



 **Royal Anglian News**   

May 2023

Cover Image: The Soldiers selected for Op Golden Orb represented themselves and the Royal Anglian Family to the highest standard.

Regimental News



Operation Golden Orb - Capt Alexander Langley, 2nd Battalion

The morning of the 6 May 2023; a date to remain in the hearts of many for a generation. 43 Soldiers and 6 Officers represented The Royal Anglian Regiment for the Coronation of Their Majesties, King Charles III, and Queen Camilla. The Marching Detachment was drawn from members of the 2nd Battalion, and the Colour Parties of all three Battalions of the Regiment.



The day of the Coronation was nothing less than a truly unique experience to march through our Nation's Capital; bayonets fixed, swords drawn and Colours flying.

A culmination of work that started whilst the 2nd Battalion was still deployed in Oman as part of the Land Regional Hub. Post Easter leave the detachment was assured by HQ Infantry to ensure they were of the required standard prior to deployment to the Centralised Area in Longmoor Camp; from here the team conducted daily training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to ensure thorough understanding and conditioning for the task ahead. The daily regime saw marching troops average 25,000 steps per day, in ammunition boots!

The overnight rehearsal in London set the conditions for the main event. The troops formed up on the platforms of Waterloo train station prior to loading onto York Road to march across Westminster Bridge. The sight of Westminster Palace and the clock tower of 'Big Ben' shone brightly against the moonlit silhouette of the London skyline. As we approached Wellington Barracks, we encountered many late night travellers that had been surprised by the mass deployment of ceremonial troops into central London.



The day of the Coronation was nothing less than a truly unique experience. To march through our Nation's Capital; bayonets fixed, swords drawn and Colours flying. On the day the awe of the spectacle almost overwhelmed the senses. Crowds on the Mall were over 20 people deep and the noise, fantastic! The processional groups that marched to escort the Gold State Coach from Westminster Abbey were 1.6km/1 mile in length, all to escort the Gold State Coach, weighing four tonnes and pulled by eight horses, the sheer momentum that is gained means that once it is moving there is very little that can be done to stop it, zero margin for error, only a flawless demonstration of the movement will do.

Having formed six ranks, entered Buckingham Palace Gardens, grounded our arms, and removed headdress, troops prepared for the arrival of their Majesties onto the terrace. The key moment of the parade arrives, “Three cheers for His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen, hip hip!” A roar bursts from the assembled soldiers, sailors, and airmen, it can be heard in St James’ Park and beyond; it is broadcast to millions of people watching at home in the United Kingdom and millions more overseas.

The soldiers selected for the task represented themselves and the Regiment to the highest standard. Though ceremonial duties may not be the comfort of many in the Royal Anglian Regiment, the ability to deliver excellence at any task truly is. Words do very little to portray the sense of pride and honour I feel of being able to lead the Regiment’s representative group, a privilege, and the envy of many, I’m sure. It is a memory that will stay with me forever.

The Regimental Council Meeting - 12 May 2023



A very good reason for holding our Regiment Council meetings at the Royal Hospital Chelsea is that we have the opportunity to invite our In-Pensioners to join us for lunch. It is always a great pleasure to catch up with them. In this photo, are our COs, the Col of Regt and our In-Pensioners, from left to right: CO 3rd Bn, Michael Riley, CO 1st Bn, Alfred Dymond, Ron Pacino, Col of Regt, Dougie May and CO 2nd Bn.

Presentation of Canadian Meritorious Service Medal to Brig Rich Lyne



The Regiment warmly congratulates Brig Rich Lyne on the award of the Canadian Meritorious Service Medal (Military Division). The MSM was created by her Majesty the Queen in 1991. It recognises military deeds or activities that have been performed in a highly professional manner or of a very high standard that bring benefit or honour to the Canadian Forces.

Brigadier Rich was serving with the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR), Iraq and Syria, 2018-19. The award was made to recognise his leadership of and his work with the Canadian-sponsored Coalition Ministerial Advisory Group. The MSM was presented by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada at an investiture at the Canadian High Commission in London on 5 May 2023.

Last Stand in Germany - Tony Slater Completes His Last Battlefield Tour



Lieutenant Colonel Tony Slater has been at the heart of maintaining our regimental history for many years. As well as playing a prominent role in many of our forbearer regiment museums, he has also been one of the major contributors to our annual Regimental Battlefield Tour. Thanks to Colonel Tony's expertise and extensive historical knowledge the battlefield tour has been a regular feature of the regimental calendar.

This year's tour of the 1944-45 battlefields of the Netherlands and Germany led by Tony was another huge success. It was however Colonel Tony's last big push for the regiment on the battlefield touring front., he has decided to retire from leading future tours.

Battlefield Studies are an important facet of what the regiment does to encourage learning, foster pride in the regiment, and to unite serving and veteran Royal Anglians. Over many years, Colonel Tony has made a significant contribution to this activity. The Regiment thanks him warmly for all that he has done to make our battlefield tours such a success.

1st Battalion (The Vikings)



Multi-Tasking from the Belizean Jungle to the Middle East



The year continues at a pace, May has been another high-tempo month for the Vikings. Exercise MAYAN VIKING is now in full swing and the commitments to Cyprus operational sites continue. B (Suffolk) Company with attachments from Recce Platoon and C (Essex) Company are now in the closing stages of the MAYAN VIKING final exercise. This will see the Company group tested in jungle fieldcraft and sub-unit operations in demanding and inhospitable terrain. The Company group have also completed a comprehensive live-firing package that closely reflects the intensity of close quarter combat in the jungle.

Meanwhile, the rest of C (Essex) Company have been committed to several MACA (Military Aid to Civilian Authorities) tasks in close coordination with British Forces Cyprus and the Republic of Cyprus Government. Platoons of C (Essex) Company soldiers have deployed to Larnaca Airport in support of the UK's evacuation of civilians from Sudan and have also assisted British Customs officials in the decontamination of vehicles after a recent outbreak of goat pox in Northern Cyprus. Concurrently to all of this, A (Norfolk) Company and D (Cambridgeshire) Company have remained committed to the Cyprus operational sites and force protection of UK Naval Support Facility in Bahrain.

A detailed report and pictures from Belize will follow in the June issue of RAN.

2nd Battalion (The Poachers)



Ex Dragon Climb - Lt Jack Rice, C 'Northamptonshire' Coy

On the 8th May, 16 Personnel from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment embarked on the hardest long-distance walking route in Europe. The GR20 is world renowned within the outdoors community and is often on the bucket list for many an adventurer.



Starting in Calenzana in the North, the route traverses the mountainous terrain of the small Mediterranean island, finishing in Conca on the south-eastern coast. The GR20 has 13,655m of ascent and 13,645m of descent, meaning that over the 13 day walk, the troops will have scaled and descended over the height of Mt Everest. On the 10th May, the group stepped off from Calenzana under the expert guidance of our two instructors, Acting Pilot Officer Aaron Graham and Major John Hoban. The troops carried three days' worth of supplies with bergens weighing 15kg, being re-supplied by a support vehicle at various refuges. The sight of the van was a much-needed morale boost after some gruelling days walking ensured a constant supply of trail mix, which to the troops seemed to act like rocket fuel.



The route began with a steep climb of 1550m, equivalent to climbing Mt Snowdon one and a half times. The troops quickly realised the challenge that faced them for the remainder of the expedition. Due to unseasonably cool temperatures, there was still snow on the high routes of the GR20. This forced the soldiers to take lower paths and at times take escape routes off the mountain and meet with the support vehicle. This added additional distance, ascent and descent for the troops which could have been demoralising, instead, they showed great will and determination and maintained a positive outlook throughout.

After the higher peaks of the northern section had been traversed, a new problem faced the soldiers. Rain began to fall in biblical quantities, quickly dampening kit and equipment. One unlucky individual woke with a river flowing through his tent. An open refuge with a fire to dry socks and sleeping bags became the highlight of this section of the expedition. The heavy rain left the small streams resembling white water rapids rather than fordable crossings. Again, leading to detours being taken and extra distance covered.

On the 23rd May, the troops finished the GR20, just as the bad weather broke. They were able to enjoy the sunny weather for one day of micro navigation around Conca before a well-earned beach day on the 24th. After an hour of lying on the sand, the trials and tribulations of the expedition had already become type 2 fun and the troops could enjoy the more relaxing side to Corsica that gives it such a renowned reputation. A final meal was had with all troops, overlooking the harbour of Porto Vecchio before embarking on the long journey back to the UK.

Whilst having to miss some of the highest points of the route due to the weather, the expedition accomplished a monumental feat in completing the GR20. The group overcame adversity, dealt with tough conditions, and showed their ability to adapt to rapidly changing situations. Morale was high throughout, and they showed a great deal of camaraderie. All participants achieved their Summer Mountain Foundation qualification and are booked onto their Mountain Leader Trainer. This will enable them to begin taking the next generation of expedition leaders from Battalion on Adventure Training, inspiring more soldiers for years to come.



“The GR20 has been a physically and mentally demanding trip throughout, whether it be the vast ascents or torrential rain. It was challenging in parts but all in all a fantastic opportunity and test for us all; covering navigation, physical fitness, and teamwork.” - Cpl Kyle Broome, MG PI, D Coy



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)



3rd Battalion Shooting Win, for the Second Year Running

The shooting team from the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment won this year 1st (UK) Division, Operational Shooting Competition 2023 (Reserves), beating 11 other Army Reserve units, this follows their win in 2022. This was a remarkable achievement, especially as 4 new firers joined the team this year. Headed by Captain Karl Chambers individuals also won a host of individual shoots with Pte Jay Lawson picking up 2nd best overall competition shot.



Team members :

1 Company

Captain Karl Chambers, Warrant Officer Second Class Duncan Nash, Lance Corporal Nathan Carter and Private's Gareth Goodge and Jordan Reeder

3 Company

Private's Jay Lawson and Georgia Middleton

5 Company

Lance Corporal Simon Deeley (5 Coy),

Private Jay Lawson was placed 2nd best shot, only just losing out to a previous Queen's medalist and was also overall 2nd in the Advanced Fleeting Encounter assessment. Lance Corporal Carter was placed 5th and Warrant Officer Duncan Nash 6th overall. Our 6 best firers placed within the top 18.

Onwards and upwards for Army Reserve Operational Shooting Competition at Bisley in June.



The Regimental Band

A Ceremonial Focus for the Band

As previously reported the Band has been focused on ceremonial duties linked to Operation Golden Orb - The Coronation of HM The King and Queen Camilla.



On Saturday 27th May, we gave our Grand Coronation Concert in St Mary's church, Bury St Edmunds. The concert was very well attended and the audience were treated to a wide variety of music from Walton's Crown Imperial coronation march (first performed at the coronation of George VI in 1937 as well as recently at His Majesty King Charles III's coronation) to a jazzy number, Free and Easy, from the band's trombone section, finishing with a pop number, which Captain Griffiths dedicated to our previous Director of Music, Captain Peter Hudson who fully retires from the regiment after nearly 50 years' service in June. Following the concert, the band then completed a week's musical training at RAF Henlow as part of our annual deployment exercise.

If you enjoyed the Spring Concert, you may want to put the Christmas Carol Service in your Diary now? We will be playing at St Mary's Church in Bury St Edmunds on 9th December 2023. Details to follow in Regimental Media.



The London Gazette

The following entries relevant to the Regiment were listed in The London Gazette dated 06 April 2023:

The following entry relevant to the Regiment was listed in The London Gazette dated 28 Apr 2021 -

Lieutenant Colonel R J Bredin MBE 563506 retires 27 November 2022

The following entries relevant to the Regiment were listed in The London Gazette dated 26 May 2023 –

Officer Cadet Henry James Wynne Astill 30392494 from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 15 April 2023

Officer Cadet Daniel Brian Bradnam 30133061 from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be Second Lieutenant 15 April 2023

Regimental Bulletins Register

Regt Bulletins Issued Since The April 2023 Issue of RAN:

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-028 - Royal Norfolk Regiment Fund Raising Event at Norwich Castle

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-029 - Royal Anglian News - April 2023 Issue

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-030 - Job Vacancy - Yeoman Warder at Tower of London

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-031 - Job Vacancy - Comd of Training Estate East (STANTA)

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-032 - Death Notice - Lt Col Graham Barnett, 3rd Battalion, 20 May 2023

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-033 - Death Notice - Michael Frederick Smith - 2nd & 3rd Battalions.

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-034 - Job Vacancy - Area Regt Secretary - RHQ RANGLIAN

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-035 - Job Vacancy - Flexible Live-In Employment, Roydon, Norfolk

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-036 - Notice - Northern Ireland Veterans Annual Service of Remembrance

Regimental Bulletin Number 23-037 - Notice - Cenotaph Veterans Parade - Sunday, 12 Nov 2023



Regt Diary Dates

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

June

- 10 Viking's Veterans Ball - Bury St Edmunds
- 17 Poacher's Veterans Ball - Northampton
- 21 Reserves Day
- 24 UK Armed Forces Day
- 25 Hindoostan Day - 17th Foot

July

- 14 Regimental Representative's Event - Bedford School
- 16 Cambridgeshire Assoc Reunion - Ely
- 22 Salamanca Day - 44th Foot
- 22 CCS 232 - RMA Sandhurst
- 25 RSB 231 - RMA Sandhurst
- 27 Talavera Day - 48th Foot
- 27 Korean War 70th Anniversary Commemorations
- 29 Regt Association, Northamptonshire Branch - Talavera Day Commemorations
- 30 Suffolk Assoc - Minden Day - Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds

August

- 1 Minden Day - 12th Foot

- 11 Sovereign's Parade CC223 - RMA Sandhurst
- 13 Regt Association Bedfordshire Branch - Blenheim Day Commemorations - Kempstone
- 13 Blenheim Day - 16th Foot

September

- 2 Regimental Rugby - Rochford Rugby Club
- 3 Regimental Day - IWM, Duxford
- 9 Northern Ireland Veterans Service of Remembrance - National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas
- 19 Regt Benevolence Steering Committee Meeting - Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore
- 20 Regt Heritage Steering Committee Meeting - RHQ, Bury St Edmunds
- 21 Regt Museum Trustees Meeting - IWM, Duxford
- 24 Royal Norfolk Regiment Service - Norwich Cathedral

November

- 3 Regt Council Meeting
- 12 Regt Service of Remembrance - IWM, Duxford

December

- 9 Regt Christmas Carol Service - St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds

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Our Affiliated Cadets

CADET CAMBRIAN PATROL - OUNDLE SCHOOL CCF WIN SILVER!

Exercise Cadet Cambrian Patrol is an annual event, hosted by 160th (Welsh) Brigade. This is the premier national cadet competition where teams of 8 cadets from Army Cadet Force (ACF) and Combined Cadet Force (Army) Units and Contingents can bid for one of the twenty places on the exercise. The Exercise took place on the Sennybridge Training Area to the north west of the Brecon Beacons. The aim of the exercise is to provide cadets with the opportunity to participate in an unsupervised patrol where they are tested on the Army Cadet syllabus, with a specific emphasis on teamwork, leadership, self-reliance, navigation and field craft skills in a tactical scenario.

The Exercise is described as a physically and mentally challenging event. Completion of the patrol is rightly regarded as a significant achievement. To participate in the exercise it was necessary to obtain endorsement of our participation from our parent Brigade, which was then forwarded to the Exercise organisers.



Our training and preparation was further enhanced by a visit on 17 May 23 to our affiliated regiment, 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, at Kendrew Barracks, Rutland.

Directing Staff of 160th Brigade provided an Orders Group meeting to the Patrol Commander late in the evening of Friday 19 May 23. That night, the cadets slept in barn before an earlier reveille at 0430 on the morning of Sat 20 May 23. Their first assessed exercise commenced at 0630. They then patrolled through a sequence of locations at which they were assessed on a diverse range of military skills, including battlefield first aid, observation skills, navigation and low level infantry tactics. The total distance covered during the next 13 hours was in the region of 25 to 30 km across rough, hilly terrain. The cadets were carrying a rifle, ammunition and a day sack of mass approximately 10kg. They also had bergens which they collected later in the day at 1900. At this point, and carrying all of their kit, the cadets moved a further 2 km to their harbour location for overnight.



Late on the Saturday evening, the Patrol Commander delivered a set of orders for the following days patrol. The delivery of the orders was assessed and scored on a matrix, as were all of the other military skills that had been tested at the various previous stages of the patrol. The final element of the exercise on Sunday morning was an extended tactical scenario which involved blank-firing on enemy positions and the use of pyrotechnics, in the form of smoke-grades. The very last phase was to carry a simulated casualty of a stretcher away from the location. Inevitably, this involved climbing a long hill.

Completion of the patrol is regarded as a significant achievement and earns a certificate. Further enhanced performance awards Bronze, Silver and Gold medals depending on the standard achieved. All 8 members of the Oundle team completed the patrol and Oundle School was awarded Silver Medal for scoring between 65% to 74% of the total possible marks. Irrespective of the score obtained, there is no doubt whatsoever that this was a highly credible performance from all members of the team in our first entry into this event.

Our Regimental Association



The Colchester Branch Goes On From Strength to Strength



Our Autumn Lunch is now firmly fixed in our Branch Calendar

The Colchester Branch 2022 season kicked off with the New Year Dinner at the Colchester Garrison Officers Club - as always an enjoyable occasion. Close on its heels was the Regimental Big Breakfast on 26th February at The Playhouse (Wetherspoons) in the town. Around 100 Royal Anglians turned up, including many non-members of the Branch, so some (successful) recruiting was in order. A very good event with much important chat, topped off with a full English (and of course a beer or two); we reinforced that success with an equally well attended Big Breakfast this year.

Next was our 21st AGM in April; it was very good to have a 'live' event after the virtual meetings in 2020 and 2021. New and rejoined members were formally welcomed : Chris Avieson, Tim Beighton, Tony Calder, Bob Fidler, Brian Goodman, Dave Marsh, Paul Swainson, Graham Templeton, Brian Tunstill and Jack Whitten. Financially we were sound - good enough to subsidise all functions by significant amounts, and in good shape to do the same in the coming year. The pattern of Branch events is pretty much settled now, with the Autumn Lunch now a permanent feature on the Branch calendar.

Remembrance Day was observed as always, with a strong attendance on parade at the Colchester Civic Service. This year got off to a strong start with the New Year Dinner, and then full circle to the AGM held in April. The Branch has increased membership over the year and continues to flourish. If you live in the Colchester area why not come along and catch up with old mates and make new friends?

Finally, congratulations to our Chairman, Chris Wright, with the award of two clasps to his LS&GC - recognition for a long and very successful career.



The Colchester Branch on Parade for Remembrance Sunday



Birthday Wishes For a Century Well Made!

This month veteran Mr Ernest Tindall celebrated his 100th Birthday. Ernest was a member of the 5th Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment, now the Royal Anglian Regiment. Ernest joined the Army in 1941 at the age of 18, and after training was posted to the Mediterranean theatre.

In May 1944 Ernest was involved in the Battle of Monte Cassino and the following push north in the battle for Italy. In December 1944 Ernest was injured in a grenade explosion and was taken prisoner of war. He spent the remainder the war in a POW camp in Austria. Ernest was 1 of 10 children, 8 of whom enlisted and subsequently survived the war.

The Regiment sends its warmest birthday wishes to Ernest, and wishes him well in the future.



Our Regimental Heritage

New Great War Memorial Inaugurated - King's Road, St Albans



Kings Road, St Albans, Saturday 13th May - A group of local residents and historians unveiled a fitting Memorial to 15 local men who gave their lives during the Great War. They all lived in King's Road, a small, charming street located in the shadow of St Albans Cathedral. The local enthusiasts also compiled and published a book telling each soldier's story and giving some historical context from local history.

Karole Lange led the project to commission a contemporary memorial which was erected on the wall of No 1 King's Road, so that the men's sacrifice is remembered by all who pass by. The Regiment made a contribution to costs and supported the project through the Area 2 Office at Cottesmore.



Brian Hanwell carried the Association Standard for the Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch of the Regt Association. Bill Webb and Bill O'Conner also paraded with the Hertfordshire Regimental Association Standard. Major Rhys Little, former Officer Commanding No 3 Company, 3 R ANGLIAN, conducted the short parade and represented the Regiment.

REGIMENTAL BATTLEFIELD STUDY 15-19 MAY 2023

The Regimental Charabanc rumbled out of Kendrew Barracks at 0430hrs on Monday 15th May stopping to pick up a few old souls at Bury St Edmunds before making its way to Harwich where we boarded the ferry to arrive at the Hook of Holland at teatime. Staying in a very comfortable hotel in Venray NL the party spent the next 3 days studying the events of 1944/45.

On Day 1 we looked in detail at Operation Market Garden starting at the main Landing Zone Ginkelse Heide, where Mike Beard set the scene. Travelling on into Oosterbeek we retraced the route of 1st Airborne Division before spending time at the Hartenstein Airborne Museum, formerly General Roy Urquhart's Headquarters. The day concluded at Oosterbeek Church where Peter Black described in detail the extraction of 2,000 Paras across the Rhine following Major Lonsdale's (R.Leics) speech from the pulpit. That night back in the hotel a film, 'Theirs is the Glory', was shown in B&W depicting the whole story with some of the original combatants acting out their roles.

Days 2 and 3 were spent retracing the steps of our former Regiments, in particular 1 Suffolk, 2 Lincolns and 1 Royal Norfolk's battle for Venray, the picturesque Guysteren Castle, winter on the Maas and a visit to the fascinating Dutch National Museum at Oorlogs, Overloon.

Our last day took us over the border and into Germany to see the Reichswald where again Mike Beard explained the air campaign, and the vital contribution of RAF Bomber Command. Roger Brunt told the story of the Dam Busters, some of whom are buried in the CWGC in which we stood. Then on to 1 R Norfolk's battle for Kervenheim, where we recreated a photograph first taken in March 1945! Finally, we walked the route of 2 Lincolns' break in battle as they took the town of Winnekendonk paving the way for the exploitation deep into Germany by XXX Corps. In conclusion, a brief Service of Commemoration was held in Overloon CWG Cemetery where many of our forebears are buried, a Regimental Wreath was laid by a serving soldier from Suffolk.



The final dinner was a fitting way to extend our thanks to Tony Slater who has led the Regimental Battlefield Tours for over a decade. His wonderful style and delivery of the stories about our forebear regiments has given many an insight into the history of our unique Regiment, and many young soldiers in particular now understand our heritage so much more clearly.

Royal Norfolks Remembered at Le Paradis

On 27th May 2023, a small group from Classic Battlefield Tours visited the Le Paradis site on the 83rd anniversary of the massacre of soldiers from the Royal Norfolk Regt at the hands of the SS. The atmosphere was duly sombre on what was a bright and sunny May afternoon.



We were fortunate that Dan Hill our Tour Guide was able to get us full access to both memorials by kind permission of the landowner and we laid a wreath alongside the floral tribute left by the local mayor earlier in the day.

It was a privilege to be there on such a significant day and rest assured that those who fell that tragic day are still remembered on both sides of the Channel.



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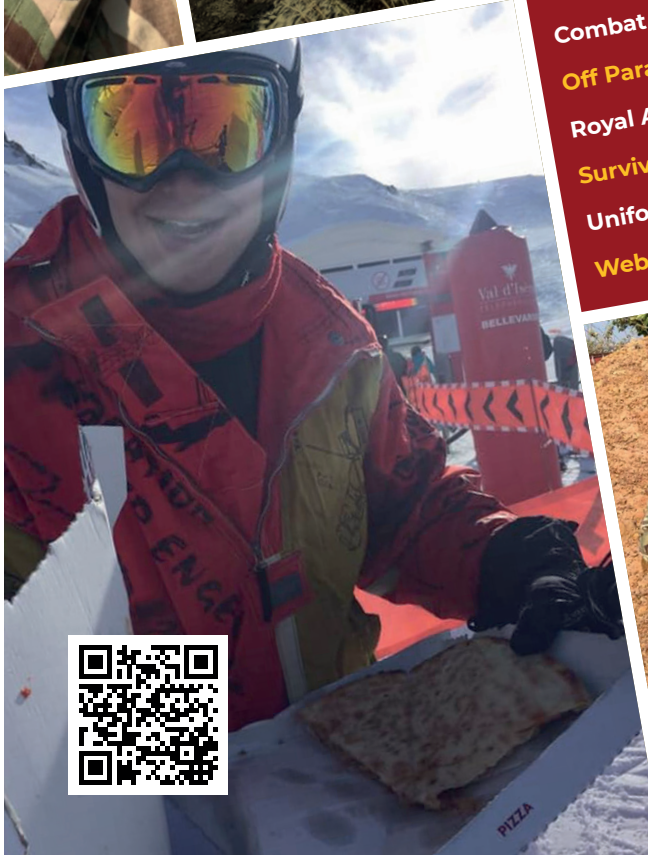
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