



Cover Image: Anti-Tank Platoon, 1st Battalion deployed on Exercise Desert Warrior in the Kuwaiti Desert. Sniper Platoon were also deployed alongside the Kuwait Defence Force.

Regimental News



A Donation to the Regimental Charity Gratefully Received



Members of the Freemasons in Suffolk visited RHQ on Tuesday 28 February 2023 to make a donation of £1000 towards the Royal Anglian Regiment Charity. The funds were raised as a result of an Armistice Meeting held last November by the members of the Philip Jervis Kay (PJK) Lodge. The Freemasons Suffolk signed up to the Forces Covenant late last year and have previously donated money to the Regimental Charity.

Tim McCormack, the current Master of the PJK Lodge, can be seen presenting the cheque to Mark Goldsmith, the Assistant Regimental Secretary. Also pictured is the Regimental Secretary, Lt Col (Retd) Robert Goodin, Secretary of the Lodge, Roger Nash, and Ralph Robertson, a member of the Lodge and veteran of the Royal Anglian Regiment.



1st Battalion (The Vikings)

The 1st Battalion Deploy to the Deserts of Oman & Kuwait



1st Battalion Deployed alongside the Kuwait Defence Force for Bilateral Training on Ex Desert Warrior

It's been a very busy month for the Vikings, with the majority of the battalion deployed on a variety of tasks across the globe. Meanwhile, preparation for the forthcoming unit move back to Kendrew Barracks continues.

A (Norfolk) Coy remain in Oman, with the Poachers on Ex Khanjar Oman. Here, the Company have been attached to the 2 R ANGLIAN BG and have enjoyed an excellent training package in the desert under challenging conditions.

B (Suffolk) Coy have honed their live firing skills during Ex Suffolk Shooter. This training is in preparation for their forthcoming exercise in Belize – Ex Mayan Viking. They have also found time to work with our own Recce Platoon on a demanding exercise in Cyprus.

C (Essex) Coy continue their deployment to Force Protection sites in Cyprus and in Bahrain.

D (Cambs) Coy have enjoyed a number of deployments. Sniper Platoon have been deployed with the Light Dragoons in Kuwait, on Ex Desert Warrior VII, honing their skills in the deserts of Kuwait. Recce platoon are currently running their cadre, training new soldiers from the Rifle Companies. A demanding series of exercises and physical assessments over four weeks will result in those new soldiers being presented their Recce badges by the CO in March.



A (Norfolk) Company flying their flag in Oman with the 2 R ANGLIAN Battlegroup
February 2023

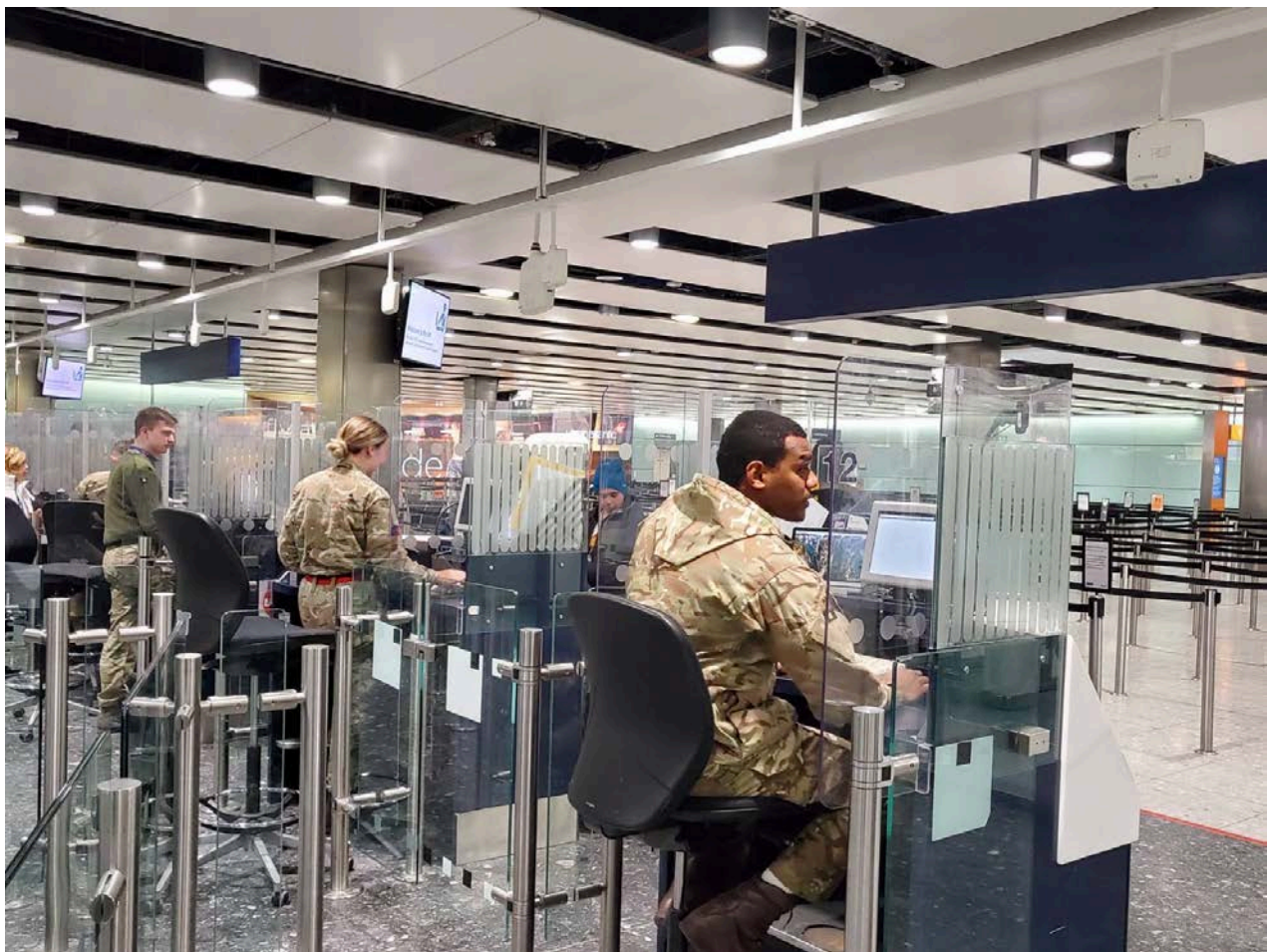


2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

The 2nd Battalion Rises to the Challenge at Home and Away

Op ILKANE - The Rear Operations Group (ROG) of the 2nd Battalion, under the Command of Major Ben Kelly MC has once again been tasked with the protection of Critical National Infrastructure (CNI). They again performed to an exemplary standard, demonstrating their professional humility.

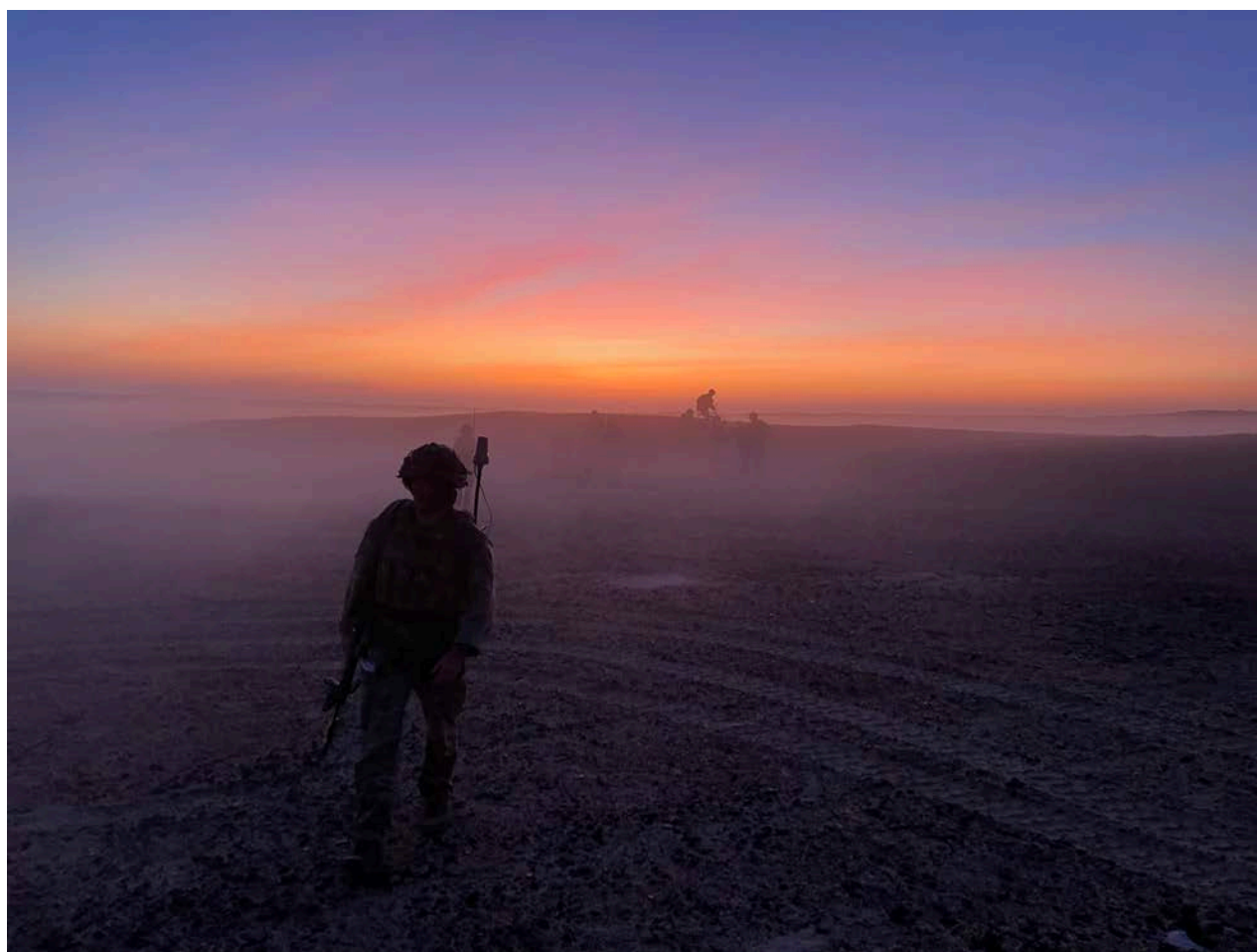
This task was also conducted against the backdrop of providing the ROG for the Battalion deployed forward in Oman. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed among the highest echelons of the Army, and the Commanding Officer takes this opportunity to thank them for their hard work. Their diligent support has enabled the remainder of the Battalion to perform well in Oman and continue to maintain our Battalion's license to operate and remain the Unit of choice within 7 Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team (LMBCT).



Op Ilkane - 2nd Battalion Soldiers take on a different form of border defence as a CNI Task

Ex KHANJAR Oman is overseen by 4 Light Brigade Combat Team (LBCT) and offered the 2 R ANGLIAN BG the opportunity to demonstrate their capacity within a secondary formation. They were supported by A 'Norfolk' Company of 1 R ANGLIAN, as a Light Role Company, and also the Coastal Security Force of the Royal Army of Oman. The Omani's chose the callsign Asad or lion in Arabic and they did just that. Partnered by the Recce Pl, they provided the key ISTAR component for the Battlegroup. Our OPFOR was provided by A Sqn, SCOTS DG.

The exercise saw a progression through a number of mission sets including tasks such as advance to Contact, Deliberate Attacks, and Obstacle Crossings. The exercise went very well, impressing 4LBCT and 7LMBCT LOs alike. This small part of a larger deployment sees our footprint established on Ras Madrakah training area for more to follow.



Lt Huw Davies, OC MG Platoon returns from a Deliberate Attack during Ex Khanjar Oman

Ex JEBEL STORM & PJNCO Cadre on Jebel Akhdar Training Area - Shortly following Ex KHANJAR OMAN, the PJNCO Cadre being run by A 'Lincolnshire' Company, hit the ground running. The first week saw potential NCOs conduct start standard fitness assessments, briefings and lessons that saw them set up for success as they deployed to the Jebel mountains to conduct the tactical phase. The terrain is aggressive, testing every soldier. The opportunity to train in such an environment is seldom, and the experiences that are being provided to these soldiers will undoubtedly be with them for a lifetime.



Lt Anthony Stratton breaks down the ground during the PJNCO Cadre



Adventure Training. - SSgt Hull of the RAPTC, 'Corps Man' of the Poachers BG has knocked this one out of the park, an action packed activity package that provides the opportunity to stretch our soldiers well beyond their comfort zones, within a controlled environment. Activities that soldiers have completed are hill walking and mountain biking around the local area of Al Sifah, a river excursion to Wadi Sham, rock climbing, and also sailing on a catamaran. This provided many more opportunities for our soldiers, including the experience of swimming with turtles.

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)



Reservists From Essex & Hertfordshire Brush Up Their Skills

Thirty Soldiers from 3 (Essex & Hertfordshire) Company took part in a Company weekend where they conducted their Individual Training Requirements and Annual Combat Marksmanship Test. Exercise Eagle Blade was held at Merville Barracks, Colchester and at the Army Reserve Centre in Chelmsford.



The aim of the weekend was to develop marksmanship and judgemental shooting skills within the Company. Shooting was the main effort, going from Grouping and Zeroing through to the Annual Combat Marksmanship Test.

They were also revised and assessed on Counter Improvised Explosive Devices, Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Skills, Navigation, Law of Armed Conflict and Battle Casualty Drills. It was a great shake out for the Company, allowing for development of both basic and leadership knowledge and skills across all ranks preparing for upcoming Exercises.





The Regimental Band

The Regimental Band is Recruiting

The Regimental Band is busy training for what promises to be a full programme of engagements linked to the King's Coronation in May.

Meanwhile, we are recruiting. The band currently has a couple of vacancies, and we are always interested in good musicians on any brass, wind or percussion instrument.

Pictured is Staff Sergeant Colin Swaep, the band's PSI, who has been busy recruiting in the Queens Gate shopping centre in Peterborough.

The Band of The Royal Anglian Regiment is recruiting now - call 01733 358775 or visit army.mod.uk



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*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 21 Nov 2022:

Officer Cadet Spencer Alexander Milton 30374862 from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 17 December 2022.

Officer Cadet Joe James Wansbury 30367663 from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 17 December 2022.

Officer Cadet Will Woolhouse 30368350 from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 17 December 2022.

The following have been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military)

Maj F K Atkins, R Anglian, 30023397

Maj D T Crosbie, R Anglian, 25197380

Significant Promotions & Postings

The Regiment warmly congratulates the following officers on their selection on the Pink List for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel:

Major Gavin Hudson

Major Nick McGinle

Regimental Bulletins Register

Regt Bulletins Issued Since The January 2023 Issue of RAN:

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-009 - Dated 31 Jan 23 - Royal Anglian News - January Edition.

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-010 - Dated 3 Feb 23 - Death Notice - Capt (Retd) Brian Gunton

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-011 - Dated 9 Feb 23 - Death Notice - Capt (Retd) A (Tony) P Towell MC

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-012 - Dated 28 Feb 23 - Royal Anglian News - February Edition.



Regimental Diary Dates

March

10 Infantry Training Centre Catterick Pass Out Parade – ITC Catterick

April

6 Mobbs Memorial Match - Bedford

14 Infantry Training Centre Catterick Pass Out Parade – ITC Catterick

14 Sovereign's Parade CC222 – RMA Sandhurst

25 Almanza Day

May

6 HRH King Charles III Coronation Day

12 Regimental Council Meeting – Royal Hospital Chelsea

12 Infantry Training Centre Catterick Pass Out Parade – ITC Catterick

13 Spring Band Concert – TBC

15-19 Regimental Battlefield Study

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Regimental Association News

A Plea for Your Support From a Fellow Royal Anglian...

Do you remember Anthony Freeman, former Viking, Op HERRICK 6?

Tragically, Anthony's 7 year old daughter has recently been diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumour. Her chances of survival are slim at best, but you can help, and maybe help to save Jasmine's precious life.

More details can be found through this link, including how you can assist in Anthony's hour of need:

<https://gofund.me/d29d4918>

A Big Thank You for Your Support to Big Breakfast 23



With this year's Big Breakfast now completed, and the post-breakfast sweep up in full flow I thought I would write a few lines, firstly to our volunteers without whom none of this would have taken place I say a massive thank you!

This year's BB was staged at almost 40 locations from as far afield as Addis Ababa and Kenya, to deepest, darkest Brecon! Close to a thousand Royal Anglians gathered together across the globe. It really is testament to the family spirit that binds us all together as a Regiment.

On the day it all seems smooth sailing but with last minute cancellations, financial constraints, and busy workloads, the organisers deserve a hearty round of applause. Secondly to the veterans, some of whom travelled great distances to attend. I thank you the veteran community, on the day without knowing that time you took to talk with someone you have not seen for years may have been exactly what was needed, to boost flagging spirits. We all have our bad days, and just to know the larger regimental family is still there can make all the difference. At time of writing we are still collating the attendance figures, I will update you all in the next newsletter.

Finally from me, please if you have any ideas for veteran get togethers between now and BB24, please contact me. My details are available from RHQ, or find me on WhatsApp or Facebook. So far we have had more than a dozen veteran engagement events including bowling, race days, and family days out. Funding is available please do contact me or your Area Secretary for further information.

Mole Stevens - Veteran Engagement Warrant Officer - mailto: **Richard.Stevens781@mod.gov.uk**

Big Breakfast 23 in Africa - Royal Anglians Gather Across the Continent

Big Breakfast 23 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



It may not have been the largest gathering of Royal Anglians for BB23, but the breakfast in Addis Ababa may well qualify as the most exotic this year!

Lt Col John Wright writes: 'I met with Lt Col (Retd) Freddie Grounds who is also working in Ethiopia, like me. We enjoyed a long conversation over breakfast at the Five Loaves Restaurant in Addis Ababa. Unusually, we inadvertently coordinated our dress for the great BB 23.

Big Breakfast 23 - Nairobi, Kenya



Meanwhile, in Kenya, Colonel Phil Moxey gathered the East African contingent of Royal Anglians together for their BB23 in Nairobi.

L-R Maj James Pugh, Maj Charlie Singleton, CSgt Andy Howe, Co Phil Moxey, Mo Morrison, Capt Jamie Hassan, and CSgt Ricky Alderman.

While Back in Blighty...



In Deepest Essex - More Royal Anglians Gathered led by Chris Wright (Including Beers after Breakfast)



Lincoln had an even bigger turnout than last year - Company+ strength at 130 Royal Anglians for Breakfast, with Leicester close behind with an equally impressive 72! (Pic Angie Headland)

Furthest North Gathering?



Not all Big Breakfast gatherings were large-scale operations, many were much smaller in number. They were nonetheless welcoming and friendly events. The question is, was the BB at Catton the furthest North?

Well done to all those that attended!

BB23 at Catton Northumberland - Anyone North of This?

Royal Anglian Association (Vikings) Past & Present Summer Ball 2023

The Royal Anglian Association (Vikings) past and present will be holding a summer ball on the 10 June 2023 at Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. It is open to all veterans and serving Officers' and other ranks from Aden to the present.

The aim of this enduring event is to bring us all together annually and have a good time with our fellow comrades, of whom you have served with, over the past 58 years.

The ball is open to all; wives and partners are encouraged to attend the function. Those who wish to attend are to complete the attendance return form. The tables will be in groups of 10, if you have a preference of whom you would like to sit with, please annotate your return.

Returns must be completed and email to david.granfield666@mod.gov.uk by 20 February 2023.

Veteran Engagement - A Royal Anglian Family Gathering in Colchester



Two Former Quarter Masters hassling a former SNCO, Majors Rtd Bob Grenfell and Bob Potter...adjusting the bowling scores.

Saturday the 18th of February saw one of many planned events take place at the local leisure centre in Colchester with Ten Pin bowling including a meal. This was a great evening which saw 62 veterans from across all three Battalions reconnect with some old faces that had not seen each other for over 20 years. RHQ kindly funded this event which was organised and run by Dave ('Necky' Riley) with support from RHQ and WO2 Richard (Mole) Stevens. It is hoped this is one of many events keeping the Regimental spirit alive with opportunities for all to be involved.



Apres Bowls - A Gathering at The Albert Bar to Catch Up With Old Friends



Our Regimental Museum

Starting with probably the biggest news, it is becoming clearer how the future redevelopment of the IWM is likely to affect our Regimental Museum. We were briefed on the original IWM Masterplan over ten years ago, so we have long known that our Museum Gallery was due to move to a new location. Our current Museum Gallery is in the Land Warfare Hall and this site is to be redeveloped, though we do not know exactly when this will happen.

The current forecast is for 2025. But as with many big redevelopment plans, dates have shifted to the right and delays have been compounded by the effects of COVID. Our Museum Trustees are currently working closely with the IWM Trustees, looking at options for new locations at Duxford.

Rather obviously in recent years our Museum Trustees have been cautious about undertaking major developments in our Museum Gallery while it has been about to move, so we are very excited at the prospect of a major project to design and build what will be a completely new museum. Subject to the design for the new space we would hope to be able to incorporate different displays and objects, more personal stories of officers and soldiers, and include more current conflicts and deployments which are not covered in our gallery now.



Visits from RANGLIAN Affiliated Cadet Units Have Increased Significantly - A Welcome Trend

There may be a period in the future when some of the collection needs to be put into storage while one building comes down and another space is created, but hopefully not for long. If that happened, we would hope to have already significantly developed our on-line museum and to have created some mobile displays that could visit events, schools and Regt/Cadet units in our counties to continue to bring our museum to the public and the regimental family.

We are always on the lookout for grants, and this year tried something different by applying for a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) grant from the Royal Society, and we were successful. We chose two STEM activities, highlighting the science behind conflict and the technological advances involved in warfare. We now offer these at our event days for children and families, to encourage them to engage in STEM.

Melissa Kozlenko at: royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com



2 R Anglian and Omani Troops Training Together on Ex Khanjar Oman



Our Affiliated Cadets

Royal Anglian Cadet, Cadet CSgt Dom Smith Enjoys the Opportunity of a Lifetime



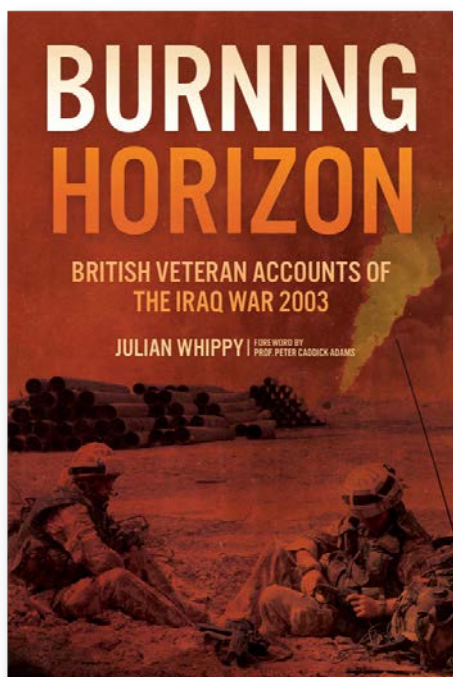
I have been a cadet with Suffolk Army Cadet Force since January 2017 and have enjoyed all my years as a cadet.

My highlights have been partaking in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, learning to become a cadet signaller at Blandford and now going to India to represent the Army Cadet Force.

I was selected to carry out such a privilege by National Cadet HQ. They were given a file on me by Suffolk county ACF and commanding officers. The file contained my personal reasoning for why I wanted to go to India, and evidence from my cadet career, such as my tenure as a Lord Lieutenants Cadet, all of these factors are why they chose me as good representative.

The reason for our Indian exchange was to celebrate the 75-year anniversary of the country's independence and to celebrate 75 years of the founding of the Indian National Cadet Corps(NCC). This all culminated in the republic day camp which lasted for 15 days, with 10 cadets from the UK and 18 other countries participating.

We had a fantastic opportunity to join our Indian counterparts in celebrating their history by uniting with them in their prime minister's rally parade. As part of this parade cadets from all over India, and ourselves, performed a march past and cultural practices for the prime minister and the director general of the NCC. I am immensely proud to have taken part in the exchange and to have been given the opportunity not only to represent the ACF but the UK. This trip will stay with me forever and has helped reinvigorate me and my outlook towards cadets moving forward, it was also an amazing way to commemorate my 6-year anniversary of being an Army Cadet.



COMING SOON

Burning Horizon

British Veteran Accounts of the Iraq War, 2003

By Julian Whippy

Capturing first-hand accounts, this is a fresh, balanced perspective of the British military's role in Operation Telic in Iraq, which saw the largest UK troop deployment since World War II.

Codenamed Operation Telic, the British component of the invasion of Iraq in 2003 was the largest gathering of British troops since the Second World War. Whilst the British public prepared for the worst as its soldiers were facing weapons of mass destruction, most servicemen and women were under no illusion that they were invading Iraq to rid the people of Saddam Hussein.

While much has been said about WMD and Blair's government, not nearly enough has been heard from those men and women that took part in Operation Telic. Based upon dozens of veteran interviews, personal diaries and archival material, this book tells their stories in their own words and captures their courage, fortitude, pride, and brotherhood amidst the harsh realities of modern asymmetric warfare.

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