



Regimental Matters

Dining Out of The Old Colonel Of The Regiment, Lieutenant General P D Jones CB CBE

The new Colonel of the Regiment, Major General R W Wooddisse CBE MC presided at the annual meeting of the Officers' Dinner Club on 3rd November in the Army and Navy Club.

The centrepiece of the dinner was dining out General Phil Jones. The Colonel of the Regiment thanked General Jones for all he had done for the Regiment in all his thirty seven years of service, and as the Colonel of the Regiment from 2012 to 2017. As a master of consensus building, General Jones had led the Regiment, developing the right Regimental and Divisional integration. Apart from all of his wise advice, highlights of his tenure had been the support the Regiment had received during the last operational tours in Afghanistan, the Golden Jubilee Colours parade and celebrations in 2014, the new Regimental History (General Jones had written the last Chapter), and all the apparently minor events which benefitted from heavyweight support, like the burial of WWI Soldiers in France and Battalion and Regimental events like the Freedom of Gibraltar. The Regiment owed General Jones a huge debt of gratitude for all his positive advice, support and leadership.



London Gazette Extracts Sep and Oct 17 SSC

- OCdt D B Coyle to be 2Lt Aug 2017
- OCdt T E Hardiman to be 2Lt Aug 2017
- OCdt B C Hopkin to be 2Lt Aug 2017
- OCdt D J Russell to be 2Lt Aug 2017
- OCdt G Scrupps to be 2Lt Aug 2017

Retirements

- Maj R A Wicks Dec 2016
- Capt A J Basey-Fisher Nov 2016
- Maj T G B P Coleman Jan 2017

3rd Clasp To VRSM

- WO2 D T Beard

Diary Dates

December 2017

- 3 Chapel Sunday - Warley
- 9 Regt Carol Service - St Marys Church - BSE - all members of the Regt Family are welcome
- 13 Dedication of the Headstone of WW1 Northamptonshire Regiment Soldier - Gretton
- 16 Grimsby Association Dinner

January 2018

- 7 Chapel Sunday - Warley
- 18 Poulters Christmas Lunch

Regimental Remembrance Service

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.



Father Ken Reeve, our Honorary Chaplain with his daughter Kate and her husband WO1 Neil Reeder, our Div Comd Sgt Maj - at the Regimental Remembrance Service.



Captain Sam Durrant - Regimental Adjutant

Garden of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey

Garden of Remembrance

In time honoured fashion members of the Regimental family gathered in the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on the Thursday preceding Armistice Day to attend the official opening by HRH Prince Harry. All our forebear Regiments had a dedicated plot with a representative acting as Guardian in each case. Phil Tilley who held this responsibility for the Northamptonshire Regiment was presented to Prince Harry with whom he enjoyed a joke! Brigadier James Woodham CBE MC was the senior serving member of the Regiment present. Afterwards, everyone returned to the Farmers' Club in Whitehall for lunch and refreshments where we were hosted by Sam Luckin, a former Officer of the Essex Regiment.



1st Battalion (The Vikings)

Ex Cape Bayonet

The platoon from A (Norfolk) Company that was attached to 2 MERCIAN in the Falklands have completed their final exercise, Ex Cape Bayonet, and are now preparing to come home.

The platoon have had a fantastic experience, conducting live fire training over several days in arduous conditions using bits of military kit like the Chinook that you rarely see in the UK. They return to the UK for some well earned leave.



B (Suffolk) Company in Nigeria

B (Suffolk) Company have been working closely with a group of Nigerian specialists who are deploying to fight Boko Haram in the north east. The demanding training package has seen the Nigerians develop individual skills, tactics and live firing in the challenging terrain of central Nigeria. The Nigerians are extremely eager to learn from the Suffolk Company Junior NCOs, who have been providing them with a lot of good training to support them in their mission in the north east.



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

November has seen the 2nd Bn assume the role of Regional Standby Battalion in Cyprus, with B Coy ready to move at very short notice. This has required a certain amount of preparation – which culminated in their readiness exercise. Meanwhile, C Coy have deployed to Akrotiri on their rotation as airfield force protection, which is relatively austere, but which they've worked hard to make comfortable for them and the next company. Our remembrance service day was spent in a packed out Dhekelia Church with the remainder of the station. The Bn won its first Rugby match of the season on island and, after 3 meets, The Poachers Cross Country team currently leads the BFC Cross Country league. Toward the end of the month, A Coy have travelled to Lydd in Kent to conduct an excellent range package, before a spot of UK-based leave, and B Coy have conducted a number of shoots over on Pyla range.



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

4 (Lincolnshire) Company

The Commanding Officer and Deputy Lieutenant Alex Baxter visited 4 (Lincolnshire) Company in Grimsby yesterday. After the parade, WO2 Limb was presented with the CGS Commendation, Cpl North was presented with a clasp to her VRSM and both Pte Bakewell and Pte Harries received their stable belts in recognition of successfully passing CIC. Congratulations to all. Evening training was based on an Urban Ops exercise through the currently vacant Caretaker's flat. I am happy to report that the flat is still in one piece!



Association News - Suffolk

Felixstowe Gathering

The 32nd annual gathering of The Poachers was held at Felixstowe on the weekend 27 - 29 October 2017 when 135 attended. The event started on the Friday Night with quite a few Poachers meeting at the Royal British Legion Club. Karlene Kennard again provided a delicious supper and the Club put on a disco. The night went very well and was a warm up for things to come.



The Legion was again host to the Poachers on the Saturday afternoon with many renewing tales from the previous night. Once again Karlene ensured that no one went hungry and this time a wonderful dish of stew and dumplings was provided.

By 1900hrs the entrance hall to the RBL Club was bursting with eager Poachers waiting to book in. The gathering got under way with a welcome address given by David Knight. As is customary the roll was called of all known Poachers who had passed away during the previous year. The Act of Remembrance was given by Ann Huckle, Chair of the RBL, this was followed by the Toasts. Major General John Sutherell CB CBE DL, a much respected Poacher, was our guest of honour this year and he was soon seen chatting to a great many old comrades.

David Knight expressed our collective sorrow at the passing of Tom Campbell, Chairman of the British Legion. Tom arranged for many sponsors to provide the raffle prizes over many years. His wife, Isobel, had kindly taken over this role for this year's event and David presented her with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for her hard work and dedication.



Association News - Bedfordshire

Royal Anglian Regiment Association Bedfordshire

The flag of the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment once again flew over the Keep in Kempston where the Minden Band of the Queens Division took centre place at the Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Remembrance and Reunion Service and Parade where those in attendance commemorated and remembered the ultimate sacrifice that was made by Officers and men of the Bedfordshire Regiment, The Hertfordshire Regiment and the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment.

The day was pleasantly sunny for the time of year and there was a chill in the air but all the same, the parade was well attended however it was noticeably smaller in size than in previous years.

Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Major Simon Sadler TD DL took the Salute and with him were Mr Vinod Tailor DL, the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire. Brigadier Tim Seal TD DL, Rt Hon Mohammed Yasin MP, Mr Dave Hodgson and Cllr James Valentine, Mayors of Bedford and Kempston respectively, the Chief Constable of the Special Constabulary and the Provincial Grand Master on behalf of Bedfordshire Freemasons, who incidentally now own the Keep.



Burial of an Unknown Soldier of the Bedfordshire Regiment

Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery

On Thursday 16th November 2017 a team from the Royal Anglian Regiment attended the burial of an Unknown Soldier, killed in World War I, of the Bedfordshire Regiment. The ceremony took place at Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery just to the north of Albert near La Boisselle close to the Somme front in 1916. Due to the Poachers deployment in Cyprus, D (Beds and Herts) Company of the 2nd Battalion were unable to attend, but the Vikings very kindly sent a strong contingent under the command of Lt Ed Williams. The ceremony was shared with the RIFLES who were there to bury an Unknown Soldier of the Dorsetshire Regiment. Our Padre, Lori Price conducted the service beautifully involving several members of the Regiment who read lessons or prayers. The French attended in great strength with a host of Standards on parade showing how much they still appreciate the sacrifice made by so many of their allies.

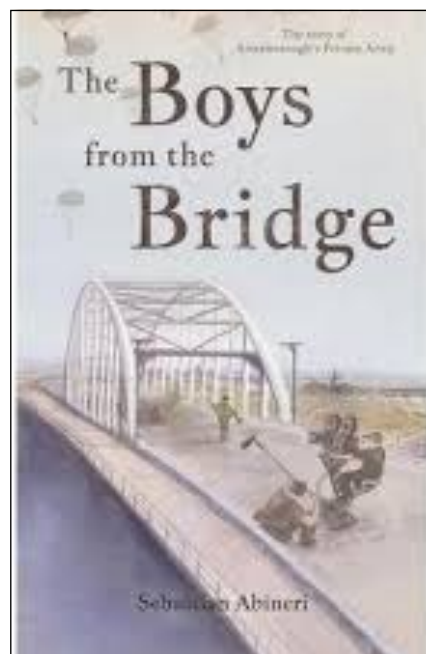
Interestingly, in the same cemetery is located the grave of Lt Col John Collings-Wells VC DSO who also served in the Bedfordshire Regiment and who was killed on 27th March 1918 when commanding the 4th Battalion with such bravery as to be awarded the Victoria Cross.



Literary News

Attenborough's Private Army

Sebastian Abineri is an actor, and a friend and supporter of the Regiment. A few years ago he organised a Charity Gala performance for the Regiment at The Palace Theatre Westcliff called "Pack Up Your Troubles" with Lt Colonel Dennis. Sebastian has written an account of his time with Attenborough's Private Army (APA). The APA were a group of actors bought together to portray the soldiers at Arnhem Bridge in 1944 for the 1976 film A Bridge too Far. Sebastian remembers 1976 as was one of the hottest summers on record, it was so hot that the cows got heatstroke in their fields and the APA drank the local bars dry. The APA worked for six months alongside stars like Anthony Hopkins, Sean Connery and Sir Laurence Olivier to the strains of Abba and the sounds of machine gun fire. Sebastian has written a book *The Boys at the Bridge*, those interested should look at this link: <https://www.bookguild.co.uk/bookshop-collection/non-fiction/biography/boys-bridge-story-attenboroughs-private-army/> which will lead you to the publishers website where there are a couple of reviews.



Imperial Service Medal Presentation

Margaret Legg served as a trusted Civil Servant for most of her adult life. However, it was only in the latter stages that the Regiment had the honour and good fortune to employ her as Assistant to the Area 2 Regimental Secretary. For the bulk of this time she looked after Major Bill O'Driscoll, which deserves a medal in its own right!

Bill retired in September 2014, but his replacement was not found until March 2015 during which time Margaret held the fort running the office in the impeccable manner in which only she could. Her handover to Bill's Successor, Tim Brown, could not have been more efficient. She was the perfect assistant; highly effective, totally trustworthy and most importantly she threw herself into the job whole-heartedly attending most functions often in her own time. Best of all she knew everyone in the Association and beyond.

On Thursday 5th October 2017 we were finally able to present Margaret with her Imperial Service Medal (ISM) for 25 years of perfect service as a Civil Servant, a medal which is only awarded upon retirement. A strong group of admirers from various previous chapters in Margaret's life assembled in the Officers' Mess at Kendrew Barracks to witness the occasion. After champagne and speeches the presentation took place and this gracious Lady was honoured by all those who have known and worked with her for her total devotion to her work, and her friendship



The Officers' Club Annual Regimental Dinner Dinner

The Officers' Club's Annual Dinner was held at the Army & Navy Club (The Rag) on Friday 3rd November 2017. 81 members and 4 guests dined. The guests were The Master, The Upper Warden and Renter Warden from the Worshipful Company of Pouters, and Mrs Vanessa Burkitt a friend and supporter of the Regiment. The Colonel of the Regiment Maj Gen RW Wooddisse CBE MC gave an address giving an update on the work of our Battalions and taking the opportunity to thank and make a presentation to his predecessor Lt Gen PD Jones CB CBE for all his hard work on behalf of the Regiment. Loyal Greetings were sent to and received from the Colonel-in-Chief, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester.



Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Hodgson assembled a cohort of 13 friends who all served together in Munster.

Clockwise from extreme left:

Chris Groom, Dick Michael, Roger Brunt, Brian Davenport, Dick Harrold, Alan Deed, Kevin Hodgson, Peter Willdridge, David Baylis (Hidden), Tom Longland, Mike Beard, Bob West, Robin Chisnall.

The date of next year's dinner is 2nd November 2018, should anyone wish to reserve a table as above please contact the Assistant Regimental Secretary to discuss.

Regimental Bulletins

This month RHQ has sent the Regimental family 14 Regimental bulletins, which will also be available on the Regimental Website:

- Bulletin - 112/17 - Regt Battlefield Tour 2018
- Bulletin 113/17 -Burial of Unknown WWI Soldier of The Bedfordshire Regiment
- Bulletin 114/17 - Death of Michael (Mick) Rinder
- Bulletin - 117/17 - Death of Les Ward
- Bulletin - 116/17 - Regt Carol Service - St Mary's Church - Bury St Edmunds
- Bulletin - 118/17 - Death of former Royal Anglian Soldier Mike Curry
- Bulletin - 119/17 - Officers' Dinner Club 2017
- Bulletin - 115/17 - Official Aden 50th Anniversary Publication
- Bulletin - 120/17 - Royal Hospital Chelsea
- Bulletin - 121/17 - Regimental Service of Remembrance at the Regimental Memorial
- Bulletin - 122/17 - Death of Lt Col Seymour Blyth
- Bulletin - 124/17 - Re-Dedication of the Grave of a WWI Northamptonshire Soldier
- Bulletin - 125/17 - Death of Major Joe Eastwood BEM
- Bulletin - 126/17 - Death of L P J Dickens