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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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CONTENTS

	PAGE
EDITORIAL'	61
" IRON DUKE " SUBSCRIPTION RATES	61
REGIMENTAL NEWS—	
1ST BATTALION	62
2ND BATTALION	71
146TH REGIMENT (D.W.R.) R.A.C.	80
No. 33 P.T.C. D.W.R.	81
NORTH-EASTERN GROUP I.T.C.	84
GENERAL—	
H.M.S. " CLEOPATRA "	86
OLD COMRADES' AND REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS	88
RE-UNIONS	89
COLONELS OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT	92
THE 33RD FOOT IN THE ANTWERP CAMPAIGN AND ASSAULT ON BERGEN-OP-ZOOM, 1813-1814. (Extracts from the Diary of the late Major THOMAS AUSTIN, 35th Foot, Edited by Major R. E. AUSTIN)	93
RELICS AND PAINTINGS FROM APSLEY HOUSE	98
CARTOON PURPORTING TO REPRESENT THE FIRST DUKE OF WELLINGTON	99
THE VISIT TO THE CAPE BY THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, 1796. By Mrs. M. REYNOLDS	100
FROM " THE TIMES " of 1846. Unpublished Letters of The Duke of Wellington	104
NON-INTERFERENCE. By Lt.-Commander R. C. OLIVER, D.S.C., R.N.	105
PERSONALIA	106
EXTRACTS FROM " NOTES AND REMINISCENCES OF A STAFF OFFICER RELATING TO WATERLOO AND ST. HELENA "	109
THE 33RD IN THE WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION	110
MESSAGE FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENT ARMoured BRIGADE	110
OUR CONTEMPORARIES	111
NOTICES	111
OBITUARY	111

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

H.M.S. "CLEOPATRA"	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	FACING PAGE
1ST BATTALION—BOXING AND TUG-OF-WAR TEAMS—KHARTOUM GARRISON SPORTS	68
1ST BATTALION—INSPECTION AND MARCH PAST ON OCCASION OF VISIT OF G.O.C.-IN-C. M.E.L.F., 12TH JANUARY, 1947	69
2ND BATTALION—COLOUR PARADE AND INSPECTION, MEERUT, 1ST JANUARY, 1947	78 & 79
ROYAL VISIT TO H.M.S. "CLEOPATRA," 7TH FEBRUARY, 1947. H.M. THE KING WITH CAPTAIN O. L. GORDON, C.B., M.V.O., R.N.	86
THE LATE LT.-COLONEL F. A. HAYDEN, D.S.O., O.B.E.	86
MAJOR THOMAS AUSTIN'S SWORD AND PISTOL	87
GLEBE COTTAGE, WYNBERG, S.A., WHERE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON IS REPUTED TO HAVE STAYED	87

H.M.S. "CLEOPATRA"



[By courtesy of Wright & Logan, Southsea.]

THE IRON DUKE

EDITORIAL.

An event of importance to the Regiment since our last number is the renewal of the liaison with the Royal Navy which had lapsed since H.M.S. *Iron Duke* was broken up. This has come about through the commanding officer of H.M.S. *Cleopatra*, Captain O. L. Gordon, C.B., M.V.O., R.N., a letter from whom appears on page 86. The Regiment will welcome this new association with the Senior Service, and we hope that we shall receive regular contributions of news from the ship. As will be seen from Captain Gordon's letter, H.M.S. *Cleopatra* had the honour of escorting H.M.S. *Vanguard* part of the way to Cape Town, and as we write she is about to take up the escort again during the second half of the voyage home. A photograph of H.M. the King and Captain Gordon on board *Cleopatra* appears opposite page 86. We have to thank Messrs. Wright and Logan, photographers, Albert Road Junction, Southsea, for their kind permission to reproduce the photograph of H.M.S. *Cleopatra*, which appears as frontispiece.

We hear that the 7th Battalion is to remain an infantry battalion in the new Territorial Army, now in process of being reformed. Lt.-Colonel S. R. Hoyle has been appointed commanding officer, and Captain le Messurier, from the 1st Battalion, adjutant. The old 5th Battalion, now the 578th Regiment Heavy A.A., is we understand, to be commanded by Lt.-Colonel R. C. Laurence, T.D., and the old 6th Battalion is also to become a Heavy A.A. Regiment under the command of Lt.-Colonel W. E. D. Shaw.

The last of the war-time units of the Regiment, the 146th Regiment R.A.C., formerly the 9th Battalion D.W.R., has now been disbanded, and their "Swan Song" appears on page 80.

A conference of senior officers of the Regiment under the chairmanship of Colonel C. J. Pickering, the Colonel of the Regiment, was held at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, on Friday, 2nd May, at which a number of matters of Regimental interest were discussed. It was agreed that officers, past and present, should be asked voluntarily to subscribe 10s. a year. A notice from the Treasurer appears below.

IRON DUKE SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Owing to the increase in printing charges, etc., since the war, the cost of production of THE IRON DUKE has gone up over 100 per cent, and it has become impossible to maintain the standard of the magazine at the present charges.

It has been decided, therefore, to ask retired officers and serving officers to increase their subscription to 10/- per annum, and so help THE IRON DUKE to keep going.

The Treasurer would be very grateful if subscriptions could be increased as from this year.

THE IRON DUKE

REGIMENTAL NEWS

1st Battalion

The period under review covers that from the settling in of the Battalion in Khartoum in November, till early April and coincides with the so-called winter of the Sudan, a delightful time of cloudless days and cool nights, which has been thoroughly appreciated when the constant reports of the devastating English winter have been brought to our notice by letters, newspapers and radio.

Christmas was celebrated with the usual festivities. On Boxing Day a fete was held in barracks. The main events were camel and donkey races, and donkey polo—officers versus sergeants. These were all great fun, and further entertainment was provided by various side shows, including a greasy pole in the swimming bath. About this time, too, the officers and sergeants had their annual battle on the football ground. This started as football and ended as rugby. The rules of the game were somewhat obscure at all times, but the pace was terrific despite the strange varieties of fancy dress which disguised the players. The result no one knows, but it was generally felt that honours were even.

On 12th January General Sir Miles Dempsey, the G.O.C.-in-C. M.E.L.F., visited Khartoum. This was the occasion for a ceremonial parade with Colours; the first time the Colours had been on parade since before the war, and a historic event. The Colour party consisted of: King's Colour, Lt. Cooke; Regimental Colour, 2nd Lt. Dooks, C.S.M. Callaby and C/Sgts. Thomas and Kitson. The Battalion was drawn up in line under command of Lt.-Col. Cumberlege, with the Band of the Sudan Defence Force in rear. After the general salute and inspection the Battalion marched past in column of platoons, and the parade ended with an advance in review order. Afterwards the C.-in-C. spoke to each officer in turn, and before he left said how very pleased he was with the smartness of the Regiment on parade.

In the latter half of January Lt.-Col. Cumberlege left the Battalion to take up the appointment of O.C. Troops Suez. Everyone regretted that his period of command had been so short, and this opportunity is taken to wish him the best of good fortune in his new command.

Lt.-Col. Webb-Carter arrived early in February. All ranks extend a hearty welcome to their old war-time leader and hope that his period of command will be a truly happy one. It also gives great pleasure to be able to welcome several regular officers, warrant officers and N.C.O.'s who have recently joined the 33rd. Their names appear in the notes which follow.

Training until recently has been of the individual variety. One or two drill cadres and a succession of W.T. cadres have been run for young N.C.O.'s. These have been of particular value in view of the youth and inexperience of N.C.O.'s owing to the rate of release and demands of Python. Battalion courses for specialists have included instruction to signallers, M.T. drivers, including carrier and armoured car drivers, S.B.'s, and last, but not least, drummers. The standard of bugling has improved very appreciably. The interminable toils of the star pay system have kept companies constantly at range work and P.E. tests, but recently some field firing on a company basis has helped to brighten life in the mornings, and a number of young soldiers are being initiated into the mysteries of education.

Sport in various forms, from football and competitive shooting to table tennis and fishing competitions in the Nile, has formed the lion's share of our occupations; and who can deny that team games play a part of outstanding importance in the peace-time training of a soldier? Details of these activities are contained in the Sports Notes which follow. Congratulations are due to the shooting teams and individual firers who did so well in the Sudan rifle meeting, winning two of the three team events and securing several of the

foremost places in the individual matches. In athletics the tug-of-war teams excelled themselves in both the Garrison and S.D.F. sports, winning all competitions; two particularly well-trained teams fully justified the untiring efforts of their trainer and coach Capt. (Q.M.) Green. In the hockey league our teams took second and third places amongst eight teams. In the Garrison knock-out football competition, which was played out between the 16 teams in the garrison inter-company league, "C" Company reached the semi-final to be beaten by "B" Company, K.S.L.I., the league champions, and it was left to "H.Q." Company team, the other finalists to score a fine victory by three goals to one to win the cup, a fitting end to the football season. Whilst in boxing, after a splendid evening's sport, we beat our old opponents and friends, the 1st Battalion, K.S.L.I., by eight fights to three, to win a silver cup, most graciously presented for the occasion by H.E. the Governor-General, Sir Hubert Huddleston.

"D" Company, under the command of Major Grieve, have recently left their quarters in the R.A.F. camp in order to make room for additional R.A.F. personnel, and are now in the comparative cool of the Red Sea Hills at Gebeit, some 90 miles north-west of Port Sudan. They are lucky, as the summer us now upon us and the thermometer registers 109 degrees F. in the shade.

On 5th April the Governor-General left Khartoum by air at the end of a lifetime's service in the Sudan, where he has commanded the Camel Corps and held the appointment of Kaid and G.O.C. During the short time the 33rd have been stationed at Khartoum we have learned to appreciate the high esteem in which both he and Lady Huddleston are held by all people in the Sudan. We take this opportunity to extend to His Excellency and Lady Huddleston our very best wishes for their future happiness.

On H.E.'s departure the Battalion provided a guard of honour, commanded by Major Austin. Lt. Cox was ensign and Lt. Haley subaltern, with C/Sgts. Curtis and Kitson. The R.A.F., S.D.F. and Egyptian Army were also represented by guards of honour on parade.

OFFICERS' MESS.

Khartoum has witnessed even greater changes in the Mess than those chronicled in our last issue. First and foremost all were sorry to say good-bye to Lt.-Col. Cumberlege, whose stay with the Battalion has been all too short. In his place we have Lt.-Col. Brian Webb-Carter, now one of the substantive lieutenant-colonels in the Regiment. All members of the Mess welcome the return of the officer who commanded the 33rd in North Africa during the most trying and possibly most glorious period in its history.

Early in the new year the Colours arrived in charge of Grieve, an old 33rd man, and Hatch, a newcomer to the Regiment. We had the pleasure of seeing them on parade with the Battalion for the first time since 1939. Cooke and Gibbard had the honour of carrying them.

In February, after several adventures en route, the Colonel arrived with a selection of Mess silver, which also had not seen the light of day since 1939. With him came Major Austin, prematurely aged with the worry of counting packing cases. Major Austin was recently transferred to the Regiment from the King's. His great grandfather, Capt. Thomas Austin, and his grandfather, Colonel Edmund Austin, both served in the 76th, as recounted in Major Austin's article in the last issue.

Le Messurier, glowing from his D.O.M.C.O.L. in the "frozen North," took two looks at the Sudan and retired to Yorkshire with his snowshoes to train the only infantry Territorial Battalion we are permitted to retain. Our Q.M., MacGregor, has departed to the Canal to join his wife, and Green, late of the 10th Battalion, has come to replace him. Ian Hamilton, who was with the 76th throughout the war, has arrived to pilot the boxing team to victory in the Garrison meeting.

Comings and going on L.I.A.P. are too numerous to record, but we were sorry to lose Bullock on Python. Roberts is making the best of a "compassionate" course in the U.K. We congratulate him on the addition to his family.

The Mess itself is in a pleasant position with a garden on the north bank of the Blue Nile. Egrets fly overhead and sailing boats and crocodiles swim around in the water. Despite the nine puppies on the strength of the Mess there are still a number of flowers in bloom. The Mess sanitary arrangements, a legacy from our transatlantic allies, are the envy of Khartoum! Social life is the gayest thing that we have had since the beginning of the war, and dances, dinner parties and cocktails are the order of the day. Indeed nowadays one almost feels guilty about enjoying oneself!

The arrival of the silver after six years or so of tables six foot and cracked cups has certainly proved a blessing. The weekly guest night has been reintroduced and several civilians and our old K.S.L.I. friends have dined with us. We have held two very successful cocktail parties on the lawn at which we were honoured by the presence of H.E. The Governor-General and Lady Huddleston and the Kaid, Major-General W. D. Stamer. Tennis, squash and bathing at the Sudan Club have been very popular, and polo, both donkey and legitimate, is played.

So far the weather has been delightful but there are signs that it is stoking up and in the next issue your scribe may not be as enthusiastic about Khartoum as he is in this.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our arrival in Khartoum the Mess has stepped into the social circles through the medium of numerous dances. Our dance floor was the large tiled tennis court, and all members worked with a will in the erecting of tarpaulins, signal strips, band stand and bar. The success was largely due to the entertainments committee, ably led by C.S.M. Callaby. It has been noticed that several of the W.O's and sergeants have spent a recuperation period in the hospital. Need it be stated that it is from this hospital that many of the dancing partners are derived?

Apart from a trip up the river, the only other social events have been the monthly Python parties which always go with a swing, thanks to the fish and chip supper (in paper) plus the usual interior lubrications.

C.S.M. Taylor, C.Q.M.S. Thomas, Sgts. Taylor, Musgrove, Brennan, Kendall, Larrard, Howorth, Turner and Oscaby have all left us recently on Python or release and we wish them all the very best of good fortune.

In the Battalion athletics meeting the Mess turned out a crack track team, consisting of R.S.M. Banks, R.Q.M.S. Wall, C.S.M's Walton, Curtis and Taylor, Sgts. Alton and Sgt. Falconner, who ran against their opposite numbers, R.S.M. against the C.O., and so on; our Olympic hopes beat the officers quite comfortably. Again the Mess beat the officers in the Battalion rifle meeting, the team comprising C.S.M. Walton, C.Q.M.S. Thomas, Sgt. Rimmer and Sgt. Alton. On this occasion the officers were presented with a mammoth wooden spoon which in dimensions closely resembled a canoe paddle.

In the promotion stakes we congratulate C.S.M. Kay, C.Q.M.S. Johnson and sergeants innumerable; at the same time extending a hearty welcome to our three new members, C.S.M.'s Pearce, Young and Smith.

COMPANY NOTES.

"H.Q." COMPANY.—Our last instalment terminated with a brief but hopeful description of Khartoum, our new station, showing promise of being a haven of rest and peace to the "guard weary" lads from Palestine. And for a short time during the transition period, so to speak, life was pretty easy and the whole atmosphere a novelty. Hours were regular, and not very long, the piece de resistance being the fact that we respect the Arabic Sunday as a holiday, which gives us two restful days a week, and apart from the fact that owing to the heat, work started at 6.30, everything in the garden was lovely. Christmas arrived in no time, preceded by the usual pre-Christmas occurrences—billiards, snooker, table tennis championships and large pay parades. A large

amount of talented work appeared out of the signal stores, from the very able pens of L/Cpl. White and Sgt. Fernley ; paintings, drawings and outsize Christmas cards mainly for the decoration of the dining hall, every section being represented by some witty and appropriate cartoon.

We again combined with "A" Company, this time on Christmas Eve, producing an all-star concert party, assisted by the 1st D.W.R. dance band (six pieces), appearing in public for the first time. By the end of the evening everybody was in a very happy frame of mind, but thankful that reveille was not to be sounded at the usual unearthly hour. Christmas morning was heralded by an officers v. sergeants "sock-er" match, which luckily ended in a draw. Injuries strangely nil. Boxing Day featured races for camels and donkeys, totes, sideshows, and all the fun of the fair, although one of our shows did get rid of rather more prizes than it could pay for ; as a result Sgt. Taylor was a popular figure for some days afterwards.

Then came training, and we really got down to it. Numerous strange faces, long tucked away in offices and other nooks and crannies, where the crafty soldier hides, were seen doubling down ranges in battle order, the tramping of marching feet stirred the souls, and soles of men long used to easier methods of transport. For a few days a minor sensation was caused by the arrival of a P.T. instructor complete with pamphlets and "When I say move, MOVE." But everybody worked with gusto, and soon became hardened to the life. Events proved that the men with the so-called "cushy" jobs do not get stagnant. We entered into the Battalion rifle meeting with enthusiasm, grumbles and "H.Q." spirit, and competently walked off with the cup and a good few prizes.

By this time work was richly intermingled with sport, and the inevitable sports meetings. As usual, ours went with a swing, mainly because it was exceptionally well organised beforehand. Everybody available turned out to watch—M.T Sigs. and B.O.R. put it over armoured cars, carriers and the rest, but only just. Once again our field events, O.R.S. Sgt. Falconer excelled himself, and Sgt. Taylor pulled off his last few 880's before giving in to Python. In the Battalion sports we did not do so well, mainly because we put two teams in, but throughout we gave of our best and as far as individual prizes went, received the lion's share.

The usual "H.Q." Company keenness was applied to hockey, and a team formed in co-operation with "A" Company did extremely well in the Garrison league, gathering in a further supply of medals for their efforts.

Football has been perfect, especially since six of our players turned out for the Battalion side, and in a knock-out cup for Army sides still in progress we are hot favourites. In the inter-company boxing, we were unable to get a full team out, but with the keen ones we had, ably trained and led by Capt. Hamilton, we put up a fine show, winning 90 per cent of our fights.

Python and demob. have hit us badly, and since we came here most of the technical sergeants have gone, including Sgt. Fernley (Sigs.), Sgt. Larrard (Pioneers), and Sgt. Taylor (sniper), escorted on their way by the rest of the Italy types. Best luck to them in their new adventure, as also to Capt. Bullock, our I.O. cum company commander cum acting adjutant, cum education officer. At long last he's shaken the sands of Egypt off his feet. Major Blake returned to us just before Christmas looking no different after his long absence and what has been described as "that mysterious Lilop." We welcome Lt. Turner (P.R.I.) and Lt. Haigh (U.E.O.) who have just arrived from the Indian Army ; our new S.M., C.S.M. Young, also C.S.M. Pearce, an old Duke.

"A" COMPANY.—Although uneventful from the military aspect, life during the past few months has been by no means dull ; and if our training has not been exhausting, the same can hardly apply to our recreational activities.

Just before Christmas Major Hatch arrived to take over the Company from Major Le Messurier, who left us to become adjutant to the 7th Battalion D.W.R. T.A. It was

with great regret that we said good-bye to Major Le Messurier and we would like to take this opportunity to wish him the very best of good luck in his new job. In his last letter from England he complained bitterly of the cold weather and confessed he would not much mind being posted back to a warmer climate. In the field of sport we have been kept fully occupied—and if we didn't win everything we hoped to, we can be well satisfied with the results as a whole.

The new year began with athletics. We ran the Company meeting early in January and the inter-platoon challenge cup was won by No. 2 Platoon, whom we congratulate. It was a most successful day, and although platoon teams were rather cut about on account of our being duty company there was no lack of volunteers who came forward at the last moment to fill in the gaps. At the Battalion sports meeting, which was held a week or two later, we failed to win the inter-company challenge cup and came second to "C" Company. We wish we could say a close second, but it wasn't—"C" Company finished with a fine lead and we congratulate them on their achievements. Nevertheless our own team put up a good show and we would particularly like to congratulate L/Cpl. Driver, Pte. Clarke(32) and Pte. Netherwood on their outstanding team work in the 880 yards and one mile, both of which events they won as a team, and Ptes. Murray (62) and Cooper (18) for the way in which they threw a very commendable javelin. We were quite well represented in the Battalion team at the Garrison athletic meeting, and Pte. Clarke (32) did sterling work. The Battalion rifle meeting unfortunately caught most of our "crack shots" on an "off day" but we were nevertheless well represented in the Battalion team which did so well in the Sudan rifle meeting—Cpl. (now Sgt.) Clark leading the particularly successful falling plate team. With the Battalion boxing contest we came into our own, and after a hard tussle with "D" Company who kept us on tenterhooks almost to the last fight we managed to win the cup. We are all very proud of the whole team and would prefer not to single out any one member for special praise, but we would not like to miss this opportunity of thanking L/Cpl. Cowell, unable to fight himself because of an old injury, for the enthusiastic manner in which he trained and held the team together. In hockey we have been well represented in the Battalion "A" team, although at the time of writing we have unfortunately lost most of our star players on Python, release or (the shame of it) to other companies. It is however a comforting thought that we can expect a refreshed (sic) Pte. Phelan back from L.I.A.P. in the not far distant future. We have enjoyed a fair season at football and at present stand half-way down the list of 16 teams competing in the Garrison league. Here again we have suffered some heavy losses from the team—Sgt. Hancock to "H.Q." Company, Sgt. Bates (who was our most able captain and star goal scorer throughout most of the season) to "C" Company, C.S.M. Taylor on Python. As usual, we have had to say good-bye to far too many good chaps: C.Q.M.S. Holdsworth, Sgt. Holland, Sgt. Cooke, Ptes. Whitman, Peace, Sell and Murray have left us on release, and we wish them all the best of luck in civilian life. C.S.M. Taylor, Sgt. Osgarby, Ptes. Shell, Sanders and Dixon have gone on Python, and to them we send greetings wherever they may be in England and hope they enjoy the remainder of their army service as much as we hope they enjoyed their service with the Grenadier Company. To those who have joined us since the last issue we say "much welcome" and hope they will soon find themselves at home with the Company.

We must congratulate all those who have added to their "tapes," and also those who have now "donned" a solitary one for the first time: C.S.M. Kaye, Sgts. Bates, Chapman and Clark, Cpl. Erswell, L/Cpls. Bannister, Booth (33), Bowman, Humphrey, Northcott, Stephenson, West and Young. We still don't know whether we have one or two C.S.M's—one day we have one sporting a moustache and the next we are confronted by quite a different person who is clean shaven. It's all most confusing.

In conclusion, we look forward to the future with confidence. We feel the team is knitting together and with the proportion of regulars and high release groups increasing

we hope for some degree of permanency. Nevertheless we can't help wishing some of the older hands would reconsider their decision to risk the hazards of life in "civvy" street.

"C" COMPANY.—Our main work here seems to consist of finding guards and brushing up the early lessons of Bren and rifle—which, at least, is a change from chasing illegal immigrants.

Liap, Python and release still play havoc with old faces. To mention a few: Lt. Tattersfield and C.S.M. Smithson are home on Liap (and snow-bound), Cpl. Green (the genius behind the typewriter), Ptes. McMahon, stretcher bearer-cum-runner, Storey, the storeman and Hardy, the company commander's jeep driver, have all gone home on Python. Good luck to them all. Spencer has become company clerk and Taylor company storeman.

We welcome the following new comers: Major Austin, who joined us in February as company commander, *vice* Major Roberts, who has gone home to England on a course; Lt. Limb, ex-Indian Army, who has replaced Lt. Peel (now a civilian) as company second-in-command; 2nd Lt. Cox, who joined us from Brancepeth last December and has taken over No. 7 Platoon. We also welcome C.S.M. Smith who has just joined us from a 5th Fusilier Battalion in Tripolitania, and several new drafts from England. We hope they will all have a pleasant stay in Charlie Company.

In the realm of sport we won the Battalion athletic cup for the second year running. Pte. Steinberg managed to pull off his double (100 yards and 220 yards) again. Other good athletes were Pte. Johnson (94), who ran a splendid half mile, being beaten by a yard, and Cpl. Randall who threw a pretty hammer. We only managed to get second place in the Battalion rifle meeting. We did not do so well in the Battalion boxing meeting, but had two members of the Battalion team versus 1st K.S.L.I.—Sgt. Alton and a newcomer, Pte. Gaffney. Both won their fights, the former with a splendid knock-out, while Gaffney had a well-deserved win on points against an opponent quite four inches taller than himself and with an equivalent longer reach. With regard to football, at the time of writing we are lying fifth in the Khartoum league and are the highest in place of any battalion team. Much good work has been done by L/Cpl. Clayton and Hay and Ptes. Dodds, Frain and Steinberg, Clayton playing also for the Combined Services team.

We congratulate our first Danish full rank N.C.O., Cpl. Harling, on his promotion to corporal, and also Cpl. Watson on his promotion.

"D" COMPANY.—Since our arrival in Khartoum we have been living in the R.A.F. barracks. The quarters have been comfortable, the food has been good and life, despite the heat, has been fairly enjoyable. We spent a happy Christmas and New Year with our hosts. The Christmas fare was really good and as we had decorated the barrack rooms in such a way as to make them as reminiscent of home as possible, the right spirit was abroad. Now that the Company has moved it is only fitting to record our thanks to Group Captains Wright and Coote and to the R.A.F. for their hospitality.

During the 3½ months that the Company was in Khartoum there was plenty of activity to keep us occupied. The Dynamos, the Company soccer team, were never really able to get going and, despite having one or two good players like Cpl. Marment and L/Cpl. Brogan, they finished about three-quarters of the way down the Khartoum league. At hockey we combined with "C" Company to make up the Battalion "B" team. This was a good team which made rapid improvement. In the Khartoum league it finished third and in the knock-out competition the team lost in the finals against Clergy House, who had been unbeaten for two seasons. In the Battalion sports the Company finished third. Sgt. Hatton won the hammer throw and Sgt. Lawrence the long jump. The following from the Company represented the Battalion in the Garrison athletics meeting:—Lt. R. L. Johnson, 2nd Lt. P. Dooks, Sgt. Hatton, Sgt. Lawrence, L/Cpl. Robson, L/Cpl. Benjamin and Pte. Medforth, and we had four members of the successful Battalion tug-of-war team:—Ptes. Dantoft, Bogelund, Didguard and Lindley. Sgt. Lawrence is

to be congratulated on winning the long jump. Despite the fact that the Company finished fourth in the Battalion shooting competition, Lt. R. L. Johnson won the individual L.M.G. competition, C.S.M. Walton won the pistol shoot and C.Q.M.S. Thomas was second in the individual rifle competition. In the Sudan meeting Lt. R. L. Johnson was first and Pte. Bogstup third in the L.M.G. shoot and L/Cpl. Penn and Pte. Fiebecker were in the winning falling plates and fire and movement Battalion teams. In the Battalion boxing meeting the Company was perhaps a little unfortunate in not winning but we certainly gave "A" Company a big fright. The following won their fights:—Open, Sgt. Lawrence, Ptes. Clarke and Jensen (301); novices, Ptes. Harwood, Gallagher, Herrick, Fitzhenry and Schofield. Runners up, open, Ptes. Pulfrey and Kelly; L/Cpl. Penn and Ptes. Harwood and Gallagher boxed for the Battalion against the K.S.L.I. and all three won their fights.

During this period there have been the usual inevitable changes in the Company. Capt. Wilson, who commanded the Company till just after Christmas, became W.T.O. We welcome Major C. F. Grieve in his place. We also welcome 2nd Lt. P. Dooks and very lately C.Q.M.S. Johnson, who has rejoined the Company on promotion. C.Q.M.S. Thomas, Sgts. Howarth and Turner, Cpl. Abbot and Pte. Sutton have left us for Python and release and we wish them all the very best of luck.

Release makes the way open for promotion and we congratulate the following on their promotions:—Capt. P. J. Simpson, C.Q.M.S. Johnson, Sgts. Hatton and Lawrence, Gant and Jones, Cpls. Fitton, Cooper, Brown, Betteridge and Brookes, and L/Cpls. Penn, Brogan, Robson, Smedley, Green, Beddows, Benjamin and Cross.

The Company is now stationed up in the hills at a place called Gebeit, 2,300 feet above sea level, and we are escaping the heat of Khartoum, which seems to have been turned on in earnest recently. Here we enjoy pleasantly warm days and cool nights, but we are "right out in the blue" and the job in hand is to keep the men amused after parade hours. Still we are doing not so badly and as a whole we are enjoying life.

SHOOTING.

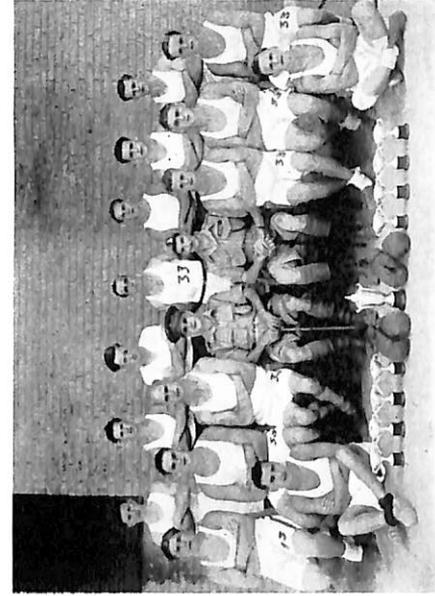
BATTALION RIFLE MEETING.—When we fixed the date of the meeting for 18th and 19th February, we remarked that it couldn't very well rain, but there was bound to be a dust storm—and there was. Shortly after firing started the dust started rising and for long spells the targets were completely invisible at 300 yards. Eventually we adjourned and made frantic preparations to start before the dust started rising the next morning. By doing some firing in the afternoon of the first day, and starting at 06.30 the next day, the whole shoot was finished as planned by 12.30.

The standard of shooting was not very high, but if you miss a figure target by one-eighth inch there is no score. The practices were not easy by any means. What was achieved was the competitive spirit, which was one of the objects of the meeting, and we were also able to pick a team for the Sudan rifle meeting. Unfortunately our best rifle shots, Pte. Dodds ("C" Company) (Score 72), C.Q.M.S. Thomas and C.S.M. Callaby are leaving us for one reason or another for the period of the M.E. rifle meeting, and couldn't be included in our team. We have however our L.M.G. shots, Lt. Johnson and Sgt. Alton included in various teams.

A popular competition was the inter-platoon falling plate knockout which after much pounding from 400 yards to 300 yards was won by the "Admin" Platoon, followed up by 9 Platoon and 7 Platoon. Its traditional counterpart the Officers' v. Sergeants falling plate competition was lost by the officers, and a large wooden spoon now hangs behind the bar of the Officers' Mess.

Other competitions were the fire and movement won by "A" Company team, section competition won by "H.Q." Company after a reshoot, and individual pistol won by C.S.M. Walton also after a reshoot.

At the prize giving, Major Blake took off his P.R.I. beret after producing the cup,

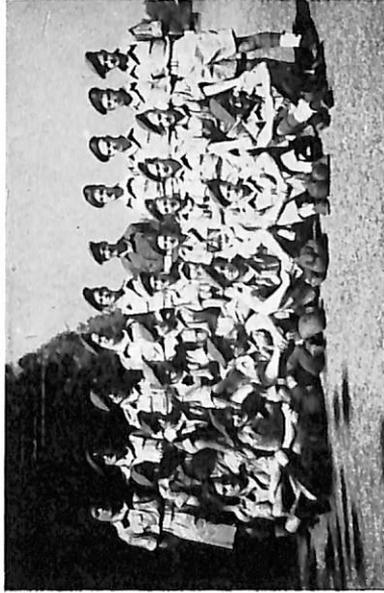


Boxing Team, 1947.

Standing : Sgt. ADAMS, Pte. MOORE, L/Cpl. WOOD, C.S.M. KAY, Pte. HAYWARD, Pte. GALLAGHER, Pte. BRINKLOW.
 Sitting : Pte. GAFFNEY, Pte. TURNBULL, Sgt. ALTON, Capt. HAMILTON, Lt.-Col. WEBB-CARTER, D.S.O., O.B.E., Pte. MESSENGER, L/Cpl. PENN, Pte. McLLHERON.
 Front : Pte. LINFORD, Pte. KELLY.

1st D.W.R. Tug-of-War Team.

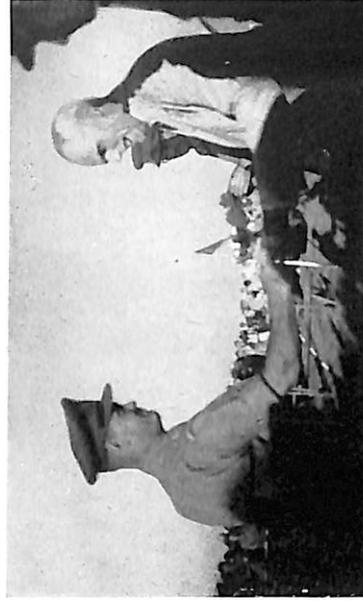
Winners of the Open Tug-of-War, S.D.F. Sports Meeting, 1947.
 Standing : Pte. HANSSON (06), Pte. ERICSSON, Pte. JENKINS, Pte. SMITH, Pte. CHRISTIANSON, L/Cpl. HORDAY.
 Sitting : C.S.M. SMITH, Cpl. MOORE, Capt. GREEN, L/Cpl. WORTHY, Cpl. SMITH.



"A" Company Boxing Team, March, 1947.

Winners of the Inter-Company Cup.

Standing (back row) : Sgt. E. OSCARBY, L/Cpl. R. DRIVER, Ptes. J. BAGE, J. TURNBULL, J. BINNEY, A. FUSCO, J. WILLES, W. HARRISON, J. Cpls. D. BRAYSHAW, H. HEWITT.
 Sitting (centre row) : Ptes. D. T. BERRY, J. CROWDER, J. McLLERON, Cpl. W. ADAMS, L/Cpl. T. COWELL (trainer), Pte. C. COWDRELL, Sgts. P. CHAPMAN, C. CLARK, Pte. R. LEIGH.
 Front row : L/Cpl. W. HUDSON, Ptes. D. BLACKBURN, W. H. FOX, Sgt. A. BATES, Pte. D. BRINKLOW, L/Cpl. E. NORTON.

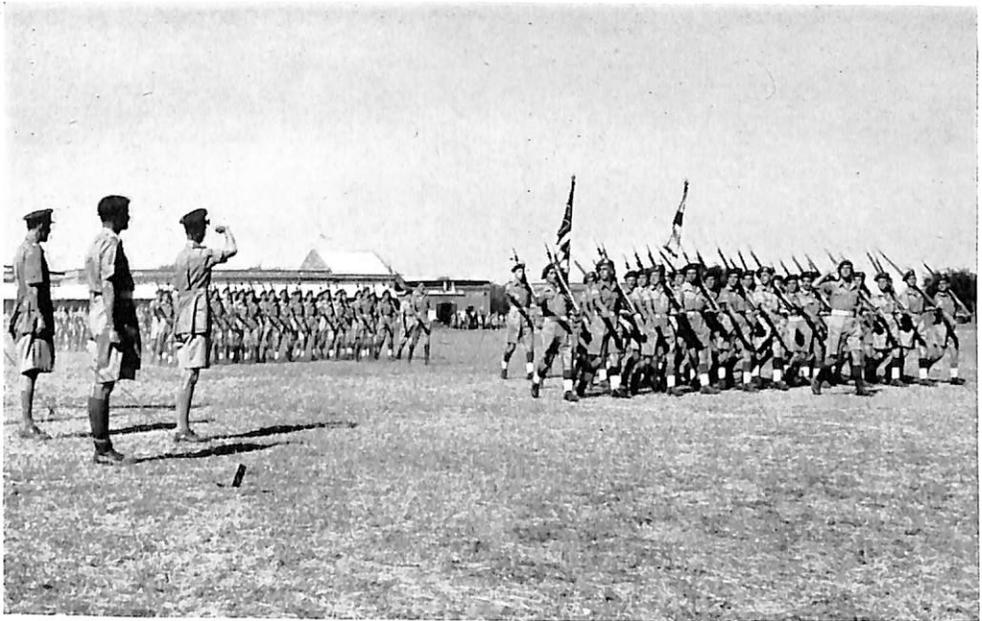
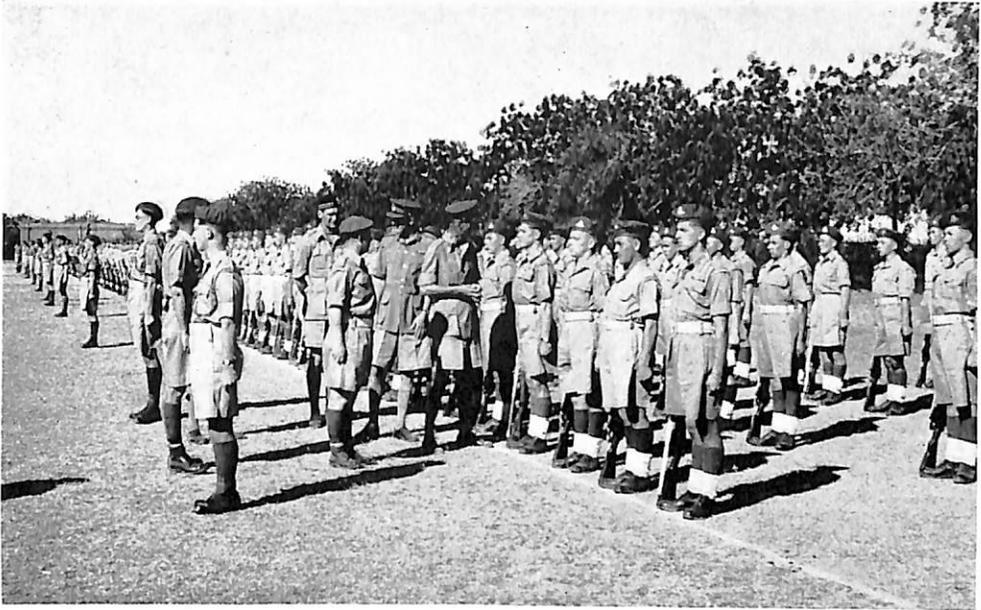


Khartoum Garrison Sports.

Capt. C. N. Green being presented with the Tug-of-War Cup by H.E. The Governor-General Sir Hubert Huddleston, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

1st BATTALION.

Inspection and march past on the occasion of the Visit of General Sir Miles Dempsey, G.O.C.-in-C.
M.E.L.F., on 12th January, 1947.



put on his company commander's beret and took the cup away for "H.Q." Company, who won by 56 points to "C" Company's 42 and with "A" and "D" Company at 33½ and 32½ respectively. Before finishing tribute must be paid to the butt parties who performed a difficult task extremely well.

SUDAN RIFLE MEETING.—We congratulated ourselves, that if points had been given for the Sudan Rifle Meeting, we'd have won the cup, if there'd been a cup. As it was, we did better than any other individual unit in the Sudan.

After a poor start on the first day, on which the only people to do well were Capt. Green who came 4th in the individual rifle competition and Lt. Haley, who scored a "possible" on practice I of the pistol competition, we fared much better on the second. The fire and movement team came up to expectations, and caused consternation in the ranks of other aspirants to the prize money. We won by a clear lead of 12 points. This was followed by extremely good L.M.G. shooting on the part of Lt. Johnson (Score 103), Sgt. Alton (Score 94) and Pte. Bogstrup (Score 72), H.P.'s being 165 and the practices anything but easy. This won the first three places, the next best score being 64. To finish the day Lt. Haley completed the pistol competition and got the second highest score, being beaten by a Sudanese who, we were told, had never fired in his life before. He had beginners' luck or has a great future ahead of him.

We must however record that we didn't do too well in the Sten competition, and can only plead lack of practice, the conditions of shooting only arriving a few days previous to the competition. Just to show there was no ill will whatsoever, though, we proceeded to win the falling plate knock out competition. It was a clear case of being slightly craftier than the other teams. In almost every case, we knocked down the same number of plates as our opponents, but whereas they blazed away all their ammunition, we kept one round per man to count. We were credited with powers approaching witchcraft by the Sudanese, who were baffled by the ease with which we produced four rounds to decide the contest. The final round was decisive however as we knocked down one more plate. Pte. Fiebecker must be commended on some very good shooting in this competition.

The result of the Sudan rifle meeting is that we have two full teams going to the M.E. rifle meeting as well as four individual riflemen, three individual L.M.G., and two pistol shots, the Commanding Officer having gained 8th place. Teams:—Fire and Movement:—Lt. Johnson, Sgt. Alton, Cpl. Clark, L/Cpl. Penn, Ptes. Netherwood, Carter, McCathie and Fiebecker. Falling Plate:—Capt. Isles, Sgt. Hancock, Pte. Handley and Pte. Fiebecker.

ATHLETICS.

BATTALION MEETING.—The Battalion athletic sports were held on the 18th and 19th February. "C" Company won by an easy margin; runners up being "A" Company. Despite the hot weather timings were quite good. The event of the day was the tug-of-war between "C" Company and "H.Q. 'B'" which the latter won after hectic pulling. Sgt. Taylor out-distanced all opponents in the half mile, winning by a clear 50 yards. Pte. Clarke was runner-up in half mile and went on to win the mile on the same day. Pte. Steinberg was outstanding in the short distances, Lt. Johnson being a close second. On the field events, Sgt. Falconner and Sgt. Cartwright distinguished themselves. Prizes were presented by Major General W. D. Stamer, G.O.C. the Sudan.

GARRISON MEETING.—The Garrison Athletic meeting was held on the 24th and 25th February, at North Barracks, Khartoum between the K.S.L.I. and ourselves. There were several open events for other units. The points were very even until the afternoon of the second day, when the K.S.L.I. took the lead and held it, to finish with a seven points lead. We gained the majority of first places but K.S.L.I. won on team totals. Pte. Jensen of the K.S.L.I. was loudly applauded when he threw the discus 117 feet and the shot 36 feet. Despite the fact that Sgt. Taylor had left the Battalion we won the half mile and mile through great efforts on the part of Pte. Clarke. The excellent time of

4 mins. 50 secs. was recorded for the visitors mile, being won by a member of the S.D.F. Once again our tug-of-war team distinguished themselves winning both the Garrison and open competitions. The team was well trained and coached by Capt. (Q.M.) Green. The S.D.F. band played lively music during the afternoon of the second day. H.E. The Governor General Sir Hubert Huddleston, presented the prizes.

FOOTBALL.

Despite the temperature, the Battalion team has had many enjoyable fixtures since our last contribution. Several of the regular players have left on Python or L.I.A.P. but their replacements have more than proved their worth, consequently the team has been a strong one throughout the season.

Sgt. Falconner has been an outstanding captain, and with L/Cpl Clayton who has disheartened many an opposing centre forward with his masterly clearances and Sgt. Hancock at right half, the defence has been a formidable one. The arrival of Cfm. Gerrie brought us a goal-scoring inside left, who has considerably strengthened the forward line. Sgt. James, Pte. Turner, L/Cpl. Hay, Cpl. Marment and L/Cpl. Rennie have all been consistent in their good play. Other members of the XI have been:—Sgt. Taylor, Cfm. Bradley, L/Cpl. White, Pte. Steinburg, Pte. Patrick, Pte. Taylor, Cpl. Fisher, C.Q.M.S. Johnson, Sgt. Bates, Pte. Murray, Cpl. Smith and Cpl. Green.

The following represented the Battalion in all three of the Combined Services XI Morhig Cup games:—Sgt. Falconner, L/Cpl. Clayton, Pte. Turner, Cfm. Gerrie and Sgt. Hancock, L/Cpl. Rennie was reserve goalkeeper. The Garrison Company league matches have created great interest within the Battalion, many keen games having been played; we have high hopes that either "H.Q." or "C" Company will win the Garrison knock-out cup, both teams having reached the semi-final.

Results for the Season's matches are:—1st December—Battalion v. Mitchell Cotts, won 4—0. 3rd December—Battalion v. Transit Camp, won 4—1. 6th December—Battalion v. K.S.L.I., drew 3—3. 10th December—Battalion v Transit Camp, lost 2—1. 11th December—Battalion v. Warwicks, lost 4—0. 13th December—Battalion v. Stack Club, lost 3—2. 29th December—Battalion v. Mitchell Cotts, won 6—0. 31st December—Battalion v. S.D.F. Band, won 3—2. 16th January—Battalion v. R.A.F., drew 0—0. 2nd February—Battalion v. Combined Services, won 4—2. 7th March—Battalion v. K.S.L.I., won 5—0. 14th March—Battalion v. Stack Club, lost 4—2. There were 16 teams in the Garrison company league, which was won by "B" Company, K.S.L.I. Our top team was "H.Q." Company who were fifth, "C" Company were next finishing seventh closely followed by "A" Company, one place lower. "D" Company were twelfth.

HOCKEY.

We arrived in Khartoum very opportunely and were able to enter two teams in the local league. The "A" team was drawn from "A" and H.Q." Companies, and B team from "C" and "D" Companies, and although it seemed a bit ambitious at the time, having lost most of the "old sweats" before the move from Palestine, results have proved that we didn't "overstep the mark."

The only civilian team in the league gave most Army sides a trouncing, and it is interesting to note that the only teams to hold them to a draw were the two DUKES teams. At the end of the league, the A and B teams were respectively second and third. Keeping up the good work, "B" team reached the final of the knock-out cup, and gave a very good account of themselves, losing 2—1 in a very even game. One of the best and most gruelling matches of the season was played in the semi-final, when our two teams met. The score was 6—6 at full time, and after a very hectic extra ten minutes, "B" team managed to scrape the odd goal.

Most of the experienced players who formed the nucleus of these new teams have left, and include, C.S.M. Taylor, Sgt. Fernley, L/Cpl. White, L/Cpl. Tough. As to the teams

as they are now, they certainly maintained the reputation gained by their predecessors, and as a whole may be congratulated for the good standard of hockey shown during the season. Bouquets to Sgt. Bates, centre forward, top scorer in the league, and our stout defence, Capt. Isles and Sgt. Fernley.

Teams are as follows: "A" TEAM.—C.S.M. Taylor, Sgt. Fernley, L/Cpl. White, L/Cpl. Tough, Sgt. Bates, L/Cpl. Driver, Cpl. Kerbyson, Capt. Isles, Ptes. Tusco, Murray, Forbes and Phelan, Lt. Gibbard. "B" TEAM.—Major Grieve, Major Austin, Sgt. Alton, Sgt. Hatton, C.Q.M.S. Jarvies, Ptes. Steinburg, Kelly, and Hodgkins, L/Cpl. Clayton, Lt. Midgely, Pte. McMahan, Cpl. Green, L/Cpl. Brogan.

BOXING.

The Battalion inter-company boxing meeting was held on the 1st, 3rd and 4th March, "A" Company winning the inter-company cup by five points. "D" Company were a very close second. "C" and "H.Q." Companies had fewer entries, although they put up a very good show.

The standard of boxing was high. Companies trained in their own time and reliable assistance was given by S.I. Argent, A.P.T.C. The following were outstanding during the three days of boxing: Pte. Linford ("H.Q." Company), Pte. Messenger ("H.Q." Company), Pte. Brinklow ("A" Company), Pte. Pulfrey ("D" Company). The prizes were presented by Major General W. D. Stamer, C.B.E., D.S.O., Kaid and G.O.C., The Sudan.

The Garrison meeting was held in South Barracks, Khartoum on the 26th March. The 1st Battalion K.S.L.I. and ourselves entered a team of eleven men and there were three invitation bouts which made a total of fourteen fights. We were well fancied to win the silver cup bought by the Governor General, to be presented to the winning team.

Having been defeated in the athletic meeting, we were all out to win the boxing, which we did by eight fights to three. At the interval we were leading three fights to two; one of our best boxers, Pte. Brinklow, having lost on points, and things were not going according to plan. After the interval, we settled down and we only lost one fight out of six. We were much fitter and better trained than the K.S.L.I. and we give full credit to S.I. Argent, A.P.T.C., and Sgt. Alton. The latter also took his place in the Battalion team and knocked out his opponent in the second round.

The following represented the Battalion:—Bantam, Pt. Linford; Feather, Pte. Kelly; Lights, Pte. Brinklow, Pte. Messenger, Pte. McIlheron; Welters, Capt. Hamilton, Sgt. Adams, L/Cpl. Penn; Middles, Pte. Gaffney, Sgt. Alton; Catch. Pte. Turnbull.

The prizes were presented by H.E. the Governor General, Sir Hubert Huddleston.

2nd Battalion

At Meerut. We left Agra at the end of November for Meerut and real stone buildings again. The journey included a number of diversions to enable us to "Flag March" certain cities on the way. One of these, at least, is a perpetual nightmare now to the survivors. We speak of the "road" Aligarh—Bullandshar. Visibility nil, due to dust, unless one looked earthwards when it would no doubt be three feet, down a pot hole. Of the Padre we saw little on this trip, for to be in front of a truck which is on Tow in such conditions is indeed the bottom. The M.T.O. came in two, or was it three, days late, dragging with him the shattered remnants of what were once two three-tonners and a trailer fire pump. The axles of the latter vehicle having become so warm they had melted. Well, that's his story.

Water, beds and barracks were a welcome sight. Luxuries of course, but welcome. The task of settling down went smoothly, as the price of poultry went up, and the good things were gathered together for the coming of Christmas. Having settled in again,

our thoughts were turned towards more peaceable or rather, more "peace-like" activities. For after all "peace in India" is rather enigmatical.

For a long time the absence of the Battalion property, Colours, silver, etc., had been a thorn in our side, and at long last the decision was taken to have it all brought down from Peshawar. In consequence an officer and an escort were sent to Peshawar to arrange the move of this large amount of baggage, with instructions to get it down before Christmas, as it was required to contribute towards the festive season.

As a result of their efforts at overcoming the obstructionism of Indian babus, the Mess silver duly arrived on the 20th December, and the Colours and remaining property at 1 a.m. on Christmas Eve. By dint of putting all subaltern officers on to cleaning silver, we were just able to have everything ready for a large dance that we gave in the Officers' Mess on Christmas Eve. This dance was a great success, and the Colours and silver display contributed largely towards this, for such affairs are either new to the modern generation, who have missed them during the war years, or bring back happy memories of more spacious and gracious days to the older generation.

Christmas in the Battalion, needless to say, went with its usual swing, helped this year with the pleasant grant of four days' holiday over the period. Amongst other varied and surprising activities was the annual officers and sergeants match. It couldn't be called a football match, for if the mind is taken away from football and the imagination is allowed free rein to run riot over every conceivable and inconceivable method of entertainment and foolish activity, then the reader may have some idea of the spectacle presented that day.

The spectators were relieved from the normal tedium of a soccer match by such diversions as barbed wire entanglements, marriage bombs, a tonga race, not to mention a pitched battle in the middle of the field on I.S. lines. The Signal Officer, not to be outdone, provided the high light of the day; for, having come as a spectator armed with marriage bombs, and great lengths of instantaneous fuse wrapped round his waist he proceeded to blow up all the marriage bombs, all the fuse, and himself at one and the same time. Most diverting, and an interesting phenomenon. Of such was our Christmas.

Having put the silver back into use again, and in order to re-introduce the Colours to the Battalion, a full ceremonial parade was staged on New Year's Day. One of our difficulties was the fact that we had no Band or Drums, but the day was saved by the 2nd Punjab Regimental Centre, who loaned us their Band for the ceremony and its rehearsals.

The Battalion was under the command of the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. F. R. Armitage, and was drawn up in line to receive the Brigade Commander—Brigadier K. Bayley, C.B.E., who subsequently inspected the ranks, addressed the Battalion, and took the salute at the march past in column. The parade, again something new to every one after so many years of war, made a deep impression on the spectators, who numbered about one thousand on the saluting base, and excited a great deal of favourable comment amongst them. During his address, Brigadier Bayley made the following remarks:—

"You are today welcoming back your Colours, which have been laid up for safe custody during the recent war. You have what I believe is the unique distinction of carrying four Colours. It is appropriate that you should be welcoming them back in India, as they were given to you for distinguished service in India.

"In the past, the Colours were carried on the field of battle. It was a point of honour that the Colours of a battalion should never be lost. They were defended with men's lives. It is one of the things on which the British race prides itself—that it is seldom that any of their Colours have been lost.

"Today, as in the past, the Colours are the visible sign of the honour of the Battalion. Today the parade is unusual, because you have present officers and men who have helped to protect, and added to, the honour of your Colours in battle.

"In peace, as in war, you must ensure that your Colours are never disgraced. You must make certain that your standard is at all times as high, as those who protected your

Colours in war would expect. I will give you one example. You may at any time be called upon to carry out a sudden move on foot or in M.T. You must be certain that that move is carried out to time, and at the end every man and every vehicle is in its place.

"I wish you and your Colours good luck, today and for the future."

The return of all our possessions is most satisfying, though, as is always the case with the passing of time, the numbers of people who know their history and have seen them before is a mere handful. All ranks have had an opportunity to see the Colours and silver in the Mess, and their peculiar histories have been told by Lt.-Col. Armitage.

Consequent to the unearthing of the Regimental trophies it was decided that they should all be competed for, before the advent of the hot weather. This has meant squeezing twelve months' competitive activity into four months. In addition to our own contests there are a number of Brigade events which have also helped to keep up a very strong healthy rivalry.

Once the competitions were announced, the Battalion went furiously into practice. It was quite an experience to walk round barracks either in the morning or after parades. One found small groups of men indulging in impromptu cricket games and football matches; or fierce-eyed sgt-majors drilling squads, Companies firing on the ranges, day after day, and enlightened enthusiasts religiously doing their three or four miles every evening.

Up to date the soccer shield has been won by "A" Company, the cricket shield by Admn. Company, the cross-country shield by "D" Company, the Col. Cox inter-company drill shield by "D" Company, the platoon drill shield by 11 Platoon of "D" Company and the forced march by "D" Company.

The small arms two-day meeting was a great success, ably organised by Capt. Driver. Honours went to Capt. Lee, who won the Officers v. Sergeants challenge cup and the Whittingham Medal as champion shot. The interest was keen and speculation ran high, although, to be honest, the shooting was poor generally. The events were decided by shooting rifle, bren, sten and pistol, the practices being the usual ones of application, snap, rapid, falling plates, all at 300 yards, whilst the sten and pistol were fired at figure 5 targets at 30 yards. Rivalry was maintained throughout the two days, because the outcome, as far as the Company results were concerned, was in the balance right up to the last practice.

Brigade have kept us busy with a forced march, and a cross-country run. We have been successful in neither, but hope to regain our laurels in the competitions to come. We were very sorry to say goodbye to the Gen. Symes soccer challenge cup which we had kept for two years. It passed to 208 Fd. Regt. in January whilst the Battalion took second place. Details of the small arms meeting and sporting events appear elsewhere in these notes.

The big news at the moment is the speculation as to the future of the Battalion. Rather disturbing news was received some weeks ago, to the effect that 2/D.W.R. were to be placed at War Office Disposal in May and June, 1947. What this means one can only guess, but it is fairly definite that we shall be leaving India about that time. Daily, definite news has been expected as to what the Battalion is going to do, but so far nothing has been received. No doubt by the time these notes are read, we shall all know our future.

Lt.-Col. Armitage is at the moment in England on leave, and it is hoped that he may be able to become completely *au fait* with all the facts. His place has been taken by Major G. T. Chadwick, the 2nd i/c, to whom a very warm welcome is extended.

OFFICERS' MESS.

Since our last notes, the Mess has taken on an almost pre-war appearance, with the return from store in Peshawar of the silver and Colours.

As we went to press in November we were engaged on internal security duties, but in spite of communal strife in various parts of India, we have been fortunate since, and have been left to put our house in order.

After a great deal of hard work, on the part of Capt. Bennett, the Colours and Mess silver reached Meerut just before Christmas. Various subalterns showed themselves to be apt in the art of cleaning silver, and coupled with the fact that everything had been beautifully packed, by Christmas Eve it looked as though it had never left the Mess to languish in store for five years.

In general the Colours and silver are in good condition, and damage is comparatively small. The other property has however suffered considerable damage in the way of broken china, picture glasses and so forth. In addition, quite a number of things, which it is felt should have been there appear to be missing. Amongst these latter are the Colour belts for the Honorary Colours, which are nowhere to be found. We were very fortunate to be able to borrow a pair from another regiment for our New Year's Day ceremonial parade. It is very pleasant to have all our old possessions with us again and they will go a long way towards raising interest in the Regiment and in Regimental affairs.

The Christmas festivities got off to a good start, with our supper dance in the Mess on Christmas Eve. It was an excellent party; we had sixty guests in addition to thirty odd Mess members; The Mess looked lovely, arrayed with the silver and Colours, which created great interest not only amongst our guests, but amongst the officers themselves, Col. Armitage being the only officer even to have seen the silver before. Since then he has lectured the whole Battalion on the history of the silver. Parties during Christmas week were many and varied, and continued up to New Year's Eve with a very good dance in the club.

Throughout the period of festivities, we were practising for our ceremonial parade, held on New Year's Day, to celebrate the return of the Colours to the Battalion. It was a first class parade, in true "Dukes" style, and crested a great impression in the station. After the parade we held an "At Home" in the Mess, in the shape of a pre-lunch cocktail party; once again the Mess was filled with guests, and we were able to welcome the new Sub-Area Commander.

Regular dinner nights have started again, and in late February we held a Regimental guest night to bid farewell to the Brigade Commander Brig. K. Bayley. He will be a sad loss to the Brigade, when he leaves for England, home and beauty; although from all accounts, under present conditions this is a sad misnomer.

These last three months have been busy ones; individual training has been the order of the day, and with the return of all our trophies, most of the inter-company athletic competitions have now been played off.

The Battalion rifle meeting was a great success; we are proud to record that the Whittingham Medal went to Capt. Lee, the officers and sergeants challenge cup returned to the Mess, and by dint of sheer skill we left the sergeants standing in the officers and sergeants falling plates shoot. We bade a fond farewell to the wooden spoon, for keeps, we hope.

We welcome Major Chadwick of K.O.Y.L.I. who has joined us as 2nd i/c., Capt. Teed returned from leave in December and Capts. Buckley and Marshall, Lieut. Tree and 2nd/Lts. Pugh and Kenyon have all recently joined us. Good luck to them.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Our last notes left us with our thoughts on the approaching Xmas, the Mess Committee knowing that, though most members' thoughts were far away West, theirs was the task of bringing all thoughts, and keeping them there, on the coming festive season. Time was to show how well and truly they discharged their task.

The arrival of the stored Battalion kit from Peshawar saw everyone gazing at stoutly secured boxes wondering whether their contents, as had been rumoured, were only white ants. Rumour was as ever a lying jade and all our kit was intact, including all the photographs of Havercake Lads with "quif's" and handlebar moustaches.

R.S.M. Wood, on loan to us from the War Office, did a fine job of "indignation" and recognition and soon had all the silver proudly displayed. Our Xmas dance carried old members' minds back to the last Colour Troop in Nowshera—with this difference. There the Colours were borne proudly through the ranks, and at the dance the dancers threaded their way through groups of admiring sightseers, gazing in wonder at two sets and masses of silver.

Shortly afterwards we had to move into temporary Mess Quarters while the M.E.S. did their well-known job of decorating. This has proved a major operation, and as yet our permanent building resembles nothing more than a "blitzed site." Our temporary quarters are in the model room, and though the sand model pits are a little awkward to negotiate at about 2300 hrs., it's hardly fair to compare our home with the battle school.

We were pleased to welcome C.S.M.'s Quirk and Dawson and C.Q.M.S. Shearer back to the fold, but not so pleased to repay our loan of R.S.M. Wood back to Blighty. O.R.Q.M.S. Hall also paid us a fleeting visit from Jhansi to clear up all our knotty problems.

We had a visit from Captain Green whom many old members will recall from their copy of the last Mess photograph taken in Delhi. Our cricket team is our silent pride, having won each match played by a handsome margin. In one of these games 10 bowlers were tried and not found wanting.

We do not say much about our football against the officers at Xmas because they overshadowed our efforts with their liberal use of explosives, barbed wire and "Tongas." Their arrival "En Chariot" singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" was a most moving sight. However (I think) the final score was:—sergeants—2 tries, 300 bruises. officers:—1 try, heavy casualties. Thus giving us a fine victory.

It seemed that this defeat rankled in the officers' breasts, because in the Battalion S.A. meeting, officers versus sergeants falling plates, their plates fell to a neat word of command from Major Upjohn. Anyhow, that's our story and we're sticking to it. Sgt. Harris, with a glorious finish captured the wooden spoon, and this in spite of stern opposition from all sides of the Mess. We say farewell to Sgt. Thorne and wish him well in his civilian paradise, and congratulate Sgts. Clarke and Stott on their promotion to Sergeant.

COMPANY NOTES.

"H.Q." COMPANY. We left Agra with the rest of the Battalion about the end of November, and made the last stage of the run to Meerut, doing a number of flag marches through various towns en route. Just as well it was the last stage too. What a road! It's been aptly christened "The worst journey in the world." We arrived back with few casualties however, and spent the next two weeks settling back into barracks, and gorging ourselves with cinema shows and all the other luxuries of a cantonment.

Christmas was not altogether forgotten of course, and in preparation for the great day the Sergeant-Major opened a small poultry farm of five turkeys and five ducks, behind a bit of wire G.S. The Company cookhouse provided the raw materials for the fattening, which, to judge by results, must contain a great deal more of the good things of this world than we have thought hereto. Or maybe the C.S.M. has some secret preparation of his own. He only smiles knowingly when we mention it.

The day went off as Christmas should. The usual riot of feasts and parties, and officers running with the beer. The minds of all, we think, were blurred returns to previous Christmasses, and a wonder as to where we would be for the next.

About this time Captain Driver came up from Battalion "H.Q." to take over the Company and let Captain Lee go happily back to his bits of wire. He's settling down all-right, and again we find we have a commander who is a lover of boats.

With the New Year came the usual flood of competitions. In greater spate than ever this time because of the return of the Regimental trophies. Soccer was first. We had our stalwarts in the Battalion team again, and from nowhere we produced a remarkable

team from the Company employed, who finished well up in the platoon competition. The remainder came all in a rush. Cricket, cross-country, drill, billiards, forced march, small arms meeting. Our high lights being third place in the drill competition, the winning of the company musketry shield, the provision of one platoon (the Signals) in the winning company of the forced march competition, and we think, a very good chance for the billiards cup.

Unfortunately we did not parade as a company for the Colour Parade on 1st January. We did have a part though, most of the Company being used to make the four rifle companies up to strength.

After Jhansi training has seemed rather on the small side. The Mortars have had the best of it. A week with Rifle Companies under canvas a few miles away, and also a shoot on their own at Dehra Dun, the Signals providing a detachment on both occasions. Nor must we forget the occasion when the Signals Officer gave us a running commentary on a soccer match, when the Battalion played the R.A. at Dehra Dun.

Demob. has not taken its usual toll these four months. It looks like starting now and there are going to be a host of fond farewells in the next few months.

We remember that last year at this time we were looking forward to a spell in the Hills. There seems to be no reason why it shouldn't happen again, so now we'll concentrate on that.

"ADM." COMPANY. The return from Agra to Meerut was the M.T. Platoon's nightmare. A number of "Flag" marches through towns and out of the way villages were carried out, and the routes to and from these places had to be seen to be believed. Dust lay like snow and potholes just could not be avoided, to get out of the way of one you went via another two. The drivers will long remember such treacherous roads and the ensuing necessary maintenance.

Xmas brought many things. An excellent Xmas dinner was followed by a "one man" show given by Pte. McCabe, who kept us all amused for some considerable time, at the end of which an adjournment for resting was called.

The 28th December brought our company party, which was held in the canteen. The Adjutant and R.S.M. were able to be present and the Commanding Officer paid us a visit during the dinner. New talent came forward this time in the humorous line, in the form of the Q.M. and C.S.M. Rowley, and Captain Winchester sank from Chopin to "Deep in the heart of Texas" so that the "Adm. Company choir" at that time unrehearsed, could prove their ability with piano accompaniment.

For the New Year's Day Colour Parade the Company was split and sent to reinforce the Rifle Companies; few will forget their first sight of the Battalion Colours.

In the inter-company competitions our shining light was the cricket. We got through to the final, and by defeating "B" Company won the shield, and each man in the team a medal. Our chances in the billiards competition are very favourable, and we hope to add that to our winnings.

Our Company Commander, Captain Henshall and C.Q.M.S. Templeman are leaving us shortly. We welcome as their successors Captain Marshall and Sergeant Harrison. Sgt. Blower, Cpl. Brummitt, Ptes. Bonner, Welburn and Isaacs will be following them on the homeward journey; we wish them all success in civilian life.

"A" COMPANY. Having worked hard enough in two months on field training and internal defence duties to earn our pay for the next year, we returned to Meerut at the tail end of October for what we hoped would be a well-earned rest. Fate, as usual, willed otherwise, for on our arrival we found our barrack room already half filled with a new draft eagerly waiting to be trained. Amongst these we found six giant Danes who have since spent more time explaining that they are not part of Lease—Lend, than they have in learning English. Consequently C.S.M. Outen has been driven almost to breaking point, attempting to translate his already complex company detail to them in Urdu, which appears to be our only common language.

Long awaited Christmas came at last however and our troubles were forgotten. We had an excellent dinner in a gaily decorated dining hall on tables already groaning under the weight of bottles of beer—the elixir of life. We rounded off Xmas week with our own party where, after satisfying the inner man, our talent came to the fore—Dutch courage helping considerably. The best turn of the evening was a perfect impersonation of our provost staff by four of their regular victims who, for their own safety, shall be nameless.

It was shortly after Xmas that we said goodbye to Major Stafford, who left us to return to the land of his childhood. We were very sorry to see him go even though he had done his best to make us all sign on! Also we lost the old man of the Company, Sgt. Kidger—Preston—the last of our “Chindit Wallahs.” We wish them and the host of others who have left us recently, the very best of luck.

The end of January saw us on our way to Mawana for a week's field training—more hard work but very enjoyable. Mother Nature stepped in at the end of the week in the form of a cloud burst, curtailing our training and turning our camp into a first class boating lake. A hasty signal back to “Sunray” for permission to withdraw, was followed by a ten mile organised wade back to the nearest possible embussing point. Until our kit arrived three days later we looked more like a fancy dress carnival than a company on parade.

We hit the high spots in football this season. No. 1 Platoon started it off by winning the Norman Wright inter-platoon trophy, and then the Company team added to our success by beating “C” Company in the inter-company final—a really hard game won by two goals in the last five minutes of extra time. In the inter-company cross-country we received second place, with Lt. Wetherill as an individual, first.

“B” COMPANY—The winter months have passed all too quickly, and now that summer is on its way we can look back on our work and play and see that the cool weather has not been wasted. Variety is the spice of life, they say, and for once the spices of the East have not left an unpleasant taste in our mouths. Incidentally, we have seen one of the wonders of India in the Taj Mahal, and few of us will forget the beauty and grandeur, quite unsurpassed by anything else in India.

Once more back in Meerut, we concentrated on our drill and turn-out, and in early January we were selected to be escort company to the Battalion Colours, which had just been brought down from Peshawar. The parade was simple and very effective, and was ample reward for the hard work put into practices and the parade itself.

The last day of January saw “B” Company once more on its feet, as we marched out to our “1946” Camp at Sailpur. For some of us this was familiar country but it did not prevent us from doing useful training work. Familiar also was the storm which arrived the next Friday and, like last year, we were flooded out. A sharp march to Mawana ended that period of training as we were met by M.T., and brought home muddier and wiser men.

Before going on with our sporting activities, mention must be made of our Christmas festivities. We started off well by having the best decorated dining hall, for which the Commanding Officer presented us with the prize. Following the age old tradition, the officers served up the Christmas dinner, and no one complained if the odd thumb got in with the Christmas pudding.

Football continues to be our main sport, and hockey and cricket are at last coming more into their own, though cross-country is hardly popular. The best summary of our sports is to say that they are improving all round, but as yet lack that extra finishing power which produces the winners. We are grateful to our star players for the work they put in, and especially to Pte. Taylor whose sportsmanship and ability, are an example to all.

We now come to the sadder part of our notes, where we say good-bye to all those who are going or who have gone home. Amongst them are the two ex-batmen Pts. Batty and Lunt. We are sorry to lose them, also C.S.M. Lowe who so ably filled in the gaps between

our losing C.S.M. Rowley and gaining C.S.M. Dawson. To compensate for our losses, we welcome to the Company all new drafts, and trust they will settle down and enjoy life with us, providing that fresh blood which all companies require from time to time in order to keep on top. From "C" Company we have our new company commander in Captain Richmond who has taken over in the temporary absence of Major Emmett who, we hear, is enjoying his L.I.L.O.P., in spite of the bitter weather. Our officers now consist of Lt. Tree from the Ghurka Rifles, Lt. Shaw and 2nd Lts. Dunning, Scott and Haswell.

Although the last three months have by no means been unsuccessful, we look forward to gathering in the fruits of our past work in the competitions that are being held in the near future. These include cross-country, forced march, platoon and company drill and a shooting competition. With this prospect of hard work and play ahead of us we remember the Company motto ("Nothing is impossible, some things are a little more difficult than others"), and so conclude.

"C" COMPANY.—After touring through the dusty Indian countryside on I.S. duties, we returned once more to our Meerut station. Kit men and transport were seen busily shifting from building to building for a few days, but in a very short space of time we were settled, and people were even asking whether our move had really taken place or whether we dreamt it.

Our numbers were increased now owing to a new draft arriving from England, and Lt. Wade who had been on L.I.A.P. These welcome people were soon followed by others, and our numbers swelled by a bit more. Part of the second intake were Danes, this Company being fortunate in having English-speaking ones.

Christmas was soon upon us, and after a secret meeting, Lt. Bell our second-in-command, was seen rushing about with sheaves of paper under his arm, and the canteen babu close on his trail organising what was to be a successful party. Impersonations at this party were of a very high standard, Pte. Dobson proving to have a very long memory and an ability for character acting, whilst Pte. Capes is to be congratulated on his party spirit. The Company Commander and second-in-command as Chelsea pensioners displayed the arts of parade drill. During the evening the Commanding Officer, Adjutant and R.S.M. paid us a visit which unfortunately was curtailed, owing to their having so many other invitations.

Inter-platoon competitions were started soon after this, the first being platoon drill. 8 Platoon won this, with the others very close behind. They also took the soccer shield, with 7th Platoon second, and some exciting early mornings' soccer as a memory.

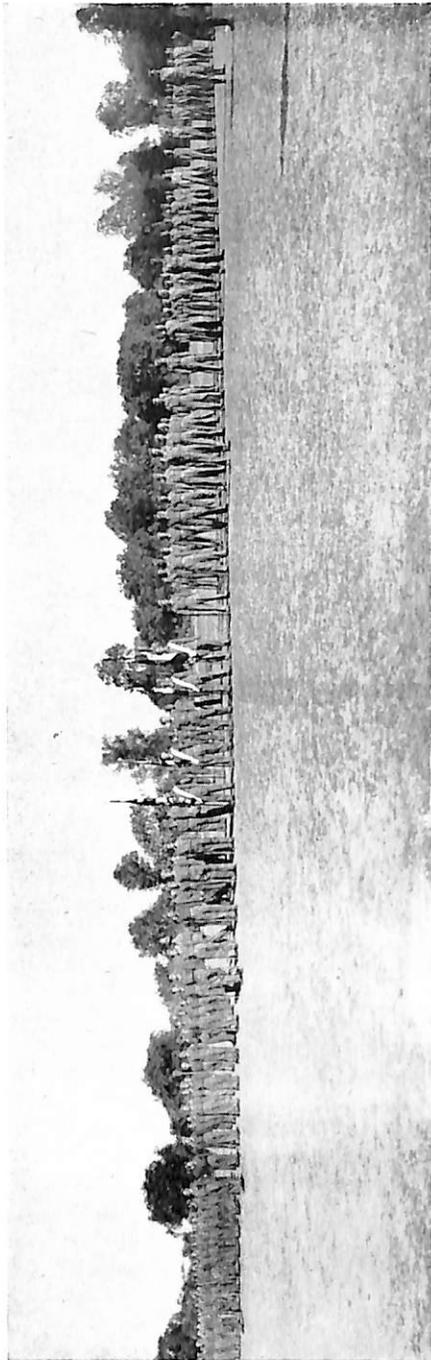
New Year's Day saw the arrival of the long awaited Battalion Colour Parade. The unfurled Colours were a new sight to the majority of people and helped to increase the standard of all drilling.

Before the hot weather arrived, a camp at Mawana was to be held. We were to go with "D" Company for ten days in January. Two days were spent marching out, and after a day's settling in, company training started in earnest. Cpl. Clarke and many others were daily to be seen with a mass of equipment frantically sending messages over 38 sets, whilst Pte. Barker learnt that a company runner's job is not all bicycles and confidential letters. The march back was also a two day effort, except for those "heroes" who volunteered to cover the distance in one. No medals were awarded for this, as a cup of "char" was found to be more satisfactory.

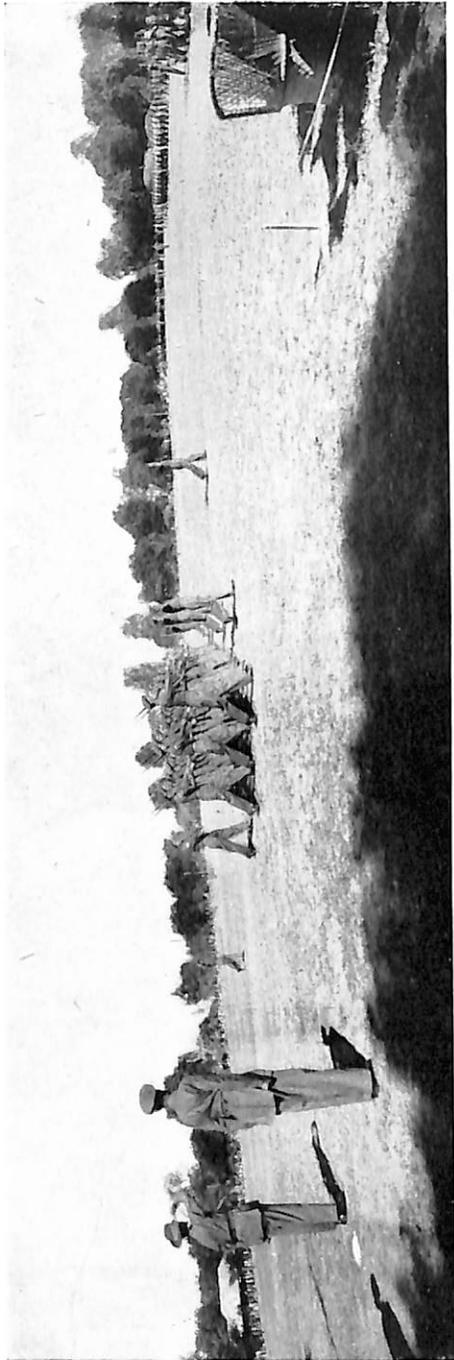
Cricket is being played with great enthusiasm and with a competition in full swing, Company H.Q. have managed to reach the finals with 9th Platoon as their opponents.

L.I.A.P. has claimed many sergeants and corporals who seem to have picked a chilly period at home but who no doubt will overcome this difficulty and enjoy their leave. We welcome to this Company, Captain Buckley, 2nd Lts. Pugh and Hurst, C.S.M. Quirk, C.Q.M.S. Lowe and the two new drafts. Pte. Mason has now left us for a home posting to the Depot, we wish him luck in his new job.

2nd BATTALION.
Colour Parade, Meerut, 1st January, 1947.

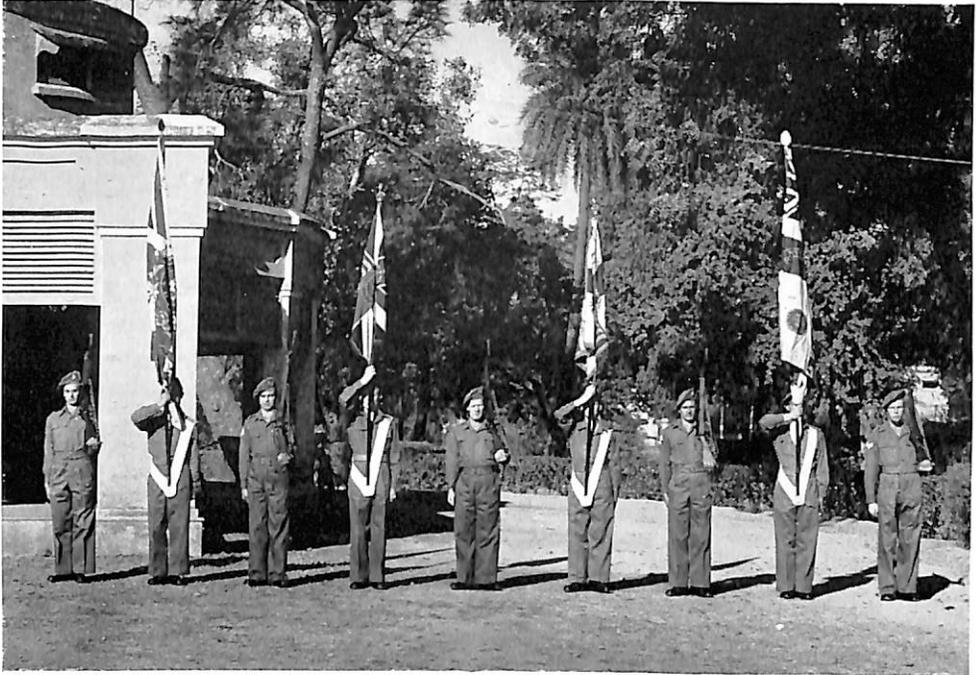


The Inspection in progress.

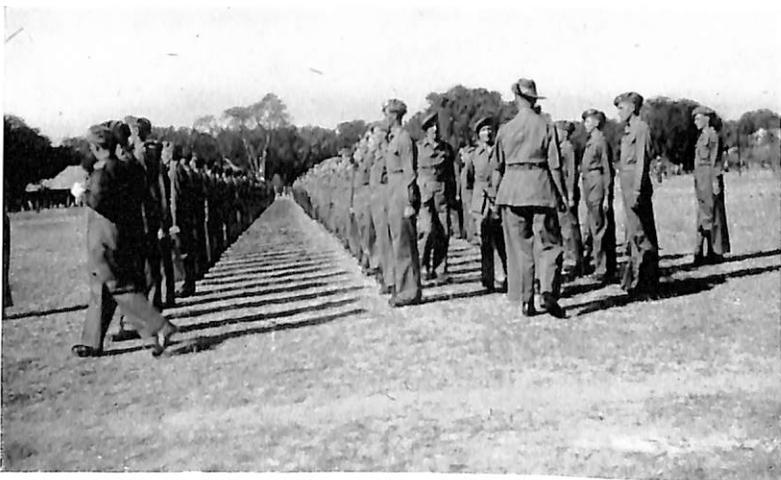


The March Past.

2nd BATTALION.
Colour Parade, Meerut, 1st January, 1947.



Colour Party and Escort.



Conclusion of the Brigadier's Inspection.

"D" COMPANY.—Since our return to Meerut in November, we have had but little time for leisure. Preparations for Christmas were put in hand immediately, and culminated in a grand supper party. "Landlord" Cpl. Nasskau filled the flowing bowl with rum punch to such good effect, that the evening developed into a "Danish" sing-song, well led by Danes and Englishmen alike. The after effects helped us over the couple of days to Christmas, when again we were "waited upon," by our officers and sergeant waiters, who carried out their duties in a dignified manner.

Recovering from our "debauch" we hid our faces at camp for a fortnight, and a large party of volunteers marched the twenty-six mile return journey, on ever increasing blisters, in a few hours. This rather astonishing effort was occasioned by a rumour started by some malicious mind, that "The Outlaw" was showing at the local cinema—needless to say we were disappointed, but if only we could find the "Outlaw" who started the rumour, we might be able to get some recompense for the ordeal.

The spirit prevailing however, after these and other happenings, enabled us to burst into our training with such good effect that upon the onset of the Battalion competitions "Dog Company" became "Top Dog Company." We carried off the cross-country run in a most decisive manner, to repay Lts. White and Widdas for their training of us, and then swept off the forced march, the Colonel Cox company drill—thus breaking C.S.M. Corke's duck in competitions—and followed on to first, second and third places in the platoon drill. Unfortunately we sat back after this impressive display and were awakened with a rude shock to find that we had been well beaten at musketry, and almost had to fix bayonets to down our targets. Once again we are awake and intend carrying on in the winning vein for the remainder of the competitions.

We have welcomed 2nd Lts. Crowther and Kenyon, and C.Q.M.S. Shearer and family—Master Shearer is now in the Company, following in his father's footsteps. We reluctantly said farewell to our company clerk, L/Cpl. Rowbrey and his co-grouper Pte. Mumford. May old and new have all success.

CRICKET

Over the cold weather period cricket has been plentiful. Our opponents have not varied enormously as all games have been local and therefore we have had to play the same teams several times.

Interest in the game, apart from that shown by the players themselves, at the outset was very slight, but during the season has grown considerably, until at the last few matches the pavilion could quite easily be mistaken for the "Dukes" canteen, judging by the number of supporters present.

The season started with practice games going in the evenings and net practice as a subsidiary. Soon people were sorted out and the team formed ready to play its first match.

The Wheler Club were our first opponents in a Sunday match, we batting first scoring 103 and they beating us by one wicket and 38 runs. Since then we have played them four more times making a total of three wins to us and two losses. Our other opponents have been the R.A.P.C., A.O.B.T. and C.M.A., each giving about four games. To finish the season an inter-company knock-out cricket competition was run, which Adm. Company won.

We congratulate Captain Stallibrass, Lt. Thornton, Lt. Bell, R.S.M. Parr, C.Q.M.S. Cardus, Sgt. Hallsworth, Sgt. Clarke, Cpl. Jackson and Cpl. Yuill on receiving their Battalion cricket colours.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

The winter soccer programme was very popular and quite successful. We started off with a platoon competition which produced some very good games, and unearthed a considerable amount of hidden talent. The final was between No. 5 Platoon ("B"

Company) and No. 1 Platoon ("A" Company), the latter winning by four goals to two. After the match, the Norman Wright platoon trophy was presented by Mrs. Upjohn.

Following the platoon competition came the company one, and it was rather naturally played in a more serious mood. The first round produced a surprise when "A" Company beat H.Q. Company 6-0, and following this win they went on into the final to play "C" Company winning by two goals to nil. Both goals were scored in the last five minutes of extra time. Mrs. Upjohn presented the inter-company shield, and "A" Company finished up winners of both competitions—a well deserved victory.

As opponents in the Brigade competition, for the "General Symes" challenge cup, we had 208 Field Regiment R.A., 1st King's and 1st Bedfs. and Herts. Playing each unit twice we obtained full points from matches with other battalions, but lost twice to the Gunners by the odd goal, the scores being 5-4 and 2-1. We were unfortunate not to win the competition this year, as we should then have won it three times in succession. However, we have some consolation in the runners-up cup. An interesting point about our away game with the Gunners was that we broadcast the match from Dehra Dun back to Meerut.

The battle royal between the officers and sergeants on Christmas Day was enlivened with all manner of fancy dress, tongas, explosives, smoke screens and barbed wire entanglements. The officers claim a victory of 79 goals to 56, but as the sergeants' official goal consisted of two cricket stumps set six inches apart and defended by the R.S.M., the result can hardly be very accurate.

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

EPILOGUE.

On 16th January, 1947, there arrived at R.H.Q. a very unwelcome but expected message from G.H.Q. (1) to the effect that disbandment of the Regiment would be made complete by 28th February, 1947. Operation "Epilogue" was put into effect and, by the scheduled date, 146th R.A.C. (D.W.R.) were no more. So ended an existence of nearly seven years, five and a half of which had been spent in India and the Far East.

In 1940 we had come into being as the 9th Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The Boche was looking towards the White Cliffs with whetted lips of anticipation. We were one of the units hurriedly formed at that time and almost all our ranks were "civilians in uniform." We trained as Infantry with the unbounded enthusiasm that prevailed at that time, proud of our Regiment, and the tradition that was passed on to us.

In 1941 we were converted to armour during the rapid expanse of the R.A.C., and in August we sailed for India to complete our R.A.C. training there. Although soon we became "tank men" and were given the name of 146th R.A.C., our chief loyalty was to the "Dukes"—"once a Duke, always a Duke" they say with truth indeed, back in Halifax.

Later that year we moved up into Bengal with the promise of action in Burma, but we were not required until early in 1943 when an experimental attack, involving one of our squadrons, was made on the beaches at Donbaik. We had no success. Bitter lessons were learnt and we lost a complete troop of Valentines with its gallant crews.

In May 1943, Lt. -Col. (Dick) Agnew and Major (Jock) Hetherington, his second-in-command, arrived from U.K. to take over from Lt.-Col. (Pat) Woods.

Again in 1944, chances of an action seemed imminent but again the Infantry took the major part in this rather "mysterious war in the jungle." However, at the end of 1944, we went out via Chittagong to the Arakan with 50 Indian Tank Brigade (146th R.A.C. (D.W.R.)), 19th Lancers and 45th Cavalry). Only one squadron got a real job of work to do and moved south with 26th Indian Division, finally reaching "RAMREE" Island. A good lot of work was done and our ancient Lee/Grant tanks did most surprising things.

We eventually came back to India in the early part of 1945 and settled in Ahmednagar. In May/June 1945 we experienced a particularly sad period—when we said goodbye to the original "Dukes" who were now being repatriated. We were quickly made up with younger stuff from home, and they showed a sincere keenness to emulate their predecessors and carry on the old Regimental spirit. Lt.-Col. Agnew left us then and our second-in-command, Hetherington, became commanding officer. We then secured a second-in-command from the R.A.C. Depot, Poona, one (Jimmy) Cruikshank (R.T.R.) from Middle East. We were equipped with new Sherman tanks and seemed set for the big offensive against the Jap, but the atomic bomb floored our hopes. Speculation was rife as to our future, but in November, 1945, without warning we were hurriedly equipped with Fox armoured cars and warned for embarkation to the Netherlands East Indies with our old friends 26th Indian Division. One squadron had gone off in advance when one of G.H.Q.'s missives cancelled the move of the main body. We were to be kept for I.D. duties in India; a very depressing outlook. I don't think anything could kill this spirit we had and we took the blow philosophically enough.

"A" Squadron did a grand job of work in Sumatra and remained there over a year. Early in 1946, the rest of us were rushed to Bombay to help overcome the R.I.N. mutiny and civil disturbances there. In July, "B" Squadron were sent off to Agra and had a busy job for the next six months in quelling riots in that part of India. At this time, Major Cruikshank went to Staff College and then "evergreen" Major (Ken) Robson became second-in-command. He came out with the original "Dukes" in 1941.

For a short period, from January 1947, the Regiment was re-united in Poona—only for eventual disbandment. The men went in three drafts to the three remaining R.A.C. units in India; those with little service to do, to 25th Dragoons in Calcutta, a few N.C.O.'s and specialists to 43rd R.T.R. in Agra, and the bulk of us to 7th R.T.R. (newly out from home) in Sialkot. Officers went to these units and to M.E.F.

Lt.-Col. J. P. Hetherington was given command of 25th Dragoons and Major Johnstone, second-in-command, was posted to M.E.F. "Chirby" Layton, our Q.M., whose name is a byword in the 12th Lancers, has become D.A.A.Q.M.G., Karachi.

Our disbandment was inevitable, but we were lucky in being allowed to live as long as we did, being the last numbered R.A.C. unit in the British Army. We were justly proud of our relation to the "Dukes"—we were referred to by all, large and small, as "The Dukes" and always in an affectionate way. Many people failed to see what "Dukes" were doing with tanks and armoured cars instead of rifles, but the connection was there as we explained, and it was the means of building up that great Regimental spirit for which we were famous and which was more than a match for most.

"VIRTUTIS FORTUNA COMES."

No. 33 P.T.C., D.W.R.

OFFICERS' MESS.

Since our last notes we have had a little snow in Halifax; fortunately the rapid thaw did not affect us owing to our strategic position.

As the P. T. C. is acting as a base for all officers coming home on leave, a large number have visited us looking bronzed and in rude health and enquiring for ration cards and leave passes; amongst them we were glad to welcome Majors Lane and Foster, who did not seem to wish to stay with us to enjoy the delights of Halifax.

Our first honorary members' dinner took place on Tuesday, March 25th, when we were pleased to welcome a number of ex-officers of the Regiment and several friends of the "Dukes" living in Halifax.

We were very sorry to lose Captain O'Sullivan in March, especially as he has had to return to hospital to have his injured arm attended to. He is to be demobilized in June, and has celebrated this in advance by becoming engaged. Captain Breare, finding the

pen distasteful, has again taken over the sword, and has been appointed Adjutant ; he has also succumbed, and is to be married in June. Captain Stafford, late of the 2nd Battalion, has joined us and is now second-in-command of Training Company. Captain le Messurier has been living with us for the past six weeks ; he has been appointed adjutant of the 7th Battalion (T.A.) which is to be commanded by Lt.-Col. S. R. Hoyle, M.C.

Ex-C.S.M. R. L. Bye, late of the 2nd Battalion, is now mess caterer, and those who have served with the Battalion will know how lucky we are to have secured his services.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last issue of *THE IRON DUKE* we have had a number of arrivals and departures. Of the former we were pleased to welcome old friends in R.S.M. Boon, Sgt. Williams, C.Q.M.S. Short and C.S.M. Western, and have said good-bye on his departure to civilian life to C.Q.M.S. Smith and various members who came here on our Holdee strength. We have recently acquired a new civilian caterer—ex-C.S.M. Jack Suggitt who will be well known to most "Dukes" past and present.

Our first effort at entertaining since the New Year, was the Paardeburg Ball. Despite very bad weather conditions we had a very good turn up, and an enjoyable evening was spent by all. Great credit is due to Q.M.S.I. Slater and his staff for the hard work they put in to make the ball a success.

A trip to the Grand National Steeplechase was arranged, and although a good many members were not able to attend, a most enjoyable day was spent by the members who did. We should like to add that none of the party was successful in backing the winner—despite the fact that the horse's number was 33 ! Another social event was the entertainment of the Halifax Borough Police, with whom we played badminton, billiards and snooker, finishing off with a game of solo whist. We were not very successful in any of the games. On April 25th we held a St. George's Day Ball, and again had the pleasure of the company of a large number of old friends and ex-members.

In conclusion we are eagerly looking forward to a resumption of the Waterloo Day sports and the Depot annual ball which we hope to make a memorable success.

COMPANY NOTES.

"H.Q." COMPANY.—Since the last issue of *THE IRON DUKE*, many changes have taken place within the Company. C.Q.M.S. Smith has now passed "beyond the pale" having returned to the freedom (sic) of civvy street, whilst Capt. Williams and L/Cpls. Rowe and Henson are no longer with us.

As announced in the last issue of this magazine, R.Q.M.S. Fitters bull terrier, Lassie, duly became a mother, and whilst this cataclysmic event was taking place, the Depot scarcely dared to breathe. We regret to announce however that since the "happy event," the R.Q.M.S. has become an embittered man. To receive one puppy from one bitch seems too small a return to a man grounded in the workings of the Q.M.'s departments.

Lastly a welcome addition to the Company has been the arrival of C.Q.M.S. Short, ex-1st Battalion, who has promptly been given his place in the Depot soccer team.

DEPOT COMPANY.—Since our last contribution to *THE IRON DUKE*, Halifax has felt the full force of the wild weather the country experienced during the first three months of the year. The Barracks being in an isolated position had its full share of the troubles. Burst pipes, broken windows, roof spoutings crashing to earth, and all the things that offer an excuse for the cancellation of R.S.M.'s parades came our way, but Dame Fortune did not smile for long.

Order of the day was "all available will parade at 07.30 hours for snow shovelling" Leaking boots, wet bodies, and the general feeling of tiredness was soon forgotten when the Lord Mayor of Halifax put on a slap-up feed for all those who helped to clear the Oldham road.

Familiar faces of "Old Soldiers" still appear at Company office, and to mention just a few we have Capt. Connelly as admin. officer; R.S.M. Woods and C.S.M. Hardisty are standing by to fill the envious position in the newly formed T.A. Ken Waterman, having taken over duties of band sergeant, is now learning to play a flute. Sgt. Williams is working wonders with brand new recruits, and to finish up, Pte. Hull has been appointed local unpaid L/cpl. in charge of the P.T.C. recreational rooms.

TRAINING COMPANY.—We have had a few changes to our permanent staff; on H.Q. Capt. P.R. Stafford has come to replace Capt. L. O'Sullivan who leaves on release and Sgts. Williams and Kelsey have come to fill two vacancies on the instructional staff.

Training was interfered with by the snow and finally halted altogether for a week, when the Company turned out daily to open up the Manchester road over the moors above the "Nont Sarah." It was very cold and rather discouraging when one returned the following day to find one's previous day's work had been filled in during the night, and one had to start all over again. We had the satisfaction of getting through to the workers from the other end before handing over to an Anti-Aircraft unit that was moved in to relieve us.

We are now back to normal routine and turning out each six weeks a batch of recruits, who seem to be above the standard that our first few drafts reached.

SPORT.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.—The season has been very disappointing, owing to most of our fixtures being cancelled through the snow and frost. In all, we only managed to play three fixtures. First one against a Vandals XV which resulted in a draw (3 points to 3). This match was played in pouring rain and about six inches of mud. The result was a fair one. Next match we played was against a Halifax XV, we were well and truly thrashed, result being 33 points to 3. Our backs were too slow compared with the very fast Halifax backs. Major Davis at scrum half worked very hard, but with no results. Our three points resulted from a well kicked penalty goal.

Our other fixture was played against an Old Brodlians XV; we were a much improved side and won by 8 points to 3.

Our seven-a-side team made a name for itself by winning the North Midland District Army seven-a-side competition on April 10th and now they play in the Northern Command final on May 21st, which we hope to win. The team consists of Major J. H. Davis, Captain D. Breare, Lt. F. Walton, Cpl. Banks, Ptes. Birch, Hogan and Lockwood.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.—Since the details given in the last issue of the IRON DUKE, the Depot soccer team has continued to make its presence felt in local football circles.

The team has been strengthened by the inclusion of several well known "Dukes," such as Capt. Connolly, C.Q.M.S. Short and Sgt. Williams, all ex-First Battalion.

After playing a total of fourteen games up to the present, the Depot have won eleven of these and lost three, with the gratifying goal average of seventy-six goals for and seventeen against. The two most decisive victories were the following: eleven goals to nil against the Borough Police, and fifteen goals to two against Asquith's Modern Foundries.

On Wednesday, April 16th, the team played a selected eleven from the Bradford and District League. This proved to be an extremely hard game against a fast clever side who combined well and tested the Depot keeper, L/Cpl. Crossley, several times with hard, low shots. Thanks to Sgt. Stutely and Cpl. Morgan, however, the Depot piled up three quick goals in the second half whilst their opponents could only reply with a solitary goal in the closing minutes of the game.

To sum up. The stock of the Depot team in this their first season appears to be very high, and augurs well for next season, when more fixtures against local elevens will be required.

BOXING.—Boxing in the P.T.C., still retains its high standard under the careful supervision of Q.M.S.I. Slater and his staff; when we mentioned in our last issue of **THE IRON DUKE** that he worked wonders with the recruits, possibly we underestimated his ability, I would say "miracles was the correct term. The first of our tournaments was on the 15th of January, when No. 1 Platoon fought No. 2 Platoon; the boxing was of a very high standard and keen enthusiasm was shown throughout the whole of the contest. We had with us Mr. Bilborough (late 4th Battalion) who refereed the competition. After the last fight of the programme, the points stood at 16 each. The first string, welter weight fight was the deciding factor; No. 1 Platoon were the winners of this fight and with it the championship. Both winners and losers were given a rousing cheer by all. Good show No. 1 Platoon. On the first of April, another competition was held, competitors having the same numbers to their Platoons Nos 1 and 2 (not to be confused with the Platoons who fought on the 15th of January, these already having left the P.T.C. for further training in different I.T.C.'s and Specialist centres). This competition was refereed by Captain O'Sullivan who did a very good job and controlled the fights throughout. The boxers in quite a number of cases lacked experience, but we all agreed that what they lacked in experience they made up for in grit.

Before the last fight of the programme, the score was 16 points to each platoon, with the last two boxers straining at the lead to get into the ring to decide the winner. The last fight was won by No. 2 Platoon and with it the championship. We had a further competition on the 22nd April, between No. 5 and 6 Platoons. This competition I could say was the best we have had since the P.T.C. opened, they shaped up very well and the boxing was of a very high standard; No. 5 Platoon were the winners of the tournament with 18 points to No. 6 Platoon's 15. The last tournament was refereed by Lt.-Col. Dalrymple and Count Hollander; the C.O. refereeing seven of the fights and the Count, the last three. We were greatly honoured to have the services of Count Hollander who has refereed some of the world's championships both in boxing and in wrestling. After the programme, Count Hollander and the Commanding Officer expressed appreciation of the very high quality of the boxing and the arrangements carried out by Q.M.S.I. Slater.

HOCKEY.—Not very many games have been played up to the time of writing, owing to the inclement weather and lack of players. The Depot team did quite well in the North Midland District six-a-side tournament, reaching the semi-final only to fall to 10th P.T.C., who went on to win the tournament. We must congratulate all players whose efforts were worthy of praise, especially Lt. Walton, who never seems to grow tired in spite of his many sporting activities.

North-Eastern Group I.T.C.

Our location and size has required the use of two Messes. "A" Mess dealing with training companies, has members of six North Country regiments, the Dukes officers being Kershaw, Berryman, 2nd Lt. Nock and 2nd Lt. Selby. We are very fortunate in having such excellent accommodation. Lately a number of officers have been seen reading Polish dictionaries; could there be any connection with the Polish batman polishing a new Sam Brown with a black boot brush?

In "B" Mess we have a number of Dukes officers: Lt.-Col. C. Orr, Major F. H. V. Wellesley, Major M. M. Davis (recently joined), Oxley (holding the coveted position of P.M.C.), Winray, Lyons, Turnbull and Mavin; Lts. Austin, Butler, Kingdom and Forty; 2nd Lts. Beckwith, Johnson and Robinson who are awaiting posting. Many Dukes officers have passed through on their way to other stations, including Major Sugden; Major Lane is due to arrive shortly. We offer our congratulations to Turnbull on his promotion to captain.

One's worries appear unimportant when compared with those of Lyons, who whenever possible embarks upon a lengthy account of the trials and tribulations arising from his work. Things certainly must be difficult in his department, for he recently announced that he intended buying himself a new battle dress.

In the short time that the Mess has been running, great strides have been made and we hope and expect that in the next publication of THE IRON DUKE we can report even greater improvements in conditions and life in the Mess.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last notes the new Infantry Training Centre has been formed at Catterick. The Dukes Company, from No. 4 I.T.C. Brancepeth, moved to Catterick on the 17th January, 1947, after two postponements. Old faces loomed up everywhere. "Where did I see you last?" was the question usually asked. C.S.M.'s Kennedy and Jackson, O.R.Q.M.S. Jones, C.S.M.'s Reed, Joyce, Crawley and Brighton, Sgts. Maddison, Rodgers and Williams, C/Sgts. Short and Cutler, R.Q.M.S. Kenchington and many others are here, some on the P.S., others awaiting posting. R.S.M. Edwards, W.Y.R., is the R.S.M. The Mess was started from scratch by him on the 28th December, 1946. We have had several social evenings since our arrival here, having had visits from many Messes in the district. We entertained members of the Catterick District W.O's and Sergeants' Club, and after a well fought game just managed to win the darts match by five games to four. S.M.I. Morris (A.P.T.C.) constantly throwing a wicked dart. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

The snow came upon us very shortly after the Infantry Training Centre was formed, and for eight weeks it was operation "Snow Plough"; this and fuel shortage curtailed activities in the Mess, although we managed to run a tombola on Friday and Sunday nights. Sgt. Thornton's method of calling the numbers got the regular attenders a little mixed up until they got used to him. They are now conversant with the numbers of many of the famous regiments both disbanded and otherwise.

Lt.-Col. C. Orr and Capt. L. Lyons are commanding officer and Q.M. respectively. We hope to entertain the officers in the near future to a games evening; a full report will be given in our next notes. Congratulations to C.S.M. Jackson who has been promoted to R.S.M. and is going to the 1st Battalion. C.S.M. "Shep." is assisting the Q.M. as minister of fuel and power, and we hope he will not suffer any ill effects from his efforts during the crisis.

Training Company

Since our last notes we have moved to Catterick to join the N.E. Group, I.T.C. We arrived here on the 17th January, 1947, in company with the West Yorkshire Regimental Company. We are accommodated in the Gaza Lines, Sandhurst Block, which is first class accommodation compared with our huts at Brancepeth.

A few days after arriving here the snow came upon us and stayed for eight weeks; this interfered with our training, and operation "Snowplough" was the order of the day until the thaw. The troops have been digging out villages and farms in Swaledale. The great freeze up, and the fuel crisis, and the task of getting the I.T.C. working has been a formidable job, but now that we can see our square and the fields round about, we can get down to the job of training recruits.

Major Kershaw is still O.C. the Company with Reed and Benner, C.S.M. and C.Q.M.S. respectively. Captain Berryman is second-in-command and 2nd. Lt. Nock (recently commissioned) and 2nd Lt. Selby are our subalterns. There are six regiments here all quartered in the same lines, and the competition on pass out is very keen; up to now we have held our own. The C.O. has given a cup for the best squad on pass out.

Sgt. Lockwood ex-7th Battalion has recently joined us on re-enlisting but has now departed to the R.M.A. Sandhurst as an instructor ; Cpl. Leahy left us on demob 48 Group, and we wish him all the best in civvy street. Congratulations to Sgt. and Mrs Walton on their recent marriage.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

Since arriving here on the 17th January, 1947, we have not been able to play any rugby owing to the big freeze. At the time of writing we have managed to have a trial game to find the strongest team to oppose the 62nd Training Regiment R.A.C. in the 3rd round of the District Cup. This match takes place on the 2nd April, 1947 ; the winners play the 2nd Training Regiment, Royal Signallers, a very strong side. A full report will be made in the next issue of THE IRON DUKE. Major Kershaw, D.W.R. is the officer in charge rugger at N.E. Group I.T.C. assisted by C.S.M. Reed.

H.M.S. Cleopatra

At Sea,
17th February, 1947.

The inclusion in your Regimental Magazine of a letter from H.M.S. *Cleopatra* needs, we think, some explanation. A volunteer Band has been formed on board, and the question arose as to the Ship's March. In trying to make this decision it was suggested that, by taking the Ship's Pendant Numbers and finding the correspondingly numbered Regiment of the Line, permission might be obtained to use their Regimental Quick March. Our Pendant Numbers are thirty-three, and permission was therefore sought of the Colonel, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, to use the "Wellesley" as the Ship's March. Your Colonel was graciously pleased to grant us this honour.

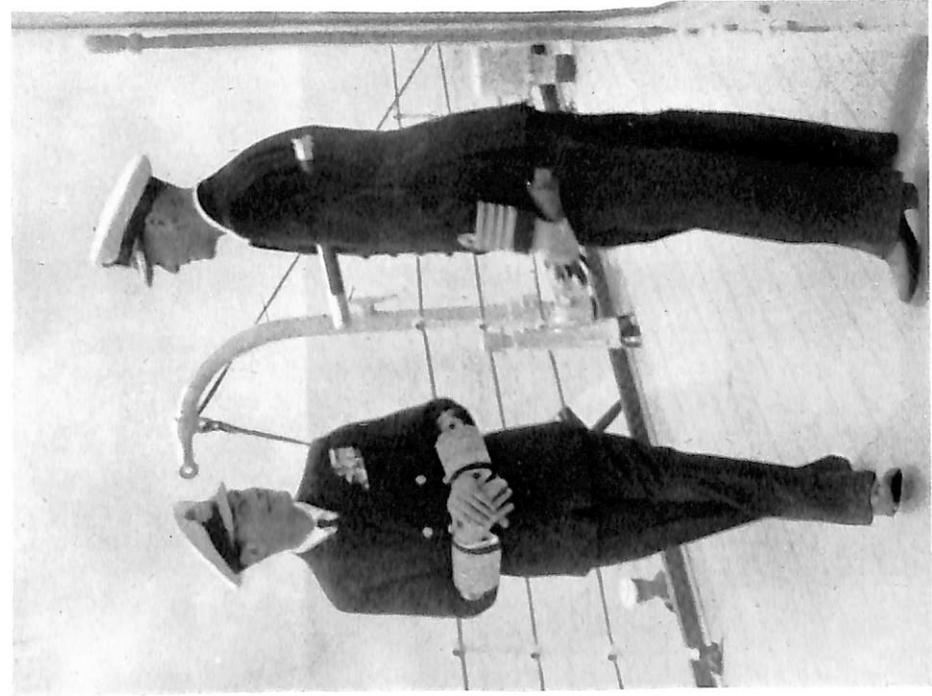
It is well known in naval circles that a close liaison was maintained between The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and H.M.S. *Iron Duke*, and we very much hope that we will be able to ensure the continuance of your Regiment's association with the Royal Navy.

Perhaps you may be interested to know a few details concerning *Cleopatra*. She is a cruiser of 5,700 tons carrying eight 5.25in. H.A./L.A. guns in twin turrets, six torpedo tubes, and numerous close-range weapons. She was built by Hawthorn Leslie and Co. of Hebburn-on-Tyne in 1940, was completed in 1941, and first commissioned on 20th November of the same year. She joined the Mediterranean Fleet and was "blooded" at the Battle of Sirte, whilst flying the Flag of Rear Admiral Sir Philip Vian, K.B.E., D.S.C. This successful action in defence of a Malta convoy against numerically superior Italian Forces took place on March 23rd, 1942, and the date was subsequently adopted as the ship's "Name Day."

Her career in the Mediterranean, which included several other Malta convoys, came to an end when, during the invasion of Sicily, she was torpedoed while on patrol in the Straits of Messina. As a result of this the ship was sent to Philadelphia (U.S.A.) for repairs and refit. She returned to Home Waters on completion and re-commissioned for service in the East Indies.

The ship was the first cruiser to enter Singapore after the re-occupation of Malaya. On this occasion she wore the Flag of Admiral Sir Arthur J. Power, K.C.B., C.V.O., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies. Later in the same year she was selected to convey the returning Governor of Burma, The Right Honourable Sir Reginald H. Dorman-Smith, G.B.E., to Rangoon.

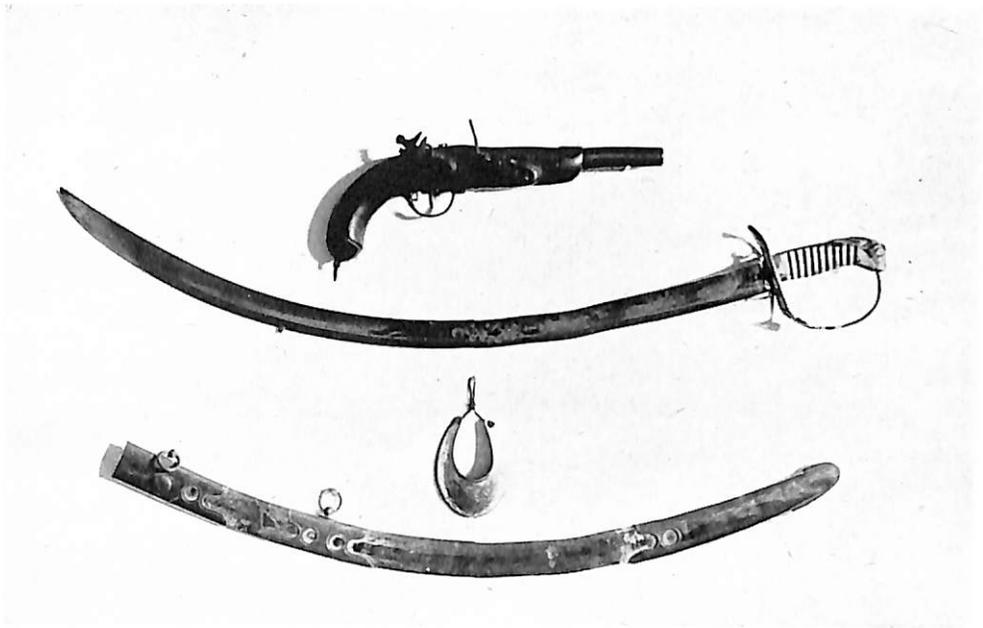
Cleopatra returned to the United Kingdom early in 1946 to join the Second Cruiser Squadron of the Home Fleet, and Captain O. L. Gordon, C.B., M.V.O., R.N., assumed command in May, 1946.



Royal Visit to H.M.S. "Cleopatra," 7th February, 1947.
H.M. The King and Capt. O. L. Gordon, C.B., M.V.O.,
Royal Navy, Commanding Officer.



The late Lt.-Colonel F. A. Hayden, D.S.O., O.B.E.



Thomas Austin's sword and pistol in the possession of Major R. E. Austin (see page 51, No. 66, February, 1947, and page 93 of this issue).



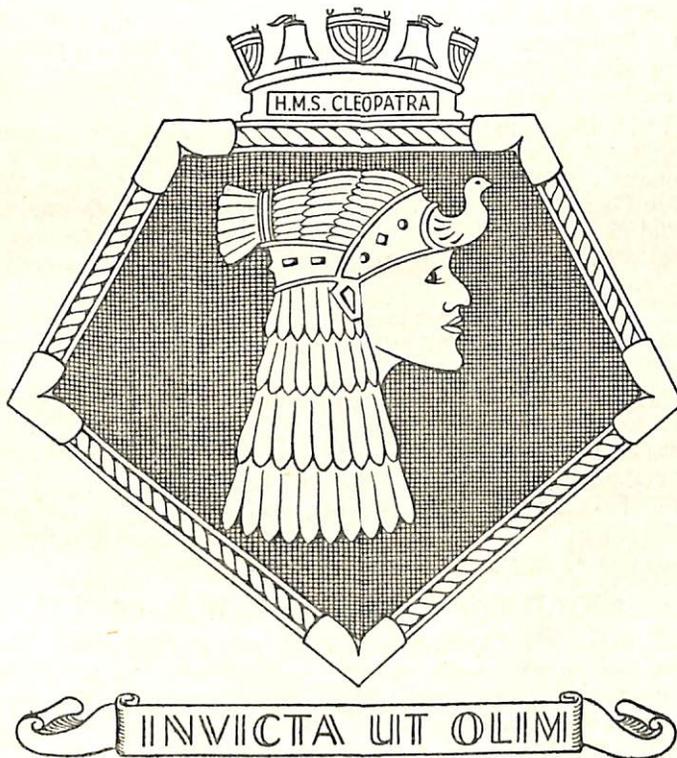
"Glebe Cottage," Waterloo Green, Wynberg, S.A., where Lt.-Colonel Wesley (1st Duke of Wellington) is reputed to have stayed (see page 102).

Recently the ship was given the honour of forming part of the Escort for the first part of the Royal tour in H.M.S. *Vanguard*. After a rough passage across the Bay we ran into better weather and Their Majesties and the two Princesses visited all ships of the Escort.

They spent some twenty-five minutes aboard *Cleopatra*, met all officers, and H.M. The King then took the salute at a march past of the Ship's Company. His Majesty seemed very pleased with their bearing and commented favourably on the musical ability of the Ship's Band.

As a result of Royal Escort duties our Spring Cruise was curtailed to a visit to Freetown, Sao Vicente in the Cape Verde Islands, and finally Gibraltar. We are now looking forward to returning to Portsmouth, our Home Port, to give 14 days Easter Leave, on completion of which we expect to return to Freetown to await the *Vanguard* in order to escort Their Majesties home again.

It is hoped that we may have the opportunity of meeting some of your officers and men during the summer months, during part of which we may be cruising around the British Isles.



Old Comrades and Regimental Associations. 1st and 2nd BATTALIONS.

The following is a summary of the cases assisted during the period, mid-December, 1946 to mid-April, 1947.

Fund.	Number of Cases.	Amount Disbursed.
Old Comrades' Association, 1st and 2nd Battalions	19	£ 76 3 10
2nd Battalion Charitable Fund	5	25 0 0
Regimental Association Fund	33	129 16 3
The Mitchell Trust Fund	4	23 10 0
Total ...		£244 10 1

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA.—The secretary of the O.C.A. has been informed by the Adjutant of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, that 2609 J. T. Kennedy, late 1st and 2nd Battalions has been admitted to the Royal Hospital as in-Pensioner on the 21st March, 1947. He served in the Regiment from 1890 until 1911; he also served in World War One. He holds the following medals: Queen's South Africa with three clasps. King's South Africa with two clasps. 1914/15 Star, British War and Victory medals, St. John of Jerusalem. Mr. Kennedy is aged 75, and has a son—C.S.M. Kennedy, at present serving with the Regiment at Catterick. He is a life member of the O.C.A. and is a regular reader of the IRON DUKE.

CLUBS.—The Halifax Club goes from strength to strength with a membership of 210 fully paid-up members. A social evening is held every Saturday evening with a tombola, followed by a concert contributed by members themselves. A trip to Wembley for the Rugby League Cup Final has been arranged and two coaches are expected to leave Halifax on Friday, the 2nd May. The Halifax Club are joining up with the London and Home Counties D.W.R. Social Club at the Elephant and Castle Hotel for a dinner, etc, after the match.

O.C.A. BADGES.—A fresh consignment of O.C.A. Badges have been received and may be had, by members, on application to the Secretary of the O.C.A. at the Barracks, Halifax. Price of the new badge is 1/9.

LONDON O.C.A. DINNER. Owing to catering difficulties, etc., the London O.C.A. dinner has had to be put off this year, but an O.C.A. dinner will be held in Halifax on Saturday, the 27th September, 1947. Price of tickets 4/-. It is hoped to be able to provide limited accommodation for those wishing to remain overnight.

EMPLOYMENT.—Ex-C.S.M. Bye has taken over the duties of civilian Mess steward in the Officer's Mess at the 33rd P.T.C. Mr. Bye will be remembered by all who served with the 10th Battalion during the last war.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES D.W.R. SOCIAL CLUB.

In July, 1937, a London branch of the O.C.A. was formed under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Clothier, and several re-unions were held between that date and November, 1939, when the membership had reached 90. Further activities were suspended owing to the war, but the club has now been reformed, with temporary headquarters at the United Services Club, Hand Court, Holborn, London.

The club has now about 76 members from all parts of London and the Home Counties, and it is hoped that more will join. The main object of the club is to bring together all ranks of the various battalions of the Regiment in the London area for social evenings, outings and dinners.

The first social event of the re-formed London and Home Counties Social Club was celebrated by entertaining the Halifax Branch Social Club to a dinner and dance at the Elephant and Castle Hotel at Newington Butts, S.E.15, on Saturday, 3rd May, 1947. Ninety guests sat down to dinner, which was presided over by Col. Pickering, Colonel of the Regiment. The Halifax Branch, led by Mr. Walker and Mr. Annesley, arrived in safety, and those who did not go to the match were shown round London by members of the London Branch, led by Mr. Collier.

Colonel Pickering gave a short after-dinner speech on the activities of the different Battalions of the Regiment. Mr. Battison welcomed the visitors and Mr. Walker replied for Halifax. After dinner the guests were entertained and Mr. Walker rendered two good songs.

Any member of the Regiment residing in London and the Home Counties will be very welcome. Full particulars of the club can be obtained from the Assistant Honorary Secretary, Mr. H. E. E. Butterworth, 9 Kinfauns Avenue, Romford, Essex.

Re-unions.

7th BATTALION.

Over 300 comrades in arms supported the first post-war re-union of the 1/7th and 2/7th Battalions, which through the kindness of the 5th Battalion, was held at the Drill Hall, Huddersfield, on the 14th December, 1946. The occasion was such a one as we all dreamed about in the dark days, and its success leaves no doubt that it will be the forerunner of many gatherings to be held in future years.

As was to be expected, Territorials were there in great numbers, but it was particularly gratifying to see so many present from "foreign parts" whose connections with the Dukes date from various years of the war, and who played such a gallant part in maintaining the lustre of the Regiment. Some there were, who came from beyond London in the South, and from Edinburgh in the North, and we salute the enthusiasm of these travellers, and look forward to seeing them on many future occasions.

We were delighted to have with us the Hon Colonel of the 1/7th, Col. R. R. Mellor and so many former C.O.'s of both Battalions. Lt.-Cols. Hinchcliffe, Howcroft, Taylor, Walker, Tissington and Hamilton were all present, and only "the exigencies of the service" kept away Brigadier Felix Wilsey, Lt.-Col Brian Webb-Carter, Lt.-Col. V. C. Russell and Col. L. E. Bishop. The Mayor of Huddersfield gave the ceremony his civic blessing and gallantly attempted to welcome the guests with a few well-chosen words, which, sad to relate were not heard by many of the chaps. Speech making in fact, could not compete against the convivial chatter, as time was all too short to talk to more than a mere fraction of all the old friends whom one spotted perhaps for a moment in the throng, and then lost for the rest of the evening. Amongst the veterans must be mentioned such old faithfuls as our old Q.M., Sam Tykiff, Ptes. Hallam and Ball, rivalling Col. Mellor in length of service. C.S.M. Horne and Sgt. Simpson were welcome visitors, defying their trying hospital experiences.

One cannot omit a tribute to the Band, which, representing as it did our Cadre, was treated as a guest of honour, but which, under the able guidance of Mr. Seed, earned its supper by contributing gaily to the evening's enjoyment, and our thanks are passed to Lt.-Col. Dalrymple, commanding the Depot, through whose kindness they were able to play for us.

Minor tragedies were not altogether unexpected on such an unprecedented first night. A cloud was cast over the proceedings when the beer ran out! The cause of this lamentable breakdown in the administration could not be strictly accounted for, but many early birds who arrived from Mossley way might be able to throw some light on it. It was also rumoured that through an oversight, the caterer had provided for a children's party! However, the food was at least good and hot, and all the staff did their utmost to make us happy.

J. W. P.

7th BATTALION OFFICERS.

A re-union dinner of all officers who served at any time with the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, was held at the George Hotel, Huddersfield, on the evening of 21st March, 1947.

The attendance in spite of weather and travel conditions was very good, and reassuring for future re-unions, and a very pleasurable evening was spent by all. The Colonel of the Regiment, Col. C. J. Pickering, had intended to be present, but was prevented from coming by conditions prevailing at Henley; and the guest of honour in his absence, was Lt.-Col. J. H. Dalrymple, commanding the 33rd P.T.C. (D.W.R.) Halifax. Other officers unable to attend were Lt.-Gen. Sir Evelyn Barker, who commanded 49th Division during the invasion period, Brig. G. H. O. Wilsey, who commanded the 7th Battalion, D.W.R. during the same period, Brig. K. G. Exham, Col. R. K. Exham, Major S. E. Baker, 33rd P.T.C. (D.W.R.) Halifax.

Officers present included Col. R. R. Mellor (Hon. Colonel), Col. R. Chambley, Lt.-Cols. W. A. Hinchcliffe, G. B. Howcroft, G. Taylor, H. G. P. Miles, C. F. Tissington, and S. Hoyle, appointed to command the 7th Battalion when it ceases to be in "suspended animation" and again becomes active.

Toasts were proposed as follows: "The Regiment," by Col. R. R. Mellor; "The Fallen," by Lt.-Col. G. Taylor; "Absent Friends," by Lt.-Col. G. B. Howcroft; and "The 7th Battalion" by Lt.-Col. H. G. P. Miles. The toastmaster was Major A. Woodcock. Lt.-Col. C. F. Tissington proposed that the Dinner be held annually. The proposal was carried, but instead of being designated "Re-union Dinner" it will be re-named "7th Battalion Officer's Dinner Club," and details of it will be notified to all officers in due course. A committee has been formed and consists of: Lt.-Col. G. F. Tissington, Lt.-Col. S. Hoyle, Majors J. W. Pyrah and P. E. Hirst, with Capt. (Q.M.) F. Jowett, Hon. Secretary, who will be pleased to forward any information to officers interested. Address: Hon. Secretary, 7th Battalion (D.W.R.) Officers' Dinner Club, to Highwind, 368 Idle Road, Bradford, Yorkshire.

145th REGIMENT R.A.C. (8th BATTALION D.W.R.)

The first "all-ranks" re-union of the Battalion was held on Friday evening 28th March, at the Guildford Hotel, Leeds. 200 Old Comrades attended, and this part of the Headrow was thronged by 5 p.m. with old Dukes, most of whom had never seen each other in "civvies" before; the scene was rather reminiscent of the first day in the army. Although the Battalion was initially recruited from the West Riding, our later armoured reinforcements were from all over the country, and it was very gratifying that so many attended. Sgt. Mills had the distance record, travelling from Veryan, Cornwall, bringing with him 20 pints of beer for 20 of the old "A" Company from Mrs. Osborne of Gwendra fame.

Speech making was kept to a minimum, it being anticipated that the maximum time would be required in seeking out old friends, and reminiscing. In introducing Lt.-Col. A. C. Jackson, who acted as Chairman, R.S.M. B. Boon showed that he had lost none of his old vigour, and the boom of his voice calling for silence over the roar of conversation made many an old soldier stiffen. Incidentally, R.S.M. Boon was S.S.M. of "A" Company and "A" Squadron throughout the Battalion's life except when Acting R.S.M.

Col. Jackson welcomed the two guests, Lt.-Col. James Barker, R.T.R., our old Brigade Chief Umpire, and Lt.-Col. W. A. Y. Knight, R.A.M.C., who now commands a Military Hospital in York. He remarked on the spirit and comradeship which existed in the Battalion during the war, and how pleased he was to see that the same spirit was with us still. He suggested that this spirit was required in civilian life. He stressed the importance of the work of the Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association and the Royal Armoured Corps Benevolent Fund, and he also mentioned the Duke of Wellington's

Memorial Fund. Many messages of regret for non-attendance were received including one from the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. C. J. Pickering, also from Lt.-Col. F. R. Armitage who had intended being present but was unfortunately held up in India, and from Lt.-Cols. E. V. Strickland and H. H. Van Straubenzee. Everyone was very sorry that Capt. and Q.M. R. A. Smith, now in Exeter, was at the last moment unable to make the journey.

It was decided to form a 145/8th Association with the objects: 1. To make the re-union an annual event; 2. To make a link with the Regimental Association and the Royal Armoured Corps Benevolent Fund; 3. To perpetuate the comradeship built up during the war.

It was unanimously agreed that the re-unions should take place on the Saturday before the 4th July, this being the date the 8th Battalion reformed in 1940. Thus the next re-union will take place in Leeds on 3rd July, 1948. The Committee elected was the same as organised this function, viz., Major F. B. Murgatroyd, Capt. F. O. Till, R.S.M. B. Boon, S.S.M. B. Wadd, Sgt. W. Reed, Tpr. W. Broadbent and Tpr. W. Mounsey. Major F. B. Murgatroyd, 12 St. Ives Road, Skircoat Green, Halifax agreed to act as secretary.

Brigadier Noel Tetley received a great welcome during the evening, as did R.S.M. H. Cundall, looking extremely fit, who had travelled from Nottingham via Newcastle where he has been appointed R.S.M. of the 43rd Royal Tanks. Amongst the "old originals" present were Major J. Pullan, Capt. The Lord Savile, Capt. W. P. Maclean, Capt. W. L. James (still serving with his P.O.W. Camp), Capt. R. F. Grieve, Lt. W. R. Siddall, R.S.M. A. Goodwin now at Barnard Castle, R.Q.M.S. Bartrop, Sgt. T. Wardle, Cpl. "Phosgene" Gaunt and Tpr. "Mush" Fay.

A programme of entertainment had been organised by S.S.M. B. Wadd, but this had to be seriously curtailed owing to pressure of conversation, and it was soon obvious that the evening would not be long enough for the individual re-unions. However, the company rendered "Marching up the Hillside" with great gusto. Tpr. Newsome gave "Whispering Grass" as only he and "Bing" are able to give it. Sgt. Mills sang "Barley Mow" and S.S.M. B. Wadd told some very good stories in his own inimitable way.

Despite the presence of Brig. Tetley, the beer ran out before the end, but whisky was magically made available, and it is very safe to say, that a very good foundation was laid for future re-unions.

J. B. M.

Third Infantry Brigade Officers Re-Union 1947

The Third Infantry Brigade Officers' Re-Union 1947, will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly, London, W. on Friday, 4th July, at 7.15 p.m. for Dinner at 8 p.m.

The cost of the dinner will be £1 per person excluding drinks.

It is hoped that as many officers and ex-officers in any way connected with the Brigade between 1939 and 1946 will attend, particularly those who served with Brigade Headquarters at any time.

Cheques payable to R. M. V. Marchand should be sent to arrive not later than 10th June if possible but if this is not possible as soon afterwards as can be arranged to:—

E. M. Goodman Smith, 14 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, Middlesex.

Dress will be Dinner Jackets or Lounge Suits. Cheques will not be acknowledged unless stamped envelopes are enclosed.

NOTE.—The notice due on 1st April, 1947 in the *Daily Telegraph* was mistakenly published a day early.

Colonels of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment

33rd FOOT

- 1702 LORD GEORGE HUNTINGDON, 8TH EARL.
 1704 HENRY LEIGH.
 1705 DUNCANSON.
 1705 GEORGE WADE.
 1717 HENRY HAWLEY.
 1730 ROBERT DALZELL.
 1739 JOHN JOHNSON.
 1752 LORD CHARLES HAY.
 1760 JOHN GRIFFIN GRIFFIN.
 1766 CHARLES, EARL CORNWALLIS.
 1807 THE HON. ARTHUR WELLESLEY, K.B.
[1st DUKE OF WELLINGTON]
 1813 SIR JOHN COPE SHERBROOKE, K.B.
 1830 LORD CHARLES HENRY SOMERSET.
 1831 SIR CHARLES WALE, K.C.B.
 1845 SIR HENRY SHEEHY KEATING, K.C.B.
 1847 HENRY D'OYLY.
 1856 CHARLES YORKE.
 1863 WILLIAM NELSON HUTCHINSON.

76th FOOT

- 1787 SIR THOMAS MUSGRAVE, BART.
 1813 SIR GEORGE PREVOST, BART.
 1814 CHRISTOPHER CHOWNE.
 1834 SIR PEREGRINE MAITLAND, K.C.B.
 1843 SIR ROBERT ARBUTHNOT, K.C.B.
 1853 WILLIAM JERVOIS, K.H.
 1862 JOSEPH CLARKE.
 1871 MATTHEW SMITH.
 1875 FREDERICK DARLEY GEORGE, C.B.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

- 1895 GEORGE ERSKINE
 1897 SIR HUGH ROWLANDS, V.C., K.C.B.
 1909 SIR HERBERT EVERSLEY BELFIELD, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O.
 1934 PERCY ALEXANDER TURNER, C.M.G.
 1938 CHARLES JAMES PICKERING, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Details of the services of the Colonels of the 33rd Foot are to be found on pages 437 to 441 of *LEE'S HISTORY OF THE 33RD FOOT*.
 Details of the services of the Colonels of the 76th Foot are to be found in "Services of the Officers" on pages 199 *et seq* of *HAYDEN'S HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE 76TH "HINDOOSTAN" REGIMENT, 1787—1881*.

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

(Continued from page 54, No. 66, February, 1947.)

At daybreak on the morning of the 16th of December in accordance with the orders received the preceding night, the boats of the fleet were alongside the different troopships, down whose sides a stream of officers and men hurried and crowded into the boats, which as soon as each was filled pushed off from the ships. Loud cheering from the boats and men-of-war, the sailors vying with the soldiers as to which could cheer the loudest, made the enemy, who lined the sands along the shore of the island of Walcheren, aware of our intention to land.

When all the boats had received their living freight and got well away from the ships, we began to observe a more regular order and formed into line, so that a simultaneous landing might be effected. It was a moment of great interest to see that long line of boats approach the enemy's shore, and the enemy waiting to oppose the invasion; but just as our line was completely formed, a gun was fired from one of our ships and signals made to recall the boats. Accordingly we put about and returned to our respective ships to the great delight of those who had previously experienced a foretaste of Walcheren unpleasantness.

Soon after getting on board, the troopships got under way to proceed higher up the Scheldt, important events having taken place, which rendered it necessary for our General to alter his plans.

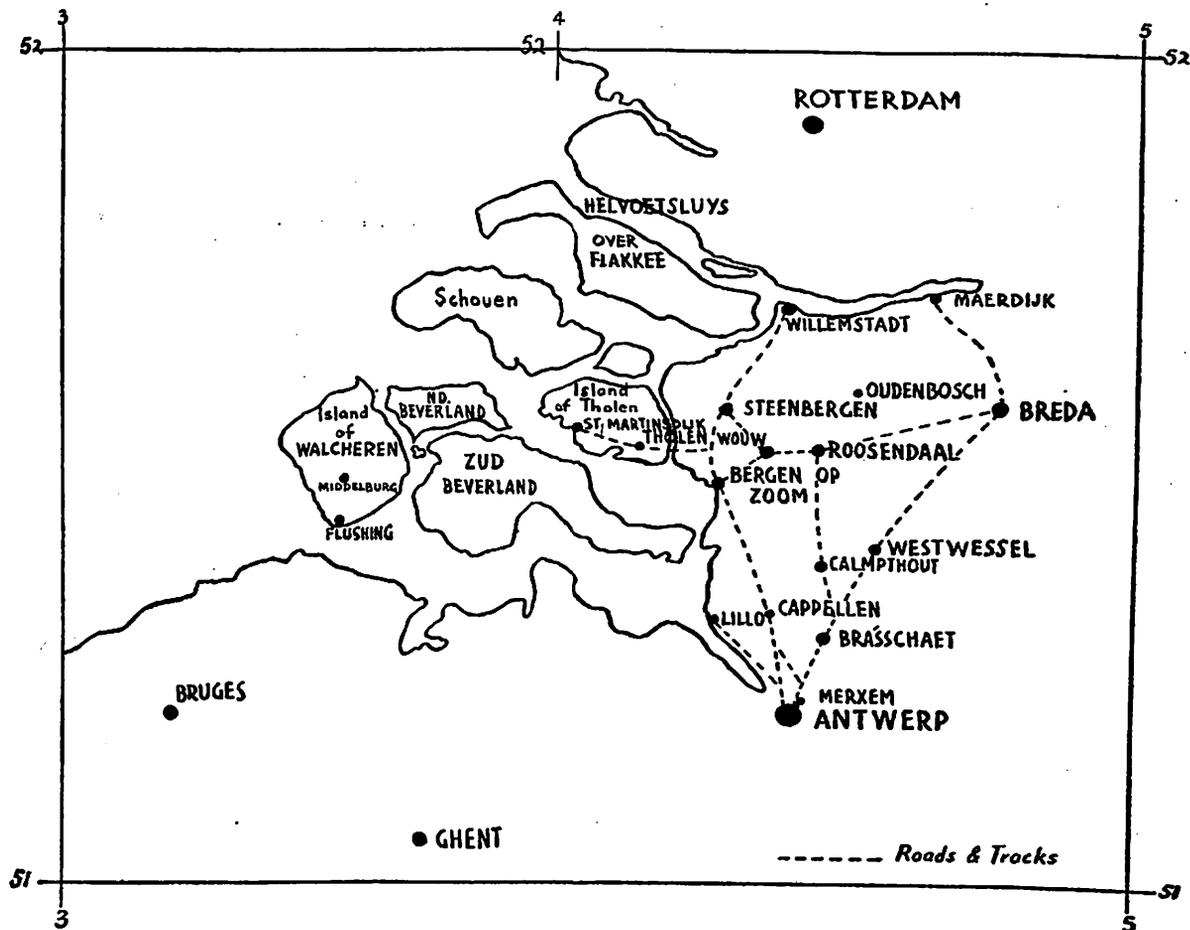
Napoleon, by the numerous defections of his allies, who, one after the other abandoned him in his hour of need, was now placed in a most critical position. His foes hemmed him in on every side; the whole northern frontier of France was threatened, while Wellington with a victorious army was gradually approaching in the south.

The English force under Sir Thomas Graham was now about to become the last featherweight in the balance that would eventually ensure Napoleon's overthrow. As we sailed slowly against the current of the Scheldt, various were the speculations as to our point of debarkation and future scene of operations.

On the morning of the 17th of December our ships were again under way to proceed still higher up the branch of the Scheldt in which we were, the soldiers as on previous occasions manning the capstan bars and weighing the anchor. Our progress was slow, for somehow or other we always contrived to have the tide against us whenever we moved, but the breeze was fair and sufficiently strong to enable us to stem the current, and we crept up the river at an easy rate until we arrived off the island of Tholen, where we cast anchor. Orders were immediately issued for the troops to land. The Purser served out three days' provisions, consisting of fat salt pork and lean salt beef with hard ship's biscuits to match.

The Light Company of my Regiment, the 35th, had the honour of forming the advanced guard. We pushed off from the ship's side, and a loud cheer from all on board gave the enemy notice of our determination to land. A few straggling shots as we approached the shore indicated that no serious opposition was intended, but they were sufficient to stimulate the sailors to increased exertion. The land was soon gained and I and my brother officers leaped on shore, followed rapidly by the men, as eager as we were, and we soon formed in proper order. With about twenty men I moved rapidly up the sloping shore, but the enemy were not disposed to obstruct our proceedings and they hastily retired. We followed them for some distance but were unable to overtake them, and as a bugle from the regiment sounded the recall the pursuit was discontinued. We returned to the water side and waited for the remainder of the regiment to land.

The day had closed long before the debarkation of the troops was completed, but when a sufficient number to form a brigade had landed an order to move on was given,



but without any definite directions as to our halting place. We at once started on our way along the muddy road before us. Up to our knees at every step, we floundered through it, but being good marchers we made tolerable progress and soon reached the small town of St. Martin's Dyke, where we bivouacked with pickets out.

The following day it was soon ascertained that the enemy had abandoned Tholen, the principal town in the island, so we at once proceeded to march there.

When we arrived before Tholen it was not long before the troops found shelter in the farm houses and capacious barns which were scattered about the vicinity. The Brigade of Guards as a matter of course secured to themselves the more comfortable quarters and less disagreeable duties in the town.

The Army of Holland now presented a more complete organisation than heretofore. In addition to previous arrangements, a Light Division was formed consisting of the 2nd Battalion 35th, 52nd and 95th Regiments, the last named being a rifle corps. Sir Thomas Graham had determined to push this force across the river to invest Bergen op Zoom,

and late at night on the 19th December we received an order to move at daybreak, and shortly after the appointed time we began to cross over the ferry which separates the island of Tholen from the mainland.

On our march we passed through the village of Halteren, which presented nothing worthy of notice, though a part of the Division was posted there, and finally arrived at Moilen, where I placed the ammunition and store waggons in a safe position, and being relieved from my charge of them was soon in a sound slumber in a small deserted house.

The country round our position presented a better aspect than the muddy island in the Scheldt had caused us to expect. It appeared well cultivated, the soil dry and sandy, and though it was not picturesque or attractive to the eye, it was rich in the products of the earth . . . it was rather one monotonous level, relieved by an occasional mass of trees rising on the horizon as a distant island rises amid the unruffled surface of a calm sea.

The Light Division consisting of about 1,100 men had up to this time alone held the position before Bergen op Zoom, situated with a deep and rapid river separating it from all support from the rest of the Army.

Late on the afternoon of the 24th December an order arrived for us to retire in the evening from our advanced position. The Army had now all crossed over from Tholen and it was intended to move further into the country. Accordingly, between 8 and 9 p.m., we replenished our watch fires with fresh bundles and retired slowly in the rear of the Army. After a dreary march of some hours' duration we arrived at Steinbergen about 2 o'clock a.m. and a general halt was ordered. Steinbergen is about six miles from Bergen op Zoom and contains about 4,000 inhabitants.

The cold had now increased and the frost seemed about to set in with unusual severity; yet no provision had been made to supply the men with warm clothing, consequently all suffered much from exposure to the low temperature without adequate protection against its influence.

On the evening of Christmas Day, 1813, we arrived at Oud Castle, but no Christmas fare awaited us when we got to our billets. This was the first time that many of us had missed partaking of the annual compound of turkey and plum pudding, or as a French chef de cuisine contemptuously described our national fare as "a compote of fat, fruit and flower," ignorantly omitting all the minor condiments so cunningly introduced by our cooks to impart flavour to that genuine old English dish, the plum pudding. Instead, we made a frugal meal on ration salt junk which was as hard and dark as old mahogany and about as indigestible.

On the afternoon of Monday, the 27th of December, we received a sudden order to march to the village of Houver (or perhaps more properly De Hoeven) which is about six miles from Oud Castel and in the direction of Breda. About half way on our march we passed through the small town of Oudenbosche, where a part of the Army halted.

With only an occasional picket [at Houver] the duty was light, but the severe frost which had now set in made exposure to the cold at night anything but agreeable. Two different pickets were directed to occupy the two roads of approach to the town, when, as is usual in such cases, being the senior subaltern, I of course took the post of greatest danger, that is to say the position most in advance and nearest to the enemy. This arrangement is very well understood and is generally acted on; in fact, if a senior officer selected the post least exposed to attack, he would be considered as rather a shy bird. It soon became known that my station was to be on the road to Rozendaal which the enemy occupied in force.

The Expeditionary Force from England had now all arrived and the chief command of the forces in the Low Countries having been given to Lt.-General Sir Thomas Graham with the rank of General in Holland, the troops under Major-General Gibbs became merged in the general arrangement of the assembled army, General Gibbs retaining the command of a division. Sir Thomas Graham was popular with the troops so that every individual

man placed implicit confidence in him as a brave and skilful commander. He had already earned in the Peninsular under Wellington a reputation that made every soldier feel proud of his general.

In accordance with the plan of campaign, General Gibbs with his brigade moved from Williamstadt on the 28th of December to form a junction with the other portions of the Army. Owing to a partial thaw the roads were in a very bad state, being in some places knee-deep in mud. The fatigue this occasioned to the men of General Gibbs' brigade may be easily imagined, toiling along with their heavy cumbersome knapsacks and load of accoutrements. They only accomplished ten miles on the first day, and the day after took up their allotted position and henceforward became incorporated with the main army.

On our first advance into the country, the General had in contemplation to invest Breda, but as it was taken by the Prussians and Cossacks through a clever strategem before we could attack it, the trouble of besieging it was avoided. We thus had the Prussians protecting the left flank of our army.

Early in the morning of the 9th of January, 1814, we were ordered to march to Roozendaal, a clean, neatly built town about eight miles from Houver and six miles from Bergen op Zoom. The town was now only occupied by a strong enemy cavalry picket, and it was supposed that by a rapid advance the said picket might be surprised and made prisoners. However we were baffled in our design as the French beat a precipitous retreat when my advanced guard approached the outskirts of the town. We therefore waited in the streets for the arrival of the division which came up in about 40 minutes after our entry, and the order was given "Billet yourselves as you stand"—which meant that the troops were to occupy the houses nearest at hand.

No sooner had the Army established itself at Roozendaal than it was ascertained that the enemy occupied with a force of 1,400 men, the irregular and scattered village of Calmpthaut, distant about 11 or 12 miles, and situated on the verge of Braeschaet Heath, one of the wide spreading heath-covered plains of Brabant. Directly this was known, it was determined to attempt a surprise, and accordingly we received a sudden order on the evening of the 11th of January for the instant march of 1,100 men of the Light Division.

At a little before 12 o'clock midnight the men got under arms without their knapsacks, and we at once commenced our march under the command of Major-General Gibbs. The night was intensely cold, so that our caps and clothes became whitened with the hoar frost, and the breath froze into a sheet of ice in the moustaches, and many of those who had no facial hair found their skin excoriated by the action of the frost. Marching slowly and cautiously along to prevent surprise or falling into an ambuscade, examining every cover that could possibly conceal an enemy was exceedingly tedious. At length we arrived at a piece of waste land close to the village of Calmpthaut, but the enemy did not appear, so the troops formed in order of battle. Still we saw no sign of the enemy and after waiting for a short time in eager expectation of an attack and sending out parties to our right and left in order to see if all was clear on the flanks, I was ordered to penetrate into the village. No enemy was encountered, and I learned from an inhabitant that the French had retreated in the direction of the main road from Amsterdam to Antwerp and Brussels. This I duly reported to General Gibbs, who ordered the force to enter the village and billet in the different houses scattered around.

When it got light on the morning of January the 12th the different columns were set in motion and marched in the direction of the main road to Antwerp. When it was reached the army debouched again on to Braeschaet Heath, and with great delight beheld the tall and beautiful spire of Antwerp Cathedral, 14 miles distant, rising from the dreary looking plain like a ship's mast at sea, while a considerable body of French troops defiled in the mid-distance and appeared inclined to dispute our further progress. Accordingly we moved forward and took up a position on the open heath, with our left flank extending

to the inclosed country which bordered the wide plain which takes its name from the small town of Braeschaet. Some German Legion Hussars were pushed forward, and a party of light infantry under my command was sent to the front to reconnoitre. As the French still approached I sent back an orderly to report on their numbers, etc., and had just begun to exchange shots with their advanced skirmishers when, seeing our preparations to engage them they hastily retired before our main force could bring them to action.

As it became known from information received that the enemy would attempt to reinforce the garrison of Bergen op Zoom, our object was to frustrate any attempt of the kind, therefore, as the above-mentioned French force were probably destined for that service, it was determined by a rapid march to occupy Capelle, a small town situated between Antwerp and Bergen op Zoom, and thus cut communications between the two places.

The severity of the weather did not retard our movements, but the French, in order to impede our advance, had in some places opened the sluices communicating with the tidal river Scheldt, and partially inundated the country. On these flooded areas layers of ice formed which were not always sufficiently strong to bear the weight of fully-laden parties of soldiers, with resultant accidents.

Our rapid march on Capelle effected the desired result by preventing the French force from getting into Bergen op Zoom. Having so far frustrated the enemy's plan, the 35th Foot continued to occupy Capelle during the night of the 12th of January, when other regiments, including the 33rd Foot, arrived and relieved us.

On the morning of Thursday, the 13th of January, 1814, which day was intensely cold, we were directed to cross the heath and attack the troops which the enemy had collected at Merxem, a neat pretty village about three-quarters of a mile from Antwerp, and which protected the approach to that city. The snow was lying to some depth on the heath which somewhat retarded our progress. But at length, debouching on the main road to Antwerp, we moved in two columns towards the enemy who confidently awaited our approach.

However, after a brief encounter we drove the enemy back and, continuing the pursuit, at length came nearly in line with the village of Merxem. Here we found the enemy prepared to offer a determined resistance to our further progress. They had brought up several field pieces to command the road, and a sweeping fire was maintained, but our skirmishers, getting on their flanks, attacked them with great animation, and forced them to relinquish their advanced positions, and retire hastily, part to join the main body in Merxem and part to occupy the gardens and farm-yards on the flanks and behind the village. Whilst we were engaged in clearing the latter, the Duke of Clarence accompanied the light troops during a part of the time, and His Royal Highness during our operations frequently aided the men in getting through the intricate fences which obstructed their progress. Being the senior subaltern of the Light Company, my post was on the extreme left of the skirmishers which covered the right column of the attack. Whilst we were engaged in forcing the enemy from hedgerow to hedgerow, behind each of which they made a stand and fired heavily as we crossed the intervening open spaces, the Duke of Clarence scrambled through a fence some little distance to my left, and I observed a party of the enemy issuing from a house and the garden in its rear with the evident intention of capturing His Royal Highness. Seeing that delay might prove disastrous, I desired such of the men of different regiments as had got through the fence to follow me. This was promptly done, when with about a dozen men of my own regiment, one or two of the 78th Highlanders and a few of the 95th (Rifles) we moved against the enemy party which had by this time approached to within 12 or 14 yards of the Royal Duke, and had already intercepted his retreat. Had he attempted to run he would certainly have been shot. My object was to get at the Frenchman with the bayonet without firing, but when they fired on my party and killed a soldier of the 78th and a rifleman, I ordered the fire to be returned and a rush made at them. After a brief contest with the bayonet the enemy

fled, throwing away their arms, leaving eight killed, several wounded, and eleven prisoners. It need scarcely be mentioned that the Duke of Clarence, who throughout this affair evinced great coolness and courage, was well pleased at the promptitude displayed in going to his rescue.

Eventually we drove the enemy from his positions in the outskirts and from the village of Merxem itself, and followed them closely for some distance towards Antwerp, until we were within four hundred yards of eighteen or nineteen French sail of the line moored close alongside each other in the basins of the harbour, and we could see several other ships of war lying at anchor in the Scheldt, and nothing appeared wanting but rockets and shells to enable us to destroy them all—the last remnant of the French Navy.

When the enemy had been completely driven from Merxem, Sir Thomas Graham entered the village accompanied by the Duke of Clarence. In order to reconnoitre as well as witness the operations going on in front they climbed the church steeple, but a shot or two from the enemy field pieces, (with others being likely to follow) striking the steeple, the Duke and Sir Thomas descended to a place of greater security, and expressed delight at seeing the French fleet all but in our hands. No one who saw this fleet huddled together in closely arranged tiers, with top masts struck, and some of the rigging removed, could doubt our ability to destroy it as soon as our battering train arrived, although the decks were covered with a considerable quantity of mould and turf. On our right we could see several ships of war fully equipped with their broadsides bearing on the land, and formidable looking batteries they seemed to be.

Alas, we had not long kindled our watch-fires and daylight had hardly begun to fade away, when the main body of our small army started to retire, and soon after eight o'clock p.m. the 35th, 52nd and 95th regiments which had remained in the Merxem area received orders to withdraw, which we did, moving in parallel columns until we gained the high road in rear of the other troops and thus became the rear guard. The soldiers could not understand this retrograde movement. They had beaten the enemy in the morning, then why fly from him at night? This was a general question during the retreat. They continued, however, in high spirits, though retreating generally exercises a depressing influence on an army. But their cheerfulness never flagged although exposed to intense cold and prolonged fatigue. Every individual soldier in the army was as thickly covered with hoar frost as the trees which studded the countryside, and the moustaches of those who wisely cultivated them as a protection against the cold, soon become converted into solid cakes of ice.

(To be continued.)

RELICS AND PAINTINGS FROM APSLEY HOUSE.

A PUBLIC EXHIBITION

An exhibition of some of the relics and works of art from Apsley House, which as already announced has been given with its contents to the nation by the Duke of Wellington, is to open at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, on June 18—Waterloo Day.

The paintings in the gift include three by Velazquez which were recently seen at the National Gallery, Correggio's "Agony in the Garden," and portraits of the first Duke of Wellington by Goya and Lawrence. Among the personal relics are the sword and belt worn by Wellington at Waterloo; the Garter badge which originally belonged to Marlborough and was given to Wellington by George IV; and other orders and decorations belonging to the Iron Duke.

As a Wellington Museum, Apsley House will be under the control of the Ministry of Education and will be administered by the Victoria and Albert Museum. Some of the most important paintings in the collection belonged to the Spanish royal collections and were taken from the abandoned carriage of the fleeing Joseph Bonaparte (Napoleon's

brother, whom he had made King of Spain) after the battle of Vittoria in 1813. When Wellington later inquired about returning the pictures, the Spanish Ambassador replied that King Ferdinand VII, "touched by your delicacy, does not wish to deprive you of that which has come into your possession by means as just as they were honourable."

[The above cutting was taken from *The Times* of Saturday, 3rd May, 1947. In a previous issue of *The Times* it was stated that a bill for the purpose of transferring Apsley House, Piccadilly (the home of the Dukes of Wellington since 1820) to the Nation was introduced in the House of Lords on 29th April. The transfer includes possessions of the first Duke, which will be exhibited to the public, part of the house being used as a museum and part retained as a private residence for the Dukes of Wellington.—Ed.]

Cartoon Purporting to represent The 1st Duke of Wellington.

With reference to the Cartoon which appeared opposite page 37 of our last issue, we have received the following letter from the present Duke of Wellington.

The Editor,
THE IRON DUKE,
Llwyn-Celyn, North Wales.

February, 17th, 1947.

Dear Sir,

"I have to-day received my February number of THE IRON DUKE and am interested to see a supposed portrait of the 1st Duke of Wellington.

"Now I am as near certain as anyone can be, that this picture does not represent the Great Duke and the only thing that would convince me would be a letter, from the second Duke to Mr. V. Gorman Mahon stating definitely that the picture represented his father. Oral tradition would not be enough.

"My reasons for not believing in the picture are as follows:—From the style of the dress, the picture must date from about the 1830's. Now in 1830 the Duke was 61, and had short grey hair. He never at any time in his life had long bushy whiskers, or long curly hair. Except in extreme old age he always wore the the Order of the Golden Fleece and the Star of the Garter.

"The picture might perhaps represent the second Duke who had a nose resembling his father's but I do not think this is likely.

"Perhaps Brig. J. C. Burnett can throw some light on the matter.

Yours very truly, Wellington."

A later letter also says:—"People often loosely call all early Victorian hook-nosed men by his name. In point of fact, quite apart from personal resemblance, any picture of Wellington painted between the age of 35 and about 75 cannot be genuine unless he is wearing certain Orders, and this applies just as much to the commercial likenesses as the genuine portraits."

On referring the matter to Brigadier J. C. Burnett, he put us in touch with the gentleman who had given him the photograph of the picture, who has written that he is unable to give any further information on the subject of its authenticity. He however mentions that O'Gorman, M.P., to whom the second Duke of Wellington is supposed to have given the picture, was a notorious character called "The O'Gorman Mahon," who was noted as a duellist, adventurer and politician; an old humbug who managed to collect a number of distinguished friends, of whom the second Duke of Wellington was one. The picture was found among O'Gorman's relics.

In the circumstances, there seems little doubt that the story of the picture is a fabrication, and we are sorry that we reproduced it before asking the present Duke's opinion on it, and we offer him our apologies.

EDITOR.

The Visit to the Cape by the Duke of Wellington—1796

The search for historical information about the Duke of Wellington's brief visit to the Cape in 1796 started after a casual remark made in the course of conversation, that the crest of the Wynberg Girls' High School was the same as my husband's cap badge. We immediately decided to find out the whys and wherefores of this coincidence, and discovered the connection was that young Lt.-Col. Arthur Wellesley—the future Duke of Wellington—had visited the Cape in 1796 en route to India. Knowing that the Regiment would be most interested in the subject, my husband suggested that I did all I could to find out more about this visit.

The search started. Daily, for weeks at a time I disappeared into the various libraries of Cape Town. There was little to be found. Few records of the Cape in 1796 exist, but the story slowly unfolded itself.

It opens with the first mention of the 27 years' old Lt.-Col. Arthur Wellesley or Wesley, as it was then spelt, on the eve of his departure to India via the Cape. His brother, Lord Mornington, writes on the 20th June, 1796, that his "dear brother Arthur is now at Portsmouth waiting for a wind for India. The station is so highly advantageous to him that I could not advise him to decline it, but I shall feel his loss in a variety of ways . . ." Between these two brothers, there was a strong bond of affection. Lord Mornington, brilliant to a degree, was soon, as Viceroy, to follow Arthur to India. Arthur on the other hand, considered, even by his mother, as dull-witted and ugly, was on his way to India as a Lt.-Col. of no particular promise.

His Regiment, the 33rd of Foot, had sailed in April unaccompanied by their young Colonel, who at the time, was dangerously ill from a fever. Within two months, Lt.-Col. Wesley had recovered, and he waited for a favourable wind at Portsmouth. The wind sprang up and the fast frigate sailed.

Arthur Wesley, with characteristic methodical preparation, had been up to London a week before he sailed, and had purchased from Mr. Faulder, the bookseller of London, an imposing list of books to the value of £58 2s. 6d. The book-seller's account survives with its careful listing of the many military and political authorities on Indian affairs, together with some of the better known classical works of the young Colonel's choice, all of which were packed into the corded trunk specially purchased to carry this comprehensive collection of books. They give an insight into his character, and indicate his determination to master the problems of the country of his future service. He had other books too. There is a later list, recorded in his own handwriting, which includes these current purchases together with books that one presumes must have come from his quarters in Ireland.

No record of the voyage out to the Cape can be found, nor any actual date of arrival, but even in a fast frigate the voyage could have taken little less than two months; we may safely assume that Lt.-Col. Wesley arrived at the very welcome half-way house of the Cape, at the beginning of September.

The Cape, recently captured from the Dutch and newly garrisoned by the British, was used as a re-victualling station for the transports on their way to India. We find mention of "the newly arrived 33rd, the Scots Brigade, the 78th, 86th, all destined for India and also the 80th and 12th Regiments closely resembling each other in dress." Lt.-Col. Wesley therefore caught up with his own Regiment and resumed his duties.

He had sufficiently good family connection to be assured of a gay time in his leisure hours, but for others, less well connected and without the advantage of certain military rank, the Cape was considered "the cussedest place" ever discovered. Lady Anne Barnard, a year later, writes thus of conditions as they existed in the garrison:—"The military all to a man, have disliked their quarters—nor is that much to be wondered at, as every thing since the first capture of the Cape has been so extravagantly dear that the poor subalterns are both starved and undone. The private soldiers live well and cheap, as

beef, mutton and bread are still reasonable, the first being only 2½d. per pound now, and I suppose bread is not much more than, or as much as, in London, as our house bills for it amount to nearly the same as it costs us here. At first there was much drinking amongst private soldiers, from the cheapness of the Cape wine, which could then be procured for about 3d. a bottle, but now I have heard there are wine taxes on it, or some way is contrived to render it less easy, and counteract the pernicious effects in the garrison, it being now 6d. a bottle or more. Every other article of life (the three excepted, wine, bread and butcher's meat) is extraordinarily dear. An officer, who comforts himself on going to this distant destination, by the thought of living within his pay, is therefore disappointed in the extreme to find that he is obliged to spend more here than if he were in London. The want of amusement of every kind has made the military sick of this place, vexed as they have been with scarcity and poverty and hipped with ennui. Perhaps their distance from the fountain of promotion may add to this. The very little notice taken of Subaltern officers (which has come to a point Mr. Barnard and I think very cruel, and wish to mend as far as we can) has rendered them still more 'dispirited, no man here beneath a Colonel (or Major at least) being invited to anything."

With the arrival on September 20th of the *Rockingham*, East Indiaman, the enjoyment of this short visit to the Cape must have increased greatly. Captain Lindsay, master of the *Rockingham*, had taken a very commodious house in town for himself and four women passengers entrusted to his care. With their attraction "the house was filled with all the principal officers visiting and paying their respects from morning till 7 night, amongst them the afterwards celebrated hero, Col. Arthur Wesley, at this time, September, 1796 "all life and spirits." Amongst the four women passengers were "two very fine girls the two Miss Smiths, about seventeen and nineteen years of age, just come 8 from the fashionable schools of London, Queen's Square and Bloomsbury, the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Petrie, the second in command at Madras. Jemima, the eldest, was a most incorrigible flirt, very clever, very satirical and aiming at universal conquest. Her sister, Henrietta, was more retiring and more admired and with her pretty little figure and lovely neck conquered Arthur Wesley."

"In height he was 5ft. 9in. with a long pale face and remarkably large aquiline nose 9 and clear blue eyes. He was singularly clean in his person and known to shave twice in one day as his constant practice." A necessity, no doubt, as reference is made to his having a very black beard. "He spoke extremely quickly, with a very, very, slight lisp. 10 He had very narrow jaw bones and there was a great peculiarity of the ear"—observed also in Lord Byron—"the lobe of the ear uniting to the cheek." He had an odd mannerism of pursing up his mouth, often observed when he was thinking abstractly. Mention is made, by a fellow officer at the Cape, of the great likeness between him and the matinee idol of the day, John Phillip Kemble and also the performer, Mr. Charles Young. When reference was made to this likeness he admitted it had often been remarked.

Years later, when fame and fortune had been earned by the Duke, but when the name of Lt.-Col. Wesley was still fresh in the memories of many of his Cape Town friends, they were often heard discussing the qualities which then "shadowed forth the subsequent renown 11 of the hero. His carriage and bearing distinguished the Lt.-Col. as one born to take a prominent part in the affairs of the world. At the period of his sojourn (at the Cape) the customary Bacchanalian scenes had reached the climax of debauch. The very invitation to the 'mess' was generally tantamount to a certainty of a subsequent snooze under the table."

As a frequent guest of Messrs. Robertson and Walker, then wealthy merchants (whose house was on the site of the present Mt. Nelson Hotel) the company were waited upon by Hendrick Hegers, alias Cheap John, once a slave. The eccentric Hendrick Hegers often used to describe the manly character of the young Lt.-Col. and the "the unaccountable prudence of the guest, who unscathed when all his comrades were *hors de combat*, would walk to his private lodgings without the slightest indication of excess." 12

"He never slept in barracks, but occupied a room at Mrs. van der Berg's house—now 13
54 Longmarket street." (One reads that the iron camp bedstead in which he slept was
disposed of some fifty years later).

A contemporary, and particular friend, Mr. Hamilton Ross, remarked on his "determined
force of purpose. . . . If the Lt.-Colonel said 'I will go to that blockhouse,' pointing to 14
the one on Devil's Hill—meaning any difficult deed—he would do it without fail." When-
ever he entered upon an argument, so well had he made his calculations beforehand, he was
sure to be successful. The ladies of the day had a keener perception of his character and
they seemed to augur the greatness of the future career of our hero and were far from
indifferent to his merits." They would surely have arranged many interesting ways of
passing the time for this young man who would not wish to miss unique opportunities.
There were parties to be made up to go in large waggons into the interior—even as far
as 80 miles, horseback rides on the unshod Cape horses, in the broiling sun as far as Con-
stantia and the vineyards of the celebrated wine, where the oranges, too, were particularly
delicious. In the evening there was dancing with the pretty Dutch girls. There was
one particular function which he must have attended, that of the marriage, after a ten-day
courtship, of Miss Jemima Smith to Captain Ruding of the 12th Foot. There were also
occasional dinners at the board and lodging house of the Dutch officer, Scholts, where
one met officers of the various regiments quartered at the Cape.

By November the pleasant holiday was drawing to a close and it was time to embark
with his regiment for India in the *Princess Charlotte*—East Indiaman. Before he sailed, 15
on 9th November, he wrote in the interest of his career to Lord Hobart, Governor of
Madras. They sailed under convoy of the old *Trident*, 64-gun ship, for it must be remem-
bered that it was the very height of the war between England and France. It was remarked
by one of his fellow passengers that Col. Wesley, "although uniformly cheerful and ready 16
to mix in the harmless amusements of his brother officers to dissipate the tedium which
he did not feel, contrived to spend much time in his cabin." As already mentioned he had
with him some of the best military works upon India, and he must acquire that information
which might enable him to discharge those duties which were to fall upon him with ever
increasing responsibility during the eight years he was to spend in constant service to his
country in the heat of India. At the end of those eight years our young Lt.-Colonel had
earned the rank and title of Lt.-General the Hon. Arthur Wellesley, which, although
just reward, was to be as nothing compared to the honours and titles conferred upon
him in less than a further eight years. We know that he subsequently proved himself
to be one of England's greatest soldiers before or since.

As a tribute to his greatness and to his connection with South Africa and particularly
to Wynberg, a suburb of Cape Town, we have to-day the legacy of places named after
him. There are many stories of his connections with the Wynberg locality. It is said
that he chose the site of the present Wynberg Military Camp, the oldest in South Africa.
Being keenly interested in his chosen profession of soldiering, it would have been convenient
to be near this military camp and there must be little doubt that Lt.-Col. Wesley did in
fact spend some time in Wynberg.

One is told that he used to stay at "Glebe Cottage," Waterloo Green,* and also stabled
his horse and slept at the Cottage in Wellington Avenue, later known as "Apsley House,"
named after the Duke's London residence; this cottage was unfortunately demolished
less than a year ago. Nothing remains of it now, except part of the old walls which to-day
can be seen in the garage in the grounds of "Tenterden House," Wellington Road. One
often hears the story that he carved his name on a window pane in this cottage, but even
before it was pulled down, search proved fruitless and no trace of such a window pane
could be found.

There is another tribute to him in the naming of Aliwal Road, after his famous battle
in India, to-day one of the battle honours of the Regiment.

* Photograph opposite page 87.

An interesting present-day connection with the Great Duke is that of the Wynberg Girls' High School, the crest of which was changed in 1938 to that of the "Iron Duke," by kind permission of his great-grandson, the fifth Duke of Wellington. The present Headmistress who obtained this permission from the late Duke was offered some fir cones, and some acorns from the tree growing on the grave of "Copenhagen," the horse which the Great Duke of Wellington rode during the battle of Waterloo, also some seeds from a Cedar tree planted by the great Duke. Writing from "Strathfield Saye" the late Duke in a letter to the Headmistress expressed the hope "that some of the seeds will germinate and that in time there will be a goodly number of Cedars in South Africa, which have thus sprung from this part of the Mother Country." Unfortunately, in spite of great care, they all proved failures, although some did germinate. 17

Of other places in South Africa called after the Duke, one finds reference to Fort Wellington, named in 1835 by Sir (then Colonel) Harry Smith; and the town of Wellington about which there is an interesting footnote. Sir George Napier, Governor of the Cape, was asked by the inhabitants of Wagonmakers Valley to permit his name to be given to a new village, but the request came too late. He was then asked to allow it to be called Blencowe in honour of his father-in-law, but declined the honour. Sir George was then petitioned to give it a name which he did by calling it Wellington, and issued a notice on 26th March, 1840, in the *Government Gazette*. On the original petition the Governor initialled his pencilled note, "Call it Wellington." "It is a disgrace to this Colony that not a place within it bears his name." 18

M. R.

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2. The Duke. By Philip Guedalla (Hodder & Stoughton, Ltd.), p. 55.
3. The Duke. By Philip Guedalla (Hodder & Stoughton, Ltd.), pp. 57 and 58.
4. G. Elers Memoirs (Ed. Monson and Lev-Gower, 1903), (William Heinemann), p. 53.
5. South Africa a Century Ago (1797—1801), Lady Anne Barnard, (Maskew Miller), p. 7.
6. South Africa a Century Ago (1797—1801), Lady Anne Barnard, p. 7.
7. G. Elers Memoirs (Ed. Monson and Lev-Gower, 1903), p. 55.
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9. G. Elers Memoirs (Ed. Monson and Lev-Gower, 1903), p. 55.
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13. Tavern of the Ocean—Laidler, (Maskew Miller), p. 116.
14. Cape Monthly, Vol. 2, July-December, 1857, p. 125.
15. Cape Archives, B.O. 72.
16. Life of Wellington—Sir James Edw. Alexander, K.L.S., (Whiting), p. 31.
17. Duke of Wellington's Letters to Miss Hawkins, December 4th, 1939.
18. Place Names in the Cape Province—C. Graham Botha, (Juta & Co.), p. 135.

ADDENDUM.

(Two letters to Miss Hawkins.)

Strathfield Saye House,

Mortimer, Berks,

April 28th, 1938.

Dear Madam,

I am asked by the Duke of Wellington to acknowledge your letter of the 21st March, and to say that His Grace is pleased to give permission for your school to use the Crest and I enclose a wax cast of same.

He also asks me to say that if you would like some cedar tree seeds from a tree planted by the Great Duke of Wellington he will be pleased to send them to you, or to do anything he can for a Colony which, unlike others, manages to keep down its expenses and taxation

* See Addendum.

in the way that South Africa does, and His Grace hopes that you teach the girls in your school some elementary economic facts, such as that if taxation is raised from industry and used for buying votes or subsidising another industry, this must have the effect of lessening the demand for labour, and thus making the country less prosperous than it otherwise would be.

I enclose a leaflet showing to what extent this ruinous policy has been carried out in this country, and Australia seems to be pursuing the same lines.

Yours faithfully,

EDITH UNWIN,

Private Secretary.

Miss E. W. Hawkins, Principal,

High School for Girls, Wynberg, Cape of Good Hope.

Leaflet referred to was "Whom Does Taxation Benefit," issued by The Liberty Restoration League, 24 Essex Street, Strand, London.

Strathfield Saye House,

Reading, Berks,

December 8th, 1939.

Dear Madam,

On the instructions of the Duke of Wellington I am sending you, under separate cover, a box containing some fir cones from a tree planted by the first Duke in about 1820, soon after he bought Strathfield Saye, and some acorns from a tree growing on the grave of his horse "Copenhagen" which he rode at the battle of Waterloo. He planted an acorn in this place at the time the horse was buried, and this has now grown into a fairly good oak.

Care should be taken in watering these seeds and looking after them when they are young trees. The seeds in the envelope are also from the same Cedar of Lebanon.

Yours faithfully,

E. UNWIN, Secretary.

Miss E. Hawkins, Girls' High School, Wynberg.

From THE TIMES of 1846.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1846. Price with a supplement, 5d.

UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

(From the *Almanack of the Month*)

It is well known that the Duke of Wellington answers every letter he receives. His habits are such that he acknowledges even every circular. We have been favoured with the following letters, which, we are proud to say, have never been published before. They have all the Wellington stamp of authenticity about them. There cannot be a doubt that they are original—very original:—

Field-Marshal Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Mrs. Somers, and must have more starch in his collars.

F.M. Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Messrs. Heine, and, in answer to their letter, never dabbles in lotteries. He thinks them a swindle upon the public, and begs they may send him no more letters. As for the prizes, he never won one, and never heard of anybody who did. They are a fiction—a snare—a take-in.

F.M. Duke of Wellington has received Messrs. Moses and Son's circular. The Duke has every reason to be satisfied with his own tailor, and if he had not, he certainly should not patronize Moses and Son. The Duke has no desire to be taken for a Gent.

F.M. Duke of Wellington begs to return the enclosed letter. He cannot understand why anything should be sent to him headed, "To Persons about to Marry." The Duke has no intention of marrying, and if he had, it is no business of Messrs. Hewetson and Co. If any more letters are sent to him, they will be torn up.

F.M. Duke of Wellington has just received a long communication from Mr. Eisenberg.

The Duke begs to say he has no corns, and never means to have any. The Duke never wore a tight boot in his life. It is his opinion that if there were no boots there would be no corns. The Duke feels no interest whatever in knowing the persons who have had corns—quite the contrary. Every man who has them deserves to have them. The Duke begs to contradict an error of Mr. Eisenberg's. He can safely say Queen Charlotte never had a single corn.

[The above cutting appeared in *The Times* of January 8th, 1946; lack of space precluded its reprinting till now.—Ed.]

Non-Interference

The thing not to do is volunteer. Just do as you're told and go where you're pushed. In the end you find a soft spot.

Look at Spike Donnelly, now. It was back in '27 when I saw him in a battleship. Now it is '47 and I see him again in the same battleship. Me? I volunteered and got ahead and have done nothing since except plough furrows in the ocean in one destroyer after another. Peeved people in aircraft hurled things at me. Disgruntled Dagoes in submarines propelled things at me. I work in two watches day and night, while Spike—well!!!

Spike just eats and sleeps and does this job he's detailed for back in '27. No action station and, therefore, no watch to keep.

In the peace-time before the war it was a crime to appear on deck unless in the rig of the day, the dress ordained by the current Head Man. Spike, one day, came on deck in an overall suit, was spotted by the Head Man himself who, in an excess of wrath, cried, "Go below and bale out every drop of oil from the turret sump."

Spike went and, later, the Head Man also went—from the ship.

In time, Spike, with his bucket, became an accepted sight. He opened valves so that pressure oil poured into the sump. He regulated the valves so that he baled out so much oil, and so much poured in. He had a job for keeps. "The whole thing is," he says, "to mutter 'Head Man's Orders' whenever some over-zealous Petty Officer asks who the blazes I am."

With careful manipulation of the valves, Spike can decide whether or not the battleship goes to sea. He can bring her in from sea by this valve-wangling. Twenty years in one turret has taught him more about valves than any engineer ever knew. The turret works or not as Spike thinks fit. If he doesn't want to go to sea, the turret doesn't work.

The experts argue and fume. They tap and twist and bang and bungle. A day or two later, the turret works and the battleship goes to sea. Five Ordnance Officers have resigned their commissions because of that turret. Spike never had a commission, but he can make the turret work.

"But, Spike," I said, "after the war—which you haven't seen—and after a bit of this so-called peace, you take your pension. Somebody finds out, and you're for the high jump."

"No," says Spike, "it takes thirty-six months and two days for a modification to be suggested, accepted and used. That's a known fact. Well, I've got a plan for non-muck-aboutable turret valves and, at the proper time, I put it forward. It is installed just as I leave the service and I get a hundred pounds from the Improvement Fund."

Well, there it is—only I feel that there is a snag somewhere. You see, Spike's going to *volunteer* that plan.

R. C. O.

Personalia.

We offer our congratulations to the following retired officers on their recent birthdays :—Colonel G. L. E. May, who was 97 on 16th January, 1947, Colonel A. Curran, 94 on 7th May, Colonel B. St. J. Le Marchant, 88 on 11th February, and Colonel E. G. Harrison, C.B., D.S.O., 84 on 11th May. We heard recently from Miss May that her father was in good health and gets up and comes down every day. He reads a great deal and is always interested in the articles in *THE IRON DUKE*. She writes :—“ It is amazing to think he has lived from what was more or less the bow and arrow age to this one of atomic horror.”

Colonel Curran writes on 8th May :—“ My dear Trench,—I thank you very much for your kind greetings. Like most ancients I live in the past and my mind goes back over the long years to the 11th of September, 1872, when I was gazetted a sub-lieutenant in the good old 33rd. I don't quite know in what form it exists now, perhaps it may be in a state of suspended animation, whatever that may mean. The Army of those days was hardly the highly trained force it now is, but of course they could fight, as they always did. The rank and file were perhaps not very highly trained and many of the officers had joined just to have a good time ; it is well that things have changed for the better.”

The following births have been announced :—

MURGATROYD.—On 23rd January, 1947, at the Elmhurst Nursing Home, Bingley, to Marjorie (née Holmes), wife of Major Bruce Murgatroyd, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and 145th Regiment R.A.C.—a son.

INCE.—On 27th January, 1947, at Karachi, India, to Angela (née Riddock), wife of Major R. H. Ince, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, attached 2nd Indian Airborne Division—a daughter.

HALMSHAW.—On 10th February, 1947, at Ballantae, Bendigo Road, Dewsbury, to Una, wife of Captain Brian Halmshaw, late 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—twin sons (David Richard and John Stephen).

The following marriages have been announced :—

ILES : OZANNE.—On 11th January, 1947, at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, Flt. Lt. Derek S. Iles, R.A.F., son of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Iles of Low Wood, Lyndhurst, Hants, to Brigid Doreen, elder daughter of Major-General W. M. Ozanne, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., of Hill House, Wroxham, Norfolk.

MASON : WARRAND.—On 1st April, 1947, at Leeming Parish Church, by the Rev. Frank Kent, Captain Eric Mason, R.A.O.C., late 2nd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, to Mayla Warrand of North Otterington.

The engagement is announced between Captain George Michael Bruce, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, of 25 Clifton Hill, St. John's Wood, N.W.8, and Miss Hedy Pfeffer of 103 Petts Wood Road, Petts Wood, Kent.

We hear that Colonel C. J. Pickering's elder son, who is in the Army Educational Corps, went out to Cairo early in the year to serve on the staff there. Colonel Pickering's younger son is now an instructor at the Royal Marine Depot at Deal, and has charge of Marine chargers. Colonel Pickering remarks : “ I always said that the Marines would be the last British unit to remain 'horsed.' ”

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Major-General W. M. Ozanne on winning the General's Cup in the Army Golf Society meeting at St. Andrews in April after some very hard fights. He was also runner-up in the Veterans' Cup, being beaten by only one stroke. Both of these successes were the more creditable when it is realised that his legs give him some trouble and are a handicap in playing four strenuous rounds in two days. General Ozanne has added to his laurels by being elected vice-president of the A.G.S.

Major-General W. M. Ozanne and Major-General E. C. Beard both attended an Investiture on 28th January last to receive their C.B's. The former writes :—" I had rather a unique experience at the Investiture. Just as H.M. was about to put the gong round my neck, he dropped it. I had to do some quick thinking whether (a) to pick it up myself, or (b) to let the King do so. I felt if I adopted plan (a) H.M. might do so simultaneously and our heads would bump, so I adopted plan (b) and the King picked up my decoration. Nearly a case of 'Sam, Sam, pick up tha musket.'" General Ozanne recently took over the County Welfare job for Norfolk, where he is settled now. We were glad to hear that Mrs. Ozanne is making a good though slow recovery from her long illness.

We heard last February from Brigadier J. C. Burnett that his daughter Joan, and her husband Lt.-Colonel E. E. A. Lane, had just arrived back from India and were staying with him until the latter knew where he was to be posted. It was over ten years since Brigadier Burnett had seen his daughter.

Brigadier F. H. Fraser informs us that his permanent address now is Haylands, Itchen Abbas, Winchester. He retired on 17th December, 1946, with the honorary rank of Brigadier.

We are glad to hear that Major S. E. Baker has made a good recovery from his illness last February. He has issued three of his news bulletins (numbers 5, 6 and 7) since our last issue, all full of interest. Some of the details from these appear in different parts of this issue of the magazine.

Colonel R. G. Turner relinquished his appointment at Headquarters B.A.O.R. early in the year, and after some leave in England went out to Bucharest at the end of February as head of the Army Section, British Mission in Roumania. We understand that he is to become Military Attaché.

Major Bruce Lowe, writing from H.Q. B.T.A. on 10th April, says :—" I must apologise for not sending you a round-up of Austrian news in time for the February issue. I had intended to say that now that Streatfield has been approved we again have a regular officer here, but about that time I found myself travelling in the twilit luxury of the Vienna—Klagenfurt sleeper with an officer who seemed to be wearing a red lanyard. After a little more eyestrain I identified him as "Pip" Moran. He is a D.A.A.G. in the Military Division of the Allied Commission. As far as I can at the moment ascertain McKenzie is still running the Russian side of the Interpreter Pool there, as S.O.II. Bennett is no longer Director of the Reparations, Delivery and Restitution Division. One supposes that there are no reparations, nothing to deliver and less to retribute, but his show goes on and he has been seen back in Vienna, I hear, in a large black hat (not a bowler, be it noted). Our latest reinforcement is Bunbury who has come up to A Branch at this H.Q. and brought his family, though Geraldine has since gone home to school. We have had one or two very regrettable losses, however. Pascall (A.P.M.) left on release in January

and Brownrigg no longer governs the civilian prison governors of Carinthia. Pool, who was with the 10th for a long time and then an L.O. at 46 Division H.Q., went out about Christmas. We have a single soldier left at B.T.A., one Pte. Hull of the 1st Battalion. After thirteen months as Press officer to the Commission, I have been posted here as D.A. D.P.R. till we leave, I gather. My wife and four of the children arrived early in March, but we are having trouble getting into a house. Which reminds me that I did not inform THE IRON DUKE that my wife presented me with another boy last year. That I think is about all the regimental news from here, except that Wadsworth, a Halifax chap, whose uncle was in the 4th Battalion at one time in the last war, has just taken over S.I.B. I believe he has been posted to the Regiment on getting a regular commission."

Last September Captain Charles Oliver, after a severe illness, had to retire from the Corps of Commissionaires in which he had served for 18½ years. During that time he had done very good work, not only for the Corps, but for the Regiment also, by getting jobs for some 40 ex-members of the Regiment. Captain Oliver had a letter of thanks from the Commandant and a send-off by members of the Leeds Division at Jacomette's Restaurant in Leeds. With his 36½ years in the Regiment and a couple of years with other units, Captain Oliver has been continuously serving his country for 57 years. On his retirement he and Mrs. Oliver left Leeds and settled at Eastbourne, where their address is:—Nord Cote, Brodrick Road, Hampden Park, Eastbourne. Captain Oliver's son, Lt.-Commander R. C. (Roddie) Oliver, D.S.C., R.N., is now in command of H.M.S. destroyer *Farndale*, his third command since the war. We very much welcome a contribution from his pen in this number, after a very long interval since we had anything from him. He writes in a covering letter explaining his long silence:—"You will understand when I tell you that I have put in a very strenuous couple of years mine-sweeping, and have been tired out and fit for nothing when in harbour."

R.Q.M.S. J. Imray in sending his subscription to Miss Turner writes:—"My job at present is that of trooping, and on my journeys I have come across old Dukes whom I knew in Malta and India. In Lagos, B.W.A., I met two captains who were in the ranks with me in Malta; it was rather a strange coincidence that in such a small place with only a sprinkling of white officers two of them should be old Dukes. The names were: Capt. C. A. Jackson, who was well known in the 1st Battalion as 4612603 Pte. C. A. Jackson, he served in Aldershot and Malta, and the other Capt. Jones, who was better known as L/Cpl. Jones, and was well known as the School N.C.O. in Malta."

Miss Turner also had a letter from Mr. G. R. Carnay, an old soldier of the 2nd Battalion, who in sending his subscription writes:—"Wishing you every success, also THE IRON DUKE and to all Duke of Wellington's Regiment. I am 78 and batting well." Our best wishes to Mr. Carnay, and may he long be a subscriber to THE IRON DUKE.

We heard in March from Mrs. Hicks that she had been on a visit to Vancouver in January and had been able to go and see Mr. Arthur Lowe and his son, who, she says, gave her a great reception, and they indulged in much talk about the old days in the Regiment. We also heard from Mr. Lowe, who wrote that he was very thrilled at seeing his letter and photograph in THE IRON DUKE. He sent a photo of the officers and N.C.O's of the 2nd Battalion in Bermuda, through Mrs. Hicks, and we hope to reproduce it when space is available.

With reference to the notes of the 10th Battalion O.C.A. on page 30 of our last issue, we are asked to make a correction to the statement that "Lt.-Colonel E. H. Sayers (formerly C.O. of the 6th Battalion and at the time commanding the R.A.P.C. in Bradford)"

attended the re-union. This should have read, "Colonel R. H. Sayers, O.B.E., M.C., R.A.P.C." Colonel Sayers never commanded the 6th Battalion, but served with them during the 1914-18 war, when he was wounded and awarded the M.C. He transferred to the R.A.P.C. in 1920, and served in East Africa, Abyssinia and Burma in the last war, receiving the O.B.E. His son, Lt. J. E. Sayers, R.E., was killed in action at Buitenzorg, Java, on 27th December, 1945. Colonel Sayers is now Chief Paymaster in Edinburgh.

As we go to press we have just heard that Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Reynolds are on their way home from South Africa. We are very much beholden to Mrs. Reynolds for the interesting article, which appears on page 100, which must have entailed an immense amount of research.

EXTRACTS from "Notes and Reminiscences of a Staff Officer relating to Waterloo and St. Helena."

By Lt.-Col. BASIL JACKSON (JOHN MURRAY, 1903)

[The following extracts were sent to us by Lt.-Col. B. W. Webb-Carter some time ago, but lack of space caused them to be held over till now.—Ed.]

JUNE 17th, AFTER QUATRE BRAS.

Page 28 et seq.

"Keeping a sharp look out lest any French horesmen should pounce upon me amongst the tall rye I rode along the irregular line of our skirmishers, but indeed there was little risk, all firing having ceased. Having satisfied my curiosity, I was returning towards the headquarters staff, when my attention was drawn to a group near the Bois de Bossu, and, on moving towards them, I recognised the uniform of the 33rd Regiment, of which I knew a few of the officers, and witnessed a most affecting and impressive scene. On the ground lay a tall form, enveloped in a military cloak, around which were standing bare-headed, three or four officers; two soldiers were leaning on their spades, wherewith a shallow grave had been dug. One of the officers was endeavouring, in broken accents, to read our beautiful burial service; another, Ralph Gore, stood motionless as a statue with eyes fixed on the cloaked man at his feet; young Haigh, a boy of eighteen, was crying like a child; even the hardy soldiers seemed powerfully affected. I needed not to be told whose body lay there. Throwing myself from my horse, I too became a mourner. When the service ceased, I cast an inquiring look towards Haigh who, stooping down, withdrew from the corpse a portion of its covering and, as I expected, exposed to my gaze the remarkably handsome features of Arthur Gore. Poor fellow! but two short weeks before, when employed on some mission, having to pass the village in which the 33rd were quartered I fell in with young Gore who prevailed upon me to remain and meet at dinner his elder brother and Haigh. We had all been at the Military College together, and left it about the same time. As may be supposed we passed a right merry evening and little did I then think where and under what sad circumstances we were again to meet. Poor Haigh was killed the following day at Waterloo. His name, with that of Arthur Gore and several other fine young fellows of the regiment is recorded on a tablet in the little church at Waterloo."

NIGHT 18/19, JUNE.

Page 69 et seq.

"The Duke says in his despatch that on the repulse of the last great attack, he ordered the whole of his troops to advance, but I had the means of seeing that all did not move forward, for two small 2nd battalions, namely of the 33rd and 69th Regiments, did not get beyond Hougomont. Having suffered severely at Quatre Bras, they had been united to form one battalion, and when posted near our centre on the 18th had come in for more than their share of the fighting. When the Imperial Guard made the last grand attack

of the day, a withering fire (even when united it formed but a weak battalion) was poured in ; its Commander and numbers fell, its array was broken and confusion ensued ; but the efforts of the brave Col. Muttleburg, of the 69th, rallied the men and they gallantly kept their ground. But physical power has its limits and the same men who had rallied at a trying and critical moment, were wholly unable to move forward and take part in the pursuit of the enemy. I found the poor fellows, a wretched remnant, bivouacked under the trees of Hougomont, preparing to bury the bodies of their fallen comrades."

The 33rd in the War of the Spanish Succession

The Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research, Spring, 1947, contains an article entitled "Sidelight on a Side Show—Spain and Portugal in the Spanish Succession War," by C. T. Atkinson, in which the following reference to the 33rd Regiment appears. The article emphasises the importance of the Nicholls' Collection in the Bodleian Library as supplementing Colonel Parnell's "The War of Succession in Spain, 1702—11" :—

An example of the additional items in the Nicholls' collection is the account in the *London Post* (1st June, 1705) of the storming of the minor fortress of Valenza on the Spanish-Portuguese frontier (8th May, 1705). This emphasizes more fully than Colonel Parnell does the credit due to Duncanson's Regiment, the 33rd (1st Duke of Wellington's). The assault was headed by 200 English and Dutch grenadiers, under a Huguenot, Dubourgay, then commanding the grenadier company of Blood's (17th Royal Leicestershire). They were supported by two Portuguese regiments but met a most stubborn resistance and were eventually forced back, whereupon the Portuguese fell into disorder. On this Duncanson's "advancing most bravely and with colours flying," pushed forward through them, "entered the breach though the same was undermined" and forced their way into the town, driving the defenders back into the castle, where they soon surrendered. Duncanson's, it may be noted, were the one regiment of the original force of 1704 who served right through to Brihuega. They had not only advanced with Galway to Madrid but had done well at Almanza ; reformed by Galway in Catalonia after that battle, they were again to the fore at Saragossa. If any regiment's colours should bear "Spain and Portugal 1704—1710," the 33rd's should, especially as they have nothing to show for their two campaigns in the Netherlands, 1702 and 1703, under Marlborough, where they took part in several sieges.

Lee's History of the 33rd gives a very inadequate account of these campaigns, and as regards 1703 states that "The 33rd, however, took no part in the Marlborough campaigns, but remained in readiness for marching when called on."

EDITOR.

Message from the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel C. J. Pickering, received the following telegram on 17th April last.

TELEGRAM.

To THE COLONEL OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT.

From GENERAL LISKA, CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENT ARMOURD BRIGADE.

17th April, 1947.

"General Liska on behalf of all members of the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade on the second anniversary of the Battle of Dunkirk in which we took part side by side with your Seventh Battalion. We all remember the heroic deeds of your Officers and men."

[The above telegram was no doubt wrongly transmitted and should have read 5th Battalion instead of 7th Battalion. An account of the Battle of Dunkirk, written by Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Carline the C.O. of the 5th Battalion, appeared on pages 74 to 77 of No 64 (June, 1946) of THE IRON DUKE.—Ed.]

Our Contemporaries.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the following Regimental Magazines :—*The Dragon* (January, February, March, April), *The Snapper* (January, February, March, April), *The St. George's Gazette* (December, January, February, March), *The Suffolk Regimental Gazette* (February, April), *The Lion and the Rose* (Winter), *The Hampshire Regimental Journal* (February), *The K.S.L.I. and Herefordshire Regimental Journal* (January, April), *The Borderers Chronicle* (March), *The Tank* (April), *The Sapper* (January, February, March, April), *The Royal Army Ordnance Gazette* (January, February, March, April), *Our Empire* (January, February, March, April), *The Tiger and Rose* (April), *Antelope* (Spring).

Notices

THE RETURNED BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION

(including Civilian Internees)

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1940)

34 EATON PLACE, S.W.1.

7th March, 1947.

Dear Sir,

Facilities are now available at the above permanent headquarters of the Returned British Prisoners of War Association for the holding of Regimental Re-unions, debates, meetings, etc.

Yours sincerely,

MARY CROSSAN,

Organising Secretary.

Obituary.

We regret to record the following deaths :—

LAMING.—On 18th March the 7th D.W.R. lost one of its oldest and most faithful members—Sgt. Harry Laming.

Colonel G. B. Howcroft writes :—“ Harry Laming joined the 2nd V.B. as a boy in 1901 and served continuously with that Battalion and its offspring, the 7th Battalion, until 1941. He was well known to a whole generation of officers during the first world war as Mess sergeant of the reserve unit, and to another generation, as well as to a multitude of guests, as the Mess sergeant of the 7th Battalion during the 20 years between the two wars. No longer young, he mobilized in 1939 with his customary enthusiasm and, though war-time changes in the Battalion brought trials and difficulties with them, he went to Iceland and continued to serve his beloved officers till he had to come home a very sick man in 1941. His life since then was a losing, but always cheerful, battle against illness.

“ Sgt. Laming was active also in the public life of his town. He was four times Mayor of Mossley, and one of the proudest days of his life was a certain ‘ middle Sunday ’ of camp when he spent the morning in shirt sleeves preparing for lunch, but emerged resplendent in top hat and chain to be welcomed by his commanding officer as chief guest at that same lunch. His service was not without reward. He received the British Empire medal, and more recently was given the Freedom of the Borough of Mossley. But the reward he appreciated most, and which he had in full measure, was the high regard and affection of the officers and other ranks of the Battalion which always came first in his thoughts ”.

MOTT.—On 3rd February, 1947, at 34 Stanley Road, Hounslow, ex-Bandmaster R. Mott. Up to date we have been unable to get any details of Mr. Mott's service.

THOMPSON.—On 7th March, 1947, at his home, 44 Mitchell Terrace, Bingley, ex-R.Q.M.S. Bartholomew Thompson, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, aged 60. Mr. Thompson joined the 1/6th Battalion on the outbreak of war in 1914 and

served throughout it with them, rising to the rank of R.Q.M.S. During the last war he served with the Hipperholme Home Guard as C.S.M. Mr. Thompson was well known to thousands of railway travellers through his service as bookstall manager at Bradford Exchange Station. He held the rare distinction of being a hereditary freeman of the borough of Alnwick, Northumberland, where his forbears lived for centuries, and one of his ancestors, a burgess, was admitted into the Ancient Company of Freemen through his trade guild, the Free Tanners. In his early days Thompson played football for North Shields. We are indebted to the *Keighley News* for the above information, and Major T. K. Wright, who kindly sent us the cutting, writes that Thompson "was a man of irreproachable character and very highly respected by all ranks."

WILLIAMS.—At the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on the 11th March, 1947, In-Pensioner Frederick Williams. Pensioner Williams was born at Llanelly. He enlisted in The Duke of Wellington's Regiment on the 1st February, 1895, and served for seven years and 162 days in the 1st and 2nd Battalions, of which five years were spent abroad. His rank on discharge was lance-corporal. He held the North Nigeria medal (West Africa clasp 1900).

With reference to the obituary of the late Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Hayden which appeared on page 55 of our last issue, we have received the following appreciation from Colonel G. S. W. Rusbridger :—

"There will no doubt be more ready pens than mine to write an obituary notice of Lt.-Col. Hayden, but I would like to pay a small tribute, however halting to an old friend whose main object in life was the welfare of the Regiment.

When I joined the 2nd Battalion in February, 1908, Col. Hayden had just taken over command and I shall always remember the charming manner in which he received me when, as a very young and nervous subaltern, I went to the Orderly Room to report my arrival, and I think many of my contemporaries will agree that joining the Regiment in those days was somewhat of an ordeal. At the end of 1908 the Battalion moved from the peaceful surroundings of Litchfield to Tidworth, and I do not think that any of us that were there will ever forget the shock of arriving at one of the most strenuous centres of the Army and joining a Brigade commanded by an ambitious and forceful Brigadier, after our long sojourn in the sleepy hollow of Litchfield where we only saw a General once a year, and manoeuvres and outdoor exercises—on the rare occasions when they did take place—were run on very gentlemanly lines. During the three years at Tidworth under Col. Hayden's wise and tactful leadership the Battalion gained that high standard of efficiency that modern conditions demanded, and left for Dublin in 1911 a first class fighting unit with an outstanding report. The results of his work were manifest in the fine record of the Battalion from 1914 onwards.

As Battalion Signalling Officer I worked in very close touch with him and well remember how he never spared himself to further the efficiency of the Battalion. It is very typical of him that when his house was completely destroyed during the raids on Plymouth and he was left with nothing but the clothes in which he stood up that he never let it get him down, but started at once to find a new house and take up life where it had been interrupted. He wrote to me shortly after this happened saying that he did not know when the next Regimental dinner would be held, but that he had every intention of attending and wanted me to sit next to him. This, alas, was not to be as he was unable to be present in 1946. In him the Regiment has lost a devoted friend and a great gentleman."

[A photograph of the late Lt.-Col. F. A. Hayden appears opposite page 86].

DEKKO!

DEKKO!

THE IRON DUKE

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S
REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

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