



# Royal Anglian *News*

December 2020

# Regimental Matters

## COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

The Regiment warmly congratulates the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General R W Wooddisse CBE MC on the announcement that he is to be Commander Field Army, in the rank of Lieutenant General, in April 2021.

## 79<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF BRITISH BATTALION DAY 20 DEC 1941

The Colonel of the Regiment and all ranks of the Royal Anglian Regiment send their fraternal greetings to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment on the seventy ninth anniversary of the formation of the British Battalion in Malaya on 20 December 1941 from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Leicestershire Regiment and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regiment. The



British Battalion fought with distinction, particularly at the Battle of Kampar from 30 Dec 41 – 2 Jan 42. Our bond of friendship continues with co-operation between our two regiments. Officers and soldiers of all ranks serve alongside in both regiments. Royal Anglian battalions remember this bond, and where they can they drink a toast to the British Battalion, and those serving outside the Regiment are warmly encouraged to do the same with their PWRR colleagues.



## BULLETINS

RHQ circulated three Regimental Bulletins in December:

- Bulletin 87-20 Col of The Regt Message
- Bulletin 89-20 British Battalion Day
- Bulletin 88-20 Harris Academy CCF Job



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# 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

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## CALFEX Training and C (Essex) Coy return from Afghanistan



Despite the current COVID climate, with detailed planning and strict adherence to the Army's Force Health Protection direction, the Vikings managed to deliver quality training right until the end in December. Army-wide restrictions meant that the usual Christmas festivities (soldiers' lunch etc) could not take place, so good, demanding training focused the mind instead – everyone absolutely earned their Christmas leave.

A 'CALFEX minus' was run as the culmination of all the D Company support weapons cadres, with A (Norfolk) Company conducting a testing live-fire package on Otterburn training area, fired in by the newly-bolstered Viking Machine Gun platoon.

In the final week before stand-down, a physically demanding inter-platoon PT event was conducted to finish the year on a high of teamwork and physical robustness. Grit and determination was shown by all, with the top 3 teams coming from D (Cambridgeshire) Company – Recce and Snipers (1st) Anti-Tanks (2nd) and C (Essex) Company (3rd.)

Finally, with the UK-based elements of the Battalion departed on Christmas leave, elements of B (Suffolk) and C (Essex) Companies returned to the UK from overseas operational deployments (principally TORAL – Afghanistan), just in time to spend Christmas with their families (albeit in Tier 4!) The Vikings have certainly had a long and varied year.



Maj Dave Crosbie

Officer Commanding C (Essex) Company

## 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

### Warrant Officers And Sergeants Mess Champions once again

Despite the valiant efforts of the Officers mess this author must confess the highly anticipated Officers Mess Vs WOSM Christmas football match was won, yet again, by the WOSM.



Some excellent sportsmanship was shared by all with the final score (4-3) marking the closeness of the game. WO2 Davidson as Company Sergeant Major D (Bedford and Hertfordshire) Company lifted the trophy on their behalf to the cheers of a reduced crowd to normal, as due to Covid restrictions the usual thronged audience of the whole battalion could not attend.



Outside of the sporting highlight of the year the Bn continues to support Op NEWCOMBE in Mali with B (Leicestershire) Company already deployed alongside the Light Dragoons and BHQ with A (Lincolnshire) Company to replace them in 2021.

A late edit as this newsletter went to press, the soldiers and officers of B Leicestershire Company would like to pass along their gratitude to those who sent them Christmas parcels, they have been gratefully received by all soldiers and brought them a little bit of Christmas cheer while they spent the festive period away from their loved ones.

Finally, the Poachers would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year wherever you are celebrating it and our wishes to spend it with more of you next year.

*Capt Ben Humphreys  
Intelligence Officer*





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## 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

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### Christmas Wishes from the Commanding Officer

A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all from the Steelbacks.

As we draw 2020 a close, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion looks back at a year in which we have made a significant contribution to UK Operations with 150 Steelbacks mobilized in the fight against Covid 19 over this summer. This followed a great performance from the Steelbacks men and women standing up an Army Reserve Battle Group as the enemy for the Poachers on Salisbury plain in the storms of February. We were also fortunate to be able to continue with our Annual Deployment Exercise and Adventurous Training back in September. These three headline events really stand out given that it has not been a straight forward year by any stretch of the imagination. The Steelbacks team has continuously tested and adjusted the plan to ensure sure we doing the right thing to protect our troops and for this first class Army Reserve Infantry Battalion to finish 2021 in good order. Our recruiters and mentors have also performed superbly in the face of adversity – the Battalion has a full quota of committed steadfast future Steelbacks ready to join the team. We are set for the opportunities of 2021. Of course Covid-19 will have an impact on our plans but we will adapt from a core programme of war fighting training. We will continue to train with the Vikings and Poachers, deliver UK Operations, support overseas operations, reset our sport and adventurous training, work with UOTCs and Cadets, and of course get fun back into the programme. The very first step will be focussing on the infantry fundamentals of shoot, move and communicate – we will be ready. So, from all here at the Steelbacks, we hope you have a great Christmas and we wish you an excellent 2021.

No 1 Company with an attachment from No 5 Company including their OC, the Suffolk MLO, Maj Robinson, conducted a successful joint training event with the Water Management Alliance (WMA) on behalf of the East Suffolk Council.

After an initial brief to explain the tasking process to the commanders and why the defences are sited where there are the troops deployed to the quayside to conduct a practical session, which concluded with an assessment. The end result was positive, with the water specialist staff confident of the Steelbacks



ability to work with limited supervision, which has the potential to change their current TTPs, to allow them to divert their limited manpower elsewhere should the situation require it.

The Steelbacks who attended, after a short introduction and demonstration from the civilian agencies proved their ability to apply military teamwork to a new task under the supervision of their JNCOs.

Whilst the Command Team could relate the estimate process and G4 demands and constraints to decision points lead by specific information or events employed by the WMA and Council mirrored the process required in executing military operations.

There was lots of passing interest from the general public, who, where rightly proud that the soldiers where from their locality and had found the time to assist and extremely happy to learn it was a training exercise and not the sign of an impending Tsunami.

Maj Gavin Rushmere  
Bn 2ic



## COVER PHOTO

Steelbacks on Flood Prevention Training

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