



08/09

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

AUG 09

All the 4s 4 the boys 4 the families 4 the fallen 4 ever Job Done!

HONOURS AND AWARDS

1. The Armed Forces Operational Awards List 33 was published on 11 Sep 09. The Regiment is delighted to both announce and congratulate the following members of the 2nd Battalion for their awards:

OBE

Lt Col SJR Browne

MBE

Capt RJ Bredin

QCVS

Capt BT Hawes

Additionally, 4 members of the Poachers' Battlegroup (including Cpl Prescott 3rd Bn) were awarded the Chief of Joint Operation's Commendation; 5 were awarded the GOC's Commendation and 12 were awarded the Deputy Commander's Commendation.

All the 4s

2. The Regiment congratulates Mrs Christine Bonner and her team of walkers from all 3 battalions for successfully completing the **All the 4s** sponsored walk over the period 14 - 23 Aug 09. The Regiment also congratulates Capt Ty Smith for his outstanding work as Regimental Project Officer, together with his team of STEELBACK support staff.

The walk was in aid of The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity, the stated object of which is the relief of persons who are:

- in need, hardship or distress and
- are serving or former members of The Royal Anglian Regiment or Former Regiments and dependants of such persons.

The Aim of **All the 4s** was to: **Walk** 150 Miles **In** 10 Days **Through** 5 Regimental Counties to raise funds for The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity.

The Regiment is delighted to announce that currently, with sponsorship money still being collected, over £25,000 has been raised – a truly marvellous boost for **our** Charity. It is still not too late to contribute and those of the Regimental Family who wish to do so should go to www.allthe4s.co.uk or send a cheque to RHQ made payable to The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity.

PROMOTIONS

3. The Regiment congratulates the following officers who have been promoted to Major wef 31 Jul 09:

- Maj MR Cook
- Maj RJ McNeil
- Maj PN Blanchfield

BATTALION ACTIVITIES

4. **1st Battalion**

The month started with Minden Day. It was the 250th Anniversary and was celebrated in style by the Battalion. On 2nd August, B (Suffolk) Coy paraded in No 2 Dress with the Battalion Colours in Bury St Edmunds to mark the anniversary of the battle. They were warmly welcomed by the Suffolk Regiment veterans and many past and present Vikings. The parade was also well attended and supported by the people of Bury St Edmunds. It was an excellent day for the soldiers, the veterans and the crowds.

The Battalion celebrated Minden Day on the 5th with a parade and family day. Events started at 6 am with the soldiers being woken by Drums Platoon and the officers and SNCOs. They were served 'Gunfire' and serenaded by the drums and bugles. This was followed by a hotly contested pram race around camp in a variety of inventive prams built by the platoons in the Battalion. Some were more effective than others and the eventual winners were Javelin Platoon (with some help from Lotus). Later in the morning the Battalion held a parade at which Brig (Retd) Calder took the salute and roses were presented to the soldiers by a number of Regimental personalities who the Battalion were honoured to host. The parade was strongly supported by families of the soldiers and, as one of the few times the whole Battalion has been able to be gathered together, the opportunity was taken to present a number of awards and promotions. Of note, LCpl High RAMC was awarded the QCVS for her service in Iraq and Sgt Mitchell, Sgt Walters, Cpl Pratt, Pte Fox and Pte Lynch were presented the LSGC. There were also a number of soldiers promoted to LCpl.

The parade was followed by a fete on the parade square. Companies had created their own stands and several funfair rides, including dodgems, were available. A large bar tent provided refreshment and the chefs laid on an excellent BBQ. The inaugural 'Vikings got Talent' contest was staged and some good and interesting acts performed. Mortar Platoon's fearsome Hakka, C Coy Clerk's Amy Winehouse (aka Pte Meehan) and Holly Johnson (daughter of Sgt Johnson) shared the top spot. The afternoon was capped off by a superb Beating Retreat from the Drums Platoon. It was evident in the professionalism and quality of the drill and music that they had worked exceptionally hard to prepare and it was a hugely impressive finale to the fete. The evening continued as the families departed and there was live music and celebrations late into the night. It was a very memorable

Minden Day and a welcome chance for the Battalion to let its hair down after a demanding 6 months as the Spearhead Land Element and preparing for and conducting a demanding TESEX.

The Battalion departed on leave on 6th August anticipating deploying to Canada and later to South African and the Falkland Islands. Within a few days, however, it was all change as we were ordered to train to reinforce operations in Afghanistan as part of prudent contingency planning. This led to some frantic preparation by BHQ over summer leave and the Battalion is now entering a very busy and rigorous training program designed to overlay the theatre specific training onto the very comprehensive training the Battalion conducted last year. Although a decision on deployment has yet to be made, training is progressing very well with exercises planned in Thetford and Otterburn later this month.

5. 2nd Battalion

With summer leave dominating this month, there is not a great deal to report from the Poachers. The Battalion has enjoyed some well earned rest following three weeks of Exercise PRIME POACHER, Talavera 200 celebrations and a relatively busy first half of the year. With an uneventful period of rear party (headed up by Captain Tony Bartlett) coming to a conclusion in the last week of the month, the Poachers are now back into the full swing of things in Celle.

The highlight since return has been the latest instalment of the Battalion Inter-Company Sports Competition. This involved football and rugby being fought out on the Trenchard Barracks' sports pitches on a hot German summers' day, as well as orienteering both in and around the camp. Success was had by A (Lincolnshire) Company in the football, D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company in the rugby, with C (Northamptonshire) Company taking the orienteering title. Points earned from these sports will be added to the boxing and cross country from earlier in the year and contribute to the result of the overall Inter-Company Competition.

From here the focus for the Battalion is continuing preparation for the Battalion's major activity for the year - Exercise GRAND PRIX in Kenya. With the Poachers due to deploy for the exercise in October, the coming month will see continued building of fitness and basic skills, as well trying to enjoy the remnants of the German summer.

6. 3rd Battalion

The start of the month found much of the Battalion stranded by the RAF in Fort Worth waiting to return from Ex GLOW WORM. However the Band and Drums were able to attend the 250th Anniversary of Minden Day.

August is traditionally a quiet month for the Battalion, but this year it saw the deployment of 11 Platoon to Kabul. Within days of arriving they were involved with two suicide bomber attacks, the first blowing 3 of them off their feet, but with no physical injuries. The Platoon then had to cover the security arrangement for the election and subsequent ballot box security. They have now settled into the patrol/guarding rotation. Meanwhile 12 Platoon took their pre-deployment leave with the remainder of 11 Light Brigade.

As the Regimental Project Officer, Captain Ty Smith did a great job in organising the '**All The 4s**' Walk. He was assisted by CSgt Nagra and SSgt Taylor, with Cpls Mattingly and

Roach completing the full 150 mile walk and the CO and RSM joining the group for a day each. As predicted this was a good event that has helped raise both funds for the Regimental Benevolent Charity and the profile of The Regiment.

At the end of the month the Officers' Mess held its Summer Ball at Homerton College, Cambridge. This event was exceptionally well organised by Capt Coulson and attended by 120 STEELBACK officers and guests. The Corps of Drums did two excellent displays, including some outstanding singing by the Drum Major and LCpl Cheetham. Most people's favourite activity was the Dodgems; however there was also fierce competition on the smaller cars of the Scalectrix.

Due to large cut backs in funding it was not possible to replicate last years' support to ACF Camps. There have however been small numbers of soldiers deployed to assist camps, with Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire ACFs the priority.

September will see the Battalion host Leg 2 of Ex GLOW WORM with 110 Texas National Guardsman deploying to the UK. The wider Regimental family were able to meet these soldiers at the Regimental Day in Duxford. The middle weekend of the Texans visit will also see a Battle Group Urban Ops FTX in Copehill Down village on Salisbury Plain, which marks the culmination of the Battalion's Urban Ops training period.

4 the boys 4 the families 4 the fallen 4 ever
www.allthe4s.co.uk