



Regimental Matters

RHQ congratulates WO2 Grice (2nd Battalion) on selection for commissioning.

The Regiment congratulates the following officers on their forthcoming promotion to Major:

- Capt S M Broomfield
- Capt W S Otridge
- Capt R A Wicks

The following members of the Regiment are congratulated on conversion of commission:

IRC to Reg C

- Maj DN Broomfield
- Maj DJ Haggard
- Maj GJR Hudson
- Maj JM Lanhan
- Maj MC Melia
- Maj DJ Robinson

SSC to IRC

- Capt TM Duncalfe
- Capt AR Emerson
- Capt TM Hearne
- Capt AD Mackness
- Capt G Marsden

Connor George, who is a member of Essex ACF attended a service to commemorate the commencement of WWI in September at the Regimental Chapel in Warley. Connors' detachment is not badged Royal Anglian, however in honour of his late father, LCpl Darren George of the 1st Battalion who was killed in Afghanistan in 2002 he has been allowed to wear his Dad's beret. Connor also read a lesson during the service.

Diary Dates

December 2014

5 Royal Tigers' Association Reunion

6 Royal Anglian Christmas Social,
Northampton Branch

6 Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers'
Lunch, London

7 Chapel Sunday

18 Gorleston Branch Dinner, Conservative
Club, Gorleston



1st Battalion (The Vikings)

The Battalion has directed its focus towards immersive training in preparation for deployments to Kabul and Mali. The month began with a Theatre Orientation Package of briefings and training stands for the troops deploying to Kabul. This was followed by companies directing their own cascade training around the country. While this was happening the busy headquarters took time out to train the staff on the processes and problems we are likely to face in Kabul.

A (Norfolk) Company

The company has been working hard in the run up to deployment and the start of mission specific training. The month started with a week in Lydd on the "Theatre Orientation Package". The company were joined for the first time by their Army Reserve counterparts from 3rd Battalion, The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment. The reservists were eager to learn and threw themselves into the training, mixing well with the Norfolk company platoons. The company were then on the move again, this time to Thetford where they conducted a week and a half range and skills package designed to put into practice some of the skills they were taught in Lydd. The AR platoon were at Chilwell, and conducted their final mobilisation training to allow them to fully integrate in November.



B (Suffolk) Company

The Company, which now includes attachments from Recce and Sniper Platoons, carried out 2 weeks of live firing including Close Quarter Battle (CQB) shoots on Salisbury Plain. The Platoons spent the weekend practicing extraction under fire from civilian vehicles. Time was spent on navigation by day and night as well as basic first aid. Now the first aid has been completed, each man will undertake more advanced medical courses.



C (Essex) Company

In the build up to Op NEWCOMBE C company have been on the ranges completing the ACMT. The ACMT was very successful with all members scoring marksmen first time. After doing so we moved onto CQB training and started to put together SOPs for our contact drills. As well as practising our shooting we have been in the classroom learning French as well as conducting basic battle lessons, which is an essential skill for while we are out on Op NEWCOMBE.



D (Cambridgeshire) Company

The mortar platoon deployed on Ex VIKING WARRIOR to STANTA, closely followed by the remainder of the Company to complete their MATTs. The two week period was a resounding success, with some quality, arduous training being delivered to all. CSgt Ferrand deserves mention for organising an excellent exercise that developed the low level skills required by all mortar men as well as enhancing the team spirit in an already close platoon. Elsewhere, the Assault Pioneer Platoon has started to plan the inaugural Assault Soldier Cadre that will see the first stage in the development of the Assault Pioneer Capability for the Bn.

Headquarter Company

The company began MST while continuing to support the Battalion in daily activities. The company has focused on individual skills including the new Glock pistol, ranges at Lydd and other annual training requirements. The medical centre have been providing team medic courses for the rifle companies and other elements of the forces deploying to Mali and Kabul. Driver training has continued throughout October with more soldiers qualifying to drive Land Rovers as part of the preparations for the armoured vehicles they will use on operations. We have now taken receipt of a new piece of equipment called a Rollover Drill Egress Trainer (RODET). This allows vehicle crews to practice and rehearse safely extracting from vehicles that have been involved in accidents.

2nd Battalion (The Poachers)



ITALIAN PARA

Members of 2 Platoon, A 'Lincolnshire' Company deployed to STANTA to exercise with a Company from the 183 Folgore Brigade - the Italian Airborne Brigade. The soldiers worked alongside their Italian counterparts conducting Standing Patrols and Observation Posts as they provided overwatch on Eastmere village; part of the investment prior to an assault on the village itself. Despite a few difficulties, mostly language related, the exercise was a success and demonstrated how we can operate effectively with our Italian colleagues.



RECCE PL CADRE

The Recce and Sniper PI have finished their cadres on Salisbury Plain. Soldiers were introduced to the weapons and equipment they will be using as well as being taught specialist standard operating procedures. They are now preparing for external courses in Brecon and Warminster.



CAMBRIAN PATROL

Eight Poachers took part in the 48 hour Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol competition. On top of the 40km route and the 55-75lbs of kit they carried; they also faced atrocious weather as the remnants of Hurricane Gonzalo battered Wales. They earned a well deserved silver medal over a phase which saw the majority of teams withdraw due to the terrible weather.

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

The Commanding Officer, RSM and Training Major attended the 49(East) Brigade Battlefield Study to Belgium and Holland this month, following in the footsteps of 49 Brigade's predecessors, the 49th (West Riding) Division, the 'Polar Bears'. Day one took a novel twist to the traditional Battlefield Tour, with the route being followed on bicycle. Led by an incredibly knowledgeable and passionate military historian resident of Wuustwezel, Belgium, the bicycle tour brought vividly to life many of the locations fought over by the Polar Bears, 70 years previously. The next two days saw the Brigade delegation attending 70th anniversary memorial dedications in Belgium and Holland, where - not surprisingly - feelings still run very deep over the treatment the residents received at the hand of the Germans, as does the feeling of gratitude at being liberated by the Allies. The Battlefield Study also marked the end of an era - in the New Year, 49(East) Brigade will be disbanded and will be replaced by 7 Infantry Brigade and Headquarters East. This was therefore the last year that serving Polar Bears would take part in a commemoration honouring their predecessors.

Other Battlefield Studies took place over a similar period, with HQ (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) Company visiting Ypres, and following in the footsteps of the Suffolk Regiment.



Training Major, CO and RSM at the (still being) renovated Polar Bear memorial in Roosendaal, Holland.



Foxhound

The Battalion's Army 2020 'pairing' relationship saw much conceptual development over the last month. Under the new structures, the Steelbacks will be paired (forming an integrated Regular and Reserve force) with whichever Queen's Division battalion is based out of Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore. So, currently the Poachers (until 2017), and then, changing roughly every 3 years, a rotation to include 2PWRR and the Vikings. That battalion will be in the new 'Light Mechanised' infantry role - light role infantry with the added mobility and firepower offered by the lighter end of the scale of vehicles you may have seen on operations in Afghanistan: Foxhound, R-WIMIK, Ridgback and Mastiff among others in a quite enormous fleet that will be based out of the Rutland barracks. As part of the integrated force, the Steelbacks will need to convert to using these vehicles, too. It is a task that will not happen overnight, but one which the Battalion is extremely excited about getting to grips with, and one that once we have a capability will see the Reserves in a great place to offer continuity to the Regular troops Arms Plotting through Kendrew Barracks. It is also a great opportunity for the Battalion to add to its current recruiting 'sales pitch'... it is not every employer that can offer its aspiring employees the opportunity to can every driving licence up to 'Cat C' (which allows you to be a truck driver) as part of the package!