



CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT



December 2023





Editor: Major (Retd) ML Peters

Contents

The Colonel of the Regiment	6	3 (Essex and Hertfordshire) Company	170
Regimental Communications	8	4 (Lincolnshire) Company	175
Personalia	11	5 (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) Company	180
The Regiment	12		
Regimental Matters	14	Library Reviews	198
Regimental Charity and Welfare	26	Regimental Band	199
Mainly About People	32	RMAS	202
Regimental Heritage	36	ITC Catterick	204
Regimental Museum	48	Infantry Battle School Brecon	206
Diary Dates	51	Affiliated Cadets	208
Can You Remember?	52		
1st Battalion (The Vikings)		Regimental Association	212
From the Commanding Officer	60	Vikings Past and Present Ball	213
From the Regimental Sergeant Major	63	Poachers Summer Ball	214
A (Norfolk) Company	64		
B (Suffolk) Company	72	Branch News	
C (Essex) Company	82	Norfolk	217
D (Cambridgeshire) Company	85	Suffolk	218
HQ Company	96	Essex	219
		Cambridgeshire	222
2nd Battalion (The Poachers)		Lincolnshire	224
From the Commanding Officer	104	Leicestershire	228
From the Regimental Sergeant Major	105	Northamptonshire	230
A (Lincolnshire) Company	106	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	234
B (Leicestershire) Company	113		
C (Northamptonshire) Company	115	Association News	
D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company	122	Royal Anglian Riders	239
HQ Company	125	Big Breakfast in Africa	240
		Channel Swim	241
3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)			
From the Commanding Officer	148	Deaths and Obituaries	244
From the Regimental Sergeant Major	149	Regimental Association subscriptions	260
1 (Norfolk and Suffolk) Company	158	Regimental Association member information form	261
2 (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire) Company	162	Regimental Charity donation form	262

Front cover: Jungle Training - Cpl Lewis Strong, Recce Platoon, 1st Battalion on Exercise Mayan Viking, in Belize.

Rear cover top: 3rd Battalion, maximizing firepower – All three R ANGLIAN Battalions have worked on ensuring that they can generate the optimum weight of accurate fire. The redoubtable GPMG has featured prominently in this year's training programmes

Rear cover bottom: LCpl Jamie Fleming, A (Lincolnshire) Company, 2nd Battalion monitors the progress of his Fire Team while deployed on Exercise SPRING STORM.

Inside front cover: The Regimental Memorial Boxing Night held at Kendrew Barracks in December 2023 was a huge success. The Colonel of the Regiment and Commanding Officers congratulated the boxers who raised a significant amount for the Royal Anglian Regiment Charity.

Inside back cover: Anti-Tank Platoon, D (Cambridgeshire) Company, 1st Battalion completed a comprehensive training cadre on the highly potent NLAW Anti-Tank Missile System.

Regimental Internet Website

www.royalanglianregiment.com

**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, Palestine 1917-1918, Cassino I-II, Shaiba, Gothic Line, Mesopotamia 1914-1918, Italy 1943-1945, St Omer-La Bassée, Crete, Dunkirk 1940, Singapore Island, Normandy Landing, Malaya 1941-1942, Brioux Bridgehead, Yu, Venrai, 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, Louisbourg, Minden, Quebec 1759, Martinique 1762, 1794, Havannah, Seringapatam, Corunna, Talavera, Albuhera, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria, Peninsula, Bladensburg, Waterloo, Ava, Ghuznee 1839, Kelat, Cabool 1842, 1879, Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Sohraon, New Zealand, Goojerat, Punjab, 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

It gives me great pleasure to be introducing this edition of Castle as the new Colonel of the Regiment, having taken over from Lieutenant General Wooddisse in September 2023. After six years of outstanding leadership General Ralph's legacy is a Regiment in fine health with all three Battalions in the vanguard of the Army's current missions as we approach our Diamond Jubilee on 1 September 2024. General Ralph will soldier on as Commander Field Army and then take over the role of Commander Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in early 2024.

In this short introduction I will offer a few thoughts on the context in which our Regiment is operating before providing updates on the Battalions' achievements and some words of thanks and recognition for our people.

We are living and operating in an era of polycrisis, in which multiple global crises, including a return to great power rivalry, decelerating economic growth and climate change are interacting to create harms that are greater than the sum of their parts. The world order created in the wake of the Second World War is being contested by authoritarian states who are courting the same middle ground powers that we would like to count as allies and partners. War has returned to Europe, and we are currently trying to prevent regional contagion in the wake of the attacks in Israel and Gaza. Accelerations in technology and the flow and manipulation of information are exacerbating these and a host of broader risks to the security of our people and interests, and those of our allies.

The purpose of our Regiment is to protect the United Kingdom and our allies. Given the global context, the 'thin red line' that we represent is needed now, as much as ever. The Royal Anglian Regiment is contributing combat power to our Army which remains relentlessly busy safeguarding the UK's security and interests globally and demonstrating that UK leadership in NATO is ironclad. We routinely have c.11,000 personnel deployed across 100 countries on over 20 operations. In 2024 c.80% of the Field Army will be aligned to NATO and our soldiers will take part in the largest Army deployment in a generation under the



banner of 'Op LINOTYPER' – a series of 11 NATO exercises involving 16,000 troops across 14 countries in Europe. Our commitment to Ukraine remains resolute and Royal Anglian soldiers will continue to proudly participate in Op INTERFLEX, which has now trained more than 32,000 Ukrainian soldiers in the UK. Our Battalions are also making important contributions to the near-term programme of modernisation that the Field Army has embarked upon, called 'How We Fight 26'. Experimentation in the field, such as that demonstrated by the Poachers' recent deployment on WESSEX STORM, is helping to drive rapid and tangible change in concepts, tactics and equipment as we work hard to embed the lessons from Ukraine and other contemporary conflicts.

With the 2nd Battalion now at very high readiness as the tip of the NATO spear, the 1st Battalion deploying globally as a new Security Force Assistance Battalion, and both supported by the extremely well-recruited and well-trained 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment is on the British Army's front line. For the first time, we have both regular battalions co-located in Cottesmore in the heart of our traditional recruiting area, presenting both opportunities and challenges. The camp needs development and the Regiment is investing funds in developing the facilities for our soldiers in Cottesmore under 'Project 1964'.

Sensible work is also being done to offer equality of opportunity to all soldiers in both battalions as the 1st Battalion reduces in size, and to make the most of the opportunities the wider Queen's Division affords, which includes the full range of infantry roles. At the same time the Battalions are investing time and effort into reinvigorating sport, with the Regimental Rugby Team returning to top form and the Regimental Charity Boxing Night in December proving a huge success.

It was a proud moment to see three Royal Anglian colour parties and a number of our soldiers taking part in the Coronation parade this year, but it is not just the public face of the Regiment that deserves mention and praise. RHQ continues to deliver outstanding support to all three Battalions, but most importantly to our veterans and cadets. I intend to make support to our veterans a personal priority and have already directed work to improve our approach. You will start to hear about our plans to improve veterans support later in the year and I would be very grateful for your support and feedback as we do so. The Royal Anglian 'Big Breakfasts' continue to be a success, with increasing attendance. Financially, we are in a good place thanks to the excellent work of our Trustees, and there are several fund-raising events over the coming months to support the Regimental Charity. Mental health must remain a priority for all of us, whether serving or retired. The Regiment continues to offer the Leafyard App for those in need of support and it is available to all members of the Regimental family for free, so please do try it. Now, to the Battalion updates...

The 1st Battalion under the command of Adie Thompson have had a busy year, completing the move from Cyprus to Cottesmore whilst simultaneously restructuring to become a Security Force Assistance (SFA) Battalion. This has required a number of soldiers to transfer to the 2nd Battalion, as well as elsewhere across the Army, in order for the Battalion to conform to its new smaller but rank-heavy structure. Key activities have included B (Suffolk) Coy training in Belize, Ex HARAKA STORM in Kenya and the delivery of SFA tasks globally. Of note was B (Suffolk) Coy's

Major General DSJ Biddick MBE MC

deployment to Bosnia and Herzegovina at short notice to deliver SFA to the Bosnian Armed Forces, drawing praise at high levels across Defence for their professionalism and conduct. The Battalion's forecast of events will see one Company held at readiness as part of a UK Standby Battalion, with the HQ and one Company deployed on Op INTERFLEX from January-July 2024 to deliver vital training to Ukrainian recruits. They will also deliver further SFA tasks in Europe and will be held at readiness under 1(UK) Div from July 2024 as the UK provides a new NATO Allied Reaction Force.

The 2nd Battalion under the command of Ben Hawes have completed a challenging Battle Group exercise in Oman and then a busy training programme including a HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Command Post Exercise in Germany and field-firing in Castlemartin. Some of the Battalion quickly re-oriented from the desert to perform ceremonial duties and provide the core of the Regiment's contribution to the Coronation Parade. The Battalion has also provided a realistic and enthusiastic OPFOR for Ex WESSEX STORM and taken part in Ex LAND WARRIOR, which saw 1 (UK) Div testing the Field Army's new operational C2 model. The Battalion is now held at very high readiness as part of NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (Land) led by Brig Guy Foden and 7 Bde from January 2024. Working alongside allies they will deploy in this role on Ex POLISH DRAGON from February to March 2024 as part of the aforementioned Op LINOTYPER.

The 3rd Battalion under the command of Dave Haggar are as busy and successful as ever. They have deployed large numbers of mobilised Reservists to deliver training to Ukrainian recruits on Op INTERFLEX whilst completing the very well-attended Ex STEELBACK STORM, where the training focused on the delivery of support weapons and specialist cadres to ensure the Battalion has personnel with the correct skills to deliver a warfighting increment if called upon. They have also conducted a German Reserve unit exchange and a Battlefield Study to Germany. The Battalion has led the delivery of 19

Bde's JNCO Cadre at STANTA and delivered 40 newly qualified JNCOs to 19 Bde. The Battalion is extremely well-recruited and continue to be one of the best recruited Army Reserve infantry battalions in the Army. 2024 presents the Battalion with a host of opportunities to support both regular Battalions, including continued support to Op INTERFLEX, mobilising soldiers for tasks in Kenya and deploying a Company Group to the US on exercise.

Our Cadets are on excellent form and it was good to see so many from all our affiliated contingents at the Regimental Day where I had the privilege of presenting Regimental coins to recognise the efforts of stand-out Cadets and their selfless instructors in our detachments.

Our people deliver the success of our Regiment and it is right that we celebrate their successes. Lt Col Will Meddings was awarded an OBE for operations in Mali and Maj Mark Garner and Maj Lee Waghorn were both awarded Joint Commanders' Commendations for the same Op NEWCOMBE deployment. Brig Rich Lyne was awarded the Canadian Meritorious Service Medal in May 2023 for his work on Op SHADER. Pte Christopher Webb from the 1st Battalion's MT Platoon was the worthy recipient of the Poulter's Prize for his exemplary service, in particular for support to the move from Cyprus, in a role usually filled by a full Cpl.

Maj Nick McGinley was promoted to Lt Col in February 2023 and will command the 1st Battalion after Adie Thompson. Lt Col Jeff Bennett-Madge has been selected to command the 2nd Battalion after Ben Hawes and Lt Col Ed Matts has been selected to command the 3rd Battalion after Dave Haggar. Maj Gav Hudson also promoted to Lt Col and will command Birmingham UOTC. Lt Col Bruce Weston promoted to Col in March 2023 and Col Nick Sutherland was promoted to Brig in October 2023. Brig Olly Brown has been selected for promotion to Maj Gen and will command 3 (UK) Div from mid-2024.

I have mentioned the important role of RHQ behind the scenes, and we bid farewell this year to Robert Goodin, who completes his 45th and final year of service, the last 10 spent as Regimental

Secretary. Bob has led a broad span of work by RHQ. This has included traditional projects, such as the Golden Jubilee, a presentation of colours, and heritage and commemoration work. He has been pivotal in the modernisation of our Regiment, overseeing our first two websites and evolution of our social media presence. He has delivered outstanding support for our veterans and families, particularly those caught up in the operational legacy process. Bob has also been a Regimental conscience, tying together the strands of our Regimental business for our Regimental family. We are all profoundly grateful for Bob's sterling service to our Regiment over the past decade and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

We have sadly lost a number of Regimental comrades this year, so please forgive me if space permits that I only mention two. Firstly, Capt Ray Hazan who was seriously injured by a parcel bomb whilst on operations in Northern Ireland with the 2nd Battalion. In spite of the loss of an arm and being blinded he went on to have a long and distinguished career with St Dunstan's, caring for fellow blind soldiers. He earned an OBE for his care of blind veterans and sadly passed away on 2 April 2023. We have also lost Col Roy Jacks OBE, who was CO of the 1st Battalion in Londonderry and sadly passed away in June.

In sum, our Regiment continues to deliver peerless operational service to our Army and Nation. Despite the global and national challenges and the constancy of change we remain confident in our ability to navigate the future and prevail whilst preserving the vital fabric of our Regimental identity. Those of you who are serving or veterans will have forged life-long friendships in the crucibles of combat, on testing operations, and over many years of demanding soldiering in support of your Nation. It is important that we continue to look out for one another, particularly those who may have 'fallen off the grid'. Please support and shape our upcoming efforts to provide a better service to our veteran community. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during 2024, including during the celebration of our Diamond Jubilee this summer.

Strength from within!



Regimental Communications

Strength from Within!

royalanglianregiment.com - Connecting the Royal Anglian Family

Colonel Comms

The last 12 months have seen the delivery and implementation of a series of important initiatives designed to improve Regimental messaging and outreach.

The principal aim of this work has been to improve mechanisms that highlight and celebrate the fantastic work of the soldiers, officers, veterans, cadets and families across our Regimental community. With a continuing strong following on social media as a result of excellent stories and film clips, the team at RHQ has worked tirelessly to elevate our communication and branding. So, if you haven't yet seen or heard of the projects set out below, I encourage you to have a look!

The monthly Royal Anglian newsletter continues to expand, reflecting the breadth and diversity of our Regimental community and its activities. Regimental Branding has been modernised under Project FUTURUM. With the help of a team of experts and in consultation with the Battalions, we have reset our Brand - powerful new imagery, an updated ethos and a new Regimental strap line have been adopted. You will see this across all our communication. It has been designed deliberately to celebrate our historical roots and the achievements of



Brig Olly Brown – Colonel Comms.

our veterans, and galvanise a common core identity for the Regiment that will enhance our reputation now and attract new recruits to join us. You will start to see the new strap line "Strength from within" featuring heavily across all our communication - it is a reflection of the understated yet resolute professionalism that characterises our Regiment and its

outstanding operational record.

Digital Muster is a new web-based platform that will be integrated into the Regimental Website from early next year. It will allow all serving personnel and veterans to upload details of their service history: the locations, stories and operations. The aim is to generate a living catalogue of our collective endeavours and achievements - it will be an amazing archive and I encourage you all to support it.

The Regimental website will be relaunched to harness our new branding, Digital Muster and a digitised version of the Regimental Museum - bringing our heritage to life. This will go live in January 2024.

As you can see, RHQ is driving continual improvements to our communication. I must thank you all for your support in providing material that we have used and I must highlight Steve Armon for his outstanding work in crafting yet more brilliant Regimental films.

Finally, I will close by asking you to support the new website, Digital Muster and the online museum, and encourage you all to get behind the new Regimental branding: we must speak with one voice, leveraging a common, Regimental message.

Royal Anglian Instagram

Our Instagram Account ([royalanglianregiment](https://www.instagram.com/royalanglianregiment)) is a dynamic comms channel that is fed directly from the Comms Officers in the battalions, and the Regt Adjutant at RHQ.

The content is generally aimed at a younger viewer and tends to be varied and fast paced. Our Instagram plenty of video footage from exercises, range days and other eye-catching activity. We have a steadily growing audience of over 26.4k followers who are all interested in the Royal Anglian Regiment. This is an area where we are boxing well above our weight. If you are on Instagram and you aren't following us, take a look at: [royalanglianregiment](https://www.instagram.com/royalanglianregiment)



Our New Royal Anglian Website is Live!

After a lot of hard work and some serious thought about its layout and design, we have a new Regimental Website at royalanglianregiment.com.

The website retains the well-proven features of the earlier version, it gives members of the regimental family access to a regularly updated news feed, our Diary of Events, and the Regimental Shop. We have further enhanced royalanglianregiment.com by incorporating the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum within the site, thereby allowing visitors digital access to the Museum and its archives.

In addition, website users will be able to access a steadily expanding archive of Regimental publications. The website now holds digital back copies of Royal Anglian News (RAN), back issues of our Annual Journal (Castle), and it will eventually include all past Regt Bulletins. This will create an unrivalled archive of our Regt history for future generations.

This new digital community has been named the Royal Anglian Digital Muster, it will be open to all Royal Anglians past and present. An additional feature of the Muster will be a facility for any Association Member to upload a personal biography of their service as a Royal Anglian. These biographies will be located within the Digital Muster. Access to the DM will be granted on

registration with RHQ and subsequent verification.

The idea being to capture our collective and personal histories of our time within the Regiment. In this our 60th year, the creation of the Royal Anglian Digital Muster offers us all a unique and precious opportunity. Few Regiment's have the opportunity to capture and collate their history while it is all still

within living memory. Please visit royalanglianregiment.com and take the opportunity to contribute to the Royal Anglian story.

If you have not visited royalanglianregiment.com, please take the time to register and connect with the Royal Anglian Family.





Regimental Communications

@RAnglians - Our Presence on X

If you like your Social Media pithy and to the point, then you are probably an 'X' person. The Regiment has a healthy account that is updated daily with information from the Battalions, Veteran Welfare updates and regular updates on Regt Events. If you aren't on the @RAnglians net, why not give it a try?



The Royal Anglian News

Our monthly newsletter is distributed in digital format across the Royal Anglian family by RHQ as a Regimental Bulletin.

You can add yourself to the mailing list by subscribing on the Regimental Website.

The RAN includes updates from the Battalions, Veteran information, news on Regimental Events from RHQ, as well as reports from our Association Branches.

Archive copies of the RAN are also available on the website, a handy resource for anybody researching the Regiment or even a family member's career.



Royal Anglian Regiment Online Our Digital Channels



www.royalanglianregiment.com



www.facebook.com/TheRoyalAnglianRegiment



[@RAnglians](https://www.instagram.com/RAnglians)



[@royalanglianregiment](https://twitter.com/royalanglianregiment)



www.linkedin.com/in/royal-anglian-regt/



www.youtube.com/@royalanglianregiment



Personalia

Please note this list is based upon information provided to RHQ over the course of 2023 and includes some key appointments which are of interest to members of the Regimental Family

Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel
Lt Col WJ Meddings OBE

Major to Lieutenant Colonel
Major GJR Hudson

Captain to Major
Capt MN Tovey
Capt T Reid
Capt J Mattin
Capt D Rawdon
Capt H Johnston
Capt C Lewis
Capt J Eamon
Capt J Hayhurst
Capt D Cox
Capt M Blayney
Capt M Ottaway

Lieutenant to Captain
Lt E Potter
Lt R Seel
Lt WC Bagnall
Lt H Gurney
Lt JR Bamford
Lt RW Simmons
Lt HIM Di-Lieto
Lt HJ Gurney
Lt R Smith
Lt CD Boffey-Rawlings

Lt OJ Bremridge
Lt MP Wilman

Second Lieutenant to Lieutenant
2Lt A Moss
2Lt HR Bussandra
2Lt BTS Jooste-Jennings
2Lt JFG Rice
2Lt STA Barke
2Lt OP White
2Lt HJ Flint
2Lt H Brown
2Lt JJG Peel

Officer Cadet to Second Lieutenant
OCdt JJ Wansbury
OCdt W Woolhouse
OCdt SA Milton
OCdt DB Bradnam
OCdt HJW Astill
OCdt JJ Bagnall
OCdt GS Chapman
OCdt OA Goldsack
OCdt C Morgan-McDermott
OCdt J Freemantle
OCdt A Bevan

WO2 to WO1
WO2 D Miller
WO2 P Green

WO2 C Brooks
WO2 E Rawdon

Colour Sergeant to WO2
CSgt AJ Cooper
CSgt JM Herring
CSgt R McCaughey
CSgt AKS Sterne

Sergeant to Colour Sergeant
Sgt DP Cadman
Sgt RD Dixon
Sgt JJ Du maurier
Sgt JE Letch
Sgt DJ Mowle
Sgt AE Ward
Sgt GA White
Sgt CA Harrison

Sgt MD Hodges
Sgt DA Hughes
Sgt RM Johnson

Corporal to Sergeant
Cpl BD Atkinson
Cpl JL Bayliss
Cpl SJ Dobinson
Cpl CA Halsall
Cpl R Harris
Cpl DT Hemmings MBE
Cpl GC Joy
Cpl HR McCabe
Cpl RT McConkey
Cpl KAG Smith
Cpl SDN Wright
Cpl JC Adcock

Notable Appointments

Lt Gen Sir Ralph Wooddisse KCB CBE MC	Commander ARRC
Maj Gen DSJ Biddick MBE MC	COS Field Army
Brig OCC Brown	GOC 3rd Division
Brig NJ Sutherland	DComd Reserves
Col PC Moxey	ACOS Generate
Lt Col GJR Hudson	CO Birmingham UOTC
WO1 Erik Rawdon	RSM East Midlands UOTC
WO1 Chris Brooks	RSM 5 RRF
WO1 Paul Kennedy	RSM 1st Battalion
WO1 Dale Miller	RSM 2nd Battalion
WO1 Philip Green	RSM 3rd Battalion

Honours and Awards

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Lt Col KE Speirs TD VR

Poulterers Prize

Pte Chris Webb

LSGC
Maj FK Atkins
Maj DT Crosbie
Maj TG Hearne
Maj CJ Duncalfe
WO2 J Haldenby
WO2 DA Newark
WO2 APRM Tinkler
WO2 PP Stow
CSgt PJ Coleby
CSgt TF Cashman

CSgt AF Barclay
CSgt RM Johnson
CSgt K McPherson
Sgt KB McHenry
Sgt MC Smith
Sgt CA Harrison
Cpl SA Thomas
Cpl DA Call
Cpl JD Osborne
Pte ZER Mwinjilo

1st Clasp
Lt Col PA Muncey
Maj RJ Bredin MBE
Capt T Jones
WO2 SA Henderson
WO2 RT Perry
WO2 IJ Snow
WO2 IL Collins
WO2 PW Sweeney
Sgt PS Culshaw
Sgt D Dale
Sgt PJ Humphreys

Sgt TAV James
Sgt DA Mitchell
Sgt JI Pratt
Sgt B Shropshire

1st and 2nd Clasp
WO2 ST Woolcott
Sgt ST Head
WO2 DM Lappin

Awarded with 2 Clasps
Lt Col RJ Clements OBE

The Regiment

Colonel-in-Chief

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

Colonel of the Regiment

Major General Dominic SJ Biddick MBE 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 GB Foden

2nd Battalion: Brigadier OCC Brown

3rd Battalion: Brigadier RFL Lyne

Senior LE Officer

Major K Main

College of Colonels

Chairman of Regimental Trustees: Mr DJ Till

Colonel MS: Brigadier GB Foden

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

Colonel Veterans: Brigadier OCC Brown

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 Poulterers

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) JCJ Wright

Email: john.wright335@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 PA 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): Mark Shropshire

Email: mark.shropshire100@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

Tel: 07970 050163

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 AR Thompson MBE

(des: Major (for Lt Col 2024) NJP McGinley)

Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore, Rutland, LE15 7BL

2nd Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel BT Hawes MBE

(des: Lieutenant Colonel JW Bennett-Madge)

Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore, Rutland LE15 7BL

3rd Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel DJ Haggard

(des: Lieutenant Colonel E Matts)

Army Reserves Centre, Blenheim Camp,

Newmarket Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3SW

Regimental Representatives

Infantry Training Centre (Catterick): Major M Ielden

Infantry Battle School: Major T Hearne

Land Command and Staff College: Major D Mackness

Cambridge University OTC: Major N Reeder

East Midlands University OTC: Captain SC Hale

RMA Sandhurst: CSgt S Warburton



Regimental Matters

Regimental Council Report 2023

The Regimental Council met last November at the Army and Navy Club. Our newly appointed Colonel of the Regiment chaired the meeting and was supported by the President of the Regimental Association, the Chair of the Trustees, three Deputy Colonels, our three Commanding Officers and our Senior Late Entry Officer.

Other senior officers as part of the College of Colonels are invited to attend as well as subject matter experts to advise on specific plans and projects. Much of the business is conducted out of committee within the guidelines of the Regimental Plan and Budget with the Regimental Headquarter staff providing an executive role for the decisions made by the Council. What follows are the

highlights from the Council's agenda.

Project 1964 continues

The objectives of this project were to generate the strongest possible military capability, maintain our Regimental ethos, traditions and reputation, develop talent and maximise opportunity for Royal Anglian soldiers. This while complimenting the major changes affecting our two regular battalions as directed with 'Future Soldier' (the co-location of both battalions, permanent basing at Kendrew Barracks and reduction in force levels of each battalion).

Consequently, the major work streams for Project 1964 with the highest priority was to improve barrack

infrastructure for soldiers.

It was reported in the November Council meeting that £275 000 had been allocated for 20 lines of activity and good progress was made on improving the quality of life for soldiers. The project will continue under the direction of the Chair of Trustees and the Commanding Officers.

Most of us are aware our Regiment is 60 years old on 1 September 2024 and as part of the commemoration the Regimental Council agreed to improve our ability to reach out and engage with those (25,000 people and growing) Veterans, many of whom are not necessarily involved in the R Anglian Regiment Association today.

The Council wishes to evolve our



A very good reason for holding our Regiment Council meetings at the Royal Hospital Chelsea is that we have the opportunity to invite our In-Pensioners to join us for lunch. It is always a great pleasure to catch up with them. In this photo, are our COs, the Col of Regt and our In-Pensioners, from left to right: CO 3rd Bn, Michael Riley, CO 1st Bn, Alfred Dymond, Ron Pacino, Col of Regt, Dougie May and CO 2nd Bn.



Our Regimental Association is free to join, and open to all Royal Anglians

Veterans community, extending the family reach to especially younger and more vulnerable members using new methods and ways to connect. This is an opportunity to improve the scope and breadth of appeal to more of our Veterans, while sustaining (and cherishing) current practises, existing structures and recognising our heritage and the great work of those who volunteer today.

The Council envisage a Regimental family that is attractive (understanding what it means and offers), connected

through a range of interlinked networks, inspiring all to be involved, informed about our community, supported and further support to be signposted and bonded around a broad common purpose (being a Royal Anglian).

Although we estimate that our Royal Anglian Veterans number around 25,000, not all are engaged with the Regimental family, a significant proportion of that number could be brought closer into the family.

Furthermore, there are some that would benefit from our support and

assistance but have lost touch with us for a variety of reasons. Those who have lost touch and are perhaps struggling need to know that we are here for them, and that we do have the capacity to help. It is also true that some may want little or nothing to do with the Army or the Regiment, and of course that is their prerogative.

This work will be achieved by employing an individual on a part time basis to complement existing work and coordinate with the Regt Council, RHQ and our network of County Colonels



The Royal Anglian Big Breakfast goes from strength to strength every year



Regimental Matters

and Association volunteers. The new appointment will further scope which veterans need to be engaged, identifying the best methods of communication (exploiting new and standing social media to greater advantage) and in collaboration with the network identified above. This work will be monitored and evaluated and adjusted to maintain what is successful. It must be a dynamic and continuous campaign if the vision the Council articulated above is to be realised.

Communications

It was discussed that Regimental communications are in a good place. The website, social media and publications were developing well. Indeed the website

went live on 23 February 2024 and will allow for all in the Regimental family to connect with one another (digital muster) as well as providing information on our heritage, events and engagements. Furthermore, the museum site will be part of our website too.

Cadet Engagement. The Regiment continues to give Cadet engagement a priority. Regimental Cadet coins presented at the Regimental Day was a successful initiative and made recipients feel valued. The Regiment will endeavour to support inspections and visits to Cadet and bids are to go to the Regimental Adjutant. Another Cadet focus event will be held at Kendrew Barracks following the success of last year.

The Regimental Diamond Jubilee, 01 September 2024. The Regimental Diamond Jubilee will be at Duxford on 01 September 2024 celebrating our 60 years as a Regiment. It will follow the usual format, but this year different, with greater attendance from those currently serving, in addition to our veterans and cadets. There will also be 8 county marquees with displays from each associated company from our regular Battalions.

The Regimental Council always welcomes any items for the agenda that support the Regiment, including any bids for grants for activity. Please get in touch with the Regimental Secretary if you want to bring an item to the Council's attention.

Regimental Secretary Colonel Robert Retires

Our many thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Robert Goodin on his retirement as Regimental Secretary after 10 years in appointment. It is quite right that the Regimental Family owes a great debt of gratitude to Colonel Robert for his service at Regimental Headquarters following 35 years of regular service in the Regiment.

Robert's first joined the Regiment (The Vikings) in 1978 and his spent formative years in the Battalion in Northern Ireland, Belize, Germany and Gibraltar. Appointments outside Battalion included an instructor role at RMA Sandhurst, studying for a Master in Defence Administration at Shrivenham and attendance at the NATO Defence College in Rome. Robert also commanded the Steelbacks from 2004 – 2006, taking our 3rd Bn from the East of England Regiment to the organisation it is today. He played a significant part in development of Security Sector Reform in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was awarded MBE in 2002 and OBE in 2007.

Colonel Robert took over as Regimental Secretary in 2013 to run RHQ and its tasks of overseeing heritage, benevolence and veterans matters. Those who served with him in the Army will remember not only a very competent officer in and out of the field,



but one with an infectious enthusiasm. It is this enthusiasm that he brought to RHQ. During his tenure he was involved with the introduction of the Regimental Website which will go live later this year and is a significant piece of work. The website will improve links and connectivity to many more members of our family, provide forums for

discussion and information exchange, links to the museum and other aspects of our heritage and support networks. He also redeveloped the Regimental shop, introduced the Big Breakfast campaign, and contributed much for the 'Aden to Afghanistan' history of the Regiment. Most significant however is his focus and unsung expansion of support to our



Colonel Robert was lunched out by the RHQ Team. From left: Capt Paul Phillips, Maj Mike Peters, Mrs Jo Laidlaw, Lt Col Gooding, Mr Stephen Dunning, Mrs Anne Godboldt, Maj Tim Brown, Mr Mark Goldsmith

veterans, this endures as a priority for RHQ and no doubt many members of our family are thankful for the assistance they have received.

We salute Col Robert's 45 years of selfless commitment to the Royal Anglian family and we are all richer and better off for it. We wish Colonel Robert

and Dominique all the best for the future and no doubt we will see them at many of the Regimental family gatherings for years to come.

Poulters Prize Winner

The Regiment warmly congratulates Private Christopher Webb for winning the Poulters Prize for 2023. His nomination focused on his exemplary service in the Motor Transport Platoon, in Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, particularly for his support to the Battalion's recent move from Cyprus, noting that the role in which he has excelled is usually filled by a substantive Corporal.

The prize is awarded each year to "the individual who has best promoted the ethos of The Royal Anglian regiment in a significant way." All Battalions submitted excellent nomination, which were scored by the Poulters and by our Deputy Colonels of the Regiment and our Senior LE Officer.

This is the 19th year of the prize, which is kindly sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Poulters, who are long-standing friends and supporters of the Regiment. The Poulters have kindly invited Private Christopher Webb and his Commanding Officer to their Christmas Court Lunch in London, where they will formally present the prize.





Regimental Matters

Regimental Day 2023

Our Regimental Day is an opportunity for our Regimental Family to take part in a service of commemoration at our Regimental Memorial, as well as being our annual reunion. It is always held on the first Sunday in September, appropriately close to the anniversary of the formation of the Regiment on the 1st of September.

The scene was well set, with our Regimental Memorial looking cared for and dressed for the occasion, and all marquees with all the supporting elements in place. The day was blessed with glorious sunshine. The formal and traditional drumhead service at our Regimental Memorial is an appropriate way to start the day.

Our Regimental Band, our Association Standards and the Colour Party from our 3rd Battalion all add to the military ceremony, enjoyed by all. The service was led by our Assistant Honorary Chaplain for Cambridgeshire, the Reverend Alan Jesson.

All 500 seats were occupied, with at least the same number standing on the grass around the seating. The whole regimental family was represented, including: families of the fallen, our In-Pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, our veterans, regular soldiers, reserve soldiers and our Cadets.

The Regimental Band provided excellent musical support to the service, during which we remembered our fallen. Rev Alan Jesson gave a thought-provoking address about military service.

At the conclusion of the service the newly appointed Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Dom Biddick gave a summary of the Regiment's busy year, including the co-location of our 1st and 2nd Battalions at Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore, bringing the Regiment many challenges and opportunities.

Immediately after the Drum Head Service the crowd watched the Regimental Association march past, led by the Cadet Corps of Drums with six marching contingents formed of veterans from our: 1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 4th Battalion, and TA/Reserve Battalions, followed by



Chaplain Jesson.



Royal Hospital Chelsea In-Pensioner Ron Pacino.



Colonel of the Regiment presents Cadet Coins.

the largest contingent of affiliated cadet detachments yet.

The Colonel of the Regiment and

our Colonel Cadets, Brigadier Rich Lyne formally thanked the cadets for supporting the day, and presented

Colonel of the Regiment Coins for excellence to nominated cadets from the affiliated detachments in our counties.

A recruitment poster for Army Cadets. It features a soldier in camouflage gear in a field. Text at the top says "YOUR EXPERIENCE PASS IT ON AS A CADET LEADER". The Army Cadets logo is at the bottom left. At the bottom, it says "Aged between 18 and 55 and interested in inspiring, shaping and leading the next generation? Then being a volunteer cadet leader could be an exciting option for you. To find out more just visit: armycadets.com/military".

**YOUR EXPERIENCE
PASS IT ON AS A CADET LEADER**

ARMY CADETS

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Then being a volunteer cadet leader could be an exciting option for you.
To find out more just visit: armycadets.com/military



ROYAL ANGLIAN BIG BREAKFAST 24 FEB 2024

At locations across the UK.
Funded by the Regimental Association.

Details of locations will follow in the New Year.

Find out more at:
royalanglianregiment.com/bigbreakfast24

STRENGTH FROM WITHIN



**ROYAL
ANGLIAN**



Regimental Matters

Remembrance

Opening of the Field of Remembrance and the Cenotaph Parade

Her Majesty the Queen officially opened the Field of Remembrance on Thursday 9th November following the customary Two Minutes Silence as the bells of Big Ben tolled 1100hrs. The Last Post was particularly atmospheric as the notes, played by a bugler from The Irish Guards on the parapet of St Margarets church, drifted over the field. This year there were some 308 plots forming an incredible and of course very poignant display of remembrance and sacrifice.

Sadly, the new format dictates that tickets are very limited due to restoration works to the Abbey. This will not change in the near future. Despite this, it was great that former members of the First, Second and Third Battalions were present, as well as Miss Melissa

Kozlenko, the Regimental Museum curator. Matt Gadsby (1st Battalion) acted as the Regiment's Plot Guardian, Tim Beighton again represented the 2nd Battalion with Chris Butts there on behalf of the 3rd Battalion, and his beloved Hertfordshire Regiment. Once the service concluded Her Majesty toured the Field of Remembrance and very graciously took the time to stop at our plot speaking with Matt who served with 1 Royal Anglian 1985-89, followed by a 30-year career in the Police.

In addition to having the honour of greeting Her Majesty, Matt also spoke with Vice Admiral Sir Clive Johnstone KBE, CB the National President of The Royal British Legion as part of the entourage. It was incredible to learn that

the Westminster Poppy Field tributes alone had raised over one million pounds.

On Remembrance Sunday, 12th November, the Regimental contingent of 30 congregated on Horse Guards Parade proudly showing off hard won medals and the famous khaki beret. Persistent drizzle did not dampen the spirit as our proud veterans marched past the Cenotaph showing their respects with an "Eyes Left"! A fairly lengthy march brings the parade full circle through Parliament Square and back round to Horse Guards where HRH The Princess Royal took the salute with Grant Shapps, the new Minister for Defence standing to her right.

The Regiment is extremely grateful to those who each year of their own volition



Tim Beighton, Chris Butts, and Melissa Kozlenko.



Chris Butts with Matt Gadsby after the Ceremony.

attend the Cenotaph Parade, and if this is something which appeals, please do contact RHQ to register for tickets in the future. Matt Gadsby afterwards went back to the Field of Remembrance some 3 days after the Opening Ceremony and was touched by the number of wooden crosses which had been planted in the

Regimental Plot during the interim by “friends and family”.

The following attended this year’s Cenotaph Parade from the Regiment: Shane Peel, James Duffy, Colin Potts, Mark Waller, Kevin Marshallsay, Michael Bottomley, Ian Harvey, Jason Chipperfiel, David Lewis, Kevin Arnold,

Matthew Gadsby, Andrew Botley, Louis Jones, Derek Walker, Stuart Hacker, Richard Dear, Neil Saywell, Harry Foreman, Tony Woods, Robin Killingsworth, Mark Percival, Jerry Steele, Tom Prior, Michael Hamilton, Jamie Taylor, Alan Whiting, Jon Wayne, Brian Medler.

Remembrance Sunday



Royal Anglian veterans gather on Horse Guards.

On Remembrance Sunday the Royal Anglian Regiment held remembrance services abroad, on operations, and at home.

We do this not just to honour the 82 Royal Anglian soldiers whose names appear on our memorial, but to honour all those who have fallen so that we might live freely.

This included events at our Regimental Memorial at the

IWM Duxford, a parade in Oakham in Rutland, a parade in Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a parade in Uppingham, Rutland, Grimsby and Lincoln.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.



Regimental Matters

Regimental Rugby

The Annual Regimental Rugby match took place on Saturday 2nd September in blistering heat at Rochford RFC.

Following the traditional roll of honour and bugle calls both teams and the 200+ crowd were ready for the game. Resplendent in RHQ funded shirts the Royal Anglians faced off against a youthful and plentiful Rochford squad, who had a little too much puff for the Regiment who were shorn of all but two serving members. Despite this, an entertaining match saw the hosts tested and 'on toast' in the scrummage before eventually running out winners 51-38.

The match wasn't all one sided, as the gnarled Regimental veterans played a tight game and only offered space on the outside, after their strong arm tactics



Outgoing Chair Jim Cunningham thanks his team before handing over to Liam McGrath.

failed or a lack of unity led to an error and a turn over. The home team started fast and despite an early score, the Regiment shocked them by replying with a brace of tries, the first by MoM Cpl Simon Mataceva (Vikings), on his way to a first hat trick in the fixture. Then another from Sgt Karl Smith (Vikings) who was driven over by his pals in the pack.

The match was played in quarters due to the heat, each quarter separated by water breaks. A pattern soon developed, with the Rochford team able to run through their well-practiced routines only to be foiled by last ditch Royal Anglian tackles or errors from the home team. Rochford scored some great tries and the Regimental team for their part started to have some success with short



range drives, especially with Spencer and Barker (Vikings) and some strong Pompadour driving from Green and Knifton. These efforts kept the match tight enough to be entertaining. Up until the last 10 minutes, the Regiment stayed within 2 scores of their youthful hosts. The additional tries were dotted down by Mataceva (2) Fitzgerald and Barker.

Post-match, the outgoing Chair Jim Cunningham was involved in a

cap exchange with new Chair Liam McGrath before the other post-match activities were conducted. The new Chair then presented caps to Nick Austin for his fund raising and sponsorship and a special 35th match award to Pete Barrs (Vikings) who has played every match since the team's inception under the late Maj Julian Pollard (Vikings).

A stunning achievement. An outstanding contribution award to the

club was also made as (Pompadour) Lawrence 'Percy' Parsons was awarded the Dewick Shield.

The Rugby band wagon and its ever growing fan base moves onto Tring RFC next year with a match against the host on Sat 31st Aug 2024.

More detail available from the Secretary, Ian Wilkins at: wilkie332@hotmail.com

Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial Boxing Night 7 December 2023

The chairman and trustees of the The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity would like to thank all of those who planned and delivered, sponsored, and most importantly fought at the Regimental Benevolent Charity Boxing event held on Thursday 7 December 2023 in Kendrew Barracks, Rutland. Put simply, the event was an overwhelming success.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors, those who attended as paying guests and the silent auction donations. All of which played a significant part in reaching the figure of £165K which has swelled the charity's balance sheet. The charity thanks you.

Acknowledging our friends of the Regiment for their kind sponsorship and look forward to developing our friendship in future:

Headline Sponsor

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

Bout 1: His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland, Dr Sarah Furness

Bout 2: Daisy Corporate Services

Bout 3: Phenna Group

Bout 4: Swordpoint Advisors

Bout 5: vLex

Bout 6: Genesis Protection Services

Bout 7: Rutland Local Businesses

Bout 8: JenkinsWeir

Bout 9: Oakley Capital Private Equity

Bout 10: David and Shopie Till

Bout 11: The Regimental Trustees

The evening would not have been



possible without the boxers who took part in the 11 bouts. Every bout was hard fought, with each boxer giving their all. You all did your respective Regiment's proud, coupled with an exceptional standard of boxing. The home team was made up from a mix of boxers from both the 1st and 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, a Regimental first to have both Battalion's fight out of the Blue corner. The all-comers team fighting out of the red corner was comprised of representatives from 2 SCOTS, 4 SCOTS, 1 RSME and 1 R YORKS, who without you the event would have not been possible. Thank

you.

Finally, thank you to all those in Kendrew Barracks for leaning in to support the event. During an extremely busy period for both Battalions. A special thanks to Captain Jock Cousins for leading the organisation and for having to put up with his old Company Sergeant Major throughout the planning and delivery of the event.

Here's to the next set of events this year, planning has already started. Details will be circulated shortly.

Thank you all once again for a memorable event in many different ways.



Regimental Matters

Officers' Dinner Club

On Friday 3rd November 2023 one hundred Officers, past and present, attended the annual Regimental Dinner at the Army and Navy Club in St James' Square.

Amongst our distinguished guests were from the Poulterns, the Upper Warden, Mr Mark Goodwin along with the Renter Warden, Mr Paul Kelly. However, this was an occasion at which to dine out several notable Regimental personalities upon the completion of many years of service.

Lt Gen Sir Ralph Wooddisse handed over as Colonel of the Regiment on 1st September, so our new Colonel, Maj-Gen Dom Biddick was able to thank Sir Ralph for his exemplary service to the Regiment over many years. Next came our erstwhile Regimental Secretary, Lt Col Robert Goodin, who has completed over 10 years in post following a full career in the Regiment. He hands over in December to Lt Col John Wright who will then be in the chair from January 2024.

Finally, we dined out Capt Peter Hudson who has been a pillar of Regimental music for decades. As the Director of Music he produced a superb Regimental Band who we relied upon heavily at a time when army bands are few and far between. He completed his service as Area 1 Regimental Secretary.

An ensemble from the Band of the Royal Yeomanry, Inns of Court, provided music during the evening, and toasts were made to HM The King, our Colonel in Chief, and finally of course to the Regiment. A notice was published in the Times the following morning.

Those officers and guests who attended are listed, right.

The 2024 Officers' Club Dinner will take place on Friday 1 November, 7.30pm at the Army and Navy Club, St James' Square, London. Regimental Bulletins will be posted at regular intervals after Regimental Day 60, which itself takes place on Sunday 1 September at the Regimental Memorial, IWM Duxford.

Tickets for the OCD are limited to 100, and details of how to apply will be made clear in the bulletins. Tables of eight are standard if considering making up a group, but larger tables can be arranged by exception. A champagne reception, three-course dinner inclusive of wines with coffee and port to finish is all included in the ticket price.

The Officers' Club generously subsidises the annual dinner and therefore subscribers to the Regimental Association enjoy a discounted ticket price.

Top Table

Maj Gen DSJ Biddick MBE MC – Colonel of the Regiment
Lt Gen Sir Ralph Wooddisse KCB CBE MC
Maj Gen SL Porter CBE
Mr Mark Goodwin – Upper Warden
Brig OCC Brown
Brig RFL Lyne MSN (Can)
Lt Col A Thompson MBE
Lt Col BT Hawes MBE
Lt Col DJ Haggard

Top Table 2

Gen Sir JC McColli KCB CBE DSO KStJ
Maj Gen JCB Sutherland CB CBE DL
Brig AJC Wild MBE
Brig JM Woodham CBE MC
Mr Paul Kelly – Renter Warden
Col SJR Browne OBE
Col JA York
Col PC Moxey MBE
Lt Col RCJ Goodin OBE
Lt Col MH Wenham

Top Table 3

Col MP Aston DSO MC
Col RE Harrold CVO OBE
Lt Col RJ Clements OBE
Lt Col IWK Astley
Lt Col MJ Beard
Lt Col GJ Goodey MBE
Maj OB Ormiston
Maj DN Broomfield
Capt TR Newton





Table 4

Lt Col JW Bennett-Madge
Lt Col NJP McGinley
Lt Col GJR Hudson
Maj WS Otridge
Maj AD Mackness
Maj JM Lanham
Capt GE Osborne
Capt W Willdridge

Table 5

Col BD Weston
Lt Col R Bredin
Maj IJ Robinson MBE
Maj LA Waghorn
Maj ML Peters
Capt PCH Hudson
Capt D Granfield

Table 6

Col NH Kelsey OBE TD
Col AD Chissel TD
Maj S Card TD
Maj GP Walton TD
Capt DK Marsden TD

Table 7

Lt Col M Melia
Maj FK Atkins
Maj PRA Lenthall
Maj TJW Green
Maj DT Crosbie
Maj S Thomas
Maj JG Ryan
Maj MC Durkin
Maj SM Broomfield
Maj JM Walters
Maj AK Luff
Maj MN Tovey

Table 8

Lt Col EA Matts
Lt Col AJN Coulson
Maj IJ Ginns
Maj K Main
Maj MJ Bevin
Capt P Weatherall
2Lt AEK Smeeton – Mr Vice

Table 9

Brig GB Foden
Col MS Woodeson
Lt Col AYL Wong
Maj PD Connolly
Maj RA Smit
Maj GH Waterfield
Capt RM Lewis
Capt JM Ding
Capt NGV Denning

Table 10

Capt DB Coyle
Capt R Smith
Capt P Phillips
Capt JR Bamford
Capt LRG Talkington
Capt AI Simms
Capt MJN Andrews
Capt J Taylor
Lt HR Bussandra
Lt EM Potter
Lt BTS Jooste-Jennings
Lt A Moss
2Lt DB Bradnam

Table 11

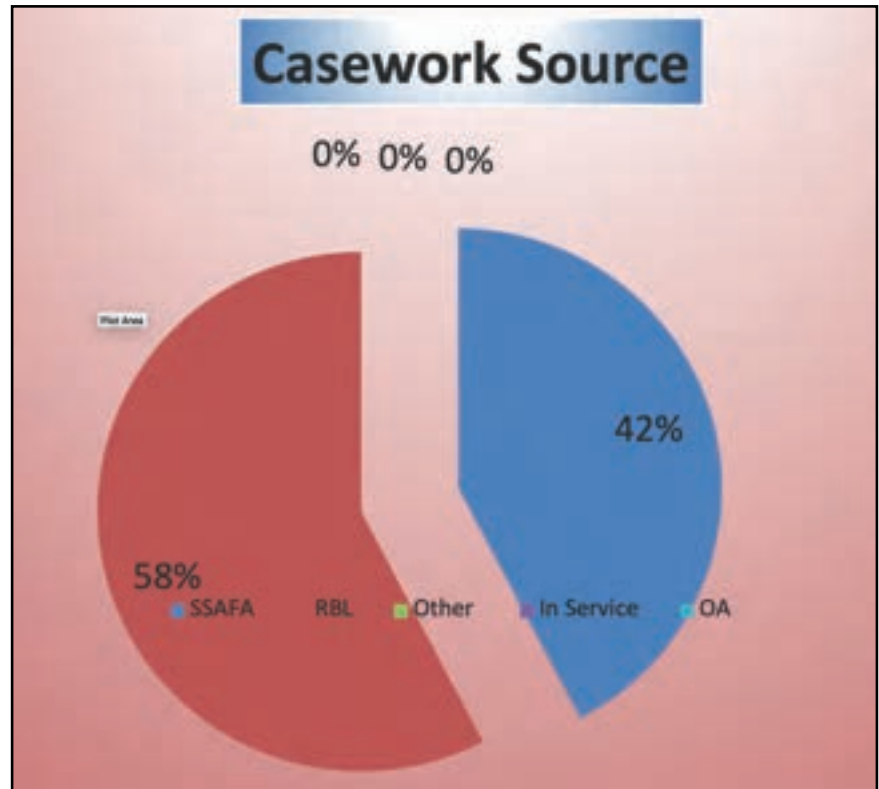
Capt AP Langley
Capt JNH Kelly
Capt RJ Smith
Capt C Boffey-Rawlings
Capt MP Wilman
Capt JCA Heal
Lt DGM Brown
Lt JG Peel



Regimental Charity & Welfare



by Assistant Regimental Secretary
Mark Goldsmith



General

The delivery of welfare support through benevolence grants remains a high priority for RHQ. Every effort is made to ensure each application is processed through to payment within 24 hours, where possible.

We rely on all of the relevant information being supplied by the assigned caseworker so a prompt decision can be made, but occasionally we have to make a request for additional information which can cause a delay in the application being processed.

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 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. The Unit Welfare Officer (UWO) can use a simple one page In-Service Request form. Any In-Service requests supported by the CO can be submitted directly to RHQ and does not need to be assigned a caseworker. All of the figures supplied in this article covers the period 1st January 2023 to 6th December 2023.

Outreach

RHQ has no outreach capability to complete casework within the local

communities. 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. This grant is currently set at £13,000.

The chart below shows how the casework is divided and highlights RHQ's dependence on the SSAFA and RBL caseworkers, to whom we are extremely grateful for their support. The quickest route for cases to be dealt with is for the individual or person supporting them to contact the local SSAFA or RBL branch. These charities will assign a caseworker who will gather all of the relevant information before submitting the application to RHQ. Anyone approaching RHQ directly will kindly be requested to contact SSAFA or RBL,

ROYAL ANGLIAN BENEVOLENCE STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD 01 JAN 23 TO 31 DEC 23									
Cases Presented	Total	107	Awarded:	63	Declined	44	Rejected	0	
Benevolent Fund	Grants	£37,759.00	In Service	£1,000.0	Wayland	£0.00	Average	£615.22	
Other Grants/Funds	ABF	£4,583.00	Children's	£57,212.0					
								Regimental Total	£43,342.00
								ABF	£70,252.00
								RBL	£98,335.66
								Others	£2,670.03
								Almonised Total:	£214,699.69

these will ensure additional funds can be accesses to best support the need of the individual.

Benevolence Grants

When a grant is being awarded, we approach a number of other charity providers such as SSAFA, RBL, Blesma for additional funding to support the application. The collaboration of these joint funds is known as ‘almonisation.’ Almonising funds ensures the applicant has access to additional funds in order to best meet their individual needs. The maximum grant RHQ can make is currently set at £1000, this cap ensures RHQ retains sufficient funds throughout

the financial year to support as many claims as possible.

Grant applications in the first instance are assigned to a caseworker. Once RHQ has approved the application for a grant to be made, this is then referred to the ABF The Soldiers’ Charity (formerly known as the Army Benevolent Fund) for an additional contribution to be made to increase the amount of grant being awarded. Caseworkers do not routinely deal directly with this Charity.

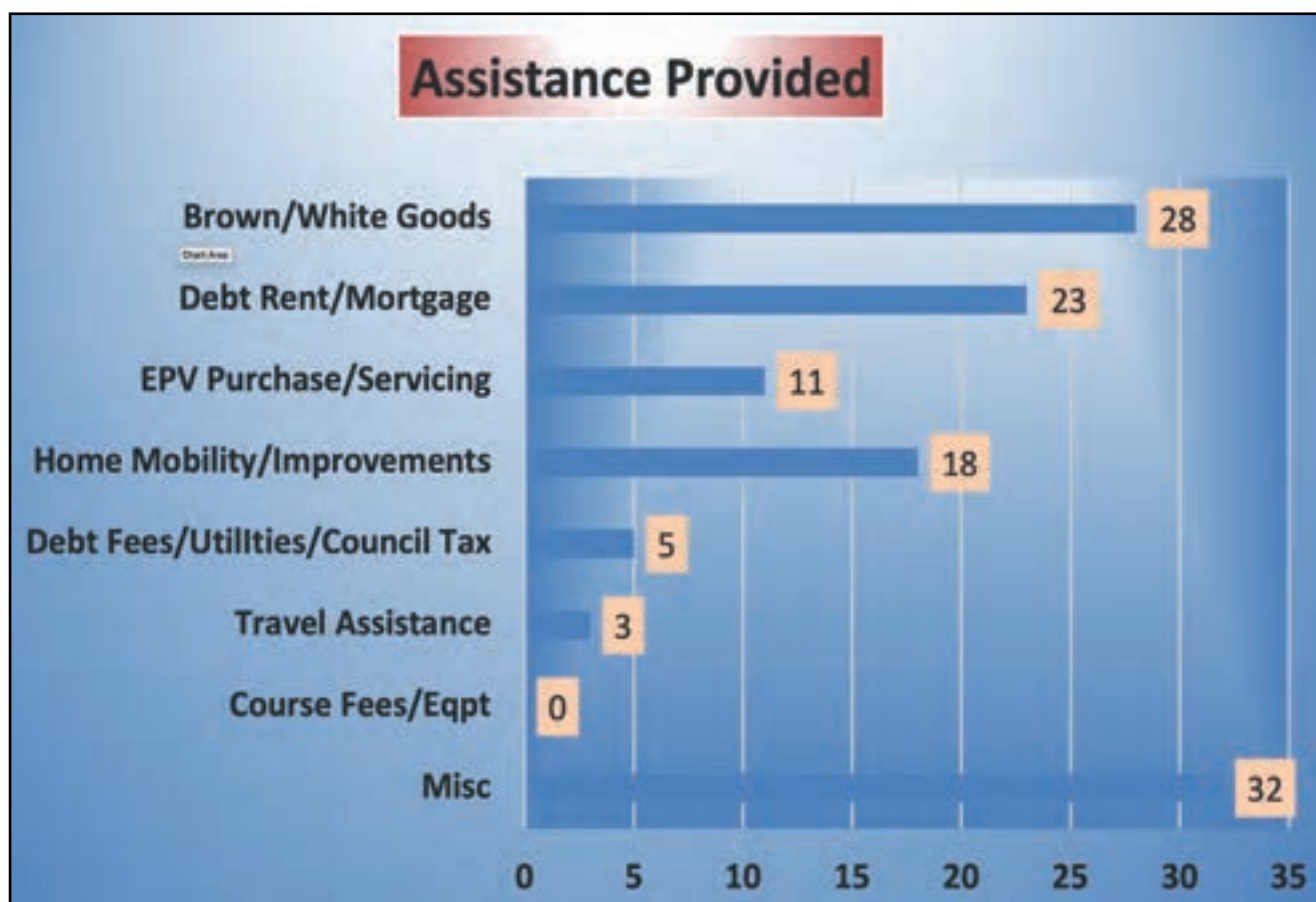
The total number of grants received and awarded in this reporting period can be seen in the table below. This also outlines how much has been awarded by the Regiment and other charities.

Cases declined. All cases received into RHQ are reviewed by the Benevolence Committee to ensure the application falls within the purpose of the charity. The common causes for an application to be declined are.

- Funeral costs and care home costs;
- Savings above the set threshold;
- Verification of service with The Royal Anglian Regiment or one of our forebear Regiments cannot be proved;
- Where no hardship, need or distress has been identified.

Dispersal

The main purpose for grants can be seen in the graph below:





Regimental Charity & Welfare

Benevolence in Action

The Benevolence Fund strives to deliver a quality of service which our serving soldiers, veterans and their families

in the community deserve in times of hardship, need or distress. Here are some examples of how your donations

have supported the Regimental family. Anonymity has been maintained to protect confidentiality.

Case Study 1 – Garden adaption



RHQ awarded £6.5k for a garden adaptation to Soldier A. Soldier A said “The patio space has made a complete different to me and my ability to enjoy my garden and outside space. It

is now fully accessible and fun to use and has provided me with independence and the ability to go outside on my own, making things easier for me, thank you.”

Case Study 2 – Ramp adaption

In collaboration with The Royal Anglian Regiment and the limbless veterans’ charity BLESMA, our charity contributed £2,000 towards a new ramp so that Soldier B could exit his bungalow kitchen area more easily.

He says: “Before the adaptation I was like ‘Eddie the Eagle’ getting out of the house. This work has made a massive difference. I have my independence back and it has given me a boost.

I see gardening as the way forward, enjoying life in the fresh air, and would like to get a greenhouse.”



Case Study 3 – Regimental Activity

RHQ contributed £21.5K towards cultural activities during DESERT KHANJAR. This was an opportunity to stretch soldiers well beyond their comfort zones, within a controlled environment. Activities that soldiers completed were hill walking and mountain biking around the local area of Al Sifah, a river excursion to Wadi Sham, rock climbing, and also sailing on a catamaran. This provided many more opportunities for our soldiers, including the experience of swimming with turtles.

Other Funds

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 is hoped that it would be used for further education but is entirely the recipient's call. In 2023, a sum of £57,212 was paid to one of the beneficiaries.

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.

Thank You

Finally, a big thank you to all who continue to support the regimental family whether this be through donations, fundraising activities or activities to support those in times of hardship, need or distress.

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 Jan 23 to 06 Dec 23 was £142K.

Day's Pay Scheme

The Day's Pay Scheme brought in £113k 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

Queen's Regulations remits that we must give a minimum of 51% from our income to benevolence casework, in real terms this figure is usually around 75%.

Donations and Fundraising

The amount of money received from fundraising reduced dramatically during the Covid pandemic. Although we have seen an increase in the amount of fundraising, our Regimental Trustees and Battalions continue to look at ways of improving our fundraising activities.

RHQ would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have donated to the charity in 2023. Your contributions, however large or small, provide great benefit to the Regimental family through benevolence grants to our veterans and regimental activities for our serving soldiers.



Sammy Favell from the Chosen Charity presenting a cheque for £5,000.



Mr and Mrs Hemmings from the Norfolk Military Vehicle Group presenting a cheque for £7,191.



Regimental Charity & Welfare

Suffolk Freemasons gift £1,000 to Regimental Charity



Members of the Freemasons in Suffolk visited RHQ on Tuesday, 28 February 2023 to make a donation of £1000 towards the Royal Anglian Regiment Charity. The funds were raised as a result of an Armistice Meeting held last November by the members of the Philip Jervis Kay (PJK) Lodge. The Freemasons Suffolk signed up to the Forces Covenant late last year and have previously donated money to the Regimental Charity. Tim McCormack, the current Master of the PJK Lodge, can be seen presenting the cheque to Mark Goldsmith, the Assistant Regimental Secretary. Also pictured is the Regimental Secretary, Lt Col (Retd) Robert Goodin, Secretary of the Lodge, Roger Nash and Ralph Robertson, a member of the Lodge and veteran of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Vehicle Group's £5,500 gift

Paul Hemmings and his wife Helen visited RHQ on Friday 3 March 2023 to make a donation of £5,500 to the Royal Anglian Regiment Charity.

Paul and Helen are members of the Norfolk Military Vehicle Group and attend a number of events throughout the year, where they raise funds solely for the Royal Anglian Regiment Charity. Paul and Helen can be seen presenting the cheque to Mark Goldsmith, the Assistant Regimental Secretary.



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@mhmm.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

Glen and Sandra - Regimental Day stalwarts



As ever, we are grateful to all those who help to deliver the Regimental Day. The Colonel of the Regiment personally thanked Glen and Mrs Sandra Keeble for their pivotal role in organising the event for 20 years, presenting Sandra with a bouquet.

From East Anglia to HQ Scotland

Maj Gav Rushmere

'Increasing apprehension' was probably the two words to describe the build-up and move from Second in Command of 3 Royal Anglian to 51st Brigade and Headquarters Scotland, Staff Officer 2 - Regional Plans. But although I miss the Battalion, the move has been relatively flawless, and the Brigade staff have been hugely accommodating.

I heard various rumours about Redford Cavalry Barracks in Edinburgh, before I got here, some saying that the building design was meant for a Barracks in India, hence the very tall and wide corridors and rooms, which are certainly big enough to get Elephants through.

The Officers' Mess is probably



one of the more prestigious in the UK, being based in Edinburgh Castle. The first weeks highlight was probably lunch and a mess meeting at the Castle. I have certainly learnt not to drive into Edinburgh, it's a nightmare and far easier to catch a bus or summon an Uber.

The Regional Plans job takes me all over, mainly the East Coast of Scotland, to Leuchars, Kinloss and Fort George, so hopefully there will be plenty of opportunities to get in a spot of Adventure Training with walks and the mountain bike, although I am keeping a fairly low profile on Adventure Training front.

If you're up in Edinburgh and fancy lunch at the Castle, then let me know.

New Senior LE Officer is Warmly Welcomed to the Regimental Council

Maj Kev Main has taken on the appointment of Regimental Senior LE Officer.

Kev is well known through his long service in our regimental family. After joining our 3rd Battalion (The Pompadours) his career has included being RSM of our 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks), QM(T) and QM of our 1st Battalion (The Vikings), and wherever possible, windsurfing. He is currently serving as the Senior Instructor (Combat) at the Royal School of Military Engineering.



In Royal Anglian style our Senior LE Officer is carefully included in our regimental policy making and is invited to attend all our Regimental Councils. Over the years, the wise and grounded advice of our Senior LE Officer has been greatly appreciated in our Regt Council.

Regimental Adjutant Handover



Captain George Liddington, 2nd Battalion completed his tour as the Regimental Adjutant, departing RHQ in March 2023 to take up a new post in 77 Brigade. The Regt Secretary and the RHQ team lunched out Capt Liddington and warmly welcomed his replacement from the 1st Battalion, Lieutenant Paul Phillips in post on 1 April 2023.

Award of Canadian Meritorious Service Medal



The Regiment warmly congratulates Brig Rich Lyne on the award of the Canadian Meritorious Service Medal (military division). The MSM was created by her Majesty the Queen in 1991. It recognises military deeds or activities that have been performed in a highly professional manner or of a very high standard that bring benefit or honour to the Canadian Forces.

Brigadier Rich was serving with the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CTJF-OIR), Iraq and Syria, 2018-19. The award was made to recognise the his leadership of and his work with the Canadian-sponsored Coalition Ministerial Advisory Group. The MSM was presented by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada at an investiture at the Canadian High Commission in London on 5 May 2023".



Mainly About People

Renewing Company links at Naseby



Northampton's link maintained - Royal Anglian Major (Retd) Tom Dormer renewed his links with C (Northamptonshire) Company, 2nd Battalion when he joined his old Company in the field...the field of Naseby to be precise! Tom, along with the Deputy Regt Secretary, Major Mike Peters, led the Poachers on a Battlefield Study of the momentous 1643 battle.

Tony Slater Completes his Last Battlefield Tour



Lieutenant Colonel Tony Slater has been at the heart of maintaining our regimental history for many years. As well as playing a prominent role in many of our forbearer regiment museums, he has also been one of the major contributors to our annual Regimental Battlefield Tour. Thanks to Colonel Tony's expertise and extensive historical knowledge the battlefield tour has been a regular feature of the regimental calendar.

This year's tour of the 1944-45 battlefields of the Netherlands and Germany led by Tony was another huge success. It was however Colonel Tony's last big push for the regiment on the battlefield touring front, he has decided to retire from leading future tours.

Battlefield Studies are an important facet of what the regiment does to encourage learning, foster pride in the regiment, and to unite serving and veteran Royal Anglians. Over many years, Colonel Tony has made a significant contribution to this activity. The Regiment thanks him warmly for all that he has done to make our battlefield tours such a success.

TOTALLY FREE AND ANONYMOUS MENTAL HEALTH APP

A gift to you, from the Regiment

We are delighted to continue to offer the totally free mental health app called Leafyard for all Royal Anglian veterans and families.

Leafyard has been tried and tested by us and other regiments across the country and has been proven to support the specific needs of serving personnel, veterans and their families. Leafyard takes the form of an anonymous journey and helps you and your family feel calmer, happier, and more mentally resilient.

Scan the QR code to sign up for your free, anonymous access to Leafyard.

ROYAL ANGLIAN





Regimental Heritage

Royal Anglian Regiment Museum, Duxford

Colonel (Retd) RE Harrold CVO OBE, Chairman, Regimental Heritage Committee

Our museum is housed in the Land Warfare Hall at Duxford. That building has been identified as structurally unsound and the Imperial War Museum (IWM) – who run Duxford – intends to close it in Autumn 2025 with a view to its demolition.

Our museum trustees are leading negotiations with the IWM to secure a new site at Duxford. There is agreement in principle to this but the details still have to be agreed. Given that, then a new museum will open in a new location at Duxford in a new location in summer 2028. We intend to take advantage of this opportunity by creating a more immersive and engaging museum experience than the current one.

At the core of the project will be the closure of the current galleries, storage of objects and creation of the new galleries. That said, also within the scope of the project will be:

a. The relationship with IWM Duxford and joint planning for the new museum,



possibly using some objects loaned from the IWM collection.

- b. E-museum
- c. Website.
- d. Social media.
- e. Outreach activities.
- f. Reserve collection.

Royal Anglian 21st Century Soldier Project

In 2015, when we established a Regimental Heritage Committee, only two of the seven former regiment museums told the story right up to the present day. In most, the story stopped at the point at which the former regiment was amalgamated with the creation of the East Anglian Regiments.

To rectify this, in 2021 we began a project to install in each museum a R ANGLIAN soldier mannequin in modern combat dress with supporting information panels describing how the men and women of the relevant county have served their country in the Royal



The 21st Century Royal Anglian Soldier Project arrives in Essex and Bedfordshire

Another two of our C21 Royal Anglian Soldier displays have been delivered to the Essex Regiment Museum at Chelmsford, and the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Museum at Wardown House in Luton. The two new exhibits will link their historical narratives to C (Essex) Coy, 1st Battalion, and D (Bedfs. Herts) Coy, 2nd Battalion. Both Regimental museums accepted the new displays in August.

Looking ahead to further Regimental heritage outreach activity, a survey is currently underway at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life in Lincoln. It has been agreed that the timeline of the existing Royal Lincolnshire Regiment gallery can be extended to incorporate the Royal Anglian Regiment. Planning is well underway to facilitate the addition of a C21 Royal Anglian Soldier exhibition focused on A (Lincolnshire) Company, 2nd Battalion maintaining our strong bonds with our forbear regiment, and the City of Lincoln.



Anglian Regiment.

As at November 2023 21st Century Soldier displays have been installed in the following museums:

Suffolk Regiment Museum (Moyses Hall) Bury St Edmunds; Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Museum, Luton; Essex Regiment Museum, Chelmsford; Landguard Fort, Felixstowe; Lincolnshire is planned for 2024 and Northamptonshire in 2025.

Royal Anglian Digital Muster

The December 2022 edition of Castle described the 'Digital Muster' project, which will digitise and make available

to all, archives, museum exhibits, publications and other records. The project will enable individuals to research their Regimental story, but also, and most importantly, to upload personal biographical histories. The work has progressed and the project will go live in January 2024.

Royal Anglian Regimental Silver

The Chairman of Trustees has commissioned a commercial Conservation Company to carry out a 100% audit and survey of all Regt Silver. After a tendering process managed by Lt Col (Retd) Rich Bredin, Richard Rogers

Conservation Ltd have been awarded the contract. This will include a complete audit of the Regt Silver Holdings, a Photographic Survey of every piece, and advice on future storage, cleaning and repair of our holdings over the coming years.

This work will run in parallel to an RHQ led heritage programme with the History faculty of the University of Suffolk. Using History Interns to research the history of each individual piece. This work will then underpin the survey of our silver – creating a narrative for each piece on the new Regiment Website.



Regimental Heritage

Regimental Memorial Report



Our Regimental Memorial continues to be the focus of much of our remembrance activities. This has certainly been the case if we consider all that has happened in our regimental calendar in 2023.

The memorial is very much the focal point during larger scale events such as the Regimental Day in September, and Remembrance Sunday. The memorial also attracts visits from curious and respectful members of the general public as part of their visit to the IWM site. Visitors to the Royal Anglian Regimental Museum also make the short walk across to the memorial from the Land Warfare Hall.

Away from the traditional regimental days we do see groups of soldiers from all three battalions visiting the memorial to pay their respects to fallen comrades. The memorial also attracts a large number of visits from our affiliated cadets as part of their introduction to our regimental history at the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum. There is no doubting the affect that a visit to the memorial and the laying of a wreath to our fallen has. We are always pleased to see these young, highly motivated young people at the memorial.

The care and maintenance of the



Regimental Memorial is overseen by a panel of Trustees. Daily maintenance and periodic inspections are supervised by RHQ in the shape of the Deputy Regimental Secretary, Major (Retd) Mike Peters. The Annual inspection

of the memorial is carried out in the winter months prior to the visitor season commencing at full pace from Easter onwards. This inspection includes the surveying the condition of the stonework, the surrounding grounds and

the flags that fly over the memorial. Any refurbishment or cleaning is carried out before the Spring.

This year's 60th Anniversary of the Regiment's foundation will of course bring the Regt Memorial to the fore. It will inevitably, and quite rightly highlight the names of those members of the East Anglian Regt, and the Royal Anglian Regiment listed on its stone wall to mind. That is after all one of the purposes of our memorial. This year, we look forward to seeing another increase in the numbers of Royal Anglian family members gathered at Duxford to remember our fallen.

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

Building the Royal Anglian Digital Memorial

Steve Armon

As a Royal Anglian veteran I was very humbled when RHQ approached me to discuss joining the Digital Muster Project. In a similar vein as the Parachute Regiment we are working on generating a Digital archive that allows details of Royal Anglians past and present to be easily accessed and share

My part in the Digital Muster is focused on the 82 names listed on our Regimental Memorial at Duxford. I have been asked to work with RHQ to make a short biographic film about each of our fallen. Each film depicting not only the name of the soldier but also the circumstances in which he or she was killed.

Since going live with this project I have had a stark reminder of the amount of commitment the Regiment has given to Operations around the globe. The videos will consist of imagery, dates and location and a short synopsis of each incident.

I also have the honour of creating the Regimental Remembrance films annually. One of the films I did for 2022 what a short story by a lady called Margret whose brother, Cpl Michael Boddy, was killed by the IRA in Belfast in 1972. This has inadvertently created a connection between him and I which I now hold very close to me. It has reminded me that understanding our Regimental history is so important.

It is very easy to get locked into just understanding the circumstances of your own Battalion but there are some amazing stories across the wider Regiment. I urge everyone to dig a little deeper and study the names of our fellow Royal Anglians inscribed on our Regiment's Memorial at Duxford.

I am thoroughly looking forward to this project progressing throughout the year. Thanks to RHQ for inviting me to assist with the Royal Anglian Digital Muster.





Regimental Heritage



Ex TALAVERA Battlefield Study

Lt Jack Rice, C (Northamptonshire) Company

Troops from C Coy on the vital ground the 48th fought on.

Thirty eight soldiers from C (Northamptonshire) Company travelled to Madrid on the 5th June to conduct a battlefield tour of Talavera and Salamanca. 214 years ago, the soldiers of the 48th Regiment of Foot stood on the same ground as part of a British force, fighting the French army in the first set-piece battle of the Peninsular War.

This was a symbolic opportunity for the troops of C 'Northamptonshire' Company to walk in the footsteps of their forebearers and learn of the skill and heroism that won the 48th their battle honour.

On 27th July 1809, Wellington's forces occupied high ground at Talavera; south west of Madrid, alongside a large Spanish force. Late in the evening the French attacked, before the left of the British line was properly in position, and occupied an important hill. A swift counterattack, in which the 1st Battalion of the 48th (Northamptonshire) Regiment of Foot played a prominent part, drove the French off the hill, and other troops, including the 2nd Battalion of the 48th, came up to help secure the

position.

A large-scale French assault the following morning was repulsed, but later in the day when the French attacked the centre of the British line a dangerous gap was opened up. Wellington summoned

the 1/48th to plug the gap, which they did with great dash and bravery. In his subsequent dispatch Wellington wrote, 'The battle was certainly saved by the advance, position, and steady conduct of the 48th Regiment.'



The Talavera Monument.



The battlefield as seen from the French position.

After walking the ground at Talavera, C Company were hosted for lunch at Calle Claudio Coello, a farm sitting atop the high ground that the 48th made their stand. The troops enjoyed a variety of local delicacies and provided an opportunity to conduct some informal

awards and offer a chance to thank Tom Dörner for his work. The following day we moved to Salamanca, a battle honour of the 1st Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment.

A break in the inclement weather provided fantastic views over the

battlefield, allowing the soldiers to relate the events of 1812 and look at what lessons can be learnt for future conflicts. The troops then enjoyed an evening and morning exploring the cultural side of Madrid, before returning to Kendrew Barracks



Tom Dörner brings the battle to life for C (Northamptonshire) Company BFS at Talavera.



Regimental Heritage

Regimental Battlefield Study

Tracing the Regimental Post D-Day Allied Advance

Lieutenant CJ Mitchell

OC 1 Platoon, A (Lincolnshire Company), 2 R ANGLIAN

This year the Royal Anglian Regiment embarked on a Battlefield study to the Netherlands and Germany to follow the path of our antecedent Regiments as they advanced across Northwest Europe post D Day.

Ably guided by Lt Col (Retd) Tony Slater and Maj (Retd) Tim Brown, this exceptional experience brought together serving and retired members of the Regiment, offering them a unique opportunity to delve into the perhaps less well trodden ground, of the allied advance north through the Netherlands and into Germany.

This study focused on pivotal actions, including Operation MARKET GARDEN, the Battle for Venray, Kervenheim, and Winnekendonk. The Battlefield study aimed at building conceptual knowledge and brought together a real mix of Royal Anglians, both serving and retired, from Pte soldier to Brigadier.

Day 1

Op MARKET GARDEN and Montgomery's Advance

The study began with a day dedicated to Operation MARKET GARDEN and the gripping tale of the Allied advance along the infamous "Hell's Highway." The first stop of the study delved into the parachute landings of the US 82nd Airborne and their audacious capture of the bridge over the river Maas and in particular the remarkable feat of Lt John Thompson, leading 17 men against significant German forces and two formidable 20mm flak guns. The focus then shifted to the vanguard of Operation MARKET GARDEN and the Battle of Arnhem. The study was brought to life by an examination of the glider landing sites and the equipment carried by the soldiers and all to really get a feel for



Peter Black tells the tale of the daring extraction of British troops across the river from Oosterbeek Church.

the difficulty the parachute troops faced when dropping onto contested drop zones. The Battle for Arnhem and the 4th Para Brigade's daring drop remained the main focus of the first day as the Battlefield study made its way to the

Hartenstein Airborne Museum. Here, participants had a rare opportunity to view the battle from the commanders' perspective, assessing the choices made by commanders in light of the resources available. The day concluded with a

visit to Oosterbeek Church, the site of a stirring speech by Major Richard Lonsdale, originally of the Leicestershire Regiment, and the headquarters of the isolated force attempting to secure bridgehead to Major John Frost on the northern bank of the Bridge at Arnhem. Walking through the battle-scarred grounds and following in the footsteps of

soldiers brought a profound perspective to the study and was a fitting conclusion to a fascinating first day.

Day 2 The Battle for Venray

The second day of the study focussed on the Battle for Venray in October 1944, involving 1 SUFFOLKS and 2

LINCOLNS. Lt Col Tony Slater once again proved magnificent in setting the scene and group discussions provided insights into the intricate tactical challenges faced by units on the ground. These 'syndicate discussions' were particularly useful as they provided Royal Anglians with an opportunity to share tactical experiences from across



In the very same street as 1 SUFFOLKS found themselves fighting door to door in Kervenheim in the spring of 1945



Regimental Heritage

several generations before everyone invariably all agreed! Extraordinary anecdotes from individuals with relatives who had served in these actions enriched the experience for all and were humble to hear. The day concluded with a visit to the immaculately maintained memorial to 1 NORFOLK which the Dutch people clearly took great pride in.

Day 3

The Battle for Kervenheim and Winnekendonk and a period of reflection

The final day commenced with a visit to the Reichswald Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery, a sombre and reflective moment that underscored the harsh reality of war and the staggering casualty rates endured by all branches of service. The study then shifted its focus from the liberation of the Netherlands to the invasion of Germany, with visits to the towns of Kervenheim and Winnekendonk. This leg of the journey allowed for further analysis of the tactical challenges faced during that critical period, as serving officers engaged in debates on how they would approach similar scenarios with modern-day technology. All agreed that despite the significant technological advances, the realities of the Infantry close fight are such that to do it again, even with modern equipment, would be equally as challenging. The day and the tour culminated with a visit to the Overloon Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery, where fallen soldiers from our forebearer regiments had found their resting place. The group paid homage by laying a Royal Anglian wreath and placing wooden poppies at graves, a humbling and heartfelt conclusion to a fantastic study.

Regimental links throughout generations

The Royal Anglian Regiment's Battlefield study in the Netherlands and Germany was a real success, offering a unique and enriching experience that allowed serving and retired Royal Anglians to study these



The Regiment paid its respects with a final service of commemoration in Overloon CWGC.

battles and socialise together. For the regular Battalions, a huge amount was gained from the interactions with such experienced retired members of the Regiment and it is an opportunity that must be exploited by as wide a rank range as possible. A heartfelt thanks must go to all organisers within Regimental

HQ but a particular thank you must be extended to Tony Slater, who after many years of guiding Royal Anglian Battlefield Studies has decided to retire from leading tours. His impact will be felt and young Royal Anglian Officers will be all the poorer for not having been on one of his studies!

Grimsby Chums on the Somme



The team at the Thiepval Memorial.

The Grimsby Branch fielded a small team of members to visit the Lochnagar Crater to coincide with the memorial parade that took place on 1 July 23.

Last year the Branch assumed responsibility for the Lochnagar Bench that sits at the mouth of the Crater. The Bench commemorates the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment soldiers known as the Grimsby Chums who died in the battle of the Somme on the 1st July 1916.

The team carried out maintenance work and then paraded on the 1st July with the multi national contingents at the memorial service. The team also took the time to visit the battlefield area and memorials.



**The team by the bench from right:
Wayne Okopskyj, Alan Whiting,
Rick Garner, John Cooper, Steve
Roberts, Andrew McCurdy, Jamie
North and Jamie Taylor.**



Regimental Heritage

Regimental Stained Glass Windows Restored and Re-Dedicated at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton

On a sun-drenched July afternoon last year the famous stained glass windows dedicated to the 48th and 58th Regiments of Foot respectively enjoyed their moment of glory after months of painstaking restoration.

We know them as the 48th's on the right and the 58th's on the left, though more correctly as those of the 1st and 2nd Battalions respectively, since the two Regiments had finally become one in 1881 after being linked for training and administration in 1873.

There is another, earlier, window to the 58th in their own right, of which more in a moment, and there are window memorials too to the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions from the First World War, though none to the Second World War or

Northamptonshire Regiment as a whole. It would be good to think that omission might still one day be rectified.

The 48th's window commemorates their service in the Tirah Expedition on the North-West Frontier of what is now Pakistan, close to the Khyber Pass on the eastern border of Afghanistan, where their modern successors the Poachers were to serve 5 or 6 generations later. In 1897 the 48th were part of a brigade operation which came under serious pressure from a numerous and determined enemy, with many casualties incurred, particularly in C Company, when a party of 17 covering the withdrawal held on too long and were lost to a man. The popular press in its inimitable way dubbed it the Last Stand

of the Northamptons.

The window itself, installed by Meyer of Germany in 1899, is rather more restrained, with a biblical theme, no trace of jingoism and no mention of the recent campaign. It depicts Solomon and justice, reminding us of the notion of a just war; Joshua, and the fortitude of soldiers; and in the centre the Just Centurion and the primacy of faith.

The 58th's window comes from their service in the Second Boer War and was made by Dix of London in 1902, the year that war ended. It is perhaps a more elaborate design for a more serious conflict, with War, Victory and Peace singled out in a theme avowedly Old Testament, complete with soldiers' names shown in glass. It is sobering to



48th Foot Window.



58th Foot Window.

note most were lost to disease.

The 58th were no strangers to South Africa, having fought in the Zulu War in 1879 and the First Boer War 2 years later. At Laing's Nek in 1881, just before the amalgamation, the Regiment suffered heavy losses to Boer marksmanship when it became the last in British history to go into battle in close order, officers mounted and colours flying – these unique Colours being on display today at Abington Park Museum. Things were no better a month later at Majuba Hill. The experience against the Boers,

however, stood the new Regiment in good stead for Round Two: they quickly became the best shooting regiment in the Army, a reputation which lasted into the twentieth century, and in the Second Boer War 2nd Northhamptons came through various hard engagements during the Relief of Kimberley with relatively few casualties. The 58th's earlier service in South Africa is commemorated in a magnificent window behind you in the north aisle, also known as the Jaffa Window as an allusion to the origin of this church.

And so our forebears marked the events of their time. But then no-one could have predicted the wholesale losses which were to follow so soon – 6040 in the Great War alone and recorded in the Regimental Chapel just through there. We can be fairly sure our predecessors would not have objected to the sentiment that these windows typify the whole evolving story of selfless service by The Northamptonshire and Royal Anglian Regiments over nearly 3 centuries.

IRJD



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The Team Army Sports Foundation is a registered charity, number 07773783



Regimental Museum

It has been some time since your museum reported on its progress but, despite the lack of news, a lot of work has been carried out behind the scenes by the Curator and the Trustees and as a result, we are now in a position to deliver you an update on all matters. The museum is based in the Land Warfare Hall at the Imperial War Museum Duxford, close to the Regimental memorial. The museum has been in a holding pattern in terms of development and updating for some years now, due to the IWM to putting its own plans together for the Duxford site, which will inevitably, have an impact on your museum.

We now have clarity over these plans and how these will affect us and our own plans to update our own museum. The IWM has been wanting to make substantial alterations to Duxford for many years and only now have these plans been finalised. The trustees of our Regimental Museum can now engage with IWM to understand how and where we can work within these plans to more clearly focus on the vital role that our Regiment has played in society since its formation and the contribution that it makes today.



Mick Reams medal presentation.



The Regiment information panel.



The Duxford plan will entail some significant changes to the site and includes the demolition of the Land Warfare Hall, which means that the Regimental Museum will have to move. The site changes will involve the creation of a new exhibition space within the existing Duxford space, in the hall currently entitled 'Airspace' (next to the entrance and M11). This will be re-envisaged as 'Cold War and Post War Conflict' and as such, will incorporate space for our new Regimental Museum, where it will be entirely appropriate.

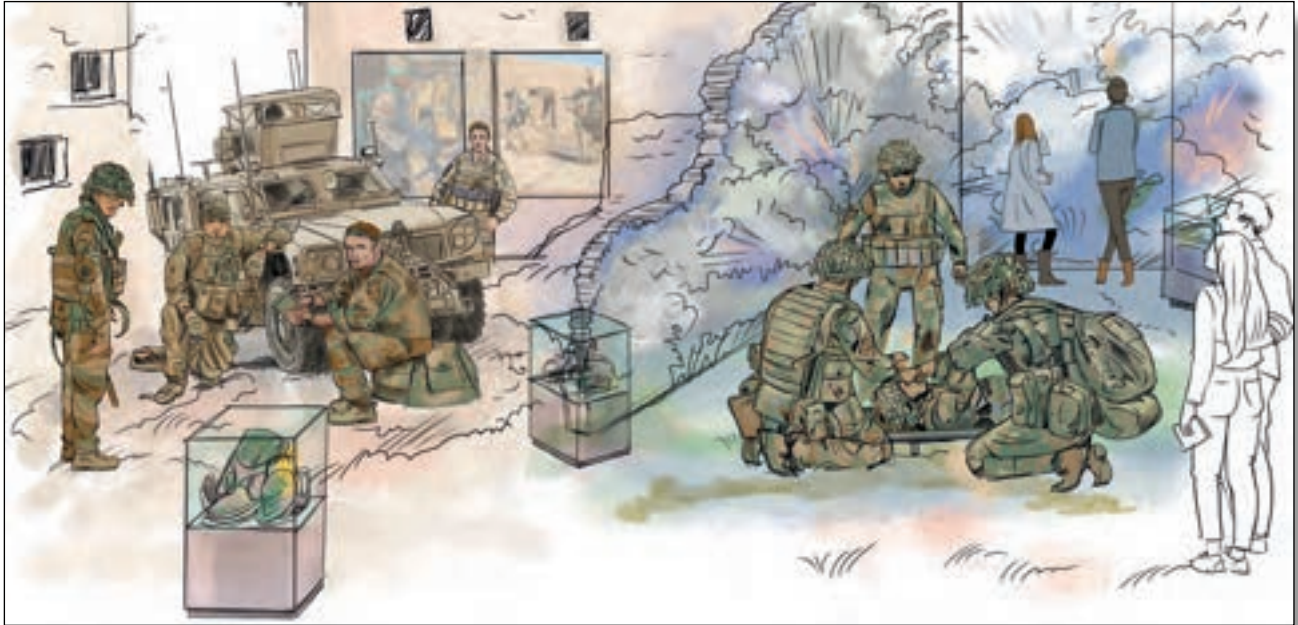
These changes will take place over a number of years and, while these are some way ahead, the changes will require considerable planning and liaison with the IWM to ensure that we are clearly and properly represented in a context with which represents the past and present of our Regiment. The closure of the Land Warfare Hall will take place in 2025 and the new space in Cold War and Post War Conflict, will open in 2027, so there will be a period when the physical museum



Land Warfare Hall.



Regimental Museum



Artist's impression of a possible Afghanistan display.

presence will be either removed entirely or significantly reduced. The Museum Trustees are looking at all options to maintain a physical presence at Duxford during this period.

The new museum space gives the opportunity to create a new and vibrant museum which will reflect the dynamic presence of our Regiment in society. We will be able to present our many artefacts in contextual settings, perhaps in conjunction with IWM items to reflect

the many deployments the Regiment has been involved in since its creation. We also intend that there will be a significant online and 'E-museum' presence and will be consulting widely within the Regiment and veterans as to how they would like to see this developed; so please watch out for communications over the next few months!

Without doubt, these changes at Duxford give us the opportunity to significantly enhance our museum and

to better represent our Regiment. This will entail a huge amount of work, but the Trustees are confident that this is the chance we have been waiting for for many years to update and improve our museum. We will also need to raise significant funding to achieve this, and we will be publishing more details over the next few months as to what this will entail and how we can work together to make this a great success for our Regiment.



Artist's impression of a Northern Ireland display.



Diary Dates

2024

January

10th Poulter's Prize Presentation

February

1st Pass Out Parade ITC Catterick

10th Sobraon Day

24th Regimental Big Breakfast – Various Locations

March

6th County Colonels Annual Meeting

8th Veterans Race Day at Leicester Racecourse

23rd Commissioning Parade of CCS241 at RMAS

23rd Laying up of 6th Battalion Regimental Colour at St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds

28th HOTO of Regimental Adjutant at RHQ

April

12th Sovereigns Parade of CC232 at RMAS

25th Almanza Day

28th Almanza Service and Kohima 80th Anniversary at Norwich Cathedral

May

9th CC233 Regimental Selection Board at RMAS

10th Regimental Council at The Royal Hospital Chelsea

18th Regimental Spring Concert at St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds

June

6th Leicester Association Reunion

7th Norfolk Association Dinner

14th Regimental Representative Event at Felsted School

15th Vikings Veterans Ball

15th Poachers Veterans Ball

25th Hindoostan Day

July

20th Commissioning Parade of CCS242 at RMAS

22nd Salamanca Day

27th Talavera Day

August

1st Minden Day

9th Sovereigns Parade of CC233 at RMAS

13th Blenheim Day

15th VJ Day

31st Regimental Rugby Match

September

1st The Regimental Day at IWM Duxford (60th anniversary)

12th CC241 Regimental Selection Board at RMAS

29th Regimental Chapel Sunday at The Royal Hospital Chelsea

November

1st Regimental Council Meeting at The Army Navy Club

1st Officers Club Dinner at the The Army Navy Club

7th Opening of the Field of Remembrance

10th Regimental Remembrance Service at IWM Duxford

10th Association Contingent at the Cenotaph

23rd Commissioning Parade of CCS243 at RMAS

27th Sortie Day

December

13th Sovereigns Parade of CC241 at RMAS

14th Regt Christmas Carol Concert

20th British Battalion Day

February 2025

22nd R ANGLIAN Big Breakfast 2025

For more details and events please visit our website at: royalanglianregiment.com



Can You Remember?

5

YEARS AGO



1st Battalion Nigerian Engagement Training Team 2018.



1st Battalion, D (Cambridgeshire) Company Guard of Honour at the Battle of Amiens Centenary Service 2018.



2nd Battalion, Cpl Hazelwood back briefing 1 Section, A (Lincolnshire) Company at Endex 2018.



3rd Battalion, Ptes Wall, Wells, Ogg, Harries, Horstwood and Darby on the Via Ferrata in Italy 2018.



Can You Remember?

10
YEARS AGO



1st Battalion, Mortar Cadre, LCpl Kalsey digs in on the Fan, 2013.



2nd Battalion, WO2 Grice and Cpl Vout preparing for a morning session of Battle PT, 2013.



2nd Battalion, members of the Lashkar Training Centre arrive in Afghanistan, 2013.



3rd Battalion, Pte Allen, C Company putting in some miles, 2013.



Can You Remember?

20
YEARS AGO



1st Battalion - Minden Day - Colour Party 2003.



2nd Battalion in Afghanistan, 2003 - Cpl Gage in Mazar-e-Sharif.

30
YEARS AGO



Northern Ireland 1993 - Lt Ralph Woodisse and LCpl Ogden, 2nd Battalion, compare notes on a rural patrol.



1993 - 1st Battalion, Exercise Gryphon's Eye, Sgt Gridley, LCpl Baxter, and Pte Hopewell prepare to lay line.



Can You Remember?

40
YEARS AGO



1983, Stanford Training Area - 3rd Battalion, LCpl Richards (left), and LCpl Chambers, members of the Pompadours GPMG (SF) team which won the Eastern District Cup and were third in the UKLF Championships.

50
YEARS AGO



1973 Londonderry, Northern Ireland - A Coy, 3rd Battalion, a patrol setting out. From left: LCpl Nelson, Ptes Brazzil, Sephton, Howell, Schofield, La Pierre.

60
YEARS AGO



1st Battalion Radfan - 1964...1st East Anglian Officers on the peak of Jebel Huriyah on 11 June 1964, shortly after its capture. The Battalion returned to Aden from this operation to become the Royal Anglian Regiment. Back from left: Nigel Lewis, Bill Deller, Richard Wilson, Jack Dye, Roney Cotton (RA), Alex Turnbull, Hugh Horrex, Frank Fleming, John Churchill, Medical Officer, Prrick Stone, Richard Abbott, David Clark. Front from left: Tony Calder, John Child, Willie Hawkins, Ian Pearce, John Keep, David Coy, Rupert Conder.



1st Battalion

The 1st Battalion's time in Cyprus already seems a distant memory, yet the Vikings only returned to the UK in August after a challenging, but ultimately rewarding two years in Dhekelia. At every opportunity the Vikings have risen to the challenges and demonstrated the fantastic professionalism and humble approach for which they are highly regarded.

Our second year in Cyprus saw the Battalion deployed across the world to conduct and deliver training, while continuing to provide security for the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus and the UK's Naval Support Facility in Bahrain as the Cyprus Operations Battalion. It has been an extraordinarily busy year for training and operational commitments, yet we have found the time to achieve success in a range of sports, conduct adventurous training and make the most of our final few months in Cyprus. And then there is the not insignificant matter of the Unit Move back to the UK and transition to our new role as a Security Force Assistance Battalion.

Kicking off the year, A Company's deployment to Oman with the 2nd Battalion was a successful step on our Project 64 journey. It was a

From the CO

Lt Col Adrian Thompson MBE



Visiting the Helles Memorial in Gallipoli on Exercise VIKING DRAKKAR



A (Norfolk) Company on Exercise KHANJAR OMAN.

superb opportunity for the soldiers to demonstrate their tactical skills, honed over the previous 12 months, that was seized by every soldier. The successful integration of a Light Role infantry company operating in TCVs into a Light Mechanised Battlegroup operating with Foxhound was no small feat. Meanwhile, D Company's deployment to Kuwait to train the Kuwaiti Land Forces was a resounding success, receiving praise from both the Kuwaitis and the permanent training team.

B Company's deployment to Belize in May was eagerly anticipated, and it was superb to visit and see the quality of the training being conducted in the jungle. Every soldier returned with a better appreciation of micro-navigation and their own physical resilience after four weeks under the canopy. C and D Company's successful deployment to Kenya in September to provide the opposing forces for 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards reflected the hard training they had conducted in Cyprus.

One of the highlights for me this year was the Vikings' contribution to Op POLAR BEAR that saw C Company take responsibility for the handling and processing of over 2,000 entitled



The Vikings Boxing Team at the Army Finals.

persons evacuated from Sudan in late April. In less than 24 hours, they had deployed a team, integrated with the British High Commission, FCDO officials, the Republic of Cyprus's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and international charities. A very different task for everyone who deployed, but one

they delivered with professionalism and empathy.

Another highlight was B Company's short notice deployment to Bosnia. In less than a week, the Company had prepared itself, flown to Bosnia and was delivering training to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was a



The victorious Vikings Dhekelia Dash Team.



1st Battalion

superb achievement and demonstration of the Vikings' capability as a Security Force Assistance Battalion, coming less than two months after assuming the role. Of note, some members of B Company had only just completed a different training task in Kosovo and North Macedonia before re-deploying to Bosnia in under 48 hours.

Our sporting success has been truly impressive this year. The Boxing Team, under the expert guidance of Captain Larry Holmes and Cpl Jordan Dyer came so close to pulling off a remarkable achievement, narrowly missing out to the Parachute Regiment in the Army Major Unit Boxing Finals in Aldershot in March. While many who watched the Final may still debate the result, the level of commitment, physical and mental resilience and sheer determination shown by the Boxing Team was truly impressive and inspirational. Deservedly, Ptes Forinton and Diggins are now part of the Army Boxing Squad and have continued to achieve success in the ring at the highest levels. Our wake-boarding team won the Infantry Championships, and our skiing team performed very well in the Infantry Championships. Our Cross-Country Team, under WO2 Watts, out-ran all competitors to win the BFC Cup (and the Dhekelia Dash!). As I write this, our Football team is undefeated in the Army Cup, having narrowly missed out on the BFC League title.

Months of planning for the Unit Move paid off as we overcame last-minute changes to flights, airports, and houses to bring the Battalion back to the UK and into Kendrew Barracks. It was a team effort, but particular credit must go to the Captain Wayne Butterick and his Welfare Team for their proactive engagement with Amey and Pinnacle to get our families into the right houses and schools. Meanwhile, the G4 team, under Major Joe Hayhurst and Captain 'Lewey' Lewis successfully handed over everything to 1 RIFLES in Cyprus while taking over accommodation, equipment and accounts in the UK.

The Vikings transition to our new role has seen implementation of a boarding process to enable our soldiers to apply for jobs in both regular



C Company soldiers on patrol in Kenya on Exercise HAKA STORM.

battalions and other Regiments in the wider Queen's Division. Ultimately it will enable soldiers to move between the Vikings and the Poachers to gain experience of both roles without having to move barracks. While it has been

difficult to say farewell to so many excellent Vikings, I am confident they will quickly feel at home in the Poachers and proudly represent the Vikings ethos. The investment in Project 64, and the co-location of the Vikings and Poachers has gone very smoothly, with joint events between the Messes, combined sports teams, and support to training. The significant investment by the Regiment in Kendrew Barracks has been gratefully received ahead of delivery of the longer-term Army plan for Kendrew Barracks

In the space of four months, we have established ourselves as an integral part of 11 Security Force Assistance Brigade. The immediate future sees the Vikings deploying to Thetford to train the Armed Forces of Ukraine on Op INTERFLEX, an important task that I know will be delivered in true Vikings style with the utmost commitment and quiet professionalism. Thereafter our focus will turn to support weapons training and cadres and delivering SFA tasks across the globe. It has been a privilege to command the Vikings over the past 12 months, and I could not be prouder of what we have achieved together, and the way we have done it. Stabilis.



Anti-Tanks on Exercise HAMMER in Finland.

The end of my tenure as Viking Regimental Sergeant Major is fast approaching, the past 24 months have been outstanding, and it has been a real privilege to hold such a prestigious position.

The Battalion is now firmly settled into Kendrew Barracks, Rutland, which see us being based with the 2nd Battalion (The Poachers). Having conducted the unit move the Battalion now sits under the Command of 11 Bde, which see us re-role into a Security Force Assistant (SFA) Battalion. This will see members from across the Battalion deploying around the world at section to company level to conduct SFA tasks with partner nations.

It was a busy final seven months in Cyprus for the Battalion which saw 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.

The last seven months in Cyprus also saw companies deploy all round the world to places such as Bahrain on Op KIPION and the jungles of Belize which saw B Company take part in Ex MAYAN VIKING.

Since being back in the UK we have already seen B Company deploy to BOSNIA and C and D Companies deploy to Kenya on Ex HARRAKA STORM.

Throughout the past 12 months we have strived to maintain our soldiering skills ensuring we are ready to deploy anywhere in the world should we get the call. This has been achieved by numerous company level exercises. We also conducted the Captain Driver Challenge, where sections from across the Battalion competed in an arduous exercise that tested them mentally and physically around some unforgiving

From the RSM

WO1 (RSM) Lee Estwick.



were narrowly beaten by the Parachute Regiment.

The boxing team is now in training again along with the Poacher's Boxing team in preparation for the upcoming Charity Boxing event that will be held in Kendrew Barracks in December. This event is to raise money for the Royal Anglian Association. A very important organization that offers help to our serving soldiers and veteran family.

My focus for the remaining time I have as Regimental Sergeant Major is to ensure the Battalion transition to an SFA Unit is carried out as smoothly as possible and that our entire workforce understands the opportunities this bring. I also want to ensure that are JNCOs are getting the opportunity to develop themselves personally and professionally, giving them the tools to enhance their command and leadership skills.

In summary, it has been another very busy and fulfilling year and we are looking forward to what the future brings. 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.

I would like to take this moment to thank all those that I have work with over the last 24 months, the effort and commitment you have displayed has been outstanding. I am truly grateful for all the support you have shown me and the Battalion.

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.

terrain. The highlight for many (not all) was the abseil of a 25-meter bridge, which some attacked headfirst (literally!).

Sport is a very important part of Battalion life and we have seen a lot of success this year across a wide variety of sports. The Battalion wakeboarding team won the Infantry Championships this year. The Viking Rugby team won the Dubai 7s under, which is a huge achievement.

The boxing team have also had another outstanding year and made it to the finals of the Army Major Unit Boxing Championships where they



1st Battalion

A (Norfolk) Company

OC's Introduction

Maj Jet Ryan

Another successful and fast paced year for 'The Fighting Ninth' which has seen A (Norfolk) Company conduct numerous operational tasks, exercises and tasks all over the globe. 2023 began at the same velocity as it ended in 2022.

Having taken well-earned Christmas leave 'The Norfolks' returned to Cyprus, but only for a fleeting visit. After two weeks in camp preparing personal equipment and freight, we began the long journey to Oman for Ex KHANJAR OMAN alongside 2 R ANGLIAN. Despite already being in Cyprus, and thus reasonably close to Oman, the RAF decided to fly us to Cyprus via the UK.

To make our force projection more complex, some of our soldiers had to take civilian flights. Nevertheless, the

company was soon complete in theatre, and before long we had deployed on exercise under the stars. After a Battlegroup exercise, adventure training, R&R, and an outstanding live firing package, A (Norfolk) Company returned to Cyprus and immediately commenced Public Order Validation; our third in three years.

Once again, 'The Norfolks' excelled and scored green across all assessed activities. The following month in March was marked by the release of the BBC documentary "Stacey Dooley: Ready for War" which follows a company of Ukrainians as they underwent training on Op INTERFLEX delivered by A (Norfolk) Company in November to December 2022.

After our Public Order Validation, A (Norfolk) Company began a stretch of battalion guard before standing down on Easter Leave. We had a staggered return as we took on Op TIMBERN responsibilities in both Cyprus and Bahrain.

1 Platoon deployed to protect the UK naval facilities in Bahrain for six weeks and conducted close quarter battle training alongside the US Coastguard. After returning to Alexander Barracks, we shifted focus to the unit move back to the UK and making the most of our last few sunny weeks on island. Before long, however, C (Essex) Company suddenly deployed on Op BREAKBACK, providing chemical washdown points on the crossing points



A (Norfolk) Company stands proud on completion of the Oakham Remembrance Parade.

between the Sovereign Base Areas and the Turkish Controlled North, to prevent an outbreak of Goat pox from crossing into the territories. Reacting swiftly, 'The Fighting Ninth' provided a relief in place to C (Essex) Company and completed the final week of Operation BREAKBACK with our characteristic professionalism.

Our farewell to Cyprus culminated in a company social event, involving a private cruise of the Ayia Napa coastline. Our return to the UK came fast and 'The Norfolks' were the first company to move from Dhekelia to the Battalion's new home in Kendrew Barracks alongside our sister Battalion, The Poachers. For some of our soldiers, the Mediterranean dream was over, but for others they were relieved to be home after a busy two years.

Since returning to the UK and back into the Field Army, the pace of life has not relinquished, with a number of 'Norfolk' soldiers deploying for six months to Poland and Germany on Op INTERLINK in support of Ukraine and to Kenya to conduct training with C (Essex) Company and D (Cambridgeshire) Company. A (Norfolk) Company was also on point to deliver the Land Combat Power Visit in Copehill Down village during October on behalf of 11th Security Force Assistance Brigade.

This involved demonstrating the capability of our new role as a Security Force Assistance Battalion to about 300 Advanced Command and Staff Course students, numerous starred officers, international partners, and civilians. This was a great opportunity to communicate the Viking's purpose to an influential cohort of people. Furthermore, 'The Fighting Ninth' were involved in the highly coveted "Combat Power Demonstration" which saw our soldiers putting their foreign weapon expertise into practice whilst operating alongside tanks and AFVs in the urban environment.

Most recently, and after conducting successful and testing company training in the Ashdown Forest, A (Norfolk) Company had the honour of representing the Royal Anglian Regiment on the Oakham Remembrance parade. With



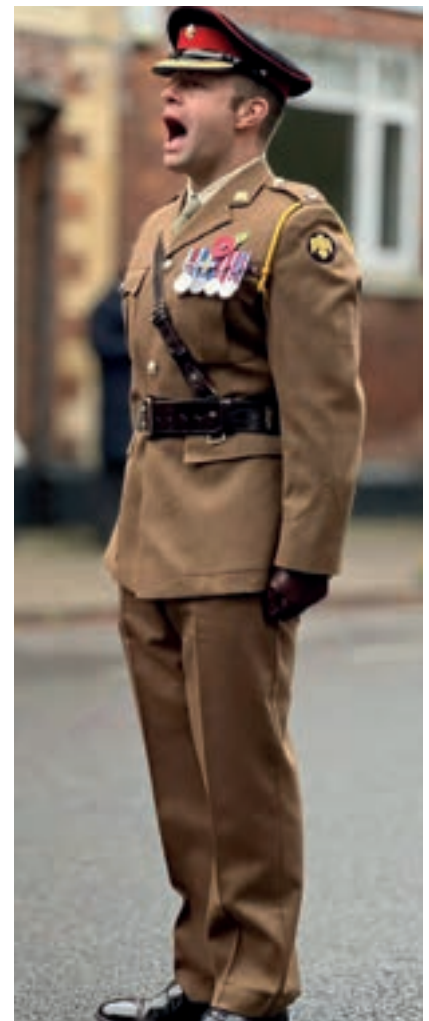
The Fighting Ninth forms up ready to march through Oakham High Street.

faultless turnout, "The Fighting Ninth" saluted the Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland in our march past after paying respects to the Fallen, which included listening to the roll of honour from Rutland, with many Viking names adorning that list from recent operations. Not wanting to rest on our laurels, we will finish 2023 as the UK Standby Battalion lead company group for the north of England until Boxing Day.

Supported by soldiers from B (Suffolk) Company and at 12 hours notice to move, we remain stood by to support other Government Agencies and Departments in emergencies such as flooding and events requiring Armed Police backfill. Looking forward, we will return to work in January 2024 to deliver training to Ukrainian soldiers on Op INTERFLEX....but before then, some well-deserved leave for all the men and women of "The Fighting Ninth". Well done to all that they have achieved over the year!

Arrivals and departures

The 'Fighting Ninth' has said farewell to the following Officers and SNCOs over the last 12 months: Maj James Walters, Capt Rob Smith, Lt Eleanor Potter, Lt Adam Moss and Sgt Gaz White. The following have been welcomed into A (Norfolk) Company since January 2023: Maj Jet Ryan, Capt Dougie Mileham, Sgt Ushan Silva and Sgt James Dawe.



OC A (Norfolk) Company gives the command to march off.



1st Battalion

Ex KHANJAR OMAN

Captain E Potter, 2IC (Former) A (Norfolk) Company

Ex DESERT KHANJAR (DK) saw A (Norfolk) Company deploy to Oman alongside The Poachers Battle Group from February to March 2023. The Company deployed in our capacity as the light role infantry company held at readiness for Cyprus Operations.

A (Norfolk) Company deployed from Cyprus to Duqm where we received cultural and medical briefs as well conducting acclimatisation to prepare for deployment onto the ground. On completion of the package the Company began a 14-day exercise which included both platoon and company level training before we joined onto the Poachers' Battlegroup.

The first few days of the exercise saw us conduct low level platoon and company training to adapt to working in the desert environment, and from troop carrying vehicles (TCVs). The sections and platoons took time to refine their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure they would be well drilled before joining the Battlegroup. Having familiarised ourselves with the new environment, the 'Fighting Ninth' joined the Poachers Battlegroup in their role as the attached light role infantry company. The company undertook missions both in the light role, and we were also given the opportunity to attach to a Poachers' Company to learn how to operate from the Fox Hound platform. This saw successful integration of the two Battalions as well as integration of infantry roles in order to best suit the



**Lt Jooste-Jennings,
OC 1 Platoon in the trenches
during the final platoon
attack of live fire training.**

The Vikings



**A Viking soldier
operates a GPMG
during cross-
training with the
Poachers.**



1st Battalion

mission. The exercise phase ended with a Battlegroup demonstration alongside the Omani Army.

On completion of the exercise the Company went to Muscat where we conducted adventurous training and a cultural tour. The adventure training package included mountain biking, kayaking and hill walking, and the cultural tour included visiting the Grand Mosque and the Museum of Muscat.

On returning from Muscat we deployed back onto the area at Duqm to conduct a live fire training package. The Company went through live firing from individual all the way up to a live platoon attack, culminating with a trench clearance. This was invaluable training for the company as it allowed for the development of individual skills as well as section and platoon level drills.

Oman was a fantastic opportunity for A (Norfolk) Company to operate as both a Company group, but also as part of a Battlegroup alongside the Poachers. The Company performed well both on exercise and during the live fire phase, which gave commanders and soldiers the opportunity to develop the way they operate in a new environment in the Battlegroup context



Lt Jooste-Jennings, OC 1 Platoon, WO2 Watson, CSM A (Norfolk) Coy and Sgt Rouse 2IC 1 Platoon after the final attack of the dry exercise.

3 Platoon with their Omani counterparts after the final attack of the dry exercise.



Pte Williams, Pte Evans and Pte Spargo take a break during live firing.





1st Battalion

Op PENSACOLA Cambrian Patrol Security Force Assistance Task

Lieutenant B Jooste-Jennings, 2IC A (Norfolk) Company



Cpl Matt Ward provides instruction on observation posts.

The Kremlin's aggression and expansionism threatens Euro-Atlantic peace and security, particularly in the Balkans region where tensions between neighbours—some of whom have strong links to Moscow—are already fraught. The UK continues to conduct activity in the Balkans through our multilateral and bilateral alliances. Such activity helps the UK to build resilience to Russian malign activity and reassure our allies and partners of the UK's credibility, capability, and commitment. This is the strategic context that underpins A (Norfolk) Company's deployment on Op PENSACOLA.

On 4 September 2023, Lt Jooste-Jennings, Sgt Rouse and Cpl Ward from

A (Norfolk) Company deployed to the Western Balkans to support the delivery of Cambrian patrol training camps to teams from Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia in preparation for Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL 23. On arrival in North Macedonia, the team was met by SO2 PENSACOLA at Skopje International Airport and picked up a hire car. We then drove to the British embassy in Skopje to receive briefings from the regional Defence Attaché.

From the British embassy, the TEAM drove to Kosovo. Shortly after crossing the border, we linked up with the point of contact from the Kosovo army and were led into the International Search and Rescue Centre within Pomozotin

Barracks, a first-class facility tailored to provide realistic training for disaster response teams. We spent a week here delivering low-level training to the Cambrian patrol teams from Albania and Kosovo.

It was particularly good to see that a friend of mine from Sandhurst and Brecon was a commander in the Kosovo team. This deployment thus proved a particularly opportune moment to further strengthen bonds and friendships with our allies.

After a week of training, both teams took part in a mock Cambrian patrol exercise north of Pristina. This exercise was organised and coordinated by the Kosovo army; and the team acted as



Sgt Jason Rouse delivers critical CBRN training.

observers and mentors throughout, providing feedback and guidance to the exercising troops. Fortunately, we also had time on the weekend to explore the surrounding areas. After this exercise, the team left Kosovo and drove back across the border to Skopje, liaising with our North Macedonian point of contact. We were accommodated at Llinden barracks in Skopje with the Ranger Battalion. Here the team conducted more low-level training before mentoring the Cambrian patrol team during their final exercise in Krivolak—a mountainous training area boasting complex terrain which bore a striking resemblance to the ground in Cyprus.

Upon completion of all training objectives, the team back briefed the Defence Attaché in Skopje before recovering to the UK early on 22 Sep 2023. It was gratifying to later learn that all teams performed well during Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL with North Macedonia and Kosovo securing bronze medals, and Albania a silver.

As the Vikings strive to be the UK's premier Security Force Assistance Battalion, Op PENSACOLA was an early and successful illustration of the Battalion's capacity to deploy small

independent teams at reach to deliver global effect. In an increasingly unstable and congested operating environment,

such a capability is indispensable in retaining a competitive edge over our adversaries.



Sgt Jason Rouse assesses a set of orders.



1st Battalion

B (Suffolk) Company

Major Oliver Bullen

Another busy and demanding year for B (Suffolk) Company has come to a rewarding end in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Company is currently deployed to the Balkans as part of Op ELGIN, delivering the Battalion's first company-level Security Force Assistance activity. This follows directly on from Op PENSACOLA where a small team, led by Lt White delivered a JNCO Cadre in North Macedonia in October. We are currently training and integrating with the Recce Platoons from 4th, 5th, and 6th Infantry Brigades. The training has focused on enhancing and enabling the recce skills of these Platoons and teaching them new skills such as Close Quarter Battle.

The training has been hugely successful so far and is about to come to fruition through a confirmation of training rehearsal. This has seen Company Orders delivered to enable joint planning for an integrated BiH and UK attack onto a complex urban environment. The recce and marking of the attack will be completed by a BiH force with the attack being led by BiH Recce Soldier who have an attached force from the UK.

This integration will display our ability to work with non-NATO partners in a professional and well-planned assault. On our return to the UK the Suffolks are facing a seismic change to the ORBAT as we, like the rest of the Bn re-role to become a Security

Force Assistance Battalion (SFAB). B Company will assume the specialisms of Anti Tanks and Assault Pioneers alongside our usual infantry excellence. This role is an exciting one, and if the deployment to the Balkans is anything to go by, a rewarding one also.

Looking back over the past year I am reminded of fond memories from other recent deployments. It has been an extremely busy year which started out on Operations in Cyprus and Bahrain. The Coy has seen multiple deployments to both strategically imperative Operations and we have delivered the usual Suffolk quality on every occasion.

Returning from these theatres saw the Coy quickly redeploy onto a Public Order exercise to remain validated for



Op ELGIN - Cpl Aiden Cornwell oversees his section practising the 'Break In' during CQB training.



Op ELGIN - A B Company soldier assisting the BiH Long Range Surveillance Group's recce cadre.

future Cyprus Operations.

We tackled the Essex Company hoards with ease and were able to remain calm in the face of tough opposition. The Coy particularly enjoyed being able to return the favour once C Company were on the line and had a blast delivering expertly guided potato projectiles into the depths of



Ex MAYAN VIKING - 6 PI enjoy some snorkelling at the Blue Hole near San Pedro.



Ex MAYAN VIKING - WO2 Haldenby, Maj Bullen, Lt Col Thompson MBE and WO1 Estwick prior to crossing the Macal River in Belize.



1st Battalion



Ex MAYAN VIKING - Maj Ollie Bullen and WO2 Jay Haldenby taking a break from LFTT.

their formation. Immediately after this exercise we redeployed to Op KIPION and Op TIMBERN, here the Company spent their spare time preparing for our next deployment, which would train and evaluate our low level infantry excellence to the highest level and in the most demanding environment, the Jungles of Belize.

Ex MAYAN VIKING was the jewel in the crown of this year's training. In the deepest parts of Guacamallo Training Area the Company sharpened their skills and their machetes to a razor sharp edge. The training, delivered by a team of Jungle Warfare Instructors from the Bn was first rate and pushed the Company physically and mentally for four weeks under the canopy to ensure we were ready for any future operations.

Highlights of the Exercise were the survival day, where the soldiers learnt to kill and gut a pig and the final attack where they exercised mission command and radio silence to advance across large swathes of the jungle, clearing a capable and well versed enemy from the Area of Operations.

No exercise would be complete without rest and recuperation. The soldiers took a few days off to explore the islands of San Pedro and Caye Caulker, where they were able to go deep sea fishing, snorkelling and scuba diving.

B Company has thrown themselves into all sporting aspects too. Pte Forinton has won his first professional bout and has now left the Suffolks to join the Army Elite Sports Programme as a

professional boxer. Pte White continues to represent the Infantry swimming team to an extremely high standard as does Pte Kenny Davis for the Infantry rugby team. And of course, Cpl Richardson is still managing and training the Bn cross country team to its usual high standard.

The Suffolk Company is looking forward to attacking the new challenges that 2024 will bring us with fervour and unquenchable energy whilst maintaining the humble and professional ethos for which we are renowned. The SFAB construct offers a huge amount of freedom to deliver infantry excellence across Europe and the Balkans, if the deployment to North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina are anything to go by this is set to be a fantastic and thoroughly rewarding year ahead.

Exercise MAYAN VIKING

Lt Hugo Flint, OC 5 Platoon, B (Suffolk) Company



LCpl Roslyn Mackie patrols through dense secondary jungle with the Recce Platoon.

Deep within the heart of the Belizean jungle, amidst the dense foliage and teeming wildlife, B Company embarked on a challenging six-week jungle warfare exercise in the summer of 2023. B (Suffolk) Company Group comprised of Company Headquarters, three Rifle Platoons, and the Reconnaissance Platoon from D (Cambridgeshire) Company. The exercise was supported by a training team of Jungle Warfare Instructors from across the Queen's Division.

The exercise was a comprehensive run-out for B (Suffolk) Company, commencing with basic jungle skills and culminating in a company final exercise that included everything from company attacks to river crossings and

platoon raids on enemy jungle camps. The soldiers were rigorously assessed on their ability to fight and win in the unforgiving Belizean jungle.

The deployment began in Price Barracks in Belize City, where soldiers familiarized themselves with the unique flora and fauna native to Belize, including jaguars, snakes, and parasitic botflies amongst many more. They also delved into theory lessons on jungle procedures, including reconnaissance, patrol, and attack skills.

Deploying to the Guacamallo region of the Belizean jungle, the soldiers started by establishing harbour areas and learning survival skills. Navigating through the dense jungle where visibility is rarely more than 20 metres,

administering themselves in the hot and humid environment, and mastering the art of setting up ponchos and hammocks in pitch darkness were key tasks during this phase.

The second week in the canopy saw B (Suffolk) Company progressing to the intermediate phase, where the soldiers honed their tactical skills. This phase encompassed patrolling, tactical navigation, platoon attacks, and reacting swiftly and aggressively in a meeting engagement with the enemy. The importance of acute listening and an introduction to tracking highlighted the importance of 'tuning in' to the environment at all times.

A pivotal moment arrived the following week in the form of live-fire



1st Battalion

tactical training. The soldiers began with individual contact drills, advancing to section-level contact drills. Witnessing the devastating impact of machine gun fire on the jungle environment, including trees falling, was a sobering experience. The week concluded with live platoon attacks on enemy-held villages.

The final week of the exercise consisted of the field training exercise pushing the limits of the soldiers of B Company. They navigated a realistic scenario, with platoons showcasing initiative as they reconnoitred and engaged an enemy reconnaissance screen at reach from their own command and logistics chain. Crossing the crocodile infested Macal River in tactical formations, they executed a final Company attack on a village, held by an enemy platoon. The reconnaissance platoon orchestrated a diversion and ambush on reinforcing enemy, while B Company attacked in a two-up formation, marking the end of their gruelling 26-day jungle deployment.

As the troops emerged from the jungle, they relished well-deserved downtime in Belize. Rest and



CSgt Chris Scott sends a detail contact report to the Coy HQ after clearing an enemy camp.



Pte Jesse Kumar conducting live jungle contact drills with a GPMG .

recuperation took them to San Pedro, an island off Belize's coast. In addition to R&R, the soldiers conducted adventurous training, including abseiling down a 300-foot cliff and caving.

The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Adrian Thompson said about the exercise "All of the skills the soldiers have picked up here are absolutely transferable. Belize is one of the Land Regional Hubs that the Army has set up from the Integrated Review and the intention is to continue to use this for expeditionary training. One of the things we're looking at throughout the army and how we fight in the future is in a much more dispersed manner and in order to do that, a company must understand how it can operate at reach whilst still fight and remain effective."

The deployment to the Belizean jungle undeniably transformed the soldiers of B Company. They were able to hone their dismounted infantry core skills in one of the world's most demanding environments, enabling and embracing their new role in 11 Brigade and returning from Cyprus as part of the Field Army.



Cpl Howard Dix gives QBOs to his section during a jungle camp attack.



Cpl Lewis Strong covers marks release point en route to an enemy position.



1st Battalion

Ex VIKING DRAKKAR

An inspiring journey to the battlefields of Gallipoli

WO2 Jason Haldenby, CSM B (Suffolk) Company



Lt Col Thompson and the students visit the Helles Memorial.

In April 23, a group of 17 JNCOs, SNCOs, and officers from the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment embarked on a two-week battlefield study to Gallipoli. The aim of this Battlefield Study was to pay homage to the valiant soldiers who

fought gallantly during the First World War, and to gain a deeper understanding of the strategic intricacies and human stories that unfolded on the battlefield.

Led by an expert historian the groups traversed the meticulously

preserved battlefields, studying the remnants of trenches, fortifications, and memorials. Each site visited unveiled a unique chapter of this hard-fought conflict, allowing the Royal Anglian participants to vividly visualise the past



Cpl Aaron Priestly leads a discussion on the Moral Component of Fighting Power at Azmak Cemetery.



Students follow the stretcher bearer route down the infamous Rhododendron Ridge. The same route that the New Zealand infantry attacked up.



1st Battalion

and comprehend the magnitude of the sacrifices made.

Beyond the physical remnants, the Battlefield Study also incorporated engaging discussions and presentations, where participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives. These intellectual exchanges enriched the experience, enabling the Royal Anglian members to foster a deeper appreciation for the strategic decisions made and the impact they had on the outcome of the campaign. However, it was the enthralling account of the missing Norfolks at Suvla Bay on 12th August 1915 that truly captured their attention.

The historian's narrative shed light on the valiant actions and tragic fate of the missing Norfolks. Through vivid descriptions and meticulous research, lives of the famous 'Sandringham Pals' were brought to life by the historian. The team learned about the circumstances that led to their disappearance and the enduring mystery that has lingered for decades. The stories painted a picture of heroism, resilience, and sacrifice, leaving the team in awe of the courage displayed by their Regimental predecessors.

The battlefield study to Gallipoli proved to be a truly transformative experience for the team from 'The



WO2 Haldenby and Lt Browne walk the remains of the trenches on Anzac Ridge.

Vikings'. It allowed them to analyse and discuss a wide range of tactics employed during the campaign, deepening their understanding of military strategy and Regimental history.

As the 1st Battalion bade farewell to the battlefields of Gallipoli, they carried with them a renewed appreciation for the sacrifices made a century ago by their

forebearers. The Battlefield Study had allowed them to pay tribute to the past while gaining invaluable insights into tactics from both sides of the Great War. The journey to Gallipoli was a testament to the enduring power of remembrance and the profound impact it can have on those who embark on such a journey of discovery.



Students are briefed on the beach assault of ANZAC Cove by the Turkish Guide.

North Macedonia SFA Activity

Lieutenant Oliver White, OC 6 Pl. B (Suffolk) Company

In a recent B Coy deployment to North Macedonia, it was the training teams' mission to run a rigorous 4-week JNCO (Junior Non-Commissioned Officer) Cadre for 40 Macedonian Private Soldiers drawn from the 1st Infantry Brigade, representing various battalions, including the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Infantry Battalions, as well as the Artillery, MP, and MI battalions.

At the heart of the training program was a curriculum founded on UK tactics and based on the Queen's Division Training Team JNCO Cadre. The soldiers underwent a comprehensive evaluation encompassing key skills: Shoot, Move, Communicate, Medicate, and Survive.

The training was divided into four intensive weeks, each designed to instil vital military skills and foster junior level leadership:

The first week kicked off with a Fitness test, Military Knowledge test, Navigation lessons, and basic fieldcraft lessons. This laid the foundation for the soldiers' understanding of essential military concepts. The second week delved into the heart of military operations, focusing on Section Battle Drills, Recce, Ambush Lessons, and even a Fire Team Patrols competition. It was a week that tested their mettle and teamwork.

Week three introduced live-fire exercises and a demanding 3-day field exercise that allowed the soldiers to put into practice everything they had learned thus far. It was a week that brought realism and combat readiness to the forefront. The final week was



Sgt Dale May oversees Quick Battle Orders before a section attack.

the culmination of their training, involving a challenging 5-day exercise akin to Attack week 1 on SCBC. Here, the students were assessed on their Section Commander and Section 2IC appointments. The climax of the course was a final platoon attack led by a Macedonian Platoon Commander and Sergeant.

Beyond the acquisition of technical military skills, the SFA mission aimed to elevate the level of Mission Command among junior leaders within the Macedonian 1st Infantry Brigade. This endeavour was more than just a training exercise; it was a bridge between two nations, and two armies and ultimately an opportunity to strengthen partnerships within the Eastern European AO.

The deployment was not only a fruitful experience for the Macedonian soldiers but also an invaluable

opportunity for the Vikings to learn about Macedonian tactics and military culture. It marked a significant stride towards building interoperability within Eastern Europe.

For the Vikings, this deployment represented a great first run out in their new role as a Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) unit. As they returned home, the team carried with them not only a sense of accomplishment but also the assurance that they had contributed to the development of Mission Command and junior leadership within the Macedonian Army.

This mission exemplified the power of international collaboration and the capacity of military forces to operate symbiotically. It was not just about training; it was about forging bonds and nurturing leaders who will shape the future of security in Eastern Europe.



Training Team pose with the students who have passed the JNCO Cadre.

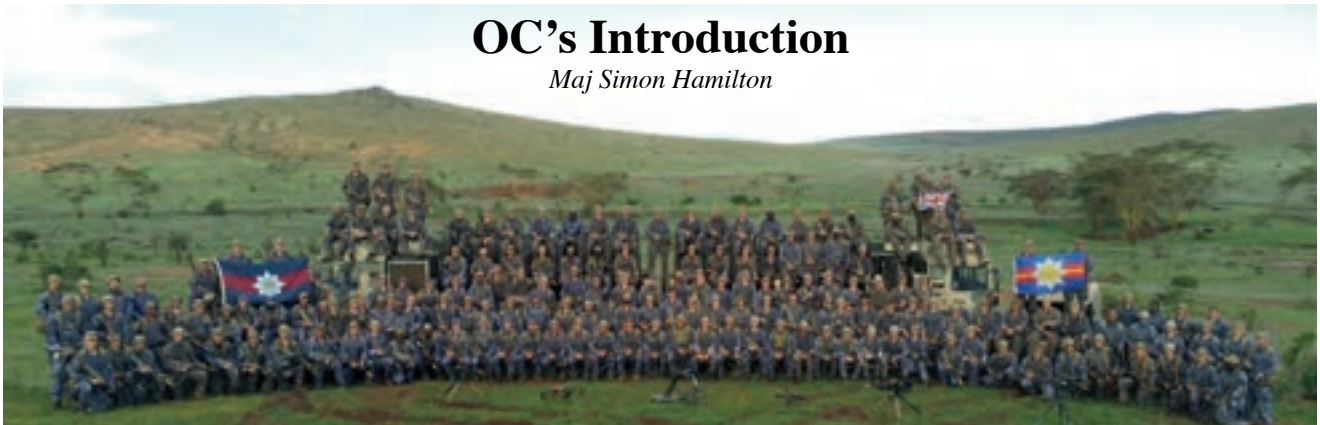


1st Battalion

C (Essex) Company

OC's Introduction

Maj Simon Hamilton



C Company.

A varied and busy year for C (Essex) Company has seen the Company deploy on a variety of tasks; Force Protection (FP) in Cyprus and Bahrain, a platoon in the Belizian jungle, Op POLAR BEAR and the evacuation of UK Entitled Persons (EPs) from Sudan, supporting Cypriot and Sovereign Based Area (SBA) elements in controlling infectious disease and a number of exercises in Cyprus – not to mention a unit move.

The Company is currently deployed to Kenya on Ex HAKARA STORM 2/23 and is about to reform as a Recce and Sniper Company in the new year as part of the Battalion's conversion to become a Security Force Assistance Battalion.

The year began re-setting from a disparate Christmas period before deploying to Cyprus and Bahrain. Here, never to let a training opportunity pass,



Maj Simon Hamilton and WO2 Jordan Gibbs with Samburu.

the deployed platoons worked tirelessly to conduct individual and collective training wherever possible.

With the sights set on deploying to Belize and Kenya, the imperative to be as ready as possible was never clearer. Shortly afterwards, the Company deployed on a series of weeklong exercises, including time in the excellent Western SBA training area in Cyprus, conducting platoon and company level serials in a demanding environment and climate.

This included leadership and development training in the Troodos Mountains, bringing in some excellent outside speakers to discuss their thoughts on personal development, leadership, and Operations.

Part of the second-year task in Cyprus is to be on a high state of readiness for



C Company with respirators.

events that may occur within, or close to Cyprus. Whilst events in Israel and Gaza continue to unfold, it is a stark reminder of the importance of Cyprus as a Global Hub to UK Defence.

C (Essex) Company found themselves on the forefront of Operations in the evacuation of UK EPs from Sudan in May 2023. Here, the Company deployed to Larnaca Airport and led the military arm of the Temporary Safe Location for UK EPs, ahead of their transit to the UK. Small teams of soldiers worked tirelessly to assist those evacuated from Sudan.

Excellently led by the JNCOs of the Company, the soldiers of Essex Company were outstanding and significantly helped not only those being evacuated, but also the plethora

of Government Departments, agencies and charities that were supporting the Operation. Sgt Gordon and his team kept accommodation and transport running for over 2,000 EPs evacuated through Cyprus, rightly earning a 2* Commendation for his efforts.

Not yet finished, the Company then assisted the Cypriot Government a month later in dealing with an agricultural infectious disease outbreak in Northern Cyprus. Again, the soldiers performed superbly in a less than glamorous task, in very hot conditions.

Meanwhile a platoon and several Jungle Warfare Instructors from the Company deployed to Belize with B (Suffolk) Company. An excellent package was put together and the platoon enjoyed/suffered the delights

of operating in the jungle for six weeks. Pte Bajralija of C (Essex) Company won the top soldier prize across the whole Company Group – for which he should be justifiably proud.

The year comes to an end after a successful deployment to Kenya as a free-thinking enemy known as Task Force Hannibal, under 1st Battalion Irish Guards Battlegroup, against 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

This deployment was two months in the Kenyan bush and allowed C (Essex) Company to develop our soldiering skills, whilst integrating in the culture and adventurous training. A deployment that was physically and mentally demanding, in a country which had its worst rain in 27 years! An experience for all!

Op POLAR BEAR

Lieutenant Samuel Barke – OC 10 Platoon, C (Essex) Company

By the end of April 2023 the Sudanese civil conflict had reached boiling point and footage of the conflict circulated on news channels across the globe. Before long the need to evacuate entitled persons (EPs) and their families out of the country away from the conflict became apparent. UK military personnel from the Royal Marines, as well as our island neighbours, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment were deployed to the area to assist in securing the airport in Khartoum and supporting the FCDO personnel on the ground.

Before long, C (Essex) Company were notified of a need for assistance at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus, where a temporary safe location was to be established at the state-of-the-art Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC). The Company, led by Major Tom Green, CSM Jordan Gibbs and Coy 2IC Harry Browne were deployed along with 10 Platoon led by Lt Samuel Barke, Sgt Craig Gordon and Sgt Nathan Anderson as well as CQMS Bradley Hilton.

Before the planes began to touchdown at Larnaca containing EPs, the creation and implementation of a process of passport checks, border force consultation, embassy and consulate review. Additionally charitable support



Cpl Jack Hubbard pulls EPs luggage through the Airport terminal to assist in their passage back to the UK.

from the Cypriot and British Red Cross was needed. Soldiers from C (Essex) Company carried-out the set up with

generous support given from each organisation with resources contributed to the joint effort. The Cypriot National Guard offered up a nearby camp where EPs could go for rest, sleep and water whilst they waited for flights back to the UK. Before long C (Essex) Company became the lynchpin and facilitators for any problems that arose, to make the EPs passage to the UK and elsewhere as smooth as possible.

The effort totalled 66 individuals from the UK military, including RAF and RLC movers, BFC G1 staff in addition to C (Essex) Company, as well as 44 staff from UK government departments such as the UK Consulate and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.

Once a process was formed and resources allocated, all elements sprang to life. Soldiers from C (Essex) Company found themselves helping in any way they could; assisting and escorting personnel through the administrative checks, carrying babies and pushing wheelchairs when needed, assisting with the feeding and housing of individuals at the camp etc. CSgt Hilton and his G4 team worked around the clock to ensure that the team were sustained on the ground and ensured that everyone had



1st Battalion



EPs assisted by C (Essex) Company soldiers are received from an RAF flight into Larnaca Airport.

everything they needed to allow them to provide the highest level of support and care. Once EPs began to arrive in their hundreds, with numerous flights every few hours, their vulnerability was evident to all. Children and elderly relatives dispersed among the families received help from C (Essex) Company and were guided through the process with patience, respect, and dignity. From the most experienced NCOs all the way down to the newest members of the Company, the effort levels and professionalism were exceptional across the board. Many of the private soldiers involved commented on the tangible nature of their impact on the individuals concerned, and how grateful the EPs were to receive help.

The whole Company worked around the clock to ensure the process

was efficient and smooth, and that the same level of care was provided to each individual arriving. For their excellent and tireless commitment numerous members of C (Essex) Company were recognised for their efforts on Op POLAR BEAR. Ptes Sean Dadds and Pte Kelvin Katemba received a Commanding Officer's coin and special recognition from DCBF as did Cpl Jack Hubbard. Each used their initiative to its greatest effect in an environment that was far removed from what an infantry soldier would expect to find themselves in, but one that showcased the adaptability of the Battalion to whatever task is asked of it.

Sgt Craig Gordon received a 2-Star Commendation for his fantastic work co-ordinating the Cypriot National Guard camp to ensure that all EPs

remained comfortable and had access to basic amenities for them and their dependants. In summary, the JRCC saw 2425 EPs (1885 British) come through its gates and receive food, shelter and support from C (Essex) Company.

It was a fantastic opportunity to engage with members of numerous organisations and club together on a humanitarian effort with an instant and tangible effect on the global community. All members of C (Essex) Company performed exceptionally throughout and saw the impact of their hard work right before their eyes.

It was a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the Battalions flexibility and proved that Viking soldiers have the calibre and professionalism to do anything that is asked of them to the highest of standard.

D (Cambridgeshire) Company

OC's Introduction

Maj Matt Mackinder-Jonas



Exercise HAKARA STORM - Machine Gun Platoon.

As I write this article, it seems as though the dust has barely settled from the unit move before we to deploy to Kenya as part of the Irish Guards (IG) BG on Ex HAKARA STORM. This deployment will see C (Essex) and D (Cambridgeshire) Coys deploy as sub-unit manoeuvre groups under an IG BG HQ to assume the role of Task Force HANNIBAL (TFH) for the Grenadier Guards (GG) BG.

Whilst there have been considerable challenges in turning the Coy around in a short space of time since arriving back from Cyprus, I have been mightily impressed with the attitude

and application that all ranks in D Coy have demonstrated in approaching this exercise. It should be highlighted that the majority of the Coy have had little over 2 weeks to prepare, and it is testament to the professionalism of the junior soldiers and commanders that we will deploy in good order to deliver valuable training to the GG.

This vein of professionalism has run through all D Coy activities this year. This was superbly demonstrated during the annual Captain Driver Challenge in Dec 2022 where a combined Recce and Snipers team took first place, with the Machine Gun Pl coming second. Capt

Luke Talkington and WO2 Page must take considerable credit for developing a challenging training programme for this event, allowing all ranks in D Coy to refresh their basic combat skills and military knowledge. Overall, the collective effort of the Coy was simply outstanding. Praise must also be reserved for the Training Wing, medical personnel and CIS Pl for enabling this event.

D Company has utilised time this year to maintain our current warfighting ability. Each platoon was given time, space and resources in which to plan and deliver their respective Support Weapons



1st Battalion



Exercise HAKARA STORM - Machine Gun Platoon.

cadres. This enabled each PI to enhance its capability and lethality through the training of new and existing members of D Coy. Each PI has submitted a separate article covering their respective cadres, however from a command point of view, I was deeply impressed by the level of detail and effort that went into the planning and delivery of each cadre. This has ensured that a considerable proportion of 1 R ANGLIAN is support weapons trained and qualified leading into our transition into the Security Force Assistance role.

Whilst D Coy was, for the large part, committed to securing the operational sites in Cyprus and Bahrain, opportunities for training have been fully exploited. A combined ATK and Sniper PI deployed to Kuwait with B Sqn,

Queens Dragoon Guards on Ex DESERT WARRIOR in February to deliver training to both the QDG and Kuwaiti ATK and Sharpshooter individuals. Despite challenging conditions and a temperamental G4 wrap, both PIs delivered a superb training package that was highly praised by both the Kuwaiti chain of command and the in-country BMATT.

A newly trained and resourced Recce Platoon deployed to Belize on Ex MAYAN VIKING within the B Coy Gp in order to learn and practice operating in the jungle, for which close target reconnaissance is a particular challenge. Nonetheless, the Recce PI performed superbly and provided a battle-winning capability to the Coy Gp.

From Easter onwards, focus

understandably switched towards the unit move from Cyprus to Cottesmore and the Coy found itself balancing critical unit move preparation with ongoing operational tasks. This placed a considerable demand on all Platoons and departments within the Coy, especially with D Coy being spread across each Main Body. Despite this, each department and PI demonstrated exceptional diligence and management their personnel and their families, together with ensuring all kit and equipment was handed over to 1 RIFLES in excellent order. Particular mention must be reserved for CSgts Taylor and Murray, together with Cpls Sloan and Westerman, for their outstanding efforts in the D Coy and CIS CQMS stores respectively, both one of the largest in

the Battalion.

Sadly, the unit move also represented a 'break clean' point for several the D Coy personalities. Moving to pastures new include Capts Mike Andrews and Tom Hardiman, to become Adjutants of 3 R ANGLIAN and 3 PWRR respectively, CSgt Taylor (to the Jungle Warfare Division in Brunei), CSgt Scott (to the BMATT in the Czech Republic) and CSgt Cashman (transfer to the Australian Army). Capt Dave Coyle has moved on from OC Mortars onto loftier heights as Adjutant 1 R ANGLIAN, as has Capt Luke Talkington as Ops Offr, 1 R ANGLIAN. On arrival at Cottesmore, the Coy also saw the CIS PI resubordinate back to HQ Coy.

I would like to personally thank the entire PI, led by Capt Howard Gurney, for their superb efforts in supporting D Coy operational and guard commitments during our time in Cyprus. They have been real team players and a valuable asset to the Coy. We have also said goodbye to several SNCOs, JNCOs and Private soldiers who have all moved on posting and are too numerous to mention here, however I wish them all the very best in their new units.



Ex HAKARA STORM - Anti-Tank Platoon.

Finally, after two years of unrelenting effort and dedication to the Coy, we bid farewell to WO2 Ben Page who has been nothing short of superb over the last two years, and on behalf of the entire Coy I wish to thank him for his selfless commitment to the Coy during a particularly busy two years in Cyprus.

Luckily for D Coy and 1 R ANGLIAN, he has not gone far, taking up the position of Training Warrant Officer in 1 R ANGLIAN. In his place, we welcome WO2 Al Stearne (previously OC MG PI) as the new D Coy Sergeant Major, who has immediately been thrown in the deep end by deploying to Kenya!



Ex HAKARA STORM - Sniper Platoon.



1st Battalion

Anti-Tank Platoon



The Vikings



The Cadre.



QDG soldiers training on the Cadre.



1st Battalion



Anti Tank Platoon patrolling through the desert.



Capt Tom Hardiman receiving a gift for the Anti Tank Platoon from our Kuwaiti counterparts.



The Highway of Death, as seen in the 1991 Gulf War.



The Kuwaiti Army cultural evening.

Mortar Platoon Mortar Executive Cadre

Pte James Moore

The Mortar Platoon ran an Executives cadre to refresh all members of the Mortar Platoon in the handling and application of the 81mm Mortar. The cadre consisted of a two-week training program and was delivered on the local training area in Dhekelia.

The cadre started with a weapon handling test, followed by a military knowledge test. We then progressed onto more specialist lessons, focussing on the equipment, tactics and methods required to deliver organic fire support to the Bn. All mortar soldiers were taught to use equipment normally operated by a JNCO and above, in order to develop

their overall understanding of the roles and capabilities of the Platoon.

The key training objectives covered during the cadre were navigation, map and protractor, use of the Fire Control Application (FCA), operational safety and the start standards test for the Mortar Standards course (delivered by the Combined Arms Manoeuvre School in Warminster).

To succeed on the execs cadre, experience within the platoon is needed as you are required to know your role. The purpose of the cadre is to refresh individual's skills and drills, and prepare members of the Platoon for future training

courses, such as the Mortar Standards course. My navigation considerably improved as a result of the cadre, and I benefited from a consolidated refresh of all the skills required of a mortar number. I learned how to use a FCA and received a good insight on what is required when attending the Mortar Standards course.

I found attending this cadre beneficial and very useful due to the skills learned and training delivered. It helped me gain and improve skills at the mortar number level within the platoon, as well as developing skills required to attend promotion courses and to conduct joint training within D Coy.



1st Battalion

Machine Gun Platoon **Viking MG Cadre** *LCpl Nathan Merrill*

The Viking Machine Gun cadre was held between the 13 Mar and 10 Apr 23, and sought to train new and existing members of the MG Pl in order to maintain our warfighting capability.

The cadre began with an insertion via Puma helicopter from Alexander Barracks to the training area in the Western Sovereign Base Area. The fly over was a great opportunity to view Cyprus from above as we meandered along the southern coastline. After we reached the location and had a couple of days of admin and pre-deployment preparation, we deployed to conduct the first phase of the exercise.

The first morning was used to recce the gun line and after all the necessary data was recorded and commanders were happy, we patrolled back and re-inserted at night with full kit and bergens. A tough route insertion followed through the uneven terrain, and it was a great relief to finally reach the gun line. After a couple days of conducting defensive operations, we moved to a



Cpl Petchey controlling the gun line.



A MG det provide supporting fire onto Paramali Village.

new location where we met up with the rest of D Coy, and elements of A Coy, as we prepared to conduct offensive operations on Paralimini village. A night of preparation followed and before first light, the Companies were in position and ready for the assault. The Machine Gun platoon began the assault by laying down a heavy rate of fire to allow A Coy to advance onto the village and give them the fire support they needed. By using a peeling gun line, we were able to stay ahead of the assault and maintain a good fire support role. After the attack was finished and the village was taken, ENDEX was called and morale was further boosted by the provision of a hot breakfast!

The second phase of the cadre focused on moving over arduous terrain and establishing gun pits. We traversed over what could only be described as miniature mountains along our route.

It was some of the most difficult ground we had yet covered, especially with the weight of the guns kit, but a great accomplishment when we finally reached our LOE.

Our last gun pit position had the platoon overlooking a reservoir as we suppressed targets on the other side, demonstrating the capabilities of the guns and the operators themselves. On the final morning IDF was called in which led to us receiving a casualty and a CASEVAC followed. After getting the casualty to the HLS and securing it the exercise was finished.

The final phase of the cadre was the live firing package. It has always been the best part of being in the Machine Gun platoon and is the most satisfying part of the job. We moved down to Pyla ranges, which is scattered with old rusty tanks, a boat target in the sea and other targets. To pass the cadre, every gun pair

consisting of gunner and controller had to complete the sustained fire ACMT. A more challenging shoot to many other weapons due to the very tight time restrictions on certain parts and the accuracy required when using the C2 sight. Teamwork is essential whilst working in your pairs and the cadre helped to bring out the professionalism and talent from the platoon and gain valuable experience in operating the gun. After everyone had passed the ACMT we moved into a more relaxed shoot as we used iron sight engagement to engage the tanks and boat which is always fun as the noise and racket from six guns firing all at once is a sound any machine gunner will never forget.

Overall, the cadre was a great experience to develop our drills and skills within a new environment and allow the platoon to bond, but also make some great memories along the way.

Sniper Platoon

Sgt Jason Pritchard – Sniper Platoon Sergeant

In March 2023, 1 R ANGLIAN Sniper Platoon was tasked to run a cadre in order to maintain and develop the warfighting ability of the Platoon.

A month before the cadre began, we had an opportunity to deploy to Kuwait with the Queens Dragoon Guards and conduct live firing with our 338s. This was an excellent opportunity to deploy to a different environment and for our snipers to carry out their ACMTs on the 338. Whilst deployed, we managed to take the opportunity to explore Kuwait. When it came to the ACMT on the 338, all our snipers passed first time, with no re-shoots. This formed the first part of the sniper cadre, and set the foundations for the second (dry) phase of the cadre.

On return from Kuwait, we wanted to hit the ground running. The first week was focused on kit issue and low-level basic sniper lessons and fitness. Day one consisted of an 8-miler march and the snipers had no problem passing this test. The rest of the week saw us complete various fitness serials, including 2,3 and 5 milers, which the Platoon passed comfortably. Throughout the week, the Platoon conducted observation stands,



A sniper scanning the ground.



1st Battalion

judging distance and stalks. This gave the snipers an excellent opportunity to hone in on their basic skills and knowledge.

The second week of the cadre was the exercise phase, in which the Platoon deployed to the Western Sovereign Base Area (WSBA). The terrain in the WSBA is difficult to operate in, with steep drops and rocky ground. The Platoon was tasked to carry out an advance to clear in the area and practice patrolling as a section across the ground. The Platoon carried out these actions very effectively. The final stage of the cadre saw us inserting into, and establishing urban OP's. The Platoon established four urban OPs and enjoyed training in the urban environment which a sniper platoon rarely gets to practice.

The Sniper cadre finished on a high, with every member of the platoon gaining or refreshing sniper skills, and the cadre overall provided a useful remind and revise. The conduct and professionalism of each member of sniper platoon was of the highest level.



Conducting operations in urban areas.



The Viking Sniper Platoon with US counterparts in Kuwait.

Reconnaissance Platoon

Sgt Samuel Cox – Patrol Commander



The Recce Platoon at ENDEX.

Between 3 May and 16 June, the Viking Reconnaissance Platoon deployed alongside B and C Company to Belize. The jungle exercise displayed a difference in the skills and drills necessary to thrive, caused by the difficult terrain we encountered. However, this provided an opportunity for newer and more experienced soldiers alike to improve on our basic soldiering and role-specific skills.

Compared to the UK or Cyprus, the climate and terrain significantly altered how and what kit we carried; night vision and other optics (HMNVIS, SSARF, FIST) become less critical due to the lack of ambient light and the limit of visibility. Roof sections to provide thermal shielding for OPs are also made redundant by the canopy.

Due to the harsh conditions found in this environment, if personal hygiene isn't taken care of, there is a high risk of becoming combat ineffective (heat illness, sepsis), therefore proper administration was fundamental to operate for an extended period.

Whilst patrolling in the jungle, a tighter spacing is imperative to prevent split callsigns and improve the passage of information through hand signals.

Additionally, during the patrol tactical halts and nav checks are utilised to prevent veering off course, which is made arduous by the ground.

Although the main task of the Reconnaissance Platoon remains the same in the jungle, it is severely impeded by the difficulty of the terrain. Navigation provided a challenge for both Recce and Rifle Company alike, due to the limit of visibility (often at 20m or less) and the steep inclines. To overcome this, we had to use the height of the canopy to predict the contours beneath, accurate pacing and bearings, checked by multiple members of the patrol, and frequent nav checks.

Another challenge particular to the jungle were the contact drills. Although a skill maintained by patrols, the dense vegetation and tighter spacings made us especially conscious of our battle discipline and correct skills and drills. Movement was also further taxing, with bounds being significantly shorter and slower than if they were made on unobstructed ground.

Close Target Reconnaissance was another challenge imposed by the inhospitable terrain. Without the aid or practicality of night vision or thermal

optics, CTRs had to be conducted during the day, a significant leap from how we typically operate.

During these CTRs we had to push past a comfortable distance to observe the enemy, whilst gathering less intelligence than we typically would in an unobstructed environment. Although these differences proved a challenge for us, they provided an opportunity for us to further our skills and learn in less desirable conditions.

The last time the Battalion deployed to the jungle was 20 years ago. As such, this was an opportunity that has been experienced by only a small handful of Vikings; many of the lessons from this exercise have considerably improved the navigation, skills and drills and administration of many soldiers.

With many members recently joining the Platoon, the difficulty provided by the jungle helped further embed our role-specific and basic soldiering skills. Furthermore, we have become more adaptable to future environments we operate in, due to the challenges faced and solutions used to overcome them, building on our flexibility to complete our mission set.



1st Battalion

HQ Company

WO2 Watts

Looking back on the past 12 months it really strikes me on how busy we have been as a unit and amongst all the operations, exercises and support to other activity we have managed to deliver a successful unit move of all troops and their families from Cyprus to Cottesmore where we join the 2nd Battalion to make Kendrew Barracks the new home of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Head Quarter Company have once again showcased their capabilities in executing various enabling activities in support of the Companies with every deployment whether it's a section or a company it requires transport, medical, mechanical, or logistical support. In the first part of the year, we deployed A Coy to Oman on Exercise Desert Khanjar, Force Protection in Bahrain and elements of D Coy on Exercise Desert Warrior in Kuwait and during all this we managed to maintain support to all three security sites in Cyprus and deliver Public Order validation to two Companies in Dhekelia station. Another significant deployment in this time was the short notice support to Op POLAR BEAR which see the evacuation of Entitled Personnel (EP) from Sudan to Larnaca International Airport which was used as the Temporary Holding Area as they transited onwards. The task required 24-hour support for almost 2000 EP. RCWO and a Tri Service team did an excellent job to providing catering support for the duration.

The middle part of the year was dominated by two main activities, Exercise MAYAN VIKING and the Unit Move. Firstly, elements of HQ Coy deployed on Exercise MAYAN VIKING to enable the joint effort exercise by B, C and D Coy in Belize, one of the first Jungle exercises the Battalion has completed in over 20 years. The exercise provided tough training for all troops involved but it allowed those from HQ Coy to showcase their skills as they would provide both RLS and



exercise support to the deployment, there were outstanding performances from our CMTs and once again our chefs who showed that regardless of the environment they can perform to the highest of standards. Back in Cyprus the planning and execution of relocating the Battalion to Kendrew Barrack was well underway, the unit move was particularly demanding on the Unit welfare team and the Quartermasters department, but they manage to move all troops and families back to the UK by mid-August to allow all to recharge with some well earned summer leave.

On returning from summer leave it was straight back into the thick of it deploying C and D Coy to Kenya on Ex HAKARA STORM, getting B Coy out to Bosnia to conduct SFA activity and deploying Battle Group Headquarters on Exercise LAND WARRIOR, a divisional planning exercise (introducing the SFA concept to a wider audience). The final part of the year has seen the Battalion restructure as SFA which largely doesn't

affect our HQ personnel too much, but it did require a whole host of detailed accommodation planning by the G4 team. Other activity included preparing the unit to take on their various tasks in 2024 which includes UKSB, a readiness force that can deploy at short notice in support of a whole host of activities from flood defence to public order situations, early 2024 we look forward to supporting Op INTERFLEX which is the UKs support to Ukraine by training soldiers to increase their survivability and lethality in their fight against Russia.

In summary, it's been a demanding 12 months for all the departments in HQ Coy but our successful deployment of subunits all around the world both on operations and exercises demonstrates our capability as a Company to enable effectively in all environments and overcome challenging situations to ensure the unit remains one of the best in the Army. HQ Coy personnel can look back on 2023 and be proud of what they have helped achieve.

Battalion Sport

Boxing

Captain: Larry Holmes

Boxing Warrant Officer: WO2 A Kerin



1 Lancs vs 1 R Anglian with Lt Col Goodey MBE.

What a journey it's been for the Viking boxing team. I have had the honour of being the Viking Boxing Officer for over three years now, it's been one epic journey for all involved and a privilege as always.

From the beginning when we formed as a team, we have always been focused and truly believed we could win the Army Major Units Competition, our confidence and self belief motivated the team. Immediately we pressed onto the Major unit's semi-final after finding out news that the 16 AA RLC had pulled out of the quarter finals. This was a huge shock in the boxing camp and the coaching team had to change the training camp around in quick time so that we were ready for the semi-finals, this would see us come face to face with 1 LANCs "Again" for a huge fight night for the winners to progress through to the Major Units Finals.

On the 21 Feb 2023, the semi-finals

took place in what was a thrilling night of boxing. The night would go 4-4 with the last bout still to fight and Pte Diggins took the fight all the way to the end to win a thrilling 5-4 to the Vikings. After this win the coaching team made sure the boxers had a few days rest before getting back into training camp to come face to face with 2 PARA.

The Vikings managed to fly home early in preparation for the finals so



that we could get some much-needed sparring and to acclimatise ourselves back to English weather. While this training camp was going on in the UK Cpl Dyer (head coach) managed to secure LCpl Perry a bout in the RLC brigade boxing night where she won her bout in great style and came away with best boxer. An awesome achievement.

The coaching staff (Cpl Dyer, LCpl Barley, and Pte Mayhew) would just like to express how much all the boxers put into each training camp but especially the one leading up to the finals they couldn't have asked for much more and they left everything in the gym after each session.

The finals night was scheduled for the 28 Apr 23 and what a night it was, going into the night as underdogs to going into the interval as evens with the scores being level 2-2. After the interval both teams came out and gave their all and unfortunately the Vikings



1st Battalion



going 5-2 down however with absolute heroic efforts and in true Viking style, we managed to bounce back to winning the last two bouts and ending the night 5-4 down.

An absolutely great evening that each Viking Boxer will never forget we gave 110% and left everything in the ring. 2 PARA were taken back by the fitness and aggression showed by all the Viking boxing team, we did ourselves proud and the Regiment.

After this 1 R ANGLIAN took three boxers, Pte Forinton, Pte Diggins and LCpl Perry to the Army individuals. All three boxers got into the finals of their weight categories with both LCpl Perry and Pte Diggins losing to very tough but very closely matched opponents. Pte Forinton managed to walk away with the win to be this year's individual champion. On 22 June 2023 the Vikings coaching team were invited to a dinner night hosted by the British Army Boxing Association at which there were a few prizes handed out and the coaching team are proud to announce that the Vikings are this year's coaching team of the year.

Pte Forinton and Pte Diggins are currently with the Army boxing team full time after getting selected following their performances in the individuals and Pte Forinton is currently the 60kg UKAF champion where he beat his opponent convincingly in the finals. They are both training for their next bouts with the Army boxing team and their future looks bright in the boxing world.

The whole Regiment now looks forward to 7 December 2023, hosting the Royal Anglian Regiment Boxing memorial evening in honour of all fallen comrades. All proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Royal Anglian Regiment charity.



Football

CSgt Andy Ferguson



The cursed second season syndrome wasn't quite our fate, but we sailed close to it. In our last outing of the campaign we had been soundly beaten by the RAF, meaning we could not win the league (for the 2nd time in a row) consequently condemning us to 2nd place. As we looked up at the RAF in 1st place, separated only by a point from us, we wondered how the championship had got away from us.

In all honesty the signs had been prevalent from the start of the season; struggling against the RAF in the first game of the season (we only won 1-0), scraping a 4-3 win over Ayios Nikolas Station and a terrible 5-5 draw against the same opposition at home. These results were a million miles away from how we had performed the previous season (We had won every game).

Our malaise this season however was no one's fault; we were busy on all fronts and training opportunities were scarce: we nicked an hour at lunch, after work and even on a Saturday morning – we still had the desire to train but just not the time. Furthermore, availability made itself an issue too - before most matches I would be frantically signing on new players because we were short of 1st team players. At one point I had a strip on!

As I write this though I am reminded of the great lengths we went to just

get a training session on and then go forward and play a match. With most of the regular players deployed away, I relied on a hardcore few of regulars and a handful of new players. We had to quickly get to know each other, get training and get our footballing identity showing through our football. Obviously very hard but we did it, which is testament to the players. Together, under the circumstances finishing 2nd wasn't a bad effort.

As we walked off the pitch in

that defeat to the RAF, and whilst the customary handshakes were taking place, the manager made an off-hand comment which now resonates much more than it did at the time.

He said how us being on island the last two years had changed the way they approach games and they had been reminded they were not invincible. At that moment I took it as a compliment, the usual kind that managers throw at each other at the end of a game, but now as I reflect, I realise that even under the





1st Battalion

less than satisfactory conditions, we still performed to a level that got us within 1 point of winning the league. The RAF manager's comment encapsulated our efforts.

Further examination of the season exposed all the best that our people offer: commitment, resilience, cheerfulness in adversity and mental and physical robustness. Regardless of barriers placed in the way, the team always gave 100 percent.

The Viking FC ethos weaved its

way throughout the season; 'always outnumbered, always outgunned, never outfought'.

As I now hand over the responsibility for running the team, I reflect further back as my time as manager. Over the last 5 years we have won 3 league titles, 1 cup and 1 small-sided competition. I have had the honour of leading Vikings in football all over the UK and in Cyprus.

We have had some great experiences: playing in professional stadiums, watching a professional team train,

having 10000 fans cheer us from the stands (yes, really), winning titles and of course, the camaraderie that comes from being part of a football team. I have been coaching football for 10 years and played for 20 years before that, and I can honestly say the last 5 years have been the most I have enjoyed the game.

For a game that takes so much from you, it has given me a lot back. I am very proud to have led Vikings FC team. I wish the new coaching team all the success for the future.

Rugby

Lt Harrison Bussandra



2023 has been a turbulent year for Viking Rugby, after coming off a busy season last year and an excellent performance at Dubai 7s, the team were busy with operational requirements of the Battalion. Several overseas exercises meant that only one final match was played in Cyprus against RAF Akrotiri. The Vikings proved dominant on the pitch and in a game of 4 quarters dispatched the guests with a convincing win.

Just weeks later the unit move was fast upon us and before long we found ourselves back in Blighty. The team will now combine with the Poachers Rugby Team and will go forward as one unit. With success already in September, the squad beat the Parachute Regiment 52-15. We therefore look forward to all that a combined team will bring and continue to develop ourselves as a unit and a squad.

Special thanks and good luck to the

following this year.

- Sgt Harraway – for coaching, preparing and leading the team.
- Cpl Thompson - for tireless effort to train, prepare and organise the team

over the years. We wish him all the best upon posting to 1 Lincs.

- Pte Cama – for representing the Infantry.

Strength from within.



Running Team

WO2 Gav Watts



Royal Anglian Running Team.

It has been an incredibly successful year for our running team! The team have shown dedication, determination, and teamwork, which has led us to achieve some fantastic results in 2023.

One of our biggest accomplishments was winning the BFC XC league. This league attracts running teams from various units in Cyprus, the team rose to the challenge in 2023 and proved that with hard work and determination you can achieve the goals you set out to get.

Another notable achievement was conquering the Dhekelia Dash for the second year in a row. This challenging race tests runners' speed on a 15x 1 mile relay race.

Despite facing strong competition, the Viking team emerged victorious in a close fought race with Dhekelia Station. Winning this race for the second year in a row once again showcases the Vikings resilience and determination to excel in sport.

Currently, we are also dominating the UK Midlands Cross Country League. With our exceptional performances and consistent results, we are on track to secure the championship title in our first year back. This league comprises of numerous competitive teams from across the Midlands, so our success thus far is a significant achievement.



Pte Wesbroom-Warr from A Norfolk Company.



1st Battalion

Wakeboarding

Sgt Jason Rouse



As the current captain of the wakeboarding team, my recent experience at Boxend Park was nothing short of exhilarating. Over the course of five action-packed days, our team, consisting of WO1 Estwick, WO2 Silvey, Csgt Smith, Sgt Fines, and Pte Drew, displayed unwavering determination, transforming from novices to skilled wakeboarders. The perfect weather served as the backdrop to a truly enjoyable two weeks Wakeboarding.

Our journey began with high spirits and anticipation, but it quickly became apparent that our wakeboarding skills were, to put it gently, in need of improvement. As the team hit the water, there were more stacks than completed runs, and our initial attempts to conquer the cable were met with laughter and typical banter. It was a questionable start, but one that set the stage for an incredible transformation.

Amidst the laughter and frequent wipeouts, a sense of resilience emerged within the team. Each member displayed an unyielding commitment to jump higher than the next man, and our collective determination became the driving force behind our progress. We spent nearly all day on the water,

tirelessly practicing and encouraging one another if you can call it that, fueled by a shared desire to succeed.

One particularly memorable highlight was the remarkable progress of Pte Drew. Initially struggling to make a meter of the dock, Pte Drew's dedication and perseverance were truly commendable. Through his willingness

to learn and improve, he quickly became a standout performer. His remarkable progress did not go unnoticed, he was awarded the title of "Most Improved" at the end of our time at Boxend Park, a testament to his remarkable journey.

As the days passed, our hard work and determination began to pay off. The robotic movements of some of us



evolved into slick runs on the cable. The camaraderie and sense of achievement was there to see. It was simply great fun and everyone took the piss when the lads stacked it and everyone congratulated each other when the lads put in a good run.

Our time at Boxend Park was about more than just wakeboarding; it was a testament to the power of teamwork, determination, and the unyielding spirit of soldiers.

Looking back I don't think I've had a better two weeks of fun, beers and laughs while doing sport in the army. The Army does have its perks but if you don't put yourself forward and volunteer for trips like these all you are doing is missing out.

We are all looking forward to next year's event and hopefully we can have even more riders joining for a relaxed and very enjoyable week.



Motorcycle Racing

WO2 Gav Watts

WO2 Watts and Army Team 1 have had another outstanding year, cementing their position as one of the top contenders in the No Limits eBay Endurance Championship.

Their remarkable success includes winning the Club 1000 Championship for the second consecutive year. The Club 1000 Championship is a highly competitive championship that attracts racers from all over country. However, WO2 Watts and Army Team 1 have consistently demonstrated their skill and determination, ultimately emerging victorious. This back-to-back achievement is a testament to the teams relentless training, focus, and exceptional teamwork.

Additionally, WO2 Watts displayed his skill and speed in several sprint races.

Out of the nine races he entered, he secured a podium finish in all of them.

Looking ahead to 2024, WO2 Watts is determined to challenge himself further by stepping up a class in the upcoming year.

This decision signifies his ambition to compete with even more skilled racers and strive for success at the forefront of his chosen racing class.





2nd Battalion

The work that has been achieved by our people over the last 12 months is truly awe inspiring. Operation ILKANE (support to the border force's strikes); the Battlegroup's deployment to Oman on Exercise DESERT KHANJAR; smaller scale deployments to Northern Macedonia, Poland, and France; support weapon cadres, and a host of training to make us as well prepared as we can be for whatever comes next.

I am mindful that the complex global situation makes long term planning very challenging. The Poachers have seen our forecast of events altered by factors beyond anyone's control these include: the ongoing counter offensive in Ukraine; increased tensions in Kosovo and the unfolding conflict in Gaza. The pace has been unrelenting and

From the CO

Lt Col BT Hawes MBE

I'm incredibly grateful for everyone's efforts, particularly the families and friends who do so much to support us.

Concurrently, there has been numerous other Regimental activities. The Battalion provided the core of the Regimental commitment to Operation GOLDEN ORB, the coronation of His Majesty the King and under Project 64, plans are in place to improve the lived experience of soldiers in both regular Battalions using a combination of Army and Regimental funds. The investment from the Army, Regiment and the

Station sits alongside a 10-year plan for Kendrew Barracks as part of the Army Basing Programme, and our aim is to make Kendrew Barracks a home for the Royal Anglian Regiment.

On 1 January 2024 the Poachers Battlegroup will become NATO's Spearhead Battlegroup in the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (Land) (VJTF(L)). The VJTF(L) is at the core of NATO's strengthened response to Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine providing World leaders with a highly capable crisis response force. Our role means we must be ready to deploy anywhere, at any time. Everything we have been doing since April 22 has been to ensure the Poachers Battlegroup is ready to fight and, if we are required to deploy, win.

Whilst at high readiness we will deploy forward to Poland on Exercises BRILLIANT JUMP and POLISH DRAGON, a NATO Corps level exercise. This is as part of Operation LINOTYPER; the largest land deployment in a generation, it will span eleven different countries; deploy circa 16,000 British service personnel and commit three British Brigade Combat Teams to major exercises across the European theatre.

We have also managed to find some time for the finer things in life. There have been some notable sporting achievements. Our Regimental Boxing and BJJ teams go from strength to strength; the rugby team triumphed against the PARAs; the football team has chalked up some impressive victories and ski team is currently competing in the Alps. We've managed to deliver some 'bucket list' Adventure Training and Battlefield Studies in the UK and further afield, notably C Company made it to Talavera!

I hope the articles that follow will give you a sense of the wide variety of activity we have been up to.



Lt Col Ben Hawes MBE on Ex JEBEL STORM 23

2023 has been a busy year for the Poachers, and with Very High Readiness on the horizon we have an opportunity to look back on our recent successes before continuing to drive hard into 2024..

In September 22, the Battalion was extremely successful on Ex WESSEX STORM, which set conditions for the Battalion to tailor lessons learned to move onto much more demanding exercises in Germany within a Divisional framework.

In the busy period of career and qualifying courses during late October and into November; the Battalion and Companies undertook the daunting task of Inter Company Boxing. Soldier from across the Battalion trained hard, it was a great showing of skill and determination by all. With overall winners being B (Leicestershire) Company. During this time, we were getting the Battalion's fleet ready to deploy to Oman and aligning soldiers to Op ILKANE were they to help cover Immigration and Customs at numerous airports in the south of the UK, critical to the protection of our Critical National Infrastructure.

Mid-January saw the Poachers BG deploy to Oman, for Ex DESERT KHANJAR. This was a testing environment for the BG covering extreme distances of 350-500km per day. During the time in Oman, we ran a PJNCO Cadre in the Jebal Akhdar mountains (which looked like the surface of the moon) with numerous AT packages and sports opportunities. All the while using the time together to conduct our Culture Change programme,

From the RSM

WO1 (RSM) Gavin Williams



His Majesty, King Charles III's Coronation.

Concurrently, keeping our credibility ticking over, we conducted numerous exercises; with 4 SCOTS on Ex SPRING STORM and as part of the wider Brigade Combat Team Ex ARRCAD LEDGER in Germany to validating once more as a Battlegroup HQ. We have commenced the in load of all of our fleet and equipment in preparation for Ex WESEEX STORM and Very High Readiness. This has, and still is, keeping our Battlegroup very busy with vehicle maintenance and crew qualifications. Since September we have seen the move of 1st Battalion soldiers joining The Poachers, as part of Project 64, as the 1st Battalion move to their new structure.

Following Ex WESSEX STORM, we quickly look to bringing the Regiment together at

which in my eyes is a roaring success.

After some time away from friends and family we had some well-deserved leave over Easter and then back into routine. Our Battalion formed the Regimental marching contingent for

the Regimental Memorial Boxing event, challenging all comers in Kendrew Barracks on the 7th of December. This is shaping up to be a fantastic event with a lot of money raised for the Regimental Charity.



2nd Battalion

A (Lincolnshire) Company

2Lt Ollie Goldsack

A Company said goodbye to its 2IC this year - Captain Rory Smith – who has moved on to Battalion HQ.

This saw Lt Stratton stepping up to the role from within, and handing over 3 Platoon to the new platoon commander, 2Lt Woolhouse. The year also saw seven new Lance Corporal promotions, two new Corporals and two new Platoon Sergeants, Sgts Foley and Buchanan assuming their roles in platoons within the company.

Kicking the year off with a busy few months in Oman January to March marked the start of a jam packed year. Seeing our troops on joint exercise with the Royal Army of Oman's Parachute regiment, conducting the battalion PJNCO Cadre, with many new Lance Corporals emerging from the company with a unique experience under their belts, getting to command and operate in mountainous terrain, and in the desert.



Some hard battle PT to keep the bodies ticking over.



Training on the trench complex at Kendrew Airfield.



‘At close quarters’ - the bayonet remains the mainstay of the British Infanteer.

In May, Lt Stratton, the Company 2IC, along with a few other soldiers deployed on Op GOLDEN ORB to be part of the Royal Anglian Regiment's presence at the Kings coronation. This proved to be a unique opportunity for those involved, that will be remembered for the rest of their lives. Marching up and down the airfield in weeks of preparation for the coronation itself, was certainly out of the norm for what you might find a platoon of Poachers doing on any other day of the year! 3 Platoon deployed to Estonia before the company then enjoyed a month on summer leave

along with the rest of the Battalion.

As part of the build-up training for Role 1 readiness in 2024 - the focus of the second half of the year - A Company deployed to Castlemartin ranges for 3 weeks in September to conduct live fire build up training, culminating in a series of live fire exercises going up to a level above what would normally be achieved. What this meant was every soldier managed to get thousands of rounds of GPMG link down range by day and night, really honing their mounted and dismounted weapon drills.

In October A Coy conducted a ‘back

to basics’ exercise - Ex IMPS FURY - on the training area at Kendrew Barracks. The week included a focus on low level skills and drills, building up to platoon attacks. It culminated in the new trench system on camp where the whole company ran through a Bayonet Lane that was set up inside it. Beastings aside, the bayonet lane was enjoyed across the board, especially by the corporals. This proved useful to focus on dismounted drills and get away from the light mechanised mindset for a while, while bringing some new recruits fresh out of Catterick up to speed on Battalion life.



2nd Battalion

Ex EXTEL COLLIOU

2Lt Will Woolhouse, A (Lincolnshire) Company



A Company on Ex EXTEL COLLIOU.

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

For the first week of the exercise, the platoon focussed on developing team cohesion and understanding French TTPs prior to deploying the following week. This included a series of team based physical challenges including a squaddied run up to a historic castle in the mountains overlooking Colmar, water obstacle courses and orienteering. In addition to the first week's training, there was a two-day and night range package, which gave the international platoon time to get used to the French weapon systems including the HK416, firing by up to section level attacks. This phase allowed the different nations to share valuable knowledge on low-level drills which for some soldiers was the first time they'd been exposed to different methods and approaches of range conduct. Alongside the range-package a series of theoretical lessons were taught around basic French tactics, these included, Platoon attacks, Ambushes, Urban SOPs, and Patrolling. Although there were some obvious

differences between nations, the Platoon quickly grasped them. The first week concluded with the platoon being given a guided tour of the historical city of Colmar home to the creator of the statue of Liberty Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, and culturally important Gothic and Renaissance architecture.



Pte Jacob Rhodes integrating with French weapon systems.

This was followed by a trip to the 152e Regiment d'Infanterie memorial at Hartmannswillerkopf-Vieil Armand where the regiment was destroyed in WW1. This was a poignant moment of the exercise, as the platoon could walk through the German trenches on the frontline, which at points were only ten metres away from the French defences and pay their respects to those who had given their lives to defend the highly contested region of Alsace and Lorraine.

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

The Exercise ended with a raising of the flag ceremony on the 152e Regiment d'Infanterie parade square in-front of the whole Regiment and a celebratory BBQ with gifts from each nation being exchanged. The exercise provided a valuable experience to the section from A Company who gained a lot from working with the different nationalities and exposure to operating in unique terrain.

Ex SPRING STORM

Lt Anthony Stratton, A (Lincolnshire) Company

Exercise SPRING STORM was a colossal event involving 14,000 land, sea and air personnel from countries including the UK, Estonia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the United States. 3 Platoon, A Company engaged with the exercise supporting Alpha Company, 4 SCOTS and the Light Dragoons Battlegroup. This uplift of troops into Estonia reinforced the enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup up to a Brigade level strength.

NATO forces were simulating both friendly and enemy forces allowing for an array of challenging scenarios to take place across the entirety of the country. With the scenarios moving from the southeast (near the Russian border) all the way up towards Tallinn in the northwest. The peer-on-peer training enabled us to test other friendly forces, for example the reconnaissance capabilities of the Light Dragoons battlegroup of which 3 Platoon uplifted, tested the heavy armour of the Queen's Royal Hussars battlegroup and the Estonian militaries infantry platoon mounted in Foxhounds enabled the Light Dragoon's battlegroup to have a strike force element. Carrying



LCpl James Fleming pauses to watch his fireteam advance.



3 Platoon A (Lincolnshire) Company attached to Alpha Company 4 SCOTS for Ex SPRING STORM.



2nd Battalion



3 Platoon mounted in Foxhound.

out small scale strikes, ambushes, and raids on high value targets. 3 Platoon as part of the SCOTS Alpha Company throughout the exercise were able to conduct these actions deep into the enemy's battlespace whilst the Danish infantry battalion continued its clearance behind the battlegroup. This being outside the traditional role of light mechanised infantry, giving 3 Platoon the experience in the role of a reconnaissance battlegroup and exposure to new challenges and tactics to be exploited.

The exercise also included various defence engagement exercises, such as a battlefield studies looking into the history and the strategic importance of Estonia. Looking in detail at World War 2 and the battles fought between the Russian's and German occupying forces. Outside of this the troops also engaged in reassuring the Estonian people through a series of events, such as attending sporting events, schools, universities across the country. Notably the Icebug mud run an assault course style event of which Lieutenant Stratton, Private Brampton and Highlander Quinn placed 6 overall. Finally, 3 Platoon were



LCpl James Fleming.

able to join in on various adventurous training events such as sea kayaking in the Baltic Sea, canoeing and mountain biking in the dense forests.

Overall, the exercise was an experience that the members of 3 Platoon will not forget, being part of a

NATO level exercise of this scale.

The sheer mass of troops and assets available engaging with the exercise paired with the ability to exercise in every town, street, forest across the country was something none had experienced before.

Sgt Arthur Evans VC DCM Memorial

2Lt Will Woolhouse, OC 3 Platoon

One hundred and five years after the events near Etaing during the closing year of the First World War, members of A 'Lincolnshire' Company returned to France to commemorate the actions of Sgt Arthur Evans who was awarded the Victoria Cross serving with the 6th Battalion the Lincolnshire Regiment.

The town of Etaing honoured Sgt Evans bravery by unveiling a new memorial in their town centre. The citation reads:

“For most conspicuous bravery and initiative when with a daylight patrol sent out to reconnoitre and to gain touch with a neighbouring division. When on the west bank of a river an enemy machine-gun post was sighted on the east bank.



Lt Woolhouse and Sgt Buchanan at the memorial.





2nd Battalion

The river being too deep to ford, Sgt. Evans volunteered to swim across, and having done so crept up alone in rear of the machine-gun post. He shot the sentry and also a second enemy who ran out; he then turned out and caused four more enemy to surrender.

A crossing over the river was subsequently found, and the officer and one man of his patrol joined him, and reconnaissance was continued along the river bank. After proceeding some distance machine-gun and rifle fire was opened on the patrol and the officer was wounded. In spite of the fact that no cover was available, Sgt. Evans succeeded in covering the withdrawal of the wounded officer under most dangerous and difficult conditions and under heavy fire. The success of the patrol, which cleared up a machine-gun post on the flank of the attacking troops of a neighbouring division and obtained an identification, was greatly due to the

very gallant conduct of Sgt. Evans."

Myself and Sgt Buchanan represented the 2nd Battalion at a series of ceremonies across the weekend re-honoured in the towns of Vis En Artois, and Dury, before returning to Etaing to unveil the new memorial in front of a sizeable local crowd, supported by members of the French and Canadian armies. In addition to the ceremonies, there was time to tour the various memorials and battlefields of the Hindenburg line including Vimy Ridge and Beaumont Hamel which were sites of famous Canadian battles towards the end of the war. Their trenches in parts were maintained as they would have been one hundred years ago which gave a fascinating insight into the realities of warfare in WW1. This was followed with a visit to Notre Dame de Lorette, home to the "Memory Ring" memorial, with five hundred and eighty thousand names of soldiers from all

nationalities which fought in the region. The trip ended with visits to the British memorial of the Somme at Thieval, and Lochnagar Crater. Both offered the opportunity to reflect on the immense sacrifice of so many soldiers that served in antecedent Battalions of The Royal Anglian Regiment and the provided a poignant reminder to close a memorable weekend.

Our French hosts were fantastic throughout, lending valuable local insight and knowledge which had been passed down to them from the generations before. It was humbling to witness the devout yearly celebration and passion with which the towns and villages of Northern France remember their fallen liberators. The people of Etaing will forever be grateful to Sgt Evans' bravery in 1918. This new memorial will continue the long friendship of the people of Etaing and the Royal Anglian Regiment.

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B (Leicestershire) Company

2Lt Harry Astill



B Company on Ex JEBEL STORM 23.

B Company has had an impressive year, with many changes as we prepare to take over VJTF(L). The post of OC 6 Platoon has been handed from Lt Ed Ashwell, who has headed up to ITC Catterick, to 2Lt Harry Astill. Sgt Cobbold has moved on to pastures new, with Sgt Chandler returning from AFC Harrogate to replace him.

Sgt Stafford has headed to Do Company, with Sgt Mayne (originally from the PWRR) taking over, and Sgt Walker has handed over to Sgt Ward-Mansfield. Finally, WO2 Ashbridge has handed over as CSM to WO2 Herring, who was our CQMS.

The Company has seen great successes on FTCC, with a large number of new JNCOs in the Company and a cohort who completed and passed waiting on promotion.

A strong congratulations are owed to Cpl Ramsay, who – whilst still a LCpl – stepped up to teach the CO, Battalion 2ic and others on their Foxhound Commander's Course a week after qualifying as a DMI. He demonstrated the professionalism and skill that keeps B Coy performing so well.



Exploring the AT opportunities of Oman



2nd Battalion

Ex ARRCADLE LEDGER

Lt Jake Peel, OC 5 Platoon, B Company

B Company has had a busy summer. The Company deployed to Germany, as part of Ex ARRCADLE LEDGER. The Company had its part to play in this Brigade multi-national exercise, being part of the NATO Readiness Force in the build up towards VJTF(L) from next January.

B Company deployed on an FTX; this included conducting various offensive actions in the rural environment, followed by mounted attacks in collaboration with the SCOTS DG. After this was a few days of urban training with our NATO partners, before playing a key role in the Distinguished Visitors Day to close the exercise. The deployment was the first for many soldiers from the company to train on Sennelager Training Area, and it was a welcomed return for the more senior soldiers who had been there many times before.

Whilst on the exercise, B Company worked through various dismounted serials to train and hone our skills before mounting up again and working with the SCOTS DG. It was great to see some familiar faces from our time out in KHANDJAR OMAN and working together specialising in our own unique roles. Whilst working through the challenging weather and terrain, the Company then moved on to conducting

complex urban training on the area. The urban zone had the advantage of including a wide variety of skill houses, demonstration areas, and a variation of complex urban compounds. B Company worked closely together with a platoon of Albanian soldiers, where each had the opportunity to learn each other's technique, tactics and skills, before moving onto a combined Company attack to complete the urban training.

The urban training was a highlight for many in the Company, who saw it as an exciting prospect to work with our fellow NATO partners and understand how different forces work. This concluded the sub-unit training before moving onto the rehearsals and preparations for the Distinguished Visitors Day.

The Distinguished Visitors Day was a triumph. The main event of the entire exercise, showed the prowess and capability of this NATO Readiness Force, combining the Light Mechanised Infantry Platform of B Company, fire support and reconnaissance from A Squadron, SCOTS DG, a platoon from the Albanian National Army, a Leopard Tank from the Germany Army, F-15s from the US Army, as well as Int from a Hungarian Army ISTAR Platoon. It was a true spectacle and a resounding success. The Distinguished Visitors

Day also showed the use of DSA (Dismounted Situational Awareness). This cutting-edge technology is a phone which is on a soldier's body armour and provides them a live feed of others call signs positions, mapping capability, satellite imagery, and a WhatsApp-styled messaging system which means you can communicate with anyone in the battlespace who has the same technology.

The deployment saw key personality changes with Lt Dave Brown stepping into his new role as Company Second-in-Command; whilst welcoming a new Platoon Commander, 2Lt Spencer Milton, who took over 4 Platoon.

As the exercise welcomed some new faces, it was also time to say goodbye to the Company Sergeant Major, Alex Asbridge and the 6 Platoon Commander, Lt Ed Ashwell, who both leave the Company after summer leave to take up their new roles. Both will be missed.

B Company looks forward to finishing the year strong with a live fire battle camp in Castlemartin in September, deploying on Ex WESSEX STORM to assist the SCOTS DG battlegroup in November/December to close 2023, before the Battalion starts the VJTF(L) readiness from January 2024.

C (Northamptonshire) Company

Lt Cameron Johnstone, C Company 2IC



C Company on Ex Osiris Poacher.

C 'Northamptonshire' Company has had a challenging and yet rewarding year being able to act as a full Company on Battlegroup exercises and send small teams to various locations on other taskings.

Alongside this there has been ample room for adventurous training and reconnecting with our recruiting area all while going through a transitional period which saw a complete change of the Company Headquarters team and promotion of our finest junior leaders.

C Company began 2023 with a deployment to Oman as part of the Land Regional Hub Concept, acting as part of the UK's forward presence in the Middle East. This was an excellent opportunity to use our vehicles in an unfamiliar arid environment and test our abilities to sustain and resupply. It also allowed us to work closely with a key partner force in the region, combining blank and live exercises on their extensive desert training areas. Following this, members

of the Company took part in the Kings Coronation in London, returning swiftly from Oman to remaster drill and bull their boots in order to proudly represent the Battalion in front of an international audience.

The summer months were no let up for the Company with a Platoon deploying to Germany for an exercise alongside NATO partners as part of preparation for readiness in the new year. During this time a small team was also sent to North Macedonia to aid their transition to NATO by 2027. The hard work was rewarded by promotions before a well-earned leave period, with six Lance Corporals, three Corporals and one Sergeant assuming their new rank and responsibilities.

The Company returned from summer leave to go straight into the Battalions live fire camp in South West Wales, reacquainting ourselves with our personal and section weapons, building up to integrating all the Platoon elements

and vehicles and working at night. This was then swiftly followed with a period playing enemy forces on Ex WESSEX STORM for the Scots Dragoon Guards Battlegroup. An exercise that allowed us to get into the minds of our enemies and utilise their doctrine to give the training audience the best possible experience to learn and develop from.

It was not all work however, the Company has seen adventure training activities in Oman, Cyprus, Corsica and Scotland. This has been backed up by revisiting the history of our forebears in Battlefield Studies at Talavera in Spain and the English Civil War in Northamptonshire, where we could better understand the sacrifices and stories of those he came before us.

Looking to 2024 C Company is prepared for high readiness as part of the Spearhead Battalion of NATO's Reaction Force. This is where we will put all of our training into practise, being ready for whatever the world may deliver us.



2nd Battalion

Ex WESSEX STORM 2/23

Lt Jack Rice, OC 7 Platoon



A brief pause mid way through an attack.



C Company teaching the R YORKS to keep their situational awareness the hard way.

Members of the 2nd Battalion, under the Chain of Command (CoC) of C 'Northamptonshire' Company have spent the past 5 weeks acting as Task Force Hannibal (TFH) for the Scots Dragoon Guards (SDG) Battlegroup on Ex Wessex Storm. Comprised of elements of A, C and D Coy, they were able to create a highly potent TFH that built on the extremely good reputation the Poachers have at CRTC.

Ex WESSEX STORM began with an opportunity to conduct low level training from the individual to section level. This was a fantastic opportunity for the troops, a lot of them newly arrived from Catterick, to hone their craft before our VJTF(L) commitment in 2024. Lessons were planned and conducted by our experienced NCO's and helped prepare us for the validation period of the SDG Battlegroup.

With torrential rain throughout much



32A leaves the Forming Up Point.

The Poachers

of the exercise, we had to adapt our Foxhound tactics and where not afforded the freedom of manoeuvre that we had experienced in the deserts of Oman. This was a fantastic opportunity to test our new drivers and commanders in challenging driving conditions, building on their knowledge and experience for VJFL(L).

Throughout Ex WESSEX STORM, the Poachers continuously punched above their weight, creating complex problems for the SDG to deal with. With conditions as wet and cold as they were, it would have been easy for the soldiers to switch off as they were under no pressure of validation. Instead, they took pride in their performance and held

themselves to the highest standards. As the exercise continued, more and more restrictions were put on TFH as the effect they were having was too great.

The soldiers of C 'Northamptonshire' Company will now move back to Kendrew Barracks for final readiness preparations before a well-earned period of Christmas Leave.



Outfitted with our new night sights and Dismounted Situational Awareness phones, C Company took the fight to the R YORKS and SCOTS DG.



2nd Battalion

North Macedonia Urban Ops STTT

Lt Cameron Johnstone, 2IC C Company



North Macedonian and 2 R Anglian soldiers at the end of the STTT.

A small training team from 2 Royal Anglian deployed to North Macedonia in June to run an Urban Operations and Close Quarter Battle Course for the Infantry. This was part of a long-term commitment by NATO and the UK to uplift the North Macedonian Army to the NATO standard as the country looks to join the alliance in 2027.

Alongside this the Poachers would get to train and share SOPs with the North Macedonian Battalion that will be aligned to 7 Brigade during the commitment to NATO's Reaction Force. This offered invaluable insight into the nations culture and working practise before we could potentially deploy with them in 2024.

The course was designed to build up from the basics of British Urban Doctrine such as weapon handling or how an individual moves to how a Platoon might defend an urban area, adding complexity throughout two weeks with each group. Training was conducted concurrently with Sections looking at skills and drills whilst command elements conducted conceptual training and planning exercises to make the most of the short time frame.

Then this was put together and



Cpls Sammons and Andrews observe North Macedonian soldiers clearing a building.

The Poachers



Cpl Dante Andrews with North Macdeonian troops.

analysed throughout a number of test exercises, each a tougher test than the last to prove the concept and give

confidence to the exercising troops. The training audience jumped at this opportunity and showed us exemplary

commitment and ability to learn and adapt to our methods. They were then able to show off their developed skills





2nd Battalion



North Macedonian Troops conducting Urban Operations.

in an afternoon attack watched by their senior command and embassy officials, during which they excelled themselves.

The training programme was elevated by the first use of a British built Urban Training Complex on the North Macedonians largest training area which offers the ability for them to develop their urban doctrine to a higher standard than they have previously been able to.

This alongside the steady stream of short-term training teams that have been delivering a variety of programmes from promotional cadres to education development is showing how committed the UK is to encourage greater military ties with the Balkan nation.

It was not all work however, the training team were also able to explore and gain a greater understanding of this fantastic land locked country, the second most mountainous on Earth. Using the relationships built with the Platoons in training and their great recommendations we were able to have some brilliant opportunities to hike, learn about the culture and greater understand the unique history which has followed the campaign of Alexander the Great. Overall the deployment was an excellent opportunity for all parties involved, forging greater relationships and knowledge between two NATO allies.





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ROYAL ANGLIAN



2nd Battalion

D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company

Introduction

Capt James Heal, OC Recce Platoon

As I write this Company update, I find myself deployed on EX WESSEX STORM as an Observer Mentor for the SCOTS DG BG and this has seen members of D Company deploy as Task Force Hannibal, while the remainder of the Company is rehabilitating from a recent three-week LF package in Castle Martin to qualify our HMTV Crews up to LFX8A.

EX WESSEX STORM is the final event in the year before we can take some well deserved time off over Xmas before being committed to being held at @R1 from the 01 Jan 2024.

The Company has utilised every training opportunity over this last year, from EX KHANJAR OMAN to the recent Support Cadres which have been planned and executed between Jun – Sept. This period has also seen an increase in our work force from across the Rifle Companies and 1 R ANFLIAN which is all in order to ensure we meet our VJTF(L) requirements.

I'm very proud of the way D Company has conducted its business over this last year, they have set themselves up for success for VJTF(L). This conduct has not just been in one area of G7, but has seen a significant shift in our own culture and mindset change in maintaining our equipment, from HMTV to our upgrade in weapon system capabilities. We are now near to full operating capability, a significant force which is now credible and ready for the VJTF(L) commitment come the 01 Jan 2024.

2023 started thick and fast for D Company with Snipers deploying a team on Op CROSSWAYS in Saudi Arabia providing a month-long Sniper STTT tactics and range package in the

region. Meanwhile, the remainders of D Company deployed to Oman as part of the British Army's Land Region Hub programme. Regardless of the 'winter' season, the heat was horrendous, and the first few weeks of the deployment were spent on acclimatisation and desertification of our equipment and vehicles.

Finally out the door, the Jackal armoured vehicle was at home on the desert plains and wadis of the Omani training area. We were able to continuously out manoeuvre the enemy and waiting for the rifle companies to catch up! Recce Pl, led by Capt James Heal and CSgt Chris Steel, were given the task of training, advising, and accompanying a squadron of Omani Army light mechanised reconnaissance, armed with AK-47 and Toyota's. The training often ended with football games and experiencing the Omani food and facilities which they deployed with their squadron – Recce Pl did not go hungry, whilst the remainder of the Bn were stuck with rations. A visit by RSM Gavin William's to the Omani Camp for breakfast was almost cut short after his dislike for camel milk was noted by the Omani Colonel. By the end of the exercises, D Coy had proven its worth yet again, mastering the desert with expert navigation and speed.

With our vehicles successfully loaded onto a RoRo and on the return journey to the UK, the focus in the company changed to cadres, with the largest set of cadres since Mali taking place across the UK. Anti Tank cadres in Salisbury Plain and Castlemartin ended with the firing of 6 Javelins, 6 NLAWs and 6 ASMs. MG Cadres did their live firing at Otterburn. The Recce Cadre

became a CSgt Chris Steel special, log races and 2/3/5/8 milers punctuated the classroom teaching taking place on Sennybridge Camp.

Subsequently out on the area, three rotations of day and night navigation exercises ended with a final tab across the Brecon Beacons, from Fan Grynch to Fan Fawr, following the UKSF Briefing route which all students successfully passed. For a July exercise the weather took a turn, and of the 12-day final ex only 1 day was rain free.

The exercise started with a chinook insert from camp, followed by two days of insertion and infiltration. A Company, under Lt Dave Butler, were successfully led into the FUP for the completion of the exercise. Lt Col Ben Hawes proudly rewarding each soldier with their recce tree after the completion of the Yorkshire 3-peaks challenge and some uncharacteristic drill.

Cadres were the first step towards our NATO high readiness target, the company now focused on driver training and preparation for live firing ranges in sunny Castlemartin. Unfortunately, the sun forgot to shine in on the ranges, and all the team had a chance to test out their cold and wet weather gear for the Polish deployment next year. The 0.50 cal and GMGs were singing for all three weeks, with some of the best shooting since our conversion to Light Mech in 2020, showing how are the company has come since then.

The year ended with our office move completed and a new crew room which has a fresh lick of paint and TV screens, celebrated with our company Christmas party prior to some well-deserved leave and in preparation for a year at high-readiness in a very uncertain world.

Exercise POACHERS FIRE

Machine Gun Platoon Cadre and Live Firing

Capt Charlie Boffey-Rawlings, OC Machine Gun Platoon.

The Machine Gun Platoon, part of the vanguard is responsible for providing direct and indirect fire support for the Battalion and wider Battlegroup. The Gunner and Gun Controller pair are the foundation element of the Platoon, firing the Rifle Company manoeuvre elements in on H-Hr.

Qualifying these individuals involves a high level understanding of the General-Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) in the sustained fire (SF) role, using the tripod to provide accurate fire out to 1800m.

The MG Platoon maintains a mandate to keep individuals current and competent through a distributed training cadre.

A new Platoon HQ, with my arrival from Infantry Training Centre and of CSgt Presland for Mission Ready Training Centre. Our first training event had us rolling straight into the Poachers Machine Gun Platoon Gunner and Gun Controller cadre.

The cadre ran July to September 2023 split between locations in; the new home of The Royal Anglian Regiment, at Kendrew Barracks in Cottesmore, and the unusually dry and warm Otterburn Training Area. The cadre covered the tactics and doctrine required for varying operations involving Machine Guns and progressed onto a live fire package culminating in all pairs passing the challenging ACMT as Gunners / Gun Controllers.

A highlight throughout the live fire for myself was the accurate night firing onto pre-recorded targets from a reoccupied position, no easy feat for even a highly experienced platoon.

Being Light Mechanised Infantry, Machine Gun Platoon is mounted in the HMVT, commonly the Jackal platform. The Platoon's Jackals are armed with the 12.7mm Heavy Machine Guns (HMG) and 40mm Grenade Machine Gun (GMG), greatly expanding the Platoons firepower and range. The cadre provided an excellent opportunity for the Gunners



Machine Gun Platoon engaging a target.

of these vehicles to become experienced with the increased accuracy of the HMG. This was evident after watching targets drop ranges up to 2Km, from single shot firing.

For over half of the Platoon this was the first-time handling either the GPMG (SF) or HMG and a huge amount of credit to the Section Commanders; Cpls' Broome, Callis and Lea for excellent instruction on the correct handling and implication of the weapons. The new arrivals included five soldiers from the 1st Battalion, now transferred to The 2nd Battalion/ I am happy to see an instant and seamless integration with all

members of the Platoon from individuals across the two Battalions. With the tracer settled from the final close of the cadre, twelve soldiers received the Machine Gun flash to be worn proudly on their uniform and a further four reconfirmed their place in the Platoon.

Machine Gun Platoon will now deploy concurrently on D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company's mounted live fire exercise and Exercise WESSEX STORM, developing our capability and preparations for January 2024 where Machine Gun Platoon expects to play a vital and leading role in the Battlegroup's position at high readiness.



2nd Battalion

Mortar Cadre in Oman

Capt Josh Kelly

The Battalion deployment on Ex DESERT KHANJAR 23 represented a golden opportunity for Mortar Platoon to conduct a much-needed cadre. Following operational deployments on Op NEWCOMBE, the platoon had gained significant experience within its junior and senior NCO cohort but had since atrophied at the junior ranks.

Ex DESERT KHANJAR 23 provided a fantastic platform from which to launch an arduous and testing Mortar Cadre, ushering in a new generation of mortar soldiers to carry the platoon forward into VJTF(L) preparations and later deployments as part of NATO's spearhead Battalion.

The Ras Madrasah Training Area provided a range of challenges for the candidates, with intense heat, dust and a vast desert landscape setting the scene for the four-week package. The cadre opened with a two-week skill-at-arms phase, aimed at training all cadre participants in the use of the mortar weapon system. Soldiers had to learn the roles of each of the three mortar numbers in detail, proving that they could operate the weapon system proficiently from all positions, before attempting the weapon handling test. The days were long; always starting with platoon PT sessions designed to condition the troops for a 2-miler assessment and two "heavy carry" events. In conjunction with the weapon handling test results, these events formed a clear initial picture of each of the cadre nominees whilst also serving to test the current members of the platoon. This phase would set the groundwork for the coming range package. Mortar Platoon were gifted a huge portion of the training area within which to conduct the live fire progression, from the most basic shoots to the more demanding annual combat marksmanship test. Not only would the cadre participants be put under pressure, but current members of the platoon would have to prove their skills – providing a healthy competition between the two cohorts. The range allowed for fantastic visibility out to three kilometres, with a diverse set of



targets for the Mortar Fire Controllers to choose from; ranging from linear features lined with wrecked vehicles, to bunker positions and problem targets on plateaus.

The troops would remain deployed to the range for the entire week whilst conducting the necessary shoots at both day and night. Down-time was spent conducting personal PT and getting to know their potential new platoon-mates, with a particular focus on the weight set most evenings.

The week helped to instil a strong esprit de corps, with visitors from throughout the Battalion commenting on how positive and cohesive the unit was becoming. By all accounts, the range package was a roaring success; not only

were the troops now fully qualified to fire in more complex tactical scenarios, but the platoon was starting to adopt its unique identity once again.

The final test for the cadre took the form of a four-day confirmation exercise, utilising the Coyote vehicles and TCV's to replicate likely tasks required of the platoon during Battlegroup offensive operations.

The platoon practiced tactical manoeuvre through complex desert wadi systems, with a keen focus on quickly adopting adequate cam and concealment on the mortar lines as they came in and out of action. Whilst providing a useful tool with which to assess the candidates' motivation and newly acquired skills, it also supplied multiple lessons for the

platoon to absorb in the coming training year. All personnel, at every level, walked away from the exercise with their own areas to improve but also – most importantly – a rewarding sense of achievement.

With the cadre complete, Mortar Platoon is now close to fully staffed for the first time in several years. Not only this, but the resources are readily available for subsequent training to push the envelope into true optimisation, ready for future tasks in 2024. There is also a tangible air of positivity about the platoon, who have a firm appreciation of the importance of their role in the wider context of the Battalion. The mortar cadre got them to the start-line; now the real work begins

HQ Company

OC: Maj Ben Kelly MC

CSM: WO2 Archie East



An SVR recovers a Foxhound.

This has been an extremely busy period from Dec 2022 to Dec 2023 for HQ Coy as all departments have been involved in everything that the Bn has done and achieved. We also say our goodbyes to Maj Lee 'Wagsy' Waghorn as he leaves the Army, Maj Chris Jose Bn 2iC on

promotion to Lt Col and Capt Dave Rawdon who moves to 7 LMBCT, and we welcomed Maj Frank Atkins Bn 2iC, Capt Jay Greenhill as the new QMT, Capt Andrew Swaffield as the EME in the LAD.

We ended last year (2022) with

a Christmas to Easter deployment on UKSB which was covering UK Border Force at Heathrow airport. This was a very successful deployment with the teams working hard uncovering fake passports; human trafficking; illegal and legal migration and meeting the public



2nd Battalion



Getting eyes on the position.

who were very supportive.

The Oman deployment was an extremely successful exercise and saw heavy involvement from HQ Coy seeing all departments contribute to the success, PNCO cadre delivered and supported by the training wing, battle group (BG) exercise (ex) with the host nation, experimentation of the echelon and communications systems, some cultural activity and well organised adventure training.

On return the Bn focus switched

to readiness and preparing for our very high readiness joint task force (VJTF) commitment meaning that we would be the BG of choice for NATO come 1 Jan 24. Elements of the BGHQ and B Coy then deployed on a multi-national ex ARRCAD LEDGER in Sennelager Germany, working with Spanish and Polish BG. This joint operability has provided some useful insights in preparation for our deployment to Poland Feb – Mar 2024. During this time the unit aid post (UAP – medics)

were tawled for six-months (Jun – Dec) to help train the Ukrainians.

The QMs department then started the equipment uplift which has seen our vehicle fleet increase to c.206 platforms, new night sights and uplift in weapon systems. With the increase in equipment the maintenance and management have been crucial to meet our readiness start state of 90%. The LAD achieved that just as the Bn departed on Christmas leave.

The training wing and MT have

delivered driver and commander cadres to ensure the correct ratio and give a little resilience to the sub-units (SU) to meet the start state for VJTF. The Castlemartin live fire ranges were a great success which saw the company get to section in defence by day and night, a pre-requisite for HQ for VJTF. The training wing oversaw the driver training area development and the trench system which have both been used to demonstrate how ready the Poachers BG are to the NATO contingent as part of the assurance for VJTF.

The company have worked extremely hard over the year and are looking forward to Christmas leave, every single one of them has delivered always adding value and working towards the intent.



PT in Oman.

Op ILKANE

The Rear Operations Group (ROG) of the 2nd Battalion, under the Command of Maj Ben Kelly MC has been once again been tasked with the protection of Critical National Infrastructure (CNI).

They again performed to an exemplary standard. Demonstrating their professional humility. This task was also conducted against the backdrop of providing the ROG for the Battalion deployed forward in Oman, their efforts

have been noticed at the highest echelons of the Army and the Commanding Officer takes this opportunity to thank them for their hard work.

They have provided the remainder of the Battalion to capacity to perform well in Oman and continue to provide our Battalion's license to operate and remain the Unit of choice within 7 Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team (LMBCT).



Protecting CNI as part of Op ILKANE.



LCpl Kerry Dylan keeping watch on the border..



2nd Battalion

Light Aid Detachment REME

In 2023 the focus of 2 R ANGLIAN Light Aid Detachment was to maximise the Bn's CE while deployed and to enable the preparation and generation of FEs, maximising 2 R ANGLIAN's operational capability as it adopts VJTF(L) Readiness (R1) in Jan 2024. The Light Aid Detachment achieved this mission, and some.

Jan 23 saw the Poachers BG deploy to Oman to conduct Ex KHANJAR OMAN 23. On arrival activating c100 ground vehicles in a 16-day window; including all inspections and maintenance with minimal infrastructure.

During the FTX, the deployed ES team displayed the ability to deal with the additional engineering challenges that come with operating in an arduous theatre. The Light Aid Detachment excelled and were able to maintain over 90% CE throughout the exercise. On return, the Light Aid Detachment



The Light Aid Detachment in all its glory.

immediately switched focus to Ex ARCADE LEDGER, again providing the Battalion with the necessary vehicles to complete the exercise.

2 R ANGLIAN will adopt R1 readiness in the new year as NATO's VJTF(L) commitment to support this the Battalion's vehicle BUF has increased from 156 vehs (67PM) to 232 vehs (113PM). To ensure CE throughout that period, the Light Aid Detachment

has inspected and repaired 196 VJTF vehicles between Oct-Dec 23. This has all been in the backdrop of supporting several Bn and SU deployments including Ex WESSEX STORM and several Battalion led range packages and driver training packages. The Light Aid Detachment achieve these outstanding results through a mixture of hard work, engineering prowess, and transformative team camaraderie.

Communication Information Systems Platoon

In January 2023 we deployed to Duqm, Oman to conduct Exercise Khanjar Oman as a Land Regional Hub. As a Signaller within Communication Information Systems Platoon during the exercise I had the opportunity to use new equipment that we haven't really been able to use before.

We used Slingshot Satellite Antennae for our VHF communications, which some members of the battalion have previously used in Mali. Two new pieces of equipment that we got hands on were Bracer Iridium PTT, which was used as a safety net and DarkSky UHF Antennae.

Slingshot proved itself to be of great use with its ability to be used over a much greater range compared to the standard VHF antennae and absolutely would be useful to have again on future exercises. Bracer and DarkSky both had times of being useful but also with moments of not performing as we would ideally like them to.

On return to Duqm from the BG exercise, after a couple of weeks post exercise work and down time, myself and other members of the Poachers, Vikings, PWRR, Scots DG and Omani counterparts started the Poachers PJNCO Cadre. On this we learnt the fundamentals of being a section 2IC, also the basics and how to of the section commander role. The tactics phase of the cadre took part the Jebel Akhdar Mountain Range for the attacks and patrols exercises, then a following final exercise further along the along in the Omani Mountain Operations Urban Training Unit.

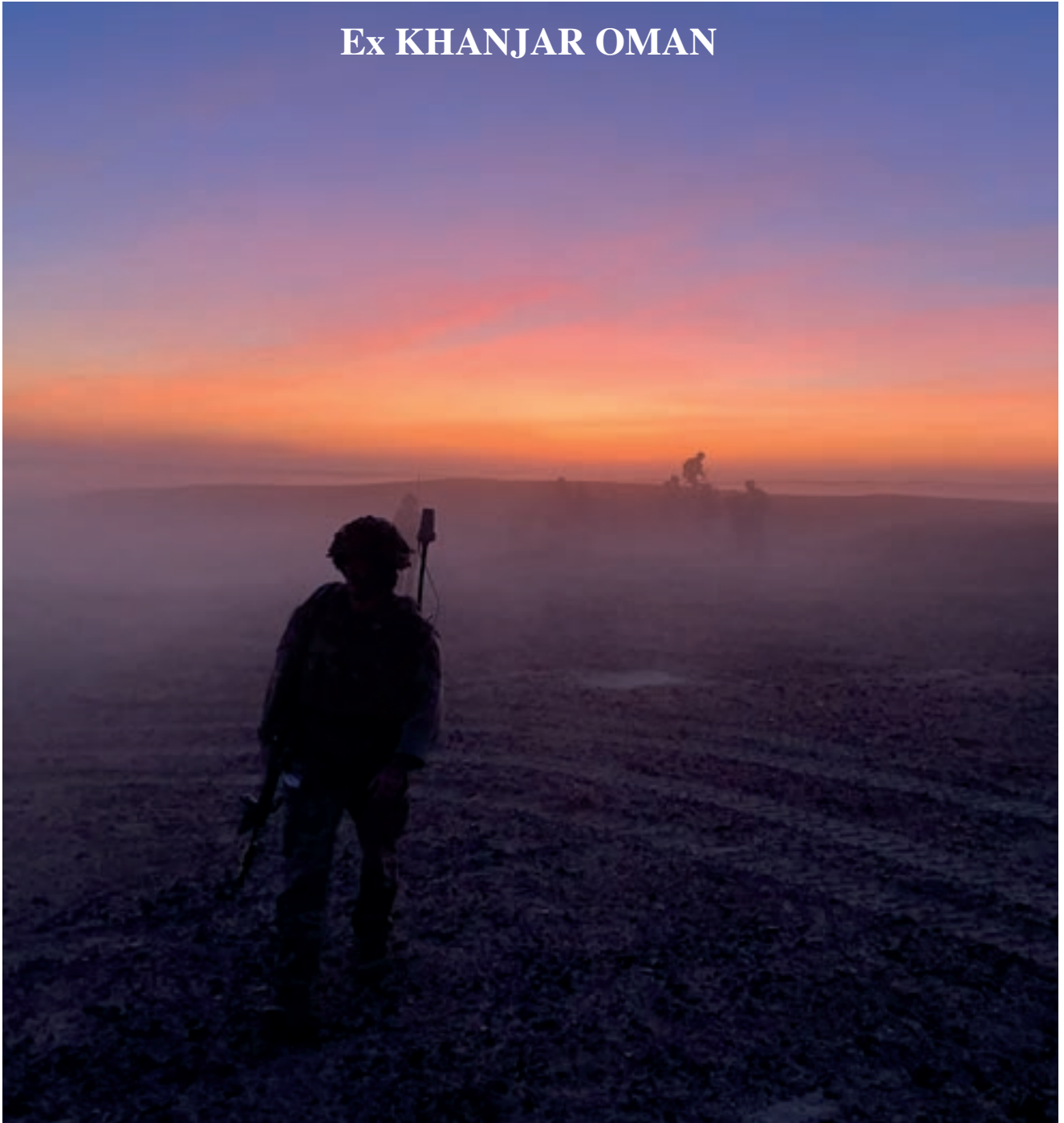
The ground in the Jebels made operating much harder than initially anticipated. The thinner air due to altitude and very



rough rocky ground underfoot made it much more challenging but a worthwhile experience. After the tactics phase we conducted ALDP and DTT in Duqm, before returning to the UK to complete our K&M Range Management Qualifications.

Overall Oman proved to be a good deployment that I would absolutely enjoy doing again.

Ex KHANJAR OMAN



Capt Huw Davies, OC MG PI returns from a Deliberate Attack on Ex KHANJAR OMAN.

Ex KHANJAR OMAN is overseen by 4 Light Brigade Combat Team (LBCT) and offered the Poachers BG the opportunity to demonstrate their capacity within a secondary formation.

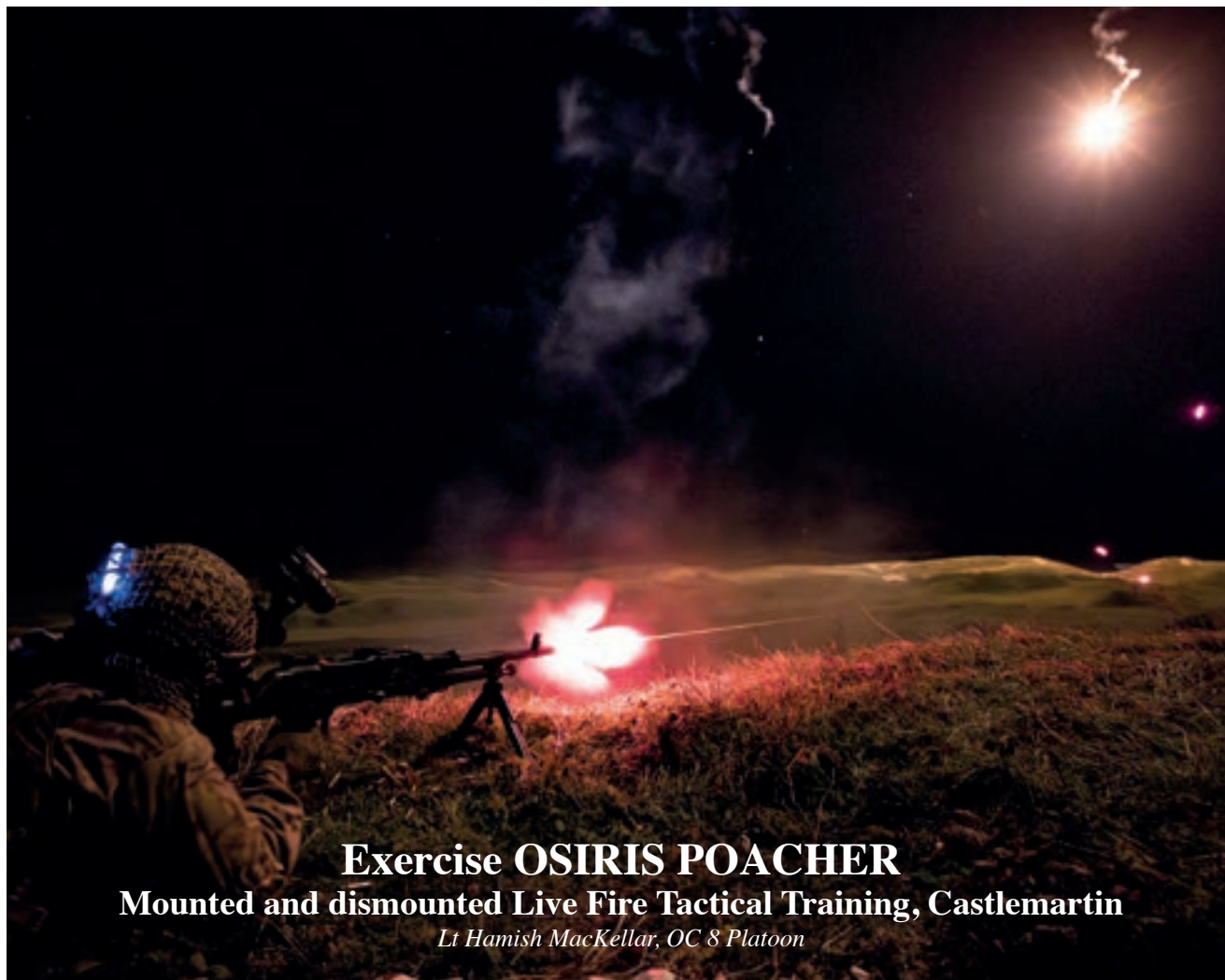
They were supported by A (Norfolk) Company of 1 R ANGLIAN, as a Light Role Company and also the Coastal

Security Force of the Royal Army of Oman; the Omani's chose the callsign asad or lion in Arabic and they did just that, partnered by the Recce PI, they provided the key ISTAR component for the Battlegroup. OPFOR was provided by A Sqn, SCOTS DG. The exercise saw a progression through a number

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



2nd Battalion



Exercise OSIRIS POACHER **Mounted and dismounted Live Fire Tactical Training, Castlemartin**

Lt Hamish MacKellar, OC 8 Platoon

Exercise OSIRIS POACHER 23 is a crucial part of the 2nd Battalion's preparation for the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force Land (VJTFL), Defence's major contribution to NATO over the next year.

The Battalion moved complete from Kendrew Barracks to Castlemartin Ranges, at the south-western tip of Wales, in order to conduct vehicle mounted Live Fire Exercises and Live Fire Tactical Training, both dismounted, and integrated with our vehicle platforms.

In previous years the Battalion had been limited to single vehicle manoeuvre, an update to training direction has granted a huge freedom to the Battalion and our ability to become experts in our craft. This range package represents the

first time that we've completed the full platform live fire progression.

Troops started with the basics of individual fire and manoeuvre, engaging targets with rifles, bayonets and grenades. Prior to conducting platoon level, tactical actions with the Foxhounds, bringing one or both of their GPMGs to bear in fire support as the dismounts close with and engage with targets by both day and night.

With assets such as the Next-Generation Light Anti-Tank Weapon (NLAW), Anti Structure Munition (ASM) and Javelin difficult to get hold of in recent months, all Sub Units have been able to fire live missiles on the ranges; to maintain and develop our ability to destroy enemy armour, bunkers and buildings. NLAWs worth

the equivalent of a new car, and Javelin nearly double, per missile; it's been an experience our soldiers are unlikely to forget.

The tempo of the Battalion remains extremely high and the opportunity to train as a collective is both sought after and enjoyed. The coastline near Pembroke is a holiday destination for many which has given the Poachers the opportunity to capitalise on the local area. Downtime spent on the beach has been exploited, and each Company has taken time at the weekends to undertake coasteering and cultural activities.

With high readiness and European deployments on the horizon, the pace of our physical training hasn't dropped. The majority of moves to the ranges have been conducted as runs or tabs,

The Poachers



The GPMG hard at work.

with the occasional stretcher and log thrown into the mix, marshalled by our PTIs, and under the guidance of the QMSI, SSgt Hull.

Ex OSIRIS POACHER 2023 has been a well spent 3 weeks giving the Battalion the opportunity to run-out and hone the key skills of Light Mechanised Infantry, setting the conditions for success over the coming year.

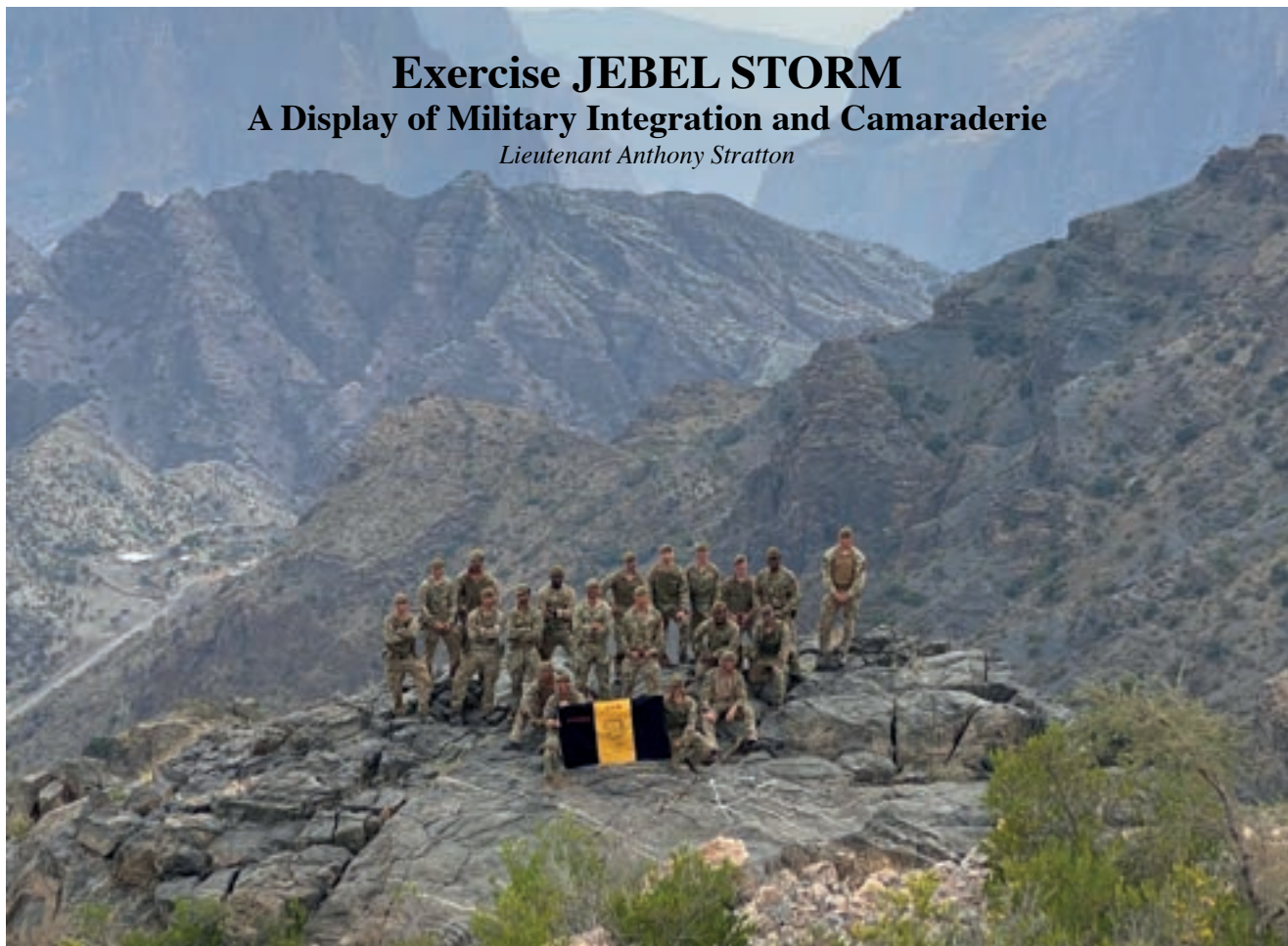


**The Condor Moment:
checking the terrain
for the best route to
close with the enemy.**



2nd Battalion

Exercise JEBEL STORM **A Display of Military Integration and Camaraderie** *Lieutenant Anthony Stratton*



3 Pl A Coy Ex JEBEL AKHDAR.

In today's world, where conflicts can arise at any moment, military cooperation between nations has never been more critical. Recently, the soldiers of 3 Platoon, A Company, 2 R Anglian had the opportunity to work alongside the Royal Army of Oman's (RAO) Parachute Regiment in Exercise JEBEL STORM.

This two-week joint exercise took place in the stunning and rugged Jebel Akhdar mountains of Oman, where the soldiers had to operate at elevations of up to 2500 metres. It was an experience of a lifetime that showcased the best of military training and cooperation.

The exercise began with the soldiers of 3 Platoon undergoing interoperability weapon training and section-platoon-level operations. The soldiers had the opportunity to get hands-on with the RAO section-level weapons and conducted live fire. They even had the



Pte Ethan Gbeze firing the RAO sniper rifle.

The Poachers

chance to train on the RAO's Accuracy International Sniper rifle, preparing for a 600-metre shooting competition, and culminating in a march and shoot event. When the sun went down, the units competed in various physical events such as a 510-kilometre race and a football competition.

As the exercise progressed, the soldiers of 3 Platoon moved onto platoon-level operations, including advance to contacts, ambushes, and raids through the challenging terrain of the Jebel mountains. The soldiers had to use the ground around them tactically, which proved to be quite a challenge due to the difficult wadis (valleys) that crisscrossed the area. The soldiers also had to overcome a language barrier, which they managed to do by relying heavily on hand signals and detailed planning and orders. By the end of this stage, the platoons had fully integrated and were able to understand how each other operated and could effectively achieve the missions set out before them.

Next, the soldiers moved to the Mountain Training Unit (MUTU), where they used the RAO's urban training complex in a valley through the mountains. Commanders conducted urban training with the integrated force, demonstrating both British and Omani urban tactics. This stage culminated in

a Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD), where a demonstration took place for the head of the RAO and the British Director Land Warfare. The force was supported by Royal Engineers and aviation, providing a combined arms aspect to the demonstration. The DVD was a resounding success, and it showcased the high level of cooperation and training that had taken place during Exercise JEBEL STORM.

Overall, Exercise JEBEL STORM

was a success. It achieved fully integrated training with the RAO, and it solidified relations between the two militaries. It was also a great opportunity for soldiers to create lasting friendships with their Omani counterparts. For the soldiers of 3 Platoon, this was an experience that they will never forget. The stunning scenery of the Jebel mountains, combined with the challenges and rewards of military training, made Exercise JEBEL STORM a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



British and Omani soldiers train alongside each other..



Lt Anthony Stratton breaks down the ground for the PJNCO Cadre.



2nd Battalion

Operation GOLDEN ORB Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III



On parade in London.

Soldiers and Officers from across the 2nd Battalion held the heavy honour of partaking in Operation GOLDEN ORB, celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III following the

passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Two detachments came from our Battalion – the Marching Party, led by Capt Alex Langley, WO2 Craycraft and WO2 Farrell, and the Colour Party led

by Capt Matt Willman and WO2 Tanner, with the Colours of the 1st Battalion also on parade.

In a long and meticulous process, under the watchful eyes of the Household



Op GOLDEN ORB Colour Parties.

The Poachers

Division's most senior members, the Poachers contingent partook in painstaking rehearsals at every level. For 2 weeks before the day itself, training and rehearsals were centres out of Longmoor Camp with Marching Party rehearsals being conducted in places as varied as the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and RAF Benson whilst the Colour party were trained in Aldershot.

The overnight rehearsal in London, held on the Wednesday night, was a massive undertaking short only in sleep. Both parties had a 0200 reveille for a train to Waterloo and a march to Wellington Barracks.

Falling perfectly into place on the streets of London on Coronation Day and with, as is expected, the Junior NCOs keeping the Officers perfectly aligned on the parade, the finest spectacle of modern British tradition went off without a hitch. The Colour Party were fortunate enough to be placed just off



centre of the Queen Victoria Memorial outside Buckingham Palace, where the Gold State Coach passed within 5m of

them – and contrary to internet rumour, the Colours remained firmly in the Poacher's possession throughout!



The Marching Party.



2nd Battalion

Sport and Adventure Training

Poachers Sport Summary

BAWF – On 26th July 2023, The Battle for Central Midlands took place in August, which was won by Major Hoy, Lt Stratton, Cpl Broom and LCpl Wooding.

All those who took part had a great time representing the battalion in something they all excel at - and they were pleased to bring home a victory!

As the Army Rugby Union 23/24 season is in full swing, Lt Mitchell is putting his hand up for selection as the squad begins to trim down for the inter service fixtures, alongside international fixtures that are in store towards the end of the season.

After narrowly missing out on selection last year, Lt Mitchell was eager to show case his skills by representing the Army Development team against the Oxford University Greyhounds and the RAF Development team. In a whitewash match the Army was dominant, Lt Mitchell was Player of the Match against Oxford Greyhounds and then Captained the Army Development team to a 54-0 victory.

The Army American Football team have just completed their inaugural season and inter services competition. Lt Rice has represented the Royal Anglian Regiment throughout the year, notably captaining the team and earning Most



Lt Rice representing the British Army.



Lt Mitchell playing for the Army team.

Valuable Player in a game vs Bristol. Before joining the Royal Anglian Regiment, Lt Rice played professionally in Europe with two seasons in Germany and one in Finland. He has also represented GB vs Russia and Sweden. With the sport growing in the UK and within the Armed Forces there will hopefully be some more representation from The Royal Anglian Regiment in the future.



Battalion rugby.

Cycling Army Cycling Road Race Series

Capt Alexander Langley, Intelligence Officer.

The Army cycling road race series is designed to 'inspire soldiers to cycle,' the series sees 9 events across the season located all over the country; York, Colchester and Bovington all making appearances on the calendar. Points are awarded based on position and contribute towards Corps position, a novelty that sees the Infantry competing as a team of teams; proudly representing individual Regiments and Battalions, towards a collective output.

There is an old saying in cycling that, "It never gets easier, you just get faster!". With this in mind the league is broken down into three categories. The A category is made up of Corps and Army level riders with a high level of experience and fitness, from this category there is a further selections for civilian and national level rides such as the Lincoln Grand Prix, World

Championship Grand Fondo and Masters World Championships. The C or novice category is for soldiers that are new to cycling or inexperienced in riding in a large group at race pace and gives the opportunity to ride hard without the intensity and inherent risk of the higher categories.

The B category sitting somewhere in between, made up of medium to high level riders building confidence and fitness to begin competing with the cat A group.

My first race event, myself, Sgt Walker and LCpl Youngs enter the C category. An hour before the race commenced provided an opportunity to ride the course for a few laps to work out the fastest lines around the course and prepare for the gun.

The course at Colchester was fast flowing with a block headwind on the

home strait, staying together for the first few laps the group then started the process of attacking off of the front and the following group working together to reign them back in.

This lasted for approximately the first half of the race before the wind started to empty the fuel tanks of most, my time to attack, a hard 8 minute effort with an average heart rate 187bpm saw me break clear of the pack, the only challenge now being trying to stay away.

After a further 15minutes in the wind the race was over, finally. 1st place secured and the knowledge of being competitive in the Cat B next time around; Sgt Walker and LCpl Youngs achieved 5th and 6th respectively. The following category B and A races were a great opportunity to spectate and see how the more experienced riders tackle the course.



Capt Alex Langley, Sgt Aron Walker and LCpl Lewis Youngs at the ACRRS.



2nd Battalion

Shooting

Defence Operational Shooting Competition (DEFOSC) Bisley

2Lt Will Woolhouse, A (Lincolnshire) Company



2 ROYAL ANGLIAN Shooting Team at DEFOSC, Bisley.

Following a successful outing at the Divisional Shooting competition in May, finishing 2nd overall; the 2nd Battalion shooting team comprising of soldiers from A and D Company; travelled to Bisley with the hopes of achieving a high finish at AOSC. With only limited training opportunity, the team put in a strong performance but fell short of their Divisional standard to a cohort of well drilled shooting teams from across the Army.

The team competed in the first of three blocks against teams from the Infantry Battle School, Royal Signals, Royal Engineers, and 1 Royal Welsh to name a few. Over 3 days of competition, the team took part in individual and team shoots culminating in a falling plate competition on the final day, which although didn't contribute to the overall finish was an important chance to gain bragging rights over the other teams!

The first day of the competition

started with the Advance Fleeting Contact shoot and Defensive shoots. After a slow start, adjusting to the unique points of aim at Bisley ranges, the team started to gain momentum. After lunch, the GPMG individual competition took place, with the two Royal Anglian firers finishing in 3rd and 4th place, the best result of the day. The round robin of shoots finished with the Advance to Contact Assessment.

The following day started well, with much more competitive scores being registered on the Building Defence, and the Attack and Reorg shoots. Though the team performed well, the good conditions suited the Corps teams that prepare for significantly longer periods than Field Units, some teams clearly had a well drilled strategy that once again opened the gap between the front and chasing packs. The afternoons shoots followed a similar theme with improvements in scores but not enough

to bridge the divide. The final day began with the Section Advance to Contact. The range was a test of marksmanship under fatigue and efficiency of drills. The team put in a strong showing, outperforming the competition who were going down the range at the same time. The concluding shoot, the falling plate, was a chance to finish the competition on a high. A fireteam was nominated to compete in a series of knockout rounds. A strong showing, securing a place in the semi finals, however they lost out to the eventual winning team.

The competition was largely a success, with strong individual performances throughout, valuable lessons were picked up from the other experienced teams. With the Regiment set to consolidate in Kendrew Barracks, this provides opportunity to pool talent and resources from across the Battalions to challenge other Corps and Regimental teams for places on the podium.

Golf

Exercise TALAVERA OPEN, Battalion Golf Tour

Capt Harry Di-Lieto, OC Javelin Platoon



Ex TALAVERA OPEN – WO1 Will Mercer, Cfn Tom Matthews, WO2 Nath Mays, Capt Harry Di-Lieto, Cpl Llewellyn Myburgh, Cpl Rob Barnes, Cpl Matt Bushell, Cpl Kurt Mannell, LCpl Adam Sewell, Cpl Lewis Strong, Capt Joshua Kelly, Maj Matt Mackinder-Jones represented the Royal Anglian Regiment in Portugal.

In the second week of September, a team of 12 golfers made up from both of the regular Battalions and elements of the Light Aide Detachment. They headed to Morgado Golf centre in the Algarve, Portugal for a week of golf in the sun.

They hit the ground running, barely able to dip their toes in the water of the hotel pool or sample the taste of the local Super Bock lager before they were engaged in a pairs match play format game against the members of Morgado Golf Club.

An eclectic mix of golfers including an 85 year old, an ex RE corporal and a former head of the Belgian police, this expat-centric team proved to be a formidable challenge on their home course and stormed to a 3-0 lead. But in a fashion resembling the Miracle at

Medinah (almost), the Royal Anglian team clawed their way back to a miraculous 3-3 draw and shared the trophy that had been commissioned by the Morgado captain.

This trophy was allowed to come back to the UK with us, providing we return in future to battle it out again – planning for ex TALAVERA OPEN 2 in 2024 is already in its early stages.

Despite the fierce competition, this proved to be a welcome start to the week with some stunning but challenging courses to come.

The Salgados and Alamos courses that were played over the next few days resulted in some raised tempers, many lost golf balls and loud shouts of 'fore!' as the team played multiple formats to expose the golfers to different playing

members and styles of golf. The week culminated in a team cohesion dinner out and awards ceremony for some of the best and most improved players throughout the week.

The tour was agnostic of ability and a great opportunity for those showing interest. Everybody attending did so with the greatest enthusiasm and enjoyment, despite the stress inducing nature of the sport, an excellent week was had by all.

An absolute beginner at golf playing alongside a six handicapper highlights the variety of golf that was played, with some good friends and future playing partners made along the way. A phenomenal week organised by the AQMS, WO2 Mays and OC Mortar Platoon, Capt Kelly; the future looks bright for the Royal Anglian Golf squad.



2nd Battalion

Boxing



The Boxing Team with the RSM.

After a rich history of Poachers Boxing running up to present day and the recent success of the Vikings Boxing team, with both Battalions now located in the same camp the decision was made by both Commanding Officers to join forces and create a Regimental Team which has never been done before, bringing the Battalions together and raise money for the Regimental Benevolent Fund.

History was made on the 7th December 2023 at home in Kendrew Barracks Cottesmore where the first ever Royal Anglian Regimental team boxed against a select team from a variety of strong boxing units in order to display a quality night of boxing skills, fitness and controlled aggression. In attendance on the night was Col of the Regiment Major Dom Biddick, ACOS Ops Brigadier Olly Brown and 7 Brigade Commander Brigadier Guy Foden.

Both head coaches from each Battalion Sgt Aron Walker and Cpl Jordan Dyer came together and gathered the best available boxers and started an 11-week training camp supported by Boxing Officers Capt Roy Cousin and Capt Christopher Holmes. Regular competitive sparring took place every

week in our local recruitment areas, Peterborough Police ABC and Top Yard School of Boxing. The team boxed on 5 different events during the 11 weeks Camp and accumulated 31 fights.

The first outing for the team came early on in the season with a trip to Catterick garrison for a week's training camp with 1st Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment who were this years team winners of the Army Championships in June. During this week we made a number of fair matches for our night in December and joined them on a sparring session at Rydal Boxing Club in Liverpool.

After 6 weeks hard training and conditioning the team were ready to start competing which saw four members box at the Adjutant Generals Core vs Select show in Worthy Down, Winchester on the 16th November 2023. A very strong start for us as a team winning 3 of the 4 bouts. The highlights of this show were Pte Kieran Smith who set the night off for us with a brutal stoppage in the second round. LCpl Ben O'Connor Knocking his opponent out in the first round and Pte Findlay Bishop in his first ever bout against a more experienced

Royal Navy Boxer, Pte Bishops sheer grit, determination and fitness levels along with well-timed basic boxing proved too much for the Navy boxer and Bishop was victorious.

The next and I would say hardest test came the following week on the 22nd October where six of the team faced The Royal Engineers in Chatham, Kent. This proved to be challenging as the Boxers from the Engineers had civilian experience before joining the Army and had boxed from a young age, so the quality was a lot better. The Team as always did the Regiment proud and took three of the six fights. Notable performances from this show were LCpl George Sheldon who absolutely outclassed a more experienced opponent and Pte Ewan Eliffe punished another very experienced boxer for 3 straight rounds.

On the 30th November the team travelled to Edinburgh to box against The Royal Regiment of Scotland, where the best boxers from all of the Scots Battalions were put against either each other, our team and the 1st Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment. It was up against us this day being St Andrews

day with an all-Scottish Judging Panel and a large home crowd. But the Royal Anglian Boxing team never fails to represent.

Highlights from this night started off when Pte Alfie King put his opponent to the canvas with a perfectly placed Liver shot, followed on by Pte Findlay Bishop who again fighting a more experienced boxer took the win through pure fitness and aggression alone. LCpl Phoebe Mercer fought against Fus Mullen for the Scots in the only female bout of the evening, LCpl Mercer boxed perfectly to instruction outboxing her opponent for two of the three rounds but lost out on a 3-2 split decision from the judges. Finally, to close the event Pte Ewan Eliffe fought there most experienced boxer and made him look very novice as the opponent from the Scots could not keep up with the intensity and pace Pte Eliffe set.

The next stop was for the three newer members to the team. During the week of 4th – 7th of December the Infantry Box Cup took place in Aldershot. This is a tournament for those boxers with 0-5 bouts. We entered three of the team into this and saved the other 11 to box on our night on the 7th. But to make this happen we had to split the team, LCpl George Barley and Pte Kieran Cocker stepped in to coach the boxers once we had left the event to focus on our night back here at Kendrew Barracks.

The boxers entered were, Cpl Alexander Hicks, Pte William Dennis and Pte Adam Myskiewicz. A Highlight was Pte Dennis Beating his 3 Para opponent in the quarter finals that had the crowd on their feet with an absolute battle with Pte Dennis fitness proving to much for his opponent. Both Pte Dennis and Cpl Hicks boxed well and reached the semi finals with Pte Adam Myskiewicz reaching the finals and lost out in another hard-fought bout. This was a great result for the newer members of the team.

Finally, on the 7th of December at our Home in Kendrew Barracks history was made when our very own Regimental Team faced opponents from The Royal Engineers, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The 1st Bn



LCpl Ben O'Connor earns the victory for the Royal Anglians.

Royal Yorkshire Regiment, The Irish Guards and The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 11 hard fought bouts of boxing Infront of a crowd of 1000.

The Night Kicked off with a strong performance from both female boxers LCpl Pheobe Mercer from the Royal Anglian Regiment and Fus Mullen from the Royal Regiment of Scotland. In a very hard fought battle that set the standard for the rest of the team to follow.

Next in was LCpl Ryan Gurr at Lightweight who was up against a strong opponent from the Royal Yorkshire Regiment. LCpl Gurr completely outclassed the Yorks boxer, who most definitely came for fight taking the win with a unanimous decision.

Pte Kieran Smith entered the ring next at Lightweight against a more experienced boxer from The Royal Regiment of Scotland the opponent came out very strong from the bell landing some clean shots but this was not enough to phase Pte Smith as he smothered his opponent with a flurry of shots switching from body to head, going forward ending in a liver shot which the Scots boxer could not recover from. A strong first round stoppage for Pte Smith.

At Light-welterweight saw Pte Alfie King take on Pte Chapman from the Royal Yorkshire Regiment in what

was one of the fights of the night. And absolute battle for three rounds straight with no boxer giving an inch, with the judges torn apart on the decision it was the Yorks that took a Split decision win. Pte King is one to watch with a big future ahead of him in the ring.

Next to enter the ring was LCpl Ben O' Connor. Another light heavyweight contest against Spr Hunter representing The Royal Engineers both boxers quite new to the sport it was evenly matched in what started out initially as a slugfest with both men giving there all in the first round. It was LCpl O'Connor who ended up settling into the fight and controlling the ring with rangy strong shots eventually stopping his opponent in the third round. The Royal Engineer showed great courage turning up as the only engineer on an away show.

Just before the interval, a cracking fight at welterweight was about to unfold. One of our most experienced Boxers Pte Jordan Mayhew matched with another very talented boxer from the Irish Guards and both with 9 bouts to their name. The Guardsman came out strong and won the first round and both lads showing some great technical ability. After returning to the corner and receiving instruction Pte Mayhew started to work his opponent out and really came into his own in the third round and finished strong. A great fight to watch with the Irish Guardsman taking the decision in a very hard-fought



2nd Battalion

Battle. After the interval came a very long-awaited fight at light heavyweight between LCpl George Sheldon representing The Royal Anglian's and LCpl Noble from the Royal Yorkshire Regiment. These two were matched at the beginning of the camp during a tense sparring session. LCpl Sheldon giving away experience with 5 bouts to his name and his opponent with 9. LCpl Sheldon put on a masterclass and listened to instruction perfectly to clearly beat a tough, well-rounded opponent on a unanimous decision.

The excitement was well and truly built up in the venue now with another tough fight about to take place at cruiserweight between LCpl Jack Coker Representing the Royal Anglian Regiment and Cpl Stephens from the Royal Yorkshire Regiment. Both Men met in the centre and went straight to work from the bell. The Yorks Boxer caught LCpl Coker with a strong shot in the first sending him to the canvas, what happened from this point onwards was a huge display of heart from the Royal Anglian. LCpl Coker stood up, steadied himself and continued to outbox the Yorks boxer for the rest of the fight. Even going down hard for a second time in the third round from a blow to the back of the head, regardless of the situation LCpl Coker got to his feet and made the count and again continued to outclass his opponent showing unbelievable heart, boxing ability and levels of fitness that the opponent just couldn't keep up with. Coming away with a unanimous points victory.

Next in was Pte Ewan Eliffe at cruiserweight against Pte German from the Royal Yorkshire Regiment. This one proved to be a close battle with both boxers giving their best, but it was the Royal Anglian who did the cleaner work and pushed the pace from the get-go and taking the win for the Royal Anglians.

In stepped the heavyweights for the tenth bout of the night with Pte Findlay



Pte Findlay Bishop gets ready to show the Navy how to fight.

Bishop who had only had his first fight back on the first show this season, giving away a lot of experience to LCpl Kinnersly of the Royal Yorkshire Regiment. This was a step up for Pte Bishop but he never lets the team down, it was the Yorks boxer who took the points win in the end but he didn't get that with a serious fight. Bishop went down twice but made the count both times and continued his relentless assault, with the Yorks boxer just getting that better quality work done, the decision rightly went his way.

To end the night, it was now time for our most experienced boxer at light middle weight and team captain Cpl Jamie Frost, he was matched with a well-seasoned Cpl Dyson from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

core team. This was a great chess match to finish off the night. With both boxers throwing quality shots and showing off their skillset for the entire fight. But it was Cpl Frost whose fitness levels took over in the closing round as he started to go through the gears and really go to work stealing a close fought bout on a points decision and proving himself as always as a great team captain.

To finish off a great event where both Battalions came together, The Royal Anglian Regimental team was victorious 7 – 4 against the Select team in a great night of boxing with some very tough fought bouts and a high level of boxing. On top of that, grand total of £157,000 was raised for the Royal Anglian Benevolent fund which is a great achievement.

Chase The Sun 208 miles coast to coast

WO2 (CSM) Dan Tanner, Royal Anglian Cycling Team

The idea for the event was first spun around the Poachers cycling team while deployed in Oman, some crazy plan of cycling across the country from a member of Soteria, it will be fun they said, a few agreed and that's where the plan started. The original team was set from all ranks of all three Battalions, a Regimental team and event. Due to operational commitments and time to train the team was reduced to 7 Royal Anglians and 2 from wider cycling community.

It's now 2am at Brompton Barracks Chatham, the team is assembled on the carpark, frantically trying to force cold overnight oats and porridge down our throats, reminding ourselves it could be a shell scrape in Brecon. Thankfully it was a lot warmer, and the team set off for the coast, supported by the two drivers who volunteered to be support drivers.

It's 3am in Minster on sea, Isle of Sheppey, a small adjunct off the northern coast of Kent. It has been a busy week leading up to the longest day of the year and a lot of nerves amongst the group. 'Riding from the first ray of sunrise to the last ray of sunset, coast to coast, on the longest day of the year,' is the plan. Due to a lot of social media research the team decided to arrive early in typical military fashion.

We get there and we are the third or fourth team to arrive, its dark and dimly lit with only a coffee stand and the CTS team to guide us there. You could tell from the impromptu laughter and random silences that civvies and the team alike were nervous, a lot of smiling and team cohesion going on. As the morning continued to get brighter more teams arrived, some lone riders, one of which was a female Army cyclist who joined our team. Then looking back down the Sheppey coast, we could see over 1000 riders from all ages getting ready to go.

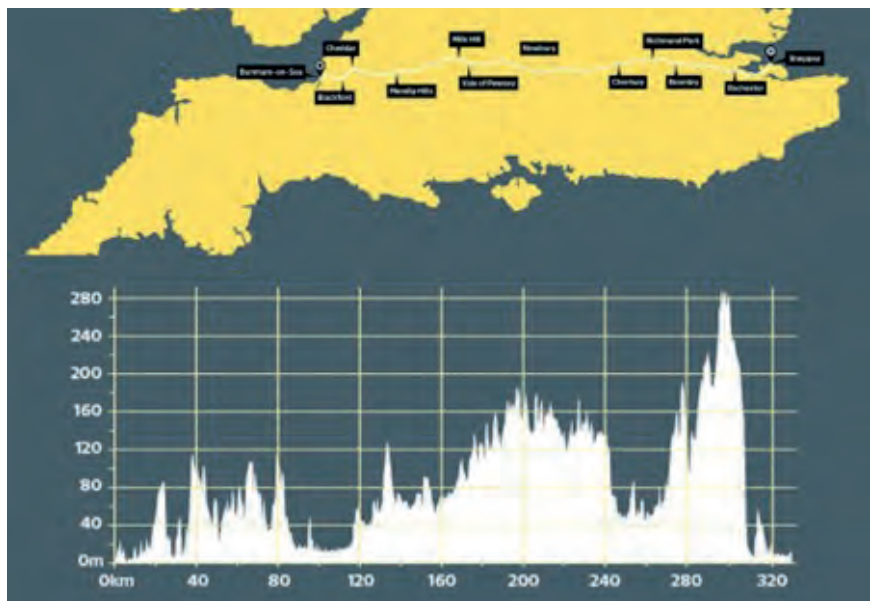
Everybody is waiting for the first sign of the sun, which acts as the starter's



The team at the finish line.

pistol. Some people start getting nervous and asking to leave, its light enough let's go... 'follow the light', everyone is willing it to hurry up and shine.

The starting pistol set us off around 04:42hrs giving us around 16hours of daylight to cycle the 208miles, 320kms. We set off in at a very decent pace, the



The route.



2nd Battalion

streets are lined with hundreds of family members. We come out of Minster on Sea and head down winding roads towards London. As we leave Sheppey for the mainland, we are retracing our steps back towards Chatham and Rochester where we set off a few hours prior. The initial 2 hours of riding seemed like a blur, a lot of people trying to keep to their pace, some flying off, we caught most of them later. The route continued through Rochester, Medway then into main London.

The first major stop Crystal Palace. After a short, but not insignificant climb to the bike shop. We started to meet and join with likeminded cyclists. A few teams jumped on the 'Army train.' A few teams from wider UK, 1881 cycling club, west Cornwall and the 'Fat Bellies' (Not sure where they were from). You could certainly feel it was a ride not a race. The team cohesion on a cycling event is just like an army exercise with all the riders in our little gruppetto all working together.

We decided not to meet our team van at this point because the Café was getting too full, we were trying to make it through London before the main traffic built up. This turned out to be a great decision we slowed down loads later. We set off from Crystal Palace way ahead of schedule and feeling good. Good Army skills all the riders were prepared enough to just carry on, kit on our person was planned well, so we rode on. Making a few minor detours for GPS issues and unable to unclip from the bike we carried on through the winding roads through Kingston 07:45, Hampton 08:00 and into Sunbury 08:45. We made the majority of London in no time. Into beautiful roads of Bagshot surrey around 09:00.

By early Midday we had already completed over 100miles, 160km through the slowest part of the route. The halfway point in Bramley was a shock to the system. We made it there around 12:00 and on my initial planning this was over 2.5 hours earlier than expected. As a team we all looked strong. At this point and a Kudus to the organisation of the event free pasty and water all round. If you have ever ridden 100miles before



The grand depart.

you will know that's about a marathon of running, no easy feat. So, after Bramley the real challenge started.

It was at this point the heat and the terrain started to take its toll on the team. Out of Bramley came a rolling countryside kin to our local recruiting areas. Some steep climbs followed by dangerous descents with huge shards of silt and rocks from the recent storms, though roads were dry the terrain would take its toll. We had our first puncture and mechanical all within 40mins. The team started to feel pressure but thankfully we had strong riders and made good time through London, we kept morale high and team on the front pedal.

On to Wiltshire and the famous white horses around Warminster, the only time riding on a bike was scary. The hardest part of the ride was the 100 – 125, getting back on after the stop took some mental resilience to motor on, coming into our 4th stop there was a rider cramping and needing help, the team helped him up and to our support vehicle, later he saw me at the finish and praised our team for supporting him, showing real camaraderie.

The course started to climb up its famous 3,000m of elevation, much of it now Infront of us, Mendip hills and the descent of Cheddar Gorge. The weather still good. However, our speed had dropped massively we started the

day averaging 26/30 kph now we were sitting around 12kph. This event is such that you can't leave anyone behind.

The top of Cheddar Gorge has got to be the tipping point of this whole event and as most soldiers know, when the going gets tough you need that light, this was it. It was nearly all downhill from there.... Nearly as one our riders found particularly annoying, two small climbs to go and we were done. Morale was now extremely high, and the speed was now above 50Kph down swooping bends. We were flying.

As we left Cheddar Gorge, we knew we had made it, time was on our side and the team looking strong again, time to recover and enjoy the scenery. As we come into the promenade of Weston-Super-Mare the crowds were everywhere.

I don't know how many people finished the event, but it was without a doubt one of the more challenging things I have completed.

It would be permissive of me to not say thank you to those who enabled this exceptional team activity. The team, to the Royal Anglian participants, WO2 Matt Waters, WO2(RQMS) Phil Green, Cpl Marcus Bent, LCpl Lewis Youngs, Pte Brace and Pte Stafford. Special thanks to the Regimental PRI's for supporting the riders and RHQ for providing support and funding.

Oman Adventure Training



Rock climbing as part of the multi activity AT package.



Mountaineering on the multiactivity AT package.

SSgt Hull of the RAPTC, 'Corps Man' of the Poachers BG has knocked this one out of the park, an action packed activity package that provides the opportunity to stretch the comfort zones of our soldiers within a controlled environment. Activities that soldiers have completed are hill walking and mountain biking around the local area of Al Sifah, a river excursion to Wadi Sham, rock climbing, and also sailing on a catamaran. This provided many opportunities for our soldiers that they don't often get, and none will forget swimming with turtles in a hurry.



Swimming with turtles.



2nd Battalion

Exercise Dragon Corsica Climb 25 May 2023

On the 8th May, 16 SP from 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment embarked on the hardest long-distance walking route in Europe. The GR20 is world renowned within the outdoors community and is often on the bucket list for many an adventurer.

Starting in Calenzana in the North, the route traverses the mountainous terrain of the small Mediterranean island, finishing in Conca on the south-eastern coast. The GR20 has 13,655m of ascent and 13,645m of descent, meaning that over the 13 day walk, the troops will have scaled and descended over the height of Mt Everest.

On the 10th May, the SP stepped off from Calenzana under the expert guidance of our two instructors, Acting Pilot Officer Aaron Graham and Major John Hoban. The troops carried three days' worth of supplies with bergens weighing 15kg, being re-supplied by a support vehicle at various refuges. The



sight of the van was a much-needed morale boost after some gruelling days walking ensured a constant supply of trail mix, which to the troops seemed to act like rocket fuel.

The route began with a steep climb of 1550m, equivalent to climbing Mt Snowdon one and a half times. The troops quickly realised the challenge that faced them for the remainder of the expedition. Due to unseasonably cool temperatures, there was still snow on the high routes of the GR20. This forced the soldiers to take lower paths and at times take escape routes off the mountain and meet with the support vehicle. This added additional distance, ascent and descent for the troops which could have been demoralising, instead, they showed great will and determination and maintained a positive outlook throughout.

After the higher peaks of the northern section had been traversed, a new



The Poachers



problem faced the soldiers. Rain began to fall in biblical quantities, quickly dampening kit and equipment. One unlucky individual woke with a river flowing through his tent. An open refuge with a fire to dry socks and sleeping bags became the highlight of this section of the expedition. The heavy rain left the small streams resembling white water rapids rather than fordable crossings. Again, leading to detours being taken and extra distance covered.

On the 23rd May, the troops finished the GR20, just as the bad weather broke. They were able to enjoy the sunny weather for one day of micro navigation around Conca before a well-earned beach day on the 24th. After an hour of lying on the sand, the trials and tribulations of the expedition had already become type 2 fun and the troops could enjoy the more relaxing side to Corsica that gives it such a renowned reputation. A final meal was had with all troops, overlooking the harbour of Porto Vecchio before embarking on the long journey back to the UK.

“The GR20 has been a physically and mentally demanding trip throughout, whether it be the vast ascents or torrential rain. It was challenging in parts but all in all a fantastic opportunity and test for us all; covering navigation, physical fitness, and teamwork.”

Cpl Kyle Broome, D Company



Whilst having to miss some of the highest points of the route due to the weather, the troops accomplished a monumental feat in completing the GR20. They overcame adversity, dealt with tough conditions, and showed their ability to adapt to rapidly changing situations. Morale was high throughout, and they showed a great deal of comradery. All

SP achieved their Summer Mountain Foundation qualification and are booked onto their Mountain Leader Trainer. This will enable them to begin taking the next generation of expedition leaders from Battalion on Adventure Training, inspiring more soldiers for years to come.

Lt Jack Rice, OC 7 Platoon



3rd Battalion

It seems quite hard to believe that a year has gone by since last drafting an article for CASTLE magazine. It has been a busy and fast tempo year for the Steelbacks that has provided plenty of opportunities for us to demonstrate the reserves high levels of motivation and readiness to support a host of Defence tasks.

The key highlights have seen the Battalion providing ~20% of the Army Reserve 19th Light Brigade troops on Op INTERFLEX, winning the Divisional Shooting Competition for the second year in a row and massing 170 troops on one Ex – the biggest number in the Bn for over 16 years.

The re-subordination to 19th Light Brigade in the summer of 2022 set the conditions for a host of opportunities for the Battalion and I am delighted that so many of our service personnel have grasped these opportunities. As I write, there is a large cohort of the Battalion deployed on Op INTERFLEX, across various UK locations, delivering critical training to Ukrainian Armed Forces. Having recently visited the troops I was thrilled and proud to see the impact that the Steelback contingent is having by delivering training for these new and inexperienced Ukrainian Soldiers. It was easy to see how appreciative and



From the CO

Lt Col Dave Haggar

motivated the Ukrainian Soldiers were and how much better prepared they are going to be for the challenges and uncertainty they face when they return home.

In the wider Battalion, I have been driving several lines of transformation to ensure that the Battalion keeps pace with broader Army developments and the changing needs and demands of the Army Reserve. The Battalion has one of the strongest workforce strengths in Army Reserve Infantry units and the attendance of our soldiers is second to none. We have been shaping the forecast of events to create better planned and resourced training events that allow us to get mass on Battalion events. Although early days, the results have been incredibly positive with the high-water

mark so far being Ex STEELBACK STORM in June, which achieved the greatest mass in the Battalion on one event in over 16 years.

The Battalion Shooting team, ably led by Capt Karl Chambers and WO2 Nash, have again excelled, winning the Divisional Shooting Competition for the second year in a row, a feat not achieved by an Army Reserve Unit previously. No pressure now for the 2024 event!

A personal highlight of the year for me, was the Battalion Battlefield Study to Aachen in Germany. There is an article in this edition that provides more detail but for me I was delighted to see such a varied rank range (from Army Reserve recruit to CO) integrating so well to develop conceptual understanding and sharpening our professional and combat edge.

The integration within 19th Light Brigade has allowed us to conduct training more closely alongside other Army Reserve Infantry Units. For the 2023 Annual Deployment Exercise we paired with 6 RIFLES to run specialist weapon, CIS and driving cadres. By combining our resources and instructors we were able to provide multiple opportunities for Steelbacks to conduct interesting and demanding training, whether it be qualifying as a Machine Gunner or achieving a Mortar qualification through live firing.

It would be remis of me not to mention the tragic loss of WO2 Tattersall, the Battalion's RAWO of nearly ten years. He passed away while deployed on an adventurous training event in March 2023 and his loss has left a deep



STEELBACKS practising room entry drills.

hole in the Battalion. We have also been saddened by the passing away of Glynn Cockram one of our Civil Servants who had been with 2 Company for over 20 years, he will be greatly missed. The Battalion has also said goodbye to one of its most dedicated and long serving members as Major Gav Rushmere has moved on to an FTRS post. This is after

nearly 33 years of unbroken service with the Battalion which has seen him rise from Private soldier to the Battalion 2IC, an incredible feat is highly unlikely to be surpassed. We have also said goodbye to Staff Sergeant Mosey, WO2 Shiels, WO2 Jeffree and WO2 Beard after their retirement from the Army, with the latter ending a 38-year commitment to the

Army Reserve. We wish them all the best for their next chapters after their committed and stalwart service.

Turning to the future, 2024 is already shaping up as a great year for the Steelbacks with plenty of opportunities to conduct exciting training and support operations at home and abroad.

From the RSM

WO1 Gareth George

A fruitful year for the Steelbacks with the Battalion performing at the highest level in all that has been tasked and asked of us. The Battalion is now well established in our new higher formation in 19X, this has brought many opportunities and challenges for us as a battalion too show our metal and our ability too ultimately deliver as an Army Reserve Infantry Battalion.

Steelbacks have been deployed on OP INTERFLEX - the Army's main effort – and our soldiers are receiving continuous praise from the commanders of the operation. On a visit I really felt proud of the work our people are delivering, I can say with my hand on heart that they are doing the British Army and the Regiment proud. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those deployed for your ongoing professionalism.

The Battalion command development cadre has come on leaps and bounds and now offers the Battalion the opportunity too really focus on the

longer-term plan for our development of our future leaders. The engagement with the Infantry Battle School has been successful and going forward I expect us to continue to send well trained and prepared Commanders to the Battle School in order to sharpen their skills and return to us with an energised passion for command and leadership. Well done too those Steelbacks that have stepped up. I would encourage all that are sat on the fence to take that leap of faith and allow yourself the opportunity for personal development.

Last year I mentioned how impressed I was with the work the Battalion produces in recruiting and training our Steelbacks, this has continued with improved focus and energy. The Battalion is still at the very forefront of the Army when delivering as evidenced in the strength of our workforce size. This is absolutely remarkable work given the various challenges that have affected Army recruiting. Our RRMTs and REMSOs deserve huge credit.



Alongside this the Battalion continues to collaborate closely with our sister Battalions, and UOTC's and the Companys have also done an excellent job renewing their close support to ACFs and CCFs.

The Regiment lost a big character in WO2 (RAWO) Neil Tattersall this year, my condolences go out too Neil's family and friends, he will be greatly missed. The Unit delivered a military funeral for Neil, this was a massive honour personally to have been involved in. 2024 will see me handing over I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Steelbacks for making me and my family feel very welcome, the future of the Battalion looks very bright.



Command cadre.



3rd Battalion

Ex STEELBACK STORM

Capt Mike Andrews



Comd 19 Brigade meeting personnel on Op SHEPHERD, the next generation of Steelbacks.

The 9th Jun 23 saw 140 Army Reserve personnel from 3 R ANGLIAN deploy on Ex STEELBACK STORM, the Commanding Officer's annual exercise, focussed on achieving tactical excellence in a well-resourced and challenging environment.

This was the largest deployment of 3 R ANGLIAN personnel on a reserve weekend in over 16-years, setting the scene for high value training supported by external units to offer greater realism and resources to the training audience.

The training objectives for the exercise were simple; achieve mass attendance in order to maximise the training value to our ARes personnel, and to develop the warfighting capability of our junior commanders and soldiers. Both were achieved to great success as 140 'Steelbacks' deployed to conduct force-on-force training, supported by

Military Working Dogs and Foxhound familiarisation from our sister Battalion 'The Poachers'.

The competitive nature of Majors Harry Macleod (OC 3 Coy) and Andrew Speechley (OC 2 Coy) certainly set the conditions for well-planned tactical actions, with no side wanting to let the other have bragging rights once ENDEX was called. Whilst the defending force saw overall success, the training for all was significantly enhanced and enjoyed by all. Arriving at various stages on the evening of Friday, the troops spent the following 12-hours conducting battle prep and delivering orders in the vicinity of Lynford Hall Farm, an estate used by the RFCA to instruct cadets from across the East of England. With orders delivered and the exercising troops ready to deploy, H-hour had to be delayed due to the high heats. Instead, a round robin of

training to include CQB, communication systems and target indication was laid on by the permanent staff to ensure the training time was maximised whilst protecting the force from the summer heatwave.

As the sun began to set, and the temperature cooled, H-hour was set and the assaulting force (Callsign HAMMER) set off from Lynford Hall Farm to clear enemy (Callsign BRUISER) south of Bridge Carr Village in order to defeat the enemy defensive positions. Using the sporadic and thick woodblocks of Thetford Training Area, HAMMER intended to move discreetly and covertly as close to the objective as possible. However, some well-placed depth positions from BRUISER spotted the advancing forces early and queued mortar fire, putting strain on the opposing troops plan, forcing them to

The Steelbacks

react quickly and robustly. An important lesson for all, 'no plan survives contact with the enemy'.

Having dealt with the small pockets of enemy providing depth and observation, HAMMER was poised to launch their assault onto Bridge Carr Village, a complex and well-prepared defensive position with a platoon of enemy ready to repel any attempts to gain a foothold.

The following four hours of offensive action proved invaluable training for both sides, demonstrating the difficulty to defeat an embedded enemy force in the urban environment, and the frictions

of operating at night when coordinating troops movement to achieve simplicity and concentration of force.

Whilst the assaulting HAMMER callsign were unable to root out the defensive BRUISER from Bridge Carr Village, the serial showed promise in the development of all from low-level tactical command to individual skills in close quarter battle and movement at night.

During the exercise, BHQ were pleased to host Comd 19 Light Brigade, Brigadier J Lyttle MBE, an opportunity to display the capability and

professionalism of his troops on mass, conducting force on force actions. It was also an opportunity to recognise the hard work and achievements of those selected for promotion, including Sgt Olby who was presented his third stripe by the Bde Comd whilst his Platoon prepared to conduct defensive actions in the urban area of STANTA.

As the 'Steelbacks' continue to hone and refine their skills over the following 12-months, a well anticipated rematch between the two forces is expected to generate another fantastic Battalion exercise in May 2024.



Cpl Olby receiving promotion to Sergeant from Comd 19X.



3rd Battalion

Ex STEELBACK AACHEN **Battlefield Study: The Battles for Aachen and** **the Hürtgen Forest and their Lessons for Modern Warfare**

24 members of 3 R ANGLIAN deployed to Germany over the week of the 21-25 August on Ex STEELBACK AACHEN, a Battlefield Study to focus on operations conducted by US forces during the initial penetrations into Germany in Sep-Dec 1944.

The Battlefield Study was organized and run by Major Ollie Ormiston, a former Adjt of the Battalion. The Study was well attended by a diverse rank range from recruit to Commanding Officer and provided an excellent opportunity to educate and develop members of the Battalion in Leadership, the Principles of War, and the Nature of Conflict through exposure to key historical events and battles.

The specific themes for the study were to develop understanding of the scale of warfare, the management of risk and discomfort and the fog and friction of war by concentrating on three main battles of the campaign, the Battle of the Stolberg Corridor (primarily 3rd Armoured Division), the Battle of Aachen (primarily 26th Infantry Regiment), and the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest (primarily 36th Infantry Regiment). This provided an excellent



Pte Hayes and Sgt Hardy review the map as they prepare a ground brief overlooking the city of Aachen.

vehicle to discuss high intensity warfare that ranged from large scale urban operations to the fighting in woods and forests of the Hurtgen area.

Private Hayes writes:

This year (2023), from the 20th to the 25th of August, I was fortunate enough to

undertake a Battlefield Study alongside other members of the Steelbacks, following the US First Armies 1944 advance through the German Westwall defences. From this trip, I can be confident that few experiences can illuminate the ferocity and loss of Second World War warfare in the same



Tour group includes LCpl Joseph Wells, Pte Jay Lawson, SSgt Tim Mosey, 2Lt Max Titmuss.

way as stepping into the dense woods or twisting streets of this particular remnant of Germany's Siegfried Line. As we embarked on this journey through the past, I am confident in speaking for all who attended, saying we gained a deep appreciation for the bravery and sacrifice of the American soldiers who fought here during World War II.

More than just furthering my appreciation of the sacrifices made; however, as a relatively new reserve soldier and as someone who researches conflict, I could not have found a better experience or opportunity to develop my understanding of current British Army doctrine and the universal principles of warfare. The historical backdrop allowed for a relevant and meaningful discussion of how tactics and capabilities may have advanced, but the fundamentals of differing types of warfare remain the same.

As someone who lacks operational experience, there are times that some of the lessons that I have been taught throughout my training have seemed abstract or remote. Combined with the reality of a primarily theoretical researcher, it's easy to become detached

from the principles of war that I have been taught in my military and academic careers and to not understand how they fit into the bigger picture.

Especially within the reserves, with the pace of training that has to occur, it is often a case of being shown how you do something and then having to immediately follow through upon the instruction, instead of fully being given the understanding of why things need to be done in a certain way. Conversely, in my academic experiences, while we have endless hours to commit to debate, it is rarely practically applied, separating theory and reality.

However, walking the ground and visualising the complexities of the terrain, while talking through the contextual developments of this battle and its relevance to modern tactics, a marriage of these two elements occurred that was so much more enriching and valuable. Being able to discuss and debate anti-tank tactics, for example, with experienced soldiers and officers, on the hills where an actual battle took place allowed for the principles of anti-armour warfare, such as down sloping enemy armour, to be grounded in reality.

Likewise, in real-time, an appreciation of the terrain made the difficulties of FIWAF and FIBUA more apparent than ever. During my time as a reservist, my experiences of urban warfare, for example, have been so far limited to assaulting small compounds or mock villages such as Copehill Down, made up of basic buildings, assaults that can be made using the best part of a morning, utilising almost exclusively light role infantry.

This is a far cry from the combined arms warfare that had to be developed on the fly to seize Aachen street by street. In the same way, the woodblocks of the British training areas that are often used and available similarly don't come close to the verticality and overall difficulty navigating and operating in the Hürtgen Forest, the valleys, gorges and, at some points, sheer drops, which made the forest assault near impossible. Thus, being able to contextualise FIBUA and FIWAF on a larger scale allowed for greater comprehension.

Prior to this trip, if I had seen the Hürtgen forest on a map and picked out a 1000m grid in which the US troops advanced, I would have noticed the



Discussing the options for encirclement of Aachen



3rd Battalion



Sgt Craig Davitt briefing the group

contours as a difficulty for sure, but without walking the ground, I would have struggled to fathom how so many might have died to gain so little ground. However, being able to physically see the natural depth and mutual arcs of supporting fire that was gained by the German defenders through their positioning, along with experiencing how difficult the terrain could be to navigate even without the weight of military kit, gave an immeasurable understanding not only of history but current defensive military doctrine and the importance of its principles.

Furthermore, undertaking this contextual trip alongside a mixture of ranks from the Battalion, ranging from Private's such as myself all the way up to our CO, also developed my knowledge

of the strains and difficulties of combat operations at all the different levels of command.

The Hürtgen forest gave a plethora of examples of how the fog of war disrupts and contorts military operations and places particular pressures on command and control in an active conflict. In particular, the strain between logistics and taking advantage of tactical opportunities and how this shapes and restrains military activity, stood out to me. Being able to discuss things like this with ranking individuals who have experienced these things personally in previous conflicts, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, really brought the message home.

The overarching lesson that this trip has given me is that reservists can

rapidly expand their understanding of what it is to be a warrior and a soldier by utilising battlefield studies, and I would recommend any reservist to jump at the opportunity to go on one of these trips. A term familiar to many in the forces, "civilians would pay to do this", is actually suited here, compared to when that term is usually used when you're getting motivated on PT.

As well as being incredibly informative, trips like this one allow reserve soldiers to take advantage of what the Army can offer, being able to travel to and experience the culture of another country, and vitally make connections throughout the Battalion that will grow and develop throughout their career.

Gibraltar Study

Mat Ottaway



The Gibraltar Study dinner with Brig and Mrs Lyne as guests of honour.

July saw a unique event run by the Battalion known as Gibraltar Study take place at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks in Grantham. Gibraltar Study serves a number of purposes, but is fundamentally a conceptual development opportunity.

It aims to prepare junior Officers and NCOs for career courses, raising awareness and increasing knowledge of the estimate and orders process. There are additional TEWTs as well as presentations from external speakers from the Infantry Battle School, all aimed at ensuring candidates do well in Brecon.

The other side to Gibraltar Study is one of the very few occasions in the year when it's possible to have a combined Mess function.

The JNCOs who are in attendance are introduced to Mess life and the etiquette and traditions associated with black tie Mess dinners.

The historic building of PWOg Barracks Officers Mess is the ideal location to host the event and it allowed the Bn to dine out some key characters in the Regiment and the Battalion. It would be improper not mention the departure of, after 33 years in the Battalion, B2IC



Sgt Watts delivering a lesson to the development cadre students.



WO2 Shiels passing on some experience before his retirement to Private Bore-MacDonald.

Maj Rushmere to a new role in 51 Bde HQ, as well as the retirement of SSgt Mosey, WO2 Beard, WO2 Sheils.

The Steelbacks also dined out a former CO, and Deputy Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment, Brig Richard Lyne. Brig Lyne joined the Regiment on Commissioning in 1987 and has commanded and led soldiers at Platoon, Company and Battalion levels including, in 2011, the deployment of 3 R ANGLIAN to Cyprus in support of the United Nations on Op TOSCA.

Always a highlight in the calendar Gibraltar Study brings together generations of leaders and helps foster an esprit de corps within the Battalion; it sets the conditions for future success.



3rd Battalion

Adventure Training

Maj Gav Rushmere

For this year's Adventure Training the Third Battalion undertook Skiing at the Stubai Glacier in Austria and also a smaller Multi Activity package in the Peak District. The former was overcast by the tragic death of Warrant Officer Second Class, Neil Tattersall AGC (SPS). Discussion followed with the Ski team, and it was decided that the activity should continue.

Ex STEELBACK SKI

The Third Battalion undertook a Skiing Exped at the Stubai Glacier in Austria in Mar 23. Based in Self Catering apartments at the Alpenresidenz Viktoria in Neustift, the experience levels of the group ranged from new skiers to Ski

Foundation 2 continuation candidates. The troops travelled daily to the Stubai Glacier and were placed in groups under the instruction of Reverend (Major) Paul Whitehead, Warrant Officers Second Class; 'Seabass' Smith, Patrick McCormack, Brett Thompson and Staff Sergeant Ian Anderson. This year's group of Ski Foundation 2 delegates was the biggest that we had ever taken to Stubai and was formed of previous years Ski Foundation 1 passes and individuals that had gained experience skiing as a civilian. The Foundation 1 delegates (new and very novice) still formed the majority of skiers but quickly developed to progress from snow ploughs to parallel turns. There were 13

passes at Ski Foundation 1, seven passes and two fails at Ski Foundation 2 with two pax also completing Ski Foundation 2 continuation on this year's expedition. An unusual twist of the week, was the recovery of one of the groups lost mobile phone, which was GPS tracked, pinpointed and dug up under two feet of snow and after two days of being lost!

The expedition was overshadowed by the tragic death of WO2 Neil Tattersall AGC (SPS). During the deployment a brief memorial service to remember Neil was conducted by the Padre and attended by all the Ex STEELBACK SKI group and also AGC senior representatives who were attending the AGC Skiing championships in the area.



The Mountain biking group stop for a well-earned selfie.

Summer AT

The Summer Adventure Training was based for the second year at the Leslie Johnson Centre in Warslow, Staffordshire. This Centre is owned and maintained by North Staffordshire Boys Brigade and was supported on the G4 element by Colour Sergeant Edgar, QPSI from 4 Company.

The group completed two days of mountain biking, one day of hill walking and one day of rock climbing. eBikes were hired for day one and two of mountain biking from 'The Bike Garage' at Bamford, with each day presenting different challenges. Instructors for the days were Warrant Officer Second Class Mark Lapping and Padre Paul Whitehead. Day one was conducted around the Derwent Water and Ladybower Reservoirs (famous for the role they played in allowing the RAF to rehearse for the Dambusters Raids) and conducted on woodland tracks, rocky inclines and descents.

Day two was centred on Stanage Edge and Lady Cannings Mountain Bike Trail and presented gravel tracks, sharp turns and jumps. If an instructor says 'the descent is steep and fast, so use your brakes', it is sound advice, but still someone went crashing through a wire fence at the bottom, but fortunately not with too much damage!

Day three was a switch of activity. A drive to Hayfield and the Bowden Bridge car park takes you on the circular Trespass Route walk. The walk passes the Kinder Reservoir and heads up the William Clough and onto the Pennine Way, heading South East towards Kinder Downfall. From Kinder Downfall south towards Swine's Back, then west and north back towards the Kinder Reservoir and Bowden Bridge.

Day four was rock climbing on 'The Roaches' with climbs varying from severe to some of the lower



extreme categories. It was good to have the Battalion's newest rock climbing instructor onboard, LCpl Abi Hurrell from 2 Company. A good week in the

Peak District, with the emphasis on providing challenging activities and encouraging the more Junior soldiers to become Adventure Training instructors.



3rd Battalion

1 (Norfolk & Suffolk) Company

Capt Caleb 'Smudge' Smith, OC

2023 started and continued full on, it has seemed as if we are stuck on fast forward. 1 Company soon established itself working towards the Commanding Officers' Training Directive.

Focusing on gaining and retaining its personnel to form the new Future Soldier ORBAT and then gain the required qualifications to deliver the War Fighting Increment. Fortunately, this has also enabled us to develop command throughout all the ranks. Whilst Lt Mike Musker leaves us for CUOTC as an instructor on promotion to Capt, we welcome Lt Sam Hart in his place.

We have also Sgt Olby into a Pl Sgt appt. This has only been achieved



Combined Mortars Cadre.

with the mentoring from our PSAO Capt Tim Jones to get help navigate the management that is required to shape our soldiers' careers.

In total 37 personnel from across the Company were awarded the King's Coronation Medal. This occasion has

yet to be marked but will consist of the medals being personally presented by a VIP and then followed by a social event. It cannot go without mention that 1 Company had members on the actual parade, a rare once in a lifetime opportunity. Well done Capt Chambers



ACMT qualification.

and CSgt Jones for representing the Company and Battalion so well.

Once again 1 Company mobilised personnel to support the CGS' ME, the delivery of Op INTERFLEX, the training of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. 1 Company soldiers are deployed on this task across most of the UK principal training areas and have been extremely busy. There has been little time off in between delivering training courses, as any white space has been filled with attending courses to boost instructional skills.

This ranges from recognised mandatory range qualifications to drone operators, driving, and education courses. Some will also attend a PJNCO cadre in November illustrating that those that have deployed have maximised the opportunity to bring more than just experience back with them in December (I am expecting JNCO's, no pressure!).

The constraints of trying to train alongside Op INTERFLEX, like during C-19, has meant that once again we had to adapt our expectations and deliver training by any means

possible (exploiting change to create opportunities). Using Battle Exercises over the Company and Battalion weekends as vehicles to deliver the practical experience and mentor the soldiers has gone down extremely well with the training audience.

Training weekends became training days at the ARCs or single days in a remote corner of a field in STANTA. This has been enhanced by imaginative use of blended training, and alternate training methods including the latest VR. Fortunately, this linked well into 19 Light Brigades plans for a series of distributed courses, as a decentralised Annual Deployment Exercise.

Jumping to September saw the return of our focus to Support Weapons training bringing the Mortars out for a number's cadre on STANTA. Exploring the concept of 'brigading' under 19 Light Brigade we were joined by soldiers from 4 LANCS and 6 RIFLES to conduct the training package culminating in the day and night Live Fire serials. Quite rightly this concept attracted the usual visits not only from the Steelback HQ

but representatives from all Battalion's taking part. So much interest in fact we also had the GOC divert from his annual validation exercise to attend.

The Op INTERFLEX effect meant that we had to plan the cadre multiple times but finally managed to run it on STANA alongside the Ukrainian training, where their commanders were grateful for the indirect fire adding depth and inoculation to their scenarios. Once No1 Company had an established foothold we also facilitated the Bn driving cadre and Signals course, who were less fortunate in the training area lottery.

Priding itself on achieving a good work life balance our social calendar remained full. Members of the company happily volunteering to support both the 4th Norfolks and Royal Anglian Association dinners. Our own internal functions from the OC's End of Trg Year social, summer BBQ, fireworks and Winter Ball, now set to become permanent fixtures and thanks to the Committee for all their hard work in making it happen.

Battalion Shooting Team 2023

Capt Karl Chambers

Fresh from winning the 2022 1(UK) Div Reserve Operational Shooting Competition (DivOSC), there were high expectations for 2023 when training commenced for this competition season. 2023 team selection began with the first training weekend taking place in November 2022 on STANTA, attended by 25 personnel from across the Battalion.

Ongoing monthly training until June consisted of zeroing, application of fire, the ACMT and many practice assessments based on the team's perception of how the competition events would run. Weekends focused on the rifle but also covered the pistol and after very late visibility of AROSC admin instruction, the GMPG. Mid-way through the practice weekends the Bn's A2 rifles were replaced by the A3. This resulted in a weekend being lost to transition to the A3, passing



Pte Jay Lawson being awarded the machine gun assessment trophy.



3rd Battalion



DivOSC Winning Team. From left: Pte Jordan Reeder, Pte Georgia Middleton, Pte Garter Goodge, LCpl Simon Deeley, Pte Jay Lawson, WO2 Duncan Nash, Capt Karl Chambers, LCpl Nathan Carter.

weapon handling tests and ACMT requalification. A worthwhile cost to training given the improved results quickly realised afterwards.

In May the team attended the 1 (UK) Reserve DivOSC at STANTA. The aim of this event was to improve effectiveness in operational marksmanship, allowing units to test the battle skills of their soldiers in a competitive environment. Although operational marksmanship formed the main component of the event other key skills were also be tested, namely battle fitness, command/control and leadership.

For a second consecutive year the Steelback team placed winners, first of 12 teams. The team was winner of the Urban Contact and Advanced Fleeting Encounter assessments. The team was runner-up in the Section Attack/ReOrg and Team Falling Plate assessments. Pte Lawson was runner-up best individual firer only just losing out to a previous Queen's medallist.

The DivOSC team members were Capt Chambers (1 Coy), WO2 Nash (1 Coy), LCpl Carter (1 Coy), LCpl Deeley (5 Coy), Pte Goodge (1 Coy), Pte Lawson (3 Coy), Pte Middleton (3 Coy) and Pte Reeder (1 Coy). Four of these firers were new to the team this year – LCpl Deeley and Ptes Goodge, Middleton & Reeder.

In June the team competed at

the Army Reserve OSC (AROSC) at BISLEY ranges. The team placed fifth of 13 teams and secured joint first individual place for the Advance to Contact assessment, first place in the team Machine Gun assessment, Falling Plate winning team. Pte Lawson achieved best individual in the Machine Gun assessment, LCpl Carter placed joint first in the Advance to Contact Assessment and the team achieved AR50 qualifications for seven of the eight firers. Ptes Cheeseman & Clement were welcome arrivals in the team in the place of Ptes Goodge, Middleton.

Success was attributed to the dedication of firers who attended the

majority of practice weekends whilst continuing to also support Bn and Coy exercises. These exercises often ran sequentially with shooting team events over the first six months of 2023. Credit and thanks must also be directed to Sgt Warwick (1 Coy PSI) adapting to many last minute range re-bookings due to OP INTERFLEX priorities, the PRT who supported us throughout the practice weekends and the G4 team administrating the team whilst attempting to secure 7.62mm link very close to our final practice range ahead of the AROSC.

Planning now begins for the 2024 OSC season.



Capt Chambers firing the Fleeting Encounter Assessment.

Armed Forces Rowing

Pte Carl Shiplee

During the months of May and June, 1 Company soldier Private Carl Shiplee, trained and was selected to be a part of a national rowing team that represented UK Armed Forces, competing against teams from all over the world at the Henley Royal Regatta.

This was a world competition event

and Private Shiplee was the ambassador for the Army on his team. Additionally, he was also the junior member on the team, with the next rank being Captain!

Over the weeklong event, Private Shiplee played a significant part on the team displaying a perfect blend of skill, strategy, and determination that

ensured that the crew he represented was placed in top third of their category. He continues to keep up his rowing and fitness in the pursuit of representing UK Armed Forces over the upcoming events in 2024. An outstanding effort that illustrates he is a first-class ambassador for the Army and 3 Royal Anglian.



Pte Carl Shiplee



Pte Shiplee (back row centre) with the Armed Forces rowing teams.

Ex STEELBACK STALK

CSgt Scott Turner 1 (Norfolk) Company SPSI

Over the first weekend of March 2023, the Battalion descended on Stanford training area near Thetford in Norfolk to conduct a Battalion patrols exercise. Circa 100 Reservist personnel were in attendance. The training audience eagerly anticipated what was, in effect the culmination of the patrols training package.

The Commanding Officer Lt Col Haggard addressed all in attendance to explain the realities of the war in Ukraine and how we need to develop our own tactics and training to mitigate against new threats that had emerged there; the use of drones, new electronic warfare tactics, or ground reconnaissance as part of the enemy find and understand capability.

The weekend consisted of two

distinct phases. The first phase was a series of lessons which included dispersed patrolling, thermal imaging capabilities and how to counter them and generic patrolling skills including the use of ground. The sections were then given the time and space to practice the new skills they had learnt and to develop and practice section and platoon SOP's.

After a short pause and battle preparation the second phase began, which would see the company conduct an area ambush in the north-west of the training area. The company, using dispersed patrolling, tactically moved as sections through a series of RVs covering approximately 5km, whilst on radio silence to negate any RF emissions. This was not by any means an easy task; it was an extremely dark

night, but the company arrived at the ambush site in good order with time to spare before the setup of the ambushes. After a period, the enemy were spotted by the right cut offs!

Once the enemy were in the killing area, the silence was pierced by the sound of a massive weight of firepower. With the enemy defeated, the searchers deployed, and as soon as they had completed their task the company withdrew back to their RV, again using dispersed patrolling.

The exercise was well received by the officers and soldiers of the Battalion. Concentrating on the near surface battlespace and "owning the night" it was a successful exercise with innovative ideas which will lead to empowerment at all levels.



3rd Battalion

2 (Leicestershire & Northamptonshire) Company

Maj AG Speechley, OC

This year has been marked by some significant changes in 2 Company, coupled with some exciting opportunities to develop individuals and grow the team.

Sadly, Glyn Cockram our Civil Servant Admin Officer passed away in April following a short illness. He had worked as the Admin Officer (AO) for 2 Company for over 20 years and will be affectionately remembered by all who have passed through the unit for his unassuming efficiency and dry sense of humour. His loss was most keenly felt by the G1 team, with Capt Weatherall and Cpl Young who had worked closely with Glyn. They, being ably assisted by Cpl Clay loaned from 7 Bde worked hard to ensure that the significant loss had minimal impact to the running of the company.

The bulk of the change has predominantly hinged around a handover of the Permanent Staff with Sgt Howes, CSgt Power and Sgt Ingram rotating with Sgt Watts, CSgt Ward and SSgt Crowther across PSI, SPSI and QPSI. The new team has developed



Assault Pioneer Training.



RODET Training at Cottesmore.



Pte James Cason on the assault pioneer course.

momentum across all training activity, building on the momentum established by their predecessors, unlocking some new opportunities and options for partnering or exchanging expertise.

Additionally the first part of the year saw an influx of officers to the company, meaning that with the addition of Captain Hopkin, 2Lt Sampson, 2Lt Titmuss and 2Lt Marshall we had a full complement of officers which enabled us to focus on junior development with greater emphasis than ever. This, coupled with the tireless work of the SPSI and PSI has borne fruit with 2 soldiers Pte's Booth and Clifford successfully completing PNCO and a cohort of others looking to progress in November onto the Battalion PNCO cadre. Other notable progressions are LCpl Wills completing SCBC with Cpl Gray on his PSBC.

Trade training development has also allowed individuals to compliment their main skillsets with two attaining their AASAA, LCpl Patel completing his advanced PTI course and Pte Linnell qualifying as a PTI. Other notables are Ptes Clifford, Singh and Cason completing their Assault Pioneer Course.

Recruiting has progressed this year under the REMSO, supporting key events at the Formula one at Silverstone, Moto GP and looking towards a joint event for remembrance with Barclays in Northampton. The influx of qualified

JNCOs as well as junior officers has allowed personnel to be more formally aligned to RRMT which will help to enable the REMSO's activity.

Exercises have continued at the usual rhythm throughout the year

building through patrol action weekends and urban concentrations up to the to the main Battalion events of Ex STEELBACK STORM in the spring and ADX in September. STEELBACK STORM saw the whole of the company



LCpl Jamie Dexter, LCpl Tarun Patel, Pte Tim Linnell, Cpl Joe Carr on PTI courses.



3rd Battalion



Patrols weekend, Catterick.

deploying to STANTA in a conventional company structure, hunting the OC (OC OPFOR) through Bridge Carr village for several hours.

Ex TIGERS BREACH was another 2 Coy led Battalion weekend focussing on making use of the simunition training facility at Colchester, building on the work that 2 Coy had done as part of the partnered training evening events laid on by The Poachers at Cottesmore earlier in the year. The opportunities for this fluctuate with tempo and availability, but both regular and reservists gain a lot of benefit from the opportunities when they present themselves.

ADX this year was focused on course delivery and making the most of the opportunities for cross training that 19 Bde allow.

This meant we had soldiers dispersed across several locations, conducting or supporting, GPMG, Mortar, IBRU, Cambrian Patrol preparation and GS Driving Cadres. This delivered several key qualifications to develop and grow capabilities and to ensure personnel are well placed to promote in the coming year.

The company has continued to take advantage of the sporting opportunities across the army as well as adventurous training. Continuing their interests Pte Totty has been competing in army football and 2Lt Titmuss has been progressing his fencing.

With other members of the company



Pte Tim Linnell RFTCottesmore.



LCpl Wills with other Steelbacks on the machine gun cadre.

starting to get involved in Army bouldering competitions. Adventurous training this year has been varied with skydiving and climbing in Cyprus being some of the highlights.

As the Company refocuses following ADX we are looking forward to a good showing for the remembrance weekend, where the Company will conduct shooting alongside 4 Company

and then return to Leicester to head up remembrance on the Sunday, where we are often joined by past members of 2 Coy and plenty of familiar faces at the service in Victoria Park.

Army Fencing En garde, pret, allez!

2Lt Max Titmuss

More often than not, when I tell someone that I fence the response is usually nonplussed. 'Is that the sport where you dress up like a beekeeper?' is a common enough question, as is 'are the swords sharp?'

For those not in the know, the answers are yes and no, respectively. That people don't know a great deal about it is unsurprising: it's a sport that does not often enjoy the limelight; when the Olympics are on you need to hunt for it amid the forgotten realms of archery, ping pong etc.

Nevertheless, people usually know some fencing words without realising it. The forte is the bottom half of the blade – hence the strongest. The foible is the top half, and hence the weakest/floppiest. A riposte is the action of parrying someone's advance and attacking back into them. And true, fencing is a sport with a bit of an image problem. 'Public school boys only', some people assume. However, you soon discover





3rd Battalion

that it appeals to those from all kinds of backgrounds. Truly, the desire to prance around in a white outfit and attack people with swords transcends all social divides.

I took up the sport in my twenties, having showed roughly zero interest in it before. For a long time after beginning, my grandfather believed I had taken up the hobby of erecting fences, which explains why he always had such a puzzled look on his face whenever it came up in conversations. Lord alone knows what he thought when I mentioned fencing competitions.

For many fencers – although there are plenty who just enjoy a thrash around at training – competitions are the ultimate objective. They are the chance to fully put into practice the many hours spent practicing lunges, parries and ripostes. Or, more usually, it is the chance to realise that many more hours of practice are necessary after some cruel exposure of the weaknesses of one's game.

Happily, Army fencing has, after a Covid-caused lull, returned to strength. This year's championships, held at Fox Lines gym in Aldershot, saw a veritable horde of novices coming along for a couple of days of training (led by GB-squad coaches) in the fundamentals before being thrown into their very first competition.

I have little doubt that many will return in subsequent years – fencing is one of those sports that gets people hooked. Spend any time in the company of fencers and this will become readily apparent.

At the Army championships this year I was the Royal Anglians' sole



representative. Despite winning the Army's in 2022, I came unstuck this time round in the semi-finals, getting a bronze. We were, however, able to scrape together enough infants – a grand total of three – to put in an Infantry team for the inter-corps shield. Over the course of the day, we were, alas, not triumphant, albeit not for lack of fighting spirit.

The Army's are the qualifier for the Inter-Services, which this year were held at Shrivenham over the course of four days. In the team competitions the Army was pipped to the post by the

RAF, with the Navy languishing far back in third. That said, my progress in the individual competition came unstuck when I encountered a Navy fencer, who deprived me of a medal.

Fencing is a fantastic sport (though I would say that, wouldn't I?) requiring a keen mixture of athleticism, co-ordination and mental robustness. Triangulate those three correctly and you have the makings of good fencer. I will keep working on those ingredients' fine balance and will hopefully come back with a medal two next year for the Royal Anglians'.

Ex TIGERS BREACH

Pte James Cason

Ex TIGERS BREACH was an urban training exercise conducted with 56 soldiers from all the companies across the Battalion, planned and run by Sgt Watts, 2 Coy PSI. The exercise aimed to build and develop individual and team skills in addition to command skills in an urban environment.

However, unlike many exercises

we had done before it we would be using simunition rather than blank rounds. Meaning that there would be clear evidence of how well SPs were conducting their skills and drills. The training environment was one of the best available, based in Merville Barracks in Colchester.

The day's training itself was very

well run. Starting with a briefing on the safety equipment required for using simunition before moving onto practising skills and drills in the building surrounding the range itself as sections to establish SOPs and rehearse them, with a focus on building cohesion within the sections. This was built on with dry runs through the range itself, which

The Steelbacks



Teams stacking ready for an entry.

enabled everyone to run through in different positions in the stack and practice different room clearance techniques.

After lunch, we ran through the range shooting targets with the simulation rounds before instructors took their place, and the range became a two-way contested one. Instantly, this focussed people's minds, and people became far more cautious when doing room entries and thinking before making decisions. The reality and thought of getting shot even with a UTM round was enough to add a level of realism that can't be recreated or felt using blank rounds.

The training benefits from this were massive, and many of us learned some painful lessons. The sections learned lots of lessons and progressively got better as the day went on. The open debriefs we received after the run-throughs were an incredible insight for many of us and the ability to look at it from many angles and perspectives enabled lessons to be learned even if you hadn't been a part of that part of the clearance yourself.

The training was an eye-opening experience on the brutal reality of urban warfare and the level of skill and concentration required to conduct it effectively. It enabled all ranks to gain a new insight into operations in an urban environment.



A pair conduct entry drills.



The team stacks on a night serial.



3rd Battalion

Guest Instructing at the Infantry Battle School

Capt Ben Hopkins



A welcome break in the rain.

From the 25 June to the 8 July, Sgt Flower (then PSI at 4 (Lincoln) Coy) and I travelled to the Infantry Battle School at Brecon where we assisted in the course delivery of the new, integrated Army Reserve course. This course now sees integration across the three training Divisions at Brecon and between the regular students and the Army Reserve.

The new course has Army Reserve students from across the three divisions, Juniors, Seniors, and Platoon Commanders Division arrive at IBS for a weekends training which includes the RRE and several promotion course specific classroom lessons covering the estimate and orders process.

The Reserve students then joined in with their regular counterparts whom they would train alongside for the next two weeks. This began with a centralised series of lectures focused on developing awareness of combined arms manoeuvre warfare delivered by guest speakers from all over of the Army and wider armed forces with particular focus

on lessons learned from the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Following this three-day package, the training divisions each deployed on Exercise DRAGONS EYE with mixed regular and reserve sections and platoons. Sgt Flower and I, covering gaps in the IBS instructor manning, deployed with PCBC, one of us with each Platoon.

The exercise presented a significant challenge for the reserve students to get integrated and up to speed with the regular platoons who had been together on exercise for a number of weeks already by this point in their training. However, after two days of rain and red Brecon mud the platoons bonded well and the mixed platoons worked together very effectively.

The exercise was focussed on offensive actions with the platoons conducting back-to-back deliberate attacks and advance to contacts for the duration with next to no rest between serials culminating in a well-resourced

final attack on the enemy stronghold at Village 1.

On completion of Exercise DRAGONS EYE the regular students returned to camp for a weekend off whilst the Reservist component from each Div returned to Dixie's Corner for a short admin period where they re-ORBATed into platoons, conducted battle prep, snatched a couple of hours well-earned rest (which I'm sure did not seem like nearly enough) before stepping off on the reservist FTX. This two-day culmination of their training allowed each student to perform their rank specific roles within the platoon with the added benefit of doing it alongside, now trained, Section Commanders, Platoon Sergeants and Platoon Commanders.

The FTX was another grinding series of advance to contacts, but the mixed platoons performed well together with the increased realism and mix of experience being hugely beneficial to their attacks.

This was the first iteration of the



Advance to contact on Ex DRAGONS EYE.

course run in the new structure and the feedback of the students and Sgt Flower and I was requested to further improve the training package for reservists on future courses. Although I'm sure minor changes will be made along the way to improve the training value for

reservists the course seemed to be a vast improvement from the old course I remembered from my time at IBS as a student.

Personally, I found the two weeks spent with IBS hugely rewarding with my mix of regular and reserve experience

to be able to contribute in a training environment and enable regular/reserve cooperation at the instructor level as well as at the student level. I would certainly encourage anyone to attend the new course or attend as a guest instructor if the opportunity was available.



A reserve student conducts a clearance of a Brecon woodblock.



3rd Battalion

3 (Essex & Hertfordshire) Company

by Maj Harry Macleod



Ptes Howard, Excell and Edwards firing LR ACMT.

They talk about the privilege of command and rightly so, having watched four OCs during my tenure with the Battalion, last year I stepped up to the plate.

What a year it has been! Having emerged from the COVID gloom there was an interesting balance of those soldiers enthused to get back involved in training, contrasting with those it took some work to get back into routine.

We are still working on this via more interesting training; we're now able to take advantage of Merville Barrack's indoor training facility as well as our own 'mock up' indoor range at Chelmsford, complete with televisions, toilets and movable furniture!

My predecessor's challenge was COVID, mine is Op INTERFLEX. The upside of Op INTERFLEX is that the soldiers are enthused to be involved in real life support that has far reaching consequences. It is a pleasure to speak to those currently deployed and hear of some of their tales. The challenge is that we must continue to find training areas to fit around this operation.

We fight on and some of the highlights of the year have been the Battalion's main effort weekend in June



3 Company conducting clearance using the Merville Barracks urban training facility.

(Ex STEELBACK STORM) where we enjoyed a force-on-force fight that tested both sides.

As OC 'friendly forces' it was my plan to take Bridge Carr village by day and both orders and rehearsals went to plan. However, the heat worked against us and to ensure safe training it ended up being a night attack.

This additional challenge (on top of the tactical insertion and sequential assault) made the weekend all the more memorable and it was a pleasure to be fighting with a Company's worth

of troops through the final position at 0230hrs before setting out sentries and finding some sleep!

We then said farewell to WO2(CSM) Pugh who has been with the company for over 30 years! His successor is WO2(CSM) Ransley who is immediately making his mark, with his first task to get us all out for ADX! During the ADX we had troops deployed across all the cadres and look forward to welcoming back to the fold qualified gunners, drivers and signallers. Those who didn't attend are being loaded onto

promotion Cadres and it was a pleasure to recently promote (now) Sergeant Josh Pike after his successful completion of PSBC. In addition, we have 6 Privates looking to promote to Lance Corporal within the next four months, as well as 4 new officers at differing stages of recruitment.

We now look ahead to the rest of the year with more cadres and development courses ahead of us and we are looking forward to our first Company, rather than Battalion hosted, Christmas. All the fours!

Army Motorcycle Racing

Pte Seb Evenden

Pre-season testing was in the Spanish sun at the Andalucia circuit, spending 3 days getting to grips with the new GSXR 1000. We had a tough time with tyre wear and a faulty clutch switch but managed to spin some laps before heading to round 1 of the No Limits championship.

Round 1 at Snetterton was held in monsoon like weather, no surprise for March! With races being delayed the endurance was pushed back and finished under almost complete darkness which provided its challenges.

Round 2 at Cadwell Park where the weather still hadn't improved... Army team 2 in the endurance were already down to two riders due to other commitments, during the first stint my team mate took a tumble and left me to complete the remaining 2 ½ hours of the race on my own. In the Inter-service qualifying on the Sunday, I high-sided resulting in a trip to A&E with a dislocated shoulder which put me out of rounds 3 & 4.

I decided to make a comeback at round 5 (Anglesey) but again the great British weather had other ideas and the meeting was cancelled on the Saturday afternoon.

Round 6 at Brands Hatch GP was hit and miss with the weather, for the Inter-service race we all started on slicks but by the end of the 2nd lap it was hoofing



Pte Seb Evenden from 3 Coy at Oulton Park coming over the start finish grid during warm up.



3rd Battalion

down! By lap 4 the red flags were out and the race called.

Round 7, Oulton Park, is the most challenging circuits of the season. It was tough as I'm still rebuilding my race fitness after my injuries. Army team 2 successfully come home in the endurance along with some close battling from myself in the Inter-services race against the Navy and other team Army riders.

With the final round at Donington Park coming up we're looking at finishing on a positive note!

**Pte Evenden from
3 Company in the
Brands Hatch Inter-
Service race.**



Ex EAGLE TRIDENT

Maj Harry Macleod

It can be a risk to run training over summer, but with an August gap in the forecast I jumped on the chance to introduce the soldiers to the Army Inshore Sail Training Centre on Thorney Island, Portsmouth.

Run by my friend Jed Cunningham, it offers a raft (pun intended!) of training and qualifications across a spectrum of sports. 10 of us arrived on Friday night and after a great breakfast were on the water by 9am using paddleboards to navigate us up the estuary.

With the tide and wind we paddled up with gusto... then we had to turn around! Luckily, the safety boat did its job and we managed to raft up for some games and dunking.

The weather closed in over the afternoon and there were severe gusts so the DS took us for a tour of the harbour in the RHIBs to see the local sights, including several families of seals that took a great interest in us and the boat!

Conditions on Sunday were perfect for our first sailing regatta, and judging by the performance of some (including the CSM who spent more time under



Cpl Evans, Cpl Rolph, Pte Tridini and Cpl Fernando avoiding the tide sweeping them away



**Pte Tridini, Cpl Evans, Pte Lee and Pte Rodriguez
Angel hunt for (photos of!) seals.**

water than in the boat) it may be the last!
The reason we have no photos of this session was the safety boats were so



Sgt Pike runs the gauntlet before the storm hits.

busy fishing us out of the drink they couldn't take pictures! However, it was a tremendous experience, we learnt a

lot and I would recommend it to all individuals, units and families to see what courses they have on.

Army Clay Target Championships 2023

Maj Harry Macleod

The Army run a series of clay target shooting competitions throughout the year, shooting at various coloured/sized targets in an array of scenarios (crossing, overhead, springing up, running across the ground etc).

Maj Macleod joined around 200 other guns at Barbury shooting grounds in Wiltshire for a day of competing against some of the best shots in the Army. It was a windy day which made the 13 stands difficult at best. He shot a score of 63/100 to finish a definite 'middle third' with the winner managing 93.

There are plenty of clay target competitions throughout the year and to attract reserves, they've started being run on Saturdays. Look up the Army Clay Target group on Defence Connect for more details.



Maj Macleod shooting duck targets at the Army Clay Championships.



3rd Battalion

Inter-Services Kayak Championships 2023

Pte Lochlan Chamberlain



Pte Chamberlain starting the sprint.

At the beginning of August I travelled to Nottingham Kayak and Regatta club for a week of training and racing. The intent was to familiarise us with the course whilst conducting a mixture of speed, endurance and technical training prior to the big races over the weekend.

On the Friday I took part in the K2, 15km Inter-Services race against paddlers from all 3 branches! During the fast-paced event we were in the lead group until my kayak was damaged in

the top turn, which forced us to retire from the race.

Over the following days I took part in multiple sprint races, to which myself and the paddlers in my kayak gained several titles including 1st in the k4 1000m, 1st in the k4 200m and 3rd in the k2 500m.

2024 starts with the Marathon Championships and Canoe Sprint Regatta over the 1-5 July 2024. If you would like to participate look us up on Defence Connect and join in.



Pte Chamberlain waiting for the start of the team race.

4 (Lincolnshire) Company

Capt Christian Healey, 2IC

I write this piece as a relative newcomer to the Army Reserve, having joined in August 2022. It's been a steep learning curve and something of a shock to the system getting back into the swing of things (I left the Regular Army in 2013)! But above all it's been a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

What stands out for me is the cross-section of backgrounds and employment within the Coy, from teachers to paramedics, prison officers to police officers, joiners, scaffolders, bus drivers, and telecommunication engineers to name but a few. In my opinion there are very few places where such a cross section of society comes together with a common interest and unity of purpose.

With soldiers and officers from a broad range of backgrounds, we are able to draw on a wide range of skillsets and experience, share different ideas, perspectives and approaches to problems, which ultimately benefit us all, from the fire team through to Bn level.

It's been another busy year for 4 Coy, which has seen us continue with our



Cpl Gamblin and Pte Standish at the Female Festival of Sport event.



4 Coy personnel ready for action at the NE Lincs Armed Forces Day Event.



3rd Battalion

core training, as well as simultaneously introducing, training and integrate new members into the Coy. A particular focus for development this year has been on our OBUA and CQB skills, the latter frequently practiced with the help of our purpose-built modular wall system on training nights in Grimsby.

There have also been several opportunities to practice OBUA more widely on a number of exercises this year. Of particular note was Ex TIGERS BREACH which utilised 16 Air Assault BCT's CQB training facility. In addition to this, recent events in Europe and beyond have led to a focus on the more 'traditional' infantry skills, somewhat forgotten over the past 20 years, due to the changing, complex environments we found ourselves in during Ops TELIC and HERRICK. Re-learning and indeed developing those skills for the 21st century battlefield has been a sharp focus and has empowered soldiers at all levels to help shape the skills and drills we may need to take forward. While the core role of an infantry soldier remains the same, the demands, the technology and the environments we operate in are evolving at a rapid pace.

Bn exercises always generate excitement amongst the troops. This year exercise STEELBACK STORM saw elements of the Bn operate in a force-on-force environment. This allowed commanders at all levels to practice SOPs, conduct estimates and deliver orders as well as operate in the rural/urban interface and conduct OBUA operations against a 'live', thinking enemy.

Support to operations continues to be a high priority tasking across the Bn and therefore 4 Company. Several of our soldiers have provided support to Op INTERFLEX, gaining valuable experience, and having a positive impact on the delivery of these vital missions. In addition, our medics have supported 7 SCOTS in Croatia on Ex SAVA STAR.



Pte Michael Wilkinson wins the Best Recruit Award at the end of his MOD3 training, with Sgt Matt Hardy.

And then we add the routine instructional and career courses to the mix, from Mortars and Machine Gun cadres through to SCBC, PSBC and PCBC. The NE Lincolnshire Armed Forces Day in Cleethorpes as well as Remembrance Day, allow our soldiers to interact with the public and display the best of the military during high profile occasions. Sport also plays an important role in the Coy, with power lifters, cyclists and runners all represented. We encourage our soldiers to try new sports and represent the Bn in events where possible. The Female Festival of Sport

this summer is one that stands out in particular.

Finally, we've seen the departure of a number of key Coy personalities. WO2 (CSM) Wayne Sheils, SSgt Tim Mosey and Sgt Lance Flower, PSI. While for Wayne and Tim's service has come to an end, Lance will be returning to Bn. The contribution they've made over the years has been considerable, and they certainly leave big boots to fill.

So we come to the end of another busy year – it's amazing how much an Army Reservist can fit into their spare time!

NE Lincolnshire Armed Forces Day Cleethorpes, June 2023

Capt Christian Healey

Despite having taken part in the NE Lincs Armed Forces Day (AFD) event in Cleethorpes in previous years, I'm always taken aback and immensely proud of the level of support the town and surrounding area show members of the three services, be they serving or veterans.

During this three-day event, some 200,000 spectators are believed to have attended, and it felt like most of them were there to support us on the Saturday during the march past along the front! This event is always an excellent opportunity for serving members and veterans to connect, old friends to catch up and for members of the Armed Forces, both regular and reserve, to maintain that vital link with the public we represent.

Furthermore, it's a key opportunity for the families of our Army Reservists to share in what their loved ones do. It certainly made the hours of ironing, bulling and polishing worthwhile! To march along the Cleethorpes front to a military band, able to hear the wonderful words of support from the public, was a brilliant experience, and one the newer and younger members of the Coy will remember for years to come.

A second element to the AFD event is the potential to generate interest among the general public, to join the Army Reserves. Competing against numerous other Arms and Services, there is always an effort to stand out from the rest. Led by Sgt Hardy, 4 Coy personnel did an outstanding job of interacting with potential recruits. This was made a little easier with the efforts made to make an interesting display of infantry equipment and weapon systems. Big trucks are one thing, but people want to get their hands on weapons!



Pte Luke Goodman sussing out a rival recruitment stand in the Armed Forces village.



3rd Battalion

Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC) My Experience July 2023

Pte James Uppal

After completing basic training at Grantham in the early part of 2023, I began the Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC) course in July. The 2-week course at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick, opened with an evening of unpacking and personal administration before rolling straight into the Role Fitness Test (RFT) the following day.

Upon successful completion of the RFT we were broken down into our sections and following a brief period of getting to know each other, we packed for our first field exercise. This three-day exercise was a refresher phase, taking us through all that we had been taught in basic training Modules 1 to 3.

I found this particularly useful as I did experience a degree of skill fade between courses. At the end of this first exercise phase, we were thrust into bayonet training halfway through a tab back to camp. This was an excellent vehicle to demonstrate controlled aggression in difficult conditions. On completion of this phase, we returned to camp and turned our kit around. We then had a day of R&R, which some of us used to spend in Richmond.

For the next two days we were taught aspects of fighting in urban areas, with the training culminating in a



Pte Uppal with his Section prior to the Chinook lift.

scenario where our platoon was ordered to assault an enemy compound. Having successfully assaulted the compound, the platoon extracted with casualties. On arriving at the extraction point (a pre-designated HLS), two Chinook helicopters carried the platoon to safety, conducting evasive manoeuvres along the way. For the vast majority of us, this was the first time we'd flown in military helicopters and was an experience that I'll remember for years to come. It was one of the highlights of the course.

The final phase of the exercise allowed us to put into practice all the

skills we had been taught throughout the course. Culminating in a final assault on an enemy position, we closed with and destroyed the enemy positions, completing the objective. We then tabbed back to camp.

The Combat Infantryman's Course was a challenging but enjoyable course, which allowed us to not only to build on previous training, but to learn and put into practice a range of new core infantry skills. I made new friends, learned a lot about myself and I'm raring to apply my newly learnt skills back in my section in 4 Coy.



Pte Uppal with his Platoon at ENDEX.

Section Commanders' Battle Course (SCBC), April 2023

WO2 Karl Firth (PSAO)



Cpl Michal Cybulski with his fellow Section Commanders following the urban phase of the course.

Any Brecon course allows Army Reservists the opportunity to operate and integrate with their regular counterparts, and in March 2023, two ambitious Lance Corporals from 3 Royal Anglian arrived at the Infantry Battle School (IBS) to find out if they were up to the task. One of these was 4 Company's LCpl Cybulski.

On day one of the course the reservist element, including LCpl Cybulski were subjected to a day of instruction on the Orders process, followed by a fitness assessment, and then immediately on to a Combat Estimate exercise on the infantry soldiers' playground that is Sennybridge Training Area. This initial barrage of information and assessments reduced the course strength, with those below the standard being promptly RTU'd.

Having achieved the required standard, the remaining reservists met their regular counterparts and were swiftly subjected to the gruelling and infamous 'Brecon Three-Miler', and despite the presence of regular infantry, including counterparts from the Parachute Regiment and the Royal Gurkha Rifles, it was LCpl Cybulski who crossed the line in first place at the top of 'X' Range. This took the IBS PTIs aback, and demonstrated the robustness, fitness and quality of the Steelbacks and the Royal Anglian Regiment more broadly.

Attacks Week lay in store for those who remained, and five days of uncompromising platoon attacks in all weather and terrain took the aspiring section commanders to breaking point. But despite the high attrition rate, LCpl

Cybulski stood firm, earning the respect of his regular counterparts.

On Completion of Attacks week, as the regular soldiers were dismissed for a well-earned break, the reservists found themselves in the urban environment, spending their weekend developing OBUA and CQB skills in the most complex terrain the IBS has to offer.

There was no let up the following week as the patrols phase commenced, demanding a depth of tactical understanding of the highest calibre from the students.

On completion of the challenging but insightful week the reservists gave their final orders, and LCpl Cybulski again demonstrated his quality, surprising and impressing the instructors with orders that any regular NCO and officer would be proud of.



3rd Battalion

5 (Suffolk & Cambridgeshire) Company

Maj Ian Robinson MBE, OC

I write this year's Castle article to the sombre background of a major State on State war in Europe, the latest outbreak of violence between Israel and the Palestinians and a host of other actual and potential flashpoints all over the world.

It has never been difficult to motivate soldiers to train but currently examples of existing British Army commitments and possible future ones are everywhere and serve as a reminder to all of us of the ultimate purpose of the Army Reserve. As always, the 5 Company team have spent another busy, rewarding and successful year focussed heavily on operations and training with members of the Company completing periods of mobilised service, career courses and a steady drumbeat of evening and weekend training events.

Op INTERFLEX has been a priority for the Army as a whole and 5 members of 5 Company are currently mobilised within the UK providing training to Ukrainian service personnel. You will hear more from them in the following pages, but it is worth highlighting that they are fulfilling vital roles, delivering training directly to the Ukrainians to the highest of standards. This reflects great credit on themselves and the Regiment as well as being a great advert for the employability of Reservists.

WO2 Howe has recently returned to the UK following a period of mobilised service in the BATUK training wing, something else you can read about in this edition of Castle. As demands on the British Army continue to rise

opportunities to mobilise out to Kenya will increase and we expect additional members of the Company to deploy next year in training support and force protection roles. As I write this article, 14 members of the Company are preparing to deploy for a 2-week PNCO cadre. This is another example of the outstanding opportunities open to Reservists and will be reported on in next year's Castle & Royal Anglian news.

Due to the hard work from many people both within and outside 5 Company we continue to be well recruited in both Bury and Peterborough. In particular Schwaben Pl in Peterborough have consistently high numbers parading on their Wednesday training nights and at weekend events of all types. You will find an interesting article from Schwaben Pl Comd 2Lt Smeeton in this year's Castle which highlights the Platoon's continued efforts to uphold the legacy of those Cambridgeshire men who served before them.

A feature of Reserve service is the constant change in personnel. This month has seen WO2 Wright move across to BHQ, where he will focus on Battalion training events, and be replaced by WO2 Howe who will fulfil the PSI role in Bury. Sgt Duckett has returned to the Regiment following a short period with 158 Regt RLC and has taken on a G4 role at both Bury and Peterborough. The Company said a notable goodbye this year with the retirement of WO2 Beard who had given close to 40 years of outstanding service to the Regiment,

all will miss his enthusiasm, knowledge and fantastic sense of humour.

The Company continues to be blessed with a strong cohort of young officers who thrive on the support and comradeship they receive from each other. 2Lts Coulter and Smeeton commissioned in July this year with 2Lt Smeeton taking command of Schwaben Pl in Peterborough and 2Lt Coulter joining a group of 5 subalterns in Bury which includes 2Lts Bradley and Stannard who are both to be congratulated on passing PCBC earlier this year. Other notable course passes this year include Cpl Dean PSBC and Pte Wick CMT 2. This year's ADE included a series of specialist weapons cadres, it was excellent to see LCpl Deeley, Pte Downey and Pte Tarrant badge as Machine Gunners adding to 5 Company's capability in this area. Recruiting remains vital to our success, and we continue to allocate significant time and effort to it, this year the Company has attested 9 recruits, had 4 pass phase 1 training and 7 phase 2 training.

As the Army continues to navigate another period of change there undoubtedly remains a degree of uncertainty over the Army budget, the size and shape of the Army, and exactly what future role Reservists will fulfil. There is very little we can do to influence the outcome of those discussions so 5 Company will continue to focus on supporting operations where we can and training to be ready for future opportunities when they arrive.

BATUK January-July 2023 Training Wing TDS

WO2 Andrew Howe

Early in January this year I had the opportunity to mobilise to British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) for six months as part of the training wing Temporary Duty Staff (TDS). This rotation happens twice yearly with the

TDS handing over in June/July to a new TDS who complete and support BATUK through to December.

The training wing in BATUK is supported by around 8 Permanent Staff on a two-year posting and the

remaining 14 personnel are TDS. The Training Wing have a very busy time both planning and delivering training to Battle Groups (BG) and supporting lower-level exercises. These exercises can range anywhere from 10 days to 6

weeks depending on the unit and the requirements.

This year two BGs trained in Kenya firstly, in March, 1st Battalion the Coldstream Guards then in June 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment BG conducted training. All BGs are required to complete several phases of training and tactical actions to meet the required standard to be placed on readiness or deploy on Operations.

These start with a period of Live Fire Tactical Training, and Kenya sponsors some exceptional opportunities to conduct low level individuals and pairs fire and manoeuvre up to combined arms ranges with use of 105 light guns and 81mm mortars ensuring the training is as realistic and close to the battlefield as possible.

Many of those experiencing Kenya for the first-time comment on the realism of the experience and how their senses come close to overload.

This phase culminates in a Coy level CALFEX consisting of live fire attacks by day and night with supporting fires from 105 light guns, mortars and snipers all adding effect and realism to the attack.

This live fire phase is conducted at Archers Post which is a 3½-hour

drive from the main camp in Nyati Barracks. The area is covered in high features and scrub land with large open areas, dry riverbeds and rocky outcrops covering an area of around 35-40 square Kilometres.

The next phase is conducted on a private land which is rented to BATUK for training use. This area is inhabited by everything from lions and herds of elephants to gangs of baboon's and herds of zebras all moving freely leading to many a scenario being adjusted to take account of wildlife transiting through the exercise areas.

The giraffes often watch with great interest as troops manoeuvre through the landscape and other wildlife often follow at a distance for any bits of food that might be left behind. The hyenas and wild dogs are often heard at night and often on the hunt for rubbish and scraps.

These phases are all blank firing so the only friction for the animals is noise which in the main means the animals move off away from the action.

As members of the Training Wing the TDS support and monitor the training and act as observer mentors and safety, also for my part I delivered updated training on CBRN – CEO –

BCD and was on hand to advise or help where needed.

As a member of BATUK staff there are also many opportunities for personal development including completing new courses and chances to visit areas throughout Kenya as part of organised Adventure Training (AT) or your own sightseeing trips to the coast or safari.

All of the following are easily available white-water rafting, climbing, mountain biking, horse riding, windsurfing or climbing Mount Kenya which you can see from the accommodation in BATUK.

I was able to attend a Team Medic course and an all-terrain forklift course and visit Nairobi a couple of times as well as mountain bike around the foothills of Mount Kenya.

For those who wish to conduct community engagements there are many school projects and water improvement projects that BATUK are heavily involved in, however, you can start your own project if you wish, and funding is available for this. I would recommend Kenya as a place to visit and if joining BATUK for a few weeks as Force Protection or as TDS is of interest then go for it, it will be a different and enjoyable experience for you.

Unveiling the Past: Schwaben Platoon's Journey to Ely Cathedral

2Lt Adam Smeeton

Schwaben Platoon recently embarked on a poignant heritage visit to the venerable Ely Cathedral. Ely Cathedral, affectionately known as the "Ship of the Fens," has gracefully stood as an emblem of faith and human ingenuity for more than 900 years.

On a brisk October morning, Schwaben platoon gathered at Ely cathedral on a heritage visit.

Under the expert guidance of an Ely Cathedral historian, the platoon delved into the cathedral's history. The cathedral itself is a living testament to architectural evolution, boasting three distinct styles

that range from Romanesque to Gothic and culminate in the Renaissance. The day was enriched by the presence of distinguished companions who accompanied the platoon on this journey: Lt Col (Rtd) David Denton, Retired Lt Col (Rtd) Tony Slater, and Retired Lt Col (Rtd) Colin Elsdon. Their participation deepened the Platoon's connection to their own legacy and the enduring commitment that defines the Royal Anglian Regiment.

The visit concluded at the Regimental War Memorial, located in the north transept of the cathedral.

Bordering the transept are five regimental Colours, each with its own rich history: the 'First Colour of the Ely Loyal Association 1798-1802,' the 'Colour of the Cambridge Military 1759-1908,' the 'Colour of the Cambridge 68,' whose garrison was in Ely from 1850,' a 'Second Colour of the Cambridge Militia,' and the 'Second Colour of the Ely Loyal Association 1798-1802.'

The Colours stand as proud testaments to the service and loyalty of the regiment's soldiers over the centuries.

The Regimental War Memorial



3rd Battalion



Schwaben Platoon outside of the Regimental war memorial at Ely Cathedral accompanied by Lt Col (Retd) David Denton, Lt Col (Retd) Tony Slater, and Lt Col (Retd) Colin Elsdon.

itself displays over 800 names of fallen soldiers on 7-foot-tall oak boards. These names are a sombre reminder of the sacrifices made. The memorial is a place of reflection, where the soldiers of

Schwaben Platoon paid their respects to those who had walked the path before them. In the shadow of the cathedral's towering spires, Schwaben Platoon found themselves connected to an

ancient tapestry of devotion, service, and sacrifice. This visit was not just a historical excursion; it was a poignant reminder of the legacy they carry forward.

Bismarck Challenge 2023

SSgt (SSI) Scott Waddell RAPTC

An early autumn morning start for the eight soldiers from the Battalion that took part in this year's Bismarck Challenge on 18 October, that saw 135 teams take part in total, competing against both regular and reserve units from the whole 1 Division.

It was an arduous military training event to test both mental and physical resilience of all participants. This year's event had a new location of Catterick (previously York), an area all the soldiers know from their time at CIC.

The traditional four-mile distance was kept the same, but the course was



Mixed team crossing the line together.

The Steelbacks



A final push to the finishing line from the male team.

made more physically challenging. The Battalion entered two teams: one male and one mixed, with soldiers coming from 3 of the 5 Coys. Each team consisted of four soldiers and a collective weight of 40kg carried in Personal Load Carrying Equipment (PLCE). Upon arrival each team took part in a weigh in, and every daysack was sealed with a green plastic cuff.

Teams were set off in waves with the mixed team going in wave four and the male team in wave seven. As each team was called forward, they went through a holding area and were given a Swedish style warm-up before starting. Teams must stay together throughout the course, within arm's length of each other at all times and when entering the finish line.

The mixed team set off on the hilly route, of which many were familiar with as they had done their infantry training here, crossing the finish line with a time of 53.36. Next off was the male team and with the sun shining, very unusual for Catterick, they sprinted away and finished with a time of 40.32.



Back Row: Pte Joe Exton, Pte Michael King, Pte Charles Cutts, Pte Paul Brennan, Capt Chris Healey. Front Row: Pte Damien Carr, Cpl Adele Gamblin, Pte Anne Rooks.

At the end a well-earned curry from the field kitchen was provided followed by results and prizes. The male team came in 51st and the mixed team 132nd,

an absolutely fantastic effort! The only thing left was the dreaded journey home, where the whole team fell fast asleep before we even got on the A1.



3rd Battalion

Annual Deployment Exercise

Mortars ADX 81mm Mortar Cadre

Sgt Warwick



From left: Rfn Uden, Rfn Cross 6 RIFLES and Pte Anthony Dacre from 4 Company 3 R ANGLIAN on detachment awaiting fire orders to be issued for adjusting targets for a FIREPLAN during the 81mm ACMT.

Ex STEELBACK RAIN was a 19 Light Brigade Annual Deployment Exercise (ADE) 81mm Mortar Cadre. Commanded by Sgt Warwick, it was run by 3 Royal Anglian & 6 Rifles as part of a combined series of ADE events in Sept this year. With OP INTERFLEX being felt across the Army when range time at STANTA became available, the opportunity was seized!

A joint team of permanent staff from across 3 Royal Anglian and 6 RIFLES ran a mixed regular/ Reserve Mortar Cadre, assured by the DTC Warminster. The Cadre consisted of Instructors and Students from across 3 R ANGLIAN, 6 RIFLES, 4 LANCS and 2 RANGERS.



81mm Mortar Cadre night firing.

The usual 4 weeks cadre was condensed to the core Training Objectives by Sgt Warwick, in close consultation with Warminster, to ensure that the course would count as their Mortar numbers cadre.

Additionally, we had 5 Command Posts and mortar fire controller (MFC) personnel supporting to complete the wrap for the detachments, with some of these using it as build-up pre-course training towards their ACPO/CPO mortar standard course at SWS Warminster. The MFC's with existing qualifications were able to use this as ongoing currency and personal development.

The course was convened and run alongside the driving and IBRU cadres, based out of Lynford Home Farm and stables, on STANTA, with the real-life support (RLS) and cooking being run by the G4 team of 1 Company and the chefs of 2 Company. The first week of the course focused on the weapon system and roles within the detachment. The cadre



81mm Mortar Cadre night firing.

then transitioned to demonstrations and low-level exercises, before culminating week one with a full day of individual assessments. This began with a five-

mile heavy carry, followed by a timed into action exercise, which all students completed successfully. From there it was onto the weapon handling test for the 81mm Mortar, which signalled the successful conclusion of the first week.

The second week of training was focused on the live firing serials necessary to qualify the detachments and predominantly focused on building up from bedding in, adjustment of fire and individual fire missions with HE and Illumination rounds, culminating with the execution of a fire plan.

This course was key in highlighting the benefits of bringing units and specialists together under 19 Light Brigade. This enables a much better training outcome that individual units would not necessarily be able to achieve in isolation. Being able to leverage skills and experience across the wider Brigade allowed the continued reinforcement of the Specialist Weapon capability within 1 Company and across the Battalion as well as providing an opportunity to qualify regular personnel too.



Rfn Uden, Rfn Cross and Pte Dacre awaiting fire orders to be issued.



3rd Battalion

Machine Guns Cadre

Pte Edwards writes:

This year's MG cadre was run by CSgt Antoni from 3 Royal Anglian at Warminster with help from 6 RIFLES. The course was to qualify new members to the platoon as GPMG (SF) gunners and gun controllers and a refresher for existing Gunners such as myself.

On the course there were personnel from 4 LANCS, 6 RIFLES and 3 R ANGLIAN.

The first phase was lessons and lectures on the GPMG and its capabilities, physical training and classroom exercises with gun kits. The second phase moved into ranges on LFTT ranges on Salisbury plain. With Ex WESSEX STORM filling the plain with tanks and AFVs, it provided the perfect backdrop to a Ukraine based scenario shoots. Compared to Lydd and Thetford, the arcs were incredible when firing onto these ranges and there were a range of static and traversing targets that we found added huge value to the training.

The final exercise consisted of a



Course insertion.

tactical insertion followed by a range of shoots to test our ability across the various targets we had engaged over the week.

I enjoyed this cadre as we got to work with other regiments and

understand how their training aligns and differs from ours. I also learned a lot from our experienced training staff who added real time experience from their tours to bring life to the different shooting practices.

Driving Cadre

Pte Rowsell

The British Army DGSD (Defence and General Service Driver) is a comprehensive training course designed to provide the necessary skills and knowledge for proficient and safe driving of the Land Rover in diverse conditions.

The first week of the course focused on establishing a strong foundational understanding of the Truck Utility Medium (TUM) Land Rover vehicle and associated documentation.

This started with an initial 'nursery' circuit around RAF Honington to build confidence and then progressed to public roads.

We received training in vehicle control, vehicle maintenance and recovery, road safety, and guiding other drivers using hand signals before progressing to off-road driving in day and night. We were shown the Land Rover's



Pte Roswell conducting offroad drills on STANTA.



Pte Roswell conducting vehicle extraction drills.

capabilities on challenging terrains such as muddy trails, steep ascents, sandy paths, and rugged landscapes.

This off-road training segment was made particularly interesting due to the inclement weather we had, making parts of the course more difficult. This led to several instances where the Land Rovers became stuck in deep water/steep traverses, and we enjoyed applying our self-recovery training to get each other out from these challenging situations and successfully finish the course.

A noteworthy aspect of the first week is the introduction of night-time driving, facilitated by Night Vision LUCIE sights. It was difficult to account for the lack of depth perception but significantly improved visibility in low-light and nocturnal conditions.

This training imparts the necessary proficiency to navigate confidently in low-light conditions. In summary, the



CSgt Taylor teaching camouflage and thermal signature drills.

cadre was an all-encompassing driving course that was perfect for participants with no prior experience.

I strongly recommend this course for

anyone contemplating it, as it offers not only an enjoyable experience but also significantly improves the success of exercises and logistical operations.



3rd Battalion

Signals Cadre

CSgt Babou Cham

As part of the 2023 Cadres ADE, as the CIS SPSI I ran an Infantry Basic Radio User (IBRU) course held in Lynford Farm, Thetford (STANTA).

The course was attended by 16 service personnel mainly from 3 R ANGLIAN and 4 LANCS. IBRU is a mentally demanding course due to the bulk of information that the soldiers have to learn and get tested on. It provided them the opportunity to have hands on the BOWMAN VHF Radios and get a general comprehension of how they operate, especially when it is filled with CRYPTO (SECURE COMMS) mode.

The cadre also teaches the service personnel all the basics they must be aware of especially in the area of Communication Security, a factor highlighted by the recent signals interceptions and subsequent action in Ukraine. IBRU is a prerequisite for all Infantry Soldiers before they are promoted to LCpl and is also an opportunity for those who wants to pursue a career in comms to come forward and develop their skills before



Pte Hayes and Pte Thomas Willams practising drills.

being loaded onto future communication courses. The course feedback was really positive across the board and all 16

students enjoyed the opportunity to learn alongside soldiers from other units in 19 Light Brigade.



A successful finish, Ptes Fowler, Lees, Hamer, Vickers and OCdt Reid joined by 4 LANCS students.

Rifle Company Exercise

WO2 (CSM) Ransley

On a wet Friday night we arrive at Farm 13 on Sennybridge Training Area (STA). It is dark, slightly chilled and we occupy a 12x12. The smell of exercise hits me almost immediately and we prepare to attack day 1!

Our pre-exercise procedures including safety briefs, maps, ammunition and Operational Ration Packs (ORP). We meet the troops from other units within the recently formed 19th Light Infantry Brigade including 4 LANCS and 6 RIFLES, the latter having organised and delivered the exercise.

Week one included 'remind and revise' of the fundamentals of Infantry soldiering including the hasty attack at Section and Platoon level, different types of patrols including a Platoon level anti-personnel ambush and the recce patrol. Throughout the week we complete a combination of both battle lessons and battle exercises – the ground was tough and punchy as was the weather, reminding everyone that infantry soldiering is tough!

The transition to week 2 was hard, fast and aggressive! We receive a Warning Order (Wng O) for a move



Cpl Fernando using his LLM for clearing CIELINI village

from the slightly warmer and protected buildings of Farm 13 to occupy a hasty patrol harbour and a Company deliberate attack on an objective at Cellini Village. After Company Orders we move by vehicles to a drop off point and occupy hasty patrol harbours.

It is wet – it is cold – it rains almost continuously for over a day! Of course, it would.... It is STA and Wales! The attack reminded everyone why they joined the Army – hard, fast, aggressive and proper soldiering. NLAWs, ASMs,

GPMGs, IDF were all used and after several hours of combat, the Company defeated all enemy forces and the objective is clear. Great realistic training and mission success achieved.

Thursday quickly arrives – it has been a cold and wet week with little sleep. The Company is suddenly stood too after the enemy fixes our location with indirect fire. High Explosive and Smoke strike our location. Before we know it, the enemy is assaulting and fighting through forcing the Company to conduct a hasty withdrawal.

We are back in a hasty patrol harbour and conducting battle preparation for the Company to retake Cellini Village – it has been our home for almost a week. Quick Battle Orders are delivered and both noisy and silent rehearsals are completed.

The Company launches on H Hour, supported by our own direct and indirect fire support plan from an attachment – an asset – Fire Support Team – C/S G230 (played by OC 3 Company an ex-Gunner). We launch a Company TWO UP attack, assaulting and fighting through our previous positions to retake our vital ground. After several hours of fighting through the buildings and streets of Cellini Village we eventually clear the objective at approximately 0100hrs on Friday. We have sustained some friendly casualties but achieved the mission success had been a "Day of days...".



Pte Brooks waiting to breach a house in CIELINI village.



3rd Battalion

ADX – G4 Support

Maj Eamon Jordan

This year the ADX was spread across the UK from Thetford to Brecon, so the G4 support was vast. Close liaison with all of the Coys SPSI's and QPSI's was key to ensure their plan had the G4 support to deliver and execute.

The largest G4 pull came from the Mortar and CIS cadre. These cadres had the largest number of troops (60 soldiers in total) and the feeding plan changed 10 days out. The new plan was to provide an field kitchen and chefs. Fortunately, the Bn has two reserve chefs, Pte Singe and Pte Bray, that could commit to the cadre dates.

So, having secured an cook set and two chefs we just needed the food and storage.

With a little RQMS magic from WO2(RQMS) Woolcott, 10-person ration packs, fridges, freezers, and food supplement money were put in place at a blink of an eye!

This provided the two chefs the basic platform to plan prepare and cook their menu for the 60 soldiers over a 14-



Pte Singe and Bray serving the troops.

day period. All of this was conducted out of very basic facilities at Lynford Home Farm and stables on STANTA and the first time in five years that the Bn had used the OFCS field Kitchen.

This was not an easy task for the chefs and there were two notable highlights

from their sterling work. Producing a full Sunday roast and making a mini smoker, all in the first 7 days. This cadre would not have happened if the chefs couldn't commit to the ADX and the Battalion owes a large thank you to them and the G4 team.

Cambrian Patrol Training

Lt Mercer



Cpl Carr, Pte Haigh, Lt Mercer, Pte Thomson-Horrell, Pte Clement and Pte Binder before the rain started!



CBRN training.

I have been part of the Steelbacks for six years and this year will lead a team of soldiers on the infamous Cambrian patrol. This is the premier patrolling event of the British Army, if not the world covering 65km in 48hrs with no sleep, terrible terrain and multiple scenarios to battle.

The preparation camp for Cambrian patrol has been a challenging, yet enjoyable and rewarding process for all members of the patrol. The 15 day camp, separated into several phases with each increasing in technical difficulty and providing the opportunity for both soldiers and commanders to test themselves. A wide array of events that will appear on the Cambrian patrol were selected and used to create scenarios to solve. The challenges are basic soldiering skills, learned throughout a soldier's career, mixed with the rugged terrain and often formidable weather of Wales.

The first challenge for the team was navigation and load carriage. Over several days we embarked on long



Pte Clements coming down from Corn Du in the Brecon Beacons.



3rd Battalion



From Corn Du to the reservoir.

weighted marches across the unforgiving terrain of the Black mountains. On some days we had sweltering heat (it can happen in Wales!), not a good combination for hill walking and heavy loads.

However, for the most part, we endured the more commonplace heavy rain and strong winds. Armed with a series of grid references and a Silva compass, we darted from checkpoint to checkpoint often having to use precise navigation due to low cloud. As the days pressed on, the weight carried increased, finally culminating with 40kg on our backs, as we summited Pen Y Fan and its neighbouring peaks.

The second phase of the training was a teaching phase, with a series of lessons covering captured personnel,

CBRN, first aid, vehicle recognition and calling in artillery support. These were instructional lessons that taught and refreshed skills covered in each.

The final phase consisted of 2x 24hour exercises where our knowledge was put to the test. The entire patrol requires communication and teamwork, even when the weather and ground tried to stop us. Sennybridge training area is the perfect landscape to test soldiers, with its collection of water in lower ground forming horrendous boggy areas. A wrong step at any time or even bad luck can send you underwater ranging from ankle to waist deep at any moment which many of us found out! The ground is also littered with large clumps of solid mud and grass, known as “baby heads”, which seem perfectly designed to break

the ankles of people passing through.

The exercises took us through a series of section level attacks and using artillery on enemy positions. We then gathered intelligence on two separate locations in the form of night recce's. These tested our ability to work as a team at night, staying close and following procedures. It also gave us the opportunity to hone the skills of reconnaissance.

After these scenarios, we encountered CBRN threats and attacks, minefields and had to deal with multiple casualties. This of course meant carrying out CASEVAC drills which can be ‘challenging’ to say the least.

Overall the culminating exercises pushed us both physically and mentally, but prepared us for the competition.

Op INTERFLEX

2Lt Stannard

Fiercely patriotic is an understatement when used to describe Ukrainian soldiers. They are highly motivated and desperate to play their part in their attempt to reclaim their country. Every day starts with a minute's silence, a presidential order for the Ukrainians, to remember the fallen.

For the past 6 months 3 Royal Anglian personnel have been mobilised on Op INTERFLEX as part of the first Army Reserve Company to support the UK Armed Forces' training programme to develop and prepare Ukrainian recruits to take the fight to their country's Russian invaders.

Predominately based close to home on STANTA as part of a multinational task force; Steelbacks personnel worked alongside representatives from Finland, Romania, Denmark, Sweden, Australia and Canada. In addition to other personnel deployed to Lydd training camp and Knook camp.

On STANTA, the Steelbacks have been involved in delivering a basic infantry course lasting 5 weeks. Each course is delivered to 200 Ukrainian recruits, split between 3 Platoons of 65. The majority of recruits have zero military experience prior to arriving for



AFU at Eastmere village practising window entries.

this training and have volunteered for service in response to the invasion of their country.

The basic infantry course is fast paced with little time for rest and every lesson is of importance when you are returning to a war zone. It consists

of several stages very similar to the modules completed by soldiers joining the British Army.

The first week covers skill at arms training on an AK variant (ARM-9F), battlefield casualty treatment and a three-day exercise covering basic administration in the field, field craft and the mechanics of a section attack.

Immediately after this, recruits move into a tactical phase consisting of exercises focusing on fighting in woods and forests, the urban environment, and trenches. Combining British doctrine with Ukrainian SOPs has been a challenge for the 3 Royal Anglian instructors but one they have been able to meet; many becoming well practiced in trench warfare, a lost art! As well as learning quickly how, drones are used to create a truly three dimensional, 360-degree battlefield.

Once the tactical phase is completed a packed 10-day range package is delivered. Starting with initial marksmanship principles building up to the British Army Annual Combat Marksmanship Test (ACMT).

Once the ACMT is passed the recruits move into automatic shoots and live fire tactical training. Culminating



AFU advance to contact on LFTT range.





3rd Battalion



AFU soldiers during Fighting in Woods and Forests (FIWAF) Exercise.

in section in defence shoots in an improvised trench system and live fire section attacks. With the course complete, there is a brief period of administration for the Ukrainians, including a well-deserved barbecue,

before they depart to join their Units. Without doubt this has been one of the most challenging but rewarding things I have done in my civilian and military career. The dedication of the instructors is only matched by the enthusiasm

of the recruits. The pre deployment training for all those mobilised on Op INTERFLEX included an opportunity to gain a range of qualifications that will be invaluable to our future careers back in the Battalion.

Op INTERFLEX Remotely Piloted Aerial System Course

LCpl Turner

Whilst deployed on OP INTERFLEX I was tasked with providing a two-week drone course for those Armed Forces Ukraine (AFU) soldiers unable to complete the range package as part of their basic infantry course.

The drone course ran over the final two weeks of basic training after the tactical exercise phase as a trial to provide some alternative training for the soldiers. The majority of whom had eyesight issues or injuries that precluded them taking part in live firing. We designed a modular training programme from the basic principles of RPAS

operation to tactical usage. The first module of the course taught the students the basics characteristics of the drone, how to deploy the system and airspace management.

The next module consisted of a lot of live flying practice. The main effort was to get the troops familiar with how the drone reacts in different flying conditions, take off, landing and banking turns. We also covered the Immediate Action (IA) drills and, after some practice, the troops had the opportunity to demonstrate the drone IA drill to the junior leadership course.

Following this module, the course moved on to tactical flying scenarios, including the use of RPAS for reconnaissance. The troops were briefed on their objective and tasked with gathering what information they could. There was also an opportunity for the course to work in pairs, with some map reconnaissance and ground appreciation, then it was down to the pair to decide how best to execute the mission including where to launch the drone from.

Finally, we ran a joint exercise with an AFU Platoon Commanders' course.

The Steelbacks

The exercise involved the Platoon Commanders using the drone team to recce an area with the intention to locate the enemy. This gave the drone operators an opportunity to work with the Platoon Commanders and provide their commanders an insight into the capabilities of the drone. It also gave the opportunity to the leadership course to command a drone team. The final attack was a great success. Lastly, the new drone pilots were awarded a specially designed patch at their leaving presentation to reflect their hard work and new found skill as RPAS pilots.

LCpl Turner briefs the AFU JLC Course on their mission with Alex (linguist).



AFU RPAS Pilots demonstrate the drones' capabilities for the JLC course.



3rd Battalion

EX KRONUS HUNTER

19 Light Brigade (19 Bde)

Potential Junior Non-Commissioned Officers (PJNCO) Cadre 2023

SSgt (SSI) Waddell RAPTC



The course at ENDEX.

Ex KRONUS HUNTER is an example of how world events can change a whole course within just a few days. The PJNCO Cadre was due to take place in Cyprus, however, events in the middle east meant that Cyprus was cancelled and a new location had to be planned within a matter of days.

Only the British Army have the resources and capacity to pull such a task off. With some hard work from BHQ, help from Op INTERFLEX and a change of distance of nearly 2,000 miles, the course was now to be run at Langford Farm STANTA.

The PJNCO Cadre was given to 3 Royal Anglian to conduct, plan and execute as part of 19 Light Brigade providing reservists on Op INTERFLEX an opportunity to conduct a cadre as part of their deployment. Directing Staff, G4, G6, G7 and a real-life enemy force was pulled from BHQ, Permanent Staff and a large contingent from the Army Reserve Soldiers of the Battalion. With a quick change of the packing list, from the summer sleeping bag to the much-needed

bouncing bomb. Seven Battalions within the Bde would be providing their best Private's to undertake the course and if successful become Lance Corporals.

With students coming from all over the UK, the initial phase of the cadre consisted of start standard tests in military knowledge and navigation theory. The three Section Commanders were fulfilled by SPSIs (CSgt Ash Ward, Sgt Dean Watts and Sgt Craig Davitt) who all come with years of military and operational experience.

Their knowledge would be the best tool for the students in developing themselves to be a Section 2IC, through their excellent teaching. The Section Commanders invested many hours of the first few days of the course transforming the Army Reserve soldiers within their Section into a cadre frame of mind, and getting to know all the soldiers they were training individually. Some of these soldiers had only finished their civilian job hours before travelling and parading for the course.

As with all teaching courses,

the Cadre moved back to basics and refresher lessons were taught to build the foundations for the students to develop further. With early morning starts the Section Commanders wanted to maximise the use of short-day light hours in the unsettling autumn weather. On the 11 November the course halted training for a short period, and formed a hollow square, to remember those soldiers who had paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The students began refining their leadership style in the attacks phase whilst now living in the field. Over the next few days each section was drilled relentlessly on the section attacks, before returning to their wet wood block which would be their home for five days.

With the Section Commanders handing over their appointment of Section Commander to the students their eyes were now focused solely on the section 2IC appointment, with the DS grading the students command and control, and how the hopefuls dealt with pressure. They were observed by the

Platoon Commander and Platoon Sgt while in the harbour area. For many of these students this would be the longest they had spent continuously in the field. They soon became familiar with harbour life, whilst continuing to learn and understand the importance of their development in the Section 2IC role.

The final part of the green phase of the exercise was an early morning Platoon Attack which would give every student the chance to show their DS that they had grasped complexities and demands of the Section 2IC appointment and would be able to return to their Battalion and be competent within this role.

All the DS raised the tempo and pushed their Sections during the final part of the attack, making sure they performed at the highest level with grit, controlled aggression and the thought process required as a leader. ENDEX was called and with that 35 new newly qualified Privates were now eligible for promotion to Lance Corporal.

The final stage of the course was back to the dry (but not warm) Langford Farm to conduct their Army Leadership Development Programme. As Lance Corporals within the Army Reserves, these soldiers must be capable of effective leadership through command and management, be role models for their subordinates and contribute to team ethos and operational effectiveness.

PJNCO Cadre Student View

*Pte Tim Linnell
3 Royal Anglian 2 Company*

For me, prior to any course, there's always a nervous anticipation due to wanting to do well. This was even more prevalent in preparation for this course which, would hopefully, lead to earning my first stripe.

Considering the short notice move from Cyprus to the UK, the DS managed to create a course which had all the ingredients for a challenging and informative cadre. It was a true test of physical, mental and leadership performance and for anyone who said

it wasn't difficult, clearly they were not putting all their effort in.

It was a packed and relentless course which I think is important for me as a Reserve Soldier as it doesn't give me time to worry about the stresses of civilian life (a form of respite almost!) and allows me to get my head in the game. I've learned so much, sharpened so many existing skills and have come away feeling a real sense of achievement.

For me, nothing beats seeing a Section/Platoon of individuals you mostly don't know, flourish into a team with such a strong cohesion, and new friendships formed which will last a lifetime. Everyone had each other's backs and were there to drag each other through the hard times, pushing them to new limits they didn't think were possible.

I'm really excited to put the skills I've honed to good use to set an example, teach, and help subordinates and others around me, to operate effectively.



Pte Tim Linnell having finished a Comd appointment.



Pte Sacharczuk using the model to prepare orders.



Regimental Library Reviews

Live Fight Survive, by Shaun Pinner

**An ex-British Soldier's Account of Courage, resistance and defiance
fighting for Ukraine against Russia**

Review by Maj (Retd) Mike Peters

Shaun Pinner was a Royal Anglian, serving with the 1st Battalion for 9 years. Shaun's path to becoming an infantry soldier will be familiar to many Castle readers. Like many young people that turn to life in the Army he had little interest in school work and even less in finding gainful employment in his home town, Watford. He enlisted in the Army in 1991, eventually finding his way to the Vikings after completing his basic training.

Life in the Regiment agreed with Shaun. He enjoyed soldiering, and deployed with the battalion on operational tours to Northern Ireland and to Bosnia. These early aspects of his military career get just enough exposure in the book's narrative. The scene is well set and the reader quickly builds an understanding of Shaun's outlook without a laborious examination of his childhood. Time with the 1st Battalion in the Airmobile role is highlighted, and was evidently well-spent. Exposure to SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance & Escape) was certainly beneficial in Russian captivity.

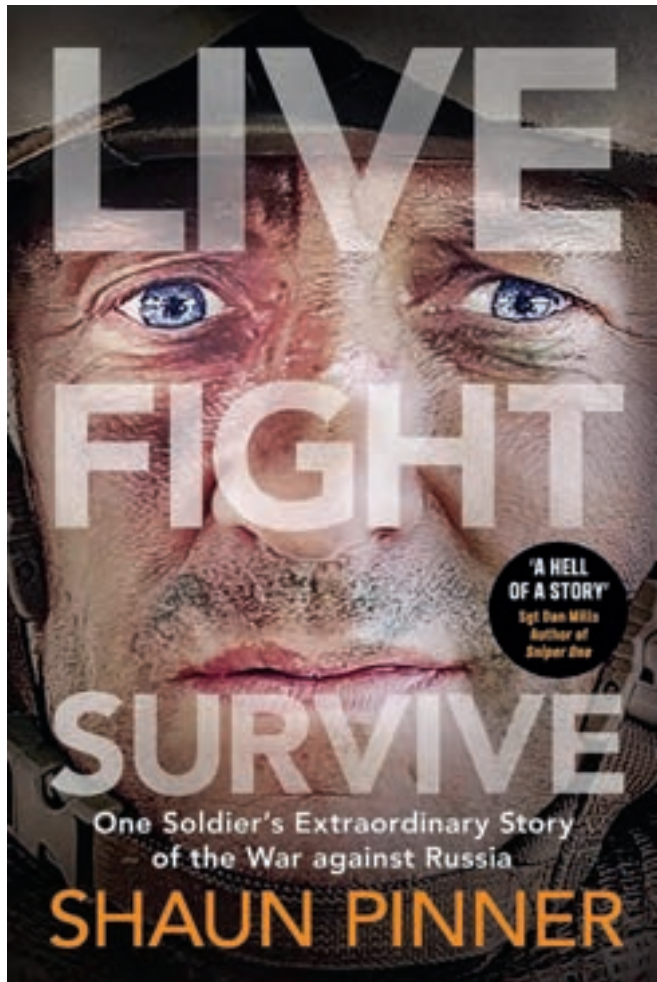
Outside the military Shaun missed Army life, and craved excitement, despite this he ran a successful business and was married for a while. Sadly the marriage failed and Shaun explains that he suffered from depression. A return to the camaraderie and buzz of military life seemed attractive, after all, he had the skillset.

The conflict in Syria presented an opportunity to get away from the humdrum rhythm of civilian life. So, along with many likeminded westerners he went to Syria and joined the YPG, a military organisation training Syrian troops to fight ISIS.

The book describes an increasingly frustrating life working in these international training teams, running ranges and training overly religious recruits. By 2018 it seems that Shaun has had enough of Syria and is aware of the \$25k bonus placed on his head by ISIS. Ukraine it seems was a much more attractive proposition.

The war in Ukraine had begun in 2014, Shaun Pinner joins the fight in 2018. He finds his training skills quickly put to use by the Azov Assault Brigade in Mariupol; they were part of the Ukraine National Guard. As a former professional soldier, he was considered a very useful asset. Despite the language barrier he was tasked with training recruits and regulars in the essential arts of map reading, fieldcraft and reconnaissance. It is interesting to note the effort that Shaun puts into dispelling the perception that this particular formation is not comprised entirely of Nazi inspired thugs.

It seems from his perspective Shaun felt well respected and had integrated well. Promoted to Senior Private. He remembers an enjoyable time in Mariupol, a city that he describes as beautiful, lively and welcoming. In fact he settled there after meeting and marrying a Ukrainian girl. Shaun describes the transition from a period of fierce trench fighting North



of Mariupol against DPR infantry, to the full scale Russian offensive. Pinner was involved in the rear-guard action as his unit pulled back towards Mariupol, ending up in a defensive position, fighting for his life, outnumbered and surrounded by Russian Forces in one of the now infamous steelworks.

It is from this point in the book that the story becomes increasingly absorbing. Shaun Pinner is clearly a man of great resilience, undoubtedly, his SERE training helped him enormously, coupled with classic military gallows humour. The six-month period from February 2022 that our author spends in captivity is described in detail. It pulls no punches and gives an insight into the mentality of his Russian captors and their harsh treatment of PWs. This is a topical and thought-provoking read.

Published by Penguin Books in hardback and paperback, 336 Pages



Regimental Band

Introduction

CSgt Neil Carey



The band has had a productive, successful and important year. We have trained hard under our new Director of Music, Captain Jason Griffiths, to ensure new standards of music making in all we do. The band and Captain Griffiths have 'gelled' superbly with some notable engagements and performances during the year.

In mid-December 2022, the band played at the Regimental carol service in Bury St Edmunds. This event has grown over the last few years and the band played to a sizable congregation. It was a fitting end to a busy year for the whole band. Following the service, a small brass ensemble travelled to play for the 3rd Battalion carol service on the STANTA training area. We accompanied some very enthusiastic singing from the battalion in the historic West Toft's church on the training area.

The band returned from the Christmas break in January 2023 and immediately began musical training for the year ahead as well as completing our ITR's for the end of the training year. On the 27th May we supported the regiment by delivering a grand charity coronation concert at St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds. The concert was very well

received and raised much needed funds for regimental charities. Immediately after the concert, the band deployed to RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire to complete our first ADX. We engaged with musical training as well as ITR's for the new training year.

On the 8th June, Captain Griffiths and Colour Sergeant Carey along with RHQ staff attended the Founder's Day parade at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. We were pleased to help the regiment support its Pensioners on the most important day of the year for the Royal Hospital. It also gave us the chance to say a final farewell to Captain Peter Hudson (our previous Director of Music) as he retired from his post of Area Regimental Secretary on that day, having served the Royal Anglian Regiment for nearly 50 years.

July saw the band deploying to our second ADX to RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire on the 22nd July, we engaged with musical training as well as completing ITR's. This included preparing for an engagement on the 29th July at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Northampton for the rededication of a Northamptonshire Regiment window. This was a poignant occasion as it marked

the end of the active Northamptonshire Regiment association.

September saw the band supporting the Royal Anglian Gathering at IWM Duxford on Sunday 3rd September. This was a wonderful opportunity for the band to play for the church service, march past, lunchtime concert and flag lowering. It is also a chance to catch up with previous members of the band as well as the wider Royal Anglian family. Later in September, the band travelled down to the Royal Hospital Chelsea to provide musical support for the Royal Anglian sponsored church service. At the start of October, Musicians Mills and Ormerod deployed for 10 days to Gibraltar to provide musical support to the Royal Gibraltar Regiment Band. During this time, they played for public duties such as Guard Mounting and the Ceremony of the Keys. November saw the band providing musical support for the Regimental Remembrance Service at the Royal Anglian memorial, IWM Duxford as well as delivering a Regimental Charity concert in Grimsby.

Under the direction of Captain Griffiths, the band is going from strength to strength and is looking forward to the challenges of 2024.



Regimental Band

Providing Musical Support to the Royal Gibraltar Regiment Band October 23

SSgt Colin Swaep



Musn Ormerod taking part in rehearsals under the direction of WO2 Rundle-Wood, Bandmaster Royal Gibraltar Regiment Band.

During early October, The Royal Gibraltar Band and Corps of Drums are required to deliver musical support to various State Ceremonial and Public Duties (SCPD) events for British Forces Gibraltar, In particular the Ceremony of the Keys Parade.

Musician (Musn) Gary Mills and Musician Steve Ormerod were privileged to be able to provide musical support to the Royal Gibraltar Band. After an early flight from Manchester, Musn Mills and Musn Ormerod arrived in Gibraltar on the 1st October ready to commence rehearsals with the Royal Gibraltar Band. Music rehearsals started on the morning of the 2nd October in the band practice facility under the direction of their Bandmaster, WO2 TP Rundle-Wood. Marching Band rehearsals followed in the slightly cooler evening on the parade square at Devils Tower Camp, Gibraltar. Rehearsal continued in



Musn Gary Mills and Musn Steve Ormerod during the Band Troop. Musn Ormerod can be seen second SP back on second file from the right (as you look), black helmet, Royal Anglian Music backing card.



he Royal Gibraltar Band and Corps of Drums Marching off after completing the Ceremony of The Keys Parade, through Casemates Square. Musn Gary Mills can be seen fifth SP back on the left-hand file (as you look), black helmet, Royal Anglian Music backing card and spectacles.

this manner until the final rehearsal on the evening of 4th October.

The Ceremony of the Keys Parade took place on Thursday evening on the 5th October in Casemates. Alongside a richly appreciative public audience, The Governor, Vice Admiral Sir David Steel,

Commander British Forces Gibraltar, Commodore Tom Guy, Caretaker Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Joseph Garcia, and the Mayor, Carmen Gomez, were all present for the annual event.

Both Musn Mills and Musn Ormerod commented that it was an honour and

a privilege to have been part of the Ceremony of the Keys Parade and wish to thank Bandmaster WO2 T P Rundle-Wood for the opportunity to support this event and the Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment for their welcome and hospitality.

Regimental Christmas Carol Service **St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds, 9 December 2023**



The Band were privileged to support the Regimental Christmas Carol Service.



RMAS

The 3rd Battalion welcomes another New Officer on Commissioning



Lt Col Dave Haggard, CO 3rd Battalion, attended 2Lt Hart's Commissioning Parade.

The Regiment congratulates 2Lt Hart, 3 R ANGLIAN who completed Module D of the Army Reserve Commissioning Course, and marched up the steps of Old College at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, on Saturday 25 November 2023.

Also completing Module C earlier in November were 2Lt Reid (3 Company) and 2Lt Thompson (1 Company) who have both been awarded provisional Commissions and will return to the Academy to complete Module D in 2024.

200th Sovereign's Parade is King Charles III's first



From left: Maj Si Broomfield, Lt Col Tim Irwin-Parker, CSgt Jamie Du Maurier, OCdt Callum Morgan-McDermott, Maj Gen Dominic Biddick, OCdt Adam Bevan, OCdt Joshua Freemantle, CSgt Dean Kimpton, Capt Paul Phillips.

CSgts Warburton and Kimpton are now in their second year at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and have been instructing the Officer Cadets in their respective platoons on Commissioning Course 233, who are due to have their Regimental Selection Board on 9 May 2024.

CSgt Du Maurier is currently instructing in the Dismounted Close Combat Wing and will be instructing a platoon on Commissioning Course 241 starting next term.

Brigadier Olly Brown is pictured here alongside OCdts Daniel Bradnam and Henry Astill, representing the Colonel of the Regiment at the 200th Sovereign's Parade on 14 April 2023. This parade was King Charles III's first Sovereign's Parade since his coronation. During the parade His Majesty presented new Colours and a new Sovereign's Banner to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Wooddisse attended his final Sovereign's Parade as Colonel of the Regiment on 11 August 2023 to see the commissioning of OCdts Oliver Goldsack, George Chapman and Joe Bagnall.

Major General Dominic Biddick has attended his first Sovereign's Parade as the new Colonel of the Regiment to see the commissioning of OCdts Joshua Freemantle, Adam Bevan and Callum Morgan-McDermott on 15 December 2023.



Brig Olly Brown with OCdts Daniel Bradnam and Henry Astill.



Lt Gen Sir Ralph Wooddisse with OCdts Oliver Goldsack, George Chapman and Joe Bagnall.



ITC Catterick



Royal Anglian Officers at ITC Catterick

Lt Charlie Boffey-Rawlins



Recruits conducting PT.

A vital component of the British soldier is the world class training they receive, regardless of cap badge or service. With it being said that sweat in training saves blood in war and brains save both the initial training that soldier undertakes is there to develop a complex and thinking individual with a capacity to grow towards the needs of the team and The Army.

Whilst different cap badges of the Army will find themselves strewn over the breadth of Britain the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) Catterick alone, is the home of the British Infanteer. The establishment delivers Phase 1 and 2 training to all recruits joining the Field Army's Infantry's Battalions as well as develop future leaders of the Army Reserve. Located in deepest darkest North Yorkshire, it is a challenging environment in which future soldiers are

tested and moulded often with the sharp end of a bayonet.

My time at ITC started with my movement from a Rifle Platoon Command in summer of 2022 having previously led 5 Platoon, 2 Royal Anglian in Cottesmore for 2 years. This is a common second posting for Infantry Platoon Commanders and having had several NCOs who had recently been at the Centre providing their experiences and some tips regarding the Vickery I was sent North with my Army provided transit van with final round of leaving drink; multiple handshakes and less anxiousness than my arrival to Battalion.

I joined B Coy, 1st Infantry Training Battalion taking over a Platoon as they progressed into their Phase 2, Infantry Trade Training (ITT). The ITT was a 14-week course with over 6 weeks of field activity in an arduous and challenging

course that provided the building blocks for soldiers to progress on into further training. These soldiers are not the finished product, but individuals with core knowledge and an ability to learn and retain the information that will then come at their units. The progress they will have made over a short six months should not be underestimated.

The ITC offers different experiences for the Platoon Commander to Battalion. Working with a variety of cap badges, and a variety of accents, adapts your delivery style and I certainly feel I have grown as a junior leader in the short time I've been here. Empathy, patience, and ingenuity to maximise the limited resources you have is vital as a training team and the ability to lean on the experienced and motivated Cpls makes the process that much easier.

Whilst the course offers many

positives, the two highlights for me were both towards the end of the course;

Live Fire Tactical Training or LFTT is the penultimate activity and varies from course to course. Our course had the privilege of Sennybridge, and the weather and terrain created an excellent experience for the recruits. The real pleasure for me was seeing the recruits, having spent the previous 5 months learning weapon handling and marksmanship, and then on static ranges show the confidence and ability to function as a member of their section.

Finally, the greatest sense of pride came from the final pass out, B1 passed out 36 soldiers heading to all corners of the UK, Cyprus and even Gibraltar I am pleased to say three Royal Anglian soldiers were on parade, Pte Tipper joining The Vikings and Ptes' Rhodes and Watkins to The Poachers. Meeting the new soldiers' friends and families was a truly rewarding experience, and one I was delighted to be a part of, followed by a well-deserved drink in The Infantry School of Dance with my training team.

I am set to return to Regimental



A Casualty Evacuation at the Infantry Training Centre.

Duties July 2023 and will return with a respect for those instructors at the ITC and an awareness of the new soldier's ability and experience. The soldiers passing out are expected to do more with less, in an ever-changing world and

should not be underestimated in their ability to adapt and develop at a rapid rate. I was told once that as a Platoon commander I owned the last 100m, as an infantry soldier they own the last 6 inches.



Under the watchful eye of R ANGLIAN DS, a recruit observes their arcs.



Infantry Battle School Brecon



News from the Infantry Battle School – training the next generation of Royal Anglians

Maj Tim Hearne

*‘To ensure peace, we must be prepared for war’
- John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough*

The Infantry Battle School has long been an exciting and memorable posting across the Infantry, both giving a break from the tempo of Regimental Duty but also offering a rewarding experience for instructors. The Battle School at Dering Lines, Brecon, is infamous across the British Army as the vast majority of infantry soldiers have been trained

there and spent their time on the local Sennybridge Training Area.

The current generation of Royal Anglian instructors have faced a unique challenge over the last 18 months; a significant shift back to warfighting after a long period of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Majors Tim Hearne and Adam Mackness, Captains Danny

Spray, Jack Wright and Rich Ledsham and CSgts Callum Wade, Adam Barclay and Bradley Hilton have all been a part of the new training system now being delivered at the School.

The global situation will not have been lost on anyone. Because of this, the Infantry Battle School has delivered a generational shift in training, named



“optimisation”, and developed under the direction of Op MOBILISE, and later, the Land Training System (LTS). These two pan Army changes have sought to reorientate the British Army to fight a conventional land war in Europe.

The change at the Battle School has been significant and include integrating all infantry commanders into company and platoon groups with a focus on Dismounted Close Combat (DCC) warfighting. These groupings were formed from the Infantry’s command courses: Section Commanders, Platoon Sergeants and Platoon Commanders courses.

The integration of all three battle courses has been conducted many times before, and certainly in the Battle Schools of the Second World War. IBS has adopted a common DCC tactical syllabus, training all three separate groups through the common programme separately to highlight the differences in roles: section commanders leading dispersed operations with the ability to



combine in a company group context in multiple environments; platoon sergeants who can deputise and guide

platoon commanders but lead on the administration, sustainment and protection of the platoon; and platoon commanders who have to learn a large range of tactical actions and be conceptually skilled to understand the combined arms battle and work directly to a company commander. The end result is integrating for a large exercise at the end of the courses, named Exercise COMBINED WARRIOR.

All these commanders need to operate and thrive as infantry soldiers, make plans and decisions under pressure, direct and inspire their teams and cope in all conditions and dismounted environments.

The common warfighting syllabus covers tactical actions which have both long standing and renewed importance on the battlefield, anchored in offensive, enabling and defensive actions, across different environments such as expansive forest, urban areas and interface. CBRN, anti-armour tactics, dispersed infiltration and use of s-UAS is also taught along with a foundation knowledge of combined arms capability, practised and utilise where appropriate, such as understanding the use of defensive engineering and fire plans and the capabilities of armour.





Affiliated Cadets



Foreword from Colonel Cadets

Brigadier Rich Lyne

Yet again, I'm delighted to be writing about the unique achievements of our Cadets in this edition of Castle Magazine. It has been a very busy year with, most hearteningly, activity levels back up to pre-COVID levels – the odd peek at our Regimental social media will give you an indication of the variety, volume and quality of activity that our Cadets have been involved in.

Guided by our Regimental Cadet Executive Committee, we have refined and improved our 'offer' in terms of support and access to Regimental events and it's been great to see increased Cadet representation at our key Regimental activities. And in their ACF and CCF Detachments our Cadets and their Instructors continue to achieve so much – we are rightly proud of their excellence, commitment, and dedication in everything they do, underpinned by those most commendable qualities of facing down challenge and having the confidence to try new things and learn new skills.

As I reflect on the past months, there are many events that stick in my mind and, regretfully, it is impossible to represent all of them here. That said, if



I was asked to select some events that embody all that is fantastic about our Cadets, I would choose the following three. The first was Talavera Day at Northampton in July – organised by Col Robert Blomfield, this was a showcase of all that is best about our Cadets and their dedicated Instructors; whether marching on parade, greeting VIP guests, carrying out all the important activity during the Service or playing at the Talavera Dinner that evening, Cadets

were front and centre. I had the chance to chat to all of them and, as usual, was most impressed with their enthusiasm, resilience and sense of fun.

Second was the opening of the National Army Cadet Force Museum at Wisbech in September which, realised through the determination of Col Mark Knight, is a fascinating representation of the rich history of the ACF. I was able to chat with a group of Cadets from Wisbech who, apart from being delighted with a day off school to attend (!), were visibly proud to be representing the ACF at such a unique event. And last but by no means least was our annual Regimental Day at Duxford also in September where we had record breaking attendance from CCFs and ACFs.

As is our tradition, we marked the outstanding efforts of our Cadets and their Instructors with the presentation of coins by the Colonel of the Regiment. We were also most privileged, especially so given the heat of the day, to have the Cadet Corps of Drums lead the march past that included the largest marching contingent of Cadets to date. There are so many more events, training nights, weekends and camps besides and I'd like to extend a most sincere 'thank you' to all those that have the imagination and drive to organise them, often in their personal time.

All in all, you'll agree that this has indeed been an outstanding year – as a key part of our Regimental family, all of us should reflect on everything the Cadets that wear our cap badge and their Instructors have achieved. With respect to the latter, if you have served in the Regiment and are thinking of giving something back, you could make a genuine difference for the next generation as a Volunteer Instructor, so why not give it a go? In closing and on behalf of our Regiment, I extend our sincere congratulations and here's to more high-quality Cadet activity and achievement in 2024.

Let me know if that's OK – probably worth a bit of additional proof reading just to make sure it's on the money!



Brigadier Rich Lyne addresses cadets outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton.

Reflecting on a Hugely Successful Year for our affiliated Cadets



The Colonel of the Regiment joined our cadets for a photograph after presenting well deserved Cadet Coins.

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Affiliated Cadets



Cadet Cambrian Patrol - Oundle School CCF Win Silver!



Exercise Cadet Cambrian Patrol is an annual event, hosted by 160th (Welsh) Brigade. This is the premier national cadet competition where teams of 8 cadets from Army Cadet Force (ACF) and Combined Cadet Force (Army) Units and Contingents can bid for one of the twenty places on the exercise.

The Exercise took place on the Sennybridge Training Area to the north west of the Brecon Beacons. The aim of the exercise is to provide cadets with the opportunity to participate in an unsupervised patrol where they are tested on the Army Cadet syllabus, with a specific emphasis on teamwork, leadership, self-reliance, navigation and field craft skills in a tactical scenario.

The Exercise is described as a physically and mentally challenging

event. Completion of the patrol is rightly regarded as a significant achievement. To participate in the exercise it was necessary to obtain endorsement of our participation from our parent Brigade, which was then forwarded to the Exercise organisers.

Our training and preparation was further enhanced by a visit on 17 May 23 to our affiliated Regiment, 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, at Kendrew Barracks, Rutland.

Directing Staff of 160th Brigade provided an Orders Group meeting to the Patrol Commander late in the evening of Friday 19 May 23. That night, the cadets slept in barn before an earlier reveille at 0430 on the morning of Sat 20 May 23. Their first assessed exercise commenced at 0630. They then patrolled through a

sequence of locations at which they were assessed on a diverse range of military skills, including battlefield first aid, observation skills, navigation and low level infantry tactics. The total distance covered during the next 13 hours was in the region of 25 to 30 km across rough, hilly terrain. The cadets were carrying a rifle, ammunition and a day sack of mass approximately 10kg. They also had bergens which they collected later in the day at 1900. At this point, and carrying all of their kit, the cadets moved a further 2 km to their harbour location for overnight.

Late on the Saturday evening, the Patrol Commander delivered a set of orders for the following days patrol. The delivery of the orders was assessed and scored on a matrix, as were all of the

other military skills that had been tested at the various previous stages of the patrol. The final element of the exercise on Sunday morning was an extended tactical scenario which involved blank-firing on enemy positions and the use of pyrotechnics, in the form of smoke-grades.

The very last phase was to carry a

simulated casualty of a stretcher away from the location. Inevitably, this involved climbing a long hill.

Completion of the patrol is regarded as a significant achievement and earns a certificate. Further enhanced performance awards Bronze, Silver and Gold medals depending on the standard achieved. All 8 members of the Oundle

team completed the patrol and Oundle School was awarded Silver Medal for scoring between 65% to 74% of the total possible marks.

Irrespective of the score obtained, there is no doubt whatsoever that this was a highly credible performance from all members of the team in our first entry into this event.

The National Army Cadet Force Museum – Official Opening



Victoria Cross winner WO2 Johnson Beharry opened the National Army Cadet Force Museum in Octavia Hill's Birthplace House,

Wisbech on 11th Sept 2023 to mark Octavia's legacy from 1889 when she established the first Independent Army Cadet Unit. Wisbech born (1838) Octavia Hill's pioneering work in Southwark, London with youngsters in 1889 lead the way to the modern day Army Cadet Force (ACF) as we know it today. Octavia Hill was a well known social reformer, one of the three founders of the National Trust and a campaigner for open spaces but is largely unknown

for her work with the Army Cadets.

Guests included: Brigadier Tim Seal Vice, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, The High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, Colonel Ashley Fulford, National Colonel Cadets at Regional Command, Brigadier Richard Lyne, Royal Anglian Regt, The Mayor and Mayoress of Wisbech, and Veterans from Wisbech Royal British Legion.

The Vice Lord Lieutenant read out a letter received from Buckingham Palace acknowledging the new National Army Cadet Force Museum and Octavia's pioneering work with the Cadets.

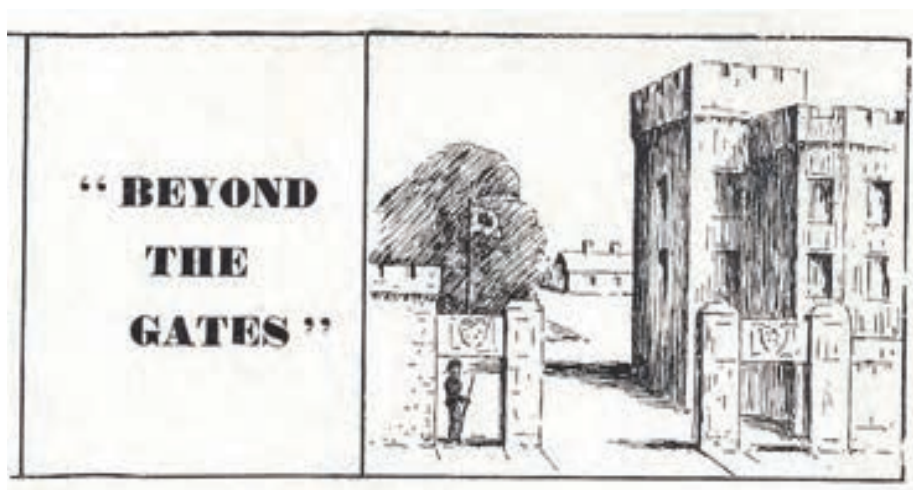
Brigadier Richard Lyne, Regimental

Colonel Cadets, spoke to all the Wisbech Detachment Cadets who were proudly wearing the Royal Anglian cap badge. They spoke well and gave an account of their recent Annual Camp and cadet life post covid.

After the opening WO2 Beharry gave a truly amazing talk on "how he won the Victoria Cross". Local Cadets from Wisbech Detachment and children from nearby Cambian Wisbech School had the opportunity to meet WO2 Johnson Beharry VC COG and help him plant a tree on Centenary Green to commemorate the occasion. (Picture: Sgt Doug Stuart, Cambs ACF PRO).



Regimental Association



The Royal Anglian Regiment Regimental Association



President of the Regimental Association

Major General SL Porter CBE

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

The Vikings Past & Present Ball 2023



The Gathering of Vikings for the 1st Battalion Past & Present Ball 2023

The 1st Battalion Past and Present Ball was held on 10 June 2023 at Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds.

A total of 155 guests attended, comprising serving members, veterans and their partners.

We were privileged to have Brigadier Dom Biddick MBE MC in attendance, who delivered an outstanding after dinner speech.

This event was the first to be held in the new location, with the invitation being opened out to include Vikings of all ranks. This attracted many new

attendees who thoroughly enjoyed the Mess style format of the evening and the opportunity to meet up with their fellow 1st Battalion veterans.

Dinner was accompanied by an excellent String Quartet from the Regimental Band. Then followed the speeches and the much anticipated raffle, which raised £1200 to go towards the 2024 Ball, a vital helping hand in order to subsidise our running costs in these lean times. A welcome addition to the event was the disco, which was enjoyed by many and provided a great

opportunity for our ladies to get together with the inevitable rendition of “We are the Champions”!

The Chairman, ‘Granny’ would like to extend his thanks to all involved in the planning and all who attended and made it such a memorable occasion. Having received many thank you emails from guests informing him that they are bringing more veteran friends next year, he is already planning for the 2024 Past and Present Ball which will take place in Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 15 June 24.



Regimental Association

The Poachers Summer Ball 2023



The Essex ACF Corps of Drums.

The sixth annual Poachers Summer Ball took place this year at the Northampton Park Inn on Saturday 17th June 2023. Organised once again by the intrepid Dave Gardiner, some 300 people attended the event which was a huge success bringing together serving and veteran Poachers of almost every generation. The guest of honour was Capt Roy Cousin who was delighted to represent the 2nd Battalion and speak about their current exploits and deployments.

The Essex ACF Corp of Drums kindly attended and gave a musical display that all the guests enjoyed very much. Following the opening ceremony at which Dave welcomed everyone an Act of Remembrance took place for all those old comrades who had passed during the current year accompanied by a slide show of pictures shown on the big screen.

The Ball was a terrific event, and an evening to be remembered by all those old Poachers and their wives/partners who attended. A huge debt of thanks is owed to Dave Gardiner who has pioneered this re-union and made it the great success it now is.

This year's Poacher's Summer Ball will be on 15th June 2024 at an



Dave Gardiner flanked by his TESCO Helpers!.



Serving Poachers' Table

exciting new venue, the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel in Corby. The event is open to all Poachers past and

present and members of their family. Contact Dave Gardiner via social media or the Events pages, currently 250 will

be attending.

The cost is £55 per ticket, including a three-course banquet dinner and wine.



Dave Gardiner at the podium.



Capt Roy Cousin responds for the serving Poachers.



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LIKE HOME
RIGHT
AWAY.”**

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Regimental Association



Norfolk

Lt Col Mark Nicholas MBE DL writes
2023 has been another year of activity for the Association. We continue with the important business of meeting, branch gatherings, supporting veterans and those serving, social occasions, and chapel services.

We maintain close links with A (Norfolk) Company 1 R ANGLIAN and No1 Company 3 R ANGLIAN and we take great pleasure in making the Best Soldier award to each company. Our investments are in good shape and we maintain a programme of grant giving for branch activities, supporting Regimental battlefield studies as well as A (Norfolk) Company and No1 Company requests.

The Regimental museum in Norwich continues to be in excellent shape thanks to our curator Kate Thaxton. Kate and her team of volunteers have worked tirelessly to manage the collection and during periods of closure have improved the museum's capacity for storing artefacts. We have benefited so much from being part of Norfolk Museum Service and it is an important relationship to retain.

Who's who in the Regimental Association in Norfolk:

Regimental Secretary – Ms Helen Bibby.
Email: helen.royalnorfolk@outlook.com

County Committee – Lt Col Mark Nicholas, Brig James Woodham, Col Tony Taylor, Major William Heal, Lt Col Tony Powell, Col David Hedges (Norwich Branch), Maj Stan King (Gt Yarmouth Branch), WOII Dale Curtis



R NORFOLK Officers lunch.

(Dereham Branch), Capt Tim Jones, and OCs A (Norfolk) Company and No1 Company.

Finance Committee – Lt Col Mark Nicholas, Lt Col Eddie Thorne, Maj Tim Power, Maj Frank Froud, Lt Col Tony

Powell.

Museum Trustees – Lt Col Mark Nicholas, Lt Col Tony Powell, Lt Col Eddie Thorne, Lt Col Ian Lonsdale, Lt Col Tony Slater, Mr Nigel Back, Mr Peter Black.



Regimental Association



Suffolk

Minden Day 2023 - Bury St Edmunds



Veterans of the Suffolk Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment held their annual commemoration of Minden Day on Sunday, 30 July at The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Risbygate, Bury St Edmunds.

The annual event was attended by the Mayor, Councillor Diane Hind, and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Donna Higgins.

There was a march past by veterans of both regiments with the regiment's colours and standards of the Suffolk Associations on parade, and the salute was taken by the Mayor and Association President Brigadier (Retired) AJK Calder OBE DL. Suffolk veteran and former war correspondent and independent MP Martin Bell (84) once again marched at the front of the parade.

As well as the county associations the reunion also included the Old Coldstream Corps of Drums, the Glenmoriston Pipe Band, the city of Ely Band, historical military vehicles, stalls and family attractions.

'A great day for our military veterans, families and the people of Bury to get together,' said Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Mark Wenham one of the event organisers and the incoming President of the Association. "Minden Day is a



special occasion for the Regiment and one that we are delighted to share with the town.'

The Suffolk Regiment Museum was also open on the day and the curator Claire Wallace and her team of volunteers were kept busy with visitors for the whole day.

The Battle of Minden was a major engagement during the Seven Years' War, fought on 1 August 1759. An

Anglo-German army under the overall command of Prussian Field Marshal Ferdinand of Brunswick defeated a French army commanded by Marshal of France, Marquis de Contades. The Suffolk Regiment, then the 12th Regiment of Foot, passed through German gardens on their way to battle and picked roses that were placed in their headdress, a tradition that is still maintained on Minden Day.



Regimental Association



Essex



Col CAF Thomas TD DL

The year 2023 seemed to go by very quickly, punctuated by a few events over the months.

In April, the annual 3 Company Officers Dinner Club dined at Chelmsford ARC. On that occasion, current and past SNCOs were also invited. In July, it was

the turn of the 3 Coy Warrant Officers and Sergeants to invite current and past officers of the Company to the annual Salamanca Dinner. Both events were very enjoyable.

The Essex & Kent Scottish Regiment was to receive new Colours in 2021.

Having hosted the Regiment's Honorary Colonel in 2015 to visit the Regimental Chapel, Warley, I inquired if a visit from me might be on the cards, which it was. (The then Essex Scottish Regiment donated the oak panelling surrounding the alter in the Chapel.) Plans to visit





Regimental Association



Essex

the Essex & Kent Scottish Regiment, based in Ontario, Canada, were duly made, but ongoing COVID precautions delayed the Colours presentation until 2023. Arrangements were made, flights booked, and thus it was that I arrived in Toronto. After a couple of days sightseeing, I took the train to Windsor Ontario to book in to the hotel that was accommodation for the event, over the weekend 13/14 May.

On 12 May, there was a Reception for All Ranks, during which the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, (HRH), met a number of those assembled. I was privileged to meet him.

The presentation of Colours was in the presence of HRH. A Drumhead Service blessed the new

Colours, which were then trooped through the ranks of the E & K. On dispersal, it was time for a brief rest, a shower and a change into Black Tie for the All Ranks celebratory dinner.

The next day involved a drive with the E & K Honorary Colonel from the Windsor Armoury, (ARC in our terms), to Chatham, for the laying up of the old Colours. This took place in a Church that was not unlike our own Regimental

Chapel in Warley Brentwood. There was a Reception at which HRH circulated. He remembered me as a Royal Anglian, which was nice!

I was hosted so very well by our Canadian brothers in arms. It was a wonderful experience.

The Chelmsford Remembrance Day Parade in November was well attended, both by 3 (Essex & Herts) Company 3 R Anglian and the stalwart 3 Coy veterans. I laid two wreaths; one for the Lord Lieutenant and one for the Regiment. Although visits to CCF training at Bancrofts and Felsted Schools, (both are badged R Anglian), did not occur as hoped and tentatively arranged last year, due to the above, the plus points are that I will be the Reviewing Officer for Bancrofts Annual Review on 19th March this year.

Having obtained agreement in principle last year to Felsted hosting the Regimental Representative event on 14th June next, that is now at the planning stage with Felsted staff. Mark Shropshire, Area Sec 1, has picked up the RHQ aspects. I will provide the names and contact addresses of guests, liaising with Mark as required

Looking ahead, I will attend the

80th Anniversary of the liberation of Bayeux by 2 ESSEX, (the Pompadours), on 7th June. This was achieved with the Sherwood Foresters (tanks). The commemoration event is joint and organised by the French Authorities. Wreaths will be laid for the Essex Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment. In a late possible change of plan, the Lord Lieutenant for Essex is considering option to travel out for this. There are other events in and around Bayeux that day.

Chapel Services have continued each month. Of particular note is that our February Service was taken by the Reverend Tony Rose, at one time the Regiment's Assistant Padre. Tony took Services on a regular basis, perhaps three or four times a year, but ill health took its toll. The congregation bade him fare well with an aerial photograph of the Chapel, a bouquet of flowers for Rosie Rose, and a good bottle of wine to share.

On the topic of Chapel Services, there will be two special events; the Service on 2nd June will commemorate the liberation of Bayeux; the Service on 8th September will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Regiment's founding. Guest lists are being arranged.

Pompadours Rally in Essex

A Pompadour gathering was held in the Garrison Officers' Club in Colchester on Friday 24th March 2023. The guest of honour was Lt Gen Phil Jones, the new Governor of Windsor Castle, and the guest speaker was Capt Rose Wild, Adjutant, 7 (Para) RHA.

The audience were treated to a vignette of Rosie's amazing career to date, her exploits in the sporting arena, winning the sword of honour at RMA, and of course her becoming the first ever female to pass All Arms P Company. Her attendance for the sharp eyed amongst you was no accident as both her unit and the 44th Foot met their demise in the Retreat from Kabul in 1842. The fact that her father was CO of the Poachers as well as Adjutant of the Pompadours was yet another twist.

The evening was a huge success and brought together many ex Pompadours



From left: Neil Cartwright, Hayden Coggin and Graham Hughes.



From left: Sean Kim, CSgt Pete Chamberlain, Mark Waddington and Mark Baker.

(45) from the Colchester area, as well as from further afield. A great night of reminiscing, and asking who other people were reminded everyone of the need to keep in contact. Part of the RHQ funded drive to get veterans together and support each other it was a great night in the Regiment's second home and many phone numbers were exchanged and promises made to get to the next event.

A big thank you to CSgt Pete Chamberlain for his sterling work on setting up the venue, to Nick Austin and Dave McKinstry for running the raffle which raised £275 for the Regt Charity. Finally to the team at RHQ and WO2 Mole Stevens for their continued support.



From left: Mark Rose, Carl Douglas, Jamie Clancy and Paul Glynn.

The Colchester Branch Goes from Strength to Strength

The Colchester Branch season kicked off with the New Year Dinner at the Colchester Garrison Officers Club - as always an enjoyable occasion. Close on its heels was the Regimental Big Breakfast on 26th February at The Playhouse (Wetherspoons) in the town.

Around 100 Royal Anglians turned up, including many non-members of the Branch, so some (successful) recruiting was in order. A very good event with much important chat, topped off with a full English (and of course a beer or two); we reinforced that success with an equally well attended Royal Anglian Big Breakfast this year. Next was our 21st AGM in April; it was very good to have a 'live' event after the virtual meetings in 2020 and 2021. New and rejoined members were formally welcomed : Chris Avieson, Tim Beighton, Tony Calder, Bob Fidler, Brian Goodman, Dave Marsh, Paul Swainson, Graham Templeton,

Brian Tunstill and Jack Whitten. Financially we were sound - good enough to subsidise all functions by significant amounts, and in good shape to do the same in the coming year. The pattern of Branch events is pretty much settled now, with the Autumn Lunch now a permanent feature on the Branch calendar.

Remembrance Day was observed as always, with a strong attendance on parade at the Colchester Civic Service. This year got off to a strong start with the New Year Dinner, and then full circle to the AGM held in April. The Branch has increased membership over the year and continues to flourish. If you live in the Colchester area why not come along and catch up with old mates and make new friends?

Finally, congratulations to our Chairman, Chris Wright, with the award of two clasps to his LS&GC - recognition for a long and very successful career.



Regimental Association



Cambridgeshire

A Review of the Year

Lt Col David Denson TD, Chairman

If you wish to join any of our Association Branches (Cambridge, Whittlesey Wisbech) or prefer to be a "social media" member then please feel free to contact me. Ideas to make the branches more attractive to former Royal Anglian Soldiers would be appreciated. Contact details for myself and 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" last February and our thanks to all those (Martin Eaton and others) 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 2023. 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 supported by the Dean and Chapter and our Association padre Maj Alan Jesson TD.

Following the service we moved into



Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mrs Julie Spence OBE CSTJ QPM, talking to Royal Anglian Cadets from Cambs ACF.

the Lady Chapel for refreshments with the opportunity to renew friendships. The Association President thanked the Lord Lieutenant and Association members for their continued support. Our thanks also to the Association Secretary (Col. Colin Elsdon) for all his behind the scenes support and hard work to help make it happen together with the support of our Area Secretaries at Regt HQ. and the grant to cover our costs.

The Association was pleased to arrange for members of Schwaben Platoon, 5 Coy 3rd Bn the Royal Anglian Regiment to visit Ely Cathedral as part of their annual remembrance of the taking of the Schwaben Redoubt by the Cambridgeshire Regiment in October 1916. The visit included a guided tour by a Cathedral guide who gave us a very interesting and at times an amusing tour on the history of the Cathedral with our Secretary giving a talk on our Regimental Chapel afterwards.

In August members of the Association attended the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force Annual Camp at Bassingbourn and were 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 location certainly provided some interesting challenges for the County.

I would like to take this opportunity to formerly thank the Commandant and her team, and particularly 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,



Lord Lieutenant laying the Cambridgeshire Regiment Wreath at the Annual Ely Reunion Service.



The Very Rev Mark Bonney DL (Dean of Ely Cathedral), Rev Alan Jesson TD and members of the Royal Anglian Regt Association Cambridgeshire at the Ely Reunion Service.

Whittlesey, March, Ely, Cambridge and Duxford. Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the field of Remembrance at Westminster.

Events planned for 2024

24 February: Royal Anglian Big Breakfast. For details see *Facebook* and or Royal Anglian Regiment webpage.

23 March: Laying Up of the 6th (V) Battalion Regimental Colour at 1115 St Mary's Church Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RT - More details on Facebook.

April: Cambridgeshire Association AGM - Details to follow.

14 July: Ely Reunion. We will follow the format of the last two years. Commencing with a small 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".

1 September: 60 years since the formation of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Regimental Day at Duxford - Details to follow.

Schwaben Visit: During the week of 21 October 2024, members of the Association will be visiting the Schwaben Redoubt, and other areas involving the Cambridgeshire Regiment during World War One.

It is with much sadness that we record the death of Jack Jennings aged 103. Pte Jack Jennings was the last surviving soldier of the Cambridgeshire Regiment from World War Two. He saw active service with the 1st Battalion as a member of the pioneer platoon within HQ Company. He took part in the battle at Adam Park in Singapore during February 1942 until ordered to surrender. Together with many Cambridgeshires and other PoWs Jack was sent to Chungkai, Wang Lang, Wang Takhian and Lin Tin, and after receiving treatment for chronic tropical ulcers at Chungkai he was sent to Nakom Pathon and finally to Uttaradit from where he was released. On 20 October 1945 he returned to Liverpool nearly four years after his departure. (*Tigers In The Park* by Jon Cooper). Our thanks also to the standard bearers from Paignton and Torquay RBL with Eddie Jones carrying our Cambridgeshire Standard and the Cambridgeshire Coffin Drape in place together with Jack's beret and medal. Jack's family told many amusing and interesting tales, a character to the end.

On behalf of the Association I attended his funeral service, on 16 February at Torquay, together with Capt. Andy Simms and CSgt Stan Wildney who represented D Cambridgeshire Company and 1 R Anglian having travelled a substantial and convoluted journey to be there. Their presence was much appreciated by the family.



Members of the Association and Schwaben Platoon, 5 Coy 3rd Bn the Royal Anglian Regiment visiting the Regimental Chapel at Ely Cathedral.



Regimental Association



Lincolnshire

Lincoln Branch Annual Malaya Reunion



The Bond family ably supported by the Lincoln Branch of the Association held the annual Malayan Reunion at the Lincoln Imp Public house in Lincoln on Saturday 14 October. This event was well attended with over 30 attendees, comprising of veterans and family members. They raised over £300 some of which will be donated to the branch.

Lincoln Branch Attend Vikings Funeral



On the 2 Feb 23 Major Jim Freeman and the Standard Bearers of the Lincoln Branch attended the funeral of Ian Cumming, ex 1st Battalion. The Branch had been contacted by one of Ian's carers from his nursing home. The home was concerned that as Ian had no family, no one would be present at the funeral. In addition to the Lincoln Branch representatives another 27 people, some carers and veterans from the local breakfast club, attended at Barrowby Church Grantham to give Ian a fond farewell.

Lincoln Branch Remembrance Sunday



The Lincoln Branch paraded at Lincoln Cathedral on the 12 Nov 23. After the service at the Cathedral the Branch formed up again at the Lincolnshire Regimental Memorial. The memorial is in a former part of Sobroan Barracks and is now a housing estate. After a short service wreathes were laid and members retired to a curry lunch hosted by 160 Tpt Sqn RLC in Sobroan Barracks. Pictured: Standard Bearer Fraser Findlay, wreath layers Sandra Pinguey, Jean Key, Mick Reams, 160 Tpt Sqn rep and Standard Bearer Shann Palmer.



Ian Simson Lincs.



Members of the Lincoln Branch enjoying the Regimental Day.



Regimental Association



Lincolnshire

Regimental Band Performance at Grimsby Central Hall

The Royal Anglian Regimental Band performed at the iconic Grimsby Central Hall supported by the Grimsby & Cleethorpes Sea Cadet Band on Sat 25th November.

The venue had been selected by the Grimsby Branch who undertook all of the preparation and decorated the hall in a spectacular fashion. The Association took the opportunity to invite distinguished guests from the local area and Humberside to participate.

The evening was a truly regimental family occasion as the Association across the County turned out to support the

Grimsby Branch, in addition to No 4 Coy 3 RANGLIAN based in in Grimsby.

The concert certainly raised the profile of the County Regiment in Grimsby and also a substantial amount for the Royal Anglian Regimental Charity. A great success enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to Lt Col Dave Haggart CO 3RANGLIAN for his kind permission to use the Band, his team from 4 Coy, to all the members of the Regimental Association for their unstinting support, especially the Grimsby Branch for their hard work in bringing about this great event.

Grimsby Branch - Armed Forces Day Parade



This year's Armed Forces Day Parade was extremely well attended by veterans and public alike. The Branch contingent with other former members of the Regiment, proudly marched through Cleethorpes supported by family, friends and cheered on with great enthusiasm from the crowds.

Remembrance Weekend Support for Army Benevolent Fund



Grimsby Branch was busy throughout November supporting the Army Benevolent Fund with fundraising throughout the town. The Branch supported a myriad of events over Remembrance weekend in Grimsby, Cleethorpes and London. Pictured: Alan Whiting, Jamie Taylor and Jon Wayne on the Mall before the march past the Cenotaph.



Regimental Association



Leicestershire

Royal Tigers' Association Day – Leicester Saturday 17 June 2023

The annual Royal Tigers' Day gathering at Devonshire Place once again brought abundant numbers to the event. What was once again so pleasing was to see over 60 old and bold proud Tigers travelling huge distances to mark this wonderful day in the centre of Leicester.

We were delighted to share our day with the High Sheriff of Leicester - Henrietta Jocelyne Chubb JP, The modern High Sheriff is very much what the individual makes of it and each incumbent will shape his or her year in office as they see fit.

The formal duties of High Sheriffs today include attendance at royal visits in the County and support for Her Majesty's High Court Judges when on Circuit. The High Sheriff offers encouragement to those supporting the charity and voluntary sectors and actively encourages crime prevention.

The key to the role is to uphold and enhance the ancient office while making a meaningful contribution to the county of Leicestershire. It was a pleasure to host Henrietta and her husband David, a former Officer in the 15/19th Hussars. Also in attendance was the Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor Dr Susan Barton. The Lord Mayor is Leicester's first citizen and is elected each year at Annual Council.

Our Service was wonderfully delivered by The Revd. Canon Emma Davies, Canon Precentor of Leicester Cathedral. She is responsible for running most of the output from the cathedral, effectively a Chief Operations Officer, but her charming personality came through both during the Service



From left: Dr Susan Barton, The High Sheriff Henrietta Chubb JP, Captain Tim Wilkes.

and afterwards at lunch, where she was hosted by the Area Regimental Secretary, Major Tim Brown.

Capt Ty Smith, RTA Secretary, ensured that a splendid Luncheon was provided by the staff at Devonshire Place. As senior Officer present on the day, Capt Tim Wilkes (Chairman RTA), gave a short address and outlined plans for next year's RTA Weekend which will

take place in June 2024 with a Service and parade at the Cathedral. Sadly, thereafter the Royal Tigers' Association will cross an "invisible line" before evolving into the Royal Anglian Regimental Association (Leicestershire), which will include a County Committee. Above all else it was so emotive on Saturday to see the Association and all its family reuniting in good humour.

7 R ANGLIAN Queen's Colour

New Colours were presented to the 7th (Volunteer) Battalion of the Regiment by HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, on 20 April 1980 in Leicester, where the Battalion Headquarters was based.

After the reductions in the Territorial Army in recent years, the Regimental Council decided to lay up the Colours of the disbanded battalions in suitable venues around the Regimental recruiting area. It was determined to lay up the Regimental Colour of the 7th Battalion in St Mary's Church, Hemel Hempstead, by D Coy 2 R ANGLIAN on 14 April 2016 and the Queen's Colour in Leicester Cathedral. This was done on 19 June 2016, and it was hung in the Regimental Chapel of The Royal Leicestershire Regiment with all their Colours.

In December 2021 Leicester Cathedral was closed for two years for a major refurbishment, including some repairs and rebuilding, installing under-floor heating and complete redecoration. All its contents therefore had to be removed and stored. This obviously included all the Colours, which were carefully taken to a conservation company in Stamford, so the opportunity was therefore taken for the 7 R ANGLIAN Queen's Colour to be netted to increase the length of its life.

On 22 November 2023 all the Colours were returned to Leicester Cathedral and rehung on the same wall of the Royal Leicestershire Regimental Chapel as previously, before the Cathedral's first service on 26 November, presided over by the Rt Rev Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester.

Some more building work will continue until about June 2024, but the smart redecorated Cathedral is now open as usual for services and visits. Any member of the Regiment would be very welcome to visit it to see the Colour (and King Richard III's tomb!).





Regimental Association



Northamptonshire

Northampton Branch Annual General Meeting 27 September 2023

Northampton Branch held its closing AGM on 27 September 2023, when it was confirmed that sadly the Branch would close from that date due to declining membership.

At least it would do so having enjoyed a great Talavera Day 23 with the Memorial Windows Re-Dedication and a successful Dinner, and with the notable initiative of Finedon Branch in keeping Talavera Day going into the future.

To that purpose it was resolved to transfer our closing balance to Finedon Branch, being chiefly the residue of Brigadier Taunton's Bequest of 2011, the Michael Barthorp Bequest from 2018 having been used exclusively on the Windows event.

The Branch was formed in 2006 to meet local need and complement the branches at Peterborough, Corby and Finedon, the original Northamptonshire Regiment Association, with its own long history going back to before the Great War, being wound up in 2009. Thanks were recorded to past President Peter Worthy, all past chairmen, committees and Comrades for their sterling efforts and comradeship over the years.

The Branch will however live on informally, with occasional social events and support for Remembrance and funerals. There will be no routine communication, including on the Talavera dinner, but Mrs Sarah Peyton has kindly agreed to remain point-of-contact on all other matters as they arise and will continue to notify everyone as appropriate. She is contactable on sarahpeyton@btinternet.com or 01604 456406.

Our parting message is that Talavera Dinners will continue. All Comrades are asked to support Finedon Branch with future Talavera Dinners, which will continue at Sheaf Close, Duston, Northampton.



Mrs Sarah Peyton with her husband, Clive, after being dined out as Branch Secretary following a lifetime of service to both the Northamptonshire Regimental Association, and the Royal Anglian Regimental Association, Northampton.

Last Talavera Gathering of the Northampton Branch



Rally round the flag: Chairman, Area Sec, Rt Hon Sir Michael Ellis MP, Brig Lyne, County Col, Bishop Proud, Mayor of Northampton, Padre, Lord Lt Rutland, Chair W Northants Council, Lord Lt Northamptonshire, Mrs Saunders Watson, Chair RBL Northamptonshire, President RBL Northamptonshire, Vice-Chair Rutland CC.

The Northampton Branch ably supported by Finedon and Peterborough gathered in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre Northampton on a sunny afternoon on Saturday 29 July as part of its Talavera Day celebrations, to hold its annual remembrance service and witness the re-dedication of two memorial windows, one to the 48th Foot from the Tirah Campaign 1897-8 and one to the 58th Foot (strictly 2nd Northamptons ex-Rutlandshires) from the 2nd Boer War 1899-1902.

The windows had been restored by the Saint Sepulchre's Restoration Trust after a considerable fund-raising effort, with 120 year-old stonework and lead replaced and the glass thoroughly cleaned.

The service was attended by the

Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Mr James Saunders Watson and his wife Lizzie, Lord Lieutenant of Rutland Dr Sarah Furness, Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council John Shephard, Chair of North Northamptonshire Council Barbara Jenney, Vice-Chair of Rutland County Council Samantha Harvey, Sir Michael Ellis MP for Northampton North, the Mayor of Northampton Stephen Hibbert and Mayoress Liz Cox, Councillor Paul Ainsley, Armed Forces Champion of Oakham Town Council, Trustees of the Restoration Trust, veterans of the Regimental Association and standards of the Royal British Legion from both counties.

Also in attendance were Brigadier Richard Lyne, Deputy Colonel of the

Regiment, and Officers and men of the 2nd Battalion from Cottesmore led by their Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Ben Hawes, plus cadets from A Company Leicestershire Northamptonshire & Rutland Army Cadet Force led by their Officer Commanding Major Jordan Peplow. Brooke Weston Academy CCF was also represented, and Major Andrew Huxter, Contingent Commander Uppingham School CCF, read a lesson.

The re-dedication was made by Bishop Andrew Proud Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Peterborough, and the service led by The Reverend Tom Wilde, 2nd Battalion Chaplain. Sergeant David Hemmings and Lieutenant Jack Rice both of C (Northamptonshire) Company respectively read a lesson and gave the



Regimental Association



Northamptonshire

historical context, and Mr David Deacon 1st Northamptons 1956-58 gave the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph. The Regimental Band played throughout and there was tea & cake for all afterwards.

The presence of so many young cadets added to the poignancy of the occasion. CCF and ACF Cadets laid the two wreaths, and after the service they were all addressed by Brigadier Lyne in his role as Colonel Royal Anglian Cadets.

He said "There is no doubt there is great mutual benefit in the different

generations of the Army family coming together. An event like this represents a fusion of past, present and future. It is inspirational to see young people so enthusiastic about participating with the modern Army and contributing to its future while still engaging with the history of their forebears."

A splendid Talavera Dinner followed at the Freemasons' Hall, hosted by Colonel Robert Blomfield County Colonel, with principal guests the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland and Deputy Lord Lieutenant Northamptonshire Brigadier

David Russell-Parsons late Grenadier Guards, and with the 2nd Battalion and C Company in particular well represented.

Poignancy and future are the operative words, for these events marked the closure of the Northampton Branch. At our AGM on 27 September, it was confirmed the Branch, sadly, must close due to declining numbers.

Talavera Day will however continue to be celebrated on behalf of the Association by the Finedon Branch, and the Talavera Dinner held in the same venue.

The Regimental Chapel – Holy Sepulchre



Area Sec Major Brown, Mrs Peyton, Andrew Lewer MP, John Kightley, David Parish, County Colonel, Ian Dexter, Joe Heffernan.

Andrew Lewer, MP for Northampton South, had been unable to attend the Windows Re-Dedication and instead asked for a personal briefing on St Sepulchre's and the Regimental Chapel, which was duly hosted on 31 August by the County Colonel with Mr Kightley of the St Sep's Restoration Trust and

local historian and friend of the Regiment David Parish (ex-REME) giving respective briefs on the heritage. We were also able to raise some security concerns and are grateful for the subsequent police advisory visit to the church and parochial council arranged by Mr Lewer.

Finedon Branch Memorial Bench



Just over a year ago one of our members, Tim Almond, suggested that it would be good for Finedon if we were to provide a Memorial Bench and site it in a prominent position.

This was accepted by the Branch and a request was sent to Finedon Town Council to provide a site for a Memorial Bench within the grounds of the existing War Memorial.

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

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

In the meantime, Tim Almond was busy designing and costing the bench. A local tradesman, Mr M Shepard was contacted to supply and fit the entrance gate. Stuart Cooper a good supporter of the Branch agreed to lay the foundation

and fit the bench in position. The base was selected to enhance the grounds of the War Memorial.

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

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





Regimental Association



Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire

To be honest, things this year have been quite relaxed, with fewer than usual attending the monthly Branch Meetings.

Recruitment is still on-going but the long-term aim has to be a direct connect with the regular Battalions or Associations such as ours are likely to cease to exist over the passage of time. Although the Bedford Branch has an affinity with D Coy, 2 Royal Anglian, the officers and men have much on their plate and thoughts of a Regimental Association, for serving soldiers, must be either low down or non-existent in their considerations.

We are constantly reminded of the need to get more members, to ensure the survivability of Branch Associations, but this can only take place, if a veteran makes themselves known to the Branch in the vicinity of the Branch Catchment Area. The utopian dream world would be for the Regimental Leadership to

advocate, by their actions, support of Branch Associations and in so doing, encourage their soldiers to seek to join their 'local' Branch, close to where they live, if indeed, the Soldier comes from the normal Royal Anglian Recruiting counties. It is not only the Branch Committee's responsibility to recruit new members, but this also falls to the serving leadership in the Royal Anglian Regiment. The future of Branch Associations is in all stakeholder hands and not just the Branch leadership.

Right from the outset of this report, I need to put on the map the fact that the Keep will be 150 years old in 2026 and the Grand Lodge of Bedfordshire have invited the Branch to be part of the planning initiative to celebrate this anniversary. If anyone reading this article, has any information or items they wish to share regarding the Keep in Bedford, please let the Bedford Branch

Secretary know without delay.

Due to printing timelines, Christmas 2022 is reported here in the 2023 report. 52 members and guests attended Christmas Lunch at the Keep. The food was excellent, and a very enjoyable day was had by all. Thanks to Kevin & Belinda Arnold, Brian Soper and Gordon Kinns, for their help and contribution to this annual event.

The Memorial Garden Wall repairs are now much closer to being undertaken. Branch Chairman, Maj John Whatley and the Secretary, Basil Hirniak, met with the Bedford Borough Council representative, and the council builder, to discuss the extent of the building work that would be needed and the method statement given that the area under observation has interred ashes close by.

The difficulty is due to a felled tree not having its stump killed off.



Platinum Jubilee Tree.

Consequently, the roots are still alive and growing thus undermining the integrity of the foundations of the wall. The first steps will be to kill off the base of the exiting stump. Hopefully, by Castle 2024, all works to the wall will have been successfully completed.

On 3 June, a contingent from the Branch attended the Major-General's Review at Horse-guards parade. I am delighted to report that this year, the stands remained intact. A late lunch was taken at the Branch Treasurer's pub, the Crown, in Willington Bedford, which was delightful.

During Armed Forces Week, the Branch was invited to attend and participate in Reserve Forces Day held by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bedfordshire, at the Keep.

On 14th July, Bedford School played host to the Regimental Reception, with many dignitaries from surrounding counties, Royal Anglian representatives, soldiers and equipment stands being present. Due to the very heavy rain a last minute relocation from outside to inside took place prior to the commencement of the event. I feel, the indoor venue best suited the purpose of the event which the County Committee of Bedfordshire successfully hosted.

Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree was finally planted in the memorial garden and this was dedicated by the Mayor of Kempston on Blenheim Day, 2023, with the Mayor being present. The service was conducted by Rev Stephen Smith. After the dedication service, 54 members and guests, celebrated Blenheim Day on Sunday 13th August at the Keep, Kempston.

Branch members, family and VIP guests including the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire and local civil dignitaries enjoyed a fine lunch and were given an insight into the 16th of Foot's involvement at the Battle of Blenheim. The branch also welcomed Martin Boswell from the Cambridge Branch who gave those in attendance, a short talk on the ties between the Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiments.

Branch Members attended the Regimental Gathering in Duxford.

Although fewer than usual travelled it was still a good occasion for old friendships to be renewed at the event.

In late September, after torrential rain, the memorial building roof allowed water to penetrate inside the memorial, and unfortunately this caused extensive damage to the ceiling. This is now the subject of a further insurance claim being managed by Kempston Town Council.

Battlefield Tour – Battle of the Bulge

Eleven members of the Branch travelled overseas to attend an Ardennes and Bastogne battlefield tour, which was a resounding success. A very early start on Friday Sept 29 saw several intrepid members of the Bedford Branch of the Royal Anglian Regiment Association, set off on an escorted tour of the Ardennes to take in the area known as the "Battle of the Bulge" near Bastogne.

The Tour saw the Branch members

take in the sights of the area fought so valiantly by Easy Company, 506th PIR [Parachute Infantry Regiment]. For those who have read the story and seen the television series on HBO you will recall the foxholes and woods around a village called Foy, we visited this site and saw many other areas of battlefield interest.

The Branch members thoroughly enjoyed the sites visited during the two days of tour along with the sights of Bastogne itself with a magnificent museum dedicated to the 101st Airborne Division. The area immediately in and around Bastogne deserves another visit to dig deeper into the history of the town and the actions that took place.

Needless to say the Branch members also enjoyed the refreshments on offer both at the hotel and in the towns visited for lunch stops. After a long trip home, via Dunkirk and Dover, our own merry "Band of Brothers" returned home safely on the Monday evening.

Basil Hirniak

Bedford Branch Secretary



Terry McHug, Brian Sutton, Clive Homan and Brian Soper.



Regimental Association



Bedfordshire
& Hertfordshire

A History with B Company, 6 Royal Anglian

Nick Gordge

Brian Sutton was one of the first soldiers I met when I enlisted into B Coy 6 R ANGLIAN at the Ashburnham Road TA Centre in December 1980. He was one of the impressive and experienced JNCOs that were in the Company at the time. Others included John Taggart, Alan Scott, Adrian Forde, Brian Soper, Geoff Henman and Russell Smith to name but a few. John Whatley was CSM.

My fellow new recruits and I had a rapid introduction to the TA, with minimal specific training at that time; it was very much, learn as much and as quickly as you could from those JNCOS. I remember running a BFT from Ashburnham Road out through Biddenham and back, and struggling a bit. Brian Sutton seemed to be on my shoulder all the way giving me words of encouragement and digs in the ribs. He helped us learn about putting up bashers, how to stag on (which we did a lot), and patrolling.

Over the years, we did a lot of weekend soldiering together in what we called "B (Best) Coy," which included shooting weekends at Colchester, local training at Sundon and Yardley Chase, as well as annual camps in exotic places like Sennybridge, Warcop, Otterburn, Lydd and Hyth, and Okehampton. Occasionally there was an opportunity to train outside of the



6 R Anglian - Nick Gordge with Brian Sutton.

UK, and places were much sought after.

It was in 1983 that I had my first overseas camp to a "holiday hotspot" when a composite company travelled by C130 to Gibraltar for two weeks which was an experience like no other. Brian Sutton was my Section Commander, and he was always very correct about things and liked to perform well. One day we were on Buffadero Training Area when we were visited by a journalist and photographer from East Anglia writing about our training camp. The photographer asked for us to simulate a patrol and took a few snaps. Imagine our surprise when the photo appeared in a book titled *Encyclopaedia of British Army Regiments* published in 1985!

In addition to this posing on the Rock, we had a more serious few days guarding Gibraltar's border with Spain. We carried full magazines of ball,

and our platoon commander, Lt Andrew Stewart, read us rules of engagement etc. every day, although it wasn't very exciting and actually was a bit tedious.

However, the lucky soldier who was allocated to the eastern most guard post had a view of the Playa de Levante beach and all that happened there; sunbathing, beach volleyball, swimming. As such, it was a sought after post, as it was much more entertaining during the day than looking at the wire fence.

Witnesses and participants later retold a story over a few beers in the Wembley Bar (and other watering holes) which saw the soldier in the eastern most sought post diligently watching the sunbathers applying sunscreen, when an inflatable boat landed on the beach with the occupants running ashore. Following the SOPs the soldier informed the Border HQ and a QRF was deployed by



Brian Sutton in foreground and Nick Gordge to the right.



**ROYAL
ANGLIAN**

6th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment Laying Up The Colour

23 March 2024 at 11.00am



**St Mary's Church
Bury St Edmunds
Saturday**

All members of the Regiment, past and present, are warmly invited to attend.

11.15am – Guests arrive

11.35am – all to be seated

11.40am – Service starts

12.40am – Service concludes

13.00am – Buffet Lunch
at the Constitutional Club
Bury St Edmunds
IP33 1PR

www.royalanglianregiment.com/news/6th-battalion-colour



Regimental Association



Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire

Land Rover led by Lt Stewart, resulting in a foot chase across the beach during which an order was given to make ready and the “stop or I’ll shoot” challenge being shouted to those trying to escape.

As a private soldier it was hard to get a clear picture of what happened then and next, but rumour control suggested that very senior civil servants in MoD became involved. For the rest of our period on the border we weren’t issued

live ammunition. I’m sure there will be readers who can fill in some more details.

Since then, my family and I emigrated to New Zealand and have been a long way from the Regimental Association and gatherings. So it was with real pleasure that we got to spend some time with Brian and his wife Hillary, when they visited the Land of the Long White Cloud in October.

We had a lovely time reminiscing and remembering comrades 40 years after that photo was taken on Buffadero, and I was particularly delighted that on leaving, Brian gave me a copy of the aforementioned book, complete with our photo on page 91. Thanks Brian, and thanks for all the memories! B Coy (and later 1 Coy 5 R ANGLIAN) retain a special place in my heart, and you helped me dig them out.

Bedford Branch Annual Blenheim Day Lunch

The Bedford Branch held its annual Blenheim Day Lunch on Sunday August 13th at the Keep, Kempston.

Branch members, family and VIP guests (including the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire and local civil dignitaries) enjoyed a fine lunch and were given an insight into the 16th of Foot’s involvement at the Battle of Blenheim.

The branch also welcomed Martin Boswell from the Cambridge Branch who gave those in attendance, a short talk on the ties between the Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiments.

**Branch members,
Gordon Kinns,
Keith Ansell, Phil
Kino and Barry
Watson’s back.**



Maj Mark Emma and Basil Hirniak.



Martin Boswell.



Regimental Association

Royal Anglian Riders - Veterans on the Road



The Royal Anglian Riders Group is open to any Royal Anglian, past or present who enjoy riding a motorcycle and meeting fellow Royal Anglians.

The Riders attend Regimental Events, fly the Royal Anglian flag, and offer support to veterans across the Regimental Family. We meet on the road in a very friendly and relaxed

environment, the idea is to share our common interest in bikes and to keep an eye out for fellow veterans who may have mental wellbeing challenges. The Riders invite any member of the Royal Anglian family to ride with them, come along and join us!

For Further Information email Dave Horsley at: horse8509@gmail.com





Regimental Association

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

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

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

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



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Nairobi, Kenya.

From left: Maj James Pugh, Maj Charlie Singleton, CSgt Andy Howe, Col Phil Moxey, Mo Morrison, Capt Jamie Hassan, and CSgt Ricky Alderman.

Channel ‘Smugglers’ swim the English Channel in aid of the Royal Anglian Benevolent Fund



The Team on R&R in Marseille at the Rugby World Cup.



Team Newmarch at the end with mum, Jenny, in support.

A family team including a former ‘Poacher’ and a former ‘Steelback’ successfully swam the channel as a relay on 9th October 2024.

After two years in the planning ‘Team Newmarch’ (Geoff 71, Russell 46, Alistair 44, Giles 42) set off before first light to cover the 22 miles to Cap Gris Nez.

The team had plenty of experience as both Alistair and Giles had swum the channel solo in 2012 and 2022 respectively. Russell too was well acquainted with the sea having represented Australia in the Triathlon World Championships in the Gold Coast. Official custom ‘Budgie Smugglers’, made in Sydney, were commissioned especially for the occasion.

Russell who lives in Sydney and Giles who lives in Singapore flew in a couple of days before the scheduled



Regimental Association



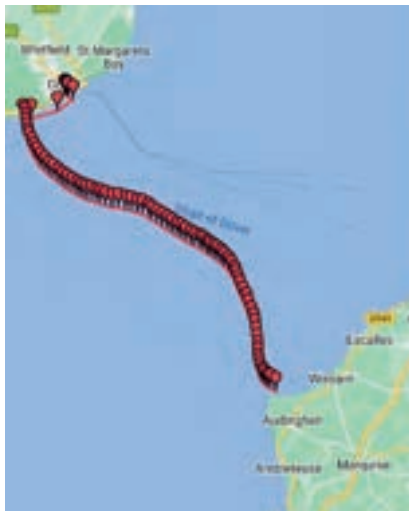
The Official Time.

swim. Logistical support on board was provided by 'Mum', Jenny, who did sterling work in keeping a constant supply of hot drinks and food running for the 14 hour period.

The biggest question before the start was who was going to lead off bearing mind it was early morning and dark. This was decided quite simply by a couple of rounds of 'Paper, Scissors, Rock' and it was Alistair who lost. So, the swimming order was Alistair, Russell, Giles with Geoff bringing up the rear.

The Rules of the Channel Swimming Association (CSA) are quite ridged if you wish to swim under their auspices. Swimmers can only wear swimming trunks, cap, and goggles. Relay legs are one hour and the relieving swimmer may only start once the other swimmer is on board. Escorting boats must have a qualified adjudicator who monitors and logs the attempt. Each boat skipper and crew are all carefully selected by the CSA so everything is as professional as possible. Our boat, Viking Princess 11, its skipper, and crew had already made over 31 successful crossings in 2023 so the team knew it was in safe hands.

On the morning of the swim, we met the boat in Dover Harbour Marina at 04.00 ready for the high tide at 0530 when Alistair would start the swim hidden in the gloom of the overhanging white cliffs. After a short trip out the harbour the boat motored around to the designated beach. With a flashing light fastened to the rear his goggles,



The Route.

a searchlight pointed at him from the boat, a loud hooter sounded, and Alistair started the swim.

The water conditions were good, flat calm with only a hint of a breeze. In the general excitement on board Alistair's hour seemed to go quickly, and he completed a distance of 3.5Km. Russell followed, and he left the water just as dawn was breaking, 3.6Km. Giles, who had successfully swum the channel last year in 11 hours 19 mins swam 3.8 Km. Geoff realised early on that this sort of competition was well out of his league and his first mark was 2.7Km.

Just after dawn Geoff approached Phil the deck hand and boat's adjudicator to ask permission to fly the Regimental Flag from the rigging. His reply was



Alistair finishing.

"Absolutely." A moment later it was fluttering above the boat in the morning sunshine.

The day progressed in good weather although a fresh wind got up about 10 o'clock and stayed with us for the remainder of the day. Unfortunately, this made the surface quite choppy which slowed the everyone down.

When you're swimming you can't see anything apart from the murky water you're in, and the side of the boat alongside that gives you direction. You have little idea of how you're going, only that you look forward to the ten-minute warning, the five-minute warning, and finally the whistle which indicates your time is up. You then swim around to stern of the boat, grab onto



Channel traffic.



The Team - name to the fore.

the ladder lift and then feel the relief as you're lifted aboard to be welcomed by a hot drink and a towel down by the other members of the team.

In the middle of the Channel, we saw the extent of marine traffic travelling north and south. Cross Channel Ferries, Container ships piled high and huge super tankers over 300metres long all passed us by, some even hooted their horns in encouragement. The white cliffs faded from view and then the French coast became discernible through the heat haze.

As we crossed into French waters all our mobile phones received welcome texts from our signal providers but explaining the costs that were going to incur on our mobile data roaming. We had now all completed two legs each and to our untrained eyes the French coast still looked a long way off. Before the swim we had anticipated doing three legs each, so roughly 12 hours in total. Phil our experienced deckhand gathered the three non-swimmers together in a huddle and explained that the 'Chop', as he described it, had slowed the attempt and that unless each of us put in a very good third leg we could be looking at about 14 hours as the tide would turn and make it even harder.

Over a cup of hot chocolate, we swimmers resolved to make our third legs as fast and as far we could. Clearly Phil had put the 'wind up us' and we certainly didn't want to finish the swim in the dark. The prospect of one of us swimming onto an unknown shore which could be rocky was a good incentive to swim faster.

When Geoff finished his third leg he had no idea how much distance he had covered. It wasn't until he was lifted aboard that he could see how close the

French coast was. To his amazement it was a little over 350metres away and Alistair was already swimming strongly towards the shore, escorted by the boat's inflatable dingy. Through our binoculars we saw him stand up then carefully wade to the beach. Once he was the regulation metre out of the water, the hooter sounded, the stop watches stopped, and a big cheer went up from all on the boat. The time: 12hours 17mins 37seconds.

Intriguingly, Alistair was met at the water's edge by a French Channel Swimmer who lives near the beach at Cap Gris Nez. During the swimming season 'Patrice' tracks the various CSA boats across the Channel on his phone. He aims to welcome as many successful swimmers as he can, and like many before him, Alistair received some beach pebbles and shells as a souvenir of the swim and of Cap Gris Nez. Once Alistair was back on-board celebratory photos were swiftly taken in the setting sun and we all paused to take in the achievement. It was a great team effort and an experience that will live long in the memory.

Ask the members of the team whether they would do it again? I'm really not sure what their answers would be...



The Regimental Flag at dawn.



Deaths and Obituaries

Name	Date of Death or Month	Bulletin Issued	Regiment
Malcolm Tyler		January 2023	R Leicesters, 4 R ANG, 2 R ANG
Capt Brian Gunton		January 2023	R Norfolk, 1 East Anglian
Capt AP Towell MC		14 January 2023	Suffolk, R Norfolk
Richard Faulkner		March 2023	3 E Anglian
Michael Charles Moore		5 March 2023	R Norfolk, 4 R ANGLIAN
Lt Peter Samuel Luckin		12 March 2023	Essex Regt
Ron Collins		March 2023	3 R ANGLIAN – Pompadours
Capt RL Hazan OBE		2 April 2023	2 R ANGLIAN
Peter Ward		10 April 2023	Essex Regt, 3 R ANGLIAN
Chris Spring		25 April 2023	2 R ANGLIAN, RAPC
Lt Col Graham Barnett		20 May 2023	Bedfs. Herts, 3 R ANGLIAN
Michael Frederick Smith		23 May 2023	Bedfs. Herts, R ANGLIAN
Col RL Jackson OBE		28 May 2023	Essex, E ANGLIAN, R ANGLIAN
Kenneth William Edgar		6 June 2023	R Norfolk
Jim Ellard MBE		16 June 2023	Northampton
Dennis Willmott CBE		29 July 2023	R Norfolk
Clive Malcolm Whitby		2 August 2023	1 R ANGLIAN
Maj AC Downes MBE		11 August 2023	R ANGLIAN
Ron Knights		September 2023	Suffolk, 1 E Anglian
Marc Tremain		September 2023	2 R ANGLIAN
Capt Mike Wright		11 September 2023	3 E ANGLIAN
Maj Dean Stefanetti MBE		17 September 2023	1 R ANGLIAN
Maj Robert William Gordon		September 2023	R Lincs, 2 R ANG, 3 R ANG
John Bolton		15 September 2023	Bedfs & Herts, E Anglian
Capt Michael Cadge		18 September 2023	R ANGLIAN
George Silver		October 2023	R Leicesters, 4 R ANGLIAN
Terry Browning		October 2023	R Lincs
Alexander Jackson		October 2023	2 R ANGLIAN
Maj George Tomlin		October 2023	1 R ANGLIAN
Maj Brian Harrington – Spier		22 October 2023	E ANGLIAN, 3 R ANGLIAN
Ronald Bicheno		November 2023	R Leicester, RH Chelsea
Jonathan Sidney Blake		3 December 2023	R ANGLIAN

Colonel Francis Dymoke The King's Champion

Francis John Fane Marmion Dymoke was born on January 19 1955. He was the eldest of three sons of the then Captain John Dymoke and Susan. John Dymoke served with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in Sumatra during the Indonesian nationalist uprising and in Malaya during the Emergency. Lieutenant Colonel JLM Dymoke commanded the 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment on operations in Aden in 1966 and subsequently in Tidworth and Aldershot.

Francis spent a classic Army childhood always on the move and was educated at Marlborough and Hull University. After reading economics, he qualified as a chartered accountant but decided to opt for pastures new. Moving to Australia he worked as a jackaroo before employment in Papua New Guinea.

On returning to the UK, Francis eventually took over the management of the family estate in 1992 and became a committed member of the rural Lincolnshire community. He fully supported many local causes including serving as chair of the Lincolnshire branches of the Prince's Trust and the Country Landowner's Association. He was also a board member of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. He served as High Sheriff of Lincolnshire in 1999 and as a Deputy Lieutenant of the County.

In 2021, he was appointed Honorary Colonel of the Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force proudly wearing a Royal Anglian cap badge as his father had worn before. Francis thoroughly enjoyed his role and took an active part in all aspects of the Army Cadet Force making a significant contribution. He took great pleasure in visiting the Cadets in training and at annual camp and will be sorely missed by the Cadet Force Adult Volunteers and by all the Cadets.

Francis served as King's Champion at the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023, a ceremonial role performed by his father in 1953 at Queen Elizabeth II's coronation. Historically, Francis's 34th great-grandfather, Robert de



Marmion, was William the Conqueror's right-hand man in France as early as 1066, and the family have performed the ancestral role of Sovereign's Champion for nearly a millennium.

Francis died on the 18th December 2023 and his life was celebrated at a Memorial Service at Lincoln Cathedral on the 18th January 2024.

Standards were proudly displayed by the Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force, including the Standard from the Horncastle Detachment that held great affinity with Francis.

He is survived by his wife Gail and by two sons and a daughter from a previous marriage.



Obituaries

Major DJ Stefanetti MBE



Major Dean John (Stef) Stefanetti MBE passed away 17th September 2023 after a protracted illness at home with family present.

Steff was educated in Caister, but preferred to say he hailed from Great Yarmouth, proud of his Norfolk heritage he was quick to point out if someone asked if he was from Yarmouth, that is was Great Yarmouth, Yarmouth is the lesser place on the Isle of white

Directly after leaving school in September 1977 aged 16½, he joined the Army and would continue to serve for 46½ years. Starting at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion Shorncliffe leaving in the rank of Junior Sergeant and posted to the 1st Battalion in Celle initially to D Company. Two tours of Northern Ireland, PJNCO Cadres and Junior Brecon followed. Identified as an outstanding soldier he earned promotion rapidly. Senior Brecon followed and promotion to Platoon Sergeant of 9 Platoon Company in Londonderry on a residential tour. During the Battalions' tour of Gibraltar, he was an instructor in the Training Wing.

It was here met the love of his life Sandie they went to marry and have two children Christina and Christian. He

passed the selection to be an instructor at Sandhurst where he helped to shape the lives of a generation of young officers, due to his professionalism, intelligence and personality. Once met never forgotten. He returned to Battalion life as CQMS HQ Coy this appointment did not sit easy with him, he moved on to be CSM B Coy, before becoming an SPSI for 2 yrs with the Bermuda Regiment. He returned to Oakington in 1996 as the RQMS(M).

Appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion (The Vikings) in 1998, and was selected for commission in 1999. He considered RSM to be the pinnacle of his career, in his own words from an article he wrote for the British Army Review "I am pleased that I have been awarded a commission as it means I will spend another 6 years with 1 R Anglian, the unit that on my very first night I felt I belonged to. I will always regret that I only spent 10 months as the Regimental Sergeant Major, something I strived for over 19 years an appointment that gave me the most satisfaction of all the appointments I held over the years."

He followed a traditional LE career path culminating in being QM of the Vikings. It was whilst Quartermaster

his health took a downward turn which was to have a long-term effect, meaning he had to stay close to home. As a result, he found himself OC Rear Party for an Aghan tour, devastated not to be able to deploy he threw himself into this unglamorous but challenging role. Juggling, the needs of the families, the returning wounded, the laying to rest of the Fallen, the accommodating of 200 police at short notice to support the London Bombings.

He also did not lose sight of those on the rear party, many injured, he organised training, adventure training and battlefield tours. For his outstanding efforts he was awarded an MBE in Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2008. He opted for posts in the recruiting world, close to home, where he became a subject matter expert. Widely considered to be among the best of LE officers of his generation and expected to be selected a Lieutenant

Colonel, it was not to be.

On his retirement he and his family enjoyed the rural life of West Wales, Steff walking their beloved Labradors Duke and Duchess whilst Sandie was out running choirs and bellringing. As a young man he was outstandingly fit and excelled as a sportsman in athletic field events, rugby and his first love boxing.

Steff was a strong family man with considerable emotional intelligence. A larger-than-life character, intelligent due in no short measure to his extensive reading, having taught himself speed reading at an early age, he had an insatiable reading appetite and could devour books at a colossal rate. He had keen sense of humour, which he would put to good use,

A strong but fair disciplinarian he brooked any nonsense. He had the courage of his convictions and would often stand his corner in defence of his soldiers ensuring that they were well represented. Even in retirement he would contact RHQ with concerns. In later life even though his health and mobility were compromised, his wicked sense of humour and total pride and respect for his Regimental Family never left him. The Regiment has lost one of its stalwarts and he will be much missed.

Major Bernard Herbert Gordon Mills CBE



Major Bernard Herbert Gordon Mills was born on 21st February 1932, and commissioned into the Suffolk Regiment twenty years later, serving with them during the Cyprus Emergency.



In December 1957 he, along with two men caught the leader of EOKA in Dhavlos and one of his henchmen red-handed as they were haranguing the people of the village. The following April his patrol raided a coffee shop in the village of Meniko capturing three men as they were attempting to hide.

On return to the UK he joined 22 SAS, and later served on secondment to the Sultan's Armed Forces in Oman until he retired from the Army in 1964. He then became a Contract Officer with the Royalist Army serving on the Yemen border.

He worked for Save The Children Fund in Biafra in the early 1970s during the Biafran Civil War, and then for a number of other NGOs in Bangladesh. In 1975 he moved to the Middle East to work for a Merchant Bank as their representative in Oman and Jordan. His employer said of him that he was not sure that he would make a successful banker but was particularly good at lunches. Nevertheless, he remained a significant asset to the Bank remaining with them until 1979.

Bernard Mills then returned to England to take a three-year Arabic degree at Cambridge University.

On completion of his degree in 1982, he applied to join the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and was appointed their officer in charge

of South Lebanon. At the time part of South Lebanon was occupied by Israel following the 1982 War. Bernard insisted on living in the occupied area, his local staff were not of high calibre, the rest of his staff lived in Beirut commuting into the occupied zone each day. He visited all the refugee camps in person and would arrive at schools at 0830 to ensure the teaching staff were there at the start of the school day. He very quickly became respected by the Palestinians and feared by those "on the make." In 1986 he was promoted to Director for Gaza, one of only five in the whole of the Agency. He was in Gaza for the 1st Palestinian refugee Intifada (uprising) and was responsible for bringing a team of International Observers into the Country, to provide independent reports on the atrocities being committed. It was here that he really made his name. He was awarded the CBE in the 1989 New Year's Honours List on his retirement.

Major Bernard Mills was a man who cared, was determined and large of stature. You did not mess with him. He was also a man of many parts and a people's person. He enjoyed a convivial meal or a drink with friends and was a great raconteur, but never spoke of his own considerable achievements.

He died on 8th September 2021 aged eighty-nine following a prolonged period of ill health.

Captain Ray Hazan OBE



In 1972 the Provisional IRA began an intensive bombing campaign. Soon the centre of Londonderry, where Martin McGuinness was IRA commander, resembled its near namesake in the Blitz. The following year parcel bombs

were sent to high-profile targets in both Northern Ireland and the mainland.

On October 3, 1973, Captain Raymond Hazan was a company second-in-command with 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment in Londonderry when a parcel was delivered to the United Technologies "Essex" electrical factory in Bligh's Lane near the nationalist Creggan estate.

Precisely how, and to whom it was addressed, was never clearly established, but the CLF (commander land forces), Major General (later General Sir) Peter Leng was visiting that day, and the parcel was given to one of his escort, who took it to the nearest military unit — Hazan's.

"I asked him where he got it from," Hazan recalled in a BBC interview the following year. "My maths wasn't very good and two and two didn't equal four. It went off and everything suddenly went black. I was 28, had been married three years and was about to be a father in about five months' time."

The bomb killed Second Lieutenant Lindsay Dobbie of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC), and Hazan lost his right hand and his sight.

Raymond (Ray) Lazare Hazan was born in 1945 in Cheshire, the eldest of two sons and twin daughters, to Jewish parents. His father, Victor Hyam Hazan (obituary, December 8, 2006), a war-commissioned officer in the South Lancashire Regiment, had been recruited by the Special Operations Executive (SOE) for his linguistic ability and in 1942 was parachuted into Vichy France to help train the Resistance in the use of plastic explosives.

It was a doubly hazardous undertaking after a German order in January for Jews throughout France to be rounded up. He subsequently worked with the psychological warfare department in Cairo, and after the war joined the new Nato headquarters in Paris for translation work, where his children also acquired a facility with French.

Ray Hazan was educated at Charterhouse, where he was head of house, head of choir and head of the combined cadet force. Lean, with dark



Obituaries

good looks and proven leadership, he went straight to Sandhurst at 18 for the two-year course and was commissioned in 1965.

Two years later, when his battalion was serving on a UN tour of duty in Cyprus, he met Jennifer Marriner, who was finishing her A-levels in Dhekelia, where her father was an RAOC officer. They married in 1970 and had two sons: Jonathan, a former Royal Tank Regiment officer, now an executive coach; and Giles, a doctor. All survive him.

The marriage was dissolved, however, and in 1988 Hazan married Margaret Johnson, whom he met while working for St Dunstan's, the charity for blind veterans, where she was the archivist. Margaret died in 2021.

After months of hospital treatment, and rehabilitation at the charity's training establishment at Brighton, in 1974 Hazan was formally discharged from the army in the rank of captain. In 1976 he followed in his father's footsteps by joining the NATO school of interpreting, by then in Belgium, leaving the following year to become assistant public relations officer at St Dunstan's.

The charity (now Blind Veterans UK) had been founded in 1915 by the newspaper proprietor Sir Arthur Pearson, who had become blind from glaucoma. Alarmed by the number of troops returning from France with serious eye injuries, many sustained in mustard gas attacks, he donated £5,000 towards a special home for them "to learn to be blind". St Dunstan's Lodge in Regent's Park was purchased, now the site of Winfield House, the residence of the US ambassador.

One of the first things Hazan did on joining the staff was to set up a ski club. Spectacular falls and collisions seemed to cause more distress to the guides than to the blind skiers, who would get up, brush the snow (and often blood) from their faces and carry on. Hazan recounted how "we have a chap here who lost his left hand and his sight, so when we go skiing together, we share gloves. He has the right one and I have the left one."

In 2004 Hazan became president of St Dunstan's, and later of the

International Congress of War Blinded Associations. There was increasing work to be done, with troops blinded in later years in Northern Ireland, and then Iraq and Afghanistan. He commissioned research to understand better what type of support was most beneficial in helping veterans recover their independent life, and which element of assistance — emotional, practical and financial — was most important to them.

Some 50 per cent responded that practical support was most important, followed closely by emotional, with only 15 per cent stating that financial help was the most essential. "This led me to reflect on my own experiences," Hazan said in 2009. "My thoughts are that the recent debate surrounding the financial support of UK veterans, while important, should also call for a focus on a holistic approach to care within the ex-service community — one which embraces the financial, emotional and practical."

"After the blast, my world came to a grinding halt: the sense of loss was like a bereavement. The thought that I would never read, kick a football or see my children was an extreme blow, and I felt almost paralysed with shock."

He recalled how his first recognition that he hadn't lost everything came just a few weeks after the explosion. "I was visited by a member of the St Dunstan's team, who gave me a tactile watch and taught me to tell the time through touch. It was this practical support which for the first time made me realise I could regain independence — it was something to live for."

He remembered his first day at St Dunstan's, some six weeks after the blast: "I heard the chatter and laughter of other St Dunstaners and thought, 'Perhaps blindness isn't that bad.' The positive attitude of those I met was catching . . . My son was born a few months later and I had no opportunity to get down or introspective. I had to be a father to my son and this was another challenge to keep me going. The thought of getting back to work was hugely motivating for me. I wanted to be able to provide for my family."

Hazan was appointed OBE in 2012, and finally stood down as president in

2017. His successor said of him that he "had the unique ability to both command respect and to inspire people at the same time. A fantastic orator, he was an intelligent, articulate, thoughtful and charismatic man."

Ray Hazan would often tell a joke but invariably fail to get to the punchline before laughing uncontrollably. When asked why he so often laughed at his own jokes he'd reply simply: "Because I've heard them before and they're so funny."

The Times 10 May 23

Richard Faulkner



Richard Faulkner died in 2023.. Richard served as a National Service signaller in Malaya in 1959 and 1960 in 1/3 E ANGLIAN. He was one of the two Tracker Team signallers.

He had a long memory and remembered the incident in which OC No 1 Tracker Team (me) shot the end off his shot gun by being in too much of a hurry! He was demobbed in Malaya. Nothing was heard for many years until he advertised in the local papers to form a Veterans' Group based on 1/3 E ANGLIAN.

He received a large number of takers, forming a web site, and arranging two meetings a year at Duxford, maintaining a close liaison with the Regimental Museum.

He formed a Veterans' shop which sold items such as Pompadour ties, the original E ANGLIAN cap badge and veteran hats. He kept the web site well updated and ran excellent gatherings at Duxford, laying wreaths. The annual Christmas lunch was a great success.

These gatherings were extremely popular. He even had veterans turning up from Australia. The group covered a large area of East Anglia. A cheerful person his efforts will live on for many years. We send his wife Sylvia our sincerest condolences.

Major Pat King

Dennis James Willmott CBE QFSM



Dennis was born in Teddington, Middlesex on July 10th 1932, and had a sister: Phyllis and brothers: Graham and Colin, his family moving to Fulham, London shortly afterwards. He attended Lilley Road School from the age of three and recalled walking to school on his own, quite happily and safely.

Later he remembered watching Searchlight batteries train in the skies, in preparation for what was to come, and he recalled ex-servicemen (WWI) in groups (many injured and affected by

gassing) playing musical instruments or individuals playing Barrel-Organs in the streets seeking charitable donations.

In 1939, Dennis moved to St Albans with his family and whilst living there at age seven, he recalled listening to Chamberlain's declaration of war on the radio and his father's explanation of what war might mean for the family. At age eleven, Dennis qualified for a scholarship at St. Albans County Grammar School in the war years of 1943/8. It was a struggle for his parents to provide for all three children and his father repaired their shoes and their home, furniture and bicycles; there was nothing that he could not do. Holidays were a luxury they could not afford and Dennis' first venture was from St. Albans to Holyhead, Wales by bike (520 miles return) sleeping in tents (that his father had made). Dennis recalled having no central heating, no electricity, just gas lighting, a coal heated copper for the weekly laundry (and afterwards the weekly bath) and his mother operating a massive and clumsy mangle, with her recovering frozen sheets and clothing from the outdoor clothes line.

Every year icicles hung from external gutters and his father with a blow torch would defrost frozen pipes, taps and toilets, burst pipes being all too frequent. Food rationing affected them quite badly, and Dennis recalled the hunger that became worse towards the end of the war when bread was first rationed. However, he did have happy memories of some food: loving tinned pilchards, dried egg powder and Spam and the resultant omelettes.

Dennis did well at school and joined the local Army Cadet Force (ACF) unit, rapidly moving through the ranks to Company Sergeant Major, as his sons and grandson did 70 years on. One outstanding memory Dennis had was of his first ACF camp (somewhere near Brighton), it was staffed by German Prisoners of War and working with them impressed Dennis and overcame his universal hatred of Germans and Germany that had been instilled in the majority of English people at this time.

Dennis left school at age 16 and became an apprentice in the composing

room at the local newspaper, the Hert's Advertiser, but the call of the army was too great and he left printing to join the East Surrey Regiment. In September 1951, at age 19, he was dispatched to the Royal Norfolk regiment ready to serve in Korea, arriving after six weeks at sea on the HM Empire Orwell and being promoted to Corporal during the journey.

On return to the barracks in Colchester after the war, Dennis was seconded as a Sergeant instructor to the Eaton Hall Office Cadet School and then as Instructor at the Battle Training Unit in North Wales. He left the army in 1957, his discharge purchase £200 and discharge status Exemplary.

Dennis joined the London Fire Service in 1957, liking the fact that all operational ranks were filled by either ex-servicemen or war time members, and promotion was achieved through merit. As a fire-fighter until 1962, he attended many incidents including a "40 Pump" fire in Smithfield Meat Market's sub, sub- basement (where two firemen were lost).

In February 1958, his friend Don Haymes suggested he come back to his flat and meet the two girls living next door. One of whom, (Pat) he went on to marry that December. They first lived in a flat in Balham (above a car show room), and then in a Fire Station "Married Quarters," moving to Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire Fire Brigade.

Four years later (1962), transferees from London Fire Brigade were provided with housing (paid for by the London County Council) and with a growing family to consider, this was a significant incentive. He embarked upon the pursuit of promotion in the Fire Service and went through the ranks culminating in appointment to the positions of Deputy Chief of the Isle of Wight, then on to Wiltshire and London Fire Brigades (also as Deputy Chief) culminating eventually as Chief Officer of Merseyside's Fire and Rescue Service.

He retired in 1988, making the Honours List for the third time: 1949 New Year's Honours: - Army Cadet Force, Certificate of Good Service. 1980



Obituaries

New Year's Honours: - The Queen's Medal for "Distinguished Fire Service" (QFSM.). 1988 Birthday Honours: - Commander of The Most Excellent Order of The British Empire. (CBE.) In 1989, wishing to contribute to the wellbeing of his community, Dennis stood for election, as a Conservative in the District (Kennet) Council then as a Wiltshire County Councillor.

He continued to win seven elections and was a member of Kennet District Council for 20 years, the Chairman of The Wiltshire and Swindon Combined Fire Authority (ten years) and a Member of Wiltshire County Council (20 years). Within this period, he held the office of Chairman of Wiltshire County Council and the first Chairman of the South West Fire Services Regional Management Board, also serving on national bodies such as: National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire Brigades and Principal Officers, IPDS (modernisation) Project Board: National Representative of The Local Government Association (LGA, Fire Control Project Board (National Representative for LGA), Fire Modernisation Task group (National body within LGA) • Founder member of LGA's Regional Management Board Chairmen's Group.

At the age of 80, he remained a member of: The Veteran's Advisory and Pensions Association, The Royal Norfolk Regimental Association, The Devizes based "Wyvern Club" (Previously the TA. Club) • The British Korean Veteran's Association • Chairman/President of Devizes Conservative Club, Chairman/President Potterne Social Club, Chairman/Vice President Potterne branch of The RBL, President of The Wiltshire Retired (Fire-fighter's) Member's Association, A Member of the London and of the Merseyside Retired Fire Fighter's Associations.

Dennis was married to Pat for 64 years and they have three sons, three granddaughters and four grandsons. He wished for nothing more than an opportunity during his life to continue working effectively and leave, in his words, "a worthy inheritance that can be enjoyed and appreciated by all."

Nicky Willmott

Captain BJM Gunton



Captain Brian Gunton was born on 6 July 1934. He was commissioned into the Royal Norfolk Regiment in February 1955, joining the 1st Battalion in Colchester where he served alongside his brother Major MJD (Mike) Gunton.

He was a platoon commander in the Battalion when they deployed at forty-eight hours notice to Cyprus, as part of military reinforcement to the Island to combat the EOKA guerrilla campaign, arriving in Nicosia on 18 October 1955.

After a 12-month tour on counter insurgency operations, he continued to serve with the battalion when they were posted to Iserlohn Germany and was serving with them when the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Regiments amalgamated to become 1st Battalion The East Anglian Regiment in August 1959. He was promoted to Captain in February 1961. He also served at the Regimental Depot.

Sadly, Brian contracted Polio and was medically discharged from the Army on 30 March 1962. Subsequently he worked for Vestey Brothers as their representative in Paris.

He died in January 2023.

Major Robert William (Bill) Gordon



Born in Sleaford, Lincolnshire, on 6th November 1935, to parents Bill and Rhoda, Bill was always proud of his Lincolnshire roots.

The eldest of four brothers John, David and Ian, all who sadly died before him. Bill's first paid job (lasting only weeks) was at Burtons outfitters in Sleaford – who knew he was setting himself up for a lifetime in smart mess kit! Bill went on to work for British Rail as a signal man in the Sleaford





East signal box, joining the Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force in 1949 to commence life as a military man.

His service included many challenges and highlights along the way, having enlisted into the 1st Battalion The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in 1953, serving in BAOR (Berlin) and on active service in Malaya. He held various appointments and served as a Platoon Sergeant with the Royal Anglian Regiment following amalgamation in 1964, serving in Cyprus, Kenya, Malaya and then Scunthorpe as Regimental Recruiting Sergeant and with the TA. In 1965, he was appointed Warrant Officer Assistant Signals Officer, and subsequently served in BAOR, and several Northern Ireland tours.

He was promoted to WO1 in 1974 and appointed Co-ordinator of Training, Jungle Warfare Wing, Singapore. He was commissioned in 1975, serving with 3 Royal Anglian as Families Officer in Cyprus – responsible for over 300

families, and establishing Berengaria village complex immediately after the Cypriot/Turkish war. In 1977 he recommenced his ACF duties being posted as Assistant Chief Instructor at the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley Park, and in 1980 was appointed Cadet Executive Officer Yorkshire Army Cadet Force, transferring to Humberside Army Cadet Force as Cadet Executive Officer in 1986. In 1990 he actioned the amalgamation of Humberside ACF with South Yorkshire which became the largest national county force.

Service Awards included GSM Malaya 1955, GSM Northern Ireland, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and Cadet Force Medal and the Order of St John.

In 2000, he retired to Belper, Derbyshire, with wife Peggy, to be closer to his daughter Carol and grandchildren Rebecca and Nicholas. Bill will long be remembered not only for his exemplary military service in the regular army and

associations beyond, but also for his glorious talent for singing.

His many appearances with the military bands all around the world brought joy to him, his family, friends and many audiences. He kept his singing going right to the end, including entertaining residents at a local care home and going viral during the covid lockdown, where he was known as the 'Corona Crooner' singing a variety of well known tunes, (with adapted words), as part of the unique 'Belper Moo' local initiative to help combat lockdown loneliness within the community.

Bill continued a love of travel throughout his life, sharing countless wonderful holidays abroad with Peggy, including many ocean and river cruises, where guests would often be treated to a few of Bill's impromptu renditions. On one occasion he was even asked to stay on as part of the official entertainment team! He enjoyed bowls, quizzes, chatting to people at the gym and the odd game of bingo too! Above all, he loved spending time with his family who adored him.

Bill's wife Peggy and daughter Carol were at his side when he died at the Royal Derby Hospital on September 3rd 2023. Bill leaves behind his devoted wife of 65 years Peggy, daughter Carol and husband Chris, grandchildren Rebecca and Nicholas, their partners Oli and Hannah and beloved great grandchildren, Jacob, Lyra and Jessica.

Following the announcement in the Regimental Bulletin, Peggy and Carol received many telephone calls, cards and letters of condolence. The stories, memories and reminiscences shared have been an immense comfort at a very difficult time and we thank the extended military family and associations for their much-appreciated support.

Bill's final journey was a private family committal, with his chosen last piece of music being the Band of 2 Royal Anglian playing the Lincolnshire Poacher.

Anyone wishing to get in contact may do so by contacting Carol Brewer 221, John O'Gaunt's Way, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0DT or by email at caroltoneman@aol.com



Obituaries

Christopher Thomas Spring



Christopher Thomas Spring was born 18th September 1943 in Hitchin, Hertfordshire to Thomas and Elsie Spring, the youngest of 4 children.

Chris went along to the recruitment office for moral support to a friend. Chris had no intention of joining up but the recruitment Sgt suggested that he did the tests for something to do. He did and after passing he started his basic training in November 1962. His friend never did join up!

Whilst home on leave from Cyprus Chris met Valerie and after a whirlwind romance, they were married on 2nd October 1965 just weeks after meeting. They had three children, Jez, Heather and Penny.

Chris joined 2RANGLIAN and was with them from 1962 until 1967 when he transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corp (RAPC). However, during his first three years with the RAPC he was posted back to 2RANGLIAN. He served in Germany, Belgium, Northern Ireland ending his military career at NATO, Mons, Belgium.

Chris served 23 years in the Army working his way through the ranks and retiring as a WO1. Upon retirement the family moved to Rainham in Kent where Chris worked for the local council.

However, Chris struggled to



adjust to civilian work ethics and was offered the position of NATO assistant budget officer at Northwood. Whilst at Northwood he helped to set up the new NATO Headquarters in High Wycombe. Computers were just being introduced to NATO and he adapted to the new way of working. The budget book he developed on a spreadsheet was eventually imposed on all NATO finance offices across Europe and the USA.

He applied for and subsequently then took on the position of Budget Officer SHAPE. He and Val moved back to Belgium where they spent 9 years with Chris receiving three promotions and finally retiring at the age of 60 with the equivalent rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Chris received many commendations for his work but his proudest one came

from The Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.

After retiring, Chris and Val set up home in Lincoln. Not one to relax Chris threw himself into volunteer charity work, starting as a SSAFA case worker although it didn't take long for his finance background to surface and he became treasurer. The role of RBL Poppy Appeal Administrator followed in addition to sitting on the committee for the Army Benevolent Fund.

After 10 years he eased back on his charity work due to his health but continued to audit the finance books for the Royal Anglian Association and several charities when requested. Chris enjoyed volunteering and helping those in need and everyone was treated with compassion and respect. Chris was a

staunch supporter of both the Lincoln and Grimsby branches ably supported by Val.

Chris died on 25th April 2023, following a short stay in Lincoln County Hospital having suffered from Pulmonary Fibrosis.

A tribute page has been set up in his memory helping to raise vital funds for Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis Research as there is no cure.

chrispring@muchloved.com

WO2 George Hill



WO2 George Hill of Dronfield Woodhouse, Derbyshire, died on 23 November 2023 aged 100. George was born in Barlow and after a short period working at a local pit, is believed to have enlisted as a boy soldier in 1939. On 17 Jan 1941 he joined the 70th Young Soldiers Bn (which then became the 16th Bn and then the 1st Bn) the Sherwood Foresters until December 1942 when having been promoted to Cpl, he transferred to the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment on 10 April 1943.

During his service George served in the UK, Malaysia, Burma, Sumatra, Japan, Hong Kong and Kenya, twice dealing with Mau Mau uprisings. Having completed his 22 years' service, George was discharged in 1962. After leaving the Army, George was an Auditor. He married his wife Kathleen in 1950 and they had three sons, five grandchildren

and two great-grandchildren. George was an active man well into his 90s and will be remembered for his singing, particularly of Irish and Scottish songs. He celebrated his 100th birthday in a local pub surrounded by family and friends.

George's funeral took place on Thursday 14 December 2023 at St Lawrence's Church, Hackney Lane, Barlow, Dronfield, Derbyshire. It was well attended and representatives of both the Mercian Regiment and the Royal Anglian 2nd Battalion were present. The wake was held at the Peacock Pub, Hackney Lane, Barlow, to which all were invited to attend to pay their respects to this WWII veteran.

Clive Malcolm Whitby



Clive Malcolm Whitby. Clive died on 2nd August 2023 after a short illness. He served with the 1st Battalion from 1974 to 1983. His service included Tidworth, Northern Ireland tours, Celle and Oakington. Clive is remembered as one of the six Whitby brothers who served at the same time. He retired as a Lance Corporal in 1983.

Major Anthony Downes MBE



Tony enlisted as a National Serviceman on the 15 April 1948 at Meeanee Barracks, Colchester. Within 6 weeks he was promoted LCpl and then proceeded to Detmold in Germany for a period of training with the Grenadier Guards.

On completion of 6 weeks Leadership training, he was posted to Berlin in August of 1948 where he served during the Berlin Blockade with 'B' Company, 1st Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment. He then moved on to Dusseldorf (Hubbelrath) with 4th Guards Brigade, this was for a period of approximately 18 months. During this period with 4th Guards Brigade Tony signed on as a Regular Soldier and was promoted twice, Corporal and then Sergeant. Of note at the time, Tony was the youngest Sergeant in the 1st Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment. It was when he first went to the 1st Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment that he met our Mother, Sylvia.

The Battalion moved back to the UK to Dover Castle before re-locating to Crowborough Camp to reform and to collect reinforcements prior to deployment to Korea. Tony formed part of the Advance Party going in by air, landing in the Philippines and then onto Korea. The Royal Norfolks went in with The Ulster Rifles – in the middle of the night Tony took over from a young subaltern who had stated that all was okay in their 'Pup Tents' and



Obituaries

they had never been shelled. It was a salutary lesson for Tony and the rest of the Battalion, as that night the shelling did not stop and led him to conclude that at the very least going forward he would have to ensure that he had a 'shell scrape'.

Tony completed a 12 month tour in Korea and then moved on to Hong Kong. Thereafter, Tony was selected to be Escort to The Regimental Colours for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Coronation. For this task he was sent home to Britannia Barracks (4 months) to prepare for the Coronation.

It was during this sojourn to Britannia Barracks that Tony managed to find the time to marry Sylvia before returning to Hong Kong. On completion of this tour, sending Sylvia and his first-born son home on the Troop Ship, he returned to Colchester immediately receiving a 'Warning Order' at short notice to deploy to Cyprus where he remained until Makaris was eventually arrested. Tony was present in Limassol when the Invasion Fleet formed up and was ready to deploy to the Suez Canal, then again returned to Colchester.

Tony continued to serve and was Commissioned in his 20th year of service and posted to the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (The Pompadours), serving as Assistant Adjutant & PRI/ Unit Families Officer. He was then posted to Northern Ireland for 2 years where he received his Regular Quartermaster's Commission with Headquarters 8th Brigade, Londonderry. He returned to the 3rd Battalion as Quartermaster (Technical) at Catterick Garrison for a relatively short period of 8 months before the Battalion moved to Episkopi (Cyprus) for 2 years. He then completed a 6-month tour with the United Nations in Nicosia (Cyprus).

On returning to the United Kingdom to Colchester, Meeanee Barracks, whilst serving as the Senior Quartermaster Tony was awarded his well -deserved MBE. You would have thought that after a lifetime of service Tony would have been exhausted, but he went on to be Chairman of The Royal Anglian Regiment Association, Colchester, for 11 years, and the President of the Korean

Old Comrades, Clacton & District, for five years.

In 2014, he took office in Tendering District Council and was also Clerk to Little Bromley Parish Council for many years from 1991 and was the founding member of the Bromley Amenities Group. All of this time Tony continued to be a loving Father & Grandfather & Great Grandfather, advising, guiding & scolding when necessary. Tony was held in high esteem by all those whose lives he touched.

Here are a few of the comments received by the family:

"Your Father had a massive impact on my career, a true Gentleman who will be sorely missed".

"Tony would not suffer fools but was always ready to offer help when it was needed and deserved. He was the epitome of a loving family man and a committed soldier".

"I admired your father greatly, always cheerful and immaculately turned out".

"He was a Soldier's Soldier".

"Tony was like a wonderful Oak Tree in the centre of the forest. We are all poorer for the sad fact that the Oak has been cut down".

LA Downes

William James Ellard MBE



The funeral of former Steelback William (Jim) James Ellard MBE was held on Monday 10 July 2023 at the Avon Room, Rainsbrook Crematorium, Rugby.

Jim spent most of his National Service with the 1st Bn The Northamptonshire Regiment stationed at Watchet in Somerset, on leaving the Regiment Jim had exemplary service with both the County Retained Fire Service and the County Special Constabulary.

Jim was awarded his MBE in January 2002 for Service to The Community in Northampton.

Jim was a great supporter of The Northampton Regiment and The Northampton Branch of the Regimental Association in particular, he was a regular attender at Branch Meetings, Talavera Dinners and Branch Social Functions. Jim's funeral was attended by members of the Northampton Branch of The Regimental Association including: Ian Dexter, Branch Chairman, Joe Heffernan, Vice-Chairman and Standard Bearer along with Jackie, Richard York, former Branch Chairman along with Ann, Colin Burridge, former Branch Chairman along with Linda.

Also in attendance was a contingent of Jim's former comrades and colleagues from the County Retained Fire Service and the County Special Constabulary.

George Tomlin

'Life goes on'. That was one of George's regular expressions latterly and few have packed more enthusiasm, effort and variety into going on with life than George Tomlin who has died at the age of 74.

George served the early part of his career with the 1st Battalion. He joined the Battalion in Londonderry in March 1972 and then moved quickly with them to Cyprus which was where he acquired his taste for sun, sea and sand as well as expanding the range of sports into which he to put so much energy. George had been an enthusiastic rock climber, mountaineer and hill walker since his school days. In Cyprus he was introduced to sailing and to the diving which was to be so important to him later in life,

From Cyprus, George went on to Junior Leaders in Oswestry, back to 1 R Anglian in Tidworth and then to

Belize on what was to be the beginning of a long association with that country. There followed staff and regimental tours in Germany, in Northern Ireland with I R Anglian in which George was Mentioned in Despatches, in Leicester with The Tigers, then back to Belize for a long Loan Service tour before moving to JHQ at Rheindahlen. From there George served tours in Bosnia and Kosovo before returning to Loan Service.

George was not alone in any of this. He had married Maureen in 1972 and they were one of those couples who were always spoken of as a pair. It was always 'George and Maureen', one item; to speak of one was to assume and include the other. Accompanied by Maureen, George thrived on Loan Service; he was ideally suited to the challenges and opportunities of less developed places. He was highly adaptable, always curious about people and places, adept at making do and naturally very handy. He also had a strong instinct for the underdog; he worked hard to improve the lives and prospects of the people he served with in places where those considerations were not always to the fore.

During his two year Loan Service tour in Belize George was heavily involved in setting up the Belize Defence Force, for which work he was appointed MBE. This Belize tour was a golden opportunity for George to indulge his passion for sailing and to refine his diving technique. Belize was also a perfect jumping off point for exploring Central and South America. George told the tale of bumping along a mountain road in Ecuador in his old Isuzu with a sheer drop into a deep valley on one side and a condor keeping pace alongside them, apparently relishing the prospect of a good lunch when their car went over the edge. They survived and there followed service in Ghana, where they both almost died of food poisoning, and Abu Dhabi before George retired from the army and took up a successful career in defence consultancy.

George was devastated by Maureen's early death in 2011; he never got over it. He was very well supported by his daughters Philippa and Victoria but it took him a long time to adjust to

Maureen's absence. When he began to adapt, it was a combination of village life and expeditionary work that brought renewed interest, challenge and focus into his life. George and Maureen had settled in Constable Burton near Leyburn in North Yorkshire when George left the army. He became heavily involved in community affairs and particularly in the raising of a new war memorial on the village green.

He also wrote and distributed a book recounting the biographies of the local servicemen and women whose names are recorded on the memorial. In the same period he worked as a volunteer in South Africa for a charity concerned with saving rhinos, he renewed and developed his interest in diving, making many trips to Dahab, to the Philippines, the Maldives, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize again and Papua New Guinea among other places and he even found time to take up hang gliding. His underwater photography was very professional and his presentations about his trips, which he gave to raise money for the British Red Cross, were a great success.

When he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in April 2023 George was realistic and courageous. Shortly before he died he said that he had had a fantastic life. He'd had a wife he adored, two daughters he loved enormously and a career that suited him down to the ground; if he could do it all over again, he would. George died on the 24 October 2023 surrounded by his family. After his funeral service we left the chapel to the strains of the Queen song, 'The show must go on'. George's sentiments exactly.

Ron Knights

Ron enlisted into the army on the 5th of September 1951, at the age of 18. He joined the first Battalion, the Suffolk Regiment, part of the East Anglian Brigade. Headquarters was at Gibraltar Barracks Bury Saint Edmunds (now the home of the Suffolk Regiment Museum and the Old Comrades Association) After his basic training in December 51, he was posted with the battalion to Far East Land Forces Singapore. The

Battalion came home on the 2nd of December 1953.

Three months later, they were off again. This time to Trieste as part of the British Element Trieste force. From Trieste they were posted to Germany for two years. After a five week home trip, the battalion was posted to Cyprus for just over two and a half years.

In May 1959 they were home in the UK for 100 days, then headed back to Germany for 22 months, before another UK posting. Fuzzies final posting abroad found him in British Guyana eight months later. He returned home and was finally demobbed on the 4th of September 1963, after 12 years loyal service. He was awarded the General Service medal Malaya and clasp Cyprus.

Fuzzy's best mate through his army service was Bernard (Pop) Whitwell. Pop was in the corps of drums along with Fuzzy who was a side drummer and bugler. Fuzzy often visited the family home in Whittlesey and the family remember Fuzzy always being around and his sense of humour. They recall when he was living in Wisbech how he kept budgerigars. When Pops passed away in 2019, Barry took Fuzzy to the funeral which was very moving.

In Felixstowe, Ron maintained his links with the past. He was a staunch member of the Old Comrades Felixstowe branch and would always be present when able. He especially enjoyed the formal dinners and was always immaculately turned out. He was a very polite and kind person and Barry and his wife Helen, along with all Suffolk and Royal Anglian Regiment Association members, will certainly miss him.

For the last twenty five years, Ron lived in Mays Court housing complex in Felixstowe. It was there he met Tina when she started working there twelve years ago. She helped him keep his home clean and tidy. Ron was a very cheeky chappy always playing pranks on people his whole life, and he kept Tina on her toes tying the string mop to the bucket, and with other little jokes too!

With such a sense of humour it is not surprising that Ron was adored by Tina's grandchildren: Harry, Ralphie and Poppy. Harry loved to joke about



Obituaries

with him and as Ralphie shared the same birthday 21st of February they would always celebrate together. Ron was forever irritated that his birth certificate stated he was born on the 20th of February 1933, and he enjoyed sharing the same date with Ralphie. He would often bring Tina's family along to the hut on the promenade for the Old Comrades functions and Barry thought it wonderful to watch Ron come alive as he played with the children.

Tina and her daughter Helen would take him to the doctors and to hospital appointments and together they would attend the Legion fish and chip day every year. Minden day was a yearly outing for Ron and he knew Tina's dad who was also in the Suffolk's. Helen remembers how she would often find Ron with his photo albums out, and she would love to listen to his stories from Malaya and Sydney and other places.

Ron always kept himself busy. He enjoyed a little flutter on the dogs and horses, but never too much, a standard £3 bet but on occasions he'd have a nice little win. On a Saturday, he would walk to the newsagents to get the newspaper to study form, and then later catch the bus and go up town to place his bet. Ron called the bookies his accountants. Helen remembers the weekly food shop outings into town when they would always start at the accountants. Ron remained fit enough to walk unaided without a stick or any frame and after catching the bus uphill to town, he would happily walk downhill home, stopping off religiously at Greggs for his coffee and a sausage roll.

He enjoyed the odd trip to Great Yarmouth to see the dogs, or to revisit his old haunts of Hunstanton and Wells. Ron looked forward to the annual trip to Thursford Carol Concert at Christmas and enjoyed some Tinsel and Turkey holidays. He loved the trips on the coaches with Galloways, whom he affectionately called GALLOP AWAYS. Just the week before he passed, Ron had the pleasure of a trip to Brighton with Tina and Helen. Ron believed life was for living so whilst he was fit enough he ensured he lived life and continued to get out and about.

Ron was proud and didn't like to ask for help.... and he always had a smile on his face no matter what life threw at him. He will be remembered fondly by so many - God bless you, Fuzzy

WO2 Sam Martin



Sam Martin joined the Army in 1970 and completed his training at the Depot the Queens Division. Shortly after training and leave he was posted to the Poacher's in Munster, BAOR.

As a member of 1 Platoon A Company in 1972 it wasn't long before he and the rest of the Battalion were patrolling the streets of West Belfast and in Sam's case the Lower Falls.

The following year the Poachers returned to Northern Ireland but this time in Londonderry. By 1974 Sam was a Corporal and was sent back to the Depot Queens Division as an Instructor firstly training Junior Soldiers and then Adults. Rejoining his Battalion in Gillingham he was promoted to Sergeant and along with the Poachers deployed to Berlin for 2 years. Having left the Army for 10 months Sam rejoined the Poachers becoming the Provost Sgt for a short time before being posted to the Anti-Tank Platoon.

The 2nd Battalion were the posted to Colchester for 4 years and it was there that Sam along with the rest of his platoon rolled into the new anti-tank guided weapon system called MILAN. During the 4 years stationed in Colchester Sam

completed a UN tour of Cyprus. 2 years with 5 R ANGLIAN in Peterborough and 6 months with the Australian Army on Exercise Long Look.

Sam's final posting with Poacher's was in Celle West Germany during what was known as the Cold War. He then finished his time with the Army as the Senior Permanent Staff Instructor with 7 R ANGLIAN in Lincoln before settling in the local area. Sam Martin will be remembered by many as a larger than life character, a first class soldier and Warrant Officer who was well liked and respected by all those he served with.

Terry Browning



Terry joined the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in 1958 at Sobraon Barracks. Shortly after training he deployed with the Regiment to Malaya for two years during the Malayan Emergency. The Regiment then spent some time in Aden and England before moving to Minden in Germany.

In Minden in April 1960 Terry was on the final parade with the R. Lincolns prior to amalgamation with the Northamptonshire Regiment. Leaving the Army shortly after the final parade he rejoined civilian life where he became a successful Pig Farmer and Butcher.

Terry always looked back with fondness on his time in the Army and became a long-standing member of the

Royal British Legion. In addition to this he was the Branch Chairman and Standard Bearer of the Stamford Branch of the Royal Lincolnshire and Royal Anglian Regiment Association. In his role as Standard Bearer, he attended many Regimental Days, Funerals and Freedom Parades.

Terry Browning was a generous person and a first-class supporter of the Royal Anglian Regiment and its forebear Regiments. In 2009 when the Poachers exercised the Freedom of Stamford, he visited the local hostellers and invited the patrons to donate monies to the marching soldiers, raising over £900 in the process, which was duly presented once the parade finished. He donated a bench to the 2nd Battalion which now stands in pride of place in front of the Stamford War Memorial. The large donation he made to the Royal Lincolns' Memorial in Sobraon Park ensured that the project was successfully completed. Over the years, he would place a collection box for the Regimental Benevolent Fund in the George Hotel in Stamford, which returned a steady stream of funds to the Regiment. Terry attended various Regimental Battlefield Tours where he enjoyed having a drink and interacting with the serving soldiers who were also on the tours.

Terry's Funeral took place at Peterborough Crematorium on the 10th November which saw a great turn out of old comrades and friends. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Michael Cadge

Michael Christopher Cadge (sometimes known as Mike) carried out his National Service with the Royal Artillery. When he returned to Norfolk to practise as a solicitor in the family firm, Cadge and Gilbert, in Loddon he joined the Territorial Army serving with the 4th Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment for 10 years.

Michael, a triplet, was born in Loddon, Norfolk but moved to the 'safer' territory of Malborough, Wiltshire during the Second World War. He continued his education in the area finishing at Bradfield College and upon the recommendation of his headmaster

he immediately joined the 67th Regiment Royal Artillery to complete his National Service.

He spent two years at Oswestry in a training role. He did a lot of running during this time and was part of the team that won the 18th Training Brigade RA Cross Country Championship in 1954. He spoke of writing letters home for those that couldn't and Sunday evening train rides back from London, but nothing of firing artillery.

Subsequently he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge to read Law and upon graduating attended Guildford Law School. He completed his articles before returning to Norfolk to join the family solicitor's practice of Cadge and Gilbert in Loddon, where he continued until his gradual retirement.

He was pretty busy during this time as a bachelor. He joined the Territorial Army serving with 4th Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment for some 10 years. During that time he was selected to carry the colours on two very notable occasions. The first, in 1957, in Hyde Park where the late Queen Elizabeth II conducted a review of the TA. The second, in 1962, was the occasion of Princess Margaret presenting new colours to the 4th Battalion. As a result of his service, he was awarded the Territorial Decoration (TD). He also organised the Regimental Ball for a number of years.

One day, when driving down the A11 to attend a regimental function, he had a minor altercation with a traffic barrier. Whilst being patched up by the ambulance medics, he asked them to hurry up as otherwise he'd be late for tea.....with the Queen Mother.

Mike (as he was known in the squash world) was a very good squash player becoming County Champion in 1956 and he played for Norfolk alongside his great friend Major General Sir David Thorne. He was also a member of the 'Crownors', a social group of Norfolk bachelors.

Subsequent to his time in service, Michael spent many decades supporting former members of The Royal Norfolk Regiment both in the guise of the 'regimental solicitor', providing

invaluable legal advice on planned developments (and stopping a few before they gathered too much steam) and as a member of the Regimental Committee, the Finance Committee and The Royal Norfolk Regiment Museum Committee. He was still a member of the Finance Committee, continuing to dispense insightful comments until the last. He was highly regarded by all his peers and those who benefitted from his sage advice. It is no surprise that many of his colleagues and their relatives used him as their personal solicitor across multiple generations. A regular attendee at Regimental gatherings, particularly the Remembrance Service, his presence will be missed at these gatherings.

In his retirement, Michael continued as secretary of the Royal British Legion (Kirby Bedon branch) and played golf with old friends and new until Autumn 2022. He died in September after a short period in hospital.

Peter Ward



The Regiment was saddened to hear of the death of Peter Ward. Peter died on 10th April 2023 at Glastonbury Court Care Home, Bury St Edmunds.

Peter joined the Essex Regiment and later served in The East Anglian Regiment and subsequently, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment



Obituaries

until 1966. During his career he served in Malaya, Singapore and Northern Ireland.

Peter married Audrey before deploying to Malaya in March 1962. Audrey accompanied Peter when his Battalion deployed to Ballykinler in Northern Ireland. Audrey and Peter met after his Battalion exercised The Freedom of Southend-on-Sea and after 10 weeks were married, a marriage that would last some 61 years until Peter's passing. Audrey and Peter have three children Traceylee, Tanya and Wayne.

Peter and Audrey settled in Bury St Edmunds after Peter left the Army. Peter had many jobs and found it very hard to settle to start with.

After leaving the Regiment Peter worked for Wimpey construction building the then A45 and also worked as a welder and printer before retiring as a lorry driver. Other jobs included a taxi driver, working in a dog biscuit factory.

Peter had a love of speed and always used to tell the story of when he rode through a wall and through someone's greenhouse on his Royal Enfield motorbike just outside Maldon Essex. Peter used to race hot rods and would take the complete family hot rod racing. Peter would take Wayne to watch speedway when growing up and his love and enthusiasm for speed was passed on to his son Wayne.

Peter had a lifelong love for nature and whilst working in his different roles would often come home with injured animals which the whole family would take a part in looking after.

Peter kept strong ties with the Regiment and was Chairman of the Bury St Edmunds Branch of The Royal Anglian Regiment Association for almost five years. He was also the first Regimental Association Standard Bearer. He carried out this voluntary

duty with immense pride from 2009 until 2015 when ill health forced him to relinquish the role.

Wayne carried on the family tradition and joined the Royal Anglian Regiment's 1st Battalion in 1987. This heralded the start of a lively and friendly rivalry, interspersed with endless father, son banter that would last for many years. Both Peter and Wayne were immensely proud of each other and their combined service in the Regiment.

After suffering a series of mini-strokes, Peter decided to stop driving and realised his health was starting to deteriorate. Peter was not long after diagnosed with vascular dementia which was a diagnosis he really struggled to come to terms with.

Peter started to attend different groups but really enjoyed NSFT veterans Wellbeing Support Groups on a Tuesday at Combat 2 Coffee in Bury St Edmunds and would often take Audrey with him. Audrey continues to attend the Groups to this day.

Private Daniel Rose



Private Daniel Rose joined the Infantry Training Centre Catterick in August

2022. He impressed his training team with a positive attitude and a clear desire to succeed. His approachable nature and caring character were immediately apparent, and he quickly made close friends in his section and across the platoon. Dan had been noted by his training team as someone with true grit and determination; as the course continued, these characteristics remained.

Dan was a highly resilient individual and it was clear to all that he would not give up, regardless of his fatigue. Through his will to succeed, he worked hard in his spare time to develop himself conceptually to ensure his professional competence, in eager preparation for his arrival at the 1st Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment. He displayed a level of mental robustness and maturity that is rare to see in someone so new to the Army.

Dan was an inherently positive person. He was able to lift the morale of his section with ease. It was clear that he was a key member of the platoon and other recruits naturally gravitated towards him. He would help those around him when they were struggling, showing an inherent selflessness. There is little doubt that Dan would have become a strong junior leader in time. His emotional intelligence and drive were such promising qualities.

Those of us fortunate to know and work with Dan enjoyed his laughter and sharp sense of humour. The tragic loss of a great person and soldier with so much potential leaves an irreplaceable hole. He had a bright career ahead of him.

Private Daniel Rose was laid to rest at Poole Crematorium, Tuesday 6 June 2023. The service was presided over by The Reverend, Padre Matthew Dietz and attended by members of his family and the Regiment.



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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

are:

Benefits in doing so

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

I wish to subscribe to the Regimental Association with all benefits above. In doing so you agree to your information being held, which will not be passed on to a third party without your permission, and will only be used for Regimental matters. Please:

- **Complete and return the membership information form to Joanna Laidlaw at the above address or email to: joanna.laidlaw118@mod.gov.uk**
- Please instruct your bank to provide a Standing Order for the required amount payable on the **1st day of next month and thereon each year after. On receipt of your first payment your association card will be dispatched. Please indicate first payment date:**

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Bank: Barclays. Account No: 30657336. Sort Code: 20 16 12.

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Regimental Bulletins. Gives information on Regimental matters, announcements, newsletters, notification of deaths, job opportunities and significant Regimental business.

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Royal Anglian Regimental Association

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Known As:		Rank on Discharge:	
Date of Birth:		Place of Birth:	
Date of Enlistment / Commission:		Place of Enlistment / Commission:	
Into which Bn:		Regimental No:	
Date Discharged:		Decorations:	
Operational Tours:			
Address:			
Email:			
Tel Home:		Mobile No:	

Subsequent Postings / Attachments / Secondments (chronologically): Continue overleaf if required:

Date	Bn / HQ / Unit	Location	Rank	Appointment /Remarks

Significant Military Achievements or Interests.

Brief Employment History since Leaving the Service.

DATE:

SIGNATURE:

To: RHQ, The Royal Anglian Regiment
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