

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREEN HOWARDS 63rd POST WAR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE TA CENTRE, COLDYHILL LANE,
SCARBOROUGH ON SATURDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2010**

Present:

Major General A P Farquhar CBE	President
Lieutenant Colonel C B K Smeeton OBE	Chairman
Major R Martin MBE	Treasurer
Captain D Appleyard	Secretary

1. Deceased Old Comrades.

The Chairman read out the names of 48 members of the Association whose death had been notified since the last AGM, October 2009.

2. Convening Order.

The Chairman read out the Convening Order of the Meeting.

3. Preliminaries.

a. The Chairman welcomed those attending and thanked members for their continued support.

b. It had been a busy year for both the Green Howards Association and The Yorkshire Regiment. The Chairman had been delighted by the numbers that had turned out for the presentation of new colours, and the marching to the Minster in June. It was a great thing to see the wall of Green Standards compared with the two or three from the other Regiments and for the thanksgiving service in memory of Major Jack Riordan.

c. Major David Nicholson had asked the Chairman to pass on his thanks to The Green Howards Association for funding Ray Gascoyne to go to Contalmaison and carry our Standard at The Bell VC Memorial commemoration service and did an excellent job. Also to Pete McCarthy and Bob Playforth who both went and played bugles, (what had been remarkable was they had to go back to the School of Music in Catterick to learn to play the bugle again). The Green Howards Association involvement had been very much appreciated.

d. The President spoke briefly on the recent Defence and Security Review the outcome of which is that broadly, the Regular Army will remain the same but with some restructuring, the TA to wait out, for the results of a TA review in about six months time.

4. Green Howards Association Accounts.

a. Copies of the Association Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2009 were made available to members and were presented and explained by the Treasurer, Major R Martin. These had been adopted at the GHA Executive Meeting held at Richmond on 10th April 2010.

5. **Benevolent Trust Report.**

- a. Major Martin reported that The Yorkshire Regiment Benevolent Trust continues to look after Green Howards Benevolence interests.
- b. During the Financial Year, The Benevolence Trust had approved 268 cases for payment. These numbers include cases forwarded to the ABF for their assistance. £89,637 was awarded by the Trust. A further £66,781 was awarded by the ABF.

6. **Reports.**

a. 2nd Battalion. The 2nd Battalion arrived back in the UK in April 2010 from the operational tour of Afghanistan and have had a relatively quiet period in Weeton since then, they have had the opportunity to re-train and have a bit of fun doing so. They took part in the presentation of new colours at York and carried out Freedom Marches in June. The Chairman thanked the Green Howards Association for the support given at these events. They continue to have a busy time programme ahead of them, leading to a move to Cyprus in July 2011, they will be on reserve for Afghanistan from October 2011 for twelve months. Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Roe is to take over from Lieutenant Colonel David Colthup as Commanding Officer in April 2011.

b. The following Awards were presented to soldiers of the 2nd Battalion on their recent Operational tour of Afghanistan:

- 2 Military Crosses (MC)
- 2 Queen's Gallantry Medals
- 2 Mention in Dispatches
- 1 Queen's Commendation for Bravery
- 1 Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service
- 14 Joint Commanders Commendations

c. Regimental Museum. The Chairman reported that the Museum is in a very healthy state and month by month sees an increase in attendance figures and shop sales, due to the Curator Lynda Powell. The temporary exhibition, on Afghanistan, which has been very popular, will continue until, next year. So please do come and see it. The development of the museum will continue the next stage is the middle and top floor; this will be an expensive project and is necessary. The Curator is in the process of submitting a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant, more news to follow.

7. **Richmond Sunday 2011**

- a. Richmond Sunday is to take place on 22nd May 2011 and will include the Laying Up of the Old 1st and 2nd Battalion The Green Howards Colours. The conventional part of Richmond Sunday will still take place.
- b. The outline plan is to start at Nuns Close car park, march to the Green Howards Memorial at Frenchgate, lay the wreath, instead of falling out and going to Church, the parade will march through Richmond to The Castle, hold a Drum Head service, during which the Colours will be handed over to the Clergy, Gold and Silver badges to be presented and then all retire to the Marquee for lunch.

c. The event will be ticket only, even though the event will be subsidised from Regimental funds, there will be a charge for tickets of £25 for Officers and £20 for Other Ranks. Detailed instructions will be issued soon.

8. **Regimental Chapel**

The Chairman has had a look at what needs doing and a programme is on going to re-fresh, clean and polishing rather than re-new. The Colours will go up on the wall in the brackets that are already in position.

9. **Reunion 2011.**

The dates for the 2011 reunion are yet to be confirmed. The two possible weekends are 21/23 October, an alternative being 7/9 October. To be held at The TA Centre, Coldyhill Lane, Scarborough. (Subject to the Defence Review).

10. **Crépon 2011**

The ceremonies at The Hollis VC Hut (1030 hrs) and The Green Howards Memorial (1200 hrs) at Crépon will take place on Sunday 26th June. Any one wishing to attend may do so. There will be no official Association visit. The Chairman suggested that in future, there will be no bus trip, but individual Branch mini buses or private cars only.

11. **The Yorkshire Regiment**

The President updated the meeting on matters concerning the Yorkshire Regiment. The main points being:

- a. General Sir Nicholas Houghton, Colonel of the Regiment is to hand over the role to Major General (Retired) Graham Binns next year.
- b. Major General Andrew Farquhar is to stand down as Deputy Colonel. Major General Lamont Kirkland will take his place. Due to the re-structure of The Yorkshire Regimental Board, his responsibilities will not include Green Howards. General Farquhar will remain as Chairman of Green Howards Trustees and President of The Green Howards Association; we will continue to run our own programme.
- c. The Yorkshire Regiment are to place a Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire. The design has yet to be finalised but it is to show the cap badges of all the antecedent regiments. The unveiling will be next year.

12. **Annual Jackpot Draw of the 400 Club**

Ticket No	Name	Amount
242	Major J C Conway	£200
276	C D Dunn Esq	£150
419	Guisborough Branch GHA – Syndicate B	£75
336	East Anglia Branch GHA	£35
442	Scarborough Branch GHA – D Harrison	£25
378	Northallerton & Bedale Branch GHA – B Stockhill	£20
162	Captain I H S Homersham	£15

13. **Any Other Business**

a. Mr Ray Gascoyne – Barnsley & Districts Branch. Mr Gascoyne report having recently carried the RHQ Standard at Contalmaison, he informed the Chairman that it is badly in need of repair. (RHQ to action).

b. Mr Colin Inett – Kent Branch. Mr Inett asked the Chairman what functions will take place at Crépon next year. Colonel Clive Mantell replied that he had taken over the running of the Crépon weekend from Ian Homersham to keep the Crépon weekend going, because it was important to do so. A group of them go every year, anyone wishing to join them is more than welcome to do so and he would try to find them accommodation. There will be drinks and a small lunch. The hotel at Crépon is extremely helpful to us and the new Mayor is as supportive as Anne-Marie Poisson was over the years. He assured members that on Sunday 26th June something will be happening there.

c. Major Roddy Bailey. Major Roddy Bailey was concerned that the Green Howards Association would not have a voice on The Yorkshire Regiment Board after its restructuring. The President replied that this was not necessary the case he will remain as President of The Green Howards Association and will always have the interest of the members as his priority.

14. **Date of The Next Meeting**

The date of the next AGM will be in October 2011 (Date to be confirmed) at The TA Centre, Coldyhill Lane, Scarborough.