



The **Royal Anglian** REGIMENT



NEWSLETTER

March 2014

Regimental Matters



The family of Pte James Grigg were present to open Grigg Close in Diss, after their son, who died in March 2010 aged 21 when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off as he went deep into Taliban territory in Helmand Province. Vikings Close was also opened, named after the 1st Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment - click the link to see the video news article. >> [LINK](#)

Representatives from the Regiment were delighted to attend the International Visual Communications Association Awards Ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London to pick up its award for effective communications - the visual communications industry equivalent of a BAFTA. Hosted by Des Good, MD of Grosvenor Television (who produced the excellent new Regimental recruiting videos), a fantastic night was had by all. A year into its establishment, the Royal Anglian web presence now has a sustained global reach and is a key tool in our ability to inform past, present and future members of the Regiment.



Assignments:

- Col DP O'DRISCOLL Late R ANGLIAN to Deputy Commander, 1st Artillery Brigade and Headquarters South West Jul 14
- Maj A I Maclay to SO2 Plans Andover Sep 14
- Maj S R Smith to MA to COS UNFICYP Mar 14
- Maj T G Coleman CD Info HQ Andover

1st Battalion (The Vikings)

For the Vikings, Easter came early this year, leaving us with a maximum twelve working days in barracks either side of the spring break. This extra holiday came at the perfect time however as much of the Battalion were still feeling the after effects of seven gruelling weeks away in Kenya on ASKARI STORM 5. Our families have certainly felt the benefit with some of our soldiers catching up on leave owed and taking a massive three weeks away from the office.



Above: D Company is now responsible for the Assault Pioneer Platoon who will be our defensive battle experts.



Above and below: The Rifle Companies have now taken over the Machine Guns role from D Coy under Army 2020 reorganisation.

There has been some serious work to do however with the Battalion officially reaching the stage where we have to demonstrate we have begun transition to the new Army 2020 ORBAT for a light role infantry battalion. This has meant some substantial changes for many of our soldiers as the tradition trawl by D Company took on a whole new significance. This has seen a rifle platoon disappear from each rifle company and a light role machine gun platoon take its place, with D

Company handing over responsibility of suppressive fire to the rifle companies. D Company however have grown a new Pioneer Platoon, a capability that we as an infantry had discarded relatively recently during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

So the 'summer term' sees the Battalion re-ORBAT'd ready for a substantial period of focused low level training in the run up to the unit move the Woolwich in July, followed swiftly by a transition into mission specific training for Kabul 2015 set to begin in the autumn.



2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

Below, TFH Commander with the Helmand Provincial Governor at the MOB Lashkar Gah handover ceremony



In March The Poachers completed their task of preparing MOB Lashkar Gah for transfer and conducted the handover of one of the last major British bases in Helmand to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). With this task complete, A Company and most of the Battalion Headquarters have returned home and will be enjoyed post operational leave as you read this. Elements of B Company remain in theatre at the OCCP and C Company have been training at Camp Bastion with the Manoeuvre Battlegroup (4 SCOTS).

A 'Lincolnshire' Company (MOB LKG)

The start of the month saw the Company conclude its task on Op HERRICK 19. MOB Lashkar Gah was one of the last British major bases in Helmand and was home to over a thousand soldiers when we arrived. Over the past 5 months the soldiers have worked tirelessly providing force protection, enabling key leader engagement and assisting the HQ and G4 echelon with preparing the base for transfer. A handover ceremony involving the Provincial Governor, Task Force Helmand Commander and UK Provincial Reconstruction Team Head of Mission as well as other VIPs went exceeding well. The sheer number of attendees exceeding expectations but just goes to show the importance of our task. We now look forward to post tour leave.



B 'Leicestershire' Company (OCCP)

March has been our final month at the OCCP. The month has been spent preparing for our departure. Fortunately we were already living with the bare minimum so there is not much to pack before we can depart. During our time here we have seen the ANSF continue to develop their confidence and competence and this deployment has been a rewarding experience.



C 'Northamptonshire' Company

Having conducted much of our MST alongside other 7X units, C Coy is delighted to be reunited with the Manoeuvre Battlegroup, under the command of 4 SCOTS. We will be working with the armoured vehicles of the 9/12 Lancers' Warthog Group. Rehearsals continue in earnest and of note was the Helicopter Assault Force training conducted in the middle of the month. Training has been balanced with Coy sport and PT including a 5 aside football match against our 9/12 counterparts which The Poachers won.

Left, conducting close quarters marksmanship on the Bastion ranges

D 'Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire' Company

Recce Platoon remains in theatre until the early summer. Back in camp work has continued preparing for the A2020 orbat and preparations to run cadres to introduce the expected influx of new soldiers to the various platoons.)

Right, members of C Company meet Ed Sheeran who performed live in Bastion.



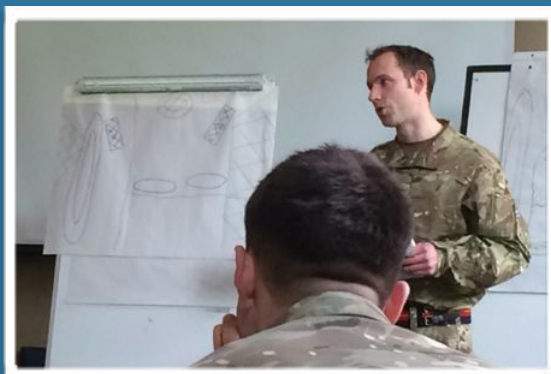
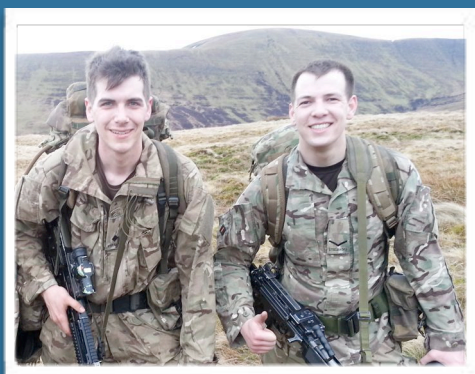
3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

March proved very busy for the Steelbacks. With 10 of the Battalion's 11 mobilised soldiers returning from operations in Afghanistan, the remainder have noticed a steady raising of the tempo as the Battalion continues its drive towards Initial Operating Capability to take its place in the Adaptable Force ORBAT.



Left: Members of 1 (Norfolk and Suffolk) Company were very proud to have received Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk's Commendations. L-R: Cpl Rolph (Now CUOTC), CSgt Chambers, The Lord Lieutenant, Sgt Jones and Cpl Baldwin.

Commanders from the Steelbacks attended the Platoon Tactics Course at the Infantry Battle School, Brecon (below left). Platoon Commanders, Platoon Sergeants and Section Commanders trained together during the arduous course in South Wales, ready to return this summer to complete Battalion live firing.



Meanwhile, the Officers' Mess attended a Study Day followed by a Dinner Night at Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore. They were joined by the Regimental Secretary, Battalion and Company Honorary Colonels and Deputy Commander 49(E) Brigade. The photo (above right) shows Capt Geoff Fowler (3 Coy) bluffing his knowledge of the Estimate Process...

Five plucky members of 2 (Leicestershire and Lincolnshire) Company took part in the 'Airfield Anarchy' competition in Newark. Racing over wrecked cars, walls, pyramids of straw bales and through 500m of icy cold water made for a fun Saturday morning!

Right: Pte Atkinson at the finish line, Far right: LCpl Heneage at the top of the tire wall.



Cadets

On 19 March, Oundle School CCF Marching Band had the honour of playing at Franklin Gardens at the annual Mobbs Memorial Match between Northampton Saints and the British Army.

Edgar Mobbs was a rugby legend and a hero of the Great War. He was the first Northampton Saint to captain England and inspired hundreds of men to join the Army with him at the outbreak of war, in what became known as the Sportsman's Battalion. Mobbs was killed in the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917 while attempting to storm a German machine gun nest: the match celebrated his legacy and commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of WWI.

The CCF Band was invited to play before the match, marching proudly on to the pitch to Men of Harlech, and then to join to the Band of the Parachute Regiment to play the National Anthem.

CCF Band Captain, Cadet Colour Sergeant Dan Bateson, said, *"This was an amazing evening; I will remember marching onto Franklin Gardens alongside The Band of the Parachute Regiment for years to come."*

Rehearsing, with the Para's band was arguably one of the highlights of the day as they were exceptional yet they did not lower their standards in any way to help us and many of them commented on how well we integrated with their band, making the hours of preparation worthwhile.

Before the start of the match Drum Major Charlie Dowdeswell led the Oundle CCF Marching Band on to the pitch for a display involving the pieces 'Men of Harlech' and 'Napoleon's March'. This was followed by a display by the Para's Band. Both bands then played 'The National Anthem' after a minutes silence to remember Edgar Mobbs. At half time, both bands were integrated and this was a true honour as it showed the confidence that the Para's had in the Oundle pupils to uphold their standards of performance. The Parachute Regiment's Drum Major commented, 'This was one of the best CCF Bands I have ever seen.'"



During half-time the bands came together to form a Massed Band, giving the Cadets a unique opportunity to play alongside the professional musicians of one of the Army's most famous Bands.

The Contingent Commander, Major Andrew Mansergh RM said, *"It is an honour to have been invited to play at the Memorial Match and the Band has worked tremendously hard to reach the standard required to do so; every Cadet should be very proud of the performance that they gave"*.