



# Royal Anglian *News*



**Cover Image:**

Regimental Colours were paraded for the Drum Head Service at Duxford - Capt Luke Talkington (RHQ Adjt) and Capt Karl Chambers (3rd Bn), carried the Colours of the 3rd Battalion.




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## REGIMENTAL NEWS

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### The Regimental Day at Duxford - 5 September 2021

For the first time in two years the Regiment was able to celebrate its Regimental Day at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

As per tradition, the Regimental Day is always the first Sunday of the month of September, after the Regimental formation day of the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

The day was a fantastic success and it was great to see all parts of the Regimental family enjoy the glorious weather, the beer tent, the Regimental Museum, the Royal Anglian Band, and of course catching up with old comrades. As always, the event was well attended and continues to grow in popularity. This year saw the biggest turnout yet.

The Regimental Day is also a time for many to reflect on their service and remember comrades who are no longer with us. As is traditional, the Drumhead service took place at the Regimental Memorial. Immediately after the service, the Colonel of the Regiment delivered an update to the Regimental family on what the Regiment has done in the last twelve months, and looked ahead to what the future may hold for the Army.

A massive thank you to all those that made what was an outstanding regimental day happen, especially our veterans, our families, our affiliated cadets and, of course, our serving soldiers that all make up our Regimental family. The day certainly had the feeling of a warm and friendly family reunion - let's all look forward to next year!



**Diary Date - Royal Anglian Regimental Day at Duxford - Sunday 4 September 2022**

## Regimental Headquarters Warmly Welcomes Our New Assistant Regimental Secretary

Mr Mark Goldsmith took over from Major (Retd) Bob Grenfell as Assistant Regimental Secretary on 19 July 2021. He is already very much part of the Royal Anglian Regimental family.

Mark has taken on responsibility for a range of financial, and welfare related roles, his primary focus is the daily management of the regiment's Charity and Benevolence activities. Mark served twenty-three years in the Royal Engineers, leaving as a Warrant Officer Class One. His operational tours included Belize, Northern Ireland and Iraq. On leaving the Army in April 2012 he became a civil servant, working as a Job Centre Manager in Norfolk. He specialised in armed forces case work, and the delivery of specialist welfare support.



Prior to joining the RHQ Team Mark worked for five years as Manager of the Cromer Job Centre. He is now a proud honorary member of the Royal Anglian Association. Mark lives in Norwich, a keen football supporter, he supports Norwich City and is also a qualified Football Association Referee.

## 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.

## London Gazette - The Regiment Warmly Congratulates the Following:

Entry Dated 13 Sep 21 - Capt J S J Rowden on Retirement on 5 June 2021



## Burial of an Unknown Soldier of the Suffolk Regiment at Wancourt

The Burial Service of an unknown Suffolk Regiment soldier of the Great War was conducted at Wancourt British Cemetery on 23rd September 2021. This burial service was also for another soldier known to God, whose Regiment was not known. The Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) leads on the organisation of these carefully delivered services, which are properly supported by today's Regiments and Associations in the immaculate Commonwealth War Grave Commission cemeteries. COVID had delayed many of these services, and the team conducted sixteen this week in France.



This Suffolk Regiment soldier was almost certainly one of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's 428 casualties from the Battle of Wancourt on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive. The original painting of the battle hangs in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. The artist, Ernest Smythe was an officer in the Suffolk Regiment, and prints of the painting were commonly seen in many clubs, pubs and hotels in the County.

The famous line from report of the battle in the Times is often included as a caption beneath the painting, "There is a story, such as painters ought to make immortal and historians to celebrate, of how certain Suffolks, cut off and surrounded fought back to back on the Wancourt-Tilloy Road".



Padre Simon Talbot CF, Regimental Secretary, British Defence Staff Paris and Regimental Adjutant.

## Schwaben Day - 14 October 1916

The Schwaben Redoubt was a formidable German fortified strong point which had been captured quickly on the first day of the Somme Battle by the 36th Ulster Division, who used clever tactics and were lucky to find the barbed wire destroyed by the barrage. Unfortunately, their neighbouring divisions were less successful and the Ulster men were forced out by German counter-attacks. Through the summer of 1916, there followed a further five attempts to take the redoubt all of which failed.

The sixth and finally successful attempt to take the redoubt was made by 1/1st Cambridgeshire Regiment on 14 October 1916. They advanced under a creeping barrage, stormed the redoubt then reorganised and dug in behind the enemy positions, which enabled them to hold the redoubt despite several spirited German counter-attacks. It has been described as the Cambridgeshire Regiment's 'Finest Hour' which was marked by their winning 42 gallantry awards, which is probably a record for a single battalion on a single day. General Haig described it as 'one of the finest feats of arms in the history of the British Army'.

Schwaben Day is marked today by the Third Battalion.

### Cambridgeshire Regiment Gallantry Award Winners



Caption: Rear Row - **Bob Bushell MM**, Joe Franklin MM, Percy Denner MM, Edward Pearce MM, **Horace Johnson MM**. Front Row - **Rudolph Lister MM**, **Frank Touch DCM**, Bert Death DCM

\* Those names in bold won their awards storming the Schwaben Redoubt.



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# 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

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## The Vikings Have Landed in Cyprus!



## They have done it!

The Battalion Flag arrived in Dhekelia in the hands of the rowing team on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September. The boat arrived directly into Alexander Barracks to find the Battalion formed up on the beach, the sound of Rule Britannia echoing across the waves and a welcoming committee including Major General Rob Thomson, Commander British Forces Cyprus. The raising of the flag marked the end of Ex OLYMPUS VIKING, an epic 3,900km journey across land and sea, and formally marked the arrival of The Vikings in Cyprus. Ex OLYMPUS VIKING has been a colossal challenge that required Royal Anglian grit, motivation, teamwork and bags of determination to complete. Whilst the journey might be over the just giving page is still open. Almost £15,000 has been raised for Combat Stress, the Royal Anglian Benevolent Fund and two Cypriot children's charities. It would be brilliant to break through the target of £15,000 so if you think this challenge is worthy of your donation, then please head to the link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thevikings--1stbattaliontheroyalanglianregiment>

## CGS Visits The Battalion on the Island

September also saw The Vikings host the Chief of the General Staff. The visit gave The Vikings the opportunity to showcase our warfighting pedigree. General Carleton-Smith visited demanding Close Quarter Battle ranges and met soldiers currently on the Vikings Advanced Infantry Skills Expansion Course. C (Essex) Company had the opportunity to train alongside 539 Raiding Squadron, Royal Marines. Soldiers received familiarisation training on the inflatable rigid craft before conducting a beach landing. C Company thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have developed an excellent relationship with the squadron during their deployment. It is hoped that a similar exercise will be conducted next year.



CGS also took the opportunity to award one of his commendations to Capt Dan Russell and to present Capt Larry Holmes with his well-deserved Meritorious Service Medal.



## 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

### Poachers Set the Pace as Their Busy Operational Period Continues



Out in Poland, deployed with NATO on Op Cabritt, D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company have recently completed a 30km race carrying weight. The Norwegian Foot March is a US Army and National Guard tradition, with an estimated 55% pass rate. 25 soldiers started the race with 23 passing in total, a 92% pass rate, the highest in the Battlegroup. Notably the top three finishers were from D Company, with Pte Demiduik completing it in 3hrs 02mins, followed by Capt Parker and Lt Heal. Pte Demiduik was presented with a special coin by the 2\* Director of the National Guard at a Multinational Parade.

Meanwhile, A (Lincolnshire) Company on Op NEWCOMBE in Mali are enjoying a period of respite in camp, preparing for their final patrol of the tour. They recently spent a patrol partnering with UN Civil Departments and journalists from French 24 News. The Task-group has recently detained three ISGS fighters and captured numerous weapons and IED parts.





## Army U23's Rugby Caps for Poachers



Three soldiers from B Company recently earned their first caps for Army U23's XV. Pte's Sheldon, Cili and Wolfenden played their first match for the side against the Royal Artillery on 24 September. Unfortunately for the Poachers players, three second half penalties were not enough to claw a result back from the Royal Artillery team who won 22-16.

Pte's Sheldon, Cili and Wolfenden (L-R) earn their first cap for the Army Rugby U23 XV.

## Inter-Battalion Football Triumph

Poachers soldiers recently competed in the 7 Brigade Infantry 6-a-side football cup. After a hard day of lots of short and intense matches, the final was played between teams from both the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment. A hard fought final ended in a 2-0 victory for the 2nd Battalion



The pre-match line-up: teams from both 2nd and 3rd Battalions prior to the Final.



## 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

### Annual Deployment Exercise 2021 at Wathgill and Warcop



130 members of, and attachments to, 3 Royal Anglian took part in their Annual Deployment Exercise this month. Training focused on Wathgill for the Green Phase, and Warcop for Live Firing. The exercise included an attached platoon from the 'Poachers' ably commanded by Lt Matt Wilman. The exercise programme included live firing Fire Team, Section and Company attacks over the arduous terrain of Warcop Ranges. The battalion was visited by Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Richard Lyne.





## Lord Lieutenant's Certificate Awarded to Cpl Tyrone Fuller

Cpl Tyrone Fuller, I Company, was presented with a Lord Lieutenants of Norfolk's, Certificate of Commendation by the Lord Lieutenant, Lady Philippa Dannatt MBE at a Ceremony in Dereham. Cpl Fuller was mobilised for Operation RESCRIPT (Covid Response) during 2020 and was the most Junior Ranked Mobile Testing Unit Commander deploying across East Anglia. Cpl Fuller is in his last week working for AVIVA before commencing Police Constable Training with Norfolk Constabulary.

## Steelback on Op TOSCA 33 - Army Media Report



Serving under the United Nations cap badge, Private Giles Maythan was deployed in Cyprus on OPERATION TOSCA 33 for 8 months as a peacekeeper in order to maintain the status quo between the Cypriot and Turkish sides of the country. His role involved patrolling the buffer zone looking for violations of the peace treaty such as weapons and building violations, and civilian and military incursions into the green zone. Approaching the Opposing Forces to inform them that they were in violation of a particular rule was an interaction Private Maythan found particularly challenging. The same is true of approaching the civilian population who entered the buffer zone, many of whom were armed hunters in the middle of the night. While in Cyprus he also participated in fire safety, quick reaction force (QRF), guard duties, media and press duties, and riot control, as well as liaising with the United Nations police (UNPOL) and Cypriot police (CYPOL) during joint patrols, and when called to deal with intrusions and drug smuggling between the two sides.



This was a high intensity operation, as Private Maythan was unarmed, yet surrounded by two armies who both were ready and willing to fight, despite it being over 50 years since the fighting officially stopped. However, he felt that in the hearts and minds of both sides, the conflict is still as fresh today as it was then. He also knew before leaving for Cyprus that being away from his son would be particularly difficult but hadn't realised the extent to which he would be missing so much. His son was 3 when he left, and 4 when he returned, so the guilt of leaving him weighed heavily on his mind.

Private Maythan is an Infanteer and has been serving in the Army Reserves for 4 years, enjoying all aspects of being a soldier, from the fitness and mindset required to complete tasks, to the skills he has been taught. He also enjoys working with the other Reserves in his section, and particularly likes being on exercise. In his day to day life he works in security, but he feels that being in the Reserves has given him a purpose, and a sense of being part of something far bigger than himself, knowing he is making a difference, which is something he is always proud of.



Steelbacks on Operations, Patrolling the Green Line



# The Band of The Royal Anglian Regiment



## The Regimental Day - 5 September 2021

The band recently provided musical support to the Royal Anglian Gathering at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. This was our first engagement in home service uniform since December 2019, so there was some anxiety about red tunics fitting! All was well and we played for the drumhead service, march past, provided music during lunch and the sunset service. As last year's gathering was cancelled, it was a pleasure to provide music for so many veterans of the Royal Anglian Regiment as well as some veterans from our founding county regiments.



Our newest member, Musician Maisie Lee, brought her husband, Lance Sergeant Matt Lee (Scots Guards) along! Matt kindly helped us by playing drums and percussion for the day. Matt started his Army career in the Royal Anglian Regiment (Poachers), so was able to catch up with some old friends.

## Congratulations WO1 Gough

The Director of Music and members of the band would like to congratulate the Band Sergeant Major, WO2 Bob Gough, on his promotion to WO1. The promotion is richly deserved. WO1 Gough joined the band five years ago after a long career in the Regular Army, culminating in many years' service as the Blues and Royals Band Corporal Major

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## Our Royal Anglian Affiliated Cadets

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Since coming out of lockdown at the beginning of summer, our affiliated Cadet forces have had a fantastic time taking part in numerous annual camps, field days, visits to our Regimental Museum and playing a vital part of our Regimental day. As an important part of our Regimental family, it has been great to see a return to this activity and for us to support several of these events over the summer. A big thank you to all those that have facilitated and organised those events. The photos here in Royal Anglian News were taken during a very successful Cambridgeshire ACF Annual Camp and show the positive impact cadets have on our local community.

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## Regimental Bulletins

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Regimental Bulletin Number 156 - Notice of Officers Club Annual Dinner 2021 - Dated 8 Sep 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 157 - Notice of Field of Remembrance Opening Ceremony - Dated 9 Sep 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 158 - Notice of Death of Sikle Qualic - Dated 16 sep 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 159 - Job Opportunity Deputy Chief Executive East Anglian FCA - 20 Sep 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 160 - Give Us Time Service Family Organisation Notice - Dated 20 Sep 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 161 - Notice of Death of Richard Starbuck - Dated 22 Sep 21

Regimental Bulletin Number 162 - Notice of the Death of Robin Keatley - Dated 23 Sep 21



## Our Veteran Community - New C2C Cafe



The C2C Team (Picture - Charlotte Bond, East Anglian Daily Times)

**“Mental Health & Wellbeing Coffee Shop”, Coffee2Keep, Open Today at the Constitutional Club, at 12 Guildhall Street., Bury St Edmunds - Opening hours will be Mon to Sat 0900 – 1600hrs.**

Combat2Coffee is a not for profit project established by a former Royal Anglian soldier and prison officer Nigel Seaman. The project aims to support Armed Forces Veterans and families who may be struggling with life outside of service. One of the ways it achieves this is by providing mental and physical health support to veterans and the wider community via a series of coffee shops. These provide, social prescribing, a gateway to professional services and an environment for support organisations to operate in.

First and foremost, we are a social space for all. Unlike commercial coffee shops Coffee2Keep will encourage members of the community to spend as much time as they would like in the shop, to socialise and spend time chatting and meeting new people. Our staff who will be a mix of paid employees and volunteers (of all ages) will receive mental health awareness training and be encouraged to talk with those using the shop to make it a friendly and supportive environment. We will run informal events aimed at encouraging local people into the shop, and occasional focus groups for sections of the community. The shop will also be available for other community groups to use if they wish, free of charge.

Combat2Coffee also has a focus on supporting veterans in custody, we have strong links with local prisons and provide training and rehabilitation opportunities for inmates with a view to providing job opportunities on release.

Are you interested in supporting your community and particularly service personnel veterans and their families? We are recruiting volunteers (or potentially part time staff) to help in the shop and spend time chatting with customers.

## Regimental Rugby 4 Sep 2021

### The Royal Anglian Regt 20 - Wymondham RFC 12



A squad of 40 players came together on 4th September 2021 ready for war. Prior to the match, the Regiment Roll of Honour was read by Lt Colonel (Retd) Eddie Thorne MC, with Last Post and Reveille sounded. The enforced COVID break and the chance to collocate with the Wymondham RFC annual Beer Festival saw a bumper crop of more than 100 Regimental supporters turn up to cheer the team home to victory!

The home side started strongly but it was a decisive break by former Viking and Wymondham player Aaron Hayward that allowed the ever-present Cunningham (Pompadours) to put the Regiment ahead. 5-0. Wymondham appeared to be the more organised unit, but the Regiment led by Liam McGrath (Vikings) were resolute in defence and looked to counterattack at every opportunity.

On one of these attacks the ball was lost, and the Wymondham winger ran a try in despite the attentions of Luke Govier (Vikings) and Chris Seeley (Pompadours). At 5-5, more pressure was exerted by the pack which was being constantly bolstered with replacements by Manager Chris Cooper (Vikings). The match reached halftime all square, despite the introduction of the 'flight of Crows' (Anthony Crowe (Vikings) and his two sons).

The start of the second half saw a much more determined set of attacks by the hosts, Stretching to a 12-10 lead after swapping scores (Crowe for the Regiment). The play was tight, the Regiment required more beef, which was added by the arrival Shand, Rackham and Chapman (Vikings). This introduced a defensive spine that started to pressurise the Wymondham team. The clock was ticking down when Mario Wood RAPTC (former Viking) twisted over for a score to give the Regiment the lead with 3 mins left. 12-15 - final score would have been a fair reflection of the game, but a multi-phase move set up from the much bolstered front row where Martin 'Bilko' Urand (Pompadours/Poachers) and Richard Divey (6 R



Anglian) led to the MoM Lt Colonel Bevis Allen scoring between the posts! Final Score - 12-20 to the Regiment.

Post-match the President Major General Tony Pollard then made a presentation of gifts to the hosts and day committee before capping 12 players for achieving various milestones. He also capped Marie Cooke (RAMC), the long-standing club physio who had to be dragged away from her two bloodied Pompadours, Bridger and Totten to receive her award. Finally, he and the Club Chairman presented a new match trophy named after the Club Secretary Major (Retd) Ian Wilkins AGC(SPS) for his efforts in starting and maintaining this popular fixture; engraved, 'In recognition of his determination and tireless hard work in making the Royal Anglian Regimental Rugby Matches a reality since 1990; his love of rugby and the Royal Anglian family is an inspiration to all; we salute and thank you.'



The rest of the night goes into Regimental folklore, and what happens on tour stays on tour. If you'd like to attend next year and require more details you can request to join the Regt Rugby Page on FB.

**The next match will be held on 03rd September 2022, KO 1430hrs at Syston RFC in Leicestershire. Contact Ian Wilkins on [wilkie332@hotmail.com](mailto:wilkie332@hotmail.com) for further details.**

# The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum

**Kozlenko at: [royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com](mailto:royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com)**

This month started with Regimental day on the 5th September. It was great to see everybody, and watch them reminisce. Since our reserve collection has moved to site, we decided to get out a lot of the oversized and heavy items that haven't made the trip to Duxford often when they were housed elsewhere. The weather turned out nice and many familiar as well as new faces were there.

The following week there was an afternoon spent with RHQ, as we said farewell to Major Bob Grenfell, who had been the museums treasurer since this Curator took up post. Bob was always hard working and did a lot for the museum and RHQ, the Museum team will miss him greatly, but we all wish him happiness in retirement.



We are also working on a new video for the museum, there was a trip up to Kendrew barracks to do some filming with the 2nd Battalion. It was really nice to see the barracks as until then I had only been to Woolwich. It was also good to speak with some of the Poachers, both on camera for the video and off camera. Time well spent, the only downfall was I couldn't keep the Poacher shirt I found and thought was pretty great.

Lastly there was the second airshow of the year, and the last large airshow which boasted about 17,000 visitors over two days. It was great to be out again, the weather held and we had some great support from RHQ and the Infantry Engagement Team on the day. Our display and artefact handling attracted a lot of attention throughout the airshow.

## Gibraltar

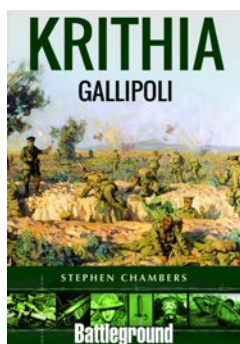
Gibraltar is an important part of the Regiment as it was captured by British forces in 1704, and has remained British ever since. There have been major sieges that have taken place there, and that is a major reason why the Regimental cap badge has the Castle of Gibraltar in the centre.

The 1st Bn spent some time there in 1987-89, the 2nd Bn in 1968-69, and the 4th Bn in 1972. There was also an incident of Gibraltar when the Provisional Irish Republican Army Targeted a 1st Battalion group while they were on Gibraltar but were thwarted by intelligence.





# Regimental Reading



## KRITHIA - Gallipoli

By Stephen Chambers

The beaches and the battlefields of the Dardanelles are a constant fascination to historian and battlefield tourist alike. The rugged terrain provides a spectacular backdrop to any visit to the Gallipoli peninsula.

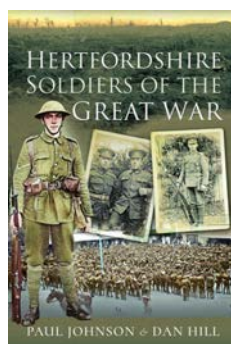
The Gallipoli campaign was increasingly popular during the FWW Centenary as more and more UK and Australian tourists ventured away from the Great War battlefields of the Western Front. We can hope that that trend will return in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Krithia is one of the areas that are rarely visited by the mainstream 'tarmac tourist'. This new guide book by expert Gallipoli author and Battlefield Guide, Steve Chambers is an ideal reference source for anyone planning to venture away from the well trodden tourist trail and explore one of the much less well-known corners of Gallipoli.

The latest in a series of new battleground books the Krihia guide is packed with information, maps, pictures and anecdotal accounts needed to support the wandering tourist, or the visiting military battlefield student. It is certainly good value for money whatever your level of interest.

Published by Pen & Sword Ltd

RRP £14.99, pp256



## HERTFORDSHIRE SOLDIERS OF THE GREAT WAR

By Paul Johnson & Dan Hill

This new book on the soldiers of Hertfordshire has been compiled from research gathered as part of the Herts at War Project during the First World War Centenary. It is based on a series of individual case histories of Hertfordshire soldiers and their experiences during the Great War.

The narrative is easily readable and it does give a real insight into life of the county's men and women that served during the war to end all wars. It is also a fitting tribute to the 23,000 Herts personnel that lost their lives in the Great War.

Accounts include experiences on the Western Front, and in Gallipoli, Salonica, Mesopotamia, East Africa, and Russia. The personal stories allow the reader to zoom in to events at the tactical level. These vignettes are placed in chronological historical context with a generous level of maps, photographs. Further extracts from official documents and war diaries add additional depth.

Overall, this is a good overview of one of the less exposed counties experiences during the Great War - perhaps a little pricey if you are looking for a broader view. However, if you are digging into Hertfordshire's military history, it is worth investing in a copy.

Published by Pen & Sword Ltd

RRP £30.00, PP276