



REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER

It will not have escaped your notice that a good deal of paperwork fell out of your regimental envelope. Please may I ask you to take the time to read through all of it. There is a good deal of information contained therein (Wills, Dinner Club, Benevolence, Officer Recruiting) and inevitably there are financial implications. We are moving forwards with many of our Regimental projects and your support is, as always, greatly appreciated.

Battalions

The following is a brief update on Battalion activities; more information can be found on the Regimental website and Army NET pages and there were in some cases more detailed accounts in April's edition of the Journal:

1 YORKS – The rifle companies and sp platoons have been on an operational deployment as the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company and Ex AFRICAN THORN in South Africa. Mortar platoon and SF cadres were also completed in South Africa. BG HQ completed CAST and Bowman continuation training. The training year culminated in Ex DRUIDS DANCE on Salisbury Plain.

Fourteen soldiers recently returned from Op HERRICK with 2 YORKS and three have requested to remain with 2 YORKS. On successful completion of Ex DRUIDS DANCE the Bn will move to Munster and start pre-deployment training in earnest. Most of the Battalion will deploy on Op TELIC 13 in late Oct. B Coy deploys to Kosovo in Sep.

The Cross Country team came 2nd in the 2 Div league and the football team narrowly lost in the semi-finals of the Infantry cup. The Rugby team was

Runner-up in the Army Sevens Plate competition having qualified for the tournament by winning the 2 Div tournament. They participated enthusiastically in 'Race the Sun', a multi-event relay held over 12 hours in the York area.

2 YORKS – has completed Op HERRICK 7. Achievements of note were the operation to liberate Musa Qal'eh and the transition for a period to a ground holding Battle Group, discrete operations conducted alongside 3/205 Afghan National Army (ANA) Brigade including an out of area deployment as well as patrolling commitments throughout the Provincial Capital of Helmand. They also deployed several times en masse to more remote areas of the Province. Other achievements have involved sub units containing personnel originating from 2 YORKS including the ANA Training Team, Brigade Recce Force and Convoy Protection Platoon.

The coming 6 months will see further training and development in the Sp Coy areas as well as a Potential JNCO Cadre, some adventurous training and some leave over the summer.

Preparations for Op HERRICK 11 will begin in the autumn and pick up pace next year. The intended role of the Bn will be the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams.

3 YORKS – as at 15 Mar they finished in role as the Land Warfare Centre Battlegroup, although the Battalion remains in Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster. They are now firmly established as 12 Mechanised Brigade's armoured infantry battalion.

Preparation is now in full swing for training in BATUS and the subsequent deployment operations to Iraq, and maybe Afghanistan,

next year. They are in Canada to conduct Ex MEDMAN 3 and then provide the OPFOR (enemy) for Ex MEDMAN 4. Corunna Company have been detached to the KRH and will conduct Ex MEDMAN 4 and then support the OPFOR for Ex MEDMAN 5. The last of the soldiers then return to the UK in November.

The rugby union team were unlucky to lose in the semi-finals of the Army Cup. The 7s team has enjoyed some success and most recently won a local 7s competition in Bradford-Upon-Avon. They hosted the Wellington Cup 10s rugby competition on 14 June. The team departed UK for mainland-Europe to play 10 games of 10s rugby in 10 countries in 10 days. This was a major challenge and is being featured in the magazine Rugby World. They remain Army Rugby League Champions, although they will not be able to contest this year due to other commitments (time for someone else to look after the trophy!). The football team has continued to flourish, with the highlight this year reaching the final of the Army Challenge Cup. This has been an epic two seasons for the team and they have won some 6 trophies and are again re-crowned the 4 Div Champions.

4 YORKS – The next few months or so sees the Battalion fully occupied with deployments to Afghanistan, the celebrations of **TA100** and a continuing recruitment focus with the added requirement to create a Yorkshire Regiment Band.

The Bn currently has 46 soldiers mobilised, and 11 on FTRS. Of these 1 is imminently due to return from Iraq, 8 from Afghanistan and 37 will deploy with the ISAF platoon in August. A further 3 soldiers will also be mobilised later this year to deploy on Op TOSCA. The Battalion will act as lead for the FP Company deployment as part of Op HERRICK 11 next year.

Annual training this year will see a Company sized group travel to Wisconsin, USA to take part in an exercise with the US National Guard and the Bn will host a reciprocal training camp for their soldiers in Barry Buddon, Scotland during September.

TA100 celebrations have created a number of PR opportunities for the Battalion. An

Honour Guard was provided at the Royal Salute in York on 14 Jun in the presence of our Colonel in Chief and the Colours were paraded in the TA100 pageant in London on 21 Jun.

RHQ News

RHQ has undergone a good deal of refurbishment in the first half of the year. It has been completely re-painted and re-carpeted and has acquired a number of new pieces of furniture, including a splendid new table for the Conference Room.

After a period of planning and running a number of Regimental events (see later) the RHQ staff from York spent a morning visiting the Battlefield of Marston Moor (1644) just outside York. Scott Flaving was our illustrious guide on what was a most interesting trip.

The website has been under some duress from the Army Comms people. The address remains www.YorkshireRegiment.mod.uk but users should note that with effect from mid-autumn the look and feel of the site will change. The existing site content will move onto our Army NET community pages.

If you haven't done so already there are two things you should do now:

1. Resave the pages you visit most on the Regimental website in your Favourites List (stops all those *Page Not Found* messages appearing).

2. Register and log into Army NET and view our Community pages.

Heroes Welcome – for those of you who visit Scarborough, look up the website at www.heroeswelcome.co.uk to discover more about what the community there are doing for soldiers. The aim of the initiative is “to give a warm Scarborough welcome and a little quiet acknowledgment to members of Her Majesty’s Armed Forces who are doing a difficult job in dangerous circumstances”.

Appointments & Promotions

Col Regt has been appointed as Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (VCDS) in the rank of General wef. May 09.

Brig Lamont Kirkland has been selected for promotion to Major General in the post of GOC 4 Div.

Lt Col Simon Downey, CO 2 YORKS, has been selected for promotion to Colonel wef. Jul 09.

Lt Col David Rhodes took over as CO 4 YORKS on 15 Jul.

Majs Astley, Bower, Bradbury, Newson, Reeve and Lehmann were all selected for promotion to Lt Col on this year's Pink List.

Honours

Congratulations to Col Regt on the award of a KCB in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Also appearing was WO1 (GSM) Barker with a Commander in Chief's Commendation.

STOPPRESS: The operational awards have just been announced; they include an OBE, 2 MCs and 7 MiDs for Afghanistan and an MBE for Iraq. To find out who got what visit the Regimental News page on the website.

Recruiting

DInf, in his first newsletter, wrote the following:

"Manning remains the biggest challenge that we face at presentI have instigated a fundamental review of the way we do our recruiting business: boundaries, post code apportionment of recruits, the lot. Once I have some answers I will, with the blessing of CGS, be setting out new ways of tackling the problem to the Cols Comdt for downward dissemination. There will be tears of that I am quite certain, but we have a graph which is heading inexorably for the floor and we need to make some fundamental changes if that trend is to be reversed."

Brigadier Lamont Kirkland has recently been placed in overall charge of the Regimental soldier recruiting effort and he has produced a clear strategy with the aim of turning things round as quickly as possible.

Financial Initiatives

Financial incentives are available as follows:

Financial Retention Incentive - The FRI (£4.5k before tax) is currently available to all soldiers who have served between 4 - 5 years.

Commitment Bonus – The CB is currently available at the 5yr (£3k) and 8yr (£2.5k) point. From 2009 (date TBC) up to £15k will be available in 1 or 2 instalments for soldiers with service between the 4 and 8 year point. In essence the longer you have served, the larger the pay outs will be.

Rejoin Bounty - All Rejoins (Pte – LCpl and SCBC qualified Cpls) are now eligible for a £6000 taxable bounty.

Transfers - Anyone who transfers into the Infantry is eligible for a £1500 taxable bounty.

Did you miss.....?

Yorkshire Schools Rugby Finals – The Regiment, with the support of CRR(NE), sponsored a very successful finals day for the Yorkshire Schools U14, U15, U16 and U18 competitions in Mar.

Regimental Golf Day – a successful day at Sandburn GC on 16 May. Johnny Purvis won the individual prize with a stableford score of 44 points. Next year's competition is set for Fri 15 May at Malton & Norton GC.

Commemorative Bench – Col Regt unveiled a stunning Commemorative Bench at Darlington Railway station. Canon Cooper dedicated the bench which has been generously donated to the Regiment by Mr Ron Cowen, father of Cpl Cowen of 1 YORKS.



York Races – the inaugural running of the Yorkshire Regiment Maiden Stakes took place on Fri 30 May. It was won by *Thunderous Mood* ridden by John Egan and the new trophy was presented by Mrs Houghton.



Roses Match – The Yorkshire Regiment Roses Match took place at Headingley the following day, Sat 31 May. Once again spectators had to suffer watching Lancashire score a huge total in what became a rain-affected draw.

Regimental Weekend – The first such Weekend took place on Fri/Sat 06/07 Jun in York. 50 officers attended the Dinner in the Merchant Taylors' Hall and about 80 were present at the Church Service at St Oswald's Parish Church, Fulford the following morning. The Association AGM in Worsley Barracks passed off uneventfully and it was followed by a very good curry lunch for all in Worsley Barracks.

Please make a note in your diary now for the second Regimental Weekend which will take place 05-07 Jun 09.

Freedom Marches – Successful Freedom Marches, carried out by the 2nd Battalion, took place in June. The event in Redcar attracted a great deal of interest and was covered live by Sky TV and taken by the BBC and ITN. The support from everyone for these was fantastic.

The next series of marches are being carried out in the week 18-25 Oct by the 3rd Battalion.

TA100

A dinner to celebrate the Centenary of the TA is being held in the Huddersfield Drill Hall on Thurs 06 Nov. Organised by Deputy Honorary Colonel, Charles Dent, the occasion will not only celebrate this TA landmark but also raise money for the ABF.

Guest speakers include the Colonel of the Regiment and Maj Gen Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter. Individual tickets or indeed tables of 10 can still be purchased. Further details are available from RHQ.

The Journal

The 4th Edition of the Journal, something of an operational edition, has been well received. The next edition, which will concentrate on our sporting heritage, is due out in October so anyone wishing to contribute an article should do so by 1st September. If any reader would like to subscribe to the Journal, at the very reasonable price of £10 per year (for two copies) then please contact the Editor at RHQ.

The 2009 Regimental Diary has been produced and will be coming out in September.

Association News

Meeting - the Yorkshire Regiment Association held its AGM on 07 Jun at Worsley Barracks, York. The Minutes are on the website, on the Journal & Association page.

NHS – In June 2007 the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Derek Twigg clarified those eligible for Priority Treatment as:

1. Those who receive a continuing War Pension (either as a result of the Armed Forces Compensation scheme or decisions made before 06 Apr 05 under the War pensions scheme).
2. Those who receive a one-off gratuity and
3. Those whose conditions has been found to be caused by service, but has not attracted an award.

NHS Hospitals and NHS Trust Hospitals should give priority to War Pensioners both as out-patients and as in-patients for examinations or treatment which relates to the condition(s) for which they receive a pension or received a gratuity. Priority is not given for unrelated conditions. It is possible that some GPs are not aware of this; they can be referred to NHS circular (97)31 or for those living in Scotland to the Scottish Executive Bulletin HDL (2002) 18. Further assistance is available on the NHS Direct Helpline 0845 4647.

Inheritance Tax and War Veterans –

Section 154 of the Inheritance Act 1984 states “the estate of a member of the Armed Forces is totally exempt from Inheritance tax if he or she dies from a wound, an accident or a disease contracted on active service, or service of a war-like nature.” This applies to “those injured or suffering as a result of more recent conflicts.” Anyone receiving a War Disablement Pension should almost certainly qualify. For more information please contact the Welfare Department or your local HM Revenue & Customs office.

Victory Services Club – The VSC ‘Haven for Heroes’ promise is making life easier by offering R&R facilities for soldiers and their families. They are offering a 20% discount on room rates to those returning from ops and their families. Further information can be obtained by e-mailing res@vsc.co.uk

Landlord, a Pint of Yorkshire Warrior Please

In February of this year, the Managing Director, Paul Lee, and his brother, Phil, of Cropton Brewery, near Pickering, phoned AHQ (Richmond) to ask whether they could donate a pint of Yorkshire Bitter to every officer and soldier in 2 YORKS on their return from OP HERRICK 7 (Afghanistan). Of course the answer was ‘yes’! Subsequently, a specially brewed, real-ale, bottled-beer called ‘Yorkshire Warrior’ was created showing the Yorkshire Regiment Cap Badge embossed on the label.

Profits from sales of this beer, together with the launch proceeds, will go directly to the Yorkshire Regiment Benevolent Fund to help those who give so much and ask for so little in return. On Saturday 21 June the Lee brothers proudly handed over to the Regiment a cheque for £2,400 bringing their donations so far to just under £3k.

If you have tasted and enjoyed this beer (and the 2nd Battalion certainly has!) then do please tell others about it. Watch out for it on the supermarket shelves.

Antecedent Activity

PWO – The month of June 2008 was hectic to say the least! Our Aden weekend kicked off with a Regimental golf day at Easingwold GC with 31 participants. Winners included Brig Peter Woolley, Bob Woolsey Mick Sullivan and David Thompson. The Annual Officers’ Dinner took place at the Merchant Taylor’s Hall when 67 members made merry and presented Steve Kennedy with a farewell gift of a computer for which he was most grateful.

Aden Day itself attracted 225 participants and it was an excellent event. The weekend culminated in our traditional commemoration of Imphal Day which quite by chance fell on Sun 22 Jun. There were more people present than in previous years and All Saints’ church was full. Thank you to everyone who attended and made this a memorable long weekend.

Our final major event for this year will be the Annual Reunion which takes place at York Racecourse on 04 Oct. It will follow the usual format of a dinner dance the cost of which is £25 per person. Cheques should be made payable to the 'Yorkshire Regiment Charitable Trust' and sent to Steve Kennedy in York.

GH – David Tetlow, the Director and Museum Curator continues to improve upon the Museum collection and the overall presentation of the artefacts that are on show. The current Temporary Exhibition is entitled 'Looking Over the Wall' which takes you back into the old GH Depot in Richmond.

Sixty-five GH Officers and wives held their annual London Lunch at the Queen's Club in London on 14 Mar.

This year's County Cup Final (Year 11, Under 16) sponsored by the Regiment was played at Marton Football Club on 01 Apr 08. The final was St Michael's School, Billingham vs Conyers School, Yarm. The result was a 3-1 win to St Michael's School.

The GHA held their annual Executive Meeting at the Comrades Club, Richmond on 12 Apr. The meeting was attended by 58 GHA Executives.

DWR – This year's 33rd & 76th club social evening was held on Sat 03 May in the Officers'/Sergeants' Mess at Strensall. About 50 or so 'Dukes' turned up for yet another excellent evening, organised by WO2 R Perrin. Thank you Reggie.

Fri 16 May was the date of the 'Dukes' Officers' Annual Dinner, this year held in The Royal York Hotel. The following morning they were joined by many more 'Dukes' and their partners for the annual Regimental Service in the Minster. As you would expect, for many of us, this was the start of a very long but good fun day in York. For your info, next year's service will be on Sat 25 Apr in Halifax.

Other dates for your Diary include:

Sat 25 Oct - Regimental Association Dinner, Hilton Hotel, Bradford. This year's theme will be 'Bosnia 1994' and a small reception for all who served during that tour will be held before the dinner.

Tues 11 Nov - The formal reopening of the Dukes Museum in Halifax, following the completion of the £50k 'Forgotten Voices' project.

York Festival of Remembrance

This year's York Festival of Remembrance will take place at the York Grand Opera House on Sun 02 Nov. Early booking is advised for tickets (£10-£12) on 01904 678703.

And Finally...

Whilst the weather so far this summer has been unexceptional, it has definitely been an active time regimentally. Whether you have been on ops, on exercise, racing, cricketing, attending the Weekend, marching, or merely catching up on some well-earned leave, we wish you well and hope you enjoy the rest of the summer.

"Fortune Favours the Brave"

NB: It's not too late to donate to the Regimental NMA Appeal! Visit: www.justgiving.com/yorksnaappeal