

No.65 October 1946



THE IRON DUKE

*THE MAGAZINE OF
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGT
(WEST RIDING)*

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The
REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE
of
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S
REGIMENT
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VOL. XXII.

No. 65. OCTOBER, 1946

Printed and Published for the Regimental Committee by
LAWRENCE BROS. (Weston-super-Mare), LTD., North Street, Weston-super-Mare.
Members Association of Service Newspapers.
Advertising Agents for National and Local Advertising Combined Service Publications
67-68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. Tel.: Whitehall 2504.

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Lt.-General Sir A. F. Philip Christison, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. M.C.

THE IRON DUKE

EDITORIAL.

THE 1st Battalion are back in Palestine and have the unpleasant duty of suppressing Jewish terrorism and illegal immigration at Haifa. This recalls the rather similar trials the 2nd Battalion had to undergo in Ireland after the 1st World War. We have unfortunately received no news from the 2nd Battalion, and fear that their contribution, which we heard was being despatched early in August, may have gone astray. Since our last issue the 5th Battalion has been disbanded, and we hear that the 6th and 7th Battalions and the 146th Regiment R.A.C. (formerly the 9th Battalion) are to be disbanded before long. It is to be hoped that these battalions will be resuscitated in the new Territorial Army some day. Before our next issue the I.T.C. will have returned to the Barracks, Halifax, which will again become the Regimental Headquarters.

We were very sorry to hear that H.M.S. *Iron Duke* is to be broken up after a long and honourable service in two World Wars, and so ends the intimate connection between her and the Regiment.

Two Regimental re-unions have been held this summer, after a lapse of seven years, and both of them were a great success. The Officers' Dinner Club held their Annual Dinner in London on 6th June, and the O.C.A. and Regimental Association held a combined dinner at the Barracks, Halifax on 15th June. Both are reported fully in this number.

Before the war the Editor always submitted an annual report to the Committee of THE IRON DUKE at meetings held on the afternoon of the day of the Dinner in London. During the war years no reports were made, and it may interest readers to hear of one or two points from this year's report. The decision to continue publication during the war was arrived at by the Colonel of the Regiment after consideration of all the pros and cons, and that it was a sound one will, we think, be agreed to by all, for the record of war service of all units of the Regiment, albeit restricted by the censorship, is a valuable one.

In 1939, owing to the reduction of income from advertisements and consequent need for economy, it was decided that the magazine should be kept to 64 pages. Then came paper rationing which entailed a further reduction to 56 pages, and this limit has still to be maintained, owing both to the shortage of paper and to the greatly increased cost of production. In one or two war numbers recourse was had to a smaller type of print in order to include important articles, but this is expensive and cannot be used normally.

A circular has been sent to subscribers giving the Editor's and Business Manager's requirements. We would stress however the need for support from readers of THE IRON DUKE in helping to improve such items as Personalia, Obituary and Awards. A certain number of readers are most helpful, but they are too few, and it is to be hoped that more will come forward.

We have obtained a copy of a book which has just been published entitled "Chindit Column 76" by W. A. Wilcox (Longman, Green and Co., Ltd., price 10/6). It is too

late for a review of this book, which is of interest to the Regiment, but we quote here the last paragraph of a review of it by S. H. F. Johnston, which appeared in *The Spectator* of 23rd August last. He wrote:—

He (Wilcox) gives us some unforgettable pictures of the officers and men who endured such tremendous hardships, made such long marches through such extremely difficult country and fought so gallantly against their fanatical enemies. To the military historian there is a certain fitness in the fact that Chindit Column 76 consisted of the 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, formerly known to fame as the 76th (Hindoostan) Regiment of Foot.

And now to drop the Editorial "we." Although I have thanked them individually I should like to record here also my very great gratitude to all those who subscribed to the magnificent testimonial, which was presented to me at the Regimental Dinner by the Colonel of the Regiment on 6th June, 1946, as a tribute to my 21 years' service as Editor of THE IRON DUKE. It was an occasion I am never likely to forget.

FRONTISPIECE.

We are glad to be able to reproduce a recent portrait of Lt.-General Sir Philip Christison, Bart., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Northern Command.* Sir Philip commanded the 2nd Battalion in India from March, 1937, until he was appointed to the command of the 4th Quetta Infantry Brigade in early 1938. He was born on 17th November, 1893, was educated at Edinburgh Academy and Oxford University, and joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders on 5th September, 1914. He served in France and Belgium during the 1914-18 war, was wounded and gained the M.C. and bar. In 1927 he entered the Staff College, Camberley, and after passing out in 1928 held various staff appointments until appointed to the command of the 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. During the 1939-45 war he rose from brigade commander to divisional and corps commander.

We print below a tribute paid to him in *News from S.E.A.C.*:—

"The work of the 15th Corps under Lt.-General Sir Philip Christison has sometimes been overlooked. ~~They were, however, the corps~~ which inflicted the first land defeat by British forces over the Japanese in this theatre in the successful battle in Arakan at the beginning of 1944. It was 15th Corps which burst the bubble of Japanese invincibility, and the effect of this victory upon the morale of our forces and upon the whole outlook of the Allied armies in Burma cannot be over-estimated. After that victory 15th Corps, fighting often in the worst conditions on the whole Burma front, secured the necessary air bases and ports from which the victorious advance of the 14th Army over the Chindwin and down the centre of Burma was sustained. Finally, it was forces from 15th Corps which made the amphibian and airborne landings south of Rangoon to capture that city and set the seal of success upon the Burma operations.

During the last two months the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Land Forces, South-East Asia, was Lt.-General Sir A. F. Philip Christison, Bart., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C. In this period the final battles in Burma took place and over 11,700 Japs were trapped and killed in their attempt to escape from the Pegu Yomas.

In a special message Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, said:—

'I congratulate you and the forces under your command on your great and crowning victory. I thank you for the great work you have done while you have been Commander-in-Chief. You must be very proud of the fact that you were the only British C.-in-C. engaged in active operations against the enemy when the end came.'

* Now G.O.C.-in-C. designate Scottish Command.

REGIMENTAL NEWS.

1st Battalion.

The period covered by these notes, 1st April to 1st August, has been one of comparative peace, punctuated by many minor flaps, and overshadowed by the cloud of sentries and guards that it has been our duty to find. We have just managed to get everyone an average of two nights in bed out of three over a period of nine days, and company commanders and C.S.M.'s wish they had paid more attention to arithmetic at school.

Despite the bogey of guards, road blocks, patrols, immediate readiness platoons, etc., we have managed to enjoy ourselves quite a bit. Cricket has got going quite well though the standard is lower than last year and the number of players fewer. Swimming is very popular and is the only answer to the sticky hot Palestinian afternoons.

When we arrived back in Palestine from our sumptuous quarters in Moascar we viewed our new camp with considerable disfavour. Before the hot weather started it wasn't too bad but the prospects for the summer were "snug." However, like a bolt from the blue came the news that we were to effect a straight swop with 163 Transit Camp who for three years or more had been occupying Peninsular Barracks in Haifa, a pleasant, well laid out, peace-time, hutted camp right on the sea.

We dug the transit camp out on the 1st of May and settled down to making ourselves tidy and comfortable in their place. We have succeeded very well and although we are a bit cramped by encroachments in the shape of Dados, A.P.O.'s, etc., we are well off. Three tennis courts, a tarmac hockey pitch (the R.S.M.'s delight), an excellent cinema, first class N.A.A.F.I., polished tables in the Mess, fans that work, verandahs on huts that face the right way, and swimming on the doorstep, have all helped considerably in keeping morale high.

Large quantities of whitewash have been used and hundreds of up-ended one gallon U.S. petrol tins placed around the paths of the camp. Gardening has filled in many spare hours for all ranks and the results so far are most encouraging. We have our own nursery garden, and if we are fortunate enough to remain *in situ* for a few more months we shall have a first class camp.

Just before our move to our new camp we were forced by lack of officers and men to reduce the Battalion from six companies to four. "B" Company disappeared altogether to reinforce the other rifle companies. Support Company as such has gone and each rifle company now has some mortars, carriers and pioneers. Old hands from "B" and "Sp." Companies will therefore understand why there are no company notes from these two companies in this issue of THE IRON DUKE.

We were selected to represent the Division in a King's birthday parade in Haifa. The turnout and bearing of the Regiment were excellent and messages of congratulation were received from the Divisional and Brigade Commanders.

Waterloo Day did not pass unnoticed and was observed as a holiday with donkey races and side shows in the morning, an officers v. other ranks' cricket match in the afternoon, and parties throughout the camp in the evening. Despite the blowing up of bridges two nights before, we were able to celebrate in traditional style.

Training has been spasmodic during this period owing to the numbers on guards and duties, but every opportunity has been taken. Our part in the operations on the 29th June was small, but proved that our training had been sound, the Battalion team worked very smoothly, and it was hard to realise that, apart from a very few old soldiers, this was the first operation for most of the Battalion. The Arabs, judging by the number of cups of free coffee produced, appreciated our efforts.

During the period the release schemes both Class A and B have continued to take their toll and no week passes without farewells. Python is the newest bogey, and we lose from all sources the C.O., the second-in-command, Q.M., one major, three captains,

R.S.M., R.Q.M.S., five C.S.M.'s, all the C.Q.M.S.'s by the end of September. Their understudies are in line already and will, we are sure, maintain the high standards and traditions of their predecessors in the 33rd.

Since the last edition of THE IRON DUKE, we have received notification of the following honours and awards :—Mentioned in Despatches for gallantry in Italy.

CAPT. W. PERRITT.

5126585 CPL. H. EVANS,

4626236 L/CPL. R. COLLOM.

H.M. THE KING'S BIRTHDAY PARADE, 13th June, 1946.

The King's birthday celebrations in Haifa this year were marked by a military parade of representative bodies of the Royal Navy, the Army and Palestine Police. The Navy were represented by one officer and 30 marines from H.M.S. *Superb*, the Army by 19 officers and 393 other ranks of the Battalion, and the Police by one officer and 48 mixed British, Arab and Jewish policemen. The whole parade was commanded by Lt.-Col. W. H. Hulton-Harrop, D.S.O., K.S.L.I., the acting Brigade Commander, and a Royal Marine Band and the Pipes and Drums of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Scots were on parade.

The parade was formed up in review order on the square outside the main railway station in Haifa with the Dukes in the centre and the Marines and Police on the flanks. The Divisional Commander, Major-General R. N. Gale, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., accompanied by the District Commissioner, Mr. A. N. Law, arrived at 11.00 hours, and after a general salute the parade was inspected.

After the inspection the parade marched past, the Divisional Commander taking the salute. The order of march was the Pipes and Drums of 2nd Battalion The Royal Scots, the Royal Marines, The Dukes marching in four companies, and the Palestine Police. The Royal Marine Band was formed up opposite the saluting base and played during the march past. The route of the march past was lined by the 2nd Battalion The Sherwood Foresters, who had little difficulty in controlling the fairly large numbers of Arabs and Jews who thronged the streets to watch the parade.

The Battalion's steadiness on parade, excellent marching and first class turn out were remarked upon in letters of congratulation from the Brigade and Divisional Commanders. We managed by exchange with the Foresters to get all No. 1 rifles with long bayonets, and the Q.M. somehow managed to collect 400 pairs of short puttees.

The notice for this parade was as short as that for our last big ceremonial affair, our march into Rome in June, 1944, and the results were as good. Our young soldiers showed the few remaining old hands that though they are new they can be safely left to maintain the high standards set by their predecessors.

WATERLOO DAY.

Waterloo Day was celebrated this year in more or less traditional style, starting with sporting events on the football field during the morning, an officers *versus* other ranks cricket match in the afternoon, and very successful parties in the officers' and sergeants' Messes to round off the day.

The sports, ranging from the equestrian to the aquatic, produced little physical benefit, but provided considerable amusement. Major Huskisson's masterly handling of a half-hand high moke from the MacGuinness stables had to be seen to be believed. As the striking action photograph so vividly shows, it was hard to tell whether the moke propelled the major or *vice versa*; it all depended on whose feet happened to be in contact with mother earth at the time. However, despite these combined efforts, the Peninsular Plate was won by Minute MacLeod on a much mightier mount. Other donkey races were won in equally fine style by Cpl. Knowles and Pte. Collins, C.Q.M.S. Parker gaining more laurels for "H.Q." Company as a very dashing donketeer.

The sack race was obviously in the bag for Pte. Brown of "D" Company, while Cpl. Middleton and Pte. Sayer qualified for inclusion in the 33rd Lancers by a very spirited but wet performance against the bucket and ring. Q.S.M.I. Minto's devilish cunning was set at nought by Pte. Yates of "C" Company who galloped gaily over, under, through and round all obstacles—though the "bun and bottle" had him a little worried at first. Sgt. Large and L/Cpl. Johnson gave a very fine demonstration on how three can be just as good as two pairs—in legs at any rate. Q.M.S. Cope proved the truth of the Biblical saying about firsts and lasts and all that by losingly winning the slow bicycle race.

C.S.M's Clarke and Walton, amongst others, got very wet playing greasy poles; while the water carts came into their own when competitors showed their skill with the anti-riot weapon—a jet of water; and though the object of the exercise was to knock six tennis balls off a stand before your opponent did likewise—this proved to be quite incidental.

The officers *versus* other ranks cricket match resulted in a win for the other ranks by eight wickets. The officers batted first and, apart from Lt. MacLeod (30), could make little headway against the bowling of Sgt. Smith (4 for 23) and R.S.M. O'Shea (3 for 13) and were dismissed for 93. The officers' bowling was not strong and their total was passed by the other ranks for the loss of only two wickets. The match ended with the other ranks' total at 122 for 3, Sgt. Smith, who opened the batting, being 55 not out, Sgt. Holland 26 and Pte. Pearson 21.

Waterloo Day ended with numerous parties which are described elsewhere.

OFFICERS' MESS.

Since our last appearance in THE IRON DUKE we have spent all our time in Palestine and most of that in a peace-time camp—Peninsular Barracks—in Haifa. Conditions here are excellent—showers, baths and taps which work most of the time. Our three tennis courts are well used and most evenings see some of the officers battling at tennis. We don't boast of being good but we can certainly give anybody who comes to challenge us a very good game. Swimming is in full swing and while we do have a beach just outside our perimeter most of the swimmers prefer to go to Athlit, of illegal immigrant fame, their excuse being the much cleaner sand on the beach, but one wonders whether the adjacent Polish girls' camp has any influence in the matter.

Since most of our old hands have now left us, we regret that we have only one party of any note to report. From the very feeling at the breakfast table it was quite obvious that Waterloo Day, 1946, was going to be one of the best ever. A Mess cocktail party was scheduled for the evening and this began at 7 o'clock and was described as T.G.F. by most people capable of expressing a considered opinion. Even Donald's fairy lighting in the garden which blazed into glory for precisely 30 seconds before flinging the Mess and ante-room into darkness failed to disrupt the drinking and small talk for more than the same space of time.

The early morning saw a quietly select party sitting on the lawn listening to huntin', shootin' and fishin' stories from Jones-Stamp down for a few days of civilised existence before a further rigorous spell with the T.J.F.F., and Doc. Darbyshire's doings in his mountain fortress near Tiberias. It is to be regretted that the Mess parties of old are now no longer. Once, perhaps twice, but certainly no more, there has been singing in the Mess. But what pathetic stuff it really was! Huskisson and Potty have battled manfully, but the odds were too great—nobody knows the words.

Strange as it may seem we are privileged to be able to record that the Colonel is actually commanding the Battalion. Having speculated as to what act of the Gods had decreed that Reynolds should have two L.I.A.P's in South Africa within two years, speculation was even more rife when it became known that the Colonel was to have a second month's home leave, this, mind you, after he had merely been back from L.I.A.P. a paltry eight or nine months. The feeble excuse of a course in U.K. was not on the

whole accepted. Truly a strange thing. However "B" echelon did seem to agree with him and on his coming "up the line" again we are pleased to say that he is still in his usual extremely good form.

There have been the usual comings and goings. Forsyth, Perritt, Isles (now adjutant), Wilson, McGuinness, Bullock, Golding and Dunlop have all returned from L.I.A.P., most of them convinced that there is only one place to be—and that is *not* Palestine. Hugh Le Messurier has departed to Newfoundland on that weird leave known as D.O.M.C.O.L. and from his letters it would appear that he is spending most of his time fishing. We welcome Lts. McLeod, Carne-Ross, Bush, Taylor and 2nd Lts. Bonell, Cobb and Clark. We wish them luck and hope that their stay with the 33rd will be long.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Our last notes left us whilst we were in rather a forlorn camp, near Haifa. After the sumptuous surroundings at Moascar, our Mess was located in a Nissen hut and though it was rather bleak, we settled down for a short time with our old pastimes of crib and table tennis.

On May Day the Battalion moved into a peace-time camp on the edge of the sea and only a few minutes ride from the centre of Haifa. We were fortunate enough to occupy an excellent Mess, complete with billiard table. Our past dwellings have been completely surpassed, and our present abode is certainly the best we have had since coming abroad. Needless to say there have been some battles on the billiard table and to find a champion we held snooker and billiards tournaments during June. He was easily found! Sgt. Turner, only promoted the day before the tournaments began, excelled himself by winning both competitions.

Waterloo Day was spent in the usual manner, and we only regret that our guests (some of the Palestine Police) were unable to attend owing to "circumstances beyond their control." However, everything went off well, and the newer members were introduced to those two boxing champions "Ala-Keefic" and "Stanis-wire" whom we have seen so often in the past under their very able promoter R.Q.M.S. Kenchington. At the end of June we held a tournament evening with the officers, but things went down so well that no one seemed to be able to remember the results and so the evening was called a draw.

At the moment our ranks are swelled by some Sgts. and H/C of the Police Mobile Force, and they are proving their worth in the realms of sport. They were shattered, however, at cricket, and the Mess won a very good game by 6 wickets—thanks to Sgt. Smith's excellent batting and bowling. They have entered into our activities with zest and relations are extremely cordial.

As the present camp has three tennis courts, it was not long before racquets and balls were obtained and several members could be seen battling away daily on the courts. Prominent amongst these were R.S.M. Birch, C.S.M. O'Shea, Q.M.S. Cope and Sgt. Smith. The latter have been wondering how the base lines moved so frequently during their final games. In the swimming world we congratulate Sgt. Adams on winning the 100 yards breast stroke at our Brigade swimming gala.

Last week we said farewell to R.S.M. Birch who left for his Python and a series of leaves in the U.K. that regular soldiers seem to get these days. We were very sorry to see him go. Our best wishes go out to him for the future, and also to his successor O'Shea. Promotions have again been very rapid and to all members we say congratulations. Particularly on the promotions of Taylor and Witty to C.S.M.'s. The former will need lots of luck on assuming the Sergeant-Majorship of "Headache Company," i.e., H.Q.

The next notes will find the numbers of "old" soldiers sadly depleted. We lose eleven of the Mess on Python in September and old faces will be disappearing rather too regularly then. The password of the Mess is now "Roll on my three and six."

COMPANY NOTES.

"A" COMPANY.—Shortly after writing our last notes we left Moascar and once again arrived back in Palestine to take up our normal I.S. duties; these duties were nothing new to the Company, except of course to our many reinforcements who had joined us in Egypt. On arriving in Palestine our first abode was St. Luke's Camp; this was a tented camp which we all found vastly different from our very comfortable billets of Moascar days. After a three weeks' period at St. Luke's we moved nearer to Haifa into Peninsular Barracks, which is a hutted camp right by the shores of the Mediterranean. The light that came into R.S.M. Birch's eye when he saw the expansive parade ground was noticed by all and sundry.

At this juncture Major Le Messurier, our company commander, left us to go on Sewlrom and Domcol (really these abbreviations are getting beyond a joke!)—our best wishes go with him. For a short time Lt. Townend took over the duties of company commander before leaving to go on compassionate posting. We welcome back from L.I.A.P. our present company commander, Major Forsyth and Lt. Dunlop, now Capt., to whom we offer our most hearty congratulations; also newly joined are 2nd i/c Capt. Connor, just back from hospital, Lt. Bush, 2nd/Lts. Cobb and Clark, and not forgetting C.S.M. Clarke (at present on a scroungers course in Cairo with his "Mucker" Sgt., Hides), and last but not least our able C.Q.M.S. Duncan.

Sport has been very hard to combine with our various duties but even so we have had so far a most successful cricket season, including four wins over "C" Company on the trot. On the results of the battalion swimming gala, we must also take our hats off to several people of the company for their fine show, namely, Sgt. Adams who won the 100 yards breast stroke, Major Forsyth who shook us all with his excellent 1 length crawl, Ptes. Roberts and Reed in the 100 yards free style and diving respectively.

Promotions have been too numerous to mention all, but we offer our congratulations to them all especially the following:—Sgts. Taylor and Witty to C.S.M.; Sgt. Holdsworth to C.Q.M.S.; Cpls. Osgarby, Murray, Cook, Odd, Holland, Sharp and Sharman to Sgts. We have said farewell to many old friends going on Class "A" and "B" Release, including Sgts. Marshall, Murray and Twemlow, Ptes. Buckley and Ireland. The very best of luck to them all.

"C" COMPANY.—Since our last notes were published we have seen quite a few changes take place. Ptes. Brenton, Gray, Nelson and Potter have left us for civvy street. During June we said farewell to C.S.M. Hare (who we hope is now enjoying a country gentleman's life in Bedale) also Sgts. Tighe and Dent. In July we lost Sgt. Giblin, C.S.M. Power (with his fair crack of the whip) also C.Q.M.S. Smith (complete with 1157 for his civvy suit!). Anyway we hope they have all settled down to that rough life called "civvy street" and wish them all the best of luck.

In April we welcomed into our midst a number of the old "B" and "Sp" companies (which are temporarily disbanded) and who are now, we hope, fully "Charlie" company minded. We also welcomed Lt. Carne-Ross and 2nd/Lt. Bonell, and C.S.M. Crawley from "H.Q." Company. Our A/C.Q.M.S., Sgt. ("pick up tha musket") Smithson seems to be settling down to his new job, along with his clerk Lewthwaite, who has now risen to that dizzy height of L/Cpl. (Incidentally they are both wondering whether their "In" tray will ever be empty.) That veteran storeman of ours, Pte. Walker, is still dishing out his 4 x 2. Lt. Tattersfield is now Battalion Messing Officer, and keeps the supply of fish and cheese going! Our congratulations go to Capt. Hoyle on his recent engagement, and we are sorry he is to leave us so soon on release; also to Capt. Golding (who is now our 2nd i/c) on his promotion to Capt.

These last few months have seen us very busy, a short time being spent as Defence Company at Division H.Q., and although duties were heavy we enjoyed the change. As for sport our cricket team under Lt. Peel has played a few matches, but never seem to

meet oponents who will let them win. We heard a rumour that the Captain had asked our A/C.Q.M.S. to indent for 11 tennis racquets! Still we have won two matches and are still convinced our luck will change. We held our Company athletic meeting on 22nd July and all voted it a great success. Our Support Platoon and company H.Q. combined managed to carry the cup home, although after the first few events they were not really frightened of the Rifle Platoons. Some very fine races were run, and we spotted quite a lot of new talent amongst our reinforcements. Prizes were collected by Ptes. Steinberg, Smithson, Allman, Catton, Merchant, L/Cpls Clayton, Lewthwaite, Powell and Green. L/Cpl. Clayton also won the cup for scoring the highest number of individual points. Prizes were presented by our company commander, Capt. Woolley. For such a successful day our thanks must go to Lt. Carne-Ross, 2nd/Lt. Bonell, L/Cpl. Green and his typewriter, also that veteran company runner of ours, Pte. Gratricks, and many others who put in some really hard work.

At the time of writing we are training hard for the Battalion athletic meeting on August 6th, and have high hopes of repeating our success of the Battalion swimming championship, when we gained a narrow one point victory over "D" Company to win the Battalion swimming cup.

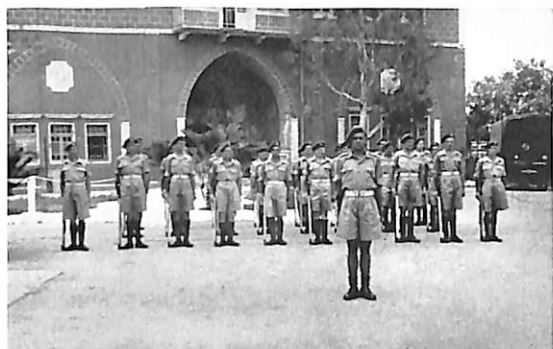
"D" COMPANY.—There has been very little time for relaxation since we arrived back in Palestine, although our duties have not been without the occasional bright moments. The Company was called upon to form part of the cordon during the recent anti-terrorist operations. The duty was carried out with such zeal and ability that a certain area of Palestine is, we understand, to be renamed "Hadar Hak Buckland"—with apologies to the Sherwood Foresters.

The Battalion swimming sports provided us with an excuse to have a day out at Athlit for swimming practice—everything was laid on! There were the refreshments, the horse that nobody rides, the "super" meal, the sea was there all right, and even a few Polish A.T.S., though it is doubtful whether the company administration service was directly responsible for them. The super meal rather belied its name, but it was gratifying to hear one trusting soul, as he looked doubtfully at his grubby slice of bread and tomato, remark, "Well it *must* be a 'super' meal, it says so on company detail!" We were somewhat chagrined at losing the swimming competition by one point, because, as we said afterwards, "If only so and so had swum a little faster in that, and we had done a little better in this, we'd have won easily." Strangely enough, the other companies were of exactly the same opinion! However, it was some satisfaction to know that we had won six prizes. Pte. Mortimer, our blonde "dark horse" strolled home in the 440 yards and 100 yards young soldiers' race. Cpl. Crawley won the 100 yards free style, Lt. Simpson, graceful as a paddle steamer, churned his way to victory in the 100 feet back stroke. Sgt. Dale won the 100 yards free style; and the winners of the relay were Lt. Simpson, Cpl. Cawley, and L/Cpl. Simpson.

In May the Company was given the privilege of providing a subaltern guard of honour for Lt.-General D'Arcy. We were well repaid for the hard work we put in shining boots and scabbards, etc., by a grand letter from the General complimenting the guard on its fine turn-out and excellent drill.

Although our company cricket team does not equal that of last year, we have nevertheless held our own with the other companies. The first two matches versus "C" Company and "H.Q." Company were very easily won, solely through the magnificent efforts of our 2nd i/c Capt. Fowler, who has since left us on demobilisation, and Cpl. Saville, who owing to an accident in the Battalion trial match will be unable to play again. The loss of these two stalwarts is being felt weekly, as up to now we have won but four of our seven games. However, with new talent showing itself daily we hope to end up with a very successful series of games. Players who have played extremely well so far this season are Lt. MacLeod, Sgt. Mudd, Cpl. Fisher, Cpl. Bamforth, L/Cpl. Beaumont and Pte. Kenvin.

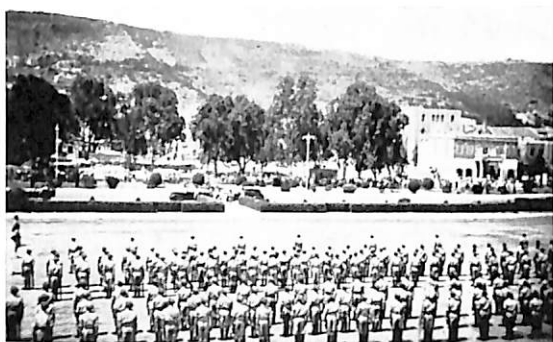
1st BATTALION, HAIFA.



Subalterns' Group of Honour ("D" Company) for Lt.-Gen. J. C. D'Arcy, C.B.E., M.C. (late G.O.C. Palestine and Transjordan.)



Waterloo Day, 1946. Peninsular Plate.



King's Birthday Parade, Haifa, 13th June, 1946.



The March Past. C.O., Adjutant, R.S.M. and No. 1 Company, 13th June, 1946.



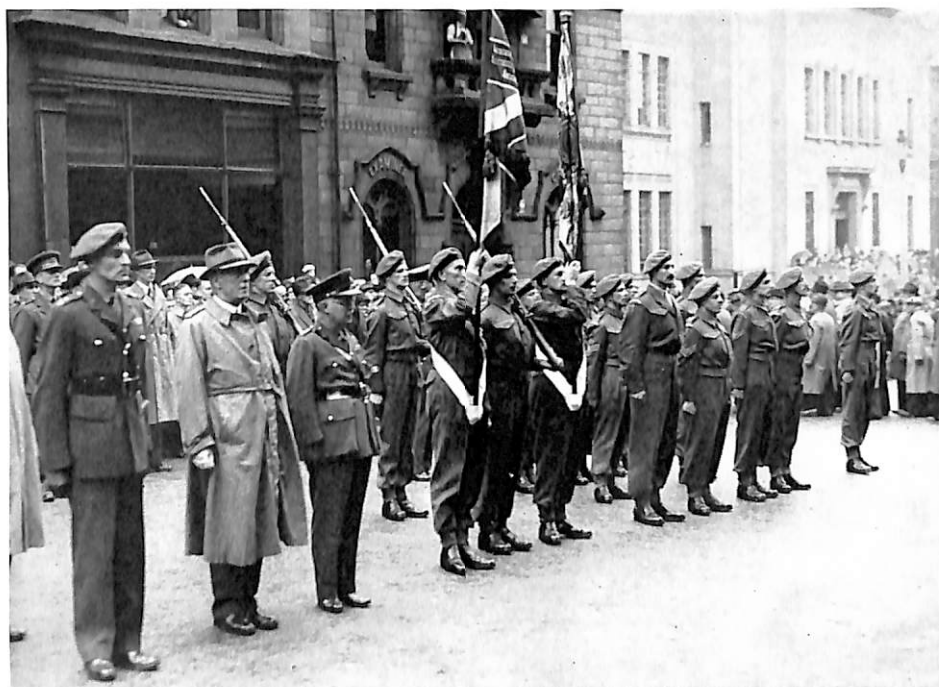
The Orderly Room, July, 1946.



Illegal Immigrants arriving at Haifa in sailing ship. (Escorted to Athlis detention camp by "D" Company).



Detachment representing the Regiment which took part in the Victory Parade, 8th June, 1946.
(See page 137.)



Return of the Cadre of the 5th Battalion to Huddersfield, 1st June, 1946. Left : Lt.-Col. F. A. CARLINE, O.B.E. (who commanded the Battalion in France and Germany), Colonel R. RIPPON, T.D., Colonel K. SYKES, O.B.E., M.C., T.D. Centre : Colour Party. Right : Battalion Cadre.

A good day was had by a number of the Company when we supervised the unloading of one of the illegal immigrants' ships. So pleased were the Jewish Agency with our "polite" handling of their misplaced comrades that we were showered with lemonade, biscuits, ice cream and oranges. We learnt from a high official of the Agency that a complete record of "D" Company's duty days was made, and those days were chosen for the arrival of their illegals—perhaps because we are so "gentlemanly!"

We have said goodbye regretfully to several staunch members of the Company during this period. Capt. Fowler who has left us for home and cricket, Pte. Lucas, our irreplaceable runner, Sgt. Cooke, Sgt. Large, L/Cpl. Beaumont, and Cpl. Miller. The regret was mostly on our side; in fact the chap who wrote, "Parting is such sweet sorrow" doesn't register much with the boys going on demobilisation. We welcome to the Company Lt. Gibbard who is already a true "D" Company "Wallah."

"H.Q." COMPANY. Again we are writing from the "land flowing with milk and honey"—Palestine, to which we came in April after a long and happy winter spent in Egypt. I think most of us prefer peace and quiet amid the "deserts" of Moascar to the onerous internal security duties which fall upon us in the land of Israel. After a very short stay in a horrible camp outside Haifa we were moved into Peninsular Barracks on the 1st of May, and have since been able to settle down and make ourselves comfortable, and of course the first thing to be done was the digging of the Bor garden by R.S.M. Birch and his "friends" from the Guard Room. They also planted some very neat rows of white-washed petrol cans which have been a big worry to some rather inexperienced M.T. drivers. The Company itself still resembles a transit camp. With a strength of about 240 including attached, and scattered all over the camp, we have difficulty in finding them all and discovering what they all do. Pay parade is the only time we can get them all together.

We have had very many changes caused by the "old hands" leaving us for more lucrative employment in civvie street. In April, after a big farewell party, we lost Sgt. Barnes' best friend Peacock, alleged comedian, ex-D.R. and ex-regimental postman. He was a big loss, especially when we discovered there were no "duty free" labels left in the camp. In May we lost Capt. (Schoolmaster) Hastings, the Company commander, Signal Sgt. Oxley, M.T. Sgt. Fensome, C.Q.M.S. Hayes, Pearce, Collom, Tatt, Dearman and a host of other long standing "Dukes."

Fortunately the first big party returned from leave in England in April, the second in May, so we were able to avoid further chaos. The Company funds, such as they are, have been through many hands recently. Firstly Capt. Hastings, followed by Capt. Perritt the S.O., and Capt. McGuinness, but neither of them stayed long. Major Blake, a regular "Duke," ex-1 Div. Recce., rejoined the Battalion and took up the reins as O.C. "H.Q." and Capt. "Mac" restarted the Education Scheme in May with an enormous staff of Sgts.

After "S" Company was disbanded in April we added yet another department to "H.Q." Company, this time "Z" Platoon, and Lt. D. A. Williams took on the mysterious appointment of officer i/c "Tracks." C.S.M. O'Shea has served us so faithfully for so long, we were sorry to lose him, but very pleased when he was promoted to R.S.M. on the departure of R.S.M. Birch for the U.K. on Sewlrom and Python, etc. His place as C.S.M. was taken by C.S.M. Taylor ex-"B" Company. Sgt. Fernley, ex "B" Company signaller, gave us a pleasant surprise when he returned from the School of Signals with a "D". We congratulate him and also his promotion to Signal Sergeant in succession to Sgt. Oxley.

As usual the Company has been well represented in sports in the Battalion. Our soccer season ended in April and cricket started with a swing. With such stalwarts as Sgt. Smith, R.S.M.'s Birch and O'Shea and Company Storeman Drake, we usually field a winning team. Even Orderly Room manage to find time off to give support. There are invariably about half a dozen "H.Q." personnel playing in the Battalion team. Hockey is always popular in "H.Q." and the few Company games played are always a win for us.

R.S.M. O'Shea, Sgt. Fernley, Cpl. Parry, Cpl. Moore are all regular Battalion players too. We can't imagine why anyone should want to play such a hard game on such a hard pitch as the parade ground, but despite grazes and bruises the players seem to enjoy it.

In the Battalion swimming sports held in July the Company were placed third. Since most of the judges and officials were from "H.Q.," we did expect a bit better result, but they were very fair in all their decisions.

Despite the obviously difficult and chaotic time we have in "H.Q." these days everybody worked extremely well during operation AGATHA when the Army rounded up certain terrorists. Capt. Potts complete with Sam Browne and polished pistol holster, and his "merry" men, were very busy at "B" Echelon sorting out the detainees, while Capt. McGuinness and staff were filling in forms in true Middle East fashion. We are now looking forward to the Company athletic sports on the 4th August, but the results will have to go in the next edition.

SPORT.

CRICKET.—Having lost most of our last season's stalwarts, the number of our successes is not, as yet, very high; but through the keenness and ability of our new players added to the experience of the older members the standard of play is improving with every match. Up to now the results of our fixtures are as follows:—Played 8; Won 4; Lost 4. The most notable success was against the Haifa District Police, who up to the time of our game had lost only one match. Two of our losses were very close and exciting games, both being against the same opponents, the 2nd Foresters.

On Waterloo Day the customary Officers versus O.R.'s game took place with the latter coming out easy winners, and is reported on elsewhere.

Another very close game took place on 24th July against the 1st K.S.L.I., whom we had beaten earlier on in the season. We scored our highest total of the season—150 for 7 declared, Sgt. Smith scoring 72 not out, Major Huskisson 22. The K.S.L.I. replied with 135 which took them within 10 minutes of time.

The players who deserve special mention are, Sgt. Smith, Cpl. Saville (who sustained serious injury in the Brigade trial match), Pte. Pearson, Lt. Peel, Pte. Drake (our big hitter). From the bowling point of view Sgt. Smith again shines with the best average, with R.S.M. O'Shea a very close second. The following have made regular appearances with the Battalion team:—Major Huskisson, Capt. Isles, R.S.M. Birch (now in U.K.), R.S.M. O'Shea, Sgt. Smith, Cpl. Saville, Cpl. Bamforth, Sgt. Holland, Lt. Judson, Lt. Peel, Lt. Bentley, Pte. Pearson, Pte. Drake, Sgt. Mudd.

In addition to the Battalion matches there have been a lot of inter-company battles which have been very keenly fought. Unfortunately we lack our own ground and can only get the use of the Garrison grounds on an average twice a week. Full use is always made of our allocation and by next year, if we are in the same camp, we will have our own pitch, and more and better cricket should be played.

HOCKEY.—Since the Battalion returned from Egypt, we have been fortunate enough to have had an excellent hockey pitch at our disposal. Despite the heat and the fact that slippers, P.T., will only last one game nowadays, we have had a most successful and enjoyable series of matches. Most of the local teams have been engaged and forced to withdraw with colours rather bedraggled. The other teams in the Brigade suffered a similar fate.

The team has played so well together that it is difficult to mention any names deserving especial praise. R.S.M. O'Shea's first time hitting and Cpl. Parry's sound defence have proved the downfall of many a visiting team. C.S.M. Crawley has led the team very ably and kept them well together. L/Cpl. Coote has played many a first-class game in that most unenviable position—outside left.

Up to press we have been fortunate in that release in its numerous disguises has not hit us too hard as yet. Sgt. Large disappeared in a cloud of dust in the direction of his demobilisation suit, but otherwise the team has remained fairly constant. The following players have been seen regularly hacking away at any ankles within reach :—R.S.M. O'Shea, C.S.M. Crawley, C.S.M. Clarke, Sgt. Fernley, Cpl. Parry, Cpl. Evans, L/Cpl. Coote, L/Cpl. Tough, L/Cpl. Moore, Pte. Perkins, Pte. Farmer. Other people who have appeared on the battlefield are :—Cpl. James, Sgt. Greenhalgh, L/Cpl. Cooper. Our thanks go to C.S.M. Walton who has regularly and very efficiently umpired our matches. Despite the sun we are playing about once a week and keeping our team together until the cooler weather comes, when we can play more often, though the team could hardly be more keen under any conditions.

SWIMMING.—Nearly everyone in the Battalion has taken advantage of our being stationed on the coast to swim whenever possible. The "Little Beach" in Haifa has been used to the full; the glorious strand at Athlit, and the hot springs at the "Sea of Galilee" have given enjoyment to all that have visited them.

Fully eighty per cent of the Battalion are competent swimmers and several of our swimmers have won distinction in the Brigade and Divisional galas. Pte. Mortimer of "D" Company won most of the Young Soldiers' races from brigade to divisional level. Sgt. Adams of "A" Company excelled at the breast stroke, and Capt. Golding of "C" Company and Pte. Cawood of "H.Q." Company dived stylishly. Pte. Randle of "H.Q." Company plunged over fifty feet.

The Battalion gala in the middle of July was held at the Mesi Pool at Acre, and the inter-company challenge cup was won by "C" Company from "D" Company who were only one point behind.

5th Battalion.

In our last number we published news of the 5th Battalion by their former commanding officer, Lt.-Col. F. A. Carline, which recounted their experiences up to the end of the war. Unfortunately no further news was received from them until we heard that they had been disbanded, and a cadre sent home in June, 1946. We print below some extracts from an account of the Cadre's reception in Huddersfield on 1st June, 1946, which appeared in *The Huddersfield Daily Examiner* of 7th June.—Ed.]

HUDDERSFIELD WELCOMES HOME THE 5th DUKES.

Thousands of men, women and children stood in the rain last Saturday afternoon to welcome home to Huddersfield the town's own Regiment, the 5th Dukes. A token force of ten officers and men from the 600 Regiment, R.A., 5th Duke of Wellington's, who had come from Germany, were met outside the railway station by more than 400 Old Comrades, men who served in the last two wars, who paraded with a Colour Party, Army Cadets and Lockwood Band (formerly the band of "B" Company, 26th Battalion, West Riding Home Guard.)

After parading to the Parish Church for a short service, the cadre and welcoming party marched to the Town Hall for a civic reception by the Mayor (Alderman Mary E. Sykes), with whom were the Mayoress (Miss Helen Robinson), the Borough M.P. (Mr. J. P. W. Mallalieu), the Deputy Mayor (Alderman Sidney Kaye) and Mrs. Kaye.

To the strains of the regimental march, "Wellesley," the Colours of the 5th Dukes were marched into the Town Hall, the heart of the community, as a symbol that the Regiment had come home to Huddersfield.

Before the arrival of the cadre at the station the welcoming party paraded from the

Drill Hall via Ramsden Street and Market Street to St. George's Square. They were under the command of Colonel G. P. Norton, Commanding Officer of the 5th Dukes. With him were Colonel S. C. Brierly, Colonel R. Rippon, Colonel Keith Sykes, Colonel F. A. Carline, Lt.-Col. R. C. Lawrence and Colonel J. Walker.

The Colour Party consisted of Lt.-Col. R. W. P. Sanderson (carrying the King's Colours) and Major P. Hinchliff (carrying the Regimental Colours), with an escort of three Warrant Officers.

On the platform there was a friendly scene as Colonel Norton and other officers gave a warm Yorkshire welcome to the cadre before going out to the more formal welcome in the Square.

Then with little more ceremony Colonel Norton gave his orders for the parade to move off down the Square to the Parish Church.

At the Church a short service was conducted by the Vicar of Huddersfield, the Rev. Frank Woods, and an address was given by the Rev. R. E. M. Haines. The Vicar was himself an Army chaplain until recently, and Mr. Haines, who made a special journey from the South of England for the occasion, was chaplain of the Regiment at the outbreak of war.

Mr. Haines said that the men of the 5th Dukes had once again honourably and greatly fulfilled the great traditions of the past.

The phrase "the soul of the Regiment" was not an empty one. Men might change, men might die, but the Regiment lived. That had been proved many times in the last thirty years, and the men of this district would prove it again in the future.

The men of the Regiment would, he hoped, carry back into civilian life the great virtues and qualities they had learned and practised while they had been soldiers—the disciplined way of life wisely understood; cheerfulness in times of disappointment; courage in the face of odds and kindness to all with whom they came into contact.

From the balcony of the Town Hall, the Mayor, in her address of welcome, said the 5th Dukes had acquitted themselves magnificently both in this country and abroad. The people of Huddersfield welcomed the return of the Regiment with gratitude and pride. Her fervent hope was that it would never again be necessary for the 5th Dukes to go to war.

At a time such as this they thought of those who had not come back from the last war or the first world war. Her brother was an officer of that Battalion in the first world war and did not return.

"My idea of true remembrance," said the Mayor, "is to see that it does not happen again. We did not manage the last time, but now we must devote our efforts to securing that for the future 'no war nor battle's sound is heard the world around.'"

Colonel Norton said that throughout the six and three-quarter years of absence on active service Huddersfield's own Regiment had maintained at the highest pitch the *esprit de corps* and the traditions of the 5th Dukes. He had received from Colonel C. J. Pickering, the Colonel of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, a letter of greetings and congratulations on "a magnificent job."

"On behalf of those who have gone before in the Regiment," said Colonel Norton, "we thank you. We have watched you with pride and are now very happy to welcome you home again from a job well done. At this moment let us remember with pride and gratitude those who did not return. You and all of us owe them a sacred duty—first, to see that their sacrifice is never forgotten and second, to maintain the traditions of the Regiment they have served so faithfully."

Colonel Norton paid a warm tribute to the "amazing work" done on behalf of the Regiment by the women of Huddersfield, and mentioned in particular the W.V.S., the Citizen's Advice Bureau, the Women's War-time Bureau and the Huddersfield Entertainments Committee.

Major W. L. Thornton (the Huddersfield Old Boys player), second-in-command of

the Regiment, who was in charge of the cadre, in thanking the Mayor and Colonel Norton for the welcome, said that the thrill he had felt in marching again through the town of Huddersfield was indescribable. It was a matter for regret that such a great battalion should have to go into a state of "suspended animation," but it was necessary to reduce the Army overseas. He hoped the day was not far away when it would be re-formed. He acknowledged the work done by Huddersfield people on behalf of the Battalion.

6th Battalion.

PERIOD MAY—AUGUST, 1946.—During the past three months the Battalion has had the interesting experience of training a part of the Cadre of the 2nd Division Royal Netherland Army. Over 100 officers and 1,000 other ranks passed through our hands for primary training during this period and the unusual experience was enjoyed by all ranks. Our many qualms regarding the language difficulty proved unfounded, a great help being the extreme keenness shown by all ranks of the R.N.A. The Cadre was composed of reserve officers and N.C.O.'s and young volunteer private soldiers. At first the reservists had some difficulty in forgetting their old training and starting afresh, but this "snag" was soon overcome. The new Dutch Army is being modelled entirely on the British Army, a graceful tribute to their liberators.

At the end of July we bade farewell to our Dutch friends and once again returned to the training of G.S.C. recruits. This occurred just as we thought we were about to go into a state of suspended animation. The release scheme is having its inevitable effect on the unit. We have now only two training companies and the average age of the Sergeants' Mess grows less every day.

In June we were given the honour of acting as hosts to the Regimental party taking part in the Victory March in London, but the full story of their doings can be read elsewhere in this issue.

OFFICERS' MESS.

Since the last issue of THE IRON DUKE the one event of note has been the dance held at the Officers' Club to celebrate "Waterloo Day." This was an excellent party and most officers (and no doubt many guests) woke up the following morning looking about for the "hair of the dog."

There are very few duty officers these days. One, Major C. Grieve, who left us at the beginning of June for leave and Germany, found that he had become a "boomerang" and rejoined us after his leave. "The Holy Land" beckons him now. Milligan, the adjutant, is another Duke still present. His sedentary occupation is relieved by the odd game of golf—but this does nothing to reduce his somewhat rotund figure. Lt. Longfellow got himself married on 1st August, on which occasion we all wished him and his bride every happiness. Unfortunately we were present at the ceremony only in spirit.

Life has become much quieter since we parted with our Dutch officer intakes. Before they left, our Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. H. A. Fitt, D.S.O., D.C.L.I., was presented with a very fine antique brass coffee pot for the Mess. Unfortunately this pot was cleaned just before the presentation, much to the horror of the Dutch officers, who had instructed that it should be handed over in its antiquated state!

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Since the last issue many changes have taken place, Nos. 35 and 36 A and S groups have departed, taking with them several members of the Mess. In addition we have had to say farewell to the Dutch members who were attached to us and who have now left us to join their parent units somewhere in the U.K. To all who have left us we wish

the best of luck. We welcome those posted as replacements, and trust their stay will be a pleasant one.

Indoor games seem to be the order of the day. We have visited both the 15th I.T.C. (Wilts and Gloucester Regiment) and No. 1 Holding Battalion (Essex Regiment), and although we lost both matches by a small margin, an enjoyable evening was spent on both occasions.

We are having quite a successful period at basket ball. The sergeants won the inter-section knock-out competition quite easily; in fact the majority of the matches were won by something approaching double figures.

"H.Q." Company challenged the Sergeants' Mess at cricket which resulted in a comfortable win for the Mess. This was no great achievement as five of the Mess team were members of the unit team. The best score was by C.S.M. Carr, D.L.I., who made 40. C.S.M. Wilson put up a good bowling performance.

Q.M.S.I. Ancill, A.C.C., has just paid a visit and spent the week-end with us. He was cook sergeant to this Battalion for some years. He is now an instructor at Dover with a C.I.C. Many Dukes will remember him at Aldershot where he was employed as a cook orderly.

CRICKET.

There was quite a gloomy outlook at the start of the season for only two of last year's team remained, and the threat to the Battalion of going into suspended animation did not allow a good fixture list. Though a few net practices were held in the evenings we turned out a rusty team against 15th I.T.C., our first match. However, our players soon found their form; the game, though abandoned through rain, was very much in our favour, and ever since then the team has continued to give a good account of itself.

In the Garrison knock-out competition we managed to reach the semi-final after a most exciting game in which we had to thank Cpl. Luff (22) and L/Cpl. Iliffe (24) for a great last-wicket partnership which won us the game. In the semi-final we met the R.E.M.E. Workshops and were beaten in what must be one of the closest games of the season. Cpl. Donnelly, and L/Cpl. Iliffe supported by some very fine fielding, soon had the R.E.M.E. team out for 54, but our own batsmen fared no better against the spin bowling of a member of the R.E.M.E. team, and despite a determined effort by our last two batsmen we were all out for 52. It is only fair to ourselves to add that Major Grieve and C.S.M. Wilson, two of the mainstays of the side, were away on leave at the time and so did not play.

The Battalion has been well represented in the Garrison XI for whom the following have turned out:—Major C. F. Grieve, Lt. Fiddaman, Cpls. Donnelly, Rudd and Luff and L/Cpl. Iliffe.

Only three more matches remain and we look forward particularly to our return fixture against Brigadier Smith's XI at Wickham Bishop. Though beaten by his team in the first of our matches, there was compensation in the form of a basket of strawberries for each man in the team after the match.

The following have represented the Battalion during the season:—Major C. F. Grieve, Lt. Fiddaman, C.S.M.'s Jackson, Carr, Blenkinsop and Wilson, Sgt. Davis, Cpls. Luff, Rudd, Brown and Donnelly, L/Cpls. Iliffe, Richards and Heeley, and Ptes. Henson, Morris, Watson, and our umpire, Pte. Burrell.

Results to date are:—Played 12, won 9, drawn nil, abandoned 1, lost 2. Outstanding Performances:—Batting.—Major C. F. Grieve, 56 not out v. 15th I.T.C., 55 not out v. 1st Holding Battalion, 48, v. 186th P.O.W.; C.S.M. Carr, 45 v. 186th P.O.W. Bowling.—C.S.M. Wilson, 9 wickets for 14 runs v. 1st Holding Battalion; Pte. Morris, 7 wickets for 35 runs v. R.A.M.C.

7th Battalion.

Since our last contribution we have moved to a small farming town named Buren, which is near to the B.A.O.R. Training Centre at Paderborn. We have been very busy guarding a prisoner-of-war camp and the duties have been very heavy. "C" Company became demonstration company at the B.A.O.R. School of Infantry and earned great praise for its really hard work. We have taken part in many and varied forms of sport, including riding, shooting, swimming, athletics, cricket, etc., particularly distinguishing ourselves in the Divisional shooting, the team being led by the C.O., Lt.-Col. Cumberlege.

Many regular "Dukes" have joined us, including Austin, Marrett, Simonds (as adjutant), and Kavanagh still remains as second-in-command.

Our Band has very regretfully had to close down owing to the many guards commitments, but we hope to re-assemble it again before long.

May was disastrous for the "Iron Duke" canteen. While the roof was being repaired, the weather changed and a heavy downpour of rain resulted in the collapse of the second and third floors. Fortunately nearly all our stores and equipment were recovered intact, although they were rather wet. Within a week new premises were found and the "Iron Duke" was in full swing again. Owing to the printing works being 17 miles away from the Battalion, the *Yorkshire Pud* appears twice a week in the form of a four-page copy. We arranged to find a place where "blocks" could be made, so we still continue to get our ration of "pin-ups."

At the moment the *Yorkshire Pud* seems to be going round the world. Copies are being sent to Greece, Palestine, Italy and Africa. Lately we received a request from the Yale University Library for a complete volume of the *Yorkshire Pud*. It is a rather tall order, but we are doing our best to supply it.

During the last few months the Battalion soccer team has been quite busy. They played the town of Buren five times, and with one exception won each game with a margin of five goals. We lost to the 11th R.S.F. and beat the 2nd Gloucesters 2—1. Basketball still remains a popular game within the Battalion. The officers' team still manage to retain its position at the top of the league. On 26th June a Battalion sports meeting was held at the B.A.O.R. Training School. "A" Company were the winners after putting up a very good show in spite of poor weather. On 29th July the Battalion took part in the Brigade rifle meeting. The Battalion finished second and later excelled itself in the Divisional and Corps rifle meeting, the C.O. being captain of the Divisional team. Riding classes are well attended and many men go fishing and shooting. Cricket is in full swing, and we are playing various outside units and having an inter-company league.

I do not think enough has been said in praise of Colonel Hamilton, our late C.O. He took over a great heritage from Brigadier Wilsey, who had raised the Battalion to a high fighting pitch and who led it so gallantly and so brilliantly in the early campaign days. Hamilton commanded the Battalion on the Island at Nijmegen and conducted that brilliant defensive battle of Haalderen, which appeared in ABCA (War) as a first-class example of defence. He led the Battalion right up to the war end, the Battalion having all the time the utmost confidence in his exceptional ability. Truly we had been blessed with two great war leaders. He then commanded the Battalion for the first year of Occupation, and what he did not do for us in both orthodox and unorthodox methods wasn't worth doing. He put his whole life into making things go smoothly and efficiently with the maximum benefit for the men of his Battalion. He loved the Battalion and the Battalion loved him. Wherever he may go, I know Hamilton will always get a great welcome from the Dukes. He will not forget us, nor shall we forget him.

Our late news is that we are to be put into suspended animation—news that has saddened us very considerably, but we are certain that although we may die our name will never go old.

OFFICERS' MESS.

Since our last contribution to THE IRON DUKE quite a number of officers have left. Capt. Evans left early on in the year for release and also to take up a post in C.C.G. Incidentally he came to see us recently looking very fit and quite smart in his "civvy" clothes. Lt. Carruthers and the Rev. T. Parry left in June.

In the world of sport the Mess is managing to hold its position at the top of the basketball league—more by luck than good playing. We recently formed a cricket team and although not at the top of our form we're shaping pretty well. In the Brigade rifle meeting Lt.-Col. Cumberlege won points for the Battalion with his skill at the rifle and pistol.

Capt. Christensen, our T.O., vanished to Norway on leave and has not been seen since although we received letters and doctors' certificates from him stating that he had contracted diphtheria.

The "Atom" (Capt. D. Morgan), who returned to us two months ago after spending two months in England on courses, has had the nerve to go on leave again. We take this opportunity of congratulating him on becoming the father of a fine bouncing boy. Whilst on the subject of congratulations, we also congratulate our Adjutant, Capt. D. N. Simonds, on his recent engagement.

Departures, on release.—Capt. Evans, Lt. Carruthers, Rev. T. Parry, Lt. Morley, Lt. Silvers, Capt. Hogan. Arrivals.—Major Austin, Capt. Scott-Evans, Lt. Turner, Lt. Story, 2nd Lt. Price.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

The last three months have seen the re-uniting of quite a number of old "Dukes" in the Mess; R.S.M. Boon, C.S.M. Pearce, C.S.M. Foster and Sgt. Buckingham. However, with the sad news of the suspended animation of the Battalion in September, it is a case of ships passing in the night. During the same three months C.S.M. Watkins spent a short time with the Battalion. With the heavy commitments at Eselheide the Battalion Mess is comparatively small, but there have been a good many inter-mess visits and we have all kept pretty well in touch.

The usual Mess functions have been held, such as social evenings, at which the Officers' Mess has been well represented. It is rumoured that Major A. B. M. Kavanagh has entered for the all-England darts championship after his brilliant display on the 29th July, during which he took on all comers and literally wiped the floor with them.

During the recent warm spell several trips have been made to that delectable spot, Mohne See, where it appears the members go to shake off the atmosphere of regimental duty for a few hours of hiking, boating and swimming, and return feeling fitter and fresher to carry on with the routine work of the Battalion. We feel that here is the time to express our appreciation of the very well organised clubs and other amenities, and so we say "Well done, and please carry on with the good work," to the personnel responsible for the Mohne See Rest Centre.

There has been a lot of sport and relaxation for members of the Mess during our stay in Buren. The surrounding woods are well stocked with wild pig, buck and other game, and after certain members of the Mess had chased the game until it was exhausted, several deer and a couple of wild pigs were shot and brought in triumph to the Mess. It is now rumoured that the cook sergeant (Sgt. Holmes) is beginning to develop a certain likeness to trout. When seen nowadays he is always talking about "the whopping great trout that got away with my fly and cast," the reason being that someone discovered that the small stream, with an unpronounceable name, which burbles through Buren is well stocked with trout. The Battalion S.I.M. (Sgt. Brocklehurst) has handed in his crossed rifles to the Q.M. and an indent has been submitted for crossed fishing rod in lieu. His new designation will be sergeant instructor of fishing.

We are sorry to learn that at long last R.Q.M.S. Hellowell has decided that the joys of civilian life far outweigh the pleasures of military existence and is leaving us shortly to become a full-blown civvie. Our best wishes go with him and it is hoped that his acquaintance may be revived for many years to come at the re-union dinners of the O.C.A. or any other Regimental Association to which he belongs.

As this will be our last time of going to print before we are put in a state of suspended animation, we say Cheerio and best wishes to all who are leaving us in the near future to rejoin the ranks of the civilian army. It is hoped that one day we shall all meet again and talk over the good old days with the 7th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

COMPANY NOTES.

"A" COMPANY.—Since "A" Company took up its occupational role in Buer, near Osnabruck, a great deal of water has flowed underneath the bridges of the rivers of Germany. Our stay at Buer was short and sweet, then under the command of Capt. Campbell Fox we moved to the village of Wengern, on detachment, where we spent many happy afternoons and evenings boating on the Ruhr, until we were recalled to the fold at Gevelsberg. There we went in for serious training for the Battalion sports, which only reaped us the reward of the Battalion cross country run shield.

Early in the new year of 1946 we were ordered on detachment once more, this time to Siegen where the danger of being snowed up was quite obvious, however it was there that the Company showed great prowess on the football field, there was no doubt about it. It was a team that any battalion could be proud of. Our Polish and German opponents were given a game that was always keenly contested, and it was only in one game that the Germans forced a draw.

From Siegen we moved once more, this time to Buren with Battalion Headquarters, where we were fully occupied with house searches and road checks. Our occupational duties did not, however, prevent us from winning the Battalion sports meeting shield for 1946.

Now at the moment of writing the Company is at Eselheide, the place which previous companies have christened the land of "Sand in my Shoes." Eselheide contains quite a number of P.O.W's, these do not however affect the Company as we are quite busy carrying out our programme of training under the command of Capt. Scott-Evans, who has taken command of the Company while Major Marrett is enjoying a spot of leave in Merry England.

These notes cannot be completed without a word of regret from many of the Company on the state of suspended animation of the Battalion, but we feel proud that it has left its mark during the Campaign in N.W.E.

"C" COMPANY.—By the time our few notes are printed the personnel of "Charlie" Company will be scattered over the globe, because we have received the shattering news that the Battalion is to be put into suspended animation; but even though our ranks will be split, the spirit of "Charlie" Company will remain for ever, like the spirit of our gallant officers and men who fell in action, and those who left us to face the rigours of civvy street, or for other theatres last year.

From Gevelsberg we transported our goods and chattels to Buren. Our stay was a very short one. After holding a N.C.O's cadre we moved once again to a district of black sand and barbed wire, commonly known as Eselheide or 2234 P.O.W. Camp. This place was entirely different to the civilian houses in Buren and Gevelsberg. We settled down in wooden huts to perform our latest task of demonstration company at the B.A.O.R. Training School. July saw us working hard rehearsing the demonstrations we had to give. We sweated and cursed as we doubled about the countryside, led by our two officers, Major J. Pickering and Lieut F. T. Allsop. They drove us hard and fast until every man knew his job thoroughly, and as a company we were second to none; for every demonstra-

tion we gave we received the highest praise possible. Our great day came when we demonstrated "Company in the Attack," before an audience of none other than the Commander-in-Chief of B.A.O.R., and several other high ranking staff officers. Later we were asked to repeat the same demonstration for the Commander-in-Chief, French Army, who sent a personal message to the Company complimenting them on the way the demonstration was carried out.

Even though we were training hard we still held our own at the Battalion sports and rifle meeting, which resulted in several "C" Company men being chosen to represent the Battalion at the Brigade and Divisional meetings.

With a heavy heart I close these notes knowing well that wherever we go, whatever cap badge we wear we shall always remember the saying "Once a 'Duke,' always a 'Duke,'" and the comradeship of "Charlie" Company will be looked back on in years to come, as something more than words can ever express.

"D" COMPANY.—As it has been decided to recommence the system of submitting Company notes, the writer has been desperately turning to old numbers of THE IRON DUKE to find out what the form was. Alas, the search was fruitless, and we have to start from scratch, i.e., from the writer's arrival in the Battalion.

In May of this year "D" Company was commanded by Major A. Mallinson, and was sited with "C" and "S.P." Companies at Eselheide. The main function was to guard a large P.O.W. Camp stocked with Hungarians whose main object in life appeared to be picking up cigarette ends, presumably for re-sale, and not to worry too much about escaping. Eselheide is some 40 miles from Battalion Headquarters at Buren and is a bleak sandy clearing among pine-forests. The Germans used it as a P.O.W. Camp for Russians, and the cemetery containing 65,000 Russian dead, bears eloquent testimony to Nazi methods.

At the end of May Major R. E. Austin arrived from East Africa, and took over "D" Company and detachment commander, Eselheide. For some time he was the only officer, but on June 26th he was joined by Lieut. R. Turner from the I.T.C. On 1st July we were fortunate to have Eric Gough appointed C.S.M. Life at Eselheide was very monotonous—guards, escorts and the evening trip to Detmold. However, in many respects, it was a satisfactory life. Our C.O., Lt.-Col. Cumberlege, usually managed to spend one night a week with us.

We have just moved (early August) to the civilisation of Buren and Battalion H.Q. Two in a room in furnished houses, compared to our Eselheide 15 in a leaky hut built by the Germans for Russian P.O.W's. So our creature comforts are now excellent, and everyone is revelling in such unusual luxury. No more guards now, but we are on cadre training and security duties under Lt. Turner. Major Austin is now acting 2nd i/c of the Battalion, and merely pokes his nose into the office at odd intervals and deals with administration problems.

We have had a steady and unending flow of Class "A" and "B" Releases, with the resultant disappearance of many good and loyal old members of the Company. We are, however, gradually getting in replacements of young soldiers, to whom we offer a hearty welcome.

In the realm of athletics, swimming and shooting, we didn't distinguish ourselves as a Company, mainly owing to guard duties which daily took toll of half the manpower of the Company. We were thus able to devote precious little time to training. Individually, however, we produced L/Cpl. Runham as a winner of the Battalion 5,000 metres and L/Sgt. Baker as second. Together with Pte Doherty the third member of the Company team, we pulled that event off quite easily. In the Battalion and Brigade swimming gala Ptes. Doherty and Farr distinguished themselves, and there is an excellent picture of the latter in a very abbreviated pair of swimming trunks shaking hands with the Brigade Commander after receiving his medal.

"S.P." COMPANY.—Support Company reformed on March 24th, after being split up in August, 1945, and is under the command of Major M. R. J. Burke. After being with the Battalion in Buren for approximately a fortnight we were given the task along with "D" Company of guarding a P.O.W. Camp. This camp is literally in the heart of the desert and supposed to be the warmest place in central Europe, and we feel rather inclined to think that it is.

During the last two months we have had plenty of sport with the Battalion, Brigade and Divisional sports meetings, then followed the rifle meetings. In the battalion rifle meeting we came in with flying colours, gaining most points, and were well represented at the Brigade and Divisional meetings, and were also represented at the Corps rifle meeting by Major Burke.

The Mortar Platoon seems to be confining all their activities to giving demonstrations at the B.A.O.R. Training School and Divisional Training School, and are always congratulated on the fine show they put up, under the command of Sgt. Cooper. At the moment Company activities are confined to doing guards and going on U.K. leave. We said cheerio to C.S.M. Pearce who has gone for a well-earned rest of 19 days, to the land of "milk and honey."

We cannot close these notes without putting a small text in which was received by our Company Clerk from the Adjutant (Capt. D. N. Simonds) which reads as follows:—"Devotion to duty has always characterised the 33rd and 76th Foot—Chindit column 76" refers.

"H.Q." COMPANY.—Since the last issue of THE IRON DUKE the face of "H.Q." Company has been drastically altered. We have had two company commanders. The first, Major Hogan, who joined us in April from India. He left us for civvy street early in June. Following him came Lt. N. S. Maw. He has held the helm ever since and steered the ship through the summer's turbulent waters with the skill and efficiency which has ever been an outstanding feature of "H.Q." Company.

We also welcomed C.S.M. Foster from the 2nd Battalion, and hope he'll be able to sort out his rifles. Another newcomer from "S.P." Company is C.Q.M.S. Hitchcock, partner in crime to C.Q.M.S. Chetwood, who has decided to delay his return to civvy street for three months. Lt. Hopkinson has returned to the Battalion from West Africa and is now transport officer. We also welcome to the Company all the reinforcements who have joined the Transport, Signals, R.P's, etc., Sgt. Lugg is still keeping Battalion H.Q. together, and still quoting G.R.O's. A.C.I's and K.R's.

The Company distinguished itself in the Battalion swimming and diving gala, winning all events except two and thus winning the swimming shield.

Information has just reached us that, very shortly, the Battalion which has so distinguished itself throughout the war is to be put into a state of suspended animation. We in "H.Q." Company feel this more than other companies, as we have always imagined ourselves to be the centre and life blood of the Battalion. To those who must still soldier on we wish them all the very best in their new regiments and spheres.

During the writing of these notes we have welcomed one more company commander, Capt. R. G. L. Taylor from the Hampshires. We all hope that he will soon settle down for the short period he will be with us.

These will be the last notes from "H.Q." Company, 7th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and with them we wish all members of "H.Q." past and present all they wish themselves.

146th Regiment (Duke of Wellington) R.A.C.

[We have unfortunately received no notes from the 146th Regiment, R.A.C. and fear that some which were promised must have gone astray, but we print below some extracts from letters we have had from the commanding officer, Lt.-Colonel J. Hetherington and a number of photographs which have come are reproduced on pages 132 and 133. Ed.].

Victory Celebrations were held in Poona, 1st February, 1946. At the time we were stationed 75 miles away at Ahmednagar, and were invited to take part, dismounted. The parade was formed up on Poona Racecourse and was quite a formidable array of all British and Indian units in the area. We were grouped with 72 Infantry Brigade (1st Essex, 2nd Border and 2nd Queens) and were given the honourable position Right of the Line. I personally, was very proud of the way in which the men of 146th R.A.C. (D.W.R.) carried off the day—they were outstanding among a very smart parade, and as you know we were singled out for a special pat on the back.

Copy of letter from Major-General E. N. Goddard, G.O.C., Poona Area.

H.Q. 110 (Poona) Area.

1st February, 1946.

"Dear Hetherington,

"I write to you particularly because I consider that the performance of 146th R.A.C. and their turn-out and drill on parade today were of a very high order—I congratulate you.

"Yours sincerely,

E. N. GODDARD."

Copy of letter from Brigadier C. I. Mills, commanding 72nd Infantry Brigade.

"Dear Hetherington,

"I am sending you a copy of the letter I sent to the two battalions of this Brigade, and in doing so add my congratulations to you on the excellent turn-out and drill of your Regiment. We were all impressed by the confident bearing and smartness of your men, and it did our young recruits a lot of good to see it.

"It was a very great honour to me to have your Regiment under my command for this parade, and I very much appreciate your co-operation and the reflected glory you threw on to the 72nd Infantry Brigade. Will you please convey my special thanks to R.S.M. Chamberlin for the duties he performed so efficiently in connection with the parade.

"With all best wishes to you and your Regiment in the future.

"Yours sincerely,

C. I. MILLS."

"B" SQUADRON has been sent off to Agra in a hurry (July) leaving H.Q. and "C" Squadrons in Poona. "A" Squadron are having a hell of a hard time in Medan Area, and things are getting worse there. The Squadron commander, Johnston, was wounded in the back some time ago, but after treatment in Singapore, has managed to return to duty.

My Second-in-command, Cruikshank, has gone to the Staff College, Quetta, and I have been able to appoint Robson in his place. Robson is the oldest member of the team as far as service with it goes, he came out with the original Regiment in 1941. Unfortunately he goes home in September, so I have sent him off to Sumatra to stay with "A" Squadron and see a bit of the world before he leaves us. All my Squadron Commanders, less one, go by the end of September, and to make matters worse I have just had six damned good subalterns posted to M.E.F.

146th REGIMENT (DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S) R.A.C.



'Donkey Derby, Waterloo Day, 1946.



Looks like a fatigue.



The C.O. in the Orderly Room.



A couple of troopers about to
"Walk out" in Poona.



1st XI Soccer Team.



Some of the Mortar Platoon.

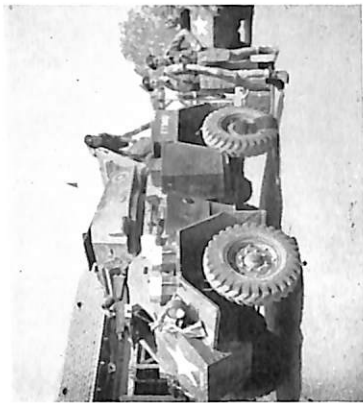
146th REGIMENT (DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S) R.A.C.



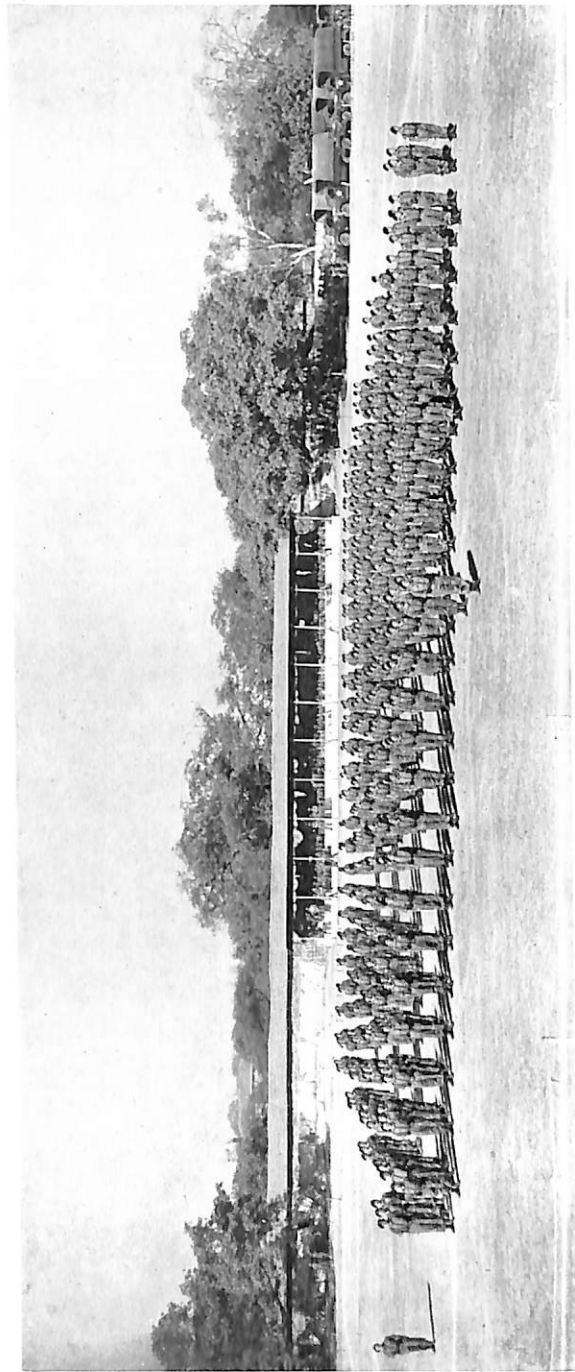
A lull during maintenance.



Sergeants' Mess, Head Boy.



Topping Up



The Regiment on parade at Ahmednagar before taking part in the Poona Ceremonial Victory Parade on 1st February, 1946.

The M.C.A.C. General Pent, came to see us a few days ago, and said that we would likely last out until the year end, disappearing by a Squadron at a time.

I have had no more news from the 2nd Battalion since we had an offer of their staying with us some weeks ago. When we do eventually disband we shall hand them anything useful, such as sports kit.

The monsoon has broken here, but we are in good barracks, near the racecourse and are fairly comfortable. I have my wife out here and so has my Quarter-Master. Major Cruikshank's wife has gone up to Quetta with him.

D.W.R. Infantry Training Centre.

OFFICERS' MESS.

Once again we fear that these notes must take the form of a valediction. Our first unpleasant duty is to bid farewell to Major Carroll who is leaving us for a warmer climate. As our 2nd i/c he had established himself as a friend whom we are very loath to lose. We wish him the best of luck in his new position.

The strong call of demobilisation has removed many of our leading "characters." "Scoutmaster" Burton and Smart left us together, the latter to the great sorrow of our P.M.C. and his D.L.I. Ducks. Horsfall and Hoe soon followed and our latest "casualty" was the inimitable Hesford. We have felt the loss of these stalwarts in no uncertain way, and we fear that the draining process will continue indefinitely. We do however, send our warmest greetings to them all and wish them the best of everything in their new lives.

Mess life continues its smooth course, with occasional highspots in the form of band nights, and Mavin, who combines his duties of field officer with more convivial habits. He denies the rumour that he is to patent a new form of laundry process. Berryman, now recovered from his exertions behind the scenes of the unit production of "George and Margaret," has developed violent nomadic tendencies, and has become quite Gilbertian in his repertoire of appointments. He has now found a refuge in "B" Company and we congratulate him on his third pip.

Our main activities during recent weeks have been in preparation for our Annual Country Fair. O'Sullivan has divided his attentions recently between broadcasting the result of the Amateur Golf Championship to all and sundry, and painting blood curdling posters for the Fair, until "C" Company office resembled the main deck of the *Bounty*.

Kershaw has been fully occupied as i/c Country Fair and spends his days chasing elephants and aeroplanes, and his nights playing hide-and-seek with O.C. "H.Q." Company. We are glad to report that the Fair was an outstanding success, and as a result over £800 has become available for D.W.R. and D.L.I. Regimental Funds.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Since we last went to press the Mess has undergone a radical change. The colour scheme both in the dining room and the ante room is truly magnificent. "The Dutch Gaffomens" are really good craftsmen, but their speed of work leaves much to be desired. We are still surviving on bully and beans, in spite of a fervent hope by all that better fare may be provided as soon as the dead horse has been consumed. C.S.M. Suggitt has joined the ranks of the Group Happy, and has just completed his first set of table pads at the woodwork centre. It would appear that he has blanched his anklets for the last time and stowed them away. All the best Jack, we will be seeing you.

We welcome to the Mess all the new members and say good-bye and good luck to those who have departed to other locations and to Civvy Street. Now we are waiting for the departure of the "Dukes" to their Regimental Home (Halifax), due to be completed by September the 1st. Our association with the D.L.I. here at Brancepeth has

been a long and happy one, and all the "Dukes" wish to thank them for the good comradeship which has always been shown by the D.L.I. We hope the friendships that have been made will endure for all time.

We have many would-be race horse experts amongst our younger members, and their wins and losses can be judged by their smiling or depressed countenances. This may be the last time we shall write from Brancepeth, so cheerio "Dukes" everywhere. Here's to the next time.

CORPORALS' MESS.

Once again we must report many changes in the Mess; most of all the absence of still more of the old faces. We offer our best wishes to all those now disappeared into the oblivion of civvy street and our congratulations to all our new members, of whom there are many. Our congratulations also to our friends who have left us to take up residence in the Sgts' Mess and to those who must certainly go before our next notes are printed.

We have now lost the leadership of Cpl. Ricketts (now Mr.) but take this opportunity of offering him our thanks for his vigorous work in the past and our best wishes for the future. Our affairs are now settled in the capable hands of Cpl. Llewellyn as President, and we look forward with satisfaction to our activities under his guidance.

By the way, there is no truth in the rumour that the Cpls' Mess is soon to possess an Ovaltine Bar, although there is no doubt that this charming beverage has found great favour amongst our younger members. We will accept the change of drink as permanent only when we see "Chev" walk in with a straw behind his ear.

Our newly elected committee is settling down to work in fine style (the inevitable demobilisation system claiming most of the old). A number of strange notices have appeared as if by magic and members are being greeted by "take your cap off" as they cross the square Messwards. Still, one mustn't grumble, they may think up some new way of spending the "rebate." Here's wishing them every success in their enthusiastic work.

Other items of note are:—Our Dance on August 16th which promises to be not less successful than our previous efforts, also the look of dismay on many of our members' faces when the news was received that 66 group will still have a few years to serve.

COMPANY NOTES.

"B" COMPANY.—Since our last issue, changes have been rife in "Baker" Company and few of "the old team" remain. Demobilisation has taken its toll of our permanent staff, and we pause to wish well those who have left us for civilian life. In their places we welcome many newcomers too numerous for individual mention. One of the more recent departures was that of Cpl. Dennis who had been in the Company longer than any of us, and who left in 34 group. Closely preceding him was Sgt. Kerrod, successor to Sgt. Caddick as company jester.

Our company commander, Capt. Hesford left us some time ago for the healthier clime of Huddersfield and was succeeded by Capt. Dixon of the D.L.I. However, his stay was short and after a few minor changes to the daily routine, he vacated the Company chair in favour of Capt. Berryman, whom we welcome from "How" Company.

This is not the only department where we have suffered loss, for our erstwhile C.S.M. (Shep.) has joined the civil servants in the Q.M.'s department at the Castle. In his place our C.Q.M.S. (Johno.) desirous of raising his crown a few inches higher up his sleeve, is endeavouring to clean up the Company, complete with the proverbial new broom. Bagshaw has replaced Johno on the "Q" side, though whether permanently or temporarily we do not care to hazard. However, we hope he may gain his crown and remain in permanent residence.

On the sports side our Company has been playing cricket with intermittent success, while training has now started for the athletic sports, in an endeavour to retain the cup

we gained last year. The two "Mikes," Sgts. Henry and Eastwood have distinguished themselves in the I.T.C. shooting team, and the former has also figured in the road walking teams successes. (Rumour has it that he was the sponge-man.)

Lastly, we must not forget to congratulate L/Cpl. Parker on his recent marriage. We wish him and his wife every success in "double harness."

"C" Company, No. 54 P.T.W.—Our permanent staff consisting of many new faces and stripes, capably continue to carry on the good work of training recruits, like the old "codgers" before us, namely Baxter, Landale, Broadbent, Caten and Freeborn. Our best wishes to these gallant few, who dared to face bread rationing and all the hazards of (hard working) civvy life.

Our congratulations to Sgts. Smith, Nock, Badland, Biglin, and Thornton; to the latter, additional congratulations for having qualified for yet another allowance—matrimonial. Space does not permit further listing of promotions of the "under dogs" (lance-jacks and corporals), but we watch with interest their progress to the sacred precincts of the Sergeants' Mess.

Our C.S.M. Suggitt (known to the illustrious few as "Chocolate") is now in the process of manufacturing large quantities of furniture at the I.T.C. Rest House. In the near future he will proceed by a regimental route to York, thus terminating 23 years unbroken service with the "Dukes." Our sincere best wishes go with him. In his place we have C.S.M. Kennedy, who incidentally has thrice changed companies in the past month, and we are hoping he will finally root here.

In the field of sport—Summer (this fell on the 6th period, Thursday, 17th July, 1946 and ended the 8th period, 17th July, 1946), our cricket team, under the leadership of Sgt. Biglin, proved their worth by defeating all comers with the exception of one, and constituting the main body of the I.T.C. team. We are now training for the I.T.C. annual sports meeting which is to take place in the near future, and in which we hope to secure the sports cup.

Our contribution to the I.T.C. Country Fair, which was held on Saturday, 3rd August on the beautiful spacious lawns of Brancepeth Castle, was £48 15s. 6d. This handsome amount was realised by various ingenious methods under the heading of "Paddy's Pastimes." Sgt. (Capt. Kid) Thornton gaily dressed for the occasion, and brandishing an ancient cutlass, had the milling thousands completely bewildered and baffled, trying to find the hidden treasures.

Our Company Commander, Capt. O'Sullivan, still guides us through our daily toils, and to stimulate the N.C.O's holds a conference weekly in which intellectual and very subtle remarks (soldiering and otherwise) come forth. It is rumoured that Chester is getting rather worried over his weekly competition. Our junior officers (big 'uns and little 'uns) continue to come and go, with the exception of one, namely, 2nd/Lt. Butler. This officer appears to spend most of his time convincing Capt. O'Sullivan just how good Yorkshire's cricket team really is.

Lucy, our (09.25 hours and 15.45 hours) A.T.S. clerk still rattles away on the office piano ruining "Cliff's" acquittance rolls. Recently she returned from a privilege leave, just beating the "Y" listing stage by one day.

"G" AND "H" COMPANY.—Events have moved at a rapid rate since our last batch of news went to print. "H" Company has been merged with "G" Company, and we now have all the pass-out winning N.C.O's in one big formidable team. Sgts. Walton, Jeavons, Moffatt and Kay have all had recent successes and are seriously thinking of taking their squads to the Guards Depot to show them how drill can be done by trainees. C.S.M. Kennedy, ex-"H" Company, has been moved from company to company with bewildering rapidity and is at present with "C" Company. Capt. Mavin and C.S.M. Reed still hold the reins in "George Company" and old Georgians are pleased to note the return of our old friend Lt. Fletcher.

Owing to the continual moving of men overseas we have been unable to keep a good cricket team in action, but we are determinedly preparing for the forthcoming sports day. The Country Fair at Brancepeth Castle approaches and all the officers are busy practising the various cries—Housey-Housey ; Shilling in the Bucket, and so on.

We now have in the Company a squad of Danish soldiers who are doing a period of service in the British Army. Their knowledge of English is very limited, but with the aid of interpreters their training goes on very smoothly. They are very welcome visitors and have proved themselves to be a fine set of fellows. New officers and N.C.O's too numerous to mention have come to the Company, and many have passed to civilian status, others to battalions overseas. To newcomers we extend a warm welcome and to all old Georgians we send our best wishes.

BRANCEPETH COUNTRY FAIR.

August 3rd, the date chosen for the Country Fair, in aid of the D.W.R. and D.L.I. Regimental Benevolent Funds and County Charities, dawned cloudy and forbidding and before lunch a deluge of rain was drenching the countryside. With the gates due to open at 2 p.m. we felt sure our efforts were doomed. Fate smiled on us, however, for at about 1.30 p.m. the clouds broke and the sun forced its way through, bringing us an afternoon of the finest weather we had experienced for months.

The locals did not let us down. Crowds of people, estimated at nearly 7,000, travelled to Brancepeth by every possible means. Trains and buses were crowded and gallons of basic petrol expended. All this, apart from the hundreds who walked from the surrounding villages. Every possible means of relieving these thousands of their money without their regretting it was employed. Side-shows by the dozen, drill and physical training demonstrations, beer, ices, teas, they were all there, and the atmosphere was there. If you felt disposed to stick a tail on a pig or throw three darts for sixpence, or kick a football in an attempt to beat an international goalkeeper, or just meander round and admire the beautiful setting, you could do so.

We are deeply indebted to a detachment of the Royal Corps of Signals who gave a brilliant display of trick motor cycling, a detachment of the R.A.C. who brought tanks and guns on display, a Spitfire pilot of the R.A.F. whose hair-raising stunt flying delighted the crowds, and the Band of the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, who played unceasingly throughout the afternoon.

The proceeds were in the region of £800, and great credit is due to Major Kershaw, D.W.R., upon whose shoulders fell the difficult task of organisation, and all who contributed their time and ideas to make it such an outstanding success.

THE DANES IN THE "DUKES."

No doubt in the long course of its history the Regiment has received many different kinds of recruits into its ranks. However, few could have been more odd or caused more consternation than the squad of Danish recruits which presented itself at the I.T.C. to be turned not only into soldiers, but also into "Dukes."

To train them was difficult, not only because they hadn't two words of English among them, but also because all who weren't called Andersen appeared to be called Christiansen. One wonders if there are any other surnames in Denmark !

Those upon whom the job of training them devolved, set about their task in good heart however, and with the aid of a few interpreters soon mastered the difficulties. In a very short while our new recruits were able to handle infantry weapons and "do a guard," with the best of us. They became a credit to "H" Company, and to their squad N.C.O's.

The course of Corps training was not, naturally, completed without much heartbreak. Witness the occasion when some Danes detailed to weed the garden (the pride and joy of the company commander) promptly dug up not only the weeds but also every flower and vegetable in view.

No. 4 INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE.



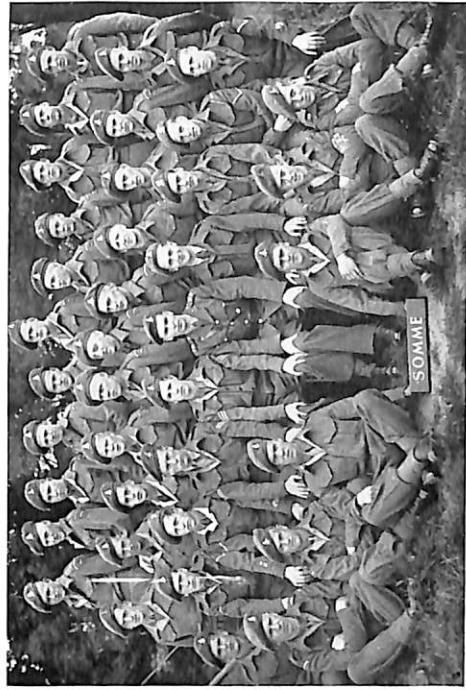
P.T. Demonstration by the P.T. Staff, at the Country Fair.



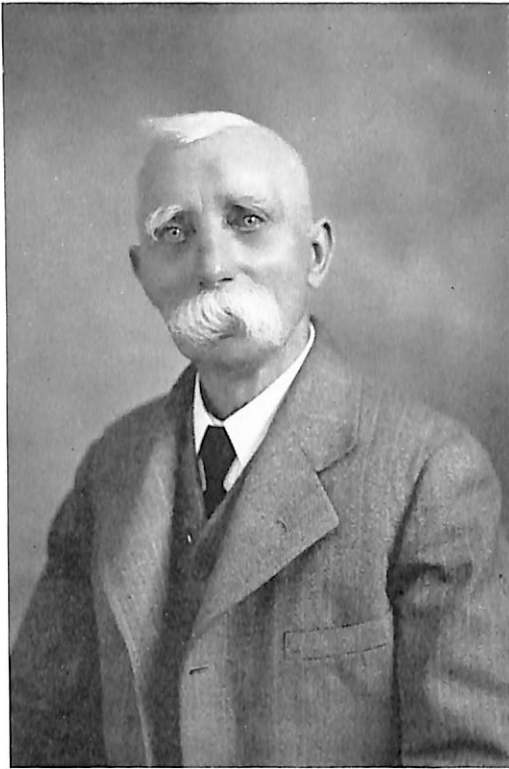
The tanks were a great attraction.



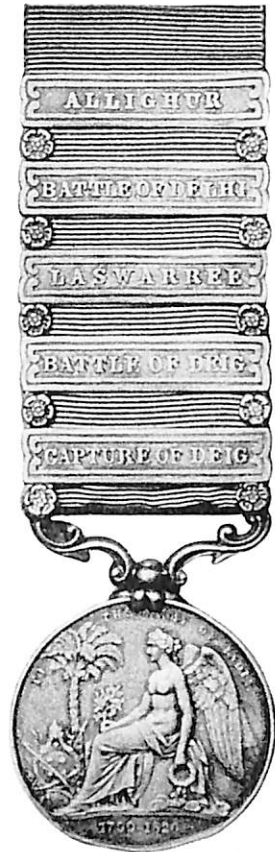
Even Mr. Chad helped.



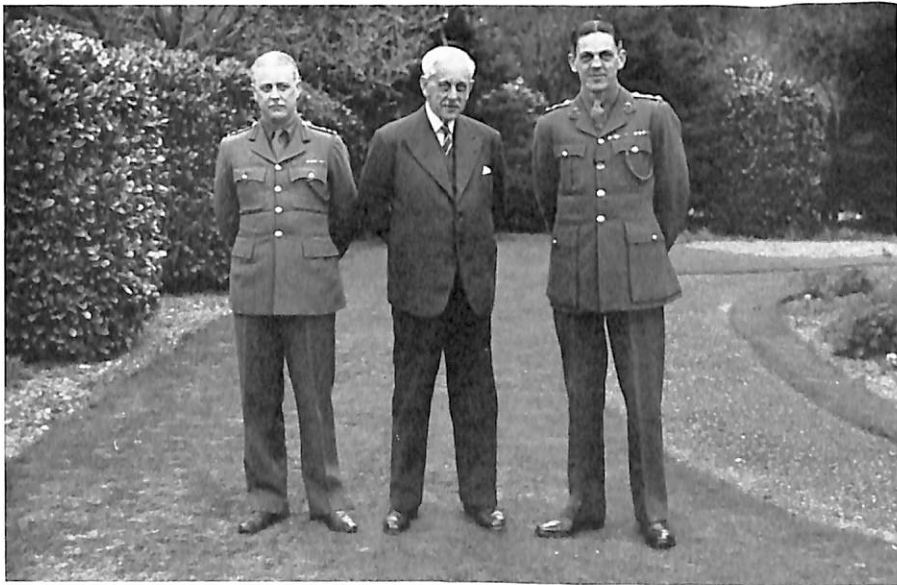
"H" Company's Danish Squad.



Mr. Arthur Lowe, late 2nd Battalion
(see page 154).



The Army of India Medal
(see page 145).



Colonel S. F. Exham, D.S.O. (centre) and his two sons,
Brig. K. G. Exham, D.S.O. (left), and Lt.-Col. R. K. Exham, O.B.E., M.C. (right).

In sport the whole squad excelled. They were undoubtedly very fit and one (probably one Pte. Andersen) in a D.L.I. Company, covered himself with glory by winning the Northumbrian District road walk and coming fifth in the Northern Command walk.

Altogether we may congratulate ourselves on successfully completing a difficult job of training, and we feel sure that our Scandinavian brothers-in-arms will prove as great a credit to the Regiment as they were to "H" Company.

The Victory March, 8th June, 1946

Ten days training finished, the Regimental Contingent left 6th D.W.R. (P.T.C.), Colchester on the 4th June to take our part in the Victory March.

Arriving in Kensington Gardens without a hitch we were very quickly directed to our tents in "K" lines, and even more quickly issued with bedding, blankets and feeding utensils. I should like here to place on record our appreciation of the organization in the Victory Camp by the Guards Brigade, and also to the marshals and staff for their willingness to help, no matter how small the request.

The mornings of the three days before the March were spent in practising marching in twelves and viewing the route, which islands we divided for, and which would be removed on the Day.

Thursday brought a visit of H.M. The King, but unfortunately our lines were not included. Later in the day the "Dukes" party was visited by Major R. A. Scott who wished us all the best of luck.

On Friday the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill visited our lines, but again we were unfortunate as the whole of our contingent were on drill at the time.

That evening we were very pleased indeed to be honoured by a visit from the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel C. J. Pickering, and the Honorary Colonel of the 6th Battalion, Brig-General R. L. Adlercron. They stayed to tea and both showed very great interest in the Camp and the orders for the March.

Later in the evening the Territorial Contingent, for whom we had been anxiously waiting, arrived. We, like the other Regiments, had had no details about this party except the numbers. Ours should have been one Officer and 4 men, but the officer and one man never arrived. Only R.Q.M.S. Oakes, C.S.M. Downes and Sgt. Duckworth reported. This left us in rather a quandary, being one officer and one man short. Fortunately the day was saved on the morning of the March; Brig-Gen. Adlercron turned up dressed in uniform and with the intention of marching, and I was fortunate to run into a L/Cpl. on the Permanent Staff, L/Cpl. Smith (ex-1st Bn., 1941), whom I immediately roped in to fill the gap.

Now the March itself, none of us yet have got over our amazement that Reveille was normal and Fall In 0945 hours! We expected the usual thing—Reveille 0400 hours, Fall In 0500 hours, Move Off 1000 hours; another example of the amazing organization. We passed the starting point at 1105 hours, myself and Lt. R. D. Challiss proudly bearing the Colours (we were left hand Colour Party nearest the King), with the men in the Infantry Contingent just behind under command of Capt. C. H. Mavin; Brig-General Adlercron was with them too, marching as bravely as the rest.

Down Oxford Street we went, cheered all the way by a huge crowd. Although we were only the P.B.I. there would be especially loud cheers when sections of the crowd recognised a Regiment they knew. And so it went on all the way down Charing Cross Road, "Up The Duke of Wellingtons"! "Well done the Surreys"! "Look! there's the Green Howards." Just past Cambridge Circus we halted to let the Armoured Column through. That gave us some idea of the length of our column, the head then being in Parliament Square. During this halt the crowd showered us with cigarettes and sweets and just behind us bottles of beer were lowered on pieces of string. We could have done with some all round as we were all perspiring quite freely by this time.

After half an hour we moved on again, the cheers of the crowd still ringing in our ears. Down along the Embankment to the Houses of Parliament, and then up Whitehall where the "Inwards Salute" was given at the Cenotaph. By this time the weather which had been threatening for some time broke down and a steady rain started. It did not damp our spirits however, for we knew we would soon reach the culminating point of the March.

At last it came and we found ourselves marching down the Mall, Colours at the "Carry" and arms swinging high. Soon the Saluting Base loomed ahead and then came the command "Eyes Left" and we were marching past His Majesty the King. It all happened so quickly that one had hardly time to see anyone there, but I did see the remainder of the Royal Family, the two Prime Ministers and Field Marshall Smuts. Further along I caught sight of Major General Ozanne, who I am sure was looking particularly for our Regimental Party.

Now it was nearly over. Perhaps as well, for the rain was now pouring down and the climax had come and gone. There was still Apsley House to pass however, where the Colonel of The Regiment was watching the parade with the Duke of Wellington.

So back to camp and the dismiss. My first concern was for Brig-General Adlercron. I needn't have worried for although tired he was still going strong and a few whiskies did wonders. All the men admired his courage, and officers of many other Regiments remarked upon how well he had done. Our thanks go out to him for turning out for the honour of the Regiment. I feel sure he must have been the oldest man on the parade—in age but not in spirit.

The men were very good and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They were conscious of the honour bestowed on them in representing the Regiment, and all were out to do their best. Their names are below, and I should like to thank them all for the show they put up and their behaviour during the time we were in London.

COMPOSITION OF PARTY.

REGULAR ARMY.

Colour Party:—Captain J. F. Feather, Lt. R. D. Challiss, 4624522 Sgt. J. E. Gadd, Regt. Party:—Captain C. H. Mavin, M.C., 4609245 C.S.M. W. Wilson, 4614205 Sgt. J. Pollard, 4622354 Sgt. L. Holmes, 4610766 Sgt. L. Mitchell, 14556934 Sgt. W. Kitson, 14617142 Cpl. F. Young, 4972446 Cpl. S. Smith, 14603802 Cpl. M. Hurwitt, 4614982 Cpl. H. Green, 4399478 L/Cpl. F. Chapman, 14602408 Pte. R. Slinn, 4547333 Pte. R. Ackroyd, 14655254 Pte. M. Hopkinson, 4621108 Pte. G. Weems, 7962701 Pte. J. Rowe, 4627256 Pte. K. Wilson, 3783929 Pte. F. Wilcock, L/Cpl. Smith.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

R.Q.M.S. W. Smith, R.Q.M.S. Oakes, Sgt. Duckworth, C.S.M. Downes.

J. F. F.

The Regimental Dinner.

The 44th annual dinner of the Officers' Dinner Club was held at the United Service Club on Thursday, 6th June, 1946.

The revival of the Regimental dinner during the present austerity period after a lapse of nearly seven years involved a few problems and headaches, particularly at a time when my work with the British Council was keeping me fairly busy, but any such small worries were more than compensated by the pleasure of getting in touch with and seeing so many old friends on 6th June.

It was most interesting to see how the "Old Brigade" had weathered the stress and strain of the past six years, and I think it may fairly be said that they have come through with flying colours—a tribute of course to their early training as "Dukes"!

It was also most gratifying to note how many of the junior officers of ten years ago have come safely through the greatest war in history and risen high in their profession ; and one could not help comparing, with a thankful heart, the difference between this dinner and the first one held after the last war in 1919 when so many familiar faces were missing.

The attendance—55 including our guests, the Duke of Wellington and Lt.-Col. Hamilton—was very satisfactory in view of the fact that all Battalions are overseas and leave is not easy to obtain. The Colonel of the Regiment took advantage of the opportunity to present to Lt.-Col. Trench the testimonial subscribed by the Regiment as a small token of our gratitude to him for his outstanding work as Editor of THE IRON DUKE since its first publication in 1925.

The arrangements made by the United Service Club were admirable in every respect and our grateful thanks are due to the Secretary and the staff for all the trouble they took at a time when catering and staff problems are so acute. G.S.W.R.

After the King's health had been drunk, the Colonel of the Regiment rose to make his speech.

Colonel Pickering said :—" I am very happy to greet you all on this great occasion—it is seven years since we foregathered at our annual Regimental dinner, and these years have probably been the most momentous in our history.

" I know that you will wish me to take an early opportunity of offering a really hearty welcome to our guests. We have with us this evening, as our honoured guests, our new titular chief, Lord Gerald Wellesley, now the seventh Duke of Wellington. He is the son of the fourth Duke, brother of the fifth and uncle of the sixth. I know that he will take the same interest in the Regiment as his father did before him. On your behalf and on my own I extend to him a very hearty welcome, and we hope, Sir, that, like your father, you will be with us at our annual re-union of officers from now onwards. I should like to tell you something about the fourth Duke, whom I first met at Lichfield in the year 1907, when he presented new Colours to the 2nd Battalion in replacement of those destroyed by fire in Rangoon in 1901. I had the honour of commanding the Colour party on that occasion and there were four Colours to be presented—the two official Colours and the two which we wrongly call the Honorary Colours—these so-called Honorary Colours were presented to the 2nd Battalion by the Honourable East India Company for services under General Lord Lake in 1803—and the point that we must all remember is that our 2nd Battalion is the only infantry battalion in the British Army which is authorised to carry four Colours on a ceremonial parade. The War Office had borne the cost of replacing these Colours on three previous occasions but this time they wrote saying that it was the last time they would do so and that in future the Regiment would have to bear the cost of replacement.

" We also extend a 'Dukes' welcome to another guest ; I refer to Colonel Hamilton who belongs to that distinguished regiment, The Durham Light Infantry, which has at our joint training centre at Brancepeth Castle co-operated so well with us, in spite of the fact that the two regiments operate to a different step. I would refer to Hamilton as that successful commander who led our 7th Territorial Battalion from Caen to the Rhine and beyond, and who, by his skill and leadership, earned for that Battalion a name which is second to none. His Battalion fought throughout the war as gallantly as any battalion in His Majesty's Service, and from D Day to the conclusion of hostilities they earned two D.S.O's, 14 M.C's, two D.C.M's, one M.M. and bar, 12 M.M's, 14 mentions, eight certificates of gallantry, three for good service and three Croix-de-Guerre.

" I have apologies for absence from Colonels Curran and Le Marchant whose ages prevent them from being present, Brigadier Green, Colonels Price, Cumberlege, Ince, Sayers, Roy Exham, Harvey, Captain John Scott and Mr. Hands ; and I am very sorry to tell you that a few days ago I had a note from Mrs. Hayden saying that her husband, Colonel Hayden, was ill and confined to his room with day and night nurses in attendance.

"We are fortunate in having with us to-night so many who have distinguished themselves in this war; I refer specially to General Sir Philip Christison, who will go down in history as one of our great commanders; to Brigadier Hugh Fraser, who, on the outbreak of war was commanding an infantry brigade in Malaya and who subsequently spent too long a time as a guest of the Japs; to Kenneth Exham, Bobbie Bray, Babe Webb-Carter, Hamilton, Bunbury and Strangeways, all of whom won well-earned D.S.O's, and to many others who have distinguished themselves in various ways.

"When the German army invaded France and the Low Countries our 1st Battalion went overseas with the Expeditionary Force, and I am told were the first British unit to make contact with the Boche and were the last to leave at the time of the evacuation from Dunkirk; they were ably supported by two of our second line Territorial Battalions, the 2nd/6th and 2nd/7th, who were sent overseas in a great hurry to dig trenches, make obstacles and other defences. They had a very sticky time and I believe were actually unarmed.

"I will read you a tribute which I received from Brigadier T. N. F. Wilson, Commander of the Third Infantry Brigade, in which the 1st Battalion were serving. . . .*

"In the first Burma campaign the 2nd Battalion distinguished itself, more especially at the Sittang river incident, when some men swam that wide fast-flowing river half a dozen times in their efforts to ferry across the wounded. It was here that they lost their commander, Colonel Basil Owen, who was murdered by a Dacoit.

"In North Africa we were well represented by the 1st Battalion, the 4th Battalion, converted to the 58th Anti-Tank Regiment of the Royal Artillery, and the 8th Battalion, converted to the 145th Regiment of the R.A.C.—these units, distinguished in many battles which included Banana Ridge and The Bon, and later in Italy, added a further lustre to the name of our Regiment. The 1st Battalion was the first to land on the Island of Pantellaria, and later won undying fame at Anzio; their gallantry there won them the honour of leading the victory march into Rome.

"In France after D Day the 6th and 7th Battalions fought with great gallantry, and were later joined by the 5th Battalion (600 Regiment Royal Artillery).

"In the second Burma campaign the 2nd Battalion again distinguished itself, serving with Wingate's force in the Chindits, as also did the 9th Battalion, converted to the 146th Regiment R.A.C.—they provided the first tanks to enter Mandalay, and, so far as I know, they still have a squadron in Sumatra.

"All these several Battalions of ours have throughout the war maintained the highest traditions of the Regiment and we have every reason to be proud of them.

"Fortunately the casualties in this world war have not been as heavy as were expected—no doubt this is due to the different type of warfare which the war entailed; the method of fighting procedure, air support, etc., all tended to reduce casualties. But the fact remains that our losses in killed were only 27 officers and 1,020 others, so far as can be ascertained at present, and this includes 63 men who were serving with units other than our own. Compare this with those we sustained in the Great War of 1914–18 when the Regiment lost 400 officers and 8,000 others, and the 2nd Battalion alone lost 82 officers and 1,579 others. I cannot leave this matter of casualties without referring to the loss the Regiment sustained when our late titular chief lost his life in Italy when fighting with the Commandos. The sixth Duke was an officer in the Regiment—one of us. On the outbreak of war he was serving with the King's African Rifles in East Africa where he was busily employed in rounding up the Boche, including their chief, General Von Lettow-Vorbeck. He made every effort to get home and did so. He landed at Liverpool and went straight on to Brancepeth Castle, and on arrival it was found that he had a septic foot due to some injury sustained on board ship through skylarking or something of that sort. The M.O. promptly put him in hospital at Sedgfield and I visited him

* This tribute was published on page 140 of No. 47 (October, 1940) of THE IRON DUKE.

there a few times. He was very keen to get out with the fighting forces and asked me to get him into the Commandos—that was easy and I wished that he had asked for something which it was impossible to obtain so that he could have remained with us. I had hoped that eventually he would find himself in command of the 1st Battalion as his great ancestor did before him, and I am sure that had he been spared he would have risen to high command. He was as brave as a lion and very popular in Number Two Commando—they thought the world of him.

“Early on in the war we started a prisoner of war fund, the object of which was to send out parcels to those who unfortunately found themselves in enemy hands. We had approximately 700 prisoners of war, of whom 250 were in Japanese hands. In all we sent out 1,673 parcels of woollens and 3,320 parcels of cigarettes; nothing could be sent to those who were with the Japs. Our friends in the West Riding and elsewhere raised over £17,000 for this purpose, and we are indebted to a team of four ladies connected with the Regiment who spent all their spare time in packing parcels at the Depot. Many a prisoner of war has since visited the Depot to return thanks and many others have written appreciative letters.

“On Waterloo Day last year the County Borough of Halifax gave us what I like to call the Freedom of the City. Halifax had a whole holiday that day and the town was *en fête*—they turned out in their thousands and at night the streets were cleared of traffic—the people danced in the streets up to midnight to music supplied by loud speakers. The presence of the Duke of Wellington gave intense pleasure to the Mayor, the Council and citizens of the town—and that was the end of a perfect day—or very nearly.

“Our O.C.A. of the Regular Battalions will carry on as hitherto—the O.C.A. is a sort of club or benefit society which caters only for its own members who pay a subscription to it. The World War has made us go farther afield in that we have to cater for any man who has served in any of our Battalions and his dependents if we want to obtain grants of money from the new Army Benevolent Fund. The man pays no subscription unless he does so voluntarily and many of them have done so. This is what happens:—A soldier on release from the service signs a form stating which O.C.A. or regimental association he wishes to join. For example, our 5th Battalion from Huddersfield was, on mobilisation, posted to the Royal Engineers as a Searchlight unit; later to the Royal Artillery as an Anti-Aircraft unit, and finally they are back again to where they started in the P.B.I. Their men on release can put down for the Dukes, the R.A. or the R.E. They can only put down for one for the purposes of benefit, and having made their decision their names are eventually recorded in the books of the society concerned. To take in all these men meant that the O.C.A. would have to alter their charter and to do this they would have to go to the Charity Commissioners and the Courts. When I put the matter before them they decided against it. The result is that we have formed a new Regimental Association catering for all our men of the World War and any future wars. The funds of our new Regimental Association amount to £14,000. I have not time to tell you how we raised all this money in this talk—but we have got it.

“And now I come to the question of a war memorial. We have, as you know, a Regimental Chapel in York Minster. There are two others in the Minster, the 14th West Yorkshire Regiment and the 51st King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Ours has the best site and is generally admitted to be a model in design and equipment. I suggest that we add a Book of Remembrance and a memorial tablet to this Chapel and we may want to do something more. I know that the citizens of Halifax would be terribly pleased if we had, as a war memorial, a chapel in the Parish Church. Canon James, the Vicar, has offered us a chapel which is already made—the cost of adaptation would be small, something in the region of £500. We have deposited the citation given to us by the Mayor and Corporation at the Freedom ceremony in the Church, and this, I know, has given intense pleasure to the people of Halifax. Thirdly, we have in mind a scholarship at Wellington College, but if the monies for this are to come from Regimental funds we

should have to open it to competition to the sons of any member who has served in the Regiment irrespective of rank. I have been in communication with the Master of Wellington and at a later date I hope to be able to put some definite proposal before you for consideration. In the meantime the whole question of a war memorial is being dealt with by a committee.

"I have left to the last THE IRON DUKE, our Regimental magazine—the best ever. The magazine has had a birthday, it is 21 years old, and our Editor, Colonel Trench, has had a birthday too, in that he has edited THE IRON DUKE from the start and still continues to do so. Some time ago one of our senior officers, who is now in the eighties, wrote to me suggesting that this birthday should not be allowed to pass unnoticed, and he added that this might well take the form of a testimonial to Colonel Trench, our Editor. I thought this was a very good idea and talked it over with several others, and they all thought so too. Then came the question—what form should this testimonial take. Whatever we decided to purchase the cost would amount to about five times the real value of the article which we bought. So we decided to collect what we could and ask Colonel Trench to buy his own testimonial. We have had 170 subscribers to our fund; 155 of them were from individuals and 15 from units. And so, if Colonel Trench will now get up on his hind legs, I shall have the very greatest pleasure in asking him to accept this cheque as a token of gratitude for all the good and hard work he has put in through this period of 21 years."

Colonel Trench then received a cheque for £500 from Colonel Pickering, and acknowledged his thanks in a short speech which showed how much moved he was by so generous a tribute to his work.

Colonel Pickering then called on the Duke of Wellington, who expressed his pleasure at being present, and said that he wished the Colonel of the Regiment to accept on behalf of the officers of the Regiment a gold snuff-box which he had had suitably inscribed. The snuff-box was one of two in his possession; they were apparently made by order of the second Duke of Wellington, and inlaid on the top of the box was a lock of the first Duke's hair.

He concluded by saying how interested he had been in reading of the magnificent record of the Regiment during the late war, and that he wished to co-operate actively in all matters which affected the welfare of the Regiment. He then handed the snuff-box to Colonel Pickering, who expressed his thanks on behalf of the officers of the Regiment.

The following officers were present:—

Colonel C. J. Pickering (Colonel of the Regiment), Lt.-General Sir A. F. P. Christison, Bart., Major-Generals E. C. Beard, W. M. Ozanne, Brigadiers F. H. Fraser, C. W. Grimley, E. N. F. Hitchins, Colonels H. G. P. Miles, G. S. W. Rusbridger, R. G. Turner, Lt.-Colonels E. A. Bald, L. B. B. Beuttler, J. Chatterton, M. N. Cox, Sir Nugent Everard, Bart., J. K. T. Faithfull, A. J. Frith, K. A. Macleod, W. G. Officer, C. W. B. Orr, D. Paton, R. M. Tidmarsh, M. V. le P. Trench, D. I. Strangeways, W. A. Waller, B. Webb-Carter, F. H. B. Wellesley, F. P. A. Woods, W. A. Woods, N. R. Whittaker, Majors S. E. Baker, G. Beyfus, T. St. J. Carroll, D. M. Harris, C. R. Hetley, W. Hodgson, J. P. Huffam, H. R. Kavanagh, L. F. H. Kershaw, G. Laing, C. O'Connor, W. Skelsey, R. A. Scott, G. Upjohn, Captains R. H. D. Bolton, R. Fowler, J. B. Hall, C. Oliver, The Lord Savile, Lieuts. P. A. Druce, A. H. P. Lawrence, J. B. Siddall.

Guests:—

His Grace The Duke of Wellington, Lt.-Col. C. D. Hamilton.

Our Contemporaries.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the following Regimental Magazines:—*The Dragon* (May, June, July, August), *The Snapper* (May, June, July, August), *The St. George's Gazette* (April, May, June, July), *The Suffolk Regimental Gazette* (June, August), *The Lion and the Rose* (Summer), *The Journal of the South Wales Borderers* (May), *The Hampshire Regimental Gazette* (May, August), *The Sapper* (May, June, July, August), *The Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette* (May, June, July, August), *Our Empire* (May, June, July, August).

Old Comrades' Associations.

1st and 2nd BATTALIONS.

The following is a summary of the cases assisted during the period mid-April to mid-August, 1946.

Fund.	Number of Cases	Amounts Disbursed.
Old Comrades' Association	3	£ 9 s. 17 d.
2nd Battalion Charitable Fund	1	5 0 0
Regimental Association Fund	37	152 17 0
Mitchell Trust Fund	2	26 0 0

5th BATTALION.

The Association took a leading part in arranging the welcome home to the Cadre of the Battalion on Saturday, June 1st, and very large numbers paraded in the afternoon. In the evening they arranged a monster smoking concert at the Drill Hall in honour of the Cadre, at which short speeches were made by Colonel G. P. Norton (Honorary Colonel of the Battalion), Lt.-Col. F. A. Carline, Major R. C. Laurence, and R.S.M. Donovan. Members of the Cadre were made honorary members of the Association and each was presented with the O.C.A. Badge and a Regimental tie. It was a great occasion and many old friendships were renewed.

The Benevolent Funds of the Association have recently been augmented by over £1,000 in gifts from the Huddersfield Women's War-time Bureau, 5th Duke of Wellington's Regiment and other donors. The Benevolent Funds are open to any man or his dependents who have at any time served in the Battalion.

Our Hon. Secretary (R.S.M. N. Hobson) has been elected to serve on the Committee of the Regimental Association (World War 1939-45).

The Mirfield Branch held their Annual Meeting and Dinner on April 10th, 1946, when Major T. Goodall presided over a large company. The Holmfirth Branch keeps up its activities by monthly meetings and dances. They recently organised a very successful children's party for children of ex-members of the Battalion. The Kirkburton Branch has been revived as the result of a well attended meeting on July 3rd, 1946. It is hoped to form a branch at Penistone shortly.

Regimental Association.

Meetings of the above, presided over by the Colonel of the Regiment, were held at the Barracks, Halifax in June and July, when the question of forming branches in the various towns we serve in in peace-time was fully discussed.

The members of the various areas were most enthusiastic, and so far the following progress can be reported:—

(1) A club for all "Dukes" is in course of being formed at Halifax with its Headquarters at the Barracks. It is hoped that the club will be fully established by the time this issue is published.

(2) A meeting is being held in Huddersfield early in September to which all members of the 1/5th, 2/5th, 1/6th and 2/6th Battalions are being invited, together with those who served in these Battalions in the 1914-18 war. Progress will be reported in our next issue.

(3) A club has been formed at Sheffield with a membership of over 100 and a potential membership of 1,500; all members are very enthusiastic.

KEIGHLEY AND CRAVEN VALLEY. Meetings are being held and we hope to report progress in the next issue.

We are anxious to form "Dukes" branches in all towns and villages where there is sufficient enthusiasm to warrant it. We are specially desirous that all branches should form a small welfare committee so that they can deal with all cases in which "Dukes," or dependents of "Dukes," require assistance, financial or otherwise.

The Hon. Treasurer will be very glad to hear from anyone who feels that a "Dukes" Club in his area would be appreciated. Communications should be addressed to the Barracks, Halifax. S.E.B.

Old Comrades and Regimental Associations.

The two Associations of the Regiment held a combined dinner at the Barracks, Halifax, on 15th June, 1946, when over 200 members turned up; all Battalions of the Regiment were well represented and they sat down to an excellent repast, cooked and served by the R.E. Staff, which, at present, occupies the Barracks.

Amongst those present were Colonel C. J. Pickering, Colonel of the Regiment, who presided, Lt.-Gen. Sir Philip Christison, Bart., Commanding-in-Chief Northern Command, Colonel B. W. Webb Carter, Lt.-Col. C. D. Hamilton, Lt.-Col. R. Smith, Major S. R. Hoyle, and Mr. Paling, one of the founders of the O.C.A., and its first Honorary Secretary. The principal guests were Lt.-Col. H. A. Macdonald, R.E., Mr. W. Usher (Hon. Solicitor of the Regimental Prisoners of War Fund), Alderman N. F. S. Winter (Member of the General Committee of the Prisoners of War Fund) and R.S.M. Neilan, R.E.

After the toast of the King, the Colonel of the Regiment proposed the toast of the Regiment. After expressing the appreciation of the Regiment to Alderman Winter and Mr. Usher for their excellent work in connection with our Prisoners of War Fund, Colonel Pickering thanked Lt.-Col. Macdonald, R.E. for his co-operation in allowing the dinner to be held in Barracks, and referred to the connection of the 76th with the Macdonald family. He was very glad that General Christison had been able to come, and spoke in glowing terms of the pride of the Regiment in his achievements in the Far East during the war. The Colonel went on to give some account of the history of the "Dukes" during the war, and said how honoured he felt that the Regiment had added so much lustre to its name during the period of his colonelcy. The more he read of their achievements the more pride he felt, and it was quite obvious that the P.B.I. had done its stuff in this as in all previous wars.

The Colonel paid a warm tribute to the work of Mr. E. C. A. Moseley who had lately retired from his appointment as Secretary, and welcomed Mr. S. E. Code as his successor, a person who required no introduction.

Colonel Pickering concluded by giving details of the Regimental Association, and said he hoped that all those who had served in the Regiment during the late war would join the Association.

The toast of the Regiment was drunk with musical honours.

Lt.-Gen. Christison expressed his pleasure at being present, and stated that three days after he had taken over the appointment of G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, he had made it his duty to visit Regimental Headquarters; on enquiring there, as one "Duke" to another, what he could do, he was told, "bring the Regiment home." He was glad to say that the Regiment would be returning "home" early in September.

Lt.-Col. Macdonald, R.E., in a short speech, said how interested he was in the association of the Regiment with the Macdonald Clan, and how much the Royal Engineers had enjoyed and appreciated the amenities of the "Dukes" Barracks.

After the dinner the members settled down in the gymnasium to talk over old times; the film of the Halifax Freedom Ceremony was shown, and a concert party entertained, so a "good time was had by all."

About 100 of the "Dukes" were accommodated in Barracks for the night, and withdrew in good order the following morning. S.E.B.

Regimental Notices

WAR MEDALS

The collection of war medals owned by Lt.-Col. Sir Godfrey Dalrymple-White, Bart. (late H.M. Grenadier Guards), were sold by auction at Glendining's Rooms, 7 Argyll Street, W.1, during the three days 24th, 25th and 26th of July, 1946. The collection included a few medals of the 33rd and 76th Foot, which have been purchased on behalf of the Regiment.

- Lot 282. Waterloo, 1815 (Cpl. Thos. Ecclesley, 33rd).
- Lot 283. Military General Service, three bars, Corunna, Nivelle, Nive (Thos. White, 76th). This is from the Cheylesmore collection. The full tale of bars issued to the 76th.
- Lot 284. Army of India, five bars, Allighur, Battle of Delhi, Laswaree, Battle of Deig, Capture of Deig (T. Sillman, 76th Foot). This is an extremely rare medal. Only three other five-bar medals issued to the 76th, which was the only British Battalion present. General Lord Lake termed them "The Handful of Heroes."*
- Lot 285. British South Africa Company's medal for Matabeleland 1893, one bar Rhodesia 1896 (D. Alder, 2nd Battalion).
- Lot 286. Rhodesia 1896 (John E. Cross, 2nd Battalion).

One of the rare decorations sold in this collection was the gold cross with five bars—nine actions in all—awarded to Wellington's brilliant young New York-born friend and Quarter Master General Sir William Howe de Lancey, K.C.B., mortally wounded by the blast of a cannon ball at Waterloo. He was talking to Wellington when he was struck.

"Never mind," exclaimed Wellington at the time, but he was much affected afterwards, saying, "poor fellow, we have known each other ever since we were boys, but I had no time to be sorry then." This Waterloo Gold Cross was accompanied by the K.C.B. decoration awarded to de Lancey two months before the battle.

*[Colonel Sir Godfrey Dalrymple-White contributed an article entitled "The Old 76th and the Army of India Medal" on page 32 of No. 57 (February, 1944) of THE IRON DUKE.—Ed.].

Senior Officers' Conference

A conference of officers of the rank of Major and upwards will be held at the Royal United Service Institute, Whitehall, on Friday the 1st November, 1946, at 2 p.m.

Regimental Dinner Club

The Regimental Dinner will be held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, on Thursday the 5th June, 1947. It is hoped to make arrangements to hold the Ladies' Tea at the same place on the afternoon of the same day.

War Memorial Committee

The following officers have agreed to serve on the War Memorial Committee.

Lt.-Col. C. W. G. Ince, O.B.E., M.C., Littlecroft, West Clandon, Surrey.

Major B. V. Thomlinson, 22 MacLagan Road, Bishopthorpe, York.

Captain The Lord Savile, Walshaw, Hebden Bridge.

Captain William Cobb, Hon. Treasurer, c/o Gray, Dodsworth & Cobb, Duncombe Place, York.

"THEY."

They do amazing things to-day
In every sphere, but what I say
Is: can't they pay a bit more heed
To me, and what I really need?

They've discovered a wonderful mould,
Which cures all the rarer diseases,
But they can't do a thing for my cold,
Or stifle my seasonal sneezes.
They make me get stuck with incredible muck;
They'll compose a new nose out of one of my
toes;
They gleefully plumb in the depths of my tum;
But I still catch my regular colds,
And drench all around with my sneezes.

Over food, they're just pulling my leg
With their calories, proteins and such-like,
When they can't guarantee me my egg
Or the bacon I so very much like.
They can feed me, they say, on two tablets a
day;

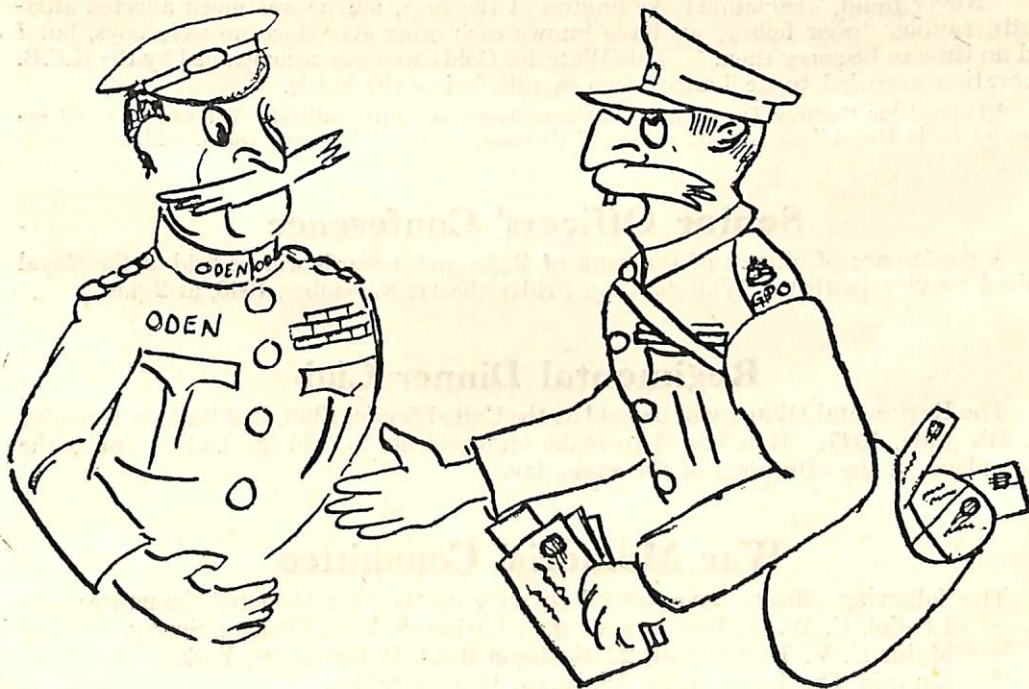
They can dehydrate meat, and solidify heat,
They reconstitute ham, and prefabricate spam;
Then they powder my beautiful eggs
—A habit I don't very much like.

Rose-hips, they have found, are a crop
Full of vitamins, making one fitter;
But it isn't the hip, it's the hop,
Which produces my noggin of bitter!
They get Vitamin "D" out of weed from the
sea;
They get broth out of bones, and squeeze
blood out of stones;
Then they turn this and that into "edible
fat!"
But they only just tolerate hops
For the sake of the tax on my bitter.

They do amazing things to-day,
But they'd do better, I should say,
To stick to simple things which please,
Like nut-brown ale, with bread and cheese.
R.G.T.

DEATH OF THE TWO TYPES

(With all due apologies to Jon).



"IT'S WIZARD TO SEE YOU OUT OF UNIFORM, OLD MAN."

Notes on Visit to B.A.O.R.

SUNDAY, 4TH AUGUST.—Left Hull at 0800. Lovely day; sea very calm. Thank goodness, as I am the world's worst! Cabins distinctly overcrowded; five in mine, meant for two. Excellent breakfast on board: kipper, bacon and egg and real white bread. The gulls followed us for some time; mostly common but a few black-backed. Spent most of the day on deck, saw very little; hardly a ripple on the sea.

MONDAY, 5TH AUGUST.—Woke at 0600 and went on deck in pyjamas just in time to see Heligoland to the north-west. About 50 mallard pass the ship flying south; going to Norfolk I hope! a solitary black tern hovers over the ship and now at 0700 the German coast is plainly visible in the morning sun. Various explosions occur ashore with large clouds of smoke; R.E. demolitions I expect. Sea still very calm and have not felt the slightest bit sea-sick and in consequence feel very proud of myself.

Docked at Cuxhaven at 0830 to be informed that there was no train till the following morning. Lovely day; hot and sunny, Germans *en fete* because it is bank holiday; many going out for picnics on foot with huge picnic baskets. They seem to wish to be friendly; very little in the shops except terrible looking black bread. Explored Cuxhaven during the afternoon; Germans look well-fed and well dressed. Beach full of people and it resembled Blackpool on a bank-holiday; though I have never seen Blackpool! Flowers in profusion, similar to those at home.

TUESDAY, 6th AUGUST.—Left Cuxhaven at 0730 to arrive at Brussels at 0645 to-morrow. East of Cuxhaven beautiful marshes with lots of duck, mostly mallard, on their morning flight. Must have seen over 500 from the train. Further east, country highly cultivated; fields unlike those at home, as a small one of two acres has normally five or six things growing in it; wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, onions, flax and Indian corn; saw one large bed of asparagus.

Approaching Hamburg the scene beggars description, nearly all the houses are just hulks, especially near the railway; four or five acres completely down and then a solitary house; railway equipment lying all over the place; swarms of children greet us at each halt with eager expectant faces; they are poorly clad and bare-footed.

Left Hamburg at 1130 and for 20 miles country similar with some intensive cultivation; then the scenery suddenly changes and becomes densely wooded; mostly silver birch, spruce and pines. Was informed on the train by a member of the egg and cress gang that much of this wood is now being cut for houses at home; I hope this information is correct! Occasional breaks in the woods of heather and gorse, both in full bloom. Also other small clearings where the natives were cutting peat. A few marshes full of cattle mostly Friesians and a few Jerseys; looted from Holland I expect. I saw a solitary pigeon and a few storks; also a bird of the hawk type which might have been a merlin. Wooded scenery continued to Celle; day overcast; I have not seen a German smoking a cigarette.

Celle station damaged but not badly; the town appears to have escaped. South of Celle arable land again; all the way to Hanover; the corn is mostly being cut with self-binders using horses; tractors are very few. Some sugar-beet and more asparagus. Most gardens contain enormous sunflowers—for the oil I expect.

Approaching Hanover utter devastation again; hardly a house standing and the streets full of rubble; gaunt hulks of houses everywhere; just before reaching the station counted fourteen shell holes in a field of less than an acre. People on holiday at the station; still crowds of bare-footed children who run at will across the railway tracks.

Stopped at Murren for tea and on to Osnabruck. Country still highly cultivated with every kind of corn and garden produce. Lots of people gleaning in the fields; everybody

seems to be working hard. The Grid electrification system seems to cover the whole country; the pylons are much larger than those at home.

Trees have changed in type and are now similar to those of our southern counties; oak, beech, chestnut predominating. Country very flat hereabout and small apple orchards are frequent. Every square yard seemed to be cultivated with more women than men working in the fields. A pathetic sight in Osnabruck was to see willow herb in bloom on the 3rd storey of many shattered houses. Sunflowers in gardens still noteworthy; there are no corn stacks; I presume the corn is being threshed as soon as it is cut. Houses similar to those at home, though the pitch of the roof is steeper to enable attics to be built in them all.

And so on to Munster with the worst destruction seen so far. There is not a house occupied within a mile of the station, and no effort seems to have been made to clear up the streets. Shades of Goering's promise to the German people! Ye Gods! Arrived at poor Hamm of "marshalling yards" fame in the gathering twilight; ghastly and ghostly. Had a meal at Frieberg at 2300 and woke at 0530 when about 40 miles from Brussels.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH AUGUST.—Country now of the market garden variety; acres of tomatoes ripening in the open. All vegetables seem to be planted on oval ridges; to get the maximum amount of sun to the roots I presume. Most beautiful cultivated flowers—especially gladioli and carnations.

Arrived at Brussels at 0700, had bath and breakfast, and met Colonel D. I. Strange-ways at 0930, and the real "business" of my journey began, i.e., going over the ground of the retirement of the 1st Battalion during the withdrawal to Dunkirk; and that must be another story. We spent most of the next three days in doing this and it was fascinatingly interesting to me, especially as I was with one who had played a "Dukes" part in that amazing page in our history; but then, that is another story also.

Belgium has recovered magnificently and without being unkind I think that some of our "powers that be" might go and see it and ask a few questions. In Brussels and other large towns the shops were full of everything; fruit of all kinds, apples, plums, pears, greengages, melons and grapes; jewelry of all kinds, clothes shops full, poulterers full of dressed chickens, grocers of cheeses of various types. It was just like London before the war and my eyes got wider and wider. France, in comparison, is very much behind; one day we crossed the frontier three times from Belgium to France and vice versa, and the immediate change from great luxury to real poverty was terribly striking and somewhat bewildering to my insular mind. The Belgians were very friendly and in one cafe where we had tea, the proprietor played tunes of the 1914-18 war; "Tipperary" and "Pack up your Troubles;" a pretty compliment to my mellow years.

SATURDAY, 10TH AUGUST.—Left Brussels at 0600 for Calais. Arrived there at 1030 to be informed that crossings were suspended for the day owing to the gale in the Channel. Spent the day in viewing the battle scars of Calais, and the following morning I was glad to welcome the white, dear cliffs of Dover as the crossing was of the uncertain variety—in more ways than one.

S. E. B.

Graves of Men of the 2/7th Battalion.

We are indebted to Lt.-Colonel G. Taylor for some information regarding graves of men of the 2/7th Battalion in France. Colonel Taylor commanded the 2/7th when they served with the 51st Highland Division alongside the Seaforth Highlanders as rearguard to the Division from Dieppe to St. Valery in 1940. He was taken prisoner and the Battalion suffered a number of casualties. Colonel Taylor has sent us the following letter regarding these graves:—

Capenhurst Rectory,

Chester,

25.4.46.

Major-General V. M. Fortune, C.B., D.S.O.

Dear Sir,

During last month I was in France staying at Veules-les-Roses, and was given the enclosed list of British soldiers buried in the local cemetery.* I have personally visited the graves, which are well looked after, and planted regularly with flowers, by the local inhabitants. I promised I would do all I could to inform the next of kin. Can you help me? as I know you were in command of the 51st Highland Division. I expect to be going back to Veules again about the end of August to see about my own house which is very badly damaged, and should so like to be able to have some little note of thanks from our people, for the French, who are at present looking after the graves of our dead.

Apologising for troubling you,

Yours very truly,

(Mrs.) C. CROSLAND-TAYLOR.

CIMETIERE DE VEULES.

Lawton, G. W., N.61712, Duke of Wellington's.

Morrissey, Captain James, R.A.M.C., Duke of Wellington's.

Giurke, Thomas, N.609616, Duke of Wellington's.

Gerrard, Captain, Duke of Wellington's.

Simpson, Alexander, Duke of Wellington's.

Davies, —, 5 F.F.N., N.55, Duke of Wellington's.

Bullock, Harold Thomas, 1 11F., 226, Duke of Wellington's.

Norbury, John, N.01N.956, Duke of Wellington's.

*[The list includes names of men of other regiments not published here. Mrs. Crosland-Taylor has been informed by the War Office that the next of kin have been informed.—Ed.]

Personalia.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Lt.-Colonel F. A. Hayden, D.S.O., O.B.E., on reaching his 85th birthday on 1st August, 1946. Apart from persistent cardiac asthma he says he is pretty well.

Also to Lt.-Colonel H. W. Becher, D.S.O., on reaching his 80th birthday on 27th July, 1946. Colonel Becher, we are glad to hear, is in good health and can still manage to shoot a pheasant or two and an occasional woodcock, as well as gardening and running his farm at his home in County Cork.

We congratulate Lt.-Colonel R. K. Exham, M.C., on his award of the O.B.E. in the last Birthday Honours List. We also congratulate Lt.-Colonel R. H. Walkden, R.E.M.E., on being mentioned in despatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Mediterranean theatre. Colonel Walkden enlisted in 1/6th Battalion in 1939 and was commissioned in 1940. After service in France, he served with the 8th Battalion, which later became the 145th Regiment R.A.C., and saw service with them in North Africa. He was later transferred to the R.E.M.E. and has now been demobilised.

The following births have been announced:—

SIDDALL.—On 19th May, 1946, at Winston House, Halifax, to Marie, wife of Lt. D. R. Siddall, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—a son (Peter Robin).

MILES.—On 3rd July, 1946, at Woodham House, West Byfleet, to Margaret, wife of Colonel H. G. P. Miles, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—a sixth child and sister for Rosemary and the boys.

LEACH.—On 25th July, 1946, at Morecambe, Lancs., to Nan (née Ramsden), wife of Captain Edgar Leach, late 2/6th and 2nd Battalions, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—a son (Andrew Ramsden).

BUTTERFIELD.—On 15th August, 1946, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Preston, to Barbara (née Hulton), wife of Major J. E. V. Butterfield, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—a son (Hugh Alan John).

The following marriages have been announced:—

BLACK: VILLEMIN.—On 15th March, 1946, at All Saints', Ramleh, Alexandria, Mr. T. J. Hamilton Black, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, to Lucienne, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Villemin of Rouchdi Pacha, Alexandria. Mr. Black joined the staff of Victoria College, Alexandria, in October, 1945.

FIRTH: JACKS.—On 4th June, 1946, at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, Mr. Michael Bodley Firth, youngest son of the late Major Denys Firth, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and of Mrs. Firth, White Cottage, Biddenham, Bedford, and Gwendoline Audrey, elder daughter of the late Mr. W. H. B. Jacks of Assam, India, and of Mrs. Jacks.

The engagement is announced between Mr. Malcolm Stewart, son of the late Sir H. Stewart, Bt., and Lady Stewart, and Beatrice Joan, daughter of Lt.-Colonel Cox, M.C., late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and Mrs. Cox of Teesta, Camberley.

The engagement is announced between Captain Denis Simonds, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, only surviving son of Lt.-Colonel J. N. Simonds and Mrs. Simonds of Staleen, Drogheda, Co. Meath, and Esther Mary (Bunty), only child of the late Captain G. T. Whyte and Mrs. Whyte of Loughbrickland, Co. Down.

The engagement is announced between F/Lt. Derek Iles, R.A.F., son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Stanton Iles, of Low Wood, Lyndhurst, Hampshire (late of Portes des Granges, Guernsey), and Brigid Doreen Margaret (Biddy) Ozanne, elder daughter of Major-General W. M. Ozanne, C.B.E., M.C., of Hill House, Wroxham, Norfolk, and of the late Mrs. Ozanne.

Lt.-Colonel C. K. T. Faithfull has been appointed as a member of a War Office Selection Board in the Middle East, for the selection of officers for regular commissions, and is, we hear, to go out there by air on 12th September.

Lt.-Colonel H. Harvey, writing last June, informed us that he had recently returned from Italy, and had put in an application to retire after 31 years' commissioned service. He was unfortunately prevented from attending the Regimental dinner on 6th June.

Major W. H. C. Cobb, in a letter last May, mentions the connection the Regiment had with the 23rd Indian Division. This Division had a distinguished record in the Burma campaign from 1942 to 1944, and then in September, 1945, was sent to Malaya and a month later to Java, where it was the first to land. He writes:—"I think I am right in saying there has never been a time when there has not been at least one Duke serving in the Divisional staff as a first and second grade staff officer. The people concerned are:—Lt.-Colonel J. H. Dalrymple, G.S.O.2 from when the Division was formed, or shortly after, and later G.S.O.1 until 1943. Major A. C. S. Savory, D.A.A.G. from 1942 to 1944. Major W. H. C. Cobb, D.A.A.G. from 1944 to 1946. . . . In addition we had Captain R. F. Jenkins, also a Duke (and like me an emergency commissioned officer) as our staff captain (A/Q., November, 1945)—he later became D.A.A. and Q.M.G. of one of our brigades." Major Cobb is a nephew of the late Major Harold Cobb of the 2nd Battalion, who died in 1909, and of his sister Mrs. F. H. B. Wellesley. He has now been demobilised and resides in York.

Major R. A. Scott, writing on 26th June, says:—"This morning I had a visit from Major T. H. G. Jones, R.A.M.C. When he saw THE IRON DUKE on my table he told me that he knew the 2nd Battalion very well at Multon before the war. He spoke very highly of the Regiment, and asked to be remembered to all old friends in the Dukes."

Major Brian Coates who served with the 2/7th Battalion in 1942 is anxious to get in touch with officers who served with him. His address is: Higher Penhale Farm, St. John, near Torpoint, Cornwall.

Captain B. Godfrey Buxton, who served with the 6th Battalion in the 1914-18 war, is anxious to get a Regimental brooch for his wife, who has lost hers, and would be glad to hear where it is possible to get one. His address is: "Woodend," Crawley Ridge, Camberley, Surrey. Can any reader help?

We were sorry to hear last July that Captain Charles Oliver had been very ill, and has been told to go very slow. He mentions having met ex-Sgt. Banks last June in Eastbourne, where the latter is now living, having been transferred from Blackpool, where he was a postman. He will be remembered by old members of the 1st Battalion, in which he served for some time in the orderly room. He was looking very well and not altered much, Capt. Oliver writes.

Mrs. Florence Dorey (daughter of the late C.S.M.I. C. J. Puplett) is now residing at Prince Rupert, B.C., and writes that she recently travelled nine thousand miles across Canada to see her mother, who is still, we are sorry to hear, very ill. Mrs. Dorey had the happy idea of trying to get into touch with ex-members of the Regiment in Canada, by advertising in the Press, with the result that she had had letters from three old Dukes. Here are some details of them:—

The first is Mr. Arthur Lowe, of Victoria, B.C., who is 82, and served in the 76th. He has written Mrs. Dorey a long letter of reminiscences, which is to be found on page 154. He also sent some relics which have been placed in the Regimental Museum.

The next is Mr. J. S. Browning, of Wilson Creek, B.C. Mr. Browning went overseas from Canada with an Edmonton (Alberta) unit in 1914, was given a commission in 1915, and joined the 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, at Steenwoerck in June of that year. The late Brigadier R. N. Bray was then in command, and Mr. Browning mentions a number of the officers at that time. He took over a platoon of "B" Company, and later commanded "D" Company. He was badly wounded at the Bois de Pacant in April, 1918, which finished his active service. He was twice mentioned in despatches, and was awarded the M.C., the Belgian Order of Leopold and the Belgian Croix de Guerre. He served in the Canadian Army from 1940 to 1946 as lieutenant. Last fall he went to see repatriated British prisoners of war from Japan passing through Calgary, and got news that Brigadier Hugh Fraser was among them, but unfortunately missed his train. Mr. Browning has three girls, two of whom served in the Canadian Air Force and married airmen, and one son, who enlisted in the Canadian Army at 16 in September, 1939, and saw service in Sicily, Italy, Belgium and Holland.

Another is Mr. M. C. Durr (ex-private No. 9474) of Box 185, New Westminster, B.C. He was transferred from the Devonshire Regiment to the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in India in 1907. He writes that he was prominent in sports, and was known as "Dead Eye," beating "Tricky Dick" and "Shorty Stevens" for the Battalion shot; and that another incident by which he could be identified was when he was nearly killed in the obstacle race, when the last obstacle crashed.

Mrs. Dorey writes that her aunt, Miss E. Puplett (a subscriber to THE IRON DUKE), is resigning from the staff of the Forbes Fraser Hospital at Bath, after serving all through the war and before it.

Mr. T. Power of 9 Charlesworth Terrace, Pellon, Halifax, has just completed 20 years as a civilian clerk at the Depot, and is still going strong. He was transferred to the Dukes from the Seaforth Highlanders at the end of the 1914-18 war, and was employed as orderly room sergeant at the Depot from February, 1919, until August, 1923. He then served with the 2nd Battalion in Egypt until 1926 when he was discharged to pension, and appointed civilian clerk at the Depot. One of his many jobs was training the orderly room staff of the A.T.S. in 1941, and he has also dealt with much of the correspondence dealing with the Prisoners of War Fund and the Regimental Association.

We hear from a relative who visited the Regency Exhibition at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, in August that a most interesting exhibit there was a collection of articles connected with the first Duke of Wellington, lent by the present Duke. It included chairs, tables, water colour portraits, a mahogany dressing case used by the first Duke throughout his life, and an elaborately fitted canteen case used by him during his campaigns. They are all very beautiful, especially an enamel portrait of the first Duke by William Essex.

THE SOLDIER OF TODAY.

"What, Sergeant, shall I read in bed to-night?
What literary fare do you propose
To make me sleep? Some airy trifle light,
Such as the Pobble, who possessed no toes?
Or Ruthless Rhymes?
Or the Financial Column of *The Times*?

Better, perhaps, to find some weightier tome,
A Treatise on the Principles of War,
Gibbon's Decline and Fall of Ancient Rome,
The Manual of Military Law,
Or, if need be,
A paragraph or two from S.A.T.?

Or, when the mind is tired and overstrained,
Would poets wing me to the Land of Nod?
Gray's Elegy, or Paradise Regained,
The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God?
Could Alex. Pope
Provide me with the necessary dope?

I've tried the classics, Fielding, Dickens, Burke;
I've done my best with Swedenborg and Freud;
I've wrestled with a monumental work
On 'Care and Maintenance of the Solenoid.'
I've had a go
At Gertrude Stein and Edgar Allen Poe.

Alas, in vain the fickle jade I woo,
Westerns I read, and shockers by the score;
I dice for death with Dr. Fu Manchu,
With Sexton Blake luxuriate in gore;
But find no solace
Not even in the thrills of Edgar Wallace."

"Despair not," said the Sergeant in reply,
"Some of the finest soldiers that I've met
Would never dream of going beddy-bye
Without the Soft Upholsterers' Gazette;
While others pin
Their loyalty to Huckleberry Finn.

But one man's poison is another's meat,
So take the tip of an old sweat who knows
The one unfailing remedy to cheat
Insomnia, and bring a night's repose:
Whate'er your room say,
Take Th' IRON DUKE to bed, and sleep till Doomsday."

O. P.

A Visit to Denmark.

We left camp in the fresh morning air about 6 a.m., and had to wait three hours at Flensburg for the train to take us into Denmark. Flensburg was a beautiful old-world port, rather like Lübeck with dull red brick churches, streets cobbled and narrow, houses quaint and gabled, or else very modern. It is untouched by bombing but suffers from the other effects of war, hunger and loss of man-power.

Coming into Denmark there seemed at first little change from that part of Germany we had just left; but as we approached Kolding we reached lovely hilly wooded country

intersected by a fjord, and there was a change in the people too ; they were well-dressed and cheerful, and there were many fine silent cars, and in the shop windows an abundance we had forgotten.

The Camp, where we were made very welcome, is a hutted one, built by the Germans and used for radio-location. After a meal we wandered out and shop-gazed. What a thrill it is to see shops packed with goods to sell. There are cooked meat shops in every street, and in them chicken, pigeon, lobster, prawns, pickled herrings in seemingly countless variety, huge dishes of salads in all shades and flavours, along with beautiful yellow mayonnaise. There were varieties of cheese we had long since forgotten, the sight of which would thrill with delight any normal British housewife : there were row after row of tall jars of milk, milk which was cream two thirds down the bottle ! There were cuts of bacon, smoked or salted, there were smoked and salted fish, and one could go on for pages about the various sauces and pickles.

In other shops were wireless sets that were the last word in modernity, all the latest in electrical goods, gramophones and records, many of British make. Shop-gazing is a tiring pastime, so we found a café and sat down to a meal of steak, chips and eggs ; bread and butter, the butter like the bread in thickness ; the eggs they fried in threes. Even the beer was good. And so back to camp, to sleep between sheets—a pleasant change

Next morning there was an organised trip up the country and a shopping excursion. We took the left side of the fjord, climbing the wooded hill until we looked down on the blue water. Nestling in the hollow at the top is Vyalı (pronounced Varı) a prosperous market town, with red-roofed houses painted white or cream. Here we again wandered round the shops, never tiring of the strange sight of so much abundance ! We sat outside a café and ordered cream cakes, the like of which has not been seen in Britain since 1939. As one sank ones teeth into them the effect was like a toothpaste tube suddenly squashed by a heavy hand. In the afternoon we went on board the "Fonde," a trim ship which the Army has chartered for trips on the fjord. Here there were dancing, a bar, and plenty of room for sunbathing and admiring the grand scenery. Here and there villages nestled in the wooded hollows, the white houses dazzling in the sun against the brilliant green background, with tiny boats tied up at the waters edge.

There is a scheme at the camp by which soldiers can visit Danes, the good people inviting a number each week. We had put down our names for this, and at seven o'clock we hired a taxi and away we went, this time along the other side of the fjord, about eleven kilometres to a house in the village called Stenderup, and here we were given a great welcome. The man of the house spoke English very well, having often been to England as a sailor. He took us a trip round the district in a taxi—they are used much more here than at home—and chatted pleasantly all the time. He showed us where two airmen had landed after their plane had been shot down ; they had been passed on from house to house, each family looking after them in turn till they could get away. At the waters edge we saw fishermen tending their nets ; brown, lean men who waved and smiled to us and shouted a greeting we could not understand.

About ten o'clock we got back to the house and sat down to supper, which we thoroughly enjoyed. The conversation came round to food, and we told them about the situation in Britain. The good people of the house looked incredulous, and said they had no idea how things were with us, why had they not been told ? They begged for our address so that they could send food to our homes—we thanked them for their kindness but pointed out how tiny the effect would be.

Then out came the liqueur, and they gave us the Danish toast "skol ;" it went round the table, each person toasting in turn ; by my turn I was feeling quite mellow, as it was quite a potent brew. The lady of the house was quite starry-eyed. By now it was 12.30 a.m. and the taxi-man who had come to fetch us was in the circle, "skoling" too ; however, it didn't affect him the same, and as all things must come to an end, we took our departure from our new friends.

Next morning we made our way to Fredrica, another town above the one we had already visited—most of us bought food gifts to send home or to take back to Camp with us. We clubbed together and bought some eggs, as eggs are a thing one misses most from one's diet in camp in B.A.O.R. By doing so we were very popular as long as the eggs lasted! The last day passed all too quickly, with another boat trip in the afternoon. The Camp is supposed to be a "rest" camp for us; be that as it may, the trip refreshed both mind and body, and gave us the chance to see and hear for ourselves how our neighbours live and talk; promoting that sense of comradeship of which the world is so sadly in need. S.F.S.

Reminiscences of an Old 76th Soldier

[As mentioned on page 151, Mrs. Dorey advertised in Canadian newspapers for old soldiers of the Regiment to communicate with her, and one of the replies came from Mr. Arthur Lowe, late of the 2nd Battalion. We print below in full his letter to Mrs. Dorey.—ED.]

108 Joseph Street,
Victoria, B.C.

Mrs. Dorey,
Dear friend,

By your letter I am inclined to think you are quite a soldier yourself and have done considerably more travel service than myself as I really was only four years and ten months in the 76th where, incidentally, I enjoyed life to the full; for one and all of the officers were real gentlemen and was worthy of the deepest respect, and I can say the same for the non-coms. all through, from my experience with them. Mine was a rather unique life in the Battalion, for to tell the truth I was never a real soldier at heart for I was more a workman than anything else, and was never at anytime unable to accomplish any work brought me to do and in that way was extremely useful to the Battalion. I held no rank although I was offered it by Capt. Skene Thompson on board the troopship *Orontes* when leaving England for Bermuda in 1886 and later in Halifax, N.S., when I was leaving the Battalion (by purchase), by Col. Nesbitt, who at the time stated that I had the respect of every officer and man in the Battalion and that he was most willing to give me anything that was in his power, including promotion, if I would reconsider my request and stay. Life is strange and opportunities come unasked and in most cases unexpected, as in my case, which led to my being brought to the notice of Col. E. G. Fenn, which came about in the following manner. On the voyage from England to Bermuda the *Orontes* encountered one of the worst storms the seamen ever experienced; the ship at one time turned over completely on its side, with the result that all the men sleeping on the troop deck were piled in a heap on the side. I was luckily in a hammock, but even at that was jammed hard against the ceiling, while any loose baggage was in a similar condition, and it was later discovered that the bass drum belonging to the Drums was split three-quarter round and the two ends were twisted nearly level with each other—really a hard looking problem for anyone unused to repairing things of that nature. After many consultations over the matter in which the engineers as well as other civilian tradesmen in Bermuda were included, none of them felt able to handle the job; with the one exception of a suggestion of the engineers, to continue the split and cut it completely in half, which did not appeal to the Colonel and Officers of the Battalion at all and they were considering the advisability of sending it back to the makers to be repaired when Sergt.-Major Chas. Hyde, who was present, made the suggestion that before sending it away, why not have private Lowe look it over and see if he could do the work. So on their agreement I was ordered to report at the orderly room and on arriving there the Col. told me to look the drum over and tell him if I could repair it back to its original condition. It didn't take many minutes for me to make a decision on that point, but where it was to be done was another

matter for I had no place to do it in, so I told him I could repair it easy enough but I couldn't do it in a barrack room and Col. Fenn recognising that situation said he wouldn't expect me to do it there and I could either do it in the Engineers workshop or in the Armourers shop, and I being impressed by the number of tools and appliances in the Armourers shop, chose that place as being most suitable. The Engineer Officer present then said, if I required anything necessary for the work, that was available in their stores. I could get it by applying to the store keeper; which I did, and was extremely fortunate in being able to secure a piece of timber of the dimensions I required. Of course the Engineers as well as the Officers of the Battalion were intensely interested; the Officers especially because I was a member of the battalion. While I myself was blissfully ignorant of their interest at the time; only looking on it as a job of work, knowing nothing of what had passed before, and by the time I had sawed out a large semi-circle in the piece of plank the diameter of the drum and was tacking it back from the inside to its original state Sergt.-Major Burgess of the Engineers came to see how I was getting along with the job; for up to then they had all been convinced that I would be unable to accomplish it, but it was really only a simple matter to me for I had been used to tricky jobs when I worked at the pipe organ trade in London, by which I had an advantage over the others. After putting some thin strips across the split I covered the entire inside of the drum with part of a sheet from the Q.M. stores.—This in my opinion should be done to all wooden army drums, to protect and strengthen them from rough usage on land or sea for if laid properly it does not affect the tone whatever.— Then after renovating the damage to the painting the job was done and the Drum was as good as ever, to the evident satisfaction of all; for before leaving Bermuda I had to line the Band Drum the same way, to prevent a like happening to it on the voyage to Nova Scotia. All this fuss and bother over a drum was due to the fact that it was not an ordinary one, that could have been easily replaced, but was one that had been presented to the Battalion by one of the Majors who had left to join the 33rd and had cost him considerable money; the painting on it alone having cost 30 guineas I was told. No wonder Col. Fenn didn't like to accede to the Engineers suggestion, for had that been carried out the lion would have been left by itself with only half of the centre shield and inscription while the unicorn would be completely gone; a nice sight to carry along the streets for a proud Battalion like ours. It is matters like this that has such a profound effect on a person's life, for after I had accomplished that work so successfully I had a prestige as a workman unsurpassed and why, although a pioneer I was retained in the Armourers shop where my ability in repairing band instruments of all kinds was fully appreciated, as well as in other works brought there to be done. In the usual military matters you probably know as much or more than myself; with the exception perhaps of some incidents occurring at Aldershot such as a visit of the then Crown Prince of Germany in his light grey blue uniform (the late unlamented Kaiser Wilhelm) which was the noisiest field day I ever experienced in that place; where every other day was a field day, for we heard that there were 70,000 troops on the long valley on that occasion and all branches of the Army were represented. Then on one other occasion when Queen Victoria was in Aldershot and drove down the lines; the reason for which I never knew, and the old Duke of Cambridge, commander in Chief was there too, with plenty of Aids around him—to see he didn't get lost I expect—and when that parade was over and we were about to leave, Major General Fielding, who was in command of the North camp where we were stationed, took the opportunity to call the Commander in Chief's attention to some new manœuvre he had had the Bedford regiment trained in, and we were selected to do it the old way; which apparently was rather unfortunate for the General, for Col. Tidmarsh, who was our commanding Officer at the time, was I believe one of the smartest C.O's in the whole British Army at that time and could handle his men with the precision of clockwork, with the result, the peppery old Duke told him brusquely before us all that he didn't want to hear any more about it and as they were right in front of me at the time, I couldn't help hearing what he said,

and thought at the time that although he was a Duke and cousin to the Queen, he was no gentleman, to treat an Officer of that rank in that manner, for he should have taken him aside to say that. But General Fielding, had a come back and took it out of us alright and in a manner I have never forgot. For before we reached our huts he ordered us marched to the Queens parade for kit inspection ; and not a one of us had anything like a full kit in any of our valises. Then ensued one of the strangest situations I am sure that ever occurred in the annals of the British Army ; for with the sole exception of Col. Tidmarsh ; who was with the General all the time, all the Officers and non-coms joined with the men in aiding one another to make the inspection as successful as possible, borrowing articles from other companies to make up the deficiencies in the first company to be inspected and as soon as that was inspected, passed needed articles on to the next and so on down the whole line of companies. So that he had the privilege of re-inspecting most of the various articles over and over again. But after it was all over we had the time of our lives getting things straightened out and back to their rightful owners ; the whole proceeding was most unique and amusing even though it was confusing. It was the only time I ever saw anything of that nature done, for Officers are usually exceptionally particular on all matters that pertain to deceit, but I have always thought that in this particular case it was excusable, as the situation was so unexpected and caught us all unawares and was in the nature of spite over the Commander in Chief's rebuff. Of course there were other occasions when we would be out on the Fox hills going through battle practice ; one time in particular I remember well, for "D" company that I was in, had for a company commander that day a rather wild Irishman, by rank and name Lieut. O'Hara and at the last part of the movement when we fixed bayonets and charged up a low hill topped with trees and reached the crest yelling our hardest and with bayonets lowered for the charge, we observed quite a number of carriages there among the trees, with many ladies and gentlemen who had been standing talking. In an instant all was confusion, horses rearing and plunging ; frightened by the noise of all those men yelling and the sight of the glittering bayonets, while the women were running about bewildered and screaming at the top of their lungs, while the men seemed equally as helpless, and our Irish commander was too excited himself for a moment or two to order an halt. I'm afraid we were not over burdened with sympathy for them ; we were laughing too much for that, for the situation although quite unexpected was most amusing to us. Then again when a draft was being formed for service with the 33rd in India : most of whom were Irish boys, we had a near mutiny and the Guard room was full of half drunk fighting men, and one of them reaching out through the bars on the window grabbed the sentry's bayonet, as he was passing, and in the struggle bent it over at a right angle ; which caused quite a stir in Parliament at the time and revealed the fact that they were made in Germany ; or so we were told, and we had it in the Armourers' shop for a long time. Of my time in the Bermudas I think I got off with a good start as I was one of several men from different companies detailed the day following our landing off the troopship ; for the Agars island guard which was supposed to be for seven days but in our particular case was longer than that ; 11 days as near as I can remember, and which I well remember both for that and the subsequent events that we all had to contend with, the young Officer as well as us. We had only a few pennies among the whole lot of us to purchase anything with, but our lack of money matched the little canteen very well, for there was practically nothing in it for sale anyways, as no fresh stock had been supplied to it since the guard was handed over by the York and Lancasters, and who had probably took away what was there, and our Q.M. had not had time to attend to such a trifling matter. There were no drunks and the language of the habitues of the wet canteen was not by any means Angelic and their opinions of that state of affairs was both vitriolic and lurid, but for myself having always been a total abstainer I was not concerned about that. But that wasn't the worst part of it, for after the first few days of most beautiful weather ; when it seemed to be the most heavenly place I had ever seen, and some rations had been supplied, the weather suddenly

changed to most stormy conditions, with waves running high ; so much so, that the duty boat, that supplied the guard with rations, was unable to get near to land anything whatever for several days so that for over two days we were without food of any kind ; not even fish, for no fish ever ventured near that craggy coast during stormy weather. Maybe the Q.M. benefitted but our innards didn't ; despite what the Doctors say about eating too much : and incidently I never heard tell of any of those guys starving themselves to prove that statement. Apart from that experience and the incident of repairing the Drum, I don't recall much happening there of Military interest other than the presentation of new colours ; the circumstances connected with which I need not mention here as I am enclosing with this letter the printed particulars supplied to each man in the battalion by the Queens printer at the time which you can, if you like, forward after you have read it, to the Museum you mentioned. Life with the Battalion in Halifax, Nova Scotia was of the usual order of Barrack existence, nothing of Military importance happening during the time I was there in the Battalion. I don't recall ever meeting your Father, for the name—Puplett—is quite unfamiliar to me ; but that is perhaps not singular as, apart from my recruit days ; being a pioneer and always working, and the Battalion being broken up in separate parts I had little opportunity to meet all of the Sergts. like a dutyman would. I don't know whether I have fulfilled all your expectations or not in regard to details of what I remember of the Battalion, but perhaps I have mentioned some with which you are not acquainted, but probably have forgotten many others, for none of us in this world remember everything that has occurred in our lives. Of later events since leaving the Battalion there is nothing much of interest to be told for after my marriage—which was immediately after my discharge—it was just the usual struggle for a living and to bring up our five children, all still living, and ranging in ages now from 55 to 37 years, all but the youngest married, and with grown up families except my oldest son some of who's are young. Among their children four of my grandsons served in the late war whilst my other son Arthur, who is a widower now, served all through the first great war and enlisted in the late war as a Lac (being an Electrician and quite an expert on radio ; in fact is a radio amature and has a call number of his own here) but after about a month at Manning camp at Toronto was discharged as medically unfit. The worst occurrence in all the 40 years I lived and did business in Halifax was undoubtedly the great explosion on the munition ship " Mont Blanche " which wrecked and destroyed so many of our homes and belongings so that few of us ever recovered from our losses and pretty well all our businesses were gone completely while the rest was taken over by new comers and those conditions were mainly the cause of us coming here to Victoria ; a place we never liked when we came and although I have been here about 20 years I don't like it any better, but as I am now in my 83rd year I don't think that matters much so I'll let it go at that, and will offer my regrets for the time it has taken me to answer your letter—as my hands are now so shaky that I can only write late in the evening and sometimes not even then and added to that I am unable now to tax my brain for any length of time, so, have to stop often, or, change my line of thought for a while and of course speed is out of the question. Now in conclusion I will add, my wife died June 8th, 1940 so I am living with my youngest unmarried daughter who is a stenographer in a law office here and has been for several years, and although I am mostly alone by myself all day I am never lonesome for I can always find something to do to keep my mind occupied. Now with the old Dukes motto—" Virtutis fortuna comes "—and the Hon. East India company's—" Ausp reg sen ang "—I'll close with my best regards for yourself and appreciation of your deep interest in these matters.

ARTHUR A. LOWE, late 1569 Duke of Wellington's,
2nd West Riding Regiment, The old 76th.

P.S.—My youngest daughter Amy E. Lowe is adjutant in the Women's auxiliary of the Red Cross here in Victoria and has been with them all through this last war and is still with them as there is no prospect of them being disbanded yet.

The Diamond Jubilee of the Distinguished Service Order

The Distinguished Service Order was created by Queen Victoria under a Royal Warrant dated 6th September, 1886, and so it celebrates its Diamond Jubilee this year. The creation of the Order was suggested by the Rt. Hon. W. H. Smith (of railway book-stall fame), who, as First Lord of the Admiralty and as Secretary of State for War, had been struck with the inadequacy of the existing methods of rewarding officers for distinguished service in time of war. Except for the Victoria Cross, which stood apart as an award for outstanding acts of valour, there remained the granting of brevet rank, which invariably led to dissatisfaction and sometimes created anomalies; or the award of one of the two Orders then existing for which officers of the Fighting Forces were eligible, the Orders of the Bath and of Saint Michael and Saint George. In actual practice these two Orders were very rarely conferred upon an officer below the rank of colonel or its naval equivalent, and even then the awards were restricted in numbers. Therefore Mr. Smith advised Her Majesty of the need for creating a new Order as a reward for outstanding services in time of war. At one time the Queen toyed with the idea of creating a new Order with a Civil branch, which could be conferred upon eminent musicians, writers, and other civilians of distinction; but after due consideration this idea was rejected and the Order was founded upon lines which were very much the same as those upon which it is awarded at the present time.

The badge of the Distinguished Service Order is a gold cross, enamelled white, edged with gold, and having on one side the Imperial Crown in gold on a red background, encircled by a laurel wreath enamelled green. The other side shows the Royal Cypher in gold upon a red background, surrounded by a similar green enamelled ribbon edged with blue, the ribbon being only an inch wide, which is somewhat narrower than the general run of British medal ribbons. The wearers of the decoration, who are officially styled Companions of the Distinguished Service Order, are officers of the Land, Sea, and Air Forces of the British Empire who have been mentioned in despatches, and who have also been specially recommended for this award in recognition of gallant or distinguished services in time of war.

The names of officers who are awarded the D.S.O. are published in *The London Gazette*, the first list of appointments to the Order having been published in the issue dated 26th November, 1886, when forty officers were granted the D.S.O. in respect of services rendered in the Burma and Soudan campaigns. From its inception up to the outbreak of war in 1939 the D.S.O. had been given to approximately eleven thousand officers. Up to the present no figures have yet been published showing the number of D.S.O.'s awarded for services in the campaigns of 1939/45.

By a later Royal Warrant, dated 3rd August, 1916, it was ordained that a Bar, to be worn on the ribbon, should be granted to any officer who, being already a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, should perform "an approved act of gallantry" for which he would have received the D.S.O., had he not already been in possession of that decoration. By virtue of this proviso no less than seven hundred and nine officers were granted a Bar to the D.S.O. (equivalent to the winning of the decoration twice); while seventy-one received two Bars (equivalent to winning the D.S.O. three times over); and seven officers accomplished the outstanding feat of gaining three Bars (equivalent to winning the D.S.O. four times over).

By a new Royal Warrant dated 5th February, 1931 the award of the D.S.O. was restricted to those who had been mentioned in despatches and had rendered distinguished service under fire or under conditions equivalent to actual conflict with the enemy. In 1942 a further amendment was made to the Statutes governing the Order, by which officers of the Merchant Navy were declared eligible for the D.S.O. for acts of gallantry performed in the presence of the enemy in time of war.

Among the forty original recipients was Captain Evan George Lloyd, South Yorkshire Regiment. The title South Yorkshire Regiment was then borne by the Regiment now known as The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. The modern way of giving a detailed account of the action for which the D.S.O. was awarded did not come into being until the end of the Boer War, and therefore Captain Lloyd's award is merely described as "For services at Ginniss." The Battle of Ginniss was a very satisfactory victory by the Anglo-Egyptian forces, on the banks of the Nile, on the morning of 30th December, 1885. Captain Lloyd had the distinction of being the first officer to win a D.S.O. afloat (before any naval officer did so), as he was in command of the armed stern-wheeler *Lotus* whose function was to steam slowly up and down the Nile firing on the Dervishes and harassing them as much as possible. Under Captain Lloyd's command, the *Lotus* also did good service by capturing Arab sailing nuggers which were conveying food and supplies to the Dervish forces. Subsequently he was transferred to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and was killed in action while commanding our 1st Battalion at Rhenoster Kop on 29th November, 1900. Of this action, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in his History "The Great Boer War," says that "Nothing could have exceeded the tenacity of the Yorkshiresmen* and the New Zealanders who were immediately to their left. Though unable to advance they refused to retire. Colonel Lloyd of the West Ridings was hit in three places and killed. Five out of six officers of the New Zealand corps were struck down. There were no reserves to give a fresh impetus to the attack, and the thin scattered line, behind bullet-spotted stones or ant-hills, could but hold its own while the sun sank slowly upon a day which will not be forgotten by those who endured it."

"The Boers were reinforced in the afternoon, and the pressure became so severe that the field guns were retired with much difficulty. Many of the Infantry had shot away all their cartridges and were helpless. Gradually the violet haze of evening deepened into darkness, and the incessant rattle of rifle fire died away on either side. Again, as at Modder River, the British Infantry still lay in their position determined to take no backward step; and again the Boers stole away in the night, leaving the ridge which they had defended so well."

Besides the Distinguished Service Order, Lt.-Colonel Lloyd was a Companion of the Order of the Bath and held the Egyptian Order of the Medjidie, together with the following campaign medals:—Indian General Service Medal, 1854 with clasp for Jowaki, 1877/8; Afghan War Medal with one bar; Egyptian Medal with three bars: Khedive's Bronze Star with bar for battle of "Toski"; Queen's Soudan Medal, 1896: Khedive's Silver Soudan Medal, 1896 with three bars; the Queen's South Africa Medal with two bars. At a time when medals were rather less widely distributed than they are in these post-World-War days, Lt.-Colonel Lloyd was one of the most be-medalled officers in the whole British Army, and it will be noticed that every one of his decorations was for service in the field, in India, Afghanistan, Egypt, Sudan or South Africa. His D.S.O. was pinned on by Queen Victoria at Osborne, Isle of Wight.

To the present generation, Lt.-Colonel Lloyd's name may be unknown, but when the writer of this article served in The Duke of Wellington's Regiment during the 1914/18 war, he often heard the name of Lt.-Colonel Lloyd quoted as an example of everything a Commanding Officer should be, by the "Old Sweats" of South African days. There is no doubt that he must have been one of the best beloved C.O.'s the Regiment ever had. Under his command the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment was admittedly one of the most efficient units in the Army. The annual inspection report of the Battalion for 1899 contained the following remarks by the inspecting officer, Major-General Sir Leslie Rundle:—"This is a very fine Regiment, and will do credit anywhere. They have a great idea of themselves, which is deserved. They respect their officers and N.C.O.'s. They did well at manœuvres, and would do well on service. The Commander-in-Chief

told their Guard of Honour he had never seen a better one turned out, and I have always found the same. They are one of the best behaved battalions I have ever come across, and this I attribute to Colonel Lloyd and the system in the Regiment." The Commander-in-Chief was, of course, Field Marshal Lord Wolseley.

In this, the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Distinguished Service Order, it is fitting that The Duke of Wellington's Regiment should salute the memory of the gallant and distinguished Officer who was the first member of the Regiment to wear that coveted decoration.

R. M. H.

*This reference to Yorkshiremen is a tribute to "THE DUKE'S," who were the only Yorkshire unit present.

Two Crimean War Letters

Last August Major S. E. Baker received a number of old documents concerning the 33rd Regiment from Mrs. Beuttler, wife of Lt.-Colonel L. B. B. Beuttler, M.B.E., The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Mrs. Beuttler is the great-grand-daughter of the late Colonel F. R. Blake, who commanded the 33rd at the Battle of the Alma. These documents have been deposited in the Record cupboard at the Depot.

Amongst them were two letters written from the Crimea in 1854, describing the Battle of the Alma and the March to Balaklava respectively. No description is given of the writer of the second letter, and we do not know whether he was in the 33rd. Both letters are of great historical interest to the Regiment, and supplement the rather formal account given by Lee in his History of the 33rd.—Ed.

Letter from Colour-Sergeant George Spence, 33rd Regiment.

Scutari Barrack Hospital, 27th Sept., 1854.

My dear Brother and Sister,

I will just give you a Short account of one of the most horrible Battles that was ever fought. We landed on the Crema on the 14 September 1854 without any opposition. We took up our Respective Stations and we Lay there without tents for 2 or 3 nights ; we then got 7 for a company. We had them for one night, they was then sent away and we for the road the Next Morning. Well we got farely away by about 9 o'clock we marched in dubble colulm Of Brigades Artillery on Both Flanks. You must understand that the Crema is a fine level piece of ground. Well we marched and halted until about 4 o'clock at that time we marched across a muddy river about 2 feet deep, and then halted for the night. The men run away like Madmen for to get a Drink of water for they had not been able for to get a Drink the Whole Day. but they had Scasely got away before the fall in sounded and of we went for about another mile for the Cossacks Came in Sight about 10,000 of them. The Light Division formed line and our Artillery got in Order and Payed them of for their Trubble. We then Piled arms and Lay down with our Wet Things on us, ready to turn out at a Moment's Notice but they did not Trubble us any more. that Night. At 4 o'clock next Morning we fell in and remained under arms until Daylight. We then packed our Bits of traps together and we commenced to form up. We got that done by about 10 o'clock. We then came in view of a range of hills and over these hills Lay the Road that we had to pass Which almost Looked Impossible to think of for there was Brest Works in every Corner and they mounted about 100 guns. At the foot of this mountain was a Village and in Rear of the Village there was a River in Rear of the River there was an entrenchment but all these things had to be passed and must. We advanced steadily until we got to within 2 miles of the Hill. At this Time they Set fire to the Village and Corn Stacks then commenced firing at us. After the first

Shot the Light Division formed Line and the 2d. Heavy Division formed Line to the right. They then advanced for a 100 yards, the Light then advanced 200 and then as we halted we Lay down. Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Siree, St. Mason, St. Bairstow Sugden and Me was on the Colors. Me, Bairstow and Mason was the advance Serjeants of the Line. So as I stated we advanced and halted in this Way until we got to within about 500 yards of the Hill we then advanced steadily until we came to the River. The Colonel Said in you go, but one of the Serjeants Said, I cannot Swim ; but while they was talking in I went on Speck and the Regiment followed in gallant Stile. Over we went across an entrenchment over the Road and up the Hill and a 5 gun battery Playing Shell and Grape and Canister at us with awful effect, for many a fine Fellow never got over the river. Then the advanced Files got to the Hill Top. I never expected to live another Moment but we rushed to the Battery and Mounted the Brest Work Silenced their Guns, and then turned to for to pay them of for the Loss of our poor Cumrades. The Russians had two Cumpanies out Scremagin but in less than 5 Minutes there was only 3 men of them Left. the other Night of they then marched down a Columne of 1000 Men and halted them. Our fellows knocked them down 3 at once, in fact it was Slaughter and no Mistake, for the Russians Lay about like Skittle Balls. I will just tell you my own Misfortunes and after all good Fortune. I was in the act of Loading my Rifle when a Musket Ball struck my Bayonet and made it into an Irish One, the Ball Split one half Struck Me on the middle finger of the Right the other on the 3rd finger of the Left Hand, another Ball cut a bit out of My jacket it never tuched the Skin. another Split the Leaf of my Pouch, it done me no arm. another struck the edge of My doghead, and Blew it out of My Hat and Riped my Beaver to the Peak. I got a Blow on the Left Elbow with a bit of a Shel but it only burnt Me. There is a Blister on it about as big as a Sixpence, another musket ball Struck below the Cap Plate about an inch, and about an Inch to the Right, and it Struck Me on the Head and Ploughed away the Flesh, but thanks be unto God it did not break the Scull but it is a bad wound for the Scull is bare and the Cut is about 2 inches long. I had my old Pipe in my Cap a newspaper and a Handkerchief the Ball Passed out at the Back of my Cap and pushed the best part of the Handkerchief out of the Hole and I have it so still with the Hare stuck in it. If you come down here you will be able to see it. Dear Brother I fully expected that you was down here for when I came I had nothing but what I stood in, and from the time that I landed until I came here I never had my Cloths of. I will write you a few of the names of the Wounded. I will give you the Serjeants. Checkley Lost a leg. G. Lee Dead, C. Byrne Dead, Feather Dead, Byrne and Feather was killed down at the River. Ryan Dead, Vince, Shoulder, Hancock, Legs of, Townsend Leg wound, Mason Leg Wound at the Colors. Giles I believe is Dead but not Shore, Forsyth arm, Bairstow arm at the Colors, Gilbert Skin wound. I think he will lose his Leg. Clark arm slightly, O'Brian Struck with a Spent 6 pounder and Stuned, McGill arm, Sugden at the Colors a Shell burst among the Colors and the Powder went into his eye, Kean in the belly, out at the hip, Hare in the Grion out at the Back of hip, Minary Slightly, Cockcross slightly through the Leg. The Whole of the Balls Passed through almost officers. Mr. Greenwood in the belly, Siree in the Belly in 3 or 4 places. Since Dead. Worthington through both Legs had Left cut of, but he died in the Passage. Mr. Montague Shot Dead, Mr. Wallace Leg. Those officers was wounded at the Colors. Major Gough Wounded, the Ball entered his Left Hip, and came out at his Ribs, just over the Hart, but I think he will get better. Tracy, Col. Stewart, Quince, Geoffrey, Jack McHugh, Davis, the 2 Wagans, the 2 Powers, Hughs, N. Smith, Ogden, Longstaff, killed. Dare, McFarlane Skeggs Cl. Land, is wounded, but I cannot think of their Names at present. Jem Connell lost his left hand, in all our Cumpany had 3 killed and 25 wounded So far as I can collect the Names. I cannot give any more news this time, for it makes my head ache writing so long. The Dr. told me it would be a long time getting Better. 3 Cassidys got wounded, the Butler lost his finger, Mrs. Kilney died since the Wounded came down here. All the Women is in Barracks here. I am given to understand that our Regiment lost 390

killed and wounded. The 23rd lost the Colonel, the Adjutant, Sergt. Major, 7 Captains, 5 Subalterns, and as many men as we. I would give you an account of the Battle, field the Day after the Fight, but you must wait until I see you.

So no more at Present from your affectionate Brother,

G. SPENCE,

Color-Serjeant L. C. 33rd Regt.

I forgot to tell you that when I got the Shot it knocked me Sensless and Blind for a Time. I then could find my senses coming back for which I was truly thankful. S X

Pr ? M' Gurk the Captain's Servant died on the Passage up, but I do not know who he has now, we lost 20 men on the Passage out, and Mr. Thistlethwayte and Major Erskine was not at the Fight he was on board ship sick.

I must halt.

From George Spence Color-Serjeant 33rd Regiment

To John Spence,

Private 33rd D. W. Regiment,

Depôt Varna.

Letter from Richard Pearson :—

H.M.S. Agamemnon,

Balaklava Crimea,

Sept., 27, 1854.

Here we are all together again my dearest Mother, and this noble ship actually inside the harbour of Balaklava. I wrote last from the field of battle at Alma, and since then we have had long marches thro' a most beautiful country, and one mass of vineyards and beautiful orchards. I have not got my small diary with me at this moment, but shall try nevertheless to give you some sort of account of our doings since the battle of Alma on the 20th about which you will read all the particulars, I have no doubt, and I shall pass it over, merely mentioning that I think it a most brilliant and *gallant* victory achieved by indomitable pluck. On that field I lost many a sincere friend, and when I saw the poor fellows stretched out after the action, I must own I felt the day had been hardly bought. I believe most if not all the army that were engaged did their duty most nobly and it was only through God's mercy that every man did not fall under the terrific concentrated fire that they experienced.—We remained at Alma a day after the battle, for the purpose of embarking the wounded, and burying the dead.—The following day we marched to the Katcha Valley a most lovely spot, and the next on to the Belbek, where we fully expected a decided resistance but though the enemy might have occupied a very strong position, to our surprise we marched on undisturbed, and the whole allied force wound over the bridge and through the defiles without seeing a soul. We found the pretty little villages quite deserted, the inhabitants being generally told by the Russians that we should murder them all. We bivouacked for the night on the heights beyond the river within 5 miles of Sebastopol. We marched early the following morning, and odd enough our only orders were to march South South East (West original) by the compass ; this is explained when I tell you that we marched the whole day through a very thick wood without a single road.—We marched on until we came out upon a cross road leading to a farm called I suppose by the name of some colonial Makenzie's farm.—There we found our cavalry had had a brush with the enemy having fallen in with Menschickoffs baggage, escorted by about 10,000 men, who all made off as soon as ever they saw our troops.—A 9 pounder battery of our horse artillery pitched into them as they were making off, and touched them up not a little. Where we came up we found the debris of everything you can imagine appertaining to officers apparel and comforts.—A cart load of Champagne had

already been discussed by the cavalry. We took waggon loads of ammunition which were immediately blown up.—This little affair gave great vigor to the men and on we marched for the black-river which we did not reach till nearly dark. We bivouaced there for the night, and feeling very *hungry* and very *tired*; the Gen'l and his Staff rolled themselves up in their cloaks and endeavoured to sleep off both—our second horses had not come up and therefore we had nothing to eat. We were off again early in the morning and reached the plain below Balaklava about noon. Some skirmishers were immediately thrown out up the pass leading to the sea, but before they had gone far they were fired upon by musketry, and very soon some shell came amongst them from a fort close to the sea; by a little maneuvering however, we soon settled these gentlemen, and when I went up to the top of a very steep hill with some of our horse artillery I found the dear old Agammemnon just off the fort also blazing away. Our 9 pounders fired right down into the fort and very soon we saw a white flag flying at the top.—We took about 100 prisoners on going into the town.—Where we found a most beautiful little harbor. Some of our Steamers were very soon in, and at this present moment this huge ship is as it were right in the middle of the town.—This is a day of rest and our troops were sadly in want of it.—They have had very hard work and I grieve to say our sick list is still a very long one, and the Cholera still sticks to the troops. I am as well as ever I was thank God, and feel remarkably fresh at this moment, as I managed to get a clean shirt and a bath this morning.—My dear good Uncle is in excellent spirits and delighted at our success.—Old Dundas does nothing and keeps well away from everything. Lt. Arnand is very unwell and the command devolves upon Canrobert, a most excellent officer and a great favorite with us all. The Marshal I believe returns to France as soon as possible. I do not think Sebastopol will give us much trouble as the defeat the Russians experienced in their stronghold at Alma has produced a panic in their army.—They will never face us again I think; and I should not be at all surprised if the town when summoned will surrender. We have completely done them by our marching round to this side, and establishing a harbour under their very nose.—I received all your dear letters this morning which amused and delighted me beyond measure.—God help you all is my constant prayer.—All our relations and friends out here are thriving or I should rather say all *your* friends; for a good number of mine are very seedy. I intend taking off presently a capital piece of the Admiral's bacon, and other creature comforts, which I have secured from his steward Mr. Collins.—I saw Lenox Prendergast the other day after Menschikoff's discomfiture.—The Greys were not landed in time for Alma. Rather an amusing question was asked by a *very young cornet* at Varna. Whether the *Inphuntry* would be employed at Sebastopol?—The dear Admiral has got an old Russian General prisoner on board here, who is now close by my elbow. He does not seem pleased with all he sees going on around him. With much love to all,

etc., (—————)

33rd Regiment 1939-45, Dinner Club.

The first Dinner of this Club was held at the Savoy Hotel on Friday, June 15th, Col. B. W. Webb-Carter presided and the following members were present:—B. Hindley, P. R. Faulks, S. V. Sills, J. A. Randall, Rev. T. W. Richardson, M. T. C. Hastings, E. A. Routledge, P. A. Druce, A. G. Peel, M. H. Curtis, E. M. Goodman-Smith, F. P. Froude, D. Farquhar, R. B. Fowler, E. Oliver, A. Paterson, P. Sherrat.

A cable with greetings from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment was received during the evening.

B. W. W-C.

Obituary.

We regret to record the following deaths :—

BUIST. On August 4th, 1946, in London, Lt.-Colonel Frederick Braid Buist, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and R.A.S.C. Colonel Buist was born on 12th January, 1861. He was educated at Sandhurst and joined the 33rd on 11th September, 1880. He served on the staff of the Commissariat and Transport in India from January, 1887 to February, 1888, and transferred to the Army Service Corps in March, 1889. During his service with the 33rd his name was Lt. Sparks, the change to Buist came later. An appreciation of him by N. S. in *The Times* of 19th August, stated that he "... quickly earned distinction on the North West Frontier and as a member of the regimental polo team which won and held the Army Championship of India." This is incorrect as can be seen from the letter he wrote and which was published in the account of the 1st Battalions' successes in the Infantry Polo Cup on page 40 of No. 30 (Feb., 1935) of *THE IRON DUKE*. In this he says :—

"Prior to 1884 the polo cup was open to all regiments in India, with the result that the Infantry never won. The Cavalry (and especially the 10th Hussars) were far better mounted. In 1884 the polo authorities decided to give a Cup open to infantry regiments only. The tournament was held in Umballa, and Saunders, Bruce, Wrench and myself represented the 33rd and were only beaten in the final by the 25th K.O.S.B's. I left the Regiment that year for Quetta when the so-called Penj'deh incident occurred, and several of us were sent up there on special duty connected with transport, etc. I don't think there was any polo tournament in 1885 owing to this semi-mobilization ; but in 1886 the next tournament was held, when the 33rd won the Cup, Anderson taking my place."

Colonel Buist married Miss Marion Smythe, of New York, and had three sons and a daughter. The eldest son was at one time Equerry to H.M. The King, when he was Duke of York, and accompanied him and the Duchess of York on their world tour in H.M.S. *Renown* in 1927.

SMITH. On April 28th, 1946, at his home Springfield House, Gomersal, near Leeds, Major Harry Smith, M.C., late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Major Smith was commissioned in the 2/4th Battalion in August, 1914 and was later posted to the Machine Gun Corps, in which he won his M.C. He was demobilised in 1919.

WHITE. In August, 1945, Lt.-Colonel Williams Edward White, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and Indian Army. Colonel White was born on 4th November, 1865 and joined the 1st Battalion in India in November, 1887. He transferred to the Indian Staff Corps on 25th November, 1889, and joined the 1st Bengal Native Infantry.

In 1911 he was appointed to the command of the 3rd Brahmans, serving with them in Egypt and Mesopotamia in the 1914-18 war. After relinquishing his command he served on the staff in the Persian Gulf and East Africa. He retired on 14th February, 1920, and settled at Lynton, North Devon, where he was a J.P. and served on the Urban Council. During the recent war he served on the Civil Defence Committee, and took part in various exercises at the age of 78. He was a keen supporter of *THE IRON DUKE* and took a great interest in the doings of the Regiment. He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Slater.

DEKKO!

DEKKO!

THE IRON DUKE

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