

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREEN HOWARDS 66th POST WAR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE TA CENTRE, COLDYHILL LANE,
SCARBOROUGH ON SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER 2013**

Present:	Colonel R C Mantell MBE	Chairman
	Major P J Ralph MM	Treasurer
	Captain D Appleyard	Secretary

Apologies:	Major General A P Farquhar CBE DL	President
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1. Preliminaries.

a. The Chairman apologised for the absence of the President, General Andrew Farquhar, due to his work commitments. He welcomed those attending and thanked the members for their continued support.

b. This is the first time the AGM has been held at 1830 hrs, the reason was to have more people participating and attending, leading immediately afterward into the social evening. If any member disagrees with the new time then please get in touch with the committee.

c. The Chairman reported that he was impressed with the venue this year and thanked the organisers; the money for the marquee inner was well spent.

d. This TA Centre now has a longer lease of life but for how long is unknown. It was agreed that we will continue to return here annually with the permission of the CO 4 YORKS.

2. 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 2012.

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 2012 were made available to members. They were presented and explained by the Treasurer, Major Pat Ralph. These had been adopted at the GHA Executive Meeting held at Richmond on 13th April 2013.

5. Benevolent Trust Report.

a. Yorkshire Regiment Benevolent Fund (YBF). Major Ralph reported that The Yorkshire Regiment Benevolent Fund continues to look after Green Howards Benevolence interests. He reported that since 1st April 2013, the YBF had paid out £45,680 on 146 cases; these were supported by Army Benevolent Fund grants of £25,094, totalling £70,774 spent on benevolent cases to date.

b. Mr Dennis Bowen assured members that from a personal experience, should any Green Howard find themselves in need of Benevolence it will be dealt with in the appropriate manner by the Yorkshire Regiment Benevolence Committee.

c. The Chairman and the Members thanked Major Ralph for his presentation and explanation of the Accounts and funds.

6. **Green Howards Museum**

a. The Chairman updated the meeting on the progress of the Museum development. He stated that the Museum and the GHA is what we are and therefore the Museum is important. The contractors will be in site 1 December. A soft opening is planned for November 2014. It is provisionally planned that on Richmond Sunday 2015 we should invite one of the Norwegian Royal family to come and re-open the new museum, so maintaining the link with Norway. The Chairman has suggested that this could be The Crown Prince as it will be 42 years after the visit by King Olav.

b. Fund Raising. The Chairman reported that the fund raising is doing well; there is about £130,000 still to find. Captain Dickie Inman and his team are congratulated for the work they have done so far.

7. **Diary Dates 2014**

a. A list of Diary dates was made available to members. The following events in 2014 were highlighted:

Yorkshire Regiment Association AGM	-	Mar (tbc)
GHA Executive Meeting	-	5 th April
Richmond Sunday	-	18 th May
GHA Battlefield Tour (Somme/Normandy)	-	12 th – 16 th June
Crepon Ceremony	-	15 th Jun
GHA Reunion (Scarborough)	-	17 th - 19 th Oct

b. Shanghai Mace. To commemorate the presentation of the Shanghai Mace to The Green Howards by the US Marines, a get together has been organised with the Marines in West Virginia on Saturday the 26th October at Qauantico, Virginia. This project, the brain child of GHA members Ken Agnew and Stan Davidson, will re-ignite the link between the US Marines and Green Howards (Yorkshire Regiment). The party will consist of Yorkshire Regiment Soldiers, the GHA Chairman, Brian Ward and Mr Pete Bennison, Standard Bearer. An article about The Shanghai Mace appeared in the April issue 14 of 'The Green Howard' magazine.

8. **Yorkshire Regiment Matters**

a. Major Pat Ralph, Assistant Regimental Secretary The Yorkshire Regiment, updated the meeting on the current situation of The Yorkshire Regiment. He reported that the four battalions are now down to three Battalions i.e. 1st and 2nd (Regular) Battalions and 4th (TA) Battalion. These are situated at:

1st Battalion – Warminster
2nd Battalion – Cyprus
4th (TA) Battalion - York

The TA Battalion is to pair with the Regular Battalion at Somme Barracks.

b. During the Op HERRICK tours of 2012 The Yorkshire Regiment saw the death of 9 of its soldiers on operations in Afghanistan.

c. It is planned that the 1st Battalion will host a weekend visit of the antecedent associations at Warminster in the Spring of 2014. This visit will be subsidised for GHA members.

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

291	Newcastle Branch GHA	£200
148	Stuart Atkinson	£150
192	Major J R Matthews	£75
50	Bill Broughton	£35
367	Cheshire Branch GHA	£25
134	Malton Branch GHA	£20
241	Beverley Branch GHA	£15

10. **Any Other Business**

a. Virginia Arrowsmith, the Community Liaison Officer, who is working from the Museum, will be present at the Drill Hall this weekend in the Shop area. She would like to get your personal ideas and input to re-construct some of the display stands; she is looking for your personal experiences for the period from Malaya 1948, preparation for Borneo 1960, through to June 2006.

b. Green Howard Obituary. A copy of a form titled “Green Howard Obituary” was made available to all members; it was presented and explained by the Chairman. A revised form will be forwarded to Branch Secretaries and will be available on the web sites. All members were encouraged to use it.

11. **Points from the Floor**

a. Mr Joe Harris asked if the name Green Howards has been consigned to history. The Chairman replied that our name will continue as long as there are Green Howards.

b. Mr Dennis Bowen asked if members could be reassured that the issue of the Gold and Silver Badges does not fade away. The Chairman assured Mr Bowen and members that the issue of these badges will continue for the foreseeable future. Two badges will be presented in the USA. They could also be presented within branches, or even in hospital.

c. Mr Dennis Hurst informed members that in planning his own funeral he had completed a similar form to the one presented by the Chairman at this meeting.

d. Major Roger Chapman made available copies of the latest “Green Howard” magazine. He asked that members support the new editor Mr Steve Erskine and to send him stories or other items for publication. He stressed that we must keep the magazine going.

e. The Chairman informed the meeting that in time the GHA could merge with the FGHM, but not yet.

f. Bob Stankiste reported that at The Armed Forces Day in Scarborough on 29th June a presentation of the Armed Forces Day Flag was made to honour Green Howard and Dunkirk veteran, Mr George Wilson, Secretary of the Scarborough Branch.

g. Brigadier John Powell informed members that one of the best ways to keep the Green Howard name going is to make sure that the Yorkshire Regiment does not forget its roots and having Green Howard artefacts within the Yorkshire Regiment Messes to remind them. He asked that the GHA keep an interest in the Yorkshire Regiment and not turn our backs. One of the best ways to keep the Green Howard name going is to keep reminding the Yorkshire Regiment of their roots and keep the golden thread carrying through.

h. The Chairman thanked Captain Dennis Appleyard for his support over the years and introduced Major Tony Warriner who will succeed Dennis at RHQ.

11. **Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next AGM will be 18th October 2014 (tbc) at The TA Centre, Coldyhill Lane, Scarborough.