



# Royal Anglian News



**Cover Image:** GPMG Gunners from 3 Company, 3rd Battalion deployed on Exercise Eagle Fire 21-23 Apr 23 - Developing their GPMG Weapon Handling Skills.

## Regimental News



### **The Regiment Bids a Fond Farewell to Major Adrian ('Adey') Penn on his Retirement From the Army After Almost 39 years of Dedicated Service.**

Adey completed his initial training at Bassingbourn in 1984 before joining the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion ('The Pompadours') in West Germany. After training in Canada, he deployed on his first tour of Northern Ireland, to North Belfast, in 1986-7. By 1989, he had completed both a PNCO Cadre and SCBC, finishing the latter with a distinction, and promoted to Corporal.

After a stint in the Falkland Islands, he undertook training as part of the Close Observation Platoon, and deployed on his second tour of Northern Ireland, this time to Londonderry. In 1992, he took part in parades marking the amalgamation of 'The Pompadours' into the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the newly structured Royal Anglian Regiment. Adey then moved to Germany to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in Celle before completing PSBC. Having promoted to Sergeant, he enjoyed an enormously successful spell as the youngest ever recruiting sergeant at Leicester's AFCCO.

In 1996, Adey returned to the Poachers as a Platoon Sergeant before promotion to Colour Sergeant and a posting to the Infantry Training Centre (Catterick). In 2000, he returned to the Poachers on promotion to WO2 as the Milan Platoon 2IC; despite no prior training on Milan, he received a distinction and 'Instructor

Recommendation' on the Milan Platoon Commanders' Course. Thereafter, he spent two years as Company Sergeant Major of C (Northamptonshire) Company and a further two years as RQMS (Maint), which included moving the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion out to Ballykelly in Northern Ireland.

Upon selection to WO1, he enjoyed three hugely successful posts: Chilwell Station RSM, RSM 3 R ANGLIAN ('The Steelbacks') and the Command Sergeant Major at the Combined Training and Advisory Group, Kabul. In 2009, he successfully commissioned as a Late Entry Officer and joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion ('The Vikings') in Pirbright as the RCMO. Adey's following LE appointments included MTO and QM (Tech)





in the Poachers. During the latter, he was awarded a Commander Land Forces Commendation for his work in the United Kingdom Support Detachment.

From 2014-18, Adey served as the Poachers' QM and OC Headquarter Company, initially in Cottesmore and then in Dhekelia. A big fan of service in Cyprus, he took on the role of OC Dhekelia Station – a post tied to the Queen's Division – from 2018-21. The Vikings' move to Dhekelia in 2021 slotted in neatly with the end of his time in this role, and offered him the chance to become OC Headquarter Company in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion for a year. In December 2022, he handed over the role before spending his last six months in the UK.

The Colonel of the Regiment and All Ranks wish Adey and his wife Alison a happy and fruitful retirement, and we look forward to seeing them both at future regimental events.

### **Regimental Rugby 2023**

The Regimental Rugby Fixture for 2023 will be held at :

Rochford Rugby Club

The Rugby Park,

Magnolia Road,

Hawkeville,

Essex

SS4 3AD

Roll of honour and kick off from 1400hrs Saturday 2 Sept 23. For more details email Ian Wilkins on [wilkie332@hotmail.com](mailto:wilkie332@hotmail.com)

**Royal Anglian  
Band**

Grand Coronation  
Charity Concert

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>  
May 2023 at 1pm

St Mary's Church,  
Bury St Edmunds

Free Admission



## Edgar Mobbs Memorial Match - 6 April 2023

The Regiment was well represented at this year's Mobbs Memorial Rugby Match, where the Army RFU took on Bedford Blues at Goldington Road, Bedford. RHQ hosted a table with County Colonel, John Whatley DL hosting. Guests included the Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge who now occupy the Keep at Kempston, along with the Mayor and Col Cadets from 7 Bde HQ. The Area 2 Regimental Secretary, Tim Brown and his wife Sonia looked after our only available Poacher guests, Capt Jock Cousin and his wife Hannah, Jock hot off the plane from the Oman.

In addition, the County Colonel for Northamptonshire, Robert Blomfield, hosted a table which included the Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire amongst other distinguished guests. It was a delight that former Poacher, Craig Morris, again hosted a table for veteran Poachers and work colleagues. Craig runs a management business in Northampton and is a vital link into our veteran community in the area.



Capt Jock Cousin, 2nd Bn, attended the Mobbs Memorial Match with his wife Hannah

After a very enjoyable dinner everyone went on to watch the game. In the first half the Army did very well holding their own and scoring two good tries against the Blues three. However, as often is the case fitness showed in the second half with Blues running in a further two tries resulting in a final score of 33-10. It was a great game of running rugby played in the spirit which Lt Col Edgar Mobbs would have wished. It was pleasing that members of his family were present to see what was sadly the last match involving the Army on the pitch.





The Mobbs Memorial Charitable Trust have taken the decision that it would be in the interests of the charity to take the game forward by making it a pre-Season warm-up match between Northampton Saints and Bedford Blues, thus increasing revenue, which is used to support junior rugby across the East Midlands. Nevertheless, the Mobbs legacy will continue, first the Barbarians fell by the wayside and now it is the turn of the Army, but rest assured the Army and the Regiment will continue to be involved, but sadly no longer on the field of play.

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# 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

## The Vikings Take to the Jungle

A Coy have had a period of leave before deploying to Bahrain on Op KIPION and force protection tasks in Cyprus.

As we write, B Coy are in their first few days in Belize, as part of Ex MAYAN VIKING. This brilliant exercise, designed by B Coy, will see the Company (plus 9 PI from C Coy and the Recce Platoon) spend nearly six weeks in the jungle, testing their skills and soldiering in the harshest environments.

C Coy have had a busy recent period. As well as a Platoon preparing to join B Coy in the jungle, the remainder of the Company were deployed in Cyprus to support the evacuation of Entitled Personnel from Sudan.



The Company ran the Temporary Safe Location in Larnaca Airport for two weeks, helping to evacuate over 2,000 people from Sudan, and to ensure their safe onward travel.

D Coy: Another busy period for Support Coy. Not only have they continued with their demanding force protection schedule, they have also ran an Anti-Tank Cadre, Machine Gun Cadre and a number of other training events.

## WO2 Gav Watts – Army Motorcycle Road Racing Team

This month WO2 Watts competed in the second round of the No Limits ACU EBay National Endurance Championship at Cadwell Park race Circuit.



Gav and his team mate Mr Halliday undertook the 3 hour endurance race with both riders completing 3x 30 minute stints to finish First in the Club 1000 class, and twelfth over all in a field packed with British Superbike Riders and World Endurance Teams.

WO2 Watts also competed in the Inter-service championship On Sunday 19 April where he qualified second ahead of race. WO2 Watts had a race long battle with RAF rider, Dave Langley to finish only 0.092 of a second in P2. The Army Teams next race will be held at Donington Park.

Keep up with all the race action on Instagram by following  
@AMRRT\_ArmyMotorcycleRoadRacingTeam and @Gavwattsracing\_33

## 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)



The 2nd Battalion have had an exceptionally busy Spring. Recently returning from the Oman where they deployed on Exercise Khanjar Oman. The Regiment was able to provide funding for a programme of cultural visits which rounded off what has been an excellent exercise for the battalion.

For the majority of the battalion April has been a period of recovery, taken up with a period of post-deployment leave. For a selected few the regiment was providing King's Colour Parties from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions and a marching contingent of 3+24 for Operation Golden Orb - The King's Coronation. So, there was a quick change from MTP to Drill Order. This was followed by extensive Drill practice, rehearsals and external inspections. More about Golden Orb in next month's RAN.



# 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)



## Exercise Eagle Fire - Reservists Get To Grips With the General



Over the weekend of 21-23 Apr 23, 3 Company deployed to Lydd ranges as part of the first phase of their GPMG Cadre. The aim of Ex EAGLE FIRE was to qualify the current Gunners for their light role ACMT, as well as introducing potential recruits to the Section.

WHTs were conducted on the training nights prior to deployment, allowing us to jump straight onto the gallery range at Lydd. Balancing weapons, then zeroing, then the ACMT was completed with ease allowing us to move through a series of progressively more challenging shoots.

The outcome of the weekend was a fire team of qualified gunners ready to move onto their SF ACMT prior to the ADX cadre, as well as a fire team of soldiers that have completed their WHTs, have fired the gun and are confident with stripping/assembling/cleaning and firing should they be required on future exercises.

### **PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS:** HAS THE CURRENT CLIMATE AFFECTED YOUR PERFORMANCE OUTLET? **#KeepDoingWhatYouLove**

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**#ArmyJobs**

\*British and Commonwealth Citizens are eligible to apply to join British Army Music.







# The London Gazette

**The following entries relevant to the Regiment were listed in The London Gazette dated 06 April 2023:**

Second Lieutenant H R Bussandra 30246041 to be Lieutenant 11 December 2022

Second Lieutenant B T S Jooste – Jennings 30289085 to be Lieutenant 11 December 2022

Second Lieutenant J F G Rice 30347100 to be Lieutenant 11 December 2022

**The following entries relevant to the Regiment were listed in The London Gazette dated 17 April 2023:**

Lieutenant H J Gurney 30203262 to be Captain 14 December 2022

Lieutenant R W Simmons 30261815 to be Captain 14 December 2022

**The following have been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military) with 2 Clasps:**

Lt Col R J Clements OBE 510295

**The following have been awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Clasp to the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military):**

WO2, S T Woolcott 24627908

## Regimental Bulletins Register

**Regt Bulletins Issued Since The March 2023 Issue of RAN:**

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-018 - Royal Anglian News, March 2023

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-019 - Notice - Regt Band Spring Concert, Bury St Edmunds, 27 May 23

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-020 - Death Notice - Capt Ray Hazan OBE - 2 April 23

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-021 - Death Notice - Ron Collins - 3rd Battalion

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-022 - Job Vacancy - SSI CCF Caroline Chisholm School

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-023 - Promotion Board Results - Sgt to CSgt

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-024 - Death Notice - Peter Ward, 3rd Battalion - 10 April 23

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-025 - Job Vacancy - QM(T), Infantry Battle School, Brecon

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-026 - Special Order of the Day - Almanza Day - 25 April 23

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-027 - Death Notice - Chris Spring, 2nd Battalion - 25 April 23



# Regt Diary Dates

## May

- 6 HM King Charles III Coronation Day
- 12 Regimental Council Meeting – Royal Hospital Chelsea
- 12 Infantry Training Centre Catterick Pass Out Parade – ITC Catterick
- 15-19 Regimental Battlefield Study - NL & Germany
- 27 Regt Band Spring Concert - St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds

## June

- 10 Vikings Veterans Ball - Bury St Edmunds
- 17 Poacher's Veterans Ball - Northampton
- 21 Reserves Day
- 24 UK Armed Forces Day
- 25 Hindoostan Day - 17th Foot

## July

- 14 Regimental Representative's Event - Bedford School
- 16 Cambridgeshire Assoc Reunion - Ely
- 22 Salamanca Day - 44th Foot
- 22 CCS 232 - RMA Sandhurst
- 25 RSB 231 - RMA Sandhurst
- 27 Talavera Day - 48th Foot
- 27 Korean War 70th Anniversary Commemorations
- 29 Regt Association, Northamptonshire Branch - Talavera Day Commemorations
- 30 Suffolk Assoc - Minden Day - Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds

## August

- 1 Minden Day
- 11 Sovereign's Parade CC223 - RMA Sandhurst
- 13 Bedfordshire Assoc Blenheim Day - Kempstone





## Our Affiliated Cadets

For the first time in the history of the Army Cadet Force a National ACF Museum has been created at Octavia Hill's Birthplace House in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. So it was fitting the Cadets from the local Wisbech Detachment, Cambridgeshire ACF would be the first Cadets to visit.



The ACF Museum is being created as a project in conjunction with ACCTA, Regional Command along Col (Retd) Mark Knight MBE DL., a former Commandant of Cambridgeshire ACF,

The idea is to bring together memorabilia covering the start of the ACF in 1859, Octavia Hill's involvement from 1889 in the formation of the modern day ACF as we know it today right up to year 2023. The present conception of the Army Cadet Force as a voluntary youth organisation, helped and inspired by the Army, really stems from that time and has continued throughout the ACF's. Octavia is well known for her work as a founder of the National Trust, social reformer but not generally for her pioneering work with the ACF.

Although many ACF items are in circulation with private individuals it is hoped to secure donations or loans of items for display in the ACF Museum. It is a major task and relies on the support of ACF members and former cadets who have served.



The Museum is now open where ACF members will be most welcomed, maybe when training on nearby STANTA.

For those unable to visit it is planned to create a virtual tour and website downloads are planned. Its a start! A quote from one of the Cadets reads “ I knew a little about the ACF History but seeing the Museum has been a great experience”

**Octavia Hill Birthplace House**

**The National ACF Museum**

**7 South Brink**

**Wisbech**

**Cambridgeshire PE13 1JW For further info see <https://octaviahill.org/army-cadets/>**



## **Royal Anglian Regt Affiliated Cadet Marches in the Coronation Parade**

Cadet RSM Josh Watson of St Columba's College CCF will be carrying the Combined Cadet Force Banner at the Kings Coronation. CRSM Watson will be wearing Royal Anglian Service Dress as we are affiliated to the Regiment.

April 2023

[royalanglianregiment.com](http://royalanglianregiment.com)



# Our Regimental Association



## Remembering 2Lt Nick Hull - Killed in Action, Belfast 16 April 1972

Fifty-one long years passing since the fateful day when 2Lt Nicky Hull was killed in action by the IRA in Belfast. A group of 3rd Battalion veterans attended his graveside to remember him. They gathered on the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Nick's death at St Andrew's Church, Amptill, Bedfordshire.



Picture L-R: Percy Parsons, James Martindale, Benny Hill Snr, Howard Davies, Steve Hennah, Steve Norman.

Previous to this, Pompadour veteran Lawrence 'Percy' Parsons attended the headstone laid for Nicky Hull and painstakingly cleaned it, making it as good as new. He then gathered some of the local veterans and arranged for a special mention by the current vicar in the Sunday service. The parishioners were most welcoming afterwards and a biscuit or two was consumed by our veterans! Well done to Percy for all his hard work and to those who attended.



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pte Tony Goodfellow - KIA 27<sup>th</sup> April 1973



Once again the Veteran community gathered to commemorate the loss of a comrade. This time in the town of Rushden where Pte Tony Goodfellow 3 Royal Anglian, a much respected member of the Regiment lies in peace. In an event co-hosted by the Regiment and the local rugby club, a group of hardy veterans stood by Tony's graveside whilst the 2nd Battalion Padre read some words in the form of a service.

A moving and emotional service saw the placing of a wreath, the last post before the group retired to the local rugby club and were addressed by Lt Col (Retd) Kerry Woodrow who was OC, A Coy in Londonderry on the 1973 tour. A few pints accompanied a good buffet saw the troops fed and watered ready for the telling of many tales from the tour and of happier moments. A great, but emotional day.

Events like this are never possible without the organisers and support of others and in this case special mention should be given to Graham 'Nat' Sayers who put a whole year's worth of planning into the day. His efforts ensured success. Nat's work involved liaising with the County Colonel, Area Secretary and the Rugby Club, as well as bringing together the A Company veterans. A special shout out is also due to the Rugby Club for their hospitality, and once again, to RHQ for adding their support and generous financing of the event.

Anthony Goodfellow, gone but never forgotten



**Padre Tom Wilde, Chaplain to the 2nd Battalion leads the Way at Tony Goodfellow's Commemoration.**



### **Office for Veterans' Affairs - Priority Setting Partnership Survey**

The Office for Veterans' Affairs has recently launched a priority setting survey, which aims to create a Top 10 list of what needs investigating to help improve care for former service personnel and their families, friends and carers? They are looking for the following people to answer a new short survey which will influence future research:

- veterans
- family, friends, and other supporters of veterans
- and the healthcare professionals who work with veterans and families

A link to the survey can be found here: <https://jla.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/veterans-health-psp-survey>

The survey asks for suggestions or comments about all areas of physical and mental health and wellbeing that need further investigation. It's OK to write as much or a little as you like, about anything that you feel is important.

**Further information on Royal Anglia Veteran Engagement events can be obtained from WO2 Mole Stevens at the following email address:**  
[regtveteransengagement@royalanglianregiment.com](mailto:regtveteransengagement@royalanglianregiment.com)



## Our Regimental Museum

Recently, we received some donations! A lot from Northern Ireland, and some great things for both the collection and handling and education. Some of these were: a leather wallet made by a Prisoner of War, lots of photos and maps. For handling, we received the parachute that would have gone in the 81 MM Illumination mortar round, and we have one of these for handling and it will be great to show the children and families to better explain the function!



We also have spent some time clearing the past donations and properly conserving them, cataloguing them, and adding them to the collection.

In the museum, we had to take the RPG-7 off the handling table because it wasn't secure. We have been pondering something new to add which could be more multi-faceted and offer an activity and the opportunity for learning. We are hoping to display some older radios from the Cold War era, and giving adults interested in radios some information, as well as allowing children to have a go on them, while displaying and comparing them to everyday items younger generations would be more familiar with as a comparison.

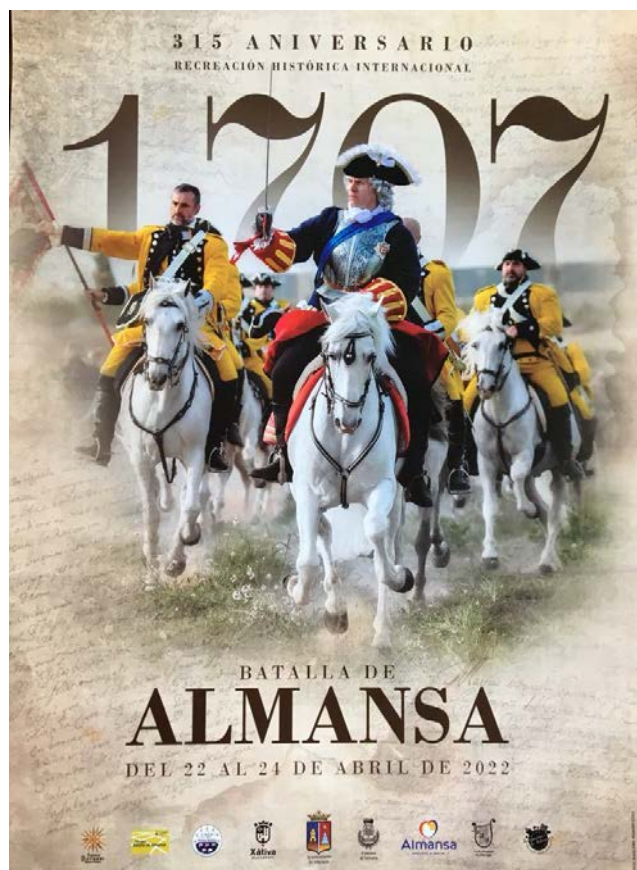




# Our Regimental Heritage

## The Battle of Almansa - By Peter Ferrary

Earlier this year Mike Meredith and I visited Almansa \* in South East Spain, at the invitation of the town, to participate in its 315th anniversary celebrations of the battle. Our aim was to explain our Regiment's participation in the battle and our continuing commemoration of an event which most Spaniards, until very recently, had long forgotten.



These celebrations in Almansa are a relatively recent innovation, instigated and driven forward, in particular for the 300th anniversary, by a keen local historian, one Herminio Gomez, who has been tireless in promoting this long forgotten battle among historians, academics, his local townspeople and, importantly, the municipality. The battle had wide ranging geopolitical consequences in so far as Spain was concerned. Herminio has succeeded in having a small local museum established dedicated to the battle and in organising guided battlefield tours, annual re-enactments of the battle, as well as a seminar over the course of a long weekend close to the 25th April. These re-enactments now attract about 400 appropriately costumed participants from far and wide and the whole event has now become a major regional attraction. As Herminio confesses, what had started as a hobby has now become his full time job and vocation.

The idea for the visit arose as a result of the late Michael Goldschmidt's initiative in early 2017 to organise a Wessex Vikings Almansa Luncheon. This proved very successful and 16 of us gathered to enjoy the event. Many contacts were re-established and in my case I re-connected with Mike whom I hadn't seen in some years.

Mike's wife Pilar is Spanish and they often holiday near Alicante not that far from Almansa. So on their next visit following the 2017 luncheon, Mike and Pilar visited Almansa expressly to visit the Battle of Almansa Museum which Mike had researched. Herminio, on learning that a former Royal Anglian, with links to the 9th of Foot, was at the Museum's doors, greeted him with the words, "Hola, Holy Boy!" (the much later nickname of the 9th of Foot) and proceeded to tell him about Stuart's Regiment (the forbear regiment of the 9th) and show him where its place was in the Order of Battle on a large plan of the battlefield!



A friendship was struck and subsequently, in 2019, Mike returned to Almansa and presented a delighted Herminio with a photograph of “Almansa 1707” embroidered on the 1st Battalion’s Drum Major’s sash for display in his museum; tangible evidence of our Regiment’s association with Almansa which Herminio had asked about. The idea then developed as to the possibility of finding a willing person who could present a talk in Spanish about the Regiment and its connection with this significant event in Spanish history, the Battle of Almansa, at the following year’s commemorative events. Mike thought of myself and rather too enthusiastically I agreed! The idea for a future visit was born.

But giving a presentation in Spanish was easier said than done. Whilst my Spanish is fluent it is unpractised beyond a domestic level. So having completed the relatively easy part of preparing a presentation in English, a significant effort in translation was required! It was, after all, 40 years since I had attended the Spanish Army Staff College.

Our visit was to have taken place in April 2020 but Covid intervened and it was not until this year that we were able to go. Though we had to make our own way there (Mike from UK myself from Gibraltar), the municipality paid for our accommodation in the best 4-star hotel in town and we were very well looked after during our 3 day visit. The proprietor of the Hotel Blu where we stayed was also great fun and very hospitable and ensured our stay was most comfortable and enjoyable.

It is fair to say that Mike and I, initially, had only a sketchy idea of the programme of events other than the requirement to give our presentation. However, as well as the seminar and two battle re-enactments being staged on Saturday and Sunday, the weekend also coincided with the twinning ceremony between Almansa



and the Italian town of Volvera and the visit of an Italian delegation for the occasion. In part, we were swept up in these events and on the Friday morning after being shown round Almansa by the Deputy Mayor we visited a bodega where the Italian delegation were being treated to some local wines. That evening, at the official start of the seminar Mike presented the town's mayor with a Regimental plaque which was much appreciated. Detachments of re-enactors paraded through the streets adding to a general festive atmosphere about the town. There was local TV interest in all these goings on which unbeknown to us included Mike and I. It was only on return to our hotel on our second evening that the receptionist greeted us with "I saw you on TV earlier"!

The presentation on Saturday morning, delivered to an audience of about 30 – mainly academics and local military history buffs – went very well. There was little to say on the actual battle other than presenting the facts as we know them and given in our Special Order of the Day: despite the Allied defeat, Steuart's Regiment, later the 9th of Foot etc, distinguished themselves in the battle and, as tradition has it, were rewarded by Queen Anne with the privilege of adopting Britannia as the Regiment's insignia. (The system of awarding Battle Honours was only introduced much later in 1760 though Regiments were able to claim these retrospectively. The first battle honour awarded to the 9th was Belleisle, an island off the coast of Brittany captured by the British in 1761.

The presentation also covered the 9th's connections with Spain (Corunna/Holy Boys/Peninsular War), the development of the regimental system and our present day Regiment. The presentation was well supported with plenty of slides which were much appreciated. Two other speakers, academics from the universities of Alicante and Albacete, had also taken part the previous evening.

One spoke on the lasting effect that the aftermath of the battle had on legislative procedures by imposing a "Spain - one nation" policy on the Catalan regions. The other on the important and very significant financial aid there is available from the EU to support cultural, heritage and sports projects throughout the EU and of which Spain is a major recipient. This was evident in our tour of Almansa; a fairly small town boasting a large sports complex and with many of its old buildings lovingly restored.

On the Saturday afternoon Mike and I attended the first re-enactment which was impressive and enjoyable other than for the weather which was quite cold. Herminio, in his period costume, was the enthusiastic commentator for the event.

On Sunday morning, before the second re-enactment and in brighter, warmer weather, we were invited to partake in the Battle of Almansa remembrance proclamation involving speeches by the Mayor and other local dignitaries including the Italian Mayor. Following this and after the departure of the re-enactors to prepare for battle, Mike and I were surprised to find ourselves, escorting an elegant lady in period dress carrying our poppy wreath (on behalf the Regiment), at the head of the procession of dignitaries and including a band, through the streets of Almansa clapped enthusiastically by the locals.

On arrival at the ground where the re-enactment was taking place, Mike and I were the first to lay our wreath before the other dignitaries laid their own floral tributes. The original monument marking the site of the battle had been destroyed, rebuilt and destroyed several times over the years so what we had was a faithful reproduction of the original memorial which gets displayed every year during the celebrations and is then stored away. Vandals exist everywhere.

In sum, this was a very successful visit and has established our Regiment's continued commemoration of the Battle of Almansa firmly in the locals' minds and is now recorded in their museum. Mike had also

brought along a copy of the regimental history, From Aden to Afghanistan, a gift from RHQ on behalf of the Regiment, to be displayed in the Battle of Almansa museum.



Anyone visiting sunny Alicante may wish to visit Almansa. It is an interesting little place with a castle, dating from the period of the Muslim occupation of Spain, perched on a crag above the town and very beautifully restored. Almansa also produces an excellent wine though sadly this is not widely available in the UK.

As indicated earlier, the genesis for the Almansa trip stemmed from the Wessex Vikings Almansa lunches which were held in 2017-19. On this note it is hoped that an Almansa lunch will be held in 2023 – whether in Wessex or not – not only to continue this ‘tradition’ but as a tribute to Michael Goldschmidt’s memory also.

Finally, a word of thanks to Mike for his enthusiasm and doggedness in pursuing this Almansa project; for his helpful liaison with Herminio and for his suggestions and advice with regards this article.

\* The Regiment has always spelt Almansa with a Z. But the battle in 1707 took place just outside the town of Almansa with an S - which lies between Alicante and Albacete in the South East of Spain. The trouble is there’s a separate Almansa with a Z in Spain but this is near Leon in the North of the country and some six hundreds kilometres away. It would make a difference to one’s Satnav!