



Royal Anglian *News*



June 2022

Cover Image: Sergeant Teague Young, 2nd Battalion, Enjoying Norway

Queen's Birthday Honours List

THE REGIMENT CONGRATULATES THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS KCB IN THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Wooddisse KCB CBE MC



Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Wooddisse joined the Army in 1991 after completing a degree at University College London. His first posting was to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, an armoured infantry battalion based in Germany. In the first part of his career he served in a number of junior officer appointments, saw operational service in Northern Ireland and Bosnia, and trained extensively in Canada, Norway, France and Brunei.

In 2000 he was selected to command a rifle company before attending Staff College for two years. Post Staff College, he returned to sub-unit command where he deployed on a number of operations of varying length and intensity, including to Iraq.

His first staff job was as the Military Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, a post which included a tour to Kabul as part of HQ ISAF. He assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment in March 2009, first in Germany and then in Cyprus from where he commanded the Theatre Reserve Battalion.

After completing the Higher Command and Staff Course he served in the Ministry of Defence where he was responsible for military planning for a variety of operations and contingencies. He commanded 38 (Irish) Brigade between 2013-2015 before completing two years as the Assistant Chief of Staff J3 at PJHQ.

He assumed command of 1st (United Kingdom) Division in May 2017 and was appointed as Assistant Chief of the General Staff in November 2018. He was appointed Commander Field Army in April 2021.

Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Wooddisse is married to Louise and has three daughters aged 19, 18 and 15

REGIMENTAL NEWS

OUR THANKS TO CAPTAIN PETER HUDSON ON HIS RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC OF OUR BAND AFTER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE REGIMENT AND TO MILITARY MUSIC



It is fair to say that Army music, the Queen's Division, this Regiment, its Battalions and its Band owe a huge debt of gratitude to Captain Peter Hudson who retired on 9th June 2022 after a magnificent 47 years of service, dedicated to them. During his long career with the Regiment he served with the 2nd Bn, the 1st Bn, the Band of the Queen's Division and latterly the 3rd Battalion.

Peter enlisted into the Royal Anglian Regiment on the 17th July 1975, and after initial training was posted to the 2nd Battalion. His first major step in his professional training was the Performance Course at the School of Military Music at Kneller Hall, which was followed by an instructor's post at the Queen's Division School of Music.

He assisted in the formation of a new Army Junior School of Music and enjoyed two years there, after which he was posted to the 1st Battalion. In 1994, after the disbandment of the Regimental Bands, he assisted with the formation of, and then served with the Minden Band of the Queen's Division.

Finally, in 1997, he was appointed to the Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment and has been with the band for some 25 years, performing in many arenas both at home and abroad. Peter's last performance with his Band was our Spring Band Concert at Saint Mary's Church in Bury St Edmunds on 14th May 2022.

Peter is widely admired in the Regiment. Our Battalions and those of our forebear Regiments were lucky to be supported by their own integral Regular bands for a period of about three hundred years, but since 1994, the Regiment has very much relied on its Reserve band to provide the military musical support essential for key Regimental events like our Regimental Day and our Remembrance Sunday Service at our Regimental Memorial. The Band has also supported numerous events every year in our Battalions and in our Counties. As the Director of Music and before that as the Bandmaster, Peter led our Band, balancing the needs of: individual musicians, equipment, rehearsals, programmes and performances with great care. And on almost every occasion Peter was at the front of his band. It was fitting that Peter's final performance was a Band Concert, because Peter was particularly good at bringing the theme of any concert together as he introduced each piece with wit and style.

Although Peter has completed his military service, he is still working for us as the Regimental Area Secretary (County Engagement and Veteran Support) for the 1st Bn's Counties, but will now have more free weekends to spend with Carol and their family – we wish them well.

Poulters Prize 2021 - Awarded to LCpl Sam Holding



Presentation of the Poulters Prize for 2021 being made on behalf of the Master Poulter by the Commanding Officer of 2nd Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Ben Hawes MBE to the prize winner, Lance Corporal Sam Holding, B (Leicestershire) Company. LCpl Holding was recognised for exemplifying Royal Anglian ethos and qualities with his outstanding work on recent operations in Mali.

Regimental Battlefield Study - Normandy 16-20 May 22



Battlefield Study underway - Viewing the Problem from Rommel's Perspective on Day 1

Fifty members of the Regiment enjoyed this year's Battlefield Study to Normandy last week, including 41 serving personnel from the Vikings and the Poachers. The group stayed in Bayeux, and looked at the early days of the Battle for Normandy from the landings on D-Day, the 6 Airborne Div operation, and specific actions by our forebear regiments at Hillman (1 Suffolks), Essex Wood (2 Essex), Herouville St Clair (2 Lincolns), and Grimbosq (7 R Norfolks).

Complemented by actual radio broadcasts and film footage obtained from the BBC archives our guide, Major Mike Peters, Deputy Regimental Secretary, did an outstanding job of bringing the campaign to life. Ably assisted by Brigadier Tony Calder and Captain Peter Black recounting the stories of our heroic forebears, there was also a much greater degree of syndicate discussion than in previous years allowing the soldiers of today to compare the doctrine, SOPs, and weapon systems of today with those of 1944.

The 2023 Regimental Battlefield Study will take place in Holland and Germany as we study the final months of WWII through the winter of 1944 and the spring of 1945 following in the footsteps of our County regiments.

Major Tim Brown - OIC Battlefield Study

Royal Anglian Cricket is Back for Summer 2022!



On Friday 15th July, a Royal Anglian XI will play a 20:20 cricket match against the Barmy Army at Cambridge University Cricket Ground, Fenner's, Cambridge. This event was last held in summer 19. It attracted sizeable crowds and interest, as well as raising a significant amount of money for the Royal Anglian Benevolence Fund. Any interested players are kindly requested to get in touch with Capt Sam King –

samuel.king125@mod.gov.uk

The Association of Major Fishing Clubs Spring Match



Each year The Association of Major Fishing Clubs organises the League Championship for member clubs. Clubs are divided into 3 groups and each group participates in 6 rounds of competitions at the venues chosen by the organisers. The Army Angling Federation (Game) known as The Soldier Palmers fields two teams; the AMFC Soldier Palmers A team, which is in the top group (group 1) and the Soldier Palmers B team (group 2). The opening round of the League sees all of the clubs in all groups enter a team of 4 anglers to compete on the same day at the same venue. I was selected for the Soldier Palmers B team.

Round one was held at Bewl Water in Kent. I had never fished Bewl water but knew it had a reputation of being a difficult venue so the practice day was going to be key. Practice day consisted of 4 boats with a member of the A&B team in each boat. We split Bewl into areas and spent 1 hr 30 mins in each area. At the end of day the team discussed location and tactics in order to formulate a plan for match.

Match day saw 56 anglers from 14 teams venture onto the water. The boat draw had seen me placed on the engine meaning I could decide where to go for the first 2 hours of the 8 hour match. From practice day I knew where I wanted to go and what tactics I wanted to fish - my first cast landed me the first trout of the competition followed up by two more in an hour and a half. However, my early success hadn't gone unnoticed and many boats began to fish the same area meaning the fishing became difficult and despite hooking and losing 3 more trout I finished the day on a total of 3. At the post match meal the results were announced. Soldier Palmer A won Group 1 with 20 fish, and Soldier Palmer B came a respectable 2nd in Group 2 with 18 fish. I'm looking to round 2 at Gafham water in May.

Cpl Dave Keay, 3 Coy, 3rd Battalion



1st Battalion (The Vikings)

Crete Battlefield Study

During the same week eighty-one years ago, in the Second World War, Operation Mercury was launched, the German invasion of Crete. The Officers' Mess, Warrant Officers' and Sergeants Mess and Corporals Mess were able to conduct a Battlefield Study delving into what happened. This opportunity allowed commanders within the Battalion to develop conceptual ideas, tactical understanding as well as learn from each other's experiences during their career.

For those that do not know, the German invasion of Crete in May 1941 resulted in the fourth naval evacuation of British forces in the Second World War as well as the creation of the RAF Regiment and the growth of our own Airborne forces. The invasion was mainly conducted by the Fallschirmjäger, the Germans Airborne forces and resulted in the same number of casualties as the total amount of German casualties to date in the war. For the British, it was yet another defeat.



The Battlefield Study was conducted over three days covering the main action around the airfield in Maleme. The Battalion focussed on key lessons in how to conduct defensive battles, looking at the role of information advantage, the principles of defence and of course leadership. These main themes were underlined with debate in how new and modern technology could be used to enhance our current doctrine and tactics; important subjects for an Infantry battalion constantly looking to enhance its fighting power.

Force Protection in Eastern Europe - 6 Platoon Head to the Baltic



During early April 6 Platoon was notified that it would be deploying in support of SJFHQ and their deployment to Lithuania and Latvia. At short notice 6 PI spent a week preparing to deploy and a week after being notified it deployed to Lithuania. Once deployed in Lithuania, the platoon spent the first week repairing Nemencine Camp's outer fence as well as constructing protective fencing using defence stores around the HQ areas. The task saw 6 Platoon work closely with the Lithuanian army, providing force protection to the entire camp and to SJFHQ. This involved a constant roaming patrol, QRF and multiple picquets to control access to the HQ. Whilst deployed several personnel were able to visit Latvia, SJFHQ's other deployed location and had the opportunity to spend an evening in Riga.

During the deployment, 6 Platoon represented The Vikings in multiple charity events which included Volleyball, a 2km relay race and a quiz night. The money raised went to the local children's home not far from Nemencine Camp where the platoon had been deployed to. All of the platoon had the opportunity to visit Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania where they had the chance to visit museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights – an old KGB prison, as well as touring the city.

This deployment gave the platoon a great insight into a working operational HQ and the opportunity to build relationships with numerous partner nations involved in the Joint Expeditionary Force.

2nd Battalion (The Poachers)



A Permanent Range Team (PRT) consisting of 12 soldiers and officers from the First and Second Battalion, delivered Live Fire Tactical Training up to Platoon level for C Company, prior to moving onto preparation of Exercise Thunder Reindeer. The Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) for the British contingent alongside our Norwegian counterparts.



Meanwhile, the Battalion Operational Shooting Competition (OSC) Team achieved fourth place overall in the I (UK) Division Shooting competition, silver medals in the Section Attack Assessment, alongside qualification to The Defence Operational Shooting Competition (DEFOSC) held annually in Bisley. This will offer team members the opportunity to compete for a place in the coveted Army top 100.

A 'Lincolnshire' Company has been conducting Live Fire Marksmanship Training (LFMT) to build upon the foundations set during the Infantry Field Firing Camp (IFFC) Ex Aggressive Poacher in Castlemartin, Wales. Preparation for Company level exercises, Ex Thundering Imp in Thetford & Ex Marker Imp Marker Round Training System (MRTS) simulation exercise in Corsham Mines in July.

B 'Leicestershire' Coy - Carried out Dismounted Situation Awareness (DSA) training. The new ATAK system utilising experimental radios and chest mounted devices, providing mapping and individual position locations, enabling joint planning whilst dispersed and information dissemination. This will then be trialled on Company level Exercise, Tigers Claw. Soldiers and Officers from the Company deployed to Normandy on the Regimental Battlefield Tour. Hosted by the Deputy Regimental Secretary and delivered an excellent package to the attending troops.



Poachers and Fox Hounds in the Fjords

C 'Northamptonshire' Coy - Ex Thunder Reindeer, Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) was conducted alongside our Norwegian Allies as part of Ex Thunderbolt with Indirect Fire Support provided by 155mm Artillery and 100mm Mortars. Direct Fire Support provided by the Armoured Battalion of Brigade North, mounted on Leopard 2 Main Battle Tanks and CV-90 Infantry Fighting Vehicles.

C Company hosted the inaugural Mobbs DSO, Company Dinner, named after Lt Col Edgar Mobbs DSO, Northamptonshire Regiment. An opportunity for the Company to enjoy a meal together and thank our Norwegian hosts.



OC C Coy Supported by his Norwegian Liaison Officer

D 'Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire' Coy deployed on Exercise Vanguard Stag, an opportunity to hone each of the specialist Platoons' individual skills, prior to exercising as Support Company complete. RECCE PI have been conducting intense training with their Anafi Parrott drones to assist in target reconnaissance and JAVELIN PI developing vehicle mounted OPs and personal thermal camouflage methods, to become masters of counter surveillance.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medals were presenting by Commander Brigade North, Brigadier Berglund accompanied by Commander 7 Brigade, Brigadier Guy Foden (former R ANGLIAN) and CO 2 R ANGLIAN, Lt Col Ben Hawes.





3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

Tackling the Combat Infantry Course with Pte Georgia Middleton

Booking my Combat Infantry Course (CIC) in January was perhaps not the wisest of choices. I certainly would not recommend a winter CIC to anyone going through basic training, unless of course you hate being able to feel your fingers. As eager as I had been to get CIC done for a while, I had long been dreading the cold nights of the field exercise, the absence of free time and, most of all, the dreaded Role Fitness Test (RFT).



I can honestly say that the course was far more enjoyable than I could have imagined, with many valuable lessons learned and funny moments experienced alongside some great people.

The training staff were brilliant, each with a morale-boosting sense of humour that did not compromise discipline. This maintained the perfect balance between approachability and sternness from the Corporals throughout the course. We also had a lot more time to ourselves in the evenings than I was anticipating – something that I had been told before attending but had remained sceptical about until a few days into the course. I started to trust that we weren't going to suddenly be rushed off anywhere without warning at 2000hrs.

I felt well-prepared for the field exercise thanks to the two previous Annual Deployment Exercises, which had left me fairly familiar with harbour routine – and I had the luxury of extra admin time whilst my basha buddy was busy leopard crawling around the harbour area chanting "I will not forget to clean my gas plug".

However, nothing could have prepared me for the freezing cold of Catterick in January, which was by far the most morale-sapping aspect of the course. With my rations consistently as ice-cold as the climate, I have decided that a jet boil is a very worthwhile investment.

The first day of the field exercise taught me that “collapse the position” does not mean destroy it, which I discovered after committing accidental vandalism on my section’s sentry position following some misinterpreted orders – a misunderstanding that my section found hilarious, until we had to rebuild the position.

By the second day, I had learned that the terrain in Catterick seems to create the perfect conditions for maximum attack from the wind, which was probably not helped by Storm Malik. My uncontrollable swaying from side to side whilst on patrol must’ve been a slight giveaway of my struggle to resist being swept away by the gale force winds. The final half of the exercise consisted of creating model pits, carrying out ambushes and deploying on night recce patrols.

Unfortunately, I was mostly spectating the ambush, as I was not part of the killing group. As for the night recce, I struggle to imagine a more disastrous execution – the enemy had mistakenly ventured outside of the planned area, so we ended up running into them in the middle of a field and having to retreat to the harbour area.

The platoon attacks were a brilliant rush of excitement that confirmed all that we had learned throughout the exercise. On what we thought was a relaxed journey back to camp, we encountered an IDF attack, which meant that it was time for a CASEVAC. This was the most physically demanding part of the exercise, with roughly 2km of undulating ground to cover and an 80kg guy to carry between us. By the fifth time of hearing “C’mon! This is the last hill!” from our section commander, we were starting to suspect that he may not be being entirely truthful with us. Camp accommodation beds and cookhouse meals were a lot more appreciated on our return to barracks.

The second week of the course consisted of days on the range and evenings on the Dismounted Combat Confirmation Trainer. With some brutal blasts of wind chill on the ranges, keeping the rifle steady in the standing position was an impossible task. Fortunately, the conditions improved massively by the day of the Annual Combat Marksmanship Test which we were all very grateful for, and all passed without any issues. We were also given plenty of practice in cleaning rifles each evening, which we were somewhat less grateful for.

On the morning of the final day we faced the Role Fitness Test (RFT). This was what I was most worried about, a feeling that I wasn’t alone in having. A rather steep and slippery hill needed to be conquered with our 40kg load carriage just to get out of the camp, and I’d be lying if I said that the thought “Maybe I’m not cut out for this” didn’t play through my mind at least a little during this time. The task was tough, and the fact that my day sack was gradually slipping away from my bergen was pretty agonising on my shoulders, which the PTI seemed to really enjoy grilling me about – though I have certainly learned that taking extra time to pack your kit is definitely worth it. The 2km weighted run was by far the toughest 15 minutes of the course, and my plan to keep a steady pace the whole way went straight out of the window when confronted with those horrendous hills. A constant back and forth of hasty shuffling and uphill walking seemed to just barely work, as our platoon commander screamed “20 SECONDS!” at me as I approached the final 50 metres. I don’t know what my exact time was, but I’m betting I had very few seconds to spare.

In our closing brief before leaving Catterick, we were informed that some changes were being considered for the course. Among these changes was the possibility of future courses removing the ACMT and RFT from the course itself, and having recruits do these tests with their units before attending. Instead, CIC may consist of almost two weeks of pure field exercise in the far future, making the mere four nights that I spent in the field seem like an easy task in comparison.

Despite the cold, I'm very glad to have done CIC when I did and have fond memories of the course. To anyone worried about going on CIC – don't be, it's not nearly as tough as you're probably imagining, and the time seems to fly by. On the other hand, to anyone attending CIC after the potential changes are made – Good luck!

3rd Battalion Achieve Operational Shooting Success

The beginning on 2022 watched 3 R Anglian build their Battalion Shooting Team in preparation for the three Operational Shooting Competitions (OSCs) later in the year. We started with 25 firers, selecting down to 8 plus 1 reserve for the OSCs. Selecting a team with shooting potential AND availability for several weekends of training amongst a congested Bn FOE proved the usual challenge for Reserve sub units.



Capt Karl Chambers 1 Coy, Lt Mike Musker 1 Coy, WO2 Duncan Nash 1 Coy, LCpl Nathan Carter 1 Coy, LCpl Ben Turner 5 Coy, Pte Nigel Vermonden 1 Coy, Pte Ed Garner 5 Coy Reserve Pte Natasha Sampson 2 Coy

After the 7 Brigade OSC was cancelled our first formal test came at the 1st (UK) DIVISION Divisional OSC. DivOSC was a 'Team Rhino' event, allowing units to test the battle skills of their soldiers in a competitive environment. Although operational marksmanship formed the main focus of the event, other key skills were also tested. This included battle fitness, command and control, leadership and CBRN. Few of the competition shoots were publicised ahead of the event to avoid "training to test" and several practice timings were condensed. 16 teams competed from across the Division.

The previous 4 months training yielded dividends with 3 R Anglian placing 1st overall and Pte Garner (our newest member of the team) placing 5th best individual firer.

Our final placings were;

- Individual 3rd place urban contact assessment : LCpl Turner
- Individual 1st place advance to contact assessment : Pte Garner
- 5th best placed firer overall : Pte Garner
- Team 2nd place section attack assessment
- Team 1st place in a new "unknown" assessment.
- Team 1st place overall.
- Our look forward is AROSC at BISLEY in late June.





Regimental Heritage Update



RHQ has initiated a number of exciting heritage projects that will significantly enhance our heritage portfolio.

The Deputy Regimental Secretary is moving forward with three heritage related programmes. Over the coming months we will see further progress with the survey of our Regimental Silver, the delivery of our first 21st Century Royal Anglian Soldier exhibits, and the initial launch of the Royal Anglian Digital Muster.

Royal Anglian 21st Century Soldier Exhibition Programme

The concept of the C21 R ANGLIAN project is straightforward, we aim to place a replica 21st Century Royal Anglian Infantry Soldier exhibition in each of our forbearer regiment museums. Each bespoke exhibition will be centred on a fully clothed and equipped mannequin. The Soldier mannequin will be linked by narrative to the host museum's existing historical narrative. As well as accurately representing the modern Royal Anglian Infantry Soldier, the exhibition will directly link the host county to the affiliated Royal Anglian Company that bears its name. It will also tell the story of recent operations, bringing the museum's timeline right up to date.

A survey of the majority of our forbearer museums has already been carried out by Mr Simon Hill, a Museum Design Specialist employed by RHQ. The resulting survey report has enabled us to cost the works and prioritise the museum sites. We have already purchased the museum quality replica weapons required to equip our mannequins, and sourced all of the uniforms and webbing.

The first wave of C21 exhibits will be deployed in the coming months to the museums of the Norfolk Regiment, the Suffolk Regiment, and the Beds & Herts Regiment. Updates will follow in regimental media as we progress.

The Royal Anglian Digital Muster

As a Regiment we are currently in the enviable position of having all of our rich history within living memory, something that perhaps we may have taken for granted. The inevitable passage of time means that this will soon change, our valuable history is in danger of fading away as our veterans pass away. The Regimental Museum have been actively looking at ways in which to build an 'e' museum for some years.

Such a museum will be so much more than a website, it will be widely accessible to both the Royal Anglian community and to the wider public.

The resulting Access based project has been given the working title of 'The Royal Anglian Digital Muster', this is a Regimental Museum project, and the lead Museum Trustee is Captain Peter Randall. The framework of the muster is loosely based on the well-proven Paradata site successfully developed by the Parachute Regiment in cooperation with the Airborne Assault Museum at Duxford. Should you wish to explore the Paradata site, the link below will take you to it:

<https://www.paradata.org.uk/>

The format of the Muster will be very open, and outward facing, The Paradata experience of 12 years suggests that this digital model will appeal equally to the regiment's serving personnel and to our ever-growing veteran community. It will also offer an opportunity for the museum to fund raise from the site. The Regimental Trustees have made an initial grant of £10k to start what is intended to be a two-year build.

Royal Tigers' Day 25 June 1825

The regimental day of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment was, unusually, not connected with a battle but with the grant of an honorary distinction on 25 June 1825 when His Majesty King George IV was pleased to approve the 17th (Leicestershire) Regiment of Foot 'bearing on its Colours and appointments the figure of the "Royal Tiger", with the word "Hindoostan" superscribed, as a lasting testimony of the extemporary conduct of the corps during the period of its service in India, from the year 1804 to 1823'.

"...this distinction is commemorated today by its presence on the Regimental Colour and on the buttons worn by all ranks of the Regiment in formal dress".

This long period had involved a great deal of active service as British rule in India was consolidated and various lawless factions were brought under control, and the Regiment had been given much praise for its efficiency and discipline.

The grant of this distinction is commemorated today by its presence on the Regimental Colour and on the buttons worn by all ranks of the Regiment in formal dress. Although the day is not specifically marked by the 2nd Battalion, there is an Annual Reunion at Leicester in the form of Royal Tigers' Day on Saturday, 18 Jun 22.





Regimental Bulletins Register

Regt Bulletins Issued Since the Issue of RAN 13 May 2022:

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-41 - Dated 14 Jun 22 - Death Notice, Major Jakob (Herbie) Hancock

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-40- Dated 6 Jun 22 - Col of the Regt Appointed KCB

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-39- Dated 23 May 22 - Job Vacancy Cadet SSI Wellingborough School

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-38- Dated 16 May 22 - Job Vacancy Cadet SSI Post Northampton Academy

Regimental Bulletin Number 22-37- Dated 13 May 22 - Royal Anglian News May 2022 Issue

London Gazette

The following entries relevant to the Regiment were listed in The London Gazette dated 30 May 2022:

Officer Cadet Jacob John Gretton Peel 30356494 from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 15 April 2022.

Officer Cadet Oliver Pennington White 30276006 from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 15 April 2022.

Officer Cadet Anthony Philip Stratton 30264415 from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Lieutenant 15 April 2022 with seniority 16 September 2020.



3rd Battalion Operational Shooting Competition Team 2022