

Regimental Matters



Left: Lt Col Goodin (Regimental Secretary), Capt Hearne (Adjutant 3rd Battalion) and WO2 Woolcott (RQMS 3rd Battalion) collecting the 3rd Battalions Colours from Hobson & Sons Ltd in Thundersley, Essex.

Below: Capt George Waterfield and the RST at the Leys School delivering military skills to the CCF.



Below Left: CSgt Heale, who works in the Families Office in London District, with the Rugby Premiership Cup at the Aviva Premiership Final. Below Right: General the Lord Walker of Aldringham CCB CMG CBE carrying the State Sword at the State Opening of Parliament.



1st Battalion (The Vikings)

This month the Battalion has been focused on getting back to a war fighting footing by focusing on the basics before beginning the Unit Move and transitioning to Mission Specific Training after Summer Leave.

This focus has included the culminations of our Support Company Cadres, the A2020 MG Cadre, a Skill At Arms competition and a CTI exercise. Not insignificant given the looming move to Woolwich.

The Support Company Cadres were a great success seeing Recce now over manned by a section on the A2020 ORBAT giving them a full four sections. This has been at the expense of Anti-Tanks and Mortars although are still flush with new recruits. D Coy looks in good shape.

The Skill at Arms gave the Battalion a chance to focus on shooting, something not often possible with such a busy program over recent years. Plenty of new marksmen was the eventual result and a good feeling about the new sight which has proved very capable in the hands of our soldiers.

CTI allowed the Battalion to come together once again mixing Section, Platoon and Company activity with the BGHQ allowing all parties to get the a decent refresher from the training. It also gave many of us the opportunity to step up and practice our skills at the IUP.

The Battalion finishes June attempting to take a breather before diving headlong into the Unit Move.



Above: Woolwich Barracks

2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

A 'Lincolnshire' Company spent May conducting the initial preparations for the Medals Parade and the July Freedom Parades. Already we are seeing significant changes within the Company as soldiers depart for external postings. We have also welcomed a number of new soldiers who have arrived from ITC Catterick. The highlight this month has been Ex FALLING POACHER. Led by Capt Marsden, this was a three and a half week Accelerated Free Fall (sky diving) AT expedition in California. All had a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Finally, the Company says farewell to Pte McSherry who has left the Army after many years of good service to start a career in painting and decorating; we wish him the best of luck.



B 'Leicestershire' Company's focus has been preparing for the reformation due on 2 June, 13 months since the Coy was split up to service the demands of Op HERRICK 19. All members of the Company are now focussed on ensuring that we collectively develop a unique ethos by maintaining our core infantry skills and ensuring that the Company is set up for success in the future.

C 'Northamptonshire' Company have been kept exceptionally busy this month. The tempo of operations has remained high and time not deployed is spent refitting and preparing for the next operation. Our focus is on protecting Camp Bastion, the only remaining UK base in Helmand. Often this means deploying a considerable distance from the base to disrupt insurgent activity before it can get close enough to pose a threat. Whilst remaining vigilant until the end, the Company is looking forward to returning home at the end of June. Op HERRICK 19 will have been an exciting and rewarding experience for all involved.



D 'Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire' Company celebrated the anniversary of the Battle of Monte Casino this month. Cpl Daley and Smith delivered a presentation about the use of Combat Service Support and Indirect Fire during the battle and the relevance lessons learnt still have today. This was followed by a presentation by Capt Green (OC Mortars) and brunch in the Officers' Mess.

The Machine Gun Platoon was kept busy running a beat-up cadre in preparation for the June's Machine Guns Cadre and the remainder of the Company has also been preparing for the Battalion reformation due at the start of June.



3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

The Battalion bid farewell to WO1 (RSM) Chris Hopkin, who left on posting to become Command Sergeant Major of 1 Brigade. We wish him the best of fortunes in his new post and thank him for the sterling service he has displayed over the past 2 years as RSM of the Steelbacks. Arriving in his place is WO1 (RSM) Pete Witkowski, (Right) who joins us following a 9 month stint mentoring the Academy Sergeant Major at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy in Kabul; a warm welcome to the Battalion and we look forward to your input during the ongoing development of the Army Reserve.

The Battalion training progression has moved on a stage, with May seeing a shift from individual skills up to Platoon level tactics, in particular developing the command and control abilities of section commanders, platoon commanders and platoon sergeants within a company context. The picture below shows members of 2 (Leicestershire and Lincolnshire) Company deep in thought, conducting their estimates during Exercise MINDEN CHARGE.



The Battalion recruiting effort continues as we seek to grow the size of the Army Reserve at the same time as growing its capability. Recruiting takes on a number of forms, from small bands of determined men 'skirmishing' in the towns around our counties, to specialists working out of Job Centres and Armed Forces Career Offices, to the more generic 'Keeping the Army in the Public Eye' (KAPE) activities. An example of the latter took place this month, with the Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment supporting a recruiting team's presence at the Colne Engine Festival in Essex (shown below in full flow, along with a new recruit!).

