

REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER



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Association News

'The Nation's Commitment: Cross Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans' is a Paper which sets out the commitment to service personnel transitioning to civilian life and service veterans. It covers the Compensation Scheme, Medical, Housing, Benefits, Vocational, Education and Transport.

It is designed to end any disadvantage that armed service imposes on our people, their families and veterans. It specifically seeks to counter the difficulties that follow from being required to move around the country or the world, and identifies those areas where special treatment is needed to achieve this.

The Paper also sets out how we can better support and recognise those who have been wounded in service. The Defence Paper can be found in full on <http://tiny.cc/Co1IL>

Partly due to this Paper and partly due to public pressure (notably the Sunday Telegraph) the Country has just celebrated its first official:-

Armed Forces Day

The first national Armed Forces Day event took place on Sat 27 Jun 09. There were hundreds of events in towns and cities across the UK, but especially in Yorkshire. Personnel from the Regiment attended Flag Raising Days in Hull, Bradford, Harrogate and York but the main event in the County appears to have been at Scarborough, where despite the unseasonal rain (?), a huge crowd turned out for its celebrations.

As part of a countrywide campaign to raise public awareness, understanding and support for the Armed Forces, it certainly met expectations and no doubt is now firmly established in the County's calendar. We plan to build on this next year after the Presentation of new Colours.

YRA News

The YRA AGM was held at Worsley Barracks, York on Sat 06 Jun. The Minutes of the meeting can be found on the Regimental website www.army.mod.uk/yorks In summary, the YRA welcomed the announcement made by Col Regt that all members of the antecedent associations were now members 'as of right' of the YRA. He also made a plea to all members of the Association to support the primary Regimental event of 2010 – the Presentation of new Colours.

YRA Party – A date for your diaries – on Sat 28 Nov there will be a late Autumn party held in Worsley Barracks. Keep an eye out for more information being published shortly.

London Clubs

Both the Victory Services and Union Jack clubs in London have very good offers available to servicemen and women. Visit www.vsc.co.uk or www.ujclub.co.uk for more information.

Antecedent Activity

PWO – Area HQ (York) has been involved in a number of Regimental events over the last six months. In Jan, the outgoing Lord Mayor and Sheriff of York both visited the PWO Museum and RHQ YORKS.

In Mar, the long-standing PWO affiliation with the York Merchant Adventurers was continued, with a presentation of tankards, by the Guild, to Pte North from 1 YORKS, Pte Tomlinson from 4 YORKS and to a YORKS-badged cadet, Cadet Corporal Barker. The tankards are awarded annually for outstanding service.

The month of May saw a good turnout for the PWO Dinner Club London Lunch, held in the Naval and Military Club on this occasion. An even greater number of PWO Association members attended the annual gathering at

York Racecourse and some were even successful.

It was pleasing to see a good turnout of PWO Association members (including Branch Standards) at the Yorkshire Regiment Association Annual Church Service and Reunion on Sat 06 Jun. This was followed by a very good turnout for the Imphal Day Church Service and Lunch, where they were extremely well entertained by the newly formed Yorkshire Regiment Band.

Sadly in Jun, we were informed of the deaths of Colonel Bill Todd (CO 1 PWO in the late Sixties) and of Charlie Prescott. Both funerals were well attended by former Regimental colleagues.

The major highlight for this Area HQ for this period was accompanying the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of York to Munster, for the 1 YORKS Medals Parade. As York is twinned with Munster, the Civic Party then went on to other civic duties, with their Stadt counterparts. However, they were back in York in time for the first of five Homecoming Parades, the following week. 1 YORKS were welcomed back from Iraq and Kosovo by the people of York and Harrogate on 21 Jul, Hull and Beverley on 23 Jul and Leeds on 24 Jul, a fitting end to their tours.

More news at www.pwo-yorkshire.museum

GH – Fifty-six Green Howards Officers and their ladies held their annual luncheon at the Queen's Club in London on Fri 20 Mar.

Newlands School won the County Cup Final of the U16 Football Trophy sponsored by the Regiment. The Trophy and medals were presented by the YRRT.

Representatives from 20 GHA Branches attended an EGM in Apr. Key items discussed included: Policy on the future of the GHA, Membership of the YRA and their Constitution and Rules and the need to teach Regimental History to recruits. On the latter subject, I am informed that this is still taught to soldiers in Bns.

An unsettled weather forecast did nothing to deter a splendid turnout for Richmond Sunday this year. The Museum was open all day which was appreciated by the GHA and it took a record sum of £800 in shop sales which was appreciated by the Curator. There were over 200 on parade, together with 15 Branch Standards, and for the first time, a detachment of B Coy 4 YORKS. 17 Gold Badges and 8 Silver Badges were presented

and B Coy 4 YORKS soldiers received Campaign Medals for service in Afghanistan and Iraq. The GHA warmly applauded the B Coy soldiers by giving them three-cheers before marching off. Afterwards 32 officers and 300 GHA members and their families enjoyed refreshments in the King's Head Hotel and the Comrades Club in Richmond.

On 08 Jun former-Sergeant Ernie Jackson, 89, from Redcar and a member of the 2nd Bn Loftus GHA Branch, became an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Ernie enlisted into the Green Howards as a Band Boy on 21 Mar 35. He saw service with the 2nd Bn in Ferenpore, France and Belgium. He was demobbed from Sennelager in Nov 47. We now have two in-pensioners at the RHC and I am sure that Sgt Bill Walker will keep Ernie on the straight and narrow in the big City.

More news at www.greenhowards.org.uk

DWR – The Annual Regimental Service was held in Halifax Parish Church, home of one of the two 'Dukes' Regimental Chapels, the other being in York Minster, on Sat 25 Apr. The Service was taken by our Regimental Chaplain, Major Roy Matthews and the 'Address' by the Reverend Hilary Barber, the Vicar of Halifax. Principal guests included Dr Ingrid Roscoe, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and the Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Conrad Winterburn. The Service was followed by a very well attended buffet lunch in Halifax Town Hall. It was good to see the Dukes Colours on display in both the Church and the Town Hall.

The 33rd and 76th Social Evening was another very successful evening/weekend held in Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall on 23/24 May. This event, totally organised by WO2 Reg Perrin, seems to be growing in attendance and popularity each year. About 100, including some wives and partners, attended, with Reg providing accommodation in barracks for all who wanted it. The weekend started early, as you would expect, with many people meeting up at the 'Six Bells' pub in Strensall Village on Saturday afternoon, drinking beer and chatting in glorious sunshine (Happy memories!) The main event was the social on Saturday evening, so for most, it was a quick change from the pub to the joint Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for a really enjoyable evening. Sunday morning brought 'thick heads' eased considerably by a full 'English', again organised by Reg, before final farewells as people made their way home. Reg Perrin deserves a really big thank you from all of us

who attended the weekend, but I have to warn you Reg – this event is going to grow!

About 55 serving or retired officers attended this year's Officers' Annual dinner, which was held in the remarkable 'Indian Army Memorial Room' at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on Fri 12 Jun. Accommodation was provided in Victory College, bringing happy (mostly) memories for many. Maj Gen Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter presided at the dinner, which was to be his final event as President of the 'Dukes' Regimental Association.

Many members of the 'Dukes' Association played an active part in Armed Forces Week, 22 -27 Jun, in their home towns right across the West Riding, both at the Flag Raising Ceremonies on Mon 22 and the main events on Armed Forces Day itself, Sat 27 Jun.

The following 'Dukes' Association events are planned:

2009

Fri 02 Oct – 5 DWR Officers' Dinner, Huddersfield
Sat 03 Oct – Regimental Association Annual Dinner, Bradford
Tue 06 Oct – 9 DWR Annual Lunch, Leeds

2010

Sat 24 Apr (TBC) – Annual Regimental Service, Halifax
Fri 18 Jun – Annual Officers' Dinner, York
Sat 02 October – Regimental Association Dinner

New President On Fri 12 Jun, Maj Gen Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter handed over as President of the Association to Col Nick Borwell, who commanded 1st Bn of the Dukes from 1999–2002.

More news at www.dwr.org.uk

Benevolence

Did you know that the Regiment paid out over £75,000 last year in welfare grants? 266 cases were successfully dealt with. This was in large part possible because of the successful take up of the One Days Pay Scheme. Thank you for your contributions which do make a difference.

Recruiting / Marketing

The job of recruiting new soldiers into the Regiment has been going at a pace since the last Newsletter, assisted by the great efforts of the YRRT Field Teams, the recruiting

offices, 15 (NE) Bde CRR, King's Division and RHQ.

A number of recruiting surges and profiling events have been carried out within our historical recruiting areas to increase awareness of the Regiment and what it has to offer to the young man looking for a career.

So far this year, up until the end of Jun, we have 314 potential recruits at the pre-ADSC stage compared to our highest figure of 188 in 2008. At the start of 2009 the Regiment was given a target of recruiting 478 soldiers - as at 06 Jul we had enlisted 199.

Further initiatives are planned for the rest of the recruiting year to help increase the inflow of recruits.

The Journal

It was agreed at the latest Regimental Board meeting to continue producing two Journals a year. The 7th Edition of this consistently impressive magazine will be distributed in October. Articles and high quality photographs are required by 01 Sep.

On this subject, and I hope not a reflection on the quality of the book, but no entries were received to the competition to win copies of 'Operation SNAKEBITE' - see p89 of the last Edition. A copy has been donated to the Good's Library in the 1st Bn. Look out for more chances to win in future Editions.

RHQ News

Fresh back from the 1 YORKS Medals Parade in Germany and Homecoming Parades in Yorkshire (see the website for full coverage of what was an extraordinary week), RHQ now starts to focus on the Presentation of new Colours.

New Colours This will be a unique gathering of all four Bns in one place and will undoubtedly be a memorable occasion. The important date to note is **Friday 18th June 2010** which will see two Guards plus a Colour Party from each of the four Bns on parade at Imphal Barracks in York. The Old Colours will be marched off parade before the arrival of our Colonel in Chief. Readers might be interested to note that the 4th Bn have no less than four sets of Old Colours to march off due to the amalgamation of TA Units in the late 1990s. The New Colours will then be consecrated by the Chaplain General, presented by the Colonel in Chief and finally trooped in impressive style by our soldiers. Following the parade we hope to have a

review of our old comrades before retiring to marquees for luncheon and a chance to meet up with many friends, old and new.

The following day, **Saturday 19th June 2010**, we are seeking approval for the Regiment to march through York to a church service in York Minster. With the success of the recent Freedom Parades, which saw huge support, there is no doubt this will be an impressive event. It will certainly be a contender for the largest military parade seen in York for many years. Following the Church service there will be a Curry Lunch back at Imphal Barracks to provide a fitting close to an excellent two days with the Regimental family.

More details will appear in the Autumn edition of the Yorkshire Regiment Journal and details of how to secure tickets will be forthcoming early in the New Year, but should you have any queries in the interim please do not hesitate to contact the Colours Project Team, ideally by e-mail at yorkscolours@btconnect.com.

NMA Appeal – Col Regt visited the NMA in Apr with Col Barkshire (Trustee) and Regt Sec. A plot is being sourced, an iconic 'structure' to recognise service is being sought and it is hoped to unveil / open the site sometime in mid-2011.

Regimental Weekend – took place on Fri/Sat 05/06 Jun in York. The Officers' Dinner in the Merchant Taylors' Hall on Fri was graced by the presence of the Col in Chief and 95 other officers of the Regiment. The Church Service the following morning was held in York Minster followed by a curry lunch in Worsley Barracks.

Close Observation Platoon – to commemorate the end of this successful covert operation, a painting has been commissioned. £22 is all it costs to own a print. Flyers are available to view at RHQ.

Members of the RHQ staff took time out recently to participate in Ex WANDERING WARRIOR. Look out for more on this story in the next Journal.

Appointments & Promotions

The Colonel of the Regiment has assumed the appointment of Vice Chief of the Defence Staff in the rank of General.

Lt Col Andy Pullan has been selected for promotion to Colonel.

Majs Ian Crowley, Paul Fox, Andrew Roe and Zac Stenning have been selected for promotion to Lt Col on this year's Pink List. Maj Tom Wagstaff was selected for promotion off the 2008 Reserve List.

Honours

The following officers were recognised in the latest Queen's Birthday Honours list:

Lt Col Jonny Price – OBE
Maj Mark Bower QGM – MBE
Lt Col Nick Rynn – MBE

The Cutlers' Sword is awarded to the Drummer or Bugler who during the year has shown the most potential, both musically and militarily, to become a senior Drum Major of the future. I am delighted to report that Cpl Oxley, 3 YORKS, has won this year's award. He will be presented with his Sword during the Lord Mayor of London's Show in Oct.

Sports Events

Golf Day – this was played at West End Golf Club, Halifax on 22 May and was won by Jonny Purvis (GH). Next year it will be played on Fri 21 May. Venue TBC.

Maiden Stakes – the second running of this race at York was won by *Sweet Sonnet*, no doubt making some people rich in the process. Next year's race will be run on Sat 22 May.

Roses Match – takes place at Headingley on Wed 19 Aug. And don't forget the RN vs Army match at Lord's on Thurs 06 Aug; tickets are £12 on the gate (£6 concessions).

Battalions

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

1 YORKS – In both Iraq and Kosovo, the Bn acquitted itself well, rising to the particular challenges of each operation with notable stoicism and determination. The Bn is now, for the first time in nearly 18 months, complete in one location and looking forward to re-establishing Bn routine and undertaking the full range of Bn activities. They are also enjoying all the opportunities that Germany and Munster have to offer. With a Bn deployment to Afghanistan now on the Forecast of Events in 2011 the Bn continues to maintain a real sense of purpose and relevance; there is much to start working towards on the return from Summer leave. Retention rates are holding up, which when

combined with the upturn in recruitment, bodes well for the future.

2 YORKS – are fully committed to Op HERRICK 11 pre-deployment training in the Operational and Mentoring Liaison Team (OMLT) Battlegroup role. This comprehensive package has so far seen the Bn deploy on exercise to Salisbury Plain and Lydd & Hythe as well as re-ORBAT. The future holds numerous training activities which will keep the Bn fully occupied until a much deserved summer leave prior to deployment in Sep. We wish them every success on this op tour.

3 YORKS – commenced its pre- deployment training (PDT) in Dec 08 for a Bn deployment to Iraq in May 09. Given the drawdown in Iraq there was much uncertainty concerning this deployment. The Bn gained sufficient clarity by the end of Mar to refocus its training to force protection in Baghdad where it was expected to be based for a year. Op News just in however, has confirmed that this task will not be continued beyond 31 Jul and a Coy (about 150 soldiers in all) has just deployed to Afghanistan to join 1 WG.

There has been time for some sport. Headline news here is that the Bn has won the Army Rugby League Challenge Cup for the fifth time in seven years, beating SEME Bordon 48-14 in the final. The Bn came 4th in the Infantry Sailing Regatta and runners-up in the Plate Final of the Army 7s. The Bn is also looking forward to receiving the Freedom of the Borough of Rotherham on behalf of the Regiment on Mon 03 Aug.

4 YORKS – a key success for this period is manning, which continues to improve, and is expected to reach full manning by the end of this calendar year. In addition the Op HERRICK 11 mobilisation (1 + 45 to Afghanistan) is now successfully completed and training for Canada has commenced in earnest; the ex runs for two weeks from 19 Sep.

The Bn conducted Ex LONE CENTURION at the end of May in Otterburn. The weekend was attended by over 200 soldiers and was a huge success. The battalion is as busy as ever and in a healthy spirit. Retention remains excellent with recruiting at a 3-year high in the last quarter.

The Yorkshire Regiment Band - The Band continues to improve and has a full programme of events now for the remainder of 2009. CAMUS accreditation has been granted, albeit only for static displays, and the

refurbishment of the rehearsal room, stores and offices at Huddersfield is also now complete. There are currently 17 musicians, with a further 5 in the process of enlistment. They have recently provided excellent support to the Regtl Weekend and Imphal Day (see PWO notes).

FRI - The Infantry Financial Retention Incentive (FRI) was launched on 01 Apr 07. From this date, Infantry soldiers (less SF, Gurkhas and R IRISH (HS)) have been able to elect to receive a £4.5K (taxable) FRI, once they have completed a minimum of 4 years' reckonable service, for a 2-year Return of Service (RoS). The Infantry FRI is scheduled to run for 4 years until 31 Mar 11, or until Infantry manning reaches 98%, whichever is earliest.

As Infantry manning continues to improve (predictions are that the Infantry could be at 98% Manning by end 2009), it is highly likely that this incentive will only be available to our soldiers for another few months and will be withdrawn at short notice. YORKS personnel should seek advice from their Chain of Command.

End Pieces

Regimental PRI – as the Regiment is now 3 years old, might I use this opportunity to remind readers that various Regimental items of dress are held at RHQ. A full list can be found in the back pages of the Journal and on the Regtl website. There is less than two years to go on Grandfather Rights for Mess Dress and we stock all the required buttons and badges. Presentation pieces, Band Banners, cufflinks and so on are all also available – at very competitive rates.

Beer 1 - All hail to Havercake Ale! This bottled beer produced by Deputy Honorary Colonel Charles Dent's brewery, Timothy Taylors, picked up the Silver Medal in the 4% to 4.9% ABV category at The British Bottler's Institute Awards. You can sample this winner by ordering it from www.timothy-taylor.co.uk

Beer 2 - Yorkshire Warrior beer is now available in cask as well as bottles; both are available direct from the brewery at www.croptonbrewery.com

BFBS Forces Radio - Anyone who's ever been posted overseas, or on ops, will know and love BFBS Radio. The good news is that the service has announced that its unique mix of programmes is now available permanently on DAB Digital Radio in the UK – it is also available online at www.bfbs.com, on Sky

Guide Number 0211 and Freesat Channel 786.

.....and Finally

Rumours of the disbandment of 2 YORKS, as reported in the Sunday Times in early July, are entirely fictitious. Both of our serving 4*, CGS and VCDS, have confirmed that no such discussions have taken place. We send 2 YORKS off on operations with every good wish for a successful tour. We look forward to their safe return – just in time for the Presentation of new Colours. Plenty of time for some drill in the Hindu Kush!

“Fortune Favours the Brave”

Moving...?

**Please let RHQ know:
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