

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREEN HOWARDS 68th POST WAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT THE ARMY RESERVE CENTRE, STOCKTON ROAD MIDDLESROUGH ON SAT 17 OCT 15 AT 1800HRS

Present	Col R C Mantell MBE Maj (Retd) P Ralph MM Maj (Retd) A Warriner MBE	Representative Colonel and Chairman Treasurer and Assistant Regt Sec YR Secretary
In Attendance	Association Members x 38	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>ITEM 1 – PRELIMINARIES</p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed those attending and thanked members for their continued support; with a special welcome to Stan Davison and Ken Agnew who had travelled from Canada. He was also pleased to announce that General Sir Nicholas Houghton would attend the evening function, which would be his last Reunion serving in uniform. The Chairman asked “that members join in discussions and take the opportunity to have an exchange of views on the various issues.”</p> <p>ITEM 2 – LAST POST – OLD COMRADES</p> <p>2. The Chairman read out the names of 48 members of the Association whose death had been notified to RHQ since the last AGM in Oct 14. After the reading of names, the Chairman read the Exhortation then members observed a period of silence.</p> <p>ITEM 3 – CONVENING NOTICE OF MEETING</p> <p>3. A copy of the Convening Notice of Meeting was distributed to members and formally read out by the Chairman.</p> <p>ITEM 4 – CHAIRMAN’S INTRODUCTION</p> <p>4. The Chairman said “2015 had been a good year for the Green Howards Association, and thanked members for an excellent turnout at Green Howards Sunday, making it a great success.” He spoke on the Minutes from the Last Meeting and no issues were raised, but confirmed there would be no rebranding or changes to the name of the Association or museum. Members were informed that the museum looks very good, visitor numbers were up and making a visit is a new experience.</p> <p>5. The Chairman mentioned Middlesbrough as this year’s Reunion venue and the great response and welcome received from the admin staff of 4 YORKS. He thanked all those involved and was extremely pleased with their positive approach and attitude to our presence; stating the centre looks bright, well arranged and is the start of a great weekend.</p>	<p>All</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>ITEM 5 – GREEN HOWARDS ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS</p> <p>6. Copies of the Association Balance Sheet for the year ending 31 Dec 14, were made available to members. The balance sheet was presented and explained by the Treasurer, Major Pat Ralph. The Accounts had been adopted at the GHA Executive Meeting held at Richmond on 25 Apr 15.</p> <p>7. The Treasurer explained the Income and Expenditure, stating the reason for the overspend was due to Richmond Sunday 2014, Crepon 2014 and the loss at last year’s Reunion. All these figures were expected and accepted.</p>	
<p>ITEM 6 – YORKSHIRE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND (YBF)</p> <p>8. Major Ralph explained the YBF is controlled by the Yorkshire Regiment but continues to look after Green Howards benevolence interests. He reported that since 1 Apr 15, £50K has been spent on benevolent cases. Members were informed that the ceiling of £750 a case has now been lifted, and there is no limited, with each case being decided on its degree of merit.</p> <p>9. The Treasurer wished to clear the point of reporting benevolent cases, stating the GHA RHQ should not be approached, as it has no money for or input into benevolent issues. The procedure is to contact SSAFA in the first instance, whose staff will write the relevant reports and approach the Yorkshire Regiment Benevolent Fund, Army Benevolent Fund or Royal British Legion. Nothing will happen until SSAFA have written a report. The Cleveland SSAFA office is situated with ‘B’ Company, Army Reserve Centre, Stockton Road.</p>	All
<p>ITEM 7 – YORKSHIRE REGIMENT MATTERS</p> <p>10. Maj Ralph gave the following update:</p> <p>10.1 Regimental Headquarters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York Army Museum has recently opened with the help of £1M from the Lottery Fund • The post of Assistant Regimental Secretary to Area HQ (South), Huddersfield is now held by Maj Charlie Helmn (Green Howards) <p>10.2 1 YORKS – Warminster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now the Lead Armoured Battle Group having completed build up training and assessments • Presently on a six week exercise in Poland operating with other NATO Forces • Recently completed a shipping exercise practicing the movement of personnel, vehicles and equipment by sea. • Now received the new Light Anti-Armour Weapon System the Javelin, which they have been firing for the first time • Recently had troops in Iraq and the Ukraine and are now ready to 	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>deploy anywhere in the world, where Armed Infantry may be required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Battalion continues to do well in football and rugby and during the summer month carried out a number of Freedom Parades around the south Yorkshire area <p>10.3 2 YORKS – Somme Barracks, Catterick.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Battalion now in Catterick and have taken part in Armed Forces Day and Freedom Parades during the summer months • Converting to a new role called the European Union Battler Group • Starting an eight months training programme to develop the role and equipped with the Foxhound and other light armoured vehicles • The Battalion will be tested in the new role in Jan 16 and the CO will be the Battle Group Commander with 1500 troops from various European counties <p>10.4 4 YORKS – RHQ in York.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will now carryout training with 2 YORKS and be involved in the new role of the European Union Battler Group • Busy with Op Fortify, which is recruiting to bring the Army Reserves to a strength of 30,000 by 2020? B Company, Stockton Road is doing particularly well and is presently the strongest company in the Battalion. The threat of closure is now less likely • They have had eight men working with 1 LANCS in Catterick and this year have had soldiers deploy to Cyprus, Germany, Kenya, America, Uganda, Egypt, France, Falklands and South Africa. <p>10.5 Yorkshire Regiment for 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June and July will be Freedom Parades • In June there will be a parade for the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment; venue yet to be confirmed • Tickets will be available for Redcar and York Races and a Middlesbrough Football game at the Riverside <p>11. The Chairman reminded members that the positions of Regimental Secretary and the Assistant Regimental Secretaries at the HQs North and South are all held by Green Howards officers. All are great supporters of the GHA.</p> <p>ITEM 8 – FRIENDS OF THE GREEN HOWARDS REGIMENTAL MUSEUM (FGHM)</p> <p>12. The Secretary gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a requirement for a new Editor and recruiting is ongoing • Dickie Inman remains the Chairman but wishes to retired in 2016 	<p>All</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership is over 800 but we still need to be actively recruiting • An overview of the Friends forecast of events for 2016 • The next AGM will not be until 2016; date to be confirmed 	
<p>13. The Secretary asked “for members’ views on the magazine articles 25 & 50 Years Ago.” It was unanimous that the articles should remain.</p>	
<p>14. The Chairman thanked Tom Wharton, Barbara Ralph, Barbara Hammond and Mally Such for the great photos they contribute to the magazine. He spoke on written contributions for the magazine and asked “for articles from Branch activities etc.” Maj Ralph was asked to provide a piece on the Yorkshire Regiment. Members were informed not to worry if their writing is not too good, as the Editor would put that right.</p>	All
<p>ITEM 9 – MAJOR EVENTS FOR 2016</p>	
<p>15. The Chairman and Secretary briefed members on the following main events for 2016:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHA Executive Meeting on Sat 9 Apr in the Comrades Club, Richmond • Green Howards Sunday on 15 May in Richmond. RHQ will apply to change the route, which will take us right out of Nuns Car Park, down Victoria Road to Pottergate and the War Memorial. The remainder of the parade will remain extant, finishing in Friary Gardens after church. Refreshments will be taken in the Comrades Club 	Chair/Sec All
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WW1 Battlefield Tour to tie in with the Contalmaison 100th Anniversary over the period 7 – 11 Sep. The initial costs were too high; therefore the Chairman is looking into a self-help plan to keep costs down. Details will be circulated once a satisfactory plan is produced 	All
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alma Dinner on Sat 17 or 24 Sep at the Riverside, Middlesbrough Football Club. The date will be confirmed once the fixtures list is released in Jun 16. Experience shows that it is better to hold the event during an away game 	All
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reunion over the weekend 14-16 Oct, venue to be confirmed. The Chairman asked members “if they were happy with the look and layout of Stockton Road and it was a unanimous ‘yes’.” He then asked “for provisional thoughts for 2016, with a view to Richmond and Catterick; Friday Comrades Club, Saturday with 2 YORKS in Somme Barracks and Sunday Garrison Church then Comrades Club.” Views from members were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Richmond and Catterick Garrison are not as good as Middlesbrough for rail travel ○ Stockton Road Army Reserve Centre is a better option than a mix of venues in Richmond and Catterick Garrison ○ Accommodation would not be provide in barracks, but a Premier Inn has now opened in Catterick Garrison ○ With the number of people who live in the Cleveland area, it is easier to travel to Stockton Road than Richmond and Catterick ○ What would happen if there was an emergency in Somme 	All

ITEM	ACTION
<p>Barracks that would affect the Reunion; it may not be a practical option</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some people from Middlesbrough liked going away and enjoyed the Sunday march to church. The Chairman said “the church near the Centre had closed and there was not one within marching distance” ○ Difficult to make a decision on Stockton Road yet as the weekend in not over. The response to this was that those members who were in attendance on Friday night had a great time with excellent service from the bar staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decision. The Chairman thanked members for their input and was of the view that Stockton Road was the preferred option. He said, “a decision will be made and published after checking the various options and opinions of members over the weekend” 	
<p>16. After Note. During the weekend the Chairman and Secretary canvassed views on the preferred venue for Reunion 2016. With 300 members present on Saturday night and over 150 on Sunday, an overwhelming majority suggested that Stockton Road was the best option. Therefore, post the Drumhead Service on Sunday, the Chairman announced that he will write to CO 4 YORKS and request permission to hold the Reunion 2016 at Stockton Road, Army Reserve Centre over the weekend 14 – 16 Oct.</p>	All
<p>ITEM 10 – MISCELLANEOUS GHA MATTERS</p>	
<p>17. Wearing of Medals at Funerals. The Secretary said “he had received a number of queries regarding the wearing of medals at funerals.”</p>	
<p>18. Policy. It was announced GHA policy to wear medals at funerals.</p>	All
<p>19. Application Form for Grants from GHA Funds. The Secretary informed members that an application form to apply for a grant from the GHA funds had been created.</p>	
<p>20. Policy. If a Branch wishes to apply for a grant, the Chairman/Secretary is to contact the Secretary GHA who will forward the form for completion. Once completed, it is to be returned to the Secretary and the request will be considered by the Chairman and Secretary GHA. It was requested that where possible, applications were made well in advance of the events, and provide as must factual financial detail as possible.</p>	All
<p>21. Notification of Absent Friends. The Secretary said “over the past year, there has been a number of misleading publications on Facebook and websites regarding Absent Friends. This has later proved embarrassing when it came to light the information was wrong; in the case of three people having not died, and the family of another not wishing the information to be circulated.”</p>	
<p>22. Policy. To stop further embarrassing and misleading situations, it is hoped the notification of Absent Friends will come direct to RHQ from NOK/Relative, Branch Chairman/Secretary or a reliable source that can be</p>	All

ITEM	ACTION																					
<p>verified. RHQ will not react to or publish Absent Friends details that appear on Facebook or websites. RHQ has no control over peoples' actions, but would advise individuals to be very conscious what they put on media sites without the authority of NOK, and think of the consequences it could have.</p>																						
<p>ITEM 11 – UNVEILING OF STAN HOLLIS VC MEMORIAL</p>																						
<p>23. The Chairman confirmed the Unveiling of Stan Hollis VC Memorial would be Thu 26 Nov 15 at 1200hrs. The venue is opposite the Dorman Museum on Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough and open to Green Howards who wish to attend. It was hoped Branch Standard Bearers would parade where possible. He also said “if necessary the GHA Funds would subsidise travel costs for Standard Bearers, but not Kent Branch as it was too far.” The Secretary will publish more details once confirmed but requested that people start to arrive for 1130hrs.</p>	All																					
<p>ITEM 12 – ANNUAL JACKPOT DRAW OF THE 400 CLUB</p>																						
<p>24. The seven prizes were drawn at the meeting and winners were as follows:</p>	Secretary																					
<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>311</td> <td>Mr Jeremy James</td> <td>£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>276</td> <td>Maj Mike Saunby</td> <td>£150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>141</td> <td>Mr Ian Homersham</td> <td>£75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>359</td> <td>Leeds Branch</td> <td>£35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>103</td> <td>Mr Dennis Hurst</td> <td>£25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>329</td> <td>Mr J Robinson – Scarborough</td> <td>£20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>223</td> <td>Colonel Tony Wilson</td> <td>£15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	311	Mr Jeremy James	£200	276	Maj Mike Saunby	£150	141	Mr Ian Homersham	£75	359	Leeds Branch	£35	103	Mr Dennis Hurst	£25	329	Mr J Robinson – Scarborough	£20	223	Colonel Tony Wilson	£15	
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<p>ITEM 13 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p>																						
<p>25. Kent Branch. The Chairman asked Kent Branch members; “would they be joining the party going to Crepon in Jun 16.” Colin Inett confirmed they had already made provisional bookings.</p>	Kent Branch																					
<p>26. Invite to Norway. The Chairman informed members the GHA had received an invite from the Norwegian Embassy to visit Lillehammar on 30 Apr 16. It would be low-level participation but the Chairman will try and participate with a small group from the GHA. Further details to follow.</p>	All																					
<p>27. Retirement of Ray Gascoyne. Ray Gascoyne informed the Chairman he has now been operating his website for 15 years, and in Jun 16 will retire. Ray had enjoyed maintaining the site but it is now time to finish. He hoped that someone would come forward to takeover.</p>	All																					
<p>28. Vote of Thanks. The Chairman thanked Ray for his time and dedication to the site and the GHA; this was echoed by members with a round of applause. The Chairman and Secretary will look for a successor.</p>	Chairman Secretary																					

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<p>29. 25 Years Silver Badge. For anyone who did not realize; Twenty Five Years is indicated on the scroll to the badge, in place of Green Howards.</p>	All
<p>30. Eston Branch. The Secretary informed members that Tony Ray was trying to form an Eston Branch of the GHA. Tony has a good number of supporters to get this off the ground and is hoping to hold a preliminary meeting before Christmas. Anyone who lives in the catchment area is welcome to attend and become a member.</p>	All
<p>ITEM 14 – YORKSHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION (YRA)</p>	
<p>31. The Chairman spoke about the YRA. He started by saying “it was formed with no Branches and that Pat Ralph is the Chairman. They have lost some 4000 people since 2006, with the Association having no records. It appears that the antecedent Regiments have not welcomed them with an open arm, but that is not to say Branches have not welcomed them, that is not true. There is not actually a name that the Yorkshire soldiers can identify with. The Colonel of the Yorkshire Regiment has confirmed Branches will be formed and he will help fund them. Branches will be formed in the obvious catchment areas and some will be in the same location as a number of GHA Branches. Warminster will have a Branch because 1 YORKS soldiers have started to settle in that area on retirement/discharge. Catterick will have a Branch on the same principle.”</p>	
<p>32. The Chairman, in support of Pat Ralph’s idea for the future, thought that it may be possible for Richmond Branch to be the anchor point for the Catterick area. He understands that the Green Howards will not disappear for many years, but at the Yorkshire Regiment meeting in London, he suggested, along with Pat’s idea that our Branches could be named: Green Howards and Yorkshire Regiment Associations Hartlepool Branch – as an example. As a newly formed Branch with a good mix of Yorkshire Regiment soldiers, he asked “for the view of the Chairman of Hartlepool Branch.”</p>	
<p>33. View from the Chairman Hartlepool Branch. Norman Wright said, “he was a serving Green Howard and Yorkshire Regiment soldier, as are a number of his Branch members; some of which are still serving in the Yorkshire Regiment. Norman agreed that soldiers leaving now do not have a Branch name to identify with, but within their Branch they have a mix of cap badges, including RAOC and Engineers and all are welcome. To encourage the Yorkshire Regiment soldier to join, he understands that a name change is necessary, and he would make that change with the Hartlepool Branch if he can get 100% support from Branch members. The majority of Hartlepool Branch have worn both cap badges and are of the same view. His view was that if we do not make a change to encourage these soldiers, they will go elsewhere and our numbers will only dwindle until there is no one left and the Branch folds.” Dave Hansford, Secretary Hartlepool also gave his support for a Branch name change or additional words.</p>	
<p>34. Steve Mortiboy, Thornaby Branch. Steve said, “he was in support of the idea having listened to the views put forward.”</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>35. The Chairman asked for Views from those Against.</p> <p>35.1 Ray Gascoyne, Barnsley Branch made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ray was against changing the name of the Green Howards Association Branches • When soldiers leave the army, talking from experience, his first thought is to get a job and look after his family, forget his time in the army and slow down in life. From Ray’s experience, he left the army in 1967 and did not start with the GHA until 2001. That is why the Yorkshire Regiment Association will not see many people joining at this time. When they do decide to join they will not be turned away as long as they do not come with the intention of changing things. <p>35.2 The Chairman said, “he once agreed with the view that soldiers did not wish to join for many years, but Hartlepool has proved that theory wrong in some cases.”</p> <p>35.3 Pete Curtis, Richmond Branch said, “he has been a regular attender of a GHA Branch since he left the army and did not agree with the idea put forward; stating: people are welcome to the Richmond Branch and Association whatever Regiment they are from, but it is a Green Howards Association. Richmond Branch had voted and they wished to remain The Green Howards Association, but anyone can join.”</p> <p>35.4 Norman Wright, Hartlepool Branch countered by asking “how we would carry on the Green Howards Association after everyone has gone, if we do not look to the future and give the Yorkshire Regiment soldiers an identity.”</p> <p>35.5 Tom Wharton said “no one was trying to change anything; it was an addition to make a Branch title ‘Green Howards and Yorkshire Regiment Associations’.”</p> <p>35.6 Ken Agnew said “make the Green Howards and Yorkshire Regiment an affiliation.”</p> <p>35.7 Pip Elliott suggested, as senior Green Howards Association members, we owe it to the younger generation to offer a helping hand. He said, “yes they wear a different badge but they come from the same towns and families which gives that link. Pip disagreed that everyone leaving the Army would not join a Branch immediately, some will for various reasons as he did. He agreed with the idea put forward by the Chairman and Pat Ralph but concluded by saying the Green Howards Museum should not change.”</p> <p>35.8 Jim Rothwell, Thornaby Branch supported what Pip had said about giving a helping hand to the lads leaving the Yorkshire Regiment. Jim said, “his Branch had discussed the issue and members had</p>	<p>All</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>shown a positive attitude to adding the Yorkshire Regiment.”</p> <p>35.9 Don Chambers-Nicholson, Richmond Branch said, “it is the Green Howards Association and that’s how it should stay until there is more from other Regiments within a Branch. Once that happens, it should be a democratic process within Branches to make any change.”</p> <p>36. After a number of other debating points the Chairman thought the debate was going nowhere but was aware of the cross section of views. He asked “people to continue the debate at Branch level and invited Hartlepool and any other Branch to adjust their Branch titles if they wished, but inform RHQ of any move beforehand.” To maintain uniformity, the preferred option may be as mentioned above: The Green Howards and Yorkshire Regiment Associations Hartlepool Branch – for example.</p> <p>37. To avoid any uncertainty the Secretary said, “the addition of the Yorkshire Regiment was only an idea for Branch titles. He confirmed that RHQ title and letter headings would not change, Branch Standards would not include Yorkshire Regiment and neither would the museum add Yorkshire Regiment to its title.”</p>	All
ITEM 15 – ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING	
<p>38. Arrangements made after the Meeting. The next meeting will be held at the Army Reserve Centre, Stockton Road, Middlesbrough, at 1800hrs on Sat 15 Oct 16.</p>	All

(Computer signed)

R C MANTELL MBE
Colonel
Chairman

Distribution:

Col R C Mantell MBE	}	All by email
Maj (Retd) P Ralph MM		
Maj (Retd) A Warriner MBE		
GHA Independent Members		
GHA Branch Secretaries)	By email or post