



# The YORKSHIRE Regiment

FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BRAVE

SUMMER 2022

## Foreword

By Lt Col DRE O’Kelly – Regimental Secretary

**At the end of last year, the Government announced the details of Future Soldier; and at much the same time, the Colonel of the Regiment asked the Regiment to conduct a post-COVID re-set and look to re-establish ourselves within the County. These two demands have fixed the Regiment for the first half of 2022 and it’s been quite a ride.**

The battalions have been restructuring, rerolling and relocating to meet the challenges that lie ahead and each battalion tells its own story over the next few pages, but ensuring that the Regiment is looking after its people, is at the core of this activity.

From a governance perspective, there have already been two full Board

meetings, three Interim Board meetings, and two Trustees meetings. So the pace of change is acknowledged and the collective changes and activities that are now in full swing, are being carefully monitored.

In this Platinum Jubilee year, we have already held two Regimental Cocktail Parties (at 1 YORKS and the Great Yorkshire Show) and a Regimental Dinner (at 4 YORKS), which has allowed us to host a good cross-section of the civic and military community. In June, we celebrated the public opening of the British Normandy Memorial, but perhaps the most spectacular success has undoubtedly been National Armed Forces Day 22 in Scarborough. Conservative estimates suggest that 100,000 people attended on Saturday 25th June and



■ CO1YORKS with Chief of the Defence Staff at AFD

they will have witnessed 1 YORKS march through the town with our Band playing and Colours flying; with the real-life support at Scarborough Rugby Club and Driffield, expertly coordinated by 4 YORKS. A Gala Dinner was held on the night before at the Scarborough Spa with 350 guests attending,



■ Welcoming HRH The Princess Royal to the GYS Military Village

including a dozen personnel from across the Regiment, and all entertained by our Band. By the end of the weekend, no one could have been in any doubt about which Regiment was in town!

The Great Yorkshire Show was back to full strength this year after two COVID – disrupted years and again we made our presence felt in the Military Village and beyond. It remains important to us to be represented at our County show.

There is more to do in the second half of the year but after the excitement of the first six months, I hope that everyone manages to take some well-earned summer leave and come back refreshed.

Finally, Maj Pat Ralph MM retires at the end of August having worked at RHQ for over 10 years. He has worked tirelessly leading the Association to the superb position it is in now. There will be more flowing tributes in the Autumn Journal, but for now, I thank him for all his tremendous support and wish him well in retirement.

# 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

By Lt Col T Exton

The summer term has been both frenetic and incredibly varied for the 1st Battalion. As part of the Future Solider implementation, 1YORKS joined the Desert Rats in April, as 7 Bde formed up as the new 7th Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team. The Battalion is completely seized by its conversion to Light Mechanised Infantry, and will move into its new structure imminently. Corunna Coy is well underway with its conversion to Foxhound, and Burma Coy have now begun training their next batch of Cat C drivers. Alma Coy have conducted a consolidated focus on dismounted infantry, in preparation for their role in Kenya as the Task Force HANNIBAL opposition to 1 RIFLES in October. Finally, the Support Weapons Platoons of Quebec Coy have all focussed on their core skills, in preparation for receiving new members from both battalions after the summer leave period. The clarity of purpose and certainty of the future that have crystallised over last few months have been genuinely exciting and galvanising for the 1st Battalion.

On the operational front, a section of the Anti-Tank Platoon, led by Sgt Stott, returned from Estonia after an extended time with the RTR BG on Op CABRIT. Having deployed in January for a 3-week exercise, they finally returned in June, after playing an essential part in several multi-national Brigade level exercises alongside NATO partners. In the UK, a composite training team drawn from across the Battalion and led by Lt Hails has been deployed on Op INTERFLEX, training Ukrainian soldiers in military skills and tactics at locations across the UK. A further training team from Alma Coy is currently deployed in Nigeria on OpTURUS, supporting the training of a



■ 1YORKS Awards Parade in June

Nigerian Bde as part of their preparation to combat Boko Haram extremists; they will be replaced by a team from Burma Coy over the summer. Separately, two Platoons from Burma Coy have had an incredible (although very cold) experience deployed to the Falklands Islands. Lastly, Corunna Coy and Quebec Coy continue to be held at extremely high readiness, ready to respond to any civil contingency in the UK in 1YORKS' role as one of three UK Standby Battalions.

On the sports field, 1YORKS have enjoyed considerable success. In winning the Army Rugby Premiership and the Yeoman's Cup Rugby League competition, in addition to the Army Community 7s and the Naivalurua 9s, the Battalion achieved the unique accolade of being



■ CO1 YORKS with Bantamweight winner Pte Berry

the first unit to win all major inter-unit Rugby competitions in a single season. The football team have been semi-finalists in both the Army and Divisional Cup competitions, and the nascent cricket team established by Sgt Norris have an unbeaten record in the north of England league. And boxing is once again flourishing, with the best talent from a thrilling inter-company competition in June going forward to compete in the forthcoming major unit competition. Combined with an impressive span of adventurous training, county engagement at both the Armed Forces Day National Event and the Great Yorkshire Show, and some excellent and imaginative low-level training, it has been a fantastic start to the Battalion's new role.



■ Pte Joe Kelsall recipient of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society Trophy 2022.

# 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

By Lt Col JE Ashworth

The summer started with a bang for 2 YORKS in Cyprus. A rare opportunity, the whole Battalion came together in April for a fiercely fought inter-company boxing competition. Alma emerged as the Champion Company with Pte Steele (Quebec Coy – Middleweight) awarded the overall best boxer on the night. This was all delivered against the backdrop of operations in Cyprus and Bahrain protecting several of the UK's strategic assets in the region. By the time 2YORKS leaves Cyprus, handing over to 1 LANCS on 8th August, 2 YORKS soldiers will have delivered continuous operational output for 88 weeks straight.

The Battalion's final tactical exercise in Cyprus, Exercise LION STRIKE, was an evolution of specialist weapons incorporating new sighting systems, robotics, and communication systems. The conceptual development, driven by the soldiers themselves, is increasingly demonstrating the need to blend capabilities at the lowest level and is being used to shape teaching at the Army's Support Weapon School. Ukraine is showing us the stark reality that the infantry must increase its range of find and strike beyond the cultural norm of a dismounted section, platoon, or company attack. And it must do it at night and 2 YORKS will lead that change.



■ CO2YORKS with Welterweight winner, Pte Ashworth



On return to the UK, the Battalion will be established in Dale Barracks, Chester and resubordinate under the Army's newly established Experimentation and Trials Group. As part of that change, 2 YORKS will restructure, with 65 soldiers transferring to 1 YORKS bringing their Light-Mechanised, operational and specialist weapons experience to bear. More 2YORKS soldiers will move to 1 YORKS in 2023 as part of the restructuring that will conclude in 2024.

Looking ahead, the Battalion is already tasked with an array of headline events. 2YORKS will feature at the Army's EXPO in September – a showcase event demonstrating the Army's Future Soldier vision to Ministers and international officers. Corunna Company will represent the British Army with the latest Uncrewed Ground Vehicles and Remotely Piloted Air Systems at Project CONVERGENCE in California – the US Army's premier experimentation exercise in pursuit of Multi-Domain Integration. Battalion HQ and Alma Company will launch 2 YORKS as the Army's Next Generation Combat Team on Exercise CERBERUS in Germany, seeking how best to optimise Future Soldier capabilities against Russian

capabilities in the urban environment. And Burma Company will be the key audience alongside 16 Air Assault and Dutch forces in the British Army's annual Army Warfighter Experiment this year focusing on Protecting and Sustaining in the urban environment using prototype technologies.

The Battalion has capped off its tenure in Cyprus in a typically professional and determined fashion and can look ahead to a distinctly unique journey over the next couple of years.



■ 2 YORKS RSM – The handover between WO Greenwood and WO Lightowlers

# 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

By Lt Col WH Blackhurst



■ Introducing DComd UK1 Div, Brig Gen Laurentin to members of 4YORKS

**Life in the 4th Battalion continues at pace with a healthy mix of traditional Army Reserve activity with a nod to the future and what life in the Reserve may look like with the establishment of Future Soldier.**

A regular drumbeat of green training has helped us to sharpen our core Infantry skills. January saw us deploy onto Ex YORKSHIRE URBAN to Whinny Hill to train within an urban environment and develop low-level leadership and section drills. A lot of the focus was on building assault drills and room clearances, but a heavy dose of night operations provided a different and challenging dynamic. The annual 4YORKS Patrols Competition yet again provided plenty of inter-company rivalry, particularly amongst our junior commanders! A challenging mix of stands including Arty Target, CBRN and CPERS before concluding with a March and Shoot serial that ensured the weekend was truly testing for all ranks. The competition resulted in a controversial tie between



Alma and Corunna Coys and I must pass on my congratulations to all those involved.

Whilst field training remains at the core of what we do, we have yet again found ourselves immersed in multiple community engagement activities across the county. The Battalion was heavily involved in June's Armed Forces Day, providing the enabling element in Scarborough, as well as individuals at events across the weekend. Another huge effort was applied to the Military Village at of the Great Yorkshire Show. We were proud to host and cohere this prestigious event and I am again truly grateful for the enormous effort from across the Battalion.



■ Providing AFD 2022 Real-Life Support at Scarborough Rugby Club.

I must also not forget the valuable contribution made by the Band who have yet again exceeded all expectations. So far this year, they have performed in Tunisia, Normandy, Denmark and at various engagements across the UK. Their contribution to the Regiment's profile and wider Army cannot be underestimated.

Recruitment remains strong and with the inflow of young men and women who wish to serve in Yorkshire's Army Reserve Infantry, coupled with a steady stream of quality ex-Regular soldiers, I have full confidence that the 4th Battalion is ready and able to meet the challenges the future will bring.

Efforts are now focused on the latter half of the year, particularly the upcoming deployment to Oman as part of a 4 Infantry Brigade sub-unit. This will see around 30 Soldiers and Officers from across the Battalion deploy with partners from across the Brigade to provide the Task Force Hannibal element of the Exercise DESERT KHANJAR. This will see them act as enemy to their Regular Army counterparts, primarily from 2 SCOTS who are preparing for operations. This type of persistent engagement abroad is sure to form the bedrock of future Army Reserve activities, providing countless opportunities for our Reservist's to serve abroad with their Regular counterparts.

To help cohere this effort across the Army Reserve, we will transfer to 19 Light Brigade, based in York. The reformed Brigade will consist of 10 Infantry and Royal Armoured Corps Reserve Battalions from across the UK and will focus the 1st Division's Army Reserve activity through a single Headquarters and further strengthen its support to UK Defence.

4YORKS continues to grow and remain an agile and adaptable force, poised to support the Regular Army. The future of the Army Reserve looks stronger now than at any time in recent years, with 4 YORKS seen as a vital, and importantly, highly respected and capable Battalion.

*Fortune Favours the Brave.*



■ The Band at the 19 Bde Reformation Parade

# New 'Millennium' Veterans' Branch

Although The Yorkshire Regiment has an established network of veterans' associations and branches, 1 August 'Yorkshire Day' will see the launch of a new 'Millennium Branch', with a specific emphasis on those Yorkshire Warriors that served or joined after 2000. This is the cohort of officers and soldiers who have witnessed and participated in some of the most challenging conflicts in our recent history.

Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen ZR Stenning OBE, said: "I proudly count myself in this new cohort having commanded Yorkshire soldiers during challenging times in Helmand and serving in Iraq. As head of the regimental family, I am committed to providing the community, care and support our young veterans both serving and retired, deserve. The Millennium Branch is one of many networks available to Yorkshire Soldiers. We will not hesitate to create similar communities in the future; it is shared experience, compassion and love for each other that continue to bind our veteran communities together. The Millennium Branch will unashamedly focus on binding our younger veterans together through outdoor activities, events and shared family experiences."

Traditionally, veteran cohorts are composed of groups with a shared experience of past campaigns, from WW2, Malaya, Aden, to the Cold War and Northern Ireland, but it has become abundantly clear to The Yorkshire Regiment, that some of the more vulnerable members of the regimental family are younger and have served in the more recent conflicts. This is really who the new branch is aimed at. Although not exclusively limited to those of 'Generation Y' or 'Millennials' – this new branch aimed at those who have a shared experience of operations, from 2000 to the present day.

Branch Chairman Jimmy Lynas said: "I'm adamant that this is not going to



■ Colonel of the Regiment Maj Gen ZR Stenning OBE

be just another social drinking club, but a coordinated effort to reach out both physically and virtually to a younger cohort of veterans, many of whom have yet to re-engage with the regimental family after leaving. We'll start with some Breakfast Clubs and set up some Adventurous Training and Sporting opportunities and make full use of social media to connect with those veterans and service leavers who are simply not aware of the many benefits and opportunities that are available to them. By appealing directly to the friends and colleagues we all served with, I'm hoping we can make a real difference to the 'hard to reach and seldom heard' community of younger veterans and their families.

Maj Mick Lynch, the Chairman of the Yorkshire Regiment Association, had this to say: "We've taken this action as an Association because many in the YORKS

family feel they do not have enough in common with some of the existing branches of our Association and so this exciting new branch is for those that have left in more recent years, offering them the opportunity to connect with old friends that they may not otherwise know about. "As a regiment, we've always understood the need to listen to our veterans and this initiative is supported by the Colonel of the Regiment in an attempt to meet the desires and needs of our younger veterans. Over the next 12 months, the aim is to have a number of breakfast and lunch clubs and sporting activities, and create a friendly and safe environment for veterans to meet and catch-up"

The new Yorkshire Regiment Association (YRA) Millennium Branch will be launched on Yorkshire Day, 1 August 2022, at 1200 in the York Army Museum, at 3 Tower Street, York YO1 9SB.

# Enabling the Regimental Strategy

## By Brig ED Colthup

The last edition of the Regimental Journal contained a summary of the key elements of the Regimental Strategy, discussed at and agreed by the Regimental Board in January 2022. Those who attended the Cross Brief in February this year either in person or virtually, will have heard the Colonel of the Regiment expand on those areas of the strategy we really need to progress. There was also much discussion about internal and external communications. Since then work has been progressing to enable the delivery of the strategic objectives with external assistance. Five external companies submitted initial bids for the work, which were reduced to two for consideration by

the Board and Trustees in June. We have now commissioned the Leeds-based brand and communications company, WPA Pinfold to provide direct support to enable the Regimental Strategy. This will be an extensive piece of work, looking much wider than simply what and how we communicate on social media, important though that is. To begin with, WPA Pinfold will seek to understand the Regiment today to establish a baseline for how we develop for the future. A team will actively gain views from across the Regiment, from our cadets to our veterans; our regulars and our reserves; your views are genuinely important. The work will iterate through a series of phases during the



■ Brig Colthup, Capt Clegg and Col of the Regt in Normandy

summer and autumn period and report to the Board in December. Further updates will follow to keep you abreast of this work as it develops and especially what the outcome and delivery will look like in 2023.

Take a look at WPA Pinfold – <https://www.wpa-pinfold.co.uk/>

## [www.yorkshireregiment.com](http://www.yorkshireregiment.com)

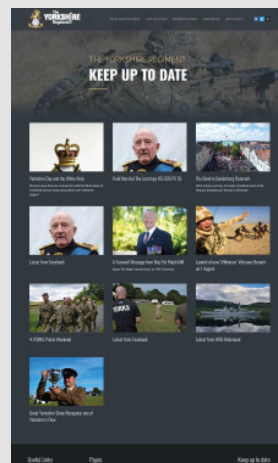
After a few false starts and simply finding the time to design, create and populate a new regimental web-site, the new version, named YORKSNet will soon be available to view on your smart-phone, tablet or PC. YORKSNet has been developed with the user very much in mind and is intended to provide our internal and external audiences with a single source of useful information and news in one handy place!

Using ideas from the existing, but outdated Association web-site, work is nearly complete to bring our on-line presence up to date both in terms of content and layout. The YORKSNet News page will include a level of information and detail that's not always suitable for posting on Social Media (SoME). But at the same time; however, the latest Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts

will automatically appear on the YORKSNET News page, providing users with a coherent presentation of the very latest regimental news.

From there, you can navigate to other areas of interest, where we will present a much wider view of who we are, what we do, from the very latest battalion updates to news items that don't always make it onto our SoME channels.

So why now? One of the core reasons for updating the site is obviously to help improve the reach of our communications and to reduce the duplication of information on the



web-site and SoME channels. From an RHQ perspective, the process of collecting, writing and delivering our messages will also be simplified, requiring less time and resource and preparing the ground for the outcome of the External Review of our messaging and communications that's already underway.

So, in the not too distant future, we can look forward to a new, interactive communications platform that has infinite capacity and flexibility to deliver our primary communications and information, complemented by the free, on-line Journal and Newsletters.



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