



 **Royal Anglian** *News*   

April 2021

Cover Image: Pte, now LCpl Broomfield, 1st Battalion (The Vikings). Scanning his arcs in search of that elusive first stripe during VAISEC 21.

Regimental Matters

New Regimental Adjutant joins the RHQ Team



RHQ has recently seen a changeover of Regtl Adjutant. Capt Luke Talkington has arrived from the 1st Battalion to replace Capt Kyle Forsyth, 2nd Battalion, who has departed for an operational tour in Somalia.

Luke joins us after two and a half years of Regimental Duty in the 1st Battalion. He commissioned in summer 2018 and has since deployed on operational tours and exercises to South Sudan, Zambia and Kenya. Most recently, he was involved in MOD support to the construction of NHS Nightingale in London. As well as taking on the important role of Adjutant, he will be working within the wider regiment, recruiting officers and helping to coordinate support to our affiliated Cadet Forces.

Annual Inspection of the Regimental Memorial 2021



The recent relaxation of COVID travel restrictions allowed RHQ to carry out its annual inspection of the Regimental Memorial at Duxford. The memorial is normally monitored by the Museum Curator, and receives a monthly visit from the RHQ team. Lockdown has interrupted our regular visit programme, so on 21 Apr 21, the Deputy Regimental Secretary, Major Mike Peters visited Duxford to carry out the annual inspection with the regiment's approved Stone mason, Mr Steve Ankin from Herringbone Restoration Ltd.

During the course of the annual inspection the need for repairs to frost damage to the seating area were identified. It was also agreed that the floor area required a deep clean and weeding in advance of the return of visitors after the further relaxation of travel restrictions. New flags have also been purchased to replace those currently in place. A programme of cleaning and maintenance works has been agreed, RHQ will oversee and coordinate these works over the coming months.



The Deputy Regimental Secretary , Major Mike Peters and Steve Ankin Discussing frost damage to the Memorial Seating Area.

If any member of the regimental family is planning to visit the memorial in the coming year, please be aware that no admission fee to the Duxford site is required. There is a standing arrangement that allows members of the Royal Anglian family to visit our memorial free of cost. Please contact our museum curator, Melissa Kozlenko and book admission to the site. Melissa's email address is listed below, more detailed information on visiting the memorial will appear in the heritage section of the Regtl website in the next few days.

To book access to the Regtl Memorial please email Melissa Kozlenko at:

royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com

The Regiment warmly Congratulates the Colonel of the Regiment on his recent appointment as CFA.

The London Gazette 19 Apr 21 - Under the Commands and Staff section:

Major General R W Wooddisse CBE MC 533577 assumes the appointment of Commander Field Army 19 April 2021 and is granted the substantive rank of Lieutenant General with seniority of the same date.

Regimental Bulletins Issued in April 2021

19 / 04 / 2021 - Bulletin 116 - Royal Hospital Chelsea March Newsletter

20 / 04 / 2021 - Bulletin 117 - Ukraine Webinar

25 / 04 / 2021 - Bulletin 118 - Almanza Day Notice

29 / 04 / 2021 - Bulletin 119 - SSAFA Virtual Concert

EASTER EGGS FROM THE POULTERS



The Worshipful Company of Poulters have a long standing relationship with the Regiment. One of their many kind acts of support has been to present Easter Eggs to the Regiment, originally for the children of soldiers who are deployed away from home at Easter. The custom has been for Battalions to give these Easter Eggs to the children of their soldiers at an appropriate Easter families event. In 2021 for the first time, it was not practical for the Poulters to present boxes of Easter Eggs, but rather than stopping the custom, the Poulters kindly made a grant of £500 for Battalions to buy Easter Eggs as a gift from the Poulters. This was shared out across the regiment.

UWO Capt Colin Dance & Team - On a Mission



Pictures from the great Easter Egg Dash at Woolwich are courtesy of the Welfare Team at the 1st Battalion.

Happy Easter from the Poulters!

1st Battalion (The Vikings)

The Vikings - Prepare for the Coming Storm

The Vikings spent the first half of April on Easter leave, drawing a line under an extremely busy first quarter. As the Commanding Officer briefed the Battalion after a final arduous CO's PT, whether it has been on Op RESCRIPT, in Ghana, across the UK, or supporting 7 Brigade in the US, the Vikings have constantly performed well over the preceding months. After packing away the tyres, and the jerry cans, and the weights, and the logs (you get the picture!), everyone departed on two weeks leave for some well-earned time with family and friends. Maintaining their strong connection with the Regiment, the Worshipful Company of Poulterers kindly ensured those soldiers with families went on leave with a clutch of chocolate eggs (ideally for the children!) The Vikings – along with the Poachers and Steelbacks – thank the Poulterers and RHQ as well as the Vikings Welfare Team for their involvement. These kind touches underline our ethos: a county-based Regiment, bound together by a closely-knit family spirit.



Train hard, Fight Easy - A Section carrying out Casualty Evacuation

The rest of April went by in a blur of G4 activity (Enhanced Quarterly – Board of Officers in old money, and the arrival of the ISO containers that will help move the Vikings to Cyprus later in the summer); and the final preparations & lessons for Exercise VIKING STORM in May. Cyprus presents many opportunities, but it also means the Vikings will not conduct any Battlegroup activity until 2024. The Commanding Officer has quite rightly decided that Vikings don't rest on their laurels, so we will conduct our own training throughout May. Ex VIKING STORM will see a series of Company rotations on STANTA training area, followed by a period of live-firing at Otterburn. The exercise will not only test the Companies, but also provide further training for the BGHQ ahead of CAST. Of note, the exercise will provide the first real opportunity for the crop of newly-promoted JNCOs to cut their teeth. COVID has impacted the ability for the usual QUEENS Division courses to run at their usual scale, so the battalion decided to run an internal course in the Spring (see last months edition of the Royal Anglian News). Our latest generation of LCpls are looking forward to commanding their fire-teams 'in anger'.

2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company, have Deployed to Poland on Op CABRIT.



Lt Col Adler US Army and Maj Sam Thomas, OC D Coy at the formal Transfer of Authority Ceremony.

In addition to the commitment of the A (Lincolnshire) Company Group to Mali as part of Op Newcombe, the 2nd Battalion have now deployed D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company to Poland. D Company under command of Major Sam Thomas have joined the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence (Poland)(EFP(P)) Battle Group in Poland. The arrival of the Royal Anglian element of the Battle Group was marked by a Transfer of Authority (TOA) parade held in Below Piskie on 16 Apr 21.



Poachers on parade with British and American Cavalry

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

Ex Steelback Challenge - 3 Royal Anglian Take to the Hills

Over the weekend of the 23 to 25 Apr 21, 100 Members of 3 Royal Anglian took part in Exercise STEELBACK CHALLENGE, a Patrol Competition based in the Peak District National Park. This was the Battalions first training event since ADX in September 2020.

Twelve teams rotated through eight stands which included Kit Check, Fire Team Attack, Casualty Extraction, CPERS, Recce, Model Making, Re-supply and Target Indication. The winning Fire Team was 4:2 (4 Company, Team 2), led by LCpl Wells.



Winning Section - Back row left to right is: Pte Cutts, LCpl Wells (Fire Team Commander), Pte Grant. Bottom row left to right is: Pte Vickers and Pte Horstwood.

Brigadier Tim Seal, Deputy Commander, 1st UK Division visited the exercise, and also presented medals to members of 3 Royal Anglian at the conclusion of the weekend's training. Points from the Steelback Challenge weekend will be carried forward forward to the 2021- 2022 Champion Company Competition.

The CO & All Ranks 3rd Battalion Royal Anglian warmly congratulate the following on their awards:

Maj Mitch Pegg (4 Company) – Volunteer Reserve Service Medal (10 years).

Major Rhys Little (3 Company) - 1st Bar to Volunteer Reserve Service Medal (15 years).

WO2 (CSM) Pugh (3 Company) – 2nd Bar to Reserve Service Medal (20 years).

Sgt Richards – 4th Bar to Volunteer Reserve Service Medal (30 years).

Medal Recipients in the Field on Ex Steelback Challenge 21



Left to Right: Brigadier Seal, Maj Rhys Little, WO2 Pugh, Maj Mitch Pegg, Lt Col Adam Wolfe. (Sgt Richards – Camera shy)

Welcome to the Regimental Family

The CO & All Ranks of 3 Royal Anglian welcome the following newly attested Recruits to the Battalion, and to the wider Royal Anglian Family:



Recruit Emma large – Combat Medical Technician



Recruit Luke Cardy – Infantry Soldier

Royal Anglian Regiment Museum

The Museum is Open Again Soon - We are Looking Forward to Seeing You all Again!

The Museum has now been open since the 12th of April. However, only for open air presentations. We have been focusing on being outside with part of our collection on the weekends. It's been nice, as although it hasn't been as busy as an airshow, we have had some good quality conversations with visitors. This has allowed us more opportunity to raise their awareness of the Regiment, and recommend people to also go and visit the Regtl Memorial on site.



Sadly, our intern Lucy who has been running some of our social media and the Operation Family initiative, has succeeded in securing a job at the REME museum. We wish her the best of luck in her new role, and thank her for all of her hard work for the museum. Operation family will be put into a display case at the end of April. However, we can always add more stories, if anyone wishes to share their memories.

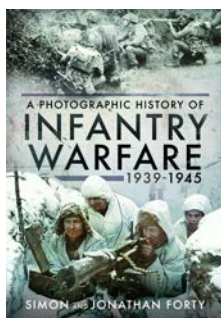
Some exhibits look better outdoors in their natural habitat don't they?

We have now installed a new case specifically made for our PKM. It was captured in Afghanistan in 2007 by C Coy, 1st Battalion. Although we have enjoyed having it out, showing it, and explaining its story, the weapon is just about held together by various tape and wires. We could restore it, but it is part of the provenance and gives it character, so we have decided to display it in its current condition. The PKM will be displayed with some video about its capture which was filmed in the museum some time ago. We hope it will add another new element to the museum's display.

As our reserve collection is being moved onto the Duxford site, we are also in the process of properly packing and boxing all objects at the old stores in Essex. We were not allowed in the building because of COVID restrictions, so now we are allowed back, the process of moving begins. We have time but making sure the objects are catalogued and as well packed as possible is vital. We also received a grant from the Cambridge County Council to buy £750 worth of supplies for this task. This has helped us greatly and is very much appreciated. I look forward to the next newsletter as we can hopefully report that we are open to the public!

For further information contact Melissa Kozlenko at: royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com

Regimental Reading



INFANTRY WARFARE
A Photographic History
1939 - 1945
By Simon & Jonathan Forty

Although titled as a photographic history, there is a lot more to this book than that description suggests. There are more than 400 images in this book, all of which will interest any reader with a trained eye. The narrative of the chapters highlights the development of infantry tactics, training and equipment right through WW2.

Importantly, the authors have primarily focused on the infantryman's experience of combat on all fronts. Life in the Infantry is the central thread through what is a genuinely interesting book. It is sobering to read that on average across the combatant nations, 20% of infantrymen were killed in action. Equally staggering is the 60% that were wounded.

The description of the soldier's experience of combat and simply surviving in the field is complimented by a series of well thought out chapters on specific aspects of the development of Infantry warfare.

A series of individual chapters focus on subjects related to the rapid development of Infantry warfare as the war progressed. Much of the content will resonate with the modern infantry soldier. There are chapters on operations in extremes of weather, desert, jungle, and snow. Mechanisation warrants a separate chapter, as do amphibious operations, Russia, and NW Europe.

Published By Pen & Sword Ltd, Hardback, pp206

RRP - £25.00



**POLAND & THE
SECOND WORLD WAR**
1938 - 1948
By Ewan McGilvray

With a Royal Anglian Company currently deployed on Operations in Poland this is a topical read.

The history of Poland is complex, particularly during the period covered in this book. The invasion of Poland in 1941 by Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia deeply affect the current Polish mindset. The subsequent abandonment of Poland to Stalin and communism, probably more so.

Much of the research for this book has been drawn from Polish sources, so it does offer new perspectives that sometimes challenge the UK's accepted version of events. It is worth reading for that reason alone. The scope of the book goes beyond the fighting on Polish soil. The campaigns involving exiled Polish forces are also covered, from the Battle of Britain, North Africa, Italy, Normandy and Arnhem.

This book is academic in its level of detail, but still manages to present the history in an engaging and readable style. Sadly, as with so many histories produced by academics for the mainstream, it contains no maps! This glaring omission aside, this is a useful read for anybody involved in ongoing deployments to Poland or the Baltic states.

Certainly worth investing in a copy if you want to understand the history of Poland and its neighbours.

Published by Pen & Sword Ltd, Hardback, pp344.

RRP - £25.00