



## Regimental Matters

### Late Entry Commissions 2018

The Regiment congratulates the following Warrant Officers who have been selected for an LE Commission in 2018:

- WO1 (RSM) Daniel Spray RSM 2nd Bn
- WO1 (RSM) James Greenhill RSM 3rd Bn
- WO1 James Hassan ARTD Trg Ops TCT WO

## Diary Dates

### November 2017

- 3 Regt Council Meeting - London  
Regt Officers Dinner Club - London
- 5 Chapel Sunday - Warley
- 9 Field of Remembrance - Westminster
- 16 Burial of WWI Bedfordshire Regt Soldier - France
- 19 Beds And Herts Association Dinner

### December 2017

- 3 Chapel Sunday - Warley
- 9 Regt Carol Service - BSE

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# 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

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## Vikings in Nigeria

The Vikings in Nigeria were visited by Mark Lancaster MP, Minister for the Forces. The visit from such a high profile MP demonstrates how important the work being conducted by the Vikings in Nigeria is to the UK.

During his visit the minister viewed several lessons being taught by Viking JNCOs to the Nigerian Army and was thoroughly impressed by their confidence and delivery. Few people in their early twenties can confidently teach class sizes in the hundreds in front of a government minister. It's the training and experience they've had in the Vikings that enables this.



## Ex Rattlesnake

The the Viking's deployed a company to America on Ex Rattlesnake. C (Essex) Company have deployed, with D Company attachments, to form the British part of an American Brigade. This is a fantastic training opportunity with the company not only able to conduct good blank and live firing; but also the experience of working with our closest ally. This week they've been getting settled and conducting blank firing as part of their build up. In addition to the world class training the soldiers will receive, they'll also have some down time at the end to enjoy some R&R in America. Most people would agree that's a pretty good deal.

# 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

## Ex Iberian Sun

C (Northamptonshire & Rutland) Company have returned from their well earned long weekend following a successful two weeks in NW Spain on Ex IBERIAN SUN 17. Much was learned, and the company was able to develop its warfighting capability and battlecraft, particularly in the urban environment. The exercise culminated with a night attack onto the urban complex with machine guns providing fire support from the high ground.



## Cyprus Walkdown

Seven teams from across the Poachers undertook the Cyprus Walkdown: a 25 mile route going from the top of the Troodos Mountains to Episkopi, Limassol. The LAD, The RAO's Det, C Company and the Cross Country team all entered groups. Cross



Country Team A (in the black Poachers T Shirts) came 3rd overall with a time of 4:12, with Team I (in the yellow vests) just behind with 4:19. Everyone dug deep to complete in whatever time they achieved, and everyone learned something about distance running over broken ground in the heat.



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# 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

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## Ex Steelback Cadet

51 Army Cadets from five Counties took part in Exercise STEELBACK CADET. The event organised by 3 Royal Anglian took place on Stanford Training Area (STANTA) over the weekend of 14 -15 October. Cadets took part in Section Attacks, Signals, Machine Gun, Navigation, 81 mm Mortar, Glock 17, Assault Course and Assault Pioneer stands.



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# Association News

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## Mr Roger Jones 30 Years On

Mr Roger Jones, Chairman of The Royal Tigers Association General Committee marked the 30 year anniversary of service on 11th October 2017.

To celebrate the event, Mr Jones brought along refreshments for the GC prior to the meeting being called to order.

The General Committee members congratulated the Chairman on the remarkable achievement and wish him many more successful years representing the members of the RTA



## Brigadier General Lewis Pugh Evans VC CB CMG DSO

### Commemorating The Centenary of the Awarding of the Victoria Cross to Brigadier General Lewis Pugh Evans VC CB CMG DSO

On Wednesday, 4 October, 2017 a commemorative stone was unveiled by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, Sara Edwards in Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, to mark the 100 year anniversary of the action which resulted in Brigadier General Lewis Pugh Evans receiving the Victoria Cross, the only Ceredigion-born soldier to be awarded this prestigious medal to date.



The service began with a parade led by pipers, both members of the Black Watch Association, and standard bearers led by a standard bearer, Ken Willows, from the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment. The procession, which began at the Church Hall in Llanbadarn Fawr finished at the commemoration stone, situated next to the War Memorial at Llanbadarn Fawr.

A welcome to the ceremony was given by Armed Forces Champion for Ceredigion County Council, Councillor Paul Hinge followed by a speech on the history of the Brigadier's life given by Christopher Evans, Brigadier Evans' grandson, who attended with Brigadier Evans' family.

In his speech, Christopher Evans said, "I am delighted that Ceredigion is honouring my grandfather with this commemorative stone. This will be a reminder that we and future generations will not forget the First World War, or the courage of all those who took part. My grandfather said he was a lucky man, lucky to have survived the war and lucky to be selected and recognised by the award of a Victoria Cross. However, I believe he felt there were others who went beyond the call of duty in actions that may have not been recognised. It is a pleasure to meet some of you here today who remember him."



The official citation for the award of the Victoria Cross was read out by Geoffrey Newmarch, County Colonel for Lincolnshire, The Royal Anglian Regiment. The citation detailed that the Victoria Cross was awarded to Brigadier Evans for 'most conspicuous bravery and leadership' and that 'his examples of cool bravery stimulated in all ranks the highest valour'. This happened on 4 October, 1917 near Zonnebeke, Belgium when he captured an enemy machine gun position single-handedly with only a revolver and despite being wounded, led his troops to a second objective, which was also taken.



Lewis Evans was born at the old Abermad House near Llanilar, the home of his uncle and aunt. He came from an old Welsh family that could trace its roots back to the 2nd Royal Tribe of Wales. His grandfather had come to Aberystwyth from Towyn and set himself up in business in Bridge Street and in 1843 he moved to Lovesgrove. His business was obviously successful and he was able to send all three sons to Oxford University as scholars; two of them, including Lewis's father, went on to spend their working lives in India as highly successful members of the legal profession.

Lewis Evans was educated at Eton where he proved a hard worker and was top of his form or set, as they were known. His army class tutor reported, "he has plenty of spirit and will do well when he gets a bit bigger!" He went on to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst with a view to a career in the Royal Welch Fusiliers; however when he was offered a commission by The Black Watch Regiment, he took it as it meant he could go straight to the South African war where they were serving.

Following South Africa (where he took part in numerous operations and was captured for a short time by the Boers), he was sent to India, a time he much enjoyed in spite of eventually being invalided back to England in 1908. A spell at the army staff college followed and it was at this time that he learnt to fly an aeroplane and obtain what he then called an aviator's certificate, number 595 so it must have been a very early one.

The start of World War I saw him with the newly formed Royal Flying Corps and he was sent to the front as a pilot observer to map the German lines. Later he returned to The Black Watch as Company Commander until his promotion to Brigade Major of the 7th Infantry Brigade; it was during this time that he was awarded his first DSO.

In 1917 he was appointed Acting Commander of the 1st Lincolnshire Regiment, a regiment that had suffered appalling casualties; it was at this time that he was awarded the Victoria Cross when he personally led his men on a vital mission that was accomplished, but at great cost. Of the 22 officers and 570 men who set out, only 4 officers, including him, and 160 men made it to the final objective.

The official citation for the award of the Victoria Cross reads as follows:-

"For most conspicuous bravery and leadership. Lieutenant Colonel Evans took his battalion, in perfect order, through a terrific enemy barrage, personally formed up all units and led them to the assault. While a strong machine gun emplacement was causing casualties, and the troops were working round the flank, Lieutenant Colonel Evans rushed at it himself, and by firing his revolver through the loophole, forced the

garrison to capitulate. After capturing the first objective, he was severely wounded in the shoulder, but refused to be bandaged, and reformed the troops, pointed out all future objectives and again led his battalion forward. Again badly wounded, he nevertheless continued to command until the second objective was won, and after consolidation, collapsed from loss of blood. As there were numerous casualties, he refused assistance, and by his own efforts ultimately reached the dressing station. His example of cool bravery stimulated in all ranks the highest valour and determination to win”.



He was decorated with the Victoria Cross by His Majesty King George V at Buckingham Palace on the 2nd January, 1918. It is interesting to note that later in life he wrote a military paper on the role of the commander in battle in which he said the commander should not leave his command post!

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## Lieutenant Colonel Philip Eric Bent VC DSO

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### Commemorating the Centenary of the death of Lieutenant Colonel Philip Eric Bent VC DSO

On Sunday 1st October 2017 many Royal Tigers Association members made their way to Ashby de la Zouch in the north of the county, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Lt Col Philip Bent at Polygon Wood and his award of the Victoria Cross for his action that day. At the time he was 26 years old, the youngest Commanding Officer on the Western Front. He had risen from Private to half Colonel in three years! It was an appropriately wet morning, despite the Harvest Festival, and reminded us that conditions in Passchendaele at the time of Bent's heroic death were a good deal worse.

He had been a boarder at Ashby Grammar School, made Head Boy and been a keen boxer. We were there to dedicate the Government funded VC paving stone at the Ashby de la Zouch war memorial garden. His closest living relative, great nephew Keith Willis, joined us wearing his great uncle's VC, DSO and three war medals, which we had had specially court mounted for the occasion. Keith was accompanied by his wife and son, Liam.







Philip Bent was commanding 9th Leicesters at Polygon Wood, on the Gheluvelt Plateau near Ypres in Belgium, on 1.10.1917 when he was Killed in Action, aged 26. He was awarded a posthumous V.C. (L.G. 11.1.1918), the citation for which reads:

"2Lt (T/Lt Col) P E Bent. For most conspicuous bravery, when during a heavy hostile attack, the right of his own command and the Battalion on his right were forced back. The situation was critical owing to the confusion caused by the attack and the intense artillery fire. Lieutenant Colonel Bent personally collected a platoon that was in reserve, and together with men from other companies and various regimental details, he organised and led forward to the counter attack, after issuing orders to other officers as to the further defence of the line. The counter attack was successful and the enemy were checked. The coolness and magnificent example shown to all ranks by Lieutenant Colonel Bent resulted in the securing of a portion of the line which was of essential importance for subsequent operations. This very gallant officer was killed whilst leading a charge which he inspired with the call of 'Come on the Tigers'."

After the dedication the party moved to the Ashby Town Museum, where the town council had laid on cakes, tea and coffee, and where there was the opportunity to purchase the book 'Come on the Tigers' by Kenneth Hillier, being 'The Story of Philip Bent VC DSO'.

The special display in the museum brought to light several aspects of Bent's life and was well presented.

# Burial of Unknown Soldiers of The Essex Regt

A Military Funeral was held at New Irish Farm Cemetery, Belgium on Thursday 28 September 2017 at 1100 hours for 21 unidentified soldiers of the First World War, who served with various British Regiments.

The soldiers were found following ground work at an industrial development at Briekestraat, Ypres, Belgium. The site is thought to be an original war time cemetery, in all likelihood the original Irish Farm site, created by the Army under war conditions. It was believed at the time that all of the burials had been transferred to New Irish Farm, some 300 meters away.



*The Burial Party composed of soldiers from The Vikings led by CSM Wayne Butterick*



*OC D Coy, The Vikings, Major Andy Buxton receiving the Union Flag from CSM Butterick*

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*Colonel Charles Thomas, County Colonel of Essex & Lt Col Philip Cox, Regimental Area Secretary I*



*Reverend Iori Price, Padre of The Vikings with General James Everard KCB CBE, DSACEUR*

Through investigation it has been established that of the 21 British soldiers, 4 served with The Essex Regiment, 2 with The Royal Fusiliers, 1 with The Monmouthshire Regiment, 1 with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1 with The Northumberland Regiment, 1 with The Royal Irish Regiment and 11 were "Known Unto God". Unusually the ceremony therefore involved the burial of casualties from English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh regiments. During the burial ceremony all of the coffins were in burial plots with the exception of one, which was carried in as the symbolic focus of the ceremony by a contingent of D Coy, 1st Bn, The Royal Anglian Regiment as the direct successor to one of its forebear Regiments, The Essex Regiment.

A most moving Ceremony was conducted by the Padre of 1st Bn, Padre Reverend Price, whilst the 1st Bn contingent was commanded by Major Andy Buxton and the Burial Party orchestrated by CSM Wayne Butterick. The event drew a large crowd which included DSACEUR, General Sir James Everard KCB CBE, British Diplomatic Staff, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, local dignitaries and pupils of local schools. The Regiment Headquarters were represented by Lt Col (retired) Philip Cox, Regimental Area Secretary 1 and Colonel Charles Thomas, the County Colonel for Essex. The part played by Major Buxton, CSM Butterick and D Coy drew exceptional congratulations by all the dignitaries including DSACEUR, and were of particular credit to The Regiment.