



# Royal Anglian News



June 2023

Cover Image: Ex Mayan Viking (Belize), Cpl Lewis Strong, Recce Platoon, 1st Battalion.

# Regimental News



## The Regimental Colour Parties On Parade



Operation Golden Orb Presented a Rare Opportunity to Assemble the Colour Parties of All 3 Battalions

## RHQ Hosts Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Veteran Support Conference



Regimental Headquarters was very happy to host a quarterly meeting of NHS Veteran Welfare Professionals at the Keep on 14 June. The meeting allows health professionals from across Norfolk and Suffolk specialising in Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing to meet and share best practice. It is always a pleasure to host the gathering, and we always look forward to seeing Health Professional and Royal Anglian veteran, Wayne Ward back on regimental territory.

## Chasing The Sun With The Royal Anglian Cycling Team - WO2 (CSM) Dan Tanner

The idea for the event was first spun around the Poachers Cycling Team while deployed in Oman, some crazy plan of cycling across the country from a member of Soteria, it will be fun they said, a few agreed that's where the plan started. The original team was set from all ranks of all three Battalions, a Regimental Team. Due to operational commitments and time to train the team was reduced to 7 Royal Anglians and 2 from the wider cycling community.



It's now 2am at Brompton Barracks Chatham, the team is assembled on the carpark, frantically trying to force cold overnight oats and porridge down our throats, reminding ourselves it could be a shell scrape in Brecon. Thankfully it was a lot warmer, and the team set off for the coast, supported by the two drivers who volunteered to follow us.

It's 3am in Minster on Sea, Isle of Sheppey, a small adjunct off the northern coast of Kent. It has been a busy week leading up to the longest day of the year and a lot of nerves amongst the group. 'Riding from the first ray of sunrise to the last ray of sunset, coast to coast, on the longest day of the year,' is the plan. Due to a lot of social media research the team decided to arrive early in typical military fashion.

We get there and we are the third or fourth team to arrive, its dark and dimly lit with only a coffee stand and the CTS team to guide us there. You could tell from the impromptu laughter and random silences that civies and the team alike were nervous, a lot of smiling and team cohesion going on. As the morning continued to get brighter more teams arrived, some lone riders, one of which was a female Army cyclist who joined our team. Then looking back down the Sheppey coast, we could see over 1000 riders from all

ages getting ready to go. Everybody is waiting for the first sign of the sun, which acts as the starter's pistol. Some people start getting nervous and asking to leave, its light enough lets go... 'follow the light', everyone is willing it to hurry up and shine.

The starting pistol set us off around 04:42hrs giving us around 16 hours of daylight to cycle the 208miles, 320kms. We set off in at a very decent pace, the streets are lined with hundreds of family members. We come out of Minster on Sea and head down winding roads towards London. As we leave Sheppey for the mainland, we are retracing our steps back towards Chatham and Rochester where we set off a few hours prior. The initial 2 hours of riding seemed like a blur, a lot of people trying to keep to their pace, some flying off, we caught most of them later. The route continued through Rochester, Medway then into the streets of London.



The first major stop was Crystal Palace. After a short, but not insignificant climb to the bike shop, we started to meet and join with likeminded cyclists. A few teams jumped on the 'Army train.' A few teams from wider UK, 1881 cycling club, west Cornwall and the 'Fat Bellies' (Not sure where they were from). You could certainly feel it was a ride not a race. The team cohesion on a cycling event is just like an Army exercise all the riders in our little group all working together.

We decided not to meet our team van at this point because the café was getting too full and we were trying to make it through London before the main traffic built up. This turned out to be a great decision, we slowed down later. We set off from Crystal Palace way ahead of schedule and feeling good. All the riders were prepared enough to just carry on, and the kit on our person was planned well, so we rode on.

Making a few minor detours for GPS issues and unable to unclip from the bike we carried on through the winding roads of Kingston, 07:45, Hampton 08:00 and into Sunbury 08:45. We covered the majority of London in no time. Onto the beautiful roads of Bagshot in Surrey around 09:00.

By midday we had already completed over 100miles (160km) through the slowest part of the route. The halfway point in Bramley was a shock to the system. We made it there at around 12:00 and on my initial planning this was over 2.5 hours earlier than expected. As a team we all looked strong. At this point, credit to the organisers of the event, a free pastie and water all round. If you have ever ridden 100miles before you will know that's about a marathon of running, no easy feat. So, after Bramley the real challenge began.

It was at this point the heat and the terrain started to take its toll on the team. Out of Bramley we entered rolling countryside akin to the historic home of the Regiment. Some steep climbs followed by dangerous descents with huge shards of silt and rocks from the recent storms, though the roads were dry, the terrain began to take its toll. We had our first puncture and mechanical failure, all within 40mins. The team started to feel the pressure but thankfully, we had strong riders and made good time through London. Our morale remained high and the team was very much on the front pedal.



On to Wiltshire and the famous white horses around Warminster, the first time riding here on a bike was scary. The hardest part of the ride was the 100 – 125 mile stretch, getting back on the bike after the stop took some mental resilience to motor on. Coming into our 4<sup>th</sup> stop there was a rider cramping and needing help, the team helped him up and into our support vehicle. We saw him later at the finish.

The course started to climb up its famous 3,000m of elevation, much of it now in front of us. The Mendip hills and the descent of Cheddar Gorge lay ahead. The weather was still good, however, our speed had dropped massively, we had started the day averaging 26/30 kph, and now we were sitting around 12kph.

The top of Cheddar Gorge has got to be the tipping point of this whole event and as most soldiers know, when the going gets tough you need that light at the end of the tunnel, this was it. It was nearly all downhill from there.... two small, particularly annoying, to go and we were done. Morale was now extremely high, and our speed was above 50Kph down through sweeping bends. We were flying!

As we left Cheddar Gorge, we knew we had made it, time was on our side and the team looking strong again. Time to recover and enjoy the scenery. As we came into the promenade of Weston-Super-Mare the crowds were everywhere. I don't know how many people finished the event, but it was without a doubt one of the more challenging things I have completed.



It would be remiss of me to not say thank you to those who enabled this exceptional team activity. The team, to the Royal Anglian participants, WO2 Matt Waters, WO2 (RQMS) Phil Green, Cpl Marcus Bent, LCpl Lewis Youngs, Pte Brace and Pte Stafford. Special thanks to the Regimental PRI's for supporting the riders and RHQ for providing support and funding.



# 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

## Prepare to Move - 1st Battalion Squeeze in Valuable Training Before Their Move To Cottesmore

June 2023 has seen the conclusion of several key training events for the battalion. The B (Suffolk) Company Group deployment on Ex Mayan Viking has now returned to Cyprus and D (Cambridgeshire) Company have completed their Anti-Tank cadre.

In the Belizean Jungle, B (Suffolk) Company along with attachments from Reconnaissance Platoon, and 9 Platoon, C (Essex) Coy have now completed their final Exercise in Belize. This exercise represented a culmination in everything that they have learned since being deployed in jungle. Troops were tested in surviving the inhospitable Belizean jungle, moving through arduous terrain, and combatting a determined enemy in close quarter battle.

Once the exercise was completed, the Company enjoyed an R&R package on the Belizean coast. All troops who were deployed to the jungle have now returned to Cyprus, where they will now turn their attention to the impending Battalion move.





Meanwhile, Anti-Tank Platoon, D (Cambridgeshire) Company have been honing their skills on a comprehensive cadre in Cyprus. Soldiers in Anti-Tank Platoon have now qualified on the use of NLAW and Javelin systems. Learning to operate both systems in the field. Field serials included the practising of Passive Observation Posts, Ambushes and Raids. The platoon was also tested in sub-unit operations, which culminated in a series of Anti-Tank posts responding to a complex armoured attack in Paramali village.



Concurrently to the Cadre, elements of A (Norfolk) Company and C (Essex) Company have now completed their commitment to the Republic of Cyprus MACA (Military Aid to Civilian Authorities). This consisted of the decontamination of vehicles transiting across SBA (Sovereign Base Area) border crossings.

D (Cambridgeshire) Company were also committed to the protection of Cyprus Operational Sites throughout the month of June. July 2023 will see the first main body elements of the battalion move back to the UK. The takeover of infrastructure and preparation of Kendrew barracks for main body arrivals is already being expertly handled by forward-deployed teams from HQ Company.





## 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Ex Spring Storm - Lt Anthony Stratton, A (Lincolnshire) Company



### LCpl J Fleming, A (Lincolnshire) Company on Ex Spring Storm

Exercise Spring Storm was a large-scale deployment involving 14,000 land, sea and air personnel from the UK, Estonia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the United States. 3 Platoon, A Company engaged with the exercise supporting Alpha Company, 4 SCOTS and the Light Dragoons Battlegroup. This uplift of troops into Estonia reinforced the enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup up to a Brigade level strength.

NATO forces were simulating both friendly and enemy forces allowing for an array of challenging scenarios to take place across the entirety of the country. With the scenarios moving from the southeast (near the Russian border) all the way up towards Tallinn in the northwest. The peer-on-peer training enabled us to test other friendly forces, for example the reconnaissance capabilities of the Light Dragoons battlegroup of which 3 Platoon uplifted, tested the heavy armour of the Queen's Royal Hussars battlegroup and the Estonian infantry.

3 Platoon, mounted in Foxhounds enabled the Light Dragoon's battlegroup to have a strike force element, carrying out small scale strikes, ambushes, and raids on high value targets. 3 Platoon, as part of the SCOTS Alpha Company throughout the exercise were able to conduct these actions deep into the enemy's battlespace whilst the Danish infantry battalion continued its clearance behind the battlegroup.

This being outside the traditional role of light mechanised infantry, the platoon gained valuable experience in the role of a Reconnaissance Battlegroup, and exposure to new challenges, tactics and drills.

The exercise also included various defence engagement exercises, such as a battlefield study looking into the history and the strategic importance of Estonia. Looking in detail at World War 2 and the battles fought between the Russian and German occupying forces. Outside of this the troops also engaged in reassuring the Estonian people through a series of events, such as attending sporting events and visiting schools and universities across the country. Notably the Icebug mud run, an assault course style event in which Lieutenant Stratton, Private Brampton and Highlander Quinn placed 6 overall. Finally, 3 Platoon were able to join in on various adventurous training events such as sea kayaking in the Baltic Sea, canoeing, and mountain biking in the dense forests.



Overall, the exercise was an experience that the Platoon will not forget. Especially being part of a NATO level exercise of this scale. The sheer mass of troops and assets available engaging with the exercise paired with the ability to exercise in every town, street, forest across the country was something none had experienced before.

## Defence Operational Shooting Competition (DEFOSC) Bisley - 2Lt Will Woolhouse, A (Lincolnshire) Company.

Following a successful outing at the Divisional Shooting competition in May, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion shooting team comprising of soldiers from A and D Company travelled to Bisley with the hopes of achieving a high finish at AOSC. With only limited training opportunity, the team put in a strong performance but fell short of their Divisional standard to a cohort of well drilled shooting teams from across the Army.



The team competed in the first of three blocks against teams from the Infantry Battle School, Royal Signals, Royal Engineers, and 1 Royal Welsh to name a few. Over 3 days of competition, the team took part in individual and team shoots culminating in a falling plate competition on the final day, which although it didn't contribute to the overall finish, was an important chance to gain bragging rights over the other teams!

The first day of the competition started with the Advance Fleeting Contact shoot and Defensive shoots. After a slow start, adjusting to the unique points of aim at Bisley ranges, the team started to gain momentum. After lunch, the GPMG individual competition took place, with the two Royal Anglian firers finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place, the best result of the day. The round robin of shoots finished with the Advance to Contact Assessment.

The final day began with the Section Advance to Contact. The range was a test of marksmanship under fatigue and efficiency of drills. The team put in a strong showing, outperforming the competition who were going down the range at the same time. The concluding shoot, the falling plate, was a chance to finish the competition on a high. A Fire Team was nominated to compete in a series of knockout rounds. A strong showing, securing a place in the semi finals, however they lost out to the eventual winning team.

The competition was largely a success, with strong individual performances throughout, valuable lessons were picked up from the other experienced teams. With the Regiment set to consolidate in Kendrew Barracks, this provides opportunity to pool talent and resources from across the Battalions to challenge other Corps and Regimental teams for places on the podium.

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## Promotions - Number 7 Board

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The Regiment warmly congratulates the following JNCOs on their selection for promotion to Sergeant:

Cpl John Adcock

Cpl Gary Joy

Cpl Benjamin Atkinson

Cpl Harrison McCabe

Cpl Jed Bayliss

Cpl Ryan McConkey

Cpl Stephen Dobinson

Cpl Dean Middleton

Cpl Connor Halsall

Cpl Karl Smith

Cpl Robin Harris

Cpl Stephen Wright

Cpl David Hemmings

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## Regimental Bulletins Register

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### Regt Bulletins Issued Since The May 2023 Issue of RAN:

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-038 - Royal Anglian News - May 2023 Edition

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-039 - Death Notice, Colonel R L Jackson OBE, 1st & 3rd Battalions

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-040 - Death Notice, Kenneth William Edgar, Royal Norfolk Regt

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-041 - Job Vacancy - Regt Secretary Post, RHQ R ANGLIAN



# Regimental Diary Dates

## July

- 14th Regimental Representative Event at Bedford School
- 16th Cambridgeshire Association Annual Reunion at Ely
- 19th RTA Trustees Meeting in Cambridge
- 22nd Commissioning Course Short 232 Parade at RMAS available to watch by Facebook Livestream
- 22nd Salamanca Day (44th Foot)
- 27th Talavera Day (48th Foot)
- 27th 70th Anniversary of the end of the Korean War
- 29th Northamptonshire Association Rededication of Windows at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- 29th Northamptonshire Association Talavera Dinner
- 30th Suffolk Association Minden Day at The Keep, Bury St Edmunds

## August

- 1st Minden Day (12th Foot)
- 10th Sovereign's Parade for CC223 – RMAS + Facebook livestream
- 13th Blenheim Day (10th & 16th Foot)

## September

- 2nd Regimental Rugby Event at Rochford Rugby Club
- 3rd Regimental Day at IWM Duxford – All, past and present, welcome.
- 23rd Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Dinner
- 28th Royal Anglian Regiment sponsored Chapel Service at The Royal Hospital Chelsea – All, past and present, welcome to attend.
- 28th The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Chapel Service at Norwich Cathedral.

## Regimental Rugby 2023

The Regimental Rugby Fixture for 2023 will be held at :

Rochford Rugby Club, The Rugby Park, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell, Essex, SS4 3AD Roll of honour and kick off from 1400hrs Saturday 2 Sept 23.

For more details email Ian Wilkins on [wilkie332@hotmail.com](mailto:wilkie332@hotmail.com)

## Generous Donation to the Regimental Charity by the Norfolk Military Vehicle Group



The Norfolk Military Vehicle Group are generous supporters of our Regimental Charity. Paul and Helen Hemmings visited RHQ in March this year and presented a cheque for £5,500. The Assistant Regimental Secretary, Mark Goldsmith visited them at Hunstanton on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 making a modest presentation to thank them formally on behalf of our Regimental Charity.

All monies raised by Paul and Helen are kindly donated to the Royal Anglian Regiment Charity. Paul and Helen would love to see any members of the regimental family at their forthcoming event, which are listed below:

- 14-16 Jul - Weeting Steam Rally at Fengate Farm Brandon IP27 0QF
- 5-6 Aug - Operation Market Harborough the Showgrounds LE16 7WB
- 25-27 Aug - Hunstanton Norfolk Military Weekend on the Green PE36 5BD
- 9-10 Sep - Sandringham Country Show Sandringham Estate PE35 6EN
- 16-17 Sep - North Norfolk Railways 40s Weekend at Holt station NR25 6AJ



# Our Affiliated Cadets

## An Outstanding Year for a Royal Anglian Cap Badged Cadet

Josh Watson has had a busy year with St Columba's College CCF. Twelve months which will live with him for the rest of his life. In March the Champion Cadet competition was announced, which is held at the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley, the National Training Centre for Cadet Services. It is a prestigious competition which awards the best CCF cadet with the Captain General Trophy.

The week before the competition Josh was in the Black Mountains in Wales doing his 4-day Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Practice expedition which was 20 KM a day over the peaks of Wales. He came home for the weekend, reset himself and went off to Frimley Park where he won the Captain General Trophy, a fantastic achievement.



Cadet RSM Josh Watson  
(St Columba's College CCF)

Josh was then asked if he would carry the National Standard of the Combined Cadet Force as part of the King's Coronation Parade, to which he agreed. Totally focused, he went off to do the overnight rehearsals and the Coronation. Josh worked hard through the rehearsals and proudly represented the School, the CCF, and all Royal Anglian affiliated cadet detachments.

Whilst all this activity was going on Josh was also preparing to command the contingent team for the Cadet Cambrian Patrol Competition, a competition which we had never taken part in. The team returned with a Silver Medal which is a fantastic result.

Josh represents all that is good about the College and the Combined Cadet Force, and I have been extremely proud to see him promoted to the role of Regimental Sergeant Major, the senior cadet in the contingent.

To close off the year Josh will be going on summer camp with Harris Academy Chafford Hundred to command this new contingent as their senior cadet. Which he will count toward his D of E Gold residential. He will command 35 Cadets he has never met before. All in all, a remarkable year for an exceptional young man.



# Our Regimental Heritage

## Talavera Battlefield Study - Lt Jack Rice, C (Northamptonshire) Company

Soldiers from C (Northamptonshire) Company travelled to Madrid on the 5th June to conduct a Battlefield Study of Talavera and Salamanca. 214 years ago, the soldiers of the 48th Regiment of Foot stood on the same ground as part of a British force, fighting the French army in the first set-piece battle of the Peninsular War. This was a symbolic opportunity for the troops of C 'Northamptonshire' Company to walk in the footsteps of their forbears and learn of the skill and heroism that won the 48th their battle honour.

On 27th July 1809, Wellington's forces occupied high ground at Talavera; south west of Madrid, alongside a large allied Spanish force. Late in the evening the French attacked before the left of the British line was properly in position, and occupied an important hill. A swift counter-attack, in which the 1st Battalion of the 48th (Northamptonshire) Regiment of Foot played a prominent part, drove the French off the hill, and other troops, including the 2nd Battalion of the 48th, came up to help secure the position.





A large-scale French assault the following morning was repulsed, but later in the day when the French attacked the centre of the British line a dangerous gap was opened up. Wellington summoned the 1/48th to plug the gap, which they did with great dash and bravery. In his subsequent dispatch Wellington wrote, 'The battle was certainly saved by the advance, position, and steady conduct of the 48th Regiment.'

After walking the ground at Talavera, C Company were hosted for lunch at Calle Claudio Coello, a farm sitting atop the high ground that the 48th made their stand. The troops enjoyed a variety of local delicacies and provided an opportunity to conduct some informal awards and offer a chance to thank our Historian, Battlefield Guide, and fellow Royal Anglian, Major (Retd) Tom Dormer for his work.



The following day we moved to Salamanca, a battle honour of the 1st Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment. A break in the inclement weather provided fantastic views over the battlefield, allowing the soldiers to relate the events of 1812 and look at what lessons can be learnt for future conflicts. The troops then enjoyed an evening and morning exploring the cultural side of Madrid, before returning to Kendrew Barracks

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## SALAMANCA DAY - 22 JULY 1812

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### The 44th and 56th of Foot, The Essex Regiment and the Battle of Salamanca

Following the French Revolution in 1789, Great Britain was at war with France for most of the period 1793-1815 as Napoleon Bonaparte, seizing power in 1799, attempted to dominate the whole of Europe. Much of the action was at sea, but the Peninsula War from 1808-1814, was the setting for the Army's major contribution to Napoleon's eventual defeat. For most of the time the British Forces in the Peninsula were under command of General Sir Arthur Wellesley, later to become the Duke of Wellington, and fought alongside Spanish and Portuguese allies.

On 22 July 1812 at Salamanca north-west of Madrid, Wellington's army, from a strong and well concealed defensive position, was able to launch a surprise attack on the flanks of the French forces. After repeated assaults the whole French Army was driven back in confusion, and the way was open for Wellington to advance on Madrid.

The 2nd Battalion of the 44th (East Essex) Regiment of Foot, which had been raised in 1803, played a significant part in the battle and Lieutenant William Pearce captured the Eagle Standard of the French 62nd Regiment of the Line. The 1st Battalion of the 9th (East Norfolk) Regiment, the 1st Battalion of the 48th (Northamptonshire) Regiment of Foot, and the 2nd Battalion of the 58th (Rutlandshire) Regiment of Footwear also involved in the action and, like the 2/44th, were granted the Battle Honour 'Salamanca'.

Subsequently, the 44th Foot, as the 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment, adopted an eagle as their badge. The tradition was continued during further reorganisations so that today the Regimental Colour includes an eagle and all ranks of the Regiment wear an eagle badge on the upper left arm in formal dress. The anniversary of the battle itself is marked annually C (Essex) Company, 1st Battalion and C (Essex) Coy of the 3rd Battalion in Chelmsford.



## TALAVERA DAY - 27 JULY 1809

### 48th & 58th of Foot, The Northamptonshire Regiment and the Battle of Talavera

Talavera was a battle of the Peninsular War. Wellington had advanced into Spain with the intention of bringing to battle a large French Army. On 27 July 1809 his forces occupied high ground at Talavera; south west of Madrid, alongside a large Spanish force. Late in the evening the French attacked, before the left of the British line was properly in position, and occupied an important hill. A swift counter attack, in which the 1st Battalion of the 48th (Northamptonshire) Regiment of Foot played a prominent part, drove the French off the hill, and other troops, including the 2nd Battalion of the 48th, came up to help secure the position.



The 48th (Northamptonshire) Regiment of Foot close with the French bayonets fixed!

A large scale French assault the following morning was repulsed, but later in the day when the French attacked the centre of the British line a dangerous gap was opened up. Wellington summoned the 1/48th to plug the gap, which they did with great dash and bravery. In his subsequent dispatch Wellington wrote, 'The battle was certainly saved by the advance position, and steady conduct of the 48th Regiment.'

Talavera Day was celebrated with the Northamptonshire Regiment and the 2nd East Anglian Regiment. Today it remains the the Regimental Day of the 2nd Battalion.

### 79th Anniversary of D Day – 6 June 2023

Lieutenant Colonel Tony Slater and Tom Prior attended the 79th anniversary Normandy commemorations of D Day in June. A large number of services are held each year, from a large international one at the hugely impressive British Normandy Memorial at Ver sur Mer to local services in every commune close to the beaches.

We attended and laid wreaths on behalf of the Royal Anglian Regiment and our former Regiments at commemorations for the Suffolk Regiment at Hillman and Chateau de la Londe, The Royal Norfolk Regiment at Norfolk House and the Essex Regiment in Bayeux, Tilly and at Essex Wood. They were all well attended by local Mayors, Members of Parliament and significant numbers of local French people of all generations. The services are organised by the local Communes and increasingly involve the younger generation, with school children laying flowers on the memorials and assisting in the official wreath laying.



Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment continue to look after the site at Hillman with a band of local volunteers, showing groups round the bunkers and small museum. Most of the site is now owned by the Commune. Les Amis are very keen to maintain the links, they are always very pleased to see anyone from the Regiment.

In Bayeux the service at the Memorials to the Essex Regiment, Sherwood Yeomanry and Royal Military Police is attended by several hundred people each year, almost all French.

Next year will be the 80th anniversary of D Day. The French are expecting large numbers of people to attend with significant international interest, many hotels are already fully booked. As always it was important to be reminded that the French in Normandy continue to commemorate their liberation in 1944, and remember the huge sacrifice of Allied and civilian lives.



# Our Regimental Museum

This month has been quite busy with events. There was a small showcase day, and very large and hot airshow weekend, and a visit from our Malayan Emergency veterans.

Kicking off the month with a smaller flying showcase the first Sunday of the month, we had a lot of volunteers in, and were able to do weapons handling, as well as some STEM activities and face-painting. It was a very successful day!

We also had our annual Malayan veterans visit. This year was a special and somber affair as their leader, Richard Faulkner, has recently passed away. We had all his family down as this was one of his favourite events, and we included him in our thoughts as we had a moment of silence. Below is a picture of this year. There seem to be so few of these East Anglian Regt veterans now, however we did get some people saying they missed it on our social media, so we endeavour to make a better announcement next year.



Our June columnated in the grand weekend airshow, is some of the hottest weather! Regretfully we didn't take any pictures as we were so busy! But we saw over 24,000 visitors over the weekend, and a big thank you to the volunteers and the engagement team to worked very hard.

This month there was also a trip up to Cottesmore, to Kendrew Barracks, so we could pick up a rather large album from the 2nd battalion. It is vast, and chock full of all sorts of interesting things. It does however need some conservation, so that will be worked on in the near future.

There were other happenings this month, but that is a quick update from the museum. There will be more next month!



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# Our Regimental Association

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## The Vikings Past and Present Ball 2023

The Vikings Past and Present Ball was held on the 10 June 23 at Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds. A total of 155 guests attended, comprising serving members, veterans and their partners. We were privileged to have Brigadier Dom Biddick MBE MC in attendance, who delivered an outstanding after dinner speech.

This event was the first to be held in the new location, with the invitation being broadened in order to invite all ranks. This attracted many new attendees, some of whom would not have had the opportunity to enjoy a mess dinner style event whilst serving, but whom undoubtedly benefitted from the interaction with our more experienced veterans.

Dinner was accompanied by an excellent String Quartet from the 3 Royal Band. Then followed the speeches and the much anticipated raffle, which raised £1200 to go towards the next Ball, a vital helping hand in order to keep the costs to a minimum in these lean times. A welcome addition to the event was the disco, which was enjoyed by many and provided a great opportunity for our ladies to get together with the inevitable rendition of "We are the Champions"!

The Chairman, Granny would like to extend his thanks to all involved in the planning and all who attended and made it such a memorable occasion. Having received many thank you emails from guests informing him that they are bringing more veteran friends next year, he is already planning for the 2024 Past and Present Ball which will take place on Saturday 15 June 2024.



## ROYAL TIGERS' ASSOCIATION DAY – Leicester, Saturday 17th June 2023

The annual Royal Tigers' Day gathering at Devonshire Place once again brought abundant numbers to the event. What was once again so pleasing was to see over 60 old and bold Tigers travelling huge distances to mark this wonderful day in the centre of Leicester.

We were delighted to share our day with the High Sheriff of Leicester - Henrietta Jocelyne Chubb JP. The modern High Sheriff is very much what the individual makes of it and each incumbent will shape his or her year in office as they see fit. The formal duties of High Sheriffs today include attendance at royal visits in the County and support for Her Majesty's High Court Judges when on Circuit. The High Sheriff offers encouragement to those supporting the charity and voluntary sectors and actively encourages crime prevention. The key to the role is to uphold and enhance the ancient office while making a meaningful contribution to the county of Leicestershire. It was a pleasure to host Henrietta and her husband David, a former Officer in the 15/19th Hussars. Also in attendance was the Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor Dr Susan Barton. The Lord Mayor is Leicester's first citizen and is elected each year at Annual Council.



The Mayor, The High Sheriff & Capt Tim Wilkes

Our Service was wonderfully delivered by The Revd. Canon Emma Davies, Canon Precentor of Leicester Cathedral. She is responsible for running most of the output from the cathedral, effectively a Chief Operations Officer, but her charming personality came through both during the Service and afterwards at lunch, where she was hosted by the Area Regimental Secretary, Major Tim Brown.

Capt Ty Smith, RTA Secretary, ensured that a splendid Luncheon was provided by the staff at Devonshire Place. As senior Officer present on the day, Capt Tim Wilkes (Chairman RTA), gave a short address and outlined plans for next year's RTA Weekend which will take place in June 2024 with a Service and parade at the Cathedral. Sadly, thereafter the Royal Tigers' Association will cross an "invisible line" before evolving into the Royal Anglian Regimental Association (Leicestershire), which will include a County Committee. Above all else it was so emotive on Saturday to see the Association and all its family reuniting in good humour.



# Royal Anglian DIRECT



The Official Online Store of The Royal Anglian Regiment



Combat Clothing

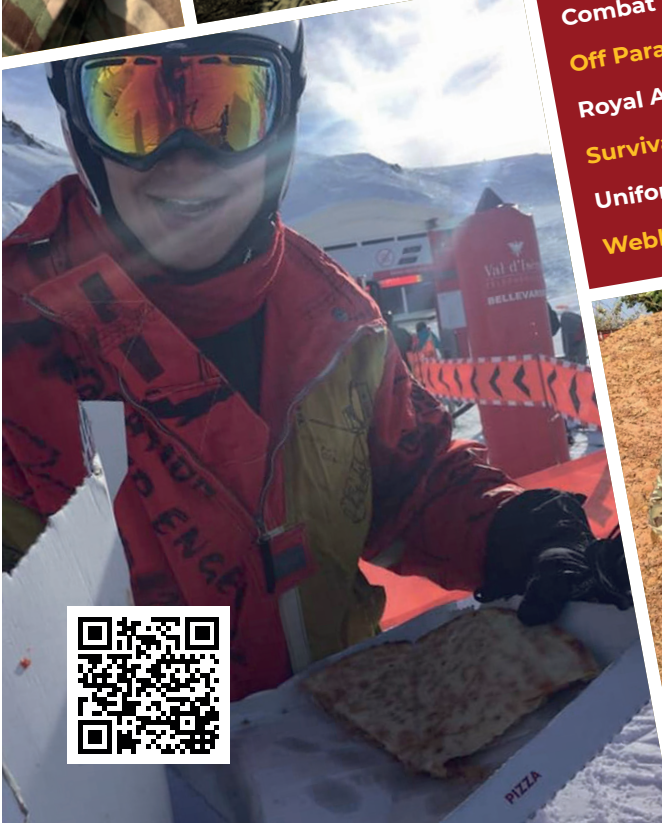
Off Parade

Royal Anglian Clothing

Survival Kit

Uniform Clothing & Accessories

Webbing & Carriage



The official e-commerce website of The Royal Anglian Regiment. All items selected and contained within the site have been formally approved and signed off by the Regiment. The operation is run by a joint Royal Anglian and AMMO Management Committee who will ensure that the stock meets the needs of soldiers and veterans. A profit share of sales is passed to the Royal Anglian Regimental Benevolent Charity, and is used to support the welfare and benevolence activities of the Regiment.

[www.royalangliandirect.co.uk](http://www.royalangliandirect.co.uk)  
[shop@royalangliandirect.co.uk](mailto:shop@royalangliandirect.co.uk)