



06/12

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

JUN 12

APPOINTMENTS

1. Brig AJC Wild MBE has been extended in post as DA Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, until Oct 15.
2. The Regiment sincerely congratulates Col JM Woodham OBE MC, currently COS 1 (UK) Armd Div, on being selected for promotion to Brig and Command of 7th Armoured Brigade wef Jan 13.

PROMOTIONS

3. Regimental Headquarters has been informed of the following officer promotions and congratulates those concerned:
 - Lt Col RW Wooddisse MBE MC to be Col wef 30 Jun 12
 - A/Lt Col OCC Brown to be Lt Col wef 30 Jun 12
 - Lt ND Barron to be Capt wef 8 Feb 12
 - Lt AR Emerson to be Capt wef 8 Feb 12

POSTINGS

4. Regimental Headquarters has been informed of the following officer postings:
 - Capt TA Clark from 1 R ANGLIAN to SO3 G7 CIS SPS Warminster wef Oct 12
 - Capt SM Broomfield from 1 R ANGLIAN to SO3 G7 Trg Mor Div SPS Warminster wef Nov 12
 - Capt TG Hearne from 1 R ANGLIAN to SO3 Instr / Ex Plans OPTAG wef Sep 12
 - Capt BJ Howes from 1 R ANGLIAN to SO3 G2 OPTAG wef Dec 12
 - Capt OJ Child from 2 R ANGLIAN to Exchange Offr Australia wef Dec 12
 - Capt JR Granell from 1 R ANGLIAN to SO3 Instr / Ex Plans OPTAG wef Dec 12
 - Capt JM Lanham from 2 R ANGLIAN to SO3 G3 Ops 7 Armd Bde wef Dec 12.

MINDEN DAY REUNION: SUNDAY 29 JUL 2012

5. The Regiment will celebrate the 253rd Anniversary of the Battle of Minden in the grounds behind the Keep in Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 29th July 2012. The day will start at 1115 hours with a Drumhead Service followed by a March Past by the Old Comrades; it will conclude with Beating Retreat at 1630 hrs and lunch is a picnic (bring your own or buy snacks on site). The Suffolk Regiment Museum will be open and there will be a Parade Ground Programme throughout the afternoon. The day has become a reunion for all generations from every part of The Regiment and is very much a family occasion. It is an excellent opportunity to meet old friends and comrades. All members of the Regimental Family are warmly invited to attend. Further details can be obtained from the Area Secretary (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) Maj John Fradley (Tel: 01284 752394; E Mail: rhqranlian-areasec@mod.uk)

'ALL THE 4s' SPONSORED WALK: 16 -25 AUG 2012 **IN AID OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT BENEVOLENT CHARITY**

6. Mrs Chris Bonner is walking to raise funds for the The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity. The walk will be from West to East through Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex over the

period 16 – 25 Aug 2012. A small walking group of 12 will complete the entire 150 miles. The group will be led by Chris and will be accommodated nightly in TA Centres en route. They will set out from Luton on Thur 16 Aug. Over the next 10 days they will walk through Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex, ending each day in the towns of **Harpenden (16th)**, **Hemel Hempstead (17th)**, **Watford (18th)**, **Welwyn (19th)**, **Baldock (20th)**, **Royston (21st)**, **Bishop Stortford (22nd)**, **Harlow (23rd)**, **Thurrock (24th)** and will finish in **Brentwood (Warley Chapel) on Sat 25th Aug**.

In order to encourage maximum participation and sponsorship, the opportunity exists for any member of the wider Regimental Family to join the walk, on any day, to complete a leg; or if desired to complete any number of legs on different days. Legs will be between 10 – 15 miles per day and those wishing to take part or fund raise should contact WO2 Smudge Smith at Norwich TA Centre: Tel: Office: 01603 427658; Mobile: 07921 213342; Email: 3ANG-A-SPSI@mod.uk

Chris and Smudge are asking for your fund raising support for **All the 4s 2012** and all details are at www.allthe4s.co.uk.

REGIMENTAL DAY

7. The Regimental Day will be held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on Sunday 2nd September. The programme for the Day will be as follows:

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

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

1st BATTALION HOMECOMING PARADES

8. The 1st Battalion, accompanied by the Band of the Prince of Wales Division, will conduct Homecoming Parades over the period 5 - 9 November. Each day the parades will take place at around 1230 hrs (TBC) and the programme is as follows:

- Mon 5 Nov: Ipswich
- Tue 6 Nov: Havering
- Wed 7 Nov: Diss
- Thu 8 Nov: Basildon
- Fri 9 Nov: Peterborough

9. **1ST BATTALION**

As we reach the half way point of the Vikings' deployment on Op HERRICK 16 the tempo of operations remains high. The insurgents have made a concerted push on the flanks of the Nad-e-Ali Canal Zone, our designated protected community, but a series of robust yet precise responses have thwarted their efforts and caused a significant level of attrition. Consequently the level of security within the Canal Zone has been unaffected and the vast majority of the population within Nad-e-Ali remains supportive of the Afghan government and the ANSF. The momentum of transfer to the ANSF has not been slowed and the end of June marks the start of the busiest period of base handovers and closures. There is still some way to go but the Battlegroup is on track to achieve the campaign deliverables set for this summer.

In the early part of this month A (Norfolk) Company moved into their new patrol base, PB PIMON, from where they have continued their manoeuvre operations. Having previously shared a camp with D Company 1 R WELSH, the move to their own four walls has been welcomed. PB PIMON was previously home to No 3 Coy of The Welsh Guards but all traces of Blue-Red-Blue have now been replaced by Viking Red and Yellow.

As covered in the media this month, B (Suffolk) Company finished the closure of PB KALAANG and moved to FOB SHAWQAT, co-located with the Battlegroup Headquarters. The Company has now taken on the role of an Advisor Team Enabling Company (ATEC) and is the guinea pig for the new concepts of Security Force Assistance. With both ANA and AUP advisory teams under command, B Company Group is now the largest within the Battlegroup and is responsible, through its ANSF partners, for over 60% of the Battlegroup area of operations. Pioneering this new role is a complex and challenging task and the spotlight of the Task Force is very much focussed on their experiences.

C (Essex) Company has continued to hold and develop the area of Kopak, the most immature area of security within the District. While the ANSF continues to establish its presence within the Canal Zone area of Kopak, C Company has held the line to the North, disrupting the insurgent through a series of operations.

Throughout the District, D (Cambridgeshire) Company continues to provide all of the ANA Advisor Teams along with the essential support elements. Additionally this month, the Recce and Sniper Platoons combined to take part in a large Brigade operation in Nahr-e-Saraj which cleared the majority of the Upper Gareshk Valley of a growing insurgent presence. This area, the scene of the Battalion's Op SILICON in 2007, is complex and close terrain which led to a number of close range engagements. Left to operate independently, the Recce Gp was in its element and the pivotal role that it played was recognised across the Task Force.

Finally this month, our thoughts turn to the tragic loss of Cpl Alex Guy who was killed in action on 15 Jun leading his section to the rescue of a group of ANA caught in an insurgent ambush. His courage and professionalism in the face of a desperate situation have been an inspiration to us all and he will be remembered fondly throughout the Battalion as an outstanding Viking. Our prayers remain with his loving family.

To keep up with the Vikings on Op HERRICK 16 please go to the following web sites, featuring regular updates and photos:

www.facebook.com/1RANGLIAN
www.twitter.com/1_Royal_Anqlian

10. **2ND BATTALION**

We have entered June determined to get the most value out of the month both on and off duty as it is the last month in which the Battalion will be all together in Cyprus before the flights home start next month.

The month was given a fine start when we held our Queen's Diamond Jubilee Parade. Soldiers received the medal during a ceremony on the parade square led by the Commanding Officer with the Colours flying and drums beating. Even those in the operational outstations were able to be brought back to take part, ensuring that none of the 299 entitled Poachers on-island would be left out.

The ceremony was followed by an extra two days long weekend which was well needed as the following week C (Northamptonshire & Rutland) Company deployed to the field with the Battalion Headquarters and Quartermasters departments on Exercise POACHERS PLUNGE 2. This was the second deployment of the two-part POACHER PLUNGE exercise which provided a week long rehearsal for the companies and their support weapons attachments in the platoon-level tactics they can expect to be tested on in Kenya. With the Quartermaster's departments deploying as well, it also provided robust practice for the real-life support and resupply chain they will be delivering in the field.

The exercise did not end for the staff of the Battalion Headquarters on their return to camp. An advisory team from the UK's Combined Arms Staff Trainer group has been in to observe the process through which the HQ analyses its missions and makes its plans. This intellectual process is just as vital as the hard soldiering on the ground as it will be these missions that the companies will be given to carry out in future exercises and on operations.

The full momentum of the Unit Move has now been picked up and every department and company is fulfilling their role in the packing up and handing over of the camp. The shipping containers are already stacked up on the Battalion Parade Ground and the CQMSs have flown to Kendrew Barracks to make sure that it is ready for our arrival. All of this activity is taking place under the eyes of our new Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 (RSM) David Myles, who took over from WO1 Brian Lewis after Exercise POACHERS PLUNGE 2.

Training will continue until the last moment to make sure we get as much done before we leave the island; and every company is now thoroughly familiar with Pyla Ranges and the range work that can be conducted there. But now is also the time to enjoy our last weeks in Cyprus which we are doing on UN Green Line tours, rock climbing and skydiving expeditions.

Next month (July) will have the first flights departing to the UK for good and the Battalion will not be formed together until September. However, with the last phase of hard training in Cyprus over, the time to wait until our arrival at Kendrew Barracks in Rutland seems very short indeed.

11. 3RD BATTALION

In the wettest June since record began, 3 R ANGLIAN have been allowed little time to sit and admire the weather. Key events, visits, community engagements and mobilisations have fallen as numerous as the raindrops.

Operations:

HERRICK

The Steelback contribution continues throughout the Viking's challenging and diverse tour. We have now had a number of soldiers return on their R&R with reports of excellent integration and a welcoming attitude from their sister Battalion.

OLYMPICS

June saw the long awaited mobilisation of the 3 month cohort, via a process that took them from Grantham to Hainault via Feltham. Christened 'a summer like no other' the initial Op OLYMPIC training and RSOI was a departure from the norm with an emphasis placed on person search and public relations, culminating in the dreaded X-Ray machine test! The cohort commander, Maj Gavin Rushmere, has reported back that the troops are in high spirits and, despite some minor administrative problems, the large volume of individuals passed through the package in good order. The start of July should see the troops in action at the Olympic venues throughout London. Even the Commanding Officer has been involved in preparation for the events, with planning exercises based around the East Anglian venues taking place throughout the month.

Training:

The highpoint of the month for training will be the commencement of the Battalion level exercise Ex STEELBACK THUNDER on Friday 29 Jun. Indeed the author is drafting this surrounded by the usual 'officer admin' prior to deployment. The exercise is a continuation on the path to CT Level 2 with company groups being put through their paces on a 2 day battle run of continuous platoon and section attacks. Again the intent to roll out the echelon has been realised with the greatest ever level of Reservist facilitation, enabling the RQMS to take a well earned weekend off! The endstate of the exercise is that the Battalion is well set for the overseas training exercise based in Sennelager at the end of September.

The unit was visited by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body who took from their time here some of the special challenges placed upon a unit comprised of permanent staff on four different terms of service

and a plethora of bespoke Reservist issues.

BHQ deployed in mass to C Company in order to ensure that the good work carried out by the new PSAO Capt Ginns was given the support it deserved. The revamp of C Company focused on both real estate and procedures and, after some genuine hard graft and a number of skips worth of rubbish, C Company now finds itself much better placed for the challenges of the future. The highlight of the stay, alongside the excellent local cuisine, was the RSM's 3 day bonfire in which some of the slightly less relevant documents (Standing Orders 7 R ANGLIAN c1986) were consigned to history.

A mention should also be made of the company groups at the Brigade Patrols Competition where a very creditable second place was secured with also a number of HPSs on individual stands.

Interesting Fact:

A regular soldier leaving the Army has to only attend 12 days of training in a year with a Reserve unit to qualify for the top level of bounty (£1600 tax free!).

As a final note I would ask all to spare a moment to remember WO2 John 'Albie' Hall, QPSI C Coy, who was sadly killed in a road traffic accident earlier this month. Our thoughts remain with the friends and family of WO2 Hall.