



05/13

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

May 13

APPOINTMENTS

1. The Regiment sincerely congratulates Col RW Wooddisse MBE MC Late R ANGLIAN on being selected for promotion to Brig and Command of 38 (Irish) Brigade, a Type A Operational Command, wef Jun 14. Great news.

APPOINTMENTS

2. The Regiment also congratulates Lt Col CD Davies MBE R ANGLIAN who has been selected to Command 2 PWRR, a Regular Command, wef Apr 15. More great news!

1ST BATTALION

3. With two Bank Holidays to look forward to, the Battalion entered May with gusto and continues to work hard on all aspects of force preparation and training. With Easter Leave now a distant memory, overall soldiering proficiency climbs apace and company physical fitness programs are beginning to show real effect. The Commanding Officer decreed that May be a month of health education and testing. Following on from the March Health Fair, this has comprised of educational activities as well as surges on dental health appointments, vaccinations and hearing tests. As a result, all-ranks have increased awareness of health issues and deployability statistics are the most impressive in the Brigade.

In addition, participation in sports has seen a marked upturn. Sgt Waters took the Battalion's Road Cycling Team to the Alps on Ex Tour de Horns, putting beginners and veterans alike through their paces on the tough mountain slopes. Also, team preparation has begun for the Inter Company Novice Boxing Competition, scheduled for the second week of July.

The Padre led members of the Battalion on the Somme Pilgrimage in Belgium as the month came to a close. All involved enjoyed a highly rewarding trip and a stark reminder of the sacrifices made during the Great War.

2ND BATTALION

4. It is incredible that May 2013 is behind us already. For the Battalion it has been yet another busy month as we prepare ourselves for deployment; and the efforts of every soldier to maintain this drive is to be commended.

The headline event for May has been the Commanding Officer's Platoon Competition which took place on the Thetford Training Area (STANTA). Congratulations go out to CSgt Rawdon and the soldiers of 11 Platoon, D Company, who won the overall event; and to Cpl West and his Section from 12 Platoon who won the section level March and Shoot.

The competition took place over three days - two days on STANTA operating out of Lynford Hall Farm, followed by the March and Shoot conducted back at Kendrew Barracks. Taking place shortly after the re-orbating of most of the companies, it allowed soldiers the chance to bond in their new platoons and commanders a chance to identify any training shortfalls. A number of demanding stands, set over a 48 hour period, were designed to teach, fatigue and then test all those taking part. The points we have

taken away from those running the stands will now be incorporated into the remainder of our pre deployment training.

For the second time a team of 12 deployed out to Hohne to conduct 7 Brigade's second Herrick Study Week. These additional 5 days of presentations helped build on the content provided in the first Herrick Study Week, with a particular focus on joint fires, ISTAR and OP CARDEL. This was directly followed by the D – 5 Recce out to theatre, giving commanders the opportunity to see for themselves how the situation on the ground is developing in preparation for our own deployment. This allowed the team to return and provide new direction to ensure that the incredible efforts of all within the Battalion continue to focus on what is most important and relevant.

Back in camp the training has continued at pace and a special thank you is extended to those soldiers tasked with conducting both the medical and language training that takes place each week. LCpl Parker and LCpl Drummond have been responsible for training 50% of the Battalion as team medics and hope to have 100% qualified ready for our deployment. Meanwhile LCpl Barton and Pte Clarke are using their own language skills to good effect and have conducted numerous one week long Pashtu courses for our soldiers. Both courses are crucial to the success of our future deployment and the ability of our junior commanders instructing on these courses helps confirm the calibre of soldier we are lucky enough to work alongside.

At the end of May, with the exception of C Coy, the Battalion took a week of well deserved leave. For C Coy, who are running on a different MST package to the remainder, they are busy building up to their own test exercises which will take place in June and then, with the exercises complete, they will take some well-earned leave.

3RD BATTALION

5. This month the Battalion has continued it's preparations for the ADX in Croatia. Key members of the Headquarters visited Croatia for the confirmatory recce of what is proving to be a first class training opportunity. The Steelbacks will be the first British unit to use this training area and take advantage of all the military and social opportunities available in Croatia. So the Battalion is planning a progressive package of training opportunities rounded off by some well earned R&R on the Croatian coast.

The Companies have been busy this month maintaining their training programmes. A, E and HQ companies deployed to STANTA for Ex BRITANNIA CHARGE while B & C companies deployed to Copehill Down for a weekend urban training package. Additionally the Battalion upheld its annual commitment to the Brigade Shooting Competition, Ex POLAR MARKSMAN.

Elsewhere the Battalion has been busy preparing for Armed Forces week as well as upcoming recruitment campaigns.