

# The YORKSHIRE Regiment



**FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BRAVE**

WINTER 2022

## Foreword

From Colonel of the Regiment – Maj Gen ZR Stenning OBE



**This is my first seasonal message to you as the Colonel of a Regiment that I have been proud to serve for 27 years, so may I first of all wish you and your families all a very Happy Christmas.**

To those in the Battalions, I continue to be humbled by the resilience of you and your families who have faced significant changes in our operational roles and a constant stream of commitments, both at home and abroad this year. From California to Oman, Germany, Nigeria and Kenya, you have continued to prove yourselves on operations, exercises and experimentation, reinforcing our reputation at the very highest level of the Army and across Defence. Thank you for all you have achieved.

For many of us, this last year has been one of significant change. As we approach the year's close, 2022 is ending on a worrying note of war in Europe and many facing financial hardship at home. It's at times like this that the golden thread, binding together the many elements of the regimental family, is so important. This includes our cadets, the veterans, the affiliated units, Livery Companies and the many other organisations that support

us. And to ensure the golden thread can thrive and endure, we will be launching a communications initiative to close the gaps across the family and with our 'Friends of the Regiment' and our many supporters in early 2023.

So, as we look to the future, 2023 will see us settle into new roles, step up to some exciting and challenging exercises and operations and together make an impact within the Union Division and across the Army. But for now, it's time to stand down and share some quality time with our friends and families. Thank you to you and your families for all your hard work and selfless commitment. I wish everyone in the regimental family a very Happy Christmas and successful and Happy New Year.

*'Fortune Favours the Brave'*

### Our new Regimental Vision

**'We are Yorkshire's Regiment, at the heart of the Union Division. We will strive for excellence in everything we do, to deliver for the Army of today and the Army of tomorrow.'**

# 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

By Lt Col T Exton

As we enter the Christmas season, the past twelve months have given the 1st Battalion much to reflect upon with pride. Having started the year as an Armoured Infantry Battalion, 1YORKS is now mid-way through conversion to Light Mechanised Infantry as we see out 2022. The garages at Catterick are full of new Foxhound and Jackal vehicles and our training has achieved a huge amount since we joined the Desert Rats in April. Along the way, we have deployed soldiers to 12 different countries and supported the Army's operational outputs in Estonia, Nigeria, the Falkland Islands and Mozambique. The Battlegroup HQ has trained on Divisional-level exercises in Germany twice this year, and Alma Company and the Recce Platoon have had a hugely successful exercise in Kenya. We have also enjoyed significant sporting success winning the Army Rugby Premiership and reaching the semi-finals of the Army's Cricket and Football championships. The prospects for 2023 are similarly exciting and from early January will be dominated by preparing for operations in Iraq and Kosovo;



■ 1YORKS in Kenya

Both roles will see 1YORKS soldiers earning operational service medals for the first time in many years. However, before we focus in earnest on what lies ahead, the Battalion have been able to enjoy fully the festivities in the run up to Christmas leave for the first time in some years. Mercifully free from COVID restrictions and UK operations, we have been able to gather as an entire Battalion for a Carol service in St. Mary's Church, Richmond,

followed by a soldiers' Christmas lunch in Munster Barracks. Supported brilliantly by our Chaplain, Father Vlod Sampara, the Quartermaster Maj Paul Skelton and our Catering Platoon, both events have reminded us of the fundamental importance of our regimental community and our sense of belonging. On behalf of all ranks of the 1st Battalion, we wish everybody in our Regimental family a very Merry Christmas.

*Fortune Favours the Brave*



■ Alma Company in Kenya



■ Making new friends in Africa

# 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

By Lt Col MA Wade-Smith

Taking a knee to write this report has been a welcome relief from the rollercoaster that has been 2022 for the 2nd Battalion. The year kicked off with sub-unit collective training in Cyprus that built towards the Enhanced Light Force Demonstration in May. This high-profile event earned praise from the chain of command, industry and other single services. Whilst the busy routine on the island continued, the boxers were reading themselves for the Battalion Boxing in June. This brilliant evening saw our courageous men and women step into the ring in a spectacle of music, pyrotechnics and of course, brave boxing.

Not to be content with this new level of busy, the Battalion was able to squeeze in an intercontinental move from Cyprus to Chester that went without hitch and is credit to the planning and preparation of the Quartermaster and Battalion Second in Command's teams. After the dust had settled in The Dale, Chester, we launched the ambitious and exciting Next Generation Combat Team on the 12 Oct 22. This new role contributing to making the Army more relevant, more lethal and more agile brings the



■ 2 YORKS Convergence

requirement for change and attracts some uncertainty. Managing and mitigating the consequence of uncertainty has been my number one command priority and will remain so for 2023.

During the Autumn the 2nd Battalion has deployed the Alma Coy Group to Germany on Ex CERBERUS, the Burma Coy Group to Army Warfighter in Portsmouth and the Coronna Coy Group to California on Project Convergence 22. Quebec and Helmand have supported them all with attachments also from the

Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery. So, 2023 is set to be as exciting and busy with a Company Group on WESSEX STORM with 16 Brigade, soldiers training in Norway with 2 PARA, Burma deploying to the USA, and a Battlegroup LIVEX in October.

There have been too many promotions to mention them all – but WO1 (RSM) Greenwood became RSM in the summer, RQ Jones and Kirkbright were promoted to WO1 in November and will assume RSM appointments at 4 YORKS and ITC respectively, and finally WO2 Robinson and Willis have been selected for RQ appointments at 2 YORKS and 1 YORKS.

We remain lucky to have great people, be in a great place and have an exciting meaningful purpose. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Fortune Favours The Brave*



■ Army Warfighting Experiment – Portsmouth



■ Op CERBERUS Germany

# 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

By Lt Col WH Blackhurst

As 2022 draws to a close I must draw upon the similarities with my previous winter update as 4 YORKS have once again successfully recovered a significant portion of the Battalion home from a large overseas deployment. This time, 28 4YORKS Reservists have spent the latter part of the year deployed in Oman alongside their regular counterparts as part of the 2 SCOTS Battlegroup on Ex DESERT KHANJAR 22. Their task, to provide a credible enemy force to 2 SCOTS under the guise of Task Force Hannibal.



■ Kohima Company at Otterburn

This was a first for the Army Reserve and whilst there were obvious challenges, the deployment has been hailed a success. Kohima Coy first came together in the wilds of Otterburn to mobilise and conduct PDT before deploying to the vast deserts of Oman to train alongside and provide a stern challenge to the Battlegroup.



■ Kohima Company in Oman



■ The Band in Albania

The regular drumbeat of Army Reserve activity has continued at pace. Traditional training weekends have continued to sharpen Infantry skills whilst the usual core winter Battalion events again proved to be a great success. 4YORKS were represented across the county during the Remembrance period including at several sporting events. Most notably, performing the Act of Remembrance during several Rugby League World Cup events. The Battalion Christmas weekend was well attended with Corunna Coy being crowned as Champion Coy following the annual Champion Coy competition. And

well done the Band who recently helped celebrate Albanian Independence Day!

The highlight of 2023 is sure to be the overseas Annual Deployment Exercise to the USA. Due to the commitments and reputation the Battalion has developed in the last few years, it has rightly been rewarded with the opportunity to travel to Michigan to take part in Ex NORTHERN STRIKE 23-2 alongside the New York National Guard as part of an Aviation Brigade from the US Army. This has, unsurprisingly, generated interest from across the Battalion and will bring focus to all 4YORKS training up until the deployment in August 23.

This, coupled with upcoming MACA taskings and its involvement in Op INTERFLEX in the coming year will ensure another demanding, yet hugely rewarding 12 months for The Yorkshire Regiment's Reservists.

*Fortune Favours the Brave*



■ Corunna Champion Company

# Yorkshire Regiment Association (YRA)

By Maj Mick Lynch



■ Maj Mick Lynch

**Growing the Association Membership - Although there has been an increase in YRA Facebook group members of almost 300 since I took over in August, it is clear to me that we need to be able to establish contact, track and maintain links with even more members through Facebook and e-mail. Since GDPR kicked in and the negative impact of COVID, we now appear to have a very limited YRA database, and while the antecedents all have contact details for their members, very few details are held for true blood, Yorkshire Regiment members and there are clearly thousands out there!**

So what am I going to do about it? First, we need to raise awareness of the benefits of being a member of the YRA across the entire Regimental family, from providing support to those serving, to our service leavers, our veterans young and old and also to our families. In the new year, I intend to visit all antecedent associations in order to promote the YRA and raise awareness of the support available from RHQ in terms of benevolence, communications and heritage. I also need support from the battalions to continue to spread the word amongst those serving and especially to our service leavers, what membership means and also how to keep in touch

through the web-site social media and potentially through reserve service.

To make things easier, we have produced a QR code to make spreading the word even easier and hopefully we will see this start appearing in a few more places and publications, maybe even on Pt 1 Orders and Coy Detail. By inviting folk to register, we can hopefully re-establish a useable database of members. You can also contact RHQ and add your names to the database, e-mail: [RHQ@yorkshireregiment.com](mailto:RHQ@yorkshireregiment.com)

## YRA Contact Details Registration



**Millennium Branch** – For those who may not yet be aware, the Millennium Branch was officially launched on 'Yorkshire Day', 1 August 2022 with a specific emphasis on those who served or joined after 2000. This is predominantly the cohort of officers and soldiers who have participated in some of the most challenging conflicts in our recent history. It's headed by Jimmy Lynas with area reps mainly in Cleveland, North & West Yorkshire but includes Warminster – working on South and East Yorkshire. Currently 112 YRA members have signed up to the Branch – we have gone international with members – in Cyprus and Saudi Arabia, working on a Fijian Branch!

Planned future events include breakfast Clubs, the opportunity to go Motor Racing at Silverstone and Coasteering (hopefully when the weather is a bit warmer!). If you served in the regiment, its antecedents or as a member of another regiment or

Corps alongside Yorkshire's Infantry in Iraq or Afghanistan, then please get in contact with Jimmy Lynas ([ne-cle-ccoy@rfca.org.uk](mailto:ne-cle-ccoy@rfca.org.uk) or 07906995797) for details of the Facebook Group and the events happening in 2023.



■ Millennium Branch in YAM

**Future Plans for the YRA** include creating a Yorkshire Regiment Association Motorcycle Riders Association, to launch in the spring at the start of the next riding season with an aspiration to have a YORKS contingent for the Ride To The Wall (RTTW) event (NMA) 7 Oct 23. There are already some antecedent bike clubs (PWO, GH) and branch clubs (Hull, Redcar), this initiative will attempt to bring them all together under the YORKS banner.

**Op GRAPPLE** - 2023 will be the 30th anniversary of the 1 PWO (GRAPPLE 2) and 1 DWR (GRAPPLE 3) deployments to Bosnia, a significant period in our Regimental history which left many with some deep scars and resulted in the first ever award of the MC to a junior rank (Cpl Paul Dobson MC). We plan to organise a reunion during the summer of 2023 somewhere in Yorkshire (location TBC), details to follow. Although the Green Howards tour took place in 1996 this will be a reunion for the entire Regimental family as this is the 30th anniversary of the start of operations in the Balkans by our antecedents.

# News from the RHQ



**Mental Wellbeing** - We are delighted to announce we are launching a trial of Leafyard, a new mental wellbeing app, designed to help you feel healthy, happy and more mentally fit. This will be shared

as a gift from The Yorkshire Regiment to you and your family

So, from January 2023, Yorkshire Regiment veterans and families will have free, anonymous access to the app – as a gift from the Regiment to help reduce stress and build positive thinking habits. The app has been rigorously trialled for military use, and thousands of veterans and their families rely on the app to equip them with the tools they need to cope with life's challenges.

Think of Leafyard as a gym for the mind – a place you can go to strengthen your mental wellbeing, train your resilience and

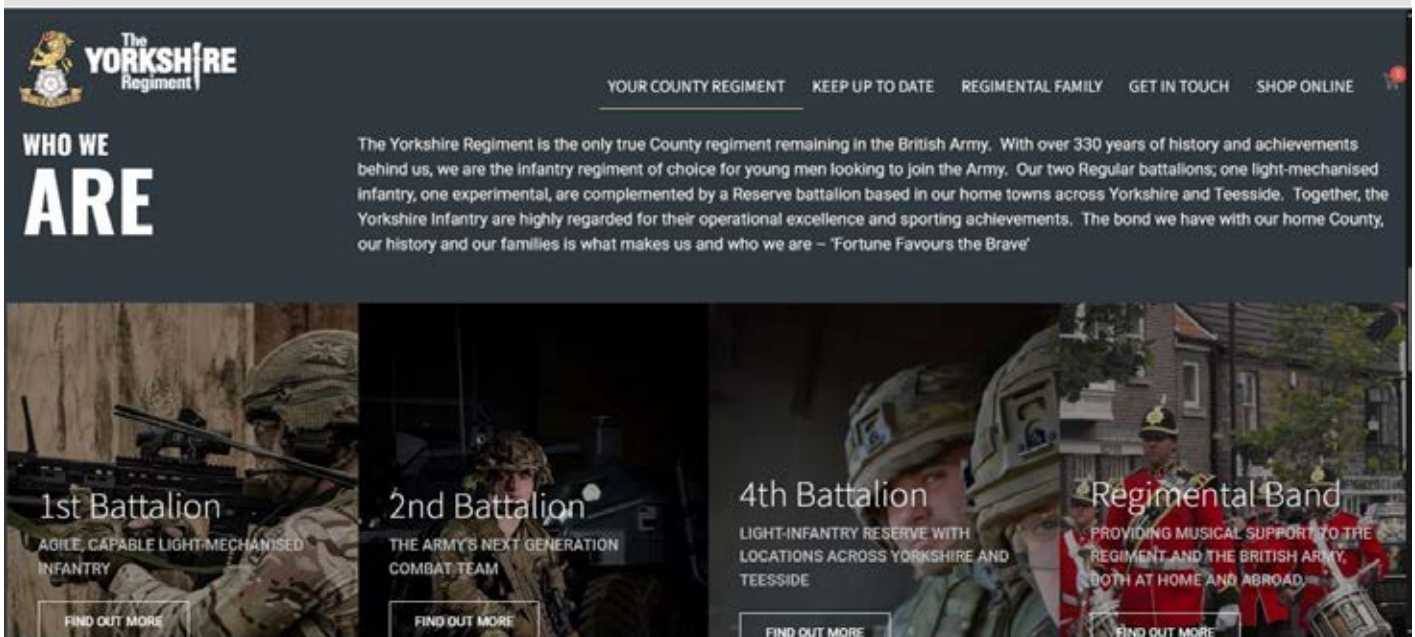
perform at your best, every day. Leafyard is our gift to you, from the Regiment. We are committed to supporting you and your family – details on how to access the app will follow on [www.yorkshireregiment.com](http://www.yorkshireregiment.com) and twitface in the New Year.

**In Memoriam** - It is with regret that we have been informed by the Royal Hospital that No 142 In Pensioner George PHIPPS, West Yorkshire Regiment, died aged 96 on Monday 12th December 2022. He entered the Royal Hospital Chelsea on 22nd October 2007.

Did you know?

You can find all the information you need about the regimental family on YORKSnet

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



## A Christmas Message from the Regimental Chaplain Rev'd Ben Norton 4 YORKS

Watch it here: <https://www.yorkshireregiment.com/news/a-christmas-message-from-the-regimental-chaplain/>



# What's happening in 2023?

## YORKSHIRE REGIMENT FORECAST OF EVENTS 2023

Event	Venue	Date
Merchant Adventurers Presentation Night	York	09 Feb
YRA AGM	York	04 Mar
Service of Thanksgiving FM Lord Inge	Westminster	23 Mar
Sedbergh Super 10s Rugby	Sedbergh	25-27 Mar
Regimental Cross Brief	TBC	TBC
Sovereign's Parade	RMAS	14 Apr
Op GOLDEN ORB	London	06 May
Army vs Royal Navy Rugby	Twickenham	13 May
Fellmongers Presentation Night	Richmond	TBC
Yorkshire Regiment Board Meeting	RHQ	26 May
Yorkshire Regiment Trustees Meeting	RHQ	26 May
Yorkshire Regiment Association Race Day	York Racecourse	27 May

## Key Antecedent Regiment Dates

GH London Lunch	London	24 Mar
DWR Officers' Dinner	London	30 Mar
Y&L Reunion	Barnsley	TBC
GH Sunday	Richmond	14 May

For the full 2023 Forecast of Events, visit the Events section of [www.yorkshireregiment.com](http://www.yorkshireregiment.com)



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