

James Turner



BATTALION NOTES

OF THE

1st Battalion

Duke of Wellington's Regiment.



MARCH, 1924.

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Brevet Lieut.-Col. C. J. Pickering, C.M.G., D.S.O.,

Commanding.

GOSPORT.

MARCH, 1924.

EDITORIAL.

The former Editor R.Q.M.S. Steele, M.S.M., having retired on pension, the present Editor wishes to express the thanks of all ranks to him for his energy and zeal in publishing these Notes during the past 10 years.

At the same time it is hoped that the Notes will continue to serve the purpose for which they were originally instituted, viz. :—To broadcast news of the Battalion to past members of the Regiment, to the other battalions and to the Depot.

The Editor will be glad to receive contributions from any member of the Regiment and will particularly welcome articles from past members and from Officers and N.C.O's in charge of the various branches of Regimental life, e.g. Sports, Savings' Association, Entertainments, etc.

The Eighth Annual Report of the Regimental Association has been received and distributed to all ranks. It is full of interesting items and has been much appreciated by the Battalion.

BATTALION NEWS.

Five months have passed since the Battalion arrived at Gosport and we have been able to settle down in our present congenial surroundings. Portsmouth, with its amusements and sports is a great attraction during our leisure hours, while Gosport itself is not lacking in interest, and it is a pleasure to record that a very friendly feeling exists between the Regiment and the people of Gosport.

Changes of personnel in a Regiment are always taking place but it is seldom that a regiment is deprived of its two senior officers at the same time. Lt.-Col. R. K. Healing retired in February and Major R. M. Tidmarsh retired in March. We feel we have lost two old friends, but trust that we shall see them many times again and our best wishes go with them for their future happiness.

In saying farewell Lt.-Col. Healing sent the following message :—

“ Lieutenant Colonel R. K. Healing on vacating Command of the Battalion wishes to say farewell to all ranks. He congratulates the Battalion on the success that it has gained during the past few years, which has been due to the loyal co-operation of all ranks in their endeavour to uphold the good name and splendid traditions of this Battalion and the Regiment.”

Lieutenant Colonel N. G. Burnard, D.S.O., has been appointed to command the battalion and is expected to take up his duties early in April. He is assured of a hearty welcome.

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ARMISTICE DAY.

A detachment of the Battalion under Lieutenant A. E. H. Sayers paraded at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital at a special service held under the auspices of the local branch of the British Legion.

The G.O.C. 3rd Division, Major-General Sir W. C. G. Heneker, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., inspected the battalion on Dec. 6th, and Colonel Sir Hugh Elles, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., commanding the IXth Infantry Brigade, visited the battalion on January 3rd to see training in progress.

PAARDEBURG DAY.

From the Portsmouth "Evening News."

The 1st Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment is justly proud of the great victory of Paardeburg during the Boer War, and every year a Ball in commemoration is held on this important day. The Battalion, which arrived at Gosport several months ago after a long period of foreign service, held the usual celebration in the Gymnasium at the New Barracks, on Wednesday evening, the 300 guests, including the Commanding Officer, (Lt. Col. C. J. Pickering, C.M.G., D.S.O.) and the principal officers of the battalion, the members of the Sergeants' Mess and their friends, guests from the Royal Marines (Eastney) and other units at Portsmouth. The Mayor of Gosport (Alderman J. F. Lee, J.P.) was unable to accept the invitation, but Councillor A. Hopper was present representing the Town Council.

The members of the Sergeants' Mess, of which Regimental-Sergt.-Major T. Milner, and Sergt. D. Gould (President) are the leading figures, were responsible for the entire arrangements, and they are to be congratulated on the success attending the effort. The spacious Gymnasium was effectively decorated with flags and streamers, and at one end there was a imposing display of cups and shields won by the Battalion, together with drums, colours, and the crest, the whole being guarded by two soldiers in their scarlet uniforms.

The Battalion Band, under the direction of Bandmaster E. Ovington, supplied the music, and dancing was continued from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m., the programme comprising 20 dances and four extras.

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BAND.

The band and drums have been supplied with the pre-war full dress uniform and recently made their first public appearance at a Concert in the Thorngate Hall, Gosport.

The following is an extract from the description of the Concert in the Portsmouth "Evening News."—

Instrumental concerts are quite a change from the usual type of entertainment given at Gosport, and that held the Thorngate Hall on Tuesday evening, under the auspices of the Gosport Boy Scouts' Association, in aid of its funds, was particularly welcome, as it marked the first public appearance in the Town of the Band of the 1st Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment, stationed at the New Barracks. The Band is a fine one, the performance was greatly enjoyed, and strengthened the cordial social feeling which exists between the battalion and Gosport folk.

The capital programme was under the direction of Bandmaster E. Ovington, and encores were frequent.

The band fulfilled another important engagement on Sunday, March 16th, when they gave Concerts on the South Parade Pier, Southsea, in the afternoon and evening.

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PERSONAL.

Major R. M. Tidmarsh retired on March 6th, 1924 with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

Lieut.-Colonel R. K. Healing, on completion of his period of service in command, has been placed on the half-pay list. He was gazetted a Second Lieutenant in the West India Regiment in 1894, and transferred to the West Riding Regiment in 1901 as a Captain, and reached the substantive rank of Lieut.-Colonel in 1920. During the war he was successively D.A.Q.M.G., 61st Division, Central Force, Home Defence; D.A.A. and Q.M.G., and later A.Q.M.G. Aldershot Command. He served in the South African War in 1902.

Lieut.-Colonel N. G. Burnard, D.S.O., who has been promoted to that rank to command the 1st Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, formerly belonged to the Leinster Regiment. During the war he was Adjutant of a Special Reserve Battalion, and later commanded the 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, winning the D.S.O. His previous active service was in South Africa in 1902, when he was wounded.

Capt. W. N. Ozanne, M.C. attended the Long Qualifying Course at the Small Arms School, Hythe, and was awarded a Distinguished Certificate.

Capt. V. C. Green sailed for Egypt to join the 2nd Battalion on February 18th.

Capt. D. Paton proceeded to Halifax for a tour of duty at the Depot vice Capt. O. Price.

Lieut. O. G. Williams passed the preliminary examination in French held in January, 1924.

Lieut. O. Westmacott attended a course of instruction at the Royal Army Veterinary School, Aldershot, and passed with distinction.

2/Lieut. K. T. Exham joined for duty on the 30th October last and sailed for Egypt to join the 2nd Battalion on January 10th.

2/Lieut. R. G. Turner and 2/Lieut. W. F. Brown joined for duty on March 1st.

MARRIAGES.

Nov. 28th, At Gosport—Capt. D. Loony, M.B.E., to Miss M. V. Towler.

Nov. 29th, At St. Andrew's the Great, Cambridge—Lieut. L. E. Bishop, M.C., to Miss Marguerite Gray

Dec. 1st, At Matthew's, Sheffield—Lieut. J. W. Scott to Miss M. N. Hale.

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PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Capt. F. H. Fraser, D.S.O., M.C., appointed Adjutant 16/3/24 vice Capt. G. T. Fleming.

Capt. N. R. Whitaker has been appointed Adjutant to the 5th (T.A.) Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment at Skipton.

C.S.M. Smith, D.C.M., promoted to R.Q.M.S.

C.Q.M.S. Brown promoted to C.S.M.

Sergt. A. May promoted to A/C.S.M.

Sergt. Cullen promoted to C.Q.M.S.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

The Battalion Branch re-commenced working in December 1923. The following has been invested up to date:—

A	By Instalment Sub.	£75 16 0	Certificates bought outright	Nil
B		Nil		Nil
C	"	20 8 0	"	5 12 0
D		Nil		Nil
H.Q.		Nil		13 12 0
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		£96 4 0		£19 4 0
		<hr/>		<hr/>

It is hoped that more N.C.O's. and men will join this Branch, so as to enable them to have a nice sum saved for civil life. Any information will be given by the Hon. Secretary R.M.S. T. W. Milner. The money invested is repayable at the Post Office by giving three days notice.

SPORTS.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

Rugger was started at the end of October, as soon as we had got settled into barracks.

There were several difficulties to be overcome at the outset. Nearly the whole battalion went on two months leave; leaving us few to pick a side from, and of those few we knew nothing about their qualities as players, and had to try many people before we finally picked a team of any sort.

Our first match was on October 31st., since then we have had two matches per week. In December we commenced to run a 2nd XV., which has had a dozen matches. Our first match was won on December 1st and since then the team has had quite a successful season.

We entered for the Army Rugger Cup, and drew a bye in the first round. In the second round we met the 1st. Depot Battalion Royal Tank Corps on their own ground. This match was played on December 19th, and we won 9—0. The forwards played well and were superior all round to their opponents, but playing up the slope and against a heavy wind the team did well to stop The Tanks from scoring. 2nd/Lt. Exham was carried off the field ten minutes before half-time. We were pressing the whole of the second half and would have scored more, but for the ineffectiveness of our scrum half. Lt. Haslock opened the scoring with a try far out; C.Q.M.S. Wootton missed the kick. Gummersall scored next, Wootton again failing to convert. Goodwin made the final score; 2nd. Lt. Faithfull hitting the upright with the kick. Of the forwards C.S.M. Brown, Pte. Griffiths and Foy were good. Lt. Haslock was the best of the outsides, who all showed improved form.

In the 3rd round we met the South Wales Borderers on their own ground and lost 19—0. They were the better team, but won owing to their backs, who handled a wet and greasy ball well. The first half was a forward battle, in which they scored once from a loose rush. We obtained the ball in nearly every scrum, but our outsides could do nothing with it. In the second half they scored four times; they got the ball in nearly every scrum, Brown, our hooker, having left the field at half-time with a dislocated shoulder. Our forwards kept at it, but our backs

could not cope with theirs. C.Q.M.S. Wootton played a sound game at back, always being on the ground with a man when they scored. Foy and C.S.M. Brown were the best of the forwards who all worked hard.

In November it was decided to award caps, on the principle that they would be the exception rather than the rule. Mr. Faithfull was awarded his as captain, and C.S.M. Brown was given his after the second round Army Cup. C.Q.M.S. Wootton after the 3rd round and Pte. Griffiths on March 15th.

Company Leagues were started at the end of February, but are not yet finished.

Our prospects for next season are fairly good. Our team with three exceptions is young, and we should therefore keep the same team for several years. At present they lack a good deal in knowledge of the game and experience, but that will come with practice. Company Leagues will be played next season and we should find new talent there. We have 2nd/Lt. Browne, who has just joined us, an Army player to coach the backs and 2nd/Lt. Faithfull, also an Army player to teach the forwards.

The following played in the Army Cup Matches :

Capt. Fraser, D.S.O., M.C., Lt. Sayers, Lt. Haslock, 2nd/Lt. Wathen, 2nd/Lt. Faithfull, 2nd/Lt. Exham, C.S.M. Brown, C.Q.M.S. Wootton, Sgt. Lees, Sgt. Brooks, Pte. Fahy, Pte. Foy, Pte. Griffiths, Dmr. Goodwin, Ptes. Gummersall, Glover and Ham-merley.

C. K. T. Faithfull, 2nd/Lieut.,
Officer i/c Rugby Football.

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[NOTE.] Heartiest congratulations of all ranks to 2nd/Lt. Faithfull on gaining his international cap this season.

Also to 2nd/Lt. W. F. Browne and 2nd/Lt. Faithfull on gaining their Army caps.

A complete list of the results for the season 1923—24 will appear in the next issue of the notes. [Ed.]

From the "Portsmouth Evening News."

ARMY CUP. (THIRD ROUND.)

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment team from Gosport failed to qualify for the fourth round of the Army Rugby Cup, being beaten at Plymouth by the South Wales Borderers. The Gosport side lost by two goals and three tries to nil, but the game was by no means as one-sided as this would lead one to believe. The Wellington's were beaten outside the scrum, but at forward there was a pretty even struggle, and Faithfull, the Wellington's scrum-winger, intensely pleased the critics.

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ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

A strenuous and successful "soccer" season is now drawing to a close. Fixtures were arranged before the battalion's return from Constantinople and the Details at Gosport did their best to "hold the fort" until the return of the regimental team. The battalion entered for the Portsmouth United Service League, Divisions I, II, IV (boys), and for the Army Cup, Portsmouth Senior Cup and Gosport Hospital Charity Cup.

In the U.S. League Div. I., several reverses were met with until it was possible to field the full regimental team which commenced with a 6—1 victory over the R.A.F. Gosport. Since then the team have worked their way up in the League table from the bottom position to about half-way. The second team were more successful early in the season and are in a good position in the league table.

The battalion received a bye in the first round of the Army Cup; beat the Tank Corps in the second round, but were knocked out in the third round by the Depot Royal Tank Corps in an excellent game played at Portsmouth.

The following caps have been awarded for the season 1923—24, Cpl. Thorpe, L/Cpl. Ward, Ptes. Myatt and Earl.

The following have played in representative games during the season :—Cpl. Thorpe, for the United Services (2) and Army (2), also for Gosport Athletic against Portsmouth. Pte. Mc.Garvey for the United Services and Army. L/Cpl. Ward for the Army.

The boys were drawn against the holders of the Boy's Cup in the 2nd. round and though beaten played pluckily against heavier opponents.

The Company Competitors this year has been run on the 'knock out' principle, C. Coy. beat D. Coy. in the semi-final 3-1 and B. and E. have to play a semi-final.

O. G. WILLIAMS, Lieut., for Officer i/c. Association Football.

From the "Portsmouth Football Mail."

ARMY CUP. (THIRD ROUND.)

Duke of Wellington's Regt. v. 1st Depot Tank Corps.

On the Men's Ground. The attendance was 1100.
Teams:—

Duke of Wellington's Regiment—Mason ; Myatt, Ward ;
Lees, McGarney, Hall ; Mellor, Nunn, Thorpe, Jackson, Earl.

Royal Tank Corps—Jolly ; Dixon, Baddy ; Barlow, Wilde,
Fryer ; King, Munday, Sinclair, Geddes, Gainham.

The opening exchanges were in favour of the Tank Corps, and Mason had to kick out of goal in the first minute. For a time play was confined mainly to midfield, the ball being continually ballooned by the players without method from one end to the other. The Wellington's broke away, and Thorpe tried to breast through, but Baddy nipped in and kicked away. At this period the Wellington's were having a busy time to keep out the fast opposing forwards and it was the sturdy defenders who always came out on top, kicking and tackling brilliantly. The Tank Corps were now on the defensive, and after Thorpe, Jackson and Earle had combined well together, Dixon broke up the movement when Thorpe looked like going through. Thorpe missed an open goal, but somewhat made up for this a minute later by testing Jolly with a very hot shot, the goalie having to dive to clear. The first half had been in favour of the Wellington's, and if their shooting had been up to the mark, they would have had a good lead. The Tank Corps were clever in midfield, but marred their chances by falling to pieces when near goal. Half-time:—

Duke of Wellington's Regt.	...	0
Royal Tank Corps	...	0

The Depot recommenced determinedly, and Geddes missed a glorious opportunity in the first few minutes. The Wellington's got away, and Nunn just sent wide. The game was very fast, and the Depot, having the advantage of the exchanges, were soon two up through Wilde and King. If Mason had judged the flight of the ball no goals would have been scored. Both shots were from a long way out, and he had plenty of time to make up his mind what to do. Towards the close the Wellington's pressed hard, and the excitement was intense when Thorpe shot through their only goal. Final:—

Royal Tank Corps Depot	...	2
Duke of Wellington's Regt.	...	1

U.S. LEAGUE DIVISION I.

Duke of Wellington's Regt. v. H.M.S. VERNON.

At Forton. The Wellington's lacked the services of Coates, who was badly injured at the Gosport Hospital Cup-tie at Parkhurst on Thursday. Teams :—

Duke of Wellington's Regiment—Mason ; Myott, Ward ; Sergt. Lees, McGarney, Hall ; Miller, Nunn, Thorpe, Jackson, Earl.

H.M.S. Vernon—Taylor ; Crockford, Kenny ; Robertson, Wyers, Roberts ; Benfield, Urry, Monny, Savage, Rudd.

The Wellington's quickly attacked, Thorpe passing to Jackson, who sent in a fast ground shot, Taylor going full length to clear. End to end play ruled for a time, but a cross wind tended to mar the play, the ball often going into touch. Mason saved well from Young and Savage, and at the other end Thorpe and Earl were often in the limelight. When play had been in progress for 20 minutes, the Navy men pressed persistently, Myott kicking clear when Mason was solely troubled by Urry and Rudd. The Sailors' half back line, with Robertson often prominent, was of great assistance to the forwards, and on several occasions the Wellington's had reasons to thank their strong defence. For the remainder of the half the Wellington's were more often in the picture, NUNN scoring for them from close range just before half time. The soldiers' shooting was none too good at times, and opportunities of scoring were often missed.

Half-time :	Duke of Wellington's Regt. ...	1
	H.M.S. Vernon	0

NUNN scored again for the Soldiers in the second-half.

Final :	Duke of Wellington's Regt. ...	2
	H.M.S. Vernon	0

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BOY'S ARMY CUP.

SECOND ROUND.

The Band of the R.A.O.C. dispensed selections of an appropriately inspiring character at Hilsa on Monday afternoon, when the Depot Team entertained the Duke of Wellington's Regt. in the second round of the Army Boys' Cup. The lads of the

R.A.O.C. are the holders of the trophy and their convincing win of 8—0 over "Dukes" suggests that they are out to retain the cup at Hilsa for another year without any mistake about it. The team work of the losers was not so good as the Corps, but they played strenuously, and were triers all the time. Vanhinsberg and Heany broke through the Ordnance defence without success, and the losers' backs Kennedy and Blash, were up against tremendous odds.

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Battalion Inter-Coy. Competition:

SEMI-FINAL.

D. Coy. Duke of Wellington's Regt. v. C. Coy.

Played on the New Barracks Field, Gosport. D. Coy. set up a strong attack, and after fifteen minutes' play Kirby, one of the four new members of the team, gave his side the lead. End to-end play characterised the remainder of the half, Dunn eventually equalising. At half-time the score was one-all.

C. Coy. had the better of the play in the second half, and their opponents were kept almost constantly on the defensive. Further goals for C. Coy. were scored by Dunn and Malone, the latter being a particularly fine effort from 15 yards range. Final :

C. Coy.	3
D. Coy.	1

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HOCKEY.

Although arriving after the Hockey season had started, the Battalion has had a successful season, losing one game out of nine played up to date.

The standard of play has improved, and more interest has been taken in the game.

Owing to Rugger and Soccer being played at the same time the Battalion team has been selected from a limited number of players.

Next season with a ground of our own and more facility for practice, it is hoped to select the team from a larger number of players.

Lieut. Sampson, Corpl. Thorpe and L/Cpl. Breeden played for the Portsmouth Garrison, and Lieut. Sampson towards the end of the season played for Portsmouth United Services Team.

Sergt. Henderson one of our keenest and oldest players left the Battalion in January a few days before the third round of the Army Inter-Unit Competition in which we were defeated by 3 goals to one.

The following are the games played and results :

Battalion v H.M.S. Fisgard	5—1	Friendly
„ „ 1st (Depot) Btn. Royal Tank C.	3—2	Army Inter-Unit Com. 1st round
„ „ The Princes of Wales' Vols.	7—1	Friendly
„ „ The Royal Marine Light Infy	10—1	Friendly
„ „ Royal Artillery (Portsmouth)	3—0	Army Inter-Unit Com. 2nd round
„ „ The Buffs	1—3	Army Inter-Unit Com. 3rd round

H. S. SAMPSON, Lieut.

O. i/c. Hockey.

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BOXING.

In the first round of the Inter Unit Team Competition we were fortunate in drawing a bye. In the second round we met and defeated the Prince of Wales Volunteers by 14 points to 12, the members of our team winning their fights, Pte. Hawes, Sergt. Anderson, Pte. McGarvey, L/Cpl. Wright, Pte. Mills and Pte. Foy.

In the third round we were knocked out by the 1st. Bn. South Wales Borderers from Devonport. The result, 16 points to 15, was in doubt right up to the end. The following were successful in their fights. 2nd. Lieut. Faithfull, 2nd. Lieut. Browne, Pte. Hawes, (walk over), Sergt. Anderson Pte. Mills. Lately several of our men have fought with success at 'The Ring,' Portsmouth.

J. WESTMACOTT, Lieut.

O. i/c Boxing.

HUMOUR FROM SCHOOL.

The Editor can personally vouch for the following 'howlers' which have been perpetrated in the Battalion School :-

Anzacs are soldiers in India with long hair and nearly black men.

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In Rugby Football the sphere is oval shaped.

* *

The Victory was the ship on which Nelson sailed to fight the battle of Waterloo.

* *

The Suez Canal is situated in the Mediterranean Sea and it flows through Mesopotamia.

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The Imperial Guards were picked men from the French Army which we fought at the Battle of Trafalgar.

* *

Nelson got an army together and captured Abyssinia.

NOTICE.—In future issues of "REGIMENTAL NOTES" a page will be allotted to each Company, Band, Signallers, and M.G. Platoon for their news. Articles for the new issue should be sent to the Editor by June 14th.



