



# The Royal Anglian REGIMENT



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014

## Regimental Matters

**Regimental Golden Jubilee.** See page 5 for a piece on the very successful Regimental Golden Jubilee celebrations and presentation of Colours to all three battalions.



The Commandant of Suffolk ACF is pleased to announce that the next Suffolk ACF Regimental Sergeant Major will be SMI (CSM) Peter Fowler (*photo, below right*). His late Father Major Mick (Growler) Fowler Quartermaster 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment would be extremely proud. He assumed the appointment on 28 June 2014.



The Regiment congratulates the following officers on their command appointments:

- Lt Col Guy Foden 1<sup>st</sup> Bn - Feb 16
- Lt Col Nick Charlwood ITB Pirbright - Aug 16
- Lt Col Mark Nicholas Cambridge UOTC - Aug 14

The Regiments congratulates the following Corporals on their selection for promotion to Sergeant

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| • Cpl JA Chapman | • Cpl AR Miller   |
| • Cpl A Cooper   | • Cpl KM Peacock  |
| • Cpl AJ Daly    | • Cpl MT Prescott |
| • Cpl CA Davitt  | • Cpl DW Rawdon   |
| • Cpl JM Gibbs   | • Cpl AKS Stearne |
| • Cpl GO Hughes  | • A/Sgt SD Turner |
| • Cpl LG Meadows | • A/Sgt D Watson  |

RHQ has been informed of the following appointments:

- Maj A I Maclay to SO2 Plans Andover Sep 14
- Maj S R Smith to MA to COS UNFICYP Mar 14
- Maj T G Coleman CD Info HQ Andover
- Capt S I Broomfield from CTCRM to CTG HQ Warminster Nov 14
- Capt W S Otridge from 2nd Bn to HQ FDT Costs Andover Sep 14

The Regiment is proud to be able to congratulate Field Marshal The Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE DL on being appointed to the honorary rank of Field Marshal.

## 1st Battalion (The Vikings)

It has been a busy Summer for the Vikings who have conducted a Unit Move, celebrated Minden Day, the Presentation of the New Colours, preparation for the INVICTUS Games as well as conducting other more 'normal' training.

July saw the Bn move from Bulford Garrison in Wiltshire to Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich. The Bn is now fully settled in London and enjoying the benefits of being based in the Capital.

The 255<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Minden Day was celebrated late this year after the Bn returned from Summer Leave. It was the first major event to be held by the Bn at the new barracks in Woolwich. A number of VIPs including Tony Jones and Bob Filbey were there to present the Minden Roses to the soldiers on parade. The afternoon saw a selection of soldiers participating in Inter-Coy competitions including Tug of War and an Egg and Spoon race.

Between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of August much of the Bn was involved in the preparation and rehearsals for the Changing of the Colours at Duxford. This involved a number of rehearsals but was time well spent as evidenced by the excellent performance of the Regiment on the day.



*Above: Scenes From the Golden Jubilee Celebrations*

The Bn has also been involved in preparing to support the INVICTUS Games. The INVICTUS Games are taking place between the 10-14 Sep and is an international multi sport event for Wounded, injured and Sick Service personnel and veterans from 13 nations. They will participate in nine adaptive sports. As one of the most operationally experienced units in the Army today (4 tours of Afghanistan and 1 of Iraq since 2002) the Bn has experienced combat and casualties and fully grasps the spirit of these Games and the incredible power of sport as a vehicle for recovery. In particular the Bn will be putting their full support behind one of our former soldiers, Alex Tate, injured on Op HERRICK 16, who will be competing in the 100m and 100m Relay.

The Bn would also like to congratulate LCpl Kenway and Pte Oheme from C (Essex) Company who have been selected for the Army Boxing Squad, a fantastic achievement which reflects the continuous drive amongst our soldiers to achieve outstanding results.

The coming months will see the Bn continuing to prepare for it's deployment to Kabul and Mali.



## 2nd Battalion (The Poachers)

**COMMANDING OFFICER'S FAREWELL.** The penultimate day before stand down for Summer leave was Lt Col Johnson's final day as CO of The Poachers. The soldiers lined the route out of camp singing The Lincolnshire Poacher whilst the Officers and SNCO's dragged a WIMIK with the CO on board to the front gates of Kendrew Barracks. Lt Col Brown has now taken command of the Battalion.



### OFFICERS' VS WO & SGTS' MESS CRICKET

After last years conclusive victory the WO & Sgts' Mess were out for revenge. As the RSM bowled out the CO with his first ball hopes were high amongst the SNCOs. Unfortunately it was not to be and the remaining officers swiftly recovered from the opening shock and held on to their victors title for another year.



### CPLS' VS WO & SERGEANTS' MESS FOOTBALL.

With days to go before Summer leave the Corporals' Mess challenged the WO & Sergeants' Mess. This year was a victory for youth and agility over experience and endurance as the Corporals produced a conclusive 6-1 victory.





## 3rd Battalion (The Steelbacks)

The 3rd Battalion's training took a further step towards Army 2020 capability in July, with Ex STEELBACK THUNDER - a collective training exercise on Salisbury Plain, with a specific focus on developing the command abilities of the Battalion up to company level within a Battlegroup context.



The Officers' Mess enjoyed a Summer Ball to remember at Norwich Castle, dining and dancing the night away in a quite stunning setting. Well done to the PMC, Maj Gay Rushmere on a fantastic night where we bid a fond farewell to two stalwarts of the Battalion and Regiment, Cpts Sam Devitt and Bob Grenfell; the pair have accumulated over 80 years' service between them!

The summer also marked the Battalion's adventurous training period, with Steelbacks sailing in the Solent, walking, climbing and coasteering in Snowdonia, and caving in the Peak District among other activities.



With the Battalion's recruiting efforts starting to show fruition, we were delighted to see Stowmarket Reservist, Pte Karl Standing awarded the Best Recruit award in his Phase One Training.

And finally, the Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment played a special role in a BBC documentary about the 'Beechey Boys', five Lincolnshire brothers tragically killed in the First World War. Providing accompanying music to a re-enactment of the story at Lincoln Arboretum.

See: <http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/PICTURES-Performance-marks-tragic-story-Beechey/story-21942467-detail/story.html> for more details.



# Golden Jubilee

The Royal Anglian Regiment has been presented with new Colours as it celebrates its Golden Jubilee.

Some 5,000 soldiers, veterans and their families gathered at the Imperial War Museum Duxford on Sun 31 Aug to mark the anniversary and the arrival of the new Colours, which were presented by the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester.



The Royal Anglian Regiment was formed in 1964 from the county regiments of East Anglia and the East Midlands, carrying on the proud traditions of units whose history that can be traced back to 1685.

The Colours, originally carried as a rallying point on the battlefield, carry the Regiment's battle honours and represent its loyalty to the Crown, devotion to duty and honour. New Colours are only presented every generation with the previous Colours presented in 1995 at Duxford, where the Royal Anglian Regimental Museum and the Regimental Memorial have since been established.

More than 200 soldiers from the Regiment's three battalions, two regular and one reserve, were on parade while their antecedent Colours were marched off for the final time. A service of consecration for the new Colours then took place, led by the Chaplain-General to the Army the Reverend Jonathan Woodhouse, assisted by the Regimental Padres.

At the end of the service, the Duke said: "I am delighted to be present at this historic occasion and take great pleasure in presenting these Colours on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen.

"The Royal Anglian Regiment is very modern and forward thinking, but we hold our county roots very close to our heart and our history and geography contribute so much to who we are.

"The Regiment is also a family and we have three fighting battalions at the core of a community built on the support of our families, veterans and home towns. We would not be able to sustain our excellent standards without that solid support.

"I am very proud of this Regiment which represents everything great about the British Army and has contributed to all of the major campaigns and deployments of the last 50 years. If anything the scope, breadth and tempo of the regiment's work is set to increase and I know it is in fine health to rise to the challenges to come."

Lieutenant General Phil Jones CBE, the Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment, said: "Having lived in the Regiment for my whole life, I feel enormously proud to be involved as the regiment receives its new Colours. It is a special day and we are honoured that His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester has been able to present the Colours. This parade has allowed us to gather the regimental family together to reflect on our heritage, the sacrifice of so many and the steadfastness of our soldiers.

"We are also celebrating our first 50 years as a modern infantry regiment which, through service in all of the British Army's operations across the world in that period, has upheld the proud traditions of our antecedent regiments. As we look to the challenges of future operations in an uncertain world we are determined to continue living up to our regimental ethos – we make it happen."

The Regiment's Golden Jubilee celebrations also include a Beating Retreat, with music from the Band of The Queens Division, The Royal Anglian Band and the Corps of Drums of The Royal Anglian Regiment, and an Act of Remembrance at the Regimental Memorial.

See our website: [www.royalanglianregiment.com/golden-jubilee.html](http://www.royalanglianregiment.com/golden-jubilee.html) for a link to a slideshow of the day. More photos to come in the very near future.