

REGIMENTAL NOTES

OF THE

1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment

Major R. M. TIDMARSH, Commanding.

TIDWORTH, JULY, 1921.

EDITORIAL.

The publication of another issue of these Notes finds the Battalion has undergone many changes.

We must apologise for the delay since the last copy was published, this being mainly due to the many changes and the uncertainty of knowing when and to where the Battalion would proceed.

Now that the Great War is over and our friends are commencing to settle down, we shall be only too pleased to receive the addresses of any of the old Battalion in order that copies may be sent them, the object of these Notes being to keep those who have left in touch with the doings of the Battalion.

DOINGS OF THE BATTALION.

During the Battalion's stay in Surafend, orders were received several times for parties of the Battalion to proceed to various places to assist in quelling the disturbances between the Arabs and the Jews.

On the 7th April, 1920, 5 officers and 150 other ranks proceeded to Jerusalem by motor lorries in connection with the trouble between the Jews and the Arabs, and after a stay in Jerusalem of three days they returned to Surafend.

During July and August, 1920, the Battalion proceeded to Jerusalem for the same reason.

On the 1st of May, 1921, a party under Capt. E. C. Boutflower, O.B.E., proceeded to Jaffa in connection with the disturbances there, and after a stay of five days returned to Surafend.

The following is a copy of a letter received from Jaffa :—

G.O.C. 3rd (LAHORE) DIVISION.

Now that the excitement caused by the recent disturbances in the Jaffa Area seems in a fair way to subside, the G.O.C. wishes to congratulate all troops who assisted in maintaining order, and the manner in which the disagreeable duty has been performed by them.

The Reports which he has received shows that whether it was at Jaffa, at Mulebbis, at Hudeira, or at Nablus, the same sense of discipline and cheerful and correct bearing have been conspicuous.

In a country where the Civil Administrations has to depend so largely on the British Garrison, the maintenance of such standard of conduct is vitally important, and the G.O.C. wishes the attention of all ranks to be called to the example which has been set up by that portion of the Garrison which has been engaged during the past three weeks in aid of the Civil Authorities.

Upon the visit of Mr. Winston Churchill to Jaffa the Battalion provided a Guard of Honour and the Band. The following is a copy of a letter received from the Governor, Jaffa (B District):--

I wish to thank you very much for your courtesy in sending your Band over yesterday on the occasion of the visit of His Excellency the High Commissioner and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and for the kind assistance which the Officer Commanding the Guard gave me. If you do not think it an impertinence from me, I should like to say what a smart Guard I thought it was.

During the latter part of 1920 the men of the Battalion began to feel the benefits of the endeavours towards making the camp comfortable, and they were looking forward to moving to a new hatted camp which was being erected about one mile nearer Ludd, and to settling down in comparative comfort for a few months. However orders were just then received that the Battalion would proceed to Abbassia (Main Barracks, Cairo,) to be relieved by the 2nd Battalion Highland Light Infantry.

The Battalion moved from Surafend in four parties. The first party left Surafend on the 28th April, 1921, and the last party on the 6th May, 1921. All ranks were looking forward to having a good time in Cairo, especially after so long a stay at such a Station as Surafend. But the good time was denied them, for immediately the Battalion arrived at Cairo orders were received to proceed to the United Kingdom.

Many of the Battalion took every opportunity of visiting sights in and around Cairo, including the Pyramids, the Sphinx, etc.

On the 30th May, 1921, the Battalion, less D Company and the married families, left Cairo for Port Said, arriving there on the 31st May, when they embarked on H.T. *Eduard Woerman*, sailing for England *via* Constantinople and Malta.

There was very little deck space on the boat, and sports were, to a certain extent, denied the troops.

The voyage from Port Said to Constantinople was very pleasant, especially when witnessing the sights passing the various islands at the entrance to the Dardanelles, the town of Gallipoli, and through the Sea of Marmora.

The H.T. *Eduard Woerman*, after a stay of four days at Constantinople, sailed for Malta. During the four days' stay at Constantinople, the troops were taken on a route march through the city, the march being appreciated by all.

On the 14th June the H.T. *Eduard Woerman* arrived at Malta, and after embarking about 200 of the Royal Navy proceeded on her way home, arriving at Southampton on the 24th June. Many were the speculations during the voyage as to where the Battalion would be stationed upon arrival in England, and all were pleased when it was announced that we were to proceed direct to Tidworth.

The H.T. *Eduard Woerman* is a cargo and passenger carrying boat of 5609 tonnage. She was originally of the Woerman Line, and has during the past 18 months been engaged in carrying troops between India, Mesopotamia and Egypt. She was one of the ships handed over to the British in accordance with the agreement at the Armistice. Her name was *Weferno Stillstand*. She is unable to attain any high speed, her average being 9 knots per hour.

On the departure of Head-quarters to Port Said, consisting of letters A, B, C Companies and M Gun Pl., under Major R. M. Tidmarsh, the remaining Company was left at Abbassia to await passage on the H.T. *Main*. After many alterations in the date of departure letter D Company and the married families eventually embarked at Port Said on the 8th June, and left for Southampton the next day.

There was a considerable number of married families on board. The troops consisted of 2nd Battalion the North Stafford Regiment, details of Machine Gun Corps, a few of the 16th Brigade R.F.A., and our own men, under the command of Major F. H. B. Wellesley; strength, about 200 all ranks.

The voyage was a most enjoyable one, and sea sickness was almost unknown. The food and accommodation on board, was quite good, and the time was pleasantly spent to the strains of the Band or Drums of the North Stafford Regiment, either of which played on deck both mornings and evenings.

Deck space was not too liberal for the purpose of either Sports or Concerts, but efforts were made to organize entertainments from time to time. The detachment figured well in the Boxing, putting up several good fights, and were only prevented from winning at least two fights by sheer bad luck. In the Sports the Duke's won the tug-of-war (light weights) and reaped a few prizes in pillow fighting, obstacle race, etc.

The Officers 1st D. of W.'s beat the Officers North Staffords in a Tug-of-War by 2 pulls to *nil*.

Lieut. Sampson did splendidly in the Obstacle Race, and came in a grand winner. Great amusement and competition was afforded on the Officers' deck during the voyage by many of the Officers' compet-

ing in a Rope Quoit League Competition. This was eventually won by Capt. Tuck (North Staffs Regiment) and Lieut. Sampson (The Duke's) who defeated Capt. Ozanne (The Duke's) and Lieut. Jones (North Staffs Regiment) in the final.

The *Main* arrived at Southampton on the 23rd June, and the party proceeded to Tidworth the same day.

The Battalion has to its credit 15 years and 8 months continuous Foreign Service.

The following Officer, W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s were the only ones who originally proceeded to India with the Battalion on H.T. *Plassey* on the 5th October, 1905, and returned with the Battalion:—Capt. D. Looney, M.B.E., R.S.M. T. Milner, R.Q.M.S. A. W. Steele, C.S. M. Shorthouse, Band Sergt. T. Crowther.

The only exception to the above is Boy Horne, in the Drums. He went out with the Battalion to India as a baby with his father, Pte. Burt. Boy Horne is the only one who throughout the tour had not left the Battalion.

The following Officer, W.O. and N.C.O. were the only ones who joined the 1st Battalion at Lebong from the 2nd Battalion in December, 1905, and who returned to England with the 1st Battalion:—Major F. H. B. Wellesley, H/C.S.M. W. V. Burbery and Sergt. Francis. Sergt. Francis had to his credit 20 years unbroken Foreign Service.

SPORTS.

During the past year Sports were carried out with keen interest, especially during the playing of the inter company matches. Under favourable conditions, the Battalion should be able to turn out quite good teams in all Sports.

At Surafend, on the 18th December, 1920, the following were the results in the final at the 3rd (Lahore) Division Boxing Tournament:

Heavy—A. C. Abrams, R.A.F., scratched to Pte. Dickens.

Middles—Pte. Twaites beat A. C. Small, R.A.F.

Feathers—Sergt. Hopkinson beat A. C. Hawley, R.A.F.

The Battalion won the Tournament by 10 points against the R.A.F. 6½ points.

At the E.E.F. Command Boxing Tournament held at Cairo and Alexandria during January, 1921, the Battalion sent teams, but the only prize obtained was by Pte. Twaites, who lost on points to Sub-Bomdr. Bagge. Later Sub-Bomdr. Bagge proceeding to England, the Middle Weight Championship of Egypt and Palestine devolved on Pte. Twaites.

At Cairo on the 7th May, 1921, a Boxing Tournament was held, the following of the Battalion competing:—

In a six round contest Sergt. Anderson beat Pte. Seamark, R.A.F., on points, after an excellent fight.

Boy Miles lost on points to Pte. Flynn, 2nd The King's Regt.

Pte. Harvey beat Pte. Carrigan, 2nd The King's Regt, on points.

Pte. Harvey beat A. C. L. Eades, R.A.F., in the semi-final, and in the final Pte. Harvey beat Pte. Ellis, Middlesex Regiment, and was awarded a silver cup.

During the stay of the Battalion in Palestine and Egypt picnics were arranged for the married families, which were most enjoyable and greatly appreciated.

At Surafend the families were taken in G.S. wagons across the desert to the Mediterranean Sea, near to Wadi Rueben, which is about 8 miles from Jaffa.

From Cairo the members of the Sergeants' Mess, the married families and the Band were taken by steamer on the River Nile as far as the Barrage. During the trip the Band played and dancing took place. After a stay of some hours, during which time the party visited the Barrage, the beautiful gardens and Museum, they returned by steamer to Cairo and then to Abbassia by motor lorries.

The Officers of the Battalion also arranged a trip by steamer along the Nile to the Barrage during their stay in Cairo.

A Novice Boxing Competition took place on the H.T. *Eduard Woerman* on the 4th June, 1921, the following being the results:—

Pte. Doherty beat Pte. Jackson.

Pte. Gelding beat Pte. Wilmshurst.

Boy Milnes beat Pte. Oldfield.

Pte. Gelding beat Boy Milnes.

Pte. Doherty beat Pte. Gelding.

Pte. Griffiths beat Pte. Elvidge.

L.-Corp. Porter beat L.-Corp. Hall.

Pte. Griffiths beat L.-Corp. Porter.

In a special three round contest Pte. Mills beat Pte. Duggins on points.

On the 9th June, during the stay of the Battalion at Constantinople, those on board the *Eduard Woerman* were taken by steamer (H.M.T. *Waterwitch*) through the Bosphorus to the Black Sea, calling and disembarking at Beikos for a couple of hours, where the troops, after partaking in games and rambling, again embarked for the return to Constantinople. The scenery witnessed during this

trip was most enjoyable, and all considered themselves most fortunate in being able to see the splendid sights of the Bosphorus, especially under such excellent conditions.

Waterloo Day was not forgotten by the troops whilst on the water, an excellent Concert being arranged on the *Eduard Woerman* on the night of the 18th June. At the Concert the Band was ably conducted by our Bandmaster, Mr. Ovington, to whom thanks are due for the very keen interest he takes and for the arranging of the Concerts.

The Commander-in-Chief, E.E.F., in his address to the audience at the Kussall, Cairo, on the occasion of the finals of the Egypt and Palestine Boxing Competition, made the following remarks:—

“He wished to make special reference to The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment. This Battalion had been serving for the past year under very arduous conditions. They had been split up all over Egypt and Palestine without any facilities for training, and he considered that it reflected great credit to The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment to have come so far and to have put up the excellent fights you have witnessed in this Competition.”

Special mention was also made of the following N.C.O.’s and men who fought with such good sportsmanship in Cairo and Alexandria:—
Sergt. Dale, Corp. Hewitt, L.-Corp. Jackson, Pte. Twaites, Pte. Dickens, Pte. Thomas.

SPECIAL.

Extract from the *London Gazette* dated 30th January, 1920:—
“His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Meritorious Service Medal to the undermentioned W.O.’s, N.C.O.’s and men, in recognition of devotion to duty and valuable services rendered whilst prisoners of war or interned, which services have been brought to notice in accordance with the terms of Army Order 103 of 1919. To be dated 5th May, 1919.”

WEST RIDING REGIMENT.

- 9052 Pte. (L.-Corp.) Neill, C. R., 2nd Battalion (York).
- 7687 Pte Bateman, W., 2nd Battalion (Oldham).
- 10561 Pte. Gooderham, W. J., 2nd Battalion (Ilkley).
- 9939 Pte. Roberts, J. T. V., 2nd Battalion (E), (Middlesex).

London Gazette, dated 30th January, 1920.

WEST RIDING REGIMENT. Lt.-Col. R. E. Maffet on completion of his period of service in command of a Battalion, is placed on H.P. List 3rd February, 1920.

Result of Machine Gun Course held by the 33rd Machine Gun Battalion

Lieut. J. E. S. P. Bradford, M.C., 497 points, average 92 %.
 Lieut. F. S. Laughton 413 " " 77 %.

The General Officer Commanding 3rd (Lahore) Division congratulated Lieut Bradford on his very excellent report.

On St. George's Day, at Surafend, the whole of the Battalion paraded to be presented with White Roses by the Colonel Commandant. The presentation was made more interesting when it was explained by the Colonel Commandant that Ludd (four miles from Surafend) was the burial place of St. George.

On the same parade the following were presented with Medals:—
General Service Medal—Sergt. J. Harris, Corp. Ogden, D.C.M., L.-Corp. Long, L.-Corp. Sykes, Pte. Batten, Pte. Cox, Pte. O'Brien, Pte. Elsworth, Pte. McNaughton, Pte. Fawcett, Pte. Hanson, Pte. Hunter; *Meritorious Service Medal*—R.Q.M.S. A. W. Steele; *Good Conduct and Long Service Medal*—H/C.S.M. W. V. Burbery.

The following is an extract from a Yorkshire paper:—

THE AFGHAN WAR.

PROMINENT PART PLAYED BY YORKSHIRE REGIMENT.

According to an official return just received, the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment played a prominent part in the last Afghan War, and Capt. (Acting Lt.-Col) E. C. Boutflower has been awarded the Order of the British Empire, and Capt. D. Looney has been appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire, for their services.

PROMOTION.—R.S.M. H. Winn retired on pension during 1920 and C.S.M. T. Milner was promoted R.S.M. of the Battalion.