



# The Royal Anglian REGIMENT

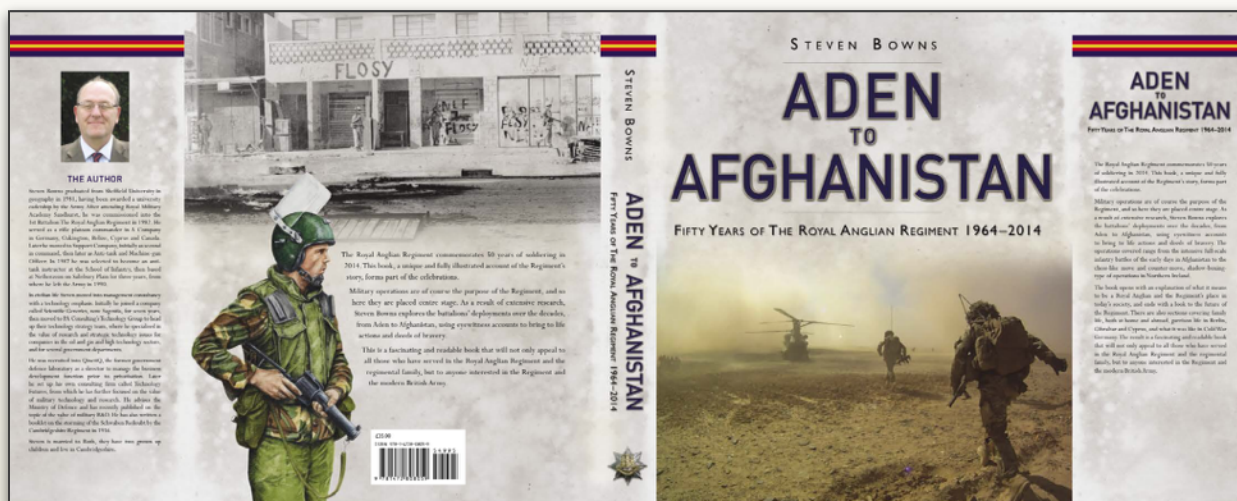


NEWSLETTER

April 2014

## Regimental Matters

The Regiment is delighted that the new Regimental History 'Aden to Afghanistan 50 Years of the Royal Anglian Regiment 1964 – 2014' has been completed, sent to the printers and will be ready for the Golden Jubilee. Written by Steven Bowns, who served in the Regiment, the history will be available at IWM Duxford at the Golden Jubilee celebrations. The book explores the battalions' deployments over the decades, from Aden to Afghanistan, using eyewitness accounts to bring to life the history of the Regiment. See the rear page of this newsletter for more information.



The Regiment's policy is that all Junior Ranks who contribute to the Day's Pay Scheme, and who are serving on the day of the Golden Jubilee, and who would like a copy, will be presented with a copy by their Regiment without charge. Serving Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs will be able to buy a copy for £10, and Royal Anglian Regiment Association members will be able to purchase a copy for £10 at the Golden Jubilee. Thereafter the book will be available from the Regimental Shop on the Regimental Website for £30 plus P&P.



The Regiment warmly congratulates Lt Col D S J Biddick MBE MC on his forthcoming promotion to Colonel in 2015.

Left: Outloading RHQ style. Majors Dick Gould and Corky Corcoran moving Royal Anglian Museum artefacts to the Essex Regiment store in South Woodham Ferrers.

## 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

### A (Norfolk) Company

18 members of A (Norfolk) Company travelled to the town of Ternate in Northern Italy to compete in the International 'Lombardi' Patrol competition. After a couple of days adjusting to the climate, the morning of the competition arrived and the men were raring to go. The competition was split into two main sections: the static shooting range; and the patrol competition itself. The troops relished the static range and were able to get hands on some foreign weapon systems including the Beretta shotgun and the Italian Sniper Rifle. All the teams performed well on the shoot despite being relatively inexperienced with the weapons.



### B (Suffolk) Company

The Army-Navy rugby match is an event held every year in Twickenham, the heart of Rugby. Guaranteed to attract huge crowds, the majority of which consisting of military personnel, the event has now made itself onto every office calendar. This year there were over 82,000 spectators, making it the largest annual amateur event in the UK. In the second half the Army ran away with the score line, but it had been a good battle.



### C (Essex) Company

In the past few months the company has had the opportunity to take advantage of many different activities. These include Ex Alpine Viking where a large handful of the company had the opportunity to travel to Val Thorens in the French Alps to either learn how to ski or simply improve on their skills. There was also the opportunity for some great "Après-Ski". For many this was the first opportunity to get a taste of A.T in battalion life.

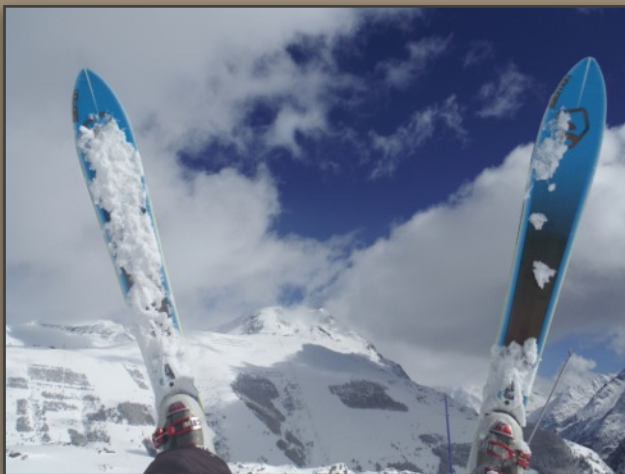
### D (Cambridgeshire) Company

The last month has seen the start of the annual D Company cadre period, where soldiers from the rifle company's attend selection events for the specialist platoons, Mortars, Javelin and Recce Pl. If the young soldiers are successful on the cadre they move across to those platoons to take on the specialist role and support the rifle companies during combat operations. All the cadres have been successful this year and in total over forty rifle company soldiers will be moving to D Company this summer.



## 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

**A 'Lincolnshire' Company** enjoyed their remaining post operational leave and the Easter leave break with friends and families.



Eight soldiers took part in Ex DRAGON POACHER, a week of alpine skiing. It took place in Les Deux Alpes, France and all the soldiers achieved their basic ski qualification which will prepare them for the Infantry Skiing Championships later this year. In barracks the Company has focused on the preparations to re-ORBAT into the A2020 structure and welcomed a number of new arrivals. There is plenty more AT to come with Ex FALLING POACHER, a sky diving expedition to California, as one expedition of particular note.



**B 'Leicestershire' Company's** commitment to the OCC-P in Lashkar Gah has concluded. Having spent nearly 8 months mentoring and liaising in the Afghan Police Headquarters, the transfer went smoothly. Major Swann and Captain Weston led the handover, giving the codes to the locks (and a couple of TVs as parting gifts) and the deal was sealed with a smile and a handshake. The remainder of this month has been taken up by post-tour leave and Easter, with B Coy waiting to reform properly in June.

**C 'Northamptonshire' Company** has taken part in a number of operations during April. One operation into the Western Dashe saw them operate as part of a 350 strong force targeting the insurgency in their perceived safe havens.

As temperatures heat up, the soldiers are benefitting from the extensive physical training they underwent before deployment.



**D 'Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire' Company** have been enjoying Adventurous Training at Newquay, particularly the rock climbing and coasteering.

The Mortar Pl have welcomed back Capt Green after his stint as A Coy 2IC. Anti-Tank Platoon are refreshing their skills with the Javelin system and CSgt Knight is preparing to attend the new Javelin Detachment Commanders course. Those members of Recce Platoon who are not currently deployed have also been busy with Cpl West preparing for his Recce Commanders course.

For the remainder of the soldiers, education has taken priority with a drive to ensure everyone has the relevant numeracy and literacy qualifications.

## 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

April was marked with the Steelbacks receiving significant tangible evidence of investment in the Army Reserve. The Battalion has found itself at the leading edge of receiving its allocation of the Infantry's new Dismounted Close Combat (DCC) equipment; world-leading equipment that is designed to give our soldiers the upper hand when facing the uncertain environment of combat in the future. New optical sights, thermal imagers, helmet mounted night viewing devices and laser light modules were among the boxes and boxes of equipment arriving in Bury St Edmunds this month. Still to follow includes the Army's new Glock pistol, light machine guns, sharpshooter rifles... as well as the Infantry periscope and fighting knife! Needless to say all this equipment comes with a significant training bill, but our soldiers are already getting to grips with it and seeing the enhancements this gives us in capability.



Investment in our infrastructure also continued, with the most notable event this month being the opening of 2 (Leicestershire and Lincolnshire) Company's new gymnasium at the Leicester Army Reserve Centre. Excellently equipped with the latest cardio machines, free weights and equipment, as well as boasting MTV piped directly into the gym, the Reservists of 2 Company have no excuse now for not making the most of this excellent facility.

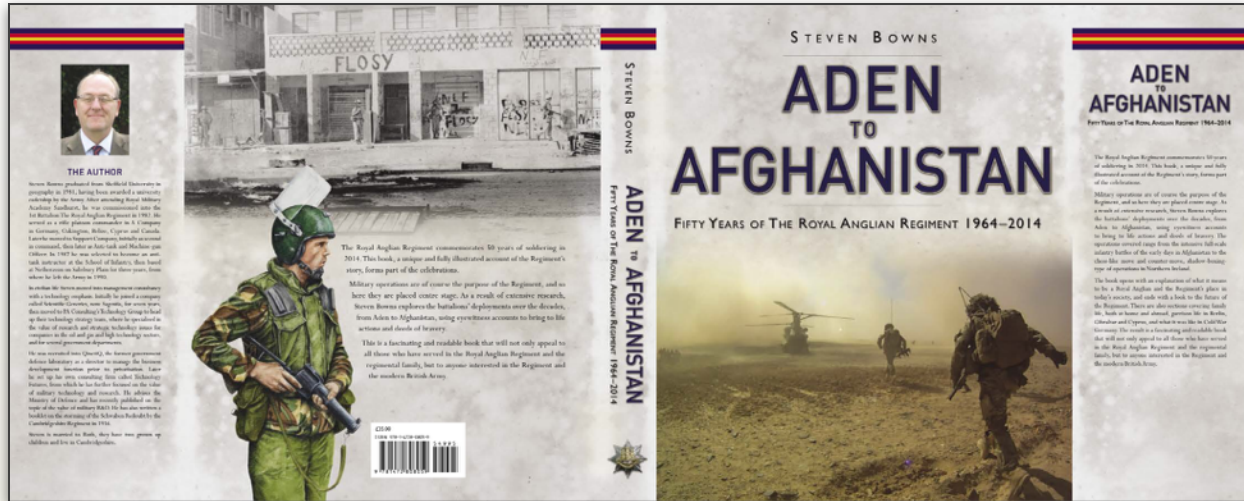


Training continued apace as the weather started to improve, with Steelbacks focussing on individual up to platoon level skills. So, shooting (with the new DCC equipment) on the ranges and field exercises focussed on getting the basics right and doing them well was the name of the game. Forthcoming months will see development from platoon to company level collective training - all designed to ensure the Steelbacks are best positioned to take up their place in the Adaptable Force in 2015.



# Aden to Afghanistan

The Regiment is delighted that the new Regimental History 'Aden to Afghanistan 50 Years of the Royal Anglian Regiment 1964 – 2014' has been completed, sent to the printers and will be ready for the Golden Jubilee.



The inside jacket of the book reads:

The Royal Anglian Regiment commemorates 50 years of soldiering in 2014. This book, a unique and fully illustrated account of the Regiment's story, forms part of the celebrations.

Military operations are of course the purpose of the Regiment, and so here they are placed centre stage. As a result of extensive research, Steven Bowns explores the battalions' deployments over the decades, from Aden to Afghanistan, using eyewitness accounts to bring to life actions and deeds of bravery. The operations covered range from the intensive full-scale infantry battles of the early days in Afghanistan to the chess-like move and counter-move, shadow-boxing-type of operations in Northern Ireland.

The book opens with an explanation of what it means to be a Royal Anglian and the Regiment's place in today's society, and ends with a look to the future of the Regiment. There are also sections covering family life, both at home and abroad, garrison life in Berlin, Gibraltar and Cyprus, and what it was like in Cold War Germany. The result is a fascinating and readable book that will not only appeal to all those who have served in the Royal Anglian Regiment and the regimental family, but to anyone interested in the Regiment and the modern British Army.

Keep an eye on the Regimental website page: [www.royalanglianregiment.com/aden-to-afghanistan.html](http://www.royalanglianregiment.com/aden-to-afghanistan.html) for details of how to get this excellent book.

