



06/09

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

JUN 09

## All the 4s

Sponsored Charity Walk 14 – 27 Aug 2009

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### PROMOTIONS

1. The Regiment is delighted to note and congratulate the following officers whose names have appeared on the Pink List 2009 for promotion to Lt Col:

- Maj MP Aston
- Maj CBK Barry
- Maj DA England
- Maj JJW Hart
- Maj (LE) SN Pallant

### COMMISSIONS

2. The Regiment congratulates Maj PD Connolly on being awarded a Regular Commission with seniority dated 31 Jul 08.

### NOTICES

3. **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**

4. 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@rhqroyalanglian.org.uk](mailto:ahqbse@rhqroyalanglian.org.uk) )

## **BATTALION ACTIVITIES**

### **5. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Across the Battalion, June has been dominated by TESEX. This was a Brigade directed CT4, Battlegroup level exercise which lasted for three weeks on Salisbury Plain. The Vikings' Battlegroup included 30 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 52 Battery 19 Regiment Royal Artillery and attachments, a Polish infantry company, B Squadron Kings Royal Hussars and at times the Brigade Operations Company. The Battlegroup was put through its paces in a hybrid conventional and insurgent threat environment, initially at company group level, then as a Battlegroup, culminating in a very successful Ex WESSEX WARRIOR. The whole exercise was a learning experience; key lessons were identified at every stage and at all levels of command and experience. The end state was that as the Vikings' Battlegroup left West Down Camp, the Eastland Defence Force and its insurgent supporters were defeated, the local Hampshire population had been reassured and security was provided throughout the provinces of Imber and Copehill Down!

A (Norfolk) Company did not deploy on TESEX as they will be working with 2 R WELSH Battlegroup in BATUS this summer on Ex MEDICINE MAN 4, along with a Fire Support Group (FSG) and the Mortar Platoon from D (Cambridgeshire) Company. Their focus throughout June was on pre-BATUS training and ensuring that the company made good progress towards completing their MATTs for this training year.

All work and no play would make for a dull Viking and various activities that took place in June helped us maintain a healthy balance. On Day 2 of TESEX, the Vikings' CC 1<sup>st</sup> XI travelled to Chepstow to take on 1 RIFLES in the Army Cup. Capt Paul Kelly led the side to a comfortable victory and the match also highlighted some young talent from across the companies. The most notable of these was Pte Grigg from A (Norfolk) Company who scored 101 as well as taking a couple of wickets. The victory was all the more satisfying as the team was without Lt Simon Broomfield who was playing for the Army on the day.

A partnership with the Essex based Cirdan Sailing Trust saw 32 Vikings take part in two, week long, sailing expeditions on the Trust's Baltic trader, *Queen Galadriel*. The soldiers,

who were mostly, from Jamieson Platoon, sailed to France and the Channel Islands as well as covering a large part of the South Coast. The event was covered by East Anglian press and radio and was a wonderful experience for the soldiers to develop their team working skills outside of the military environment.

As we move into July, for many the focus will shift towards the Inter-Company Boxing Finals at the end of the month. The Battalion will no doubt see some of the stars from last year's competition as well as some eager new talent hoping to impress in the ring. At the end of the month we will handover the Spearhead Land Element commitment to 2 SCOTS and therefore end our spell on high readiness. July also sees several important members of the Battalion staff moving to pastures new; Maj Nigel Johnson moves to the MOD, Maj Tony Borgnis to RMAS, Capt Ollie Ormiston moves to take over as Adjt of 3 R ANGLIAN and the RAO Maj Richard Barrett and Capt George Seal-Coon leave to try their hand at civilian life. We wish them all well.

## 6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Over the past month the Battalion has again conducted a variety of activities, all focused towards the major event of the year - Exercise GRAND PRIX in Kenya during October and November. In order to prepare for this Combined Training Level 4 event, the rifle companies have spent a significant portion of the month in the woods around Celle on exercise, whilst the Headquarters has been put through its paces on the Combined Inspection Week. The week of inspections of equipment care, logistic, security and administrative processes were a welcome focus to allow the Battalion to ensure that the key enablers could support the F Echelon in the coming year. After a large amount of preparation all inspections went well - a major success for the enablers of the Battalion.

It has been a successful month for the Battalion for competitions. The Poachers have belatedly been awarded the runner up positions in both the Brigade and Divisional Skill at Arms meetings. After a recount the Battalion has been sent their rightful trophies which were presented by the Commanding Officer to the team. At the end of June the catering department won the British Forces Germany Catering Competition run by 1 Div - Exercise RHINO CATERER. Their success in navigation, shooting, basic military skills, advertising and (even) catering led them to be named the clear winners. The rifle companies have spent the majority of the month focused on improving their soldiering skill in preparation for the forthcoming Battalion exercise.

A (Lincolnshire Company) have spent much of the month in the field. Highlights included their Section Test Exercise, Exercise BASIC IMP, that ensured that section drills were up to scratch. Later in the month they provided the Battalion's stand at the 7 Armoured Brigade Young Officers' annual development and training exercise. The Poacher officers taking part enjoyed their time in the spotlight and learnt much from the many experts brought in, most notably Sir Ranulph Fiennes, who opened the exercise.

B (Leicestershire) Company have deployed on platoon exercises giving platoon commanders the opportunity to draw up a training programme and take their men out for the week. Basic skills learnt included model building, section attacks, recce patrols, platoon attacks and defence. The key, like the whole of the Battalion, was '*getting the basics right*'. The highlight of the week was when each platoon sent out a recce patrol focused on to another platoon's harbour. The company also enjoyed some non-conventional training in mixed martial arts. On a beautiful Wednesday morning, Corporal

Rogers took the opportunity to train the company in the various drills and skills involved. They are now masters of jabs and restraint positions, though they were firmly briefed after the event by the OC that if any soldiers decided to use these new found skills 'down town', they would be severely punished.

In June C (Northamptonshire) Company finished their company training cycle and switched focus to Exercise PRIME POACHER. Within the training period they covered personal skills in the field, low level tactics at platoon and company level, building up to urban and forest operations. Communications also played a vital part, putting into practice what has been learnt over the past 6 weeks. As well as a busy training schedule, C Company sent 18 soldiers paragliding in Bavaria, whilst 18 soldiers completed a Competent Crew course in Northern Germany. In July the Company deploys to Northampton for 'Talavera 200' where they will march through the town centre with bayonets fixed, colours flying and drums beating on 25 July.

D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company continued their deployment in the Falkland Islands with a visit from the Commanding Officer and Ex CAPE BAYONET. This joint 6 day field firing exercise saw the coy initially deployed using HMS Clyde, the Falkland Islands Patrol Vessel, to conduct live firing on West Falkland. The Royal (Anglian) Marines inserted to Second Creek range using a mixture of heli and rigid raider. Elements of Javelin Platoon found the rigid raider insertion particularly interesting (and wet) in a Force 7 gale. The following day the coy conducted an arduous insertion march to Onion Range FOB with the platoons carrying their support weapons. Recce and Javelin platoons, having temporarily re-roled themselves as rifle platoons, then conducted section and platoon patrols including a live firing platoon patrol attack incorporating machine guns and live mortars. The tactical exercise ended with a deliberate coy group attack utilising fast air, machine guns in the SF role and mortar live firing. The coy then reformed its 5 platoons and conducted an Inter Platoon March and Shoot Competition from the range to Mount Pleasant Complex, with a casualty stand and stretcher race thrown in for good measure. Sniper and Recce Platoon were joint first but all of the platoons produced impressive times for the 22km forced march, over very difficult terrain. The fact that they had already practiced the march following their LFTT week meant there were few navigational errors. On its return to camp the company then, having re-assumed QRF duties, began to prepare itself for its return to Germany and Ex Prime Poacher.

In the month ahead the Battalion deploys on a 3 week exercise in Celle and Sennelager to continue to build up towards Exercise GRAND PRIX in Kenya. Later in the month the Battalion will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Talavera in both Germany and Northampton. The key events in Germany will be a fete in Celle at 1200 hrs on 25 July 09 with an all ranks party in the evening. On 27 July the traditional Talavera celebrations will be held during which the Battalion will host both the Colonel and Deputy Colonel of the Regiment. C (Northamptonshire) Company will parade through Northampton in support of the final parade of the Northamptonshire Regiment Association; the march starts at **1330 hrs on 25 July 2009**. All of the Regimental Family are very welcome to attend and support both the company and, most importantly, the Northamptonshire Regiment Association on their final parade. Before the close of the month the Battalion departs onto well deserved summer leave.

## 7. 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion

Early in the month 11 Platoon (ISAF Force Protection) conducted their mandatory OPTAG package at Lydd. This was followed by a Collective Training week organised by the Battalion at one of the new Afghan villages on STANTA. This week consisted of a day each on search, foot patrols, mobile patrols, public order and base security. On the Tuesday, the BBC came to film the training and conduct interviews with four soldiers; these appeared on Look East and BBC Norfolk on the same day. The BBC plan to visit the soldiers three more times: just before deployment, on tour and at the medal ceremony.

The Collective Training week was followed by a Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) based in Copehill Down Village, Salisbury Plain. The MRX saw the whole company deploy into a mock up of HQ ISAF, built by the Battalion on Sunday evening. The exercise consisted of low level incidents for both the Force Protection Platoon and the RLC Transport Troop. In addition there was a Company Level Public Order Operation and an Election Operation. The Battalion managed to pull in many favours to ensure that the Company had external support including an IED Team, AES/Attack Dogs, Media Ops, Amputees, OPTAG Advisors, past unit advisors and around 30 CIVPOP. This was an excellent exercise, which saw a huge increase in the capability of 11 Platoon; it was also very well executed by the Permanent Staff of the Battalion.

Whilst 11 Platoon were completing their training at SPTA, 12 Platoon, who are due to deploy to Afghanistan in September, were arriving at RTMC. During their training they learned that they would deploy as a MASTIFF Platoon working with the Household Cavalry Regiment. There is now much work to be done in order to train the drivers on MASTIFF and the gunners on Grenade Machine Guns and Heavy Machine Guns.

The remainder of the Battalion have continued to conduct Urban Operations training, which in June was focused on Ex STEELBACK STRIKE II on Hythe Ranges. Before the four main ranges could begin, many had to conduct an APWT and IBSR in order to be qualified. The main ranges were: Urban Team CASEVAC (in the Urban CQBR), Section Compound Assault, Pairs Street Clearing and a Team House Clearing Range. The new US M4 Rifle was taught as background activity to the ranges and the CO gave an exercise update in preparation for the deployment to Texas in July.

June also saw the 49 (E) Bde Military Skills Competition. This consisted of 8 man teams from each Bde unit, but the STEELBACKS entered a team per company. The composition was built around a 30 Km march with 10 skill stands, some on basic MATT level skills and some special to arm. Battalion teams came 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> with E Company, under 2Lt Hart, being the best Battalion team.

During all of this military training, 18 members of the Battalion still managed to deploy to Peru on once in a life time Adventurous Training. After walking the Inca Trail, they climbed to the highest pass in the Andes. In addition, 6 members of the STEELBACKS took part in the annual Regimental Battlefield Tour to Normandy. This was an outstanding trip, enhanced by the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Finally, The Regiment can be proud of Cpl Kelson, E Company, who became the Army Cycling Champion at the Championship held at Upavon in early June.

On 27 June many members of the Battalion were invited to local events to mark Armed Forces Day. The Battalion Main Effort was at Southend, where E Company led a march of

TA, Veterans and Cadets along the High Street with CGS taking the salute. This was followed by a reception on the sea front and free entry onto the various attractions for our soldiers and their families. The Battalion had a large recruiting stand at the sea front and there was much interest in both TA and Regular careers.

In April two of the Battalion's WO2s attended a Commissioning Board; their commissions were subsequently confirmed on 1 June and the STEELBACKS welcome Captains Weaterall and Gratrack, both to B Company. The CO also promoted the following: SSgt Taylor RLC, Sgt Nash, Cpls Tew and Spence and LCpls Clark, Scholes, Robinson and Thomas AGC.

The principle event for July will be the first leg of the reciprocal exchange with the Texas National Guard, with 150 men deploying to Camp Bowie and Fort Hood for the last two weeks of the month

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