

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHILLIP CHARLES MOXEY MBE (R91-95)

He was awarded the MBE on 31 December 2015 for his Army service and provided the following update in July 2016 :

*I finished 2 pretty challenging but rewarding years in Army HQs last summer and returned to my battalion, 1 Royal Anglian, as the Second-in-Command. I was working in the Org Branch of Army HQs focussed on the implementation of the reforming agenda and re-setting the Army in light of the end of campaigning in Afghanistan and the tight fiscal picture. This was a thankless task and one that didn't naturally make you friends. Clearly, my bosses felt I did something right as I was extremely humbled and surprised to be awarded an MBE for my efforts in the New Year's Honours List. I attach a photo of the investiture, a really proud and memorable day, made even more special as I managed to sneak the kids in, dressed in shorts and t-shirts, thank goodness the Queen didn't wander by.*



*As I said I am now back at Regimental Duty in an exceptionally busy and operationally committed light role infantry unit. We have provided sub-units to rolling commitments to the Falkland Islands, to operations in Mali and Afghanistan and more recently to training teams to Ghana and Nigeria. The shape and focus of the modern Army is increasingly on Defence Engagement - increasing our links and influence overseas with key partners to increase their capability and build relationships that will be useful the future in this ever more uncertain world. It offers great opportunities to young commanders and soldiers but a scheduling and resourcing challenge to those of us trying to stitch it all together. But I think it's delivering real benefits.*

*Finally, and most excitingly, I was selected for promotion to Lt Col in Feb 2016 and also to attend Staff College in Australia. We all move to Canberra as a family in December 2016 for what will be a wonderful family adventure, we can't wait. Thereafter I have been selected to command the battalion so will return to Woolwich in 2018 and shift my office contents up the corridor. Again, a huge privilege and an opportunity I am incredibly grateful to have been given. All in all it's been quite a year and I look to the future with excitement but not a small degree of trepidation for the challenges ahead.*

On 8 August 2018 he was Commanding Officer of the United Kingdom Guard of Honour provided by the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment, at the centenary service in Amiens Cathedral to mark the Battle of Amiens. At this time he provided the following update :

*By way of an update - we spent a truly wonderful year in Australia last year as I was a student at their Command and Staff College. It was hard work but also offered such brilliant opportunities to see the other side of the world. I have attached a photo from graduation - I was awarded the Principal's Prize for top academic performance on the course. I have returned to the UK so much the richer, in terms of knowledge, widened perspective and new friends.*



*We returned to Woolwich in SE London in December as I have taken command of The First Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, known as The Vikings. The battalion has been my 'home' since I commissioned in 2000 and it is deeply humbling and a huge privilege to be chief Viking for a few years. We have been as busy as expected in my first few months, focussed mainly on overseas defence engagement work in Nigeria and UK homeland security*

commitments but our focus has now firmly switched to Afghanistan. The battalion deploys there for a 6-month tour in a few weeks, for our 6th tour to the country in a decade. This time as part of the uplift of UK forces to provide security and advisor protection in Kabul.

I also attach photos of our recent involvement in the WW1 Amiens Centenary Service. As a unit whose forefathers sacrificed so much in the final offensives of WW1 in 1918 we formed the Guard of Honour for the recent high-profile service. Drill has never been 'our thing' but I'm pleased to report we were all smart as buttons on the day and the only mistakes came from me!



On 1 August 2019, as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment ("The Vikings"), he was present when 280 troops were honoured with operational medals for their part in the Army's latest missions in Afghanistan and South Sudan. The medals were presented by the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, Prince Richard.

The medal parade was organised to fall on the day the regiment gathered to mark the 260th anniversary of the Battle of Minden, when the six regiments defeated the French cavalry. In honour of their forefathers, the modern-day Vikings wear red and yellow roses in their headdress every year on the 1st August.

Lieutenant Colonel Philip Moxey MBE, said: "The Battle of Minden isn't just some historic curiosity, rather it is remembered and celebrated by the battalion as the epitome of courageous, stoic and steadfast sacrifice by regular soldiers drawn from the same counties as we are today."

