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ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

NOV/DEC 09

It is with deep regret that The Regiment must record the death, in action, of LCpl Adam Drane, 1st Battalion, on 7th December 2009. He died whilst carrying out security duties at Check Point Paraang in southern Nad e-Ali, Helmand Province. He was a member of 6 Platoon, C(Essex) Company. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family, friends and comrades.

It is with deep regret that The Regiment must record the death, in action, of Pte Robert Hayes, 1st Battalion, on 3rd January 2010. He died whilst conducting a security patrol south of Check Point Paraang in southern Nad e-Ali, Helmand Province. He was a member of 6 Platoon, C(Essex) Company. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family, friends and comrades.

BATTALION ACTIVITIES

1. **1st Battalion** No UNCLASSIFIED submission available.
2. **2nd Battalion**

The beginning of the month saw the last of the Poachers returning from the various adventure training activities following the Battle Group exercise in Kenya. These ranged from Capt Nick McGinley's trek up Mt Kenya to the B Coy led charge to the beaches of Mombasa. All returned safely, with most heading straight onto a weeks well earned leave. A small group did continue further in their travels, with an initial reconnaissance of the facilities of Cyprus being conducted for the unit move in 2010.

While since returning from leave the focus has been on preparing for training in the New Year and enjoying the various seasonal festivities, the Poachers have also had a number of notable successes. The first of these was our win over 5 RIFLES in the opening round of the Battalion's campaign in the Army Novices Boxing Competition. With some outstanding performances on both sides it came down to the last fight, with the Poachers finally proving too strong. The Battalion will now box 1 PWRR in mid January. Secondly, with a strong representation across all ranks, the Poachers managed to convincingly win the 7 (Armoured) Brigade Cross Country Competition.

The Battalion now looks forward to a number of functions, including the inevitably epic showdown of the Officers vs Seniors football match, followed by some time at home with families over the Christmas break.

3. **3rd Battalion**

There continues to be a high threat of Suicide Attacks in Kabul, but 11 Platoon are now acutely aware of the posture required to deal with these and the Taliban have tended to

attack the other Multi National Forces in the city. At the end of the month the Platoon hosted a 2 day visit from Alex Dunlop of BBC Look East, who broadcast live from Kabul. In Musa Qalah 12 Platoon are firmly in control of the District Centre and are building strong bonds with both the locals and the Household Cavalry, for whom they work. They have also had a number of interesting tasks with the Special Forces working out of the area. On 5th December ITV East, in conjunction with BFBS, recorded a series of Christmas messages from Norwich TAC for the families of both 11 and 12 Platoons, which were shown on both channels on Christmas Day.

On Monday 9th November the Battalion was asked to supply a section for mobilisation on 4th December, in order to start training for Op HERRICK 12 on 4th January. In true Steelback style, not one, but two sections worth of troops stepped forward to volunteer. These soldiers received 3 days pre-RTMC admin and training in mid December from a team lead by the RSM.

November was a quiet month for the majority of the Battalion, as we came to grips with the new regime of limited funds for training activities. The key event was Remembrance Day which, despite funding, saw the Battalion attend 11 parades, leading on 4 of them. In addition, the CO attended the Regional event at Duxford and laid a wreath on behalf of The Regiment at the R ANGLIAN Memorial in the Museum.

In order to "keep the flame alive" until the Battalion starts training again in January, each company organised a winter adventurous training event, paid for from Company, Battalion and Regimental resources. E and HQ companies combined to have a days skiing at the Hemel Hempstead Indoor Snow Dome, whilst A and C companies joined together for a weekend of walking in the Peak District in early December.

December saw the round of Company Christmas Parties and also the CO and RSM will visit 11 Platoon in Kabul (with a visit to 12 Platoon planned in January). January will see the start of the Patrols themed training period, with Ex STEELBACK PATROL I, a weekend which will see groups resisting conditioning and escaping and evading.