



Royal Anglian News

November 2016

Regimental Matters

Regimental Remembrance Service at the Regimental Memorial

The Regimental Memorial was the very moving setting for the annual Regimental Service of Remembrance, about 350 members of the Regiment, serving, veterans and the bereaved families attended the service, wreaths were laid on behalf the Regiment and those of the fallen.





Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey

For the 88th time the Opening of the Field of Remembrance took place in the gardens of Westminster Abbey on a cold but fine morning on 10th November. As ever the Regiment had contingents from all 9 former Regiments proudly gathered around their individual plots and the London District Garrison Welfare Officer, C/Sgt Tim Heale, stood in front of the Royal Anglian plot. HRH Prince Philip and HRH Prince Harry wandered past the plots as usual greeting our old comrades. As always this was a sombre but respectful occasion, ever more so being 100 years on from the closing stages of the Battle of the Somme.

Afterwards, everyone was hosted courtesy of Sam Luckin at the Farmer's Club off Whitehall.

Lt Toby Reid, B (Suffolk) Company 1st Battalion and Colour Sergeant Tim Heale, 2nd Battalion, serving representatives at the Opening of the Field of Remembrance, 10 November 2016.

Freedom of the City conferred on Royal Anglian Regiment

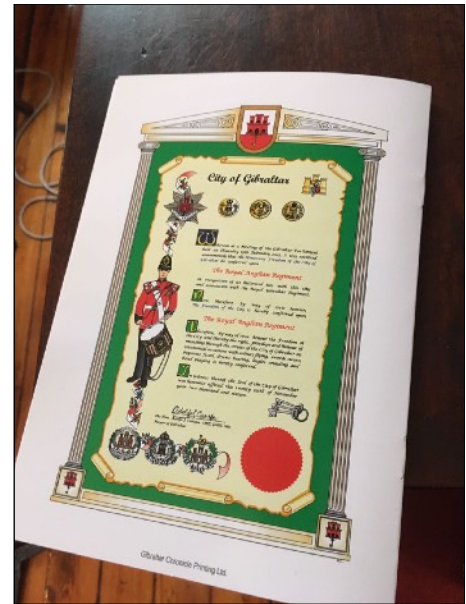
A ceremony was held at the Garrison Library on Saturday to confer the Freedom of the City to the Royal Anglian Regiment. The ceremony was conducted by the Mayor, Adolfo Canepa.



The Mayor of Gibraltar, HW the Mayor, Hon Adolpho Canepa presents the freedom scroll to the Colonel of the Regiment.

The decision to confer the Freedom was made unanimously in Parliament last February, in recognition of the historical links between the Regiment and Gibraltar. The honour grants the Regiment the freedom to march through the city with colours flying, swords worn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bugles sounding and band playing.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Regiment's Colonel, Lt Gen Phil Jones said he was 'deeply honoured' to accept this honour from the City.



(L) Re-presentation of a 2 R ANGLIAN Drum. In 1969 during their tour in Gibraltar, 2 R ANGLIAN had presented a Drum to the Gibraltar Regiment. The Friends of Gibraltar had recently had this drum refurbished for the Royal Gibraltar as a symbol of the close relationship between the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Royal Gibraltar Regiment.



(L) Gibraltar kindly invited former members of the Regiment, who now live in Gibraltar to the reception following the presentation of the Freedom. With the Col of the Regt are: (Lt) Chris Wawn, (WO2) Mick Gibbons, (Sgt) Jack Evans, (Drummer) Terry Gager, (Private) Peter Courtenay and (Bandsmen) Sean Keating.

London Gazette 2016:

Retirements

Lt Col S T H Andrews Aug 2016

Capt D M Tomlinson Aug 2016

Lt J H Gordon Aug 2016

LSGCM

CSgt A E Ward

Diary Dates

December 2016

4 Regt Carol Service - Warley

January 2017

8 Chapel Sunday - Warley

1st Battalion (The Vikings)

Viking Remembrance

As the guns fell silent at 11am on 11th day of the 11 month, 98 years ago, the residents of the Royal Artillery Barracks remember the sacrifices made by our forebears. The service was held at the recently refurbished Garrison Chapel. Lest we forget.



D (Essex) Company

D Company formed up on Monday 7 November and deployed to Thetford later that same day. Although they expected frantic chaos as the Coy swelled from 100 to 170 soldiers, the initial forming-up and move from Woolwich to Thetford went smoothly.

The weather has not been kind to them. The training, along with the shared misery of the cold, wet training area, has allowed the new lads to bond with each other and for the D Coy 'old guard' to meet and work with the new lads – and mightily impressive the new lads are too. Early in the training the soldiers had demonstrations and the opportunity to experience what each of the other platoons do and how they do it. On Tuesday and Wednesday evening they conducted night navigation exercises and had an introduction to the specialist night viewing equipment the Coy uses. On Thursday they finished the Coy training module with an 8 mile march, with kit – the coy performed superbly and that night they had the evening off. Only one week in to the cadres but so far they have been great fun and hugely rewarding.



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Poacher Remembrance



Madrid - Ex Conquistador Poacher

Conceptual study visit to the battlefields of the Spanish Civil War. Several members of the Poachers Officers' Mess and Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess are in Madrid on a conceptual development week. Madrid University Campus was an interesting stop, where the team studied the site of one of the bloodiest battles in the Spanish civil war.



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

1 Company Norwich Steeplechase

Members of 1 Coy today took part in the Norwich Steeple chase amongst over 650 competitors. Soldiers entered both the 5 & 10km event, which saw them follow a route normally designed for horing events.

Obstacles, rivers and hills made the event challenging yet fun and something we are looking to take part again in next year.



2 Company



2 (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire) Company parading for the first time in Corby. The Steelbacks are back in Northamptonshire and recruiting.

Museum

Partnership with Beds & Herts Museum

I have been working closely with Helen Close, Project Officer for the redevelopment of the Beds & Herts Regimental Museum's gallery. She has consulted me on some contemporary history of the Poachers, focusing specifically on D Company (Beds & Herts). We were able to share some images and information that will be interpreted into their new gallery. Hopefully there will be scope for future work with antecedent regiments if they adopt research into modern Royal Anglian matters. This could also work vice versa if we attempt to include more pre 1958 materials into our work.

Remembrance Day Event

I would like to express my thanks to four representatives of 1 Royal Anglian who participated in a Museum event on Remembrance Sunday. The idea was for the general public to have an opportunity to talk to serving representatives of their local Regiment. They were situated on top of the gallery as people flocked into Land Warfare for tea and coffee after the Service. This is definitely something I am considering running again, and I am exploring possible ways to expand the experience further next year.

Work on the 11th Cambs Suffolks Service Battalion

I am currently collating material to put on display regarding the 11th Cambs Suffolks Battalion. So far I have acquired some citations from Martin Boswell, photographs from CCamb History group, and some personal letters home from the Front from Gwyn Thomas. I think we will soon have enough for an effective display on the Battalion, and I am conversing with Joanna Costin on incorporating the opening of the display with a book signing. Along with my visit to the Schwaben Redoubt, this project has given me wider knowledge of local exploits during the Great War, and has vastly improved my knowledge of various Regimental histories. I am looking forward to being able to share with you what we put together.

Friends of Duxford Event

In mid October we were approached by the Volunteer Coordinator on site, to enquire if we could participate in an evening event for Friends of Duxford members. I put out some of the handling collection, with information on the weapons and material we have procured over the years. It seemed to go down well, and we were warmly thanked by the IWM. I am looking to get us involved in future endeavours, which will hopefully hold us in good stead regarding the IWM valuation of our presence here on site.



Cambridge Museums Service Utilising Equipment to Make Film

I have given a technical workshop on how to use our video equipment to members of the Cambridge Museums service. I have also allowed them to come in sporadically and use our editing software. A representative of the Council overseeing a heritage project we are a part of (entitled, 'Memories in the Community') has been in recently to work on a film. We are set to be included in the film, thus hopefully improving our relations with local cultural institutions. We have some very good audio/visual equipment available, and on top of our ongoing Recording Memories project - I plan to explore how we can utilise it further.