



09/12

ROYAL ANGLIAN NEWS

SEP 12

1st BATTALION HOMECOMING PARADES

1. The 1st Battalion, accompanied by the Band of the Prince of Wales Division, will conduct Homecoming Parades over the period 5 - 9 November. The parades will take place at 1230 hrs (step off) each day and the programme is as follows:

- Mon 5 Nov: Ipswich
- Tue 6 Nov: Romford (London Borough of Havering)
- Wed 7 Nov: Diss
- Thu 8 Nov: Basildon (Colonel-in-Chief is attending)
- Fri 9 Nov: Peterborough

2. Further details are in the attached letter from the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion, Lt Col Mick Aston, which calls for public support at the parades. Please:

- Pass the letter on to Regimental contacts in the counties - Regular, TA, Cadets, RFCA, Associations, RBL, families, friends and supporters. Ask them to pass it on in turn.
- Also pass the letter on to personal civilian contacts, particularly those who are opinion formers or persons of influence - central and local government, civil dignitaries, employers, schools, local press and local celebrities. Ask them to support the Vikings' homecoming and encourage others to do likewise.

3. The Regimental officers responsible for the parades, to whom all queries should be addressed, are as follows:

- **Romford and Basildon:** Area Sec Warley: Maj Tony Jones: Tel: 01277 213051; email: rhqranlian-ahqwarleyareasec@mod.uk
- **Ipswich, Diss and Peterborough:** Area Sec Bury St Edmunds: Maj John Fradley: Tel: 01284 752394; email: rhqranlian-areasec@mod.uk

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: 11 NOVEMBER 2012

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

5. 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 3rd Battalion and conducted by the Honorary Chaplain to The Regiment Father Ken Reeve. IWM Duxford and the Regimental Museum are open 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.

6. 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: rhqranqlian-regsec@mod.uk or tel: 01284 752394.

7. 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.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

8. The Regiment sincerely congratulates Lt Col OCC Brown on his selection for Command of 2 R ANGLIAN wef May 14 until Nov 16.

9. The Regiment also congratulates Lt Col RFL Lyne, CO 3 R ANGLIAN, for his provisional selection for promotion to Col in 2013 in the post of AD Reserves (Army) CLF wef Mar 13.

10. Lt Col MP Aston MC is to be posted from CO 1 R ANGLIAN to SO1 FTU wef Mar 13.

11. **1ST BATTALION**

September brought the final pieces of the jigsaw together in the handover of Nad-e-Ali District to Afghan responsibility. With the transfer this month of the Northern Precincts, security in 90% of the District is now provided by the Afghan National Security Forces with the Battlegroup concentrating on supporting the work of the advisory teams and conducting operations in the contested areas in the Desert. This now sets the conditions for Operation Herrick 17 as we pass the baton to the 1 MERCIAN Battlegroup. As the Battalion steadily returns home over the period 17 Sep – 28 Oct, the tempo will remain high to ensure that no momentum is lost during the Relief in Place and I expect every Viking will be running hard right up to the finish line.

The finale of A (Norfolk) Company's tour came in early September with a large scale operation targeting several insurgent safe havens. Overmatched, the enemy chose to flee and a number of finds were made which contributed to the longer term disruption of their efforts. With their successors on Op Herrick 17 arriving early and being assigned to a different task, A Company could then be released to return home slightly earlier than expected in mid September – a welcome surprise for their families.

B (Suffolk) Company has continued in the important role as the Advisor Team Enabling Company for the largest part of the District, coordinating and supporting the work of seven different advisor teams. A number of B Company operations in the south of the District partnered by the Afghan Intelligence Services resulted in several large hauls of insurgent lethal aid. This was a fitting climax to the superb efforts of the Company and the gains they have made working side by side with their Afghan counterparts.

For C (Essex) Company, the area of Kopak has come under increased insurgent pressure and the Company has responded with an even greater tempo of operations and routine patrolling alongside the Afghan National Police (ANP). Their efforts over the last five months have been highly successful in preventing the enemy from regaining a foothold in this area and I have no doubt that the latest insurgent attempts to destabilise the area will be decisively defeated.

D (Cambridgeshire) Company have continued to fulfil their many responsibilities across the Battlegroup. Of note, the Recce Platoon and Snipers have continued to pursue the enemy in his own territory and have this month conducted a series of bold ambushes to great effect.

Back in the UK the ROG conducted a series of outreach briefings in the Regimental Home Counties, as well as in Bulford, to prepare the Battalion's families for the return of their Vikings. The sterling work of the Welfare Office has continued with visits to Paulton's Park and Chessington World of

Adventures, as well as a day of go-carting, helping to maintain morale in the last month of the tour.

This will be our last newsletter entry from Afghanistan. We look forward to seeing as many of the Regimental Family as possible at the upcoming Homecoming Parades – our chance to say thank you for the tremendous support that has been given to us.

To keep up with the Vikings on Op HERRICK 16 please go to the following web sites, featuring regular updates and photos.

www.facebook.com/1RANGLIAN
www.twitter.com/1_Royal_Anglian

12. 2ND BATTALION

September has seen a smooth transition for 2 R ANGLIAN into regimental duty, as we settle into our new way of life in the rural village of Cottesmore. Unfortunately the rural setting has had no impact on the pace of life as we launched straight into preparation for our deployment to Kenya which takes place at the end of October.

A (Lincolnshire) Company, following their leave period, have braved the Brecon Hills to complete the Pen-Y-Fan; a good shake out after leave which was felt by all. They have also been out on the ranges completing shoots in preparation for Kenya.

B (Leicestershire) Company have begun a steady fitness regime with extensive tabbing to prepare their readiness for deployment on exercise. They have also been out on the ranges, honing their skills and drills at platoon level.

C (Northamptonshire and Rutland) Company have similarly headed to the ranges to get the Company fully prepped for Kenya by organising a sweep up of all outstanding shoots. They have also taken advantage of the new environment and got the troops out to Rutland Water for some well earned AT and sport.

D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company have started with platoon level training and ensuring that their fitness is up to the high standard they require. They have also been conducting weapon familiarisations to ensure that everyone is prepared for the deployment.

HQ Company was put to the test when they deployed to Catterick for CAST. The week long exercise saw an intense planning phase with interaction from all departments across the Battalion. The difference in weather from Cyprus to the UK was felt with the heavy rains causing flooding, but this was no setback for a Battalion well used to adapting to the elements.

Exercise Resolute Poacher took place and saw the rifle companies and Fire Support Company out on the ground at Thetford dealing with a variety of scenarios to prepare them for Kenya. The time and effort being put into the training programme should reap dividends in Kenya ensuring that it runs smoothly and we get the maximum benefit out of the training.

Although the Battalion has been busy, we have still managed to hold several football matches at Kendrew Barracks against local teams. With a win over 16 Regt RA it is a promising start to the season.

The local people have been welcoming and the Officers' Mess extended an invitation to the Rutland Community to attend a Cocktail Party which saw a gathering of many of the key figures from society in attendance. The Poacher's Drums Platoon was called in to put on another sterling performance that was as impressive as ever.

13. 3RD BATTALION

As flowers die and fruit ripens we find that once more the summer seems to have slipped by; more promise than reality. While the seasons may change the level of commitment shown by all ranks of the Battalion to a number of different tasks remains unstinting. We continue to be the most deployed unit in the Reserve; combine this with the first class training we are able to provide our soldiers and the appeal is there for all to see.

Operations:

The Battalion continues to support both HERRICK 16 and TOSCA 12/1 with a view to also providing troops to HERRICK 19 and TOSCA 13/1.

TOSCA

As this is written the individuals who deployed, again, on Op TOSCA should be safely back with their families and the gentle English weather. While it is easy to make fun of this tour the potential for catastrophic diplomatic incident remains very high and once again the soldiers from A Norfolk Company managed to acquit themselves to the standard that has become the hallmark of this Battalion. Indeed so high is our reputation, both on Island and amongst units preparing to deploy, that we are in constant demand to provide both training assistance and on island replacements.

HERRICK

A number of individuals working with our sister Battalion have now returned from HERRICK 16 and are enjoying their hard earned post tour leave. Those who are attached to the Vikings are in the final few days of their tour and looking to return in the near future - RAF willing! I hope to be able to write in next month's newsletter that we have all individuals back safe and sound - however for the moment my hopes and wishes are that the remainder of the tour passes without incident.

Training:

The bulk of the month has been taken up with our ADX (Annual Deployment Exercise) Ex LEOPARD STAR 3, to Sennelager in Germany. The exercise saw two composite companies tested in both live firing and also tactical engagement simulation (TES). Whilst it was at times arduous, and on occasions the weather conspired to add an extra level of difficulty, the two week package achieved all its aims. We were able to provide each and every member of the Battalion the opportunity to be tested in a realistic construct on a training area that afforded significantly more freedom of action than the majority of UK training areas. As a finale to the package the companies were engaged in a strike operation on the UDTA village, where they fought their way into a well defending urban location. Concurrent to the normal training a number of bespoke cadres were also run including GPMG (SF) and also the beginnings of the build up training for a Cambrian Patrol team. The latter found themselves spending more than a little time tabbing round the Hartz mountains under the kind ministrations of WO2 Groom - the quote 'I thought this part of Germany was flat' was regularly heard echoing down the valleys.

To ensure that the time spent in Germany also added some cultural value for the troops, a number of excursions were provided to immerse individuals in the history of the area. The BGLO, Capt Ginns, made up for his shocking field administration by providing trips to Hermannsdenkmal (the sight of the destruction of three Roman legions by a local warlord), Wewelsburg Castle (the spiritual home of the SS) and the Mohnesee Dam of 'Dam Busters' Fame. Each visit was bracketed with a full explanation of the significance of the activity prior to departure and the opportunity to experience some of the local 'alternate' culture after the visit.