



03/13

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

Mar 13

## **HONOURS AND AWARDS**

1. The Armed Forces Operational Awards List was published in Mar 13. The Regiment once again congratulates the following members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion for awards that reflect their service in Afghanistan:

### **DSO**

Lt Col MP Aston MC

### **MBE**

Maj AP Wolfe  
Pte LJ Treloar

### **MC**

Cpl AW Guy (Posthumous)  
LCpl LMC Kayser

### **MID**

Capt JM Walters  
Sgt R Silvey  
Pte SDL Roberts

### **QCVS**

Lt BRF Flower

The following were awarded Joint Commander's Commendations: Capt PS Hinnell (RRF attached 1 R ANGLIAN); CSgt MJ Butcher; Sgt MJ Willam; Cpl LG Meadows; Cpl HR Murphy; LCpl MD Anderson; Pte MR McKay; Pte RB Wills

## **COMMAND**

2. The Regiment sincerely congratulates Lt Col NJ Sutherland on his selection to Command Birmingham UOTC wef May 13.

## **POSTINGS**

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

- Lt Col CD Davies from ACSC Student to SO1 J3 Land PJHQ (UK) Northwood wef Aug 13
- Maj TP Beighton from 2 PWRR to SO2 G4 Plans and Resources HQ Colchester Garrison wef Mar 13
- Maj PJ Messenger from 2 R ANGLIAN to COS Coll Trg Sp CSTTC Warminster wef Nov 13
- Maj GB Foden from 1 R ANGLIAN to Ops Dir MOD wef Jun 13
- Maj NDB Charwood from 1 R ANGLIAN to DIS DI FC(A) MOD wef Mar 13
- Maj FJR Grounds from SO2 STAB Ops to SO2 Trg / Liaison BATUK Nairobi wef Apr 13
- Maj PN Blanchfield from 1 R ANGLIAN to CI ATR Winchester wef Sep 13
- Capt JE Quince from 3 R ANGLIAN to SO3 Media Ops HQ 7 Armd Bde wef Apr 13

## **1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION**

4. With our obligation to support the training of those units deploying on HERRICK 18 finally coming to an end in the last weeks of February, the first week of March has allowed the Battalion to begin to shift its focus towards its own training objectives. This next 12 months will enable us to make the switch from being experts at counter-insurgency to a well-practiced and well prepared conventionally minded Light Role Infantry Battalion. This will include a number of exceptional training activities, most notably deployments to Canada in November this year and Kenya in Jan 14.

For most of the Battalion however, this switch in focus began with a rather unexpected start. Because of the large amounts of leave accrued by all ranks during the Summer, most had a number of days still to take and the decision was made that this would come in the form of a three week Easter Leave.

We look forward to returning to work in April and beginning our build up to Kenya and beyond.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION**

5. With MST now well underway, the Battalion continues to be committed to a vast number of HERRICK 19 preparation courses ranging from Pashtun/Dari language training to Husky and Mastiff vehicle commander. With a number of important exercises on the horizon, each company has begun their cascade training specific to their individual roles in Afghanistan.

The main highlight for March was the annual 'Lewaicei-Morris' Memorial Match, played between The Poachers RFC and Bourne RFC. This match is contested each year to remember Joseva Lewaicei and Adam Morris (both of C Coy) who were Killed in Action on operations in Iraq in 2006. As 2 R ANGLIAN have been based overseas for the last few years, this was the first time Bourne had hosted the fixture since 2007 and they were keen to record their first win against the Battalion on home soil.

Due to the recent terrible weather, the pitch soon became a mud bath with both teams running and tackling hard. The pitch was certainly not appreciated by the Pipes and Drums Platoon as they gallantly slipped and marched through the mud at half-time. The final play of the match saw Bourne run in a well worked forwards' try to leave the game at 17-17. Man of the Match was presented to a Poacher, LCpl Phil Wheeler, for his outstanding performance. Acknowledgement is also passed to Jerry King of Bourne for his efforts in the organisation of the fixture over the last six years.

For the private soldiers conducting the FTCC in Wales, March brought Ex FINAL HURDLE (Senior Fan Dance) and the last push of a truly testing few months. With the snow now thawed it was only the steep inclines of the Brecon Beacons and the weight of the kit they were carrying that stood between them and completing the course. In total 14 soldiers passed the FTCC and are now eligible to be promoted by the Commanding Officer to LCpl.

The snow may have melted in Wales, but C Coy felt the full force of a late winter during their week long range package in Warcop. At times having to deal with knee deep snow, it was more like Arctic training than spring ranges. However, the Coy did complete its annual weapons tests in preparation for PASHTUN HAWK at Lydd ranges in April.

In March the Battalion also hosted a three day Potential Officer visit for intermediate term RMAS cadets. These individuals got a feel for coy training when they deployed with B Coy to the somewhat warmer climes of Thetford ranges and were able to try their hand at some CQM shoots. The month concluded with the majority of the Battalion departing on some well earned Easter leave. With HERRICK 19 looming ever closer and the pace of life getting faster, everyone appreciated the opportunity to relax with their families and recharge their batteries.

## **3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION**

6. Spring seems yet to have sprung as the author noted, in slightly less polite language, on

exercise, during a brief snow storm at Thetford; however the poor weather has not dampened the enthusiasm and spirit of what is probably the best Reservist Battalion in the Army.

### **Operations:**

Preparation for HERRICK 19 continued apace with a number of individuals completing the close combat marksmanship assessments and the Combat Fitness Test to provide a firm base onto which their Mission Specific Training can build. As always, the number and enthusiasm of our volunteers has exceeded all expectations and, as with previous operational tours, the hard work of the companies has been reflected in the high calibre of individuals coming forward.

### **Training:**

The training highlight of the month was STEELBACK HORIZON, the foundation of the progressive block based training which concentrates on the low level patrolling skills so often glossed over in the hurry to get to large scale activity. In a well attended weekend, the companies exercised through the selection and creation of a harbour area to platoon ambushes. Fitting with tradition, the weekend culminated with a CFT, taking in some of the sights of a very early, rather snowy, morning on STANTA training area.

The aptly named POLAR BLUEBELL saw OC LAD and his band of highly trained craftsmen competing in a round robin of REME activities inside a construct provided by Bde. OC LAD commended the efforts of his troops who once again put in a great showing against the best that other units could muster.

The Battalion spent much of the early part of the month in a flurry of activity in preparation for a number of inspections; in no particular order, we had the perfect storm of SPSI, LSI, Petroleum and a number of other equally exciting, but essential, inspections. While the conflicting timings suggested a lack of Bde co-ordination, it did little to distract the departments who put in the strongest performance we have yet seen with the now normal, but none the less remarkable, 'greens' across the board. A special mention should be made to the RAWO whose Herculean efforts with regards to the thankless task of hosting the inspecting team displayed true selfless commitment.

### **Recruiting:**

The month of March saw the long awaited publication of the 'golden handshake' briefing note for ex Regulars joining the TA. While there are some slightly more complex details, it is fair to characterise this as a £5000 bonus for anyone who, on finishing Regular Service, wishes to join the TA. There has never been a better time to be part of the only growing part of the Army.

The RSM continues his single handed quest to turn Bury St Edmunds into a fertile recruiting ground for all battalions of The Royal Anglian Regiment. He spent a number of afternoons in the month providing support for lecturing and recruiting activity at the West Suffolk College. He has been quoted as saying that his help has absolutely nothing to do with the fact that the class next door is full with trainee beauticians!

### **Social:**

The Commanding Officer had the pleasure of attending the Norfolk Armed Forces Community Covenant's first anniversary in Norwich during the course of the month. As the Bde representative for Norfolk, the Commanding Officer and his predecessor have overseen the creation and implementation of a covenant agreement that has spent over £50,000 on worthy projects.