



10/11

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

OCT 11

### **COMMISSIONING**

1. The Regiment congratulates the following warrant officers for being selected for IRC (LE) commissions:

- WO1 (RSM) Main 3 R ANGLIAN
- WO1 (RSM) Shaw Cambridge UOTC

2. The Regiment also congratulates WO2 Eccles being selected for a SSC (LE) Commission in the AAC.

### **CONVERSION OF COMMISSION**

3. The Regiment congratulates the following officer for being selected for conversion of commission from IRC to Reg C (DE):

- Capt G J Goodey

### **POSTINGS**

4. Regimental Headquarters has been informed of the following officer posting:

Maj D Mackness	from 2 R ANGLIAN	to SO2 CSS CATT (G) wef May 12
Maj M A Nicholas	from 2 R ANGLIAN	to SO2 G5 (Cts) HQLF wef May 12
Maj B M Down	from 1 ITB	to SO2 Ops Fusion B LWDG Warminster wef May 12
Maj R H Whitham	from 2 R ANGLIAN	to SO2 Inf Obs Con CTG Warminster wef Mar 12
Capt A B Bennett-Madge	from 2 R ANGLIAN	to SO3 G3 Ops HQ 1(UK) Armd Div, Herford
Lt R L Weston	from 2 R ANGLIAN	to TLC Advisor RMTTC Shorabak

### 5. **1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION**

October has been another busy month for the Battalion in the throes of Mission Specific Training (MST) with the key event being Exercise PASHTUN LION, a staff training exercise which saw all of the sub-units come together for the first time underneath the Combined Force (CF) HQ. The exercise made use of the excellent training facilities available at CAST and CATT in order to conduct headquarter planning and execution training. As the sophistication of the procedures and systems have developed in theatre, as have the requirements for detailed headquarter training in all of the functions of command. Almost every process is now far more refined and standardised across the task force and, I should add, all the more slick for it. The MST package continues to impress and the Battalion has made the most of this opportunity.

Since returning from Warminster, cascade training covering the low level skills has started in earnest. The companies have worked hard to produce demanding and innovative training and their efforts to simulate realistic situations have been remarkable. This is particularly the case for ground

sign awareness training, a vital skill which is saving lives in the battle against IEDs. The search lanes and mock IEDs, generally homemade (!), are transforming even the most junior Vikings into Ray Mears understudies. After a fragmented summer of individual MST courses and RAAT commitments, this period has been a breath of fresh air; a time when the companies and platoons have been protected to conduct good low level training. The teams that we will operate in are really starting to gel and the cohesion across the CF is quickly increasing.

The month will finish with a week deployed as a Battalion on Longmoor and Hankley Common training areas, where many of these new skills will be put to the test. We will subsequently look forward to preparations for the unit move while simultaneously doing our best to keep the training flame alive before the January CFX.

## 6. 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION

October has been a month of changes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion as, after a long and patient year, we have finally completed our tour as the Theatre Reserve Battalion. The responsibility for maintaining a company at readiness to deploy to Afghanistan has now been passed to 2 YORKS in Episkopi. The strengths of the Battalion have best shown themselves throughout this period, with soldiers, NCOs and officers all having to overcome and lead the way through the frustration of not deploying, after so long spent in preparation and training. The effort put in by all ranks to keep the Battalion ready to deploy for an entire year cannot be overstated.

However, our work in Cyprus is not finished. The Battalion has instead switched its role immediately to providing the Cyprus Security Duties of the Resident Infantry Battalion. This task requires the soldiers from one of the companies to guard the radar and communication sites across the Island; from high up in the Troodos Mountains to the low flats of Salt Lake in Akrotiri, the men will be protecting the unmistakable 'golf ball' domes by day and night. A second company will also be kept ready to assist the Sovereign Base Police in their safeguarding of the Eastern and Western Base Areas at Dhekelia and Episkopi. This commitment, while likely to prove more predictable than the Theatre Reserve, will demand just as high a level of professionalism and dedication from the Poachers which, as always, they will deliver.

C Company has taken over this commitment first and is proving the route for the other companies. Having taken over responsibility for the different locations, they are going to work with enthusiasm, ensuring that the mission is executed smoothly and efficiently. As temperatures are at last beginning to drop, the new locations offer a welcome change of scenery after remaining so long in the eastern side of the Island.

B Company, meanwhile, is getting ready to take over delivering support to the Sovereign Base Police. While this responsibility will require the Company to remain at 24 hours readiness, and the soldiers to remain close to the barracks, it will also provide a welcome opportunity to take time investing in the soldiers' training and education.

A Company ended the Battalion's role on TRB in fine form by winning the CO's Inter-Section Competition. This endurance march and shoot tested sections from all companies in a gruelling 20km speed march from Alexander Barracks to Pyla Ranges. Cpl Mander led his section to victory and achieved the trophy for first place in an impressive display of his section's physical stamina and expert marksmanship.

A Company have gone on to support the final exercise of the Brecon-based Platoon Commanders' Battle Course. Ex GRIM WARRIOR tests the infantry leadership skills of newly commissioned 2Lts and A Company are giving the exercise their full support by providing both trained, professional soldiers and JNCOs for the young officers to command, as well as acting as a realistic enemy force, complete with Cpl Beard as the sinister, corrupt, village policeman.

D Company have seen the face of things to come after their Coy HQ returned from conducting their reconnaissance of the Falkland Islands in preparation for the live firing package that they will be conducting there in April 2012. Although expecting to face rough terrain and harsh weather, the commanders have come back enthusiastic and eager about the unique training opportunities which can be accomplished there.

Lastly, and most significantly, the officers and soldiers of the Battalion have said goodbye to their Commanding Officer. Lt Col Ralph Wooddisse departed at the end of the month after having taken over the Battalion in 2009 when it was based in Celle, Germany. His leadership and personal

commitment to the Battalion will be sorely missed by everyone; and his departure in the same week that the Battalion handed over its TRB commitment seemed like a fitting departure for a CO whose dedication to the high standards of professionalism and welfare of his men was so evident. The Battalion is now preparing to welcome its new CO, Lt Col Nigel Johnson, who will lead the Battalion during its remaining time in Cyprus and through its preparation for Op Herrick 19 in late 2013.

## 7. **3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION**

This month, the Battalion has been engaged in two Freedom Parades, the demobilisation and post-tour leave of those deployed on OP TOSCA and, following our ADX at Sennybridge, low/level Company training.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of October, over 100 soldiers and the Battalion band marched through the Boroughs of Market Harborough and Oadby & Wigston respectively. Notwithstanding the great honour bestowed on The Regiment and our considerable pride in exercising the Freedoms, the level of public support at both events can only be described as outstanding. At both parades, thousands turned out to cheer the troops and see their County Infantry Regiment; all those marching were deeply impressed and humbled with the level of support and the very genuine good wishes from all spectators. After each parade, soldiers were treated to a buffet lunch and a beer or two, generously provided by the Boroughs; all in all these were fine events, enjoyed by all concerned and amply demonstrated the high esteem in which the general public hold members of The Regiment.

Hot on the heels of the parades, all those deployed to Cyprus attended RTMC for de-mobilisation. Drawing to a close a process that began back in February, after a welcome back chat from Commander 49 Brigade, soldiers went through the various activities in order to make them fit for a return to Civvy Street – it was strange to see so many familiar faces, but not in temperatures of 45 degrees, nor in desert combats; all good things come to an end and everyone departed on 4 weeks of well deserved post-tour leave.

Back at the companies, a considerable amount of work has been put into tuning the remaining training events for the 11/12 year, while getting to grips with the requirements for 12/13. Individual skills are high on the agenda as usual, however effort to provide a more realistic training context by deploying Coy and Bn HQ is high on the things to do list next year. Notwithstanding routine training, the Battalion has been asked to provide support to the Olympics next year; and this could see the compulsory mobilisation of soldiers to conduct a myriad of support tasks – with any luck, they'll see some of the events too! As a background, more work has been done to get recruits through the door and this has included the positioning of a TA Liaison Officer in Leicester Recruiting Office. Next month sees everyone back at work, our annual Training Conference and the detailed preparation for Ex Steelback Spirit to be held at Thetford on 3-4 December. As this edition goes to print, we must announce the very sad passing of Mrs Mary Wiseman on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. As HQ Coy Clerk, she provided quite outstanding support to the Battalion and to individual soldiers over many years; she will be sadly missed by all those who knew her and our thoughts are with her family at this difficult time.