



# Royal Anglian *News*

November 2020

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# Regimental Matters

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## London Gazette

The Regiment would like to warmly congratulate the following on their promotions and appointments, recently announced in the London Gazette.

**London Gazette 63170 – 11 Nov 20**

**Long Serve and Good Conduct Medal Award**

25205103 Cpl G A White

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

24957466 WO2 A J Hunter

**London Gazette 63184– 23 Nov 20**

**Short Service Commission**

Second Lieutenant G Scrupps to be Lieutenant 12 August 2018 (Belated Entry).

**London Gazette 631891– 30 Nov 20**

**Short Service Commission**

Lieutenant (Acting Captain) G Scrupps to be Captain 12 August 2020.

## BULLETINS

RHQ circulated seven Regimental Bulletins in November:

- Bulletin 72-20 Vacancy Dept Regt Sect
- Bulletin 73-20 Regt Battlefield Tour
- Bulletin 74-20 Battle of Ruapekapeka
- Bulletin 75-20 Newsletter
- Bulletin 76-20 Cpl Hemmings MBE
- Bulletin 77-20 Regt Remembrance
- Bulletin 78-20 Death of David Gridley



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# 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

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## Vikings spread across the globe

The Vikings are spread all over the country and the world conducting training and operations. This was perhaps most apparent on Armistice Day earlier this month in London, Afghanistan, Oman or deployed all over the UK on exercises the Battalion was united again for a few moments that morning in quiet remembrance.

D 'Cambridgeshire' Company have conducted perhaps the most diverse training this month with each specialist Platoon deploying on their cadres to qualify new members and develop their specialist skills. Mortar Pl, Anti-Tank Platoon, and Machine Gun Platoon deployed to Brecon where they each conducted bespoke, demanding training to develop and test themselves in their roles. Recce Platoon deployed to Catterick Training Area where they tested themselves in their core role and also in the urban environment of Whinny Hill village. None of this would have been possible without the help of the Rifle Companies who supported these exercises with enemy and additional friendly force elements. The month has culminated for D Coy with a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) involving Snipers, Machine Gun Platoon and A 'Norfolk Company'.

A 'Norfolk' and B 'Suffolk' spent much of the month supporting the D Coy cadres and the Training Wing final Exercise for the VAISEC Platoon. This has been an excellent opportunity for the Platoons to get out in the field and refresh their own green skills. 2 Platoon deployed with Recce Platoon to provide their enemy and were later followed by the remainder of A Company to fill the role of friendly forces for the final attack.

The VAISEC (Viking Advanced Infantry Skills Enhancement Course) Platoon, after their arrival from training at ITC Catterick five weeks ago, have been put through their paces by the Training Wing. They have received further training in navigation, range work, field craft and much more. This month saw their final test Exercise in Brecon where they conducted section and platoon attacks and navigation exercises confirming their basic infantry skills before they join their Platoons.

Still deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, on Op TORAL II, C 'Essex' Company is preparing to return to the UK for Christmas. The last month has seen C Company re-tasked as the Battlegroup reserve where they have been filling gaps caused by Covid-19 and performing any other tasks required of them across Kabul.

Overall November has been a busy month, characteristic of 2020 for the Vikings. The Battalion looks forward to the return of C Company from Op TORAL II and some well-earned Christmas leave all round.



Capt Ben Hopkins

Regimental Signals Officer

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## 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

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### Poachers on Operations and ranges

November has been another fast and furious month for the Poachers with us continuing to prepare three sub- units and BHQ for Op CABRIT & Op NEWCOMBE.A (Lincolnshire) Coy and elements from BHQ & HQ Coy spent two weeks conducting gruelling LFTT at Warcop, progressing from the Individual Battle Skills Range, up to platoon attack by night using the Army's new Kestrel night viewing device. The purpose of this training is to prepare the company to commence MST for Op NEWCOMBE post Christmas leave.

After months of waiting, B (Leicestershire) Coy have completed their pre-deployment training and readiness checks and at the time of writing are quarantining for two weeks before deploying to Mali with the Light Dragoons BG on Op NEWCOMBE I. As this is the first of three years' worth of deployments, the BG faces a steep learning curve to understand the situation and to set the conditions for the success of future deploying BGs.

Meanwhile in C (Northamptonshire) Coy, the Machine Gun platoon continue to be deployed in Kabul, Afghanistan with C (Essex) Coy from the Vikings. Elsewhere in the coy, the Mortar platoon completed their cadre which saw eleven new mortar men trained and culminated in a live fire package at SPTA.

For D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company, November saw them deploy on Ex STAGS GUNNER to Castlemartin for three weeks. This was the first time the coy has deployed as a complete coy in at least five years. The aim of the exercise was to conduct mounted platoon attacks using their Jackal vehicles which they have had to re- role onto before deploying on Op CABRIT. In addition to firing thousands of rounds through HMG, GPMG & GMG they also fired three NLAW.

*Capt Ben Humphreys  
Intelligence Officer*





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## 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

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### Focus on Remembrance and Night Training

From WO1 Alan Johnson, the Regimental Sergeant Major - "Remembrance is time when the nation unites to make sure no-one is forgotten; Remembrance 2020 was a more toned-down affair due to Covid 19 restrictions. Even so we paid our respect with individuals representing the Regiment laying wreaths at cenotaphs across the Steelback AO the companies also held small socially distanced remembrance parades within their ARCs. Remembrance Sunday belongs to those who gave their lives, their health and their loved ones this year was no different. This year has also made us appreciate the freedoms for which they thought for. As Lawrence Binyan's poem says so well at the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them"



Photos are from the Leicester and Lowestoft War Memorials although many of our soldiers marked the occasion across the ARCs and in their own towns and villages across our communities.

On the training front 3 (Essex and Hertfordshire) Coy have been working hard on their OBUA (Operations in Built Up Area) skills with improvised night training in the dark areas of their Army Reserve Centres whilst using night vision equipment.

Maj G Rushmere

Bn 2ic



## Association News

### Hillman site returns to Colleville-Montgomery

The main objective for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Suffolk Regiment on D Day was a bunker complex some three miles inland from the Normandy beaches, code-named “Hillman”. This was the Headquarters of the German 736<sup>th</sup> Regiment. It proved to be bigger and more strongly held than had been predicted, surrounded by intact barbed wire and minefields. The objective had by chance escaped any damage from pre-D Day bombing raids. 1 Suffolk managed to capture the objective by late afternoon on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, in a second attack on the position. Both attacks included several individual heroic actions and were not without casualties. The turning point of the battle occurred when Pte “Titch” Hunter stood up and charged a German machine gun that was holding up the attack, an action for which he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. It was the start of 11 months hard fighting for the Battalion in France and then subsequently through Belgium and Holland into Germany. The Battalion gained a reputation for professionalism, reliability, and steady courage throughout the campaign, maintaining once again the Regiment’s proud motto of “Stabilis”.

In 1989 the owner of the site of the action, Mme Lenaud, gave a bunker at the centre of the objective with a small parcel of land to The Suffolk Regiment. This was in recognition of the role that the Battalion had played in the liberation of Colleville-Montgomery, the village just below the Hillman feature which the Battalion had cleared prior to the attack on Hillman. As a young girl she had nursed a wounded British soldier in the main street of the village on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. Since 1989 a group of local families “Les Amis”, along with the Commune





have looked after the site and the area round it to preserve it as a Memorial, a small Museum and a place where individuals and groups can come to study the battle and pay their respects to the bravery of the Suffolk Regiment men who took part in the battle and the liberation of France. It is a site protected in French law as a site of "Historical value" and therefore cannot be developed. Hillman is one of the increasingly few remaining sites near the Normandy beaches preserved as far as possible as it was in 1944. The approaches to the site and the views from it have changed little. Over the years it has featured as a stand on numerous battlefield tours.

The site is now owned by The Suffolk Regiment Museum. The Trustees have decided that the time has come to give the site to the Colleville-Montgomery Commune, to ensure that it remains a Memorial to the deeds of our former Regiment and continues to be looked after properly. The contract to hand over the site was signed on 3 November 2020. We hope post-COVID to be able to join Les Amis to commemorate D Day on the Hillman site in 2021 and to continue for many years the close bonds of friendship with our French Allies in Normandy.

For more information on the Suffolk Regiment and the battle to capture Hillman please contact The Suffolk Regiment Museum, The Keep, Bury St Edmunds. Tel: 01284 749317. Email:

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

## Association Acts of Remembrance

Despite restrictions our Association members continued their good work and marked the day across our local areas with wreaths laid to the sacrifices made by by our veterans and all those impact by conflict worldwide.



Photos -

RIGHT - At Kingsthorpe War Memorial two wreaths were laid by Lt Col (retd) Blomfield and Joe Heffernan.

LEFT - The Grave of Arthur Papworth with wreath laid by Col N Shacklock.



A photograph showing a group of men in military uniforms standing in front of a brick memorial wall. The wall has several plaques and a central plaque with a crest. One man in a dark uniform stands at a podium on the right, speaking into a microphone. Another man in a dark uniform stands at a podium on the left. A man in a brown uniform stands in the center. A man in a dark uniform stands next to a flagpole. A man in a dark uniform stands next to a shield-shaped sign. A tripod-mounted camera is visible in the foreground. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.

This academic study by an ex-company commander in Afghanistan, looks at how combat affected will and cohesion in British infantry companies in Helmand between 2006 and 2010. The purpose is

## HOW COMBAT AFFECTS WILL AND COHESION IN AN INFANTRY COMPANY (AFGHANISTAN 2007-10)

I would therefore like to invite you to participate in this postgraduate research project, the results of which will be written up and submitted to King's College London for PhD consideration. This involves you filling in the questionnaire at the link at the end of this article. After that, you can also volunteer for a follow up interview if you want to (details below).

The questionnaire should take between 30 and 60 minutes to complete depending on how detailed your answers are. The questions are generic and do not ask you to recount specific combat events. However, if you are worried about possible mental health issues, you should **NOT** volunteer to take part in this research or fill in this questionnaire.

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COVID 19 restrictions are still in force). I aim to do as many of the interviews as I can in 2021. Please note that you are always free to withdraw at any time if you change your mind (and up to seven days after the interview itself). If, having completed this questionnaire, you would like to volunteer for a follow up interview, please could you get in touch with me by email or telephone (details below). All I need at this stage is your contact details (email and/or telephone number). Thank you in advance for your thoughts and your time.

Karl Hickman (Chief Investigator)

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E-mail: [karl.hickman@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:karl.hickman@kcl.ac.uk)

Please click on the link below (or the same link in the box in the photo above) to access the questionnaire:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOzI7pSd359P698Dhvu8n8\\_FeCXVczdPZRDGRlrLMjg9ZeKg/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOzI7pSd359P698Dhvu8n8_FeCXVczdPZRDGRlrLMjg9ZeKg/viewform?usp=pp_url)

## COVER PHOTO

Lt Col Will Meddings, Commanding Officer of The Second Battalion, at the Leicester War Memorial.



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