

REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER



EDITION 7
January 2010

RHQ News

Happy New Year from us all at RHQ and the AHQs. I hope you are all well wherever you may be, not too snowed under, and that you are looking forward to a momentous year for the Regiment. The highlight of 2010 is undoubtedly going to be the Presentation of New Colours in June but don't let that overshadow too much the many other events that will be taking place throughout the year and of course the on-going operation in Afghanistan. I draw your attention to the Regimental Forecast of Events on the website which lists all the activities.

New Colours The important dates to note are Fri & Sat 18 & 19 Jun. The Old Colours will be marched off parade for the last time. The New Colours will be consecrated by the Chaplain General, presented by the Colonel in Chief and finally trooped. Following the parade there will be lunch and a chance to meet up with old friends.

The following day, Sat 19 Jun, the Regiment will march through York to a Church Service in York Minster. Afterwards there will be a Curry Lunch back at Imphal Barracks to provide a fitting close to an excellent two days with the Regimental family.

The letter setting out all the details of where, when, who and how much is being sent out in Feb. If you haven't received a letter by mid-March you should contact the Colours Project Office, ideally by e-mail at yorkscolours@btconnect.com.

Regimental Weekend – although the Colours Parade is pre-eminent as a Regimental event, there is a Regimental w/e taking place in May. Separate instructions have or will be sent out on all of the following:

Fri 21 May
a.m – Regimental Board Meeting in RHQ;
p.m – Regimental Golf Meeting at Harrogate GC (a few spaces still available);
Evening – PWO Officers' Dinner in York.

Sat 22 May – Yorkshire Regiment Maiden Stakes at York Racecourse. (Please note that tickets are selling fast for this already).

Sun 23 May – GH Richmond Sunday.

Casualties

You will all be aware that the Regiment has suffered a number of casualties over the last 6-9 months – some of them serious. There are soldiers currently in both Selly Oak hospital (2) and Headley Court (3) who would appreciate the occasional visit. Assistance with organising such a visit can be provided by Bn UWOs or RHQ.

Battalions

The following is a brief update on Battalion activities; more information can be found on ArmyNET:-

1 YORKS – Despite being in recuperation and the FoE relatively clear, the Bn has been busy. Post all associated Op TELIC 13 recovery activity the Bn has received and successfully integrated a Gurkha Reinforcement Coy (GRC3) and been completely re-ORBATed. The capstone event was the Bn live firing camp which solidified the ORBAT.

The latter half of the period has focused on securing the G1/G4 flanks culminating in the Bn's Combined Inspection Week – passed with a more than satisfactory standard. 1 YORKS, after its fragmented recent past, is now functioning as a coherent Bn again, working to a common ethos and standard.

A Coy heads off to the Falkland Islands towards the end of Feb where it is hoped they will meet up with HMS YORK. Later in the year it looks like a return to BATUS.

During the week 12 – 16 Oct, 13 platoons from across the Bn competed in the inter platoon competition for the Geddes Cup.

Nothing more than an extended March and Shoot (...with additional twists maybe); It was won by Recce Pl with a C Coy (Gurkha) Pl second.

Throughout the period a large number of soldiers have undertaken numerous different types of AT; ranging from 45 soldiers trekking in Spain to parachuting and paragliding in Bavaria, with more in the pipeline.

2 YORKS – 2 YORKS have deployed on Op HERRICK 11 as the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT) BG, part of 11 (Light) Brigade. The BG includes numerous cap-badges including 1 RHA, 27 Regt RLC, 4 Bn REME, 261 Sigs Sqn and RAMC personnel. The Take Over of Authority with 2 MERCIAN BG on 20 Sep 09 was particularly poignant as it coincided with Alma Day; a battle honour both Bns share as they fought side by side in the Great Redoubt in 1854, 155 years prior to TOA. Needless to say the significance was not lost on the assembled personnel who attended a joint parade for the TOA followed by a Regimental Dinner with senior staff from both Bns.

It will come as no surprise that time has flown while on tour. The OMLT BG has already been involved in numerous operations and has contributed enormously to the operational successes. Sadly this has come at a cost with several WIA – some seriously. All have been inspirational in their attitude despite the severity of their injuries.

On return from tour and POTL the Bn aspires to mount AT activities. These plans include an expedition to cross the deserts of Jordan as well as the formation of an Adventure Racing Team. This contemporary yet popular activity appeals to many within the Bn and will complement the aspiration for all to participate in some form of low level AT post POTL.

Many challenges await them during the rest of the tour. With a proven record of operational excellence it is guaranteed that they will maintain the reputation of the Regiment.

3 YORKS – Another challenging and demanding period with the Bn committed to current ops. Burma Coy provided the bulk of the short notice deployment of battle casualty replacements (BCRs) to reinforce Op HERRICK 10. Burma Coy Gp returned from Afghanistan on 06 Nov 09 bringing a wealth of Op experience and confidence back into the Bn after their extraordinary and unique tour. Corporal Reid continues to make good

progress recovering from his injuries. There are currently 71 personnel deployed on Op HERRICK 11.

3 YORKS are the Army Rugby League Champions for the fifth time since 2002. A team of 2 soldiers and 2 officers won the Infantry Clay Target Shooting Championships in mid Sep 09. The Bn has also provided the bulk of the boxers, with 9 soldiers in full time boxing to fight against the LANCS in the 'War of the Roses' Charity Boxing Night on 12 Nov 09.

The next months will be focused on supporting 3 YORKS force elements deployed on Op HERRICK 11, sustaining readiness of the BCRs and normalising the Burma Coy BCRs. Alma Coy will deploy on Op FIRIC in the Falkland Islands Jan / Feb 10. Burma Coy will provide training support for Ex GRAND PRIX in Kenya. Concurrently, there will be a switch in focus to rebuilding our armoured infantry capability for BATUS in early 2011.

4 YORKS – A challenging year in many respects that saw the culmination of the Op HERRICK 11 training and the integration of 45 pax into various units within 11 (Light) Bde. We also deployed to BATUS for Annual Camp. The uncertainty on return from camp unsettled the Bn but now that funding has been reinstated they hope to move forward with some relevant training.

Annual Camp this year was conducted on the prairies of BATUS. It was a huge success. The Bn deployed into the field for a period of 12 days and conducted all Phases of War as both AI and Lt Role Companies within an Armoured OPFOR BG. All members of the Bn were fully integrated into the BG and all were tested; particularly the OCs, for whom the training was invaluable.

Over the coming months the Bn will be focused on training and specifically the transition to Field Firing. In addition to this we are looking at supporting both 1 and 3 YORKS as they deploy Coys to undertake two rotations of Op FIRIC in the Falkland Islands. Funding still remains a major constraint.

YRA News

The first issue of the YRA Rule Book has now been published and it is being given to our trainees at the ITC(C). This move was welcomed by the Permanent Staff as it is looked upon as an excellent tool in helping

them with the retention of our trainees as they bond with the Regiment.

The YRA holds its first Branch Officials Meeting in Worsley Barracks, York on 30 Jan. It is very much hoped that these meetings will become an annual event so that Yorkshire Regiment events can be planned and discussed and we can actively encourage the merger of the old with the new to secure greater success for the YRA in the future.

Antecedent Activity

PWO – The highlight of the period, for this AHQ, has undoubtedly been the annual PWO reunion, with 1 YORKS in Munster, with almost 200 members of the Regimental Association making the trip. On the evening of Thurs 01 Oct, coach-loads from Leeds, Hull, Sheffield, Bradford and York assembled at Hull docks for Phase 1 of the event, with that evening being the main reunion for many. Arrival at Oxford Barracks on Fri lunchtime was followed by more reunions with both the serving personnel and the 50 or so who had made the journey separately; many living in Germany and Spain. Two excellent parties on Fri and Sat and another memorable ferry journey on Sun meant that it will be a fondly remembered reunion for a number of years.

On the Thurs preceding Remembrance Sunday, many ex-PWO officers and soldiers made the annual pilgrimage to the Field of Remembrance, outside Westminster Abbey, to witness the Duke of Edinburgh open the Field. Hundreds of veterans, from every Corps and Regiment in the Army, gathered to honour their former comrades. Crosses, large and small were laid to recognise those who had died in conflicts, ranging from the 1st World War to the current one in Afghanistan. As many had travelled from far and wide, it would have been foolish not to retire to a local hostelry for fish and chips and a half of shandy. This ceremony was followed up the following Sun by the laying of wreaths at memorials throughout West and East Yorkshire, by branches of the Association.

On the evening of Thurs 12 Nov, ex-PWO LE officers joined several hundred other guests in the Royal Armouries in Leeds, in black tie, for a re-enactment of the War of the Roses. The Yorkshire Regiment and The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment put on a superb display of Army boxing, with boxers being drawn from all five regular battalions of the two regiments. It proved to be an excellent night for the spectators and for the Yorkshire

Regiment Benevolent Fund, which benefited very well financially.

The staff of AHQ (York) were joined by the staffs of RHQ, AHQ (Halifax) and AHQ (Richmond) for a most excellent Christmas lunch, on Fri 18 Dec. It was a very good opportunity to say thank you for all the hard work throughout the year.

More news at www.pwo-yorkshire.museum

GH – The Green Howards Museum had an excellent year and is going on from strength to strength under the guidance of the Director and Curator, Mrs Lynda Powell. It was reported that the visitor figures are better than the National Average for Museums, without doubt and in comparison to last year's figures, the takings from the Museum entrance fees and the shop have increased significantly. The staff in AHQ (Richmond) have been busy with activities and events between Jul and Dec 09. 2009 concluded with the annual AHQ and GH Museum Staffs Christmas Luncheon that was held on the 15 Dec 09 in the King's Head Hotel, Richmond and was attended by Maj Gen Farquhar.

It is very sad that I report that Lt Col Neil McIntosh MBE, who had been the Regimental Secretary to The Green Howards for 16 years, passed away on 13 Oct. His family had a private funeral service at Darlington Crematorium on 29 Oct which was followed by a Memorial Service in St Mary's Church and the Green Howards' Regimental Chapel on the same afternoon. The Memorial Service was very well attended by family, Officers of The Green Howards, Association members and his many friends and colleagues. After the Memorial Service 146 guests were served drinks and refreshments in the Green Howards' Regimental Museum. Lt Col Neil McIntosh had a wealth of knowledge on the history of The Green Howards with whom he had served all his adult life and he will truly be sadly missed by both his family and all Green Howards who had known him.

Thirty-eight Green Howards Officers held their Annual Dinner in the Army & Navy Club, London on Fri 25 Sep 09. It was a very enjoyable dinner, served in excellent surroundings and of course, in distinguished and outstanding company.

The Reverend Canon Richard Cooper retired from his Parish duties in Sep 09 but he has kindly agreed to continue to serve as our Regimental Chaplain and preliminary plans have already been agreed for the laying up of

The Green Howards 1st and 2nd Bn Colours in the Green Howards' Regimental Chapel in 2011.

The GHA held their Annual Reunion in Scarborough over the period 16 - 18 Oct. With over 300 tickets sold it was one of the best attended Reunions in the last decade. It also made a very healthy profit!

More news at www.greenhowards.org.uk

DWR – In Sep and Oct 1944, the 1st Bn of the Dukes, as part of the 1st (UK) Division, was fighting its way up the Apennines, north of Florence, liberating the small town of Palazzuolo-Sul-Senio and capturing the strategic feature of 'Monte Cece', an ugly feature of 760 metres which dominated the country for miles around. After finally securing the crest of Monte Cece, the CO, Lt Col F P St M Shiel, was mortally wounded. During the final phase of the operation, Pte Richard Burton won the first Regimental VC of the war.

Over the weekend of 19/20 Sep, a small group of serving and retired 3 YORKS / 'Dukes' were invited by the Mayor of Palazzuolo-Sul-Senio, to attend the anniversary of liberation of that area of Italy. The group included Maj Matt Palmer, Liam McCormick, Humphrey Bradley, Bob Heron, David Harrap and Drum Major Oxley. We were joined in Italy by Maj William Shiel, the son of Lt Col Shiel who was killed on Monte Cece, and the Defence Attaché from the British Embassy in Rome.

The two main events of the weekend were: on Sat an informal 'Remembrance' ceremony on the summit of Monte Cece, where there are now memorial plaques to 3 Brigade and the 1st (UK) Division and on Sun, a much more formal parade and ceremony in the town centre which included the local Italian Army '66 Airmobile Regiment', Italian veterans and pretty much everyone else in the town (or so it seemed!). British and Italian wreaths were laid at the memorial in the town square. DMaj Oxley sounded the Last Post at both these events.

I should also say that the hospitality we received from everyone at Palazzuolo was nothing short of amazing and we left with an invitation to return.

On the 30 Sep 09, a small ceremony was held in Bankfield Museum to hand over a cheque for £1,500 from a Halifax Mason's Lodge, in memory of one of their former members, who served in the 'Dukes' and was

killed in the First World War. The donation was towards the costs of the recently refurbished WW1 section of the museum.

Held in the Hilton Hotel, Bradford, on Sat 03 Oct, just over 200 attended the Annual Regimental Association Dinner. The theme for the evening was 'Northern Ireland 1979-82'. About 90 people attended a pre-dinner drinks reception which was exclusively for people serving in the 'Dukes' during the two Northern Ireland tours during that period. Brig Dick Mundell, who was CO for both tours, presided.

Many members of the 'Dukes' Association attended the twinning ceremony held in Skipton Town Hall on Sat 24 Oct. The links between the two towns have been forged by their links to the 'Dukes'. Skipton presented the 'Honorary Citizenship' to the Regiment in 1991 and Erquinghem-Lys presented the 'Key' to the town in 2005. A memorial to Pte Arthur Poulter VC is already located in Erquinghem-Lys who have plans to name a roundabout in the town 'The Duke of Wellington's Roundabout' on Sat 15 May 10.

The Molar Dinner was held in the Officers' Mess 3 YORKS on Fri 27 Oct. 18 officers attended. The dinner is exclusively for Dukes officers 'commissioned from the ranks'. The name 'Molar' stems from the time of 'radio appointment titles'. The QM's appointment title was 'MOLAR'.

Key events over the coming months are as follows:

- 13 Mar - 3 YORKS Freedom, Presentation and Parade, Wakefield
- 29 May - 33/76 Social Evening, Strensall
- 18 Jun - Dukes Officers' Ladies Dinner, York
- 22-25 Jun - 3 YORKS Freedom Parades:
 - Barnsley, Kirklees (22),
 - Rotherham, Sheffield (23),
 - Craven (Skipton), Bradford (25)
- 26 Jun - Freedom of Calderdale, followed by service in Halifax Minster to 'Lay Up' the final stand of DWR Regulation Colours.

More news at www.dwr.org.uk

Benevolence

In 2009 the Regt received over £100,000 in charitable donations. This came mainly in the shape of two very generous donations from Hesco Bastion.

Your Benevolence Case Committee has dealt with more cases this year than in any of the previous 3 years, spending over £70k already (2 months to go this year).

Recruiting / Marketing

It has continued to be a busy period for the regional recruiting offices and the Field Teams. As at 31 Dec, 378 young men were waiting to join the Regt. Our best areas for recruitment continue to be the Leeds and Sheffield groups. Recruiting has now recommenced in Stockton on Tees after a three year gap, thanks mainly to the Regt being granted the Freedom of the Borough. Looking forward into 2010 we are working closely with King's Div and Recruiting Group to increase the numbers of Phase One training places that are to be allocated for our use.

A lot of work has been undertaken at RHQ over the past 12 months to increase the regimental profile within the region, this has taken the form of charity events, the War of the Roses Boxing and a number of tie-ups with local sporting teams: Leeds United, Leeds Rhinos, Huddersfield Town, and Sheffield Wednesday. This work will be continued to maximize the PR and exposure offered by the Presentation of New Colours and the attendant fourteen freedom parades.

The Journal

The 8th Edition of the Journal, focussing on our Families, is due out in the Spring so anyone wishing to contribute an article is asked to do so by 1st Mar. If any reader would like to subscribe to the Journal, at the very reasonable price of £10 per year (for two copies) then please contact the Editor at RHQ.

Appointments & Promotions

The following appointments have been announced:

Lt Col Bradbury to command 1 YORKS
Lt Col Crowley to command 4 YORKS
Lt Col Astley to command Infantry Training Centre

The following were all selected for promotion to Maj on the latest Beige List: Capts Armitage, Awad, Exton, Nelson, Smith (E) & Willis.

WO1s Kesterton & Urey have been selected for Commissions.

Honours

Maj Cunningham was awarded an MBE in the most recent New Year's Honours list:

Sports News

1 YORKS ski team won best Reg Inf Team, beating a loaded 'Guards Div' team and came second overall in the Inf behind a 'Semi-Pro' 4 PARA team. They won the team Giant Slalom and Super G and came second in the down-hill. Overall they won 22 medals.

LCpl Ryan came second in the Inf and he, Capt Pickles and LCpl King were selected for the 8-man Inf team.

Apart from the races already mentioned, there is cricket's Yorkshire Regiment Roses Match at Headingley on Sat 29 May. And do make a note of a day out at Lord's for the Combined Services T20 day on Tue 27 Jul. Both events will raise funds for H4H.

End Pieces

Wrist Bands – please see the attached letter and see if you can help generate further support, both moral and financial, for the Regiment.

'Woolly Pully' – the new Regimental jumper for wear in Barrack Dress has been delivered to 1 YORKS. Bns are being sent their allocation. Officers at 'E' should request theirs through their parent PRI.

Armed Forces Day – this year is being celebrated on Sat 26 Jun. 2 YORKS will be marching through Bridlington & Scarborough and 3 YORKS will be marching through Halifax and laying up their old Colours.

.....and Finally

There is no Yorkshire Regiment Museum as yet but we in RHQ accepted temporary loan of a very distinguished grotesque from York Minster this month. The 'Keeper of the Souls' was designed and carved by Lee Godfrey, a Carver at York Minster's stoneyard, as an interpretation piece to represent soldiers in the Yorkshire Regiment. This will be part of the series of grotesques which have the theme of 'illness and ailments' and will be fixed at the corona on Area 2 of York Minster, once warmer weather allows fixing to continue. The idea to create such a piece came from the Colonel in Chief on a visit to the stoneyard last year. It will be on display in RHQ until early summer. Please come and admire it while you can.

"Fortune Favours the Brave"

THE YORKSHIRE REGIMENT ON OPERATIONS WRISTBAND

Many of you will be aware that The Regiment has a three-colour wristband inviting wearers to support 'The Yorkshire Regiment on Operations'. The wristbands have proved to be very popular with the general public, selling several thousand during the summer. In fact we have probably sold in the region of 20,000 since their inception. I am now writing to our wider regimental family to help us raise even more money for the support of our troops in Afghanistan.

To enable us to do this, I am asking that you not only purchase a wristband for yourself, but also for those that you work and socialise with, your family, friends and colleagues, the local pub and the Post Office and order enough to provide for all those that wish to help. If you order 5 or more, we can claim Gift Aid back from the Government.

To order the bands, please complete the order form and Gift Aid Form below, enclosing your payment. The bands cost £1 each and the more you sell the more we can raise to support our men, whom we all know, give so much. Thank you.

Please send me _____ wristbands (minimum order 5).
I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to 'The Yorkshire Regiment Charitable Trust'.
Send this form to: RHQ The Yorkshire Regiment, 3 Tower Street, YORK YO1 9SB.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Charity Name – The Yorkshire Regiment Charitable Trust (Reg No: 1114624)

Details of Donor: (Bands to be sent to this address)

Title _____ Forename(s) _____

Surname _____

Address:
.....
.....

Postcode:

Signed:

Date:

I confirm I am a UK tax payer. (Please do not sign if you are not a tax payer).