



# Royal Anglian News





**Cover Image:** A Merry Christmas to Everyone in the Royal Anglian Regimental Family

## REGIMENTAL NEWS



### Congratulations to This Year's Poulterers' Prize Winner!



The Regiment warmly congratulates Cpl Mitchell Lingley of D (Cambridgeshire) Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on being awarded the Poulterers Prize for 2022. The prize is awarded annually to "the individual who has best promoted the ethos of the Royal Anglian Regiment". All three of our Battalions submitted excellent nominations, which were scored by senior members of the Regiment and by the Worshipful Company of Poulterers. Cpl Mitchell Lingley was nominated for his exemplary service, and in particular for his outstanding contribution to Op INTERFLEX.

Cpl Mitchell Lingley and his Commanding Officer have been invited by the Poulterers to their Christmas Court Lunch in London on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023, where the Master Poulter will present the Poulterers' Prize to Cpl Mitchell Lingley.

### Regimental Christmas Carol Service - Bury St Edmunds, 10 December 2022

The Annual Regimental Christmas Carol Service will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of December at 1030hrs 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.

### A Warm Welcome to the Royal Anglian Family

Our latest intake of Infantry Soldiers have recently completed their Combat Infantry Course at the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick in North Yorkshire.

The 11 newly qualified Royal Anglian Soldiers passed off the square on 18 November 2022 and have now been posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions to begin their Army careers. Pictured Left to Right: Private Tonawai, Private Minhas, Private Tipper, Private Lee, Private Musk, Private Anderson, Private Wilcock, Private Easton, Private Sylvester, Private Watkin, Private Rhodes.



### **Operational Awards - Operation Newcombe**

The Colonel of the Regiment and All Ranks warmly congratulate the following members of the 2 Royal Anglian Battlegroup who have been recognised for their efforts during Operation Newcombe in Mali.

Commanding Officer, Lt Col Will Meddings who is awarded an OBE.

SSgt (now WO2) Bradbury QARANC, the Medical Group Sergeant Major was awarded a QCVS.

Sgt Humphreys QDG, a Troop Sergeant from the attached Lt Cav Sqn was awarded an MiD.

Maj Lee Waghorn, the Task Group Logistics Officer, was awarded a Joint Commander's Commendation.

Maj Mark Garner, the Task Group ISTAR Officer (now OC C Coy), awarded Joint Commander's Commendation.

Maj Jennifer Connell ALS, the Task Group Legal Advisor, was awarded a Joint Commander's Commendation.

Major Simon Morgan-Jones RAMC, Commander of the Medical Group, was awarded a Joint Commander's Commendation.

Sgt Katy Groom QARANC, ITU Nurse within the Medical Group was awarded a Joint Commander's Commendation.



# 1st Battalion (The Vikings)



## B (Suffolk) Company Break Into Prison to Hone Their Fighting Skills

Fresh off of a rotation of leave and security duties, B (Suffolk) Company deployed on a CTI and 2 Level exercise, Suffolk Soldier 2. This consisted of two weeks of section and platoon level training. The exercise proved to be an excellent opportunity to brush off the cobwebs and begin to practice, and perfect, low-level skills and drills; Essential to every infantry soldier.



The initial stages of the exercise saw B Company's Urban Ops Instructors taking the lead on basic urban warfare training. HMP Dhekelia Prison, provided great real estate to refresh on methods of movement in the urban setting. Soldiers practiced using ladders to gain access to multiple storied buildings and the use of formations and clearance drills employed whilst fighting in an urban environment. Training progressed to the use of Simulation rounds for clearing buildings both against targets and live enemy. Also pushing the soldiers to the full by introducing judgemental shoots in some rooms. This training would prove to be useful in the latter stages of the exercise.

B Coy then deployed to the Western Sovereign Base Area to conduct further platoon training. 5 and 6 Platoon. Platoon Commanders and Sergeants delivered lessons in basic navigation, CASEVACs and communication lessons and section commanders ran through contact drills and section level SOPs.



This training was tested with a day and night navigation and patrol skills exercise based out of Akrotiri training area. Section commanders drilled each section on hand signals, patrolling formations and actions on.



Following this was a force-on-force recce patrol. The platoons split down into multiples, which allowed one force to start in the north of the WSBA and one in the south. The mission was to find and understand each other's movements, patrol formations, tactics and procedures then relaying this information higher. This gave sections further time to practice basic navigation and patrolling at night using NVGs. The ground was sharp sudden drops and unforgiving slopes which proved very testing for each side, pushing all soldiers out of their comfort zones.

All the section level training led us into the final phase of the exercise which saw platoons carry out an advance to contact across sheer ridge lines and steep valleys, and finally a deliberate attack onto Paramali village. This combined the urban and conventional skills refreshed over the week. The culmination of the weeks training showed great development in the company's fighting ability, which will stand the Suffolks in good stead by perfecting the basics for the upcoming Exercise Mayan Warrior in Belize in the summer of 2023.

## 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)



### Poachers Finish a High-Tempo Year With a Sprint to The Finish



### Exercis Khanjar Oman Beckons in 2023

Members of the Headquarters and the Quartermasters' Department 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, made a 6000km journey to Muscat in Oman. The journey through the desert to Duqm showed how varied and expansive the terrain can be. From aggressive mountains to open plains, sand dunes to oases. The environment here is harsh and will provide another excellent opportunity for the Battalion to stretch its potential on an expansive training estate.

The training area in Oman, 50km from the nearest inhabited area, is near perfect to operate in as Light Mechanised Infantry, the large desert expanses are prime territory for the Support Weapon Platoons. The deep wadis and undulating terrain provide the complex terrain for dismounted tactical activities and the hostile environment sets the scene to increase our abilities to administrate in the field with the increased sustainment provided by the platforms.

It won't be all work in Oman though, opportunities for adventure training and sports are excellent and will provide all members of the Battalion Battle Group to test themselves in the Desert

### Exercise Cambrian Patrol

Post Ex Wessex Storm there was little time to take a breath. OC Recce Platoon, Capt James Heal quickly got to work with his team to prepare for the British Army's premier patrol competition. Training was intense, long endurance marches with heavy loads were the basis to their success and ensured that they were in the best physical condition when they arrived at the first RV. Fresh off Ex Wessex Storm Recce and Sniper platoons put together a patrol team led by Captain Heal for the international patrol



competition, Cambrian Patrol, in Wales. Although timings were tight the patrol were well prepared before deploying, conducting additional CBRN, Counter-Explosive Ordinance and Armoured Vehicle Recognition training in camp.



All Cambrian Patrol teams are required to host an international team, so D Company used this opportunity to rekindle relations with US 2nd Cavalry Regiment, who they worked with in Poland on Op Cabrit. The US patrol drove from Germany to Kendrew Barracks where they were instructed on our drills and processes, including an introduction to our weapons.

With all the pre-training completed the patrols set off for the Brecon Beacons with an RV time of 0200 hours, mild rain was predicted as you would expect in Wales. With the 35-by-12km model constructed and orders delivered, the patrol stepped off at first light. Almost immediately boots were wet, and the terrain was unforgiving whilst carrying in excess of 40kg.

The patrol performed extremely professionally and did not struggle on any of the scenarios presented to them. They worked hard between the stands to ensure report line timings were hit and to get as much rest at the half-way LUP as they could – ending up with the full 4 hours shows how hard they worked. By this point every soldier was suffering with immersion foot which grew worse throughout the second day. With almost 45km completed and the last stand survived, the patrol worked hard through the final 15km taking them almost completely around the impact area on Sennybridge. Following the debrief and some welcome rest, the patrol was happy to receive a Silver Medal at the awards ceremony, with our US patrol achieving a credible Bronze.

## 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)



### **Congratulations to 2Lt Natasha Sampson on Commissioning**

2Lt Natasha Sampson moved to 2 Company from No 5 Company just over a year ago, joining the Corby platoon. She quickly established herself within the platoon, settling in well. Leading from the front, she is fit, keen and enthusiastic quickly completing her training. She will now take over Platoon Command in the Leicester Rifle platoon.

As is customary, the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment for the 3rd Battalion, Brig Rich Lyne presented the newly commissioned 2Lt Sampson with a silver Regimental brooch.

In her civilian role Natasha is a Civil Servant working in MOD Main Building, she lives with her partner Toby, an Officer in the RLC.

## The London Gazette

The following entry relevant to the Regiment was listed in The London Gazette dated 14 Nov 2022:

Warrant Officer Class I John Luke Rawdon 25100061 to be Captain 30 April 2022 ( Belated Entry )

## Regimental Diary Dates

09 Dec 22 Regimental Christmas visit to our In-Pensioners at Royal Hospital Chelsea

10 Dec 22 Regimental Christmas Carol Service St Mary's Church Bury St Edmunds

11 Jan 23 Presentation of Poulterers' Prize 2022

10 Feb 23 Sobraon Day

25 Feb 23 Royal Anglian Big Breakfast 2023





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# The Regimental Band

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The Regimental Band played for the Regiment's Service of Remembrance at Imperial War Museum, Duxford on Remembrance Sunday. This picture shows Lance Corporal Hobson playing the last post for the two minute silence.

We are looking forward to playing for the regimental carol service in Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 10th December at St Peter's church. Afterwards, a small brass ensemble will go to the STANTA training area to play for the 3rd Battalion's Carol Service in the historic West Tofts church. The Regt Band will then resume training in January after the Christmas Leave period.



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## Regimental Bulletins Register

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### **Regt Bulletins Issued Since The November 2022 Issue of RAN:**

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-93 - Employment Vacancy - Regional Employer Engagement Director

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-94 - Death Notice - Sergeant Kevin Douglas Websdale

# Regimental Association News



## The Big Breakfast 25 February 2023 is On!

After the huge success of the Royal Anglian Regiment Big Breakfast 2022 (BB22) we are pleased to announce that RHQ is now in the advanced stages of planning BB23. Last year's event was staged at over 40 locations serving 1,000 breakfasts to Royal Anglian veterans of all generations, all over the UK and abroad. The Big Breakfast is a fantastic opportunity for our veterans to catch up with old friends and to start new friendships with fellow members of the regiment who live locally. To all those who wish to be involved with the planning, advertising, or organisation of the 2023 breakfast, further information is available on the Regt Website. You can also contact the RHQ Veterans Engagement Officer, - WO2 Richard (Mole) Stevens by email at:

[regtveteransengagement@royalanglianregiment.com](mailto:regtveteransengagement@royalanglianregiment.com)

## Royal Anglian Veterans Visit Tank Museum Visit 04 Dec 2022

A cold December morning did little to deter our 18 strong group of Royal Anglian Afghan veterans and their families from a visit to the Bovington Tank Museum. The visit was coordinated by Ian Wilkins with support from the RHQ Team fronted by our Veteran Engagement Officer, WO2 Mole Stevens. The funding for admission to the Tank Museum for the veteran group was provided by the Afghanistan Veterans Fund.



The assembled veterans were keen to show their families 'the tanks and APCs' of their era. The joke of Centurion being a rank, not a tank was used many times, and everyone enjoyed the interactive nature of the site. The Tiger and its big brother Tiger II were very popular exhibits among most visitors but inevitably, the Afghanistan section was the most popular by far. The signature board contains hundreds of veteran names including many Vikings. If you have not been it's as well worth the visit and the site is reasonably priced.

Once again thank you to RHQ, the Afghanistan Fund, and WO2 Richard 'Mole' Stevens for providing the support for what was an interesting and enjoyable day spent among fellow veterans and families.





# Our Regimental Museum

This month we have been trying a new social media initiative, we have been opening archive boxes and showing them on Facebook. It has been fun to explore boxes that aren't on display but are part of the reserve collection. Here is a picture of the contents of box 10 and there are many more to discover.



We have also had more Cadet visits, and one more this year, with more planned for 2023. Our last Cadet group visit culminated in a visit to the Regt Memorial, where their leader quizzed them on the Regimental values. It was great to see such an enthusiastic and well-motivated detachment of Cadets that clearly know their values!

Lastly we have finally installed new Territorial Army/Army Reserve information panels in the museum. These start with the TA and its role after the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, and continue to the Reserves most recent contributions in places such as Afghanistan.



**Full details of Museum opening times, and how to book your visit to the Regimental Memorial at Duxford are available from the Curator at the email address below:**

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







# Big Breakfast 23



## CALLING ALL ROYAL ANGLIANS

Join us for a FREE, informal, relaxed breakfast and re-connect with members of your Regimental Family!

# Sat 25<sup>th</sup> February

**FUNDED BY THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION**

**AT LOCATIONS ALL OVER THE UK**

Email RHQ The Royal Anglian Regiment@  
INFHQ-QUEENS-RANG-groupmailbox@mod.gov.uk