

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREEN HOWARDS 65th POST WAR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE TA CENTRE, COLDYHILL LANE,
SCARBOROUGH ON SATURDAY 20th OCTOBER 2012**

Present:

Major General A P Farquhar CBE DL	President
Colonel R C Mantell MBE	Chairman
Major P J Ralph MM	Treasurer
Captain D Appleyard	Secretary

1. Preliminaries.

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

b. Sadly, for health reasons, Colonel Barry Smeeton has had to resign at short notice as Chairman of the GHA. The President has sent your best wishes to him as he attempts to recover from his illness. That is the sad news. The good news is we have an outstanding replacement in Colonel Clive Mantell. Colonel Clive has very kindly stepped in, but not only that, has stepped in willingly. He has the time, the enthusiasm and the energy to look after the GHA during this important period.

2. 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 2011.

3. Convening Order.

The Chairman read out the Convening Order of the Meeting.

4. Green Howards Association Accounts.

Copies of the Association Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2011 were made available to members and were presented and explained by the Treasurer, Major Pat Ralph. These had been adopted at the GHA Executive Meeting held at Richmond on 14th April 2012.

5. Benevolent Trust Report.

a. Major Ralph reported that The Yorkshire Regiment Benevolent Trust continues to look after Green Howards Benevolence interests.

b. In the Financial Years from April 2011 to April 2012, The Benevolence Trust had approved 308 cases for payment. These numbers include cases forwarded to the ABF for their assistance. £93,763 was awarded by the Trust, of which £25,000 was given to Green Howards needs.

6. **Diary Dates 2012**

a. A list of Diary dates was made available to members. The following events in 2013 were highlighted:

Yorkshire Regiment Association AGM	-	26 th Jan
GHA Executive Meeting	-	13 th April
Richmond Sunday	-	19 th May
Crepon Weekend	-	7 th – 9 th Jun
GHA Reunion (Scarborough)	-	Oct (date to be confirmed)

b. Crepon. The Chairman has taken over the arrangements for Crepon. We need to encourage a wider group of old comrades and their families to attend. This year the GHA subsidised the travel costs for the Kent Branch. If Branches or groups want to get a Mini Bus together under their own initiative the GHA could subsidise the cost of travel in 2013. A bigger effort will be made in 2014, as it is the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, and also the 70th anniversary of D Day, and so a possible visit to Crepon linked to the Somme battlefield might be arranged. Again at Branch or group level, the GHA could assist with travel costs. Branches should contact the Chairman.

7. **Yorkshire Regiment Matters – ‘The Golden Thread’**

The Discussion document on The Future of The Yorkshire Regiment was made available to all members attending this meeting. The document had also been circulated to GHA Branches prior to this meeting.

The President referred to the paper which is looking at how to retain, the Golden Thread of antecedent regiments going into the future within the Yorkshire Regiment. This was brought about by the Army 20/20 review to remove one regular battalion from the Yorkshire Regiment order of battle. Our aim, as the GHA, should be to ensure that we promote the Green Howards name into the future whilst supporting the Yorkshire Regiment as best we can.

This paper has been sent out as an initial consultation paper. It is to promote debate, not this afternoon, so please look at it, firstly it is a merger and its seen by the serving battalions as a merger 1, 2 and 3 Battalions are going to become 1 and 2 Battalions of the Yorkshire Regiment. It is a question of how within that construct we might wish to make suggestions. The President went through each of the discussion points and options being offered. He ended by saying we need your comments and views, whether you want to send emails or a letter as an individual, or get Branch comments, it is up to you but individual comments would be useful. We would like the comments emailed to Major Pat Ralph at AHQ ideally by the 1st November. That is not the last opportunity to comment. The comments are going to be put into the next Yorkshire Regiment Board Meeting and there is another opportunity to comment right up until the 26th January 2013 when the YRA hold their AGM in Worsley Barracks, York. So we need those comments quite quickly to shape our thinking and get some comments into the Yorkshire Regiment.

Major Tony Warriner is to e-mail the document round his FGHM date base for comments.

Afternote. In response to a message from the Chairman, many helpful comments were received from members. These enabled a paper by the Chairman to be presented at a committee meeting of The Yorkshire Regiment Association on 15 Nov 12.

Additional comments from the floor were:

- a. Military and Sporting Competitions like the Hamilton Trophy and King Olav Competition should continue.
- b. Company Colours within the two battalions like A Coy (Black) PWO Colour, B Coy Green (GH Colour) and C Coy Red (DWR Colour) on the company flags to remind people of the Antecedent Regiments.
- c. The Yorkshire Regiment colour is Brunswick Green which is good news.

8. Annual Jackpot Draw of the 400 Club

245	The Rev Paul Lipscomb	£200
479	David Carling	£150
315	Barbara Hammond	£75
224	Lt Col N T P Murphy	£35
445	Beverley Branch GHA	£25
206	Capt M J Day	£20
378	Leeds Branch GHA	£15

9. Any Other Business

- a. Mr Rod Hart. Mr Rod Hart requested could more information be passed on to members, this would prevent rumours like the TA centre is to close. The President apologised for the lack of communication and members can come to him after the meeting if they have concerns. The future of the TA Centre is the subject of a TA review and hopefully should be known by Christmas,
- b. Mr Ray Gascoyne – Barnsley and Districts Branch. Mr Gascoyne on behalf of his Branch would like to say here and now that the Barnsley and Districts Branch of The Green Howards Association will never change its name and will never amalgamate with other regiments, we are Green Howards and will always remain Green Howards.
- c. Major Tony Warriner – Guisborough Branch. Informed members that a Mr Brian Bage is the founder of putting together a project for a Stan Hollis Memorial, it is to be positioned outside the Museum on Linthorpe Road in Middlesbrough, the project getting up momentum, a committee has been chosen, monies are coming in, a web site will be opened. It has the full support of Ray Mallon.
- d. Future Venus for Reunions. The Reunion will be at the TA Centre in Scarborough next year. If we have to look for alternative venues in the future we will do so.
- e. The 2nd Battalion will not be returning to the UK, its personnel will be dispersed to other battalions of the Yorkshire Regiment or other parts of the Army, whichever the soldier chooses.
- f. Memorial Books. The Memorial Books situated in the Regimental Chapel in St Mary's have been brought to date by placing a Memorial Plaque in the Chapel, in memory to Green Howards who had lost their lives on operations since World War 2 up to the merger in 2006.

10. The Chairman, Colonel Clive Mantell MBE, closed the meeting by recording his personal thanks to Colonel Barry Smeeton for his tenure as Chairman of the GHA. Colonel Clive introduced himself to the meeting. A personal message from the Chairman is attached to these minutes. All members are encouraged to contact him directly by email on chairman.gha@gmail.com .

11. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next AGM will be October 2013 (Date to be confirmed) at The TA Centre, Coldyhill Lane, Scarborough.