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Vol 16 No 2







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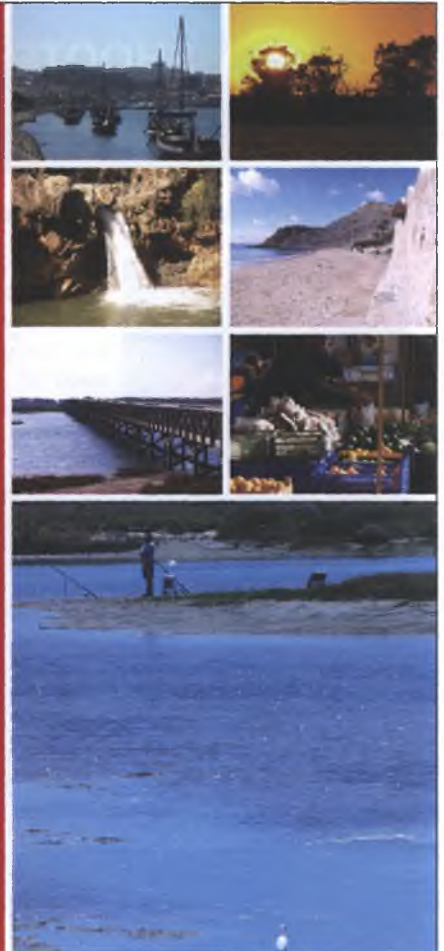
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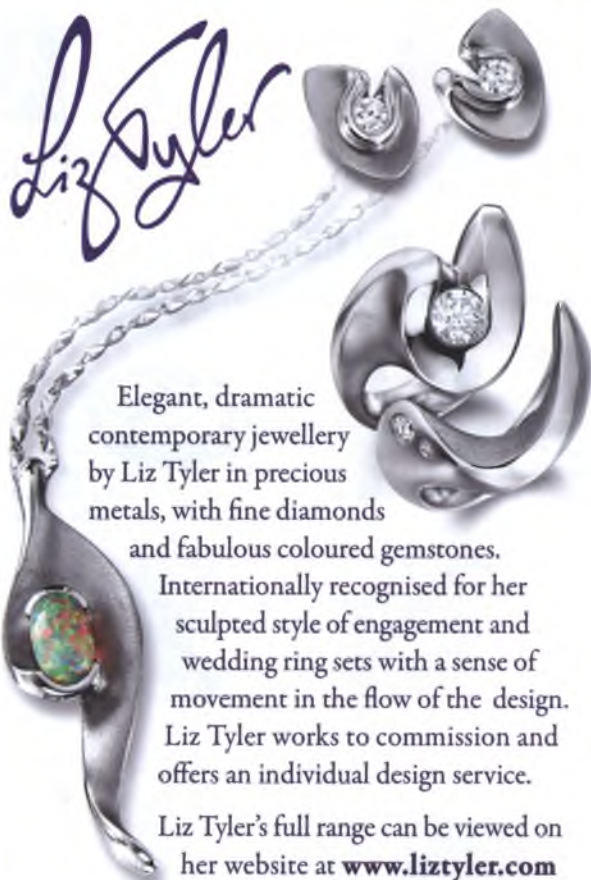
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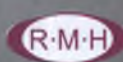
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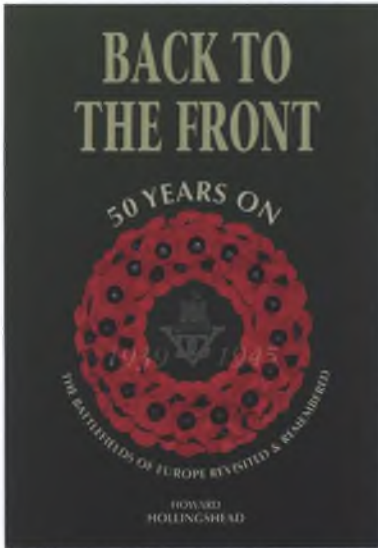
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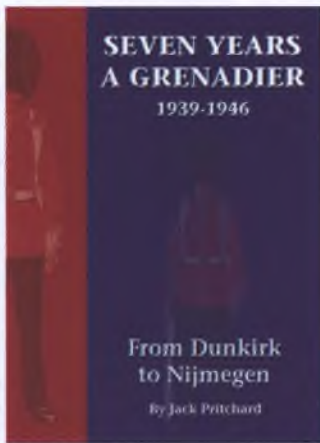
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LCPL GR DAVEY 20 MAY 2007  
CPL DW BANNER 28 MAY 2007  
PTE AJ BORAERTAS 15 JUN 2007  
LCPL A HAWKINS 25 JUL 2007  
PTE TA RAWSON 30 AUG 2007  
CAPT DC HICKS MC 8 AUG 2007  
PTE RG ROSTER 23 AUG 2007  
PTE AJ MCCLURE 25 AUG 2007  
PTE JJ THURMBLE 23 AUG 2007  
PTE SJ WILGRIFFE 14 APR 2009  
LCPL AP DRANE 7 DEC 2009  
PTE RJ HAYES 3 JAN 2010  
CAPT MO DRIVER 15 MAR 2010  
SCPL STM HARDY 16 MAR 2010  
PTE JD GRIGG 16 MAR 2010





December 2010  
Vol 16 No 2



Editor: Lt Col K Hodgson OBE

## Contents

From the Colonel of the Regiment	16	<b>Special Features</b>	
The Regiment	19	<i>All the 4s: On the Road Again!</i>	127
Personalia	21	<i>Malaya 1952</i>	128
Regimental Matters	22	<i>A Section Commander's Survival Guide</i>	129
Mainly About People	43	<i>Southend-On-Sea Freedom Parades</i>	132
Letters to the Editor	48	<i>Normandy Pilgrimage 2010</i>	133
The Regimental Museum	51	<i>Italy: Visiting Cassino and Anzio</i>	137
Diary Dates 2010	53	<i>Regimental Memorials Unveiled</i>	138
Can You Remember?	54	<i>Dedication of the British Cyprus Memorial</i>	141
The Vikings	62	<i>The Minden Band of The Queen's Division</i>	141
The Poachers	90	<b>Regimental Association</b>	
The Steelbacks	106	<i>Obituaries</i>	143
<b>Special Features</b>		<i>Association Branch Reports</i>	146
<i>Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund</i>	117	<i>Association Branches</i>	166
<b>Colour Section</b>	119	Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC	168
		Orbats	186
		Royal Anglian Regt Benevolent Charity form	197

### Front cover

Ian Rank-Broadley's magnificent centrepiece statue.

### Back cover

The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial.

### Regiment Internet Website

[www.army.mod.uk/royalanglian](http://www.army.mod.uk/royalanglian)



## From the Colonel of the Regiment

The breadth and colour of Regimental life over the last 6 months has been as diverse and rich as ever. The operational pace that stretches the Army as a whole and the Infantry in particular continues to dominate the lives of our Battalions, either directly or indirectly. Their resilience and professionalism under such pressure is a source of immense pride for us all. At home, the period has included the dedication of our Regimental Memorial at Duxford. The project has taken a long time to come to fruition but the quality of the statue, and the setting, fully justify the wait.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion spent a week in June conducting freedom parades through their counties in Huntingdon, Cambridge, Barking and Dagenham, Ely, Southend and Norwich. The reception and appreciation for their hard work and sacrifice was extraordinary. The efforts of the Vikings were further recognised when the Operational Honours and Awards List was published, which included 9 members of the Battalion. Particular congratulations must go to Major Chris Davies and Sergeant Ashley Hill who received an MBE and MC respectively. These awards were impressively won and are a reflection of the extraordinarily challenging environment our soldiers find themselves in today.

Since the summer the Vikings have begun preparing for their return to Helmand in 2012. With range packages and training exercises being run at the increasingly familiar terrain of Hythe and Thetford. A and B Company found the time to deploy 8 man teams on the arduous Cambrian Patrol, achieving Gold and Silver medal standards. This exercise in the Brecon Beacons provides the sort of challenge which our soldiers not only rise to, but perform exceedingly well. The tempo will remain high in the near term with a pre-deployment exercise in Kenya in early 2011. The summer of 2011 will see the Battalion relocated from Pirbright to Bulford. The move will inevitably cause some disruption and generate mixed emotions. The accommodation at Bulford is an overall improvement on that found at Pirbright and it is only fitting that the families who support our men so well are given a quality of housing that they deserve.

As I write this, the Poachers have just taken on the role of Theatre Reserve Battalion (TRB) in Cyprus. This will see them ready to



The Colonel of the Regiment meeting B Company 2nd Battalion soldiers in Celle.



The Colonel of the Regiment, Rod Allen, Mandy and Jon Steadman at Hillman, during the Normandy Pilgrimage.





Gen McColl at the Memorial Dedication Ceremony.



Our Colonel-in-Chief arriving at the Memorial Dedication Ceremony.

deployment at short notice on Op HERRICK with a small administrative element already based forward in Camp Bastion, with the bulk of the Battalion now settled in Cyprus, where they will await the call to deploy as required. Our thoughts will be with them and their families as they face the uncertainty of what the year ahead might hold. Whilst the demanding training the Poachers carried out during their run-up to taking over TRB has dominated the regular newsletters, they have also conducted a unit move from Celle to Cyprus - a successful and smooth transition which also saw the number of accompanied families rise from 120 to 200.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion have also been busy. With personnel deployed to Afghanistan in both Helmand and Kabul and most recently on Op HERRICK 12 attached to 1 Mercian, who have just returned safely. The Steelbacks finished the year on a high with a demanding all arms live fire and field training exercise on the inhospitable Sennybridge Training Area. They then moved straight into Cambrian Patrol training and deployed a team who achieved Gold standard on the exercise. To find the time to conduct the high level training required for this result shows commendable dedication from them and is another indication of the level of professionalism that the Steelbacks have shown throughout the past year, not just on exercises, but also on operations. The Battalion has continued to deepen the Regimental ties with the ACF and CCF through Ex Steelback Cadet and conducted Community Engagement across the Regimental recruiting area. An exciting time lies ahead, with a deployment next year to Cyprus, leading and providing the core manning of the United Nations UK Roulement Regiment from April to October 2011. Members of the Battalion will also train with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion for the upcoming 2012 Op HERRICK tour.

The middle of September was a period of almost unremitting bad weather; however, and against all the odds, the day of our Memorial Dedication on the 12<sup>th</sup> September provided perfect weather of both sunshine and warmth. It was, for those fortunate enough to be





**The Colonel-in-Chief laying his wreath.**

there, an extraordinary day. Since the formation of The Regiment, and before that the East Anglian Regiments, our forebearers have served and sacrificed all over the globe. But we have never had a single memorial as a focal point for the Regimental Family - relatives, friends and comrades - to go to connect with those that have been lost. We have now put that right and, furthermore, it is at the centre of our recruiting area and accessible to all. The Memorial is imposing but human, and a fitting tribute to those that have given everything. On the day of the Dedication, all 78 of our fallen were represented by family members who were hosted by members of The Regiment who had known their loved ones. The whole project was a huge effort which is covered in more detail elsewhere in this edition of *Castle*, but I would like to place on record our collective Regimental thanks to those who brought it together and delivered an outstanding result.

I will close by reflecting that all of this Regimental activity has taken place against the background of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. There was a great deal of speculation about the outcome and the implications for the Army in general, and The Regiment in particular. In the event our Regular battalions came through unscathed and the broad Regimental structure will remain. However, there are areas of concern with stringent saving targets to be met. It would be surprising if the follow on studies into the TA, RHQs, museums and recruiting did not impact upon us. We will be watching all this very closely and doing all we can to influence the outcomes.



**Cpl Abbott, the Poachers, shows the Colonel-in-Chief the sniper rifle in Celle.**





## The Regiment

### Colonel-in-Chief

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

### Colonel of the Regiment

Gen Sir John McColl KCB CBE DSO

### President of the Regimental Association

Maj Gen SL Porter CBE

### Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

Father K Reeve

### Assistant Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

The Reverend AJ Rose

### Deputy Colonels of the Regiment

1st Battalion: Maj Gen PD Jones MBE

2nd Battalion: Brig DJ Clements MBE

3rd Battalion: Col JD Lacey CBE DL

### Honorary Colonel TA

Col JD Lacey CBE DL

### Deputy Honorary Colonels TA

Norfolk, Suffolk	Col HND Gill
Lincolnshire	Col GWC Newmarch
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire	Col JBC Prescott
Essex, Hertfordshire	Col CAF Thomas TD DL
HQ Company 3rd Battalion	Col NA ffitch TD

### Alliances

Australia	The Royal Tasmania Regiment
Barbados	The Barbados Regiment
Belize	The Belize Defence Force
Bermuda	The Bermuda Regiment
Canada	Sherbrooke Hussars
	The Lincoln and Welland Regiment
	The Essex and Kent Scottish
	The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment
Gibraltar	The Royal Gibraltar Regiment
Malaysia	1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment
New Zealand	3rd Battalion (Auckland (Countess of Ranfurly's Own) and Northland) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
	5th Battalion the Frontier Force Regiment
Pakistan	First City Regiment Regiment de la Rey
South Africa	

The Regiment is affiliated to 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC(V), 29 (R) Squadron, RAF Coningsby, and to the Worshipful Company of Poulterers

1st Battalion has a Bond of Friendship with *HMS Norfolk*



## Civic Honours

*The Regiment has been granted the honour of the freedom of:*  
 Barking and Dagenham, Bedford, Boston, Brentwood, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge, Charnwood,  
 Chelmsford, Cleethorpes, Colchester, Dunstable, Ely, Grantham, Grimsby, Grays and Thurrock,  
 Havering, Hertford, Hinckley and Bosworth, Huntingdon, Ilford, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Leicester,  
 Lincoln, Lowestoft, Luton, Newham, Northampton, Norwich, Peterborough,  
 Southend, Sudbury, Watford, Wellingborough, Wisbech and Great Yarmouth.  
 The Regiment has been granted the Honorary Status of Stamford.

## Regimental Locations

### Regimental Headquarters

The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN  
 Tel: 01284-752394. Fax: 752026/Colchester Military 5124  
 Email: chief-clerk@anglian.army.mod.uk  
 Shop email: e2@rhqroyalanglian.org.uk  
 Shop online: www.royalanglianassociation.co.uk

**Regimental Secretary:** Lt Col K Hodgson OBE

Email: regimental-secretary@anglian.army.mod.uk

**Assistant Regimental Secretary:** Maj RC Gould

Email: ars@rhqroyalanglian.org.uk

**Regimental Careers Officer:** Capt JR Garside

Email: regimental-careers-officer@anglian.army.mod.uk

**Records Officer:** Mrs M Dreina

Email: recordsoffr@rhqroyalanglian.org.uk

### Area Office Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks,  
 Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN  
 Tel: 01284-752394  
 Area Secretary: Lt Col AD Slater OBE  
 Email: ahqbse@rhqroyalanglian.org.uk  
 Clerk: e1ahqbse@rhqroyalanglian.org.uk

### Area Office Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex

Blenheim House, Eagle Way,  
 Warley, Essex CM13 3BN  
 Tel: 01277-213051  
 Area Secretary: Maj A Jones  
 Email: ahqroyalanglian1@btconnect.com

### Area Office Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire

TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ  
 Tel: 01604-635412  
 Area Secretary: Maj W O'Driscoll  
 Email: william.odriscoll564@mod.uk  
 Clerk: margaret.legg624@mod.uk

### Regimental Museum

Royal Anglian Regiment Museum, Duxford Airfield,  
 Duxford, Cambs CB22 4QR  
 Tel: 01223-497298  
 Curator: Mr Andrew Murkin  
 Email: info@royalanglianmuseum.org.uk  
 Website: www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk

### Regimental Recruiting Teams

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn  
 Tel: 01223-204360  
 Goojerat Barracks, Colchester  
 Tel: 01206-782311

## Battalion Locations

### 1st Battalion

Elizabeth Barracks,  
 Pirbright,  
 Surrey GU24 0DT

Lt Col MP Aston MC

### 2nd Battalion

Alexander Barracks  
 Dhekelia  
 BFPO 58

Lt Col RW Wooddisse MBE MC

### 3rd Battalion

TA Centre, Blenheim Camp,  
 Newmarket Road,  
 Bury St Edmunds,  
 Suffolk IP33 3SW

Lt Col RFL Lyne

## Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Lt GEJ Wyndham  
 Infantry Training Centre, Catterick: Lt JR Granell  
 RMA Sandhurst: Maj AHC Borgnis  
 Army Foundation College Harrogate: Lt HJ Willies  
 Cambridge University OTC: Maj NMP Brown  
 East Midlands University OTC: Capt SC Hale



# Personalia

## Honours and Awards

### MBE

Maj CD Davies

### MC

Sgt AR Hill

### MID

Maj SR Smith  
Lt SM Broomfield  
ASgt RJ Vickery  
LCpl AR Taylor

### QCVS

Maj OCC Brown  
Lt DJ Benstead  
2Lt PRA Lenthall

### Selected for Command

*The following have been selected for Command:*

Lt Col N A Johnson	2 R ANGLIAN
Lt Col C B K Barry	2 R WELSH

### Commissioning

*The following were commissioned from RMA Sandhurst on 13 August 2010*

2Lt TM Duncalle	1 R ANGLIAN
2Lt DM Tomlinson	1 R ANGLIAN

*The following were commissioned from RMA Sandhurst on 17 December 2010*

2Lt EJD Hackett	1 R ANGLIAN
2Lt SP Wright	2 R ANGLIAN
2Lt CM Winterman	2 R ANGLIAN
2Lt BRW Flower	1 R ANGLIAN

### Postings

Col SW Carver DSO	is extended in post as	Comd BATUS for 12 months
Lt Col SD Etherington	from DA Kampala	to SO1 Regional Force Development BPST (EA) DS Kenya
Lt Col RJ Latham	from SO1 JTACCOS	to SO1 Employment Upavon
Lt Col JM Woodham MC	from CO 1 R ANGLIAN	to COS 1(UK) Armd Div
Lt Col AM Wylie	from SO1 STAR Shrivenham	to SO1 Capability Afghanistan
Capt PM Kelly	from SO3 G7 Mortar Div	to SO3 G3 Ops JSSU Digby
Capt PR Steel	from Fd Trg Gp (UK)	to Senior Bn Ch Advisor Iraqi Military Academy Rustimlyah
Lt FK Atkins	from ITC(C)	to ADC to Dep COS FRIC HQ ISAF Kabul



## Regimental Matters

### Regimental Council Meeting

The Regimental Council met on 5 November 2010 in London. Important issues on the Agenda were:

#### Support to Operations

1st Battalion will deploy to Kenya from late Feb to early Apr 11 and again to BATUS from late Jun to late Jul 11. The Unit Move to Bulford will take place in Aug 11 and the Battalion has been warned for Op HERRICK 16, Apr - Oct 2012.

2nd Battalion assumed the Cyprus based role of Theatre Reserve Battalion (TRB) in Oct 10 and will relinquish it in Nov 11.

3rd Battalion will undertake Op TOSCA (UNFICYP) from Apr - Oct 11 and will also provide a TA cohort of 65 soldiers for the 1st Battalion's Op HERRICK 16 tour in 2012.

#### The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity:

##### In-Service Welfare Support

An In-Service Grant of £10,000 from the Regimental Benevolent Charity was agreed for the 2nd Battalion to cover their TRB Commitment. It will be held at RHQ and be available for drawdown. An In-Service Grant of £2,500 was agreed for the 3rd Battalion on Op TOSCA, which will also be held at RHQ until required

#### Care of Wounded Soldiers and Bereaved Families

It was recognised that The Regiment needs a fit-for purpose, county based organisation to maintain links with our soldiers once they have completed their service or are medically discharged.

#### Area Secretaries

Maj Tony Jones will remain as Area Sec Warley, but will work from home from the end of Nov 10 until further notice. He will visit the Area Office when possible and will remain responsible for Blenheim House and Warley Chapel. Lt Col Tony Slater is retiring as Area Secretary Bury St Edmunds in mid 2011 and will work part time, 3 days per week, until then. Both will focus on core Royal Anglian business.

#### Regimental Memorial

The Regiment has agreed access procedures to the Regimental Memorial with IWM Duxford as follows: Relatives of our fallen will have free access during Museum Opening Times, using one-time-use-only passes obtained via RHQ. Formed bodies of Royal Anglian Regular, TA, recruits, cadets and associations, will have free access during Museum Opening Times by prior arrangement with the Curator, Mr Andy Murkin. Private visits by Regimental Association members will be granted on a 'two for one' basis, via the Public Entrance, on production of a MOD ID Card or Regimental Association Membership Card.

#### Regimental Association

It was agreed that the next of kin of all those listed on the Regimental Memorial should be invited to be Honorary Members of the Regimental Association. They will therefore be eligible to attend the Regimental Gathering at Duxford should they so wish.

#### Regimental Day 11 Sep 11 at IWM Duxford

Regimental Day is confirmed as 11 Sep 11 at IWM Duxford. All serving and ex-members of The Regiment and former regiments are warmly invited to attend this important annual event.

#### Salamanca 200

The 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Salamanca falls in 2012. Col Lacey, Chairman of the Royal Anglian Essex County Committee, is leading.

#### Ex Steelback Cadet

CO 3rd Battalion reported that Ex STEELBACK CADET had been a success, with over 200 ACF/CCF cadets taking part. It will be planned again in 2011.

#### The Day's Pay Scheme

The numbers of soldiers paying into the Day's Pay Scheme is 93%

from the 1st Battalion and 87% from the 2nd Battalion. The Asst Regt Sec will produce the names of those not paying to both COs. The onus must then be on the Battalions to encourage all soldiers to sign up for this important scheme.

#### Normandy Visits

The 2011 pilgrimage will be a change from the norm and will take place in the Low Countries 15 -19 Sep 11, covering battles fought by the Lincolns, Norfolks and Suffolks. In 2012 the pilgrimage will return to Normandy.

#### Poulters' Prize 2010

The Poulters' Prize 2010 has been awarded to Pte Barritt, 1st Battalion, for his selfless commitment in dedicating his personal time in support of the Pirbright Community Youth Club. The prize, which is awarded annually to the individual who during the year has best promoted the ethos of The Regiment, will be presented in the New Year.

#### Regimental History

Col Woodrow has agreed to be the Chairman of the Regimental History Committee and submitted a number of proposals to the Meeting which were agreed. Mr Steven Bowns was approved as the Author of the Regimental History, which is to be completed by The Regiment's 50th Anniversary on 1 Sep 14.

#### Museum

The Council expressed a Vote of Thanks to Lt Col Veitch for his outstanding contribution as the Museum Appeal Fundraiser.

#### Remembrance

The Regiment is to commission a Book of Remembrance containing the names of all members of The Regiment who died whilst serving. The inclusion criteria will be the same as the 'Roll of Honour' that is displayed in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The Book will be digital and displayed in the Regimental Museum.

#### The Brig Wilkinson Bequest

The Brigadier Wilkinson Bequest provides for free membership of the Army and Navy Club for 3 younger officers. Currently there is one vacancy and anyone interested should apply via RHQ. All young officers are also entitled to one year's free membership on commissioning.

### Officer Recruiting at RMA Sandhurst

*Maj AHC Borgnis, RMA Queen's Division and Royal Anglian Regimental Representative, writes:*

After a very successful SNCO Selection Cadre in the summer, the number of R ANGLIAN CSgts at RMA has been increased



**Commissioning Parade: August 2010.** From left: Regimental Representative Maj Tony Borgnis, 2Lt Dan Tomlinson, 2Lt Tim Duncalfe and Deputy Colonel of the Regiment Brig DJ Clements MBE.

## Regimental Matters

significantly. CSgt Love has been joined by CSgts Martin and Holmes from the Vikings and CSgts Rawdon and Vendyback from the Poachers. All 4 are currently in the Skill at Arms Wing and are already having an effect on the cadets throughout both Old and New Colleges.

The Regiment has retained its high profile at RMAS - with the Vikings back from Op HERRICK 11 there have been a number of excellent leadership lectures given to the cadets by R ANGLIAN platoon and company commanders. This has a huge impact and helps to ensure that the highest calibre cadets want to be R ANGLIAN officers when they commission. 2 young officers commissioned into the Regiment in August 2010 and a further 4 officers will commission in December 2010.

*CSgt Love R ANGLIAN writes:*

During my time at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, I have found it exciting to be a major influence in the development of the next generation of officers. The officer cadets arrive on Day 1 no different to the civilians who turn up at ITC Catterick for basic training - except they tend not to be wearing Velero trainers!

I have found the officer cadets at Sandhurst to be motivated, driven and intelligent individuals; most are normal, down to earth and good-humoured young men, who are really up for the challenges that face them during their 11 month course here. The emphasis at Sandhurst is on individual responsibility and leadership; therefore the role of a Colour Sergeant is based on guidance rather than micro-management. Within the first week they are writing their own detail boards, briefing their platoons and performing kit checks, whereas at ITC Catterick this does not happen during the entire course.

The variety in the Cadet Program is really enjoyable - plenty of time in camp, as well as on exercise, means you are seldom bored; and only last week I had the great pleasure of gassing an Old Etonian!

Sandhurst is a great place to work - the local amenities are excellent and you know what you are doing each day, which allows you to plan time at home and organise your holidays well in advance.

I would thoroughly recommend that anyone wishing to further their career and have a good, solid, two year posting (with 11 weeks leave guaranteed each year!), applies to be an instructor at the Royal Military Academy. Even the SNCO Selection Cadre is enjoyable - you will know most of the CSgts that turn up from previous courses and, if you can give a good lesson, think on your feet and are a team player, you stand a good chance.

### Deaths

RHQ has been notified of the following deaths since the last edition of Castle:

Sgt T Mansell on 17 March 2010\*

Maj DRF Houlton-Hart MC ERD on 6 July 2010\*

Maj RHD Graveston in September 2010\*

Pte K Pratt on 25 October 2010\*

WO2 J (Ringo) Watson on 16 November 2010\*

\* See Obituaries

### The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity

*Maj Dick Gould writes:*

Over this past year several records have been broken. The Benevolent Charity has helped 267 former members of The Regiment or their families, in need, or distress, or suffering hardship, giving out to them over £100,000 in grants - an 18 per cent increase over last year. It also made grants to serving members of The Regiment totalling £5,125, as well as £7,500 to the 1st Battalion and £2,500 to the 3rd Battalion for their Afghanistan tours in 2009/10. Sadly, early indications are that this year the total number of grants and the amounts given will exceed last year's figures. Already in the first quarter we have made 87 grants - an increase of five - and it looks certain that the number of grants made will exceed 300.

Why, then, are we seeing this increase? It is for a variety of reasons:

- The need is greater as the Nation, hopefully, stumbles out of the recession. This need can only increase as the Government's austerity measures bite into employment and benefits.
- There is a greater awareness of the Regimental Benevolent Charity amongst Association Members, Social Services and social workers.
- The Royal British Legion is making a greater outreach into the ex-Service community and send their reports to us to share the costs.
- Sadly, the breakdown of marriages and relationships mean that there are an increased number of people to home, furnish and equip with the 'white' and 'brown' goods they need.

The recipients of grants are people in real need. So a relatively small grant of up to £500 can make a huge difference to them and improve their quality of life immeasurably.

The funds for the Benevolent Charity come from a variety of sources. The first and largest contribution is from the Day's Pay



CSgt Love in the Wishstream with a section from his Platoon in the Junior Term.



## Regimental Matters

Scheme. All of the officers and about 90% of the soldiers contribute a day's pay to the scheme. This is vital to enable the Charity to give out so much in grants. The second largest source is from donations. These can be from sponsored events, such as Mrs Christine Bonner's All the 4s walk or Mrs Helen Gray's Sponsored Golf Day; but also as unsolicited donations from caring and concerned members of the public. The third source of funding is through our investments from which a portion of the dividend is put into the benevolence coffers, the balance being used to build up the capital.

It is right that the Benevolent Charity is making a record numbers of grants as it only exists to help those in need and distress. We see the demands on the Charity increasing as those who served in the East Anglian and Royal Anglian Regiments grow older. We also have those injured in more recent conflicts who, unable to continue in service, return to civilian life where they may continue to need our assistance for many years.

Some examples of benevolence cases over the past few years are shown below:

- Pte A. He served for 4 years and an industrial injury at his civilian job left him with brain damage. He was granted £500 for a washing machine and electrically powered vehicle.
- Cpl B. He served for 11 years. On leaving the Army his marriage broke down and he turned to alcohol. He is now rebuilding his life and needed to renew his licences and competence cards. He was granted £300.
- Mrs C. Married to a serving soldier for 4 years. The marriage broke down and she needed to move out and into a new home. She needed a month's rent. She was granted £300.
- Pte D. Served for 8 years. He left the Army and worked but was made redundant. His hot water boiler ceased to work and needed replacement. He was granted £250.
- Pte E. Served for 5 years. He left on a medical discharge. His wife died, he lost his job and suffered from depression. He needed help with electricity and rent arrears. He was granted £520.
- Sgt F. Served for 22 years in Regulars and TA. He suffered from combat stress and has not worked since. He needed a break away from home. He was granted £150 for a holiday.
- Pte G. Still serving. He and his wife have a severely disabled child who needed special equipment. They were granted £500.
- Pte H. Served for 6 years including NI and Iraq. He and his wife were working, but she fell pregnant. On moving home they were unable to afford carpeting for the flat. They were granted £400.
- Pte I. Served for 10 years. He worked on leaving the Army but developed cancer. He needed a special bed. He was granted £500.
- Pte J. Still serving. Their baby required urgent surgery and they needed to stay close to the child in a hotel. They were granted £1,000.

So if anyone is thinking about raising funds for a Military Charity, then please remember that sometimes charity begins at home, and that the Regiment's own Charity, **The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity**, is always in need of funds.

*Editor's Note: See also the article on page 117 and the donation form on page 197.*

### Regimental Museum Appeal Draw

The Regimental Museum Appeal Draw was held on 12 Sep 10 in the margins of the Memorial Dedication Ceremony. We are delighted to announce the following winners:

- 1st Prize of £500 to C Jewell of Norwich
- 2nd Prize of £200 to IP Brooks of Epsom
- 3rd Prize of £100 to Cpl L Groves of the 1st Battalion

### The Padre's Pad

*Honorary Chaplain to The Regiment, Father Ken Reeve, writes:*

*"And there were shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks at night" Luke 2. Verse 8*

I confess that it is a very long time since I lived out in the field, but I remember it well and never thought that it was very much fun, especially in the winter. It always seemed to me to be the absolute

pits to have to 'dig in' just before dark in the pouring rain, knowing that the hole you had dug would be the place in which you would spend a miserable night intersected by periods of stag - watching out. Watching out for what? Well of course that depends on the tactical situation. Mostly in my case such times spent were on exercise, but occasionally for real. Whatever, we were made aware from our earliest training that being on stag meant that first and foremost you were responsible for the safety of your mates, those whom you were ordered to watch over. Not being alert and worst of all falling asleep, if caught, meant, rightly so, that one could expect to be punished.

Watching, looking out, implies waiting and soldiers, perhaps more than any others, are all too familiar with this: waiting for the word of command, watching the foreground, middle distance, especially at first and last light, noting the changes in what had been the normal during daylight, waiting to be deployed in Theatre, as the 2nd Battalion are in their present role in Cyprus. Watching and waiting is often the hardest part of any operation. It is, of course, the most difficult and unsettling time for families, especially when their loved ones are on active service. I am always in awe of how they cope, but cope they do. I believe they do so by watching over each other, looking out for each other and supporting each other. This watching over has been, and is, so well facilitated for the 1st Battalion by the Viking Families Support Group. Most of the time spent in waiting for loved ones to return is, like that of the shepherds in the field, spent doing the mundane everyday things that looking after others, especially children, entails. I am sure that what helps to hold everything together is being able to speak with loved ones, albeit for short periods, but also in the often unspoken but just as effective silent prayer for safe keeping, and the looking forward in hope for a happy return to a more normal family life of being together again.

We don't know what the shepherds in the Christmas story watched, waited and hoped for, but the account tells us that as they watched "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared to them with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to men ...". I imagine that they, like us, wanted to see these things come into being. We are told when they saw the child with his Mother and Joseph, the Holy Family, they returned, praising God for all the things they had and heard and seen. As you attend Church, or the school nativity, taking your flock with you during this Christmastide (and I hope that you will), be watchful and waiting; look out and listen for the good news, especially the peace and goodwill that is at the heart of the Christmas message and, wherever possible, seek to make a present of peace to others, not just over the festive period, but always; actively engaged in so doing could bring about an end to stalling on again! Remember that we too are also a Holy Family, especially when we gather and celebrate together. I wish every member of The Royal Anglian Regiment family a very happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

### Mrs Sarah Peyton Awarded the Imperial Service Medal

The Imperial Service Medal is the medal of the Imperial Service Order, instituted in 1902 by King Edward VII, who wished to recognize more fully the services rendered to him by members of the Civil Service. It is awarded at the prerogative of the Sovereign to recognize long and faithful service by an individual, in an eligible grade, with at least 25 years meritorious service.

Sarah started her career in the Civil Service in October 1979 working in Bristol for the Department of Trade and Industry in the Official Receiver's Office dealing with Bankruptcy and Insolvency.

In November 1986, as a result of moving back to Northampton, she transferred to what was then the Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre based at Simpson Barracks. In August 1993, when the Corps was disbanded and amalgamated to become The Royal Logistics Corps, Simpson Barracks closed down and this resulted in Sarah moving to Gibraltar Barracks and the start of her subsequent association with The Northamptonshire Regiment and The Royal Anglian Regiment Associations.

In December 1999, she supervised the successful move of the Area Headquarters from Gibraltar Barracks to Clare Street and it has been said that it was difficult to imagine how the Northamptonshire

## Regimental Matters

Branch would have succeeded, let alone remained in being, without Sarah's efficiency and dedication.

During her 16 years as the Administration Officer, she worked for seven Area Secretaries and undertook many tasks outside the remit of her job, all for the good and well being of the Association. In particular, she was involved with the branches, attended many parades, meetings, dinners, events and funerals. Weekends and evenings were also spent working for the Regiments. On her retirement she has continued those links as the Secretary for the Northampton Branch of The Royal Anglian Regiment Association.

On her retirement last year, many tributes were paid to Sarah, showing clearly how much her work was appreciated throughout the Association and by The Royal Anglian Regiment Regimental Headquarters. The following quotes received at the time from comrades describe her well: 'A lovely caring person; A great help and friend; I have never encountered anyone with the dedication and depth of knowledge she displayed'. Her greatest attribute was her dedication to the Comrades.

In recognition of her meritorious service, Sarah Peyton was awarded the Imperial Service Medal on 5 May 2010. It was presented to her in Area HQ Northampton on 23 Nov 10 by HM Lord Lt of Northamptonshire, Lady Juliet Townsend, in the presence of many of her family and friends.



Lady Juliet Townsend presents Sarah Peyton with the Imperial Service Medal.

### Inheritance Tax

Some veterans may be eligible for inheritance tax exemption if they die as a result of injuries or disease received or aggravated during military service.

When someone dies, Inheritance Tax must normally be paid on their estate (everything they owned at the time of death), if their estate is worth more than a certain amount (currently £325,000). The main exemption is if they leave their total estate to their spouse. However, if a serving or former member of the Armed Forces dies from (or death can be shown to have been hastened by) an injury sustained or disease contracted on active service against the enemy or other service of a warlike nature (such as operations against hostile forces in peace time or anti-terrorist operations), a complete exemption from inheritance tax can be granted on their estate under the provisions of s154 of the Inheritance Tax Act. Likewise, whilst the total exemption is not transferrable to a spouse's estate, the granting of an exemption on the veteran's estate will double the personal tax threshold (to £650,000) used to assess any Inheritance Tax liability on the spouse's estate when they die.

Each application for an exemption is considered on its merits after the death of the veteran concerned and requires the MOD to be given access to the veteran's full medical records. Neither war time service in the Armed Forces or receipt of a war pension, is a guarantee that exemption will be granted.

Anyone wishing to apply for an exemption under s154, or requiring further information, should contact the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency at: Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre (Deceased Estates), Room G35, Innsworth House, Imjin Barracks, Gloucester GL3 1HW. Or telephone Wendy Gower or Linda Blackwell on 01452 712612 Ext 5680 or 8174.

### Email Communications

Please keep RHQ informed of your email address and RHQ will keep you informed of Regimental gossip and events, as and when they occur. An application form for the RHQ Email Database is enclosed.

### June 2011 Edition of *Castle*

Contributions for the June 2011 issue of *Castle* should reach the Editor by no later than 22 April 2011. Contributions should be in the following format:

Text should be submitted in Word or Text Only on a CD, floppy disk or by email. Each article should be in a separate folder, with an accurate caption and credited; photos linked to that article should not be embedded in the Word documents, rather they should be supplied as separate jpg or tiff files, with captions, and then placed in the same folder.

Photo files can be in Greyscale, RGB or CMYK format. In general, the jpg needs to be 300 dots per inch at the size it is to be printed. If hard copy photos are being supplied, do not write on the back of them. Instead, write the caption on a Post-it note and attach to the back. Do not supply inkjet prints of jpg photos as the quality will not suffice.

The Editor works on the assumption that all contributions have been edited and approved by the CO/OC/senior person. So please do your best to ensure that content/grammar/spelling/accuracy are of a high quality.



## Regimental Matters

### The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial Dedication Ceremony 12 September 2010

*Lt Col Kevin Hodgson OBE, Regimental Secretary, writes:*

The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial Dedication Ceremony took place in the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on Sunday 12th September 2010 commencing at 1130 hrs. Also present were the families of our 78 fallen comrades – some 375 in number – plus Regimental hosts, who knew their loved ones, for each bereaved family. Additionally, some 160 major donors and Regimental guests attended, plus 2500 members of our Regimental Association. The Minden Band of The Queen's Division played prior to and during the Ceremony.

The Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment, the Reverend Ken Reeve, led the Service and, after the Bidding Prayer, it continued with the hymn *He Who Would Valiant Be*. The Colonel of the Regiment gave the Reading and the Reverend Tony Rose the Sermon. After prayers led by the 1st Battalion Chaplain, the Reverend Nick Todd, and a Prayer of Dedication led by the Reverend Tony Rose, the hymn *Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer* was sung.

The Act of Remembrance was led by the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion, Lt Col James Woodham, who read *Let us now remember those soldiers of The Royal Anglian Regiment and the East Anglian Regiments who gave their lives in the service of The Queen and our country*. Regimental Sergeant Major Tim Newton, 1st Battalion, then read out the rank and full names of all those on our Roll of Honour. Lt Col Woodham gave the exhortation which was followed by The Last Post, The Silence and Reveille.

Wreaths were laid by the Colonel-in-Chief on behalf of The Regiment, Maj (Retd) Stan Bullock on behalf of the Regimental Association and Mrs Margaret Yallop, Sister of Cpl Michael Boddy, on behalf of all the bereaved families. The hymn *I Vow to Thee My Country* was sung, followed by the Closing Prayer, the Blessing and The National Anthem.

With the Service complete, the Colonel of the Regiment addressed the Regimental Family as follows:

*Your Royal Highness, My Lord, Ladies and Gentleman. That concludes the formal dedication of our Memorial and I would like to thank our regimental chaplains for a very thoughtful and appropriate service.*

*Today has been a long time in coming. Since the formation of the East Anglian Regiments in 1958 and The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1964, those that we have lost have been remembered in different ways and in different places. But we have not, until today, had a single location that reflects the history of duty, and sacrifice, of our Regiment. Today we have put that right.*

*The catalyst for this Memorial was the 1st Battalion's Afghanistan tour in 2007 in which 9 of our young soldiers died. The sympathy and support that welled up from within The Regiment, the former Regiments and right across our Regimental area, was quite simply extraordinary. The funds raised helped meet the need to support the families of the fallen and the injured and thoughts turned to a lasting reminder of the wonderful young men who had laid down their lives. After discussion in the 1st Battalion and across The Regiment it became clear that we wanted a memorial not only for Afghanistan, but for those we have lost over the years and across the globe.*

*More funds were required and they came from the wider Regimental Family, the general public and a number of private and corporate major donors. Many of the donors are here today, and we The Regiment are extremely grateful to you all.*

*To move from idea, to the magnificent reality that is the Memorial we see before us, has taken a huge amount of work, internal to The Regiment and outside it; architects, artists, craftsmen, and contractors of many specialisations have all played a great part. I cannot mention them all but I would like to single out for particular thanks three contributors: Stephen Oliver, our architect, for capturing the essence of The Regiment in his thoughtful design; Rob Humphreys*

*and the craftsmen of Fairhaven and Woods for turning that design into reality; and our Sculptor, Ian Rank Broxley, who has given us a figure that embodies in a timeless way the youthful strength, resolute determination and noble self-sacrifice of those we commemorate. It really is magnificent.*

*I would also like to thank The Imperial War Museum who have allowed us this site in the very heart of the Regimental area, next door to our Regimental Museum, and collocated with our annual Regimental Gathering – it could not be better and we are really most grateful.*

*This Memorial embodies the ultimate form of the values that underpin our Regiment – duty, loyalty and professionalism. It also demonstrates that we, the Regimental Family, care deeply about those within our number who have made the ultimate sacrifice and those around them who have suffered such pain.*

*This is an important and emotional day for The Regiment, but we are most conscious that it will be a particularly raw and difficult day for the 375 close family members, of all 78 of our fallen, who are with us, having come from as far afield as the United States, Australia and Fiji. Their grief, accompanied by a tremendous sense of pride, we all share.*

*This Memorial is intended to be a place of reflection and sanctuary. For the families and comrades it will be somewhere to come to connect with those that they have lost, and with the ethos and spirit that sustained them in life. For those members of The Regiment yet to come it will be a place from which to gain strength and resolve based upon the example of those that have gone before.*

The Colonel-in-Chief departed to view the Regimental Museum, followed by the major donors, Regimental guests and their hosts. Thereafter, and guided by their hosts, our bereaved families were invited to move forward to the Memorial to pay personal tribute to their loved ones. Members of the Regimental Association respected this time of privacy by quietly departing the Memorial site for lunch.

The Regiment hosted all of the bereaved families, major donors and Regimental guests, for lunch after which the Dedication Ceremony formalities concluded and the Colonel-in-Chief departed Duxford. However, most of our bereaved families chose to stay on to visit the Regimental Museum and then attend the Beating Retreat by The Minden Band of The Queen's Division, which took place at 1530 hrs within the Memorial.

Thus ended a short but special day in the History of our Regiment, and one on which the sun shone gloriously throughout. But it was the culmination of a project which started 3 years earlier in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. So for those who can spare a moment – read on.

### The Background

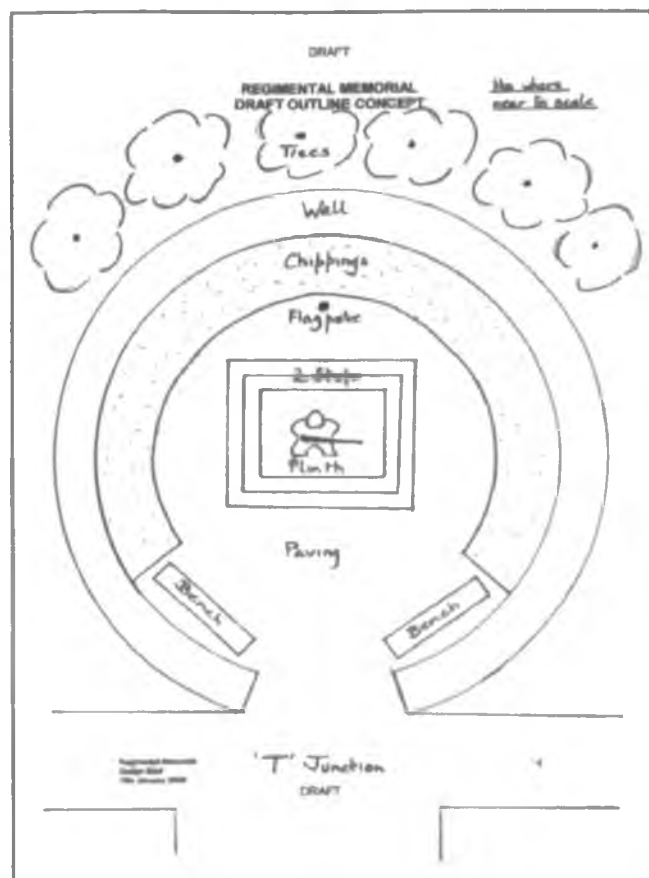
In 2007, while fighting in Afghanistan, the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment launched an appeal to raise money to support its wounded and their families and to help raise a memorial to the nine soldiers who were killed during that tour. The memorial was to be sited somewhere in East Anglia. Subsequently, with the strong support of the 1st Battalion, the Regimental Council decided that the memorial should commemorate the sacrifice of all soldiers from the East Anglian Regiments and The Royal Anglian Regiment who had died on duty in Aden, Northern Ireland, Germany, Cyprus, Kuwait, Bosnia, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, and that the wider Regiment should contribute funds to achieve this.

The Imperial War Museum Duxford was selected as the preferred site for the memorial because it is at the heart of The Regiment's recruiting area, the Regimental Museum has been located there since 1995 and it is also the location for the annual Regimental Gathering held each September. Thus Duxford would become the prime focus for The Regiment in its home counties; a place where we could gather

## Regimental Matters

to remember our dead, with the story of the campaigns in which they died being told, a few yards away, in the Regimental Museum.

In November 2007, the Regimental Council nominated a Regimental Memorial Committee to supervise the Memorial project; this consisted of the Regimental Secretary, Brig Colin Groves (the then Chairman of The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum Trustees), and the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion. The Committee met for the first time on 15 November 2007 and agreed to progress three differing design ideas: a traditional stone cross, a large stone boulder and a statue. The Committee met again on 14 January 2008 and unanimously agreed to select a statue of a young Royal Anglian soldier as an outline design concept.



The Memorial Committee agreed that the statue should be as timeless as possible and should not be linked to any one battalion, or theatre of operation. This would enable the families and friends of all those who have died, from 1959 onwards, to find something in common with the centrepiece statue, identify with it and feel that the sacrifice of their loved one had been properly and equally recognised. The Committee therefore decided to utilise those items of dress and equipment that the majority of our soldiers, past and present, would be able to recognise, irrespective of where and when they served. Thus the centrepiece of the Memorial would be a statue of a young soldier, dressed in combat kit, modern helmet and belt order, armed with a General Purpose Machine Gun loaded with a belt of ammunition. A photograph of a 1st Battalion soldier, taken on operations in Afghanistan in 2007, provided the inspiration for the statue; and the outline design concept was subsequently approved by the Regimental Council in May 2008.

In July 2008, a design competition was held by The Regiment, advised by independent experts and the Imperial War Museum, to select a design and construction team. The winning design has since been developed by the Regimental Memorial Committee, working in conjunction with its design team and the Imperial War Museum, so that it fulfils the Regimental brief and combines with new displays planned in the adjacent Regimental Museum.



The inspiration for the statue.

### The Design

The design for The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial is site specific. It reconciles a need to balance a sense of exposure with that of enclosure, whilst providing an appropriate setting for the centrepiece bronze statue of a Royal Anglian soldier. The statue is 1½ life size and is positioned on a plinth placed centrally in a wall. Both the plinth and wall are proportional with the statue in line with traditional practice.

The Memorial is set in an octagonal enclosure. A representation of the eight pointed Regimental cap star badge is integral to the design of the paving within the enclosure. The rear wall forms the Roll of Honour on which the names of The Regiment's fallen are inscribed. At the centre of the wall is the plinth surmounted by the statue. The plinth is inscribed with an appropriate commemorative text. Bronze balls sit at either end of the wall and stone pylons delineate the entrance. The axis from the statue through the entrance leads to a sweeping view of a broad landscape. The axis also provides the line of an approach path to the Memorial.

Most of the enclosure is formed by low stone benching, with an earth bank behind, echoing the shape of the adjacent World War II aircraft dispersal area and the sculptured land form of the American Air Museum. The low benching provides a sense of enclosure from within, but allows uninterrupted views of the landscape. It also presents a quasi defensive aspect from outside the Memorial, appropriate to the military associations of the brief.

Materials used for the Memorial were sourced from within the Regimental area as far as possible. Two types of stone came from the Lincolnshire limestone belt: cream coloured Clipsham and Ancaster hard white. In addition, Essex handmade buff bricks were used below the bench seating and laid in lime mortar. The rear of the wall is faced with a buff stock brick, also inlaid in lime mortar.



## Regimental Matters



Cobbles form the rear of the seating benches and a small area of flint flushwork is included on the entrance pylons.

Names are carved directly into the wall to create a sense of permanence and directness. There are ten columns of lettering each eight stones high, reflecting the ten counties from which The Regiment draws its numbers and the eight antecedent regiments from which it was formed. There is a plinth at the base of the wall to support wreaths, poppies or flowers.

### The Memorial

The Royal Anglian Regimental Memorial is dedicated to the memory of those members of The Royal Anglian Regiment and the East Anglian Regiments who have died whilst on duty, or as a result of enemy action, in the service of their Country. The stories of the campaigns in which they died are told in The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum in Land Warfare.

The plinth, on which the bronze statue stands, is inscribed with The Royal Anglian Regiment cap badge, under which is carved:

**IN MEMORY  
OF THOSE MEMBERS OF  
THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT  
AND  
THE EAST ANGLIAN REGIMENTS  
WHO DIED WHILST ON DUTY**

At the rear of the Memorial enclosure, and on either side of the plinth, a wall forms the Roll of Honour. On it, inscribed under their respective cap badge, are the rank, initials, surname, decorations and date of death of The Regiments' fallen.

### The Names

The Regimental Council decided that those whose names are inscribed on the Armed Forces Memorial at Alrewas will be included on the Regimental Memorial. They therefore followed the criteria established by the Trustees of the Armed Forces Memorial Trust, but retained discretion in all cases. If the Trustees of the Armed Forces Memorial Trust are persuaded to add a name retrospectively, then

the Regimental Council may decide to do likewise.

The general principle applied by the Trustees of the Armed Forces Memorial Trust is to include the names of: "Those members of the Armed Forces (Regular and Reserve) who were killed on duty while performing functions attributable to the special circumstances and requirements of the Armed Forces, or as a result of terrorist action, and those who died while deployed on designated operations."

This definition includes, in general terms, those serving with the Territorial Army. Those serving with Cadet Forces, including adult instructors, are not included, although there may be, depending on the circumstances of each individual case, a reason for including Group B officers.

The Trustees of the Armed Forces Memorial Trust have absolute discretion regarding the inclusion of names and may be asked to adjudicate on whether to include names where it is not clear that they fit the agreed criteria. They will also have discretion to include uncertain or contentious cases.

Further information can be found at the website of the Armed Forces Memorial at <http://www.veterans-uk.info/afm/index.htm>.

### Building the Memorial

The design and construction team comprised Stephen Oliver of Rodney Melville & Partners Ltd (Architect), Ian Rank-Broadley (Sculptor) and Rob Humphreys and Tim Crawley of Fairhaven & Woods Ltd (Stonemasons). The bricks were supplied by W H Collier Ltd. They have written the following words about their part in the project:

### The Architect

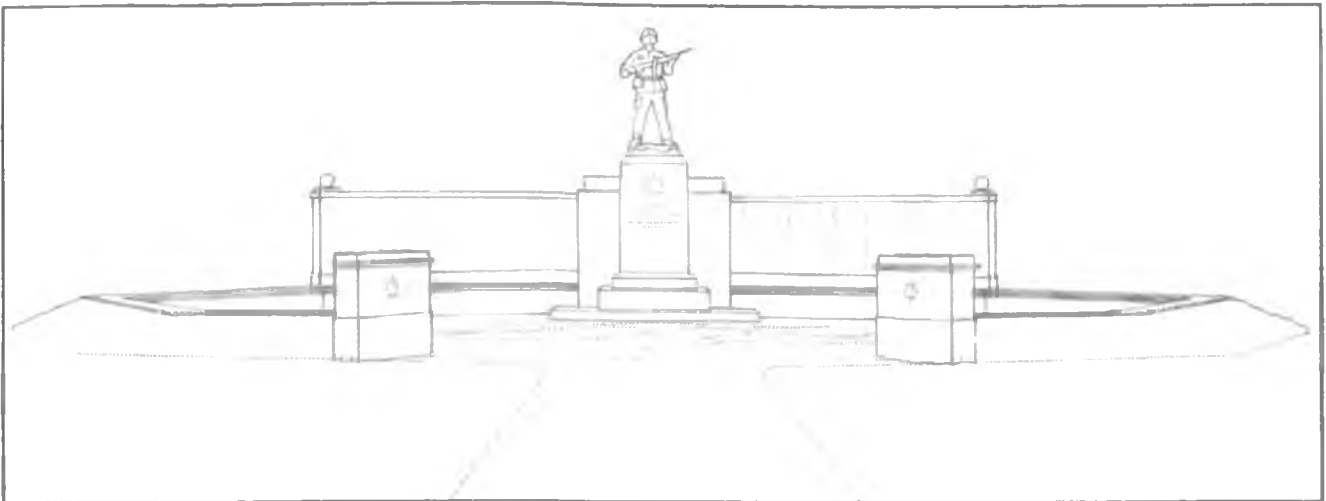
*Stephen Oliver, Rodney Melville & Partners Ltd, writes:*

In the summer of 2008, I was approached by the sculptor, Ian Rank-Broadley, to take part in a limited competition to design a new memorial for The Royal Anglian Regiment. Having only recently returned from a sketching tour of the Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries in Flanders, I was thrilled at the possibility of contributing to the tradition of war memorials. Ian and I know each other through the Art Workers' Guild, an organisation for artists and craftsmen with "an emphasis on high standards of design and construction, and the proper, practical use of materials." We invited Tim Crawley, head carver at Fairhaven & Woods Ltd., and another member of the Art Workers' Guild, to join our 'team' for the competition.

We had to work at speed to complete a sketch design in time for a so-called 'beauty parade', but in comparison to many projects, the brief was excellent and this assisted greatly. It was sufficiently prescriptive to imply that there was a strong belief in the form - a circular enclosure with a central statue and Wall of Honour - whilst allowing opportunities to use the finest quality materials and develop the design in detail. The presentation of our sketch proposals, to representatives of The Regiment and the Imperial War Museum, went well and within 24 hours we heard the positive result.

After a subsequent change to the planned location, I had the task of redesigning the Memorial, working with the brief, but responding to a different site. Whilst the original site had been open on all sides, and so suited a circular enclosure, the new site backed on to a protective belt of trees. The Memorial therefore had to reflect this situation. My conclusion was that the statue should become the central feature of the Wall of Honour at the rear of the Memorial. Instead of a circular plan, an octagonal plan was adopted, inspired by the Regimental cap badge - the eight-pointed star being picked out in the paving pattern. The statue base became more streamlined, emphasising its solidity. The benches which surround the Memorial on the other sides have an earth bank behind - a feature reflecting the various artificial land-forms of the nearby World War II Aircraft Dispersal Area and American Air Museum, whilst also implying a defensive infantry position and blending seamlessly with the landscape.

## Regimental Matters



### Pencil sketch

We renegotiated the value of the work with Fairhaven & Woods, and were able to commence work in December 2009. Despite one of the coldest winters and the driest springs, work was completed on time and on budget, and to the highest standards, at the end of April 2010. As an architect used to working on historic buildings, I was familiar with the need to create something which will last – a work of art which can be ‘left out in the rain’ – and the use of high quality materials was therefore both necessary and appropriate. The lettering utilises the same font as Trajan’s Column in Rome, the exemplar for all inscribed lettering since the Roman period.

The landscaping around The Memorial has also been part of the project. Four specimen Liquidambar trees were planted behind the Memorial, carefully chosen so that they will be in autumn colour on Regimental Days. The planting belt behind has also been thickened up so that, in time, it will screen more of the traffic noise. A reinforced grass path has been formed across the field to permit access in bad weather.



Tree screen.

Despite some trying moments, the project has exceeded my expectations. Whilst the architect’s role in most commissions can be peripheral, I have found that my role has gone far beyond this and I have, for example, followed the news very closely during The Regiment’s recent tour of duty in Afghanistan. Meeting members of the Regimental family and the recently bereaved at Regimental Days has inevitably made my involvement deeper than with a ‘normal’ project, and I am honoured to have been able to assist in such a worthy cause.

### The Artist

*Ian Rank-Broadley, Sculptor, writes:*

Since my work on the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, I have spent a lot of time in my studio thinking of what it is to be a soldier; of doing a tough job and sometimes paying the ultimate price of losing one’s life. Making a sculpture to represent this loss is not an easy thing. What needs to be portrayed in the sculpture are the qualities of what it takes to be a good soldier. It has to convey a resolute, stalwart, courageous and, ultimately, self-sacrificing figure. In short, I came to the conclusion that I needed to create an image of a hero.

From Ancient Greece onwards heroes have featured in our culture, as images that record, commemorate and inspire those who look upon them. To add to this long and noble tradition is no easy task. When the Memorial Committee set out their brief they wanted an iconic image that everyone could identify with, regardless of generation. The soldier had to be realistic in the portrayal of uniform and his equipment, in this case, a General Purpose Machine Gun. The sculpture also had to show a youthful portrait that was not particular, but a universal portrait of a determined young soldier.

In trying to visualise the requirements of a client commissioning sculpture the first step is to create a maquette, which is a scale model of the proposed work. It is at this stage that the committee and artist can discuss the look of the work and make the relevant amendments if required. Once all parties are agreed the scaling up to full size, in this case eight feet high, is commenced. Over an armature of welded steel, clay is applied and the figure is roughly bulked out to resemble the maquette times three. If it were simply an enlargement from the maquette much work could be left to assistants; however the increase in scale usually dictates the artist reappraise his conception to some extent. Subtle modifications are made to the large clay model to achieve a greater balance to the form and proportion. After several weeks of intensive modelling the final image emerges. One hopes that it has captured the spirit of the first thoughts as well as achieving an image that is powerful and arresting.

When I am satisfied with the result and it has been approved by the committee the next part of the process is to mould the clay. Silicon rubber is applied over the clay to take an impression of the shape and it is reinforced by a casing of fibreglass to make it rigid. This is the negative image of the work that is then used to make a wax



## Regimental Matters



The Statue Maquette and Plinth on display at the Regimental Gathering in September 2009.



The moulding process.

replica. At this stage I will work on the surface of the wax to refine details and repair any damage that has occurred in the moulding process. When this is completed the wax is cut into manageable sections and given a coating of ceramic shell. When this coating is dried, the invested wax is placed into a kiln and burnt out and into this cavity is poured the molten bronze. This method of casting is known as the 'lost wax', or 'cire perdue' method and has been used from classical times, through the Renaissance, to today.

Even after working as a professional sculptor for thirty-four years or more, I still marvel at the transition of a work in clay to the beauty and permanence of bronze. Once in metal we know that the work will survive a thousand years or more, which is fitting for our soldier with a machine gun. He will stand for all time, and in all weathers, to remind generations in the future of the personal sacrifice of each of the names inscribed on the Memorial.

### The Stonemasons

*Tim Crawley, Director, Fairhaven and Woods Ltd, writes:*

Fairhaven and Woods Ltd are an East Anglian stonemasonry company, originally founded in 1999 by Lady Fairhaven as Fairhaven of Anglesey Abbey Ltd. In 2008 the acquisition of the long established masonry business of AJ Woods of Norwich led to the renaming of the company.

Fairhaven and Woods acted as Main Contractor, responsible for delivering the entire project and for employing and co-ordinating the various different trades other than our stone workers - such as ground workers and bricklayers. The Project Manager was Rob Humphreys, Masonry Manager at Fairhaven and Woods and the site team responsible for the laying of the stonework was led by Simon Thulborn, the first apprentice taken on by this young company.

After taking possession of the site and installing the necessary facilities, the ground was first broken at the beginning of January 2010 - not the ideal season in which to undertake work of this nature. We commenced work on site with a protracted cold spell, but progressed steadily. The trenches were dug and footings laid for the brickwork which forms the backing for the ashlar stone facings of the Memorial.



The welded steel armature.

# Regimental Matters



The site is cleared.



Ground breaking.



Brickwork for the bench seating.



The Capbadge is picked out in the paving pattern.



The Regimental Capbadge is carved in stone.



Carefully placing the Roll of Honour.



Carving the plinth inscription.



## Regimental Matters



**Nearing completion.**

Clipsham stone was used for areas close to the ground and for the copings, which give the walls protection from the elements. It is particularly durable, but being fairly coarse and 'shelly', was not suitable for the ashlars that were to be engraved with the names of the fallen and dates on which they died. For this purpose Ancaster stone was selected, it being fine grained and shell free. The paving was laid in York stone, with the star motif deriving from the cap badge of The Regiment. The final task of the project was the design and cutting of the inscriptions and dedication in painted Trajan style lettering, 'v' cut by hand.

### The Brickmaker

*Maurice Page, Director, WH Collier Ltd, writes:*

Brickmaking at W H Collier was started in 1863 by William Holman Collier and run by the Collier family until 1988 when the business was sold to Salvesen Brick. The company changed hands and was put up for sale in 2005, bought by the management and became independent again.

Since the management buyout, a new range of premium yellow bricks has been developed. Primrose Yellow, used in the construction of the Regimental Memorial, is within this collection. These bricks were handmade, three at a time, in sanded moulds by Sean Larter, Jamie Smith and Mark Strugnell. This trio, with a total of 40 years of experience, make 9,000 bricks a week from clay dug on site.

The Marks Tey deposits were laid down during the interglacial years and so are relatively young. Once weathered, to break down the solid clay, it is mixed with sand and water to make a pug and transported by conveyor belt to the makers. The bricks are dried



**Brickmaking.**

for 3 weeks and fired in a moving hood kiln. The hearth is loaded by forklift with 18,000 bricks and the kiln is then moved over them and fired up to 1060 degrees centigrade for 54 hours; the result is a creamy yellow brick. After firing, the bricks are unloaded into packs of 400 with straw used between the layers for protection.

### Funding

The Regiment is enormously grateful to those who have contributed towards the cost of the Memorial. The three battalions of The Regiment each raised considerable sums, much of which came from generous public donations that were strongly encouraged by our friends in the local press. A separate fund-raising appeal was also launched by the Trustees of the Regimental Museum and led by Lt Col Trevor Veitch. The aim of this was to raise funds for the Memorial whilst enabling an updated Museum, located in Land Warfare, to better tell the stories of our fallen and the campaigns in which they died. This will be through major new displays which are planned to be introduced during the coming winter months.

Approaches were made to local councils, the business community, charitable trusts, philanthropic societies, social and ex-service clubs and prominent individuals. We were particularly encouraged by the generous reaction from our Freedom Towns, our affiliated schools and cadets. In addition, members of the Regimental Family and our Associations and a huge number of friends amongst the general public



**Landscaping and laying the path.**

## Regimental Matters

also donated. The result is gratifying proof of the affection felt for The Regiment throughout East Anglia and the East Midlands and recognition of the supreme sacrifice made by those of our number who died for their country.

### The Families

In May 2009, The Regiment decided that it must be in a position to invite the families of each of our fallen to the Memorial Dedication Ceremony; and that those who could attend would be the most important guests on this special day. But whilst Regimental Headquarters was in contact with some, there were 46 families with whom, over the years and very regretfully, all contact has been lost.

Publicity in the Regimental Journal, Castle, drew in a number who were in some way in touch with the wider Regimental family; and the inauguration of the Elizabeth Cross in July 2009 caused others to make contact. But by the end of April 2010, there were still 37 families left to trace. Data sheets were therefore produced for each soldier and his family using information gleaned from the Armed Forces Memorial website, Regimental Archives, the Army Personnel Centre and the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency.

A series of articles in local newspapers then produced some good results; and the Police Service of Northern Ireland was also very helpful. But the majority of work involved detailed research by Maj Peter Williamson on the registers of births, marriages and deaths, to build up a family tree of each fallen soldier, followed by a search to find a current address and telephone number of a family member. The latter step often proved to be the most difficult as many were not in the phone book or on electoral rolls.

On Saturday 7 August 2010, The Regiment made contact with the final family. That we managed to do so reflects our determination to ensure that those who have died on duty are properly remembered; and that their families are provided with a worthy Memorial which might provide them with a source of pride and comfort in the years to come. Both the soldier and his family deserve no less.

### Access to the Memorial

The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial is a place where family and friends, comrades and the general public, can come in a peaceful atmosphere to remember, give thanks and express gratitude; a place where people of all ages, nationalities and faiths, can learn about the ongoing cost of freedom and democracy.

The Regiment has agreed a pass system with the IWM Duxford, the purpose of which is to enable relatives of those commemorated

by the Memorial to visit during the Imperial War Museum Duxford's museum opening hours, gaining free access at the public entrance on the production of a one-time-use-only identification pass. Relatives of our fallen should apply for these passes in a timely manner from the Regimental Secretary.

Access for formed bodies from the regular and Territorial Army battalions of The Royal Anglian Regiment and its allied training establishments, cadet forces and regimental associations will be allowed, by prior arrangement, during museum opening hours, without charge. Whenever possible such visits should be made in uniform. In the first instance, contact should be made with the Regimental Museum Curator, Mr Andy Murkin.

Members of the Regimental Association visiting in an individual capacity, be they serving or ex-soldiers, will be offered 'two for one' entrance on production of their MOD ID Card or Regimental Association Membership Card at the Visitor Entrance to the IWM Duxford. This arrangement excludes discounted entry on Air Shows and other Event Days.

### Future Maintenance

The Trustees of The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum will be responsible for making the necessary arrangements to maintain the Memorial after its dedication, including the addition of names. They will establish a contract to provide for its future maintenance, which will be funded by The Regiment. It is also hoped to form a local 'Friends of The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial' group, who volunteer to care for the Memorial on a day-to-day basis, to keep it in a manner befitting its purpose.

### Book of Remembrance in Museum

To complete the Memorial Project, the Regimental Council has decided to commission a digital Book of Remembrance that will be displayed in the Regimental Museum in Land Warfare. This book will contain the names of all members of The Regiment who died, in any circumstances, whilst serving. The inclusion criteria will be the same as the 'Roll of Honour' that is displayed in the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

### Editor's Note

The following nine pages hopefully capture the atmosphere at The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial Dedication Ceremony held on 12 September 2010 at the Imperial War Museum Duxford.



# The Roll of Honour

## THE EAST ANGLIAN REGIMENTS

PTE	K	BURTON	31 OCT 1959
PTE	JF	HANDFORD	11 JUL 1962
PTE	JR	SHOPLAND	4 JUN 1964
PTE	BT	FOX	10 JUN 1964

## THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

PTE	K	ATKIN	24 DEC 1964
PTE	WF	FRAZER	31 DEC 1964
LCPL	MR	BOOTHRIGHT	20 FEB 1965
CPL	CH	JACKSON	20 FEB 1965
PTE	LEJ	WALLACE	4 JUL 1965
JDMR	IW	SKINNER	20 OCT 1966
CPL	R	WATSON	24 OCT 1966
CPL	MG	SHIRLEY	15 NOV 1966
CPL	JE	HERBERT	3 MAR 1967
PTE	C	RODGERS	4 MAR 1967
MAJ	PD	TAUNTON	26 OCT 1970
PTE	BJ	SHERIDAN	20 NOV 1970
PTE	R	WILKINS	11 OCT 1971
LCPL	IM	CURTIS	9 NOV 1971
2LT	NE	HULL	16 APR 1972
PTE	JH	BALLARD	11 MAY 1972
LCPL	M	ROONEY	13 JUL 1972
CPL	KC	MOGG	13 JUL 1972
CPL	MP	BODDY	17 AUG 1972
CPL	JM	BARRY	25 SEP 1972
PTE	ISD	BURT	29 SEP 1972
PTE	RM	MASON	24 OCT 1972
PTE	A	GOODFELLOW	27 APR 1973
PTE	N	MARKWICK	12 SEP 1973
LCPL	WJMA	OWENS	15 SEP 1973
PTE	EW	EDWARDS	15 SEP 1973
LCPL	R	GRANT	2 NOV 1973
PTE	PL	HOLLIS	13 NOV 1974
CAPT	MGA	SHIPLEY	8 MAR 1975
SSGT	TR	BODENHAM	28 APR 1976
PTE	K	STACEY	26 APR 1977
PTE	S	FOSTER	13 NOV 1978

PTE	PA	WRIGHT	8 OCT 1979
PTE	AA	COOPER	20 MAR 1980
LCPL	KH	JOHNSON	4 JUL 1980
PTE	KA	BREWER	29 AUG 1981
PTE	T	ANDERSON	24 MAY 1982
MAJ	PC	FORD	22 DEC 1983
PTE	AP	LINNETT	29 JUL 1984
PTE	MR	PATTEN	22 SEP 1985
MAJ	AF	FRENCH MBE	22 MAY 1986
PTE	CJ	DAVIES	9 JUL 1986
PTE	MR	BERTRAM	9 JUL 1986
PTE	DJ	KNIGHT	26 JUL 1986
PTE	PA	TEE	7 OCT 1986
PTE	DJ	BACK	19 AUG 1987
PTE	ND	PEACOCK	31 JAN 1989
LCPL	S	LANGRIDGE	27 MAR 1990
CPL	NW	COLLISHAW	9 MAY 1990
LCPL	PJ	FAULKNER	9 MAY 1990
PTE	MTJ	LINNEY	5 APR 1991
JNR	JS	WINDSOR	4 SEP 1991
SGT	JB	DEVANEY	23 MAY 1992
CAPT	SP	WORMALD	29 APR 1994
LCPL	JG	ROUT	13 FEB 1999
LCPL	DJ	GEORGE	9 APR 2002
PTE	J	LEWAICEI	13 MAY 2006
PTE	AP	MORRIS	13 MAY 2006
PTE	C	GRAY	13 APR 2007
LCPL	GR	DAVEY	20 MAY 2007
CPL	DW	BONNER	28 MAY 2007
PTE	AJ	BORKERTAS	15 JUN 2007
LCPL	A	HAWKINS	25 JUL 2007
PTE	TA	RAWSON	10 AUG 2007
CAPT	DC	HICKS MC	11 AUG 2007
PTE	RG	FOSTER	23 AUG 2007
PTE	AJ	MCCLURE	23 AUG 2007
PTE	JS	THRUMBLE	23 AUG 2007
PTE	SJ	MUGRIDGE	14 APR 2008
LCPL	AP	DRANE	7 DEC 2009
PTE	RS	HAYES	3 JAN 2010
CAPT	MO	DRIVER	15 MAR 2010
LCPL	STM	HARDY	16 MAR 2010
PTE	JD	GRIGG	16 MAR 2010

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



CASTLE



In Memory  
of Those  
Members of  
The Royal  
Anglian  
Regiment  
and The  
East Anglian  
Regiments  
who Died  
Whilst on  
Duty



Lt Cols Mike Boocock and Richard Lyne hosting our guests



The arrival of our Bereaved Families with their hosts.



IN MEMORY  
OF THOSE MEMBERS OF  
THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT  
AND  
THE EAST ANGLIAN REGIMENTS  
WHO DIED WHILST ON DUTY



RSM Newton reads the 78 names on the Roll of Honour.



Derek and Frank Rodgers - brothers of Pte Colin Rodgers.





THEY DIED FOR US

1914-15	1917-18	1918-19	1919-20
1921-22	1923-24	1925-26	1927-28
1929-30	1931-32	1933-34	1935-36
1937-38	1939-40	1941-42	1943-44
1945-46	1947-48	1949-50	1951-52
1953-54	1955-56	1957-58	1959-60
1961-62	1963-64	1965-66	1967-68
1969-70	1971-72	1973-74	1975-76
1977-78	1979-80	1981-82	1983-84
1985-86	1987-88	1989-90	1991-92
1993-94	1995-96	1997-98	1999-00
2001-02	2003-04	2005-06	2007-08
2009-10	2011-12	2013-14	2015-16
2017-18	2019-20	2021-22	2023-24

AND  
 THEY DIED FOR US  
 AND THEY DIED FOR US

Mrs Margaret Yallop, sister of Cpl Michael Boddie, lays a wreath on behalf of the bereaved families.

The Dedication Service begins.  
Picture courtesy/The Eastern Daily Press.







4 JUN 1964  
 10 JUN 1964  
 REGIMENT  
 24 DEC 1964  
 31 DEC 1964  
 20 FEB 1965  
 20 FEB 1965  
 4 JUL 1965  
 OCT 1965

LCPL R GRANT  
 PTE PL HOLLIS  
 CAPT MGA SHIPLEY  
 SSGT TR BODENHAM  
 PTE K STACEY  
 PTE S FOSTER  
 PTE PA WRIGHT  
 PTE AA COOPER  
 LCPL KH JOHNSON  
 PTE KA BREWER  
 PTE T ANDERSON  
 MAJ PC FORD  
 PTE AP LINNETT  
 PTE MR PATTEN  
 MAJ AF FRENCH  
 CJ DAVIES  
 MR BERTRAM  
 DJ KNIGHT  
 PA TEE  
 DJ BACK  
 PTE ND PEACOCK  
 LCPL S LANGRIDGE  
 CPL NW COLLISHAW  
 LCPL PJ FAULKNER  
 PTE MTJ LINNEY  
 JNR JS WINDSOR

2 NOV  
 13 NOV  
 8 MAR 1974  
 28 APR 1974  
 26 APR 1977  
 13 NOV 1977  
 8 OCT 1977  
 20 MAR

Carved in stone with pride

LCPL R GRANT  
 PTE PL HOLLIS  
 CAPT MGA SHIPLEY  
 SSGT TR BODENHAM  
 PTE K STACEY  
 PTE S FOSTER  
 PTE PA WRIGHT  
 PTE AA COOPER  
 LCPL KH JOHNSON



The grandchildren of  
Maj Peter Taunton.  
Picture courtesy Steven Prowse.







Looking for the name.



The family of Cpl Richard Watson.



The family of Pte Eddie Wallace.



Families waiting patiently to pay their respects to their loved ones.





IN MEMORY  
OF THOSE MEMBERS OF  
THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT  
AND  
THE EAST ANGLIAN REGIMENTS  
WHO DIED WHILST ON DUTY



We Will Remember Them



## Mainly About People

Capt Simon Broomfield represented The Regiment at the Field of Remembrance Opening Ceremony on 11 November 2010 at Westminster Abbey. He therefore stood in front of the Regimental Plot and was subsequently introduced to **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**. Simon was chosen because he was badly wounded in the same IED explosion that killed **LCpl Scott Hardy** and **Pte James Grigg** on 16 March 2010. After the ceremony some 40 members of the Regimental Association gathered in the Farmers' Club for a light lunch and refreshments kindly arranged by **Mr Sam Luckin**.



Capt Simon Broomfield and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh  
(Photo courtesy of Picture Partnership).

The Colonel of the Regiment, **Gen Sir John McColl**, will hand over the post of DSACEUR in March 2011 and take up the post of Lieutenant Governor of Jersey in September 2011.

The Regiment congratulates **Lt Col Nigel Johnson** on being selected to command the 2nd Battalion from September 11 to March 14; and **Lt Col Chris Barry** for being selected to command 2 R WELSH, a Regular Battalion, from December 11 to June 14; and wishes them both well in such key appointments in these testing times.

The Regiment is most proud of and congratulates members of the 1st Battalion, for the following operational awards, as a result of their recent service in Afghanistan: **Maj CD Davies - MBE**; **Sgt AR Hill - MC**; **Maj SR Smith**, **Lt SM Broomfield**, **ASgt RJ Vickery** and **LCpl AR Taylor - MIDs**; **Maj OCC Brown**, **Lt DJ Benstead** and **2Lt PRA Lenthall - QCVS**.

The Regiment also congratulates **2Lts Dan Tomlinson** and **Tim Duncalfe** on being commissioned from RMA Sandhurst in August 2010; and **2Lts Ed Hackett**, **Stuart Wright**, **Chris Winterman** and **Berne Flower** on being commissioned in December 2010. We wish them all the very best of luck in what will no doubt be busy and interesting times for young platoon commanders.

**Maj Bill O'Driscoll** represented The Regiment at a presentation of the Elizabeth Cross to the family of **Pte Adam Morris**,



Matlock, Derbyshire, 11th May 2010. The family of **Pte Adam Morris**, 2nd Battalion, killed on operations 13th May 2006 and **Pte John Turner**, R Lincolns, killed on operations 21st June 1947.



Bicester, Oxfordshire, 10th June 2010. The family of **Pte Dennis Buckley**, R Leicesters, **Maj O'Driscoll**, **Capt Bob Allen** and **Capt Havilland**, who was **Pte Buckley's Platoon Commander** at the time of him being killed on operations on 17th November 1951.

## Mainly About People



Leicester, 5th October 2010. The family of Pte Arthur Davie, R Lincolns, killed on operations on 19 January 1952, with Lady Gretton, Brig Williams (Comd 49 Bde) and Maj O'Driscoll

2nd Battalion, and Pte John Turner, R Lincolns, on 11 May 10 at Matlock, Derbyshire. He also attended similar presentations to the family of Pte Dennis Buckley, R Leicesters and Pte Arthur Davie, R Lincolns on 10 June 2010 and 5 October 2010 respectively.

A big thank you to Mr Phill Hayes of the Walnut Tree Armed Forces Support from Hertfordshire which raised over £3,500 for The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity.

And also to Mrs Barbara Erbe who sent in the picture of Christine Bonner and some of the lads from the Poachers who attended a very successful local launch of the Poppy Appeal for Hertfordshire Royal British Legion. Barbara wrote: *I know Mr Alec Beach. Life Vice President of Hertfordshire RBL was grateful for their attendance and Christine was her usual brilliant self in promoting both The Regiment and the Poppy Appeal.*



Mr Phill Hayes at the National Memorial, Alrewas, where he laid a wreath.



Christine and the Poachers.

The Regiment also congratulates Christine, together with Capt Ty Smith, Capt Adie Penn, and all members of the All the 4s Sponsored Walk Team, for raising over £42,400 (and still rising) for The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity, reports of which are contained elsewhere in this edition. Our thanks also to Mrs Helen Gray, mother of Pte Chris Gray, for raising over £5,000 for our charity via a sponsored golf day in Leicestershire.

Brig Peregrine Rawlins sent in a photograph and wrote 'The 201st Anniversary of the Battle of Talavera was marked in Wiltshire yesterday by a lunch in our garden. As the attached photograph shows (more or less), present were (roughly from left to right), Charles and Sandra Lumby, John and Corinna Tadman, Shirley Akehurst,



## Mainly About People

Mike and Cuqui Chambers, David and Angie Goodale, Anita Taylor, Bob and Georgina Hastie, Peregrine and Marlis Rawlins, Mike and Sandie Boocock, Roger and Trisha Antolik, Martin Romilly, Tim and Julia Young and John and Christine Houchin.



Wiltshire Poachers celebrate Talavera Day.

Col Geoff Newmarch sent in the photo below reporting that Poachers' Saunter, part of the Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival, went off well on Sat 5 Jun 2010 with 30 walkers and two dogs attending!



Poachers sauntering.

It was good of ex Pte Colin Meechan to call in at RHQ with some photos and tales of Aden, Radfan and BAOR. The first two photos might ring some bells for recent veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, although personal protection equipment had clearly not got on to the agenda by 1965! Many readers will also recall Soltau 'Red Areas' with mixed memories.



1st Bn OP overlooking the border with Yemen, 1965. Lt Elder is second from right.



Left to right: Cpl Spidy, Pte Colin Meechan and LCpl Revel bring their WOMBAT into action in the mud of Soltau Training Area, Germany, 1966.



B Coy, 1st Bn, being lifted by RN Wessex into Cordon and Search positions, 3 Apr 65, Aden.

## Mainly About People

**Capt Will Meddings**, 1st Battalion, mischievously sent in this photo of 9 Platoon, on Op TELIC 6, in summer 2005. Will writes: 'It's a reference to **LCpl Katrina Hodge** (Combat Barbie) getting a CO's Commendation when the vehicle with her and **Cpl Kerin** in, rolled. Cpl Kerin is still quite touchy about the subject!'



**Ptes Kerin, Dunster and Toublic on patrol in Basra. Shortly after this photo Pte Kerin's life was famously saved by LCpl Katrina (Combat Barbie) Hodge.**

Thanks to the East London and West Essex Guardian Series from which extracts of the following article, regarding the remarkable **Mrs Edna Wallace**, have been reproduced:

### *Wanstead Mother who changed Military History Dies*

*A woman who helped change military history after her son was killed while on duty has died aged 89. Edna Wallace and her late*

*husband Jack fought to see their son's body brought home from the former British Colony of Aden after he died there in 1965. Soldiers are now repatriated back to the UK when they are killed abroad, thanks to the efforts of the Wanstead couple.*

*Mrs Wallace had six children. Her second-born son, Eddie, was 17-years-old when he died while on duty with The Royal Anglian Regiment just three days after being posted to Aden. His family found out by telegram from the War Office which explained he was presumed drowned in a swimming accident and Mr and Mrs Wallace were informed that to find out more they could call the office between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.*

*The couple were told that the funeral would be within hours and although it was made clear that they were not expected to attend, they knew they had to be there, scraping £500 together and securing a flight through the help of the British Red Cross. So unusual was the arrival of parents for a soldier's funeral in Aden that they were given an honour guard as they stepped off the plane, but Eddie's colleagues were unable to throw any light on his death.*

*When they returned, Mr and Mrs Wallace threw their efforts into changing the way the war dead and their families were treated. After a campaign involving thousands of letters, including an appeal to the Queen, in 1967 it was announced in the House of Commons that in future, news of a soldier's death would be broken to families by a senior officer from the regiment, and that soldiers' bodies would be brought home.*

*Mrs Wood, of Wanstead Park Avenue, said her mother wrote to Margaret Thatcher during the Falklands War, reminding her of the law change, as the then Prime Minister declared soldiers killed in the conflict would be buried on the island. She said: "Mum was a courageous and forceful lady. From the minute the telegram arrived she knew it was not right that they found out like that. She was cooking the dinner and she hardly cooked again after that because she put everything into the campaign. She was so determined to get Eddie home and change the situation so other parents could have their children buried back home."*

*A few years after the campaign was recognised with the law change, Mr and Mrs Wallace were invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace.*

*Sadly Mr Wallace died in December 2008, but Mrs Wallace was taken out of hospital by her family to attend another special service in September this year. She was guest of honour at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on September 12 when a Memorial to Royal Anglian Regiment soldiers was unveiled. Mrs Wallace's chaperone that day was retired colonel Rupert Conder, who found Eddie's body the day he died.*

*Mrs Wood said: "When I was at the service I just stood there and*



**Mrs Edna Wallace (in wheelchair), escorted by her family and Col Rupert Conder, at The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial Dedication Ceremony.**



## Mainly About People

thought, 'mymum did this'. People saw a little old lady and probably wondered why she was right up the front, but it was recognition of what she had done."

Mrs Wallace won another fight against the government as in 1994 she managed to secure a military headstone for Eddie's grave in East Ham.

Mrs Wallace, who lived in Wanstead, would have turned 90 on Christmas Day. She died on her 71st wedding anniversary and leaves four children, 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Maj Bill O'Driscoll snapped the following photos of the Regimental Tree and Plaque whilst visiting the National Memorial at Alrewas, Staffs, recently.



The Regimental Tree and Plaque.



Many congratulations to Capt Richard Weston and Emma on their marriage at RMA Sandhurst on 21 August 2010.

And finally, after an editorial request for photos of *Castle* being read in unusual places, Sgt Roberts, 1st Battalion, offers this photo of him relaxing in RSM 1st Battalion's Office. He obviously misunderstood the requirement, by getting 'unusual' mixed up with 'dangerous'.



Possibly the last ever photograph of Sgt Roberts.

## Letters to the Editor

### East Anglian Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club

Dear Editor,

At our recent Committee meeting it was brought to our attention that the son of one of our Committee members had recently returned from a tour of duty with The Royal Anglian Regiment. We decided at our meeting that we would like you to pass on to the whole Regiment our extreme gratitude for their service, bravery and dedication.

Good luck and God Bless to you all.

**Lesley McFadyen (Mrs)**  
Secretary

### Hats on for the Royal Anglian Tea Party

Dear Editor,

Fifty invited guests entered into the spirit of the afternoon by wearing hats for the occasion held in aid of The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund. They were greeted on arrival by seven members of the Regiment in combat dress. This caused something of a stir, almost causing at least one guest to drive into a tree!

Simon Parkes, a Radio 4 presenter and ex-Vogue food critic, came along to meet everyone and talk about his recent book, *The Calcutta Kitchen*, a cookery book written after spending a year in India.

After a glass of something sparkling pink and fresh strawberries from the garden, guests walked around the grounds before sitting down to afternoon tea on the lawns. During tea, guests were surprised by the beautiful voice of Zara, the newly appointed Lady Mayoress of Saffron Walden, who entertained with her singing.

The afternoon finished with the raffle draw and then a book signing by Simon Parkes and the auction of a designer hat, donated by Philip Treacy, the famous milliner, which alone raised £800! The total raised was £2,800.

With grateful thanks to all the guests for their wonderful support and the local businesses that supported the afternoon. In particular, Cambridge Marquees, Harts the Printers, Waitrose, Hotel Chocolate, Saffron Walden Laundry, Sandra Kent of Cambridge and Saks the Hairdressers and to Elaine Vevers and everyone else who kindly donated.

**Vivienne Pyatt**  
Arkesden, Essex



**The Tea Party – Ladies with Hats.**



**Lt Greg Napier and his 'Helpers' – Vikings with no Hats!**



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My name is Andrew Atterwill and my work colleague and friend Richard Mulley from Ditchingham in Norfolk asked me to send these photos onto you. They were taken along Hadrian's Wall where he walked the full length of the wall raising £1300 in aid of The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund.

Andrew Atterwill



Richard Mulley in his walking rig. Well done and thank you.

Dear Editor,

On 7 March 2010, I was walking with friends on Alphin Pike, near Mossley, Lancs, when one of the party found a blue ribbon attached to the remains of a balloon and on the other end was a strip of paper with the following information:

*Private Robert FOSTER, 19 years of age, Harlow, Essex, First Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment, Killed by Friendly Fire in Helmand Province Afghanistan August 2007.*

We marked the spot where the balloon had come to rest and I later discovered that Robert and two of his colleagues, Aaron McCLURE aged 19 and John THRUMBLE aged 21, were part of a patrol that came under fire from Taliban insurgents. After calling in air support from the US Air Force, two F15 fighter bombers arrived and dropped several 500lb bombs on the area; unfortunately one of the bombs landed on the house where the three soldiers were sheltering. All three were killed.

I was so moved by this story that I traced Robert's parents and told them what I'd found. I learned that in October 2009, the Soldiers Sailors and Air Force Association (SSAFA) and the families of all the soldiers killed or seriously wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, met at St James' Park Football Stadium, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Over 500 balloons were released in memory of these fallen heroes and by complete chance I realised we had found the remains of one of the balloons on Alphin Pike. Robert's parents told me that they liked the idea of their son's spirit floating across the sky and I suggested we could return the balloon to where we had found it and mark the spot under a small stone cairn and from there release another balloon containing Robert's details.

On Sunday 11 April 2010, I went with a group of friends and John Foster, the father of Private Robert Foster, and walked back up Alphin Pike to the spot where the remains of the balloon had been found. We buried the remains of the original balloon on the spot where we found it and placed a small stone cairn over it. We then tied two helium balloons together and attached a slip of paper holding the personal and regimental details of Private Foster and released them. The balloons were red and yellow and represented the regimental colours of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment,

Private Foster's Battalion. John Foster said a few words about his son, Robert and added that '...It's great to think that my son has been remembered in such a way, especially when you consider none of us have met before. On behalf of Lisa, his mother, and other members of the family, I would like to thank you all for showing such respect for our son...'

He told us Robert was known as 'Frog' when he was at school and then produced a brass frog and placed it on top of the cairn. After this he unfurled a large Union Jack some 7 feet by 4 feet. Superimposed on the flag was one of the last photographs of his son before he was killed. He was sitting in the back of an Army Land Rover in Afghanistan.

On Easter Monday I, along with friends from Mossley, performed a very old Lancashire street play in the town, called the 'Mossley Pace Egg Play', raising £200 which was donated to The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund. The fund provides relief and medical costs for seriously injured soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bill Westhead  
Serious Crimes Division  
Greater Manchester Police

### The Ones that didn't Get Away

Dear Editor,

The annual Infantry Fishing Championships were held at Portland Waters, Grantham recently, with a field of over 30 anglers competing, including me (Army Team Manager) and WO1 Allen Ralph, both Royal Anglians.

Day 1 saw us drawn in different sections, both finishing 2nd and recording weights in excess of 30 kg; Day 2 and, after a steady day from Allen Ralph and a section win for me, we came 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Infantry Championship.

I am currently posted at the Defence SERE Training Organisation (DSTO) in Newquay, Cornwall, and have also been competing in the UK's County Championships. Fishing against some of the best match fisherman in the country, and over the course of the year, I managed to finish 5th. Details of match fishing in the Army can be found on ArmyNet; alternatively contact me, WO2 Jason Eccles, on 95423 7953

WO2 Jason Eccles  
Squadron Sergeant Major  
RAF St Mawgan TR8 4HP



WO2 Eccles (Left) handing out the Infantry Fishing prizes.

## Letters to the Editor

### Homage to the Royal Anglians

Dear Editor,

I am the daughter of a Sergeant of the 2nd Bn East Yorks Regiment, a Bandsman (Stretcher Bearer) and Dunkirk Veteran, who was mentioned in despatches.

The image of the falling poppies at the Festival of Remembrance has always resonated with me and was instrumental in my decision to join the WRNS in the early 60s.

After marriage and children, I decided to try for further education. I had previously been told I was no good at art or exams. In 2003 I enrolled for an access course. I then did a foundation Degree in Art and Design. This then led me in 2005 to attempt a BA Hons in Contemporary Applied Art (which really means anything put together in an artistic way).

My Dissertation was 'Memorial and Transient Re-enactment'. The theme became War Death and Poppies to symbolise the loss of each of your soldiers whilst on tours in Afghanistan and Helmand Province. The Combat Jacket symbolised the number of men killed in each area and a poppy for each man; the wreath of poppies commemorates each man individually by name, age and the place he came from; the 'brick wall' was to symbolise the Basra Memorial Wall, but more personally, as though the relatives had written each first name. Then there were map pins in the name places where each man fell; the camouflage netting to help with the symbolism; and the falling poppies were to indicate and emphasis the loss and sacrifice made by each of those families whose loved one have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

I chose the Royal Anglians because I had seen the exhibition in the Museum in Luton; but also because it was our closest regiment. The exhibition private view was on Dunkirk Night and the feedback I got was of a very powerful message. I hope that I have not offended anyone in anyway by creating this tableau: it was just my way of paying homage to your Regiment and men.

Patricia Tewkesbury



### They came in the Night

Dear Editor,

Respectfully dedicated to the members and families of The Royal Anglian Regiment:

*They came in the night –  
Pitch black,  
The rain hammering  
On the roof  
And running down the windows  
Like tears.  
The doorbell rang  
And the world  
Stopped –  
Time stood still  
Like my heart  
In that cold, wet down,  
Uniform greatcoats  
Scarce concealing  
Uniform camos . . .  
"Hello, Mags," said the taller one  
Attempting a smile that didn't quite  
work –  
"Can we come in?  
It's important . . ."  
And at that moment,  
Somewhere,  
A light went out inside me.*

W Neil Smith

### Some Confusion

Dear Editor,

I am confused as to the apparent proliferation of charities that are available to make donations towards ex and/or present servicemen who have been injured or are in need of assistance. For the last few years' Service charities have been riding high in public esteem and generosity, but exactly who is doing what for whom?

The Army Benevolent Fund, Help for Heroes, Royal British Legion, SSAFA, Veterans' International Aid etc etc, are all open for contributions, but when you look at the available accounts these charities are themselves making donations to other charities. Indeed I recollect a Castle article a few years back showing the Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund (RABF) made a contribution to the ABF, but the ABF in turn made a greater contribution to RABF.

My confusion is caused because I just want my small contribution to go towards helping Royal Anglians who may be in need; how is this best done?

Derry Maher (60-78)

**Editor's Note:** By donating to The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity. Please see the article on Page 117 and the donation pro forma on Page 197. But if in any doubt, send a cheque, gift aided if possible and made payable to The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity, to RHQ R ANGLIAN at Bury St Edmunds.



## The Regimental Museum

*Andy Murkin, Museum Curator, writes:*



**The Regimental Memorial under construction.**

The biggest event at Duxford over the summer was the dedication of the Memorial, which is sited close to the entrance to the Museum. Over the months leading up to the day of the ceremony, it was fascinating to watch the Memorial gradually take shape, and to realise just how much work went into its construction. Museum personnel were involved at a critical stage, helping to keep the grass alive during the long dry spell we had.

On the day itself the Museum was visited by the Colonel-in-Chief, who particularly enjoyed chatting to the volunteers who had come in to receive visitors in the Museum Gallery.

The exhibition, *Afghanistan Then and Now*, has been on display over the summer on the 'spine' of the Land Warfare building at Duxford. It was certainly eye-catching and has been of great interest to visitors.



As we did last year, the Museum marked Armed Forces Day by inviting veterans from The Regiment to speak to members of the public. These included members of the 1/3rd East Anglian Regiment Malaya Veterans Group, as well as serving soldiers from the 1st Battalion. A similar event was held in August on Burma Star Day.

Also at Duxford the 'Afghanistan' display case has been updated to include the 1st Battalion's deployments in 2007 and 2009-2010. An interesting feature of the display is a digital photo frame showing film taken by soldiers from the Battalion in action. We hope this will be successful in showing visitors exactly what conditions are like.

The Museum's new Handling Collection has been in use with the Imperial War Museum in educational activities at Duxford, and with regimental recruiters elsewhere.



**The 'Afghanistan Then and Now' exhibition.**

## The Regimental Museum

As usual, there has been a lot of work behind the scenes. Both Museum staff and volunteers have been busy preparing photographs and magazines to be professionally scanned. As this edition of Castle goes to press, the Museum Gallery at Duxford is about to close for the winter, but the Museum Office remains open and this work will still go on.

Trustees and volunteers met in September for a social gathering, at which a presentation was made to our longest-serving volunteers, Judith and Godfrey King, who are now enjoying a well-earned retirement.



Cpl Ed Garner and Pte Shane Harper.



Richard Faulkner and Bill Green.



Chairman of the Museum Trustees, Brig David Clements, with volunteers Judith and Godfrey King.



# Diary Dates 2011

## January

- 9 Morning Service, Regimental Chapel, Warley  
 19 Royal Lincolns' Executive Committee Meeting  
 29 1 R ANGLIAN Ski Camp until 11 Feb

## February

- 1 3rd Bn Officers' Dinner Club Meeting, Warley  
 6 Morning Service, Regimental Chapel, Warley  
 6 Royal Lincolnshire (Lincoln Branch),  
 Sobraon Lunch, Sobraon Barracks  
 7 Leicestershire County Committee Meeting,  
 TA Centre, Leicester  
 12-20 1 R ANGLIAN Leave  
 14 Lincolnshire County Committee Meeting,  
 Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln  
 17 Regimental Museum Trustees Meeting  
 19-27 Royal Anglian Regimental Museum open for  
 School Half Term  
 21 Northamptonshire County Committee Meeting,  
 TA Centre, Northampton  
 21 1 R ANGLIAN Ex Askari Thunder (Kenya) until 8 Apr

## March

- 6 Morning Service, Regimental Chapel, Warley  
 19 Royal Anglian Regimental Museum opens for Summer  
 Poachers' Grimsby Reunion, Cleethorpes

## April

- 3 Morning Service, Regimental Chapel, Warley  
 6 3 R ANGLIAN deploy on Op TOSCA  
 7 Regimental Recruiting Meeting, Canary Wharf  
 8 1 R ANGLIAN return from Ex Askari Thunder  
 13 Meeting of Executive Committee of The Royal  
 Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity  
 15 3rd Bn Officers' Dinner Club, Army & Navy Club  
 17 Royal Lincolnshire (Lincoln Branch), AGM,  
 Sobraon Barracks  
 18 Royal Lincolnshire (Grimsby Branch) Sobraon  
 Lunch, Cleethorpes  
 21 Regimental Golf Spring Meeting, Hintlesham  
 26 Essex Regiment Association General Committee  
 Meeting and AGM

## May

- 1 Morning Service, Regimental Chapel, Warley  
 6 Regimental Council Meeting, Canary Wharf  
 8 Almanza Service, Regimental Chapel, Norwich Cathedral  
 11 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment  
 Association Management Committee Meeting and AGM  
 13 Queen's Division Triangular Golf Match,  
 Forest Hill, Leicester  
 15 Cambridgeshire Regiment Association Lunch  
 18 Royal Lincolns' Museum Meeting

## June

- 1 51st Anniversary of the Formation of 2nd East  
 Anglian Regiment  
 3 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Dinner, Norfolk  
 Club, Norwich  
 4 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Lunch,  
 TA Centre, Norwich

- 4 Lincolnshire Wolds Walk  
 5 Morning Service, Regimental Chapel, Warley  
 12 Cambridgeshire Regiment Association Annual Parade Ely  
 12 Award of Scroll of Freedom of City of Ely to  
 The Royal Anglian Regiment  
 20 1 R ANGLIAN BATUS Deployment until 29 Jul  
 22-23 Lincolnshire County Show  
 25 Armed Forces Day  
 26 Essex Regiment Association Remembrance  
 Service and Reunion  
 29/30 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich  
 TBC 16th Foot Officers' Annual Lunch

## July

- 3 Morning Service, Regimental Chapel, Warley  
 15 Regimental Golf Summer Meeting, Ely  
 23 Northampton Branch Talavera Reunion Dinner  
 30 Suffolk Regiment Officers' Lunch, Culford School  
 31 Minden Day, Bury St Edmunds

## August

- 1-31 1 R ANGLIAN Unit Move to Bulford  
 3 1 R ANGLIAN Minden Day  
 5 1 R ANGLIAN Summer Leave until 4 Sep

## September

- 1 Regimental Museum Trustees Meeting  
 10 Minden Band Concert, Ipswich  
 11 Regimental Gathering, IWM Duxford  
 15-19 Regimental Pilgrimage to Low Countries  
 16 Regimental Golf Autumn Meeting, Forest Hill, Leicester  
 24 Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Dinner,  
 TA Centre, Norwich  
 24 Helen Gray Golf Day, Forest Hill, Leicester  
 25 Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Service,  
 Norwich Cathedral  
 25 Royal Lincolnshire AGM, Church Service and  
 Formal Lunch, Sobraon Barracks

## October

- 6 3 R ANGLIAN return from Op TOSCA  
 7 3rd Bn Officers' Dinner Club Lunch, Warley  
 14 Royal Anglian Reunion (Northampton),  
 Northampton Working Men's Club  
 28 King's Lynn Branch Dinner, Town Hall, Kings Lynn

## November

- 4 Regimental Council Meeting, Army & Navy Club  
 4 Officers' Dinner, Army & Navy Club  
 10 Field of Remembrance Opening, Westminster Abbey  
 11 Remembrance Service, Memorial Cottages, Norwich  
 13 Remembrance Sunday  
 20 Norwich Branch Lunch, TA Centre, Norwich

## December

- 2 Royal Anglian Reunion (Leicestershire), South  
 Wigston Working Mens' Club  
 10 Gorleston & Great Yarmouth Branch Dinner,  
 Great Yarmouth  
 17 1 R ANGLIAN Christmas Leave until 9 Jan 12

# Can You Remember?

*Capt James Garside, Regimental Careers Officer, writes:*

**40 Years Ago**

**November - May 1969-70**



**Made It! Pte Newborn.**

At the end of August the Vikings once more conducted the great upheaval and move to Germany - 'This time seemed no easier than last time'. The man from British Rail still insisted that the APCs were quarter of an inch out of line on the flats - off they came and Capt Jenns had to start all over again.

After an eventful and very happy stay of a little over two years, the Poachers left Normandy Barracks, Felixstowe. Their new home was the recently modernised Hyderabad Barracks in Colchester.

The Pompadours had to put away their familiar dark blue beret and Regimental cap badge and don the pale blue beret and global cap badge of the UN Force in Cyprus. They arrived expecting to find tropical climates - not a bit of it.



**HRH leaves Prestwick Avenue, the home of LCpl and Mrs Moore, in Felixstowe.**

The Tigers were nearing the end of their tour in the Gulf. They looked back at a varied period of training, sport and even social activity. Few if any of the men would have spent less than 3 months away from the Island by the end of the tour.



**Below and right: Tigers in the Gulf.**





## Can You Remember?

### 35 Years Ago January 1975 - January 1976



Cpl Busby and LCpl Wiseman.

In 1975 the Vikings became fully acquainted with its AMF(L) role. Members of the Bn had exercised in Norway, Denmark, Italy and Turkey. In preparation for Norway, the whole of January was spent learning the mysteries of the new arctic kit and learning the basic points of skiing on the dry slopes at Bulford.

It was an exciting and challenging year for the Poachers. In the first seven months of the year the Bn followed its operational role in BAOR and then, at the end of May, Col Charles Barnes arrived and attentions turned from Germany to Northern Ireland.

The Pompadours had many victories during this time - to name a few: winning both the BAOR and UK Infantry soccer cups, winning the Bde and Div swimming finals, winning the Bde athletics and coming runners-up in the Div finals.

At the end of October 1974 the 5th Bn underwent the Fitness for Role Inspection, which was a searching examination of all their work and organisation. The Bn received a first class report from GOC Eastern District.



Lt Graham Duthoit, OC 2 Platoon, leading his 'boys' during the march and shoot competition in May. 2 Platoon were the eventual winners.



Ulster 1975.

### 30 Years Ago January 1980 - January 1981



The Band were in great demand during our time in Berlin.

The Vikings had just completed a rigorous 4 month tour in Belfast. On return from leave they launched into a hectic cadre programme which finished at the end of March with an annual inspection.

In January 1980, the Poachers' main event of the month was the Berlin Field Force Inter-Platoon Competition. The competition was designed to test endurance, navigation, radio procedure, NBC and first aid, among many. CSgt Wade and 9 PI were the winners.

The Pompadours moved to their 'home town' of Colchester in November 1979 and celebrated

## Can You Remember?



**GOC Eastern District, Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright, presents the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to CSgt Wally Cook at Braintree.**

links with the town by exercising their rights to the Freedom of the Borough. The march successfully completed, the Bn prepared to go on well earned Christmas leave.

In 1980 the 6th Bn was entirely devoted to NBC and Home Defence training, which was designed to come to a climax with Ex SQUARE LEG in September. This kept everyone busy, and three weekends training a month had become the norm for Coy Comds.



**That's funny...there should be a bridge here somewhere. Cpl Brook, pondering.**

## 25 Years Ago February - August 1985



**A Company Porton battle run stand-to.**

Life for the Vikings in Ulster continued apace and a marked increase in terrorist activity was noticeable. May proved a busy period for the City Coy (A Coy) with a number of vehicle hijackings, leading to 2 shooting incidents.

Having returned from the mountainous scenery of Washington State to Colchester, it was not long before the Poachers were on the rolling Salisbury Plain protecting a Cruise Missile deployment in sub-zero conditions.

The Pompadours had just weathered one of the coldest winters on record, and were now surviving one of the wettest, coldest summers. The boxing team had won the 4 Armd Div Championships.

History was made during April when the 7th Bn's attached REME Tradesmen entered the annual competition for TA REME. The team came first in the attached tradesmen section of the competition.



**Sparing a thought for the children of Londonderry.**



**Can You Remember?**

C Company snipers line up with the rest of the company during the Staff Colleges demonstration. Left, Pte Hone, right, LCpl Knifton.

**20 Years Ago**  
**December 1989 - June 1990**



Pte Boulton fires the 94mm on the PNCO Cadre.

The last couple of months in South Armagh proved both demanding and challenging for the Vikings. Observation and patrolling duties throughout the TAOR were stepped up and many multiples found themselves on the ground for extensive periods of time, in unpleasant conditions.

Even though the delivery of Warrior to the Poachers had been delayed to 1991, the Bn kept busy following a visit of the new Commander 22 Bde and a 100% pass of the Bn Tickle BFT Test.

The hectic lifestyle of the Pompadours had shown no sign of letting up. In October A and B Coys travelled to Catterick to spend two weeks' live firing on Feldon Ranges. Some soldiers were able to fire the new Light Anti-Tank Weapon, the 94mm.

Following its return from annual camp,



2Lt Henry Simpson and his men from the Ops Company provide the Airborne Reaction Force.

## Can You Remember?



**Help was at hand during the gruelling patrols competition.**

the 6th Bn began an intensive period of Home Defence training in preparation for the ARU test exercise (Anglian Artist). Training nights were put to good use by rehearsing their reactions to attack, UXO and IED.



**Another incident. More problems for B (Bedford) Company in training for Anglian Artist.**

### 15 Years Ago

December 1994 - June 1995

The Vikings had been kept active on a multitude of tasks, the highlight being Ex TRUMPET DANCE. This involved the Viking BG deploying to Fort Lewis near Seattle for an eight day training package.

On return from Bosnia, the Poachers worked hard to remove the Chobham armour from the Warriors and carried out post-tour administration in preparation for leave. In December 94 they paraded through Celle to mark their return from Bosnia.

The Steelbacks time was dominated by the 54 Bde military skills competition which took place on Stanford Training Area. The competition was won by a twenty man team from 3 Coy led by 2Lt Gary Bullard.



**Cpl Gray, Sgt Curtis and Cpl Fuller take a break during Operation Grapple 6 training in Sennelager.**



**Can You Remember?**

**Above:** Sgt Brodie and the B Company team prepare for the live section attack range.



**Right:** Pte Simpson occupies his trench at Yakima.

### 10 Years Ago December 1999 - June 2000

The changing political scene in Northern Ireland created new challenges for the Vikings in Londonderry. The Bn remained busy with numerous operational commitments to be fulfilled in the city and across the province. These operational duties included static security duties, rural patrols, GDA and deployments as the Bde or Province Reserve.

The Poachers had recently moved to Gloucestershire from Cyprus having completed three exercises in Jordan and a Falklands deployment. The focus of the OTX in Jordan gave all commanders a goal to work for. AT was at an all time high, with many soldiers enjoying the PATT periods.

The new East of England Regiment was continuing to take shape and build on the foundations laid at its first annual camp in July 99. A (Norfolk) and C (Essex) Coys completed their annual weapons test in Colchester, while C (Leics and Northants) and B (Lincoln) Coy completed section level training in Chilwell.



**The Pistol Match, Battalion SAAM, February 2000.**



**D Company on the left contemplate scrumming down against the attractive HQ Company front row.**

# Can You Remember?



LCpls Turnell and Seymour contemplating some new instructions on the PNCO Cadre.

**5 Years Ago**

**December 2004 - June 2006**



Members of C (Essex) Company.



## Can You Remember?

After the success of Op TELIC 6, the Vikings found themselves embroiled in Ex WESSEX WARRIOR – the culmination of the training year. Preceding this came the normal cycle of CATT, CAST and CT 1-3 level training. A and B Coys deployed to BATUS to play OPFOR. The Vikings were also tasked to run the first QD Pre-Brecon Course. They also handed over the retired Saxon vehicle in exchange for the FV432.

The Poachers had recently moved from Ballykelly to Tern Hill. Op BANNER was behind them as the changing political climate caused more military capability to be withdrawn back to base. In January 2011, training began for Op TELIC 8. As part of 20 Bde, they were the SSR BG with A and B Coys deployed forward in the Basra Palace and Shatt Al Arab Hotel.

The biggest news was the formation of the 3rd Bn on 01 Apr 06. The new Bn had 2 coys in each of the Regular Bn's areas and an increased Bn HQ and HQ Coy. The 3rd Bn's greatest asset was they were established to provide extra trained personnel to regular Bns for large scale operations.



Right: 3rd Battalion Formation Parade.

Below: Sgt Reeder and his multiple.



# 1st Battalion The Vikings

## Introduction by the Commanding Officer

*Lieutenant Colonel JM Woodham MC  
writes:*

I write this foreword at the conclusion of my time at the helm of the Vikings. It has been the most extraordinary honour to command the Battalion I first joined some 24 years ago; my time in command has proved to be both challenging and thoroughly enjoyable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those serving in the Battalion for their unstinting hard work, professionalism and for being great company. In addition, I would like to extend my personal gratitude to the wider Regimental family and public of East Anglia who have supported us in our important work – I have found this support to be hugely important and have never taken it for granted.

Since the last edition of *Castle*, we have been recuperating from our tour of Afghanistan and have turned the training clock back to zero, rebuilding a strong infantry skills foundation from which we will build towards the next bout of operations in 2012. In the run up to the last Summer Leave the Battalion enjoyed a slightly slower pace of life and we found the time to conduct some Adventurous Training, to run a series of sports competitions including a superb Inter-Company Boxing Tournament and to again celebrate Minden Day.

I feel I must make special mention of the series of highly successful Homecoming Parades which the Battalion enjoyed shortly after our return from Afghanistan. It was during these parades that the Battalion, including some of those injured on operations, basked in the incredible public displays of gratitude and support in Huntingdon, Cambridge, Barking and Dagenham, Ely, Southend and Norwich. There is nothing like the roar of a supportive crowd and my soldiers were hugely grateful for the levels of support shown.

Since the summer, the pace of life has gathered quickly but the focus has been firmly on the 'basics' – fitness, shooting, fieldcraft and navigation to name but a few. Each of the companies has enjoyed the opportunity to take their people away on their own exercises in the UK and many of the soldiers have been training to drive the increasingly impressive array of vehicles we will see as we start to focus on operations. Also during this time we have received a significant upgrade to the Bowman communication system and had to retrain many members of the Battalion. Castle readers will gain a good feel for Battalion life through the many articles and photographs included in this edition.

As I leave the Battalion, I sense the Battalion is in good spirits. It has a strong reputation for operational excellence and is full of people determined to maintain

this position. The future for the Battalion looks exciting, with 1st class training opportunities in Kenya and Canada over the coming 6 months, a unit move to a newly refurbished barracks in Bulford and the prospect of further operational challenges in Afghanistan during 2012.

*Stabilis*

## A (Norfolk) Company Overview

*Maj SR Smith writes:*

'Back to Basics' has been the theme that has driven the way that A (Norfolk) Company has operated over the last few months. None of us will forget the pride felt during the medals parade or the crowds that lined the streets for the Homecoming Parades, especially those in Southend-on-Sea and the rather 'heated affair' that was seen at Barking and Dagenham. I certainly won't forget the moment when I called out the wrong order on the parade in Norwich – fortunately no one moved!

The summer, now almost a distant memory, saw soldiers head off on adventure training packages and participate in sporting events including the hard fought Inter-Company Boxing Competition. The Company numbers fluctuated in light of the Battalion's re-orbating as we said 'cheerio' to 7 Pl who returned to B (Suffolk) Company and 'hello' to a host of new faces, some joining us from rear party duties, others joining the Company on return from postings away from the Battalion. The most notable sporting success of the summer period was the Inter-Company Athletics which saw the team completely clean up during the prize giving. This was down to some excellent personal effort and team work – well done to those who took part.

There has also been a period of reflection as those fallen Vikings, Captain Martin Driver, Lance Corporal Scott Hardy and Private James Grigg, have been remembered both on joyous occasions such as Minden Day and on more formal occasions such as the Thanks Giving Service in Aldershot.

Having had a well deserved summer leave, the Company returned afresh and began to focus on the training that will dominate the Company's efforts until the next operational tour in a couple of years time. 'Back to basics' this autumn has seen the focus shift towards fitness and shooting, which proved to be essential during Op HERRICK 11 and will continue to dominate our lives as Infantrymen. The immediate future sees A (Norfolk) Company deploying up to STANTA for a CTI Level exercise which will allow the platoons to develop their SOPs and work together as they look forward to Kenya in early 2011.

As I hand over to the Company Second-in-Command to 'hold the fort' until the new OC arrives, I will take this opportunity to thank all those in A (Norfolk) Company who have made the last two years the best years of my career and have converted me into a Viking. I wish the 'Fighting Ninth' all the very best for the future.

## Taking Over 2 (Kohima) Platoon

*2Lt Walters writes:*

Seven rather crestfallen soldiers in various stages of undress stood waiting for me besides their beds... "Why only seven, Sergeant Innes?" I asked. "Four on regimental guard sir, six on palace guard, three on cookhouse fatigues, three on regimental fatigues, two on officer's mess fatigues, four away sick with sandfly fever, and two doing sixty-eight days



**2Lt Walters emerging through smoke during a Jungle attack in Belize on the Platoon Commander's Battle Course – life was much simpler then!**

## The Vikings

detention in military prison for attempted desertion, sir."

Fortunately this is not my first day at Regimental Duty but the actor David Niven's who describes the anticlimactic event in his autobiography, *The Moon's a Balloon*. However the situation was not too dissimilar on Monday 6th September 2010, when I arrived at the Vikings, keen to take over my Platoon. On paper I had a well manned platoon of thirty-two and, after 16 months of training, I was finally going to start doing the job I had been preparing for. The reality was not quite that. Where David Niven had found a woefully undermanned platoon, I found that a large proportion of my Platoon were either on courses or still on leave. Even my Platoon Sergeant and the majority of NCOs were nowhere to be found on that first day in camp. However as the week continued I met the NCOs one by one as they returned from leave and courses and, by the end of the second week, I had met most of the privates. The most difficult thing I have had to do so far is write reports on my JNCOs, whom I have only known for a few weeks. But the knowledge and experience of both my Platoon Sergeant and predecessor has allowed me to get on with the job at hand.

As I spend more time in the Battalion, I realise more and more that the rigid structure of training establishments does not apply in the Field Army. Whilst somewhere such as Sandhurst is set up to run the same programme three times a year, year after year, I have found that here in the Battalion not only do we have to meet certain mandatory training levels on a yearly basis, but also on top of that reach certain levels in shooting before we can go to Kenya for Ex ASKARI THUNDER. Then combine that with the other commitments such as Cambrian Patrol training, support to exercises, career courses etc and it becomes very difficult to make sure everyone gets

through every bit of training. Now I look forward to November and taking the Platoon on exercise for the first time and hopefully having the majority of them in one place at the same time!

### My Experiences on Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course

*Cpl Smith, 3 (Corunna) Platoon  
writes:*

PSBC started for me and all other Queen's Division troops at the beginning of April. Two weeks in Brecon running around the cheeky hills doing military skills on which we were assessed as part of the Queen's Division Pre-Cadre. The top third of the course were given a place on PSBC; and after passing the cadre I felt I was more than ready to begin the course.

I and seven other Vikings arrived early on the Sunday morning - a day which seemed to last forever - and we completed the CFT in the afternoon, which we all passed and were given confirmed places on the course. I now started the seven weeks of Tactics. The first two weeks were pretty heavy on lectures and working a lot at night. Unsurprisingly, the PT on the first two weeks was very challenging. The Five Miler with all the platoon weapons was hard and it was where you started seeing who was up to the required standard in the Platoon.

The second week was a lot more physical. Wednesday morning was the two miler in camp which is a hard test, especially with the hill in Dering Lines! By Friday it was time to tackle the dreaded Senior Fan Dance. The day started early and was pleasant enough as the march started fairly easily. This was all to change as we reached Jacob's ladder.

As soon as we were at the top the weather closed in and we found ourselves in a blizzard and freezing cold. We were glad to start descending, but the fun was yet to start as we crossed the A40 and marched on to a monster of a hill. On the other side of the hill was a stretcher waiting for us and this was hard work enough, but to make matters worse an accident halfway up left a section looking after one casualty whilst the remaining section had to crack on. However we got to the finish in time and that was the first two weeks cracked.

The next five weeks were all in the field, with very little sleep. It seemed that you were always digging, patrolling, writing orders or making model pits. Each week would have a different theme and you would just wait for your appointment to come up. My first, a Platoon Sergeant appointment, came early and was a hasty attack which worked well as we kept it simple and had good face to face briefs with the Platoon Commander, making it successful.

As the weeks continued towards the final 10 day exercise, the appointments became longer and more demanding as we worked directly to the OC. My Platoon Commander appointment started with a fire support tasking on to a farm but, as I watched the battle develop, I was able to provide the OC with options and was ready to launch into an attack which was also successful.

The five weeks of exercise were up at last and I think we were all looking forward to rest and the slower pace of LFTT. The first couple of weeks were slow paced and running basic ranges was a nice change. There was even time in the program for tea and toast! The following three weeks were more interesting - organising and running Live Platoon Attacks.

At last the 12 weeks were over. It had felt like a lifetime, but was definitely worth the hard work.



Cpl Smith's Platoon on the Senior Fan Dance.



## The Vikings

### The Fire Team Commander's Cadre - A Student's Diary

*LCpl Steer, 2 (Kohima) Platoon*

*writes:*

After returning home from a very demanding HERRICK tour, I was given seven days leave before attending the Fire Team Commander's Course, along with other members of A (Norfolk) Company and other coys.

We arrived at Sennybridge Camp on the morning of 28 Apr with much dread and anticipation. After arriving we found out that the rumours were true – it was six weeks of continuous training!

Week 1: We started with a CFT on the first day which a few people failed to complete in the allotted time of two hours. Failing meant that they were automatically returned to their units. I found the CFT very challenging due to the difference in terrain between the back area at Pirbright and the hills of Brecon. We took part in daily fitness which included a PFT and a few five mile runs with weight and personal weapons, including section weapons such GPMGs and LMGs. We also did some boot runs to improve our battle fitness. Because the relief of the area was very varied in comparison to the ground we usually train on, it made the fitness a lot harder but more beneficial.

Week 2: This week was packed full of navigation exercises. Initially I found them quite hard as it was my first time in the area. Having only navigated in Pirbright before, it took me a while to get used to the new landmarks and features. But after a few days I was confident and happy to go out and complete the navigation by myself.

Week 3: This consisted of lots of section attacks before progressing onto platoon attacks. It was during these attacks that all students had a command appointment as section comd and section 2IC. This gave me a good opportunity to learn the roles and

to see what areas I needed to improve in.

Week 4: This week is generally known as 'patrols week'. It showed how far I had progressed with my navigation skills. During the week we learnt how to plan routes and get to objectives tactically; but the week seemed to last a long time as we were patrolling during the day and night to ensure we were confident with patrolling and tactics at section comd level.

Week 5: Week 5 was what it was all about. Everything we had been working on during the course was about to be put to the test in this final exercise; it would also heavily affect our course grades which, in turn, would affect the order in which we would promote back in our Bns. The exercise was very demanding and physically tiring – we were constantly being tested. Once the week had come to an end I was satisfied that I could carry out the duties of a Section 2IC in any situation that might occur on the battlefield and also step up to fulfil the responsibilities of a section comd.

Week 6: The last week was much more relaxing as we completed our CLM and had briefs on the duties of JNCOs in barracks.

Overall I found the course demanding but rewarding.

### 'A Soldier's Hero' – Visit to Royal Hospital Chelsea.

*Sgt M Walker, 2 (Kohima) Platoon*

*writes:*

On 16 Sep, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess visited the Royal Hospital Chelsea (home of the Chelsea Pensioners) which was opened in 1682 by King Charles II.

On arrival we were met by 'Shack' (Sgt SP Shailes of the Northamptonshire Regiment) and taken into the Chapel. Completed in 1687, the Hospital Chapel was designed to accommodate 500 people. The painting, 'Resurrection', which stands

in the half dome, was painted by Sebastiano Ricci, assisted by his nephew, Marco. The chapel was consecrated in Aug 1691 and compulsory services used to be held twice daily. These days they are normally conducted on Sundays only.

From there we were taken to the Great Hall which in the 18th Century was used for recreation, courts martial and Army entrance examinations. It was here that the Duke of Wellington's body lay in state in 1852. The table still stands at the entrance today. In the early 19th Century the Great Hall was turned into a dining hall where 16 long tables, one for each ward, provided space for two sergeants, two corporals, a drummer and twenty-one private soldiers. All in all, each table seated 26 people, the same number as lodged in each long ward.

Figure Court, which is the oldest part of the Royal Hospital, is enclosed by buildings on its Northern, Eastern and Western sides. The 7ft 6in statue of Charles II, from which the court takes its name, shows the King as a Roman General holding a baton as a sign of his imperial authority.

On completion of the tour, and predictably, the mess members retired to the bar. We were honoured to be accompanied by a number of the In-Pensioners. We were able to sit and listen to their stories of what military life was like 50 and 60 years ago. Some of those characters included WO1 (RSM) Johnny Lay of the Northamptonshire and Leicestershire Regiments and a gentleman called Bill (surname forgotten by us in the excitement). Bill had 13 medals and sipped brandy like it was going out of fashion. These men gave up so much to enable us to live the way we do today and they ask for nothing in return. They are proud ex-serving military men with a stiff upper lip.

The Chelsea Pensioners are a Soldier's Hero and are what we should all aspire to be – proud and honoured to have served in such a fine institution as the British Army.



Vikings enjoy the hospitality of the In-Pensioners.

## **B (Suffolk) Company – ‘Stabilis’**

*Maj Adam Wolfe, OC, writes:*

I arrived as OC on 1 Sep as the Coy returned from their leave. Almost everything and everyone in B Coy is either new or in a different platoon to the one they deployed on operations with, so I felt immediately at home as the very newest member – at least I was not the only one grappling to learn everyone’s name. Over the last 12 months the Coy has had particularly diverse tasks as you will read below in the CSM’s section. Now we are at the very start of Land Force’s new force preparation model, Campaign FORM, for Op HERRICK 16.

The first month of my command has been dominated by courses for the troops and starting to achieve the training objectives required to deploy to Kenya in early 2011 for the much anticipated Hybrid Foundation Exercise ASKARI THUNDER, a 45 day deployment, with 21 or so days actually in the field; this is our immediate horizon and we are focussing on getting the basics right now.

In addition to the battle rhythm in Elizabeth Barracks, I am proud to say that I had the honour of attending the unveiling of the Regimental Memorial at Duxford and it was B Coy soldiers that carefully pulled back the covers - well done Cpl Goodwin and your team. The unveiling of the Suffolks’ memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum was also a great experience and the depth of support for the current members of the Coy from the members of the Suffolk Regimental Association is fantastic.

A sad event weighs heavily in the hearts B Coy. The death of Pte Pratt in his home town of Clacton is a great loss. Our thoughts are with his family and friends and I hope that



**B Company commence CT1 training on the back area. Here LCpl Ferguson conducts a lesson on contact drills and casualty care.**

we can provide some support and comfort to the family of this respected, enthusiastic and capable young soldier.

In summary, B Coy is rebuilding in every area: platoons are being re-established, drivers are being qualified, medics are being identified, early Mission Specific Training courses are already being addressed, sports afternoons are being protected, friends are being reunited and G1/G4 foundations are being laid. The diverse experiences of the troops in B Coy will be our strength over the coming months – once everyone starts to actually recognise each other... I think that for B (Suffolk) Coy the motto STABILIS remains as relevant as ever.

## **B Coy Re-Orbat Post Tour: The CSM’s Perspective**

*WO2 Culshaw, CSM, writes:*

B (Suffolk) Coy has had a unique experience in the last year, from providing two fighting platoons on OP HERRICK 11, to ensuring BCRs and rear party duties are met. During rear party the Coy had a mixture of soldiers ranging from fit and healthy troops waiting to deploy, to wounded troops that had returned from Afghanistan. The Coy strength was always in the region of 200 troops, including a holding platoon, Jamieson Platoon and a training platoon. It was an oddity, and one that was very different from the normal rifle



**B Company start the Live Firing progression to get to the start state for Exercise Askari Thunder in 2011.**

## The Vikings



**Minden Day Pram Race: 5 Pl are pictured in the white shirts setting off well ..... before the wheel came off!**



**B Company's victorious tug of war team on Minden Day, headed up by Cpl Blackley.**

company. The tour ended and we saw the gradual return of all the troops; and B Coy awaited the return of its fighting platoons, just in time for an eventful Minden Day for all.

The Battalion would re-orbat, which was a huge shift for everyone, but especially B Coy. In order to give the companies an even spread of young and keen soldiers when the Battalion was reformed, there was only one way to do it. As CSM, I co-ordinated with the Adjutant and together discussed each soldier in turn. The result would be different for each individual: some soldiers would go back to the coy they originally had come from, while others would enjoy a fresh start in a new company.

When B Company eventually reformed, it had changed considerably from the entity it had been during or pre-tour. Fighting 5 Pl was resurrected and platoon commanders moved around; Mighty 6 and Lucky 7 Platoons had not seen each other on OP HERRICK 11, although they remained close. So within the Coy we scattered the soldiers and NCOs, offering a fresh start to each platoon. B Coy has had a big change, every command element has changed, but a fresh start is a fresh challenge, and the Coy moves on to better and brighter things.



**Pte Kelly and Cpl Warren winning 'Vikings got Talent' on Minden Day.**



## The Vikings

### G4 – ‘War And Peace’

*CSgt Tawse, CQMS, writes:*

As we all know, the G4 war is never won; all we can do is keep on top of the paperwork and to make sure the guys have got the right equipment when they need it. The Bn has not long re-orbated from the back end of Op HERRICK, which saw a big shift for every soldier within the Company. The block was stripped to the bare bones with all the guys' kit and equipment poured from the block and on to the front of the accommodation. With the blokes settling into their new beds spaces, there was now time for lots of store checks to done.

With the QM back from the tour there was a Board of Officers to be conducted, on which the Company fared pretty well. There have been lots of changes to the stores with kit and equipment coming and going, with adjustments to be made to the account. This was done while B Coy supported the Bn Adventure Training in Weymouth, which took me and Cpl McDonald out of the store leaving LCpl Cooledge to face the G4 war.

On return from summer leave, we were under the realm of Major Wolfe, the new B Coy OC. Next on the G4's list was the back-loading of non-essential equipment and some kit that was used in the Second World War. Currently, we have just had a CO's inspection of stores and accommodation - the stores side was not an issue, but the accommodation is an uphill struggle. This is not new problem but a persistent one. Mind you, as a CQMS I'm looking forward to the move to Bulford, if only on the accommodation front. For the troops this means they will have a better standard of comfortable living, even though they will be paying more for it!

### Driving Towards Kenya

*Cpl Lampbell, B Coy MT Rep, writes:* Afghanistan and Kenya seem a long way off, but time moves quickly in B Coy and we are already on our way towards the main milestones. Driving is a massive priority in the Coy as the requirements for Op HERRICK are clear, with Mastiff, Jackal, CVRT and various other vehicles being used in Theatre, the need for that golden CAT C licence is an imperative.

Intensive courses at Leconsfield and Folkestone have got would-be drivers from the Company away to complete their driving courses. The courses are enjoyed by all, as it's a chance for soldiers to get away from the routine of battalion life, but also to gain a valuable qualification they can use after life in the Army.

The art of getting soldiers onto driving courses is still being perfected; with a hundred other courses and responsibilities for the Company to fill, it's a constant juggling act. However we are on course to do whatever is asked of us in Kenya.

### ...and Onto BCIP 5.4

*LCpl Goodwin, B Coy RSDC, writes:*

In September the Battalion started conducting the BCIP upgrade training. Everyone, BOWMAN veteran or not, was dragged up to the Training Wing to start an intensive program of radio and signals training.

BCIP 5.4 is a software upgrade to the old BCIP 4F system on which it is closely based. The functionalities are almost identical, which makes it very easy to adjust to the new format. Thanks to a more powerful processor, the speed at which it loads and operates has been greatly improved; it also, therefore, handles a lot more information without the risk of crashing.

It will be in the field that the advantages of this new uplift will truly become apparent; when commanders on the ground will have full situational awareness of all their troops with accurate GPS positioning, combined with the new Lightweight Manpack Data Terminal allowing them to utilize their men and assets, whilst lowering the chance of a blue-on-blue.

On the bigger scheme of things, as information is passed up through the chain of command, BCIP 5.4 system will paint a bigger, brighter, more up-to-the-minute accurate picture, for all those concerned and, in return, will see the fighting soldiers used more effectively.

At the time of writing the BCIP conversion is ongoing, with full-time instruction taking place. This should put the Battalion in good stead to use BOWMAN and ComBAT in Kenya, and then eventually when we deploy to Afghanistan again.

### The Challenges of Reforming a Platoon after a Kinetic Tour

*Lt Dave Crosbie, OC 5 Platoon,*

*writes:*

Every young infantry officer looks forward to the day when they take over their first platoon; the day when your first platoon

sergeant gets the lads round for the new boss's opening piece. Whether it goes well, or not so well, it is a day that every infantry platoon commander remembers. At the time of writing this I am approaching the formal end of my tenure as a rifle platoon commander, and due to a mix of circumstances have had to give the 'new platoon commander speech' no less than three times: once to Fighting 5 Platoon as the new one-pip wonder, once to a corridor of startled young Jocks about to begin their training at ITC Catterick, and finally to the newly re-formed 5 Platoon after the post-HERRICK 11 (H11) re-ORBAT.

When the Battalion returned from H11, B (Suffolk) Company found itself required to re-ORBAT and move from the Rear Party Company back to a 3 platoon rifle company. The challenge was to be particularly acute in 5 Platoon, now re-forming with a mixture of soldiers straight out of ITC Catterick, soldiers moving across from 6 and 7 Platoon and a smattering of the original Fighting 5. However, whether you take over a platoon in training, on operations or in barracks, the same challenges are ever-present. The moulding of that crucial relationship between platoon commander and sergeant, and to a lesser degree the section commanders; the slow and steady path to really knowing the troops under your command - their issues, concerns, hopes and fears; and crucially setting the 'moral tone' within the platoon - what you expect and more importantly, what you won't tolerate. This 'platoon commander speech', in tandem with Sgt Dunning's input, really had to get it right first time.

With so many new soldiers, I was initially keen to move away from the experiences of H11 and concentrate on forming a forward-looking platoon. I soon realised however that the strength of the group under my command actually laid in its varied experience. I was blessed with senior private soldiers who were both able and willing to pass on their operationally learned experiences; I had a number of keen and motivated young soldiers fresh out of Catterick and keen to



Members of 5 Platoon during CT1 training in 2009 – reforming the Platoon when so many have moved platoons and companies, or been killed or injured, is a challenge.

## The Vikings



6 Platoon conducting early CT1 training. Here Cpl Anderson conducts a target indication lesson.

establish themselves; finally, I had a number of previous 5 Platoon soldiers and JNCOs who were keen to bring everyone together back under the banner of 'Fighting 5'. At the time of writing the Platoon is reeling from the sudden and tragic loss of Pte Pratt. However, as the members of 5 Platoon come together in the mourning of a popular young Viking who had so much to offer, I begin to see the seeds of a proud new Platoon that will undoubtedly take this experience in their stride as the next generation of Fighting 5 Platoon takes shape.

### A Platoon Sergeant's Perspective.

*Sgt R Vickery*

*PI Sgt 6 Platoon, writes:*

After an eventful and successful tour, with a well earned Post Operational Tour Leave (POTL) out of the way, the pace of life in camp should, you would have thought, be extremely slow. This is far from reality. Contacts have been replaced by nominal rolls and MATT registers; patrol actions and dealing with Afghan locals have been replaced with lessons and block cleaning. With the Platoon occupying Brunswick for a couple of months, whilst the Coy ORBAT was finalised, there was a sense of being held in limbo whilst awaiting POTL. Freedom parades and drill practice were a far cry from what we had become accustomed to in Nad-e-Ali, but for some this was a refreshing change with a minimal threat level.

The move back from Check Point PARAANG to Elizabeth Barracks has been



Cpl Warren's section on patrol in Nad-e-Ali – managing the transition from kinetic operations to life in barracks is a challenge for every commander.

largely marked by a return to the basics. Stringent block inspections have set the tone in a Coy that has worked hard to make the transformation back to routine in barracks. Overall, returning back to camp-life has not been that problematic; I suppose this goes toward the individual adaptability of each member of the Platoon. The double dose of Adventure Training was a nice surprise and something that allowed the boys to relax

and have a few sensible nights out as well.

Integrating new members into a close knit unit caused no issues, which was a relief for the new lads who had been listening to rumour control, expecting these ruthless characters to come back to their block and take over again. However, re-establishing a platoon has not been without its issues. The constant delegation of tasks to the blokes - driver courses, Assault Pioneer nominations,

## The Vikings

having to nominate characters to move out of the platoon, Support Company nominations coming up to chip away at manpower - means keeping an experienced Platoon together is no easy task. There is always a constant stream of small things needing to be done, whilst all the time having to keep the Platoon motivated, which is easier to say than to do. With this kind of tempo in camp, it's hard to reflect on anything but what's happening in the here and now; this is a good thing, as there is no time to dwell on the bad things that have happened, although the Platoon holds its head up high with what they all achieved on the tour.

Looming slightly over the horizon is another range week followed by CT1 and Kenya. Pretty much everything revolves around preparation for these exercises. The normal week routine is a welcome change from the start of the year, but there are not many in the Platoon who wouldn't go back for another stint in the FOB, if only just to avoid a block inspection. As the pace of Battalion life picks up again though, it will be here before we know it.

### Getting the Basics Right in Camp: A Platoon Commander's Perspective

*2Lt Ben Thompson AAC, OC 7*

*Platoon, writes:*

As an attached officer coming to the Battalion, I have had the unique opportunity to see the very start of the training cycle leading up to operations. B Company's new OC, Major Wolfe, wanted to focus on three key areas: shooting, fitness and low level skills; but there is of course a lot of other work to be done. The first requirement has been basic weapon skills, such as GPMG

and LMG, in order to get the soldiers ready for intensive ranges for LFTT for Kenya. A theme throughout this period has been giving responsibility and initiative to JNCOs, therefore the juniors have run most of the weapon handling tests, as well as planning and running ranges.

The soldiers of B Company have come back off summer leave, a little melancholy at their lot, and entered a period that can be frantic for platoon commanders and sergeants but, if not monitored carefully, can become boring for the soldiers. To that end the Company has made a lot of effort to find time for sports afternoons and keeping the lessons interesting. The fitness has also been aimed at working up to the Kenya exercise; loaded marches and cardio training have been the main focus.

The aim of the next few months is to focus on the Battalion's deployment for Exercise Askari Thunder and so ranges and MATTs need to be sorted, clothing sizes taken and issued, and Platoon Orbats written, all of which is sapping the Platoon Commander's and Sergeant's day. I have found that there just aren't enough hours to accomplish all the tasks that have been coming our way from the Sergeant Major and the Company 2IC!

I arrived in the Battalion expecting 30 soldiers, 3 corporals and 3 lance corporals in my Platoon. What I actually got were around 4 soldiers and 1 lance corporal. The Platoon Sergeant informed me that a mix of Cambrian Patrol, numerous courses and guard had robbed me of most of my men! That said, courses finish, guards change and apparently the Cambrian Patrol does end at some point, so gradually my Platoon is starting to get back to full strength. This means that now is the period to get soldiers on career courses, such as driving or assault

pioneers; it also gives a platoon commander the opportunity to start to sculpt his platoon regarding qualifications - signaller, medics etc.

The main effort of this period is to set a foundation of good basic skills for operations and to ensure that boredom does not set in amongst the soldiers, while preparing Lucky Seven to deploy to Kenya in good order.

### Getting the Basics Right in Camp: A Platoon Sergeant's Perspective

*Sgt Wayne Butterick, Pl Sgt 7*

*Platoon, writes:*

I have been in B Company from summer leave time as a platoon sergeant of a rifle platoon and I have been presented with this prime opportunity to get the basics right in camp. My main role in camp is to support the CSM with monitoring the men that are in the Platoon; as well as to take care of any discipline issues within the Platoon; so G1 and G4 are my masters!

After a long summer leave, the things required from the soldiers are: right time, in the right place, with the right kit, for the job that is hand. There are a lot of tasks that are going on at this time of the year such as FSG selection and numerous courses and guard duty. So keeping the MATTs and shooting records of the individual soldiers becomes very important. As a platoon sergeant, one of my jobs is mentoring the LCpls in the Platoon and overseeing their lessons to make sure that they are up to a good standard and are relevant to the training aims of the OC. The JNCOs have taken on a lot and are leading the Company in all



Manning the Battalion Guardroom – under the watchful eye of LCpl Ferguson, B Company soldiers make the transition from manning sangars with GPMGs to manning the front gate with a telephone.



## The Vikings

aspects of training.

The soldiers also have to get used to living back in barracks and the discipline that goes along with it, so the cleanliness and damage repair of the block has been the main effort during these few weeks. On top of that the dress and bearing of the soldiers are closely watched and inspected in order to set a high standard for the more arduous training that is to come.

My aim is to get the basics right in camp before we can move on to bigger and better things in order to better myself and my men. So do the basics well and the rest will follow.

### Potential Officer Visit to B Company: 6-9 September 2010

*Lt Dave Crosbie, OC 5 Platoon,  
writes:*

Potential Officer (PO) visits to the Battalion are of huge importance and something that, thanks in part to the efforts of Capt Nick Denning (Regimental Careers Officer), we as a Regiment are doing well at the moment.

Changes at Sandhurst now mean that POs must specify two regiments of choice early on, and rank those choices in priority order. Consequently, the timing of any PO visit is now almost as important as the content: if we can both impress good quality POs and give them the opportunity to make an informed decision in the weeks before arriving at Sandhurst, then half the battle is won. Such a visit was conducted from 6-9 September 2010 when 13 POs visited the 1st Battalion in their last week as civilians. The visit gave the POs a little taste of everything: life in the field with C (Essex) Company; a chance to meet the soldiers of both B (Suffolk) and D (Cambridgeshire) Companies in camp, as well as the chance to see some of the kit and equipment of Support Company and a quiet night in the Officers' Mess followed by a slightly more lively evening in Costa del Camberley. The visit was a definite success, allowing the POs to see if life in The Royal Anglian Regiment appealed and, more importantly, allowing serving Viking officers to see if this batch have the right attributes to command our most precious commodity, the Viking soldier.

### The Section Commander's Battle Course (SCBC) – A Student's Perspective

*LCpl R Doherty, 5 Platoon, writes:*  
The infamous Section Commander's Battle Course (SCBC) is a course that you only whisper about, just in case your Platoon Sergeant hears you. There are a number of 'Brecon myths' surrounding juniors and seniors, such as the long continuous beastings, the never ending section attacks, the rolling country side and the gruelling weather.

The Queen's Division pre-course puts you through all the major physical tests you'll



**Balancing the GPMG on a range – mastering both the paperwork and practical duties of an RCO during the Range Safety Instruction phase of SCBC.**

face - the two, three and five mile tabs and the eight mile CFT – as well as testing your low-level command skills. Working with other battalions also gives you the chance to meet the guys you will work with in Brecon; recognising these faces as you drive into Dering Lines on the first Sunday is a relief!

Skill at Arms is broken into three phases: method of instruction, range safety instruction and Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT). Throughout the course you complete two weeks of skill at arms lessons with your personal squad instructor. The second phase sees you on the range all day and, although it's hard work, it's rewarding acting as RCO over your peers. The final range assessment is also conducted on a live range, along with LFTT. You have to write a Range Action Safety Plan and conduct a live range, either individual fire and movement or throwing / posting a grenade.

The Tactics Phase starts on a Sunday afternoon, with a CFT around the local area. Tactics is broken down into five phases: foundation week, two weeks of attack, two weeks of patrol, RSOI package and final exercise. Foundation week contains a lot of briefs that can become tedious, but are very important. You are taken through the seven questions estimate process and section commanders orders. The attack weeks start at basic section attack, to platoon and company live and blank attacks. Patrols week allows you to hone your orders delivery techniques and basic patrolling skills, all building up to final exercise.

Final exercise lasts for 12 days and tests you in almost every aspect of conventional warfare. Battle procedure, patrolling, trench clearing, deliberate attacks and FIWAF are all covered. We also moved onto more contemporary operational issues such as dealing with IEDs and interacting with the civilian population. The final attack is a live company attack that lasts the best part of the morning. It's not just pop up targets - but also has small buildings that need assaulting



**Dering Lines, the Infantry Battle School Brecon – driving through the gates for SCBC can be a nerve-wracking experience.**

and clearing, practising us as commanders in more complex command and control. The relief on everyone's faces at ENDEX was obvious. All in all, the course is hard but passable. Hard work, determination and self-belief will get any motivated JNCO through.

### Adventure Training In September

*LCpl Murphy, 6 Platoon, writes:*

We left for Sennybridge at a horrible time on a Monday morning with a sceptical outlook, having not very pleasant memories of that part of the country with its hills and bad weather. We arrived about midday and had a brief about the week's activities and sorting out accommodation. At 1300hrs we had the rest of the day to ourselves. Surprisingly it wasn't long before there was talk of going out for a few drinks - a few lads taking the short journey into Brecon, but most taking the expensive taxi ride to Swansea.

The activities for the week consisted of canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing and caving. We were split into groups of five to six, with the aim of each group doing a different activity each day. That Tuesday my

## The Vikings

group were canoeing, so with quite a cheeky hangover, yet bolstered from a full English from a nearby café, we got our canoes and hit the water. This was the first time I had attempted canoeing and I thought it would be much like kayaking (spending most of the time upside down and underwater), but with 2 people in the canoe. Instead it was quite a nice relaxing trip down a river, trying to get a tan, having a laugh with the instructor and not getting wet once! And the instructors, who were used to working only with recruits and having to be quite strict, enjoyed working with trained soldiers as they could allow us more freedom.

The activities usually finished by 1600hrs after all the kit had been handed back in, and so the lads had the evenings to relax, get some food (the scoff house wasn't the best - however I have been to a lot worse and it was free). There was also some time to head down to the NAAFI, although most of us were in bed early each night. The kayaking the next day wasn't quite as relaxed as the canoeing - practising capsize drills, rescues and having races down the river - but it was a good laugh and we learnt a lot more procedures and techniques and how to read the river than we had on previous trips. On the Monday night we were told by the locals and bar staff that Wednesday nights were one of the best nights out in Swansea during the week. So with that knowledge, we once again took a 30 mile taxi ride to Swansea to find out if that statement was true and were pleasantly surprised with an excellent evening. The next day we were caving.

There were some moments during caving when some of the lads got a bit panicky and out of their comfort zone. Having to squeeze through holes and gaps that you had to breathe all of the air out of your lungs to get through, and parts where you had to put your head in freezing cold water for a few seconds while you get the rest of your body through, were some of the highlights. But all the lads got through into the centre of the cave: and they still managed to crack a few jokes, even when the instructor made us do the route back without lights, in pitch black! The guys were quite relieved to get back to the surface and see daylight again. Well clouds and rain anyway!

The last day my group were rock climbing. We had to go to an indoor climbing wall because the weather was too poor for outside climbing. That said, not many people were complaining as it was nice and warm in the centre, with a good shop. The climbing was still good though and it also meant that we got to do some abseiling and other activities as well. A few guys were genuinely scared of heights and it was good to see them make it to the top of the wall. Unfortunately the day finished early so we could get back to camp and get ready to leave for Pirbright.

After we had all our kit packed and had our final debrief, we waited around for the coach. Looking around and hearing the guys talking about it, I could tell they had a good week, enjoying the activities and the nights out as well.

### C (Essex) Company Overview

*Maj RJ Dobson, OC C (Essex) Coy*

*writes:*

Since returning from operations in Apr 10, C (Essex) Company has experienced major changes in personnel, due to the Battalion's re-ORBAT and postings in and out. This has included a completely new HQ, 3 new platoon sergeants and many other new faces.

The post-tour recuperation period was a constructive one. The Company took part in the Homecoming Parades, most notably through the affiliated areas of Barking, Southend and Romford. There was also the chance for 60 of the Company to go Adventurous Training, split between Weymouth and Brecon. No offence to Brecon, but I know which package I'd rather have!

The highlight of the spell leading up to summer leave was definitely the Inter-Company Boxing. As reigning champions, the pressure was on for C Coy to retain the trophy. In a week of top quality bouts, the team managed to reach 7 of the finals, winning the overall competition. A tremendous effort from all those involved, expertly headed up and coached by LCpl Page.

This has been a key enabling period, with members of the Company spread to the four winds on career courses, education and driver training. While we will reap the benefits later on, the lack of cohesion can become a frustration (C Company had 11 on parade at the lowest count). One week where we did all come together was for a low-level exercise on SPTA. This is covered in a subsequent article and was key for reminding us what each other looks like. Overall, the period has been successful, if slightly disjointed. With one eye on Ex ASKARI

THUNDER in Mar 11, C Company is in good shape leading into the more important elements of foundation training and beyond.

### Company Training on Salisbury Plain

*Lts Napier and Lenthall, write:*

After returning from Op HERRICK 11, C Company underwent a major rebalancing as part of the Battalion re-ORBAT. Consequently, most commanders had a great deal of new faces to get to know, and the blokes a new command structure. Going from an operationally experienced Company Group, to a mostly new Company, required us to go right back to basics.

Even though we were operating at post op 'jogging' pace, we found many of the men and commanders were away on courses and RAAT tasks; therefore it was necessary for us to deploy on exercise complete in order to get some worthwhile training.

In mid-September, after much planning and excitement over getting the troops away from the pull and push of Battalion life, the Company climbed in to the luxury four tonners and headed for Knook Camp. On arrival we found that we had the camp to ourselves, including a bar, TV room, and working showers (which the blokes were very impressed with!).

The next morning training began with an AFT, starting with a cheeky hill right at the beginning of the route. Once we hit the plateau, the men got their breath back and the chat began. We were back in camp sooner than expected, with some cramp and a few blisters, but ready to crack on with the week.

The training programme for the week ahead was jam packed with good quality, low-level training: just what the Company needed to gel together and set the training ball rolling for Kenya. Our base out on the



NAVEX, Pte Williamson.

## The Vikings



Navigation Training - Pte Williamson... again.

area was Tin-Head Farm, where the blokes were put through their paces in group lessons, covering Law of Armed Conflict, signals, map reading theory, cultural awareness, sangar and search drills to name but a few. The week was very progressive, with lessons one day leading in to a practical the next. It was obvious to all involved in teaching that the Company was improving at a rapid rate, and enjoying training as a unit.

By the end of the week the blokes had achieved a great deal, and had noticeably grown in confidence. Perhaps more memorably for them we had a few social evenings with beers and even a barbeque. The Company now is a very different beast, with the blokes knowing the man next to him, the commanders having an idea of their men's strengths and weaknesses, and safe in the knowledge that the team is headed in the right direction, with Kenya in their sights.

### C (Essex) Company Take On Mount Everest in Shopping Centre

*2Lt Will Hoy writes:*

For C (Essex) Company's ten man Cambrian Patrol team, September was an excellent month. While preparing for the arduous patrol competition, we received an invitation from the Essex Fire and Rescue Service to join them in a charity ladder climb in Eastgate Shopping Centre. The aim was to climb a ladder repeatedly to the equivalent height of Mount Everest, in order to raise money for Help for Heroes and the Injured Fire-fighter's Trust.

When I initially told the lads after a week in Brecon, where we covered over 50km in 36 hours, that we would be climbing up Everest, they thought I was joking. However, as soon as they found out that they would be doing this in a busy shopping centre, with the prospect of an all expenses paid night out in Basildon courtesy of Essex Fire and Rescue, their legs felt rejuvenated and they were soon ascending the ladder with

determination! So much determination in fact that by 1330 hrs the C Company lads and firefighters from Red Watch Basildon fire station had already climbed the ladder to the equivalent height of 29,029 ft! After a quick discussion about what to do next we decided to climb it again, completing our second ascent to the height of Mount Everest by 1600 hrs – not a bad effort!

As the guys from the Fire Service and C (Essex) Company climbed the ladder, others walked around the shopping centre collecting donations for Help for Heroes and the Fire-fighter's Trust. Certainly for Ptes Dodd and Holroyd the chance to hang around outside Topshop in uniform for charity was one they were not going to miss! The generosity and good feeling amongst the public towards both soldiers and firefighters was staggering and for the soldiers of C Company, recently returned from an arduous tour of Afghanistan, extremely touching.

Many thanks must go to Station Officer Evan Jellis and John Foster who were instrumental in putting on such a fantastic charity event, and for hosting the Vikings so exceptionally afterwards. The event was a wonderful success, with both Essex Fire and Rescue and C (Essex) Company raising significant amounts for two fantastic causes. We hope that in the near future we can repay the generosity of Essex Fire and Rescue with our own fundraising event.

### Vikings Inter Company Novice Boxing Competition: July 2010

*LCpl Page, C (Essex) Company,*

*writes:*

Elizabeth Barracks was awash with young Vikings in full sweat kit, sauna suits, bin bags and woolly hats, heading out on yet another fat burning plod. With eight weeks

of boxing training ahead, the finals night on 29 Jul was set to be an enthralling night in the ring. Training had gone well in the build up with each company using every inch of Elizabeth Barracks for pad work, sprints and even sparring. The gym was fully booked, as each of the companies took their turn to use the facilities, while one company worked, another kept a close eye on the competition.

The preliminary bouts were spectacular as boxers pitted against each other, stepped through the ropes. The standard was high and competition fierce; one of the most arduous bouts of the prelims came from Pte Tovee (B Company) and LCpl Hilton (C Company) in their welter weight contest. Neither boxer would relent and, as the bell sounded, they locked horns and engaged in a battle that went the distance in three toe-to-toe, punch-for-punch, rounds. This bout could have been held in a phone box as neither boxer would give an inch. Pte Tovee triumphed after showing true courage, getting up from a knockdown in the second round, whilst LCpl Hilton suffered from a broken nose and three broken ribs during his gallant performance. Pte Stevens, C Company, demonstrated pure Viking grit in his middle weight contest against Pte Aerosmith, B Company. In the second round he pulled out his gum shield to spit out a tooth and continue a marvellous performance. If the preliminary rounds were anything to go by, then the finals were going to be a night to remember.

The finals were upon us as the Battalion filled Pirbright gym. Boxers awaited their bouts in the changing rooms as their coaches words rang in their minds. The RSM settled the audience and on his command the contenders made their way to the ring, as the audience erupted. Final words of wisdom were whispered by the coach and, from then on, the boxers stood alone.

Pte Baldwin set the standard with the



Pte Eagle, C (Essex) Company, lands a perfect right hand.



## The Vikings



**C (Essex) Company complete a hat trick as third time Inter-Company Boxing Winners.**

first bout of the evening, during which he patiently out-boxed his opponent to a point's victory. Pte Julian, C Company, punched his way to victory with pin-point accuracy, showing pure boxing brilliance. D Company's Pte George went head-to-head with C Company's Pte Dexter, in a chess-like match, as each boxer performed with great technical ability with Pte George finally just tipping the judge's scales in his favour.

Soon it was the heavy weights' turn. As the bell sounded Pte Roller of B Company and Cpl Townsend, C Company, began trading

blows in an epic display of punching power. Cpl Townsend went on to knock out his opponent in the third round; cementing C Company as the overall winners. A notable achievement for C Company, as they complete a hat trick of wins in the Battalion's boxing competition.

Win or lose, each boxer deserves credit for completing the training, and for demonstrating tremendous courage in stepping into the ring. All spectators would agree it was a well-orchestrated and thoroughly enjoyable event.

### Collecting a Cheque from Bardswell Social Club, Brentwood

*L.Cpl Gibbs writes:*

One Saturday late in September, privates Routh, Oehme and I, all of C (Essex) Company, went to Bardswell Social Club in Brentwood. The occasion was the presentation of a cheque for The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund, which we were honoured to collect. As this was local to where we're from, we were happy to represent the Battalion in our own backyard; and it felt good to do something charitable on behalf of The Regiment.

On our arrival we were warmly welcomed and hosted by the members of the Social Club. We were given the top table to sit on and fed and watered to our hearts content. A local band provided the entertainment for the evening, giving numerous shout outs for The Regiment, which were always met with large cheers. They also talked about our Battalion's recent successes in Afghanistan. It was a really good night with a great atmosphere. Pte Routh, Pte Oehme and their girlfriends had an enjoyable time, feeling completely welcomed by everyone around them.

It came to the point in the evening where the club members wanted to present the cheque to us. We were given centre stage and had photos taken receiving the cheque for £1550, which they had been generous enough to raise. The money will go to The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund. The members of Bardswell Social Club were really keen for this, as they wanted the money to go specifically to the men of The Regiment. They felt the bond between the local soldiers and the community they were



**Pte Heinz and Pte Holroyd during their super-heavy-weight contest. Pte Holroyd recently recovered from a gun-shot wound he sustained on tour in Afghanistan.**

## The Vikings

from was strong; this was really obvious with all the hand shakes and pats on the back we received.

The evening continued with a number of raffles which, despite buying lots of tickets for, I didn't win. Quite a few of the club's members were ex-military and we shared many stories with them. Everyone was very proud of both us and The Royal Anglian Regiment and there was an especially positive atmosphere. We ended off the night really well with a number of glasses of champagne which were bought for us – we didn't put our hands in our pockets all evening. We left with the feeling that it was great to be part of The Royal Anglian Regiment and that we are really well supported by the local community in Brentwood.

### D (Cambridgeshire) Company Update

*Maj Jerry Bland, OC D*

*(Cambridgeshire) Coy, writes:*

The last six months have been about readjusting and rebuilding for D (Cambridgeshire) Coy. The whole Coy had deployed on Op HERRICK 11, either providing Fire Support for A and C Coy Gps, or working within D Coy's own AOR. So, on their return in Apr, the five platoons had to reform and find their balance again in the very different environment of barrack life. A hugely successful series of Homecoming Parades, some Post Op Presentations, an adventure training package, a myriad of RAAT tasks and, of course, the Minden Day celebrations, were sandwiched between POTL and summer leave.

The rebuilding phase began in earnest in Sep. A 'Back-to Basics' campaign, led by 12 Bde, but put into practice at Coy level, has seen a comprehensive package of shooting and progressive fitness training and testing, backed up by other basic skills training including first aid, navigation and conversion to the much improved BCIP 5.4 communications system. We have also re-invested in the mundane, but essential, equipment care and accounting and MS work strands. As we enter our final year in Elizabeth Bks, we have paid close attention to our tired living and working accommodation, to ensure that our environment is as good as it can be. And finally, but crucially, we have protected sports afternoons, Friday early finishes and making time for fun activities and family life.

At the time of writing we are ready to accept 63 new soldiers from across the Bn, 47 of which we will retain after the D Coy numbers cadres are complete in December. This will bring our strength to over 200 personnel. Much work is being done to ensure that we have the correctly trained and course qualified individuals so that we can provide the full range of Fire Support and ISTAR capabilities to the BG as HFT steps up a gear in the New Year and leads on to MST and, ultimately, deployment on

Op HERRICK 16 in 2012.

So, readjusting done, and rebuilding continues. Solid foundations have been laid and D (Cambridgeshire) Coy is in good shape and well placed to make best use of the exciting training opportunities that lie ahead

### Recce Platoon Update

*Captain Graham Goodey writes:*

Having returned from operations in late April, the past six months have presented a rare opportunity to slow down and enjoy Army life. Whilst the majority of the summer months were filled with leave, freedom parades, sports and general post tour administration (not a dirty word), the Platoon also took the chance to spend a week in the Lake District on adventure training and a week in Longmoor assisting on an

Army Cadet Camp. LCpl Cooper has written a more detailed report on the adventure training, so I won't go into detail now; suffice to say that an excellent time was had by all and the positive effects on collective morale and cohesion were testament to the value of conducting adventure training at platoon level.

As mentioned above, the Platoon also spent a week providing assistance to Bancroft's School CCF on their annual camp in Longmoor. The cadets thoroughly appreciated having 'real soldiers' fresh from Afghanistan instructing them and the school's staff were consequently very grateful, but it would be wrong to think that the benefits derived from this arrangement were all one sided. For the junior lance corporals and private soldiers taking part, it was an excellent opportunity to practise their



LCpl Knowles briefing cadets before their CQB lane.



LCpl Thorpe instructing on the LMG.

## The Vikings



**Ptes Smith 14 and Holland as enemy depth, about to open up on their unsuspecting victims.**

skills as instructors and exercise directing staff and it was interesting to see the mature adult emerging in them when confronted with the responsibility of looking after a group of 14 year old cadets. In many ways this mutually beneficial arrangement is a strong example of the value of our ethos as one Regimental Family.

While the majority may have been enjoying a relaxing summer, there have also been a number of individuals away on courses. Most notable among them, Ptes Kayser and Boyle attended the Fire Team Commanders' Cadre in Brecon and, having both done exceptionally well, were duly promoted to Lance Corporal as of Minden Day. Also in Brecon, LCpls Theobald and Murray are currently enjoying the delights of SCBC and we look forward to their return in December.

Looking to the future, October and November will see a return in earnest to some good infantry soldiering with a 5 week combined recce and sniper cadre for both Platoons and the new intake from the rifle companies. This will lay the foundations for Ex ASKARI THUNDER in Kenya in early 2011 and onwards towards MST and operations in 2012. The next training year will no doubt contain many challenges but, after a well deserved break this summer, the Platoon is in a good position to build again and take on what lies ahead.

Finally, by the time this goes to print the post of Recce 2IC will have been handed over and we will have warmly welcomed back CSgt Hill to the Platoon. This also means that we will have said farewell to WO2 Dave Goodman who, after over 10 years of exemplary service within the Recce community, leaves with our utmost respect and gratitude for all he has achieved.



**Pte Rowley weighing up whether the GPMG or the .338 is his favourite weapon.**

### Recce Platoon Adventure Training – Coniston, July 2010

*LCpl W Cooper writes:*

This year adventure training for Recce Platoon was a little different. At relatively short notice after returning from Afghanistan, the Boss found an opening at a hostel he'd used before in Coniston in the Lake District. Contrary to our suspicions that we would be roughing it, the hostel turned out to be a big old stone building, with modern cosy fixtures inside and a small annex fitted out as a games room. The village itself was a

sedate Lakeland retreat which, although small, had five pubs within 100m of the hostel - so a promising start.

Day one and we broke up into two groups for what we thought was going to be the usual fun, but generally unchallenging activities. This really wasn't the case as the Boss was determined to make sure that adventure training this year would be just that. My group began with mountain bike riding in Grizedale Forest. This started off along wide tracks, but soon turned into a case of holding on for dear life. We quickly found ourselves whipping down 'just wide enough' rocky tracks, complete with wooden



## The Vikings

purpose-made banks at the corners, that made staying upright just about possible most of the time. Extremely steep terrain and anti-socially placed nature made me glad we'd rented capable bikes. When lunch time came we were just rolling into the car park next to Coniston Water, in time to swap wheels for water and the kayaks were a welcome change of pace. After the traditional rolling over and self righting practices, we set off across the open lake. With paddle power alone we were unlikely to challenge Donald Campbell's water speed record set on that very stretch of the Lake, but thanks to a thorough recce by Cpl Rogalski, our instructor, we soon arrived at a convenient water side cafe. After a pleasant afternoon tea we made our way back across and back to the hostel.

Day two was our group's hill walking day, and the boots were on with some slightly depressed looks around the breakfast table. Images of a boring day tabbing around tracks didn't tickle anyone's fancy, but the reality turned out to be again more adventurous than we expected. After a short walk to a beautiful lake in the mountains, the Boss pointed out the route we were going to be climbing to get to the summit. As we looked up we tried to picture how anyone could hang onto what seemed to be a thin ledge traversing its way up a sheer face, rising around 300m above the lake. He also pointed out an easy route, but bravado stopped anyone taking that option. As we scrambled along this route, without the comfort of rope and harnesses, each of us peered down at the 400ft vertical drop a short step to our left. True, you would probably have to actively throw yourself off to actually fall that 400ft, and the Boss kept saying it was all about perceived risk, but 'perceived' risk or not, it was still a long way down. I could see that the guys were genuinely excited and, with adrenaline



LCpl Kayser and Pte Rowley 'share a moment' on their way up.



With evident relief the group 'reaches the top'



One of the teams at the head of the Langdale Valley

## The Vikings



**Sgt Roberts using his specialist fingers to claw himself up the mountain.**

pumping, we got ourselves to the summit in one piece. There may be many hills to climb in a soldier's life, but we would all remember this one.

Battalion life is always busy and we only had time for a few short days up in the Lake District, but with good accommodation, a great chef (Cpl Baldry) provided by the Viking Catering Department, some nice weather, and the first shot of adrenaline since HERRICK 11, the Recce Platoon AT was a great success.

### Recce and Sniper Platoons' Visit to The Regimental Memorial

*Lance Corporal C Thorpe writes:*

On 30 Sep the Recce and Sniper Platoons arranged to visit the Regimental Museum and the new Regimental Memorial at Duxford – less than a month after it's unveiling. Being in uniform meant that as soon as we arrived at Duxford we attracted attention, with ex-servicemen tipping their hats to us and school children running next to us cheering while waving flags. It all felt a little like forming up for another freedom parade.

We went through the main entrance (free for Royal Anglians in formed bodies and in uniform) and past the US Air Force hanger, before first catching sight of the Memorial. As we first saw it, I think we all suddenly became speechless. First thoughts for me were on the sheer size of the figure and then, on closer inspection, how much effort and detail had been put into it.

We gathered around the Memorial and held

a short service before looking through the names inscribed. It was a sombre moment and we all reflected on those we knew who had not come home from previous tours; but it also brought back fond memories of serving side by side with them. We finished off the visit with the Regimental Collect and, as we moved off, it was good to see members of the public taking an interest and paying their respects at our Regiment's Memorial.

I think I can speak for the whole Platoon in saying how pleased we were to have made this visit, to have seen how impressive and appropriate the Memorial is, and to have seen how much it fits with our promise when we say 'We Will Remember Them'.

### 12 Brigade Sniper Concentration September 2010

*Sgt Hill MC, OC Sniper Pl, writes:*

Sniper Platoon deployed to Inverness for the 12 Brigade Sniper Concentration on 6 Sep. After a horrendous drive of 647 miles in three Land Rovers and a white van, we finally arrived at Cameron Barracks, Inverness. Cameron Barracks, we decided almost immediately, looked like the school from the Harry Potter films. It's not so much a camp – rather a series of small castles, set two miles from the town centre.

The training area belongs to a local who has the best playground for a garden I have ever seen. Wild deer run around a huge area of mountains and loughs. It's beautiful, but pretty awful to move around on foot. The range itself is situated in a three kilometre long valley, with a 670 metre high mountain acting as a hard backstop!

After a few days getting back into the basics of judging distance and refining camouflage and concealment skills, the boys were starting to get into it. The area is ideal for stalking, but extremely hard-going to manoeuvre around. We had three days shooting up to 1200 metres - I would have liked to have shot further, but the fine weather brought the infamous Scottish midgets out to feed. I have never seen anything like it. Never! They formed black clouds around you as soon as you stopped and then proceeded to suck the life out of you. I've never wished for rain before, but that weekend I spent nearly every minute doing the Team America international signal for 'Help me!'.

The final exercise was a nine kilometre insertion followed by a stalk. The sniper pairs had four hours to navigate over extremely demanding terrain, eventually getting into a firing position no more than 500 metres away from the target to take the shot. My prayers for rain came a day late and it absolutely poured down all day. The temperature had dropped, but the boys carried on regardless. After all the pairs had completed the stalk it was time for the end of course photo set on Lough Glass.

After ten days, one RTA, hundreds of miles of driving and hundreds of metres on belt

buckles, the boys have raised their game a notch. We now have the direction we need to push ourselves up a few more levels. As the newly arrived OC Sniper Platoon, the Concentration has been immensely valuable to me as well as the troops. I now have better understanding of the fundamentals of sniping and of the areas we need to work on. All in it was a really good ten days to blow out the cobwebs and get back to basics. Finally, if you ever venture that far North, then take an umbrella and most importantly, some insect repellent!

### Mortar Platoon Update

*Capt Tom Clark, OC Mortar Platoon, writes:*

Six months have flashed by since the Mor PI returned from Afghanistan and reformed from the section groups into which we were split for the tour. There was little rest for the wicked: almost immediately after Post Operational Tour Leave, the RSM had the coys out on the parade square practising drill for the Freedom parades, which were held across the Viking recruiting base in mid June.

A relatively quiet period followed for the summer. On the sporting front, LCpl Warley was selected as the wicket-keeper for the Infantry Cricket team and Ptes Maritiro and Saumi travelled to Manchester and Newquay to play for the Army Rugby 7s team. Our congratulations to a number of soldiers and NCOs: firstly Sgt Butterick, who passed PSBC in July. We wish him all the best as he takes over as PI Sgt of 7 Pl. On the last rehearsal before Minden Day, LCpl Warley promoted to Cpl and Pte Vanhinsberg promoted to LCpl, following his successful completion of the FTCC in July (see article below). The PI came a close second in the prize for best dressed team in the annual pram race on Minden Day, after which we stood down for another well-earned period of summer leave.

Following this, the PI HQ and NCOs attended a conceptual study evening during the Brigade Mortar Concentration held in September. The Concentration was held in Westdown Camp on Salisbury Plain and the evening involved the PI's counterparts from three other Inf Bns from across 12 (Mech) Bde. A useful discussion was held about training deficits and how best to overcome them, as well as best in-theatre practices and the realities of firing in support of operations in the current climate.

In late September the PI provided a Sect to live fire in support of the Royal School of Artillery's Lightweight Counter Mortar Locating Radar course. The system is key in Afghanistan as it provides rapid location of En Mortar Base Plate locations, allowing counter-battery engagement by our own mortar fire. 2 Section used information provided by an LCMR on a number of occasions during Op HERRICK 11, so were delighted to be able to play a part in training the next generation of operators by providing mortar fire for them to track.

The focus now is on the Numbers and

## The Vikings



The Mortar PI compete in the Minden Day Pram Race .

Executives cadres, in which we will take on a number of new soldiers and train them to ensure the PI is ready for any upcoming LF tasks. The most important event on the horizon is Ex ASKARI THUNDER 6 in Kenya next March. This will see the MFCs integrate with the FSTs of 28/143 Battery of the Highland Gunners, utilising both our own 3 sections and the 3 gun troops of the Battery to deliver combined-arms live firing in support of the BG.

### A Private Soldier's Experience of the Fire Team Commander's Cadre (FTCC)

*LCpl Daniel Vanhinsbergh, Mor Pl, writes:*

After passing the week-long Pre-Cadre, myself and five other members of D Coy were preparing to head down to Sennybridge camp, all feeling ready for whatever the Fire Team Commanders' Cadre could throw at us.

The first event was a CFT which was vastly different to the back area of Pirbright camp, the ground being much steeper and more rolling. Following on that same day was a PFT and a number of lessons about leadership in the British Army. Using Sennybridge as simply a place to wash and sleep, we spent the next week map-reading in the Black Mountains by night and day, navigating on bearings, contours and goat tracks alone, because of the complete lack of features. This culminated with a trip up Pen-y-fan, during which I vividly remember the encouragement from all the civilian hikers along the route.

The next week we moved to Farm Eight on the Training Area to begin the tactics phase. We began the day with an advance to contact, launching into a quick attack to destroy the enemy. At the end of each attack we regrouped before receiving our new command appointments for the next one. Attack after attack for the next seven days helped us improve our command skills, using the criticism given to us from the instructors (which was plentiful), until the final attack of the phase which was live firing.

Following this we learned how to conduct an estimate and give orders at section level. Model building featured heavily during this phase and those in appointments began to gain confidence in decision making and problem solving, before delivering the plan to the rest of the lads. We conducted recon patrols, usually handing the information on to another section in the form of patrol reports. This section would then plan and execute a fighting patrol before a deliberate attack was mounted on an enemy position.

Following this phase we moved on to platoon attacks, learning the role of the 2IC and Sect Comd. Anticipation, we learnt, is key, as are the other principles of Battle Procedure. We conducted rehearsals of platoon attacks by day and went through a number of attacks during the evenings.

The week finished with an extraction across the training area with bergens and fighting kit. On arrival at the other side, we set up a hasty harbour and prepared for the next day, which was a live-firing platoon attack range. Getting wet wasn't really a choice - it just happened! We began the

attack on a river bank. After contact with the enemy had been established, we found ourselves moving through all manner of obstacles, such as tunnels and waist-deep rivers. The going was hard but after the last enemy position had been destroyed, there was just one obstacle left - the 'Junior Fan'. I remember thinking how strange it must have seemed for the civilians having a picnic in the lay-by, which just happened to be our finish line, watching us running in with the stretcher above our heads, putting it down and settling into a well-deserved BBQ, courtesy of the CQMS' department.

On the whole, the course was really well run with all directing staff passing on their valuable experience to the new generation of junior NCOs. It is immensely rewarding to have risen to the challenge and to have passed the course. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend it to anyone thinking of spending any time in the Army

### The Experiences of a Novice Boxer - Battalion Inter-Company Boxing

*Pte Sheldon 'Chalky' White, Mor Pl, writes:*

In preparation for the Inter-Coy Boxing just before summer leave, D Coy started their training in June. After Post-Op tour leave, our fitness was not quite up to our usual standard and the first week of training was hard. It consisted of four fitness sessions a day, which included endurance and stamina runs as well as shadow boxing, skills training and sparring.



## The Vikings

Within just a few days, our fitness was back to a decent standard and we were able to start to develop our skills. Towards the end of training we all felt a lot fitter and mentally ready for the upcoming fights, although some of the group had picked up injuries and couldn't compete. In order to fight I had to drop from Heavy category to Light-Heavy as the Company didn't have any other fighters at that weight.

The day before the Preliminary fights I sat with my coach, LCpl Kinsey, and he helped me prepare to enter the ring. Even with all the encouragement I still felt nervous walking out into the gym as it was my first time to box in front of a crowd. The gym was full and the whole Battalion had turned out to support not only the boxers from their own companies, but every boxer who entered the ring. In the atmosphere, with all the boys giving me encouragement, those nerves quickly disappeared and the fight was over really quickly. After the fights we cooled down and those who had won started preparing themselves for the finals, just three evenings away on Thursday night.

On the night of the main competition all the officers and NCOs arrived in mess dress, with the privates in C95. With all members of the Battalion and invited guests, we packed out the ATC gym, which is even bigger than the Battalion one. The RSM introduced each boxer as he entered the ring, while drummers from Machine Gun Platoon escorted the boxers from their changing rooms with drums beating. It was a great evening to be involved in and, even though I didn't win my fight, I still felt as though I had achieved a great deal and walked away with the respect of all the guys who cheered and spurred me on. I almost forgot this in the night that followed though, as the boxers were treated to an evening in the Corporals' and WOs' & Sergeants' messes, courtesy of all the officers and SNCOs.

### Javelin Platoon

*Capt Ben Howes, OC Javelin*

*Platoon, writes:*

Since returning from operations the Javelin Platoon's focus has been on basic soldiering skills, sports, adventure training and most importantly, family life. Although this period has seen the soldiers participating in more of the interesting and fun activities, the pace of life has not relaxed and is indicative of the way the Army is today.

During June the Platoon supported the Freedom Parades, most notably during a parade in Huntington. The reception from the local public was exceptional and humbling, and provided a good chance for the Platoon to convey to the public what Afghanistan was like and illustrate the changes that have occurred over the years.

June also saw Pte George and Keogh begin their boxing training in preparation for the Inter-Coy Competition. After four fitness sessions a day, which included endurance and stamina runs, shadow boxing, skills training and sparring over

a six period, the men's fitness was up to a good standard. The sparring, however, took its toll on Pte Keogh, who looked quite similar to a panda for a number of weeks. They both performed admirably during the competition, displaying utter dedication, courage and grit. Pte George was selected for the Bn Boxing Team, and he performed so well that Army scouts gave him the opportunity to try out for the Army Boxing Team.

The majority of the Platoon attended the AT in Weymouth during the summer. This allowed the men to experience different challenges whilst being away from barrack life. A number of soldiers also went sailing to achieve their Competent Crew qualification. However it is unknown as to whether the qualification was achieved as they managed to crash the yacht before they had completed the course. I would suggest they are not so competent!



**Pte Bell taking a break during AT in Weymouth.**

As reigning champions in the Minden Day pram race, Javelin Platoon sought to recreate the epic victory of 2009. Alas, due to unforeseen circumstances and slanderous allegations of cheating, the Platoon was unsuccessful; but next year we will up our game! The remainder of the day saw the soldiers of Javelin Platoon presented with roses followed by the usual festivities.

The Platoon now looks forward to a busy period of training. The introduction of Fire Support Groups will see Javelin and Machine Guns merge to form a FSG Platoon in preparation for Kenya. This will be an exciting but extremely demanding time for all in the Platoon and will require the soldiers to be on top of their game.

### 12 Bde Fire Support Group (FSG) Commanders' Conference

*Capt Ben Howes, OC Javelin*

*Platoon, writes:*

Experience from the current campaign has highlighted a need to change our structures, and with the establishment of a FSG career stream, a Bde conference was deemed necessary. As I was the only officer within the Bn to have commanded a FSG, the task landed squarely in my lap. With the Bn 2IC's words still ringing in my ears - 'Big Lad you're on!' - I set about organising the conference.

The conference aimed to provide up to date information on FSG concepts, tactics and capabilities, in order to ensure mutual understanding across the Bde and to set the conditions for the employment of FSGs in the future. It was attended by the key tactical commanders from the Bde who are, or have been, directly involved either in the employment of the Javelin weapon system or Machine Guns.

During this period a series of lectures focusing on the basic tenets of FSGs - structure, new training requirements and tactical employment - were presented; and group discussions examined the validity of current doctrine in the Conventional Operating Environment and the COIN environment. Throughout we attempted to identify the way ahead for FSGs.

It was clear to everyone present that the first step must be for their organisations to form FSGs and implement the changes articulated within the doctrine. The restructuring of organisations to create a FSG Platoon will be neutral in terms of manpower, and the generic ORBAT matches the establishment of the current Light Role Anti Tank and Fire Support Platoons combined. The generic ORBAT is based around three FSG patrols of 29 men, each commanded by a Capt, Lt or WO2, one of which is the FSG Platoon Comd. The aspiration is they would be mounted on Jackal vehicles with a HMG/GMG, Javelin and GPMG SF weapons systems.

The employment options available were discussed and the desired ORBAT employed is dependant upon varying factors - in short, flexibility within the organisation is fundamental. FSG commanders must employ the 'golf bag' approach to deliver success within a given set of constraints. The 'flexibility' within the FSG requires commanders at all levels to be conceptually and tactically astute.

The training of a FSG was the most significant area of discussion during the conference. The time available between now and operations in 2012 is relatively short and the training hurdles numerous. Hybrid Foundation Training was identified as the key period of a FSG platoon's evolution, as it will set the conditions for success on ops. As with any sub-unit, getting the basic

## The Vikings

skills correct is important. The training progression will require significant planning at unit level with oversight and direction from Bde.

Overall, the opportunity to deliver a Bde Conference was personally beneficial, but it also allowed the conceptual development of the commanders within the Bde. I believe the conference has played a key part in setting the correct conditions to deliver FSGs beyond the required standard for operations in 2012.

### Annual Arms Fair - Millbrook Proving Ground

*Cpl Mercer writes:*

On 23 Jun, I and five members of D Company were asked to attend the Annual Arms Fair in Millbrook to help demonstrate the latest kit and equipment the Army has to offer. The fair not only displayed current clothing and equipment, but also the next generation. The scale of the event was huge, with leading manufactures in the world of arms in attendance. Many of the companies who feature so highly on our kit lists were present, exhibiting the latest in technology and innovation, all bidding for a place on our I157!

Our role was to model kit and equipment the British Army has procured for the past, current and future. As attractive, young and physically fit men it was easy! LCpl Theobald, Pte Armstrong and I acted as models throughout the day and very quickly found we were asked our opinions about the items by various civil servants and senior officers. They were very interested in what we wanted to see on the front line, and what would help us as front-line soldiers. The feedback in discussions with them illustrated that the chain of command are pushing for



**Cpl Mercer modelling the new modular helmet system.**

changes in two different categories; firstly, the fight against IEDs; and secondly the drive to reduce the weight that a soldier carries on the battlefield. Ideas being discussed included the use of search dogs at a much lower level, for example at company level, and using the latest technology to strip the ounces out of our daysacks.

The displays from the civilian companies put further emphasis on the 'lightweight' issue, with everything from lightweight bayonets, water purification systems, lightweight .338 sniper rifles and lightweight GPMGs on display. The latest adaptations to the current vehicle line up were also on show. These included a new Springer vehicle with a .50 calibre heavy machine gun mounted on the roof.

The fair was not limited to weapons, kit and vehicles. Advanced communication equipment was also present with the introduction of new light weight batteries and fold-out solar panels to charge batteries whilst on ops. A display showed the latest in ECM technology, reduced in size and weight to a third of the current equipment. All these advances would allow soldiers to

remain on the ground longer and carry less. It was suggested by one civil servant that £14m had been set aside to reduce the load, and it was clear that the MOD has embraced the soldier's plight - in our opinion, money spent wisely.

Clothing and fighting order has also seen a big change, with a new helmet, new version of Osprey and Molle webbing, all designed to fit correctly with each other. Having had a chance to wear the future fighting order, I can confirm it as the biggest step forward. New ideas like the introduction of moulded Head Mounted Night Vision System (HMNVS) mounts on helmets were in place to lower the weight and volume of what we have to carry.

Overall, although it was first thought of as a 'stitch-up', the three days at Millbrook Proving Ground turned out to be a real eye-opener. Seeing just how fast this kit is being developed and how hard people are pushing to get it onto the front line, was impressive. The next few years could be far more comfortable if it all goes ahead.

### Viking Corps of Drums – Reforming and Minden Day Training

*Sgt Phair, Drum Major, writes:*

The Viking Corps of Drums reformed having enjoyed a well deserved break after returning from a successful tour of Afghanistan in March. The Platoon had not seen each other for quite some months as they had been grouped as Fire Support Groups with the rifle companies.

They now had to focus their attention on training as a Corps of Drums. In order to ensure that they were musically and parade 'fit', an intense three-week musical cadre was embarked upon that would see the Platoon learning new marches and practice routines for the Minden Day celebrations.

We had taken the opportunity to plan our training programme with the focus firmly on enhancing the skills and music that we already possessed; and pushing the limits by introducing a selection of new marches which we were not familiar with. We managed to pull this off with the help of



**Personal Load Carrying Equipment and Armour. Left to right: Cpl Mercer (latest generation – next two years), Pte Armstrong (current generation – issued in theatre now) and LCpl Theobald (last generation – issued two years ago).**



**Corps of Drums on parade on Minden Day.**

## The Vikings



**Best dressed Pram Race Team on Minden Day.**

some civilian instructors who were all retired military musicians, with drumming as their speciality. They travelled from far and wide to provide their services and, crucially, gave up their time free of charge.

This meant that the junior members of the Platoon, many of whom had never played an instrument before, were given the opportunity to benefit from the wealth of knowledge that these musicians had to offer. Senior members of the Platoon were also able to learn and practice more advanced techniques.

The Corps spent the next three weeks learning, practising and rehearsing, working long hours to achieve the highest standards possible in the short time allocated. We did it professionally and managed to reach a good standard within the three weeks - the Corps of Drums was therefore passed fit and ready for the Minden Day celebrations. The efforts of the civilian staff and the time that they invested in us were very much appreciated; we couldn't have achieved the high standards that we reached without them.

Minden Day was a complete success and every member of the Platoon has the right to hold their heads high in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

### **Viking Corps of Drums: Minden Day in Bury St Edmunds**

*Cpl Silvey, Machine Gun Platoon,  
writes:*

Bury Minden Day, on 1 Aug 2010, started early for the Viking Corps of Drums. After weeks of preparing kit and practicing, we assembled at the Elizabeth Barracks Drums Store at 0700hrs for final kit checks. We arrived at Bury at 1200hrs and immediately located the bar (thankfully, still in its usual place).

After a few hours of 'guarding' the beer tent, it was time for the old boys and the



**LCpl Farrar plays his solo flute jig.**

Colour Party to do their part of the day. The numbers at the parade clearly grow every year. This was followed by a number of ACF and CCF Corps of Drums which were extremely well received and performed excellently (one Corps was so good that some of the lads were worried we would be shown up!).

The Platoon then moved back to the TA Centre to get changed and have our customary glass of port (or four). We were set to march on at 1600hrs and, as the drums struck, there was a big cheer from the large crowd - loud, even by Bury standards. We marched on to one of our regular marches, 'Children's Love' and the parade went flawlessly. The crowd loved LCpl Farrar's jigs solo as they always do; and the drummers also showed off their skills with LCpl Wildney and Dmr Rushen-Smith's new stick beatings. Even the Corps' new march 'Silver Trumpeter' seemed to go off without fault. We marched off to the Regimental March, 'Rule Britannia and Speed the Plough', ensuring that 'Speed the Plough' was in full swing as we passed the podium for the old Suffolk boys.

After marching off the Corps was congratulated on a job well done. We were told by numerous ex Drum Majors that it was the best we had sounded for ten years. We then moved back to the beer tent and started what turned into a very enjoyable evening - so enjoyable, in fact, that the Drum Major suffered a minor accident on the minibus, much to the amusement of all on board. On reflection, it was one of the best Bury Minden Days that I've attended and it was good to see such a large number of the Battalion there. All our hard work had paid off and the Corps of Drums is now more musically and parade 'fit' than for some years.



**Corps of Drums on parade at Bury St Edmunds.**



## The Vikings

### Headquarter Company

*Maj Chelsea Hall, OC HQ Coy,*

*writes:*

It seems like only the other day that I sat and compiled the notes for the last Coy update but, after a moments reflection, quite a lot of movement has taken place. So I will attempt to give you a flavour of our activities over the last six months.

As mentioned in the last notes the Bn 2IC, Maj (now Lt Col) Chris Barry has left for a nine month tour in the Near East; his place has been taken by Maj Olly Brown, whose steady hand is now steering us towards Ex ASKARI THUNDER in Spring 2011 - just in time for the next edition of Castle!

Other changes have seen the departure of two RQMSs, WO2s (now WO1s) Kev Main and Dave Shaw, to take up the posts of RSM 3 RANGLIAN and Cambridge UOTC respectively. We wish them both well in these prestigious appointments. We welcome in their places WO2s Chris Hopkins and Jimmy Self as the new RQMSs; Capt Matt Yates is the new RMO and Capt Nick Todd the new Padre. Both these last two officers arrived during a time of upheaval and reorganisation that must have played havoc with their ability to remember names and faces; but they have managed extremely well.

Capt Ian (Robbo) Robinson has moved on to become the MTO and has been replaced as UWO by Capt Lee Jay. We say goodbye to CSgt Barny Barkle who is posted to Bovington, having done a superb job of converting us to Bulldog and then disposing of them as a result of Op ENTIRETY; he then stayed on as MTWO for the last tour and handed over the reins to CSgt Shane Head in Sep 10. His cheerful 'can do' attitude made him a fine ambassador for his Regiment. CSgt Head moves on from CQMS where he worked tirelessly for two years; his place has been taken up by CSgt Ron Wallis, whom we welcome back to the Bn's fold.

We also have a new RAWO, WO2 Julian Long, after SSgt Hazel Lowe held things together for a few months following the unexpected departure of the previous RAWO. Other departures include SSgt Terry Mott from the LAD, who did a fantastic job as CVO for Pte Facal earlier in the year; he

moves on posting and we wish him well for the future. Soon to go are Sgt 'Maggie' Magee from the QM's Dept and Sgt 'Johnno' Johnson from the Training wing. The final departure is that of the newly promoted Maj Jim Wallace, OC LAD; he leaves in Nov and will be missed. He integrated well and become a true Viking - a great character.

To all those leaving we wish you the best of luck for the future. Meanwhile the rest of HQ Coy will be striving to get the right number of Cat C drivers in time for Ex ASKARI THUNDER, whilst providing the service expected to the rest of the Battalion.

### Viking Welcome Home Parades

*WO1 (RSM) Newton TR writes:*

When the Battalion returned from Afghanistan in 2007, I was privileged to witness and take part in the magnificent Welcome Home Parades in Norwich and Bury St Edmunds. The streets were filled with flag waving, record crowds who welcomed us home. A scene that I had never experienced before and one that I thought I would not see again - how wrong I was!

Whilst the Battalion was deployed on Op HERRICK 11, planning for our next batch of parades was well under way. Many towns and cities in East Anglia had invited us to parade and wanted to give the Vikings another true East Anglian welcome home. It was decided that we should try and honour as many of these kind invitations as possible, but due to budget constraints and time, we would not be able to achieve them all. We devised a simple plan - take 200 Vikings and the Minden Band on a five day tour around East Anglia and conduct six parades - oh, and you have got three days to rehearse, RSM! We were to march through Huntingdon, Cambridge, Ely, Norwich, Southend and Barking & Dagenham.

The week prior to the parades, I and the Area Secretaries, conducted recces of all six parade routes. Both Lt Col Slater and Maj Jones had done a huge amount of preparation and much of the ground work had been already completed. Meetings were held with Town Councils and local Police in

all areas. All this activity was a huge help and made our transition from ops to the drill square a lot easier.

Once the recces were complete and I had got the plan into the CSMs' heads, the rehearsals started. It is quite difficult to rehearse six different parades in two and a half days. Everyone worked hard, however, and after many hours marching around pretend streets in Elizabeth Barracks, we eventually deployed.

Monday morning started with D (Cambridgeshire) Company marching through Huntingdon to wonderful crowds lining the streets. Sgt Roberts was so impressed with the crowds that he decided to conduct his own parade and was seen staggering forward during the speeches.

The Battalion was hosted in Cambridge on the Monday evening. The parade took place outside the King's College with the Duke of Gloucester taking the Royal Salute. Most memorable were the thousands of people that lined the parade route - this helped take the soldiers minds off the 20 minute approach march that felt rather like an insertion TAB. No one in the Battalion was left in any doubt as to the high regard that the people of Cambridgeshire held them in.

On Tuesday the Battalion marched through Barking & Dagenham. Once again we were treated to flag waving crowds to welcome us home. On the Wednesday we were superbly hosted by the people of Ely and a service was held for us in the Cathedral. On Thursday the lads were treated to crowds in excess of 10,000 people who had come to show their appreciation to us as we marched through Southend. We were also honoured on this day to have a few of our casualties on parade. The applause that they and we all received was tremendous and brought a tear to many eyes. The Southend Naval & Military club played host for the afternoon and laid on a fantastic reception. On Friday, A (Norfolk) Company went to Norwich and conducted the final parade of the week in the grounds of the Cathedral. The parade was followed by a Cathedral service and reception in Blackfriars Hall.

By Friday the Battalion was exhausted, but we had achieved complete mission success around East Anglia. The young



D (Cambridgeshire) Company in Huntingdon.



Maj Olly Brown keeping himself amused in Cambridge

# The Vikings



The Vikings parade through Ely.



Says it all.....

soldiers had grown a few inches each by the end of the week and felt hugely proud to have paraded in so many of our Towns and Cities. Of course the week would not have been possible if it were not for the efforts of so many others. The Town Councils, local Police forces, the Area Secretaries, the Minden Band and our own admin support team, are but just some of those that we would like to thank for making the week so successful. However the final thank you should go to the thousands and thousands of good people from East Anglia who turned out to show their support.

*Editor's Note: More photographs of the Homecoming Parades feature in the colour section.*

## Jamieson Platoon - Cirdan Sailing Trust Trip, Ipswich, October

*LCpl Arthur Burkard, B Coy, writes:* Jamieson Platoon deploys every year on a sailing trip with the Cirdan Sailing Trust; the aim of this trip is to promote bonding within



Pirate Hierscher greets the Platoon.

the Platoon and aid in the rehabilitation of injured personnel within the Battalion. It is also a chance for Platoon members to experience something new and exciting, with the added bonus of a qualification gained. This is only made possible by the charity that sponsors the Cirdan Sailing Trust, and the hard work of the crew of the ships.

Mon 4 Oct: After setting off from home at 0900hrs, we made our way to the fine city of Ipswich. After an uneventful drive, Pte Green and I arrived at Ipswich Haven Marina to be greeted by the aptly dressed Pte Hierscher in a home-made pirate costume. Upon locating the Faramir (our floating home for the next few days) we met the crew for a quick safety brief. It became apparent from that (much lengthier than anticipated) safety brief, that far from the eagerly anticipated booze cruise, we were on board a 'dry' vessel and might have to do some work! We set sail at 1400hrs and made a short trip down the river to Harwich.

Tue 5 Oct: Setting sail at 1200hrs, we were



End of Mission! The Crew: Pte Harper, LCpl Burkard, Gavin (crew), Pte Pick, Pte Stringer, Pte Matty Woolard, Pte Hiersche, Dawn Franklin (skipper), Ryan (crew), Pte Richardson, Pte Green, LCpl White, Pte Duncliff.

## The Vikings



Ptes Hierscher and Pick pulling their weight in the high seas.

informed we should expect to be anchored by 1900hrs that night. Six hours later, and after several passes of the now infamous 'Gun Tower', we discovered we had gone the nautical equivalent of nowhere. After surviving the choppy waters, sea sickness and the skippers' best attempts to steer us into a Force 8 gale by nightfall, the crew took the sensible option of using the motor our boat was blessed with.

Wed 6 Oct: With Jamieson Platoon's batteries recharged, we made the short hop to Chatham. Following a quick tidy of the ship, the day (and night) was ours! It was with heady anticipation that we planned our big

night out in rocking Rochester. How wrong could we be? Several wasted taxi journeys and a two and a half hour foot recce of the Uni later, we came to the conclusion that nothing was going on and decided to head back to the boat. Some of the men, it should be added, were reduced to tears.

Thu 7 Oct: Today we could see the light at the end of a dark, windy and water filled tunnel. We were heading back to Ipswich, where bright lights and short skirts surely waited. With the sun on our backs and wind in our sails, we were on course to make it back in good time. Today was also Pte Green's 27th birthday. Throughout the

course of the return leg he sported a fetching pink fluffy whistle (not the least bit camp). Unfortunately his birthday request, to hunt for bones on dead man's island, was turned down by our crew. And so it was, we hit Ipswich for one last hurrah.

Fri 8 Oct: Those of us who went out on the premise of there being lots of 'party' girls were once again, sadly, left with empty wallets and heavy hearts. So it was off to MacDonald's for a tasty hang-over McBreakfast. Having kept on top of the admin all week, it took only a nominal time to clean the boat and thank the crew for a thoroughly adventurous week of sailing. After a group photo, we all collected a certificate (Competent Crew) – worth the tidy sum of £450. We said our thanks and best wishes to the crew and made for home.

Many thanks to the Skipper, Dawn; the first mate, Gavin; and the boson, Ryan.

### Regimental Aid Post/ Medical Centre

*Capt Yates RAMC, RMO, writes:*

You need look only a few pages into your morning newspaper to find a story about health. Health seems to be on everyone's agendas today. And the story is no different for the Vikings. So what have been the themes of the last few months?

Well, 'Home & Away' has certainly been one. The actions of the Battalion in Afghanistan have been well documented in the last edition of Castle. But it should not be forgotten that there is always a need for some medics to stay behind as a rear-link when others are away. Equally, a return from operations means a flurry of work for



The Med Centre briefly leads the way during the Minden Day Pram Race.



the medical team. Of particular importance has been catching up on routine medicals and getting treatment for those soldiers with 'niggle' injuries which do far more than 'niggle' with a 50lb bergen on the back. There has also been a vast array of courses requiring a visit to the 'Doc'. Here is just a short list: Inter-Company Boxing, Cambrian Patrol, driving, Junior and Senior NCO cadres, Jungle Warfare and Jungle Tracking.

Medics don't just do medicine though. We teach others how to do it as well. There is an annual requirement for all soldiers to be taught and tested on battlefield first aid. Cpl Boyle once again headed this up – bringing to it his dry wit and hard-won operational medical experience. Medics themselves also need to keep up to date. The 12 Brigade Medical Concentration in July helped us to do exactly this. Over a period of two days, all the medics, doctors and nurses of the Brigade were brought together to learn and rehearse both new and old skills.

At the same time, the medics support a wide range of extra-curricular activities. One such example is LCpl High RAMC, who in July was the medic for 'All the 4s'. This was a 150 mile walk through Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex in aid of The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity. LCpl High provided running repairs to feet and knees to enable the walkers to get round in good order. She also walked the course herself, remarking to me later that 'Walking 20 miles a day is hard work'.

Another theme has been 'Continuity and Change'. Most of the players have been with the team for a number of seasons now – notable stalwarts being Sgt Peyton and Cpl Boyle. Acting LCpl Carter RAMC was confirmed in her rank following her NCOs' course run by 22 Field Hospital in Gosport. Whilst not a medical course per se, it aims to ensure that JNCOs have a common level of competence in military skills and leadership. Well done.

Sadly, we lost LCpl Thomas RAMC on promotion into a demanding medical role elsewhere. As he was a PTI and a medic, we were always wondering whether he broke more soldiers than he mended. Postings in to the RAP include two new clinically trained staff, Capt Yates RAMC, in the driving seat as RMO and LCpl Gandidzanwa QARANC.

The coming months are going to be busy for the team with a focus on Ex ASKARI THUNDER in Kenya next Spring. The watchwords for this are certain to be 'planning' and 'training'. 'Planning' for all aspects of medical support to a Battlegroup in an austere environment and 'training' to ensure all our medics can rise to the challenge of delivering top-level healthcare in the field.

So as you can see, there is a lot going on in the RAP. So much so that here wasn't space to report on the RAP's World Cup Barbeque. Next time there will be a report on Team Medic training and the future of medics in the Infantry. I did say at the start of this article, health affects us all.



The start of the pram race.

### Celebrations of the 251st Anniversary of the Battle of Minden

*Maj Chelsea Hall,*

*OC HQ Coy, writes:*

It came as a bit of a shock to be told I was to be OC Minden Day and that's putting it mildly! In the past, it had always been a day to enjoy with the family and watch the younger DE Coy Comds, working on their first triple heart bypass, as they stressed over missing portaloos and such like

Thankfully I had 'Robbo', or Capt Ian Robinson to be precise, who has a wealth of experience in such matters. And so whilst the troops were still deployed in Afghanistan, we held our first committee meeting. Having seen several successful Minden Days over the last few years, I decided on the tried and tested format of a Parade, fairground rides, a bar, a marquee and coy tents and stands. We proceeded to plan accordingly and as Capt Dave Glover was serving as an Adjt with the ATC, next door to us here in Pirbright, booking the ATC square was no problem.

The problem came when trying to get the Minden Band or, come to that, any band. So I asked the one man I knew would be successful in getting them - the RSM, WO1 Tim Newton. He delighted in telling our

chosen band that the Col of the Regiment would be attending (he was also presenting Elizabeth Crosses to the families of the HERRICK 6 fallen, in a private ceremony after the parade). So that swung it in our favour! Result – a band - well done RSM!

Whilst all the preparations were underway and bookings were being made, I accompanied the Bn Orienteering Team to Sennelager for the Army Championships. Rather than do nothing in between races the QM, Maj Tim Jones, decided to conduct two short battlefield tours (infinitely preferable to spending money, in his eyes). Unfortunately for me, I was spammed to do the research and deliver a presentation on each - I must be a soft touch!

The first visit was to the Battle of Minden. We drove to the 'Kaiser Dankmal' that dominates the ridge South of Minden, where the River Weser cuts through. Our first vantage point was to set the scene and explain the movement of the French Army. The weather wasn't brilliant, but good enough to point out the old town of Minden and the dispositions of the Allies. At the questions stage, Sgt Pip Sell pointed out that just South of Minden was a ploughed field of red earth, next to a field of oil seed rape. In full yellow bloom, it looked exactly like a Minden Flash. Even I was not shameless enough to claim credit for that, but it was a



C Company take on the Victorious LAD Team in the tug of war.

## The Vikings



The voting panel for 'Vikings Got Talent' eye the next act with amusement.

good omen for finding the exact site of the Battle where the 12th of Foot were lined up.

As we stood, imagining the scene, I asked everyone to think of the Battalion frontage when we stand on parade, to help bring to life how much space those soldiers who advanced there took up, 251 years ago, facing the full might of the French cavalry, as they moved forward, trying to avoid bunching together and taking casualties that were equal to anything on the first day of the Somme.

On Minden Day itself, as we stood on parade waiting for both the rain and the Col of the Regt and wondering which would arrive first, I wondered how many of those from the battlefield tour were thinking back to our visit to the Kaiser Dankmal and making the connection between then

and now.

The Battalion 2IC had briefed the CO that it was due to rain in biblical, flood-like, proportions on the day. After some internet weather research in his office, the CO made the call to move everything in closer. This was just 12 hours before the day kicked off. Triple bypass here I come! In the event we had some rain during the tug of war, but that was it.

The closeness of the coy tents worked well and, by 2230hrs, I felt confident enough to have a drink myself. A lot of effort from a big team went in to make it happen; but the thanks from those who clearly had a good time made it worth while. In the end we had a broken chair, one smashed window and only one soldier under observation in the guardroom. I think I got off lightly!



The RSM Twins.



The RSM's Got Talent.

## The Vikings

### Viking Orienteering

Maj Tim Jones, QM, writes:

*'The wisest follow their own direction' (Euripedes)*

In April, 21 members of the Battalion travelled to Sennelager to compete in the Army Orienteering Championships. This was the culmination of several months of competitions and training. This two day competition saw the senior team finishing third and, more impressively, the under 25 teams finishing 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th; a fine end to this particular season and a true reflection of all the team members' commitment, both to the sport and the Battalion.

This has now set the scene for the forthcoming season, which started in earnest with the Bn Inter-Coy Championships, held in Sep on the Mychett Training Area. In an attempt to identify some raw talent, two courses were used: a B1 and a B2 course, with each course covering approximately five kilometres with 16-18 checkpoints and 16 runners from each company entering. This competition also doubled up as an Inter-Mess Competition. All runners' times were totalled to give an overall coy time and position. There were some notable results: we witnessed a reversal in positions from last years' results with the QM picking up the winner's trophy for the B1 course, with the CO a close runner up. As for the B2 course, this saw the Adjt, Capt Meddings, on a rare outing from the office, pick up the winner's trophy and Pte Webb from B Company the runner-up prize. The Officers' Mess led by example and, with an overall time of 3hrs 43mins, collected the Inter Mess prize. The Sgts' Mess were Runners Up, with a time of 4hrs 26mins. The Inter-Coy trophy was awarded to HQ Coy, with an overall time



The Viking Orienteering Team at the Army Championships in Germany.

of 17hrs 13mins.

This successful in-house competition has well and truly set the ball rolling for the forthcoming Army season. The Battalion Under 25s, as well as being the Army Champions, are also the current Under 25 Infantry and Divisional champions, with Pte Acenov the Under 25 Individual Champion. The senior team are also the current Infantry Champions. These titles were successfully defended for the second year running on the 19th and 20th Sep at the 2010 Infantry Championships. The senior team, composing the CO, QM, OC HQ Coy, Sgts Sell and Fay and LCpl Burkard, finished a resounding first, ahead of stiff competition from 2 R IRISH. Notably, the second day's competition was LCpl Burkard's last day in the Army. As for the Under 25 teams, they

finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively, with Pte Acenov also retaining his title. The M21 first prize was awarded to Sgt Sell. These excellent results have led to all members of the Under 25 Squad being selected to represent the Infantry at the Inter Corps Championships in Nov 10.

This period has also seen Infantry Orienteering Colours awarded to the CO, QM, OC HQ Coy and Ptes Dodd, Hood, Gale and Harvey Beavis.

Without doubt, this has been one of the most successful seasons the Battalion has had in orienteering in recent times; and much credit for these successes must go to WO2 (RQMS) Main, otherwise known as the 'Jedi master'. His tutelage and knowledge of the 'game' will be missed, but he leaves a sound foundation for the future.



The Infantry Orienteering Champions.



## The Vikings

### Viking Motorbike Battlefield Tour – Verdun, France.

*Capt Dan Jaggard, Int Offr, writes:*  
Verdun, scene of the fiercest fighting during WWI, was the destination for this year's annual Viking Chapter Motorcycle Battlefield Tour. For those who are not familiar with the concept, a Motorcycle Battlefield Tour has several advantages over conventional trips:

Transport and Accommodation fees are cheap for motorcyclists staying in campsites.

Tour members divide the responsibilities for researching and briefing the group on the ground, tactical events and the significance of a site, therefore developing those individuals and negating the requirement for a paid guide.

Using our own vehicles and self-guiding allows the flexibility to investigate deeper into a site or explore further areas not planned on the programme. It also allows an extended programme - many organised tours run from Monday to Friday.

In attendance were several members from the Vikings, past and present, attached arms serving with the Battalion and John Foster, father of the fallen Viking, Robert Foster.

Verdun is characteristic of the extreme barbarity and slaughter that epitomised WWI – it was truly an attritional battle. The German Chief of Staff, von Falkenhayn, wanted to 'bleed France white' by launching a massive German attack (Codenamed JUDGEMENT) on a narrow stretch of land that had historic significance for the French. The area around Verdun contained 20 major and 40 minor forts that protected the Eastern border of France; these had been recently modernised in the early days of the 20th



OC HQ Coy Potholing in a minor fort communication tunnel.

Century. Von Falkenhayn believed that the French could simply not allow these forts to fall as the national humiliation would have been too much. By fighting to the last man, von Falkenhayn believed that the French would lose so many men that the battle would change the war; it didn't and between 21 Feb and 16 Dec 1916, ¾ million French and German soldiers were killed and nine villages around the city were completely destroyed.

Verdun was declared a 'Zone Rouge' after WWI and the destroyed villages were never rebuilt. The whole area has been left in its

post-battle state, leaving many features of tactical significance intact. To put the sheer scale of the carnage and ferocity of Verdun into context, the Somme was a diversionary attack by the British to draw the Germany Army away from Verdun and ease the pressure on the French. Throughout the tour we took time to take in the intricacies of the defence network that protected France and to appreciate the level of sacrifice made by the French Army.

Verdun was the hub of a Divisional defence system with the Citadel at its heart. The city sits in a natural bowl of ridge lines and the



Author and riders on the roof of Fort Vaux.

**The Vikings**

**View from the top of the Douaumont Ossuaire.**

defences utilised this natural barrier with fortifications and garrisons along them. Forts Vaux and Douaumont are good examples of this and still show the defences intact, albeit with the damage caused by heavy shelling and fighting. In addition to the well preserved Vaux and Douaumont, there are other smaller Forts that were not restored and are rarely visited by tourists. We took the opportunity to see one of these smaller Forts, away from the beaten track, seeing them in the state that they had been left at the end of WWI. Pictured is OC HQ Coy leading the way down one of the many communication tunnels that connected the machine gun emplacements and associated trenches with the Fort.

As the Latin origin of Douaumont Ossuaire (The Ossuary Cemetery) suggests, this cemetery contains not only the graves of

15,000 French soldiers but, and in testament to the ferocity of the fighting, the remains of 130,000 unidentifiable French & German soldiers, recovered from the battlefield. Within the Chapel there are 18 alcoves, each containing a tomb of soldiers' remains from a particular area around Verdun. At the end of the Battlefield Tour to Verdun we had a flavour of how the French had achieved their positional defence in their heavily fortified fixed positions, but also a spine chilling sense of the horrendous cost.

Wednesday was set aside as a free day for members of the group. CSM (WO2) Thurston, CSgt Heal and Sgt Shropshire travelled to nearby Rouen to check out greased up men in cycling shorts on the Tour de France. Those of us who have a healthy aversion to men in lycra went either to the Ardennes to find Tiger Tanks

and Easy Company's foxholes, headed up by Maj Hall, or to the Nurburgring circuit. The Nurburgring is 17.6 miles of pure adrenaline with only one, two mile long, straight. The remainder of the loop is blind bends, including the technically difficult and hated two tier 'Carouse'. If the track itself wasn't enough to contend with, then the locals in cars, vans and buses certainly added to the excitement.

The 2011 tour will push further East across Europe. Next summer we plan to strike camp in Germany and feature visits to sites at Minden (hallowed ground for all Vikings), The Maginot Line (an immense and incredible defence network and the antithesis of manoeuvre warfare) and Eben Emael - site of the first glider borne raid that began the seizure of Belgium. It will also include an excursion to the Nurburgring.

## 2nd Battalion The Poachers

### Introduction by the Commanding Officer

*Lt Col RW Wooddisse MBE MC*

writes:

The Poachers are now fully established in Dhekelia after a 6 month period which has seen every sinew of the Battalion stretched. The combination of UK based pre-deployment training for Afghanistan and a Battalion move from Germany to Cyprus is an unusual one, and for good reason!

We marked our latest departure from Celle with the award of the Freedom of the Stadt which we were lucky enough to receive in the company of the Colonel-in-Chief and Colonel of the Regiment. It was a memorable day and an entirely suitable way of saying farewell to the people of Celle who have hosted us so well for the last three years.

It is good to be back in Cyprus after an absence of a decade or so. While the sun is as strong as ever, there have been a number of positive changes to life in Dhekelia. The soldiers' accommodation has just been refurbished and now every junior rank has his own room, some of which look onto the Mediterranean only a few yards away. While parts of Ayia Napa remain out of bounds, the rules have been relaxed since the late 1990s, and rightly so. And while some of the married quarters have changed little in the last 10 years, the building of a new estate has gone down well with those lucky enough to be housed there. The adventure training facilities are as good as ever and offer opportunities for the soldiers and their

families unequalled elsewhere. And we are only just beginning to explore the travel opportunities, both on island and throughout the Middle East.

The Battalion has, of course, worked hard to get here. The demands of concurrent pre-deployment training and moving put considerable pressure on the logistic elements of the Battalion, some of which you can read about later in the Poachers' contribution. The families also had to bear much of the burden as all too often husbands were training in the UK when packing needed to be done in Germany. And the soldiers across the Battalion have attacked their training with all the verve and vigour that one would expect and are fitter, tougher and better trained for the experience. The

preparation for operations in Afghanistan is certainly exacting, but represents some of the best training that I have done in my Army career. The principal elements are described below as part of the Battalion's contribution to this edition of the *Castle* magazine.

As I write, B and C companies, supported by much of D Coy and HQ Coy, are in Afghanistan undergoing in-theatre training to give us the very latest skills and drills required to operate successfully in the months ahead as the Theatre Reserve Battalion (TRB). A Company are preparing for a two-week exercise in Jordan which will no doubt be challenging and will ensure that they are more than ready for operations later in the year. I wish I could give more insight into what the next 12 months hold for us, but



Cpl Green representing the Poachers in the Army Wakeboarding Championship.



Lt Col Wooddisse receives a cheque for £5,000 for the Regimental Memorial Appeal from Maj Tom Dormer on behalf of the Northamptonshire Regiment Association.



## The Poachers

the nature of the task, in which we must be ready to deploy at short notice to conduct operations in Afghanistan at Company and Battle Group level, prevent me from doing so. It is a unique challenge and one that we all relish.

### A (Lincolnshire) Company

*Major Rupert Whitham OC A*

*(Lincolnshire) Coy writes:*

This is my first Castle entry since taking over command of A (Lincolnshire) Company last April. I consider myself fortunate to be in this position having first established links with 'Point Company' back in 1996 as a potential officer in BATUS and then subsequently as a platoon commander in Cyprus. My return to the Poachers - and in particular A Company - has therefore felt very much like a homecoming. I now find myself at the helm of a unique organisation, comprising some extraordinarily talented soldiers.

I'm not the only change to our ORBAT. Lt Barron has been elevated from junior to senior platoon commander following the arrival of 2Lts Richard Weston and Tom Green, whilst the irascible WO2 Sweeney now compliments our team as CSM. Capt James Quince and CSgt Hume provide the continuity as 2IC and CQMS respectively, whilst an additional twelve recruits over the past six months brings our strength up to 101.

Whilst not wishing to repeat that which will doubtless be recounted better elsewhere, it would nonetheless be remiss of me not to highlight just how tremendously busy life has been since the last edition of this journal.



**A Company Headquarters. Front, from left: CSgt Hume, Capt Quince, Maj Whitham and WO2 Sweeney.**

I'm confident that few battalions could have coped so well with such an intense period of operational training and a unit move.

After a short period of low level training last spring, A Company embarked on a rollercoaster ride of field firing, CATT, conceptual studies, Confirmatory Field Exercises, combined arms live firing and a Final Test Exercise. The Company acquitted itself well and - in OPTAG's own words - was 'at the fore of the very best sub units' they'd seen. Nonetheless, the frenetic pace did not slow on our return to Germany. A Company initiated the Battalion's hand-over of Trenchard Barracks with a memorable

final march through Celle old town and visits by both our Colonel-in-Chief and our Regimental Colonel. Following summer leave, we found ourselves 'at point' once again, leading the Cyprus operations commitment. Within four days of arrival on island the entire company was briefed, zeroed, administrated and deployed - a testament to the hard work and adaptability of the current team.

The consensus is that Cyprus has much to offer. Our role as TRB provides a valuable focus and an opportunity to prove our worth in a demanding and at times dangerous arena. It brings a great many challenges,



**A Company sharpshooters on Dhekelia Range.**

## The Poachers

not least the need to maintain readiness over twelve long months, never quite knowing what lies over the operational horizon - a unique challenge, even across all 36 infantry battalions. As a company, we're striving to create balance in the soldiers' lives, notwithstanding a clear operational imperative. A Company's battle rhythm focuses predominantly upon fitness, weapons handling and medical training. Tackling the complexities of counter insurgency provides the underlying thread to it all. Our afternoons are generally dedicated to the all important, but oft neglected, platoon administration and equipment care, with organised sport every Wednesday. Opportunities for adventure training are (and will continue to be) exploited to the full with each soldier being actively encouraged to develop a new sport or hobby.

The following articles detail some of what's happened since April from the differing perspectives of private soldier, JNCO, SNCO and commissioned officer. They are but a snapshot of what has been a remarkably busy and demanding six months during which the soldiers have worked hard and achieved much. We now look forward to the challenges of TRB, a three week exercise in Jordan this December and a demanding company CFX in the New Year. None of this would of course be possible without the support and interest of Castle's readership - particularly wives, families and friends - without whom we simply couldn't operate two thousand miles from the UK. We also value our Company links to RHQ, the County Committee, recruiters, cadets and TA; many thanks to you all for your on-going support.

### A Company Adventure Training

*Pte Hemmings, 2 Platoon, writes:*

Before arriving in Cyprus we had heard a lot about the adventure training opportunities that exist on the Island. Following a busy start to our new posting the time came for A Company to experience some of the activities that Cyprus has to offer. Whilst the Island can provide such things as freefall parachuting, gliding, and rock climbing, it was the activities that Cyprus is probably most famous for - namely water sports and diving - which we found ourselves taking part in.

Our accommodation at Alexander Barracks is located a stone's throw from the Mediterranean and we have water sports facilities on our doorstep. This provides a good chance to get involved with introductory activities to see if we would like to commit, should the time become available in the future.

A select few were fortunate enough to experience a day sailing with the local sailing club, all free of charge. The beginning of the day started with an introduction to the boats and an hour on the simulator to practice our movement whilst changing direction. Once we had mastered the basics we were let loose



### A Company Adventure Training.

on the water to put into practice our newly acquired skills. Some took to it better than others, but by the end of the day most had reached a standard where we could pilot the boat without direction from the staff. Overall we enjoyed our time off work and the experience made us keen to do more in the future.

There are a number of locations that offer diving lessons close to our barracks and, as well as sailing, some of us managed to get involved in scuba diving. At first the newcomers had to go diving for an hour to see how they got on and to get a feel for the diving kit. Following our initial introductory dive we were taken deeper to explore a tank hulk that had been submersed to 5m, to familiarise ourselves with the perspective of being underwater. Diving is a surreal experience as the environment is totally alien from that above the surface. It takes time to get used to the techniques required, as well as the sensation of weightlessness in unfamiliar surroundings. The day provided a great taster which has definitely encouraged us to pursue a diving qualification when we get the chance.

Overall, we could only experience a glimpse into the wealth of activities that Cyprus can provide. Hopefully, by the end of our time here we will all leave with some decent adventure training qualifications.

### A Section Commander's Experiences of the Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise

*Cpl Tanner 3 Platoon, A (Lincs) Coy, writes:*

The week before the CALFEX had seen the Company put through their paces on a Confirmatory Test Exercise. We all expected that the CALFEX in Otterburn would be similarly hectic and fast paced and so we braced ourselves for the challenge.

After a few days to shake out we got



### Pte Gibbs treats an amputee in action.

preliminary orders for the CALFEX itself. We had all heard the rumours about the fire support we would be getting: 81 mm Mortars, 105mm Artillery, Attack Helicopter, Tornado fast jets, to name but a few. We all started to get a little excited about getting the chance to see it all going off at once.

As the Exercise began the pace of life increased. It started with a deployment into a makeshift Company Forward Operating Base (FOB) which looked like a building site. That night the exercise went live and we spent all night fighting off a determined and resilient enemy force. With the overhead fire guns blazing and the Apache Gunships letting rip, the exercise realism was immense. The best part of the defence was the huge amount of Battle Simulation explosions and live firing mortars. With all the live firing going on it was extremely realistic, allowing the newest private soldier to experience a taste of real fighting, which in my opinion is priceless training.

## The Poachers

In the morning we got a quick set of QBOs to conduct a deliberate attack on a nearby compound system. Good planning and effective rehearsals meant that everyone moved into the attack knowing what was going on and what fire support to expect. I think with the first weeks events and the CALFEX the whole Platoon knew pretty much what was going on at any point, without too much being said by the commanders. The experience gained from the previous week meant that the men were instinctively situationally aware for most of the time.

The attack was a complete success. It was a long and arduous attack where the Company took several casualties, but sure enough we went through ours drills and overcame the challenges. This by now had become second nature. The attack went into darkness and with some of the fires blazing from the tracer it was a proper picture of the modern battlefield.

On returning we had very little admin time before we were due to deploy again on another company offensive action. This consisted of an insertion tab and a massive company level attack. Working as a company at this point had become second nature and everyone gelled enough to just head forward with very minimal planning and rehearsals. You can tell by the length of these exercises that everyone knew their job and were getting very comfortable doing it.

Doing a company level attack with Apache gunship, machine guns, GMG and artillery in support is a rare sight for most people, but this exercise had it all. The RAF even joined in with a fly past from a Tornado fast jet. The exercise was, in my opinion, of great training value, since it was realistic and gave the guys the opportunity for every member of the Company to practise drills and skills and get to know their trade.

### Battalion Move to Dhekelia - A Private Soldier's Perspective

*Pte Brotheridge, 1 PlA (Lincs) Coy,  
writes:*

On the 23rd August 2010, a very reluctant A Company returned from a well-earned 3 weeks of leave to muster together at the Joint Air Mounting Centre in Gloucestershire, to embark on a new chapter of The Regiment's history and our own careers as the Theatre Reserve Battalion in Dhekelia, Cyprus.

Upon our arrival in Dhekelia we received a quick brief on the military establishment and the bearings and layout of the Garrison and were left to settle into our new rooms which, I must admit, raised my morale considerably! Every man has their own room, some with their own sink and balcony and others with their own beach view which, may I add, is only 50 metres to the rear of our location; something which myself and the lads have become very, very, fond of! To be based here is in some ways quite a big privilege.



**A Company guarding Troodos.**

However, it soon dawned on us on the Monday morning that unfortunately this isn't going to be a 2 year holiday courtesy of the British taxpayer. We started off the day in civilian attire, finding our way round camp and helping out with numerous fatigues that come as part of the territory every time you move from a location. By 1100hrs the heat was becoming unbearable, with the last week of August presenting Cyprus with a national heat wave! The heat index was reaching the 45 degrees mark. By this point even the most simplest of tasks was arduous and, after shifting countless boxes, it was much to my relief when we were fallen out and only had one thing left to do - head to the Battalion Beach to top up the tan!

Before we knew it the physical training program had come into effect with early morning runs down on the beach. The current heat makes it pretty much unbearable to run at midday. To that end, the Company Commander has decided that we start early before the sun has had a chance to fully rise. The chosen time for our runs is currently 0615hrs when it is a lot cooler with a nice breeze from the sea. Running along the beach is actually quite refreshing although unfortunately it does mean longer days.

Our operational commitment has now started and we are providing a guard force for 3 Sovereign Base camps around the island. These are Salt Lake, RAF Akrotiri and the Troodos mountains. As part of a guard team from 1 Platoon, I headed up to the Troodos Mountains to guard the facilities there with my Platoon. This was without a doubt one of the most panoramic places I have ever visited and, quite frankly, offered views that unless you paid seriously good money, would be unimaginable to the average holidaymaker. At 6400 ft on the top of Mount Olympus we were at the highest point on the island.

We went for trainer runs every morning followed by gym and football competitions in the evening. The air was so thin that even after a small distance of 4km, myself and many others were tired. It became apparent

that this altitude was going to be very hard to get used to. But when we went for one of our runs in the mornings after returning to Dhekelia, it was definitely a blessing to have trained in the mountains as it seemed a lot easier beneath the clouds instead of being above them. The only problem we had then was that we had lost all of our acclimatization! It's a no win situation.

As I type this I am finishing off one of my guard duties back in Alexander Barracks and looking forward to getting some time off to explore the Island further. Flights back to the UK are relatively cheap if you book in advance. However, this is a very exciting Island, surrounded by the Mediterranean, with hot weather and opportunities to explore. You can even catch a 45 minute boat ride to Turkey. In my opinion it is definitely better than our last posting to Germany.

### Cyprus - A Platoon Commander's Initial Impressions

*2Lt Weston, OC 1 PlA (Lincs) Coy,*

*writes:*

Cyprus - the land of sun, sea and Uzo. And different from Celle in almost every respect. Even the civilian airline I flew here with was a different experience: a strong whiff of booze, groups of giggling tourists seemingly oblivious that the plane was not Club Tropicana. The party atmosphere remained with me until the baggage carousel, where the by now euphoric holiday makers picked up their suitcases and pranced happily off to their respective villas and hotels. Eventually my own grip arrived. The as yet unworn desert fatigues peeping their way through the broken zip served as a useful reminder of my reason for being there and answered the question of why I seemed to be the only sober person flying that day.

The next morning saw the tranquillity of leave replaced by the hectic swirl of a Battalion move. The camp was awash with ant-like soldiers humping a seemingly



## The Poachers



**1 Platoon on Salt Lake Beach.**

endless supply of MFO boxes; the adage of mad dogs and Englishmen sprang to mind. Foreheads shone with sweat and T-shirts were as a second skin; the midday heat was stifling. As the last MFO box was jostled into place (for that day at least) there was time to take in the beauty of our new home, Alexander Barracks. The private beach, which sits right outside the accommodation, is lapped by the warmth of the Mediterranean Sea. With its clear sapphire and the gentle sea breeze it is hard to imagine a better place to be posted.

The dust had little time to settle before A (Lincolnshire) Company were hard at it again. In order to assume the Cyprus Ops 1 commitment the soldiers needed to zero weapons, address a host of personal admin issues and conduct Public Order training with the Cypriot Police Force, all whilst continuing to hump a newly discovered pile of MFO boxes. With only a week separating our arrival and the assumption of guard duties from the outgoing 2 PWRR, there was little opportunity to enjoy the real selling points of the Island.

The Barracks are flanked by a communal beach popular with local Cypriots and a water sports centre. Further afield the adventure training opportunities are enviable: scuba diving, wake boarding, kite surfing, banana boating (possibly not classed as AT but still great fun), skiing in the winter, parachuting and paragliding, to name but a few. For the single soldiers there is also the obvious advantage of living on an island that features prominently on the 18 - 30s holiday circuit: a weekly changing supply of buzzing holiday makers.

The Barracks is part of a much larger Garrison which is essentially a town in itself with family housing, a large Hermes (Cyprus NAAFI), a bank, a gym, a Chapel, and so on. The distance between all of these features is, in the unforgiving humid heat of midday, a nuisance to say the least. A trip to the bank could cost you a pint of sweat on foot so vehicular travel is a must. Fortunately for the

Battalion every Cypriot, outgoing soldier, range warden, stranger on the street and his dog have a car to sell. Interesting features which are common in these cars include exclusively Japanese speaking, minidisk playing sound systems and an aircon unit which will last the duration of the test drive. Nevertheless, I am assured, by the man who sold me mine, they will save you sweat and tears in the long run.

Having been here for a short a time, my initial impressions are positive. The people are hospitable, the accommodation well situated, the training facilities close by and the weather gloriously Mediterranean. No doubt life on the island will have many unique and peculiar challenges to face, but I am sure that the benefits that come from living here will more than make up for that.



**4 Platoon advance to conduct compound clearance in Camp Bastion.**

## B (Leicestershire) Company

*Maj MA Nicholas writes:*

Since the last edition of Castle, B Company has completed a demanding period of Mission Specific Training for operations in Afghanistan and played its part in the unit move from Germany to Cyprus. The Company is now well established in Dhekelia and is preparing for its deployment to Afghanistan in October to conduct Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI). Since our arrival, we have conducted training in Akrotiri and completed a stint as the Cyprus Ops 1 and 2 Company providing protection and QRFs for a number of key strategic sites on the Island.

An enormous amount has been achieved over the last six months. In April the Company completed a field firing camp at Sennelager, which for many was the first opportunity to revise marksmanship skills and conduct live firing since Ex Grand Prix last year. Almost everyone in the Company has now completed some form of specialist training: we have trained over 80 Team Medics, 15 drivers for MASTIFF vehicles and quad bikes, a number of Dhari and Pashto language specialists and a host of instructors to teach theatre specific tactics, techniques and procedures. A Non-Kinetic Effects Cell of six has also been established to assist in the collection and evaluation of intelligence and the delivery of soft effect on the ground. These demands reflect the complexity of conducting counter-insurgency operations at the tactical level, and the requirement for 'degree-level' soldiering.

So much individual training was brought together at the collective level with three

## The Poachers

major exercises held in the UK in late June and July. The Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX) at STANTA was an examination of performance at sub unit level which saw the Company tested against over sixty training objectives, over four different scenarios. B Company earned its spurs and a good reputation with the OPTAG staff. The Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX) at Otterburn followed and this enabled the Company to focus on kinetic operations and the integration of direct and indirect fires from mortars, artillery, AH and fast air. This was a hugely valuable exercise that achieved integration and a degree of battle inoculation. The final piece in this triptique of back-to-back exercises was 16 Brigade's Final Test Exercise (FTX) at SPTA. Although the Company was a small cog in a much bigger exercise, we were able to experience what it is like to work as part of a task force – having to compete for assets, coordinate movement, share the intelligence picture and track and report across boundaries. Throughout this collective training period the Company acquitted itself well, delivering a high standard of performance as well as demonstrating a desire to learn and improve.

In addition to these headline events, the Company has been at the forefront of Battalion life. During CFX we hosted the Battalion media day for a large group of East Midlands media. On this occasion we were able to spend time with Lady Gretton, the Lord Lieutenant for Leicestershire, and the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council, both staunch supporters of The Regiment and Company. Shortly after returning from the UK, the Company hosted the Colonel-in-Chief and demonstrated dismounted close combat equipment during his visit for the Freedom of Celle.

The Company has enjoyed plenty of success on various cadres and courses. LCpls Ellis, Fields and Roffe have completed and passed Section Commanders' Battle Course. Ptes Field, Flower, Magwaza, Murby, Nicholas, Uzokwe and Watts have passed the Queen's Division Fire Team Commanders' Course and have taken up command appointments. Investing in these junior commanders is key and we have put in place a programme of Junior Non-Commissioned Officer development to compliment the Career, Leadership and Management course.

Our early days in Cyprus have produced some fruitful training. The first training event, Exercise READY TIGER was a good introduction to the training resources on offer in Cyprus and a handy reminder that the climate and terrain will bring additional (but welcome) challenges. However, life in B Company is not all work and no play. Over the last few months we have conducted Operation TIGERS' STRIKE and placed satisfied soldiers in the Careers' Office in Leicester. And, as some of the following articles demonstrate, plenty of adventure training is taking place. We also welcome

the B Company families to Dhekelia and particularly the six newly married wives.

On the eve of deploying for RSOI, the Company is ready for the challenge of the TRB commitment. Fully manned and well trained, we are in good shape to match what ever the next twelve months bring.

### B Coy Gp Confirmatory Field Exercise: STANTA June 2010

*2Lt Jamie Powell, B Coy, writes:*

Following weeks of build up to the CFX, after a gruelling 18 hour coach journey from Celle, the main body of the Battalion arrived at STANTA ready to launch into the exercise. After a brief admin period, the troops were all ready to deploy out onto the area for a day of last minute consolidation training and admin before startex on the Saturday evening. B Coy Gp led the way, deploying first onto the area and, committed soldiers that B Coy are, nobody was in the slightest bit bitter that the rest of the Battalion were watching England play in the World Cup.

B Coy Gp's first rotation saw us deploying to the area of JRENDIA, and once the Coy had shaken out, we settled into a routine of framework patrolling, guard/QRF, and deeper patrolling towards the insurgent dominated town of JRENDIA. Once orders had come through, the Coy planning cycle kicked into action and the men geared themselves up for their first deliberate Coy Op. This was also our first opportunity to work in partnership with the ANA, which proved an interesting challenge. The op

on JRENDIA finished up our time on this rotation and, after a tough 8 hours clearing through the village and holding it, we received a very promising debrief. All in all, the first rotation afforded us a valuable opportunity to work on VALLON drills, partnering, compound clearance and also working with other agencies such as AES Dogs. Most importantly, it was the first time the Coy and FSG had worked together as complete units.

Our second rotation saw an improvement in the weather and morale soared as we moved into the next FOB near SINDH KHALAY. The excellent hard cover facilities offered by this FOB showed a great deal of promise and the lads were all looking forward to spending some time resting in their beds. As it was, everyone in HQ really enjoyed the facilities whilst we enjoyed the hospitality of the insurgents in SINDH KHALAY itself. This rotation was very challenging, but was an excellent opportunity, working in a village populated by genuine Afghan Nationals, and furthering our learning when it came to partnering with the ANSF. The temperature soared, and everyone in the Company worked extremely hard; facing suicide bombers, shoot and scoots, the OC racking up the Shura count and even LNs removing wounded soldiers' kit for safekeeping. Another area that was put to the test was the CSM's slick CASEVAC drills, with the CQMS constantly finding an excuse to escape for some fun on his quad.

As the men of B Coy Gp were really getting to grips with the exercise, we hit the third and arguably toughest rotation of the Green



B Company OC and CSM discuss tactics with OPTAG staff during CFX.

## The Poachers



**B Company secures the heli crash site during CFX.**

Zone Clearance. By this stage our skills in partnering the ANSF were at such a level that we were able to push their expertise and knowledge of the area to the front, allowing the Coy Gp to clear forward much faster than any of the other companies.

After a hot and sticky 8 hours, we had cleared through the Green Zone, including a number of compounds on the way, whilst once again practising Op BARMA and

CASEVAC. The OC even managed to find time for another Shura.

As the ex drew to a close, we moved onto the final rotation in MEKTILA. The major incidents that were encountered in MEKTILA were the establishment of a PI PB in the village itself, providing security for a large Shura, defending the FOB and PB from an insurgent attack, and finally dealing with a downed helicopter and mass

casualty situation. The Coy had learnt from all mistakes made previously and pulled everything together to finish extremely strongly.

All in all, B Coy had an excellent CFX, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. The end result was a Company that was proud of how it had performed, but also well aware of the lessons that had been learnt and determined to ensure that they were not forgotten.



**B Company collects the casualties during CFX.**



## The Poachers

### Preparing B Coy IX Group for Operations

*LCpl Mo Morawski, B Coy, writes:*

The IX (Information Exploitation) group comprises of an Int Cell and a NKET (Non Kinetic Effects Team). The two groups are essential to each other in order to map and mould the human terrain and to build up a clear intelligence picture. For commanders to make informed decisions in the current theatre of operations, an understanding of the population is key and requires a clear intelligence picture.

The Coy Int Cell works to gather, collate and disseminate information that comes in both off the ground and from higher; and for each piece of information there is an assessment made. Both commanders and patrols are then briefed and kept regularly updated.

While there is a focus on insurgent forces for the Int Cell, the NKET is focussed on reconciling and understanding the needs (not wants) within the local area in order to bring the population on side. For example, this may involve talking to local leaders, paying compensation, or starting cash for works schemes. Larger projects are also identified and passed up to MSSTs (Military Stabilisation Support Teams). Both the insurgents and understanding the population are closely related and this is the reason both cells work together as part of the IX Group. The result is that the IX Group is able to be a key contributor to the Find, Feel, Fix, Exploit, Analyse cycle.

The CFX and FTX training was essential for the Intelligence Cell and the NKET in order to get hands on and practice in their roles. There is only so much you can learn in a class room. Without having practiced and formed close knit teams, we would not have as much information coming in to send up to higher and to the troops on the ground.

### Fire Team Commanders' Course

*LCpl George Uzokwe writes:*

The Fire Team Commanders' Course (FTCC) is a promotional course in Brecon for those private soldiers who want to make the first step on the promotional ladder to Lance Corporal. It is a six week course sponsored by the Queen's Division to develop and train soldiers to bring them to the required level for promotion. The old saying that 'it's the hardest rank to get' passed over my head and nine other members of the Poachers who arrived at Brecon for the course.

The first few days of the course consisted of the mandatory weapon handling and fitness tests, the latter done 'Brecon style'. We then pushed onto a navigation week which took us over the Black Mountains and lowland valleys. The test navex was conducted on the barren terrain of the Sennybridge Training Area.

The course then progressed to the infantry 'bread and butter', the section attack and

battle drills and also an understanding of the Combat Estimate process. Throughout the course, and particularly in this phase, all students were given command appointments as a means of continuous assessment. The Battle Phase culminated with live firing attacks, something that really did bring home the responsibility on the shoulders of junior commanders.

Then followed the famous Fan-Dance, not so much a dance but a scramble up Pen y Fan, well known to all those who pass through Brecon on their way to higger and better things. The course finished with a Final Exercise, designed to bring together all that we had been taught over the preceding weeks – patrol orders, section attacks and navigation skills. One final 'dance' over the Fan (with a few stretchers) completed the FTCC.

Overall the course was demanding. I finished with a sense of achievement knowing that I fought hard to get to Brecon and knowing that I was returning to B Coy to be a Fire Team Commander for the TRB commitment.

### Tall Ships Race 2010

*Pte Meehan, B Coy, writes:*

When asked if anyone wanted to go sailing, Pte Nicholas of B Company and I were quick to grab the opportunity, mainly just to get a few weeks off work and to avoid scrubbing the block in preparation for handover. Little did we know it would turn out to be one of the best experiences of our Army careers. Not only because of the places we went to and the people we met, but also because it was

an educational and demanding experience. Our trip started in Antwerp, then took us to Alborg in Denmark, across to Kristiansand in Norway and finally to Hartlepool (yes, Hartlepool!). We stopped off at countless ports along the way and also took a detour to Sweden.

This event happens annually and is aimed at young people, as crews must be less than 25 years of age. With 87 boats, some of which needed over 100 people to man, you can imagine how many young people there were participating in the event. It goes without saying that the event organisers were always going to have their hands full, but they did not disappoint.

All four of us had an exhilarating experience and sailing is most definitely an intensive and demanding activity. Through participation in the race we gained our Competent Crew Certificates and can now start working for our Day Skipper qualification.

### Progressive Parachuting

*Pte Smith, B Coy, writes:*

Back in March I volunteered myself for the 'Basic Freefall' adventurous training course, run down in Sennelager. During the course I managed to complete numerous static line jumps. However, due to bad weather conditions, I didn't manage to get my first freefall in and came home from the course. After a busy few months with the Company completing our Pre Deployment Training, another parachuting course came up for which I gladly volunteered.



Pte Nicholas aboard Dasher.

## The Poachers

This course was not a basic course and was for people who have jumped before; this was great for me because it didn't start slow and meant that we could get more jumps, instead of waiting around watching power point presentations! Going on the second freefall course therefore allowed me to rapidly progress.

The week started with a four second freefall jump from about 4,000 feet. After successfully completing two jumps, I moved on to ten second freefall for which I jumped from around 5,000 feet. Anything over 10 seconds and you begin to reach terminal velocity; and by this time you no longer count out the timings, instead you learn to use your altimeter and pull your parachute at a given height. Before each jump you are fully briefed on what you are going to do and will have practiced the moves prior to the jump.

A fifteen second freefall felt like a long time, but it got a lot longer. After doing the jump correctly, I was taken to 13-14,000 feet from where you can get over 50 seconds of freefall. I had to do different things in the air such as backward loops, dive exits and tracking. Tracking is where you position your body straight in the air to make you glide and go a lot faster. But the exit I most enjoyed was the 'unstable exit' where you sit, knees to chest with your back to the door and holding your ankles; and then, at an unknown time, you are rolled backwards out of the door! It's a strange feeling, being that high and rolling round.

I was followed down by an experienced parachutist with a helmet cam who filmed the jumps, so I could be debriefed and told what I needed to work on and what I did right. The things that you learn all help towards yet more advanced skydiving that you can get yourself into, such as formation freefall. This is where you jump out in groups and do different formations in the air with other experienced skydivers.

Nearing the end of the week I only had my qualifying jump left to do; this consisted of all the previous skills learnt, mixed into one. I knew I had done this jump successfully because the instructor who followed me down glided over to me and shook my hand in mid-air! I was pleased to know that I'd passed and played about in the air until I needed to pull my chute. On the course I also managed to get my packing certificate, which meant I could pack my own parachute and not have to wait around for the instructors to check it at different stages. I am happy that I have now managed to get my Cat A Licence.

All this was achieved within a week and a half and I would recommend it to anyone. There is much more advanced freefalling to do and, with the Battalion off to Cyprus, I can't wait to do a few jumps at the Parachute Centre there. And with my packing qualification, if I choose to skydive in my own time, I'm told that by packing your own chute can get you half your money back when you finish!

## C (Northamptonshire) Company

*Major Bev Allen writes:*

Since taking over the reins of command from Major Ian Chance in April, it has been a busy, challenging yet rewarding period for me and the 'boys from Company C'. Taking over a Company whose reputation was on the crest of a wave and whose soldiers were still flushed and buzzing from the experience of a highly testing, but nonetheless highly successful OTX in Kenya, was always going to be a somewhat daunting prospect; however, there was no time to dwell on this as I arrived in Germany and deployed immediately to Sennelager (without even stopping to drop off my civvy kit in Celle) to conduct a two-week Infantry Field Firing Camp (IFFC).

As I found myself tabbing, in full fighting order, across Sennelager area, on an 18km insertion, into an FUP for a live attack range (through the pouring rain), I was struck by the stark contrast between this, my new role, and my previous job in the

'plans shop' at PJHQ. Most Castle readers will be able to relate to my feelings at this point: I was hardly able to stop grinning the whole way. In short, it was absolutely fantastic to be back where I feel most at home, out soldiering with the soldiers of a Royal Anglian Battalion.

Since that epiphany on a wet German Sunday afternoon, it has been entirely non-stop for the Company. The IFFC was followed by a series of Company and Battalion run-outs, honing Afghanistan-specific skills that had been cascaded by the Battalion's T3 instructors, who themselves had been trained on the OPTAG Tactical Commanders' Cadre.

This was promptly followed by a trip back to UK for the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT), which was highly useful in practising the Company and Battle Group SOPs, ranging from battle procedure and orders, to CASEVAC and air-assault operations. The CATT simulation allowed every moving part to be tracked and observed over an Afghan terrain database and played back and discussed during after-action



**CALFEX OTA Pte Campbell relishing the prospect of turning plenty of live rounds into empty cases!**

## The Poachers



**FTX SPTA: Ptes Clarke, Fisher, Martland and Dillnut prepare to deploy out on patrol.**

reviews.

Following on very shortly after CATT was a challenging period which involved deploying directly between 3 major exercises. The period began with the OPTAG Confirmatory Field Training Exercise (CFX) in Norfolk on STANTA, followed by a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) in Otterburn. Finally, a somewhat unkempt, yet highly worked-up, C Company Group, arrived in Salisbury Plain for the Mission Rehearsal Exercise

(MRX). During this three-week period, every man had to be on top of his skills and I am very pleased to report that the staff of all three separate training organizations independently made highly complimentary reports about the readiness and capabilities of the Battalion as a whole, and about C Company Group, in particular.

Upon return to Germany there was a seismic shift in terms of the Company Group's focus; preparations for the looming Unit Move to Cyprus, including a Board of

Officers with its associated audits, had to be completed - but meticulous preparations were also required for the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief and the parade marking the conferring of the Freedom of Celle on the Battalion. Plenty of drill, in-between checking the Company's accounts, meant that on both of these dipolar activities, C Company was in fine order, in every sense of the expression.

After a fond farewell to Celle and a period of well-earned leave, the Company Group formed up in its new home in Cyprus, along with the welcome addition of 9 volunteers from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment. Time to find our feet and our way around has been in short supply. The Company Group took over the Cyprus Ops commitment for two weeks, guarding key UK installations, whilst 2 LANCs finished their own TRB tour in Helmand. Since handing that commitment over, our attention has now firmly zeroed back on to Afghanistan. As I sit writing this article, in the Ops Room of a FOB on the Akrotiri Training Area, prior to issuing orders for a Company Clearance exercise at 0500hrs tomorrow, I contemplate what might take place between now and the next time I put pen to paper for Castle magazine. Nobody knows exactly what taking over the Lead Company of the TRB will bring for C Company Group, when we assume that role in 11 days time. However, if the last 3 TRB units' experience gives us any indication, and if C Company Group's last 6 months of training is anything to go by, it should certainly make for an interesting read.

The first few weeks of our time in Cyprus



**CFX: 7 Platoon ready to receive orders on STANTA.**



## The Poachers

has indicated that there are many enjoyable and fun times ahead during our time here. However, for the time being our business is East. I am proud to report that should the call come, C Company Group is not only trained, spun-up and prepared for operations in Afghanistan, but it is also positively relishing the prospect. In the words of Henry V we stand ready 'like greyhounds in the slips, straining upon the start; the game's afoot'.... C Company Group is poised and primed for whatever lies ahead.

### Salisbury Plain FTX

*Lt Emerson writes:*

In June the Battalion undertook the massive job of moving everyone back to the UK for a demanding three week Pre-Deployment Training package. C Company, with Maj Allen relatively newly installed as OC, was keen to show why we had been chosen as the lead Company for TRB and we welcomed the chance to prove ourselves once again.

Buoyed by a strong performance on the OPTAG CFX in Thetford - which had been supported by many assets we had not had the opportunity to use before; and following a fantastic run-out on the Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX), where we had been supported by Apache Helicopters, 105mm guns and 81mm mortars, with Fast Air making strafing runs at very low level, all giving the soldiers the opportunity to fire, and see fired, the full panoply of Battle Group and supporting arms weaponry - we could have been forgiven for feeling that anything that came next would have been something of an anti-climax. However, this proved to be far from the case.

The final week of the package saw the Battalion move to Salisbury Plain for a Mission Rehearsal, Field Training Exercise (FTX). The Company had its own AO to get to grips with and the serials came thick and fast right from the outset. These ranged from attacks on our bases, to mass casualty evacuation drills, to conducting shuras and engaging with the local population. There were also Battle Group level operations to participate in, whilst maintaining framework operations in our own 'patch'. The Company was impressed by the level of resources that were available during this exercise. To add to the authentic feel, Afghan nationals were employed to act as if they lived in the villages in the AO, and we were faced with real scenarios that had been experienced previously in-Theatre. It was a perfect opportunity to test the young soldiers in C Company and they duly rose to the challenge. The Afghan nationals and some ex Ghurkhas were also employed as ANSF to add further realism. We also got the opportunity to use some of the UOR vehicles that we will be using, such as the JACKAL and MASTIFF protected mobility platforms. The exercise was also supported by Support Helicopters and we flew several aviation missions in CHINOOK and MERLIN aircraft.

The exercise culminated in a Battle Group

mission to establish, clear and provide route and local security to a shura so that the role-play Afghan District Governor could negotiate the provision of medical care for the local population. This was a huge undertaking and since it was taking place in our AO, C Company was given the task of receiving the site, providing the link to the local opinion-formers, affording intimate security to the shura itself and close-in route security, so that the District Governor could travel to the meeting in safety. The exercise was 'free-play' which meant the OPFOR (IRRF) tried every trick that they could to upset our plans and to target the meeting. This made for a busy morning for the boys from Company C, whilst several attempts were made by the insurgents to disrupt the meeting and to kill the District Governor. That the meeting went ahead in safety, without the District Governor or the local population even knowing anything about these thwarted attempts, is a testament to the Battle Group plan, the execution by C Company and the professionalism of the soldiers.

C Company's soldiers gave an excellent performance throughout the whole PDT package. The Battalion and C Company emerged with a reputation that is further enhanced. It has given us highly useful experience and provided a sound base to now take on the role of Lead TRB Company, in October, with confidence.

### Freedom of Celle

*Cpl Price writes:*

After spending three years in Germany, the Battalion was informed that it would be given the great honour of the Freedom of Celle. A privilege that had only been bestowed on two previous infantry Battalions since the end of the Second World War. Attending the parade would be the Mayor of Celle and the Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Duke of Gloucester and the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir John McColl.

After three weeks on the Battalion's final pre-deployment exercises back in the UK,

returning to Germany to get our drill back up to standard for a Royal visit was something of a challenge. With temperatures in excess of 30 degrees everyone found the RSM's drill schedule hard work. By the day of the parade however, the Battalion was as smart as ever and everyone was looking forward to the event.

The Freedom Parade was a fantastic event and the Poachers rose to the occasion by putting in a highly polished performance. The turn out of the people of Celle was outstanding, clearly displaying the close rapport that had been built up by the Battalion during its stay in the town.

After the formalities the Battalion marched through the French Gardens and was received at an impressive after party consisting of drinks and a very nice buffet. All in all it was a very enjoyable and happy day for both the Battalion and the people of Celle; and a fitting farewell for the three years the Battalion had spent amongst the locals. Germany will undoubtedly be missed, but the Battalion is very much looking forward to the challenges and rewards that will present themselves in Cyprus, along with the TRB commitment and Afghanistan.

### Life in Cyprus as a Private Soldier

*Pte Lindsey writes:*

C Company moved to Cyprus at the start of September after a well-earned month's leave.

There was no time to settle in as we were straight down the ranges on the first day back at work to zero our weapons. Life here as a Private Soldier is very demanding, mainly due to the change in climate from Germany, as we were soon to find out on that first day on the ranges.

But life here also has its rewards as well. The days are hotter and usually longer due to our upcoming role as Theatre Reserve Battalion; and we have early starts so we can do PT before it gets too hot, which leads to a long and tiring day.



General McColl inspects the troops.

## The Poachers



**Nissi Beach - a popular destination with the soldiers.**

On arriving at Alexander Barracks in Dhekelia, we immediately noticed a higher standard of accommodation to what we had been used to in Germany. Every man in Alexander Barracks now has his own room with a sea view and a few lucky individuals have balconies. We have many facilities available to us which include the Water Sports Club, a private beach, adventure training facilities, a garrison cinema and Wi-Fi internet in the NAAFI.

Training in Cyprus is very important for preparing us for our role as TRB; the heat helps us acclimatise for operations in foreign countries and it also makes physical exercise a lot harder. The terrain here is also very arduous which is making the Poachers very fit, robust and as ready, determined and able to deploy as any who have gone before us.

I feel Cyprus is an excellent posting due to the opportunities that are available; and you can't complain about a year-round sun tan!

### First Impressions on Battalion Life

*2Lt Mike Goodman writes:*

Upon arriving at RAF Akrotiri, I was met by Lt Andy Emerson and shepherded onto the transport to my new home in Dhekelia. In what seems to be the standard Battalion greeting for new subalterns, I was taken to a party at one of the officers' houses, a beer thrust into my hand and I was introduced to some of the other officers and their wives with whom I will be spending the next two years. In what was a characteristic display from the Poachers' Mess, I was immediately made to feel like one of the family.

On my first day at work I saw a real buzz about the whole Battalion. With the move from Germany in the very near history, the Poachers picking up Cyprus commitments from the 2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancashire's Regiment and the Theatre Reserve commitment looming large in everybody's consciousness, there is plenty of work to go around, over and above the task I have of finding my feet in my new role as a Regimental Officer. The schedule of the Battalion is hectic and demanding: regular 0530 hrs first parades to avoid doing PT in the sweltering heat of the day; and long

days and a busy training programme to put any last minute polish on the skills learned during the last year of preparation, makes for a dizzying, yet exciting, start to life as a Poacher Platoon Commander.

With all the training going on it has been surprising that the soldiers still find time to get to the beach and enjoy the excellent facilities provided; but many soldiers do and it makes for a refreshing change from the pace of life. In between training hard, the Poachers are really making the effort to play hard too – and it feels fantastic to be part of it.

### D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company

*Maj Paul Muncey, OC D (Beds and Herts) Coy, writes:*

As expected, when preparing for operations and, at the same time, conducting a unit move, the last few months have been particularly hectic, even by modern military standards. It has tested all parts of the Battalion, particularly the soldiers, who have largely embraced this period with

enthusiasm and commitment. Now we are firmly settled in Cyprus, the focus is squarely on imminent deployment to Afghanistan as part of the Theatre Reserve Battalion (TRB).

The preparation for becoming the TRB has led to a number of changes in the traditional fire support company structure. The four platoons, consisting of Machine Guns, Javelin, Snipers and Recce, have been restructured to create 3 Fire Support Groups (FSGs) affiliated to the rifle companies. Mortar Platoon remains as before but with each section affiliated to a rifle company.

Whilst this employment seems similar to the traditional structures, we as a battalion have embraced the FSG structure at the expense of the former platoons. All administration and training is now completed by FSG in preparation for our time as TRB. And following TRB, the structure will broadly remain in-line with HQ Inf's planned permanent creation of FSGs from Javelin and Machine Guns platoons. Recce and Snipers have backfilled our FSGs for our time as TRB, but they will re-form as separate platoons. Finally there has also been the creation of Information Exploitation (IX) teams to conduct Influence and Intelligence activities at company level. The Recce Platoon has provided the bulk of these teams with members of the Intelligence Cell.

As part of the TRB build-up, the Mortar Platoon, FSGs and IX groups, have had to learn many new skills. The Mortars have embraced Joint Fire and Close Combat Attack and you will hear more about this from Capt Andy Hopper, CSgt Taylor and Cpl Hughes. The FSGs have got to grips with some new equipment and Capt Bennett-Madge will describe the use of the JACKAL, Heavy Machine Gun and Grenade Machine Gun during Mission Specific Training in Otterburn. Finally, LCpl Locke will provide an insight into the new IX teams and their preparations for operations.



**Javelin Platoon in action.**

## The Poachers

### Fire Support Group C Activities During Mission Specific Training

*Capt Bennett-Madge, OC FSG C,  
writes:*

The beginning of 2010 saw an intense period of training on heavy weapons. Previous experience had largely been lost since Op TELIC 12 and as such, much support was provided by the SASC based out of Sennelager in Germany as instructors were trained. The natural progression from WHTs was the completion of static range during Apr – May 2010 in Germany, prior to the Bn move to the UK where the MST would take place.

FSGs were formed comprising of the usual spread of specialists from Snipers and Machine Gunners, through to Jackal and Quad Bike operators. Due to the incredibly high pace of life prior to MST, there had been precious few opportunities to train as formed units. As a result, a quick 5 minute brief was about all that was available in order to articulate the TTPs that would be used during Phase 1 of the MST, the CFX at STANTA. This proved to be a useful training ground prior to the CALFEX which we subsequently enjoyed at Otterburn.

Otterburn, home of inclement weather and a predictable climate, was the venue for Phase 2. On Day 1, we rapidly took over vehicles in the form of 5 Jackals. After a brief game of rank lottery, the

mobile call signs were re-issued and Lt Role sections formed to supplement the heavy weapons platforms. Following static Live Fire Tactical Training, the first serials were encountered. A day transitioning into night Coy Clearance ops was first up. The mobile C/S pushed high and to a flank to enjoy a preferable aspect of horizontal rain, followed up by the ever-present and reliable mosquitoes and midges! Excellent advice was provided by the safety staff who were recently returned members of 3 Cdo Bde. The marksmanship of the inexperienced Heavy Weapon Gunners rapidly improved over the following 3 hours as C Coy pushed from East to West, encountering numerous scenarios on the way. As a first 'run out' the training value had been significant. Many soldiers witnessed Combined Arms activities for the first time and I was impressed by the step up from our previous experience in the form of Ex GRAND PRIX 3, roughly 9 months previously. The Lt Role sections remained jealous of the impressive Jackal vehicles; however, Sgt Thurman, having impressed Capt Bennett-Madge so much in commanding his Lt Role Sect, was awarded the chance to show his skills again on Day 2, when he demonstrated the FSG in the dismounted role. Following a swift extraction, a hasty occupation of a FOB meant the inevitable FOB attack, which preceded a second day of demanding LFIT.

Prior to daylight on Day 2, C Coy Gp deployed to a lengthy compound clearance lane. Given the added mobility, the mobile

FSG C/S was not even required to take their handbrakes off! But some hours later, following a swift brief by the safety staff, the FSG departed to be surprised by an IED serial that came out of the blue! A rare chance was had with an Amputee in Action serial which was dealt with in an efficient manner, such that we were well ahead of the Coy's break-in and held off whilst the preliminary serials were completed. This brief respite was enjoyed and then shattered as we moved off. The sheer size of Otterburn Ranges were realised as a 360° battle then began as a complex ambush was sprung on the 5 Jackal patrol as they moved down the narrow confines of a re-entrant. By this stage the accuracy of the Heavy Wpns was impressive with enemy targets being engaged and destroyed at 500m + whilst vehicles were moving. Having extracted damaged vehicles the Fire Support location was finally reached and devastating fire provided for C Coy Gp below as they swept further into the compounds. The excited tones of Sgt Thurman were heard over the radio as he expressed his delight on being on foot. A number of hours later, following the delivery of several thousands of rounds onto enemy positions, the extraction took place and so concluded the live firing game.

Phase 3 was a totally different ball game as the high adrenaline period of Live Firing was replaced with the slower paced BG level FTX held at Salisbury Plain. Exercising of BG and Coy HQs meant a number of Deliberate Operations, which provided the chance for the final details to be ironed out on TTPs and SOPs.

Overall the training that we experienced was some of the best that most of the men had seen in their careers. Now we are firmly established in Cyprus, RSOI is the next phase, which will only add to our comprehensive understanding of the FSG involvement and activities at company level.

### Exercise Flying Rhino

*Capt Andy Hopper writes:*

The hectic and seemingly never ending period of Mortar Pre-Deployment Training is at long last over. As I write this, having returned from their well earned summer leave, the boys of Mortars are taking full advantage of 'another' game of beach volleyball in the heat of the Cypriot sun, with CSgt Ron 'The Competitive' Hills, now firmly in the chair as Mortar Platoon 2IC. Looking out of the office over the Mediterranean, it is of some considerable contrast to where we were 12 months ago... opposing the sideways rain, sleet and snow of the Falklands and Onion Range.

When I last wrote, the Mortar Platoon, particularly the executives, were preparing for their first real insight into the Joint Fires world. This began with conceptual training in the form of the Joint Fires Co-ordinators' Course conducted at RSA Larkhill; and was swiftly followed by EX MOUNTAIN DRAGON. The latter allowed our MFCs the chance to work with formed Fire



**Capt Bennet-Madge and CSgt Taylor relax during RSOI.**



## The Poachers

Support Teams from the artillery (chiefly 7 RHA) and to practice Joint Fires in a virtual environment – essentially working together to defeat a giant arcade game which simulates a few of the problems they can be expected to face on OP HERRICK 13/14.

Not long after this, the Mortars found themselves on the road again; this time, and to our 'obvious' disappointment, to the Czech Republic. Having conducted a successful recce, I and Cpl Finnerty were confident it would be a beneficial exercise. We were to be hosted by 26 Regiment Royal Artillery who had only that month converted to AS 90. After a 2 day shakeout we commenced our Joint Fires practices. This was, of course, the first time many of the exercising troops and staff had attempted the level of integration at which we were working - the aim being to get the right bombs, landing in the right place, at the right time, and in the right quantities. Although at first this may seem like a simple task, the frictions of multiple gun and mortar lines spread up to 15 Km apart, de-conflicting with Czech fast jet and UAV pilots, through American Forward Observers and Dutch Sensor Platform controllers, was not the most straight forward of tasks!

The two weeks period culminated in a Live Fire demo for senior UK, Czech and NATO personnel. It is with some pride that I can now deliver a bit of banter back at our 26 Regiment colleagues and accept their gratitude for being the only platform that day to actually 'hit' the targets! All said however, this proved to be an extremely valuable exercise for mortars. It developed the MFCs and HQ in the application of Joint Fires, whilst demanding some particularly accurate and efficient skills from the blokes on the barrels who, more often than not, found themselves on their belt buckles and firing with their heads level with the muzzle.

Immediately following on from this the Platoon rolled into the official start of MST with Exercise PASHTUN SABRE, CFX, FTX, CALFEX and CCA training. In the last 12 months, we will have fired in the region of 10,000 81mm bombs and are now more than ready for the challenges that Op HERRICK may throw at us.

### CCA Training (Close Combat Assault)

*Cpl Hughes writes:*

In Mortar Platoon there was an opportunity for a group of us to go to Otterburn and get trained on calling in attack helicopters to fire on targets in support of ground troops. The sound of that got all of our attention, so we were looking forward to the first day of training.

Our first day was spent in the classroom, which was a good thing because it was snowing quite badly. We started going through all the various aircraft and the capabilities that they have to offer the troops on the ground. We then went through the words of command that the observer and the pilot say to each other. This was really

good because the actual pilots who flew the aircraft were there, so it was very realistic, even in the classroom. After we got used to all the words of command we took it in turns to call in fire on the computer; this was also really useful and realistic.

Once we had done a couple of days on the computer and gone through the different tasks at least twice, our instructor was happy we were all capable of calling in fire from a real aircraft - the Apache Longbow - using a mix of live 30mm cannon and rockets.

On the day of our first shoot, we travelled up to an OP to get our kit ready and wait for a call on the radio from the aircraft saying he was on his way. The trainee observer doing that particular shoot was given a battle picture, after which he had to go through what he had been taught. This was really good because even in the bad weather, when it was very difficult to see the target, both the pilot and observer had to confirm to each other what they could see on the ground; and when they were both happy they were looking at the same thing. With practice, it became a lot easier to talk the pilot onto the target. When the first couple of people went through, the rest of us got a good view of how good the air assets are and how they rely on the talk-on from the observer. The better the talk-on by the observer, the quicker and easier the pilot can neutralize the target. We got a good insight into how good the firepower of our aircraft is and how accurate they can be.

Once we had done the day shoot, we needed a night shoot to be qualified to call in fire from the air. As you can appreciate, anything done in the dark is about 10 times harder than when it's done during the day. However, the equipment you are given and the experience of the pilot makes it a lot easier than you might think. We all agreed it was a very good and extremely useful experience; and importantly, a good insight for us looking ahead to operations on Op HERRICK.

### A JNCO's Perspective of Non-Kinetic Effects

*LCpl Locke writes:*

I'm currently employed in the Bn's Recce Platoon. However, due to changes in Theatre, I now have a new role as a member of a NKET (Non Kinetic Effects Team). To undertake this role I was required to attend an NKET course for three days at Ludgershall on Salisbury Plain. Here I was taught all the regulations and paperwork related to compensation and local projects. We also had the opportunity to work with Afghan locals that are now living in the UK.

We deployed from Germany to England on PDT in the summer of 2010, where I applied the training that I had been taught. In a nutshell, my job was to interact with the local civilians whose routine, houses, or lives, had been disrupted due to fighting; also, to identify key leaders and put in place requests for construction aid which could help the locals sustain their families and maintain

their dignity. Examples of the projects that I was involved in were the development of water wells, hospitals, schools and crops.

The difficulties I faced in particular were moving from a fighting mindset having trained for war, to actually understanding the background to what we are doing in Theatre. It's not just fighting people that wins a war, its winning the hearts and minds of the country.

PDT training was very relevant for NKETs. We had the chance to interact with the local population, hold shuras and get an understanding of the bigger picture. When I deployed to Iraq in 2008 I was a private soldier; and one of the biggest problems was not understanding for certain why we were there and what could be done to do our jobs better. NKET has furthered my understanding and generally enhanced my abilities to complement kinetic effects with non-kinetic ones.

### Fast Jet

*CSgt Shaun Taylor writes:*

It was on the morning of 3rd Sept 10 that I was summoned to the OC's office to be informed that I would be 1 of 3 people (myself, Cpl King (B Coy) and Cpl Hughes (D Coy)), that had been selected to participate in a Harrier flight during an exercise being conducted over Akrotiri in Cyprus. For the next few hours we sat around thinking that this was just a big joke; however, I took it at face value and booked the transport to Akrotiri for the following Monday for the flight medical.

Monday came and the journey across the Island was a strange one, as we sat there talking and saying that this isn't true. The MRS then appeared in the near distance, so we parked up and moved inside to be greeted by a familiar face of Maj 'Sparky' Sparks. For the old and bold he was 2ic C Coy on our last deployment to Cyprus. At this point, and to our surprise, it was confirmed that we were to go flying in a fast jet. As always, paperwork followed, then verbal briefs, and then finally the physical. Whereupon they do all sorts of measuring to ensure that you fit into the seat and, should you have to eject, don't leave your knee caps behind...ouch!

We were then told of our flight days, which had us spread over the 3 weeks while they were on Island training. First up was Cpl King; he was fitted out in the flight suit and helmet and, as usual, a little delay led to him not taking off until early afternoon. In true fashion he had lunch, and washed it down with a coke which was later to return. We found out later that he had to use the sick bag thus making it 1 - 0 to the pilots.

Next it was Cpl Hughes' turn, who took to it like a duck to water, passing with flying colours and thus making the score 1 - 1. Well my turn came around really quickly and I got fitted and kitted out with all the gear and then had the compulsory posing photo outside and inside the jet. We took off and to my amazement hit 150 mph in around 3 sec. We then cruised around to take in the

## The Poachers

views and lighten the fuel load. When this was done, we did a few acrobatics with a victory roll followed closely by a 360 degree loop, vertical climb and decent, and all the time pulling 41/2G, whilst doing 500 mph. Result: Army 2 - RAF 1.

I can conclude that this was, and I'm sure that I can say the same for the other two, one of the best experiences of my life. No theme park in the world can match it. So a big thank you to the Harrier Squadron.

### The Dhekelia Dash

*Capt Bennett-Madge, OC Cross*

*Country, writes:*

Having been run for over 40 years, the Dhekelia Dash is a well established event that was previously won by the Poachers whilst the Bn were stationed in Cyprus over a decade ago. The event used to be a 15 mile relay race from Ayios Nikolaos to Dhekelia, with 15 men running mile legs each. Recently, however, it has turned into a more sociable 15 x 1 mile relay race, supported by a fete that generated a good healthy atmosphere, complemented by warm weather and a healthy sea breeze! The current course is held in the area of the Dhekelia Golf Club and is a fast, 1 mile, course with a sharp hill a third of the way in.

Teams entered in their respective Junior (fielded by the schools), Military (company level), Veteran or Open Categories (Major Units and local running groups). Fear was struck into the author as the Commanding Officer had made his intent very clear – 'the Battalion team are to win the race'. The competition was therefore scoped out. This mainly comprised the Joint Signals Support



**Capt Bennet-Madge strides out.**

Unit who, with their shorter working day, always get the chance to run; and also a civilian running club that was thought to have an impressive field of runners.

Training sessions were attended, tight black shorts found and Poachers' T-Shirts adorned and the race began. By this stage the juniors were already well underway, so the course was made more interesting by not only a cheeky hill at the start, but also by dozens of tiny people concurrently running the same course! Fears of ringers brought in by the JSSU and Cypriot running clubs were unfounded, as the Bn Team (well supported by A Company runners) quickly moved into an impressive lead. The veteran's team demonstrated that the previous evening's Sgts' Mess 'bring a boss event' was the perfect Prelim Op as they also established a healthy lead. Meanwhile the ladies team dominated from the start, leaving other female teams dead in their tracks.

Strong mile times were registered and, as the 1 hour 15 minute mark was reached. Sgt Lang, the Bn Team's 15th runner was on his lap. At a touch over 1 hour and 17 minutes, the Bn team won the Open Category and registered the quickest time of the day, beating its rivals by considerable margins. The Poachers' ladies won their event comfortably, whilst B and D Coy teams finished 2nd and 3rd in their groups respectively. The veterans team powered home to second place in their category (maybe the effects of the night before were finally being realised).

Support from families and soldiers was fantastic throughout and an enjoyable day was had by all. As the TRB commitment approaches, the Cross Country League is about to start; so hopefully the securing of the first piece of silver since the Battalion's arrival on the Island will be supplemented with more running success.



**The Poachers' Dhekelia Dash winning team.**

## The Poachers

### Headquarter Company

#### The First Few Months as RSM

*WO1 (RSM) B Lewis writes:*

I took over as RSM at the end of May and could not have taken over at a busier time. It was a case of learning very quickly!

A week after taking over I found myself at Warminster as the 'Battle Master'. This was while the Battalion was being put through its paces by the CATT staff. For such a grand title, I found myself with very little to do. But the Battalion left Warminster with a ringing endorsement.

After returning to Germany for a few days, it was back to the UK for 3 weeks of MST training. This time I found myself with rather a lot to do! The Battalion performed to a high standard as expected and this made my job easier. I was full of pride during the debriefs after each week, as we were told that we had performed extremely well.

On our return to Germany, we had 3 days to get the Battalion ready for a Freedom of Celle parade, so I and the CSMs were quite hoarse by the day of the parade! For my first Battalion parade in front of The Duke of Gloucester and General McColl, I could not have wished for it to go any better than it did. When my daughter was asked how her Dad did she replied 'OK' (I thought that I did better than OK, but who am I to argue with a 16 year old girl!). The weather was kind and the soldiers on parade performed outstandingly. This was a very fitting end to our time in Celle although the Battalion still had the small matter of a Board of Officers to conduct and then move to Cyprus. On arrival in Cyprus, most had 3 weeks of leave to fit in, which I am sure most of the pads spent like me, unpacking and then making numerous trips to IKEA!

In September I flew back to the UK with the Commanding Officer to represent the Battalion at the Duxford Memorial Dedication Service. This was moving day and the statue was a fitting tribute to those Royal Anglians that have died in the service of our country

At the time of writing, the last flight with our soldiers has just arrived, so the Battalion is complete in Cyprus. We are all busy staying on top of the skills that we developed during the MST period. This is really an exciting, yet unknown, period for the Battalion as we embark on our commitment as the TRB. I am honoured to be the RSM at this time and also to be the RSM of such a fantastic Battalion.

As I mentioned earlier, I could not have taken over at busier time, but I have enjoyed every single minute of the job. And I am quite sure that life will get busier as we move closer to the TRB commitment, but the Battalion and me are ready for whatever challenges we may face.

### UK Pre-Deployment Training - aka 'The Triangle of Death'

*Capt Andy Rainey MC, MTO, writes:* Don't worry, nobody died on the 'Triangle of Death', it was just the name given for the Battalion's road moves whilst conducting collective training in UK. It was called this because you'd rather be dead than have to go through with it.

By the time June arrived we had firmly fixed the Forecast of Events, ensuring we completed all of our collective training in the UK in one hit. This started with CATT in Warminster which comprised a CIS Green Fleet road move from Celle to Warminster, via the Hook of Holland, who would then remain in the UK for a five week period. The Mortar Platoon also departed the same weekend to Otterburn for two weeks field firing, again via a road move from Celle to Otterburn. Finally 250 personnel from the Battalion had the delight of travelling by coach to Warminster and back again, only to find themselves travelling back to Thetford Training Area the very next weekend.

**Phase 1** – Celle to Bodney Camp for CFX  
**16 June** – MT deploys to Warminster TPU to pick up loan vehicles only to find it closed. Finally pick them up and stay at Knook Camp with CIS, ready for road move to Bodney Camp STANTA.

#### 17 June

1100 G4 Green Fleet road move to Bodney via Hook of Holland.  
 1600 G4 Advance depart by coach from Celle to Bodney.

#### 18 June

0200 Main Body deploy by coach from Celle, via Euro Tunnel, to Bodney.  
 0500 CIS Platoon departs Knook Camp for Bodney.  
 0500 MT Platoon departs Knook Camp, via Ashchurch, to Bodney  
 0600 G4 Headshed departs Hannover, by flight, to Bodney.  
 0800 Mortar Platoon departs Otterburn for Bodney.  
 1100 IR Course departs Lydd for Bodney.  
 1730 Whole BG in Camp - no breakdowns or RTAs.  
 1740 MTO told all vehicles in and is convinced 'this is a wind up'.

**Phase 2** – Bodney Camp to Otterburn for CALFEX

#### 25 June

1400 Main Body coach move to Otterburn.

#### 26 June

0400 First Packet Green Fleet moves from Bodney to Otterburn.  
 0420 MT Sgt vehicle broke down 8 miles from Bodney Camp. MTO present: 'That's more like it'.  
 1300 All remaining Green Fleet vehicles complete in Otterburn Camp.  
 1330 Bedford drivers have to report sick on arrival after overdosing on stimulant drinks caused by the brutal 38mph drive up.

**Phase 3** – Otterburn to Salisbury Plain 'We'll never make it Sir'

#### 01 July

0900 B Coy Gp deploy by coach from Otterburn to Salisbury Plain.

#### 02 July

0730 First road move packet departs Otterburn to Salisbury Plain.  
 0830 Only enough coaches turn up for BG HQ and one company.  
 0900 7.5 Tonne Baggage Truck arrives instead of 40ft.  
 0915 A, B and BG HQ squeeze on coaches and depart to Salisbury Plain.  
 1000 QM handover party book PANTEC for remaining baggage after movers failed with contractor to supply further baggage truck.  
 1600 Main Body arrives at Salisbury Plain.  
 1700 Green Fleet arrives in Salisbury Plain.  
 1730 Bedford driver reports sick with a matchstick stuck in his eye.  
 0200 A Coy baggage arrives and wakes the whole BG up unloading it.

**Phase 4** 'Road move back to Celle again? I'd rather wipe my eyes with nettles'

#### 09 July

1730 German drivers will only let coach trailers be filled half full with baggage.  
 1745 Frantic pack of extra baggage on the G4 40ft trailer.  
 1800 Battalion departs for coach move from Salisbury Plain back to Celle.  
 2100 The Battalion's 9 coaches arrive at crossing to find only one coach is booked.  
 2130 It's war at the Booking Desk with the German drivers.  
 2230 Capt Bennett Madge to the rescue: removes angry German drivers, calms the situation, chats up the booking girl and gets every coach on a crossing. Hooray for Jeff!  
 2300 MTO in pub with first pint. Hooray for me!  
 0600 Green Fleet Road Party depart for Celle via Harwich.  
 1700 Arrive in Holland to be escorted at 60kph to Border by host nation.  
 2130 Arrive at German border with 'Midnight and no HGV movement' fast approaching.  
 0100 All vehicles, weapons, stores and personnel complete in Celle.  
 0300 MTO found asleep in his car whilst weapons being accounted for. 'Bugger!'  
 0415 Weapons accounted for and 'Triangle of Death' complete.

I thoroughly believe that the Triangle of Death was a great logistical achievement and experience which, without doubt, has contributed to my own mind-set regarding long logistic lines of communications. However I never want to see a Bedford 4T Truck in my bloody convoy ever again.



## 3rd Battalion The Steelbacks

### Introduction by the Commanding Officer

*Lt Col RFL Lyne writes:*

It has been a busy time for the 3rd Battalion since the last edition of Castle with support to current operations in Afghanistan, changeover of key personalities and some pretty demanding training featuring high on the list of things to do; and all against a background of the Strategic Defence & Security Review (SDSR). In the case of the latter, uncertainty remains as a result of the subsequent Territorial Review and, even at this early stage, it is clear that the Army wants to get this right and that some important, enduring and, in some areas, fundamental change is afoot; this should not be seen as a threat and we certainly have the opportunity to contribute to the overall solution – in a high stake game, failure to engage constructively risks irrelevance in the face of wider Defence change and in an era of constrained resources.

Support to operations is and will remain our core business and the Battalion's record to date in this respect remains impressive: 500 personnel deployed since 2003 is an enviable statistic and as I write, soldiers deployed on Op HERRICK 12 (April – October 2010) are completing welcome home parades with the units they served with. Notwithstanding continued activity in Afghanistan, our operational focus has momentarily switched to Cyprus and the provision of the command and core elements of the United Nations Roulement Regiment from April – October 2011. This tour provides a truly unique opportunity for the Battalion and is to my mind better suited to the Territorial soldier and provides a complete alternative to the routine of



**WO2 Starle (sleeping!), WO2 Chillingsworth, RSM Granfield and WO2 Smith posing during the Dining Out of the CO and RSM at the Victory Services Club, London.**

Afghan support. However, we will be the last Territorial unit to lead the operation and after we return there really will be only one show in town for the Steelbacks - planning for a 70-man cohort for Op HERRICK 16 (April – October 2012) has begun and we are already lined up to support Op HERRICK 21 in October 2014

Naturally, to get the operational deployment piece right, we need to ensure that our people are routinely well trained and prepared. The second half of the year has seen some innovative and quality training events ranging from low level skills, through to Battalion deployment to Wales on Ex POLAR PROGRESS. Enabled by 49 Brigade and designed to give an All Arms and contemporary feel to what is traditionally the high point in the training year, the Battalion initially occupied a

couple of Brecon farms and set about getting everyone through the transition to Live Fire Tactical Training before entering the Individual to Company Group Field Firing sequence. There was little time to get this right and notwithstanding some 'character building' weather conditions, progression was commendably quick, seeing some soldiers go from literally check zero to Company live attack hero in less than five days; this is a tall order under any circumstances and ably demonstrates Steelback parity with their Regular brethren. The live ranges provided the usual Brecon mix of challenging terrain, water and tricky enemy positions and were ably supported by the 105mm Light Guns of 100 Regiment (V) Royal Artillery, 158 Regiment (V) Royal Logistic Corps and we even had a quick spin round in an RAF Chinook helicopter.



**Community Engagement in Action: The Steelbacks brief North Kesteven District Council on The Regiment, Territorials on operations and the role of the Regimental Benevolent Fund.**

## The Steelbacks

Within hours of completing the live element, the Battalion upped-sticks and redeployed to Caerwent Training Area, near the old Poachers' stomping ground of Chepstow, to re-orbat and prepare for five days of field training. Concentrating on low-level skills and with a contemporary feel, the field training gave commanders and soldiers the opportunity to engage (in every way) with the OPFOR, while getting to grips with some of the realities of stabilisation operations such as an ever-present civilian population, the media and the requirement for every soldier to think through the wider effects of their actions before doing anything. In the background and while acting as the Tactical HQ for the companies, Battalion Headquarters staff got their collective heads around some knotty staff planning issues including Influence and Targeting. To make maximum use of the opportunity and resources, a number of activities were run in parallel to the main training events and the PNCO Cadre, Cambrian Patrol Team Training (did I mention our Gold Medal result?!) and Basic Recruit training will be covered in detail later on.

Outside of purely military activity, the Battalion has participated in the Yukon River Challenge, played a lot of golf (including the fielding of our new 'resident ringer', Maj Mick Abbs of the Poachers Rear Party), supported the Regimental Memorial unveiling at Duxford and conducted some wider Community Engagement activity across the ten counties to spread the word and explain what The Regiment and its battalions are up to. Events such as briefs to the House of Commons, North Kesteven District Council or commercial firms such as RO Metals in Corby, right through to updating County or Regional RFCA Committees cost little to lay on but have a disproportional effect in terms of getting our message out. We hosted Ex STEELBACK CADET on a rather chilly and wet Thetford training area in October and 200 cadets benefited from some great low-level skills training that included live ranges, Section Attacks, support weapons familiarisation and night ambushes. The Swanton Morley based Army Recruiting Team and Viking Mobile Recruiting Team were there too, providing some quality background activity in the form of command tasks and a paintball range. All in all it was a great weekend and it was good to see a number of ex-Regular R ANGLIANS helping to shape the next generation as Cadet Instructors. The run-up to Christmas will be no less intense with Remembrance events across the Regimental and Battalion area along with a fresh series of Post Operational Presentations from those recently returned from Afghanistan. As always our people have been recognised for their efforts and specific congratulations go to Capt Bob Grenfell and SSgt Cooke on the award of GOC's Commendations and to the LAD for their award of Best Detachment in the 5th Division.

And so there we are. Looking ahead life

will be just as hectic and by the time Castle comes round again we will have supported the Vikings on exercise in Kenya, joined the Poachers in Cyprus, albeit in a different location and wearing Blue Berets, be well into force generating the next group of soldiers for deployment to Afghanistan and, significantly, will be mulling over the results of the post-SDSR Territorial Army Review and implementation plan. The following articles and pictures speak for themselves and I think that I can safely say that never before has there been more professional opportunity, reward or challenge for our soldiers and the Battalion and long may it continue.

### Bury St Edmunds Medal Parade Sunday 3 May 2010

*Maj Irwin-Parker, OC E Coy, writes:*  
During late 2009 and early 2010, while the UK was deep in snow during one of the worst winter seasons in recent memory, 72 Territorial soldiers from the Steelbacks put their civilian jobs on hold and deployed to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 11. The soldiers were deployed in two groups: the first (11 Platoon) deployed in late August to the conduct security duties in the capital Kabul. The second group (12 Platoon) deployed in early October to the volatile Helmand Province in the south of the country, where the majority of British troops in the country are based. Here 12 Platoon undertook security duties around the town of Musa Qala as part of the HCR

Battlegroup, working alongside their fellow R ANGLIANS from A Company, 1st Battalion. A few individuals from 3 R ANGLIAN also deployed to reinforce another Battlegroup in Helmand and the Afghan National Army Training Academy in Kabul.

11 Platoon had only just arrived in Theatre when, on their second day on duty, their base was rocked by a large explosion, as a suicide car-bomb detonated at the main gate. No British casualties were sustained in the incident, but it was a dramatic introduction to the Afghan capital. 12 Platoon also had a dramatic start to their tour, when shortly after they arrived, an Improvised Explosive Device detonated nearby, catching a friendly call sign in the blast. 12 Platoon also had a major small-arms fire contact shortly before they came home, as insurgents attacked them after they had gone to help an Afghan police station. Despite the high threat level, all the soldiers from 3 R ANGLIAN came home safely after their different 6 month tours, feeling that much had been achieved and that Afghanistan was just that little bit better than when they had arrived.

By early May, all the soldiers were home and were looking forward to parading through the streets of Bury St Edmunds, to receive their operational campaign medals. The appointed day was Sunday 23rd May 2010. The day arrived and brought with it the most glorious sunshine. As the troops marched out onto Angel Hill from the Abbey Gardens, they were met by a sea of cheering, flag waving local people who had come out to welcome them home. The noise was



LCpl Catchpole receives his medal.

## The Steelbacks



The post Parade Reception inside the Athenaeum.

immense and was a fantastic reception and recognition for a job well done.

The parade formed up outside the Athenaeum and waited for the ceremony to begin. The General Officer Commanding the 5th Division and the Mayor of Bury St Edmunds took to the dais to receive a salute from the troops, address the soldiers and then present them with their medals. After the ceremony on Angel Hill had concluded, the parade (having been given some dubious drill guidance by the author) marched to St Mary's Church for a Service of Thanksgiving that all had come home safely. Some rousing hymns such as 'I vow to thee my Country' were sung, along with the National Anthem. Following this service, the soldiers and their families were invited into the Athenaeum for a reception buffet.

All in all, it was a fantastic day and it was great to feel the appreciation of the people we represent. To the people of Bury St Edmunds and East Anglia for your support, from us, your soldiers – thank you.

### Exercise Steelback Enforcer 1

*OCdt S Brodie writes:*

With Op TOSCA on the horizon, the NCOs and officers of the Battalion gathered at STANTA for the first in a series of training packages designed to leave the Battalion ready for pre deployment training and, ultimately, to deploy on its six month tour to Cyprus.

The weekend's events were of a Train the Trainer (T3) nature, designed to leave the commanders revised and refreshed on a range of TTPs and fundamental skills and drills, much of which has been learnt and rehearsed over recent years, largely thanks to the Battalion's excellent operational record; but which like everything, needs to be regularly revisited in order to maintain the high standards that are expected. For someone relatively fresh and lacking in operational experience, such as the author, the weekend provided a valuable insight into

current operational thinking and practices.

Lessons regarding patrol techniques and considerations, routine in FOBs, Vehicle Check Points, the running of an Ops Room, dealing with Improvised Explosive Devices and UK COIN strategy amongst others, have left the Battalion's command elements with a thorough knowledge of the skills and drills currently being used in Theatre – knowledge which can now be passed onto the soldiers back at company locations. Again, for someone of relatively little experience, this training offered a valuable insight into the pressures of working in Afghanistan. This was brought home most effectively by a chance to practice acting as watch keeper and signaller in an ops room. Even in this sterile, classroom setting, reacting to an extremely well acted soldier on the ground in the middle of a contact proved to be stressful and rather nerve-wracking and was a valuable lesson in the tremendously important role of an ops room working to support the guys out on patrol.

Perhaps the most useful aspect of the weekend was the chance for some of the soldiers with recent experience of operating in Afghanistan to pass on their knowledge and lessons learnt from their extremely successful tour. Lt Little, who has recently returned from commanding 11 Pl based at HQ ISAF in Kabul, delivered a presentation on his mobilisation and deployment. This passage of information climaxed with an excellent demonstration of a patrol coming under, and reacting to, both a small arms and IED contact. It was clear that the time spent on operations had left the soldiers' skills and drills well polished and finely tuned.

Whilst all this was no doubt very useful and worthwhile training indeed, the most exciting part of the weekend (for the author at least) was the introduction to Public Order training, including petrol bomb inoculation. This was all completely new territory and the novelty of having one's trousers set alight proved to be fantastic fun. It did, however, result in the author spending the rest of the

weekend minus a boot lace (I will never again neglect to take spare laces with me to training). But fortunately, the weekend did not involve tabbing any great distance.

So a worthwhile and thoroughly enjoyable weekend which has left the commanders within the Battalion ready to pass on valuable lessons for the soldiers as they prepare to deploy to Cyprus in 2011.

### Exercise Eagle Hills: Adventure Training

*Pte Coe, E Company, writes:*

Annual Adventure Training with E Company this year took us to the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire for some hill walking and climbing.

After the long drive which saw CSgt Jeffree almost descend into road rage due to the traffic jams, we arrived where not a creature was stirring at the Caravan Site except for us 9 somewhat tired and grumpy fellows. Due to the lack of lighting in the area, we got a little navigationally embarrassed in the grounds of the campsite and parked up in what we guessed was an extension of the main field, which was already full of tents and caravans (some sporting satellite receivers).

Breakfast the following morning was provided by the culinary skills of CSgt Jeffree - bacon rolls and tea enough to get us on our way to the foot of the Malvern Hills.

Highlights of the following few hours included the very surprising shower, which after only 5 minutes cleared and left us with lovely sun and glorious views. Pte Walker, Pte Clarke and I enjoying navigational tasks set by Maj Coulson between the peaks. Soon afterwards we were at a pub where we enjoyed the rewards of the long walk. A spot of lunch and a swift drink later and it was time for a lap around the grounds of an old fort where I was given the responsibility of the map. Fortunately for the group, we were not in a rush, as a few course corrections and some impromptu descending were needed in order to make our way back to the pub for another drink before heading back to the campsite to get changed. Next stop after this was the pub (can we see a theme here?), where we decided to head to an Indian restaurant suggested by CSgt Jeffree's locally based brother. Now usually I'm quite good with spicy food, but I do believe my face was on fire at some points during dinner. It was compensated for by the low price, which was helped by the lack of a liquor license, meaning beers from a local off license were obtained to quench the fire. Just to be sure, we headed out for a few more drinks in the lovely town of Worcester. I think during this particular time, I sustained bouts of whiplash as the hordes of lovelies wearing what I think in some cases could be classified as belts streamed past where we were. All thoughts of these were soon extinguished however when we arrived back at the campsite and were back in our tents, as even though my earplugs were good at keeping out Pte Walker's talking and



## The Steelbacks



**E Coy 'trekkers' on the Malvern Hills.**

snoring, they did not work very well with other emanations coming from him.

The following morning involved sausages in bread rolls prepared on CSgt Jeffrey's cooker and more muttering and curses about the usefulness to nature of the common wasp, but thankfully Ptes Walker and Clarke kept us entertained with some very impromptu dancing attempts, brought on by said wasps after their food.

Our final day involved a few hours at a climbing centre in Gloucester. After being shown how to act as a safety device for our climbing partners, we got to grips with the available routes. It was at this point I began to have a feeling that Lt Hart and Major Coulson (who had materialised with what I could see was a well worn chalk pouch) had done this sort of thing before, as they both seemed to fly up the lesser courses. LCpl Johnson, on his final weekend before hanging up his boots and moving to Canada, managed equally well by climbing up an overhang which just to look at made my hands sweat. Soon afterwards we were all unable to hold on anymore, so we were off to another section of the centre for boulder practice, which entailed a very big room with crash mats and courses along the sides of the walls. It was here that Pte Walker and Pte Clarke managed to get around one side of the room, with Pte Clarke managing to perform some impressive feats of strength, managing to climb vertically up slats built into the wall using just his arms. Not long afterwards we were all exhausted and, with the majority of us unable to support any weight in our hands, it was time to leave.

All in all a very good weekend, which will stick in my mind as I got some much needed practice on my navigation and some harsh truths as to why there aren't any decent climbers who weigh over 13 stone. It also taught me that I need to find the nasal equivalent to earplugs when sharing a tent with another man after a curry - the search continues.

### The Royal Anglian Regiment All Party Parliamentary Briefing Day

*Lt Rhys Little writes:*

The media is always quick to remind us of what the Army is doing in Afghanistan and rightfully so. But it tends to focus on the rather sweeping generalisation of what is happening, the geo-political situation, the

latest operation, or what the Taliban have to say about the war. So it is important that people at home are told the personal stories and first hand accounts. This falls to us to remind people that at the end of the day soldiers are still people, each with their own experiences and views on what is happening.

For this reason The Royal Anglian Regiment arranged a meeting at the Houses of Parliament with the local MPs from all of our counties. The idea was simple but effective. Get some soldiers who have just returned from Afghanistan; then get a select few MPs to listen to what they have to say. Before the briefing began in earnest, each MP was introduced to the soldiers from their specific area. This gave everyone the chance to talk, and gave each soldier a chance to explain individually what they had done; and an opportunity for each MP to get to know the soldiers within their constituency.

The briefing was started by the Colonel of the Regiment, explaining the broader situation in Afghanistan, and the role that was played by British forces there. This progressed to the role that the 1st Battalion played, with explanations of the overall mission from OCD Company and in-depth explanations of day to day events from one of the Cpls in C Company's Snipers. From here it was handed over to the Steelbacks, where Lt Little explained the role that the TA soldiers had played within the deployments, deploying 2 full platoons. The first of these deployed to Kabul as



**Cpl Mason meets Big Ben.**

## The Steelbacks



Members of the 1st and 3rd Battalions with their MPs.

force protection for ISAF HQ, having to deal with the constraints of urban patrolling and the danger of suicide bombers. The second deployment of the Steelbacks was in Musa Qal'ah, providing protection to the locals and fighting off insurgent attacks. One of the most important parts of the Steelbacks' briefing was highlighting how many Territorial soldiers have been, and are deployed, alongside regular units, both as individual replacements and as formed bodies.

The attention and interest of the MPs was held thoroughly throughout the presentation, waiting patiently until the end to ask questions, each one seeming to want to

improve their own understanding of what goes on out there, and what is required. Once all the questions were finished, it was unanimously agreed that we should all be invited on a tour of the Houses of Parliament, and then to the Members Bar for evening drinks. We readily agreed and spent a good few hours talking more with each of our MPs, standing overlooking the Thames, whilst watching the day roll on around us.

It was an important day for all of us. It gave us a chance to remind the people making decisions about our Country just who is keeping them safe and how it's being achieved.

### Exercise Steelback Cadet 15-17 October 2010

On a weekend in mid October, Territorial soldiers from the Steelbacks concentrated in Norfolk around the Army Training Area in Thetford Forest. They had gathered to facilitate an annual exercise in support of the region's cadet forces. Exercise Steelback Cadet is run by the part-time soldiers from 3 RANGLIAN, many of whom have recently returned from operations in Afghanistan, to provide an interesting, rewarding and beneficial experience to the youngsters from the local county Army Cadet Forces (ACF) and the Combined Cadet Forces (CCF) from



Steelbacks with Ms Louise Bagshawe, MP for Corby.

## The Steelbacks



**GPMG live firing.**

schools in the region.

157 Cadets from both the ACF and CCF attended the weekend, which consisted of 4 stands through which they rotated. The different stands all tested the cadets' skill sets in an enjoyable outdoor environment. The first stand was the ranges, which saw cadets under close supervision firing GPMG and LSW machine guns. This tested their self discipline and sense of responsibility, as well as developing their confidence to handle such equipment under the watchful eye of the Range Safety Staff; and all with the added element of competition for the

best scores.

The next stand was a foreign weapons and Mine Awareness stand. This educated the cadets about the different weapons, as well as the threat from mines in certain places around the world. They were also taught the basics of how to extract themselves safely from a small minefield. Next they were put through their paces on a Section Attack stand. This tested their leadership skills, decision making, co-ordination and control skills, as well as their fitness.

The Support Weapons stand tested their sense of competitiveness and team work.

They learnt about the weapon capability and were taught how to mount and dismount an 81mm Mortar and a GPMG(SF), having to compete with each other to try and complete the task in the quickest time. Lastly, in addition to the 4 stands, on Saturday evening the cadets were all put through their paces on a Night Patrol and Ambush. This tested their self-discipline, as they had to keep both still and quiet while waiting to spring their trap.

In glorious sunshine on the Sunday morning, the cadets all gathered together to mark the end of the exercise. They were congratulated on completing all the training



**LSW live firing.**



## The Steelbacks



objectives and received a Certificate of Completion from the Commanding Officer. They all left with a smile on their faces and wanting to attend again next year.

### Cambrian Patrol 2010

*2Lt C Finbow writes:*

15th October 2010 saw the return of the Steelbacks to the British Army's premier

patrolling competition, The Cambrian Patrol, after a three year absence.

The lucky souls selected for this task were HQ Company's 2Lt Finbow and C Company's Cpl West, LCpl West and Ptes Burgess, McDonald, Newstead, Shaw and Spokes.

The team reported to an instructed RV at 0530 hours on the Friday in Madeupostan - sorry, I mean Brecostan and was briefed on

the enemy, the Neathostan Insurgent Group!

After orders, inspection and a lengthy tab, the occupation of our Recce FRV only served to focus the minds of the team as we moved into position to observe two questionably dressed gentlemen with a BRDM that would take little more than a safety pin to disable. After Pte Burgess had demonstrated his river crossing techniques somewhat early, we extracted. I am pleased to report that after much hand-washing, pencil-sharpening, and enough writing to pass as a school essay, a gleaming patrol report was produced. LCpl West is hoping to exhibit his position-in-detail sketch at several art galleries in the Leicestershire area.

We soon moved to one of the most challenging phases of the patrol as we moved over very difficult hilly terrain in the dark to a police control point. Here the Patrol Commander was afforded some small luxury as some local Neathostan tea (English breakfast) was brewed and warm bread baked whilst he partook in a meeting with the local inspector.

Then came the reservoir crossing - 82 metres of cold fresh water. All were on full alert to ensure that Pte Spokes made the crossing safely, after Pte 'Duncan Goodhew' Burgess had taught him to swim in the minutes immediately preceding his military swim test the week before the competition!

The final tab was then undertaken as the second night fell and we arrived back on SENTA, where we were able to show off our Dismounted Close Combat SOPs. A special mention must go to Pte McDonald, who showed resilience by fighting through a particularly nasty eye injury that was sustained in the contact and then contributed strongly to the ammo resupply run which



**Steelbacks' Cambrian Patrol Team with their Gold Medals.**

## The Steelbacks

involved us moving uphill for 2km to a village with 75kg of dead weight in tow.

We were now drawing to the end of a challenging 48 hours, so what better way to celebrate than a 200 metre sewer crawl. We were then taken into a fire-lit room where we gave a thorough de-brief on our tasking.

This marked the end of taskings and we were pleased to be deposited with our support team and returned to Sennybridge Camp, where we awaited the presentation and results ceremony. I am delighted to write that it was here we learned that we had achieved a Gold Medal. There was much relief and euphoria as the Deputy Commander of 160 (Wales) Brigade presented us with our prize; one of only seven earned in the entire competition for 2010.

### Yukon River Quest: 30 Jun - 3 Jul 10

*Li M Hart writes*

On 26th July, 5 members of the 3rd Battalion and an ex Royal Marine boarded the plane on their way to compete in the 'Race to the Midnight Sun' – a 740km canoe and kayak marathon. With only an hour and a half of training on a small lake in Billericay, the team had no idea what they were letting themselves in for.

The night before the race, the skies opened up and did not stop. With all the other teams in hotels or Motorhomes, we were forced to do our preparation in tents and walk the mile to the start in the pouring rain. At midday the race began with a 400m run to our boat on the bank. As one of the younger teams, we were quick into the water but, as expected, were quickly overtaken by the smaller boats.

After 2 hours of non-stop paddling we hit Lake Labarge. As we approached, it was like a sea: not only in that the shore quickly



'Das Boot' at the finish.

disappeared, but thanks to the wind and rain it was certainly choppy – cue sea-sickness! Around us, teams had started to pull out or at least stop to rest and change their clothes for the night. Our strategy was simple – pure stubbornness and refusing to rest allowed us to survive the lake in the worst weather since the race began 12 years ago.

A few hours later and it was time for the next issue – our water container had leaked and we had nothing left. With around 5 hours still to go and the heat of the sun, we had no choice but to stop and purify some water. As we did so, 7 teams went by. After 27 hours of constant paddling and a distance of 185 miles, we finally arrived at the rest stop. While regaining strength in our Bambi-like legs, we noticed the cluster of tents/Motorhomes and support crews for the other teams – we had neither. So we



Paddling through the night.



Training in the UK.

## The Steelbacks

found ourselves a space under a table in the dining area and enjoyed around five hours' sleep before abruptly jumping back in the boat for Leg 2.

As we arrived at Kirkman Creek, the next voyager team ahead was then leaving. They assured us that it was less than 15 hours to the finish. After a little under 11 hours of hard work we rounded the bend and could see the finish. Cries of '1, 2' disappeared and were replaced by countdowns to encourage hard strokes to pull us in. We finished in 58 hours and 42 minutes.

As well as an amazing challenge and good memories, we raised over £3,000: £1,634.37 for Help for Heroes and £1,570 for The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund. Thank you all for your support! We'll be back in 2012 to try it again, but this time with a support crew and decent equipment and hope to raise even more!

### UK / US Exchange

*Capt I Greenwood, IO, writes:*

The 2010 US/UK Reserve Forces reciprocal exchange programme starts in May and continues through to early October. The programme involves officer and NCO exchanges with both the US Army Reserve and US National Guard and has 64 available places. The programme is highly regarded by both countries. I was to be attached to the 1/69 Bn working out of New York, with their annual training carried out at Fort Drum near the US/Canadian border. The 1/69 are a light infantry unit based in Lexington in New York and are known as the 'Fighting 69th'. The unit has a history that can be traced back to the American Revolution and has been involved in recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Transport was arranged for me to be taken to Fort Drum, several hours North of New York, near the Canadian border. I gave a brief to the Brigade Commander on who I was and what I did, and then listened whilst they had their daily ops briefing. I was then transported by Humvee to the 2-108. During



The author gone native.

this time requests were put in to see if I could attend an S2 (J2) and multinational training session in Week 2. On some days we worked with the S2 guys at the Brigade Combat Team and worked though Tactical Psyops teams and the use of Psyops on operations, as well as their S2 process. The week was spent in the field, with one cooked meal a day and the rest on MREs – their reputation is not as bad as I thought, and a lot of them are extremely good!

After some time back with the 1/69th, I returned to the 2-108 for some range work where I had the opportunity to fire the M4, the M19 belt-fed automatic grenade launcher, .50 cal HMG (moving on a Humvee), and 60mm, 81mm and 120mm mortars. I also had the opportunity to detonate 200lb of C4 explosive while producing anti-tank craters.

The final few days on exercise were then spent with their S2 teams and on a multinational Afghan simulation exercise.

The S2 exercise was operated by an external organisation to the military, but by ex military S2 and Psyops teams. They provide a prepared server and laptops all configured with a scenario. The teams then work for a few days, with guidance where required, as this scenario builds up. All the S2 teams from the Brigade were involved. The training was very efficiently run and the experience of the trainers outstanding. The scenario was very applicable and all troops gained from the process.

The multinational exercise was run at the custom training facility at Fort Drum. I was introduced to the various teams taking part and worked with the S2 team for a while. There were over 300 involved in the exercise, with full broadcast teams producing news feeds for the exercise, depending how actions unfolded and what actions were then taken. Another outstanding exercise and many deep, interesting, discussions were



The deck of USS Intrepid in New York harbour.



## The Steelbacks



**Preparing the Shaped Charge.**

had on Afghan culture, history and current events. The S2 events were the last I had and my final action was a presentation on Royal Anglian history to the entire Brigade staff. The items that went down especially well were the origin of the Steelbacks' name, the Battle of Minden and a small mention of why the White House is white. This was an outstanding exchange and highly recommended.

### Territorial Army Commissioning Course

*2Lt A Speechley writes:*

From 10-31 July 2010, 45 cadets joined Dettingen Coy, The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst's Short Courses Wing. The aim of the course is to produce a Territorial Army officer capable of undertaking their first non-operational deployment.

The first morning we paraded on Victory College Drill Square, where our CSgts and Pl Comds met us. We were split into two platoons and introduced to our DS. We were then taken away for a fast and furious day of briefings and kit issues.

We deployed onto Barossa Training Area for the initial three-day exercise at the end of the first week. The first day we rotated through section attack stands. Following a day of platoon attacks, we then collapsed the patrol harbour and extracted back to RMAS for post exercise admin.

We then entered the second part of the course where we were being examined throughout. It was from here that pressure was placed on us by our DS as they took more of a back seat role. The first morning we had our PFA and received our scenario for the Practac Exam. Once we had conducted



**Capt Buxton, OCdt Speechley and Capt Ormiston pose after the Passing Out Parade.**

our initial estimate, fired out a warning order and come up with a ground brief, we waited for timings. After receiving orders, we had 45 minutes to conduct an estimate and were then examined on it for 30 minutes. Then followed another 45 minutes to prepare our orders and 30 minutes to deliver them. Once we had delivered our plans, we returned to Victory College to conduct final administration for the second exercise.

On the Tuesday of the second week we deployed at 0300hrs to STANTA to start our main exercise. The week was a stream of Advance to Contacts, peppered with recce and fighting patrols in the evening. The sixth day started with five OCdts, including myself, being removed from the platoons to form a Company Planning Cell for the final attack on the following day. The attack went in as planned and the Gurkha Enemy put up a spirited but inevitably futile fight.

Once admin was all squared away it was straight back on the bus to RMAS; some precious sleep was had and, once kit was handed in, we started to prepare for the final few days. The pressure was still on though, as we were wearing our blues to dinner the night before the Adjutant's Rehearsal! One very careful meal later and we retired to the bar.

The last couple of days passed in a blur of polishing and drill, before on the morning of the 31st it was off to the Chapel and then

marching onto the parade square. After three weeks of challenging and enjoyable training, I felt a brief sense of accomplishment, before realising that this is where the hard work started!

### Platoon Tactics Course

*2Lt Speechley writes:*

The Platoon Tactics Course is the Territorial Army Infantry's version of the Regular Brecon tactics course. The major difference being rather than holding separate courses for section commanders, platoon sergeants and platoon commanders, all candidates come together for two weeks of training.

The first week is mostly classroom work, or TEWTs, out on SENTA; and the second week consists of a five day exercise, split between Caerwent and SENTA. Classroom work (and homework!) is split, section commanders as one group and platoon sergeants working with platoon commanders as another. The course was made up of eighty students, with fifteen staff.

The first week was a steady progression through conventional Infantry operations. After an initial CFT, kit issue and a brief, we were taken through introductory lessons as a course, before splitting into groups and conducting stages of Battle Procedure, in-role. The introduction of indirect fire assets and their use at platoon level was something that I'd not had much opportunity to make

## The Steelbacks

use of before.

Cpl Mason, Cpl Smith and I, worked as a group to tackle Withdrawals, Defence in Built Up Areas and a Compound Clearance TEWT. By the end of the week we were keen to do something other than Battle Procedure, if only for half an hour! But luckily the training team had anticipated this eventuality...

On Saturday we were split into multiples and told to have 44lbs, including rifle, ready for Ex DRUIDS BEARD. This was a timed team event, through a series of RVs, over Pen Y Fan, with only ten minutes separating all four teams.

The exercise concentrated on a conventional scenario, with the platoons conducting Fighting Patrols, Recces and Deliberate Attacks against defended enemy positions. The recce and deliberate attack on Village One on the final day put the Company next to B range for the final night attack. We took a covered approach to known enemy positions in the valley floor, all conveniently located either side of a river, with live overhead GPMG fire. 5 Pl, led by myself, with Cpl Mason as my Pl Sgt, were tasked with the destruction of the second set of positions at the head of the valley. We followed 6 Pl through the river before being launched onto our set of enemy positions.

The course was physically demanding, with a lot of thinking done in stressful conditions. It was not a 'beasting' and the instructors were keen to reinforce that we were there to learn, not to be physically 'put through the mill'.

The mixing of rank and cap badge helped to create a great atmosphere for learning from one another, as well as examining the way things are done in different regiments. In addition it ensured that everyone on the course got a good look at operating at all levels in an Infantry Platoon.

### Inter-Company Rugby: 8 May 2010

The annual 3 R ANGLIAN Inter Company Rugby Tournament was held on a wet and windy day at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks in Grantham on 8th May 2010. Only three companies managed to put teams into the tournament, but that did not detract from the high level of rugby that was seen. Indeed, for some of the players who had not played for some time (or indeed ever), it was a foray into the unknown – although it did not show. The weather, and lack of practice, did not encourage fast-flowing, exciting rugby, and in the end it was classic English 'up the jumper' style which saw HQ Coy victorious.

In the opening game HQ Coy took on last year's winners and tournament favourites, B Coy. The contest was tough, and although B Coy made a couple of aggressive breaks early on, in the end they couldn't contend with aggressive rucking and the tight game that HQ Coy were playing. In games of this nature, so often the winner is the team that



The Adjt drives HQ Coy forward.

makes the fewest mistakes; and HQ Coy were not taking any chances. The game finished 30-0 to HQ Coy; so their training and risk-averse play paid off.

HQ Coy took a short break before facing E Coy. This game was far more balanced, with the lead switching several times. There were only a couple of minutes to go, with E Coy having just equalised, when LCpl Ehret managed to break through E Coy's tough defensive line for the winning try. The game finished 20-15.

The final game, to determine the runners-up, saw E and B Coys face off. B Coy

had struggled to recover from their earlier mauling at the hands of HQ, and E Coy's unique style of rugby saw them have little trouble finishing the game 20-0.

The CO presented HQ Coy with the trophy and each member of the team received a medal. B Coy swore to avenge their defeats and E Coy cursed their bad luck and how close they came to victory. The next major event for 3 R ANGLIAN rugby will be the Akrotiri 10s during Op TOSCA in 2011, where it is hoped that there will be time to fit in some training amongst the tough patrolling schedule.



HQ Coy v E Coy.

## Special Features

### The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund: The Regiment's Own Charity

*Maj Gen Patrick Stone, Chairman of Trustees, The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund, writes:*

Let me start by assuring readers that this is not a plea for money. Due in the main to the extensive media coverage of the conflicts in Iran and Iraq, Service Charities are seldom out of the news these days; and hardly a week goes by without a report in the local press or TV of yet another stalwart individual or group carrying out some demanding physical challenge to raise money for their comrades. This is admirable stuff and to be encouraged. However, with the emergence of new charities, and the plethora of charity related stories bombarding them from all directions, there are signs that the public are becoming increasingly confused about Service Charities in general, and that our own Regimental Charity, The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund, might become lost in the crowd. This would be a shame, as the Benevolent Fund is our own charity, developed over many years, to provide support and help exclusively for The Regiment; and with growing demands on our funds, we will always need to raise every penny we can.

The Benevolent Fund has a long and proud history. It is nearly fifty years since The Royal Anglian Regiment was formed from the amalgamation of the County Regiments of East Anglia and the East Midlands; and through them we can trace our antecedence back a further three hundred years. At various stages in the past, but particularly after the Crimean War, our founding regiments recognized that in the absence of any State support for their soldiers, they had a duty to try to provide for their destitute and wounded by raising money locally and from amongst themselves. From these early beginnings regimental benevolence as we now know it slowly evolved.

The sheer scale of the death and mutilation resulting from the major conflicts of the 20th century, particularly the 1st World War, demanded military benevolence on a country wide scale, and saw the emergence of national charities such as the British Legion, SSAFA, the Army Benevolent Fund, King George's Fund for Sailors and many others, most of whom continue their good work to this day. This period also saw a greatly increased demand for regimental benevolence, which could raise its own funds, was in close and

personal contact with the soldier, and could act as broker for the individual soldier with the larger national funds when necessary.

On amalgamation, the eight separate Benevolent Funds of our former regiments merged over a number of years to become The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund. The Fund is a Registered Charity, overseen by a Board of Trustees and professionally managed. The object of the Charity is: the relief of persons who are in need, hardship or distress, who are serving or former members of the Regiment or Former Regiments, and dependants of such persons. The client base currently stretches from World War 2 to the latest Afghan tour.

Responsibility for investment policy and the management of the Benevolent Fund, including agreeing the total annual Benevolence allocation, rests with the Trustees. Day to day case management is dealt with by the Benevolent Committee, administered by the Regimental Secretary, which meets regularly, and can also react quickly to urgent cases. This has proved invaluable when recently wounded soldiers have needed special assistance with rehabilitation.

In the year ending 30 June 2010, the Benevolent Fund expended £102,833 on 267 case grants approved by the Benevolent Committee, some of which were the Regimental contribution to larger sums agreed in negotiation with the major service charities. A few recent examples of the wide variety of cases the Benevolent Committee deals with each year include:

- Paying for specialist training for a Sgt who was badly injured in Afghanistan to allow him to start a new career.
- Providing a specialist bed for a soldier who was badly injured in Afghanistan.
- Purchasing an electric wheel chair for the wife of an 85 year old WW2 veteran.
- Paying for the mother of a Fijian soldier who was killed in action in 2006 to attend the commemoration of the Regimental Memorial.
- Contributing towards the funeral expenses of the child of a serving Private soldier

Case numbers over the last five years have gradual increased,



Maj Martyn Cook in his home town of Hoddesdon having marched with the Royal British Legion. At the drinks gathering afterwards he was kindly presented with £800 for the Regimental Benevolent Fund by the members. From Left to Right: Ian Bradford, Cyril Phelps, Major Martyn Cook and Charles Walker MP.



## Special Features



### Poachers and RS Components, Corby.

producing a commensurate pressure on expenditure. Whilst current benevolent income can just about fund annual demand, the Trustees are very aware that this could soon change, as the impact of an ageing population and the intensity of recent conflicts take hold. As a result, the Trustees main priority is to increase investment income over the next few years to a level that will be able to sustain future demand. This is not going to be easy and will require everyone's help.

Annual benevolent income comes from three main sources:

- Investment income from the Benevolent Fund.
- The Days Pay Scheme. A hugely important contributor to Regimental Benevolent funding.
- Contributions and special fund raising events. Funding from these areas has increased over the last few years, thanks mainly to the efforts of people like that remarkable lady Christine Bonner and her All the Fours. There have also been some very generous individual contributions.

Charitable giving is a personal choice, but I do hope that as a result of this brief reminder, members of The Regiment will remember that we have our own well established charity, The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund, specifically to provide help and support for past and present members of The Regiment and their dependents at times of need, and will support us as and when they can.

### The Royal Anglian Regimental Benevolent Fund: Donation by RS Components Corby

*Maj Bill O'Driscoll writes:*

On Friday the 22nd October 2010, RS Components of Corby, Northamptonshire raised £3123 for the Regimental Benevolent Fund. Some weeks before they had contacted the Area Secretary and asked The Regiment to get involved in their project and, as we were the County Regiment of Northamptonshire, they would like any money raised to go the Benevolent Fund.

Maj Bill O'Driscoll, Lt Ian Ginns and 4 soldiers from the Poachers' Mobile Recruiting Team (PMRT) were on hand to lend their support to the HR Department which was running a team building day along the lines of the Apprentice TV programme. The day's activities consisted of the team, assisted by the PMRT, going around the other departments shaking buckets and offering wristbands in exchange for donations; this also gave the PMRT the opportunity to inform the workforce about The Regiment.

Everyone had a most enjoyable time and collected a large sum of money for a worthy cause. Many thanks to Team 2 HR Dept RS Components Corby who, as a result of their efforts, were placed 1st equal. The cheque was presented to CO 3rd Battalion on 24 Nov 2010.



RS Components hand over their magnificent donation to Lt Col Richard Lyne, watched by Maj Bill O'Driscoll.

# 1st Battalion

## Viking Homecoming Parades

### Barking and Dagenham



C (Essex) Company in Barking.



With Bands Playing, Colours Flying and Bayonets Fixed.



Maj Chris Davies entertains the Col of Regt and Lady McColl.



Crowds packed outside the Council Offices for the speeches.



CASTLE  
Cambridge



The Vikings parade outside King's College, Cambridge.



The Adjt wonders where his beer has gone.



The CO, watched by the Col-in-Chief, says thank you.

Ely



HM Lord Lt inspects A Coy. Picture courtesy Cambridge News.





Young and old turned out to support. *Picture courtesy Cambridge News.*



The Mayor of Ely inspects the Colour Party. *Picture courtesy Cambridge News.*



The magnificent backdrop of Ely Cathedral. *Picture courtesy Cambridge News.*



Staunch support from the good folk of Ely. *Picture courtesy Cambridge News.*



Well done Ladies. *Picture courtesy Cambridge News.*



### CASTLE Southend



Pte Allen proudly takes his place on Parade. *Picture courtesy Echo Newspapers.*



A fantastic Welcome Home. *Picture courtesy Echo Newspapers.*



A sea of school uniforms and Union Flags. *Picture courtesy Echo Newspapers.*



Some 15,000 people packed the streets in Southend. *Picture courtesy Echo Newspapers.*



## 2nd Battalion

### RSOI Training



Cpl Fields directs casualty evacuation.



Advance to conduct Compound Clearance in Camp Bastion.



Ladder man provides covering fire.



IED clearance during RSOI training.



Meanwhile....Lt Roden and Pte Woods take it easy!



Poachers practicing the art.



CASTLE  
Dhekelia Dash 2010



CSM HQ pushes for the finish.



The Bn 2IC and OC A Coy race for an early lead.



The QM and OC B Coy top up their tans.



The RSM feels the burn.



The winning Poachers' wives team.



# 3rd Battalion



**Bury St Edmunds Medal Parade Sunday 23rd May 2010.**



**Newly appointed Dmrs Granfield and Vincent showing off their skills.**



**Capt Greenwood and Ranges US Style!.**



**Yukon River Quest.**



**CSgt S Shaw and members of B Coy chatting with MPs from Lincolnshire.**



**Pte Coe and CSM Cavedasca lead in the Malvern Hills.**



**The Patrol Phase of Ex Steelback Cadet.**



# All the 4s 2010



First Aid on the hoof.



Jan Hawkins, Christine and Capt Ty Smith head for the finish.



The finish - after 150 miles, through five counties, in 10 days.



The All the 4s 2010 Team



ENDEX! Picture courtesy Ron Poulter.



**All the 4s: On the Road Again!***Capt Ty Smith writes:*

Christine Bonner had just one thing on her mind at the finish line of All the 4s 2009 - and that was the Start Line for All the 4s 2010. Bless her!

So during early April, the Planning Team went to work to formulate a detailed plan for the walk this year. Notwithstanding the austerity measures and much cost cutting, the team was formed and ready at the Start Line in Peterborough on Friday 16th July. The aim this year was to benefit from the huge success of the walk last year, but this time to walk through the 1st Battalion's counties of East Anglia. So we were 'on the road again'.

**Fri 16 Jul: Day 1:** After a detailed brief the night before at the TA Centre, Leicester, the walkers set off for Cathedral Square, Peterborough, and the launch. After a symbolic Golden Mile and wreath laying at the Memorial of Cpl Michael Boddy, it was down to the business of 'stretching the feet'. And the Ramsey Forty Foot Drain at Pondersbridge stretched as far as the eye could see without a single kink in the road. So as Christine was heard to say... 'no pain no gain'!

**Sat 17 Jul: Day 2:** After breakfast on the hoof, and having left the TA Centre in the middle of the night (as Keely called it), we left Chatteris and headed North to Wisbech. The Colonel of the Regiment joined us on this demanding day and helped raise the morale of the walkers; we thank him for making the time, but above all for setting the pace! Our lunchtime stop was at the Dun Cow Public House, Christchurch. An ex-member of The Regiment provided a superb luncheon with true military precision. On time and on course brought us to the start of the Golden Mile at Wisbech, where we were greeted by the Mayor. A special treat this day was a 'quick' trip to Elgoods' Brewery, where our Bucket Shakers, organised by Capt Adie Penn, needed no second invitation!

**Sun 18 Jul: Day 3:** After a decent night's rest in a comfortable bed in March, we set off from our start line in Leverington, heading North and East towards King's Lynn. We have to mention our trio of loyal supporters and walkers from last year - Jenny Holloway and Co - who once again provided much inspiration to Christine during this, and several other, key legs of the walk. Lunch can best be described as abysmal at Long Sutton, so we pressed on hard towards King's Lynn. This was a very poignant end to our day. Ron Mortimer had organised a lament to be sung at St Margaret's Church, King's Lynn. Christine coped very well and our hearts went out to her at the candle service and Daren's Plaque of Remembrance. Thank you Ron.

**Mon 19 Jul: Day 4:** North Elmham to Norwich. We were in deepest Norfolk now, surrounded by beautiful countryside, with over a third of the journey under our belts. A memory for us all this day was the constant squeak of a hip joint that reverberated with every step. Steve - very well done. It was a difficult day with the heat and flies, let alone a hip replacement; and so we commend your efforts for walking with us and sharing your squeak. A great lunch at Reepham and then eastwards onto Norwich. The Golden Mile was well conducted and we finished at the City Hall for light refreshments. The Vikings were by now well into their stride; the walkers picking up the pace now they had come to terms with the pain and the bucket shakers were busy raising significant funds at each of the Golden Mile locations.

**Tue 20 Jul: Day 5:** We were greeted at the start point by the Chairman of North Norfolk District Council, Cllr Gloria Lisher. Continuing eastwards towards the coast and you could smell the sea air. Alison Burgess joined us this day - thanks for your support on the walk and

for arranging the evening pub visit in Great Yarmouth that boosted the monies collected significantly. The heat was now getting to everyone as indeed were the flies. After a quick, hearty, lunch we joined our guide who set us off towards our final goal, along the sand dunes to the Noddy Train on the seafront at Great Yarmouth. The memory of the Mayor at the front of the train in his full red gown is etched on my mind for ever. Britannia Pier and the collection of the 'Scooter Brigade', who were kindly in support, were great.

**Thu 22 Jul: Day 7:** After a much needed Admin Day, and almost 100 miles completed, it was feeling refreshed that we began our journey from Burgh Castle to Lowestoft. Thank you to the CO and RSM of the Vikings for joining us this day, on which there was a noticeable spring in the step of some of the walkers! The Golden Mile (or was it a Golden 2 Miles) never seemed to end. But we were very grateful for the hospitality shown by the Chairman of Waveney District Council at the finish.

**Fri 23 Jul: Day 8:** Well into Suffolk now and we had been joined by Jan Hawkins, who was to remain until the finish and, amongst others, the Regimental Secretary, plus the ex-Regimental Secretary, Lt Col Peter Dixon. Remarkably, the weather continued fine and we made our lunchtime stop at Framlingham on time, having had to navigate X country to adjust for a change in lunch meal timings. There was terrific support for the team at Ipswich and the Mayor was really supportive.

**Sat 24 Jul: Day 9:** Just 30 miles to go, but this is the hardest day of the walk. We were joined by Col Roland Wreford (who raised over £5000 - well done indeed!) and several other walkers. Thank you for your efforts and in particular for boosting the team's morale - it was much needed. We had a brilliant lunch at the Bricklayers Arms, Little Bentley, and then onwards to Clacton-on-Sea. The team's Golden Mile was along a packed sea front and the guys didn't know where to look. Special thanks were given to Janice at Clacton Borough Council.

**Sun 25 Jul: Day 10:** The 'Connect' walkers who joined us at the start of this day were overwhelming and we know that Chris was touched by their support. Thus began the final day and the last 10 miles of our long journey. I remember well Christine asking 'where have all the miles gone?' Arriving in Chelmsford and a long Golden Mile to the finish, with everyone quietly reflecting, just short of the finish line, to draw solace and to quietly reflect. The Deputy Colonel of the Regiment - Col Julian Lacey - greeted the team and boy were we glad to see him!!

All the 4s intent was to raise the profile of The Regiment in East Anglia, but above all, to raise funds for our Regimental Benevolent Charity; and at the time of writing we are well on the way to passing the huge amount of money raised last year. It surpassed all expectations. Once again, and on behalf of Christine Bonner, I am most grateful for the wider regimental support; particularly from Capt Aidie Penn and his team of supporters from the Vikings; and to majors Bill O'Driscoll and Tony Jones for all of their hard work behind the scenes. You may have made a contribution, or you may have walked with her for part of the journey. It matters not, your contribution, whatever it was, humbled us all.

The pathways of life is a journey; and though we are never quite sure what may be around the next bend, it's far better that you share the pleasure and burden of life's inexorable journey. Well done Christine.

*Editor's note: Photographs of All the 4s 2010 are shown on the previous page in the colour section.*

## Special Features



THE ROYAL ANGLIAN  
REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND.



### CHARITY CONCERT

*featuring*

**St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir**

&

**The Minden Band of The Queen's Division**

The Sales Ring, TATTERSALLS, The Avenue, Newmarket CB8 9AY

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 7.30pm. (doors open from 6.30)

Raffle & Auction Licensed bar. Retiring collection.

Large free car park adjacent to venue

Tickets £10 (unreserved seating) available from:

RHQ, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN

(01284 752394) Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

### Malaya 1952

*Charles Blackmore writes:*

On the afternoon of 28th November 1952 a European planter, Mr Iain McDonald, drove into B Company's base at Klang, some 40 minutes by road from Kuala Lumpur, with information concerning a group of CTs (Communist Terrorists) 'Bandits' who had approached one

of his Tamil estate workers at the rubber plantation earlier that day. The Bandits had threatened the Tamil and ordered food and supplies to be delivered that evening at the end of the hill cattle shed furthest away from the labourer's lines.

As B Company was out on an operation, there remained only the



Officers 1st Bn The Suffolk Regiment, Malaya 1952. Author's father (Capt A W Blackmore) middle row, fourth from right.

HQ element in the camp under command of the Company 2 *ic*, Captain AW Blackmore, who had joined the Battalion 3 months earlier after a year with the Royal Norfolks in the Korean War. He took the decision to lead an ambush with whatever troops he could muster. According to his report the composition and weaponry of this hastily assembled patrol was of "One European Planter – Carbine; Capt AW Blackmore – Carbine; 2 Lt Hargrove (13th/18th) – Shot Gun; 1 3/18 H – Bren<sup>1</sup>; B Coy HQ – 3 Owens, 1 Rifle." A briefing took place at 1600hrs and likely ambush site selected as the bridge over the Sungei Rengam stream.

What happened next is quoted from Capt Blackmore's statement: "At 1745hrs on the 28 Nov my party led by a European planter entered the rubber at MR 404873 and proceeded North 300x, East 200x, North East 400, to our ambush position. During the move we were seen by three Tamil boys who were made to join the patrol & remained with us until the end of the engagement.....we were in position by 1915hrs and had only been there five minutes when I heard the noise of birds rustling from our left. Then a figure became visible, and as it approached I was able to see four bandits at about six to seven yards apart, moving very fast and extremely quietly. I allowed the first man to reach the edge of the bridge which was the extreme right of the ambush."

Iain McDonald's account records: "Then he fired – and this was the signal for all weapons to open up with everything they had. This certainly happened – every man being fully appreciative of the gift target presented to them and upon which their guns were trained."

Capt Blackmore: "I engaged No 2 aiming for his chest, he spun round and I fired seven single rounds with my carbine at the figure before he fell and disappeared. The Planter and one Owen engaged No 2. The Bren, rifle and shotgun engaged No 3 and the two Owens No 4. 2/Lieut Hargrove who was the nearest member of the ambush to the track saw No 3 fall down after being hit by the Bren and engaged him with a left and right from his shotgun."

Iain McDonald: "I saw one figure – I think the second in line – fall at once. Heavy smoke from the guns then blotted out the target area from my view – though rapid fire continued until "cease fire" was called by Capt Blackmore."

Capt Blackmore: "The firing lasted between ten to fifteen seconds, and I then ordered cease fire and immediately went to the track. I advanced with a good deal of caution covered by the ambush, in case all four members had taken up position in the drains on the opposite side of the track. I noticed as I approached there was no sound of anyone running away."

Iain McDonald: "We were then ordered to advance onto the road and to everyone's utter amazement found not one body – only a split leather belt and three ammunition pouches full of .303 ammo."

Both reports describe the immediate search efforts made and again in the following morning. Unfortunately it rained during the night. No further traces of the enemy were found. As Iain McDonald concluded "With men of the Suffolks - who are keyed up to get their 200 kills before January 9th – extremely well disciplined and led by Capt Blackmore – it is difficult to believe that no success could be obtained from this operation."

Two hundred kills: that was the Battalion target for the tour. On 2nd January 1953 the diary of Capt Blackmore records "Bandit score 197". Five days later they handed over to 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry and on the 8th January "The Battalion paraded outside 18 Bde and marched through Kuala Lumpur, most impressive with the Police band leading. Terrific crowds lined the streets to say



Capt AW Blackmore in a patrol base.

farewell." The Suffolks returned to England for the first time since 1944. They had the highest kill rate of any other regiment in Malaya: but they never made the target of 200 bandits they tried so hard for. Or did they?

In January 1987 I was serving with 6th QEO Gurkha Rifles in Hong Kong on secondment from the Royal Green Jackets. I went to Malaysia to interview for a book some former soldiers, planters and diplomats who had stayed on after Independence. By chance I tracked down Iain McDonald, the 'European Planter' in my father's story who had guided the patrol and Iain beside him in that ambush.

Over a few drinks at his house in Serembam, Iain recounted the story in detail with colourful descriptions. I recorded our conversation on tape. The most interesting moment came towards the end of the evening when he said almost as an after thought, "Some years later, I cannot remember exactly, but it was probably in about 1955, we were clearing an area of primary jungle, not far from the ambush area, to make way for growing young rubber trees on the plantation, when we came across the remains of two bodies along with their weapons. It was obvious at once that they were CTs. These were the bandits from your father's ambush. Somehow they managed to get away and had died of their wounds."

Then as we sat around his dining room table, after I had taken him through his memories of the Frontier Force Regiment in the early 1930s, of serving with Force 136 operating behind the Japanese lines in Malaya during the latter stages of the Second World War, and his many years as a rubber planter in British Malaya, he turned to me with a twinkle in his eye and said, "Your father was a bitterly disappointed man that night. But you can tell him now that he did get two of those bandits and also you can tell the Suffolks that they got their 200 bandits!"

Unfortunately I was never able to tell my father: he had died ten years earlier as a Major with the Brigade of Gurkhas whilst serving in East Nepal at the age of only 49.

<sup>1</sup>As 5 Pl were in Kuala Lumpur on recreation I had to borrow a bren from the 13/18th, which was manned by a Squadron Shot on this particular weapon" (Statement to the Adjt 1 SUFFOLK by Capt Blackmore dated 29th Nov '52

<sup>2</sup>Capt Blackmore 1952 Diary extract

<sup>3</sup>At this time I (author) was under the impression that the Suffolks had left Malaya with a score of 199, hence Iain McDonald's comment. Subsequently, Lt Col Tony Slater wrote to the author in October 2010 that "The official count of bandits killed in some documents is shown as 197 and in others as 198. My understanding is that 198 is generally now quoted as the official number killed."

## A Section Commanders' Survival Guide (Evading Capture at the Infantry Training Centre)

Cpl LA Davidson, 2nd Battalion, writes:

Cpl Davidson, when you've got a minute, my office' - smirked the OC with a wry smile forming in the corner of his mouth.

My mind raced with what I could have been summoned for: had I been chosen to use my plethora of skills to go on an exchange programme and instruct the Swedish Army's Female Sunbathing Team in the correct methods of upper body sun cream application, using the EDIP format? ...or had I indeed finally been 'pinged' for

my continued misunderstanding of the RSM's elaborate car parking plan? To my equal disappointment and relief it was neither. I had been selected to produce a light, yet insightful article to adorn the glossy pages of *Castle*. Upon receiving the appointment of NCO *ic* Roving Royal Anglian Reporter, my mind immediately swam with heady thoughts of producing a Pulitzer Prize winning piece of literature, and being plucked from the ranks and embedded with



## Special Features

a frontline combat unit to continue my climb to fame as a war correspondent. After I flushed the chain, I began the task of putting pen to paper and was immediately struck with writers block; that and there was a full week of European football fixtures, so my attentions were somewhat drawn elsewhere. Once I finally did sit down to form something constructive, I found it hard to format what I would actually write about; and I felt pressure to keep it light and jovial and raise a smile, whilst at the same time do myself justice in the eyes of those whose bums warm the seats of Puzzle Palace. So.....

Upon receiving news of my posting to ITC, I did feel a great sense of pride that I had fulfilled a promise to myself made upon passing out - that I would return as an instructor. However, all too soon the sense of pride was replaced with an overwhelming sense of nervous apprehension, as I had heard numerous horror stories from those who had completed a tour at the 'Instructor Testing Centre'. Before I could take up my position as one of the 'top 10% of full screws in the Infantry', I was to return to Brecon and instruct on the Queen's Div FTCC - a fantastic environment for me, as the relaxed yet demanding environment allowed me to cut my teeth as an instructor and try different methods of instruction, before jumping in 2 footed on young recruits at ITC. That experience was invaluable and one I would strongly recommend to those venturing up to that neck of the woods.

Upon arrival at Vimy Barracks, the first thing that struck me was how much the place had changed; certain areas of the barracks would be more akin to that of a university campus as opposed to the 'Birthplace of the Infantry'. However evolution is a fact of life and in most instances the changes are for the better. Despite the refurbishment, the looming dark rain clouds that hang low in the sky, and quick witted sharp tongues of section commanders that cut a Soldier under Training (SUT) down in an instant, can still make for an intimidating environment.

So with the words of my ASLS (Army School of Leadership Studies) Instructor ringing in my ears and my copy of the ARTD (Army Recruiting & Training Division) Code of Practice in my top left, I set to work with my first course of new recruits. My own little batch of play dough for me to sculpt in my own image; so in a scene reminiscent to that of the opening sequence of 'Full Metal Jacket', I did my best Gunnery Sgt Hartman impression and gave my opening address, briefing my men on what would be expected of them and what they in turn could expect from me in the coming 26 weeks. The next few weeks were a blur of drill, rifle lessons, duty screw and a whole spectrum of GI dramas that at times left me utterly speechless.

The most daunting of prospects was rifle lessons and the varying standards of education that my SUT had received prior to joining up; so how I would pitch my lessons to include a recruit that had a university degree and at the same time not exclude a 17 year old who suffered from severe learning difficulties. For those of you who are due for posting, I would advise you to almost forget how you were taught to teach Skill at Arms, as to pitch a lesson like that would leave the majority of recruits in turmoil. But you will in time find how each and every member of your section responds to different methods of instruction and how best to exploit this to maintain the desire to learn. My experiences in this have not only made me a more rounded NCO, but have also given me a clearer understanding of how best to man-manage troops in order to achieve the highest standards.

Some of the most testing times for recruits will come during the later stages of the course during the 'Tac Exs' and, whilst the ongoing argument still rages as to whether or not we should make these more contemporary (in order to deliver a soldier that has a better understanding of current operations), I for one am sitting on the fence. I do feel that we need to move with the times a little and spend more time focusing on the urban environment and CQB; and an introduction to working with a form of vehicle would be of benefit, as would the shock of working with 'Amputees in Action' during the final stages of the course in order to de-sensitize one's mind and give confidence when faced with that situation for real. That said, the age old traditions of digging in and living in harbour areas, are vital to test a recruit's resolve and his administration in



**The sharp end of British foreign policy...made in Catterick, used worldwide.**

the field. Moving away from this and into a FOB would remove the pressures the natural elements induce. But these are just my own personal thoughts and are by no way a plea to the hierarchy to allow me to re-write the CIC syllabus.

Well I've babbled on for far too long and I'm in danger of painting myself as one of all work and no play. This, I can assure you, is greatly untrue, and my time here has been dotted with numerous skirmishes into the bright lights of nearby Newcastle with messers Thompson, Rawdon, Brown, Crippsy, The Rod and Ward; a tidy little firm in any one's eyes. Various nights out, coupled with the ability to be able to attend a huge amount of differing courses during periods of slack in the training programme, such as the International Urban Warfare Instructors course, or a Paragliding Instructors Course, makes life at Catterick hugely varied and a personally rewarding experience; indeed, one which I would strongly recommend.

Finally, I would like to wish all the men and officers of The Poachers every success during their impending deployments during the TRB commitment. Stay safe and keep smiling.

### A Section Commander's Perspective of AFC (H)

*Cpl McGee, 1st Battalion, writes:*

The Army Foundation College (Harrogate) (AFC(H)) is a Phase 1 training establishment for 16/17 year olds. They spend a year here before moving on to Phase 2 training and that year is split into 3 terms of approximately 14 week each. There are 3 companies in the September intake and 2 companies in the January intake.

As with any training establishment, the first 6 weeks are quite intense and I had also heard rumours that it would be hard on the staff. I realised though, that if you manage your time properly, it's not too bad at all. Yes, you do have to work a few weekends and evenings, but it's not all the time by any stretch of the imagination. When the Junior Soldiers (JS) first arrive, you can see they are from all walks of life and a complete cross section of society. They are also from different backgrounds - some really good and some really unfortunate. And as they are all so different, the instructor needs to be able to communicate effectively with them all.

The JS is different from any other type of recruit as they have come straight out of school and then immediately committed themselves to the Army. So whilst the Adult Entry have had a few years of life experience, the JS have had none and are going from one structured programme at school, to another at AFC(H). The JS listen and learn from the section commanders and what you tell them is gospel. In short, the JS are a blank training canvas.

As they are so new and raw, the experience of being a section commander, bringing them on, is massively rewarding. You can tell in the first few weeks the guys who are going to be really good



**Junior Soldiers training hard at AFC(H).**

and those that are going to struggle. When your blokes win prizes and start picking up JS ranks and awards it is incredibly rewarding. When this happens you know you've done a good job and that these guys really are going to go on and be the junior leaders in their battalions, regiments and corps.

When you are assigned a Section it includes all cap badges, from Infantrymen, to Signallers, to REME: and they are all trained the same. It doesn't matter what cap badge they are, in the current operational environment, they are a rifleman first and foremost. Some JS may turn up looking to join the corps, and at first have the idea that they might work less hard than the Infantrymen, but they soon realise that this is not so. It's up to the section commanders to bring their own experience to the Section, to contemporise everything that we do on the training programme, and to make it as relevant as possible.

There are times where you have your Section exactly where you want it to be in terms of training and you know they are quite capable. At these times the temptation is to take them slightly beyond the training objectives, especially if you have guys with tough Phase 2 training right round the corner. But we have very specific training levels to meet at AFC(H), and we have an entire year in which to reach them. So while the less able recruit has every chance to reach the required level, the most capable ones can get a little frustrated. However, sometimes you do wish that you had an purely Infantry Section and that you could push them a little further to prepare them for the rigours of Catterick

The College has loads of opportunities and there are expeditions all over the place, doing all manner of things. The sports and skills are a huge focus for the JS and at times they can be a bit of a hindrance, but I think it prepares them for life in Battalion. On top of this, every year there is a week long battlefield tour to Normandy that has a massive impact on the young men. All these extra-curricular

activities are great - it's all about getting the JS to know that unit life is not all about fighting; and that we do have fun as well; and that we take sport seriously too. Work hard, play hard! There are great opportunities for staff development as well. The education is first rate and there are opportunities to get yourself up to the required level. Most staff leave the College ready to promote to the next level, regardless of cap badge.

The progression of the JS is incredible. They come to the College without an ounce of confidence or knowledge and pass out as a soldier capable of Phase 2 training. This is a very rewarding process for the Staff; the JS come to us with no moral base and have no positive ethos about any aspect of their lives. But at the end of the year they have a deep knowledge of what our core values are and how to apply them. This breeds teamwork and, even if the JS don't make it to Phase 2 training, they have a good start on a critical life skill that will give them a solid foundation on which to build the rest of their lives.

I've totally enjoyed my time at AFC (H) with the blokes I've met and the friends that I've made - nights out on the town as training teams or with blokes from the Mess. I would recommend it to those back in the Battalion without a doubt. I've loved it and I think most blokes here do. This is where you can make a mark for yourself which can make or break your career. It all depends on what sort of character you are. If you're good at your job, you'll do well here. If you try and cuff it, you'll probably get through, but it'll be noticed when people see your Section.

To summarise - I've had a thoroughly good two year posting. There's plenty of time off and I've liked getting away from the advanced stuff and getting back to the nitty gritty of soldiering - going back to day one, week one, doing all the crawling. It refreshes your skills as a Section Commander and revitalises you as an Instructor.

## Special Features

### Southend-On-Sea Freedom Parades: 1946 and 2010

*Li Gordon Wren writes:*



**Marching through the Borough with bayonets fixed and drums beating in May 1946. Picture courtesy the Journal of The Essex Regiment.**

On 25th May 1946 the Freedom of the Borough of Southend-on-Sea was conferred on the Essex Regiment. This was in recognition of its service to the Country throughout its long existence and with particular reference to the part played in WW2. The Regiment paraded through the town with the Colours of the 1st Battalion, flown home from Egypt, the 2nd Battalion, from Germany, the 4th

Battalion, from Greece and the 5th Battalion. The silver drums of the 1st Battalion headed the parade.

The Mayor, Alderman SF Johnson, with the Town Clerk, Mr A Glen, presented the Freedom Scroll to the Colonel of The Regiment, Lieutenant General Sir Geoffrey Howard KCB CMG DSO DI. In the evening a celebration dinner was held where Colonel HF Kemball



**The Vikings exercising the Freedom of the Borough of Southend-on-Sea on 17 Jun 10 and receiving a tremendous welcome. Picture courtesy Southend Echo.**



## Special Features

TD DL paid tribute to the townspeople of Southend and said that the town could claim to be 'one of the finest seaside resorts in the country'. The menu consisted of Hors d'oeuvres, Roast Chicken, Ice Bomb and coffee. Entertainment was provided by Will King's 'Wit and Wisdom', Betty Bucknell, a popular Soprano from BBC Features and Wilby Lunn in 'Cheek and Chatter'. Music was by 'The Charles Western Quintet'. A dance for the men of The Regiment was held at the Pier Pavilion.

On 17th June 2010 the successors to The Essex Regiment, the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, exercised their right to the Freedom of the Borough, inherited by them from The Essex Regiment, with Drums Beating, Colours Flying and Bayonets Fixed, where a crowd estimated at 10,000 gave the Battalion a tumultuous welcome. It was an honour to be at the parade and, although totally different from the ceremony in 1946, the same atmosphere existed. The sun shone, and the applause was continuous.

Led by the Minden Band, the parade, consisting of approximately 200 soldiers and commanded by Lt Col James Woodham MC, the Commanding Officer, stepped off from Victoria Square at 1230pm. They then halted in the High Street, adjacent to Elmer Approach, where the Mayor, Councillor Ann Holland, the Lord Lieutenant, Lord

Petre, the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier David Clements and the High Sheriff of Essex, Michael Hindmarch, inspected the troops. There were some short speeches and a blessing by Canon Stephen Burdett. The parade then marched off to the bottom of the High Street and dismissed on Royal Terrace adjacent to the Naval and Military Club where refreshments were served in true Essex style.

It was splendid to see the Eagle on Parade under the care of Ian Hook, Keeper of the Essex Regiment Museum, together with a 'guard' of Military Police, positioned to the right of the saluting base. Southend Borough Council should be congratulated on their immaculate organisation of the day. The people of Southend should also be congratulated in turning out in their thousands to show their appreciation to this fine Battalion and in particular to those injured soldiers who were present.

Finally this report would not be complete without mention of Major Tony Jones who was the prime mover behind the event. His calm but firm manner showed through at every stage of the proceedings. A magnificent day and one to be remembered.

On a personal note, my brother, Lieutenant Alan R Wren, carried the Colour of the 4th Battalion The Essex Regiment.

## Normandy Pilgrimage 2010

*2 Lt Mark Garner writes:*

On 4th June 2010, six Vikings embarked on the Normandy Pilgrimage 2010 to commemorate the 66th Anniversary of the D-Day landings, with veterans from that historical day in 1944 and other honoured members of the Regimental Family. The visit to Normandy had three aims: to take our veterans to their memorials and cemeteries where their comrades are buried, in order to maintain links with the communities in Normandy; to educate serving soldiers by introducing them to the historical places where their forebears fought, thereby allowing these privileged few to hear first hand the courageous exploits of Normandy veterans; and to foster lasting links between The Regiment and our valued friends in Normandy. The Normandy Pilgrimage certainly achieved all these aims and the visit was enormously enjoyed by the Vikings who feel fortunate to have experienced the tour.

The veterans were the most important aspect of the trip. Their

presence was humbling and educational for those that had the pleasure of their company. Therefore, it was fitting that the veterans were given the opportunity to visit some of the many memorials erected throughout the Normandy battlefields. Such memorials allowed us to commemorate their actions and share their experiences with family, carers, the Regimental Family and other serving soldiers. The ceremonies carried out at the memorials were a privilege to be involved in, and they also offered a fantastic and rare opportunity for our serving soldiers to display their gratitude when remembering the actions of the veterans 66 years ago.

The laying of the wreaths by the soldiers is a memory that will remain with those attending forever. The opportunity to place wreaths at the memorials of our forbear Regiments, such as the Suffolk Regiment, the Royal Norfolk Regiment, the Essex Regiment, the Hertfordshire Regiment and the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, was



Brig Bill Deller briefs the pilgrimage at the Hillman Bunker.

## Special Features

a great honour. Indeed, as Private Webb recalled: 'The laying of the wreaths at the memorials was a highlight of the occasion, especially doing so alongside the veterans'. Attending these ceremonies was a real treat and one that should not be missed, so I implore others to attend should the opportunity arise. Colonel Kerry Woodrow and Brigadier Tony Calder, along with Reverend Tony Rose, ensured that the ceremonies possessed an austere sense of commemoration. John Lincoln, when writing in reference to his own D-Day experiences with the Royal Norfolk Regiment, poignantly said: 'So many memories, so many years have passed, so many friends no longer here, so much has changed. But some feelings remain unchanged, undiminished, never forgotten ... vivid memories remain'. Indeed, as long as the Pilgrimage remains, the valiant veterans can be assured that the sacrifices of 66 years ago will never be forgotten. With this in mind, the Normandy Pilgrimage achieved its first and most important aim.

The reception that members of the Normandy Pilgrimage 2010 received from their French hosts was one of appreciation and honour. Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment made us all feel welcome as they received British veterans with enormous gratitude and ceremony. This was most keenly felt during the meal they laid on and their grand speeches. The maintenance of the memorials and battlefield sites, such as Hillman - a series of German bunkers that were defeated by the Suffolk Regiment on D-Day - is a further reminder of the gratefulness of the French people. Indeed, the French maintain all their memorials and sites with the utmost care, which made the visit so much more special for all involved. These memorials are often located in remote and tranquil areas, thus providing a perfect setting for the poignant ceremonies, whilst offering the opportunity to reflect on the actions of the veterans and for them to reflect on their own actions. Such aspects of the trip were moving and emotional for those taking part; equally, French participants were seen to be affected too. The visit was punctuated with small intimate ceremonies at the many memorials placed throughout Normandy and at the many battlefield sites. There can be fewer better ways in which to foster links between the veterans, The Regiment and their friends in Normandy.

The Vikings that attended the Normandy Pilgrimage 2010



**Captain Henry Simpson at Hillman.**

acknowledged the visit as educational, both in setting and historical context, thus offering lessons for operations today. In that regard, the tour was immeasurably valuable and Private Ablett noted: 'This was educational, emotional and heartfelt'; and Private Sianokevi warmly said that: 'This was the best battlefield tour I've done ... I learned so much'. We all left with great memories.

On our first day in France, at 0815, Colonel Kerry Woodrow gave a presentation of Operation Overlord, in which it was suggested that a fatal flaw of the Germans was that they believed they could move troops and vehicles by day. There was some concern that the Vikings



**Our Past, Present and Future.**



**Lt Col Tony Slater giving an overview of the Royal Norfolks Battle.**

might try to learn from these mistakes and conduct most of their movements by night, in Caen...! However so great was the visit that the experiences of the day could not be jeopardised.

The educational experience for our soldiers began at the D-Day Academy and ran throughout the tour at locations such as Pegasus Bridge, Bayeux, the Battle for Hillman, the invaluable meeting with Les Amis, visiting Essex Wood and, most enlightening of all, our humbling interaction with former Royal Anglians and veterans. Interaction between the Vikings and the veterans enabled both parties to share experiences, thereby fostering a greater understanding of the actions of 1944 and 2010. This was ardently felt at memorial

sites, but also by visiting Le Memorial Museum, Hillman, the towns of Caen and Bayeux and the Vin d'Honneur.

While the weapons, locations and politics of the two periods are different, the tour certainly presented some interesting parallels, in that those making the sacrifices are the same breed of young men, or as John Lincoln writes, they are 'changeless and constant'. The veterans brought to life the events of 66 years ago with their own personal accounts of the battles and experiences, which, when placed alongside historical accounts, assured the educational value of the tour. In fact the arrival of the Suffolk Cadet Force ensured that the educational value of the whole experience was threefold.



**Essex Wood.**



## Special Features



**The Royal Norfolk Memorial.**

encompassing the veterans, serving Viking soldiers and potential future soldiers from the ranks of the Army Cadet Force.

Undoubtedly The Regiment through this visit has made many great friends in Normandy; this is crucial in ensuring that the actions of 66 years ago, on D-Day and indeed the entire war are remembered and commemorated with respect. It was a great pleasure to witness the presentation between the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir John McColl, and the President of the Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment.

In summary, the Normandy Pilgrimage 2010 was an awe-inspiring and educational experience for those privileged to be involved. I am confident that the tales of the veterans will never be forgotten by the young Vikings and hopefully many more will have the benefit of experiencing the tour. A veteran of D-Day and the Second World War wrote: 'I believe I have no business to forget my fallen comrades'. With these inspirational words in mind, the Normandy

Pilgrimage 2010 will ensure that the bravery, sacrifices and actions of 66 years ago, will not be forgotten. On behalf of myself and my fellow Vikings, I would like to thank all those that attended; and I enthusiastically commend such Regimental visits to all members of The Regiment's wider family.

*Editor's note: In 2011 The Regiment will carry out a pilgrimage to visit the 1944/45 WW2 battlefields of some of our former Regiments in the Netherlands and Germany. The trip will take place from 15 -19 Sep 2011, be based in Venray in Northern Holland and visit Overloon, Venray, the River Maas, The Reichswald and Kerwenheim.*

Those interested in attending should complete the pro forma enclosed in this edition of Castle or contact Lt Col Tony Slater or Maj Tony Jones.

The Regiment is intending to return to Normandy in 2012.

## My Trip to Italy 15- 22 May 2010: Visiting Cassino and Anzio with the Royal Fusiliers and the Beds and Herts

*George Bayliss, Royal Hospital Chelsea In-Pensioner 337 writes:*

**Saturday 15th:** We left London bathed in sunshine. When we arrived in Italy it was raining! We then had a long coach journey to the Hotel la Playa, Sperlonga, on the west coast of Italy.

**Sunday 16th:** We went into the town to have a look round. It was still raining and we got a little wet, but it cleared in the afternoon so we went to St Angelo for the blessing of the River Gari. This ceremony is hosted by a local Italian group. During the ceremony, rose leaves and wreaths were cast into the river. We met a number of important local people, some of whom asked if they could have their photograph taken with me. I think it was my scarlet coat which impressed them. St Angelo is a town well remembered by the Royal Fusiliers.

**Monday 17th:** A very nice sunny day. We paid a visit to the Beds and Herts Memorial and cemetery at Cassino, where sixty-one of our men lie. I laid the wreath and said a little about the Battle as I remembered it.

**Tuesday 18th:** Today we went to the Anzio Beachhead and the military cemetery. Later we took a trip around the harbour. After a late lunch in Anzio town, we returned to Sperlonga, tired but content, having had another interesting day out.

**Wednesday 19th:** Another warm and sunny day. We went into the town of Sperlonga to have a look round and do some shopping. The town is on the side of a hill and it was quite a long way to the top.



I was grateful for the assistance of my son Brian, who pushed my wheelchair most of the way. We brought some postcards and a few other bits and pieces. We were a little tired by then, so we retired to a restaurant for a rest and a bite of lunch, before making our way back to the hotel.

**Thursday 20th:** Today we visited the Cassino Military Cemetery, where many of my comrades from the Beds and Herts are buried and from where we had an excellent view of the Monastery. Whilst



## Special Features

at the cemetery, I found the grave of an old pal who, like me, was a member of the Pioneer Platoon. He was the only one from our Platoon who was killed during our time in Italy. We did have nine wounded though - and I was one.

The cemetery was a credit to the people who looked after it - so clean and well cared for.

On leaving the cemetery, we made our way up to the Monastery. Unfortunately, I could not visit some parts of it - too many steps for my old legs. After the Monastery visit, we went back into town for lunch. For me, today was the most interesting part of the trip.

Friday 21st: This morning I had a pleasant surprise. Mr Paul Hooton, who is a historian and very knowledgeable about the battles fought in Italy, asked if I and Ted, a friend from the Fusiliers, would like to go by car to visit the river crossing where I crossed by boat and Ted crossed three days later by the Amazon Bridge, which had been erected two days after my crossing. We were informed that the bridge was taken down six months after the battle because it was no longer needed and did not meet up with the road.

All in all the week turned out to be interesting and enjoyable. Our thanks to Capt Bob Keating, Royal Fusiliers and Mr Paul Hooton, both of whom were so helpful to us. My thanks also to son Brian and daughter-in-law Brenda for their help, particularly heaving me around in the wheelchair. Naturally, the trip brought back memories - some good, some very sad. But that's life.



### The Unveiling of Memorials to the Royal Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Regiments: National Memorial Arboretum – 30 September 2010

Ernie Guest, Chairman of the Hemel Hempstead Branch of the Suffolk Regiment Association, said at a meeting of the Association in Bury St Edmunds "Why don't we have one?" Eighteen months later his suggestion was realised at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire when a granite memorial to the Suffolk Regiment, as well as to the Royal Norfolk and Cambridgeshire Regiments, was unveiled in a ceremony attended by 350 veterans.

Ernie's original suggestion of a memorial only referred to the Suffolk Regiment, but the small committee that was tasked to look into this soon realised that it made sense to include the Royal Norfolk and Cambridgeshire Regiments into a larger memorial. After all,

the Cambridgeshire Regiment had been part of the cadre of the Suffolk Regiment for a significant part of its history and the Royal Norfolk Regiment was amalgamated with the Suffolk Regiment in 1959. It also made sense to share costs, rather than each having their own memorial. Both Regiments readily agreed and an expanded committee took on the task of bringing the idea to fruition.

During an early recce to the National Memorial Arboretum the committee concluded that the memorial should be near the Far East Prisoners' of War building, due to the sacrifices made by all three Regiments during the Second World War. It was also by far the nicest part of the Arboretum.



The 1st Battalion's Colours were laid on the Memorial.



## Special Features



**Maj Gen Jack Dye with the Presidents of the Regimental Associations - Maj Gen John Sutherell, Brig Tony Calder and Mr Freddie Grounds**

The next step was to select a designer and builder of the memorial. This turned out to be an easy choice of Keith Rackham of Diss, who was well known to the Arboretum, local to our area, and whose work looked very impressive. The committee decided that the purpose of the memorial was to tell future generations about each of our Regiments: that it existed, for how long and what it had achieved in shaping the military history of our country. We also did not want it to be a memorial just to those who had died, but to all those who had served in our Regiments. That started an excellent dialogue in which Keith listened to the committee's ideas and then made a number of helpful suggestions of how they might be improved. An outline design was agreed and then each Regiment consulted members of their Association, helped by a model, to seek their approval.



**The Royal Norfolk Regiment Memorial.**

After a couple of false starts the site and design of the memorial were approved by the Arboretum Trustees and all systems were 'go' for achieving the objective. The granite stones were delivered from Germany and work started on them, a date was chosen for the opening ceremony and General Jack Dye agreed to conduct the unveiling. As a distinguished Royal Norfolk and the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion the 1st East Anglian Regiment and the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, he was the ideal choice.

When the stones arrived the committee knew that the right choices had been made. The granite was an excellent colour, was very hard wearing, and the engraving and colouring of the blocks was beautifully done by gifted craftsmen.

The 30th September turned out to be an inspired selection, a beautiful sunny autumn day, whereas the days either side suffered from constant rain. Buses and cars from all parts of East Anglia and beyond turned up for the opening ceremony and those attending included a few that had been prisoners of the Japanese. The 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment provided a very smart Colour Party, the Drum Major to collect the Regimental flags and the RSM to see that it all went well. The Commanding Officer also laid a wreath on behalf of The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The moving service was conducted by Father Ken Reeve and Rev William Sayer, Honorary Chaplain to the Cambridgeshire Regiment. Before each Regiment's memorial was unveiled by General Dye, the President of the Regimental Association gave a short perspective on its achievements (see below). A Prayer of Dedication and the Regimental Collect followed. Wreaths were then laid on each memorial, before the last post was played, the exhortation and Kohima epitaph solemnly intoned, and then the National Anthem ended the service.

Spectators mingled around looking at the memorials before they all went to the marquee for an excellent tea laid on by the Arboretum staff. Many reminiscences were exchanged before all went home. We believe that each Regiment is now properly remembered at a nationally important site, potentially for centuries to come.

### **Royal Norfolk Regiment Address**

Our three regiments each have their own unique story but also have shared experience, sometimes serving alongside each other on campaign. The experience of the Royal Norfolks will resonate with them.

The 274 years between the formation of Colonel Henry Cornwall's Regiment of Foot in 1685 to counter the Monmouth Rebellion and

## Special Features

the amalgamation of the Royal Norfolk Regiment with the Suffolk Regiment in 1959, brought a wide mixture of fortune to the Regiment.

There were occasions of hard fought, bloody but distinguished victories, from the first battle honour won at Quiberon Bay in 1761, through the years of victories in the Peninsular, Ferozeshah in the first Sikh War and the grinding but ultimately successful battles of the Western Front, to the war winning battles in Normandy and NW Europe and the relief of Kohima in Burma. These shine alongside the battle honours of any regiment. These victories were not won cheaply; for example, of the 5,576 men of the Regiment killed in the First World War, a full third were from the 4 battalions of the Regiment involved in the Battle of the Somme.

But those 274 years also record loyal service in too many ill conceived campaigns, often under indifferent senior commanders. On at least four occasions the regiment provided, at terrible cost, part of the Army Rearguard (Almanza, Corunna, Mons, Dunkirk); on five others, despite fighting gallantly, they were ordered to surrender and endured years of captivity and hardship (Portugal 1704, Saratoga 1777, Kut–Al-Amara 1916, St Valery 1940, Singapore 1942) and on too many other occasions the Regiment was wrecked by disease, climate and conditions outside their control.

Throughout all these trials and tribulations the good name of the Regiment was maintained and enhanced by the courage, discipline, determination and loyal commitment of the successive generations of soldiers of all ranks who made up the Regiment over those 274 years.

So it was that in 1967 that Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, who knew a thing or two about the qualities of different regiments, wrote 'The Royal Norfolk Regiment has always been renowned for its steadfastness and reliability in difficult situations. It is in fact the sort of regiment which all commanders like to have available in order to plug a difficult gap. This staunchness has been developed over the years, for wherever the fighting was fiercest, climatic conditions most vile and the odds against victory most daunting, the 9th of Foot was sure to be there'.

Today we remember all those generations of men who built, sustained and enhanced that reputation.

### Suffolk Regiment Address

These granite blocks tell the story to future generations of the three county Regiments of East Anglia. But the story carved into the rock is only of headlines, so perhaps readers in years to come will be inspired to learn more of what happened all those years ago.

In doing so they will surely come to understand the character of the soldier of East Anglia: stubborn in defence and, despite his quiet nature that is slow to anger, determined, courageous and skilful in attack.

These qualities are evident down the years from Minden in 1759 when a small infantry force, including the 12th of Foot, destroyed a much larger number of French infantry, despite huge casualties from artillery and repeated charges by cavalry. This rightly became the premier battle honour of the Suffolk Regiment, and later The Royal Anglian Regiment, and set the standard for the future.

The stubbornness in defence was evident in the long siege of Gibraltar and in the trenches of the First World War, where, for example, the Times noted that 'there is a story, such as painters ought to make immortal and historians celebrate, how certain Suffolks, cut off and surrounded, fought back to back on the Waincourt-Tilloy Road'.

Courage is a constant theme of the story, but nowhere else did it cause so much admiration in the eyes of the British public than at the sinking of HMS Birkenhead, when young recruits bound for the Suffolk Regiment stood to attention in silence as the ship foundered, their discipline intact. Courage too of a different kind was needed to cope with the privations of the Japanese Prisoner of War camps.

The British Army has, more often than its enemies, displayed discipline and skill in wartime. The Suffolk Regiment showed these qualities in 1944 in Normandy at Hillman and Chateau de la Londe and through to the end of the war in Germany, and again in Malaya after the war.

The country can be proud of the young men who served in the 12th Foot and the Suffolk Regiment and their heritage is carried on to today's soldiers of The Royal Anglian Regiment.



**The Suffolk Regiment and The Cambridgeshire Regiment Memorial.**

### Cambridgeshire Regiment Address

From 1751 there was a Regular Army Regiment, the 30th (Cambridgeshire) Regiment of Foot, in the County. They captured a French Eagle at Salamanca, saw distinguished service at Waterloo, and won one of the earliest VCs in the Crimea.

Under the Cardwell Reform of 1881, the 30th merged with the 59th to become the East Lancashire Regiment and thereafter the County lost its Regular footprint.

Although Cambridgeshire is a small rural county, it has managed to raise a Volunteer Force from as early as 1689 and this continued uninterrupted until 1967 when the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Regiment TA was finally disbanded.

The first association with our friends in the Suffolk Regiment was from 1887 to 1908 when the Cambridgeshire Rifle Volunteer Corps became 3rd (Cambridgeshire) Volunteer Battalion the Suffolk Regiment, later earning our first Battle Honour for service in South Africa during the Boer War.

In 1908 our association with the Suffolks was abandoned and we became part of the Territorial Force known as 1st Battalion the Cambridgeshire Regiment and, unlike most Territorial Forces which were affiliated to Regular Regiments, we, together with Monmouthshire, Herefordshire and Hertfordshire, retained a special independent status retaining our own insignia and character.

Although only a small county numerically, we raised 4 battalions during the 1st World War where we fought continuously on the Western Front from the 15th February 1915 up to the end of the War. Over 10,000 all ranks served, of which 4,247 were killed or wounded.

Of the many notable actions that stand out was the Storming of the Schwaben Redoubt, a series of trenches and dug-outs sited on a high point overlooking the British lines, bristling with machine guns and of great strategic importance during the Somme battles. On the 14th October 1916, the Fen Tigers under the brilliant command of Lt Col Riddell, stormed the Redoubt without loss of life and then proceeded to hold it for 24 hours before being relieved, having beaten back several determined counter attacks. The success was so phenomenal that General Haig described it as 'one of the finest

feats of arms in the history of the British Army'. Forty-one awards for gallantry were bestowed on the Regiment that day alone.

During the Second World War the fate of the Regiment was sealed following the fall of Singapore in February 1942, but not before inflicting a high price on Japan's Imperial Army.

For the next 3½ years the men of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, along with comrades of the Norfolks, Suffolks and Beds & Herts, endured the deliberate policy of ill treatment, neglect and all the harshness that their Japanese captors could inflict upon them. As slave labourers they survived or died working on the 'Death Railway'. To add to their misery, illness and tropical diseases took their toll,

especially during the great cholera epidemic that cut men down in droves amid their wretched and barbarous conditions.

The survivors of that period then endured further privations, as they were then transported in the cruellest and crudest fashion in 'hell ships' for mainland Japan, or other Japanese occupied territories, to work in mines and other industries. In all, 24 officers and 760 other ranks died, either in action or as Prisoners of War.

Today we are immensely proud to be part of The Royal Anglian Regiment, with our traditions and history in the safekeeping of D (Cambridgeshire) Company of the 1st Battalion.

## Dedication of the British Cyprus Memorial

*Alfred Waller writes:*

On 6th November 2009 'Pop' Whitwell, Ivan Ayres and I met in the departure lounge at Stansted Airport to fly to North Cyprus for the dedication of the British Cyprus Memorial on Sunday 8th November. The Memorial, sited in the Old British Cemetery in Kyrenia, was to be dedicated to the 371 service personnel (including eleven from the Royal Norfolk Regiment and one from the Suffolk Regiment) killed by EOKA action during the Cyprus Emergency 1956-59. It had been designed and made in Diss and shipped out to North Cyprus.

For those of us who served in Cyprus during the Emergency it is a forgotten campaign. The Government of the day gave little publicity to the thankless task of those trying to keep the peace between the warring sides. British soldiers were being killed by electrically detonated devices, grenades and mines. Civilians, including service wives, were being shot in the back. Altogether it was a dirty and vicious campaign. That was 50 years ago - so what has changed? To those of us who served there, not much. The Island still remains divided with the UN force keeping the peace and the Memorial was paid for by private subscription.

The visit to North Cyprus was memorable for the tremendous camaraderie of all those who took part in the ceremonies, particularly among the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk contingents. For many it was the first visit in 50 years, but that did not stop the reminiscences

flowing in profusion. North Cyprus is still beautiful despite unrestrained development. Kyrenia is hardly recognisable, except around the harbour and the 'Panhandle' where the Suffolks once operated is full of resorts. All but one of the formerly Greek villages is now occupied by Turks from the mainland. The one remaining Greek village is supplied once a week by a UN supply convoy from Nicosia. Wayne's Keep, which is now the official Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, is in the buffer zone between north and south and only a mile or so from Kykko East, where the regiment was based. After interminable passport and immigration controls, most of the visiting groups were able to see the graves, though no photographs were allowed unless under supervision, because of the bunkers and foxholes sited on either side of the zone.

The dedication service, which was attended by over 500 ex-service personnel, wives and bereaved families, went like clockwork, thanks to the efforts of the British Cyprus Memorial Committee resident in North Cyprus. Over 25 regiments and corps were represented at the wreath laying ceremony, including the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Regiments, and some 8 or 9 ex-Suffolk 'boys' had come up from the south of the Island. The Norfolks fielded a large contingent from the UK. It was a poignant weekend for all those who attended the ceremonies in this beautiful, but divided, Island.

## The Minden Band of The Queen's Division

*WO1 (BM) Ben Mason writes:*

2010 was another busy year for the Band in support of all three Regiments of The Queen's Division; and 2011 looks set to be an equally exciting time. They are currently on duty at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where the highlight will be their involvement in The Sovereign's Parade on 17 Dec.

In September 2010, after five extremely successful years as Director of Music (DOM), Captain Simon Haw was assigned to the senior staff position of SO2 G3 (O&D) at Headquarters Corps of Army Music, Kneller Hall, Twickenham. The new DOM - Major Bruce Miller - is now in post, along with the new Bandmaster, WO1 (BM) Ben Mason.

**Maj B Miller BMus(Hons), LICM(TD), LRSM, ARCM, psm**  
Major Bruce Miller began his military career in 1989 as a clarinetist in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, which upon amalgamation became the Royal Logistic Corps. He toured extensively with these bands including being mobilised in his war role as a Medical Assistant serving in support of 1st (UK) Armoured Division during the Gulf Conflict. He attended the three year Bandmaster Course beginning in 1994 and upon successful graduation (winning several prizes including conducting and composition), was appointed Bandmaster of the Band of The Dragoon Guards. A tour at Headquarters Corps of Army Music as Staff Bandmaster followed in October 1999, where he played an integral part in the accreditation of the Army's Trade Employment Qualification Class One examination by Trinity College, London.

Upon successful completion of the Advanced Certificate in Music (psm) he was commissioned into the Corps of Army Music and appointed Director of Music of the Band of the Hussars and Light

Dragoons, based in Bovington. In 2003 he deployed with the Band and was attached to 1 Close Support Medical Regiment in support of Operation TELIC. As a result of the reorganization of Army bands he oversaw the formation of the Light Cavalry Band before taking up his next appointment as Director of Music, Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers, in September 2006, with whom he spent two very productive years. The next two years saw a return to Kneller Hall in the hugely rewarding role as SO2 G3 (O&D), the senior SO2 appointment within the Headquarters.

**WO1 (Bandmaster) B Mason BMus(Hons), DipABRSM, ALCM**  
WO1 (BM) Ben Mason was born in 1975. He was involved in music making with various Suffolk youth ensembles throughout his childhood and enlisted into 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, as a Junior Bandsman in 1991. In 1994, upon completion of the Junior Musician Course at the Army Junior School of Music (Pirbright) and the Pupil Course at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall (RMSM), he was accepted for transfer into The Band of the Grenadier Guards as a pianist and trombonist.

He has performed at numerous national and state events including celebrations marking the 50th anniversaries of D Day, VJ Day and VE Day. While in London other engagements included three Royal Tournaments, The Queen Mother's 100th Birthday Celebration, RMT 2000, The Queen Mother's Funeral, State Banquets, Investitures and Queen's Birthday Parades. During his time with the Guards, tours included Bosnia, Northern Ireland, USA, Canada, Australia and Europe; he also undertook work as both the Band Arranger and the Recruiting Team Leader. In 2003 he achieved promotion to the Sergeants' Mess and also assumed leadership of the Dance Band.



## Special Features



The Minden Band Beats Retreat at the Regimental Memorial on 12 Sep 10.



WO1 (BM) Ben Mason.

### Musical Support to the Regiment

The Dedication Ceremony of the new Regimental Memorial at Duxford on 12 Sep 2010 was one of the many high profile engagements which the band undertook recently. The Memorial commemorates the sacrifice of the 78 officers and soldiers of the

In 2006 the Regiment awarded him the Brian Johnston Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution and in November of the same year he was successfully selected to attend the three year Bandmaster Course (BMC) at RMSM. Upon completion of the BMC, in August 2010, he received promotion to Warrant Officer Class One and was assigned as Bandmaster to The Minden Band of The Queen's Division, returning to both the Division where his Army career began and to the area where he was raised.

East Anglian Regiments and The Royal Anglian Regiment who have died on duty since 1959.

The Dedication Ceremony began at 11am with in-going voluntaries played by the Band while the VIPs and guests took their seats. The Band performed a version of Chasing Cars by Snow Patrol, arranged by Cpl Ian Travers, at the request of one of the bereaved families. Other pieces performed during the service were carefully chosen by the DOM and The Regiment and included: The Regimental Slow March of The Royal Anglian Regiment (The Devonshire Rose) and Suo Gan (featuring Musn Sarah Frowen on Euphonium).

As the bereaved family members took their seats the Band played When I am Laid in Earth from Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, and Solemn Melody by Walford-Davies. The Memorial was then unveiled and immediately followed by Gordon Jacob's arrangement of The National Anthem. The hymns chosen for the service were: Who Would True Valour See, Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer and I Vow to Thee my Country. Towards the end of the service Last Post and Reveille were sounded in the centre of the Memorial by LCpl Laura Windley.

At 3.30pm the band closed the day by performing their Beating Retreat Ceremony adjacent to the Memorial. It consisted of the Regimental Marches of all of the former Regiments and concluded in traditional style with the Sunset Ceremony.

# Regimental Association

## Obituaries

### Maj RHD Graveston



Major RHD (Dick) Graveston died in September. He will be best remembered by a generation of Royal Leicesters who served with him in Borneo in 1963-64. There, Dick was the Battalion Air Resupply Officer who unfailingly kept our platoons and companies operating deep in the jungle resupplied with the necessities of life.

Dick Graveston was born in India, the son of an Officer in the Rajputana Rifles. Dick's upbringing was typical of a past age of colonial service. At the tender age of 6 he was brought back to England to Prep School in East Anglia, spending his holidays with his uncle and aunt in Bury St Edmunds. He saw very little of his parents. In 1937 he went on to Wellington College where he

developed his great love of all sports, but especially cricket, at which he played for his school for two years. He also played rugby and hockey and was a keen athlete.

On leaving Wellington in 1941 Dick immediately enlisted in the Royal Scots for basic training, a step necessary for him to gain a Commission in the Indian Army. Writing to his mother while undergoing this training Richard, as he had always so far been known, told her that the Army was calling him 'Dick'. Writing back to him his mother said she'd called him Richard for 20 years and wasn't going to change. The name Dick stuck however.

After basic training in early 1942, Dick was sent out to India via the Cape in a convoy of troopships and fast merchants carrying some 50,000 men and supplies to India and the East. Not surprisingly every effort was made to assemble a strong escort for this precious load, since German war ships still had access to the Atlantic. In fact some 35 war ships, including two carriers, were involved in providing the escort at one stage or another. On the day the convoy set out, news reached them of the fall of Singapore. They were heading eastwards and the war was not going well. The journey was to say the least hazardous, with Force 9 Atlantic gales and potential surface, submarine and air attacks. After calling at Freetown in East Africa, then Cape Town/Durban, the convoy steamed on to Bangalore having covered a total of 13,000 miles unscathed.

On arrival in India Dick was sent immediately for officer training and was then commissioned into the 1st/6th Rajputana Rifles, his father's regiment. His Battalion became part of 4th Indian Division which was sent to North Africa, arriving at El Alamein just as Montgomery's advance began. Dick took part with his regiment in the operations which cleared the Axis forces from North Africa by May 1943.

Dick's battalion then landed in Sicily and then Italy, taking part in the fierce fighting for and capture of Monte Cassino. Dick was slightly wounded during that battle. Dick then served on through the rest of the Italy Campaign as Battalion Intelligence Officer and at the end of the war was posted back to India.

Back in India Dick was posted to the Indian Military Academy as an instructor and while there brought a team of cadets back to England in 1946 to play against Sandhurst. With the partition of India, Dick had to choose whether to stay with the Indian Army or look for a regiment in the British army. In the event he was given a commission in the Royal Leicestershire Regiment which, I always suspected, he chose because the Leicesters so loved their rugby

and cricket. Dick was, by the way, an Army cricketer and was well up to county standard.

In 1950 Dick, now a Leicester, volunteered to go to Korea as Brigade Intelligence Officer and was among the first group of Commonwealth troops to arrive. He remembered having to borrow clothing and equipment from the Americans to cope with the extreme cold. After being a staff officer in 1951 and 1952 in Hong Kong, Dick returned to England and was posted as the Regimental Representative at Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School. At a reception in Leicester he met Ruth Pitcairn, the daughter of a redoubtable, highly respected and much decorated officer of his new regiment, Lieutenant Colonel John Pitcairn. They were married and Dick became Adjutant of the Regiment's TA battalion. Tours of duty in Malaya, Singapore and Germany followed.

It was in 1963 that Dick became the 1st Battalion's Air Resupply Officer on active service in Borneo, where the British were fending off Indonesian territorial ambitions. Dick would receive, invariably by Morse code, weekly requests from platoons operating in and along the Malaysian-Indonesian border for resupply. These resupplies had to be by air as there were no roads to most locations, and delivery was achieved either by parachute drop or helicopter, weather and enemy fire from across the border permitting.

The Regiment's system for requesting items to be delivered worked rather like a QM's stores ledger, where each store is itemized. A pair of boots, for example, is catalogued as 'boots - pairs - one'. The most unusual request Dick ever received was for 'cards - birthday - love to Mother - one'. Note all this via Morse code on HF radio. Needless to say the card was purchased, was flown into the jungle and shortly afterwards a happy mother in Leicester received her soldier son's greetings. That is just one example of the lengths to which Dick would go to serve his Battalion. In fact, despite bad weather, poor communications and occasional enemy fire, the Battalion was able to operate effectively in the jungle for six months thanks to Dick's efforts.

After Borneo Dick served four tours with the Royal Air Force as Ground Liaison Officer in Singapore, England and Germany, work he much enjoyed. On leaving the Army in 1974, Dick was appointed as Bursar at the Liverpool City Council Boarding Prep School for ill behaved boys in North Wales, a job he did for ten years. Dick was of course in his element with these young people and very good at his job.

In full retirement Dick and Ruth moved to London, then to Aldeburgh and latterly to Woodbridge. In Aldeburgh Dick became Secretary of the Royal British Legion and was as always most conscientious and involved in all Branch activities.

So what of Dick Graveston the man? Dick was a charming and self deprecating man, a devoted family man and a loving father. He always put others first and was always ready to work for the comfort and welfare of his fellows. He would go out of his way to locate and visit a friend which he managed to do even in the desert campaigns in North Africa. He was an outstanding games player and what, in old fashioned language, was called 'a good chap' - high praise. This combination together with his relaxed and calm approach to life made him a most popular man. Dick had that great knack of just being himself and that was enough.

In addition he was invariably very smartly dressed, whether in uniform in 100 degrees in Singapore or in mufti. I have heard him described by a close friend as always looking like a Savile Row Tailor's model. This, I should add, was intended as a compliment. Tall and slim, Dick never changed shape throughout his life nor lost his impeccable courtesy and manners. And all from a man who, from the age of six, saw sadly little of his parents. There was clearly some special quality in his character developed by his education and life that made him such a delightful companion.

## Regimental Association

### Maj DRF Houlton-Hart MC ERD

Major Darby Robert Follett Houlton-Hart MC ERD who has died at the aged 90, was awarded an MC in 1940 and the ERD in 1951, both while serving with The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment. He was born in 1941 in Mudgee, New South Wales, Australia; his father had lived and worked in Australia for many years. He was educated in Australia and, on the return of the family to England in 1934, he attended Allhallows School, Lyme Regis, Dorset. Whilst at Allhallows he was a House Prefect, a member of the Cross Country Team and part of the 1937 Shooting 8 at Bisley, taking part in the Ashburton Shield and winning the Oag Cup, Donegal Medal and Taylor Cup. He was also a member of the School of Officer Training Corps.



On leaving school in 1938, he was granted a Commission in the Supplementary Reserve of Officers, joining the 2nd Battalion The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, then based in Portland. In September 1939, on the outbreak of war, the Battalion sailed for France as part of the 19th Infantry Brigade. They were heavily involved in the advance into Belgium after Hitler invaded France and Belgium in May 1940. Darby served as OC 13 Platoon C Company under the OC, Major Boxer.

It was during the Dunkirk Campaign that he won the Military Cross. It was when the Lincolns were ordered to counter attack the left flank at Zuydershoot, following the collapse in the line, to slow the Germans down to allow more troops to reach Dunkirk.

His Citation read: On the afternoon of the 28th May 1940, 2/Lieut Hart led his Platoon in a local counter-attack in order to fill a gap into which the enemy were infiltrating. In the face of heavy shell and mortar fire, and despite heavy casualties in his Platoon, 2/Lieut Hart by his coolness and courage and the skill with which he handled his Bren Guns, succeeded in driving the enemy out, re-establishing the line and holding it until the Battalion was ordered to withdraw. He left Dunkirk on HMS Erebus on the 1st June 1940 and a short time later he was presented with the Military Cross by King George 6th at Buckingham Palace. This was the first Investiture of the 2nd World War.

As a Lieutenant he then served with HQ 19th Infantry Brigade as a Liaison Officer. In 1942 he was promoted to Captain and served as a Rifle Company 2ic. On 6th June 1944 as 2ic A Company, he entered Europe as part of the D-Day landings, consequently being wounded in action on the 7th June. Following a period of recuperation, he rejoined the Regiment in Holland as 2ic and was promoted to Major as OC D Company. As OC he led the Company in the crossing of the River Aal with the Regiment, ending up on VE Day in Lengerich, Germany. The Battalion then moved to Belgium and were due to go to the United States to undergo training. However, due to the Japanese surrender in August 1945, this did not happen and in October of that year the Battalion moved to the Middle East. In 1947, for action in Palestine, he was Mentioned in Despatches.

In 1948 he left the Army and studied Agriculture at the Northamptonshire Institute of Agriculture, re-joining the

Supplementary Reserve of Officers.

Following this two year period of study, Darby was recalled to Arms in 1950, granted a Regular Commission in 1951 and posted to the Middle East until 1952. It was during this period that he was awarded the Emergency Reserve Decoration.

1952 to 1959 saw service with the Battalion in Germany, as Adjutant of the Bermuda Rifles and Secretary the Local Forces Board in Bermuda, as Company Commander with The Royal Lincolns in Malaya, Ipoh and Singapore and attached to the Royal Military Police as a RMP Company Commander, based in Edinburgh.

Prior to the amalgamation of the Regiments, Darby transferred to the Royal Military Police, serving in Germany and in England until 1970, when he resigned his Commission. He was present, in Germany, on 13th August 1961 when the Berlin Wall was erected.

For the next 8 years, until his retirement, he worked for the National Savings in Watford.

In retirement he was a member of the Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk War Pensions Committee and Appeals Organiser for the Bury St Edmunds Branch of the Suffolk Red Cross; he was made Honorary Vice President and was also awarded the Red Cross Badge of Honour.

His Grandson follows on the military tradition, being a Captain in the 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles, having just returned from his second tour in Afghanistan.

Major Houlton-Hart died on 6 July 2010. He married Pauline Pearce in 1949. She predeceased him in January 2010 and he is survived by their son, two daughters and his sister.

MJL

### Sgt T Mansell

*Editor's note: Sgt Tom Mansell's obituary is reproduced by kind permission of the Editor of The Wasp Magazine where it was originally published. Col Tony Winton points out that Tom managed to serve in 4 of our forbear regiments before becoming a 3rd East Anglian - Royal Norfolk, Suffolk, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and Northampton. He was believed to be the last Army D Day Veteran living in Bedford.*



It is with deep sadness that we report the passing on of one of our old comrades, Tom Mansell, on 17 March.

Tom was born on 30 August 1923 in Edmonton, North London. After he left school he became an apprentice shoe maker and, when war broke out, was determined to do his bit. He managed to wait until September 1940 when, lying about his age, he successfully enlisted as a Regular soldier at the age of 17. Tom served his basic training with the Royal Norfolk Regiment and transferred to the Suffolk Regiment in February 1943. He was a member of the assault force that attacked Hillman and Morris German coastal artillery gun emplacements

on D-Day. They landed on Sword Beach on 6 June 1944. Surviving the treacherous landing, he witnessed the shooting of his Platoon Commander, after which his Captain, in the absence of any other NCO, placed him in charge of looking out for comrades in the assault group. Once assembled, the group tagged on to the back of Lord Lovat's group who were on their way to Honnefleure. Tom recalled that day very vividly, stating: 'I thought I was going to get a bullet up my backside as there was a bloody fool playing the bagpipes'. Later, however, Tom and his men were captured by the Germans. He was injured by a phosphorous grenade and received a rifle butt



## Regimental Association

in the spine protecting his men. They were taken prisoner and spent the remaining months of the war at a camp in Poland.

1949 saw Tom with the Suffolks hunting Communist Terrorists in the Malayan conflict. Further tours of duty included Singapore and a stint with the British Army of the Rhine in Wuppertal (August 1954-1956). He became a member of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in January 1956. Tom, who was by now Sgt Mansell, served on the permanent staff at the Keep in Kempston as a drill and small arms instructor before transferring to the Northamptonshire Regiment in July 1958; here he trained troops ready for duty in Aden and spent 12 months on the Arabian Peninsula before returning to Watchett in December 1959. Tom was due to have completed 25 years' service, yet fell foul of the Macmillan Government's cuts and was made redundant from the Army in June 1960.

The family took up residence in Bedford and Tom worked as a fitter with WH Allens where he remained until his early retirement in 1983. Tom was an active member of the community and served as a Borough Councillor from 1974-1986. He was chairman of the local Muscular Dystrophy Group, tirelessly fundraising, for which he enlisted the help of his family. Tom did not forsake his beloved Army and became an active and popular member of both the Beds and Herts OCA and Suffolks OCA. Right up to the end Tom berated members of Parliament and Government Ministers with his scathing attacks by letter, fighting for causes he believed in.

Tom's funeral at Bedford Crematorium was attended not only by family and friends, but also a packed chapel, included a gratifyingly large number of ex-servicemen from all branches in Bedford; and their numbers were greatly swelled by former colleagues from around the region who served with him, or knew him, including the Mayor of Bedford.

The family owe a huge debt of gratitude to Barry Sutcliffe, for not only arranging the military funeral in line with Tom's last wish, but also for the magnificent manner in which he preceded the cortege with the Union Flag. Tom's widow, John, Angela, Deborah, Carol and Hazel and their families wish to thank the OCA for their support at what has been a very difficult time.

TAW

### Pte K Pratt



It is with great sadness that this edition of Castle must mark the death of a serving member of The Regiment, Pte Kenny Pratt, who died at home in Clacton-on-Sea on the 25th October 2010. He is survived by his mother, Amanda, his father, Terry and his two sisters, Cara and Amanda.

Pte Pratt recently joined the 1st Battalion having completed his training at the Infantry Training Centre (Catterick). He joined Minden Platoon,

B (Suffolk) Company – the High Readiness Platoon - manned with soldiers available to deploy to Afghanistan at short notice should they be needed.

He swiftly established a good reputation for himself. Quietly enthusiastic and always keen to volunteer, he settled easily into

Battalion life and his placid nature ensured he got on very well with soldiers of all ranks and experience. From the outset he was clearly a motivated and enthusiastic young soldier.

Pte Pratt did not deploy on Operation HERRICK, although he was very keen to go. As B Company re-configured, he joined 5 Platoon in the summer of 2010. He made an excellent first impression and wasted little time in showing himself to be a tough, reliable and trustworthy soldier; as a result he was duly chosen to be one of the machine gunners in 3 Section.

He was highly regarded by both his peers and by the Chain of Command. He was a genuine person, a professional soldier and 'a good bloke'. On the week before his premature passing, he was training for the Cambrian Patrol in which he was to represent the Battalion; and he was due to deploy to Afghanistan in 2012.

The Commanding Officer, Lt Col James Woodham MC, said of Pte Pratt, "Although a junior soldier who had recently joined us, he had already made an impact and had proved himself to be a valuable member of the Battalion".

Pte Kenny Pratt always exhibited the best attributes of a bright soldier and was a young man who had the courage to join the British Army at a time when he knew he would almost certainly be deployed to Afghanistan. His untimely death is a great loss to his family, his friends and The Royal Anglian Regiment.

APW

### WO2 John (Ringo) Watson

John passed away peacefully at home in Framlingham after a long illness on 16 November 2010 and a private family funeral took place on 25 November 2010.

An obituary will follow in the June edition of Castle and, should anyone wish to contribute, they are asked to forward hard copy contributions to General Tony Pollard, Barley Wood Farm, Thorpe Lane, Suffolk, IP14 6NE; or by email to Major Tony Jones at [ahqroyalanglian1@btconnect.com](mailto:ahqroyalanglian1@btconnect.com).

#### Tribute to John's Life

John's family invite you to attend a Tribute of his Life which will be held at Cretingham Golf Club, Cretingham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 7BA at 1220hrs on Saturday 12th February 2011. Those who are able to attend should RV at the Golf Club car park by 1200hrs. We will then make our way to the 16th tee (via the fairway), where a memorial bench from the family and a memorial plaque from the Golf Club will be unveiled. Following the unveiling, everyone is invited back to the clubhouse for light refreshments and the opportunity to meet John's family. The facility to make a cash or cheque donation to Cancer Relief will be available at the club house on the day.

In order to assist with administration, those who are attending are asked to email their intention to do so to: Major Tony Jones [ahqroyalanglian1@btconnect.com](mailto:ahqroyalanglian1@btconnect.com). If you have no email facility then by post to: The Royal Anglian Regiment, Area Headquarters, Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Warley, CM13 3BN.



## The Royal Anglian Regiment Association

### Northampton Branch

The membership of the Branch continues to flourish with meetings being held on the last Wednesday of every other month, and social gatherings being held at local pubs and restaurants in the intervening months. The next social gatherings will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011 respectively – locations yet to be decided.

On the 12th of September, it was an honour for the Branch to be present at the unveiling of The Royal Anglian Memorial at Duxford. The Chairman hosted the family of Cpl Mick Shirley who died in 1966. It was a very moving day for all those who attended and the whole event was conducted with great dignity and reverence, befitting such an occasion.

In October another successful Social was held, this time at the Northampton Working Men's Club. The evening was organised by Larry Mann, assisted by Bob Pochin. On the 30<sup>th</sup> October members from the Branch represented the former Northamptonshire Regiment at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory of the Battle of Britain, at Greens Norton, Northamptonshire. The village is the administrative centre of South Northants for the Royal British Legion. They organised the Ceremony to mark the Anniversary and included the opening of the Garden of Remembrance on the Village Green and the start of the annual Poppy Collection. In attendance were veterans' organisations and the British Legion with their standards, Cadet Forces and the United States Air Force.

Anyone wishing to join the Branch or attend the functions should



Northamptonshire Old Comrades.



Colonel and Mrs Worthy and Lady Akehurst .



ACF Drummers.

contact Bob Pochin at the TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton on 01604 635412. Alternatively go to: [www.royalangliansteelbacks.co.uk](http://www.royalangliansteelbacks.co.uk).

#### Northampton Branch Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner 2010 was approached with some trepidation. Until 2009 the Dinner for The Northamptonshire Regiment was organised from the Area Office; but, with the Northampton no more, if there was to be a dinner it was to fall to the Northampton Branch of The Royal Anglian Association to organise it. The decision was taken to carry on without change – a bit daunting! But come the evening, what a wonderful success, with 172 sitting down to four courses.

The evening started with a marvellous display by the ACF Corps of Drums with luminous drum sticks glowing in the dark - quite a spectacle. Music for the evening and the toasts was performed by the Daventry Brass Band and was up to their usual high standard. After the Queen's Message to the Branch, the Loyal Toast was proposed by the President, Col Peter Worthy.

On the Sunday, many of those who attended the Dinner also attended the Church Service, which, as in previous years, was well attended. Before the Service there was an Inspection of the comrades, under the control of Lofty Knight, with the Inspection being undertaken by Col Peter Worthy. In future, this weekend will be known as the 'Talavera Weekend'.



Poachers behaving themselves (so far).

**Regimental Association****Northampton Reunion:  
15 October 2010**

The Northampton Branch continues to go from strength to strength with a well balanced committee that is now able to organise and run some extremely good functions. Friday the 15th Oct 10 was such an occasion.

The Reunion, held at the Northampton Workingmen's Club, Sheep Street, was attended by between 90-100 Royal Anglians of all ages, in many guises and from parts of the Country that included Yorkshire, Bedfordshire and Leicestershire. Some new faces for the first time were Rob Hill, Pete Smith, Nick Sanders, Darren Aspinall, Steve Munroe, Mathew Ellis, Andy Leddie, Dale Watret, Jeff Jackson and Fred Corbett. Andy Leddie must have got his functions mixed up as he came dressed as an Elvis Presley impersonator.

Mention must be made of the ex Pompadours who attended both this year and last. This group, led by Larry Mann and Bill Loudon, are akin to the Israelites who wandered in the wilderness for years, but now seem to have found a home in Northampton, where they are always very welcome. At the start of the evening Larry Mann accepted a cheque on behalf of the Regimental Benevolent Fund for the sum of £400 from Collingtree Coaches, Northampton.



Larry Mann receives a cheque for £400 on behalf of The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity from Collingtree Coaches, Northampton (Courtesy Northampton Chronicle and Echo).



F Corbett, A Leddie and D Watret.



S Munroe, M Ellis and C McCormack.



P Mattingley, M Wright, R Hill and R Brown.



## Regimental Association

### Boston Branch

Over the past six months, the Branch membership has continued to grow to include Vikings, Pompadours and Tigers as well as Poachers. We continue to meet in the Conservative Club at Boston and our association with SSAFA Forces Help has proved effective, thereby re-enforcing our constitutional commitment to the serving soldier, ex-soldiers and their families in the area. As we believe it to be a more popular evening, meetings are now held on the last Saturday in the month, at which music is provided, thereby creating a more social atmosphere; and it also presents a spring-board for those wishing to visit the local hot-spots or enjoy a meal in town.

Contrary to public belief, we are no longer illegitimate, in that we now have a Provisional Committee; this comprises Robert Birtwistle (Chairman), Trevor Clark (Treasurer) and Colin Briggs (Secretary), thereby re-affirming our commitment to our members and enabling us to apply for full branch status.

Considerable progress has been made in making contact with some of the older comrades that have served, especially from 2 E Anglian/2 R Anglian from the 1960s era, who live outside our immediate area ie Mario Galpin (ex RAPC) living in Cyprus, Fred Willoughby in Devon, Tony Varney in Thailand, Mike Schofield (ex RAPC) in Reddich, Brian (Henry) Hall of Grimsby and Pete Rawding of Spalding. These guys obviously cannot partake in many of the local events, but we feel it important to keep in touch. We have no demarcation lines; each month we produce a Newsletter/Press Release which is e-mailed or posted to all members and friends and remains a means of contact. This facility is part of our welfare obligation and is free to anyone that would like to take advantage of it – so for the lads serving with the 2nd Battalion, we are only too pleased to involve their families back home.

In May, support and assistance was given to the Boston Canoe Club, when two of their members took their Sea Kayaks on a five day, 178 mile, marathon in aid of Cancer Research and the Pilgrim Hospital Breast Care Unit. It took them from Boston, up the Witham, into the Trent and Humber and back along the coast to Boston, collecting sponsorship of over £2500.

During the first full week of October, we assisted SSAFA with their 125th Anniversary 'Big Brew Up', making Boston a focal point for celebrations.

In September, several members were able to attend the Unveiling of the Regimental Memorial at Duxford and what a memorable day that was.

Anyone wishing to join the Branch or attend any of the functions should contact Colin Briggs (Local Organiser) on Boston (01205) 760086 or e-mail: [boston.poacher@gmail.com](mailto:boston.poacher@gmail.com)

#### Stuart Harley

Stuart Harley is a founder member of the Boston Branch. He served with the 3rd Battalion but, shortly after leaving the forces, he suffered



**Stuart Harley.**

terrible injuries in a road traffic accident. Although disabled, he has triumphed over adversity through his sporting activities; he regularly attends the Gymnasium, is a member of the Boston Rowing Club and, through the British ex-Servicemen's Wheelchair Sporting Association (BUSA), has been a guest of the Paralysed Veterans of America (PVA) Games of America since 1993.

This July, the British team consisted of ten mixed services entrants at the PVA event at Denver, Colorado, although suffering a broken leg, Stuart, with his leg in a brace, couldn't enter the swimming competitions as intended; however he did gain distinction in the Shot, Discus and Javelin events, by winning two golds and a silver award.

Next year the games will be held in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where Stuart hopes to compete again. He is an inspiration to us all and anyone interested in sporting activities for disabled ex-servicemen should visit the BUSA website.

### Spalding Branch

#### Tom Fowler: Reunited after 70 Years

It was in April 1940, after an arduous journey, that soldiers from the 4th Lincolns arrived in Scandinavia and moved inland to the town of Steinkjer in Norway, an important tactical position for halting the Germans. They had the task of stopping the German advance from Kjerkesvagen and east of the railway.

Two companies made their way to the small town of Vist and tiny Krogs Farm, before the sound of gunfire, bombs and aerial bombardments rent the air. The soldiers took up their positions across a farmyard covered in snow. They hadn't been there long when someone thought they had seen the Germans off Trondheim Fjord. Soon there were tracer and incendiary bullets flying through the air, the farmhouse was on fire and the troops were ordered to withdraw to Vist. When they got back to Steinkjer, the town had been burned to the ground – the only thing left was the railway and the church.

The only British survivor from the battle of Krogs Farm is Tom



**Tom Fowler, 70 years on, at the R Lincoln's Memorial.**

## Regimental Association

Fowler (91) and, in April of this year, after being delayed by the volcanic ash clouds, he was finally able to be present at the unveiling of memorials at Krogs Farm and Steinkjer. It had taken 70 years for the names of the British fallen and missing after the fighting round the farm and elsewhere, on 21 and 22 April 1940, to be placed on standing stones.

At Krogs Farm there are five names written on a bronze plate attached to the monument; and at Steinkjer there are more names of the fallen and missing after the German invasion of North Trondeleag in 1940. In moving ceremonies at both sites, the respective Mayors thanked the fallen Britons who lost their lives in fighting for the Freedom of Norway in 1940; and also those who survived the

battles with the Germans. Municipal Flags were presented by the Mayors to Tom Fowler and, in return, a model of a British soldier of the Lincolnshire Regiment, as he was equipped in 1940, was given to each Mayor.

At the age of 82, the last time Torlaug Werstad and Tom had seen each other was during the battle at Krugs Farm. It was a big moment when, after 70 years, she finally met one of the soldiers who participated in the fighting. She was only 12 years old at the time and was in the main farmhouse when the Germans and the British troops clashed. In answer to the question posed by Tom on whether he and she would meet in Norway again in another 70 years, she immediately said yes.

### Colchester Branch

*Lt Col Brian Davenport writes:*

The summer function took place at the Leather Bottle in Colchester on 10th July, where an enjoyable evening was had by all who were able to make the occasion. Next on the agenda was the Regimental Day in September, attended by a number of Branch members, including our Chairman, Tony Downes, and our Standard Bearer, 'Dickie' Dorritt. All who attended had a terrific day, notable because of its special nature this year; and special thanks to Martin Brewer and Tom Carr for arranging the transport.

November as always meant Remembrance Sunday, with Branch members attending the Civic Service, our wreath being laid at the War Memorial by the Chairman, and a march through the streets in front of a greatly appreciative and very large audience of the good folk of Colchester. Then, as is now traditional, it was back to the TA Centre for a drink and some curry, under the eagle eye of

Geordie Pattison.

Instead of a Christmas function it has been decided to have a New Year Party, and its going to be on Saturday 29th January at the Musket Club – the 'married patch' social centre in Colchester Garrison; and it looks like it could be a very good occasion

Membership stays steady; we even have an overseas department – Martin Gilbert on a long accompanied tour in Portugal remains a member and keeps in touch. As always, anyone wishing to join the Branch is most welcome and should contact the Secretary, Brian Davenport (01206-564919, davenport@colchester1737.freeserve.co.uk

**Officers of the Branch:** Chairman, Tony Downes; Treasurer, Martin Brewer; Members: Tom Carr, Mick Henson, Geordie Pattison and Bob Potter.

### Felixstowe

#### 25th Annual Gathering of the Felixstowe Poachers: 30th October 2010

*Lofty Knight writes:*

This year was special as it was the 25th Anniversary of our Gathering and was very well attended with, as always, many old faces and several new ones. The Committee, consisting of Tony Lamont, Alex Drage and Shirley Platts, did an excellent job and excelled with the decorations to commemorate the Anniversary. I would also like to thank Tiny and June Rose for organizing a splendid raffle.

In my opening address I welcomed all Poachers and their ladies to our 25th Gathering. It was with regret that I named Poachers that we had lost over the last 12 months. I also gave the apologies for Poachers who were unable to attend. In my speech I advised everyone of the activities of each of our Battalions. I also congratulated the Branches for the excellent work that they have undertaken and the successes they have achieved.

I thanked Ray Ogle for his many years as the Finedon Branch Chairman and the success that the Branch has had during that period; and I gave my appreciation to John Behan and David Thornley who have taken over the Branch and wished them all the success for the future.

I reported that the Northampton Reunion in July was a great and splendid success and everyone involved must be congratulated for all their efforts. And, although I was unable to attend the Grimsby Gathering myself, I stressed how important the branches are and that this gathering attracted over 400 Poachers and their ladies. Frank Rimmer and Denis Watson are to be congratulated, but were sadly unable to attend here.

I said that the Memorial Dedication Ceremony on 12th September 2010 Duxford was a wonderful day and, for those who attended,

will never be forgotten. It was of great comfort to stand shoulder to shoulder with other people who had lost loved ones. The ceremony was so memorable due to the organisation of the Regimental Secretary and his team, who had obviously worked very hard during the last few years to ensure it was such a successful day - and it was. The Memorial itself is absolutely outstanding and this was endorsed by everyone at the Gathering. We all look forward to our Gathering at Duxford again next year on 11 September.

A toast was made to HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO. Our Guest of Honour was to have been General Dick Gerrard-Wright and his good lady Sue; however, due to recent illness, they were unable to attend.

During our stay in Felixstowe in the 1960s, we were fortunate enough to have as our Commanding Officer the late General Sir John Akehurst. He was a wonderful man and outstanding leader. Sadly he passed away in 2007 and it was a great pleasure to welcome Lady Shirley Akehurst to be our Guest of Honour on this evening. In response, Lady Akehurst said how nice it was to return to Felixstowe and that she and John always enjoyed coming to this Gathering. I then gave a special thank you to Major John Grouse for escorting Lady Akehurst from Bury St Edmunds for the evening.

We then toasted the Regiment and the cake that had been specially prepared was divided amongst all members.

The 26th Gathering will be held on Saturday 29 October 2011 at 1945 hrs. Any new members who wish to attend please contact: Tony Lamont, 67 Glensford Close, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 2UQ. Tel No: 01394 286875.

## Regimental Association

### Regimental Golf 2010

2010 has been a very successful golf year with all matches played and no interference from the weather, as was the case in 2009. The Spring Meeting was held at Swaffham Golf Club on Friday 30th April 2010 and was played over 27 holes, with a total of 60 golfers competing (44 society members and 16 guests). The winners in the afternoon were Maj Stuart Smith and Darren Grant with a score of 49 points. The results were:

#### 9 Holes Stableford Combined

1st K Taylor and A Taylor  
2nd M Abbs and P Stocks  
3rd G Halewood and R Bostock

#### 18 Holes Stableford Better Ball

1st S Smith and D Grant  
2nd W O'Driscoll and B Flatt  
3rd C Tate and R Carter

The Summer Meeting was held at Ely City Golf Club on Friday 2nd July. Many thanks go to Maj Tony Jones for standing in as organiser on the day whilst Maj Bill O'Driscoll was on holiday. A full day's golf of 36 holes was enjoyed by all those competing, which was in stark contrast to the washout of 2009. The results were:

#### Morning Competition

##### Scratch Competition (The Isham Salver)

1st K Rowe – 82  
2nd C Tate – 83

##### Medal Competition (Pompadour Bowl)

1st T Coley – 68  
2nd C Blowers – 69



A Taylor, K Taylor, R Mitchell, T Watt.



M Green, T Coley, N Metcalfe, L Backhouse.

#### Stableford Competition (The Golf Challenge Cup)

1st E Leyland – 39  
2nd R Potter – 39

#### Nearest The Pin

6th E Leyland  
12th M Green

#### Afternoon Competition

##### Stableford Betterball (The George Boss Memorial Trophy)

1st D Goodman and P Forsythe  
2nd L Greenaway and S Smith



D Coe, R Brown, G Halewood.



M Swan, T Wesley, D Sly, M Lindsey.

The Autumn Meeting was held on Wednesday 15 September at Burghley Park Golf Club, Stamford. 27 holes of golf were played in good weather with the exception of the last 4 ball in the afternoon, which unfortunately got a bit of a soaking.



**Regimental Association**

Left: K Rowe,  
R Forsythe, D  
Goodman.

Below: Maj Tony  
Jones presents the  
Golf Challenge Cup  
to E Leyland.

**9 Holes Stableford Combined**

1st C Tate, R Pearce, R Shaw, M Stapleton  
2nd T Wesley, M Swan, M Lindsey, C Norman

**18 Holes Stableford Betterball**

1st D Wilson, K Myers  
2nd M Chapman, J Argent  
3rd R Shaw, C Tate

The Regimental Golf Society continues to grow, playing matches around the Regimental area at good courses, for a reasonable cost. If anyone requires details please contact the Area Office, Northampton, Tel: 01604 635412 or email: [william.odriscoll564@mod.uk](mailto:william.odriscoll564@mod.uk)

**Dates for 2011**

**Spring Meeting:** 21 April at Hintlesham GC, Ipswich  
**Queen's Division Triangular Meeting:** 13 May at Forest Hill GC, Leicester  
**Summer Meeting:** 15 July at Ely City GC  
**Autumn Meeting:** 16 Sep at Forest Hill GC, Leicester  
**Helen Gray Golf Day:** 24 Sep at Forest Hill GC, Leicester



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## Regimental Association



### The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Norfolk)

*Lt Col Tony Slater writes:*

It has been an extremely busy but rewarding 6 months since the last edition of Castle. The period started with welcome home parades for the 1st Battalion in Cambridge, Huntingdon, Ely and Norwich. They once again showed the huge depth of support for The Regiment throughout our counties. We also received the Freedom of Huntingdon and re-dedicated the Regimental Chapel in Norwich Cathedral during the week of parades. Then in July we had another very successful Norfolk Show. We opened up the marquee to the public after the reception on the first day, with displays from the 1st and 3rd Battalions and The Royal Norfolk Regiment Museum, as well as having a representative from SSAFA to talk about the support they provide to those in need of help. It was a great success with well over 1,000 members of the public visiting the marquee. Special thanks must go to the 3rd Bn for all their support and to the volunteers who help make it all happen; in particular Mrs Helen Child and Mrs Judy Heal for the delicious food and Mrs Janine Raybould for the wonderful flower arrangements.

The next major event was Minden Day, which once again was a terrific success with well over 2,000 present. The day has now become a wonderful reunion for veterans of all ages, both Suffolk and Royal Anglian. It was great to see so many serving soldiers from B Coy 1 R Anglian, as well as the 3rd Bn Band and the Colour Party from the 1st Bn. Minden Day is very much a family day and it was marvellous to see so many from the wider Regimental Family present. Minden Day does not just happen by itself; there is a lot of organization in the preceding weeks and months. Maj Stan Bullock MBE, with his stalwart band of helpers and the support from the members of the Stowmarket Branch, are absolutely vital in helping to make the day the success it is.

On Sunday 26th September we formally added Major Tom Eaton's name to the panels in the Regimental Chapel in Norwich Cathedral, during the annual Association service. Then the following week on Thursday 30th September we unveiled the Memorial to all those who served in The Royal Norfolk, The Suffolk and The Cambridgeshire Regiments at the National Arboretum.

### Welcome Home 1 R Anglian 18 Jun 2010 - 65 Years On

*Capt John Lincoln MC writes:*

On Wed 3 Oct 1945, The Royal Norfolk Regt was presented with the Freedom of the City of Norwich. The Guard of Honour was commanded by Maj David Jamieson VC, No 1 Detachment was commanded by Maj Jack Dye MC and I had the honour of carrying the Regimental Colour on that occasion. The Guard of Honour formed up in Thorpe Station Yard, marching up Prince of Wales Road, Castle Meadow, Hay Hill to the City Hall where, during a very well attended ceremony, the Lord Mayor presented a framed illuminated Resolution to General Sir Peter Strickland KCB KBE CMG DSO JP, Colonel of The Royal Norfolk Regt, which conferred on the Regiment 'the privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the City on all ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, colours flying and bands playing'. After the ceremony, the Guard of Honour marched off via London Street to Blackfriars Hall for luncheon at the invitation of the Lord Mayor.

On Fri 18 Jun 2010, A (Norfolk) Company, 1st Bn The Royal Anglian Regt, under the command of Major Stuart Smith, very ably claimed that privilege and honour again. I must congratulate them on their very smart turnout and thank all concerned for such a splendid

occasion, I spoke to many of those who were there and sensed a great pride in the young men who carry on the traditions of The Royal Norfolk Regt. Of those who were there in 1945, Major General Jack Dye CBE MC DL was present to welcome the Battalion home.

We most sincerely congratulate the Dean on permitting the Colour Party to process down the Cathedral Isle with the accompanying escort, carrying rifles with bayonets fixed. It was, for me, a most significant moment.

### Royal Norfolk Regimental Association Dinner and Service 2010

99 Old Comrades, including veterans of WW2, Korea, Hong Kong, Cyprus and Aden, met at the TA Centre in Norwich on Sat 25 Sep 10 for the annual Association Dinner.

Notably present were WW2 Veterans Maj Tony Ferrier, aged 91, and 1441947 Sgt David Percival Lowe, aged 87 - a survivor of Kohima.

The following day the Revd Canon Bill Sayer conducted the annual Association Service in the Norwich Cathedral Regimental Chapel. In the presence of many 4th Bn comrades, the carving of the inscription 'Maj Thomas Christopher Eaton OBE TD DL 1918-2010', on the Singapore Island panel, was dedicated.

### Gorleston and Great Yarmouth District Branch

*Stan King, Chairman, writes:*

It has been a very busy year for the Branch which held its 20th Annual Dinner in Dec 2009 at the Furzedown Hotel in Gt Yarmouth. Our Guest Dinner Chairman, at short notice, was Capt Garry Turner, formerly serving with Suffolk Army Cadet Force, son of the R Anglian legend Ben Turner.

Firstly, and in no chronological order, I must point out how our link to The Regiment affects us, particularly through the difficult times and sometimes sad events that have occurred while they were serving in Afghanistan earlier this year. The Standard of the Branch was taken to 4 of the funerals in the area: Stannington, Chelmsford, Burwell in Cambridge and St Faiths in Norwich. I would like to thank



Lt Col Tony Slater OBE, Malcolm Lowe, Maj Tony Towell MC, Maj Tony Ferrier, Sgt David Lowe PHF, Maj Gen John Sutherland CB CBE DL.

## Regimental Association

all members from the Branch, who took the time to accompany me to these sad events. We as a Branch hold the officers and men of 1 Royal Anglian in high regard: we honour them for the deeds and actions carried out in the most difficult and demanding conditions.

The Branch presented a print of a scene of action depicting The Royal Anglian Regt, with a section storming a 'Compound in Afghanistan in 2007', to the Landlord of the Albion Pub, John. He was overcome with emotion and so pleased to accept this as he has done so much for the Branch. New member Mr Rex Parkinson-Hare, a Norfolk County Councillor, visited the Branch, initially because he wanted to place a plaque to the Royal Norfolk Regiment in Norfolk County Hall. The Royal Navy and the RAF had already been represented, and he wanted to put the record straight.

### The Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum

On Sat 24 Jul 2010, twenty years of the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum at the Shirehall, Norwich, was celebrated with members of the public invited to visit free of charge and enjoy some birthday cake. It was opened in July 1990 by HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Since then the Museum has successfully grown and developed as a centre for research, education and high-quality displays. The collection ranges from uniforms and medals to fine art and artefacts, brought home from service abroad. Over the last 20 years most of the new exhibits relate to individual soldiers and come from their families. This reflects the whole emphasis of the museum - which is on people and the experience of life as a soldier and its impact.

The collection contains an archive which makes the Museum a centre for specialist academic research and family history. Large numbers of enquiries are received from home and abroad. A dedicated group of volunteers have indexed large parts of the archive and transcribed many documents. They help to record and maintain the collection. Most of the important photographic collection has been scanned and can be viewed online.

Since then we have been informed that the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service have to make significant budgetary savings and have decided the only way they can do this is to reorganize the Castle Museum and Shirehall. They also propose to move the Regimental displays up into the heart of Castle Museum to occupy half of the Rotunda. This will raise the profile of the Regimental Museum significantly and mean that in future virtually everyone that visits the Castle Museum will visit the Regimental display.

The Trustees of the Royal Norfolk Regiment Museum have been consulted and are working in close cooperation with the Museum Service to secure the long term future of the Regimental Museum, so that it remains within the Castle Museum.

Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service recognizes that the Regimental Museum is a key part of the Castle Museum in Norwich and has reconfirmed that they really value the contribution and the story told by the Regimental History; it is an integral part of the Norfolk story. The curatorial support, volunteer research and inquiry service, led by Kate Thaxton, will continue uninterrupted throughout the move and afterwards. The transition process is likely to commence in autumn 2011.



## The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Lincolnshire) and The Royal Lincolnshire Association

### Spalding Branch

The Branch continues to provide an active and comprehensive programme of events.

On the 20th September, 20 members of the Branch enjoyed a visit to the Spalding Gentlemen's Society. Prior to the event, little was known about the Society and members were surprised to hear that it is one of the oldest learned societies, beginning in 1710, with a series of informal meetings of a few local gentlemen at a coffee-house in the Abbey Yard, Spalding, to discuss local antiques and to read 'The Tatler', a newly published London periodical. The Museum is

packed with books and antiquities from years gone by.

With Standards paraded the Branch was well represented at Remembrance Services at Springfields and Ayscoughfee Gardens.

On 17 November, 60 members and friends met for their Christmas Lunch at the Merry Monk Restaurant, Kirton. A good time was had by all and the proceeds of the Raffle, which amounted to £141, went towards the Sobraon Memorial Fund.

On the 21st November, Weston Hills, Spalding, was the venue for the Remembrance Lunch and Service where approximately 40 people and Standards filled the tiny church.



Spalding Branch at the Springfield Tree on Armistice Day. L to R: J Richardson, B Ivatt, R Quincey, D Tanner 2 R ANGLIAN, R Ball, J Smith.



Spalding Branch enjoying their Christmas Dinner at the Merry Monk Restaurant, Kirton.



## Regimental Association



**Royal Anglian and Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Association Executive Committee, Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln. L to R: S Elmes, D Hare, C Bromby, M Griffiths, R Ward, Maj W O'Driscoll, W Flynn, G Hardy, C Keys, G Smith, K Willows.**

Finally, to round this year off in style, Christmas was celebrated with a Buffet Dance held on the 17th December at the Spalding Sports and Social Club.

Anyone wishing to join the Branch or attend the functions should contact Mrs Janet Doy (Honorary Secretary) on 01406 350985 or Mr Ken Willows (Chairman) on 01775 723268.

### Scunthorpe Branch

We continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Ashby Constitutional Club, with various functions and trips being organised throughout the year. This year our Christmas Social was held on the 18th December at the Ashby RAOB Club.

On the 12th September, along with our comrades from the Lincoln Branch, we attended the unveiling of The Royal Anglian Memorial at Duxford. A very moving but enjoyable day and it was a privilege for the Branch to be able to honour those who had fallen serving The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Throughout the Armistice period, the Branch was well represented at various parades within the town. On the 11th November, in tune with the rest of the country, Scunthorpe held its Annual Armistice Gathering, with Standard Bearers and former comrades joining together to pay their respect to those soldiers who lost their lives serving their Country. The 12th November saw the Branch attending the ceremony at The Crosby Angel Memorial. This is situated in the playground of Crosby Primary School, Frodingham Road, Scunthorpe and commemorates those killed in World War 1, several of whom had attended that school. On Remembrance Sunday parades in Scunthorpe and Ashby were attended.

We extend our thanks to Major O'Driscoll for his continuing help and guidance that he affords the Branch.

Although we are small in number, we are active and anyone wishing to join or attend any of the functions should contact Cliff Bromby (Chairman) on Scunthorpe (01724) 338314.



### The Suffolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Suffolk)

*Maj HS Bullock MBE writes:*

#### Minden Day Bury St Edmunds 2010

What a fantastic day it was for a Sunday - slightly overcast and possibly rain forecast: but they turned up in their hundreds in cars, buses, caravans and on foot, from local to as far away as Portugal. It seems that the day has gone from a few hundred to over a thousand and increasing every year. Last year, being the 250th Anniversary, drew in a very large attendance: but this year there were even more. So whatever the future holds, its obvious that the 'Old & Bold', plus the young and families, wish for the day to continue.

On the day we were delighted to have various bands from around the country and our very own 3rd Battalion Band, by kind permission of CO 3rd Battalion. In addition, we were delighted to have with us the Corps of Drums of our 1st Battalion who, having only recently returned from Afghanistan, had to rehearse diligently to provide a first class Drums display, well above the displays seen in the past. So our sincere congratulations to the Drum Major and the Corps of Drums for a fantastic display.

Our President, Brigadier Tony Calder, addressed the congregation in the Church tent and gave news of what the future may hold and what may happen concerning the OCA and our activities. Father Ken Reeve took the service in his usual light hearted manner, but with a sensitivity that all accepted with pleasure. Father Ken is known to many members of the OCA and so to see him and them exchanging banter through the day was very pleasing. Many Old Comrades have said how amazed they are at the number of old friends they have met who have only just heard of Minden Day. If you do know of any Old Comrade who does not attend, then just ask if he is aware of the day happening, as a lot do not subscribe to the OCA magazine.

For the first time in 20 years I was able to look back and see the start of the OCA march on. In addition, I have kindly been provided with a good CD of the parade and am so proud that the whole contingent of OCA marched on absolutely in step! One gentleman asked for help when forming up as he could not find anyone to parade with. When asked he stated 'I joined up in 1939 and there appears not to be many of us left'. I asked if the gentleman would kindly march by my side at the head of the parade, as I thought he had a right to be there. He wrote a letter saying how proud he was and what a fantastic day he had enjoyed and that he hopes to be there again next year. I hope he is.

The Colours of our 1st Battalion were paraded and many thanks to the CO of the 1st Battalion and the Colour Party for their attendance, thus allowing us to pay our respects to the Colours.

A very efficient display by the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion thrilled all who watched; and the intricate manoeuvres in both quick and slow time and a display of slick movements that must have meant hours of practice. Every person attending was extremely impressed and showed their appreciation by rapturous applause as the Drums marched off. The Band of the 3rd Battalion gave a very impressive performance for the Beating Retreat and the square was absolutely packed on all four sides. A vast number of quick and slow time manoeuvres, with music flowing throughout the performance, had the audience thrilled and the applause was virtually continuous. The Standards, now a fixed item of Minden Day, were paraded and were given a loud and appreciative welcome and farewell as they entered and left the square.

## Regimental Association

### Minden Day Pirbright – 2010

Major Ron Rogers, who is almost 93, was asked if he would like to go down to Pirbright on Minden Day to present the Minden Roses. He has written this article describing his experience. Ron was commissioned into the Suffolk Regiment in 1940 and landed with 1 Suffolk on D Day. He writes:

I felt very proud recently to be asked by the secretary of The Royal Anglian Regiment if I would like to present Minden Day roses to B Company of the 1st Battalion of The Royal Anglian Regiment at Pirbright on their Minden Day parade. I would explain that in 1759 the Allied British and Prussian troops defeated the French and Austrian armies at Minden, in Northern Germany, on August 1st, so ending the Seven Years' War; and soldiers returning from a successful battle picked roses from the hedgerows and wore them in their caps. The Regiment in which I served - the Suffolk Regiment - was one of a number of Regiments who took part in this battle and now celebrate Minden Day every August 1st and have always worn red and yellow roses, to match the Regimental colours.

I was driven to Pirbright by an officer from The Royal Anglian Regiment and then met officers of The Regiment at a dinner to which I was invited, the evening before the parade. Everyone was so friendly and went out of their way in making me feel at home. I was given the honour of drinking from a silver goblet from the old Suffolk Regiment silver - before the Regiment became amalgamated with the Royal Norfolk and the Cambridgeshire to form the 1st Royal Anglian.

The next morning at 6.00am, the soldiers started Minden Day early with an inter-Company pram race, the prams having been made by them out of old pieces of wood and wheels they could find. After mid-morning coffee, the other guests and I were taken by minibus to a very large parade ground where lots of families and friends were already seated in a stand. We were given seats at the front and I was next to the saluting stand, in front of which was a table on which were the medals which were to be presented.



Maj Andy Wilde and Maj Ron Rogers.

At 11.00am the Minden Military Band came on parade followed by the whole Battalion, marching very smartly to the tunes played by the band. The Colour Party carrying the Regimental Colours then paraded on. Everyone stood to attention and the General Salute was played. It was then time for us three representatives to march onto the parade ground with a Lance Corporal carrying the tray of Minden red and yellow roses to be presented to the soldiers. I was detailed to give the front rank of about 25 men their roses to put in their caps. I felt so honoured to meet these men who had recently returned from Afghanistan, having had five men killed and twenty six wounded. I had a few words with each one and shook hands. I think they enjoyed the occasion, as did I. The Company Commander then asked me to present a bronze figure of a soldier to the best soldier of the year in the Company. He was called out and came to me and saluted and I congratulated him and had a few words - again a salute and I raised my bowler hat; and then back we marched, the Lance Corporal and me.

General McColl then arrived. Again, the band played the General Salute and he came forward to the table. He saw me and came across and shook hands, as I had met him previously on the D-Day Pilgrimage in Normandy, a few months earlier. Again, I felt very honoured. Medals were presented to the soldiers who had gained them and, after each presentation, the wife or girlfriend of each soldier was also called out to be given a kiss by the General and presented with a bouquet of flowers. It was then time for the parade to march past the General - first the band followed by the Colours and the three companies of the Battalion. It was then that the rain started to dampen the proceedings.

Back to the mess to dry out with a hot cup of coffee - or something stronger - and a chat with the General and his wife; then on to the barbecue in the Sergeants' Mess, followed by an afternoon of sports on another parade ground where there were stalls, bars and other entertainments. This was spoilt only by a terrific thunder storm when we all got very wet again! After drying out yet again, I was later driven home to Harrold having enjoyed a most memorable occasion which I will always remember, having represented my old Regiment, the Suffolk Regiment.

### Leiston & District Branch

*John Perrett writes:*

One of the most solemn and impressive events our Branch members attended was the military funeral of The Royal Anglian Regiment soldier, Private James Grigg, at Stradbroke. Our Chairman, Alf Watson, attended with Standard Bearer, Ted Bailey, and former Standard Bearer, Ray Saxby. They felt very proud to be there among the huge crowds in the streets of the town, in silent tribute, with 20 standards on parade.

Then, on Sunday 12th September, our President, John Richardson OBE, led our party, Chairman, Alf Watson, Hon Sec/Treasurer John Bye and Standard Bearer Ted Bailey, at The Royal Anglian Memorial Service at Duxford. This was a most memorable and moving occasion.

We travelled by mini-coach to the Dedication of the Memorial at the National Arboretum on 30th September 2010. The Service and Valedictions were just what was needed and it was a great honour to share the day and the Memorial with the two other Regiments - The Royal Norfolks and The Cambridgeshires.

### Stowmarket Branch

*Brian Wright writes:*

The Stowmarket Branch is still thriving with 60 or so members, having lost a few who have been taken from us; but fortunately a few new associate members have joined. All have served this country in the armed forces. This makes our monthly meetings well attended and helpers for the running of events more available, the new associate members being younger in years.

The past months have been very busy for the Branch, visiting the Maritime Museum at Chatham and a Help for Heroes march in Ipswich in July. August saw a visit to RAF Honington for a passing out parade of the RAF Regiment cadets, followed by a lunch

## Regimental Association

and guided tour of the station museum; and, of course, then Minden Day at Bury.

In September members attended the unveiling and dedication of The Royal Anglian Memorial - a most impressive memorial and one that is a fine reminder to the fallen since 1959. 26th September saw us parade in Ipswich, thanks to David Empson and Peter Cracknell, who invited us to the unveiling of a plaque to Sgt Saunders VC at the house in which he was born. On the 30th September we were again present at the unveiling of a Memorial - this time at the National Arboretum - a splendid Memorial to be proud of and in a fitting location. Finally, we made a visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea on 17th October. We must thank our Standard Bearer, Mick Abbott, who was present at all these events.

### Ipswich and District Branch

*Peter Cracknell, Chairman, writes:*

Now that the Branch is nearing its first birthday, it is worth reflecting what has happened in that year. The membership has steadily grown and nobody has left, so we must be doing something right. It took a few months for a branch spirit to develop, but the members from the regiments and battalions who served at different times now know each other and mix together quite happily. As a new member joins, he is welcomed onto one of the tables and soon feels he's amongst friends.

Our first year's programme was a mix of regimental and social events and what we have learnt will influence next year's programme. Our members attended some of the Stowmarket Branch functions and we would like to thank them and the Felixstowe Branch for their support throughout the year.

June: The Branch was represented on the Normandy Pilgrimage. It was good to see the Normandy Veterans, the serving Royal Anglians and the other veterans of the group, getting on so well with each other. Serving soldiers and those that have served seem to have a bond, something that people who have never served in the armed forces possibly do not understand. We were honoured by the presence of the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir John McColl, for the service at Hillman on 6 June, a gesture that was really appreciated by the veterans and Les Amis. The pilgrimage is always interesting, informative and well organised.

July: We paraded with the Naval Association, RAF Veterans, Korean Veterans and local dignitaries to welcome HMS Quorn to Ipswich. The assembled veterans were invited aboard the next day for a special in-depth tour of the ship. My members were impressed



with the hospitality (liquid and otherwise) they received from the Captain and crew of the ship.

When the All the 4s Sponsored Walk reached Ipswich, some of our members, supported by members of Stowmarket Branch, walked the Golden Mile with the team through Ipswich town centre, led by a piper. Our President, Lt Col Peter Dixon, walked the full 20 miles in Suffolk and our Branch raised £376 sponsoring him and the Golden Mile walkers.

August: We had a good turn-out for our first Minden Day parade and seeing so many there made all the hard work involved in forming





## Regimental Association

a new branch so worthwhile. Attending as a branch makes the day that more meaningful than coming as individuals. We are looking forward to next year.

September: VC Plaque Dedication in Ipswich: Our members, supported by Stowmarket and Felixstowe Branch standards, paraded at the dedication of a plaque to Sgt A Saunders, the first Suffolk Regiment VC holder. The dedication was followed by a reception for the parading veterans and members of the Saunders family.

Dedication of The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial. I think that this day showed the camaraderie and deep respect that exists between The Royal Anglian Regiment and all the forebear county regiments. The day was solemn, as befitted the occasion, but there was also a deep sense of pride and sense of belonging within the wider regimental family. The number of Royal Anglians and the veterans of the forebear county regiments who attended the ceremony made this a very special day. I'm sure every member of our Branch that

attended was glad they were there.

Dedication of the Royal Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire Regiments Memorials. Our Branch was represented at the dedication and it was really enjoyable to meet up with so many friends from all three regiments in deepest Staffordshire. The memorials are excellent and are most appropriately situated near the Far East POW area, where all regiments served. 1st Battalion Royal Anglian provided the Colour Party and their Colours were paraded, before being used for the Drum Head service. If you've never visited the National Arboretum, it is well worth it; and if you visited years ago then its worth going again as the planting has grown and every year there are more memorials to look at.

Our Branch currently meets on the third Thursday every month at the Labour Club, Silent Street, Ipswich, at 7pm. New members will be made most welcome (Tel: Peter Cracknell, Chairman, 01473 743200)



### The Cambridgeshire Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Cambridgeshire)

#### Ely Service 2010

The Association Annual Remembrance Service was held on the 6th June in conjunction with the Cadets who were celebrating their 150th Anniversary. Music before the Service was played by the City of Ely Military Band. After the Dean welcomed the congregation, the specially made casket containing the remnants of previous Regimental Colours was brought to the Altar and presented to the Dean who said 'The Colours presented here have been previously laid up in in this Cathedral and have become too fragile for normal display. It is important that we continue to remember the history of service that these Colours symbolize and so we gladly receive them again that they may be a reminder to all who see them'.

The Bidding was given by the Rev Alan Jesson TD, Senior Chaplain to the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force and Chaplain to the Association, who said that 'We are gathered together in the presence of almighty God to give him thanks for our Cadet Services in this 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Army Cadet Force; and for the Cambridgeshire Regiment's Colours which are laid up in the Regimental Chapel of this Cathedral Church'.

After the address by the Bishop of Huntingdon and the singing of an Anthem, and during the Hymn 'For the healing of the nations', the President of the Association Mr FJ Grounds DL and Branch Representatives, moved to the Regimental Chapel where wreaths were laid and prayers were said for all who have lived and died in the service of mankind and for the Army Cadet Force. The Last Post and Reveille were then sounded followed by a prayer from the Rev Ryk Parkinson, Chaplain to the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force including the Cadet 150 Prayer.

After the Blessing by the Bishop of Huntingdon, the City of Ely Military Band played the Regimental March - Rule Britannia and Speed the Plough - during which the Standards left the Cathedral.

The Parade then formed up and, led by the Band and Drums of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force, marched past the saluting base where the Lord Lieutenant took the salute. Tea was then served in the Heywood Theatre during which the Band and Drums played to end a most successful celebration of the 150 years of the cadet forces.

#### Chapel Trust

The Chapel Trust continues to support worthy causes attached to the Regiment with grants. Income is down through low interest but not as much as last year. The Royal Anglians are paying for their Book of Remembrance. Lt Col Slater confirms that the Book

of Remembrance at Duxford will be digital and on an electronic screen in the Museum.

The late Capt Cook's family donated £200 towards the cost of the casket which houses the old Colours and the Chapel Trust made up the balance. The casket has been installed on the Altar in the Chapel on a pull out shelf which can be viewed at any time.

The decor of the Chapel is good as is the furniture. The Cathedral Vergers turn the page daily of the Book of Remembrance. A brass plate is being made with an inscription referring to Capt Cook. A donation of £100 has been given to the Ely Museum to update their Regiment items.

#### Ely Service of Remembrance 2011

The Service will be held a week later so that it does not clash with various events the previous Sunday. The City of Ely Military Band will play for all the Service and the organist and choir will not be required. The new Bishop, Stephen Cochran, has been approached to give the address. Numbers attending are giving concern; if they fall below 200 we may be a charged by the Cathedral authority.

It has been agreed to approach various other organisations such as Korean Veterans, Parachute and Royal Artillery Associations. It must be remembered that the Regiment was once a parachute Regiment of the Royal Artillery. The Lord Lieutenant has been asked to again take the salute. The tea will take the usual form in the Heywood Theatre.

#### Association Lunch

Subject to confirmation by the Commandant, the lunch will be held on Sunday the 15th May. The new Officer Commanding D Company 1st Royal Anglians will be invited as Guest of Honour. Costs of the Guests will be borne from surplus funds from the old Officers' Dinner Club.

#### History of the Cambridgeshire Regiment

The forerunner of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, the 30th Foot (The Cambridgeshire Regiment), had its origin in 1702; and as a line Regiment took part with distinction in most of the campaigns of the 18th and 19th centuries. It existed as a separate corps until 1881, when it amalgamated with the 59th Foot 2nd Nottinghamshire Regiment to become the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment.

However, volunteer forces existed in the County as early as 1689 (Lord Castleton's Regiment of Foot) 1694-1698 (Colonel Sanderson's Regiment of Foot) and in 1702 (Colonel Sanderson's

## Regimental Association

Regiment of Marines).

But the continuous history of the Cambridgeshires as a unit of the volunteer Army began in 1860 with the formation of the Cambs Rifle Volunteer Corps with units at Cambridge, Wisbech, Whittlesey, March, Ely, Upwell, Newmarket, Soham and the University. Later units were formed at Saffron Walden and Huntingdon.

The various companies were grouped into two administration battalions: the 1st under Major FD Fry with its HQ at March and the 2nd at Cambridge under Major Viscount Royston, later succeeded by Major F Barlow. In 1872 they were merged into one unit under the title of the 1st Administration Battalion, Cambs Rifle Volunteer Corps. In 1880 this became 1st Cambs Rifle Volunteer Corps and in 1887 3rd (Cambs) Volunteer Battalion The Suffolk Regiment.

The training during this period comprised attendance, at their own expense, without any pay and allowances, at their local HQ for drills and to practice shooting; and from 1875 one week's annual camp for drills and manoeuvres, normally by the sea at such places as Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

In early 1900, shortly after the outbreak of the South African war,

the Cambridgeshires responded to an appeal for individuals or units to serve in that campaign. 3 Officers and 43 other ranks of Cambs personnel went as a section of the Volunteer Service Company of the Suffolk Regiment. They were involved in heavy fighting, winning high praise and earning the Regiment's first Battle Honour 'South Africa 1900-1901'.

It is recorded that the Volunteer Forces raised in the County prior to 1881 earned 8 Battle Honours (Egypt, Badajoz, Salamanca, Peninsular, Waterloo, Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol).

The transition from 'Volunteer' to Territorial in 1908 went smoothly, and under the title of 1st Battalion the Cambridgeshire Regiment, new Colours were received from HM King Edward VII at Windsor in 1909.

On Sunday 29th March 1908 the Colours, which had been presented by the Ladies of Cambridge to the 1st Cambridgeshire Volunteer Corps in 1860, were laid up in St Mary's Church, Cambridge, where they hung in the Chancel until, in recent years (circa 1959), they were encased in plastic and interred near the altar.



### Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire)

#### The Regimental Gallery – Luton Museum

At an informal reception on Wednesday 4th August 2010, the Trustees and Museum Staff said a fond farewell to the retiring Chairman of Trustees, Brigadier Angus Robertson, after many years of stewardship. He was presented with a limited edition print of the Wardown Park Museum which is where the Regiment's Gallery is located.

#### The Association Dinner and Dance

The Annual Dinner held on Saturday 24th April 2010 was well attended and for the first time representatives of all three Battalions of The Royal Anglian Regiment were present: Captain I Robinson MBE from the 1st Battalion, Major M Cook from the 2nd Battalion

and Lieutenant Hart, RSM D Granfield and CSgt J Jeffreys from the 3rd Battalion.

The evening started with the Essex Yeomanry Band playing our old Regimental March, 'Mandolinata', as our Branch Standards and also a Colour party from the 3rd Battalion were marched on. After dinner our Chairman, Colonel Winton, welcomed our guests and gave a report on the Association and thanked Stan Mansfield for arranging this event for the last 38 years. Colonel Winton then made a presentation to Rosayne Jones who was leaving HQ Warley and has done so much work for the Association over the years. The Chairman was followed by Major Martin Cook of the 2nd Battalion who gave a most interesting report on the Battalion.

Dancing then followed and we finished a most enjoyable evening



At the Association Dinner and Dance. Left to Right: Captain I Robinson MBE, 1st Bn, Major Tony Jones, Area Secretary; Major M Cook, 2nd Bn; Lt Hart, CSgt J Jeffreys and RSM D Granfield of the 3rd Bn.

## Regimental Association

in our usual way by marching round the hall to our Regimental March, something that has now become a tradition.

### 16th Foot Officers' Annual Lunch

The annual 16th Foot Officers' lunch was held at the King's Head, Cardington, Bedfordshire, on 29th June 2010. We had a turnout of nine this year, down on previous occasions as Brigadier Angus Robertson and Major Jim Darville were unfortunately unable to come. Despite the low numbers, all enjoyed a lively get together until after 4pm, due partly perhaps to rather slow service! Nevertheless, all agreed to continue the lunches for as long as possible and there was serious talk of encouraging some old Bedfords, hiding in the south, to come next year, probably with the offer of overnight accommodation.

### Branches

The Bedford Branch organised a party of 28 to the Major General's Review of the Trooping of the Colour on Horse Guards Parade on 29th May. Afterwards they had lunch at the Union Jack Club. On 27th June the Branch did another trip to the National Memorial Arboretum with lunch at a local pub.

The Hertford Branch Standard Bearer and Secretary attended the funeral of Pte James Grigg at Stradbroke, followed two days later by the funeral of LCpl Scott Hardy at Chelmsford, both of the 1st Battalion.

The Hitchin and District Branch attended the Beating Retreat at Hailybury, Hertfordshire and joined a local branch of the Royal British Legion for their annual holiday at Morecambe and the Lakes tour.

The St Albans Branch received an invitation to the Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch celebration on 2nd March 2010 of its 25th Anniversary of the revival of the Branch by Mr Mick Allum and company. Mick was presented with a Silver Tray in recognition for the work he has done since its formation by the Branch President, Lt Col Peter King, pictured below.



### Sgt Tom Mansell

We sadly report the death of Tom Mansell who served with The Royal Norfolk, The Suffolk Regiment, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, The Northamptonshire Regiment and The East Anglian Regiment. His Obituary is in the Obituary Section of this edition of *Castle*.

## The Hertfordshire Regiment Association

*Col Keith Cockman writes:*

The membership of the Association now stands at approximately 140. We continue to organise our regular events and recently held our Autumn Spring Supper which was very successful. We are now looking forward to our Regimental Lunch which will be held on 6 November. This year we have changed our venue to the White Horse Hotel in Hertingfordbury; all members and associates are welcome.

Our Standard Bearer, Roger Francis, continues to conscientiously



The Hertfordshire Regiment section of the Hertford Museum.



Free 'Trousers' incentive to join. RCMOs to note!



Committee members at the Museum including Col Keith Cockman, Col Nick Kelsey, Roger Francis and Stuart Tyler.

carry out his duties. He attended the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Association Dinner in Hertford in April, followed by the 3rd Battalion R ANGLIAN Afghanistan Medal Parade at Bury St Edmunds. He was also present at the funerals of Private James Grigg, 1st Battalion R ANGLIAN, in Suffolk, Lance Corporal Scott Hardy, 1st Battalion R ANGLIAN, in Chelmsford Cathedral, and Association member Bill Mills, Hertfordshire Regiment, in Amersham.

In June Alec Griffin and Stuart Tyler joined a visit to Normandy where they stayed in Caen. Alec (carrying the Standard as Roger was unable to go) took part in six Memorial Parades.

The Standard was also present at the Hailybury Tattoo in June and The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial Dedication Ceremony



## Regimental Association

at Duxford in September.

Association Member, Roy C Smith, has sent us a copy of his latest poems *Footprints in the Sand of Time* which is now available.

After our last meeting in September, members visited the Hertford Museum where we were greeted by the Curator, Helen Giles. We discussed our exhibition and she kindly unlocked our new cabinet to

allow photographs to be taken. It was indeed good to see how well the Hertfordshire Regiment's artifacts were displayed in our own corner of the Museum. Some members have recorded recollections of their service on audio which is now available to visitors at a touch of a button.



### The Royal Tigers' Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Leicestershire)

#### Royal Tigers' Weekend

Royal Tigers Weekend 2010 took place over the weekend 26/27 June. Saturday evening followed the usual format of the AGM and dinner at Devonshire Place. The President, Major General Pollard, welcomed 43 members to the AGM. General Pollard asked the meeting to stand for a minute's silence in memory of the 22 'Old Tigers' who had died since the last meeting. We also paid respects to the 5 Vikings killed in action on Op Herrick, Afghanistan. The AGM was followed by an excellent dinner, where some 112 members were seated. One or two well known stalwarts continued the movement at the bar long after most of us 'younger' members were in our beds.

On Sunday the Annual Church Service returned to the Cathedral. Once again we were blessed with glorious weather and the Dean and Canon Precentor conducted a very moving Service. We were honoured with many distinguished guests who included the families of the late Major General Kendrew and Lt Col Novis, to whom memorial plaques were dedicated, The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leicester, The Chairman of the County Council and his Lady and Assistant Chief Constable, Wendy Yeadon. During the Service the Dean of Leicester,

The Very Reverend Vivienne Faul, dedicated the new plaques in the Regimental Chapel.

Following the Service a large contingent of members, commanded by Captain Allen, marched past the Lord Lieutenant, Major General Pollard and other dignitaries. The parade continued on down to Townhall Square. Unfortunately, due to the pressures of the Armed Forces Weekend, we were unable to secure a marching band and, because of road works, the bus was late picking up the marchers. However, in the true traditions of the Tigers, everyone managed to get to Devonshire Place in time to sit down in good company to enjoy a superb lunch. It was another very good weekend, enjoyed by the many regular attenders and a significant number who were attending for the first time in many years.

In order to avoid conflicting with the now established Armed Forces Weekend, the Trustees have decided to bring our annual Regimental Weekend forward by one week in future years. Royal Tigers' Weekend 2011 will take place over the weekend 18/19 June

#### Presentation of Elizabeth Cross

At a moving and memorable Ceremony held at St George's Barracks, Bicester, on 10 June 2010, the Elizabeth Cross was presented by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Oxfordshire to Mr George Buckley in memory of his brother Private D H Buckley of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment, who was killed in the Korean War at the Battle of Maryang-san on 5th November 1951.



Mr George Buckley, accompanied by his wife, with the Elizabeth Cross.

## Regimental Association

Private Buckley was a member of I Platoon, A Company, whose Platoon Commander was 2nd Lieutenant Geoffrey Havilland who was subsequently awarded the Military Cross for his actions during the battle and, who very appropriately, was present at the Ceremony.

Private Buckley's brother, an ex-Marine, who himself had also served in Korea, was accompanied by his wife. In addition the presentation was also attended by Captain R J Allen, Chairman, The Royal Tigers' Association and Major Bill O'Driscoll, Area Secretary The Royal Anglian Regiment, through whose good offices the arrangements for attendance were made.

### Dedication of Memorials to Regiment's Rugby Heroes

On Sunday 27th June, in a special service in Leicester Cathedral, memorials in the Regimental Chapel were dedicated to two of The Royal Leicestershire Regiment's finest rugby players and highly decorated officers: Major-General Sir Douglas (Joe) Kendrew KCMG CB CBE DSO and Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Leslie (Tony) Novis MC. They had been members of the British Lions touring New Zealand and Australia in 1930, played for Leicester Football Club, and later captained England in 1933 and 1935 respectively. In addition to being awarded the DSO four times, 'Joe' Kendrew was the last Colonel The Royal Leicestershire Regiment and was Governor of Western Australia 1963-73. Tony Novis was the first member of The Regiment to be awarded the MC in the Second World War, at Sidi Barrani in Egypt in 1940; and later commanded the 1st Battalion in North West Europe and the 2nd Battalion in India.

The dedication of the handsome brass plaques took place during the Annual Regimental Service, conducted by the Dean of Leicester, the Very Rev Vivienne Faull, who gave an inspiring address. In the presence of members of The Regiment and their wives and the hierarchy of the City and County of Leicester, special guests of The Regiment were Marcia Abel Smith and Tim Kendrew (the children of 'Joe' Kendrew); and Jill Barry, Richard Novis and Sue Lockhart-Smith (the children of Tony Novis). Also present were four of Kendrew's ADCs and two of Lady Kendrew's Ladies-in-Waiting from Western Australia day



Left to right with the plaques: Marcia Abel Smith, Tim Kendrew, Jill Barry, Richard Novis and Sue Lockhart-Smith.



Peter Wheeler, CEO of Leicester Football Club and a former England player and British Lion, represented the local and national rugby fraternity. Subsequently a lunch was held at Devonshire Place and, during that happy event, the Novis family met with men who had been their father's driver and batman during the Second World War.

### Berles-Au-Bois - 95th Anniversary Commemorations: 25 / 26 September 2010

The weekend of 25/26 September 2010 will go down in the history of The Regiment as being one of delightful and moving memories, brought about by the establishment of a new and mutual friendship between the people of Berles-au-Bois, France, and The Royal Tigers' Association.

It came about at the instigation of the Association Artoisud 14-18 who, having been presented by the author's son Chester Read, with a copy of the book 'Of Those We Loved' by I L (Dick) Read, a vivid personal account of his experiences as a member of a Lewis Gun section in the 8th Battalion of The Leicestershire Regiment, stationed in Berles-au-Bois in 1915/16. Such was the close association between the men of the Battalion and the people of the village that it remained firmly in the memories of both the inhabitants and the soldiers.

Royal Tigers' Association member David Bell, who attended the visit, wrote 'In 1915 The 8th Battalion, having initially sustained determined resistance to enemy attacks on the village, remained stationed there for two years, living amongst the villagers, during which time the German Army shelled them constantly, and during such period the men of the Battalion became part of the village community, sharing their lives, danger and hopes'.

The Committee of Artoisud wished to mark those days of 95 years ago by commemorating an area in the centre of Berles as 'Dick Read Square'. Much thought and preparation had been put into the whole programme and, following close liaison with the Royal Tigers' Association, the events were welcomed wholeheartedly. Members of the Association and their supporters numbered 52 with, additionally and most significantly, 25 members of the Read family. The events were also attended by 300 or so members of the public.

The programme for the Saturday commenced with the laying of floral tributes at the Berles Village War Memorial by representatives of civic bodies and French military associations; and for The Royal Tigers' Association by our President, Major General Tony Pollard.

The parade then formed, led by the impressive Somme Battlefield Pipe Band, followed by local dignitaries, members of the Read family and other guests. The Band, L'harmonie de Wanquetin, who in advance of the occasion had been supplied with the music of our Regimental March, led the Royal Tigers' Association contingent, which was preceded by the Association Standard borne by Mr Denis Foran, with escorts Messrs Gould and Sherwood, followed by the main body under the command of the Chairman. This in turn was followed by the Standard Bearers representing approximately twenty five French associations.

Having formed up at the soon to be inaugurated 'Dick Read Square', words of welcome, including an historical explanation of the event, were given by The Mayor of Berles-au-Bois, followed by the unveiling of the commemorative plaque by members of Dick Read's family.

Major General Pollard, together with the Mayor, unveiled the plaques commemorating The Regiment, after which The Regimental March was played. There followed speeches given in French by Jo Read, a granddaughter, and by General Pollard, also delivered in French. A group of schoolchildren from Berles then read extracts in English from Dick Read's book and wreaths and floral tributes were laid including the Regimental wreath by Mr Vic Sherwood.

The Band then played 'Abide with Me' followed by the Act of Remembrance and a Piper's Lament. Lance Corporal Neil Browett of The Minden Band played the Last Post and, after the two minute's silence, Reveille, followed shortly afterwards by Sunset, preceding the National Anthem by the French Band.

At the conclusion of the formal part of the proceedings, all who had taken part or attended, passed through the assembled Standards into the Salle des Fetes for a 'glass of friendship'. Again the Mayor gave a short speech of welcome, responded to by General Pollard,

## Regimental Association



**Above: The Association and French Standards flying in Dick Read Square.**

**Right: Berles Military Cemetery.**



after which we were able to view the memorabilia gathered by the Artoisud Association, which included items donated by our Association.

Shortly afterwards those from The Regiment moved to the Berles Village Cemetery, behind which was the small Military Cemetery in which, amongst others, thirty eight Leicesters are buried. A small wooden cross was placed on each of these graves. The reading of the 121 Psalm was read by Dick Read's granddaughter and Last Post and Reveille were again sounded. This concluded a most moving, memorable and enjoyable day.

The Sunday involved visits to nearby battlefields and a splendid lunch provided by the village, all of which was equally as enjoyable and memorable.





## The Essex Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Essex)

### 4/5th Essex (TA) Branch

*Mick Chapman, Branch Secretary, writes:*

Once again a busy period for the Branch and the Committee. The Members' BBQ Reunion, mounted in conjunction with E Coy of the Steelbacks, took place at the Chelmsford TAC on the afternoon of Saturday 8th May with 66 members attending. A good time was had by all, spending time in the bar catching up on the last six months, as well as eating the usual sausages and burgers. In addition to the usual means of notification for this event, Committee Member Andy Cullen, a former CSM of E Coy, had set up a Branch Group on 'Facebook', resulting in several new people attending and joining the Branch. A good trade was done in Branch ties and polo shirts, with a small profit margin adding to Branch funds. Facebook is a good way to disseminate information and news articles passed down from RHQ at Bury St Edmunds quickly, between issues of the Branch journal and without additional burden on Branch funds.

Branch members attended the dedication of a new war memorial in the village of Galleywood on the outskirts of Chelmsford on Sunday 9th May. Captain Youles, Branch Chairman, deputising for Warley Area Secretary, Major A Jones, laid a wreath on behalf of



Former CSM Andy Cullen and group enjoy a beer in the bar – BBQ Reunion.



Mick Chapman, Lesley Handscombe, Paul Foster and Eddie Yorston model the Branch polo shirt at the BBQ Reunion.



Branch Chairman Captain J H Youles lays the wreath on behalf of The Royal Anglian Regiment on the new Galleywood War Memorial.

The Royal Anglian Regiment. Colonel RA Shervington was also in attendance, representing the Essex Regiment Association, and he read the list of names of the fallen commemorated and laid a wreath on behalf the Association.

Once again a limited number of tickets were obtained for the Major General's Review (Trooping the Colour rehearsal) held on Saturday 29th May and were distributed to members on a first come, first serve basis. All attending reported that they had thoroughly enjoyed the spectacle, precision and music of the occasion.

As reported elsewhere, this has been a busy period for the 1st Battalion with Freedom Parades after the last tour in Afghanistan; and the Branch has been represented by Captain Youles, supported by other members, at Barking on 15 June and Southend on Sea on the 17th June. On Sunday the 27th June members of the Branch attended the Essex Regiment Reunion held at Warley, with several of us working in support roles to ensure the success of the day.

Congratulations to member 2nd Lt M Beadle, of Essex ACF and badged Royal Anglian, on his recent commission and on his marriage to long time partner, Emma, on the 1st September. Both Mick and Emma are serving London Ambulance Service paramedics and their bridal carriage was somewhat unusual - a 1980s period white ambulance from the heritage fleet, complete with crew in period uniform. They left the church for the reception in style – on 'blues and twos'.

Branch members were in attendance at the Dedication Service for The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial at the IWM Duxford on Sunday the 12th September. Those attending could not be other

## Regimental Association



The new Galleywood War Memorial.



Capt JH Youles addresses the Committee Branch Dinner at AHQ Warley.

than moved by the Service, graced by the attendance of the Colonel of the Regiment, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, who unveiled this very impressive and fitting memorial to all those who have given their lives on active service with The Regiment since its inception. After the formalities were over, there was time to meet and reminisce about times past and to have a closer look at the Memorial.

The Branch held a Committee Dinner on the evening of Friday the 24th September at AHQ Warley, Blenheim House, courtesy of the Area Secretary, Major A Jones. 22 Committee members and partners dined, the table laid out with the former 4th Bn The Essex



The Viking Colour Party marches through Barking.

## Regimental Association



A most unusual bridal carriage.

Regiment Silver, now held by E Coy at Chelmsford. This event is entirely funded by Committee members attending and is intended as a way of saying thank you to our long suffering partners for the time we spend on Branch business.

The Branch continues to recruit and current membership stands at 120 and is moving towards the end of its first two year term of operations. Its Committee has found the period challenging and a learning curve. Review of the last two years operations will guide future conduct to ensure as sound as possible foundation for the future, maintaining and supporting the Royal Anglian foot print in the south west of Essex.

### Thurrock Branch

*Ken Hav MBE JP, Branch Secretary, writes:*

At the beginning of the half-year under review, a strange thing happened, in that a neighbour of Ron Crisp, our Chairman, loaned him a copy of the 'Essex Countryside' dated November 1967 (priced 2s 6d) in which a George Newark had written an article on the actions of the 44th in America in 1814. The neighbour was completely unaware that Ron, and we, knew George as a member of our Branch, although now deceased, RIP. The item related the events when a British force of 4,500 defeated an American force of 9,000, during which the Brits burned down the White House (after which, presumably, it became the Brown House).

In May, a number of us were present, with our Standard, at the Dedication of the new Galleywood War Memorial, bearing the names of many Essex from WW1 and one from WW2; and what an attractive memorial it is. It was interesting to note that one of the chaps who joined the Essex in WW1 was transferred to the SWBs and, as many of you will know, in Normandy '44 the 2nd Bn formed

part of the 56th Independent Brigade, one of the other two battalions being the SWBs – it's a strange world.

Brian Morgan (our Standard Bearer) had the great honour of presenting Afghan medals to some of the Vikings at their Medal Parade in May and he gave us a graphic account of the proceedings, which he found to be a most humbling experience.

We had the unusual pleasure at our June meeting of a visit from John Lawton, now living in Cyprus, who had been a Regular in the Poachers and had risen to the rank of Colour Sergeant. It was interesting to hear the story of his army life and of the many places in which he had been stationed. He was home visiting family and intending to attend the Southend Freedom Parade of the Vikings – regrettably he was unable so to do, being called home due to a family illness.

The day after our June meeting, a contingent of us were thrilled, proud and overwhelmed to be at the Southend Freedom Parade – so proud, as their predecessors, to witness the exemplary marching and turn-out; so saddened to see those in wheelchairs who had obviously been on the receiving end of an IED. How anyone can see the quality of this generation of young men and then desecrate war memorials, beggars belief.

But just as attending such events can tug one's emotions this way and that, so do matters emanating from Warley and Bury. Earlier in the year we had the possibility of losing Rosayne from Blenheim House, but the Colonel managed to cling onto her skirt (metaphorically of course); then there was the reduction of Major Tony's time for us, but happily John Youles picked up the baton. What next? Well, next was the indication that the Association would wind-up, and merge into The Royal Anglian Association and what would we, as a Branch, do?

As to the Branch, we are so small and have had no recruitment from ex-Royal Anglians, that we feel we have no alternative but to wind-up either with the Association in 2012, if not before. But we have made such friendships that we intend to meet together every so often to have a meal and watch each other age - more sad emotions.

In August we well-supported the Burma Star Association's Annual Service on The Green in Orsett and it was warming to learn that the delightful refreshments served in the Masonic Hall had been paid for by the several Lodges who use that place – so somebody still loves us. On this point, the writer attended a two-day Flying and Military Vehicles and Stalls Display at the little aerodrome in Upminster in August and it was quite an eye-opener to find the number of people who approached us sitting in the Veterans Enclosure to shake our hands, want our photographs, have their children photographed with us, ask about our theatre of war and even want autographs. Quite amazing - I'm now awaiting my invitation to appear on Celebrity Chef.

At 4pm on 24th August, some of our members, with Brian Morgan carrying the Association Standard, attended the Dedication of a Memorial to 9 men of C Coy of the 7th Bn Essex who were killed by a German bomb at that time and on that day in 1940. They were on duty guarding North Weald Aerodrome, before the advent of the RAF Regt, and in their teens, and the memorial is in a small housing complex built on the south-east corner of the 'drome. RIP.

In early September, our Standard was paraded, with a number of us in support, at the Dedication of the new Royal Anglian Memorial at Duxford, a most moving occasion, particularly to see the number of relatives who travelled from many distant places, and what a splendid memorial to honour those who never made it home. Those responsible for the fund-raising and the design and execution can be justly proud.

The Branch held its Annual Lunch during October and then, on 31st, our Standard was again paraded, supported by members, at the Dedication of a new RAF Memorial at North Weald Airfield. The memorial bears the names of 58 personnel killed in WW2, mostly fighter pilots KIA, but also some ground staff killed in air raids, including the 9 Essex lads referred to earlier. The Memorial is surmounted by a full-size model of a Hurricane in flight and, being just inside the main gates is easily accessible and well-worth a visit.

So a busy time for a small band of people.



## Regimental Association

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President: Col RH Robinson OBE MA

## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC

### Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire ACF

*Lt Col Chris Sharwood-Smith writes:*

Beds and Herts ACF is currently standing at 57 Officers, 137 Adult Instructors and around 1119 cadets; and hopefully it has not escaped anybody's notice that 2010 has seen the 150th Anniversary of the Cadet Forces with the counties fully involved in the celebrations. From local village fetes and carnivals, to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, there have been cadets and adult volunteers either on parade or handing out information to members of the public.

#### County Cadet 150 Event

On Sunday 4th July, cadets assembled at their Training Centre at Bassingbourn Barracks to celebrate the event. The day started at 1030am when VIPs from across the counties of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, along with parents and supporters of the cadets, assembled for a presentation on Cadet 150 followed by a Parade. After lunch there were displays of Adventurous Training, Shooting, First Aid and Military Skills. VIPs included the Lord Lieutenants of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, Sir Samuel Whitbread and Lady Verulam, the serving High Sheriffs from both counties along with Deputy Lord Lieutenants and senior figures from the Regular Army & Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for East Anglia.

#### Bedford River Festival

The cadets were out in force during this weekend long spectacular. After pitching up on the Saturday poised, full of excitement and bags of enthusiasm, the Army Cadets saw floods of visitors ready to put themselves to the test on the Infra-red Combat Simulator. Each contender took position at the firing point and was given a full brief by the duty cadet. They then took turns to eliminate ten targets before time ran out. Some excellent results were achieved and heaps of fun was had by all. The cadets were, of course, on hand to demonstrate to the public the benefits of being part of the Army Cadet Force. Engaging passers-by with infinite detail of action packed activities that are on offer for members of the Army Cadets.

#### Annual Camp 2010

Beds & Herts ACF arrived at Longmoor Camp in Hampshire with around 600 cadets and adult staff; and camp went well with full use being made of all the facilities that the Training Area has to offer. The five companies ran their own training at 1 and 2 Star with the County Training Wing overseeing a 3 Star Cadre and a 'Crossed Flags' Signals Course for senior cadets. On the sports side, swimming, archery, tug of war and football competitions all took place. There



The cadets Present Arms at the Cadet 150 Parade.



5 Company staff the Cadet Stand at the Bedford River Festival.

were visits from the East Anglian RFCA Deputy Secretary and the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, who complemented the cadets on their enthusiasm.

This being Colonel Ian Macleod's last Annual Camp, members of the Officers' Mess laid on a special treat for him in liaison with the REME Museum down the road at Bordon Barracks. At the end of the final presentation parade he walked out of the Kitchener Hall to find Monty's Staff Car waiting to drive him up to the Mess for an impromptu farewell drink. He said afterwards 'It was a lovely surprise and probably the only time I will get the chance to be driven in a four star General's car!' Colonel Macleod is due to retire from Beds and Herts ACF in April 2011.



Col Macleod (rear left) leaves the final parade in Monty's Staff Car.



## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC



The Corps of Drums at the Army Careers Exhibition.

### Exercise Welbeck Cadet 2010

Beds and Herts ACF fielded two teams for a competition held at the Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College, at which our cadets took two of the three awards. The Competition format had each team competing on a round robin of 14 stands, using the state of the art facilities of Welbeck. The team were put through their paces on: First Aid, shooting (in which one of the teams scored the highest combined score on a ten round application shoot), high ropes and crate stacking, archery, physical tests, written exercises, signals and seven command tasks. The command tasks included using the College swimming pool to solve the 'Towers of Hanoi' puzzle. This had two team member's lungs stretched to the limit, crossing a minefield, using oil drums and planks to cross an obstacle, crossing a river using ropes and fixed poles, blindfolded tent construction, calculating the weight of an ammo box and getting a tyre under and over a bar using ropes. At the final parade, Beds & Herts cadets were called forward twice to be presented by the Commander of 49 Brigade with awards for second place overall and the highest score in shooting.

### Beds & Herts Corps of Drums Makes a Public Appearance

On Wednesday 28th April, the Corps of Drums played its first major engagement since it expanded to encompass all of Beds and Herts. Over two days the Corps played in front of the crowds attending the Army Careers Exhibition held at Bassingbourn Barracks. The exhibition was attended by 24 Further Education Colleges and 166 schools, with a total of 7,030 pupils and 656 staff during the two days. Commandant, Colonel Macleod, was on hand on the Thursday morning to take the salute. Major George Wurr, the event organizer,



The 4 Company Team at Welbeck with their staff.

said in his letter to Colonel Macleod: 'Your Corps of Drums were smart, hardworking and diligent in their duties as a Main Arena event, which is an important part of the ACE. This was even more important as they were a last minute attraction after we were let down with only a few months' notice. I am grateful for the work they carried out in such a professional manner, and for your assistance in releasing them.'

## City of London and NE Sector ACF

47 Company started off their year competing in the Company Inter Unit competitions, where they won the Fire Picket, .22 Shooting and Room Inspection. They also came second in the Orienteering and Drill Competitions. They came in second overall, out of eight detachments, only losing out on first place by one point.

The Detachment also took part in a number of ceremonial duties where they represented the youth side of The Royal Anglian Regiment: when The Regiment was given the Freedom of the London Borough of Havering and a dinner in honour of The Regiment held at the Romford TA Centre in London Road.

Cadet Sutton received his certificates from Colonel M Bryant (Commandant for the Sector) whilst at annual camp 2010 at Beccingham Camp, Lincolnshire. He received certificates for passing his Recruit and One Star Army Proficiency Certificates, along with his Radio Users qualification, First Aid certificate and his BCU One Star in Kayaking.

Part of annual camp is that the cadets take part in a three day exercise, where they put into practice all their training throughout the year. They worked hard and took the chance for a well-earned



## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC



Annual Camp 2010 Beckingham Camp, Lincolnshire. Royal Anglian cadets from 2, 3 and 4 Companies.

rest whenever they could.

Cadet from 47 also took part in 4 Company's first Adventure Training Expedition where they spent three days camping, walking and rock climbing on the south coast. They completed over 10 climbs along with a number abseils. The only way into some of the climbs was to abseil in and then, at the bottom, the only way out was to climb back up.

Newly appointed Detachment Commander AUO G Wilson is pictured taking the plunge with his first abseil.



## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC

### Redbridge Armed Forces Day 28 June 2010



Above: Cadets and staff from 33 Cadet Coy based in Woodford Green.



Left: Cadet Sgt Ferliou and Cadet LCpl Allum from 32 Cadet Coy, with the commended Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr Jim O'Shea.

Below: Cadets and staff from 32 Cadet Coy based in Newbury Park.





## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC

### Essex ACF

#### Prince Harry meets local Army Cadets

*Claire Barbara writes:*

Three Essex Army Cadets excitedly prepare themselves for a three week adventure in South Africa helping Prince Harry with his community project, Sentebale. The cadets will be travelling to Lesotho on 26 July 2010 to begin their three weeks adventure which began over a year ago.

The expedition involves trekking the Drakensberg Mountains, riding the lake from the Katse Dam, camping in local villages and concluding the trip with a tour of the battlefields of Rorke's Drift and Islandwana. Not to be overshadowed by the glorious surroundings, the cadets will also assist a number of local charities.

Charlotte Hutchinson, 15, William Symons, 16, and Charlotte McGavigan, 17, knew that this was an opportunity not to be missed and wasted no time in completing their application. Having written a few pages on why they thought they deserved this rare opportunity, they were then interviewed by Essex Commandant, Col Peter Christian. With all three passing the initial stages, the cadets then faced a gruelling assessment weekend under the watchful eye of commanding officers from the army cadets, sea cadets, air cadets and combined unit.

Gathering at Bridgewater, Somerset, on July 23 2009, the cadets were given a number of challenges to complete which demonstrated their leadership and team building skills. Essex proudly announced that all three applicants were successful and would be taking part in the expedition.

Cadet Sgt Charlotte Hutchinson, Braintree Detachment, said: "When I found out that I was one of 60 cadets who had been selected I was really excited. There are going to be so many opportunities and I am really looking forward to all the challenges. In readiness for the trip I have been going on regular walks to build up the distances that I can do and also the weights that I can carry in my back pack. The talks about South Africa were extremely interesting and left me sitting



**Cadet Charlotte McGavigan with Prince Harry.**

in awe. I can't wait to get out there and experience it for myself."

As part of the final preparations the cadets visited Crickhowell in Wales for three days from 5 April 2010. The aim of the training weekend was to provide the cadets with an insight into where they would be staying and the community projects they would be involved in. Talks were also given on how to prepare themselves for the extreme temperatures. The cadets also participated in a crucial fitness training session for the long distances they would be walking.

During the training Prince Harry paid a surprise visit to the cadets to chat to them about their up and coming three week adventure. Helping patron HRH Prince Harry's charity Sentebale, the cadets will work with project leaders to support orphans and vulnerable children who are affected by HIV/AIDS in Lesotho.

### Army Cadets African Adventure

*Claire Barbara writes:*

This summer was not a usual school break for one army cadet as she had earned a place on an African expedition of a lifetime.

On 26 July a nervous Cdt Sgt Charlotte Hutchinson, 15, from Braintree Detachment, boarded the plane for her three weeks adventure, not sure of what would be in store for her on her arrival. After nearly 11 hours on the plane, Charlotte, along with 59 other cadets from across the country, took a coach trip to their accommodation.

Staying in three separate sites allowed the cadets to take part in a number of activities and experience some of the beauty of South Africa; and split into four groups they would take it in turns to carry out a number of activities.

During her stay in the Kingdom of Lesotho Charlotte helped at a local school which had children of all abilities and ages. Teaching them maths and English was a great experience, but it was the social interaction that Charlotte fondly remembers: "Playing with the children and teaching them nursery rhymes was great. Their faces lit up and you could see that they were really enjoying themselves. They were also really pleased when they saw that we had replaced an old swing and painted the play equipment. Just the simplest of things would make them smile - they were truly appreciative of our help and that made me feel proud of what I was doing".

With the evening temperature dropping dramatically and the sun rapidly fading at around 5.00 pm, it all took a bit of getting used to. Trekking through the dusty terrain the cadets saw the unique landscapes and wildlife that we are all familiar with from the comfort of our TV screens, but these cadets were seeing it first hand. Charlotte added: "This was an amazing experience which I'll never forget. I'm glad we did lots of training before we went out and, having seen everything for my own eyes, I appreciate it more. I was upset to leave but would love to go back one day."



**Cdt Sgt Charlotte Hutchinson with schoolchildren.**

## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC

### Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland ACF (LNR ACF) Royal Anglian Cadets Compete at Braemar Royal Highland Gathering

Six LNR ACF cadets, along with two more cadets from Lincolnshire ACF, had the opportunity to participate in this year's Braemar Royal Highland Gathering. They made up the England Tug of War Team, who were invited to pull against a team of Scottish cadets at the Royal Highland Gathering. The event was organised by Captain Rob Holland, QM of Lincolnshire Cadet Force, as part of this year's Cadet 150 celebrations.

After a very long journey over some of the most spectacular scenery, they arrived at their camp site in Ballateer, where they erected tents next to the River Dee. The people were very friendly, as were the midges; SMI Bob Pochin still has a forehead like a Braille book to prove it!

Following a hearty breakfast on Saturday morning, the two teams met up at Braemar, introduced themselves to each other and then enjoyed a light training session. Captain Holland briefed everyone on the format of the day and then told them they would be competing in front of approximately 20,000 spectators. 'No pressure then' said one of the Highlanders!

At 2pm both teams lined up and marched into the arena with their respective coaches and were introduced to the crowd. England won the first end, at which point the commentator, obviously Scottish and unbiased, got the crowd behind the Highlanders, who went on to win the second end. It was all to play for now and came down to fitness, strength and the will to win; both teams did extremely well, but England beat Scotland to the drop and pulled well, ensuring victory. The team members shook hands and marched off to rapturous applause from the huge crowd.

Jack Reid from Northampton said 'I was delighted to be selected for this trip; we were made very welcome and had a great time. I was extremely proud to be part of the winning team'.

On completion of the Inter Services Competition, both teams, holding their Cadet 150 signs for all to see, lined the route for the Queen and the Royal Party as they departed the Games.

Captain Rob Holland said 'This was a truly fantastic event for the cadets and it is hoped that the Braemar Committee will invite us to compete again next year'.



Royal Anglian Cadets 2, Scotland 1 !



LNR ACF and Scottish teams.

### LNR ACF Cadets and Veterans Parade Together

On Sunday 9th May, the Corps of Drums and a party of Adults and Cadets from A (Steelback) Company joined with veterans and other cadet services to mark the anniversary of VE day and to celebrate Cadet 150

Following the parade, a reflective service was held outside All

Saints Church to give thanks for those who gave their lives for their country and also for 150 years of the Army Cadet Force.

The Rev Canon Dr Alan Horsley said 'Since the cadets were first formed, thousands of young people have joined. Many went on to serve in both World Wars and have continued to do so in more recent



On the march.

## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC



**Drums display.**

conflicts. We also remember those who served their country in the Second World War.'

The Parade then moved to Market Square in reverse order, led by the air cadets and followed by the army cadets and sea cadets, each carrying their own banners and led by their own bands. These were closely followed by the veterans, the Regimental Associations and the Northampton Pipe Band.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Lady Juliet Townsend LVO, said 'This is a wonderful opportunity for two different generations to come together - the veterans with their memories of times gone by and the cadets with their lives ahead of them, showing all that's best of the youth today.'

Each of the Cadet Bands then took it in turns to entertain the Lord Lieutenant and the assembled dignitaries and spectators. A Coy Corps of Drums delivered a selection of marches, and then performed their Drum Display which was roundly applauded and cheered by the public.

Officer Commanding A Company, Major Ian Walton, said 'we were very proud to be part of this Parade and I am pleased to see so many people supporting the anniversary of VE Day and our Cadet 150 celebrations. This year marks a huge milestone in the cadet force movement and we are proud to be part of an organisation that encourages young people to be better citizens by inspiring them to achieve.'



**Lord Lieutenant and Drum Major.**



**Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC****LNR ACF Cadets Parade in Leicester on Armed Forces Day****A (Steelback) Company on Parade.**

On Saturday 26th June C 'Tiger' Company, alongside B Squadron, joined the Regular Army, TA and a large number of veterans from various regiments at Leicester Cathedral for the second Armed Forces Day celebrations.

Tim Stevens, the Bishop of Leicester, spoke of the sacrifices our Armed Forces had made and paid tribute to the brave men and women currently in the Forces. He also thanked the Cadet Force for their work in making young people aware of these sacrifices and the work they do in the community.

Following the service, we all moved outside to form up for a march through the centre of Leicester. The parade was led by Pipes and Drums and took us down High Street and Gallowtree Gate and ended

**Outside All Saints Church.**

with a march past, where Lady Gretton took the salute.

We also had cadets out and about shaking tins and managed to collect £398.10 for ABF The Soldiers' Charity, which is our nominated Charity for 2010.

We were all amazed by the number of people in town clapping and cheering, not only the Regulars, TA and veterans, but also the cadets as well; with customers and staff leaving shops to clap and cheer as we passed them.

To see the pride in some of the cadets' faces was a very special moment for all those who attended. After the parade it was back to the Cathedral for a buffet and drinks for all, where the cadets mingled with the veterans and VIPs.

**Wellingborough Detachment Charity Gun Run**

Each Detachment in D Company LNR ACF has been engaged in planning and organising different events to comply with their OC's challenge to senior cadets to raise awareness of the Army Cadet Force. They are also tasked to raise money for local charities of their choice, as part of their contribution to the Cadet in the Community Programme.

Wellingborough Detachment opted to bring the D Coy 'Gun Run' to the masses by providing the pre match entertainment at Wellingborough Rugby Club when they were playing Matlock earlier in the year. The event was organised by Cadet Cpl Connor Aldrich and the crew of Wellingborough Army Cadet Detachment. The Gun Run is a tradition that dates back to the Boer War where it first began, but most people will remember the Gun Run format from the Royal Tournament. The D Coy guns are large and made of wood and brass and the cannon is pulled by the cadets on ropes and handles. A crew of 10 cadets pulled the cannon around the pitch, stopping, dismantling and rebuilding it.

The cadets showed great strength and stamina by negotiating the course and the quickest time of the day was in 2 minutes and



40 seconds. In a 10 minute slot the cadets raised a total of £76.16 which was donated to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. Many thanks to Wellingborough Rugby club for allowing us to hold our run at their ground and to the public who gave so generously on the day.



## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC

### Lincolnshire ACF Army Cadets 150th Anniversary



Marching past the saluting dais.

Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force celebrated its 150th Anniversary with a day of activities on Armed Forces Day, at Lincoln Castle on Saturday 26th June.

There was a photographic display of the modern organisation and of bygone days, and leaflets showing the activities available for youngsters in the Army Cadet Force, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and BTec Award in Public Services.

There were many events in the arena conducted by members of the cadet forces including an obstacle hazard by the Army Cadets, Cutlass Drill by the Sea Cadets, Casualty Evacuation by the Air Cadets and a Drums display by the Marine Cadets.

Outside the Castle were static displays of English and American vintage military vehicles, including American Jeeps, a Bren Gun



No 3 Company fieldcraft display.

Carrier and Fire Engines.

In the afternoon the 400 cadets left the Castle for the tri-Service Dedication in Lincoln Cathedral commencing at 2.00pm, followed by a march back to the Castle at 3.15pm, at which the salute was taken by Vice Admiral Sir Jonathan Tod KCB CBE, National Chairman of the Sea Cadet Association and Mr Tony Worth, HM Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire.

As the cadets marched back into the Castle, Standard Bearers of the Lincolnshire Ex-Services Association lined the route and lowered standards in salute to them.

Grateful thanks are extended to the County Quartermaster, Captain Rob Holland and his staff, for their sterling efforts before and over the whole period of the event.

### Annual Camp 2010

The rambling hills of Northumberland were again the venue for Annual Camp over the period 14th to 25th August, during what was to be for a change, mostly fair weather.

A comprehensive programme had been produced which covered all aspects of the Army Proficiency Certificate at all star levels to ensure that the cadets would gain the maximum benefit and progression in the system.

Sunday was spent mainly in the organisation of the various cadres required for the cadet's star qualifications. Sunday was also the day for the County Swimming Championships, held at the Wentworth Leisure Centre Swimming Pool at Hexham where, as usual, the competition was very keen and cadets eager to be selected for the Eastern Region Championships. And at the final check of the results, 2 Squadron were declared the winners.

The 3 and 4 Star cadets departed camp on Monday morning for three days on Exercise Poachers' Strike in a harbour area, with the emphasis being on fieldcraft, day and night navigation, section



Fieldcraft rehearsals.

battle drills and attacks.

For the more energetic, canoeing and kayaking had been arranged on Kielder Water at the Leaplish Waterside Park, and mountain biking at Kielder Park in the grounds of the Castle.

On the following days, in rotation, the cadres carried out APC training, WHT, DCCT, 25m Range, 100m ETR, Clay Target, Paintball, Archery and adventure training.

Saturday had been designated as a stand down day at Company/Squadron commander's disposal, so some decided to go for local tours, while others had their cadets preparing for the annual various competitions. In the evening the Quartermaster and his staff took on the roles of chefs when they prepared a massive barbeque in a very large tank servicing hanger, about which one female cadet said 'that's the best meal I've had since being here'.

Here the County Band entertained the assembly with a good selection of music and, as we were in somewhat hilly country and close to Hadrian's Wall, included solos on the Bagpipes.



Canoeing instruction.

## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC



### The barbecue - anyone seen the ketchup?

Walking expeditions were carried out by a devoted team of officers and instructors to ensure the cadets got them recorded, where applicable, for their D of E Awards. For evening entertainment there was competitive potted sports conducted by the students of the Community Sports Leadership Award Course and a good NAAFI canteen where they could spend their evenings; and on the last evening there was the end of camp disco.

Training continued on the round robin basis on Sunday where the subjects not completed were given priority; and the County prepared for the influx of visitors on Monday.

As usual the visitors were very interested in the activities enjoyed by the cadets and in some cases joined in the clay target shooting. In the evening they were guests at the Officers' Mess Dinner Night at Otterburn Hall.

Presentations were made to Colonel John Ludlam, Deputy CEO RFCA, ex Majors John Beever and Mark Smith on their retirement; and chattels were received on behalf of the Mess by Colonel Trevor Richmond, the County Cadet Commandant.

Tuesday was the County Competition Day with the aim of having an enjoyable day, whilst ensuring all cadets had an opportunity to take part in an activity in some form and in a competitive manner. We were honoured to be visited by Major General M Rutledge MBE, General Officer Commanding 5 Div, who was keen to see the cadets' training activities. Owing to a slight flight delay, the programme was a little behind time when the General made the rounds, but this enabled him to make some presentations at some of the competition stands.

Many of the guests attended the County Final Parade which had



### Maj Gen Rutledge meets cadets.

to be held in the tank servicing hanger owing to a downpour of very heavy rain.

However, the presentation of Cadet Force Medals, trophies and awards for the year and Annual Camp was carried out by HM Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Mr Tony Worth, in warmer and drier surroundings.

Many thanks to the Army Recruiting Team, 13 Cadet Training Team, 3 Royal Anglian and 5 (Trg Regt) RLC for their expertise and assistance in helping to run an interesting and rewarding camp which enhanced the cadets' knowledge.



Cadets Doughty, Roberts and Sullivan meet the Lord Lieutenant.



## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC

### Master Cadet

Cadet Sergeant Major Charles Priestley of Skegness has been awarded his certificate for 'Master Cadet' on completion of the Course at the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley Park, Surrey.

On his course report it records that his overall performance was 'Above Average' and he had clearly earned his immediate recommendation for Master Cadet.

The certificate was presented by Vice Admiral Sir Jonathan Tod KCB CBE, National Chairman of the Sea Cadet Association at the 150th Anniversary Parade of the Army Cadet Force at Lincoln Castle on Saturday 26th June.

Charles (17) enrolled into Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force in July 2005 and through his determination and dedication he has risen thorough the ranks to that of Company Cadet Sergeant Major.

He attended his Junior Cadet Instructor Course in October 2007 and the Senior Cadet Instructor course in February 2009 and has qualified through the training syllabus to achieve his 4 Star Certificate.

He has completed and qualified in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at Bronze and is undertaking training for the Silver Award.

At the recent National Athletics Championships held at Grantham, he set a new National Record in winning the Senior Boys' 200m race.

On a recent interview board for the position of Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major he was selected for the position.



### Norfolk ACF Annual Camp 2010 : Longmoor

*Capt Jan Hawkins writes:*

Norfolk ACF returned once again to Longmoor for their annual Summer Camp. Those who were there in 2008 relished the thought of returning and they weren't disappointed. Although the camp doesn't lend itself that well to adventure training, all other subjects more than made up for its omission.

As the camp was a little shorter this year, we had three, two day packages, instead of the usual three day ones; so we decided that we would concentrate more on the APC syllabus. Next year's camp will contain more adventure training as we will be going to Nescliffe. We missed most of any bad weather which made a nice change after the deluge of Dartmoor last year.

All cadets were busily engrossed in training and all were happy, smiling and enjoying themselves. This may have been because of the cameras clicking away and they wanted to get their picture on the Web for family and friends back home, but it seemed genuine. It is amazing the number of cadets who never miss a photo shoot opportunity!

The ranges were well utilised as they are only a stones throw



**A rare opportunity to fire the target rifle.**



**Sandringham,  
winners of the  
Norfolk Cup for  
Best Detachment.**

**Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC****Britannia Company's drill competition.**

away from camp, as is the training area. Both are well kept and a pleasure to work on for both cadets and adults alike. There was some fine shooting in evidence with all weapons, but especially with the 7.62 target rifle, which many cadets had not been able to fire before. The newly acquired A2 rifles were also given the thumbs up from the cadets, who found them much easier to fire than our old L98A1 versions.

The training area had plenty of trees and clear ground for fieldcraft, although some attacks had to wait for dog walkers and joggers to clear the area before going ahead. The enemy were kitted out with brand new desert hats courtesy of the Vikings.

Two days were put by for competitions and sports, which were extremely well attended and included archery, football, softball, orienteering and the march and shoot competition, to name but a few.

The Drill Competition was the best I have seen. Unfortunately, the

**Start of the Company Exercise.**

first team to march on was in time for a thorough soaking when the heavens opened; so much so that the team almost became invisible! Britannia rose above the inconvenient weather however and took second place.

This year saw a change of staff: RSMI Mark Hamilton handed over the role to the newly appointed RSMI Chris Jewell who immediately put his mark on the final parade, where even the Adjutant got a speaking part!

As always, cadets grow in confidence over the camp period and the march on to the drill square for the final parade looked very smart and bore little resemblance to the drill we saw at the beginning of camp. When three companies of cadets come to the halt with one stamp, not once, but three times, I just wished that their parents could see them - it would have been a proud moment for all.

**Cadets March through Norwich to Celebrate 150 Years****The Lord Mayor inspects the Standards.**

Cadets from across the County of Norfolk marched through Norwich to celebrate 150 years of the Cadet Forces.

Around 750 Cadets and Adult instructors turned the centre of the city into a sea of green, watched by proud relatives, ex cadets and shoppers.

Having formed up in front of City Hall the Cadet Force standards were inspected by the Lord Mayor, Cllr Tom Dylan, accompanied by Richard Jewson, the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Major General Jacko Page, Honorary Colonel of Norfolk ACF and the Sheriff of Norwich Derek James.

Those taking part in the parade included 550 cadets from Norfolk Army Cadet Force, with all twenty seven detachments represented. There were thirty Sea Cadet Corps members from TS Nelson in Norwich, and fifteen members from each of the Combined Cadet Forces of Greshams, Langley and Wymondham schools.

Colonel David Hedges, the Commandant of Norfolk Army Cadet Force and Parade Commander said, "This is our main event to mark 150 years of the cadet forces. I think that Norfolk is proud

**Capt Gant leads the Dereham Platoon.**

of its cadets and its military connections. We have a proud military history in Norfolk."

Alison Cook and her mother had come to watch her son, Harry Cook aged 13, marching in the parade. She said "He is very proud to be a cadet, he has been polishing his boots for a week!"

The parade, led by the Band of the 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, marched to the Cathedral where the salute was taken by the Lord Mayor, the Lord Lieutenant and the Honorary Colonel of Norfolk ACF.

Also present were other invited guests including the Chief Constable, the Deputy Chief Constable, the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and former Norfolk ACF Commandant, Colonel Howard Gill.

After a service in the cathedral, which was led by the Dean of Norwich, the Very Rev Graham Smith, a reception was held in Saint Andrew's Hall for cadets, adult instructors and guests.

A commemorative badge, marking the occasion, was issued to those taking part and to the invited guests.

# Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC

## Suffolk ACF

### Suffolk Cadets Visit Site of 1917 Church Service by 2nd Battalion The Suffolk Regiment on Eve of Battle of Arras

Suffolk Army Cadets re-enacted a 1917 Church Service as part of the UK Cadet Forces 150th Anniversary. Sixty Cadets and Adult Instructors travelled to Wellington Quarry, Arras, in Northern France, on August 25th 2010. Their visit also included going to Vimy Ridge and the site of the Canadian Memorial to the 60,000 Canadians who gave their lives in the Great War. A wreath was laid by Colonel K Ives at Wellington Quarry on behalf of all Officers, Adult Instructors and Cadets of Suffolk ACF in recognition of the Suffolk Regiment 1917. A report by our Deputy Commandant regarding the visit follows:

#### Wellington Quarry, Arras & Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial Visit 25th August 2010

*Lt Col RJC West TD, Dep Comdt Suffolk ACF, writes:*

While staying in Arras last year, I went to visit the Wellington Quarry and was amazed at the links it had with the Suffolk Regiment. For me the most poignant memory was at Column 5E where the 2nd Bn Suffolk Regiment held a church service on April 8th 1917 on the eve of the Battle of Arras.

This year is the 150th anniversary of the Cadet Forces and, as we were going to camp at St Martin's Plain, Folkestone, we thought it would be a good idea to make a visit to Wellington Quarry as part of our 150 celebrations.

The director of Wellington Quarry was contacted for permission to re-enact the church service in exactly the same place as the service held in April 1917. Contact was also made with the international relations department in the town hall to arrange a civic reception. The visit was then included in the camp programme for the senior cadets of Burma Company.

As luck would have it, the coach was put onto an earlier shuttle and so had time to take the cadets to Vimy Ridge before going to Wellington Quarry. The advance party arrived at the Quarry and set up the altar with its accoutrements before the main body arrived.

When the main body arrived packed lunches were distributed and an alfresco lunch was held on the lawns around the main entrance. The cadets were divided into three groups who all had a tour of the Quarry followed by a 10 minute film describing the battle of Arras. The Quarry was then closed to the public and Padre David Flower gave Holy Communion and the Commandant Colonel Kelvin Ives laid a wreath at Column 5E.

The cadets were then split into three groups - again to re-create the sketch of the church service which was recorded by our PRO Major Terry Thacker.

On exiting the Quarry a group photo was taken alongside the War Memorial for Cadet 150. We then went to the Hotel de Ville, Place des Heroes, for a Civic Reception hosted by the Deputy Mayor,



Col Ives lays the wreath on behalf of Suffolk ACF.

Madame Heleni Lefebure.

The cadets then had two hours to look around Arras and buy some presents before catching the coach back to Folkestone. It was a very memorable day for cadets and adults alike.

Now that links have been established with the Town Hall and Wellington Quarry, it is hoped to take a party of cadets to remember the Battle of Arras in April next year.



With Deputy Mayor (second right) in Arras.



Arras service 1917, pencil sketch at Column 5E.



Arras service 2010, re-enacted at Column 5E.



Suffolk ACF at Vimy Ridge Memorial.



## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC

### Annual Camp 2010: St Martin's Plain, Kent



Burma Company at ENDEX.

After a short journey in comparison to previous years, we arrived at St Martin's Plain Camp in sunny Kent in time for lunch. The last time that Suffolk ACF held an annual camp here was 25 years ago and, although there were some changes, much remained the same.

The remainder of our first day was spent doing the usual first day routine - finding our rooms, getting our beds made and, of course, unpacking and getting allocated to our training companies. We also had the opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the camp layout and finding the Camp Tri-Bar was a priority.

Our first parade was held on the football pitch during the afternoon where the Commandant spoke to all of what was to take place involving training and what was expected from cadets and adult staff. Early the next day saw training start in earnest for the three companies with a comprehensive programme of shooting, which included the DCCT range and clay target range, using the excellent Hythe Range complex. Sport and obstacle course training took place within the camp complex and field training on local dry training areas. There was some rain but this did not deter the enthusiasm of the cadets; nor did it interrupt the comprehensive training programme.

Our senior training company, commanded by Major Glyn French of 3 R ANGLIAN, deployed from Suffolk straight into a four day exercise at Mereworth Wood, some 45 miles from St Martin's Plain and, although being very strenuous and arduous, the exercise was enjoyed by all cadets and adult staff.

The highlight of camp for our senior cadets was the visit to Vimy Ridge Memorial and Wellington Quarry, Arras, France (see separate report). This reminded cadets of the local lives given in the name of freedom during the 1st World War and of lives still being given by young men and women of our armed forces to this day.

A downpour marred our final day which meant that prize giving and the awards ceremony had to be held indoors; however this went off as planned with many happy cadets being recognised for their achievements. This was followed by loading our luggage and personal belongings and the journey home from a very successful camp.

### Colonel PBD Long OBE DL retires as Honorary Colonel to Suffolk ACF

*Major T Thacker, PRO Suffolk ACF writes:*



Colonel Paul Long has retired after 49 years serving or connected with HM Armed Forces. His military career commenced in 1961 by attending RMA Sandhurst. On being commissioned 2nd Lt he joined the 1st Bn East Anglian Regiment. Whilst serving with the newly formed 1st Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment from 1964 until 1992 he saw active service in Aden and Northern Ireland.

In a long and varied career Colonel Long has served as Adjutant to the Bermuda Regiment 1969/71, Staff College in 1976, HQ UKLF from 1977 until 1978 and Commandant of STANTA Trg Area 1988/1992.

His Territorial Army /ACF service saw him command 5th (V) Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment from 1982 until 1985 and to become Commandant of Norfolk ACF from 1993 until 1996, before becoming Honorary Colonel of Suffolk ACF in 2004.

He was dined out by the Officers' Mess and presented by the Commandant of Suffolk ACF, Col Kelvin Ives, with a print of the 1st Bn R ANGLIAN on operations in Afghanistan. He has championed the Army Cadet Force in every way; his support has been unwavering and will be sorely missed.

We welcome his successor, Lt Col P Dixon OBE, of The Royal Anglian Regiment.

### Cdt Sgt J Spall County of Suffolk Lord Lieutenant Cadet

Cadet Sergeant J Spall is privileged to be appointed the latest Suffolk Army Cadet Force Lord Lieutenant Cadet.

He was presented with his Badge and certificate by Lord Tollemache, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Suffolk at a Ceremony at the Territorial Army Centre.

Sergeant Spall, 16, is an outstanding cadet who has been with the ACF for three years and is a member of Bury St Edmunds Army Air Corps Detachment; he has also represented Suffolk ACF at the 2009 Normandy Landing Celebrations as Standard Bearer.

This is an immense honour for Sgt Spall in the Cadet Force's 150th year. His duties will entail assisting the Lord Lieutenant for the next 12 months on various formal military events which involve the Army.



## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC

### Brentwood School CCF

*Lt Col NJ Carr writes:*

2010/11 has been an excellent year so far for Brentwood School CCF. With over 95% of those eligible opting to join the CCF, and large number of sixth formers choosing to stay on as NCOs, we have over 520 cadets on strength, making us the largest CCF in the country.

The RAF Section has also been busy with cadets attending camps during the summer, while the RN Section continues to grow, attracted by the idea of learning to scuba dive in the school pool and the possibility of a diving trip to the Red Sea. The Contingent also made a notable contribution to the town's Remembrance Day Parade, having the day before raised £1,300 in aid of Help for Heroes and St Luke's Hospice by packing bags in Sainsbury's in Brentwood.

For the second year running, the Army Section entered teams for Exercise Steelback Cadet and the Combat Cadet competition and a new competition held at Welbeck College aimed at junior cadets, all of which were extremely popular.

However, for most of the Army Section cadets, the highlight of the year is annual camp which this year was held at Warcop and, as the following article indicates, it was both a successful and enjoyable week for all concerned. In addition, during the summer a group of cadet and staff walked the Cumbria Way, finishing at Carlisle Castle, the home of the School SSI's former regiment, the King's Own Border Regiment. Not only did the cadets enjoy the Castle Museum, they also had the pleasure of an evening in Carlisle, watching the World Cup between Germany and Argentina.

More recently we have undergone our biennial inspection which was carried out by Wing Commander G Clark RAF, OC Trg Wg. RAF Honington and we were delighted when he described the CCF as being first rate.

#### Army Summer Camp – Warcop 2010

*Cadet CSM Isabel Cooper writes:*

With the dawn (literally) of each day, we faced a new set of challenges and a new questioning of our abilities, yet each individual rose to the situation, grasping the military way of thinking and functioning with enthusiasm, with every cadet showered and breakfasted before 7am. Into every day we crammed a range of activities from First-Aid scenarios, in which one of our cadets notably attempted to treat the instructor for shock, and which qualified every member of the contingent with a Heart Start Award, through to an overnight exercise, sleeping under ponchos in the rain. Those same students, having cleared the midge-infested wood, progressed to the battlefield and executed platoon attacks, working in teams to assault the enemy positions.



**Warcop Camp.**

A day was also spent taking part in the inter-camp 'Section Sprint', a collection of stands testing teamwork, leadership skills, military knowledge and pure determination. Most memorable of these, rumours of the 'mud-run' had already spread across camp. As we plunged into the course, rifles slung across our backs and boxes of ammunition in our hands, we found ourselves wallowing in what we later learnt to be a trail created by over 300L of water. The real challenge came having crawled beneath a camouflage-net, when the mud rose to encircle our waists or, in the case of our smaller cadets, chests! Clear of the course however, every face was lit by the achievement and pride, not only as an individual, but also as the team we had become, spurring each other on throughout.

Books could be written on the activities of every day: kayaking, rafting, testing weapons at the Royal Artillery stand, perfecting firing groupings on the range, undertaking paintballing trails and completing an assault course of frankly terrifying proportions. However, it is not the list of adventurous and military experiences which provides Army Camp with that flair of individuality and



**Wg Cdr Clark talking to cadets on inspection day.**

**Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC**

**Wg Cdr Clark inspecting the guard of honour.**

brilliance. Rather it was the camaraderie developed which will forever remain with each of us, as we recollect the unity of sections to achieve greater feats and the adjustment to individual strengths to achieve the best results.

And truly the best result was attained: Brentwood School CCF stands proudly as the victorious contingent overall in the 'Section Sprint' competition, beating prestigious CCFs through sheer determination and enthusiasm for each task.

### **Gresham's School CCF**

*Major Gates writes:*

The contingent has had an active and exciting period through the spring and summer. Air Marshal Harper conducted the Biennial Review, welcomed by a Guard of Honour and a fly past by a Tornado from RAF Marham, before visiting a range of training activities in beautiful sunshine. The contingent received an excellent report.

Summer Field Day saw a range of military and adventurous training including D of E expeditions, field training, flying and afloat training off the Norfolk Coast. In the latter part of the summer term, trekkers and kayakers completed D of E expeditions at Silver Level in the Yorkshire Dales and Norfolk Broads.



**Fieldcraft training.**



**Maj Gates and Inspecting officer.**



## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC



**Gresham's Guard of Honour.**

The CCF was also proud to represent the School at the Cadet 150 Parade in Norwich in June, joining several hundred other cadets to mark this important anniversary of the cadet movement.

Summer camps were well attended with the Army Section spending a week at Crowborough, doing a fantastic package of varied training activities and returning with three pieces of silverware, including the much coveted March and Shoot trophy. RAF cadets went to RAF Valley and Rene Graef, the best cadet on camp, was rewarded with a flight in the Hawk trainer. The shooting team once again performed most creditably at Bisley, missing out on retaining the Ashburton Shield by only the narrowest of margins.

Plans for the future include the visit by the Band of the Grenadier



**Duke of Edinburgh Gold in the Lake District.**

Guards, who will hold a music workshop and deliver an evening concert, as well as the development of scuba diving and mountain biking options for cadets as further challenging pursuits. A number of officers have attended courses over the summer period and this, coupled with a new intake of enthusiastic staff, means that we look forward to an even busier and more active year ahead.

### Stamford Endowed Schools CCF

*Wg Cdr Max Sawyer RAFVR(T), Contingent Commander, writes:*

When I joined Stamford School CCF (as it then was) as an RAF Section cadet in 1965, "elf n' safety" and its offspring "risk assessments" were not even a gleam in their progenitors' eyes – "common sense" applied instead. This would explain how we experienced such activities as rowing an assault boat on the Welland without lifejackets or staff supervision, abseiling off the flat roof at the rear of the Hall without crash mats or safety ropes, pushing the CCF's one-ton lorry along a busy St Paul's St from the LMS car park to Stamford Hospital in an attempt to start its frequently reluctant engine, field day exercises with blank ammunition in Ketton Quarry, running round assault courses with minimal briefing and no helmets, night exercises in Stamford with cadets carrying .303 rifles and sten guns through the Town and fording the river by the town bridge, dropping blank rounds down Nissen hut chimneys when on annual camp into their coke heaters, throwing beakers of water into said heaters (when red hot) so as to generate a most gratifying 6 foot flame of water gas ( $C + H_2O = CO + H_2$  for those of a chemical bent), crossing the Welland by Hudd's Mill on a rope bridge without a member of staff present, launching the Slingsby Grasshopper glider across Mainfields by means of a very tightly stretched bungee rope hauled by two teams of Glider Flight cadets, a cadet discharging a blank round into a cow pat while another watched from an unsafe distance and was duly "camouflaged" from top to toe.

In retrospect, perhaps common sense was not always sufficient but, to be fair, injuries were generally avoided - although whether by good luck or judgement is open to debate.

Despite our now living in a much more safety-conscious age, members of the CCF have again taken part in a wide range of activities, both on and off the school site – the Battle of Britain Parade, Charles Griffin and Ben Hachula undergoing RBL Standard Bearer training in Crowland, putting on a display for Open Day, the October



**Low wires.**

field day, bag packing in Tesco in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund, putting up a display for the SHS 6th form Open Evening, Exercise Steelback Cadet at STANTA, Adam McBain and James Petrie passing CLC, P/O Charlotte Clarke being placed first on her RAFVR(T) officers course and P/O Philippa Ingle second on hers (beaten only by a new ATC officer who was marginally better at drill), the RAF Cranwell Festival of Remembrance (Tom Hanks, Ellie Davies, Nick Reiss, Nadia Allen, James Petrie), Remembrance Sunday (in Stamford and Barnack), Remembrance Day (also Stamford and Barnack, with excellent playing of Last Post and Reveille by Harriet Reilly), the Barnack RBL Winter Lecture, a Merlin of 814 Sqn (Fleet Air Arm) landing on Mainfields followed by a presentation

## Affiliated ACF, CCF and UOTC

by its crew, the Cranwell Ground Training Competition (3rd out of 16 this year), visits by the RN Presentation Team, the RAF Regt. Presentation Team and the RM Visibility team, Will Bacon and Aiden Jones passing SCIC at Beckingham, the decommissioning ceremony in Portsmouth for HMS Nottingham (our affiliated ship), the RN leadership weekend at RAF Wittering, the Uppingham Rotary Club sponsored walk round Eyebrook Reservoir (the cadet team, organised by George Sharman with the assistance of Tom Perks, raised £600 for the two charities - the Lakeland Hospice in Corby and Leicestershire Employment for Autism Today), taking part in the opening ceremony for Stamford Mid-Lent Fair, a letter of appreciation for Will Bacon from St. John Ambulance for his assistance in evacuating a casualty from a hillside during a D of E expedition in the Lake District (my thanks to Mr Leigh Ware for his nominating Will), Lt Annabelle Holland qualifying as a Yacht Master, the RAF Section Easter Camp at RAF Linton-on-Ouse (where cadets met Old Stamfordians Tom Betts and Tom Wallington who were there undergoing navigator and pilot training respectively), our shooting teams securing first and second places in the prestigious Country Life competition, the Afghanistan commemorative service held in Nassington Church, a briefing on military intelligence by Lt-Col Monty Mountford OS (who apologises to Mrs Julia Husbands for his being possibly not the most diligent of pupils during her Physics lessons), the annual Anzac Day commemoration in Broadway Cemetery in Peterborough (where we were again privileged to parade the Australian Standard in our role as custodians for Aussies in East Anglia), Peter Vandermyde helping a parent to replace the flat tyre on her car, the CCF Dinner with Air Commodore and Mrs Ashley Stevenson as guests of honour, Inspection Day with Commodore Jim Scorer OS (the Trinity House Director of Operations and an Elder Brother of the same) as our Inspecting Officer and Group Captains Richard Knighton (RAF Wittering Station Commander) and Gary Waterfall (RAF Cottesmore Station Commander) as most welcome guests (as were the always excellent Minden Band who, as well as playing for the Inspection, also gave an evening concert in SS Hall), manning a stand for SJS Fun Day (despite atrocious weather conditions), parading in Sheepmarket to honour the homecoming from Afghanistan of 3 Sqn (RAF Regiment), the annual Mayor's Parade in Stamford, a visit by the RAF Wittering Bomb Disposal Unit, providing helpers for the Stamford Rotary Club Military Tattoo on Empingham Rd playing fields, attending the Armed Forces week opening parade at Stamford Town Hall (well done to Ruairi Macras-McIlrae and Jake Vandermyde for their excellent playing of Last Post and Reveille), Summer term field day (at PWOG Barracks in Grantham, RAF Cottesmore and RAF Wittering), the local CCF/ACF/ATC standard bearing competition (in which Ben Hachula represented us and Hamish Keown-Boyd the ACF), the Cadet 150 Parade in Lincoln, the Y9 boys' and girls' CCF induction days, Summer Camp at Warcop, Lucy Perkins attending an RA Band "Look at Life" course and two members of the shooting team going to Bisley.

In addition to the above, there have been 26 Friday afternoon parades



### High wires.

over the year, during which CCF training and the accompanying tests and exams have been conducted for all three sections. The RN Section has again been a frequent visitor to Rutland Water, the Army Section has worked hard at getting its cadets up to speed on the new cadet rifle (a huge improvement on its predecessor) and the RAF Section has taken full advantage of the flying opportunities at RAF Cranwell and gliding at RAF Syerston. Cadets have earned promotion to JNCOs and JNCOs to SNCOs, and the three Forces CLOs have again visited termly to interview cadets who have expressed an interest in joining the armed forces.

For all of this, my thanks go to the CCF staff for the time and effort they put in and for the day in, day out commitment they show – and to those non-CCF colleagues who have helped us out with driving when we have been short of staff (Mr Jon Hodgson and Mr Alister Pike especially). Our cadets also deserve much credit for the positive manner in which they respond to all that is on offer – they are the reason that our CCF is so well regarded by the local community and wider afield.

I would like to make special mention of the Senior Cadet, David Carter, whose ability, diligence and initiative has made my life so much easier, exemplified by his faultless issuing of all the commands as parade commander on Inspection Day, a task normally carried out by the SSI – very well done indeed!

Sadly, two farewells have to be said this year. Firstly, to 2/Lt Peter Scargill, whose enthusiasm and vocal (and physical) volume will be much missed by the Army Section. He is taking up a teaching post in Dubai – not quite back to his birthplace in Kuwait, but not too far from it. Secondly, to RSM Marc Jackson, our SSI, who was, at short notice, offered the chance of his dream job, Range Manager of the National Shooting Centre, Bisley. Those who know Marc will realise just what an opportunity this was for him. His departure in April, which meant that I took on the mantle of SSI until a replacement was recruited, did at least afford me the chance to acquaint myself with the minutiae of Army administration – to say the learning curve was steep would be the mother and father of all litotes.

In conclusion (always welcome words!), as I am retiring myself at the end of this academic year I would like to wish my successor as Contingent Commander, Sqn Ldr Karen Bentley, every success and I know she will be ably supported by her section officers and our newly appointed SSI, WO2 Stephen Denham MBE.



Oops!

# Orbats

## 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2010

### Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col JM Woodham MC  
Maj OCC Brown  
Maj N Todd RACHD  
Capt GJR Hudson  
Capt WJ Meddings  
Capt S Broomfield  
WO1 Newton TR

### Headquarter Company

Maj IL Hall  
WO2 Neal S  
Cpl Bale JC  
Cpl Ncube N AGC (SPS)  
LCpl Meehan L AGC (SPS)  
LCpl Warwick A  
Pte Andrews CB  
Pte Cliffe B

### Quartermaster's Department

Maj T Jones  
Capt P Hinnell  
WO2 Hopkin C  
WO2 Self J  
CSgt Penny CT  
Sgt Borgenvik JC  
Sgt Ling D  
Sgt Magee AJ  
Cpl Aukland M  
Cpl Brown NH  
Cpl Bygrave PS  
Cpl Codling P  
Cpl Horn S  
Cpl Kendall AB  
Cpl Murton T  
Cpl Oliver JR  
Pte Bramman SC  
Pte Lynch JE

### RAO's Department

Capt PN Carcone AGC (SPS)  
WO2 Long HJGJ AGC (SPS)  
SSgt Lowe HC AGC (SPS)  
Sgt Ayling M AGC (SPS)  
Sgt Doyle SP AGC (SPS)  
Sgt Taylor CM AGC (SPS)  
Cpl Gray F AGC (SPS)  
Pte Faye M AGC (SPS)  
Pte Fletcher JP  
Mrs Brenda Sayer

### RCMO

Capt AJ Penn  
CSgt Panter S  
Sgt Shropshire B

### Families Office

Capt L Jay  
CSgt Grice JA  
Cpl Franklin A  
Cpl Gomer W  
Pte Blowes DJ  
Pte Wesley PT

### Gym

SSgt Waddell SM APTC

### Intelligence Cell

Capt DAW Jaggard  
CSgt Stevens RJ  
Sgt Hicks S  
LCpl Himfen M  
Pte Hood M

### Medical Centre

Capt M Yates RAMC  
Sgt Peyton IJ  
Cpl Boyle M  
Cpl Gandidzanwa RAMC  
LCpl Brown I  
LCpl Carter RAMC  
LCpl High CK RAMC  
LCpl Thomas RAMC  
Pte Flounders C  
Pte Jakes M  
Pte Watson L

### Mess

Cpl Metcalfe SH  
Cpl Smith JE  
Pte Bryant MP  
Pte Cowley TR  
Pte Fox T  
Pte Graves A  
Pte Hewitt N  
Pte Hughes  
Pte Merlo AL  
Pte Ndego M  
Pte Toublic GK

### Regimental Provost Staff

Sgt Fay D  
Cpl Hogston DJ  
LCpl Cook SD  
LCpl James B

### Training Wing

WO2 Rayner GT Bermuda Regt  
Sgt Johnson HJ

### CIS Platoon

Capt DN Broomfield  
WO2 Carter AA  
CSgt Heal MJ  
CSgt Mitchell D  
Sgt Bell CJ  
Sgt Hayward A  
Sgt Kearney P  
Cpl Cole WE  
Cpl Warner A  
LCpl Coram C  
LCpl Duckett JM  
LCpl Gold S  
LCpl Harrison C A  
LCpl Hughes MC  
LCpl Neizer B  
LCpl Reilly L  
Pte Davis J  
Pte Hardy BM  
Pte Kerner S  
Pte Mavin C  
Pte Moulds S  
Pte Neill A

Pte Njie ML  
Pte Patmore J  
Pte Simons DR  
Pte Stevenson IJ  
Pte White G  
Pte Wilson M  
Pte Wright C

### MT Platoon

Capt IJ Robinson MBE  
CSgt Head ST  
Sgt Forsythe PM  
Cpl Dodd MJ  
Cpl Goodchild SR  
Cpl Jones TW  
Cpl Moore M  
Cpl Pratt JI  
LCpl Cornish PMG  
LCpl Haldenby J  
LCpl Murphy W  
LCpl Samwata K  
LCpl Williamson M  
Pte Bayley CA  
Pte Brooks JC  
Pte Chow JD  
Pte Copperwheat A  
Pte Down CJ  
Pte Gamedze A  
Pte James TD  
Pte Kennerley A  
Pte Pearson M  
Pte Sessions N  
Pte Small AA

### REME

Maj JVO Wallace REME  
WO2 Teale P REME  
SSgt Edgar SC REME  
Sgt Beardsmore DK REME  
Sgt Greiner L REME  
Sgt Tanner IR REME  
Cpl Douthwaite R REME  
Cpl Jackson DL REME  
Cpl Hewitt TC REME  
Cpl Lambie D REME  
LCpl Murethi SN REME  
LCpl Newton CJ REME  
LCpl Ramsay CC REME  
LCpl Thompson S REME  
LCpl Traquair CJ REME  
LCpl Upsall D REME  
LCpl Wilkinson G REME  
Cfn Brooks AEG REME  
Cfn Carlsson AB REME  
Cfn Cowling JO REME  
Cfn Cox CR REME  
Cfn House S REME  
Cfn Jago BL REME  
Cfn Healy C REME  
Cfn Low P REME  
Cfn Newbury C REME  
Cfn Ndebele PM REME  
Cfn Paine DM REME  
Cfn Roka M REME  
Cfn Sibanda REME

**Catering Platoon**

WO2 Dye AJ RLC  
 SSgt Hitchmough JR RLC  
 Sgt Perrin IK RLC  
 Sgt Seal BA RLC  
 Cpl Hooper R RLC  
 Cpl Newing RJ RLC  
 Cpl Sawyer RLC  
 Cpl Treloar ABJ RLC  
 LCpl Baldry MB RLC  
 LCpl Chidarikire C RLC  
 LCpl Magar K RLC  
 LCpl Palmer RLC  
 LCpl Sonson RLC  
 LCpl White RLC  
 Pte Bond RLC  
 Pte Colclough RLC  
 Pte Ghigroo S RLC  
 Pte Knight AR RLC  
 Pte Lucas CJP RLC  
 Pte Rai RLC  
 Pte Sercombe RLC  
 Pte Zakari S RLC

**Jamieson Platoon**

Sgt Waters M  
 Cpl Drinkwater  
 LCpl Duffy M  
 LCpl Kemp J  
 LCpl McKinlay-Mortitt  
 Pte Allan  
 Pte Bonham E  
 Pte Brobby-Mensah E  
 Pte Cain M  
 Pte Dindyal A  
 Pte Dunicliffe DP  
 Pte Facal  
 Pte Faulkner  
 Pte Fisher CL  
 Pte Flannagan  
 Pte Gilchrist TW  
 Pte Green RC  
 Pte Harper S  
 Pte Heir D  
 Pte Heirschler  
 Pte Hill DJ  
 Pte Juby S  
 Pte Kelleher  
 Pte Kuria EN  
 Pte Lee NA  
 Pte Meadows S  
 Pte Pick OJ  
 Pte Pryke KJ  
 Pte Read GA  
 Pte Robertson S  
 Pte Rudd  
 Pte Wells GE  
 Pte Woolard M

**A (Norfolk) Company  
 Company Headquarters**

Lt DJ Benstead  
 WO2 Collins IL  
 CSgt Hill JJ  
 Cpl Filipo KT AGC (SPS)  
 Cpl Rogers AJ  
 LCpl Olaleye OM AGC(SPS)  
 LCpl Sullivan DJ  
 Pte Giles C  
 Pte Richardson RM

Pte Smith KAG  
 Pte Stringer M

**1 Platoon**

Lt FK Atkins  
 Sgt Brooks CA  
 Cpl Finn CD  
 Cpl Kennedy PM  
 Cpl Tower J  
 LCpl Hornigold KR  
 LCpl Osborne JD  
 LCpl Warburton S  
 LCpl Whaites NL  
 Pte Acenov D  
 Pte Brown AJ  
 Pte Burgess N  
 Pte Clements DN  
 Pte Courtney WN  
 Pte Dey JC  
 Pte Elliott TJ  
 Pte Hartle-Playford  
 Pte Jones D  
 Pte Jones SK  
 Pte Lashbrook PJ  
 Pte Lawrence TJ  
 Pte Lingley MR  
 Pte Moore ME  
 Pte O'Connnor AR  
 Pte Olby AG  
 Pte Tait OM  
 Pte Terry KL  
 Pte Tovee BA  
 Pte Tuva JV  
 Pte Wickett JP  
 Pte Wildman L  
 Pte Willison GP

**2 Platoon**

2Lt JM Walters  
 Sgt Walker ME  
 Cpl Murphy JR  
 Cpl Willan M  
 LCpl Davitt CA  
 LCpl Illsley SE  
 LCpl Stearne AK  
 LCpl Steer MN  
 LCpl Taylor AR  
 Pte Alford EG  
 Pte Beale JF  
 Pte Cowles MT  
 Pte Davis O  
 Pte Foster CR  
 Pte Hammond RK  
 Pte Hume-Pankulis CS  
 Pte John O  
 Pte Johnson PW  
 Pte Keeble AJ  
 Pte Maistry BL  
 Pte Mattin A  
 Pte Mowle D  
 Pte Parsley M  
 Pte Poll J  
 Pte Poole BP  
 Pte Pope SD  
 Pte Roller JF  
 Pte Seager RD  
 Pte Shingfield RJP  
 Pte Smith JR  
 Pte Taylor AJ  
 Pte Woods N

**3 Platoon**

2Lt MR Garner  
 Sgt Tait MRG  
 Cpl Smith MC  
 LCpl Garner DA  
 LCpl Scrivener MV  
 LCpl Slater MV  
 LCpl Swales HE  
 Pte Carter C  
 Pte Corsinie BJ  
 Pte Cox S  
 Pte Howard TW  
 Pte James GJ  
 Pte King LK  
 Pte Langley DR  
 Pte Nawaqatabu WN  
 Pte Neilson SA  
 Pte Peck DA  
 Pte Philips A  
 Pte Quish LMJ  
 Pte Roper J  
 Pte Roper S  
 Pte Ross MJ  
 Pte Swarbrick TS  
 Pte Sweatman MS  
 Pte Tate CA  
 Pte Thurtell RW  
 Pte Tostevin C  
 Pte Walton K

**B (Suffolk) Company  
 Company Headquarters**

Maj A Wolfe  
 Lt T Hearne  
 WO2 Culshaw P QCB  
 CSgt Tawse T  
 Cpl Davis C AGC(SPS)  
 Cpl Goodwin C  
 Cpl Lambell J  
 Cpl Macdonald RDJ  
 LCpl Cooledge AD  
 Pte Fai GF AGC(SPS)

**5 Platoon**

Lt D Crosbie  
 Sgt Dunning A  
 Cpl Blackley M  
 Cpl Doherty R  
 Cpl Smith D  
 LCpl Barker A  
 LCpl Burkard A  
 LCpl Casey P  
 Pte Abdullah K  
 Pte Anderson D  
 Pte Arrowsmith M  
 Pte Baldwin J  
 Pte Bankes S  
 Pte Barton A  
 Pte Baxter J  
 Pte Bush D  
 Pte Carr S  
 Pte Fiddes A  
 Pte Fitzgerald S  
 Pte Hatton J  
 Pte Henry J  
 Pte Hill J  
 Pte Jones L  
 Pte Kelley P  
 Pte Kilbon A  
 Pte Lingley M



## Orbats

Pte Mahlangu T  
Pte Medlock J  
Pte Pratt K  
Pte Roberts M  
Pte Rowland J  
Pte Sayce N  
Pte Shirley C  
Pte Webb A

### 6 Platoon

Lt G Waterfield  
Sgt Vickery R  
Cpl Anderson M  
Cpl Eastwood M  
Cpl Warren  
LCpl Ferguson A  
LCpl Handley R  
LCpl Monks D  
Pte Bethall T  
Pte Bowman C  
Pte Burgess R  
Pte Clifton J  
Pte Eley D  
Pte Field J  
Pte Gale J  
Pte Galloway A  
Pte Greenland D  
Pte Hurley M  
Pte Hyde A  
Pte Kalsey R  
Pte Lowe G  
Pte Marlow  
Pte Morris J  
Pte Morton T  
Pte Mulley R  
Pte Rands C  
Pte Soar D  
Pte Stanley F  
Pte Stockbridge K  
Pte Townsley J  
Pte White R

### 7 Platoon

2Lt BRB Thompson AAC  
Sgt Butterick W  
Cpl Findley T  
Cpl Stow P  
LCpl Barclay A  
LCpl Garrett S  
LCpl Jones R  
LCpl Marano J  
LCpl Mckendrick C  
Pte Bilney-Knight S  
Pte Bowyer D  
Pte Connelly D  
Pte Delaney P  
Pte Gale J  
Pte Kedar R  
Pte Leo A  
Pte Lewis P  
Pte Manthorpe C  
Pte Mwinjilo Z  
Pte Scott J  
Pte Smith I  
Pte Thomson R  
Pte Townsend D  
Pte Vaisey D  
Pte Welch  
Pte Wildney  
Pte Williams A  
Pte Wones S  
Pte Wood R

### C (Essex) Company Company Headquarters

Maj R Dobson  
Capt S Thomas  
WO2 Ielden MJ  
CSgt Tinkler A  
Cpl Suguvanua J AGC (SPS)  
LCpl Harrison CA  
LCpl Langton A  
LCpl Perkins AS  
Pte Lorito A AGC (SPS)  
Pte Trussler

### 9 Platoon

Lt GA Napier  
Sgt Owen J  
Cpl Lake B  
Cpl McIlroy I  
Cpl Townsend N  
LCpl Murphy HR  
LCpl Olen LM  
LCpl Seymour OSH  
LCpl Woods M  
Pte Bargery SRF  
Pte Budd JD  
Pte Brunning A  
Pte Creak L  
Pte Dear D  
Pte Evenor K  
Pte Ferness-Winmill K  
Pte Gavaghan J  
Pte Gedney I  
Pte Genari C  
Pte Gyese S  
Pte Marchant D  
Pte Mncube N  
Pte Packer D  
Pte Ransome CJ  
Pte Roberts SDL  
Pte Snow J  
Pte Southey L  
Pte Thomas J  
Pte Vaisey D  
Pte Williamson C  
Pte Wilson B  
Pte Young N

### 10 Platoon

Lt PRA Lenthall  
Sgt Sell P  
Cpl Everitt MP  
LCpl Gibbs J  
Cpl Kirby AR  
LCpl Gordon C  
LCpl Hilton BP  
LCpl Page B1  
Pte Barrit D  
Pte Cameron C  
Pte Darton  
Pte Dexter M  
Pte Eagle C  
Pte Franks R  
Pte Hoffman B  
Pte Holland NA  
Pte Hyett ML  
Pte Ingram N  
Pte Jackson C  
Pte Lee A  
Pte Oehme R  
Pte Routh P  
Pte Stewart S

Pte Sultana C  
Pte Tate AC  
Pte Thomas J  
Pte Todd RM  
Pte Toromba N  
Pte Tower D  
Pte Treloar L  
Pte Walker S  
Pte Waters

### 11 Platoon

2Lt W Hoy  
Sgt George G  
Cpl Cooper A  
Cpl Kerin A  
Cpl Turner S  
LCpl Farrar A  
LCpl Green J  
Pte Behagg G  
Pte Cross M  
Pte Curtis S  
Pte Dixon R  
Pte Dodd M  
Pte Evans D  
Pte Everett C  
Pte Grunberg Y  
Pte Harris L  
Pte Holroyd S  
Pte Hunter H  
Pte Julien C  
Pte Lammas J-L  
Pte Lawlor K  
Pte Locke J  
Pte Marchese S  
Pte Missin K  
Pte Norman D  
Pte Notton T  
Pte Richardson A  
Pte Rodway S  
Pte Smith H  
Pte Stevens D  
Pte Ward S  
Pte Wright J

### D (Cambridgeshire) Company Company Headquarters

Maj JRC Bland  
Capt IJ Burt  
WO2 Thurston AD  
CSgt Hassan J  
CSgt Woodrow ML  
Cpl Davies Y AGC (SPS)  
Cpl Groves LL  
Pte Ablett D  
Pte Flanagan D  
Pte Mahomed EA AGC (SPS)  
Pte Mwamba V AGC (SPS)  
Pte Pudwell AJ  
Pte Wells W

### Recce Platoon

Capt GJ Goodey  
WO2 Goodman D  
Sgt Roberts WJ  
Cpl Eggleton JS  
Cpl Hunt K  
Cpl Knights M  
Cpl Thompson JO  
LCpl Boyle CG  
LCpl Cooper W  
LCpl Kayser LMC

**Orbats**

LCpl Knowles DAH  
 LCpl Murray SE  
 LCpl Nicholls  
 LCpl Theobald GPS  
 LCpl Thorpe CG  
 Pte Broom C  
 Pte Dickerson PJ  
 Pte Etheridge AW  
 Pte Harrison NJ  
 Pte Holland RJW  
 Pte Nadriva LC QGM  
 Pte Rowley JA  
 Pte Sloan ARR  
 Pte Smith MJ  
 Pte Stanners CA  
 Pte Webster P

**Sniper Platoon**

Sgt Hill A MC  
 Cpl McCall R  
 LCpl King J  
 LCpl O'Connor L  
 Pte Ensinger ML  
 Pte Galvin JD  
 Pte Goosetree J  
 Pte Harvey L  
 Pte Hines D  
 Pte Long JL  
 Pte Mason T  
 Pte Smith SC

**Mortar Platoon**

Capt TA Clark  
 WO2 Kitson J  
 Sgt Smith BI  
 Sgt Johnson D  
 Cpl Grange-Cook D  
 Cpl Peacock KM  
 Cpl Smith ATH  
 Cpl Warley M  
 LCpl Arnott R  
 LCpl Dunster J  
 LCpl Gooch KT  
 LCpl Kinsey M  
 LCpl Mayes MN  
 LCpl Muley J

LCpl Vanhinsberg D  
 Pte Alford DD  
 Pte Bailey A  
 Pte Bowman J  
 Pte Chapman G  
 Pte Frampton TS  
 Pte Griffiths MS  
 Pte Hull AL  
 Pte Jansen RQ  
 Pte Malembe K  
 Pte Maritiro K  
 Pte McLaughlin RH  
 Pte Mnisi LA  
 Pte Rogers SM  
 Pte Rose ED  
 Pte Saumi SS  
 Pte Sianokevi R  
 Pte Sullivan JW  
 Pte Taylor R  
 Pte Tjihero BI  
 Pte Tyrell M  
 Pte White SW  
 Pte Wood SCD

**Machine Gun Platoon**

WO2 Browning W  
 Sgt Phair R  
 Cpl Debus RP  
 Cpl Silvey R  
 LCpl Goodship IW  
 LCpl Jarvis N  
 LCpl Johnson R  
 LCpl Wildney  
 Pte Armstrong F  
 Pte Baars C  
 Pte Brennan A  
 Pte Charlesworth M  
 Pte Dodds O  
 Pte Gondwe M  
 Pte Gordon-Jones JM  
 Pte Harris SN  
 Pte Harris R  
 Pte Keable S  
 Pte McDermott S  
 Pte Meiring D  
 Pte Palmer M

Pte Read J  
 Pte Rushen-Smith PR  
 Pte Scott J  
 Pte Palmer MJ  
 Pte Shea D  
 Pte Steed MP  
 Pte Wood A

**Javelin Platoon**

Capt BJ Howes  
 WO2 Clark S  
 Sgt Toynton P  
 Cpl Evans D  
 Cpl Leighton M  
 Cpl McPhee SM  
 Cpl Mercer S  
 Cpl Owusu GO  
 Cpl Price AT  
 LCpl Alden W  
 LCpl Chadwick D  
 LCpl Pritchard J  
 LCpl Rogalski JM  
 LCpl Strike IK  
 Pte Bartholew THW  
 Pte Bell D  
 Pte Bell E  
 Pte Brunning J  
 Pte Ellis BE  
 Pte George CJ  
 Pte Howell PJ  
 Pte Jones R  
 Pte Keogh L  
 Pte Lawrence B  
 Pte McCabe H  
 Pte McKelvie AR  
 Pte Nurse GA  
 Pte Sellors MW  
 Pte Tate M  
 Pte Tavernier A  
 Pte Waghorne GA  
 Pte Wallis A  
 Pte Wills S  
 Pte Wright RJ

## 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2010

**Battalion Headquarters**

Lt Col RW Wooddissie MBE MC  
 Maj D Mackness  
 Maj PJ Messenger  
 Revd (Capt) J Francis  
 Capt DJ Haggart  
 Capt GE Osborne  
 WO1 Lewis BP  
 WO2 Farrell DA  
 WO2 Mahoney IM  
 Sgt Hart CJ

**RAO's Department**

Maj RA Shipman  
 Lt JO Hartley  
 WO2 Brettell SR  
 SSgt Ansell CS  
 Sgt Brown IR  
 Sgt Corne AV

Sgt McGuinness KF  
 Cpl Pilchowska C  
 Cpl Wedderman NN  
 LCpl Beecham S  
 Pte Hamill SI  
 Pte Smith JT

**QM's Department**

Maj PG Martin  
 Capt DP Elsey  
 WO2 David MJ  
 WO2 Dyson RJ  
 Sgt Latus G  
 Sgt Rickman DJ  
 Cpl Connolly SI  
 Cpl Crozier DF  
 Cpl Franklin SP  
 Cpl Lawson SP  
 Cpl Peart SJ

Cpl Selby RJ  
 LCpl Otty AP  
 LCpl Presley JR  
 Hldr Bates M

**Gym**

SSgt Baker C

**DWSC**

Cpl Griffin R  
 Cpl Unsworth C  
 LCpl Moore DA  
 Pte Hansen DA  
 Pte Jackson IN

**RP Staff**

Sgt Baird CA  
 Cpl Burgwin DS  
 Cpl Styles DI

## Orbats

LCpl Barton JW  
LCpl Joy GC  
LCpl Riley JE

**Training Wing**  
Capt AJ Walker  
Sgt Seymour MJ

**Messes**  
CSgt Knight DB  
Sgt Knowles DP  
Cpl Morgan JMD  
Pte Green JF  
Pte Linden ZZ  
Pte Quinn CST  
Pte Yates GL

**Medical Centre**  
Maj H Alefounder  
Cpl Knight PD  
LCpl Hoy KWR  
LCpl Jubb PL  
LCpl Qionibaravi RMD  
LCpl Smith DM  
Pte Austin JD  
Pte Parker AC

**RCMO**  
Capt AJ Bartlett  
Cpl Handforth JC

**CQMS**  
CSgt Towe SW  
Cpl Smedley IT  
Pte Couldstone SM  
Pte Jennings L

**MT Platoon**  
Capt AJ Rainey MC  
Sgt Ireland MT  
Cpl Atkins RA  
Cpl Bryl ST  
Cpl Hughes GO  
Cpl Saunders S  
LCpl Slater SI  
LCpl Stephens CM  
Pte Barrow S  
Pte Beckett SH  
Pte Borrill MJ  
Pte Lea AC  
Pte Mitchell PA  
Pte Parker MD  
Pte Potter KJM  
Pte Takala AB  
Pte Vout RJ  
Pte Woad DA

**CIS**  
Capt JM Lanham  
WO2 Viveash S  
CSgt Kirk AJ  
Sgt Mackness BD  
Sgt Latter AA  
Cpl Freeman GC  
Cpl Hack KI  
Cpl Lowther NJ  
Cpl Turner CJ  
LCpl Beard K  
LCpl Johnson GW  
LCpl Kearney S  
LCpl Milton RI

Pte Burgess R  
Pte Chatten BC  
Pte Jennings RA  
Pte Hoy DII  
Pte O'Connor L Jnr  
Pte Proctor N  
Pte Quinn RA  
Pte Reeve JI  
Pte Warren JP

**Welfare**  
Capt A Stewart  
Sgt Bradley M  
Cpl Johnson LD  
Pte Koroibulileka S

**Intelligence Cell**  
Capt WS Otridge  
CSgt Percival DC  
Cpl Miller AR  
LCpl Alinejad Y  
Pte Lucas SM  
Pte Hinchcliffe DM

**Catering Platoon**  
WO2 Bailey T  
Sgt Ace JG  
Sgt Carroll PM  
Sgt Young W  
Cpl Biggs D  
Cpl Hunter JG  
Cpl Luckin PM  
Cpl Stelfox D  
LCpl Beeston R  
LCpl Bredenkamp K  
LCpl Errington M  
LCpl Souter S  
LCpl Webster PM  
LCpl Zaayman K  
Pte Campbell-Mackenzie C  
Pte Cooper T  
Pte Davies S  
Pte Lonsdale JG  
Pte Makaya S  
Pte Mate S  
Pte Moon N  
Pte Thomas D  
Pte Van-Tonder S  
Pte Wilson C  
Pte Wright J

**LAD**  
Sgt Battiscombe SG  
Cpl Bowen MC  
Cpl Greenhill MD  
Cfn Caley PT  
Cfn Podmore S

### A(Lincolnshire) Company Company Headquarters

Maj R H Whitham  
Capt J Quince  
WO2 Sweeney P  
CSgt Hume SA  
Cpl Stocks P  
Cpl Woolley J  
Pte Burn R  
Pte Cromer DD  
Pte Glover DP  
Pte Shaw G

Cpl Croll SP  
Pte Price-Berridge MJ

**1 Platoon**  
2Lt R Weston  
Sgt Williams GDP  
Cpl Burgess TP  
Cpl Green ARP  
LCpl Ficetola M  
LCpl Knight K  
LCpl Lawrence CL  
LCpl Young SA  
Pte Bell RA  
Pte Baker KB  
Pte Braddock MA  
Pte Brewer DMC  
Pte Brotheridge D  
Pte Cook DAJ  
Pte Gwarimbo LG  
Pte Hammill K  
Pte Hursey R  
Pte Jarman LD  
Pte Murdoch SJ  
Pte Nichols CC  
Pte Simmons HJ  
Pte Thornton ZS  
Pte Tonks PHM  
Pte Tully J  
Pte Vine BR  
Pte Wade CJ  
Pte Walker AP  
Pte West C  
Pte Young TM

**2 Platoon**  
2Lt ND Barron  
Sgt Taylor AA  
Cpl Rawdon D  
LCpl Holland LM  
LCpl Mander MS  
LCpl McIntyre JR  
LCpl Stanley SG  
LCpl Wills AS  
Pte Allen KL  
Pte Ayris L  
Pte Bacon DE  
Pte Braddock J  
Pte Boot SJK  
Pte Carville L  
Pte Chamberlain RC  
Pte Coletta RI  
Pte Cox SG  
Pte Fletcher CT  
Pte Hemmings DJ  
Pte Hunt FJ  
Pte McDevitt CJM  
Pte Munro SB  
Pte Proctor NP  
Pte Smith 49 D  
Pte Smith 52 RR  
Pte Smith 79 GF  
Pte Taylor DP  
Pte Towler M  
Pte Tyma TAB  
Pte Underwood KJ  
Pte Wolfe RI

**3 Platoon**  
2Lt TJW Green  
Sgt Newark DA  
Cpl Goodman BJ

**Orbats**

Cpl Tanner DB  
 LCpl Dillnut JE  
 LCpl Leahy L  
 LCpl Longdon CH  
 LCpl Stamp DMJ  
 Pte Broadway AJ  
 Pte Carter LA  
 Pte Clipson JK  
 Pte Colyer LMJ  
 Pte Dillon MSD  
 Pte England JD  
 Pte Euston A  
 Pte Fitzgerald D  
 Pte Goodwin M  
 Pte Graham L  
 Pte Hay ML  
 Pte Howard MD  
 Pte Horwood P  
 Pte Kearney TH  
 Pte Lojimit-Williams EM  
 Pte McSherry SMC  
 Pte Mukarakate AT  
 Pte Ndzesu AT  
 Pte Ramsden JPV  
 Pte Smith 28 CS

**B(Leicestershire) Company  
 Company Headquarters**

Maj MA Nicholas  
 Capt M Freshe  
 WO2 George A  
 CSgt Penrose T  
 Cpl Sampson CM  
 Cpl Lowther  
 LCpl Morawski SD  
 LCpl Johnson GW  
 LCpl Richardson MJ  
 Pte Ablitt SJ  
 Pte Baker J  
 Pte Frost MA  
 Pte Manneh JD  
 Pte Markanycz BW  
 Pte Nordin R  
 Pte Soulsby K  
 Pte Waring J

**4 Platoon**

2Lt JE Powell  
 Sgt Shiels AR  
 Cpl Alderman R  
 Cpl Antoni P  
 LCpl Fields KA  
 LCpl McPherson K  
 LCpl O'Shea RP  
 LCpl Tofton DLJ  
 LCpl Uzokwe OO  
 Pte Barratt KW  
 Pte Basnett JTW  
 Pte Blackham L  
 Pte Bosworth L  
 Pte Brown MNT  
 Pte Casciani PV  
 Pte Clark IK  
 Pte Doyle DC  
 Pte Eva GK  
 Pte Eyden RJ  
 Pte Forman RD  
 Pte Heraghty MI  
 Pte Horton DW  
 Pte Moses MP

Pte Selby NM  
 Pte Smith Z  
 Pte Tshabalala GW  
 Pte Turner T  
 Pte Ward T  
 Pte Watts D

**5 Platoon**

Lt TD Aspinall  
 Sgt Seaton-Norton SA  
 Cpl Law LG  
 Cpl Roffe CM  
 LCpl Goulding DP  
 LCpl Murby D  
 LCpl Partridge RA  
 Pte Flower LA  
 Pte Gouws JC  
 Pte Gumpo RD  
 Pte Jenkins LK  
 Pte Lawrence DA  
 Pte Lusha J  
 Pte Mackness M  
 Pte Magwaza K  
 Pte Marshall JA  
 Pte Matthews TH  
 Pte Meehan P  
 Pte Minton ZA  
 Pte Mitchell JMR  
 Pte Mulenga AWB  
 Pte Peacock CP  
 Pte Petley W  
 Pte Richardson GAM  
 Pte Smith R  
 Pte Smith RC  
 Pte Thom A  
 Pte Thurbly SRT  
 Pte Webster RDL  
 Pte Wright BJ

**6 Platoon**

Lt TC Roden  
 Sgt Crowdell CP  
 Cpl King DL  
 LCpl Ellis TW  
 LCpl Herring JM  
 LCpl Simmonds LM  
 LCpl Thomas SA  
 Pte Bates R  
 Pte Buckenham JT  
 Pte Chikelu HU  
 Pte Fisher L  
 Pte Guymer CJA  
 Pte Halliday-Pegg RMA  
 Pte Kimanzi GM  
 Pte Neal JM  
 Pte Nicholas AT  
 Pte Pickering D  
 Pte Richardson LP  
 Pte Robinson TB  
 Pte Rossington S  
 Pte Saunders B  
 Pte Seaman CP  
 Pte Smith SA  
 Pte Steel CA  
 Pte Tacey MA  
 Pte Tulett DS  
 Pte Watkins G  
 Pte Wilson KMJ  
 Pte Woods ST

**C(Northamptonshire) Company  
 Company Headquarters**

Maj B Allen  
 Lt Mackness A  
 WO2 Graham SD  
 CSgt Spray D  
 Cpl Dalton ARP  
 Cpl Jackubas DW  
 LCpl Coryat RJP  
 LCpl Parker MD  
 Pte Bavaro JB  
 Pte Grover GP  
 Pte Lindsey NMJ  
 Pte Moffatt SE  
 Pte Powdrill LJ  
 Pte Prom RL  
 Pte Reeve D

**7 Platoon**

2Lt MP Goodman  
 Sgt Estwick L  
 Cpl Bobsin LF  
 Cpl Pegg ST  
 LCpl Dawe J  
 LCpl Green NC  
 LCpl Harding AE  
 LCpl Stuart TA  
 Pte Clarke MC  
 Pte Confue KL  
 Pte Dillnut JR  
 Pte Fensome MJ  
 Pte Fisher JM  
 Pte Gibb JP  
 Pte Harrison JCB  
 Pte Jennings RA  
 Pte Kidby RM  
 Pte Lepley JA  
 Pte Linstead JD  
 Pte Martland LR  
 Pte Mawby CJ  
 Pte McDonald S  
 Pte Morey CJ  
 Pte O'Connell LFG  
 Pte Pettinger D  
 Pte Reid AJ  
 Pte Royce LJ  
 Pte Stocking G  
 Pte Thomas NMT  
 Pte Wormall SW  
 Pte Yemm SJ

**8 Platoon**

Lt JL Robinson  
 LSgt Thomas SP  
 Cpl Davies JR  
 Cpl Price KJ  
 LCpl Brooks TG  
 LCpl Power TJ  
 LCpl Presland SA  
 LCpl West EPJ  
 LCpl Widdowson O  
 LCpl Wileman LA  
 Pte Annan JS  
 Pte Brush TA  
 Pte Chapman J  
 Pte Chrysanthou ZN  
 Pte Clark R  
 Pte Crashley BL  
 Pte Cross PA  
 Pte Dickson CC  
 Pte Hammond AS



## Orbats

Pte Hooper BJ  
 Pte Hunter TW  
 Pte Jasper AJ  
 Pte Mills RJ  
 Pte O'Leary LO  
 Pte Parsler JP  
 Pte Roach MJ  
 Pte Robinson AL  
 Pte Tanner J  
 Pte Tanner JT  
 Pte Vanbeck JD  
 Pte Wilkinson NJ

### 9 Platoon

2Lt AR Emerson  
 Sgt Hartshorne O  
 Cpl Baker JE  
 Cpl Fox M  
 LCpl Brazel MB  
 LCpl Hogg JR  
 LCpl Marsh JE  
 LCpl Waite JP  
 Pte Bukavesi PTS  
 Pte Butler SMJ  
 Pte Campbell L  
 Pte Currah-Hall PM  
 Pte Donovan KMJ  
 Pte Frazer RM  
 Pte Grant SMJ  
 Pte Hodge PL  
 Pte Jackson SC  
 Pte Lewis RI  
 Pte Powell JE  
 Pte Pratt SE  
 Pte Richardson SLR  
 Pte Smith AD  
 Pte Sullivan GW  
 Pte Vine TCR  
 Pte Ward AR  
 Pte Wernham LS

### D(Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company Company Headquarters

Maj P Muncey  
 Capt LJ Waghorn  
 WO2 Vazquez N  
 CSgt Reeder N  
 Cpl Grainger MR  
 Cpl Stephens D  
 Cpl Whittle M  
 LCpl West OM  
 Pte Dreczewicz MJ  
 Pte Mott M  
 Pte Rushin LA  
 Pte Uzelac M  
 Pte Wandless PG  
 Pte Lewis TR

### Mortar Platoon

Capt AW Hopper  
 CSgt Hills SP  
 Sgt Fawcett T  
 Cpl Finnerty S  
 Cpl Hughes P

Cpl Isaacs DK  
 Cpl Smit SR  
 LCpl Carter SFC  
 LCpl Forbes MA  
 LCpl Hill RA  
 LCpl Ireland W  
 LCpl Kay M  
 LCpl Patel R  
 LCpl Shortte A  
 LCpl Wara SV  
 Pte Badjie FB  
 Pte Bluer M  
 Pte Bradley AJ  
 Pte Compton LA  
 Pte Cutter LB  
 Pte Damison E  
 Pte Deane JD  
 Pte Ferguson SP  
 Pte Fowler DL  
 Pte Francis FE  
 Pte Gardner BN  
 Pte Huggins RR  
 Pte Hughes JPC  
 Pte Hutton PI  
 Pte Ireland J  
 Pte Johnson NK  
 Pte Mwangi D  
 Pte Nicholls SA  
 Pte Sasar-De-Sain A  
 Pte Stevens M  
 Pte Sunman TJ  
 Pte Tidwell NPA  
 Pte Walton JK  
 Pte Watson CA

### FSG A

Capt WD Willdridge  
 WO2 Greenhill J  
 Sgt Lang CL  
 Cpl Asbridge AL  
 Cpl Crafer R  
 LCpl Maling RL  
 LCpl Munden JI  
 LCpl Partridge GC  
 LCpl Price IR  
 LCpl Scott SK  
 LCpl Sharman SJ  
 LCpl Watson I  
 Pte Alder RL  
 Pte Alderton NM  
 Pte Barrand MDA  
 Pte Boakye P  
 Ddr Brooks RL  
 Dmr Cakau JMC  
 Pte Craycraft D  
 Pte Henderson MS  
 Pte Hudson NC  
 Pte Hunter SN  
 Pte Price SS  
 Pte Rothery AJR  
 Dmr Rumbellow RJ  
 Pte Smith NA  
 Pte Walker L  
 Pte Williams PK  
 Pte Willmore C

### FSG B

Capt NJP McGinley  
 CSgt Mactavish SJ  
 Sgt Sheerin P  
 Sgt Steel T  
 DMaj Swain DK  
 Cpl Abbott ST  
 LCpl Adamson SM  
 LCpl Birkin CB  
 LCpl Coleman DLC  
 LCpl Cunningham JC  
 LCpl Hatch TH  
 LCpl Parkin MA  
 LCpl Russell TW  
 Pte Abbs SP  
 Pte Burns J  
 Dmr Denford RJ  
 Pte Foley LF  
 Pte Hearne M  
 Pte Kempson SD  
 Dmr Leavesley C  
 Pte Lewis SM  
 Pte Longhurst AJL  
 Pte Matthews LA  
 Pte Medcalf WRM  
 Pte Moore C  
 Pte Pinder MDA  
 Pte Rice GS  
 Pte Sleath DG  
 Pte Sutton G

### FSG C

Capt JW Bennett-Madge  
 CSgt Taylor S  
 Sgt Thurman MO  
 Cpl Bates MJ  
 Cpl Chapman JA  
 Cpl Cusick RJ  
 Cpl Daly AJ  
 LCpl Byron PB  
 LCpl Clarke DL  
 LCpl Fields JA  
 LCpl Foley N  
 LCpl Govier LCJ  
 LCpl Grenier DAW  
 LCpl Locke AP  
 LCpl Morgan MG  
 LCpl Seaton-Norton DT  
 LCpl Townsend BL  
 LCpl Wallis KD  
 LCpl West JBD  
 Pte Evans AB  
 Pte Good MR  
 Pte Hazell AP  
 Pte Manning R  
 Pte McFedries HJ  
 Pte Parker LKP  
 Pte Richards AT  
 Pte Rogers SM  
 Dmr Teague RB  
 Pte Wall C  
 Pte Walsh K

### 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2010

**Battalion Headquarters**

Lt Col RFL Lyne  
Maj RWT Pattison  
CF3 Whitehead PC  
Capt OB Ormiston  
Capt AG Dickson  
Capt S Devitt  
Capt DJ Pope  
WO1 Main K  
WO2 Coleman R MBE  
SSgt Perkins KE  
Cpl Ehret K  
Pte Barnet

**HQ Company****Company Headquarters**

Maj A Coulson  
Capt CJ Tate  
WO2 Butler C  
CSgt Shand C  
CSgt Bygrave DP  
Pte Barber ECL

**QM Department**

Maj TP Beighton  
Maj GW French  
WO2 Redhead S  
WO2 Woolcott ST  
Cpl Westley JJ

**RAP**

Maj IKM Sommerville  
SSgt Cooke MD  
Cpl Langston A  
LCpl Templeton M  
Pte Bannister ER  
Pte Bush DJ  
Pte Harriott AL

**CIS Platoon**

WO2 Beard DT  
Sgt Lanaway GD

**MT Department**

WO2 Lappin MD  
CSgt Street M  
Cpl Westley SR

**REME**

SSgt Alexander S  
SSgt Carter RWE  
Sgt Power N  
Cpl Bunn SE  
Cpl Spence PMH  
Cfn Nash SP

**Intelligence Cell**

Capt IG Greenwood  
WO2 Starie MFG

**Catering Detachment**

SSgt Tayler G  
Cpl Rogers AK

**Defence Platoon**

2Lt C Finbow  
Cpl Fallon JV

LCpl Catchpole C  
LCpl Redwood JD  
Pte Anstee T  
Pte Ashford P  
Pte Bird M  
Pte Boyd BC  
Pte Brailsford KN  
Pte Burke A  
Pte Canfer R  
Pte Davis D  
Pte Dinsdale J  
Pte Duchesne A  
Pte Evans L  
Pte Godfrey M  
Pte Heffer AJ  
Pte Husnu D  
Pte Newman B  
Pte Pusey A  
Pte Sayer D  
Pte Thorogood CC  
Pte Waters M  
Pte Wills R

**Drums Platoon**

Sgt Clark BJE  
LCpl Cheetham MS  
LCpl Howe AJ  
LCpl Jones PR  
Pte Bottomley PD  
Pte Britchford DAJ  
Pte Clark TD  
Pte Dring CJ  
Pte Eames MH  
Pte Goodman A  
Pte Nixon DM  
Pte Reed DJ  
Pte Smith NA  
Pte Wells J

**RRTT**

WO2 Jones RE  
WO2 Smith AG  
Sgt Dunn M  
Sgt Seely M  
Sgt Ward WP

**Band**

Capt PCH Hudson  
WO2 Ainley M  
WO2 Temple JD  
SSgt Gardner M  
SSgt Thompson DG  
Sgt Carey NJ  
Sgt Hall PA  
Sgt Taylor P  
Cpl Ainley C  
Cpl Auffret MR  
Cpl Blackman JA  
Cpl Darwen AM  
Cpl Smith JL  
LCpl Allen HS  
LCpl Auffret EC  
LCpl Fairhall PG  
LCpl Glover GD  
LCpl Lock JR  
LCpl Proudfoot TD  
LCpl Radford CJ

Musn Barrett NJ  
Musn Barnett J  
Musn Chandley S  
Musn Collier M  
Musn Davies JM  
Musn Hobson JC  
Musn Hobson SF  
Musn Hughes M  
Musn Humphrey SJ  
Musn Marsland L  
Musn Mckeown C  
Musn Mills GA  
Musn Ormerod ST  
Musn Sutton T

**A Company (Norwich)****Company Headquarters**

Maj ME Woodward  
Capt GJ Rushmere  
Capt T Steele  
WO2 Smith CR  
WO2 Stone RA  
CSgt Keeble GJ  
CSgt Brown JL  
Sgt Casey VM  
Sgt Chambers KJ  
Sgt Ferrand TL  
Cpl Baldwin CM  
Cpl Feaks JE  
Cpl Hall MC  
Cpl Hamett CA  
Cpl Stone MN  
LCpl Canning DA

**Rifle Platoon (Lowestoft)**

WO2 Farthing DP  
Sgt Sherlock M  
LCpl Crossman A  
LCpl Smith MJ  
LCpl Stokes LSC  
Pte Emons AL  
Pte Harding BJ  
Pte Jack LM  
Pte Manning NJL  
Pte Monk OC  
Pte Munro RS  
Pte Muttit GW  
Pte Niel CJ  
Pte Pickess JK  
Pte Porter MD  
Pte Reeve JR  
Pte Rodwell AK  
Pte Sampson MP  
Pte Smith M  
Pte Stannard KG  
Pte Tovell RC

**Mortar Platoon (Norwich)**

2Lt PR Hodson  
CSgt De Kretser MW  
Sgt Hatch SP  
Sgt Jones S  
Cpl Adams EA  
Cpl Baker DS  
Cpl Ellis SN  
Cpl Savino DID  
Cpl Walker SE

## Orbats

LCpl Sanders DH  
 LCpl Webb NE  
 Pte Barrowlough PJ  
 Pte Beales CT  
 OCdt Blayney MJ  
 Pte Boulter AG  
 Pte Chapman S  
 Pte Cox R  
 Pte Edmondson JA  
 Pte Evans BP  
 Pte Fielding LP  
 Pte George DC  
 Pte Grint DC  
 Pte Gould WJ  
 Pte Hogger KA  
 Pte Hubbard B  
 Pte Jacobs DM  
 Pte Johnston SAM  
 Pte Key S  
 Pte Locke FM  
 Pte Luff KB  
 Pte Medler BC  
 Pte Miles BH  
 Pte Moore AJ  
 Pte Murphy SJ  
 Pte Patrick SN  
 Pte Porter WJD  
 Pte Sayer J  
 Pte Whitehouse MH  
 Pte Wilkinson C  
 Pte Wooding PM  
 Pte Wright JC

### FTRS

Maj RG Rogers  
 Cpl Galea DP

### B Company (Lincoln) Company Headquarters

Maj AG Dickson  
 Capt B Saunderson  
 Capt P Weatherall  
 WO2 Thompson B  
 CSgt Day MT  
 CSgt Osman M  
 WCpl Massingham S AGC  
 WLCpl Thomas Y J AGC  
 WPte Hearn K AGC  
 Mrs Y Smith

### Recruiting

WO2 Limb JA  
 Sgt Hope MAG  
 Sgt Sheils W  
 Sgt Walker GN

### Med Detachment

LCpl Delvin LA RAMC  
 WPte Dowling LC RAMC

### MT Detachment

Cpl Staines SP  
 LCpl Fletcher DI  
 Mr Finlay F

### REME Detachment

LCpl Pinkney K REME  
 Pte Garner-Jones SC REME

### RLC Detachment

Cpl Willey N RLC

LCpl Hilton ADJ RLC

### Javelin Platoon (Lincoln)

Capt KD Grattrick  
 WO2 (SPSI) Asker A  
 CSgt Shaw SA  
 Cpl Smith DL  
 LCpl Edgar M  
 LCpl Smith KJ  
 LCpl Wayne J  
 Pte Brackenbury LR  
 Pte Hyde RDR  
 Pte Seers WT  
 Pte Vamplew JA

### Rifle Platoon (Lincoln)

Sgt Bisset AD  
 Cpl Dennis LD  
 LCpl Kane S  
 LCpl Staines LP  
 LCpl Robinson JE  
 Pte Anderson-Williams K  
 Pte Baker CM  
 Pte Bore JH  
 Pte Cybulski MA  
 Pte Duxbury DA  
 Pte Henage WP  
 Pte Hillary SJ  
 Pte McPherson K  
 Pte Osman GM  
 Pte Schofield LG  
 Pte Stedham RJ  
 Pte Whelan AJR  
 Pte Willoughby CP

### Rifle Platoon (Grimshy)

Sgt Hardy MG  
 Cpl Granger PT  
 LCpl Curry MA  
 LCpl Grant SP  
 LCpl Wilson R  
 Pte Bycroft BW  
 Pte Chester PJ  
 Pte Collins IG  
 Pte Darbon DL  
 Pte Fyfe SPR  
 Pte Marks SM  
 Pte McMahon CR  
 Pte Steventon PTE  
 Pte White R  
 Pte Wyles CA

### FTRS

Sgt Dolby MR

### Recruits

Pte Bell AI  
 Pte Burrow R  
 Pte Hippey SD  
 Pte Kemp SB  
 Pte Howarth SJ  
 Pte Kettleworth BL  
 Pte Mackay SG  
 Pte Robbins DJ  
 Pte Sale DP  
 Pte Shorter LA  
 Pte Spencer SL  
 Pte Stray JJ  
 Pte Tedstill MO  
 Pte Wall SA  
 Pte Whitworth JT

Pte Wilson P

### C Company (Leicester) Company Headquarters

Maj MJ Bevin  
 Capt J Pickering  
 Capt B Jacobs  
 Capt T D Smith MBE  
 WO2 Groom PJ  
 WO2 Coupe DJ  
 CSgt Upsall JF  
 CSgt Nagra AJ  
 Sgt Young D  
 LCpl Clay MT  
 Mr Cockram G (Clerk)

### Recruiting

WO2 Nagra BS  
 Sgt Holmes MA

### Med Detachment

Cpl Matley H  
 LCpl Moore CM

### Rifle Platoon (Northampton)

Lt AG Speechley  
 Sgt Hague  
 Cpl Clements C  
 Cpl Martin AB  
 Cpl Tew MN  
 LCpl Newitt LW  
 LCpl Riggs KW  
 Pte Booth R  
 Pte Deegan PJ  
 Pte Field DA  
 Pte Gammon CH  
 Pte Gough RM  
 Pte Grey S  
 Pte Hinton MJ  
 Pte Mullen A  
 Pte Pankewycz AJ  
 Pte Shreidan  
 Pte Smith M  
 Pte Spokes PA  
 Pte Tunks R  
 Pte Turley D  
 Pte Umney A

### Rifle Platoon (Leicester)

Lt IG Ginnis  
 CSgt Hunter AJ  
 Sgt Gadsden P  
 Sgt Hambridge BL  
 Sgt Bail NT  
 Cpl West ET  
 Cpl Roach SD  
 LCpl West CW  
 LCpl Bates D  
 LCpl Kimpton MP  
 Pte Adams JR  
 Pte Arscott  
 Pte Burgess M  
 Pte Brown PW  
 Pte Clarke RL  
 Pte Crossan CB  
 Pte Hayward WM  
 Pte Huggett RA  
 Pte Johnson KC  
 Pte Johnson  
 Pte Kanwal SS  
 Pte Knowles T

**Orbats**

Pte Latham SA  
 Pte Lewis G  
 Pte McDonald NP  
 Pte Newstead IJ  
 Pte Palmer TR  
 Pte Pinner AM  
 Pte Roberts CJ  
 Pte Ruutel DP  
 Pte Shaw DA  
 Pte Willis TAJ

**FTRS**

Cpl Mason SM  
 LCpl Lambell JS  
 LCpl Parker MDE  
 LCpl Poultney EG

**Recruits**

Pte Bharna K  
 Pte Dennison L  
 Pte Ferguson A  
 Pte Hare G  
 Pte Jones G  
 Pte Jeacock M  
 Pte Mackay D  
 Pte McDonald EJ  
 Pte Mead J  
 Pte Moseley M  
 Pte Naismith A  
 Pte Robinson K  
 Pte Salim S  
 Pte Scattergood A  
 Pte Wilson D

**E Company (Chelmsford)****Company Headquarters**

Maj TJ Irwin-Parker  
 Capt RP Grenfell  
 Capt AD Horner  
 WO2 Cavedasca PJ  
 WO2 Snow IJ  
 CSgt Taylor T  
 Sgt Marsh M  
 Mr Barlow J  
 Mr Lelliott SW

**Recruiting**

CSgt Pugh I  
 LCpl Bedwell JM  
 LCpl Chambers JA  
 LCpl Davies J  
 LCpl Hutchings JF

**MT Detachment**

Cpl Cain PF

**REME Detachment**

LCpl Trew MP

**RLC Detachment**

Cpl Turpin VJ

**GPMG(SF) Platoon (Chelmsford)**

CSgt Jeffree JP  
 Cpl Gayler LD  
 LCpl Cox CJ  
 LCpl Greenan AJ  
 LCpl Johnson DW  
 LCpl Ruffell SJ  
 Pte Allen SW  
 Pte Baker RW  
 Pte Degnan GD  
 Pte Gillies CD  
 Pte Miller J  
 Pte Proops CJ  
 Pte Plair SR  
 Pte Winter

**Rifle Platoon (Hertford)**

Lt MV Hart  
 Cpl Kelson RW  
 Cpl Lawrence L  
 Cpl McClatchey DP  
 LCpl Brown C  
 LCpl Clark-Tunnicliff MG  
 LCpl Woods AR  
 Pte Auburn MG  
 Pte Brodie SJ  
 Pte Chalke JW  
 Pte Clarke L  
 Pte Coe IL  
 Pte Dixon KR  
 Pte Eames MS

Pte Galloway JW  
 Pte Hill MS  
 Pte Izzillo L  
 Pte Jones AL  
 Pte Joyes PJ  
 Pte Kovacs IR  
 Pte Leo EE  
 Pte Magee AT  
 Pte Miozga NS  
 Pte Pooley NS  
 Pte Robins JB  
 Pte Roxburgh SW  
 Pte Smith DJ  
 Pte Trueman CM  
 Pte Vickers CR  
 Pte Walker AR  
 Pte Walpole RC

**Recruits**

Pte Akiga ML  
 Pte Benstead J  
 Pte Buckingham AP  
 Pte Chandler DA  
 Pte Clark S  
 Pte Davies A  
 Pte Dobson DM  
 Pte Eldret CR  
 Pte Falkowski WK  
 Pte Falzarano G  
 Pte Francis TC  
 Pte Griffin J  
 Pte Howell AD  
 Pte Masson W  
 Pte Patch M  
 Pte Pickles AD  
 Pte Potter SJ  
 Pte Purser TM  
 Pte Shippen DJ  
 Pte Townsley M  
 Pte Trueman-Hopson AL  
 Pte Webster JA  
 Pte Warman TF

**Mobilised**

LCpl O'Malley S  
 Pte Lamer D





**To:** RHQ, The Royal Anglian Regiment  
 The Keep  
 Gibraltar Barracks  
 Bury St Edmunds  
 Suffolk IP33 3RN

**THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT BENEVOLENT CHARITY**

**DONATION FORM**

**Donor's Full Name and Address**

Name (capitals): .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

**Gift Aid Declaration**

I request that The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity (Registered Number 1085050) treat all donations I have made since January 2010, and any future donations, as Gift Aid donations, unless I notify you otherwise.

Signature: ..... Date: ...../...../.....

**Notes:**

1. You must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Charity reclaims on your donations, which is currently 28p for each £1 you give.
2. You must cancel this declaration if, in future, you no longer pay UK tax.

**Standing Order**

To (Name and address of your Bank): .....

..... Post Code: .....

Please make regular payments of £..... every month , quarter , year  to The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity from the following account number: .....

sort code: ..... starting on: ...../...../..... and ending on: ...../...../.....

or until further notice.

Account Name: .....

Signature: ..... Date: ...../...../.....

Please pay to: The Royal Bank of Scotland, Holts Branch, Lawrie House, Victoria Road, Farnborough GU14 7NR; Sort Code: 16-19-26, Account No 14811362.

**Single Gift**

I would like to make a donation to the Benevolence Charity of £..... and enclose a cheque for this sum payable to The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity. Please ensure you complete the Gift Aid declaration above if you want your donation to increase by 28%.





IN MEMORY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT AND THE EAST ANGLIAN REGIMENT WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR

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