



07/11

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

JUL 11

POSTINGS

1. Regimental Headquarters has been informed of the following officer posting:

Lt Col DG Vincent from Ch G5 Plans MONUC Kinshasa to SO1 Trg RMAS wef Mar 12

PROMOTIONS

2. The Regiment congratulates the following officers who have been promoted from Capt to Maj wef 31 Jul 11:

- Capt WJ Meddings
- Capt TGBP Coleman
- Capt AK Dart
- Capt AI Maclay
- Capt SR Poulter
- Capt RA Smit
- Capt PR Steel
- Capt RJ Bredin MBE
- Capt TJ Jones

REGIMENTAL DAY

3. The Regimental Day will be held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on Sunday 11th September. The programme for the Day will be as follows:

- 09.30 am Gates open (entry via Gate 1)
- 11.30 am Drumhead Service at Regimental Memorial to include March Past
- 12.30 pm Bars, kiosks and stalls open
- 13.00 pm Band Concert
- 3.30 pm Beating Retreat at Regimental Memorial
- 5.00 pm Bars, kiosks and stalls close

All serving and ex-members of The Regiment and former Regiments are warmly invited to attend this enjoyable event and can gain free access on the production of a British Army ID Card or a Regimental Association Membership Card. Further details can be obtained from the Assistant Regimental Secretary, Maj Dick Gould (Tel: 01284 752394; Email: rhqranlian-asstregsec@mod.uk)

HOMECOMING / FREEDOM PARADES MARKET HARBOROUGH AND OADBY AND WIGSTON: 8/9 OCT 2011

4. The Regiment, represented by the 3rd Battalion and the Band of The Royal Anglian Regiment, will for the first time exercise the Freedom of Market Harborough on Sat 8th Oct and Oadby and Wigston on Sun 9th Oct, at around midday. This is a Regimental Event and you are requested to note the dates and stand by for further details in due course. The Regimental Officer

Responsible is Maj Bill O'Driscoll, Area Secretary (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland), (Tel: 01604 635412; E Mail: william.odriscoll564@mod.uk).

BATTALION ACTIVITIES

5. **1st Battalion**

July saw a continuation of the individual MST courses that had begun in June with significant numbers from the Battalion away at the Crew Training School in Bovington. Meanwhile the remainder of the rifle coys have been focussing on low level skills training and D Coy on specialist skills. A Coy ran a CT1 package based out of Pirbright while B and C coys did similar from Salisbury Plain and Caerwent.

D Coy's Recce Platoon spent July in BATUS, Canada, exercising as COEFOR under the Grenadier Guards Battlegroup on Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 3. This offered the Platoon a good opportunity to conduct some mounted reconnaissance training in CVRTs before waving goodbye to their armour in the run up to Op HERRICK 16. Back home, the FSGs ran a comprehensive cross training cadre on all support weapon systems and the Mortar Platoon ran a live firing camp on Salisbury Plain – a chance for those successful on the Mortar Executives Cadre to further hone their skills.

We are now coming to the end three weeks of well-earned leave in August.

6. **2nd Battalion**

The TRB commitment continues, but frustratingly we are yet to conduct any large scale deployments. Coys are taking full advantage of Cyprus, but with the Iranian munitions explosion next to the Power Plant in Zygi, power has been intermittent, with the majority of power-cuts occurring in the most productive part of the day! Training continues regardless, albeit extremely warm and humid, with UOR equipment trials being conducted and B Coy trialling next generation Night Vision and Casualty Locating Beacons.

The Battalion entered the Army Operational Shooting Competition in Bisley. The Poachers were the 2nd best Infantry unit (behind the seemingly permanent fixture of the Gurkhas in 1st), with 4 firers achieving Army Top 100 prizes. Talavera Day (27th July) was the main effort for the Battalion, with all coys on parade and celebrations to match. Major Tom Dormer presented a cheque to the Battalion for £30,000 to enable serving members (predominantly C (Northamptonshire) Company) to visit the Talavera Battlefield. A link to the media coverage can be found below:

<http://www.bfbs.com/news/cyprus/troops-cyprus-commemorate-historic-battle-50120.html>

A Coy returned from leave and went straight into refresher training. MATTs, Skill at Arms and range packages were the main activities, with the Coy spending time at Akrotiri for much of the Live Firing. Of note were the night training events, including obstacle crossing, casevac, lurks, withdrawal under contact and night-time observation in Shalaki Village. Preparation continues for the Platoon Training Week, where platoon commanders will enlighten their soldiers on the cultural delights of Cyprus, whilst concurrently conducting arduous training.

B Coy conducted their Operational Readiness Assessment (ORA) in the Western Sovereign Base Area. The Coy passed the range day on Tuesday, then headed straight into a full company exercise. The first mission was shura protection and participation, with Greek speaking personalities drafted into the civpop to add an element of confusion. This new addition to company level exercises will be used again as it made excellent training value. Concurrently, a platoon mentored ANP in Shalaki Village, with LCpl Seaton-Norton providing an extremely realistic ANP force, much to the annoyance of Major Paul Muncey! A heli-Bedford move was conducted to the Paramali Valleys, where valley clearance, counter-intimidation and cordon and search operations were conducted. All suffered lack of sleep and dealt with relentless heat inside their body armour and helmets. Following Jordan and the ORA, much needed downtime was required. A group of

Leicester born soldiers conducted a KAPE tour in Leicester, where they toured their old schools with the aim of providing publicity to potential Poachers. 10 days of leave were taken before assuming the role of R1 Company and Major Mark Dingle is now in the chair as OC.

<http://www.bfbs.com/news/cyprus/2-royal-anglian-continue-intense-training-while-standby-deploy-49416.html>

C Coy maintained readiness and handed over to B Coy at the end of July. The Coy provided enemy and civpop to the B Coy ORA, becoming fully immersed in their Afghan characters and getting inside the mind of the insurgents. Officers' Mess PMC Major Bev Allen kept himself extremely busy by organising the Ladies' Dinner Night and Talavera Regimental Dinner, with Commander British Forces Cyprus attending the latter. After a long period of confinement on island, C Coy have made their way onto some highly deserved leave.

D Coy officers and SNCOs conducted a Battlefield tour of Nicosia Airport. Green Line tours are also available from 3 R ANGLIAN in Nicosia and provide a fantastic insight into the conflict and the tensions that still exist between the Turkish and Greek Cypriots. FSGs supported the ORA and CCF visits, whilst the Drums Platoon brushed up their skills for displays throughout the Talavera week.

HQ Coy organised visits from Hereford and Eton CCFs, with cadets thoroughly enjoying themselves. A good impression was imparted and we hope they'll consider joining the Poachers in due course. The Coy won the Basketball competition in the CO's Cup and also the Tug of War and Beach Volleyball on Talavera Day. Future events in the Cup include Swimming, Raft Race and Volleyball.

7. **3rd Battalion**

The past month on Op TOSCA has seen the culmination of the hard work put in by the troops. Sector 2 Buffer Zone has taken on a new lease of life supplied with paint, sweat and a little ingenuity as Op Spring Clean drew to an end. The task of renovating targeted areas helped to portray the professionalism of the Battle Group and the measure of success could be seen amongst the frantic cleaning activity of the OPFORs. Even the two Cypriot leaders seemed to react with an increase in high level talks, prior to the summer recess. While challenged with rolling power cuts and a spike in temperature, members of the 3 Royal Anglian Battle Group have successfully overcome the busiest month yet in Cyprus. We have had no less than sixteen visits, ranging from the Infantry RSM to Eton CCF, provided security for numerous key leader engagements and hosted the blue ribbon event of the year - the Sector 2 Cocktail Party. Amongst all this we also played host to the Band of The Royal Anglian Regiment who reciprocated with a number of excellent performances.

The plan to provide cabled internet to every room in Ledra Palace has now provided each and every soldier the ability to connect directly to the internet. One of the advantages of commanding a TA unit is that many troops have very useful skills; so our thanks to BT for training such good installation engineers. Our pool was also bought back into action enabling the continuation of 2ICs Ops Company's Hypoxic sessions. In a shock move to all who know him, the Adjutant Capt Ormiston, joined the 300 club with a run time of 08:29 and, although initially unable to comment, he was later believed to claim his success was all down to his Palaeolithic diet.

Away from Ledra Palace Hotel July saw the start of the Kyrenia Mountain Range Walks and a strong showing in the Bay to Bay swim; a special mention should be given to Spr Reed for her sterling effort in finishing first in her class and first overall in the female competition.

All in all a very successful month for a Battle Group which was, little more than six months ago, thirty one separate units.