



05/09

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

MAY 09

### **HONOURS AND AWARDS**

1. The Regiment is proud to note and to congratulate the following for their recent awards, published in the 2009 Queen's Birthday Honours List:

#### **MBE**

Capt IJ Robinson, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

#### **MSM**

WO1(RSM) Granfield, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion

WO1(RSM) Newton, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

#### **C-in-C's Certificate for Meritorious Service**

Cpl Ling, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

### **PROMOTIONS**

2. The Regiment is delighted to note and congratulate Lt Col DP O'Driscoll for his selection for promotion to the substantive rank of Col.

### **COMMISSIONS**

3. The Regiment congratulates Capt AJ Bartlett on being awarded an Intermediate Regular Commission (Late Entry) with effect from 2 Apr 09.

### **NOTICES**

#### **4. Talavera 200: 25 July 09: Northampton**

The Regiment will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Talavera in Northampton on 25 Jul 09. The celebrations will be based around the final reunion of the Northamptonshire Regiment Association who, in the presence of the Colonel-in-Chief and the Colonel of the Regiment, will parade for the last time. The Minden Band of The Queen's Division and C (Northamptonshire) Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, will also be on the parade, the outside times of which are 1330 – 1440 hrs. The route is from the top of Abington Street (by Radio Northampton) to All Saints Church from where, at 1430 hrs, the Northamptonshire Regiment Association will march off parade for the very last time. The Regimental Family are therefore requested to ensure, where possible by their presence, that this fine Regiment gets the farewell that their centuries of loyal service to the Crown deserves.

Maj Bill O'Driscoll, Area Secretary Northampton, is the responsible Regimental Officer, to whom all queries should be directed (Tel: 01604 635412; Email: [1ANGLIAN-AO@mod.uk](mailto:1ANGLIAN-AO@mod.uk)).

## **MINDEN DAY REUNION: SUNDAY 2 AUGUST 2009**

5. The Regiment will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Minden in the grounds behind the Keep in Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2009. The celebrations will follow the same format as previous annual Minden Day reunions of The Suffolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Suffolk). The day will start at 1115 hours with a Drumhead Service. This will be followed by a Parade and March Past by B (Suffolk) Company 1 R ANGLIAN and Old Comrades. The salute will be taken by the Colonel of the Regiment. There will be displays explaining the Battle of Minden and of current Battalion operational equipment. A new display case depicting the Malayan Campaign will be opened in the Suffolk Regiment Museum after the Parade. A number of bands will provide musical entertainment during the afternoon. The day is very much a family occasion and an excellent opportunity to meet old friends and comrades. All members of the Regimental Family are warmly invited to attend. Further details can be obtained from the Area Secretary (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) Lt Col Tony Slater (Tel: 01284 752394; E Mail: [ahqbse@rhgroyalanglian.org.uk](mailto:ahqbse@rhgroyalanglian.org.uk) )

## 6. **All the 4s**

### **All the 4s**

Sponsored Charity Walk 14 – 27 Aug 2009

**4 the boys 4 the families 4 the fallen 4 ever**

Separate update to follow shortly

## **REDEDICATION OF CHAPEL IN ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH BURY ST EDMUNDS AS SUFFOLK AND ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT CHAPEL AND HANDOVER OF CHAPEL TO THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT: TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2009**

7. A service will take place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 1130 hours to re-dedicate The Suffolk Regiment Chapel in St Mary's Parish Church as the "The Suffolk Regiment and Royal Anglian Regiment Chapel". At the same time the chapel will be formally handed over by The Suffolk Regiment Association to The Royal Anglian Regiment for safe keeping. All members of The Regiment are welcome to attend. The service will be followed by a reception in The Athenaeum.

Further details can be obtained from the Area Secretary (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) Lt Col Tony Slater (Tel: 01284 752394; E Mail: [ahqbse@rhgroyalanglian.org.uk](mailto:ahqbse@rhgroyalanglian.org.uk) )

## **REGIMENTAL DAY**

8. The Regimental Day will be held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on Sunday 20 September. The programme for the Day will be as follows:

- 09 30 am Gates Open (entry via Gate 1)
- 10.30 am Regimental Association Annual General Meeting
- 11.00 am Muster for Drumhead Service
- 11.30 am Drumhead Service
- 12.15 pm March Past

- 12.30 pm Bars, Kiosks and Stalls Open
- 13.00 pm Band Concert
- 3.00 pm Beating Retreat
- 5.00 pm Bars and Stalls Close

All serving and ex-members of The Regiment and former Regiments are warmly invited to attend this important event. Further details can be obtained from the Assistant Regimental Secretary, Maj Dick Gould (Tel: 01284 752394; Email: [ars@rhgroyalanglian.org.uk](mailto:ars@rhgroyalanglian.org.uk) )

## **BATTALION ACTIVITIES**

### 9. **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Aside from the enduring Spearhead Lead Element commitment, the Battalion's focus has been on Battlegroup HQ (BGHQ) level (CAST) and Company level (Ex VIKING STRIKE) training. This training has enabled the Battalion to quickly re-role from Mechanized to Light Role Infantry (less A Company), as part of Op ENTIRETY, and prepare for the forthcoming TESEX. Concurrently, the Battalion has been supporting A Company prepare for their deployment to BATUS as a BULLDOG Company and has had to attach additional personnel to ITC(C) in order to help train a surge of 1000 infantry recruits (referred to as Op SOLOMON).

CAST provided BGHQ with an excellent opportunity to be tested in its ability to plan, brief and control complex operations within a contemporary operating environment. Overall, the BG's performance was very strong and a number of valuable lessons were identified which will stand us in good stead for TESEX. It also served as a good opportunity to work alongside elements of the Polish Infantry Company that will be attached to the BG for the exercise.

A Company will complete Ex MEDMAN 4 in Canada between September-October this year as part of the 2 R WELSH BG. As a result they have been busy preparing for the challenge and have recently spent two weeks on Salisbury Plain being put through their paces.

In terms of the other rifle companies, B and C companies spent two weeks on Salisbury Plain conducting Ex VIKING STRIKE. Each company was given the opportunity to rotate through a number of Battle Exercises which included Area Defence, Fighting in Woods and Forests, Operations in Built Up Areas, Advancing to Contact, Infiltration and Deliberate Attacks. A very useful BG Study Day on Defence, including Reserve Demolitions, was also conducted.

D Company has also been busy; aside from supporting Ex VIKING STRIKE they have continued to run their various platoon training cadres which are proving to be very successful. In addition, a number of personnel (mainly from Mortar Platoon) have been preparing to deploy to BATUS alongside A Company. Mortar Platoon have also supported a number of important RAAT tasks such as trialling new equipment, including a Mortar Locating Radar designed for use in Afghanistan. Drums Platoon has kept an eye on Minden Day and has been balancing musical tuition with their GPMG training.

Away from the training areas, B Company took the lead in the rededication of the Ipswich War Memorial; Capt Seal-Coon led the parade supported by 2Lt Atkins and 30 soldiers from A Company. 2Lt Crosbie conducted an inspection of the Beccles ACF Detachment

and was impressed by the dedication of all the staff and the turn out and enthusiasm of the cadets. Sgt Lilley took most of C Company to Bramley and ran two days of Command and Leadership training; high wire walking, rope obstacle courses, climbing and plenty of wobbly knees were the order of the day. Lt Thomas took 20 soldiers away to North Wales to conduct some excellent Adventurous Training; climbing Mount Snowdon and completing the infamous Marin Mountain Bike Trail (26 miles of some of the best off road cycling in the UK). As a result of fishing for 96 hours on Army rations (a 'Fishathon!'), CSgt Ielden (CQMS C Coy) managed to raise £1000 cash and over £2500 worth of equipment for use by Jamieson Platoon and the wider Battalion.

Other events have included Father Alex Strachan, the Battalion's Padre, taking a contingent of 14 soldiers to participate in the 51<sup>st</sup> International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. The WOs' & Sgts' Mess unveiled its excellent new painting commemorating the Op HERRICK 6 tour and prints have been selling like hot cakes! The Officers' Mess continued its Officer Education Programme with an informative talk on '*The rise of China, a threat or balance to the USA?*' by Dr Steve Tsang.

The Battalion sadly bids farewell to WO2 'Jimmy' Rackham and Sgt Borham who are retiring and wishes them well for the future. Looking forwards, the Battalion will complete TESEX in June after which there will be a welcome change in pace with Adventurous Training, boxing and preparing for Minden Day dominating most of July.

#### 10. **2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

May has been a varied month for the Poachers with a mix of company training, skill at arms meets, adventure training, deployments to the South Atlantic and an exercise recce (safari!) to Kenya. Soldiers have also been on the Fire Team Commanders Cadre in Brecon, a rugby tour in Lincolnshire and taken part in a multitude of other activities. Sadly, the close of the month also saw the tragic death of Lance Corporal William Bonner; he is sadly missed by all ranks of the Battalion.

Company training continued throughout the period with the aim of building towards a Battalion Exercise in late June. A (Lincolnshire) Company deployed on a short exercise in the middle of the month; the soldiers were taken back to basics by the OC Maj Lawrence Ives and CSM Oldenburg. The soldiers and commanders enjoyed the opportunity to revise basic skills and explore the areas around Celle. B (Leicestershire) Company have also continued with their training, whilst 2Lt Tom Roden took a group of young soldiers sailing in Greece prior to taking part in the Army Regatta in which he captured the Queen's Division Cup. A good time was had by all with some good young prospects identified for the future. C (Northamptonshire) Company has worked hard throughout the month with a Platoon Round Robin ensuring that the Battalion's training objectives were met. A key success for the Company is the huge amount of Signals Training that has been conducted, qualifying around 30 soldiers to the new Infantry Signals Cadre qualification.

During the weekend of 16-17 May the Battalion Rugby Team travelled to Bourne, Lincolnshire, to play the annual Adam Morris and Joseva Lewaicei Memorial Trophy match. After starting with many novices, it was a testament to Sergeant Rickman's coaching skills that a decent team was pulled together. The first couple of days were given over to training and the development of a healthy team spirit. The game was played on Sunday 17 May, and proved to be a more competitive fixture than in Celle the previous year. All of the new players got onto the pitch and played well; whilst there were too many good performances to mention, the special guest appearance of Kiwi Ex LONG LOOK

Officer Lt Brendan Jones resulted in a well deserved man of the match award. The cries of 'ringer' were soundly ignored by all members of the Poachers. Thanks go to all those members of the Regimental community who made it to the game to watch.

Things are busy for D (Beds and Herts) Coy in the Falklands; they took over the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC) commitment from 1 MERCIAN in early May. The Company is on a three phase rotation that sees them manning a Quick Reaction Force, patrols and live firing at Onion Ranges. The aim of the patrols is to provide a presence on some of the remote parts of the Island and reassure the Falkland Islanders. The Company's patrols have had great success in the areas they have been to; often helping locals with jobs that require extra man-power. In return the patrols are usually allowed to lay-up in barns in order to escape the severe and changeable weather, which will often see all four seasons in one day. The Company has now moved onto its Exercise phase. On Ex CAPE BAYONET, the Company Fire Support capabilities will be combined with that of HMS Clyde (the Falkland Islands Patrol Ship) and Close Air Support to take part in a demanding and complex exercise in an All Arms environment.

During the last week of the month the Commanding Officer and key staff deployed to Kenya to recce and plan October's Exercise GRAND PRIX. The exercise is set to be an excellent opportunity for the Battalion to train in the Conventional Operating Environment whilst also conducting Combined Arms live firing on a scale impossible in the UK or Germany. On return from the 'arduous' and 'exhausting' trip, many of the recce party have been spotted exchanging safari photos and anecdotes.

In the month ahead, security and logistics become the focus of the Battalion for the Combined Inspection Week, with equipment care, security and procedural inspections. At the end of June the Battalion deploys to Sennelager onto its Combined Training Level 3 exercise in Germany.

## 11. 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion

On 4 May the 31 men of 11 Platoon arrived at the RTMC, in order to start training for their deployment to Kabul as the ISAF Force Protection Platoon. Two soldiers were lost during medicals and the Vikings immediately dispatched replacements to bring the Platoon back up to full strength. Following RTMC the Platoon conducted a week of LMG/GPMG training whilst other individuals went to Grantham to acquire C Licences and Lt Rhys Little went on the main recce to Kabul. The last week of May saw the Platoon join up with 66 (Fuel) Squadron RLC on CPTA ranges. The ranges were organised and conducted by the Battalion, with the help of a 22 man PRT from across 5<sup>th</sup> Division.

The main Battalion training event for May was Ex STEELBACK STRIKE I, which was the first of a series of Urban Ops Weekends and was held at Copehill Down Village. Initially the Battalion was split into two groups; one group calibrated their TES Kit whilst the other conducted the Urban Confidence Course. Following this the Battalion was split into groups for rotation around three BEs consisting of Explosive Methods and Rhino Rig Entry, House Defence and Clearing a High Rise. Meanwhile the Coy HQ staff conducted a Urban Ops TEWT.

Whilst at Copehill Down Village, the Battalion conducted its second Pre-Brecon Training Cadre, with five of the seven personnel that will go to PCBC, PSBC and SCBC on 30 May attending. The Cadre was taught by Cpl Nash, who was on the last PSBC(TA) Course.

They also managed to join in some of the Urban Ops as this is now the principle training vehicle at Brecon.

May also saw the first of 49 (East) Brigade's Consolidated Recruit Training courses at Grantham. This 9 day Course was conducted to replace 6 weekends of training. The Battalion supplied a number of instructors, including Lt Ian Ginns and CSgt Shaw and had 25 of the 75 soldiers on the Course. Of these, 14 chose to continue for a further 5 days so that they could complete the Infantry part of Phase 1 Training, under the SPSIs and WO2 Jones, the new OC RRTT, in order to be ready for deployment to Catterick in June.

In mid May the 49 (East) Brigade SAAM was held at Thetford Ranges. The Battalion Team, under 2Lt Mark Hart, put in a valiant effort but could not match last years Runner Up position. Cpl Bunn, however, did get Runner Up in the Individual rifle shoot. On the same weekend the Mortar Platoon conducted a series of live fire shoots on STANTA. This enabled those soldiers who had deployed to the Poachers' Cadre in Germany in March to qualify for their Mortar Badge.

On 16 May the Steelbacks organised the Regimental Representation Event for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire at DISC Chicksands. This saw around 90 guests being entertained to an outstanding Beating Retreat by the Band and Corps of Drums, who also performed with the Minden Band at the end of the display. The music was followed by a presentation by the Poachers on TELIC 12 and Capt (Retd) Paul Thurston being presented with his award from the New Years Honours List, the Commander-in-Chief's Certificate, by the Colonel of the Regiment. At the reception that followed the Battalion Officers and Warrant Officers supplied the majority of hosts and members of E (Essex & Hertfordshire) Company were on hand to explain our weapons and equipment to the guests, whilst the Poachers explained captured enemy weapons

June will see the final preparation of 11 Platoon for Afghanistan and the contingent for Texas. 11 PI will conduct collective training in Eastmere Village, before doing a Mission Rehearsal Exercise in Copehill Down Village. Meanwhile the main training event in the Urban Ops Period and the prep for Texas will be Ex STEELBACK STRIKE II on Hythe Ranges; this will focus on Urban Ranges and training on US weapon systems.

## **All the 4s**

**4 the boys 4 the families 4 the fallen 4 ever**

**Sponsored Charity Walk 14 – 27 Aug 2009**

**In aid of The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity**

**Please Help**