



Royal Anglian *News*



Cover Image: Aggressive Poaching - Maj Jamie Powell, OC, B Coy, explores the Bayonet Lane.

REGIMENTAL NEWS



3rd Battalion - Change of Command



Lieutenant Colonel Adam Wolfe MBE, on his last day of Regimental Duty, handed over Command of the 3rd Battalion to Lieutenant Colonel David Hagger, following an audience with the Colonel in Chief, the Duke of Gloucester on Thursday, 7 April 2022.

Lieutenant Colonel Wolfe was subsequently dined out at the Farmers Club, Bury St Edmunds that evening.

Regimental Band Grand Charity Concert in Bury St Edmunds - Saturday, 14 May 2022



Captain Peter Hudson will step down from his role as Director of Music after the Concert in May

The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment will perform a Grand Charity Concert on Saturday 14th May in St Mary's Church Bury St Edmunds starting at 3pm.

Entrance will be FREE and open to all, with a retiring collection for charity. The concert will include a full programme of solos, a Jubilee celebration, and a selection of foot tapping music, leaving you time to go on into Bury St Edmunds for post concert dinner and a few drinks with your friends from the regiment.

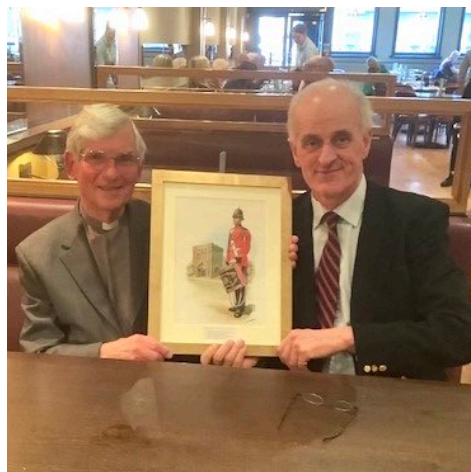
Royal Anglian Cricket is Back!



On Friday 15th July, a Royal Anglian XI will play a 20:20 cricket match against the Barmy Army at Cambridge University Cricket Ground, Fenner's, Cambridge. This event was last held in summer 19. It attracted sizeable crowds and interest, as well as raising a significant amount of money for the Royal Anglian Benevolence Fund. Any interested players are kindly requested to get in touch with Capt Sam King –

samuel.king125@mod.gov.uk

Farewell to Our Assistant Honorary Chaplain for Suffolk



We have just recently had the sad occasion of saying goodbye to our Assistant Honorary Chaplain for Suffolk the Revd Geoff Brown.

Geoff was presented with a regimental print by the Regimental Secretary with the regiments thanks and best wishes. Geoff sent a lovely thank you letter which contained the following words:

“It has been a real privilege to have served and ministered as part of the regiment. I feel most honoured to have been asked to be an Assistant Honorary Chaplain. The duty has been light and the pleasure great, and I lay it down sadly.” Geoff is moving to the Salisbury area to be near family and we wish him a happy and rewarding retirement.

Free Day Out - Combat Paintball Invites the Royal Anglian Regt Family

On Monday, 2 May 22, Lazertag have invited members of the Royal Anglian family for a free day of Archery, Lazertag, and Air Rifle shooting - Timings are 10-1500 hours. Please contact them on 01842 768112 to book your family in for fun!



Letters to the Editor



The Impressive Memorial Gates at the Anglia Motel, Fleet, near Spalding

Credit where Credit is Due

Dear Sir,

Picture taken by Alan Cole at the Anglia Motel, Fleet, Spalding, and, thanks must go to Mr Harold Payne who is responsible for this impressive memorial. Harold has raised many thousands of pounds for The Royal Anglian Benevolent Funds over the years. His present crusade is displaying his military collection in aid of Ukraine. Over the years he has also been instrumental in taking the Dunkirk Veterans back to Dunkirk for their re-unions.

It would be greatly appreciated if, an article could be written along with the attached photo to be included in a Castle magazine. When I published this on Facebook on the Viking Veterans Association, Bob Grenfell remarked how humble Harold is, he does not seek the limelight and has raised in excess of £100K plus for Benevolent Fund. This would be a small recognition of his efforts.

Alan Cole, Viking 1962 - 1971

Cold War Combat2Coffee

Dear Sir,

I was reading my copy of The Castle, and was very interested to read about Combat 2Coffee. The reason I was interested is because I believe that I was the first person to start such a scheme, when my husband Major General Dick Gerrard-Wright, was CO of the 2nd Bn, The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1970-72. The

battalion was stationed in Munster, and were about to be sent on their second unaccompanied tour to Northern Ireland. The NAAFI was in the barracks, and a bus brought the wives from their various "patches" into the barracks, where they did their shopping. But once they had done their shopping, they had to hang around on the steps, rain or shine, and wait for the bus to come back.

I thought to myself how nice it would be for them to have somewhere to go, maybe have a cup of coffee, and wait for the bus. I suggested this to my husband, who thought it was a good idea, and a very suitable room was quite close to the NAAFI. Unfortunately it was the canteen of the German workmen, who were understandably reluctant to give it up. However, they finally agreed, on the strict agreement that they could have it back when the men returned.

So, it was swept and redecorated, and opened as the Poacher's Teapot, and of course was a roaring success! We had the families officer, and the SSAFA sister on hand, so the wives could discuss any problems, and it made so much money, we were able to provide free telephone calls for the wives to their husbands in Northern Ireland!

In fact, it was such a success that I'm afraid the German workmen never got their canteen back!

So Good Luck to Combat2Coffee, I'm sure it will be a great success too!

Yours sincerely

Sue Gerard-Wright



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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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1st Battalion (The Vikings)



Cpl Jamie Lake Breaking Cover

Exercise Ares Storm

During March The Vikings deployed on Exercise ARES STORM, a company and battlegroup level exercise held in the training areas of the Western Sovereign Base Area. The training areas are well known for their steep re-entrants, thick gorse bushes and rocky features. The exercise allowed soldiers from A (Norfolk) Company and C (Essex) Company as well as those from Corruna Company, 2 YORKS, to test themselves across four distinct missions. After the initial deployment and shake out the companies rotated through three challenging 48 hour company group lanes focussed on key point defence, advance to contact and raids.

Defence is rarely trained and tested in the Army so this lane provided an excellent opportunity for commander and soldiers to get to grips with the discipline and effort required when in defensive positions.

Sniper Platoon played the enemy bringing their long range precision fire to bear presenting commanders with difficult decisions to make in order to hold the position. Whilst not being allowed to dig trenches on the area may seem like a blessing for exercising troops, the reality was that instead they had to adapt and improvise defences building them out of limited defence stores and items they could find on the training area such as trees and rocks.

The raid was focussed on each company delivering an intelligence led assault into Paramalli village to destroy a specific objective before withdrawing back into the night. Recce patrols deployed 24hrs ahead of the companies to find weaknesses in the defences, a difficult job made all the more difficult by Anti-Tank platoon being deployed forward in OPs with their Command Launch Units providing excellent optics. To further enhance the defences they were equipped with night time nature cameras which were used to effectively picquet other approaches. The following night a raid was launched into the village to destroy the identified objective. Each company took a different approach based on the information provided by the recce platoon. Whilst ultimately all were successful each had different frictions to work through as the raid developed.

The final company lane was the advance to contact, a gruelling day on hard terrain which saw each company clear a steep sided spur before advancing on to clear a main defended area. On this lane the soldiers of B (Suffolk) Company put up a stiff fight using multiple fallback positions in conjunction with

built up bunkers. As the companies pushed forward they encountered more complex terrain and more complex defences to overcome. The final position was difficult to

The final phase of the exercise saw the battlegroup concentrate before launching a deliberate attack to clear Paramalli Village. Recce and snipers departed 24hrs in advance to destroy the enemy's screen forces before finding forming up points and fire support locations for the companies. Corunna Company cleared the high feature to the west of Paramalli Village, whilst A Company (after an extremely tough insertion across a sheer ravine!) cleared the ground to the north east. That left C Company to attack into the village and complete the destruction of the enemy.



MG Gunners from D (Cambridgeshire) Coy observe their Arcs from Defensive Positions

A challenging and worthwhile exercise for The Vikings. Whilst we expect the temperature to start increasing for summer now, nobody expected it to be colder here than in the UK! The Vikings now look forward to Easter leave before embracing the opportunities that Cyprus has to offer over the summer months.



Soldiers from C (Essex) Coy Clear the Village

2nd Battalion (The Poachers)



B (Leicestershire) Company - on Exercise



B (Leicestershire) Company, meanwhile, have been exercising in Warcop throughout March. A training package designed to ensure we could maintain our required training standards for the rest of the year; it was also an opportunity to begin to increase the complexity of the live fire training for the Company.



All ranges integrated our Foxhound vehicles, but also included armoured targets, casualties, mutually supporting enemy positions and a 'live' higher command drip feeding ISR updates and orders.

It also gave the soldiers of B Company a chance to develop Platoon and Section SOP's, as well as develop driver training, utilising the off-road driver training area in Catterick. The Foxhound gives the Company the ability to be highly mobile across the battlefield, even if it does sometimes mean digging the vehicles out of deep mud!

C (Northamptonshire) Company - Multicultural Visits

This month, soldiers from C (Northamptonshire) Company took part in a multi-cultural visit programme around the local community to educate those serving in the company about the different faiths that serve in the Battalion, and across the Army. It was also a chance to conduct training which would build upon the core values of the Army.

Soldiers from C Company were joined by the CO and RSM, as well as DCFA, Maj Gen Celia Harvey, for a day which involved visits to a Mosque, Gurdwara (Sikh) and a Hindu Temple. They were also joined by a local Police Community Support Officer.

The visit was aimed at helping soldiers understand the different religions. They had the chance to engage with key religious figures at each place of worship. Whilst being held at readiness at the UK Stand-By battalion, this was also a chance to improve religious knowledge and awareness to help serve communities better if the UK Standby Battalion (UKSB) is called upon.



Soldiers of C Company offered food by a member of the Sikh Gurdwaras

For many, this was the first time they had ever visited any places of worship. The soldiers of C Company learned a lot and created strong bonds with the people from the local community and Leicestershire Police.

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)



Exercise Steelback Ski 2022

31 Personnel deployed from across 3 Royal Anglian to Neustift, Austria in March to take part in Ski Foundation 1 and 2 Training at the Stubai Glacier Ski Area.



A quick change to DFDS Ferries, on the very day P&O sacked its workers, meant that the Advance Party was able to get to Neustift on time with the Main Body Arriving two days later to start their 5 Day Courses.

Seventeen students commenced their Ski Foundation 1 course on the Monday, with another 8 commencing Ski Foundation Two.

On Monday, 21 Mar, the CO joined the group for a few days Skiing under the direction of Capt Neil Johnson, our Regimental Careers Management Office. Fortunately, he sustained no injuries on one of his last engagements before handing over Command of the battalion. All 25 Students passed their element of Ski course, and hopefully will move onto further ski courses next season.



Pte Pirecy (2 Company), OCdt Mark Johnson (5 Company), Cpl Simon Whitworth (16 Med Regt), Major Pete Witkowski (QM), Pte Kearnu Stapleton (2 Company), OCdt Ollie Horton (2 Company), Pte Jack Storey (1 Company), Pte Jay Lawson (3 Company).

Almanza Day - 25 Apr 1707

The War of the Spanish Succession, which lasted from 1701 to 1714, was brought about by disagreement between the European nations over who should succeed King Charles II of Spain, who had died in 1700 with no clear heir. Had the French candidate been accepted, the thrones, and empires, of France and Spain would have been united, tilting the global balance of power.



To prevent this, England formed an alliance with the Dutch Republic, Portugal and others to promote the Austrian candidate. In 1707 an Allied force under the Earl of Galway was in South East Spain, aiming to march on Madrid. It encountered a far superior French and Spanish force at Almanza, which Galway decided to attack on the morning of 25th April. At first things went well, as the assault developed on the Allied left, and in the centre, the Portuguese troops on the right, however failed to follow up, and were subsequently driven off by French cavalry. This left the flank of the advance exposed and the bulk of the allied force was soon overrun. It was only by some gallant rearguard action that part of the force, hardly more than a quarter of those originally committed to the battle, was able to withdraw.

Stuart's Regiment of Foot, later to become the 9th (East Norfolk) Regiment of Foot, performed with conspicuous gallantry in this rearguard action, and took heavy casualties. As Almanza was a significant defeat, no battle honour was awarded. However, it is believed that as a result of its conduct there, Queen Anne granted the regiment the right to wear Britannia. The badge was certainly in use by the Regiment later in the 18th Century. Although, the first official record that can be traced is a letter of 30th July 1799 'confirming' the Regiment's right to it, and it is on the Regt Colour to this day. Blood's Regiment of Foot, later to become the 17th (Leicestershire) Regiment of Foot, also took part in the battle of Almanza, with almost the entire regiment being killed or captured.

Almanza Day used to be celebrated by the Royal Norfolk Regiment, but on formation of the 1st East Anglian Regiment in 1959 the custom rather fell into disuse. It is however marked today by the 1st Battalion.



The Battle of Almanza - 25 April 1707, Painting by Ricardo Balaca

Royal Anglian Heritage



The Rededication of the Graves of Four Great War Soldiers of the Leicestershire Regiment in Flanders



A party of six from the 2nd Battalion travelled to Ypres 21-23 March to conduct a series of services to rededicate the graves of four members of the 1/4th and 1/5th Battalions of the Leicestershire Regiment at Reservoir Cemetery, Ypres.

The first service was held for Lance Serjeant (LSjt) Edward Leonard Cottrell and Serjeant (Sjt) Joseph Frank Brookes Birkin whilst the second was to honour Lance Corporal (LCpl) Wilfred Horace Miller and LCpl Arthur Burton. The four soldiers had no known graves since tragically losing their lives in 1915, however, due to the collective efforts of the MOD JCCC and CWGC following evidence submitted, their final resting places have now been found over a century later.

The services were supported by the Royal Anglian Regiment and were conducted by the Reverend (Captain) Thomas Wilde, CF, Chaplain to the Royal Anglian Regiment, who said: "When you give a soldier a name you give them meaning, a history and a voice."

The graves have now been marked by headstones provided by the CWGC, and it was wonderful that members of both the Birkin and Miller families were able to join us to pay their final respects, and also to witness the Last Post ceremony conducted at the Menin Gate.

Fergus Read, CWGC Case Officer (Commemorations), said:

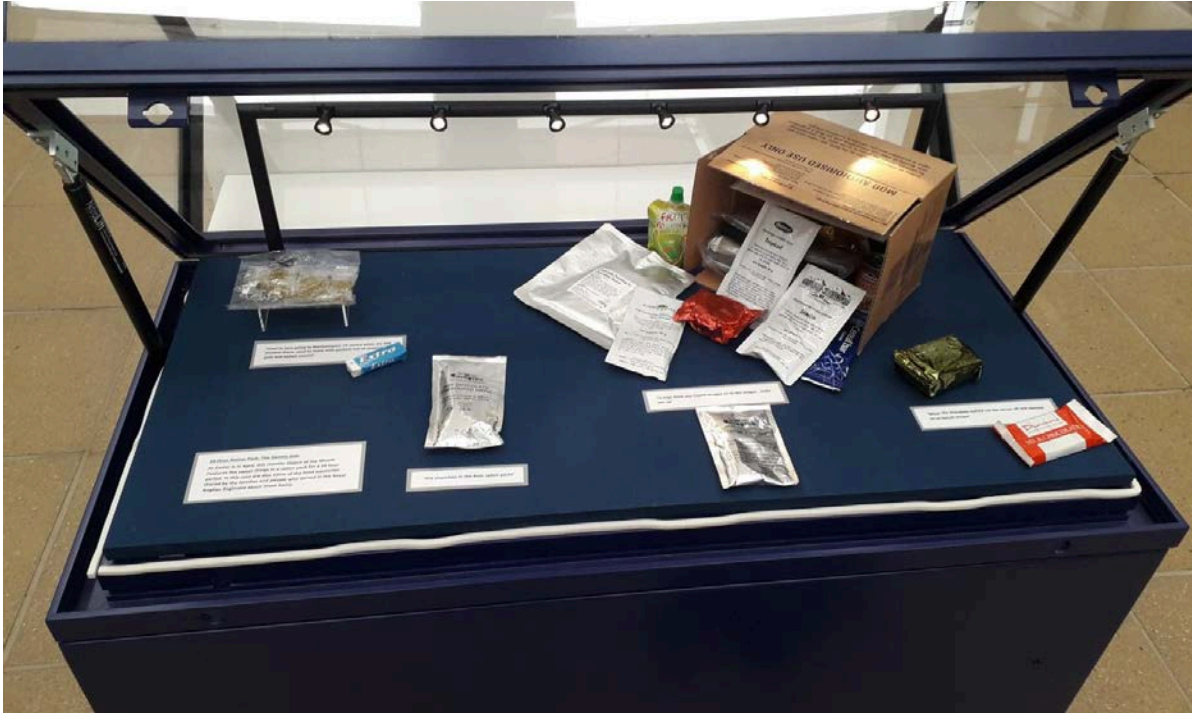
"It is always immensely satisfying when we are able to put a name on any headstone. Here, the research for one case helped us to unlock the names of those buried in a further three graves. It is the Commission's privilege to be part of the work to identify the last resting places of these casualties, and to care for their graves in perpetuity."

On the final morning the party travelled to France to conduct a blessing service for Lance Corporal Wilfred Horace Jones, 1st Bn, Leicestershire Regiment at CWGC Guillemont Road.

Royal Anglian Regiment Museum



This month we have been preparing for the Easter school holidays and adding some quizzes about chocolate rations and a chocolate theme for the object of the month case. We have also been in the museum again with handling collection items.



We have also been successful at a grant to develop some science based activities using the handling collection to explore how things work. This is a new development for the museum, and it presents a learning curve, so watch this space! We are hoping to use these items in a fun way at event days, but also to teach some National Curriculum learning.

While in the museum for school holidays, there was a chance to meet a Suffolk Regiment veteran who was visiting. His name was Cecil, and he was telling me about landing on D-Day, and his Army service. It's these hidden gems that happen that make the time spent on outreach so special.

We are still preparing the Mali motorcycle for installation in the Land Warfare hall. The bike is getting around the IWM site, as it needs a more stable stand for safety. It spent a small amount of time parked in the office on its travels.

Finally, we have finally been able to put our handling section back out in the museum. It has been a long time coming, but with Covid, we have been restricted in what we can offer. But ourselves and the IWM have put it back, there are notices to sanitise and there are stations to do so at the entrance as well. Happy to see it back and I hope the kids enjoy it, and the big kids are here too.

You can contact our Curator, Melissa Kozlenko at:
royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com

OUR AFFILIATED CADETS



Beds & Herts ACF Training Again!



Late April 2021 saw pandemic restrictions lift allowing Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force to once again begin face to face training. Royal Anglian cadets were some of the first to return to detachments, eager to return to cadet activities, many had taken part in virtual training over zoom during lockdown, but the physical elements had been greatly missed!

Starting off as non-residential training, by June further lifting of restrictions saw a return to weekend residential training at the cadet training centre at Bassingbourn. Junes also saw a return to supporting Armed Forces Day, with Letchworth and Royston detachments attending the event held in Letchworth. July saw the image of Cadet Sergeant Gaby of Bishops Stortford detachment taken on a Combat Cadet Training weekend pre Covid selected to appear in the 2022 Calendar for the ABF charity. August saw a very different annual camp, run as a non-residential, with two days of Adventurous Training at Bassingbourn and two days company training at home stations.

September saw a welcome return to more community events, representing both the Royal Anglians and the Army Cadet Force at fetes as well as local litter picks, and also the regimental day at Duxford. Cadets and adult volunteers have been recognised for their actions in the local communities, with Beds & Herts ACF receiving over 106 first aid awards since 2016, two awards for Cadet Sergeant Gaby and Sergeant



Oliver who during the Bishops Stortford Remembrance Parade used their banners as screens when a British Royal Legion Standard bearer collapsed after a Cardiac arrest, who thankfully made a full recovery.

2022 has started well, with Cadets continuing to get back into the swing of training, working hard to progress in the new Army Cadet Syllabus. 2022 has also seen Royal Anglian cadets as part of the Combat Cadet team, who have just returned for the 7th Infantry Brigade run event as Silver Medal winners. Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Cadets will continue to take pride in their affiliation with the Royal Anglian regiment and continue to set the highest standards for others to emulate.





Regimental Bulletins Register

Regimental Bulletin Number 209 - Dated 14 Mar 22 - Notice - Regt Newsletter March 22

Regimental Bulletin Number 210 - Dated 15 Mar 22 - Notice Combined Veterans Rugby

Regimental Bulletin Number 211 - Dated 17 Mar 22 - CCF SSI Instructor Post Job Advert

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-22 - Dated 30 Mar 22 - Notice of Death - Capt (Retd) Steven Bowns

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-23 - Dated 30 Mar 22 - Notice of Death - Andrew (Jock) Appleton

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-24 - Dated 31 Mar 22 - Notice of Death - Colonel Dick Shevington

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-25 - Dated 5 Apr 22 - Notice of Death - Alexander Mitchell

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-26 - Dated 5 Apr 22 - Notice of Death - Jan Wilkins

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-27 - Dated 5 Apr 22 - Notice of Regt Services in Norfolk 2022

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-28 - Dated 7 Apr 22 - Royal Anglian Regt, Band Concert 14 May 2022

Death of Major John Hutchings

RHQ regrets to inform readers of the death of Major John Hutchings who died on Saturday 10th July aged 86. He had been suffering from dementia for several years.

John was commissioned into the Essex Regiment, then based in Hong Kong in 1955. Following a tour at the Regimental Depot in Warley he re-joined the Battalion, now 1st Battalion The 3rd East Anglian Regiment serving with them in Dortmund, Warley and Malaya. Subsequent postings included the Depot in Bury St Edmunds, and HQ 48 Bde before he attended the Royal Naval Staff College, Greenwich in 1967. From there he went to AFCENT, the Trucial Oman Scouts, 3 RRF as a Company Commander and MOD before retiring from the Army in 1977. He then joined the Dubai Defence Force before working for 6 years for the Port Authority of Jebel Ali. On return to England he became Secretary of the Essex Agricultural Society. In retirement he was for many years a Trustee of The Essex Regiment Museum.

Letters of condolence may be sent to Mrs JE Hutchings, Fishers, Castle Hedingham, Halstead, Essex CO9 3EW.

Editor's Note - This notice is posted in the RAN as it was unintentionally omitted from the latest issue of Castle Magazine.



London Gazette

The following entries relevant to the Regiment were listed in The London Gazette 07 Mar 2022:

Regular Commissions (Late Entry)

Major C Hopkin 25031059 from Intermediate Regular Commission (Late Entry) 4 November 2021 to be Major with Seniority 31 July 2021

Captain (Acting Major) S D Graham 25036887 from Intermediate Regular Commission (Late Entry) 4 November 2021 to be Captain with seniority 2 May 2016

Intermediate Regular Commissions

Captain A Clancy 30185765 from Short Service Commission 4 November 2021 to be Captain with seniority 13 August 2019.

Captain T P Lister 30232634 from Short Service Commission 4 November 2021 to be Captain with seniority 16 April 2019.



Cadet Standard Bearers from Beds & Herts ACF, proud Members of the Royal Anglian Family

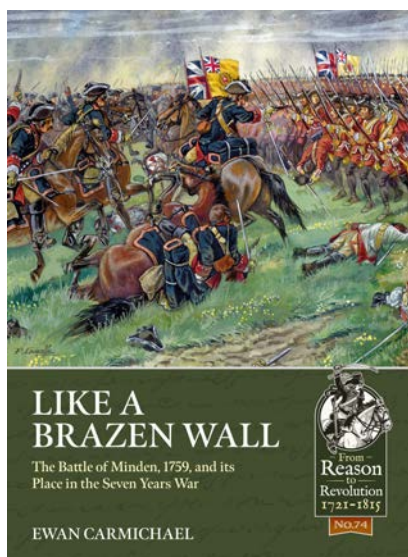
Regimental Reading



LIKE A BRAZEN WALL

The Battle of Minden, 1759, and its Place in the Seven Years War

By Ewan Carmichael



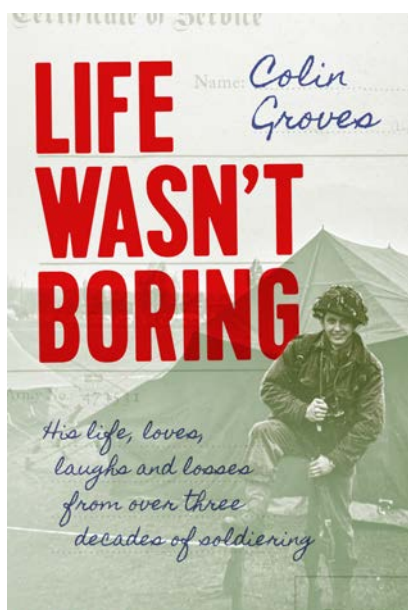
The battle of Minden features prominently in several British regimental histories, and rightly so, it was a significant chapter in the Seven Years War. Although much has been written about the battle, this new history is both refreshing, and timely. It is a little over the price that might be anticipated for a paperback, however, the quality of the work is outstanding! The campaign narrative, maps, photographs, and conclusions are all to the highest standard. This really is an exceptional piece of work, that gives the reader an informed insight into the strategic context of the battle, the conduct of the campaign at operational level, and the tactical reality of warfighting in 1759. One of the best new books of the year so far.

Published by Helion & Company, Paperback, pp265, RRP £35.00,

LIFE WASN'T BORING

His Life, Loves, Laughs and Losses from over Three Decades of Soldiering

By Colin Groves



The latest addition to the RHQ reference library is this honest, and often humorous reflection on life as an Infantry Officer during the retreat from empire, and the Cold War years. The author's narrative bears out the premise of the title, they were certainly busy times. Chapters capture the 'feel' of operations in Aden and Northern Ireland, as well as the rhythm of life as a Royal Anglian Officer exercising on the Northern Plains of West Germany. I found this to be a relaxing, and enjoyable read that really did capture the mood of the times. The highly personal highs, lows, and aspirations described will resonate with many readers I am sure. A recommended read.

Published By Uniform Ltd, Hardback, pp 320 RRP £30.00