

Regimental Matters

RHQ has been informed of the following appointments and promotions and offer their congratulations:

- Director, Capability Directorate Combat Brig J M Woodham OBE MC Aug 15
- Assistant Chief of Staff Ops HQ BFC in the rank of Colonel Lt Col M P Aston DSO MC Jan 15
- HQ RS CJOC Kabul Lt Col T P D Morris Jun 15
- SOI CATT (G) Lt Col T P D Morris Feb 16
- RSM AFC Harrogate WO2 N S Reader

1st Battalion

- OCA Coy Maj M J I Hedley RRF Aug 15
- OC B Coy Maj D J Haggard Aug 15
- OC HQ Coy Maj A J Buxton Aug 15
- RQMS (M) WO2 S Armon

2nd Battalion

- OC B Coy Maj G J R Hudson Aug 15
- OC C Coy Maj BT Hayes Aug 15
- OC HQ Coy Maj D A Samways RRF May 15
- RQMS (M) WO2 D Spray
- RQMS (T) WO2 J R Hassan

I PWRR

- OCA Coy Maj O B Ormiston Jun 15
- RSM ITB WO2 M J Ielden
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The Regimental Chapel Warley Chapel Sunday

The next service in the chapel will be held on Sunday 1st February at 1100hrs. The Reverend Canon David Lowe OCM will conduct the service, Holy Communion will follow the service. The congregation are invited to Blenheim House for tea, coffee and biscuits following the service.

Request

Can Mark Powell please contact Joanna Laidlaw, Records Officer at RHQ o 01284-752394 as we have the details of a long lost friend who is trying to get in touch with you for an RMAS reunion.

Maj Dick Gould practising his IT skills with a smile at RHQ.

Diary Dates

- January
26 RRSC, Kendrew Barracks
- February
1 Chapel Sunday - Warley
(TBC) Sobraon Lunch, Lincoln
- March
20 Regimental Golf Society Spring Meeting,
Swaffham Golf Club, Norfolk
28 Poachers' Grimsby Reunion



1st Battalion (The Vikings)

The Vikings' time has been dominated by immersion into mission specific training for much of the battalion. There have been two significant exercises, one in Germany and one in Lydd and Hythe ranges. Both exercises have provided the training and practice required to set the Battalion for success on the final training exercise early in the New Year before deploying to Kabul for another operational tour of Afghanistan. Elsewhere, C Company have continued their preparations for the training mission in Mali.



A (Norfolk) Company

A 'Norfolk' Company have had a busy month training for their upcoming operational tour of Kabul. Members of the Company also deployed to Germany for a simulated exercise designed to test command and control and reacting to the many possible scenarios that may occur whilst in Afghanistan. It was both a challenging exercise and valuable opportunity to iron out our procedures before deploying on our final pre deployment exercise early next year.

The troops' efforts have all been gearing up to the 3 week training exercise they carried out in Lydd and Thetford where they operated using the new Foxhound Light Protective Mobility vehicles, working with interpreters and carrying out a multitude of live fire ranges.

B (Suffolk) Company

In November B (Suffolk) Company moved into more in-depth Mission Specific Training down in Lydd and Bodney camps. The blank exercise focussed on low level multiple drills, and drew strong praise from the OPTAG staff, notably in first aid, command and control, interaction with the ANSF and in terms of the smartness and presentability of the soldiers. After the blank phase the Company moved to tactical live firing. Close Quarter Marksmanship (see picture), static and moving vehicle shoots, fire and manoeuvring down a street at day and night, and defending a FOB against attack all put pressure on the soldiers and commanders. In all, a busy month for B (Suffolk) Company whilst building their new Suffolk Regiment identities as 5 (Seringapatam) Platoon, 6 (Malaya) Platoon and 7 (Minden) Platoon.

C (Essex) Company

As Op NEWCOMBE gets ever closer, C Company has been focusing on language study, pistol shooting, fitness and battle lessons. The Company has been learning French, a minimum of one hour a day, so that we can communicate with our French counter parts on the ground and around camp. Company HQ are half way through a 5 week French course, to get us to Army standard level one. To increase our knowledge of training missions we have also been reading *Once a Warrior King*, a book written about a training team in Vietnam.

D (Cambridgeshire) Company

Rece and Sniper Platoons have been completing their MST in preparation for Op TORAL while the Assault Pioneers, Javelin and Mortar Platoons have been providing the battalion with the guards and duties support it needs to allow A, B and C Companies to focus on Op TORAL and Op NEWCOMBE. In addition to this, the Company has encouraged and developed its conceptual strand in the form of debates, presentations and reading. The Assault Pioneer Platoon are emerging from their infancy having now completed their first Assault Soldier Cadre. This month has been their first significant step in its work towards providing a well trained and motivated platoon for the A2020 structure.



Headquarter Company

A small contingent from HQ Company were involved in the Muster Parade for the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. It was a privilege to be a part of such a fantastic event, and a huge honour to parade in front of the Queen, something that a Royal Anglian rarely gets to do. Elsewhere in Headquarter Company, troops have been heavily involved in supporting the broad range of activities across the Battalion.

2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

The Battalion has been heavily involved in a number of Remembrance and KAPE events across its recruiting area and further afield this month.

A small contingent of Poachers took part in the ABF organised Frontline Walk. The walk covered 100 kilometres in four days, taking in famous sites including the Menin Gate, Theipval Memorial and the Lochnagar Crater. Over 40 walkers took part, raising over £50,000 for The Soldiers' Charity.



On Remembrance Sunday, The Poachers were out in force across the region to commemorate the

sacrifices made and in particular remembering those made by the soldiers of our antecedent Regiments during World War I. One particular highlight was the reception the soldiers received at the Grimsby Armistice Day Football match which was followed by a recruitment event in Grimsby on 22 Nov attracting a large number of potential recruits.



Soldiers from B 'Leicestershire' Company and 3 R ANGLIAN were hosted by John Coster at the Highcross Shopping Centre in Leicester. John hosted a media exhibition using photos taken by the Poachers to inform local figureheads of what exactly our soldiers do.

C 'Northamptonshire and Rutland' Company paused their training exercise in Thetford to hold a field service.

Ex DONDONNEL POACHER

Adventurous Training has continued with a multi-activity week in Scotland. Sea kayaking, rock climbing and hill walking were just some of the activities on offer. We also said farewell to those departing on Ex SNOWSWORD (snowboarding) and Ex FROSTED BLADE (skiing) and look forward to their return and tales of black runs, switch ollies, fakies, and poptarts.

PARACHUTING

After the success of the skydiving expedition to California, more Poachers have been inspired to have a go at the sport. Although the location was less exotic the 5 day course did provide soldiers with an excellent introduction to skydiving.



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)



The CO and RSM of the 3rd Battalion attended the unveiling of the Colne Engaine War Memorial Project gate; the first step in a project that will see the Essex village dedicating a new war memorial to its war dead. With a number of the village's fallen coming from the Essex Regiment, there is a natural Royal Anglian link to the project. Lt Col Morris is the Honorary President, with Field Marshal The Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE DL as Patron.



On Saturday 12th December, The Steelbacks held the inaugural 'Roberts Trophy' competition. Named in honour of Lcpl Craig Roberts, a Steelback who died in the Summer of 2013 whilst attempting Special Forces Selection, the annual competition was design to mark a legacy in Craig's memory - one

which would uphold his mantra of always seeking to push the limits. This year's competition did just that. Teams of 10 runners competed in a sprint relay marathon at Bury St Edmunds running track, aiming to finish in the fastest possible time. The winning team came from 3 (Essex and Hertfordshire) Company in a remarkable time of 1 hour 58 minutes.



The Roberts Trophy has been created from a piece of historic Regimental Silver, with the addition of a newly commissioned based inscribed with the competition name.

