

Regimental Matters



The Regiment warmly congratulates WOI (CRSM) Chris Hopkin on being selected for a commission.

Diary Dates

April
5 Chapel Service Warley 1100 hours
25 4 R Norfolk Comrades Dinner
26 Cyprus Reunion

May

8 Regimental Council Meeting

16 Warrant Officers and Sergeants Past and Present



The Regiment welcomes Maj (Retd) Tim Brown on his selection as Area Secretary 2 based in Northampton and Cottesmore.



RHQ said farewell to Major Dick Gould after many sterling years of service to the Regiment, previous Regimental Secretaries and other Regimental officers gathered in The Angel, in Bury St Edmunds for a farewell lunch, where Dick was presented with a Regimental Shako Plate, Dick has served the Regiment exceptionally well, and has the distinct honour of being one of the only officers to ever receive a standing ovation at a regimental Dinner!

1st Battalion (The Vikings)

C Coy

C (Essex) Company deployed to Mali to begin Operation NEWCOMBE 5 in early March, taking over from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles. The Gurkha team leaves behind them a lasting impression of professionalism and dedication in their efforts to train the Malians and, uniquely, in striving to cook ever better goat curries.

The team is now partnering the Deuxième Compagnie d'Infanterie of GTIA BALANZAN, named after a hardy tree native to northern Mali that has adapted to the harsh Sahelian environment. Deuxième Compagnie has just returned from leave after a demanding nine month tour of operations in northern Mali. Our men are leading retraining tasks, teaching the Malians tactics they will be expected to use on

future operations. The Malian soldiers and officers seem as keen to learn from us as we are to learn from them.

Constant questions in lessons keep us on our toes as well as a natural competitiveness in physical training sessions that sees us having to push ourselves hard in over forty degree heat. We hope to re-invigorate all ranks of Deuxième Compagnie in preparation for their future redeployment to northern Mali on stabilisation operations.



D Coy and the ROG

The 1 Royal Anglian Rear Operations Group (ROG) sporting prowess continues with them winning the London district orienteering championships and their

Basketball team coming second in no less than the Army Basketball Final on the 19 Mar. D Coy are working hard developing their dismounted close combat skills as well as their traditional specialist skill sets. On top of this, some good work has been completed integrating with our partnered Reserve unit 3 PWRR. The upcoming highlight is support to 3 PWVR Overseas Training Exercise alongside the Spanish Army later this year. Amongst all of this D Coy having recently returned from supporting a CivPop exercise, a task generated by 7



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Ex POACHER FURY

B 'Leicestershire' Company deployed to Salisbury plain to conduct a Company level exercise. They were joined by attachments from the Assault Pioneer Pl, Anti-Tank Pl and Mortar Pl to form a Rifle Company Group. Despite sub zero temperatures and a layer of snow they successfully practiced attacks, ambushes and patrol skills.

7 Infantry Brigade

The Poachers held a parade to mark the transition to becoming one of the units in the newly formed 7th Infantry Brigade. The Brigade is part of the A2020 Adaptable Force and The Poachers look forward to an interesting and exciting future with the 'Desert Rats'.



Inter-Company Rugby Competition

The second event in the Inter-Company Competition was Rugby. D 'Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire' Company were favourites from the start and achieved a series of decisive wins. However, they ultimately succumbed to the technical skill of C 'Northamptonshire' Company in the finals.



Medals Presentation

During a ceremony held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, a number of Poachers were awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct medal, the Meritorious Service Medal and several commendations. These were presented by the new 7th Infantry Brigade Commander, Brigadier Bourne.

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

The main headline from the 3rd Battalion this month is that a few months earlier than originally planned, the Battalion bid farewell to its Commanding Officer, Lt Col Paul Morris, who has been selected for a short-notice operational tour to the Middle East. He handed over to Lt Col Keith Spiers, who joins us from his most recent posting on the Staff at HQ 49 Brigade.

The Steelbacks were also visited by Minister for Armed Forces, the Rt Hon Mark Francois MP. As a former Royal Anglian Reservist, Mr Francois was keen to catch up on what the Battalion was now up to and enjoyed sharing his experience from his days as a Territorial. The picture shows MinAF in front of the Battalion's new Colours, presented at last year's Golden Jubilee.



A combined Officers' and Seniors Mess study day and Regimental Dinner night was held in Kendrew Barracks Officers' Mess. This enabled both messes to together conduct conceptual training and the opportunity to dust off its Silver and socialise during a formal dinner night. Deputy Commander 7 Inf Bde Col Stuart Williams and Honorary Colonels Gill and Thomas were in attendance.



The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum

Collection Management

I had contact from Royston Volunteers Centre and we are currently in the process of hiring some new volunteers. We have had some interest (notably from a couple of 17 year olds) to volunteer at the weekends; however this is outside of my working hours. I am hoping to advertise for event work and weekday help with admin.

We have made some progress with the Record Memories project and have an interview scheduled next month with John Denny, a Korea veteran and witness of the Coronation of Elizabeth II. It should make a fascinating story. We also are in contact with other regimental figures with the view to recording their memories in the near future.

Collection Development

The museum is in the process of receiving a captured Taliban motorbike from VIKING RQMS, with the view to replacing the inactive cabinet of regimental ties, badges etc in the corner. I am looking at the possibility of erecting a temporary exhibition there.

I have sourced a display case for the 'Visitors Choice' display I have discussed with you all in previous reports and at the Trustees Meeting. I am just waiting for IWM to approve the specification document. I will then go down to South Woodham Ferrers and conduct a mini audit of what we have in the reserve collection with the hope to unearth what I perceive as the most interesting objects.

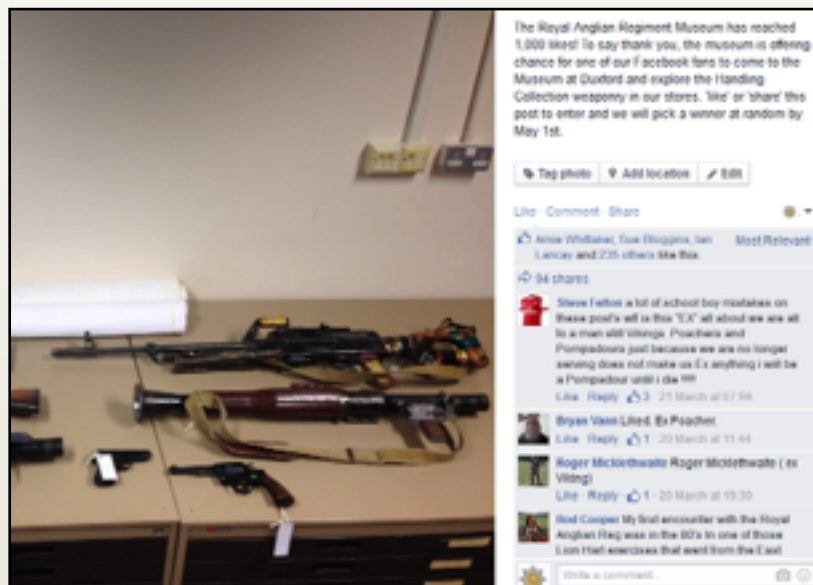


Collections Documentation

David Gannon (the volunteer currently working with admin) estimates that we are only a handful of objects / documents away from being totally up to date with all outstanding items that require accessioning.

Collections Access

Social Media project is going well and we had a very positive response to a mini competition I am running. The idea is that I will pick somebody who has shared the post at random to come in and explore the Handling Collection.



You can see it has been 'liked' by 238 people and 'shared' by 94. Good publicity for the museum!

We also took part in the global campaign for cultural institutions called 'Museum Week.' This entails using social media to publicise the museum through using a different theme everyday. The themes include 'architecture', 'souvenirs', 'inspiration' & 'secrets of the collection.'

