



01/11

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

JAN 11

HONOURS AND AWARDS

1. The Regiment congratulates the following officers and SNCOs for their awards as published in the New Year's Honours List:

- **Meritorious Service Award:**
 - WO2 S Clark: 1st Battalion
 - CSgt J A Grice: 1st Battalion

- **Commander-in-Chief's Certificate for Meritorious Service:**
 - Capt S Devitt: 3rd Battalion

PROMOTIONS

2. The Regiment congratulates the following officer for being selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel (LE):

- Major S N Pallant

3. The Regiment congratulates the following officers for being selected for promotion to Substantive Major (DE) wef 31 Jul 11:

- Capt TGBP Coleman
- Capt A Dart
- Capt P M Kelly
- Capt A I Maclay
- Capt W J Meddings
- Capt S R Poulter
- Capt R A Smit
- Capt P R Steel

4. The Regiment congratulates the following officers for being selected for promotion to Substantive Major (LE) wef 31 Jul 11:

- Capt R J Bredin MBE
- A/Maj T Jones

CONVERSION OF COMMISSION

5. The Regiment congratulates the following officers for being selected for conversion of commission:

- Maj P G Martin from IRC to REG C (Late Entry)

- Capt J W Bennett-Madge from SSC to IRC (Direct Entry)
- Capt W J Meddings from IRC to REG C (Direct Entry)

POSTINGS

6. Regimental Headquarters has been informed of the following officer postings:

- Brigadier A J C Wild MBE to Defence Attaché Riyadh
- Major P N Blanchfield SO2 BG CSS to HQ Coy 1 R ANGLIAN
- Major M A Dingle SO2 Trg Strat HQLF to D (FSp) Coy 2 R ANGLIAN
- Major G B Foden SO2 G2/ISTAR HQ 12 Mech Bde to C Coy 1 R ANGLIAN
- Major J Hancock SO2 Simulation to Z (FSp) Coy 2 PWRR
- Major J D R Inch SO2 EC (S&S) MSN Sp Branch to B Coy 2 PWRR
- Major D H James-Roll SO2 G3 O&D RMAS to W (FSp) Coy 1 RRF
- Major P C Moxey SO2 CT Coord, Ops Dir to A Coy 1 PWRR

BATTALION ACTIVITIES

7. **1st Battalion**

The Battalion returned from a generous Christmas leave on 10 January to a New Year and new Commanding Officer. Lt Col Mick Aston MC has taken over the Battalion and immediately the Battalion has seen the appearance of 'tiger teams' and 'devil dogs'. However, despite his declaration that he is "Australian by birth and East Anglian by the grace of God", no one has been willing to mention the Ashes!

The Battalion has hit the ground running as we continued with foundation level training in preparation for Exercise ASKARI THUNDER in Kenya. The three rifle companies and D Company deployed to Sennybridge or Salisbury Plain to continue to develop their platoon and company drills while consoling themselves that Kenya would be a lot warmer. Battle Group HQ carried out a final practice of its planning and orders process before deploying to the Land Warfare Centre, Warminster, to attend the Command and Staff Trainer (CAST). Here they refined the '7 Questions' planning process and were able to run simulated missions in a scenario based around the enemy we will face in Kenya. CAST allowed the Battle Group HQ to meet and integrate many of the attached arms they will work with, including RAF, RMP and REME. The G4 (Combat Service Support) chain have also been kept busy supporting the training of the Battalion, but also packing the airfreight and training drivers for the aging Bedford truck and Landrover fleets in Kenya.

Although Ex ASKARI THUNDER is the closest target for the Battalion, we have also been preparing for future challenges with a team deploying to Alberta, Canada, to recce the Battalion's commitment to three Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER exercises at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS). They braved minus 30 degree temperatures as they sorted through the details of supporting the training of the Light Dragoons, the Kings Royal Hussars, 1st Battalion the Grenadier Guards and 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment. They were however comforted by the warm welcome from the BATUS staff under the command Comd BATUS, Col Stuart Carver (late R ANGLIAN) and a day skiing in Banff.

In sport, the Battalion's football team chalked up another win in the Army Cup, this time against the Queens Own Ghurkha Logistic Regiment. A single goal by Captain Sam Thomas was enough for victory in a hard fought game.

Finally our thanks go to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham for their honouring of Pte Tony Rawson by naming a street after him. Pte Rawson was Killed in Action in Afghanistan on 10 August 2007. CSgt Matt Waters, Tony's Platoon Sergeant in 2007, accompanied by LCpl Garrett and Pte Woollard, were the Battalion's representatives at the unveiling of the sign.

8. 2nd Battalion

January has been a month of change for the Battalion, with the changeover of operational readiness cycles impacting on all of the rifle coys. Ongoing training commitments also meant that the Christmas festivities soon seemed a distant memory, with all focus once again turning to maintaining operational readiness.

C (Northamptonshire) Company finally handed over their immediate readiness state to B (Leicestershire) Company before departing on the well-deserved leave that they had been unable to take over Christmas. The assumption of the R1 state by B Company saw the Coy HQ deploy to Afghanistan to scope potential deployment locations and identify any further areas for training. Back in Cyprus, the troops continued their training in language, marksmanship and fitness in anticipation of possible deployment.

A (Lincolnshire) Company assumed their new role as the second Company on heightened readiness, with Command Post Exercises, marksmanship and Battalion led battle exercises ensuring that their preparations were truly underway in anticipation of eventually taking over from B Company.

Battalion Headquarters was tested by a visit from the Warminster CAST team, a good opportunity that allowed the Battalion staff to focus on planning and the seven questions whilst integrating some of the newer members of the planning team.

On the social scene, the Officers' Mess celebrated the Austin Dinner whilst the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess challenged the Corporals Mess to a games night. The fine balance between rigged games from the Sgts and cheating from the Cpls saw the night declared a draw.

On the sporting front, the Battalion Orienteering Team continues to compete strongly and the Cyprus cross-country league had a shock when the entire Battalion participated in the Dhekelia fixture as part of CO's PT. On an individual basis soldiers also continue to make the most of the excellent adventure training on offer in Cyprus, with courses in rock climbing and scuba diving making the most of the continued good weather.

In February the Battalion's operational readiness will be tested by HQ British Forces Cyprus and in-house training cadres will be conducted across the Battalion. The Battalion's IT will also be joining the 21st century when the DII(F) system is finally rolled out on the Island.

9. 3rd Battalion

Happy New Year! A relatively long time has passed since the last Newsletter and you will recall that as we approached the close of 2010, all soldiers deployed on OP HERRICK 12 had returned safely, TOSCA planning was well under way and that we were about to deploy on our last training event of the year, Ex STEELBACK SPIRIT.

Held on an icy Thetford weekend, Ex STEELBACK SPIRIT offered the opportunity to test a variety of military skills, while sampling a bit of traditional Christmas Fayre at the same time. Starting off with a series of instructional stands, Day One concluded with a short and sharp 8 mile Annual Fitness Test on range roads around West Tofts Camp. This event proved quite a challenge, although not in the physical sense, as at the six mile point, complete darkness closed in and Jack Frost introduced a well needed aspect of genuine excitement as the road surface rapidly turned to ice. Physical challenge over, it was time for the traditional Christmas dinner served by the senior leadership, followed by Battalion Carols led by the Padre (ably assisted by his musical protégé, the Adjutant); then, as the troops made their way over to the NAAFI for 'a couple of quiet beers' and some live 1940s-theme musical entertainment, the Officers', Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' messes combined for dinner, presented CSgt and Mrs Shand with LS&GC medal and flowers respectively and said goodbye to the QM, Maj Tim Beighton, after two years sterling service. After

all that, the combined messes nipped over to the bar – just to see what the troops were up to of course!

Up in the morning at the crack of dawn to the taste, as oppose to sound, of Gunfire, a morning navigation exercise tested the stoutest of hearts/legs before it was time to pack up and get everyone home. STEELBACK SPIRIT was a resounding success and it was fantastic to see Cols Newmarch & Thomas in such fine spirits during the weekend.

But that's all in the past, as now UN operations in Cyprus are very much on the radar and we have moved from 'plan' into 'execute'. The New Year has seen some frenetic activity ranging from the issue of mobilisation papers, through to the detailed planning of Mission Specific Training and, even at this early stage, the assembly of the Battalion's sea freight. Organising such a venture is always a challenge - the fact that the majority of soldiers have yet to mobilise, but to meet the overall deadlines the work must be done in their absence, means that things have been a little brisk to say the least! That said, by 18 February we will have pretty much everyone and we can then get on with the serious business of training. A 'consume your own smoke' affair i.e. you train & resource yourself, the training package lasts for about 3½ weeks and takes everyone through a series of discrete yet progressive exercises, leading up to a full-on Mission Rehearsal Exercise, complete with UN Validation Team and, assuming that we pass muster, a Blue Beret Parade where we don our new headgear and become members of a new and very different club. Seven short days later our first people will be in Cyprus and we formally take command of Sector 2 of the 'Green Line' in Nicosia on 01 April 2011.

And that's about it for now. While it would be easy to concentrate on Cyprus to the detriment of all other activity, it simply cannot be the case. Notwithstanding the momentary dislocation of a sizable chunk of the Battalion's deployable manpower, the majority of our strength will be staying in the UK. This means that we are very much open for business and will run a full training programme, while continuing our community engagement, preparation for Op HERRICK 16 and, most importantly, recruiting activity – we're always on the lookout for the right kind of people so please spread the word or, if you fancy it, give us a call! As a fitting end to this contribution, it is only right and proper to offer Captain Sam Devitt, our Regimental Ops Support Officer, very many congratulations on the award of a Commander in Chief's Certificate for Meritorious Service in the recent New Year's Honours list – a great job, well done.