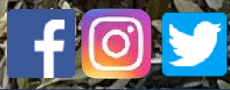




Royal Anglian *News*



December 2021

Cover Image: LCpl Nathan Davies, 1st Battalion Closing With the Enemy!

REGIMENTAL NEWS



Future Soldier Announcement

The statement below was issued by the Colonel of the Regiment to the Regiment at the time of the Future Soldier Announcement:

To the Regimental Family,

You will, no doubt, have seen the Army's transformation plan: Future Soldier. I welcome this announcement wholeheartedly. Not only will it transform the Army's technology, equipment, structures, and method of fighting, to ensure it will prevail against future threats and adversaries but crucially, it also recognises the strengths of the operational performance and reputation of the Royal Anglian Regiment by placing our three battalions at the centre of the future Army design.

There will be some adjustments to our battalions' roles and locations; however, none of these changes will force any redundancies or result in reduced opportunity for our officers, soldiers, and families. On the contrary, Future Soldier will offer greater breadth of opportunity for our people to broaden their experiences and enhance career prospects, whilst affording improved stability for families.

The primary implications of Future Soldier for the Regiment are:

- Our 1st Battalion (the Vikings) will become a Security Force Assistance Battalion. This role will see the Vikings engage persistently with partner forces around the globe, supporting them in competition, crisis and conflict against groups and nation-states which threaten them and UK interests. The Battalion will deliver Training, Advising, Assisting, Accompanying and Enabling activities to partner forces. This change in role will see a reduction in numbers of personnel; however, this structural adjustment will be managed Regimentally, between both Regular battalions to ensure equality of opportunity for all.
- Our 2nd Battalion (the Poachers) will become a Light Mechanised Infantry battalion, operating at the core of the Army's new Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team. This role will see the Poachers operating in Foxhound and Jackal vehicles, deploying both routinely and in response to crises around the world and across the spectrum of conflict from warfighting to peace support operations.

- Our 3rd Battalion (the Steelbacks) will adopt a formalised role for warfighting and will also play a key role in UK resilience operations. The Steelbacks will retain its current five Company structure and will interact closely with the Poachers in a paired relationship for warfighting and other operations. Opportunities for deployments alongside the Vikings are expected to be confirmed as the implementation of Future Soldier develops. Finally, building on the Battalion's excellent work during the COVID pandemic, it will join other Reserve Regiments at the forefront of the Defence contribution to UK resilience.
- The new Queen's Division will see the Mercian Regiment and the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment joining the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the Royal Anglian Regiment. It offer a broad range of career opportunities for our soldiers, spanning Ranger Regiment, Security Force Assistance, Mechanised Infantry (mounted in Boxer) and Light Mechanised Infantry roles. Our Regiment has the opportunity to act as a driving force in the development of this new organisation.
- Future Soldier also makes some adjustments to Army basing. For us, on completion of their Cyprus tour in 2023, the Vikings will move to Cottesmore to join the Poachers, who will remain in place. The Steelbacks' locations will also remain unchanged. In the future, the Regiment will no longer participate directly in Cyprus rotations, although the wider Queen's Division will do so, affording opportunity for soldiers from the Regiment to serve in Cyprus if they wish. We will therefore benefit from stability and unity across our three battalions, all of which will live in the heart of our traditional Regimental area.

Collectively, these new roles and basing adjustments offer our soldiers a genuinely fantastic range of opportunities. Serving personnel and the young men and women who have yet to join the Regiment will enjoy a multitude of adventures, travel, excitement, and operational deployments. They will also fulfil their potential in growing their careers across the distinct roles offered by our battalions and, more widely, across the new Queen's Division. Importantly, our Regiment, which prides itself in delivering success on operations is now extremely well positioned with three operationally focused roles to remain at the centre of future Land operations. I look forward to your support in backing these vital changes for the benefit of our Regiment and the Army.

The Regiment Warmly Congratulates the Following:

Lieutenant General D M Chalmers CB DSO OBE 524272 is appointed Colonel Commandant The Queen's Division 1 November 2021 in succession to Lieutenant General P D Jones CB CBE 511036 tenure expired.

Also, in the London Gazette Dated 01 Nov 2021 - Congratulations to the Following on Their Selection for Intermediate Regular Commission (Late Entry):

Captain (Acting Major) N S Reeder Royal Anglian Regiment 25028996 to be Major 24 July 2021

Captain (Acting Major) D A Grice Royal Anglian Regiment 24910507 to be Major 31 July 2021

Captain (Acting Major) C Hopkin Royal Anglian Regiment 25031059 to be major 31 July 2021



Regular Commissions:

Lieutenant Colonel A R Thompson MBE Royal Anglian Regiment 562289 is transferred from Mercian Regiment 30 September 2021

Short Service Commissions:

Lieutenant P Darby Royal Anglian Regiment 30282572 to be Captain 11 August 2021

Second Lieutenant L R G Talkington Royal Anglian Regiment 30203946 to be Lieutenant 11 August 2019 (Belated Entry)

The Regimental Association was on Parade for Remembrance Sunday 2021

A glimpse of returning normality took place across the UK on Remembrance Sunday. In London and at Duxford, Royal Anglian Veterans gathered to take part in the traditional parade past the cenotaph and our Regimental Memorial. Let's hope that we can reinforce this success with an even greater numbers next year.



Four new Regular Officers complete their Platoon Commanders Battle Course



2Lt Dave Butler, 2Lt Huw Davies, Maj Adam Mackness (OC PCD), 2Lt Adam Moss, 2Lt Harry Browne

Introduction of Leafyard - Mental health Support App



The Regiment is happy to announce that we are working on a partnership with Leafyard, in order to offer real mental health support to our Veterans. Leafyard is a web application that combines science and study to motivate people to take control of their own mental health.

Leafyard educates and motivates you to take small steps every day. There are always new things to learn and try - real, scientifically proven things that can help make you feel better. Leafyard is helping to change the way people think and feel all across the world.

Leafyard was recently piloted with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and had fantastic uptake, as well as some incredible testimonials.

More to follow in the New Year, but you can find out more at www.leafyard.com



Christmas Grant to our In-Pensioners

On Friday 10th December the Regimental Area Secretary for the 1st Battalion counties, visited our 4 in- pensioners at the Royal Hospital to give them their Christmas card and a small gift from the Regiment.

Photo shows Dougie May and Michael Riley getting into the Christmas spirit with Captain Pete Hudson (Area Secretary I), with a bit of help from the Irish Guards Mascot who was also visiting.

Regimental Christmas Carol Service - Bury St Edmunds 11 December 2021

The Annual Regimental Christmas Carol Service was held on the 11th December at 1100hrs in St Mary’s Church, Bury St Edmunds. This was a lovely family service featuring many well known Christmas Carols and readings, supported by the Regimental Band. Festive refreshments and mulled wine were served after the service. It was good to see so many members of the regimental family, and the local service and charity community attending. The service was organised by Area Secretary I, Capt Peter Hudson, numbers were once again up on previous years. The service was a warm, friendly, and fitting end to the year.



1st Battalion (The Vikings)

Vikings Making the Most of Winter at Work and Play in the Mediterranean

Another busy month has flown by for the Vikings in Cyprus. This month saw A (Norfolk) Company take to the training area working on section level skills. Soldiers from the Fighting Ninth spent 8 days in the harsh training areas of the Western Sovereign Base Area and undertook Section actions, navigation exercises and basic fieldcraft. The exercise culminated in a Section level patrol lane testing all aspects of the exercise and concluded in a demanding bayonet lane. A demanding but rewarding exercise for the company who now look to take over as the Lead Company Group at readiness over the Christmas period.



The Sniper Platoon has run a cadre to grow their numbers and increase the current size of the platoon. The selection process lasted four weeks, identifying soldiers with the suitable traits to be trained as Snipers. Week one consisted of establishing a base standard and introducing the candidates to the role of the Sniper. The week consisted of lessons and various assessments looking at the candidate's fitness and navigational ability by both day and night. The following week provided an interesting live fire package for the students. It gave them the opportunity to practice the skills they have learned using the various sights and optics available. The final two weeks of the course consisted of an exercise phase run on the WSBA Training Area near Episkopi.

This provided a testing environment in which the students could further hone their skills at the individual and pair level. It was a physically demanding two weeks of Stalks, Reconnaissance and navigation exercises, culminating in a final attack with a co-ordinated shoot. The students were introduced to new weapon



systems and equipment. The use of attached arms in the form of Helicopter capability provided by 84 Squadron RAF and Military Working Dogs provided a stimulating training environment.

B (Suffolk) Company took the opportunity of a slightly quieter month to have a Mediterranean cruise! Ex VIKING SAIL saw 4 members of the Company sail from RAF Akrotiri to Pafos, under the watchful eye of Maj Harry Swales, himself a former LCpl in the battalion! The aim of the expedition was to develop key military skills such as planning, communication, and teamwork in a challenging and hostile environment as well as to gain experience to enable future expeditions. All those participating thoroughly enjoyed the experience – just one of the many opportunities in Cyprus

WO1 (RSM) Lee Estwick Assumes the Appointment of RSM, 1st Battalion

The Regiment warmly congratulates WO1 (RSM) Lee Estwick on his recent promotion, and appointment as RSM of the 1st Battalion. On behalf of the entire Regimental community he wishes the RSM, his wife Samantha, and his children, Harry and Eva a successful, and enjoyable time in post.



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Th Poachers – Op NEWCOMBE 2 ‘Special’

Where it all began, Mission Specific Training and the MRX

Our journey to Op NEWCOMBE really started in January this year and has been non-stop for the A Company family ever since. As the New Year started, so did our Mission Specific Training which saw a frenzy of training activity and live fire ranges honing our skills before completing the Mission Rehearsal Exercise. The MRX was our final test before deployment where, thanks to the hard work of all our soldiers in the previous months, we proved ourselves more than capable of the challenges that lay ahead.

Arrival in Mali, handover and preparation for Op MAKARA 1

The first of the challenges was simply dealing with the Malian environment. We knew we had an uphill struggle to adjust as the heat hit hard as we got off the plane. We received a handover from B Company and completed our programme of acclimatisation and battle preparation. We soon embarked on our first long patrol, Op MAKARA I, which saw us move several days cross-country, to Tin Hama, a significant market settlement and under heavy Islamic State in the Greater Sahel (ISGS) influence. In doing so, we battled against the extreme weather Mali has to offer. Not only did we manage the intense heat, but also the storms and rain of the infamous wet season.



In particular, we were battered by a vicious storm the night before we were due to enter Tin Hama which turned small wadis into fast flowing rivers and the sandy dunes around the village into a quagmire. Despite



the setbacks and the seemingly unending bogged in vehicles we reached Tin Hama in good order. In doing so, we quickly became aware that our presence deterred ISGS activity in the village. As a result of our mounted and dismounted patrols, by both day and night, Non-Governmental Organisations were able to run healthcare clinics and wedding ceremonies took place that would have been otherwise suppressed by ISGS.

Several days in Tin Hama included protecting a busy market. We then patrolled back west to the River Niger where we understood, protected, and helped the local residents including treating a badly burned baby.

Op MAKARA 2 and 2B, responding to the Ouattagouna massacres

No sooner had we recovered from our first patrol were we preparing for the next one, and then actually deploying early to respond to the ISGS massacre of 57 civilians around the village of Ouattagouna on 8 Aug 21. Much of the Company's efforts during Op MAKARA 2 and 2B were spent responding to this atrocity. We arrived in the village 36 hours following the killings with the soldiers of A Company showing their strength as we patrolled at all hours to deter further attacks. Simultaneously, our soldiers were at the forefront of reassuring the local population, speaking to communities throughout the different affected villages.



The understanding and rapport we developed with those affected put us in the best position to assist the UN Human Rights Investigation Team who later visited the village, informing the UN in New York and the UN's wider response.





The next patrol saw A Company return to the area between Ouattagouna and Labbazanga. In doing so, we escorted journalists who were able to bring the story of what happened in Ouattagouna to an international audience and enabled UN civilians to meet with the displaced people from the attack to help facilitate their return home. Finally, we conducted joint patrolling with our Swedish counterparts to handover responsibility for the area, in safe knowledge they would continue the protection that we had started.



Op MAKARA 3

A Company returned to Gao and got 'patrol ready' for what would become our final and potentially most challenging deployment. We would be going to Menaka, a 350km cross country drive putting into practice everything that we learned about the terrain and our vehicles. On route we supported and enabled the Task Group by navigating dangerous wildfires, finding routes, and marking crossing points of obstacles.

Once we reached Menaka itself, we protected the Task Group search specialists as they proved a safe route through a notoriously IED targeted area to enter the UN camp. A Company then spent several days patrolling in and around Menaka, assisting with a security meeting between the government, the UN, and local armed groups. We then recovered to Gao on another long cross-country move across the desert this time supporting the heavier sustainment vehicles.



Homecoming

Now the soldiers of A Company are beginning to trickle home (as fast as the RAF can allow!) and Op NEWCOMBE 2 is coming to an end. It is difficult to summarise the achievements of our soldiers over the last 12-months. What we have done on patrol is just the final product of the countless hours of training, rehearsals, vehicle maintenance and even the odd game of volleyball. A Company, and the wider Poacher family, should be rightly proud of what we have done out here, building on the success of B Company before us. As we look back, we made a real difference to the lives of the Malians by protecting them while simultaneously deterring terrorist activity and enabling our civilian counterparts to deliver long-lasting change for the Malian people.

Written by: Lt Ollie Bremridge, Officer Commanding, I Platoon, A (Lincolnshire) Company

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

Working with 5 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers - LCpl Jamie Dexter, 3 Coy, 3rd Battalion

Arriving at Warcop camp in the rain gave a familiar sense of excitement and nervousness that comes with knowing you are going to spend the next few days in an unfamiliar environment undertaking physically challenging tasks. The camp itself could rather easily be divided into 3 main sections, each part categorised by smell: the sheep bit, the fishy bit, and the dead animal smelling bit. Most of the camp smelt like the former, which was particularly noticeable when stepping out of the billet first thing in the morning. The latter seemed to hang around near the armoury and stores.



With the evening to conduct pre-exercise admin and meet the blokes I would be working with; I was instantly made to feel welcome. There were a couple people that had been on the same PJNCO cadre as me a few years ago and coincidentally we were all in the same section. There was some confusion with issuing of PRR's resulting in some moaning that you get with any minor inconvenience that can be easily avoided. Aside from this there were no hiccups, and we were ready to step off from our vehicle drop off point (DOP) the next morning.

En route to the DOP the weather seemed rather unpromising for the next few days. It was showing almost constant rain for the next week combined with strong wind and cold temperatures, so we were all mentally preparing ourselves to be freezing cold and soaked for the entire exercise.

Fortunately, we only experienced the cold part of this, as after stepping off the coach it attempted to rain briefly and didn't return until halfway through the exercise, at which point it only lasted a few hours. Overall, the weather was a gift.

Within 3 Royal Anglian I normally step up as Section Commander and currently command a section within my platoon. However, being an addition placed into a section already consisting of 6 LCpl's meant it was "bod life" for me this exercise. It was the first time I had stepped down since promoting so allowed me to gain a different perspective and evaluate myself as a commander,

but brought with it more stag, which we all know is everyone's 'favourite' part of any infantry exercise.

The exercise consisted of a few phases: harbour drills, orders, Reece's, FIWAF and a Platoon deliberate attack on a FOB. Every unit does things slightly differently, some for the better, some for the worse. Going back to my unit I have some improvement points I will recommend but can also take pride in the things we do well. Furthermore, I encourage more people to undertake training with other units where possible, particularly as a reservist where it is expected for you to be able to integrate into a Regular battalion to bolster their strength on operations. Additionally, it is important to learn from other units' strengths so we can operate better as one Army.

To summarise, it doesn't matter what unit you conduct training with, each one has its pros and cons however one thing appears consistent. Whether you're on a cultural day at GO-APE and shaking the wire they're trying to balance on or keeping each other awake on stag with life stories. The blokes make the experience. Even if those blokes are northern and you cannot understand every other sentence.

Welcome to the Regiment!



MOD 3 October 2021 - Eight Royal Anglian Reserves Passed off at the parade. They were welcomed to the Regiment and 3 Royal Anglian Family by Major Mitch Pegg, OC, 4 Company

Our Veteran Community

Royal Anglian Association Finedon Branch Remembrance Service



The Finedon Branch in Northamptonshire have a connection with local serving soldier Sgt Steve Stanley of the 2nd Battalion. Steve attends our regular monthly meetings when he can, and it was his suggestion that it may be possible to get 15 serving soldiers from the Poachers to attend our annual Remembrance Day Parade. On the day we were joined by 15 serving Poachers who marched alongside our own Royal Anglian Veterans. They were made very welcome by the people of Finedon and everyone involved with our Branch Afterwards. We all enjoyed a few beers and a buffet laid on by the branch at the Gladstone WM Club. It was great fun to compare current Army life now to our own service. We all came away afterwards with the feeling that these young men are a credit to the Regiment. We were very proud to march alongside them, the ladies of the branch also enjoyed meeting the Poachers after the service.



A Comrades Farewell For Paddy McGowan

The Regimental Chapel Service on 3rd October saw The Reverend Tony Rose conduct a Harvest Thanksgiving Service with a difference. The Service ended with an Interment of Ashes. Paddy McGowan, born Andrew Devine, had an unhappy childhood, eventually adopting his stepfather's surname. Andrew enlisted in the Royal Anglian Regiment, known by his adopted name. On completion of his Service, he reverted to his birth name. On his death at the age of 53, Andrew had no known relatives. Former comrades stepped in to avoid a Paupers Funeral and burial. Certain other charges were covered by the Funeral Director, himself a former Royal Anglian. The funeral was supported by collection via his local pub, Andrew having worked in management within the hospitality sector. In addition, the Ipswich Branch of the Royal British Legion also assisted. Andrew, (Paddy), considered the Regiment his family, especially those he served with and maintained contact with as his family.



Alistair Duncan, brother of my RSM Chico Duncan, brought a cohort of Vikings to the Service. Melissa Kozlenko, Curator of the Regimental Museum also attended. Field Marshal The Lord Walker attended. Sadly, although invited, Major General John Southerall could not attend. Tony Rose read out the following words from General John.

‘Whilst I would have wished to be with you today unfortunately current health does not permit.’

I remember Paddy as an excellent committed soldier who for various personal reasons made the Army, and especially those he served closest with, his family. A family with whom it is evident he had remained very close, even beyond Service life in many ways and right to the very end. You all have my admiration and I wish you all well.

Paddy was a Viking from 1983 to 1993, serving in 5 Platoon B Company, Support Company and the Mortar Platoon. Paddy saw active service in N. Ireland.

The Standard of the Chelmsford Branch of the Regimental Association accompanied the County and Brentwood Branch Standards of the Royal British Legion.

STABILIS

Royal Anglian Affiliated Cadets



Lodge Park Academy CCF Goes From Strength to Strength

In January the Lodge Park Academy CCF Contingent had 9 cadets, it is now regularly parading with 55! With support from the School and the SLT, the CCF are front and centre of school activities, and the profile and popularity of Cadet training has increased dramatically. Not only have we recruited more Cadets, but also new Adult Instructors.

We are now working to consolidate and maintain the high standards we have set. As a contingent we have also forged links with the ACF, and have recently completed an exciting and successful weekend away at YCWTC with D coy, LNR ACF. Some of our cadets made it into the photos with the Royal Anglian Association, who visited YCWTC over the weekend. We are also working in partnership with other local CCF contingents and we are planning to join forces for a weekend away in March 2022.



On behalf of all the Cadets and Staff here at Lodge Park Academy, I would like to thank the Regiment for welcoming our new cadets so warmly to the Royal Anglian Regimental family. Our newest Cadets were all extremely proud to receive their Royal Anglian berets.

By Sgt Mark Chattaway SSI

Regimental Bulletins Register

Regt Bulletin Number 175, Dated 4 Nov 21 - Regt Newsletter November

Regt Bulletin Number 176, Dated 8 Nov 21 - Job Vacancy - Secretary, Norfolk Club

Regt Bulletin Number 177, Dated 10 Nov 21 - Death of Kevin Stanton

Regt Bulletin Number 178, Dated 19 Nov 21 - Job Vacancy - SSI Duston School, Northampton

Regt Bulletin Number 179, Dated 19 Nov 21 - Job Vacancies - City & NE London ACF

Regt Bulletin Number 180, Dated 22 Nov 21 - Armed Forces Community Event, 25 Nov 21

Regt Bulletin Number 181, Dated 22 Nov 21 - Job Vacancy - Part Time Admin Officer, Essex ACF

Regt Bulletin Number 182, Dated 26 Nov 21 - Death of William Simpson

Regt Bulletin Number 183, Dated 29 Nov 21 - Future Soldier Announcement, Regt Letter

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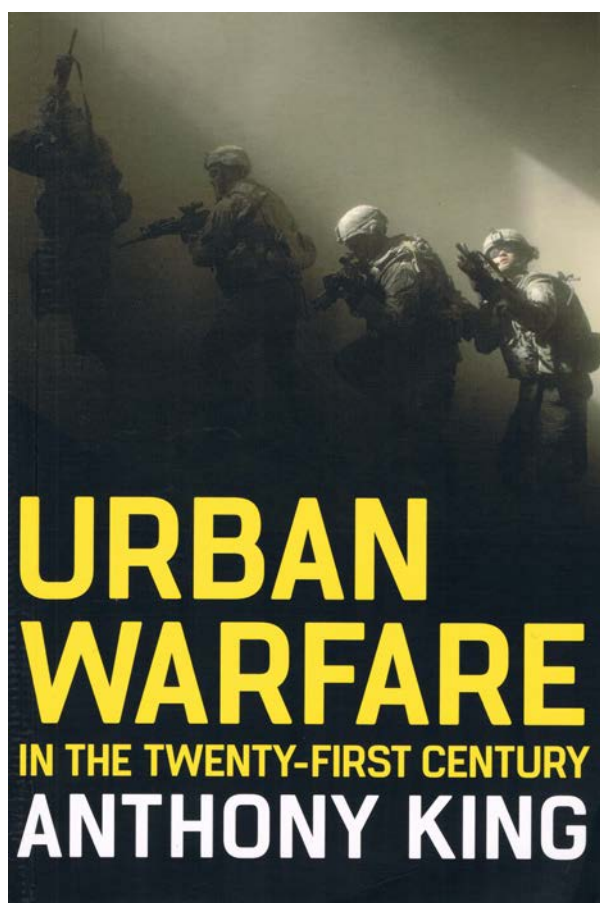
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Regimental Reading

Urban Warfare in the Twenty-First Century

by Anthony King

published by Polity Books, 2021, in both hardback and paperback editions.



This new work on contemporary and future urban warfare it is a belter. It only actually took me a week to read, almost could not put it down so compared to some of his earlier books it is a much easier read, so it seems to be better written. The author's basic hypothesis is very interesting, following an impeccable logic. He starts by pointing out that armies are now much smaller than in WW2 to Vietnam so they cannot take whole cities as they did at Stalingrad, Berlin,

Manila, Seoul and Hue etc. Nor do they have enough troops to fight around cities in Fronts as in WW2. Then cities are much larger, more common and more complicated than they used to be, which following from above means armies will increasingly fight within cities in neighbourhoods and even individual buildings, rather than around them. Rapid manoeuvre in cities is rare now, unless the enemy are unprepared, surprised or very few in number. Any serious fighting and attempts at rapid manoeuvre can thus just result in higher casualties. The smaller modern armies command much greater firepower than before, from squad, armour, artillery support and air power, which makes even small fights intense and high casualty events. Because of more firepower and smaller armies, concrete and steel barriers and Main Battle Tanks have taken on an increased importance in city fighting. Small armies also mean that partners, co-operators, friendly militias and even the civilian population are much more important now, which consumes a great deal of command effort in diplomacy, liaison, translation and so on, all of which slows the tempo of operations. The claims that information warfare and winning the narrative are central to urban conflicts, although more important now than they used to be, might be exaggerated, but the information aspects will remain important in the future. The author finishes off with predictions that future urban warfare might take place in Megacities but it is much more likely to take place in smaller cities. The only possible candidate megacity that could be fought over being Seoul in S Korea. Future urban warfare will be slow, like siege warfare, complicated and costly in casualties, but needs to be prepared for by today's military. A very well thought through book, a real tour de force.

Review by Steven Bowens