



09/11

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

SEP 11

### **HIGHER COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE**

1. The Regiment congratulates Col JM Woodham OBE MC and Lt Col (Col 12) RW Wooddisse MBE MC on their selection to attend the Higher Command and Staff Course wef Jan 12.

### **LT COL JAMES HART: SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING: 12.00 HRS THUR 3 NOV 11**

2. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lt Col James Hart R ANGLIAN will take place at 12.00 Hrs on Thursday 3rd November 2011 at The Chapel of The Royal Anglian Regiment and Essex Regiment, Clive Road, Warley, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 3UJ. It will be followed by a light lunch with a cash bar at the TA Centre, 124 Petroleum Squadron RLC, Clive Road, Warley, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 3UJ. The Chapel and TA Centre are next to each other and car parking is available at the latter. Dress is civilian clothes.

3. All those wishing to attend are requested to inform the Regimental Secretary by email: [rhqranqlian-regsec@mod.uk](mailto:rhqranqlian-regsec@mod.uk) or tel: 01284 752394.

### **FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE OPENING CEREMONY: 10 NOVEMBER 2011**

4. The Field of Remembrance for 2011 will open at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 10 November at 1050 hrs incorporating the silence at 1100 hrs when a short Service will be held. A senior member of the Royal Household will be present. Admission to the Service is for TICKET HOLDERS ONLY and those attending must be in position by 1030 hrs; the entrance to the Field will be by the West Gate only between 0845 and 1030 hrs; dress is suits and medals are optional.

5. Mr Michael Grigg, Father of Pte James Grigg, will be The Royal Anglian Regiment Regimental representative. He will therefore stand in front of our Regimental Plot and will be assisted by the Regimental Secretary as necessary. Crosses for the battalions will be placed in position by the organisers in advance. Remembrance crosses will be in position to remember each of The Regiment's 79 fallen soldiers.

6. After the Service, members of the Regimental Association are most welcome to meet at the Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, SW1, where a room and buffet lunch has kindly been booked by Mr Sam Luckin. Numbers are restricted to a maximum of 50 and the initial allocation is as follows:

- a. Area Secretary (Bury St Edmunds) x 10.
- b. Area Secretary (Warley) x 10.
- c. Area Secretary (Northampton) x 10.
- d. MOD/London based R ANGLIAN x 15.

7. Area Secretaries are coordinating their allocation, offering up any unused places to the Regtl Sec by 28 October 2011. MOD/London based R ANGLIANS are requested to inform the Regtl Sec of their wish to attend the lunch, also by 28 October 2011. Allocation will be on a first come first serve basis. There will be a cash bar.

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: 13 NOVEMBER 2011**

8. The Regimental Main Effort on Remembrance Sunday is to be wide representation at public services across the East Midlands and East Anglia.

9. The Regiment will also mark Remembrance Sunday with a short service at the Regimental Memorial at IWM Duxford. This will be coordinated by the Regtl Sec, sponsored by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion and conducted by the Honorary Chaplain to The Regiment Father Ken Reeve. IWM Duxford and the Regimental Museum are open on this day to the general public and there is universal free access throughout. The outline details of the service are:

- 1000 hrs: Main Public Visitor Entrance to IWM Duxford opens. Car parking in visitors' car park.
- 1045 hrs: Service of Remembrance commences at Regimental Memorial.
- 1100 hrs: 2 minutes silence observed throughout IWM Duxford.
- 1115 hrs: Service of Remembrance concludes.

10. The service will be outdoors, on grass, with no cover. It will take place regardless of the weather. Dress is suit or blazer with Battalion or Regimental Tie and medals. Any queries should be forwarded to the Regtl Sec at: [rhqranlian-regsec@mod.uk](mailto:rhqranlian-regsec@mod.uk) or tel: 01284 752394.

11. Subsequently, IWM Duxford will hold a public special service of remembrance at which The Regiment will also be represented. Further details of this are available at [duxford@iwm.org.uk](mailto:duxford@iwm.org.uk) and the location will be announced on the day, depending on the weather.

## **WINTER CLOSURE OF THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AT IWM DUXFORD: 30 OCT 11 TO 16 MAR 12**

12. The Land Warfare Hall at IWM Duxford, including the Regimental Museum, will close for the winter from Sun 30 Oct 11 until Fri 16 Mar 12. They will both be open on Remembrance Sunday.

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

The Battalion returned from summer leave in late August and hit the ground running with Exercise PASHTUN HAWK, a five day live firing camp that forms an important part of the Battalion's Op HERRICK 16 Mission Specific Training (MST). The Lydd and Hythe range complex, where Ex PASHTUN HAWK takes place, has been transformed over recent years and there are now some first rate opportunities for levels of training that were hitherto unattainable. The full bore killing house, used to practise live compound clearance, is a prime example of the new facilities on offer which are a remarkable leap forward.

A long weekend followed the range package and then for two days all talk of MST and operations was put to one side for the Battalion Sports Competition. Rugby, football, cricket and a 'strongman' competition featured on the programme with the companies battling to reign supreme. C (Essex) Company took the overall title and, notwithstanding the slightly alarming injury list from the hard fought rugby, the event proved to be a worthwhile and welcome break from routine.

The following week the Battalion underwent the OPTAG All Ranks Briefing, another milestone event on the path to deployment. Everything from conceptual counter insurgency down to the daily challenges of environmental health was crammed into a relatively long day of presentations, establishing the baseline of information on which we will build. A five day Tactical Commanders' Cadre, again run by OPTAG, subsequently illustrated the tactics that were currently being employed in theatre. Barring some developments in insurgent tactics much has remained the same since Op HERRICK 11, although the overall delivery from OPTAG has improved.

So, a busy month and set to get busier. We look forward to a CAST/CATT for the BGHQ and a

period of cascade training for the junior ranks which will hone the individual skills before collective training in the New Year. And of course whilst all this is going on we will start the process of packing up shop and moving the Battalion to our new home in Bulford.

#### 14. 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION

With the heat of the Mediterranean summer and Island wide power cuts behind us, the Battalion is back into full swing on its training cycle. The focus for many has been the Equipment Care Inspection (ECI) and Logistic Support Inspection, with all G4/Logistic elements being rigorously examined for discrepancies. The QM (T), Capt Buxton, conducted numerous pre-inspections and remained remarkably stress-free throughout. Performance was excellent and we may inadvertently achieve the title of 'Best ECI Battalion'. The highlight of the last month was the visit of our Col-in-Chief, HRH The Duke of Gloucester. He was able to meet many of the soldiers and see the range of activities expected of an infantry Battalion. His visit coincided with the Battalion Families' Day. Highlights included the live rifle range for families, grenade stalk (on superman), metal detecting (for Haribo) and Jackal vehicle familiarisation. All companies participated in the Section Competition, involving a timed 18km route march with a falling plate competition at the end. Sections were disposing of falling plate targets at 400m extremely proficiently. In the following week we were lucky enough to be visited by the Lord Mayor of Leicester and the President of the Leicester Chamber of Commerce. The visit was a huge success and will be remembered for some time. Many personnel are completing Adventurous Training qualifications on island, with personnel completing Ocean Diver, Basic Freefall Parachuting, Rock Climbing and Kayak Proficiency.

A Company went through the CO's exercise at the start of the month and were thoroughly worn out by the end of the week. Training Objectives included valley clearance operations, counter-intimidation patrolling, key-leader engagement, ANP partnering and cordon and search, which are all vital skills required for Afghanistan. Fire Support Group (FSG) Alpha was also involved and had the added complexity of vehicle movement in Jackals to contend with. A Company Group moves onto High Readiness in October (R1) and are ready for the task. Other events included a leadership study period in Alexander Barracks involving command tasks, NCO duties, career briefs, Regimental history and arduous physical challenges.

Whilst on R1, B Company have conducted Public Order Training in preparation for Cyprus Ops and provided an Insurgent and Civpop force for A Company's Exercise (which got commanders thinking along the same lines as an Afghan Insurgent). A week was also spent in the Troodos Mountains conducting MATT training, but also utilising the complex terrain to conduct Navigation Exercises. They now move onto a period of richly deserved leave prior to assuming the Ops 2 commitment.

Following leave, C Company switched to a period of individual development. Many completed Cat C driving courses and Level 1 Numeracy and Literacy qualifications. The CIS Platoon ran a Battalion Infantry Signals Cadre and, following a bespoke package for C Company, 85% of the soldiers will be confident operators of man-pack Bowman radios. C Company will be the first to assume Cyprus Ops Commitments in October so they have been ensuring all preparations are in place.

D Company played a key role in the visits of the Col-in-Chief and Lord Mayor of Leicester. Both visitors were extremely interested in the fire power that can be delivered by a FSG. The Company has spent time developing its junior NCOs who studied the 1955 Cyprus Emergency before delivering a number of presentations and conducting a TEWT in the Troodos Mountains. D Company is now very much focused on the future. Many personnel have been dispatched on career courses ranging from: Junior NCO cadres, SCBC, FSG Comd courses, Mortar Advanced course and CIS courses. The Company will conduct a period of regeneration beginning in late October. D Company also took responsibility for organising the annual Battalion Raft Race. This consisted of a course of 2.5km, off the Dhekelia coast. 17 rafts were entered and made a stunning spectacle when observed from the beach; 3 rafts sank and another was scuttled on the rocks. A Battalion BBQ lunch finished off an unusual but enjoyable day for all.

HQ Company won the raft race with 3 expertly constructed rafts. Time and preparation by Cpl Griffin at the Dhekelia Water Sports Centre paid off, as the streamline hulls cut swiftly through the sea. The Company also put in a strong performance at the Army Water Sports Championships. SSgt Baker won the Male Wakeboard Competition, Pte Matthews won the Wakeboard Novice Competition and Pte Green came 3<sup>rd</sup> in both the Waterskiing and Kneeboard Competitions. 20 members of HQ Coy conducted a Green Line Buffer Zone Tour to Nicosia, organised by 3 R ANGLIAN.

The Battalion now moves into its' final month of TRB, says farewell to Lt Col Ralph Wooddisse and welcomes the new Commanding Officer, Lt Col Nigel Johnson.

## 15. **3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION**

As predicted, September saw a hectic schedule with preparation for the return of Op TOSCA personnel and, for those in the UK, the Op HERRICK 16 Annual Deployment Exercise at Sennybridge.

In Cyprus, September began with the main charity event of the tour - 'New York to Nicosia' - an attempt to run, cycle and row the 9500km distance from UN HQ to Cyprus in a week. A massive effort from all concerned led to 10,600km being covered and over €5000 being raised for charities that included local Bi-Communal projects. Notwithstanding the overall determination to exceed the distance, Lt Mark Hart went that little bit further (literally) and ran the 220km length of the entire Buffer Zone in an incredible 47hrs 56 mins, smashing the previous record completion time by 3hrs – look out for a full story and pictures in this Autumn's Castle Magazine.

Aside from thrashing ourselves physically (the Group has amassed over 25 members of the Army Fitness Test '300 Club' over the past 5 months too) there has been plenty to do in terms of getting ready for handover and returning home; a Board of Officers, Military Annual Training Tests (MATTs) and drill practice for the Freedom Parades in early October, on top of our usual high tempo, meant for some particularly long days and nights. Leaving in style, we entertained our friends and neighbours with events ranging from 'Sun-downer Drinks', to a thank you dinner for the Poachers for their support, right through to rustling-up a top quality, freshly cooked English Breakfast (complete with Drummers, Colours, Mess Silver and video show) for the UN Force Commander and HQ Staff. Notwithstanding the usual high frequency of visitors that included Comd 49 Bde (Brig Andrew Williams) and Deputy Commander 5<sup>th</sup> Div (Brig John Crackett), without doubt the visits by the Colonel-in-Chief and the Lord Mayor of Leicester were most significant and provided a real high point in this, the closing month of the tour. Mid-September saw the departure of our Op HERRICK 16 personnel and a number of key players returning to the UK to mentor 23 Pnr Regt RLC on their collective training and MRX prior to deploying as our relief. Handover commences on 17 Sep and by the time you read this we will all be back in the UK and, hopefully, on some well-earned leave.

Meanwhile back in the UK, troops readied themselves for the Annual Deployment Exercise. This year saw a sensible combining of resources between Bdes and, noting that HERRICK Infantry Field Firing was already on the cards, all our soldiers deployed to Sennybridge in either firing or supporting roles to take part in a 2 week package run by 3 R WELSH. At the close of this demanding and, for those returning from Cyprus, wet and chilly fortnight, 3 R WELSH graciously conceded that our soldiers had been the most professional, dedicated and motivated – a fine accolade from a rival battalion indeed!

And so we draw to the end of what has been a ground-breaking 6-month period in many ways; Op TOSCA has provided some real and unique challenges and, especially at this critical time for Reserve Forces, delivered a significant contribution to that UN mission. So make sure people know that Reservists from this Regiment, bound together in a highly motivated and 'can do' Group, out-performed all other rotations in recent memory on this difficult and politically fraught deployment.

Back at home we look forward to the mobilisation of the HERRICK 16 soldiers and the detailed planning for the next training year and predicted C2 move to 20 Bde in Spring 12. All the time we are looking for new recruits that are up for a challenge and want to deploy on operations - so please help in getting the word out.