

NEWSLETTER

■ SUMMER 2025



THE
ROYAL
YORKSHIRE
REGIMENT.

FOREWORD. ■

Regimental Secretary

I find it humbling watching the Battalions deliver in what remains a high-tempo operational environment. It was therefore a great privilege to attend 1 R YORKS families' day in July with the Colonel of the Regiment, which not only honoured those receiving medals for their operational service, but also the families who sacrificed so much whilst they were away.

While not on the same operational level, RHQ has also been exceptionally busy. Despite staff shortages, we've ruthlessly prioritised to maintain our core outputs.

Despite the challenges, this summer was marked by significant achievements. We proudly commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the Korean War with our veterans in York and at the Korean War Memorial in London. Furthermore, through various charitable events, we successfully raised over £70,000 for the Regiment! We also successfully delivered key Regimental activities, including the York Races, D-Day



■ General The Lord Richard Dannatt GCB MC with the Colonel of the Regiment at the Green Howards Memorial in Normandy

celebrations, and the popular cocktail party at the Great Yorkshire Show.

As you are aware, there have been

some necessary changes to the programme. The Officers' Dinner will now take place in London on 26 September 2025, and the Regimental Service will be held



in York on 18 October 2025. We will also launch the Royal Yorkshire Regiment Business Network, under the leadership of Joe Tankard, on 1 August 2025, in London.

Please note that we will celebrate our 20th Anniversary in York on our formation day, Saturday, 6 June 2026. This event will be open to all members of the Regiment, including serving personnel, veterans, cadets, and their families, and will be centred around a parade at Imphal Barracks. We will also be exercising our freedoms in some of the towns and cities throughout Yorkshire in the preceding and succeeding weeks, including receiving the honour of the Freedom of Keighley.

My final, earnest plea is this: your Regiment needs you. We can only truly be the Regiment you want it to be. Therefore, please continue your invaluable support of Regimental events. And, if you are considering a charitable contribution, please think of the Royal Yorkshire Regiment



■ A memorial service at the Green Howards Memorial, Cr  pon, Normandy

Charitable Trust first. The Trust provides vital support to our serving soldiers, their families, and our veterans, acting as the keystone around which other agencies and charities offer additional and specialist assistance.

Fortune Favours the Brave.

Upcoming Key Dates:

- **Officers' Dinner:**

26 September 2025, London

- **Regimental Service:**

18 October 2025, York

- **20th Anniversary Celebration:**

Saturday, 06 June 2026,
Imphal Barracks, York



■ Dante's Lad Claims Victory in The Royal Yorkshire Regiment Handicap at York



■ Private Hanson of 1 R Yorks receive the Yorkshire Agricultural Society's 'Best Soldier' award at the Great Yorkshire Show



BATTALION UPDATES.

1 R YORKS

From the training grounds of the UK to the stunning borders of the Balkans, the 1st Bn has spent the past year proving that operational excellence and regimental pride are not bound by geography—or chronology.

It was a fresh spring morning at Richmond Castle when the Bn gathered for a Drumhead Service—a poignant moment of reflection and unity. After a four-mile march from camp, the Padre's blessing echoed through the historic grounds, marking the last time the Bn would stand together in 2025 due to future operational deployments. It was a fitting moment in a place that has been so significant in the regiment's history.

Among the year's most defining moments was the deployment to Kosovo. From Catterick to Albania by sea and air, and then overland into Kosovo, the Bn operated under NATO's Kosovo Force



■ 1 R YORKS - Drumhead service at Richmond Castle

(KFOR) for a month. Supported by Gurkhas, Engineers, REME, Artillery, and others, 1 R YORKS patrolled the boundary with Serbia, uncovering evidence of trafficking and smuggling—including a cache of discarded passports that revealed a human trafficking route through the Balkans and returned home just in time for Christmas.

Even now, our presence continues to be felt across the globe. Quebec Company is currently deployed to Poland on Op CABRIT, working shoulder-to-shoulder with NATO allies to deter aggression in the Baltic. This deployment also marks a change of the guard, with Major Sam Dower leaving for Staff College and A/Maj Mal Jones returning to command. WO2 James Parkins steps into the



■ 1 R YORKS - Kosovo deployed personnel





■ 1 R YORKS - "La Legion" Runners

RQMS role, while WO2 Dave Hall takes up his new post as CSM with well-earned pride. Soldiers have also been supporting Op INTERFLEX in the UK where they have had the chance to share knowledge and learn from those fighting for their homeland in Ukraine. It's a demanding task, but it has proved insightful.

More widely, the Bn has had much to celebrate; The 'La Legion' running team completed an astonishing 101km in 18 hours in Spain; Lt Sutherland, alongside his brother, set a world record in HYROX and qualified for the world championships; Promotions have been plentiful, with CSgts Carrig and Hall selected for WO2, and 14 Sgts promoted to CSgt; In national

honours, Capt Wood received a King's Commendation for Valuable Service for his work in Iraq, LCpl Stryzanski was awarded a Chief of the General Staff Commendation and Maj Berry and Capt Kitridge both received a Commander Field Army Commendation.

We have also bid farewell to CSgt Day, WO2 Willis, LCpl Seru, CSgt Baker, and LCpl Bolatagne at the end of their service - stalwarts whose combined service spans over 120 years. Their send-offs were heartfelt, with the final handshake delivered at the Bn front gate by the RSM, WO1 Lawton. We also say goodbye for now to Major's Berry and White as they hand-over Alma and Burma Companies', we wish them both all the best and expect to see them both return to the Bn in due course.

This summer, we will hosted a Medals Parade and Families Day—a celebration of operational



■ 1 R YORKS - Elements of Quebec Coy on completion of Ex HEDGEHOG in Estonia





■ 1R YORKS - Sp Coy on the ranges in Poland with the US

success and a heartfelt thank you to the families who made it all possible. This parade also marked our move from Alma Lines to our new home just down the road in Bourlon Barracks. It was a fitting end to a short but busy period in the Bns History with 7 sub-unit

sized deployment occurring in the last 30-months.

We stay committed to operations for the rest of the year ahead of another busy 2026 where the Bn will re-group and prove our war-fighting ability yet again. Through

every deployment, every promotion, every farewell and homecoming, one constant remains: the unwavering support of our families and friends. Whether in Catterick, across Yorkshire or further afield, your encouragement is the foundation of our strength and enables the Bn to deliver so much.

Fortune Favours the Brave.



■ The Colonel of the Regiment presenting awards at the 1R Yorks Medals Parade



2 R YORKS

As we reach the midpoint of 2025, it is with immense pride that I reflect on the achievements of the 2nd Battalion over the past six months. The pace has been relentless, the demands high, and yet the people of this Battalion have once again risen to every challenge with professionalism, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Our operational tempo has remained high, with the Battalion continuing to play a central role in the Army's modernisation efforts. The highlight of this period was undoubtedly our participation in Project CONVERGENCE Capstone 5, held at Fort Irwin, California. Deployed as an experimental light role infantry battlegroup, we operated alongside 5 RIFLES and a range of supporting arms, integrating cutting-edge technologies in a demanding multinational environment. Working shoulder-to-shoulder with 1/82nd Airborne



■ 2 R YORKS attack the training town Razish during Pj CONVERGENCE

Brigade (US) and 1 ARMD (Australian Army), we demonstrated not only our tactical agility but also our ability to lead in the integration of experimental capabilities. This was a landmark moment for the Battalion and a clear signal of our ruthless pursuit for change and readiness for the future battlefield.

Subsequently, Alma Company

deployed to Georgia, USA, in support of the Army Expeditionary War-fighting Experiment (AEWE). Their five-week deployment contributed directly to the US Army's experimentation programme, reinforcing our reputation as a trusted and capable partner in international innovation. The feedback from our American counterparts was exceptional, and Alma's performance was a credit to the Battalion.



■ Alma Company 2 R YORKS working with an Uncrewed Ground Vehicle

Elsewhere, we have continued to project our influence globally. A Company Group deployed to Kenya on Exercise BULL STORM, supporting 11 Brigade and further developing our interoperability with partner forces in austere environments. Meanwhile, a small team deployed to Germany on Project VANAHEIM, supporting 1 R YORKS with counter-uncrewed aerial systems experimentation. Additionally, our





■ 2 R YORKS C-UAS Platoon operating novel technologies on Pj VANAHEIM.

involvement in Exercise TALISMAN SABRE in Australia saw a specialist team integrate with 1 ARMD Regt (Australian Army), showcasing our growing expertise in FPV UAS operations and reinforcing our commitment to global partnerships.

Amidst these deployments, we have also celebrated individual success. Congratulations are due to Sgts Chamberlain, Grantham, Manning, and Young on their promotion to CSgt, and to CSgts McMurray and Ntambo on their promotion to WO2. These promotions are richly deserved and reflect the dedication, leadership, and professionalism that underpin everything we do. I extend my thanks not only to those who have been promoted but also to their families, whose support remains vital to our collective

success.

Back at home, the Battalion has continued to settle into our new base in Warminster. The transition from Chester, completed last year, has now matured into a stable and

sustainable platform from which we can operate effectively. The move has positioned us strategically for our role in the Army's future force, and we are now operating at over 140% of the originally envisaged strength—a remarkable achievement and a



■ Cpl Morris instructs our US counterparts on Counter-Uncrewed Aerial Systems



testament to the hard work of our people and the wider Regimental family.

Looking ahead, our training calendar remains full. We are preparing for our WOLF CYCLONE live firing and land training window in Autumn 25, which will see us blend legacy systems with emerging capabilities in a demanding tactical training environment. We are making adept preparations for future experimentation activities in a multitude of different contexts, including Project CONVERGENCE Capstone 6 in Summer 2026. These experiments and exercises will continue to test and refine our capabilities, ensuring we remain at the forefront of the Army's war-fighting capability.

Beyond experimentation and training, we remain committed to our community and Regimental family. Whether through engagement with local schools, support to veterans' events, or participation in charity initiatives, the Battalion continues to uphold the values and traditions that define us. Our soldiers are not only warriors but ambassadors for the Regiment and the Army, and I am proud of the way they represent us both at home and abroad.

In closing, I want to thank every member of the Battalion for their hard work, resilience, and professionalism. I also extend my gratitude to our families and supporters—your encouragement and sacrifice do

not go unnoticed. As we look to the second half of the year, I am confident that 2 R YORKS will continue to lead, innovate, and excel.

Fortune Favours the Brave.



■ LCpl Burn operates an FPV drone during Pj VANAHEIM.



4 R YORKS

As we approach the midpoint of the year, it's an opportune moment to reflect on the incredible efforts and accomplishments of our battalion. From rigorous training exercises to operational deployments and ceremonial excellence, the past months have been a testament to the professionalism, dedication, and teamwork of our personnel. Below, we highlight some of the key activities and achievements that have defined our year so far.

Training remains at the heart of our battalion's mission, ensuring that we are always ready to meet the demands of operations and deployments. Recently, our soldiers participated in Exercise Rhino Heart, a two-week 19 Brigade Army Reserve exercise designed to test and enhance our operational readiness. The exercise provided a challenging and realistic environment, allowing our personnel to refine their skills and work cohesively as a team.

As we eagerly anticipate new direction post SDR and Wavell recommendations, we have increased our training tempo to include two training weekends per month. This adjustment is in preparation for our upcoming two-week Annual Deployment Exercise in Germany where we will further hone our capabilities in a challenging training environment. This additional training ensures we are prepared to support 1 (UK) Division in their deployable role, as 4 R YORKS we will contribute to two 19 Brigade composite Battalions on a 40-60 day mobilisation pathway in times of crisis.

The commitment and enthusiasm shown by all ranks during these training activities have been exemplary, and we are confident that this increased focus will pay dividends in the months ahead.

Our battalion continues to play a

vital role in supporting operations both at home and abroad. Over the past year, we have seen our personnel deploy on a range of critical missions, including:

- Op TOSCA: Supporting the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cyprus.
- Op INTERFLEX: Contributing to the training of Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel in the UK.
- BATUK TDS: Providing essential training support in Kenya.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for future deployments, including additional rotations on Op TOSCA and participation in Op FIRIC, which will see our personnel contribute to the UK's commitments in the Falkland Islands. These deployments underscore the versatility and professionalism of our soldiers, who continue to represent the battalion with distinction on the global stage.



■ Fire Support position on Section Attack Lane conducted on Catterick Training Area.





■ Members of the Regimental Band with the DA Uzbekistan at the King's Birthday celebrations held at the British Embassy in Uzbekistan, Tashkent.

The ceremonial side of our battalion has also shone brightly this year, with the Regimental Band delivering an outstanding performance at the Festival of Remembrance in Huddersfield. This event was particularly special as it marked the successful amalgamation of six Army Reserve bands, a complex and ambitious undertaking that required meticulous coordination.

In addition to this, our personnel have proudly represented the battalion at several high-profile ceremonial events. These include the King's Birthday celebrations at the British Embassy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the Swearing-In Ceremony for the new Administrator in Cyprus, and upcoming rededication services for First World War soldiers in France and Belgium. Each of these events highlights the battalion's commitment to honouring tradition and history while showcasing the professionalism and excellence of our soldiers.

The band's stellar performance and the battalion's participation in

these significant ceremonies continue to enhance our reputation and strengthen our ties to both the military and civilian communities.

We are proud to celebrate the achievements of our personnel, whose hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. This

year, five members of the battalion were awarded 2-star commendations for their exceptional efforts in coordinating the 19 Brigade deployment last year. Their commitment to ensuring the success of this complex operation was instrumental and serves as an inspiration to us all.



■ Brigadier Lisa Brooks, Commander 19 Brigade, presents Sgt Dean with his 2 Star commendation. Awarded for his unwavering support to the Battalion and raising charitable funds for Leeds Children's Hospital..



Congratulations to:

- Maj Godsiff
- Maj Seal (QM)
- WO1(RSM) Lamb
- WO2(RQMS) Harrison
- SSgt Thirlwell
- Sgt Dean

These commendations are a reminder of the calibre of individuals within our ranks and the importance of recognising and celebrating their contributions.

As we move forward, the battalion remains focused on maintaining its high standards across all areas of activity. The coming months will

bring new challenges and opportunities, from the Annual Deployment Exercise in Germany to further operational commitments and ceremonial events.

We are confident that, as always, our soldiers will rise to the occasion, demonstrating the professionalism, resilience, and teamwork that define our battalion. Thank you to all members of the battalion for your continued hard work and dedication – together, we will continue to achieve great things.

Fortune Favours the Brave.

We're excited to announce a new partnership with Ammo & Co, 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.



■ Sgt Neault and CSgt Brunton conduct UAS training on Otterburn training area.



RYRA UPDATE.

In the run up to summer, the Association held its AGM in York to review the past year and look ahead to 2025. Attendance was up with 46 present, but we'd welcome even more members joining in to help shape the Association's future. There is a short survey linked below giving you the opportunity to comment on the future direction of the Association and this will also be distributed via e-mail and social media.

In May, RHQ and the RYRA were privileged to host the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, who laid a wreath at the Korean War Memorial. The service included several Korean War veterans, among them three from our Regimental Family who fought in the third Battle of the Hook. This moving event was followed by a buffet lunch at the Hooting Owl, where comrades reconnected, shared stories across generations, and further strengthened the bonds within our community.

The Association received 10 tickets for the Not Forgotten Royal



■ The Korean Ambassador in York at the Korean War Memorial

Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, which were quickly taken up—members and their partners enjoyed a memorable afternoon together. In June, another 10 members attended the ABF Big Curry in York, with tickets funded by the Association and awarded to those who made a significant contribution to the Regiment over the past year.

Among them were Doug Lincoln and Lee Holmes, who walked from Richmond to Crepon for VE Day, unsupported and without money, raising almost £10k for our Regimental charity—a truly inspiring achievement for all involved.

Looking ahead, there are still 9 places left for the London Cenotaph parade on Sun 9 Nov 25. To request a ticket, simply

e-mail
yrachair@yorkshireregiment.com
with your name as it appears on your passport.



■ Lee & Doug set off on their charity walk

The Royal Yorkshire Regiment
Association - Have Your Say

