



Royal Anglian *News*

October 2020

Regimental Matters

London Gazette September 2020

The Regiment congratulates these officers on their promotions -

Intermediate Regular Commission

Lieutenant E A Williams 30118157 to be Captain 23 November 2019 (Belated Entry)

Short Service Commission

Lieutenant D W Rawdon 25223322 to be Captain 6 April 2020

Lieutenant J C Beale 30163961 to be Captain 14 April 2020

Lieutenant H Deed 30256211 to be Captain 14 April 2020

Corporal David Hemmings awarded MBE



Diary Dates 2020

November

- 03 Pre-RMAS visit to 1st Bn
- 05 Opening Field of Remembrance
- 06 Trustees and Council meetings
- 08 Remembrance Service Duxford
- 09 Pre-RMAS visit to 2nd Bn
- 26 Regt Careers Meeting
- 27 Sortie Day

Corporal David Hemmings who serves with the 2nd Battalion demonstrated strong leadership of a four-man team which designed and delivered vital Coronavirus testing training for the military has been awarded an MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours. Corporal David Hemmings (32) part of the Poachers team that trained fellow Armed Forces personnel how to safely collect swabs before they were sent for processing. He said: “I was in utter shock when I was told I was to receive the MBE. When I saw on the news how many people had been tested at the mobile testing sites run by the military, I was really proud because I’d helped achieve that, but I never expected to receive an award. I’m not sure I deserve it. Nothing we do in the Army is done by one individual it’s always a team effort.”

The mobile testing units helped the UK

Government achieve the goal of 100,000 coronavirus tests a day. When the Government met its testing target on 30 April the MMTUs were delivering over 20% of the UK’s COVID-19 testing. Corporal Hemmings citation states: “Every one of the 1104 military personnel in the 92 MMTUs had been trained by his team. Without his leadership and relentless effort, well above that expected of his rank the Army would not have trained sufficient MMTUs to meet the promise to Department of Health and Social Care.” Corporal Hemmings continued: “I was part of a great team who supported each other. It included Corporal Matthew Freeney, Corporal Shaun Wormall and Corporal Jamie Frost. Together we wrote the

plan that would be used to deliver the training across the whole of the Army. There was also my Officer Commanding, Major Thomas, he was always there at the end of the phone and our Sergeant Major; Warrant Officer Class Two Davidson, who arranged delivery of the personal protection equipment so we could start the training. It really was a team effort.”

He added: “We were given the training objectives we needed to achieve and had to come up with the lesson plans from scratch. We took the Army template that we would normally use to deliver lesson plans and battle exercises and applied it to this. “Safety was always going to be the main priority. I had to ensure the training made it clear how to safely change personal protection equipment, so we didn’t spread the infection. “In the first week we trained around 48 people a day and then went on to train and validate more instructors so they could deliver training.”

The Regiment congratulates Cpl Hemmings on his outstanding achievement.

BULLETINS

RHQ circulated seven Regimental Bulletins in September:

- Bulletin 72-20 Vacancy Dept Regt Sect
- Bulletin 73-20 Regt Battlefield Tour
- Bulletin 74-20 Battle of Ruapekapeka
- Bulletin 75-20 Newsletter
- Bulletin 76-20 Cpl Hemmings MBE
- Bulletin 77-20 Regt Remembrance
- Bulletin 78-20 Death of David Gridley

1st Battalion (The Vikings)

Op TORAL 11, Op CATTELO and preparation for Cyprus

A 'Norfolk' Company have run Exercise NORFOLK SCHOLAR. This has been a week of conceptual development involving a battlefield study at Maldon, the site of a historic Viking raid. A Company also visited the Regimental Museum and memorial at Duxford and finished the week with some teambuilding Paintball.

B 'Suffolk' Company have been conducting section level Battle Craft Syllabus training in Mereworth Woods this month honing their low-level skills and have sent a number of Soldiers and Officers on the Public Order Instructors Course. 5 PI are still deployed on Op CATTELO in Oman.

Otherwise both A and B Company have been in camp conducting platoon training and making the most of some well-deserved half term leave.

C 'Essex' Company, after a 14 day period of COVID-19 isolation, deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan on Operation TORAL 11. The Company arrived in theatre on October 18 where they were involved in the close down of Camp Qargha on the outskirts of the city. C Company, for Op TORAL 11, is currently composed of a Vikings and a Poachers platoon and it was Lt Richard Leadsham, Platoon Commander of the Vikings Platoon who was the last person to leave the site. C Company are now assisting with other tasks around Kabul.

D 'Cambridgeshire' Company have been preparing for their cadres which are beginning now at the end of October and will run through into November. The company is preparing to deploy Machine Gun Platoon to Brecon, Mortar Platoon to Castle Martin and Recce, Snipers and Anti-tank Platoons to Catterick in the coming days where they will develop their specialist skills.



Capt Ben Hopkins

Regimental Signals Officer



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Preparation for Operations picks up pace

October has been another busy month for the Battalion. A (Lincolnshire) Company conducted static ranges at the beginning of the month, followed by a dismounted exercise in Leek with the aim to develop their core soldering skills including bayonet fighting. They then built on this experience to deploy with their Foxhounds to Thetford and conducted a mounted exercise focussing on platoon level tactics.

B (Leicestershire) Company meanwhile deployed on their Mission Readiness Exercise with the Light Dragoons BG. This saw them initially deploy to Thetford and then conduct a large road move down to Salisbury Plain. The exercise covered a number of likely scenarios that the company will face in Mali, including dealing with inter-tribal violence. The company will be expected to conduct multi day, long range patrols as they attempt to spread the influence of the UN as part of an effort to prevent conflict and human suffering. The successful completion of the exercise now sees the company certified as mission ready to deploy later this year.

C (Northamptonshire) Coy saw Mortars Platoon welcoming 3 new soldiers from ITC Catterick and conducting a Team Medic Cadre before rolling straight into the Mortars Cadre. After a week of preparatory training in camp, the platoon began a busy schedule of PT, classroom based theory and practical lessons on the airfield. The first morning of the cadre kicked off with a Role Fitness Test to prove the candidates' physical robustness, and the pace hasn't let up since. The cadre will continue into November with an exercise phase before concluding with a week of live firing on Salisbury Plain. This will see the Battalion's mortarmen qualified to deploy on operations in support of A and B Coy next year.

Assault Pioneers are supporting the Op NEWCOMBE deployment, as well as conducting trade-specific training of their own. They have been tasked with supporting the Op NEWCOMBE Mission Rehearsal Exercise for B Coy in Thetford, and will be working hard over the next couple of weeks to ensure their sister company's Foxhounds are delivered to the South Coast ready for shipping to Mali. When they've had time to themselves the platoon has been busy conducting breaching and demolition training. All of our Pioneers have now gone through the Assault Pioneers course run by the Royal Engineers, and they are looking forward to building on this strong foundation in the coming months.

D (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Coy have continued their preparation for Op CABRIT with Jackal driver & commander courses, and a recce to Germany to meet with the US BG they will be operating alongside. Signals Platoon also conducted a 4 week long cadre in Brecon to train new members of their platoon.



*Capt Ben Humphreys
Intelligence Officer*

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

THANKS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HELPED US ADAPT TO COVID AND DRIVE UP RECRUITING TO RECORD LEVELS

The Steelbacks are set for November/December and to end 2020 in style. October was a generally steady month to re-establish the rhythm of training evenings within COVID-19 force health protection measures. COVID-19 has created many challenges across all aspects of life, including the Army Reserves. With many

civilian jobs in question our soldiers were less able to take leave and commit time to their second career with us. Whilst this clearly affects our attendance, it also affected our recruiting. However, through the good work of our recruitment team we are following on from our record year last year (over 150 new recruits) and are well on track to hit 100 in 2020.



As part of this, 3 R ANGLIAN has always been at the forefront of women in the infantry, with almost 30 recruited to date. This year has seen Pte Kirk from No 4 (Lincolnshire) Company, pass the Combat Infantry Course at Catterick to become the first fully trained female soldier within the battalion.

We've seen a big move at No 3 (Essex and Hertfordshire) Company to start training at Hitchin ARC having piloted a change from Hertford. This has given them a new, fit for purpose facility that has already benefitted training activity. When you look at this across the battalion you can really see the impact of good-quality, appropriate infrastructure on the attendance to and the quality of training.

Within all this we've seen the OCs run their training days with No 1 (Norfolk and Suffolk) Company planning for contingency operations in Lowestoft, No 2 (Leicester and Northamptonshire) Company linking in with the Leicester Ambulance Service to bring their team back together after a tough period for the county and No 3 (Essex and Hertfordshire) Company focussing on leadership.

It would be remiss of us not to thank our G4 team, across the battalion, for the hard work they have put in over the past few months, enabling us to return to training in an appropriate and safe manner.



Capt Matt Tovey

Bn Adjt

Association News



Northamptonshire Lord Lieutenant Hands Over

On the 29th March there was to have been a grand ceremony in All Saints Church, Northampton to mark the passing of the Northamptonshire Lieutenancy from Mr David Laing to Mr James Saunders-Watson; that ceremony was to have been immediately followed by a parade, on the Church piazza, of military cadets from within the County. Very sadly, the Coronavirus crisis intervened and the installation of the new Lord Lieutenant took place entirely without ceremony.

David Laing, who is a retired architect, is a member of the Laing Construction Family and before his appointment as Lord Lieutenant, held office as both High Sheriff and as a Deputy Lieutenant. Throughout his six years in post, he has been an outstanding supporter of the military and all our various County military cadet organisations. He has made countless visits to units the length and breadth of the County and has been

particularly keen to support those which have been struggling; his enthusiasm has never wavered and his extraordinary ability to connect with veterans, officers, soldiers and cadets alike a lesson to us all. He will certainly be missed.

His successor, James Saunders-Watson, having graduated from Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth was commissioned into the Royal Navy, a successful career in the City of London then followed before he eventually took over the running of his 2,500 acre family estate. At the heart of the estate is Rockingham Castle, built on the orders of William the Conqueror it remained a royal residence until the reign of Henry VIII, when the Watson family acquired a lease; since that time the Castle and the estate have remained in the continuous ownership of the family.

James Saunders-Watson, as with his immediate predecessor, has held office as a Deputy Lieutenant and, between 2018 and 2019, had a very successful year as High Sheriff; during that year he was keen to visit cadet units and it can be anticipated that he will continue to show an active interest in our military cadets as well as our Regular Army and Army Reserve units. We in the Royal Anglian Regiment family extend the warmest of congratulations upon his appointment and wish him a long and successful tenure.



Royal Anglian Regiment Museum

This month have seen a rise in donations, both pecuniary, archives and objects. I believe That with people having the time to clear and reflect, it has given people a chance to be more giving and perhaps support local museums and to think about the impact Coronavirus has had on them. It has also allowed time to clean ones loft or house, and as a result the Museum has received many donations of objects or archival items that are very valuable to the Museum.

This month has also continued with visits from the 1st and 2nd Battalions. It has been nice to see them, and both groups have also brought me objects or archival things for the Museum which are invaluable. It has also been nice to spend some time at the memorial with each group and have a moment of silence. All the groups did some research of the fallen and did a tribute at the memorial to men who served, and the 1st Battalion even brought a Padre! It was somber but very lovely to be a part of it especially as Remembrance Sunday will be scaled down.



Also this month we have been asked to move our Reserve collection. The building it is in will be reclaimed by its owners, and so we are in search of a new home for it. We have 6 months to find one, but we are already scouting out appropriate places with the right level of security and conditions for a collection to be preserved properly. It will be a bit of a mission to move it all and change its location on each record on the database but it has made me glad we have spent the time to audit it and make sure we have good accounts as to where everything is currently!

In the archives we are undertaking an audit like we did in the reserve collection. Two of the volunteers and our new intern are going through all of the archival boxes and double checking it against what is in the boxes on our database. It has answered a lot of questions about object locations and it also showcasing items that we are enjoying seeing as we go through the process. Some are being highlighted on social media, and some we are thinking of using for the Object of the Month.

The Curator,
Royal Anglian Regiment Museum

COVER PHOTO

A Poacher displays controlled aggression on a bayonet fighting range in Warcop.



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