



02/08

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

FEB 08

AWARDS AND HONOURS

1. The Regiment is tremendously proud of the testing work that the 1st Battalion carried out in Afghanistan whilst on Operation HERRICK 6 last year. We are pleased that this bravery and dedication has been recognized on the Operational Awards and Honours List published today, and are able to announce that the following awards that have been given to 1 R ANGLIAN personnel:

DSO

Lt Col SW Carver

MC

Maj MP Aston
Maj DSJ Biddick
Capt DC Hicks
Cpl RW Moore
L/Cpl LD Ashley
L/Cpl OS Ruecker

QGM

Pte LC Nadriva

MiD

Major P Messenger
WO2 K Main
WO2 TR Newton
Sgt SE Armon
Sgt SI Panter

QCVS

Capt PN Blanchfield

In addition to the above awards, the Joint Commander Afghanistan awarded 15 commendations and Commander British Forces awarded 47 commendations, including 3 to members of 3 R ANGLIAN, who served with the 1st Battalion on the tour. Our congratulations go to all whose actions have been recognized on this list.

HEMCOMING / FREEDOM PARADES

2. A (Norfolk) Coy 1st Battalion are representing the Regiment in Kings Lynn on Sunday 30 March 2008 with a parade, hosted by the Mayor of the Borough of Kings Lynn. The Company will form up in the Tuesday Market Place at 1200, and following a short parade, will exercise the Freedom of Kings Lynn by marching the length of the High Street to the Saturday Market Place. Following this, there will be a reception for the soldiers in the Corn Exchange. The Regiment's senior representative will be Brig DJ Clements MBE.

The Regimental Officer responsible for this event is the Area Secretary Norfolk and Suffolk, Col Tony Taylor, to whom any queries should be addressed (tel: 01603 400290 email: ahqroyalanglian@btconnect.com).

APPOINTMENTS

3. The following appointments have been announced:

- Lt Col SW Carver from CO 1 R ANGLIAN to SO1 Survivability (DS7) ICSC (L) Defence Academy WEF Aug 08.
- Maj (for Lt Col 08) ACD Marinos from HS Course ACSC 11 to SO1 J5 Training Plans & Policy NATO Training Mission Iraq WEF Aug 08.
- Maj (for Lt Col 08) HR Bell PWRR from 2IC 1 R ANGLIAN to SO1 J5 Strategic Policy and Manning SHAPE Staff WEF Apr 08.
- Maj (for LE Lt Col 08) SJ Nye from OC Queen Coy, ITC to SO1 Internal Audit MS Assurance APC Glasgow WEF Mar 08.

BATTALION ACTIVITIES

4. 1st Battalion

The Battalion Public Order training has continued to dominate training. After the 'Train the Trainer' cadres from OPTAG and 38 Bde, the companies had a week to pass on their knowledge and ensure that every soldier was up to a good standard in preparation for the OPTAG continuation exercise at Lydd. This was done with a lot of rehearsals at platoon level, both on the square and using roads within camp to practice their shield drills, as well as manoeuvring as a formed body. At Lydd, every man went through the petrol bomb inoculation and a few dry runs before facing the CIVPOP of HQ Company. This was followed by a week of leave, which for the first time for a while coincided with Surrey schools' half term.

On return from leave, A and B Companies went out on the first week of the Battalion Ski Camp in Serre Chevalier, France. As ever, it was well attended and all ranks across all ranges of skiing abilities thoroughly enjoyed a well organised week. The second week is now in full flow for C, D and HQ Companies, and it seems just as successful. At the same time several of the Battalion Officers visited Monte Cassino as part of the Bde Study Week and took time out from their studies to lay a wreath at the memorial for 1/4th Essex Battalion at Castle Hill.

The conversion to 'Bulldog' continues, with the LAD receiving more vehicles to bring up to standard and the MT Platoon conducted the first Bulldog driver cadre. Once all the qualified DMIs have returned from their courses the commander and drivers cadres will continue at pace to ensure that there are enough drivers and commanders to begin field training in April on Salisbury Plain.

A (Norfolk) Company

This month the Company has predominantly focused on public order training in preparation for our Northern Ireland commitments. The platoons spent the best part of a week manoeuvring on the parade square in phalanx formations that the Greeks would have been proud of and a brief spell of inter-platoon public (dis)order through Brunswick Camp helped to focus the minds. In Lydd, after the OC had led the way in the petrol bomb inoculation, leaving his combats more than a little crispy, the Company took on the CIVPOP of HQ Company. After negotiations surprisingly failed, we could see HQ Company would put up a

fight. Judicious use of the baton on unprotected legs followed leaving the CIVPOP with more than a few discouraging bruises – a thoroughly rewarding experience all round!

Currently, with public order training temporarily on hold, the Company has split to the four winds on courses and adventurous training. The coming weeks should prove to be a relatively calm period and we look forward to exercising the Freedom of Kings Lynn on the 30th March.

B (Suffolk) Company

The company crashed back into work, following a well earned and lengthy leave period. Beginning with the OPTAG briefing day in Sandhurst's Churchill Hall, where the rules of engagement were explained in triplicate, the training worked towards our final exercise in Lydd. For more than 2 weeks, the air around Queen Elizabeth Barracks reverberated with the clash of shields and the thump of batons; horns sounded and vehicles manoeuvred in tight formation with shield walls; spotlights cut through the night, throwing shadows far into the darkness. The confirmation exercise, when it arrived, was slightly less violent than our own in-camp training – not to mention the force on force practice, conducted by the company in Lydd, resulting in a number of broken shields and less than happy vehicles! Our confirmation exercise was a success though, with a slightly battered HQ Company (CIVPOP) giving testament to that. Special mention goes to three Potential Officers, who found themselves thrust into the shield wall with minimum preparation.

Following on from public order, B Company is catching up on its basic training in the form of MATTs, despite a slight backlog due to HERRICK 6. It has 8 men attending a rigorous JNCO cadre, in Brecon and several savouring the slopes of Serre Chevalier with the Battalion's Ski Camp.

C (Essex) Company

The main focus this month has been public order training, beginning with the distribution of the new protective equipment. Some eyebrows were raised, particularly by the older members of the Company who had last seen the old Robocop kit in 2005 in preparation for Op TELIC; the new version including a cross between a cricket box and a sumo wrestling strap.

Low level in-camp training followed with the platoons pitted against each other. It was a day or two before it became apparent that the reason the CIVPOP always did so well was because they were still wearing their kit under their smocks so the mock batons had little effect. This was soon rectified and some good training was to be had before the deployment to Lydd for the Company level Test Exercise run by OPTAG. Pte Patmore of CIS Platoon bit off more than he could chew when he attempted to ambush the OC, Major Phil Messenger, thinking he had a few rioters nearby to help him out. When he sprung his attack he realised he was alone and the OC gave him a good hiding before despatching him back to the CSM to be arrested.

The Company were stood down after the exercise for a well deserved week of leave and are currently back at work practising drill, building up to the Freedom Parades in Thurrock (Thursday 28 Feb) and Brentwood (Saturday 1 March).

D (Cambridgeshire) Company

After a long and well earned stretch of leave, D Company have been providing support to the rifle companies' public order training for Ex CELTIC AVENGER. This will be crucial if the rifle companies get deployed to Northern Ireland for the parade season in June and July.

Public Order training was, as ever, good fun and D Company's experienced gladiators had no qualms getting stuck in, which was appreciated by the rifle companies who they were aiding. Those members of the Company who were not involved in public order training have been keeping themselves busy with physical training and revising basic soldiering skills.

While many of the members of D Coy are involved in Public Order the Recce PI are running a driving and gunnery cadre which will be followed by a range period later in the year. Sniper Platoon, Anti tanks and Mortar PI are also all involved in training up their new members on a whole array of courses so that they are able to slot in to their new jobs ready for later this year.

Headquarter Company

The pace of life in the Company continues unabated, with the Bulldog conversion now up and running under the close scrutiny of the MTO Capt Bob Wicks, who has to divide his time between Pirbright and Mons Barracks in Aldershot. In close support to the Bulldog Cadres is our LAD who have had to divide their resources and efforts to cover both locations, this has been carefully managed by Capt Dan Fallowfield and AQMS Southall who have both settled in for the long haul.

The middle of February saw around 60 members of the Company that could be spared from essential duties deploy to Lydd to act as CIVPOP for the rifle companies in Rype Village. This involved a total of 9 riots for HQ Coy to vent their spleen on the exercising troops, resulting in numerous bruises and war stories within the Company. The OC, Maj Hall, playing the ring leader Paddy O'Sullivan, was seen getting a beating from the delighted soldiers in the rifle companies on more than one occasion: you would think he would know better at his age!

5. 2nd Battalion

February has seen the Battalion in the full swing of its final preparations for Iraq. At the time of writing, the green vehicles are pulling out of camp and heading down to Sennelager. This is where the majority of the Battalion will be based and training for the next two weeks conducting Battalion HQ training, ranges and culminating in company level final exercise. This will then roll into well deserved Easter leave for the Battalion starting on the 15th May.

This month has really been a blur of theatre specific courses, OPTAG training, in camp cascade training, kit issue, unit equipment inspections and it goes on and on. This is all the standard hectic preparation for any tour but has been made more interesting by the publicised political decisions on OP TELIC as a whole.

The Companies and soldiers have however thrown themselves into the training. Although they have had to do it all in relatively splendid isolation at times due to the nature of

training, they have 'ticked' all the right boxes. A, B and C company are nearly ready to go and apart from the admin side to be conducted after leave, are just waiting to see what the OPTAG test exercises will throw at them.

D (FSp) Coy are enjoying their element of detachment from the BG and training for the Brigade Surveillance Company (BSC) continues apace. From the look on the soldier's faces; as they conducted 3 x 2 mile circuits around carrying various 'traditional' PT burdens, they seemed to be up to the challenge.

The Battalion has as expected had a relatively quiet period on the sporting front particularly as the whole Brigade is busy. We are however managing to squeeze in a few opportunities, particularly for football fixtures after leave.

The soldiers as a whole are in good spirits and anticipating their leave in a few weeks time. When we return from leave it is only the Brigade final exercise that separates us from deployment onto TELIC 12 and the slightly 'warm' Iraqi summer.

6. 3rd Battalion

February has been a busy and diverse month for the Battalion, with the New Year now long forgotten.

The month began with the Battalion deploying to Feldom Ranges in order to conduct a weekend of field firing. The weather was fantastic for this time of the year and some good shooting was to be had. On the Saturday, both the Mortar and SF Platoons conducted a series of shoots, some of which were observed by rifle platoon members. However, the rifle platoons were busy themselves conducting; Zeroing, Fire Team Attack, Dismounted Close Combat Trainer and day and night Section Defence Range. In addition, 26 personnel passed their APWT. On Sunday, the Battalion became the first unit to use the Permanent Defence Position as a live range. This range was a huge success and many other units have already shown an interest in using it, congratulations to WO2 Coupe, who planned and conducted the range.

Whilst the majority of the Battalion were at Feldom, the 25 men (soon to be 28) who have been mobilised to serve with 2 R ANGLIAN completed their RTMC training and deployed to Celle. On arrival they went straight into the Poachers initial OPTAG briefings and are now settled into their respective companies, in order to start cascade training. The Commanding Officer, Adjutant and RSM 3 R ANGLIAN are due to visit them when they are on final test exercise in Sennelager in early March.

On the 5 February, Commander Regional Forces (CRF), Lt General Nick Parker, visited the Battalion and especially B Company in Lincoln. This proved to be a successful visit for CRF, who after a short Battalion brief had a curry with the Officers and SNCOs. Following this he visited both the Javelin Platoon and Recruits conducting training. During the visit, CRF learned much about being in the modern TA Infantry and he has taken many of the points back to HQ LAND. B Company also held their annual Sobraon Dinner Night on 16 February, which was an all ranks affair with over 100 participants. The two highlights of the night were undoubtedly the hog roast and the casino.

The second section of tactical training for the month was a company defensive final test exercise. The majority of the companies decided to join forces and deploy back to Feldom

under the stewardship of C Company. This exercise also included East Midlands University Officer Training Corps, who's CO, Lt Col Frank De Planta, is now moving on to a staff job in 5 Division. HQ Company however deployed to Barnham, in order to exercise Main HQ and Echelon, prior to the Battalion final test exercise in March. Once again the weather was kind and some good low level lessons were learnt.

On 25 February, E Company hosted a SaBRE (Supporting British Reserves and Employers) dinner in Chelmsford. This was well supported by the military, with the Brigade Commander heading up a team that included the CO and officers from E Company and by the employers with many being brought along by those who had recently deployed. After dinner, Cpl Galyer, who was wounded whilst serving with the Vikings in Helmand, gave a presentation on the casevac chain and his experience of recovery from being shot.

As the month draws to an end, it is the time of year for the CO's annual Inspection of the companies. A Company is leading the way with their inspection on the 27th. There follows a steady stream of visits every week thereafter, with the inspections being completed just before Brigade HQ inspects the Battalion in early April.

There are a number of events in March that the Battalion is looking forward too, the main one being the Ex STEELBACK DEFENDER II, a Battle Group final test exercise based in Imber village, Wiltshire on 14 – 16 March, but also the completion of our BOWMAN conversion and the Brigade Skill at Arms Meeting.