



## Regimental Matters

### Regimental RSMs' Meeting

The RSMs of the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions met informally in Bury St Edmunds on Monday 10th June to discuss RSM related Regimental matters and in particular, Regimental branding and Regimental dress. From July this year, all three Battalions are due to be based in UK for two years so there will be more opportunities for Regimental activities involving all the Battalions.

### London Gazette Extracts May 2019



### Promotions

#### SSC

- Lt B Humphreys to be Capt Dec 2018
- Lt J A Mattin to be Capt Dec 2018
- OCdt A I Simms to be 2Lt Apr 2019

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Clasp to LSGCM

- Capt C Hopkin
- CSgt J A Chapman
- Cpl H R McCabe
- Cpl S J Sharman
- Sgt K D PWallis

- Cpl R F Wells
- CSgt P N Wright

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Clasp to VRSM

- WO2 B S Nagra

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Clasp to VRSM

- WO2 B S Nagra

### 1<sup>st</sup> Clasp to VRSM

- WO2 B S Nagra

### APC Glasgow



Salena Boyd is a civil servant in the APC who has been supporting our SO2 Queens Div Officers for five years, currently Gavin Hudson. She has been wonderfully efficient and friendly for the last three SO2s and when Gavin took over, the advice from his predecessor was “do not lose Salena”. But as with the best civil servants, Salena’s career moves on. We thought we might mark the occasion with a token of thanks from the Regiment – a photo of the presentation by Gavin is attached. Gavin is due to take over as 2IC 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn on their return from Cyprus.

## Diary Dates

2019

July

- 1 Kohima Commemoration - Norwich
- 7 Chapel Sunday - Warley
- 7 Regt Cricket - Cancelled
- 19 William McWheeney VC Dedication - Dover
- 20 Freedom of Haverhill
- 21 Regt Association (Cambs) Reunion, Ely
- 22 Salamanca Day
- 27 Talavera Day
- 27 Talavera Day - Regt Association (Northants)
- 27 Eagle and Garter Dinner - Colchester

August

- 1 Minden Day
- 4 Chapel Sunday - Warley
- 4 Regt Association (Suffolk) Monday Day BSE
- 13 Blenheim Day
- 31 Regt Rugby - Hemel Hempstead



## Regimental Representative Event Grimsthorpe Castle

The Regimental Representative Event was held on Friday 14th June at Grimsthorpe Castle, near Bourne in Lincolnshire. Despite a very wet week of weather we were blessed with warm sunshine for the Cocktail party held in the beautiful gardens of our host, Lady Willoughby de Eresby, overlooking the Capability Brown parkland. Over 130 guests from the 2nd Battalion's counties attended the party who the chance to engage with soldiers from the Regimental Support Teams of both regular battalions before hearing speeches by both the Colonel of the Regiment and the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion who spoke on behalf of all three battalions.

Following the party our guests moved onto the spectacular setting of the quadrangle for a full Beating of Retreat and sunset ceremony performed by the band of the Parachute Regiment soon to be renamed as one of the army infantry bands. Music included the theme tune from Band of Brothers which had been performed the previous week in Normandy for the D-Day commemorations, various Regimental marches including Rule Britannia, Speed the Plough and the Lincolnshire Poacher.



*The Quadrangle at Grimsthorpe Castle*



*Guests on the West Lawn.*



*Lt Col Matt Woodeson receiving a cheque for £5,000 from the Ladies at CHOSEN, a charity in Holbeach, Lincs*



*The Colonel of the Regiment addresses his guests.*



*The Mayor of Bourne speaks to members of the RST.*

# 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

## A (Norfolk) Company Operation Trenton



The boys in A (Norfolk) Company have been working hard in what are fairly challenging conditions, providing force protection and getting hands on with the Sappers to maximise our operational outputs. Highlights have included a number of platoon sized tasks building FOBs or bridges at locations away from our main base here, giving Pl Comds and NCOs real autonomy for weeks at a time. In addition we're constructing a hospital and have built Ebola treatment facilities, have worked to improve the lives of locals and refugees here, and all whilst working side by side with a huge variety of nations. We never thought we'd be on Ops with Mongolians, Ghanaians, Rwandans or Indians, amongst others. Nor that we'd be speeding down the Nile on Bangladeshi naval patrol boats to insert for a recce!

The Norfolk Club have kindly sent members of A (Norfolk) Company a vast array of goodies for consumption on Operation Trenton, Major Matthew Clarke, the OC wrote,

"It's no exaggeration to say that we have all been bowled over by both the quality and quantity of your gifts. As we are now a little over 5 months into the deployment the timing is also excellent – even if unintended thanks to the frictions of the BFPO system! Toiletries are starting to run low as the end of tour approaches, meaning the Percy Nobleman body wash and shaving cream is extremely useful."





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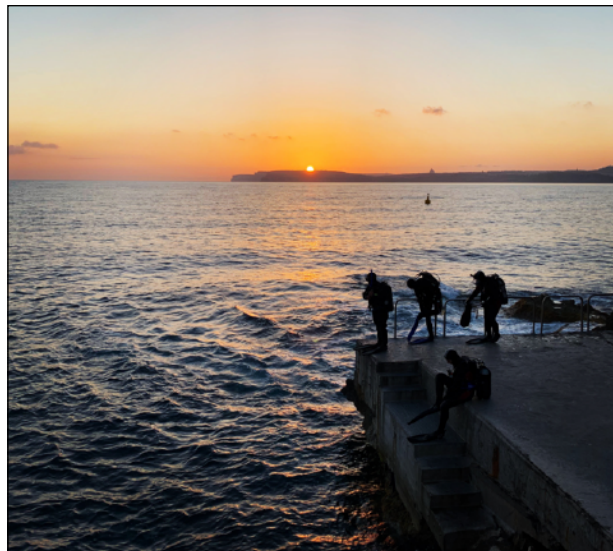
## 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

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### Exercise Maltese Imp

17 soldiers and officers were on Ex Maltese Imp between 27 May – 07 Jun 19. Based in Buggiba and St Julian's Bay, the troops all gained the BSAC sports diver qualification, as well as depth progression to 35m. The troops also all completed a night dive during the expedition, which was the highlight of the trip.

The troops also visited all 3 islands of Malta; Malta, Comino and Gozo, as well as acquainted themselves with Maltese food and culture in various areas of the island. The personal contribution was £250 and it was an adventurous and testing experience for all.



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## 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

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### 2 Company (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire) in Stanford

2 Company have recently completed an IED training package in Stanford.

An eight-man section of 2 Company is briefed by section leader and ex regular, Cpl Marlon Gray, 32, of Leicester on a training scenario where they have to detect a number of dummy IEDs, while under threat of enemy fire.



Pte Tarun Patel, 26, of Birstall, joined in the 3rd Battalion 2016 before graduating with a degree in computer science.

He spent six months in Australia, India and Cyprus, working with the Indian and Australian armies, to compare skills.

“I was going to join the regulars, but I was advised to get a feel for it first, so joined the reserves. There’s a lot more opportunity and there’s a nice balance between civilian and military life.

“My great granddad was in the Bahraini Army and my granddad was in the Kenyan Army. I’d advise anyone to give it a shot, if it’s not for you, you can leave, but there are loads of opportunities available.”





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## Museum News

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The Air show I believe was a success. We had lots of visits to the handling table, and enough people to man it. Also having the extra reserves on site meant that the day could be less stressful as there was relief to make sure that we all had a break.

The Regimental Support team had a lot more attention as they brought more weapons systems and a quad bike, I think (and hope) they enjoyed it more as well. Once again, thank you to all the trustees for agreeing to send me on the tour. I learned a lot in various ways.



The medal case is up and in, with the slight snag that the cord isn't as long as I requested to get it to the light socket, I let the company know and they are going to come in and install a cord long enough now I am back from holiday. Having now had a look in the two boxes of medals we have, I realise they will need to be sorted out as well.

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## Dereham Branch Standard Dedication

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The new Standard of the Dereham and District Branch of the Royal Anglian Regiment Association was dedicated at a service held 8<sup>th</sup> June 2109 at St Nicholas Church, Dereham. Padre Sally Theakston took the service with the Colour party consisting of Dale Curtis, Clive Rook and Paul Wood.



*The Standard being blessed by Padre Theakston.*



*The Colour Party parading the dedicated Standard.*

# Monte Cassino

## The Regimental Battlefield Tour – Monte Cassino 26-30 May 2019

This year's Battlefield Tour took place in Italy studying the Allied campaign of September 1943 through to May 1944. With the blessing and support of the Regimental Council we ventured farther afield than usual and on a wet Sunday evening gathered in the Hotel Rocca in the town of Cassino for what promised to be an exceptional few days. Vikings had travelled from Woolwich, Poachers from Cyprus and veterans from all over the UK, but miraculously at 1900hrs all 40 guests gathered in the Conference Room of the hotel for an introductory brief from our truly remarkable Regimental Guide, Lt Col (Retd) Tony Slater, ably assisted by Peter Black, both of whom had put in a huge amount of effort to recce and study the actions performed by most of our forebear regiments during the campaign.



*Tony Slater with Terry Browning, Royal Norfolks.*

Monday dawned very wet again but this did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm as we headed out to the Mignano Gap and the deserted village of San Pietro Infino, which has now become a "ghost" village preserved as a living museum. A hasty variation to the plan on account of the weather allowed us to listen to Lt Col Simon Bacon's fascinating presentation on the life and times of his father, Ben Bacon, who had



*Lt Col Simon Bacon on Castle Hill.*

joined 1/4th Essex early in the war. Having fought through North Africa, he found himself as a SNCO attacking the Germans holding out on Castle Hill in the shadow of the Abbey at Monte Cassino. The following morning Simon showed us the very ground over which his father had fought with the men of 1/4th Essex in March 1944. He went on to be commissioned and survived the war. This vignette of a family who to this day are still serving in the British Army brought a certain magic to our Tour.

Tuesday and Wednesday dawned bright and we were now able to get up into the hills to really appreciate the terrain which we were studying.

From the heights of Monte Cassino the Liri valley pans out below and its value as an axis of advance towards Rome can be fully seen. A visit to the river crossing and subsequent bridgehead where 2 Beds and Herts held out under immense pressure for 24 hours allowed us to pay our respects at the Memorial to this gallant stand.



The sheer beauty of the Abbey of Monte Cassino, home of the Benedictine Order, cannot be explained in words or even done justice to by photographs. It is quite simply intoxicating, and we enjoyed a wonderful guided tour of this exquisite place.

On our final day we visited the site of the Amazon Bridge crossing, immortalised by Terence Cuneo's painting of a Bailey Bridge erected by Engineers



*The Abbey.*

beautiful CWG Cemetery on the edge of the town, where in the shadow of the Abbey which to this day dominates every inch of ground, LCpl Atkins of the 1st Battalion laid a wreath from the Colonel of the Regiment and All Ranks in proud and honoured memory to all those of our former County Regiments who paid the ultimate sacrifice during that bitterest of fighting 75 years ago.



*LCpl Atkins.*



*Cpl Call lays the wreath at the Beds and Herts Memorial.*

constantly under fire which came to epitomise the series of battles for Monte Cassino through the spring of 1944. We visited both the Polish Cemetery and the German cemetery at Caira, but the viewing stand at the Polish memorial at Point 593 towering above the Abbey in the Cassino Massif, and the walk down to Albaneta Farm still there as a small working farm today brought the Tour to a fitting end. We descended from the heights to the



*The Lament.*

# Vikings Carry on up Kerala

With B (Suffolk) Coy being so well behaved(!) I've decided I needed an extra challenge as their OC. In August I and three mates (all Ex-Servicemen) will be taking two rickshaws (the venerable two-stroke-fuel-max-sped-20mph downhill-three-wheels-of-carnage kind) 2000miles up India's West coast between Kochi and Jaisalmer.

We'll be raising money for The Royal Anglian Benevolent Fund and Cool Earth Charity (aiming to reach a target of £1000).

Any and all support is welcome and if you wish to donate you can do so at [Virginmoney.com/fundraiser](http://Virginmoney.com/fundraiser)

(Please note the link for the Benevolent Charity doesn't yet show but we are working on that. Trust me the funds will still be split 50:50)

Thank you in advance for your support.





# Samuel Needham VC

## The Centenary Commemoration of Samuel Needham VC The Bedfordshire Regiment.

Samuel Needham was the last of our First World War heroes to be awarded the Victoria Cross, and while a little late a service of commemoration was finally held in the village of his birth, Great Limber near Grimsby, on 8th June passed. Young Needham was a groom in the Earl of Yarborough's hunting Stables; his own Pack, the Brocklesby exists to this day. On joining up Needham was posted to Palestine with the General Service Corps but later seconded to the 1st Bn, The Bedfordshire Regiment. Although major operations in that theatre of war were paused in response to the threat posed by the German Spring Offensives on the Western Front in March



critical moment Private Needham ran back and fired rapidly at a body of the enemy at point-blank range. His action checked the enemy and enabled the patrol commander to reorganise his men. The patrol had many casualties, but successfully got back all their wounded, and it was due to the action of individuals, of which this is the most outstanding, that the entire patrol was not cut off. Pte. Needham's example was of the greatest value at a critical moment, and the bold and determined stand made by him did more than anything to inspire confidence, and undoubtedly saved a critical situation."

Over 100 people attended the Commemoration in Great Limber where Col Geoff Newmarch, County Colonel for Lincolnshire read the citation; the



1918, they resumed late that summer. During an overnight fighting patrol that was in very real danger of being overwhelmed and annihilated early on 11 September 1918, his complete disregard for his own personal safety and "berserk fury" saved his patrol from certain destruction.

An extract from The London Gazette, dated 29 October 1918, records his citation:

"For most conspicuous bravery and initiative when with a strong patrol which was heavily attacked by the enemy and forced back in confusion. At this



deputy Lord Lieutenant, Major Freeman, and Mr Carlisle, Chairman of the Grimsby Branch laid wreaths. The Regiment was well supported with three standard bearers, Mr D Metcalfe MBE, Mr Shane Palmer and Mr C Long with a further 20 members of the regimental association from Grimsby and Lincoln representing the four old regular battalions as well as representatives from 5th and 7th battalions. There was also a strong presence from the current 3rd Battalion including the Officer Commanding, Major Pegg. A strong contingent of both Army and RAF Cadets also turned out for this memorable occasion.



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## D Day Commemoration

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Jeremy Prescott writes,

As part of the D Day commemorations in Southsea I attended the Service of Remembrance at the D Day memorial on the sea front this morning. I was honoured to wear my father's regimental tie (Suffolk Regiment) and his Military Cross. He was awarded this medal for 2 actions leading his Company in a counter attack in the breakout battle. Wounded he was evacuated to the Royal Infirmary in Leicester a place he had no connections with, nor I, but I was to spend 22 years in Leicester after I left the Army. He returned to his Regiment only to be wounded once again crossing the Rhine. The wheel of fortune now finds me living in Portsmouth /Southsea where he embarked some 75 years ago. I salute the brave generation involved in this defining campaign.





## Poachers Summer Ball

The second Poacher's Summer Ball organised by Dave Gardiner took place at the Aviator Hotel, Sywell, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Some 360 people attended the event and the guest of honour was Colonel Howard Gill who was Dave's Platoon Commander many moons ago. The Essex ACF Corps of Drums gave a display which was warmly received. During the evening those who that have passed were remembered and the George Fairweather Trophy which is voted on by attendees for the outstanding work of one of the Poacher Family was presented to Dave Gardiner by Micky Dowland, and richly deserved. The evening raised £250 for the Essex ACF Corps of Drums, £250 for BLESMA and £1310 for Ex Poacher Steve Gill Charity, Barron motorsport.



*Colonel Howard Gill address the Poachers with Mr Dave Gardiner the host and organiser looking on.*



*One of the two Sphinx's' commissioned for the evening.*



*Guests enjoying their evening.*



*Corps of Drums, Essex ACF.*

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# Dedication in memory of a soldier of the Great War - Leicestershire Regiment

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Members of the Regimental family attended the service at St Mary The Virgin Church, Rectory Road, Little Burstead, Billericay, Essex CM12 9TR on Saturday 22nd June. Charles Argent served in the Leicestershire Regiment in the Great War for two years and he was badly wounded in March 1918. He



was discharged from the Army with a Silver War Badge. He died in May 1920 and was buried in the churchyard at Little Burstead. His grave was unmarked, apparently he did not meet the criteria for a headstone at public expense. Mrs Karen Dennis, Memorials Officer for the Essex Branch of The Western Front Association has kindly led the appeal to fund the headstone, which was warmly supported by the local community. The County Colonel for Essex will lay a wreath on behalf of the Regiment.



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## Job Vacancy

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### Full Time Driver Required for HRH the Duke of Kent

The Private Secretary for HRH The Duke of Kent is looking to recruit a Chauffeur/Driver recently ex-military or on the cusp of leaving. Good rate of pay and terms with generous leave entitlement and attractive pension. Close protection training would be an advantage but not essential. Anyone interested should contact the Area 2 Regimental Secretary in the first instance, Major (Ret'd) Tim Brown, Phone: Mil: 95341 7161 | Civ: +44(0)1572 812241 ext 7161 | Mobile: +44(0)7970 050163

Email: [timothy.brown133@mod.gov.uk](mailto:timothy.brown133@mod.gov.uk)

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## Regimental Bulletins

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This month RHQ has sent the Regimental family xx Regimental bulletins, which will also be available on the Regimental Website:

- Bulletin 43/19 - Salamanca Dinner
- Bulletin 44/19 - Colonel Dick Harrold - Queens Birthday Honour
- Bulletin 45/19 - Citigroup Military Insight Day
- Bulletin 46/19 - Dedication of the Headstone of Charles Argent
- Bulletin 47/19 - Death of Aubrey Chilvers
- Bulletin 48/19 - SSI - Wymondham College CCF
- Bulletin 49/19 - Kohima Commemorative Event Norwich Castle
- Bulletin 50/19 - Death of Major Duncan Stewart
- Bulletin 51/19 - Job Vacancy - Driver for HRH Duke of Kent
- Bulletin 52/19 - Special Order of the Day - Royal Tigers Day