



Royal Anglian *News*



Cover Image: Street-fighting Steelbacks, the 3rd Battalion have been busy honing their OBUA skills over the winter months.

(Credit Trig Point Pictures)



REGIMENTAL NEWS

2nd Battalion Receive Op Newcombe Medals

The 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, A (Lincolnshire) Company started their PDT for Op NEWCOMBE 2 18 months ago. After the best part of a year on courses, ranges and exercises, A Company deployed to the harsh conditions of the Sahel in West Africa. By early December 21, A Company was complete back in the UK, and home on Post Operational Tour Leave leave.



On their return from leave the company was quickly back at regimental duties, hitting the drill square hard in anticipation for the upcoming medals parade.

The medals parade was held outside the Officers' Mess with Lieutenant General R W Wooddisse CBE MC, Commander Field Army, and Colonel of the Regiment as the inspecting officer.

It was the first time the whole Task Group had been together since returning from Mali, it was a good turn out and an even better day. Families from all over the country came to see and support their loved ones. It was obvious how proud they were of their sons, daughters, husbands and wives during the parade.

After the parade the Officers and WOs' & Sgts' Mess opened for food and drinks, families, and soldiers of all ranks were welcome. A great end to a good day. The parade marked the end of Op NEWCOMBE ROTO 2 and the start of the next journey for A Company.

Brigadier Guy Foden Assumes Command of 7 Brigade



The Regiment warmly congratulates Brigadier Guy Foden on his recent promotion, and his appointment as Commander 7 Brigade.

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

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.



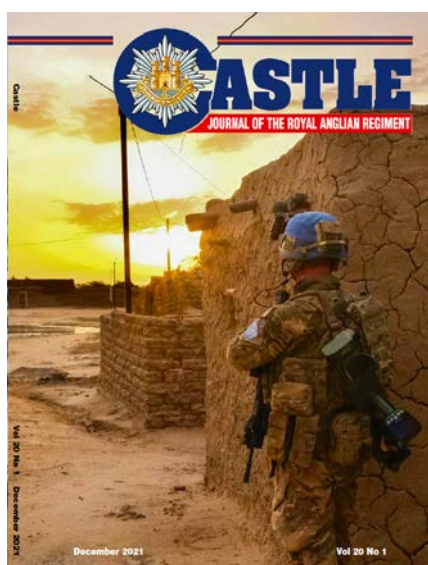
Captain Peter Hudson will step down from his role as Director of Music after the Concert in May

MOBBS MEMORIAL RUGBY MATCH – WED 13th APRIL 2022

RHQ is delighted that after a two year interval the Mobbs Memorial Rugby Match will take place on the evening of Wednesday 13th April 2022 at Franklin's Garden, home of Northampton Saints for whom Edgar Mobbs played prior to the Great War. This year's match will feature the British Army XV vs East Midlands XV. C (Northamptonshire) Company will be sending a contingent of serving personnel along with vehicles and weapons with which they deployed to Mali last year, which will form a static stand in the "Village" prior to the match. All serving and retired personnel enjoy concessionary rates for entry to the ground on production of an ID Card/Veterans card/Regimental Association card.

RHQ has reserved two tables in the Sponsors' Lounge, where a three course meal will be provided as well as your Match Ticket. Cost is likely to be in the region of £40 per head. Anyone interested in joining on this basis should send notification to the Area 2 Regimental Secretary, Major Tim Brown, timothy.brown133@mod.gov.uk

If anyone wishes to put together their own table please let Tim know as soon as possible.



Castle Magazine 2021 - Distribution Delay

Apologies from RHQ to those R Anglian Association members who are eagerly awaiting delivery of the latest Castle Magazine. Unfortunately our planned delivery date has been delayed until early March.

The bumper 2021 edition of the regimental journal has been printed, but it is currently delayed at the printers due to Covid related staff shortages.

Any further updates will be posted on the Regimental Website and on our Social Media channels.



Band Bids Farewell to Cpl Julian Blackman

On Sunday 20th February the band said goodbye to Cpl Julian Blackman who is retiring from the band after 21 years' service. Prior to enlisting into the Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment, Julian had served for 22 years with the Royal Air Force Music Services. Julian will be very much missed after such long and dedicated service.

Captain Pete Hudson, the Director of Music, thanked Julian, and presented him with a hand engraved regimental clock.

1st Battalion (The Vikings)



Ex VIKING SHEILD – Public Order Training



A (Norfolk) Company dealing with an incoming Petrol Bomb

During January The vikings conducted Public Order training to re-validate as part of their commitment to the Regional Standby Battalion. All three rifle companies, and support company underwent a testing three day package to hone their skills. As always the civilian population drawn from other companies put the exercising troops through their paces. The training package went back to basics as some soldiers had never conducted public order training before. Starting with the basics of how equipment is worn and simple shield drill the accelerated learning package saw companies conducting night clearances two days later. All companies ended the package having successfully validated for a further 12 months. Whilst a key training requirement to be the Regional Standby Battalion, the training is also important as we look to our second year in Cyprus when we will assume responsibilities as the Cyprus Operations Battalion.

Mortars Cadre

The New Year has seen the Viking Mortar Platoon dive straight into their annual cadre. A new intake of soldiers from across the battalion has seen 11 potential mortar men nominated to attempt the Cadre. This year the Cadre is split into three distinct phases. The first will be three weeks of introducing and teaching the soldiers how to operate the 81mm Mortar, a complex weapon that requires three soldiers to carry, set up and fire. This first phase will culminate with the students being required to successfully pass the Weapon Handling Test.



The ever versatile 81mm Mortar in action

For the second “tactics” phase the soldiers will deploy out to the Western Sovereign Base Area training areas, a rough area with plenty of rocky terrain to test the soldiers physically and tactically. Here they will be taught and tested on the tactics required to operate as a Mortar Platoon covering a broad spectrum of actions. A new experience for all these soldiers, made particularly arduous with the weight that they will be expected to carry – often upwards of 50kg across the rocky terrain!

The final phase is due to be conducted later in May, it will involve the live firing element required to certify the new soldiers as Mortar men. They will deploy to Salisbury Plain to undergo a comprehensive live firing package. An exciting opportunity where they will witness for the first time the heaviest firepower available organically within a Light Role Infantry Battalion.

The Viking Anti-Tank Platoon NLAW Firing

Whilst in Sunny Cyprus the opportunity to Live Fire for the Viking Anti-Tank Platoon is limited but the Platoon was lucky enough to conduct some NLAW (Next Generation Light Anti-Tank Weapon) firing on Pyla ranges earlier this month.

The range is set looking out to the ocean with several tank hulls and Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) targets. Two firing points were selected to allow the members of the platoon to practice firing in different attacks modes. The NLAW has two attack modes; OTA (Overfly Top Attack) and DA (Direct Attack). Depending on range, and type of target the firer will decide which mode to fire the weapon in. Both targets were at a range of about 350-400m; one was an old tank hull and another was an APC.

The Platoon had 7 missiles to fire and all those selected to fire, had never fired the NLAW before. The firing point was on a hill that looked down on to the targets, the sun was shining with a light wind. This made for perfect conditions to fire.



LCpl Jack Elgood engages with NLAW under the watchful eye of Sgt Mark Sellors

Although, NLAW is prone to error due to the fact it predicts where the missile should impact based on the tracking movements made by the user, the platoon were crack shots on the day, firing 7 missiles and striking all targets. One member of the Platoon had only been with the Platoon a week so was already proving his worth. Overall, a fantastic opportunity to Live Fire that the Anti-Tank Platoon enjoyed. Hopefully will have the opportunity for more firing in the future.

1st Battalion Inter-Company Boxing Evening - 24 Feb 22

The Vikings are excited to announce that the annual inter-company boxing night is back in full swing this year - and it is set to be better than ever! After a challenging six-week training camp, boxers from each company will be going head to head to see who has the skill in the ring to be victorious. Soldiers have been training 2-3 times a day, and will have preliminary bouts to qualify to fight in the finals. Each Company has held sparring sessions with boxing coaches to develop the boxers technical ability. Fitness training programmes have been created by the battalion PTIs to ensure that all are ready to enter the ring and fight.

So, why will it be better than ever? After being unable to stage the tournament last year, the battalion is determined to go above and beyond the normal high standards to host a truly memorable evening. The Gym will be set up for the night with a boxing ring, two large TV screens will show pre-bout videos, there will be a podium for the fighters, and indoor fireworks all add to the charged pre-fight atmosphere. A TV Production Company will be streaming the event beyond Cyprus on the Regimental Youtube channel.

Live coverage of the evening will commence from 1700 hours GMT - Links to the stream will be available on the Regimental Website and on our Social Media feeds.

We are looking forward to the evening with the Royal Anglian family, Good Luck to the Fighters!

2nd Battalion (ThePoachers)



The 2nd Battalion Exercises its Freedom of the City of Lincoln

On 4 February, the 2nd Battalion, 'The Poachers' were honoured to exercise the Freedom of the city of Lincoln. The Freedom for the Battalion dates back to 1997, and the parade was one of the first ceremonial events for the Battalion in recent years. The Freedom gives the Battalion the honour to march through the City with 'bayonets fixed, colours flying and drums beating'.



The Battalion marching down the High Street, led by The Poacher

Some long and cold periods of drill the week before under the instruction of WO I (RSM) John Rawdon prepared everyone well for the parade. On the morning of the parade, some 300 soldiers from the Battalion arrived in Sobraon Barracks in Lincoln to change and conduct some final preparation. Forming up in St Martins Square, the faces that had the week before looked with longing to get off the drill square, were suddenly excited and proud.

The Battalion marched down the High Street and into the Corn Exchange in the centre of the city, led by the Poacher, Sgt Kyle Wallis. The Battalion was inspected by the Mayor of Lincoln, Brigadier Olly Brown, and the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire. Brigadier Brown addressed the parade and congratulated the Battalion for achieving so much over the last year. Among much else, the Battalion has completed two back-to-back tours of Mali, committed a company to Op CABRIT in Poland and deployed the Machine Gun Platoon to Afghanistan.



WO2 (CSM) Dan Tanner awaiting inspection with D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company



The Mayor and the Lord Lieutenant share a joke with Lt Rory Smith

The battalion marched off to the music of 'The Lincolnshire Poacher' and a resounding round of applause from the sizeable audience that had gathered in the city centre. Veterans, families, friends and civilians had all gathered to watch the parade and it meant a lot to everyone from the Battalion.



Bayonets fixed, Colours flying, and Drums Beating, the 2nd Battalion on the March!

B Company held at readiness for warfighting and COVID support

B (Leicestershire) Company has remained busy and active since returning from Mali, being held at very high readiness as a Light Mechanised Infantry Company aligned against several potential overseas deployments at short notice.

Concurrently, they supported the NHS over the Christmas period; a valuable opportunity to work with other public sector colleagues and learn from one another. B Company will continue to be held at very high readiness and is beginning a cycle of re-qualifying and re-validating to ensure that we are ready to meet any operational challenge, be that overseas or supporting UK resilience.

Poachers Visit the Princeton Battlefield

B (Leicestershire) Company represented the Regiment in Princeton, USA, to commemorate the 245th anniversary of the Battle of Princeton during the American Revolution. The event took place on the 2nd of January 2022 and comprised a re-enactment and commemoration of the Battle of Princeton. A key battle which signalled a turning point for George Washington's forces in the War of Independence.

The battle is poignant for the Poachers, and particularly B (Leicestershire) Coy, because the 17th of Foot (predecessors of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment that merged to form the Second Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment) were venerated after the battle for breaking the American lines with repeated bayonet charges, in spite of being vastly outnumbered by the forces of Generals Mercer and Washington. The battle honour for this demonstration of courage and bravery is still worn on our regimental dress today as



the unbroken wreath that surrounds our buttons.

The commemoration was also attended by modern representatives of the US Army Units that fought in the Battle and provided a real opportunity to engage with modern day allies who we once took the field to fight against, building relationships that will last into the future.

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)



Steelback Recruits Join the Battalion



Three Steelback soldiers completed their Basic Training and passed out of Army Training Regiment (Grantham) in January.

Lieutenant Colonel Adam Wolfe MBE inspected the passing out parade stating; "It was an absolute privilege for me as Commanding Officer of the Steelbacks to see these three soldiers passing out from their Basic Training, ready to embark on their trade training as combat infantrymen, and as a medic.

They are the very first of 2022! Soon they will be ready to deploy on operations when the call comes! Congratulations to Pte Maurice Gedney on earning Champion Recruit for his Company.



Into the New Year with a Bang - The 3rd Battalion got stuck into some OBUA Training.

Members of the Assault Pioneer Platoon, 2 Royal Anglian paired with 2 Company, 3 Royal Anglian to conduct joint training



The 3 Royal Anglian Assault Pioneer Section are expected to provide Individual Augmentees to reinforce their regular counterparts in times of crisis.

This pairing arrangement forms part of the Army's wider pairing arrangement between Regular and Reserve Units.



The 3rd Battalion has had to a busy start to 2022, we are ready for a challenging year.

(Credit Trig point Pictures)

Our Regimental Heritage



Frank Snape DCM Medals Group Presented to Museum

Frank Snape was an acting Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment during the battle of Monte Cassino in May 1944. During the battle he earned the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for gallantry. An extract from his citation reads:

6501. Wt. AS 807/465. 6011. 2/43.
5507. Wt. 80076/1366. 10011. 7/42. Wt. L.P. Gp. 656. Form W.3121/6.

Army Form W.3121
Date recommendation forwarded ☒
Received ☒ Passed ☒

10 Inf Brigade 4 Brit Division 13 Corps
Schedule No. Unit 2 BEDFS HERTS
(To be left blank)
Rank and Army or Personal No. W/Cpl Acting Sjt 5952486
Name Frank SNAPE
(Christian names must be stated)

Brigade 24 May 44 25 May 44
Division 26 May 44 29 May 1944
Corps 30 May 44 14 Jun 44
Army 16 Jun 44 18 Jun 44
RAI 19 Jun 44 18 AUG 1944

| Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated) | Recommended by | Honour or Reward | (To be left blank) |
|---|--|---|--------------------|
| <p>This NCO showed outstanding qualities of leadership and personal courage throughout the operation over the GARI from 11 to 18 May 1944.</p> <p>As platoon sgt his calmness and indifference to danger did much to steady his platoon during the first two days and set a magnificent example.</p> <p>After his platoon comd was wounded he commanded the platoon in the attack on Hill 50 his leadership and courage being an inspiration to his platoon.</p> <p>After the capture of Pt 50 and while his platoon was digging in an enemy MG opened up from a position to their rear. Sjt SNAPE went off alone, crept up to the position and assaulted single handed, throwing a 77 grenade and then rushing in to kill the four occupants with his pistol.</p> <p>His own/.....</p> | <p>Immediate D.C.M.</p> <p>Lt. Col. WA Whitaker</p> <p>H. Whitaker</p> <p>DCM</p> <p>23231</p> | <p>Awarded D.C.M.</p> <p>LG. 26.10.44.</p> <p>203</p> | |

His own account of the action was that "nothing much had happened". This action was only known after discussion with his platoon when he admitted it to be true.



The end of a journey – John Maddox of the Bedfs & Herts Regt Museum gratefully receives Frank Snape's DCM group from his Son & Daughter

He was subsequently given a field commission. In addition to the DCM he was awarded the 1939-1945 star, the Africa Star, the Italy Star, the Defence Medal, the 1939-45 War Medal and was Mentioned in Despatches. Frank retired in 1968 as a Lieutenant colonel in the RAOC. He died in 1992.

Later that year his son, Mr Christopher Snape, and his daughter Mrs Jane Walker visited Warley and presented his medals to the Regimental Association, with a view to them being displayed in the museum of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. Sadly, what happened to them next is not known, but when Mrs Walker enquired after them in 2021 they could not be found. It was reluctantly concluded that they must have been lost or stolen from Warley.

It was at this stage that Colonel Dick Harrold, our 'Regimental Colonel Heritage' stepped in on behalf of the regiment and offered to help Frank's family. What followed was some extensive research of Frank's service records, confirmation of the medals that he had been awarded, and had subsequently been lost.

Once RHQ were satisfied that the medal group could not be found, a proposal was made for the Regiment funded the purchase of a replica set.

This was a successful cooperative project between RHQ and Frank Snape's family. Finally on Tuesday 15 February 2022, Mrs Jane Walker and Mr Christopher Snape visited the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Museum at Wardown House in Luton. During this visit, Colonel Dick Harrold presented the Snape family with the newly commissioned set of replica medals. This was a very emotional and happy moment for all present.

After a period of discussion about Frank's time in the regiment, and some very positive reflection on the culmination of medals story, Jane and Christopher thanked all involved in replacing their father's medals.

It was at this point that they formally presented the medal group to the Bedfs & Herts Museum, John Maddox and Nigel Lutt gratefully received the medals, and placed them into a special cabinet where the medals, the DCM citation, and some photographs of Frank are now on display to the public. So concluded a very special day for all involved.



A successful team effort - Jane Walker, Christopher Snape, and Colonel Dick Harrold under the museum's original Cuneo print of Monte Cassino.

Royal Anglian Regiment Museum



Education and Outreach

With the year getting underway, we are hoping to expand on some things and have some exciting things coming up! One of the goals for this year is to offer more activities for children and families. So we have put in two grants, one to add more children-sized dress up and more to the handling collection, and another to do more tailored activities around science and how it is used in the infantry, so we can help educate using our great collection. We hope these both come through and we can expand how we can show people the Regiment and its history, so watch this space.

We also have some new people offering to volunteer this year, which is great. If we are going to do more activities, we definitely need more people to help. It is great people want to help out, and it always makes me proud to work for a Regiment that resonates so much with people to make them want to return and give back.

This February saw our first half term, and we were down in the museum with handling collection and dress up, to show the public, and we definitely had some enthusiastic visitors! The Infantry Engagement Team also joined us with some current equipment to see visitors and were a big hit. We both gave out some Royal Anglian stickers and there were a lot of happy children who 'had now joined the Regiment' when donning our cap badge stickers.

Collections

The object collections are now all safely at the museum in their new space, and we are double checking all our records. We have also had our normal visit from the EOD to make sure all our objects are safe. It is always nice to see them, and interesting answering their questions about explosives.

With the archival collection, we are almost done an audit of what is in each box and checking it is correct before adding more to it. It is quite satisfying to see most queries in this area are easily solved.

Lastly, we are excited to announce that we will be receiving an Islamic State motorcycle from the 2nd Battalions time in Mali, and it will be displayed in the Land Warfare Hall temporarily and then moved to a permanent location. It will be really great as it will be situated right when entering, and the IWM is also happy as it would be the most current item on display. More details on this to come.

Galleries

The work in the galleries is slowly coming along. We are currently still working on our introduction video, as well as the TA/Reservist display changes. We are also hoping to simplify some of the captions in cases so the same amount of information will be relayed, but it will be easier to read for a wider spectrum of visitors.

More gallery work is on the horizon, but that is all for now from the museum, until next month.

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



Regimental Bulletins Register

Regimental Bulletin Number 183 - Future Soldier Announcement, 29 Nov 2021

Regimental Bulletin Number 184 - Death Notification - Geoff Keeling, Dated 6 Dec 2021

Regimental Bulletin Number 185 - Job Advertisement, - Northampton Museum Service, Dated 8 Dec 2021

Regimental Bulletin Number 186 - Death Notification - Capt William Lyle Simmons, Dated, 9 Dec 2021

Regimental Bulletin Number 187 - Royal Anglian Newsletter, December Issue, Dated 14 Dec 2021

Regimental Bulletin Number 188 - 80th Anniversary of British Battalion Day, Dated 16 Dec 2021

Regimental Bulletin Number 189 - Death Notification - Bill Smith , Dated 10 Jan 2022

Regimental Bulletin Number 190 - Death Notification - John Gale, Dated 10 Jan 2022

Regimental Bulletin Number 191 - Death Notification - Simon Johnson, Dated 10 Jan 2022

Regimental Bulletin Number 192 - Death Notification - Bob Gibbon, Dated 11 Jan 2022

Regimental Bulletin Number 193 - Death Notification - Jim Coltman, Dated 13 Jan 2022

Regimental Bulletin Number 194 - Big Breakfast Launch Notice, Dated 19 Jan 2022

Regimental Bulletin Number 195 - Big Breakfast Supplementary, Dated 25 Jan 2022

Regimental Bulletin Number 196 - Big Breakfast Update, Dated 25 Jan 2022

Regimental Bulletin Number 197 - Death Notification - Capt Raymond Savage, Dated 25 Jan 22

Regimental Bulletin Number 198 - Book Launch - Life Wasn't Boring, Dated 26 Jan 22

Promotions

The Regiment warmly congratulates the following on promotion to Colonel:

Lt Col Phil Moxey MBE on appointment as Commander, Op TANGHAM in 2022

The following Royal Anglian Colour Sergeants' have been selected for promotion to Warrant Officer:

CSgt S A Cousin

CSgt J M Gibbs

CSgt N C Jarvis

CSgt D Watson

CSgt A J Daly

CSgt J Haldenby

CSgt L G Meadows

WO2 Jakabus

The London Gazette

London Gazette Dated 31 January 2022:

The following have been awarded the 2nd Clasp to the Volunteer Reserves Service Medal:

Maj P Chilvers 526245

The following have been awarded the 1st Clasp to the Volunteer Reserves Service Medal:

Maj P Chilvers 526245

The following entries relevant to the Regiment were listed in The London Gazette dated 24 January 2022

Officer Cadet Harrison Robert Bussandra Royal Anglian Regiment 30246041 from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 11 December 2021

Officer Cadet Thomas Stephanus Jooste – Jennings Royal Anglian Regiment 30289085 from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 11 December 2021

Officer Cadet Jack Frank Graham Rice Royal Anglian Regiment 30347100 from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 11 December 2021



Some young 2nd Bn Officers meet Poacher veterans after the freedom of Lincoln parade



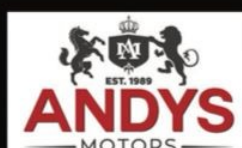
1st Battalion
The Royal Anglian Regiment

INTER COMPANY BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS



THURSDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Forces
Mutual**



CGC