



06/13

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

July 13

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MAJOR GENERAL J B DYE CBE MC DL FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER AT FRAMLINGHAM COLLEGE

1. The Memorial Service to celebrate the life and works of Major General J B Dye CBE MC DL will take place in the Chapel of Framlingham College at 1430 on Friday 27th September 2013. It is expected that many will wish to attend so you are encouraged to be seated by 1400 hours. Car parking will be available on the College forecourt and adjacent playing fields. An overflow hall, with seating, will be available if the numbers exceed the Chapel capacity of 450, into which the service will be relayed. There will be light refreshments after the service. The RHQ point of contact will be the Assistant Regimental Secretary Maj Dick Gould. Those wishing to attend are requested to inform him so that the numbers can be monitored, either by email or by phone 01284 752394

REGIMENTAL DAY, IWM DUXFORD, SUNDAY 1 SEP 2013

2. The Regimental Day will be held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on Sunday 1st September. The programme for the Day will be as follows:

- 0930 hrs Gates open (entry via Gate 1)
- 1130 hrs Drumhead Service at Regimental Memorial to include March Past
- 1230 hrs Bars, kiosks and stalls open
- 1300 hrs Band Concert
- 1500 hrs Beating Retreat at Regimental Memorial
- 1700 hrs Bars, kiosks and stalls close

All serving and ex-members of The Regiment and former Regiments are warmly invited to attend this enjoyable event and can gain free access on the production of a British Army ID Card or a Regimental Association Membership Card. Further details can be obtained from the Assistant Regimental Secretary, Maj Dick Gould (Tel: 01284 752394; Email: rhqranlian-asstregsec@mod.uk)

Fund Raising for the Benevolent Charity

3. Mrs Christine Bonner is continuing her magnificent *All the 4s* fundraising and has organised a tandem parachute jump with a team of 12 Regimental supporters at Sibson Airfield Peterborough on 14 Sep 13. Supporters would be most welcome. <http://www.justgiving.com/Christine-Bonner1> Further details are available from the Area Secretary, Maj Bill O'Driscoll (Tel: 01604 535412 or william.odriscoll564@mod.uk)

1ST BATTALION

4. The month of July was significant to the Vikings for several reasons; it heralded the onset of Summer Leave, saw the slightly advanced celebration of Minden Day, and represented the final full month in command for Lt Col Aston DSO MC.

Clearly Summer Leave was a welcome chance for the vast majority of the Battalion to spend a period of time recharging the batteries and more importantly, spending time with friends and family. A contingent drawn from across the Unit, including but not limited to members of HQ Company and the QM's Dept, took a slightly staggered leave as once again the Battalion found itself supporting wider events; this time, the activation and preparation of a training establishment for a task that had fallen to another unit within the Brigade – 3 RIFLES.

In the run up to leave the Viking's own training continued apace; D (Cambridgeshire) Company completed both their support weapons cadre, as well as the sniper cadre at STANTA, whilst B (Suffolk) and C (Essex) Company's continued their conceptual development alongside the RTR in preparation for BATUS. The culmination of months of hard training was rewarded with three days of excellent inter-company boxing, with GOC 3rd (UK) Div Maj Gen Cowan CBE DSO attending the finals on 11 Jul to witness A (Norfolk) Company be crowned overall victors. Extra-curricular activities also abounded, with the Officers' and WO/Sgts' Messes taking part in a battlefield study on Ex VIKING CASSINO, and Maj Phill Blanchfield leading a three week sailing expedition around the Solent. As the month drew to a close, and with a slightly early Summer Leave, Minden Day was celebrated in true Viking style – not even a torrential downpour at 7am could dampen the spirits of those taking part in the legendary pram race! The Col of the Regt also joined the Vikings in presenting the traditional Minden Day roses to B (Suffolk) Company.

The month finished with Lt Col Aston being pulled out of camp in a Jackal by both the Officers' and Seniors', the route through camp lined by the remainder of the Battalion. It was a fitting farewell for a Commanding Officer who had served the Battalion tirelessly for over two years – the Vikings wish him well in his new job as SO1 FTU.

2ND BATTALION

5. As promised, much of July saw the Battalion involved in several demanding and well resourced exercises. The quality of these exercises cannot be understated and they closely replicate the full array of situations that have recently occurred in current operations. They focused on confirming the tactics, techniques and procedures taught and revised over the previous few months have been effectively adopted in preparation for the final exercise after summer leave. July also saw the first individuals begin deploying to theatre and we wish them a successful tour.

The start of the month was the final opportunity for individuals to complete the All Ranks Briefing (ARB) and Ex PASHTUN HAWK (live range work to meet the required baseline standard before progression to live firing tactical training). The ARB consisted of a series of lectures and presentations aimed at giving the rank spectrum an oversight of Afghanistan's history, geography and political background; the reason British troops are there, the threats we face and an outline of the plan for the future. Ex PASHTUN HAWK took place in Sennybridge and the hot weather made for an enjoyable and productive couple of days shooting. This included fire team fire and manoeuvre and a 'dream team' consisting of the RAO, RAWO, RSO and Training Officer was formed. The range layout prevented the remaining exercising troops from witnessing the perfect demonstration of fire and manoeuvre but I'm assured it did happen.

The main training event this month was Ex PASHTUN PANTHER. This was the Confirmation Exercise for BGHQ, A Company and the OCCP and Lashkar Gah Training Centre (formed from elements of B & D Company). Set on Stanford Training Area (STANTA), it utilises the very realistic 'Afghan village' complete with bazaar, mud compounds and irrigations ditches. A 'green zone' clearance scenario is conducted along one of the rivers surrounded by overgrown foliage providing an ideal setting. Despite it being in Norfolk, it is surprising just how effectively the terrain is replicated. Contractors comprising of a mix of Afghans and Gurkhas play the role of Afghan National Security Forces and civilians. The Battalion performed well and confirmed our soldiers have an excellent understanding of the skills required from them for a successful tour.

Back at Kendrew Barracks the conceptual preparations for the tour continued with a very well received presentation on Pashtun culture delivered by several Pashtun academics. The audience consisted of

officers and NCOs and was exceptionally enlightening to how Pashtuns think and the factors that influence and motivate them. This will prove invaluable considering how essential it is for us to work with and understand our Afghan counterparts. July concluded with the Talavera Dinner, hosted by the Officers Mess, with the Battalion Warrant Officers and Team Rutland invited. A Spanish theme was rightly adopted and rioja and tapas enjoyed by all. The RSM gave his certificate of approval to the Schmungo (a bizarre concoction favoured by some junior officers) and the night continued unabated into morning. The evening once again enforced the close-knit family spirit and classless approach based on mutual respect that form part of our Regimental Ethos.

The end of the month has brought a deployment to Castlemartin in Wales to conduct Ex PASHTUN TEMPEST, the live firing tactical training pre-deployment package. This has enabled live firing complete with mortars, aviation and some of the heavier vehicle mounted weapons such as .50 cal. It is combined with realistic scenarios making use of judgemental targets requiring rapid decision making from even the most junior soldier on appropriate engagement. With the exercise completed the Battalion will be enjoying a well deserved rest over summer leave.

3RD BATTALION

6. Preparations were made in July for a Battalion led military funeral in LLaundudno, North Wales in early August for LCpl Craig Roberts.

Operations:

Those Steelbacks now committed to deploying on Op HERRICK 19 are well underway conducting their MST with the Poachers with 9 Soldiers and 1 Officer committed to Mobilisation.

The Battalion received details on the Future Reserve 2020 White paper and has started to plan and implement changes. This will likely see restructuring and amalgamation across the Battalion and an increase in capability with the creation of a javelin and an assault pioneer platoon. It will also see the Battalion paired with the Queen Division Regular battalion based in Cottismore for the foreseeable future.

Training:

The Rifle Companies enjoyed focusing on live firing training on the month's main training weekend, concentration on marksmanship tests and MATT based skills. E Company had the benefit of conducting blank training in RAF Honnington's specially equipped skills house.

The Peterborough based band also completed their annual deployment exercise and combined with other reserve bands across the country for training and performances.

Recruiting:

The Battalion recruiting team has had a busy month conducting outreach events whilst continuing to improve the applicant process procedures in tandem with our desk heads from CAPITA at HQ RG at Upavon. During the month we have had a steady in flow of new applicants across the Bn. The main effort continues to be clearing the back log of applicants who are already in the system; this is beginning to show signs of improvement. The recruiting team are currently planning events for the TA Live 2 campaign in Sep and Oct.

The Battalion Adjutant changed again, as Captain Dan Tomlinson moved back to the Vikings to become the Battalion Intelligence Officer and Captain Tim Hearne arrived from the Infantry Battle School to take up the post – on a more permanent basis!