



05/11

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

MAY 11

HONOURS AND AWARDS

1. The Regiment is proud to congratulate the following officers and SNCOs for their awards as published in The Queen's Birthday Honours List:

- **OBE:** Col JM Woodham MC
- **MBE:** WO2 ARC Faupel
- **QVRM:** Maj RG Rogers
- **Meritorious Service Medal:**
 - WO2 JR Eccles
 - CSgt MJ Heal
 - CSgt ML Woodrow

POSTINGS

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

Lt Col DG Vincent	from ACSC Student	to Ch G5 Plans MONUC Kinshasa wef Aug 11
Lt Col ACE Marinos	from SO1 Cap Core ACQ HQ Inf Capability	to Ch G5 Plans MONUC Kinshasa wef Feb 12
A/Lt Col CD Davies	from SO2 Ops Recovery Operations	to SO1 Plans Ops PR Branch DPS(A)

MINDEN DAY REUNION: SUNDAY 31 JUL 2011

3. The Regiment will celebrate the 252nd Anniversary of the Battle of Minden in the grounds behind the Keep in Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 31st July 2011. The celebrations will follow the same format as previous annual Minden Day reunions of The Suffolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Suffolk). The day will start at 1115 hours with a Drumhead Service during which a Roll of Honour is to be dedicated to honour the sacrifice of those members of the Royal Anglian and East Anglian regiments who have died on duty. Listed on the Roll of Honour will be all those whose names are carved in stone on The Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial at the Imperial War Museum Duxford. At 1215 hrs there will be a Parade and March Past by the Old Comrades after which there is a picnic lunch (bring your own or buy snacks on site). The Suffolk Regiment Museum will be open and there will be a Parade Ground Programme throughout the afternoon, ending with Beating Retreat at 1615 hrs. The day has become a reunion for all generations from every part of The Regiment and is very much a family occasion. It is an excellent opportunity to meet old friends and comrades. All members of the Regimental Family are warmly invited to attend.

Further details can be obtained from the Area Secretary (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) Lt Col Tony Slater (Tel: 01284 752394; E Mail: rhqranглиan-areasec@mod.uk)

'ALL THE 4s' SPONSORED WALK: 12 – 21 AUG 2011
IN AID OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT BENEVOLENT CHARITY

4. After the success of her **All the 4s** sponsored walks through the East Midlands in 2009 and East Anglia in 2010, Mrs Chris Bonner will once again walk to raise funds for The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity. But this year the walk will be from North to South through Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex over the period 12 - 21 Aug 2011.

5. **All the 4s 2011** will gather in Peterborough TA Centre at 1000 hrs on Thur 11 Aug and then move to a campsite in North Lincolnshire. They will set off from Scunthorpe on Fri 12 Aug and over the next 10 days, including the weekends 13/14 and 20/21 Aug, will walk through the 4 counties of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex. Their schedule is:

- o Fri 12 Aug, Scunthorpe
- o Sat 13 Aug, Grimsby
- o Sun 14 Aug, Mablethorpe
- o Mon 15 Aug, Boston
- o Tues 16 Aug, Spalding
- o Wed 17 Aug, Cambridge
- o Thurs 18 Aug, Ely
- o Fri 19 Aug, Bury St Edmunds
- o Sat 20 Aug, Colchester
- o Sun 21 Aug, Southend

6. In order to encourage maximum sponsorship, the opportunity exists for any member of the wider Regimental Family to join the walk, on any day, to complete a leg; or if desired to complete any number of legs on different days. Legs will be between 10 – 16 miles per day and those interested in participating and fundraising should contact Maj Mick Abbs, the Regimental Officer Responsible, soonest (Tel: 07786 961062 ; Email: mick.abbs@hotmail.co.uk). Chris and Mick are asking for your fund raising support for **All the 4s 2011**. In particular, they need 3 or 4 volunteers who are prepared to walk the entire 150 miles and, most importantly, are able to attract significant personal sponsorship (£1000 plus) from their family, friends, work place or public.

REGIMENTAL DAY

7. The Regimental Day will be held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on Sunday 11th September. The programme for the Day will be as follows:

- 09.30 am Gates open (entry via Gate 1)
- 11.30 am Drumhead Service at Regimental Memorial to include March Past
- 12.30 pm Bars, kiosks and stalls open
- 13.00 pm Band Concert
- 3.30 pm Beating Retreat at Regimental Memorial
- 5.00 pm Bars, kiosks and stalls close

All serving and ex-members of The Regiment and former Regiments are warmly invited to attend this enjoyable event and can gain free access on the production of a British Army ID Card or a Regimental Association Membership Card. Further details can be obtained from the Assistant Regimental Secretary, Maj Dick Gould (Tel: 01284 752394; Email: rhqranглиan-asstregsec@mod.uk)

WARNING ORDER: FREEDOM PARADES MARKET HARBOROUGH AND OADBY AND WIGSTON: 8/9 OCT 2011

8. The Regiment, represented by the 3rd Battalion and the Band of The Royal Anglian Regiment, will for the first time exercise the Freedom of Market Harborough on Sat 8th Oct and Oadby and Wigston on Sun 9th Oct, at around midday. This is a Regimental Event and you are requested to note the dates and stand by for further details in due course. The Regimental Officer Responsible is Maj Bill O'Driscoll, Area Secretary (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland), (Tel: 01604 635412; E Mail: william.odriscoll564@mod.uk).

BATTALION ACTIVITIES

9. **1st Battalion**

With leave a distant memory, Op Herrick 16 preparation courses took centre stage and soldiers of all ranks dispersed to the far corners of the Army to conduct driver and commander cadres, specialist weapon training and foreign language aptitude tests. For those not involved in such exciting activities, MATTs needed to be done, weapon handling tests on the Heavy Machine Gun (HMG) and Grenade Machine Gun (GMG) completed and ranges fired. The battle winning and lifesaving equipment that have such proven records in theatre, such as MASTIFF, RIDGEBACK and JACKAL vehicles and the HMG and GMG, all require a significant amount of training and starting this early will be key to the Battalion's success.

Away from training, the Officers' Mess hosted some RMA Sandhurst Potential Officers (POs) showing them what a great place the Vikings is to be. The POs had a chance to speak to the soldiers and see what the Battalion has to offer. Being an unbiased D Company Platoon Commander, it is without doubt the support weapons that provided the most excitement during the visit, closely followed by the delights of a night out in either Guildford or Camberley.

Work aside, the main social event of May was the Battalion's sports tour to Cyprus. We faced the Poachers, the Steelbacks and the 2 military garrisons at Episkopi and Dhekelia at Football, Rugby, Cricket and Golf. The tour offered a rare chance for soldiers to travel abroad to play sport and gave all three Battalions of The Regiment a chance spend a decent amount of time getting to know each other - from Commanding Officer to Private soldier. On the sports field competition was fierce with games against local sides before the show events of Poacher v Viking teams. In the end a great tour was evenly balanced with the Poachers taking the spoils in Rugby and Football and the Vikings taking the honours in both Cricket and Golf.

Off the sports field, friendly competition was no less fierce. The Warrant Officers' and Sgts' Mess victory against the mixed Officers' Mess in the Tug of War at the Poachers' beach bar was one of the highlights. The distinct weight advantages the WOs and Sgts had only narrowly overcoming a spirited effort by the combined officers. At the Officers' Mess party there was a valiant, but ultimately unsuccessful, attempt by Lt George Waterfield to demolish the Poachers' Officers' Mess with his head. There was also a stand out victory for the Viking Battalion 2IC, Maj Ollie Brown. At 6ft 7 inches tall he successfully leapt from a table and was able to draw a pen mark on the corridor ceiling further away from the launch point than anyone else. Lt Col Mick Aston had made it clear with such an advantage anything but victory was not an option. Maj Brown was typically humble, demanding celebratory high fives of practically the entire collection of Poacher officers.

The tour was a rare and greatly appreciated opportunity for the soldiers to get away and do battle on the sports field. It also offered the first opportunity for many members of all three Battalions to get together and meet. The Vikings would like to thank all involved in hosting us so well, in particular The Poachers, whose hospitality was excellent. Bring on the rematch!

10. **2nd Battalion**

As the temperature began to rise in Cyprus, May saw the Poachers once again jet off to even sunnier climes in Camp Bastion on RSOI and a Company deployment to Jordan. Along with an eventful social calendar, May turned out to be one of the busiest months for the Battalion on island so far.

The beginning of the month saw HQ, A and C Coy returning to Afghanistan to complete a RSOI training package in Camp Bastion, in order to refresh skills and learn the latest techniques from theatre. An excellent training package saw all companies training hard in temperatures of up to forty degrees. Fortunately for Afghanistan, but unfortunately for a Poacher deployment, the current progress being made in Helmand meant that everyone flew home after making full use of the opportunities in theatre.

Whilst the rest of the Battalion was away, B (Leicestershire) Coy deployed to Jordan on a Counter IED exercise. The two week exercise is a recurring commitment every few months and gives the soldiers an ideal opportunity to get away from Cyprus and take full advantage of the Jordanian training facilities and the chance to work with the Jordanian armed forces.

On the sporting front, May saw the Viking sports tour arrive in Dhekelia. With the Steelbacks based in Nicosia, it was a unique occasion for all three Royal Anglian battalions to come together and compete in rugby, football, cricket and golf. Some excellent matches eventually saw the honours evenly spread between the Poachers and Vikings, with the Poachers beating the Vikings 27- 0 in the rugby and 2-0 in the football. The Vikings responded by winning the cricket and golf. In addition to the sports matches, the Poachers extended their hospitality to the Vikings and Steelbacks by providing water sports and a trip to watch the Akrotiri 10s Army Rugby competition. The tour concluded with a large BBQ for all three battalions at the Poacher's Beach Bar on the beach at Dhekelia.

11. 3rd Battalion

This month has seen the Battalion engaged in some challenging routine training, preparation for OP HERRICK 16 and, in Cyprus, a series of operations designed to move the mission forward in a number of discrete areas, coupled with a combined sports competition hosted by the Poachers.

Firstly, Battalion training in the UK. Encouragingly, attendance remains high with healthy numbers of soldiers at all events and a good number of recruits in currently training. With the balance of the Battalion deployed, this is particularly important and we are constantly on the lookout for new soldiers and ex-Regulars so please get the word out. Aside from routine weekly training, this month has seen three Recruit Training weekends, Company Level training, Ex WESTERN APPROACHES (LAD Concentration) along with HERRICK 16 preparation; and we also bolstered the wider Defence Outreach programme by deploying a small training team, under Capt Jon Pickering, to Kazakhstan to support their Rapid Reaction Bde training.

On operations in Cyprus the Battalion has gone from strength to strength. Having settled in and made our mark very quickly, we have conducted a number of discrete operations designed to influence local community behaviour, bolster UN credibility and establish ground truth in a number of previously 'grey' areas, as a pre-cursor to taking affirmative action. Notwithstanding a busy patrols and support schedule, we have grasped the opportunity to explore the island, conduct adventure training in Dhekelia and Troodos and a good number of soldiers have used the on-island Army Education facilities to get qualified in a number of disciplines, ranging from basic IT skills through to full re-vamps of CVs, in preparation for returning to UK. Aside from all this, a team led by 2Lt Speechley tied first place with a group of Slovak Olympians (literally!) in the UNFICYP Military Skills competition and, rather frighteningly, we are already a 1/3 of the way through the tour and have just hosted the main recce of our successors, 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC.

The opportunity to play sport against the Poachers & Vikings was priceless, as was the combined dinner nights generously hosted by the Poachers' messes - no doubt there will be some photos in

the next edition of Castle! With our UK focus very much on delivering Hybrid Foundation Training and preparing soldiers for Afghanistan, while in Cyprus operations continuing apace, that's all from the Steelbacks for this edition.