



Royal Anglian *News*



November 2021

Cover Image: LCpl Louis Jones takes a moment to reflect during a tactical pause mid-patrol in Mali.



REGIMENTAL NEWS

Service of Remembrance, Duxford - 14 November 2021

This year our Regimental Service of Remembrance at Duxford will return to its traditional format. An open air service will take place at the Regimental Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. The Service of Remembrance will be led by our Assistant Regimental Chaplain, with the Regimental Band in support.

The Order of Service includes the Act of Remembrance, and the laying of wreaths on behalf of the Regiment, the Regimental Association and the families of the fallen. Individual acts of remembrance and the laying of personal wreaths are of course welcome. The service will begin at 1045 hours, with a pause for silence and reflection at 1100 hours.



Access to the IWM site is via [the main public entrance](#) –

Entrance is no longer free to the general public on the day, it is however free for members of the regiment past and present. It is advisable therefore, to present your Royal Anglian Association Membership Card at the gate, OR to present a copy of this bulletin as proof of your intent to attend the service.

Tea and Coffee will be available in the Regt Museum from 1115 hours – All members of the Regiment both serving and retired are invited to attend.

Pte Robert Hayes Memorial Rugby Match - 20 Nov 21

The Regimental Rugby Team are playing a Newmarket RUFC team on Sat 20 Nov 21 at their ground: The NSDA Pavilion, Elizabeth Avenue, Newmarket, CB8 0DJ.

The program is:

- 1230 hrs Bar Opens
- 1245 hrs Form up for Roll of Honour
- 1250 Ceremony (Regt Roll of Honour read by Lt Col Eddie Thorne MC)
- 1300 KO
- 1530 Caps and Speeches Jim Cunningham and Maj Gen Tony Pollard CB CBE

All members of the Regimental family are warmly invited to attend.

The event will support the Regimental Benevolent Fund.

Regimental Christmas Carol Service - Bury St Edmunds 11 December 2021



The Annual Regimental Christmas Carol Service will be held on the 11th December at 1100hrs in St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds. This is a lovely family service featuring all our well known Christmas Carols and readings supported by the Regimental Band. Festive refreshments and mulled wine will be served after the service. All members of the regimental family are invited to come along and join in with what will surely be a warm, friendly, and fitting end to the year.

Deputy Colonel - The Royal Anglian Regiment

Her Majesty The Queen has approved the appointment of Brigadier O C C Brown as Deputy Colonel The Royal Anglian Regiment in succession to Colonel S J R Browne. This appointment took effect on 31 October 2021.

The Colonel of the Regiment Warmly Congratulates the Following on Their Selection for Commission in April 2022

WO1 RSM Butterick - 1st Battalion

WO1 RSM Rawdon - 2nd Battalion

1st Battalion (The Vikings)



The Vikings Sail Through Turbulent and Testing Times - Ready for Ops!



This month C (Essex) Company underwent Exercise TURBULENT to assure their readiness for operations. This saw the company receive orders to activate for a simulated crisis in the eastern Mediterranean. After undergoing a series of checks to ensure all documentation and freight were correct, the company deployed to a local training area to complete the exercise delivered by B (Suffolk) Company. Here each section went through a patrol lane testing them on weapon handling, communications, first aid and military knowledge. The package culminated in live firing with each section conducting a defensive shoot.

Looking After Our Own - The Re-Burial of LCpl Robert Cook, Essex Regiment

C Company also had the honour to provide a burial party for LCpl Robert Cook, a casualty of the First World War who was recently identified. LCpl Cook was killed in fighting around the town of Ypres in 1915. The burial party under Lt Will Bagnall and Sgt Toby Granfield attended the burial in New Irish Farm CWGC Cemetery, Ypres. The service was conducted by the battalion's padre, Rev Gary Birch CF. LCpl Cook had a long career with The Essex Regiment having also served in the Boer War.



The C (Essex) Company Re-Burial Party with the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Col Simon Browne and Chaplain Birch after the re-burial of LCpl Robert Cook at New Irish Farm CWGC, Ypres.

Charity on the Island

WO2 Green & Cpl Richardson took part in a charity bicycle ride raising money for children with serious illnesses, with donations being given to the Anticancer Association of Cyprus, "One Dream, One Wish" Association and the "Little Heroes" children charity associations. The two-day event was organised by the Sovereign Base Areas (SBA) Police in co-operation with the Cyprus Police. Day one saw them cycle with the peloton for 47 miles with a further 89 miles in the saddle on day two. Across the two days around 50 people took part raising over €55,000.

Vikings Tackle Spartans Opposition

The Viking Rugby team took to the pitch together for the first time in Cyprus to play a friendly 10s match against local team Larnaca Spartans. After a tentative start and conceding some soft penalties, the Vikings rallied and delivered an excellent attacking and defensive display, coming out as undisputed winners with a final score of 34-0. Ptes Senibuli and Biulaiwai were declared joint men of the match.



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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2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Poachers Success on Operation NEWCOMBE

The 2 Royal Anglian-led task group currently deployed in Mali were involved in a brief firefight during October. Out on a patrol, soldiers from the Queens Dragoon Guards, currently attached to the Poachers came under fire from two men believed to be from the Islamic State terror group. The task group were taking part in their final patrol of their tour, conducting a reconnaissance mission from Menaka to the nearby village of Indelimone, trying to find a new route between them after regular routes had come under continual attack from militants. November will see the 2 Royal Anglian task group complete its final long range patrol before they look to hand over and return to the UK.



A Poachers Pre-Mission brief for the French Media

Back in the UK, other Poachers have been supporting the Queens Dragoon Guards and Royal Irish Regiment as they ready themselves for their upcoming tour. They take over from 2 Royal Anglian in December, and will be in Mali for 6 months. Soldiers from the Poachers spent the entirety of October in Thetford assisting with providing feedback to the task group with their knowledge and understanding of Mali as well as providing troops to make the exercise scenario richer and more realistic.



Back to the Future

B (Leicestershire) Company have had a busy month as they look forward to next years events. They assume the role of a Light Mechanised Infantry Company held at readiness from January, so have been busy on the range improving their shooting.



A soldier from A (Lincolnshire) Company watching out during a meeting with local villagers.

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

ADX 2021 - A Platoon Commander's Perspective - 2Lt Andrew Braithwaite



On the evening of Friday 17th September 2021, across the east of England, from Chelmsford to Bury St. Edmunds, from Peterborough to Lincoln and beyond, residents of East Anglia were heading home from work to enjoy their weekend. No doubt, for many their weekend would consist of food, drink, socialising and relaxing.

LCpl Rolph Briefs His Fire Team

However, instead of heading home 130 East Anglians were driving to their ARCs to report for duty. As Churchill said, 'twice the citizen', and no truer has this been, than on a Friday night when a Reservist drives into a training weekend, or in this case, two weeks, of service to their unit and their country. And so, 130 Royal Anglians headed to their local ARCs to prep their kit, sign out weapons and get their heads down before some of the most intense training the 3rd Battalion has conducted in years.

This year's ADX was held across the north of England, with a 4-day field package in Catterick, and a 9 day live-fire package at Warcop Ranges. Troops were put through their paces in almost every aspect of being an infantry soldier. Training ranged from remembering the basics of conducting oneself in the field for an extended period of time, to the controlled aggression of the bayonet range. Culminating with the CO's Main Effort of conducting PI Live Fire Attacks. In all, ADX was the realisation of the CO's intent for our training over the past two years. A programme which has severely been hampered by the pandemic, but nonetheless it was finally executed to the highest standard.

From talking amongst the Exercising troops it seems that there were several key highlights over the 16 days. The first was the blank-firing engagements of the night ambush, closely followed by the Company dawn attack in the field package. Working up to company strength is something that many of our junior soldiers have had very little experience of so far, and the increased fire-power during the ambush as well as the more complicated mechanics of the dawn assault on a farm complex, were both enjoyable and positive learning experiences.

In the second phase of ADX the notable highlights were both the bayonet range and the Platoon Live Fire Attack. Bayonet training brings us back to what it means to be an Infanteer at its most fundamental. The training took its toll physically, quite literally with 8 soldiers withdrawing through injury, but the result was a vivid reminder of our most fundamental role - to close with and kill the enemy.

Finally, both chronologically and in terms of importance, the PI Live Fire Attacks were the culmination of two weeks of build-up training and the final test for the platoons, as well as our interoperability with the Poachers, who supported us throughout ADX. Both attacks were a success, both tactically and in terms of safety, and all those involved were able to commend themselves for completing the CO's main effort with conviction.

ADX 2021 will be remembered for: strangely good weather; working alongside the Poachers, replacing a Nav Ex with a day-trip to Leeds, an awesome live-fire package, high-quality training and direction from the Permanent Staff and for it's late, late night briefs!

Steelbacks Learn to Stem the Tide - Flood Barrier Training in Suffolk



Members of 1 Company, 3 Royal Anglian joined East Suffolk Council for Training in the Deployment of Flood Barriers at Lowestoft Harbour this week. The East Coast is particularly vulnerable to Tidal Surge Flooding and the barriers are erected when a threat is Forecast by the Met Office and Environment Agency

The training was organised by Major Ian Robinson MBE who is currently the Military Liaison for Suffolk, with the aim of potentially using Local Reserve Soldiers to support and assist thus reducing risk to life and property.

Our Veteran Community

Royal Anglian Film Maker Returns to Help His Fellow Veterans

As part of the Regiment's ongoing Mental Wellbeing and Mental Health Awareness programme, RHQ wanted to produce a film signposting veterans to agencies that will help those in the regimental family and wider veteran community struggling with mental health issues. One key aspect of this activity is communications - getting the message out to those who feel isolated.

Having seen Steve (Spud) Armon's recent film on the subject we approached Steve and commissioned him to make a film aimed directly at the Royal Anglian family. The film was launched on 1 November; you can see it on You Tube, or go via the Royal Anglian Website at **royalanglianregiment.com**

We also asked Steve to tell us a little about how he felt about making a film specifically for the Royal Anglian Regiment, Steve kindly agreed to share his thoughts:



As a former Royal Anglian Soldier who is now a Photographer and Film maker I recently made a film called 'Combat – a retrospective'. This was a passionate project, and a way for me to get some more documentary style work into my portfolio. I was clearly very humbled when RHQ, Royal Anglian approached me and asked me to make a film in a similar style and tone which was aimed specifically at our Veteran community. Especially as it touched on the issues of mental health surrounding them.

As a former RSM of the 1st Battalion, I know just how relevant the issue of mental health and wellbeing is. Fuelled by the recent loss of a friend who was a serving Soldier within the Battalion to suicide, I snapped up this opportunity. It was a great chance to do something meaningful, and also to help in the best way I could with my skill set.

I had a month to produce it, this involved the writing of the script, Collating footage and crafting it in a way that made sense. Ensuring that it would be heard by those that needed to hear it the most. I was very keen to ensure that all 3 of the current battalions were represented. I felt it was very important to not to forget the work of the old 3rd Bn (The Pompadours), and I really enjoyed going through footage of them pounding the streets of Northern Ireland. We are all very happy with the film, and hope that it will be helpful to those that struggle with their mental health as a result of their operational service. Since leaving the Army in 2019 I have been really taken back by those who continue to try and make a difference, and do whatever they can to help the wider Royal Anglian Regiment family.

TrekFest 2021 - Beds & Herts Branch Veteran Treks Over the Beacons



You cannot keep a good Royal Anglian Platoon Sergeant down. On Saturday 18th September 2021, our Branch Social Secretary, Kevin Arnold trekked 25 km over the Brecon Beacons as part of Trekfest 2021. This event was originally planned for 2020 but due to Covid-19 circumstances, that event had to be postponed.

Thankfully, as if coming out of hibernation, the country started to open up for gatherings such as this and September 2021 was the month for all call-signs, go! Kevin undertook the hike for the military veterans charity, Combat Stress and to date has raised over £730.

Kevin started the trek alongside a retired Lieutenant Colonel and two retired SNCO's from the Royal Engineers who were marching for SSAFA.

Sadly, after about 8km they conceded that they were probably holding him back, and that Kevin should

proceed at his own speed. Kevin duly left his Sapper comrades to their own devices and pushed on at a respectable Royal Anglian pace to uphold the honour of the Infantry.



Kevin finished this endurance event in 20th position out of 361 entrants, so not too bad for a 61 year old age. As with nearly all military events, everyone met up afterwards in the Trekfest village and enjoyed a pint (perhaps two??) together. Kevin is already planning another challenge for 2022.

Lost Medal Reunited With 1st Battalion Veteran at RHQ



Recently RHQ received a parcel containing a General Service Medal (GSM) along with a note from a Mr S Clarke saying that he had seen the enclosed medal at a car boot sale. Mr Clarke had purchased it, and asked RHQ to return the medal to its owner. Unfortunately Mr Clarke did not include any contact details so that we could thank him properly for his kind and generous act.

Captain Pete Hudson, the Regimental Area Secretary for the 1st Battalion area recognised the name of Paul Howlett, a former Drum Major with the 1st Battalion. Paul had his medals stolen 32 years ago whilst performing with the 1st Battalion's Band and Drums at the Royal Norfolk Show. He was very happy to come to RHQ to retrieve his long lost medal. Paul also brought along his son Harrison, who is currently serving with the 1st Battalion's C Company in Cyprus. It was great to catch up with Paul, and to meet his son who is maintaining the family connection with the Vikings.

RHQ Visitors

One of the joys of working in RHQ is when old friends drop in. 15th October was a particularly good day, with David Till on Trustees Business, and Bob Grenfell on handover duties. At the same time Tony and Bobby Jones visited and we were able to raise a glass to them and congratulate them on their recent marriage.



The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum



October has been a lot of continuation work on enduring projects carrying on from months before. There are many large-scale and complex projects going on at the moment, such as re-cataloguing the reserve collection into its new space, some gallery refurbishments as we have been left some money to do so, and an audit of the archival boxes. Most of which are going well and some even nearing completion.

We have also been given a nameplate from a locomotive which was rather large, but we managed to drive to Derby and just barely fit it in the car. This will hopefully be hung on the outside wall in the museum very soon along with a cap badge that was also on the train.

Within the gallery there have been some major projects, however it has meant some of the smaller developments had been put on hold. This month we did however get the No. 2 Dress and small display of things from Captain Bob Luscombe into the Customs and Traditions case as planned.

We have also been working with the Cambridgeshire Regiment museum as they have a display here on site but no permanent member of staff. We are planning on at least updating the lighting in those cases and perhaps in the future changing the displays slightly. This will be up to their trustees and Curator Claire Wallace of course, but looking forward to seeing what happens.

That is it for this month, things are starting to get quieter now that the airshows, showcase days, and Cadet visits have died down. It is now time to get stuck into other office and gallery projects.



The Museum will of course be open to all members of the Regiment past and present after the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 14 November 2021. Maybe this is the year to bring in that interesting item of East Anglian or Royal Anglian Regt memorabilia that the museum Curator simply must see?

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

Royal Anglian Affiliated Cadets



October was another great month for our affiliated Cadet Forces who have been supported by Royal Anglian soldiers attached to the Cadet training teams. Recently, many of our young cadets attended and successfully completed the 7 Brigade Senior Cadet Instructors Course, well done to them!



CCF and ACF Cadets attending the 7 Brigade Senior Cadet Instructors Course held at Beckingham Camp receiving orders from Sgt Browning R ANGLIAN to patrol and occupy a Hasty Harbour.

Regimental Bulletins Register



Regimental Bulletin Number 163 - Job Vacancy at Armed Forces Community Hub, Dated - 30 Sep 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 164 - Notice Pte Robert Hayes Memorial Rugby Match, Dated - 5 Oct 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 165 - Job Vacancy RFCA Admin Officer, Ipswich, Dated 6 Oct 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 166 - Notice Death of Lt Col J D Fletcher, Dated 7 Oct 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 167 - Royal Anglian News, October Issue, Dated - 8 Oct 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 168 - Notice Royal Anglian Regt Officers Club Dinner, Dated - 11 Oct 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 169 - Notice of Death of Lt Col Pat Barrass, Dated - 12 Oct 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 170 - Notice of Death of Dave Evans, Dated - 15 & 20 Oct 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 171 - Notice of Regt Christmas Carol Service, Dated - 21 Oct 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 172 - Notice of Death of Col John Wooddisse , Dated - 21 Oct 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 173 - Notice of Regt Service of Remembrance at Duxford, Dated - 3 Nov 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 174 - Notice of Death of Lt Col John Alfred Garnett, Dated - 4 Nov 21

Officer Postings - No5 GD3 Winter Board

The following Royal Anglian DE Officers were selected in September 21:

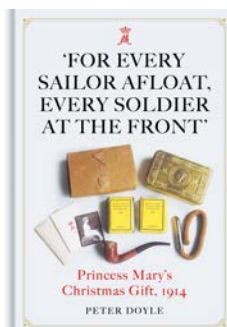
Capt M C Durkin - OCE - DLO British Embassy (Op SHADER) Iraq

Capt K A Forsyth - E1 - Chief Instr MG Div - Sp Weapons School - DF DP Div - Warminster

Capt B Humphreys - E1/RD - Adjutant - Infantry Battle School - Brecon

Capt W G Pickering - E2 - SO3 and DA - HQ 1 UK Div - York

Regimental Reading



FOR EVERY SAILOR AFLOAT, EVERY SOLDIER AT THE FRONT

By Peter Doyle

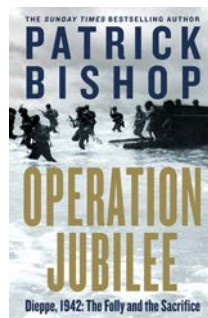
Many RAN readers will have had the dubious honour of spending Christmas on operations far from home. One of the longstanding traditions of the festive season is the delivery of a sponsored gift from UK. This is not a new concept, and many families will have a Princess Mary's Christmas tin tucked away as a reminder of a long lost relative that received this iconic little tin during the Great War.

The remarkable story of the tin and its conception has been shrouded in the myths and folklore of the Christmas Truce that took place in 1914, the same time as the tins were being issued at sea and in the trenches. By the end of the war a staggering 2.7 million tins had been issued.

This informative and superbly illustrated new book encompasses the story of the earlier tins issued during the Boer War, and links the original idea for the 1914 tin. The role of Princess Mary is examined, as are the sophisticated logistic difficulties of manufacturing the tins, catering for the diverse range of religions, ethnicity, gender and dietary requirements that made up the imperial and commonwealth forces in the field.

This is a comprehensively researched, and lavishly illustrated book that will surely be the definitive work on the subject. Interesting even if you are not really interested in military history - Christmas Present?

**Published by Unicorn Publishing Ltd,
RRP £20.00, PPI 76, Hardback**



OPERATION JUBILEE DIEPPE 1942 FOLLY & SACRIFICE

By Patrick Bishop

Next year marks the 80th anniversary of Operation Jubilee, the failed combined operations raid on the French sea port of Dieppe. Even before it was launched the operation was controversial and many felt, flawed.

Much has already been written about the Dieppe raid as it has become known, much of it by those that survived, and a large amount by those that planned the ill-fated cross channel foray. There has been little new added to the analysis of the events of August 1942. Sadly, this latest book by a well-proven author adds nothing new to the story.

That said, it is a well-worked narrative that attempts to shed some new light on the strategic thinking and the flawed group-think that produced what with the 20/20 clarity of hindsight was a completely flawed plan. The author attempts to cover all levels from strategic down to tactical... I don't think that he quite achieves it at any of the levels - he tries to do too much.

So in summary, if you know little or nothing of Dieppe, this isn't a bad place to start. The narrative is accessible, the maps and photographs are good, and it tells the tale. Just ignore the spurious cover art - nothing to do with Dieppe at all! But, if you are looking for a new perspective, or a comprehensive history of Op Jubilee, sadly, this probably isn't it. Not a great Christmas Present for the knowledgeable reader.

**Published by Viking (Penguin), PP400,
RRP £20.00, Hardback**