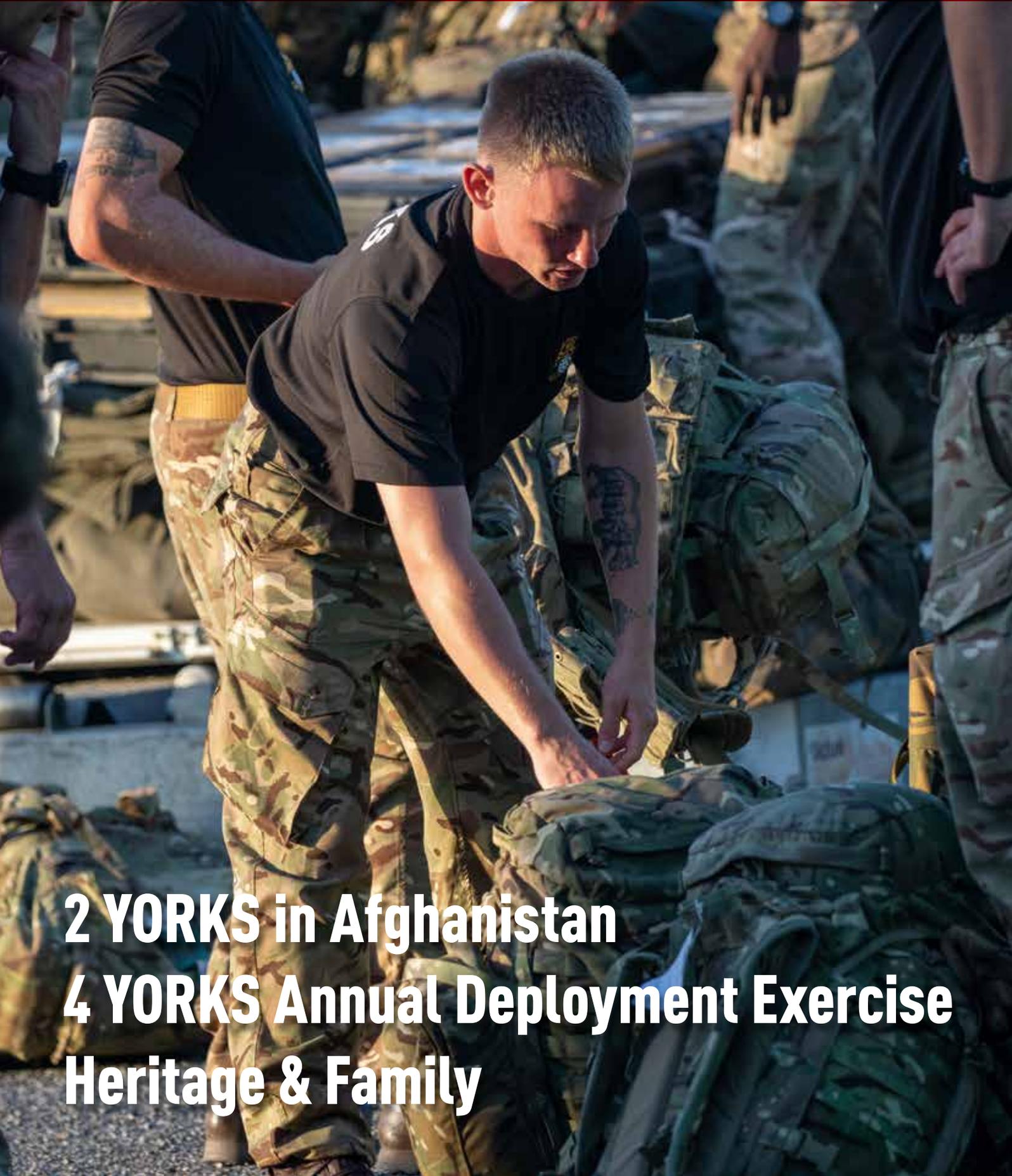




The  
**YORKSHIRE**  
Regiment

AUTUMN 2021 | EDITION 31

# Journal



**2 YORKS in Afghanistan**  
**4 YORKS Annual Deployment Exercise**  
**Heritage & Family**

# Foreword

By Brig ZR Stenning OBE

**A**s I begin my tenure as Colonel of the Regiment, I feel hugely privileged to be doing so, but also enormously grateful to my predecessor Brigadier Andrew Jackson, for his work over the last five years. Latterly, he guided the Regiment through a challenging period, as work was being done on the Integrated Review. The measure of success was that we retained two Regular battalions and a Reserve battalion. He took a great interest in all aspects of the Regiment and importantly, has left us in a good place. We will formally say farewell to Brigadier Andrew at the Officers Dinner in November, but on behalf of all the Regiment I would like to formally thank him for his excellent leadership, care and guidance. We could not have been better served.

Following recent events in Afghanistan, I know there will be much reflection and analysis over the coming years on what our contribution delivered. I am immensely proud of what we collectively delivered and achieved as The Yorkshire Regiment. Over 14 years and 11 operational tours we helped deter terrorist attacks emanating from Afghanistan on the United Kingdom and helped create local conditions for security. That politics at the Afghanistan National level did not go the way we wished and International commitment grew exhausted, is deeply painful. But our role was not to deliver political solutions; it was to help create the security conditions for politics to be conducted and terror attacks to be deterred. We did that and we gave the people of Helmand a chance. This came at a huge price; 17 members of the Regiment fell with 36 physically injured. As a family Regiment, we will always honour and remember their and their family's huge sacrifice. And as we go forward, we will learn from this experience and share our knowledge and lessons with the next generation of Yorkshire soldiers.

Since the last edition of the Journal, the Regiment has been exceptionally busy. I would like to start by reflecting on the outstanding contribution by 2 YORKS to UK evacuation operations in Afghanistan. In exceptionally fast moving and dangerous conditions, the Battalion surged in support of 16 Air Assault

Brigade to help extract UK and Afghan citizens. Showing speed of response and agility, the Battalion deployed from Cyprus forward to the United Arab Emirates and Kabul. Having spoken with senior commanders of the operation, I know that everyone has been deeply impressed by what the Battalion achieved. As ever, success is borne of meticulous preparation and the development of a strong culture of readiness over many generations. For those of you who are part of 2 YORKS now or in the past, thank you for what enabled and delivered. When speed and decisive action was needed, the Battalion exceeded the mark. Elsewhere, 1 YORKS have been training in Germany and 4 YORKS supporting training teams in Africa. We should all be very proud of what our soldiers and officers are delivering at home and abroad.

I was hoping to be able to confirm in this journal the precise details of Battalion roles and responsibilities to 2030 following the Defence and Security Review. However, work remains ongoing at Army Headquarters with announcements likely in late November. We will communicate the detail as soon as we have it, including the basing plot which I know is important for you and your families. To support and manage the change, we are updating the Regimental Strategy for the next decade. This will include a revised vision for the Regiment and new strategic objectives. We will communicate these changes at the Regimental Cross-Brief in early 2022, to which serving members, cadets, veterans and our champions from across Yorkshire are warmly invited.

Maintaining and enhancing our Regimental family will be a key focus of the new strategy. From heritage and the museum and the wide reach of our communications, to our established rapport with the major military charities, our ability to engage as a Yorkshire Regiment family has never been better. We have already seen the network of camaraderie and friendship delivered through the YRA which has reached out to the veteran cohort, including the creation of job opportunities. I want to look at how we might improve our links with the young service leavers and those



who served in more recent conflicts, including the 'seldom heard and hard to reach' who may need our help. As ever, time and resource will be a limiting factor, but with a revised strategy in place, an updated plan of engagement, matched to available resources, I am confident we can deliver.

I would like us all to remain vigilant for those who are still suffering mental scars from Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflicts. This Journal and future publications will contain lists of support for those who may need help. RHQ will remain the focal point for co-ordination but it will take the whole Regimental family to look out for each other and communicate the love and support that is needed for those most in need. So please do continue to reach out to those you know who are suffering or you have not heard from in a while. Good families always care and look out for each other; the smallest gesture can make a lifesaving difference.

In closing, I send my thanks to everyone for all that you have achieved in the past few months. If what is captured in this edition of the Journal is anything to go by, it's going to be a busy, exciting, and rewarding next few years.

*'Fortune Favours the Brave'*



The  
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**Front Cover:** 2 YORKS unloading on their return from Op PITTING

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2 YORKS in Cyprus hosted CGS and demonstrated the utility of RPVs on the battlefield. Read more on page 36.

## The Battle Honours

The World War 1 and World War 2 Honours, with those on the Queen's Colours shown in bold.

*The Great War* – Mons, Le Cateau, Retreat from Mons, **Marne 1914, 18, Aisne 1914, 18, Armentieres 1914**, La Bassee, **Ypres 1914, 15, 17, 18**, Langemarck 1914, 17, Gheluvelt, Nonne Boschen, Neuve Chapelle, **Hill 60**, Gravenstafel, St Julian, Frezenberg, Bellewaarde, Aubers, Festubert, Hooge 1915, **Loos, Somme 1916, 18**, Albert 1916, 18, Bazentine, Delville Wood, Pozieres, Flers-Courcellette, Morval, Thiepval, Le Transloy, Ancre Heights, Ancre 1916, **Arras 1916, 1917, 18**, Scarpe 1917, 18, Arleux, Oppy, Bullecourt, Hill 70, Messines 1917, 18, Pilckem, Langemarck 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Poelcappelle, Passchendaele, **Cambrai 1917, 18**, St Quentin, Bapaume 1918, Rosieres, Ancre 1918, Villers Bretonneux, **Lys**, Estaires, Hazebrouck, Bailleul, Kimmel, Bethune, Scherpenberg, Marne 1918, **Tardenois**, Amiens, Drocourt-Queant, Hindenburg Line, Havrincourt, Epehy, Canal du Nord, St Quentin Canal, Beaufort, **Selle, Valenciennes**, Sambre, France and Flanders, 1914–18, **Piave, Vittorio Veneto**, Italy 1917–18, Struma, **Doiran 1917**, Macedonia 1915–18, **Suvla**, Landing at Suvla, Scimitar Hill, **Gallipoli 1915**, Egypt 1915–16, Archangel 1918, Afghanistan 1919.

*The Second World War* – Otta, **Norway 1940**, Withdrawal to Escaut, Defence of Escaut, Defence of Arras, French Frontier 1940, Ypres-Comines Canal, **Dunkirk 1940, St Valery en Caux, Normandy Landing**, Tilly sur Seules, **Odon, Fontenay le Pesnil**, Caen, Bourguebus Ridge, Troarn, Mont Pincon, St Pierre la Vielle, Gheel, Nederrijn, Aam, Venraij, Rhineland, **Schaddenhof**, Brinkum, Bremen, **North West Europe 1940**, 44–45, Jebel Dafeis, **Keren**, Ad Teclescan, Abyssinia 1940–41, **Gazala**, Cauldron, Mersa Matruh, Defence of Alamein Line, **El Alamein, Mareth**, Wadi Zigzaou, **Akarit**, North Africa

1940–42, 1942–43, 1943, Banana Ridge, Medjez Plain, Guirat el Atach Ridge, Tunis, **Djebel Bou Aoukaz 1943**, Primasole Bridge, Landing in Sicily, Lentini, **Sicily 1943, Minturno, Anzio**, Campoleone, Rome, **Monte Ceco**, Italy 1943–44, 43–45, **Sittang 1942, 45, Pegu 1942**, Paungde, Yenangaung 1942, North Arakan, Maungdaw, **Defence of Sinzweya, Imphal**, Bishenpur, Kanglatonbi, Kohima, **Meiktila**, Capture of Meiktila, Defence of Meiktila, Rangoon Road, Pyawbwe, Arakan Beaches, Chindits 1944, **Burma 1942–45**.

The Honours held on Regimental Colours:  
**Namur 1695, Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, Malplaquet, Dettingen, Louisburg, Quebec 1759, Belleisle, Martinique 1762, Havannah, St Lucia 1778, Mysore, Martinique 1794, 1809, Tournay, Seringapatam, Ally Ghur, Delhi 1803, Leswarree, Deig, Corunna, Guadaloupe 1810, Java, Nive, Peninsula, Waterloo, Bhurtpore, Alma, Inkerman, Sevastopol, New Zealand, Abyssinia, Afghanistan 1879–80, Tirah, Relief of Kimberley, Paardeburg, Relief of Ladysmith, South Africa 1899–1902, Afghanistan 1919, The Hook 1953, Korea 1952–53, Iraq 2003.**

### Honorary Distinctions

**The Leeds Rifles** – The Badge of the Royal Tank Regiment, with dates 1942–45 and scrolls: North Africa and Italy. The Croix de Guerre – awarded to the 8th Battalion The West Yorkshire Regiment for the Capture of the Montaigne de Bligny in 1918.

**The 76th Regiment of Foot** – Honorary Colours presented by the East India Company in 1803.

### Colonel in Chief

His Royal Highness The Duke of York KG

### The Colonel of The Regiment

Brigadier ZR Stenning OBE

### The Deputy Colonel of The Regiment

Brigadier ED Colthup

### The Honorary Colonel of The Regiment (Reserve)

Colonel JK Wright

### The Regimental Board

Consists of: The Colonel of the Regiment, the Deputy Colonels, Brig Humphris, DComd 4X, the Commanding Officers of the Battalions, the King's Division Lieutenant Colonel, the YRA Chairman, and the Regimental Secretary

### The Board of Trustees

Consists of: The Colonel of the Regiment, the Deputy Colonels, Mr A Little, Col CG Le Brun, Mr DWM Barraclough, Mr P Lee, Brig DP Monteith MBE, Lt Col AHS Drake MBE and the Regimental Secretary

### Regimental Executive Committee

Consists of: Brig ED Colthup, Commanding Officers, SO1 King's Div (HQ Inf) Regimental Secretary (and others as required).

### Regimental Chaplain

Reverend Ben Norton MTh CF

### Regimental Headquarters Staff

**Regimental Secretary:** Lieutenant Colonel DRE O'Kelly

**Deputy Regimental Secretary:** Colonel MA Lodge

**Assistant Regimental Secretaries:**

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Finance: Mr S Kendall

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**Commanding Officer:** Lieutenant Colonel T Exton

**2nd Battalion**

Somme Barracks, Catterick Garrison, Catterick DL9 4LD

**Commanding Officer:** Lieutenant Colonel JE Ashworth

**4th Battalion**

Worsley Barracks, Fulford Road, York, YO10 4EB

**Commanding Officer:** Lieutenant Colonel WH Blackhurst

**The Freedom Cities and Towns of the Regiment**

Barnsley, Barnoldswick, Beverley, Bradford, Bridlington, Halifax, Harrogate, Kirklees, Kingston-Upon-Hull, Leeds, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Richmond, Rotherham, Scarborough, Sheffield, Skipton, Stockton, Wakefield, Warminster and York

**Army Cadet Force  
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**Detachments:** Acomb, Castleford, Halifax, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Keighley, Knaresborough, Lumley, Malton, Mirfield, Northallerton, Scarborough, Selby, Skipton, Spen Valley, Stokesley, Thongsbridge, Whitby, Woodlesford

**Humberside & South Yorkshire**

**Detachments:** Barnsley, Beverley Grammar School, Beverley Town, Bransholme, Bridlington, Cottingham, Darfield, Goole, Londesborough, Pocklington Town, Sutton, Wath on Dearne, Wombwell

**Cleveland**

**Detachments:** Bydales School, Coulby Newham, Dormanstown, Freeborough Academy, Guisborough School, Guisborough Town, Loftus, Lytton Street, Macmillan Academy, Nunthorpe School, Redcar, Redcar College, Saltburn, Skelton, Stockton Road (2 dets), Thornaby, Yarm

**The Combined Cadet Force**

**Contingents:** Bridlington, Giggleswick School, Harrow School, The Grammar School at Leeds, Pocklington School, Queen Ethelburga's School, St Peter's School, Wellington College, Yarm School

**Allied Regiments**

Les Voltigeurs de Quebec, The Royal Montreal Regiment, The Royal New Brunswick Regiment, The Rocky Mountain Rangers, The Queen's York Rangers, 10th Battalion The Baloch Regiment, The Falkland Islands Defence Force

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**Unofficial Affiliations**

The Company of Merchant Adventurers of York  
The Company of Fellmongers of Richmond, North Yorkshire  
The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire  
HM Kongens Garde

**Regimental Association**

The Yorkshire Regiment Association, 3 Tower St, York YO1 9SB

**Regimental Museums  
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Activities Officer: Mrs Allison Freeman

Collections Manager: Miss Aline Staes

Museum Attendant: Mr Phil Mackie

3 Tower Street, York YO1 9SB Tel: 01904 461018

[www.yorkarmymuseum.co.uk](http://www.yorkarmymuseum.co.uk)

**Green Howards Museum**

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Collections Manager: Zoe Utlej

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**Duke of Wellington's Regimental Museum**

Military Attendant: Mr JD Spencer

Bankfield Museum, Boothtown Road, Halifax HX3 6HQ

Tel: 01422 352334 [www.calderdale.gov.uk](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk)

**York & Lancaster Regimental Museum**

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Clifton Park, Clifton Lane, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 2AA

Tel: 01709 336633 [www.rotherham.gov.uk/info](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info)

**Regimental Badge**

The white rose of York from The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire crest is superimposed on the lion rampant from the Duke of Wellington's family crest. The whole badge is set upon the Brunswick green backing of the Green Howards.

**Regimental Quick March**

"Ca Ira"

**Regimental Slow March**

"The Duke of York"

**Regimental Motto**

"Fortune Favours the Brave"

**Regimental Day**

6th June

**Regimental Collect**

O Lord God: The shield and buckler of all that trust Thee:  
Grant to the Yorkshire Regiment in its battalions and ranks, the strength that fears no evil tidings: No desperate endeavours: And no foe bodily or spiritual; but advances in Thy righteousness:  
Through all rough places: Under the Captain of our Salvation:  
Jesus Christ our Lord

# 1st Battalion

## The Yorkshire Regiment

### Foreword

By Lt Col Tim Exton

Since my last foreword for the 1st Battalion in this Journal, the spring and summer months have brought a much needed and much welcomed return to military training, sports and social activity, enabled by the gradual easing of national COVID restrictions. It almost goes without saying that these past 18 months have been unprecedented and unusual times, and the impact on the Battalion's cohesion, coincident with a unit move and some high tempo commitments, has been profound. In recent months, however, we have thankfully been able to redress some of the shortcomings, and a return to collective Battalion PT, sports afternoons, representative sport, collective training, company socials and mess life have done wonders for restoring cohesion and re-introducing fun into the work-life balance.

We have also done much to restore the institutional foundations of professional and sporting excellence in recent months. Quebec Company have completed a series of successful cadres that have regenerated the specialist platoons and their capabilities ready for the Autumn's commitments, and the Rifle Companies have all completed some fantastic mounted collective training and dismounted live-firing. The Training Wing has been established to be truly a Centre of Excellence for both dismounted and mounted close combat, reinforced by a team of high-quality instructors who have all recently returned from IBS, ARMCEN and the ITC. Under the leadership of Capt James Lalley as the Trg Offr, joining us on commissioning from the Grenadier Guards, and WO2 Chappell, the Battalion's Training Wing are able to impart their significant experience and knowledge of best practice to our JNCOs and Ptes, preparing them

optimally for their career courses and promotion cadres. And the 1st Battalion's sports teams have enjoyed a strong run of success of late: the Rugby Team has won the Inter-Corps and Army 7's competitions, and came runners-up in the Rugby League Yeoman Cup. The Football Team has enjoyed great success in a series of friendlies around Catterick Garrison in preparation for the coming season; and the Battalion's nascent Sailing Team, representing the Infantry, won the Army Offshore Regatta, a quite remarkable achievement.

By the time of publication, the 1st Battalion will have been resident in Catterick Garrison for nigh on twelve months. It has been a challenging year, and the period has felt peculiarly compressed given the combined effects of the COVID pandemic, split lines of effort for each sub-unit and the uncertainty for the 1st Battalion following the Integrated Review. As a result, it rather feels like 1 YORKKS are still bedding into our new home, and much remains to be done to establish ourselves fully in Yorkshire.

Nevertheless, the QM's team and the Gym staff have worked tirelessly and superbly to deliver some real enhancements to those living and working in Alma Lines. The RQMS' update goes through the detail, but I must highlight the new Strength and Conditioning Gym, created from an empty vehicle hangar, and delivered by Field Army funding that was secured through an eloquent articulation of need, a sustained charm offensive and sheer energy: it is truly a fantastic facility for the whole battalion, and testament to the efforts of the Bn 2IC, the previous QM Maj Hinchliffe, and our RAPTCL, SSgt Lowe.

The 1st Battalion is hopeful that an announcement on the Integrated Review this side of Christmas will set out the future role for 1 YORKKS, as we move away from Armoured Infantry and look forward to embracing new capabilities and fresh challenges. That will seal the transition from Warminster to Catterick, and will introduce focus, purpose and excitement into the forecast for 2022 and beyond.

**'Fortune Favours the Brave'**



The new Strength and Conditioning Suite

# Alma Company

## ALMA COMPANY

OC	Maj I Atkins/M Burgess
2IC	Capt N Donnan
CSM	WO2 R Thomas
WSM	WO2 A Williams
CQMS(M)	CSgt S Mills
CQMS(T)	CSgt D Middlemiss

**A**lma Company is back over the Rhine! For the second time this year the Alma 'Spartans' have been in Sennelager, but luckily this time the sun was out. Last time we taught our King's Division brothers in arms, the Mercian Regiment some lessons to take away to Estonia. This time it was the turn of the boys in black, the Royal Tank Regiment.

It has been fantastic to get the Company working together on a fully resourced exercise in armour, the first time that has been truly possible since the start of the pandemic. Although COVID meant the full experience of Germany could not fully be enjoyed, Alma managed to create some small, on camp

opportunities to bond together.

The last 6 months have seen some significant changes, as well as an increase to the Company from soldiers passing out of ITC Catterick. Alma has also welcomed some new faces into the HQ, CSgt Turner is now CSM Turner and has left for Burma Company. He has been replaced by CSgt Mills who has settled in well. Maj Burgess has taken over command of the Spartans from Maj Atkins after two years in post. Maj Atkins will continue his career down in LWC, terrorising the Company next time they come through CATT.

Alma also had to say goodbye to Lt Wright, who will pass on his knowledge to the next generation of Soldiers at AFC Harrogate (and fit in some fishing). Additionally, Sgt Whotton and Sgt Baker have both moved to the training wing. Our loss is the Battalion's gain, as the unit seeks to invest quality into the wing; no doubt their expertise will be a huge boost to the Battalion as a whole.

The summer leave brought some much



Maj Atkins and Maj Burgess

welcome time with friends and families, following a busy period for the Company. Alma is relishing the next quarter and the run up to Christmas, supporting the Battalion's activities and the PJNCO cadre, in addition to some long overdue adventurous training and social activities.

## 1 Platoon

Pl Comd	Lt R Hughes
Pl Sgt	Sgt G Whotton/Sgt Dunbar
WR Sgt	Sgt Dransfield

1 Platoon have recently deployed with Alma Company to Germany to support and help train the RTR on EX TALLINN DAWN. As well as this, 1 Platoon, along with the remainder of Alma Company have deployed on CT1 level exercises to develop their low-level, light role soldiering skills. The focus of this was a patrol competition that was unable to happen due to force health protection considerations. It would have been an excellent chance for the Platoon to get out and train together when opportunities in recent months have been limited to say the least. Alas, it has been delayed to November, which gives the Company a chance to prepare while the other Companies are deployed on Exercise. We have seen some changes in appointments in the last 6 months. We welcome Ptes Storr, Williamson, O'Sullivan and Dale, all have recently arrived from ITC Catterick and we look forward to introducing them to Battalion life. Cpl Rhodes should also be congratulated after coming Top Student on his Regimental Instructor of Gunnery course and he is now qualified to promote on the next board. We know he will continue to be an invaluable asset to the Company and the Battalion in the meantime. Finally, we wish Sgt Whotton the best of luck on his move to the Training Wing after 2 years in post as the Platoon Sergeant. Sgt Whotton will hand over to Cpl Dunbar, who's recent promotion to Sgt will allow him to remain as the Platoon Sergeant.

## 2 Platoon

Pl Comd	Lt H Lodge
Pl Sgt	Sgt R French
WR Sgt	Sgt Baker

2 Platoon has had an incredibly busy few months within the Battalion and there is more to come on the horizon. Most recently 2 Platoon and the remainder of Alma Company have deployed on Exercise TALLINN DAWN to support the RTR Battlegroup. This was a fantastic opportunity for the troops to deploy in a challenging environment and context, especially when opportunities have been few and far between in the last year.

The most recent arrivals to the platoon are Ptes Bamforth, Jacques and Varo. All three new members are settling in well. Pte Charlery has excelled within the platoon and as a result, is currently attending a PJNCO cadre; we all wish him the best of luck. Further up the promotion ladder, we have LCpl Archer and LCpl Bytheway who are both soldiers attempting a pre-cadre for selection to attend their SCBC. With luck LCpl Archer and LCpl Bytheway will both soon find out why Section Command is considered by many as the best job in the Army.

2 Platoon also deployed with Corunna Company as part of the Battalion's in-house Collective Training exercise on Salisbury Plain. This will prepare the platoon nicely to augment the Task Force HANNIBAL OPFOR in the Autumn, exercising against the King's Royal Hussars (KRH) Battlegroup as part of their validation exercise. This is a role with which 2 Platoon are very familiar, with having provided this support at Coy level against the RTR earlier in the year.

# 3 Platoon

<b>Pl Comd</b>	Lt T Wright/2Lt Hails
<b>Pl Sgt</b>	Sgt Boris
<b>WR Sgt</b>	Sgt Wilkinson

3 Platoon has experienced a lot of change in recent months. Lt Wright has moved on to AFC Harrogate to instruct junior soldiers as part of his new role. 2Lt Hails is enjoying PCBC in Brecon but in the meantime the platoon is left in the more than capable hands of Sgt Boris, for whom congratulations are in order following his recent selection for promotion to Colour Sergeant. Sgt Boris will hand over to Cpl Rock of Corunna Company. Moreover, congratulations are overdue for Cpl Broxham who will move to Burma Company in September on

promotion to Sergeant, an easy move for him as he is already covering the duties of WR Sgt. It should also be noted that Cpl Broxham was Top Student on his Regimental Instructor of Gunnery course.

As one of 3 Platoon's strongest LCpls, LCpl Black has been selected to attend the cadre run by the KDTT, hoping to secure his place on SCBC later this year. LCpl Black will likely be with familiar faces from Alma Coy and should look forward to the challenge which SCBC will present to him. Pte Rush has excelled within the Platoon and has recently qualified to promotion to LCpl, a commendable effort. We wish him the best of luck on the next promotion board. Pte Frost performed extremely well on the most

recent EX TALLINN DAWN, achieving the longest range kill on the TES system and as a result, his all-round performance has marked him out as a potential NCO of the future. As a result, he is currently attempting the PJNCO cadre to hopefully earn the opportunity to promote to Lance Corporal. The most recent arrivals into the Platoon are Ptes Carson, Percival and Stewart. All three are fitting in well and should look forward to the challenges of battalion life.

## TALLINN DAWN

By Lt Henry Lodge



At the beginning of May 2021, Alma Company, along with reinforcements from Corunna Company, were deployed to Germany to provide the OPFOR, supporting the RTR BG on Ex TALLINN DAWN, this was the qualifying exercise which would certify the RTR as fit for their coming deployment to Estonia on Op CABRIT as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence. The deployment consisted of two phases: first the live-fire range package, where Alma Company provided a range safety team working incredibly long hours in what even Yorkshire soldiers would describe as inclement weather; others would have described it horizontal rain! Despite these conditions, spirits were never dampened and despite a short time frame, mission success was achieved for both Alma Company and the RTR.

The second phase consisted of acting as a thinking and dynamic enemy OPFOR, for a series of validated battle runs. This tactical assessment phase

was roughly 6 days long, during which the RTR conducted several advances to contact, delays and deliberate attacks. Deploying as a company meant that we would be clearly outnumbered against a Battlegroup. However, we had been given enhanced abilities, albeit simulated ones, and one of the Platoons had been fitted with the similar capabilities to that of Challenger 2 tanks. This enhanced the firepower of the company and provide a significant menace to the RTR.

To add a layer of complexity and realism, troops and vehicles were fitted with Tactical Effects Simulation Equipment (TES). This allowed both Friendly and OPFOR troops to simulate target effect against one another's personnel and vehicles, accurately replicating a tactical scenario and an amazing training opportunity for both the RTR and members of Alma Company. Our competitive spirit was high as it was easy to see the accuracy of our engagements and competence of our fighting ability.

All in all, whilst the exercise was successful, getting out to Germany and deploying in such challenging times is testament to the hard work put in by members of the Company. This gave the troops the best chance to bond and get to know each other, an opportunity which has been regrettably rare in recent times.

## Experiences of Ex TALLINN DAWN

By LCpl Jones

We started TALLINN DAWN with low level training with the dismounted Sections conducting recce serials, familiarising ourselves with the TES equipment and adopting new tactics to face our new enemy, the RTR. We drew lessons from previous conflict's guerrilla tactics and adapted them to fit our weapons and equipment. Meanwhile, our armoured crews were busy preparing the vehicles and packing our equipment to ensure we were ready to go.

Once we had deployed, we experienced a complete swing in the weather from the previous damp conditions to a blistering heatwave. We had six missions to accomplish, but basically our aim was to provide the RTR Battlegroup with a determined, thinking enemy and whenever the RTR struck at us, Alma company struck them back, but twice as hard. The delay phase was the best in my opinion. Our approach and tactics allowed us to immobilise half of their tank squadrons and the ensuing chaos was incredible. Alma Company's armoured vehicles were slowly destroyed, but our dismounted soldiers proved what a force multiplier a strong Armoured Infantry (AI) dismounted platoon can be. Alma Company were the last ones standing at the end of this phase of the exercise, after destroying multiple enemy tanks and dismounted sections successfully delaying the RTR Battlegroup.

# Burma Company - Training Validation with the King's Royal Hussars Battlegroup

## BURMA COMPANY

<b>OC</b>	Maj WL Allison / J Watt
<b>2IC</b>	Capt J Tankard
<b>CSM</b>	WO2 M Turner
<b>WSM</b>	WO2 J Lane
<b>CQMS</b>	CSgt J Parker
<b>CQMS(T)</b>	CSgt M Brannigan

After a year dominated by very-high readiness, Burma Company are now firmly in the midst of training validation with the KRH BG.

As one of two Armoured Infantry (AI) sub-units in the Battlegroup, we are on a structured and progressive training pathway that will ultimately lead to deployment on Op CABRIT in 2022. The exercises are varied and challenging. At this point in time, we have already completed Ex CRIMSON WINDS – a conceptual study week aimed at crew and



commanders, Ex CRIMSON TRACER – a live-firing Battlecamp and Ex CRIMSON LIGHTNING – Battlegroup combined arms manoeuvre, using the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer simulators in Warminster.

We have just put our training in the simulators to the test on Ex CRIMSON THUNDER – a combined arms exercise on Salisbury Plain with our paired tank squadron, A Squadron, KRH. Soon we will take part in further simulated training, tackling the lessons that were identified

on CRIMSON THUNDER, only this time on the Unit Based Virtual Trainer on Ex CRIMSON TORNADO. This will be the final exercise before some well-earned summer leave. On return, we then link back up with the KRH for Ex IRON STORM – a complex, challenging and well-resourced exercise that will validate the Battlegroup to assume the role as Lead Armoured Battlegroup and on to further training for Op CABRIT in 2022. With a unique twist of fate, we will find ourselves facing other members of 1YORKS, as the OPFOR will come from Corunna and Quebec.

It's been an exciting and busy 2021 for the company so far and we know we have plenty of experiences still to come. Nothing bonds a unit more than focus and we have had that in spades. Big things are yet to come for Burma Company.

## 4 Platoon - Simulated Training on the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer

### By Cpl Horne

<b>Pl Comd</b>	Lt M Lehmann
<b>Pl Sgt</b>	Sgt R Kelly
<b>WR Sgt</b>	Sgt MA Dean

Burma Company deployed for two days to the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT) in Warminster alongside A Squadron KRH as part of our preparation for Ex IRON STORM with the KRH BG. This simulated exercise saw all of Burma Company's crews enjoy a whistle-stop tour of the Warminster CATT facility as they took to their simulators for two days of tactical actions after a long drive down from Catterick.

Day 1 allowed the crews to shake out and take on the 'armoured gym'; this allowed them to find their feet in the simulators and get to grips with the virtual mannerisms. Having completed this, the platoons moved into lanes to practice movement and drills. This allowed for focus on balance and the use of ground

whilst manoeuvring. This moved into the afternoon where Burma Company paired with A Squadron for the first of a set of tactical actions. This took the form of an advance-to-contact, Burma Company advancing a tactical-bound behind the tanks following the battle and providing flank and rear security. The contact saw 4 Platoon rolling through to destroy the position after an adventurous march to the enemy objective.

Day 2 set up for a full Battlegroup action. KRH Recce Troop pushed out a



screen, followed by the Squadrons with the Infantry Platoons taking up their role in the rear. The mission: to destroy an enemy objective. This required the Battlegroup to negotiate a minefield and challenging terrain in order to advance and destroy the objective, this was quickly followed-up by an enemy counterattack that was repulsed by both Infantry and Armour.

Using CATT is ideal synthetic preparation for Armour, allowing commanders to practice their manoeuvre and function within the Battlegroup context. Burma Company focussed heavily on using data chats to communicate, allowing them to maintain a clear net as much as possible and allowing them to operate more comfortably dispersed. The company is looking forward to being able to use this capability in order to further their preparation for Ex IRON STORM in the Autumn.

# 5 Platoon - Getting Battle Fit

By LCpl Hughes

Pl Comd	Lt G de Villiers
Pl Sgt	Sgt C Taylor
WR Sgt	Sgt O Wilson

During the COVID pandemic, it was very hard for soldiers to keep on top of their physical fitness. At times, it has been a bit of a challenge with gyms being closed and having to train in isolation or alone, however, being soldiers and Infanteers we are always welcoming of change and the need to adapt. Soldiers from Burma Company have had the lone soldier PT programme to conduct whilst at home or on dispersed work, using limited kit for circuits and keeping on top of CV training. It was critical that whilst on dispersed work soldiers kept fit, with the Battalion being on different levels of readiness, knowing that at any time we could be crashed out to assist with any number of scenarios. Anything from a pop-up testing site or to go on operations. This demonstrates the need for soldiers to keep fit, physically and mentally.

When COVID restrictions started to ease and we returned to work at a more normal tempo, we could start conducting structured PT sessions that are more related to our role. Burma Company have been tackling a structured programme to build up their muscular strength, endurance, speed and agility. This has included strength sessions in the gym and high intensity circuits, mixed in with role related PT such as loaded marches and tactical PT. Not only are these sessions good for physical

fitness but also for mental wellbeing, keeping up with the mental robustness that the role asks for. Some sessions are hard, but it's these sessions that test the physical and mental resilience.

Burma Company have been aiming to complete a Soldier Conditioning Review (SCR) and followed up by the Role Fitness Test (RFT). With this steady build-up of physical training which targets; strength, endurance, agility and speed.

With this test completed, all members of Burma Company are now physically and mentally ready to be deploy anywhere, anytime around the world to conduct their duty.



## 6 Platoon - Castlemartin Battlecamp

By Pte Willetts

Pl Comd	Lt F Reynard
Pl Sgt	Sgt W Shepherd
WR Sgt	Sgt K Wider

Since the new year, 6 Platoon have been extremely busy preparing for Ex IRON STORM as part of the KRH Battlegroup. A key part of our build up training was a Battlecamp at Castlemartin in South Wales. The Battlecamp with the KRH was run 23 May to 4 June at the Castlemartin Range Complex in Pembroke. The moment that the Platoon arrived we got to grips familiarising ourselves with the layout of the camp. On the first day of firing the Gunners, Drivers and Commanders were reunited with their Warrior IFVs and began to bore-sight them prior to the first static shoots. Concurrent to the Armoured shoots, members of the Coy were running ranges for dismounts. This meant that there was a balance of dismounted and mounted activity and multiple activities to get involved with. This kept the Coy 2IC on his toes, coordinating the movement of both troops and vehicles. The Close-Quarters Battle range was good as we had a change to throw live grenades. There was also a VIP visit when Commander 12 Brigade visited the section attack lane. On the third night in Castlemartin, the first of three night-shoots began and tested the crews' ability to engage targets in the dark. After the first week of Battlecamp the dismounted Infantry



Night firing at Castlemartin

returned to Catterick, their training complete, while the crews remained for another week to complete their Annual Crew Test Shoots. These shoots went smoothly with all crews passing without any issues. After the final week the crews cleaned down the Warriors and returned to Catterick on the Friday afternoon for a well-earned weekend.

The Platoon is now preparing for the Duke of York Cup in November, which is a patrols exercise testing the Company both as individuals and as a team. This is a great chance to prove the Platoons' and Company's professionalism and readiness for whatever the future holds.



## Stop Press

While conducting live-fire training at Castlemartin at the end of September, Burma Company were thrilled to host Wales and British Lions rugby star Alun Wyn Jones.

# Sir Tom Moore 100 Challenge – Charity Bike Ride

By Lt F Reynard



The 1 YORKS cyclists

On Friday 30th April 2021, an intrepid team from 1 YORKS embarked on a 100km bike ride from Alma Lines to Keighley, the birthplace of Captain Sir Tom Moore. This was to raise money as part of the Capt Tom 100 Challenge, marking what would have been Capt Sir Tom's 101st birthday, in support of The Captain Tom Foundation. The foundation was created by his family to ensure Capt Sir Tom's message of hope becomes an enduring legacy. The Battalion's strong links with Captain Sir Tom Moore as a former officer in The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, meant that this was all the closer to the hearts of the 18 riders who

braved the route through The Yorkshire Dales.

The riders were of various ability levels. For some this was an easy ride through The Dales, one they might enjoy any weekend of their choosing; for others, this was their Everest. Like all good amateurs, many had paid a small fortune to look semi-professional, and some even looked credible. However, no amount of kit can account for the never-ending hills of Yorkshire and a limited understanding of how gears work.

The ride was split into three stages having been planned meticulously by a few members of the Battalion cycling team. All stages were stunningly beautiful and appreciated by almost everyone as we rode, and everyone when we stopped. However, the price of such dramatic beauty is elevation changes and two huge climbs, which were met by leviathan efforts from the team. At the top of the worst climb the QM, arguably the star of the show for this move alone, had sourced some award-winning meat pies from Pateley Bridge. These were brilliant and proved a deserved reward.

Full on pies, the team then concluded the final stage of our ride to Keighley. There we were met by the Mayor and enjoyed a Skype call with Captain Sir Tom's daughter, a special moment for us all. In total we raised just under £1,500 for his brilliant charity. It was a pleasure and a privilege to follow the example of such a great man, one to which we can all aspire.



Arrival at Keighley

# Corunna (Duke of York's) Company

## CORUNNA COMPANY

OC	Maj A Hammond
CSM	W02 N Cooper
2IC	Capt S Morris
WSM	W02 C Johnson
CQMS	CSgt Dale/CSgt Webb
CQMS(T)	CSgt Maguire

This is the third time I have written for the Journal as OC Corunna Company and once again it has been an impressive and varied six months for the company. The quality of the soldiers in the sub-unit has been on fine display. Lt Morris has been promoted to Captain, 2Lt Francis to Lt, Sgt Cole promoted to CSgt, Cpl Rock selected for Sgt, LCpl's Dorrian, Marchington and Sanderson 51 all selected for Cpl and Ptes Mellor, Straszynski and Ramsden-Wilson all selected for promotion to LCpl. Lt Mckinley, LCpl Marchington have both been awarded Comd 11 Sig Bde commendations for their work on Op RESCRIPT supporting the NHS in the West Midlands earlier in the year, and Lt Butters was awarded top student on AICC tactics. The sub-unit has also had further course success by Cpl Whitton on PSBC, LCpl's Wignall received a commendation on SCBC Tactics and LCpl Rudd has completed Armoured Infantry Crew Commanders.

More widely, the Company has been praised for its significant support to Alma Company while deployed on Ex



Corunna Company with D Sqn KRH in Copehill Down during Urban training in April 21

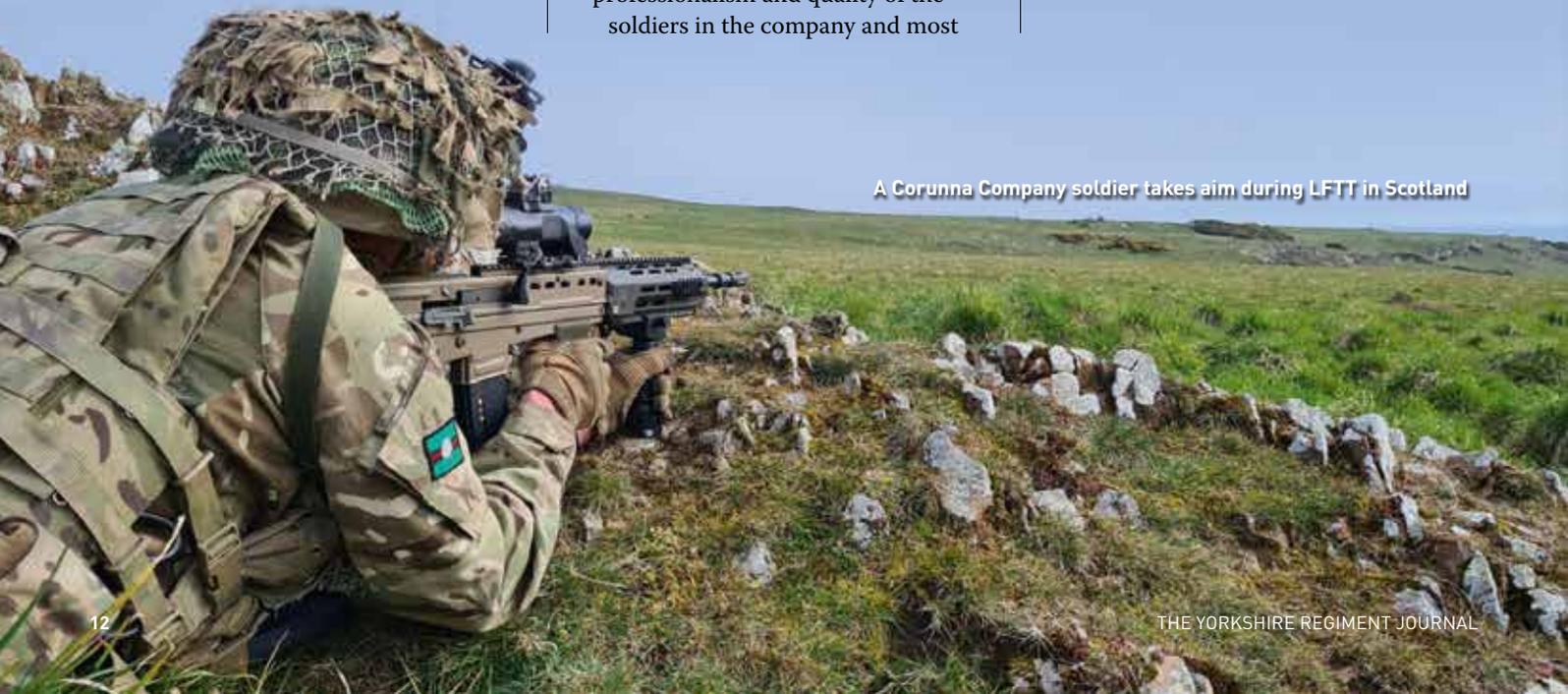
TALINN DAWN. Lt Butters led a platoon plus in Warrior, acting as simulated Main Battle Tanks, having a great effect leading to delivery of a highly credible OPFOR that truly challenged the RTR during their deployment training for Op CABRIT devising many lessons that the Coy will aim to take forward in our own training in the process. As part of its own build up training to be part of the Task Force HANNIBAL OPFOR Group in the Autumn, the company second in command devised a mounted collective training event on Salisbury Plain and delivered a company level TLFFT/LFTT package in Warcop and Kirkcudbright. As I write this, we are deployed on Salisbury Plain once more in preparation for a battalion validated company exercise alongside Fire Support Company and with support from tanks from D Sqn KRH. I am sure this will once again prove a great opportunity to demonstrate the professionalism and quality of the soldiers in the company and most

importantly further develop their skills prior to attending career enhancing courses in the future.

The company look forward to deploying as OPFOR against the KRH and B Coy in October and then conducting Warrior Annual Gunnery in Castlemartin in early 2022, with the hope of deploying to BATUS in late Spring 2022.



Corunna Company Soldiers rehearsing GPMG drills in WARCOP prior to LFTT in Kirkcudbright.



A Corunna Company soldier takes aim during LFTT in Scotland

# Ex TALLIN DAWN - Experiences as a Tank Platoon

By Lt T Butters, LCpl Dorrian and LCpl Acton



Commander 20 Bde gives his personal thanks to the 1 YORKS range team.

7 Platoon was attached to Alma Company and deployed to Germany as the OPFOR for Ex TALLIN DAWN. We were a numerically inferior force but our WARRIOR IFV's were 'dressed up' as BMPs and T-90s with the TES programmed to simulate their weapons systems (such as 120mm MBT cannons). We were up against the RTR / Royal Welsh Battlegroup and their attached assets, Anti-Tank, Recce, Engineers, ISTAR Air Support, Artillery..... everything we didn't have. It should have been a push over for BLUEFOR, but although we started as a free-thinking enemy, we ended as what can only be described as EXCON directed live Figure 11's, testament to the success of our tactics.

As an Armoured Infantry Platoon Commander used to the 30mm RARDEN Cannon, I now had the 125mm gun plus Anti-Tank missiles that could engage a target out to 4km. LCpl Acton was one of my vehicle commanders, he said "I think they had a slight advantage. They could fire on the move, were trained tank commanders and had all the advantages of the Challenger Sighting Systems. What we did have over the Challenger 2s is speed, our relatively small size and experienced crews allowing us to put the Warrior in places it shouldn't be. It was very interesting leading a Company into an attack. What I liked best was the fact that we were actually going up against what is the best tank in the world and destroying them with our TES capability,

most of the time it was a one shot kill as well. I can imagine that we didn't do the usual things that you would expect from a troop of tanks so the RTR tanks were a bit dumbfounded by what we were doing but it worked for us."

It was a good test for the platoon which raised lots of tactical questions.

How do we have maximum effect as a smaller force? How do we avoid being fixed so we can have the effect? It was a good challenge and required some very impressive armoured manoeuvre to avoid being seen by enemy recce and UAV. It required us to use deception and target areas of enemy weakness and it worked! Pte Archer, a brand-new gunner, destroyed 13 vehicles in one mission and got the vehicle back for the next mission. LCpl Acton destroyed a total of 25 vehicles.

Our dismounted troops who were screening forward were superb at identifying enemy FUPs and hides. Had we been allowed to direct fires onto the positions, the fire missions would have ended the BLUEFOR missions before they began. Our dismounts, working in small teams often lead by our senior private soldiers would ambush armoured vehicles with RPGs in close country and hold up the entire Battlegroup. Sharpshooters would record kills of key enemy personalities.

The enemy CO was killed by a headshot from a sharpshooter. LCpl Dorrian adds; "This forced me as a section commander to think a lot more about how I would approach specific tasks and missions, because ultimately, I still wanted to 'win' each serial where possible. My personal highlight was the urban phase. We had a couple of hours to prepare a large urban village, from there the Battlegroup had to attack it and claim it from us. It was building to building clearing with low level section commander tactics earning each small victory. Eventually we were overrun but as a platoon we managed to keep them at bay for a staggering eighty-five minutes before they finally took the village".

We all learned a lot of tactical lessons. It was a chance to experiment and develop our newest soldiers, many of whom by the end of the exercise, had grown in confidence and were confident at navigating, communicating and commanding all at the same time – the junior commanders must be praised for the mentorship of their subordinates.



Striking from behind. A Corunna soldier engages a BLUEFOR Warrior with RPG having infiltrated the position on foot.

# Quebec Company

## QUEBEC COMPANY

OC	Maj T Davies
CSM	WO2 J Tunmore
CQMS(M)	CSgt L Blondin
CQMS(T)	CSgt N Cole



## Recce Platoon

OC	Capt J Roberts
2IC	CSgt D Hall

Since our last Journal entry, the Recce Platoon has been busy welcoming our latest members. We've had four Privates from the battalion's various Rifle Companies join us since our cadre back in March and we have been spending time developing what they learned on the cadre, as well as getting them qualified to either drive or become a gunner on CVR(T).

In May we saw the Company deploy to Warcop for some dismounted LFTT. Over the two weeks the Coy went from low level individual skills right the way up to Section level. We were blessed with

good weather and used any down time between ranges to get out into the area and get up into the hills on some runs and personal exercise.

The battalion's BCS package was held down on Salisbury Plain, where the platoon operated in a light role capacity for the first two weeks, before moving to armour for a simulated phase in CATT. It was a great challenge and cemented the places of the newer members within the platoon. There's been more churn as we say goodbye to Sgt Dixon as he moves to instruct at the ITC, and we welcome back Sgt Tune. We've also said goodbye to two of our Section 2ICs in LCpl Marshall, who has left the Army to work for the Highways Agency, and LCpl Holdsworth

who joins the Wiltshire Police Force.

By the time this Journal is published it will also have marked the end of my tenure as OC Recce, and I move to join the BATUS training team in CTG. Capt Tom Colthup takes over the role, and will be in the throes of his Armoured Close Recce course. It's been a privilege to work with CSgt Hall and the lads over the last 18 months. Much as I'd love to stay for the upcoming role on Ex IRON STORM, where the platoon will play OPFOR against the KRH BG, I will be seeing the battalion from my new role as SO3 Infantry, where I will firmly be in 'DS' mode with my TES god gun! I wish the platoon all the best for the future!

## Anti-Tank Platoon

OC	Capt Pettitt
Sect Comd	Sgt Tikoisuva
ZIC	WO2 Nichols
Sect Comd	Sgt Norris
Sect Comd	Sgt Stott

The Anti-Tank Platoon welcomed 13 new members to the platoon, including Capt Pettitt and WO2 Nichols who both jumped straight into the platoon's annual Javelin Gunners Cadre. This consisted of weapon handling, AFV recognition, communications and with a final tactical exercise to confirm what had been taught and to develop understanding in their new role. We were supported brilliantly by members of 4 SCOTS with instructors that had just qualified from Anti-tank Div at SWS, which helped deliver a very successful cadre. Pte Patton was awarded the Cpl Liam Riley Trophy, an award given to the best soldier on the Cadre. Fully deserved with consistent high performance and noteworthy of AFV recognition.

Whilst the Cadre was being conducted in Catterick a Javelin section, commanded by Sgt Stott, deployed to Germany as part of the RTR BG in support to their future deployment on

OP CABRIT. This has seen 1 Section held at a higher readiness than the rest



of the platoon, something that held unique challenges. After the Battalion's BCS exercise the platoon is ready and eager to start our Task Force Hannibal role, providing an OPFOR in support of KRH BG later in the year.

Career courses continue during a busy period which has allowed Sgt Norris to attend PSBC, and with LCpls Evans and Hayton soon to be attending Det Comd course. Ptes Cooke, Carroll and Smith will be looking to complete their JNCO Cadre over the coming months.

Congratulations go to Cpl Davies on Promotion to Sgt, who will replace Sgt Tikoisuva soon. Farewell goes to Capt Grundy who moves on as the Battalion's Operations Officer, we wish him all the best and thank him for his time and drive with Anti-Tank PL.

Anti-Tank PL is set to continue to develop and will look forward to exploiting training opportunities as we strive for excellence.

## Sniper Platoon

OC CSgt Brennan

Since the last article where the members of the Sniper Platoon were working with the NHS, or dispersed working from home, we have now returned to a busy schedule of commitments and our main training goal for this year is to increase live-firing.

The platoon deployed as part of the company to Warcop to conduct a 2-week live field firing package as riflemen rather than snipers, something that was useful and gave them an opportunity to remember the basics. The platoon then had a 3-day static firing package on Wathgill ranges, collecting data with the L129A1 fitted with the Schmidt and Bender sight. There was also a further day shooting to prepare for the 3(UK) Div Sniper shooting competition.

With the prospect of 3 weeks free in the calendar to conduct our own sniper training, the platoon opted for, where else but, the Cheviot Hills! Here the snipers

had a chance to develop their fieldcraft skills and drills. Importantly, it was also a chance for the young JNCOs to step up and demonstrate their leadership skills. Newly qualified instructors also had the opportunity to step up and show what they have learned on the Sniper Section Commanders' course and pass their knowledge onto the new members of the Platoon.

The team is looking forward to the 3(UK) Div shooting competition and the Platoon HQ has a very busy period ahead planning for the 12 Bde sniper operators Cadre for later this year.



## Assault Pioneer Platoon

OC Cpl Jackson

This has been a busy and turbulent period for the soldiers of the Assault Pioneer Platoon. We have been focussed on developing our core



competencies in assault pioneering, while concurrently supporting and participating in the wider individual and collective training as part of Quebec Coy. The range package immediately after the Easter break saw the platoon complete ACMTs and LFTT at Warcop along with the rest of Quebec Coy. Latterly, the Inter-Coy Patrols Competition had been a focal point of training, as the Platoon was split among Quebec Coy to generate 4 competitive teams. Regrettably, the competition had to be postponed due to COVID Force Health Protection measures, but the platoon's preparation should stand Quebec in good stead for the event on Dartmoor in November.

The Assault Pioneer Platoon has also been blessed with good news. On our return from supporting NHS Midlands earlier this year, it was a delight to receive news of some new additions. We would like to congratulate Cpl Jackson and his wife Danielle on the birth of their baby girl, Renesme, and Pte Mitchell and his wife Tasha on the birth of their baby girl Storm. Congratulations also to Sgt Brand and Cpl Jackson on their recent promotions.



## 1 YORKS Corps of Drums - Special Send-off for Children as they Leave Primary School

Children waving an emotional goodbye to their school for the last time were given an unexpected send off when 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment arrived to lead them in a final march from their primary school. Year 6 pupils walked out of Le Cateau County Primary School for the last time with their heads held high, after the 1 YORKS Corps of Drums, made a surprise visit to lead the children out on an emotional last walk from school. The school is based in Catterick Garrison and many pupils' families are attached to the battalion.

The County Council, garrison command and the town's primary schools have worked closely together throughout the pandemic to ensure support was in place for families and children. The garrison had a high number of key worker parents and many other parents involved in military deployments.

Capt Lofty Simpson-Worboys, 1 YORKS Unit Welfare Officer organised the special event for the Year 6 pupils at Le Cateau Primary to mark their last day in school. Parents were informed a special

event was taking place and congregated at the front of the school to watch the children march. Also leaving alongside the drummers was Gill Jackson, who was retiring after 32 years as a nursery nurse at the school, where she worked with the youngest children at the school in the Early Years setting.

Headteacher Ian Mottram said: "It was a very fitting tribute given the large number of service pupils at Le Cateau and the work we do to support them. We currently have 344 service pupils in the school and have had more than 100 new admissions this year alone. The strong links with the Garrison community is what we pride ourselves on and this has been ever more the case during lockdown. "In my role as Chair of the Garrison Headteachers I was heavily engaged in weekly conversations

between myself, on behalf of the schools, North Yorkshire County Council and the Garrison command in ensuring we were meeting the wide ranges of needs during the pandemic. "This relationship across the garrison is something we are very proud of and works well in supporting the children and their families."

Capt Lofty Simpson-Worboys said they had wanted to ensure children had a memorable last day of term before starting out in secondary education.



# Exercise Wolf Attack – LFTT

## By Sgt Dodgson

Quebec Coy completed a LFTT package in Warcop over a two-week period in April. Having been blessed with some amazing weather (which presented some challenges in itself) the Coy achieved a high standard of marksmanship.



The LFTT package was split into two bubbles in order to mitigate against the threat of COVID. With one group conducting PT and lessons in camp, whilst the other undertook their shoots. Over the 2 weeks we delivered a mix of fundamental and build up training daily to facilitate the upcoming Soldier Conditioning Review. When and where possible, the troops tabbed back off

ranges and conducted their own PT on an evening, empowering everyone to take ownership of their own physical ability and applying themselves to structured sessions with the PTI's. Included in the PT programme was the assault course which tested team cohesion and aggression in unfamiliar surroundings. It was good to see a lot of the Private soldiers who were new additions from the Rifle Companies integrating well and working hard with their relevant platoons. A special shout out needs to go to CSM Quebec who 'beasted' it over the course.

The ranges were set out in order to test commanders at all levels on their basic drills and decision making. Soldiers familiarised themselves with grenades, pyrotechnics and fire and movement from individual up to Section level. This gave young commanders an opportunity to step up into the next rank in a testing environment. During the range package we encountered some unusual (but very welcome) hot weather. This presented challenges in that there were pyrotechnics bans on ranges due to the risk of fires. It

meant range teams were having to work around the clock to chop and change the programme to ensure we got to where we needed to be by the end of the package.

We also received a visit from the outgoing Colonel of the Regiment on his



last visit to the battalion. He watched the Section in Defence shoot and spoke to members of the company and our attached REME fitter section. Overall, the two-week period was a success and Quebec Company are now ready to attempt even more challenging training in the autumn on Ex IRON STORM.

## Mortar Platoon

OC	Capt M Atkinson
2IC	WO2 Horton

Over the past few months, the gradual lifting of COVID restrictions and a reduction in Op RESCRIPT commitments has allowed the platoon to return to its primary role - providing the battalion with well trained, capable Mortar soldiers.

In May, we welcomed 12 new soldiers from the Rifle Companies and following a 20-month hiatus, the platoon delivered a Mortar numbers cadre to train the newcomers on all aspects of the 81mm medium mortar. The cadre was conducted over 7 weeks and started at Swynnerton Training Camp for the initial teaching phase, before moving to Catterick for a challenging confirmation

exercise and finally finished with an excellent week of live-firing on Salisbury Plain, in both the light-role and from armoured vehicles, to fully qualify the platoon.

Running alongside the Mortar cadre, Cpl Dodgson and Cpl Brady took the initiative to run a comprehensive executive's cadre, designed to prepare the JNCOs before they attend the Mortar Standards course later in the year with the goal of becoming the next generation of Mortar Fire Controllers.

The cadre presented an excellent opportunity for the platoon to show off the strength it has in both Junior and Senior NCOs, and in June, Cpl Dodgson and Cpl Gater were congratulated on their promotions and transition into the WO & Sgts' Mess.

The platoon once again returned to Salisbury Plain in July with the other elements of the battalion for the Collective Training exercise, and took the opportunity to polish off some urban skills before taking some well-deserved Summer leave.

Very sadly, the Mortar Platoon paid its respects to a former member, Pte George Ellis, with several of the Platoon attending his funeral. In the coming months we are looking to host a social event and invite former members back, to catch up and improve our links with our former colleagues. In August, the platoon will see a change in leadership as Capt Atkinson leaves us on posting. Lt Reynard will take the helm alongside WO2 Horton.

# Helmand Company

## QUEBEC COMPANY

OC	Maj D M Szymanski
CSM	WO2 J Stewart
CQMS	CSgt C Woodhead

While COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the battalion's activity throughout 2021, the pace of life for Helmand Company personnel has been consistently high, with the team continuously underpinning everything that the battalion does. The myriad of tasks have provided some excellent training opportunities and have set challenging problems for the team to work through to ensure success. Throughout, all departments have stepped up to the plate and delivered to the highest of standards. A key theme across the battalion is that of enriching the 'lived experience' of our soldiers, and this has been abundantly evident as we have moved through the year. A more structured routine and work/life balance as we eased some of the restrictions required to counter COVID and this has seen a reinvigoration of promoting physical and mental wellbeing. A key driver in this has been the excellent work being done by SSgt (QMSI) Lowe and the team working in the Gym, who have expertly delivered progressive and enjoyable company and battalion PT sessions, which has seen a marked increase in the general wellbeing of personnel. Coupled with Wednesday 'ring-fenced sports afternoons', our soldiers have real and unprecedented freedoms to participate in and be supported by the battalion in a plethora of sports and leisure activities, many of which lead to competitions at the Army, local and regional levels.

WO2 (CSM) James Stewart has set the standard, racing weekly in the Army Mountain Bike series and aiding in the development of other riders. Helmand Coy personnel are leading the way across many of the activities, with the traditionally strong Football and Rugby teams both having many Coy personnel within their ranks. Elsewhere, the development of a Battalion eSports team has been headed up by members of the Comd Pl, notably LCpl Evans, and in road cycling SSgt Young and Sgt Hunter who are leading the way in organising challenging and interesting rides. This includes the charity ride in honour of

Capt Sir Thomas Moore. In the summer, Helmand Coy personnel have participated in Ex COASTAL BAYONET, an arduous sailing expedition from the Western Isles of Scotland to the stunning North Wales coast, and a Royal Yachting Association delivered sailing course held at Catterick Garrison Sailing Club which has seen many of our soldiers now on the ladder to gain qualifications and progress in this and other activities of their choice.



Elsewhere across the company, the support provided by the welfare and other departmental teams to our soldiers and their families has done much to provide nuanced care for our people and delivered wholesale positives, adding a very privileged flavour to battalion life. With thanks to Capt Lofty Simpson-Worboys (UWO), initiatives such as discount schemes which have been negotiated with local attractions are an unexpected but very much appreciated bonus. In the Regimental Admin Office, under Maj Helen McChlery (RAO) and WO2 (RAOWO) Teresa Green, the team has worked tirelessly to bond as a department and to raise the Battalion's administrative standards following the move to Catterick; something which all personnel are benefitting from. In the murky world of G4, the Quartermasters' department and Mechanical Transport platoon have been validated through the external assurance processes, and have been on point with the consistent delivery of policy compliant support to meet the

needs of the Army and the battalion, something which is remarkably difficult to achieve, and which rightly attracts praise to all those unsung heroes in the battalion who are involved in the delivery of very niche services, and who never fail to meet the standard required.



Helmand Company is in a good place with ever growing capabilities. Preparation has now begun for a protracted period of core training, which will see the elements of the battalion deploy as the OPFOR during Ex IRON STORM



## 1 YORKS First Coffee Morning

By Capt John Simpson-Worboys - Unit Welfare Officer

1 YORKS held a first coffee morning on 3 August, the first since March 2020, so we were very pleased to do this. BFBS kindly granted a fantastic amount of money that was used to purchase brand new garden furniture.

# Command and Signals Platoon

<b>RSO</b>	Capt D Farquhar
<b>RSWO</b>	WO2 D Duckitt
<b>CIS CQMS</b>	CSgt S Evans
<b>BSM</b>	CSgt G Zoing
<b>CV Sgt</b>	Sgt Smith
<b>CV Sgt</b>	Gapped

It has been an interesting 6 months for the platoon. Following the unit move, the platoon has been focused on growing into the new camp and getting to grips with the new infrastructure at our disposal. One of the first jobs was upgrading the Bowman suite in camp to the latest version of the software and learning the user interface as well as preparing the Bn

for its migration to individual MODNET Laptops.

There have been some significant changes to the team over the last 6 months. CSgt Rabuku moved to 4 LANCS on promotion to become their RSWO, and Sgt Sullivan and Sgt Zoing both received much deserved promotions. While CSgt Zoing remained with the battalion and moved into the role of BSM, we unfortunately said farewell to CSgt Sullivan, who returns to 2 YORKS to become their BSM. Sgt Smith becomes the CV Sgt, having spent the last 3 months working tirelessly in the CIS Store with the G4 team in preparation the next Land

Equipment Audit.

The BGHQ has had a good run out, deploying to SPTA for 2 weeks with Corunna and Quebec Companies, as part of the battalion's preparation for tasks in the Autumn. The BGHQ will shortly deploy on Ex ACES HIGH, in support of HQ 12 Bde as they exercise the Bde headquarters team on Salisbury Plain. Immediately after this, hopefully after a well-deserved weekend off, the CIS Platoon will switch fire onto Ex IRON STORM and support the battalion in providing a challenging OPFOR for the KRH Battlegroup.

## RAO Department

<b>RAO</b>	Maj H McChlery
<b>Det Comd</b>	Lt J Lamb
<b>RAWO</b>	WO2 T Green

In recent months the SPS Detachment has been enjoying having the team at close to full strength, which has been very much a work in progress following the Unit move late last year. However, the Det Comd was not able to get too comfortable, too quickly; as very shortly after his arrival, he joined the 1 YORKS LOCON team in their deployment to Fort Hood, Texas on Ex WARFIGHTER, forming the 12 Bde LOCON for HQ 3(UK) Div on their most significant exercise in the past two years.



A period of conceptual study and training coincident with enforced

isolation on arrival in the US, provided a solid foundation which was well and truly put to the test during a challenging multi-national exercise.



Success in AGC football

As well as providing fantastic support to the battalion through a very busy period, members of the Detachment have also been able to show off their sporting prowess. The resumption of Army Sports couldn't come fast enough for Cpl Sophie Jones, who raced back to competitive football to play for an AGC team which reached the final of the

Edwards Challenge Cup. Despite facing a strong RLC side at Cirencester, the AGC made a fast start, netting the first goal barely 10 minutes after the opening whistle! Maintaining their dominance into the second half, Cpl Jones went on to make it 2-0 to the AGC with a strike from distance. Despite a valiant late effort from the RLC who pulled one back in the final minutes, the AGC closed out the game and were deservedly crowned the victors.

In April, Pte Rob Faustino joined the Detachment straight from SIPAC and quickly settled into battalion life. Fighting fit, he was soon selected to join the 1 YORKS Warrior Games team. Of 64 Teams which entered the games, only 24 including 1 YORKS qualified for the finals. The 1 YORKS team performed admirably, achieving a strong 9th place finish.

The Detachment now has a lot to look forward to in the coming months, with the Headquarters deploying on Ex ACES HIGH and Ex IRON STORM immediately after Summer leave. We have recently welcomed LCpl Greatwood, LCpl Bainton and Pte Houston into the Det, and wish the best of luck to LCpl 'G' Gurung, a popular and hardworking member of the Detachment who will soon be taking up a new posting; we wish him and his family the very best for the future.

# Welfare and Families Team

<b>Welfare Office</b>	Capt J Simpson-Worboys
<b>SNCO</b>	Sgt P Saye
<b>JNCO</b>	Cpl D Clark
<b>Driver</b>	Pte Webster

The Battalion Welfare Team have been hard at work establishing our presence in Catterick Garrison, and cementing links within our new local community. For Easter, we wanted to do something that would make a difference to others, so we asked for Easter egg donations from our families and local businesses in Catterick. All donations were passed on to North Yorkshire County Council, who distributed the eggs to children in foster care and children's homes throughout North Yorkshire. It was a great effort

by all involved; altogether, we collected nearly 400 Easter eggs, of which around 350 went to those receiving the support of North Yorkshire County Council's Children's Services. We intend to make this collection and donation across the county an annual event.

Sadly, in May we said farewell to Sgt Lenord, who moves on promotion to CSgt to a new role with 1 LANCS as their MT 2IC. We wish him well and thank him for the excellent support he has given our families and the welfare team: 'good luck Lenny!'. In his place as the Welfare SNCO, we have welcomed Sgt Paul - 'Patch' Save' a great addition to the team. In June we also said goodbye to Nigel, our welfare clerk, who leaves for new challenges

elsewhere.

The summer holidays were brightened for many of our families by the Welfare Team's efforts to secure discounted admission passes for Flamingo Land, The Deep and Snozone, to name but a few. We will continue to use the Battalion's Welfare Funds wisely, so that 1 YORKS families can book in advance and save ££'s on family days out across the county.

Finally, thank you to everyone for your kind support over the past 12 months, during what have been unprecedented and challenging times. We have now resumed our weekly coffee mornings for families, and please keep an eye on our Facebook page for more activities, coming soon.



## Stop Press

On 16 September, Deputy Commander 1UKXX, Brigadier Jean Laurentin was in attendance to cut the ribbon and officially open the new 1 YORKS Strength and Conditioning Suite. Special mention must go to 1 YORKS Drums Platoon who performed extremely well to mark the occasion and of course to the QMSI SSgt Lowe who has provided great effort and drive to get the Strength and Conditioning Suite created and equipped to a state of the art standard.

# MT PLATOON

<b>MTO</b>	Capt AL Baird
<b>MTWO</b>	WO2 S Corcoran
<b>MT Sgt</b>	Sgt A Temple

With the battalion now firmly established in Catterick, the MT platoon has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to prepare for a busy training year. We continue as always to support and assist in all aspects of battalion life, as the Army awakens from its COVID slumber.

As the lockdown restrictions started to ease, the department departed on a well-deserved period of Easter leave after a testing period from Christmas. On return we continued driving hard on vehicle serviceability, in house training and preparation for the Battlecraft Syllabus exercise later in the year. The thought of

an imminent Land Equipment Assurance (LEA) inspection was also on our minds, a first for many in the platoon.

As a platoon we have been keenly anticipating getting back to some sort of normality after a very strange and demanding period. We are now focused on the challenge of building resilience and knowledge, and specialist MT and career courses will be the bedrock that we build upon. One member of the platoon that has embraced this more than most is LCpl Ograh, he has not only deployed to Germany in support of Ex IRON STORM for a period of 6 weeks, but has now successfully passed the HAZMAT instructors course, with a GS instructors course pending, a big well done to him and one to look out for in the future.

Looking forward to Ex IRON STORM 2 on SPTA is the big-ticket event that is now coming into focus. As always, we stand ready to provide our expertise whenever called upon. The battalion FOE is still uncertain for early next year, flexibility and a strong work ethic will be key, and we will be ever ready for whatever 2022 has to offer.

The platoon has seen many departures over this period, we sadly wave goodbye to some key members of the Platoon including, Pte's Charlesworth, Bennett and Smith. We wish them all the best for whatever the future holds. We welcome all the new arrivals who have big shoes to fill, but all will be ready for the challenge at hand.

# Quartermasters' Department - Alma Lines Improvements and More to Come

By W02 RQMS(M) Daniel

QM(M)	Maj S Maunders
RQMS(M)	W02 P Daniel

There has been a lot of much needed work to improve the lived experience for all living and working in Alma Lines. The first of these is the new Strength and Conditioning Suite (SCS). This is a purpose-built area that comes with all the kit and equipment any 'gym bunny' would love, even an AstroTurf area as well!

The internet is key for almost everyone nowadays, and for the soldiers living on Alma Lines this is no different. WiFinity have now finished their work, completing the installation of WiFi across Alma Lines, and giving all those that live in camp strong WiFi and hard point connections to allow them to utilise the internet to their

hearts content.

What used to be the unit salvage area has now been converted to a boxing gym, which will expand to fill the whole building and then make it a Garrison Boxing Facility. This means the Boxing Officer, Sgt Saye, now has a dedicated area to train our warriors properly and safely.

The welfare suite proposed to go into Alma Lines continues to gain traction, with contractors measuring for flooring and building requirements and the request for funding now awaiting endorsement from the Army Welfare Committee. This is high on everyone's list of priorities, from the Bn, HQ 12 Bde and Regional Command. With luck, we will be able to turn this into a reality in 2022.

The ongoing works to refurbish two

transit accommodation blocks in Alma Lines are due to be complete by the autumn, which means that 1 YORKS soldiers currently living in transit accommodation should be able to move into them soon. Once this has happened, work should commence thereafter to refurbish the remaining two transit accommodation blocks on Alma Lines.

Finally, potholes and failed street lighting have plagued Alma Lines in recent months, and now the first of these have been rectified, beating any council expectations. Although not yet finished, and with much work yet to do, there have been significant gains to improve the lived experience, with the QMs' team battling through the red tape and hoops set in our path.

## Technical Support, the new way of operating

QM(T)	Capt Skelton
RQMS(T)	W02 M Werrett

The battalion has settled into Catterick quickly, with the department providing manpower for every task and deployment that the battalion has been involved in. This occasionally leaves Cpl Owen, the USA Storeman, alone and without his trusted sidekicks. The department has also worked extremely hard in the short space of time to make friends with our neighbours, The Royal Lancers and 4 SCOTS, whose technical infrastructure sits in close proximity to ours.

The Rifle Companies many exercises on Salisbury Plain (SPTA) this year have kept the QM(T)'s team busy. The dept is inevitably involved in the myriad fleet transactions across a variety of Armoured Infantry Battalions that are necessary to enable a Catterick-

based Armoured Infantry battalion to train on SPTA. This has the benefit of working with friends and colleagues from 1 RWELSH, 5 RIFLES, 1 RRF and 1 MERCIAN. Taking vehicles over in good order and handing them back several weeks later in true Yorkshire style, is a challenge, but they are always immaculate. With routine restored in our own little world in Megiddo lines, the department saw the arrival of QM(T) Capt Skelton and said a farewell to Maj Maunders, as he moves to become the new QM(M).

A Land Equipment Audit saw the QM(T) and RQMS(T) working with multiple parties across the battalion to ensure that 1 YORKS Equipment Care was exactly where it needed to be. This inevitably occurred alongside the preparations for deployment to SPTA for an internal Collective Training package, and the facilitation of fleet

transactions from Burma to Coronna Companys. While Burma Coy has been working within the KRH BG, they still require the support and oversight of the QM(T) department, to ensure they are prepared and sustained and act as ambassadors of 1 YORKS within the KRH BG. It is never easy or comfortable signing for equipment from different units, but we have grown accustomed now to the SPTA-based units and the systems they work to.

The next challenge will be getting all equipment prepared and moved to SPTA immediately after summer leave for Ex ACES HIGH, which sees BHQ deploying with a vast composite armoured fleet of Bulldogs, Warriors and CVR(T). If we are lucky, there may be a weekend off before bouncing straight into Ex IRON STORM which sees us go against the KRH BG and members of Burma Coy.

## Gymnasium

By SSgt R Lowe

It has been a busy few months preparing the soldiers physically for the Role Fitness Tests and re-establishing the physical robustness required to be an Infantry soldier. The battalion has moved away from the lone soldier training programme and focused on AAPTI instructor led sessions. The led sessions allow us to challenge the soldiers, develop teamwork and physically prepare the tactical athletes for role specific tasks. Battalion PT is delivered three times a week, and every other Friday sees Commanding Officer's PT. CO's PT is physically and mentally challenging, the sessions are designed to identify natural leaders in challenging environments and purposely push the soldiers outside their comfort zone.

## Warrior Games



Warrior Games

With sports and competitions being re-introduced, the battalion was pleased to showcase its talent to 12 Bde and 3(UK) Div in two British Army Warrior Fitness (BAWF) events named the Warrior Games. BAWF is like Cross-Fit, however all the exercises are related to military activities, for example; a barbell push press is simulating lifting ammunition on to a wagon. Everybody performed exceptionally well and the enjoyment of being able to compete was apparent during and after the event, however there could only be one winner and on the day members from Helmand Company won the battalion competition and remarkably also won the 12 Bde competition giving the gloating rights back to 1 YORKS.

After successfully winning the 12 Bde Competition. 1 YORKS were invited to compete at the 3 UK DIV virtual event and of the 64 units within 3(UK) Div, only 24 were invited to compete on the day. There were 5 events which tested the soldiers physically and mentally. Each event was live streamed and judged internally and externally. It was an exceptionally well planned event with clear attention to detail. After the 5 events, 1 YORKS placed 9th of the 24 units on the day. The strongest event for the team on the day was event 5, the Burden retrieval, where 1 YORKS managed to storm into 2nd place. We now look forward to next year following more build up training and preparation for an exceptional event.

## Fighting Fit Course

Like all athletes undertaking demanding training, injuries often occur, and this is no different in the Military. The high physical performance we demand puts stress on the body, and occasionally leads to muscular skeletal injuries (MSKIs). The recovery pathway can take a long time, depending on the nature and the level of injury. Once medical assessment and treatment has been conducted, the soldiers will receive consultations from Exercise Rehabilitation Instructors (ERI), who work within the Garrison's Primary Care Rehabilitation Facility. Each soldier will receive a bespoke programme to follow, and once they reach a standard where they no longer require an ERI's support, they can move to Level 2 PT. Level 2 PT covers the conditioning gap that exists between rehabilitation from injury and returning to mainstream Battalion PT. Each soldier will have unique requirements that determine how long they may require Level 2 PT, depending on the individual's fitness level, the nature of their injury, the psychological factors and the fear of re-injury. This is where the Fighting Fit was designed to have effect, providing a four-week programme for all the soldiers undertaking Level 2 PT that incorporates progressive build up physical training, focussed strength and conditioning, mental resilience presentations, goal setting and nutrition. Following the four-week course, all participating soldiers successfully passed a Soldier Conditioning Review and confidently moved up to Level 3 Battalion PT. A great outcome, and testament to the efforts and dedication of those involved in attending and delivering the course!



# 2nd Battalion

## The Yorkshire Regiment

### Foreword

By Lt Col James Ashworth



Experimentation and trials

#### BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

CO	Lt Col JE Ashworth
2IC	Maj HCR Bowden
Adjt	Capt JIA Field
Ops Offr	Capt RG Williams
IO	Capt PT Fisher
RSM	WO1 MA Lightowlers

**R**emarkably the Battalion is already at its halfway mark in Cyprus. This signifies a significant change in focus, specifically the handover of the Regional Standby Battalion role for one that holds Very High Readiness for on-Island contingencies and a permanent presence at the UK Naval Support Facility in Bahrain. It also means we have already started our planning for our return to the UK confirmed as Dale Barracks, Chester next summer. And throughout our experimentation continues apace setting the foundation for our future role announced in the Integrated Review as the Army's Prototype Warfighting and Experimentation Battalion.

Returning to our commitment to the Regional Standby Battalion. Experience would suggest that things always happen on the 'map-fold'. So it was when the Battalion was stood up and deployed to

support Op PITTING on the very day we were due to hand over the commitment in the midst of summer leave. Having already taken over the security task in Bahrain, for 12 days in August, the Battalion had soldiers deployed in four countries delivering against three different operations. A remarkable feat requiring much of the Battalion to be recalled from overseas leave. The achievements of those who went forward to support the evacuation in Kabul have been well documented and publicised, but I want to reinforce here what a whole-team effort it was across the entire Battalion to meet the call at such short notice, deploying in such good order, all while maintaining every other output. A defining period in the Battalion's tenure in Cyprus and a poignant way to close out the Regiment's long chapter of service and sacrifice in Afghanistan.

Set against operational outputs, the Battalion has also started its experimentation on a range of new kit and equipment. Trusted to be the architects of how light forces will fight, operate and win in the future, it's invigorating to see our young soldiers and commanders grasp the opportunity. It will require us to take conceptual risk and we must be

bold in our ambition. Shifting the Army off ways of doing things entrenched over decades to meet the threats or context of the 21st Century will be difficult. But we are already seeing the benefits of our experimentation in Cyprus as we pass lessons to others across the Field Army. This role, and the role we will embrace on return to the UK next summer under the Land Warfare Centre as part of the Army's Experimentation and Trials Group, will be pivotal in generating operational advantage now and into the future. We will need to continue to attract and retain the very best officers and soldiers the Army has, to deliver in this endeavour.

And finally, the narrative and identity of the Battalion, even with professional imperative of experimentation and operations, still requires the bedrock of sport, vibrant Messes and the Regimental events such as the Duke of York competition and Hamilton trophy. It is therefore heartening after the last 18 months of restrictions to see Mess functions back in full swing set against the glorious backdrop of the Eastern Mediterranean, competitive sport back on the agenda and inter-company competition alive and well.

**'Fortune Favours the Brave'**

# Alma Company

## ALMA COMPANY

<b>OC</b>	Maj CW Lunn MC
<b>2IC</b>	Capt D Kellett
<b>CSM</b>	WO2 (CSM) R Willis
<b>CQMS</b>	CSgt J Clarkson
<b>1 Pl Comd</b>	2Lt AT Caine
<b>1 Pl Sgt</b>	Sgt C Chamberlain
<b>2 Pl Comd</b>	2Lt M Hannan
<b>2 Pl Sgt</b>	Sgt K Cassidy
<b>3 Pl Comd</b>	2Lt CJ Tear
<b>3 Pl Sgt</b>	Sgt T Stevens

The unmistakable percussion of machine gun fire breaks the silence of a Cypriot midsummer night. The sounds of the ensuing battle are equally familiar: target indications are given, rates of fire controlled and orders issued. The air is hot and humid – mid 20s despite the total darkness – and soldiers labour as they execute the attack that follows.

Then, just as the smallest hint of daylight begins to lift the gloom, frantic shouts of “MAN DOWN!” can be heard echoing across the area. The subsequent casualty evacuation is typically fraught and energy-sapping. Soldiers pant for breath as they bellow critical messages and call for changes on the stretcher, their lungs bursting at the physical effort. They are near exhausted when they finish, the task having expended the entire platoon.

Twenty-four hours later, the story is a very different one. Conducting a similar attack, but this time accompanied by three new robotic platoon vehicles (RPVs), the response to a casualty is very different. One of the RPVs fitted with stretchers is brought forward and the platoon is able to press on with its next task relatively unhindered by the casualty. A small work party is still required for a short move by stretcher, but this group is carrying far less, the majority of their kit stowed on one of the other autonomous platforms.



This anecdote is one of many that could be told in the aftermath of Alma Company's first opportunity to use the new cutting-edge equipment being fielded to 2 YORKS in its role as the Enhanced Light Forces Battalion (ELFB). Building on work done by Burma and Quebec in late Spring, Alma's focus on experimentation dominated its summer training programme. Consisting of a number of battle runs aimed at unlocking the RPVs' kit carriage benefits, the company pushed the limits of the platforms' capabilities and used them, in concert with the new sights and communications systems, to explore a more dispersed way of operating.



Alma's work demonstrated significant potential increases in a platoon's speed, range, endurance and ability to operate unsupported at reach; however, there remain many questions about structure

and sustainability. As is incumbent on the ELFB, these findings, consisting of both scientific data and collated qualitative feedback from all roles and ranks, have been formally circulated externally among stakeholders across Defence and industry. And they have been shared internally with Burma and Corunna, such they can take the next 'conceptual bounds' during their forthcoming training.

Concurrent to its experimentation, Alma also maintained readiness as the Regional Standby Battalion's Lead Company Group. When only days away from handing over this role and departing island for some well-deserved leave, the company was called on to deploy to Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, to support the evacuation of entitled people from Afghanistan, codenamed Operation PITTING. These actions are covered separately but, needless to say, the company acquitted itself excellently.

On returning to Cyprus, and having completed decompression and a mandatory quarantine period, the company fell out for its delayed summer leave. On the horizon, a rotation at RAF Akrotiri providing flight line security followed by a public order training progression, culminating in a level CHARLIE validation exercise, will serve to focus our attention over the autumn months.

As is normal over the summer, routine churn has seen the departure of a number of members of the company who deserve public praise and recognition. Sgts Lane and Mackenzie and Cpls Bell and Reeves all head to various training establishments having made superb contributions to Alma over the last year. They leave with everyone's thanks and best wishes.

# Operation PITTING – 1 Platoon's 'White Rose Taxis'

By 2Lt AT Caine



Departure

Preparation for our deployment to Kabul, Afghanistan, on OP PITTING was unpredictable and dynamic. As the Regional Standby Battalion, 2 YORKS has held a Lead Company Group (LCG) at 48 hours' notice-to-move since its arrival in Cyprus in November 2020. However, although we had maintained a watchful eye on the situation in Kabul, there had been no indication that we would be called on to deploy until the situation began to deteriorate in mid-August. At this point Alma Company as the nominated LCG, were rapidly stood-to and our readiness reduced to six hours in the space of an afternoon.

After a few days conducting final preparations, we received the call to deploy forward to Minhad in the UAE. Once there, we expected to conduct low-level public order training, which we



had been told was our most likely task. As always, that plan soon evolved, and we were told we would be boarding a flight to Kabul within a few hours. This new timing came with direction that we would be providing force protection to the north of Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) and as such, we set out the mindset and structure of what that may look like once we hit the ground.

In the time from us taking off from Minhad to the time we landed in Kabul, the plan, unbeknown to myself and the OC, had changed again. On disembarking onto the runway at night, we were called straight into the brigade operations room to get a direct brief from the 16 Air Assault Brigade Commander. The new task for us was aligned to the Brigade's main effort, moving those cleared as entitled for evacuation from Baron Hotel, the beginning of Britain's processing stream, into HKIA itself.

Compared to the task we had expected, which was pretty straightforward to understand, we now faced a far more complex situation, involving vehicle convoys across unfamiliar ground, a changing security threat and face-to-face interactions with thousands of emotional and distressed people who had descended on HKIA looking for an escape. This critical role remained ours until the last flight left the ground.

Until our arrival in theatre, the movement of people from Baron Hotel had been a limiting factor for the entire evacuation, threatening overall success. With 2 YORKS soldiers attacking the requirement with determination and exceptional professionalism, the processing pipeline surpassed the flow initial estimates had thought possible, with our so-called 'White Rose Taxis', and the efficiency of 3 Platoon at the passenger terminal, it heralded decisive components of the operation. In total, the LCG facilitated the movement of 12,552 people out of Kabul, an achievement owing much to the versatility and initiative shown on the ground by our soldiers.



Pte Bell helps a child whilst deployed

# Burma Company

Since the last Journal entry, Burma Company has maintained high readiness to deploy on operations as part of the RSB, completed ranges and platoon exercises, attended individual courses, competed in various competitions, and assumed the Op TIMBERN commitment to provide a Force Protection Force for RAF AKROTIRI (AKT).

Following Easter leave, the company was set for a busy 17-week term dominated by nine weeks as the LCG and six weeks on Op TIMBERN at AKT. Once re-acclimatised, the platoons rotated through four weeks of live-firing and Platoon validation exercises. The second half of the LCG window was designed to reduce the tempo, with Battalion and Company competitions, individual courses, and approximately a third of the Company attending AT courses.

The culmination of the period was Imphal week, where we celebrated a (slightly early) Imphal Day. Following a brief burst on Regimental history, we moved to Happy Valley where the competition began to heat up. A tense inter-section football competition was won by 6 Pl, setting the scene for a physically demanding raft race at Tunnel Beach. (The winners were CHQ, although this is still being contested by some of the platoons!)

The end of the day was an Imphal Dinner in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess. It was a great opportunity to relax at the end of a summer of high readiness and celebrate our achievements. In particular, we recognised the following winners of company awards: Pte Baledrokadroka ('Burma Lion', best soldier), Cpl Plant

('Burma Bayonet', best infanteer), and LCpl Turner ('Burma Star', best JNCO). A new 'Kohima Award', for the best section in company competitions, was awarded to 4 Pl 2 Sect (commanded by Cpl Plant and LCpl Thompson).

The heat of the summer (Jul-Aug) was spent at AKT, providing the site's Force Protection Force under Op TIMBERN. The task is relatively simple: with elements providing security at the Main Entry Point, Salt Lake Site, and several other locations, as well as a small Quick Reaction Force. A small COVID outbreak forced the Company into lockdown for just over a week, but the resilience of the team overcame any of the challenges of personal hardship and reduced rest.



Pte Baledrokadroka with the Burma Lion (Best Soldier) award

Once free from isolation, time was split between training (ranges, navigation, and leadership development) and rest (dominated by sport and water-based AT). Some of the team were able to visit other units at the Station, with visits to 84 S&R Sqn RAF, a WATCHKEEPER force, a USAF detachment, and the Defence Fire and Rescue Service.



Burma Coy CSgt Lawton leading soldiers through AT at Happy Valley

Outside of training and operational commitments, the Company family continues to grow. Since the last Journal, we have welcomed two new recruits from ITC, 2Lt Booth (replacing Lt Dolan who moves to 2 LANCS) and Cpl Balawei (returning from BATUS to assume the Stores 2IC role). We've had great success at Brecon: with Cpls Benson and Taylor on PSBC and LCpl Turner on SCBC. The next generation closely follows; at the time of writing, the Company has two on SCBC, one on PSBC, one on RS, and one on an NCO Cadre.

As well as our serving members, the wider Burma family also grew; congratulations to Kgn Drew, Pte Charles and Pte Anydike on their marriages, and to Cpl Thompson, LCpls Canon and Larkin, and Ptes Kopamees, Charles, Hall, Husband, Nish, and Stedman on the births of their children. Since our return from Summer leave, the company is preparing for a busy Sep-Oct, with ranges (up to Platoon at night) and a Company validation exercise, before a return to AKT and Op TIMBERN commitments.

BURMA COMPANY	
OC	Maj Ross
2IC	Capt Mumford
CSM	WO2 Cumiskey
CQMS	CSgt Lawton
4 Pl Comd	Lt Grassi
5 Pl Comd	Lt Hudson AAC
6 Pl Comd	Lt Dolan / 2Lt Booth LANCS
4 Pl Sgt	Sgt Simpson
5 Pl Sgt	Sgt Wood
6 Pl Comd	Sgt Rumble LANCS



Burma Company taking a refreshing dip after Battle PT

# Corunna Company

## CORUNNA COMPANY

<b>OC</b>	Maj A Sawyer
<b>2IC</b>	Lt P Burke
<b>CSM</b>	WO2 (CSM) C Hillary
<b>CQMS</b>	CSgt J Clark
<b>7 Pl Comd</b>	Lt McCarthey
<b>7 Pl Sgt</b>	Sgt Tabuavuaka
<b>8 Pl Comd</b>	Capt Taylor
<b>8 Pl Sgt</b>	Sgt Milne
<b>9 Pl Comd</b>	Lt Matthews
<b>9 Pl Sgt</b>	Sgt Foster

Corunna had an eclectic summer having completed the Machine Gun Cadre, won the Bn's Duke of York competition, deployed on Op TIMBERN task, gone through a handover of OC, leave and deployment to the UAE as the operational reserve of Op PITTING.

With the Bn's Machine Gun Pl attached to Corunna during its regeneration; Lt Taylor and Sgt Tabuavuaka planned and conducted the 5-week MG cadre to select, qualify and train its new members. The cadre's initial focus was on the development of excellence in weapon handling and live-fire, culminating in impressive results on the GPMG Sustained Fire (SF) ACMT. The Cadre also tested the platoon in the arduous terrain and climate of Cyprus. The week-long live-fire qualifying phase saw the platoon split into their gunner and

controller pairs and fire over 100,000 rounds forming slick and cohesive teams. The results were astounding and competition was high as every pair passed with flying colours, even on the demanding re-occupation shoot. The newly qualified teams then supported the company in a series of demanding LFTT exercises proving that their newly regenerated capability would be as pivotal as ever to the Bn in its new role. In all, 12 new gun pairs were formed, qualified, and tested during live and blank fire exercises. The platoon is in great shape ahead of its planned re-subordination to Quebec Coy.

The company rounded off an excellent performance throughout the Bn's Duke of York competition with sterling performances on the Hamilton trophy; ultimately securing victory in the competition and being declared 'Duke of York's Company'. This action was the swan song of Maj Neil Parkinson who departed for his subsequent post, handing over Corunna to Maj Andy Sawyer just after the Coy assumed the Op TIMBERN commitment. After 6 weeks in RAF Akrotiri, the Coy deployed on a period of well-earned summer leave.

Corunna's recovery from summer leave was intended to be a steady build up to the assumption of Cyprus Ops and the



deployment of a platoon to Bahrain, however as the draw down in Afghanistan accelerated the battalion and the company was drawn into Op PITTING. The leadership and determination of all ranks in the company was remarkable as the company, with support of the wider Bn, was able to stand up the follow-on company group in a matter of hours. Ultimately Corunna would form the operational reserve, deploy to the UAE and train and maintain their readiness but were not called forward.

After recovering back to Cyprus, the company has now taken on the Cyprus Ops role and deployed a composite platoon on Op KIPION to provide force protection to RN assets. The remainder of the company will conduct ELFB training, experimentation and maintain high levels of readiness in support of Cyprus operations.





Lead Company Group

# Quebec Company

Since our last update Quebec Company has been focused on delivering Specialist Weapon Cadres, providing Force Protection to RAF Akrotiri, delivering security to the Naval Support Facility in Bahrain and providing support to Op PITTING.

Our Cadres are now complete for this year and already the cycle begins again with the Mortar Platoon returning to the UK for their next round of live-firing and training in Warcop at the end of the month. With each of the other Platoons now complete in re-acquiring their specialist capabilities, it is now time for Quebec to start contributing to the future Enhanced Light Forces Battalion construct. To do this, we will begin establishing ourselves with a focus on the integration, as well as on our new equipment. Recce, Snipers and Anti-Tank Platoons will now start work on experimenting as Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Groups, with the remaining Anti-Tank soldiers and Machine Guns re-developing the Fire Support Group construct. We have numerous opportunities to trial these new structures, but will start in earnest supporting Burma Company's Training Level Charlie validation exercise in October – as both friendly force enablers (Fires and ISR), and as a potent OPFOR, building on our support to Alma Company earlier this year. This will allow Quebec soldiers to learn each others' skills and enhance the Battalion's FIND, FIX, STRIKE and EXPLOIT capabilities.

The Assault Pioneer platoon have also been enhancing their core skills post Cadre in the UK by becoming true urban experts. They delivered the Battalion's first Urban Ops Concentration focused, not only on room clearance and the actions carried out in the assault, but also on breaching, point defence and the development of strong points. This was a real showcase for the Platoon who are now tasked with becoming the Battalion's urban environment subject matter experts. They have also provided some high-level Defence Engagement support through the Corps of Drums and specifically, have supported everything from hosting the Cypriot Premier at the British High Commission, to a funeral for one of the last WW2 veterans on island. They are demonstrating the Battalion and Company's diversity and broad utility for 'other' tasks. I look forward to updating you on their plans to build (from scratch) a place for the Battalion to conduct Urban Ops Training within the confines of RAF Akrotiri in the next Journal.

The highlight this quarter for much of the Battalion and a for a significant proportion of Quebec Company, was the deployment in support of Op PITTING. 2 YORKS has been exceptionally lucky that both times it has been held at readiness as the Regional Standby Battalion we have deployed out of the door to support emerging crises. Last time was during the rise of ISIS in Iraq, and this time it was to

QUEBEC COMPANY	
OC	Major Carl Brindley
CSM	WO2 David Peake
CQMS	CSgt Stiveni Rabuli

support the evacuation of civilians from Kabul. 38 soldiers from Quebec Company (ranging from OC to Pte soldier) deployed to backfill the Lead Company Group on Op PITTING providing over one third of the force deployed. The integrated 2 Platoon provided a broad array of tasks whilst deployed, including; provision of security within the airport, support to the evacuation handling facility in the Baron's Hotel, a part of the mobility effort (colloquially known within 16 Brigade as the 'White Rose Taxis'), processing and passenger handling support, and flight line security. Indeed, the last British conventional forces to leave Kabul came from Quebec Company 2 YORKS.

Throughout this period Quebec Company has demonstrated its versatility and professionalism. We have simultaneously supported operations in three different countries, trained for high intensity warfighting, but then delivered on a high threat humanitarian operation, and we are forging forwards in becoming real infantry, Future Soldier specialists.



Last Soldiers out of Kabul

# Reconnaissance Platoon

<b>OC</b>	Lt Bracey
<b>2IC</b>	Sgt Green

The focus of the Reconnaissance Platoon this year has been its reformation and re-role back to its routes as a Light Close Reconnaissance asset within the newly formed Enhanced Light Forces Battalion that is 2 YORKS. During this time the platoon has seen a rapid change in command saying farewell to Capt Field as he moves on to become the Adjutant, replaced by Lt Bracey, and another goodbye to Sgt Day; but not before they helped build the foundations of the platoon. As a new team of soldiers were selected from across the battalion to attend the Recce Cadre, combining basic skills with new technology we also had the privilege of being the first platoon to employ the new kit which accompanies the Enhanced Light Forces role. Specifically, the platoon worked hard to learn, trial, test and exploit the Dismounted Situational Awareness 'phone', which they did to excellent effect; leading Burma Coy onto target with the clearest of pictures.

Lt Bracey, Cpl Grantham and Cpl Londt took the opportunity on the course to hone the skills required to attend LCRC in September on the Cadre, which culminated in a successful enabling action supporting Burma Coy on their



Hamilton Trophy Winners

Platoon training. During the Cadre the platoon also found time to attend and win the Battalion Patrols Competition, the Hamilton Trophy. They were awarded with coins and a silver statue of Hamilton from the Officers' Mess, which (in true Recce fashion) they then attempted to keep hold of for the Recce Platoon lines.

After a hard-won summer leave the platoon has returned to battalion, but in true Recce style has been split up around the battalion, with patrolmen on Op PITTING supporting both deployed Rifle Companies, attending courses

and even competing in the Cambrian Patrol. "Reconnaissance is the ability to suffer worse than the enemy" and the Platoon are looking forward to the future challenges that this year will bring.



Recce Platoon Cadre

# Mortar Platoon

<b>OC Mortars</b>	Capt Dennison
<b>2IC Mortars</b>	WO2 Dollimore
<b>Sect Comd</b>	Sgt Morton
<b>Sect Comd</b>	Sgt Gurung
<b>Sect Comd</b>	Sgt Ntambo

Following a well-earned period of summer leave, Mortar Platoon returned to Cyprus in good order and ready to re-establish itself as a Force Protection Team at RAF Akrotiri, providing security for one of the Islands key strategic assets. Concurrently, nine members of the Platoon were committed to guarding to British Naval assets in Bahrain. After just two weeks in routine at RAF Akrotiri, the 2 YORKS Regional Standby Battalion was activated to support Operation PITTING in Kabul, Afghanistan. The hard work of the 2 YORKS Mortar Platoon soldiers in the build-up to deployment meant that 19 soldiers from Mortar Platoon deployed

forward with the Lead Company Group to conduct various tasks in Hamid Karzai International Airport. The composite Platoon of predominantly Mortar Platoon soldiers and JNCOs conducted Quick Reaction Force tasks as well as aiding 16X at the Baron's Hotel entitled personnel handling centre. The thankless tasks saw the soldiers respond to perimeter breaches and the tragic Suicide IED attack at the Abbey Gate which saw 13 US service personnel lose their lives. The members of Mortar Platoon conducted themselves with absolute professionalism and with an abundance of compassion in testing in what were challenging circumstances.

Throughout the hectic two-week period, other members of the Platoon maintained operational commitments in Bahrain and RAF Akrotiri as well as on Op PITTING. With a total of 32 Mortar Platoon soldiers committed to three

operations in three separate countries, Mortar Platoon showcased its versatility and professionalism throughout.

Platoon was straight back to work. With the 81mm Mortar Cadre due to commence late September in Warcop. Simultaneously, a number of JNCOs will complete their Mortar Advanced Course at SWS. The Platoon also conducted a



81mm Mortar Pre-cadre

high quality two-week pre-cadre, including low-level mortaring and some arduous physical training in preparation for the rest of the year.

# Sniper Platoon

<b>Pl Comd</b>	CSgt Sandilands
<b>Pl Sgt</b>	Sgt Coxon

Since our last update the 2 YORKS Sniper Platoon has delivered a Sniper Operator Cadre (SOC) in Cyprus. The 10 week course was aimed at training members of the battalion to be qualified as badged Snipers.



Sniper Stalk - Can you see him?

The Cadre was delivered in its entirety in Cyprus, operating out of Episkopi for dry training before moving to Dhekelia for the live-firing. During this period, 12

battalion students were trained and tested in all seven key Sniper Skills. Students are trained in sniper knowledge; judging distance, observation, stalking, static map reading, navigation and live-firing. For students to pass the course they must achieve a minimum mark of 70% in each test.

The first six weeks of the SOC concentrated on teaching and developing soldiers in the seven Sniper Skills and further advancing their fieldcraft skills. This training prepares them for week seven, Badge Week, which is designed to test potential snipers in all sniper skills and students are given one re-attempt to pass each test. Students who fail one skill during badge week counts as a pass deferred and will have to retest the failed subject later. Those who fail two skills will count as failing the course. Week eight is when students deploy on exercise, designed as an introduction to how a sniper pair, section and platoon operate in various deployments, focusing on live accurate reporting, identifying and indexing targets.

The students then moved to Dhekelia to conduct the live-firing phase of the SOC. Due to the ban on live-firing with the L115A3, students were equipped with the L129A1 sharpshooter with Schmidt and Bender scope attached. The first week (week nine) of live-firing, students are

tested daily from ranges of 100m - 800m, adopting various sniper positions on a gallery range. This phase is for students to acquire their real-world data in order to apply the correct elevation on the sight in order to achieve a first round hit and to prepare them for field-firing. During the field-firing phase (week 10) students were tested on engaging targets at unknown distances in preparation for their ACMT. To pass the Sniper ACMT the Snipers are given 14 rounds for the test, 1st hit is 10 points, 2nd is 5 points, they need to score 70 points or above to pass. The sniper has two attempts to reach the required standard, if the sniper does not achieve the standard, he is immediately RTU'd from the course.

This was a productive period for the platoon, combating the heat and running a SOC during a pandemic, but members of the platoon and the students on the course bonded well, the students producing some impressive results during this difficult period. Unfortunately, during the course, students were unable to complete their ACMT on the L115A3, but with the live ban recently withdrawn, the platoon will now look forward to live-firing in October so students will attempt the L115A3 ACMT to qualify them as 'Badged Snipers'.

# Anti-Tank Platoon

<b>Pl Comd</b>	Capt Shuttlewood
<b>2IC</b>	CSgt Hanson
<b>Sect Comd</b>	Sgt Chadwick
<b>Sect Comd</b>	Sgt Simbeye
<b>Sect Comd</b>	Sgt Knowles

The last five months has seen the Anti-Tank Platoon being utilised and deployed in a diverse way, starting off with the platoon completing their Cadre in good order in April 21. This comprised six weeks of instruction and assessments in Episkopi and on the Cyprus training area. The platoon built on their October Cadre and took on new members who successfully passed the required standard. The platoon now has a full-strength complement of 'Tank Hunters'.

The platoon then broke down to rotate through Akrotiri and prepare for the takeover of the Op KIPION Bahrain Force Protection tasking from 1 PWRR.

This meant that the junior leadership of the platoon has been tested by taking on responsibility of small teams, disjointed from their CoC; playing to the platoon's strengths and the way they are naturally designed to operate. On deployment to Bahrain, the platoon integrated with elements of the Mortars and Assault Pioneers platoons that deployed with them. Additionally, the deployed elements benefited from working with elements of both the Royal Navy and the RAF as well as the close proximity to the US Navy at their neighbouring Naval facility. Throughout the rotation of Op KIPION, the remainder of the platoon successfully deployed to Akrotiri and enjoyed some well-earned summer leave.

Looking forward to our return from Bahrain, we are ready to start pushing forwards with blending our Anti-Tank

skill set with those from Recce, Sniper and Machine Gun Platoon's to form ISR Groups and Fire Support Groups.

Since the last Journal, CSgt Hanson has taken over as the platoon 2IC. He is warmly welcomed back to the platoon after a strong performance as part of the 2 YORKS training team.



The Anti-Tank cadre underway

# Drums / Assault Pioneer Platoon

<b>Platoon Commander</b>	CSgt Delaidriti
<b>Platoon Sergeant</b>	Sgt Nichols

The Assault Pioneer Platoon have been busy in the last few months being fully committed to Force Protection tasks at RAF Akrotiri, ensuring the security of operational assets and infrastructure. Concurrent to this, the platoon took the lead in delivering an Urban Operations package to the remainder of Quebec Company taking the platoons through CQB fundamentals and demonstrating their capabilities in breaching, point defence and obstacle building. This allowed the platoon to refresh their knowledge and develop the skills learned on the Assault Pioneer Cadre earlier in the year.

The platoon has also conducted recce's of various areas in RAF Akrotiri where a new urban operations training facility could be developed in conjunction with a STRE from the UK. It is likely that planning and development will take quite some time, so it is intended that the Assault Pioneer Platoon will take the lead on developing an urban operations site to enhance our limited training opportunities on the island for the whole of the battalion.

Meanwhile, the Corps of Drums have conducted some high-profile ceremonial and Defence Engagement tasks on the island. We received an invitation from the British High Commissioner in Nicosia to host the Celebration of the Queen's 95th Birthday at his Residence. This is



always a very big event, but due to COVID restrictions only certain VIPs were invited, entertained by the 2 YORKS Corps of Drums. It was a privilege to show off our talent and musical skill to a big audience. A few younger members of the platoon were nervous given that it was their first performance at such a high-profile event, but it was a brilliant day for the platoon, and we were well looked after. Sgt Nichols gave a brief to the High Commissioner and his staff on the role of an Assault Pioneer and the history behind the 'Beard' and the 'Pioneer Axe'.

The Platoon will continue to progress and develop and is looking forward to this next 6 months where there will be more opportunities to hone our urban skills and attend more excellent drumming events.



## Helmand Company

<b>OC</b>	Maj D Triandafilou
<b>CSM</b>	WO2 (CSM) P Smith
<b>CQMS</b>	CSgt A Marlow

The Battalion arrived in Cyprus with a large training bill due to operational commitments before our move out here. This has seen Helmand Coy personnel having to take on several guarding commitments as well as supporting several exercises at the same time. This in turn saw each department having to play catch up within their own areas of expertise, with 'very busy' becoming the new normal for all the departments across Helmand Company. As OC, I have been pleasantly surprised with the endless commitment from everybody. Looking

back over the 32 years I have been in the Army, I have thought and maybe even said a (few times) that HQ Company gets an easy time, how wrong I was!

None of the above has stopped the mandated training (MATTs) or the mandated inspections. Helmand Company more than held their own when it came to the Duke of York's competition, with the fastest team on the PT event coming from within the company. We have continued to get individuals away on career courses and supported the training required for personnel from across the battalion to do the same. On top of this the departments have managed to get a number of soldiers away on Adventurous Training (AT). This has ranged from

parachuting, mountain biking, scuba-diving and many more. Helmand Company personnel have mastered the 'work hard' element and are now working on the 'play hard' bit!

Every officer and soldier within Helmand Company has dug in deep on repeated occasions to ensure that the Battalion is supported in all areas and Op PITTING is a prime example of this. Everyone had a vital part in making the 2 YORKS deployment a successful one and when walking around the departments to thank them for such a great job, I got a similar response 'well that's what we do sir'. Helmand Company continues to work hard and is now planning for the unit move in 2022.

# Unit Welfare Office - State of Panic

<b>UWO</b>	Capt McKenna
<b>2IC</b>	CSgt Felinski
<b>UWO NCO</b>	Cpl Shortman

I had been expecting the e-mail for a while but when it arrived it didn't mean I was any better prepared. I sat looking at my screen in a glass case of emotion, just looking at the words highlighted in bold 'YRJ article due'.

Writing the article wasn't the issue it's something that I look forward to and enjoy, the problem I had was that I had nothing to write about! With the move finished and COVID 19 now being a normal part of our lives, people were just going about their regular business and there's only so many times you can mention coffee mornings consisting of conversations regarding the new lamp that Mrs A just bought from Ikea and how much everyone loves it, and that's when the panic set in!

As I lay there that night, contemplating what to write, the duty phone began to buzz. It was a message from the Bn 2IC informing me that the battalion had been mobilised and that the Lead Company Group would be on the ground in Afghanistan within 24hrs to help with the evacuation as part of Op PITTING.

With the problem regarding what to write fixed, I realised that I had other issues and a lot of the families that were being left behind consisted of young wives that were about to experience their husband's first deployment into a hostile area. To make things a little worse for them, they would experience this whilst being isolated from the support and comfort of family and lifelong friends.

But the best part of being the Welfare Officer for 2 YORKS, is that these problems seem to fix themselves. The next day when I arrived in work, the welfare e-mail inbox was flooded with offers of support for wives that may be struggling, or for people that required that little bit of extra help with the kids whilst the soldiers were deployed.

So with the Welfare team assembled, a number of enhanced coffee mornings took place. First at the office with an amazing spread of food and second at the beach with a free breakfast (it was a hot day and milk was a bad choice), where we managed to marry up new wives with more experienced (not older) wives. New friendships were formed and babies began to be passed around.

I'd like to finish by putting out a great big thank you to all those people who went above and beyond during the deployment to help out those who needed help and up until that moment, they had probably only passed on the school run. It's not the Army or the Chain of Command that make 2 YORKS a family regiment, it's the wives and husbands that constantly go above and beyond. I'm Captain Pete McKenna, stay classy Yorkshire!

# Quartermasters' Department

<b>Quartermaster</b>	Maj P S Muckle
<b>Quartermaster Technical</b>	Capt S Cain
<b>RQMS</b>	WO2 D Jones
<b>RQMT</b>	WO2 S Greenwood

Yet another busy and rewarding period for the QM Department. After the prolonged (COVID impacted) unit move, the department finally consolidated in Cyprus in early February. No time for rest though, the battalion has a busy schedule and as always, the department has been at the heart of everything the battalion does; providing the essential logistical support that allows the fighting echelons to conduct the training and operations required of the Resident Infantry Battalion.

This period has seen the department provide logistical support to several company level exercises; Public Order training, Support Weapons Cadres, battalion and wider British Forces Cyprus competitions, operations within Cyprus, deployment of a platoon to Bahrain and Op PITTING, all whilst receiving the Enhanced Light Forces Battalion equipment. This in addition to preparing and receiving external inspections and maintaining the standard assurance and battle rhythm of a light-role infantry battalion QMs' department. No mean feat, and it is testament to the hard work of the men and women of the department that all have been a success, and of particular note is the deployment on Op PITTING.

Op PITTING was a short notice operation to support the evacuation of personnel from Afghanistan, following the Taliban's rapid takeover of the country. As the Regional Standby Battalion, we were required to deploy two companies initially forward to Minhad but then onward to the Hamad Karzai International Airport to support 16 Brigade. Once again, the QMs' Department didn't falter. Working long hours, the team successfully provided all the logistical support required within 48 hrs to enable the successful deployment of the troops forward.

The Department bade farewell to RQMS Edley who moves onto RSM of 4 YORKS and Major Coltman who is moving to ICSC and then 4 Bde. We wish them both the very best for the future. WO2 (RQMS) Jones took over as the RQMS Main and has already found his feet and is flourishing. The Department's focus now switches to a number of external inspections and preparing the kit and equipment for the unit move to Chester all whilst continuing to provide the logistical support to the battalion.

# Light Aid Detachment

<b>AQMS</b>	W02 Watkinson
<b>LAD Armourer</b>	SSgt Grant
<b>LAD Sgt</b>	Sgt Fairs

As the British Army's only Enhanced Light Forces Battalion, 2 YORKS has had the privilege of testing new kit this summer and as a part of 2 YORKS LAD, we also had the opportunity to get our hands on new equipment.

The armourer's department had to inspect the Assault Rifle In-Line Low Light Sight (ARILLS) system when it first arrived on the island, before it was distributed to rifle companies.

Vehicle mechanics (VM) were made to wait as the Robotic Platoon Vehicle (RPV) that was due to arrive on island in April was delayed until June. The VM's were lucky to have subject matter experts on hand to assist with Mission Master and Multi-Utility Tactical Transport (MUTT). They were taught how to operate and conduct a function test so Non-Road Going inspections could be carried out. We also managed to strip the cargo beds on both types of vehicles and learn how to conduct general care and maintenance of the running gear and electrical components.

Fault reporting for the ARILLS and RPV's are the same as any other process laid out in the Unit Equipment Care Directive, but due to lack of expertise and spares for the equipment, only minor faults and repairs could be carried out. Going forward, help and guidance will



RPV cargo bed strip

be provided by the project team for any major fault diagnosis and repair. Once familiarity with the equipment increases, the LAD will be able to maintain this equipment to optimal standards.

6 & 12 monthly Mandatory Equipment Inspection (MEI), for ARILLS, is carried out in accordance with policy and procedures for Armourer's 532 inspection standards. 6 & 12 monthly inspection on RPV is carried out using form eNRG 01. The Mission Master and MUTT are still in their trial/testing phase and the accountability for vehicle servicing/maintenance (which is normally tracked via JAMES), has yet to be added. However, the Mission Master has been recently supplemented onto the system.



MUTT and Mission Master

# MT Platoon

<b>MTO:</b>	Capt Dave Bond
<b>MT 2ic:</b>	CSgt Mark Norris
<b>MT Sgt:</b>	Sgt Paul Harrison.



Driver Training

As MTO, I can look back on a busy but positive few months for the MT platoon. We have seen the arrival of CSgt Mark Norris the new MT 2ic and the Army's Robotic Platoon Vehicles (RPV), the Mission Master and the MUTT. The deployment of the RSB in support of Op PITTING and the arrival of the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) in Limassol port.

First, the department has been learning how to operate and maintain the new equipment. This training has been delivered by Cpl Armitage and Pte Larua-brooks who have become the department's platform leads. This also included the Army's first distributed RPV course that saw 25 individuals from 2 YORKS being qualified as RPV operators. The team is now focused on ensuring we can operate and maintain these platforms within a company context, which will move on the battlegroup context in the latter part of the year.

The driver training team under Cpl Holder have also been delivering courses on our core platforms from GS courses through to Quad courses in preparation for our return to the UK in Summer 2022. During the year, the MT has also delivered key equipment care training to the battalion ensuring all soldiers understand the importance of operating vehicles while on operations or at reach with their sub-unit.

Some members of the team have also had the opportunity to visit HMS Queen Elizabeth in Limassol harbour as she passed through on CSG 21 and witness the sheer size and scale of the aircraft carrier, which was enjoyed by all. The last few weeks has seen the team supporting the deployment and recovery of Alma and Coronna Company with TAC on Op PITTING.



CO's Commendations for Sgt Natalie Pearce and Pte Emma Field

## AGC (SPS) Detachment

<b>RAO</b>	Capt Ian Houlding
<b>Det Comd</b>	2Lt E Martindale
<b>RAWO</b>	WO2 Candice Hall

With the battalion now firmly in the swing of things on the island, there has been the opportunity to settle into an appropriate routine despite COVID restrictions still hampering things. With the temperatures rising through the summer, this has seen PT become earlier and traditional sports afternoon moving to the morning to allow for the brutal afternoon heat.

In CBF's Sports Cup, Sgt Chandra Limbu (Regimental Accountant) brought home success as captain of the volleyball team, with the battalion securing the position as overall winners. Further success came as Pte Richmond Sekyere passed the Parachuting Foundation course in Dhekelia during the summer.

Sgt Natalie Pearce and Pte Emma Field were recognised with CO's Commendations for the sterling service they have provided to the battalion. Sgt Pearce was recognised not only for her

on-going hard work, but also for her endeavours during the Unit move which absolutely contributed to the battalion's overall success. Pte Field was recognised for her service to A Coy, where despite her junior rank, she provided first class support to a Coy returning from Op HERRICK and being turned around in quick-time for a unit deployment. The awarding of these two commendations demonstrates the value placed in the SPS Detachment and the efforts which go on behind the scenes to ensure battalion team success.

The detachment has seen a number of changes over the summer. Capt Ed Pearce (DC) leaves for his RAO course with 2Lt Martindale replacing him straight from the Detachment Commanders course. WO2 Hayley Cornforth (RAWO) returned to Catterick on assignment as CSM Peninsula Coy at ITC Catterick, where she will no doubt be a great role model. She was replaced by WO2 Candice Hall, fresh from a tour in Minhad. New to the team was SSgt Pritam Gurung who replaces

SSgt Ernest Tabi (FSA) who leaves for Kuwait shortly. Our numbers have been further boosted by the arrival of LCpl Ashleigh Duncan and Pte Stacey Hallissey, bringing us up to full strength.

As lockdown restrictions continue to relax, the SPS Detachment is looking forward to more opportunities to enjoy everything Cyprus has to offer in the remaining time we have left on island.



Pte Sekyere parachuting



Battalion PT HQ-Coy SUV Pull

# Sport and Adventurous Training

By Maj H Bowden 2 YORKS 2iC

With the gradual easing of restrictions over the past few months, 2 YORKS have found themselves in a position to take full advantage of the numerous sporting and adventurous training opportunities in Cyprus. The reputation of the Battalion Cross Country team has continued with success at the Mylikouri Train Run in Troodos; a national event with challenging routes over 10km, 20km and 30km. Leading the initial charge was WO2 Hillary who finished second in the male 30km race, with Cpl Martin also managing an excellent second in the female 10km race. Looking ahead, the CO will lead a strong 2 YORKS line up at the Solomon Cappadocia Ultra Trail in Turkey later this year; a gruelling internationally recognised series of cross-country routes over 38, 63 or 119km.

After tasting success in the initial round of Commander British Forces Sporting Cup with victory in the cross-country, 2 YORKS have continued to dominate this competition with victory in the BFC Sports Day held in Happy Valley. Throughout the day, the British Military Units based in Cyprus competed in a series of events: cross-country, road cycling, swimming, volleyball, clay pigeon shooting, tug of war and cross-fit. After a series of impressive finishes across the different disciplines, 2 YORKS were crowned overall winners for 2021.

WO2 (RQMS) Greenwood has managed the 2 YORKS cycling squad, with the group conducting training rides every Wednesday morning and weekends,

making the most of the warm climate and stunning scenery. Despite the searing temperatures in late June, the 2 YORKS Cycling Team competed in CBF's Door to Door Cycle Challenge, following the 105km coastal route from Episkopi Garrison to Dhekelia Station.

The battalion has continued the Yorkshire Regiment's proud tradition of producing talented sportsmen, by providing 7 players to the Infantry Rugby League squad that triumphed in the Lawson Cup (Inter-Corps Championship). Following this, LCpl Houghton has trained with the Army Development Team. In Rugby Union, Pte Nayagi was selected for the Army 7s Team that has successfully competed in the Super Sevens Series throughout the summer.

The main development of the past few months has been the re-introduction of the Wednesday Sports and Activities, something that had unfortunately dropped off over the past 18 months due to the unit move and tight COVID restrictions. With the ever increasing temperatures making it difficult to conduct it in the afternoon, this has taken place at 0600hrs every Wednesday, with a wide range of sports and activities

including: cycling (mountain and road), rugby, football, volleyball, fishing, clay pigeon shooting, rock-climbing, enduro racing and scuba-diving. Over the next few months, the battalion has sporting fixtures (rugby, football, volleyball) lined up against local opposition, both local civilian and military, as well as touring teams who are due to visit Cyprus in October and November.



WO2 Hillary, second place Mylikouri Trail Run



## ELFB – Working with Industry

By Capt Rich Pooley Training Officer

One of the novel aspects of our role as the Enhanced Light Forces Battalion is the close working relationship we are developing with DE&S, their industry partners, and ITDU. This is something that will grow as we become the Army's Experimentation Battle Group. Having access to expert knowledge in robotics,



Dismounted Situational Awareness device

optics and CIS capability has given us a strong foundation for developing our lethality.

The summer has seen several training activities to introduce soldiers to these new capabilities. The Assault Rifle In Line Low Sight (ARILLS) has transformed our ability to engage targets at greater distance and at night. Dismounted Situational Awareness devices have aided navigation, improved our ability to control and has allowed for increased digitisation of information across the battlespace, and finally, Robotic Platoon Vehicles (RPV) have sped up our ability to move from one action to the next.

The RPV training package was particularly encouraging and helped build a strong bond between 2 YORKS and the Future Capability Group. The knowledge transferred from the robotics engineers to soldiers of all ranks has laid a strong foundation for our experimentation. The young soldiers took to these futuristic vehicles like fish in water but even the (slightly) older and bolder CSMs were keen to push their limits and explore how we can change the way we operate by using the vehicles.



Outside of training, the ELFB capability has been used to build friendships and relations with our partners in the Republic of Cyprus (RoC). A highlight was the visit of the RoC Chief of Police who relished the opportunity to take an RPV for a spin around the range car park. The owners of the other vehicles in the car park looked on apprehensively as he enthusiastically weaved in, out and around their vehicles.

Looking forward, we are planning for the arrival of nano UAS soon, a new DSA model, more optics, and perhaps even weaponised RPVs further down the line. It has been an exciting and promising start to our journey at the forefront of developing infantry capability and shaping the British Army's Future Soldier.

# The Bahrain Platoon

By Capt Chris Shuttlewood

The last nine weeks has seen elements of Quebec Company deploy for the initial 2 YORKS deployment to provide force protection for the UK's Naval Support Facility in Bahrain. The platoon received a positive handover from 1PWRR who set up the conditions for success in a superb way. It being the first deployment of 2 YORKS in support of Op KIPION, this dictated that the platoon be focused on understanding the task and setting future rotations up for success. This deployment culminated with the platoon supporting the US effort withdrawing Entitled Persons (EPs) from Afghanistan to Bahrain.

The UK presence in Bahrain falls under Op KIPION and is a vital part of maintaining British interests in the region. The battalion's role in this is to provide Force Protection to the UK Naval Support

Facility (UKNSF). This is a role that the Specialist Weapons Company is well suited to, with a plethora of experienced members within the team.

Working in a tri-service environment has been beneficial to junior members of the platoon. It has also allowed more experienced members to demonstrate the strength that exists within the Specialist Weapons Company. This has brought to bear the unique ability of a Yorkshire Regiment soldier to show compassion and friendliness towards anyone they interact with.

The platoon was fortunate to become involved in supporting the US effort to extract EPs from Afghanistan. This saw a third of our manpower assisting with processing of Afghan and US nationals onto their onward flights. Crucially, this required pro-activity and empathy;

something our soldiers demonstrated in spades. Our Junior Leaders stepped up and took responsibility of several complex tasks. They were able to conduct their own analysis of the situation and concluded that changes needed to be made. The benefit the analysis and the platoon's hard work brought was immediately apparent in the streamlining of the processing. The conditions were tough, and the medical and hygiene standard of EPs varied; however, the platoon remained unphased.

Ultimately, I'm proud of the ability of a hybrid platoon of the Specialist Weapons Company to act at reach across diverse taskings, becoming a force multiplier in British interests in the region. This speaks volumes of the ability of any soldier from the 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment to demonstrate their utility for any duties that are asked of them.



2 YORKS unloading kit on their return from operations.



Preparing to leave

# Op PITTING - Messages to the Battalion Families from CO 2 YORKS

By Wg Cdr (retd) Alan Bartlett

**Sun 22 August** - The last day has seen 2 YORKS do brilliant things. Those forward in Kabul are working tirelessly, in the most desperate and testing of conditions, to get people out. It is no coincidence that yesterday saw the highest number of people evacuated in a single day so far. Described by the senior British commander on the ground as the 'stars of the day', 2 YORKS have had an immediate impact. It is still unclear how long the operation will go on for. Because of that, more members of 2 YORKS have flown forward this morning to a staging area just outside of Afghanistan. They are set ready to answer the call to help however they are needed.

Those back in Cyprus, and those deployed to elsewhere (Bahrain & UAE), are also working incredibly hard in support of this evacuation as well continuing our existing mission protecting bases directly involved. We are also planning how we will best recover everyone back to Cyprus knowing that

those deployed will have to isolate and decompress on return.

It is remarkable that 2 YORKS are delivering operations in four countries all at the same time. Thank you so much for your understanding, your support and for simply being part of this incredible team. Please continue to look after each other. I know for some this will be a very difficult and uncertain time but please feel immensely proud of what we are all doing at the moment - everyone in the 2 YORKS family are playing their part.

**Mon 23 Aug** - We've had what I would describe as our first calm and orderly day. Those in Kabul continue to work around the clock helping families escape. One of their roles is moving evacuees by vehicles from the handling centre to the airport. Known affectionately as 'White Rose Taxis', they are in a good routine, know what they are doing and continue to receive praise across the whole of Defence for their efforts. Our soldiers deployed



elsewhere are also directly supporting evacuees who are coming through American bases there while continuing with their security tasks. Another example of our soldiers helping people in real need.

A sub-unit (group) of 2 YORKS are set ready as a reserve to support however the situation requires. The team is well rested and ready to move at a moments notice. The team back in Cyprus continues to do the vital work securing the home base and preparing for our return - whenever that may be.

Finally, everyone is well and doing a

brilliant job. Delivering three operations in four countries is a remarkable achievement but only possible due to the continued and amazing support from the families.

**Tue 24 August** Another hugely busy but safe day for those deployed overseas in Afghanistan, UAE and Bahrain. There have been no changes to where everyone is, with the focus still on getting as many people out of Afghanistan as possible as the operation draws towards a close. Every minute counts and everybody is playing an essential part.

We don't know when the operation will finish but I do know that those deployed from 2 YORKS will be involved right to the very end. That reflects what an important and impressive job the soldiers are doing. As well as keeping key areas around the airfield safe, 2 YORKS have the direct responsibility for moving, processing and supporting each evacuee from the Handling Centre onto the RAF aircraft. The team are playing a vital role and yesterday saw the highest number of evacuees rescued in a single day so far.

The team back in Cyprus have done a superb job planning everyone's return to Cyprus whenever it happens. Those in Afghanistan will have to isolate together in Radio Sonde Camp (near South Paramali) and have a negative COVID test before being released. But this time will also be used to help our soldiers to decompress after what has been a very demanding deployment, both emotionally and physically.

As such, we'll work hard to return people back to both their families and their interrupted leave as soon as we can but we must properly look after everyone with regards COVID and managing the strains and stresses of the operation. Thank you for all the well wishes. They mean a great deal and are relayed to those forward in Afghanistan who are without their phones. We can't wait to see you all soon but until then, please know the soldiers are doing truly amazing things.

**Wednesday 25th** - Everyone is safe and well - even if a little tired. It's been another similar day as before. The Lead Company Group working at the Kabul airport continue to pull out all the stops to get people out. The last two days have seen the highest numbers rescued so far. Those of us stood by to assist just outside of Afghanistan as the UK's forward reserve, are watching events carefully as we know the situation remains uncertain.

We may be needed at any moment and the soldiers are focused and ready to go.

It's brilliant to hear how the Regimental family and everyone back in Cyprus is pulling together and looking after one another. It allows those deployed to stay focused on their mission.

**Thursday 26th** - It's been nearly a week since we first deployed forward in support of the mission and five full days with our soldiers on the ground in Kabul. Since then, 8,076 people have been evacuated by UK forces. An amazing testament to the collective efforts of the Battalion. There are very few missions where you can define so clearly the number of people helped and saved. As it is, everyone is safe and well. The team are working hard to the very end knowing that every moment counts and the end is getting closer.

Finally, I just want to acknowledge that we had 15 soldiers fit, trained and ready to deploy with their respective teams but weren't allowed due to not being UK passport holders. Although this was due to another country's immigration rules, I remain frustrated and annoyed about this. Our Battalion is better because we have a really diverse mix of people in it. I love the different cultures and representation bound together under the 2 YORKS banner. Everyone counts and I am sorry not everyone has had the chance to deploy as they wished and deserved. Please be assured it has been raised to the very highest level. We will tackle this issue and come back together as a tight knit Battalion.

**Friday 27th** - A long night but I'll start by saying that everyone in 2 YORKS, whether deployed or in Cyprus, is safe and well. The work put in by our soldiers forward in Kabul was extraordinary. Under the most challenging of circumstances, their response and professionalism has saved lives and helped keep the mission on track. Our thoughts and prayers are clearly with the Afghans and US Marine Corps, including their families, who have been impacted by yesterday's tragic events.

**Saturday 28th August** - Everyone remains safe and is working hard to

continue to evacuate people from Kabul, but the balance is now shifting such that British soldiers are getting ready to come home. I will update you once all 2 YORKS are safely out of Kabul. I know a number of you have understandably been asking what is the plan when we return to Cyprus.

As you all know, those who have deployed to Kabul have been exposed to some very emotionally and psychologically draining events. They have also been in a high-risk COVID environment. Whilst everyone is double-vaccinated, this will need careful management to ensure we do not become a source of COVID infection on our return – including to you, their families and loved-ones. We must also look after our physical and mental health to ensure we re-integrate as smoothly as possible.

Everyone who deployed to Kabul will



The last flights out of Kabul

go into a period of COVID isolation and Post Operational Stress Management (POSM) to ensure a safe return. Both are mandated, but I personally believe they are essential to ensure our long term health and well being. COVID isolation will be governed by existing BFC rules and decompression will be a five day package. This will see a programme of sport, discussion sessions and central lectures, all to help them decompress. This will also include a social event but unfortunately, due to COVID rules, this programme will not include families.

Once decompression finishes and as soon as COVID rules allow people to be released, they will be. But, we must be prepared for positive COVID results and associated close contacts. I believe this will likely effect many of those who deployed to Afghanistan. This will sadly require a longer period of isolation but we will do all we can to minimise the number of close contacts and the time spent in isolation. To reassure you all, soldiers will

get the additional financial allowance for this deployment for as long as they remain in post-deployment COVID isolation.

Everyone who went to Kabul will get some leave. The amount depends on which Company they are in but this will ideally start after work on Friday 10th September. I should also say that no one is allowed to fly until 14 days after a positive COVID test, in case people are planning to return to the UK.

For those who did not go to Kabul, but did deploy forward, a different reception is arranged. There is no need for a decompression package but we will still need to COVID test on return, albeit a LFT. This group will get two days off after being cleared as COVID negative before returning to work.

Once again, thank you for your incredible support and continued patience. Between soldiers, family and friends, we make an incredible 2 YORKS team that together has played a vital part in an operation that has evacuated over 14,500 from Kabul and will be remembered for decades to come. As we approach the end of this operation we should be exceptionally proud of what we have collectively all achieved.

**Sunday 29th August** - I'm pleased to say that is now every member of 2 YORKS back from Afghanistan. They are exhausted, emotionally and physically, but clearly proud of what they have accomplished. Those who were in Kabul will return to Cyprus today (Sunday) and go into isolation.

But this is not the end of the mission for 2 YORKS with those held in reserve



Unloading after arriving back in Cyprus

outside of Afghanistan continuing on task, stood by to support the final evacuation by the US if needed. Thanks again for all your support and we're looking forward to seeing you all soon.

**Monday 30th** - It was wonderful to see those who had been to Kabul get back to Cyprus last night.

It has been reaffirming to witness the outpouring of thanks and appreciation for what our soldiers have done now that it is widely known the role they played. But of course we still have a company forward staying on as reserve. So we remain focused on them and situation in Kabul until the last US forces are safely out.

**Tuesday 31st** - My penultimate message with regards our deployment to support the evacuation from Kabul. You will have seen that the US have now completed their withdrawal such that those we have forward in reserve can return home to Cyprus. Most will return today but sadly there isn't enough space on the aircraft to get everyone back in a single flight. The remainder will return tomorrow. This will mark the end of a remarkable operation. Lots will be said about it and no doubt much in the political space will be critical. Likewise, I suspect we will see difficult scenes emerging from Afghanistan in the coming days.

**Wednesday 1st Sep** - I understand there is a lot of uncertainty and in some cases disappointment in the outcome of the COVID tests and I'm keen to explain and assure people what is going on. The group who went to Kabul have had 8 positive cases. 6 of these were from Quebec Company meaning that all those in Quebec, plus a few others, are part of the 28 close contacts.

In order to protect those who have tested negative and who are not close contacts, the 36 soldiers who are positive or a close contact have been moved to Blood Hound Camp. This is because Radio Sonde is not big enough to maintain the separation of three different groups.

The groups have been moved based on COVID, not on what Company they are in.



Second is that we are doing all we can to ensure those in Blood Hound Camp continue to receive the right support. They will unfortunately miss the water sports today that was planned but that is sadly beyond our control. Finally, I am going to see all the soldiers in both Blood Hound Camp and Radio Sonde today. I will listen to their concerns and explain to them what I have said here.

We remain fully committed to supporting everyone who deployed and you their families. I hope we have earned your faith and belief both over the last year and few weeks that we genuinely care. So please, if have concerns, please feed them either into Welfare, myself or the Chain of Command. If we don't know them, we can't make things right.

None of that diminishes what an incredible job the Battalion played to save as many people as possible, far exceeding expectations, particularly given the circumstances. The Battalion and its families have consistently shown unbelievable levels of professionalism, resilience and compassion.

**Friday 3 Sep** - I'm pleased to say we've now had the last of the COVID results for those isolating as Close Contacts as well as the last members of Battalion returning in the early hours of this morning from



their tasks overseas in support of the evacuation from Kabul.

Less the original 8 positive tests, all are now clear and released from isolation and decompression. That it great news and although very disappointing for those 8 and their families for whom I have real sympathy, the number is lower than I was expecting given the circumstances of the

deployment. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Managing the return with decompression and COVID has in many ways been far harder than the original deployment out to Afghanistan itself.

In closing, this will be my last post with regards this deployment.



# 4th Battalion

## The Yorkshire Regiment

### Foreword

By Lt Col Will Blackhurst

Having now had the privilege of commanding 4 YORKS for over a year, I am delighted to report yet another period that has demonstrated the professionalism and commitment of the men and women in the battalion. While society emerges out of the pandemic, the battalion, and indeed the rest of the Army, has followed suit resuming more and more core business and crucially, the discretionary elements of military service. Whilst some of our routine business is still conducted virtually – and may continue to do so for efficiencies and pragmatic reasons, we have now begun to return to a more normal routine with the wholesale resumption of training events and exercises. But as I alluded to earlier, the easing of restrictions has let us conduct

the ‘hinterland’ of military service, Mess meetings and events, sports competitions and adventure training so vital in reminding us why military service is so special. This fabric of military service is once again returning, and I am delighted that battalion life is starting to look more normal.

Turning to commitments, we continue to deploy 4 YORKS soldiers in teams or as individuals embedded in larger organisations across the globe. This summer the battalion has deployed personnel to Malawi on an STTT to train indigenous forces; officers to Morocco on a US Africa Command (AFRICOM) multi-national exercise; contributed to UN operations in Cyprus and have also had personnel deployed to Afghanistan

to help evacuate British citizens and Afghan nationals embedded within 2 YORKS. I again remain humbled by the commitment and dedication of our Yorkshire Regiment Reservists, directly contributing to UK Defence while balancing their civilian careers and family life.

Training this summer has been in preparation for our 16-day Annual Deployment Exercise, Ex YORKSHIRE STRIKE, which this year was held in Kirkcudbright, Scotland. On the weekends preceding the ADE we focused on re-establishing our core Infantry skills, (an unwelcome necessity following COVID) such as patrolling and offensive operations in the conventional environment. The training delivered



#### BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

CO	Lt Col W Blackhurst
Bn 2IC	Maj DM Schofield
XO	Maj A Cooper
Adjt	Capt N Williams
RSM	WO1 C Edley
Hon Col	Col J Wright



Ex African Lion 21 - a delight to train alongside Moroccan service personnel

Adventurers of the City of York and with the stair-rods thudding against our helmets, it made for a gritty, traditional infantry experience. We then switched to dry training with blank ammunition in the Galloway Forest. This was a truly demanding phase which presented physical and mental challenges

Looking forward, our focus will be on our upcoming mobilisation and deployment of a Force Protection Platoon to Kenya over Christmas and the New Year, a return to a more traditional Remembrance with plenty of physical presence across the home base and a Christmas weekend that will be my first and a hotly contested inter-company falling plate competition. But as ever, we remain ready to support and if needed lead especially at home among our friends and family in the communities we all come from.

by our Reserve instructors and leaders supported ably by our Permanent Staff Instructors was yet again of a high quality and prepared our soldiers perfectly for the demanding ADE that followed.

We deployed to Scotland well prepared and set for the challenges Ex YORKSHIRE STRIKE would bring. After a period at Wathgill, setting the benchmark through static shoots and live grenade ranges, we embarked on a challenging Live-Fire Tactical Training phase in the testing environment of Dumfries and Galloway with the Solway Firth as the back drop. The Fire Team day of the progression was witnessed by our visitors, including members from The Company of Merchant

to soldiers and commanders at all levels. Their efforts were well rewarded as the sixteen days culminated in an Adventure Training package including rock climbing, sea kayaking and coasteering. Just rewards for the troops' efforts and once again demonstrates the return to normal military life.



Sea kayaking one of opportunities on offer in the adventure training package



Ex Yorkshire Strike - a warm welcome for our visitors to the Battalion

# Alma Company

## ALMA COMPANY

<b>OC</b>	Maj A Lawson
<b>PSAO</b>	Capt D Shakesby
<b>SPSI</b>	CSgt L Day
<b>2IC</b>	Capt A Branney
<b>CSM</b>	WO2 P Stow

**A**lma kicked off the new term with Exercise CONCEPTUAL WARRIOR; a battalion Live Firing Marksmanship Training (LFMT) range weekend at Warcop Ranges and the first collective training weekend of 2021. Troops had the opportunity to brush up on their live firing skills whilst SNCOs and officers refreshed their conceptual field skills under the guidance of the CO. This weekend also marked the first opportunity for many troops to conduct the British Army's new Role Fitness Test (RFT). PTI Colour Sergeant Amers saw the rewards of his tri-weekly PT sessions first-hand as Alma completed the RFT with great success.

Building on our successes from the previous weekend, the Company spent the back-end of their Easter break at Battle Hill Ranges in County Durham, getting in some company orientated shooting from various positions and ranges up to 300m. This training proved to be well-received as all troops passed their Annual Combat Marksmanship Test first time later in the year.

Alma proved their abilities in their craft by obtaining second place in the Duke of York's Cup in Catterick. This patrols competition tests military skills ranging from navigation to section attacks - the foundations of any great infantry unit. Alma scored highest on their 'withdrawal from an ambush' stand due to their

excellent use of smoke grenades and cover during their extraction.

Newly promoted LCpl Neal led an excellent company training day to enhance navigation skills on the Driffild Training Area. Split into two groups, some carried out the basics of pacing, route cards and marching on a bearing whilst an advanced group that looked at tactical route selection and the use of the ground towards an enemy objective. A great day training locally to build the team ready for forthcoming exercises and deployments.

Alma's JNCOs took advantage of the former Op HERRICK training area at Leconfield to organise a fantastic opportunity to refresh our skills in the urban environment. The day began with lessons in the morning, developing from basics such as the stack, to operating around corridors and room clearances. After lunch, the day progressed into multiple rounds of a confirmatory exercise to hone in on the skills developed - a pivotal skill to maintain and was well-received by all.

To end the term on a high before Annual Camp, Alma took part in cohesion training. This saw troops make their way to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Whilst there, the company visited the Regimental 'Keeper of Souls' Memorial (pictured) erected in honour of those that have served in The Yorkshire Regiment. Alma Coy also undertook an Adventure Training weekend which consisted of clay pigeon shooting, archery, and orienteering. A great opportunity to bring the company together over a range of fun, enjoyable activities.



Team Alma competing in the Duke of York competition at Feldom in April



Cohesion Day trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in August



Company training weekend at Driffield Training Area in June

# Burma Company

## BURMA COMPANY

OC	Maj C Howard
PSAO	Capt M Birkett MBE
SPSI	CSgt M Frere
2IC	gapped
CSM	WO2 T Pigg

**F**ield training has now returned to everyone's delight and has seen Burma come together with the battalion to undertake attack and advance to contact, a patrols competition and a range weekend. Burma has also conducted cohesion and adventurous training, aimed at re-bonding the company and introducing new company members following the periods of lockdown.

Burma is delighted to welcome 2Lt Henry Benzikie who joins us straight from commissioning and takes over from 2Lt Colaco Osorio at Barnsley. We also welcomed a number of new soldiers; Ptes Ardrone, Chittenden, Cuff, Thompson, Jones and LCpl Mains after regular service with 1 YORKS.

Training courses have still taken place with the following successfully completing their first trade courses: Pte Moxon her Combat Medical Technician (CMT) Class 3 at DMS Whittington; Ptes C Gregory, H Gregory, I Choudhury, U Choudhury, Schofield, Keely and Young, their Combat Infantryman's Course at ITC Catterick.

Further up the career path, well done to 2Lt Langley on passing his Platoon Commanders Battle Course (PCBC) and Cpl Conroy his Section Commanders Battle Course (SCBC). Privates Bailey, Pilkington, Quail and Worden all completed their Potential JNCO courses.

Burma says farewell to a number of key staff. Lt James Sendall and 2Lt Richard Langley are taking a regular career path and are on courses at RMAS Sandhurst.

2Lt Linus Colaco-Ossario has transferred to 4 LANCS following his civilian career with BAE Systems. Reserve stalwart LCpl Dale Winter said farewell in March. He joined the Company in 2003 – then Fontenay Coy, E and WRR - deploying on Op TELIC 3 and Op HERRICK 16. He has been instrumental in recruiting and training much of the company in the training wing.

Most recently we said farewell to Cpl David Evans following 27 years of Reserve service. Cpl Evans was one of the last Burma Coy soldiers to have transitioned from 3 DWR, E and WRR and into 4 YORKS. A veteran of five operational tours from Bosnia to Afghanistan, the entire company wishes him well on his next chapter and he will be sorely missed.

Away from battalion, Burma has successfully completed a cohesion and adventure training weekend. Both long overdue to allow us an occasion to enjoy some different training. The cohesion weekend entailed an evening visit to our local bowling alley, a morning visit to



AT weekend – white water rafting at the National Watersports Centre, Nottingham

the Blue John Cave in the Peak District where we descended 80m below the into cavernous galleries, with ancient fossilised creatures in the wall and subterranean waterfalls, its was awe-inspiring. Back above ground, some Go Karting and competitions in Sheffield before heading over for some axe throwing to test our single, double-handed, underarm and over arm techniques! The weekend concluded back at Sheffield ARC with a Cpl Johnson special BBQ and plenty of time to chat about the activities in a fun setting after 18-months of constant work and hardly any social events.

In August, it was time for some adventure training with many in Burma seizing the opportunity to go trekking in the Peak District and some white-water rafting at The National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham. Saturday kicked off at Edale with a circular walk along part of the Pennine Way, climbing through Jacobs Ladder onto Kinder Low. Traversing across the western edge of Kinder Scout for some great views before reaching picturesque Kinder Downfall. South East across Kinder Scout peat bog arriving at Crowden Tower rock escarpment and back on the path Grindsbrook Clough

re-entrant and back into Edale. After that, back to Sheffield for a BBQ.

On Sunday it was down the motorway to Nottingham for white-water rafting. Post kitting out and safety brief completed, it was into the drink. A good bit of healthy race competition ensued with those sat at the front of the raft getting most of the water. It was a great day with a lot of fun for all who took part, especially those who witnessed both the OC and CSM catapulted out to cheers of delight. I'm sure we will be revisiting before too long.



Reserves Day in June - motorcycle driving instructor Pte Gregory at work



CORUNNA COMPANY	
OC	Maj J Stanton
PSAO	Capt C Hosty
SPSI	CSgt Tuisavura
2IC	gapped
CSM	WO2 S Le Couilliard

Champion Company at the Battalion's Duke of York Competition in April

# Corunna Company

Over a busy Summer, Corunna Company has again found itself front and centre throughout all of 4 YORKS' endeavours. At the start of the season we were crowned 'Champion Company' after winning a gruelling Inter-Coy Patrols competition on Feldom Training Area. The Section was ably led by LCpls Goldsworthy and Briggs and the soldiers were tested on navigation, stamina, section attacks, close target recce, calling for fires, battlefield casualty drills and a number of other training objectives. We now have the honour of flying the champion company pendant beneath our flag.

I am very proud to acknowledge that Corunna continues to provide operational support to the Regular Army. Our Coy 2IC Lt Stubbs and CSgt Flowitt deployed



CSgt Flowitt instructing as part of the multi-cap badged STTT mission in Malawi

on a Short Term Training Team (STTT) mission to Malawi to train their Defence Force in preparation for UN Operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Both came home with accolades from their Regular Chain of Command. Furthermore, Pte Szanto is still in post with 2 YORKS and has recently returned from their evacuation mission to Kabul Airport. We now look forward to providing the bulk of manpower (including bayonets, a Pl Comd and a 2IC) to the 4 YORKS Force Protection deployment to Kenya at the end of the year.

Career course have also played an important part of the training year to date. We have a healthy stream of recruits going through the training pipeline and our first two female soldiers Ptes Dickinson and Schofield. Pte Dickinson is the first 4 YORKS female have to have passed their Combat Infantryman's Course (see separate article).

Fortunately, it has not been all work and no play. A number of soldiers have represented the Bn Cricket Team and our own CSM WO2 Le Couilliard continues to play a key role in the Infantry Cycling Team. Furthermore, the company enjoyed a wildly successful Adventurous Training



August's Adventure Training Weekend in Scotland - GoApe altitude training!

weekend in Scotland where they got to grips with Mountain Biking, Go Ape and had a chance to enjoy some much-missed social opportunities.

A final mention must go to CSgt Flowitt who has received the Lord Lieutenant's Award for his outstanding contribution to the company, battalion and to operations over the last two years. To sum up, I am fiercely proud of everything our soldiers have achieved and I am humbled every day at the commitment and professionalism of the modern Army Reservist.

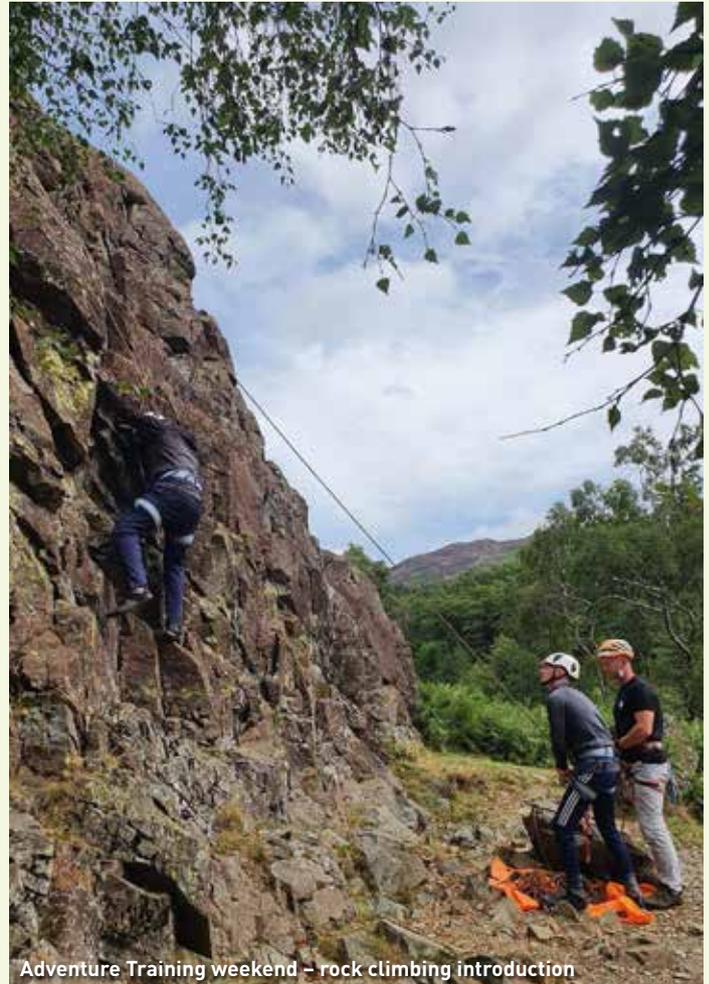
# Quebec Company

## QUEBEC COMPANY

OC	Maj MP Lynch
PSAO	Capt J Robinson
SPSI	CSgt C Turner
2IC	Capt J Lee
CSM	WO2 M Freeman

**A** busy few months for Quebec company encompassing a wide variety of training weekends, drill nights and some adventure training. CSgt Geoff Dawson has stepped down from the appointment of QPSI a post he has held for well over twenty years. A stalwart of the Company, he was honoured by the Fellmongers of Richmond with their annual award to The Yorkshire Regiment before he left. He has been succeeded by SSgt McCormack who joins us from 102 Bn REME. CSgt Russell has also departed from the SPSI appointment to Brecon, replaced by CSgt Turner from 2 YORKS. After spending his entire military career with Quebec company and its predecessors, Cpl Bunn hung up his stable belt having reached retirement age. A glutton for punishment; he has crossed the carpark to become an Army Cadet Adult Volunteer! Recruiting has also been enjoying a purple patch; twenty-one in the last year, including several ex regulars who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience.

The highlight of the period must be the Company Adventure Training weekend. Camping at a site a mile outside Keswick, twenty-five soldiers from the Coy, supported by some additional instructors arrived on the Friday and pitched camp. With tent selection left to personal choice, this ranged from the OC's glorified basha to a yurt big enough to sleep a section. Saturday saw the troops go rock climbing, mountain biking or kayaking in the local area. With experience ranging from none to expert, there was something for everyone, and all had a great day. CSgt Hamley and Sgt Limer organised a BBQ for the evening. Boasts were made and tall tales told until rain stopped play and most got an early night. After an early start on Sunday to pack up camp, the company ventured to Honister Pass to do some Via Feratta. After a short period of instruction soldiers were dangling off the side of a cliff in short order, with reactions ranging from terror to elation. After a two-hour climb that included a 20m Burma rope bridge, all were pleased to reach terra firma and a cake before returning to Middlesbrough.



Adventure Training weekend – rock climbing introduction



Via Ferrata at Honister, please you go first!



Pte Lawlor exudes confidence in her kayak



# Helmand Company

## HELMAND COMPANY

OC	Maj JPI Rawsthorne
PSAO	Capt J Houlton
SPSI	WO2 D Pritchard
2IC	Capt D Hunter
CSM	WO2 P Smales

**N**otwithstanding the COVID social distancing restrictions, this has been a reasonably busy period for many in Helmand company. Well attended regular drill nights have taken place on Tuesday evenings, with some parading early to engage in the lone-soldier fitness programme. Attendance on Regimental training weekends, mainly to help enable the training, has been good, and the recent Company 'cohesion' weekend was much needed, bringing back a sense of normality at the ARC and the opportunity to conduct some group activity and socialise in a controlled

setting. Not surprisingly, the attendance was good, and activities included paintballing, a BBQ and a 'Rat Race' around York.

Behind the scenes the recruiting and mentoring team deserve a special mention. They have continued their momentum and collective efforts to promote the Regiment, effectively communicating with potential recruits to maintain their enthusiasm and guide them through the recruiting process, which has again proved very effective, resulting in a high number of attestations over the last five months. We welcome the following recruits who are at varying stages in the training cycle and all keen to secure their places in their turn on the Combat Infantryman's Course: Ptes Ben-Saud; Simpson; Hill; Cody-Hebden; Beck; Brennan-Vaccaro; Westley; Holdsworth; French; Powell; Rooke; Collins and Trainor.

Also of note; In support of 1 (UK) Division 'Idea's Incubator' exercise, 2Lt Callum Hernaman and Sgt Tim Peacock volunteered to produce two quite excellent essays for consideration and further debate at divisional level – well done to both. The questions answered included:

2Lt Hernaman – Is it possible for the Army to strike the right balance between generating diverse thoughts and challenge within its ranks whilst maintaining a healthy degree of discipline and conformity?

Sgt Peacock - Is there more that we could do to train and prepare for Military Aide to the Civil Authorities (MACA) deployments – or are the skills and attributes we already possess enough?

We said farewell to another long serving member of the company earlier in the summer. WO2 (RCWO) 'Bobby'



Basic Training Foundation weekend at Strensall, the first step for Ptes Abbey, Simpson, Ben-Saud, Coady-Hebden, Brennan-Vaccaro and Hill

Hornshaw, who joined the Army Reserves in 1983 and has served for an impressive 38 years in the RLC, much of which was in Helmand company as 'Chief Chips'. He is a highly experienced Catering Warrant Officer who is commended for



WO2 Hornshaw at the end of a successful Operation RESCRIPT in 2020.

his loyal and huge professional success, especially his service here in Helmand for over twenty years. A very well-known personality, both within the unit and the wider Regiment. We wish him every success for the future – good luck.

Joining the company as a Regular transfer to the Reserves, we are pleased to welcome Capt Daz Hunter (previous RSM 4 YORKS) who will fill the post of Coy 2IC. He brings an enormous amount of experience and energy to the command team and will no doubt add real value to the training and development of the officers and soldiers of Helmand company.

Recent promotions include: CSgt Darren Rose (and not before time!) and LCpls Subritzky and Thirkill –



Medal catch-up for LCpl Riddell presented his Non-Article 5 NATO medal for service in Afghanistan with 2 YORKS.

congratulations to you all, very well done.

We have much to look forward to in the coming months, with some soldiers deploying to BATUK (Kenya), an adventure training weekend, support to Remembrance services across the region, the annual Christmas challenge weekend and a skiing trip in the New Year – we are ready for the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

# The Band of The Yorkshire Regiment



The D-Day commemoration at the National Memorial Arboretum

DoM	Capt G Clegg MBE
PSI	gapped
BSM	WO1 A Brennan

Meeting new challenges is a constant feature of life as a musician and our resumption of public performances started with no less a challenge than the opening of the British Normandy Memorial. Performing on the 77th anniversary of D-Day, the Band was screened live on the BBC from the National Arboretum in Staffordshire with a live link to Ver Sur Mer, Normandy. At this most high profile of events, the Director of Music had to conduct tempos to time pieces down to the second in order that the schedule would link together coherently, not least to coincide with the fly past of the Red Arrows and a speech by HRH Prince Charles. The event was presented by Martin Bell and Nicholas Witchell of the BBC and featured speeches from Normandy veterans and serving personnel.

Along with the dignitaries and 2-star Officers present, the Band was proud to be able to perform again in the presence of General The Lord Dannatt as well as Brigadier Andrew Jackson on his last public engagement as Colonel of the Regiment. The weather was against us, with heavy rain waterlogging the reed instruments and turning sheet music into papier-mâché in front of our eyes,



Capt Gary Clegg attends the investiture in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal

but spirits were not dampened, and the event closed with singing and dancing to Captain Clegg's 'Armed Forces Salute'.

The Band was able to carry out a four-day training event in April and took advantage of

the fine weather to rehearse outside in order that disruptive aeration breaks could be avoided. The training included Career Employment Qualifications and learning the mace drill with the band's new Drum Major, Sgt Keith Marsden. A healthy dose of physical training was also included and recreational sport in the form of volleyball.



Back to near normal running with a public performance in Victoria Square, Hull

In support of the Regiment's recruiting event, and to celebrate the award of the Freedom of the City the Band performed a rousing concert outside Hull City Hall in July. The glorious weather contributed to the cheerful atmosphere among the appreciative crowd, happy to see the Army in public again. The concert featured music likely to be familiar to most such as 'The Blues Brothers', 'Baker Street' and military marches; 'Royal Salute' and 'Eagle Squadron'.

At the beginning of August, the Director of Music attended an Investiture where he was proud to receive an MBE for services to the Regiment and Military music, presented by HRH Princess Anne.

The summer season was rounded off with a concert at the Piece Hall, Halifax to a large crowd enjoying the warm weather and was the closing act in the Piece Hall's 'Butties and Brass' series. The Piece Hall featured all things Yorkshire, with traditional fayre and the Band of the Yorkshire Regiment a favourite for its return next year.

# Duke of York Medal

By Maj C Howard



Sgt Clarke with the outgoing Colonel of The Regiment, Brigadier Jackson

During a training weekend at Feldom Training Area, Sergeant Chris Clarke, Platoon Sergeant of Burma Company's Sheffield Platoon, was awarded the Duke of York's Medal. The annual award is given for meritorious service, and Sgt Clarke received it for his contribution to his unit throughout 2019 and 2020.

Brigadier Andrew Jackson CBE, the departing Colonel of the Regiment, presented this year's award saying; "Sergeant Clarke has shown exemplary commitment to the Army Reserve this year, committing many working days, the vast majority of which have been in the field. He actively looks for opportunities for arduous challenges and shows high levels of commitment in executing them".

He went on to say, "This senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO), who is a probationary firefighter in civilian life, has been a talisman for his troops over the past few years, performing with distinction whilst training allies in Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Sgt Clarke was an invaluable asset on Exercise VIKING STAR in Denmark [in 2019]. He outshone his peers, providing diligent administrative support to the Company Sergeant Major (CSM) and moral support to all troops."

Also involved in Army efforts to support the NHS fight against COVID-19, Sgt Clarke becomes the first Reservist to receive the coveted Duke of York Medal which was awarded to the late Captain Sir Tom Moore, last year.



Sgt Clarke and the Duke of York Medal and Citation



Ex African Lion 21 – 4th Infantry Brigade and Royal Moroccan Armed Force hosts

## Ex African Lion (Morocco)

By Lt A Wisdish

In June 2021, the CO and two junior officers from 4 YORKS deployed to Agadir, Morocco for Exercise African Lion 2021 with 4th Infantry Brigade. Exercise African Lion is an annual International exercise run by the Moroccan Army (FAR) and the US military. Delayed a year because of COVID, this exercise was a great opportunity once again for multiple nations to demonstrate their interoperability and planning capability against challenging scenarios.

Involving nations including Italy, the Netherlands, the US, UK, Morocco and Senegal, this exercise was to its very core international. The focus on interoperability, and collegiate working with allies was the strongest I have seen overseas. Every briefing was translated, either in real time or on notes produced after, and the joint operating portal was truly bi-lingual. Even the Joint Operating Centres (JOC) motto was in French – “Force dans l’unité” (Strength in unity), which was proclaimed out loud at the end of every joint briefing.

The exercise focussed on testing and training a ‘component’ structure, rather than the traditional Division, Brigade and Battlegroup breakdown. As the Land Component Liaison Officer to the JOC, I was sat alongside my counterparts from the Maritime, Air and Special Forces components. Integrating these different components,

each with their own HQs and staff, was the challenge for the joint US-Moroccan HQ. A challenge that was met enthusiastically!

The Moroccans were fantastic hosts, providing limitless supplies of water, and more importantly, sweet tea. We were hosted in the senior officer’s mess, complete with two swimming pools and a tennis court! Unfortunately, the battle rhythm of the JOC meant we only had three hours each evening to enjoy these luxuries. The exercise even had its own football competition, and a Moroccan YouTuber joined other UK, Netherlands and US representatives in winning the trophy. Search for Exercise African Lion to see the excellent video produced for that, and the other myriad of activities and exercises that were carried out as part of African Lion 21, including parachute jumps, rocket battery demonstrations and airlifts. This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, set on the backdrop of a truly beautiful country, I strongly recommend people trying to get on African Lion 22.



Ex African Lion 21 – Commanders briefing – Lt Sherwood with Moroccan officers

## Army Fishing

By Maj C Howard

When you think Army Sports, the usual suspects spring to mind; football, rugby; cycling, etc. Perhaps fishing would be missed off that list, but not by Burma’s Cpl Stephen Henderson who is a member of the Army’s Angling Group 5 (North East England).

The season’s ten matches, starting in October 2020, determine who will be in the top 30% of each group, who then qualify for the Army Individual championships. Congratulations to Cpl Henderson who has qualified for the Individual finals finishing 9th out of forty-three.

The individual finals consist of a number of matches some in teams of three and some as an individual. The final match for the individual champion consists of a 2-day at Woodland Lakes (near Thirsk) and a 1-day event at Swinsty Reservoir (near Harrogate). Each match is about six hours long. Whilst Ex Yorkshire Strike took place in September, Cpl Henderson fished competitively. Despite good and bad days and the relative inexperience of the Infantry team, he managed to catch a grand total of 69 kg of fish across the week finishing 21st out of ninety-one anglers. A great experience and lots of competition lessons learned. The season restarts in October so any service soldiers wish to take part, give him a call at Barnsley ARC.



Cpl Henderson showing off his catch during the qualifying stage

# Forces Rugby League – Opportunities Grasped

By Pte L Paul-Rientoul



Infantry Rugby League Head Coach – Pte Paul-Rientoul

a bunch of blokes really enjoying their rugby. We lost the game by a single score, but it was one of the best weeks of Rugby I've ever had... and I'd had a fair few! Then COVID-19 struck.

All too often, life gets in the way of the best laid plans. A visit to the Great Yorkshire Show in 2017 and a chance encounter with a 4 YORKS recruiter changed my direction and offered the chance of merging a love of rugby league and a long held ambition to join the Army.

Eighteen months later, having been attested at Helmand Coy in York, basic training done, CIC (Res) passed and getting into company life, I was really relishing the new opportunities - including skiing in Austria. By mid-2019 I made tentative steps towards the forces rugby league world.

At 4 YORKS I was extremely fortunate that the Adjutant, Capt (now Maj) Andrew Lucas was a regular with Infantry RL and the then CO, Lt Col Greg Murphy, a proud Australian, was an ardent RL fan. Soon my rugby CV was winging it way to the right people and I was speaking to the Secretary of Infantry RL, CSgt Alan Boyle (MERCIAN).

In February 2020 I was called forward to the next Infantry Rugby League meet as a 'guest coach'. A 5-day pre-season camp which would end with a fixture against York Acorn RLFC - a team I used to coach and had beaten the Army 1st XIII by thirty-plus points months earlier. I was very apprehensive – as a new Army Reserve Private soldier, little experience of working with Regulars, called forward to bark out coaching orders to soldiers, NCOs, WOs and Officers with 'warfighting' experience, apprehension was a massive understatement. I needn't have worried, half way into the camp the post of head coach was being offered.

The York Acorns game was a hard-fought but one where I'd seldom seen such

Meanwhile, the Army 1st XIII head coach had to move on and I was persuaded (by the whole team) to throw my hat into the ring. The 'dragons den' style pitch was a great experience and I was offered Assistant Coach working to Head Coach, the talented WO2 Mike Thompson RE. He's a legend within the Army RL world, has coached at pro-clubs and led the RE RL to numerous Corps Championships. In my opinion it was a great decision.

Fast forward to May 2021 and a return to team sport. The annual Inter-Unit Naivalurua 9's Competition and the Yeoman Cup allowed me as the all-new 1st XIII Assistant Coach, to introduce myself and help identify the stars in the rugby talent for Army representative selection. Both competitions were a fantastic introduction to the skills, passion and commitment that unearthed some absolute diamonds.

Once again COVID returned curtailing any sort of pre-season training camp for the Infantry and it was straight into the Lawson Cup. One day of training, 47 players, many of them new, and two intense days of play resulted in quick bonding and sleepless nights. One silly mistake and an unlucky bounce of the ball had the Corps sitting up and noticing a resurgence Infantry squad. However, other results meant we could top the group and go into the final for the first time in the Competition's 25-year history.

The squad was on a high

and displaying a level of commitment I've never seen in any other team that I've coached, including internationals. HQ Infantry had got wind and a photo was quickly arranged at HQ Infantry. Quite a moment for me, reservist Private soldier sat next to Colonel Infantry and Chair of Infantry Rugby.

The task was clear, win by 7 clear points to get into the final. For the next 70 minutes the Signals never troubled us, and we were rampant and a dominant performance secured our 42-12 victory.

With the Final on the Friday the team rested with a trip to the lake and a meal on Colonel Infantry. Thursday was the reverse with serious and tight training by the entire 40-man squad, no cliques, no second string, everyone part of the team and there for each other.

REME were not going to be a push over, but once again unforced errors gave them the first half. A simple team talk – stop the errors and we have this. After that it was almost one way traffic, real dominating, exhibition style, champagne rugby. Final Score Infantry 42 - REME 26, history had been made and the Lawson Cup would have our name on it for the first time.

To coach the infantry team has been one of the top highlights of my rugby career. A band of brothers that put their body's on the line for each other time and time again, skill levels that should be seen in the professional game, so disciplined and respectful that it makes coaching them an absolute pleasure and reaffirms just why I love this game so much. I am proud to be the Army 1st XIII Assistant Coach, it's been an astonishing year for me, so far, and there are some great days ahead.



Army Rugby League selection staff on the look-out for talent

# Recruitment and Initial Training

By Capt M Murray



Initial Training Pass Off for Ptes Richardson, Cooling and Foster with D-Day veteran Ken Cooke

As we all start to come to grips with the new 'business as usual', and with restrictions on how we go about our business in a COVID environment starting to ease, it is important to remember that the Recruiting and Training Pipelines have continued in earnest. Since March, 4 YORKS have continued to be successful in attracting new applicants, with a further fifty-five joining, of which twenty-five are Direct Entry applicants and eleven have come direct from the Regular Army. These applicants were all supported by Recruiting and Mentoring Support Officers (ReMSOs) and Reservists from the sub-units, who have continued to do

a tremendous job in delivering the CO's directive on recruiting.

Despite 'teething problems' (mainly course capacity) with the new Initial Training syllabus that was introduced in April, 4 YORKS have managed to ensure that our recruits are attending the new courses, with thirty-six of them attending a Basic Training Course. Three



CIC (Res) completed – Burma's Ptes Gregory, Schofield, Choudhury, Gregory, Choudhury

of these recruits (from Corunna Coy) have completed all of their Initial Training requirements under the new syllabus, taking less than four months to do so, which is a fantastic achievement. We have continued to increase our Infantry trained capability, with eighteen Army Reservists being successful on their Combat Infantry Course (CIC) since March, eight of whom are from Burma Coy.

4 YORKS once again hosted the Military Village at the Great Yorkshire Show. Extended to four days, but with less capacity (approx. 25000 a day), the Regiment was fully represented, with members of the Regimental Association and all three battalions present. Key Regimental visitors included the new Colonel of the Regiment, Deputy

Commander 4th Infantry Brigade and Chief Executive of the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Yorkshire and the Humber. Yet again, the Military Village was privileged to receive a visit from the Royal Household. Originally, the author was advised that HRH The Duchess of Cornwall would attend, but everyone likes a 'fast ball', and instead HRH The Prince of Wales visited. We were able to formally introduce HRH to two members of 4 YORKS, Sgt Gavin Roberts (ReMSO West and South) and Cpl Dave Evans (Burma Coy). In addition, HRH was introduced to the Association stand and members from the Infantry Engagement Team (1 and 2 YORKS).

We look forward to getting back to face-to-face activities and hope that the remainder of 2021 and the beginning of 2022 continues to see the successes that we have experienced this year.



Great Yorkshire Show hosting HRH The Prince of Wales with Sgt Roberts



MALBATT – A multi-brigade UK contingent supported the Malawian students

## Malawi - Short Term Training Team (STTT)

By Lt J Stubbs

MALBATT or Malawian Battalion, is the Malawian Defence Forces (MDF) contribution to the ongoing United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (UN MONUSCO). MONUSCO aims to aid the Democratic Republic of Congo in their ongoing peacekeeping and stabilisation operations within the country. During June and July, three separate STTT travelled to Malawi to deliver train-the-trainer courses to the MDF on a wide

range of disciplines. As the MDF move onwards from the training, they look forward to welcoming the UK back as the MDF instructors, who will return to the Armed Forces College to deliver pre-deployment training in September under the supervision and mentorship of BPST(A).

June and July saw three separate teams travel to Malawi to deliver training. Lead by troops from BPST(A), 2nd Medical Brigade and reservists from 4th

Infantry Brigade. The team from 2 Med Bde brought together reservist medics and medics who had served with 16 Air Assault Brigade to deliver a team medic course. 4 YORKS brought together infantry specialists from 51st Infantry Brigade and the Infantry Battle School. They delivered an adult learning skills course

then on to developing reconnaissance and mortar instructors. BPST(A) organically generated an STTT to deliver a comprehensive explosive hazard awareness course.

The teams delivered their teaching in the Malawian Armed Forces College, situated in Salima near Senga Bay to courses of between fifteen and forty attendees. The courses were not all classroom based with the teams making use of the great terrain in the surrounding area to maximise training realism and difficulty.

All those who attended the training from the MDF really enjoyed their time with the UK instructors and have all left with new skills and confidence ready for the MONUSCO pre-deployment training. This has left the UK instructors with a great sense of accomplishment and their own lessons learnt from this unique experience, and all look forward to the opportunity to return to Malawi and Africa.



MALBATT – Field training for student supervised by CSgt Flowitt [Corunna Coy]

# Exercise Yorkshire Strike 21

By Maj A Lawson



Promotions for a cohort of junior commanders during the battalion parade

4 YORKS deployed to Wathgill near Catterick, then subsequently Kirkcudbright, Scotland during September for their two week Annual Continuous Training concentration. The exercise was designed to practise deployed troops in conventional warfighting tactics, techniques and procedures through an extensive live field firing exercise and a blank firing tactical exercise; this was complimented by a comprehensive conceptual training package at the company and battlegroup levels. Finally, the exercise was completed by an adventurous training package.



The overdue presentation of the Merchant Adventurers' Tankard to Pte (now LCpl) Pilkington by the Governor of the York Company

Despite depleted numbers due to a significant number of soldiers due to be deployed to Kenya as part of the BATUK Force Protection Platoon, the battalion came together at Wathgill where grouping, zeroing was completed as was an ACMT. The transition to field firing was completed after the move north to Kirkcudbright, where troops completed a variety of live firing shoots including section in defence and section attacks as well as associated activities such as live grenade throwing; this phase was headed up by Maj Mick Lynch, OC Quebec Coy and the Permanent Staff

and was incredibly well received by all participants despite the challenging weather conditions and terrain. At this time, Conceptual Training was completed by the junior officers and SNCOs, where company and battlegroup offensive and defensive combat estimates were completed, culminating in associated wargaming and rehearsal of concept (ROK) drills.

A day of potted sports, a BBQ and a drumhead service by Maj Ben Norton the newly appointed Regimental Chaplain, complete with promotions for soldiers from Pte to LCpl, was sandwiched in

between the live firing and a dry training exercise. The weather was kind and allowed WO<sub>2</sub> (QMSI) Bloomer to umpire volleyball and softball and for SSgt Thirwell and his catering team to produce another excellent meal. Congratulations to LCpls Subritzky, Thirkill, Chaukria, Taylor, Quail and

Pilkington on their promotions.

Headed up by Capt Rob Phillips and WO<sub>2</sub> (CSM) Le Couillard, the blank firing tactical exercise took place in the demanding and isolated Galloway Forest north of Kirkcudbright. This phase saw exercising troops practice



Potted sports at Kirkcudbright Training centre led by WO<sub>2</sub> (QMSI) Bloomer

soldiering and fieldcraft skills. Deployed personnel completed a variety of tactical actions including occupation of patrol harbours, recce patrols, and culminated in a deliberate attack onto an enemy 'training camp' position.

An adventurous training package completed the exercise, where those attending rotated through mountain biking, rock climbing, coastering and sea kayaking. Physically and mentally demanding, these activities tested all who participated albeit in an enjoyable environment. The exercise also hosted a number of visits throughout the two weeks, including Col Wright, our Honorary Colonel (Reserves), Col Brooks, Deputy Commander (Reserves) 4th Infantry Brigade and Col Hatfield, Commandant Schinf as well as Brig Mudd, Commander 4th Infantry Brigade. The visitors were able to view a variety of activities including the field firing and adventure training. We also paid host for the first time to representatives of the York Company of Merchant Adventurers who were accompanied by the Regimental Secretary. Burma's Pte Pilkington was presented with a tankard as the battalion's best Army Reserve soldier - an award that usually takes place early each year at the Merchant Adventurers Hall in York.



One Platoon at the end of the two-day field exercise of Yorkshire Strike 21

# First female infantry soldier joins the 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

By Wg Cdr (retd) Alan Bartlett

**P**ivate Samantha Dickinson from Horbury, Wakefield, recently completed the Combat Infantryman Course (Reserve) at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick. She is The Yorkshire Regiment's first female Army Reserve infantry soldier to be attested and complete training since the announcement to open all military roles to women in October 2018.

34-year old Pte Dickinson has now fulfilled a long-held ambition to join the Army but previously, work and life got in the way. Samantha was attested in late 2020 and first qualified as a soldier before going on to successfully complete the infantry course at Catterick in June 2021.

Samantha is one of nearly fifty new soldiers to have joined the 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment over the last year. All part of a concerted effort to expand the reserve battalion's footprint across the region. She said, *"Being the first female in 4 YORKS to pass the CIC is a real achievement. It pushed me to do more, especially in the fitness tests."*

*"I really love being in the outdoors, my work and free time activities like hiking and horse riding meant that joining the Army was a natural fit."*

*"Working with the other soldiers really makes me work harder and pushes me forward, but that is the same at work where I am a bricklayer working with my dad and cousin."*

Reflecting on her basic and infantry training, she said, *"The best part were the days spent in the field at Catterick, it was brilliant and really confirmed joining the Infantry was the right decision."*

Looking forward, Pte Dickinson is preparing to deploy as part of a Force Protection Platoon in November and spend three months in Kenya with fellow infantry soldiers from 4 YORKS.

*"It will be a challenge being away from my close knit family, but they understand, as do work. I fully intend to work hard and whilst there I am looking forward to the adventure training package, going on a safari and climbing Mount Kenya."*

Many new faces have signed up for 4 YORKS over the last year and a growing proportion will follow in the footsteps of Pte Dickinson. However, this small but regimentally significant milestone is not new. It was only a few years ago that the battalion's last female infantry cap badged soldier left us. WO2 Helen Chamberlain was one of many who completed their training during the 1980s and 1990s and didn't rebadge when the opportunity to enlist as infantry soldier was closed around the turn of the millennium.



# Regimental Headquarters

By Lt Col DRE O'Kelly – Regimental Secretary



The executive group met at Leeds Armouries to work on a revision of the regimental strategy. The Colonel of the Regiment led the discussion on Skype and the Regimental Secretary was there to capture the outcomes.

The Coronavirus pandemic is still with us and had caused a deal of disruption to everyone's lives over the last 18 months. Lockdowns and restrictions have been a part of the programme since March 2020 and although there are signs of a return to normality, the effects are likely to be with us for a while longer yet.

The Regiment's Spring programme was sufficiently affected to cause it to be moved to the Autumn. Our attendance at the Great Yorkshire Show in the Summer was largely unaffected, with the exception of having to cancel our Annual Cocktail Party & Beating Retreat. This is very much back in the programme for 2022. York Races, covered in detail elsewhere, was successfully postponed from May to September; the Officers' Dinner (05 Nov) and Regimental Church Service (06 Nov) are still to happen – there are still spaces available at both so if you haven't booked yet, please do, noting that there are capacity limitations of 90 and 125 respectively. The forthcoming Regimental Cross Brief (09 Nov) looks like being postponed for a second time, to a date after the announcement of the Integrated Review.

Usually at this time of year we would be anticipating attending the York Sportsman's Lunch. This event has been

a highlight of our calendar for 10 years as it has entertained 11 members of the Regiment annually to a gala lunch with high-profile speakers from the world of rugby (e.g. Sean Fitzpatrick, Brian O'Driscoll and Lawrence Dallaglio). More importantly, over the 10 years, it has helped to raise, not only the regimental profile within the County, but also a staggering £52,000 towards the Benevolent Trust. All good things come to an end however, and our time has been called. We remain very grateful to the team at Sporting Connexions for including the Regiment for as long as they did and for their extraordinary generosity.

It is a measure of the turnover of personnel in and out of the Regiment that since the pandemic began, we have said farewell to 29 officers and welcomed 34.

Army Operational Legacy branch continue to do much good work on our behalf, specifically regarding matters surrounding Northern Ireland. To RHQ's knowledge, only one antecedent serviceman is currently involved in a NI Legacy Inquest. Support is offered to anyone who is involved and further advice can be sought from RHQ should the need arise. Op BANNER veterans

may have read the Government's paper in the Summer which set out the proposals to address legacy issues from NI in some detail. We wait to hear the outcome of that consultation with interest.

Whilst the outcome of the Integrated Review is of great concern to the serving community, it is also likely to have an impact on RHQ in due course. RHQs haven't been formally reviewed for a couple of years so another will assuredly be along soon! In the meantime, we are currently operating one man down since the departure of Maj Charlie Helmn at the end of August. The gap he has left is keenly felt. He was a stalwart of the RHQ and his presence in South and West Yorkshire, at sports clubs across the region and at Association events were all important in building our reputation across a wide spectrum of 'stakeholders'. We wish him well in his retirement. Current Civil Service recruiting restrictions have meant that a replacement cannot be sought yet. We will do so as soon as circumstances allow and looking ahead, we are going to have to do the same when Maj Pat Ralph retires next April.

As mentioned in his Foreword, Col Regt held a strategy planning meeting at the end of September. The outcomes of this will be put before the Regimental Board in December and thereafter widely publicised.



Regimental Secretary saying farewell to the Colonel of the Regiment on his last day in post on 6th June 2021 at the NMA.

# New Officers



2Lt Sam Hopkinson

2 Lt Sam Hopkinson is single and is from Bradford where he attended Tong High School. Although there are no familial connections with the Army, Sam served with the regiment in 1 YORKS before attending RMAS. He has participated in Alpine and Nordic Skiing at Divisional Level and cites skiing, running, reading, amateur mechanics, sky-diving and outdoor activities as his main hobbies. Sam will be joining 2 YORKS and says he is looking forward to keeping his soldiers motivated and is happy to remain a Yorkshire Warrior in what he believes is the most family-oriented regiment in the British Army.



2Lt Jack James McCormack

2Lt James McCormack is from Stone in Staffordshire but cites Horsforth, Leeds as his hometown. He attended St Josephs College before studying at the University of Sheffield. Before attending RMAS, James served with the Army Reserve in the Mercians. He enjoys rugby, cross-fit at all levels, open water swimming, endurance events and bushcraft and survival activities. James says he is looking forward to joining 2 YORKS and the privilege of leading Yorkshire soldiers.



2Lt Bertie Southworth

2Lt Bertie Southworth was born in Cambridge and cites Framlingham as his hometown. He was schooled at King's Ely, Bransdeston Hall, Framlingham College and attended the University of Surrey. Before attending RMAS, Bertie worked in farming as well as a station and at a summer camp. He has family connections with the Army; his grandfather was in the Green Howards, his father is in the Royal Artillery, his mother the Dental Corps and he has an uncle in the Royal Engineers and an aunt in the Royal Logistic Corps. Bertie has played rugby at county-level, boxed at national level and rifle shooting at national level. He is joining 1 YORKS where he hopes to get involved in planning and conduction Adventurous Training for the soldiers.



Graduation day with Brig ED Colthup

# A New Regimental Chaplain for The Yorkshire Regiment

By Wg Cdr (ret'd) Alan Bartlett



Presiding over the Exchange of Colours

Rev'd Ben Norton, a Minister from Hull has been appointed as the new Regimental Chaplain for Yorkshire's own Infantry, The Yorkshire Regiment.

Rev'd Ben was ordained into the Church of England in 2007 and is the first to be ordained as a Pioneer Minister, which means his role is focussed on creating church and worship in new and fresh ways to meet the needs of a rapidly changing society. He has ministered in his home city of Hull for the past 6 years and works closely with the veteran's charity Hull 4 Heroes, and he has been Chaplain to the 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment Reserve since 2013.

His role with 4 YORKS has included operational deployments to Kabul and

more recently as a British Army Reserve, Ben was mobilized on Op RESCRIPT, providing much needed support to the NHS and other government agencies during the COVID pandemic. He deployed on the Annual Deployment Exercise in September and will also go to Kenya later in the year, providing soldiers with moral support and helping them to better understand what they are doing and why.

As regimental chaplain, Padre Ben's duties will include officiating at major regimental events and his first will be the Yorkshire Regiment's annual service of remembrance in York Minster on 6 November. Ben said "As an Army reserve I've been lucky to gain a better insight

into the needs and concerns of those who serve our country and our communities. I'm especially proud to be called upon to lead the service of remembrance in York when we will pay tribute to all those who were unable to say farewell to during

the pandemic, as well as all those who lost their lives in two world wars and also in more recent operations".

"I'm excited by the opportunity offered by this new aspect of my ministry and embracing new and creative ways of engaging with the regimental family; those who are serving, their families and our veterans old and new". As well as continuing to minister in Hull, Ben's other regimental duties will include conducting the biennial exchange of honorary colours, attending major parades and regimental events as well as continuing his Army Reserve role as Chaplain to 4 YORKS.

Rev'd Ben lives and works in Hull and has 3 children. In his 'copious free time' he is an avid sportsman and enjoys running, long distance triathlon, recently swam across the Humber river and represents 4 YORKS in Army cycling races.



Maj Ben Norton 4 YORKS



Leading from the front in the Army Cycling Championship

# Affiliation with the Company of Cutlers - Hallamshire

By Wg Cdr (retd) Alan Bartlett

At the Annual Cutlers Feast in Sheffield's historic Cutler's hall, a new affiliation was announced between the Company and The Yorkshire Regiment. The event was attended by CO 4 YORKS and a guard of honour from 4 YORKS provided the backdrop to the ceremony. Also attending was the first Colonel of the Regiment and former CDS, General Lord Houghton and the Regimental Secretary, Lt Col O'Kelly. This new affiliation is another step in expanding the regimental footprint in South Yorkshire and COVID permitting, we hope to attend some high profile events across the Sheffield region in 2022.



Lord Houghton and RSM 4 YORKS

The Cutlers' Company was established by a parliamentary Act of Incorporation in 1624 and for almost four hundred years has sought to maintain the standards and quality of Sheffield manufactured cutlery and steel products and to promote the name of Sheffield. As manufacturing in the region has changed over the centuries, so the Company reflects this by highlighting the innovation in the region as well as upholding Sheffield's proud heritage.

## Master Cutler - Nicholas D O Williams TD DL

Nick was born and raised in Sheffield, a proud Yorkshireman. He was educated at Elizabeth College in Guernsey, Channel Islands and Sheffield Polytechnic (Diploma of Management Studies). Starting his working life with GKN Ltd in Birmingham and Cardiff, he then joined his family engineering business in Sheffield on the shop floor and worked his way up to Works Director, with works in Walsall and Sheffield. 1993 saw him move to GT Tubes Ltd, a manufacturer of steel structural hollow section, as General Manager. He became Managing Director on their acquisition by Australian National Industries Pty (ANI) which had sister plants in Brisbane and Chicago and head quartered in Sydney.

In 1998, international company politics, excessive travel and the likelihood and subsequent acquisition by Smorgon Steel, saw him leave to acquire his own engineering business and to form the SMP Group of Companies – a diverse group of small metal finishing and manufacturing companies in Sheffield.

Now semi-retired, he still maintains his interest in steel and manufacturing as a "Little Mester", manufacturing a select few products, including the ubiquitous stainless steel "Presto Egg Opener" (The only way to cut the top off a raw or boiled egg), first produced by John Watts Ltd, a Sheffield company going back to 1765.

He spent many years in the Territorial

Army, commanding 75 Engineer Regiment between 1992/5 and completing his TA career as Deputy Commander 42 (North West) Brigade in the rank of Colonel. Currently maintaining his links with the Reserve Forces as

Chairman of the North West of England and Isle of Man Reserve Forces and Cadet Association. He is also National President of St John Ambulance. He lives in the Peak District of Derbyshire

## The Cutlers' Halls

The first Cutlers' Hall was built in 1638, and the two later Halls were built on the same site. The accounts show that the Company bought the land for the first Hall for £69.12s. Unfortunately, there are no contemporary pictures of this Hall.

This first Hall was demolished in May 1725 and the site cleared for the building of the second Hall. In the 1720s, the Company considered looking for a better piece of land on which to build a new Cutlers' Hall. Negotiations were undertaken with the Duke of Norfolk's agent, Mr Henry Howard, who offered the Company a large parcel of land close to where the present Town Hall now stands. But the ground rent was set at £22, and the Company would only agree to £21.13s.3d. So, for the sake of 6s.9d, the scheme foundered and the Cutlers' Hall remained on its present site. However, by 1827, the state of this second Hall was causing a great deal of public concern. A letter appeared in the Sheffield Independent: "Its exterior appearance is unworthy of the Company to whom it belongs". In 1832, following the demolition of the second Hall, the present Cutlers' Hall, the third on this site, was built. It was designed by two architects, Samuel Worth and Benjamin Broomhead Taylor, who had both submitted plans, but when the Company was unable to choose between these plans, the two architects agreed to work together. The building cost the Company £8,846.12s.1d, with a further £1,092.3s.2d spent on furnishings.

In 1867, the Hall was extended to the rear, with the addition of the Main Banqueting Hall on the first floor with the Hadfield Hall beneath and in 1888, the frontage was extended westward. It is a Grade 2\* Listed building, privately owned by the Cutlers' Company, and is considered to be one of the finest Livery halls in the country.

Read More here:  
<https://cutlers-hallamshire.org.uk/>



The Master Cutler, guests and guard of honour



Winner Emaraty Hero being led in by Musicians Kai Spencer and Chloe Barker

## Regimental Race Day - 5 September 2021

By Wg Cdr (retd) Alan Bartlett

Over successive years, I've lost count of how many times serving members of the regimental family tell me they; "didn't know about the races". Maybe that's down to me, but I think it's more about getting the message we put out from RHQ in the Forecast of Events, on social media and in the calling letter to the battalions and those serving at 'E', down the command chain to the younger, serving cohort. Nevertheless, for 2021 I was pleased to see that we had a healthy mix of attendees, including veterans of all ages, a serving Cpl and the former Chief of Defence Staff!

Traditionally, the regimental race day takes place on the Saturday of the end of May meeting, but COVID restrictions and an uncertainty over how many racegoers could attend, led to an agreement to move our 2021 sponsored event to September Sunday. For those of you who missed our very welcome return to the Knavesmire after an unavoidable COVID-enforced absence, 189 members of the regimental family and their guests enjoyed a brilliantly sunny, Family Sunday, seven race extravaganza in York. Not sure that our visiting Tipster was on the

mark though given my own losses, but it was great to get back to some sort of social normality with friends old and new. And on the way, a £170 donation to the Benevolent Fund was raised by our in-house sweepstake.

If you've never attended before, here's what you can expect on 21 May 2022. Our annual corporate event is open to everyone associated with the Regiment and takes place in the County-Stand, Dante Suite. Admission tickets are available for serving personnel, service leavers, veterans, members of the extended regimental family, immediate family members and invited friends. The Dante ticket includes admission to our private function room, a race-day badge, race-card, a three-course lunch and

cream tea and access to our own balcony overlooking the finishing post. Tickets are subsidised and cost £65 for members of the regimental family and £80 for guests. For 21 May 2022, the limit is firmly set at 240 lucky people, so put the date in your diary now.

Winner of our 2021 sponsored race, The Yorkshire Regiment Stakes Apprentice Handicap, which was a leg of the Go Racing in Yorkshire Future Stars series, was Emaraty Hero, trained in Northallerton by Grant Tuer Racing.



The prize giving hosted by Brigadier and Mrs Jackson to the Trainer, Jockey and owners consortium was a little unconventional!

# YORKSHIRE REGIMENT FORECAST OF EVENTS 2021/22

(All events, locations and dates are subject to confirmation)

EVENT	VENUE	DATE
Yorkshire Regiment Officers' Dinner	Merchant Taylors	05 Nov
Regimental Church Service	York Minster	06 Nov
Field of Remembrance	Westminster	11 Nov
Remembrance Sunday	London	14 Nov
Yorkshire Regiment Board Meeting	RHQ	03 Dec
Yorkshire Regiment Trustees Meeting	RHQ	03 Dec
Sovereign's Parade	RMAS	10 Dec
King's Div LE Lunch	York	10 Dec
Merchant Adventurers Presentation Night	York	10 Feb
Yorkshire Regiment Rugby Trophy Final	Doncaster	TBC
Sedbergh Super 10s Rugby	Sedbergh	26-28 Mar
Sovereign's Parade	RMAS	15 Apr
Army vs Royal Navy Rugby	Twickenham	30 Apr
Fellmongers Presentation Night	Richmond	TBC
Regimental Cross Brief	TBC	TBC
Regimental Mentoring	TBC	TBC
Yorkshire Regiment Board Meeting	RHQ	20 May
Yorkshire Regiment Trustees Meeting	RHQ	20 May
Yorkshire Regiment Officers' Dinner	York	21 May
Yorkshire Regiment Association Race Day	York Racecourse	21 May
HMQ's 70th Anniversary Bank Holiday		02-05 Jun
Founders Day	Royal Hospital	02 Jun
Yorkshire Regiment Formation Day		06 Jun
Normandy Commemoration	France	06 Jun
Yorkshire Regiment Roses Match	TBC	TBC
Waterloo Day		18 Jun
Armed Forces Day National Event 2022	Scarborough	25 Jun
Inter Services T20 Cricket	Lord's	TBC
Great Yorkshire Show	Harrogate	12-14 Jul
Regimental Beating Retreat & Cocktail Party	Harrogate	13 Jul
Yorkshire Regiment Golf Day	Forest Park GC	29 Jul
Yorkshire Day		01 Aug
Sovereign's Parade	RMAS	12 Aug
Regimental Remembrance Service	York Minster	05 Nov
Field of Remembrance	Westminster	10 Nov
Remembrance Sunday	London	13 Nov
Yorkshire Regiment Board Meeting	RHQ	02 Dec
Yorkshire Regiment Trustees Meeting	RHQ	02 Dec
Sovereign's Parade	RMAS	09 Dec
King's Div LE Lunch	York	09 Dec

# Key Antecedent Regiment Dates

(All events, locations and dates are subject to confirmation)

EVENT	VENUE	DATE
PWO Officers' Dinner	York	15 Oct
PWO Reunion	York	16 Oct
GH Reunion	Middlesbrough	15-17 Oct
GH London Lunch	London	25 Mar
GH Sunday	Richmond	15 May
GH Crepon Weekend	Normandy	04-06 Jun
PWO Imphal Day Lunch	York	19 Jun
YV Bligny Sunday	Leeds	17 Jul
GH Alma Dinner	Middlesbrough	TBC Sep
PWO Quebec Day Service	Beverley	11 Sep
PWO Officers' Lunch	TBC	TBC
5 DWR Dinner	Huddersfield	TBC
GH Reunion	Middlesbrough	14-16 Oct
PWO Reunion	York	15 Oct



At the Great Yorkshire Show 2021

# Area Headquarters North

By Major Pat Ralph MM

The pandemic stopped all kind of community and civic engagement and events in 2020 and the annual Richmond Fellmongers award ceremony was no exception. However, we were determined not to cancel in 2021 and a virtual event was set up by our close friend and Secretary of the Fellmongers, and attended by AHQ(N)'s Mike Wood and Pat Ralph accompanied by the Master Fellmonger. A 'zoom' awards night went ahead, joined by recipients from the northern regions of England, to the far reaches of the Mediterranean in Cyprus. Soldiers, officers, and families of the recipients were all able to dial-in and listen to the citations, along with a briefing from the Regimental Secretary. All-in-all, a total success and thanks to one and all especially the work behind the scenes from Mike Wood and all at the Fellmongers.



## 4 YORKS Sgt Clarke

Sgt Clarke has risen through the ranks quickly and is now a Pl Sgt in Sheffield Pl, Burma Coy, 4 YORKS. His contribution to the regiment in 2019-20 has been outstanding. Sgt Clarke has shown exemplary commitment to the Army Reserve this year, committing many working days, the vast majority of which have been in the field. He actively looks for opportunities for arduous challenges and shows high levels of commitment in executing them.

Sgt Clarke has completed STTT attachments in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, amounting to almost 10 weeks away from home on these tasks alone. Reports back from his commanders were exemplary; both expressed surprise that Sgt Clarke was a reservist, his performance being consistent with the highest quality Infantry SNCOs.

Sgt Clarke was an invaluable asset on 4 YORKS ADE (Ex VIKING STAR) in Denmark. Of the three Pl Sgts (one of which was a regular NCO) he outshone his peers, providing diligent administrative support to the CSM and moral support to all troops in the Coy. His performance was consistent with this when deployed with 4 MERCIAN on Ex WARHAMMER, indeed he won a COs commendation on that exercise.

Sgt Clarke has a dedication to helping young people in the community. He was an integral part of the team planning and executing our 2x SUPA camps to mobilise vulnerable young people. He has continued this effort by volunteering to mentor and support ACF members in our neighbouring detachments.



## 4 YORKS CSgt Dawson

Colour Sergeant Geoffrey Dawson was recruited to the post of Quartermaster Permanent Staff Instructor for the Reserve Infantry Company based in Middlesbrough, in June 2001. The Company has been reformed on a number of occasions during his tenure and is now Quebec Company, 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment. Prior to appointment he served a full career as a regular soldier. He enlisted into the Light Infantry in 1977 and left as a Company Sergeant Major in 2001.

For the last twenty years he has provided an exemplary service to Quebec Company and its antecedents. His responsibilities are myriad. He manages the maintenance and upkeep of the reserve centre and the diligence with which he performs this function is evident for all to see; it is a facility that the company are proud of and it is a 'safe space' to train in. He manages the weapons, stores and equipment that the reserve soldiers use to train and deploy, his attention to detail is exemplary. The Company does not have broken or obsolete equipment, his standard is 100% availability 100% of the time and he consistently delivers. Most importantly he recognises that equipment is there to be used rather than stored. This increases his workload, but improves the lived experience of the reservist.

Most merit worth of all is his loyalty and dedication to Quebec Company and its soldiers. Colour Sergeant Dawson exemplifies the Army Values and Standards; selfless commitment in particular. For twenty years, through defence cuts, restructuring, near disbandment and changes in role he has put the Company first and provided a firm base for it to train and operate in. Such is his calibre that even now as he approaches retirement he is focused on setting his successor up for success.

Colour Sergeant Dawson has given over 40 years of meritorious service to the colours and is worthy of recognition by the Fellmongers of Richmond.

## Yorkshire (North & West) Army Cadet Force - Cadet Sergeant Rosie Nelson

Cadet Sergeant Nelson is the perfect example of what young people can achieve when they put their mind to it. Since joining Malton Detachment, Yorkshire (North and West) ACF in 2016, Rosie has embraced every opportunity given to her. Rosie has attended all available camps and parade nights and has risen up through the ranks to be one of the most senior cadets in the Company.

Within the Army Cadet Force, Sergeant Nelson achieved her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and has received a Silver Certificate of Achievement due to her dedication to the Award during the Covid-19 pandemic. Rosie excelled herself during the pandemic, enough so to be awarded the Lt Col Gerrish Award

for Outstanding Volunteering. This was awarded due to her building a mini enterprise of making face masks and donating them to raise funds for various charities, including the RBL. Rosie is, and continues to be, an ambassador for mental health and regularly supports her cadets in maintaining a healthy mind.

As a senior cadet, Rosie is expected to be a role model for all the other cadets and her confidence when instructing or during training sessions is exemplary. She always goes the extra mile to support the junior cadets and the levels of respect she has earned from cadets and adult instructors alike is outstanding. Rosie has developed into a confident, outgoing young lady, respected by her peers and colleagues. She has shown that with dedication, hard work and a willingness to learn, anything is achievable. Cadet Sergeant Rosie Nelson is therefore nominated for the Company of Fellmongers Award.



## Cleveland Army Cadet Force - Cadet Corporal Jessica Sanderson

Cadet Corporal Jessica Sanderson joined Coulby Newham Detachment of Cleveland Army Cadet Force in September 2017. Seizing the opportunity to progress within her Army Proficiency Certificate training within her detachment, where her positivity had a noticeable motivational impact on those around her, she also chose to join the Corps of Drums with its separate music training. These two streams of the cadet experience have allowed Jessica to contribute substantially and in a wide variety of ways both within and without the county.

The Corps of Drums participate in a large number of parades and other events across the local area, often being the sole uniformed face of the army at those events. Jessica is a senior and lead member of the drums contingent, helping significantly to raise the profile of the Corps of Drums and Cleveland ACF. When out of the public eye she has shown a welcome enthusiasm for training and mentoring newer, younger cadets within the Corps of Drums, acting as an exemplary and proactive role model.

Whilst her musical role is high profile and her effort and commitment to it relatively easily noticed, she also commits the same degree of effort and commitment to APC training. She has quickly advanced through 3 APC star levels and achieved promotion to Cadet Corporal.

Particularly during the last year of distanced training, she has, through her own participation and encouragement to others to join her, been an invaluable help to her Detachment Commander in keeping the flame of the cadet experience alive until we can return to a more normal regime.

Her positive, polite, well-mannered and mature approach stand out, alongside her constant exhibition of the ACF's core values. For her outstanding contribution to the county, her detachment, her instructors, her peers and the more junior cadets she helps, above and beyond her strict obligations, Cadet Corporal Jessica Sanderson is recommended to receive the Fellmongers Award.

# Yorkshire (N&W) ACF COVID Pandemic Experience

**By Lt Colonel Mick Bell, Deputy Commandant North, YNW ACF**

During this very difficult period that we are all going through, Yorkshire (N&W) ACF Staff and Cadets have used their ingenuity to enable Cadets to progress through their APC syllabus. Individual Cadets have gone that extra mile to achieve public recognition for their outstanding efforts during the ongoing pandemic. It goes to show that 'where there is a will there is a way'. There is still a way 'to inspire to achieve'. Well done to all the cadets, CFAV's and PSS of the County that have done just that. We now look forward to getting back to face to face training once again.



Sgt Nelson with her Fellmongers Award

## Cadet Sgt Rosie Nelson Double Achievement

Cadet Sgt Rosie Nelson of Malton Detachment, A Company, YNW ACF achieved a double of prestigious awards during the lockdown period. Firstly she was awarded the Gerrish Certificate for Outstanding Volunteering. Throughout the pandemic Sgt Nelson gave support and advice to other cadets on how to keep a healthy mind whilst isolated. She posted videos of mindfulness techniques onto the Company closed FB page on a regular basis, as well as other ideas and thoughts on how to maintain a healthy mind.

Rosie also set about making face masks that she donated to her local care facilities. This has now expanded into making masks to raise funds for her local RBL. The commandant Colonel Jim Greenlee stated that Cpl Nelson (as was), is a credit to herself, her family and to YNW ACF in general. The award of the Gerrish Certificate is the perfect way to publically acknowledge her achievements.

Not content with one award, on the 6th of May Sgt Nelson was the recipient of the highly esteemed Fellmongers Award, from the ancient Company of Fellmongers. The Fellmongers have had links to the Yorkshire Regiment since the Green Howards were first based in the Town of Richmond. This Regimental link remains in place today through the Yorkshire Regiment and its affiliated Cadet Units in North Yorkshire. Sgt Nelson was given the award in recognition of her extensive volunteering and mentoring over the last year, both in her own ACF Company and her local community. Well done Sgt Nelson.



Sgt Gotts with her 4 Star Award

## Keep Calm and Carry on as Normal

A Company through the efforts of their Company Training Officer Captain Ben Porter, have embraced online training platforms during the lockdown period. This has ensured that all Cadets could still make progress in their APC syllabus training. One person who certainly progressed was Cadet Sgt Megan Gotts of Northallerton Detachment. Through a lot of hard work and determination to achieve, Sgt Gotts completed the prestigious 4 Star APC award. She is now looking forward to moving onto her Master Cadet Award in due course. Well done Sgt Gotts.

# What's in the Box?

By Wg Cdr (ret'd) Alan Bartlett



A still from the original film showing Cunningham's father in Hull

**A**n old tin containing a reel of 104 year-old film footage of a WW1 East Yorkshire Regiment Victoria Cross winner has found its way to the Yorkshire Regiment Museum. The footage is from 1917 when Pte John (Jack) Cunningham of the 12th (Service) Battalion, Hull Pals, East Yorkshire Regiment was presented with his Victoria Cross by King George V in Hyde Park. On 13 November 1916, when Private John Cunningham of 12th (Service) Hull 'Pals' was just 19 years old, he was awarded his Victoria Cross for gallantry at the Battle of the Somme.

Yorkshire Regiment Curator, Wg Cdr Alan Bartlett RAF (ret'd), said: "As a regiment we are privileged to hold the Cunningham VC in our collection. We've managed to stay in contact with his nephew, Mr John Moore who lives in York since the WW1 centenary, when we joined the family in a commemorative VC paving

stone unveiling on 13 November 2016 to commemorate John Cunningham at the base of the war memorial, outside North Lincolnshire Museum on Oswald Road, Scunthorpe". "I was somewhat surprised when John Moore turned up out of the blue at RHQ and offered to donate the original footage! After some discussion we decided to take the reel of film on loan and see if it could be restored and copied.

John Moore, proud nephew of Cunningham VC explained: "What many may not know, is that as a VC winner, Uncle John was introduced to all three British Kings! First, King George V when he was presented with his medal, then in the early 1930s at a function for VC winners hosted by King Edward VIII, and again when King George VI visited Hull in August 1941 to witness the damage caused by the Blitz". "John died in 1943, we think from an infection from wounds sustained in the war".

On inspection of the vintage Oxo tin box, our friends at Yorkshire Film Archive reported the reel of film as being in good condition considering its age and the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire Museum Trustees have agreed to fund the work to have the footage restored and preserved for the future in a digital form. Digitizing the film will allow the museum to edit the footage and also give us the ability to make copies to share with members of Cunningham VC's extensive family and hopefully show the film in the York Army Museum and on-line.

# John Cunningham VC (28 June 1897 – 21 February 1941)

By Wg Cdr (retd) Alan Bartlett



**J**ohn (Jack) Cunningham was a recipient of the Victoria Cross the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. Cunningham was 19 years old, and a Private in the 12th (Service) Battalion, (the Hull Sportsmen's Pals Battalion), The East Yorkshire Regiment, 31st Division, during the Battle of the Somme, when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

'On 13 November 1916, the opening day of the Battle of the Ancre (the final offensive of the Battle of the Somme), attacking from opposite Hebuterne the 31st Division was to seize the German trenches and form a defensive flank north of Serre. After the enemy's front line had been captured, Private Cunningham went with a bombing section up a communication trench where much opposition was met and all the rest of the section were either killed or wounded.

Collecting all the bombs from the casualties, Private Cunningham went on alone and when he had used up all the bombs he had he returned for a fresh supply and again went up the communication trench where he met a party of 10 Germans. He killed all 10 and cleared the trench up to the new line. His conduct throughout the day was magnificent.'

The Yorkshire Post on the 20th January 1917 reported that he had captured a trench of 30 Germans, making most of them prisoner.

John Cunningham, who was usually known as Jack, was the eldest son of Charles Cunningham, a licensed pot hawker and his wife Mary Ann.

He had six brothers. John came from a traveller family. He was born on the 28th June 1897, in a caravan, parked at Swains Yard, off Manley Street, one of the back streets of Scunthorpe (this stack yard no longer exists). It had been the family's custom to reside in Hull during the winter and take to the road when weather permitted, visiting Beverley, Driffield and other East Yorkshire towns. The family later moved permanently to Hull and John attended schools at St James Day School, Wheeler Street (later Newington High) and Chiltern Street School. The original Chiltern School had been demolished and a modern primary school built in its place. The family lived at 62 Edgar Street, Hessle Road, behind St James, Hull, which has now been redeveloped. His education was often disrupted as his parents were often on the move.

After he left school John became a

hawker, like his father before him. He enlisted with the 3rd Hull Battalion when he was seventeen. He carried out his initial army training at South Dalton near Beverley and later served with the East York's, guarding the Suez Canal in Egypt, from December 1915 to March 1916. They then moved to France and the Western Front.

On the 2nd June 1917, Jack was one of 350 men and women to be decorated at a special public ceremony of investiture at Hyde Park. It was a beautiful summer's day and aircraft of the Royal Flying Corps patrolled the skies overhead in case of a surprise German air attack. A Guards Brigade provided suitable music for the occasion. Cunningham was one of the first to be decorated by the King and the other recipients included several other Somme VC winners (Hughes, White, Allen and Bradford VC). The crowds were able to follow the presentation by reference to a programme. Each recipient had a number and this number was displayed on boards in various parts of the crowd. This way everyone present knew who was who. It was interesting that owing to superstition, the number 13 was dropped from the proceeding. (Roland Bradford VC was number 14 in the list instead of 13. Unfortunately, the altering of his number did not prevent him from being killed by a stray shell nearly six months later.) When Cunningham's turn came to be paraded in front of the King, there was a roar from the crowd who had read of his deed in their programmes. The King talked to the 'Hull Hero' for some time.

Later that evening, Cunningham left London with his parents who had also been present at the Hyde Park reception, to return home to Hull for leave and the City was to give him a huge welcome. Although his train arrived at Paragon Station at 1.28am, on a Sunday morning, the crowds and a band were waiting to greet their 'local hero'. On emerging from the station, at the former Anlaby Road entrance, a great roar went up and he was immediately hoisted shoulder high and carried home. The initials VC were placed after Cunningham's name

on the Edgar Street shrine. This included nine men from the street who had so far fallen during the war. The Roll of Honour was decorated with flowers and a crowd remained outside his parent's house for the rest of the day.

During the same leave, he visited St James School and although later there were plans to erect a plaque to Cunningham at Wheeler Street School, they were not carried through. The local cinema, the Hull Palace showed the film of the Hyde Park investiture, while Cunningham was on leave.

Cunningham was quite badly wounded in the latter part of the war and was demobilized in 1919. In the same year he married Eva Harrison. They had two children, a daughter Annie who died in infancy and a son John who was born in Hull in 1920.

Shortly after his return from the Army it appears that Cunningham had difficulty in settling down and fitting in with civilian life. He was regularly offered free drinks wherever he went, and this did not help his poor health. As early as July 1919 he was summoned for physically abusing and beating up his wife who he claimed; "left him three times a week". The Local Magistrate granted Mrs Cunningham a separation order with a weekly allowance of 25 shillings a week. At his appearance in Hull court, Cunningham wore his VC. Summoned again nearly 16 months later (November 1920) Cunningham was ordered once more to pay his wife a maintenance grant. Cunningham, who was again sporting his VC medal, said in his defence that he only had an income of an Army pension of £2 per week. He received this pension for being wounded in both legs and in the lungs. However, these wounds did not prevent him from being involved in a brawl with an ex-soldier a couple of weeks later, when he was put on remand for hitting the man on the head with a bottle.

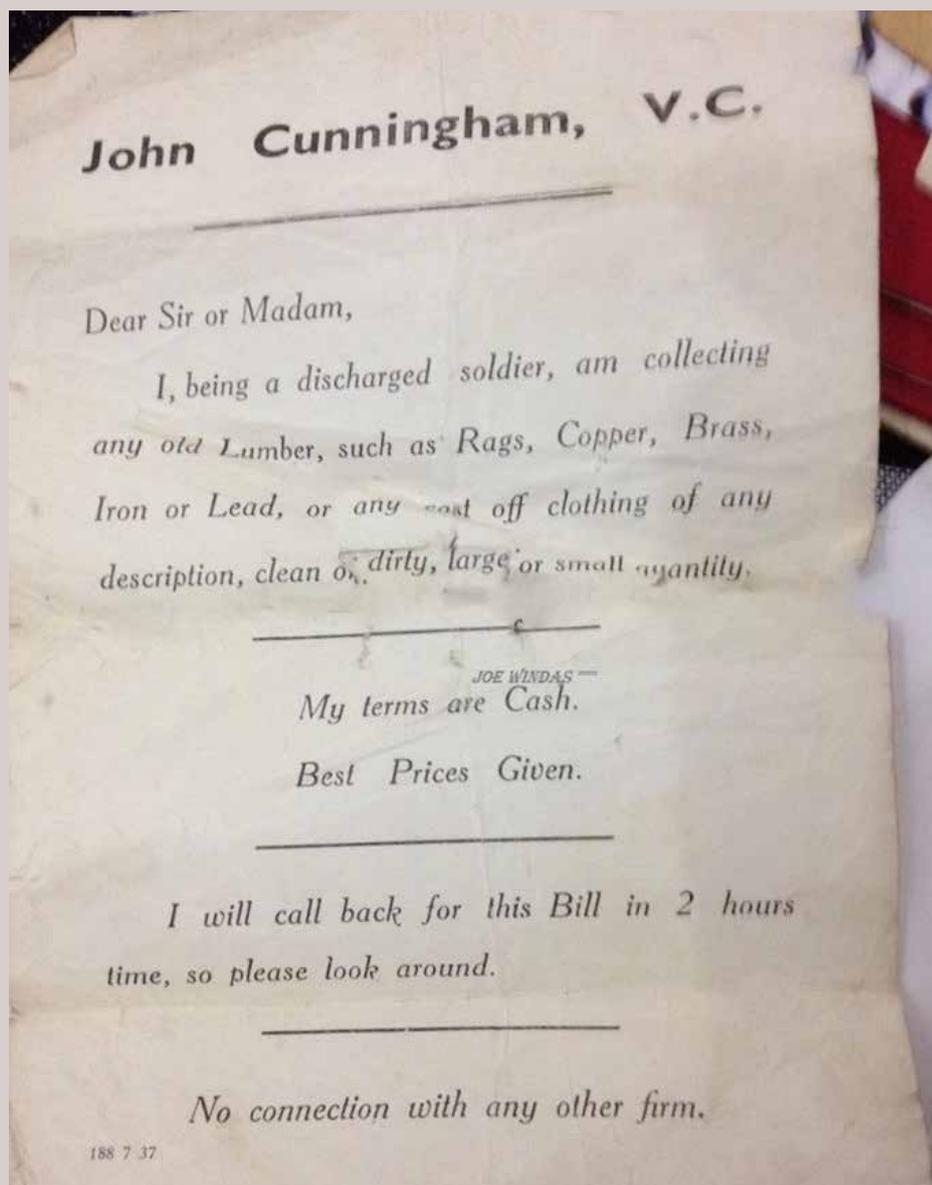
In March 1922, Cunningham became the first of the Somme VC holders to be sent to prison, for failing again to keep up payments to his wife. The arrears amounted to £10. Seven years later, in November 1929, Cunningham once again

made the local headlines in Hull. This time he was the victim of two fellow hawkers who made off with his share of the value of a quantity of lino that the three had agreed to sell and split the proceeds three ways. Cunningham was not in court on this occasion, as he had a more pressing engagement with the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, at a dinner for Victoria Cross winners! It is reported that Cunningham VC also met King George VI when HRH visited Hull after it was bombed in 1941.

Jack Cunningham died at 5 Beaufort Terrace, Campbell Street, Hull on the 21st February 1941. He was only 43 years

old and had been ill for some time. This building like most in Hull associated with Cunningham has disappeared. John was buried three days later at Hull Western Cemetery, in an unmarked grave (grave No: 17509, compartment No; 180, Hull Western Cemetery). His name is however mentioned on his parents' memorial stone nearby. His VC is in the possession of the York Army Museum.

Cunningham was the first man, connected with Hull, to win the Victoria Cross in the Great War and he was one of four members of the East Yorkshire Regiment to receive the nation's highest military honour.





CPO O'Neill and the Braim family

## First World War Medal makes an emotional return to a Whitby Family

By Wg Cdr (retd) Alan Bartlett

On Saturday 21 August, a long-lost WW1 medal was returned to the family of Pte John Braim No 19813 of the 2nd Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment, who was killed on 19 September 1918 in the First World War.

A poignant ceremony was conducted in the enigmatic St Mary's Church Whitby, near the Abbey, where Pte Braim's name is inscribed on the WW1 memorial wall. The service was conducted by Father Michael Gobbett in front of members of the Braim family and attended by serving RN personnel, representatives from The Yorkshire Regiment and veteran's associations.

Medal collector, Chief Petty Officer David O'Neill (Royal Navy), based at HMNB Clyde explains; "I have a vested interest in WW1 as my grandparents were in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and Royal Munster Fusiliers respectively. So naturally I collect memorabilia from that era especially with an Irish connection. I did not have a 1914 -1915 star to complete my collection, so I went on an auction site to bid. The medal I eventually won had an Irish connection but not an Irish regiment one. It turned out that the

medal I received belonged to Pte John Braim No 19813 from the 2nd Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment, who were based in Limerick at the onset of the First World War.

"I decided to carry out some research on the individual as I was now curious as to his demise. After hours of trawling war records at the National Archives and Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), I traced his grave to a small cemetery near the village of Brie along the D88 road in France. I then contacted a chap there called Pierre Vanderbilt who was absolutely brilliant. He sent me photographs of the grave and any other documentation he had. He also runs a website for the cemetery and updates his information and photos as they change"

"Having carried out as much data collecting as I could and knowing that Pte Braim was from Whitby, I asked my Leading Hand Mathew Smith to assist by running down tracing the family route. This proved an excellent choice as Mathew is from Bridlington and knows the immediate area well. He eventually found a direct descendant; Mr Jonathan Braim on social media and we contacted

him directly. Having confirmed we had the correct family, it was explained that we wished to return the medal and a book of remembrance to the family. Clearly, he was emotional on hearing our offer and accepted"

After the medal ceremony, the assembled Yorkshire Regiment and RN submariners, together with Martin Barnby (Bridlington YRA), who was there representing the Royal British Legion, visited Whitby's Memorial Bridge on the harbour, where there is a plaque to commemorate two of Whitby's sons, who fell in Afghanistan. Cpl Damian Lawrence, 2 YORKS was killed in 2008 and Cfn Andrew Found, REME killed in 2011. Wreaths were laid and tributes paid from both armed services.



Paying respects at Whitby Harbour Memorial Bridge



Peter Blyth and Michael Dillon officially open the exhibition

# Our Regiments in South Arabia - Aden 1958-1967

By Wg Cdr (retd) Alan Bartlett

A new exhibition was launched on 13 September in the York Army Museum featuring the successive deployments of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire (PWO) to Aden. Two PWO stalwarts of the campaign, Michael Dillon and Peter Blyth officially opened the exhibition on 16 September.

Between 1958 and 1967, three of the regiments represented in the York Army Museum were deployed in Aden: the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, The 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards and 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

Aden became a British colony in 1838, important as a steamship coaling station on the route to India. As Aden was formally under Ottoman Empire rule, treaties were made with the Arab tribes to provide protection from potential threats to the colony. Eventually this led to British control over what became the Eastern and Western Aden Protectorates.

Aden was of strategic importance and in the 1950s it also attracted thousands of foreign workers, especially from Yemen. An oil refinery was established and the port became increasingly busy. Politically motivated trades unions sprung up upsetting what had always been an uneasy relationship with the interior.

Other radical factions developed in the protectorates. The common demand was for integration with Yemen. Externally, anti-colonialist agitation, from Egypt in particular, began to threaten the wider region's political stability, all in the context of the global Cold War. Disturbances broke out in the colony and a state of emergency was first declared in 1958

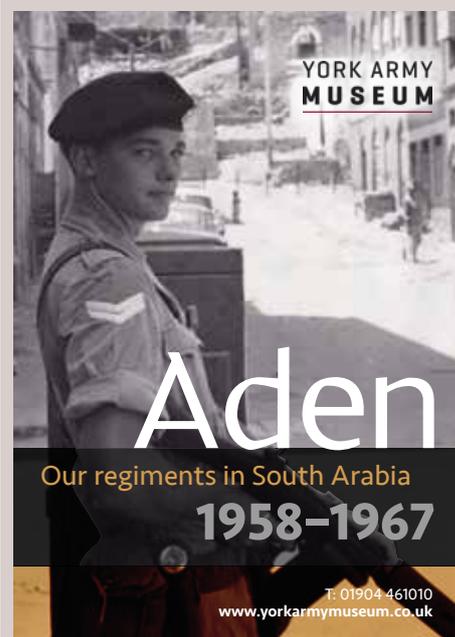
Aden is in the Republic of Yemen and at the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula on the coast of the Gulf of Aden. To the south and east of a large and well protected bay is the old town partly enclosed in an extinct volcanic crater, a mile-wide isthmus joins with the mainland.

The 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire (1 PWO) first deployed in August 1958 on the declaration of the state of emergency. Initially, the battalion was engaged in securing routes in the interior. Next, they supported the police in the colony. Garrison duties in hostile tribal areas within the Western Protectorate occupied the majority of the remainder of the tour, which ended in April 1959.

The second tour was a one-year emergency tour, the battalion arriving in September 1965. The situation continued to deteriorate. 1 PWO operated both in

the colony and in the interior. During the tour two soldiers were killed and 5 seriously wounded.

In June 1967 the battalion returned at short notice, the colony was close to siege, terrorists were active in the 'crater' and beyond and rebels effectively controlled the interior. The battalion left in October. Two soldiers died during the tour and there were multiple injuries.



# Memories of Aden

By Wg Cdr (retd) Alan Bartlett

**M**ichael Dillon, then aged 34, from Huntington, York was Company Sergeant Major of D Coy 1 PWO during their time at Al Mila, South Arabia. He was tasked to accompany the Political Officer, Mr Meynell on his tour around the tribes in the Radfan mountains. Now aged 91, he shares some of his memories of his time in Aden.



CSM Michael Dillon in the Radfan mountains

*"It was a very new experience. I had been in Malaya, working in deep, primary jungle and with the Orang Asli aborigines, but it was a very different environment that I found in the Radfan mountains. I felt*

*the heat, and thought I was exposed to high ground and unable to communicate because I was the only person without ability to speak Arabic. We were flown by RAF helicopter to Jebel, where we were met by a tribal group, and greeted with a cup of sweet tea served in old cups and laced with mint".*

*"After the conference we went into the Sheik's house where we were to sleep. A cloth was spread out at the middle of the room and large plates of rice were produced, and lots of smaller plates with meat in sauce. We were invited to tuck in, by using the right hand, and fingers to pluck at the plates. I have never been a rice lover, not even in Malaya, so I found it a bit strange. After the meal was cleared away we all stretched out to sleep. I was tired so had no problem and I felt safe in the Sheik's house, but I was very aware of the dissidents in the Radfan mountains who would see me as an intruder".*

*"I remember Aden, Crater town as a place to be very aware of grenades being thrown from alleyways, from buildings and the heights around the crater rim and always at nighttime. In spite of being aware, I was caught out by being wounded by a British 36 grenade tossed by a dissident at the OC D Coy Landrover. I was sitting at the back gate with the flap down, when I heard the cap exploding in the tossed grenade, so shouted "grenade" and leapt from the vehicle in an instant and landed in the gutter, the driver accelerated away, and the grenade*

*fortunately missed the Landrover, but landed on the crest of the road, near where I was lying in the gutter. Luckily the main explosion went upwards, I was only hit by some shrapnel in my back and was able to get up and give chase".*

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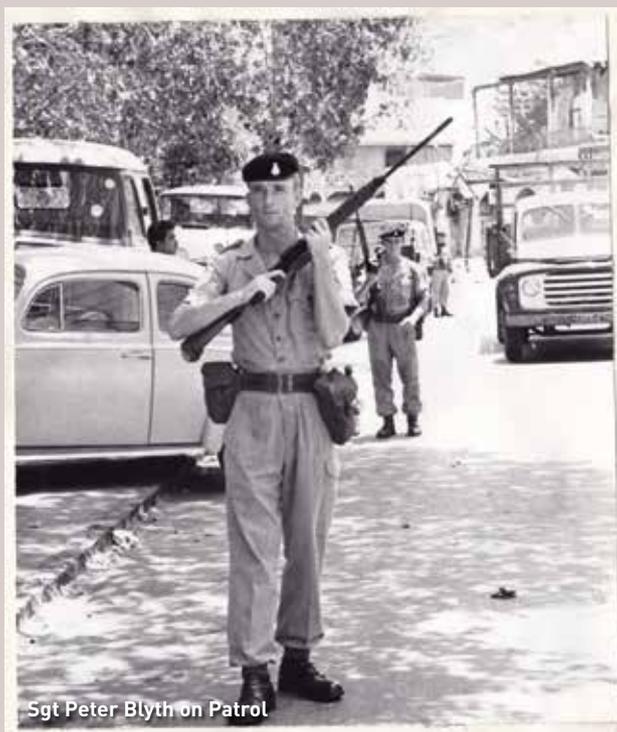
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During the 1965-66 tour, Peter Blyth from Hull was a 24 year-old, Rifle Platoon/Support Platoon Sergeant. *"I remember particularly the bustle and noise of the Crater and mainly the friendly people. But also the heat, prickly heat rash, the inevitable 'tummy' problems and sadly the death and funeral of Pte Fred Langrick. Up country in '66, it was even hotter, the relative silence in the mountains and of course, missing England win the World Cup!"*

*"In the '67 tour and now a 26 year old Ant-Tank Platoon Sergeant, I remember it being a short notice deployment, still hot, our billets on Maala Main and the interminably boring patrols in Tawahi. For me, it's great to see our efforts being remembered in the Museum, but it also brings back some sadness and memories of my deceased room mates; Sergeants Geoff Coward, George Potter, Frank Watkinson, Pip Hall and Tony Bostock".*



Sgt Peter Blyth on Patrol

# Yorkshire Regiment Association

By Major Pat Ralph MM



At the Whitby Memorial Bridge

**T**he Yorkshire Regiment Association committee, members, and family members have worked tirelessly to look after one another over the last six months, and indeed throughout the last 18 months through the pandemic. It has been a pleasure to witness many selfless acts performed for the good and benefit of the regimental family and from where I sit, we have all pulled together to help each other. Nevertheless, I think we still have a long road ahead to a full recovery, and it's going to be an uphill task. As an association, we stand ready to assist all the family with hardship of any kind and especially with mental health issues and the need to break free from isolation.

The Regimental HQ and the YRA can do quite a lot of fixing, but the continued support of fellow antecedent regimental associations to engage and help fellow regimental veterans get through some of the dark times, has never been so important.

Unfortunately, it is true to say that we have had more than our fair share of suicides in the last 12 months. The NHS is understandably stretched and can do very little at the moment with the number of cases that require attention and counselling, so we need to help one another. We need to re-engage with whom ever we can and encourage members to come along to the regimental gatherings, branch gatherings, the impromptu get togethers and the PUs!

These gatherings are not solely for veterans, but for their families and sometimes for the children. There may not be a branch of an association close

by, but there may well be an armed forces breakfast club for example.

As the YRA and RHQ, we do engage regularly with all service charities and I've also spent time talking to the Samaritans, and many veterans and serving soldiers rely on the Samaritans when they feel they need support. I feel this is a forgotten organisation and one that we need to maintain contact with. They are the Rolls-Royce of listeners when it comes to understanding mental health and other issues. So please encourage individuals who are showing signs of depression, anxiety, and indeed talking about self-harm, or even worse, to get in touch with the Samaritans.

The new name for NHS Veterans mental health support, is Op Courage and this is the NHS looking after veterans health. You can refer yourself or through your GP, so don't leave your mental health to chance, if things get tough, take a look at the Op Courage web site.

The YRA has managed to support many people who have lost their jobs and assisted members and their families get back into work. We have been collaborating quite well with job opportunities with two or three large companies for service leavers and veterans that might want to change direction with their employment. As your association, will continue to liaise closely with companies that would prefer to employ service leavers and veterans. All the relevant information will be published on all YRA FB sites and YRA Branch sites.

Very soon we will be sending out a YRA document to all our serving officers

and soldiers, soldiers in training at ITC. Please keep it and read it. It could be your insurance policy for the future and not just for you, but also your wife, partner and family. Soon after, we will be produced ID cards which are extremely valuable for proof of service when needed, and may help overcome the delays experienced in getting this information from Glasgow.

It was really great to see another new branch of the Green Howards and Yorkshire Regiment Association opening in Darlington. We continue to grow together and most branches have a FB Page and each branch is listed on the Yorkshire Regiment web site.

Future YRA Events will be published in plenty of time for everybody to get involved and the one thing I do want to mention is the Service of Remembrance in York Minster on November 6th, which will remember our fallen heroes from the past, but also to remember those that we have lost during the COVID pandemic. We also want to thank the NHS for looking after us through this period and we will invite some NHS representatives to the service. As a regimental family, we will have the opportunity to march around York Minster, behind the regimental band and with our standards proudly on parade and afterwards will make a dash for a social gathering and a few drinks. More details to follow, but lets try and get a really big contingent together!

I would like to publicly thank SSGC for their support to the veterans not only in the shape of employment, but the financial support that they have given to some of our serving soldiers and veterans. Hopefully, this collaboration will continue for years to come, so a big thank you to David Stubbs and his team.

Major Charlie Helmn, what can I say, you all know him and he has done so much for the regiment and especially the YRA, including Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. Charlie has supported our family's members, serving soldiers, attending events, supporting our antecedents, civics, councils and mayors, working nights and weekends, all above and beyond. For now, he has volunteered to hold the post of YRA Secretary till a replacement is found. Thank you Charlie, we owe you so much.

# SSGC and The Yorkshire Regiment: Past, Present and Future



The hugely-successful relationship between The Yorkshire Regiment and specialist security firm SSGC, cemented in the midst of the first COVID-19 lockdown, is continuing to grow and thrive as the country takes its first steps towards a return to normality.

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, the regiment put out a rallying call for veterans to join the fight against coronavirus by marshalling testing sites on behalf of Serco. This quickly changed into something much bigger when Swindon-based SSGC, a signatory of the Armed Forces Covenant, took on responsibility for manning the test centres for Serco and the UK government.

As the demand for staff grew, SSGC deployed more than 4,000 people to marshal COVID-19 testing centres across the UK – many of whom were military veterans.

This burgeoning collaboration quickly led to silverware in the shape of the Security Partnering Initiative of the Year prize at the prestigious Fire and Security Excellence Awards 2020.

Major Pat Ralph, from The Yorkshire Regiment, said: "Over the weekend that COVID-19 hit, I collated around 50 veterans to work for Serco. On the

Monday morning, everything changed and we started working directly with David Stubbs and SSGC. *"The task then became not 50 people but hundreds of people – and as soon as possible. We advertised through veterans' pages on Facebook and word of mouth, and ended up not just with individuals but married couples and their daughters and sons coming to join SSGC and the national effort. "The demand grew so, as a regiment, we decided we would let the rest of the veteran world know about the availability of jobs – the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, and other Corps and cap badges were all involved."*

Fast-forward to today and the award-winning partnership is continuing to go from strength to strength.

*"It has created extra roles for supervisors and managers who have been recruited through SSGC and the regimental family,"* said Major Ralph.

*"It's because the regimental family exists that it's been so successful – the appreciation for the veterans and their families is immense. Some came out of retirement; some were on furlough and some had lost their jobs. So, for lots of different reasons, we are thankful to SSGC."*

*"On top of all that, SSGC has been very generous towards the veterans when it comes to benevolence. Where we can't find funding for a particular project, David has come forward and said he would fix it for us."*

Major Ralph said the ongoing focus

would be to continue recruiting veterans for roles with SSGC and developing their professional qualifications.

He said: "Along with David, we're developing the SIA qualifications badges for the veterans to use in future. David is keen to continue the relationship with the regimental family, which means we all win.

*"He's going to have high-quality workers in his company and the veterans are going to benefit, along with their families."*

*"It may not be the veterans' first choice of job but it is something we would strongly recommend they investigate, as the benefits are huge."*

SSGC CEO David Stubbs, who is a veteran himself having served as a military policeman, praised the role of the regiment in the company's ongoing growth.

He said: *"This has been an incredible journey for SSGC. At the beginning of last year, we were deploying personnel who were working around 54,000 hours per month and now we are looking at 700,000-plus hours. "A lot of time and investment has gone into our people and the development of cutting-edge technology to enable us to safely deploy this level of expertise at such short notice. The efforts of The Yorkshire Regiment are a huge part of this success and our relationship has continued to flourish."*

You can find out more about current vacancies with SSGC at [www.ssgc-net.com/staff-recruitment](http://www.ssgc-net.com/staff-recruitment).

# The Prince of Wales's Own (West and East Yorkshire) Regimental Association

By Col C G Le Brun, Chairman



Members of the PWO Association at the Races

In the last journal I hoped that by this issue we would be in a much more normal world. In association terms, at least, this has been the case since 6 August, when we held our first Strictly Social (PU) in York for a very long time. Following that, we remembered those whose funerals we could not attend at the height of the restrictions with a service on 21 August in Beverley Minster, to which bereaved families were invited. Three weeks later, on 12 September and again in Beverley Minster, we celebrated Quebec Sunday by attending the morning

service; immediately afterwards we held a short service to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the regimental chapel there. On both occasions the services were followed by an enjoyable buffet lunch in the nearby masonic hall. In between these two we held our first physical executive committee meeting for 14 months; Zoom played its part when there was no other option but what a difference actually meeting made. The day after that, various members of the association had a great time in glorious weather at the Yorkshire Regiment race day.

Now we look forward to the annual reunion at York racecourse on 15 October, thereafter I know that we will play our part at the Yorkshire Regiment annual service at York Minster and the following march past on Saturday 6 November. This will probably be the last time our present standards will be on public show in any strength, new ones with the full association emblem are currently in production and we hope to have them presented and blessed before the year is out.

## Quebec Sunday 12 September 2021, Beverley



The Parade Marshall and Standards at Beverley Minster on Quebec Sunday 2021

### The Soldiers Chapel in Beverley Minster - Address by Association Chairman on Quebec Sunday

"This is indeed the 100th anniversary year of the East Yorkshire War Memorial, which was dedicated on 16 June 1921, but before I talk about that I should explain that the regiment has worshipped here since 1782, when it returned from the West Indies paroled to Beverley, in the year that the formal affiliation with the East Riding was announced.

And in the south aisle of the nave there are pre - Great War regimental memorials, these include those to various individuals and collective ones to the 33 who died in the Afghanistan campaign of 1880, to the 48 who lost their lives on foreign service between 1885 and 1895, and to the 98 who died in the South African War between 1899 and 1902.

But here we are in the presence of the memorial to the Great War in the south transept. One part of which is the window above the transept door; in the style of the 13th Century, it is of superb stained glass representing the age long conflict between good and evil, as recorded in the Bible.

The other part is behind me, it is the Soldiers' Chapel and occupies the eastern aisle of the transept. It is divided by oak screens, the two internal screens hold the names of those East Riding men who fell serving in other regiments and services, for this whole memorial was a joint project between the regiment and the riding - that is, the proper riding, not the truncated present version.

The regimental memorial is the shrine itself, again in the style of the 13th Century, it records on velum in gold frames the names of the 7,426 who fell in The East Yorkshire Regiment.

The service, in which this whole memorial was dedicated, followed the

presentation by the Lord Lieutenant in Saturday Market of King's Colours to representatives of six of the Service battalions raised for the duration of the war. That completed, with Lord Lieutenant, civil dignitaries and clergy preceding, the parade marched to the Minster to join a congregation of some 3,000 people, with the colour party taking up a position where you are now standing; four soldiers in full battle order, resting on arms reversed, were posted at the corners of the shrine. The six colours were then entrusted to the vicar and the church wardens and laid up. Here, behind me, decaying, as is proper, they remain - with other East Yorkshire Regiment colours that have been added from time to time.

After their laying up, the Archbishop of York formally dedicated the memorial chapel and shrine saying, "In the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, we dedicate this memorial window and this chapel with its shrine to the glory of God and to the lasting memory of those who gave their lives for king and country in the Great War: in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." The archbishop then preached a sermon based on Acts 22 Verse 28, "with a great sum obtained I this freedom," in which he reflected on sacrifice and the freedom won by it.

Of course, sacrifices for freedom were needed all too soon and the chapel within a chapel, the War Memorial, or Regimental, Chapel was established in memory of those who gave their lives in the Second World War, 1,110 in all. To the right as you look at it, it was dedicated by the then Archbishop of York on 14 September 1952, like today the nearest Sunday to Quebec Day. In it are oak chairs engraved with the names of a number of the officers, non commissioned officers and men, most of whom gave their lives in that war: there are some nice juxtapositions with all ranks from lieutenant general to private mingled. One chair is in memory of Maj C K King, a company commander in the 2nd Bn on D Day, seemingly indestructible and a legend in both his own battalion and in the 3rd Division, he died of wounds whilst second in command on 17 April 1945, having in that short period been awarded two DSOs; ten days later his younger brother, another East Yorkshire Regiment officer, but then serving with The King's African Rifles, was killed in Burma.

To the right of the chapel is an oak cabinet containing three rolls of honour, one for The East Riding Yeomanry,

for both world wars, one for The East Yorkshire Regiment and one for all those others from the East Riding who died in the Second War.

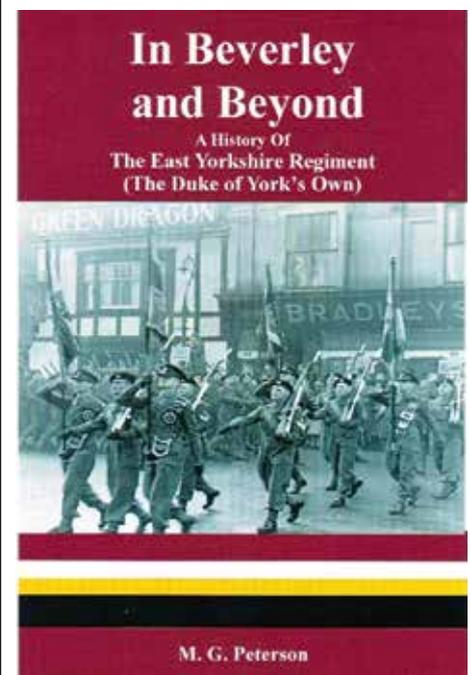
Before amalgamation in 1958 there was one more campaign for the regiment, that in Malaya, and the altar rails are in memory of the 9 soldiers of the 1st Battalion who fell there between 1953 and 1955.

In closing, the whole remains a memorial to men from The East Yorkshire Regiment and the old East Riding, but the regimental chapel is one of the two inherited by The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, as indicated by its recent altar cloth.

Now let us pay proper respect to all our forebears for the sacrifices that they made so that we should have freedom."

### In Beverley and Beyond

On Quebec Sunday a new and hugely detailed history of The East Yorkshire Regiment in its various forms between 1685 and 1961, "In Beverley and Beyond," was launched by its author Mike Peterson, a labour of love by the son of the last RSM of the depot at Beverley, I can commend it without reservation to anyone with an interest in regimental history.



The book is on sale, priced at £10, in the York Army Museum, and at the Tourist Information Centre at the Treasure House in Beverley. It is also available direct from the author at: [xvsnapperbooks@gmail.com](mailto:xvsnapperbooks@gmail.com)

# The Late Colonel Clive Mantell MBE, Representative Colonel, The Green Howards

By Brigadier John King



Clive Mantell was born in Izmir, Turkey, in 1949. He was educated at Bedford School and The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. His father worked for the British-American Tobacco Company and the family lived in Libya at the same time as the 1st Battalion was stationed there. Clive's choice of regiment was greatly influenced by a potential officer visit he made to the 1st Battalion in that country. Major Roger Chapman recalls being the conducting officer for the 16 year-old's visit:

'I was invited by Lt Colonel John Bottomley to look after Clive when he visited Medenine Barracks just to the south of Tripoli in Libya in 1965. I acted as his conducting officer around the barracks and then took him on a short trip with two landrovers across the desert to show him how to use the sun compass. We also camped out in the desert to let him know how cold it could be at night. I told Colonel John that Clive would make a fine Green Howard officer. How right I was!'

He joined 1st Battalion The Green Howards in Colchester as a platoon commander in 1969. Over 20 years he was, successively, platoon commander, signals officer, company operations officer, rifle/mechanised company commander and Battalion second in command, serving in the UK, Germany, Northern Ireland (four times), Cyprus (UN mission), Kenya and Denmark. Of Clive's time as Battalion Second in Command, Brigadier John Powell writes:

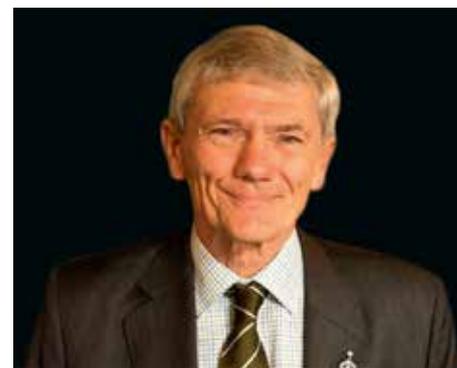
'I arrived in Londonderry in 1987 to take over the Battalion at the start of its

residential tour there. As we know, Clive was a superb trainer and organiser, backed up by considerable operational experience in the Province. He applied these qualities in spades as Second in Command and the Battalion quickly gained an excellent reputation. Clive was unstintingly loyal and supportive to me when he must, at times, have found his role restricting. Sue was equally brilliant and it brought the four of us together – ever since.'

Having been one of the few Green Howard officers in recent memory to have passed the extremely challenging SAS selection course, Clive commanded a troop in 22 Special Air Service Regiment in 1975-77, participating in the Dhofar war in Oman, where he was fortunate to be uninjured when his vehicle struck a mine, and other operations. He was an operations/training staff officer with 11 Armoured Brigade and 1st Armoured Division in Germany, an appointment for which he was awarded the MBE. It was during this period that he married Sue, whom he had met in West Berlin whilst she was serving with the Foreign Office there.

Clive had a reputation for sheer military competence throughout his battalion service but in particular he was a fearsome company commander. Major Tony Warriner recalls, as his Company Quartermaster Sergeant in A Company in the early 80s, being amused by the expressions of apprehension on the faces of soldiers joining the company from elsewhere in the Battalion, in that they knew A Company was not nicknamed 'Penal Company' for nothing!

From 1988 to 1990, he commanded 2nd Battalion Ulster Defence Regiment in Northern Ireland, leading counter insurgency operations in support of the civil police near the border with the Republic of Ireland. He was mentioned in despatches at the end of his tour. Later in his career he specialised in African and European defence. As the Ministry of Defence policy officer for Sub-Saharan



Africa, he coordinated UK operations in Rwanda and military training in the region. In Europe, he served at NATO HQ in Belgium and spent seven years in France, first as an instructor at the Ecole Militaire in Paris, then as UK Liaison Officer to the Eurocorps HQ in Strasbourg. As a result he was able to hone his French language skills to interpreter level; he also spoke German and Spanish. He participated in the Kosovo mission, leading planning with the UN and OSCE for military support for the first free elections in Kosovo. In 2003 he joined the EU's first African operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as Chief Plans Officer, based in Paris. In his final military appointment, he returned to the DRC as Chief of Staff of the military force of the UN mission.

Clive was never one to seek a quiet life. Retiring in the rank of colonel in 2005, he joined a global animal charity as Director Disaster Relief the week after the Tsunami struck South Asia. With his customary efficiency and drive, he recruited, briefed, equipped and deployed four separate relief missions to the affected region within days. He then joined the International Criminal Court in The Hague as Operations Officer for the Prosecutor. For 16 months he supported investigators in Uganda and Chad by opening field offices, coordinating security, communications, accommodation and transport. In 2006, he was contracted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to reinforce the EU mission in Darfur (Sudan) as EU Observer to the Darfur Ceasefire Commission. Embedded in the African Union mission, his role was to provide comprehensive reports on the ceasefire for EU and UK authorities.

From 2007 to 2010, in Abu Dhabi (UAE), he chaired a multinational panel assessing officers of the UAE armed forces. This was an 'accompanied posting' for him, one which he and Sue enjoyed to the full, working alongside their great friends, the late Lieutenant Colonel

Charles Thom and his wife Françoise.

In 2012 he succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Barry Smeeton as Chairman GHA. In 2015, succeeding Major General Andrew Farquhar, he became Representative Colonel and Chairman of Green Howard Trustees. Clive threw himself into both appointments with typical zeal and energy, so ably supported by Sue. As Chairman GHA he was able to attend many branch events and reunions, always encouraging connections with the Yorkshire Regiment which he saw as very much the future; the Association thrived under his leadership. As Representative Colonel and Chairman of Trustees, he guided the Regiment as it continued to adapt after merger in 2006. He was hugely supportive of the Museum and of The Friends. Of the major events during his colonelcy which gave him the greatest pleasure was the dedication of the Green Howards stone at the National Memorial Arboretum, which he had masterminded. We were indeed fortunate to have him as our Representative Colonel.

Many Friends and Association members will have been to Crépon in Normandy, to take part in the annual commemoration at our memorial there. Very often and over many years these visits had been organised by Clive, whose fluent French helped him (and Sue, who was also fluent) become a well-known and respected character in Crépon and Ver-sur-Mer. Announcing Clive's death in the local paper, Pierre de Poncins, Crépon's mayor, said "A friend of our village has left us.... a man of great quality, always courteous and modest. Due to travel restrictions, we from Normandy cannot be at his funeral but the people of Crépon and Ver-sur-Mer will be represented by our hearts". In like vein, Jean-Francois Le Cuziat, Curator of the America-Gold Beach Museum said "Clive Mantell was a true gentleman, dedicated to the maintenance of the history of the battlefields. Tragically, he did not live to visit the British D-Day Memorial above Ver-sur-Mer, in which he had been involved".

Colonel Clive Mantell, who had borne prostate cancer bravely and privately for some years, died in hospital on 21 July 2021 from complications following surgery. To his wife Sue and sons Nick, who also served as a Green Howard and Yorkshire Regiment officer, and Simon and their families, the Regiment extends its heartfelt sympathies. Few people make a real difference in this world but Clive Mantell was one of them.

## Brigadier WR (Dick) Mundell OBE



The Regiment regrets to announce the death of Brigadier WR (Dick) Mundell OBE, of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, who passed away on 5th June, 2021.

Brigadier Dick was commissioned into the Regiment in 1958, served as Corunna Company commander under Charles Huxtable in 1971–73 including the Regiment's first two operational tours in Northern Ireland. He commanded the 1st Battalion 1979–82 which again included two operational tours in NI for which he was awarded the OBE and Colonel of the Regiment 1990 – 1999. He became commander of 6th armoured Brigade in January 1983, Deputy Commander, North East District in July 1986 and Brigadier, Infantry BAOR in April 1988.

Here are some of his memories of commanding 1 DWR

"I was privileged to take over command of the 1st Battalion DWR on 10 August 1979 in Minden, West Germany. The Battalion was just starting to prepare for an operational tour in West Belfast, My first recollection was interviews with two Company Commanders and the RSM. One alerted me to a medical problem, that might prevent him going, the second deafness and the RSM announced his intention of not applying for a commission – what a start! I can report that both Commanders shone in Belfast, each in their different ways and that the RSM was commissioned.

The tour from October to February 1980 was marked by two significant features – the 'Ballymurphy Gun Team' and the construction of 'Fort Whiterock'. The gun team's 'modus operandi' was to take over a house and ambush security forces, firing through a closed window, prior to a speedy retreat. The first such incident happened on our handover from 1st KOSB at Springfield Road. The Jock's 3 Tonne was the target, with several wounded; one of whom owes his life to U/Cpl Charlie Tate, a wounded Duke's Medic, who kept him alive. This was followed by a gun battle in the Royal Victoria Hospital between 'Dukes' guards and the IRA, dressed as hospital staff! Sadly, later the IRA team again ambushed an armoured RUC land rover, which had stopped to allow a police Officer to retrieve his hat from the station. The resulting machinegun fire burst into the back of the vehicle, killing our APTC – QMSI Bellamy, and very cold, clear day in our home county on the 4th of April.

"We won the Army Rugby Cup on 15th of April at Aldershot: 1st DWR 20 – 7th RHA 0. Well done to Capt Tim Sinclair and his team of 8 soldiers and 7 officers.

"The expected next tour to Northern Ireland was delayed by four months, which allowed us to get back to some hard, basic military and adventure training across the Yorkshire Moors, though Corunna Company returned to ceremonial duties to provide a Royal Guard at the opening of the Humber Bridge in July.

"In early December, we relieved 1st D & D in South Armagh to begin a very different Northern Ireland tour. Helicopters, with no vehicle movement close to the border; searches; long rural foot patrols; OP's and cross border liaison with the Gardai – the Eire police. The Colonel in Chief visited and 'could not leave the Burma find of a culvert bomb (10 milk churns packed with 1,000lbs explosive) for many minutes!' RN helicopters, with a Wren and rum, marked a snowy Christmas Day. OC Hook Company (an ex boxer and rigger player) helped on the busy helipad at Bessbrook until an arriving RAF Chinook turned him into a snowman! On the more serious note much progress was achieved in finds, intelligence and cross border co-operation between the two police forces.

"We all returned safe and sound by helicopter direct from South Armagh, refuelling at Weeton in Lancashire, to our barracks in Catterick to the sound of the Band and the welcome of our wives and families on the 24th of April 1982. Five days later I was towed out of camp with so many memories and so much emotion; and with gratitude to our officers and soldiers."

# RMAS - A Seniors' Perspective of Working at the Academy

By W02 R Kirkbright (YORKS) Falklands Company CSM, New College

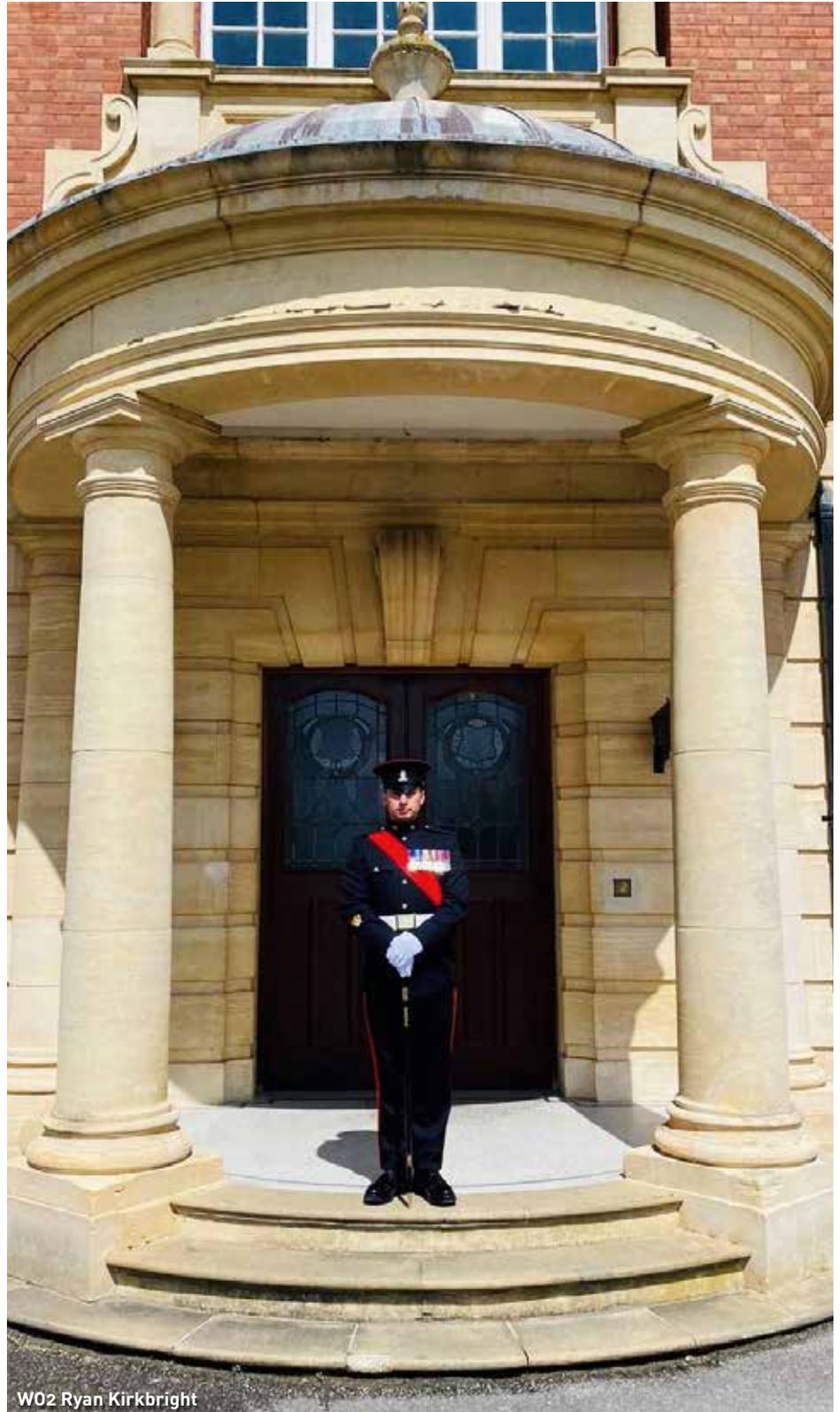
The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) is a truly unique place to work. Where else you can be singing the national anthem before breakfast, conducting section attacks on Barossa Training Area throughout the morning, before following it all up with a Pace-Sticking competition on Old College square in the afternoon?

Firstly though, I must touch on the Cadre. The RMAS Instructors' cadre is run once every year, normally in March. The aim is to select 30 of the Army's top Senior Non-Commissioned Officers over a 4-week course. The Instructors Cadre is demanding, both physically and mentally, compressing all the core physical tests and mental assessments that each officer cadet undertakes over their year at Sandhurst. It is achievable though and fun!

The reason why it is worth putting your head above the parapet and going on the cadre is the experience of teaching and developing our future leaders, working alongside very driven permanent staff and clearly, there are noticeable career progression benefits that come with such a high-profile post.

There is no such thing as a typical day at the Academy, it entirely depends on what your role is and where you are within the course programme. Essentially, working at the Academy is extremely similar to working at any other Phase 1 training establishment. The commissioning course is more intensive though and longer. Nevertheless, working alongside Officer Cadets is an honour and privilege because of their professional attitude and enthusiasm and willingness to learn. It's rewarding that 99% of your Platoon/Company want to be there and want to be better every day and that creates an amazing working environment. The sense of satisfaction and achievement in getting Officer Cadets from ironing board Sunday to the final day, and witnessing them slow marching up Old College steps is immeasurable.

I would highly recommend a posting to the RMAS to anyone that is interested, but this isn't just because of the amazing facilities, colleges, and decent looking lake. It's because of the amazing people



W02 Ryan Kirkbright

that you work with and meet on a day to day basis, both Officer Cadets, Permanent Staff from all parts of the Field Army and

the unique civilians that all work within the Academy.

# HMS RICHMOND – Carrier Strike Group 21



HMS Richmond

**T**he Yorkshire Regiment's affiliated Type 23 Frigate, HMS Richmond, is currently deployed with the Nation's flagship aircraft carrier HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH as part of the Carrier Strike Group 21 deployment. As NATO's first purpose-built fifth generation Carrier Strike Group, CSG21 is at the forefront of the Royal Navy's contribution to "Global Britain", the UK Government's mission to reinvest in our relationships, and champion the rules-based international order. Departing 1 May 21 from her home port of Devonport in Plymouth, the crew waved goodbye to their loved ones as they set out on this 7.5 month deployment that has so far seen them sail over 10,000nm to the Indo-Pacific region.

The deployment began with Ex STRIKE WARRIOR 21 which acted as the final Task Group certification, ensuring that all component Units can play their part in defending and supporting the Carrier as it conducts F35B Strike Operations. A multinational exercise involving 20 warships, 3 submarines and 150 aircraft from 11 countries, RICHMOND acted primarily in its main role as an Anti-Submarine Warfare Commander, coordinating defence of the Carrier from Submarine attack.

A short logistical stop in Portsmouth followed, before the Task Group left UK waters for the final time, transiting the Bay of Biscay and the Strait of Gibraltar.

RICHMOND then proceeded through the Messina Strait and around the toe of Italy before arriving in Bar, Montenegro. It was here that the first display of "soft" power was made, with Defence Engagement commitments hosting a number of dignitaries including Zdravko Krivokapić, the Prime Minister of Montenegro. Afterwards, a number of Memorandums of Understanding were signed between the UK and Montenegrin Governments.

Predominantly operating ahead of the Carrier Strike Group, RICHMOND headed to the Eastern Mediterranean, preparing the operating areas before the arrival of the Carrier and associated supporting units. Having shifted from soft to hard power, the Carrier Strike Group used the Eastern Mediterranean as the operating area for the UK's first Strike Missions with HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH in support of counter Daesh operations. RICHMOND positioned close to Tartus, providing early indicators and warnings for the Carrier Strike Group – a busy period that focused the minds of all the Ship's Company.

Once Strike Missions were complete RICHMOND proceeded to Haifa, Israel for more Defence Engagement, with the ship hosting the Rt Hon Liz Truss MP, Secretary of State for International Trade, along

with a range of UK-based companies looking to expand trade networks in Israel.

On sailing from Israel, RICHMOND embarked on an epic 34-day, 7500 mile transit to the South China Sea via the Suez Canal, Red Sea and Indian Ocean. A congested and complicated water-space, HMS RICHMOND continued to protect the Carrier Strike Group in 'confident but non-confrontational' posture into the South China Sea for onward transit to the Pacific Ocean. With other units proceeding to Guam for engineering support, HMS RICHMOND visited Sasebo, Japan. Despite not being allowed ashore in Japan, we still got a feel for this fascinating and interesting country.

Following a very short stop in Guam to rest and recuperate, and with almost 100 days of this truly global deployment still to go, RICHMOND is back operations in the East China Sea supporting the United Nation's sanctions embargos on North Korea. Once this phase is complete RICHMOND will make a Mean Line of Advance back West, changing time zones back to UK time as we go – which will feel good after our sustained operations at reach in Southeast Asia.



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For further information and quotations contact  
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**01423 799949**

or visit the exclusive HMCA Yorkshire Regiment  
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