



Regimental Matters

OPERATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS FEBRUARY 2015

The Regiment are pleased to announce the following Operational Awards and warmly congratulate the recipients:

- CBE: Brig J M Woodham OBE MC
- QCVS: Lt Col N A Johnson

Promotions to Lt Col

The Regiment warmly congratulates the following officers on their selection for promotion

- Maj F J R Grounds
- Maj M S Woodeson
- Maj P J Messenger

Freedom of the City of Gibraltar to the Regiment

The Royal Anglian Regiment is deeply honoured by this generous distinction from the City of Gibraltar. Battalions from the Regiment have served on the Rock on numerous occasions, and have developed a deep and lasting affection both for Gibraltar and for its people. We feel there has always been a strong bond between us, which is well illustrated by the Castle of Gibraltar on our Regimental Cap Badge.

Our special relationship is also highlighted by the alliance between the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Royal Gibraltar Regiment, established in 1968, reflecting not only the part played by former Regiments in the siege of Gibraltar from 1779 to 1783 but also the cooperation that has grown up between the modern Regiments.

Volunteer Required for 6 R Anglian and Ladies 2015 Lunch

Major John Raybould is looking for a willing volunteer to run the lunch, please contact John at, 'majorpipe@hotmail.co.uk'.

3rd Battalion (The Pompadours) Officer Dinner Club Save the Dates

- 1 Fri 17 April – the Cocktail Party at the Rag
- Sat 9 May – the Army v Navy Match.
- Sat 28 June – Salamanca Day at Warley
- Sunday 26 July – a Sunday Lunch in Wiltshire
- September/October TBC – Ceremony of the Keys/Yeomen Warders Mess
- October/November – date to be confirmed – Lunch at Freedom Parade for 1 R ANGLIAN Norwich
- Regimental Dinner – Fri Nov 6th.
- Tue 2nd Feb 2016 - Lunch at the HAC/Annual Committee Meeting

Diary Dates

March	
1	Chapel Service Warley 1100 hours
20	Regimental Golf Society Spring Meeting, Swaffham Golf Club, Norfolk
28	Poachers' Grimsby Reunion
April	
5	Chapel Service Warley 1100 hours
25	4 R Norfolk Comrades Dinner
26	Cyprus Reunion

1st Battalion (The Vikings)

A 'NORFOLK' Company.

A highly enjoyable and restful Christmas leave gave way to the intensity of the final part of the Mission Specific Training. The Company deployed to Caerwent Training Area in South Wales for a week of testing training that allowed the soldiers to hone the skills which will be vital for the upcoming Tour. Once in theatre A Company moved to Camp Qargha utilising the RAF Chinooks which provided an impressive view of the sprawling city below. The soldiers immediately began taking over the tasks from 2 RIFLES. Qargha offers rewarding and varied roles including patrolling through the city in Foxhound Light Protected Mobility Vehicles, providing Force Protection to the Mentors at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy and manning a Quick Reaction Force.



B 'SUFFOLK' Company.

Since returning from Christmas leave, B Coy has been finishing their Mission Specific Training, both at camp in Woolwich, and on our FTX (final training exercise) in Caerwent, South Wales. This exercise tested us on all the varying roles and responsibilities we will be carrying out in Kabul on Op TORAL I when we deploy in February. Following the exercise we had a week's pre-deployment leave to rest and recharge ready for the challenges of a 5th Vikings deployment to Afghanistan since 2001.



C 'Essex' Company

C Company are ready to launch onto their MRX (Mission Rehearsal Exercise) prior to deploying on Op NEWCOMBE in Mali. They will support the training of the Malian Army and a number of Officers and soldiers from the Company having been intensively learning French for their time in Africa. C 'Essex' Company will be granted one week's pre-deployment leave before deploying for 6 months abroad.



D 'Cambridgeshire' Company and Rear Operations Group

D Coy now begin their focus on the Army 2020 restructure. They have recently been honing their specialist support weapons skills in Brecon with the Infantry Battles Schools Platoon Commanders Division. The ROG (Rear Operations Group) continue to ensure our fighting companies deploy in good order and it was a D Company and ROG team

that won the LONIDST Minor Unit Basketball Championships.

2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

KENYAN FORCE PROTECTION PLATOON

Earlier this year 2 Platoon from A 'Lincolnshire' Company deployed to conduct force protection duties at Nanyuki and Archers Post in Kenya for three months. During this time they also had the opportunity to conduct adventurous training and military training. Whilst all members of the platoon received a 2 week break in the UK during December, some spent Christmas Day in Kenya. The platoon will have returned to the UK by mid January.

MORTAR PLATOON LIVE FIRING

Regulars from The Poachers' Mortar Platoon and Reservists from The Steelbacks took part in a joint live firing exercise in December. This was the culmination of training for the soldiers who joined The Poachers Mortar Platoon early this year. Despite the freezing weather, the soldiers deployed on a five day live firing package using their 81mm mortars. All the soldiers passed and are now fully qualified.



OFFICERS' VS WO'S & SGTS' MESS FOOTBALL

The annual football match took place in the week preceding the break up for Christmas leave. Despite some courageous defending and leading 2-1 at half-time, the Officers' Mess succumbed and the WO's & Sgt's Mess walked away satisfied with a 4-2 victory.

EX FROSTED BLADE

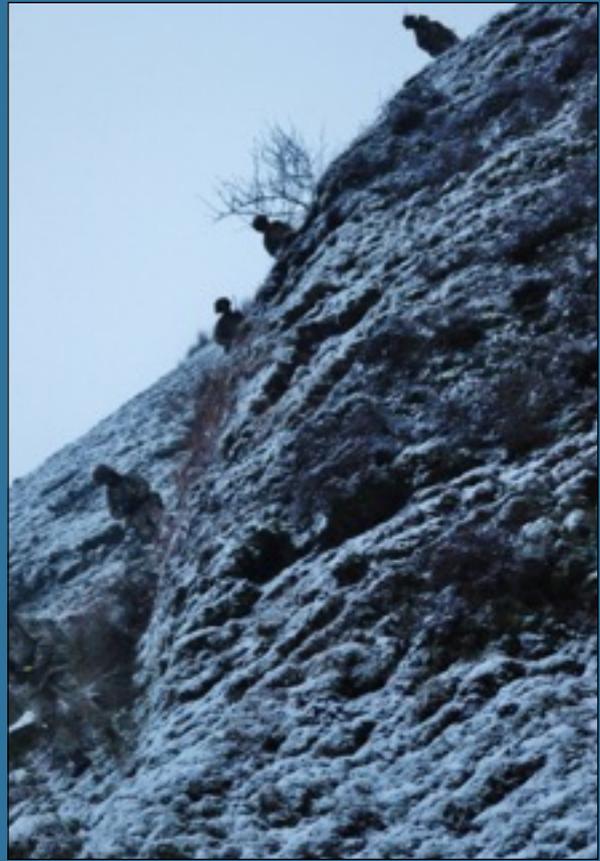
A team of 6 Poachers took part in Ex FROSTED BLADE a downhill skiing competition. They proved their mettle despite only one individual having previous race experience and finished a respectable 13th out of 36 teams. The team was led by Lt Gordon with Cpl Townsend, LCpl Wolfe, LCpl Young, Pte Chamberlain and Pte Gorham all competing.



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

January started cold and bleak for the Steelbacks, with the first training event of the year taking place just as the temperature dropped significantly and the weather turned more wintry. Nonetheless, Steelbacks headed out into the snow on Thetford and Leek training areas and had a great opportunity to run off some of the festive period's excess.

The exercise in Leek once again saw Steelbacks exercising alongside soldiers from the Poachers, our paired battalion, as we refine the way in which we do this type of training. Pairing activity is now focussed on what we call Collective Training; i.e. training conducted as a group, be that platoon, company, or battalion level - where the chain of command is critical to the success of a mission... or not. The Leek training saw this working very well, with Poachers not only taking their places within the rifle company orbat, but also adopting a mentoring role. This is already starting to show results, with junior and senior NCOs all benefitting from the Regular counterparts' knowledge and experience.



The Battalion also received a very different tasking at the start of the month: news that we were to be involved in the reinterment of King Richard III at Leicester Cathedral in March. Being described as 'having the character of a state funeral without being one', a week-long series of events will see the King's coffin travel from Bosworth, where he died in battle, to

the city where he was first buried. Soldiers from the Queen's Division have been selected to play an important part in these events, acting as step liners going up to the Cathedral and pall bearers who will lower the King's casket into the tomb within. This event will see 12 soldiers from 2 (Leicestershire and Lincolnshire) Company on the steps and helping with the lowering of the casket.



The Dedication of the Memorial to The Royal Leicestershire Regiment (17th Regiment of Foot)

In 2011 members of the General Committee of the Royal Tigers' Association expressed a strong desire that the Regiment should have a Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA); which was increasingly becoming a national place of stature and pilgrimage. Thanks to the invaluable support of the *Leicester Mercury* and other local publications, and to the immense generosity of individuals, trusts, local authorities, schools, organisations and firms in the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland, the necessary funds were raised to cover both the Memorial itself and its ongoing maintenance.



Saturday 27 September 2014 saw the Dedication of the Memorial to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in the NMA at Alrewas in Staffordshire, which was, precisely to the day, 326 years before in 1688 when in Whitehall, London, the warrant was presented for raising Captain Solomon Richards' Company of Foot (which eventually was to become, in 1751, the 17th of Foot). The weather was warm if slightly overcast, but that did not in any way dull the enjoyment of what was, without question, a spectacular, historic and extremely memorable occasion.



The day's activities commenced shortly after midday with the arrival of the Lord Lieutenants of Leicestershire, Rutland and Staffordshire, major donors to the Memorial Appeal, and other senior guests, all of whom were greeted by the President of The Royal Tigers' Association (Brigadier Andrew Fisher) and the Chairman (Captain Bob Allen) and their wives, who together with the other Trustees of the Association and members of the General Committee were entertained to a drinks reception, followed by lunch. Grace was said by Lieutenant Colonel the Reverend Tom Hiney. It was during this time that other members of the Association and other guests, together with their partners, numbering over 400 people, arrived and

took their seats adjacent to the Memorial site.

The Dedication Service started at 3.00pm on the arrival at the Memorial site of the President and Chairman of the Royal Tigers' Association together with the Lords Lieutenant, greeted by Regimental music played by an Ensemble of The Prince of Wales's Division Band. The Service was conducted by the Very Reverend David Monteith, Dean of Leicester. The Association Standard was carried by Robbie Allen.

The President of the Association made an opening speech during which he mentioned certain aspects of the Regiment's history, and expressed his thanks and appreciation to all those who had been involved in the design and construction of the Memorial, those who would be participating in the Service, and those who, with great endeavour, had organised the occasion. He added that the Regimental Trustees believe that this Memorial is an important testimonial that completes this generation's thanks to all our Regimental forebears for their service, and particularly those who were to make the ultimate sacrifice. He concluded by saying that the Regiment has its wonderful Chapel in Leicester Cathedral, its Regimental Museum nearby, the living memorial of Royal Tigers' Wood at Bagworth in Leicestershire, and now this beautiful Memorial here, in this very appropriate setting, which completes our legacy of The Royal Leicestershire Regiment to future generations.



The Dean led the Service with the opening hymn of "O God our help in ages past...". Prayers followed, at the conclusion of which the Chairman of the Association read the First Lesson from the Old Testament. Captain Allen, with very considerable skill and dedication, took the lead throughout the entire enterprise of creating the Memorial, for which he deserves great praise and appreciation from all members of the Association, and indeed from the communities of Leicestershire and Rutland.

The Dedication and Unveiling Ceremony then took place, led by the Dean. The act of unveiling was carried out by John Sheppard (aged 99 and in a wheel chair), and Harold Smalley (also aged 99), who were ably assisted by Cadets of C (Tiger) Company Leicestershire, Northampton and Rutland (LNR) ACF. John Sheppard (while OC Mortar Platoon in 1/5th Battalion in Norway in April 1940, for which he was awarded the DCM) using a Boyes Rifle knocked out the first German tank in WW2, a fact unknown by his CO when he wrote the citation – shortly afterwards both became Prisoners of War and remained so throughout the War. Harold Smalley is the oldest surviving soldier of 1st Leicesters, who was captured at the Fall of Singapore in February 1942 and then spent three and a half years working on the Thailand-Burma railway as a Prisoner of War of the Japanese.

At the moment of unveiling there was an audible gasp of admiration throughout the congregation at the sheer excellence of the Memorial, and a clear sight of tears flowing. The whole structure is 6 feet high. The Tiger surmounting it, which is 4 feet from nose to tail and nickel plated, was inspired by the Silver Tiger presented to 4/5th Battalion the Royal Leicestershire Regiment (TA) in 1961. Theodore Gillick; the sculptor, was reported as saying that he had not quite grasped the true significance of his great "Cat" creation until the unveiling ceremony.

The Regimental Collect was read by Major General Tony Pollard, who was for over 17 years the President of the Association and remains a Trustee.

The Act of Remembrance and Exhortation then took place. The Legacy and Exhortation were given by Captain Raymond Savage (aged 94).

The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a Drummer Alcock of 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. Captain Savage followed by saying The Kohima Epitaph.

And now a few words about the actual Memorial. It is situated just to the right of the main pathway leading from the Visitor Centre to the extensive and principal Armed Forces Memorial, and consequentially is in a high profile location, close to the memorials to so many other regiments who fought alongside The Tigers. The plinth upon which the Tiger is mounted is faced on all four sides by polished Irish Blue limestone, which was most generously donated by André Vrona of Ketton Stone Ltd. The actual structure was designed, developed and the stone engraved by Nick Johnson of Young Johnson, Monumental Masons of Westbury, Wiltshire. It was a great disappointment that André Vrona and Nick Johnson were not able to be present personally to receive the congratulations so richly deserved. A brief history of the Regiment appears on the rear of the plinth, major Battle Honours are listed on the two ends, and on the facing panel the Regimental capbadge, beneath which are the words shown:



It is without question a most impressive Memorial. Now, a small piece of Staffordshire will be forever Leicestershire!