



Royal Anglian News



September - October 2023

Cover Image: The 3rd Battalion have been concentrating on developing Specialist Weapon Expertise this month. Private Anthony Dacre, 4 Company (Left) is shown on the Mortar Cadre with Rifleman Uden & Rifleman Cross from 6 RIFLES.



Regimental News

HANDOVER OF COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT



Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Wooddisse KCB CBE MC

Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Wooddisse KCB CBE MC handed over as Colonel of the Regiment on 01 Sep 23. In his tenure the regiment's early focus was on improving our communications to support our recruiting, and we were successful at both. Increased priority has been given to the support we give to our veterans and to mental health in the round. More recently, the Integrated Review has been at the top of the agenda, with the Regiment making significant investments in Kendrew Barracks to improve the quality of life for our soldiers. Although handing over as Colonel of the Regiment, he is of course still serving as Commander Field Army. This photograph was taken at his last duty as Colonel of the Regiment at the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst. The Regiment is hugely grateful for his advice, care and leadership as Colonel of the Regiment.

Regimental Remembrance Sunday Service

Our Regimental Service of Remembrance at Duxford on Remembrance Sunday will follow the traditional format. The open air service will be held at our Regimental Memorial. The Service of Remembrance will be led by our Assistant Honorary Regimental Chaplain, with the Regimental Band in support.

The Order of Service includes the Act of Remembrance, and the laying of wreaths on behalf of the Regiment, the Regimental Association and the families of the fallen. Individual acts of remembrance and the laying of personal wreaths are of course welcome.

The service will begin at 1045hrs, with a pause for silence and reflection at 1100hrs.



Jenny Kilvington, Ian Burt's sister and their family & friends at our 2022 Remembrance Sunday Service.

Access to the IWM site is via the main public entrance. Entrance is no longer free to the general public on the day, it is however free for members of the regiment past and present. It is advisable, therefore, to present your Royal Anglian Association Membership Card, (available from RHQ) at the museum's main entrance, or to present a copy of the Regimental Bulletin/this Newsletter as proof of your intent to attend the service.

Refreshments will be available in the Regimental Museum immediately after the Service.



1st Battalion (The Vikings)

The Vikings Deploy to Africa for Exercise Hakara Storm

This month has seen members of C and D Companies deploy to Kenya, with all troops arriving in Nyati Barracks on 2 October after a long flight from RAF Brize Norton. The troops began their deployment with a comprehensive RSOI package, acclimatisation programme and reconnaissance of the training areas.



Once this initial training was completed, both companies deployed on the CHOLOLO areas to conduct Ex WARRIOR – a company level runout to improve their basic fieldcraft and tactics.

C and D Company have used this opportunity to combine training efforts, utilising an ISTAR screen to directly support a standard company level action. Other company training consisted of Cultural Awareness briefings, Navigation Training, Medical, CIS, Patrolling, OPs, Platoon/Company attacks and night activity.



Ex WARRIOR culminated with a 24 hour patrol competition enabled by D Company. The competition saw six teams from C Company and No 1 Company battle it out whilst being scored against CIS, med, contact drills, support weapons / ISTAR etc. The three C Company teams finished first, second and fourth.



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

2nd Battalion - Poaching Good Ideas From An International Platoon



Hosted by the 152e Regiment d'Infanterie, Ex EXTEL COLLIOU saw soldiers from five nations (France, Britain, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland) form an international platoon under a French Platoon Commander, and Platoon Sergeant, to complete a challenging two-week patrol exercise in the mountains surrounding Alsace in the East of France. The British contingent was comprised of soldiers from A (Lincolnshire) Company of the 2nd Battalion led by LCpl Michael Callaway. It was the first time that a British unit had been invited.

For the first week of the exercise, the platoon focussed on developing team cohesion and understanding French TTPs prior to deploying the following week. This included a series of team based physical challenges including a squaddied run up to a historic castle in the mountains overlooking Colmar, water obstacle courses, and orienteering.

In addition to the first week's training, there was a two-day and night range package, which gave the international platoon time to get used to the French weapon systems including the HK416, firing up to section level attacks. This phase allowed the different nations to share valuable knowledge on low-level drills, which for some soldiers was the first time they'd been exposed to different methods and approaches of range conduct.

Alongside the range package a series of theoretical lessons were taught around basic French tactics. These included Platoon attacks, Ambushes, Urban SOPs, and Patrolling. Although there were some obvious differences between nations, however the Platoon quickly grasped them. The first week concluded with the platoon being given a guided tour of the historical city of Colmar, home to the creator of the statue of Liberty Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, and culturally important Gothic and Renaissance architecture.

This was followed by a trip to the 152e Regiment d'Infanterie memorial at Hartmannswillerkopf-Vieil Armand, where the Regiment was destroyed in WWI. This was a poignant moment of the exercise, as the platoon could walk through the German trenches on the frontline, which at points were only ten metres away from the French defences and pay their respects to those who had given their lives to defend the highly contested region of Alsace and Lorraine.



Week two began with a final lesson on French tactics related specifically to the actions they would be conducting on exercise which was followed by a set of orders being given by the French platoon commander. The exercise involved a series of challenging infiltrations and exfiltrations from the objectives under dark, covering over sixty kilometres across difficult terrain. After two days in the mountains the final objective was to defend a large, abandoned office building in the centre of Mulhouse. Setting up extensive defences inside, then fighting through the building, before moving to the roof and rappelling forty metres with full kit.

The Exercise ended with a raising of the flag ceremony on the 152e Regiment d'Infanterie parade square in-front of the whole Regiment and a celebratory BBQ with gifts from each nation being exchanged.

The exercise provided a valuable experience to the section from A Company who gained a lot from working with the different nationalities and exposure to operating in unique terrain.



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)



Reservist Firepower Grows With Specialist Weapons Cadres



The Steelbacks have been completing a series of Specialist Weapon, Driving and Communication Cadres as part of the Battalion's Annual Deployment Exercise. These Cadres were run alongside Instructors and Soldiers from 6 RIFLES, and were convened to ensure that the Battalion has well supported Specialist Weapon capabilities. There was also a joint Rifle Company Exercise with 6 RIFLES on Sennybridge Training area. The joint exercise culminated in a Combined Arms attack on Celini village.





We bid farewell to the Second in Command, Major Gav Rushmere after 33 years of nearly unbroken service with the Battalion. Gav moves to an FTRS post in Scotland, and we wish him all the best for the next stage of his Army career. The battalion also bid a warm farewell to WO2 Jeffree, who retires from the Army after completing his Colour Service. All ranks of the Steelbacks wish WO2 Jeffree all the best for his next chapter, and thank him for his time and commitment to the Battalion. Pictured below is Major Macleod bidding farewell.



Well done to the Battalion Teams that took part in the BISMARCK Challenge, a weighted boot run event hosted at Catterick. Soldiers from 2, 4 and 5 Coy represented the Battalion in a mixed male and female team. Capt Healey, Cpl Gamblin, and Privates Rooks, Cutts, King, Carr, Exton and Brennan did a great job of representing the Steelbacks, and achieved great results against 135 Regular and Army Reserve teams. Special mention to the all male team that came in 51st out of 135.



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

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British Army Music offers a variety of employment opportunities* for experienced musicians, freelancers and recently qualified graduates.

From 27 days per year to a full-time career as an Army musician that may suit your circumstances.

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- Salaried position in several Army Bands across the UK
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#ArmyJobs

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





London Gazette

The following entries relevant to the Regiment were in the The London Gazette dated 18 Sep 2023:

Lieutenant Colonel M C Melia 550739 retires 17 June 2023

Lieutenant Colonel A P Wolfe MBE 550852 retires 17 June 2023

Major A J Penn 24697592 retires 8 June 2023

The following entries relevant to the Regiment were listed in The London Gazette dated 25 Sep 2023:

Officer Cadet Joseph James Bagnall 30351301 from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 12 August 2023

Officer Cadet George Stuart Chapman 30329669 from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 12 August 2023

Officer Cadet Oliver Albert Goldsack 30306296 from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 12 August 2023

Postings & Promotions

Results of the Number 5 Appointments Board

The Following R ANGLIAN Officers Have Been Selected For The Appointments Below:

Major Matthew Tovey - SO2 Lt Mech Inf BCT (Andover)

Major William Hoy - RMA Coy Comd

Major Kevin Main - SO2 J4 Log Sp and Infra at PJHQ NSE (Poland)

Major William Pickering - SO2 Prog A at HQ Field Army (Andover)

Major Nicholas Watkins - SO2 G5 G7 at HQ I02 Log BDE (Grantham)

Major Oliver Ormiston - SO2 Reserves Secretary ASCB (Aldershot)

Late Entry Commission

The Regiment Warmly Congratulates the Following Warrant Officers' on Their Selection for Late Entry Commission:

WO1 Lee Eastwick

WO1 Gavin Williams

WO2 Allan Thurston

WO1 Scott Seaton-Norton

WO2 Andrew Bisset

Regimental Bulletins Register



Regt Bulletins Issued Since The August 2023 Issue of RAN:

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-057 - 6 Sep 23, Death Notice - Marc Tremain, 2nd Bn

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-058 - 8 Sep 23, Employment Notice - Deputy Col Cadets, East Anglia

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-059 - Not Issued

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-060 - 11 Sep 23, Death Notice - Major Robert Gordon, 2nd Bn

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-061 - 18 Sep 23, Death Notice - Capt Mike Wright, 2 East Anglian Regt

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-062 - 19 Sep 23, Royal Anglian News - September 2023 Issue

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-063 - 20 Sep 23, Death Notice - Major D J (Stef) Stefanetti MBE, 1st Bn

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-064 - 21 Sep 23, Notice - Lewaicei, Morris Memorial Rugby 7 Oct 23

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-65 - 26 Sep 23, Notice - Regt Memorial Boxing Night - 7 Dec 2023

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-66 - 26 Sep 23, Notice - Regt Service of Remembrance - 12 Nov 23

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-67 - 28 Sep 23, Employment Notice - Logistic Support Officer, Suffolk ACF

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-68 - 28 Sep 23, Event - Shaun Pinner Book Launch, London - 29 Sep 23



The Finedon Branch of the Regt Assoc Proudly Inaugurate their New Memorial Bench



Regimental Diary Dates

November

- 3rd Meeting of the Regimental Council - London
- 3rd Officers' Club Annual Dinner at the Army Navy Club – All officers, past and present, welcome to attend
- 11th Leicester Tigers Rugby Club Armistice Event
- 12th Remembrance Sunday Service at our memorial at the Imperial War Museum in Duxford – All, past and present welcome to attend
- 12th Norfolk Association's Memorial Cottages Service in Norwich
- 12th Association Contingent at Cenotaph
- 25th Commissioning Course Short parade at RMAS. Available to watch by Facebook Livestream
- 25th Regimental Autumn Band Concert in Grimsby
- 27th Sortie Day

December

- 7th Charity Regimental Memorial Boxing event at Kendrew Barracks
- 9th Regimental Carol Service - Bury St Edmunds
- 15th Sovereigns Parade at Sandhurst for CC231 – RMAS + Facebook livestream

January

- 7th RMAS Ironing Board Sunday

February

- 10th Sobroan Day
- 24th The Royal Anglian Big Breakfast 2024



Operational Legacy And Our Veterans



The Regiment has always given a very high priority to supporting our veterans who become involved in any operational legacy processes. Happily, the support given to our veterans has been hugely improved by the establishing of the Army Operational Legacy Branch (AOLB), and in particular by the creation of their Veteran Visiting Officers (VVOs) who can act as the single point of contact for veterans and who are based regionally so that they can visit veterans at their homes. There have been a number of inquests involving Royal Anglian veterans in recent years and there are still one or two ongoing. RHQ aims to keep in close with all our veterans involved on any operational legacy processes.

The MOD briefing note below, explains the new Northern Ireland Troubles Act. Its aim is “to deliver better outcomes for those most affected by the Troubles, while helping society to move forward.” The Northern Ireland Troubles Act: what does it mean for Defence?

The Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act has become law after receiving Royal Assent on Autumn 2023.

This legislation, brought forward by the Northern Ireland Office, is a Government pledge to address the extremely complex and sensitive legacy of Northern Ireland’s past, to deliver better outcomes for those most affected by the Troubles, while helping society to look forward.

It delivers on the Government’s commitments to those who served in Northern Ireland, whilst implementing a process that provides answers for families.

We are aware of the individual impact that historic investigations can place on those affected by them, and we are committed to ensuring that the veteran perspective is considered.

In Defence, the wellbeing of our people is one of our main priorities, and we want to ensure that we are supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all Service personnel and veterans.

What the legislation means:

- From May 2024, ongoing criminal investigations, inquests and prosecution decisions relating to cases between 1 January 1966 and 10 April 1998 will cease; and any civil claims filed after May 2022 will be barred.
- A new independent body, the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) will be established. When requested to do so, this body will conduct reviews or investigations into deaths and very serious injuries which resulted from the Troubles. In each case, the body will publish a report of its findings. The ICRIR may also investigate a death or very serious injury if an individual comes forward seeking immunity in relation to that specific death or injury, if it does not already have a live investigation ongoing.
- The ICRIR will be able to conduct criminal investigations where it judges that to be appropriate.

- A process of conditional immunity will apply to any serious or connected offences involving deaths or serious injuries during the Troubles. A judge-led panel within the ICIR will grant immunity to individuals where it considers that a truthful account has been provided of their involvement in Troubles related deaths and serious injuries. Individuals who knowingly or recklessly provide false information to the ICIR can be prosecuted and have any immunity revoked.
- Those who do not comply with the ICIR could be subject to a financial penalty of up to £5000.
- Requests for ICIR investigations must be made within the first five years of the ICIR becoming operational, with the body currently expected to remain operational for a further five years in order to finish its reviews/investigations.
- A package of memorialisation measures centred on a major oral history initiative, representing a cross-community and cross-sectoral range of organisations.

Next steps

Now that the legislation has been enacted, the ICIR is undertaking extensive consultation with stakeholders to shape its processes and establish itself.

As the Government does all that it can to support the ICIR in delivering effectively for victims and families, Defence will be engaging with the Commission as it develops to ensure that the veteran perspective is taken into account.

We are aware that Northern Ireland veterans will be anxious to know how this legislation will impact them in practice. Further information on how individuals can engage with the Commission, as well as the support that will be available to veterans, will be provided in due course.

Supporting your wellbeing



If you, or someone around you, needs mental health and wellbeing support, please have a look at the resources that are available to you. For pastoral support to veterans facing NI Legacy legal investigations please contact the Army Operational Legacy Branch at APSG-AOLB-Op-Legacy-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk. There is help available, both inside and outside of Defence, for anyone who needs it.



Our Regimental Heritage

Regimental Museum Update

The Regimental museum is based at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, where it has been established for over 25 years. Some of you may have wondered what's been happening with the museum as we haven't been reporting on matters recently. The museum has been in a state of limbo for the past couple of years pending the substantial changes that the IWM have for the Duxford site and the impact this will have on us. We now have more clarity on this and how we will fit into the Duxford plan and we will report on that in more detail in the next edition of The Castle.

For now, activity at your museum is continuing apace with visits hosted for veterans group, specifically the Malaysian Veterans group and over 1,000 cadets visiting in the past 12 months. All of these events and representing the Regiment at the Duxford flying weekends are managed by our curator, Melissa, and her small band of volunteers. Volunteers from serving and veteran members of the regiment are always welcome as there are just so many objects in the collection that need cataloging and a never ending stream of visits to coordinate; many hands make light work! If you should feel like volunteering, please contact Melissa at royalanglianregimentcurator@outlook.com.



The collection at the museum has recently been enhanced by the donation of the medals of veteran Mr Eric Sharpe. These medals are now on display in a cabinet in the museum having been passed over to the museum by his colleagues Ray Ogg and Ray Phillips (as photo). Please note that if you wish to visit the Regimental museum at Duxford, as a serving or veteran member, please contact the curator and you will be given free access to the IWM and Regimental museum.

Our Regimental Association



Finedon Branch Memorial Bench - Northamptonshire



Just over a year ago one of our members, Tim Almond, suggested that it would be good for Finedon if we were to provide a Memorial Bench and site it in a prominent position. This was accepted by the Branch and a request was sent to Finedon Town Council to provide a site for a Memorial Bench within the grounds of the existing War Memorial.

John Reynolds and Neil Richardson are good friends of the Branch and they offered to put on a variety show in our local Star Hall. All profits would go towards the cost of the bench. Soon after the local firm, Scott Bader, said they would contribute the same amount of money raised.

We were now well on the way to getting the funds required. An approach was made to the Town Council and to RHQ Royal Anglian Regiment who both provided grants towards the cost. Further fundraising took place including the proceeds of our annual Christmas Dinner. Funds were now building up and donations came in from friends and family of the branch.

In the meantime, Tim Almond was busy designing and costing the bench. A local tradesman, Mr M Shepard was contacted to supply and fit the entrance gate. Stuart Cooper a good supporter of the Branch agreed to lay the foundation and fit the bench in position. The base was selected to enhance the grounds of the War Memorial.

After a year of planning and fundraising we were able to have the Bench fitted in the grounds of the War Memorial on 10th September 2023. The Branch held a reception for all those who had helped and contributed to the Bench and by way of a thank you a buffet was prepared by the Ladies of the Branch for our guests. We had a great turn out and a very memorable day.

The Memorial Bench bears our Regimental Badges and is in plain sight for those travelling in and out of Finedon on the Wellingborough Road. It is very much appreciated by the people of Finedon to who's servicemen the bench is dedicated. Many thanks to all those who gave their time and effort to make this project viable, and a special thanks to all those individuals and organisations who donated to the fundraising. There are too many to mention but they know who they are.

Shaun Pinner - Book Launch

As many members of the Regiment will already be aware, the launch for Shaun Pinner's book, *Live Fight Survive* was kindly hosted by the Army and Navy Club and by Major Frank Froud in September 2023. Royal Anglian veteran, Shaun gave a remarkable lecture on his experiences of the Ukraine War, and has since kindly agreed to visit his old Battalion in the New Year, to tell them the story – dates to follow. He has also agreed to attend our next Regimental Day. For those interested in his book, *Live Fight Survive*, it is published by Michael Joseph ISBN 978-0-241-668085.

