



04/09

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

APR 09

NOTICES

1. Talavera 200: 25 July 09: Northampton

The Regiment will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Talavera in Northampton on 25 Jul 09. The celebrations will be based around the final reunion of the Northamptonshire Regiment Association who, in the presence of the Colonel of the Regiment, will parade for the last time. The Minden Band of The Queen's Division and C (Northamptonshire) Company, 2nd Battalion, will also be on the parade, the outside times of which are 1330 – 1440 hrs. The route is from the top of Abington Street (by Radio Northampton) to All Saints Church from where, at 1430 hrs, the Northamptonshire Regiment Association will march off parade for the very last time. The Regimental Family are therefore requested to ensure, where possible by their presence, that this fine Regiment gets the farewell that their centuries of loyal service to the Crown deserves. Maj Bill O'Driscoll, Area Secretary Northampton, is the responsible Regimental Officer, to whom all queries should be directed (Tel: 01604 635412; Email: 1ANGLIAN-AO@mod.uk).

2. Minden 250: 2 Aug 09: Bury St Edmunds

The Regiment will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Minden in Bury St Edmunds on 2 Aug 09. The celebrations will be based around the annual Minden Reunion of the Suffolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Association (Suffolk). Lt Col Tony Slater, Area Secretary Bury St Edmunds, is the responsible Regimental Officer, to whom all queries should be directed (Tel: 01284 752394; Email: ahqbse@rhqroyalanglian.org.uk).

BATTALION ACTIVITIES

3. 1st Battalion

At the start of the month, private soldiers aspiring for promotion came together to compete for places on the Fire Team Commanders' Course. Under the Training Wing, they were put through their paces with nearly 40 soldiers vying for just twelve places. Once selected, they were given continuation training before moving to Brecon to start the course, organized by the Queen's Division Company. As the Battalion refocuses towards light-role infantry skills, the rifle companies have been concentrating on low-level tactics on the local training areas in preparation for the forthcoming CT1/2 exercise on Salisbury Plain in May. The emphasis on fitness has also continued with C (Essex) Company and B (Suffolk) Company undertaking the ACFT 2.

At the beginning of the month, C (Essex) Company completed a three-day Public Order validation exercise in Longmoor Village, run by Lt Simon Broomfield. The Company achieved its objective and the exercise reinforced the valuable lessons of discipline and

controlled aggression. It incorporated petrol bomb inoculation and built up from platoon-level daytime training to a night-time company-level battle exercise. In Essex, approximately 25 members of C (Essex) Company celebrated St George's Day in Basildon. This event was coordinated by Lt Charlie Powell and included a static recruiting / information stand, a joint parade with the Royal British Legion and a presentation on the Battalion to approximately 100 civilians. The Regimental Secretary was present and received a large donation for the Museum Appeal from the Council's Chief Executive. Overall, the soldiers had a great day interacting with the public and were kindly invited to attend a buffet and drinks at the end of the day with staff from Basildon Council.

A composite platoon of 35 soldiers from A (Norfolk) and B (Suffolk) Companies undertook the two-week long Advanced Close Quarter Battle course at Lydd. The group, under Capt Dan Jaggard, contained a large command element in order to facilitate cascade training on their return. They took part in close-range (1- 50m) live-firing ranges, using pistol (Sig Sauer P226 9mm) and rifle whilst both static and on the move. Later, the focus moved to ACQB tactics and force-on-force training, using simunition. Pain inoculation (a shot to the inner thigh from a paint round) ensured that appropriate cover was sought by all when conducting attacks! Every morning the soldiers undertook unarmed combat training, culminating in a fight with the instructors.

Some exploration of the moral component of fighting power took place over a black tie dinner in the Officers' Mess when the Senior Chaplain at Amport House came to discuss the role of Christianity in British military ethos. The audience consisted of the Command Group as well as the CSMs and RQMSs.

D (Cambridgeshire) Company welcomed over 50 new hopeful members this month and the support weapons cadres have started. These are designed to introduce the new soldiers to weapons and tactics and to select those most suitable. CVR(T) and Bulldog driving cadres have also continued, both for the Recce Platoon and those preparing to support 2 R WELSH in BATUS later this year.

The Battalion has supported various RAAT tasks. A (Norfolk) Company provided civpop and insurgents for the SRR during a training exercise at Caerwent. The Battalion also provided support to SCBC included a platoon as enemy in Cilieni Village on SENTA, and the Mortar Platoon firing 81mm illum in support of live-fire platoon fighting patrols at night. 1 Platoon deployed to STANTA to take part in the high profile opening of the updated Eastmere Village. The village has been enhanced by an Iraq-style area surrounding the existing village with a Contemporary Operating Environment created in the form of an Afghan-style OBUA village.

The LAD seniors went to Maclaren HQ in Woking to look around and seek some inspiration for looking after the Spearhead vehicle fleet. They enjoyed a tour of the F1 design areas, SLR production line and paint shops. They then toured the museum looking at the trophies and past winning cars.

4 Div held a sprint triathlon at Bovington in Dorset which was well attended by the CIS Platoon, amongst others. The course consisted of a 400m swim, a 20km cycle ride and a 5km run. For most this was a first taste of triathlon but the bug was caught by many and the Viking triathlon veterans may see some new faces at future events.

4. **2nd Battalion**

April has been a relatively short month for the Poachers, being largely dominated by a three week period of leave over Easter. Since the Battalion's return we have been treated to an early start to the German summer, with plenty of sunshine and blue skies. This is in stark contrast to the Battalion Inter-Company Cross-Country Competition conducted just prior to leave, which was successfully run in a minor blizzard!

Training continues at a steady pace as the Battalion gets ready for a number of upcoming events and exercises. After the successful completion of a series of cadres, D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company are preparing to deploy to the Falkland Islands early in May, which will provide an excellent opportunity for the specialist platoons to refine their skills and includes an extensive package of live fire activities. In preparation, much time has been spent by the Company on the ranges here in Germany. The frantic stockpiling of cold weather clothing has also been well under way!

Under the guidance of Captain Dunlop and Sergeant Batty, the Battalion Shooting Team has based itself at the Sennelager range complex. By all accounts training has been progressing very well with a number of particularly skilled shots identified. With the time available this year to invest in such activities and a small mountain of ammunition, it is hoped that the Poachers will field a particularly strong shooting team this year.

The Battalion has also enjoyed the opportunity to conduct a number of adventurous training activities. Over the Easter period this included a Free Fall Parachute Course conducted at Sennelager, during which the participants were able to complete many of the jumps required to gain a civilian free fall qualification. C (Northamptonshire) Company have also managed to get a section of soldiers launching themselves off the hillsides of Bavaria on a Basic Paragliding Course, with another section of Poachers due to do the same course in May. With a talent for sailing, Second Lieutenant Tom Roden has been busy putting the finishing touches to his planned expedition around Greece. This will include 20 members of B (Leicestershire) Company learning the basics of sailing while enjoying the good life around the Greek Islands. Tom has also been establishing a Battalion Sailing Team, which will compete in upcoming regattas.

Another key event during April has been the pre-Fire Team Commanders' Course (FTCC) preparation training, which has been headed up by Lieutenant James Quince. This training is designed to both test the fitness of the Battalion's potential nominations as well as give the soldiers some foundation training to stand them in the good stead for successful completion of the FTCC. Successful candidates have now commenced the FTCC proper and the Battalion wishes them the best of luck and looks forward to welcoming them back as the Poachers' newest JNCOs.

With Battalion life now back in full swing, May promises to be a busy month with a number of company activities scheduled, adventure training and numerous courses. Battalion Headquarters will also be conducting a reconnaissance of training areas in Kenya, in preparation for this year's major activity, Ex GRAND PRIX, in October.

5. 3rd Battalion

On 10 April the 32 man Platoon, 11 Platoon, was called up to start training at RTMC in May for their deployment to Kabul as the ISAF Force Protection Platoon. 11 Platoon, commanded by Lt Rhys Little, will deploy with 66 (Fuel) Squadron RLC, but will actually work as the 4th platoon in a Macedonian Company and patrol Police Districts 9 and 10 in central Kabul, in addition to guarding HQ ISAF.

At short notice the Battalion has also been tasked to supply a second platoon this summer to Afghanistan to enlarge the 3 R WELSH TA Company from 3 to 4 platoons. Therefore in May, a 29 man, 12 Platoon, commanded by Lt Ian Gins, will be mobilised for deployment to Helmand. The 4 platoons in the TA Company will work independently on one of the following tasks: Combat Logistic Patrol Protection, IRT Protection or FOB Protection

In early April the Battalion focused on competition shooting, culminating in the Battalion SAAM on a glorious weekend in Beckingham. This competition was fiercely fought by the rifle companies but on the day, A (Norfolk & Suffolk) Company were the overall winners, with Cpl Bunn of A Company picking up the Champion Shot. The top officer shot was Lt Ben Jacobs from C (Leicestershire & Northamptonshire) Company, with WO2 Thompson from B (Lincolnshire) Company picking up the top SNCO. The competition shoots included the FIBUA Shoot, Defence Shoot, Attack Shoot, APWT and Falling Plate. The non-competition shoots were Clay Pigeon Shooting, Pistol Shooting and Archery, supplied by Lincolnshire ACF. In addition to the other SAAM Prizes, the overall Champion Company 2008/09 was awarded to E (Essex & Hertfordshire) Company.

The Officers' Mess also celebrated one of the Steelback Battle Honours, by holding the Arnhem Dinner at Lincoln TA Centre. In addition to the officers, Honorary Colonels and TASOs, a number of guests were invited and it was a great privilege to have Mr Wally Hubbard, who as a TA soldier fought during the battle in April 1945 with 6 Lincolns. 2Lt Tom Green, gave a résumé of the Battle, which allow those present to chat to Wally about the action. At the same time as this, the Adjutant and RSM were lucky enough to be in Arnhem as part of the Brigade Battlefield Tour.

The Urban Operations Training Period is now firmly in train and will be the focus until Oct. This period will see the Battalion conduct 3 Bn / Battle Group exercises plus the exchange to Texas in the summer. The first activity was a company led low-level skills weekends at the end of April.

On 22 Apr, the Battalion organised the 5 Div Orienteering Championships at Yardley Chase, Northampton. Much of the credit for pulling this event together goes to Maj Tim Beighton, who worked closely with Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland ACF over the details. The Battalion emerged as the 5 Div TA Champions, with the CO picking up the Individual 5 Div Overall Champion prize.

May will see the twin track of preparing the platoons for Afghanistan whilst the training for Texas continues. The main training event in the Urban Ops Period will be Ex STEELBACK STRIKE I, in Copehill Down Village; this will see platoon level stands and a TEWT and CPX for B Company and Battalion Staff.