

**It is with deep regret that we record the death of Maj Rev M D Franks MBE on 9 June 2006. After a long career in both the Essex Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment Maj Franks was appointed the Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment in November 1998. A Memorial Service is to be held at the Regimental Chapel at Warley at 2.30 pm 3 October 2006.**

**We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.**

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

1. Brig P D Jones MBE Military Adviser to the Special Representative of the Security General, UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan - 24 Jun 06.

#### **PROMOTION**

2. For promotion to Lt Col in 2007:

Maj S D Etherington.

#### **CONGRATULATORY**

3. ASgt Towe, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, is congratulated on winning the Director of Infantry's Cutler's Sword Competition for 2005. The Sword is awarded to the NCO who has displayed the best prospects for the development of drumming in the Infantry.

#### **POSTINGS**

4. Capt R J McNeil from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn to Tp Comd SSR	Jan 06
Lt Col D G Vincent MBE from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn to	
SO1 G7(Trg Pol) HQ DInf	Jun 06
AMaj M A Dingle from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn to SO3 GS DGS	Aug 06
Capt P A Muncey from 1(UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Sqn to	
Coy Comd ATR Bassingbourn	Aug 06

## TRANSFERS

5. Capt P C Worthington from R ANGLIAN to RAMC - 28 Feb 05.  
Capt P M J Kelly from RRF to R ANGLIAN - 1 Jul 06.

## RETIREMENT

6. Capt R M Lewis - 9 Aug 06.

## BATTALION ACTIVITIES

7. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

June has seen a gradual change of direction for the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn following the successes of TESEX. The reports from Exercise Wessex Warrior were very encouraging; in a 3-0 mission whitewash the Bn achieved CT4 by some considerable margin, and the fantastic comments received from staff at BGTU, both written and informal, were certainly a testament to the hard work of all ranks prior to the exercise. The training year for the Vikings was more of a three month 'crammer', and so as other battle groups within 12 Bde begin to feel the pinch, the pressure now subsides for a while at least. That said there remains much to be done in terms of routine and training; the ongoing NCOs' Cadre, the rolling Coy (+) deployment to BATUS, and some well earned adventure training provide focus at all levels. Meanwhile the Headquarters and Command element have begun to turn their attentions to Op HERRICK, the formal training for which begins shortly after the end of summer leave.

This year's NCOs' Cadre has attracted a start state of 48 students. At the time of writing the Cadre is preparing to deploy to Wales for the tactical phase, having completed extensive in camp training, which has focussed on fitness, military knowledge, and junior leadership. The Cadre is once again led by Capt Luke Stamm, who lends us his extensive training experience for the last time prior to leaving the Army in November. The Cadre is hoping to facilitate an additional 25 junior commanders in time for operations in Afghanistan, and a pass off parade will be held on the Bn parade square on 21 July.

A(Norfolk) Coy have this month deployed to Canada in support of the 1 STAFFORDS BG's Ex Medicine Man. The Bn maintains this commitment throughout the summer, with B Coy due to take on the task in August. A strong D Coy Sp Wpns contingent has also been deployed in support of the task, with only C Coy left untouched to answer other Regimental commitments from Pirbright over the summer period. UK based adventure training has served to keep Elizabeth Barracks quiet for the past few weeks, as soldiers from all Coys

(including the AGC Det), have undertaken multi-activity trips to Wales, Cornwall and the Lake District. Finally, and by way of notice, Minden Day celebrations will this year take the form of a fun fair and fete followed by the traditional all ranks party in the evening. The Commanding Officer and all ranks of the Bn look forward to welcoming friends and veterans from the Regimental community on 1 August in what promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

## 8. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

June has been a month of change for the Bn. Having previously found ourselves at the mercy of the various elements of the Iraqi Security Forces the Bn has now become Basra City South BG. BG HQ has descended upon Basra Palace and is now established with the aim of interdicting and deterring the activity of the Jaysh Al Mardi (JAM) and the numerous other anti-Iraqi forces within Basra. Staff Officers have now assumed their more familiar roles. The IO has cast aside the Iraqi Army desk officer role and is now trying to catch up with two months of lost time, the Ops Officer is now weighed down with Op Orders. The change is certainly welcomed but is proving to be a significant hurdle. The orbat for the Bn has changed to accommodate 17 Bty of the RHA and also B Coy of 1 LI. B and D Companies of the Poachers are located within the Shatt Al Arab Hotel and are working as part of the Basra City North BG. It is unusual to see elements of the Bn conducting operations but be removed from them in terms of command and control. The pattern of life for the Bn is ongoing, a Hindustan Dinner night was held by B Coy. The transportation of the Colours through Basra City by Warrior with the Colour Party at the ready was only one part of the logistic effort for the event. Preparations for the forthcoming Talavera Dinner night are underway; no doubt one of the palaces of a former dictator will provide a suitable location for the event. It will be good to see the Colours and the pieces of silver brought by the Bn on show, even if we are forced to eat with our body armour and helmet within arms reach. Not having anything stronger than orange juice in the Talavera Cup will no doubt cause much consternation.

The pace of life for the Bn has continued at a rapid rate. Our first BG led operation to target members of the JAM has come and passed. Numerous elements were involved including Engineer assets to assist with the search and also elements of the Brigade Surveillance Coy. Large areas of Basra now fall under the responsibility of the Bn. Intimidation of members of the Sunni community is rife and the Bn are regularly tasked to surge into some of the busiest areas of the City to deter the threat.

The Bn is benefiting from working within the numerous groups that work within the Basra Palace compound. Close liaison with the private security companies that provide protection to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is now a regular occurrence. We are not responsible for the whole perimeter of camp and consequently site security is now dependant on liaison with US contractors, the ex-Gurkhas of the firm Kroll, Peruvians guarding the US compound and the Romanian contingent. The expected arrival of the UN mission will add another resident to the site with a Fijian force providing security.

**A(Lincolnshire) Coy.** Having found our niche at Basra Palace, it was inevitably time for a change. This came in the form of an invasion by BG HQ, who had received word they were to get their own train set to drive through the newly created Basra South Area. While the transition was keenly anticipated by all members of A Coy, who were assured by the OC that a change was as good as a rest, it did see our little empire plunged into disarray as we moved from our currently large quarters to the adjacent smaller ops room. The coy has not seen its role change significantly, with Security Sector Reform in the form of Liaison Officer delivery still the main effort but has also seen us tackle some other types of operation that we had previously not undertaken. The possibility in participating in some BG, as well as the opportunity to plan and execute coy operations is very appealing to all members of A Coy. This is hardly surprising when one considers the high level of training that was undertaken prior to deployment and the high standard that was achieved across the whole coy. Looking at our training and how soon ago it seems, it certainly seems strange that 19 Bde have been to recce the Palace in preparation for Op TELIC 9, it has spurred the coy into action, determined to have had an effect on the City before we hand over in November.

With the change of BG the coy has taken on new responsibilities in the training, mentoring and monitoring of Iraqi Police Service (IPS) personnel, as well as assessing the effectiveness of their operations. While we have not had much opportunity to liaise with the IPS we have begin to teach elements of their forces the basic skills they require to continue their jobs efficiently, a task that has been taken on by team commanders and their soldiers to very good effect. The training of and liaison with the Iraqi Army is no longer in the company remit which is a disappointment as we have found them a professional organisation who are keen to learn and improve their skills. We are looking forward to conducting joint operations with the Iraqi Army in the near future.

Even with the high tempo of operations, the coy have found time to continue with the Basra Palace 5-a-side football tournament where we are well represented by 4 teams, as well as enjoying the World Cup matches on the big screen in the cookhouse - anyone can go to a stadium, how many people can say they have watched England play from a former dictator's palace?

R&R comes closer for some and has passed already for others. Some members of the coy who have had early leave have been lucky enough to receive a further weeks leave near the end of the seven months. Also the Mortar Pl attached to A Coy had the good fortune to be able to move to Kuwait for a few days as part of an operational stand-down package, we are reliably informed that they made the most of all the facilities that were on offer.

Currently the coy is enjoying the variety that the new BG has provided, is looking forward to R&R, which will kick in soon, and is enjoying the confidence it has built through its recent successful operations.

#### **D(Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Coy**

The latter days of June see the coy having been in Basra for nearly a month. In some ways it feels like it has been 24 hours, in others it feels like 24 years.....

The company now belongs to the 1 LI BG, and are based at the Shatt al-Arab Hotel in the north of the City. The 'patch' we are responsible for is approximately 75 kilometres square. Most TV presenters would now convert areas like that into a comparison with Wales - let's just say our patch is smaller than Wales, and although the language is just as difficult to understand, it rains much less. It is a mix of rural (ie desert) and urban, although urban best describes most of the area. The attitude of the people ranges from friendly to...well, just not friendly.

The LI have made us very welcome, and are looking after us well - sure, they have their funny ways (marching incredibly quickly, and spelling Sergeant with a J), but they are a professional and friendly infantry bn who seek to be great without trying to be grand. Around half the coy live and sleep in rooms within the hotel, with the other half living within the portacabin compound that the coy works from. Surprisingly, the portacabin accommodation is by far and away the most popular, the rooms in the hotel being extremely hot and impossible to sleep in after about 8 o'clock in the morning - not that the boys get to laze in bed late into the morning - rather that we have become something of night workers of late, and find ourselves being free to get some sleep as the sun begins to rise.

9. **3rd Battalion.** No contribution.