



2/10

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

FEB 10

It is with deep regret that we must record the death of Capt Martin Driver, 1st Battalion, on Mon 15 Mar 2010 in RCDM Selly Oak, Birmingham. He had been wounded in an explosion in the vicinity of Patrol Base Habib, Musa Qal'eh District, Helmand Province, on 21 Feb 2010 whilst serving with A (Norfolk) Company, attached to the Household Cavalry Battle Group. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family, his girlfriend and his comrades in The Vikings.

It is with deep regret that we must also record the deaths of LCpl Scott Hardy and Pte James Grigg, 1st Battalion, on Tues 16 Mar 2010. They were conducting a foot patrol about 12km north of Patrol Base Habib, Musa Qal'eh District, Helmand Province, when an Improvised Explosive Device detonated causing them fatal injuries. They were both serving with A (Norfolk) Company, attached to the Household Cavalry Battle Group. We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and partner of LCpl Hardy, to the family of Pte Grigg and to their Viking comrades.

THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY: 12 SEP 10

1. The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial will be dedicated in a ceremony at the Imperial War Museum Duxford commencing at 1130 Hrs Sun 12 Sep 2010. The Regimental Gathering will take place on the same day with an amended programme.

HEMCOMING PARADES

2. The 1st Battalion, accompanied by the Minden Band, will conduct Homecoming Parades over the period 14 – 18 Jun 2010. The outline programme is as follows:

- Mon 14th June: Huntingdon (1100 -1300 hrs). Short parade and ceremony followed by reception to welcome Battalion home and award Freedom of Huntingdon to Regiment (Band plus D (Cambridgeshire) Company).
- Mon 14th June: Cambridge (1800 -2030 hrs). Homecoming Parade and exercise of Freedom of City followed by reception.
- Tue 15th June: Barking and Dagenham (1230-1500 hrs). Homecoming Parade and exercise of Freedom of the Borough followed by reception.
- Wed 16th June: Ely (1100-1430 hrs). Homecoming Parade and exercise of Freedom of City then Cathedral Service followed by reception.

- Thur 17th June: Southend (1230-1500 hrs). Homecoming Parade and exercise of Freedom of the Borough followed by reception.
- Fri 18th June: Norwich (1115-1430 hrs). Short Parade in Cathedral Close then Cathedral Service to welcome A (Norfolk) Company home and rededicate Regimental Chapel followed by reception.

3. The Regimental officers responsible for the Homecoming Parades, to whom any queries should be directed, are:

- Huntingdon & Cambridge (14th June), Ely (16th June) and Norwich (18th June): Lt Col Tony Slater, Area Secretary Bury St Edmunds, (Tel: 01284 752394; Email: ahqbse@rhgroylanlian.org.uk)
- Barking & Dagenham (15th June) and Southend (17th June): Major Tony Jones, Area Secretary Warley, (Tel: 01277 213051; Email: ahgroylanlian1@btconnect.com)

4. These are Regimental events. You are therefore asked to support The Vikings' homecoming and encourage others to do likewise. If they are not coming to your town or county, then please make every effort to attend whichever parade is nearest to you. In particular, please pass this message on to your contacts.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

5. The Regiment congratulates Lt Col CS Calder on his award of an OBE whilst serving as CO 2 RRF (CO Battle Group Northwest Helmand Province Apr – Oct 09), as published on 19 Mar 10 in the Armed Forces Operational Awards List 34.

GENERAL OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

6. The Regiment congratulates Brig PD Jones MBE on his appointment as Director Force Reintegration, HQ ISAF, Afghanistan, in the rank of Maj Gen in May 2010.

7. The Regiment congratulates Brig SL Porter CBE on his appointment as Supreme Allied Commander Transformation Representative Europe in the rank of Maj Gen in Dec 2010.

PROMOTIONS

8. The Regiment congratulates the following officers for being selected for promotion to Substantive Major (DE) wef 31 Jul 10:

- Capt SF Roberts
- Capt DJ Robinson
- A/Maj APT Wilde

9. The Regiment congratulates the following officer for being selected for promotion to Substantive Major (LE) wef 31 Jul 10:

- Capt MJ Abbs

CONVERSION OF COMMISSION

10. The Regiment congratulates the following officer for being selected for conversion of commission:

- Maj D Mackness from IRC to Reg C (LE) wef 11 Mar 10.

BATTALION ACTIVITIES

11. **2nd Battalion**

Throughout February The Poachers have been spread to the four winds due to the multitude and frequency of pre-deployment courses. This is likely to be the trend for the next couple of months, with the Battalion first coming together for collective training after Easter leave. In addition to Afghanistan specific preparations, the Poachers continue to look towards Cyprus, with February seeing a number of briefings as well as the first signs of 2 RRF, who will take over Trenchard Barracks.

The Battalions regime of battle fitness has also recommenced, with ice skates no longer required to effectively move around the camp. The locals of Celle are again becoming used to the sight of Poachers running and tabbing through the woods and fields north of the town.

February has also seen the Poachers winning streak in the Army Novice Boxing continue. Early in the month the Battalion boxed 35 Engr Regt to take the British Forces Germany title. While the engineers started strong, a number of very impressive performances ensured a decisive victory for The Poachers. Of particular note was Pte Morgan's rapid fire knock down of his opponent during the opening seconds of the first round and once again Cpl Issacs proved overwhelmingly dominate in the Heavyweight class. The Battalion will now box 2 PARA in Celle on 11 March in the semi-finals of the Army competition.

March promises to be equally busy with Op HERRICK specific training and much of the Battalion spending substantial periods in the UK on various courses. Additionally, the Battalion is very much looking forward to the opportunity to box 2 PARA and progress through to the Army finals.

Afternote: The Poachers beat 2 PARA 5 bouts to 4 and now box 3 PARA in the finals on 15 Apr 10 in Aldershot.

12. **3rd Battalion**

At the end of February, 11 Platoon returned from Kabul after an extremely successful tour. Their time in Afghanistan was dominated by the elections and the subsequent spate of suicide and complex attacks which have taken place. In addition to dealing with these various Taliban attacks, they also managed to cope with the complexity of multi-national operations, working closely with both the Macedonians and Germans, whilst raising the profile of the Steelbacks amongst our NATO allies. Following a period of RAF enforced decompression in Kandahar and Cyprus, they are now on POTL until mid May, when they will take their place on the Op HERRICK Medal Parade in Bury St Edmunds on 23 May 10. Meanwhile 12 Platoon continue to patrol in Musa Qalah District Centre and the surrounding area. They are proving extremely successful in their principle role as the

Influence Platoon and when visited by the Colonel of the Regiment, they were able to show him the incredible improvement to the life of the locals due to the increased security provided in the District Centre. In addition, they have also been conducting more patrols in the Green Zone and out to the Patrol Bases, including visits to A (Norfolk) Company of the Vikings. The Platoon is very tired now, but they did receive 2 replacements for injured soldiers, in the form of LCpl Ruffle and Pte Newstead, who were transferred from 11 Platoon on their departure from Kabul.

The section (+) attached to the 1 MERCIAN BG have completed their OPTAG Training and are now engaged in MASTIFF training in Catterick. WO2 Farthing and CSgt Gardner are also nearing the completion of their preparation and both are deploying on Op HERRICK to Training Teams.

The remainder of the Battalion has continued with its patrolling themed training and have conducted two training weekends. The first was a Company Level Patrols FTX. It saw A and E Company training together on STANTA and B and C Company training on Yardley Chase. The FTX consisted of the normal patrol tasks, such as recce, OPs and ambushes. On the same weekend, HQ Company conducted some special to arms training, which included Weekend 1 of a Combat Signals Cadre.

The Patrols Period finished with Ex STEELBACK PATROL II, which was a Field Firing Exercise on Feldom Ranges. Despite the snow, the training included field firing up to Platoon Attack, a Night Defence Shoot and a Grenade Range. The exercise was visited by the Colonel of the Regiment, who, having flown north on a Queen's Flight aircraft, spent Saturday visiting the ranges and chatting to the Steelbacks. He also presented the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal to WO2 Beard, with bars to Major French and CSgt Starrie.

The Battalion also hosted a visit by the new Brigade Commander, Brig Andy Williams OBE, late STAFFORDS. His visit was part of the annual inspection, the AAU, which saw a team from Brigade descend on Battalion Headquarters. The initial feedback was positive and the Commander quickly felt at home with his Infantry Battalion

The planning for Op TOSCA (UNFICYP) is now in full flow, with the CO and Battalion Staff paying a series of visits to other contributing units in the Battle Group, in order to make sure that their preparation is in hand. They will also visit 40 Signals Regiment, the next Op TOSCA TA Unit, who are a year ahead of the Steelbacks and conducting training in Northern Ireland, with a view to issuing the CO's Training Directive in mid March.

March will see the end of the Patrols Training Period and there will also be the 49 (E) Brigade low level skills / MATT weekend, Ex POLAR FOUNDATION II, for which the Battalion provides the admin support.