

Regimental Headquarters  
The King's Own Royal Border Regiment

Colonel S W L Strickland OBE  
Regimental Secretary

Major P M H Brandwood TD  
Assistant Regimental Secretary



The Castle  
Carlisle  
Cumbria CA3 8UR

Tel/Fax: Civ. Carlisle (01228) 521275  
Mil. Carlisle (94592) 8240

email: admin-officer@kingsownborder.army.mod.uk

B2/3

18 November 2004

Councillor Ralph Aldersey  
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Carlisle  
Mayor's Parlour  
Civic Centre  
CARLISLE  
CA3 8QG

*Dear Ralph,*

The Regiment has been conducting sensitive negotiations and I considered it was not worth updating people until the Colonel of the Regiment had had the chance to brief the Regimental Council.

To start with I will reiterate that we as a Regiment remain convinced that large-large would still be the best option to safeguard the careers of our serving soldiers. It is possible that this could still return as the solution if the Executive Committee of the Army Board (ECAB) so decide.

Our amalgamation negotiations with the King's Regiment and the Queen's Lancashire Regiment have proved difficult and this is probably inevitable given the strength of feeling on all sides and the need to represent our soldiers and our regions as equitable as possible. No one is to blame and we are all fighting our corner to ensure a fair deal.

At present the sticking point is the title of the new regiment. We favour something short that the soldiers can easily use and identify with, with geographical designations in brackets: 'The Royal Regiment (Lancashire & Border)' as one example. The other regiments insist that 'Lancashire' is in the main title and so we too are insisting that something from us is included. The title 'The Royal Lancashire Regiment' is not acceptable as it fails to represent our traditions so we are requesting 'The Royal Lancashire & Border Regiment'. We have been advised to steer clear of 'Cumbria or Cumbrian' as this 1975 title could disappear in local government reorganisations.

Meetings held with the other two Colonels and subsequently under the chairmanship of the King's Division Colonel Commandant failed to resolve the issue to our satisfaction. Colonel Mike Griffiths has thus represented our case to the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Mike Jackson. The timetable is not certain but the Army Board will probably meet in late November and the Minister will announce the changes (Future Army Structure details) in mid December 2004.

I know this matter may have already been raised in Council or to local Members of Parliament but we are now entering a critical stage and I would ask that if a convenient moment occurs to raise the subject again. There are two aspects that you might wish to raise; firstly the question of the title and that this regiment must be properly represented. The second point comes from recent reports in the media that seem to suggest a special deal may be done for the Scottish regiments. I would ask you to make the point that the English regiments must be treated fairly and in no way differently to other parts of the infantry in the new structure.

Thank you for your support to date. In all of this, all we as a regiment seek is a fair deal and a true representation of the Regiment in the new title.

Yours wishes  
Simon

Copied to:

Mayors

Chief Executive Cumbria County Council

+ MB.