



10/10

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

OCT 10

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OPENING TIMES

1. The IWM Duxford have revised their Winter Opening arrangements for the Land Warfare Hall and the Regimental Museum may now be visited 27 Dec to 3 Jan and 19 – 27 Feb. It will open permanently for the summer wef 19 Mar 11.

BATTALION ACTIVITIES

2. **1st Battalion**

The Vikings have continued to keep busy balancing work and play during October before going on a welcome week of leave.

Militarily the Battalion continued with key training in the Infantry fundamentals and upgrading our Bowman communications systems. Team Medic training and Recce and Sniper Platoon cadres commenced, but the highlight of the military training was the two teams entered in the Cambrian Patrol Competition. This two day, eight man, patrol competition takes place in South Wales and consists of an arduous and testing route, coupled with a number of skill stands including Close Target Reconnaissance, Casualty Evacuation, a Night River Crossing and Contact Drills. The team from A Company, commanded by 2Lt Mark Garner, gained a Gold Medal and the C Company team, commanded by 2Lt Will Hoy, gained Silver. It was a fantastic experience for the teams and really developed the young soldiers' skills and abilities. Bowman upgrading training culminated in a Battlegroup Headquarters exercise testing the full range of the system's capability. This month also saw the CO and CO Designate, Lt Col Aston, leading a 10 man team for a recce to Kenya prior to Ex ASKARI THUNDER.

The Battalion's sporting endeavours included the Battalion football team moving on from a slow start and winning two matches in the Inter-Unit League and Cup. Pte Marchese and Pte Hoffman deserve special mention for both scoring exceptional goals in the cup victory over 1 RSME. Running, in its various forms, has been the other main sporting activity. The Viking Orienteering Team won the Infantry competition and the Battalion Inter Company Cross Country threw up the surprise winner of HQ Company, largely thanks to the Bn 2IC's and REME LAD's efforts. Finally, the Battalion's American Football fans got an opportunity to get on the pitch at Wembley! Although not playing in the match, the Battalion was able to participate in the NFL International Series 2010 at Wembley Stadium on 31 Oct. The San Francisco 49rs played the Denver Broncos and 10 Viking soldiers assisted with team flags/colours at the initial opening ceremony and gained free seats as a result!

The spirit of competition and development spilled over into the Battalion's social calendar as well, with the Corporals' Mess challenging the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to a games night. Some esoteric games were played and the final overall result hinged on Sgt Kearney's bar assault course. It was here that the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess demonstrated that age and experience count, as they won and took home the trophy for another year. In the Officers' Mess the Regimental history of the Mess' silver and property was explored in the form of a dinner night. Officers from each company researched and revealed the background of the items that the Mess

has the privilege of owning. The evening revealed the vivid and fascinating stories of our forbear Regiments, their part in British history over the last 345 years and the men that they represented.

3. 2nd Battalion

There has been a continuation of training and preparation throughout October for the Poachers, which finally culminated in the assumption of the Theatre Reserve Battalion responsibility at the end of the month. As the temperature finally began to drop, the operational commitments for the Island were handed over to 2nd Battalion Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, allowing the majority of the Battalion to depart for Afghanistan to carry out the in-Theatre Reception Staging Onward Integration (RSOI) training package.

A (Lincs) Coy continued to prepare for their deployment to Jordan in December, whilst B (Leics) Coy finalised their arrangements for deployment to Afghanistan after a final handover of the outposts. C (Northants) Coy completed a number of Coy Level exercises, with the OC, Maj Bev Allen, once again conveniently managing to be in the right place at the right time to be interviewed by BFBS. D (Beds and Herts) Coy continued to support the operational commitment in Cyprus whilst preparing all of their heavy weapons for the live firing opportunities in Afghanistan.

With A (Lincs) Coy staying behind in Cyprus to prepare for their imminent deployment to Jordan as part of a 600 strong exercise, the rest of the Battalion departed for Afghanistan to carry out a complete week of training, learning the latest tactics and techniques for Op Herrick. With Counter-IED, helicopters, communications and a number of other skills all being revised, the Battalion also took the opportunity to enjoy the live firing opportunities on offer. Three days of field firing for the rifle coys by both day and night was supported by the Javelin Platoon firing eight missiles (at £100,000 each) and the Mortar Platoon firing over a years' allocation of ammunition.

On the social scene in Cyprus, the families and soldiers continue to enjoy the facilities available. At the beginning of the month the 44th annual Dhekelia Dash saw a deserved double win for both Poachers and Poachers' wives. The race, consisting of fifteen legs of one mile around the Garrison, took place in a carnival atmosphere with an excellent turnout from across the Island. Despite the heat and strong competition from the Duke of Lancs, the Battalion and the wives swept the board.

The month also saw the grand re-opening of the Poachers' Bar. First built by the Battalion over ten years ago, a concerted effort from across the Battalion has restored the bar to its former glory, providing a local social area for the soldiers, with stunning views across the bay to Larnaca. Being positioned next to the Dhekelia Watersports Centre, it will offer families and soldiers an ideal location to enjoy power boating, wakeboarding and kayaking, with the opportunity to enjoy a BBQ or a drink afterwards.

Upcoming events for the Battalion in November will see the return of the Battalion from Afghanistan to continue training and maintain the rifle coys' readiness cycle for any possible deployments. The families will enjoy a bonfire night with a difference on the beach, with over 3500 people expected from across the Island.

4. 3rd Battalion

Another busy month for the Steelbacks with the soldiers deployed on Op HERRICK 12 now safely back and preparing to demobilise in mid-November, before taking some well-earned leave with their families and friends. It was a challenging tour in many ways and they are to be congratulated for the universal praise they earned during their time on the ground. Also in line for congratulations is Capt Bob Grenfell who was awarded a highly deserved GOC London District Commendation for his work as a Casualty Visiting Officer.

Returns from Afghanistan aside, the Battalion is now deep into the detailed planning for the Op TOSCA deployment to Cyprus next year. As 3 R ANGLIAN will lead the mission and provide the lion's share of this 275-man commitment, we are responsible for the coordination of all activity ranging from individual course qualification, through to the planning and delivery of the Mission Specific Training package that takes place in Shropshire, at Nesscliffe Training Area, in mid-March next year (not quite the same as Nicosia in August...). A considerable amount of work has already been done in terms of individual preparation prior to mobilisation, which is made all the more challenging by the geographical dispersal of soldiers, coupled with the requirement to deal with 10 separate units and headquarters. That said, the challenge will lessen once soldiers attend the Reserves Mobilisation & Training Centre at Chilwell in February and all personnel are finally under command. In terms of wider training, Ex STEELBACK FOUNDATION provided companies with the opportunity to focus on basic mandatory training standards ahead of testing during Ex STEELBACK SPIRIT in early December; and collaborative work is under way to develop and apply a Battalion Hybrid Foundation Training regime akin to that of the Field Army. In line with the direction of the post-SDSR review, this is pioneering work that will set the foundations for all activity in the future and better align the routine preparation of our soldiers and expenditure of increasingly tight resources with the Army's priority - that of delivering forces for employment on operations.

We have also been busy on the Community Engagement front. Exercise Steelback Cadet (15-17 Oct) was a great success and saw over 200 ACF & CCF cadets, from across The Regiment's recruiting patch, take part in a wide variety of activities ranging from section attacks to night ambush and live fire ranges. In addition to the 30 Battalion staff and 'enablers', the Viking Mobile Recruiting Team and Swanton Morley based Army Recruiting Team provided some excellent background activity that included paint balling and command tasks. The Battalion also took time to brief the Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire County Committees, RFCA Norfolk and also brought North Kesteven Council and RS Components (Corby) up to speed on what a modern Territorial Battalion gets up to, including presentations by soldiers recently returned from operations to highlight our core role.

Next month sees more Op TOSCA midnight oil planning sessions and the start of the Force Generation of the 65-man cohort for the Op HERRICK 16 deployment in April 2012.