



Royal Anglian News



January 2023

Cover Image: The Royal Anglian Regiment's 21st Century Soldier Project is underway - our first soldier mannequin has been delivered to the Suffolk Regt Museum at Moyes Hall, Bury St Edmunds. (Photo: Trigpoint Pictures)

REGIMENTAL NEWS



CHANGE OF COMMAND COMPLETE AT 1ST BATTALION - 16 JAN 23



Lt Col Adrian Thompson MBE has assumed command of the Vikings' and will oversee the completion of the battalion's time in Cyprus, the move to Cottesmore, and its transition to a new structure as a Security Force Assistance (SFA) Battalion in 11 (SFA) Brigade.

On assuming command, Lt Col Thompson said, "It is an enormous privilege and a distinct honour to command His Majesty's Vikings. I am extremely grateful for the excellent leadership of the Battalion shown by my predecessor, who can be rightly proud of what the Vikings have achieved under his tenure. I look forward to building on his achievements. Our move back to Kendrew to join the 2nd Battalion and our future role as a Security Force Assistance Battalion offer really exciting opportunities for the Vikings to continue to humbly excel around the world. *Stabilis.*"

THE OFFICERS' CLUB, ANNUAL DINNER, 4TH NOVEMBER 2022

The Officers' Club held their Annual Dinner at the Army and Navy Club on 4th November 2022. Their charter is to ensure that all the members of the club have the opportunity of dining together to renew and make friendship with each other. The Colonel of the Regiment presided and spoke after dinner about the Regiment.

This is one of the few occasions when the Regiment can formally entertain guests. This year our senior guest was the Master Poulter, Mrs Elizabeth Garner, who is the fifth family generation of Poulters and the 10th Master in her family. Other members of the Poulters also attend. Members of the regimental family will know that the Poulters are strong supporters of the Regiment. In January for example the Poulters are due to entertain Cpl Mitchell Lingley of the 1st Battalion who was recently awarded the Poulters' Prize for 2022.

Those who have held regimental appointments are dined out as guests. The Colonel of the Regiment mentioned two in particular for their outstanding service and support to our Regiment. Brigadier David Clements has been the Chairman of our Trustees for ten years, during which time our regimental charity has been professionalised and our investments have been very well managed. And Lt Col Rich Breedin has been our Senior LE Officer, providing wise and respected advice.

Although the 1st Battalion was in Cyprus and the majority of the 2nd Battalions' officers were on exercise in Germany, there were 80 members of the club at the dinner, including a particularly strong contingent of Berlin veterans from the 2nd Battalion. Music was provided by the Band of the Royal Yeomanry, and a short report on the dinner was published in The Times.

Next year, with all three Battalions in the UK, commitments allowing, it is hoped to have an even better turn out for the dinner on 3rd November 2023.

The Regiment is well represented at RMAS - CSgt Dean Kimpton, CSgt Sam Warburton, CSgt Aaron Wildney



Caption

1st Battalion (The Vikings)



FAREWELL TO LT COL GRAHAM GOODEY MBE



The Vikings said farewell to Lt Col Graham Goodey MBE on 13 January 2023, after over two and a half years in command of the battalion. During his time as CO, the Vikings completed the unit move from Woolwich to Cyprus (including the epic Olympus Viking), delivered a ground-breaking battalion-level exercise in Cyprus, conducted defence engagement across the region (and further afield), and has excelled on the sports pitches. Lt Col Goodey was dined out in the Officers' Mess, with both messes in attendance, before being ceremonially dragged out of Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia the following day.

A Coy, recently returned from the UK on Op INTERFLEX, and are in their last stages of preparations for their deployment to Oman on Ex KHANJAR OMAN with the 2nd Battalion. A small team led by the OC, Maj James Walters, have already deployed to Oman and are conducting the necessary read-in and build up training with the Poachers.

B and C Company have returned from Force Protection tasks over the Christmas period and are currently undertaking Public Order validation with C Coy on Ex VIKING SHIELD IV.

D Company have had elements deployed on Op KIPION in Bahrain, Force Protection tasks in the Troodos Mountains and are currently conducting final preparation for an exercise in Kuwait on Ex DESERT WARRIOR 7. A number of support weapon cadres are currently taking place to train in new soldiers from the rifle companies.



However, this busy period has not let up the sporting commitments of the battalion. A group of Vikings, again working with the Poachers, have recently returned from the French Alps on the infantry skiing competition.





2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

C (Northamptonshire) Company, 2nd Battalion Walking in the Footsteps of History

Returning to work after 3 weeks off for Christmas is never easy, but on Monday 9th January life was not all bad for members of C (Northamptonshire) Company, who embarked on a two-day cultural study period in the County to whom their Company bears allegiance.

Thanks to the County Colonel, Robert Blomfield, the first visit saw a coach load of young soldiers alight at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the heart of the old barracks area of Northampton. Once the regular location for Sunday Regimental Church Parades by the Northamptons, this Tenth Century Grade I Listed “Round” church, is one of only four of its kind in Britain. It remains the spiritual home of C (Northamptonshire) Company. It boasts a Regimental Stained-Glass window inscribed with XLVIII.

The tour, guided by David Parrish (ex REMEWOI) and Church trustee, was fascinating as he included within it many photos and artefacts from regimental history. The Regimental Chapel was a highlight containing amongst other items two memorial chairs to Privates Morris and Lewaicei both killed in Iraq in 2008 when serving with C Coy. The group also viewed the Book of Remembrance containing the names of over 6,000 former members of the Regiment killed in action.



Bringing the battle to life - Major (Retd) Tom Dormer, a Northampton Man, a Royal Anglian, and an accomplished Battlefield Guide.

After lunch the group moved to the Regimental Galleries housed within the Abington Park Museum. Here the museum curator, Jane Seddon, laid on a series of guided talks illustrating the long and colourful history of the Northamptons, and the more recent Royal Anglian Regiment. The young men of C Company learnt much and left with a far greater understanding of the heritage of which they are now a living part.

The following day, Tuesday 10th January, saw a party set out in a deluge of rain from Kendrew Barracks to rendezvous in the village of Naseby, midway between Market Harborough and Northampton. Former Company Commander, Major Tom Dormer, ably assisted by our own Deputy Regt Secretary, Major Mike Peters (both members of the Guild of Battlefield Guides), proceeded to educate all those assembled about the history and the major significance of the Battle of Naseby.

Considered to be the day when Britain first became a democracy as the Crown succumbed to the Parliamentarians it was clear that the young audience were totally engaged by what they heard. The Company owes a debt of gratitude to Tom and Mike for such an interesting and entertaining day, setting the perfect tone for the forthcoming deployment to Oman.

Finally, Colonel Robert hosted a small party from the Company to lunch at Armoury House on Wednesday 11th January to conclude the cultural study period. Here in London, home of the HAC, Colonel Blomfield not only provided lunch in his London Club, but coupled it with a tour of the museum which is steeped in history including that of the English Civil War, the Honourable Artillery Company being the oldest regiment in the British Army!

The Poachers take to the hills for Exercise Frosted Blade 37

During December last year the Poachers sent a team of 8 to compete at the infantry skiing championships in Val-d'Isere. A young team of mostly novices, only one member of the team had raced before, took part in an intensive 3 weeks of ski training followed by race week in the first week of January. Over the training period the novices were taken from zero to hero, starting off on the nursery slopes but eventually making it onto Black slopes, such as the one they would eventually race

The team of 8 was split down into a Primary Hill and a Development Hill. The Primary Hill took part in 5 events: Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super Giant Slalom, Downhill and Super-Combined (SuperG and Slalom), and the Development Hill took part in just the Slalom and Giant Slalom. All events were competed as an individual, to give your overall ranking on the exercise, and as a team to give a team score against the other Battalions on the hill.

The Primary Hill scored its best result in the Downhill event finishing 23rd of 34 teams who took part in the Downhill, clearly showing that what the novices may lack in skill they more than made up for in their bravery on the speed event, reaching speeds of 95Km/h.





Overall, Frosted Blade was a testing and enjoyable training event, firmly taking much of the team way outside of their comfort zones. Hopefully, a few of the novices will be able to take the experience they had on to next year and get a good finish for the Poachers team. This would not have been achieved without the funding offered from the Battalion and the Regiment, enabling the purchase of essential racing personal protective equipment.

The Poachers Team, with their final seed on their respective hills:

Primary Hill – Lt Edward Ashwell (66), LCpl Reece Going (112), Pte Kieran Blaxill (114), Pte Logan Johnson (145)

Development Hill – Lt Jack Rice (78), Pte Connor Maloney (89), Pte Samuel Leek (108), Pte Kieran Evans (110)



The Regimental Band

The band has resumed training after the Christmas break and is busy preparing music for a busy Coronation year. This week saw us dust off William Walton's Crown Imperial March amongst other Coronation themed music.

You may remember that the band mentored and trained Nathaniel McHale to prepare for his Royal Corps of Army Music audition earlier last year. Happily, Musician McHale passed out of phase one training at ATC Pirbright in December and has now embarked upon his phase two trade training at the Alford Schools of Military Music, Portsmouth. The Director of Music, previous Director of Music and the band are extremely proud of his accomplishments.



This is also an example of how the band supports our Regular Army colleagues in the Royal Corps of Army Music. Here he is with his new RCAM colleagues pictured with the Director of Music, Band Sergeant Major and Drum Major of the Sandhurst Band following his passing out parade. Good luck Nathaniel!



Regimental Diary Dates

January

- 10 2nd Battalion Deployment Window to Oman
- 11 Poulterers' Prize Presentation - London
- 16 Regimental Museum Transformation Meeting

February

- 10 Sobraon Day
- 10 Infantry Training Centre Catterick Pass Out Parade – ITC Catterick
- 25 The Big Breakfast – Various Locations

March

- 2 Poulterers' Election Day Lunch
- 10 Infantry Training Centre Catterick Pass Out Parade – ITC Catterick
- 28 RSB CC223 2nd in Allocating Year – RMA Sandhurst
- 28 HO of Regimental Adjutant - RHQ

April

- 6 Mobbs Memorial Match - Bedford
- 14 Infantry Training Centre Catterick Pass Out Parade – ITC Catterick
- 14 Sovereign's Parade CC222 – RMA Sandhurst
- 17 2nd Battalion Recovery Window from Oman
- 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 Regimental Battlefield Tour Departs
- 19 Regimental Battlefield Tour Ends



Regimental Bulletins Register

Regt Bulletins Issued Since The December 2022 Issue of RAN:

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-95 - Dated 7 Dec 22 - Royal Anglian News, December Issue

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-96 Notice of Ukraine Lecture at the Army & Navy Club - 15 Dec 2022

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-97 - Dated 9 Dec 22 - Christmas Message From The Colonel In Chief

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-98 - Dated 12 Dec 22 - Death Notice of Mr Brian Allen, 3rd Battalion

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-99 - Dated 12 Dec 22 - Notice of Regt Battlefield Study - May 2023

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-100 - Dated 14 Dec 22 - Death Notice - Lt Col DJW Bayliss OBE

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-101 - Dated 16 Dec 22 - Regt Spec Order - British Battalion Day

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-001 - Dated 6 Jan 23 - Death Notice 7 Funeral Information - Paul Jones

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-002 - Dated 9 Jan 23 - R ANGLIAN Assoc Past & Present Summer Ball

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-003 - Dated 10 Jan 23 - Job Vacancy - Yeoman Warder, Tower of London

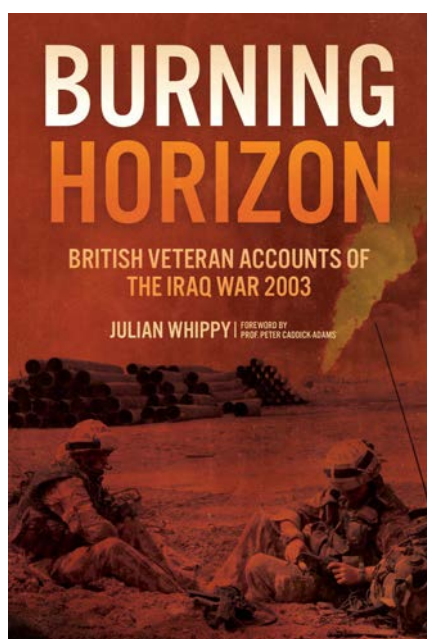
Regimental Bulletin Number 23-004 - Dated 11 Jan 23 - Death Notice - Malcolm Tyler, 2nd Battalion.

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-005 - Dated 17 Jan 23 - Afghan Veterans Art Therapy Classes

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-006 - Dated 20 Jan 23 - Death Notice - Major Neil Paxton, 1st Battalion.

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-007 - Dated 20 Jan 23 - Death Notice - Ian Cumming, 1st Battalion

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-008 - Dated 23 Jan 23 - Job Vacancy East Anglia RFCA Cadet Expansion



Burning Horizon - Iraq, 20 Years On

Ex Royal Anglian Reservist, Julian Whippy is a Military Historian and former London Police Officer with 25 years' service, primarily on specialist firearms teams and on covert surveillance.

His passion for military history began when he joined the Regiment as a soldier in 5 Royal Anglian and has culminated with him owning his own battlefield tour company and working for 22 years across the world as an Accredited Battlefield Guide.

Julian gives presentations on military history across the UK, including at the Royal United Services Institute in Whitehall. A published author, his second book, *Burning Horizon* encompasses the oral testimonies of British Veterans detailing their experiences during the invasion of Iraq in 2003.



Regimental Association News

The Big Breakfast 2023 is On - 25 February 2023

After the huge success of the Royal Anglian Regiment Big Breakfast 2022 (BB22) we are pleased to announce that RHQ is now in the final stages of preparing for 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. If you are a member of the Regimental family and you would like to attend the 2023 breakfast in your area, 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

Royal Anglian Festive Stay Behind Party in Warminster - December 2022

Since its formation in 1964, veterans of the Regiment have settled outside our recruiting areas as they resettle, and the town of Warminster is no exception. The recent discovery of a small sleeper cell of Poachers in the Garrison town necessitated a tactical recce over a coffee or beer.



Supported as usual by RHQ, an intrepid gang of Pompadours and a lone Viking (he soon sought a Purple superman cape for his personal protection) from the area set up a firebase and it wasn't long before the banter battle lines were drawn by a strong Poacher fire team. Savage exchanges, war stories exchanged and coffee drunk it was soon time to set out on the deadly mission that many a brave Royal Anglian has always feared...Christmas shopping! All expressed their interest in attending the next gathering in Jan 23 in Andover and of course the Big Breakfast 2023 on 25th Feb in Salisbury.

Special thanks most go to Sandra Williams for adding the glamour to the group and Mick Baxter (who managed to avoid another photo) for organising it. Once again I implore you doers out there to write some QBOs down and pass them by WO2 Richard 'Mole' Stevens Richard.Stevens781@mod.gov.uk for a helping hand and get a Veterans event on.

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.



Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Branch plant a Queen's Green Canopy Tree

After MUCH delay due to planting restrictions and seasonal implications, we are delighted to inform the regimental family that the HM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee tree, a Japanese Cherry Blossom has now been planted in Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Garden of Remembrance at the Keep in Kempston.



Our Regimental Heritage

The 21st Century Royal Anglian Soldier Project is Launched in Suffolk



One of the regiment's latest heritage initiatives was recently launched in Suffolk. The delivery of a mannequin dressed and equipped as a current Royal Anglian Infantry Soldier to the Suffolk Regiment Museum is the first stage of our Royal Anglian Regiment – 21st Century Soldier Project.

The project sets out to extend the narrative timeline of each of our forbear regimental museums, linking each county museum to the Royal Anglian Regiment today.

Over the next 18 months, each of the museums will receive a fully equipped Royal Anglian Soldier mannequin, dressed as a member of the county's affiliated Royal Anglian Company.

The Suffolk Regiment Museum were first to join the project, they have received their B (Suffolk) Company mannequin on strength. The B (Suffolk) Company soldier initially occupied a prime position within the Moyes Hall museum's 'Conflict' exhibition running from 28 Jan to 23 Apr 23. After the exhibition, the mannequin will be moved into the Suffolk Regiment Gallery within the Moyes Hall Museum.



Each of the new C2I mannequins will be supported by information panels and Audio Visual screens linking our forbear regiment timeline to today's Royal Anglian Regiment, and in turn, to the respective county affiliated Company. Over the next few months RHQ will deliver C2I mannequins to the Essex Regiment Museum in Chelmsford, the Northamptonshire Regiment Museum in Northampton and a mobile exhibition will be loaned to the Land Guard Fort Military Museum in Felixstowe.



Our Regimental Museum

With the Christmas break over we are now back in the office, but with the very cold weather it has been quiet at the museum. However, there was still important work to be done. In the IWM's Transformation Plan for Duxford, the site of the Land Warfare Hall, which contains our museum, is due to be redeveloped. Last year the IWM invited our Trustees to share our plans for building a new museum somewhere else on the site. Naturally we wanted this to be the best it could be, so some time and effort was spent on preparing this presentation, which we delivered on 16 Jan 23 to the Director and to members of the Senior Leadership Team. We think it went quite well and are excited at this opportunity for our museum in the future.



We look forward to chatting soon about all the events in the coming year this year, and hopefully we can add them to a future monthly newsletter and share them. We hope to see everyone in this new year!

In the galleries we are working on two new temporary displays: one covering the service of one of our Malayan veterans, and one in our anniversaries case. Pictures of these will be in the next newsletter. If there are any serving or retired member of the regiment that have written an account of their service, we would love to have it in the museum in paper or digital form.

While searching for photos for the exhibitions above, we did find some interesting artefacts. It is a constant wonder what one will see when looking through the archives, here is the favourite item found while searching recently, It is a postcard from Berlin while the wall was still in place.

We will also be installing a new updated alarm system in the museum. Although the building won't be there forever, it was decided updating all the exhibitions in them can never hurt to keep everything up to the best museum standards!

Finally, we have already booked in our first 120 cadets for visits this year! If anyone has a cadet group that is Royal Anglian cap badged, please book to come in or speak to the curator about having historical sessions about our regiment, or the museums objects and stories. Cadets come in as a school group and are free of charge.

Melissa Kozlenko at: 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 25th 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