



Royal Anglian *News*



Cover Image:

Lt Brembridge (A Company), 2nd Battalion, talks to a local national while on a foot patrol through a village on Ex GAO DAWN.

Regimental News

New Association Offer for Service Leavers - Get Your First Year Free

RHQ has just introduced a new introductory membership scheme for all Royal Anglian Service Leavers. All members of the regiment leaving the army will be offered their first year's membership of the Royal Anglian Association free. Free membership can be secured by filling in the application forms during the clearance process prior to discharge.



Membership of the Royal Anglian Regimental Association helps to maintain bonds of friendship, access to practical support from the regiment, and the following links:

- Annual Copy of the Castle Magazine
- Monthly Royal Anglian News
- Regimental Bulletins
- Association Membership Card & Access to Regt Association Social Events

Further information is available from your unit RCMO, and on the Regt Website, Association page

The London Gazette - Entry Dated 11 May 2021

The Regiment Warmly Congratulates the Following on the Award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military):

25190158 Maj H J Willis

25217294 CSgt C McKendrick

Farewell from the Keep

RHQ said farewell to Capt Kyle Forsyth on 25th May on completion of his tour as the Regimental Adjutant. During the whole of his tour during COVID restrictions while the Dep Regt Sec was gapped meant he led much of the Regiment's comms and social media effort, including being editor of the *Royal Anglian News*. He took more of our recruiting processes online, supporting our recruiting during a difficult period. Kyle called in to RHQ from his pre-deployment training for Op TANGHAM in Somalia, so we could raise a glass to him.



Capt Kyle Forsyth

1st Battalion (The Vikings)

The Vikings Storm East Anglia and the Far North



May has been a mixed period for the Vikings, with real highs and lows. Early in the month, the Battalion was shaken by the sudden and tragic death in service of Sgt Matt Slater (Pictured). The passing of such an operationally experienced and well-known member of the Vikings caused ripples both inside and outside the Battalion; it was heartening to see the wider Regimental networks quickly activating as the broader Viking family came together to celebrate his life. At the time of writing both his funeral and a Battalion memorial service are planned for the coming weeks.



In the face of this desperately sad news, the Vikings were once again required to live by our motto – *stabilis*. With a quiet steadfast professionalism, the Battalion deployed to STANTA on Exercise VIKING STORM. Having not completed a Battlegroup level exercise since 2017, and with the Cyprus Unit Move looming, VIKING STORM would provide the last opportunity for some years for the Vikings to practice their trade – combat.

Whilst Battlegroup Headquarters established and continue to experiment with novel setups, the Companies underwent three two-day rotations in the rural, urban and woodland environments. Engendering a sense of competition and realism, the majority of D (Cambridgeshire) Company played OPFOR for this phase, forcing the Rifle Companies to react to a highly competent and aggressive enemy. For many soldiers – especially those VAISEC soldiers who had joined during the Covid pandemic – this provided the first time to train conventionally outside of a TORAL or RESCRIPT focus. It also allowed our latest crop of JNCOs to develop their command style under testing exercise conditions.

The Companies then came together for a Battlegroup phase, executing a further three missions around the STANTA training area. Although lift was provided by the Chinooks of 18 Squadron for one mission, most of the moves were conducted by foot at night, ensuring most Vikings had clocked up a couple of laps of the training area. This not only strengthened our fitness and resilience as a Light Role Battalion, but also allowed for Warfare Development (WARDEV) in areas including dispersal and GPS / radio-denied environments. A fully-manned Support Company ensured the Rifle Companies were well supported by a full suite of ISTAR capabilities.



For the final phase, the Battalion moved to Otterburn for a live-firing package. Progressing from grouping & zeroing, grenades and fire-team attack, through Section and Platoon (day and night) to CALFEX, the Vikings got to further hone their craft through a demanding LFTT package. The CALFEX again provided



LCpl Newton, C Company during the rural phase of Ex Viking Storm

the opportunity for junior soldiers and commanders to conduct attacks supported by live mortars, NLAW, GPMG SF and snipers – a first for many. The outcome of VIKING STORM has been as intended: a Light Role Infantry Battalion that has practised its core role of planning and executing tactical actions in a testing, warfighting scenario. As the Vikings prepare to move to Cyprus, the collective warfighting knowledge has been refreshed to ensure the Battalion remains sharp for whatever operational challenges await. The Vikings remain ready to make it happen.

2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

The Poachers Get Off to a Good Start in Africa



This month has seen great success for B (Leicestershire) Company, deployed on Op NEWCOMBE. The past weeks have centred around an operation they conducted, the first of its kind by UN forces in Mali, where they acted on intelligence they had gathered, moved into a village and seized AK47's, ammunition, fuel and radios hidden by a suspected jihadist cell. This excellent work by B Company, conducted through a sandstorm, shows the clear impact the troops deployed on Op NEWCOMBE are making. B Company have now started their handover to and look forward to returning to the UK over the coming weeks.

May has also seen A (Lincolnshire) Company complete the last of their Mission Specific Training and begin flying out to Mali to take over from B Company on Op NEWCOMBE. The Company Group, along with Battalion Head Quarters are now landing in Mali, ready to take the reins from the current Light Dragoons-led Task-group to which B Company are attached. Parts of A Company remaining in the UK throughout the tour have enjoyed weeks conducting pistol ranges as well as getting their heads back into the conventional side of the job!

D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company continue their deployment to Poland on Op CABRIT. This month has seen them deploy on a Battlegroup live fire exercise, working alongside our NATO counterparts from Romania, Croatia and of course Poland. This exercise saw the Anti-Tank Platoon have the great opportunity of firing a number of Javelin missiles. They also spent part of this exercise working with the Polish Territorial Defence Force (their equivalent of our Army Reserve), teaching them about Javelin and its capabilities, as well as working on sharing tactics and techniques.



Soldiers from B Company pose with the contents of an extremist organisations cache in Mali, after a successful cordon and search operation.



Some of the items found in the cache that was located through interaction with local villagers. Weapons, ammunition and radios were among the seized items.

C (Northamptonshire) Company and HQ (Rutland) Company are the two Companies who have remained based in Kendrew Barracks through May, but life for them has been far from quiet. This month saw them send a team down to the 7 Brigade shooting competition. It proved a great opportunity to come together as a Brigade, and there was some outstanding marksmanship across the board, in a wide variety of shoots.

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

7 Brigade Shooting Operational Competition

Well done to the 3 RANGLIAN Shooting Team who came Second in the recent 7 Brigade Operational Shooting Competition, held at Hythe Ranges.



Lt Musker, WO2 Chambers, CSgt Jones, CSgt Nash, LCpl Carter, Pte Lawson, Pte Bray and Pte Wilson

Other achievements were:

LCpl Carter was second place top firer and joint first in the Attack and Reorg shoot.

CSgt Jones won the Advanced Fleeting Encounter shoot.

Lt Mike Musker came joint first in the Fleeting Encounter.

The Steelbacks were also placed second overall team., we also had 3 individual firers placed in the top eight.

Ex EAGLE DAGGER



A combination of 1 and 3 Company took part in EAGLE DAGGER, a 3 Company organised exercise on STANTA Training Area. The aim of the weekend was for Fire Teams to revise/refresh their basics skills, then progress to focus on Section level skills and drills.

A great opportunity to shake off the lockdown cobwebs!



Overall, a very successful exercise with important lessons learned.

A Warm Welcome to the Royal Anglian Family

The CO & All Ranks of 3 Royal Anglian welcome the following newly attested Recruit to the Battalion, and to the wider Royal Anglian Family:



On Friday Private Zac Pycock became the first attestation in 4 (Lincolnshire) Company for the 21/22 training year. Zac, aged 29 from Scunthorpe initially joined the Regular Army in 2020 as a recruit in the Kings Division at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick. Unfortunately, Zac was unable to complete his basic training due to having family responsibilities. To his credit, Zac immediately decided to convert his regular service into a reserve application and was immediately accepted without a break in service.

Zac lives in Brigg, between Scunthorpe and Grimsby and travels in every Tuesday night for training. He studied for his GCSE's at Winterton Comprehensive and worked in security before joining the Army. Zac now works for Amberon, which sees him providing traffic management solutions throughout Lincolnshire.

In his spare time, Zac likes Mixed Martial Arts and other combat sports which makes him an ideal candidate for an Infantry soldier. Zac has an interesting connection with the Army as his sons grandfather is the battalions' Officer Commanding for Regimental Recruit Mentoring and Training. No pressure Zac and good luck with your time in 3 Royal Anglian.

Our Regimental Heritage

Royal Tigers' Day - 25 June 1825

17th of Foot, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment and Hindoostan



The regimental day of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment was, unusually, not connected with a battle but with the grant of an honorary distinction on 25 June 1825 when His Majesty King George IV was pleased to approve the 17th (Leicestershire) Regiment of Foot 'bearing on its Colours and appointments the figure of the "Royal Tiger", with the word "Hindoostan" superscribed, as a lasting testimony of the extemporary conduct of the corps during the period of its service in India, from the year 1804 to 1823'.

"...this distinction is commemorated today by its presence on the Regimental Colour and on the buttons worn by all ranks of the Regiment in formal dress".

This long period had involved a great deal of active service as British rule in India was consolidated and various lawless factions were brought under control, and the Regiment had been given much praise for its efficiency and discipline.

The grant of this distinction is commemorated today by its presence on the Regimental Colour and on the buttons worn by all ranks of the Regiment in formal dress. Although the day is not specifically marked by the 2nd Battalion, there is an annual reunion at Leicester in the form of Royal Tigers' Weekend.



Royal Anglian Regiment Museum

We are now fully open to visitors. The IWM has decided however to remain closed on Mondays and Tuesday except for school Holidays, so please get in contact if you are unsure of the timings and wish to visit on these dates. We have also put in the Operation Family case as well as a new object of the month for opening. If anyone wants to contribute to the Operation Family case you still can! We received the majority of stories from the 2nd battalion, so if any others, disbanded or current want to add anything, it will be very welcome!

As far as donations to the Museum are concerned, we received some archival items of Major French, as well as a donation of some Northamptonshire ties which have been interesting in themselves.

On May 22nd in 1986, Major Andrew French MBE was killed in action in in South Armagh. We thought it a fitting piece for the Regimental newsletter to have a piece to remember him as we just received a lot of letters of condolence from his family to archive at the Museum. There are many pictures and even a caricature of Andrew hanging on the office wall. As well many of the men who served with him have remembered this day to the museum and on social media. Saturday the 22nd we have also been in the museum and laid a cross on the memorial for him to honour his sacrifice. There are, of course, many servicemen who have given their lives and we will remember them all, but it struck a chord with the Museum having received a donation and so many reminders of this day to not let it pass without acknowledgement.



The Museum also recently received a call that collections from General Sir John Akehurst were going to be lots in an auction house in Wiltshire. Our trustees quickly jumped into action, deciding how much we could afford to spend, and what lots to go for. We hoped that we could preserve the history and gather relevant objects to remember and commemorate this man. Sadly, all the items went for far more than the estimate, and were beyond our budget. Melissa Kozlenko at: royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com

The Regimental Battlefield Tour 2021

The Regiment is planning to run the annual battlefield tour in Holland/Germany from Monday 6th – Friday 10th September this year. Obviously, while planning is well underway actual deployment come September will depend on C-19 regulations both here in the UK and across the Channel in France, Holland and Germany. Nevertheless, with the vaccination programme progressing well we are optimistic that the trip will go ahead and the hope is that a party of around 50 made up of serving and retired personnel will attend. In the event of cancellation all funds will be refunded.

The predicted cost will be in the region of £400 per person sharing a room, and nearer to £500 for those in single occupancy rooms. We have block booked a very comfortable hotel in Venray, but due to Brexit, and the current economic circumstances hotel and transport costs have risen somewhat. It is very much hoped that after the disappointing past year many old comrades will once again wish to come together to study the actions of our forebear regiments. At this stage an early indication of interest would be much appreciated by Major Tim Brown, the Area 2 Regimental Secretary, timothy.brown133@mod.gov.uk. A full Application Form will be sent out in due course.

Further Information will be circulated as soon as travel regulations are clarified.



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A percentage of all profits go to the Regimental Trust and is used to support the welfare and benevolence activities of the Regiment.

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The belt has PALS on the outside allowing any MOLLE items to be quickly attached giving you the option to wear just about anything on the belt.

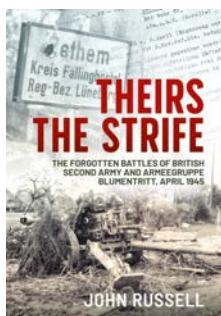
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Regimental Reading



THEIRS THE STRIFE

The Forgotten Battles of British Second Army and ArmeeGruppe Blumentritt, April 1945.

By John Russell

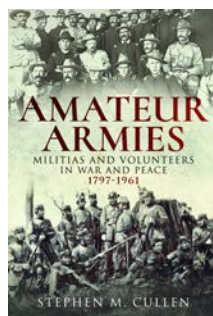
The fighting of last few weeks of World War 2 rarely generate more than a few cursory paragraphs beyond the monumental Soviet assault on Berlin. The operations of British Second Army normally quickly fade into the background beyond the well-choreographed images of Monty taking the German surrender on Luneburg Heath.

Well, that has all changed now with what is simply an outstanding history of the fighting of those final weeks on the banks of the Weser and the Aller rivers. John Russell has crafted a superb historical narrative that really does examine the hard fought fighting that went on right in the region up until the end of the war.

If you want to really understand the chronology, the geography, and the mindset of the combatants that gave this corner of the war its own particular ferocity, then this is a good source.

It is a great blend of in-depth research, lavish map coverage, and excellent photographs. Certainly a must have if you are considering walking the battlefields, or if you are looking for a somewhere to stage an interesting battlefield study. It would also be a good pre-deployment read if you are considering coming on the Regt Battlefield Tour.

Published by Helion & Company, Paperback,
pp502, RRP £29.95



AMATEUR ARMIES

Militias and Volunteers in War and Peace 1797 - 1961

By Stephen M. Cullen

This is a topical read, and a fascinating examination of the military and social history of 'Volunteer Armies' and their employment around the western world. Covering a century and a half of military campaigns, the subject militia and volunteer soldier's experiences range from the French landing in South Wales in 1797, to the use of Cuban exiles during the Bay of Pigs fiasco of 1961. There is also a detailed look at the mindset of the British volunteer soldier during the Boer Wars.

Although described as Amateur Armies the narrative highlights the effectiveness and increasing importance of Reservists, Militiamen, Volunteers, and Territorials as technology and the cost of maintaining a modern army escalates through history.

A series of chapters focus on a some very different wars in which militia forces played a critical role. The demographics and merits of each type of force are examined, as are the social and political circumstances under which they each operated.

The contrasting operational performances, effectiveness, and the variety of roles in which they were employed makes for a thought-provoking read. Certainly a relevant backdrop to today's debate on the expanding and increasingly diverse role of our own reservists within the future Army structure.

Published by Pen & Sword Ltd, Hardback,
pp215, RRP £19.99