



November 2013

## Regimental Headquarters



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Brig James Woodham OBE MC lays a wreath at the memorial in Camp Bastion on Remembrance Day.



Soldiers from the Royal Anglian Regiment who are serving in Afghanistan over Christmas were treated to a 'taste of home' thanks to the East of England Co-operative.

Over 1800 products were donated by the East of England Co-op from its Sourced Locally range of foods, all produced by local suppliers in Essex, Suffolk or Norfolk. In addition, local festive chocolates were donated to some of the families of the soldiers who are away for Christmas.

The festive donation includes Walnut Whirls made by Hadleigh Maid based in Hadleigh, Suffolk; popcorn from the Norfolk Popcorn Company in Dereham; crisps from Fairfields Farm in Wormingford, Essex; strong tea bags blended by Jarrett Teacare Services of Mendlesham, Suffolk and Oriental Dipping Sauces and Taste Pouched Sauces from Keejays, also of Hadleigh.

### Royal Anglians in the News

#### Cromwell Community College pays tribute to fallen Heroes

[http://www.cambstimes.co.uk/news/gallery\\_cromwell\\_community\\_college\\_pays\\_tribute\\_to\\_fallen\\_heroes\\_at\\_poignant\\_remembrance\\_service\\_1\\_2992143](http://www.cambstimes.co.uk/news/gallery_cromwell_community_college_pays_tribute_to_fallen_heroes_at_poignant_remembrance_service_1_2992143)

#### Allendale: Marchers' "Poacher Power" will help injured ex-comrade

<http://www.hexhamcourant.co.uk/news/allendale-marchers-poacher-power-will-help-injured-ex-comrade-1.1098139>

#### Soldiers march to bring "brother" back home

<http://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/update/2013-11-17/soldiers-march-to-bring-brother-back-home/>

#### Soldier making career recruiting reserves in Grimsby

<http://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/Soldier-making-career-recruiting-reserves-Grimsby/story-20084676-detail/story.html>

#### From canal boat builder to soldier in Afghanistan

<http://www.exeterexpressandecho.co.uk/canal-boat-builder-soldier-Afghanistan/story-20086144-detail/story.html>

#### Inside Afghan Police and Army Control Centre in Helmand

<http://www.exeterexpressandecho.co.uk/Inside-Afghan-police-army-control-centre-Helmand/story-20085754-detail/story.html>

#### Armed Forces Covenant to be signed in Leicester

<http://www.itv.com/news/central/update/2013-11-21/armed-forces-covenant-to-be-signed-in-leicester/>

#### Show your support for "The Tigers"

<http://www.meltontimes.co.uk/news/local/show-your-support-for-the-tigers-1-5702090>

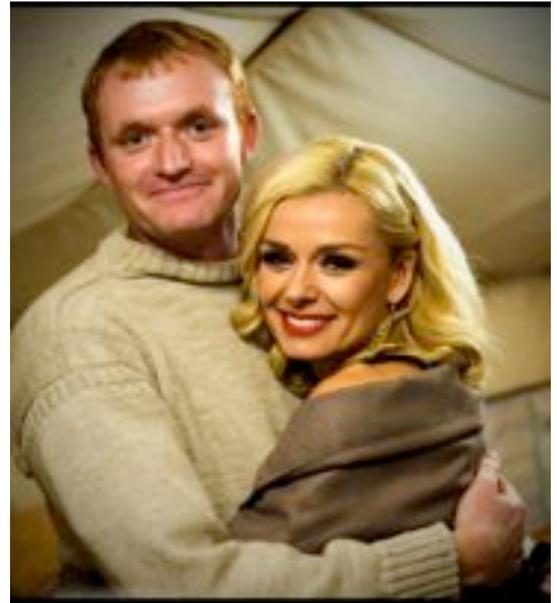
#### First battle is won – now SAS man Stuart Kyffin is fighting back

<http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/battle-won-ndash-SAS-man-fighting/story-20232888-detail/story.html>

## Diary Dates

12 Dec – Fords Carol Service, Warley  
 13 Dec – RMA Sandhurst Sovereign's Parade  
 15 Dec – Viking Family Support Group Carol Service, Bury St Edmunds  
 12 Jan – Chapel Sunday Warley

Capt James Walters, AMA to Comd 7 Armoured Brigade, welcomes 7 Brigade's visitor, the singer Katherine Jenkins, on her morale-raising visit to Camp Bastion.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (The Vikings)



November was a busy month with B (Suffolk) and C (Essex) Company deployed as BLUEFOR on Exercise PRAIRIE STORM in Canada. Here they operated alongside Heavy Armour as Light Role troops. Outside the Exercise we helped host a visit by Alun and Lesley Hicks, parents of Captain David Hicks MC, who were visiting HQ BATUS as the new major range control building was formally opened and named after their son. It had been Colonel Stuart Carver's initiative, as Commander BATUS, to dedicate two new facilities to a fallen British and Canadian soldiers. The new fire station was dedicated to Corporal Bryce Keller of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, who was killed in October 2006 and awarded the Medal of Military Valour.

We were all back in time to mark Remembrance and Private Wildney, who was injured on Op HERRICK, stood in front of the Regimental plot at the opening of the field of Remembrance on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

The second half of November saw most of the Battalion involved in Live Firing, mainly in Warcop, as part of the preparation for Exercise ASKARI STORM in Kenya, which is the main event in the New Year.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (The Poachers)

November has seen C Company deploy to Camp Bastion to conduct the Reception Staging and Onward Integration training. The OCCP have hosted a number of high profile meetings whilst D Company have been busy preparing to leave the Lashkar Gah Training Centre. A Company have now fully rotated through their Guard, QRF, Patrols cycle giving all the platoons a taste of the the different tasks.



### A Company (MOB LKG)

The Company held a Remembrance Service on 10 November. It was particularly humbling to be joined by so many of the other nationalities. Escort patrols around the city and further afield have continued and Sgt Waite's multiple conducted a move several kilometres south of the city toward Bost. This enabled an inspection of the ANSF Checkpoints to take place. On 14 November the Company pulled together to conduct a 25 mile run carrying a 96kg stretcher to raise money for Stu Kyffin, an injured former Poacher. An appropriately physically demanding event and we sincerely hope Stu is brought home soon. Donations can be made at [www.youcaring.com/medical-fundrasier/medevac-for-stu/96395](http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundrasier/medevac-for-stu/96395)



### B Company (OCCP)

At the OCCP the Afghans have focused on providing security for the Shia Muslim festival of Ashura. The festival took place over several days and culminated in several thousand locals parading through the streets. Reassuringly the Afghan Security Forces planned and executed a successful operation which prevented any major incidents without requiring assistance from our soldiers.



### C Company

We entered Autumn in fine spirits with a live firing exercise at Lydd and Hythe ranges. It is essential we constantly hone our military skills ready for deployment and the range package certainly achieved this. The focus was on close quarters marksmanship and room clearance drills. Recognising the need to maintain morale C Company conducted an outing to Alton Towers. C Company also sent a team led by Sgt Ward to collect money for Stu Kyffin. They raised approx. £5,500 in Leicester and Stamford.

### D Company (Lashkar Gah Training Centre)

The last month has seen the beginning of the closure of the Lashka-Gah Training Centre. The Afghans of the LTC have become increasingly independent allowing us to cut the apron strings to a far greater extent than before. Though less intense, mentoring has still been conducted, and the mentoring teams have been advising and maintaining relationships with the various courses and instructors, as well as enrolling an ever growing number of students. One of our main efforts has been mentoring the Security Platoon, and Staff Sgt Marke and his team have dedicated a lot of time to training and preparing the Afghans who will be responsible for the security of the LTC after our departure.

### 10 Platoon (Kabul)

On 10 November 10PI took an hour for a Remembrance Service to reflect and remember those who have lost their lives on operations and the sacrifices that are made continually. The service was run by CSgt Knight in his role as Camp Sgt Major. We are lucky to have a number of the Poachers' Corps of Drums within 10 PI so accompaniment was provided by DMaj Rosson, LCpls Sunman and Williams and Pte Bowie. The DMaj has himself had only flown in the previous evening as he had been requested at Khandhar Airfield to play at their Remembrance Service. Pte Porter aged 19 gave the reading "It is the Soldier". He said " It is a really good experience being out here, I feel privileged to deploy when I have only been in the Battalion about a year."



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion (The Steelbacks)



In mid November a team from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion entered the Army Steeplechase competition at ITC Catterick. The event was in support of the Army Benevolent fund and included teams from across the Regular Army and two from OTCs, with the Steelbacks being the only Army Reserve team to enter. The event consisted of an obstacle course covering 10 miles, with competitors running across country carrying 20lb loads.

The team came 9<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams that entered with 2 PARA winning and ITC and 7 RHA coming 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The team's top runner was Pte Allen who placed 46<sup>th</sup> out of 185 who entered. The event made £1000 for charity.

The Team was made up completely of Reservists led by Cpl Spokes (C Coy) and also included; LCpl McGarrell (HQ Coy), Pte Cosham (A Coy), Pte Everett (A Coy), Pte McGinnes (A Coy), Pte Allen (HQ Coy), Pte McIntosh (A Coy) and Pte Naismith (C Coy).

The Battalion conducted Remembrance parades across East Anglia's county towns. 49(E) Brigade Commander, Brigadier Harry Nickerson (Late SG) joined A (Norfolk) Company in Norwich, whilst the CO joined members of HQ Company parading in Bury St Edmunds.



The Battalion also continues to support it's soldiers on Op HERRICK 19 and training continues, with 16 Steelbacks planning to join the Vikings in Kenya on Ex ASKARI STORM. Meanwhile, the recruiting effort continues apace, with the Battalion's main effort being the growth of a new Javelin platoon in Bury St Edmunds under FR20 reorganisation. The picture shows HQ Company recruiters making the most of the 'Call of Duty Ghosts' video game launch, ambushing gamers at midnight in the Bury branch of Game!