



Green Howards

The **Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment)**, frequently known as the **Yorkshire Regiment** until the 1920s,^[1] was a line infantry regiment of the **British Army**, in the **King's Division**. Raised in 1688, it served under various titles until it was amalgamated with the **Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire** and the **Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding)**, all **Yorkshire-based regiments in the King's Division**, to form the **Yorkshire Regiment (14th/15th, 19th and 33rd/76th Foot)** on 6 June 2006. Following further merges, in 2012, the battalion was removed from the order of battle.^[2]

History

The regiment was formed in 1688 from independent companies of infantry in Devon. It was known by the names of its various colonels until 1751, when it became the 19th Regiment of Foot. In 1782, all regiments of foot without a special designation were given a county title "to cultivate a connection with the County which might at all times be useful towards recruiting". The regiment became the 19th (1st North Riding of Yorkshire) Regiment of Foot, and its main recruiting efforts continued in this area until 2006, particularly in Middlesbrough, Redcar, Northallerton and Scarborough.

The Two Howards

The regiment was known as the Green Howards from 1744. At that time, regiments were known by the name of their colonel. The 19th regiment's colonel was Hon. Sir Charles Howard. However, at the same time, the 3rd Regiment of Foot had been commanded by its colonel Thomas Howard, since 1737. To tell them apart (since they both would have been known as 'Howard's Regiment of Foot'), the colours of their uniform facings were used to distinguish them. In this way, one became 'Howard's Buffs' (eventually simply The Buffs), while the other became the Green Howards. Although the Green Howards were referred to unofficially as such from then on, it was not until 1921 that the

regiment was officially retitled as the Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment).^[4] Under the Childers reforms, all non-royal English infantry regiments were to wear white facings from 1881. In 1899, the regiment was able to reverse this decision with the restoration of the grass green facings formerly worn by the 19th Foot.^[5]

Princess of Wales's Own; - In 1875, Princess Alexandra, Princess of Wales presented new colours to the 1st Battalion at Sheffield, and consented to the regiment bearing her name, thus becoming the 19th (1st Yorkshire North Riding – Princess of Wales's Own) Regiment of Foot.

Childers Reforms

In 1881, the infantry of the line were reorganised. The regular regiments of foot lost their numbers, instead taking on a territorial or county title, and amalgamating with the militia battalions and rifle volunteers in its designated regimental district. The regiment was renamed as the Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment), with its recruiting area continuing to be the North Riding.

In 1902, the regiment was redesignated as Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment).

World War I

In common with all other infantry regiments, the regiment was greatly expanded in size for the duration of the war by the formation of extra battalions: either by the duplication of existing Territorial Force (TF) units or by the raising of new "service" battalions.