5. Boer War Memorial – Cornhill

6. St Edmunds Place Memorial

9. Bevan Window, St Edmundsbury Cathedral

10. War Grave Borough Cemetery

Discover the Suffolk Regiment in Bury St Edmunds

Other Suffolk Regiment Connections

Many churches and chapels have war memorials though most only list men's names. The churches below have memorials which include Suffolk Regiment men:
St Peter's
St Edmund RC
St John's
Methodist Chapel
Baptist Chapel

For opening times contact www.stedmundsburychurches.com

Greene King Visitor Centre
The visitor centre contains the Great War Greene King war memorial which includes the names and battalions of Suffolk Regiment men.

Open Monday – Saturday
10am – 5pm
Sunday 10am – 3.30pm
Entry is free
www.greeneking.co.uk
01284 714297

Ickworth House
Horringer, Bury St Edmunds
One of the most unusual houses in East Anglia, Ickworth House was completed in the1820s by the 1st Marquess of Bristol. The 3rd Marquess was the Honorary Colonel of the 3rd (Militia) Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment from 1865 to 1907 and there is a portrait of him in the house today.

Produced by Suffolk Regiment Museum and St Edmundsbury Borough Council
July 2009

St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Suffolk Regiment was formed in 1685 when the Duke of Norfolk raised a regiment for James II to meet the threat of the Monmouth Rebellion. The regiment was known in its early years by the names of the various colonels who commanded it; in 1751 it was designated the XIIth Foot, confirming its position as one of the oldest regiments in the Army.

The regiment fought in the Battle of the Boyne and in the next forty-five years saw service in Flanders, the West Indies and the Balearic Islands. In the middle of the century it fought against the French, earning its first Battle Honours at Dettingen in 1743 and Minden in 1759.

In 1769 the regiment went to Gibraltar, where it spent the next fourteen years, enduring a four-year siege by the Spaniards. In 1781 it was designated The East Suffolk Regiment. In 1796 it paid its first visit to India and in 1810 helped capture Mauritius. In 1842 a Reserve Battalion was formed; it was a draft of men for this battalion which was on the troopship Birkenhead when it was wrecked off South Africa in 1852.

From 1854 to 1866 the regiment was based in Australia and New Zealand. The 2nd Battalion sailed for India in 1864 and from then until 1907 one or other battalion was usually serving there.

Until 1878 the regiment, despite its name, was hardly ever based in Suffolk. However in 1872 regimental districts were created to encourage local recruitment, and in 1878 the Depot (later named Gibraltar Barracks) on Newmarket Road was built as an administrative and training centre. This marked the start of a the close relationship between the regiment and the town of Bury St Edmunds which was symbolised by the granting of the Freedom of the Borough in 1944. To make the local connection even stronger the regiment finally acquired the title Suffolk Regiment in 1881.

In the 1914-1918 War battalions of the regiments served on the Western Front, Gallipoli, Salonika and in the Middle East; 360 officers and 6,513 other ranks lost their lives.

In 1939-1945 the regiment fought at Dunkirk and on D-Day, in Burma, North Africa and Italy; the Territorial battalions were captured in Singapore in 1942 and spent the rest of the war as POWs. The cost in lives this time was 87 officers and 1,508 other ranks.

After the war, the regiment served in Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Malaya, where it was highly successful in jungle warfare against Communist infiltration, Trieste, Germany and Cyprus.

In the late 1950s most of the buildings at Gibraltar Barracks were demolished and the land sold; in August 1959 the Suffolk Regiment itself ceased to exist when it was amalgamated with the 1st Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment to form the 1st East Anglian Regiment.

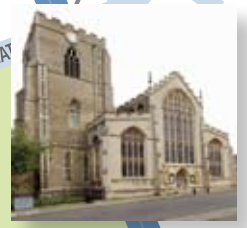
Even though the Regiment no longer exists its traditions live proudly on today in the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Detail from Ernest Smythe's painting 'Crossing the Cavery', showing the 12th Regiment's attack on Tippoo Sultan's fort at Seringapatam in 1799.

Bury St Edmunds

1. The Suffolk Regiment Museum

3. Moyse's Hall Museum



2. St Mary's Church

4. Record Office

Victoria Crosses

Both of the Suffolk Regiment's Victoria Crosses – 'for most conspicuous bravery' - were won during the Great War. The first was earned in September 1916 at Loos by Sergeant A F Saunders of the 9th Battalion; the second was won by Corporal S J Day of the 11th Battalion during the battle of Hargicourt. in August 1917.

Battle of Minden

On 1 August 1759 six British Infantry regiments, including the 12th, routed the French cavalry at the Battle of Minden After the battle the soldiers of the 12th picked red and yellow roses and put them in their berets. Since then, soldiers of the Suffolk Regiment,and their successors in the Royal Anglian Regiment, have worn roses in their caps on the anniversary of the battle.

Battles remembered

Many streets in Bury St Edmunds have been named after battles in which the Regiment took part: these include Arras Road, Boyne Road, Dettingen Way, Gilbraltar Close, Minden Close and Minden Drive.

Wreck of the Birkenhead 1852

On its way to the Kaffir Wars in South Africa this troopship carrying soldiers (including 71 from the Reserve Battalion of the 12th Regiment) and their families struck rocks near the Cape of Good Hope. Although lifeboats were released there were not enough to go round. It was this that led to the order 'Women and Children first', the first time such an order was issued. Most of the troops died while they stood to attention. Artefacts from the wreck can be seen in the regimental museum and at Moyses Hall; there is a memorial in St Mary's Church to the 55 Suffolk Regiment soldiers who lost their lives.

1. The Suffolk Regiment Museum

The Keep houses the Regimental Headquarters of the Royal Anglian Regiment, the local Army recruiting office and the Suffolk Regiment Museum. The Museum was opened in 1935 and owed its existence to the enthusiasm of Lieut-Col H B Monier-Williams. The displays tell the story of the regiment from its foundation in 1685 to amalgamation with the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1959. The history covers the regular, militia, volunteer and war-time battalions as well as the experience of individual soldiers and is told through medals, uniforms, photographs, weapons, equipment and personal memorabilia.

Open 1st and 3rd Wednesday and 1st Sunday of every month (other times by arrangement)
9.30am – 3.30pm
Free entry; free parking
01284 752394

2. St Mary's Church The Regimental Chapel

The Regimental Chapel Built in 1463, as part of an extension to the East end of St Mary's, the Chapel was originally called The Jesus Chapel, and was for centuries used as a storeroom. Refurbished in 1935, it was dedicated to the Suffolk Regiment on the 250th anniversary of the founding of the regiment.

Windows, kneelers, chairs and memorials celebrate individuals who served in the Regiment. The chief battle honours are on scrolls superimposed on the red and yellow Minden roses on the ceiling of the chapel. A number of old Regimental Colours hang in the chapel or are in glazed wooden frames. Others are in the St Wolstan's Chapel, above the cenotaph dedicated to the members of the regiment killed in the 2 World Wars, with its accompanying book of remembrance.

Elsewhere in the Church are memorials to men who lost their lives in other wars, from Afghanistan (1878-1880) to Malaya (1949-1953), and who died of illness in India and Egypt.

Open daily 9am – 4pm
(10am – 3pm Winter)
01284 754680
www.stmarystpeter.net

3. Moyse's Hall Museum, Suffolk Regiment Gallery

The Suffolk Regiment Gallery in Moyse's Hall Museum presents an overview of the 275 years of the Regiment's history. Highlights include the original Colour of Colonel Scipio Duroure presented in 1745, and the Keys to Gibraltar, presented to the Regiment to commemorate the part it played during the Great Siege from 1779 to 1783. A series of figures represent the Suffolk soldier through the ages.

Open daily 10am – 5pm
(last entry 4pm)
Closed Bank Holidays
01284 706183
www.moyseshall.org

4. Record Office

Bury St Edmunds Record Office holds the Suffolk Regiment Collection. The archives and photographs illustrate the history of the Regiment from 1685 to its amalgamation with the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1959. If you want to research ancestors who served in the regiment the experienced and knowledgeable staff will help you get underway.

Open Monday – Saturday
9.00am – 5.00pm

Other Suffolk Regiment Memorials

5. Boer War Memorial – Cornhill

The memorial to the 155 Suffolk Regiment men who lost their lives in the Boer War (1899-1902); also lists the names of West Suffolk men from other units. It was erected in 1904, restored and rededicated in 2002.

6. St Edmunds Place

A rare survival of a street war memorial. Originally erected in 1920; restored in 1992 and again in 2008. Most of the men on it were in the Suffolk Regiment.

7. St John's Church Memorial Window

Memorial window to Lt Col A J Watson, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, killed in 1900 in South Africa while leading his men in an attack on a Boer stronghold.

8. Suffolk Regiment Homes

A pair of houses across the road from the Keep; opened in 1904 as a practical Boer War memorial for ex-servicemen.

9. St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Memorial window to Capt Beckford Bevan, killed in the Battle of the Somme.

10. Borough Cemetery

The Cemetery contains Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstones to 26 Suffolk Regiment soldiers who lost their lives in the two World Wars.