



REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER

Introduction

As the River Ouse gently laps the bottom of Tower Street may I wish you all a Happy New Year from RHQ! Here is the 3rd Edition of the Regimental Newsletter. Contributions are not the sole preserve of RHQ so if any of you wish to advertise any aspect of Regimental life then feel free to either contribute in the winter or summer editions. I continue to commend to you our excellent website run by CSgt Coles www.yorkshireregiment.mod.uk where you will find up-to-date information and news-related stories.

It almost goes without saying these days that this has been another busy period for all members of the Regiment wherever they have been serving. Highlights of the last six months include the 2nd Battalion's tour in Afghanistan and our Formation Parade in York, which was covered in detail in the last edition of The Journal.

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 April's Journal:

1 YORKS – Congratulations to Capt Ibrar Ali on his award of an MC and to Lt Adam Gibson for his Joint Commander's Commendation; both appeared in the last Operational Honours list.

Since the Battalion's return from Iraq the focus has been on recuperation and low

level training. They have 15 soldiers serving with 2 YORKS on Op HERRICK 7. They have troops from A & B Companies taking part in Ex AFRICAN THORN in South Africa until mid-March and C Company deploy to the Falklands in February. The next challenge will be moving to Munster in the summer.

2 YORKS – deployed in September for their 6-months on Op HERRICK 7. They are having an extremely busy, but interesting tour, and were heavily involved before Christmas with the operation to recapture Musah Qaleh from the Taliban. We will undoubtedly learn more about this historic battle in due course.

They did however sustain one fatality during the operation - Sgt 'Judo' Johnson. A full obituary will appear in the next Journal. His funeral took place in Stockton on 21 December and was hugely well attended. Other losses have included two attached personnel, Capt John McDermid SCOTS and Cpl Darryl Gardiner REME.

After the tour and some well-earned leave the Battalion will carry out six Freedom Parades – see page 3 for more details.

3 YORKS – have continued as the Land Warfare Centre Battlegroup. They continue to be successful and their knowledge of the ground, combined with speed of thought and reaction tuned by experience, make them formidable opponents. But there is light at the end of this particular tunnel as they re-role in

March and join 12 (Mechanised) Brigade as its Armoured Infantry Battalion. Preparation then starts for BATUS and participation on Med Man 3 & 4.

Team sport is still at the heart of much of what they do. In football the Battalion is still in both Army and Infantry competitions. They of course won the Infantry Championships last year. In rugby they finished last season as Army 7s Champions and winners of the Army Rugby League Cup for the fifth consecutive year.

4 YORKS – continues its support to the Regular Army in all theatres of operations. In the last 4 years over 200 officers and soldiers have served in Iraq. There are 10 currently with 2 YORKS.

The highlight of their training year was Ex GLOW WORM where 130 soldiers trained in Georgia with the US National Guard. The Catering Platoon won the Reservist Category of the 2nd Division competition and D Company came first in the Reservist Category (and 6th overall) of the NATO Mil Skills competition in Germany. An A Company team finished first in the 15 (NE) Bde Mil skills competition.

With the recent appointment of a Band PSI, CSgt Kershaw, recruitment of a 4 YORKS Band will become a priority in 2008.

Finally, 2008 is the 100th Anniversary of the TA and, in Yorkshire; this will be celebrated on Sat 14 Jun in York.

RHQ News

RHQ is currently putting the final touches to a Regimental Handbook. It should be available within the next few months.

There will be a series of Regional Profile Events taking place in the spring. Led by our Deputy Honorary Colonels, social

gatherings are being planned in Sheffield, Keighley, York, Richmond and Beverley.

Appointments & Promotions

Later this year the 1st, 2nd & 4th Battalions will all change COs. Respectively; the posts will be taken up by Lt Cols Jonny Price, David Colthup and David Rhodes.

Congratulations are due to the following officers (DE & LE) who recently appeared on the Beige List for promotion to Major wef. Jul 08: Cpts Adair CD, Colver, Grieve, McLellan, Richards, Smith K, Thomas, Pledger & Walls.

Majors O'Connor and Walls were both selected to attend ICSC(L).

Congratulations also to WO1 (RSM)s Hind and Stannard who have recently been selected for commissions.

Honours

Congratulations to Lt Col Johnny Price on the award of an MBE and WO1 (RSM) Mallinson for his QVRM in the New Year's Honours List.

Recruiting

Eleven officers commissioned into the Regiment last year. The Regiment welcomes them all and also two others who transferred in from the AGC (Andy Bell) and the Australian Army (Shaun Dwyer). The numbers continue to improve and already this year we have offered 7 of the available 14 commissions for the year to cadets at RMAS.

Soldier manning remains a challenge for the Regiment though much effort is being exerted rectifying the situation. Brigadier Lamont Kirkland has recently been placed in overall charge of the soldier recruiting effort. In fact the Regiment is approximately 250 under strength which, although alarming, is comparable with many other infantry regiments.

Major Greg Peck has now handed over the YRRT to Capt Mally Birkett.

In contrast to the Regular soldier position, the 4th Battalion remains over strength.

Appeal

You should find at the end of this Newsletter an Appeal on behalf of the Regiment for a site at the National Memorial Arboretum. Please take the time to read it and please look favourably on the request.

Events

A more complete forecast of events for what looks like quite a busy year can be found on the website but your attention is drawn to the following, in chronological order:

Yorkshire Schools Rugby Finals – The Regiment, with the support of CRR (NE), sponsors the finals for the Yorkshire Schools U14, U15, U16 and U18 competitions. This helps to raise our profile as the Army's, and the Infantry's, leading regiment for team sports. The finals will be held at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate on Sat 15 Mar. CO 1 YORKS will present the prizes.

York Races – the inaugural running of the Yorkshire Regiment Maiden Stakes takes place on Fri 30 May and the 235 available tickets usually sell out quickly. More detail to follow but early booking through AHQ (York) of this regularly popular event would be advisable.

Roses Match – In a sporting double, The Yorkshire Regiment Roses Match will take place at Headingley the following day, Sat 31 May. Anyone with a MoD Form 90 will once again be allowed free entry to the ground; The Band of the King's Division 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. There will also be an exhibition by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorating the 21 professional cricketers killed in both World Wars.

Regimental Reunion – a policy decision has been made to establish the weekend closest to 6th June as the time to hold our annual reunion. The first such reunion will therefore take place this year on Fri/Sat 06/07 Jun in York. The timetable will be as follows:

Fri 1000 – Board Meeting
 Fri 1330 – Trustees Meeting
 Fri 1930 – Officers' Dinner in the Merchant Taylors' Hall, York
 Sat 1030 – Church Service at St Oswald's Parish Church, Fulford
 Sat 1200 – Association AGM in Worsley Barracks
 Followed by – lunch for all in Worsley Barracks.

Please make a note in your diary now for this first reunion about which more will follow in due course.

Freedom Marches – we have 6 Freedom Marches taking place in

June, all being carried out by the 2nd Battalion as follows:

Wed 18 Jun

- 1030 hrs Middlesbrough
- 1430 hrs Redcar & Cleveland

Fri 20 Jun

- 1030 hrs Harrogate
- 1500 hrs Richmond

Sat 21 Jun

- 1045 hrs Scarborough
- 1450 hrs Bridlington

Those who wish to come to watch and support are most welcome.

There will be a further series of marches in the autumn being carried out by the 3rd Battalion. These will take place in the week 18-25 Oct in Skipton, Bradford,

Barnsley, Sheffield, Huddersfield and Halifax.

The Journal

The Journal continues to go from strength to strength as a record of Regimental life. The next edition (the 4th already) is due out in the spring and anyone wishing to contribute an article should do so by Mon 03 Mar. If anyone would like to subscribe, at the very reasonable price of £10 per year (two copies) then please contact the Editor at RHQ.

The 2008 Regimental Diary is still available so if you haven't already got one, make us an offer! And hopefully you will have adorned your office with the new and very smart Regimental Calendar.

One Days Pay Scheme

Thank you to all those who subscribe to the ODPS. We stand at about 80% take-up rate for both soldiers and officers and, as always, are keen to increase this figure, particularly in the current economic climate. Once again I would like to use this opportunity to encourage you to double check that you are a subscriber. Completing an application form takes little time and your RAO or C2 Fin at RHQ can advise if necessary. With more and more of our soldiers deploying on operations, the requirement for welfare in the future can only grow and we need the funds to be able to meet their needs.

Benevolence

So far this financial year we have dealt with over 200 welfare cases. The average grant for successful cases has been c£300. We estimate to spend in the region of £75k by the end of the year.

Association

Meeting - the Yorkshire Regiment Association will hold its next meeting on Saturday 7th June at Worsley Barracks in

York. This will take place immediately after the Church Service at approximately 1200 hrs.

I am delighted to report that the members of the Loftus Branch of the Green Howards Association recently took the decision to change their name to the Loftus Branch of the Yorkshire Regiment Association (Green Howards). The Bradford Branch of the PWO Association is considering a similar move.

Antecedent Activity

PWO – The Curator of the PWO Museum & Archives is always looking for Volunteers. The museum website is now up and running at www.pwo-yorkshire.museum where searches can be made of the museum & archives collection. A major refurbishment of the museum store and the archives has now been completed, as has the reorganisation of the archives. The digitisation programme continues to enable more and more archive material to be included on the database and subsequently on the website.

After 4 years of dedicated service, Trevor Johnstone is about to retire as the Museum Attendant and Graham Dyson will shortly take over in the new post of Museum Assistant Curator.

The Association is holding several events this year including Aden Day on Sat 21 Jun. This will commemorate the 3 tours of duty there in 1958, '65/'66 and '67. It is preceded by golf at Sandburn GC on 19 Jun and Officers' and Sergeants' dinners on 20 Jun. Details of these events appear in your latest Yorkie magazine.

Green Howards – AHQ (Richmond) remains very busy planning major events throughout 2008. Foremost are the Freedom Parades in Jun. Green Howards Association (GHA) activities remain as busy as they ever were. The

Officers' Luncheon is on 14 Mar at the Queens Club in London and the GHA Richmond Weekend 17-18 May. Running parallel with these events is the GHA Normandy (Crepon) Battlefield Tour in France from 03-09 Jun.

Under the guidance of the Curator, David Tetlow, The Green Howards Museum has undergone its annual winter clean, in readiness for opening up to the public again on 04 Feb. During the last few months some personalities have changed: Paul Cooper who has given seven years loyal service to the Museum and the headquarters has decided to move on. We thank him for everything that he has done in the Headquarters and wish him good luck for the future. He has been replaced as the Museum Assistant Curator by Mrs Susan Langridge. We wish her every success in her new post. Mrs Janet Nelson also decided to leave her post as the Museum Receptionist and Shop Manager. The Curator is busy re-advertising her post and it is hoped that it will be filled by 4 Feb.

DWR – AHQ (Halifax) also continues to be very busy planning its events, notably the Freedom Parades for the 3rd Battalion in October. The Officers' Dinner is on 16 May at the Royal York Hotel followed the next day by the Regimental Service in the Minster and a luncheon for the officers and wives. The Annual Regimental Association Dinner will be held on Sat 25 Oct, timed to coincide with the final Freedom Parades in Huddersfield and Halifax.

The programme to update and redesign the Museum is progressing well under the guidance of Brig Dick Mundell, the Chairman of the Museum Trustee. The new WW1 display will be opened by Alice Mahon, the recently retired MP for Halifax on Mon 04 Feb.

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"

NB: Don't forget to read, and then maybe donate to, the NMA Appeal!



YORKSHIRE REGIMENT APPEAL

for a commemorative site at the

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) is a permanent location in Staffordshire devoted to the concept of remembrance and since the dedication of the Armed Forces Memorial by The Queen has become a focal point for the Nation for both commemoration and celebration. Over 100 Regiments, Corps and other Services have plots here.

The Yorkshire Regiment is not as yet represented there and the Trustees recently agreed that this should be remedied. It has been proposed that a small Regimental Committee be established to take this idea forward. The final design of the site has therefore yet to be decided but it is likely to include a large commemorative stone with a plaque appropriately engraved. Trees are of course a feature of the overall site and will also be included. It is the Regiment's intention to include within the site, commemoration of our antecedent regiments.

In order for the Regiment to establish this site at the NMA we need to raise in the region of £15,000, and clearly the more money we raise the better the plot will be. Your assistance with this appeal is sought. Please consider making a donation towards this worthwhile venture in any of the following ways:

Cash – cash donations can be accepted at RHQ.
Cheque – please send your cheque, made payable to 'The Yorkshire Regiment Charitable Trust', to:

Regimental Headquarters
The Yorkshire Regiment
3 Tower Street
YORK
YO1 9SB

Electronically – please visit www.justgiving.com/yorksnaappeal

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the NMA before then it is worth the trip. The Armed Forces Memorial at its centre is superb with 16,000 names of those who have died on service since 1945 and sadly more names being regularly added. More information can be found at www.thenma.org.uk By establishing a Yorkshire Regiment Plot at the NMA not only will it help to commemorate the Regiment with all its glorious past but it will also serve to celebrate what is now the largest and only County Regiment in the British Army. We hope the wider Regimental family will wish to support this Appeal.

On behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment, thank you.