

Regimental Matters



RHQ Farewell

RHQ Bade farewell to Major Dick Gould and Margaret Legg in Bury St Edmunds and Cottesmore. Both have worked tirelessly and selflessly for the Regiment and we wish them luck in the future, they proved so popular that two farewell events were required for each of them!

Private Brown

The Regiment is sad to report that following a training accident Private Jack Brown of the 2nd Battalion has spent some time in hospital, but you'll be glad to know that he is recovering and the Regiment have funded nearby accommodation and an iPad. The Regiment wish him a speedy return to duty.

Postings

Major Tim Irwin-Parker has been selected for the post of SO2 (A) RMAS wef 1 Aug 15.



Diary Dates

May

- 8 Regimental Council
- 16 WOs & Sgts Past and Present

June

- 5 Royal Norfolk Officers' Dinner
- 6 Royal Norfolk Officers' and Ladies' Lunch
- 18 Waterloo 200
- 20-21 Royal Tigers Weekend, Leicester
- 22-27 Armed Forces Week
- 26 Regimental Golf Society Summer Meeting, Ely City Golf Club
- 28 Association Salamanca Day

July

- 25-26 Talavera Reunion, Northampton Branch

August

- 2 Association Minden Day
- 7 CC143 Sovereign's Parade
- 15 2 Royal Norfolk Lunch
- 15 FEPOW VJ 60th

September

- 6 Regimental Reunion
- 20 Regimental Chapel Sunday, RHC
- 25 Regimental Golf Society Autumn Meeting, Greetham Valley Golf Club, Stamford
- 26 Royal Norfolk Regimental Association Dinner
- 27 Regimental Association Service

1st Battalion (The Vikings)



A Company

A Company have settled in well in March. It has been the first full month that the company has been in charge at Qargha and everyone has taken to it well. The highlight was the Commemoration Ceremony in the middle of the month in which remembered the sacrifices made by members of the Regiment and of the Army as a whole in support of Afghanistan. The routine work guarding the mentors who train the Afghans at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy has been punctuated with trips to external training areas in the countryside around Kabul. The conditions there have been more austere, living in 'Bashas' and sleeping bag, but proved to be a welcome break to the Qargha Routine. Time has also been found for relaxation and a bit of fun with Qargha's first Volleyball tournament and a Triathlon happening this month. Everyone who participated enjoyed themselves, even if an Australian team managed to win the tournament.

B Company

The men of B 'Suffolk' Coy have been getting stuck in with the unnatural task of vehicle maintenance and training. The driver are improving their ability to maintain the vehicles and diagnose potential problems. It is unnatural for Light Role Infantrymen to develop a bond with such mechanical beasts, however it is apparent that relationships are forming between Driver and Wagon, Commander and Crew. Everyone has their unique role to play which in turn enhances the teams overall capability and cohesiveness. The routine for us here in the New Kabul Compound is consistent, we conduct Guardian Angel patrols followed by Quick Reaction Force (QRF). During patrols we travel around the city with Resolute Support (RS) advisor mentors and provide them with protection teams to conduct their tasks. This is a good chance to get out into the hustle and bustle of Kabul's ever increasing traffic problem, and witness the intriguing streets of Kabul.





The Afghans whom the advisors work with appear to be gaining in competence and are keen to converse with our soldiers in broken English over a cigarette. The QRF continue to rehearse their tactics and train on a daily basis whilst utilising the facilities here at NKC such as the Gym and basketball court.

C Company

C (Essex) Company is continuing its' work in Mali on Operation NEWCOMBE 5, where the Essex men are busy retraining the Deuxième Compagnie of GTIA Balanzan. The heat continues to rise, coming close to a sweltering forty degrees Celsius. The temperature brings an added challenge to the Malians, who are well accustomed to multiple siestas during the working day.

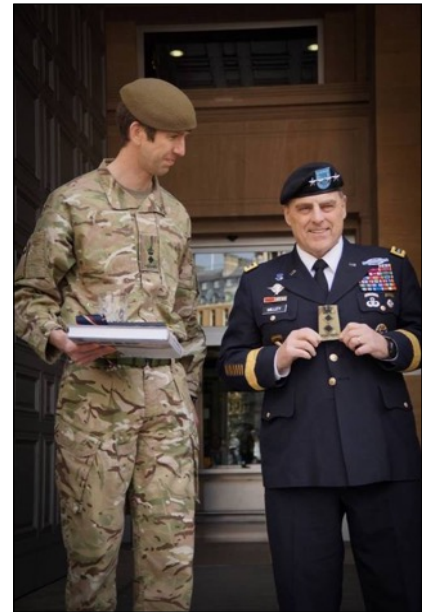
Mentoring continues at a good pace and the company has progressed from section through to platoon level, with a final test exercise in two weeks' time. Members of the Defence Force of Ireland have now joined the team in Segou, providing a new perspective for both the Essex men and the Malian troops being trained. This British, Irish and Malian mix has led to refined drills and exercises that now put the emphasis on the Malian officers' and NCOs' ability to plan and deliver dynamic training in preparation for operations. This leaves the United Kingdom and Irish Training Team able to oversee training and provide bespoke work on points whilst letting the Malians operate in an independent and sustainable fashion that should stick until well past C Company's completion of their retraining and return to Koulikororo.

D Company + ROG

Minden Platoon have deployed to Bulgaria on Ex STEADFAST LEV, a multinational exercise involving Bulgarian, US and UK troops. The Platoon will be in the Novo Selo training area for 3 weeks and work in mixed platoons with a section from each nation. In addition to this interoperability challenge, 'Vikings' will be working out of Bulgarian MTLB's and US Bradley's during this armoured exercise.

The remainder of the ROG and D Coy are now focussing on the 7 Bde Operational Shooting Competition (OSC). The competition takes place in the last week of April and will see us shooting against 2 R Anglian, QDG, 3 Royal Anglian and 3 PWRR. For the last two weeks, shooting has become a way of life for the Viking teams who have had a full and intense preparation package delivered to them by the Bn's Training Wing.

2nd Battalion (The Poachers)



New Honorary Colonel of the Poachers

General Milley with the CO, RSM and our Poacher (CSgt Estwick) outside MOD Main Building at the end of his Kermit Roosevelt Lecture tour. General Milley was delighted to accept the appointment of Honorary Colonel of the Poachers. General Miley will visit the Battalion when he next visits UK.



King of England Richard III Reinterment

Sergeant Aaron Harding was one of the six pall bearers that carried the mortal remains of the King of England to his final resting place at the reinterment service held at Leicester Cathedral on 26th March 2015.

3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)



Steelbacks Adventure Training

The Battalion deployed 20 personnel on Ex DRAGON STEELBACK 15, a ski adventure training exercise to Stubai Glacier, Austria. The group travelled by road from UK to Stubai in minibus and van, the road drive was a beast but worth it when they arrived at the glacier. After kit was issued and the group had settled into the ski lodge they hit the snow for 6 days skiing on some of the finest ski slopes that Austria has to offer. During the week there was an opportunity to sample local après ski and cuisine which proved very popular. After the ski assessments had been completed the instructors qualified 9 Ski Foundation 1s, 5 Ski Foundations 2s with 3 personnel with advanced skiing techniques. Great results and very enjoyable for all those who took part.

Ex STEELBACK MARKSMAN

Ex STEELBACK MARKSMAN was a Battalion level Skill At Arms meet which qualified the Battalion for the coming training year. It was also the beginning of a new 3 R ANGLIAN initiative, STEELBACK SHEPHERD designed as a retention tool to keep new recruits in the process until they qualify as a trained soldier. STEELBACK SHEPHERD proved a success with 30 new recruits attending the Skill At Arms weekend. Ex STEELBACK MARKSMAN was the first opportunity for the new Commanding Officer, Lt Col Spiers TD, to address the Battalion and he took the opportunity to present a number of awards.

