



02/11

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

FEB 11

### **PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

1. The Regiment is delighted to announce that Maj Gen SL Porter CBE has succeeded Brig RM Brunt CBE as President of The Royal Anglian Regiment Association. Maj Gen Porter's Biography and photo are attached.

### **PROMOTIONS**

2. The Regiment congratulates Maj OCC Brown for selection for promotion to Lt Col.
3. The Regiment congratulates the following officers for being selected for promotion to Capt:
  - Lt T C Roden
  - Lt T D Aspinall

### **BATTALION ACTIVITIES**

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

The Vikings have had a busy February as final preparations were completed for the 6 week Exercise ASKARI THUNDER in Kenya. Concurrent to this activity, the majority of the Battalion took the February half-term leave, in addition to some pre-exercise leave, before deploying. The Battalion successfully deployed over the period 23 - 28 February and will return in early April.

The foundation level training offered by the Kenyan exercise is the first Battalion training evolution to help prepare for the deployment to Afghanistan in early 2012. This marks the start of a carefully crafted programme of exercises and mission-specific training that will maximise subsequent success on operations. More immediately, it will see the culmination of the Battalion's individual-level Infantry skills that were the main focus across the autumn and winter of 2010.

During Exercise ASKARI THUNDER, the soldiers will put into practice many of the lessons learned from recent smaller exercises on Sennybridge and Salisbury Plain training areas. The Kenyan exercise area will provide a 'hot-and-high' environment that will resemble the challenging terrain in Afghanistan. Battlegroup HQ will also be exercised in the battle planning process and will engage with a number of attached arms in a real time environment. This will allow the command to build on the highly successful attendance at the Command and Staff Trainer in Warminster earlier this year.

Looking forward to the late spring and early summer, the Battalion will further hone its skills across a staggered deployment on Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1, 2 and 3 in Alberta, Canada. The exercise, which will take place at the British Army Training Unit Suffield, will see the Unit acting as the 'enemy', whilst supporting the training of the Light Dragoons, Kings Royal Hussars, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Yorkshire Regiment.

Both of these exercises should see the soldiers being able to take advantage of some of the Adventurous Training opportunities in these respective countries. In terms of the Kenya

deployment, these include trekking on Mount Kenya, open water diving, and Grade 3 white water rafting.

Regarding the Unit's planned move to Bulford - this has now been postponed until late 2011 and is likely to be completed before the Christmas Break, thus significantly decreasing the potential turbulence for those personnel intending to move to Service Family Accommodation in the area.

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

February has been a complex month for the Battalion: the demands of leave, Operational Readiness Training and testing have meant that the companies have constantly been on the move.

A (Lincolnshire) Company handed Readiness State 2 (R2) over to C Company this month and broke up for 2 weeks well deserved leave.

B (Leicestershire) Company have been maintaining their R1 state with normal training, but that did not stop them making use of the excellent facilities at Troodos Station to complete MATTs training and take advantage of the adventurous training opportunities there.

C (Northamptonshire) Company, after enjoying a well-earned (but delayed) Christmas leave, concentrated on platoon level tactics this month and aimed to culminate with a ground/air integration exercise with the RAF on Ex OLIVE RIDER. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the light blue component was switched off at the last minute. Ammunition, rations and transport had been booked and so the Company jumped at the opportunity to get away from barracks and conduct some high quality training, including a MATTs concentration, section attacks, and KALA/BARMA drills.

D (FSp) Company have had a busy month conducting their reinforcement period. This has meant running Mortars, Anti Tank, GPMG and Sniper cadres to select and train the hopeful reinforcements.

On the sports field, the Battalion has begun selection for more members of the Orienteering Team. It is hoped that newer (and younger) blood will spur on the team to greater success in future. The Battalion Rugby Team also goes from strength to strength under the auspices of OC C with a convincing win over the Ay Nik team this month.

Socially, February was noted for an Officers' Mess Sobraon Dinner. As it was stag, it allowed the more interesting mess games to get a dusting-off including the inevitable mess rugby. Meanwhile, on the same weekend, the Sergeants' and Warrant Officers' Mess invited their wives for their own Sobraon Dinner Night.

March will be a busy month with the companies preparing their platoons to compete in the Battalion Inter-Platoon Competition. Little is known about what they will face, but the terrain and heat here will undoubtedly make it challenging! The local range complex is also likely to be busy as the Battalion Operational Shooting Competition nears and the troops have to get to grips with a new raft of competition shooting matches.

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

Last month's entry amply demonstrated that the New Year started with a real bang in the Steelbacks. Activity levels have continued at very much the same tempo and as I write, the Cyprus-bound element is dug in (not literally!) at Nesscliffe Training Area in Shropshire, while the remainder of the Battalion takes part in a wide variety of activities ranging from the National Flood Response Exercise, Ex WATERMARK, to some quality low-level skills training at Company and Battalion level. But that's not all - in order to really take matters forward, and with a view on what

the Future Reserves 2020 Study might bring, we have conducted some timely housekeeping in a number of key areas - recruiting, recruit initial training, Battalion Administration and Training have all been under review with the aim of energising our efforts in these key areas. Progress so far has been good and we fully expect things to stay on track.

As far as preparation for operations is concerned, things have moved on apace. For Cyprus, 107 members of the Battalion will deploy as part of the 273 strong 3 R ANGLIAN Group and we are now well into our Mission Specific Training. Under UN auspices, we have already completed the All Ranks Brief and have the Theatre Individual and Collective Skills and Mission Rehearsal Exercise elements still to complete. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, the Group will parade in front of GOC 5<sup>th</sup> Division and receive our UN Blue Berets, having been certified as Fit For Role by Chief of Staff Headquarters UN Forces in Cyprus. The Advance Party will deploy on 26 March and we will own the operation from 1 April – so more to follow next month.

As far as routine training is concerned, the Battalion has and will continue to run its routine programme of activity every Wednesday evening and one weekend each month. In order to complete our Collective Training 0 to 1 basics, February has seen us complete low-level fieldcraft & patrolling, fitness, battle shooting and skills training, as well as some professional development training for our officers and SNCOs in the form of a 49 Brigade run Estimate, Orders and Patrol exercise and a cultural visit to a Mosque in Leicester. Aside from this, we continue to prepare soldiers for deployment with the Vikings on OP HERRICK 16 – the pre-Mobilisation training standards are already set and, as a result, we are able to tell those who might be considering deployment exactly what their training commitment will be well ahead of attending the RTMC at the end of November. OP HERRICK 16-bound soldiers will then undergo a shortened Mobilisation package before joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. Given that the tour starts in April 12, we are confident that those deploying will be ready in every way, as well as being fully integrated with their Viking brothers.

In conclusion and switching briefly to people, sincere congratulations go out to Pte Seers from B Company on the award of Infantry Swimming Colours – an excellent achievement