



9/10

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

SEP 10

It is with much regret that we record the death of Pte Kenny Pratt, B (Suffolk) Company 1st Battalion, on Sat 25th September 2010 in his home in Clacton, Essex. He died of smoke inhalation as a result of a house fire and will be sadly missed. His funeral was on 15th October 2010. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family, friends and comrades in The Vikings.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

1. The Armed Forces Operational Awards List was published on 24 Sep 10. The Regiment is delighted to both announce and congratulate the following members of the 1st Battalion for awards that reflect their recent service in Afghanistan:

MBE

Maj CD Davies

MC

Sgt AR Hill

MID

Maj SR Smith
Lt SM Broomfield
A/Sgt RJ Vickery
LCpl AR Taylor

QCVS

Maj OCC Brown
Lt DJ Benstead
2nd Lt PRA Lenthall

The following were awarded Joint Commander's Commendations: Pte MS Arrowsmith, WO2 IL Collins, Lt TG Hearne, A/Cpl PM Kennedy, Pte AR McKelvie, Pte RI Taylor and Pte SD Walker

APPOINTMENTS

2. RHQ has been informed of the following changes in appointments:

- Lt Col RJ Latham from SO1JTACCOS to SO1 Employment Upavon wef Dec 10.
- Lt Col AM Wylie from SO1STAR Shrivenham to SO1 Capability Afghanistan wef Jan 11.
- Lt Col JM Woodham MC from CO 1 R ANGLIAN to COS 1(UK) Armd Div wef Mar 11.
- Col SW Carver DSO is extended in post as Comd BATUS for 12 months until Aug 12.
- Lt Col SD Etherington from DA Kampala to SO1 Regional Force Development BPST(EA) DS Kenya wef Jul 11.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE OPENING CEREMONY: 11 NOVEMBER 2010

3. The Field of Remembrance for 2010 will open at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 11 November at 1050 hrs incorporating the silence at 1100 hrs when a short Service will be held. A senior member of the Royal Household will be present. Those attending must be in position by 1030 hrs; the entrance to the Field will be by the West Gate only between 0920 and 1030 hrs; dress is suits and medals are optional.

4. Capt Simon Broomfield, 1st Battalion, will be The Royal Anglian Regiment Regimental representative. He will therefore stand in front of our Regimental Plot and will be assisted by the Regtl Sec as necessary. Crosses have been arranged for each battalion and these will be placed in position by the organisers in advance. Remembrance crosses will also be in position to remember each of The Regiment's 78 fallen soldiers.

5. After the Service members of the Regimental Association are most welcome to meet at the Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, SW1, where a room and buffet lunch has kindly been booked by Mr Sam Luckin. Numbers are restricted to a maximum of 50 and the initial allocation will be as follows:

- Area Secretary (Bury St Edmunds) x 10.
- Area Secretary (Warley) x 10.
- Area Secretary (Northampton) x 10.
- MOD/London based R ANGLIAN x 15.

Area Secretaries are coordinating their allocation, offering up any unused places to the Regtl Sec by 29 October 2010. MOD/London based R ANGLIANS are requested to inform the Regtl Sec of their wish to attend the lunch, also by 29 October 2010. Allocation will be on a first come first serve basis. There will be a cash bar.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: 14 NOVEMBER 2010

6. The Regimental Main Effort on Remembrance Sunday is to be wide representation at public services across the East Midlands and East Anglia.

7. The Regiment will also mark Remembrance Sunday with a short service at the Regimental Memorial at IWM Duxford. This will be coordinated by the Regtl Sec, sponsored by the 3rd Battalion and conducted by the Honorary Chaplain to The Regiment Father Ken Reeve. IWM Duxford and the Regimental Museum are open on this day to the general public and there is universal free access throughout. The outline details of the service are:

- 1000 hrs: Main Public Visitor Entrance to IWM Duxford opens. Car parking in visitors' car park.
- 1045 hrs: Service of Remembrance commences at Regimental Memorial.
- 1100 hrs: 2 minutes silence observed throughout IWM Duxford.
- 1115 hrs: Service of Remembrance concludes.

8. The service will be outdoors, on grass, with no cover. It will take place regardless of the weather. Dress is suit or blazer with Battalion or Regimental Tie and medals. Any queries should be forwarded to the Regtl Sec on 01284 752394 or at regimental-secretary@anglian.army.mod.uk

9. Subsequently, IWM Duxford will hold a public special service of remembrance commencing at 1230 hrs at which The Regiment will also be represented. Further details of this are available at duxford@iwm.org.uk and the location will be announced on the day, depending on the weather.

BATTALION ACTIVITIES

10. **1st Battalion**

The Battalion returned from leave at the start of the month and compared tans - with those who went abroad looking significantly better. Once the 'shock of capture' of returning to work had passed, the Battalion got busy preparing for its Hybrid Foundation Training year. Ranges continued for all companies and the mandatory Physical, Navigation, CBRN and Values and Standards training were completed.

Preparation for the Cambrian Patrol Competition began in which the Battalion will enter three teams in October. Each team will represent one of the rifle companies and are mainly made up from the newly arrived soldiers in the Battalion, as it is excellent basic Infantry skills training. The 8 man teams have been working hard in Brecon under the guidance of Capt Dan Jaggard and CSgt Hassan.

The next generation of JNCOs have also been honing their skills, getting back into green uniforms and conventional tactics, as they prepare for the Queen's Division Fire Team Commanders Cadre which will qualify them as LCpls. Finally, the Battalion has started the five week upgrade of its Bowman radio system. This sees new equipment and software arriving and a series of training courses being run to allow the Battalion to make the most of collaborative working and digitisation at all levels, rather just in the HQ.

The month had a strong Regimental remembrance theme, the highlight of which was the unveiling of The Royal Anglian Memorial at the Imperial War Museum Duxford on 12 September. It commemorates the 78 East Anglian Regiment and Royal Anglian Regiment soldiers who have been killed on duty since 1959. The Officers' Mess and many of the WOs' and Sgts' Mess attended, along with representatives from A (Norfolk) Company. It was a moving day for the 350 members of the fallen soldiers' families and for the serving soldiers who attended, as we remembered those we knew. The WOs' and Sgts' Mess took the opportunity on 23 September to visit the Royal Hospital Chelsea and meet the pensioners. They were hosted very well, exchanging stories and banter over drinks before making the most of the nightlife of London.

Sadly, later in the month the Battalion lost a promising private soldier to a house fire on the night of Sat 25 September. Pte Kenny Pratt of B (Suffolk) Company died of smoke inhalation at his home in Clacton. His tragic death will be mourned by the Battalion and our sympathy goes out to his family and friends.

In the sporting arena, September has seen the welcome return of the football and rugby season. Capt Sam Thomas (2IC C Company) has taken over the management of the Vikings' FC and has arranged several fixtures, including an Inter Company 7-a- Side that, strangely, C Company won! The Battalion's first run out against RMAS Sandhurst ended in a 2-1 defeat, but promises well for the future. Orienteering continues to go well: the Vikings hosted a summer league event as part of the Military League South and combined it with an Inter-Company competition. This meant that over 400 military and civilian runners competed. The month also saw Infantry colours for orienteering presented to several individuals: the QM - Maj Tim Jones, OC HQ Coy - Maj Chelsea Hall, Pte Dodd from C Company and Pte Hood from HQ Company. Vikings also explored Wales in the name of pleasure and personal development as 90 soldiers from A, B and C companies made the journey to Sennybridge to conduct Adventure Training pursuits, including rock climbing, caving and kayaking. The weather was varied and bracing as ever in Wales, but the warm welcome of Brecon town and Swansea helped to lift dampened spirits.

11. **2nd Battalion**

September has been a month of variety for the Poachers as they have settled into their new life as the Eastern Sovereign Base Area Resident Infantry Battalion at Dhekelia. Juggling the dual requirements of providing an operational rotation for the outposts on the Island, and preparing for the Theatre Reserve Battalion (TRB) role, has seen only one variable remain constant - the heat. Arriving at the end of an exceptionally hot August, September heralded a continuation of the trend as temperatures continued to hover around thirty five degrees Celsius throughout. To counter the

temperatures, the Poachers' working day adapted to the difficulties by starting PT before dawn at around 0530 every day. Dawn PT in the sea was certainly different to that normally encountered in Celle.

A (Lincolnshire.) Coy and C (Northamptonshire) Coy have been the first to assume the operational commitments on the Island when they rotated the responsibility for guarding communications installations in both the Troodos Mountains and Salt Lake, near to RAF Akotiri, at the opposite end of the Island. With stunning views over the Island from Troodos and the heat and peculiarity of working with the RAF in Akotiri, it has certainly been a learning curve for both coys.

As well as the operational commitments, the coys have continued their pre-deployment training for the TRB by getting to grips with new equipment, such as the Sharpshooter Rifle, on the rifle ranges immediately outside of camp. As the only Infantry Battalion in the Garrison, the Poachers have fully utilised the live firing opportunities on offer, whilst giving a good test of the new multi-terrain pattern issued equipment with which they will deploy. A particular point worthy of note was B

(Leicestershire) Coy utilising the arrival of a squadron of Harriers at RAF Akotiri to train with close air support whilst on exercise, an occasion that was beneficial to both parties.

In contrast to the operational commitments, the soldiers have been discovering the sheer quantity of sports and adventure training opportunities on offer. With a dedicated water sports centre and beach directly outside the back gate, opportunities for scuba, yachting, wakeboarding, kayaking and swimming have joined other pursuits, such as parachuting and gliding, to offer the soldiers an exceptional choice of activities. It can be only a matter of time before Poachers are even seen mounted, with a saddle club providing a completely different opportunity for Infanteers.

The families have continued to explore the Island and the Garrison with social clubs and sporting activities quickly rising to the fore. Events such as the Dhekelia Dash - a 15km team running race - have seen entrants not only from the husbands, but also the wives as well. The results will be seen in October. On the social side of life, the ideal weather conditions have seen the BBQ season extend well beyond the time that the families back in the UK have been donning their winter clothes and waterproofs.

In the coming weeks the Battalion will continue to train in preparation for the hand over of the TRB at the end of October from 2nd Bn Duke of Lancs, an occasion that will coincide with the majority of the Battalion deploying to Afghanistan to learn the latest tactics and procedures.

12. **3rd Battalion**

This month sees the return of the Steelbacks who were deployed to Afghanistan in support of OP HERRICK 12 (4 Mech Bde). Medal presentations will be held at Company locations with suitable VIP participation and media coverage. It has been an immensely challenging rotation and our thoughts are with all the soldiers as they near the end of their tour.

Exercise POLAR PROGRESS, the 49 Bde Annual Deployment Exercise that took place in Wales from 06 – 24 Sep, provided us with some quite excellent training accompanied by some 'courage-building' weather conditions! All those taking part agreed that it was a quality fortnight. Deployed in the field throughout, the Battalion completed Field Firing up to and including Coy strength, followed by a Field Training Exercise aimed at developing low level skills from individual to Coy HQ, within a Battlegroup scenario. Brigade-level coordination allowed access to assets and synchronisation with other units that would have been impossible to coordinate unilaterally: use of a Chinook helicopter, 105mm Artillery from 100 Regt RA, Engr support from 73 Engr Regt and CSS elements from 158 (R ANGLIAN) RLC, provided good examples of Joint and All Arms cooperation which added to the overall success of the training event.

The remainder of the month has seen detailed work on EX STEELBACK CADET as well as the ongoing preparation for deployment on OP TOSCA (UK Battlegroup assigned to UNFICYP) deployment from Apr – Oct 11. In the background of all this we are looking at the force generation of up to 70 soldiers for OP HERRICK 16 (Apr 12) whilst conducting a detailed study into better aligning Battalion training with OP ENTIRETY, ahead of SDSR and CSR announcements in October. Community Engagement activity continues, but with some more appropriate targeting of

resources in the current financial climate and, on current planning, the Battalion will be ensuring a Regimental presence at key events in our counties.

ACCESS TO THE REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL AT IWM DUXFORD

13. The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial is a place where family and friends, comrades and the general public, can come in a peaceful atmosphere to remember, give thanks and express gratitude; a place where people of all ages, nationalities and faiths, can learn about the ongoing cost of freedom and democracy.

14. The Regiment has agreed a pass system with the IWM Duxford, the purpose of which is to enable relatives of those commemorated by the Memorial to visit during the Imperial War Museum Duxford's museum opening hours, gaining free access at the public entrance on the production of a one-time-use identification pass. Relatives of our fallen should apply for these passes in a timely manner from the Regtl Sec.

15. Access for formed bodies from the Regular and Territorial Army battalions of The Royal Anglian Regiment and its allied training establishments, cadet forces and regimental associations will be allowed, by prior arrangement, during museum opening hours, without charge. Whenever possible such visits should be made in uniform. In the first instance, contact should be made with the Regimental Museum Curator whose contact details are: Mr Andy Murkin: Tel: 01223 497298; email: info@royalanglianmuseum.org.uk

16. Members of the Regimental Association visiting in an individual capacity, be they serving or ex-soldiers, will be offered 'two for one' entrance on production of their MOD ID Card or Regimental Association Membership Card at the Visitor Entrance to the IWM Duxford. This arrangement excludes discounted entry on Air Shows and other Event Days.