



REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER

1. **Introduction.** I should like to wish all the recipients of this first edition of the Regimental Newsletter a very Happy New Year. 2006 was a busy year for everybody connected with the Regiment as we embarked on the first chapter of our Regimental History. Now that we are a bit more settled in RHQ we will endeavour to keep you abreast of developments through this publication - the newsletter. Its purpose is to supplement the information that is always available on our excellent website - www.yorkshireregiment.mod.uk - keeping people informed about various matters affecting the Regiment in between editions of the Yorkshire Regiment Journal. It is expected therefore that this will be produced electronically twice a year in January and July. Much has been achieved thus far but we recognise that there is still plenty to do to establish the Regiment's identity within the Army and society.
2. **Battalion Updates.** The following is a brief resumé of Battalion activities.
 - a. 1 YORKS – are in the midst of a challenging op tour to Iraq. The pace of life is frantic with planning cycles akin to those experienced during a TESEX or at CAST. They have conducted a dozen or more Battlegroup operations ranging from convoy escort to hostage rescue. For those of you with access to Army NET, more information can be found at: www.armynet.mod.uk
 - b. 2 YORKS – completed a very successful year including being the Spearhead Lead Element and doing an operational tour. They have another busy year ahead which will involve BOWMAN conversion and an Arms Plot move to Weeton Barracks, Preston in the summer and the opportunity to conduct some challenging and demanding training. They have just won through to the next round of the Army Boxing and were victorious in the Divisional skiing championships.
 - c. 3 YORKS – are in good heart and have settled well into Warminster as the Land Warfare Centre Battlegroup. They are preparing to transition to 1 Mechanised Brigade which will involve collective training and full conversion from AFV 432 to WARRIOR.
 - d. 4 YORKS – have completed the transition from E and WRR and TTR with companies now based in York, Middlesbrough, Barnsley, Hull and Huddersfield. They continue to support regular ops in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans. This year they can look forward to Overseas Exchange Training in Oklahoma.
3. **Recruiting.** This continues to be an area of considerable importance to the Regiment. At RHQ Major David Harrap is now assuming this responsibility from Major Simon Hogge who is retiring in mid-February. CO 2 YORKS has taken on serving responsibility for officer recruiting and CO 3 YORKS has the lead for soldier recruiting. A

new OC KDRT, Major Greg Peck, is in the process of taking over in Strensall and getting to grips with the reorganisation of Army recruiting in our region. There is much to be done to ensure that we are fully manned across the regiment and, although the above named personnel are responsible for leading in their areas, it is incumbent on all those connected with the regiment to help where they can. A new officer recruiting booklet is being produced and will be available from late March. It is intended that this will also act as something of an *Aide Memoire* to guide people through the recruiting process.

4. The Journal. I hope that many of you, if not all, will have seen the first edition of the Yorkshire Regiment Journal. The recently retired Major Nick Allbeury did an excellent job editing, producing and distributing this edition in such a short timeframe. We now plan to build on this start under the new Editor, Major Mick Sullivan. The next edition is due out in April as we move onto a regular cycle of 2 per year in April and October. Anyone wishing to contribute an article should do so by Friday 23rd March and if anyone would like to subscribe, then please contact the Editor at RHQ. Incidentally, there are a few spare 2007 Regimental Diaries; if anyone would like one please ask.

5. Regimental Colours. After much discussion and staff work, the Regimental Board approved at its meeting in December a new set of Colours for the Regiment. Most of the discussion centred on the design of the Regimental Colour. In the end the Cross of St George was chosen as the background to the Colour as this will be unique to the Regiment. 4 antecedent emblems will be placed on this Colour – the White Horse of Hanover, the Star of Brunswick, the Dannebrog Cross and the Elephant. The appropriate Battalion Roman Numeral will be placed in the top left corner. Furthermore, the Board agreed a set of Battle Honours – 43 in total – which best carry forward our Golden Thread. Although there is to be a reduction of the total to be incorporated onto the Colour it is important perhaps to clarify that no Battle Honours are being ‘lost’; all of them will appear in the Army List but only some will be carried onto the Colour. The timeframe for production has still to be confirmed but we may get them some time in 2009.

6. Regimental Church Service. I am delighted to announce that there will be a Service to Celebrate the Formation of the Regiment, in the presence of our Colonel in Chief, in York Minster on Saturday 22nd September 2007. It will be a ticketed event and further details will be available in the next edition of the Journal and continual updates will be placed on the website. In the meantime the event will be open to serving contingents from the battalions, members of the Yorkshire Regiment Association and members of antecedent Associations as well. I am sure we can fill York Minster! After the Service there will be a March Past and Parade through the City of York; this in turn will be followed by a Reception / Lunch. It promises to be a wonderful occasion.

7. Regimental Ball. On the evening of 22nd September, after the Church Service, there is to be a Regimental Officers’ Ball which it is hoped as many serving officers as possible will attend. This is being organised by 4 YORKS and again further information will be promulgated in the April Journal as soon as details (location, costs etc) have been worked out.

8. Dress. At the time of going to press we are still awaiting the production of No.1/No. 2 Dress cap badges, all buttons, collar badges and metal shoulder titles. I am hopeful – but perhaps not confident – that we will be properly dressed as a Regiment by Easter. RHQ currently has in its possession 2 x Green Howard Mess Kits for sale; price on application (and subject to negotiation!) If anyone wishes to sell any of their uniform through RHQ we are willing to act as broker (for a small fee).

9. Awards. Congratulations to Captain Tony Viney for the award at the end of last year of a QCB for action in Sierra Leone and to Major Andy Garner for the award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

10. One Days Pay Scheme. Regimentally, we have made quite a good start in encouraging serving soldiers and officers to contribute to the Days Pay Scheme but there is more that we can do. If you have not yet submitted your forms to RHQ then please look out for the new JPA forms and do so as a matter of priority. Remember, this is the only source of income that the Regiment generates for Benevolence and you could need it one day. I would draw the attention of all subscribers to the article in the 1st Edition of the Journal (pp 59-60) concerning the scheme under JPA. In simple terms there will be no real financial change. The donation that you kindly make will be automatically adjusted to take into account the tax benefit you receive each month and you will pay monthly rather than quarterly. If you have any concerns over this please contact RHQ for advice.

11. Finance. Part of the amalgamation involved a financial agreement with the antecedent Regiments that they would pass over in the region of £1M each to the Yorkshire Regiment. In the first instance each agreed to donate £50,000 to a launch fund which was a considerable help in allowing us to launch the Regiment with some style last year. Subsequently all the money promised has now been received by the Regiment and we are extremely grateful not only for the generosity of the antecedent Regiments but also for their cooperation in effecting the transfer of funds so efficiently. This money, now invested by the Trustees, will allow us to carry out most of the activities that we would wish, thus benefiting not just the serving soldiers but also the wider Regiment.

12. Benevolence. Now that we have some Regimental money, RHQ has been able to take on all aspects of the administration of Benevolence not just for the Yorkshire Regiment but also on behalf of the antecedent Regiments. Welfare cases that are sent to antecedent HQs are being passed to RHQ for processing. As an indication of what this involves, in January alone we have dealt with 25 cases and spent nearly £6k of Regimental money, which has been matched by about £4k of ABF money.

13. Green Howards Museum. The Heritage Lottery work at the Green Howards Museum is now in full swing. A Land Rover has now been chosen and cut for the reception area and will arrive at the Museum on 10th February. Electricians, plumbers, telephone engineers, carpenters, glaziers, builders and designers are cooperating to pull the whole project together. It is still on target for re-opening at Easter. Museum Staff are taking the opportunity to catch up on the conservation of the collection and the annual cleaning of medals is well under way.

14. Conclusion. I hope this brings you up-to-date for the time being. If you are able to pass this on to others whom you think we may have missed then feel free to do so. If your contact details should change then please do let us know. Finally, RHQ would be delighted to see anyone who is visiting York.

"Fortune Favours the Brave"

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