

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREEN HOWARDS 64th POST WAR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE TA CENTRE, COLDYHILL LANE,
SCARBOROUGH ON SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER 2011**

Present:

Major General A P Farquhar CBE DL	President
Lieutenant Colonel C B K Smeeton OBE	Chairman
Major R Martin MBE	Treasurer
Captain D Appleyard	Secretary

1. Deceased Old Comrades.

The Chairman read out the names of 44 members of the Association whose death had been notified since the last AGM, October 2010.

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.

4. Green Howards Association Accounts.

a. Copies of the Association Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2010 were made available to members and were presented and explained by the Treasurer, Major Bob Martin. These had been adopted at the GHA Executive Meeting held at Richmond on 19th April 2011.

5. Richmond Sunday/Laying Up of Old Colours.

The Treasurer reported that the total income for the event was £45,866.83. The total expenditure had been £43,244.18. This was under the planned budget by £2,662.65.

6. Benevolent Trust Report.

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

b. In the Financial Years from April 2010 to 5 October 2011, The Benevolence Trust had approved 358 cases for payment. These numbers include cases forwarded to the ABF for their assistance. £131,200 was awarded by the Trust, making an average payment of £366 per case.

7. **Reports.**

- a. 2nd Battalion. The 2nd Battalion has now moved to Episkopi, Cyprus, where they are shortly to become Theatre Reserve Battalion to be on short notice to deploy to Afghanistan should that be required, this task is for a year on short notice to move to assist on specific operations. During 2012 the other two Yorkshire Regiment Battalions will also be serving in Afghanistan and assisted by elements from the 4th (TA) Battalion. After two years in Cyprus the 2nd Battalion is due to move to Germany.
- b. The President also added, the Commanding Officer, Colonel Andrew Roe, has sent his apologies that he could not make this year, as we speak he has a company group in Camp Bastion, Afghanistan doing in theatre training, the QM Department is deployed there on a four month permanent basis. But he sends his best wishes for the Reunion and stresses how important the link between the Association and the 2nd Battalion (Green Howards) is to them serving in the Regiment and on Operations.
- c. Regimental Museum. The Director/Curator Lynda Powell continues to do a super job in the Museum. Visitor numbers have improved and shop sales have increased. She and her staff are planning hard to submit the Museums bid for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to improve the displays and floor space in the museum; if successful a further report will follow in due course.
- d. The President again added, that we are going to do some significant works in the museum, whether or not we get the lottery grant, we are going to put in public toilets and a lift to support the disabled access onto the upper galleries, there is going to be a lot happening in the Museum over the next two or three years in any event, but we hope we will get the lottery grant which will allow us to do a complete refurbishment from top to bottom.
- e. MOD Policy Update – Museums and Area Headquarters. The President reported on the situation regarding Museums and Area Headquarters after the recent Defence Review. Broadly speaking the Army and the MOD have recognised the value of heritage therefore the Museums study recommends that Museums are left as they are ideally for the next 15-20 years which is extremely good news. Although this has yet to be signed off by Ministers. In terms of Area Headquarters again they are deemed to be essential and will stay, again for how long is a good question but we are looking 10-15 years, whether that still remains the case with the Defence Review in 4 years from now. The bottom line really is that Museums longevity is pretty good and Area Headquarters looks as good as we could possibly expect, certainly for the next 5 years.

8. **Accumulated Campaign Service Medal 2011**

Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve an amendment to the Accumulated Service Medal; the qualifying time is reduced from 36 months (1080 days) to 24 months (720 days). The medal will be known as the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal 2011. To qualify for the medal personnel must have been serving on 1 January 2008.

9. **Diary Dates 2012**

A list of Diary dates is attached. The following events in 2012 were highlighted:

GHA Executive Meeting	-	14 th April
Richmond Sunday	-	13 th May
FGHM AGM (York)	-	24 th May
Crepon	-	17 th June
GHA Reunion (Scarborough)	-	13 th /14 th October (to be confirmed)
Annual Officers Dinner (York)	-	12 th October (to be confirmed)

10. **The Yorkshire Regiment**

The President updated the meeting on matters concerning the Yorkshire Regiment. There are going to be some changes at the Area Headquarters over the next three or four months:

a. Mrs Pat Cooper , Pat after 33 years with the Civil Service, the last 23 years as clerical support at The Green Howards Museum, Regimental Headquarters and The Area Headquarters The Yorkshire Regiment, is retiring before Christmas. A presentation is to take place tomorrow after the Church Service. It is very much hoped that this post in the Headquarters is filled sooner rather than later.

b. Major Bob Martin is to retire from his post also before Christmas, after doing a fantastic job, not just Regimentally throughout his Green Howards service, but also as the Assistant Regimental Secretary The Yorkshire Regiment, I think we all know that unless you have got somebody there holding the tiller firmly as we went through some rocky waters, not least the Laying up of the Colours parade, not least to make these sort of things happen, we would be in deep trouble. Bob is not retiring from being a Green Howard, he is retiring from his MOD post and has already indicated that he will be back to haunt us all in the future. But Bob as you are here, if I can just say for this meeting as it is your last reunion in post and your last Board Meeting just before this , Thank you very much indeed. We will be catching Bob a later date. The good news is Bobs post is funded, it has been advertised, and will be recruited, the aim being to get a successor for Bob as soon after he retires.

c. Both posts still stay, just Pat and Bob moving on a similar time frame. The joy is having mentioned those two, I will have to mention Captain Dennis Appleyard, and Dennis is staying for another decade or so.

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

Disc No	Name	Amount
525	Loftus Branch GHA – Mr E Bell	£200
113	Mr G W Awty	£150
328	Major J R Matthews	£75
362	Captain J M Saunby	£35
472	Thornaby Branch GHA – Mr R Butterworth	£25
483	Mr Alan Beattie	£20
295	Captain H Earp	£15

12. **Any Other Business**

- a. Crepon 17 June 2012. There will be no official GHA Coach trip in 2012. Any Branch wishing to carry out individual visits by mini bus is welcome. Details can be obtained from RHQ. Colonel Clive Mantell is the Green Howard contact for arrangements in Crepon.
- b. Cyprus 2012. It is not intended to hold a Reunion in Cyprus in 2012, the Reunion will be here in Scarborough. There might be the possibility of a small scale visit to the 2nd Battalion in Cyprus in November 2012. It will not be cheap. The Chairman would like members to go away from this meeting, think quite carefully about it and talk to your Branch Secretaries. The subject will be discussed again at the GHA Executive Meeting in April. The Chairman would like Branches to come to that meeting with some indication of how many, if any, would like to go on such a trip.
- c. Ray Gascoyne's Website. Ray is to continue with his website. The Chairman of behalf of the members thanked Ray for his continued support to what is a tremendous website.
- d. Mr Colin Owen, Kent Branch asked about the routine at Crepon. The Chairman informed him the format will be the same as previously, in that the day will start at The Hollis Hut, Gold Beach at 10.30 am. The ceremony at the Memorial in Crepon will commence at 12.00 noon. If there is enough people attending then we will probably march, maybe joined by the French Standard Bearers and possibly some form of refreshments afterwards. Individuals would have to arrange their own travel and accommodation.
- e. Major Bob Martin proposed that the GHA make a grant of £150 a year to Ray Gascoyne to offset his running costs of the 'Old Pals Website'. This was seconded by Captain Hank Doolan and unanimously carried by those members present, who showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

13. **Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next AGM will be 13th October 2012 (Date to be confirmed) at The TA Centre, Coldyhill Lane, Scarborough.