

COUNCIL – 4TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Report of the Chief Executive

5.1 FREEDOM OF ENTRY – ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

Purpose of Report

To recognise the service and achievements by the Royal Anglian Regiment and its close links with the Borough of Charnwood by granting them Freedom of entry to the Borough of Charnwood.

Recommendation

That Freedom of Entry to the Borough of Charnwood be granted upon the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Background to Freedom of Entry

The practice of granting the 'Freedom of Entry' upon military units has its roots deep in the history of local government; it is an interesting example of the power and influence of old boroughs in the past. During the Middle Ages, formed bodies of troops were not allowed to march through a borough without seeking the permission of the Council. As most boroughs were surrounded by a fortified wall the city fathers were in a position to refuse access if, for some reason, they were suspicious of the Military Commander's intentions. The Freedom of entry would normally be granted to locally based troops once mutual confidence and friendship had been established and when the citizens were satisfied that the troops would protect their interests.

Permission to enter confers upon individual Regiments the right "to march through the city with due ceremonial, drums beating, bands playing and banner flying", in recognition of the confidence, trust and friendship existing between the citizens and soldiers. Such permission is accompanied by a sealed and illuminated certificate, which is presented at a formal parade where the Mayor inspects the assembled troops and then invites all involved to a reception.

The Royal Anglian Regiment

The Royal Anglian Regiment or one of its ancestors has taken part in almost every major campaign since the 17th Foot was raised in 1688. In 1823 the Leicestershire Regiment was awarded the Honour of wearing the insignia of the Royal Tiger superimposed with the word HINDOOSTAN, in recognition of its exemplary service and conduct during its campaigning and long tour in India from 1804-1823. Since that time the Regiment was always proudly called "The Tigers". The tiger continues today to be closely linked with Leicestershire.

The Royal Anglian Regiment, an Infantry Regiment formed on 1st September 1964 by union of the regiments of the East Anglian Brigade, which included ten county

regiments, one of which was the county regiment of Leicestershire and Rutland. The regiment became the first of the present day large regiments in the British Army.

The 2nd Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment "The Poachers" is Charnwood's local infantry battalion recruiting from Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire.

The 'Poachers' are currently deployed in Iraq as part of 20 Armoured Brigade, and are undertaking various roles whilst deployed on OP TELIC 8. The deployment will be remembered by the tragic deaths on the 13th May 2006 of Private Adam Morris and Private Joseva Lewaicei. They both died of injuries sustained from a roadside bomb in Basra, Iraq whilst on a routine patrol.

Recent deployments have seen the 'Poachers' conducting peace keeping duties in, Bosnia, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan,

The Commanding Officer says of the of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment "We are a County based battalion who place great value on our links with our hometowns."

In order to recognise the service of the Regiment and in particular the service of individual soldiers from the Borough of Charnwood, a Freedom of Entry Ceremony is being planned for early 2007 prior to the 2nd Battalion being deployed to Celle (Germany) in the summer of 2007.

Background Papers: Civic Street, Issue 5 - Autumn 2004 (p6-7); NACO.
Royal Anglian Regiment Website
(<http://www.army.mod.uk/royalanglian>)
Land Forces of Britain, the Empire and the Commonwealth
<http://www.regiments.org>

Officer to Contact: Darren Tilley, (01509) 634781
darren.tilley@charnwood.gov.uk