

No.66 February 1947



# 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  
(WEST RIDING)

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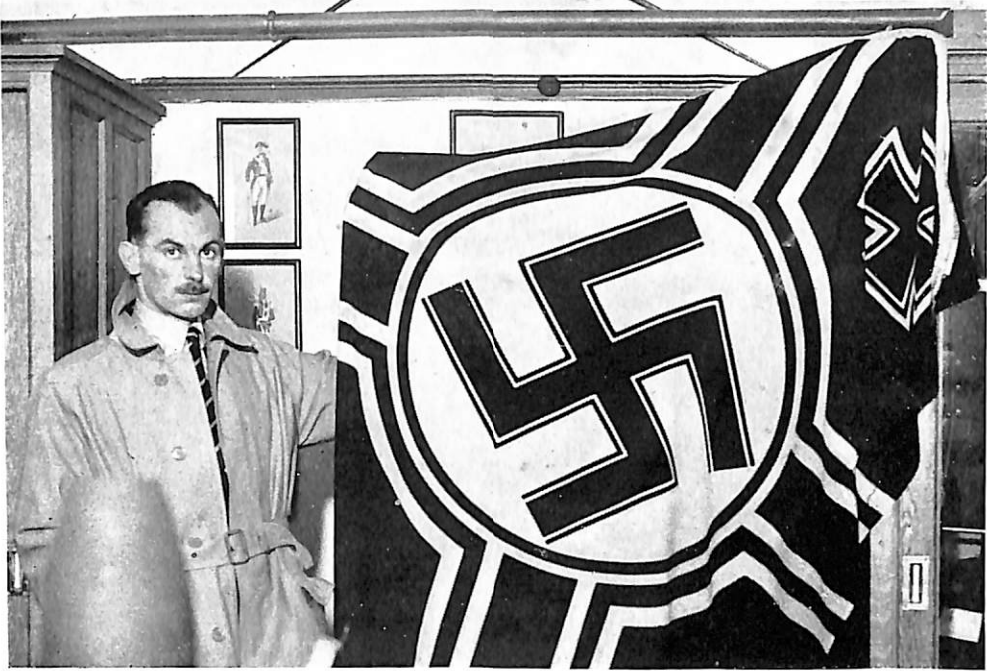
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7th BATTALION'S WAR TROPHIES.



Flag of the 6th German Parachute Division.



Nazi War Medals.

*(Photograph by courtesy of the Huddersfield Examiner.)*

# THE IRON DUKE

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## EDITORIAL.

As will be seen in their news, the 1st Battalion have left Palestine for the second time and are now stationed at Khartoum ; the first occasion that any battalion of the Regiment has been there. We were unfortunately unable to publish any news of the 2nd Battalion in our last issue owing to the fact that although their notes were sent by air mail, they were apparently too heavy and came by ordinary mail, arriving after No. 65 had been published. The news therefore in this number covers the last eight months, and at the time they were written the Battalion, after several moves, was hoping to be back in Meerut for Christmas. The 6th and 7th Battalions are now in suspended animation (the latest official jargon !), but the 146th Regiment R.A.C. (late 9th Battalion) are still serving in India, and when we last heard from them had had no news of their disbandment.

By the death of Lt.-Colonel F. A. Hayden, reported on page 55 of this issue, only one member of the old 33rd Foot, Colonel A. Curran, now survives. Colonel B. St. J. le Marchant, another of his contemporaries, was posted from the 76th at the date of the amalgamation of the 33rd and 76th in July, 1881. Colonel Hayden commanded the 2nd Battalion from 1908 to 1912, and the 9th (Service) Battalion in the 1914-18 war. He compiled the Historical Records of the 76th (Hindoostan) Regiment, a most valuable history. His interest in the Regiment was maintained up to the time of his death, and he will be greatly mourned, not only by his few remaining contemporaries, but by all those who served under him.

In December last the new organisation for the Infantry was put into operation, and in consequence No. 4 I.T.C. at Brancepeth, formed from the Depots of the Regiment and the Durham Light Infantry during the war, has been disbanded. A new organisation, named No. 33 P.T.C., has been formed at Halifax, and is under the command of Lt.-Colonel J. M. Dalrymple, with Major J. H. Davis as his second-in-command. It trains recruits of all arms of the Service, and those of our Regiment go on from there to the I.T.C. of six northern regiments, which is being formed at Catterick. Lt.-Colonel C. W. B. Orr, who recently relinquished command of the 1st Battalion, has been given command of the I.T.C., and Major L. F. Kershaw is to command the Headquarters Company. Thus four high posts in the new organisation are filled by officers of the Regiment.

The Territorial Army is to be re-formed in January, 1947, and it is hoped that all officers who have served in the war will if possible rejoin their battalions. There are five Cadet Battalions affiliated to the Regiment in our recruiting area, and ex-officers will be warmly welcomed by them. The addresses of commanding officers can be obtained from Major S. E. Baker, T.D., The Barracks, Halifax, who will also be glad if the permanent addresses of all those attending any re-union dinners that are held could be sent to him.

A meeting of senior serving officers of the Regiment took place at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, on 1st November, 1946, presided over by the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel C. J. Pickering. Amongst those present were Lt.-General Sir Philip Christison, Major-General W. M. Ozanne, Brigadier F. H. Fraser, Lt.-Colonel M. V. le P. Trench, Colonel G. S. W. Rusbridger, Lt.-Colonel W. H. Hinchcliffe, and Captain Lord Savile. Subjects discussed were : the Post-War Organisation of the Army, the Old Comrades' Association and the Regimental Association, the Officers' Dinner Club and Ladies' Tea, Regular Commissions, the Regimental War Memorial and THE IRON DUKE.

The Officers' Dinner Club will hold their annual dinner in London on Thursday, 5th June, 1947. It is also hoped to hold an O.C.A. dinner in London and one in Halifax during the summer.

We would draw our readers' attention to the Colonel of the Regiment's appeal for subscriptions to the Regimental War Memorial, on page 34. Major Baker reported that subscriptions were coming in well when we heard from him towards the end of December.

## FRONTISPIECE.

By the courtesy of the *Huddersfield Examiner* we reproduce as frontispiece two photographs of war trophies collected by the 7th Battalion while under the command of Lt.-Colonel Denis Hamilton. The upper photograph shows the Nazi flag which the Battalion captured when the 6th German Parachute Division surrendered to them at Barne, Holland, on 9th May, 1945. It was a battalion of this Division which was wiped out by the 7th Battalion during the fierce fighting for the Nijmegen Bridge. The officer holding the flag is Mr. J. Pyrah, who was transport officer of the 7th Battalion.

The lower picture shows the Nazi war medals which Colonel Hamilton collected. They are a complete set, covering everything in Nazi life from the Hitler Youth decoration to the Iron Cross, and including medals for the German *Hausfrau*. It is believed that there are only two other such complete sets in existence.

## Erratum.

### THE LATE CAPTAIN J. A. A. CHRISTISON.

We very much regret that in the brief record of Lt.-General Sir Philip Christison's service in our last issue (frontispiece), we omitted to mention the fact that his only son, Captain J. A. A. Christison, served in the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment, and was killed in action while serving with them in the Burma campaign in March, 1942. We offer Sir Philip and Lady Christison our sincere apology for this oversight.

A very brief obituary notice of Capt. Christison was given on page 95 of No. 52 (June, 1942) of THE IRON DUKE, as at that time we were unable to get any more information about him. We are glad therefore to be able to add a little more to it.

Captain Christison was a very good rugby football player, and played for the Scottish Schoolboys *versus* the English Schoolboys in 1937. He also played for Oxford University many times, although he did not get a blue. He was a very good addition to the 2nd Battalion team when he joined, and was captain of the team at one time.

Captain Christison was a pre-war candidate for a regular commission from Oxford University, and in 1940 was commissioned direct into the Dukes, and joined the 2nd Battalion in India. When the war with Japan began he was serving on the staff, but volunteered to join the Battalion in order to fight in the Burma campaign with them. A short account of the very gallant fight he and two soldiers of the Battalion put up when returning from a long distance reconnaissance, when all three were killed fighting to the last, was given on page 101 of No. 53 (October, 1942) of THE IRON DUKE.

## REGIMENTAL NEWS.

### 1st Battalion.

Since the last number of THE IRON DUKE, the vast changes in personnel therein foreshadowed have taken place. The Company Notes which follow mention the names of a large number of those officers, N.C.O's. and men who have departed either to civilian life or on Python. Promotions and a number of new arrivals have filled the gaps, and now a few old soldiers, both officers and N.C.O's, are finding their way back to the Battalion.

It was with sincere regret that the Battalion said good-bye to the C.O., Lt.-Col. Orr, Major Huskisson, the second-in-command, Capt. Miller, the Adjutant, Capt. (Q.M.) Lyons, and R.S.M's Birch and O'Shea, and to all others who have left. The departure in September of Python 40, members of which had served with the Battalion in the North African as well as the Italian campaign, was particularly devastating in more ways than one, and was attended by various farewell parties.

The names of most of the new arrivals and promotions appear in the Company Notes. To all of these a hearty welcome and good wishes are extended. Lt.-Col. Cumberlege arrived early in October to take over command. Major Carroll arrived about the same time as second-in-command, and Lt. McGregor as Q.M. posted from the H.L.I. About a month later R.S.M. Banks arrived from the U.K. Capt. Isles took over the arduous duties of Adjutant at the end of May.

Mention was made in the last notes of the numerous Internal Security duties which fell to the lot of the Battalion during the summer. These duties continued during September and October, and in fact up to the very last moment before the Battalion left Palestine. Guards on V.P's, patrols and road blocks, were weekly if not daily occurrences. No officer or man could leave barracks unless he was armed, and men had to walk in pairs. At times the town was put out of bounds, and the arrival of a ship carrying illegal immigrants invariably meant the whole Battalion turning out for probably a period of 24 hours or longer. It can be recorded with thankfulness, however, that no serious casualties occurred. The worst of the Jewish gangster elements appeared to concentrate most of their efforts in Jerusalem and the neighbourhood of Tel Aviv. On one occasion a portee belonging to the Battalion was blown up by a mine on the road outside Jerusalem. The occupants luckily escaped with a severe shaking.

As a result of these Internal Security duties, it was difficult to carry out any extended period of training, but in October ten days were spent in camp at Madj el Kurem. Even this period was interrupted by the arrival of a batch of illegal immigrants and the inevitable operation in Haifa. Despite this, the majority of the Battalion fired the new W.T. course in L.M.G. and rifle on the range beside the camp. Madj el Kurem is a hill village some 15 miles inland from Acre, a picturesque spot amongst the olive groves, but the camp was pitched on stony ground, the habitation of many crawling beasts, including numerous scorpions, which were inclined to resent the intrusion.

In the field of sport hockey has been the chief activity, and the Battalion team has met with outstanding success. Some football and cricket has also been played with satisfactory results, and we have the makings of a good football eleven. In August a successful Battalion athletic meeting was held. This was an inter-company affair and was won by "C" Company.

The Battalion is now stationed at Khartoum. Destined originally for the Canal Zone in the middle of November, it was not till the afternoon of 1st November when the Battalion was out on operational duties in Haifa that the C.O. was called to Brigade H.Q. and told to prepare to move the Battalion by air on the 7th. The advance party left in one plane on the 6th, and the Battalion in 24 more next day. Ten jeeps were transported in Dakotas, and 500 all ranks made the journey in Halifaxes and Lancasters. The thousand-mile trip was covered in six hours in good flying conditions, and all were



landed safely at Khartoum, thanks to the efficient efforts of our friends of the R.A.F. The rear party, after an arduous rail and river journey of ten days, arrived on 24th November.

We are now firmly established in our new quarters, but unfortunately the barracks are not large enough to hold the whole Battalion. Headquarter Company and "A" Company live in Khartoum North Barracks, which is pleasantly situated on the north bank of the Blue Nile. "C" and "D" Companies live with the R.A.F. on the opposite bank of the river. The Battalion organisation remains the same as for the past few months: three rifle companies and H.Q. Company, but the Carrier Platoon has been reformed, and an Armoured Car Platoon established. Both these platoons are in "H.Q." Company.

### OFFICERS' MESS.

Since the last notes were written there have been a considerable number of departures from the Mess and as a result there are now many new faces. Lt.-Col. Orr, Majors Huskisson and Buckland, Lyons and Potty all departed in September on Python, and we wish them luck in their new jobs. In their places we welcome Lt.-Col. Cumberlege, Major Carroll, Major Roberts and Capt. Jones-Stamp and a host of new subalterns.

We left Haifa at the beginning of November and flew to Khartoum in the Sudan. A very welcome change, as everybody without exception was not a little tired of the continuous state of tension and the numerous "flaps" which heralded the approach of yet another boatload of illegals.

We *had* arranged to give a huge farewell party, which rumour had, -was going to be even bigger and better than our celebrations at Waterloo Day. Cocktails, food and all the usual accessories were laid on even down to the last cherry stick. Great was our grief when it was discovered that our top secret move would mean the cancellation of our party. However, for the Dukes to leave the 1st Division without some sort of party was unthinkable, so Major-Gen. Gale, Comd. 1st Div., the Brigadier and one or two more of our old friends (including Brigadier Wilsey) were asked to the Mess for drinks. All most enjoyable but a very sad substitute for our intended party.

Sport in one form or another is the order of the day in Khartoum, tennis and squash being great favourites. The Colonel spends most of each Sunday morning out with his gun, and with remarkably good results too, as is evinced by the splendid duck suppers which are served in the Mess. It is felt that some mention should be made in these notes of the fish which the Adjutant caught by an extremely neat piece of harpooning and which was eaten with great relish (?) by the Mess.

It is to be regretted that Forsyth leaves us in a few days, *en route* for U.K. on Python. Forsyth has now been with the Battalion for some 18 months or so, and during that time has done most jobs from second-in-command "B" Coy. under Tony Randall to acting C.O. We wish him luck.

Perritt, one of the Anzio originals, was left behind on the move from Haifa, and since then has departed on release. His place has been temporarily filled by Bullock, our I.O.

Le Messurier arrived back from Domcol the other day (readers will recall that some mention was made of this leave in our last notes), having only had a mere seven months' leave!

### SERGEANTS' MESS.

Since our last issue we have once again had many changes. Most of the senior ranks, including the C.O., Lt.-Col. C. W. B. Orr, second-in-command, Major Huskisson, and many other officers have left us. The C.O. was given a royal send-off by the Mess. One armoured car from the Palestine Police escorted the convoy, the C.O.'s Humber being drawn out by Mess members with a tow rope between cheering ranks of the Battalion.

The following eight days saw Python 40 having a right royal "do," ably assisted by the P.M.F. (attached), and day and night one could always find some beer and members of Python 40 who ate, drank and slept in the Mess, or so it seemed.

The Thursday of departure saw R.S.M. O'Shea, C.S.M's Clarke and Crawley, O.R.Q.M.S. Cope, Sgts. Hides, Atky and the rest, complete with loot ready for their journey. Luckily they got away, for the station was blown up next day.

Since their departure we have had the usual promotions amongst the senior ranks, C.S.M. Curtis and Smithson, C.Q.M.S. Bamforth, Kitson and James, and many others. Callaby took the reins until R.S.M. Banks came; we all wish him luck with the Battalion.

Functions have been few since July. A dance was held in August to which were invited all the British civilians in Haifa. It was voted a great success, chiefly owing to the efforts of C.S.M. Walton and Thomas.

Our social for Python 40 was very well attended and a good night was had by all, the show breaking up at 3 a.m. We were unfortunate on 1st November. A dance was all arranged, but on the morning of the day the Latrum I.I. ship came in, and the Battalion was stood to on the docks, which put paid to that little effort.

A lightning move by air a few days later found us in Khartoum where unfortunately the Battalion was split up. But the Mess is well appointed and no doubt the social side will get cracking in the near future. We visualise many parties in the Mess beer garden alongside of which flows the Blue (?) Nile.

SPORT.—We have had very little sport in the Mess; tennis proved a big draw and the Mess billiard table stimulated our efforts during our stay at Camp 193. Very little activity was recorded owing to I.S. duties which made it impossible to have a fixture list.

So we look forward to 1947 and wish members and friends "Good Luck and Health in the New Year."

### COMPANY NOTES.

"H.Q." COMPANY.—Once again this scribe pens his weary way on the happenings in an ever-increasing and ever-changing Company. Since our last issue our company commander, Major Blake, disappeared in early August on those mysterious leaves Lilop and Sewlrom, only to be followed in double time by R.S.M. Birch and R.Q.M.S. Kenchington on Sewlrom and Python. The memory of the latter two will not fade and long will be the fame of "Birchesgarden," "Ala Kefik," and Steniswire.

August started off in a flurry of sports, the company athletic meeting being held at 614 C.O.D. ground on 4th August. The competition was keen and the memorable contests of the day were the inter-group medley relay and the 880 yards with its exciting finish, the whole ending up with a clear up for Company "H.Q." and "Z" Platoon. The Battalion meeting was held two days later at Qiryat Haidim where the Company walked away with the tug-of-war and the inter-company medley relay, the latter being won by the tremendous spurt put on by Taylor in the 880 yards. Other achievements during the afternoon were L/Cpl. (now O.R.S.) Falconer's field event wins and R.S.M. O'Shea's hammer throwing.

The Battalion hockey team is still almost completely an "H.Q." affair, and the efforts of Cpl. Moore, Tough and White have always been well applauded from the line.

Early September saw the beginning of a long line of Python and release parties, and we said a regretful farewell to many old friends, including R.S.M. O'Shea, O.R.Q.M.S. Cope, Cpl. Parry, Cpl. Middleton, and Drake.

The news of a move came in the air in late October and the listening to the wild guesses as to the destination became a daily occurrence. In early November we had a sudden change of plans and orders for an air lift. Everyone worked hard and unsparingly for three days so that all the necessary work was done in time. It is rumoured that the Education Staff still get bad dreams when confronted with pink forms and scales. Owing

to the move we said an advanced cheerio to many older members, including Cpl. Young, Sgt. Whitmill, the Camel Man and Cpl. Goodwin, who were left behind with the chosen people to wait for early release or Python.

The actual move by air to Khartoum proceeded without a hitch, but it is believed that the majority were glad to put their feet on mother earth once again. It is rumoured that that driver whose Dakota landed at Wadi Halfa on only one groggy engine has joined an Anti-Air League.

Our barracks in Khartoum are excellent, complete with a swimming bath, fans in all rooms, and issued sheets, a headache to C.Q.M.S. Bamforth. The number of white shirts recently bought by the Company is starting to cause a cotton shortage in the Sudan, and it is now necessary in the afternoons and evenings to look at faces instead of arms to see who is who.

Before we left Palestine we said good luck to our company commander, Capt. Perritt, who has left us for home. During this period we have welcomed Lt. (Q.M.) McGregor, Lt. Judson and 2nd Lt. Cooke from "D" Company. The latter is in charge of our new and very house-proud Armoured Car Platoon, equipped with cars from the desert war and still going strong.

Our C.S.M's are as variable as the wind. In August we had C.S.M. Taylor, who went to "A" Company, and was followed by C.S.M. Callaby, who held the whip for about three weeks before giving way to C.S.M. Curtis from "D" Company, on promotion to R.S.M. R.S.M. Banks arrived fresh from England and West Africa in October and has well established himself by this time, whilst C.S.M. Callaby is busily shouting himself hoarse on an N.C.O's cadre.

"A" COMPANY.—It was with a feeling of relief that we heard almost a month ago that we were to leave Palestine and fly to Khartoum. We were certainly sorry to leave the 1st Division after our long association with it, but thankful that we should meet old friends in the 1st Battalion K.S.L.I. at our destination.

Our notice of move was very short and some hectic days were spent packing kit in air hampers and deciding who to take and leave behind. Our move by air was smooth and uneventful—a six-hour hop. On arrival there were sinister rumours of one "A" Company plane missing—they arrived later after dark, having failed to take off and transferred to a reserve plane. There's much talk now of "the only way to travel of course." Our new quarters are first class—we live in barracks, have spring beds, and sheets, and have close at hand playing fields and a swimming pool. Mufti is becoming increasingly apparent in the form of white shirts, and life is pleasant and not too strenuous.

At Haifa our cricket and hockey teams were outstandingly successful, both only losing one match. We are getting down to sport here—soccer, hockey, and swimming, and hope for some good results.

Since last writing many have left us and new ones taken their places. Python 40 in September took a great toll of us—we lost C.S.M. Clarke, C.Q.M.S. Duncan, Sgt. Hides, Cpl. Cain, L/Cpl. Coote our stalwart Company clerk of great and well-deserved fame, Griffiths, Fawcett and Farmer, all old members of the Battalion. We have lost Capt. Connor, Capt. Dunlop, C.S.M. Witty and many others on release, Python, etc. There is not space to mention all by name but we wish them all the best of luck.

Major Forsyth is commanding the Company again after a long absence in exalted circles. Among many new-comers, to all of whom we extend a warm welcome, we should mention Lt. Haley, 2nd Lt. Williamson, C.S.M. Taylor back from "H.Q." Company, and two old soldiers, Sgt. Kaye and Sgt. Walker. Promotions have been numerous and special mention must be given to Sgt. Kitson on becoming C.Q.M.S. and Cpls. James, Hancock, Walker and Longdon on becoming sergeants.

"C" COMPANY.—Since our last appearance in THE IRON DUKE many familiar faces have departed, and quite a few reinforcements have taken their places. We were sorry to lose our company commander, Capt. Wooley, our second-in-command, Capt.

Hoyle, Sgts. Robertson and Milestone, L/Cpl. Lewthwaite (pay clerk) and that veteran company runner of ours, Pte. Grattrick. In September Python robbed us of six more veterans—namely, C.S.M. Crawley, Cpls. Waterworth and Cullumbine, Ptes. Fisher, Hackford and last, but not least, our storeman, Pte. Walker. Good luck to you all wherever you may be.

We welcome into our midst as our company commander Major Roberts, who by now is definitely a "Charlie" Company type. Our congratulations go to C.S.M. Smithson and C.Q.M.S. James on their promotion. Incidentally Smithson is now becoming Admin. minded, while James never seems to manage to get the "in tray" empty. Amongst our reinforcements we received quite a number of Danes, who now seem to be settling down and becoming like the rest, quite "sun happy."

As for sport, we held our Battalion athletic meeting on 6th August, and after a very enjoyable day with some keen competition we managed to carry home the cup, which now stands next to the one previously captured in the Battalion swimming gala. Individual cups were also won by C.Q.M.S. James, Cpl. Powell, L/Cpl. Clayton and Cpl. Green.

Our next point of interest was our company camp. After some varied ideas of how to erect an Epip we finally settled in. Unfortunately our stay was cut short, but a nice change was enjoyed by all. In October the Battalion moved to a training camp for a period of ten days. This was crammed with range work, and we saw some very keen competition with the rifle and Bren.

In October rumours started flying that the Battalion were to move to Egypt in the near future, but these were suddenly squashed early in November when we were loaded into planes, and after a flight which seemed to be enjoyed by all we finally touched down at Khartoum. We certainly welcome the change after our bout in Palestine, and here we have the chance to mingle plenty of sport with our training. Soccer and hockey have been the main features so far; our soccer team, having been beaten by "D" Company twice, managed to snatch a victory against "H.Q." Company. The hockey side are settling down and we hope for success in the future.

Up to the time of going to press we are still putting the finishing touches to "settling in" at the R.A.F. 'drome (we can tell flying stories with the best of them now)—so altogether we hope our stay in the Sudan will be a very happy one.

"D" COMPANY.—The routine flaps of the past month were entirely overshadowed by our latest move to Khartoum, which came upon us like a gift from the gods, as well as a bolt from the blue. After much frenzied packing and repacking we managed to move Buckland's legacy of filing systems by air. "D" Company standing orders are following by special train guarded by four C.Q.M.S.'s assistants armed with 108 books and two sheets of carbon. The most unfortunate incident of the move was that all our animal members had to be either given away or destroyed, owing to the usual M.E. exorbitant quarantine charges. One wonders why some enterprising member of the rail party didn't try the usual "bribery and corruption" drill, for getting items past officials. However, Schofield is still holding out at Wadi Halfa with his 14 pigeons, and if they don't breed rapidly he should be able to cope and get them down to their new home.

In the field of sport we have not had very much scope. By the time the concrete was removed from the soccer pitch at Haifa we were moving, so our first game, a nice friendly match with "C" Company, was at Khartoum. An even nicer, friendlier match with "C" Company was played the following week. We won both times, but "C" Company blamed the referee for that.

For people in 49 and 50 group we haven't lost anything like sufficient people on release, but the "steel helmet kings" are gradually going where all the natives except the Ministers of Labour and War are allegedly friendly. On the whole, we still do fairly well, in all respects, and the Old Dog, though a bit of mongrel now, still has the spirit it had last year. Our new members, in spite of what we say, are settling down and becoming

members of the team. To old members of the team who have left us we send best wishes and wish them "Many Happy Reserved Occupations."

### SPORT.

**FOOTBALL.**—This season, owing to the Battalion moving, only three matches have been played. The one game in Haifa was against a very strong R.U.R. side; although we fought hard the game ended with a 4—0 win for the R.U.R.'s.

In Khartoum we have already had two grand games, both draws. The first was against the K.S.L.I. Being one goal down at half-time and replying with three goals in ten minutes, we lost the lead just before the final whistle. The score was 3—3, Sgt. James (two), Pte. Allman (one) being the scorers.

The Sudanese Transit Camp was our next fixture; playing in bare feet or gym. shoes they soon showed their ability to control a ball and shoot straight, being three goals ahead in twenty minutes. The Battalion fought back and reduced the Transit Camp's lead to 3—2, they scored again however and looked certain winners. With little time to go, L/Cpl. Brogan scored from a penalty, and 30 seconds from time Pte. Turner slammed home the equalising goal, bringing the score to 4—4; a fitting result to an exciting game. Sgt. James and Pte. Allman were the other scorers.

Many more fixtures are available; the Battalion team now settling down, should prove a strong one. In defence Sgt. Falconer has been outstanding, Cfn. Bradley and L/Cpl. Clayton make the half-line really strong. The forwards have all played well, Sgt. James, Pte. Allman and L/Cpl. Brogan in particular. The team has been chosen from the following:—Sgt. Falconer, L/Cpl. Clayton, L/Cpl. Rennie, Cpl. Smith, Sgt. Alton, Pte. Clarke, Cfn. Bradley, Cpl. Marment, Sgt. Hancock, Sgt. James, Cpl. Fisher, Pte. Allman, L/Cpl. Brogan, Pte. Turner and Cpl. Green.

**HOCKEY.**—The Battalion hockey team had a very successful season from August to October, winning eight matches, drawing one and losing none. This is quite surprising because in early September a few of our long established players left us to go home on Python leave. Among these were Pte. Farmer, C.S.M. Crawley, R.S.M. O'Shea, L/Cpl. Coote and Sgt. Butcher. Before they went, however, they organised a team composed of Python personnel to play the remainder of the Battalion, and they won 1—0.

Three of the most interesting matches were against the 2nd East Surreys. The Surreys had challenged the remainder of the Brigade and beaten them so we then challenged the Surreys. We won 2—1, a return match was arranged, and we were again victorious. This time the score was 1—0. The Surreys still unwilling to admit that we were the better team, challenged us to a third match. The result was a draw and the Surreys were at last satisfied.

We came to Khartoum in time to enter the league at the beginning of the season. The Battalion is represented by two equal teams, "A" team and "B" team. The "A" team has the advantage of having three strong players from the original team, Capt. Smith, C.S.M. Taylor and Sgt. Fearnly; but both teams, though mostly composed of inexperienced players, promise to be very sound after a little practice.

**CRICKET.**—The team has improved slightly since our last notes. We started off with a return match against the Palestine Police whom we had beaten so easily a month or so before. This time, however, they were after our blood with a vengeance, and we were dismissed for the paltry score of 37. Thanks however to our bowlers, Sgt. Smith and R.S.M. O'Shea, the Police were struggling for runs with wickets falling fairly regularly. The final score was: Battalion 37, Palestine Police 38 for 6 (decl.).

We then tackled H.M.S. *Brissender* and beat them to the tune of Battalion 122, H.M.S. *Brissender* 52. Pte. Pearson 26, Lt. Judson 24, Pte. Drake 19, were the chief scores.

Following this came the Divisional knock-out competition in which we were given a bye in the first round. We played the 2nd Cheshires in the second round and it was

1st BATTALION.



The Officers, Haifa, 1946.



The Sergeants' Mess (C.O., 2nd i c and Adjutant in centre), Haifa, 1946.

1st BATTALION.  
The Flight to Khartoum.



Waiting to take off, 7th November, 1946.



Deplaning at Khartoum.



Jeep being unloaded from a Dakota at Khartoum.

here that the most exciting game of the season took place. Through really careless batting we could only muster up the pitiful total of 64 runs, out of which 28 were scored by Sgt. Mudd. Thinking the match as good as lost, we went out to try and stem the runs. It was in this match that Sgt. Smith really excelled himself, taking 10 wickets for 26 and dismissing four batsmen in four balls. It was a splendid effort on his part and the result—Battalion 64, 2nd Cheshires 59—just shows what excitement there was.

In the next round against the 4/7th Dragoon Guards we were beaten by a slightly better team (they eventually won the cup). The result was Battalion 87, 4/7th Dragoon Guards 90 for 4 (decl.).

The following played regularly for the Battalion:—Major Huskisson, Capt. Isles, Capt. Bentley, Lt. Peel, Lt. Judson, R.S.M. O'Shea, C.S.M. Taylor, C.Q.M.S. Bamforth, Sgt. Smith, Sgt. Holland, Sgt. Mudd, Cpl. Saville, Sgt. Hancock, L/Cpl. Clayton, L/Cpl. Brogan, L/Cpl. Kenvin. Scorer, O.R.Q.M.S. Cope, and umpire, the Rev. Coey.

## 2nd Battalion.

The Battalion spent the summer at Meerut, doing very little except trying to keep cool. One company was away at Kailana, in the hills, for the period. This company changed over monthly and most of us managed a spell away from prickly heat and the near suffocation of the plains. Kailana gave opportunities for a spell of rather more interesting training than we had been used to. Not the least of these was a series of pot-holing expeditions. With the advent of the cooler weather, winter training became the consideration.

The Battalion moved by M.T. and march route to Khailar, near Jhansi. This was the first real serious bit of marching we'd done for some time, not to mention the pitching and striking of camps. It didn't take us long to get into the swing and stamp down the blisters, however, and by the end of the fifth day we were managing to pack the camp without forgetting the C.O.'s tent. Routine was rather unusual, with reveille at 2 a.m. and marching until an hour or so after dawn.

Most of the marching route was through the State of Gwalior, and in the capital city of that name we had the great good fortune to witness the spectacle of the Maharajah passing through in State procession. It was a sight never to be forgotten. We will not describe it here but in length on later pages with the odd photograph.

On our arrival at Khailar we began to get down to platoon and company training in country that could hardly have been better situated for the job. We seemed pretty well settled there, when we were suddenly moved north again, to Agra, our object being to "keep the peace" in that general area. At the moment it is being kept without our help, and we're camped on the parade ground, marking time. Between the time of these notes being written and their eventual posting, we have once more returned to Meerut. This return was not, however, just a matter of getting into trucks and driving "till we got there." We were given the job of paying visits to towns that were unsettled, "showing the flag," and generally letting the people know what to expect if they started another "rough house." This task took us to one town of special interest, Ally Gurh, so we have added a few notes concerning this place.

### ALLY GHUR, 4th September, 1803.

A few miles outside the present City of Aligarh stands the old Fort of Ally Ghur, well known, in name at least, to all members of the Regiment.

The 2nd Battalion camped the nights of 20th and 22nd November at Aligarh, and a party naturally took the opportunity of visiting the Fort. It is in quite a reasonable state of repair, though in parts beginning to get overgrown.

A number of photographs were taken, and with the help of these, and because we feel there are quite a number of "Dukes" who do not know the details of the battle, we think it not out of place to describe again the Battle of Ally Ghur.



“ General Lord Lake’s force consisted of about 200 European artillery, three regiments of European and five of native cavalry, one battalion of European and 11 of native infantry. The troops detailed for the assault comprised four companies of H.M. 76th Foot, two battalions 4th Native Infantry and four companies 17th Native Infantry. This force was commanded by Colonel Monson of the 76th, while the covering artillery was under Col. Horford, who on the 3rd September, 1803, had erected two batteries, each of 4 by 18-pounders. The attacking party left camp about 3 a.m. on the morning of the 4th and, marching toward the gateway, halted till daybreak at a distance of 400 yards from the Fort.

“ An officer who had been sent out to reconnoitre the ground discovered a party of the enemy seated round a camp fire, and a small body of the 76th was despatched with the object of effecting a surprise and securing the gate of the Fort in the confusion which might naturally be expected to ensue. As it turned out, however, every man of the enemy was bayoneted and the assailants withdrew quietly; the affair alarmed the garrison, and a brisk fire was opened in the direction of the troops, though this died away as it was thought that nothing had happened beyond the near approach of the British vedettes. The pre-concerted signal for the assault was the firing of the morning gun, on which the covering Batteries opened a heavy cannonade on the gateway.

“ At 100 yards from the latter the storming party was checked by a recently constructed breast work, in which 3 by 6 pounders were mounted; but this was carried before a gun could be discharged, and Col. Monson with two companies of the 76th dashed forward and attempted to enter the Fort along with the retreating guard.

“ This attempt failed, as the Enemy had been too quick for the assailants, and Monson found himself confronted by a closed gate, his column being exposed to a most severe raking fire from the Bastions on either side. Scaling ladders were instantly applied to the walls and Major McLeod with the grenadiers of the 76th attempted to mount, but was compelled to withdraw by the throng of pike men on the parapets. A six pounder was then placed in front of the gate, but proved ineffective, and then a 12 pounder was brought up, though some time elapsed before it could be properly placed, owing to the peculiar situation of the gate, close to the flank of the Bastion. Several rounds were fired before any impression was produced, and for fully twenty minutes the storming party was exposed to a very heavy fire from guns and muskets while numbers of the Enemy descended the scaling ladders and attacked the troops on foot.

“ It was at this crisis that most of the British casualties took place. Col. Monson was wounded with a pike, his adjutant, Lt. F. W. St. Aubin, and Capt. R. Cameron were killed as well as Lieuts. J. Browne, M. B. Fleming and A. C. Campbell.

“ At length the gate gave way, and the whole party rushed along the narrow entrance, under a heavy fire from the neighbouring bastion and a small round tower which commanded the passage. The second gate was easily forced and the troops advanced along a narrow causeway to the third, guided by a Mr. Lucan, an officer who had lately quitted Sindhia’s Service, to avoid fighting against his own countrymen, and had joined General Lake.

“ The third gate was taken in the confusion caused by the flying enemy, who crowded the passage and prevented the gate from being closed before the pursuing troops came up. All the time a heavy cross fire was maintained, and fresh losses were incurred before the fourth gate which led into the body of the Fort.

“ The artillery, under a Capt. Shipton, who had been severely wounded, experienced considerable difficulty in bringing up the 12 pounder, and when it at length arrived the gate was found too strongly secured to be forced. The situation was saved by Major McLeod, who broke through the wicket and ascended the ramparts.

“ Then the resistance gradually lessened, and in a short time the celebrated fort fell. The British loss was 55 killed and 205 wounded—a small price to pay for so signal an exploit. The defence had been conducted for nearly an hour with the utmost vigour,

and the losses of the garrison were enormous. At least 2,000 either were killed or lost their lives by drowning in the moat in attempting to escape."

Inside the fourth gateway there is a memorial plaque inscribed as follows :—

TO THE MEMORY OF  
the undermentioned gallant Officers,  
H.M. 76th Regiment of Foot.

Capt. RONALD CAMERON.

Lieut. MICHAEL BAYLING FLEMING.

Lieut. JOHN BROWNE.

Lieut. and Adj. FREDC. Wm. St. AUBIN.

Lieut. ARTHUR CUTHBERT CAMPBELL

who were killed  
during the assault in which the strong Fortress of Ally Ghur  
defended by a numerous and well appointed garrison fell to the  
superior energy of British Valour and British Spirit on the  
4th September, 1803,

Also of

Lieut. and Adj. WM. MEULH,

Lieut. JOHN HENRY HURD,

of H.M. 76th of Foot,  
who lost their lives nobly fighting in their Country's cause  
during the memorable VICTORY afterwards gained over the  
Army of Dowlet Rao Scindia  
near Laswarry in Hindustan  
by the British Forces under the Command of  
GENERAL LAKE  
on the 1st November, A.D., 1803.

This monument was erected by their brother officers.

### OFFICERS' MESS.

Through an error on the part of the Postal Services, our notes for the October issue failed to arrive in time, so that it is even more difficult than usual to keep pace with the changes in the Mess. One sadly recalls the past, and rather painfully records these continual comings and goings.

We are rapidly losing our more senior officers on demobilisation and those strange categories L.I.A.P. and L.I.L.O.P.; but while we welcome with open arms our newly posted young officers, they are quietly removed to further their education on courses, before they have been with us five minutes. We were very glad to welcome Lt.-Col. Armitage from his arduous duties on the Staff in the Far East, but very sad to bid farewell to Lt.-Col. Dalrymple. Many congratulations on his new appointment. We look forward to bigger and better drafts.

Parties have been few and far between. We had real hot weather this year in Meerut, which drove the youth and beauty to the hills; and then, just as everyone had recovered it was time for our annual training. Ten weeks in camp, with a 100 mile march before us. This horrified most of us, particularly the second in command who arrived in September, just in time to take his place at the rear of the column. It would be out of place to record his remarks!

In fact, the march went very well. We had a pleasant interlude in Gwalior, the capital of the State of the same name. We were almost royally entertained, with scenes of pageantry, which are too few in this rather drab world of olive green battle dress, and "Helmets pith." And so, on down the road to Jhansi, in Central Provinces, which was to be our home for the next 10 weeks. However, fate and the present communal strife, have been unkind to us, and we are back on "Internal" Security duties; an unenviable occupation.

We had an excellent camp while it lasted. Our predecessors had built a very nice permanent Mess which we occupied. In true "Dukes" style the officer in command Advance Party had painted the silhouette of "THE DUKE" on our dining room wall. The effect of this was rather marred later, when our new Doctor, Winchester, was heard to remark "Who's that bloke in the cut-away hat?" Don't they educate our medical services these days?

During our short stay in camp, we were able to hold two Regimental guest nights. The Brigadier honoured us for the second one, which was of the old fashioned variety. The mysteries of the glamorous East (which by the way seems to have lost a great deal of its glamour, for some of our old friends) were unfolded to us, by a Chinese gentleman after dinner. This has been our sole entertainment for six weeks, and yes, there are still those who say that the Army never works.

Now we are back in our barracks in Meerut after four days on the road, "showing the flag" throughout Central United Provinces. We spent two nights in Aligarh, the scene of a British victory in 1803, when Lord Lake with the 76th Foot under command, captured the Fort. Our future is uncertain, and will remain so until such time as communal troubles are settled. We hope to get our silver and Colours back from Peshawar in time to celebrate Christmas; we have moved into the old Cavalry Mess here, and look forward to a house warming in true "DUKES" fashion.

Since our last notes we welcome our newcomers:—Major Upjohn the Second in Command, Capts. Winchester the Doctor and Harvey our new Padre, Lieut. Huffam a nephew of Jock's, 2nd/Lts. Miller, Schofield, Haswell, Scott, Crowther and Dunning; and we bid farewell to Capts. Fishbourne, Palmer and Lt. Harvey. Good Luck to them all.

### SERGEANTS' MESS.

As we missed the October issue, we have a long period of a quite eventful life to review. Between March and November the faces in the Mess have altered vastly. We are glad to welcome all newcomers, and to wish them all success.

We enjoyed a very happy social life at Meerut during the summer, when the Mess ran a series of dances and socials, which became quite the best functions in the station, thanks to the work of our committee under C.S.M. Lythe.

We have enjoyed considerable success in the realm of sport—indoor and outdoor. Indoors, darts and table tennis have been contested against The Bedfords and Herts, G.H.Q. Sgt's Mess, R.A.P.C. Sgt's Mess, and our own officers, with great success. We trounced G.H.Q. Sgts. at football with a very depleted team, when many of our star footballers were in the Hills.

In early October we uprooted ourselves from our comfortable Mess in Meerut and started walking to Jhansi for our autumn training. The "corn pull-it-out walas" did a roaring trade prior to our departure, but still many members were seen to be hopping along very gingerly toward the end of each day's march, and even the best of us were glad to sight camp at the end of the walk. Many good times were had during the fortnight on the march, and the Mess were together for the first time since the hot weather began. The beer consumption soared rapidly, but Sgt. Egglestone, our caterer, worked wonders and we at no time went thirsty.

More recently, as we compose these notes, we have again been chased into the blue by internal troubles, and our training came to an abrupt end just as the Company Commanders were getting ambitious! We hope to settle down in time to enjoy Xmas undisturbed, though the present outlook is rather bleak.

The members to whom we have bidden goodbye are too numerous each to be mentioned but we remember them all with affection despite the brevity of their stay, and wish them the very best of luck. As the number of original "Chindits" diminishes, the tales told by the remaining few wax more fearsome, with none to gainsay them. But the modern generation, alas, are too hard to convince. The hardships of Chevy Chase outvie the Naga saga in grimness any day.

We understand that several new faces are coming out from home to join us; we shall be very glad to see them. To all members of the Mess past and present we send our best wishes for 1947.

### COMPANY NOTES.

"H.Q." COMPANY.—The past few months have brought us out of our hole so to speak, and the constant moving about has at last shown the Company Commander where all his "odd bods" really do get to. Indeed, Company "H.Q." is beginning to think that the parade state is not as false a document as it would appear at first glance.

With everyone else we stuck out a very unpleasant summer in Meerut, and finally won through perspiration and prickly heat into late September and rumours of field training. During this period, Captain Petty took us up to Kailana in the Himalayas, and we spent a healthy five weeks there at the top of the "colony" football league. Time rolls on, and Captain Petty was succeeded by Captain Fishbourne, ex-Mortars, who brought us down the hill again to Meerut. Lt. Lee, back from Poona, was waiting for his signallers, and Lt. Rutherford added Mortar Officer to his rather doubtful job as W.T.O.

With October coming into sight, we started flapping for the move to Jhansi, and although we thought we could not make it, "H.Q." was there at the end of the march with a full complement. In spite of few amenities in the camp, the Company was very bright, and training really went ahead. We don't mention it outside, but we think that one of Lt. Kenchington's assault boats was actually made watertight. Unfortunately our period of training was rudely interrupted a few days ago when we packed bags and came to our present resting place—Agra. On arrival here we bade farewell to Captain Fishbourne. Lt. Lee has now taken over the Company and Lt. Baxter has taken over the post of Mortar Officer in place of Lt. Rutherford who is away on L.I.A.P.

Company "H.Q." is still our fortress, to which C.S.M. Lythe still invites people, C.Q.M.S. Booth stills says "sorry" and the brain (Cpl. Trufit) still says "I told you so." The past few weeks have taken many old timers, such as Captain Fishbourne, Signal Sgt. Owen and all his N.C.O's, not to mention names like Ptes. Bowater, Quinn, Smith, Burton, Keyworth and a host of others. We wish them all the best in "civvy street."

In the field of sport we continue to hold our own, and still regard our soccer team as "the tops."

"ADMIN." COMPANY.—Since our last bulletin we've said goodbye to our Company Commander, Captain W. Palmer, who proceeded on release at the beginning of November. We welcomed Captain R. Henshall to this Company, especially since he operates all the unit's accounts and therefore has "lahks" of rupees. He also joined the Company football and basket-ball teams; it can be said that he wields a "nifty" ball in both games.

After many frantic signals, telephone conversations and even personal interviews, C.S.M. Western (A.C.G.) finally proceeded on L.I.L.O.P. at the end of October. G.H.Q. Departments involved are now being entirely re-organised. The organist at Romford Parish Church is continuously practising the wedding march as it is reported that the one-time R.S.M. of the "Dilwara" may soon be joining hands with a W.A.C.(I) Corporal

(now demobbed). Sgt. R. Sharples (ex "B" Company) is now Acting C.S.M. In spite of the fact that he still has wistful moments whilst thinking of "B" Company's Op. Orders he is quite happy in his new sphere.

Whilst the Battalion was getting ready to leave Jhansi, C.Q.M.S. Templeman and his pal, Sgt. Rogerson, were getting into practice for Civvy Street, i.e. fishing merrily about three miles from Camp. Luckily, however, they managed to jump on the last truck complete with a couple of tiddlers. The "Q's" Clerk, Pte. Hill (so it is reported) is seriously contemplating standing as Parliamentary Candidate for Newcastle, but the Minister of Demobilisation does not think this possible for some time. Sgt. Horton still "cooks" the accounts for the P.R.I. From numerous cash books, ledgers, vouchers, etc. he produces an amazing mass of figures which in turn produce an amazing amount of obscene language from members of audit boards.

We welcomed to our Company, Captain I. W. Winchester, R.A.M.C. together with Judy (his dog) who produced seven pups shortly after arrival.

Quite a number of old-timers have proceeded to Bombay en route for England and Demob. We wish them all the best of luck and hope that they are getting lots of beer and cigarettes.

"A" COMPANY.—The past few months have seen notable changes among our Company Commanders. We have bade farewell to two in the past months, the last of these being Captain Martindale, who left us to return to civil life in early March. His successor is Major P. R. Stafford, who will be remembered by many of the old-timers.

During our first three months in Meerut, we settled down to serious training and perfected ourselves in the various duties of Internal Security, section and platoon training, and an occasional route march by way of a change. Although the weather was very hot, it did not hinder our training and we managed to keep ourselves remarkably fit. This was shown in the Regimental sports which were held on Waterloo Day. We managed to win this with "D" Company a close second. Then just to show that the fitness was universal throughout the Company, our Company Commander carried off the Old Soldier's race with a very fine finish, after keen opposition from the Commanding Officer.

After Waterloo Day, the inter-company hot weather football tournament was started, and we were doing well, when we had to leave for our Hill Depot at Kailana. Four weeks were spent there, and they were thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks, it being the most welcome break from the normal routine of the plains.

During our stay at Kailana we managed to get together our football XI, and despite several changes in the team, it still retained its high standard. One of the highlights was a match against the 1st Battalion, Bedfords and Herts. at Chakrata, when after a very keenly contested struggle, the Beds managed to score a decisive goal in the last few minutes. Pte. Pickering gave an excellent exhibition of the duties of a custodian. Our stay at Kailana terminated on September 23rd, and so on the Saturday the 21st we held a farewell social. This was a great success and a lot of hidden talent was discovered in Sgt. Thistlewaite and Pte. Bailey, who gave numerous and varied songs.

The interval between our return from Kailana and our departure for Jhansi, was one long headache for the Company Commander, who was now Lt. Bennett, owing to Major Stafford's departure for leave. The march to Jhansi, proved the Company to be very fit, in fact, the C.S.M. was heard to remark "I can do this on my hands." We arrived at Khaillar Camp, about nine miles south of Jhansi, and were prepared to spend a two month period of intensive training. Only four weeks of this time elapsed however before we were moved to Agra, where we are awaiting further developments.

We congratulate Sgts. Outen and Tyson on their promotion to C.S.M. and C.Q.M.S. respectively. Other promotions in the Company are too numerous to mention but we offer our heartiest congratulations to all concerned. We were sorry to lose Sgts. Cutts and Crookes who were transferred to "B" and "C" Companies respectively. We wish all our friends who have left all the very best of luck.

"B" COMPANY.—Since our last notes were published many training programmes have flowed from under the fluent pen of our Company Commander, many operational orders from the rollers of Cpl. Sharp's typewriter, and many studs have been worn away under the Company's feet. Despite the reduction of numbers in the Company—making our effective strength the smallest in the Battalion—we are still endeavouring to give the lead in work and play.

Having overcome the difficulties of training during the heat of the Indian year in Meerut, we went up to Kailana Hill Depot for our short stay during July and August. The training was made interesting in many ways, and we were constantly reminded of the Nagar Hills by Major Emmett's "Native Call," which could be heard echoing round the hills in a weird and wonderful way!

Always ready to "have a duffy," "B" Company took to pot-holing like "Pte. Smith does to food." One of our expeditions, led by Pte. Leakey (that well-known mountaineering expert) went to explore the deepest known pot-hole in the Himalayas. The party had a successful trip except for a small incident which is worth recording.

Anxious to get back to our base in good time, Leakey assured us he knew a short cut across the hills. He also told us we had nothing to fear from the monsoon, as it was very rarely effective at such a height. Darkness came, and Leakey had to admit his short cut had been altered since 1943, so we decided to "corpse" near a convenient tree on the Kud side. We prepared our dinner, consisting of 1/5 of a carrot and four sweets each, and taking the only monsoon cape in the party, the five of us got under it and settled down for the night.

The next part is best read to the strains of "A Night on a Bare Mountain."

Hardly had we settled down when a clap of thunder followed by a deluge of rain aroused us. For two hours we had a first class exhibition of "Dante's Inferno" without the heat—which wasn't appreciated by all of us. An hour's break. More hours of rain—and the night was complete. Next day, at about 1030 hrs., we arrived back at Base. First priority being given to drying ourselves out. From now on we do things the long way—it is easier.

As the Battalion was moving to Camp in October, it was decided to run a tactical cadre for the N.C.O.'s well in advance. "B" Company, with very few exceptions, undertook this task. Major Emmett was O.C. Cadre and Lts. Widdas and Shaw were "also there." For six weeks, three in Meerut and three in Kailana, the Demo' Platoon, otherwise "B" Company, proceeded to show the Cadre what was meant by—"Tis a far far better thing—." Only one casualty was suffered in "The Crawl" (a battle inoculation unsurpassed in its bloodiness) and that was a student, so it did not matter—especially as he appeared on parade, complete, the following morning. As tribesmen, under "Bullshine Singh"—"B" Company were in their element, although Pte. Emmerson disguised as a water buffalo was not a success.

Marching approximately 100 miles of the journey from Meerut to Khailar Camp, Jhansi, "B" Company again proved that Chin Straps are not essential. Everyone, however, was quite certain that "John Smith knows my father" before the march ended.

In camp our Company Commander let his imagination run riot, and people will talk in years to come of the "Battle of Whitley's Hill." Needless to say the "Skull and Cross Bones" was Jock's idea, but, being a modest sort of dog, he does not wish to boast and is generally quite content, these days, to hold Company office as and when required.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Lowe on his promotion, welcome to Sgt. Cutts from "A" Company, and farewell, traitors, Sgts. Reithofer and Sharples—may your accounts remain ever balanced.

"C" COMPANY.—A period of nine months has wrought great changes in the Company. Release, repat., L.I.A.P. and other code names appertaining to leave in Blighty, have made it very difficult to place the correct name to the correct face.

We have had no fewer than five C.S.M's, commencing with C.S.M. Yarnold, a ver

old DUKE. On taking up the duties of R.S.M. he was followed by Sgt., later C.S.M. Townsley. C.S.M. Townsley completed his seven years with the colours and disappeared, followed temporarily by Sgt. Scott. His stay was short, and Sgt., again later C.S.M. Burdekin took the reins. September carried him off to the homeward bound trooping depot and we now have Sgt. Archer holding the fort. On the "Q" side, changes have been less erratic. We bade farewell to C.Q.M.S. Whiteley in May, going home on Class "B," and his position was taken by a newcomer to the Battalion, C.Q.M.S. Butterfield. His period of office lasted till September when he left us, and now we have Sgt. Reithofer in office.

The Company's activities have been drastically curtailed during the summer owing to leave, and the Company being split up to enable the men to have a month at the Brigade Hill Station, Kailana. Capt. Stallibrass, who replaced Capt. Hunt in March, administered the skeleton company along with his duties as Education Officer and for a short period Q.M. By September however, everyone re-assembled. Lt. Bell came back from Brigade "H.Q." and we were all set for Jhansi Training Camp, from October to December. Then 2n/Lt. Wade drew L.I.A.P. and disappeared and Lt. Richmond went off on a course. We were pleased to welcome a newcomer, 2nd/Lt. Schofield to the Company.

2nd October found us leaving Meerut with visions of a one hundred mile march in front of us. This however passed off extremely well, and after a period of eight days marching and camping, the speed with which the tents were pitched and struck had to be seen to be believed. A pleasant interlude at Gwalior gave us the honour of watching the Gwalior State Forces on parade and the Maharajah of Gwalior on his annual parade through the streets, and amazement was shown at the great number of us who found strength to witness this historic parade.

On arriving at Khailar camp, nine miles outside Jhansi, training commenced in earnest, and we found European tactics a very pleasant change and it was enjoyed by all. With communal riots spreading, we were whisked away and at the time of writing, have established a camp at Agra. All that remains for us is to wish all ex "C" Company including Sgts. Guest and Egglestone and Pte. Maley who have just left us, the very best of luck.

"D" COMPANY.—The life of the young is always reputed to be varied, and our life as the youngest Company has certainly been that. Since March of this year, we have seen life in the Jungle Camp at Sailpur; the heat and prickly heat of life in barracks at Meerut; a month's spell in the cool of the Hill Depot at Kailana; two months of field training at Jhansi; and now we are occupying a *piéd à terre* at Agra, and are still moving.

Commencing in October we moved to the Jhansi area by M.T. and march route, completing just over 100 miles in eight days of foot slogging across the plains. The field training and life under canvas has heartened us considerably after the lethargy of barrack life in the Indian Summer, and we are now fit and ready for anything, anywhere. The burning question of the moment being "Where do we go from here?"

In the field of personnel, we have had many changes. Lt. Eaves went home to civvy street, and was replaced by Major Butler as Company Commander, who after a very short while departed for Staff College, leaving his shoes vacant for Capt. Marron, who is still "commando-ing" us.

At sport, we are not quite satisfied, having come second in the Battalion sports to "A" Company, whom we look forward to meeting again, when they can provide some mile runners to challenge us. In the meanwhile, 10 Platoon have passed into the second round of the inter-platoon soccer competition, and we are confident of cheering them on to victory.

In conclusion, we say good luck to all our members who have departed for civilian life; C.Q.M.S. Tull, Sgts. Scott and Scriven to the Arms of the Law, Sgt. Guest etc., and last but not least, L/Cpl. Houghton, who sat on the golden eggs of our pay system for so long, entering promotions in paybooks with the expression "Let these young lads

get on in the Army, I'm going home," And finally :—" May the Lord have mercy on all those of A and S Group 64 and over," which means about 90 per cent of the Company.

### CRICKET.

Cricket was severely curtailed when the "real" hot weather came; it was even too hot to stand in the field before five o'clock in the evening. Before this misfortune we did however, manage several games in Meerut and surrounding district. We played a two-evening game after being challenged by Brigade "H.Q." and showed them that to challenge the DUKES was a dangerous thing. A return game which had an unfortunate start for us finally finished with a win due mainly to a good innings by Sgt. Burdekin and steady bowling by Sgt. Boxall.

Our first away match was played against the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun. The surroundings and the pitch itself reminded us all of a Saturday afternoon in England. We were fortunate in being able to stay over the weekend, so enabling us to play an all-day Sunday match. We were definitely outclassed by our old enemies and were defeated by nearly one hundred runs.

The last game was played in Delhi against the R.S.F's. This was probably the most exciting game of the season. The R.S.F's batted first and 185 runs were on the board before we took their final wicket. During this time Lt. Bell, Sgt. Burdekin and Pte. Bembrose had done some very steady bowling. Our first three wickets fell in quick succession, and then Major Butler and Captain Stallibrass scored 76 and 35 respectively in double quick time, so making the chances of victory seem a little brighter. This was again followed by two quick wickets. Lt. Charles and Sgt. Burdekin once again stopped the rot and made victory close at hand by each scoring twenty. On playing quarter hour extra time, Lt. Bell scored the winning hit and the game finished with Lt. Bell 36 not out and a total of 189 for nine on the board. We returned that night feeling we had done a good day's work. Soon after this match we bade farewell to our skipper Lt. Col. Dalrymple and we wish him the best of luck.

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

The Regiment in Poona consists of "R.H.Q.," "C" and "H.Q." Squadrons; "A" and "B" Squadrons still being detached in Sumatra and Agra respectively.

Life has been very quiet for us from the business point of view, but socially we have blossomed forth in fine style. The Sergeants' Mess has led the way with a dance or a "social evening" every fortnight, not to mention the Sunday morning snooker matches against the officers, some of whom can be seen pedalling an unsteady course on their bicycles at 5 o'clock in the afternoon in search of a belated lunch. Like everyone else we have had our losses due to Release, etc. In the Officers' Mess we have had farewell parties for Majors Green, Wills, Clarke and several others, and the older members will be surprised to hear that the Second-in-command, Major Robson, the only original member of 146 R.A.C. still with the unit, has at last decided to depart on repatriation.

All ranks dances are held once a month and are very popular and well attended. At all our functions we are fortunate in having the services of our Regimental Dance Band, which has also been in great demand for Clubs and Unit dances throughout the area. They are very popular and have managed to stick together mainly owing to the keenness of the members and enthusiasm of Capt. McMoreland and Sgt. Willis.

In the sporting line, we have not been without our honours, when it is remembered that our Regimental team can only be drawn from "C" Squadron and a depleted "H.Q." Squadron. But in spite of our small numbers, we challenge and frequently beat full battalion and regimental sides. The same is true of "A" and "B" Squadron, but in their case there is even less material from which to choose. In the Western F.A. Services Championship at Bombay, we were unlucky to lose our first round against the 2nd Leicesters, 1-0. We had most of the game, but unfortunately, as is rather a



weakness with the team, we were unable to snap up our opportunities in front of the opposing goal.

The rugger team have just finished a good season, the last match played was versus Calcutta Services in the first round of the All India Rugby competition at Bombay. Unfortunately one or two of the stalwarts went home on release just prior to this match, and the team had to be reorganised at fairly short notice. However it was a hard-fought match, but our opponents proved to be rather too good for us, and we lost 11—0. Throughout the season the team received valuable encouragement off the field, and practical demonstration on the field, from our Colonel, "Jock" Hetherington.

#### **Squadron Notes. (From the detached Squadrons).**

"A" SQUADRON are just finishing a very strenuous but none the less interesting year in Sumatra. In fact at the time of writing they are believed to be on their way back to Poona. In the past two months operations have been on the increase, on top of which they have been training Dutch troops, in preparation for the handing over of the squadron armoured cars and equipment, when British troops are evacuated. Many old hands have left for home including Capt. Bannochie and Sgts. Bloy, Richardson and Barker. They are fortunate in still having with them four "originals" in the Officers' Mess besides S.Q.M.S. Troak. They have been reinforced by three officers and 37 other ranks from 2nd Div. Recce. who have been disbanded. They have made a very good name for themselves in Sumatra, and we shall all be pleased to welcome them back.

A short history of the Squadron is being compiled by Major Johnston, with a foreword written by Major-General R. C. O. Hedley, D.S.O., M.C., Commanding 26th Ind. Div., and Commander Allied Land Forces, Sumatra.

In games, especially soccer, they have been very successful, having beaten the Chinese, R.A.F., M.P's. and Div. Signals in Medan. Their main rivals are the Chinese team, and in September of this year, they secured a great victory of 2—0 in front of practically the entire native population inside the perimeter. They also produced eleven of the rugger players in a Brigade team in a match versus the remainder of Medan Services, and were able to turn out a useful rugger side from the Squadron.

"B" SQUADRON. Since the move to Agra early in May this year, the officers of the squadron have changed completely. Lt. Jones was the first to go, followed by Major Robson, who had been in command since March, 1944. Lts. Webber, Kirkham and Mayne all left together for the Middle East and Europe. Major Russell then took over command, but left two months later together with the second-in-command Capt. McMoreland, on release and Repat. respectively. They also saw a very large change-over of N.C.O's. and men, but they still have some of the original members, for example, S.S.M. Haynes, Sgt. Kenchington, Cpls. France and Manns. In spite of all these departures, the Regiment at Poona managed to supply them with a small but reliable trickle of reinforcements for which they are always grateful. At present under Capt. Harper they are still doing very good work, and are helping to keep the peace in a rather troubled area.

After the monsoons had broken, and sport was resumed, they entered a team in the "General's Cup" soccer competition, which was open to all units in the area. In the first round they were drawn against the R.A.F., a team which at the start of the game appeared to be much superior. However the Squadron team played magnificently and managed to win 2—1.

The following evening in the second round they met the 43rd R.T.R., the acknowledged champions of Agra, and unable to produce the form of the previous night, lost 4—0 in spite of a very gallant fight.

At the time of writing cricket nets have been erected, and from the keenness shown at practices the Squadron should be able to produce a good team.

Before closing, we all take this opportunity to offer Capt. Mutton our congratulations on his marriage, and best wishes to him and his wife for the future.

Since the above notes were received we have had a letter from Lt.-Col. Hetherington, written from Poona on 4th December, enclosing a copy of "A Short History of 'A' Squadron." This is a most excellent account of the squadron's war service. It reflects great credit on the author, Major Johnston. There are six pages of illustrations, which unfortunately are not very well reproduced in many cases. The squadron was fortunate in being selected for active service in Arakan and Ramree Island, accounts of which appeared in previous issues of THE IRON DUKE; and after the war ended they served in Sumatra. In a foreword Major-General R. C. O. Hedley, D.S.O., G.O.C. Allied Land Forces in Sumatra, writes:—" 'A' Squadron may well look back with pride on their record of war service. They have always set themselves a high standard; they have cheerfully accepted the bad with the good; their morale and *esprit de corps* has been most marked. They have proved themselves to be worthy representatives of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and have upheld and enhanced the fair name of that Regiment."

Colonel Hetherington writes that "A" Squadron arrived in Poona from Sumatra on 1st December, and were being sent off on leave. He had had no further news about the disbandment of the Regiment. "B" Squadron were still up country, based on Bareilly and had been working with 16th Infantry Brigade, in which the 2nd Battalion are serving:—"So you can imagine how well they have been looked after." He continues:—"Our Cambrai Day went off very well indeed. We had an athletic meeting in the afternoon, invited the 2nd Queen's and R.W.F. to participate, and we came out top by one point. Then we had a very jovial all ranks' dance in the canteen in the evening. The Army Commander, Major-General Sir Robert Lockhart, and Lady Lockhart came to our sports. On 11th and 12th December we are organising the Poona Sub-Area athletic meeting and hope to do well. The 2nd Queen's and ourselves will be the only British troops competing.

H.E. Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck is coming to Poona next week and is down to visit our camp. . . ."

## No. 33 P.T.C., D.W.R. OFFICERS' MESS.

The Mess was born on 1st November, 1946, Major Baker being the only resident at that time. The first arrival was Major Davis, late War Office and West Africa, who was closely followed by Capt. Vaughan, late 1st Battalion and A.P.T.C. The next arrivals were Capts. Goodwin, Griffiths and Lts. Walton and Bailey; they were followed successively by Capt. Shelley, R.A. (P.S.O.), and Lt. Lingard, R.A.M.C. (M.O.). Lt.-Col. Dalrymple arrived on 7th November to take over command of the P.T.C. Later arrivals were Capt. Williams, fresh from S.E.A.C., Capt. O'Sullivan and Lt. Wilkinson from 4th I.T.C. at Brancepeth, and last, but not least, Capt. Townsend, ex India Airborne.

On 13th December the Mess held a "house-warming" party; General and Lady Christison graced the proceedings and a large number of ex-officers and local friends of the Regiment turned up, so "a good time was held by all."

We hope that all ex-officers of the "Dukes" living in the area around Halifax will appreciate that they will always receive a very warm welcome when they can find time to visit us.

## SERGEANTS' MESS.

We are glad to be back in circulation again, and hope very soon to revive the atmosphere of the good old days.

The Mess members at the time of writing consist of R.S.M. Birch, C.S.M's Thompson and O'Shea, all from the 1st Battalion, C.S.M. Wilson, ex-prisoner of war, C.Q.M.S. Gill,

who was demobbed but could not stand the rigours of civilian life, so returned to the fold ; O.R.S. Sedgewick and C.Q.M.S. Smith from the 6th Battalion ; Sgts. Lawton, Stutely, Kelsey, Walker, Sutcliffe, Plimmer and Smith, Bottomly, Wood, Cain, Webley, Bagshaw from I.T.C. Brancepeth ; Sgt. Minton, P.T.C. Pontefract. Special mention is merited by R.Q.M.S. Fitter, who has recently returned from the 6th Battalion and is still staggering on. We welcome them all and hope that, as one big happy family, they will restore some semblance of the " old time spirit."

Unfortunately Christmas was upon us before we could arrange a real good function, but we managed to squeeze in a games handicap—i.e., darts, snooker and billiards. Some rather surprising results took place, particularly in the billiards, R.S.M. Birch taking the final with real gusto and bags of whacking. Some rather pretty arrows were thrown in the darts match, and it is suspected that quite a few members have a drop of Cupid's blood, intermixed with their alcohol. The snooker final was a close game with some suspiciously good shots put over by both C.S.M. Thompson (winner) and Sgt. Smith (runner-up). Anyway, the whole competition was pursued with great keenness by one and all, and it is to be hoped that it will be the forerunner of many more bigger and better functions.

Ladies' nights, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, are becoming popular, and eventually, when we have a solid source of income we hope to indulge in some tip-top functions.

Now that we are becoming settled in, we shall contribute a regular issue of current happenings.

### COMPANY NOTES

" H.Q." COMPANY.—The Company has only been established some six weeks, but during that short time, and with the invaluable help of a lot of old hands, we are now well established. Capt. Griffiths is in command, Capt. Williams (ex. 2nd Battalion) is in the capacity of general factotum and school teacher, Lt. Wilkinson is W.T.O. C.S.M. O'Shea (ex 1st and 2nd Battalions) wields the iron hand, ably assisted by C.Q.M.S. Smith and the company storeman, L/Cpl. Rowe (ex 6th and 7th Battalions). We were all very sorry to see L/Cpl. Henson (ex 1st Battalion), company clerk, depart with 44 Group. The director of sanitation is Cpl. Hill (ex 2nd Battalion).

At " H.Q." we have R.S.M. Birch (ex 1st Battalion), who can always be found, after duty, in his shirt sleeves, getting his quarters ready. A " deserter " from the D.L.I. is O.R.Q.M.S. Sedgewick. Finally, we have R.Q.M.S. Fitter (ex 1st and 2nd Battalions), who would rather change his mind than change a greatcoat, but has hopes of shortly being presented with a family by his bull terrier " Lassie."

Sport in the Company is still in its infancy, but we are glad to report quite a large representation of " H.Q." Company in the P.T.C. football and rugby sides.

DEPOT COMPANY.—The role of Depot Company in the " new order " at Halifax is a dual one, combining the duties of the Regimental Depot party, and the administration of the Band, " holdees," and various casual attachments.

Major S. E. Baker is the company commander, ably assisted by Capt. D. S. Goodwin ; the C.S.M. is Thompson, with C.Q.M.S. Samme on the " Q " side of things.

Bandmaster Seed is gradually getting the Band into its stride once again, helped, of course, by the irrepressible Sgt. Stuteley. " Necker " has developed a sinister-looking " rash " on his upper lip.

Sgt. Wond is very busy, or appears to be, working in the Quarter bloke's department, and Sgt. Lawton is still cooking the P.R.I. accounts ; he has recently started on a book-keeping course in order to be able to understand what he has been doing for ten years. Code is back with the Depot—as a civilian clerk with Major Baker.

TRAINING COMPANY.—We probably had the biggest rush to get ourselves ready

to start training our first intake of G.S.C. recruits on the 8th November, 1946. By the 2nd November two officers and nine instructors had arrived from Colchester, Morpeth and Brancepeth, mostly "Dukes," though with a strong admixture of D.L.I., whom we have since been sorry to lose.

Training started on the 8th November. We were fortunate enough to get Colonel Pickering to come down to take our first passing-out parade on the 17th December. Colonel Pickering presented a medal to the best "all round" recruit and the banner to the best platoon. He then addressed the parade before the march past. Nine out of the 60 passing out were posted to the Dukes.

Two rigger games have been played between recruits and permanent staff, but with such a constant change over it is impossible to train up a sufficiently strong team from the recruits.

The Company Headquarters has Major J. H. Davis and Capt. L. O'Sullivan from the 2nd and 1st Battalions, with C.S.M. W. H. P. Wilson and C.Q.M.S. F. Gill, both from the 1st Battalion.

### SPORT.

**RUGBY FOOTBALL.**—Rugger got away with a good swing here at the P.T.C.; we have had two practice matches during the past two weeks, and on Saturday, the 22nd, we were to play our first representative match against a local fifteen, but this was cancelled owing to fog.

We have several "Old Dukes" rugger personalities at the P.T.C., R.S.M. Birch, C.S.M. O'Shea, C.Q.M.S. Gill, Band Sgt. Stuteley and Pte. Birch, not forgetting Major J. H. Davis.

We have fixtures with several of the local fifteens during the coming months and we hope to give a good account of ourselves.

**ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.**—The soccer season was already well advanced before it was possible to form a Depot team. This prevented the team from taking part in the West Riding League, but we entered a team in the Local Tradesmen's League in which an exceptionally good start has been made, the Depot having won both its games, with the table reading 16 goals for and 1 against.

Friendly games have been played against Luddenden Foot A.F.C. and Halifax A.E.U., the Depot winning one and losing one.

With no drastic alterations having to be made, we believe that the Depot team should do extremely well against the local soccer clubs, whose standard of play and sportsmanship is extremely high.

**BOXING.**—On Thursday, 12th December, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons of Training Company, the first G.S.C. intake, put on an excellent evening's boxing which was highly appreciated by many enthusiastic spectators.

Very few of the competitors had had any experience of competitive boxing before joining the Army and great credit is due to Q.M.S.I. Slater (A.P.T.C.) and his staff. What wonders they worked in six short weeks, not to mention their Aladdin-like erection of a boxing-ring in the "gym."!

Before the last fight of the programme, the score was 15 points to each platoon—truly a ding-dong battle. The last fight was won by No. 2 Platoon, and with it the championship, to the wild cheers of their supporters from "Musgrave."

The Regimental Band played before the contests and during the interval, immediately after which two of its number, Boys Barnes and Dean, fought in a special contest. These lads seem to have an inexhaustible store of energy and after a very close contest, in which Barnes was the winner, they were as fresh as at the beginning.

After the programme Lt.-Col. Dalrymple expressed appreciation of the quality of the boxing, the arrangements and the performance of the Band. I know everyone present was wholeheartedly with him—a grand evening indeed!

## D.W.R. Infantry Training Centre.

### OFFICERS' MESS.

Our days at Brancepeth now being numbered, the time has at last come to write this our last dispatch before proceeding to our new home at Catterick.

Since we last went to press we have suffered very few casualties, the most noticeable being the departure of Fletcher, who has just returned to civvy street in time for the crab fishing season at Whitley; we all wish him good fishing and the best of luck for the future. O'Sullivan has vanished into the precincts of Halifax to take up a very hush-hush job, and we hope that the shamrock will flourish as successfully as it did here. Wilkinson also has left for the Depot to try his hand as weapon training officer, and we all wish him good luck.

We are looking forward to the Christmas dance, which we know will be enjoyed by all, and prove a great chance for many happy re-unions with some of our lately departed comrades. Christmas leave is now in the offing, so we wish all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

### SERGEANTS' MESS.

Recently in the social sphere our activities have centred round a dance held in the Cinema Gym. This was one huge success, no doubt largely owing to the excellent dance band provided by our friends the D.L.I. We have also had a social evening to which we invited the Corporals' Mess. Here the entertainments were ably presided over by C.S.M. Reed.

Quite a lot of the D.L.I. members left us when the D.L.I. Corps Training Company moved to Cove. Their places have been taken over by a Yorkshire regiment—namely, the West Yorks.

Since our last Mess meeting the service at meal times has improved considerably. It is rumoured that C.S.M. Reed is now taking the A.T.S. waitresses on "the Drill" each morning. However, be that as it may, their efficiency is now quite visible. Even under the new arrangement a certain member still "ticks" with his usual vigour.

The new organisation has necessitated a good many old members (too numerous to name) to depart. Some to Halifax (lucky people!), some to other P.T.C.'s and, of course, the usual output to "civvy street." We wish them all the very best of luck in their new activities. Our old friend Suggitt still manages to visit us on Sunday nights and many an hour is passed reminiscing about old times. We hope he will continue to come and see us during the time he is living in the district.

In our last notes we said "cheerio and the best of luck" to our friends the D.L.I. It only remains to say "Thanks again for everything and the best of luck to the Durhams." We sincerely hope that R.S.M. Scott, D.L.I., and members of the Sergeants' Mess No. 68 P.T.C. will visit us both at Halifax and Catterick, and we will visit them at Brancepeth when the opportunity presents itself.

### CORPORALS' MESS.

Since our last contribution to THE IRON DUKE quite a number of old faces have departed from the Mess. Some, or should we say the whole of "B" Company, have been posted to the Depot at Halifax or Pontefract; we wish them all the best at their respective P.T.C.'s.

On the departure of the Durham Light Infantry ("E" Company) we offer them our best wishes. We welcome to Brancepeth a company of the West Yorkshire Regiment from their I.T.C. at Berwick. During the few weeks the West Yorks have been here they have introduced a new colour scheme to the camp in the form of yellow blanco. In passing we must not forget the two Veteran Georges (Bailey and Wilkinson) who left us with 45 Group.

On the social side there have been two notable events, first a social evening in which the corporals were the guests of the Sergeants' Mess. This event having been the Mess topic for several days afterwards as regards the organisation and drinks which could be obtained, resulted in every one coming away a little cheerful. The other event being a corporals' dinner, held on the 12th December, 1946, in the men's N.A.A.F.I.; the members of the Mess express their gratitude to the Unit Cadre for rendering their services.

Since Monty's reforms came into force the Mess is deserted at the week-end except for a few very willing N.C.O.'s who delight in walking round in belt, bayonet and gaiters.

At our last Mess meeting Cpl. Llewellyn was once again appointed president, and we feel sure that all members look forward to his splendid leadership and organisation in the near future.

### COMPANY NOTES.

"B" COMPANY.—This is our swan song. Word eventually came through that "B" Company's life was coming to an end, and we have slipped inevitably into a state of suspended animation. Having been concerned with the production of G.S.C. recruits for a period of five years, we remember such names as Major Ellis, Capt. Diggle, John Stork, C.Q.M.S. Melville, Sgt. Bell, Shep. and many others. To each of them, wherever they may be, we wish the very best of luck in future years. Our C.Q.M.S., like the proverbial old sailor who refuses to leave his ship, can still be seen slipping furtively in and out of the office even though all others have long since fled.

The permanent staff has split in several directions, Halifax, Pontefract and "George" Company being the main importers.

Our sporting activities since our last notes have been confined to football in the company league. We played nine games, won two, drew two and the remainder "went the way of all flesh," even though the company commander, Capt. Berryman, condescended to help the mud-bespattered enthusiasts.

Lt. Huffam left us in October for a sunnier clime, and to him and to all members of "B" Company who are now on the move, we say "Good luck," and draw some consolation from the fact that all good things must eventually come to an end.

"C" COMPANY.—We regret that these are the last notes that "Charlie" Company (4th I.T.C.) will submit to THE IRON DUKE. Our company commander, Capt. L. J. O'Sullivan, has now taken on the job of Admin. Officer at Halifax, and his N.C.O.'s wish him the best of luck. The whereabouts of our C.S.M. Kennedy is at present unknown but it is rumoured that he is absent with leave. All the Company wishes C.Q.M.S. Taylor all the best in his new role in civvy street; we had just welcomed C.Q.M.S. Benner when we broke up. The two "Wilkie's," Sgt. Ken and Cpl. George, seem to think that "C" Company muster parade is held at the wood-work centre. Congratulations to Sgt. Howard Nock on his posting to O.C.T.U.; here's hoping he comes in contact with Sgt. Ward who was posted there as an instructor. We have also said good-bye to Sgts. Biglin, Wood and Smith and hope that they are as happy in their new camp as they were here. The remaining N.C.O.'s are now under the fatherly wing of C.S.M. Reed of "G" Company and are now mastering the ceremonial guards. In the field of sport our football team did remarkably well under the leadership of L/Cpl. Crossley (40).

"G" COMPANY.—Since our last notes our friends the D.L.I. Corps Training Company have departed to the Light Infantry Training Centre at Cove, near Farnborough. Our best wishes go with them and we hope they will be as successful as they were at Brancepeth. We miss C.S.M. Edwards, particularly in the sporting world. His games of rugger with the I.T.C. will be long remembered. The Corps Training Company of the West Yorks from the No. 6 I.T.C. have joined us for a short time until our move to the new I.T.C. at Catterick on the 15th January, 1947.

Capt. C. H. Mavin and C.S.M. Reed are still company commander and C.S.M. respectively. Recruits still continue to cross the square and come from outside P.T.W's and P.T.C's every fortnight. In addition we have developed into a staging and drafting company. At the moment we have a 6th Holding Battalion Yorks and Lincs, and Green Howards draft attached to us waiting to go overseas. The C.S.M. is kept busy getting the O.R.Q.M.S. on the old "blower" asking about movement orders. The answer is invariably, "I have just been through to M.C. There is no news; I'll ring you."

Owing to the break-up of "B" and "C" Companies (primary), sport in the I.T.C. has been confined to a football tournament between companies. We played nine games, won four, drew two and lost three. The competition is still proceeding. Ptes. Morgan Bates, Jepson and L/Cpl. Robinson have played for the I.T.C. regularly. Congratulations to Ptes. Jepson and Bates on their recent marriages. We hope they will be happy ever after.

As we go to press we have been invaded by a swarm of W.O's., C/Sgts. and N.C.O's from "B" and "C" Companies. These companies have passed into suspended animation. As they recede into oblivion, we think of these names of former members of the I.T.C.:—Ashmore, Duncason, Suggitt, the immortal Hill, Hesford, Diggle, Horsfall, Stork, Caddick, Hickox, Bell, Melville, Ellis, Lawson and many others too numerous to mention. We wish them all the best of luck wherever they may be. Our latest departures to "civvy street" have been Close, the mighty Atom! We hope that in future he will use other people's money and not his own on the "Gee-Gees." The other mighty Atom—Shannon departs with Group 46 in the near future. We wish them the very best of luck in their new venture. Sgts. Bagshaw and Webley have left us and gone to No. 33 P.T.C. at Halifax (lucky people!). By the time these notes appear we will be at Catterick at the new I.T.C. We hope we will be as happy there as we have been at Brancepeth. We said our "good-byes" to our friends the D.L.I. in our last notes and so it only remains to say once again, "Thanks very much" to the Durhams for everything and all the best of luck to you.

### 4th Cadet Battalion (D.W.R.)

1946 has been another good year for the 4th, the chief activities being efficiency in the work and a wealth of club life. The former is shown by the excellent annual inspection report (Lt.-Col. R. H. O. Hanbury) and the certificates (Certificate "A"—75 Part I, 40 Part II; Certificate "T"—2). The latter has been both domestic, inter-company, and with other battalions. There have been competitions in boxing, association football, billiards, shooting, table tennis, darts and dominoes in the six drill halls used by this unit. Members of the 4th have played for the West Riding at association football, and three fought in the W.R. cadet boxing championships at Leeds Town Hall on 14th December.

Some 130 of our officers, N.C.O's and cadets camped in August at Boulmer in Northumberland with other cadets from the West Riding and enjoyed an excellent week.

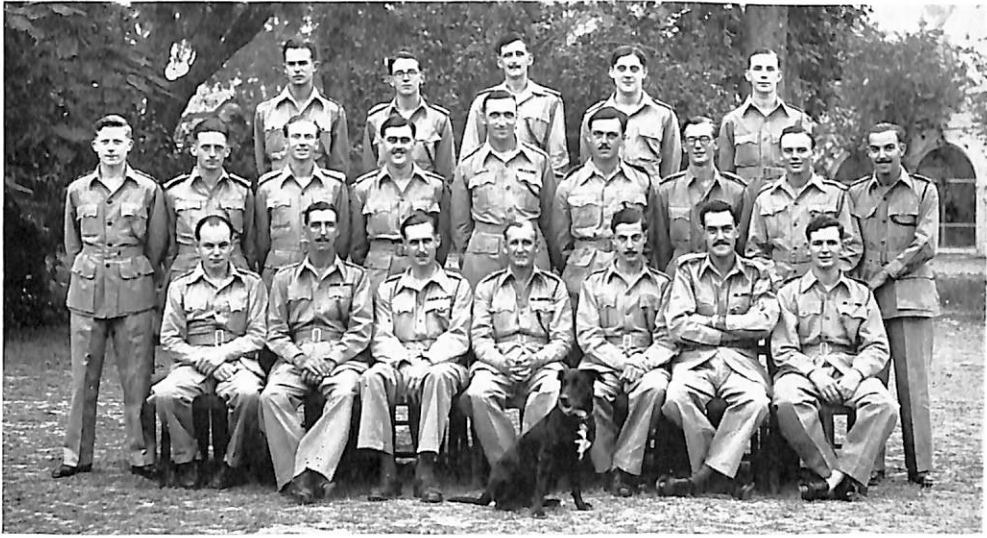
An officer and six cadets attended the rally in London on 5th-7th April and took part in the march past Princess Elizabeth in Hyde Park.

Officers, N.C.O's and cadets have attended regular army courses, too numerous to mention individually, and have done well. Without being invidious, it may be mentioned that three cadets obtained their crossed swords for advanced P.T. at Aldershot.

Under our very enthusiastic Signals Officer, Major Wilkinson (who also reports to North Midland District on S.T.C., J.T.C. and A.C.F. Signal Platoons in the West Riding), our Signals Platoon is flourishing and cadets attend courses from time to time at Catterick.

We are very fortunate in having Capt. Dewhirst straight from the D.W.R. (Regular Forces) as our Adjutant, and the many officers of long service still with us. R.S.M. Wood will be difficult to replace. He is now lance-corporal with the D.W.R. at Elgin where

2nd BATTALION—OFFICERS, MEERUT, 1946.



*Standing, back row* : Lt. E. A. ROSS, Lt. J. L. BENNETT, Capt. W. PALMER, Lt. G. N. THORNTON, 2nd Lt. G. A. M. BAXTER.  
*Standing, centre row* : Lt. G. C. WIDDAS, Lt. G. D. WETHERILL, 2nd Lt. W. L. HARVEY, 2nd Lt. P. H. HAWS, Lt. A. MARRON,  
 2nd Lt. P. ELLIS, 2nd Lt. W. E. WADE, Lt. H. N. JOHNSON, Lt. R. E. BOATMAN.  
*Seated* : Capt. T. S. MACFARLANE (M.O.), Capt. P. R. STAFFORD, Major A. M. COOPER, Lt.-Col. J. H. DALRYMPLE (C.O.),  
 Lt. TOM DRIVER, Major E. J. P. EMMETT, Lt. R. H. HENSHALL.

Football Team, 1945-46. Winners 16th Infantry Brigade Championship.

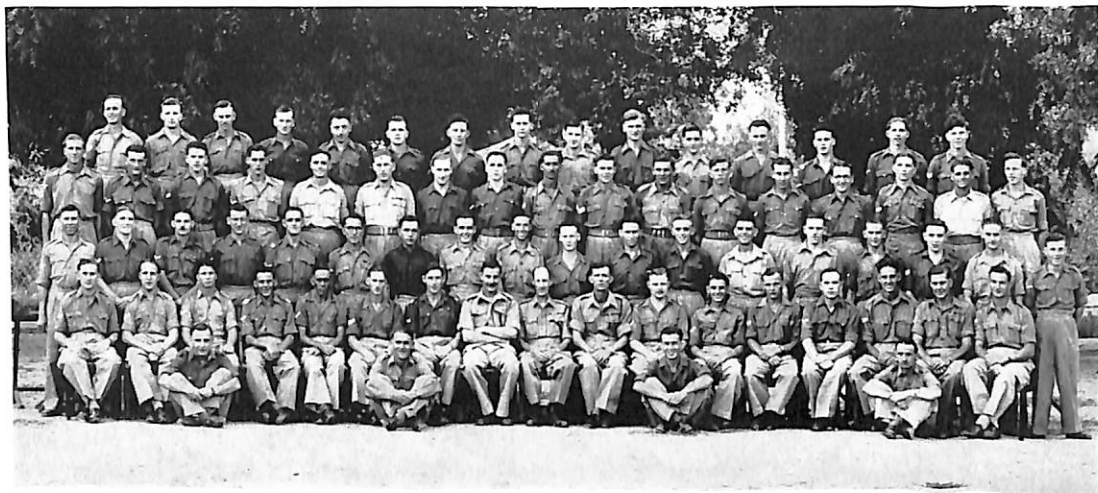


*Left to right, standing* : Pte. BURTON, Pte. BEMROSE, Pte. COCKER, Cpl. BALSOM, Lt. THORNTON, L/Cpl. SEAMAN,  
 Pte. BLAKELOCK, Pte. SAYNOR.  
*Sitting* : Pte. BELL, C.Q.M.S. CARDUS, Lt.-Col. J. H. DALRYMPLE (C.O.), Pte. HAWELLS, Lt. HENSHALL, Cpl. STAFFORD,  
 Pte. HARVEY.  
*Kneeling* : L/Cpl. WHITELEY, Pte. WHITTLES.

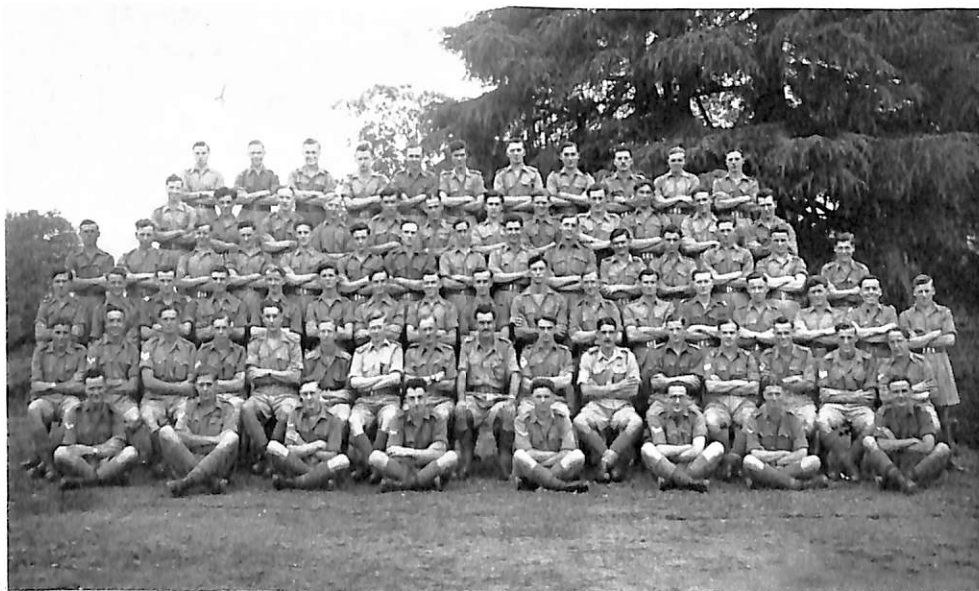
(These photographs were sent for No. 65, but arrived too late.—ED.)



**2nd BATTALION.**  
**Members of the Corporals' Mess, October, 1946.**



Cpl. W. A. COULTHREAD, Cpl. R. FLYNN, Cpl. W. HOBSON, I. Cpl. E. SMITH, Cpl. P. ROGAN, I. Cpl. GREEN, I. Cpl. D. N. McNAIR, Cpl. W. SYKES, Cpl. F. DORAN, Cpl. R. McDONALD, Cpl. G. TRUFFET, I. Cpl. A. WILLIAMS, I. Cpl. J. BANNON, I. Cpl. E. FLOYD, Cpl. C. H. HIRST.  
 I. Cpl. G. HANDLY, I. Cpl. D. PYLE, Cpl. T. KEOGH, I. Cpl. J. BRIGGS, Cpl. V. TURNER, I. Cpl. J. OSBALDESTON, I. Cpl. D. SLATER, I. Cpl. D. FIELDHOUSE, Cpl. L. DAWSON, Cpl. L. LILBURN, Cpl. W. DARNLEY, I. Cpl. J. JOEL, I. Cpl. E. A. GODDARD, Cpl. D. SHARP, Cpl. B. R. WATSON, Cpl. L. DUKE, I. Cpl. D. CLAYTON.  
 I. Cpl. A. HOY, Cpl. P. JACKSON, I. Cpl. G. SHAW, I. Cpl. M. TESSEYMAN, I. Cpl. R. CORNELL, Cpl. R. HARRISON, I. Cpl. D. HOWSON, I. Cpl. K. BELL, Cpl. D. JOESBURY, Cpl. D. HAIGH, Cpl. R. MORRIS, I. Cpl. D. HEWITT, I. Cpl. W. DONALDSON, I. Cpl. J. HUTCHINSON, I. Cpl. P. A. CURR, Cpl. T. ANDERSON, I. Cpl. R. LEGGE, I. Cpl. E. BALDAM.  
 Cpl. J. THOMSON, Cpl. J. YULL, I. Cpl. S. AIREY, I. Cpl. T. SHAW, I. Cpl. P. TEAL, Cpl. A. RILEY, A Cpl. V. ROBERTS, Lt. T. DRIVER (Adjt.), Lt.-Col. F. R. ARMITAGE, O.B.E. (C.O.), R.S.M. A. PARR, I. Cpl. R. MARSHALL, I. Cpl. B. BOTTOMLEY, Cpl. W. SLY, I. Cpl. J. FARRAR, I. Cpl. A. FIELD, Cpl. J. DUTFIELD, Cpl. L. NASSKAU.  
 I. Cpl. R. A. RIDLEY, I. Cpl. A. SINGLETON, I. Cpl. A. ROWBREY, I. Cpl. J. STEPHENSON.



“B” and “C” Companies, Hill Depot, Kailana, July, 1946.

U/O. R. Thackray has also just gone. Many of our old cadets are doing well in H.M. Forces, and we were particularly pleased when one who had attended cadet P.T. courses recently turned up as sergeant instructor, A.P.T.C.

## Old Comrades' Associations.

### 1st and 2nd BATTALIONS.

The following is a summary of the cases assisted during the period mid-August to mid-December, 1946:—

Fund.	Number of Cases.	Amounts Disbursed.
Old Comrades' Association ... ..	8	£ 45 15 0
2nd Battalion Charitable Fund ... ..	1	5 0 0
Regimental Association Fund ... ..	35	174 10 0
Mitchell Trust Fund ... ..	1	4 0 0
Total ... ..		£229 5 0

**ADDRESSES.**—The O.C.A. address book is well out of date owing to members removing during the late war. Will all members who have changed their address during the past seven years, and who have not notified the secretary of their new address, please do so at their earliest convenience?

**CLUBS.**—The Halifax Social Club is going very strong and gathers numbers weekly. The present strength is now 160 paid-up members. The amusement side is going very well indeed; each week sees a fresh effort on the part of the amusement committee to provide newer and more original entertainment. Many thanks are due to Mr. "Walt" Walker and his merry men in their endeavours. The 58th Anti-Tank Regiment (4th Bn. The D.W.R.) held a re-union in the Social Club on the 20th December, 1946. It was very well attended and a "very good time was had by all." Amongst those present were Lt.-Cols. H. L. Grylls, Roy Smith, Trevor Bentley, W. S. F. Tetlow and Major L. E. A. Foster. Mr. McMahon and Mr. Code were instrumental in arranging the catering and refreshments, etc. The Sheffield club appears to be going well, too; they have about the same membership as at Halifax. Mr. W. Norman has had to give up the secretaryship of the Sheffield club owing to ill-health and Mr. A. Hough has taken on the job in his stead. Another branch has opened at Oldham and its welfare committee is now functioning. Colonel G. B. Howcroft is sponsoring the activities of this club, and we shall have to report in the next issue of THE IRON DUKE.

The London and Home Counties D.W.R. Social Club, which was going very strong before the war, is to be re-started. The secretary, Mr. George Finding, of 141 High Street, Acton, London, W.3, is anxious that all Dukes living in London should get in touch with him. He is very keen on having a good shooting team, as they have the use of some huts at Bisley.

### 5th BATTALION.

The Old Comrades' Association of the 5th Battalion held their annual meeting at the Drill Hall, Huddersfield, on Saturday, 26th October. Lt.-Col. R. C. Laurence was in the chair.

The annual reports, presented by Mr. N. Hobson (secretary) and Mr. F. G. Kemp (treasurer), showed that the past year had been a very successful one for the Association, both financially and socially. During the year 206 new members had joined the Association.

The president (Colonel K. Sykes) said that although they had gained so many new

members he was a little disappointed that the number was not even larger. Many young men had served in the "5th Dukes" during the late war, and they had an advantage over the older members in that there was a very fine Old Comrades' Association waiting for them on their return.

Lt.-Col. Laurence said that many of the younger men had hesitated to join the Association because they felt it was for the members who had served in the first world war, an idea which, he was glad to say, was rapidly dying out. He felt sure that the ex-servicemen from the two wars would get together to keep alive the splendid traditions of the Battalion and the Regiment.

Referring to the forthcoming re-establishment of the Territorial Army, Lt.-Col. Laurence said that it would not be long before the "5th Dukes" came out of its state of "suspended animation," and although they did not know exactly what form it would take, they did know that it would have an important part to play in that Army.

The following officers were re-elected for the ensuing year:—Secretary, Mr. N. Hobson; treasurer, Mr. F. G. Kemp; committee, Capt. C. A. Wynn Williams (chairman), Major J. C. Shaw and Messrs. N. Hobson, F. G. Kemp, R. Ellinthorpe, S. Billington, W. Airey, T. Halstead, J. Berry, F. Hinchcliffe, S. Atkinson, S. Towlson, L. H. Cook and J. Fisher.

A comprehensive vote of thanks to the officers was moved by Mr. J. Taylor and seconded by Mr. I. Robinson.

### 10th (SERVICE) BATTALION.

Members of the O.C.A. of this Battalion—which added "Vittorio Veneto" to the Regimental honours, besides contributing to other similar honours in the 1914–1918 war—are wondering whether any other similar organisation can compete with it in the enthusiastic manner in which former men of the unit support its activities. And the reason? Well, no fewer than 136 men sat down to their first re-union dinner since the end of the 1939–1945 war—a function held at the Co-operative Café, Bradford, on 26th October, 1946.

At first glance the number of diners may not seem very great, but it assumes different proportions when it is remembered that the Battalion was disbanded 27 years ago, that it drew its men from all parts of the country (thereby having no local habitat as have the Territorial units, for example), and that its previous festive gathering was in 1938. As a matter of fact, the committee were a trifle anxious about holding a 1946 re-union and thought they would be very successful if they secured an attendance of 70. Actually, nearly twice that number attended. No wonder the Association thinks its members are more enthusiastic than those of any other O.C.A. of the Regiment.

It was extremely pleasant to see the "old" faces again, but there were moments of regret when the honorary secretary read the names of more than 30 ex-10th Battalion men who had died during the war years. They included Major W. N. Town (who succeeded the late Major R. H. Gill, D.S.O., as chairman of the Association), Major C. Bathurst, M.C., Lt. A. A. Jackson (Mytholmroyd), Lt. Fred Dyson (Huddersfield), C.Q.M.S. E. Shuttleworth (Earby), C.S.M. Frank Gilleard, D.C.M., and Sgt. G. E. Smithams (Keighley) — famous for his rissoles and the manner in which he always contrived to have a hot meal ready for the men when they came out of the line in France, Belgium or Italy, and usually managed to get hot food to them when actually in the trenches—and many others. Their memory was honoured by the diners standing silently in their places as their names were read out.

That apart, the gathering was thoroughly enjoyable. Lt. M. A. S. Wood, who had been appointed the new chairman at the annual meeting held earlier in the afternoon, presided; Lt.-Col. E. H. Sayers (formerly C.O. of the 6th Battalion and at the time commanding the R.A.P.C. in Bradford) and Major S. E. Baker (commanding the Depot) were the principal guests; there were officers and men from all parts of Yorkshire, some from Lancashire, others from Derbyshire and Warwickshire, and more from London,

Hampshire and Surrey. One who could "scarcely credit it all" was Capt. H. W. Lester, who left the Battalion (in which he held the appointment of adjutant) at Ypres in 1917 to become G.S.O.3 23rd Division, and who later moved on to other important posts. After the war, he went sheep-farming in Australia, but returned last autumn and at once got in touch with the Association, and eventually journeyed from London to make his first appearance at a Battalion re-union. He was thrilled by it all—and well he might be after an interval of nearly 30 years—but no more so than were officers and men present who renewed their acquaintance with him. Members of his orderly room staff were there to welcome him—including Cpl. Frank Christelow (who left the Battalion to join the R.F.C. in 1917), who is now a leading wool merchant in Bradford, and was able to talk learnedly with Capt. Lester on the merits of Australian merino wool—and doubtless of wool prices as well!

Speaking was cut to a minimum, but His Majesty and the O.C.A. were honoured in short speeches, Colonel Sayers proposing the Association and Major J. C. Bull (how good it was to see him again) responding. The remainder of the evening was spent in seeking out old friends—and paying subscriptions!

Everybody agreed the Committee had been well advised to reinstitute these annual gatherings.

Since the re-union, the officers and men from the south have suggested holding the function in Bradford and London alternately. The committee have not reached any decision on the point, but the likelihood is that they will propose that a separate gathering should be held in London so as not to interfere with the annual meeting in Bradford. All our men are getting older, and railway travel has not the same attraction as it had formerly, even in a cattle truck *en route* for Italy!

Other items of interest are that the committee have sent £10. 10s. 0d. to the Regimental War Memorial Fund; that the Association's standard now bears the Battalion's battle honours; that Lt. Wood has been appointed to succeed the late Major Town as the responsible administrator of the Battalion Benevolent Fund, held at the Depot; that Capt. R. Bolton and Mr. H. V. Joyce planted a wreath-cross in the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey at Armistice Day, and that on Remembrance Sunday in Bradford a wreath was laid on the Cenotaph by Lt. Wood who was in command of our detachment at the big British Legion parade. At the Bradford Festival of Remembrance, too—held on 3rd November—the honorary secretary, as chairman of the Bradford Federation of Ex-Service Associations, presided. The Rt. Hon. Viscount Swinton, P.C., accompanied by Lady Swinton, and the Lord Mayor (Alderman Mrs. Kathleen Chambers) and Lady Mayoress (Mrs. W. Leach) were the principal guests, and £280 has since been handed over to the British Legion Earl Haig Poppy Day Appeal.

On 14th December the Halifax Branch held a dinner. It was organised by Mr. Clifford Wade, the local honorary secretary, and was attended not only by men of the Branch but by the chairman, honorary secretary and hon. treasurer (Mr. H. Bray) and other members of the committee.

#### OBITUARY.

TOWN.—Major William Norman Town, formerly of the 8th (Service) and 10th (Service) Battalions of the Regiment, and Chairman of both Battalions' O.C.A.'s, died in a Leeds nursing home on 29th September, 1946, after an operation. He was in his 71st year and had suffered from ill-health for some months. Indeed, although during the recent war he regularly attended the annual committee meetings of the 10th Battalion O.C.A.—and always insisted on acting as host to those present—one could not help but notice that he was obviously failing, and members of the committee often wondered how he managed always to be present. It was due, of course, to his deep interest in the Regiment and in his old Battalion. Those who met him during the war will not soon forget his great courage.

After nearly 30 years one's memory becomes a little hazy about dates, but it is certain that Major Town joined the 10th Battalion from the 8th after service on Gallipoli. Before the war he was an officer in the 6th Battalion. If recollection does not lie, he joined the 10th at Ypres in 1917 and remained with it until the end of the war. He commanded "C" Company and was the Battalion's second-in-command. At no time a demonstrative officer or man, he was probably the most thorough person in the Battalion. The war was the thing to which he had set his hand and he allowed nothing to detract from his efforts to help the Allies to victory. He gained no honours—probably he wanted none—because he never did anything spectacular, but "Town" and "reliability" were synonymous.

Before his retirement from business life he was connected with the family concern of J. Town & Sons, paper makers, of Leeds, and lived at Shire Oak Road, Headingley. He was an outstanding figure in the Baptist Church and was honorary treasurer for the Yorkshire area, if not actually for the whole Church in this country. The funeral took place at South Parade Baptist Church, Leeds, on 3rd October, and the 10th Battalion O.C.A. was represented by the honorary secretary, who, after the service, took post in the porch of the church and saluted the bier as it was borne to the waiting hearse—the Battalion's last tribute to a splendid man.

At the Association's annual meeting a resolution was passed placing on record the highest appreciation of Major Town's loyal and devoted service to the O.C.A. This was subsequently conveyed to his sister—his nearest relative.

G. R. G.

## 5th Duke of Wellington's Officers' Dinner Club

We have received a copy of Leaflet No. 42 issued by Colonel Keith Sykes, the Hon. Secretary of the 5th Battalion Officers' Dinner Club. The last news leaflet to be issued was in April, 1940; previous to this date leaflets had been published half-yearly.

The present number covers the intervening years, and gives a brief record of the Battalion's service in the war, details of which have already appeared in *THE IRON DUKE*. We print below a few items of general interest:—

"In 1939 Colonel G. P. Norton, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., J.P., succeeded Colonel Sir E. Hildred Carlile, Bt., C.B.E., T.D., J.P., as Honorary Colonel of the Battalion.

"Most members of our Dinner Club have done war service of some kind in the late war. Many returned to the armed forces and others served in the Home Guard or Civil Defence Services, and so it is expected that most will have earned, if they have not coveted that almost universal medal—the Defence Medal.

"Our Old Comrades' Association has continue its activities throughout the war and kept in continual touch with the Battalion. Many deserving cases have been assisted from the benevolent funds. Its paid-up membership is now nearly 800 with headquarters at Huddersfield, and branches at Mirfield, Holmfirth, Kirkburton and Penistone. The benevolent funds have recently been increased by £1,750, largely through gifts from the Battalion, and the Huddersfield Women's War Time Bureau. The social activities have been well maintained and a great spirit of comradeship prevails.

"A small committee of officers has recently met under the chairmanship of our Hon. Colonel (Col. G. P. Norton) to take initial steps in the formulation of a Battalion war memorial for the late war. It is tentatively suggested that it should take a somewhat similar form to the 1914-18 war memorial in the Drill Hall, Huddersfield. Meanwhile names of the "Fallen" who lost their lives while serving in the Battalion, and also those who were mobilised on 24th August, 1939, and who died or were killed while serving in other units, are required. The Hon. Secretary of the Dinner Club will be glad of any information which members can give and will pass it on to the committee."

## 8th Battalion, 145 R.A.C. Officers' Re-union.

A second re-union of officers of the 8th Battalion, converted to 145 R.A.C., was held at the Duke's Salon, the Holborn Restaurant, London, on the evening of 16th November, 1946. It was arranged by Major C. L. Newton-Thompson, and was a most successful gathering. Lt.-Col. A. C. Jackson, who had flown over from Germany for the dinner, acted as chairman. Colonel C. J. Pickering, the Colonel of the Regiment, was the guest of honour. Amongst the 30 officers present were Capt. The Lord Savile and Capt. and Q.M. R. A. Smith.

Colonel Jackson proposed the toast of "The Regiment (145 R.A.C.)," and Major F. B. Murgatroyd proposed the toast of "The Colonel of the Regiment." Colonel Pickering, in his reply, referred to the Regimental Association, stressing the fact that anyone who had served with the Regiment, in infantry, tanks or anything else, could join the Regimental Association. Major L. Lusted, in the unavoidable absence of Lt.-Col. E. V. Strickland, proposed the toast of "The Fallen."

An informal discussion was held after the dinner, and it was decided that the next officers' re-union should be held in Leeds in November, 1947. A committee, consisting of Major Lusted, Major Murgatroyd and Capt. Flood, was formed to organise an "All Ranks" re-union, if possible, in Leeds during next March. All interested are asked to communicate with Major F. B. Murgatroyd, 12 St. Ives Road, Skircoat Green, Halifax, or Capt. F. O. Jill, Stubham Oak, Ilkley.

## 3rd Infantry Brigade Officers' Re-union, 1947.

A re-union lunch or dinner is to be held in London, probably during June, 1947, for all officers who served with H.Q. 3rd Infantry Brigade or with battalions or units affiliated to the Brigade between 1939 and 1946.

All D.W.R. officers who served with the 1st Battalion D.W.R. or with Brigade H.Q. during this period will be welcome.

The re-union representative for The Duke of Wellington's Regiment is E. M. Goodman Smith, 14 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, Middlesex. Telephone Kingston 0898.

A notice with further details regarding date, time, place, cost, etc., will appear in the *Daily Telegraph* on 1st April, 1947.

## 3rd British Infantry Divisional Officers' Association, 1939-45.

Any officers, who served with 3rd British Infantry Division between 3rd September, 1939 and 8th May, 1945 and who wish to join the Divisional Association, should send cheque/P.O. for 10/-, subscription for Life Membership, to:—The Honorary Secretary, 3rd British Infantry Divisional Officers Association, 3 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2.

The object of the association is to keep ex-members of 3rd Division in touch with one another by holding Annual Reunion Dinners and circularising news-sheets through Regimental Journals and other means.

It is intended that the Association should hold an address register of all members so that the address of any member can be obtained by another through the Hon. Sec.

C. H. LINCOLN, MAJOR.

## Our Contemporaries.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the following Regimental Magazines:—*The Dragon* (September, October, November, December), *The Snapper* (September, October, November, December), *The St. George's Gazette* (August, September, October, November), *The Suffolk Regimental Gazette* (October, December), *The Lion and the Rose* (Autumn) *The Journal of the South Wales Borderers* (November), *The Hampshire Regimental Journal* (November), *The Antelope* (Autumn) *Firm* (October), *The Sapper* (September, October, November, December), *The Royal Army Ordnance Gazette* (September, October, November, December), *Our Empire* (September, October, November, December).

## The Regimental War Memorial Chapel.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1946.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance brought forward on 1st January, 1946	...	...	Subscription Iron Duke	...	9 0
Subscriptions	...	...	To Deposit account at Lloyds Bank	...	180 0 0
Interest on 3% Defence Bonds	...	...	Postage	...	1 0½
			Balance Credit on 31.12.1946	...	10 15 11½
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£191</b>	<b>6 0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£191</b>	<b>6 0</b>

## BALANCE SHEET.

<i>Assets.</i>			<i>Liabilities.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance at Bank	...	...	Nil	...	...
Cash with Hon. Treasurer	...	...	Balance credit of fund	...	390 15 11½
3% Defence Bonds at purchase price	...	...			
On Deposit at Lloyds Bank	...	...			
	<b>£390</b>	<b>15 11½</b>		<b>£390</b>	<b>15 11½</b>

"Littlecroft,"  
West Clandon,  
Nr. Guildford,  
Surrey.

C. W. G. INCE,  
Lt.-Colonel.

## Regimental War Memorial Fund.

A letter from the Colonel of the Regiment concerning the Regimental War Memorial appears below. A brochure is in course of preparation in connection with the appeal and this will be circularised shortly.

A list of subscribers will be published in THE IRON DUKE, starting with the June issue. We are aiming to raise £25,000; we shall require this amount if we are going to commemorate in an adequate manner the glorious deeds of the Regiment during the war, and provide a lasting tribute to those who "fought the good fight and finished their course" in doing so.

It is hoped that everyone connected with the Regiment will help and that every town and village in the West Riding will contribute its quota.

It is suggested that dances, whist drives, entertainments, and a host of other events might be organised by individuals.

The 1st Battalion Band is at present at Halifax, and as long as it remains there its services will be available to help in any functions organised in aid of the fund.

S. E. B.

From: Colonel C. J. Pickering, C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment has so far refrained from issuing any appeal for funds for a formal memorial to its fallen of the 1939-45 war in order not to detract effort or money from the more urgent and obvious form of remembrance—help for dependants, the discharged and demobilised through the Regimental Association. Several thousands of pounds have already been disbursed to those in need and jobs found for many men in the West Riding.

The nature of the memorial has, however, been under review for some time by a committee, of which I have been chairman, and in response to the request of all service battalions and many relatives it has been decided to open up an appeal now, so work can be put in hand soon. The committee has been careful not to select schemes which would clash with materials and labour for more urgent reconstruction.

The memorial will take the form of:—

(a) The renovation of the existing Regimental Chapel in York Minster, including help towards restoring the Minster glass, together with the provision of a new tablet and Book of Remembrance.

(b) The furnishing of a side chapel in the Parish Church of Halifax, the Depot of the Regiment, where the Regiment was given the freedom of the town on Waterloo Day last year. This chapel is intended to signify also the appreciation of the Regiment of the great assistance given by the people of this district.

(c) Any surplus funds will be devoted to assisting youth in a way to be decided when the committee feels conditions are more normal. It is hoped to endow a scholarship for the sons of ex-“Dukes” and to assist by grant the work of Cadet Battalions and perhaps Youth Organisations in the West Riding.

In view of the great record of the Regiment in its varied infantry, armoured and anti-aircraft role in N.W. Europe, the Middle East and in Burma, I am confident that many will wish to subscribe towards the cost of the memorial. Cheques or postal orders, made out to the Treasurer, D.W.R. War Memorial Fund, should be sent to the O.C., Regimental Depot Party, D.W.R., The Barracks, Halifax, Yorks.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that the charitable work of the Regimental Association, now being merged into the Old Comrades' Association, will continue so long as there is a need for it, and contributions, which will always be welcomed, are constantly being received from all over the world.

Fawley Lodge, Henley-on-Thames.  
2nd October, 1946.

C. J. PICKERING,  
Colonel, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

## Correspondence.

Duncombe Place, York.

Dear Sir,

9th December, 1946.

WAR MEMORIAL FUND—1939—1945.

It has struck me that there may be many people who would like to know more details of the proposed additions to the Memorial Chapel in York Minster; those asked to contribute to the War Memorial Fund, will, no doubt, have been told that such additions are among the objects of the appeal, but will probably not know more than that.

The office where I work (Messrs. Gray Dodsworth & Cobb) is in Duncombe Place—very close to the Minster, and if there are any people—officers or other ranks (past or present) or their friends or relations—who would like to call here on their way through York, I should be only too pleased to show them the plans of what we propose to do *if we raise the necessary funds*. Those who see the plans will, I am sure, have no doubt at all that what is proposed will be a very fitting tribute to the memory of our men who lost their lives in this last war.

In this connection I should like to say that, while I have been co-opted on to the War Memorial Committee, I am *not* the Treasurer of that Committee, who is, of course, Major S. E. Baker, T.D. I am merely Treasurer to the small sub-committee (Lt.-Colonel Ince and Major B. V. Thomlinson) which deals with the Chapel in York Minster. Your last issue contained a notice which rather conveyed the impression that I was Treasurer of the whole Fund!

Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM H. C. COBB, Major.

The Editor, THE IRON DUKE.



### “Buseera.”

During the early part of October, 1946, the 2nd Battalion carried out a move of nearly 400 miles from Meerut to Jhansi for two months' collective training in that area. The move was carried out partly by M.T. and partly by march route—the latter being for about 100 miles.

It was on 5th October, when arriving in our camp site at the conclusion of our day's march (we always set off several hours before dawn so as to avoid the worst of the heat) outside Gwalior City, that we heard that the Buseera Festival was to take place that day. As the *pièce de resistance* was a State procession by H.H. The Maharajah Scindia of Gwalior, we thought it was not a show to be missed.

Accordingly the three senior officers proceeded on reconnaissance and once again proved that time spent on such things is never wasted. In spite of drawing numerous blanks, owing to the city being on holiday, we were eventually directed to the Military Secretary to H.H. The Maharajah. We duly swept up to the Palace by an imposing drive somewhat to the concern of the guard commander, as apparently this drive is reserved for H.H. alone. The Palace is a large dazzlingly white building such as one might expect to see as a sugar model in Buszard's window.

However, we were directed to the Military Secretary's office, *via* a huge crystal fountain, several stuffed tigers and what not, where we were duly received and regaled with cigarettes and rather sickly iced drinks.

On explaining our wishes, he got busy and very quickly laid on a plan for all officers and as many men as wished to view the procession at specified points, and he went further by providing a number of officers to explain the various mysteries of the components of the procession.

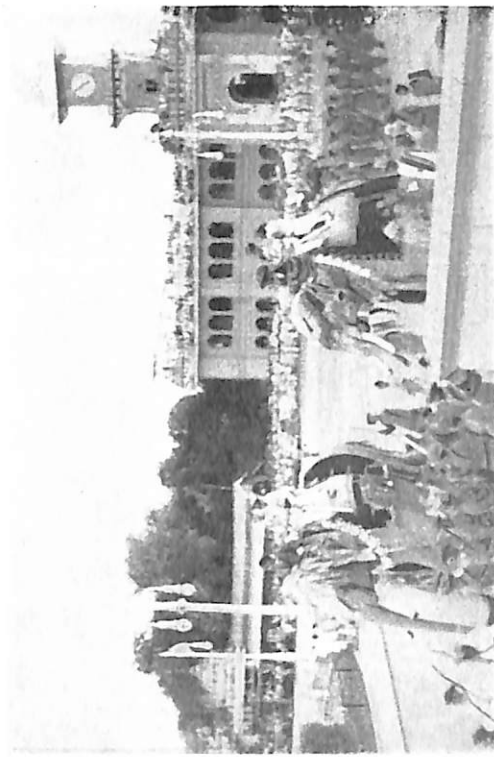
The officers were received at the G.P.O. by a staff major of the State Forces and given seats in the front row at the top of the steps overlooking the main square, and much information about the ceremony was conveyed to us by this officer whilst waiting for H.H. to drive to his place in the procession. He duly appeared, magnificently apparelled in scarlet, white and gold, riding in a silver landau drawn by 16 black horses ridden postillion, and preceded by outriders.

The procession then began through streets packed with people in gaily coloured clothes and clinging to every vantage point, and was mainly provided by detachments of units of the Gwalior State Forces and certain mediæval and brightly dressed detachments carrying blunderbusses and other antiquated weapons. The procession covered several miles, and towards the end H.H. appeared riding in a gold howdah on a state elephant. He was accompanied by the British Resident (half length to left rear) dressed in normal white Civil Service uniform but riding in a silver howdah. About 16 to 20 elephants followed carrying priests, princes, nobles and members of the household, ending up with H.H.'s two racehorse trainers and his principal jockey! All the elephants were artistically painted and the trappings were in many cases of great magnificence and antiquity. In fact it was a fine example of oriental pomp and splendour such as is seldom seen in this drab modern world.

We were subsequently conducted to another stand where we were able to view the remainder of the procession, which we had missed before as it had formed up ahead of our position. Finally we were again supplied with refreshments and waited for the return of H.H. and his suite in a fleet of large cars before returning to our camp. We are much indebted to His Highness's Military Secretary for the excellent facilities provided for us at such very short notice, and also to the officers who bear-led us, thereby increasing the interest in a ceremonial that few, if any, of us are likely to see again.

F. R. A.

BUSEERA PROCESSION OF H.H. THE MAHARAJAH OF GWALICR.

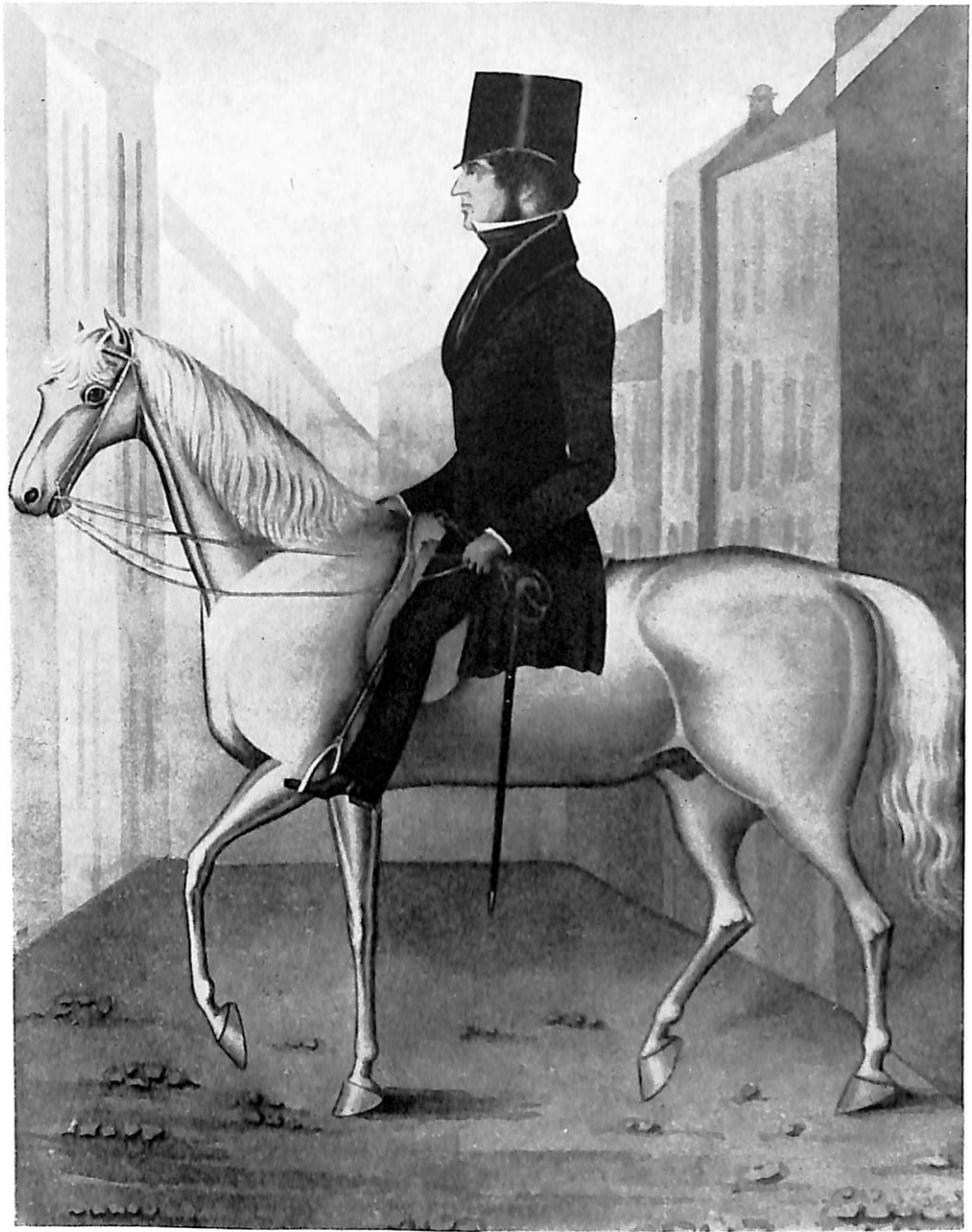


H.H. The Maharajah on his elephant in the procession.



Arrival of H.H. The Maharajah in his silver landau drawn by 16 horses.

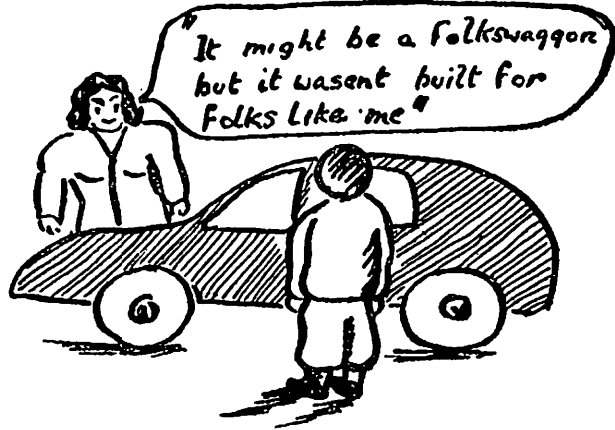
CARTOON OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.



The above photograph was sent some time ago by Brig. J. C. Burnett, who wrote :—" The enclosed comic picture is a photograph of a painting supposed to be done by some Spanish artist, and the second Duke presented the picture to an Irishman named O'Gorman Mahon, M.P. I think the second Duke must have been glad to get rid of such a monstrosity."

WITH THE WIVES IN B.A.O.R.

By S. F. Swift



## HALIFAX REGAINED

(A SENTRY'S DREAM)

Halifax, loveliest city of the fells,  
 What means this joyous pealing of your bells?  
 Why are your streets to-day bedecked with flags,  
 Why has the Mayor put on his Sunday bags  
 And all your girls their gayest, gladdest rags?  
 Why do your public fountains run with wine  
 (Algerian Claret 43/9  
 Per dozen botts)? How comes it that one smells  
 The fragrance sweet of moth-balls everywhere,  
 Particularly strong in High-road Wells  
 Outside the Golden Lion? For gathered there  
 An elegant and fashionable band,  
 The wealth, the brains, the beauty of the land,  
 Rank upon rank in silent expectation stand.

O, had I Titian's brush or Jubal's lyre  
 With Harrod's catalogue, I might aspire  
 In fitting phrases to epitomise  
 The glamorous silks, the rich embroideries  
 That swathe the female forms. But as I've not  
 I'd best restrict my eulogies to what  
 The gents are wearing. Most are sporting spats,  
 Angelic trousers, and divine cravats  
 With heavenly waistcoats, toppers gleaming bright,  
 And morning coats that have not seen the light  
 Since '39. Not all are perfect. Some  
 Hint at a certain tension round the tum.  
 Some shine like burnished mirrors. Here and there  
 An anxious wife has striyen to repair  
 With tactful dabs of marking ink or tar  
 The ravages of lepidoptera.

But cease thy babbling, Muse. For, hark, there comes  
 The roll of distant drums,  
 The flute's sweet treble, the deep tuba's blare  
 Borne on the pinions of the languid air  
 From that dim valley, where beneath the still,  
 Pure, heaven aspiring peaks of Gibbet Hill  
 The unsuccessful punter tries his luck  
 Dicing for doubles at the Mucky Duck.  
 Beloved bird! Fling open wide your doors,  
 Roll out your barrels, and release your stores  
 Of hidden sunshine. On this day of days  
 There's not a man but fain his glass would raise  
 In salutation.

But we must retrace  
 Our steps to Highbrow Well and take our place  
 Once more around the throng. For now the beat  
 Of drums grows closer and the tramp of feet  
 Shakes the dull earth. Suddenly into sight  
 Swings the drum-major with his gauntlets white,  
 The glitter and the scarlet and the gold,  
 The pomp and circumstance we loved of old.  
 The bells ring out one grand triumphant peal,  
 Louder the cheering swells, the drummers wheel  
 Into the square, scene of our sweat and tears,  
 Our own dear square, who for these five long years,  
 Unsung, unwept, unhonoured, and unwooded  
 Hath fostered neath her wings an alien brood,  
 Sappers and A.T.S. and all the rest.  
 To-day she welcomes back her fledgelings to their nest.

The daylight faded. With the dying sun  
 The revellers departed. One by one  
 The lamps shone out along the darkening street.  
 Silent the sentry trod his lonely beat.  
 But when it came about the midnight hour,  
 He heard a voice that spoke from the old tower,  
 (Perchance of some departed storeman's ghost  
 Locked in the vaults and written off as lost).  
 In spectral but familiar tones it spoke,  
 " Young man, I've found yon lodgers decent folk,  
 I've nowt to grouse about, but eh! By gum  
 It's grand to have the family back home."  
 O.P.

## Reminiscences of Nowshera in 1883-84.

Sixty years is a long time to look back upon and memory at that distance sometimes plays tricks with one. All the same, I remember my time at Nowshera with the 1st Battalion better than I can remember events in later years. The reason may be that it was a quiet and rather isolated station, inspections were few and far between, we were left alone to do pretty well what we liked, there was no station club, and for amusement we were thrown pretty well on our own resources. As a station it had a bad name. However, we did not find it as bad as we were led to expect, though it was very different from Lucknow which we had just previously left. I was not with the Battalion on its march along the Grand Trunk Road through Oudh, the United Provinces, Patiala State and the Punjab. I missed this long tramp, not far short of 900 miles, as I did not return from eight months' sick leave at home until about the first week in April, 1883, when all ranks were full of the march. Taking an average day's march at ten miles, this meant a three to four months' journey, including occasional halts. I may mention here that the Battalion had been halted for three days in January at Hassan Abdul\* waiting for the tents to dry owing to a heavy fall of snow.

After I had reported my arrival to the Adjutant, who was then Captain Vaughan Jenkins, and had had time to look round, I noticed how extraordinarily fit everybody—officers and men—looked. This was the result of the long march. As far as I remember the Battalion, which at that time still contained a large element of the old 33rd Foot, left Lucknow early in November, 1882, and arrived at Nowshera in the following February. It was a splendid sight to see it on "a strong as possible" C.O.'s parade. Men of the "last draft," who when I left Lucknow eight months before looked like recruits, had now developed into trained and well-drilled soldiers of confident bearing and carriage. Including a detachment of one company in the Fort at Attock, which commands—or did then command—the bridge of boats over the Indus, about 35 miles E.S.E. of Nowshera on the G.T. road, the Battalion mustered about 800 bayonets. In those days there were eight companies in a battalion, each about 110 all ranks. The Commanding Officer was Colonel F. J. (?) Castle, a fine "old soldier" with a pair of handsome "Dundreary" whiskers and wearing three medals, British, French and Turkish, for the Crimea. He commanded the Battalion well on parade, and made no mistakes. On brigade parades at Lucknow the Battalion was never last to complete a new movement and was often the first.

Although I had been away for a few months, and had only a little over two years' service, I found several new faces among the subalterns, but I can recall only three—viz., B. St. J. le Marchant (now Colonel), C. D. Bruce (afterwards Brigadier-General) and W. J. Anderson (retired as Major about 1907, settled afterwards in British Columbia, killed in the 1914-18 war when serving on the staff of the Canadian forces).

\* Hassan Abdul is between Rawal Pindi and Attock, near the turning of the road (now the railway) to Haripur and Attock (about 40 miles north) and Cashmir.—F. A. H.

In those days the troops at Nowshera were, besides us, one native cavalry regiment, the 18th Bengal Lancers, and one native infantry regiment, the 8th Native Infantry. The few private bungalows available were occupied by the married officers of the two native regiments. Consequently the officers of the British regiment were accommodated in the spare blocks of barracks, the married in ordinary married families' blocks and the unmarried in a barrack block sub-divided into separate compartments. The nearest troops were at Mardan, about 20 (?) miles to the north, on the road to Malakand, where that celebrated native corps was permanently stationed, the Guides or Hodson's Horse, which kept watch and ward over that part of the Frontier which faces Bajour Swat, and Bunir—now dependencies of India but then independent territory. There was no Risalpur cantonment in those days and no railway connecting with Mardan and the hill country beyond. There was a bridge of boats over the Cabul River and the river formed the north side of cantonments. Between the river and Mardan was the broad but then empty Yusufzai plain on which the Guides used to go hawking, a sport which some of us used to join them in occasionally. Nowshera had a bad name as a station then on account of its isolation and the absence of any station club and other social amenities. However, I never heard any complaints of its dullness while we were there.

We found no cricket ground and no polo ground. At that time football—whether association or rugby—was unknown in the Regiment. As to a cricket ground, some of our keenest cricketers, headed by le Marchant, set to work in the hot weather of 1883 to make one, out of which we got a good deal of amusement in the cold weather of 1883-84. The pitch was not quite equal to Lord's, but when we played against the South Lancashire Regiment (the old 40th) on the Peshawar ground we found the easier conditions there very much to our advantage.

As to a polo ground, we and the 18th B.L. laid out one between us about half a mile to the east of cantonments, between the G.T. road and the river. The leading spirit here was Major G. L. R. Richardson, 18th B.L., a great personality, very popular with all of us and a very keen polo player. He afterwards became C-in-Chief Bombay (or was it G.O.C. Poona District ?) and after retirement was nominated in 1914 C-in-Chief of the Ulster Volunteer Army which was raised to resist by force the attempt to impose union with Southern Ireland upon Ulster. The new polo ground was, it is true, not a dead level like the grounds at Meerut or Umballa, and was rough, dusty and had very little grass; but I cannot help thinking that it was a good school for beginners. It was the making of this polo ground that led to the formation of the Polo Fund of the 33rd, which was not dissolved, I believe (but here I am open to correction), until the 1st Battalion moved from India to Aden in 1889 (?). From these small beginnings may be traced the remarkable success of the 33rd later on in the infantry polo tournament, which it won every year in the last three years of its tour of service in India. I cannot remember the names of all the players in the early days. But first, and a long way first, was Bruce. Then there were Lts. Saunders and Anderson, and (later on) Harrison (who is still living), and Watson. At first Colonel Castle used to play but had to give it up as his weight made it hard to find ponies to carry him. The 18th B.L. used to play a good team. All the British officers played and several of the native officers as well.

One thing I remember about Nowshera particularly and that is the earthquakes, which are quite common in the Peshawar Valley. They were only slight ones but quite strong enough to make us run outside if inside at the time and wait until the 'quake was over. There were several while we were at Nowshera. One I remember happened at night and the whole place heaved and creaked and there was some subterranean rumbling. We all cleared out as quickly as we could just as we were, bachelors, married people and all. I remember Mrs. Castle was slow in coming out and Col. Castle called for her to come outside. But she did not appear on that occasion.

Another time an earthquake came on—and they never gave any warning—while one of the companies was on the range doing what was then called "the annual course of

musketry." The men were firing, kneeling, at 300 yards. A man was in the act of firing when it came on and, having fired, he grounded his rifle and ran, while the company rapidly took "extended order" on its own. The markers at the butts, however, kept under cover and signalled a bullseye.

Another incident I remember, but this has nothing to do with earthquakes. We were playing a regimental cricket match. I have mentioned that the Cabul River bounded the cricket ground on one (the north) side. It was during the cold weather of 1883-84 when the river is at its lowest. A flight of grey geese alighted on a sandbank near the ground. Play was immediately stopped by universal consent and le Marchant went to his room in barracks and got his 12-bore, the geese being undisturbed. He came back and proceeded to stalk the geese. But there was no cover and they were, as grey geese are, very wary. He did not get a shot, much to our disappointment. Then we went on with the cricket. But I may mention that he often bagged one higher up the river beyond the bridge of boats and the native village.

Nowshera is within, or was about, 20 miles as the crow flies from the Afridi country (which was then independent territory) to the south-west. Afridis are expert thieves, especially of rifles. There was in our day a great demand among the Afghans inhabiting the hilly tracts between the Indian frontier and Afghanistan for Martini-Henry rifles and ammunition. This was the rifle of the infantry at that time. I forget the price that was paid for a M.H. rifle and 100 rounds of ball, but it ran into the equivalent of several pounds sterling.

There was a village called Pabbee on the G.T. road about halfway between Nowshera and Peshawar near the turn to Cherat, which had a very bad name for harbouring rifle thieves and badmashes (bad characters). The camping ground was quite close to the village and regiments passing through, on their way to or from Peshawar, or companies going to or coming from Cherat in relief were liable to lose rifles unless the ordered precautions were taken.

I look back on my ten years at Nowshera as one of my happiest times with the Regiment.

F. A. H.

[The above article was sent to us by the late Lt.-Colonel F. A. Hayden, some time ago, but unfortunately had to be held in reserve owing to lack of space in the last few numbers. It is a melancholy coincidence that Colonel Hayden's sudden death should occur just when it became possible to publish his article.—ED.]

## Post War Far Eastern Travelogue.

In the June issue of this magazine there appeared an article under the above heading. I have been requested to add a further (it will certainly be a final) instalment, but it is with some trepidation that I do so for fear of boring readers. However, here goes, and you will know what to do, having received due warning.

My stay in Java lasted 3½ months, and I had already suggested to H.Q. Alfsea that I considered the back of my job here to be broken and that my staff should be reduced and placed under the command of a lieutenant-colonel, when H.Q. Alfsea were approached with a view to my taking over command of the 2nd Battalion in India. This they refused to allow before the end of May, but then they agreed.

In consequence I left Batavia on 29th May by air for Singapore to finalise affairs with H.Q. Alfsea. I had three days in this city, to which I have now paid four visits, varying from two to three days to three weeks, since the Japanese capitulation. This huge H.Q. is now much reduced but is still pretty formidable, and has now moved into our old 2nd Battalion Barracks at Tanglin, where numerous huts have been erected on the old golf course behind the Mess to supplement office accommodation for the staff.



Singapore, as I always expected, is making a very good recovery. All the barracks are completely redecorated, tidiness is returning to the city, there were signs of British firms getting busy, and although there was still a great shortage of consumer goods the situation was steadily improving. The numbers of Service people were decreasing considerably, and civilian pressure to secure the return of such places as the Tanglin Club, Swimming Club, Cricket Club, Victoria Theatre, etc., which had been taken over for Service amenities, could not be much longer resisted.

On 1st June I took off from Changi airstrip with certain regrets at leaving a part of the world where there is so much of interest. Landing at Butterworth on the Malayan mainland opposite Penang Island, we took off after a short stop for Rangoon. After 2½ hours flying we were refused entry owing to the weather and ordered back to Butterworth for the night. Next morning we tried again, only to receive the same orders after 1½ hours in the air. Back at Butterworth by 10 a.m., we decided to spend the day at Penang.

Penang has suffered quite a fair amount of bomb damage, particularly in the area between the jetty and the E. and O. Hotel, which fortunately is undamaged and capable of providing the best lunch and dinner that I have had in this part of the world since the end of hostilities.

Next day we tried again to make Rangoon and chose the east instead of the west coast of the Kra Isthmus for our route. For the third time, however, Rangoon refused to accept us and we were diverted into Bangkok. I had never previously been in Siam, but the 2nd Battalion, when in Singapore in 1927, had sent a rugby team up there on a somewhat alcoholic trip.

Bangkok—that city of amazing architecture and numerous pagodas and palaces—is virtually undamaged, though showing obvious signs of Japanese maladministration. We were accommodated in a new hotel with a long and completely unpronounceable name where the language difficulty was not easily overcome. We found that very few Siamese spoke any English and their own language, written in characters more similar to Greek than any other that I know of, was completely unrecognisable, unreadable and unintelligible.

The following morning, only a few days before the King died in somewhat mysterious circumstances, we made a fourth attempt to make Rangoon and just managed to reach Mingaladon airfield a short time before it was yet again closed. However we had a quick breakfast and were allowed to take off for Calcutta, duly arriving at Dum Dum airfield by 8 p.m.

Here for the first time I encountered difficulties over an air passage and I waited two days for one to Delhi; so, as I could see no prospect of getting on, I took the very hot 30-hour train journey to Delhi, later rejoining the 2nd Battalion at Meerut after an absence of 17 years. On my first evening I encountered Jimmie Davidson, who is now our brigade major, and who had only arrived a very short time before from Soerabaya in Java where he had been serving with another regiment.

Considering the great heat in Meerut in the summer—107 degrees to 115 degrees in the shade is the normal temperature and at night it frequently drops little below 100 degrees—the country is remarkably green and there are plenty of trees to provide shade. The heat is accentuated by the great humidity—well over 90 per cent—which surprised me in view of the great distance of Meerut from the sea. Meerut, of course, is but a shadow of its former self. The Tent Club and the Kadir Cup are in complete abeyance, the polo grounds, on which in the old days I believe 60 chukkers a day were played, are ploughed up for food, and even the Wheeler Club has a most deserted air. The Race Club, however, has restarted, and from May to October meetings are held on a course, with a good turf covering, every Saturday and on occasional Wednesdays. Being by no means a stranger to the Turf and racing organisation, I was early elected as a steward of the Race Club, the duties of which I have found very interesting and enjoyable. There is also a pack of hounds which I hope to be able to follow after Christmas.

The Battalion kept a detachment in the hills during the hot weather and this was changed every month or six weeks, so that nearly everyone got a spell away from the heat of the plains. Kailana, which with Chakrata really forms the station, is quite small, but being about 7,500 feet up, has served a very useful purpose to the Battalion and is likely to do so again in 1947.

In early October we moved to Jhansi for collective training and an account of a State Procession, which we accidentally hit off whilst camping for a day en route, appears elsewhere in this issue. Khailar Camp, nine miles south of Jhansi, is possibly familiar to some of the Regiment who have trained there in the past. The country varies from scrub covered plain to rocky hills and jungle. It is still pretty green following the monsoon but will doubtless dry up pretty quickly.

It is mid-October as I write, and the sun still blazes down from a cloudless sky every day with a shade temperature still exceeding 90 degrees. In view of the strenuous period of training ahead of us some mitigation of the mid-day heat is hoped for very soon. We expect to be here till mid-December when we are due to return to Meerut just in time for Christmas, which seems a good point to bring to an end this lengthy travelogue.

F. R. A.

### More Reminiscences of an Old 76th Soldier.

[The following reminiscences are taken from another letter written by Mr. Arthur Lowe, late 2nd Battalion, to Mrs. Hicks (formerly Mrs. Dorey, see Personalia)].

Since writing to you last I have received the June/46 number of THE IRON DUKE, in which I noticed you are mentioned briefly; but of all the rest in it there is no mention of any of the times or personalities which were of my time or acquaintance. Although many of the Officers names, with their similar ranks that you have mentioned in your letters are quite familiar to me, so I suppose they will be the sons of those Officers that were in the Battalion at the same time as I was. For I left the Battalion on August 6th, 1890, which is 56 years ago, so I feel sure that they could not possibly be the same ones; as they were all older than myself.

You frequently mention Col. Trench, which intrigues me somewhat, as during the time I was serving in THE DUKES our paymaster was Major Trench and I remember his features well, but as that is so long ago, I am supposing he will be the son of that lively and most pleasant Officer. I may here mention that during my short service of four years and 10 months (having purchased my discharge) it was my privilege to serve under no less than four Battalion C.O's. the first was full Colonel T. T. Hodges; in his connection I am supposing that the first T. of his initials would represent Thomas, as, on his last parade in Aldershot, while he was inspecting the Battalion, the band played that popular song of those times "Tommy make room for your uncle," but he didn't seem to notice the significance, although every one else did, especially the Officers who were responsible for it. He was succeeded by Lt.-Col. Tidmarsh who took us out to Bermuda, where shortly after he was succeeded by Lt.-Col. E. G. Fenn, who took us to Halifax, where after nearly two years there he was succeeded by Lt.-Col. E. Nesbit, from whom I took my discharge and got liberally berated by him for doing it as he didn't want me to leave on account of my ability as a workman, telling me that I had the respect of every Officer and man in the Battalion and if I wanted promotion I could have it or anything else that was in his power to do for me if I would stay but I didn't accept his offer, although, perhaps I would have been wiser had I done so, but who knows for sure what the future has in store for us at any time during our lives. When I wrote to you before of my experiences in Halifax; owing to my lack of remembrance at that time, I failed to mention two somewhat amusing occurrences there; although in the first instance I doubt very much that it was at all amusing to Col. Fenn at the time. As the C.O. was passing under the archway, facing the gates on his way to the orderly room, someone, with or without intent, dropped

a cat through the open window above, either on or very close to him—as I was not a witness to the deed I am unable to say for sure.—This kind of treatment had been meted out before to cats that had somehow incurred the ire of one of the inmates of a room on the first floor. But it never seemed to injure them in anyway as they always came back lively as ever. But it was generally noticed that if that particular inmate should happen to be in the room when it returned from its aerial adventure, that cat seemed to remember that it had another pressing engagement elsewhere and put on the disappearing act quick. So it evidently was not in favour of that particular kind of pastime and didn't want a second helping out of that dish. Of course Col. Fenn was anything but pleased about it and at once gave orders to the Provost Sergeant to catch and destroy all the cats he found in the Barrack rooms ; which to my certain knowledge they did, for they cleaned them all out, every one.

Then on the other occasion I referred to ; in which I myself was concerned, which occurred in the following manner :—Occasionally during the year Col. Fenn would march the Battalion down to the commons, where there was more scope for extended manoeuvres—for at that time the whole commons was the property of the British Government and he had the right of course to use it for that purpose—no doubt it was rather inconvenient for the public, but provision was always made to direct them clear of the troops, and that particular job was assigned to the pioneers, of which I was one on those occasions, and we would be posted on the various paths crossing the commons to inform and direct people so that they would not in any way interfere with the movements of the troops. Most people were very considerate and followed our instructions even though some were inclined to grumble about it. But on the occasion I am alluding to one young woman was not, for as she came to where I was stationed on the path leading from Cunard to Cornwallis Street and I asked her to go round and not straight across as the troops were liable to be there any moment, but being in a defiant mood apparently, she told me she didn't care, she was going across like she always had done, she was not going all that way round for nobody so I had to let her go ; for I had no authority to prevent her, and as the Battalion was halted in quarter column at the time, up by Cogswell Street, it looked as though she might make it, for it seemed to be quite a distance from where they were to Cornwallis Street and she hadn't far to go. But she and I too at the time had reckoned without the Colonel ; who had most evidently noticed her action in defying my request for he marched the Battalion to open column and advanced them to where the centre would be right in front of her and Cornwallis Street, that she was headed for. Then as she still kept going and made to go through the companies he wheeled them at the double into one long line, and although in her bewildered state she still made to go through during that operation, she had to run back again when she saw them coming running towards her. That girl certainly was in a pickle, she couldn't get through, and he had her so bewildered that she didn't seem to know which way to go so she ran along in front of them, looking for some gap that she could dart through, but not a one could she find. Then they started to advance, so she couldn't stay there any longer ; so she turned and ran back as fast as she had ever done in her life before I am sure, over to where I had directed her when asking her to go that way. What those men said to her as she was running along in front of them I don't know, but knowing soldiers and their ways well, I could give a good guess, for although on parade and in the ranks they just couldn't miss an opportunity like that to string a girl along with some exceptional uncomplimentary remarks concerning her racing abilities as well as her features and figure. They certainly would have some fun with her and jolly her quite a lot. Soldiers sometimes get a little amusement even on parade, like that incident, and there were yet two other incidents in Bermuda that has recurred to my mind concerning the monkey belonging to Armourer Sergeant Price, which was kept fastened to a long chain outside the Armourer's shop. On some special parade ; I don't know for sure now, but I think it would be on a muster parade which calls for all available men to be on parade ; for the Armourer Sergeant

had to be there, and just before they fell in, a party brought some rifles to the Armourer's shop, and not being able to put them inside—the door being locked just then as we were all on parade—so they of course left them outside, reared against the wall and then went on parade to join their company there. When the parade was called to attention and the rolls were being called, this monkey started to take one of those rifles up the rain conductor at the corner of the small one-story building to get it on the roof. This little creature was much less than two feet in height but had strength enough to carry that 9lb. rifle as well as himself up that conductor; even though the rifle was twice the length of himself—how he was able to do that I won't hazard a guess—but he did it, not once only but several times, for although he could carry it up to the eaves he couldn't possibly negotiate the overhang of the pitch roof, which was about a foot or more, for he needed both of his little hands to get himself over that, so down would fall the rifle with a great clatter, with him scrambling down the conductor after it to take it up again. After he had done that a couple of times or more he had the whole parade roaring with laughter; for they had been paying more attention to that monkey's antics than they had done to any of the Officers. This naturally drew the C.O.'s attention to what was going on, so that a corporal and a couple of men were detailed to go and remove those rifles out of his reach. That monkey was something more than a pest for on another occasion he gave me one of the busiest days I ever had on that island, and out in the broiling sun too, which made it worse. For on that occasion, Major Low—no relation that I ever knew of, although, they were so much alike and I often wondered at that, for I knew little of my family history—however, he had brought his light two-wheeled driving out trap to the shop to have some trifling repairs done; just what it was I have forgotten now, but not what that monkey did to it while we were all busy inside, oh no, for when discovered he had ripped all the upholstery off the seat and back, as well as considerable of the cotton padding underneath it. It sure was a sight, that trap looked as though it has been on a dump for years, and the Major coming for it in four hours time and he as peppery as they make them. There was no time to talk about it, I had to quickly change clothes and hurry down to Hamilton; a mile or more from Prospect camp, in the blazing sun usually 120 degrees, match and purchase the materials and then hurry back, change again and set to work replacing the cotton padding and re-covering it all again and was just putting the last few tacks in when the Major came for it, and did he storm, telling the Armourer Sergeant he didn't want any of that interfered with at all, for all he wanted done was just what he had mentioned when he brought it there. I was much too busy at the time to pay any attention to all he said as he was not speaking to me, but I can assure you it was plenty. He only had to wait a few moments before it was done and for that I was not sorry for he was beefing all the time he was waiting. What he would have said had he come along before, when it was in the condition that monkey had got it in, would have been unprintable I am sure, and what I did to that monkey after he drove away I prefer not to say, but it sure was plenty for Mr. Monkey. But what was the use, the little creature had no memory I'm sure, for he was back again shortly after, friendly as ever.

While writing of these events I was reminded of the day we left Bermuda, for on that occasion, after the Battalion had left Prospect camp to go aboard the troop ship *Orontes*, we, the pioneers were left behind to aid the Q.M. in handing over to the Leicesters what uniforms and other things were in the Q.M. stores; which were only suitable for that hot climate and when that was completed we left for the boat, and while still in the vicinity of the camp, the Q.M. passed us in some vehicle. About halfway to Hamilton we came to a road branching off to the right, at the corner of which was a beer shop of some sort: of which I knew nothing, as I have always been a total abstainer and had never patronised those places or the wet canteen either. As we reached there, an enormous negress came over to us and literally fell on pioneer Joe Entwistle; a short man like myself, hugging and kissing him and then extended her amorous feelings toward some of the others; I

didn't care what she did to them so long as she kept away from me, but it sure was one of the most amusing sights I had seen there and I had a good hearty laugh over it at the time. We then went in that beer shop where, with the exception of myself, all were plentifully supplied with that ardent liquor. From there we went down that side road and visited a number of similar places; all utterly unknown to me before, where more beer was liberally supplied until each one of them was beautifully drunk but still able to stagger along. Then Pioneer Sergeant Harrison for some reason or other decided to march us to the troop ship, so we retraced our steps and proceeded to Hamilton. On our arrival there we were met by Capt. David Baird—as ugly as sin with a temper to match—who had risen from the ranks and had the snarling disposition accredited to the proverbial Sergeant Majors, which with our Sergeant-Major Chas. Hyde, I am thankful to say we never experienced for although strict in maintaining discipline he possessed a much more pleasant disposition than that. It had taken us about four hours to march that mile to Hamilton and him having to wait all that time, fussing and fuming at that, as well as the let down to his dignity and our delaying the ships sailing. I think he unloaded all the vitriolic spleen he ever possessed on Sergeant Harrison and of course pegged him and then ordered him aboard. But as far as I could see or hear at the time, nothing came of it, even though the Capt. of the troop ship was furious at being delayed all that time, saying they could have been well on their way but for us. I of course was perfectly sober, but I doubt that any of the others had any clear conception as to how they got down to Hamilton that day. I guess they must have done it unconsciously for they were all too drunk to know what they were doing, nor do I think that Sergeant Harrison knew or cared just then what Captain Baird was talking about.

### Personalialia.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Colonel Sir Percy Simner on the award of the K.C.B., and to Maj.-General W. M. Ozanne and Maj.-General E. C. Beard on the award of the C.B., all of which appeared in the New Year Honours on the 1st January, 1947.

The following births have been announced :—

HIBBERT.—On 12th June, 1946, at Gothic Cottage, Belgrave Terrace, Huddersfield, to Maisie, wife of Major Tom W. Hibbert, A.C.A., late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, a second son.

STAFFORD.—On 25th September, 1946, at C.M.H., Chakrata, to Cora, wife of Major P. R. Stafford, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—a daughter (Jennifer May).

OLIVER.—On 18th November, 1946, at Lemington, Northumberland, to Blodwin (née Roberts), wife of Capt. "Vic" Oliver, M.C., late 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—a son (Keith), a brother for Brian.

MACLAREN.—On 22nd December, 1946, at 94 British General Hospital, B.A.O.R., to Joan Veronica "Ronnie" (née Key), wife of Major C. J. MacLaren, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—a daughter.

The following marriages have been announced :—

MAYNARD : BOUTFLOWER.—On 14th September, 1946, in Salisbury Cathedral, by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Sherborne, Brian, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Maynard, of Uplands Park, Enfield, to Rosemary Graham, younger daughter of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. E. C. Boutflower of Stoford House, near Salisbury.

SIMONDS : WHYTE.—On 12th November, 1946, at St. Patrick's Church, Loughbrickland, by the Rev. Peter Fagan (late C.F.) with Nuptial Mass, Capt. Denis Simonds, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, only surviving son of Col. and Mrs. N. Simonds, Staleen, Co. Meath, to Esther Mary, only child of the late Capt. G. T. Whyte and of Mrs. Whyte, Loughbrickland, Co. Down.

The engagement is announced between Major Anthony Charles Sutherland Savory, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, elder son of Dr. C. H. Savory of Newmarket and of Mrs. A. M. Savory of Church Cottage, Sidlesham, Sussex, and Rosemary Patricia Anne, daughter of the late Mr. Geoffrey Walsh, C.M.G., C.B.E., and of Mrs. G. Walsh of Richmond, Surrey.

The engagement is announced between Capt. John Lewis Streatfeild, M.C., The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, elder son of the Rev. Dr. F. Streatfeild and Mrs. Streatfeild of Colden Common, Winchester, and Jean Katherine, only daughter of the Rev. F. S. Douglas and Mrs. Douglas of Otterbourne, Winchester.

The engagement is announced between Arthur Harlow, Irish Guards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harlow of 199 Bells Road, Gorleston-on-Sea, Yarmouth, and Grace (Johnny) Johnson, the only daughter of Major J. E. Johnson, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and Mrs. Johnson of 20 Ashburnham Road, Bedford. Miss Johnson was born in the Regiment and was with either the 1st or 2nd Battalion until the outbreak of war.

The 34th annual dinner of the Society of Yorkshiremen in London was held at the Dorchester Hotel on Thursday, 21st November, 1946. The Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel C. J. Pickering (Chairman of the Council) and Mrs. Pickering, Lt.-General Sir Philip and Lady Christison and Capt. Lord Savile were among the members and guests present.

Last September Major S. E. Baker had the happy idea of circulating a monthly bulletin of Regimental news to all serving officers, and up to date three bulletins have been issued. This is a very helpful addition to the news contained in THE IRON DUKE, which owing to infrequent publication cannot be up to date in its information. Major Baker depends on the co-operation of all Dukes, and items of interest should be sent to him at the Barracks, Halifax. A few copies have been sent out to retired officers who asked to have them; any others who would like to receive a copy should send their names and addresses to Major Baker.

We print below a few items that do not appear elsewhere in the magazine:—

Lt.-Colonel D. Paton has retired; his home address is:—Greycliffe, Woolacombe, N. Devon.

Colonel Strangeway's present address is:—C.D. and T.C., Erlestoke Camp, near Devizes.

Brigadier K. G. Exham is now serving with The Allied Secretariat, Control Commission (British), Berlin, B.A.O.R.

Lt.-Col. Wathen is serving with No. 5 British Liaison Unit, C.M.F. Mrs. Wathen is with him and his daughter had been out for the holidays.

Major Davey is with the Military Mission to the Italian Army at Naples; he too has his wife and children with him.

Major Cousins is also with the M.M.I.A., and is stationed near Rome with the Senior Officers' School.

Lt.-Colonel Neil Pascall is Provost Marshal to the British Troops in Austria.

Captain J. Streatfeild is G.S.O.3 (1) at H.Q., B.T.A.

Major D. Firth is G.S.O.2., H.Q., Malta Command.

Major R. Bunbury is with H.Q., 1st Armoured Division, C.M.F., as D.A.A.G. Unfortunately he has practically lost the sight of an eye, otherwise he is very fit. Mrs. Bunbury is with him. He visited the Depot while on leave at the end of November, and we are glad to hear had a reassuring report on his eye.

Kenneth Gregory has taken holy orders, and is now living at 44 Darnley Road, Gravesend, Kent.

Lt.-Colonel F. J. Reynolds is liaison representative of the British Military Mission, Cape Town; he expects to stay till Christmas in his present job.

Brigadier C. W. G. Grimley has retired with a full colonel's pension and the rank of brigadier. He is at present employed under the Ministry of Food at Colwyn Bay. His permanent address is:—Linden Lodge, Sycamore Road, Farnborough, Kent.

Lt.-Col. L. E. Bishop is in command of the British Base Reinforcement Camp, India Command, India. He has his wife with him; he will be pleased to help any "Dukes" arriving in India.

Major G. F. Grieve and Major R. Hatch (recently gazetted to the Regiment) have left to join the 33rd; they took with them the 1st Battalion Colours.

Col. Webb-Carter spent three days at the Depot at Halifax, 3rd to 6th December, checking the 33rd silver, and decided to take a small portion with him when he re-joins the Battalion after Christmas. Col. Webb-Carter was accompanied by Major R. E. Austin, recently gazetted to the Regiment, who is going to Khartoum with him.

Capt. R. V. Cartwright is serving with H.Q., 7th Infantry Brigade, M.E.L.F.

Major R. Marett is serving with H.Q., Intelligence Division, 70th H.Q., C.C.G., B.A.O.R.

Brigadier V. C. Green has retired and is living at Coedmor, Abergele, North Wales.

We were very glad to hear from Lt.-Colonel C. W. G. Ince recently after a long lapse of time. He came home from Germany a few weeks before Christmas on leave and expects his retirement from the War Office will be approved shortly. He had been in Belgium and Germany since February, 1945, for ten months as A.M.S. to Major-General Templar, and then as military member of a Board for selecting officers to become civilian officers in the Control Commission. He travelled all over the British zone, getting to know Northern Germany and Schleswig Holstein very well; and found great interest in visiting some of the old towns in his spare time. Colonel Ince has never been idle in his life and now with some spare time on his hands has started voluntary work by serving on the Committee of the Battersea Boys' Home. We are sorry to hear that his sound leg has been showing signs of strain, and hope he will give it a good rest. As he says, he has been walking on one leg for 30 years. His son, Dick, is now G.S.O.2 of the 2nd Indian Airborne Division, and he and his wife are at Karachi.

We offer our apologies to Colonel F. S. Exham for having printed his initials wrong below the photograph opposite page 137 of our last issue. Col. Exham moved from his old home in Surrey last summer to Cheltenham, where he and Mrs. Exham have a flat at 4 Suffolk Square.

Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Boutflower have also changed their address recently, and now have a house at Warminster—Lovell Cottage, Upton Lovell, Warminster, Wilts. He was very sorry, as we were, that he had to miss the Regimental dinner last June, on account of his having to undergo an operation at that time. We are glad to hear that he is feeling much better for it now. As mentioned earlier in these notes, Colonel and Mrs. Boutflower's daughter, Rosemary, was married last September.

Lt.-Colonel Harvey retired last October, and is looking for a house to settle in in Dorset or Sussex. He writes:—

Before hanging up my Sam Browne belt and sword, I thought it well to visit the old haunts again and so travelled to Halifax and Brancepeth.

It was April, 1915, that I first entered the barracks as a newly-commissioned second lieutenant to report for duty. Lt.-Colonel Hatherall was C.O. On 4th October, 1946, after over 31 years' service, I again visited the Depot for the last time on duty prior to going on retirement at my own request. During the interval of time so many changes have taken place there. Halifax itself looks smarter as a result of the substitution of trolley buses for tramcars.

The two regimental plaques attached to the main gates first attract one's attention—there is, however, no old time smart quarter guard. The large stretch of well-kept lawns is a welcome relief

in a somewhat dark atmosphere of grim buildings. Improvements can everywhere be seen, recording the enthusiastic enterprise and progress that marks the helpful continuity of the officers and other ranks who have carried on there. The two excellent playing fields and sports pavilion, officers' tennis courts, new Sergeants' Mess, new gymnasium and Museum are perhaps the most important. The Wellington and Musgrave barrack blocks have also been modernized. The married families' block is now being reconditioned and made modern. The officers' quarters all have hot and cold wash-basins fitted and the C.O. has a connecting door through from his house to the Mess. The old stables are now garages with the old pigman i/c. He has been there 20 years.

Every place has been or is being re-decorated. In the Officers' Mess the two sets of Colours adorn the walls and the silver is being got ready. The familiar bookcases are full of their "quizzical" official promotions books and old Army Lists. Major Sammy Baker and Q.M. Brenchley are busily engaged putting the finishing touches to welcome back home again the Dukes from Brancepeth. Everywhere is a hive of activity. Everyone and everything awaits the final word "Go" before the Dukes are again on parade.

Some of the older chaps in Halifax thought many of the ghosts of past Dukes will haunt the square if all the proposed new rules are introduced: old restrictions and traditions relaxed—open neck collars—no passes but home with the milk—bedside lamps and bedside stories from the orderly sergeant—early morning tea—no rude words on parade, etc., etc. Time, however, will decide whether the relaxation of restrictions will be allowed to interfere with the traditional efficiency and turnout of the new Dukes. General opinion is that common sense will prevail and the post-war soldier will be just as proud of being a member of the 33rd/76th as his predecessor.

Somewhere in the Officers' Mess kitchen I found something really new. Instead of a frame of photographs, I found a frame of signed locks of maidens' hair. Apparently each favourite 'A.T. had given of her best. Will it ever find its way into the Officers' Mess?

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We offer our congratulations to Colonel S. Naylor on his receiving the Legion of Merit at the United States Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London, on the 9th September, 1946, in recognition of his valuable work for the American Forces.

The presentation was made by General Fussell, who also handed Col. Naylor a White House citation signed by President Truman, in which particular tribute is paid to his efforts at "the great British port of Newport" when he worked in close co-operation with the American Forces, both in planning and operations:—

"Through his superior success in the operation of the port and in securing prompt unloading and trans-shipment of cargo for American Forces," says the citation, "he greatly aided the performance of the staff of the communications zone and materially speeded the victory in Europe.

"Col. Naylor's contribution to the military effort reflects great credit upon himself and the British Forces."

Colonel Naylor was Embarkation Commandant, Bristol Channel Ports, throughout the war, and retired after 31 years' service in January, 1946. He gained the M.C. in the 1914-18 war and the O.B.E. in the last war. He now resides at High Haden, Old Hill, Staffordshire, and is welfare supervisor at a big steel works. He writes:—"Things I do now are not epoch making but they take up as much time and trouble as running 11 ports on the Bristol Channel in time of war. I would prefer to embark an armoured division than arrange a works 'outing.'!" His daughter Gillian, who was born at Halifax in 1925, when he was adjutant at the Depot, served in the Wrens during the war, and was married at Halesowen Parish Church, Worcestershire, on 25th July, 1946, to Lt. John McKinley Norcliffe-Roberts, R.N.V.R.

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Lt.-Colonel Stevens was appointed to G.H.Q., 2nd Echelon, M.E.L.F., at the end of last November, and we heard from him recently from Abassia Cantonment, where he is stationed. Before this appointment he was in London in charge of a department arranging for families to go out to B.A.O.R.

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Colonel Pickering had a letter from Captain O. G. Williams last November, mentioning that he had been appointed Education Officer to the Polish Resettlement Corps, Rivenhall



Camp, Witham, Kent, he writes "It is a civilian job at present, but I am hoping to step from it into the Army Education Corps. I am organising an English School for the Poles and find the work very interesting, though conditions of living in a hutted camp are far from congenial in this weather. The Poles are a good lot and very keen to learn English—it is their only hope." Captain Williams after resigning his commission in the Regiment was appointed head master of a School in Singapore. He was captured by the Japs in 1942, when Singapore fell.

We hear that Major H. E. Crane won the *Daily Mail* Competition, 10 shots at 500 yards, open to all comers at the N.R.A. Bisley Meeting last July, after a tie shoot. He also gained a place in the final stage of the King's Prize (The King's Hundred). Major Crane resides at 7 Grosvenor Road, Weymouth. We offer him our congratulations.

Captain J. H. Sugden, R.A.M.C., sent some photographs of the 2/7th Battalion locations in Dieppe in 1940, but unfortunately they were too indistinct to reproduce. At that date Captain Sugden was O.C. H.Q. Company of the 2/7th, but transferred to the R.A.M.C. about two years ago, and is now at the Military Hospital, Bovington, Dorset.

We heard recently from the Rev. V. D. Siddons (Hon. C.F.) who served as chaplain to the 1st Battalion from the day they went into Belgium until July, 1941. After that he had 18 months in the desert with the 8th Army, then 18 months in Alexandria and nearly two years as D.A.C.G., Greece. He was awarded the M.B.E. and mentioned in despatches for his services. He was demobilised in June, 1946, and is now at 8 Ladywood Road, Roundhay, Leeds 8.

### Mr. W. A. Francis.

Early in December last Mr. W. A. Francis, the Manager of our publishers, Messrs. Lawrence Bros., Ltd., of Weston-super-Mare, wrote to us that he would be retiring at the end of the year. In his letter he wrote:—"I shall always have happy memories of our business acquaintance. It has indeed been a great pleasure to me to steer THE IRON DUKE magazine through the recent difficult times, and to know that we have been able to maintain the standard of production. You can, however, be assured that the same attention will be given by our Works Manager, Mr. T. G. Morgan."

Mr. Francis's connection with THE IRON DUKE has extended over more than 20 years, and under his supervision 62 numbers have gone through the press. Early in 1926 the publication of THE IRON DUKE was entrusted to Messrs. Lawrence Brothers, and in March of that year they produced No. 3. At the very start we corresponded personally on all matters connected with the production, and we must have written hundreds of letters to each other since then. The care taken by Mr. Francis to meet our wishes has never failed, and the help he has given in technical matters has been very great indeed. The high standard of production reflects great credit on all the staff under Mr. Francis's guidance. It was not until 1932 that we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Francis. In September of that year the Editor and Assistant Editor were visiting Somerset, and decided to take the opportunity of seeing Messrs. Lawrence Bros.' Works. Mr. Francis met us and entertained us to lunch before showing us over the works, where we saw No. 23 of THE IRON DUKE being printed and were enabled to visualise from then onwards the routine of such a complicated business. During the war years many difficulties cropped up, and though the firm suffered, like others, from a shortage of staff, and paper difficulties, the standard of production was kept up. It is with a feeling of sincere regret that we part company with Mr. Francis, and we thank him most sincerely for such a long and happy partnership, and wish him every good fortune in the future.

Miss Turner, the Treasurer and Business Manager of THE IRON DUKE, wishes to be associated with us in the above remarks, and has a very happy remembrance of her dealings with Mr. Francis.

As a mark of appreciation of his work for THE IRON DUKE, the Regiment is presenting Mr. Francis with a small gift.

## **The 33rd Foot in the Antwerp Campaign and Assault on Bergen-op-Zoom, 1813-1814.**

### INTRODUCTION.

In 1942 on the death of an uncle, I came into the possession of a large number of old family papers, among which were four large leather-bound note-books full of neat handwriting. As I was fully occupied on the Staff at the time, I did not delve into any of these papers until the beginning of 1946, and it was not until early December of that year that, being on embarkation leave, I opened the manuscript volumes. They were the diaries of Lieutenant (later Major) Thomas Austin of the 35th Foot—my great-great-uncle—and recounted his experiences in the Antwerp Expedition of 1813-14, and contain many eye-witness accounts of the deeds and fortunes of the various British Regiments taking part in the campaign, among which was the 33rd Foot.

I decided, therefore, to write a short account of the Campaign, with particular reference to the 33rd Foot, wherever it is mentioned in the Diaries. I have condensed the subject matter as much as possible, therefore, merely showing the British Army's movements as a background leading up to the attack on Bergen op Zoom, in which action the 33rd Foot took a far from inglorious part, in despite of the disaster that overtook the other British units engaged.

Thomas Austin was commissioned into the 35th (now the Royal Sussex Regiment) at the age of 15½ in 1810 and was promoted Lieutenant in 1813. During the course of the Antwerp Expedition he led a mixed force of 35th Foot, 78th Highlanders and 95th Rifles which rescued H.R.H. The Duke of Clarence (later King William IV) from certain capture and possible death at the hands of the French, when H.R.H. rather rashly went ahead of the British line of skirmishers at the engagement of Merxem on the 13th January, 1814. A month later Thomas was hit in the leg by a cannon ball during the British attack on Merxem—a suburb of Antwerp—and his diary gives a most graphic description of the subsequent amputation of the limb without anæsthetics in a Field Hospital and journey back to the Base Hospital at Willemstadt. This event naturally ended his active participation in the campaign, but he had so far recovered from his serious wounds that by May, 1815 he was at his regimental depot at Chichester waiting to take a draft of the 35th Foot out to the Allied Forces then collecting in the Low Countries prior to taking part in the grand finale against Napoleon. But Thomas had not left England by the time the Battle of Waterloo was fought, and was transferred to a Royal Veteran Battalion, where he looked like ending his soldiering days as a forgotten subaltern. However, friends of his, including General Sir Thomas Graham (later Lord Lynedoch) who had commanded the British troops in the Antwerp Expedition, brought his services in rescuing the Duke of Clarence to the notice of the authorities, with the result that in 1820 Thomas was made Fort Major of Duncannon Fort, Co. Waterford. There he remained until 1869, when considering that he was entitled to the sweets of retirement as he had reached the age of 75, and had been 60 years in the Army, he packed his bags and settled down in Bristol, devoting himself "to the cultivation of natural science and literature" until his death in 1881 at the age of 87.

It may interest readers to know that Thomas Austin's elder brother, Captain Francis Austin—my great-grandfather—served in the 76th Foot from 1807 to 1883, taking part

with the Regiment in the Retreat to Corunna in 1808, the Walcheren Expedition of 1809, the Peninsular War advance from Spain into France, 1813-14, and the North American War during 1814-15. His Military General Service Medal with bars for "Corunna," "Nivelle" and "Nive" is in my possession. In addition, Thomas's nephew Edmund Austin—my grandfather—was commissioned in the 76th Regiment in 1858 and served with the Regiment until 1869, in which year he transferred as a Captain to the Madras Staff Corps, finally retiring in 1895 as a Colonel-Commandant, Indian Army.

I will now leave Thomas to explain the reason for undertaking the Antwerp Expedition, and what befell the 33rd Foot during the course of the campaign.

R. E. AUSTIN, Major, D.W.R.

#### EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF THOMAS AUSTIN.

In consequence of events which had taken place in 1813 after the retreat of Napoleon from Moscow, the British Government concluded a treaty with the Crown Prince of Sweden (Bernadotte), by which the latter on receiving a subsidy of one million pounds sterling, undertook to co-operate with the allied sovereigns now in league against France, and to furnish a contingent of 30,000 Swedes. In this manner we subsidized every nation in Europe, paying them exorbitant sums to induce them to fight for their own independence. After the treaty with Bernadotte was ratified, the British Government sent a force of about 3,000 men, under the command of Major-General Gibbs to co-operate with the Swedes. The troops consisted of six weak battalions—namely the 1st Royals, 25th, 33rd, 54th, 73rd and 91st Regiments.

In the latter end of August [1813] this force landed on the island of Rugen, and immediately marched across the island to Stralsund, a place of some note in the past wars of Europe.

The British troops were quartered on the inhabitants, who treated them with kindness, and entertained them to the best of their abilities, as did all the people of Swedish Pomerania.

In face of this show of force, the French garrison under General Morrand withdrew from the island and destroyed most of the fortifications. In order to strengthen the position, as there was some probability of its being again attacked, it became necessary [for the Allies] to repair the batteries and defences generally. The Crown Prince, after conferring with General Gibbs, had taken all the men capable of bearing arms to complete his contingent, so that tradesmen and wealthy burghers had to mount guard at Stralsund Town Hall, and perform other duties as private soldiers, while every man capable of labour was compelled to assist in repairing the works. The British troops also lent a helping hand, and about a thousand young women who had been accustomed to field labour were employed and found to be almost as efficient with the spade and pick as the men.

In September, however, the British troops left Stralsund in order to keep up with the movements of the Allied Armies. The inhabitants of the towns through which they passed treated them with the greatest kindness, but when they traversed districts which were chiefly agricultural the case was different. Here the ravages of war and its insatiable demands were strikingly visible; the country had been alternately occupied by friendly or hostile armies, so that its resources had been exhausted by each occupying it in succession, the scourge of a large friendly army only being slightly less intolerable than the presence of a hostile one.

For the better understanding of the relative positions of the contending armies, a brief summary of the operations in progress at this momentous period will not perhaps be wholly uninteresting.

The battle of the 16th of October, 1813, may be considered as the prelude to the Battle of Leipsic on the 18th. On the 16th the Allies were unable to force Napoleon from the position he held, and though the losses on both sides were nearly equal the French

had rather the best of the action. The Allies had 230,000 men of all arms and of every European nation, including tried veterans and regular disciplined soldiers of well appointed armies, as well as wild ill-armed hordes who owned the Czar of Russia as their sovereign, while Bernadotte with 50,000 Swedes was on the march to swell the Allied arms. Against this array, Napoleon commanded in person an army of 170,000.

During the 17th of October, the expected force of Swedes came up and preparations were made to assail the French position, and on the morning of October the 18th commenced the most terrific conflict recorded in history. In Germany it is known as the "Battle of the Nations" and historians have named it the "Battle of Giants"; and if its vast proportions, its sanguinary character and its mighty results are considered, the terms are by no means inappropriate.

The battle raged all day . . . . . and as the day closed the French had been forced back close under the walls of Leipsic and it became evident that for Napoleon to prolong the contest with any chance of success was impossible, and that a retreat was inevitable. The French losses in the three days fighting amounted to more than 60,000 men with 250 guns and large quantities of baggage and stores of all kinds. The loss of the Allies in killed and wounded exceeded 43,000 men, the Russians suffering most heavily, the Prussians next.

The signal [French] defeat at Leipsic and the defection of some of Napoleon's allies, who had abandoned him at a most critical moment, compelled the French army to hasten its retreat to the Rhine. At this juncture, the British Government conceived the idea of sending an army to act on the French flank more to the South, and at the same time to relieve Holland from French domination. Accordingly the British troops under General Gibbs marched to Rostock and Lubeck on the shores of the Baltic, where they embarked on the 2nd of November, 1813.

On the 12th of December this force of 3,000 men [including the 33rd Foot] arrived at Helvoetsluys which had just been evacuated by the French. The transports, therefore, proceeded up the river to Williamstadt, which had also been abandoned by the enemy. Here a landing was effected without opposition, and the troops obtained a few days rest which they so much required whilst they waited for the arrival of the rest of the expedition from England.

Early in November, 1813, several thousand troops were already assembled on the Kentish coast waiting for the vessels to carry them to Holland where the people had declared themselves in favour of the House of Nassau.

The day on which General Gibbs arrived at Helvoetsluys, Sir Thomas Graham and his troops were detained in the Downs by an adverse wind, but to the great delight of us all on the morning of the 13th of December, upwards of one hundred soldiers were ordered to man the capstan bars, and to the lively tunes played by fife and drum we were fairly under sail. A cold dense fog soon came on so that we could not even see the ships that we knew were close around us. On the 14th the same obscurity prevailed and we cast anchor on a sandbank off the Dutch coast, the wind having now died away.

Calms and fogs had retarded our progress considerably, so that our patience and fresh provisions were alike nearly exhausted. At length we were gratified by the announcement that our ships had entered the Scheldt, but the fog continued so dense that our field of view extended only a few yards around us.

Presently, however, the fog cleared away for a brief space before us, when an imposing scene presented itself to our sight. This was a British fleet of nineteen sail of the line, and several frigates under the command of Admiral Young, riding proudly at anchor in the Roompot, an anchorage. Our troop ships were in the midst of the fleet before each saw the other, and as we had no idea that a naval force had preceded us, our surprise was very great.

The partial clearance of the fog enabled us to take up a position between the fleet and the Island of Walcheren, where we cast anchor, and Sir Thomas Graham and Admiral

Young met on the flag-ship to arrange about further proceedings. Presently an order arrived on board for us to prepare to land on the following morning. This order created a feeling almost amounting to dismay among those who had participated in the disastrous expedition of 1809, when some thousands of British lives were sacrificed through the incapacity of an inefficient commander.

*(To be continued).*

### ART IN THE SERVICES.

A notice was published a short while ago to the effect that the Army Officers' Art Society was being revived. All members of the Services interested in Art, and we believe they are many, will welcome this news. In future, the Society will be known by a new name, The Army Art Society, membership of which is no longer limited to officers. Membership is open to all ranks of the Army and Royal Marines, serving or retired, permanent or temporary. All ranks of the Royal Navy, The Royal Air Force, and other armed forces of the Empire will be welcomed as Associates.

The Society proposes to hold its sixteenth exhibition of pictures and sculptures in August, 1947, in the galleries of the Royal Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street, London, S.W.1., where most of our exhibitions have been held in the past.

The Society came into being twenty-one years ago, when two officers, Lt.-Col. Owen Lewis, D.S.O., O.B.E., late Green Howards and Lt.-Col. R. H. W. Wilson, late 10th Hussars, shared a studio in Chelsea. It occurred to these two artist friends that it would be a good thing to have an exhibition of paintings by soldiers. Early in 1925 they got busy and in the Autumn of the same year the first exhibition was held in the R.B.A. Galleries. It was opened by the Duke of Connaught, as Patron, and was most successful, arousing much interest in the Press and among the public. The immediate result was the formation of this Society for the purpose of encouraging art in the Army and of holding periodical exhibitions. Rules were laid down and at this early stage membership was limited to officers. Since then the Society has not looked back and every year an exhibition has been held in London until the war put a temporary end to its activities.

During this time a feeling has been growing among members that, in the interests of Art, the Society should widen its scope and should no longer limit its membership to the commissioned ranks of the Army. In Art there can be no rank excepting only that of Merit, and the time has now come to open the membership of the Society to a wider circle. The Society is accordingly celebrating its Coming of Age by a revision of the Rules and by a change of name.

It is hoped that the response from all ranks, serving or retired, of our modern Army and from our sister services, will be so good that the high standard at which the Society has always aimed may be fully maintained if not surpassed. Anyone interested is invited to communicate with the Honorary Secretary, Col. L. N. Malan, 10 Blenheim Road, London, N.W.8., who will be pleased to send a copy of the Rules and all other particulars.

### National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors Soldiers and Airmen

Head Office :—14 Howick Place, London, S.W.1.



We've said all this before but that was same time ago and so we'd better say it again!

In spite of its name—National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen—the Association looks after non-Regulars as well as Regulars. In 1942 a circular was sent to all Regimental Associations, etc., asking them to give their views on the subject to their Representatives on the Council of this Association. As a result the Council decided to include non-Regulars and the qualifications for eligibility for registration were amended as follows:

(a) At least two years, embodied service, exclusive of service in Reserve, in one of the Armed Forces of the Crown. The two years' service is not essential in the case of men who have been discharged as physically unfit through circumstances beyond their control.

(b) Character shown in official records of service must be such as enable the Association to recommend the candidate to employers as thoroughly reliable. No man whose character on discharge was below "Good" shall be registered for employment.

(c) Each non-Regular must register after his discharge or demobilisation within a period equal to his period of Service and shall be eligible for re-registration at any time during the unexpired portion of that period.

(d) In the case of men who have been in civil employment since leaving the Service, satisfactory references as to character must be produced from employers. In the absence of such references, enquiry shall be made from former employers and the man shall not be placed on the register until a satisfactory report has been received.

From this it will be seen that as regards general civil employment non-Regulars must register or re-register within a given period while Regulars can do either at any time.

While Regulars can obtain Post Office employment only by registering with the National Association it must be remembered that for Post Office employment non-Regulars must apply through the Employment Exchanges. Nominations for Post Office is carried out in strict category order, Regulars with War Service having priority. For this reason in some areas it may be years before a non-Regular can be nominated.

We hope we don't need to remind you that we charge no fees.

During the first nine months of 1946, 55,730 men of all three Services were registered and 38,143 placed by the 54 offices throughout the country so you will see that we have quite got back into our stride again.

Employment may be fairly easy to get but it is important to get the right kind of work and it is, therefore a good plan to visit your local branch as soon as you get home on release leave and talk things over with the Jobfinder.

## Obituary.

We regret to record the following deaths:—

HAYDEN.—On December 31st, 1946, at his residence, Albemarle Villas, Devonport, Lieut.-Colonel Frederick Arthur Hayden, D.S.O., O.B.E., late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, in his 86th year. Colonel Hayden was born on 10th August, 1861, and was educated at Winchester. He was commissioned in the 33rd Foot on 22nd January, 1881, and joined them in India. He served with them there until June, 1888, when he was appointed Adjutant of the 2nd Punjab Volunteer Rifle Corps, which appointment he held until September, 1893, when he rejoined the 1st Battalion at Dover. In February, 1895 he was appointed Adjutant of the 3rd Militia Battalion at Halifax, and under the late Colonel Wylie, went out to the South African war with the Battalion in November, 1900. He saw service in Cape Colony, and was awarded the D.S.O. for his services. He commanded the Battalion from January, 1902 until May of that year. In 1903 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion at Dinapore, India, as Second-in-Command and saw service there and in England, when the Battalion returned in November, 1905. On 3rd February, 1908 he was promoted Lieut.-Colonel and appointed to the command of the 2nd Battalion, retiring on retired pay on 2nd February, 1912. On the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he rejoined the Regiment and raised the 9th Service Battalion, which he trained and took out to France in July, 1915, where he served in the Ypres area until invalided to England later in the year. He commanded the 11th Reserve Battalion of The Yorkshire Light Infantry from April to August, 1916, and the 8th Battalion Training Reserve from September, 1916 until April, 1919, when he retired. He was mentioned in despatches in January, 1916, and was awarded the O.B.E.

In 1907, while second-in-command to Colonel K. E. Lean, commanding the 2nd Battalion, the latter asked Colonel Hayden to compile an historical record of the 76th Regiment. This he completed and published in December, 1908 under the title of "Historical Records of The 76th 'Hindoostan' Regiment, from its formation in 1787 to 30th June, 1881." It is a most valuable and interesting history of the 76th which entailed a great deal of research and labour.

Colonel Hayden had lived for many years in South Devon, and kept up his great interest in the Regiment, attending most of the Regimental social gatherings, both Regular and of the 9th (Service) Battalion. He was a very keen supporter of THE IRON DUKE, and on many occasions was of great assistance to the Editor in matters of early records. His first wife died on 27th February, 1928, after many years of ill health, and on 15th January, 1929, he married Miss Hermione Caddy, who survives him.

We print below appreciations received from brother officers.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel C. J. Pickering, writes :—" The Regiment has sustained a great loss in the death of Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Hayden, D.S.O., O.B.E. Colonel Hayden was promoted substantive Lieut.-Colonel to command the 2nd Battalion in 1908, vice Colonel Lean, who came to us from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in January, 1907 when the Battalion was stationed at Lichfield, and later at Tidworth on Salisbury Plain. During this period I served with him as his Adjutant, and no one could serve under a more appreciative and kindly Commanding Officer. His task was a difficult one because it was at a time when the Battalion, reduced in numbers, on return from an eighteen year tour of foreign service, was quickly recruited up to establishment and trained under intensive modern methods for its role in war, which at the time of the Agadir incident in 1911 was fully realised by the Army Authorities. The Regiment has lost a very conscientious and loyal officer, and I have lost a true friend."

Colonel B. St. J. le Marchant writes :—" Hayden and I were subalterns together in India, and many happy days we spent there. He was a very energetic, most conscientious and good soldier. He was a splendid rifle shot, and I believe I am right in saying, the best rifle shot in India for one or two years. After India I don't think I saw him again until we met at the Regimental Dinner."

Captain A. E. Miller, writes :—" Colonel Hayden assumed command of the 9th Battalion as its first Commanding Officer in September, 1914. Under his leadership at Bovington, Wimbourne and Hursley, it evolved from a "crowd" of raw recruits into a disciplined battalion, worthy of the Regiment, which he took to France in July, 1915. In France his wisdom and experience eased for us all the first impact of active service conditions, but it was not very long before appendicitis compelled his return to England about the end of September. I saw him once again in France in November, 1915 (I think) and know how deeply grieved he was that he was adjudged no longer physically fit for a front line command and could not return to the Battalion. As his Adjutant, I had ever cause to be grateful for his invariable kindness and consideration. No matter how much he might be doing himself he never failed in his appreciation of the efforts of others and his sternest judgments were tempered by a courtesy of manner which was always a marked characteristic. There are many "temporary" soldiers, officers and men, who will remember 'Mickie' Hayden with affection and who will mourn his passing."

REGAN.—On 8th September, 1946, at the Halifax General Hospital, Mr. John Regan, M.M., late The Scots Guards and The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, aged 72. Mr. Regan joined the Scots Guards towards the end of the last century and served with them in the South African war. He later transferred to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and went out to France with the 2nd Battalion in 1914 with the rank of C.S.M. He was mentioned in despatches three times and was awarded the Military Medal. In 1916 he was invalided out of the service, but later served with the 4th Battalion. Mr. Regan was the British Army light-weight boxing champion for the years 1895-6-7. In 1912 he won the Whitehead shooting medal, open to cavalry and infantry regiments. He was a member of the South African War Veterans' Association and of the Old Comrades' Association of The Scots Guards and The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Mr. Regan was a native of Halifax and had recently resided at 30 Holroyd Street, Halifax. He leaves a widow and three sons, one of whom is a corporal of horse in the Royal Horse Guards, and another was recently demobilised from the City of London Yeomanry. A fourth son died from wounds while serving as a company sergeant major with the Scots Guards at Narvik.

TOWN.—On 29th September, 1946, at his home, 16 Shire Oak Road, Headingley, Leeds, Major William Norman Town, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. A record of Major Town's service and an appreciation appears on page 31. Major Town was a strong supporter of THE IRON DUKE from its inception.

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