

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREEN HOWARDS ASSOCIATION (GHA) 73RD POST WAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD BY ZOOM AT 1700HRS ON SAT 17 OCT 20

Present Committee	Col (Retd) Clive Mantell MBE Maj (Retd) Tony Warriner MBE	Representative Colonel & Chairman GHA Secretary
Present Members	Lt Col (Retd) Julian Panton Maj (Retd) Rodger Helmn BEM Capt (Retd) Tom Wharton Yeoman Warder Dan Benson Russ Sharpe Ian Galloway Tony Ray Patrick Walsh Anth Leck Ian Hodgson	Assistant Regt Sec YR (South)
Apologies	Maj (Retd) P Ralph MM	Treasurer & Assistant Regt Sec YR (North)

ITEM	ACTION	
ITEM 1 – PRELIMINARIES		
1. The Chairman welcomed those attending and thanked members for their support, especially Lt Col Julian Panton for arranging the Zoom meeting. He encouraged members to contribute to the meeting wherever possible.		
ITEM 2 – OLD COMRADES – ABSENT FRIENDS		
2. The Chairman recited the words of the Exhortation. The names of 49 members of the Association whose death had been notified to RHQ since the last AGM in Oct 19, are as follows:		
George Henry HATFIELD	Phil TRAINOR	Gordon TEAGUE
James 'Jim' WHITE	James 'Jim' STURDY	John Henry DENT
Robert 'Bob' BEAL	Keith TWEDDLE	Johnny MORRISEY
Stephen HAMMOND	Robert 'Bob' ADAMS	John 'Jack' HORNER
Roy MEASOR	Ronald SMITH	Brian BUNN
Tom HERON	Alan WATSON	Andy HINSON
Trevor McClUNE	Eddie GOLDEN	Steve YOUNG
Peter JOBLING	Jason Neil TURNER	Derek BATE
Alan William REDFORD	Keith COOKE	Ronnie HOWSON
Major John SEVENOAKS	Malcolm BATEY	Dave WORTON
Stephen 'Mac' McARTHUR	George CROPPER	Conroy 'Con' WILSON
Aidan STEPHENSON	Francis MARLEY	Alex THOMAS
Anthony 'Peo' PEARSON	Paul FRYETT	George ARMITAGE
Major Royce TYLER MBE	John 'Jack' O'DOWD	Neil DIMELow
Bernard TIFFANY	John FRIEND	Lionel 'Leo' ROBSON
Ken ROBERTS		
Captain John FRANCE MBE BEM		
Chelsea Pensioner Ernest 'Ernie' JACKSON		
Lieutenant Colonel John BYRNE OBE		Total 49
ITEM 3 – CONVENING NOTICE OF MEETING		
3. A copy of the Convening Notice was distributed to members and formally read out by the Chairman.		

ITEM	ACTION
<p>ITEM 4 – CHAIRMAN’S INTRODUCTION, REVIEW AND MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</p> <p>4. The Chairman introduced the meeting giving a review of major events of the past year. He mentioned the following:</p> <p>a. Green Howards Sunday 12 May 19, which was a very good day and well attended event that is becoming more popular.</p> <p>b. The Battlefield Tour to Normandy in Jun 19, which included the Crepon Ceremony and saw the largest gathering of members ever, supported by members of The Yorkshire Regiment.</p> <p>c. The National Memorial Arboretum for the Dedication of the Regimental Stone on 19 Sep 19. A splendid day with almost 300 members, families and friends attending.</p> <p>d. A shorter but successful Reunion in Oct 19, and still well attended by over 200 members.</p> <p>e. The Association contributed to a number of other memorials and dedications during 2019.</p> <p>5. The Minutes of the Last Meeting held on Sat 12 Oct 19 were reviewed. There were no issues raised.</p> <p>6. Minutes Accepted. Proposed by Mr Ian Hodgson, Seconded by Capt Tom Wharton and CARRIED by all members attending the meeting.</p>	
<p>ITEM 5 – PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF 2020</p> <p>7. Medal Groups. A very difficult year due to Covid-19, which has resulted in all events been cancelled. Notwithstanding that, after an appeal for donations, Lynda Powell, the Museum Direction, successfully bid at auction for the medals of 2Lt John Dunton MC and WO1 RSM Colin Helmn MM. Both gallantry medals were awarded from the Malayan Campaign and the medal groups are now held in the museum. Maj Rodger Helmn, who donated a very generous sum, expressed his gratitude to all those who donate, and to Lynda Powell for doing the bidding.</p> <p>8. London Remembrance Sun 8 Nov 20. Mr Ian Hodgson updated members, confirming that this year’s event has been cancelled. There will be no marching or official Wreath laying by veterans’ or members of the public. The Chairman thanked Mr Hodgson for his continued support and organizing the London weekend events.</p>	
<p>ITEM 6 – GREEN HOWARDS ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS</p> <p>9. Copies of the Association Balance Sheet for the year ending 31 Dec 19, were made available to members. The balance sheet was presented and explained by the Secretary, Maj Tony Warriner. The Accounts had been made available at the GHA Executive Meeting, conducted by email on Wed 18 Mar 20. The Secretary highlighted the following entries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income. £20,591.00. • Expenditure. £38,471.00. The majority was committed to the Regiments Stone. 	

ITEM	ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss for the Year. £17,880.00. Committed to the Regiments Stone, Green Howards Sunday, Reunion and Battlefield Tour. • Accumulated Fund. £35,533.00. <p>10. The up to date figure in the interest bank account as at 30 Sep 20 was £35,159.00.</p>	
ITEM 7 – YORKSHIRE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND (YBF)	
<p>11. Maj Rodger Helmn reported the following benevolent cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 – 213 cases, with donations totalling £115K. • 2020 – 81 cases, with donations totalling £44K. Cases are very low for this time of the year. 	
<p>12. Benevolent Claims. There is a concern that many Green Howards veterans have forgotten or are not aware of the benevolent fund, and that those falling on hard times are entitled to claim. Anyone requiring assistance should be aware of the funds existence and contacting their local SSAFA and the Yorkshire Regiment. RHQ The Yorkshire Regiment will be publishing more detail on the matter, including other agencies who can assist veterans in trouble. Members are asked, “To pass this information to anyone they know who requires assistance”.</p>	All
<p>13. Benevolent Fundraising. The Yorkshire Regiment is going to highlight its fundraising and benevolence outside the Regiment, such as JustGiving. Four appeals to date have raised £2.5K, which has benefited three Green Howards and one DWR veteran, outside the usual stream.</p>	
ITEM 8 – YORKSHIRE REGIMENT MATTERS	
<p>14. Maj Rodger Helmn gave the following update:</p>	
<p>a. 1 YORKS – Warminster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Officers’ Mess has been hit by Covid-19 and presently on lockdown. • Arms Plot move to Alma Barracks, Catterick Garrison with Flag Up day 20 Nov 20. • CO, Lt Col Tom Miller due to hand over in Jan 21 to Lt Col Tim Exton – former Green Howards. • Still maintain the Armoured Infantry Role. 	
<p>b. 2 YORKS – Somme Barracks, Catterick.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Party with 48 families moved to Cyprus on 2 Oct 20. • Main Body moves to Cyprus Oct/Nov 20, with Flag Up Day 9/10 Dec 20. • New CO, Lt Col James Ashworth – former Green Howards, recently took over with an almost completely new team. • Handover of Ceremonial Colours between Battalions planned for 5 Nov 20, either in Alma Barracks or another location within Catterick Garrison. Covid-19 restrictions will affect attendance, which is likely to be by invite only. 	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>c. 4 YORKS – RHQ in York.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavily involved in flood relieve earlier in the year and did a very good job. • Have been involved in setting up Covid-19 Testing Centres. Many of the Reserve soldier gained employment with SSGC as a result. • Concentrating on Remembrance events and Wreaths will be laid at Cenotaphs through the county by 4 YORKS personnel. • Recruiting Reserve soldiers is a priority, which is going well. Notwithstanding that, numbers of trained personnel have reduced as 4 YORKS have cleared their books of non-attenders. 	
ITEM 9 – FRIENDS OF THE GREEN HOWARDS REGIMENTAL MUSEUM (FGHM)	
<p>15. Editor and Articles. Brig John King has now produced two issues and would like members to continue forwarding their articles. The Chairman encouraged member to forward articles, or a paragraph of interest with photographs, that could be included in the GHA notes. Send via the Secretary if necessary.</p> <p>16. Membership. Membership presently stand at 866, which is a drop for the first time in six years. This is due to recruitment slowing, the number of absent friends and those cancelling membership for various reason.</p> <p>17. 25th Anniversary. 2021 is the 25th Anniversary year for the Friends and Brig King will be producing two bumper issues of the magazine to celebrate the occasion. Additional articles will be produced by Majors David Nicholson and Roger Chapman.</p> <p>18. Donations. In September the Friends received a donation of £500.00 from the Green Howards Association Golf Society run by Capt Tom Wharton. A letter thanking those participating was delivered.</p>	All
ITEM 10 – MAJOR GREEN HOWARDS EVENTS FOR 2021	
<p>19. Although Covid-19 restrictions maybe in place for the foreseeable future, the GHA events programme for 2021 will be planned, but remain pending confirmation. Events will be planned for the year and all external agencies booked, as for a normal year. Planning will start in December and members are advised to book accommodation, but ensure any deposit/booking fee can be reclaimed if cancelled. The situation will be monitored and members will receive sufficient notice of cancellations.</p> <p>20. Main events and confirmed dates (pending Covid-19 restrictions) for 2021 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers’ London Lunch – Leathersellers Company Fri 26 Mar. • GHA Executive Meeting Sat 10 Apr. • Green Howards Sunday 16 May. • Crepon Commemoration Sunday 6 Jun. • Alma Dinner proposed for Sat 11 Sep or Sat 18 Sep, but TBC depending on away game. • Reunion is proposed for weekend 8/9/10 Oct or 15/16/17 Oct at Army Reserve Centre, Stockton Road. It will still be a three-day event, but there will be no church service on Sunday due to reduced attendance year on year. • Officers’ Annual Dinner in York, or other location TBC. • London Remembrance Weekend 12-14 Nov – Target of 50+ marchers. Ian Hodgson will request names of those wishing to attend in Feb 21. 	Officers Chair/Sec/ All

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diary Dates have been circulated. <p>ITEM 11 – ANNUAL JACKPOT DRAW OF THE 600 CLUB</p> <p>21. The seven prizes were drawn at the meeting and winners were as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="244 349 1120 595"> <tbody> <tr> <td>35</td> <td>New Leeds Branch</td> <td>£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>74</td> <td>Col Rex Belas – Donate to GHA</td> <td>£150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>573</td> <td>Michael Mander – Donate to GHA</td> <td>£75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>547</td> <td>Darlington Branch</td> <td>£35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>155</td> <td>Col E T Boddye</td> <td>£25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>166</td> <td>Rev Jeremy Oliver – Donate to GHA</td> <td>£20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>536</td> <td>Sue King – Donate to GHA</td> <td>£15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>ITEM 12 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>22. Point from Mr Ian Galloway. Mr Galloway works at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick. He said; “In his role he works with ex-service personnel from many infantry units and thanked RHQ and other members for the work they do for the Regiment. It is clear by talking to personnel from other units, that the Green Howards communications and events programme generally, is a credit to those responsible.”</p> <p>23. Chairman’s Comments. The Chairman thanked Mr Galloway for his remarks about the Association in comparison with other units. He then asked; “During these difficult times for members to pass the word to look after each other, particularly those who have been made redundant or have health issues where they made need support”.</p> <p>24. Fundraising Events and Donations. The GHA has very little income and expenditure is always greater than income. The Secretary thanked those who donate through their 600 Club winnings and other fundraising events. RHQ runs raffles when possible to raise funds, and the Secretary asked members; “If fundraising would they consider donating to the GHA, as the financial forecast shows funds running out in four to five years at present annual expenditure. Green Howards Sunday is becoming increasingly costly and RHQ will request support to organize raffles and possibly donation buckets to help cover some of the costs of the event”.</p> <p>25. GHA Website. Due to pressure of work the website manager is unable to keep it up to date on a regular basic, therefore, Eric Featherstone has volunteered to assist Steve Walker and is presently familiarizing himself with the site. Once ready, members will be informed and asked to send their stories, photograph and hopefully restart the Guestbook, running alongside Facebook.</p> <p>26. Covid-19 Test Centres. The GHA has been very successful in recruiting members and their wives for many of the centres across the county. This is thanks to Lt Col (Retd) Johnathan Brasher, Steve Swift – both Green Howards, and Majors Pat Ralph and Rodger Helmn. There are new centres and vacancies opening regularly with vacancies for veterans and family members. If anyone requires employment due to redundancy etc, do not hesitate to contact the Secretary for information.</p> <p>27. GHA Golf Society. Capt Tom Wharton informed members that the GHA Golf Society played their annual game at Seaton Carew on Sat 5 Sep 20. It was an excellent day attended by 69 members and their friends. The overall Green Howards Champion for 2020 was Mr Ian Williams. The event raised £1084.00; with donations of £500.00 to Zoe’s Place for children, £500.00 to the Friends of the Green Howards</p>	35	New Leeds Branch	£200	74	Col Rex Belas – Donate to GHA	£150	573	Michael Mander – Donate to GHA	£75	547	Darlington Branch	£35	155	Col E T Boddye	£25	166	Rev Jeremy Oliver – Donate to GHA	£20	536	Sue King – Donate to GHA	£15	<p>Secretary</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>
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<p>Museum and £84.00 into the golf funds.</p> <p>28. Presentation to Col Clive Mantell, Chairman. As the driving force behind the laying of the Regimental Stone at the National Memorial Arboretum, without which the event would not have happened, The Secretary and Maj Michael Pickard, on behalf of Association members, arranged a presentation to the Chairman. It was hoped to make the presentation at Green Howards Sunday or the Reunion, but these were cancelled. If events take place in 2021, it was considered too long after the event. Therefore, at the meeting, the Secretary presented the Chairman with a (virtual) miniature copy of the Regimental Stone, thanking him on behalf of the Association. Responding, the Chairman express his deep gratitude.</p> <p>29. After Note – British Normandy Memorial Bench. Along with the Yorkshire Regiment and other antecedent Yorkshire Regiments, the GHA has donated £750.00; sharing in the purchase of a double bench, with suitable engraving. The bench will be positioned near the British Normandy Memorial in France, overlooking Gold Beach.</p>	
<p>ITEM 13 – ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING</p> <p>30. Arrangements for Next Meeting. The next meeting to be held at Stockton Road ARC at 1830hrs on Sat 9 Oct or Sat 16 Oct 21, but TBC. To be confirmed later once 4 YORKS training programme is published.</p>	All

R C MANTELL MBE
Colonel
Chairman

Distribution:

Col (Retd) 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