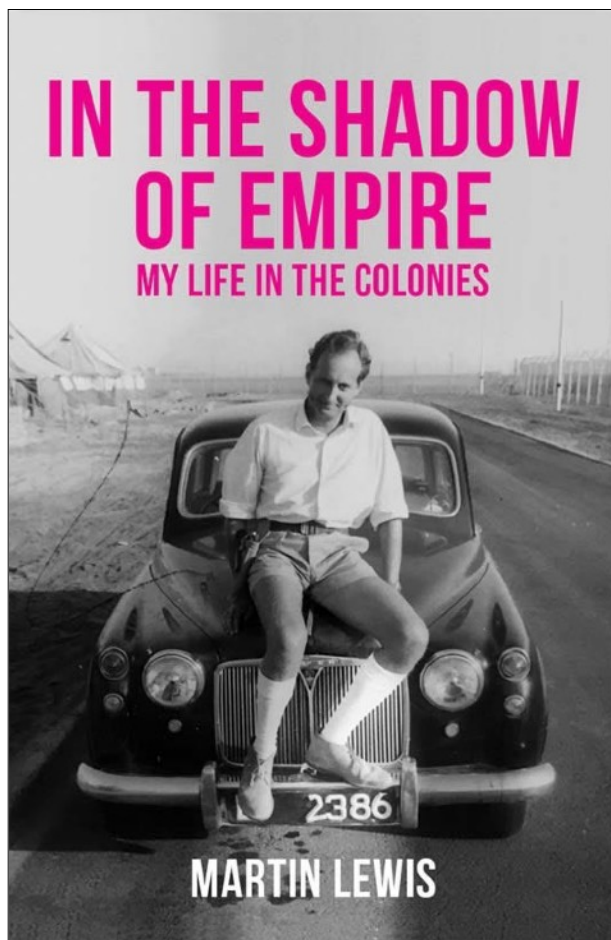
During the course of his life he survived a world war, four active service postings, three shootings and an angry mob.

He led an expedition across the Libyan desert, patrolled the jungles of Malaya and Borneo, caught a serial burglar, guarded Hess, Speer and von Schirach, served as a District Commissioner, Magistrate and part-time chopper pilot, wrote a White Paper, established a world-famous hiking trail, and 'made the biggest and most successful land grab in Hong Kong's history'.

He worked in eight countries/territories under British influence before independence or hand-over. Some reached transition peacefully, others after bitter terrorist fighting which he experienced first-hand.

He served in Cyprus, Libya, Malaya, Singapore, Borneo, Aden, West Berlin (British sector); the British Solomon Islands Protectorate and Hong Kong - eventually living in 14 countries and visiting another 50.

The enthusiasm and purpose he showed in his work is reflected in this gripping portrayal of a confident and bright young man's quest for experience at the end of Empire.



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# The King's Colour of the 11th (Cambridgeshire) Service Battalion of The Suffolk Regiment

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Members of our Regimental family may be interested in the story of how this Colour found its way from the Battalion at the end of WWI, to Ely Cathedral for almost a century, to its new resting place in the Ely City Museum.

The Colour was laid up in Ely Cathedral when the Battalion was disbanded at the end of the First World War, and the intention was that it would be laid up in perpetuity. It hung in the North Transept of the Cathedral for almost a century. The Colour was taken down last year. Shortly afterwards its place was taken by the Queen's Colour of the 6th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, which was laid up in July 2016 in the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief. This seems particularly appropriate as the Regiment's last Reserve unit in the county was D (Cambridgeshire) Company of the 6th Battalion. The Cathedral authorities have a policy of not allowing any more Colours or Standards to be hung than are currently hung. In any event, the 11th Battalion's Colour was assessed as being too frail to be re-hung.



The 11th (Service) Battalion (Cambridgeshire) of The Suffolk Regiment was formed in Cambridge on 25th September 1914 by the Cambridge and Isle of Ely TF Association. The Battalion moved to Studley Royal, Ripon in Yorkshire joining 101st Brigade of 34th Division in May 1915. Following a concentrated period of training, the 11th Battalion moved with the rest of the Division to France via Folkstone-Boulogne. Over the next three years, the Battalion fought tenaciously in many actions including: the Somme (Albert, where they sustained 691 casualties), Pozieres and the First & Second Battle of the Scarpe during which the Battalion successfully attacked the chemical works at Roeux – costing nearly 300 casualties. The 11th attacked a trench system on 24th August 1917, in front of Hargicourt during which the actions of Cpl Sidney James Day earned him a VC for conspicuous gallantry. In 1918 the Bn was one of the units that faced the last great German offensive and in turn played a significant part in the Flanders offensive and the final advance into Picardy.

Of the 242 Officers and 5,469 OR's who served in the 11th Bn during WWI, 43 Officers and 915 OR's were killed. At the time of the Armistice, the Battalion was resting in the area of Bermerain, before moving to the Abbeville area. From this time there was a rapid demobilisation process, but before this started in earnest, the King's Colour was presented by Major General C L Nicholson CB CMG, General Officer Commanding 34th Infantry Divisional. The 11th continued to be stationed in France until November 1919 by which stage the Battalion was reduced almost to cadre strength. They embarked to UK and arrived in Cambridge on 15th November 1919. The demobilisation continued until just before Christmas when the Battalion was completely disbanded. On May 11th 1922, the King's Colour of the 11th Bn was laid up in Ely Cathedral at a memorial service attended by General the Lord Horne of Stirkoke with the Bishop of Ely officiating.



Following proposals from the Regimental Chapel Committee, The Regimental Museum and the Regimental Association, RHQ approached MOD, as required by Queen's Regulations, to seek approval to move the Colour from Ely Cathedral to the City of Ely Museum. The appropriate department in MOD (PS12), and the Chaplain General kindly agreed, making the following stipulation: "...I need to re-emphasise the point that...the conservation work is the minimum necessary to enable it to be properly displayed as it now is – in the full knowledge that it should, in due course, 'return to dust'. It would be most inappropriate to embark on any full scale restoration project..." The background to this stipulation is the policy set out in Queen's Regulations. In sum, our old Colours remain the property of the State, and when our consecrated Colours are laid up at the end of their service life with the Regiment, they are intended to remain in situ until they disintegrate, at which point the remains would usually be buried in an unmarked grave in consecrated ground.

With this kind approval of the MOD, a local Heritage Group, supported by a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant, will commission a conservator to stabilise the Colour and then mount it in a display format which will have a place in the City of Ely Museum. There is no other individual memorial to the Battalion within the county of Cambridgeshire. Soldiers of the Regiment are included on our community war memorials and in our Regimental Chapel in Ely Cathedral. This would now seem a fitting and public recognition of 11th Suffolk's and of its Cambridgeshire soldiers support and sacrifice during WWI.

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## Naming Ceremony "The Royal Norfolk Regiment" Steam Locomotive

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There is a tradition of naming locomotives after Regiments, and there is a diesel-electric locomotive "The Royal Anglian Regiment" in service today on the London – Norwich line. Many of our forebear Regiments also had locomotives named after them including: 45503 "The Leicestershire Regiment", 61605 "The Lincolnshire Regiment", 61658 "The Essex Regiment", 61645 "The Suffolk Regiment", 45516 "The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment", 46167 "The Hertfordshire Regiment" and 46147 "The Northamptonshire Regiment".



On Saturday 9th September a steam locomotive was named "The Royal Norfolk Regiment". The locomotive in question is a 133 ton 2-10-0 steam locomotive built under contract by the North British Locomotive Company in Glasgow in 1943 as part of an order from the War Department as a "go anywhere locomotive" for the war effort. The locomotive was first shipped to Egypt and then in 1944 to Greece, following liberation, to haul heavy trains as part of the continued war effort. After the

war it remained in Greece working on the rail network until dieselisation rendered steam traction redundant. It was repatriated to the UK in 1984 and rebuilt back to its original British specification on the Mid Hants Railway. 25 locomotives of the same class – some of, if not the, heaviest ever to work in the UK – were bought by British Railways after nationalisation and worked on British metals until the 1960s. The current locomotive was purchased by the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway Society in 2006 and brought to its new home on the North Norfolk Railway in 2006 where it has been based ever since.

All members of the Regimental family were warmly invited to attend the naming ceremony of “The Royal Norfolk Regiment” steam locomotive at Sheringham, North Norfolk on Saturday 9th September 2017. Many enthusiastic veterans attended the ceremony which started at 1145hrs with the unveiling at 1200hrs. The locomotive will be unveiled by Brigadier James Woodham CBE MC, Deputy Colonel of The Regiment, accompanied by Brigadier (Retd) Max Marriner CBE, County Colonel for Norfolk. The Band of The Royal Anglian Regiment provided an excellent musical support to the event including a surprise railway-themed music piece, to the delight of all who attended the event.