CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

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Editor: Major (Retd) ML Peters

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Front cover: *Sgt Teague Young, 2nd Battalion, enjoying the deployment on NATO's northern flank in Norway.*
Rear cover: *Jackal shows its teeth on Castlemartin Ranges, May 2022.*
Inside front cover*: Cpl Christian Jange, A (Lincolnshire) Coy, 2nd Battalion on Castlemartin Range.*
Inside back cover top*: Royal Anglian Sniper Pair.*
Inside back cover bottom*: Viking Raiders, C (Essex) Company about to Break-In to Paralimni Village.*

Regimental Internet Website
www.royalanglianregiment.com

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The Colonel-in-Chief
HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

Battle Honours

Battle Honours on The Queen's Colour

Mons, Loos, La Cateau, Somme 1916, 1918, Marne 1914, Arras 1917, 1918, Aisne 1914, 1918, Cambrai 1917, 1918, Ypres 1914, 1915, 1917, 1918, France and Flanders 1914-1918, Neuve Chapelle, Macedonia 1915-1918, Gallipoli 1915-1916, Salerno, Gaza, Anzio, Palastine 1917-1918, Cassino I-II, Shaiba, Gothic Line, Mesopotamia 1914-1918, Italy 1943-1945, St Omer-La Bassee, Crete, Dunkirk 1940, Singapore Island, Normandy Landing, Malaya 1941-1942, Brieux Bridgehead, Yu, Venraij, Ngakyedauk Pass, North-West Europe 1940, 1944 -1945, Imphal, Tobruk 1941, Kohima, Defence of Alamein Line, Chindits 1944, North Africa 1940 -1943, Burma 1943-1945, Villa Grande.

Battle Honours on The Regimental Colour

Namur 1695, Blenheim, Ramilles, Oudenarde, Malplaquet, Dettingen, Louisburg, Minden, Quebec 1759, Martinique 1762, 1794, Havannah, Seringapatam, Corunna, Talavera, Albuhera, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria, Peninsula, Bladensburg, Waterloo, Ava, Ghuznee 1839, Khelat, Cabool 1842, 1879, Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Sobraon, New Zealand, Goojerat, Punjaub, South Africa 1851-1853, 1879, Inkerman, Sevastopol, Lucknow, Taku Forts, Afghanistan 1878-1880, Nile 1884-1885, Tirah, Atbara, Khartoum, Defence of Ladysmith, Paardeberg, South Africa 1899-1902, Korea 1951-1952.

From the Colonel of The Regiment

Much has changed since the last edition of Castle; from a geo-political standpoint little is for the better. Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February has profoundly altered the security landscape in Europe. It has shattered the notion that states no longer use warfare as a means of realising their ambitions; it has confirmed Vladimir Putin's Russia as an aggressive and imperialist power unconstrained by the rules that have governed the international system for the last 70 years; and it has caused governments across Europe to shift their priorities and to no longer take their Defence for granted. The UK has played a full part in the response to Russian aggression, providing support to Ukraine through the provision of weapons and ammunition, and through training – we have trained 10000 Ukrainians to date and will train many thousands more over the next few months. We've gifted air defence weapons, long range artillery and anti-tank weapons, and we have thousands of soldiers deployed across Europe deterring, reassuring and training alongside Allies. But how this conflict ends and in what sort of shape is unclear, and while we will continue to support Ukraine the decision makers are in Moscow and Kyiv. In the UK there is an emerging consensus that Defence needs more money. But our economy is not in great shape and the government will need to make difficult choices over the coming months as it tries to balance the Nation's books. It is also worth dwelling for a moment on what we are learning from the conflict; Ukraine is teaching us what state on state warfare looks like in the 21st Century. While some things are reassuringly familiar - dispersal, digging and concealment still matter - much is different, including the impact of space-based surveillance and communications, electronic and information warfare, drones, precision artillery and the use of artificial intelligence to vastly improve understanding and decision making. Achieving the right balance between the old and the new has been the challenge for as long as we have had Armies; 2022 feels no different.

Turning to Regimental matters, I am glad to say that we are in rude health. As you will read in this edition, all three Battalions are well led, well recruited, have interesting and varied roles with the programmes to match, and will be based in our recruiting area for the foreseeable future. Crucially, they are playing a full and important role in realising our national, coalition and Alliance commitments at home and abroad. RHQ is working blisteringly hard to ensure that our veterans and cadets are well looked after, that we have the financial muscle to weather storms wherever they may be across the Regiment, and that we are communicating internally and externally as well as we can.

The changes put in place by the last Defence Review are beginning to be felt by our Battalions. The move of the 1st Battalion from Cyprus in the middle of next year, to collocate with the 2nd Battalion in Cottesmore, provides multiple opportunities for the Regiment to improve the way that we look after our soldiers. The Commanding Officers are working closely together to ensure that we exploit those opportunities under the banner of Project 1964. From next summer all three Battalions will be based within our recruiting area, an increasingly important factor in soldiers' choice as to what part of the infantry they choose to join. Cottesmore also offers us the opportunity to develop a Regimental approach to much that we do, allowing us to improve the way we deliver operations, training, sport and adventure training. But both Regular battalions will be smaller and we will need to be sensitive and sensible in the way that we manage the reduction in numbers. Preparations are being made to offer equality of opportunity to all

soldiers in both battalions, and to make the most of the opportunities offered by all the battalions in the Queen's Division. As a Regiment, we need to make Cottesmore into a place that we are proud of and from where we offer full, diverse and challenging careers for all of our soldiers; our Commanding Officers and the Regimental Council are doing all we can to realise that ambition.

The 1st Battalion completed a highly successful first year in Cyprus and as I write are well into their final year on the island. The soldiers have thrown themselves into island life, winning every sports competition they've entered, training hard and preparing for operational deployments across the Middle East and Africa. They have fulfilled their tasks on island, protecting the sites that are strategically vital to the UK and our allies. They are also enjoying the opportunity to travel, with exercises in Jordan, Oman and Kuwait. They have provided outstanding training support to the Ukrainian Armed Forces with a Company based in the UK for much of the last 6 months and they've somehow found time to hold a highly successful inter-company boxing competition. They return to the UK in Jul 23, to re-role as a Security Force Assistance Battalion under 11 Brigade, the organisation that is currently leading the training of the Ukrainian Army.

The 2nd Bn recovered from Op Newcombe in Mali and Op Cabrit in Poland at the end of 2021. Both commitments were delivered with great professionalism, attracted widespread praise and were crowned with a parade through the streets of Lincoln. Since then D Company have deployed at short notice to Ex THUNDERBOLT in Norway, a deployment that was part of the UK's response to Russian aggression. The 2 R ANGLIAN Battle Group have developed their warfighting skills by field firing in Castlemartin and exercising across Salisbury Plain on Ex WESSEX STORM. I was able to see the Battalion while they were there and took some pleasure in hearing from the exercise staff how well they were doing.

From the Colonel of The Regiment

In 2023 they take their vehicles to the Oman while maintaining their ability to deploy anywhere in the world should it be required.

The 3rd Battalion under the command of Lt Col Dave Haggar remain as busy as ever. In 2022 they have deployed soldiers to the Falkland Islands and have worked hard to improve their urban fighting skills. They have supported the 2nd Battalion on Ex WESSEX STORM and deployed to Stanford Training Area for their Annual Deployment Exercise - sadly their planned deployment to Spain was cancelled at short notice. I'm glad to say that they are particularly well recruited – indeed they're one of the best recruited Reserve infantry battalion's across the Army. They have recently joined 19 Brigade, the newly formed Reserve Brigade that commands many of the Army's Reserve combat units.

The Regiment continues to work had to improve our support to Veterans. We have employed additional staff to reach out across the Regimental family, particularly to those who need support for any reason. On the back of that initiative we are in touch with more Veterans and have delivered a significant increase in support. The Royal Anglian Big Breakfast was a great success bringing 1000 members of the Regiment together in forty locations both at home and abroad. The feedback was uniformly positive; we aim to repeat the event in 2023. Good mental health is a priority for all whether serving or retired. The Leafyard App is designed to provide help to those who need a little extra support and is available across the Regimental family. It is paid for by the Regiment; I encourage you to take advantage of it should you need to, and to recommend it to those who might not be aware of it or feel shy about taking advantage of a bit of mental first aid. This is so important – in the last 12 months we've lost two members of the Regiment to suicide – so please pass the word to those who you might need it that we are always here to help and will do everything we can for those who need support.

Turning to the youthful end of the Regimental spectrum, it was great to see cadets from Norfolk, Suffolk, Beds & Herts ACFs at our Regimental Day, and for the first time present awards that recognise the efforts of fantastic Cadets in our affiliated detachments. Our ties with the cadet movement are important not least because they allow us to give something back to counties across region, conscious that they do so much for us.

Our people continue to excel. Lt Col Will Meddings was appointed OBE for his exemplary performance leading his Battle Group in Mali. Majors Lee Waghorn and Mark Garner received Joint Commanders Commendations for the same tour. Col Phil Moxey has recently been promoted to command the British contribution to Somalia, and Cpl Mitchell Lingley has been awarded this year's Poulter Prize for his outstanding contribution to the training of the Ukrainian Army. In terms of Regimental 'appointments' - those who work tirelessly and selflessly to ensure that the Regiment is able to conduct its wider responsibilities - we have seen a number of notable retirements this year. David Clements has been an outstanding Chairman of our Trustees. He has done a huge amount to ensure that we have a well run, efficient, and effective charity, able to dispense support whenever and wherever it is needed. Under his chairmanship the Charity has grown considerably in every important respect; we owe him a huge debt for all that he has done. David will be succeeded by David Till who I have no doubt will support the Regiment magnificently. Peter Williamson has been a long serving and highly effective trustee of the Regimental Museum; he left this key role in June. And Lt Col Rich Bredin has just handed over his responsibilities as our Senior Regimental Late Entry Officer, a role in which he provided all the wisdom, experience and common sense that one could want.

Sadly we have lost a number of The Regiment this year; I will highlight two. Capt Raymond Savage's death at 102 marked the end of a remarkable life. He served in the Leicestershire Regiment in WW2 and was part of the ill-fated Norwegian expedition in 1940 but managed to escape to Sweden on skis. He fought in Malaya in 1941 where again he found himself on the losing side. This time he was captured and spent the remainder of the war as a Japanese prisoner forced to work on the construction of the Burma railway. He was a lifelong supporter of the Association and he died in January 2022. We were immensely saddened to hear of the loss of Major General Patrick Stone in October. He joined the Army in 1959 and after a short stint with the Kings African Rifles, joined the 1st Battalion the East Anglian Regiment in 1961. He served as Adjutant and Company Commander in the 1st Battalion before commanding the 2nd Battalion in Gillingham and Berlin. He returned to Berlin as a Brigade Commander and retired from the Army as a Major General in 1991 after which he was Director of Administration for a major City of London law firm. He was Colonel of the Regiment from 1991 to 1997 and then Chairman of our Trustees; his contribution to the Regiment both in and out of uniform has been immense and he will be missed throughout the Regimental family.

I started with a few reflections on the situation we find ourselves in after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While there will undoubtedly be plenty of twists and turns to come this feels to some extent like a return to a world that many of you will be familiar. After a few decades of relative stability in Europe the spectre of state on state warfare is once again upon us. The Army is working hard to ensure it is as ready as it can be while doing all we can to support Ukraine and deter Russia. It is fascinating work but will be tricky to deliver and will take energy, commitment and resolve from all who serve if we are to see it through. It is a campaign that will necessarily be conducted in ways that don't often hit the headlines – indeed if they do we will have got things wrong. Our Regiment will and are playing a full part; I only ask that within our tight-knit Regimental family that we do all we can to help those young men and women who serve to do what is asked of them in the months, years and potentially decades ahead.

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The Regiment

Colonel-in-Chief
HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

Colonel of the Regiment
Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Wooddisse KCB CBE MC

President of the Regimental Association
Major General SL Porter CBE

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment
The Reverend Paul Whitehead

Assistant Honorary Chaplains to the Regiment
Cambridgeshire: The Reverend Alan Jesson
Bedfordshire: The Reverend Stephen Smith

Deputy Colonels of the Regiment
1st Battalion: Brigadier DSJ Biddick MBE MC
2nd Battalion: Brigadier OCC Brown
3rd Battalion: Brigadier RFL Lyne

Senior LE Officer
Major B French

College of Colonels
Chairman of Regimental Trustees: Mr DJ Till
Colonel MS: Brigadier DSJ Biddick MBE MC
Colonel Communications: Brigadier OCC Brown
Colonel Recruiting: Brigadier RFL Lyne
Colonel Heritage: Colonel RE Harrold CVO OBE
Colonel Benevolence: Lieutenant Colonel PRC Dixon OBE
Colonel Cadets: Brigadier RFL Lyne

Regimental Trustees
Colonel of the Regiment, Mr DJ Till, Lieutenant Colonel BD Weston, Major PD Connolly, Captain RWH Colgan, Captain SC Lane, Lieutenant Colonel R Bredin MBE and Regimental Secretary.
Secretary: Assistant Regimental Secretary

County Colonels

Norfolk:	Lieutenant Colonel MA Nicholas MBE DL
Suffolk:	Lieutenant Colonel MH Wenham
Essex:	Colonel CAF Thomas TD DL
Cambridgeshire:	Lieutenant Colonel D Denson TD
Lincolnshire:	Lieutenant Colonel SJ Bacon
Leicestershire:	Captain TR Wilkes
Northamptonshire:	Lieutenant Colonel RHL Blomfield MBE TD
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire:	Major JN Whatley DL

Regimental Museum
Chairman of Trustees: Colonel PGR Horrell TD DL
Trustees: Colonel NH Kelsey OBE TD, Lieutenant Colonel ACE Marinos, Lieutenant Colonel ADW McArdle OBE TD, Lieutenant Colonel A Powell MBE, Major T Dormer TD, Captain PR Randall, JMH Naylor, Deputy Regimental Secretary and Regimental Secretary.

Alliances

Australia	The Royal Tasmania Regiment
Barbados	The Barbados Regiment
Belize	The Belize Defence Force
Bermuda	The Royal Bermuda Regiment
Canada	Sherbrooke Hussars
	The Lincoln and Welland Regiment
	The Essex and Kent Scottish
	The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment
Gibraltar	The Royal Gibraltar Regiment
Malaysia	1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment
New Zealand	3rd Battalion (Auckland (Countess of Ranfurly's Own) and Northland) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
Pakistan	5th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment
South Africa	First City Regiment
	Regiment de la Rey

The Regiment is affiliated to the Worshipful Company of Poulters
The Regiment is affiliated to *HMS St Albans*

Civic Honours

The Regiment has been granted the Freedom of:

Barking and Dagenham, Basildon, Bedford, Boston, Brentwood, Broxbourne, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge, Celle, Charnwood, Chelmsford, Cleethorpes, Colchester, Corby, Dacorum, Diss, Dunstable, Ely, Gibraltar, Grantham, Great Yarmouth, Grimsby, Harborough, Harlow, Harpenden, Haverhill, Havering (formally Romford), Hertford, Hinckley and Bosworth, Huntingdon, Ipswich, Kettering, King's Lynn, Leicester, Lincoln, Lowestoft, Luton, Newham (formally East Ham), Northampton, Norwich, Oadby and Wigston, Peterborough, Redbridge (formally Ilford), Stamford (honorary status), St Neots, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Sudbury, Thurrock, Uppingham, Watford, Wellingborough and Wisbech.

Regimental Locations

Regimental Headquarters

The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN
Tel: 01284-752394. Mil 94205-2001
Website: www.royalanglianregiment.com
Shop online: www.royalangliandirect.co.uk

Regimental Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) RCJ Goodin OBE
Email: robert.goodin769@mod.gov.uk
Deputy Regimental Secretary (Communications and Heritage): Major (Retd) ML Peters
Email: michael.peters112@mod.gov.uk
Assistant Regimental Secretary (Finance and Benevolence): Mr M Goldsmith
Email: mark.goldsmith101@mod.gov.uk
Regimental Adjutant: Captain GR Liddington
Email: george.liddington100@mod.gov.uk *(des Lt P Phillips. Email: paul.phillips114@mod.gov.uk)*
Chief Clerk: Mr SR Dunning
Email: stephen.dunning782@mod.gov.uk
Records and Benevolence Officer: Mrs J Laidlaw
Email: joanna.laidlaw118@mod.gov.uk

Regimental Area Secretary 1 (County Engagement and Veteran Support): Captain PCH Hudson
Email: peter.hudson104@mod.gov.uk

RHQ Area Office
Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire
The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN
Tel: 01284-749317

Regimental Area Secretary 2 (County Engagement and Veteran Support): Major (Retd) TJ StC Brown
Email: timothy.brown133@mod.gov.uk
Clerk: Mrs A Godbolt
Email: anne.godbolt100@mod.gov.uk

RHQ Area Office Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire
Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore, Rutland LE15 7BL
Tel: 01572-812241 Ext 7161

Regimental Museum

Royal Anglian Museum, Duxford Airfield,
Duxford, Cambridgeshire CB22 4QR
Tel: 01223-497298
Curator: Melissa Kozlenko
Email: royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com
Website: www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk

Battalion Locations

1st Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel GJ Goodey MBE
(Lieutenant Colonel AR Thompson MBE from January 2023)
Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia *(Kendrew Barracks from summer 2023)*
British Forces Post Office 58

2nd Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel BT Hawes MBE
(des: Lieutenant Colonel JW Bennett-Madge)
Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore, Rutland LE15 7BL

3rd Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel DJ Haggar
(des: Lieutenant Colonel E Matts)
Army Reserves Centre, Blenheim Camp,
Newmarket Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3SW

Regimental Representatives

Infantry Training Centre (Catterick): Lieutenant RR Simmons
Army Foundation College (Harrogate): Sergeant M Chandler
Infantry Battle School: Major A Mackness
Cambridge University OTC: Major N Reeder
East Midlands University OTC: Captain SC Hale
RMA Sandhurst: Captain H Johnston

Personalia

Please note this list is based upon information provided to RHQ over the course of 2022 and includes some key appointments which are of interest to members of the Regimental Family

Honours and Awards

Knight Commander of The Most Honourable Order of the Bath

Lieutenant General RW Wooddisse CBE MC

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Lt Col WJ Meddings

Joint Commanders' Commendations

Maj L Waghorn
Maj MR Garner

Long Service and Good Conduct

Capt A Langley
CSgt S Turner
Sgt D Watts

Long Service and Good Conduct Clasp 1

Capt M Green
WO2 D Lappin
WO2 S Woolcott
Sgt P Sweeney

Long Service and Good Conduct Clasp 2

Capt M Green
WO2 D Lappin
WO2 S Woolcott

VRSM

Maj P Chilvers - 1st Clasp
Cpl P L Evans
CSgt T Taylor – 3rd Clasp
LCpl EC Auffret – 2nd Clasp
Sgt MR Auffret – 2nd Clasp
LCpl JC Hobson
Capt PCH Hudson – 2nd Clasp
Cpl C Ainley – 2nd Clasp
Cpl JA Blackman – 2nd Clasp
Sgt NJ Carey – 2nd Clasp
LCpl PG Fairhall – 2nd Clasp
LCpl S J Humphrey – 2nd Clasp
Cpl L Lawrence – 2nd Clasp
MUSN L Marslend – 2nd Clasp
MUSN G Mills – 2nd Clasp
MUSN ST Ormerod – 2nd Clasp
LCpl T D Proudfoot– 2nd Clasp
Cpl J L Smith – 2nd Clasp
Pte AMP Markham-Jenkins
CSgt S Jones
Pte J Exell
LCpl J Wells
LCpl D Upton
LCpl P Jones
LCpl A Freer
LCpl M Cybulski

Poulters' Prize

Cpl Mitchell Lingley

Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel
Lt Col PC Moxey

Captain to Major
Capt SD Graham
Capt MJ Brundson
Capt ROM Edwards
Capt CL Miles
Capt ST Payne
Capt T Shea
Capt J Snoddon
Capt J Tracey
Capt M Durkin
Capt W Pickering
Capt N Watkins

Captain to Major (LE)
Capt M Ielden

Lieutenant to Captain
Lt J CA Heal
Lt DA Kitchen
Lt AI Simms
Lt CR Smith
Lt NC Bromley

2nd Lieutenant to Lieutenant
2Lt CR Smith
MJ Blayney
AP Stratton
DG Brown
PA Phillips

Officer Cadet to 2nd Lieutenant
OCdt HR Bussandra
OCdt TS Jooste–Jennings
OCdt JRG Rice
OCdt JJG Peel
OCdt OP White
OCdt SJ Barke
OCdt HJ Flint
OCdt ST Telford

WO2 to WO1
WO2 PM Kennedy

Colour Sergeant to WO2
CSgt SA Cousin
CSgt AJ Daly
CSgt JM Gibbs
CSgt J Haldenby
CSgt NC Jarvis
CSgt LG Meadows
CSgt D Watson
CSgt DW Jakubas

Sergeant to Colour Sergeant
Sgt MD Anderson
Sgt TE Cashman
Sgt AG Euston
Sgt AD Ferguson
Sgt DA Harrison
Sgt PJ Howell
Sgt K McPherson
Sgt SG Stanley
Sgt KDP Wallis
Sgt AE Harding
Sgt CJ Scott
Sgt L Lawrence
Sgt K McGarrell
Sgt N Carey

Corporal to Sergeant
Cpl SJK Boot
Cpl K Buchanan
Cpl PJ Fines
Cpl G Foley
Cpl JS Garrod
Cpl TT Granfield
Cpl JO Harraway
Cpl DS May
Cpl CC Nicholls
Cpl JJM Rouse
Cpl RJJ Sarjeant

Conversions of Commission

Capt MJN Andrews SSC to IRC (B&O)
Capt DB Coyle SSC to IRC (B&O)
Maj SAC Forse IRC to REG C (B&O)
Capt MJ Ielden IRC (LE) to REG C (LE) (B&O)

Notable Appointments

Mr DJ Till	Chairman of Regimental Trustees
Brig DSJ Biddick MBE MC	RCDS
Brig OCC Brown	ACOS Ops Fd Army
Col PC Moxey	Comd Op TANGHAM
Maj J Griffiths	Director of Music of the Regimental Band
WO1 Lee Estwick	RSM 1st Battalion
WO1 Gavin Williams	RSM 2nd Battalion
WO1 Gareth George	RSM 3rd Battalion

Retirements

Brig DJ Clements MBE, Chair Regt Trustees
Lt Col R Bredin MBE
Maj L Waghorn
Major AK Dart
Maj PH Williamson MBE, Long Serving Museum Trustee
Rev G Brown, Assistant Honorary Chaplain for Suffolk
Capt PCH Hudson
Capt ET Wynn
Captain BC Hopkin
Captain G Scrupps
Capt DJ Russell
Capt P Darby

Captain Peter Hudson retires after 47 years

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 Royal 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 and 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 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, prog–rammes 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 Battalion's Counties, but will now have more free weekends to spend with Carol and their family – we wish them well.

LCpl Sam Holding wins Poulters Prize

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.

Veteran Engagement Officer joins RHQ

Following the award of a financial grant from the Afghanistan Veterans' Fund, the Regiment is pleased to announce the appointment of our first Regimental Veterans Engagement Officer. WO2 Mole Stevens has accepted this important role and has been warmly welcomed to the RHQ Team. Support for our veterans is led by our two Regimental Area Secretaries, and the Regiment's intention is to reach out to, and offer more support to more of our veterans, in particular our veterans from recent conflicts. A lesson learned from recent projects like the Royal Anglian Big Breakfast 2022 and the provision of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy via the Leafyard App is that there is a gap in our engagement with some veterans. It is hoped that the Regimental Veterans Engagement Officer will help to fill this gap.

Regimental Day 2022

This year's Regimental Day was an unqualified success. The day was planned and organised by Regt Area Secretary 1, Capt Peter Hudson.

Changes at Duxford meant that we had to shift location, but this change proved to be beneficial one because the Regimental Memorial could be viewed from the new site.

The weather was once again kind to us and record numbers attending the Drumhead Service did so in lovely sunshine.

The weather held good throughout the day as a real cross-section of the Royal Anglian family from Cadets to Veterans mingled together while being entertained by our Regimental Band. Others, like Major David Whitehead decided that the DOM needed a break and took up his baton for a while.

As is also traditional, the Minden Bar did a roaring trade with many old friendships renewed and tall tales shared.

All in all, a hugely successful day, we are already planning next year's event - please it in your diary and come along to Duxford on Sunday 3 September 2023.

Regimental Service of Remembrance at Duxford - 13 November 2022

Once again the Regiment warmly welcomed some of the families of our fallen to Duxford.

The Remembrance Sunday Service at our Regimental Memorial is always well supported by our veterans and their families, and in particular by many families of the fallen.

Some families travel considerable distances, and it is their presence at this poignant service, which makes our Service of Remembrance rather special.

Private Ian Burt died on duty, serving with B Company of our 2nd Battalion on 29th September 1972 in West Belfast, so this year is the 50th anniversary of his death. Ian Burt's family regularly attend our Remembrance Sunday Services.

Picture Caption: Pictured above is Jenny Kilvington holding the wreath. Jenny is Ian Burt's sister, and she is pictured here with her husband Ken, her three children: Andrew, Sarah and Clare, her daughter-in-law Lynn and her grandchildren: Lauren, Belle and Abby.

This year's service was very well attended, numbers have increased noticeably since we emerged from the pandemic.

With this in mind RHQ is looking into the feasibility of holding a curry lunch at Duxford after the 2023 Service of Remembrance. Details will be publicised across regimental media in the Spring.

The Queen Consort opens Field of Remembrance

On Thursday 10th November the Field of Remembrance was officially opened by Her Majesty The Queen Consort at 1100hrs in the garden of Westminster Abbey. For the second successive year the Regiment was only allocated three tickets alongside one for the Plot Guardian. The original reason given for this limited attendance was that following the pandemic repairs were to be made to the Abbey which would encroach into the gardens thus restricting the amount of space available for the Field of Remembrance. The ceremony itself was conducted as usual with a State Trumpeter sounding the Last Post from the rooftops as Big Ben rang out at 1100hrs.

Major David Granfield was our Plot Guardian this year, and he had the honour of greeting Her Majesty in person. Onlooking, and kindly representing the Regiment despite the challenges of a Tube strike that day, were David Till our new Chairman of the Regimental Trustees, Tim Beighton and a 7th Battalion veteran all the way from Lincolnshire, Kevin Martin. The Regiment is most grateful for the effort made by those who attended both within and outside the Field itself and we shall endeavour to obtain more tickets next year.

The Officers' Club Annual Dinner 4 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 as strong supporters of the Regiment. In January for example 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 Bredin 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.

Regimental rugby team defy pressure to win in 31C heat

The Regimental Rugby team defeated a strong and well-organised Cleethorpes RUFC team on Saturday the 9th of July in a sun kissed Lincolnshire. The game started with the traditional roll of honour read by Assistant Chairman Steve Wakeman and supported by a bugler provide by the Corps of Drums, the 2nd Battalion.

Cheered on by the travelling support and the local Regimental Association, the first 40 mins was spent testing the mixed team of veterans and Regulars from the Poachers tackling and scrummaging skills through wave after wave of Cleethorpes pressure. The glimmer of light for the Regimental was always the fast moving Fijian backline whose blue touch paper was lit by the Man of the Match Pte Clacher. The team reached half time with a narrow lead of 7-5 and then the 31 degrees of heat took their toll on the heavier home team forwards as they fell away in the second half.

The ground opened up as the Fijians sped around and through their opposite numbers eventually out scoring the home team 7 tries to 3 for a comfortable 37-17 win.

The post-match presentations were led by Chairman Jim Cunningham where he called upon Lieutenant Colonel Ben Hawes to present gifts to Cleethorpes RUFC. Colonel Ben also presented the MotM trophy to Private Clacher and the match trophy to the team skipper, Private Vakadewa.

The presentations then centred more towards the Regimental Rugby team

Regimental Matters

where award caps were presented firstly to celebrate the life of Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Williams who passed away before COVID. His cap starts its long journey north to Scotland to his family. The next cap celebrated the award of a Club 15 match award to Pete Gasden who is still going at his remarkable age.

Lastly, the Chairman rewarded the 'QM and Paymaster' Joanne Taylor-Clancy in recognition for the work in the form of a merit cap for all she does around keeping our accounts straight, the kit and shirts where they should be (in the store), and for ability to control and corral the Chairman and committee. Well done Pete & Jo.

The day rolled into the evening and in good Regimental tradition the first and last pint consumed on the premises was by a Royal Anglian.

Details of the Regimental Rugby Team are available on the Regimental Rugby page on Facebook or email the Secretary on wilkie332@hotmail.com

Great War
Rededication Ceremonies
20-23 June 2022

Capt Tom Wilde, Padre to the 2nd Battalion, and Lt Jack Rice also of the Poachers joined a party from The Rifles in France 20-23 June close to Arras and Amiens for the rededication of the graves of two of our Fallen.

Second Lieutenant Ernest Lockett Cole of the 8th Battalion, The Nor–thamptonshire Regiment, KIA 27 September 1916, was interred at Ovillers Military Cemetery, and Serjeant Ernest Edward Harris of the 10th Battalion, The Essex Regiment, KIA 8 August 1918, at Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery. Also it was good to see in attendance a fit and well Peter Williamson in his role as a Trustee of the Essex Museum.

Padre Tom conducted the services and commented: " It has been a huge honour to conduct the services of 2nd Lt Ernest Lockett Cole and Sgt Ernest Edward Harris. During the services I spoke about the importance of a name and how wonderful it is when the names of our unknown fallen are found. With finding a name the person is brought to life through their history, their story and their endeavours. A family is often found which can bring even more life to the serviceman and we had the great privilege to have family members from both 2nd Lt Cole and Sgt Harris joining us. Their names now get to live on through their families".

The Regimental Council Report 2022

The Regimental Council met at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on Friday 6 May 22. The meeting was a huge success, with the added bonus for the Deputy Colonels of the Regiment, and the Commanding Officers, of the opportunity to meet three of our own In-Pensioners. Pictured in the hospital grounds are, from left: CO 3rd Bn - Lt Col Dave Haggar, Brig Rich Lyne, Brig Olly Brown, In-Pensioners Mick Riley, Fred Dymond and Dougie May. To the right of Dougie are, CO 2nd Bn, Lt Col Ben Hawes, Brig Dom Biddick, and CO 1st Bn, Lt Col Graham Goodey.

Our Regimental Council met in May at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and in November at the Army and Navy Club. The Colonel of the Regiment chairs the council supported by the Chairman of our Trustees, our three Deputy Colonels, our three Commanding Officers and our Senior LE Officer. Other senior members of our College of Colonels and external subject matter experts are also invited to attend to advise on specific projects. Much of the routine business of the council is managed out of committee through the Regimental Plan and the Regimental Budget. The seven short reports below are some examples from the council's agenda this year.

Project 1964

The Commanding Officers of the 1st and 2nd Battalions were developing Project 1964 to achieve the complementary objectives of: generating the strongest possible military capability; maintaining the Regiment's ethos, traditions and reputation; developing talent and maximising opportunity for R ANGLIAN soldiers. Through *Future Soldier* three major changes were to take effect:

- Co-location of both Reg Bns
- Permanent basing in Kendrew Barracks for the foreseeable future
- Reduction in size for both Bns, the largest reduction being to the 1st Bn by April 2025.

There were seven workstreams in Project 1964, and the highest priority was to be given to this project including regimental funds to support improvements in Kendrew Barracks.

Regimental Funds

Regimental funds were well managed, though they had reduced in value to £6.5M at 30 Sep 22. All the bids made for grants covering a wide range of activities in 22/23 had been approved and incorporated into the Regt Budget, which was forecasting an overspend of £100K.

Communications and Engagement

- *Branding*. Regimental branding had last been reviewed in 2014, and was to be reviewed again, with options being presented to the Regt Council in May 2023.
- *Website V3*. Our current website V2 was to be developed including Royal Anglian Digital Muster, a joint project with the Regt Museum, incorporating the current Museum website allowing our veterans to upload their service, as part of a comprehensive heritage project.
- *Films*. The new Regimental films:

R ANGLIAN Soldier, R ANGLIAN Officer and R ANGLIAN remembrance had been well received. The film R ANGLIAN Reserve was to follow.

Cadet Engagement

Our engagement had been reinvigorated post COVID. A Cadet Focus event had been held at Kendrew Barracks. The Col of the Regt had presented the new Regt Cadet Coins to selected Cadets at our Regt Day. And Cadet events including training and inspections were being supported.

Recruiting and Workforce

The responsibility for engagement to support recruiting was shifting from being a Regimental task to being an Infantry task. This would mean the loss of the 1st and 2nd Bn's recruiting teams (Infantry Engagement Teams) in early 2023, though the 3rd Bn was to continue with its own recruiting. The Regt was reviewing its processes to maintain capacity to conduct engagement in our AOR and to maintain contact with our recruits.

Heritage

- *21st Century Soldier*. This project aimed to give a display of a contemporary soldier, complete with equipment, replica weapon and appropriate County Company information board to each of the museums of our forebear County Regiments. The first exhibits are due to be with museums in early 2023.
- *Silver Survey and Audit*. RHQ, 2nd Bn and 3rd Bn had been completed. The 1st Bn was due in Spring 23. Following reconciliation of all records and holdings, recommendations for disposal of surplus were to be made. And the photos and histories of our principal pieces, telling the story of the Regt were to be loaded onto the new website.
- *Regimental Museum*. The forecast closure of the Land Warfare Hall in 2025 and the end of our current museum lease in 2025 had raised a question about the future of our museum. Our museum trustees had been invited by IWM to present their proposal for our future museum in the new post-WWII/Cold War museum in the hanger currently housing the Airspace Museum.

Benevolence and Welfare.

- *The Leafyard App*. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, paid for by Regt funds, had been made available to all members of our regimental family in 2022. The original intention had been for the app to be available only via a Leafyard Card, but the Nov Council agreed the use of a link, to make access easier.
- *Regt Big Breakfast*. The first of these in 2023 had been a success with breakfasts at 40 locations, kindly run by volunteers for 1000 veterans, paid for by Regt funds. The event was to be repeated in 2023, paid for by Regt funds.
- *Regt Veteran Engagement Officer.* This part time post to support our two Regt Area Secs (County Engagement and Veteran Support) had been funded by a grant from the Afghan Veterans Fund. There had been a significant increase in events, paid for by Regt funds, to support our veterans.

As ever, our Regimental Council welcomes any items for the agenda, which support the Regiment, and any bids for grants for activities, which support the Regiment.

Regimental Benevolence Grants

Mark Goldsmith

General

The delivery of benevolence grants remains one of the main priorities for RHQ. Where possible, every effort is made to process grant applications and pay the recipient within 24 hours, but RHQ is reliant on the assigned caseworker providing all the information required. Our Records Officer completes all of the preparatory work for each application, requesting additional information from the assigned caseworker where required. In doing so, this allows for a quick turnaround so a prompt decision can be made.

All figures mentioned in this article cover the period 01 Jul 21 to 31 Dec 22. Our previous Financial Year (FY) used to run from 01 July to 30 June, but FY 21-22 was extended by 6 months so the Charity could align their FY with the calendar year.

Delivery

Grants

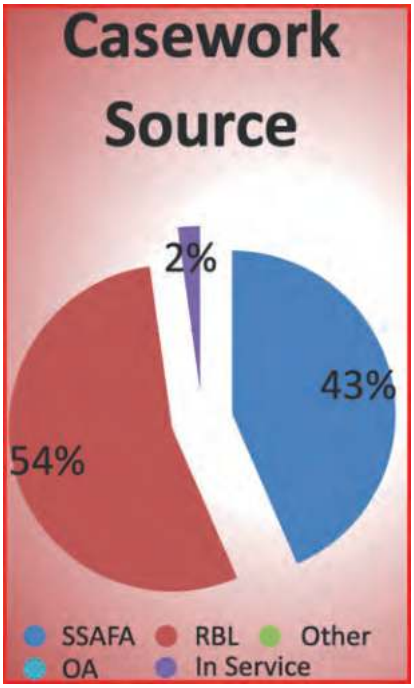
Almonisation is where requests are considered by other charity providers such as SSAFA, RBL, BLESMA for additional funding. This ensures the applicant has access to all other funding avenues available to them in order to best meet their individual needs. In the reporting FY the total almonised delivery of grants was £489K which is broken down as follows:

- R Anglian £129.9K
- ABF Soldiers Charity £82.6K
- RBL £274.6K
- Others £1.9K

Under normal circumstances caseworkers do not deal directly with the ABF The Soldiers Charity (formerly known as the Army Benevolent Fund). Grant requests in the first instance are dealt with by a caseworker and are only referred to the ABF The Soldiers Charity for consideration once one of Area Secretaries within RHQ has reviewed the case and approved the application.

Outreach

Regimental Headquarters has no outreach capability to complete casework. A grant is made annually to the ABF The Soldiers Chart, who on behalf of RHQ awards grants to charitable organisations who support the Regiment by providing caseworkers. The chart above shows the casework was divided and highlights our dependence on the RBL and SSAFA caseworkers, to whom we will always remain extremely grateful.



The quickest route for cases to be dealt with, is for the individual or person supporting them to contact their local SSAFA or RBL branch. They will assign a caseworker and submit the application to RHQ. Whilst RHQ can be contacted directly this will be to provide guidance on the process, to ensure applications are processed more quickly this must be done through an assigned caseworker. With the consent of the individual, RHQ can make contact SSAFA to ensure a caseworker is assigned to deal with their application.

Grants awarded and declined

In this FY the case statistics are as follows:

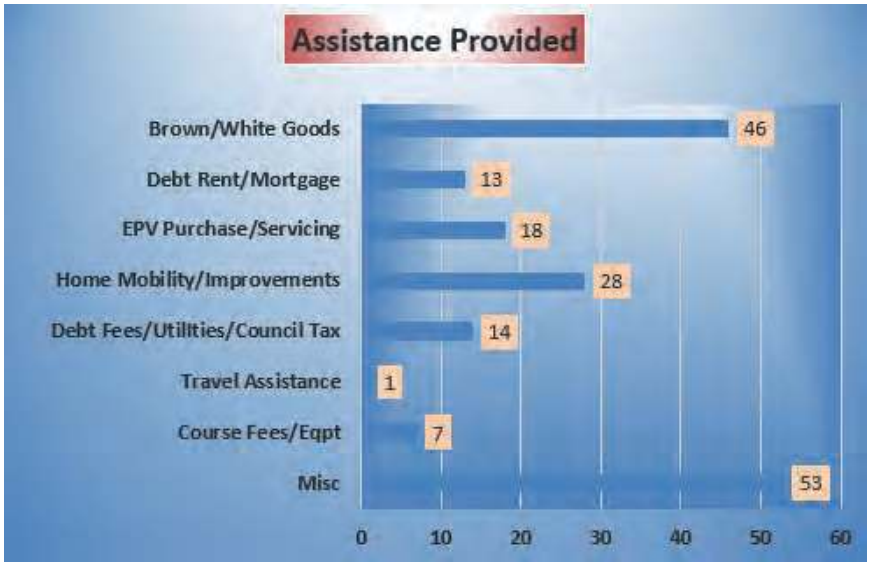
- Total Number of Cases 148
- Grants Awarded 89
- Declined 60

Declined

All applications received by RHQ are reviewed against the guidelines in RHQ's Standing Instruction (SI) No.19 to ensure it meets the Charity's criteria. The common causes for an application to be declined are funeral costs and care home costs, savings above the set threshold and where no hardship, need or distress has been identified. Also, where verification of service with The Royal Anglian Regiment or one of our forebear Regiments cannot be proved, the application will be declined. In some cases the caseworker confuses the Royal Anglian Regiment with the Royal Artillery (RA), or where an individual was attached to the Regiment in their last posting and the caseworker applies to RHQ for funding rather than their parent Corp Benevolent Fund.

The volume of grant awards made to our serving soldiers, veterans and their families continues and are now back up to the same levels before the Coronavirus pandemic, where we saw the number of cases fall. This was mainly due to caseworkers being unable to process applications. RHQ will always continue support the Regimental family where hardship, need or distress need exists. The number of 'In Service' cases has risen, and is welcomed, demonstrating that we support our serving soldiers as much as we support our veterans. A simple one page In-Service Request form can be used by the Unit Welfare Officer (UWO). Any In-Service requests supported by the CO can be submitted directly to RHQ and does not need to be assigned a caseworker.

Dispersal
The main purpose for grants can be seen in the graph, right



Fundraising

General
Fundraising is difficult area and one which our trustees and Battalions continue to look at ways of improving. In order for the charity to continue to function a robust investment policy is in place. I have

been directed to continue to grow the portfolio in order to continue provide the required support to the Regiment. There is a need to withstand the rigors and to fluctuations in the markets.

Income
The three main sources of income are:

- Interest from the Investment Portfolio
- Day's Pay Scheme
- Fundraising and Donations

Investment Portfolio
The portfolio is held with Sarasins & Partners and looked after by our Regimental Trustees. They continue to monitor our investments, ensuring we are financially well looked after. The income for the period 01 Jul 21 to 31 Dec 22 was £154K.

Day's Pay Scheme
The Day's Pay Scheme brought in £173k during the period 01 Jul 21 to 31 Dec 22. Contributions to the Day's Pay Scheme continue to rise due to a robust monitoring system within RHQ and by each of the Battalions, who actively encourage all serving all serving Officers and Soldiers to pay into the scheme. Contributions are made as follows:

- Officers - 210% of a day's pay
- Soldiers - 120% of a day's pay

The MOD direct that we spend a minimum of 51% from our income from the DPS on benevolence casework, in real terms this figure is usually around 75%, and we also supplement this with some of the income from our investments. The rest of the income from the DPS is dispersed through the Regiment's budget, including grants to Battalions, which always exceed the amount the Battalions put in from DPS.

Donations and Fundraising
RHQ is a relatively small team but with the few events we do run, and the kindness of many in making donations and running events on our behalf just under £45K was raised in donations. This is very welcomed but is not a reliable source of income. There is a lot of excellent fundraising work being done in support of national charities, well done. If you are considering an event, please consider The Royal Anglian Benevolent Charity it is your own charity. We do not ask that we be the sole benefactor, although that would be nice, but please consider a percentage to our charity. You will be directly supporting those from your Regiment that fall in need, hardship, or distress.

Benevolence in Action

General
The Benevolence Fund strives to deliver a quality of service which our serving and veteran community deserve in times of hardship, need or distress. This section will cover output including casework study. Anonymity has been maintained to protect confidentiality.

The Children's Settlement Scheme
This fund was established during the Afghanistan Campaign with significant contributions from the general public. This allowed the fund to be established for the children of those who died during the conflict. An amount of money was invested on their behalf and managed by the Regiment until their 18th Birthday. It hoped that it would be used for further education but is entirely the recipient's call. To date three children have benefited from this fund, with around £150K being paid out.

The Wayland Fund
The Wayland Fund is a specific purpose fund established to support amputees. The fund was donated by an organisation that intended to set up its own establishment in support of amputees. They realised it was not required and so donated their funds to our Charity. This money has been used to support three benevolence cases in this FY, with a total of just under £18K being made in grants.

Regimental Benevolence & Welfare

Regular multi-agency Veteran Mental Health wellbeing meetings are hosted by Regimental Headquarters.

Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation Trust (NSFT) held a Veterans Champion training session at The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks on Tuesday 7th February 2023.

The aim of the training was for staff to gain an understanding around working with the veteran community, this will ensure that those individuals who are often hard to reach are supported by providing awareness under the Armed Forces Covenant, The Armed Forces Act, the NHS, health and social care Act and any other relevant.

Other agencies that were in attendance or spoken about were Walking With the Wounded (socially or physically wounded veterans and their families), Project Nova (veterans within the criminal justice system), Outside the Wire (drug and alcohol services for veterans)

During the meeting, subjects covered were mental health services provided by Op Courage (NHS), NSFT specific veteran integrated services, physical health, DWP, charities, drug and alcohol.

They had the lived experience of three veterans who have been through the system of being at rock bottom of PTSD and then gaining support whilst moving forward with their recovery, this was a powerful and moving area which everyone can learn from and share so much.

Case Studies

Case 1 – Serving Soldier

A young 19 year old serving soldier currently living with his terminally ill mum who was undergoing chemotherapy, requested financial report for cost of living payments and home improvement equipment required for a disabled person living at the home, to make this more comfortable. A grant for the full amount of £465 was requested and paid by Benevolence.

Grant: £465

Almonised: Not required

Case 2 - Veteran

A veteran split from his partner and gets to see his daughter every other weekend. They suffer from Asthma and Hay Fever and have also been off work with depression brought on with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Whilst receiving sick pay and being on a low income, the rent was not paid which resulted in a large amount of debt being built up. There was a real possibility they could become homeless, so a grant was made to pay off his debts which helped secure his accommodation. This was almonised with other charity providers to ensure all debts were cleared.

Grant: £750 *Almonised: £4550*

Case 3 – Wayland Fund

A very vulnerable amputee was left devastated when his wife sadly passed away in 2022. He had a number of family members living with him at that time, including his adult daughter. His circumstances meant his mental health was really poor. He wanted to spend more time in the garden to help improve his wellbeing, and also provide a space where he could reflect and remember his wife. The substantial grant we made along with a contribution from Blesma meant this work could be completed.

Grant: £2995

Almonised: £2000 from Blesma

Do You Need Assistance?

If you find yourself in need, hardship or distress, seek caseworker assistances from SSAFA or RBL

They will forward your request to the Regimental Charity.

We are here to help and can ask other assistance providers to also assist, such as the RBL and The Army Benevolent Fund (The Soldiers Charity)

Donations

If you would like to donate to the Benevolent Fund you can do so via the Benevolence page on the Regimental Website

royalanglianregiment.com

Useful contacts

Mental Health Support and Emergency Services
If you feel like harming or hurting yourself or other people:
Call 999 or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency (A&E)

If you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency, NHS 111 is a free number to call. They can direct you to your local crisis support centre services they also offer health 24hr, 365 days a year.

NHS Veterans Support
Wales
Tel: 0800 2183 2261
Email: Admin.vnhswc&v@wales.nhs.uk

Cornwall
Available 09:00-18:00 hrs Mon-Thu,
Tel: 01579 373737
Referrals: 012579 335245
Email: cpn-tr.veteranassastance@nhs.net
Trevelis House, Lodge Road, Liskeard, Cornwall, PL14 4NE.

North-West
Available 09:00-17:00 hrs Mon-Fri
Tel: 0300 323 0707
Email: mviap@enquiries.nw@nhs.net

North of England
Tel: 0303 123 1145
Email: vwals@nhs.net
North End House, 42 North End, Durham, DH14LW

Midlands and East of England
Tel: 0300 323 0137
Email: mevs@mhm.org.uk

London and South East England
Tel: 0203 317 6818,
Email: cim-tr.veteranstilservice-lse@nhs.net
Website: The Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison (TIL) Service

South Central and South West England
Tel: 300 365 0300
Email: awp.swveterans@nhs.net
Bath NHS House, Newbridge Hill, Bath, BA1 3QE

Other Assistance Providers

Samaritans
Provides emotion support 25 hrs a day 365 days of the year. They allow people to talk about feelings of distress and despair and are confidential and offer non-judgemental support.
Tel: 116 1123 (24hr Freephone)
Email: jo@samaritians.org
Website: samaritians.org

Mind
09:00-18:00 Mon-Fri, less bank holidays.
Mind Infoline gives confidential support and information on lots of mental health related issues including where to get help, drug treatments, alternative therapies and advocacy. Mind has a network of nearly 200 local Mind associates providing local services.
Tel: 0300 123 3393
Email: *info@mind.org.uk*

SANE Health Helpline
SANE runs an out-of-hours helpline offering specialist emotional support and information to anyone affected by mental illness, including family, friends and carers.
Open every day, 16:30-22:30 hrs
Tel: 0300 304 700

Mainly About People

Farewell to County Colonel Lincolnshire

Geoffrey Newmarch initiated the role of the Regimental County Colonel for Lincolnshire after his tenure as Honorary Colonel for the volunteer Lincolnshire Company of the Regiment between 2004-2009. Prior to and throughout his tenure Geoff has worked tirelessly for the cadet and reserve forces throughout the County. Of particular note was his service in 7RANGLIAN throughout the 1980s not least being the Company Commander based in Lincoln. His reserve career culminated with command of EMUOTC between 1992 and 1994. Geoff has taken an active role in the East Midlands Reserve Forces & Cadet Association for several decades.

Geoff has been a wonderful County Colonel providing unwavering support for the Area Regimental Secretary, Major Tim Brown, and has assisted him on many issues over the last 8 years. His intimate knowledge of all the great and the good in the County ensured that the Regimental Representative Event at Grimsthorpe Castle in 2019 was an outstanding success. Geoff also accompanied Tim on a visit to the Poachers in Cyprus along with Jenny, illustrating the strong family connection the Newmarches maintain with the Regiment. Finally, and most recently the 2nd Battalion enjoyed exercising the Freedom of the City of Lincoln in February of this year and despite Geoff and Jenny being in Australia at the time of the parade their selfless commitment and support ensured that the day ran smoothly and successfully.

The Regiment took the opportunity to say farewell to Geoff and Jenny at Duxford this year. The Colonel of the Regiment presented them with a solid silver photograph holder and a bouquet of flowers for Jenny. The Regimental Association presented them with a gift card to be used in well-known Australian department store. Finally, their local Association Branch presented Geoff with an engraved hip flask and Jenny a Australian bottle of wine. Although Geoff & Jenny are moving to the other side of the world, they will always be a part of our Regimental Family, and we know that we will stay in touch.

Top Blesma role for Royal Anglian Veteran

Following a restructure of Blesma's Independence and Wellbeing Team in June, Blesma Member and ex-Royal Anglian, Colin Branch has become the Association's first ever Head of Welfare Support. The role was established as a response to the increased complexity in casework due to changing regulations, safeguarding requirements, complex health cases and an ageing membership.

As the Association's Head of Welfare Support, Colin is Blesma's designated safeguarding lead, making sure the necessary policies and practices are in place for staff to follow. This increased attention to detail will ensure Blesma remains in line with changes in legislation and the responsibilities placed upon it by the Charities Commission.

Colin will also help manage the delivery of the welfare and membership support function through the team based in the Chelmsford office. This includes helping approve grants and talking with Members to understand their concerns so Blesma can better support them. His

role also includes assisting the Benefits and Wellbeing Advisor to resolve War Pension queries as well as overseeing the support to the Association's volunteers, the Branch network and the Outreach activities programme.

'The Outreach programme has proven incredibly successful for Blesma over the last few years, so it was time for the Independence and Wellbeing team to expand its internal infrastructure to meet the additional manning that was brought into place,' said Colin, a Royal Anglian Regiment veteran, who brings with him 15 years of experience and high-level qualifications in this specific role.

'Part of the reason for me being appointed was to bring additional managerial capacity to the team and to work alongside the Director Independence and Wellbeing to help manage the outreach activities, as well as the increase and changes in welfare demands that are being presented by the Blesma Support Officers (BSOs)'.

Colin said about his new role: 'BSOs have found that casework is getting more complex and there is more demand, so it is very time intensive, particularly where Members require a multi-agency approach. I will be helping to deliver on that demand, but with the more complex demands comes greater responsibilities from the Association, so I will also be ensuring we make the right decisions in line with Charity Commission rules and Blesma's own policies.'

Thoughts on Royal Service

Lance Gerrard-Wright –

From 1998 to 2000, as a serving Royal Anglian officer, I had a tour as an Equerry in the Royal Household, with an office at Buckingham Palace. It was an extraordinary experience all round – getting to see, quite literally, behind the curtain of the British Monarchy. I was present on Royal overseas tours as well as the usual cavalcade of country shows and school science block openings. Among many special memories is a lunch I was privileged to attend at Clarence House with Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and only four others. Around a small table the conversation was extraordinary. The subject of poetry came up – my degree was in English Literature and so I was effusive on the topic. "Oh, Rudyard Kipling was such great company!" exclaimed the Queen Mother.

Life was full of these pinch-yourself moments – a casual reference to the provenance of this or that and again one felt surrounded and immersed in history.

But of course I also got to see the Queen in operation – by no means on a daily basis (she was not my Principal) , but more often than most. And what struck me, was her sheer presence – her aura. The Queen's calm demeanour was the quintessence of Royalty. And it had a bow wave – a ripple. I witnessed many huge stars of stage, screen, music and sport – all reduced to small children at her approach. Hissing in my ear, "There she is!! What should I say??" and then instantly she would put them at ease. Dealing with both extremes of the nervously garrulous or the dumbstruck. And those moments would stay with those individuals for the rest of their lives. I read this quote: "It took 10 seconds for Her Majesty to walk past my grinning father but it was a moment he spoke about and cherished all his life…that is impact…" "The Day I Met The Queen." A friend sent me a collection of the world's media front pages following the announcement of her death. Not surprisingly, she was headline news everywhere – quite literally the most famous woman in the

world.

But as we all know, the private individual was modest – Tupperware and country pursuits rather than Annabel's and fashion shows. I remember after being on duty at my first Garden Party, watching her come back inside the Palace, and her thanking us all -all the while leisurely kicking her shoes on and off like a teenager. So how did this understated English countrywoman achieve this spellbinding impact?

This extraordinary appeal: the flag-waving children of the 1950's with their pipe-smoking WW2 dads – handed those flags down, literally and metaphorically. The Dads were seen reverent at the Cenotaph every year, the children drew pictures and wrote letters. But as the Queen grew older, somehow that appeal remained constant and renewed. Mine was a military family, with my father often standing for the National Anthem – and the Queen's Speech at Christmas was a family fixture. But surely as the swinging 60's and unsettled industrial and terroristic 70's came and went, a Nation would have lost its reverence? I think there was some disquiet in the lead up to the 2002 Jubilee – the death of Princess Diana and the infamous "annus horribilis" had left its mark… But then the Mall thronged, out came the flags again, and there She was on the Balcony, rooted in our consciousness, as familiar as the theme to Coronation Street, but giving us that swell of pride – so regal, so calm, so – classy!

Many people who would define themselves as fundamentally against any such potentially "anachronistic conception" as a monarchy, have come forward to pay tribute. I am a rock musician and many of those in the modern music world might be considered to be anti-establishment – and you can't get much more establishment than the monarchy! One of them, Billy Bragg, had something very interesting to say: "The importance of the Queen as a figurehead was made clear to me in 2007 when I saw a news report of the dedication of the Armed Forces Memorial, remembering those who lost their lives in conflicts since the Second World War. Watching the Queen walk along a line of ex-service personnel who had fought in every war from Korea to Afghanistan, I was struck by the thought that there is no one in British public life whose presence at an event could be equally meaningful to an 80 year old veteran as well as one in their 20s." Her impact was evident: from the rough infantry soldier through the most elegant ballet dancer and back again to the dour Scotsman in the heather. Universal and utterly unique.

So – as a leadership case study – how was she so effective…? We hardly ever heard her speak (and we all knew that private conversations were not supposed to be repeated – mea culpa above!).

Above all she was the ultimate role model. Any individual and family has feet of clay – but even with the (let's not forget, fictional!) Netflix supposition of "The Crown" – we are left with the impression of a decent woman doing her utmost – to serve. Simple as that.

She was able – over the course of seven decades – to exemplify the Values and Standards that we would hope define a Monarchy. Another friend commented on what a job description of a "Head of State" should look like: political neutrality, service, diplomacy, ability to unite the country… Has any other Head

of State achieved this in the way Queen Elizabeth managed? She was a leader, a unifier, for all faiths, all ages, for every demographic signifier that goes to make up this United Kingdom. The extraordinary scenes of the queues for the Lying-in-State – and the crowds 20 or 30 deep along the route that the hearse took… She touched something deep within the national psyche, concepts and emotions that many of us might have thought were from an age gone by. Apparently not.

I frequently heard sneering words to the effect of "all right for some, waited on hand and foot, palaces, Rolls-Royces etc." The economics of money out vs money in (i.e. how much does the Family cost the taxpayer and what revenue does it generate) is not for this piece. What I would say is: you try remaining friendly, interested, and immaculate – day in day out, YEAR IN year out, evenings as well, receptions, dinners, speeches - being introduced to 1,000s of people – whilst being CONSTANTLY under scrutiny and your slightest misstep being gleefully pounced upon. A button undone, a remark under the breath, a fleetingly pained expression – and THAT would be the headline. But in the wake were left untold multitudes of delightfully bemused folk who – for a myriad of reasons – came away from those encounters light of step and glad of heart.

For Great Britain on the world stage – she was internationally respected – even revered. As an embodiment of national identity – unbeatable.

It is a very long line back to William the Conqueror. "Who do you think you are?" indeed. What King Charles will do remains to be seen of course. But the extraordinary achievement of the preceding 70 years has seen a masterclass from an unstuffy, unshowy, yet steely English countrywoman. Just think objectively of E II R as a study in human behaviour and there are very few, if any, parallels.

It was an honour and privilege to serve, someone whose entire life, was service.

Introducing the new Director of Music: Captain Jason Griffiths BA(Mus) LRSM

Captain Griffiths enlisted into The Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps as a trombonist in Bovington, Dorset in September 1984 at the age of 16. After two years training, he was assigned to the Band of The Queen's Own Hussars, who at the time were stationed in Hohne, North Germany.

In January 1994, Captain Griffiths was selected to attend the three-year Bandmaster Course at The Royal Military School of Music (RMSM), Kneller Hall in Twickenham. On completion of the course, he was appointed Bandmaster of The Band of The Parachute Regiment in April 1997, stationed in Aldershot Hampshire. He served for almost four years at the 'PARAs' before selection for assignment into The Household Cavalry.

Following completion of the six-month Household Cavalry Equitation Course, Captain Griffiths was appointed Bandmaster to The Band of The Blues & Royals (RHG/D) in March 2001 based in Windsor. In March 2003, Captain Griffiths returned to RMSM and assumed the appointment of Training Design Warrant Officer where he assisted in the design of all courses for all Army Musicians.

In January 2005, he was commissioned and appointed Director of Music (DOM) of The King's Division Waterloo Band in Catterick, North

Yorkshire. As a result of the MOD study 'Future Army Structures', Captain Griffiths remained in Catterick and became the inaugural DOM to one of the newly formed Royal Armoured Corps bands, The Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band in June 2006.

Following a total of three years in Catterick, Captain Griffiths was appointed Deputy Chief Instructor in January 2008, again at RMSM. At the end of that year, he promoted to Major and moved into HQ Royal Corps of Army Music (RCAM) and became desk Officer responsible for Career Management Policy and Recruiting for RCAM. During this period, Captain Griffiths spent five months on exchange to New Zealand where he served as DOM to their only Regular Army Band. In January 2011, Captain Griffiths returned to the RHG/D Band, this time as the DOM. Following three years in Windsor, he was selected for assignment to The Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow and assumed the post of the Staff Officer responsible for the Career Management of all RCAM soldiers.

In 2016, he was assigned as DOM of The Band and Bugles of The Rifles. Highlights included acting as the Senior DOM for the Massed Rifles Sounding Retreat on Horse Guards Parade and as the Principal DOM for The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, both in the summer of his first year in post. Following three years with The Rifles, Captain Griffiths returned to HQ RCAM and carried out a number of strategic roles in support of Military Music Optimisation (MMO) and Personnel Operations and Policy.

Captain Griffiths returned briefly to The Rifles in August 2021 and retired after just over a year in post having completed nearly 39 years as a Regular Army musician. He was delighted to be selected for appointment as DOM into our Royal Anglian Regimental family and looks forward to leading the band in support of all future events.

Tony Goodfellow, 3 Platoon, A Company, 3 R Anglian (The Pompadours) shot dead by the IRA whilst on duty in Londonderry 1973

Graham Sayers

27th April 2023 marks 50 years since Tony Goodfellow was shot dead whilst on duty at the Tesco permanent VCP on the edge of the Creggan Estate in Londonderry. The only man of the Battalion to lose his life on that deployment. He was a conscientious, intelligent and professional soldier, but nothing he could have done would have avoided him being hit that day, it could easily have been anyone of us in his place.

Those of us who remain remember him above all as being a good friend. Beyond that he was also a willing comrade, whether that be as a member of the platoon on the ground in the province doing what had to be done day in day out, or as our 432 driver in Germany, making sure the vehicle was always ready to go and giving us (as best as it could be) a comfortable and 'uneventful' ride to 'war'. He was one of those it was good to have alongside you when things got 'difficult'. He might have been diminutive in stature but was strong in every sense of the word.

Tony was from Rushden, and had been in the town Scouts group, and indeed he became a 'Queen's Scout'. He was also a prominent member of the Rushden Rugby Club, where he was known to all as 'Muscles'. His memory lives on there in the annual Goodfellow Cup. Perhaps because of his scouting days he would often lead on 'adventures', like getting hold of a two seat canoe and walking across Paderborn with Andy Daubney so that the pair of them could get into the river and paddle off, or persuading his friends to go rock climbing and skiing with him.

Looking back we all have memories of 'Goody' and what he meant to us, too many to relate in this short piece, and the question of how we now feel about the loss of him and all of those who did not return on their feet from our Op Banner tours has also to be put to one side for now. Perhaps the best way to reflect on the memories of Tony, and who he was to us, is to end with this quote from one of his mates, Malcolm Moles:

'I was one of Tony's roommates, and if my memory serves me right, he always began the day with a moan about something or someone which brought the rest of the guys in the room into fits of laughter, I would also add that there's probably not a day goes by when I don't think about Tony, in fact I can see him now standing in his coveralls with his grease gun in his hand and I can hear his voice just like it was yesterday.'

Tony Goodfellow, gone but not forgotten.

Commander's Group - Pte Allen, Pte James, Maj Woodrow, Capt Rodney Corbett and Pte Anthony Goodfellow, aged 26, who was killed by a sniper shot on 27 April 1973 while manning a vehicle checkpoint on the Westway.

Regimental Memorial Update 2022

The past 12 months has seen the successful completion of the annual cycle of inspection visits and repairs to our regimental memorial. The works carried out in the Spring of 2012 were the second and final stage of RHQ's programme of post-pandemic inspection, cleaning and refurbishment. Recent visitors to the memorial have commented positively on the completed work, and the current condition of the memorial.

RHQ has also received favourable feedback from members of the Regimental Family attending both our Regimental Day in September, and our annual Service of Remembrance in November.

Our Regimental Memorial is open to all members of the Royal Anglian family at no cost. Under the terms of the lease between IWM Duxford and the trustees of the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum anyone wishing to specifically visit the Royal Anglian Memorial may do so without charge, within IWM Duxford museum opening hours and with prior arrangement with the Royal Anglian Regt Museum (RARM) Curator. (Excepting air shows and event days).

The procedure is as follows: Anyone wishing to visit the Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial should contact the RARM Curator at least one week in advance of their visit.

Contact details are:
Melissa Kozlenko
Royal Anglian Regiment Museum Curator
Telephone: 01223 497298
royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com

Or via the Contact page of the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum website:
http://www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk

In the event that the Regimental Museum is unable to assist, please contact the Deputy Regimental Secretary, Maj (Retd) Mike Peters at RHQ on:
Civil - 01284 752394
Email: *Michael.Peters112@mod.gov.uk*

Regimental Battlefield Study Normandy 16-20 May 2022

Brig Tony Calder explains life as an infantry soldier BG (Before Gore-tex).

A group of fifty made the journey to Normandy on Monday 16th May comprising 21 Vikings, 20 Poachers, 2 museum curators and 5 former members of the Regiment supported by Majors Tim Brown and Mike Peters from RHQ. This was the first tour following the pandemic after 2020 and 2021 had to be cancelled, so it was a real bonus to have the support of the Regimental Trustees making a most generous grant which enabled the regular Commanding Officers to fill the coach.

Day one in France dawned a beautiful sunny day, so having had a good breakfast in our hotel on the edge of the charming town of Bayeux we set off for Longueville Battery overlooking the Channel, where our brilliant guide, Major Mike Peters, set the scene. Earlier, videos and actual radio broadcasts from BBC archives gave us a feeling on the coach of what it must have felt like on that early morning of 6th June 1944. The 360-degree cinema at Arromanches is a must if you ever visit the Normandy beaches. It shows a moving film of D-Day and the fighting thereafter primarily in Normandy but culminating in the liberation of Paris in August 1944.

We then moved to Pegasus Bridge where Mike gave a fascinating account of what it was like to have been a member of the Ox and Bucks LI landing within yards of the bridge. Given our guide's previous experience in the Army Air Corps he was able to bring this stand to life, and his encyclopaedic knowledge of airborne operations was not lost on us. After visiting the excellent museum, we moved to the Merville Battery, where we broke into syndicates mixing up Vikings and Poachers, in order to discuss the detailed plan issued by the CO. On our return to Bayeux we made an unscheduled stop to visit our first CWGC cemetery at Ranville, which seemed only fitting after such a moving first 24 hours.

After discovering the delights of Bayeux, and some fine restaurants, the party set off on Day 2 with high expectations. Our first stop was at Crepon, where we stood by the Green Howards Memorial and allowed Brigadier Tony Calder to explain the kit worn and carried by the British soldier in 1944. This created some worthwhile discussion amongst the serving element who are probably more grateful than ever that they have the issued kit of today! We then visited the new and breath-taking British Memorial overlooking the coast at Ver-sur-Mer, opened during the Pandemic by HRH The Prince of Wales. The names of 1,746 British servicemen killed on D-Day are inscribed on the Wall of Memorial Court, and the names of all 22,442 service men and women under British command including special agents and war correspondents killed between 7th June - 31st August are inscribed on the columns of the Memorial in a clockwise direction from Memorial Court. The small village of Ver-sur-Mer also boasts a memorial to the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion of the Hertfordshire Regiment who landed here.

No visit to Normandy would be complete without a trip to Hillman, the underground bunker twinned with Morris, which 1 Suffolks had to close with and capture on 6th June. Again, Brigadier Tony gave a wonderful account of this gallant action by his father's battalion after which we again had an

Longues sur Mer Battery.

open discussion within syndicates on how such an attack would be organised today given modern weapon systems available. We were as always extremely grateful to Les Amis du Regiment Suffolk for opening the bunkers and showing us around their cherished museum, and for the warm welcome from Monsieur le Maire. The day concluded with a look at 2 Lincolns' action to take Herouville, a suburb on the northern edge of Caen beside the Orne River, which sits atop a dominant piece of ground where German guns enjoyed excellent fields of fire. It seemed only right and fitting to lay a wreath at the Lincoln's Memorial, set in the wall of the church which still bears its scars from shell and machine gun fire, in respect to all those from our forebear regiments who paid such a high price during those first few days of the campaign.

After dramatic thunderstorms in the early hours, we awoke to heavy rain on Thursday 19th May. A visit to see the Bayeux Tapestry was brought forward in order to enjoy the shelter of the museum. Although unconnected with the events of D-Day and the Battle for Normandy in 1944, this welcome addition to the programme enlightened many who had never seen this incredible piece of history before and with the audio guide educated many of our young soldiers in the evolution of our own nation from Anglo-Saxon to the great Norman influence that we know today. It also allowed those who had enjoyed a long night in Caen enjoying the local hospitality an opportunity to wake up and come to! Following a well needed coffee break the clouds rolled back, blue sky returned, and the sun shone as we formed up in Rue de Essex Regiment, the lane which leads from the Assembly Area to the FUP (Forming Up Point) used by 2 Essex on 11th June 1944. Standing on the forward slope looking down onto Verriers Wood the soldiers of today's regiment were able to fully appreciate the courage required during this attack.

An approach of a kilometre over open ground with only the cover of standing corn and no armour in close support left the men of 2 Essex in an unenviable position, but through sheer grit and determination of the rifle companies they reached their objective and seized it to be forever after known as Essex Wood. Walking on past the wood down a sunken lane we arrived at the Memorial where the Essex contingent of the Vikings laid a wreath and prayers were said.

Humbled but sustained by a packed lunch we then moved on to our last battle action at Grimbosq. Here, Captain Peter Black told the story of the taking of the bridge over the river Orne, including the heroic leadership and courage of the Company Commander, Captain Jamieson, who won the VC for beating off several counter-attacks by the Germans armed with Tiger and Panther tanks on 7th and 8th June. Moving on up to the Memorial to 7 R Norfolks overlooking the Orne valley we discussed the procedures for a deliberate river crossing, which then led to the Battle for Grimbosq and the bravery of A Company in particular.

Finally, we made our way back to Bayeux and its beautiful CWGC Cemetery, where so many of our predecessors lie buried. Kate Thaxton, curator of the Royal Norfolk Regiment Museum, kindly gave a talk on Cpl Sidney Bates VC at his graveside and read the citation for his gallantry award. To conclude we gathered around the Stone of Remembrance where Brigadier Calder lay a wreath from the Colonel of the Regiment and all ranks to the memory of all the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men of all our forebear regiments.

A final group dinner was held in our hotel giving everyone time to reflect on the week's events. Travelling from Cyprus and Castlemartin to board the coach on Monday morning had thrown up its challenges, but how this paled when we considered the logistical challenge that Admiral Ramsay faced in putting to sea over 5,000 vessels on D-Day! Our aim with the Regimental Battlefield Tour is to instil in our soldiers a sense of pride that they are members of an incredible fraternity, one which is borne out of an identity of being a Royal Anglian soldier no matter which county they come from. There is no doubt that aim was achieved thanks in large part to the brilliant commentary of our principal guide Major Mike Peters.

Maj (Retd) Tim Brown

The Royal Anglian Regiment Digital Muster

Whether your memories are full HD Colour….

As a regiment we are extremely fortunate to have our entire history still within living memory. So, much of our historical narrative is available in full HD Colour, or at least as a clear monochrome image. The Regiment's relatively recent formation date allows us to access that history easily, and in many cases, we can actually ask a Royal Anglian who was there and witnessed the event concerned.

We are of course also able to use the archives of our extensive network of forbear regiment museums, and our own Regimental Museum to research the history that interests us. In addition, we have a regimental library in RHQ, and an array of Royal Anglian publications lodged on the current Royal Anglian Regt Website. That said, all of these resources are in different locations, and not all are digitally accessible.

The newly commissioned Royal Anglian Digital Muster is designed to combine all of our regimental resources, digitise them, and ultimately, to make them accessible to the entire Royal Anglian family. Work on the muster began in 2022 and is being led from RHQ over the next 12 months.

The new site offers us a unique opportunity to capture all of our history before elements of it began to recede over the horizon of our collective and individual memories. It really is an important, and exciting moment in the Regiment's timeline, a chance that we can not afford to squander.

With all of this in mind, RHQ has begun to design and build the digital infrastructure that will support the Digital Muster. This new framework will allow members of the Regiment, and the general public to access the following facets of our history:

- Digital Access to All Archived Regt Publications - Bulletins, Royal Anglian News, Castle.

... or Cold War Monochrome, you will be able to share them on the Muster.

- Virtual Access to the Regt Museum Collection - much of which is currently in storage.
- Virtual Access to the Regt Silver Collection - currently locked away from view.

However, by far the most exciting of all will be the facility within the muster that will allow us to facilitate User Generated Content (UGC). This will allow members of the Royal Anglian family to upload personal biographical histories, or those of past relatives onto the Muster. This collection of user generated biographies will allow us to capture and collate, a diverse and expansive collection of personal histories, and experience of service as a Royal Anglian Officer, or Soldier from the day of our formation, to life on our most recent operation.

We anticipate having elements of the Royal Anglian Digital Muster constructed this calendar year. We will certainly begin uploading biographical profile onto the site as soon as we are able. This will open up our regimental history to all Royal Anglians, wherever they are in the world. We will produce regular progress reports in the Royal Anglian News, and as news updates on the Regt website at:

royalanglianregiment.com

Perhaps its time to think about digging out all of those old photographs and scanning them…?

The Royal Anglian Regiment 21st Century Soldier Project

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 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 Moyes Hall Museum.

Each of the new C21 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 C21 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.

Like a Brazen Wall: The 12th Regiment of Foot at the Battle of Minden

Illustration by Patrice Courcelle (C) Helion and Company.

'When we got about a hundred yards from the enemy, a large body of French cavalry galloped boldly down upon us: these our men, by reserving their fire until they came within thirty yards, immediately ruined.'

Lieutenant Montgomery
12th Regiment of Foot

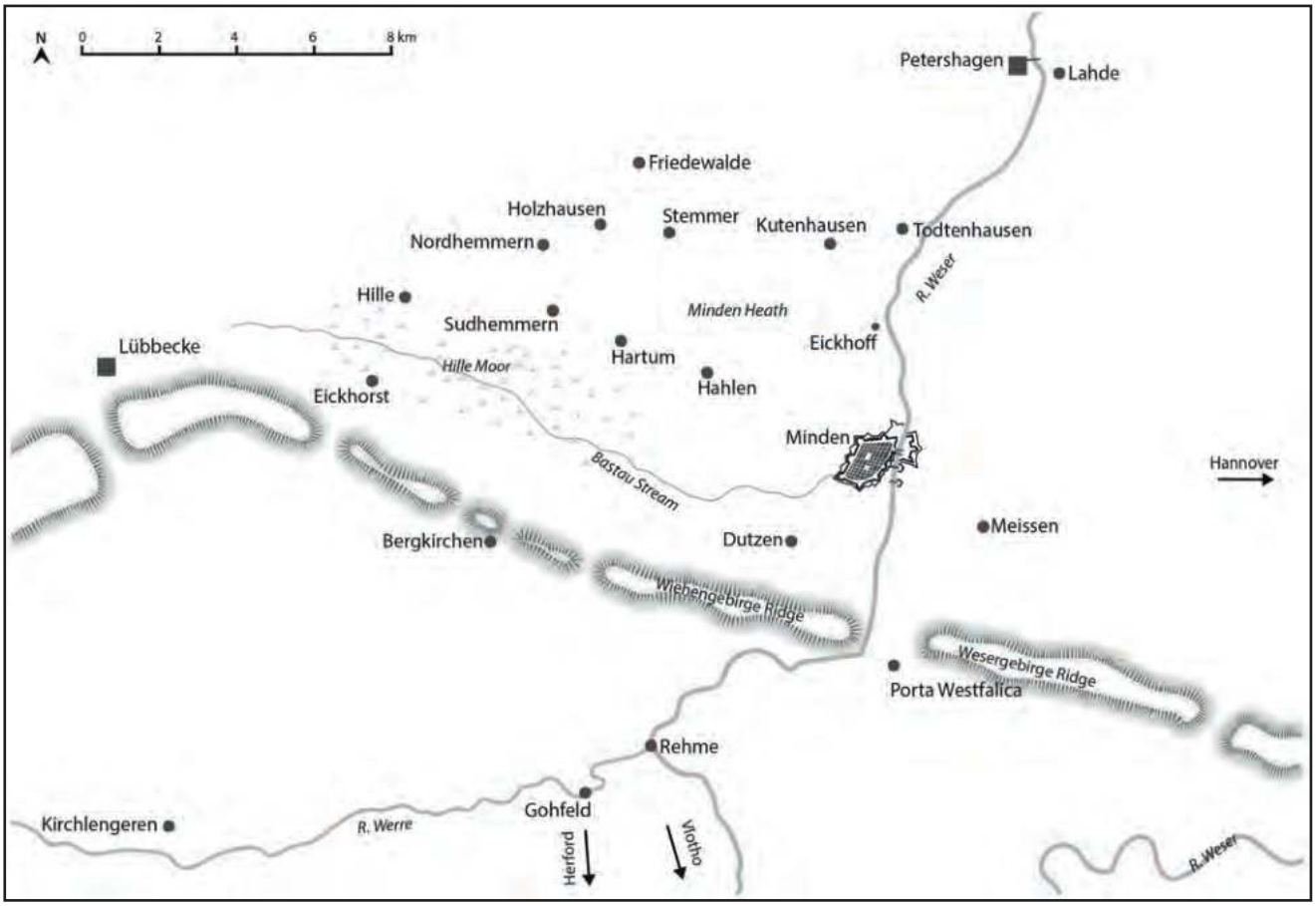
Minden is rightly celebrated by the Regiment, but it has sadly faded within national memory. Why is this battle from more than 250 years ago such an important part of the Regiment's identity and heritage, and why does it deserve to be more widely studied?

Background to the Campaign and Battle

The Battle of Minden was fought on 1 August 1759, in the middle of the Seven Years War. So, think of red coats, three-cornered hats and the flintlock, 'Brown Bess', Long Land Pattern Musket. During this war, Britain was allied with Hanover, Prussia and a few other North German States. Opposing them were just about everyone else: France, Austria, Russia, Saxony, Sweden.

From a British point of view, the war was successfully fought in many colonies which were to become vital parts of the British Empire (North America, India, parts of the Caribbean) around the globe, at sea, and in North-West Europe. Minden was part of the latter. At stake were the security of those colonies, the freedom of the seas and to trade, and the protection of Hanover. The reader is reminded that the British King, George II, was also the Elector of Hanover.

An allied force of British and Germans had been put together in north Germany in 1757 with the main aim of protecting Hanover from the French, but also with the additional benefit of protecting King Frederick II of Prussia's



Map by George Anderson (C) Helion and Company.

back as he concentrated in dealing with the Austrians and Russians. This 'Army of Observation', under the King's son, the Duke of Cumberland, which was intended principally as a deterrent, had all of the challenges of modern day peace-keepers when the other parties are determined not to observe the peace.

The French were intent on transiting German territory to attack Frederick, and suggested that Cumberland could permit that, but Cumberland refused. He attempted to defend Hastenbeck, near Hameln, and despite having the potential to win (he inflicted greater casualties on the French), he withdrew from the field. Hastenbeck was one of those odd engagements where both sides ought to have performed better, but victory went to the side with stronger morale and which refused to be beaten. Ultimately, Cumberland was obliged to surrender near Hamburg. Under the Treaty of Kloster Zeven, his Army was dissolved and he returned home to face his father's anger.

George, as King of Britain, overturned his son's treaty and resumed hostilities. A fresh commander was found: Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, Frederick's brother-in-law. He reassembled and reinvigorated the allied army, and conducted a bold campaign of manoeuvre, which ranged across north Germany. Encouraged by his success in 1758, the British agreed to reinforce him, and also to begin amphibious raiding of the north French coast. In August 1758, a British contingent of six regiments of cavalry, six battalions of infantry (including the 12th Regiment of Foot, with its dark yellow facings) and supporting artillery disembarked at Emden and made its way south to join Ferdinand at Coesfeld, overwintering at Münster.

Ferdinand had the gift of spotting opportunities where other commanders might see only hostile threats. However, when the scales tipped the other way, those threats could become real. He was now opposed by two French armies, which outnumbered him, working in concert and they were able to get in behind him, capturing Minden in a bold raid in which parties of French hussars swam the River Weser and gained entry into the rear of the fortress.

The French in Possession of Minden

The significance of Minden was that it was a fortified town and supply depot at a key point on the Weser, only 60 kilometres from Hanover. It was able to dominate the main route east towards Hanover, but also control river traffic. It occupied a strongly defensible position, with a ridge to the south. The Bastau stream drained a marsh from the west of the town into the Weser. To the north-west of the town was Minden Heath, with a network of small farming villages, and it was here that the Battle

MINDEN - FORCES INVOLVED				
TOTAL: ~76,000 (Compares with Capacity of Old Trafford)				
		Squadrons	Battalions	Guns
French		**79**	**79**	**162**
	Contades	63	55	
	Broglie	16	24	
Allies		**62**	**43**	**106+**
	Ferdinand	43	27	
	Wangenheim	19	16	

of Minden would be fought.

The two French armies consolidated their position, garrisoning the fortress. The larger of the two French armies, under de Contades, occupied rising slopes to the south of Minden, around Dutzen, protected to its rear by the ridge and to its front by the Bastau stream. The other French army, under de Broglie, became absorbed into Contades' army as a subordinate Corps. It occupied ground to the east of the Weser but was able to communicate or reinforce the main army across the Weser via the main town bridge, but also by several pontoons which the French now threw across.

For Prince Ferdinand, the dilemma was that he was outnumbered, that the French were now between him and the capital which he was meant to protect, and that the French were in a very strong position.

He was unlikely to successfully attack the French in such strong positions and yet he could not allow them to threaten Hanover at their leisure. So he recognized that he had to simultaneously entice and threaten them. To do the former, he planned to provide them with a target which they would be unable to resist. For the latter, he decided to attack their lines of communication, which ran southwards, through the gap in the ridge through which the River Weser flows. In doing so, he hoped to draw off, and defeat, some of the French forces.

He detached a force under the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick, confusingly another Ferdinand, which made its way through to the south of the ridge, driving in French patrols. This had the desired effect, causing Contades to despatch a force under the Duke de Brissac, towards Gohfeld, to protect their lines of communication. The Hereditary Prince successfully attacked de Brissac at exactly the same time as the Battle of Minden took place to the north of the ridge.

Returning now to the events on Minden Heath, in the days of July, Ferdinand began to spread his forces deliberately thinly in the hope that the French would spot this vulnerability. He brought his army down from the north and began to deploy it onto Minden Heath. In particular, he left a detached corps under General von Wangenheim, seemingly slightly isolated at Todtenhausen. He then encamped his main body between Nordhemmern and Friedewalde, roughly five kilometres distant.

He anticipated that this obvious dislocation of his own force would tempt Contades to leave the security of his own positions but, to attack, Contades would be obliged to cross the obstacle of the Bastau stream. If Ferdinand could catch the French with only a portion of their army across and astride the Bastau, he would have a significant advantage. His dispersed forces effectively occupied a quadrant to the North-West of Minden. If they were to march forwards towards Minden, they would converge on the heath, concentrating their force. However, such a gamble required precise timing and early warning. To achieve this, he posted picquets in many of the villages on the heath. His own Headquarters was established at Hille and elements of the 12th of Foot were posted there to provide security.

By 29 July, the trap was set. In all there were about 76,000 troops within a 10 kilometre radius.

Plans and Orders

Both commanders issued their orders. Contades' plan was to bring de Broglie's Corps across the Weser after dark to pass through the town, to reinforce it, and to use it as his 'main effort' to strike at von Wangenheim's isolated Corps at Todtenhausen in order to dominate the allies' left flank. The attack was to be rapid and intense, to drive Wangenheim backwards, cutting him off from the rest of the allies. As a distraction from the main attack by Broglie, a small diversionary attack by four battalions across a causeway towards Ferdinand's headquarters at Hille was planned. At the same time, and in concert with these, Contades' main body would cross the Bastau stream on portable wooden bridges under darkness, and manoeuvre onto Minden Heath to Broglie's left. Further left still, and effectively holding the ring along the line of villages just to the north of the Bastau marsh, would be four brigades of infantry, supported by a further 13 battalions of Saxon infantry which had transferred their allegiance to France.

Ferdinand's plan was for his main force to advance from its spread-out encampments which were on the circumference of an arc around Minden. Having enticed the French out of their own defensive positions, and by advancing as the French were emerging, he would converge and concentrate his force. On orders, his main force would move out of its bivouacs and march rapidly in eight converging columns. His third column from the right, under the Hanoverian, von Spörcken was

made up of the six battalions of British Foot, with two of Hanoverian Guards. When it shook out into battle lines, it would deploy with Major General Waldegrave's Brigade in the first line, with the 12th on the extreme right. In the second line was Major General Kingsley's Brigade and then the two battalions of Hanoverians.

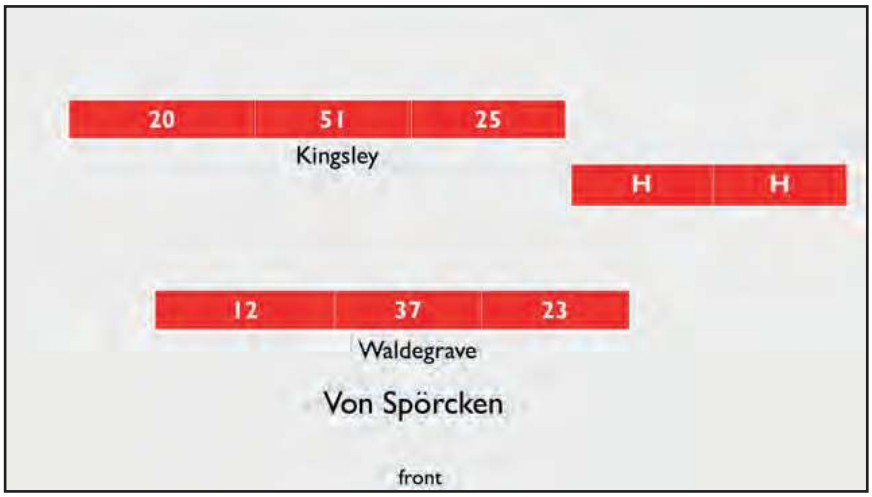
The first column, from the right was a large body of Horse, 24 Squadrons, both British and German, under Sackville, the overall commander of the British contingent. The second column included British heavy artillery. The remaining five columns were principally German.

Ferdinand directed that his officers were to familiarise themselves with the ground, ensuring that they knew the routes to be followed, so that his whole army, currently rather dispersed, could concentrate its force quickly. They were to focus on the area between Hahlen and Stemmer, and remove obstacles and cut openings in hedges to facilitate their advance.

Ferdinand's plan must have been clear in his own mind, but we have no record of the effects he wanted from his troops. As far as we can tell, he omitted to mention that he believed that he had provided sufficient temptation for the French main effort to be directed against Wangenheim's Corps at Todtenhausen.

For Ferdinand's plan to succeed, it was vital that prompt warning of French movement should trigger the rapid concentration on Minden Heath. Accordingly, he urged all of his forces, and especially his picquets in the villages on the heath, to be on the alert. He received intelligence that the French were likely to break out on the night of 31 July, and issued orders that his army was to be under arms and ready to move from 1:00am.

As the allies waited, the French began to move after last light. However, a sudden gale blew up, masking the noise of French movement. That the French were able to get up to 48,000 men, horses and guns out of their bivouacs, across their obstacles in the dark and formed up on their start lines on Minden Heath must be a tribute to French staffwork, preparation and organization.



At about 1:00am, two French deserters were captured by the British 37th Foot near Hartum and bundled off to the allied General Officer of the Day, the Prince of Anhalt. However, for some inexplicable reason, two valuable hours were lost before Ferdinand was informed that the entire French Army was manoeuvring. As soon as he received the information, Ferdinand ordered his army to 'turn out accoutred' and to march forward along its pre-identified routes. The British 20th Foot was reported to have formed up and marched off in under eight minutes, leaving its camp and baggage in situ.

The Battle of Minden

Shortly after 3:00am, the French began the planned diversionary attack and bombardment towards Ferdinand's headquarters at Hille, but Ferdinand had stationed a battalion of Brunswickers with some guns to block the causeway over the marsh.

Ferdinand's immediate concern was the security of the village of Hahlen, where he intended to anchor his right flank. To his horror, he learned that the French Brigade Champagne (and how is that for a splendid formation title!!) had beaten him to it and was already infiltrating the village. He ordered the Prince of Anhalt to bring forward the allied picquet from Hartum and drive them out at all costs. After a hesitant start, this attack was put in in the nick of time, forcing the leading French infantry to withdraw, but firing some of the farm buildings and leaving behind some dead and wounded.

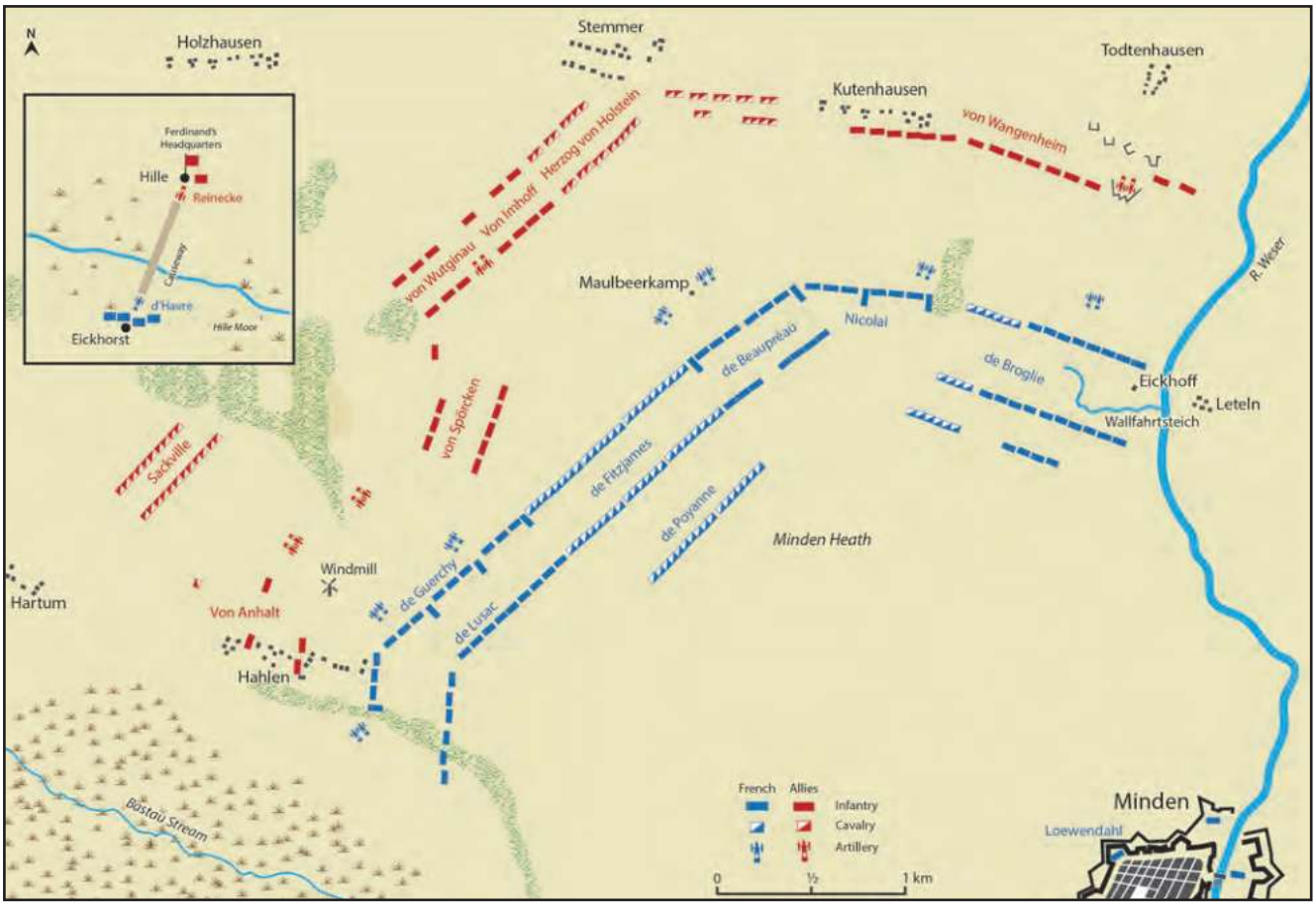
As dawn broke at about 4.30am, it would have been possible to see smoke rising to the East, around Todtenhausen. So Ferdinand's Army was engaged simultaneously at 3 points; at Hille, at Hahlen and at Todtenhausen.

Broglie, reinforced as the French Main Effort, had 16 sqns and 24 bns. He opposed Wangenheim's Corps of 18 Sqn, 15 bns and an arty brigade.

The leading troops of Broglie's Corps bounced Wangenheim's sentries about 30 minutes before dawn. After an initial exchange of fire, Wangenheim's picquets withdrew. For some inexplicable reason, rather than exploit their initial success, the French settled down to bombard Wangenheim's forward posts rather than press home. Perhaps this was because it wasn't yet fully light. On the German side, after a slightly dilatory start, Wangenheim made up for lost time and marched his force forward to his allocated deployment positions.

By the time it was fully light, Broglie could now see an enemy Corps advancing towards him. Having paused to allow the supporting brigade to arrive on his left, Broglie assumed that the forward movement of Wangenheim's Corps was a full-blown counter-attack, rather than simply a move to occupy positions. Broglie halted his force in order to repel what he assumed to be an attack in strength. The French main effort had faltered.

Back towards the allied right, after 5:00am, the action to clear the French from Hahlen had its effect, allowing two



Map by George Anderson (C) Helion and Company.

British artillery batteries, under Captains Drummond and Foy to go into action about 300 metres north-west of Hahlen, suppressing French batteries beyond the village.

Much is made of the French having cavalry in their centre but, in truth, both armies had Horse in their centre, expecting to sweep east in support of the engagement at Todtenhausen.

Between 6.30 and 7:00am, Spörcken's column had shaken out into two lines, each of three ranks, passing through a line of fir trees and onto the heath. Seeing that it was getting ahead of the remainder of the allied army, Ferdinand sent a message which was received by the 2nd line, that, when the time came, they were to 'advance with drums beating and attack whatever they might encounter'. For whatever reason, this was interpreted by Spörcken's Division as an instruction to carry on, so the advance was resumed, ahead of the allied army.

As the British and Hanoverians emerged from the strip wood, a large body of enemy Horse could be seen about 1,000 metres away. This was the first line of French Horse under FitzJames. From the French perspective, Spörcken's redcoats must have looked exposed, especially as no formed body had yet appeared between them and Hahlen.

The recommencement of the advance must have surprised Ferdinand, who again attempted to halt it, to no avail. However, at this point, on the French side, Contades sent word over to Broglie to halt his advance on the French right wing, while FitzJames dealt with the bizarre manoeuvre by the allies in the centre.

The 12th Foot in the Heart of the Battle

The lines of Spörcken's Division came under fire from 60 French artillery pieces in the vicinity of Hahlen. The two flank battalions, the 12th and 20th Foot, suffered the most, but the advance continued. Lieutenant Thompson of the 20th Foot wrote from hospital afterwards, "I saw heads, legs and arms taken off every minute".

Lieutenant Montgomery of the 12th, described the effect of the fire in a letter written just days after the battle:

'It was the most disagreeable march I ever had in my life, for we advanced through a most furious fire from an infernal battery of eighteen pounders, which was at first upon our front, but as we proceeded, bore upon our flank, and last upon our rear...

'At the beginning of the action I was almost knocked off my legs by my three right hand men, who were killed and drove against me by a cannon ball, the same also killed two men close to Ward, whose post was in the rear of my platoon and in this place I will assure you that he behaved with the greatest bravery....I had almost forgot to tell you that my

spontoon was shot through a little below my hand: this disabled it, but a French one now does duty in its room'

Montgomery was actually struck by three musket balls, but they must have been at the limit of their range, or were fired with poor charges of powder, because he only suffered bruising and swelling.

The order was given to 12 French cavalry squadrons under the Marquis de Castries to attack – over 1,000 horsemen. The charge was built up from the trot, galloping at the last moment.

It was vital for the infantry to hold its nerve. The order was given to halt, the first rank knelt and the other two closed up, locked like a phalanx. The order was given to fire at about 40m range; crashing out and bringing down horses and riders. The effect must have been awful with dead and dying horses and riders. The charge was ruined, but still with the capacity to kill, by the momentum of tumbling horseflesh. Within the infantry, the order was given to reload. Sergeants would order men forward to plug holes in the ranks,

FitzJames ordered his second line to attack, 22 squadrons under du Mesnil. Despite the obstacles caused by the destruction of the first attack to their front, they nevertheless managed to raise a charge.

Another tremendous volley crashed out, bringing down men and horses. Before the French could organise another charge, the drums beat out and the lines of redcoats stepped off again.

The advance rendered Spörcken's column even more vulnerable, this time to Guerchy's infantry on the French left wing. He ordered 8 battalions forward to engage. This was a vulnerable moment, but Waldegrave could see the risk and ordered the 12th and 37th Foot to refuse their right flank, presenting a greater number of musket barrels towards the enemy.

A musketry battle ensued and, despite the inaccuracy of the individual weapon, at close range and against a massed target, it was murderous. Gradually though, the superiority of British musketry told, and Guerchy's Foot melted away, leaving dead and dying.

However, rather like the curtains opening onto a stage, this revealed a greater threat, thirteen battalions of Saxon infantry, including a regiment of Grenadiers. Montgomery calls them, 'as fine and terrible-looking fellows as I ever saw'. He also describes them as having 'rifles', with superior range, which the British had to advance through in order to engage.[1] The British drove them off, but they reformed just out of normal musket range, so the 12th and 37th had to repeat the performance again, with success.

By this stage, Spörcken's second line had come forward, so his Division was now effectively one long line. At about this point, we meet Lieutenant Thompson of the 20th again who, having been lightly wounded three times, was now seriously hurt by a ball which burned 'like a red hot iron'. At the limit of endurance and, with no other officer available to stand in for him, he was permitted to fall out and seek treatment. The Brigade Commander Kingsley's horse had been fatally wounded in four places and collapsed, trapping him to be twice advanced over by the enemy.

As an indication of the intensity of this phase, the roll call of the 12th Foot shows that the battalion could later muster only 4 officers and 13 files of unwounded men.

At this point, the French launched their cavalry reserve: eighteen squadrons of the elite Gendarmes de France and Carabiniers, under de Poyanne.

Ferdinand saw the vulnerability of his line and ordered forward Hanoverian formations and 30 heavy guns to support 'the six English regiments who had behaved like a brazen wall', from the left.

Support from the Germans

The two thousand horsemen of the French reserve couldn't achieve a frontal charge, so they worked around towards the left of Spörcken's Division and, just as the were about to crash into the tattered regiments, the Hanoverian artillery opened up on them. In places the line was pierced briefly, but those cavalrymen who had achieved that and wheeled to attack from the rear, found themselves trapped between the rear rank which turned about to engage and the oncoming Hanoverians and Hessians.

The line had wavered, but it had held – just. The moral effect of having repelled the French cavalry now left the French vulnerable to rout. This would have been the ideal time for Sackville's cavalry to strike, but there was no sign of them.

Contade's Centre still had eight battalions of infantry of Beaupreau's Corps to the south of Maulbeerkamp. Contades sent a rapid order for them to attack the allied foot, but this took place, exactly as Imhoff's column was also coming forward, and the momentum was very much in the Allies' favour. Four battalions of Imhoff's Hessians came forward at the double and put in a spirited charge before Beaupreau's Brigades could deploy fully, forcing them back at bayonet point.

At this moment, the Duke of Holstein's 8th column of nineteen cavalry squadrons arrived from Stemmer, swirling around and driving the French Foot back onto the remnants of their own cavalry. A further eight French battalions remained uncommitted under St. Germain, but they were to face a fresh threat from Wangenheim who had now come forward from Todtenhausen. Just as St Germain's two brigades began to move forward, they were met by the battalions on Wangenheim's Right.

The French Centre was dissolving and panic now communicated itself through the French remnants. The army began to lose confidence and stream rearwards. Contades ordered a general withdrawal, but it was already happening without orders. Broglie directed his Corps to act as rearguard, which it did, retiring back under the safety of Minden's garrison guns by about 10:00am.

Sackville's Cavalry

There had been several opportunities for Lord George Sackville's twenty-four squadrons of British and German cavalry to intervene from the allied right. Ferdinand's aim had been for Sackville's column to move in concert with the rest of the army.

The cavalry had received an order to move out at 4.45am. At 5.30am, the cavalry was formed up and mounted, but waiting for Lord George. His Second-in-Command, the Marquis of Granby supervised the turning out and preparation, and then went to Sackville's headquarters to fetch him. On his arrival, Sackville had ordered the force to move off at a walk. He was met by a guide and, despite his relatively tardy start, reached his Forming Up Point before Sporcken's column passed through the strip wood. The Cavalry then deployed into 2 lines.

One of Ferdinand's ADCs arrived with orders to move through some trees to the left, and to form behind Kingsley's Brigade to support the advance, but Sackville seems to have assumed it was just a preparatory order. Then another messenger arrived, who emphasised that the order was to be obeyed immediately, and by all the cavalry.

Sackville ordered the Horse to draw swords, and then led them off to the right rather than the left. As he was doing this, another messenger, Lieutenant Colonel Fitzroy, arrived and attempted to instil yet more urgency, but said that it was only the British, of a mixed force of British and Hanoverians, who were to move.

Sackville insisted that the three messengers repeat and clarify their orders. Fitzroy, who outranked the other messengers, insisted that the French were in disarray and that the 'English' cavalry could earn distinction. The key was that the infantry needed support, and urgently. Even fourteen squadrons would have had an effect.

Ferdinand was deeply anxious, having sent two gallopers to hasten Sackville, stating, "When is the cavalry coming? Good God! Is there no way of getting the cavalry to advance?" Instead, Sackville rode forward through the belt of trees to seek clarification from Ferdinand himself. Fitzroy led at the gallop, while Sackville approached at a more controlled pace.

For Ferdinand, this was the last straw. He directed Fitzroy to seek out Sackville's second-in-command, the Marquis of Granby and bring on the 2nd Echelon, bursting out in exasperation, "At least he'll obey me!". Granby rapidly grasped the situation and quickly set the 2nd line in motion, but he had to manoeuvre round the stationary 1st line.

Sackville trotted up to Ferdinand and asked what his orders meant. Ferdinand's response was controlled and restrained, 'My Lord, the opportunity is now passed'. Turning back, Sackville saw Granby's line coming forward but ordered him to halt, to restore the original order of march. After a long, unnecessary delay, the twenty four squadrons were formed into one long line at the start point of Spörcken's advance but, by now, the infantry was long gone and their backs could be seen in the distance. Rather than turn a victory into a rout, Sackville's Cavalry had been kept pristine, to the immense frustration of its regimental commanders.

By 11:00am, the bulk of the French were back across the Bastau and one Allied artilleryman saw them make their escape up the hills, 'like a flock of sheep', and expressed amazement at not seeing the Cavalry pursue them.

The Aftermath of Battle

Contades called a Council of War. Rather than withdrawing down through the Minden Gap, because of the disaster at Gohfeld, Contades opted to escape to the opposite bank of the Weser, destroying two pontoon bridges behind him, so there was no rapid pursuit.

The French were forced to retreat southwards to Kassel and then westwards towards Frankfurt, before falling into a passive lull for the rest of the year, and they were not successful in venturing back to Hanover for the remainder of the war.

For the Allies, in the immediate aftermath of the battle, they advanced towards fortress Minden, stooping just short of artillery range. An officer and a trumpeter were sent to demand the fortress's surrender, which was declined until the following day, when the garrison left along with the main French Army.

There was the imperative to reorganise and to collect the wounded. With as many as one thousand live casualties, the Regimental Surgeons would have had their hands full. A main Field Hospital was set up in Minden itself. The spot at Wallfahrtsteich where Broglie had been repelled by Wangenheim's Corps was thick with dead and wounded. The dead were collected and buried in mass graves, with as many as two thousand local peasants being pressed for the task.

Orders were issued for a service of thanksgiving on the 2nd, followed by a 'Feu de Joie'.

French losses are hard to quantify but the best figures seem 7,086 killed and wounded on the field, and 1,533 possibly found when the allies entered Minden. Many were drowned fleeing through the Bastau. What is certain is that the French lost six Generals and four hundred and thirty eight other officers killed and wounded. The French Cavalry lost 28% of its strength. Of the Infantry, the Regiment de Touraine lost 909 killed, wounded and prisoners from an effective strength of 1,230. The Saxons also suffered heavily, losing 33% of their strength, with their commander, the Comte de Lusace, being wounded.

For the Allies, there were almost 2,800 casualties. The British furnished half that figure, with 1,400.

Both British right flank battalions of the two brigades suffered the most. The12th Foot experienced the highest casualty rate at 56% of its strength (202 casualties (98 killed and 104 wounded)). This figure includes the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel William Robinson, who was wounded. The 20th had a higher actual number at 321 casualties, but it had fielded more men on the day.

In the Order of the Day following the battle, the 20th Foot was actually taken out of the line, 'that, because of its severe losses, it should cease to do duty', a measure to which the Regiment refused to submit, resuming at its own request its place in the line.

It would be appropriate to consider the fate of Sackville. There was puzzlement in the allied ranks about the non-appearance of Sackville's cavalry. Ferdinand had kept the worst of his anger with Sackville under control during the battle but, when he occupied Minden, he issued a Special Order of the Day, in which he publically thanked

most, but not all, of his subordinates. He praised Granby, stating that if he'd had him at the head of the cavalry on the right wing, the decision of the day would have been more complete and brilliant.

Sackville was mortified by his omission and canvassed Ferdinand to alter his order, to no avail, but Ferdinand formally asked George II for Sackville's removal. News of the victory had reached London on 8 August and it was reported that every street had two bonfires.

Meanwhile, the King issued an order for Sackville's recall. Sackville applied for Court-Martial before he could be dismissed from the Army. A warrant was issued on 26 January 1760, that Sackville had disobeyed Ferdinand, a capital offence. The trial lasted 6 weeks and conflicting views of Sackville's conduct emerged. He was pronounced guilty and, whilst not executed, adjudged unfit to serve His Majesty in any capacity whatsoever. Sackville's name was erased from the Privy Council and his disgrace was published in the Order Book of every Regiment of the British Army.

Reasons to Visit Minden and to Celebrate Minden Day

Minden is a great battle to examine for so many reasons: leadership, command and control, communications, understanding terrain, manoeuvre, deception, concentration of force, mutual support, discipline and so on. Apart from all of the lessons about clarity of intent and of orders, and operating multinationally, there is so much to be inspired by in terms of fighting spirit: the 12th of Foot refused to be beaten!! The effectiveness of British musketry was to become famous and feared. Additionally, it makes for a very good battlefield study because the earlier battle of Hastenbeck and the important parallel battle of Gohfeld are also within easy reach. The Royal Anglians were stationed in Minden during the Cold War, so perhaps a battlefield study also offers a good excuse to revisit old haunts.

[1] The account of a portion of the enemy having rifles in controversial. Some modern authorities do not believe that the French used rifles. However, France's Saxon allies had conducted a trial of rifles amongst its dragoons, and Saxon dragoons could be employed as grenadiers when dismounted. From the author's perspective it is important to remember that the source, Lt Montgomery, was actually there, unlike any modern authority!

Ewan B Carmichael
(formerly Director General Army Medical Services)

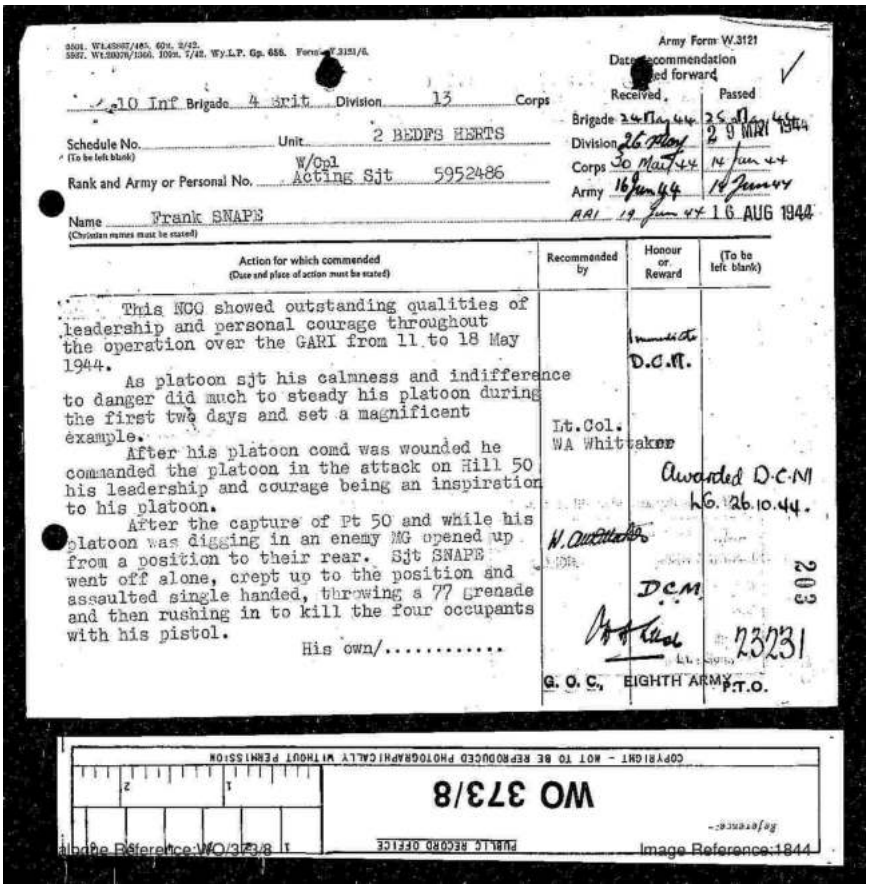
Author of *Like a Brazen Wall: The Battle of Minden, 1759, and its Place in the Seven Years War* (Helion & Company), ISBN 978-1-913336-58-5. Helion will offer a discount code for the book to members of the Regiment (details to follow).

Frank Snape DCM medals group donated to museum

Frank Snape was an acting Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment during the battle of Monte Cassino in May 1944. During the battle he earned the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for gallantry.

An extract from his citation reads: He was subsequently given a field commission. In addition to the DCM he was awarded the 1939-1945 star, the Africa Star, the Italy Star, the Defence Medal, thel939-45 War Medal and was Mentioned in Despatches. Frank retired in 1968 as a Lieutenant Colonel in the RAOC. He died in 1992.

Later that year his son, Mr Christopher Snape, and his daughter Mrs Jane Walker visited Warley and presented his medals to the Regimental Association, with a view to them being displayed in the museum of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. Sadly, what happened to them next is not known, but when Mrs Walker enquired after them in 202 I they could not be found. It was reluctantly concluded that they must have been lost or stolen from Warley.



Army Form W.3121

10 Inf Brigade 4 Brit Division 13 Corps

Schedule No. Unit 2 BEDFS HERTS

Rank and Army or Personal No. W/Cpl Acting Sjt 5952486

Name Frank SNAPE

Received / Passed

Brigade 24 May 44 25 May 44

Division 26 May 29 MAY 1944

Corps 30 May 44 14 Jun 44

Army 16 Jun 44 14 June 44

AAI 19 June 44 16 AUG 1944

Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
This NCO showed outstanding qualities of leadership and personal courage throughout the operation over the GARI from 11 to 18 May 1944. As platoon sjt his calmness and indifference to danger did much to steady his platoon during the first two days and set a magnificent example. After his platoon comd was wounded he commanded the platoon in the attack on Hill 50 his leadership and courage being an inspiration to his platoon. After the capture of Pt 50 and while his platoon was digging in an enemy MG opened up from a position to their rear. Sjt SNAPE went off alone, crept up to the position and assaulted single handed, throwing a 77 grenade and then rushing in to kill the four occupants with his pistol. His own/.....	Lt.Col. WA Whittaker	Immediate D.C.M. Awarded D.C.M. WO. 26.10.44. DCM 23231	203

G. O. C., EIGHTH ARMY. F.T.O.

WO 373/8

Image Reference:1844

A successful team effort - Jane Walker, Christopher Snape and Col Dick Harrold under the museum's original Cuneo print of Monte Cassino....and, right, the medal collection display.

It was at this stage that Colonel Dick Harrold, our 'Regimental Colonel Heritage' stepped in on behalf of the regiment and offered to help Frank's family.

What followed was some extensive research of Frank's service records, confirmation of the medals that he had been awarded, and had subsequently been lost.

Once RHQ were satisfied that the medal group could not be found, a proposal was made for the Regiment funded the purchase of a replica set.

This was a successful cooperative project between RHQ and Frank Snape's family. Finally on Tuesday 15 February 2022, Mrs Jane Walker and Mr Christopher Snape visited the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Museum at Wardown House in Luton. During this visit, Colonel Dick Harrold presented the Snape family with the newly commissioned set of replica medals.

This was a very emotional and happy moment for all present. After a period of discussion about Frank's time in the Regiment, and some very positive reflection on the culmination of medals story, Jane and Christopher thanked all involved in replacing their father's medals. It was at this point that they formally presented the medal group to the Bedfs & Herts Museum, John Maddox and Nigel Lutt gratefully received the medals, and placed them into a special cabinet where the medals, the DCM citation, and some photographs of Frank are now on display to the public. So concluded a very special day for all involved.

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. 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.

Part of our STEM outreach activities pack.

Long Kesh INLA banner.

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.

Event days and opportunities for outreach have really picked up to the same level as in pre-coronavirus days. We have had 5 flying days and the two larger airshows. On these we have been out in force with our handling table, STEM and even camouflage face painting, when we have enough volunteers. It has been a tremendous success and we are cataloguing how

The museum has hosted a steady stream of Royal Anglian affiliated cadet detachments this year.

many visitors we see. Cadet visits have been steadily increasing since 2018 and we are really happy that the counties and cadet leaders are bringing them here. Some in groups as small at 20 to as large as 120, we are always happy if we can teach some history about the regiment. We have had over 1000 cadets visit this year.

In the galleries we have a new introductory video, which we hope is more attention grabbing. In it, we try to feature a wider variety of people and perspectives from all our counties, as well as including the more conflicts. We have also added a silent film above the MILAN tableau showcasing the TA and its role in the Cold War. There will also be new boards with a more specific history of the TA, their evolution to the Reserves, and their contribution within the Regiment. All of this has been possible with a legacy from Eric Sharpe, who served in the 5th Battalion and with our Cadets.

Lastly, we have lent an INLA banner to the Fitzwilliam Gallery, to go on display for their temporary exhibition about coinage, currency and objects that were defaced in response to conflict and political unrest. The banner itself was hand made in Maze Long Kesh prison from a bedsheet. It is good to see an object from our collection in a large museum, and it was very interesting how they installed it with magnets so as not to damage it, as well as doing a thorough conservation report using equipment that we do not possess.

In closing and on a personal note, I am grateful to the Museum Trustees for their support while I have been undertaking a distance learning Masters Degree in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester.

Diary Dates

2023

See also the Regimental Diary on the Regimental Website at *www.royalanglianregiment.com*

January

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

February

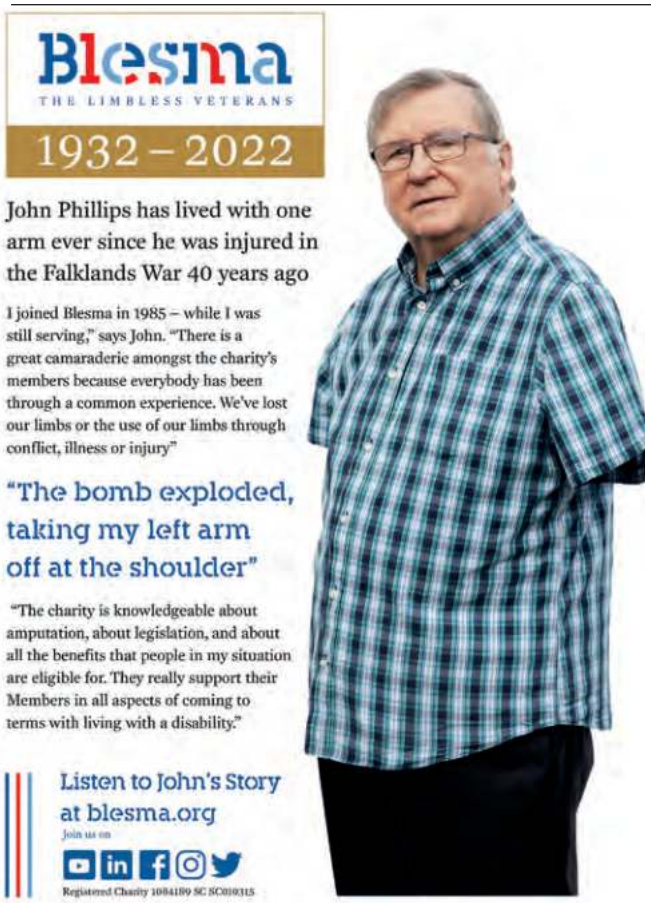
10 Sobraon Day
10 Infantry Training Centre Catterick
Pass Out Parade – ITC Catterick
25 The Big Breakfast – Various Locations

March

2 Poulters' 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
15 Regimental Battlefield Tour Departs
19 Regimental Battlefield Tour Ends
27 Spring Band Concert

June

9 Founders Day – Royal Hospital Chelsea
10 Vikings Veterans Ball
17 Poachers Veterans Ball
21 Queens' Division Council – TBC
23 Cambridge Day – Cambridge
29&30 Royal Norfolk Show – Norfolk

July

14 Regimental Representative Event - Bedford
25 RSB CC231 3rd in Allocating Year
– RMA Sandhurst
22 Salamanca Day
27 Talavera Day
30 Suffolk Association Minden Day – Bury St Edmunds

August

1 Minden Day
11 Sovereign's Parade CC223 – RMA Sandhurst
13 Blenheim Day
16 In Pensioner visit – Royal Hospital Chelsea

September

1 1st Battalion's Move to Kendrew Barracks Complete
1 The Regiment's Founding Day
3 Regimental Day – IWM Duxford
22 Regt Sponsored Chapel Sunday at RH Chelsea

November

3 Regimental Council Meeting – The RAG, London
3 Officers' Dinner Night - London
12 Remembrance Sunday – IWM Duxford
12 Association Contingent at Cenotaph – London
17 Infantry Training Centre Catterick
Pass Out Parade – ITC Catterick
28 RSB CC232 1st in Allocating Year –
RMA Sandhurst

December

9 Regimental Carol Service – St Mary's Church,
Bury St Edmunds
15 Sovereign's Parade CC231 – RMA Sandhurst

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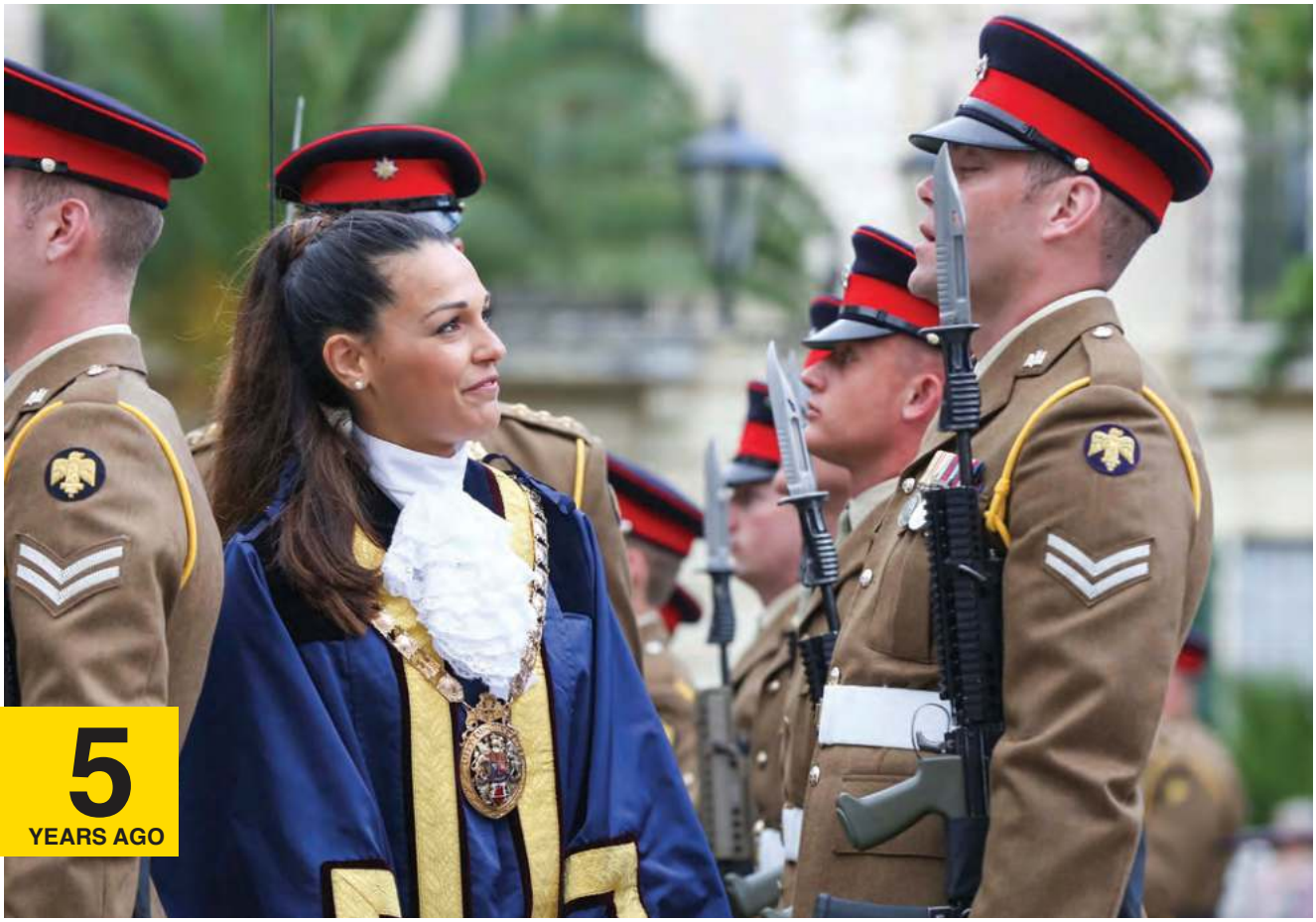
Can You Remember?



5 YEARS AGO

Gibraltar 2017 - Mayor Kaiane Aldorino inspects A (Norfolk) Company, 1st Battalion prior to the 1st Battalion exercising the freedom of the City.

Spain 2017 - C (Northamptonshire) Company, 2nd Battalion, deployed to Spain on Ex Iberian Sun.

10
YEARS AGO

Afghanistan 2012 - A (Norfolk) Company, 1st Battalion, heading out on patrol in Helmand.

Cyprus 2012 - A select band from A (Lincolnshire) Company, 2nd Battalion view the island from Mount Troodos.

Can You Remember?

15 YEARS AGO

Afghanistan 2007, No Point in Worrying - OC A (Norfolk) Company, Maj Dom Biddick and Cpl Bell wait for H hour.

Lt Col Simon Brown, CO of the 2nd Battalion congratulates Pte Wara, who becomes the first Fijian JNCO.

20 YEARS AGO

Belize 2002 - A (Lincolnshire) Company, 2nd Battalion training in Belize.

30 YEARS AGO

Colchester 1992 - C Company, 6th Battalion looking pleased with their brand new SA80 Rifles

Can You Remember?

50 YEARS AGO

August 2022 was the 50th anniversary of the completion of the First Operational Tours of Northern Ireland by the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Regiment.

In August 1972, our three Regular Battalions had all completed their first operational tours in Northern Ireland. This short article, about our Battalions' first tours is made up of snippets taken from our Regimental History, Aden to Afghanistan, which is recommended reading, particularly at this 50th anniversary.

1972 was a monumental year in Northern Ireland. In fact, it was to be the worst year of the conflict by all measures: there were more incidents, more deaths and more injuries than in any other year. Following Bloody Sunday, the level of violence escalated alarmingly to some 1,853 bombing and 10,628 shooting incidents during the year. During the year 467 people were killed – 103 Regular Army, 26 UDR, 17 RUC and 223 civilians, 95 Republican terrorists and three Loyalist terrorists. The total number of troops and security forces in the Province almost doubled from 7,800 in 1971 to 14,300 in 1972.

1st Battalion, Vikings in Londonderry 1970-72

In July 1970 the 1st Battalion, under the command of Lt Col Roy Jackson took over Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry from the Royal Navy. They arrived into a situation that had deteriorated rapidly into sporadic civil violence at a level beyond which the exhausted police could control…Belfast flared up in Feb 71 and Viking Companies were deployed to the Clonard Estate working directly to the 2nd Bn – a rare event in the Regiment's history. In July 71 levels of violence escalated in Londonderry keeping the 1st Bn and reinforcing Battalions very busy.

The Sunday Times report of from 21 Nov 71 described the situation:

By the night of 7 July 1971, rioting had been going on for four days and the Royal Anglians had been fired on 60 times by their count. It says a good deal for the firm discipline of this Regiment – the Anglians have a reputation for unusual coolness and restraint – that only three shots were fired in reply.

2nd Battalion, Poachers in Belfast, 1970-71

The 2nd Battalion, the Poachers, undertook their first short tour in Northern Ireland from October 1970 to February 1971, in West Belfast. The Poachers were notably successful on this tour. Under command of Lieutenant Colonel Dick Gerrard-Wright, they encountered a series of serious riots as West Belfast was more violent than Londonderry at this time. These riots escalated during the tour, meaning that the Poachers had to learn how to deal with heavy riots the hard way, by actually doing it. Petrol bombers

made their first wide-scale appearance, requiring the development of new tactics in response. This included the use of CS gas, baton guns, flanking manoeuvres and snatch squads.

3rd Battalion, Pompadours in Belfast, 1972

The 3rd Battalion deployed to central Belfast. Under the effective leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Hall-Tipping, the Pompadours were to experience a very testing time with some seven shootings, an armed robbery, three bomb hoaxes and two riots within their first 48 hours in command. The Pompadours were thrown straight in at the deep end with a violent and difficult time around the Divis Flats area in April. This was to become known as the 'Battle of the Divis Flats'. At one point the battalion had some nine companies under command from a range of other units.

Kevin Myers in his book Watching the Door reported:

Rioters took over control of Divis Street, hijacking and burning busses, and erecting barricades. Fresh troops were arriving just as I did. I climbed up the stairs onto one of the balconies, where I beheld a vision from hell: fifteen-year-old boys with submachine guns and semi-automatic rifles…bullets were ricocheting everywhere as these demented children emptied magazine after magazine into everything and anything.

Fifty years ago in August 1972, our 2nd Bn, the Poachers were deploying for their second Op BANNER Tour, and our Battalions went on to conduct 31 Op BANNER Tours in all, including the tour by Tiger Company. 67 pages are dedicated to these tours in our regimental history. Our regiment has an enviable operational record, based in large part on these tours. And at this anniversary we remember the 25 members of the regiment who died on duty on Op BANNER.

There are legacy issues from these tours, some of which include inquests that call our veterans as witnesses. As a high priority RHQ and the Army Operational Legacy Branch ensure that our veterans receive all appropriate support if they are called as witnesses. And if any of our regimental family know of any veterans of NI or of any other military service who need support of any kind, they are warmly encouraged to reach out to RHQ via your Area Secretary & Veteran Support Officer:

Area Secretary 1 - Captain Peter Hudson - *Peter.Hudson104@mod.gov.uk*
Area Secretary 2 - Major Tim Brown - *Timothy.Brown133@mod.gov.uk*

From the CO

Lt Col GJ Goodey MBE

In the history of the 1st Battalion, 2022 will be remembered for having been spent overseas in Dhekelia, with all the familiar opportunities and challenges that brings. Whilst fully acknowledging my bias, I would offer that the Vikings have risen to these challenges and fully taken advantages of the unique opportunities that Cyprus has to offer.

Firstly, and most importantly, the Battalion has kept its combat edge sharp, which has historically proved to be a challenge for resident battalions. A culture of pursuing every chance to train has been at the heart of this endeavour, be it regular low-level tactical training, support weapons cadres, innovative training in new areas of Cyprus, creation of an excellent CQB facility in Alexander Barracks, ambitious LFTT on Pyla ranges, a comprehensive Public Order validation, or the arduous Capt Driver Challenge. All of this has kept the troops focussed and sharp. But the high point this year in the Battalion's tactical training was Ex ARES STORM, the first TES-enabled battalion-level exercise in Cyprus for over a decade. Capt Reid's article provides a more thorough account of this demanding exercise, which proved the viability and benefits of large-scale light infantry training in the tough Cyprus environment.

Secondly, the Battalion has taken every opportunity to project out from the island on a variety of training and engagement tasks. The list of where Vikings have been operating and training in 2022 is illustrative: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lithuania, Norway, Crete, Bahrain, France, and even one lucky corporal in the British Indian Ocean Territory. However, unexpectedly for a forward-based contingency force, our most significant operational commitment arose back in the UK on Op INTERFLEX, training partners in the Ukrainian Armed Forces. A combination of A (Norfolk) Company and D (Cambridgeshire) Company took up the challenge, pushing boundaries and generally doing everything they possibly could to best prepare their Ukrainian partners, many of whom became friends, for their courageous fight against the Russian Army.

Beyond operations and training commitments there have been several notable successes. The Cambrian Patrol team from D (Cambridgeshire) Company achieved a silver medal and came agonisingly close to a gold. The Battalion Shooting team, also from D (Cambridgeshire) Company, won the Cyprus OSC and qualified to shoot at Bisley for the first time in over 20 years, finishing 13th overall out of 51 teams (first among the non-permanently formed teams) – an excellent achievement. On the sporting front, 2022 has been quite exceptional. After a brilliant inter-company boxing, the boxers went on to beat 1 LANCS and win the Best Novice Team at the Army Individual Championship. The rugby team has been unbeaten in Cyprus, including against 2 YORKS, and recently won the international club-level tournament at

Lt Col Goodey leaves Alexander Barracks for the last time, having handed over to Lt Col Adrian Thompson.

the Dubai 7s – a marvellous feat against semi-professional opposition. The football team remains unbeaten and was the first RIB to win the Cyprus league for over ten years. The swimmers have won every event on island, with three individuals selected to compete for the Infantry team. And the cross-country runners are on track to win the Cyprus league this year. As a battalion not accustomed to such a level of sporting activity and success, the explosion of sport and the talent revealed has been astonishing – something we are determined to continue alongside the Poachers once back in the UK.

Turning to the future, the final six months in Cyprus look set to follow a similar pattern, with exciting training opportunities in Oman, Kuwait and Belize. Thereafter, the move to Cottesmore and 11 SFA Bde awaits. It is widely known that this will bring significant challenges, particularly the downsizing of the Battalion from 629 to 301 for the SFA role. But the operational imperative to professionalise the Army's Train, Advise, Assist, Accompany and Enable (TA3E) capability and the opportunities this brings for the Regiment are evident for all. Stabilis, our motto, applies both on and off the battlefield, and if the future demands that the Vikings adapt to a new way of operating then that is what we shall do, quietly and professionally. Inherently linked to this transition, we are determined to embrace

Captain Driver Challenge 2022 culminating in an atmospheric sunset bayonet fight.

Ex ARES STORM – CO and Ops Offr surveying the battalion attack on Paramali village.

1st Battalion

Ex ARES STORM – MG Platoon on key point defence.

Vikings studying hard in Crete on Ex VIKING LANDING.

Bob Howard – CO and RSM presenting Bob Howard a gift on his 97th birthday. Bob now lives in Kyrenia having previously served in both the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Regiments in the campaign from D-Day to Berlin.

Pte Biumaiwai puts in a crunching tackle for the Vikings rugby team.

the unique opportunities derived from co-location with the 2nd Battalion in a single hub for the Regular battalions of the Regiment, for which Project 64 was created. Aspects of the transition may be challenging in the short-term, but the long-term prospects for all within the Regiment are bright and highly encouraging.

On a final personal note, I am writing this in my final week as CO before handing over to Lt Col Adrian Thompson. Reflecting on my time in the Vikings since 2005, I could not be more grateful for the comradeship and support I've enjoyed over these years, nor could I be more proud of the current generation of Vikings. I look forward to seeing the Battalion continue to humbly excel in the service of our nation in the years ahead. **Stabilis**

The Battalion forms up for Minden Day 2022.

From the RSM

WO1 (RSM) Lee Estwick.

Twelve months ago, I had the privilege to take over the role as the Vikings' Regimental Sergeant Major. This has been the highlight of my 22 year career.

Since being in Cyprus, the Battalion has had a very busy and productive year. This has seen Viking soldiers deploy around the world on operations and exercises. Throughout the year, the Battalion has continually been held at high readiness as the Reginal Standby Battalion (RSB) for the Middle East and North Africa whilst also being deployed across the security sites of Cyprus. Commitments have included sending troops to Lithuania, Bahrain on Op KIPION and the UK where A (Norfolk) Company is currently deployed on Op INTERFLEX.

We have also ensured that our core soldiering skills have remained sharp. One such example was conducting the first battlegroup exercise on the island in over ten years. Ex ARES STORM was a testing three-week exercise over some very formidable ground. The exercise tested all ranks from our newest Viking to myself, ensuring we were up to speed on current TTPs. In addition to this Battalion-level training, excellent company-level training has taken place. A recent example was Ex EAGER LION, C (Essex) Company's recent exercise in Jordan.

Sports and adventurous training has also been a main focus over the past twelve months. Cyprus offers great opportunities for Vikings to get away and try something different. With our own beach and three speed boats, many Vikings have found a love for water sports. Such enthusiasm led to the Battalion entering a team in the Infantry Wake Boarding Championships – some lucky individuals were even selected

to represent the Infantry in the Army championships.

The Boxing team has also been punching its way to the trophies under the watchful eye of head coach LCpl Norman. One example of their success was winning the Army Individual Novice Team championships. The team was selected from a very long list of talented Vikings that showed true fighting spirt during the Battalion Inter-Company Boxing Championships in February. In addition, the Battalion football team – managed by CSgt Ferguson – have walked away unbeaten as this year's Cyprus Major Units Football League Champions; a feat that has not been achieved by a Resident Infantry Battalion in over ten years.

The Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess has enjoyed some good functions since the relaxation of Covid rules and have even experienced how the other half live – hiring out the biggest yacht in Ayia Napa for the summer function was an event which will live long in the memory!

My focus over the next year is SNCO and JNCO development, both in and out of camp. I want to take them back to basics and concentrate on their command and leadership skills. We need to ensure we get this right today as we are shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

Throughout this year, I have been hugely impressed by the total professionalism displayed by all ranks of the Battalion, reacting positively to short notice taskings and always delivering the highest output.

In summary, it has been another very busy and fulfilling year. We are looking forward to the year ahead and our return to the UK, where we will be based in Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore, alongside the 2nd Battalion. This will see the Battalion start to transition to a Security Force Assistance Battalion which brings considerable opportunity to our soldiers.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the partners and families who always stand by us in hard and testing times over the years. You are our rock that holds us firm.

Thank you.
"Stabilis"

A (Norfolk) Company

OC's Introduction

Maj James Walters

I write this update not from my office listening to the sounds of the Mediterranean Sea, but from a windswept North Yorkshire. A (Norfolk) Company are currently deployed on Op INTERFLEX training Ukrainian recruits – more on this later.

The year for A (Norfolk) Company began in Cyprus as we maintained the Very High Readiness commitment of the Regional Standby Battalion over the new year. This was quickly followed by a Public Order validation exercise prior to the company taking a well-earned and much delayed Christmas leave. Elements of the Company deployed to Ayios Nikolaos in February whilst the company boxing trained hard for the inter-company boxing competition. The A Company team under the guidance of Sgt Mark Anderson and Cpl Jordan Dyer put on an amazing performance. Winning all of their qualifying matches to ensure that A Company had a boxer in the finals of each weight category. By the end of the evening they were runaway winners with the A Company boxers winning six of the eight finals.

This then, was the prelude to deploying on a company level exercise before then participating in Ex ARES STORM, a Bn level exercise in the Western Sovereign Base Area. A demanding exercise that tested the company both physically and mentally, A (Norfolk) Company became A (Alpine) Company after taking the hard route in to the final objective across several large hills with severe inclines.

After a period of Easter leave the company stood to as the Lead Company Group of the Regional Standby Battalion for the summer. We conducted an excellent live firing package culminating in a platoon attack supported by elements of support company. We also took advantage of this time on island to enjoy living in Cyprus. The company held a cultural day where soldiers in the company from across The Commonwealth gave briefs on their home countries. The day ended with a delicious Fijian BBQ. Soldiers also had the opportunity to undertake various adventurous training courses. The lead up to summer leave saw the start of rumours circulating about a possible deployment of the Lead

A section commander from A (Norfolk) Company during Ex ARES STORM.

1st Battalion

A (Norfolk) Company on conclusion of Ex ARES STORM, Cyprus. *Picture courtesy of Throughthelensphotographyandevents.*

Company Group to support the training of Ukrainian recruits. None of this came to fruition and the company celebrated Minden Day along with the rest of the Battalion and coming a close second to B (Suffolk) Company in the inaugural inter-company Minden Day Raft Race.

It was on the final Friday of summer leave that I received a message from the Commanding Officer informing me that A (Norfolk) Company had been activated and would deploy back to the UK to train Ukrainian recruits under Op INTERFLEX. The details of this are covered elsewhere in this journal so I shall avoid stealing the sandwiches of 2Lt Ben Jooste-Jennings. I will however say that the soldiers and officers of A (Norfolk) Company ably supported by elements of D (Cambridgeshire) Company have worked tirelessly over the last four months to train over 600 soldiers for the Ukrainian Army. I couldn't be prouder to have the opportunity to lead them on this vital operation to support Ukraine against the aggression of Russia.

Over the last 12 months we have said farewell to a number of A Company stalwarts. WO2 (CSM) Phil Green was selected to be the RQMS(M) and was replaced by WO2 (CSM) Watson. CSgt Haldenby was selected for promotion and now is CSM in B Company, and Sgt Mark Anderson moved to the training wing on promotion after well over 2.5 years as both Pl Sgt and Comd of 1 Platoon. By the end of 2022 we will have had 5 marriages and have welcomed 2

babies to the Norfolk Family. It was also with profound sadness that we said our goodbyes to Pte Philip Knowles who was tragically killed in a road traffic accident.

We will see out 2022 in North Yorkshire and look forward to the rest of our time in Cyprus before moving to Cottesmore and co-locating with the Second Battalion. A Company will lead the way in integrating the two battalions with a deployment to Oman alongside the Poachers in early January 2023.

Instructors from A (Norfolk) Coy teach Ukrainian soldiers how to clear trench systems.

Operation INTERFLEX

Lt Ben Jooste-Jennings

As the Lead Company Group over summer 2022 in Cyprus, A (Norfolk) Company were held at very high readiness to deploy on operations. So, when A Coy were briefed by Maj Walters about the possibility of deploying to train the Armed Forces of Ukraine there was an undeniable atmosphere of excitement and anticipation. But there were many questions left unanswered.

How long would we be gone for? Where exactly are we deploying to? What is our ORBAT? And so for many weeks, our excitement and enthusiasm were tinged with uncertainty and reservation. However, immediately upon returning to work after three weeks of leave, A Coy were activated to deploy on Op INTERFLEX: the UK led multinational military operation to train and support the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Our tasking was to plan and deliver three back-to-back five-week basic soldiering courses, each to a company of around 200 Ukrainians.

The ORBAT would be a combined grouping of A (Norfolk) Company supported by elements of D (Cambridgeshire) Company. The training would be delivered by three training teams based on the officers and NCOs of the A Coy platoons augmented with JNCOs from D Coy, with the remaining D Coy officer and NCOs forming a Permanent Range Team. Inevitably, the question of whether we would deploy arose. To our relief, we finally received clarity. Saying goodbye to the Cypriot summer we were soon greeted by an autumnal North Yorkshire. We deployed to Wathgill Camp in Catterick as part of Training Delivery Unit Wathgill commanded by The Light Dragoons and conducted a relief in place with 4 SCOTS. Our principal training objectives were to teach the critical skills required of an infantry solider to maximise their lethality and survivability.

Ukrainians treat a casualty during their final battle lane.

A Ukrainian section occupies defensive positions during LFTT.

A Ukrainian soldier perfects his markmanship with the AK47.

Ukrainian trainees break into Whinny Hill.

We took over from the SCOTS just before the Ukrainians deployed on their final and most demanding field training exercise. The six-day exercise involved the Ukrainians rotating between a trench and urban warfare package. The climax of the trench phase was a dawn attack upon the Ukrainian defences, complete with MASTIFFs and NLAWs. All were tested, but none more so than the Ukrainian commanders who formulated and executed a counter-attack plan to retake captured parts of their trenches. However, as Capt Rob Smith manned the MASTIFF mounted GPMG with the energetic fervor of a man who has spent too long on Microsoft PowerPoint, the most satisfied person that morning was clearly the Company 2IC.

According to the engineers constructing the trenches, the weather proofing was still 'a work in progress'; and so, the Ukrainians considered it a relief to transition to the urban phase as they waded out of the trenches. The urban package captured all the essential components of FIBUA, the most critical of operating environments for the Ukrainian army. The exercise concluded with a 2km battle lane. Each section fought their way through an extensive series of casualty serials, bunker and FIWAF attacks; all riddled with challenging CASEVAC routes.

Before the live firing commenced, the Ukrainians first needed skill at arms training on the AK. However, much of this turned out to be unnecessary, since most of the Ukrainians were clearly familiar with the weapon system. Most of the skill at arms lessons therefore consisted of safe weapon handling and trying to convince them of the merits of the safety catch. Before long the vast majority had passed their ACMT and were soon on the Individual Battle Shooting Range, before finishing with live fire team attacks. This was the culmination of five weeks of training, and it was time to trade patches and bid farewell to the Ukrainians as they left us to fight.

After a most appreciated few days of stand down, we returned to Wathgill

Ukrainian Soldiers peer through the smoke as they hold a defensive position during Live Firing Tactical Training.

1st Battalion

Ukrainians practise casualty evacuation.

to begin the second rotation of training. We began the course with introductory briefs, skill at arms training and how to pack kit to survive in the field. Soon it was time to deploy on INTRO Ex. Considering that many of these recruits seemed to be in their 40s and above—and without military experience—it was impressive to watch the exercise conclude with some reasonable fire and movement. At the time of writing, we are approaching the end of our second and penultimate course, and we expect to deliver training up until at least the middle of December.

A (Norfolk) Company together with elements of D (Cambridgeshire Company) will have helped prepare at least 600 Ukrainian soldiers for war. I speak for every Viking involved when I say that it has been a sincere privilege to have contributed directly to such an important strategic effect; and our efforts here have further cemented the reputation of the Vikings as a versatile and professional Battalion.

We have come to understand the potency of the Ukrainian will to fight, and we wish our Ukrainian friends the very best.

Cpl Mitchell Lingley leads his section of Ukrainians on the final battle lane.

Ex ARTEMIS SHOT – May 22

A (Norfolk) Company conducting firing at the start of Ex ARTEMIS SHOT, Cyprus. *Picture courtesy Lt Adam Moss, OC 3 Pl, A (Norfolk) Company.*

In May 2022 A (Norfolk) Company conducted a live fire tactical training (LFTT) package – Ex ARTEMIS SHOT – over two weeks in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA). Whilst time on ranges is always good training, the primary focus was maintaining the operational capability of the company for readiness tasks during our time as Regional Standby Battalion.

Having completed the initial part of our training on static ranges, the company then moved onto close quarter battle (CQB) ranges, for one of the more exciting shoots in the LFTT package. The aim of CQB is to test the speed of soldiers' reactions and accuracy at a close range, all whilst moving down range as a pair. The soldiers worked hard during these shoots, reacting quickly, and showing aggression when faced with the enemy at close range.

The finale of the LFTT package saw 2 Platoon conduct a live fire platoon attack as part of a Junior Officer Development event which saw junior officers posted to the island, from the Army, RAF and Navy, travel to the ESBA to take part in various events and workshops throughout the day. The first thing they watched was a live fire infantry platoon attack with support from machine guns and anti-tank platoon. Watching two NLAWs fly down the range followed by ground troops posting grenades and flanking fire from two machine gun lines was an exciting sight for the young officers. It was also excellent training for 2 Platoon's commanders and soldiers, and a fantastic way to end the live fire package.

Pte Wilson on the IBSR on the WSBA training area during Ex ARTEMIS SHOT. *Picture courtesy Lt Adam Moss, OC 3 Pl, A (Norfolk) Company.*

The aim of LFTT is to provide training in a realistic tactical setting in order to train soldiers and commanders in all the skills they will need for operations. Ex ARTEMIS SHOT most certainly provided realistic training for all those who took part. The soldiers and commanders finished the package having improved their skills to be able to perform to a high standard in an operational environment. In addition, the success of the package enabled the company to prove that it could be relied upon to conduct any readiness tasks that may come their way.

B (Suffolk) Company

OC's Introduction

Maj Oliver Bullen

5Pl, B Coy on completion of their time in Lithuania.

Like most, B Company have had a busy 2022. As I write, the Coy is taking some well-earned leave following exceptional performances on Exercise and Operations. Before I touch on the Company's recent activity it would be remiss not to mention the demanding work carried out in the initial part of the year by Maj Tim Hearne and WO2 Tom Fish. Under their expert command the Company has achieved in spades and performed to an exceedingly high standard.

Their well-managed move to Cyprus and the deftness of grappling with the complex situation of being the Regional Standby Battalion set the Company up for continued success. The Company has received an almost complete change of command team with Officer Commanding, Company Sergeant Major and Company Quarter Master Sergeant changing over this year. The Platoons have also seen plenty of changes and are now running with new command teams.

At the beginning of the year the Bn completed Ex ARES STORM, where B Company played a crucial role as the OPFOR. The Company made light work of the others and helped to create a hugely testing and worthwhile exercise

B Coy practise entering buildings during Ex SUFFOLK SOLDIER.

B Coy deal with an angry Essex mob during Ex VIKING SHIELD IV.

that pushed the Bn to its limit in the harsh conditions of Cyprus. As soon as the Exercise finished the Company assumed the role of Lead Company Group, maintaining readiness to the highest standards whilst conducting some excellent training on island.

After a fast-paced start to the year the Company took some time to reflect in August and deployed to Troodos mountains on Ex SUFFOLK RESILLIENCE for a week. The time was spent discussing individual and group resilience, conquering fears and developing relationships to build a stronger and more cohesive Company. The week also involved some seriously demanding PT sessions and command tasks which all counted towards a Section completion which was won by Cpl Smith and 2 Section, 6 Platoon. The week culminated with the promotion to LCpl of four recently qualified Soldiers and so began the change from RSB (Regional Standby Battalion) to Cyprus Operations.

Almost immediately after the change, B Company deployed. 6 Platoon to Jordan with C Coy as part of Exercise EAGER LION, a multinational training exercise in extremely arduous conditions and 5 Platoon to the Naval Support Facility in Bahrain as part of the Op KIPION force protection team. These deployments, which involved our soldiers being away from their duty station and often their family for protracted periods, set the tone for the sometimes-punishing tempo of Cyprus Operations. The remainder of the year which will see more time away for B Company. The time spent back in Cyprus is carefully managed due to the tempo of Operations. The Company is due to deploy on Ex SUFFOLK SOLDIER 2 imminently which will see the Platoons conducting CQB (Close Quarter Battle) and urban training across the island. We

Lt Chris Flynn, the Earl of Wessex and Maj James Walters.

1st Battalion

Memebers of B Coy diving off the coast of Dhekelia.

have recently qualified several Urban instructors and a CQB instructor who cannot wait to share their new skills. The company has been fortunate enough to have the use of some Marker Round Training Systems (Simunition) for this exercise and will be able to put it to good use with some realistic door drills, room clearance and force on force scenarios.

Not content with focussing on the military side of Army life the Company has thrown themselves into all sporting aspects too. Pte Forington is making seismic waves in the boxing team and is preparing to quickly despatch his opponent in the upcoming event against the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment in a few months. Pte St Rose has also been drafted to the boxing team and is due to make his cruiserweight debut at the same event. I've no doubt that this will not be the end of this promising young Vikings boxing career. The Company helped to support the Dhekelia Splash swimming event and have entered nearly all of the events on the BFC sporting calendar. Cpl Richardson has also been displaying his talents in the sporting arena and recently won gold in his category at the Army Marathon Championships, posting an exception time of 2hr 56m at the London Marathon whilst simultaneously raising £5,000 for a children's cancer charity. As usual and exceptional performance all round.

Capt Andy Simms and Capt Toby Reid preparing to dive off the coast of Cyprus.

The Company is looking forward to an auspicious 2023. We have several exciting opportunities before the Unit Move starts to take a stranglehold on training and currently have field firing, public order validation and an overseas training exercise to Belize in the pipeline. As expected, the soldiers are attacking these tasks with diligent fervour and unquenchable energy whilst maintaining the humble and professional ethos which endure throughout the Suffolk Company.

Members of PJHQ and B Coy whilst deployed in Lithuania.

B Coy running team whilst deployed in Lithuania - BR Ptes Forrington, Booth and Watlington, Lt Flynn. FR Pte Warren-Goode, Cpl Richardson and Pte Tilley.

Op KIPION

Lt Rob Seel, OC 5 Platoon, B Company

August 2022 saw B (Suffolk) Company assume force protection (FP) for UK Naval Support Facility (UKNSF) in Bahrain. This is a dedicated Royal Navy port to outfit and maintain several ships that patrol through the Strait of Hormuz, the Arabian peninsular and the Red Sea- the busiest shipping lanes in the world. Their mission includes protecting shipping, deterring piracy and intercepting drug trafficking.

As the only infanteers in theatre 5 Platoon (Pl) quickly got to work, running pistol ranges to hone their close quarter battle skills. We ran several ranges for Naval personnel to give them an insight of our capabilities, they returned with

Pte Jesse Kumar, Pte Jack Tinneny, LCpl Damian Norris, Pte Ethan Adams and Cpl Nathan Davies on board a RN minesweeper in Bahrain.

LCpl Damian Norris, 2Lt Ollie White and Pte Ethan Adams discuss CQB tactics with two RN sailors in Bahrain.

Pte Ethan Adams, Cpl Nathan Davies and Pte Jack Tinneny discussing small unit drills below decks on a RN minesweeper at port in Bahrain.

a ship visit to show us their cramped living conditions while on board.

5 Pl were able to take full advantage of the welfare facilities available on both UK and US bases. The Vikings were able to use all 3 gyms and coffee shop in UKNSF as well as the American complex which fielded yet more gyms, swimming pool, supermarket and fast food restaurants. 5 Pl used these for their PT programme for strength and conditioning and constant 2 milers in the 30 degree heat.

Work in Bahrain was steady, the guard force worked 12 hour shifts, however there was a social calendar to keep us occupied when deployed. The Royal Navy ran nights commemorating Nelson and the US Navy run monthly 5 km races. Op KIPION provided opportunities to work with the Royal Navy, gain insight into how they operate, and to train and develop the soldiers in 5 Pl.

Pte Jamie Stillwell during B Coy CQB training.

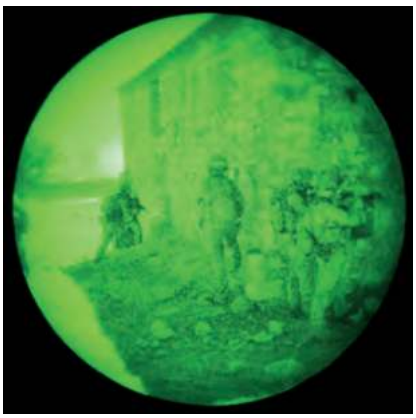
Ex SUFFOLK SOLDIER 2

2Lt White, OC 6Pl, B Coy

2Lt Oliver White gives Platoon QBOs to Cpl Cole, Cpl Davies and LCpl Walker.

Fresh off a rotation of leave and camp guard, B Suffolk Company deployed on a CT1 and 2 Level exercise - Suffolk Soldier 2. This consisted of two weeks of section and platoon level training. The exercise proved to be an excellent opportunity to brush off the cobwebs and begin to practice, and perfect, low-level skills and drills; essential to every infantry soldier.

The initial stages of the exercise saw B Company's urban ops instructors taking the lead on basic urban warfare training. HMP Dhekelia Prison provided great real estate to refresh on methods of movement in the urban setting. Soldiers practiced using ladders to gain access to multiple storied buildings and the use of formations and clearance drills employed whilst fighting in an urban environment. Training progressed to the use of Simunition rounds for clearing buildings both against targets and live



Cpl Cole and LCpl Read conduct night operations in Paramali village.

enemy. Furthermore, the Coy pushed the soldiers to the full by introducing judgemental shoots in some rooms. This training would prove to be useful in the latter stages of the exercise.

B Coy then deployed to the Western Sovereign Base Area to conduct further platoon training. NCOs delivered lessons in basic navigation, CASEVACs and communication lessons and section commanders ran through contact drills and section level SOPs. This training was tested with a day and night navigation and patrol skills exercise based out of Akrotiri training area.

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

C (Essex) Company

OC's Introduction

Maj Tom Green

C Coy in Troodos mountains.

During 2022 C (Essex) Company have enjoyed a varied and challenging programme, undertaking a series of major exercises and Force Protection tasks across Cyprus. The soldiers of the company have been deployed to numerous countries across the globe and built upon their first few months in Cyprus.

The start of the training year started with Ex VIKING SHIELD; a public order exercise conducted on Dhekelia Station. A brilliantly run exercise ensured that C Coy were put through

C Coy soldiers during LF trench clearance in Jordan on Ex EAGER LION.

C Coy on ENDEX of Ex ARES STORM.

their paces to ensure we received the necessary confirmation by the critical eyes of MTMC instructors.

The spirit of C Coy shone through and, despite numerous cuts and bruises, came away with confidence in the drills if required to use it for real. Following a short leave period, the Company conducted a series of week long exercises across the training estate in Cyprus to build our green skills back up since the Christmas period. This was essential preparation for Ex ARES STORM, a battalion level (self-run) exercise in the Western Sovereign Base Area which put the Company through a series of challenging lanes, culminating in a battalion level attack into Paramarli village.

Whilst many readers will expect Cyprus temperatures of never below 20C, the sight of frost on ponchos and light snow on a number of days proved that Battalion HQs have the power to demand the weather in Cyprus as well as the UK.

The Company performed excellently and ensured it could then continue at readiness during the Battalions ongoing commitment as the Regional Standby Battalion within BFC. The exercise

Lt Paul Phillips on the barbecue during 10 Pl force protection task at Mount Troodos Station, Cyprus.

C Coy troops in the base line during public order training in early 2022.

finished with presentations from Maj Gen Thomson (Comd British Force Cyprus) with CSM Gibbs and Sgt Davitt receiving their Accumulated Campaign Service Medals.

After a demanding period on various tasks from range packages, the Cyprus Operational Shooting Competition and the battalion skiing expedition, the company deployed again on a rotation of green skills and more cerebral training in Troodos.

The Troodos package leant more on mental resilience and self-awareness, with some excellent voice of experience lectures from Capts Larry Holmes and Jason Thomas. The inevitable gate-to-gate run stretched legs too, but a hugely beneficial package for all soldiers and junior commanders. The Coy will look to build on this in 2023, utilising the fantastic real estate within the Troodos Mountains. Come the summer, attention moved to the Coy's OTX of 2022, Ex EAGER LION.

This exercise saw a 150 person Coy Group, centred around C (Essex) Company deploy to Jordan on a 5 week, 42 nation exercise. The company went through a ten day live firing package, run by the Vikings training wing, then into the main construct of the exercise.

C Coy over land and sea - representing UK Armed Forces at Bahrain RFC 10s tournament. three out of five games won - special mention to Ptes Purcell, Mumford and Penhallow for their performances.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the Coy to work with a variety of other nations in a demanding environment. The exercise culminated with a Brigade level CALFEX with support from Abrhams tanks, Cobra AH, 105 and 155mm fires, HIMARS and F35 jets dropping 500lb bombs onto targets at the very limit of British safety distances! An unforgettable experience and one that will be remember for years to come.

Following the exercise, a swift return to Cyprus duties saw a platoon move back to FP tasks on island, and 9Pl deploy to Bahrain on Op KIPION. The Coy then conducted the Capt Driver Trophy and went into further Cyprus commitments over the Christmas period.

The C (Essex) Coy team at the Bahrain rugby competition, held during their time on Op KIPION. L-R Pte Black, LCpl Perry, Pte Penhallow, Pte Smith, Pte Purcell, Pte Mumford, RN sailor, Lt Bussandra.

Ex EAGER LION

Lt Paul Phillips

C Coy Group on early morning PT in Jordan.

Ex EAGER LION was an overseas company level exercise conducted in Jordan by C Company, 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment in August and September 2022. Ex EAGER LION is a Jordanian-led, multi-national, bi-annual exercise to which the UK last contributed to in 2019.

The exercise represents the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) capstone event, similar to JOINT WARRIOR in nature, with 45 nations invited. The exercise has two separate elements that run concurrently: a CPX (CENTCOM coordinated operational planning exercise with NATO staff delivering a training package); and a live tactical exercise. 45 nations participating in total, with 5 sending ground forces for the live ex – US, Jordan, UK, Saudi Arabia, and Italy. Uniquely, the initial part of the exercise was self-generated by C Company; meaning that it was planned, resourced and executed from within the Battalion.

This included our own PRT designing and conducting the LFTT package and all the enabling elements to operate in the desert for an extended period of time. The latter part of the exercise was formed of a joint American-Jordanian designed CALFEX designed to show

Cpl David Leadley from C Coy observes Jordanian Quick Reaction Force Platoon O Group.

Cpl Henry Howes and Cpl Lee Peck give a trench clearance lesson to the Italian Para Pl.

LCpl Logan O'Sullivan observes a Jordanian soldier moving into position on the live urban range.

interoperability between the British, Italian, Jordanian, Saudi and American forces operating there.

The Company deployed from Cyprus with 6 platoon, B 'Suffolk' Company as the third platoon and Machine Gun platoon from D 'Cambridgeshire' Company. The exercise was conducted in FOB EAGLE near the British Village urban range in the Al Zarqa area of Jordan; a barren desert environment where temperatures often exceeded forty degrees Celsius during the day.

The first week saw the troops conducting acclimatisation PT and TLFTT, moving from individual to section level live firing on a self-generated range to ensure all of the troops had a chance to perfect their skills and drills moving forward. The ranges were designed for the troops to utilise a mix of platoon weaponry: SA80, GPMG, Glock 17 (GSP), Sharpshooter and HE grenades. The soldiers, fireteams and sections were faced with complex scenarios in this challenging environment. Whilst battling the searingly hot days and cold nights the soldiers had to conduct attacks on live attack lanes with very little cover from view or fire. This added a layer of complexity in an environment vastly different from either Brecon or Cyprus where there is often far more cover to work with.

The second week saw the Company conducting OBUA training in the British Village live OBUA range near FOB

Pte Fatlum Bajralija observes the Italian Para Coy descending into Jordan.

1st Battalion

EAGLE. The recent conflict in Ukraine has shown the importance of training for conventional urban warfare, including testing new approaches to clearing buildings introduced to the Company by members of 6 platoon who had recently attended the Urban Ops course. This range, planned by WO2 Kerin and the Viking Training Wing was a unique experience for the troops as it was the first time any of them had the opportunity to fire live in an urban environment. This also gave the sections the chance to use live HE grenades inside of the buildings, something that is rarely allowed inside the UK or Cyprus.

The platoons organised cultural days out in Jordan which included exploring places such as Petra, one of the seven wonders of the world and Al Maghtas, the place where John baptised Jesus. The troops also visited the Wadi Rum desert to ride camels and explore the Bedouin culture. Some of the troops then went on to visit Aqaba city for well-earned R&R on the beach.

The main joint-forces part of Ex EAGER LION began with a series of exercise lanes. This involved 9 platoon patrolling out to secure a Drop Zone (DZ) for the Italian paratroopers to land in. The following days involved joint forces blank-fire exercises with British, Italian and Jordanian forces training together at platoon-level, working up to a battalion attack. Once the language barrier has been overcome, it was apparent that all the forces tactics and

Lt Paul Phillips receiving orders from the Jordanian Coy Comd.

Members of 10 Pl C Coy at the Dead Sea, Jordan.

weaponry complimented one another.

The main CALFEX itself began with 6 Platoon conducting a complex trench clearance, supported by Jordanian artillery. This was followed up by a helicopter-borne airborne landing by the Italians and a joint armoured assault by the American, Saudi and Jordanian Main Battle Tanks, with the whole scenario supported by Jordanian attack helicopters. The CALFEX culminated with a HIMARS missile destroying the final position.

The Vikings massively benefitted from nearly a full month of live-firing up to platoon level and blank-firing up to joint-forces battlegroup level to hone their individual soldiering skills. This also allowed Company HQ to train at working in a joint-forces environment, something which will become increasingly common across defence.

Pte Kelvin Katemba from C Coy fires on the CQM range, Jordan.

LCpl Wood of C Coy moves for–ward to get eyes on during a Battalion attack in Jordan.

Ex EAGLE ASSAULT

In February 2022, C (Essex) Company deployed to Pyla ranges for EXERCISE EAGLE ASSAULT to build on their individual marksmanship skills on both static ranges and section level LFTT. Pyla ranges provides a great location for the Vikings to conduct LFTT. Located just 15 minutes east along the coast from Dhekelia, the complex offers a variety of ranges in challenging terrain. Sparse and arid interspersed with large boulders and mounds, tactically it's a great place to test our soldiers' ability to shoot and command.

The LFTT package started with the Company on the individual battle shooting range. This allowed members of the Company to test their individual marksmanship in more realistic combat positions, that a regular range doesn't afford. The IBSR culminated with a

competition which combined the skills they had refined throughout the day testing their speed and accuracy in a timed scored shoot, with Pte Norman coming out on top managing to hit all 20 targets on his attempt. [Image Cpl Ledley briefing]

Having completed individual fire and movement, the Coy moved through fire team and section attacks. The Company also managed to get some good time on a GPMG range, working on their individual skills and drills on the weapon system which was a great way to finish the live package. [Pte Henry on GPMG]

C Company next transitioned to blank fire for platoon attacks, in preparation for the upcoming battalion exercise ARES STORM. The week culminated with several platoon attacks which was observed by the UK defence attaché, US defence attaché and members of the Cypriot National Guard, with the hope of conducting more multinational training in the future. [Pte Smith scanning arcs]

Overall, the week was a great success giving the members of C Company some invaluable time conducting LFTT, which remains a key component in maintaining a high level of infanteering and stands us in good stead going forwards.

Pte Jack Smith scanning his arcs.

Cpl David Ledley briefing Pte Adam Walker and Pte Jak Mumford.

Pte Chad Henry firing GPMG.

1st Battalion

D (Cambridgeshire) Company

OC's Introduction

Maj Matt Mackinder-Jonas

There were two things that immediately stood out when I arrived in Cyprus to take over command of D (Cambridgeshire) Company in the summer of 2022. The first was the disturbing fact that my previous posting in Kenya was not sufficient acclimatisation for a Cypriot summer.

The second was the absence of the Company, which had been called upon to deliver numerous operations and exercises across the globe. This was a timely reminder of just how busy the infantry battalions in Cyprus have been in recent years, and a far cry from the tempo of my time here as a Platoon Commander in 2 FUSILIERS in 2012-13.

Most articles in this edition will likely highlight how busy 2022 has been for the Battalion. D Coy has been no exception. The first six months of the year has seen D Company deploy on Ex ARES STORM and provided support elements to the Lead Company Group during the Battalion stint as the Regional Standby Battalion. Just before the Company departed on summer leave, the inaugural D Company 'Toughest Soldier' competition was run. Superbly organised and delivered by CSgt Vanhinsberg, there were some excellent 'clash of the titan' battles on show, with Pte Baptiste (CIS Platoon) prevailing to hold the title of D Coy 'Toughest Soldier.'

Post-summer leave has seen a considerable number of the D Coy NCOs, led by Capt Tom Hardiman (OC ATks), deploy to the UK with A Coy Group as part of Op INTERFLEX, the Defence mission to provide basic training to new Ukrainian soldiers. The performance of the soldiers to date has been nothing less than outstanding, receiving very high praise from all quarters.

The Machine Gun Platoon deployed to Jordan as part of C Coy Group on Ex EAGER LION, a multi-national joint force training exercise. Under the astute leadership of CSgt Stearne and Drum Major Bone, the Machine Guns provided valuable fire support to the Company throughout the exercise, culminating in an awesome display of firepower to emphasis the effect of sustained fire in a tactical scenario.

The Mortar Platoon deployed on Exercise WESSEX STORM throughout September as part of 2 R ANGLIAN Battlegroup, again performing very well and receiving excellent praise from the BG HQ.

D Coy provided the team for 1 R ANGLIAN to participate in the 2022 Cambrian Patrol. The team, led by Captain Dan Kitchen, conducted a varied and challenging training programme on island in preparation for this world-renowned event. The team were superbly managed and administrated by the D Coy CQMS, CSgt Alan Taylor, who also acted as the Liaison Officer to a team from the 33rd Battalion, the Cypriot National Guard, who also participated in the event and conducted some joint build-up training on the island to prepare for the event. Both teams performed exceptionally well, and both achieved silver at the conclusion of the event, with the 1 R ANGLIAN team just, agonisingly, missing out on a gold.

Elsewhere, several members of D Coy deployed on a Short-Term Training Team task to Saudi Arabia to provide leadership and skills packages to the Saudi Arabian National Guard in Riyadh, Jeddah and Damman. The expertise and professionalism displayed by the training team has been commended by the Commander of the British Military Mission in Saudi Arabia, stating that the teams have been 'representing the Battalion and the Army magnificently,' and once again reinforcing the reputation of the Regiment across Defence.

The remainder of the Coy has been kept busy conducting various guard commitments across the island; they must also be commended for the constant professionalism and enthusiasm they have displayed throughout this incredibly busy period, many have had to conduct long stints of duty to cover those personnel deployed on operations and exercises.

Looking forward to 2023, the Company will be running numerous support weapons cadres to ensure we maintain our current warfighting capacity, as well as look forward to deployments to Kuwait and Belize, and preparing for the unit move to Cottesmore, a not insignificant task!

It would be remiss of me not to end this without a huge thanks to Phil Lenthall for his time as OC D Coy and commanding the Company through an incredibly difficult and challenging period, including the Covid-19 response and the unit move to Cyprus. He has left the Company in an excellent place and has been well placed to provide additional advice and guidance through being a few metres away in BHQ!

Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2022

Capt Dan Kitchen, OC Snipers

In October the Vikings entered a team on Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2022 (Ex CP22). Cambrian Patrol is the British Army's premier patrols exercise conducted annually in Wales. It is open to all UK Military Units and International Militaries.

It is physically and mentally demanding, challenging individual and team military skills over difficult terrain in inclement weather conditions.

In Aug 2022 Team Manager CSgt Alan Taylor and Patrol Commander Capt Daniele Kitchen, set about assembling a team from across D Coy, and a training programme that would meet the demanding standards that this challenge required. This progressive programme consisted of three phases in partnership with the Cypriot Team from 33rd Special Forces Battalion.

The first phase comprised of two weeks training in the Troodos Mountains. This enabled the team to gel, conducting route marches daily in what is the most challenging terrain in Cyprus. During the second phase the team conducted lessons, focussing on areas that would be tested on the patrol itself. Sgt Alan Urwin delivered excellent lessons on subjects ranging from Vehicle

Patrol Conducting Farm Clearance on Episkopi Training Area.

Team conducting training march across the Brecon Beacons.

Recognition to Mine Clearance and CBRN. His assistance was invaluable in preparing the team. The team received medical training that was ably delivered by LCpl Roslyn Mackie. This course gave us an excellent grounding in Battlefield Casualty Drills that would pay dividends on the competition itself.

The Patrol deployed to Episkopi training area to conduct Ex HADES HELM. This was two 48 hour cycles where the team completed training akin to the patrol itself that were formative and summative respectively. Despite the challenges provided by the temperature the team performed well, and were in a good position to conduct the Patrol Ex run by the 33rd Bn the following week. This proved to be particularly demanding. The Exercise involved climbing the Troodos Mountain range. We conducted a number of military stands, similar to CP22 itself. The team performed well on its first external test and most importantly, forged strong bonds with our Cypriot Partners.

The Team then deployed to the UK to conduct a week of final training on the hills, in order to acclimatise and complete final preparation before the patrol itself which began on 13 Oct 2022. Ex CP22 began with a kit check and orders before stepping off from a woodblock 30km south of Sennybridge Training Area.

The team completed the initial march at a fast pace scoring highly on the Orders and Medical stand. We progressed onto the training area for the tactical phase, again scoring well on the individual stands and making good time in spite of weather conditions. The team completed the patrol within the 48 hours covering 65km without losing a single team member. Each member of the patrol played an important role.

The Vikings Patrol earned a Silver Medal at CP22. It was immensely disappointing to put so much work in and not come away with a Gold. A silver medal is still an excellent achievement and testament to the hard work and dedication of the team over the preceding 7 weeks. The level of improvement shown on an individual level throughout the training was enormously satisfying. Importantly, the work conducted in partnership with the Cypriot Special Forces has set us up well for further joint training in 2023.

1 R ANGLIAN Shooting Team

Capt Tom Hardiman, OC A-Tks

D (Cambridgeshire) Coy was selected to enter a Team in the Cyprus Operational Shooting competition. This was the first Shooting Competition the Bn had taken part in since arriving on Island in 2021. The team was predominant made up of Sniper Pl and Anti-Tank Pl. There was a mixture of experience amongst the team. The team was made up of an Officer, 7 soldiers. 5 from Snipers Pte to LCpl and 3 from Anti-Tank Pl, LCpl to Capt.

The Shooting Team began preparation for Competition 6 weeks for from start. Focusing on point of aim shoots at various distances to improve marksmanship. Before then focusing on learning the shoots. Due to the rules of the competition, it was imperative the team learnt the shoots as they would not be reminded during the competition. The team fired every day in the lead up to the competition. The Competition was made up of 8 team from across the Island. Our main competition was 2 Yorks. The team had performed well during our preparations therefore felt quietly confident.

The competition was run by the SASC and was split between Dhekelia Ranges and Akrotiri Ranges. There was a variety of shoots, with targets from anywhere between 10m and 500m. In

LCpl Jack Hind.

total there was 8 Shoots the team had to fire. The first day in Dhekelia involved more physically demanding shoots. The Team shot incredibly well and took an early lead after Day 1. Day 2 was in Akrotiri. The team started the day very well with a solid performance during the Pistol CQM Shoot. By the end of the day and before the final shoot the team had done enough that even if we did not fire that final shoot. We had a commanding lead, and therefore would still win.

Winning the Cyprus Operational Shooting Competition was a great achievement. Every member of the team won at least one medal and 4 team members wining multiple for the best individual shots for each shoot too. The performance earned the Battalion the opportunity to fire at the Army Operational Shooting Competition (AOSC) in Bisley for the first time in decade.

The AOSC had 36 different team in it from across the Army who had qualified to be there. The Competition was spread across 3 days. The 1 R ANGLIAN Team was excited to be a part of the competition. We knew competition was extremely fierce with many teams training in preparation for the competition all year round. We were lucky with the weather as it remained clear throughout the competition. There was a marked step up in ability competing in the Army Competition.

The Team fought very hard during the competition and managed a very commendable 13th Place. 2 R ANGLIAN were just behind 1 R ANGLIAN in 14th place. Sadly, we narrowly missed out on placing in the Army 100 which is the 100 best shots in the Army the Army for 2022. Our top three shots missed out in the Army 100 by a matter of a couple of points.

LCpl Recce Fuller.

The top three shots were: 1 Cpl Westerman (Anti-Tank Pl) - 112th; 2 LCpl Fixe (Anti-Tank Pl) - 119th; 3 Cpl Wells (Sniper Pl) - 123rd.

Overall, a fantastic achievement by the team and one we hope to build upon next year in 2023.

British Military Mission SANG 1 R Anglian Saudi Short Term Training Team

Capt MJN Andrews, OC Reconnaissance Pl

In October 2022, a select few members of 1 R ANGLIAN had the fantastic opportunity to deploy to Saudi Arabia on a Short-Term Training Team (STTT) as part of the enduring British Military Mission which has been there for the past 15 years. 12 Vikings, comprising of Officers and Junior/Senior NCOs, deployed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on Oct 1st 2022, charged with three separate tasks in three separate locations. Having split into three teams of four, we met our BMM military advisors in Jeddah, Dammam and Riyadh.

The four-man team in Riyadh were tasked with designing and running a course for 36 SANG NCOs, ranging from Cpl to SSgt. The team had three main objectives; Develop their leadership, improve their SAA and marksmanship and develop their Core Skills. The end state to achieve was for them to improve across all these areas and also develop their instructional abilities so they could return to their units and share the knowledge learnt.

The course was delivered in three phases. The first week concentrated on Leadership and involved discussions, (Saudi Arabian National Guard) SANG Doctrine and also a selection of Command Tasks. The second phase delivered was 4 weeks long and saw the progression from classroom based Skill At Arms lessons through to DCCT and

Sgt Craig Davitt teaching vehicle searches in Dammam.

culminated with live ranges. In this phase the students developed their weapon handling and also had opportunities to deliver lessons and practice their instructional technique. The third phase, Core Skills, involved a progression from individual fieldcraft to platoon level actions. Utilising the excellent SANG Facilities we had the opportunity to train in an arid rural setting and a brilliant urban facility.

The KSA West STTT team deployed in support of the 2nd SSBde, who are based close to the coastal city of Jeddah. Capt Jake Bamford, Sgt Nathan Anderson, Sgt James Quelch and Cpl Domm Wood were tasked with delivering an NCO leadership development course over nine weeks, similar to the STTT team in Riyadh.

Once the team had settled into the country, the next challenge was to greet the troops on the first day of the course and start a busy training schedule. Cpl Wood was keenly aware of how different the training environment was going to be from what he was used to in the Battalion training wing. “The first change you are aware of between instructing British and Saudi troops is needing to use an interpreter. Everything you say has to be said again in Arabic and there can be translation errors, so you have to slow everything right down, especially at the start”.

To the West, a team of 4 was sent to Dammam to deliver a 6-week Counter-Terrorism Course to 3SSB. The team, comprising of Capt Andrews, Sgt Davitt, Sgt McAleese and Cpl Bancroft, were charged with instructing the course of 24 SANG NCOs the complexities of CT Ops including urban operations, marksmanship and detainee handling.

The course presented great challenges for the team to overcome, as is the way when instructing urban operations, especially through a translator. However, our interpreters were highly professional and experienced individuals who helped the instructors deliver a successful course. Whilst there were frustrations, the growth shown by SANG was exceptional through the phases and validated the STTTs presence and hard work.

The experience had by all has been overwhelmingly positive. Each team has a newfound understanding of the Saudi culture and how our militaries differ and relate. Short Term Training Teams such as these are undoubtably some of the best opportunities that the British Army has to offer currently; deploying in small teams away from the organic Chain of Command (CoC) with all the inherent responsibilities that brings, to deliver high quality training to an ally nation as part of the wider Defence Engagement programme HM Forces seeks to project across the Middle East. The STTT will be a highlight in the careers for many of those that deployed, which sets a positive tone as the Bn prepares to transition to the Security Force Assistant Brigade (SFAB) in the coming years with plenty more opportunities for similar deployments.

HQ Company

Overview

Maj Adey Penn, OC HQ Company.

This will be my second article as OC HQ Company, 1 R ANGLIAN and my last as I look at handing over before this article is printed to a Maj Ian Wickes who arrived on island in November. Not only will this be my last article as the OC but also in the Army as I prepare to move back to the UK before I retire from the Regular Army in June of next year.

As you would expect it's been a very busy, but I would say enjoyable year for HQ Company and the Vikings as they have spent there full year on island, having come to Cyprus over the Summer of 2021 and will be departing over the summer period next year to return to the UK to share a Barracks with The Poachers in Cottesmore.

All the Depts within the Company have had a very productive year and I would hope most of the soldiers and their families have also spent some time exploring and enjoying what the beautiful island of Cyprus has had to offer them as well. This year has seen the Company supports elements of the Battalion who have been either training or on Operations in countries such as Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, UK and of course, on the island of Cyprus where our ME still remains as one of the two Resident Infantry Battalions either supporting Cyprus Operations or being involved as the Regional Standby Battalion (RSB) to counter regional threats in the Eastern Mediterranean or supporting the interests of His Majesty's Government.

The year started off fully with support to Ex Ares Storm which was the first CT level 3- on island for a number of years, this exercise was supported by large elements of the Company which saw teams forward mount to the WSBA to support the exercise and the remainder of the Company carrying out ROG duties back in Alexander Barracks. The exercise was a massive success and proved to HQ BFC that exercises of this size can be conducted within the constraints of the Cyprus SBA training estate. The Quartermasters Dept spent the previous months getting in the equipment required and supported the exercise from Radio Sonde camp alongside the MTO with his A1 Echelon. The Trg wing PRT headed up by WO2 Kerin spent days filling sandbags and preparing positions ready to make the battle lanes as realistic as possible for the Company groups coming through. The Medics, chefs and the LAD all played key parts in supporting this Bn exercise.

Other key elements of HQ Company's support this year has been support to the Regional standby Battalion (RSB) tasking which nearly came to the point when Bn soldiers where on a heightened standby to support the FCDO in the support of withdrawing British Nationals from Ethiopia when the country's rebel forces threatened the capital, Addis Ababa. As with many of these events it didn't materialise in any deployment, but it did allow for the Bn Comd team and the G4 chain to fully practice and rehearse their procedures in getting elements of the RSB out of the door in quick time.

The Company where heavily involved in the organising and running of this year's Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations which also incorporated the Battalions Minden day celebrations as well. The event took place over the Queens Jubilee weekend which involved a formal parade which saw the members of the Battalion who were eligible for the Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee Medal get presented with them on the Battalion's parade square and this was followed by an inter-company raft race at the Dhekelia Water Sports beach which was valiantly one by B Company in a nail-biting finish.

This event led nicely into the rest of the planned days activities, a Battalion families BBQ and an all-ranks party which went on into the night. The excellent day ended on the Battalions beach in Dhekelia under the Summer night sky. This was my 3rd and last Minden day event and having had the honour of organising it this was a great way to bow out of my time in organising and running Regimental days in the Army.

Other key activities for the Company over the last year has been on the assurance and inspection front which HQ Company clearly take the lead on across the Battalion. We have had a number of assurance and inspection take place from the G1A early this year which saw the RAO's Dept come away with an excellent overall pass to other such assurance visits like Information management, Security management and most recently the Battalions first on island Land Equipment Assurance (LEA) from the team from the UK. The assurance visit went really well and well done to the QM's Dept and especially the QM T and his team for a great effort.

I wish my successor and the Company all the best in there time left in Cyprus and I really hope the Unit move next Summer goes well and the families enjoy moving back to the equally beautiful rural countryside of Cottesmore in the county of Rutland.

Exercise ARES STORM

Capt Toby Reid, Ops Officer

Keen followers of the Regimental journal will no doubt remember our 2021 edition featured an article covering the 1st Battalion's deployment on Exercise Viking Storm last year. The exercise proved that first sharpening and then maintaining our warfighting edge remains vital. Infantry units, in an era of wider-ranging and disparate tasks, must continue to prioritise perfecting the art of closing with and killing the enemy if we are to remain used and useful to the nation.

After the move from Woolwich to Cyprus we couldn't rest on our laurels, nor allow that edge to become blunt. Once settled, acclimatised and with Company training underway, the Bn Headquarters and Training Wing soon began devising means to maintain our warfighting skills – the result was Exercise Ares Storm. Rather than follow the tired template of low-level and uninspiring training that was the norm for a Cyprus battalion, Ares Storm was to be the first Battlegroup-level training event to be held in Cyprus in working memory. Building on the lessons learnt on Viking Storm, the exercise would involve both Resident Infantry Battalions (our sister unit being 2 YORKS in the West of Cyprus), with helicopter support from 84 Sqn RAF and a team from the military working dogs attached. In total, just under 500 exercising troops took part in what was the largest British Army exercise on the island for at least 10 years.

C (Essex) Company advance under the watchful eye of WO2 (CSM) Gibbs.

With the CO's vision of warfighting to be the core of everything we do, the Battalion's Second-in-Command, Maj Nick McGinley, and the Training Officer, WO2 Aaron Kerin, designed an outstanding package of training that would go on to test both soldiers and commanders with complex missions in difficult terrain. This was achieved whilst the Battalion retained some on-island duties (guarding of strategic sites) and maintaining a Very High Readiness force ready to deploy at 48hrs anywhere in the world.

Company Group Training

It's aways surprising the level of 'churn' that a regular infantry unit experiences in a relatively short space of time. Despite Viking Storm having only taken place 10 months prior, up to a third of the rifle company soldiers and officers had never deployed on a battlegroup exercise with the Vikings. The first step

Sniper Platoon Enemy ARES STORM

Cpl Rob Wells, Sniper Platoon

The Sniper Platoon deployed to Episkopi Training Area, setting up camp on a cove to the south of the area, where the defensive lane was sited. The purpose of the defensive lane was to test the Rifle Coys ability to capture and then hold an EW asset for a 48 hour period, by setting up hasty defences. Our role was to continually probe their defences. We did this through insertion on foot in pairs or by vehicle, often conducting raids and attacks in fireteams/section strength – a departure from our traditional sniper role. Our platoon had the advantage of having a thorough understanding of the ground, having conducted our Sniper Selection Cadre on the same area only 4 months before.

Our pairs had to insert tactically to avoid detection, in particular from the Recce Section that was attached to each Rifle Coy. We prioritised targets effectively, looking for commanders and those operating belt fed weapon systems. Being a small Platoon, this meant a relentless cycle of orders and missions in order to have a continuous harassing effect on the enemy, denying them sleep or breathing space.

Our most successful pair was Ptes Toye & Nguluwe. Not only did they volunteer to conduct extra missions, but had by far the most devastating effect on the enemy, proving the hardest pair to detect.

Overall, this was a demanding but very enjoyable experience for Sniper Platoon. Capt Kitchen gave us freedom to utilise our skill set to harass the enemy and make tactical decisions ourselves. It proved to be a good shake out for the Platoon ahead of the Battlegroup mission.

CASEVAC during the Key Point Defence.

Sgt Toby Granfield (9 Pl, C Coy) during the defensive phase.

of Ares Storm was designed, therefore, to give the Company Commanders the time and space to shakeout and establish some common tactics, techniques and procedures to be carried forward into the rest of the exercise. Making sure all these were trialled and understood at every level would become critical as complexity increased.

Company Battle Lanes

The next phase of the exercise lasted six days and would see the troops tested in three gruelling Company-level 48-hour missions taking place simultaneously. Maj Tim Hearne, OC B (Suffolk) Company, was delighted to re-live his days as a Brecon instructor and took great pleasure in planning and delivering an exceptionally difficult Advance to Contact lane. Ensuring the advancing troops were subjected to a torrid time were a combination of the Suffolks, acting as the enemy in the defence, and some very unpleasant undergrowth that riddled the steep hill marking the axis of advance that came to be known as 'Mount Doom'. The battle lane proved a difficult problem to all – fighting uphill is never pleasant but to be greeted by a well-defended Main Defensive Area with multiple machine-gun nests at the summit is more than a little demoralising. Each company battled through to the end and, whilst physically and mentally exhausting, will undoubtedly have come away a better fighting force.

With little (read: no) rest, the companies moved onto the next 48-hour battle lane in the rotation and were presented an entirely different problem – Key Point Defence. Any commander who has deployed on a large-scale exercise knows the defensive phase is inevitable; usually this involves establishing a Main Defensive Area to hold ground whilst waves of attackers crash upon your hastily dug trenches. This was not the case on Ares Storm. Maj Phil Lenthall, OC D Coy, and his Company Sergeant Major WO2 Ben Page designed a lane that required commanders to capture and then defend some enemy Electronic Warfare equipment, and they had the freedom to choose how they did so. They could patrol aggressively to deter the enemy, or try to dig in and hold the ground, or remain mobile and reinforce against routes the enemy were using to attack. Attempting to infiltrate and re-take the lost equipment was an enemy force made up of the Viking Sniper Platoon. The companies were afforded a short period to begin their defence before the snipers moved in, degrading the morale and combat effectiveness of the defenders as they probed for weaknesses. The snipers responded to the effectiveness of the defence – if a

The Reconnaissance section on the HLS ready to be flown forward and establish a live feed on the target building.

company reacted badly to an attempted infiltration, the snipers were free to exploit the gap as much as possible. The snipers' efforts culminated in a massed attack, one final push to re-capture their lost equipment. The scenario proved testing for everyone, happily the Viking companies especially proved they had the battlefield discipline and offensive spirit that is vital for any defence to be successful.

The final company battle lane required the companies to plan and conduct a raid onto a building used by the enemy force as a command and control node, in the ruined village of Paramali. With a time constraint of 60mins in the village, the key to success was in correctly identifying the target building before striking hard and fast, destroying the node and avoiding getting drawn into a protracted fight through every building in the village. Each company was task organised with a section from the Reconnaissance Platoon who had over 24hrs to move into place, get eyes on and record the pattern of life to establish the correct target building. The old adage "time spent on recce is seldom wasted" proved once again to be absolutely true. Those who got soldiers on the ground early with eyes on the target, reporting back to Coy HQ, proved to be those most effective when it came to executing the raid.

The Battlegroup Attack

The end of the third 48-hr company battle lane marked the beginning of the final phase of Ares Storm – the deliberate Battlegroup Attack. With Battlegroup Headquarters (BG HQ) and the Signals Platoon having monitored and coordinated the companies during the battle lanes, it was time for the BG to form up in its entirety, rehabilitate after a gruelling six days and conduct battle prep for the final mission. The BG staff were tested, going through a full planning cycle to produce a plan to attack the company strength enemy who were now established in the village of Paramali.

The Reconnaissance and Sniper Platoons deployed after a very short period of rest, moving into position to defeat an enemy screening force (the Anti-Tank Platoon) whilst providing BG HQ with an understanding of the enemy strengths and locations. Forming-up points were marked, lines of departure were identified and an initial axis of attack was determined. With H-Hr set for first light, A (Norfolk) and C (Essex) Companies advanced over the difficult terrain to get into position to attack the village from North to South. Simultaneously, Corunna Company 2 YORKS and the Viking Machine Gun Platoon had moved to a vehicle drop off in the West and were to secure the enemy-infested high ground to the flank.

With the attack soon underway, the Vikings and Yorks soldiers once again proved their mettle, fighting in terrain that varied from rural scrubland and sheer rock face, to dilapidated village buildings. BG HQ tracked and coordinated the advance whilst the Commanding Officer had deployed with his Ops Officer on foot to command his troops. After a particularly spirited defence of the village by the B (Suffolk) Company soldiers playing as enemy the battle was eventually won, the Vikings had secured Paramali.

Victorious soldiers now dominated the centre of the village and were greeted by the outstanding Viking chefs who had arrived with a morale-raising breakfast, a reward for the troops' hard work. Shortly afterwards the Platoon, Company and Battalion photos were taken and After Action Reviews followed – hard training is only worthwhile if you learn from your mistakes after all. Despite the shattered faces, the benefit of this hard training was plain to see, a sense of camaraderie was pervasive, and the buzz of achievement had infected everyone. In the end the Battalion proved that exercising at scale in Cyprus is not only possible but should be the norm. The Vikings have retained their warfighting edge and once again remain ready to deploy at a moment's notice, should the call come.

Water Sports

CSgt Ross Silvey (OC Dhekelia Watersports Centre)

Back in January 2021, I received a phone call from the Commanding Officer to offer me the role of the water sports SNCO in Dhekelia's DWSC. My initial thoughts were, is this a real job, is he winding me up!

After an email from the RCMO I discovered that it was a real job which we had provide to ensure the DWSC was managed safely and that it provided a great welfare offer for our soldiers and their dependents. I said Yes and then my learning journey started and I am still learning 16 months later.

Over the next few months, we gathered a team together and got qualified as Paddleboard instructors, Powerboat drivers and which turned out to be the most challenging and expensive was some ski boat drivers and wakeboard instructors.

As all these courses are all civilian accredited and not available via the normal Military channels so we had to search around to find them. With support from Battalion, we soon found ourselves qualified and ready to go.

On arrival in Cyprus, we found a water sports centre that, although in a great location, was looking a bit tired and had some old and damaged equipment.

With funding support from the Battalion and the Station we sourced and purchased new paddleboards, wakeboards, tow ropes, towed inflatables and finally with some extra support from an Army central Welfare grant we purchased our new wake boat Valkyrie. We then set about brightening the place up.

We refurbished and rebranded the beach bar as the Turtle beach bar, with a design from a student from our local secondary school, King Richard's. We built new outdoor showers out of broken paddleboards and put some hippy signs up around the centre.

The team really got involved in their new job trying out new skills and passing these on to the soldiers and families from both the Battalion and the Station. Some of our highlights this year have been organising a number of sunrise paddleboarding sessions, setting up a youth & wives wakeboarding clubs, helping run an excellent Platinum jubilee beach event and raft race and many more events and activities.

Whilst conducting all of these there was one task that none of us ever

expected to be involved in, which was the hugely important task of helping with Turtle conservation. This involves caging turtle nests once they been dug and digging them up once they've hatched to confirm how many new turtles made it out. The sad part of the job has been dealing with dead turtles that wash up anywhere with the ESBA.

During our two summers so far, we've had 54 nests of which 4000 turtles made it to the waters of the Mediterranean ocean to start their lives. When you consider our beach is only 700m long this is pretty spectacular. A highlight of this for me was finding two live baby turtles in a nest and getting to watch them make their way into the sea.

We are now starting to prepare for the winter which will involve some more maintenance tasks and preparation to enjoy the spring and some of the Summer as we prepare to handover the centre to 1 Rifles when they arrive on island next summer. Hopefully they will be impressed when they arrive next summer. **Mahalo**

Exercise Viking Landing

Battlefield Study – Crete May 22

Maj Phil Lenthal

Syndicate discussions at Hill 107.

In May 2022 26 Royal Anglians from Cpl to Commanding Officer, supported by 2 academics, travelled to Chania, Crete. There they conducted a Battlefield Study of Operation MERCURY, the German airborne invasion of Crete. Establishing ourselves in the beautiful harbour town of Chania, the team spent just under a week exploring elements of the first stages of the Battle for Crete.

Splitting into three syndicates of varying rank and experience, sites such as Maleme Airfield, Tavronitis Bridge and Hill 107 were explored and discussed in their historical context. As routine with Battlefield Studies, each syndicate focussed on answering questions relevant to the battlefield covering, leadership, command and control as well as tactics.

The setting and relaxed atmosphere not only provided excellent conditions to learn the World War 2 history of the island but also allowed us, with each site and question set, to ask each question again but answer in the modern-day context. Consideration was given to how we may use modern communications and guided munitions in similar scenarios or how the use of friendly and enemy drones may affect our actions. In addition, the team visited Souda Bay Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery and paid their respects to fallen British and Allied servicemen and women who lost their lives in the campaign.

Whether it was the warm weather, picturesque location or the unrushed tempo of this particular battlefield study it allowed all involved to grow their historical knowledge of the campaign. More importantly the team were able to pause and have the chance to genuinely think about their craft as an Infantry Battalion. It was clear all involved came away from the experience having developed further insights into contemporary warfare.

Act of Remembrance at Souda Bay.

Harbour Sunset, Chania.

Operation Windsong

Members of the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment have been busy at work helping an experienced shipwright restore an over 100 Year Old yacht. The yacht, Windsong, participated in OP Dynamo departing from Ramsgate and ventured 8 times to Dunkirk ferrying our troops home.

Now the soldiers of the Regiment are working hard to restore her and bring her home. The yacht is currently stored dry in a marina in Cyprus and is being fully refurbished before her sail back to her original birth of Littlehampton. The Soldiers have had a steep learning curve with tuition from the shipwright in charge of restoring her and have been very keen to get stuck in and get her home.

The team of volunteers started off by learning the basics. To some of the volunteers they had never even been close to a yacht before let alone inside one or trying to fix it for that matter. Learning new words and terminology was the first step in familiarisation. Next was learning the tools. Some of the volunteers have some experience prior to joining the Army in woodwork, building or mechanics. Some have had experience working in these fields or collage experience however, most have no experience whatsoever. It's very interesting to see that the volunteers with little to no experience have taken to the task extremely well. Those without previous relatable experience to draw upon have really had to invest physically and mentally into learning and performing in a way which appears so foreign to their traditional job. For this reason, the need to learn, they have developed into very valued assets to the voluntary team that is working with the main shipwright in charge of the project.

Royal Anglian Op Windsong Team

Now that the team have been well and truly introduced to their new jobs and roles, they are now being assigned tasks in which they need to complete. Pte Hay has been given the job of designing and overseeing the manufacture of a new rudder for the Yacht. The rudder he is designing is a teardrop style rudder. He has currently drawn out his design with assistance from

Cpl Matthew Rogan removing old flooring.

Pte Cameron Hay designing a new rudder.

the resident Shipwright, he is using a technique of a graph system with plotted points to make sure that each side and perspective of the rudder he is designing is completely symmetrical. Once he has perfected his design, he will then liaise with a CNC Machinist that will then directly cut and make the new rudder. Pte Hay is extremely excited about his project as he is the one that will see the project through from start to finish also to the point where he will attach the new rudder to the Yacht itself. The other volunteers have been fast at work with their tasks also. Tasks include checking the pre-existing woodwork condition and making an assessment whether it needs replacing. Some wood is required to be taken out and a complete new piece formed and made, however some of its parts require a refurbishment to insure they are strong and good for the years to come. The more of the original wood that can be kept in the Yacht the better!

All in all, this fantastic opportunity for the Soldiers has been greatly appreciated and grasped by those volunteering. The essence and experience they will take away from this project is invaluable and something that the Soldiers will remember for the rest of their life's. Each volunteer is a massive part of ensuring Windsong returns to the ocean she belongs in and thrives. The 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment is very pleased to play a valuable role in restoring Windsong, and also aiding the Yachts owner, The Wellness Over Waves Foundation. The Battalion helping restore Windsong is having a direct role in aiding the Foundation and their mission, to arm those less advantaged with self-belief, self-worth, and self-confidence so that they can get a second chance that will set them on a more successful course through the uncharted waters of their life.

Battalion Sport

Football

Well that was it then. The only team capable of stopping us winning the title had just been beaten. This meant that with one game remaining the RAF couldn't catch us and we were champions. It felt like an anti-climax, especially seeing as our last game was against the RAF at home – which would have actually been our first home game, but more on that later.

So as it stood we were champions and all we needed now was an awards ceremony and the trophy. Except there was no awards ceremony and no cup. There were however 16 medals in an RAF MT office in Akrotiri. Brilliant – the RAF could bring them up when they play us next week. Except they couldn't, as they had now forfeited the game knowing they couldn't win the league they had won the last 5 times out of 7. Grapes and sour spring to mind.

As for the medals, well a quick run to RAF Akrotiri sorted that. I actually needed 30 medals, so once the RAO had approved it, I had the 30 medals. A quick trip to the Forces Store for some beer, a heads up to the wife and some deck chairs meant we were good to go for the awards ceremony in my back garden.

As the squad arrived the inevitable recap of the season began, and I was reminded of the chaos we had faced nearly every game. There was the time we arrived at an away match only to discover the pitch hadn't been cut or

Vikings team photo before match against the Cypriot Army.

lined. We then hounded the groundsman to sort it out even chipping in ourselves with a bit of grass cutting. This wasn't the only time this happened; at another away match we spent a good hour shovelling water off and sand onto the pitch as there had been a sprinkler malfunction! My abiding memory is, however, on one occasion watching my squad on their hands and knees pulling up grass of an unevenly cut pitch. The grass was so long in some areas you would have struggled to see a ball in it. But with this, and the other pitch related drama, the boys got it sorted. The reason? We wanted to play. We have created such an ethos in the Vikings team that we would play day or night, weekday or weekend at your place or ours. We didn't care. This ultimately showed in our results; we won every game. No matter what the problem, the Vikings Football team

Vikings prepare for their next match at the Aki 7s.

CSgt Ferguson briefs his players at half time versus 5 Regt AAC.

CSgt Ferguson briefs the players on next part of the session.

LCpl Celise (Viking) holds off LCpl Ward (5AAC) to win a header.

delivered, showing an infantry fighting spirit and a firm determination to get the job done. This was made even more remarkable due to the fact that we did not play a single game at home – when opposition told us they couldn't get a squad to travel to us, we solved it by travelling to them.

We didn't know this would become the norm, but we never let it bother us. We faced location, pitch and squad availability problems, and yet every time the ref blew for kick off, we attacked each game with everything we had from minute 1 to minute 90.

As the last couple of players left my back garden in the early hours, I though back to the season and all the obstacles we had faced, and it made the success so much sweeter. We had just won a league that is usually dominated by the RAF. Furthermore, the Vikings haven't won any 11 a side silverware in nearly 20 years so we had really done something quite spectacular.

As we now prepare for the new season, we look to defend our title. There are new teams in the league and this year there will be a cup competition. In training we must evolve and improve to keep pace. Much football to be had and I very much look forward to it.

LCpl Hawes prepares to defend the goal vs 5 Regt AAC.

Boxing

Capt Holmes, Boxing Officer

LCpl Norman and Cpl Dyer, head coaches

You don't play boxing. You really don't.
You play golf, you play tennis, but you don't play boxing…
SR Leonard

I assumed duties as the 1 R ANGLIAN Boxing Officer in April 2020 it was an honour, boxing has always been close to my heart and is a fundamental skill and sport within an Infantry Bn that brings the best out in soldiers in a controlled environment in my opinion. I have been and still are closely supported by a fantastic proactive team LCpl Norman Head coach and new HC Cpl J Dyer and assistant coach LCpl Barley.

All have dedicated years to the Bn team and continue to lead the way. I will also mention at this point WO2 Kerin (Bn Boxing WO) who again has been a rock in busy times always on hand to lend his experience and muscle when needed.

1 R ANGLIAN are now the Army Individual Novice Team Champions 2022 - down to the contribution of all involved, an epic achievement.

At the turn of the year all the behind-the-scenes work undertaken by the Vikings Boxing team and coaches, started to come to realisation in the form of the inter-company boxing competition. An event that brought the whole Battalion together, to see an epic performance that I will look back on with fond memories in years to come.

Training started for this in January 2022. All Companies put together the strongest and toughest teams alongside supporting operational commitments. This was a challenging task for all the soldiers in each of the Companies not just the boxers. everyone had to step up their game to support the event.

After a gruelling 6 weeks of intense training the Battalion was set to hold its first inter-company finals since October 2019. Even though it was during a cool period in the Cyprus the climate was still testing for all the boxers involved, dieting and training over 8 hours daily. Until you have stepped in the squared circle its hard to appreciate how much dedication and devotion this takes from a soldier.

On the night A "Norfolk" Company reigned supreme, winning the overall

Below from left: Pte Harley Mead fighting against 1 LANCS; Pte Indy Cuthburt fighting against 1 LANCS; Pte Jordan Mayhew fighting against 1 LANCS - Pte Mayhew won best boxer on the night; LCpl Perry on the attack 1LANCS VS 1 R ANGLIAN.

1 LANCS VS 1 R ANGLIAN with Lt Col Goodey MBE.

night in dominating fashion by 6 clear victories and taking the title away from previous champions C "Essex" Company. Despite the dominating result this was a hard-fought battle against some courageous opposition. The standard was extremely high. I had numerous comments from the Judges on the boxing standard displayed over the 3 days of boxing.

Off the back of the successful inter-company boxing event the Commanding Officer commissioned the Boxing Officer and Head Coach (LCpl A Norman) to create a team to contend and compete at the Army Individual & Inter – Unit Boxing Championships. Having the support of the Commanding Officer and RSM really drove us to success.

The first full time - Vikings Battalion Boxing team formed up on 18th April 2022 for the first time in 12 years. With 6 weeks before this competition and an Army of Vikings who's only experience

in boxing was a 6-week inter-company boxing competition our work was cut out for us. All coaches utilised every bit of experience and knowledge in the build up to the competition to bring the boxers up to scratch in what we knew would be an extremely challenging competition.

At the Army Individual & Inter – Unit Boxing Championships the team performed exceptionally. In true Viking form all boxers fought until the final bell. Those who didn't win went out on their shield and should be truly proud of themselves. We are all immensely proud of them regardless of the outcome. At the end of the competition the Vikings finished up with 1 quarter finalist, 7 semi-finalists, 2 runners-up, & 1 boxer being selected for the Army Development Boxing Team. All in all, The Vikings Boxing Team manage to best every other team and came away as the Army Individual Novice Team Champions 2022! A very impressive feat for the inexperience of the team.

After a period of summer leave to

Pte Mayhew best boxer 1 LANCS vs 1 R ANGLIAN.

1 R ANGLIAN Army Individual Inter-unit Champions 2022.

allow the boxers to heal up and refresh, the team is currently training and competing amongst the civilian circuit to better prepare themselves for the Inter Unit Team Boxing Championships 2023 (formerly Major – Units). This has so far included competing on shows such as Woking Boxing Club, Brighton & Hove ABC among others. The team have also travelled to and trained with boxers at the famed 5 Star Boxing Team (Romford) & Team HodBox (Hoddesdon)

Since the summer leave period, assistant coaches Cpl Dyer & LCpl Barley have also successfully passed their England Boxing Level 2 Coaching Course under the tutelage of Mick Gannon BEM.

The Vikings Boxing Team will also be entering competitors in to the first ever Infantry Invitational Box Cup in November 2022.

Pte Mead in training.

1 R ANGLIAN Infantry Boxing Cup team.

Rugby

Vikings team in Dubai.

The Viking rugby team have continued to go from strength to strength this season. Remaining undefeated in 21 matches the Vikings have enjoyed an unparalleled level of success in both the 15s and 7s formats of the game.

By the very nature of life in Cyprus the club has called upon over 50 soldiers to pull on the Viking shirt across the course of the year with soldiers from all five companies representing the Battalion.

Having defeated several local Cypriot sides and touring teams in friendly competitive fixtures as well as at multiple Cyprus 7s tournaments, the Vikings took on the other military units such as 2 YORKS & RAF Akrotiri at the CBF cup. This tournament saw the Viking players shine as they defeated all before them winning the torunament, thus playing their role in what proved to be a very successful day for all the Viking sports teams that day.

The teams' success has been reflected in individual successes too. Pte Tulele has been selected for both the Army 7s team and the Combined services 7s team. Meanwhile Pte Cama was selected to represent the Infantry team. Moreover, illustrative of the depth of the Viking squad, seven members

Team huddle before kick-off at CBF Cup.

Vikings team bonding in Cyprus.

were selected to represent the Army in Cyprus team in their interservice victory over the RAF in Cyprus. This is down not only to the individual commitment but so to the dedication of the coaching staff as Cpl Thompson was names this year's Coach of the year.

The pinnacle of the Viking rugby season lay in December as the 7s team competed at the Dubai 7s. The largest &s tournament in the world this tournament saw teams from across the world compete. With players returning from Operations and other commitments, the team met in Dhekelia for week's training camp. Throughout this week players trained hard on skills and fitness as well team cohesion as the squad was bolstered by two Poachers. The additions of these players meant the Vikings could field up to five players with Army representative honours.

Having arrived in Dubai the squad took a day to enjoy the city taking in sights such as the Burj Khalifa before getting down to business with one final practice session. Unsure of their potential the first game began slowly but as the team's confidence grew, so the trys started to flow and by lunch on day 2, the Vikings had topped their pool unbeaten, outscoring their opponents by 112 – 19. Into the knock - out stages as the Vikings looked uneasy at half time drawing with Wyvern Harlequins 12-12. Soon however four unanswered tries in the second half steadied the ship and set up a semi-final against fellow Army team, 2 SCOTS.

With the starting whistle drowned out by the sound of bagpipes both army teams were confident however the Vikings were quickly in their stride recording an emphatic 49-7 victory with all eyes on the cup final. Standing in the Vikings way were the Wild Dogs from South Africa, who like the Vikings were thus far undefeated. If the players were daunted by the occasion, they did not show it and exploded out of the blocks with a flurry of first half tries. This came as too much of a shock to the opposition and the Vikings won the Cup Final convincingly 36-12.

All eyes now turn to 2023 as the Vikings look to build upon their past successes in fixtures against the RAF and island newcomers 1 LANCS as well as entry into ARU competitions upon the Battalion's return to the UK.

Vikings lifting the trophy.

From the CO

Having taken over from Will Meddings at the end of March It gives me great delight to write my first Castle article as the Commanding Officer. There is little doubt that we live through extraordinary and challenging times. Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24th February has, in CGS's words, placed a 'shadow of major state on state land war in Europe [and] a clear threat to the principles of sovereignty and democracy'. With the Poachers Battlegroup held at high readiness we are very conscious that every time we train may be the last opportunity we have.

In February, as the Battalion was preparing for its reformation parade through Lincoln, B Company was training to be able to deploy, if required, to Eastern Europe. In March, C Company out loaded its equipment to Norway with less than seven days' notice. Once deployed they spent time training in the Artic Circle before exercising alongside Brigade North of the Norwegian Army, rehearsing the defence of the northern part of the country. Concurrently, the rest of the Battalion completed various sub-unit exercises to meet the start standard for Exercise WESSEX STORM (Ex WS), including B Company assaulting a block of flats in Leeds. Post-summer leave the Battlegroup deployed to Exercise WS for 6 weeks in the field, achieving combat ready validation at the earliest opportunity. Since recovery from Ex WS our focused has switched to supporting Brigadier Guy Foden and Headquarters 7 Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team 'The Desert Rats' as they validated on Ex CERBERUS in Germany.

Despite the pace of life, we managed to carve out the time for the important things in life. The start of this year saw Army sport return in force post-COVID and the Poachers have achieved some notable successes. The Brazilian Jujitsu team won a range of medals in the Army Championships; the football team won the league, the athletics team came fourth in the Army, and the rugby team got to the finals of the Army sevens competition. In May we held the first Lewaicei and Morris Memorial Rugby Match since COVID, unfortunately the Poachers were narrowly defeated in a bruising and hard fought match. In July we celebrated Talavera Day, the RSM oversaw a Parade where the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland presented Platinum Jubilee Medals. This was followed by a families' day delivered by the Welfare Team and a festival of sport delivered by SSgt Hull and his team. Finally, Poacher Boxing returns to the unit in December, the inter-company finals will be fought on 8 December, we hope many of you manage to watch the live steam on social media.

Next year is set to be equally challenging, in January we depart on a four-month deployment to Oman. On recovery our focus switches back to Eastern Europe with another deployment to Germany as part of a NATO very high readiness force validation. I hope that the Battalion's articles that follow will give you a sense of both pace of life, the breadth of activity, the demanding training progression the we have completed and the success the Poachers have achieved.

Lt Col Ben Hawes MBE.

From the RSM

WO1 (RSM) Gavin Williams

This is my first ever Castle Magazine article I have ever had the privilege to write. To do so as The Regimental Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment 'The Poachers' it is a true honour.

After having my third handover (CSM, RQMS and RSM) from now Capt John Rawdon in late April. My time as RSM has been busy to say the least. The Battalion has been extremely busy getting ready for Ex WESSEX STORM and the opportunity to demonstrate to 7 Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team (LMBCT) and the wider Army that the Poachers Battlegroup is the Unit of choice and is ready to deploy.

As a Battalion, we deployed an Infantry Field Firing Camp (IFFC) to Castlemartin range complex in Pembrokeshire, Wales to prepare for what lay ahead. Whilst there, we conducted a full live firing progression, up to and including Platoon Attack by Night, integrated with the Foxhound and Jackal platforms. Whilst the Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT) and mounted Live Fire Exercises (LFXs) were the core activity, it was merely the beginning. Adventure Training in the form of Coasteering, team building exercises and unarmed combat lessons in the way of Krav Maga also took place. The Battalion Headquarters also began preparations for Combined Arms Staff Trainer (CAST) validation.

We have also introduced our culture change workshop programme. Working closely with external agencies to ensure that we do the best for our soldiers. This is now making headway within the wider Brigade, reflecting on how we interact within our teams and ensure everyone we work with feels valued, and a member of the Poacher family.

Closely following our return, the Battalion celebrated Talavera Day with a parade in Kendrew Barracks; Platinum Jubilee medals were also presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, The Northamptonshire County Colonel,

former Cottesmore Station Commander and former CSM C Company, Mr Richard York. Following the parade Cottesmore Station came together for a large scale families day; with sports, fair ground rides and a barbecue which continued into the night.

Ex WESSEX STORM was a fantastic demonstration of capability and talent by all ranks and Arms of the Poachers Battlegroup. The determination and stoicism they displayed were fundamental to the excellent result the Battlegroup received, validating at the earliest opportunity, and having a good time whilst doing it.

In true Poacher fashion we brought back sporting events that due to operational commitments and COVID, haven't been able to take place. As a Battalion all other usual sports have been going great! Footballers winning the league, athletics tournaments dominated and the rugby team coming runners up in the Army 7's. With new sports like Brazilian Ju Jitsu and Judo making its way into the headlines with many competitions won. Selection for the European Championships in 2023 awaits.

Boxing has been missed within the Battalion. An Inter Company Boxing event before Christmas leave was exactly what the Battalion needed to re focus in preparation for what lies ahead in 2023. All fighters displayed courage, determination, and the will to win. B 'Leicestershire' Company were crowned inter Company champions and talent has been identified within the Battalion to take forward to the Army Individual competition in 2023.

With the year coming to a close, our attention now switches to our deployment early next year in Oman and then to Europe in May and June. From there our position as the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force Land (VJTFL) will see our troops established as the primary warfighting, ready Battlegroup aligned to 7 LMBCT and 3 (UK) Division. With so much instability in the region our future is far from set.

Hopefully our next articles will be as full and interesting as 2022 has been.

A (Lincolnshire) Company

In March 2022, A (Lincolnshire) Company got back to basics on Ex AGGRESSIVE POACHER, a dismounted and mounted live fire package at Castlemartin ranges.

Building on the skills developed on Op NEWCOMBE in Mali, the exercise was an opportunity to use the Foxhound in a more offensive role in addition to sharpening the low-level soldiering skills required of a Light Mechanised Infantry Company. It was the start of a real period of learning as the Company began to get to grips with the fantastic capability that is the Foxhound Protected Mobility vehicle.

In June, a welcome influx from ITC saw a relatively junior company deploy to Thetford on Ex THUNDERING IMP in preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM. Over the course of two weeks the Company worked hard on learning to operate along three basic tenets of tempo, aggression and firepower whilst using the Foxhounds and when dismounted. Starting with dismounted platoon attacks, the Foxhounds were then introduced and more complex actions such as mounted fighting patrols, Company area ambushes, and deliberate

OC A 'Lincolnshire' Company Will Hoy (right) and OC 1 Platoon Connor Mitchell showing off their Talavera Day silverware.

2 Platoon under Lt Dave Butler breach into a building during a Company Fighting Patrol on Ex THUNDERING IMP.

attacks, saw the Company really develop their Light Mechanised skill set whilst being supported by the Battalion Machine Gun Platoon and snipers. A really enjoyable two weeks which saw new members of the Company, from the OC down, work together as a team for the first time in sunny Thetford!

During the heatwave in July, A Company went underground to the cool tunnels of Corsham Mines. The subsurface tunnels, offices, bunkers of this Cold War complex provided unique tactical challenges to which the A Company Section Commanders rose to predictably well. The use of simmunition certainly made us all pay more attention to our low level urban skills! After a hard few weeks training the Company rounded it off with a BBQ at ENDEX, ready for some well deserved summer leave. Before being stood down the Battalion celebrated Talavera Day, which saw A Company winning the inter-company sports competition with victory in the tug of war competition

A Coy Foxhounds on Ex WESSEX STORM.

A Foxhound provides overwatch whilst Sgt Oliver Schurch coordinates a 2 Platoon REORG following a fighting patrol on Ex THUNDERING IMP.

being the highlight!

Ex WESSEX STORM in September was unique to previous iterations as the Battle Group deployed from Kendrew Barracks directly into the field and operated off the Foxhounds for over thirty days. The exercise provided the Company with a fantastic opportunity to test the LMI tactics that been developed over the previous 6 weeks. Whilst there were a number of lessons learned, it became apparent that LMI is a concept that genuinely generates tempo at Company and Battle Group level. Using the Foxhounds, it is possible to operate quicker than a dismounted enemy can react, especially when paired with the outstanding new Dismounted Situational Awareness equipment which allowed the Company to plan on the move and deliver orders via data packages sent to commander's drop-down screens. Ex WESSEX STORM provided A Company the perfect opportunity to develop and test new concepts and develop as a team.

While some of A Coy were testing their resilience in the Bavarian Mountains, a composite 3 Platoon under Lt Stratton were being testing supporting Ex GRIM WARRIOR, the final exercise for Platoon Commanders Division. Having moved from the hills of Brecon to the Woodblocks of Thetford, countless Platoon Attacks, Advance to Contacts, Ambushes and CBRN serials put the new Platoon Commanders and the Poachers supporting through their paces. The directing staff from the Infantry Battle School were thoroughly impressed with the performance of the Poachers on Ex GRIM WARRIOR upholding the A (Lincolnshire) Coy mantra of Speed, Aggression and Firepower.

CSM A 'Lincolnshire' Company WO2 Jock Cousin organising the troops on ENDEX.

It has been a busy and enjoyable few months where the Company has learnt a great deal and we look forward to testing ourselves further in Oman in the new year.

Sgt Dean Watts commanding 1 Platoon mounted Fire Support during a Company Raid on Ex THUNDERING IMP.

Exercise IMPS LODGE
Bavaria Adventure Training

Capt Rory Smith

On a cold, frosty mid-November morning 24 soldiers from A (Lincolnshire) Company boarded a coach to cross the Channel and drive through the Continent to Bavaria.

After over 20 hours of travel, they arrive in the small German village of Wertach, where a converted 70's hotel now serves as an Army Adventurous Training Lodge.

The soldiers were broken down into three groups each enjoying either kayaking, mountain biking or rock climbing. After a day of rest to recover from the epic coach journey, they drew stores and headed out to Bavarian Mountains to start learning their new skills.

The kayakers spent the first two days on a still lake, focusing on the correct paddling techniques, manoeuvring the kayaks and, capsize drills which proved

particularly useful to Lt Mitchell. As their skill set and confidence grew, they moved onto moving water. Here they focused on how to "eddy out", breaching the wake line created by an obstacle in the river to safely wait in the still water behind it. Some of the soldiers were so adept to this technique that by day two on the river they were able to surf their kayaks on the cresting waves of the eddies. The final two days of kayaking saw the group brace the length of the river, negotiating rapids and learning correct rescue techniques for a swimmer who had abandoned boat.

Meanwhile on dry land, the Mountain Bikers started with low level bike skills, focusing initially on parts of the bike, equipment and maintenance followed by a ride around the local area to the lodge. Testing their fitness and resilience increasingly longer and complex rides awaited them, taking them above the snow line and back down trails through the Bavaria woods. For a more playful day, the bikers went to the bike park, working on jumps, and obstacles. Successfully gaining their mountain bike foundation qualification.

The climbers were unfortunately restricted to the walls due to the weather with a combination of snow, rain and wind which eventually saw an end to all three groups activities, despite arriving in Germany to weather which would have been the height of summer. With this free time the soldiers had to opportunity to experience a German Sauna, complete with its own cold plunge lake fed by the mountains and rivers they had been previously training on. They also took time to reflect on the lessons of leadership and resilience they had learnt during AT at Dachau Concentration camp, before heading to Munich to explore the famous Germany Christmas Markets.

Jungle Warfare Instructor's Course the Jungle Warfare Division, Brunei

In October Lt Dave Butler from A Coy 2 R ANGLIAN flew to Brunei to complete the 10-week Jungle Warfare Instructors Course. The Jungle Warfare School was first formed in 1948 in Malaya, this has since been moved to Brunei and is run by the Jungle warfare Division, a branch of the Infantry Battle School.

The prestigious school is steeped in history dating back to the Second World War and provides soldiers with a unique opportunity to qualify as Jungle Warfare Instructors.

The Last Commandant of the Jungle Warfare Division in Malaya, Lieutenant Colonel JP Cross, summarised operating in the jungle in this quote: "It is a litany of sounds and a dictionary of sights. It is a state of permanent semi-twilight, gloomy even when sunshine does dapple the jungle floor with shadows, dark rivers and narrow valleys at noon. It is a state of permanent dampness, rain or sweat, of stifling, windless heat, of dirty clothes, of smelly bodies, of heavy

Lt Dave Brown finishes as the top student of the course.

Long patrols through the heat of the day become the normality of the jungle.

The terrain is as aggressive as those who climb it.

Learning new skills in austere conditions.

loads, of cocked and loaded weapons, of tensed reflexes, of inaccurate maps, of constant vigilance, of tired limbs, of sore shoulders where equipment straps have bitten in, of a chafed crutch. At night it is darkness, with rotting leaves shining eerily. It is a state of mind that has to be stronger than mere physical robustness. It is a challenge. It can never be taken for granted." Soldiering in this environment is not easy and is the true test of how robust a soldier is.

Throughout the course the students spend a total of 33 days underneath the canopy honing their jungle skills; from learning how to survive in the jungle to conducting complex camp attacks. The first part of the course teaches soldiers how to live in the hot and humid conditions with new types of flora and fauna to study as well as myriad snakes and insects to consider. After experiencing the ground, the troops were taught how to survive in the tough terrain including learning how to collect water and set up various traps for food. Lastly, they were taught how to sustain themselves by making shelters and maintaining the human body in such damp conditions.

During the next phase of training the students moved from survival to tactics. Operating in small teams, the troops used the foliage to remain unseen when conducting operations such as ambushes and reconnaissance patrols. This phase is the most arduous, with loads often surpassing over 50kg, carrying enough equipment to sustain themselves for extended periods of time. The only resupply being from helicopter whilst operating at reach in the deep jungle.

Light scales where possible is essential to performing well in the jungle.

Due to the dense terrain, in conjunction to the physical toll there is a mental toll anticipating the enemy could be 30m away without you knowing or hearing them. This requires the troops to always be alert and in tune with the environment, students must learn listen to the atmosphere and decipher which noises were natural and which were not.

The course also includes planning jungle exercises and delivering jungle lessons on one of the many skills the students have been taught. Like any arduous course, the final test comes in the form of a final exercise, deploying deep into the jungle via helicopter. Tactically, this is the only way to move large distances on top of the canopy and is the only way to project influence at reach. As well as being constantly assessed throughout the course, the final exercise was the culmination of all their learning where students were tested in complex operations, soldiering ability and robustness.

After a gruelling course Lt Butler was awarded top student, the first Royal Anglian to achieve this accolade. The Jungle Warfare Instructors Course is an outstanding opportunity for all those that wish to test themselves and develop their tactical ability and leadership skills under challenging circumstances.

B (Leicestershire) Company

B Company's 2022 has been one of new experiences and unique opportunities. The year began deployed on a tasking as part of the United Kingdom Standby Battalion in support of the NHS across the south of England, with most of the Company deployed into various hospitals over the Christmas leave period.

2nd January 2022 marked the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Princeton, a Revolutionary War battle honour of the 17th of Foot. The battle was re-enacted by a professional group in the US, and Lt Dave Brown attended the event as a UK representative to mark the occasion and found a good opportunity to engage with once adversarial, but now strongly allied, American military units.

February saw the handover of Company Second in Command from Capt Alexander Langley to Lt Matt Wilman, during which B Company were stood up to high readiness to respond to events in Eastern Europe at very short notice. As the need for an urgent deployment decreased, the Company

Pte Daniel Cheek scanning his arcs on Ex HIGHRISE POACHER.

Dismounted Situational Awareness being used for Company Orders Group on Ex TIGERS CLAW.

2nd Battalion

held a series of training events to ensure readiness was maintained. Exercise AGGRESSIVE POACHER 1 saw B Company conduct live fire tactical training in Warcop over two weeks, culminating in mounted platoon attacks and finishing with a surprise bayonet lane.

Meanwhile, a small number of soldiers from the Company, including Sgt Tom Stafford and Cpl Chris Gouws, deployed to Nigeria on a Short-Term Training Team. They spent two months working with partner forces to better train them for coping with the internal security threat across their country, particularly with the ongoing conflict in the north.

Exercise AGGRESSIVE POACHER 3, a Battalion battle camp, took place in Castlemartin across April and May. After completing our own live fire training progression earlier in the year, B Company were tasked with planning and delivering the live fire training progression for the rest of the Battalion. The whole Company contributed to running some complex and challenging live training that tested every soldier in the Battalion.

This was also the first time the whole battalion had been together in the same place for nearly two years. May also saw

Sgt Tom Stafford using Dismounted Situational Awareness Suite on Ex HIGHRISE POACHER.

Cpl James Hazelwood preparing to clear a position on Ex AGGRESSIVE POACHER 1.

B 'Leicestershire' Company Foxhound on Ex WESSEX STORM.

2nd Battalion

Maj Jamie Powell hand over command of the Company to Maj Simon Cox.

Early June saw another key personality change, saying goodbye to WO2 CSM Luke Bobsin and welcoming WO2 Alex Asbridge as Company Sergeant Major. WO2 Asbridge's first day in the seat saw the Company deploy to Salisbury Plain for a three-week exercise. Exercise TIGERS CLAW was B Company's validation exercise, but also served as a trial for some new kit.

Dismounted Situational Awareness is a programme designed to bring modern technology to the infantry soldier, providing them with a mobile phone they wear on their body armour giving them a live feed of other soldiers' positions, mobile mapping and satellite imagery, and a new radio that drastically reduces the physical burden on the soldier.

This was the first time that a Light Mechanised Infantry Unit has used this technology, and it provided evidence of how cutting-edge military technology can make the infantry soldier more effective, in an environment that is only getting more challenging.

Ex HIGHRISE POACHER in July provided yet another unique experience for the soldiers of B Company, as they spent two days in the heart of Leeds City Centre conducting urban training. Jumping at the opportunity to train in a completely unique training environment, B Company inserted through the night in civilian vehicles and sub-surface tunnel system to operate in a derelict tower block. Assisted by the engineers, medics and Leeds Fire Service, soldiers got the chance to break in through real doors and locks, smash their way through walls to gain entry between rooms and use ladders to break directly into third floor flats.

During some very well-deserved summer leave for B Company, the Company 2IC, Matt Wilman, deployed to South Korea as a UK augmentee to the United Nations Command, looking at planning against the threat of aggression on the Korean Peninsula. Summer leave finished, and the Company had a couple of hectic weeks building up to the deployment on Exercise WESSEX STORM. Five weeks living in the field and operating at a very high tempo was always going to be an arduous challenge, but something every soldier stepped up to, and contributed to the Battlegroup's success on the exercise.

The build up to Christmas this year has seen a welcome change in focus, as soldiers take part in a range of activities including kayaking and skydiving and training for the Inter-Company boxing competition. 2023 already looks to be a busy but exiting year with deployments to Oman and Germany on the horizon, before taking over a key NATO high readiness commitment.

B 'Leicestershire' Company on Ex TIGERS CLAW.

B Company soldiers conducting CASEVAC on Ex AGGRESSIVE POACHER 1.

Exercise HIGHRISE POACHER

Royal Anglian Regiment hone urban operation skills in Leeds flats

B Company with the Fire Service who supported the exercise.

A block of flats in Leeds had to be cleared of enemy forces by soldiers from the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The 10-storey building that is scheduled for demolition in the coming months, was being used by the soldiers of 'B' Company to develop their urban fighting skills on Exercise 'Highrise Poacher'.

Over half of the world's population live in urban areas so it is vital the soldiers are trained to react to situations in this environment.

The exercise saw the soldiers test close-quarter combat tactics and techniques as they practised entering and methodically clearing the flats stairway by stairway and room by room to quickly pin down the 'enemy' played by 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment

Officer Commanding 'B' Company, Major Simon Cox, said: "This training enables our soldiers to develop their expertise on how to clear and fortify a building. It also tested their ability to communicate with each other and

LCpl Sheldon makes some space to train.

B Company receiving the exercise safety brief.

CPERS drills being rehearsed against the enemy grouping.

understand where their teams were located to avoid becoming simulated casualties themselves."

"We would normally train on training areas such as Stanford Training Area in Norfolk or Salisbury Plain, both of which have empty villages we can use, but to be given consent by the business owners to train in a unique setting such as this is invaluable. It exposes our soldiers to more realistic, varied and complex environments.

"It was both physically and mentally challenging. There is a lot the soldiers have to consider when entering a high-rise building such as the one used in the exercise. For example, has the enemy placed any obstacles inside, is it heavily defended and are there any innocent civilians alongside the enemy forces meaning we may have to restrict the use of firepower."

The exercise marks the latest stage of a busy summer period for the Poachers which has included Infantry Field Firing Camp in Castlemartin in Wales and also our collective training validation as a Company within a Battalion context. This has seen us operate as an independent Sub Unit. The future is looking promising with Battlegroup validation to follow later in the year and then the opportunity to exercise in Oman early next year prior to operations and readiness in Europe

A soldier provides mutual support across the face of the building.

Basics first, soldiers rehearse clearance drills.

C (Northamptonshire) Company

As we approach the Remembrance period, made more poignant given the shadow of ongoing war in Europe, C (Northamptonshire) Company reflect on a challenging yet rewarding year. A year characterised by significant change, operational commitment, and readiness.

In line with Army orders, following the Integrated Review (IR), C Company have now returned to their Rifle Company role, a familiar heritage. Following two years as the Battalion's Rear Operations Group, providing home base stability as our sister Company's deployed to Mali and Poland, this change has been seismic, but very welcome. 2022 began with Mortar and Machine Gun Cadres and ended with a Company attack against a dug-in PWRR unit holding Sidbury Hill on Ex WESSEX STORM. Sandwiched between the two C Company deployed to the Arctic Circle and sought to reconnect with our local communities' post Covid-19, in Leicester and Northampton.

Having qualified over 50 troops in Machine Gunning and Mortar Operating in January 2022, C Company re-rolled. The change was met with excitement as we benefitted from Brigadier Foden's decision to move to our IR ORBAT without delay. This provided little time for reflection, as just 23 days later we deployed to the High North. In typical Royal Anglian fashion, our transition from Fire Support to Rifle Company lacked ceremony but was steeped in humility, careful consideration of our people and an immediate opportunity to prove ourselves in Norway.

In short, following Putin's invasion of Ukraine, C Company deployed under the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) as part of Op CABRIT's surge into Eastern Europe. As the lead for the JEF, the UK has committed to doing more in the high north. Deploying C Company demonstrated UK resolve to reassure JEF partners while demonstrating Britain's ability to project quickly. Joining Ex THUNDERBOLT also demonstrates the British Army doing more in the region and represents the infantry's return to the Arctic Circle.

Our training in Norway was exceptional. Training estate and resources were second to none. The Arctic environment cannot be replicated anywhere else; temperatures ranged from -12c to 19c. The region tested

C 'Northamptonshire' Coy's Leaguer on WESSEX STORM.

our people, our equipment, and our tactics to the limit. The experience was invaluable, both professionally and personally. The most important objective though was integration with our Norwegian counterparts. From our arrival in country, we conducted significant integration - cold weather training, survival skills, joint offensive operations, and complex live fire events. The experience was fantastic, but critically it demonstrates the strengths of JEF partners operating together. We left having built stronger relations with a key partner at a difficult time in Europe. Hopefully our experience serves to strengthen our links and demonstrates our combined capabilities.

Norway proved perfect preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM, C Company's opportunity to validate following our re-role. This Battalion exercise represented the next stage of C Company's transition, and our first such exercise since Kenya in 2016. Our learning curve was steep, made more difficult by a committed PWRR acting as free-thinking enemy forces. We were fortunate to have 9 soldiers from The Steelbacks join the Company, which hopefully represents a renewed partnership. Cutting edge technology, complex attacks against a wily enemy force, and a point to prove were key themes of the exercise which concluded with C Company validating in our new role.

C Company soldiers rehearsing with the Infantry Foot Bridge.

We now look ahead to another year focussed on readiness which could result in a deployment anywhere globally; but Ukraine and Eastern Europe dominate our concerns and shape our training. As this focuses minds, we intend to grasp every opportunity to train, and build the team; each training opportunity will be treated as potentially our last.

C Company Foxhounds in the Setermoen Valley, Norway.

Exercise THUNDERBOLT, Norway 2022

Capt Alexander Langley

The deployment out to Norway began just as the Battalion was heading on Easter Leave. The short timeline to prepare for the exercise required several key enablers to conduct reconnoitres of the Setermoen and Skjold training areas and also the ports that would be used for the deployment of the vehicle fleet to conduct the exercise.

Lt Boffey-Rawlings held the fort in Norway whilst the remainder of the Company conducted mission critical battle preparation in the UK. With the proximity to the deployment to Castle Martin running concurrently, the G4 enabling team did a fantastic job on balancing these efforts to ensure success on both fronts.

The Company departed Castle Martin and began the process of getting into country and acclimated with the intense conditions of the severe landscape. The Company quickly shook themselves out and prepared the fleet for use in these

Maj Mark Garner coordinates the Platoons during the Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEx).

The multinational range team, Poachers, Viking and Norwegian counterparts.

austere conditions. The key thing for the soldiers to get used to, was the 24hrs of daylight and readjusting the body clock. Movement cross country without snow shoes was nearly impossible, severely restricting mounted and dismounted movement across the training areas.

As the temperature began to rise, we saw the ice and snow recede, within 10 days a blush green alpine landscape emerged around us. This saw the Company then move from Skjold to Setermoen to conduct the Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT) package alongside our Norwegian partners. Planning was very deliberate to ensure all parties were content to conduct the activity. When you combine tanks, artillery, anti tank weapons alongside dismounted infantry, there is very little

The celebratory dinner to finalise the exercise alongside Brigade Nord.

Comparing British and Norwegian SOPs.

Learning to conceal the Foxhound in the dense woodlands of mainland Europe.

Troops dismount during the CALFEx.

Bushcraft skills alongside Norwegian partners.

2nd Battalion

The unmatchable landscapes of the Setermoen Valley.

margin for error.

The LFTT package known to the host nation as Ex THUNDER REINDEER is part of their annual training cycle and prepares their conscript force to conduct Brigade level operations against any potential aggressor. Brigadier Guy Foden, Commander of 7 Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team (7LMBCT) visited the Company and the activity and presenting Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medals (QPJM) to those that had completed the necessary service. 7LMBCT's role and the Poachers' Battlegroup within it is of key strategic importance when we begin to look at our commitment to NATO and the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force Land (VJTFL) in 2023.

A hugely successful exercise with NATO partners saw C Company and The Poachers Battlegroup set the conditions for a successful validation later in the year.

The unrivalled power of the Leopard 2 tank firing its main armament.

D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company

OC D Company, Maj Nick Barron

2022 has been a whirlwind year for D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company, which has seen it revert back to its more traditional role as Support Company, whilst maintaining readiness for several contingencies and achieving success on Ex WESSEX STORM.

Under the Integrated Review, D Company has relinquished CIS Platoon (which moved back to HQ Coy) and has regained Mortar and Machine Gun Platoons. The Company now consists of Recce, Snipers, Javelin, Machine Gun, and Mortar platoons with an establishment of 147 service personnel. Whilst the restructure has not been without its challenges, the familiarity of this format enabled the rapid reconfiguration necessary for the company to meet its readiness commitments and to contribute to the Battalion's success on Ex WESSEX STORM.

Specialist driver, gunner and crew qualifications alongside the specialist cadres mean that the Company is always pushing forward, developing new ways to operate within a Battlegroup and Brigade context alongside our wider support elements in the Light Cavalry, The Royal Artillery and the Royal Engineers; ensuring that we can fight tonight and win, and that the Battlegroup is poised for operations in Europe to counter the threat from the east in 2023.

The flexibility of mind and additional training requirements to ensure that Support Company can continue to FIND, FIX, STRIKE and EXPLOIT within an LMI Battlegroup is extensive. The ethos that has been demonstrated by all the Support Weapon Platoons has been exemplary. From the Infantry Field Firing Camp (IFFC) back in Castlemartin at the start of the year to the work done on the Platoon cadres at the latter end, troops have pushed themselves and their teams to meet the demand for readiness as the very High Readiness Joint Task Force Land (VJTFL).

As we look ahead to 2023, the focus is on ensuring the Company maintains the workforce required to deliver its outputs. Reinforcement cadres will take place in Oman as part of the Battalion's deployment on DESERT KHANJAR (the Army's contribution to the Land Regional Hub concept in the Middle East), and individuals will attend specialist weapons courses to gain the qualifications needed to deliver specialist capability in support of the Unit's missions. All alongside Short Term Training Teams (STTTs) within Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

The future certainly looks bright for D Company and the opportunities on offer to its soldiers over the coming 12 months – including overseas travel, adventurous training, high readiness training/operational deployment – will only serve to enhance both its capability and culture.

Sniper extracts from their Final Firing Position.

Corps of Drums

Drum Major Robert Serjeant

Drum Maj Sarjeant (in Service Dress) rehearsing for the final parade.

The Corps of Drums has gone through a rebirth in 2022, operational commitments in Poland and support to the pandemic throughout COVID-19 have seen the Battalion's ability to drum take a timeout of the limelight.

Since its reprioritisation by the Commanding Officer it has been a busy time for the Corps of Drums, beginning with extensive periods of rehearsal, qualification, and equipment preparation our first of many public engagements began with a display in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants mess at the Sobraon dinner night incorporating a series of newly trained drummers and experience into the event.

A roaring success! To see the moral component of fighting power uplifted by the nights events made me proud to lead the Corps of Drums into the first of many engagements.

This was the first time the Corps had been on parade for a number of years but, certainly displayed the true quality within the Corps. Despite the time away from their instruments the drummers work and efforts paid off, setting the tone for the year to come.

A steady drum beat of events within the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess alongside the Officers' Mess allowed more opportunities to showcase the talents that we hold within the Corps of Drums, all of which were received warmly by Poachers and guests alike. We supported contingents of Poachers being represented both within Oakham, at the Armed Forces Appreciation Day and the national Armed Forces Day and in Leicester.

The crescendo of the year was on the horizon. The Beating Retreat, held in Catterick Garrison, the largest assembled Corps of drums in 23 years! The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment was the on Line Infantry Unit able to provide a contingent and

The Poachers Corps of Drums formed up alongsidse other Units' Drums Platoons.

Drummers from the Poachers Corps of Drums on Parade in Leicester for Armed Forces Day.

represent our proud history. The efforts by all during the planning, rehearsal and execution was exemplary. The Poachers were praised throughout the process as a key contributor to the key point in drumming history.

Finally to round out the year the Corps of Drums had the honour of drumming out the boxers at the Unit, Inter Company Boxing Night, held in Kendrew barracks. Drumming exemplifies the esprit de corps held within a proud Line Infantry Battalion, it was mentioned by many that to see young Infantry soldiers face down opposition in the ring embodied the qualities of what it means to be a Poacher.

The Journey that the Corps of Drums has been on this year has been transformational. The output from the drummers to represent the Poachers has been remarkable and throughout it they have maintained the high standard expected of the corps of drums. It is my privilege to lead them and we are excited for what comes next in 2023.

Escorting the boxers.

Cambrian Patrol

Capt James Heal, OC Recce Platoon

The Poachers Cambrian team alongside Fox Tp from 22 CAV US Army.

Fresh off Ex Wessex Storm recce and sniper platoons put together a patrol team led by Capt Heal for the international patrol competition, Cambrian Patrol, in Wales. Although timings were tight the patrol were well prepared before deploying, conducting additional CBRN, Counter-Explosive Ordinance and Armoured Vehicle Recognition training in camp.

All CAMBRIAN PATROL teams are required to host an international team, so D Company used this opportunity to rekindle relations with US 2nd CAVALRY Regiment, who they worked with in Poland on Op CABIRT. The US patrol drove from Germany to Kendrew Barracks where they were instructed on our drills and processes, including how to use our weapons. Once the weapon handling checks were complete, Cpl Bayliss, the patrol 2IC, took them through search techniques and our CPERS handling procedures. Both teams bonded while in camp, including a few sessions in the pubs in Oakham.

With all the pre-training completed the patrols set off for the Brecon Beacons with an RV time of 0200hours, mild rain predicted as you would expect in Wales. By chance our sister team from The Vikings had a very similar start time, and OC Recce, 2 R ANGLIAN, and OC Snipers, 1 R ANGLIAN, shared a friendly if competitive fist-bump before getting to the start line. With the 35-by-12km model constructed and orders delivered, the patrol stepped off at first light. Almost immediately boots were wet, some up to their waist after awful route choice, and the terrain was unforgiving whilst carrying in excess of 40kg.

The sequence of stands started with CBRN, luckily involving only a few minutes in a respirator. Some of the soldiers experience their first time seeing 'amputees in action' as they acted quickly after coming to the site of a 'helicopter crash'. A morale boost reached the team as it turned dark, the river crossing was to be completed by boat (later CSgt Steel, Recce 2IC, would claim the team had only completed 'half a Cambrian patrol). After a very short stint inside a sleeping bag in the LUP, the team stepped out of a woodblock into thick fog. OC Recce did what he does best and used the force to navigate – albeit upsetting a large herd of cattle

The Poachers Cambrian Patrol team after being presented their silver medals.

and crossing/falling over a 6ft fence. Climbing onto the Sennybridge area and into a CTR, it all became a blur from there, the weather held out during the day but as night came in on the section attack lane the true spirit of Wales opened up.

By this point every soldier was suffering with immersion foot which had grown worse throughout the second day. With almost 45km completed and the last stand survived, the patrol grizzed through the final 15km taking them almost completely around the impact area on Sennybridge.

Sgt Grant, the patrol manager, greeted Capt Heal at the end with a smile on his face, brew in hand 'buckchee, eh?'. Following the debrief and some welcome rest, the patrol was happy to receive a Silver Medal at the awards ceremony, with our US counterparts getting Bronze.

Farewell to Fox Troop following the presentation of their bronze medals.

Operational Shooting Competition Team

Capt Alexander Langley

Preparing for the next shoot.

Due to a busy operational calendar at the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022 the preparation for the Operational Shooting Competition (OSC) season was far from perfect, however the thing that can be relied on with the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion is that we do the basics well. Move, shoot, communicate, medicate has been a mantra for training for many years. Any Infantry soldier that considers themself a professional can do the first two points by default.

The best choice for the task initially went to D Company, the senior Company has long been trusted to deliver on compressed timelines and when quality is of a premium. The team conducted preparation at Beckingham ranges, within an hour of Kendrew barracks, focusing on the simple prior to the complex they conducted zeroing and multi positional firing at ranges out to 600m to establish points of aim, from here troops started to increase the complexity of the activity and the levels of fatigue to ensure that their positions were consistent and therefore maximising chances at competition.

The first hurdle that arose was the 7 Brigade shooting competition competing well the team finished top in the Brigade and through to the knockout stages of the 1 (UK) Div competition held in Bulford. This is where the team rose to the occasion, securing a place at Defence Operational Shooting

The OSC Team, following the March and Shoot.

Competition (DEFOSC) held in Bisley.

The Ranges in Bisley have a strange aura about them, thousands of people at the very peak of marksmanship have used the ranges there to sharpen their craft and now we do the same. It begins with the Defence Assessment, a classic shoot that offers no margin for error, many of the targets of the aged ETR do not fall when hit so the firer must trust that the point of aim shoots can be trusted. This becomes even more trying because the Bisley ranges are measured in yards rather than meters, creating a 10% margin of error that must be calculated before each shoot. From here we are on a steady beat of moving to the next range, rehearsing fire positions, keeping warmed up and then focusing on the next event. The team performed to an excellent level and came away with a new focus to create a protected training pathway for the Battalion shooting team in preparation for the 23/24 OSC season.

The falling plate team making their way into the quarter finals.

Mortar Platoon

Ptes Campbell and Ellis

We both joined Mortar platoon in late October 2021 where we completed the Mortar cadre the following month. The cadre consists of two weeks in camp training, followed by a week of exercise, and concluding with a week of live firing. This was all light role without the use of vehicles.

This leads us onto Ex WESSEX STORM where we are now a Light Mechanised Battalion, which means we have use of the Coyote vehicle. The Coyote has a longer bed at the back (when compared to a Jackal) meaning we are able to fit the equipment we use and store all of our ammunition.

The exercise started with a live fire package which required us to fire both day and night to support the Rifle Companies to complete their objectives. We used two different types of fire (direct fire and indirect fire) to complete our goals, and this was mainly HE rounds and some smoke to help enable the movement of friendly forces on the ground. At night we used illum rounds to help give better visibility and allow the forces on the ground to identify targets more easily.

Pte Cross stands by for fire orders from his Section Commander.

The live fire package was followed by a blank exercise, which was broken down into three phases. During this part we learnt to use the vehicles to their full extent. This involved putting the coyote into hides when we deployed the mortar, by covering it in natural camouflage and parking into woodblocks where possible. This exercise was a good opportunity for us to streamline the most efficient method of establishing the mortar line, and to also extract quickly when necessary.

High angle hell on Ex WESSEX STORM.

This exercise also gave us the opportunity to work alongside our counterparts from the 1st Battalion, the Vikings. This was the first time we had the chance to work with them, and to see how they operated. We could see what we did that was similar to them, and how useful the Coyotes were to move across the area a lot quicker than them, as they were light role.

Overall at the end of the exercise we believe the experience gained has given us the confidence to deploy to any situation and use the vehicles and the mortar to their full capacity.

We're looking forward to getting out to Oman next year to do some more live firing and give us some more experience on the Coyotes.

Ex FREEFALL POACHER, Skydiving

Capt James Heal

Ex WESSEX STORM was over, and it was time for some well-deserved rest. For 18 members of The Poachers, with a true soldier mentality of work hard play hard, this meant AT in California learning to skydive.

Will Jones, the lead instructor, turned to me "Are you ready to Skydive?" he shouts in my ear. "Yes!" I nervously shout back, trying my best to hide it. The door to the plane is open, my altimeter is reading 13 000ft. People are leaving the aeroplane in front of me. "In the door!" I move myself into position, hands on the fuselage and feet on the edge looking down to the ground below me. I turn inwards to the first instructor and shout "check in", he smiles back likes its nothing and say "ok!". I turn outwards and say the same to the second instructor "ok!" again. I remember my drills and shout "Propeller, Up, Down, ARCH!". I'm out of the plane. The instructor shakes me to arch and I respond. I go through my drills as we have trained them 10s of times on the ground. The air is loud as it rushes past me, senses are heightened. I do my practice pulls. I check my altimeter. 7 000ft. "Lock On" 6 000ft "Wave off, Arch, Reach, Locate, Throw away…." I pull my toggle, hoping it works, "One thousand, Two thousand, Three thousand". My parachute is open, I flare and turn, all good. I look around 5 000ft above the ground, I can see the Pacific Ocean, the mountains, San Diego in the distance. I'm hooked, this is amazing.

It started with a cold, wet evening driving (again) to Salisbury Plain, Netheravon Airfield bound – only 500m from where we had spent the previous month leaguered up. In the morning, a 0700 start of course, we were issued with all our parachuting kit, not that we knew how any of it worked at this point, and begun the single day of ground school that would qualify us to jump out a plane. We knew immediately we had great instructors, Will Jones, Amii Calway and Tom Grady making up the military contingent, with veterans Kevin 'Woof' Fyfe and Dave Ballard making up the remainder – all of whom we are very thankful for.

We were doing the Accelerated Freefall Course. Rather than starting low with static jumps and working your way up, our first jump – the Level 1 Skydive – would be at 13 000ft, with 45s of freefall before pulling your own parachute at 6 000ft.

Arrival in California after dealing with the depths of winter post-exercise will always be a great feeling. We arrived at the dropzone, Skydive Elsinore, a kind-of skydive mecca, on a Saturday. People were already swooping down, finishing their jump. The airplanes were buzzing off on another trip as we finished out paperwork and signed our waviers. Refresh drills complete, "Look, Locate,

Soldiers boarding the aircraft prior to jumping.

Cut Away, Reserve, Arch" hoping we wouldn't need it on our first jump, but ready if we had to.

First up, in alphabetical order, was OC D Company, Maj Nick Barron, and LCpl Barret. No issues at all. We worked down the list over the afternoon and into the next day, feeling like years for the bottom of the list to get their first jump out of the way.

Level 1 turned to Level 2 and by Level 4 the instructor has let go of you in the air, and Level 6 you are jumping out on your own, with an instructor close behind. By Level 7 you are back-flipping, tracking and spinning in the sky. With the final test passed, you are on your own.

The first jump on your own is special, because before you are stressed about jumping and the techniques you need to master. On your first jump on your own you dive out of the aircraft, get stable, and just have a look around.

The landing point supervisor guides the students to the landing zone.

The mountains rising around you and the grounding slowly getting closer. At this point you are pulling your parachute at 4 000ft, which feels a lot lower than 6 000ft. Up in the sky is bliss, and everyone was enjoying it at this point, the nerves of the early jump dissipated. On the final day most of the exercise jumped six times. Capt Heal claimed the sunset jump to qualify for his A-Licence, the sun setting behind the mountains as he fell through the sky.

Royal Anglian skydiving has now got going. Skydive Langar is 35 minutes from Cottesmore, and plenty of troops from the trip have been already, sometimes in sub-zero temperature contrasting the 20s of California. The team are now looking forward to achieving their packing tickets and formation skydiving qualification – they will hopefully be seen in the Novice FS category at the Armed Forces Skydiving Championships in July!

The course formed up after their jumps.

HQ Company

The Light Aid Detachment EME

Capt Andy Walker

The Royal Anglian Regiment is a Light Mechanised Infantry (LMI) unit that operates primarily from Foxhound and HMTV. The unit holds more than 180 vehicles including a significant number of complex platforms including Foxhound and Jackal.

The Battalion is supported by a Light Aid Detachment (LAD) of 1 + 39 covering most trade groups. 2022 has presented the LAD and wider Battalion with an array of opportunities and challenges. It began with the Bn taking on the VJTF(L) commitment and the associated equipment uplift (circa 100 platforms), this was quickly followed with C Coy deploying with one week's notice to Norway for 3 months to conduct interoperability training with other NATO partners.

The LAD team worked exceptionally hard to turn around the equipment bill which came with this deployment, preparing and assuring the Company fleet within five days. Apr – Jul 22 would see sub-units conduct progression and validation exercises in preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM 22 (Ex WS22) in Sep. This period also included a Bn LFTT package which involved the entire LAD.

Ex WS22 proved to be one of the highlights of 2022 with the Bn deploying as the lead Battle Group supported with Med, Arty, Engr and EOD assets. The ES team maintained an average equipment availability of 95% which enabled successful validation for the BG. Since returning from Ex WS22 in Oct 22, the focus has switched to force generating equipment for Ex DESERT KANJAR which will see the Bn deploy from Jan – Apr 23 to conduct BG level training. Throughout 2022, the LAD has received external support from Babcock Area Support Teams and tradespersons from 1REME which have ensured success.

Operations / Commitments / Defence outputs – The LAD has had soldiers committed to numerous exercises and defence outputs throughout 2022. Ex THUNDERBOLT was a NATO led exercise supported by an LMI Coy and REME fitter section, this deployment lasted 3 months and demonstrated UK Defence interoperability with NATO partners. Ex AGGRESSIVE POACHER, TIGERS CLAW and GUNNERS FURY, were all sub-unit validation exercises in preparation for Ex WS22. These exercises were all supported by fitter sections and proved to be an excellent opportunity for members of the LAD to develop both technical and soldiering skills. Ex WS22 was the Battalion's validation exercise in preparation for being held at high readiness in 2023. The exercise proved to be a real success from an ES perspective, an availability of 95% was maintained throughout the exercise and at no point did equipment shortfalls affect the outcome of any mission. The LAD has also had soldiers committed to

The Foxhound LPPV, monthly inspections to ensure that we can maximise boots on the ground in any theatre.

2nd Battalion

The SVR ensuring that we can maintain momentum in the advance, keeping the enemy on the back foot.

In inspections are critical to understanding the condition of the fleet.

Op INTERFLEX in support of the UK's commitment to Ukraine.

Training and development – 2022 provided soldiers from the LAD the chance to develop both personally and professionally. The LAD has been committed to enabling soldiers to be aligned to Op ATLAS. This provides opportunities for soldiers to work within their local Army Careers Centres, developing inter-personal and communication skills, whilst also enabling some soldiers an improved work/life balance. During the Bn LFTT package, the LAD was fortunate enough to practice unarmed combat, this training was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved and proved to be especially effective at developing the physical robustness of the team. A conscious effort has also been placed on developing the LAD from an engineering perspective, this has included the delivery of expedient and battle damage repair training. This critical activity had an instant positive effect on equipment availability during several sub-unit and Battalion level exercises.

The trusty Land Rover Defender, fundamental to delivering the Bn HQ at reach.

Sport, AT, social and wellbeing - Despite the tempo of 2022, the LAD have been able to complete some adventurous training this year, such as skiing, coasteering, walking and skydiving. The LAD has also had some noteworthy sporting moments in 2022, including competing at the REME 6s football tournament, some silverware at the Corps Golf Championships and a member of the LAD has represented the Tri-Services at Hockey. What has also been pivotal to building a strong team, is some well-planned cultural and social events. In August the LAD conducted a visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea to spend a day being hosted by the Chelsea Pensioners. Some other quality morale raising days have been, paintballing and water sports on Rutland Lake.

Signals Platoon

The road to Ex WESSEX STORM; from Castlemartin to CAST

RSO Capt Deed

The Joint Fires Cell enjoying themselves during the execute of the defensive battle.

2022 has been dominated by Battlegroup Headquarters (BGHQ) preparations and training for the Command and Staff Trainer (CAST) and Exercise WESSEX STORM validation.

The year started with Signals platoon in D Coy recovering from Op CABRIT and Op NEWCOMBE and is ending with the Pl in HQ Coy recovering from Ex WESSEX STORM and preparing for their deployment to Oman.

The first half of the year focussed on re-building the mobile BGHQ used on the last Ex WESSEX STORM (2020). The BGHQ consists of three 9 tonne SVs with accompanying Fit for Radio (FFR) Land Rovers.

This setup allows BGHQ to reduce the time it takes to 'tear-down' and re-establish during a Change of Control (CHoC), meaning it can keep up with the pace of the Light Mechanised Infantry (LMI) sub-units. Once the HQ was built, the Pl focussed on delivering and supporting the BGHQ training pipeline.

This began with basic ComBAT training and planning cycles which increased in complexity each time. The training pipeline culminated on Exercise AGGRESSIVE POACHER 3 where the BGHQ conducted live fire ranges and a mini-CAST exercise.

This training clearly paid off as BGHQ performed very well on both CAST and Ex WESSEX STORM, achieving validation on both exercises with minimal work on points.

Signals Platoon
Force Optimisation

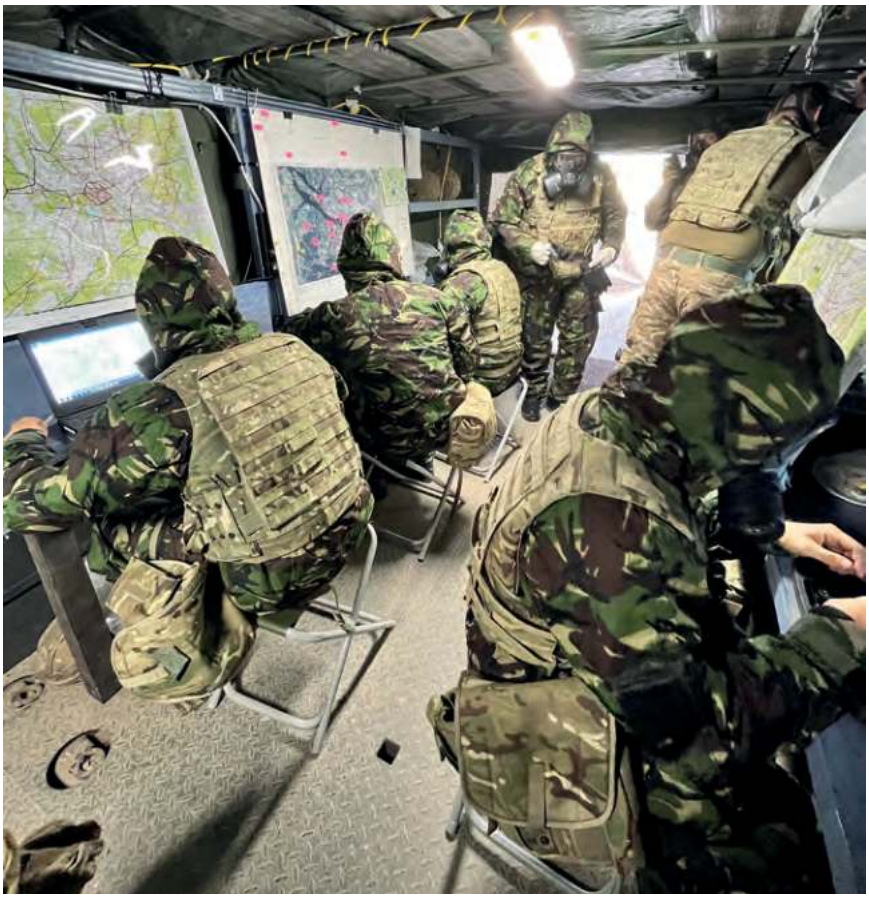
BGHQ conducted a series of SOTERIA organised and executed Force

The Battlgroup ROC Drill is fundemental to understanding of the Commander's intent.

Optimisation & Experimentation (FO&E) training events (wargames), which focussed on the HQ's ability to execute.

It was arguably one of the best activities the HQ conducted to prepare itself for validation on Ex WESSEX STORM. It gave the BG a thorough understanding of threats and opportunities in the electromagnetic (EM) spectrum to allow further exploitation once deployed. It majored on protection and survivability as well as developing the staff's knowledge of 'red' tactics and equipment. As a result, they were effectively able to conceal themselves in the EM spectrum, this directly shaped notice to move states and unmasking and concealing of key assets.

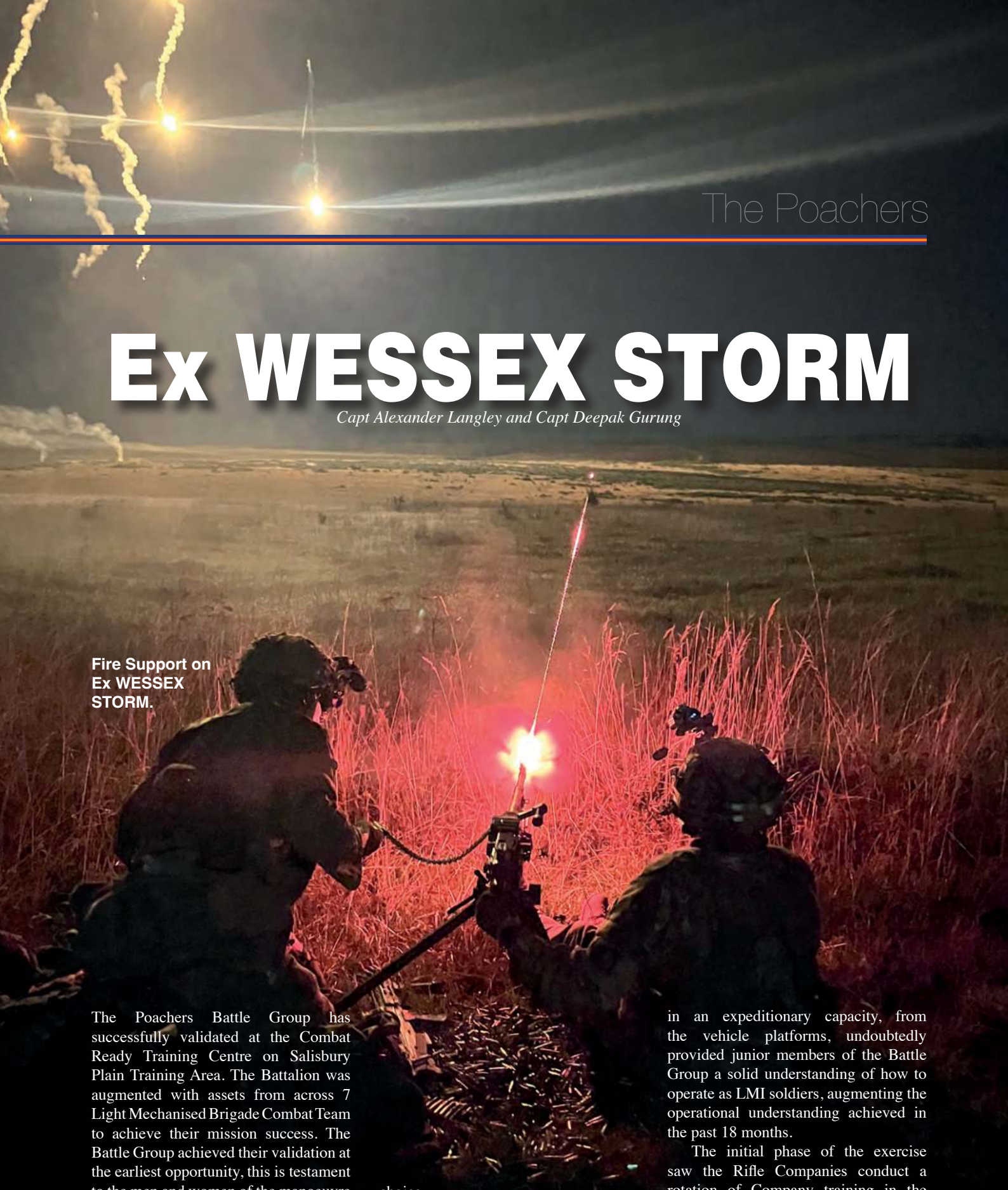
This then also allowed the BG to conduct credible deception in the EM spectrum. As a direct result of the training received by SOTERIA, the BGHQ was never found during WS. The Signals Platoon and Battlegroup Headquarters will undoubtedly continue to work closely with the teams from Land Warfare Centre (LWC) to ensure that we continue to exploit all opportunities that become available.



Significantly fewer happy faces in the HQ with an increase in dress state.

Ex WESSEX STORM

Capt Alexander Langley and Capt Deepak Gurung



Fire Support on Ex WESSEX STORM.

The Poachers Battle Group has successfully validated at the Combat Ready Training Centre on Salisbury Plain Training Area. The Battalion was augmented with assets from across 7 Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team to achieve their mission success. The Battle Group achieved their validation at the earliest opportunity, this is testament to the men and women of the manoeuvre Subunits. The professionalism, fortitude and will to win displayed by all are without doubt qualities that ensured the tactical successes of the Battle Group on the exercise, they have also secured the future opportunities as the Light Mechanised Infantry Battle Group of choice.

From the outset, the exercise is approximately 35 days including the post exercise activity. The Ukrainian training mission impacted the Battle Group; removing the capacity to be accommodated at any stage of the exercise. The opportunity to operate in an expeditionary capacity, from the vehicle platforms, undoubtedly provided junior members of the Battle Group a solid understanding of how to operate as LMI soldiers, augmenting the operational understanding achieved in the past 18 months.

The initial phase of the exercise saw the Rifle Companies conduct a rotation of Company training in the rural environment on SPTA, Company subterranean training in Corsham Mines and a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise, supported by all the Battle Group assets.

The Corsham tunnels are a former The Corsham tunnels are a former

2nd Battalion

limestone mining complex, located close to the city of Bath and consists of 285 acres of tunnels. The overarching aim was to rehearse the Companies' ability to utilise urban tactics and specialised equipment in an increasing complexity of the contemporary and future operating environments. Operations in the urban environment have never been easy, characterised by difficult command and control, poor communications, short engagement distances and limited use of fire support assets. Excellent mission command and junior leadership were displayed at all levels during training to ensure effective tactics, techniques and procedures were at their most current to ensure mission success on the validation phase of the exercise. Following this, was the opportunity to exercise in the rural environment of Salisbury Plain as a Company Group; supported by numerous Battle Group assets, including Military Working Dogs, Military Police, Artillery, Mortars, Engineers, EOD and Assault Pioneers.

The Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) delivered by the Combat Readiness Training Centre saw the Company Group receive their orders and conduct the full battle procedure prior to deployment onto the ranges. 105mm Lt Gun from the Royal Artillery and Support Weapons Platoons. The scenario saw the Company Groups conduct; live ambush, Fighting in

Following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, The Poachers Battle Group conducted a vigil on Ex WESSEX STORM.

Getting the basics right with the use of thermal sheeting and cam nets.

Woods and Forests (FIWAF), mounted live firing and a Company live attack at night under only infra-red light.

Throughout the approach to Ex WESSEX STORM, the Companies and Battalion had started to understand the utility and generate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the implementation of Dismounted Situational Awareness (DSA). The early phases of the deployment saw the attached arms of the Battle Group conduct training on the equipment and how, as a Battle Group we can employ this state of the art communications suite, to remain hidden in the electro-magnetic spectrum specifically from Taskforce Hannibal's Electronic Warfare (EW) capability. Every DSA operator identified the system has been a 'game changer' throughout Ex WESSEX STORM. The ability to have a familiar electronic device that enables real time battlefield situation awareness at all levels has increased operational effectiveness, by enabling enhanced decision making with increased situational awareness at the most junior levels of command.

The use of line in the defensive battle was critical to mission success.

The technological uplift that LMI is experiencing is an exciting place to be; the Battle Group has proven that, across the Army, The Poachers are in the best place to be able to fight tonight, and win; demonstrating our capacity to counter threats that emerge in the future.

Concealing and protecting the BGHQ in all environments was essential to the Battlegroup's success.

Op ILKANE

Capt Alexander Langley

The Op ILKANE contingent.

Late November the Warning Order came through from Brigade Headquarters. There will be Industrial Action over the periods of the national holidays over growing frictions between workers and government surrounding public sector pay. Specifically to The Poachers this was to be centred on London Heathrow Airport.

The message is passed quickly throughout the Battalion and those affected, notified that they would miss the national holidays to provide Military Aide to Civil Authority (MACA). The professionalism demonstrated by the men and women that supported this task was exemplary. Throughout the training and the operation, they conducted themselves with diligence, professionalism, and good humour.

There is often risk in an operation such as this that soldiers struggle to see the importance of their task or the role they play within the strategic context but this was not the case. Every soldier deployed, understood that the protection of Critical National Infrastructure was fundamental to providing the defence of

Long shifts, proudly representing the Royal Anglian Regiment.

our nation, and therefore of the greatest importance to us as key stakeholders in the defence of the United Kingdom.

The British public rallied to their support, warmly thanking them for their commitment during this trying period and wishing them all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Once the tasked had been achieved and the newspaper articles written it was time for the Op ILKANE contingent to take some well deserved leave at home with loved ones.

We don't know what the future will hold for our country or the role our Battalion will take within it. One thing we are sure of though is that we are trained, motivated and ready for what may lie ahead.

Service with a smile.

Ex FROSTED BLADE

Lt Jack Rice

Ex FROSTED BLADE is the annual Infantry ski championship held in Val D'Isere. Run for five weeks over the Christmas period, the exercise aims to test Infantry soldiers both mentally and physically through alpine race training. Ex Frosted Blade provides a venue where all Infantry battalions can race against each other in the four alpine ski disciplines.

This year Exercise Frosted Blade was able to run to it's full potential after COVID restrictions of the previous two years had been lifted. The Poachers took a team of mainly novice skiers to Val D'isere to not only learn how to ski but then compete in a variety of races towards the end of the Exercise. With 6 of the 8 strong team never having skied before, the Poachers pulled off some extremely impressive performances. A quick learning curve, complemented by some hard-earned life lessons has meant the Exercise has been extremely valuable for all those involved. "I enjoyed the challenge of having to quickly learn a new sport, pushing yourself each day. Having the opportunity to meet others from across the Army, represent the Battalion and race against some of the best skiers in the Army was a great honour!" Pte Maloney

After three weeks of getting to

Poachers keeping warm in their custom jackets.

Overlooking the serenity of the Alps.

grips with the basics of skiing, the team enjoyed a well-earned 5-day Christmas Break. We drove the long 18-hour journey back to Kendrew Barracks, allowing enough time for all troops to see their families and eat a Christmas Meal with all the trimmings. At 0500 on Boxing Day it was time to return to the snow and slopes of the Alps. Re-invigorated by the short break, the team began learning the complexities of ski racing under the expert guidance of our instructors. Slalom and GS brought with it new challenges, the technique of pointing your skis downhill and tucking into a race position, unfortunately no longer worked.

We split the team into two, the A Hill captained by Lt Ashwell and the B Hill by Lt Rice and then set about more training to prepare us for race week. By this point the novice team was racing and skiing on Black slopes every day, an impressive feat considering we couldn't walk on ski's 3 weeks ago! For those on the A Hill, they encountered the downhill race for the first time. Lining the Ok Orange piste, they watched as the infantry ski team flew by, gaining 20 meters of air over the main jump. With a Battalions worth of medics at the base of the slope they began their first practice runs, all completing the two attempts, showing a great amount of courage and mental resilience.

To the surprise of some, the training tempo was intense; all groups caught the first lift in the mornings and skied through

New skiers learning the basics of pizza and chips.

until the last runs. As a result, although there was initially great excitement to explore the various social opportunities the resort had to offer, fatigue quickly kicked in to produce a routine of home cooking and equipment maintenance. The cooking produced a great deal of morale whether of the higher quality or of the more experimental variety; at the end of 5 weeks ever combination of pesto pasta had been covered! After the seeding event there were 5 race days, initially covering the four disciplines – Giant Slalom, Super Giant Slalom, Downhill and Slalom – followed by a combined event comprising a Super-G and a Slalom event. There were impressive performances from all of the Poachers team. Although no medals where won, the team is hungry to return next year and compete for a podium finish.

Poachers Inter Company Boxing

December 2022

Capt Roy Cousin

On the week of Monday 5th to Thursday 8th Dec 22, due to COVID and Operations the Poachers hosted their Inter-Company Boxing Finals for the first time since 2018.

Each Coy team were given the mandatory six weeks training. Which saw most of the Coys employing rigours, but enjoyable training, most of the teams got out to local civilian clubs for some really good sparring.

The draw for the finals took place in the Sobroan Conference room on the morning of the 5Th Dec. Prelims and some semi finals bouts took place that afternoon. The remaining semi final bouts took place the morning of the 6th Dec. Both Monday and Tuesdays bouts produced some really fierce and hard fought bouts, with the majority of the Battalion there to cheer their boxers on.

The evening of the boxing finals did not Disappoint. The evening started off with a Welterweight youth bout between Pte King B vs Pte Murphy A – A very technical fight with both boxers using good lateral movement and both scoring with good shoots. After 3 rounds Pte King saw his hand raised victorious in a split decision win.

The Adjutant retains his title of Heavyweight Champion.

Bout 2 was a Lightweight bout between Pte Neal B vs Pte Jackson D (Sp) Coy – Jackson came out and was a game fighter however, Neal was to strong and powerful with Pte Neal

winning by stoppage.

Bout 3 of the evening, which was a Light Welterweight contest and the first of female bout the Poachers have seen and the first of two female bouts taking place that evening, and it was between LCpl Mercer B (Poacher) vs Pte Matson A (AGC). Mercer came out like a raging bull and walked through her opponent gaining a first round stoppage.

Bout 4 of the evening was Light Welterweight Contest between Pte Smith B vs Pte King A. King had had a bye to the finals so was an untested finalist, unfortunately for King, he was up against a very skilled and slick boxer in Pte Smith, who won by first round stoppage.

Bout 5 of the evening was a Welterweight between Cpl Bell B v Pte O'Doherty C. O'Doherty came through his semi final fight with an impressive stoppage win and hopes were high in C Coy that he would win again. Cpl Bell had other ideas and put it on his opponent from the first bell, showing skill and great footwork, Bell won the contest by stoppage.

Bout 6 was a Light Middleweight contest between Pte Holness B vs Pte East C. This was arguably the best bout of the evening with both boxers not wanting to take a step back. After an epic 3 rounds. Pte East was victorious in a Split decision.

After a short 30 minute interval the remaining bouts commenced which saw the second of the female bouts take place, between Pte Henderson HQ (AGC) vs

A (Lincolnshire) Company.

LCpl McAnally D (RAMC). McAnally was too strong for her opponent, scoring a first round stoppage.

Bout 8 a Middleweight contest, was between Pte Dennis B vs LCpl Hutton C. Another well fought contest with Dennis stepping to and pressuing his opponent, earning him a third round stoppage.

Bout 9 a Light Heavyweight bout between Pte Ellife C vs Pte Gordon A. Another fiercely contested contest with scoring some good shots. Ellife looking the stronger throughout and scored a points split decision.

Bout 10 a Cruiserweight contest between LCpl Sheldon B vs Pte Sherratt C. Sheldon was looking comfortable and had a slight edge on his opponent going into the third round. However Sherratt capitalised on Sheldon's complacency and stopped his opponent with stinging shot, with the referee deeming that Sheldon could not continue. Sharratt won by third round stoppage

Bout 11 and the penultimate contest was a rematch from 2018's semi final bout, between Capt Rawdon HQ vs LCpl McClean D. The bout went the way of the previous fight with Rawdon boxing well at range and utilising his long piercing jab. McLean looking to land one big punch that never came. Rawdon won a comfortable unanimous

D (Bedfordshire & Herfordshire) Company.

HQ (Rutland) Company.

decision.

The final bout of the evening was a Super Heavyweight bout between Pte Smith C vs Pte Junior A. Junior started as though he wanted to end the bout early, but Smith weathered the early storm and was looking the better boxer. Bizarrely after bell sounded for the end of the second round and Junior punched his opponent as he walked back to his corner. Smith won the contest by disqualification.

Special guest for the evening was Comd 7 Brigade, Brig Guy Foden MBE. Also in attendance we veteran Poacher boxers, past and future Commanding Officers. A special mention must go the sponsors, without whom the night won't

C (Northamptonshire) Company.

B (Leicestershire) Company.

have been such a success. Mr Richard Picton of Blyth & Brown Insurance Brokers, who paid for the VC Belts. Mr Kris Moore of Nelsons Butchers and Mr Stewart Hume and his partner Jo of Squared Away Garden Services, who paid for the new Coy boxing strips.

A fantastic night of boxing with great atmosphere, but more importantly great bouts.

The future looks bright for the Poachers Boxing Team. In 2023 the Battalion Team will enter the Army Individual Championships, take part in a joint event with 1 Royal Anglian, The Vikings and later on the in 2023, enter a strong squad into the 2024 Army Major Units Boxing Competition.

Poachers Brazilian Jiujitsu

Since the start of the year the team has come on leaps and bounds. Their ability to persevere and train in the margins has demonstrated the character of each member of the team.

The first competition for the club saw us travel to Aldershot to compete against the wider Army. This set the tone for the rest of the year with 4 golds, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals is was clear that the Poachers style of competition was effective.

Next came the Inter Services competition in June, cue a long drive to Plymouth. The team had 2 competitors representing the Army against the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, and the standout competition with the Royal Marines. We came away with 1 gold 2 silvers and a bronze medal, an excellent experience with other members of the team coming to support those competing.

Training continued through the summer prior to deployment on Ex WESSEX STORM. One thing that

The Foley brothers dominating the heavy and middleweight divisions.

the team has worked hard with is maintaining their soldiering and status within the F Echelon of the Battalion, whilst also representing the team on the National stage. The frictions of juggling physical fitness, technical ability and capacity in camp and on exercise is a quality to be protected.

Armed forces and Emergency Services and Army level competition in the back end of the year served as a prelude to the jewel in the calendar; the English Open. The highest quality competitors in all rankings and weights; coming together to find out who is the best in the country. On arrival the atmosphere was electric with famous athletes and coaches making their way onto the tatami. Competition was fierce, after 2 days of intense grappling the team had achieved 3 gold medals, 1 silver and 1 bronze, fantastic result for any team and a great sense of pride for the team as the coach.

The year finished off with the promotion of LCpl Joe Rea to blue belt, the dedication on and off the mat that he has shown to the team has been exemplary.

Cpl Llewellyn Myburgh putting on the pressure.

Next year the cycle continues and we will seek to train and compete whenever and wherever. Thinking back to the age old statement, 'If you stay ready, there's no need to get ready.'

Talavera Day 27 July 2022

Capt Alexander Langley

The day began in the traditional way with gunfire (rum in tea) being delivered to the soldiers in their rooms. Before a hearty breakfast and a rehearsal of the parade prior to the arrival of the distinguished visitors and families.

The Adjutant read the special order of the day. The 1st Bn, 48th stood firm as men rushed through their intervals, then closing, prepared to meet the high enemy mass which loomed out of the haze straight at them with bayonets fixed. It is during one of these actions, Lt Col Donellan was mortally wounded, his dying words to the battalion Second in Command; "Maj Middlemore, you have the honour of leading the 48th in the charge!" For their actions that day the 48th were awarded the single privilege of being the only Regiment permitted to include the word Talavera on their badge, buttons, and accoutrements.

The Battalion Colour showing the Battle Honour Talavera.

2nd Battalion

Col (retd) Robert Blomfield, Northamptonshire County Colonel presents Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medals.

Mr Richard York, former CSM, C (Northamptonshire) Company.

Dr Sarah Furness, The Lord Lieutenant of Rutland presents Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medals.

The Talavera Day Parade Colour Party. From left: CSgt Ritesh Patel, Lt Matthew Wilman, Pte Derrell Jackson, WO2 Jack Chapman, 2Lt Jack Rice, CSgt Ben Townsend.

This resonated across the parade ground. We were there to celebrate with our families but also remember the thousands that have come before us. Those that have fought under the banner of Talavera and our antecedent Regiments. We must continue to conduct ourselves with discipline, courage and stoicism of those that have laid the foundations for our success.

The distinguished visitors presented members of the Battalion with their Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medals. Once the parade had concluded the games could begin. Inter company football, British Army Warrior Fitness (BAWF) and tug of war were the deciders for the competition. A BBQ was laid on for all in attendance fair ground rides for anyone that could brave them. Live entertainment and music carried on into the night with smiles on the faces of everyone there. A fantastic day to celebrate not only the 'Heroes of Talavera' but also the families and friends of the Battalion and Regiment in Rutland.

From the CO

Lt Col Dave Haggar

I am delighted to write my first Castle magazine article as the Commanding Officer of the Steelbacks. In the short time since I assumed Command, I have been delighted to meet so many highly motivated and dedicated members of the Battalion and to see Steelbacks contributing to Defence outputs in so many ways.

It has been a period of immense change for the Battalion as the Future Soldier announcements have shaped the way the Battalion will be structured in the future and how it will deliver operational effect through a warfighting increment. It is great news that we will maintain our pairing with the Poachers and will continue to support them on exercises and operations. Although under the Future Soldier Programme the Battalion will get a little bit smaller, I am certain that this will cause minimal disruption to the soldiers and staff of the Steelbacks, indeed, it is great news that we will retain all of our Company and outstation locations. The Battalion has also re-subordinated to the newly reformed 19 Light Brigade, based in York. This sees the Brigading of ten Army Reserve Infantry and Light Cavalry units under a single Brigade, commanded by an Army Reservist. This provides a great opportunity for the Battalion to operate alongside other Army Reserve units and to work to a 1* formation that really understand reservists and the issues that affect them. I fully expect that over then next few years we will see the massive benefits of moving under command of 19 Light Brigade.

There are several highlights that it would be remiss not mention on these pages. Over the early part of the year, the Steelbacks made a significant contribution to the 4 PWRR Op FIRIC deployment, providing the second largest contingent of Army Reservists to support this operational task. The deployment was a pathfinder pilot to prove the Army Reserves capability to operate at reach within the British Falklands theatre of operations. The deployed Steelbacks were critical in conducting dismounted Infantry assurance and deterrence patrols and were uniquely placed to support the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict (Op CORPORATE). We saw the final elements of the Battalion that were mobilised for Op RESCRIPT return to their civilian employment knowing that they have made a crucial contribution to the UKs pandemic response and have also had service personnel volunteer to be held at readiness, supporting a pilot looking at how the Army Reserves can contribute to UK resilience operations. I must offer a massive congratulations to the Bn Shooting Team who were crowned Champions of the 1 UK Division Operational Shooting Competition. This is no small feat and represents the Battalion's best ever Shooting season. The team should be rightly proud of their success and fully prepared to match or better their achievements in 2023!

While there was disappointment that in October the Battalion was not able to deploy on an overseas training exercise in Spain, I was hugely proud of the Battalion staff's effort and determination to deliver a UK based Annual Deployment exercise, with so little planning time. The cancelation of the Spain deployment was a bitter blow but was the correct call; for many reasons the Spanish were unable to commit the resources that we needed to make it a viable training experience. In its place, Ex STEELBACK WARRIOR, delivered in spades. Adjustments to the way that we run tactical exercises, like the use of observer mentors and after-action reviews allowed the exercise to achieve more flow and training satisfaction and I look forward to replicating on future training events.

Looking forward, 2023 will be just as busy and I anticipate just as many opportunities for Steelbacks to get involved and deploy on demanding and interesting commitments.

From the RSM

WO1 Gareth George

2022 has seen a lot of challenges for the Steelbacks and I am proud to have taken up the role as the Regimental sergeant major of such a professional and receptive Army reserve unit.

Over the last twelve months Steelbacks have been deployed to the Falklands on OP FIRIC, Kenya, Cyprus, along with multiple Exercises to sharpen our tools in our core role as Infanteers. The Battalion now sits within 19X , this occasion was marked by a parade in York which saw the other 9 Army reserve units on parade,to mark the occasion .Pairing with the Poachers has already been fruitful, and we have seen Steelbacks deploying on EX WESSEX STORM and multiple opportunities working with the Poachers visiting our ARCS to share knowledge and create teams, my hope is that this continues in the same vein, my thanks go out to those Poachers and Steelbacks that have" leant" in.

The tactical focus for Steelbacks has been OBUA, FIWAF and Communication this focus has enabled the battalion to concentrate on tactical actions to show development in the training sphere bringing out work on and sustains that we can track and use to create a bespoke training package. This has also enabled commanders at the lowest levels to develop SOP's and actions on continuing the creation of strong teams focus.

The Battalion development cadres is an area that has offered opportunities for our future commanders to continuously improve and has been a platform for our commanders to develop and refine skills prior to career courses and to enable them to lead our Steelbacks.

In September the Battalion deployed on its Annual deployment exercise to STANTA this saw Steelbacks deployed in a submersive and tactical exercise, challenging soldiers, and commanders alike in offensive actions from section and platoon and finally Company and battle group contexed. Followed with an adventure training and conceptual study period all the soldiers that deployed put in maximum effort and were receptive to constructive work ons, but ultimately the whole battalion are better for the experience. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all those involved. The battalion has created strong teams that will give us a solid foundation in which to build upon moving into 2023.

As mentioned, the battalion continues to work closely with our sister battalions, and UOTC's. The Companies have also done a great job renewing their close support to ACFs and CCFs.

The battalion shooting team won the 1st Divisional operational shooting competition and finished within the top ten in the army shooting competition, an incredible achievement from all

those involved. This is testament to the professionalism I mentioned above and is proof that the battalion is on the right track focusing on core Infantry skills.

Steelbacks hungry to challenge themselves have committed themselves again in adventure training and sporting activities. Pte Totty and Pte Wilkinson now reprsent the Army woman's football team, 9 soldiers qualified at level 2 skiing and 15 at level 1.

Something that is not nesscarily known by the wider regimental family (myself being in a regular battalion my whole career I was not aware) , is that as a battalion we recruit, administrate, Mentor, and train all our recruits which takes an enormous amount of work. I am pleased to note that we recruited 84 into the Royal Anglian family in the last twelve months with 57 passing CIC, overall great work from the ROSO, REMSO and RRMT's across the battalion.

The continued efforts of our SPSI's and PSIs across our AO do not go unnoticed, including those that have departed the battalion recently onto pastures new, I wish you all the best of luck.

We should now look forward to 2023 where we see continued collaboration with the Poachers in Oman, sharpening of our war fighting skills and concentration of the development of our commanders combined with building battle winning teams.

The Steelbacks will continue to strive to be ready for whatever the future holds.

1 (Norfolk & Suffolk) Company

Capt Smith, OC

October saw the return of our Support Weapons training weekend bringing the Mortars out and refreshing the indirect fire capability and responsibilities of the MFC's. All No1 Company soldiers are bayonets first and their secondary skillset remains the 81mm. November saw a low-level Training Weekend delivered from the ARC catching up on MATT deficiencies and a C-19 compliant Remembrance parade as Norwich City had decided not to host a formal event. Soldiers of No1 Company attended local parades and church services.

Bursting into 2022 full of energy and enthusiasm, No 1 Company soon established itself working towards the Commanding Officers' Training Directive. Focusing on gaining and retaining its current orbat and developing Command throughout all ranks. In summary, Ptes Harvey-Beavis, Sacharczuk, Hague and Saterlay passing CIC, Pte Sabine completing CMT and Cpl Olby's success on PSBC.

Elsewhere members of the Company were supporting the Regular Battalions

No 1 Company Recipients of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal 2022. Back from left: Sgt Mackay, LCpl Sutton, LCpl Kelloway, Cpl Fuller, LCpl Mason, Pte Fordham, LCpl Cannon, Cpl Wilkinson,Cpl Carr. Front from left: Sgt Stone, CSgt Jones, Lt Musker, Capt Jones, Maj Blaney, Lady Dannatt MBE, Capt Smith, Capt Chambers, WO2 Nash, Sgt Warwick.

with Pte Gedney attached to the Vikings for four months and Cpl Carr and Pte Vermonden attending Wessex Storm attached to the Poachers. A sharp turnaround within 36hours also saw Pte Vermonden join his Steelback counterparts on their Annual Deployment Exercise (unfortunately not Spain as originally planned but Costa Del STANTA, weatherwise fortunately similar enough). LCpl Stevenson, Pte's Bull, Goodge, Potter and Symonds deployed early on in the year to the Falkland Islands as part of the Falkland Island Reinforced Infantry Company (FIRIC). Congratulations to Pte Hall and Thomsett-Hurrell for completing the Nijmegen March.

In total 17 personnel from across the Company were awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal. This occasion was quite rightly marked by the medals being personally presented by Lady Dannatt, MBE, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, followed by a curry supper and social event. The whole evening was a tremendous success, and credit and well-deserved thanks must go to Capt Tim Jones for orchestrating the whole event with his well-known zeal and critical attention to detail. Once again, the Steelback chefs excelled themselves not only making the trek to wildest Norfolk, to deliver an authentic curry but also an amazing, sculpted crown cake. This was also the time where we had to say farewell to our previous OC, Major Matt Blayney, who has temporarily stepped down from his military career due to family and civilian work commitments. Wishing you well for the future Boss and see you again soon.

3rd Battalion

Military skills have been sharpened throughout the year, all building on command and influencing those yet to step up to realise their potential. Using Battle Exercises over the Company and Battalion weekends as vehicles to deliver the practical experience and mentor the soldiers went down extremely well with the training audience. Leaving 7 Bde and becoming part of the reformed 19 Bde has all eyes focused on establishing the new role for the Army Reserve and potentially far more importantly having the opportunity to shape the new way of delivering the requirement. A definite case of exploiting change to create opportunity. All eyes were set on the late summer prize of an Overseas Training Exercise in Spain. Passports and medical documents applied for, medical appointments and inoculations including the mandatory C-19 boosters booked. The troops soon completed all the required pre deployment administration under the watchful eyes of Karen and Sam, busily relaying information back and forth from the RAO. The Spanish seemingly constantly changing the goal posts, almost as if they didn't want their siesta interrupted. Eventually a cancelation created the opportunity to test the Company's flexibility to adapt and change, it would not simply be a case of delete Spain insert STANTA.

With the prospect of a much shorter travel time, our minds had the opportunity to contemplate our fate. Overall No1 Company deployed 19 personnel onto Ex Steelback Warrior 2022 and had the opportunity to conduct Company level Offensive Operations from tactical field harbours culminating in a phased clearance of a Company level objective within the contemporary urban operating environment. Phase two saw a mix of Adventure Training, conceptual study and a cross over training period with the local Fire Service utilising their smoke house training facility.

Fortunately, this year Norwich City will host a Remembrance Day parade, and therefore soldiers will busy, completing the ACMT, once again invited and attending the football match at Carrow rd and finally the march past and subsequent service within the City's cathedral. Looking forward to December to the Company Winter Ball, The Commanding Officer's Exercise prior to Christmas Leave and of course supporting the Royal Anglian Big Breakfast in February 2023.

2 (Leicestershire & Northamptonshire) Company

Maj AG Speechley

2 Company, B Company - Ex Steelback Blade II.

As I approach the middle of my second year as OC 2 Coy it is heartening to see that despite changes in structure and an almost complete rotation of permanent staff the training level and capability of the Company is still moving forward. 2 Coy have spent this year deploying personnel on Op FIRIC, Ex WESSEX STORM, BATSUB and maximising the partnering opportunities available to us across the Reserve, as well as with the 2nd Battalion. Additionally, seeking to use the remaining time to conduct training in role, developing AT qualifications, sport and developing the assault pioneer platoon.

2 Coy REMSO Mr Sweeney continues to have great success in getting candidates into the company, as well as delivering several high-profile recruiting events including being one of the lead units recruiting at Silverstone across the Grand Prix and GP weekends. This year has been particularly notable for the closer cooperation between the Permanent Staff to drive retention by ensuring that once phase one trained SP's are immediately included in the rifle platoon training on both drill nights and weekends.

Additionally, this year has proved fruitful for officer training and selection with four from the company being

2 Coy RODET Training.

3rd Battalion

2 Company Ex WESSEX STORM.

successful at AOSB. With OCdts Horton and Hoxley passing AOSB and currently completing the regular commissioning course, while OCdt Titmus and Sampson are slated to attend the Reserve commissioning course imminently, before returning to the company and taking over 7 & 8 Platoons respectively.

The G7 Permanent Staff team of CSgt Power and Sgt Howes have quickly found their feet within 2 Company and have really pulled out all the stops to vary the use of training estate from the staple STANTA weekends. Deploying the Company for challenging exercises in Urban on Longmoor alongside EMUOTC and on Salisbury Plain alongside B Coy, 2 Royal Anglian. Other training has been focussed on support to Ex WESSEX STORM, integrated with 2 RAnglian and ADE.

Our paired relationship with 2 Royal

WO2 Mark Lappin leads the way for the mountain bikers.

Anglian has been a key force multiplier throughout the year with Assault Pioneer cross training on training evenings and weekends, with the highlight being a fully integrated platoon and command structure working alongside B Coy to plan and conduct an assault onto Copehill Down

In between these events over ten of the company have deployed on AT or the Nijmegen marches, (organised primarily by Lt Blackman, see elsewhere.) developing our in-house ML and sailing capability. Additionally, two of the Company have participated in or represented the army in sport with Pte Totty for Football and OCdt Titmuss for fencing.

This year has also seen us piloting events to involve the families and employers of reservists having conducted a families day on the shooting weekend in August, we recently trialled a joint event with families and employers invited along to see stands run by the reservists to develop understanding of the technical and transferable skills that reservists are always developing.

The next twelve months as the battalion establishes within 19 Brigade looks to hold great opportunities for 2 Company to get after. Continuing to grow the assault pioneer capability as well as solidifying a junior officer and JNCO progression within the platoon. Will further support and enable the quality training that is being laid on by the permanent staff.

Nijmegen March 2022

Lt Robert Blackman

3 R Anglian's participation in the Nijmegen Marches of 2022 presented a unique opportunity of cultural immersion, developing of physical fitness, and increasing individuals' exposure to partner forces in NATO. It was an arduous physical challenge which fostered greater team cohesion through covering 120km's over a three-day period while carrying 35lbs. Every year, the Nijmegen Marches attracts participants from over 73 nations, including 6,000 military representations and around 47,000 civilian marchers.

Our experience as a team of 8 was profound. Each individual had their own challenge, whether that was blisters the size of golf balls, limping due to severe muscle strain on the backs of the knees or simply the mental challenge of having to get up each day and march another marathon with weight. I believe everyone on the team enlarged their mental resilience to physical challenges – with a lot of lessons learnt for next time.

The marches themselves took place over the dates of Wed 20 – Fri 22 Jul 22, while it was certainly challenging, it was also immensely enjoyable. The atmosphere and support provided by the locals is unparalleled to any other military event. Many locals were awake at 5am for the march start with food, fruit, snacks, and musical motivation in the form of high beat techno / dance music. The spirit that the Dutch families brought to the marches is what makes partaking in the event worthwhile in

The team put their feet up for a rest stop!

Cooling our heels in central Nijmegen.

itself. It was noted on many occasions how it felt akin to British Jubilee celebrations or seemed even comparable to what it may have been like during VE day.

Despite this hearty welcoming, it did not detract from the 35-degree heat and the sweltering conditions faced with little to no shade along the routes. We soon adapted our strategy to tackling the days marching by combining short RVs with 5-minute breaks to reduce the risk of hot spots and to keep morale up. A simple method we followed was 5&5. 5km marching and 5-minute rest, this allowed enough time for a sock change, rest of the feet and a quick snack before once again setting off. This proved highly effective at reducing the overall effects of blisters.

Of course, an event such as this was not without its RnR period. At the end of the marches, the team had ample time to enjoy the city-wide festival, from beer stands, dozens of music stages and day long concerts simultaneously running throughout various central city districts. Additionally, the team had one final stop off at the Hague and managed to enjoy some final European sights just before the ferry set sail back for Harwich.

In sum, the Bn's attendance on the Nijmegen Marches 2022 was a first-time

The Hague.

Final team picture.

success, this is something I am sure all who attended can testify to. It cannot come more recommended to run this event in the following years with an even larger Royal Anglian presence. The experience it provides is unparalleled to any other military fitness event, nothing like it – that I have seen – exists within the UK.

All set for the final march on our last day.

3 (Essex & Hertfordshire) Company

by Major Rhys Little

As the risk of COVID dims, but does not fade, there is a slow and steady return to normal life and more importantly training. The Company has continued to grow and see new face join the older, more experienced ones. The onward and upward strength of the Company formed around the exceptionally strong core of JNCOs who push soldiers to not only attend, but close with the enemy.

This training year we saw our first public Remembrance parade in what felt like an age, and it was great to see that the public once again turned out to mark the event with the Company leading the parading through Chelmsford. Following the Christmas break we moved into the Urban phase of training with our BLADE series of Exercises. A major change was the Coy making the long travel to Copehill Down as an alternative for STANTA and Eastmere.

Alongside an urban obstacle course this gave us an opportunity to watch a demonstration of the use of Armoured elements in an urban setting, with Challengers isolating key strategic buildings and Warriors delivering soldiers to the break in. This exercise culminated with a Company clearance of a street. An excellent rehearsal of TTPs before the final exercise within this series, a Battalion Exercises to demonstrate everything that we had learnt.

This year also saw Capt Murphy leave as 2IC, a sterling personality within the Company, having been platoon commander of 6 Platoon before moving onto his role as 2IC. He has now moved on to an external post and we hope to see him back in the Battalion soon. We also bid farewell to CSgt Kelson, affectionately known as "Skippy", he had been a stalwart within the Company since before I joined, and I was lucky enough to have had him as one of my Section Commanders when I was a Platoon Commander in Hertford. He finished his time within the Army Reserves as CQMS, and was dinned out at the Salamanca dinner this July. The Company's exchange student, LCpl Crisp, who was training with us from the Australian Army also had to leave us this year as he has headed back to Australian. LCpl Crisp was an excellent NCO who got stuck in with all levels of training, bringing a fresh perspective to everything that we did. We wish him all the best with his continued career.

With some moving on we also have welcomed new people to the Company, Cpl Pike has joined us from the Vikings, making a strong impression on 6 PL on training, and the wider Bn on this year's Annual Training Exercise. We also have WO2 Jeffree move back to the Coy from Bn Support Weapons WO to take over the gapped MG PL Commander role, bringing his passion, drive and experience.

This has already had a positive impact on training and planned opportunities to develop the MG Platoon. We have also welcomed back Harry MacLeod into the role of 2IC, and this has brought back another beloved character of 3 Company. His addition has brought an influx of enthusiasm to the Company, and his continued work will only see the Company grow further.

The Coy also supported 3PWRR on their deployment to FIRIC with LCpl Whitehead and Pte Hyder making the trip across the ocean. This was some great training, and a chance to work with other members of the Queens Div, whilst providing a genuine Defence Output. Immediately off this Pte Hyder volunteered to join the RIFLES in Kenya, and we are sure he will perform excellently, once again being the strongest of ambassadors for the Steelbacks.

The Coy has also managed to get a number of people onto AT packages throughout this year, with Pte Large being selected for Parachuting, Pte Chamberlin kayaking for the Army and Cpl Keay again representing the Army in a number of Angling competitions, building on his success last year with more trophies and awards. As well as competing in these sports events both Cpl Keay and Pte Chamberlin also found time to take part in a number of the Dagger Exercises across the year with a focus on FIWAF. Here Cpl Keay not long carried out the role of PL Sgt, but also stepped up to PL Commander when his PL Commander was removed as a casualty. This training was another opportunity to bring soldiers together from across the Bn to push themselves hard in the challenging and demanding work of FIWAF.

As always, the Annual Training Exercise was the key focal point of the year for 3 Coy, although our trip to Spain had to be cancelled, the move to STANTA allowed us to really focus on the key infantry skills. Deploying out as a Company and testing all levels through the newest member to the most experienced. Building from PL level patrol actions to a Company level Advance to Contact, before reconstituting to Strike Eastmere Village as a Company, part of a notional Battle Group attack. Once again, the 3 Coy soldiers lead the way, and provided the controlled violence and aggression to carry the day.

It has been another successful year for the Company, with some old favourites leaving and new blood coming in. I am excited to see where the Company is going and know that it will continue to be at the forefront of the Bn. I am exceptionally proud of all of you.

Top Tips on Tackling the Combat Infantry Course in January!

Pte Georgia Middleton

Booking 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 RFT. However, 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, which created 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, when 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 ADXs, which had left me fairly familiarized 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 part of the course. With my rations consistently as ice-cold as the climate, I have decided that a jetboil is a very worthwhile investment.

The first day of the field exercise had me learning 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 it. 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 field ex consisted of creating model pits, carrying out ambushes and going 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 to compile all that we had learned throughout the field ex, and I even ended up recognising one of the streams we had to walk through from the platoon attack we did in Catterick for the last ADX. 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 field ex, 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 after the field ex. The second week of the course consisted of days on the range and evenings on the DCCT. With some brutal blasts from the wind 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 ACMT, 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 was the RFT. This was what I was most worried about, a feeling that I wasn't alone in having. The Corporals had us doing push-ups for being late for parade right before the RFT, which wasn't fantastic timing. 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 tab was tough, and the fact that my daysack 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 ex 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.

ANZAC Day in London 2022

LCpl Joshua Crisp, 3 Company

Every year on the 25 April, Australians and New Zealanders around the world come together to commemorate ANZAC Day, which stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, and is a National Day of Remembrance in both countries. The significance of this date is that it is the day the ANZACs landed at Gaba Tepe, later to be known as Anzac Cove, on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915, solidifying Australia and New Zealand's involvement in the First World War, and their first foreign engagement as new independent nations.

Although the Gallipoli campaign itself failed to achieve its main objectives, the Anzacs put up a fierce fight and it was the birthplace for what is now known as the 'Anzac Spirit', a concept that embodies the exemplified qualities that Anzacs showed on all battlefield during World War 1. These

qualities include endurance, ingenuity, courage, larrikinism, good humour, and mateship, as well as irreverent in the face of authority, naturally egalitarian and disdainful of class differences. The Anzac Spirit is considered to be a founding stone of Aussie and Kiwi national identities.

As an Australian soldier, my ANZAC Day would usually start the day before. Every year my unit, B Coy 4/3 Royal New South Wales Regiment in Wollongong, participates in a commemorative service at sunset for the veterans of Vietnam, while those that have ties to 3 Royal Australian Regiment commemorate the battle of Kapyong. We would then reconvene the following morning at 03:30 to provide catafalque parties for the numerous dawn services taking place at each towns cenotaph and war memorials stretching the length of the south coast. Each service is very similar to the Remembrance Services that take place here. Occasionally these would be followed by a gunfire breakfast if you didn't have a duty later that day, however most hold off now to participate in the Company march through Wollongong for the 11am service. Once the service is complete and weapons are returned (and the

obligatory regimental photo is taken), we would then head to our local services club to swap yarns with the older vets, mates who have discharged, and people we haven't seen for what seems like years. Sometime shortly afterward the games of Two-Up, legal nationally only on this one day, start up and down the country in almost every pub and club.

This year for me was a slightly different version. I had the privilege of being able to attend the commemorative services held in London, hosted this year by the New Zealand High Commission. Starting with the Dawn Service at Hyde Park Corner, I was humbled to see so many Australian and New Zealanders made the effort to come and show their respect. After the service I participated in a march down Whitehall with a ceremony and wreath laying at the cenotaph, with the Duke of Cambridge in attendance. Immediately after, I made my way to a service which took place at Westminster Abbey, where both the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were in attendance. Following this I met up with a slew of Aussie and Kiwi service people, veterans and active members alike, at the Horse and Guardsman just off Trafalgar Square for some beers, a few yarns, and a shared experience of what it is to be an Anzac.

The Association of Major Fishing Clubs Spring Match

Cpl David Keay, 3 Company

Soldier Palmer A & B teams at the AMFC Spring Match held at Bewl Water.

Each year The Association of Major Fishing Clubs organises the League Championship for member clubs. Clubs are divided into three groups and each group participates in six 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 four anglers to complete on the same day at the same venue. This was my first time completing in the AMFC and so 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 four boats with a member of the A&B team in each boat. We spilt Bewl into areas and spent 1hr 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 the where to go for the first two hours of the eight-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 hour an 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 three more trout I finished the day on a total of three.

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 second in Group 2 with 18 fish. I'm looking to Round 2 at Grafham Water in May.

Exercise DAGGER

LCpl Jamie Chambers, 3 Company

Exercise Dagger was my first weekend away and I went into it not entirely knowing what to expect. We arrived in Aldershot at midnight on the Friday and got up at 7am the next day in order to be ready on the track at 8am with full kit, to be ready for a brief for the weekend's serials. After our brief we were put into sections and fire teams, for our first serial we e patrolled along a track utilising different formations and once we were in the open, we were contacted. Under the command of the section commander, we used the techniques we had learnt in basic training and previous exercises to locate and dominate the enemy position.

Once the position was clear, we wrapped up with a debrief where the good and bad points were explained, and

we took the lessons learnt away. We then moved onto the next serial which was a similar scenario so that we could put into practice what we had been fed back. This was my first experience of fire team and section attack out of basic training and there was a lot to learn and do in a fast-moving realistic scenario. On one activity, whilst patrolling, we were contacted by a GMPG on a ridgeline and through quick thinking we were able to flank and take the enemy position. We also undertook a navigation exercise (navex)where we patrolled tactically on a bearing to each position. On the Sunday we had a lesson on FIWAF and utilised the viper to locate the enemy positions. After practicing several times through we went for a final confirmation exercise which enabled us to put these newly learnt skills into practice.

The weekend overall was very well planned and improved our overall teamwork as a section. It was a great experience for a new Private Soldier as well as the opportunity to learn from more experienced soldiers.

4 (Lincolnshire) Company

Sgt Mat Hardy, REMSO

4 Company Parade under Major Pegg for the final time at Cleethorpes Armed Forces Day.

2023 is looming up ahead and looks to be as busy as 2022 has been for 4 (Lincolnshire) Company. That means that COVID and all of its associated taskings are squarely in the rear-view mirror as we look ahead to the next challenge for Lincolnshire's Reservists.

As we relish the future and its challenges, we must pause to acknowledge some of the changes the last year has brought. First of all, we welcome a new SPSI into the Coy, CSgt Ted Baker from the Poachers. As a Grimsby lad, he has returned to his home town to help steer the Coy through the next two years of training. Never ask him for a lift though, his car is a death trap!

4 Coy also lost its Company Commander in October as Major Mitch Pegg retired after 45 years in the Army. Joining the Royal Army Pay Corps as Private soldier in 1977, Mitch reached the rank of WO1 before commissioning in 2001. He moved over to the Adjutant Generals Corps (SPS) upon its formation

Maj Mitch Pegg who retires after 45 years.

and subsequently promoted to Major. He transferred to 3 R ANGLIAN at the end of his regular service as Regimental Admin Officer (V) before becoming the inaugural Company Commander of 4 (Lincolnshire) Company upon its formation.

sWithout his tenacious work and badgering (or should that be campaigning?) in the right places, 4 Coy would not have reformed and Grimsby would still not have a Royal Anglian footprint in the town. During his time in the Army, Major Pegg has completed operational tours of Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. Unbeknown at the time, Major Pegg was in the same place at the same time as some mobilised members of 4 Coy in both Iraq and Afghanistan. As a reservist, Major Pegg mobilised on Op RESCRIPT for nearly 24 months as a Military Liaison Officer to the NHS in Lincolnshire. During this time, he still managed to find time to run 4 Coy and ensure that continuity was maintained. As Mitch leaves the Army behind, he will continue to volunteer with a charity in Louth, act as a magistrate and start a new voluntary position with the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association. Much

to her chagrin, he will also spend more time with his wife Jayne and finish off the jobs in the garden in his home in Lincolnshire.

To round off a year of change in 4 Coy, we have had more female soldiers pass the Combat Infantryman's Course at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick. Privates Potter and Fowler take us up to 3 fully trained female Infantry soldiers in the Coy with more in the pipeline. Our attached arms also have a strong and diverse population of females who have not only deployed to the Falklands and Cyprus this year, but also mobilised for the initial Op RESPCRIPT and a further tasking in Kent. We have even had one of our Shield Maidens represent the Army Female Football Team in Cyprus.

This year's training has been driven by the normal weekend training and ADX but we have had several soldiers and officers represent us on PCBC, PSBC and FTCC. All have come back successful and look forward to promotion. In addition to this, several 4 Coy troops deployed on Ex WESSEX STORM as part of C Coy, 2 R ANGLIAN on the Foxhound vehicle platform. Although ADX wasn't quite

Pte Andy Markham-Jenkins prep–aring to fight his way back to the CQMS's crew.

Pte Catalina Bucur on the range in Okehampton after engaging 4 Company troops.

Pte Catalina Bucur, LCpl Steve Wall and Pte Josh Bakewell at the Falklands Memorial in Port Stanley on the 40th anniversary of the conflict.

SSgt Tim Mosey at Mont Blanc.

Sgt Mat Hardy and Sgt Steve Grant with officers of the Koninklijke Landmacht (Royal Netherlands Army) and Koninklijke Marine (Royal Netherlands Navy) at the Defence College in Amsterdam.

while developing their AT skills the following week.

Kenya has been home to Pte McKenzie and LCpl Wall in between editions of Castle magazine with LCpl Tourlamain heading to Op TOSCA in Cyprus as a Chef. LCpl Wall (who clearly can't get enough of it) headed up the 4 Coy team for FIRIC in the Falkland Islands with Pte Bucur and Pte Bakewell making up the rest. LCpl Wall has volunteered to return to BATUK for a 9 month posting. A typical Yorkshireman, he is fleeing the country just as we turn the heating on.

Sergeants Steve Grant and Mat Hardy deployed to the Netherlands to mentor Officer Cadets from Yorkshire Officer Training Regiment and from the Netherlands Defensity College. The Defensity College is a Dutch military college of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Officer Cadets. A 6-day FTX was followed by the International Sports Day, cycling challenge, caving expedition and battlefield study in Arnhem and Oosterbeek. They even managed to attend a seminar at the Defensity College in Amsterdam and take in some of the culture whilst in the city.

Pte Josh Bakewell with the Royal Navy in the Falklands.

SSgt Tim Mosey assisted Cambridge UOTC for their expedition to trek the Tour de Mont Blanc. The TMB is a high-altitude trek of 160 kilometres starting in Chamonix and heading anti clockwise through France, into Italy then Switzerland before returning into France.

All was going well until day 7 when a large number of the group started to suffer D&V which unfortunately has been prevalent on the route this summer. A decision was made to return base camp in France and those who were able, continued the sections of the walk they could access from France.

Recruiting has been challenging but rewarding this year and the company has strengthened by taking on an experienced officer and some ex-regular soldiers in addition to some new entrants. The busiest period of the summer saw 4 Coy display to over 300,000 people in 8 days at events including the Lincolnshire Show and Cleethorpes Armed Forces Day.

The recruiting team dug in for some long days at these and the other events over the summer and their effort has not gone unappreciated. Remember, civvies pay thousands to get a sun tan like that.

The future is busy as we look to embrace our diversity in 4 Coy and provide more troops to the Regular Army for training and operations around the globe and with a bit of luck scoop this years Champion Company competition.

5 (Suffolk & Cambridgeshire) Company

After two years heavily impacted by the nations response to COVID-19 this year has seen a return to more familiar activity with the steady drumbeat of, in person, Coy and Bn level training events. This along with the significant number of opportunities available to deploy with other units in the UK and overseas has ensured another busy year for the Coy.

Collectively the Coy tasted success when at the end of Ex Steelback Blade in Mar, and after a hard-fought year of competition, the CO announced 5 Coy as the years 'Champion Coy' something all members of the Coy took great pride in. As a demonstration of the commitment shown by individual 5 Coy soldiers it is worth noting that 32 personnel received the Queens Platinum Jubilee Medal, the Coy deployed 23 personnel onto this year's ADX and 78% of those eligible from the Coy achieved their Certificate of Efficiency.

Training has been focussed on conventional warfare with the early part of this year consisting of urban exercises in Eastmere village, Copehill Down and Aldershot before switching the focus to woodland operations, advance to contact and attack in the lead up to the ADX. This type of soldiering is what most join the Reserves to do and is therefore always well attended. Our OCs weekends have been spent on the ranges, another activity the soldiers enjoy, where we try to ensure soldiers get the opportunity to do more than the minimum required to achieve their certificate of efficiency, introduction to pistol, sharpshooter and GPMG have been covered this year.

Soldiers from the company continue to take advantage of the numerous operational, training and development opportunities available to them. Of note this year: Ptes Ntege, Lewis, Bartlett and Huseyin-Sharp deployed on OP FIRIC with 3 PWRR from March to August; CSgt Shaw deployed with 2 R Anglian on Ex WESSEX STORM for two weeks in August; CSgt Howe deployed to the USA on Ex HIGHLAND WARRIOR in support of the Bermuda Regiment; 2Lts Bradley, Grosser and Stannard Commissioned into the Regiment; LCpl Burrell passed the Pioneer Sect Comds course and Pte Deeley his PJNCO cadre; CSgt Howe, Cpl Dacascos, LCpl Ashford, Pte Downer and Pte Deeley have all passed specialist courses this year; Eleven soldiers from the Company have completed Phase 1 training this year and 15 Phase 2; WO2 Butcher and Cpl Dean took part in the Nijmegan 100-mile march; LCpl Turner and Pte Garner were members of the Battalion shooting team.

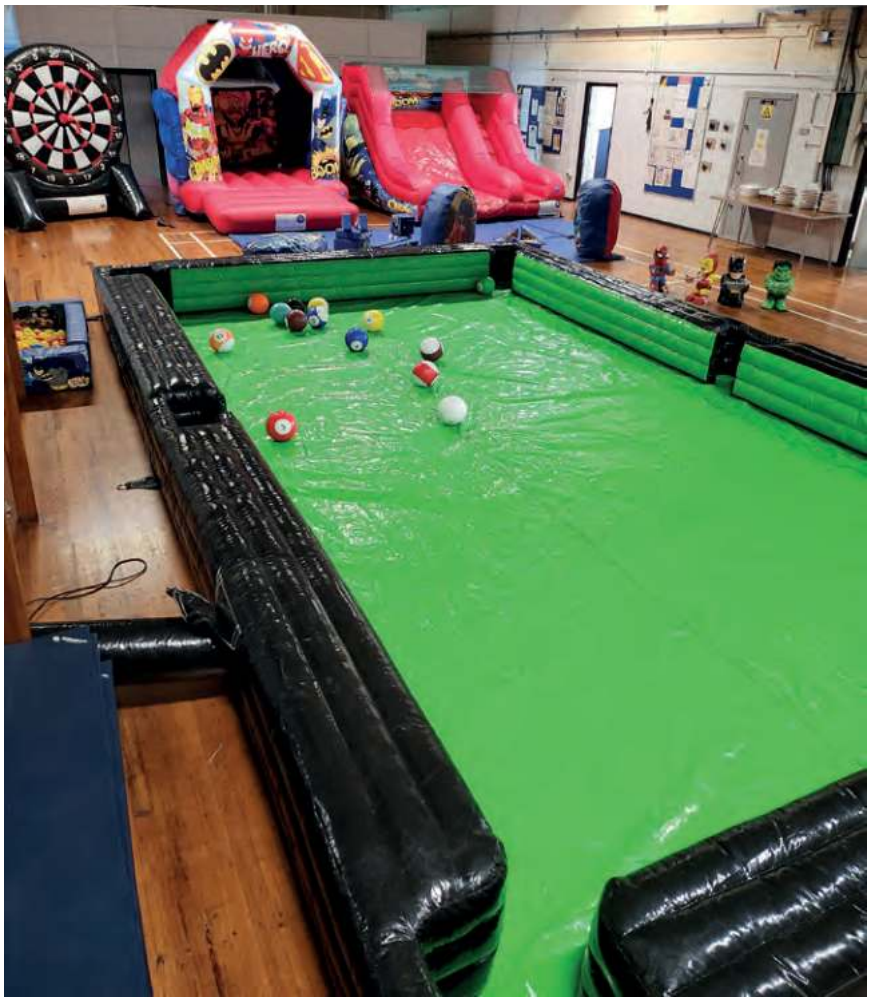
Despite the challenges of the past two years we continue to be well recruited

however we have seen a reduction on attestations this year with only seven enlisting since January.

On a positive note we continue to see strong attendance on both training nights and weekends from both Company locations. The Peterborough platoon continues to benefit from the exceptional leadership of WO2 Butcher and is well over establishment but would benefit from a junior officer as Platoon Commander. Bury St Edmunds continues to thrive and is particularly healthy on the junior officer front with five now attending regularly along with the new Company 2IC Capt Hugo Fraser.

BSE have also benefited significantly with the arrival from Regular service of CSgts Howe and Shaw who have made an immediate impact as CQMS and RRMT SNCO respectively. Congratulations also go to CSgt McGarrell from Peterborough on his promotion earlier this year.

As expected, the Integrated Review has already led to changes for the Company with more to follow. It was with some sadness that we left 7 Brigade but eight members of 5 Company attended the reformation of 19 Brigade parade in July and we look forward to



3rd Battalion

seeing what impact a 'specialist' Reserve Brigade HQ will have for individual Reserve soldiers. What is already clear is that given the pressure on Regular units the Army would like more from its Reservists, exactly what that looks like in terms of commitment and readiness is still being worked on but everyone in the Company will continue to engage with the various trials and working groups to help make them a success.

The Company also said goodbye to a long standing member of the team this year when CSM Matt Waters left the Company to take up an FTRS training post at ATR Grantham. His post there will ensure he continues to have a positive influence on the standard of the Battalion's soldiers and help provide opportunities for Battalion JNCOs to deliver training to AR recruits, we wish him every success.

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

The Kindness of Strangers

Lt Pete Fryers, 5 Company

On 2 September 2022 I touched the US-Canada border marker in Glacier National Park, Montana.

116 days and over 2,750 miles of walking before that I had put my foot over a ramshackle barbed wire fence into Mexico from the state of New Mexico. Walking the length of the US on the "raw, wild, remote and unfinished" Continental Divide Trail had involved fewer tears than when I walked from John O'Groats to Lands End back in 2016 but was still hard work.

Through -3C to 48C, from 4000' to 14000', through blistering sunshine, rain, snow, hail and lightning, through road-walking and snow-walking I had met a diverse group of individuals who helped me believe that having the right team around you is the most important thing.

I'm not saying I had to tab with a 356, but when I was walking 35 mile days through the Chihuahua desert carrying 5 days of food and 8 litres of water it felt pretty heavy. 'Trail Angels'

are people who donate their time to help out hikers leaving water and sometimes food or even just encouragement. On day 4 my socks were so congealed with blood from the blisters in the desert heat that I had to cut them off with my nail scissors, had it not been for a retired hiker sitting under a jungle gym in the middle of a dust bowl with an ice cold Coca Cola I may have lost my sense of humour that day.

As an aside, the irony was not lost to the Forest Service that New Mexico's all-time record forest fire was caused this year by a 'test' fire getting out of hand.

Hikers all take 'trail names' as a sort of tradition, sometimes normal, sometimes zany, they always feel very American. You have to be given your name by another hiker and I'm glad to say mine will never resurface back here in the UK. The cultural clash between a group of weirdly-named hikers and the rural America we were walking through was stark. Despite that not one of us was ever short of drivers giving us lifts to and from towns to get more food or phone home or even buy me lunch on one occasion.

I met the hiker Jacob for the first time in the snow-covered San Juan mountains in Colorado while I was suffering from Giardia and had very little left in the way of fluids in my body. I was too weak to arrest myself on the ice and after having slid out on a very gentle slope knew that any of the day's big traverses would be suicidal so I pitched tent, dug a latrine and waited it out. Jacob was generous enough to offer me that small quantum of companionship and nature valley bars that were enough to keep me going.

Raider was an ex US Marine sniper who had got into long distance hiking to help his rehabilitation after wounds he received in Afghanistan. He was truly inspirational and one of the kindest, most generous men I've ever met. He was also the kind of crazy that only a lifelong military career can give you. Thank you Raider for lending me a spare water filter gasket so I could filter water and survive in the dry Idaho mountains where I walked 110 miles without crossing a road.

In Wyoming, in the mind-blowingly beautiful and mosquito-laden Wind River mountains, I was having trouble with my 'trail legs' after two weeks off trail seeing my partner when I came across two bonhomie-soaked

individuals. Feelgood and Caddyshack had been having a rough time of it with heat exhaustion through the Great Basin but were as upbeat and boisterous as a spaniel looking for trouble. Both of them, and the French holidaymakers who gave me a lift to town to get a food resupply, were a delight.

I had bumped into Slim for the first time back in the forests of New Mexico, a quiet and reserved man who, software engineer or not, clearly had the grit to see the trail through (on finishing the trail he became one of a select few to have finished their 'Triple Crown' of trails - ten times as many have submitted Everest). When we coincided again in Idaho he had a groin issue and I was pissing blood, so we decided to team up. He and I walked 800 or so miles together and finished the trail as firm friends with a sixth sense for how to look put for each other. Companionship is an odd beast, even as an introverted, quietly spoken individual having someone to share being starving, cold, wet and miserable with somehow makes it all better.

Without Slim's encouragement and reverse-psychology baiting I would never have proved to myself that I could walk back to back 40 mile days through the Bob Marshall wilderness.

Most of the trail was solitary. I walked hundreds of miles without seeing anyone on trail, went weeks without speaking to another hiker and 36 hours without seeing a human being even in an aeroplane or a distant car. The wildlife and wilderness were simply awesome, but it was the camaraderie and kindness of hikers and angels that made the trip.

Although I'm one of the 150 or so who made it of the roughly 800 who started I know I'd have lost my mind and my determination without the kindness of strangers. Thank you to all of them, and the dozens there isn't space to mention.

PS RIP Cutie – the (mercifully only) fatality on this year's trail

Steelbacks G4 Team

WO2 Richard (Mole) Stevens

It has been another busy period for the steelbacks G4 team, this last 6 months has seen a new QM Major Eamon Jordan take his post just in time for the ADX planning and the annual inspections and audits with no loss of output. As always the Battalion got through all inspections with a green due to the hard work and diligence amongst the wider G4 team.

Those reading this will know that the battalion was looking forward this year to its ADX being in Spain working with the Spanish army, the G4 input into this like any OTX starts many months before with initial planning for stores and transport having in some cases several months of lead in time.

However the closer we got to the date of deployment it became clear that deploying to Spain was possibly due to issues outside the battalions control under threat of being cancelled and this indeed did happen with less that 2 weeks for the team to turn round the plan to support an short notice plan to deploy to STANTA for 2 weeks this caused many journeys around the country picking up stores and ammunition to allow the exercising troops to get the most from the training being planned. ADX went ahead the regular team put everything in place on the first day and handed over to the reserve team to pick up and run with the 2 weeks of training, this allowed those reservists to carry out their roles properly feeling fully supported, although some had to also fill in a times as enemy on training serials due to everyone pulling together the whole 2 weeks ran smoothly, a chuck up to Cpl Feaks who stepped up as CQMS with at short notice and never let it phase him ensuring the exercising troops had all their needs meet in good time.

I would like to at this point to say goodbye to SSgt 'Sid' Brain QPSI 2 Company who left to pursue a new role in a civilian workplace, and also to our previous QM Major 'Ski' Witkowski who moved on to a new role at MRTC at Bassingbourn.

Exercise STEELBACK SKI

WO2 John Jeffee

Exercise SteelBack Ski is 3 Royal Anglians annual Adventure Training skiing expedition to Austria. It gives an opportunity for members of the battalion, of a variety ranks, to gain their Ski Foundation SF1 and SF2 qualifications. The 2020 expedition had been cancelled the day before departure due to the Austrian government bringing in restrictions on tourists following the outbreak of a new virus called Covid-19 in their ski resorts. Subsequently, the 2021 expedition was also cancelled due to the ongoing global pandemic. Therefore, following the previous disappointments it was a welcome return when the 2022 expedition was given the green light and once again, I would have the opportunity to further my skiing skills and hopefully gain the SF2 qualification.0

The only downside to what I think is one of the best Adventure Training packages available to the Army Reserve, is the marathon of a road trip to get to there. The best part of 24hrs of driving, in a minibus or combi van, on Continental roads, during the night, trying to get some sleep, whilst having regular breaks to swap drivers and refuel, is certainly a challenge. But it is also a great opportunity to get to know the soldiers of other companies in the battalion in an informal atmosphere, as you may have seen them previously on exercise, but never really spoken to them. However, this short period of discomfort is certainly worth enduring as the opportunity to have 6 days of instructed skiing in Austria with guaranteed snow is not something to be missed.

Of the 26 skiers and instructors attending this year, 8 of us were trying to gain our SF2 qualification. With our current basic level of skiing (SF1), this would be taking us outside of our comfort zone and starting to move onto a more advanced level of skiing. I had skied a lot as a teenager but the 25+ years of "family" life had led to a certain level of skill fade before gaining my SF1 qualification. But as the lead instructor, Major Whitehead, was very keen on emphasising, the "Army System" of teaching is very good at taking skiers of all abilities and giving them the skills to continuously push themselves forwards and hopefully downwards.

The Stubaier Glacier in Austria extends up to a height 3000m and guarantees skiing throughout the whole year.

This year however, the snow conditions were very challenging, with changes in the climate leading to higher-than-normal temperatures and a dearth of fresh snow in the 2-month period prior to us arriving in late March. One of the elements of the SF2 Qualification is learning how the changing weather conditions effects the layers of snow, increasing or decreasing the probability of avalanches. A very important consideration when skiing off-piste.

This was very evident during a demonstration to identify the layers of snow, when the constant thawing and freezing of the snow had led to several hard layers lying on top of a weak soft layer, where any increase in weight above. i.e. a large amount of snow or a skier would lead to a failure/slip in the snow and a subsequent avalanche. It was also one of these hard layers on the top of the snow, that made any off-piste skiing very challenging and dangerous.

For this reason, the opportunity for off-piste skiing was very limited, as if you were to break through this layer your skis and feet could become trapped in the soft layer, leading to a possible injury. Interestingly, as a further example of how all the worlds weather patterns are intrinsically linked together, was an earlier weather event blowing brown

sand up from the Sahara Desert, lightly covering the white snow and giving it an off brown appearance.

I always thought that skis were used for going downhill, and that if you wanted to go up in the mountains you used either a chairlift, drag lift or cable car. How wrong was I? SF2 also introduced us to Ski Touring, which is the ability to walk uphill on your skis to areas not accessible by other means and then skiing back down. Walking uphill is achieved by using boots that lift off the skis at the heel and the addition of "Skins" to the underside of the ski. They are called skins as they resemble Sealskin, being smooth when brushed one way, allowing the ski to slip, and rough when brushed the other way, allowing the ski to grip the snow. Then, once you have got to where you want to be, the boots are locked and the skins removed, allowing you to ski down in a normal manner. The technique for using these Skis and Skins was very counter intuitive to how you would normally ski and took some time to perfect. So, with the limited availability for off-piste skiing, I can't say I was very proficient at it by the end, but adequate, just!!

Overall, by the end of the week I felt I had become a much more proficient skier with a greater appreciation of what skiing was available but also the associated increased dangers. I owe this to the instructors as their methods are proficient, concise, and easy to grasp and led to a bigger leap of ability in a short period of time that wouldn't have been achieved on a civilian "holiday".

And now for that 24hr road move home!

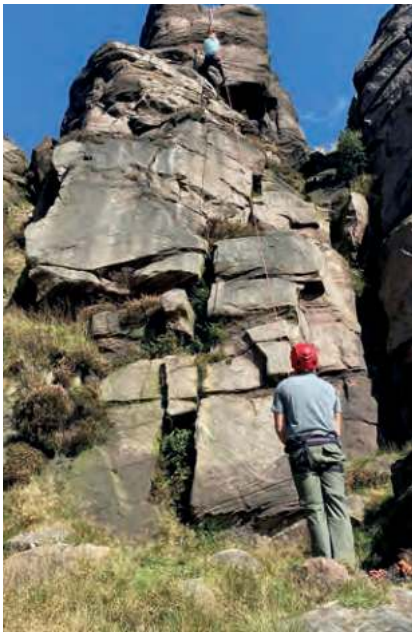
Summer Adventure Training

Maj Gavin Rushmere

Summer Adventure Training was severely affected by the loss of our usual Totley Camp venue which led to two events being cancelled. In September we moved to a new location, The Leslie Johnson Centre in Warslow, Peak District.

Activities on offer were Mountain Biking, Rock Climbing, Hill Walking, Canoeing and Caving. The Dry Summer was evident, particularly at the Tittesworth Reservoir where the Canoeing and Paddleboarding took place and water level was a quarter of its usual capacity. The event also focused on bringing on and encouraging new activity instructors.

Paddle boarding on Tittesworth Water.



Rock Climbing at The Roaches.

The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment in 2022

CSgt Neil Carey

Following the enforced 'quiet period' the band experienced due to the pandemic, 2022 saw a pleasing increase in band engagements and activity. In December 2021 the band provided musical support for the regimental carol service in St Mary's church, Bury St Edmunds. Although a fairly new event, the carol service attracts an increasing number of people every year, meaning the band provided incidental music as well as accompanying enthusiastic carol singing to a packed congregation. The service, in the beautiful setting of the magnificent St Mary's church, served to start the festive season for the regimental family.

Following the Christmas service, a small brass group provided musical support for the 3rd Battalion carol service at Wretham Camp on the STANTA training area. After the festive break, the band undertook a period of

Musicians Barnett and Burbridge.

The Regimental Band performs in Bedford.

Regimental Band

musical and military training to prepare us for the year ahead.

January saw us undertaking our Battlefield Casualty Drills at Peterborough ARC as part of the wider MATT's completed by the band by the end of the training year. 2022 was a poignant year for the band as our longstanding Director of Music, Captain Peter Hudson retired having served for nearly 50 years, both regular and reserve, in the Regiment. Captain Hudson's last concert with the band was on the 14th May back at St Mary's church, Bury St Edmunds where the band performed for the regimental charity. As well as our regular audience we also were pleased to see so many ex-members of the band attend to support Captain Hudson.

The first of the band's two Annual Training Exercises took place in May at RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire. The band provided musical support for the station's Jubilee celebrations and well as completing musical training. At the end of the ADX we welcomed our new Director of Music, Captain Jason Griffiths with Captain Hudson formally handing over the baton. On 18th June the band invited Captain Hudson and his wife Carol to be formally dined out at an event in Rutland. Again, ex-members of the band attended to wish them both a happy retirement.

Later in June, the band played for the Peterborough Armed Forces Day parade under the direction of our Band Sergeant Major, WO1 Bob Gough. Our second Training Exercise at RAF Henlow at the end of July was our first opportunity to undertake some intensive training with our new Director of Music, this was good preparation for the end of year upcoming engagements. The band undertook engagements with Captain Griffiths for the regimental gathering at IWM Duxford in September, for the regimental sponsored church service at the Royal Hospital later in the same month and the regimental charity concert in Bedford in October. At the time of writing the band are looking forward to Remembrance Sunday at Duxford and the regimental and battalion carol services in December.

Captains Hudson and Griffiths.

The Band at RAF Henlow.

Autumn Concert in Pictures

RMAS

CSgts Wildney, Warburton and Kimpton ready for the Winter term Sovereign's Parade with the Duke of Gloucester in attendance. It also marks the first King's Sovereign's Parade under the reign of King Charles III. A small piece of history in the academy that all three instructors were proud to be part of.

This is the first time we have had three Royal Anglian instructors at RMAS in a long time, a trend that we hope will continue.

CSgt Wildney will commission his Platoon next term and will then return to the 1st Battalion in the summer after completing his two-year posting at RMAS.

CSgts Warburton and Kimpton have now ended a first successful term in the Dismounted Close Combat Wing (DCCW) delivering training for officer cadets in Senior and Intermediate term respectively. They are both looking forward getting their own Platoons.

There are also another four Royal Anglians attending the RMAS Cadre in 2023, we all wish them luck.

From left: CSgt Dean Kimpton, CSgt Sam Warburton and CSgt Aaron Wildney

From left: Lt Col Tim Irwin-Parker, OCdt Hugo Flint, Colonel of the Regiment, OCdt Samuel Barke and Capt George Liddington.

Congratulations Natashia

Brig Richard Lyne, Natashia Sampson and Maj Andrew Speechley, OC 2 Company.

Congratulations to Second Lieutenant Natasha Sampson who passed out of Sandhurst on the 26th of November 2022. Natashia will be joining 2 Company as Platoon Commander in Leicester.

On joining the Company, almost a year ago, She quickly established herself within the platoon, settling in well and leading from the front.

Throughout she has kept her fitness up, and was keen and enthusiastic which is all enable her to complete her training effectively.

Natasha is a Civil Servant working in her civilian role in MOD Main Building, London and lives with her partner Toby, an Officer in the Royal Logistic Corps.

PCBC

Infantry Battle School
Platoon Commanders Division

Platoon Commanders Battle Course 2103
The Royal Anglian Regiment
16 January to 29 April 2022

From left: 2Lt Harrison Bussandra, 2Lt Ben Jooste-Jennings, Maj Adam Mackness and 2Lt Jack Rice.

Platoon Commanders Battle Course 2201
The Royal Anglian Regiment - 8 May to 19 August 2022

From left: 2Lt Jake Peel, Capt Jack Wright, Lt Anthony Stratton, Maj Adam Mackness, Capt Danny Spray and 2Lt Oliver White.

ITC Catterick

A Warm Welcome to the Royal Anglian Family

The latest intake of Royal Anglian soldiers that have successfully completed their Infantry training at ITC Catterick. The following were warmly welcomed to their battalions in January 2023 (from left): Pte Edgecox, Pte Mayer-Stewart, Pte Pegram, Pte Wyse, Pte Grace, Pte Gore, Pte East, Pte Gill, Pte Poole, Pte Pilgrim-Read, Pte Matts, Pte Loughlin, Pte Coles, Pte Marshall, Pte Cassidy

Our winter intake of infantry soldiers completed their Combat Infantry Course at the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick in North Yorkshire in November 2022. The 11 newly qualified Royal Anglian Soldiers passed off the square on 18 November 2022 and have now been posted to the 1st and 2nd Battalions to begin their Army careers. Pictured from left: Pte Tonawai, Pte Minhas, Pte Tipper, Pte Lee, Pte Musk, Pte Anderson, Pte Wilcock, Pte Easton, Pte Sylvester, Pte Watkin, Pte Rhodes.

My Final Project

Lt Col Rich Bredin

In a year that the country lost its longest serving monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I thought I would share with the Regiment my last and most interesting project which delivered a life size statue of HM in the grounds of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS).

During a walk around the grounds of RMAS in October 2018, with the then Commander Brigadier Bill Wright. Much discussion took place mainly surrounding Project Heritage and how the history could be improved across the entire Academy. As the new in post Staff Quartermaster (SQM), this project fell to me and my new never-ending list of infrastructure issues that needed addressing. During the discussion, a classic senior officer throw away comment was made and that's how it all started; "wouldn't it be a great idea to commemorate HM in her Platinum Jubilee year with a statue", my response was "yes, sir great idea leave it with me." There were times during the project when I wish my response had been more robust.

So back to the office, pen and whiteboard to think through a concept which could be presented as a viable option to allow the project to be taken forward. After a month of consultations with various historians and RMAS experts the following was proposed:

The statue was to be modelled on HM at the Troop in 1984. Why you ask:

RMAS dress, traditions, and customs are based on those of the Grenadier Guards (GREN GDS). This historic link can be directly attributed to the longest serving Academy Sergeant Major, WO1 John Lord MBE GREN GDS. When RMAS amalgamated with Woolwich post World War 2. WO1 John Lord MBE used the traditions of his parent Battalion to provide a common policy across the Academy. There are many examples of these traditions still in existence today with the best example being the Academy Sergeant Major (AcSM) wearing a GREN GDS forge hat when in dress uniform.

Burmese (1962-1990) a black Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) mare, was presented to HM in 1969. Burmese become HM favourite mare. HM rode Burmese for 18 consecutive years from 1969 to 1986. 1984 was the last time HM rode Burmese dressed in GREN GDS uniform.

Therefore 1984 was chosen as the statue captures the traditions of RMAS through the GREN GDS uniform and HM favourite mare.

The sign off meeting took place in December 2018 which agreed the concept and to financially underwrite the project with non-public funds. This was key to allow me to go and engage with the recommended sculptors who specialised in equestrian and life size statues. Four sculptors were invited to the Commandants Parade in December 2018 to immerse themselves in Academy and be briefed on the project scope. A date was set in April 2019 for each of the sculptors to present their vision, costings, plinth design and delivery timelines. A project evaluation team was formed, and the presentations began. Of interest 3 of the 4 sculptors presented a very similar proposal, with the 4th proposal completely missing the brief. This helped the down select process and after much deliberation, Caroline Nunneley was chosen. Only after the final selection did the Academy find out that Caroline was also a Lady in Waiting to the Princess Royal, this would become a real asset as the project progressed.

The delivery project team was formed and regular visits to a windy barn in the Cotswolds where the life size clay model started to take shape. When I enlisted in 1983, I never expected that I would have to understand the process required to deliver a life size statue of HM. The picture below shows the first stage which is made from clay layered onto a chicken wire frame.

Stage 2 can only be started once the clay statue is complete and set. This includes all the detail, medals, insignia, facial expression and so on. During this stage is it important to ensure everything is correct as there is no going back. Many experts where enlisted to view the clay version, too many to acknowledge but to give you a flavour a wide range of retired London District Officers, members of HM household and equine

experts. Once agreement was reached, Caroline could then with the foundry cover the entire statue in a pink latex solution.

This process forms a mould which then allows the foundry to start stage 3. This stage sees the mould be used to form a hard mould to allow the bronze cast to be poured in sections, hind leg left, hind leg right and so on. Stage 3 and 4 combined are the most complicated. As the bronze must set before moving to stage 4, which sees the foundry welding all the parts of the statue together, under the watchful eye of the sculptor. Stage 5 sees the sculptor really earn her fee as Caroline now has to now bring the statue to life by

smoothing out all the joins and polishing all the insignia. Concurrently, Yorkshire stone was chosen to clad the plinth and even the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) was ahead of the planning to deliver the ground works and foundations to take the 10-ton statue and plinth. The total timeline had to be extended due to Covid but by the end of 2021, the project was coming together with a target date to unveil in December 2022 at the Sovereign's Parade.

So, as I entered 2022 and my final year of service expecting a clear and gentle run to retirement the bombshell dropped. Due to several external issues out of RMAS control a decision was taken to move the unveiling forward to Friday 27 May the week prior to the country wide Platinum Jubilee celebrations. After a call with Caroline in early January, she confirmed that the statue and plinth would be ready – phew. Although DIO had been leaning in, could they now deliver the grounds works on time noting the infrastructure contract was also due to change from Amey to Vinci on 1 April 2002 (this isn't an April fool). Thankfully, DIO delivered. The only outstanding issue was who was going to unveil the statue. As I mentioned earlier, having Lady in Waiting now became a real asset as Caroline was able to use her contacts in the various Royal Households to determine availability which allowed a formal application to be staffed. The Earl of Wessex Prince Edward KG GCVO accepted along with HH Sheik Nassar bin Hamad Al Khalifa representing Bahrain. To further complicate matters it was decided to host the bi-annual Former Commandants visit to RMAS on the same day. A tough audience who all have an opinion, so everything had to be better than perfect.As the 27th rapidly

The entire team that was involved in delivering various elements of the project.

Final Dining Out: The Colonel of the Regiment was invited but is a busy man and had to bail at the last safe moment.

approached, 3 weeks prior would see a scaffolding based hording erected around the plinth to keep HM under wraps until the last safe moment. The moment of truth arrived on the 12th May as the statue was transported from the foundry to RMAS for installation onto the plinth along with the commemorative plaques. All went without a hitch meaning the Academy was now set for the unveiling with just rehearsals to be completed. Over to the Academy Sergeant Major as the ceremonial aspects of the unveiling where well out of my area of expertise.

After 3.5 years of my life planning, preparing, and managing this project the unveiling day and culmination had finally arrived. The Academy was set to receive the VVIPs and Former Commandants. The unveiling was preceded by a lunch in the Indian Army Memorial Room delivered by Aramark followed by an update to all Former Commandants on the way forward for the Academy. H Hour was fast approaching, Sheik Nasser and The Earl of Wessex both arrived on time. Now for the short walk from Old College steps to the unveiling location in the centre of the grounds. The picture below captures the shroud falling away as rehearsed, this was the single biggest risk to the day. A great turn out from across the Academy with many family members, school children and civil servants attending the event. The Earl spent longer that planned, speaking to the families which was appreciated by all in attendance. And no sooner had the VVIPs arrived, the event was over, and the Academy returned to normal but with HM sitting proudly on Burmese in the middle of RMAS for all to see. Not knowing how significant this statue would become in just a few months.

Former Pompadours, which inculdes Paul Humphreys. The pair of us joined 9 Platoon, Salamanca Company of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion on 13 Sepember 1983.

I wrote this article for three reasons. One, to share this unique and interesting project with the wider Regiment. Two, as my 40-year career concludes I wanted to express how proud I am to have served in such a fine Regiment which has a strong future and is held in high regard across the entire Army. And finally, this project epitomises our Regiment those who go about their professional business with the minimum amount of fuss but always deliver to the highest of standards. If you are ever in RMAS do take time to view and see if you can find the discreet SQM signature that is hidden on the statue. God speed.

Photo credit goes to: Tempest Photography, Sandhurst

Foreword from Colonel Cadets

Brigadier Rich Lyne

As Colonel Cadets for our Regiment, I was delighted to be asked to write a short piece on our Cadet engagement for Castle – I'd ask that you take a few minutes to read on….

You'll no doubt be aware that we have always had a strong relationship with our affiliated Army Cadet and Combined Cadet Force Detachments; as I write, we have a total of 95 ACF Detachments and 32 CCFs in schools, spread across our counties, totalling c. 3200 Cadets. Being a Royal Anglian is not a default choice for them and we should take great pride that they choose to wear our cap-badge and, for many of them, adopt our titles and customs. I have always been struck by the vibrant and diverse nature of the Cadets – young people from all backgrounds looking to do something different and challenge themselves with a military theme as the unifying basis. And, before anyone asks, it's not about recruiting, it's about using all that is good about military life and values to encourage and energise the next generation – in the case

of our affiliated Cadets, a generation that choose to be Royal Anglians.

COVID-19 imposed severe restrictions on all activity nationally and Cadets were hit particularly hard – weekly parades, camps and just getting together were suspended and with that, the physical routine and habits that are so much part of Cadet membership were lost, albeit temporarily. On a recent visit to Aldenham & Queen's School CCF, I asked a couple of the Cadets how COVID had effected them – they had missed being at school (to a greater or lesser extent), had missed their friends and had especially missed Cadets. It was very telling that at that same CCF, they had experienced a significant and highly positive post-COVID rebound with the return of existing members and new recruits.

So, you might say, this is all good news and what a great job we have done. But I would argue that there is an enduring debt that goes with affiliation to our Regiment which, reflecting on that relationship and the professional embodiment of those skills, values and standards, we should look to repay in terms delivering support. Forget that debt and take affiliation for granted,

and things could look very different. Recognising this and knowing that there might be a need to double-down on support to our Cadets as they emerged from COVID restrictions, we delivered a number of rapid initiatives throughout last year:

- The establishment of a **Cadet Executive Committee** that includes Cadet County and Regional Colonels. Meeting twice a year, this Committee provides the overarching strategy for all Cadet engagement and assists with the top-down coordination of Regimental support.

- The inception and delivery of the **Colonel of the Regiment's Coin**, presented to Cadets to recognise achievement. It was fantastic to see the first of these Coins being presented by the Colonel of the Regiment in front of 350 Cadets at Duxford in September.

- Improved coordination of **Regimental Support to Detachments** to ensure that what we provide is best aligned to the needs of Detachments. This included an invigorated offer of Inspecting Officers at Cadet Annual Inspections as these are gradually reintroduced as routine business.

- **Invitations to Regimental Events** such as Duxford, Band Concerts, Carol Services where Cadets can either observe or actively participate.

- Synchronisation of **social media activity** to boost knowledge of Cadet activity and achievements, leveraging our excellent Regimental media and comms channels.

And there are many more lower-level initiatives besides. Reflecting that of the nation at large, post-COVID recovery has been uneven but, you'll be happy to hear, we now have an increasing number of support requests that are ably met by soldiers from all our Battalions, we are out there inspecting Detachments (by the way, if you are a serving officer posted away from Battalion, why don't you let the Regimental Adjutant know that you'd be happy to conduct an Inspection on behalf of the Regiment?) and Cadets have featured prominently at Regimental events and on our communications channels. We are about to hold our first Executive Committee for 2023 and I am sure that this upward trend will continue.

There you have it - thank you for taking time to read this. I think we all agree that supporting the next generation is the right thing to do and, for our affiliated Cadets as members of our Regimental family, our role is clear. In closing, I'd like to thank everyone who has been part of this enterprise thus far, often in addition to their 'day' job and other commitments…and it would be remiss of me not to thank the Cadets themselves and their Volunteer Instructors for doing what they do. For all of us, if you know someone who is thinking about being a Cadet or might benefit from the experience then give them your full encouragement. Oh, and if you're thinking about how you might 'give something back' to society, becoming a Cadet Instructor would make brilliant use of your skills and experience while giving you a source of challenge, pride and satisfaction in equal measure.

Gresham School CCF - A Royal Anglian Family Norfolk Connection

In Summer 2022 the Gresham School CCF was delighted to welcome Colonel Paul Morris of the Royal Anglian Regiment as Inspecting Officer for the Contingent Review, the first that has been held for several years.

Colonel Morris was greeted at midday by all three sections smartly turned out on parade, with the newly formed contingent band providing some military music and a guard of honour commanded by Cadet CSM Dally presenting the salute.

Colonel Morris also enjoyed a full tour of training in the afternoon seeing a wide range of activities including the RAF section flight simulator, Royal Navy Field Gun team and Army section patrol competition.The cadets and NCOs all delivered an excellent display of what is offered through participation in the CCF.

A highlight of the day for Colonel Paul was the chance to inspect his daughter Georgie, a Cadet Corporal in the Gresham Detachment.

Royal Anglian Suffolk Army Cadet offered a lifetime opportunity to visit India

Cdt CSgt Dom Smith

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 my county and commanding officers, which contained my personal reasoning for why I wanted to go 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.

Ex Royal Anglian Returns to Essex ACF as RSMI

Stuart Little's interest in the Army Cadets started at a young age as a Cadet in Essex at Chelmsford detachment in the 1980's. During his time in the ACF his interest in the Army grew and he joined the Regular Army serving as an Infantryman in the Royal Anglian Regiment.

In 1991 Private Little began his 11-year service career as a 'Poacher' in the Second Battalion where he partook in a number of tours including Cyprus, Germany, and Bosnia. During his time as a regular soldier he became driver for Colonel Richard Kemp CBE, who was at that time, the Battalion Commander.

A few years after Mr Little left the Regular Army, he met some former cadet friends, now cadet adult instructors and was soon persuaded to join back up with the Essex Army Cadet Force and found himself parading as a Sergeant Instructor at Chelmsford Detachment.

A short while later SI Little became the Detachment Commander at Dunmow before returning once again to Chelmsford where he helped to form the Essex Corps of drum in 2012. He went on to become the Drum Major, leading the Corps of Drums as they performed in many events including The Menin Gate, various military tattoos, playing on Bird Cage Walk, and leading the Royal Anglian's and Essex Regiment out at events around the UK.

During his cadet volunteering career Mr Little worked for RFCA as the storeman and transport officer for Essex ACF, before leaving to pursue a career in facilities and events management.

In March this year RSMI Little proudly took over this flagship roll for Essex ACF and has a great vision for how he can help the Commandant achieve his aims:

"Standardise training and bolster adult engagement so that both cadets and adults get more from their ACF experience and have the opportunity to further their life skills during their time in the Cadet force"

RSMI Little has a strong belief that Cadet Force activities also help to develop our Instructors as well as being of huge benefit to our cadets.

Northamptonshire CCFs complete Exercise FIRST BITE

Over Friday 30 September and Saturday 1 October, 182 new recruit Cadets took part in Exercise FIRST BITE at Area H, STANTA.

The event gave the cadets their first experience of a military themed 24-hour field exercise which included a range of activity stands providing instruction on basic fieldcraft, living in the field, camouflage and concealment, patrol skills, a paintball CQB lane, skill at arms - air rifle, navigation and first aid .

The exercis, organised by The Brooke Weston Trust CCF, provided valuable training for seven Cadet Expansion Programme schools: The Brooke Weston Trust CCF (Corby Business Academy, Brooke Weston Academy, Corby Technical School and Kettering Science Academy), The Caroline Chisholm School CCF, The Ferrers School CCF and the Sir Christopher Hatton Academy CCF.

'This was our third year of delivering this exercise and was the biggest so far, giving over 180 new Army section cadets the very best start to their Cadet Force careers. The success of the exercise was a direct consequence of the collaborative approach from each of the seven attending schools who collectively provided over 20 staff who took on a variety of roles from instructors to medics to pastoral support. Without the enthusiasm and commitment of the staff we could have never been able to provide the event at such scale, my sincere thanks to all who attended.' event OC, Captain Matt Isherwood said.

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Cadets continued to go from strength to strength in 2022.

Late April 2021 saw pandemic restrictions lift allowing Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force to once again begin face to face training. Royal Anglian cadets were some of the first to return to detachments, eager to return to cadet activities, many had taken part in virtual training over zoom during lockdown, but the physical elements had been greatly missed!

Starting off as non-residential training, by June further lifting of restrictions saw a return to weekend residential training at the Cadet Training Centre at Bassingbourn. Junes also saw a return to supporting Armed Forces Day, with Letchworth and Royston detachments attending the event held in Letchworth. July saw the image of Cadet Sergeant Gaby of Bishops Stortford detachment taken on a Combat Cadet Training weekend pre Covid selected to appear in the 2022 Calendar for the ABF charity. August saw a very different annual camp, run as a non-residential, with two days of Adventurous Training at Bassingbourn and two days company training at home stations.

September saw a welcome return to more community events, representing both the Royal Anglians and the Army Cadet Force at fetes as well as local litter picks. We also attended the regimental day at Duxford. Cadets and adult volunteers have been recognised for their actions in the local communities, with Beds & Herts ACF receiving over 106 first aid awards since 2016. Two awards for Cadet Sergeant Gaby and Sergeant Oliver who during the Bishops Stortford Remembrance Parade used their banners as screens when a British Royal Legion Standard bearer collapsed after a Cardiac arrest. He thankfully made a full recovery.

2022 started well, with Cadets continuing to get back into the swing of training, working hard to progress in the new Army Cadet Syllabus. The past 12 months has also seen Royal Anglian cadets join the Combat Cadet team, who returned from the 7th Infantry Brigade run event as Silver Medal winners. Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Cadets continue to take pride in their affiliation with the Royal Anglian regiment and continue to set the highest standards for others to emulate.

Cadet Group at Regimental Camp.

Cadet Standard Bearers Cdt Sgts Gaby and Oliver.

Book Reviews

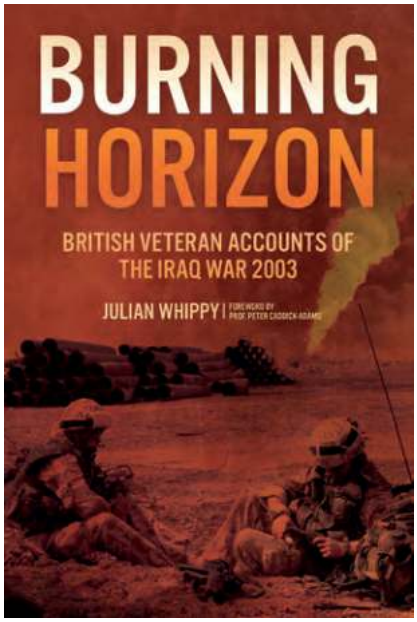
Burning Horizon

Thousands of tired eyes stared out into the dark desert night. Clouds of dust and grit were being thrown up by hundreds of vehicles, hampering the view of the drivers.

At the same time, an almost impenetrable sandstorm swirled across the flat plain depleting situational awareness yet further.

In the rear of the vehicles sat thousands of soldiers. Some were quietly caught up in their own thoughts. Others, lit only by the eerie shielded glow of internal red night lights, swapped stories and talked rubbish to break the tension and, like millions of soldiers throughout history, needed distraction.

At multiple points across many miles, similar convoys faced north. They were all made up of British military vehicles, and they were about to roll into a sovereign country in an invasion codenamed Operation TELIC. As well as the ground convoys massed on the Kuwait–Iraq border were air



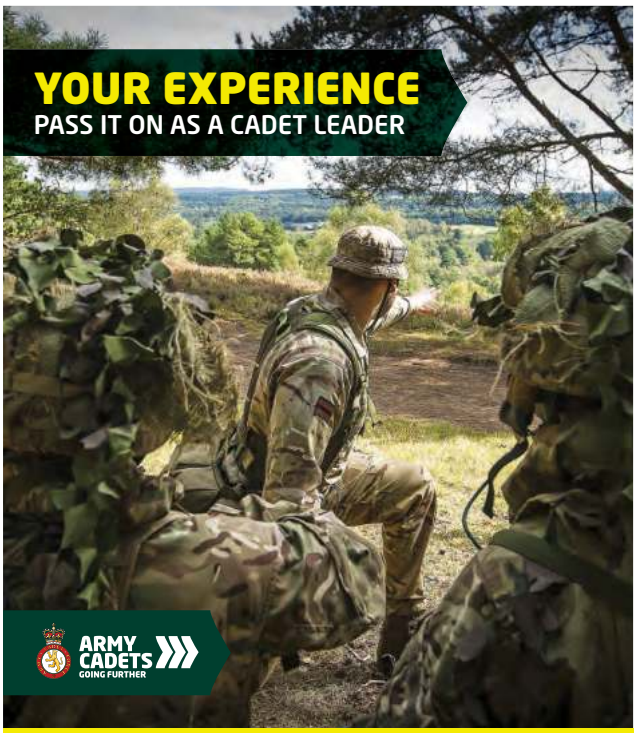
assets circling high above, helicopter squadrons sweeping low overhead and an amphibious task force anchored offshore in the Persian Gulf.

Also heading north, tearing across the night sky were dozens of Tomahawk cruise missiles. It was 20 March 2003 and the second Gulf War, the second invasion of Iraq in 12 years, was under way.

Burning Horizon weaves dozens of veteran accounts together with an engaging narrative to tell the story of the British experience of Operation TELIC 1 in 2003. Twenty years after the invasion there remains no official history and a lamentably poor number of books on the subject from the combat perspective.

The author, Julian Whippy, now a Suffolk resident who originally hailed from Hemel Hempstead where he served in 5 Royal Anglian (TA) in the 1980s said: 'I found that there was a great deal written about Tony Blair, George Bush, weapons of mass destruction, and Saddam Hussein, but virtually nothing written about what was achieved by the troops involved. I wanted to give a voice to those who took part.'

More than 50 veterans gave up their time to be interviewed for the



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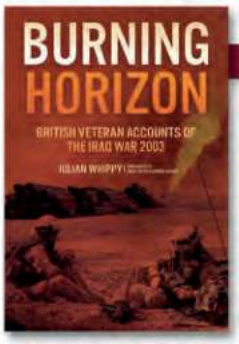

COMING SOON

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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book mainly in person or across Zoom. Army Air Corps pilots, Royal Marines, RTR Challenger crews, Fusiliers, EOD Sappers and many more are all represented giving a wide perspective covering the three Brigades which formed the cobbled together 1 (UK) Division.

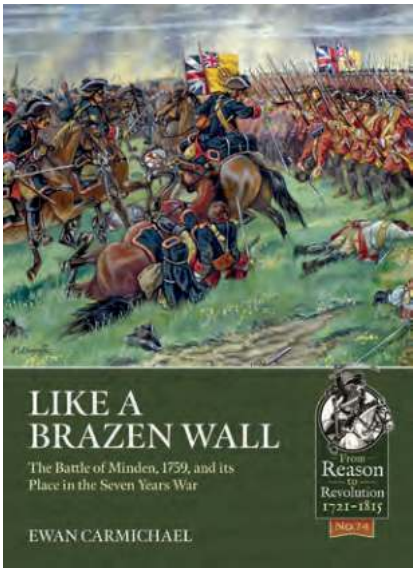
The book takes the reader from 'brown envelopes' of mobilization, through camps in Kuwait and then pours across the start line, or in the case of one veteran, circled high above it in his RAF AWACS plane controlling air-ground operations and answering calls for help from 'caveman' callsigns- SF units in contact.

Chapters follow looking at Operation HOUGHTON, 3 Commando Brigade and US Navy SEAL teams air assault on the vital Al-Faw peninsula, then the intense close fighting by 7 Armoured Brigade in Az Zubayr just southwest of Basra. Close behind the tip of the spear were RE EOD units clearing literally tons of ordnance, cluster munitions and Iraqi heavy weapons. Casualties were inevitable, sadly including civilians and some tragic blue on blue events. Members of the RAMC give their recollections of handling some of those wounded or killed.

The final 'Thunder Run' into Basra by the Irish Guards and Royal Scots DG would be worthy of any Hollywood Directors attention but thus far has barely gained a line in the history books. For the veterans that took part they describe their work with a sense of pride and talk about achieving much, often with scant or sub-standard equipment. For some the process of 'unboxing' traumatic events of 20 years ago was both distressing and cathartic.

The author finished by saying: 'With Burning Horizon published, I am just hoping that I have done the lads and lasses of TELIC 1 some justice by telling their stories after they trusted me to do so.'

Like a Brazen Wall
The Battle of Minden, 1759, and its Place in the Seven Years War
by Ewan Carmichael



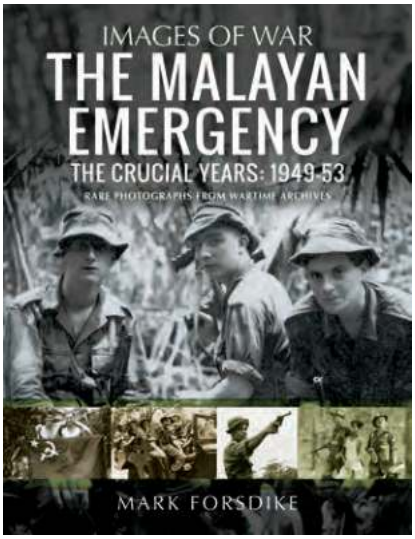
The Battle of Minden features prominently in several British regimental histories, and rightly so, it was a significant chapter in the Seven Years War.

Although much has been written about the battle, this new history is both refreshing, and timely. It is a little over the price that might be anticipated for a paperback, however, the quality of the work is outstanding! The campaign narrative, maps, photographs, and conclusions are all to the highest standard.

This really is an exceptional piece of work, that gives the reader an informed insight into the strategic context of the battle, the conduct of the campaign at operational level, and the tactical reality of warfighting in 1759. One of the best new books of the year so far.

Published by Helion & Company
RRP £35.00, Paperback, pp265

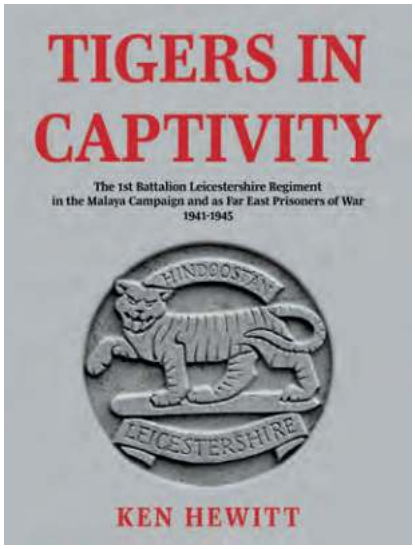
The Malayan Emergency
The Crucial Years: 1949-53
by Mark Fosdike



Although this is a photographic history, this latest publication focused on the Malayan Emergency comfortably manages to give the reader a detailed narrative of the conflict. Primarily centred on the prominent role played by the Suffolk Regiment the author still gives a good campaign overview placing the Suffolk Regiment's activities in context.

The extensive range of photographs give a real insight into the uniforms, weapons and tactics of the day. The chapters also give a real feel for life in an infantry battalion operating during the emergency. The proficiency of the Suffolks and their numerous successes are also well documented. This is a well thought out and presented history that does much to bring one of the British Army's most successful campaigns to the fore. It is certainly worth a read whether you are one of our Malayan veterans, or a complete novice.

Published by Pen & Sword Ltd, Soft-back, pp252, RRP £18.99



Tigers in Captivity

The 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment in the Malaya Campaign and as Far East Prisoners of War 1941-1945.

by Ken Hewitt

Tigers in Captivity tells the story of the 936 men of the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment during the Malaya Campaign and the subsequent 3½ years in captivity as Japanese prisoners of war.

The book starts with the Battalion's move from India to Malaya in early 1941 and continues with the defensive actions and withdrawal, from Jitra in the north to Singapore in the south over a 70-day period following the Japanese invasion of Malaya in December 1941. The formation of the British Battalion from the remnants of the 1st Leicesters and the 2nd East Surrey battalions is addressed. The Malaya Campaign concludes with the surrender of Singapore and an account of those men who are known to have been evacuated sick or wounded or who escaped the island around this time.

Following the fall of Singapore, 694 men of the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment were now prisoners of war and Tigers in Captivity goes on to describe their movements around the Far East – the work parties in Singapore, the transfers of men to Japan and other Far East Asian countries, and the exodus from Singapore to Thailand to build the infamous 'Death Railway' between Thailand and Burma. Malnutrition, illness and disease, hard labour, brutality and allied offensives all took their toll. Even after the railway was completed the horrors continued with further hard labour in Thailand, 'hellship' voyages to Japan which often came under allied attack, and forced labour in the factories, mines, shipyards and docks of Japan.

Finally, on 15th August 1945, the Japanese surrendered unconditionally and the book continues with the liberation and repatriation of these now ex-POWs and the post war situation in which they found themselves.

Every man who was killed in action, or who died as a prisoner of war, is remembered by name at the appropriate point in the text and specific information on the circumstances of his death and grave location is given. Summary Charts, Movement Tables and an A-Z listing of all 936 men provide further statistics and information on the men of the 1st Leicesters. An extensive bibliography lists the sources of information and provides readers with a signpost to further relevant reading.

Not only is Tigers in Captivity the definitive historical record of the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment during this period, it provides a tangible 'family' memorial - not only to the men who died but also to those who survived and had to live with the memories of those terrible years for the rest of their lives.

We will remember them.

Copies of the book are available at a cost of £25 + postage and packing directly from the author, Ken Hewitt at *kenhewitt@ntlworld.com* or from the publisher at *www.troubador.co.uk/bookshop*.

For further information, visit *www.tigersincaptivity.co.uk*.

Tigers in Captivity the author

Like many Far East prisoners of war Ken's father, Colour Sergeant John Hewitt, spoke very little about his wartime experiences after returning home.

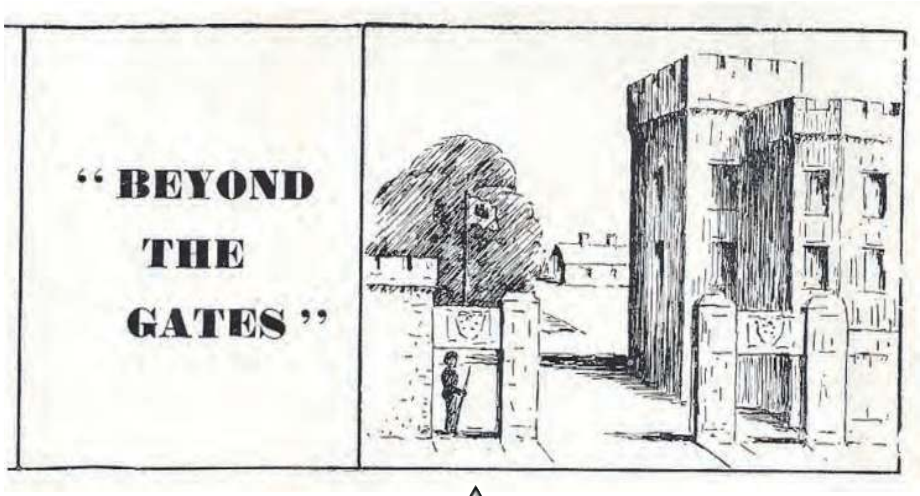
In 2006, 20 years after his father's death, Ken started to research his father's 22-year military career with the Leicestershire Regiment, from enlistment in 1927 until his discharge in 1949.

His interest quickly extended to all 936 men of the 1st Battalion who fought in the Malaya Campaign and their subsequent movements around the Far East as prisoners of war under the Japanese.

In 2015, to commemorate VJ70, he presented his research findings to an audience of 100 FEPOWs, descendants, Regimental veterans and other interested parties. Following the talk, he was strongly encouraged to document his findings more formally and now, seven years later after further research, writing and re-writing, sorting of photographs and creation of charts and maps, his book, Tigers in Captivity, is now published.

Ken says that the main purpose of the book is to share his research findings with other descendants of these men to enable them to develop a better understanding of the Malaya Campaign and the time these men spent as prisoners of war.

Hopefully the book will provide a lasting memory to these brave and courageous men of the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment during the Far East War of WWII.



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Lincolnshire: Lieutenant Colonel SJ Bacon

Leicestershire: Captain TR Wilkes

Northamptonshire: Lieutenant Colonel RHL Blomfield MBE TD

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire: Major JN Whatley DL

Royal Norfolk & Royal Anglian Regimental Association Norwich & District Branch

The Annual Regimental Re-union Dinner went ahead this year, on Saturday 24th September 2022, at the Army Reserves Centre on Aylsham Road, Norwich. This was the first time in three years that the dinner had taken place, due to the pandemic.

The format was changed this year as round tables instead were used instead of long tables, and there was also a guest speaker prior to the dinner. Duke Sell gave an interesting overview of his new book "Not Enough Said" which outlined his father's story. Colour Sergeant Jonnie Sell's service in the Royal Norfolk Regiment especially covering the fall of Singapore and how he survived the Burma Death Railway. The presentation went down well with all the Old Comrades present and Duke Sell gave a well prepared preview of his book which was recently launched at Jarrold's Store in Norwich, and was also available at the dinner.

At the dinner were 39 of 41 Comrades and the caterers laid on a superb three course meal followed by tea and coffee. A can of beer was provided with the meal for all those who wanted it and a glass of port with which to give the Loyal Toast and the Toast to the Regiment.

Speeches were kept to a minimum, but Lt Col Mark Nicholas MBE DL did inform all those present that the normal letter to the Queen informing her of our Regimental Dinner had been sent but understandably due to the Queen's passing there had been no reply.

The evening was a great success, and everybody enjoyed the occasion, a big thank you to C/Sgt Glen Keeble who set up the hall and made the Regimental silver available, the Royal Norfolk Flag was displayed, and the Branch Standards of the Norwich and District Branch and Gorleston Branch were on parade, and the raffle was well received. We look forward to repeating our Regimental Dinner in September 2023.

Col Retd David B Hedges
Chairman, Royal Norfolk & Royal Anglian Regimental Association Norwich and District Branch

Duxford 22 Ex Poachers Bandsmen. From left Peter Hudson, Graham Adye, Malcolm Merryweather, Peter O'Connell, Barry Grunnell, Philip Penn, Barney Craw, Ian Simpson.

Here in Felixstowe we are like all OCAs in the present time, struggling to attract new members but we carry on looking after our Suffolk Regiment members as we should. We do thank the Regiment for its annual donation which helps tremendously.

During the last year we have resurfaced from the Covid era and been able to hold meetings and functions which is most important for the elderly members who are unable to get out. Helen and I did weekly shopping for some of them during the Covid period. When at our "Day at the Hut" on the promenade we were presented with flowers which was such a lovely surprise. The "Hut" is a building on the prom available for hire. It contains everything needed for many activities and run by Felixstowe Old Peoples Welfare Association (FOPWA). Most of our activities take place during the day, due to difficulties with night driving and age, this ensures we get maximum attendance.

This last year from our Remembrance Lunch 2021, we have had a few events and met with Ipswich and Stowmarket Branches. We have enjoyed Stowmarket Christmas dinner, A free Christmas dinner from the Royal British Legion which was very enjoyable. A further 5 other functions usually involving food

Standard Bearer Ralph Girling.

The Chairman in Ipswich for the Proclamation.

in our beautiful Felixstowe.

We were present at both Ipswich and Felixstowe Proclamations and proudly displayed our Standard. Both events were very well attended.

We welcome our new County Colonel (Suffolk) Mark Wenham, and Regimental Area Secretary, Captain (Retd) Peter Hudson. We wish them well in their new posts

From all Felixstowe branch members we wish all Battalions and OCA branches all the best for the future.

Barry Grunnell
Chairman

Royal Anglian Association, Colchester Branch

In 2020, Gordon Brown, a former Pompadour officer, undertook a charity walk in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. The walk was along the Essex Way. During this, Gordon found the grave of Corporal Edward Bearman, Essex Regiment, who died on 20th November 1919.

The grave, in St. Mary The Virgin, Fairstead needed restoration. A project was put in place with the Parochial Church Council. Following support from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Western Front Association, the Regiment and a local benefactor, on 20th November a brief re-dedication Service took place. The County Colonel – Essex attended as well as Gordon and his wife, Sharon, and Peter Williamson, who laid a wreath on behalf of the Essex Regiment Museum.

The re-dedication of the grave of Corporal Edward Warner, originally an Essex Regiment soldier, who transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, also took place. Of note, both men died after hostilities had ended, but because of their actions.

The Chairman, Chris Wright was presented with his LS&GC medal with two clasps by Col Sam Plant, Deputy Comd, HQ 7th Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team and HQ East.

"FOR ANYONE EVEN THINKING OF JOINING, DON'T HESITATE – IT'S ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I'VE MADE."

As a serving soldier you often come across the Chelsea Pensioners. They get invited to the mess. Although they were in the Army 20 or 30 years before you, they've done the same things. It doesn't change. You're singing off the same hymn sheet. When you've been soldiers, you have this bond.

When my wife died, I thought, "What am I doing knocking around in a three-bedroomed house? I don't like this. I'll apply to be a Chelsea Pensioner". I came down on a small recce first, because I knew someone who was living there. That first night I went with him to the Pensioners' club for a beer and as soon as I walked in the door I thought, "This is the place for me". It took me back 30 years to the sergeants' mess. In my berth at night, I sometimes think of how many generations of Chelsea Pensioners have been here in these buildings before me.

My four-day trial stay was brilliant. Everyone stops and talks to you. During my interview they said, "Aren't you a bit young to come in here?". I said, "I can live independently, I'm not married and I'm in receipt of a state pension, so I meet your criteria. And you need people like me to cheer up those old ones!"

For me, the best part is going out and representing the Royal Hospital. There's nothing else to worry about. The hardest thing is choosing what to have for lunch!

For anyone even thinking of joining, don't hesitate – it's one of the best decisions I've made.

WE ARE WELCOMING APPLICATIONS TO BECOME A CHELSEA PENSIONER.

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ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

Regimental Association Cambridgeshire

I am pleased to report that the Cambridge and Whittlesey Branches recommenced their meetings in 2022 with Cambridge meeting in the evening on the last Friday of each month at the Histon RBL premises whilst Whittlesey meets for lunch once a month.

Wisbech are proposing to commence meetings in 2023. If you wish to be involved in the branch please feel free to contact me. Ideas to make the branches more attractive to former Royal Anglians would be appreciated.

Contacts for each branch can be found on the Royal Anglian webpage under "Associations and Branches".

The Association was pleased to support the Regimental initiative "The Big Breakfast" in February and our thanks to all those who worked behind the scenes to make it happen.

Our Ely Reunion, in July, continues to be the highlight of the year for our Association and it was good to see an increase in those attending in 2022. The service was very much a regimental family affair being held in front of our Regimental Chapel in Ely Cathedral with the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire being present. All the Branches were represented and laid wreaths; for the Service we were very much supported by the Dean and Chapter and our Association padre Maj Alan Jesson TD.

Following the service we moved into the South Transept for refreshments with the opportunity to renew friendships. During this period a formal transfer of our Association Standard took place as Major John Linkin handed over the Standard to Kenny Pearce. The Association President, thanked John for all his services to the Association and for carrying our standard on so many occasions over the years. John has agreed to help in the future as necessary. Our thanks to the Association Secretary (Col. Colin Elsden) for all his behind the scenes support and hard work to help make it happen and also to Regimental HQ and the Area Secretary. Capt. Peter Hudson for their continued support.

The Association President (Lt Col Retd Tony Slater OBE) and myself were again honoured and delighted to be invited by Colour Sergeant Butcher and All Ranks of the Schwaben Platoon, 5 Coy 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment to their Schwaben Day at London Road Peterborough on the 22nd October 2022. Col Slater gave a presentation to members of the Platoon which covered an overview of the taking of the Schwaben Redoubt by the Cambridgeshire Regiment in October 1916 and the Cambridgeshire Regt involvement in the last 100 days of WW1 I was pleased to present to the Platoon a copy of our updated booklet "A Guide to St George's Chapel in Ely Cathedral".

It is also pleasing to report that the Association and the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force continue to work closely together. In August I attended their Annual Camp at Thetford and was able to meet with and observe Cadets in various training activities. It was good to see Royal Anglian Cadets working hard and enjoying themselves. The hot weather gave the training teams some interesting challenges but with flexibility and good preparation all seemed to be working well.

I would like to take this opportunity to formerly thank the Commandant and her team and in particular the Cadets for their continued support at our Ely Reunion.

Members of the Association attended the annual Royal Anglian gathering at Duxford in September. In

addition Association Members attended Remembrance Day Services at Wisbech, Whittlesey, March, Ely, Cambridge and Duxford. Unfortunately we were unable to attend the field of Remembrance at Westminster.

For next year our major objective will be the Annual Reunion at Ely on the 16th July 2023. This is likely to consist of a parade, a service in the Cathedral and light tea in the South Transept or Lady Chapel. Timings etc. will be advised in due course but in the meantime please note the date in your diaries now and pass on the "word".

It is also proposed to try and arrange a Royal Anglian visit to the Shuttleworth Collection in Bedfordshire later in the year.

Lt Col David Denson TD
County Colonel Cambridgeshire

Grimsby Branch

The Royal Anglian Regimental Association, Great Grimsby Branch continues to grow in numbers and are happy to invite others who wish to be part of the family and enjoy the benefits it has to offer.

The Branch held its commemorative Sobraon Lunch in April 2022 at the Humber Royal Hotel, Grimsby which had a good attendance all round. We are currently working hard with the next venture which is the Christmas lunch at the same venue in November 2022.

The Branch also held its annual AGM and there were a significant number of volunteers who stepped forward and were subsequently voted into their respective positions thus moving the association forward for the future. This was also a perfect opportunity to welcome the new members on board.

The Branch received an invitation to attend Anzac ceremony held at the Commonwealth War Graves at Cannock Chase on the 24th April 2022. The association accepted the invite and members of the branch attended along with standard it was a truly memorable day.

Duxford 2022.

Cleethorpes hosted "Armed Forces Day" on the 25th June 2022 and was attended by hundreds of veterans from all services and supported by thousands of onlookers. It was a proud moment to see so many veterans marching and it

Members and the Branch Standard at the Poppy Appeal Lunch Grimsby 31 October 2022.

Association members and their ladies at Sobraon celebrations 2022.

brought back fond memories for many. I was proud to be a part of the event.

Several veterans from the association travelled to Duxford to attend the Regimental gathering which also gave them the opportunity to say farewell to Col Geoffrey Newmarch and his wife Jenny. Geoff has stepped down as County Colonel to seek a life with a sunnier climate in Australia. (If you are reading this, the invited to attend our Sobraon lunch is still on the cards).

It was a pleasure to have attended and supported the memorial held at Cleethorpes Memorial Gate on the 18th September 2022. We paid our respects as Veterans to the late "Queen Elizabeth II" who sadly passed away on the 8th September 2022 and to celebrate the accession of "King Charles III.

Cleethorpe AF Day 2022.

Several of our members from the

A reunion for Jamie (Titch) Taylor at the Sobraon Lunch with his first Coy Comd in 1986 David Chandler and his last Coy Comd Ian Sackree in 2008.

Members at the Salerno War Memorial with Frank de Planta ex 1 and 7 R ANGLIAN.

Regimental Association

Lincolnshire

Anzac Day 2022 Cannock Chase with Wayne Okopskyj, Charlie Long and John Cooper.

Members at the Normandy War Memorial.

7th Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment organised a trip to France and another later in the year to Italy. They covered the landing sites of Normandy and Italy at Salerno indulging in the historical events that that were to become Hitler's down fall. Plans are afoot for Normandy's 80 anniversary in 2024.

The association has recently been given the honour of becoming the custodians of the 'Lochnagar Bench' that sits proudly at the mouth of Lochnagar crater in France; this bench commemorates the Lincolnshire Regiment soldiers (also known as the Grimsby Chums) who died in the battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916. We are in the planning phase of organising a trip to the crater to conduct a work detail in preparations of the memorial parade to be held on site on the 1st July 2023.

The annual Sobraon Lunch 22nd April 2023 and the Christmas Lunch 23rd November 2023 will be held at the Humber Royal Hotel in Grimsby, open invite at a cost.

President Great Grimsby Branch and Sobraon 2022 Committee.

Lincs Malaya Vets

On Saturday 22nd October the Lincoln Branch supported the 'Bond' family, who organised the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Reunion of Malayan Veterans in memory of their late father Cpl Alan Bond MM.

This event was kindly hosted by the Lincoln Imp Public House at no cost. Various tales and photographs were exchanged followed by a generous buffet and lively raffle.

Each of the veterans was issued with a photograph of the Memorial Picture, something that had been in the pipeline for the last 20 years, but never materialised. As one veteran said: 'Better late the never!'

The veterans with the organisers Caroline Hopkinson and Sandra Pinguey.

Remembrance Sunday 2022

Jim Freeman

Sobraon Barracks.

Remembrance Sunday again saw a good turnout of the Lincolnshire Branch at the Cathedral for the Civic Service of Remembrance. Mr Fraser Finlay carried the Branch Standard, and Sergeant John Gordon laid the wreath on behalf of the Royal Anglian Regiment Association.

After the Service of Remembrance we left the Cathedral and decamped to Sobraon Barracks at the invite of 160 squadron RLC. At the barracks we held our traditional drumhead service at the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Memorial.

The first wreath was laid by a lady member, Mrs Val Spring followed by our president and County Colonel, Colonel Simon Bacon, and the PSAO of 160 squadron, Capt Bruce Sanderson. Proceedings were brought to a close with a toast to the fallen and to the Regiment

The Association was then invited by Capt Sanderson to inspect the new garage/fitness centre. He explained how the original stone carved barrack block names had been recovered during the building works at Sobraon and incorporated into the new gym design.

Royal Tigers' Day 2022

After two years' unable to meet for reunions, it was wonderful to be able to celebrate Royal Tigers' Day this year properly on 18 June 2022.

As Leicester Cathedral is closed until December 2023 for refurbishment, it had been planned to start with a service at the splendid Lutyens Arch of Remembrance Memorial in Victoria Park, Leicester. However, the weather was against us (the Meteorological Office forecast suggested 80% chance of rain most of the day!), so our Secretary very wisely moved the service indoors to a room in Devonshire Place.. It was led by the Rev Canon Karen Rooms, Sub Dean of Leicester Cathedral and, as always, was a very moving event.

We then repaired to bigger rooms in Devonshire Place for drinks and luncheon, hosted by Capt Tim Wilkes, Chairman of the Royal Tigers' Association. During his short speech after lunch he passed on good wishes from our President, Brigadier Andrew Fisher living in Germany, and Mr Roger Jones, Chairman of the General Committee, both of whom were unable to attend.

It was a happy occasion and we made the best of the circumstances we could. We will look forward to better weather next year.

Northamptonshire Celebrates The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

On Saturday, 4 June, the County of Northamptonshire celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an impressive parade which marched through the centre of Northampton and with the salute being taken by the Lord Lieutenant.

Of the approximately 1,200 personnel (largely military cadets) who paraded, over 500 are affiliated to the Royal Anglian Regiment; the CCFs of Oundle School, Wellingborough School, Brooke Weston Trust Academies, Lodge Park Academy, Sir Christopher Hatton Academy, Duston School and Ferrers School, together with 'A' and 'D' Companies of LNR Army Cadet Force. Two of the four marching bands which took part were the Oundle School CCF Band and the 'A' Company LNR ACF Corps of Drums.

Members of the public turned out in their thousands to cheer and witness what the Lord Lieutenant described as a "once in a lifetime event" and "the largest parade which the County had seen, certainly within living memory". The Parade was followed by a drumhead service on the Market Square, which was conducted by Padres Oliver Coss and Stephen Trott, both Chaplains to LNR ACF. The altar was formed by the drums of 'A' Company and one of the standards which draped it was that of the County Royal Anglian Regiment Association; before the service got under way, incidental music was provided by the very impressive Oundle School CCF Band, which also played the National Anthem. On the day, the Band turned out with sixty musicians, all of whom had volunteered to return to school two days before the end of their half term holiday.

Without doubt, a thoroughly moving and memorable occasion for those fortunate enough to have spectated from the side-lines and even more so for all those who took part.

His Name Liveth for Evermore – Pte Joseph Doherty Added to Brackley War Memorial

106 years to the day after his death on the Somme, the name of Private Joseph Doherty Northamptonshire Regiment was added to his home town war memorial on 18 August 2022.

Joseph Doherty was born on 12 April 1878 in Manchester. Orphaned young he was brought up in Moreton Pinkney where his foster parents ran the village pub. He enlisted in 7th Northamptons and was killed in action on 18 August 1916 as the battalion attacked Guillemont Quarry, his remains not being found until 1928 and then buried in Serre Road Cemetery No 2. Joseph left a wife and 3 young daughters resident in Brackley.

There are many reasons why names can be missing from war memorials, and there was no official national guidance on how names would appear, but it was very gratifying that Brackley Town Council, the Royal British Legion and Chaplain, Northampton Branch and a bugler from Brackley & District Band were present to unveil Joseph's name over a century later – all thanks to the persistence of his great niece Linda Emmison. Also present among family members was grandson Gerald, whom Linda didn't know before her research.

A fitting outcome for a heroic soldier of the Great War, and the dedication of a loyal descendant.

Blenheim Day 2022

The annual Blenheim day lunch took place on a very hot Sunday during the heatwave. Forty three guests and members attended where we had the pleasure of having the incoming Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire Susan Lousada DL and her husband Simon in attendance along with other dignitaries from the local area.

The Area Secretary, Maj Tim Brown and his wife, Sonia, were also able to attend.

Prior to the lunch there was a church service at the church of the Transfiguration in Kempston attended by some branch members, followed by a brief memorial service at the memorial garden opposite the Keep (the Branch Association headquarters) Kempston.

Lunch commenced with Graces being said by Reverend Stephen Smith (our chaplain) and later our Branch Chairman Major John Whatley DL VR gave a wonderful summary of the Battle of Blenheim.

On this occasion those in attendance experienced the new caterers, and they were not disappointed. The food was to a very high standard with the menu tailored to our branch members' taste.

The Secretary, Basil Hirniak, made a presentation of a 2nd Bn Colours with SA 80, bayonet and Royal Anglian Regiment badge wall plaque, duly inscribed, to the recently retired Clerk to Kempston Town Council, Carol Urwin, to thank her for her years of dedication and support to the Branch in relation to the Garden of Remembrance management and upkeep.

Following the lunch the assembled gathering moved into the bar to carry on the wonderful social occasion.

Bedford Branch Trip: Major General's Review of Trooping the Colour 2022

Branch members attended a memorable Major General's review on Horseguards Parade London.

This trip was memorable for a number of reasons but the most troubling was the collapse of part of the viewing stand. Thankfully, none of the Bedford Branch members were injured.

May 21st arrived sunny and calm, a party of approximately 20 arrived by coach in the area of China Town, following a gentle stroll and a smooth transition through security all of the attendees took their seats for the second last rehearsal of the Trooping of the Colour.

Uniforms, drill and music were all splendid, it was only during the slow march in review order things started to go a little bit wrong in block A, (the area the Bedford group were sitting).

While standing to respect the colours moving past their location they noticed to their right, members of the audience in that location, their heads started to drop, this was the first indication of the seating area starting to fail, resulting in people falling through their platform and into the scaffolding area beneath their seating area.

All present were immediately urged to vacate the stands to make their

way emergency services. Some of the audience, Bedford group included, had to move out of the area completely while others were relocated to safer seats in the stand that was intact.

Needless to say those of the Bedford group who had to vacate completely carried on the ceremony in the local pub whilst the remainder who were relocated to a safe area continued to watch the rest of the show and then travel back to Bedfordshire for a wonderful lunch.

The upside to this very unlucky event was that the Branch had received a wonderfully worded letter from the Maj Generals office, apologising for the situation and notification of a full refund and invitation back for 'early bird' seat allocations for next year's review in preparation for the first trooping of the colour for HM The King.

Branch Social Committee Secretary, Kevin Arnold's Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge October 8th 2022

Following on from from last years charity hike that I carried out in the Brecon Beacons for the Combat Stress Charity, I decided that this year I would complete a challenge for The Royal Anglian Benevolent Charity and plumped for the Yorkshire Three Peaks, which takes in Pen y Ghent at 2,277 feet, Whernside at 2,415 feet and Ingleborough 2,372 feet and is to be completed in a time of 12 hours or less.

I drove up to Yorkshire on Friday 7th October to my campsite near Austwick, pitched my tent, and settled down to a quiet if somewhat wet night. The following morning I awoke at 05:00 and made a camp breakfast of porridge, no bacon grill this time and a nice good hot cup of Yorkshire tea. After a short drive I arrived at the village hall in Horton in Ribblesdale, the start point for the hike and signed on with the event team, collecting my armband and various treats such as energy bars and packets of Haribo sweets, all of which were secreted away into my already full rucksack.

After a safety brief from the challenge staff we all set off at 07:00 and the clock was running. We set off in one group and it was humbling to talk to the guys and girls about the various reasons and charities that they were taking the challenge on for.

I walked quite a way with the second head gardener from the National Memorial Arboretum, who was hiking for Combat Stress and it was interesting to hear about the behind the scenes work that is carried out at that wonderful place.

After about an hour and a half we emerged through the mist to the trig-point at the top of Pen y Ghent after a very steep, sharp ascent, which certainly

got the blood flowing and the lungs exercised.

It was a little disappointing that the weather was so closed in on the top as the views would have been stunning. After a brief stop for photos and water we all made our long descent to the Ribblehead Viaduct, a long walk made better as the weather improved and the views cleared, it also gave us all a chance to see how much further we had to go as the peak of Whernside became clear looming up in the distance behind the viaduct. After a lunch stop at Ribblehead, and the refilling of water bottles etc, we began the long looping hike up from the valley and along the crest to the top of Whernside, where a stiff breeze was blowing, necessitating the putting on of warmer clothing.

Another photo was taken at the trig-point at the summit after which we began a very uncomfortable descent into the valley over manmade paths and rocky outcrops, at this point my right big toe was really beginning to feel the punishment it was taking, note to self, lace boots differently next time. We had begun to stretch out now and some of the group were lagging behind but were being encouraged along by the group leaders and their hiking partners. I continued to push myself along and stayed at the head of the group along with five guys from Manchester who were hiking for a Cancer charity. Our group leader then pointed out the route from the last checkpoint, where more sustenance was taken on, up to the summit of Ingleborough. He took great delight in telling us the climb to the top up a rocky escarpment was called 'Cardiac Climb' and on reaching it I can understand why, I was sucking in and blowing out air out of nearly every orifice, it truly was a on hands and knees scramble, bearing in mind we had just hiked and climbed 19 miles.

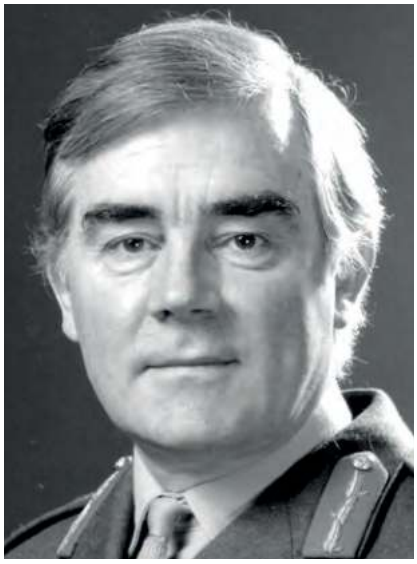
It was with a huge sense of achievement on reaching the summit that we had made it to the top of the final peak. All that remained now was the descent back down to the start point in Horton in Ribblesdale, I say all that remained tongue in cheek as we still had 6 miles of hiking to go, all downhill, but over very difficult terrain of man made paths and rocky outcrops where the knees and toes took a real pounding. On the descent there were wooden signs pointing out the miles to the finish and I would suggest to anyone who does this hike not to take any notice of them as they were not correct as Horton in Ribblesdale didn't seem to get any nearer with each step.

Anyway, I eventually hit the valley floor, crossed the railway line onto the tarmac road and the final 1.5 mile walk to the start point, finishing in a time of 9.5 hours, 2.5 hours under the cutoff time, not too shabby for a 62 year old ex infanteer. I would like to say thank you to all those that sponsored me and helped me to raise £612 for the Charity.

Deaths and Obituaries

Name	Date Of Death Or Month Bulletin Issued	Regiment
Oliver Rivers	01 Jan 22	R Leicesters
Capt Raymond Savage	05 Jan 22	R Leicesters
Sean Fahey	Feb 22	2 R ANGLIAN
Maj Richard Kitchen	Feb 22	Northamptons. 2 E Anglian and 2 R ANGLIAN
Andrew Jock Appleton	Mar 22	1 R ANGLIAN
Col Dick Shervington	28 Mar 22	Essex, Cambridgeshire & R ANGLIAN
Capt Steven Bowns	28 Mar 22	1 R ANGLIAN
Alexander Mitchell	Apr 22	3 R ANGLIAN
Lt Col Thomas Ffinch	14 Apr 22	2 E Anglian
George Trudgill	15 Apr 22	Bedfs.Herts
Richard Wraight	22 Apr 22	Essex
Maj Jakob (Herbie) Hancock	30 May 22	1 R ANGLIAN & 2 R ANGLIAN
Ian Cox	13 Jun 22	1 R ANGLIAN
Adrian Bentley	Jun 22	2 R ANGLIAN
Robert Waller	Jul 22	1 R ANGLIAN
Maj David Clarke	09 Jul 22	R Norfolk, 1 E. Anglian and 1 R ANGLIAN
Maj John Hutchings	10 Jul 22	Essex, 3 E Anglian, 3 R ANGLIAN
Stephen (Harry) Meekoms	19 Jul 22	2 R ANGLIAN & 5 R ANGLIAN
Eric John Coombes	19 Jul 22	Bedfs.Herts & R Norfolk
Paul Sykes	20 Jul 22	1 R ANGLIAN
Syd Bryer	Jul 22	3 E Anglian
Leslie Doherty	28 Jul 22	1 R ANGLIAN
Sir David Samworth	16 Aug 22	R Leicesters
Cornelius Hickey	17 Aug 22	3 R ANGLIAN and 2 R ANGLIAN
Philip Dowd	23 Aug 22	1 R ANGLIAN
Maj Alan Horrex	26 Aug 22	Suffolk
Col Rupert Conder	01 Sep 22	1 E Anglian and 1 R ANGLIAN
Maj Alan Gregory	12 Sep 22	5 R ANGLIAN
John Brandon	Sep 22	3 R ANGLIAN
Pte Philip Knowles	19 Sep 22	1 R ANGLIAN
Paul Williams	29 Sep 22	1 R ANGLIAN
Maj Gen Patrick Stone	05 Oct 22	1 E Anglian, 1 R ANGLIAN & 2 R ANGLIAN
Lt Col John Garton-Jones	18 Sep 22	R Norfolk & R ANGLIAN
Kevin Mallon	03 Nov 22	2 R ANGLIAN
Kevin Websdale	Nov 22	R ANGLIAN
Brian Allen	11 Dec 22	3 R ANGLIAN
Lt Col David Baylis	06 Dec 22	2 R ANGLIAN, 3 R ANGLIAN & 5 R ANGLIAN
Ian Cumming	Dec 22	1 R ANGLIAN
Henry Paxton	29 Dec 22	Essex & 3 E Anglian
Paul Jones	Dec 22	1 E Anglian, 1 R ANGLIAN & 3 R ANGLIAN
Richard Burnett MBE	2022	R Leicesters

Major General PPD Stone CBE CB



Major General Patrick Stone died at home on 5th October 2022 aged 83 after a long and valiant struggle with Parkinson's Disease. He was a 'child of Empire' as his Father, a Royal Naval doctor retired to Kenya and became a doctor there.

He had married Patrick's Mother while based in Shanghai and Patrick was the eldest of their three children all of whom were born in Nairobi. His African upbringing no doubt shaped his independent attitude, his practical hands- on approach to problems and his love of Africa.

Following the death of his Father in a road accident in 1946 the family returned home to live in Whittlesford in Cambridgeshire. After attending Christs Hospital school, Patrick intended to become a dentist but National Service intervened and in 1960 he was seconded to 6th Battalion Kings African Rifles based in Tanganyika. where he took part in the suppression of the Zanzibar Revolution in 1962.

This was at the time of the end of National Service and like many of his contemporaries he decided to 'stay in' and applied for and was granted a regular commission. He joined 1st East Anglian Regiment in Felixstowe where even as a newly joined subaltern he stood out from his peers and was recognised by them as someone who was going places. Inter alia he served in British Guyana and Aden before being appointed ADC to the Governor of Western Australia in 1965. While there he met and married Christine, the daughter of Ursula and Group Captain Len Trent VC.

On return to England Patrick was appointed Adjutant of 1 Royal Anglian after which he attended the RAF Staff College at Bracknell. Then followed the usual pattern of alternating regimental tours with staff appointments. He was a company commander in Celle and later 2IC 1st Battalion then based in Tidworth as the ACE Mobile Force Battalion. In 1978 he was promoted to command 2nd Battalion first in Gillingham and then Berlin. While in Berlin the Battalion was responsible for running one of the great army shows, the Berlin Tattoo. Bobby Robert's circus was persuaded to join in and the highlight was a re-enactment of the Battle of Sabraon complete with elephants pulling cannons. Here he demonstrated another of his attributes, viz, his complete trust in those he considered competent. He decided what was to be done and then let people get on with it without interfering.

A senior staff appointment followed in HQ 1st Division in Verden before he was promoted Brigadier to command the Berlin Brigade. Subsequently promoted Major General his last appointment was Director Personnel Services in MOD London.

After 32 years' service Patrick left the Army in 1990 and became director of Administration of Norton Rose, a prestigious City law firm in Bishopsgate. Shortly after his appointment, Norton Rose was badly damaged by the IRA bombings of Bishopsgate and the Baltic Exchange, which necessitated the whole firm having to be relocated rapidly to enable the lawyers to carry on and retain their clients. Thanks to Patrick's diligence there was a rapid and smooth transition to new premises. He retired from Norton Rose in 1999.

Patrick was appointed Colonel of The Regiment in 1991 and during his six year tenure he not only steered The Regiment through some difficult times but was also the driving force behind the project to raise the money for and establish the Regimental Museum at Duxford. At the same time he became Chairman of the Regimental Trustees where his wise counsel saw the value of the regimental funds, especially the Benevolent Fund increase hugely in value. He never lost touch with The Regiment and many years later without his wisdom and tact it was doubtful whether the regimental history, 'Aden to Afghanistan' would ever have come to fruition

East Africa was in his blood. As well as spending his boyhood and National Service there he and Christine honeymooned there on their way back from Australia and in retirement for several years each winter they spent several weeks on the Kenyan coast where they generously invited many of their friends to join them. In 1991 he was thrilled to become Patron of the Kings African Rifles Association, an appointment which gave him great pleasure and which he enjoyed immensely. He remained Patron until shortly before his death.

As well as being an outstanding soldier Patrick was very much a family man. He was a devoted, loving and loyal husband to Christine who in turn nobly supported him throughout their married life, They have three children, Edward, born in 1969, Robert in 1972 and Celia in 1974. They were wonderful hosts who had the knack of making everyone feel completely relaxed and at home. About the time Patrick left the Army they moved to an old farm house just outside Hempnall, a few miles South of Norwich where they lived for 30 happy years before Patrick's illness forced them to move into the village and a more suitable home. It was typical of him that during his gradual decline he never complained about his illness; he took each day as it came and remained the same delightful, charming, inquisitive and teasing person he had always been.

In his spare time old cars were his great passion and he had a string of what today would be termed classic cars. At the time of his death his pride and joy was a 1924 Bull Nosed Morris.

In recognition of his service

Obituaries

Patrick was awarded the MBE in 1976, advanced to OBE in 1981 and again to CBE in 1984. He was made CB in 1992.

As a soldier one of Patrick's great qualities was his absolute straightness and willingness to give a forthright opinion. He didn't mince his words, but in expressing his views was never unkind or judgemental about his fellows. He had a gleeful sense of humour which he often hid but which occasionally he could not contain – at which point he would burst into laughter. He was always good company, a good listener and an astute assessor of others' abilities. It was very hard to surprise him; he had a natural authority and understanding of what needed doing and how to communicate that to all concerned. He was cheerful, efficient., imaginative and the complete team player. His attention was always on what was best for the soldiers. They knew that and as a result they greatly respected him. He was also a hard-working, generous and supportive husband and father. He is survived by his wife and three children.

The Regiment has reason to be deeply grateful to him.

KW

Based on the eulogy given at General Stone's funeral by Col RJ Abbott MBE

David Bridges

David Bridges was the Master of the Worshipful Company of Poulters from 2009 to 2010 and was a generous friend of the Regiment.

The Master Poulter, David Bridges, presents the Poulters Prize to WO2 Steve Nobby Clark.

Our Regiment's relationship with the Poulters and the kind support they give to us depends very much on the officers in the Company and in particular on the Master. It was clear particularly during his visits how much he cared about the Regiment, including the 1st Battalion's Op HERRICKs 6 and 11, and the 2nd Battalion's Op TELIC 12, all of which were during his tenure as Renter Warden, Upper Warden and Master of the Poulters.

On 18th March 2009, David kindly presented the Poulters' Prize to WO2 Steve Nobby Clark for his contribution to the 1st Battalion's Rear Party in Pirbright during Op HERRICK 6. His kind interest in the Regiment further developed the relationship we share with the Poulters.

On completion of his term as Master, David maintained his interest in the Regiment as a Past Master. He was a kind and generous friend of the Regiment.

Oliver Rivers

Pte Oliver Charles James Rivers was called up for 2 years' service as part of the 39 act Duration Extended Period of emergency (DEPE) in September 1947 aged 18 years.

He enlisted in Ipswich and reported to Blenheim Camp Bury St Edmunds for his General Service Corps (GSE) basic training. He was then posted to Colchester to join the Suffolk Regiment. Ollie remembered being at Roman Way and Meanee Barracks. He did his basic

Oliver Rivers.

training at Cherry Tree assault course, Fingringhoe, and the Thetford Battle area.

In February 1948 after 2 weeks embarkation leave, he was posted to Greece due to their civil war. He sailed from Southampton on the troopship "SS Ontario" a 2 week sailing time, stopping at Gibraltar and Malta. When he arrived at Salonika, He joined the 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment at Sobraon Barracks, part of 28 Inf Brigade 4 Division.. The war was in progress, It was terrible. After a while and due to the weaponry he used, he was sent to the British Military hospital in Salonika with damaged ears, a common problem in those days. Ollie was then sent on fieldcraft survival courses and then sailed to Egypt (Canal Zone) on the vessel "Empress of Australia", calling at Famagusta Cyprus en route. He berthed at Port Fuad.

He stayed at 156 transit camp for 3 weeks. He was then sent by train to El Kantara and by road to Sander camp at Al Balagh. After 6 weeks here he returned to 156 transit camp for a further 3 weeks. After his extensive training he returned to Salonika on the "Empress of Australia". He departed Salonika for southern Greece on "SS Adrias", as part of the advance party of the 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment.. He berthed at

Piraeus and travelled via Athens to Aliki Camp Glyfada, now the new home of the regiment.

In October 1949 Ollie's time was up and he sailed back to the UK on SS Empire Test arriving at Liverpool 2 weeks later. He got a train to Aldershot for demob. He finally arrived home in Felixstowe in late October. In 1951 Ollie was called again to the Colours on Z Reserve (Korean War crisis). He re-joined the Battalion and did training at Thetford. He was never called to go to Korea.

Before Ollie enlisted he was a milkman, on demob after the war he found it difficult to settle and had around 6 jobs. He finally got a job at Ransomes Ipswich (Engineering) and worked hard. He became number one machine setter and programmer and stayed for 31 years before being made redundant. (he quotes 'Thanks Maggie'). He then worked for Best Products in Felixstowe as foreman. Ollie enjoyed photography and ship modelling.

Ollie passed on 1st January 2022 at the age of 94. A very honest and loyal gentleman. Sorely missed.

Ollie asked me to note the following Greek Civil War losses and damage: Lives 160,000 in all, army and civilians; cattle killed 114,754; sheep, pigs and poultry 1,365,315; damage 476 road bridges and 439 railway bridges; destroyed 80 railway stations which were burned, 24,000 houses totally destroyed and 22,000 partly destroyed.

Captain Raymond Savage TEM

Captain Raymond Savage was born in Ealing on 2 December 1919, the youngest of three sons, to Charles and Margaret Savage. His father had been a wartime officer in The Middlesex Regiment.

He was educated at Chiswick Grammar School which, being on the Thames, had its own boathouse. He rowed in the school eight and when he later joined the National Provincial Bank in the City, rowed for them at all the Thames regattas, including Henley.

At the suggestion of an uncle who had won an MC with The Artists Rifles,

Captain Raymond Savage.

he enlisted in 1937 as a Territorial cadet in that Regiment for which throughout his life he retained a great affection. Prior to his death he was acknowledged, by their Association, to be their last surviving member.

In December 1939 he was commissioned into The Leicestershire Regiment and posted to 'A 'Company of the 1/5th (County) Territorial Battalion commanded by Lt Col Guy German. On 18 April the Battalion embarked for Norway which had been invaded by the Germans. Having landed without opposition, the second Merchant ship, Cedarbank, carrying anti-tank artillery,

Artists Rifles.

bren-gun carriers, communication equipment and other vital supplies, was torpedoed. Together with the 8th Bn The Sherwood Foresters, they formed the 148th Infantry Brigade. The Brigade occupied a blocking position at Tretten. However, they were fighting in deep snow against experienced German parachute troops and strong artillery. After several days of fighting in arctic conditions, with little sleep or food and impossible to dig trenches in the frozen ground, their positions were overrun and the Brigade, as such, ceased to exist. The evacuation of allied troops took place on 2/3 May. Raymond said that it was rather a one-sided fight but they fought back. The Leicesters' cemetery at Lillehammer, with the graves of sixteen who were killed, bears testament to their actions.

In the withdrawal by land or sea, 'A' Company was cut–off. They were approached by a small boy who said "come with me". Trusting him they were led to safety and where skis were found. Thus began the eighty mile journey to the Swedish border. None of the group had skied before, but they soon learnt.

Upon reaching Sweden the group were interned for six months, after which the Red Cross negotiated their repatriation in exchange for captured German pilots. From Finland, they returned by ship to England - and the Blitz. Subsequently, as a result of Norwegian research, it was established that Raymond at the age of ninety seven, was 'the last man standing' from the British Army's involvement in the defence of Norway. In 2017 The Norwegian Chief of Defence awarded him a diploma, and later a medallion in recognition of his contribution in 1940. He accepted these awards as a tribute to those with whom he had served and for those who did not return.

Upon repatriation, he was attached to a training unit and then to the 1st Battalion in Agra, India, which then moved to Penang Garrison on the Siamese border, and Alor Star. The Leicesters, part of the 15th Indian Infantry Brigade in the 11th Indian Division, bore the brunt of the fighting in the West. Raymond, now a Captain, was the Battalion's Liaison

Officer with Brigade HQ. His batman was Private Reg Twigg. After a gap of sixty years, they were reunited in Leicester which Raymond described as "a heart warming experience". They had last seen each other in the POW camp at Kinsayok when building the notorious Siam Burma railway.

Following the battles at Alor Star and Gurun, the Battalion had been severely mauled as had the 2nd East Surreys. Thus the British Battalion was formed from the surviving members of both. This unique unit fought with great distinction at Kampar, for which a Battle Honour was awarded, and in several other well documented battles. After the withdrawal to Singapore, Raymond served as staff captain at Brigade HQ and was taken prisoner when after giving stiff resistance, all allied units were forced to capitulate. He, with many others, was incarcerated in the infamous Changi Jail, before being taken in cattle trucks to work on the notorious Burma railway. Officers and other ranks were not separated as Japan was not a signatory of the Geneva Convention.

Conditions were harsh and severe punishments were meted out for even minor infringements of the regulations. However, efforts were made to provide entertainment where possible, even concerts, a choir, bridge, and chess. Having found an abandoned library in Singapore, a broad selection of books provided a welcome relief. He was an avid and critical reader. During captivity he had secretly written an almost daily diary which was later recorded by The Imperial War Museum.

After the surrender of the Japanese following the dropping of the Atom Bombs, the camp guards collapsed mentally and physically. The Japanese Camp Commandant, as an act of surrender, handed his sword to Colonel Toosey, the senior British officer. This was a great disappointment as it had been hoped by the POWs that he would commit hara-kiri.

Huge supplies of food, much of it rotten, and medicines supplied by the Red Cross were released after years in store. Raymond was subsequently treated both in Rangoon and on his return to England, for malnutrition and tropical disease.

He had said that “in a funny way, and lucky to have come back, my experiences were the highlight of my life”.

Later he received some long awaited letters. The first words he saw in his mother’s letter were, that his fiancée had ‘handed back your ring and was married in a week and in America in a fortnight’. Her wait of nearly four years had proved too long. It was the biggest shock of his short life, and he was only glad that he didn’t learn about it whilst a POW.

Upon returning home and having recuperated, he was forced to leave his beloved Army; he was discharged in August 1946 and did not serve in any further part of the Armed Forces. In 1978 he was belatedly awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal. He decided not to return to the Bank and life in the City. In 1951 he applied to join Kraft Foods as a salesman, rising to become a Depot Manager with a thirty-strong team. He had personal responsibility for negotiations with multi-store retailers such as Tesco, with whom he formed a very strong relationship. Prior to his official retirement at sixty five, he was made Trade Relations Director. However, his American employers decided that with his relationship brilliance he was far too valuable to lose and persuaded him to stay on for a further twenty years. He was regarded as a gentleman, honest, charming and with high values.

For many years he had hosted corporate guests during Cheltenham Gold Cup Week, in what became known as 'The Raymond Savage Suite'. An invitation to be there was highly valued.

Raymond, a proud Tiger, will be remembered for his deep devotion to his Regiment. Leaving his home in Devon at 0730 on each Sunday of Royal Tigers’ Weekend, he regularly attended the Cathedral Sunday service, and parade. After lunch, he would then return to his home; a five hundred mile round trip. He also regularly attended the 4/5th Officers’ Dinner each October. He was immaculate in manner and appearance, always interesting and good company.

He was a member of Probus and gave talks about his wartime experiences. He had a longstanding interest in cars and was an active member of the MG Owners’ Club attending countrywide rallies with his devoted companion Patricia.

Having lived for many happy years in his flood prone Riverside Cottage near Sidmouth, he decided about four years ago to move to a nearby residential home where he was well cared for. One of his great pleasures, in addition to a good breakfast, reading the Telegraph and a glass of good claret at dinner, was being visited by Bertie, Patricia’s dog, with whom he had previously enjoyed a daily walk.

He died on 5 January 2022 aged 102, just into his 103rd year. He had the distinction of being four times the ‘Last Man Standing’ - The last survivor of the British involvement in the defence of Norway in 1940; The last surviving member of the British Battalion; The last surviving member of The Leicestershire Regiment to have been a prisoner of the Japanese; The last man to have been a member of The Artists Rifles.

In 1948 he married Marie Jenks to whom their daughter Caroline was born and who survives him. The marriage ended in divorce in 1959.

In 1969 he married Ann Saunders who died in 1989.

For twenty seven years Patricia Newton had been his devoted companion to whom we express our sincere condolences.

Andrew ‘Jock’ Appleton

from his sister

We always said that if you cut him open he would have soldier or Army running through him like a stick of rock.

He never felt so fulfilled as when he was in the army, he had a purpose and he was a damn good soldier. The army made him, but in the end it also became his biggest tormentor – he couldn’t escape the horrors of service that he’d been part of. PTSD is very real and robbed him and us of a future together. Having said that, his family and friends remember Andrew the son, father,

Andrew Appleton.

brother, nephew, uncle, grandson – the one who made us all laugh with endless jokes and stories, forever strumming or drumming or tapping – he was never still. He was a talented musician, artist, writer, and photographer and was an endless source of entertainment one way or another.

We all have a gaping Andrew sized hole in our lives. We love and miss him every day, but he will live on forever in our hearts and minds.

From Wilkie

Andy 'Jock' Appleton was an accomplished rugby player who represented both his Battalion and Regimental teams for over a decade. In his early days of playing his fleetness of foot saw him as a lethal finishing winger and he was part of the Vikings team that reach the Army rugby cup quarter finals two years on the trot, a stellar achievement for a line Battalion. In his later rugby career he developed a more muscular approach to the game aided by a sharp rugby acumen was hugely effective. He remained a great supporter of Regimental rugby after retiring from playing and received his Regimental Rugby Cap in 2019 in recognition of his contribution on the field.

Colonel (Retd) RA (Dick) Shervington MA TD DL

Dick as a Second Lieutenant, the Essex Regiment, in Dortmund

Dick's funeral was at a packed St Mary's Church, Stansted on Primrose Day, 19th April 2022, his 85th birthday.

His family was honoured that the Regiment and our former Regiments were so strongly represented. "On parade", so to speak, were Eddie Yorston, who carried the Chelmsford Branch Standard of the Association and Ian Hook, who sounded Last Post and Reveille; together with the Royal British Legion County Standard and Debden Branch Standard, where Dick had been president. He made rather a habit of being a president, most notably as the last one of The Essex Regiment Association, succeeding Geoffrey Morgan – who incidentally was my first company commander in the 3rd Battalion, Berlin 1965.

Dick was also President of the Old Bancroftians Association and of the Saffron Walden branch of the Conservative Party, always expressing his typically robust views without fear or favour. It was a characteristic that could jar with some colleagues, as I realised when I was asked: "Are you Dick Shervington's brother?" This question was also barked at me by my first adjutant, Captain (later Brigadier) Peter Sincock, who had served with Dick and was a good friend; he promptly awarded me seven extra-orderly officer duties!

Dick was commissioned from Eton Hall as a National Service 2nd Lieutenant in August 1956 into The Essex Regiment, serving mainly in Dortmund. He had a long career in the TA, including tours as a company commander in 4th/5th Battalion and The Cambridgeshire Regiment. He chaired the committee comprising Mike Amey, Desmond Brady, James Kelly and Brian Morgan that created the splendid Essex Regiment Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in 2014; recorded in the 2015 edition of Castle.

Dick was a partner in Price Waterhouse and took a BA(Hons) at Wolfson College, Cambridge in his 50's, an academic achievement that his headmaster may not have anticipated! Dick was perhaps disproportionately proud of his military service although he self-deprecatingly described himself as "Colonel Bogus" as both his brother and my son, Mike, were regular officers; Colonel "hackle" and Colonel "red beret" respectively. Another humorous or offensive observation… take your pick, was that whenever he saw a grey Mercedes he would loudly ask: "Why are you driving a reconstituted U-Boat?" And guess what car he drove? Yes, a grey Mercedes! That is until he graduated to a mobility scooter, or dodgem car, named Goliath from which he terrorised Stansted after writing-off his car opposite the Dog and Duck, his local pub – which was re-named the Dog and Dick by the Cornets club at a gathering before his funeral.

I'm grateful to the Regimental Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Goodin for accepting this personal tribute (not a hagiography!) and to the many scores of regimental friends who sent letters, cards and emails; hugely appreciated by the family, including his children James and Julia, sister Janet and brother-in-law John Hollis, himself a National Service officer in The Essex Regiment, and especially by his "kid bro".

Col (Retd) Pat Shervington MBE

Obituaries

Captain Steven Bowns

Steven's sudden death at home in the early hours of Tuesday 29th March came as a great shock to us all. This obituary cover Steven's professional life, as a soldier, analyst, historian and educator. It draws on the thoughts and words of the many people who knew Steven as a soldier and a friend.

Steven aspired to be a soldier from a very young age, famously submitting an application while still at primary school. In 1978, Steven went up to Sheffield University to study Geography and Sociology, and in 1979 he was awarded a University Cadetship by the Army. The Colonel of the Regiment who selected him for the Royal Anglian Regiment was Major General Jack Dye, a D Day veteran and an operational soldier of distinction. I mention this not just because Steven admired General Jack, and drew on his wisdom when writing the Regimental History, but because General Jack knew what was needed in an operational infantry officer, and saw it in Steven.

Unlike some who enjoyed the benefits of the cadetship scheme, Steven spent university vacations on attachment with both the 1st and 2nd Battalions, gaining valuable experience in Germany, Berlin and BATUS in Canada. By the time he had completed his degree, attended the short graduate course at Sandhurst, received his Regular Commission in 1981 and joined the 1st Battalion, he `knew what he was on' and earned an above average report from his Platoon Commanders Battle Course. Steven took soldiering seriously but maintained a wry sense of humour. He was highly intelligent, well read in his profession even at this stage, hard working, determined, tactically capable, an excellent trainer and enjoyed being with soldiers. He was a thinker, and innovative; indeed as another good friend put it `Steven thought too much, at a time when most platoon commanders did not think at all!' Unconventional and skeptical of the `received wisdom', he was not tolerant of fools. Initially he had a prickly relationship with some more conventional and older officers. He excelled operationally, in the jungle in Belize and in Northern Ireland. His intelligence and application gained him an `A' Grade on the complex Nuclear Biological and Chemical Warfare Instructors course, and a distinction on his Milan Anti Tank Course in Spring 1984; his instructor's comment : `Steven was one of my stand-out students, combining a razor-sharp intellect, an inclination to constructive challenge and a shrewd tactical instinct". He was a talented trainer; in Northern Ireland, between company operational tours and training his Milan Platoon, with Drum Major Bokenham, he trained the Drums and Machine Gun platoon, to compete in the demanding Army `Match 83' machine gun competition. They won the Northern Ireland competition in 1985 and in 1986 won the Combined Services Shield, beating the best in the army and the other two services. The Battalion benefitted from that training in 1989 in South Armagh. He also ran the Milan concentration for battalions in the Far East and received high praise. Over two years of demanding Northern Ireland operations he was held in high regard in the Battalion for his reliability, competence, tactical skill and care for his men, not least by his Commanding Officer, a future Chief of Defence Staff. As the Battalion left Londonderry, Steven moved to the School of Infantry to instruct on the Anti-Tank Course, where he thrived and made a major contribution across the infantry. Recommended strongly for promotion to Major, selection for Staff College and Company Command, never the less, in late 1988, Steven decided to make a career change into the world of consultancy. He was a real loss to the Army and our Regiment.

Notwithstanding his formidable intellect and application, Steven was a `Soldier's Officer', who really related to those with whom he served and enjoyed great mutual respect. Recent quotes from comrades illustrate this:

"He was a good, solid and dependable officer, with a perpetual smile and a brain as big as the universe…on behalf of the `Tankbusters' I can assure you that he will be missed with great fondness"; and

"He was my platoon commander whilst serving in Northern Ireland. He was a compassionate and great leader who has had a major impact on my life and always a rock when needed".

Steven has been a devoted `Viking' ever since, a loyal supporter of the Regiment, keeping people in touch with each other and spending time with old comrades 40 years on.

On leaving the Army Steven worked with the Cambridge Scientific Consultancy firm Generics from 1990 to 1996, moving to one of the big London firms, PA Consulting, from 1996 to 2001 and from there to the QinetiQ Group, a derivative of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency from 2001 to 2007. He set up his own company `Technology Futures', in 2004. These were all `heavy hitting' commercial and scientifically based organisations, doing serious work in the defence field. Steven was very well thought of by his clients, including the MOD, where he was involved in a large number of important and sensitive project, and establishments like Chatham House. His work was not only technically skilled but also exploited his tactical military knowledge and his analysis of military history, which has been a constant interest throughout his life.

The Royal Anglian Regiment has benefitted greatly from this passion

of Steven's for military history. As an adopted son of Cambridgeshire, Steven was particularly interested in the Cambridgeshire Regiment, a forebear of the Royal Anglian Regiment. Working with his friend and fellow Viking, Nigel Spinks, Steven researched a highlight of the Cambridgeshire's history, Storming the Schwaben Redoubt during the battle of the Somme on 14 October 1916. It appealed to him as an example of careful analysis of previous failures, thorough planning and training, strong leadership and sound low level tactics leading to decisive success; very Steven! No one who was present at the 90th anniversary commemoration of the battle at Ely Cathedral with the Colonel in Chief, will forget Steven's briefing on the battle in Ely Kings School in the afternoon. The briefing proceeded to about 2.40pm, when the lights dimmed completely and silence fell until, at 2.46pm, `Zero Hour' 90 years before, an Infantry whistle sounded loudly, marking the moment when 1/1st Cambridgeshire Regiment had gone `over the top'. It was a masterful `coup de theatre' by Steven, demonstrating not only his grasp of historical detail , but also the reality of war.

It was therefore no surprise that Steven volunteered and was selected to write `Aden to Afghanistan' 50 years of The Royal Anglian Regiment 1964-2014. This book, carefully and exhaustively researched, well written and beautifully illustrated, has been a triumph, fully justifying Steven's focus on operational activity, tactical detail and the `soldier's perspective', and something to which all ranks who have served could relate. To complete the record, Steven has been working on a short history of the East Anglian Regiments from the initial amalgamation up to 1964; this has yet to be completed. Throughout all this period Steven has shown loyal support to individuals and the Associations of the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Cambridgeshire Regiment, and been unfailingly generous in his commitment of time, effort and resources to comradeship, welfare and education.

And it is in education that Steven has also made another significant contribution. Drawing on his experience as a practical but also very widely read soldier, and 30 years of management and defence consultancy, Steven has taught `The tools of the Strategist's Trade' to the Masters course at Exeter University's Strategy and Security Institute (SSI). His work there and with other academics was highly valued.

Comments from colleagues at Exeter include:

"He was the most generous, big hearted and jovial person I have had the pleasure to meet….he was so generous to the students with regards to giving his time to speak to them on employability amongst other topics, and I know our Alumni and current cohort will remember him with great fondness"

"The Strategy Masters students always found his teaching sessions incredibly insightful and engaging and Steven would kindly go beyond his remit to talk about careers in consultancy…. He was a kind and generous man"

Anthony King, Professor of War Studies at the University of Warwick: "We shared an interest in infantry tactics and as a result of which he gave me a copy of his wonderful book on the Royal Anglians, which is sitting just by my desk as I write. He then helped me hugely in a book I was writing on urban warfare (another shared interest). Steven was a wonderful person. I liked him very much and respected his expertise. He was extremely generous in support of my work, something I will always remember him by. He is a great loss".

As Lieutenant General Sir Paul Newton, who established and runs the SSI at Exeter, put it:

" Much in academia is explaining or arguing about one theory or another. Steven knew all the theory but his flair - as at Netheravon when we were both captains - was bringing it to life and applying knowledge in solving real-world problems. Lots of people are invited to lecture. Some are asked twice. Very, very few are invited to teach every course over a span of 8 years! Steven was known (affectionately) by students as 'Sierra Bravo'. I don't know if he knew that! I was on a staff ride recce in Belgium with two of the military students and we came to a road junction. No SATNAV signal and map stowed… in the boot. They paused and the Wing Commander said to the Major "Hmm, wicked problem. No obvious solution. What would Sierra Bravo do?" "Few can claim to have served the National interest throughout their military and civilian life in the way Steven demonstrably did. You as a family must be very proud of him".

We, his friends, colleagues and comrades certainly are; and we will miss him very much.

Based on the eulogy given at the funeral by Maj Gen John Sutherell CB CBE

Major Jakob (Herbie) Hancock

Herbie died suddenly on 30th May 2022, aged 47.

Herbie served a Short Service Commission in the Royal Artillery, transferring to the Royal Anglian Regiment in 1999 with a Regular Commission. He served with both our Regular Battalions. Initially he joined the 1st Battalion, serving with them in Londonderry, Pirbright, Afghanistan and Iraq from 1999 - 2006. And he commanded a Company in our 2nd Battalion in Germany and Iraq from 2007-2009. He then served on the Staff and left the Army in 2014 to start a family and pursue a civilian career.

Col Phill Moxey, here offers an

abridged version of Herbie's eulogy:

In 2002 Herbie was already an experienced young officer – he had served an operational tour in Londonderry through 2000-2001 as a Pl Commander at a time where there was still a terrorist threat, and where soldiers were daily risking their lives on patrol. His commander at the time, Simon Browne, recognised early on that he was a hugely caring officer – who put his men first. As a result, his platoon were always ready to do the tough jobs, safe that they knew what they were doing and why, and that their boss had their back.

When we deployed into Kabul in Feb 2002 – in the immediate aftermath of the fall of the Taliban, Herbie was a liaison officer into the NATO HQs – ostensibly because of his German language skills, but also because the Commanding Officer recognised Herbie had the charm, the energy and the intellect to build the kind of trust and credibility with our partners that was needed in such an uncertain environment. And if success can be measured by the amount of free US clothing, German food, Italian drinks and Turkish shaving products he used to return to camp with – then I would say he nailed it.

After time spent as an instructor and more exercises in Poland and elsewhere – Herbie found himself as a commander of a Trg Team advising the Iraqi Army – once again a non-standard job, given to the officers who could operate in small groups, who could build rapport with the Iraqis, and who understood the complexity of the operating environment. One of his soldiers – Danny Morgan, wrote to me recounting that on this tour, again, it was his deep compassion for his soldiers that shone through – and how Herbie wasn't afraid to stand up to his superiors to make sure his men were looked after. One story that stood out was the time Herbie refused to get overworked troops artificially clean and bright for a visit from his Brigade Commander – instead insisting that the brigadier saw the soldiers as they really were – exhausted, dirty and hungry, but ultimately happy. The commander specifically praised Herbie for his candour and for giving him the opportunity to see how things really were in a long, hot, demanding summer for our soldiers.

Another of his Commanding Officers, Oli Stokes, sums Herbie up so well – his presence always promised an authentic and easy conversation. He didn't have an agenda, he just wanted to be connected to people, he loved his soldiers and they loved him back. Everything he did was motivated by wanting to do the right thing or do right by others. And that also extended to the families of his soldiers – he knew their wives and kid's names – always asking how they were doing. And his warmth, welcome and interest was applied to our wives and partners as well – he gave hugs that let you know he loved you, he danced with them long after we'd all given up – and he was as much a direct friend to them as he was his brother officers.

What is striking is that the same points are made over and over in the reflections I have received from those who served with Herbie – and it's important to note that unusually Herbie served in 1 and 2 Royal Anglian, and in the 2nd Bn The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. So three different units all got to size him up – and the same consistent picture emerges – of a man who was far more talented than he ever let himself believe, of a man who cared deeply for those he led, of a man who was a natural, unforced leader, of a man who was just bloody great fun to be around.

We cannot avoid the truth that the years after he left the army were difficult for Herbie. If he was here now he would be the first to say he'd made mistakes. But as I seek to come to terms with his loss, and to understand the marks and scars he obviously carried, I do so from a starting point of understanding the man at his finest. From the starting point of remembering just how energetic and engaging he was, and how easy and how fun it was to be his friend. I remember how much we all envied the effortlessness with which he commanded his soldiers and the clear devotion they had for him. We are all shaped by the people we know – and I am grateful to Herbie and proud of the influence he has had on me. The sheer numbers from the army here today suggest many, many others feel the same. So – 550005 Major Jakob Hancock – from Vikings, from Poachers and from Tigers – we will miss you, and may you rest in peace.

Major John Hutchings

Major John Hutchings, who died on 10th July aged 86, had been suffering from dementia for several years. Before the onset of this for almost twenty years he wrote the obituaries of former members of The Essex Regiment both for The Eagle Magazine and the Royal Anglian Castle Magazine. In 2009 he was persuaded to write his own life story for The Eagle and the result was a ten-page account of a full and fruitful life; what follows is extracted from what he wrote.

John was very proud of the fact that he was an Essex man through and through. He was born there and apart from the time spent in the Army and his subsequent work in The Gulf he spent his whole life there. He became interested in the Army or more specifically The Essex Regiment when, at an early age at school in Chigwell he was inspired by a school teacher recently returned from war service with the Regiment.

He joined the school CCF at the earliest opportunity and in his own words became 'army barmy'. From the CCF it was a natural progression to RMA Sandhurst and in February 1955 a commission into The Essex Regiment.

After a short spell at the Regimental Depot at Warley he joined the 1st Battalion for the last ten months of their posting in Hong Kong.

He recalls an eventful voyage home aboard HMT Empire Fowey as the 1956 Suez Crisis closed the Suez Canal and the ship had to divert via the Cape. While the battalion went to Dortmund John was posted to Warley as a training subaltern and so missed the amalgamation with The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in June 1958 when the two battalions combined to become 1st Battalion 3rd East Anglian Regiment.

From Warley John re-joined the Battalion for the final few months in Dortmund before returning to Warley for training prior to the Battalion's posting to Malaya. For John part of this training was the Regimental Signals Officers' course at Hythe and for the whole of that tour he was the RSO. On the Battalion's return in 1962 John spent two years as Adjutant of the East Anglian Brigade Depot in Bury Sy Edmunds and then two more years as Staff Captain A at HQ West Midlands District in Shrewsbury. From there, now re-badged Royal Anglian he re-joined the Pompadours in Berlin where he planned the Battalion's return to Tidworth. This turned out to be his last posting with the Regiment. 1967 was spent at the Royal Naval Staff College at Greenwich and from there, now a Major, he was posted to HQ AFCENT in Holland. He found his job there boring and he took advantage of a visit by the Military Secretary, Lt Gen Sir Richard Goodwin who happened to be Colonel of The Regiment to ask for a transfer.

Within a fortnight he had volunteered for secondment to the Trucial Oman Scouts as their DAA & QMG and so began a long association with The Gulf. At the conclusion of his secondment John was posted to 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers where he commanded B Company, firstly in Gibraltar and then Colchester. This included the inevitable tours in Northern Ireland, one of which was to take part in Op Motorman, the operation to retake the no-go areas of the Bogside and The Creggan in Londonderry. From the Fusiliers John went to the MOD for what became his last posting. He found this unfulfilling and after much deliberation he decided to seek pastures new and so resigned his commission.

However, life in London was not all dull as while in London he met Heather Stuart-Watson who he married in March 1974. They settled in Sible Hedingham with John expecting to find work in Essex. However, due to the economic crisis this did not work out and John returned to The Gulf as a contract officer with the newly formed Dubai Defence Force. During their four happy years there Heather had two children, Edward who was born in 1975 and Laura two years later. In 1979 they returned to UK where, based in a larger house in Castle Hedingham John worked with a company recruiting UK based workers for the Middle East. Two years later the family returned to The Gulf after John was offered the post of personnel manager for the Port Authority of Jebel Ali. Here he was responsible for a workforce of some 500 people from Europe, the Middle East and predominately the Sub-Continent.

The Port prospered and in 1987 his post was 'arabised' and the family returned home. Over the course of the next few years John worked as a legal practice manager and a Middle East consultant before becoming secretary of the Essex Agricultural Society helping to run the Essex County Show. He organised the 1998 and 97 shows but due to falling revenues the NFU, who owned the showground sold it. John did however remain secretary to The Essex County Farms Competition and the Essex County Ploughing Competition for several more years. He also sat on the General Committee of the Essex Regiment Association and was a Trustee of the Essex Regiment Museum. He finally retired in 2017 thus completing a full circle that started and ended in his beloved Essex.

At heart John was very much a countryman. He came from farming stock and in his youth enjoyed roaming the farms around his home often with a gun under his arm. He retained a countryman's calm and quiet attitude throughout his life, he was never ruffled or non plussed. He had a glorious twinkle in his eye and a marvellous sense of humour that was always sharp but never unkind. He was the ideal regimental officer who put the welfare of his men first, knew them well and in return was respected by them. Sartorially he was always immaculate and would rib his friends who appeared in a manner of which he disapproved by looking them up and down and then, with raised eyebrows asking "who cuts your shirts"? The perfect gentleman, he was good company, fun to be with and will be missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his widow, his two children and an elder sister.

Major Alan Gregory

Alan Charles Gregory was born in Sidcup Kent where he grew up until 1960, when his father's career took the family to Finchley in London. Both his parents had been in uniform during the War, his father having served in the 11th Armoured Division.

As his grandfather had also been a military man, an Irish Guardsman in the Regular Army, it was not surprising that his choice of career gravitated towards the military. Alan left school in 1968 and joined the Ministry of Defence as an Executive Officer whilst making up his mind whether to join the Regular Army.

Obituaries

Eventually he joined 5 Queen's at Hornsey in the late 1970s and was promoted to Cpl before being commissioned into 6/7 Queen's in 1977. In 1979 he transferred to 5 Royal Anglian where he joined 4 Company in Hertford. He became OC in 1984, a post he held until 1988. During his time in Hertford, he quickly demonstrated an ability to plan and deliver comprehensive and progressive training for recruits, soldiers and NCOs.

This was so well received by the members of the unit that it attracted large numbers of recruits and the Company grew to become the largest in the battalion. So great were the numbers on parade that coming to attention in the large first floor 'drill hall' was deemed unwise and such gatherings were then held in the garage. The carefully planned training did produce results and 4 Company consistently won the Battalion 'Best Company' award. His innovative recruit training programme was later to became a model for all Territorial infantry recruit training.

The exercises he planned were inventive, challenging and enjoyable and this was due not only to his ability but also due to his enormous sense of humour. Alan was someone whose judgement could always be relied upon. One night, at river crossing in Germany, when he and his men arrived at the RV, he quickly made the decision that the location was not at all suitable, being far too dangerous and duly informed the chain of command. This prompted the rapid arrival of an irate Regular staff officer who disagreed, declaring that it was suitable and that he himself would demonstrate how to do it! However, the combination of the steep ten-foot bank and the rapid-flowing rived proved Alan right and ten soldiers together with the staff officer then, with some difficulty, had to be rescued from the river! The Herford Company always enjoyed a good social life on all levels and it was whilst he was with 4 Company that Alan met Vanessa. They were married and in 1983, had a son, John.

His career at the MOD was also progressing and he was a part of a team responsible for financing the development of the Tornado aircraft and selling tanks and major components to our allies. Later he was to travel around the UK, Europe and further afield, to ensure that staff were deployed in the right management structure to fulfil their roles efficiently. Much time was spent living out of suitcases. This involved him in many projects, often taking him to places such as the Falklands Islands, Germany, Cyprus, Gibraltar, NATO HQ and Northern Ireland. Sadly, in 2001, Vanessa was diagnosed with cancer and in 2004 the MOD granted Alan premature retirement to allow him to support her towards the end of her life. They took advantage of this kind offer and went on holiday to California, the Czech Republic, Belgium and on a Baltic Cruise. Vanessa died peacefully in her sleep at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton, in July 2005. Alan loved travelling and later, on a holiday to Turkey, he met Yuliya, a charming lady from St Petersburg. Eventually she came to England with her son Jacob and she and Alan were married and had a son, Charlie. In 2014, Alan, was diagnosed with prostate cancer, news which he dealt with stoically and in such a way as to relieve the emotional pressure on his family. He received treatment which not only kept him alive but gave him a reasonable quality of life. Alan was a kind, caring man with a great sense of humour, popular with friends and colleagues and much loved by his family. He loved music and travel and was a passionate collector. He had hundreds of military models and a fine collection of guitars. He was a very sociable man with the ability to embrace life and the wisdom not to judge others. His funeral took place in the Memorial Chapel, Surrey and Sussex Crematorium on 11th October 2022. The Regiment was represented by a number of officers and NCO's who had served alongside Alan in Hertford. He leaves behind his wife Yuliya, three sons and two grandchildren, Sebastian and Reuben. Alan was a charming man, a great asset to the Army and fun to work with. He was very proud of his service in the Territorial Army which inspired in him a long-lasting loyalty to The Queen.

Pte Philip Knowles

It is with profound sadness that the battalion informs you of the death of Pte Knowles of A (Norfolk) Company. Private Knowles was involved in a road traffic incident in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area on 19 September 2022.

Pte Philip Knowles enlisted into the Army on 1st March 2020. On completion of his training at the Infantry Training Centre he was posted to 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment (The Vikings). Pte Knowles Completed the Viking Advanced Infantry Skills Expansion Cadre (VAISEC) and joined A (Norfolk) Company on 15th July 2022.

Growing up in a military family Pte Knowles was devoted to joining the Army from a young age. His talent for soldiering was evident from the start, finishing third in his platoon at the Infantry Training Centre.

Throughout VAISEC he consistently showed his aptitude for soldiering and was identified as having the potential for early promotion. Loyal to the core, Pte Knowles immediately fitted into A (Norfolk) Company with his professionalism and love of sports. He was making the most of Army life and fully embraced the opportunities that living in Cyprus offered.

Quiet and diligent he had the respect and trust of those around him. Pte Knowles was fit, motivated, and determined with a bright future ahead of him. His mother and father will be in the thoughts and prayers of all in The Royal Anglian Regiment.

His Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Graham Goodey, said: 'The tragic loss of Private Philip Knowles has deeply affected everyone in our close-knit battalion community. He was a talented, vibrant, dedicated young soldier who volunteered for the noble cause of serving others and defending

our nation. We will carry him home to his final resting place in Fiji with the utmost care, and we pray that his family may in time find solace through treasured memories of an honourable and happy life.'

Major James Walters commanding A (Norfolk) Company said: 'Private Knowles was instantly popular in A (Norfolk) Company. He arrived with glowing reports from training and made his mark as a highly motivated and competent soldier. It was clear that he had chosen a profession that he loved and in which he was excelling. The loss felt by us all is testament to his character.'

Warrant Officer Class 2 Company Sergeant Major Dale Watson said: 'Upon meeting Pte Knowles it was immediately apparent that he was going to have a successful career as a soldier. Diligent, loyal and with a mischievous streak, he naturally fitted in A (Norfolk) Company. His loss is felt by us all.'

Colour Sergeant Mark Anderson said: 'In the short time I knew Pte Knowles he had proven himself to be a highly capable and determined soldier. There was no question that with his soldiering ability, he had a very promising career ahead of him. His loss will be felt across the battalion for years to come. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and all those that knew him'

LCpl Samu Konataci said: 'Philip was always keen to learn as much as he could about soldiering. He was really fit and a great guy. He is missed by us all'

LCpl Simon Mataceva said: 'Philip was taken from us far too young and far too soon. His loss has changed our world, but his love and memory will never fade. Rest easy brother.'

Pte Ratu Senibuli said: 'Philip was a great friend. We are all devastated by this accident and really miss him.'

Richard Burnett MBE

Mr Richard Leslie Burnett (Dick) was a National Service subaltern in The Royal Leicestershire Regiment, who was a fine concert pianist and later assembled one of the world's most famous collections of keyboard instruments.

Educated at Eton, he studied at The Royal College of Music before starting his National Service. After training, he was commissioned into the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in January 1953, and joined the 1st Battalion in Iserlohn.

He served as a rifle platoon commander in B and D Companies, and was a very good rifle shot.

He had a sharp wit, always had a twinkle in his eyes, enjoying pranks and practical jokes. On one occasion, after drinking in one of the favourite bars, he appeared on the stage juggling some of the bar's crockery.

On another occasion he had to be dissuaded from copying a visiting circus performer who had been walking a tightrope across a square in the town. He had a piano in his bedroom in the Officers' Mess but when some brother officers pushed him, playing it, along the corridor the senior officers below were not amused.

After his Army service, he started collecting historic keyboard instruments and developed an instrument restoration business.

He was a sensitive and thoughtful pianist, and by the 1960s he was playing at Wigmore Hall. In 1971 he and his wife bought Finchcocks in Goudhurst, Kent, which was a nearly derelict Grade I listed building. They soon built up a team of ten craftsmen, and his collection of instruments grew.

He loved playing early music on original instruments, and enjoyed teaching, lecturing, writing and broadcasting about them and encouraging the young. In 2016 they downsized, but retained 14 classic instruments in their new home.

He was appointed MBE in 2008 for services to music. He and his wife regularly attended the annual Regimental Officers' Luncheon in London.

Subscription to the Regimental Association
(Updated 03 December 2022)

All retired members of the Regiment are automatically members of the Regimental Association and are eligible to benevolence if required. All are encouraged to become subscribing members of the Regimental Association. The cost of subscription is:

- Officers - £25
- Soldiers - £20

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Benefits	Officers	Soldiers	Remarks
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Receive Monthly Newsletter.	√	√	By email. (Optional)
Receive Regimental Bulletins	√	√	By email. (Optional)
Small donation to Benevolence	√	√	
Membership of the Officers Club	√		

Regimental Association

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