

LDU/17

# 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards)



# THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESBROUGH

THE ELECTED MAYOR OF MIDDLESBROUGH  
(Mr Ray Mallon)

THE CHAIR OF MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL  
(Councillor Stephen Bloundele)

## 2nd BATTALION THE YORKSHIRE REGIMENT (Green Howards)

Exercise their right and distinction to the  
Freedom of Entry to the Borough

At

### THE FREEDOM PARADE

to celebrate the return of the  
2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards)  
from operations in Afghanistan

The Town Hall, Middlesbrough

**Wednesday 18 June 2008**



## Message from the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough



The Freedom of the Borough was originally granted to the Green Howards on 13 May 1944. However, on Tuesday 6 June 2006 The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment); The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire; and The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) plus their affiliated Territorial Army units joined together to become The Yorkshire Regiment.

As a result of this amalgamation, on 25 October 2006 the Freedom of the Borough was given to the 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards).

On behalf of the citizens of Middlesbrough, I am delighted to welcome the 2nd Battalion of The Yorkshire Regiment to Middlesbrough once again.

They are exercising their right and privilege to march through the town with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed.

We are all proud of our Regiment; it has a long association with Middlesbrough and many of our people have been proud to serve in the 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment.

**Mr Ray Mallon**  
Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough

## Message from the Chair of Middlesbrough Council



Welcome Home Yorkshire Regiment.

It is good to see you back in Middlesbrough following your arduous duties in Afghanistan. You have given excellent service in both peace and war.

I wish to record this town's thanks to all of the Regiment. I know that the people of Middlesbrough will be immensely proud today to see The Yorkshire Regiment's presence in the town - a presence which will bring back memories for many of them.

**Councillor Stephen Bloundele**  
Chair of Middlesbrough Council



# About the Parade

The ancient ceremony of conferring the freedom of entry to a town upon a regiment has its origins in medieval days when fortified towns would fasten the town gates and man the defences in some alarm at the approach of a formed body of troops. Certain regiments, however, came to be trusted by the citizens of the towns through which they passed and in recognition of that fact were accorded the "right, title, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the town with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed". This custom has survived as one of the most prestigious of our civic ceremonies and today many units of the British Army have freedom of entry to towns with which they have particularly close ties. The freedom of entry to a town or borough is a highly prized honour as it implies a long and harmonious association between a regiment and the community which it serves.



## Order of Events

1. The Parade will consist of a march past by the Band of the King's Division, No. 1 Guard, No. 2 Guard, followed by the Colour Party then No. 3 Guard and No. 4 Guard. The parade will be commanded by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel S.J. Downey M.B.E..
2. The Parade will start at 10.30am from Park Road North, marching along Linthorpe Road, Grange Road and Albert Road passing the saluting dais in Centre Square outside the Civic Centre, where it will also be dismissed.

# A Short Regimental History

The 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards) are formerly the Green Howards. Raised in 1688 by Colonel Francis Luttrell of Dunster Castle, Somerset, the Green Howards' early battles were the Boyne (1690) in Ireland and Flanders (1692). Joining the army of the Duke of Marlborough, the Green Howards won their first Battle Honour at Malplaquet (1709).

During the Flanders Campaign of 1744, we gained the nickname 'Green Howards'. It was practice in those days to name Regiments after their Colonel and ours was the Hon. Charles Howard. Two foot Regiments had Colonels with the same name so other distinction had to be found. Since the Regiment had green facings to their uniforms, they were called the 'Green Howards' and the other Regiment 'Buff Howards' also from the colour of their facings. The Green Howards were renamed the 19th of Foot in 1751.



The Green Howards took part in the expedition against Belle Isle (1761) for which a Battle Honour was awarded 190 years after the event. Other campaigns were the American Revolution and the protracted fighting in Ceylon from 1796 - 1820. Whilst the Green Howards were in America the association with North Yorkshire began, the 19th Regiment adding the County name to its title in 1782. To this day the Green Howards have the freedom of six boroughs in North and East Yorkshire. They also draw the great majority of their soldiers from the same areas.

In the Crimean War further Battle Honours were gained at Alma, Inkerman and Sevastopol. The anniversary of the Battle of Alma, which took place on 20 September 1854, is the Green Howards' Regimental Day. The Green Howards were amongst the last British Infantry units to wear red coats in action at Ginnis (1885) when operating in Sudan.

Princess Alexandra, then Princess of Wales, graciously consented to her name becoming part of the Regiment's title in 1875. She remained very closely associated with the Regiment for 50 years and when she was the Queen, Her Majesty Queen Alexandra was the Green Howards' Colonel-in-Chief from 1914 to 1925. The Green Howards' connection with the Royal Households of Scandinavia has a long standing, with three successive generations of Kings of Norway being the



Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment. First was His Majesty Haakon VIII, 1942 - 1957; followed by His Majesty Olav V, 1958 - 1991 and then his son, His Majesty Harald V, King of Norway, 1992 - 2006, covering a 64-year connection with the Norwegian Royal Family.

Twenty-four Green Howards Battalions fought in World War One and 7,500 men of the Regiment gave their lives. Between the wars The Green Howards served on the North West Frontier of India, Shanghai and Palestine. It was in Shanghai that the close association with the U.S. 4th Marines began. It was also during this period that the name Green Howards, having survived unofficially since 1744, was officially adopted as the Regimental title in 1920.

Twelve Green Howards Battalions were raised in the Second World War. They saw action in France, Belgium, Norway, the Western Desert, Sicily, Italy, North West Europe, India and Burma. The following Second World War Battle Honours are carried on the Colours: Norway 1940, Normandy Landing, North West Europe 1940, 1944-45, Gazala, El Alamein, Mareth, Akarit, Sicily 1943, Minturno and Anzio.

Many saw action with the famous 50th (Northumbrian) Division. During the war three members of the Green Howards Regiment won Victoria Crosses, including the only one awarded on D-Day, W.O.II (C.S.M.) Stan Hollis V.C. from Middlesbrough. With over 318 years of service to the Crown the Green Howards won 18 Victoria Crosses and 3 George Cross. Since the war the Green Howards served as far afield as Egypt, Sudan, Malaya, Austria, Hong Kong, Germany, Libya, Belize, Bosnia, Kosovo, the U.K., Kenya, Nepal, Canada, Oman, France, South Georgia, Australia, Russia, Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 1970 the Battalion was deployed on the first of their 14 tours to Northern Ireland. The Green Howards have served throughout the province and returned from their last tour in 2004. The Battalion deployed to Afghanistan in March 2004, operating in the north of the country at Mazar-e-Sharif and in the capital city, Kabul. They returned from Afghanistan in October 2004, before conducting an overseas training exercise in Belize in 2005. The Battalion deployed to Bosnia and Kosovo in April 2006, where they spent six months working in the peacekeeping role.

As a result of a decision made in 2004 to restructure the Army and the Infantry the three Yorkshire Regiments and the Territorial Army Infantry Battalion merged. On Tuesday 6 June 2006, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire; The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment); The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) and the



East and West Yorks Volunteers formed in order of seniority, becoming the 1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Battalion and the 4th Battalion of The Yorkshire Regiment. Their home is the County of Yorkshire and the area up to the historic boundary of the River Tees.

From 6 June 2006 the Colonel-in-Chief of The Yorkshire Regiment is His Royal Highness The Duke of York KG KCVO.

The 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) recently served in Iraq on Operation TELIC 9 (September 2006 - March 2007). They are currently based in Catterick, North Yorkshire and are Arms Plotted for posting to Germany in 2008.

The 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards) have recently returned from a demanding six-month tour in Afghanistan (September 2007 - April 2008). They are currently based in Weeton, nr Preston, Lancashire.

The 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) will deploy out to Afghanistan in 2008. They are based in Warminster, Wiltshire.

The 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment who are constantly in support of the Regular Army will be sending a Platoon of 37 men to Kabul, Afghanistan on attachment with 7 Tpt Regt RLC on Op ISAF 11B, from August 2008 to February 2009. Their Company and Platoon bases are: Bn HQ and HQ Coy York, Asslt Pnr Platoon Scarborough, A Coy Kingston-upon-Hull, Mortar Platoon in Beverley, B Coy Middlesbrough, 4 Platoon in Northallerton, C Coy Huddersfield, Anti-tank Platoon Leeds, 8 Platoon Keighley, D Coy Barnsley, 12 Platoon Sheffield.

The first time the Regiment started a permanent connection with Yorkshire was in the mid-17th century and this was finally set in stone in the late 19th century. Since that time Yorkshire men, by birth and in spirit, have served throughout the world supported by their friends and families.

The freedom that was bestowed upon the Green Howards has now been passed in perpetuity to the Yorkshire Regiment for the town of Middlesbrough to maintain its links with the military; as we have in the past, we will in the future.





