



## REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER

### Introduction

Here we are again with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Newsletter. It has been another busy period for all members of the Regiment whether they have been on operations, training for operations or winning Army sports competitions. We aim here at RHQ to keep you up to date with events that are happening around the Regiment that will affect not only the serving soldier at battalion but also those serving at 'E', Association Members and indeed 'Friends' of the Regiment.

I commend to you all, our excellent website [www.YorkshireRegiment.mod.uk](http://www.YorkshireRegiment.mod.uk) and invite anyone who wishes to contribute to that, this newsletter or the Journal, to get in touch with us in York. In this most depressingly wet summer, judged of course by the number of cricket matches that have had to be cancelled, we hope that you are all keeping well and we look forward to seeing many of you on 22 September at the Minster.

### Battalion Updates

The following is a brief update on Battalion activities; more information can be found on the website and there will be more detailed accounts from the Battalions in October's Journal:

**1 YORKS** ... have returned after a successful 7 months on Op TELIC 7. As the Basra Rural South Battle Group, they conducted about 50 operations including counter-improvised explosive device, counter-indirect fire, counter-smuggling, convoy escort, support to the Iraqi

Security Forces and detain and search ops. They successfully handed over Camp Driftwood in Al Faw and Shaiba Logistics Base to the Iraqi authorities without any looting by the local population. The battalion is currently back at work between stretches of leave and preparing for its next bout of activity which includes conversion to the BOWMAN radio system and a KAPE tour in September. Sadly, their Medal Parade on 21 July had to be postponed due to the severe Yorkshire weather conditions.

You will have read elsewhere about the sad news concerning Pte Luke Simpson who became the first Yorkshire Regiment operational fatality in February. A new Roll of Honour Book, containing his name, will be dedicated at our Church Service on 22 September.

**2 YORKS** ... have now stepped up the intensity of training as they prepare for their 6-month Op HERRICK 7 deployment later in the year. They are having a busy summer having just completed a Brigade Mission Rehearsal exercise and preparing for the battalion move to Weeton.

They have also now completed their BOWMAN conversion. Proof, if it were needed, that operational tours will keep coming round can be found here, as the Battalion has been warned off for another deployment to Afghanistan in 2009; after that they then head off to Cyprus in 2010.

**3 YORKS** ... have been busy as the Land Warfare Centre Battle Group. They have been on exercise on Salisbury Plain

putting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, among others, through their paces.

On a particularly sad note we reported recently the death of Capt Mick Taylor who was serving as Officer Commanding of 124 Army Youth Team and Recruiting Field Team 3 in Huddersfield.

The battalion has been able to conduct Battlefield Studies in South Africa, Normandy and Arnhem and also take part in some adventurous training. On the sports field they have had a very successful period. They have won the Army Rugby 7s after an outstanding day's rugby and a convincing victory over 4 Regt RA in the final. They have also won the Rugby League Challenge Cup and the Infantry Football Cup.

**4 YORKS** ... are extremely well-recruited and thus having to work hard to stay within funding guidelines. They continue to support ops having deployed soldiers on every Op TELIC so far and will attach soldiers to 2 YORKS for Op HERRICK in the autumn. They have an upcoming ex in Oklahoma in September as well as their annual two week camp in Devon before embarking on their own BOWMAN conversion. They had a notable success in winning the 15 (NE) Bde patrols competition. It is still an aspiration to recruit a Band and work is on-going to resolve this.

### RHQ

RHQ is now fully manned thanks to the welcome arrival of the new C2 in Richmond, Maj Bob Martin. Along with this letter comes a Regimental guide to who's where in the organisation. Please feel free to contact us at RHQ at any time, or indeed come and see us when you are in York. You will notice from this that we have welcomed Col Julian Fox to the appointment of Honorary Colonel 4 YORKS in place of Brig Bev Smalley. Also we welcome Col Roy

Butcher as a new Deputy Honorary Colonel.

### Promotions

Congratulations are due to Lt Col Andrew Jackson, CO 1 YORKS who has recently appeared on the Blue List for promotion to Colonel. Also on this list was confirmation that Col James Willis had been promoted during the year and is now working for Army Personnel Services at Upavon. There were several mentions on the Pink List (promotion to Lieutenant Colonel): Maj Tom Vallings was a new announcement while Lt Cols Jason Wright and Peter Monteith had their promotions confirmed. Also during the year Lt Cols David Colthup, Nigel Parker and Johnny Price have had their promotions confirmed. We now await news about the next Command Board.

### Recruiting

We have commissioned eight officers into the regiment this year, less than we would ideally like but as our Regimental identity becomes more established the numbers looking towards us are picking up.

Our soldier recruiting effort has been completely overhauled and placed under the leadership of Major Greg Peck who has his recruiting team (no longer called the King's Div Recruiting Team but is now the Yorkshire Regiment Recruiting Team) based in Strensall with outlying Field Teams in Catterick and Huddersfield. Numbers of recruits are looking better but there is still a mountain to climb to achieve full manning across the three regular battalions. Meanwhile for the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, officer recruiting is proving very difficult and it is the same right across the TA. Soldier recruiting however remains buoyant.

### Events

**Regimental Church Service** – The Service to Celebrate the Formation of the

Regiment, in the presence of our Colonel in Chief, in York Minster on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007 is taking shape. If you haven't already booked your tickets or notified us that you plan to attend, it's not too late. The event is open to serving contingents from the battalions, members of the Yorkshire Regiment Association and members of antecedent Associations as well. 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.

**Regimental Ball** – Similarly, planning is well underway for the Officers' Ball which takes place that evening, after the Church Service. As well as all serving officers it is hoped that some retired officers will also be able to attend. Again, if you haven't received a letter regarding the Ball or you would like to find out more about it, then please get in touch with Capt Barry Hey on 01904 668752.

**Freedom Marches** – we have 4 Freedom Marches taking place in September, all being carried out by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. On Thu 06 Sep at 1100 hrs they will march through Bradford and at 1430 hrs through Leeds. On Fri 7 Sep they will march through Hull at 1100 hrs and Beverley at 1500 hrs. Those who wish to come and watch and support are more than welcome. Of course there is actually another March taking place and that is round York on 22 Sep after the Church Service.

**York Races** – the final running of the PWO Maiden Stakes (before it becomes the Yorkshire Regiment Maiden Stakes) takes place on Wed 5 Sep and is a sell-out. We look forward to carrying on this fine sporting tradition next year.

**Roses Match** – The Yorkshire Regiment Roses Match (that is, Yorkshire vs. Lancashire at cricket) will take place at Headingley 9-12 Aug. The Regiment has been invited to participate on Day 1 (Thu

9 Aug). Anyone with a MoD Form 90 will be allowed free entry to the ground; those without should explain their Regimental connections at the gate – it should work! There will be an unveiling of a plaque to commemorate Yorkshire CCC's war-dead (notable amongst them was Hedley Verity, Green Howards) at about 1015 hours by the Sir Len Hutton Gates. The Band of the Yorkshire Volunteers will be playing during the day and our Recruiting Team will be present throughout. The Duke of Leeds Cup will be presented to the winners.

### The Journal

Under the new editorship of Maj Mick Sullivan, the Journal continues to develop as a record of Regimental life. The next edition is due out in October but anyone wishing to contribute an article should do so by Friday 14 September. If anyone would like to subscribe, then please contact the Editor at RHQ.

The 2008 Regimental Diary is currently being planned so make a note in your ... er ... diary; these should be available from October.

Also we will be producing a smart new Regimental Calendar for 2008. More details will be available in the next Journal.

### Dress

At last, all Regimental items of dress are now available: No1 & No2 Dress cap badges, all buttons, collar badges and metal shoulder titles. The estimate of it all being ready by last Easter must have been made in a fit of optimism. Although RHQ holds some of these items of uniform, bids should be addressed to parent battalions.

### One Days Pay Scheme

Regimentally, we have built on a good start in encouraging serving soldiers and

officers to contribute to the Days Pay Scheme. We stand at about 83% take up rate for both soldiers and officers and are keen to get this to above 90%. If you have not yet completed an application form please can you do so and let either RHQ or your RAO know. It is worth repeating that this is the main source of income that the Regiment generates for Benevolence and you could need it one day.

### Benevolence

RHQ, or the Benevolence Case Committee to be exact, has been dealing with a considerable number of requests for benevolence this year. In the first 5 months of the year we dealt with an average of almost one case per day. This dropped off slightly as we moved out of winter but we continue to pay out in the region of £400 per successful case.

### Association

**Meeting** - On 26<sup>th</sup> May the Yorkshire Regiment Association held its inaugural meeting at Worsley Barracks in York. The meeting's first business was to vote in the Association's Board members and the following appointments were voted in by those present: the President of the Association - Lt Gen Houghton; the Chairman - Maj Bob Martin; the Vice-Chairman - Maj David Harrap and Association Secretary - Maj Mick Sullivan. Currently, there are approximately 180 members of the Association who, until branches are established, are all members of the Central Branch based at the Regimental Headquarters in York. The first (volunteer) Association Standard Bearer, by unanimous vote, will be Mr Walter Wilson from Bridlington. For information on becoming a member of The Yorkshire Regiment Association please contact Major Sullivan.

**Minster** – it is hoped that as many Association members, Yorkshire

Regiment or otherwise, will join us on 22 September at the Minster. We hope to see a great turn out of Standards which will lead the Parade on its March Past the Colonel in Chief.

**Reunion** – We plan to hold our first Yorkshire Regiment Reunion week-end in the Autumn of 2008. The date will be announced in good time but the week-end will include an Officers' Dinner, Church Service, Lunch, Association AGM and social event.

### Antecedent Activity

**PWO Museum** – with an injection of money from their Trustees, the PWO Museum is able to undergo work to organise and digitise its archives.

**Green Howards Museum** – The Green Howards Museum is now back open and in business after a successful re-opening in May. Lady Crathorne, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire re-opened the Museum.

**DWR** – The DWR held a Parade, Service and Reception in Halifax Parish Church to lay up the old Colours which came out of service in 2002. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Museum has been awarded a grant of £49k to complete the refurbishment and redesign of their Museum. The project is being led by Brig Dick Mundell and will be complete by October 2008.

### Conclusion

That's all for now; regular news is available on the website. Once again, if you are able to pass this on to others whom you think we may have missed then please 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***