

REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER



EDITION 5

January 2009

Happy New Year to everyone!

Battalions

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

1 YORKS – has completed its Arms Plot move to Munster, trained and deployed B Coy to Kosovo and now the majority of the Battalion are deployed in Iraq having very recently completed pre-deployment training in southern Germany. This has been a busy period, even by the current standards of the Field Army.

Despite the turbulence of all of the above the Bn remains in good spirits and we have, without doubt established ourselves as a community and a going concern in Munster. Retention rates have/are holding up and with regimental recruitment slowly starting to improve. The Bn could potentially start to see a net increase in manning over the next 6 months.

Rear Party will remain in place until 30 Jun, with B Coy returning in Mar (3 months ahead of the Bn).

2 YORKS – has now completed a period of leave, adventurous training, recruiting and reorganisation. Key members of the Bn have changed over and all are now fully integrated into the Bn. The primary focus has been on the recuperation of the Bn on completion of a challenging but rewarding tour.

A full programme awaits the Bn with the build up to Op HERRICK 11. This will be balanced against the requirements to support Ex GRAND PRIX 5 & 6 in the New Year as well as Collective Training Level 3 and pre-deployment training. There is never a dull moment and despite the pace of life, the Bn

is buoyant, confident and ready to face the challenges that await.

3 YORKS – after the move to 12 Bde, training for BATUS began in earnest. A great deal of work was required to adapt to the contemporary operating environment. However, the Battalion's deployment on Ex MED MANs 3, 4 & 5 was extremely successful; the 3 YORKS BG gained a Collective Training Level 4; Corunna Coy were key in the KRH BG's CT Level 4 and the Bn utilised its experience to become a daunting OPFOR.

In October the Bn took part in Freedom Parades across Yorkshire, marching in Skipton, Bradford, Barnsley, Sheffield, Halifax and Huddersfield. The marked increase in the amount of Career Office walk-ins demonstrates how successful the marches were.

Pre-deployment training will be exceptionally busy for the Bn as it ensures it is fully prepared for its deployment later this year – to wherever that may be.

4 YORKS – the period through to November 2008 was a busy one for the officers and soldiers of the 4th Battalion. The arrival of a new Comd 15 (NE) Bde has seen a shift in emphasis towards recruiting for both the TA and the Regular Army whilst maintaining commitments to operations and training in support of the Regular Army. Support to operations has increased this year whilst manning and recruitment remain strong, with the Bn seeing a gradual increase in the number of operationally effective soldiers on strength. Training has seen the conduct of an overseas exercise, annual camp, numerous battalion-level weekend exercises and also the deployment of 4 YORKS personnel on overseas exercises in support of 1 YORKS and 3 YORKS.

The Band of The Yorkshire Regiment is going from strength to strength with a projected IOC date of April 09. 4 YORKS were instrumental in the TA100 celebrations conducted throughout last year and have built on already strong links with local communities and the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF).

The Bn looks forward to this year with a potential overseas annual camp at BATUS, Canada. Up to 75 soldiers will deploy on Op HERRICK 11 as a formed unit with an unconfirmed number also deploying on Op HERRICK 11 in support of 2 YORKS. In addition to this the Battalion hopes to provide soldiers to support 2 YORKS during their training in Kenya and reap the benefits of the new Unit Recruiting Plan.

RHQ News

NMA Appeal – a very successful appeal has resulted in raising just over £15k. Thank you very much to all those of you who have generously donated to this very worthwhile project. The Colonel of the Regiment is leading on this personally and more information will be passed on once the project starts to take shape.

Regimental Weekend – takes place on Fri/Sat 05/06 Jun in York. The Officers' Dinner will be in the Merchant Taylors' Hall on Friday – make sure you are a member of the Dinner Club In order to receive further details. The Church Service the following morning will be held in York Minster. The Association AGM will be in Worsley Barracks and it will all be followed by a curry lunch. Please make a note of this in your diary now.



New Colours – I had the pleasure of visiting Hobson's, the uniform manufacturer, before

Christmas and am pleased to report that the new Colours are well under production and are looking fantastic! One set is already complete. Planning is now starting for the parade in June 2010. There will be more on this in the next Journal.

Charity Dinners – a dinner to celebrate the Centenary of the TA was held in the Huddersfield Drill Hall in Nov. Organised by Deputy Honorary Colonel, Charles Dent, the occasion celebrated this TA landmark and also raised about £20k for the ABF.

B Coy 4 YORKS have chosen the Regimental Benevolent Trust as their charity for 2009. Among their many fund-raising events will be a dinner at Headlam Hall, near Darlington, on Friday 24 April. Tickets @ £35 are now available direct from B Coy or through AHQ (Richmond).

Website – the 'old' regimental website (in place since 2006) has now been replaced by new pages on the refurbished Army website – www.army.mod.uk/yorks. Our old site pages have been archived within the regiment's ArmyNET community pages. The new Regimental site is being developed and contains links to our ArmyNET pages. If you haven't done so already you should register and log into ArmyNET and view our Community pages.

Handbook - with the exception of the 1st Battalion, I hope that every officer and SNCO in the Regiment has now received his Regimental Handbook. Please use it as a first point of reference for regimental matters and feel free to let RHQ know of any amendments or additions that are required. There will always be an up-to-date version on the Regiment's ArmyNET Community pages, with links to it from the Regimental website. www.armynet.mod.uk

Recruiting / Marketing

There has been a great deal of effort in trying to turn round the recruiting situation for the Regiment. Whilst there is still some way to go, the figures are improving. The total number of soldiers recruited and entering training has risen from 208 in 07/08 to a forecasted figure of 260 in 08/09. This improvement is set to continue well into the

next recruiting year as the recession digs deeper and Army-wide initiatives planned for the summer come on line and begin to pay dividends.

New recruiting literature has been commissioned and distributed to all YORKS recruiting staff and there is a DVD in the pipeline – probably out by the summer. Maj Gary Wolfenden hands over to Maj Simon Routh as the SO2 M&R at RHQ this month.

Appointments & Promotions

Maj Gen Binns has assumed the appointment of Colonel Commandant The King's Division. He is also appointed to be Commandant Joint Service Command and Staff College in August 2009.

Lt Col David Colthup and Lt Col Tom Vallings took over as COs 2 YORKS and 3 YORKS just prior to Christmas.

Cpts Brown (AJ), Burton, Carr (RM), Crossley, Miller and Wade were all selected for promotion to Maj on the recent Beige List.

We welcome WO1 (RSM) Wildey to 3 YORKS in March. AWO1 Scott has been selected to take over as RSM 2 YORKS, WO2 Stones has been selected as RSM JCTTAT Liaison Team and WO2 (RQMS) Strangeways has been selected to take over as RSM 4 YORKS.

Honours

Congratulations to the following, whose awards appeared in the New Year's Honours List:

Gen Sir Richard Dannatt – GCB
Maj B Johnson, CSgt Simpson, Sgt Crighton and Sgt Jones (SA) – MBE

Forthcoming Events

A complete Forecast of Events can be found on the website. Of sporting note:

Yorkshire Schools Rugby Finals – take place at AFC Harrogate on 28 Mar. Please come and support.

Golf Day – **NB the date and location have changed from that previously advertised:** this event is now set for **Fri 22 May** at West End Golf Club, Halifax and is being coordinated by AHQ (Halifax).

Maiden Stakes – the second running of this race at York takes place on Sat 30 May. Please book early to ensure you get a ticket. This is being coordinated by AHQ (York).

Roses Match – takes place at Headingley on Wed 19 Aug. This is being coordinated by RHQ & AHQ (Richmond). You might also like to note that the RN vs Army match at Lord's is on Thurs 06 Aug.

The Journal

The 6th Edition of the Journal is due out in April so anyone wishing to contribute an article is asked to do so by 02 Mar. I would issue another plea and remind all readers to let RHQ know of changes of address. We get too many Journals 'returned to sender', so, if you're wondering where your last edition is

There are still a few 2009 Regimental Diaries available from RHQ.

Association News

The next YRA Meeting is the AGM at Worsley Barracks, York on Sat 06 Jun at 1200 hrs. Members are encouraged to attend to help shape the future of the Association.

Antecedent Activity

PWO – the most significant event of recent months was the death of Major General AB Crowfoot CB CBE, Colonel of the Regiment from 1986 to 1996. A memorial Service, which was held in the Quire of York Minster, was attended by over 250 people both serving and retired. Field Marshal The Lord Bramall gave the address, in recognition of the fact that ABC had been his Brigade Major in the '60s.

The final Regimental Association event of the year was the Branch Executives' annual lunch held, as always, in Worsley Barracks. Guests this year were Lt Col and Mrs Rhodes

(CO 4 YORKS) and Dickie and Janet Bowen. Dickie served with both The East Yorks and The Green Howards. This is a fun event which gives the Association the opportunity to say thank you to everyone at Branch level for their contribution to the running of the Regimental Association.

2008 was an event-packed year and 2009 promises to equal it with the main event being the trip to 1 YORKS. CO and RSM have extended invitations to the Association and the Sergeants' Dining Club to hold their respective annual gatherings in Münster this year, over the weekend 01 to 05 Oct. Other diary dates are:

08 May - Officers' London Lunch
21 Jun - Imphal Day Celebration
21-24 Jul - 1 YORKS Freedom Parades

Fuller details on these and other events can be obtained from AHQ (York).

GH – during the second half of 2008 the AHQ and the Green Howards Museum staff were all busy with extra duties due to the departure of the Museum Curator (resignation) and the Collection and Development Officer (completion of HLF contract). We wish them both well in their new posts.

There was a very good response to the GH Museum advertisement for the Curator's post and interviews were held on 03 Oct 08. Miss Lynda Powell was appointed to start in the New Year. Lynda has previously acted as an advisor to the GH Trustees when applying for Lottery Funding and she has many contacts both military and civilian within the museum environment.

67 officers attended their Annual Dinner in Sep 08 at the Army and Navy Club in London. 24 members of GHA visited 2 YORKS at Weeton on 13 Sep and on weekend of 24-26 Oct over 300 attended the GHA Annual Reunion in Scarborough.

Mrs Pat Cooper is now the Equality and Diversity Advisor for the AHQ after attending the course at Shrivenham in Nov 08. Our cleaner, Mrs Jordie Gilpin, is now on maternity leave, having given birth to a baby boy in Nov 08.

AHQ arranged a Christmas luncheon at The King's Head Hotel which was attended by 20 staff of which 14 were Museum Volunteers. This was to thank them for their sterling, at times Herculean, efforts and their individual and team contributions to the smooth running of the AHQ and Museum throughout 2008.

Jan 09 sees everyone again being very busy - no rest for the wicked. The Museum Staff are cleaning and polishing the collection and a plethora of different tradesmen are all busy working on projects throughout the AHQ and Museum, in readiness for re-opening to the public in Feb.

DWR – on Sat 25 Oct 08 and following the final Freedom Parades by the 3rd Battalion in Huddersfield and Halifax, 219 'Dukes' and partners attended the annual Regimental Association dinner in the Hilton Hotel, Bradford. Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter presided. Immediately prior to the dinner a small drinks reception was held in the Hilton Hotel for members of the Regiment who were serving during the Bosnia operational tour 1994. About 60 attended, including Brigadier David Santa-Olalla who was the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion at the time.

After five years and two lottery bids, known as 'Through Solders' Eyes' and 'Forgotten Voices', the new style 'Dukes' Museum has opened at the Bankfield Museum in Halifax. Visitors are now taken through the history and heritage of the 'Dukes' from 1702 to the present day with selected campaigns and stories of our West Riding soldiers. The museum was formally opened by Christa Ackroyd, the presenter from BBC Look North, on 11 Nov, exactly ninety years since the guns fell silent on the Western Front in 1918. Our President, Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter welcomed the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, the Mayor of Calderdale, and more than eighty guests including many 'Dukes' spanning the last seventy years.

Sat 25 Apr - Annual Regimental Service, Halifax Parish Church followed by buffet lunch, Halifax Town Hall

Sat 23 May - 33rd and 76th Club social evening, Officers'/Sergeants' Mess, Strensall

Fri 12 Jun - Annual Officers' Dinner, RMA Sandhurst

Sat 03 Oct - Regimental Association AGM and Dinner, Hilton Hotel, Bradford

It was a sad day for the hundreds of 'Dukes' that attended the funeral of Major General Donald Isles, who died on 12 Nov 08, at the age of 84. The funeral took place on 20 Nov at Denton Parish Church. A Bearer Party from the Warrant Officers and Senior Ranks of the 3rd Battalion carried his coffin and a bugler sounded the Last Post. General Donald was commissioned into the 'Dukes' in 1943 and joined the 1st Battalion in Italy in 1944. He served in Palestine, Egypt, Syria and the Sudan. He commanded the 1st Battalion from 1965 - 67 in BAOR and with the United Nations Forces in Cyprus. He was Colonel of the Regiment from 1975 - 82.

Armed Forces Day

The Historic Dockyard Chatham has been selected to host the first national Armed Forces Day event on 27 Jun 09. This will be complemented by hundreds of events in towns and cities across the UK and will build on the success of previous Veterans Day activities. The theme will be 'Honouring Britain's Armed Forces: Past, Present and Future'.

The event is part of a country-wide campaign to raise public awareness, understanding and support for the Armed Forces, including the contribution of all those who serve and have served and the cadet forces. There are already some local events being planned in Beverley and Scarborough. More information can be found at www.armedforcesday.org.uk

.....and Finally

2009 will see every regular soldier at RD, and a good many TA soldiers, deployed somewhere on operations. We wish you all well in whatever ventures lie ahead and look forward to seeing many of you at the various Regimental events throughout the year.

"Fortune Favours the Brave"

Moving...?

**Please let RHQ know:
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