

NEWSLETTER.

SUMMER 2026



THE
ROYAL
YORKSHIRE
REGIMENT.

FOREWORD.

Regimental Secretary

Our 20th Anniversary celebrations have clearly demonstrated our strength as a County Regiment, galvanising the Regimental family and cementing our bonds with Yorkshire and the Ridings. The milestone celebrations delivered so far, whether our sharp, dignified Freedom Parades throughout Yorkshire or the formal silver salver presentations to our home towns and cities, have been a fitting tribute to two decades of service, professional excellence, and comradeship. Critically, we have successfully raised our profile, directly through the events themselves, but also across local and regional television, radio and papers, as well as social media. Delivering these moments of celebration requires significant effort behind the scenes, and I must extend my gratitude to the Battalions for making them happen. Despite operating under a relentless schedule of global deployments and demanding training exercises, their commitment to our anniversary events has been exceptional. I must also thank our Veterans, Cadets,



■ Ken Cooke receiving his Honorary Freedom of the City of York

and families who have turned out in support, making these memorable community events. All ensuring that our Regimental presence and enduring heritage remain as strong as ever in our home County.

Much of our strength is rooted in the extraordinary legacy of our veterans. I want to offer my warmest congratulations to Ken Cooke, a veteran of the Green Howards, who celebrated his 101st birthday on 8th

August. Ken, one of our few surviving D-Day veterans, continues to inspire us all. His selfless dedication to keeping history alive has recently been recognised through his appointment as a British Normandy Memorial Ambassador and his being conferred the prestigious honour of Freedom of the City of York. His life of service stands as an enduring example to every soldier in the Regiment today.



Our 20th Anniversary celebrations will culminate with a Regimental Parade and Families Day on the 12 September in York, where the Colonel of the Regiment, Lt Gen Zac Stenning, will hand over the Colonelcy to Maj Gen Sam Humphris. We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you all for your steadfast support.

Fortune Favours the Brave.



■ Clockwise from the top Pte Andrewartha from 1 R YORKS receiving his 'Best Soldier' award from the Yorkshire Agricultural Society; The Colonel of the Regiment inspects soldiers in Beverley; Presenting a commemorative silver salver to the Mayor of Sheffield; Pearl River wining the Royal Yorkshire Regiment Handicap at York Races



BATTALION UPDATES.

1 R YORKS



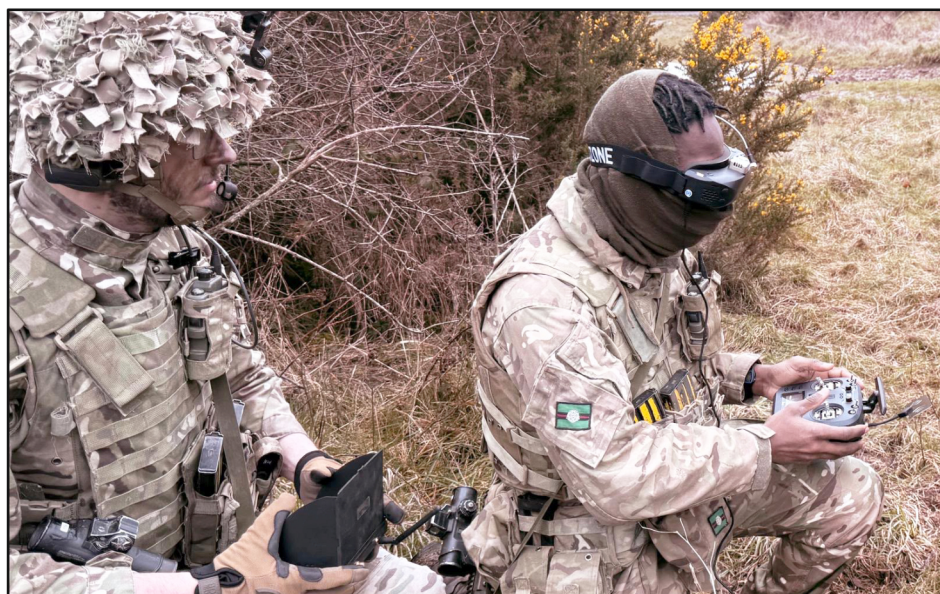
■ Formal orders being delivered by 1 R YORKS on Ex RHINO STORM

Having been spread across four countries and three overseas deployments during the second half of last year, January 2026 provided the 1st Battalion with only the briefest opportunity to reorganise and reset in Catterick. Returning from Christmas and post-operational leave, we immediately embarked on our 'CYCLONE' progression: a programme of protected training that builds from individual skills through a series of validation events.

For Alma and Corunna, this meant re-familiarisation with their Foxhound vehicles, live firing and section and platoon training before company-level activity on Salisbury Plain. In bracing February conditions, Exercise IMPHAL ROSE then put the rifle companies through

their paces against a free-thinking enemy in a battlegroup context. Overcoming a degree of rustiness after last year's deployments, the results were a testament to Yorkshire grit and resolve.

Meanwhile, the Quebec platoons reinvested in their specialist capabilities through demanding training concentrations, while the Battalion's headquarters elements, largely a new team augmented by supporting



■ 1 R YORKS soldiers integrating new technology onto the battlefield





■ **1 R YORKS watching their anniversary message from the Colonel of the Regiment whilst on exercise in Germany**

attachments, rebuilt collective competence through a series of command post exercises and a formal external assessment.

Throughout these first four months of the year, Exercise RHINO STORM, a 7th Light Mechanised Brigade deployment to Germany, loomed large on the horizon. Making headlines for its scale and innovative logistics, including the chartering of civilian ferries for the first time in over 20 years, deployment began with

scenes reminiscent of the film Planes, Trains and Automobiles—a reference I soon discovered was lost on most of the Battalion.

Once in the field, troops pushed the boundaries of current tactics, including integrating uncrewed systems, to defeat a numerically

superior armoured force. It is impossible to summarise all the effort that contributed to the exercise's success, both on the home front, including our families, and in the field, but everyone involved can reflect on a job well done.

The exercise culminated in the defence of a small town within what was once one of the Army's largest bases in Germany, Princess Royal Barracks. With the exercise ending on 5 June, the Battalion came together the



■ **1 R YORKS soldiers maintain overwatch of an urban area in their Jackal patrol vehicle**





**'Everyone
involved
can
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■ Top picture 1 R YORKS soldiers clearing a building of enemy on Ex RHINO STORM Bottom picture A 1 R YORKS soldier takes cover whilst engaging the enemy during a FIWAF serial





■ 1R YORKS - On exercise in Germany

following evening to mark the Regiment's 20th anniversary with a celebratory barbecue. While it was fitting to celebrate whilst deployed, we look forward to marking this important milestone again with the wider Regimental family in September.

Looking ahead, we will remain at 10 days' notice to move for NATO and sovereign readiness tasks, including a return to Germany in late autumn to support 1st (UK) Division on Exercise ARCADE STORM. As I reflect on the last few months, it is clear to me that the Battalion will continue to meet whatever challenges the future holds with the same resilience, spirit and humour that have proven such an enduring part of our Regimental identity.

Fortune Favours the Brave.



■ 1R YORKS - CASEVAC whilst on exercise



2 R YORKS

I write once more from the high Mojave Desert, with the majority of 2nd Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment currently deployed forward on Project CONVERGENCE CAPSTONE 6 (PCC6) in Fort Irwin, California. The rest of the Battalion remains in the UK, with Quebec conducting Mission Specific Training, and the rear party in the safe hands of our Quartermaster, Maj Kitridge, holding the line back in Barracks.

Much has changed in the 2nd Battalion since the last Regimental Journal update in Jan 26. The key change for the Battalion was the move from the Experimentation and Trials Group to 11 Brigade with effect from 1 Jun 26. With our return to the line comes a return to operations and a new role.

That role will be a 'Near Surface Infantry Battalion'. While those still serving will be well aware of the need to fight in the 'near surface', our veterans and wider



■ 2 R YORKS soldiers settle their pre-parade nerves

families will clearly recognise the importance of learning from the drone-on-drone fight happening in Ukraine. As the leading edge of 11 Brigade's 'Near Surface Covering Force', 2 R YORKS will be central to that new way of fighting.

The year so far has been focused on the preparation for PCC6, a US-led experiment with a full US Division 'in the box', through which the Battalion will conduct bespoke experimentation to support the modernisation of the British



■ Commander ETG congratulates 2 R YORKS on a job done well, as they resubordinate to 11X



Army. We have spent weeks on Salisbury Plain integrating dozens of new technologies, networks, sensors and weapons, and conducting a Command Post Exercise to explore how brigades will fight with the new equipment being purchased for the Army: Yorkshire soldiers again at the forefront of technologies and tactics, shortening the links from factories to foxholes.

Along with 12,000 other NATO troops on PCC6, from the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States, the 2 R YORKS BG (with Alma / Helmand and a company from 1 IG) is employing drones, Loitering Munitions, Interceptors and more to demonstrate how

the Army might fight in the near future. It's an unforgiving environment, with temperatures exceeding 50°C, and a complex mission facing our soldiers. PCC6 is our final act as the Army's Experiment Battalion, and we are proud of our contribution to the Army's future and grateful to the ETG for the empowerment and opportunities it has provided us over the years.

Despite operational commitments and a division-level experiment, the Battalion was honoured to support the Regiment in exercising our freedom across Yorkshire. Five days and six parades, from Keighley to Bridlington, left our troops with sore feet and tired

arms from countless hours of rifle drill. However, they also left with heads held a little higher after representing the Regiment in front of their families and friends, and the people of Yorkshire.

Finally, as the world stares at an ever-unstable Middle East, Quebec are preparing to protect the UK's interests by deploying some of the Battalion's growing capability to protect our skies from the drone threat. They deploy immediately after summer leave, and we wish them well – a full update will follow in the next Journal.

Fortune Favours the Brave.



■ Clockwise from the top 2 R YORKS outside York Minster; The Colonel of the Regiment inspects soldiers in Beverley; 2 R YORKS parade through Keighley





'Yorkshire soldiers again at the forefront of technologies and tactics, shortening the links from factories to foxholes'



■ Clockwise from the top 2 R YORKS on parade in Halifax; 2 R YORKS pass under Beverley North Bar Arch; Regimental Colours in Halifax Cathedral



4 R YORKS

This has already been a busy, demanding and highly successful year for 4th Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment. Across the Battalion, our soldiers, permanent staff and families have again demonstrated the commitment, professionalism and pride that make the battalion such an important part of the Regiment.

Our training has been focused, relevant and challenging. We have delivered rural, urban and trench warfare activity, developing core infantry skills and reinforcing our ability to generate capable, combat-ready soldiers. This has been matched by strong performance in the routine disciplines that underpin readiness, including equipment care, where the Battalion was again recognised as Army Equipment Care Champions for the second year



■ **Regimental Band playing at the Ambassador's House in Bulgaria**

running. We have also broadened our military education through a successful battlefield study to Normandy, connecting today's soldiers with the history, sacrifice and lessons of the Regiment's past. Individual excellence has also been recognised, with WO2

Thompson, Maj Boyes and Maj Howard each receiving Lord-Lieutenant's Awards for their dedicated service.

Operationally, our people have continued to deliver beyond the home base, including support to Force Protection tasks in Kenya and Op TOSCA 45 in Cyprus.



■ **4 R YORKS soldiers get stuck in during a battalion training weekend**



We have also continued to support the Cadet movement, helping inspire the next generation and strengthen our links with the communities we serve.

Ceremonial and engagement activity has been another major feature of the year. The Battalion has supported Freedom Parades as part of the Regiment's 20th Anniversary celebrations, reinforcing our place as Yorkshire's Regiment. We also held our first Command Dinner, attended by over 40 commanders with representation from LCpl to Lt Col, strengthening leadership cohesion across the Battalion. Alongside this, a successful ski trip developed confidence, resilience, teamwork and esprit de corps, while the Band has again represented us with distinction, including overseas support to the King's Birthday celebrations in Bulgaria.

Looking ahead, our focus remains clear. As part of 19 Light Brigade, we will continue to develop towards our future role within the Rear Area Operations Group while preparing for our

Annual Deployment Exercise in Denmark. We will also continue to support the Regiment's 20th Anniversary celebrations, including the Regimental Parade and families' day on 12 Sep.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so much already this year.

Fortune Favours the Brave.

'We have reinforced our ability to generate capable, combat-ready soldiers'



■ 4 R YORKS soldiers on exercise in Catterick



■ 4 R YORKS Command Dinner



RYRA UPDATE.

At the Association's AGM in April, the EVANS VC award was presented for the first time. The award recognises members who have made a significant contribution to either the Association or the wider Regimental family, similar to the SANDERS VC, TANDY VC and HOLLIS VC awards presented to members of the three Battalions annually for their outstanding service. The first award was presented jointly to Doug Lincoln and Lee Holmes of the Scarborough Branch, who have raised over £10k for the Regimental charitable trust over the past two years through their Hard Routine activities – first completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge, then conducting an unsupported walk from Richmond to Crepon.

Other significant fund-raising events have been organised by Paul Cutler of the Hartlepool



■ Doug and Lee receiving the Evans VC award from Maj Gen Farquhar

Branch, including the annual Phil O'Neill Memorial golf match, with £615 of the funds raised donated to the Charitable Trust. This event was followed by a charity veterans football match and the upcoming coast-to-coast cycle ride. The totals for these two events are not yet known, but Paul has confirmed that one-third of the total will once again

be donated to the charitable trust.

If you are conducting a charitable event, please consider making a donation to the Charitable Trust, as this is how the Regiment supports our serving and retired community and their families.



■ RYRA on parade at the Royal Hospital



As part of the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Regiment, we gathered at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in July, for our first Association Sunday. The event started with a muster parade alongside the In-Pensioners, which was followed by a service in the hospital chapel and a curry lunch. The event was a great

success, with over 30 attending. This will now become an annual summer event, and hopefully, numbers will grow with each iteration.

The Freedom Parades, which took place in June, have been covered elsewhere in this newsletter, but as a reminder, the 20th anniversary celebrations

will conclude with the parade and families' day on 12 Sep in York – details will be released shortly, and it is hoped that the Association will be well represented on the day. Put it in your diary now!

Fortune Favours the Brave.



'If you are conducting a charitable event, please consider making a donation to the Charitable Trust'

Don't forget, Ammo & Co are now our official provider of high-quality clothing and accessories. Every purchase you make directly contributes to the regiment's well-being, thanks to a dedicated profit-sharing agreement. Just scan the QR code below to explore their collection and make a purchase that truly makes a difference.



■ Top left Maj Gen Farquhar CBE, DL, the Inspecting officer (the RHC MO) and the Duty Officer get ready to inspect those on parade Top right Chelsea Pensioners form up Bottom left Ex WO1 Marty Williams keeping a close eye on the parade which included Pat Callaghan

