

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREEN HOWARDS 61st POST WAR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE TA CENTRE, COLDYHILL LANE,
SCARBOROUGH ON SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2008**

Present:

Major General A P Farquhar CBE	Deputy Colonel The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards)
Lieutenant Colonel C B K Smeeton OBE	Chairman
Major R Martin MBE	Treasurer

In Attendance:

Major General R L Kirkland OBE	Commanding Officer 2 nd Battalion
Lieutenant Colonel S J Downey CBE	Acting as Secretary
Captain D Appleyard	

1. **Deceased Old Comrades.**

The Chairman read out the names of 52 members of the Association whose death had been notified since the last AGM, October 2007.

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. The Chairman introduced Major General R L Kirkland and Lieutenant Colonel S J Downey to members.

4. **Green Howards Association Accounts.**

- a. Copies of the Association Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2007 and a trial balance for 2008 were 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 12th April 2008. See Annex A.

5. **Benevolent Fund Report.**

- a. Major Martin reported that The Yorkshire Regiment Benevolent Fund continues to look after Green Howards Benevolence interests and that every case concerning Green Howards had been dealt with. None had been turned down.

b. The Benevolence fund had received 183 cases from its antecedent regiments, including the TA, every case had been approved, the highest payout being £500 and the lowest £200, giving an average payment of £275. If more monies had been required this had been requested from the Army Benevolent Fund and The Royal British Legion. The total sum paid out was in the region of £40,000.

6. **Reports.**

a. 2nd Battalion. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Downey updated members on the activities of the 2nd Battalion, in particular:

- (1) The deployment to Afghanistan in September 2009.
- (2) The Battalions Arms Plot move to Cyprus late 2010.
- (3) The Commanding Officer thanked the Green Howards Association for their supreme support that the Battalion had received during its recent deployment. He encouraged members to continue this support during its next tour in 2009.
- (4) Manning remains a long term challenge and anything the Green Howards Association can do to assist in their towns, by sending good men in their direction would be appreciated.
- (5) In addition General Farquhar informed members that on the recent tour of Afghanistan, the Battlegroup, in recognition of a job well done, had received a total of 26 Operational Awards. Military Crosses had been awarded to a Major and a Sergeant. The Commanding Officer himself had been awarded an OBE.
- (6) Lieutenant Colonel Smeeton reported that he and twenty five members of the GHA had an excellent visit to the 2nd Battalion at Weeton Barracks on 13th September.

b. Regimental Museum. The Chairman brought members up to date on matters affecting the Museum. He highlighted the following:

- (1) The new Museum Curator , Miss Lynda Powell, to start in January 2009.
- (2) The two temporary exhibitions, the old Depot at Richmond and 100 years of the TA, are still up and running. So please do come and see them.
- (3) Visitor figures had fallen, members were asked to encourage the people in their area/town to visit the museum.
- (4) He assured the AGM that the Museum would be open on Richmond Sunday.

7. **Reunion 2009.**

The date for the 2009 reunion will be 16th/17th/18th October, to be held at The TA Centre, Coldyhill Lane, Scarborough..

8. **Crépon**

- a. The Chairman on behalf of the members thanked Mr Tom Heron for all his hard work in organising the trip to Normandy in June this year.
- b. Crépon 2009. There is to be no official GHA tour. The ceremony at the memorial will be at 12.00 noon on Sunday the 21st June. All those wishing to attend may do so.
- c. Crépon 2010. The date of the ceremony at the Memorial in June is to be confirmed. Due to the planned presentation of New Colours to the four Yorkshire Regiment Battalions in June 2010, (the date and venue are yet to be confirmed), there will be no official GHA tour.

9. **Yorkshire Regiment Matters.**

- a. General Farquhar asked members to pass on his thanks, as President of The GHA and also on behalf of The Yorkshire Regiment, for all the hard work done in supporting the active army.
- b. Battalion sub titles. This had been reviewed in 2008. It was decided that no decision needed to be made until a further review in 2010 coinciding with the presentation of the New Colours.
- c. Association Titles. The Chairman reported that by 2010 the PWO Association had agreed that all their Association Branches would change their titles to The Yorkshire Regiment Association (e.g. York) (PWO) Branch. After much discussion and debate the opinion of the members present was that they would be reluctant to change their Branch titles, they did agree that they and their Branches would fully support The Yorkshire Regiment and their association and would welcome any member of The Yorkshire Regiment Association into their Branch as a member. The President emphasised the need to demonstrate support for all Regular Battalions of the Yorkshire Regiment as well as maintaining support for the GHA. The matter has subsequently been discussed at The Yorkshire Regiment Board Meeting, and a policy letter is expected.
- d. Officers' Dinner Club. General Farquhar informed members that It had been agreed by the majority of the Trustees at the Regimental Board meeting that the Annual Officers' Dinner will be bi-annual and held in London, that every other year the dinner would be held with the wider Yorkshire Regiment Officers' in Yorkshire around the 6th June.
- e. Recruiting. Major General Kirkland, as a member of The Yorkshire Regiment Board, is responsible for recruiting. Brigadier Kirkland informed members of the present situation regarding the recruiting effort. Recruiting for The Yorkshire Regiment is bottom of the league. It is very important that the Yorkshire Regiment is much better known as the County regiment, with the need to support all 4 Battalions, this is very important in the North East of the recruiting area. He urged all GHA Branches to give their support and be actively involved in recruiting, not only for the 2nd Battalion, but for the wider Yorkshire Regiment. A request for more information to be placed on the website, indication when battalions were on operations was noted.

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

Ticket No	Name	Prize
48	Mrs Ann Hurst	£200
404	Redcar Branch GHA	£150
368	Scarborough Branch GHA	£75
422	London Branch GHA	£35
288	Mr W J Short	£25
246	WO1 G Lindoe	£20
332	Mr R Butterworth	£15

11. **Diary Dates 2009**

The following dates are planned for 2009:

GHA Executive Meeting	25 th April
Richmond Sunday	17 th May
GHA Reunion	16 th /17 th /18 th Oct
AGM	17 th Oct

Diary dates for 2008/2009 are attached.

12. **Any Other Business.**

Mr Rod Hart, on behalf of the GHA members, thanked Lieutenant Colonel Downey for an excellent visit to the 2nd Battalion on Saturday 13th September.

13. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next AGM will be 17th October 2009 in The TA Centre, Coldyhill Lane, Scarborough.