



5/10

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

MAY 10

### **All the 4s**

Sponsored Charity Walk 16 – 25 July 2010  
**4 the boys 4 the families 4 the fallen 4 ever**  
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### **MINDEN DAY REUNION: SUNDAY 1 AUGUST 2010**

1. The Regiment will celebrate the 251st Anniversary of the Battle of Minden in the grounds behind the Keep in Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 1st August 2010. 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 the Old Comrades and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Band. The salute will be taken by the President of The Suffolk Regiment Association Brigadier Tony Calder. The Suffolk Regiment Museum will be open. There will be a new display telling the history of The Suffolk Regiment in Afghanistan in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and of the recent 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion tours on the ground floor of The Keep. A number of bands will provide musical entertainment throughout the afternoon. The Corps of Drums of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and The Band and Corps of Drums of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion will provide a musical finale to the day. The day has become a reunion for all generations from every part of the Regiment and is very much a family occasion. It is 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@rhqroyalnglian.org.uk](mailto:ahqbse@rhqroyalnglian.org.uk) )

### **THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY: 12 SEP 10**

2. The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial will be dedicated in a ceremony at the Imperial War Museum Duxford on Sun 12 Sep 2010. The Dedication Ceremony is to replace the annual Regimental Gathering at Duxford for this year. Members of the Regimental Association (those who are serving or have served in The Regiment or former regiments; or are Adult Volunteer Cadet Officers holding Type B Commissions and badged R ANGLIAN; or are a widow or dependant of past members of The Regiment) are invited to attend the Dedication Ceremony. However, an overall attendance limit of 4500 persons, with ticket only entrance, has been agreed with the Imperial War Museum. Those without tickets will be denied access.

3. Regimental Headquarters has nominated Maj Bill O'Driscoll, Area Secretary (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland), as the Officer Responsible for organizing the ticket application and allocation process. His contact details are:

Office Tel: 01604 635412  
Email: [William.odriscoll564@mod.uk](mailto:William.odriscoll564@mod.uk)

The timetable for the ticket application and allocation process is:

16 July: Ticket application deadline  
2 Aug: Tickets dispatched to successful applicants

## **BATTALION ACTIVITIES**

### **4. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

May has been a blessedly quiet month for most of the Battalion after the non stop nature of the tour. The majority of the Battalion have been on Post Operational Tour Leave taking some well earned rest after Op HERRICK 11.

Prior to departure on leave, the first week of May was a mix of sadness and celebration as the Battalion held its Thanksgiving Service in Aldershot Garrison Church on 4 May and had its Medal Parade on 6 May. The Thanksgiving Service was a solemn and moving gathering of the Battalion. It was the first time we had had the chance to parade together and grieve for the fallen. The families of the 5 fallen Vikings were the guests of the Battalion and Padre Alex Strachen led a ceremony that whilst mourning our losses, also celebrated their lives and gave thanks for the safe return of so many. After the service the families and the CO rededicated the Battalion Memorial at Elizabeth Barracks before meeting many of the fallen soldiers' friends and comrades in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where they were able to share both stories and grief.

6<sup>th</sup> May was the Medal Parade, with the salute taken by the Colonel of the Regiment, and A (Norfolk), C (Essex), and D (Cambridgeshire) Companies parading to receive their medals. The weather held - just. General McColl presented to the first rank of all of the companies and gave a characteristically powerful yet understated speech. The companies asked a representative from their Regimental Association to present to the second and third ranks. A (Norfolk) Company hosted Mr John Lincoln MC, C (Essex) Company hosted Mr Brian Morgan and D (Cambridgeshire) Company hosted Mr Freddie Grounds. The parade was supported with music from the Band of the Prince of Wales Division who were impeccable. Many families took the opportunity to see their loved ones parade and the stands were filled with proud wives, girlfriends, mums, dads and children. After the parade a Family's Day with BBQ, beer and ice cream was held at Elizabeth Barracks prior to the soldiers departing on well earned leave until June 7.

As the whole Battalion did not deploy to Afghanistan, work still continued at Pirbright. Two shooting teams are being prepared to compete at the 3 Div Skill at Arms Meet and a number of soldiers are attending the Queen's Division Fire Team Commanders Cadre in Brecon. Next month will see the Battalion undergo a major reorganisation as the Battalion moves from its Op HERRICK 11 formation to its more traditional ORBAT and prepares for the next set of challenges: a Board of Officers and some Adventurous Training on the Dorset Coast.

## 5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

May has been a particularly intense month for the Poachers, with the rifle companies taking part in the Individual Field Firing Camp in Sennelager as well as numerous Afghan-specific courses. With two companies deployed at any one time throughout the month, the opportunity was taken to work on basic Infantry skills. Training progressed from individual live firing to platoon live firing with support weapons firing Heavy Machine Guns, Grenade Machine Guns and Sniper rifles as embedded Fire Support Groups.

When not field firing, the soldiers have been getting to grips with the unique equipment that they will be expected to encounter in Afghanistan. Skills such as mine detection, compound clearance and weapon skills were all taught. On the cultural side of training, soldiers were sent to learn Dhari and Pashtu in preparation for working with the Afghan security forces. This coincided with a number of cultural courses that taught soldiers how to behave and fight insurgents with the support of the Afghan people. A number of CIMIC and Psyops courses completed this cultural training, lending an important civilian perspective to the overall Afghan training package.

Life in Celle continues to be as enjoyable as ever, although the sunshine of April was replaced with howling rain for the exercising troops in Sennelager. Planning for the Freedom of Celle Parade to be held on 15 July continues - a task that will be undertaken by WO1 Lewis after taking over from the current RSM, WO1 Waghorn, on 29 May.

The next month will see the Battalion deploy to the UK to undertake the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer in Warminster before moving to participate in 16 Brigade's confirmatory exercises in Thetford and Salisbury Plain, with Company Level live firing in Otterburn.

## 6. 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion

The Battalion has 16 soldiers deployed on Op HERRICK 12 and suffered its first casualty evacuation, when LCpl O'Malley was returned to Selly Oak having been injured by an IED whilst on patrol with the 1 MERCIAN BG. He has suffered ankle and lower leg injury, but these are not life or limb threatening and he is making a steady recovery. Cpl Roach has continued to send weekly situation reports back from the remainder, who are working hard in the busy Babaji area.

The remainder of the Battalion has continued with COIN Training and, on a gloriously sunny first weekend of the month, deployed to Lydd Ranges. A series of COIN ranges, including the CQBR (Urban), Top Cover, Moving Target and Sangar / High Rise shoots were conducted, in order to prepare platoons for the highlight of the training which was the Defended House. Platoons deployed into the House for a 4 hour period and engaged with a full range of weapons, conducted casevac and resupply and tested their command and fire control. For many this was some of the best field firing they had conducted and for all many lessons were learnt.

This month also saw the 49 (E) Brigade Patrol Competition. Teams from B, C and E companies forewent the England World Cup game and competed on a wet weekend on STANTA. They progressed around a series of 10 stands based on the expertise of the various Brigade units, with Capt Horner running the Village Patrol stand and WO2 Asker running a Section Assault stand. This years' competition was extremely close, with E

Company under Lt Hart coming in 3<sup>rd</sup>, B Company under Sgt Walker 4<sup>th</sup> and C Company, despite only being a few points behind the others, 9<sup>th</sup>.

There has been a lot of Community Engagement activity this month, which started with the CO, RSM and 10 soldiers (from 11 and 12 platoons) being invited to a reception given by the Poulters in the Armourers' Hall, London. This was followed by the start of the Cadet 150 events, with the Band and Corps of Drums leading 600 cadets through the streets of Norwich. The Battalion has also been supporting the Vikings with their busy Freedom Parade schedule throughout East Anglia.

Op TOSCA planning continues apace with a 5<sup>th</sup> Division Planning conference, followed by a Battalion conference which focused on individual courses. In addition, the CO has started a tour of sub units, including talking to 211 Battery, 104 Regiment RA (our attached gunners) at their TA Centre in the Welsh Valleys.

July will start with the final COIN Training weekend, Ex STEELBACK ENFORCER III, at the Battalion FTX on Swynnerton Training Area and will also include a group of soldiers going to the Houses of Parliament, in order to talk to our local MPs about the last Afghanistan tour.

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