



Royal Anglian *News*



August 2021

Cover Image:

Op CABRITT - D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Coy., 2nd Battalion lurking in the woods in Poland.

Regimental Day at Duxford - 5 Sep 21



Programme

All members of our Regimental family are welcome to attend their Regimental Day which will take place at The Imperial War Museum, Duxford, CB22 4QR, on 5th September 2021. It is hoped that the Government Road Map plan will continue to allow us to stage the event.

Music for the day is kindly provided by the Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Corps of Drums of the Essex and Cambridgeshire ACF. The outline timings are:

- 09:30 hrs Gates Open. (regrettably no dogs allowed).
- 11:00 hrs Muster for Drumhead Service, please be seated by 11:15 hours.
- 11:20 hrs Standards March On.
- 11:30 hrs Drumhead Service at the Regimental Memorial.
- 12:00 hrs Bars and Stalls open, picnic tables will be available.
- 13:00 hrs Musical Recital by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums in the picnic area.
- 15:30 hrs Flag Lowering Ceremony in the Marquee Area.
- 16:00 hrs Bars and Stalls close.

All attending are asked to gather, pause, and stand for the Flag Lowering ceremony.



The Royal Anglian Benevolent Fund

There is no charge for your entry to the Regimental Day, which is funded by the Royal Anglian Benevolent Fund. It is estimated to cost £10 per person to stage this prestigious event. There will be opportunities for the Regimental family to donate generously to the Royal Anglian Benevolent Fund. All donations will be gratefully received.

It is politely requested that no other collections take place.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund exists to provide financial assistance to past and present members of our Regiment, its forebear Regiments, their spouses and dependents, when they find themselves in need, hardship or distress. If you find yourself in this situation please seek assistance from an RBL or SSAFA Caseworker who will pass the information to the Benevolence Committee in confidence.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum

Visitors will have access to the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum in the Land Warfare Hall during the day. There will also be a museum display within the Regimental picnic area.



Regimental News

The Regiment Welcomes a New Officer - 2Lt Robert Blackman Commissions at RMAS



The Regiment's newest officer passed out from RMAS this month. Officer Cadet Robert Blackman successfully completed his officer training at Sandhurst and will return to 3 Coy, 3rd Battalion at Chelmsford. Newly commissioned 2Lt Blackman was warmly congratulated, and welcomed to the regiment by Deputy Colonel of the Regiment for the 3rd Battalion, Brigadier Richard Lyne.

The parade was the first held at RMAS since the easing of lockdown restrictions on public gatherings. Mr Blackman's family were therefore able to watch his commissioning parade with pride.

The Le Paradis Memorial is Dedicated in the Presence of HRH The Princess Royal

A little over two years after proposing a memorial to the 97 Royal Norfolk and BEF soldiers murdered at Le Paradis on 27th May 1940, HRH The Princess Royal attended the Service of Dedication at the newly erected monument outside Norwich Cathedral on 13th July 2021.

Also in attendance at the COVID-19 restricted service were the Trustees and key supporters of the appeal which raised both the funds needed to create the monument and also awareness of the project.



HRH The Princess Royal, accompanied by General The Lord Dannatt and the Dean, is welcomed by Brigadier Max Marriner, Patron of The Project.

There are some 4 memorials in Northern France to commemorate the massacre, however there are none in the United Kingdom, an oversight that is now corrected some 80 years after the event.

HRH The Princess Royal laid a wreath during the service and expressed both her support for the project and her pleasure at seeing a memorial installed outside our Regimental Chapel. The memorial is a very fitting tribute to those who died at Le Paradis; it will also act as a focus for future Services of Commemoration for both relatives and The Regiment in this County and indeed, the Country

The first of these large Services, proposed for 2022, is now being jointly planned with Norwich Cathedral and the Appeal Charity.



London Gazette

The following entries were listed in The London Gazette dated 05 Jul 21:

The Regiment Warmly Congratulates the Following:

The undermentioned Lieutenant Colonels to be Colonels 30 June 2021 with seniority 30 June 2021 -

T P D Morris Royal Anglian Regiment 546558

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant Colonels 30 June 2021 with seniority 30 June 2021 -

D J Haggar Royal Anglian Regiment 557126

B T Hawes MBE Royal Anglian Regiment 560009

S F Roberts Royal Anglian Regiment 551809

D J Robinson MBE Royal Anglian Regiment 558220

Under the normal listings the following entry is listed -

Second Lieutenant ET Wynn Royal Anglian Regiment 30172318 to be Lieutenant 16 December 2018
(Belated Entry) 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

The following entries relevant to the Regiment were listed in The London Gazette dated 12 July 2021:

Lieutenant ET Wynn 30172318 to be Captain 16.12.2020 – Belated Entry

Lieutenant Colonel P N Blanchfield MBE 560053 retires 19.04.2021

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A percentage of all profits go to the Regimental Trust and is used to support the welfare and benevolence activities of the Regiment.

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1st Battalion (The Vikings)

OLYMPUS VIKING Update – Leg 1 Complete!

At 0200hrs on 20 Jul 21, WO2 Gav Watts and his team of runners stepped off with the 1st Battalion flag from Woolwich and embarked upon their colossal 70 mile journey to Dover. The team have a mix of experience with some having never run a marathon before, so this really was a huge challenge. The first leg went well and they made good time to reach the first RV. It was at approximately 0800hrs that the heat began to intensify making it even more difficult.

The original plan was for all of the runners to do at least one leg of the running, which is a marathon in distance. However, the Viking spirit took hold and almost all of the runners decided they would complete all 70 miles. With plenty of hydration stops, the team pushed on and reached the second RV at approximately 1200hrs. After running through the heat of the day, the weather turned, the heavens opened and they found themselves in the middle of a hailstorm. This didn't dampen their morale and a break from the heat was welcomed.

The final leg was challenging. Inevitably, blisters started to appear and muscles started to seize. They hit hill after hill and the sun was back out in force. As they approached the white cliffs of Dover, the plan was to meet the swimming team captain, Lt Bamford, on Samphire Beach to handover the flag to the swim team at the start point of the cross-channel swim. This involved having to climb down some steep descents to gain access to the beach and running the last mile on shingle. With the incentive of the finish line in sight, all runners made it to the end, finishing at 1904hrs.

Leg 1 of OV was an incredible achievement that exemplifies the ethos and spirit of being a Royal Anglian and a Viking. As it stands, EXOV has raised £2875 for three very worthy charities, including the Regimental Charity – a good start but the target is much higher, so all donations are welcome through the link below.

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thevikings--1stbattaliontheroyalanglianregiment

The swim team now hold the flag and are poised to continue the challenge once the Channel Swimming Association gives the green light some time in the next week (weather and tides dependent).

You can follow the Olympic Vikings progress across all of our Regtl Media Channels, please support this effort.



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Home from Mali, B (Leicestershire) Company receive their UN Medals



B (Leicestershire) Company receiving their UN Medals for their deployment on Op NEWCOMBE

A quiet parade square in front of the Officers' Mess, Kendrew Barracks, was the setting for the B (Leicestershire) Company Group Medals parade on return from Op NEWCOMBE I, Mali. The Company was presented to Major Frank Atkins by B Company Second-In-Command, Capt Alex Langley.

The soldiers were presented their medals in a dignified manner befitting the quietly competent style that B Company has always adopted. The lack of family and friends due to COVID-19 did not dampen any of the soldier's spirits, on what was a long-awaited day. All those in B Company held themselves in high regard and radiated pride whilst on the square. Having been presented their medals and marched off, B Company was met by Capt Roy Cousin who presented each soldier with a bespoke bottle of Poachers Ale, featuring a small homage to the tour. A small gift that carried a great weight for all those who received a bottle.

This medals parade was the culmination of a demanding and exciting eighteen months. It served as a thank you to the soldiers, recognising their hard work and determination across the preparation and subsequent deployment on tour. The parade also marked the end of an era for B Company, many of its soldiers had been together working in the same teams for a number of years leading up to Op NEWCOMBE, many of these soldiers will now be moving onto new and exciting jobs across the Army. A number taking up instructor roles to share their wealth of knowledge and experience to create a better trained and more adaptable army. B Company are now enjoying a long period of well-earned leave before returning to work in September to tackle the next set of challenges that the Army may have in store.



Poland - Op CABRIT continues to offer excellent training opportunities for the Poachers.



D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company Engaging Targets with Javelin by Day and By Night!

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

Hurricane Relief – UK Response

Lieutenant Colonel Adam Wolf MBE, Commanding Officer of 3 Royal Anglian has recently deployed on a Recce in the Caribbean Islands along with Commander 7th Infantry Brigade. They are looking at UK Support during the Caribbean Hurricane season.

Col Adam is pictured with Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Lovell, Commanding Officer of the Barbados Regiment. The Barbados Regiment have a long standing affiliation with the Royal Anglian Regiment. Topics discussed were the lessons learnt on cross-Caribbean Hurricane response and how 7th Infantry Brigade will play a part this year - if needed, their experience in Covid-19 response, and links between our Regiments past and future will be useful.



Steelback Angling for Medals - Cpl Dave Keay, 6 Platoon, 3 Company

I've been a keen fly fisherman for a number of years, usually fishing rivers and occasional small still waters. I'd never ventured out on the large reservoirs however, such as Grafham or Rutland Water, despite being relatively close to them. That changed last year when I decided to take a boat out at Grafham with a friend and really enjoyed catching their hard fighting trout. At the start of 2021 I came across Army Angling Federation (Game) also known as the Soldier Palmers and after making contact with the secretary I decided to join.

Due to Covid 2021 there would be a reduced competition calendar but the first competition was the AAF(G) Spring match held at the beginning of May on Rutland water. The day prior to the event all those new to AFF(G) undertook a development training day which covered a number of topics including the international competition rules. Loch style competition fishing involves fishing in pairs from a drifting boat casting in front and retrieving the flies back. Flies can be a maximum 15/16 inch long with the hook being no longer than 5/8 inch. They can't be weighted so it's only the fly line used to get flies to the correct depth. This is what makes loch style competition fishing so challenging not only do have locate the



trout in large expanse of water (Rutland water is 10.86 square kilometres), but you have to find out what depth of water they are feeding at (by choosing the right fly line) and then what fly they want to take.

The first day of the Match was a practice day and all the novice rods were paired with experienced anglers from AAF(G) so we could learn the techniques and tips. Due to bad weather there was only going to be one day of competition, and to keep things fair the boat pairings remained the same. The match was based on most fish caught, the first 2 fish were killed for the heaviest fish prize, and then the remaining released. The time of first two fish landed was also recorded and in the event of two anglers catching the same amount of fish the earliest fish caught would be the winner. I managed 10 fish which meant I won Top Novice, a great way to start competition fishing.

The next match was AAF(G) Intra Army June match. Traditionally this would be the army championship but due Covid this is being delayed until later in the year. The match followed the same setup as the Spring match however involved one practice day and 2 competition days with boat pairings changing every day. A descending points system was employed where top rod each day is awarded 1 point, 2nd 2 points and so on, the winner is whoever has the lowest combined total at the end of both days.

After the practice day I was confident for the competition however it was tougher than expected with me landing 4 and my boat partner 7. I also found out another novice had landed 6 so would be ahead of me on points. The last day of the comp was even harder and by 13:30 both my boat partner and I had one fish each. At 16:30 I found the fish and the right method to catch them. We had to back in the harbour for 17:30 so in a frantic last 40 minutes I managed to land 7 trout with just as many lost. The other novice who had caught 6 the previous day only landed one and therefore I managed to win Top Novice for the second time! Two competitions and two top novices wins – I'm looking forward to my next comp!

If anybody is interested in joining the Soldier Palmers Army fly fishing team then search Army Angling Federation (Game) on defence connect.



The Band of The Royal Anglian Regiment



The Band is deploying once again to RAF Henlow 24-31 July, to address any remaining skill fade from the pandemic months, and to work on a new repertoire. We are also forming new small playing out groups. The calendar is now slowly coming to life with small ensemble work over the next few months heading up to what we hope will be a very successful Regimental Day at Duxford in September .

Lance Corporal Jason Hobson represented the band by playing the Last Post at Le Paradis memorial at Norwich Cathedral on Tuesday 13th July. The memorial remembers the 97 members of the Royal Norfolk Regiment massacred by the SS troops on the 27th May 1940. The event was attended by the Princess Royal. The band was honoured to provide musical support to the remembrance of what remains an infamous chapter in our regimental history.



The band is pleased to welcome our newest recruit, Musician Maisie Lee, who was attested by the Director of Music. Musician Lee brings a wealth of experience to our cornet section, having previously served for ten years in the Band of the Parachute Regiment.

Minden Day - 1 August 1759



The Seven Years' War began in 1754 (Although hostilities in Europe did not commence until 1756) and lasted until 1763.

It was a result of tensions overseas between Britain and France, as each sought to extend their influence worldwide, and concerns regarding British interests in Hanover (The British Royal Family were at the time also rulers of Hanover).

Prussia allied herself with Great Britain, Austria with France. France invaded Hanover in 1757 and made significant advances. Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick initially had some success in driving the French back, but by July 1759 they had advanced to a very strong defensive position around Minden (NW Germany).

Ferdinand, his Hanoverians reinforced by a large British contingent, deceived the French as to his intentions and they moved forward in the early hours of 1 August, only to find themselves exposed to the entire allied army. Although it was the result of an incorrect order, six battalions of British infantry, and two Hanoverian battalions advanced against the entire French cavalry, and by their steadfastness, discipline and marksmanship, survived six charges, then the onslaught of an infantry force, wreaking such havoc that the enemy fled in panic and confusion. Counter-attacks were given the same treatment, and by the end of the day the French were in full retreat. The allied force had achieved a great victory.

As the British battalions passed through gardens on the morning of the battle, soldiers picked roses and wore them in their caps. The senior of those battalions, in the forefront of the action was the 12th Regiment of Foot, later to become the Suffolk Regiment. The 12th was awarded the battle honour 'Minden', as were the other British battalions. The custom grew up of wearing red and yellow roses in regimental head dress on Minden Day each year, and of placing rose wreaths on the colours and drums if they are on parade.

Minden Day was always strongly commemorated by the Suffolk Regiment, and the tradition was handed down to the 1st Battalion of the East Anglian Regiment, then to the 1st Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment, who today ensure that wherever they are, it is a day of great celebration. In addition, there is an annual Minden Day reunion at Regimental Headquarters, Bury St Edmunds.

* Picture - British Infantry at Minden by Artist, Richard Simkin.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum

What do you Remember about Your Training in Canada?



Brew time for the Poachers on the Prairie 1993

Royal Anglian Battle Groups have made many trips to the great white north. Since July 1st was Canada's 154th birthday, the Museum thought it would reminisce about the many hours training on the Alberta prairie. Here are a sample of artefacts and pictures from the many trips there. There have been many decades spent there on large exercises operating at both of the extremes of Canada's weather.



Orders for the Vikings circa 2001

The Museum is lacking more cold weather pictures from the Regiment's time in Canada, or many pictures after 2010, so if anyone has any, could you please contact:

Melissa Kozlenko at: royalanglianmuseumcurator@outlook.com

Regimental Bulletins

Number 137, Dated 11 July 21 - Job Opportunity Chief Executive RCFA East Anglia

Number 138, Dated 11 July 21 - Royal Anglian News July 2021

Number 139, Dated 13 July 21 - Death of Major J E Hutchings

Number 140, Dated 13 July 21 - Notice of Applications for Cenotaph Parade 2021

Number 140a, Dated 14 July 21 - Death of Colin Willmott

Number 141, Dated 21 Jul 21 - Death of Lt Col Mike Randall

Number 142, Dated 21 July 21 - Regtl Special Order Salamanca Day 22 July 2021

Number 143, Dated 26 July 2021 - Regtl Special Order Talavera Day

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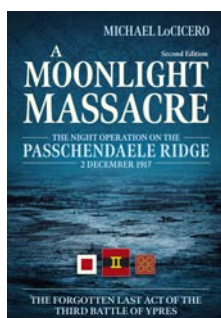
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Q: What year was the Royal Anglian Regiment formed?
To Enter: www.royalangliandirect.co.uk/birthday

Regimental Reading



A MOONLIGHT MASSACRE

The Night Operation on the Passchendaele Ridge 2 December 1917

By Michael LoCicero

The history of the Great War is often as impenetrable as the German trenches themselves. So many books on the subject of the Western Front in particular are coloured by myths, poor understanding, and often a complete lack of any detailed research.

This second edition of what is already a highly acclaimed work is certainly worth investing in if you have a hankering to understand the realities of the hard fought battles of winter 1917.

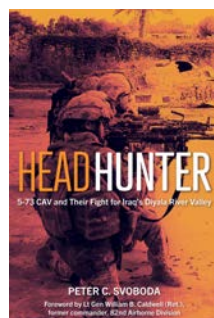
The fact that the subject is a single night makes the narrative much easier to follow than some of the sweeping histories of the Western Front. It is extremely well written, and packed with photographs, maps and unit Operation Orders for the attack.

The resulting blend of data, historical context, and first hand accounts makes for not only a memorable read, but a real insight into the complexities of fighting a war against a formidable opponent who has chosen the ground and has the weather on his side.

This is a little pricey, but if you want to get beyond Blackadder, and really learn something about the war that the infantry knew...start here!

Published by Casemate UK Ltd

Hardback, pp519, RRP £29.95



HEAD HUNTER

5-73 CAV and Their Fight for Iraq's Diyala River Valley

By Peter C. Svoboda

As time passes, more and more unit histories from the wars of choice that the west has recently engaged in are coming to light.

This is the story of a small unit of Paratroopers from the US 82nd Airborne Division who were deployed in Iraq for 15 months from 2006 - 2007. The 5-73rd totalled around 400 men at the start of their tour. The toll of almost continuous combat was heavy, 22 men were killed in action. A much higher percentage were wounded.

The pace of operations described is quite staggering, deployed as a Recce Squadron, the 5-73rd were spread thinly over a huge area of responsibility. The threat from Al Qaeda was omnipresent, readers will be more than familiar with the cocktail of IEDs, Suicide Bombs and insurgent ambushes faced in Iraq at the time.

The narrative is based on an extensive series of veteran interviews completed by the author. The result is a gritty description of life as a light role infantry soldier in Iraq.

It is worth noting that the story also reflects on the lives of the families left behind for 15 months in the US. Much of which will resonate with our own veteran community today.

Sadly, like so many recent releases this story lacks decent maps. It is however, a worthwhile read.

Published by Casemate UK Ltd, Hardback,

pp228, RRP £19.99