

Regimental Matters

The Regiment bid farewell to the Museum Curator, Andy Murkin, who leaves us after 7 years' service (*below left*). Meanwhile, Major Bill O'Driscoll's farewell lunch was held at RHQ to celebrate his final day after 41 years of excellent and loyal service to the Regiment (*below right*).



The Regiment is pleased to announce the following promotions and appointments:

- Maj Gen SL Porter CBE to succeed Col JD Lacey CBE DL as Deputy Colonel 3rd Battalion of the Regiment
- Lt Col MJ Beard appointed Honorary Colonel Suffolk Army Cadet Force 1 Sep 2014 (in succession to Lt Col PRC Dixon OBE)
- Lt G Marsden to be Captain from 16 Apr 2014
- Lt RW Purse to be Captain from 17 Jun 2014
- Lt OE Allnutt to be Captain from 16 Oct 2013
- Ocdt MC Durkin to be 2Lt from 9 Aug 2014
- Ocdt SJ Durrant to be 2Lt from 9 Aug 2014

The Regiment congratulates the following members on their award of the Long Service Medal

- CSgt S Thorne
- Cpl M Ingram

Diary Dates

October

26 - AGM, Army Reserves Centre Norwich

November

- 2 – Chapel Sunday, Warley
- 6 – Field of Remembrance, Westminster, London
- 7 – Regimental Council Meeting
- 7 – Officers Dinner, Army and Navy Club
- 9 – Remembrance Sunday, IWM Duxford
- 11 - Royal Norfolk Regiment Service, Memorial Cottage, Norwich
- 23 – Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Lunch, London
- 23 – Royal Norfolk Regiment Branch Lunch, Army Reserves Centre, Norwich
- 27 – Regimental Selection Board, RMAS

1st Battalion (The Vikings)

The focus of the Battalion this month has been supporting the INVICTUS Games. The Games involved over 400 competitors from 13 nations taking part in an international sporting event for wounded, injured and sick Servicemen and women. The Games used the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation, and in doing so generated a wider understanding and respect for those who serve their country. The Vikings provided over 180 soldiers in support of the Games in a variety of roles including Stewarding and Liaison Teams. The Battalion headed up the Armed Forces' contribution, with the CO leading a Tri-Service team with representatives from the Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force. As a battalion which has extensive operational experience and therefore fully grasps the spirit of the Games, it was a source of great pride to the soldiers to be able to do their bit to ensure success. It wasn't all hard work though; there were a number of benefits including a party held by the US Ambassador which culminated in a Foo Fighters concert (see below left: the Bn 2ic in full concert mode), trips up the BT Tower (below centre) and due to the presence of a large number of celebrities, a number of Vikings were able to meet some of their own sporting heroes (below right: Capt Waterfield and Johnny Wilkinson).



However, the highlight of the Games was watching Alex Tate, injured in Afghanistan in 2012 with C (Essex) Coy, compete and win the 100m (see cover photo). This was followed the next day by Steve Gill, a Poacher injured in Northern Ireland winning a bronze in the Archery.

While the Battalion was providing support for the INVICTUS Games, in the background training continued in order to get ready for Mission Specific Training for the upcoming operational tours in 2015. Some of the soldiers deploying to Afghanistan next year went to Defence Transport School Leconfield to be trained on the new Foxhound vehicles they will be using (below centre). A (Norfolk) and B (Suffolk) Company took advantage of the 25m Indoor Range within Royal Artillery Barracks to complete some training on the new Glock service pistol (below left). Further afield, GPMG Ranges were underway for those soldiers who required them (below right). A number of soldiers from the CIS Platoon have deployed to Cyprus to support 3 PWRR with their annual exercise and we currently have two JNCOs on the Jungle Warfare Instructors' Course in Brunei.



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL provides an ideal opportunity to test soldiers' basic skills and particularly patrol skills. It is a 48 hour multi-national patrol exercise and previous years have seen teams entered from as far afield as Pakistan. It involves soldiers patrolling across some of the more infamous terrain in Wales including the Black Mountains and Sennybridge. Preparations for the October exercise involved soldiers from A 'Lincolnshire' and B 'Leicestershire' Company conducting training on Sennybridge Training Area this month. All the basic skills were tested including navigation, fitness, first aid and CBRN.



The new Battalion structure will see a General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) Fire Support Group permanently attached to each Rifle Company. This month the focus has been on preparing soldiers with the required basic qualifications on the GPMG and GPMG(SF). Despite the GPMG having first come into service in the 1960's it has remained a potent weapon and confirmation of the adage 'if it's not broken, don't fix it'.



D 'Bedford and Hertfordshire' Company has started the first of several cadres to introduce new members to the weapons and equipment they will be using as the Battalion's Support Weapons Company. The Anti-Tank Platoon have initiated the training with a six week cadre that will train soldiers on the Javelin Missile System.



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)



September's main activity for the Steelbacks was the Battalion's Annual Deployment Exercise - Ex STEELBACK DRAGON, held this year in Sennybridge, Wales and Weymouth, Dorset.

The exercise consisted of a number of different Infantry cadres running concurrently over a two week period, with members of the Battalion and two groups of soldiers from the Poachers (our Adaptable Force paired battalion) conducting: Live Fire Tactical Training, a GPMG(SF) cadre, an Assault Soldier cadre (the first stage of becoming an Assault Pioneer), a



drivers' cadre, signals cadre, commanders' cadre and Cambrian Patrol preparation. With some unseasonably dry Welsh weather, we were able to conduct some great training in a demanding environment, with tangible progress shown by all involved.

The exercise finished with a service in the memory of LCpl Craig Roberts being held on Pen-y-Fan (below); a fitting tribute to our Steelback brother who died on these hills a year previously.



Continued congratulations go to Pte Karl Standing (left) who capped his Top Student accolade gained during Phase I training, with the same prestigious award on his Combat Infantryman's Course at ITC Catterick. Karl is now well embedded in HQ Company in Bury St Edmunds and spent Ex STEELBACK DRAGON preparing for his next challenge: the Cambrian Patrol. Well done, Karl.

