



06/13

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

June 13

It is with deep regret that we must record the death of LCpl Craig Roberts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013, whilst on a training exercise in the Brecon Beacons. Craig was a member of C Company (Leicester) and had served with the Battalion since 2007, including deployments to Texas on exercise and Cyprus on Op TOSCA (UNFICYP). Further details regarding the funeral arrangements will be promulgated when known. In the meantime The Regiment extends our deepest sympathy to his family, his friends and his comrades in the Steelbacks.

### **MINDEN DAY REUNION, BURY ST EDMUNDS: SUNDAY 4 AUG 2013**

1. The Regiment will celebrate the 254<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Minden in the grounds behind The Keep in Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2013. 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 and tickets are not required. Further details can be obtained from the Area Office (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire); Tel: 01284 752394; E Mail: [e1ahqbse@rhqroyalanglian.org.uk](mailto:e1ahqbse@rhqroyalanglian.org.uk) )

### **REGIMENTAL DAY, IWM DUXFORD, SUNDAY 1 SEP 2013**

2. The Regimental Day will be held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September. The programme for the Day will be as follows:

- 0930 hrs Gates open (entry via Gate 1)
- 1130 hrs Drumhead Service at Regimental Memorial to include March Past
- 1230 hrs Bars, kiosks and stalls open
- 1300 hrs Band Concert
- 1500 hrs Beating Retreat at Regimental Memorial
- 1700 hrs 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: [rhqranglian-asstregsec@mod.uk](mailto:rhqranglian-asstregsec@mod.uk))

### **1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION**

3. The beginning of June saw the culmination of many months of hard work as the Battalion underwent its Command Assurance Week inspections. Teams from 12 (Mechanised) Brigade Headquarters crossed the road from Ward Barracks to inspect the practices and procedures of several departments including the Quartermasters (LSI and ECI), BHQ and the AGC detachment (SPSI), the

Med Centre (OME), the Gym and Rehabilitation staff (PDI) and the RCMO's (ETSI). The good practices, thorough preparation, and overall coordination by the Second-in-Command, ensured that the week was a success. The GREEN grades awarded across the board were a welcome reflection on the collective efforts of the wider team.

The companies continued their training in the meantime, with the common theme being preparation for the Inter-Platoon Competition that took place during the week 17 – 21 Jun. The competition gave the opportunity to focus on the continued return to a contingency footing, with a deliberate move away from Herrick-specific Tactics, Techniques and Procedures. Platoons covered a total of 25km across the Salisbury Plain Training Area; and at a time when the temperatures were rising into the high 20s it was a chance for commanders to practice manoeuvre and depth and move away from the ubiquitous 'Afghan snake'. Nine individual stands tested the platoons on skills as varied as shooting, communications and casualty evacuation; to mine clearance, military knowledge and CBRN. A (Norfolk) Company put in an excellent showing, with 2 Platoon and 1 Platoon coming 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. Under the command of Capt Mark Garner and CSgt Ash Hill MC, the Reconnaissance Platoon came a convincing 1<sup>st</sup> having only dropped one point during the entire competition. The Commanding Officer presented medals to the Platoon during a Battalion parade on the Friday, taking the opportunity to congratulate all participants and organisers. The competition was a useful chance to identify areas for improvement as the training year moves towards the deployment to Kenya in early 2014.

Around the platoon competition, additional training continued apace. D (Cambridgeshire) Company completed a MATTs training week at Knook Camp and the Sniper Platoon deployed on their annual cadre at the end of the month. Team medic training continued across the Battalion. At the same time, B (Suffolk) and C (Essex) companies began their CT-1 training alongside the RTR in preparation for deployment to BATUS. The chance for light-role infantry to practice once again working alongside armour was welcomed by both companies. With support to the Tidworth & Bulford Garrison day, teams entered into the 43 Brigade Festival of Sport and A (Norfolk) Company's involvement in the Royal Norfolk Show, June remained a busy month for the Vikings.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION**

4. The training tempo has not slackened throughout June as the Battalion finds itself fully immersed in the preparations for Op HERRICK 19. The pace of withdrawal and transition of security responsibility to the Afghan Security Forces requires the Battalion to be prepared for a number of possible deployment configurations. This means conducting intensive training which has taken place across the UK and Germany.

The start of the month saw Battlegroup Headquarters and the headquarter elements of A and B Company travel to Sennelager, Germany, to conduct Ex PASHTUN LION. This Combined Staff Tactics Training Exercise tested the ability of the headquarters to plan and conduct operations. The exercise relies heavily on computer simulations to replicate the different systems used for planning and the conduct of operations, as well as simulating actual troops as well. The facilities for these exercises are very good but only exist in three locations - two in the UK and one in Germany.

As Battlegroup Headquarters returned to the UK, C Company found themselves making the same journey to conduct the exercise with 4 SCOTS. The end of the exercise saw a swift turn around and re-deployment to Salisbury Plain to take part in Ex PASHTUN WARRIOR. This provided an excellent opportunity for the Company to practice working with the Warhog Group (provided by 9/12 Lancers) and conduct aviation operations using Merlin helicopters. The highlight was undoubtedly conducting aviation delivered strike operations - aggressive fast paced operations at which the Infantry excels. In accordance with reality in Helmand, these operations were conducted with simulated Afghan Security Forces. This provided a good opportunity to identify complications that can occur when using interpreters to communicate military instructions. There was also training on how to counter the risk of insider attacks and Sgt Ward was highlighted for the calm non-violent manner in which he successfully diffused one such situation.

On return from exercises the pace of training in Kendrew Barracks has continued unabated. The CO's

PT sessions have been getting progressively harder as the soldiers build the strength and endurance they will need. However, the focus hasn't been entirely on preparations for Herrick. On 25 June, Rendall Munroe, the former European and Commonwealth super-bantamweight boxing champion, visited the Battalion. He was introduced to members of the Battalion Boxing Team and took a few soldiers through their paces in the ring.

The future tempo for next month looks set to remain high and no doubt the opening paragraph for July's newsletter will feature the word 'busy' in some capacity. However July will also see the beginning of preparation for the Final Exercise and end of Mission Specific Training, as well as the start of some well deserved summer leave.

### **3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION**

#### **5. Regimental Representational Event**

On 1 Jun 13, The Regiment conducted a Representational Event at the Royal Hospital School Holbrook, Suffolk. The event was hosted by the Colonel of the Regiment and officers and SNCOs from the wider Regimental Family. The evening took the form of a Beating Retreat performed by the Band of The Royal Anglian Regiment, followed by presentations from the Colonel of the Regiment and COs 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bns. It concluded with a cocktail party.

The aim of the event was to thank, inform, influence and entertain targeted guests from across East Anglia, particularly Suffolk, in order that they continue to support The Regiment. Over 100 guests attended, including Lord and Lady Tollemache, dignitaries from public office in Suffolk, business leaders, employers of reservists and friends of The Regiment. All in all it was a great evening which was well received by our invited audience.

#### **6. The Royal Norfolk Show**

In order to promote Armed Forces Week in Norfolk, the organisers of the Royal Norfolk Show invited all three services to participate in a 'Salute To The Armed Forces' parade in the Grand Ring of the showground on day one of this year's show. The Royal Norfolk Show is the premier public event in the Norfolk calendar, attracting in excess of 90,000 visitors over the two days of the show. In his role as the Community Engagement lead for Norfolk, CO 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn picked up the bill for making this happen.

The parade consisted of contingents from all 3 services with links to Norfolk: 30 Sailors from HMS Dauntless represented the Royal Navy; the Army contingent consisted of soldiers from 1 & 3 R ANGLIAN, the Light Dragoons, 6 Regt AAC and 245 Med Regt; the RAF was represented by RAF Marham and the Band of the Parachute Regiment provided musical support to the parade. The parade inspection was conducted by Prince Michael of Kent, Gen The Lord Dannat and Mr Jake Humphrey (President of the Royal Norfolk Show for 2013). In his temporary role as Adjutant 3 R ANGLIAN, Capt Dan Tomlinson widened his remit by providing commentary for the event... a budding career in PR beckons!

Over 160 servicemen and women were on parade and they were all warmly received with a standing ovation from a very grateful Norfolk public.