

No.69 February 1948



THE IRON DUKE

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

THE IRON DUKE



The
REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE
of
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S
REGIMENT
(WEST RIDING)

VOL. XXIV.

No. 69 :: FEBRUARY, 1948.

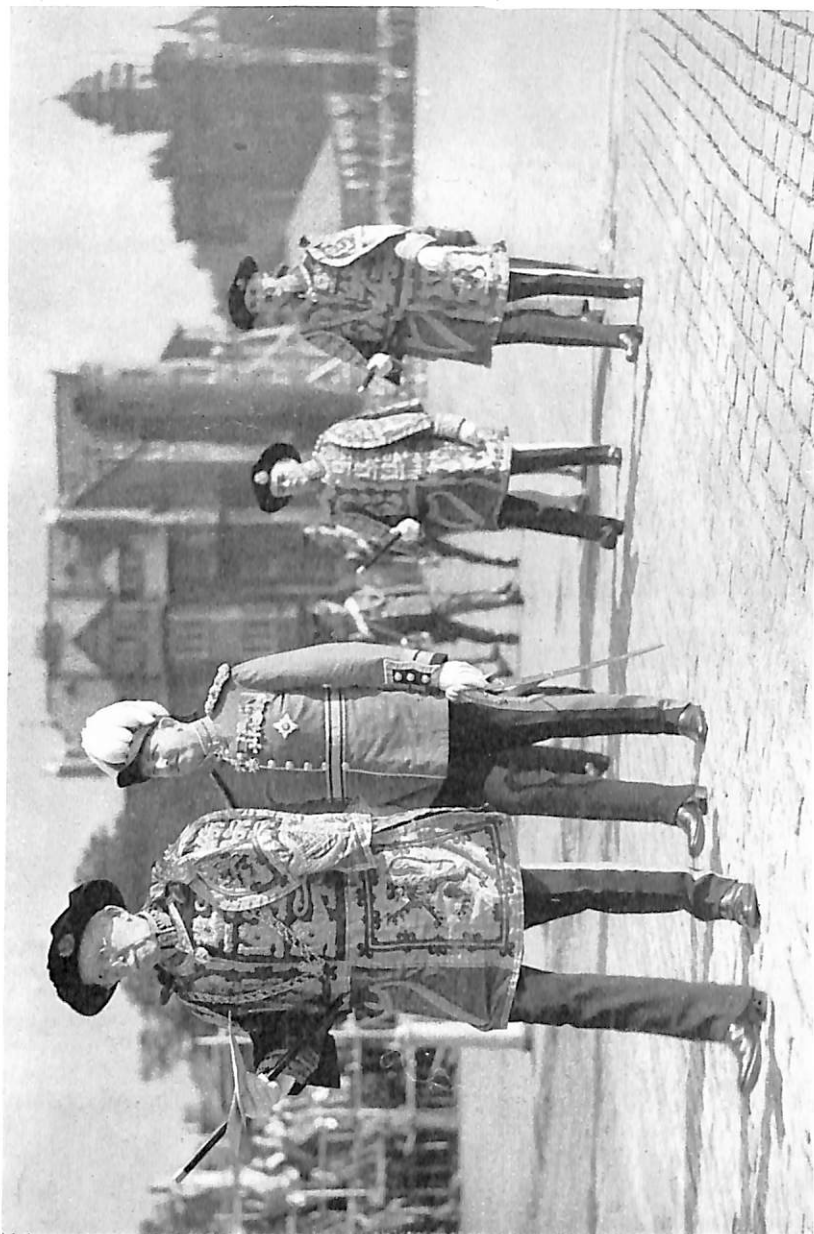
Printed and Published for the Regimental Committee by
LAWRENCE BROS. (Weston-super-Mare), LTD., North Street, Weston-super-Mare.
Members Association of Service Newspapers.
Advertising Agents for National and Local Advertising Combined Service Publications
67-68 Jermyrn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.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

CONTENTS

	PAGE
EDITORIAL	5
FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE RETIRING COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT	6
MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT	7
REGIMENTAL NEWS—	
1ST BATTALION	8
2ND BATTALION	15
7TH BATTALION	23
578 (MOB.) H.A.A. REGIMENT R.A. (5TH DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S) T.A.	25
No. 33 P.T.C.—D.W.R.	26
YORKSHIRE AND NORTHUMBRIAN BRIGADE T.C.	29
GENERAL—	
H.M.S. "CLEOPATRA"	31
REGIMENTAL DINNER AND LADIES' TEA	31
REGIMENTAL WAR MEMORIAL CHAPEL	32
REGIMENTAL WAR MEMORIAL FUND	33
OLD COMRADES' AND REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS	34
5TH BATTALION OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB	39
OUR CONTEMPORARIES	39
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)	40
TRUE—ALL TRUE. By R. C. O.	44
THE HAVERCAKE. By Major T. K. WRIGHT	45
PASSING OF PANTELLARIA. By Lt.-Comr. R. C. OLIVER, D.S.C., R.N.	47
MACDONALD'S HIGHLANDERS, OR OLD 76TH HIGHLAND REGIMENT	49
PERSONALIA	50
CORRESPONDENCE	53
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF REGULAR SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN	55
THE CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES	55
OBITUARY	56

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

GENERAL SIR A. F. P. CHRISTISON, Bart., G.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. , ENTERING EDINBURGH CASTLE	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	FACING PAGE
1ST BATTALION. CREST OF 33RD AT GOBEIT—EN ROUTE TO PORT SUDAN— FARGI CACTUS IN RED SEA HILLS—PROTEUS CAMP, OLLERTON	12
2ND BATTALION COLOURS, SILVER AND SPORTS TROPHIES, 1903	13
2ND BATTALION—COL. C. J. PICKERING, C.M.G., D.S.O., AND LT.-COL. C. R. T. CUMBERLEGE IN CENTRE OF GROUP OF BATTALION AT SOUTHAMPTON, OCTOBER 6TH, 1947	20
—THE OFFICERS ON BOARD THE "STRATHNAVER"	21
THE REGIMENTAL BAND, BRADFORD CENTENARY PAGEANT, JULY, 1947	21
MEMORIAL SERVICE AT HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 28TH, 1947	28
VISIT OF THE C.I.G.S. TO HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 3RD, 1947	29
MR. LORD'S NIECE MAKING HAVERCAKES IN HER UNCLE'S BAKERY AT BRADFORD	29



[Photo by courtesy of the The Scotsman.
General Sir Philip Christison, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Lt. D.C., G.O.C.-in-C Scottish Command,
preceded by the "Marchmont Herald" and accompanied by other members of the Lyon Court,
entering Edinburgh Castle after his installation as Governor on 13th September, 1947.

THE IRON DUKE

EDITORIAL.

Several events of Regimental importance have occurred since our last number. Both the 1st and 2nd Battalions have arrived in this country; the latter after 25 years' service abroad, is now to be temporarily disbanded, a most melancholy event due to the Infantry re-organisation. As the 76th Regiment, and since its amalgamation with the 33rd in 1881, the Battalion has had an uninterrupted existence of 160 years, in which it has won many distinctions and a record second to none. Space does not permit details of this record, but it is to be hoped that every recruit joining the Regiment after the 2nd Battalion has disappeared will be well grounded in its past history and traditions. Another regretted event is the future disappearance next March of the 33rd P.T.C., which has had such a short life under its able commander, Lt.-Colonel J. H. Dalrymple. Of what the position in future is to be we are at present ignorant, but it is to be hoped that the Barracks at Halifax will continue as the headquarters of the Regiment, and be a home for the possessions of the 2nd Battalion, as well as of the present Museum and other Regimental relics.

As forecast in our last issue, Colonel C. J. Pickering retired from the Colonelcy of the Regiment in November last; his farewell message appears below. He was succeeded by General Sir Philip Christison, who has since gained two fresh honours: first in being appointed A.D.C. to His Majesty The King, and second in being created a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of The British Empire (G.B.E.) in the New Year's Honours List. We tender him our sincerest congratulations. A portrait of him and record of his services appeared in No. 65 (October, 1946) of THE IRON DUKE, and as our frontispiece in this number we show him entering Edinburgh Castle after having been installed as its Governor on 13th September, 1947. We print below a message of greetings from him to the Regiment, which contains some salutary advice on the broadening of *esprit de corps* under the new loyalties required by the new Group system.

A meeting of serving senior officers of the Regiment is to be held on 15th January at Halifax, at which the future of THE IRON DUKE is to be discussed. Unfortunately we go to press before that date, but we would stress here the great difficulty of financing the magazine under present conditions, and the need for the support of every member, past and present of the Regiment. We feel that many present subscribers could help in this matter by bringing the magazine to the notice of any past members who do not take it, but who would possibly like to keep touch with their old Regiment in this way.

The Regiment is indebted to the Committee of the Royal United Service Institution for two recent gifts. The first is a letter written by the First Duke of Wellington to Colonel Harty, commanding the 33rd, in July, 1852, in reply to the latter's request that the 33rd should in future be known as The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The letter has been temporarily placed in the Regimental Museum at the Depot. The second is the remains of the Regimental Colour of the 33rd carried at Waterloo, together with Tassels, Poleheads and Shoes.* and these also have been deposited in the Museum, and will be taken over by the 1st Battalion.

We have to thank the following journals for their kind permission for us to reproduce photographs in this number:—*The Scotsman*, *The Daily Graphic* and *the Halifax Courier & Guardian*.

* *Vide* History of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 1st and 2nd Battalions, 1881-1923, by Brig.-Gen. C. D. Bruce, C.B.E. The King's Colour has never been traced.—Ed.]

Farewell Message from the Retiring Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel C. J. Pickering, C.M.G., D.S.O.

It is with a sad heart that I write these few lines on relinquishing the Colonelcy of the Regiment, an appointment which I have had the honour to hold for nearly ten years, which included the World War years of 1939 to 1945.

The ending of the World War has brought in its train many changes in Army organisation, which to us means the loss of one of our Regular Battalions and the partial loss of three of our Territorial Battalions. This has given me much food for thought, with the result that I have come to the conclusion that the time has arrived when it is incumbent upon me in the best interests of the Regiment to make way for a younger man with fighting experience in the last war; and I feel that in handing over the Colonelcy to General Sir Philip Christison we have found the right man capable of watching over our interests in the immediate future. General Christison commanded our 2nd Battalion and later earned his spurs as the Commander of the 15th Corps in the Burma campaign. I can best describe him as one of the great leaders in the World War of 1939-45, and I know that all of you will give him the great support which you have always extended to me.

The years of my Colonelcy have been happy ones because I feel that something constructive has been achieved. We brought into being a useful Prisoners of War Fund, the balance of which enabled us to make a good start in our new Regimental Association, which caters for all our men irrespective of whether they are Regulars, Territorials, wartime service men or others, and their dependents; and what is more this fund will continue to cater for the men of any future wars. I am happy to realise that our Old Comrades—the men who served prior to the 1939 war and their dependents—are also well provided for as we have ample funds to meet the calls which are likely to be made upon them.

Our War Memorial Fund has been launched and I am grateful to those who have responded so well to our appeal.

The help and assistance we have received from the citizens of Halifax, Huddersfield, Skipton, Keighley, Elland, Brighouse, Oldham and other towns and districts in our recruiting area have been simply marvellous, and to all of them I extend my grateful thanks.

All our Battalions acquitted themselves with credit and fully maintained the traditions of the Regiment. The 1st Battalion in the North African, Sicilian and Italian campaigns earned for themselves a reputation second to none, which culminated in the honour of their being privileged to lead the Victory March in Rome. How pleased the Old Duke would be if he knew how well the Battalion which he commanded for seven years had maintained their discipline and fighting efficiency! The 2nd Battalion in the Burma campaign equally maintained their fighting qualities handed down to them since the days of General Lord Lake in 1803. Those of us who have served in Burma know full well the difficulties under which they had to fight, where the rain never ceases for six months in the year.

The 4th Battalion took on an anti-tank role and their squadrons served separately in the several theatres of operations. They too did well.

The 5th Battalion were converted to Searchlights on the outbreak of war, and later were switched to anti-aircraft activities, eventually finishing in their original role of Infantrymen in Germany. They also fully maintained the traditions of the Regiment.

The 6th and 7th Battalions in the Normandy campaign earned a reputation which will live for ever. Their second line units the 2/5th and 2/7th became tank training units of the Royal Armoured Corps, the 114th and 115th.

The 8th and 9th Battalions were converted to tanks as the 145th and 146th Regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps. Both had a remarkable fighting record.

The 10th Battalion through no fault of their own were retained at home as a draft finding training unit. I inspected all these Battalions on more than one occasion during the early years of the war. They were all in a fine state of efficiency, and I knew that they would acquit themselves well when the time came to put their training to the test.

For the future we must look to the youth of the nation—the coming generation—those now serving in our Cadet units and in the various Youth organisations. We must give them every assistance we possibly can by lectures, loans of equipment, help in their training and organisation. Officers serving at Home stations can help by keeping in close touch with the Commanders of our Cadet Battalions.

In conclusion I would like to add a personal note of thanks on behalf of all ranks of the Regiment for the able assistance we have had from one of our Territorial officers who acted as Depot Commander during the war. I refer to Lt.-Colonel S. E. Baker, who organised all our activities, kept an eye on funds belonging to our several Battalions, stored their goods and belongings and generally maintained our records. To him we all owe a deep debt of gratitude.

I express the hope that the future years will be happy ones for you all. Long live "THE DUKES."

C. J. PICKERING, Colonel.

New Year's Eve, 1947.

Message from the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir A. F. Philip Christison Bt., G.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.

On taking over the Colonelcy from Colonel Pickering, I wish to send greetings to all Dukes, past and present members of our Regiment, wherever they may be.

You have done me the greatest honour it is in your power to bestow, and I shall try and be worthy of it.

These are difficult times for the Regiment and perhaps as never before, there is a great need for clear thinking, understanding and loyalty among all ranks past and present.

We are now an integral part of the Yorkshire and Northumberland Brigade; we must therefore seek to superimpose the Brigade *esprit de corps* upon our Regimental. I am quite sure this can be done without weakening our own.

With only the Depot, the 1st Battalion and our Territorial 7th Battalion we shall all be knit much closer together as Dukes, but we must all realize that in any future war it will be impossible to fight and maintain *esprit de corps* unless it is founded on a wider basis than that of the Regiment.

Though we shall always be Dukes, our ranks will contain, and our reinforcements consist of, officers and men of other regiments in our Yorkshire and Northumberland Brigade. We must, therefore, assuredly foster this Brigade spirit in peace-time, or it will certainly break down in war.

We must at all costs avoid any possibility of the disastrous isolationist tendency which in some regiments followed the reforms of 1881.

I look to all ranks to accept the new organisation with the loyalty I expect of all Dukes, and to do all in their power to ensure that whatever transpires we maintain our Regimental Spirit and traditions alongside a real and living Brigade spirit.

PHILIP CHRISTISON,

General.

18th December, 1947.

Colonel, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

REGIMENTAL NEWS

1st Battalion

These notes are written at Proteus Camp, Ollerton, Notts., the new Headquarters of the 33rd. The Battalion arrived on Sunday night the 16th November, Headquarter Company, "A" and "D" Companies going into Proteus Camp and "B" and "C" Companies into Plain Piece Camp. Both camps are of the Nissen variety and situated in woods, nine and one-and-a-half miles respectively from Worksop.

The English weather gave us a somewhat grim reception with snow and severe frost but this did not deter the spirit of the men, who showed their appreciation at being back in the good old country as the train made its way from Liverpool to Worksop, the vocal efforts being particularly hearty as the train steamed slowly through Sheffield station.

Our last three months in the Sudan were not marked by any outstanding events. The weather continued intensely hot and humid and our departure took place just before the season of sport and frivolity got into its stride. Training in Khartoum was limited to Range work and Education, but Gebeit gave opportunity for more interesting exercises. Sport, likewise, was confined to cricket and water-polo in Khartoum, but at Gebeit football continued unabated throughout the year, and some of the men as well as the officers were able to play tennis and squash. Accounts of the Battalion's efforts at cricket and water-polo will be found on another page; in the latter we produced a very strong team.

With the exception of an informal visit by the Governor-General, Sir Robert Howe, to Gebeit in August there have been no inspections or visits of a ceremonial nature by higher commanders.

In August our Corps of Drums and the Bugles of the K.S.L.I. combined to beat Retreat on two occasions, once at their barracks and once at ours. A number of guests were invited to both parades. Nothing is perhaps more gratifying to mark than the progress made by the Drums. Their silverene bugles and scarlet cords arrived from England just in time for the combined Retreat, and their bearing and martial music have added a touch of that so-much-needed military pageantry and glamour which is so sadly lacking in these sombre and austere times.

Throughout these last few months in the Sudan, mystery and imagination have played a constant part in our daily life. Orders and counter-orders, rumours and counter-rumours as to the fate of all and sundry have come to us, no doubt as a vibration of the national and international chaos which appears to reign supreme. The departure of our advance party for England at the end of September and the arrival of the advance party of the Green Howards in Khartoum gave the first firm promise of the course of events. The Battalion eventually left Khartoum at very short notice on 1st November. The Gebeit detachment joined up on the quay at Port Sudan on 3rd November, and we embarked on the *M. V. Georgic* that day with much sweat but luckily no blood and certainly no tears; we did however leave behind with great regret five officers and one hundred and forty O.R.'s to swell the ranks of the 2nd Battalion The Green Howards. This is our first wholesale experience of the Grouping System, and to the older soldiers at least brought a special pang of regret for days gone by.

We literally left "our mark" in the Sudan in the form of our Crest which was made in white stones on a hillside at Gebeit and a photograph of which appears in this number. We arrived at Liverpool on 15th November, the Battalion having served abroad continuously since it landed in North Africa with the 1st Division in February, 1943. Our own Band was there to meet us on the quayside, brought over from Halifax for the occasion by Lieut.-Colonel Baker, and also we were delighted to see Colonel Pickering who had travelled up from Alverstoke to welcome us home. A telegram of greetings and good wishes awaited us from the Colonel of the Regiment, who expressed his disappointment at not being

able to be present. Telegrams were also received from the Commanding Officers and All Ranks of the 2nd and 7th Battalions ; from Major General Ozanne, and from a number of other officers.

OFFICERS' MESS.

These notes are written in the sylvan surroundings of the Dukeries where the 33rd arrived last Sunday evening in a temperature estimated by the sun-baked personnel of the Battalion at several degrees below zero. There is little to record of our closing days in the Sudan as the glamour of the Khartoum " Season " was only beginning to appear as the Battalion left.

Firstly arrivals. We were glad to welcome the almost legendary figure of Scott-Evans who after a prolonged struggle with A.G.2(0) MELF, C.M.F. the Border Regiment and half the military alphabet at last succeeded in rejoining his own Regiment in which he was granted a regular commission early this year. We were also glad to see Nock who came to us from the I.T.C. but departs all too soon on release. On arrival at Liverpool we were glad to see Skelsey who has returned to the fold he left in 1937. At Proteus Camp we also found another regular—Hall—who has returned to us from a long sojourn with the R.A.F.

In September, Austin—whom we congratulate on the arrival of a second son—left us for a " compassionate " course in the U.K. which was planned to combine instruction in air photos with inspection of the new acquisition to the Austin family. He suffered however the frustration of being dragged off the train at Gebeit and peremptorily posted to Palestine as G.S.O. 2 at Gaza Sub-District. We wish him good fortune there and look forward to his return to us on completion of his Python next year. We wondered what the reaction of the two chameleons, who accompanied him on his journey on the clear understanding that they were bound for England, must have been on arrival in Palestine.

The C.O. visited G.H.Q. in October to negotiate the number of the Battalion who would have to be left behind. With the opportune presence of Brigadier Bray and Col. Stevens in key posts at G.H.Q. the 33rd was not mulcted as much as it might have been, but we were sorry to leave reluctantly behind Nicholson, Miller, Williamson, Haley and Johnson. Col. Stevens flew back with the C.O. from G.H.Q. and we were happy to have him to supper that night in the Mess on his way to Kenya, and we congratulate him on his promotion to the substantive lieutenant-colonelcy of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment.

Hatch has been on local leave in the Canal Zone before becoming an instructor at a pre-Staff College course at G.H.Q. He was able to extricate himself from this in time to join us at Port Said on our way home. Whilst at Fayid he met Harold Pickering, the elder son of our late Colonel, and Cartwright was one of his students. The C.O. having worked out with G.H.Q. who was to stay and who was to come home adroitly passed the file to the Adjutant and went to El Obeid for a week's local leave, where he was lucky to get three days' polo.

As regards athletic activities the high light was a squash match against the officers of the K.S.L.I. This we won—Carroll, Sugden and Tattersfield being victorious and Roberts having drawn after a complicated struggle in which blood was drawn and light stopped play.

We gave a small farewell cocktail party on the familiar Mess lawn by the Nile. We decided to ask our own friends and not the whole type-written list of the Khartoum social register which is religiously handed from Battalion to Battalion in the Sudan, and the party went very well, if smaller than usual. We also during our last week had a final Regimental guest night when we entertained the Kaid—General Stamer—and Mr. Waller who have both been good friends to the 33rd in Khartoum.

After sundry alternating dates we finally entrained at Khartoum on November 1st. A large party came to see us off and we had just equipped all our guests with a drink each—mostly in glasses belonging to the Sudan Railways—when the train with no warning

incontinently left the station whilst officers leapt madly at the doors. We left no one behind but had to drink from the bottle—or the tap according to taste—for the duration of the journey.

We draw a veil over the voyage of the *Georgic*, except to say that all officers were for the first time delighted that Khartoum was not a family station when we saw the conditions in which the wives of our brother officers had to travel. We were immensely pleased and touched to be welcomed at Liverpool by Colonel Pickering, who had come all the way from Alverstoke to meet us. We were also enlivened to hear the strains of the Regimental March played by the Band which Colonel Baker brought over from Halifax to play us in on the quay.

The following day—Sunday November 16th—we disembarked and, amid scenes of elaborately organised chaos, fought our way through the Customs. The P.M.C. with rigid honesty declared our modest stock of wines and was rewarded by being stung some £80 odd, and Roberts had a short and expensive encounter with a conscientious excise man, but the rest of us got by mostly cheaply.

We have been visited by Col. Cumberlege and hope soon to stage a real re-union with the 76th—for the first time since 1922 at Gibraltar—in an interval from our singularly unromantic role of White Coolie labour.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

During the past few months activities on the social side have been rather curtailed except for one party for members in 55 Group which went with a swing. One item was a snooker knockout, Sgt. James winning the first prize, a cigarette lighter, owing partly to the big heartedness of the R.S.M., who is our recognised champ.

The Sudan Defence Force W.O's and Sgts. Mess invited all at Khartoum to three dances and challenged us to a games night. On the latter we really took their "socks" off, and some real talent, (or was it luck?) was shown on that occasion. The silver arrived along with C.S.M. R. Callaby, and it looked like pre-war days in the Mess, the silver making an admirable show, and being much admired, especially by civilian friends. Somehow or other the plinth of the Aldershot Command Rugby Cup turned up, although the Cup itself was handed back some time ago. The silver stood the journey out very well. A few bulges were made on the return trip however. The handling was none too gentle and one or two pieces require repair.

The Mess has gradually been reverting to peace time, sashes and sticks being bought, but not much more can be attempted until the austerity and shortages cease.

Our departure from Khartoum was very efficiently completed, and all the property packed quite well by the Regimental Pioneers, who did a fine job at crating with the limited materials available.

Our usual crop of losses occurred since the last issue. However we have been lucky to have some old regulars posted to us: C.Q.M.S. Vast, Sgts. Preston and Thornton, whom we were pleased to welcome. A number of promotions has taken place. The ones effecting the Mess are Sgts. Vast and Jones to C.Q.M.S. We were pleased to wet their newly acquired crowns. Other ranks have remained the same and going to press we have R.S.M. Jackson, O.R.Q.M.S. Akrigg, R.Q.M.S. Wall, C.S.M's Callaby, Pearce, Brighton, Smith, Young and Walton. Incidentally on the voyage was the first time all W.O's had been together since March, and in the present location we still have two Companies on detachment.

Everyone is now settling down to austerity Britain and looking forward to a Disembarkation leave and Xmas at home.

COMPANY NOTES.

"H.Q." COMPANY.—During the last three months training and sporting activities have been curtailed owing to the hot weather and the move of the Battalion. The cricket season having finished, bathing provided the only recreation. We played many games of water-polo in which we held our own with all comers.

We welcomed back the Carrier Platoon and the Mortar Platoon from Gebeit and they looked very fit and sunburnt after their intensive training. They soon settled down to the heat of the plains and once again we became a complete company. We welcome C.S.M. R. Callaby, as our C.S.M. and many old hands who have rejoined us after a short spell of civvy street.

The Corps of Drums was particularly active during the latter weeks of our stay in Khartoum. During the absence of Drum-Major Kaye, Sgt. Galley was in command, and under his leadership the Corps attracted quite a crowd on the football field every Wednesday evening during Retreat Beating. The Drums and the Bugles of the K.S.L.I. united one evening for a special Retreat Beating which was attended by the A/Kaid and many of our civilian friends. Both corps were proud to know that the occasion was extremely successful.

We were very sorry to lose Major Austin towards the end of August. He is now completing his Python tour in Palestine. Whether he took his pet chameleon with him is not known, but there was a rumour that he had exchanged it for a band of performing flies.

The Signals Platoon was very active, Cpl. Jarvis and L/cpl. Sparnenn were sent away to the School of Signals near Gaza to become instructors. L/Cpl. Sparnenn's departure being extremely rapid and abrupt; having received only a few hours' notice, he packed, napped, and flew away on the 0500 hrs. plane. We are pleased to have them back with us now although it was a near thing he caught the boat at Port Said.

A Signal Class was formed and commenced training; Sgt. Glover set a hot pace. We are sorry to have lost Sgt. Glover since that time but we wish him, and other Signallers, all the best on their return to civilian life. Cpl. Mudd, our D.R. expert, was busy to the last before leaving us on demobilization; his wit, humour, and cheerful self are a real loss to the ones left behind. Cpl. Kirbyson, L/Cpl. Horrocks and L/Cpl. Scholes departed to the U.K. as advance party, but we have now gathered them into the fold. The future of the Platoon is dim and obscure but we are all hoping that we shall manage to exist as a Platoon even in our new role of pioneer workers. The Platoon maintained its fine record in all forms of sport. The Sgts. Mess managed to inflict a severe defeat upon us at cricket, but we look forward to the day when the English climate will allow us to return the compliment with full interest.

"A" COMPANY.—The manuscript copy of our notes for the last issue concluded with a forecast that these would be written in England, providing we could control our shivering enough to hold a pen. A ruthless Sub-editor scored the passage through and thereby deprived us of seeing in print the only prophecy we have ever made which actually materialised. For a couple of days ago it would have been almost impossible to write these lines, so drastic was the effect of an English November on our "Sudan thinned" blood. But perhaps it wasn't a prophecy; only a reasonable guess.

Just too late to be included in our notes for the October issue, we received at Gebeit a visit from H.E. The Governor General—Sir Robert Howe, K.C.M.G. He made a brief tour of the detachment and spoke to several N.C.O's and men. He seemed impressed and was very complimentary in his remarks concerning the smart appearance of all whom he had met. We provided a very smart guard commanded by Sgt. Erswell and consisting of L/Cpl. Worthy, Ptes. Bennett, McMahon and Hewitt; we felt the absence of a bugle when the guard presented arms for the Royal Salute.

The Company remained at Gebeit until the bitter end, joining the Battalion on the train for the move to Port Sudan and the journey home. Probably the less said about that the better ; and anyway it has been dealt with elsewhere.

One aspect of the journey home, however deserves especial mention. It marked the cessation of " A " Company as we have known it these last 12 months. For, consequent upon the move home and our future role as a battalion, there has been considerable re-organisation and " A " Company has been accorded the honour of becoming the " Regular Company." The old " A " Company marched on to the *Georgic* at Port Sudan on 3rd November, 1947 and never paraded again in that form. When we disembarked at Liverpool on 16th November, we paraded as a company of regular soldiers.

To all those members of the Company now serving with other companies, we that have replaced them extend our good wishes and hope that the remainder of their service in the Battalion and the Army will be as happy as we hope it was in " A " Company. And in case we should lose touch with some of them we take this opportunity of wishing them all good luck when they return to civilian life.

To those who have joined us from other companies we extend a hearty welcome. We know very little at present regarding our future as a company, but whether it be of long or short duration we hope all the newcomers will quickly settle down and feel at home.

In early September, Major Hatch left us to teach at a mysterious " prep " school in Fayid—to rejoin us, somewhat belatedly, we thought, at Port Said. In his absence Capt. Scott-Evans commanded the Company ; he too has now left us to take over the reincarnated " B " Company and with him go all our good wishes. Lt. Clarke has also left us for " C " Company and we hope he will be happy in his new surroundings. Lt. Cobb deserted us for a brief spell but we are glad to say he has now returned to the fold and we trust will not again leave us until he is released. To the following who have left us on release since August we send our best wishes for their return to civilian life :—L/Cpl. Strong, Ptes. Carter, Goldsbury, Goodwillie, Green, Stanley, Stanton and Wood.

" C " COMPANY.—These notes are written from Plain Piece Camp, the name given to a collection of Nissen Huts situated about a mile from Worksop, where with " B " Company we are again on detachment. Class " A " Release is claiming its heavy toll, and very soon it is feared all the old faces will have departed.

Towards the end of September the two platoons rejoined the Company at Gebeit, where we settled down to shooting and a little " gentle " training. The latter included breaking large stones and setting them in position under the eagle eye of Lt. Clark our foreman of works. The idea was to leave a permanent reminder of the 33rd's stay in the Sudan. Alongside the crests of other regiments now lies our own. All ranks worked very hard : difficulties were many especially when it was found that the Lion's head looked not unlike a certain officer's pet gazelle.

Inter-platoon games, tennis, gazelle and ibex shooting provided our major entertainments. C.S.M. Walton is to be congratulated on obtaining a fine bag of ten ibex, although loud were the comments when the so-called " cured " horns were produced for inspection. The Camp cinema was made to function quite well ; at one time Lts. Baxtor and Findlay, (known as the B.F. Productions) had no fewer than three projectors and two amplifiers.

We are pleased to welcome Lt. Findlay, who has rejoined the Company, after learning the mysteries of the 3in. mortars. Capt. Gibbard is now second-in-command, and Lt. Cox who now wears two stars, is looking quite fit after his disembarkation leave. Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Alton on his promotion. It is rumoured that he has already lost a few more hairs. Sgt Fixter has left the Company and is working hard in " A " Company. To him and all those who have left, we wish the best of luck.

1st BATTALION.



Crest of the 33rd. November, 1947, at Gebeit, Sudan



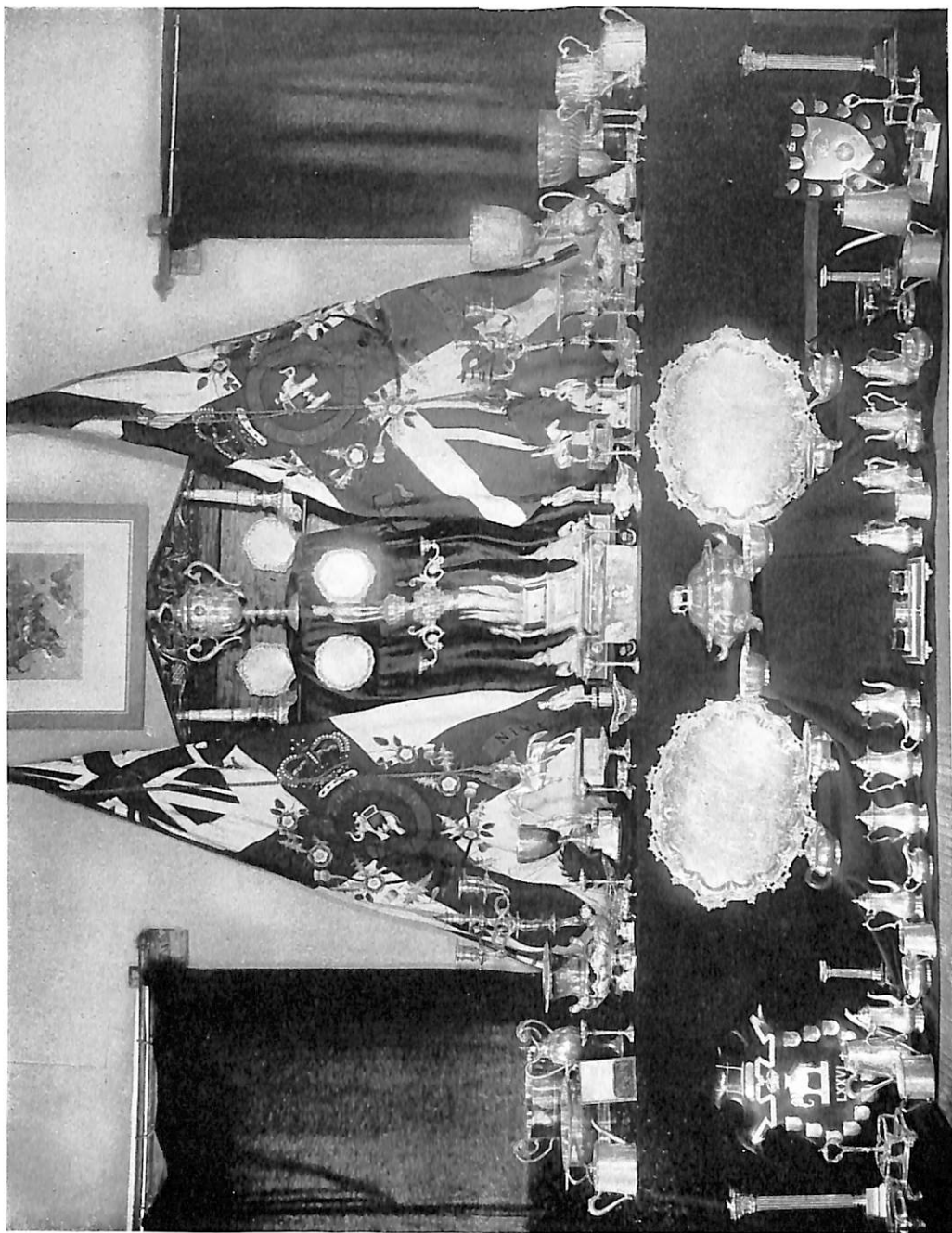
Fargi Cacti, growing in Red Sea Hills near Gebeit.



1st Battalion en route from Khartoum to Port Sudan, 2nd November, 1947. (Fuzzie Wuzzies on left)



Proteus Camp, Ollereton, Notts., December, 1947.



COLOURS AND TROPHIES OF THE 2nd BATTALION, DARJEELING, INDIA, 1903. (See letter on page 53).

By the end of October we handed over our barracks to the Green Howards and 3rd November found us on board ship. The voyage was uneventful except for one case of suspected infantile paralysis, which had the effect of causing nearly all the officers to be "sealed" in their cabin for a few days. On our arrival at Liverpool, it was a grand sight to see and hear the Regimental Band again, also Col. Pickering who lost no time in coming from Gosport to welcome the Battalion home. One disturbing fact was the sight of one pair of soles and heels belonging to a Customs Official as he inspected one of the Company boxes.

At the moment of writing the Company is preparing to go on a well-earned leave.

"D" COMPANY.—Looking over the last notes, one can say that we were grieved by the loss of Major Grieve and many others. Again we must mourn. Major Sugden who handed over to Capt. Nicholson is now P.R.I. Capt. Nicholson headed the list of many who were left behind in Khartoum. "D" Company left a good regimental number of 33 in the Sudan.

Before we left, "D" Company showed the world (local units of the same strength) how to play soccer. Many were the matches and just as numerous were the victories. Unfortunately "D" Company were knocked out of the water polo league too early to reach the semi-finals, but if ever the Battalion put a team in the water we were expected to put at least one or two in with them. Capt. Simpson, Cpl. Knudsen, Ptes. Kelly and Jensen 01 were among these.

We never managed to get a company cricket team going. Modesty restrained most of our players, we did not like to show off in front of all and sundry, for I am sure that our performance would have been quite remarkable.

Our last weeks in Khartoum were spent in glee. Happy were those who were coming home, and even the unfortunates, after they had overcome that sinking feeling in the stomach known to all, seemed quite content. Training carried on until the end; most of our time being spent on any of the three ranges nearby. Mortars were fired, bombs thrown, and many rifles, stens and Brens had warm barrels. The Company decided that it was fortunate for Kitchener that he had no 2in. mortars with him as he might have found out that the barrel is liable to come off in your hand, as Capt. Simpson found to his surprise one day. These ranges were on the sight of The Battle of Omdurman, and "D" Company's marks can be found on many of those battle-scarred rocks.

During the move, the Company was commanded by Capt. P. J. Simpson with Lt. R. L. Johnson, Lt. P. Dooks and 2/Lt. H. Nock, who came out to the Sudan for a holiday, to help him. C.S.M. Brighton and C.Q.M.S. Jones and all those who shuffled off the *Georgic* join with the above in saying "Cheerio and God Speed" to those unfortunates left behind.

In England's green and pleasant land we are cold! The Company is even less strong now. C.S.M. Brighton has gone to be detachment sergeant-major at Worksop and his place taken by C.S.M. Young who has figured in many of these notes. Sgts. Thornton and Preston who came with Mr. Nock and all the regular soldiers have gone to "A" Company. "B" Company which has just been formed again has taken Lt. Johnson and one or two more. Even "C" Company, a well-known rival, has taken Cpl. Cooper, but still "D" Company struggles on and another commander has taken the reins: Major Skelsey is welcomed by all ranks and we hope that his stay will be long and enjoyable.

So far no mention has been made of those who have left us to rejoin the ranks of those unenviable thousands who rub shoulders with the spivs of our greater towns. Yes, even by release the Company has been depleted. C.Q.M.S. Johnson, the "Barra Boys" Ptes. Miller, Beavis, Gardner and also Cpl. Edwards, and Ptes. James, Schofield, Taylor 01, and Fox have passed beyond those pearly gates of York or Aldershot. Good luck in civvy street from "D" Company.

CRICKET

The rain and frost of England having taken the place of the sunshine and warmth of Khartoum, happy memories of the cricket season still linger with us. The later part of the season was equally successful as the remainder had been, and as such players as Major Grieve and Sgt. Hancock disappeared others stepped forward to take their place, and it appeared that the greater our task the greater our achievements.

Our keenest rivals were the 1st Battalion K.S.L.I. and it was a game of great interest when we were matched against them in the Khartoum cricket cup. They batted the first day and appeared to be in a very happy position with a final total of 198. It is well at this point to recall the untiring efforts of our bowlers, particularly L/Cpl. Robinson, who bowled some 17 continuous overs. We batted on the second day, and our opening pair Sgt. "Nobby" Clarke and L/Cpl. Robinson set a pace which even our scorers found difficult to keep up with, and it was mainly due to the fact that Sgt. George Hunter had his four and six times tables with him that the score was kept at all. L/Cpl. Robinson made a gallant 26 and Sgt. Clarke went on to make a magnificent 101. We take this opportunity of congratulating him on his brilliant effort. This gave the remainder of the team confidence and we passed the K.S.L.I. total for eight wickets. In the semi-final we met the Khartoum C.C. and with a much weaker side than that which faced the K.S.L.I. we were defeated by some 40 runs.

We finished slightly in the better half of the Khartoum Cricket League, having beaten since the last issue of the IRON DUKE S.E.M.E. and S.D.F. Signals and lost to the R.A.F.

Looking back over the season we feel very happy about the cricket we have played and the friendships we have formed and we feel sure that when next season the Khartoum Cricket League is formed the cricketers in Khartoum will be sorry that the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment does not appear on that list.

WATER POLO

Since last we went to press there have been many changes, as we have now reached colder climes. We are pleased to inform our subscribers that we left Khartoum with full honours and our colours pinned to the top of the pole. Water-polo has been our only form of aquatic sport. The aquatic meeting which we hoped for was put aside through movement to U.K.

Several of the officers upheld our good name when the Sudan Club challenged us to meet them on their own ground; the scores were even at full time with the result 4—4. The Battalion other ranks, ably captained by Pte. Throp of the Pioneer Platoon, met the officers' team on two occasions and were most unfortunate, the results being 4—1, 5—1.

It is well worth recording that the other ranks team formed the backbone of our Battalion team when we played the final game in the Sudan against the Sudan Club in our own pool. The Sudan Club were thoroughly thrashed, and on the final whistle we had the magnificent score of 8—1 in our favour. Ptes. Throp, Moore, Jenson, L/Cpl. Bainbridge, Sgt. Fixter, Sgt. Hunter and Cpl. Simpson all showed a fine spirit of sportsmanship when they represented the Dukes' water polo team on various occasions. We all wish them jolly good luck in the future, no matter where they roam or whatever tasks they are called upon to perform. Unfortunately several names have been omitted through loss of records during our move; those who must so remain anonymous we assure that they are included in our best wishes. Among the officers who supported our efforts were Capts. Hamilton, Davies, Simpson and Miller, Lts. Midgley, Johnson, Tattersfield and Findlay. Capt. Hamilton was the terror of our opponents' goalkeepers; indeed on one occasion a shot carried the Sudan Club goalkeeper into the back of the net.

We were sorry to lose Capt. Miller and Lt. Tattersfield, but we hope they carry on the good work with the Green Howards.

Owing to the rigours of the English winter we doubt the commencement of water-polo for some months, but we sincerely hope that we have not said goodbye to this wonderful sport.

2nd Battalion

Before giving news of ourselves, all ranks of the 2nd Battalion wish to express our thanks to Col. Pickering for all the hard work which he has put in on behalf of the Regiment while he was our Colonel. He has taken particular care of the interests of this Battalion, since its property and funds were left in Peshawar in 1942. We wish both himself and Mrs. Pickering all the best for the future.

We should like to take this opportunity of welcoming the appointment of General Sir Phillip Christison, Bart., as Colonel of the Regiment. Our only regret is that the 2nd Battalion won't serve under him very much longer.

Here we are again after almost exactly 25 years overseas. In spite of all the stories we heard about it, England is still the best place in the world to be in.

No one came home with the Battalion who had sailed with it from Southampton in 1922. The last to serve with the Battalion, who went out with it, was Col. Armitage who left us last March. He expressed his regret in a farewell message received just before we left India. Lt.-Col. Cumberlege, to whom we extend a very hearty welcome on his return to the Battalion as Commanding Officer, first joined the Battalion a year after it had started the overseas tour. He rejoined us in Delhi on the morning of 22nd August, just in time to leave for Kalyan with the first half of the Battalion the same day.

Our last few months in India since our last notes were taken up with packing, kit inspections and all the hundred and one jobs necessary before embarkation.

On 15th August—Independence day in India—the Battalion provided a party of three officers and thirty men, under command of Capt. Ellis, to guard the route inside the grounds of the Viceroy's House for the state drive of the Viceroy and his return as Governor-General of the new dominion of India. It was an unbelievable day in Delhi. Hysterically happy crowds joined in the general rejoicing, unconscious of individual race, caste, religion, creed or colour. It wasn't until after the second half of the Battalion left on 28th August that the rioting and killing started there. It wasn't very pleasant. Four officers who were left in, or returned to, Delhi, weren't particularly pleased with what they saw.

16th Brigade H.Q. and the rest of the Brigade, moved from Meerut into our barracks at Delhi soon after the outbreak of the trouble. The 76th is therefore not the last British Battalion to be stationed there (See "First in Last out" on page 147 of the last number of THE IRON DUKE).

24 officers and 601 men embarked on the *Strathnaver* at Bombay on the 18th September, including seven families. It was with much regret that we had to leave behind us two officers and 19 soldiers, all regular Dukes, who had to complete their overseas tour with other units of the group. We wish them all the the best of luck.

We were very glad to see so many old friends were able to get to Southampton to meet the Battalion on its arrival on the 6th October. Among those who were there were four previous C.O.'s:—Col. Pickering, Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadiers Burnett and Fraser, Lt.-Col. Dalrymple, and Major Kavanagh. It was a pity that C.S.M. Spink and Sgt. Holder weren't able to get on board to meet us. We appreciated the welcome given by the Band of the Royal Hampshire Regiment which played the "Wellesley" as we went alongside.

The Battalion is now split up into companies, working at various Ordnance depots, assisting the R.A.O.C. in their task of disposing and maintenance of the accumulation of war equipment. Battalion H.Q. with "A" and "Sp." Companies, are at Alveston Camp, Derby. Major Emmett took "B" and "D" Companies to the C.O.D. Old Dalby, near Melton Mowbray, and Major Tedd took "C" Company to the A.S.D. at Garendon Hall, near Loughborough.

With so many changes taking place daily, it is not possible to mention them all. We take this opportunity though to wish luck to Major Chadwick, who left us at Southampton, and is now deputy president of a R.C.B., and goes back to the Far East after Christmas.

We know of several others who would welcome the sun again. We hope he enjoyed being a Duke even for a short time, as much as we liked having him. Capt. Ellis has taken over the Adjutancy from Major Tedd, who took over "C" Company on disembarkation.

We regret that the future of the Battalion is somewhat gloomy: in fact, as far as we can see for the present, there is very little future left for the Battalion. At the moment we are just running down, release groups disappearing with clockwork regularity in ever increasing numbers, with no replacements coming in. By the time these notes appear in the February issue there will be very few of us left. We wish the best of luck to all those who have left us.

OFFICERS' MESS.

The month of August 1947 in Delhi seemed to lend itself to quite a number of social events. Not only did several members celebrate their "twenty-first," but the handover of power to the Dominion of India, on August 15th, with all its pomp and ceremony, itself gave an incentive to a series of celebrations within Delhi Cantt, in which the Mess was not to be outdone. Our officers' choir, built around those three bold and lusty tenors, Lee, Driver and Thornton, was often very much in full voice well into the early hours. Nevertheless, this perhaps doubtful experience was put to good purpose, and was much in evidence during our last Church parade in Delhi, the day when we marched past the new Delhi Sub-Area Commander—Major General Maharaj Rajindra Singh—who was, we think, suitably impressed.

The task of packing up the Mess silver and property was given to 2/Lt. Kenyon ably assisted by C.Q.M.S. Shearer, who it will be remembered helped store the silver at Peshawar in 1942. It speaks volumes for their efforts that during the long journey from Delhi to Derby not one piece was damaged in any way, even though two of the silver cases were literally split in half during the unloading of the ship's hold at Southampton. The genius of the "Baron" presided over the whole operation, and at the auction of the unwanted Mess fittings and furniture, his efforts with the hammer resulted in a mere loss to the Mess of Rs. 7, As. 12. As most of the equipment had seen many a Mess party, it will be agreed that the feat was no mean one.

We were very pleased to welcome Lt.-Col. Cumberlege back to the Battalion. He arrived at 8 a.m. one morning and left with the first party for Kalyan 12 hours later. At Kalyan we linked up with the 72nd Field Regiment, R.A., and spent many an enjoyable evening with them in our temporary Mess in Imphal Camp. The two Regiments produced a rugger team, which actually won a match in the Bombay Gymkhana Club Cup; Richmond, Thornton, Wetherill and Haws have never felt the same since.

And so on the 18th September we boarded the *Strathnaver*. As most of us had been there for at least two years, we left India with mixed feelings. The game of bridge was a great favourite during the voyage with the more intelligent members, whilst solo and housey-housey were more popular with those, who either couldn't play or remembered too well the last time they had played.

The trip was swift and uneventful, though we think that Major Chadwick established a precedent by holding an audit board in the dog kennels at sea even though "Jock" was there to do most of the "accounting!"

At Southampton we were met by Col. Pickering and a host of reporters and photographers, who, apparently, expected to interview a series of long bearded, licentious soldiery—but found us very civilised! One Yorkshire paper printed a photograph of the officers, and another helped to glorify the immortal "Jock." Most of us got through the customs safely, though "Baron" had to fork out £80 for the remnants of the Delhi wine stocks. We have since decided that the money was well invested. "Jock" and "Samson" are now safely established near Southampton in quarantine, and should come back into circulation in March.

We were relieved to find that bedding-rolls were not necessary for travel in England, and we were soon established at Derby, Old Dalby and Loughborough. Distance and Mr. Gaitskell preclude our meeting for guest nights, but we have enjoyed several "local derbies."

Schofield, in spite of all our advice, took it upon himself to get married, Crowther acted as best man and Hirst as usher. Even so, the event is reported as having been a large success, and we wish him and his wife even greater success in the future.

We have seen many changes in personnel in the past few months. Major Chadwick failed to rejoin us after his disembarkation leave, and has gone off to Africa as Deputy President of a R.C.B. Major Milligan and Lt. Rusby were left in India, and Bell, Lee, Widdas, Kenchington, White, Buckley and C. F. F. Scott have, they will tell you, gone to better things. We must say welcome to Kilner, who joined us at Derby—and, in the same breath, congratulate him on his promotion once again to the exalted rank of major. Congratulations also to Thornton, Shaw and Wetherill on at last gaining their captaincies.

We all agree that England is a grand place in spite of the whisky shortage, and on that happy thought we close, wishing all our old and present members a merry 1948.

SERGEANTS' MESS

It is customary to start somewhere near where the previous notes ended. We follow precedent by stating that dances and socials continued right up to the time of leaving Delhi. In fact the last function took place in very bare surroundings, the silver, etc. being packed in readiness for the journey home.

"A" Company's challenge was answered when they finally convinced us that they possessed a cricket team worthy of our metal. A very good game was the result, which the Mess won by two runs. We declared at 178 for 6 wickets, and "A" Company gallantly replied with 176 all out. C.S.M. Rowley, ("A"), hardly knew whether to laugh or cry.

At Kalyan a temporary Mess was administered by Wazir Ali, that well known and infamous contractor. We were glad to bid him and India farewell with all our debts paid.

Life on board the S.S. *Strathnaver*, our grand reception at Southampton, and disembarkation is doubtless covered at some length elsewhere. Therefore our comments are not needed, apart from stating the fact that numerous members seemed to be sharing the winnings of the sweep on the Ship's daily run with the Skipper, and that a murmur of, "Steady the Dukes," passed round the ranks as the customs officials appeared.

With "B" and "D" Companies at Old Dalby and "C" Company at Loughborough, our family at Derby is small. The Derby Mess is shared with R.E.'s, Pioneer Corps and various attached members on courses, but despite the attached members we are still a comparatively small Mess. Release is reducing our numbers still more, and it seems we must soon send an invitation to old ex-members who live near, before we can hope to hold a real party.

The future of the silver and what is left whole of the property is in doubt at present, but it seems likely that units within the Regiment will benefit when we cease to exist.

We cannot conclude without mention of leaving behind in India, C.S.M.'s Western and Outen. Western is now soldiering with the 2nd Battalion The Green Howards in Khartoum. Other members we left in hospital, etc. are reported to be in England—no doubt we shall meet them again. To all those who have left we wish good luck. Congratulations to all new members on their promotion, and to C/Sgt. Haley on his recent rise to that rank.

Mention is made of a real old and honoured member of the 76th Sgts. Mess. C/Sgt. Harvey, D.C.M., M.M. (1914-18), is still going strong as a porter on Cambridge station. He made himself known (complete with decorations) to R.S.M. Parr, and extended an invitation to share his rations at 23 York Street, Cambridge with any 76th Sergeants Mess members should they be near there and have time to spare to call on him. Needless to add, ex-C/Sgt. Harvey was invited to partake of a pint of Best. He displayed fine form in its disposal and hurried off to his duties.

It is just possible that there will be time to make another contribution for **THE IRON DUKE** before we "Shut up Shop," and so will not draw the curtains at this early stage. Should none appear at the next issue, readers may rest assured that history is still being made by our present membership in some walk of life or other.

CORPORALS' MESS.

Our departure from India was not heralded by any wild farewell party, the Corporals' Mess in fact just quietly folded up. We said goodbye to a few old friends who left on Class "A" Release, making, as they went, gestures with their fingers and crying "Soldier On!"

Here at Alvaston Camp, Derby, we are sharing a Mess in the N.A.A.F.I. with the R.E.'s and instead of the fans and the swinging punkahs of Indian days, we now clamour for bigger and better fires. In this, so far, we have been singularly lucky, for while there is as yet no fuel allowance for the billets, the Mess is warmed and cheered every night by a roaring blaze. It is quite a change to have N.A.A.F.I. girls serving us instead of bearers, but no one really minds, in fact everyone seems to welcome the change.

Amongst the more familiar faces is that of Cpl. McDonald, who ascended to the Mess Presidency shortly before leaving India. Here in England, Class "A" Release still continues to take its toll, and we have fears that within the next few months nearly all the old mess members will be facing up to the perils of "Civvy Street."

The fears expressed in the October issue of **THE IRON DUKE** that we may lose the R.S.M. proved unfounded. We are pleased to report that R.S.M. Parr is still with us, and would like to put on record that even the frosty nip of an English November morning has not altered the tone of his words of command.

COMPANY NOTES

"A" COMPANY.—To see the faces of "A" Company personnel at Delhi after they had been told of their impending return to U.K., one would have thought that they had all been awarded their Third Star together with its resultant back pay. Rumour followed rumour after the brief official announcement, and only the ruthless determination of C.S.M. Rowley to stamp out all such rumour-mongering prevented our hopes from being raised too high before they were dashed to the ground.

The move to Kalyan once more sent our hopes soaring and though we were again disappointed by a brief delay, this was more or less offset by a farewell social evening, which we held in our canteen. Here, after being mellowed by the influences of much ale, the N.C.O's and officers disclosed a wealth of talent, though it is true that some had to be forcibly led to the platform. The high light of the evening was provided by the R.S.M. who entertained us with a monologue, the moral of which was "Flog not that which should not be flogged."

Just before leaving India we bid goodbye to Ptes. Dodds and Turner whose departure was a bitter blow to our football team. C.Q.M.S. Tyson also left us there to the accompaniment of many slanderous remarks on the integrity of "Quarter-Masters," but, being "group-happy" he took it all in good part. We miss his efficient yet very cheerful personality about the lines.

The great day came when we sailed for England, and as we had good weather all the way, there was almost a complete absence of green and despairing countenances lining the ship's rail. Boat Drill and fatigues helped to while away the time, while for conversation we never grew tired of discussing the "Customs Regulations." England looked ten times better than it had ever done when we saw it loom out of the mist on the grey October morning that we docked. A welcome-back speech by Col. Pickering, some really first-class cigarettes and rations from N.A.A.F.I., the railways, customs, etc., and we were in Alvaston Camp, Derby, almost before we knew it.

With Cpls. Patterson, Dawson and Noble working day and night on passes and ration cards, it was only a matter of days before we all went on a month's leave. Sgt. Straughan

paid the price of having been on L.I.A.P. by being left on rear party, but C.S.M. Rowley was seen to be wearing a satisfied smile as he surveyed the Company with a fatherly look before giving the last "FALL OUT" we were to hear him utter for over a month.

Since returning from leave, military training has given place to manual labour, and we are busily engaged in "working or wanting" at various Ordnance Depots. As yet we have no fuel allowance for the billets, but raiding parties have been known to make assaults on the Q.M.'s coke yard on numerous nights, and even the "sentry box" disappeared.

The football team celebrated its return to England by a sensational victory over the C.O.D. team, with L/Cpl. Sigsworth and Pte. Edwards getting three goals each, and later followed this up by defeating Support Company 6-3, with Pte. Edwards again getting his "hat trick."

Release is playing havoc with our ranks and we are sorry to bid farewell to such familiar faces as Capt. White, Sgt. Murphy, Cpls. Tessayman and Dawson, but wish them the best of luck in "Civvy Street."

"B" COMPANY.—It is said that a life of contrasts perpetuates interest. From the broiling humanity of a pre-monsoon Delhi, to the frost-bound climate of an English winter, has certainly been a good one!

After a short period of preparation in the famous "Imphal Camp" at Kalyan, where we endeavoured to fit Indian-made battle dresses and greatcoats over a variety of prickly heat and perspiring bodies, we were off on a three weeks voyage in the bowels of H.M. Transport *Strathnaver*, under command once again of Major E. J. P. Emmett with Lts. Shaw, P. B. Scott, C. F. F. Scott and 2nd/Lt. Bender in support. On the 7th October we arrived, together with "D" Company, at the C.O.D. at Old Dalby where we formed a Duker detachment, amidst our new compatriots, the R.A.O.C., who received us extremely well with a much needed hot meal and five blankets per man!

Old Dalby is a pleasant little country spot in the middle of the best hunting ground in Leicestershire, unfortunately seven miles from the nearest large village, and two miles from the nearest pub. After three days of hurried "settling in," during which time we accustomed ourselves to Naafi tea and Nissen huts — not to mention the A.T.S., who held a dance in our honour, and loved to hear inspiring tales of the Mystic East—we were off to the long yearned-for-arms of our loved ones on 28 days leave!! We returned to find that the rear party had been busy during our absence decorating the camp with appropriate sign boards in scarlet and white—they couldn't find the gold.

Many will be interested to note here that the motto "'Tis a far far better thing that I do now than I have ever done," which they probably remember having seen on occasions, still hangs on the wall behind the company commander's desk.

Our work with the C.O.D. is not only interesting but urgent and important. The shortage of man power in the R.A.O.C. has resulted in large quantities of machinery depreciating rapidly, and as there is some 50 to 100 million pounds worth of machinery stored in the Depot, the powers that be are only too grateful for our assistance. As a result "B" Company are regenerating generators, preserving 48 cwt. lathes, and running a railway siding. Our greatest initial difficulty was probably getting accustomed to the idea of working with civilians, who no doubt find it equally difficult to adapt themselves to the strenuous pace set by the Company. It strikes us that the economic crisis would be a thing of the past if there were fewer canteen breaks!!

We started off our sporting activities in Old Dalby with a good three to one win against those old rivals of ours in "D" Company, and the following week a combined "B" and "D" Company team beat the R.A.O.C. with the same score. A good enough start in our new station.

The rapid rate of release necessitated the amalgamation of "B" and "D" Companies on 1st December, 1947, when "B" Company had the honour of welcoming the remnants of "D" Company into its inner circle.

In concluding these notes the following story will prove that no matter what else may be, the spirit of the Company has not cooled in its new environment.

One of our N.C.O's asked an ordnance type, why they always seemed a bit wary of mixing with the Dukes. Said the R.A.O.C. "You seem to walk as though you owned the place." "Don't be so — silly," replied the Duke, "we walk around as though we don't give a damn who owns the place."

Welcome to C.S.M. Quirk and to all ex "B" Company men, and to those who will be still with us when this appears in print we can only say "Nil illegitimo corborandum."

"C" COMPANY.—The saying that much water has passed under the bridge since our last IRON DUKE notes is amazingly true, for now we find ourselves in England at a temperature of 40 degrees compared with the time we wrote the last notes in Delhi at 115 degrees.

Various changes have occurred in the Company, and old well-known faces have disappeared. We were very sorry to say good-bye to our company commander, Major Milligan, whom we left behind in India, also Lt. Rusby, and Pte Wigg. These all are regular soldiers and no doubt have, during their running out of their Python, had a look at Kashmir. One or two others were unfortunately left in hospital.

On August 14th (Eve of Independence) we held a gay party in the dining hall, honours going to Ptes Morris and Sheerin who excelled themselves, and Sgt. Worster with his three-piece band, whose efforts ensured that a good time was had by all.

On the evacuation from Delhi, "C" Company moved to Kalyan with the second half of the Battalion, to find things more or less organised but with unkind weather. There of course we sorted kit out and had inspections. L/Cpl. Woodland, I understand, is still looking for the shirt which the Commanding Officer tried his strength on, and tore in half! When we were packing up, much amusement was caused by the discussions as to what kit should be taken with the person and what in the hold. And one person, who shall be nameless, was seen with a most tragic face, not understanding why he could not get six cubic feet of goods and clothes into four cubic feet. He was duly enlightened.

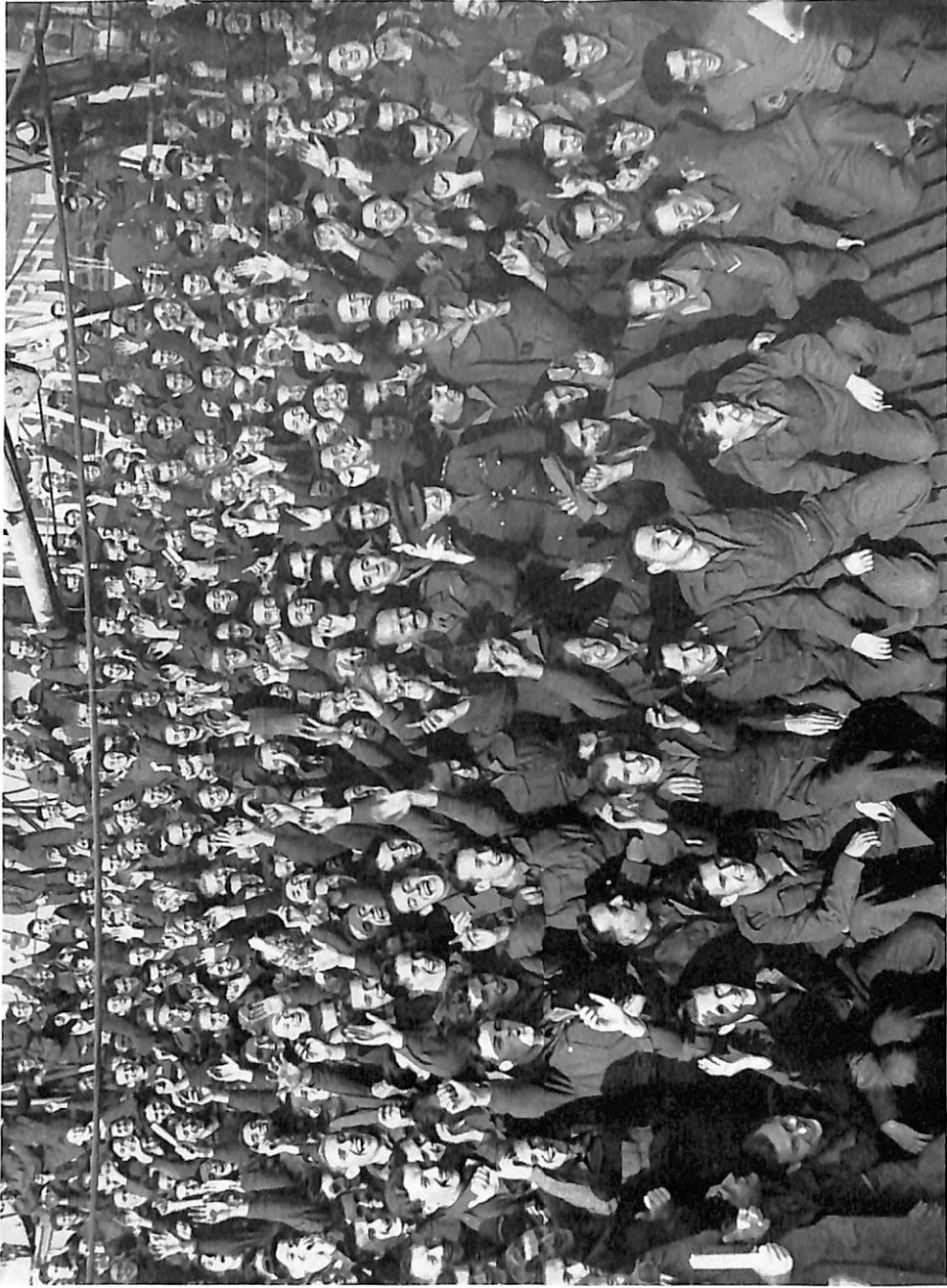
In a cross-country run at Kalyan the Company finished third, thanks to the efforts of all the team, but especially Pte. Seaman and Cpl. Callaghan, who ran very well.

No one was really sorry to leave India at all when the great day dawned. The *Strathmaver* took us to its heart. The voyage was pleasant and enjoyed by all. Time was passed by dancing, tug-of-war, Tombola and boxing. A first-class concert was produced towards the end. We were unfortunate to lose to the petty officers' team in the tug-of-war, by two pulls to one, the decider lasting about 12 minutes. Getting into Southampton, going through customs and on to the train was a matter of minutes, but oh, so cold.

We consider that we were most fortunate in our first station in England—on detachment at Loughborough, in Garendon Hall. Our hosts are 32 A.S.D., R.A.O.C., who have been kindness itself in helping whenever they can. It is extremely cold here and we are taking some time to get used to it. Breaking the ice on the washing water in the morning—we are unaccustomed to it.

The Area controlled by the Ammunition Supply Depot is approximately 300 square miles and consequently the company have to operate some way from home. Over this area, ammunition shelters litter the countryside on requisitioned land—some full, some empty. In order to de-requisition and get the land back under cultivation again, ammunition has to be moved and concentrated, and shelters dismantled. We are employed in dismantling these ammunition trench shelters—an unpleasant task in the snow, but at least we can see results for our efforts.

Split up into two platoons, the Company is working far apart, which, on being considered, is probably a good thing. Each platoon is then split into teams in charge of a full rank. Great competition is experienced both by the platoon commanders and team leaders. Owing to almost superhuman efforts on the part of Sgt. Harris and his platoon, even our fastidious Company Commander is satisfied. The average number dismantled is 1½



[Photo by courtesy of The Graphic

Colonel Pickering, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Lt.-Col. C. R. I. Cumberlege in centre of group of the 2nd Battalion on the "Strathnaver", at Southampton, October 6th, 1947.



[Photo by courtesy of *The Graphic*

The Officers, 2nd Battalion, on the "Strathnaver," Southampton, 6th October, 1947

Back Row.—MAJOR EMETT, LT. CROWTHER, LT. HIRST, LT. HAWS, CAPT. THORNTON, LT. SCOTT, LT.-COL. CUMBERLEGE, MAJOR CHADWICK, LT. PUGH, LT. KENYON, CAPT. WETHERILL, CAPT. BUCKLEY.
 Front Row.—LT. WADE, LT. DUNNING, LT. SCHOFIELD, CAPT. WHITE, CAPT. RICHMOND, CAPT. MARSHALL, LT. BENDER, CAPT. ELLIS.

"SAMSON" and "JOCK."



The Regimental Band, Bradford Centenary Pageant, July 1947

shelters per man per day, which is quite good. That will suffice as regards our work and so now for our pleasure.

Loughborough, which is well known for its excellent college and sports fields, is two miles from camp. Recreation transport therefore has to be used by both officers and men. The town itself is very well provided with the usual places of "relaxation," one of which, "The King's Head" is very popular. The Company, I believe, has also been known to visit the "Unicorn" and "Boot"!

We bid goodbye and good luck to all who have left on release and transfer, amongst whom is our Battalion soccer player—Pte. Topham. To him and C/Sgt. Reithofer, L/Cpl. Porter, L/Cpl. Jackson, Cpl. Yates, Ptes. Price, Capes, and others, we offer our good wishes. The Depot rugby team bagged 2/Lt. Hirst when he was on L.I.A.P. and executed his transfer, the fee being too high to mention.

We extend a hearty welcome to our company commander, Major Tedd, who relinquished his adjutancy on landing in England. Capt. Buckley is now second-in-command. We also welcome Lt. Miller. Lt. Hirst remains with us and is thinking of becoming a chauffeur on release. C.S.M. Corke is still with us, and Sgt. Worster has taken over from C/Sgt. Reithofer. Sgt. Harris will be leaving soon as also Sgt. Norton. Cpl. Richardson, an old Duke, has rejoined us.

And now we come to the question of our future. It is pretty certain that "C" Company will not be in existence when the next notes are written. In fact we shall have practically disappeared when these notes are read. To all who are now serving in "C" Company, and to those who have ever been in "C" Company over the years—we say "au revoir" and good luck.

"D" COMPANY.—And so in the final phase of our travels we have found the final phase of our life as a company, which could be epitomised by "from Success to Secession."

We were given the answer to our main question "Where do we go from here" in Delhi—having already heard the answer a week previously in "Chandni Chowk," and so prepared to breeze across the world in inimitable "top dog" style. First to a frenzy of signing documents, fitting (?) clothing, signing more documents, all in the old "Couldn't matter less" attitude of being on top of everything and everybody. This was the journey we had most of us been living for—but what a journey!

Delhi to Kalyan on a troop train which limped its way around that glorious India to the slogan of "Mad Dukes' and Englishmen going out of your — ! sun"; until our eventual arrival in Kalyan. The pre-monsoon had prepared the noted Imphal Camp for our arrival, and "mudlarks" was the favourite game—but—no complaints from anyone! What a different story had we been facing East! And so we slithered happily through more signatures, more clothing parades, until via the depths of the *Strathmaver* and the port of Southampton, we arrived in Old Dalby.

Here we were brought safely through "chaos and confusion" to leave—a glorious 28 days at home before returning to this famous hunting country where four packs meet. Need I say there are now five packs meeting, for the Dukes are fanning out across the countryside, evenings only, and during the day we are easing the national crisis by preserving machinery.

Our own crisis we could not weather, and being the youngest company, have now been absorbed by "B" who needed our red blood to stimulate them. Thus has ended, temporarily, the career of the "Top Dog" Company, but we do claim that our short life will provide not the least of the bright spots in the Battalion book, and we are sure that past and present members of the Company will feel quite a pang at our recess. May we wish the next Company Commander and his men, of the dim future, the good luck to find men as good as we have had to carry our very fine tradition. There are but few Battalion trophies of the past year which do not carry our name as winners, may the next "D" Company have their name inscribed in the same way.

And so, like all good things we have come to the end. To those who have gone, we wish good luck and steady marching; to those who stay, may the ranks be full. The "small" few who remain, our Company Commander, Capt. Marron, Lt. Thornton (Roll on the next group), Sgts. Coleman, Field, Nichols and Anderson, and Cpl. Russell holding the crumbling office, still say "Bash on regardless," we'll meet again.

"HEADQUARTER" COMPANY.—The split-up of "Admn." Company, predicted in the last issue took place in August, and in consequence we found ourselves to be "H.Q." Company. This caused a deal of bewilderment in the Company office, but when things were sorted out we found we had become the proud possessors of the entire Signal Platoon and the reluctant losers of the M.O. and his underlings, who became inmates of "Sp" Company. Things began to quieten down satisfactorily until one sunny morn when the glad tidings of our return to the U.K. were given out. Then followed a very busy period during which Sgt. Balsom packed up his trucks, Sgt. Flynn packed up his 19 sets and C.S.M. Western packed up altogether!

The Company finished packing on schedule; all except the Q.M. who was still packing when we left; and we entrained on the 28th August for Kalyan. The three days journey proved quite interesting, but Kalyan was, as usual, dismal. This was due mainly to the monsoon, which was in full swing. Our stay there was brief, thank goodness, and we sailed on the 19th September. C.S.M. Western, Sgts. Ferries, Fish and Pte. Lockwood waved us goodbye from Bombay docks. It was with tears we watched India's coast grow dim on the horizon—tears of joy!

The Company swiftly settled down to shipboard life and apart from G.1 Troopdeck flooding one day in the Red Sea, nothing untoward happened, although the icy Atlantic blast was not appreciated. We docked on the 6th October at Southampton, and "H.Q." Company disembarked the next day. We lined up in the customs shed and were pleasantly surprised when the customs officials took our word for everything.

We then entrained for Derby, having collected from the W.V.S. our baksheesh tea, chocolates and cigarettes which we devoured with relish. Sgt. Flynn, while busily engaged instructing the Company to collect their spare kit, inadvertently left his own on the quay side. We were amused when we found out. By the 10th September everyone was on leave except Cpl. Power, L/Cpl. Sykes, Ptes Burden, Asher and one or two others who volunteered to form a rear party. Lt. Crowther was seen doing Herculean work thumping leave passes with the Company stamp, with Capt. Marshall feebly moaning something about getting a stamp made of his signature.

Now followed a blank period in the life of the Company; twenty-eight days which are perhaps better left unrecorded! On returning from leave, once again it was decreed that "H.Q." Company be re-formed. This caused consternation in the Company office. The next ten days is a period which we, the staff, choose to forget. Once again Sgt. Fieldhouse and his hirelings came under our jurisdiction, along with all the employed men of the unit. Farewells were made to L/Cpl. Fairbairn, Ptes. Addyman, Dickinson and others of 61 group, and to L/Cpl. Rooms, Ptes. Lockwood and Shaw on their posting to the Depot, all sorrowing deeply at their departure. Now 62 group is leaving us, and as we get replacements for our key men, we visualise ourselves being the only Company left in the Battalion.

SUPPORT COMPANY.—In the last issue of THE IRON DUKE, "H.Q." Company finished off their notes by saying "What next?" What came next was Support Company, formed from the old "H.Q." Company, plus certain departments from Administration Company. We were unfortunate to lose Sgt. Flynn and his "minions," the Signal Platoon, but a further reorganisation has brought most of these back to us. We retained as our Company Commander, Captain D. A. Lee, but only for a short space of time before he left us on "demob." Our present O.C., Capt. B. M. Kilner, has only recently joined us,

and we hope that his stay will be a long and happy one. C.S.M. Lythe, our sergeant-major, was unfortunately in hospital when the Battalion sailed from India. Those of us who are law-abiding hope that his return will be soon.

In the realms of sport we have been trying to maintain the high standard set us by the old "H.Q." Company, but owing to our frequent moves our activities have been curtailed somewhat. However, at Kalyan, just prior to our embarkation, we had a chance to show our mettle in the inter-company cross-country run. Our team ran well and attained second place. Lt. G. Wetherill gave his usual fine performance, winning with ease. Ptes. Williams and Stafford also put up a good show.

Many of our "stars" on the football and hockey fields have gone. We were especially sorry to lose Pte. Howells, the staunch pivot and captain of both the Battalion and Company football teams. Other losses have been Ptes. Seaman and Hanwell who have also returned to civilian life.

With the ever increasing effect of "demob" now making itself felt, both in our work and play, we are finding it difficult to maintain the high standards set by our predecessors, but we are always, in the words of our Company Commander, ready to "have a go."

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

The rugby season in India is very short at the best of times, and this year, owing to our "Exodus India" move we had time only for a few games in Bombay before we sailed.

Our first "game," (it was played on a field which seemed to consist mostly of rocks) was against 72nd Field Regiment, R.A. whom we defeated 3—0 after a tough battle.

After this match 72nd Field and ourselves combined and formed the Kalyan Station XV which was entered for a Bombay competition against other service and civilian teams. The Kalyan Stations XV had two "epic struggles" which "went down in the annals of Indian rugby" (so ran the reports in the Bombay papers), against the S.L.I. and R.A.F. Bombay—both of whom we beat.

Our last game in India, three days before we embarked, was against Deolali Station XV. In this game we were rather outclassed and were beaten easily—our thoughts being centred on "The Boat."

Now that we are back in a climate more suited to rugby we are looking forward to more frequent games in the future.

7th Battalion, (T.A.)

Since our last notes the Battalion has increased both in knowledge and numbers. Though not as strong as we would wish, nevertheless small and healthy communities are gathering in the drill halls of our far-flung Battalion area.

The N.C.O.'s cadre ended with a very successful dance at Mossley, and since then the tasks of training and recruiting have been taken over by individual companies, instead of Battalion "H.Q." as before and during the cadre. In spite of this, work in hand at Milnsbridge seems to grow rather than diminish; at times the Orderly Room gives the impression of a sub-post office cum telephone exchange.

In September, a large amount of our time was spent on the open range preparing for the 149th Brigade rifle meeting which was held on Totley Ranges, Sheffield, on the 20th and 21st September. We offer our heartiest congratulations to 4th K.O.Y.L.I. on winning the championship. We are very proud of our affiliated Cadet Battalion, the 2nd Cadet Battalion, D.W.R., which, with quite the youngest team in the meeting, came a close 2nd in the Cadet team event.

On September 28th, we turned out a parade for the Memorial Service at Halifax, an account of which no doubt appears elsewhere in this issue. The standard of turn-out was extremely high, and we feel such opportunities to parade before such appreciative crowds as were in Halifax on that day are quite the best publicity for the T.A.

On the 19th October, the 41st Battalion, R.T.R. in Oldham, put on a very interesting and instructive tank driving and training demonstration, to which we sent a party. All who attended had a chance to be thoroughly shaken up in a Churchill or Cromwell over the assault course. Major Coop unfortunately left his spurs at home.

All companies put on fortnightly dances which are extremely popular with our civilian friends in our various localities. They also help to swell the P.R.I. Pie suppers and miniature range shooting contests with ex-Home Guard teams, Police teams, as well as the Depot have been held regularly. All these help to bring the local people and the T.A. together, besides combining useful training with a pleasant evening.

Officer training periods, besides the normal company drills are held fortnightly; once a month a supper is held at Mossley where C.S.M. and Mrs. Hardisty with their band of willing helpers "do us extremely proud."

OFFICERS' MESS

The last few months have brought on a crop of parties reminiscent of better times. Parfitt and Coop between them produced the most amazing and heartening selection of "good cheer" for the Officers' Dance held at Mossley on the 28th of November. Thanks to C.M.S. and Mrs. Hardisty, the Hall was delightfully decorated. As far as we know all the guests arrived home safely. It turned out to be a treacherous icy night, or rather early morning, adding insult to injury, being the last day but one of "Basic."

We heartily congratulate, with justifiable pride, our "Netherlands Nobleman," Major B. V. Thomlinson (late 1/7th) who received a Knighthood from the hands of the Netherlands Ambassador in the Militaire Willems Orde, which is the highest Service decoration of the Netherlands.

On December 2nd, the wedding of Capt. Bradbury took place. We extend our hearty congratulations and best wishes for the future, to Capt. and Mrs. Bradbury. To George falls the distinction of being the first serving member to be married since the Battalion was re-formed.

The following officers have been posted to the T.A.R.O. list of the Battalion:— Major A. A. Chandler and Major R. E. Sugden. Since our last notes, Lt. Tom Williams has joined us and we heartily welcome him.

SERGEANTS' MESS

As yet we have not functioned as a Mess owing to the difficulties of travel, etc.; however plans are afoot to start up early in the new year.

R.S.M. Wood is very busy at the moment with bounties for the volunteers, but always seems happiest when mixed up with a mass of figures. C.S.M. Hardisty is now well settled in with his wife at Mossley, and there is always a very welcome cup of tea for anybody from the Milnsbridge side after the chilly journey over the Pennines. We congratulate C/Sgt. Cutler on the birth of a son and are delighted to hear as these notes are being written that his wife and family are now settling down at Springhead.

C/Sgts. Killien and Staniforth are hibernating at Huddersfield and Elland respectively; they both work with C.S.M. Bye who deserves a "mention" for getting his Christmas cards off so promptly! Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Radcliffe on his promotion. Sgt. Charlesworth, after a hard game of rugger on a Saturday, spends the rest of the week having his "cauliflower ears" lanced.

COMPANY NOTES.

"H.Q." COMPANY.—The Company has got well into its stride. Owing to the lack of numbers, parades are somewhat sparse, but this is more than made up by the keenness shown by those who attend. On the other hand, social activities at Mossley are now surpassing pre-war. Dances are held every other Saturday night, pie suppers on Fridays, and the attendance at Saturday evening concerts has to be seen to be believed. When

men are more settled down to civilian life, we feel sure that these activities will materially assist recruiting. Mrs. Hardisty has formed a ladies' committee among the wives of all ranks to organize all these activities, and they are working extremely hard.

A Childrens' Christmas party is to be held and we expect a real bumper occasion. An interesting feature of "H.Q." Company is the amount of equipment that is descending upon it—including two six pounder A/Tk guns—an evermore interesting feature is the amount of paper that follows it! Every time equipment arrives, the C.O. wonders where on earth he is going to put it, but secretly it delights his heart, as he has unhappy memories of the Brens—two and Boyes A/Tk. Rifles—one (both D.P's) and precious little else with which to endeavour to train "H.Q." Company in 1939.

"A" COMPANY.—Company drills commenced on September 1st and a very successful pie supper was held on September 11th, when all ranks, wives and friends "got together." The Company strength is now five officers besides Major Hopkinson and 30 O.R's.

We congratulate C/Sgt. Cutler on the addition to his family and we are glad to know that he will be able to make his home at the drill hall, now that all arrangements have been completed. He was very fortunate to find accommodation with Sgt. Lees and Mrs. Lees whilst waiting for his own quarters and they showed him real Oldham hospitality, as well as the finest bulldog in the County Palatine.

We regret to record the death of R.S.M. Springs, who was at one time P.S.I. at Springhead; the Company was represented at his funeral.

"B" COMPANY.—On the commencement of Company training 'H.Q. Coy.' moved to the newly acquired drill hall at Fitzwilliam Street, Huddersfield, with a platoon at Elland drill hall. Thus "B" Company operates in the old 2/7th area and we hope for the support from their old members as well as the 1/7th. 6th Platoon is at Huddersfield with Lt. Colin Barnes and Sgt. Hopson, with C/Sgt. Killien as the P.S.I. At Elland, Lt. Barry Owen is commanding with C.S.M. Bye still reminiscing about the 2nd Battalion. Regular shooting competitions, socials, pie suppers and dances have been held. The strength at the moment is 25 and several old warriors have rejoined including Cpls. Prince, Skes, Pte. Hawkins, Clayton and others well known in the Regiment.

We were sorry to lose Major Chandler who had to leave the active list owing to pressure of business. The Company Command is now Siddall with Townsend as second-in-command.

578th (Mobile) H.A.A. Regiment R.A. (5th Duke of Wellington's) T.A.

Activity, since our last notes appeared in THE IRON DUKE, has been largely directed towards the acquisition of the basic principles of our new role as heavy A.A. gunners. We have now a gun at each drill hall, and all ranks have had the opportunity of familiarising themselves with at least the shape of things to come. In addition also to several week-end periods of training for officers and N.C.O's about half the officers have had short attachments at the A.A. Training Camp at Weybrume, and have been duly impressed by the consistent regularity with which the target has been shot down.

Week-day drills are well attended despite the conflicting claims of staggered hours and night work in industry, to meet the demands of which special afternoon-parades are arranged.

Essential repairs to drill halls are being carried out, and, thanks largely to internal initiative, the recreation rooms and Messes at R.H.Q. have been handsomely re-decorated and re-equipped; in fact the general opinion is that they are better than ever before. Out-stations have so far not been so fortunate; on the grounds that the actual fabric is above average they appear to have been placed low in the priority list. However, here

also a start has been made, and both Holmfirth and Mirfield drill halls are in great demand for dances, to the financial advantage not only of the Territorial Association but also ultimately in some degree of ourselves.

Unfortunately, the otherwise satisfactory progress is not matched by the state of recruitment, and although we are not at present concerned to acquire large numbers, we should feel happier if the rate could be doubled. According to present arrangements, annual training will be held on the Welsh coast near Aberystwith during the last fortnight in May, and we should like to go at least one troop plus the three Battery Headquarters strong. This period is a break from pre-war custom and has been asked for in order that annual training will not clash with local industrial holidays, as it is felt that the Territorial soldier should not have to sacrifice his annual holiday with his family by attendance at camp.

The following Battery appointments have already been made:—"P" Battery, B.S.M. J. A. Green; B.Q.M.S. H. Hartley; "Q" Battery, B.S.M. W. H. Maw; "R" Battery, B.S.M. H. Booth B.Q.M.S. J. W. Crawshaw.

Of social activities, the most prominent has been the dinner held by the officers' dinner club on October 10th, and although attendance was not quite a record, upwards of 90 members from all over the country were present.

In lieu of a prize distribution, officers and their wives and guests had a dinner party followed by a games' evening at the Huddersfield drill hall on December 9th, and on December 20th, the officers and sergeants matched their respective and collective skill (or lack thereof) on the billiards table and dart board. The results showed clearly whose youth had been most misspent!!

In conclusion, we look forward to 1948 with optimism. We feel that we have a very good foundation on which to build, and if the structure rises but slowly upon it, that is by no means an unusual state of affairs to-day.

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

OFFICERS' MESS.

Since we last appeared in these notes we have much to record. Our one great social occasion was held on September 15th when we held a farewell party in the form of cocktails and a buffet supper in honour of Col. Pickering, who has now retired as Colonel of the Regiment. The party was well attended and there were times when it seemed that the Depot Mess could not possibly hold any more. During the evening the film of the "Dukes" receiving the Freedom of Halifax was shown. This last was very well received and enjoyed by all. On the whole, a very successful party. We all wish Col. Pickering the very best of luck and we make haste to extend a very hearty welcome to General Sir Philip Christison, our new Colonel.

Our death knell has now sounded and we break up on or about April 1st, 1948. And so the next issue of the IRON DUKE will find us bidding our farewell. All look upon this enforced break-up as a great tragedy and no one can regret it more than Col. Dalrymple who has worked so long and hard and with such great success for the well-being of the P.T.C. and Depot.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Major Davis and his wife who were married in September in Denmark. Also to Col. Baker on his promotion—the news of which only just made the stop press of the last issue.

Capt. Breare has handed over the arduous duties of adjutant, and has sailed for West Africa. We wish him luck. Capt. Isle—when not playing rigger—is now adjutant. By the time these notes appear in print, Lts. Denham, Cape, Crumbie and Gregory will all have departed on release. We hope they have enjoyed their stay with us.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Since our last contribution to THE IRON DUKE, the Sergeants' Mess social side has got into full swing, and more and more of the Old Brigade are visiting us.

The Sunday night socials are attracting the "Never say Die" stalwarts. Familiar faces include Wadd, Boon, Monagham, Wilson, Cliffe, Taylor, and R.S.M. England.

We should like to make it generally known that the Sergeants' Mess at Halifax looks forward to meeting both past and present members' of the Sergeants' Mess, so if you are passing, be sure to drop in. We shall be very pleased to see you all. Up to now, we have had the pleasure of reviving old friendships with R.S.M. Smith, C.S.M.'s Pearce, Walton and Callaby.

Our congratulations are extended to Sgts. Bonfield, Gledhill and Norman of the Dukes, and Sgt. Parfitt of the R.E.M.E. on their promotion, and we welcome them to the Sergeants' Mess. Old soldiers to leave the Service include R.S.M. Boon, after a long and varied career. He has now become a hard-working civilian. We wish him all the successes that his new life can offer.

In January we are holding a Regimental Sergeants' Mess reunion ball. We hope to see all W.O'S and Sergeants of the Regiment attending.

CORPORALS' MESS

At the time of writing, the Mess is undergoing a continuous change of membership. Many of the old stalwarts have gone and new faces are appearing daily. We would like to tender our heartiest congratulations to ex-Cpls. Norman, Bonfield and Gledhill on their promotion to the Sergeants' Mess, and at the same time we welcome a new member, L/Cpl. Todd. Many Corporals spend a few days with us prior to their release, and although too numerous to mention by name they are always welcome.

Owing to pecuniary difficulties the Mess has not organised any outstanding event since its inauguration a year ago. However, the Mess invariably presents a busy scene at any of the off duty hours, especially in the mid-morning break.

Table tennis and darts are very popular, and any visitor might mistake the Mess for bedlam when a four hand at table tennis is in full swing. We will at this point say that the football field has been the scene of several clashes between the sergeants and ourselves. On the whole we have had the better of the games despite tactics, employed by our rivals, that are aptly described as rugby-like.

Looking to the future we hope eventually to organise more social activity. Finally we wish all members due for release the best of luck in the future and that in later years, many of their pleasanter memories may be associated with the Corporals' Mess.

COMPANY NOTES.

TRAINING COMPANY.—Training has been carried out as usual according to the programme, turning out a batch of recruits every six weeks.

Brigadier P. St. Clair-Ford, D.S.O. visited the P.T.C. on November 11th and took the passing-out parade and was duly impressed by the recruits' high standard of bearing and turnout. Now in addition to inviting the parents to the passing-out parade there is a short service after the parade which has been greatly appreciated.

We must congratulate Cpls. Norman, Gledhill and Bonfield on their promotion to the rank of sergeant. We also congratulate Capt. P. R. Stafford on his appointment as staff captain "Q" Headquarters, North Midland District, and wish him the best of luck in the future. "Subalterns may come and go," for after a short time with us we are sorry to lose Lts. Cape, Denham and Crumbie, who have been demobbed. We wish them all the best in civvy street.

DEPOT COMPANY.—Since high summer we have turned our attention to more wintry sports, soccer, of course, being the more favoured on a company level. We have played inter-Company games with both Training and Headquarter Companies on numerous

occasions, and though we have not always emerged victors we have given of our best, which is the important thing.

We keep seeing old friends pass through the Depot, amongst whom we mention R.Q.M.S. Powell and C.S.M. Lythe. We also catch fleeting glimpses of R.S.M. Boon who is on our strength pending discharge.

We should like to offer our congratulations to Lt.-Col. Baker on his appointment to that rank. Also, to Bandmaster Seed and Sgt. Waterman on the birth of a daughter and son respectively.

In common with most of the Depot personnel, we are looking forward to Christmas leave, though a number of the older end will no doubt miss some of the grand, and often boisterous atmosphere of Christmas days spent in India, and Malta and other foreign scenes.

"H.Q." COMPANY.—Changes have occurred again since our last notes, these being the handing over of the Company by Isles to Capt. Connolly; Isles now steering the P.T.C. with very able hands as our new adjutant in succession to Breare who has left us for the sunny climate of West Africa. Lt. Wilkinson has left us for civvy street, and we wish him all the best of luck.

The Company managed to survive the annual weapon range course and it wasn't difficult to distinguish the fit from the lame and weary. We have decided to take up cross-country training seriously in preparation for next year's party.

We congratulate Sgt. Goldsbrough who had his D.C.M. presented to him by His Majesty The King at Buckingham Palace on the 11th November, 1947.

THE REGIMENTAL BAND

At the moment of writing these notes we are undergoing a ceaseless whirl of activity. Having been fortunate in obtaining the Band property of the 2nd Battalion on their arrival home, we are now very busy checking, cataloguing, repairing and what have you.

We had the pleasure of being the first to welcome the 1st Battalion when they arrived at Liverpool, and combined with the Band of the Lancashire Fusiliers to play selections on the quayside. Owing to the police moving the civilian population to make room for us we were given a very mixed reception.

A new addition in the shape of Bandsman Rooms from the 2nd Battalion is doubly welcome, besides being an able instrumentalist he is a regular soldier, thus becoming one of our "bright boys." We bid a fond farewell to Bandsmen Laxton, Lawrence, Levesley and Walker who unfortunately had to leave us when we adopted the new organisation. It is rumoured that "Ted" has been offered an engagement with the Pit Orchestra at the Palace Theatre, Halifax, and can't decide between that and the London Philharmonic.

Finally we wish Drum-Major Kay of the 1st Battalion the best of luck with the six drummer boys we wished upon him. We shall be pleased to send him some more when he requires them.

SPORT.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.—We have had a very good start in our rugger season this time; we have so far played ten matches, winning eight. We lost to the Royal Signals in the first round of the Army Cup, it was a very good game. The Signals had a host of talent out against us. N. M. Hall, who did so much to help us win the seven-a-side competition last season, was on their side and played a great part in their victory. Score, 22 points to three points.

We had better success in the Yorkshire Cup, as we got as far as the 3rd round; we had a bye in the 6th round, beat Rotherham 30 points to nil in the 5th round, and The Old Brodleans 10 points to five points in the 4th round. We fell victims to the Keighleans in the 3rd round, 13 points to 10. This was a good hard game, but our luck was out; they managed to score a somewhat doubtful try in the latter part of the second half, thus giving them the victory.

MEMORIAL SERVICE, HALIFAX, 28th September, 1947.



Col. C. J. Pickering, C.M.G., D.S.O., supported by Brig. K. G. Exham, D.S.O. and Brig. P. St. Clair Ford, D.S.O. taking the Salute at the march past in Bull Green after the Service.



[Photos by courtesy of Halifax Courier and Guardian.]

Some of the ex-members of the Regiment :—R.S.M. Annesley, M.B.E., Sgt. Hedley, Pte. Taylor and Lt. (Q.M.) Evans can be seen.

THE C.I.G.S.' VISIT TO HALIFAX, November 3rd, 1947.



[Photo by courtesy Halifax Courier and Guardian

Names from left to right. Lt.-Col. DALRYMPLE, Field Marshal LORD MONTGOMERY, Major (Q.M.) BRECHLEY, Major BRABYN (Padre), Captain LINGARD (M.O.), Captain CONNOLLY, Lieut. HIRST, R.Q.M.S. SEDGWICK, Lt.-Col. BAKER (Shaking hands), Lieut. WOODCOCK, B.M. SEED, C.S.M. THOMPSON.



Mr. Lord's niece making Havercakes in her uncle's Bakery, Bradford. (See page 45)..

After Christmas we are looking forward to winning the North Midland District competition which starts in January, 1948.

We have at the P.T.C. the able assistance of Capt. D. Isles who has already played with the Army Trial Team in the B.A.O.R. and at R.M.C.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.—Up to the time of writing, the season is going very well for us. In the Army Cup we managed to beat a strong R.C. Signals side at Halifax 5-1, and in the next round we met 62nd R.A.C. Training Regiment, to whom we went under but only by the odd goal scored in the last few minutes of the game. Seven friendly games have been played and so far we have managed to win four, and lose three.

In the local competition, we have managed to survive the first round of the Halifax Association Cup, and in the second round we face a strong Huddersfield League team, viz, Rastrick United. The Halifax Thursday League provides very good games with the local opposition ; so far we have played three games, won two, and lost one.

Special mention must be made of the players who are serving so valiantly. Goal, L/Cpl. Crossley ; Backs, Sgt. Stutley, Lt. Denham ; Halves, Pte. Morgan, L/Cpl. Holt, C.Q.M.S. Short ; Forwards, Pte. Roberts, Sgt. Bylinsky, Capt. Connolly, Cpl. Morgan, W.O.II Wilks.

BOXING.—Unfortunately, up to the present, we have had no boxing competitions with other units. However, every fortnight, the inter-platoon competitions provide some very good entertainment. In these we see boxing in all stages of proficiency, and guts and determination contribute ample compensation where skill is lacking. Credit must be given to the P.T. Staff for the teaching of the fistic art.

Last Wednesday the inter-platoon competition was preceded by a "Black and White" demonstration (Right and wrong of boxing). Q.M.S.I. Copper as commentator put white—Cpl. Dixon, and Black—S. I. Frankland, through their paces in fine style. This demonstration was very instructive, with parts in a light-hearted vein, which made the whole most entertaining. No 5 Platoon then went on to win every fight, but with no disgrace to anyone in No. 6 Platoon. Some of the matches were very close indeed.

The Yorkshire and Northumberland Brigade T.C.

OFFICERS' MESS.

Since writing the last notes, the two Messes "A" and "B" have now merged into one for the whole of the I.T.C. The news was received with mixed feelings, but a better get-together spirit resulted however, and members from "B" Company found out at long last who actually lived in "A" Mess and what they did, much to their surprise in some cases.

The Dukes' members have only changed slightly and now consist of Capt. Whinray, Capt. Oxley, Lt. J. Forty, Lt. Holloway, Lt. Wood and 2nd/Lt. Wilkinson.

Major M. M. Davie and Major Wellesley are living out, the former still commands "B" Holding Company while Major Wellesley is on the holdee strength and awaits a posting. Major Kershaw and Capt. Berryman have now left us and departed for service overseas. Lt. Mavin is also on strength and awaits patiently civilian life.

The Mess has been quiet of late ; members no doubt are saving their energy and resources for the Christmas period. Sport has been taken up rather seriously by officers, and rugby, hockey, soccer and basket ball have all been played, with the results not always in our favour.

A number of 2nd Lieutenants have arrived from O.C.T.U., stayed a while and departed for various Battalions of the Regiments within the Group ; amongst them were Lts. Holliday and Arthur.

It is a debatable point whether we shall be here in our present form by the time the next notes are due, but we shall wait and see what the powers that be propose doing with the various members of the Dukes.

THE IRON DUKE

SERGEANTS' MESS

Probably these will be our last notes until we become extinct in Spring, 1948. The following are still with us: R.Q.M.S. Kenchington, C.S.M. Reed, O.R.Q.M.S. Jones, C.S.M. Kennedy, C.Q.M.S. Benner, C.Q.M.S. Phillips, Sgts. Garforth, Norris, Odd, Cox and Lockwood, who has recently returned from the R.M.A.; it has been noticed that his word of command has altered somewhat since his contact with the Guards at the Academy. Sgt. Barwell still survives there. There is a 'photo in the Sandhurst Mess of a very famous Duke N.C.O., ex-Sgt. Kerr. I understand the old hands there still speak of him after all this time.

Our activities here in Catterick have been confined to social evenings and dances. The R.Q.M.S. ran a very successful dance at the Hipswell Gymnasium in November, and a dance in aid of St. Dunstan's was run in December by Sgt. Garforth; this wasn't as well attended as we hoped it would be, but we hope for better luck next time. A special social evening was held in Gaza Sergeants' Mess to which the officers were invited. The pewter pots for which members had played were presented during the evening; the winners were:—Snooker—Sgt. Cox (D.W.R.); Billiards—Sgt. Garforth (D.W.R.); Darts—Sgt. Goldsmith (Y. & L.) (Provost Sgt.); Dominoes—Sgt. Winter (R.N.F.).

The boat race proved to be very close this time but the sergeants won on the post. The other competitions were also won by the sergeants and R.S.M. Raynor (G.H.R.) duly presented the wooden spoon (specially made for the occasion) to the Commanding Officer, Lt.Col. C. W. B. Orr, who promised to reverse the results at our next meeting. The Mess dinner is still being held alternately in each Mess and is enjoyed by all. The Christmas activities in the Mess will be confined to the children's party in Gaza Mess on the 18th December, 1947; this was proposed and carried through by Sgt. Garforth, the messing officer also giving a hand. The cost is being borne by the Mess. On the 21st December, we are holding a Christmas party to which the members' wives and friends and officers are invited. The Centre "closes down from 23rd December to 30th December for Christmas leave.

COMPANY NOTES.

"B" COMPANY.—Despite its ups and downs "B" Company still has the responsibility for drafting and posting the Dukes who pass through the Centre. Major M. M. Davie is still the company commander with Lt. Forty as one of the subalterns. Sgts Adams, Ibbetson, Norris, Odd and Williams and Cpl. Lancaster are on the permanent staff of the Company, also Sgt. S. Lockwood is attached to the Q.M., and Cpls. Hartley and Maddison work in the Orderly Room. Cpl. Farnsworth although our P.T. king works elsewhere.

We have said goodbye to Sgts. Badlands, Boyle and Mellon and Cpl. Fort who have gone to Halifax for release, and we wish them all the best in "civvy street." In the meantime "B" Company sausage machine continues to churn Dukes out as fast as they come in.

It is with great regret that the Dukes have no Battalion to be drafted to, however, the Group System is now in full swing and everyone seems prepared to carry on under different badges.

"Z" COMPANY.—As indicated in our last notes the Regimental Companies have amalgamated. The Y. & L. and the Dukes Companies were joined together to form "Z" Company. Major A. W. Stansfeld, Y. & L. Regt. is the company commander, Capt. Whinray, D.W. Regt. is company 2 i/c and Lt. Wood, D.W. Regt. commands one of the three platoons, while C.S.M. Reed and C.Q.M.S. Benner officiate as C.S.M. and C.Q.M.S. respectively. Sgts. Cox, Cpls. Thompson and Riley still remain on the permanent staff of the Company; Cpls. Brown and Hubbard have departed on pre-release courses, we wish them all the best in "civvy street." Major Kershaw and Capt. Berryman have departed to foreign parts, Singapore and West Africa respectively. We wish them the best of luck in their new spheres.

The P/S were invited to a farewell party in Richmond given by Major Kershaw. A very good evening was had by all. The jokes and stories told by the dark horses, Sgt. Cox and Cpls. Hubbard and Thompson, were a feature of the evening. The ride back to barracks was a little trying; how twelve people got into a car made for four beats the imagination. We were all thankful to the representative of the law in Richmond, who saw us and remembered "Nelson."

Three of our old Sgts., Sgts. Lockwood, Adams and Williams have been attached to us on loan from "B" Company. Lockwood's tales of the R.M.A. at Sandhurst where he has spent a month are never exhausted.

At the time of going to press we know that this Centre is closing down in Spring, '48. 1st. D.W.R. is taking over one of the new Basic Training Units, we don't know where yet. Let us hope we can get a rugger side together and emulate the deeds of the famous XV. of the 1930's at Aldershot.

H.M.S. Cleopatra

Portsmouth, 3rd December, 1947.

Our summer leave period at Portsmouth ended on 18th September when ships of the Home Fleet sailed from their home ports for Portland in anticipation of a visit to Invergordon during the autumn cruise. Our chief objective during the cruise was to work the ship up to a reasonably high state of armament efficiency, a matter which has for some time past had to take second place to an intensive programme of training of junior ratings.

Most of us were looking forward to a month in Northern waters with plenty to occupy us and plenty of games on the excellent grounds at Invergordon, not to mention the possibility of an occasional day's fishing and shooting. It was, therefore, rather a bombshell when, for reasons of fuel economy, our Northern cruise was cancelled.

However, we made the best of things at Portland and were fully occupied with gunnery programmes and sporting events. In the former we attained a fairly high standard in a short time, concluding with successful battle practice firing. In the sporting world *Cleopatra* won the cruiser "soccer" King's Cup for the second year in succession.

The old pre-war Admiral's inspections were re-introduced during this cruise by order of the Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet, and there is no doubt that they do us all a great deal of good. For some weeks beforehand drastic steps are taken to reach a high standard of cleanliness both internally and externally. Eventually the great day arrives (I am sure it is the same in the other Services) and the ship is inspected from top to bottom by the Admiral commanding the squadron, after which he puts everyone through their paces with general drills, action drills and the like. In due course the Admiral forwards a written report in which he expresses his approval or disapproval of all that he has seen.

The second bombshell fell on the Home Fleet about the middle of October, when it became known that the greater part of the Fleet must return to home ports for the purpose of reducing complements, thereby becoming immobilised for a time. Friday, 24th October, found us back again at Portsmouth, where we are likely to remain for the present. At the moment the future is a little uncertain but we all hope that it will not be very long before we can "get back to the job."

Regimental Dinner and Ladies' Tea

Provided no further restrictions are imposed by the Government, and that the present austerity conditions do not become markedly more acute, the Regimental Dinner and Ladies' Tea will be held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, on Wednesday, 2nd June, 1948.

A letter setting out the details will be sent to all members in March, and the usual notices will appear in *The Times* and *The Yorkshire Post* during the first week in May.

Will any members who have changed their address during the past year kindly notify:—
Colonel G. S. W. Rusbridger, Orchard Cottage, Ruishton, Near Taunton, Somerset.

Regimental War Memorial Chapel (All Saints' Chapel, York Minster)

COMMITTEE.

Lt.-Col. C. W. G. Ince, O.B.E., M.C. (Hon. Chairman).
Major B. V. Thomlinson.
Major W. H. C. Cobb (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer).

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

We present (below) the Balance Sheet and Account for 1947.

Since the end of the war, two of the three windows in the Chapel have been restored, both of them by private benefactors; the restoration of the east window is the gift of Lady de Grimston, while that of the eastern of the two on the south side was done in memory of the late General Turner and is the gift of his family.

The beautiful wrought-iron screen at the west end now bears 24 metal plates (blue and gold) showing our Battle Honours. The work was done by W. Bainbridge Reynolds, Limited (the designers and makers of the screen itself), and we hope that it will not be long before visitors to the Chapel will see more of this firm's excellent work, since the main part of the memorial for those who fell in the recent war is to be a similar screen erected on the north side of the Chapel.

The only progress which we have been able to make towards the establishment of a 1939-45 memorial is in connection with the Book of Remembrance. Many readers will know the existing book; this was taken during the summer to J. & E. Bumpus, Limited, in order that the latter might take full particulars with a view to the production of a new book like the original one; the 1914-18 book is now back in the Minster, and the new one is now being produced by the illuminator and writer who were responsible for the original book.

Finally, we should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have subscribed to the Chapel Fund; apart from the small amount of interest on investments, voluntary subscriptions and donations are our sole source of income, and if these were not forthcoming we should be unable to meet current expenses. The cost of additions proposed as a 1939-45 War Memorial (screen, tablet, book and restoration of one window) will, of course, be borne by the 1939-45 War Memorial Fund (in connection with which an appeal appears elsewhere in this issue), so that all those who subscribe to this fund will be substantially contributing towards a worthy memorial to our fallen, and also the enrichment of what is already a very lovely corner in one of the most beautiful buildings in the world.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

WILLIAM H. C. COBB,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Duncombe Place, York.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1947.

INCOME.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward (see IRON DUKE, February, 1947, page 34)	10	15	11½	Subscription, IRON DUKE	1	4	4½
Subscriptions	30	4	6	Postage	1	6	0
Interest on 3 per cent Defence Bonds	6	0	0	Stationery	1	5	0
From Deposit Account	31	17	9	Insurance Premium	33	0	0
				Battle Honour Plates	9	4	0
				Fixing of same	1	1	0
				Friends of York Minster	31	8	10
				Balance in hand (31.12.47)	£78	18	2½
					£78	18	2½
					£78	18	2½

BALANCE SHEET.

ASSETS.				LIABILITIES.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance at Bank	...	30	16	10	Creditors	...	Nil
Cash with Hon. Treasurer	...		12	0	Balance Credit of Fund	...	381 8 10
3 per cent Defence Bonds	...	200	0	0			
2½ per cent Defence Bonds	...	150	0	0			
		<u>£381</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>			
						<u>£381</u>	<u>8 10</u>

The Regimental War Memorial Fund.

The nature of the Regimental War Memorial has already been stated in the IRON DUKE. We are very keen to get on with the work. There must be a large number of the Regiment who will wish to subscribe but have not already done so.

So please do it NOW. A brochure concerning the Memorial can be obtained from the O.C. Regimental Headquarters, D.W.R., The Barracks, Halifax; this contains a Deed of Covenant for those wishing to spread their donation over seven years. Donations should be sent to the same address.

DONATIONS

General Sir Philip Christison, Group-Captain Walter Wilson, Colonel E. G. Harrison, Captain W. L. Denton, Captain E. Mason, Mr. F. Crouch, Major F. B. Murgatroyd, Lt.-Col. W. G. Officer, Lt.-Col. R. L. Agnew, Miss Oglesby, Lt.-Col. W. Hodgson, Lt.-Col. H. W. Becher, His Grace The Duke of Wellington, Lt.-Col. W. A. Woods, Lt.-Col. G. Taylor, Major K. E. Wright, Capt. F. Lowther, D. Barker, R.S.M. G. W. Annesley, The Reverend K. Gregory, Capt. W. R. C. Miller, Major R. O'D. Carey, Major Hugh Dixon, Major J. M. R. Ford, Major H. J. T. Sills, Mrs. T. White, Capt. B. Godfrey Buxton, Major A. B. Clarkson, Capt. S. G. Dunn, Col. R. R. Mellor, Capt. B. Hindley, The Reverend S. H. Chase, Mr. L. A. Harper, Capt. F. Jowett, Mrs. M. Gledhill, Lt.-Col. S. S. Hayne, Mr. G. R. Carney, Mr. H. A. Hagger, Mr. W. Handley, Mr. J. Heward, Lt.-Col. N. G. Burnand, Major F. R. St. P. Bunbury, Major Brian Kitchen, Mrs. E. Carroll, Lt.-Col. W. L. Johnston, Lt.-Col. F. P. A. Woods, Mrs. F. P. A. Woods, Mr. W. Mears, Major H. A. Luhrs, Major T. F. Huskisson, Administrative Officer, 4 I.T.C., Mr. E. A. Chivers, Mrs. D. Jones, Mr. F. Harte, Major G. A. Fontes, Lt.-Col. M. V. le P. Trench, Capt. S. V. Owen, Lt.-Col. J. H. C. Lawlor, Lt.-Col. F. A. Hayden, Major T. V. Laverack, Major T. W. Hibbert, Mr. W. Mackay, Mr. E. Page, Major E. J. Buckland, Lt.-Col. S. R. Hoyle, Lt.-Col. M. N. Cox, Brigadier V. C. Green, Capt. E. A. Routledge, Major H. J. Forty, Lt. J. Forty, Col. A. Curran, Lt. T. J. Hamilton Black, Major J. Lepper, Lady E. M. Landon, Capt. L. Hayes, R.E., Capt. J. Mayers, Major A. T. E. Duncan, Mr. W. J. Simmonds, Mr. H. Pickering, Mr. A. C. Payne, Major and Mrs. M. E. Crane, Major T. K. Wright, Mr. J. Hammond, Major J. A. Randall, Mr. E. Smith, Mr. G. J. L. Whitbourn, Capt. O. Westmacott, Mr. R. McDowell, Mr. F. W. Thomas, Major C. L. Newton-Thompson, Mrs. Eleanor E. Hill, Major P. R. Garnett, Lt.-Col. R. E. Maffett, Mrs. R. E. Maffett, Mrs. M. E. Travers, Mr. Charles W. Crossley, Mrs. E. Mabel Trafford, Mr. F. Simpson, Mr. F. Colley, Lt.-Col. L. E. Bishop, Mrs. A. M. Skirrow, Mr. H. O. Smith, Lt.-Col. B. W. Webb-Carter, Capt. D. R. Siddall, Capt. R. V. Cartwright, Major J. E. Pollard, Col. G. B. Howcroft, 10th (S) D.W.R., 1914-18 O.C.A., Mrs. E. H. Hicks (in memory of her father C.S.M.I. C. J. Puplett), Major R. E. Sugden, Mr. J. Rowland H. Wheelwright, Mr. A. J. Selway, Mr. A. S. Miller, Major R. Booth Scott, R.E., Mrs. B. Mabel Bradford, Mr. Colin Myers, Mr. W. Taylor, Mr. W. J. Wicks, Col. C. J. Pickering, Col. B. St. J. le Marchant, Miss L. Puplett, Major G. V. Fancourt, Col. G. P. Norton, Lt.-Col. D. Paton, Lt.-Col. R. Sugden, Mrs. Clair Markham, Col. E. M. Huntriss, Capt. F. N. Potts, Mrs. M. Johnston May, Major A. Driver, Mrs. G. M. Shelton, Brigadier W. Rogers, O.C. 2nd Bn. D.W.R., Mrs. M. D. Norris, Mrs. Louise Owen, Mr. J. E. Baume, Mrs. Barbara Harrison Bloom, Capt. A. E. Miller, Col. H. G. P. Miles, Major P. R. Foulks, Mr. Joseph S. Jones, Uniform Research Fund, D.W.R., Mrs. P. A. Turner, Col. W. A. Hinchcliffe, Mrs. E. M. Kington, S. A. Field Force D.W.R. Huddersfield Branch, Mr. F. Harold, Mr. V. Prince, Mr. C. Naylor, Mr. H. H. Firth, Mr. S. N. Hepworth, Brigadier G. F. Ellenburger, Major J. Coulter, Capt. F. Allsop, Lady Belfield, Halifax Parish Church Council, collection, 28th September, 1947, Mr. F. Boone, Army Cadet Welfare Company, P.R.I. 6th Bn. D.W.R., Lt.-Col. A. H. G. Wathen, Major H. R. Kavanagh, Major T. St. G. Carroll, Commanding Officer's Fund, 1st Bn. D.W.R., P.R.I. 1st Bn. D.W.R., Capt. T. S. Miller, Capt. P. S. Simpson, Capt. D. Gibbard, Lt. K. Midgley, Lt. G. A. Tattersfield, Lt. J. H. Haigh, Lt. B. F. Cook, Lt. B. R. Clarke, Lt. A. S. Findley, Lt. R. L. Johnson, Lt. W. G. H. Cooke, Lt. H. R. Williamson, Lt. P. Dooks, Lt. G. H. Cox, Lt. H. Nock, Capt. S. W. Green, Gebait Detachment 1/D.W.R. Sudan, Tombola "A" Company 1/D.W.R., Sergeants' Mess 1/D.W.R. Collection Box, Tombola H.Q. and "D" Companies 1/D.W.R. Khartoum, Lt.-Col. S. E. Baker.

Donations so far amount to £,1023 16s. 6d., up to and including December, 15th, 1947.

The following have signed seven years covenants:—Major R. E. Austin, Lt.-Col. J. Chatterton, Major W. H. C. Cobb, Brigadier K. G. Exham, Col. F. S. Exham, Mrs. I. F. Croker Fox, Brigadier F. H. Fraser, Major R. W. Hatch, Capt. H. S. le Messurier, Major-General W. M. Ozanne, Mr. Robert Saye, Major R. A. Scott, Col. D. I. Strangeways, Capt. The Lord Savile, Capt. T. G. Swithinbank, Major D. C. Roberts, Captain P. B. Hall, Major W. Skelsey.

The amount which will eventually be received under this heading amounts to £1,031 6s. 1d.

Old Comrades and Regimental Associations

1st and 2nd BATTALIONS.

The following is a summary of the cases assisted during the period Mid-August to Mid-December, 1947.

Fund.	Number of Cases.	Amount Disbursed.
Old Comrades' Association, 1st and 2nd Battalions	30	£ 107 19 8
2nd Battalion Charitable Fund	2	10 0 0
Regimental Association Fund	41	208 18 10*
The Mitchell Trust Fund	1	3 5 0

* Includes £50 grant to Oldham Branch for local cases.

O. C. A. AND R. A. DINNER

The annual O.C.A. and R.A. dinner was held at the Barracks, Halifax, on September 27th. A very representative gathering turned up including members from all Regular, Territorial and Service Battalions.

Amongst those present were Colonel C. J. Pickering, Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier K. G. Exham, Brigadier V. C. Green, Lieutenant-Colonels J. H. Dalrymple, F. P. A. Woods, C. F. Tissington, G. Taylor, S. R. Hoyle and S. E. Baker, ex-R.S.M. G. W. Annesley, ex-R.S.M. S. E. Code, M.B.E. (Hon Secretary), and R.S.M.'s C. F. Birch and B. Boon. Two of the oldest quartermasters in the Regiment, Mr. Dan Looney and Mr. T. W. Milner were also present. The Regimental guests were the Rev. D. M. Gordon, M.A., (Padre to the 2nd Battalion 1943-45), and Mr. Sam Smith. Letters of regret at their inability to attend were received from General Christison, Major-General Ozanne and Lieutenant-Colonel Trench. Telegrams of greetings and best wishes were received from the 1st Battalion at Khartoum, Mr. W. Paling and Major R. A. Scott. Two senior members made the journey from London by motor-bike and pillion, leaving Halifax on their return journey at dawn on Sunday as they were working on the night shift that evening. This is mentioned because it is typical of the enthusiasm and "esprit de Dukes" which characterised the whole meeting.

After an excellent repast, prepared by the messing staff of the Barracks, Col. Pickering was at his best in a very happy speech which was entirely in keeping with the spirit of the evening. After welcoming the guests, he gave details of developments in the Regiment during the past year, and said how happy he was at the excellent relations which now existed between the Regiment and the civilian population of this part of Yorkshire. He then made a strong appeal on behalf of the Regimental War Memorial Fund.

Having had the honour of being Colonel of the Regiment for the past ten years, he felt the time had come for him to hand over to a younger man who had seen active service during the late war. He felt that the future of the Regiment would be safe in the capable hands of General Christison who had such a distinguished war record, had commanded the 2nd Battalion, and whose only son had unfortunately been killed in action when serving with the 2nd Battalion in Burma.

Colonel Pickering then amused his audience by giving some details of some of the "bad hats" of the Regiment whom he had run across in the course of his service, and drew the moral that there is a great deal of good in the worst of us so long as the helping hand is extended at the right time.

The Colonel concluded by saying that although he was resigning, his heart would always be with the Regiment in which all his service had been spent, and he hoped that he would still be allowed to do anything he could to help in matters which affected the welfare of the Dukes.

After the dinner, the members adjourned to the Gymnasium, which was tastefully decorated, where they were entertained by the 1st Battalion Band, and there they split up into Battalion groups where the battles in North Africa, Italy, Burma and France were once again fought and won. We noted especially the animation of the groups of the 2nd and 7th and we caught the names Sittang, Chazumi and Nimagen. We presume they mean something!

Many of the members seized the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the Dukes Social Club in the Barracks. Mr. T. McMahon was responsible for the bar arrangements, and where he obtained his supplies is nobody's business. Fortunately, the beer held out—or very nearly; altogether a most successful and memorable re-union.

We must express our keen appreciation of the enormous amount of work completed by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. E. Code, who was responsible for the excellent arrangements which went without a hitch; we hope that the success of the event will be some compensation to him for the onerous and multifarious duties he performed.

MEMORIAL SERVICE, HALIFAX PARISH CHURCH, 28th SEPTEMBER, 1947

At a meeting held at the Barracks, Halifax, towards the end of June and presided over by Lt.-Col. J. H. Dalrymple, three old stalwarts of the Regiment, ex-R.S.M.'s S. E. Code and Annesley and ex-R.Q.M.S. McMahon, mooted the idea of a Memorial Service to be held at the Parish Church, Halifax, on the day after the O.C.A. and R.A. dinner.

This suggestion was enthusiastically received. On September 28th, the parade formed up near the Odeon Cinema at 14.15 hours and marched to the Parish Church headed by the 1st Battalion Band. Following them, in pride of place were some 70 ex-members of the Regiment with representatives from all Battalions. Then came the 3rd Battalion Colours and Colour Party, a contingent of Dukes from the 33rd P.T.C. (D.W.R.), representatives from each of the Territorial Battalions, and finally, a contingent from each of the five Regimental Cadet Battalions with two bands. The total parade strength was approximately 350.

The church was filled to overflowing with friends of the Regiment, and a bright and cheerful service was conducted by Canon P. E. James, Vicar of Halifax, a forceful sermon being preached by the Rev. D. M. Gordon, M.A., late Padre to the 2nd Battalion. The 1st Battalion Band played the accompaniment to the hymns. Sergeant H. Stutely sounded the Last Post and Reveille at the end of the service; a collection was taken on behalf of the Regimental War Memorial Fund.

After the service the parade formed up outside the church and marching up Horton Street, passed the saluting base in Bull Green, where Colonel C. J. Pickering, supported by Brigadier K. G. Exham and Brigadier P. St. Clair Ford (commanding 149th Infantry Brigade (T.A.)), took the salute. Amongst those who marched past was Private Charlie O'Shea, well over 70 years of age, who, in spite of an infirmity which necessitated the use of a stick, kept manfully in step during the whole of the march.

The ceremony was watched by some 5,000 people in Bull Green; the weather was very kind.

We must express our appreciation to Canon P. E. James, Vicar of Halifax, for the excellent arrangements he made in connection with the service, and to the Borough Police of Halifax, for their help in controlling the large crowd.

It is hoped that the Memorial Service will now be held annually.

SOCIAL CLUB

The annual general meeting of the club was held on the 20th September last and a fairly representative gathering of members attended this 1st general meeting. Those attending evinced great interest in the proceedings and there was no lack of ideas on future policy of the club and its well-being.

The chairman, Mr. W. Walker, opened the meeting with a review of the year's working and management of the club, and went on to stress that the efficient and smooth running of the club was due in no small measure to the untiring efforts of the general committee. The club's position was very sound financially and we could look forward to the future with confidence; the real strength of the club, however, lies in its membership, which increases weekly. There is no doubt that the venture has proved an unqualified success in every way.

The accounts were passed unanimously after Mr. McMahon had read out the audited accounts for the year under review. The treasurer is to be congratulated on the healthy state of our finances and on the wise handling of our financial affairs generally. The Secretary, Mr. Code, in giving his report underlined the Chairman's remarks, and briefly surveyed the reasons for starting the club and our long term policy for the future. We have to thank Lieut-Colonel Dalrymple for his support and help in running our social events. He is a frequent visitor to the club and his presence is much appreciated.

In the social field we still run our "tombola" sessions which are very popular with the ladies. We are now making a start with whist drives and hope to be able to have a comprehensive programme of social activities in full swing by the New Year. A sum of £50 has been contributed by the members towards the children's Xmas treat, and a show has been arranged for them which includes a Xmas tree kindly given us by Lord Savile, toys for every child, high tea and entertainment by a professional comper of children's parties; the inevitable Punch and Judy show with its age-long attraction for the youngsters has been booked.

Ex-members of the Regiment continue to drop in at the week-ends. Some long-forgotten celebrities have found their way to the club to renew old acquaintances. There is usually a little difficulty in finding their way out again! We do welcome any "Old Dukes" who may care to look us up—they are sure of a hearty reception.

5th BATTALION.

The annual meeting of the 5th Duke of Wellington's Old Comrades' Association was held at the Drill Hall, Huddersfield on Saturday, October 25th, 1947. The President (Colonel Keith Sykes) occupied the chair, and was supported by the following Vice-Presidents:—Colonel R. R. Mellor, Colonel G. P. Norton, Lt.-Col. R. C. Laurence and Major D. H. Hirst, and over 200 members.

Owing to the illness of the Hon. Secretary (Councillor N. Hobson) Mr. F. Hinchcliffe read the annual report which shewed a year of steady progress and a good number of new members. The present membership was about 800. The statement of Accounts was submitted by the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. F. G. Kemp) and shewed a healthy state of affairs, credit balances being as follows:—General Account, £169 4s. 0d., Benevolent Account, £109 13s. 11d. and Entertainment Account, £40 5s. 9d. The Capital of invested funds in the Benevolent Account was now £3,450.

Many deserving cases had been helped during the past year and the Association worked in close liaison with the Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association, the R.A. Association and the British Legion.

Replying to an omnibus vote of thanks to all officials, etc., Colonel Norton congratulated all concerned on the present strength and vigour of the Old Comrades' Association and said they were very fortunate in having such a splendid hard-working committee.

Major D. H. Hirst as P.R.I. of the newly formed 5th Battalion stated that all members of the Association could consider themselves hon. members of the new Regimental Club, and he hoped they would use their influence in attracting recruits to the new unit.

The Meeting was closed at 8.15 p.m. with a few words from the Chairman who declared that such a gathering was indeed a tonic in these drab days. For the remainder of the evening the company were entertained by Leonard Barnes and his concert party.

10th (SERVICE) BATTALION

To the 10th (Service) Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, O.C.A. fell the honour of entertaining Col. C. J. Pickering at his last official function as Colonel of the Regiment. It was at the Association's re-union dinner held in Bradford on Saturday, October, 25th 1947. Col. Pickering was the guest of honour.

Despite the passage of years—the 10th (S) Battalion was demobilised in 1919—there were nearly 100 present to give Col. Pickering a cordial welcome. They came not only from the West Riding, but also from Surrey, London, Birmingham and some of the remote points in the Yorkshire Dales—more proof of the fine *esprit de corps* which distinguished this Battalion which fought in France, Belgium and Italy during the 1914-1918 war. The Association's Chairman (Lt. M. A. S. Wood) presided.

Regret was expressed that Major J. C. Bull—affectionately known as "Daddy"—was unable to make the journey from Winchester, but everybody realised the tax long journeys are on the Battalion's "elders" these days. The members did not forget him, however, and Major Bull did not forget them, for he sent along a telegram conveying his good wishes to all. Col. R. Richmond Raymer—former commanding officer, who now lives at Havering, Portishead, Somerset,—also sent greetings, and others who could not attend but sent their good wishes were: Capt. S. Currington (London), Capt. F. L. D. Barker (Dorset), Lt. H. M. Hands (Birmingham), Lt. C. W. Wildy (Surrey), C.S.M. Albert Blackburn, (Harrow) and Mr. Jack Rawlings (Bradford), now, alas, unable to leave the house owing to illness.

Loyal greetings were sent to H.M. the King, and a reply from King George was read at the re-union. After the Loyal Toast and "Fallen Comrades and Absent Friends" had been honoured, Col. Pickering proposed the toast of the O.C.A. He gave some interesting information about the various Battalions of the Regiment. The 2nd Battalion he said, had arrived home after 25 years overseas—about the longest foreign tour of service any Battalion of Dukes had ever had. An interesting point about this Battalion was that in 1803 it was the first British unit to enter Delhi when it was fighting under General Lord Lake. In September, 1947, it was the last British unit to leave Delhi.

The 4th Battalion, he said, was going to continue in its anti-tank role, though what its real future would be he did not know. The 5th Battalion (Huddersfield) was to be a Heavy A.A. unit; the 6th Battalion (Skipton and Keighley) was also going to be a Heavy Artillery unit, and the 7th Battalion would remain an Infantry unit.

Col. Pickering spoke in some detail of the Regimental O.C.A. who worked under a charter and whose membership was confined to regular soldiers serving on a normal engagement in the 1st or 2nd Battalion, but said a new Association had been formed during the 1939-45 war. Its members would be any men who had joined since 1939—Regulars, Territorials or Service men—and thanks to the generosity of people of the West Riding, what had been received from the Prisoners-of-War Fund and entertainments produced by the Regimental Band, a good sum of money had been accumulated. He was

happy to be able to say the new Association was in a position to look after war-time soldiers and their dependents, and any future soldiers who came along, while old "sweats" like men of the 10th (S) Battalion could, he thought, become members by paying 35s.

Efforts were being made to provide something in the way of a War Memorial for the recent war. Quite a lot was being done at the York Minster Chapel. A stained glass window had been transferred and put in by the relatives of the late General Turner in his memory and it was hoped to extend the trellis work between the Regimental Chapel and the Lady Chapel, and to put up the battle honours of the Regiment round the frieze. An offer had been received from the authorities of Halifax Parish Church of a Regimental Chapel there, and Messrs. Crossley, of Halifax had very generously agreed to give a new carpet for the chapels at Halifax and York. If any funds remained, it was intended to devote them to the Youth Movement.

Col. Pickering thought our efforts in the future should be concentrated on bringing up the present generation in the way they should go. If everybody helped boys' and girls' clubs he was sure that by the time the young people reached a mature age they would have developed into really good citizens.

He had been asked whether he thought there would ever be another war. He thought there would because as long as human nature was what it was there would always be wars. He did not think, however, another war would come in "our time"—but one never knew.

The strength of the Navy was lower than it had ever been in Britain's history. Whether the country was relying on the atomic bomb he did not know—though he did not think we had one, but Russia might have. Only half a dozen such bombs would be required to put Britain out of her misery, so that our younger generation had a lot to think about. Older people would help themselves by helping the young folk.

Referring to his impending relinquishment of the Colonecy of the Regiment, Col. Pickering said he did not believe in staying in a position until people enquired "Is the old buffer ever going to pass out?" It was better to go now and let a younger man who had fighting experience take over the reins. The Regiment had a first-class man in General Christison, who had commanded the 2nd Battalion in India. He put his only son in the Regiment and lost him in Burma. At present, he was G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command and was in a position to do more for the Regiment than ever he (Col. Pickering) could hope to do. When so many changes were taking place—losing first one Battalion and then another—he thought it an opportune moment for someone *au fait* with the wishes of the Government, the orders from the Secretary of State for War and the Army authorities, to look after the interests of the Regiment.

The Chairman briefly replied. The remainder of the evening was spent "chin-wagging" and "reminiscing."

A notable feature of the re-union was the Veldhoek Bugle—awarded to the Battalion in 1917 for the relief of Veldhoek in Belgium—which had a place of honour in front of the Chairman. An examination of the relic indicated that such pains are taken at the Depot to keep it clean that the inscription has almost been rubbed away!

On September 28th, representatives of the O.C.A. attended the Regimental Memorial Service in Halifax Parish Church and took part in the march past the Colonel of the Regiment. The Association was also present at the Bradford Remembrance Parade on November 9th, and placed a Regimental wreath on the Cenotaph in Victoria Square; and Mr. J. C. B. Redfern and others in London planted a wreath cross in the Regimental section of the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster.

If anybody reading these notes has any information of the present address of Lt. J. R. Dickinson—last heard of at Barrow-in-Furness—the Hon. Secretary of the O.C.A. (10 Willowfield Crescent, Highfield Road, Bradford, Yorks.) would be glad to have it.

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

The first re-union of the Regiment was held at the Guildford Hotel, Leeds, on the 28th March, 1947. It was then decided at a short meeting held under the chairmanship of Lt.-Col. A. C. Jackson to form a 145th R.A.C./8th Battalion D.W.R. Association, with the objects:—

- (a) To make the re-union an annual event.
- (b) To make a link with The Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association and the Royal Armoured Corps Benevolent Fund.
- (c) To perpetuate the comradeship built up during the war.
- (d) To assist all members of the Regiment who may require assistance and to render all possible assistance to the dependents of our fallen, where required.

A committee consisting of the following was elected:—Capt. F. O. Till, R.S.M. B. Boon, S.S.M. B. Wadd, Sgt. W. Reed, Tpr. W. Broadbent, Tpr. W. Mounsey, with Major F. B. Murgatroyd as secretary.

All who have served in the Regiment either as infantry or tanks are eligible. It is intended to ask for some small subscription to cover incidental expenses and the cost of future newsletters.

The third annual officers' re-union was held at the Holborn Restaurant, London, at 7 p.m. on the 15th November, 1947. About 30 officers sat down to dinner, including Lt.-Col. A. C. Jackson, who presided, Lt.-Col. E. V. Strickland, now serving with the 16th/5th Lancers, Lt.-Col. H. A. C. Montgomery-Campbell, who is A.Q. at Scottish Command, Major H. M. C. Tobin, from the School of Infantry, B.A.O.R., and Captain F. G. Reynolds.

Colonel Jackson reviewed the activities of the Battalion Association during the past year, and announced that the second all ranks' re-union had been definitely arranged to be held at the Guildford Hotel, Leeds, on the 3rd July, 1948. He also referred to the Newsletter, which is to be issued by Major F. B. Murgatroyd twice a year. The first issue of this appeared last January and contains much news of interest to past members of the Battalion.

5th Battalion Officers' Dinner Club

The twenty-first annual dinner was held at Huddersfield Drill Hall on Friday, October 10th 1947, when 81 members and four guests were present. The guests of the evening were Brigadier J. A. Parkes, Colonel C. J. Pickering (Colonel of the Regiment), Lt.-Col. J. H. Dalrymple and the Mayor of Huddersfield (Alderman T. Smiles).

The Mayor proposed the toast of the Battalion and Lt.-Col. R. C. Laurence and Lt.-Col. F. A. Carline replied. Major E. E. R. Kilner proposed "Our Guests" and Colonel Pickering replied.

The Chairman (Col. G. P. Norton, Honorary Colonel of the Battalion) proposed the health of the Hon. Sec. (Col. K. Sykes) and thanked him for his work on behalf of the Club for the past 28 years.

It was really a very excellent gathering and it was good to see all the Regimental plate, Colours, etc. displayed once more. The Club is in a very healthy condition and there are over 220 members. Next year's dinner is to be held on Friday, October 8th, 1948, if the "Powers that then Be" allow such functions.

Our Contemporaries.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the following regimental magazines:—*The Dragon* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The Snapper* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The St. George's Gazette* (August, Sept., Oct., Nov.), *The Suffolk Regimental Gazette* (Oct., Dec.), *The Lion & the Rose* (Autumn), *The Journal of The South Wales' Borderers* (Nov.), *The Hampshire Regimental Gazette* (August), *The Antelope* (Autumn), *The K.S.L.I. & Herefordshire Gazette* (Nov.), *The Tiger & Rose* (Oct.), *The Borderers' Chronicle* (Sept.), *The H.L.I. Chronicle* (Oct.), *The Bugle* (Sept.), *Ca Ira* (Dec.), *The Wish Stream* (Dec.), *The Tank* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The Sapper* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The Royal Army Ordnance Gazette* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *Our Empire* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.).

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

(Continued from page 153, No. 68, October, 1947.)

Recurring to the operations before Antwerp, where it was necessary to keep large bodies of troops under arms during the night of 2nd of February, each regiment now took up its positions for a siege. The town batteries re-opened their fire at six o'clock a.m. on the morning of the 3rd. The siege had now fairly commenced but with most inadequate means as regards battering train and ammunition. Rockets there were none, and these destructive missiles only arrived after an armistice had been agreed on. All ranks were, however, animated with a desire to destroy the French fleet and capture the place. Five out of the six Dutch guns employed in the French batteries burst on the first and second days of the siege. The frost had probably acted on the metal and made it brittle.

On the 9th of March news was brought in to the Base Hospital at Williamstadt that, on the previous evening, the Army had secretly and suddenly broken up their positions before Antwerp and made an unexpected attack on Bergen op Zoom, and captured the town. In the midst of our jubilation some visitors entered the hospital and we soon learned that the attack had not been the success that rumour had reported, and in the afternoon a flag of truce came in to Williamstadt from Bergen op Zoom demanding surgical aid for the numerous wounded British soldiers who remained prisoners in the hands of the enemy.

Subsequently I had ample opportunity of learning from Captain Guthrie of the 33rd (who was present at, and severely wounded at, the assault) the causes which led to the lamentable failure of the attack—an operation which at its commencement promised such brilliant results, and appeared to have added one more laurel wreath to those previously won by the British Army.

The following account of the attack on Bergen op Zoom was chiefly derived from Captain Guthrie, and other officers and men of all arms who were actively engaged in, or witnessed the operation, and though a plain narrative of facts relating to our discomfiture may be galling to our national pride, it is better to exhibit the naked truth in all its bearings that we may profit by knowing the worst.

Before narrating the principal facts connected with the operation, it will perhaps be well to give a brief account of that renowned stronghold, Bergen op Zoom, by which means the operation will be better understood.

It is the strongest fortress in Dutch Brabant, and is sited on a gentle eminence slightly elevated above the low swampy ground in its vicinity, and at some distance from the eastern branch of the Scheldt. Excepting along the dykes there is no firm footing for man or beast in these extensive marshes. The small river Zoom runs through the town, from which it derives its name—the Town or Hill on the Zoom. Cohorn the great Dutch engineer displayed consummate skill and ingenuity in adding works of defence to the place. Redoubts, bastions, galleries under the ramparts, and mines beyond them, with extensive earthwork defences, make it one of the strongest fortresses in the world, and it has been pronounced impregnable by force. The side towards Antwerp is further strengthened by the small and sluggish river Escaut and its water communication with the Scheldt would enable succour to be brought into the town even when closely besieged. Several powerful forts intervene between the main part of the fortress and the Scheldt.

As the siege of Antwerp could not make much progress owing to our deficiency of battering train, it became a point of great importance to the British to obtain possession of Bergen op Zoom as a place of strength in case of reverses. The French had upwards of 12,000 troops in Antwerp; their communications with Lille were open, and they could receive reinforcements from that quarter. In the event of this happening and the French then advancing against Sir Thomas Graham's small force, the British having no firm base on which to pivot would have been compelled to retire on to their transports which were

frozen in at Williamstadt, the only fortified place in our possession besides Tholen. These good and sufficient reasons, and the ascertained fancied security in which the French garrison at Bergen op Zoom rested, combined with the knowledge that the inhabitants were favourably disposed to the British, induced Sir Thomas Graham (afterwards Lord Lynedoch) to direct his attention to the means of obtaining possession of that fortress. The plan he formed to ensure its capture was judicious and had his selection of an officer to lead and direct the operation been equally so, and his plan properly carried out, success must have crowned the enterprise. In brief, the design was admirably conceived by the General-in-Chief, but execrably conducted by his subordinate.

On the 8th of March the troops destined for the assault were quietly withdrawn from before Antwerp and from other points and were directed to occupy the villages and barns at a short distance from Bergen-op-Zoom. The time was well chosen for the assault, the moon was low in the heavens, and as one column was to assail the fortress by the bed of the river Zoom, it was calculated that the tide would be out at the moment of attack.

Soon after 8 o'clock on this eventful night the troops were formed in four columns under the command of Major-General George Cooke. The first column under Major-General Skerrit and Brigadier-General Gore was to enter the fortress by the bed of the river Zoom. When this was accomplished the column was, on quitting the river bed, to turn to its right and proceed along the ramparts and aid the other columns in gaining an entrance. The second column was to escalate the Pucelle Bastion upon the Antwerp front. This point was selected on account of the flooding from the Scheldt being retained by a "batardeau" opposite its flanked angle, and the three bastions in the rear of the flooding were not revetted and thus more easily assailable.

The third column was to enter by escalate upon the Wouw front; the fourth column, which was only intended to act as a feint, was to attract the attention of the enemy to the Steinbergen Gate and adjacent works. Sir George Hoste, Royal Engineers, led one of the columns which was composed of the Guards.

The columns which assaulted by the bed of the river Zoom and the Pucelle Bastion were successful. One of these columns entered the fortress without difficulty and without loss, and the other with the loss of six or seven men only. The column which was to have escalated on the Wouw side found the enemy prepared to repel the attack and was prevented from entering the fortress at that point, but only sustained under 30 casualties. This column was then led to the foot of the Pucelle Bastion, and following the party which had gained possession of this and the adjacent bastions, mounted the ladders and formed on the ramparts.

Up to this time everything had succeeded even beyond the expectation of the most sanguine, and the capture of the renowned Bergen-op-Zoom seemed to be already accomplished. Not only were the three assaulting columns already within the fortress, but the columns destined to make the feint attack upon the Steinbergen Gate, after occupying the attention of the garrison and drawing a part of the force away from the other points being assaulted, contrived to enter the fortress also, so that all that was now required to bring the operation to a successful conclusion was the summoning of the garrison to surrender. This simple step was altogether neglected, although the French, under the command of General Bizanet, finding a vastly superior force within the place, and on the ramparts against which they could not hope to contend with any chance of success, had hastily been collected in one of the bastions and there awaited the summons to surrender, which, according to subsequent statements of their own officers, they were prepared to do. But finding the British inactive, the garrison began to intrench itself, and from being in a state almost amounting to dismay, the French became confident, and through the skill of their general finally obtained the superiority.

It is strange to relate that when our troops were established on the ramparts and could have attacked the enemy without hindrance, nothing was done beyond sending out (from Lord Probyn's column) detachments of two hundred men to ascertain what the

enemy was doing. These detachments were too small to make an impression and too large for patrols, but even so were enabled to traverse more than four-fifths of the ramparts without opposition, but at length coming in contact with the assembled French garrison, they were as a matter of course driven back by superior numbers, and yet this miserable game was played over and over again, enough in itself to dispirit the troops and shake all confidence in themselves.

General Cooke with the Guards, for what purpose it is difficult to imagine, left the ramparts and descended to the market place, and there remained equally inactive. Time wore on and still no steps were taken to proceed against the enemy, so the latter began to concert measures for defence or aggression as circumstances might arise. A strong party of them crept stealthily down from the bastion and entered the houses round the market place, where General Cooke with the Guards stood supinely inactive, allegedly waiting for daylight.

It must now be recorded that the head of the column which assaulted by the bed of the Zoom, after leaving the river bed turned right (i.e. the proper direction) whilst the rear of the column committed a most unaccountable error by turning left; it thus became separated as a result of the commander failing to give his regimental commanders clear and precise orders. Shortly afterwards that portion of the column which had so inopportunistically turned left, found that the rising tide had cut them off from all support and completely isolated them, and they were eventually compelled to surrender to superior force. This, however, could have had no material effect on the general result, for the British troops still in the very heart of the fortress were more than double the number of the French garrison opposed to them.

About the time of this reverse, the French troops who had occupied the houses round the market place, attacked the Guards with considerable animation, and being judiciously posted, fired from the windows with deadly effect, they themselves remaining in comparative security. Why an attempt was not made to force the houses and expel the enemy I could never learn, nor why the Guards, upwards of a thousand strong, should have surrendered. At the moment when General Cooke and the Guards surrendered, a Guards sergeant named Townsend stepped forward, saying to the soldiers around him:—"I'll be damned if I will lay down my arms. Are there any men here who will follow me?" On this, thirteen men stepped forward, and with this little band Sgt. Townsend crossed the Square despite the heavy crossfire. After expending all their ammunition in clearing a way, he and his gallant comrades escaped unscathed from the town. This man received neither promotion nor reward for his gallant conduct. Seeing in this heroic band, a sample of the gallant staff of which the assaulting division was composed, it is impossible to resist the impression that had efficient leaders conducted the enterprise, the place would have remained ours.

On the ramparts, as in the town, the same unaccountable absence of action appears to have prevailed and rendered the bravery of the troops abortive. Even after General Cooke's and the Guards' surrender, had there even been one general officer of genius and courage to direct operations from the ramparts, the fortunes of the contest might have been retrieved, because the 33rd Foot under Lt.-Colonel Elphinstone still held possession of the Waterport gate.

Through a series of errors and continued mismanagement the regiments became too much detached, which eventually led to complete disorganisation. A panic followed, when a rush was made to escape from the enemy inferior in numbers, but vastly superior as regards unity of action. The French recovered bastion after bastion, which had been in our possession for eight or nine consecutive hours. The ranks of different regiments became intermingled in one incoherent and disorderly mass upon which the French poured repeated discharges of grape shot from guns which the British should have spiked long before.

The 33rd Regiment, even after the Guards had surrendered in the town, and the total discomfiture of the troops on the works, continued to hold possession of the Waterport gate to the last. The regiment was formed in open column of sub-divisions, expecting to receive orders to move in support of the force on the ramparts, but as everything appears to have been left to blind chance, or the chapter of accidents, there they remained without orders. At length the French, having disposed of the other portion of the British troops, then turned their attention to this, the last force that remained intact, and bringing several guns loaded with langridge to bear upon the column of the 33rd, opened such a destructive fire upon it, that the very first discharge swept down Captain Guthrie and the whole of the front sub-division of the Grenadiers, with the exception of Captain Guthrie's covering sergeant, who alone of that sub-division escaped untouched. Colonel Elphinstone then gave the words of command to face about, and the column retired in good order, leaving the town in possession of its original garrison.

The indignation of both officers and men was unbounded at this disaster and they attributed the entire blame for the failure to the want of an intelligent and energetic leader. There was no slur cast on General Cooke for want of personal bravery, but a strong and decided opinion was entertained as to his demerits as a leader. However he suffered no loss of favour and later became Sir George Cooke.

Ungenerous attempts were made in England to heap the blame on the troops themselves, and even to censure Sir Thomas Graham as General in Chief for attacking the place. The only question of possible blame that can attach to General Graham is that of having selected General Cooke to command the attacking force; but in making the selection he was probably actuated by a desire to please the Commander-in-Chief at home.

In this unfortunate affair upwards of two thousand efficient British soldiers surrendered to a numerically inferior force, but a few days later they were released on condition of their not serving for twelve months against the French Empire.

In 1816 I came across a book relating to our disaster entitled "Legrand—Relation de la Surprise de Berge-op-Zoom." Briefly Colonel Legrand writes that history offers us few military events so interesting. The garrison of the fortress was composed of French troops of the new levée and was besieged by the élite of the British Army, who made themselves masters of a great part of the streets and ramparts, thus attacking the French defenders both internally and externally. Nevertheless after twelve consecutive hours of sporadic fighting, the besieged resumed the offensive, prevented the British from leaving the town, forced even those to enter who had not hitherto been able to penetrate, and finally compelled the besiegers to capitulate, thus leaving in the hands of the garrison a greater number of prisoners than the garrison itself reckoned in combatants. Making some little allowance for over-colouring there is no reason to doubt the general accuracy of Colonel Legrand's observations from the French point of view.

Though necessarily absent from the Army in the field, I continued to receive regular communications from my brother officers as well as from my cousin Joseph Austin who was a lieutenant in the 95th Rifles. I am thus enabled to continue the narrative of events up to the general French surrender in 1814.

By the end of March the French were hemmed in on every side and Wellington, after driving them from the Peninsular, was advancing into France from the south with his invincible British army. The Austrians, Prussians and Russians, aided by the troops of the minor German States had entered France from the north and were closing round Paris, whilst at the same time the British army under Sir Thomas Graham held possession of Holland and a great part of Belgium, though the French still were in possession of Antwerp and other strong points.

Eventually in April nothing was left to the French army and nation but to submit unconditionally to the overwhelming numbers which assailed their country on every

side. They therefore agreed to an armistice, the immediate result of which was the deposition and banishment of the Emperor Napoleon to Elba, the restoration of the former unpopular dynasty, and a general, though uneasy, peace throughout Europe.

Louis XVIII restored to the throne [of France] by the bayonets of the allied armies of Europe at once began to enact the part of a king, an office for which he was by nature glaringly unfitted. His first act of authority was to deliver up those places which it had been determined that France should no longer hold. . . . In pursuance of this arrangement, the gates of Antwerp were opened to the British on the 5th of May, 1814, on which day our troops entered the city, the inhabitants hailing their entry with the loudest and sincerest manifestations of joy.

(Concluded.)

True—All True.

Sailors spend Christmas in some peculiar places. We were leaning over the guard rails the other night just by the lower boom. You know how the lower boom sticks out horizontally from the ship's side and has ropes dangling down to the water so that boats can be made fast to it. Old "Badges" had just climbed up from his boat and joined us. Here is what he said—purified, of course,—you know what Badges is like.

"Ten years in the navy and never had a Christmas home?" said Badges, "Why, you chaps don't know when you're well off. I remember a Christmas I had once in North China just after the 1914 war.

"We were lying in the bay outside a place called Taku which, for the benefit of those suffering from free education, is at the entrance of the river where Tientsin is. The bay was frozen over solid and we used to play hockey alongside the ship.

"There was a lot of trouble in those days from brigands and War Lords. Any old toff used to raise his own army and fight anyone that was handy and rob anyone that wasn't on his side. As usual, the British were interested in trade and in this case the local coal used to be loaded at Taku and we were there to look after the two British families that used to run the show. These brigands used to prowl around and sometimes pinch some coal and so on. Anyway, there we were—on ice.

"Things were a bit tense about Christmas and our Old Man had been ashore to tell the War Lord that his chaps had got to clear away from the neighbourhood of the coal compound and not frighten the lives out of the people there, and not hold up the coolies for their wages. There was a bit of a row and we trained our three-pounder on the War Lord's house and he piped down.

"On Christmas Day we had comic rounds and so on as the custom is, and we had some beer and, pretty early, we were all tired and we turned in.

"In the middle watch there was a deuce of a row. Old MacHammicklashin, who was on watch, was rushing about shouting "Hands to stations to repel boarders," so, of course, we all seized our cutlasses and went to our stations.

"When I got on deck I saw a queer sight. The searchlight was on and out on the ice I saw the officer of the watch—young Night-club Tim, he's an admiral now, in charge of Navy Comforts or something—and he was waving his telescope under the nose of a Chinese cavalry general who was dressed up something comic and riding a horse about the size of a four times rat. Behind this chap there were about fifty others dressed not so posh.

"Well, young Tim was telling this chap off when down the gangway and across the ice came the Skipper in his cocked hat and boat cloak with a crimson lining. He had on his pyjamas underneath, tucked into his sea-boots, and he had his sword strapped round his middle. He started to talk to the general but very soon found out that the bloke couldn't or wouldn't understand a word of honest English. They had to send for the Chinese messman who was found hiding in the spud locker.

"We stood about and shivered a bit while they found out what was doing. It appeared that the War Lord was very angry because the Skipper had made him lose face with the three-pounder gun. These chaps couldn't bear to lose face so the War Lord had to get his revenge and now would we please consider our ship to be taken by cavalry and pay a ransom of a side of beef and four sacks of flour because the troops were hungry.

"Looking round, you could see that they were hungry. The Skipper suddenly burst out laughing and clapped the general on the back and got him off his horse and inboard. Young Tim turned to me and said 'Willoughby,' that's my name, not Old Badges, 'Willoughby, get these horses secured and make some fires out here.'

In no time at all we had twenty or thirty horses secured at each lower boom, and great fires on the ice, and mess kettles on them making a stew."

Well, that was the tale that Badges told us. Young Wiggy Bennet looked at him and said, "You miserable old liar. It's only the Horse Marines who are allowed to make fast their horses to the lower boom."

R.C.O.

The Havercake

With reference to our Frontispiece in the last issue of THE IRON DUKE, we have received the following interesting letter from Major T. K. Wright:—

Scarwood, Bingley, Yorks,

14th November, 1947.

Dear Colonel Trench,

I recently had a request from the chief reporter of the *Bradford Telegraph & Argus* to loan him a copy of THE IRON DUKE for the reason that the paper has a large circulation in the "Duke of Wellington's" district, Skipton, Keighley, Bingley, Halifax, Huddersfield, etc., and he felt sure that he would find some very interesting paragraphs which would be of interest in the area.

He told me that they receive a large number of regimental magazines but they are mostly from the Midlands and the South and not of much local interest and I think that he was going to write to you and ask for copies and also permission to publish interesting articles from the magazine.

He inserted the account you wrote about the print of the recruiting party and also about joining the army for a loaf of bread.

This brought me a telephone message from the daughter of Mr. Hird Lord, who claimed to be the oldest Havercake baker in the country, and a request that I should go and see him and also come to a demonstration of how havercakes are made.

I thought that a reporter would be more capable of putting together a story and asked Mr. Faux, the chief reporter, if he would take the matter in hand and he arranged an interview and also took a photographer with him. The result is the enclosed cutting from the *Bradford Evening Telegraph & Argus* of 8th November, 1947:—

HAVERCAKE ART IS DYING OUT.

There is a fortune awaiting any man who can devise a machine to make "havercakes."

This is the opinion of 87-year-old Mr. Hird Lord of 15 Duckworth Terrace, Bradford, and he should know, for he is the oldest havercake baker in the country.

For nearly 80 years Mr. Lord has been making these cakes, for which there is still a big demand, although only a few people are able to bake them these days.

The havercake, a form of the old Yorkshire oatcake, can be made only by an expert craftsman, and Mr. Lord told the *Telegraph & Argus* the younger generation have not the patience to serve the long apprenticeship.

"This is a great pity," he added, "because it seems that before very long the famous havercake, the main bread eaten by Yorkshiremen 50 and 60 years ago, will disappear."

He recalled the days when there were 40 to 50 bakers within a square mile of the centre of Bradford, and of the numerous hawkers who walked the streets selling the cake.

The older generation will remember havercake is made from a batter, similar to that of Yorkshire pudding, spread on a hot-plate. The art is in spreading the batter on the hot-plate, and few people now know the trick.

D*

I had promised Miss Lord that I would call and see her father later, and I went yesterday. The old man is 87 and although very active, is extremely deaf and can hardly see. I also went to the bakery and saw a demonstration and it was extremely interesting. The chief secret is how to make the batter for the cakes, just as one housewife can turn out a light, puffy Yorkshire pudding whereas her next door neighbour only produces hard, flat, leathery puddings, similar to those we get in hotels sometimes.

The ingredients of havercake batter are oatmeal, water and some self-raising flour ; milk, if possible, when available or, better still, buttermilk, in place of water. There is some special way of mixing the ingredients which is a secret handed down from father to son. The baker then takes a square piece of plywood and places on top of it another piece of plywood with a hole cut in the centre, about six inches diameter. He then sprinkles a light layer of sifted oatmeal on the hole and pours a small amount of batter on the top of the oatmeal and takes off the plywood with the round hole. The resultant size of the baked havercake is determined by the size of the hole in the top piece of wood.

The baker then takes the square piece of plywood with the sprinkled oatmeal and the batter and places it on an endless piece of cotton stretched on two rollers and very expertly and quickly pulls the wood away, leaving the embryo havercake on the cotton belt. He quickly turns a handle and the roller belt turns the mixture on to a very hot plate, heated by gas, and the belt rolls the mixture into the long oval shape of the havercake. In a few seconds it is ready and he uses a long wood "thin sword" which he slides under the cake and turns it over to another less hot plate, in charge of a young lady (this lady, is, in fact, the niece of Mr. Lord), where it is left a few seconds to remove any moisture. They are then stacked on wire trays and eventually packed in dozens and delivered to customers. The whole operation only takes about 10-15 seconds. They are quite soft and will remain in that state for a few days.

It was an everyday sight in the old days to see the cakes hanging from a clothes rack, near the ceiling and in front of the kitchen fire where they dried and became crisp, and when hungry, all one had to do was to reach up and break one or more off. Plenty of farm butter and cheese and a pint of home-brewed beer made a very satisfying meal, appreciated by anyone who called. Mr. Lord, however, told me that the best way of drying was to put the cakes in a hot oven after the joint had been cooked and not let them get too brown. Up to 60 years ago, havercakes were the staple form of bread. Mr. Lord said that white flour was beyond the purses of all except the rich or on very special occasions, because it was 5s. a stone. Havercakes were 4½d. per dozen.

Incidentally, I noticed that the sacks of oatmeal came from Sugdens, the millers at Brigham, of whom the head is Brigadier-General R. E. Sugden. General Sugden, by the way, is very crippled with sciatica and can only walk slowly and with two sticks. It is sad to see him when one remembers him as such an athlete and footballer.

On leaving I was presented with a few dozens of the cakes, some of which I sent to Colonel Baker at the Depot.

Old Mr. Lord was very delighted to see me and seemed very proud that someone was taking an interest in the old havercakes. He gave me some advertising matter, which I enclose. Evidently he sent weekly supplies very far afield. Lord Lonsdale was a regular customer. I asked Mr. Lord how the cakes got the name of "havercakes," and he told me that in the last century (and before) they were called "oat cakes" and they were made in several counties, and all were jealous and each claimed that theirs were the best, so the Yorkshire bakers decided on a distinctive name for their oat cakes and called them havercakes. He explained that the word "haver" is the German for "oat."

The oat cake was made in ancient times, even before Christ, and is mentioned in the Old Testament. The old method was to use a cooking stove made with a clay top and heat it by means of turf.

He remembers when, as a youth, he was out selling his havercakes in Manchester Road, Bradford, the main route from Halifax, about 1882-3, seeing a party of the West Riding Regiment in their red kerseys marching down the road to Bradford Moor Barracks in fours, and they were carrying wood "templates" shaped like a havercake fastened on to wood staves. The first four held them low down, the file behind held them a little higher, the next file a little higher, also the fourth file high up. Then the same arrangement commenced again all through the company. A proper havercake of oatmeal would not have stood up to the strain and in any case some of the hungry soldiers would have arrived at Bradford Moor with their havercakes missing.

T. K. WRIGHT.

Passing of Pantellaria

I

Tuesday 8.6.43.

The island, steep and tall, lay before us. Only a few weeks earlier our ships were unable to approach it and our aircraft found fierce opposition. Today five cruisers, nine destroyers and four motor torpedo boats, escorted by fighter aircraft, were to make a softening-up bombardment as backing to a major attack by bomber aircraft.

Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in North Africa, General Dwight Eisenhower, United States Army, stood on the bridge of H.M.S. *Aurora* alongside the British Admiral A. B. Cunningham, who commanded the Allied Sea Forces. Eisenhower was of about middle height, slim, white haired with a face which, in repose, was grim and down-mouthed but which lit up with a friendly grin when he spoke. His eyes were startling in their blueness set in his brown skin.

"Now is that so?" he wondered aloud in reply to a report of "Shell, about 6-inch, 300 yards off port bow, sir." He hurried to see it and, to Cunningham:—"Someone getting mad at us, Admiral?"

Cunningham merely nodded at the report to show that he had heard. He watched the ships and made short comments on them to Commodore "Bill" Agnew, in command of the *Aurora* and a cruiser squadron. Cunningham's face was red rather than brown and his hair not quite white. He was shorter than Eisenhower and, in profile, showed an inclination towards tummy. He radiated purpose rather than Eisenhower's sudden friendliness. Cunningham, however, could laugh and the two great men guffawed together now and again. There was a sneaking suspicion that Eisenhower was telling stories.

At a distance of ten miles from the island the ships cruised back and forth waiting for the air bombardment to start. Eisenhower came a little aft and said,

"Say, don't any of you fellows smoke?"

"Yes, sir," he was told, "We do."

"Well, then, why don't you?"

"We rather follow your lead, sir."

"Aw Gosh! I thought there must be some taboo or something," and, to Cunningham, "Admiral, can I start the smoking?"

And so we smoked.

Sudden puffs and balls of smoke in the sky over the island, and above and among them "Lightning" aircraft weaved and dived through the flak. Columns of smoke and dust erupted from the airfield and a point of land. More and more "Lightnings" and less and less flak and the smoke and dust rose high.

The "Lightnings" hauled off and the ships moved slowly in. The enemy air force made no move.

At eight miles range Cunningham said to Commodore Agnew, "Bill, fire a salvo as a warning of what's to come," and *Aurora* fired her six-inch guns.

A flag signal fluttered up to the mast of a shore signal station. "What do you think," queried the General, "Surrender?"

"I hope not," said Cunningham, "We need to see what's coming."

The signal boatswain appeared. "Signal flying means 'Alarm,' sir."

Bill Agnew gave an order and the *Aurora's* guns fired, the other ships joined in and the range slowly closed.

A shore battery unmasked and engaged a cruiser to port with no result except to produce a bouquet of bombs from some "Lightnings" who had been lurking aloft. The battery ceased.

A drone grew into a roar and into sight swept squadron after squadron of Flying Fortresses. The flak torpedoes commenced but in no great quantity. The great aircraft moved steadily, inexorably on. As the leaders turned to starboard, their bombs struck the town and harbour. Columns of smoke and dust, much greater than before, huge columns blending as load after load crashed down. The town was hidden under a drifting fog. The noise of the bombs reached the ships as a colossal rumbling and not as a series of explosions.

Range 8,000 yards. The destroyers leapt ahead and the cruisers fired over them. The destroyers were within two miles of the centre of the town and the cruisers ceased firing. Four motor torpedo boats foamed into the smoke-filled harbour. Shells splashed into the water well clear of a cruiser to port. Three salvos. The guns could not be seen but once more "Lightnings" plummeted and the guns ceased.

The cruisers lay silent for what seemed an age, the destroyers, close in shore, fired spasmodically. Then the welcome sight of the torpedo boats emerging from the gloom. One, two, three and, yes, four. They were all there. The boats and destroyers raced out to sea, laying a smoke screen as they went. After they had passed, the cruisers turned and sped after them.

Wump!—a lonely, despairing shell struck the water clear of the *Aurora*.

II

Friday, 11th June, 1943.

Since Tuesday, the air bombardment had continued and on Friday morning the ships steamed in towards a cloud of dust and smoke. The signal station on Semaphore Hill was visible and our old friend the battery on the point to the left of the harbour fired a greeting shot. A flight of "Lightnings" dived and bombed and the battery kept quiet.

At 10.40 the bombardment from the ships commenced and some fire was received in return but without any good result for the enemy. Heavy bombers and mediums passed overhead. "Flying Fortresses," "Baltimores" and "Mitchells" plastered the harbour. The flak consisted of just nineteen bursts. There were terrific explosions and a large petrol or oil fire started. "Lightnings" circled and wheeled and dived and bombed.

At 11.15 the cruisers, led by the destroyers and followed by assault craft, began to move in. Minesweepers passed ahead and swept right up to the shore. Bombing and shelling were intense and an occasional shot was all that the defences could muster.

At 11.30 the assault craft went ahead. As they neared the shore, all bombing and shelling was moved inland. The assault craft, destroyers and minesweepers were machine-gunning the shore until the landing was made at 12.00.

At 12.19 there was a white flag at the signal tower. Reports were received that the landing was effected and prisoners were being taken. Except for occasional calls for fire, the ships were silent. In the hills it was evident that the garrison were destroying stores; columns of smoke were everywhere. A troop convoy had arrived and was lying off shore. The assault craft were busy ferrying the troops ashore. Soldiers awaiting their turn were sunbathing on the decks of the troopships.

The naval force started to leave the area but were quickly recalled as a fighter-bomber attack on the convoy developed. Bombs were dropped and the raiders were away before they were detected.

H.M.S. *Aurora* turned her bows toward the next target, the island of Lampedusa.

R. C. O.

[The above account from a naval point of view is interesting to compare with Lt.-Col. B. W. Webb-Carter's account of the 1st Battalion's part in the landing, printed on page 91 of No. 56 (October, 1943) of THE IRON DUKE.—ED.]

MacDonald's Highlanders

OR OLD 76th HIGHLAND REGIMENT.

RAISED IN 1777. DISBANDED IN 1784.

[In view of the coming demise of the 2nd Battalion, and for the interest of readers, some of whom are not aware of the early history of the 76th Regiment, we reprint the following extract from "The Highland Regiments Past and Present in The Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands by Frank Adam, F.R.G.S., F.S.A., Scot." sent to us by Captain W. R. C. Miller. A fuller account of this Regiment is given in Colonel F. A. Hayden's "Historical Records of the 76th Regiment," pages 136-141.—ED.]

Three regiments in the British army have borne the number "76," viz., an Irish regiment, MacDonald's Highlanders, and the present 2nd Battalion of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

In December, 1777, letters of service were granted to Alexander, first Lord MacDonald of Sleat, empowering him to raise a regiment in the Highlands. Lord MacDonald was offered the command of this regiment, an honour, however, which he declined. On Lord MacDonald's recommendation, however, the command of the regiment was conferred upon Major John MacDonell of Lochgarry.

The regiment was inspected at Inverness in March, 1778 by General Skene, and amounted to a strength of 1,086. Of these about 750 were Highlanders, the remainder being composed of two companies raised in the Lowlands, and a third recruited principally in Ireland. As the Colonel of the 76th (Major MacDonell), who had been serving in America with Fraser's Highlanders, had been taken prisoner on his passage from there, the command of MacDonald's Highlanders devolved upon Major Donaldson, formerly a captain in the 42nd Regiment.

In March, 1779 the regiment was removed to Perth, and thence marched to Burntisland, where they embarked for America. Their commanding officer was then Major Lord Berriedale (eldest son of the Earl of Caithness), Major Donaldson's health not permitting him to embark. The 76th served in different parts of Canada and what is now the United States. They were unfortunately part of the force, under Lord Cornwallis, which surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown in 1781. After the surrender the 76th were marched in detachments as prisoners to different parts of Virginia, where they remained until the peace of 1783. During the time of the regiment's captivity most tempting offers were made to the men by their captors to join the American forces. The MacDonald Highlanders were, however, proof against all allurements, and not a single soldier was seduced from his allegiance.

When peace was restored the 76th embarked at New York for Scotland, and were disbanded in March, 1784 at Stirling Castle.

We are indebted to Captain D. S. D. Jones-Stamp for the following extract from "Memoirs of Lt.-Gen. Sir Spencer Ewart, K.C.B., of Craigcleuch, Dumfreisshire," grandfather of Mrs. Jones-Stamp:—

Col. Macdonald then took me to the residence of one of his brothers—a humorous, cynical sort of man, an ex-indigo planter I believe, who said that he thought no one but a madman would enlist for a shilling a day. He also declared it a delusion to suppose that the Highlanders had ever voluntarily enlisted into the army, and cited the following story in support of his contentions:—

When the 76th Macdonald's Highlanders were being raised, Macdonald of Lochborisdale sent to the authorities to say that he had some volunteers for the Regiment. An officer was therefore sent to escort the men to headquarters and Lochborisdale meeting him invited him to dine and sleep. In the course of the dinner the officer asked where the "Volunteers" might be and Lochborisdale replied, "Oh, they are all right, they are tied up in the barn"! I'm afraid there is rather more than an element of truth in the theory illustrated by this tale.

Personalia.

Many of our readers may not know that our new Colonel, General Sir Philip Christison, is an ornithologist. In November, 1946, the *Yorkshire Post*, in a report of a lecture he gave to the Leeds Naturalist Club, stated that Sir Philip became interested in bird life during service in Baluchistan, which he regarded as the Clapham Junction of bird migration in that part of the world. The report goes on:—

Not long ago, at a Northern Command luncheon, I heard the General tell an amusing story which has a bearing on his wide knowledge of ornithology. It happened, if I remember aright, at the time of the Arakan landings, and Sir Philip was standing on the deck of a warship with an Admiral, who shall be nameless, watching our aircraft thundering in towards the shore to give support to our invading troops. All at once the Admiral, pointing heavenwards, exclaimed in high glee: "Magnificent, magnificent. Just look at those Flying Fortresses going in." The General looked up at the distant specks moving swiftly, in regular formation, towards the target. "Not Fortresses, Admiral," he said slyly, "Pintails, every one of 'em." And he was right.

We offer our congratulations to Major-General E. C. Beard on his appointment as Colonel of The South Lancashire Regiment on 1st January, 1948. Also to Lt.-Colonel G. Taylor on the award of the D.S.O. Colonel Taylor commanded the 2/7th Battalion in 1940 and was taken prisoner during the operations in France in June of that year.

Colonel C. J. Pickering, on retiring from the Colonelcy of the Regiment, is devoting his energies to local government. In the municipal elections last November he was elected an Independent Councillor of Gosport, defeating the retiring Labour Councillor in a straight fight by 497 votes. We offer him our heartiest congratulations.

We offer our congratulations to Lt.-Colonel E. M. Parsons on attaining the age of 83 on the 9th October, 1947. Colonel Parsons is residing at Hove, Sussex, and was in good health when we last heard of him.

We hear that Lt.-Colonel Sir Robert Henniker was in Halifax recently, and has now returned to Malta, where he has been living since his retirement from the Regiment in 1937.

Mrs. Pickering's many friends will be very sorry to hear that she has been suffering from arthritis. We offer her our sympathy and hope that 1948 will bring improvement.

The following births have been announced:—

KAVANAGH.—On 24th October, 1947, at a Military Hospital, B.A.O.R., to Sheilagh, wife of Major Barry Kavanagh, M.C., The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—a son (Richard Hugh).—School of Infantry Training Centre, B.A.O.R.

LEIGH.—On 4th December, 1947, at the Princess Royal, Halifax, to Mrs. Leigh, wife of Major C. R. F. Leigh, late the 68th Anti-Tank Regiment (D.W.R.) R.A.—a daughter (Sally Nicola).

The engagement is announced between Major Antony Philip Mitchell, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and The Camel Corps, S.D.F., younger son of the late Lt.-Colonel Frank Mitchell and of Mrs. Frank Mitchell, of Blackheath, London, and Priscilla Mary, younger daughter of Commander J. C. Boldero, D.S.C., R.N. (retd.), of Shanghai, and Mrs. M. A. Boldero, of 62 Cheyne Court, London, S.W.3.

We have had two letters from Colonel F. R. Armitage from Singapore since our last number. Enclosed with the first letter, dated 11th October, 1947, was a cutting from the *Singapore Free Press* referring to the handing over to certain regiments of Colours

at the Royal Chelsea Hospital. The following extract shows that the 2nd Battalion are still remembered in Singapore after 20 years :—

So far as the usual Colours are concerned, two are the customary number, but another regiment which is probably still well remembered by many in Singapore has the unique distinction of holding four.

This is the 2nd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, stationed in Singapore in peace times, though not so long ago that their football and other sporting prowess has been forgotten. The Battalion is now returning to U.K. from India.

Colonel Armitage writes " In conversations about pre-war days there it is always the Dukes that seem to come in for special mention. The local press also published quite a sizable paragraph about the arrival of the 2nd Battalion at Southampton " He also mentions that Colonel Waller had arrived out there and had gone up to Kuala Lumpur as an A.Q.M.G. In the second letter dated 21st December, Colonel Armitage writes that his family joined him about a month previously and that they have now got a really lovely house. He is kept very busy as he is now head of Q. Branch at G.H.Q.

We heard from Brigadier J. H. C. Lawlor at Christmas, and were sorry to hear that he was in hospital in Glasgow last summer for a couple of months, after having been in command of a P. W. Camp at Kelso. His illness was due to his trooping experiences to the Far East during the war, he thinks.

He goes on retired pay in February. We are glad to hear that he is getting pretty fit now, and is settled with Mrs. Lawlor at their home in Co. Fermanagh. Brig. Lawlor mentions that Colonel W. Wood's son, John, is his son Michael's " fag " at Cheltenham.

We are indebted to Captain W. R. C. Miller for the photograph, which appears as our frontispiece, of General Sir Philip Christison's instalment as Governor of Edinburgh Castle on 13th September, 1947. Captain Miller served with the 1st Battalion from 1940 to 1946, latterly as adjutant. He writes that he watched the ceremony with Major E. H. Buckland, who was staying with him in Edinburgh at the time. Major Buckland is also an ex-33rd officer, and is now going to train as a teacher.

Major R. A. Scott writing on 17th December, says :—" My nephew, Major P. N. Keymer, D.A.Q.M.G. 6th Airborne Division, Tel Aviv, tells me that during his recent leave he found in the house of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Tate, a small gold box, inscribed " Presented by the late Captain Anthony Hunt, R.N., to N. Trevor, Surgeon, 33rd Foot, 1798." Trevor was Mrs. Tate's grandfather. He was a personal friend of the Duke of Wellington, who gave commissions to four of Trevor's brothers. That is all that I have been able to find out about it. I see in the History of the 33rd that the Battalion moved from Calcutta to Madras about September, 1798, with a view to going on the Seringapatam Campaign."

Major Scott mentions that he had discovered an ex-Duke, named Sherrat, living near him, who was transferred from the Royal Sussex Regiment to the 1st Battalion for the Tunisian Campaign, where he ended his career, " owing to little disagreement with a Jeep."

Lieut.-Colonel Baker's monthly bulletins continue to be as interesting as ever, and we print below several items from the December bulletin :—" Lieut.-Colonel Harvey has settled down to a rustic existence at Under Knoll, Brent Knoll, Somerset, which seems to be very pleasant. He keeps pigs, geese, ducks and hens, and cultivates over four acres. We understand he is in his spare time learning to sing ' The Farmer's Boy. ' "

" Major Savory and Major Robin Cartwright are serving with the 2nd Battalion, The East Yorkshire Regiment, M.E.L.F. The latter is adjutant of the Battalion ; the former was very sorry to miss, by a few hours, the 2nd Battalion at Port Said on their way home."

" Captain Isles, adjutant at the Depot, was a member of the U.K. Army XV which recently toured in B.A.O.R."

" It has been suggested that water-colour prints of battle scenes in North Africa, Anzio, Burma, France, Germany and elsewhere should be included in the Regimental History. If any officer or O.R. serving with the Battalion is prepared to help in this, will he kindly write the undersigned (Lt.-Col. S. E. Baker, T.D., The Barracks, Halifax). Others may be able to suggest names of any shy artists."

Major R. B. Scott, R.E. in a letter from Addis Ababa last September writes :— " I am very glad to get THE IRON DUKE, which has reached me practically all the war years. I am now senior adviser, B.M.N., Ethiopia. We old Dukes do get about a bit ! . . . My son has just been posted to Nairobi after service in B.A.O.R. and M.E.L.F. ; some of the 1st Battalion may remember Tom when he was two, at Gosport."

Major R. H. Ince has been home on leave from Palestine. He returned in November to Haifa, where he is now G.S.O.II. on the staff of Haifa Sub-District.

Last October, Miss Turner had a letter from Mr. John Montague regarding his copy of THE IRON DUKE, in which he wrote :—" I was very sorry to see the death of Colonel Harrison in the *Telegraph*, as I served under him in Dover, 1893, and was surprised to see him again in Belgium in 1914, when I served under him in the 2nd Battalion." He mentions that his wife was in hospital and that he had to do all the housework and shopping, which was trying, living far from a town. He offered some photographs of Rangoon and Port Blair to the Regimental Museum.

Staff-Sergeant S. F. Swift, (who has not sent us a cartoon for some time), writes from Warendorf, where he is serving in 41 Barrack Store, B.A.O.R. :—" Last Saturday I received word from one of the G.C.L.O. units that I administer that a W.O.I. would be coming to see me about the unit and its accommodation. Imagine my surprise when an R.S.M. of the Dukes walked in. He was R.S.M. Duncanson, who was R.S.M. of the 1st Battalion in 1941. Well, we chatted about everything except accommodation ! Yes, its a red letter day when one meets one of the Dukes these days."

Mrs. Hicks—the death of whose mother, widow of the late ex-Col-Sergt. J. Puplett, is announced in Obituary—writing from Prince Rupert, B.C. in November, says that she had had a visit from Miss Amy Lowe and her nephew. Miss Lowe is the youngest daughter of Mr. Arthur Lowe, whose reminiscences of the Regiment we published recently. Mr. Lowe sent Mrs. Hicks some interesting cuttings from an old Halifax, N.S. magazine, with pictures of the 2nd Battalion embarking at Halifax for the West Indies. We should have liked to reproduce them in THE IRON DUKE, but unfortunately they were not sufficiently clear. Recalling her childhood in the 2nd Battalion, Mrs. Hicks writes :—

I have just remembered this is Guy Fawkes Day, which recalls to my mind the late Sgt. Elliott, who taught me this passage of English history, at Port Blair, Andamans. I can close my eyes and see the rugged stone barracks, built much in the style of old English battlements, on top of the hill. We could look below and see the lovely beach and Governor's house facing it. Shortly after we left his two little girls, with whom I used to play, and their governess, were killed by a party of Andamanese. Major Smythe was then in charge. How he used to delight in giving me mangoes to eat, so that I could get the front of my white dress stained. Then he used to come down to our quarters—a large rambling bungalow—to get mother's reaction. Then, when the boat came in, he used to send her down candied fruits and bon-bons as an act of peace. You know, when you stop to look back, it only seems such a short time ; yet it is nearly a half century ago. I have often wondered if the Japanese did anything drastic to that little island.

Letters from Lt.-Col. Webb-Carter, Major Lunt, Messrs. J. O. Thomson, J. Cunningham and W. Maskell appear on pages 53 and 54.

Correspondence

THE VISIT TO THE CAPE BY THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, 1796.

Ashton Cottage,
Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire,
22nd December, 1947.

Dear Sir,

I was most interested in the extremely well-informed article with the above title in No. 67 of THE IRON DUKE.

I feel, however, that a small correction should be made to complete the accuracy of the result of M. R.'s exhaustive research. In the last two lines on page 102 of the article is the sentence:—

"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."

The Great Duke was not, of course, present at the battle of Aliwal, which was fought in 1846, with the British forces commanded by Sir Harry Smith, later a famous Governor at the Cape. Neither the 33rd nor 76th Regiments were present at the engagement and it is not a battle honour of the Regiment.

I trust that M. R. will not consider that I am making carping criticism of a very able article that I read with great enjoyment.

Yours faithfully,
E. W. WEBB-CARTER, Lt.-Col. Comdg, 33rd Regt.

To: The Editor, THE IRON DUKE.

REGIMENTAL ANNIVERSARY.

G (Ops.), H.Q. Betfor, Trieste,
10th November, 1947.

Dear Sir,

It has always been the custom in the Regiment to celebrate the battle of Waterloo as a Regimental anniversary. That battle was, of course, not one in which the 76th took part.

From all reports the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment will soon be put into suspended animation for a period of years. It therefore seems appropriate that we should also celebrate some anniversary peculiar to the 76th in order to keep alive its traditions and its memory. There are certain occasions which at once spring to mind. The anniversary of one of Lake's victories, or of the entry into Delhi in 1803—a unique distinction; coming closer to the present day there is "Hill 60"; and closer still the hard fight down the Prome Road at the Shwyedaung Road Block.

Yours sincerely,
J. D. LUNT, Major.

COLOURS, SILVER AND SPORTS TROPHIES OF THE 2ND BATTALION, 1903.

24 Upper Lane, Northowram,
Halifax, Yorks,
22nd August, 1947.

The Editor, THE IRON DUKE.

Dear Sir,

On reading the June issue of the journal, I was particularly interested in the 2nd Battalion notes and the reference to the restoration of the "Colours," trophies, and Mess silver to the 2nd Battalion on 20th December last.

The original "Colours," as you are aware, were destroyed by the disastrous fire which took place in Rangoon in 1902, whilst the Battalion was absent from headquarters on "manœuvres."

Perhaps the enclosed photograph of the "Honorary East Indian Colours," trophies and silver which were replaced whilst the Battalion was stationed at Lebong, near Darjeeling in 1903, will be of interest to all 2nd Battalion members and ex-members.*

Up to the time of my leaving the Battalion in 1903, the "Regimental Colours" had not been replaced, therefore they are not included in the photograph.

I understand the official presentation of both sets of "Colours" was delayed until the Battalion arrived in England.

In the accompanying photograph will also be seen the officers' polo trophy won by the Battalion in 1903, when Capt. Travers and others seem to have shown what "Dukes" officers could do when mounted; also on the right-hand side of the photograph as you look at it can be seen the "Calcutta Rugby Cup" won by the Battalion team in the same year.

I don't know whether any of your readers will remember me. I was with the 2nd Battalion in Pietermaritzburg, Bangalore, Rangoon, Calcutta and Darjeeling from 1895 to 1903, serving in the Band under Bandmaster Edwards, and played clarinet, bass clarinet and saxophone. I was also music copyist and librarian.

On my arrival in England after leaving the Battalion time-expired I entered the London Postal Service early in 1904, soon after which I joined the Post Office Rifles and was mobilized with the London Territorials in 1914.

After a period of over 34 years as a sorting clerk I was pensioned on 15th August, 1938, and awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

Wishing all Dukes and ex-Dukes the very best of luck and good health,

I am, your sincerely,

J. O. THOMSON, late Cpl. No. 5000 Band, 2nd Battalion.

* See opposite page 13.

IN SOME FOREIGN FIELD.

26 Clarence Crescent,

Sidcup, Kent,

20.10.1947.

To the Editor, THE IRON DUKE.

Sir,

Re " In Some Foreign Field " by Capt. Reynolds, in regard to his not finding any of the Dukes' graves in South Africa, our course was over country that no tourist would take. After leaving Graspan and Enslin on the 1st February, 1900, we entered the Free State through Ram-Dam and on to Reit River, where on Wednesday night one or two slight casualties were reported, but the next day our first serious casualty was a corporal by the name of Newman, and he was buried in an isolated place. I myself, under Sgt. Booth and four others, comprised the burial party. Colonel Exham, then lieutenant, was in charge of our party in the River. Our captain was Owen Harris (Mad Jack) in command of " E " Company, and he always had his dog with him. All who died at Bloemfontein were buried in the Town's Cemetery. It is 20 to 25 miles from Bronkhurst Spruit to Rhenoster Kop, where more of our dead lay, also some of the Munster Fusiliers. I take the liberty of writing these notes to you as I was with the Battalion from leaving Aldershot until June, 1902, when I left the Regiment under canvas at Nylstroom. I was at Halifax on the 6th of this month and met one or two of the old boys. Hoping I am not transgressing by sending this in reference to our dead in South Africa. They were scattered in such places as De Aar, Reit River, Paardeberg, Haman's Kraal, Rhenoster Kop.

Obediently yours,

JOHN CUNNINGHAM, ex-Corporal, 2797.

AN ECHO OF SIXTY YEARS AGO.

64 Baxter Road,

London N.1,

4th November, 1947.

The Editor, THE IRON DUKE.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for giving me recognition in the Personalia in the October, No. 68, of THE IRON DUKE. I should have acknowledged this earlier and apologise, but the book arrived when I was in a convalescent home and put aside for my return; now I am pleased to tell you I am much better for my holiday. My birthday is 19th September and my dear wife is also 80 on 9th December and we are looking forward to our 50th anniversary of our wedding, 28th August, 1948.

I have always jolly good memories of my various services in the 1st and 2nd Battalions. I think of the good times and forget the others. I was assistant clerk in the Regimental pay office in Halifax, N.S., 1889, until it closed, and on its transfer to the D.P.O. went with it with Capt. S. J. Trench, who was appointed station paymaster. When our late King George V came to the office as Duke of York for his ship's pay, I was called in by the district paymaster, amongst all the naval and military officers assembled, to witness the Duke's signature to his receipt for his first payment. His Royal Highness gave me half a sovereign for a tip, most welcome, as I was only a lance-corporal then. Needless to say, the office staff celebrated that evening after closing time. Of course I was quite familiar with all the regimental as well as the garrison officers, having their company and battery pay sheets to check every month. Which reminds me, I still possess Capt. Trench's reference he gave me when leaving Halifax, N.S. I enclose you a list of the various jobs I held while serving and you will see they would make good propaganda for recruiting, " How to join the Army and make a success of it." And now, when are you going to hold another O.C.A. annual dinner in London? I could help organise it if allowed. And please, are you a relative of the late Col. S. J. Trench, one of the best, whether as regimental officer, paymaster or moving spirit in the *Mikado*.

I had a slight stroke a few months ago and my memory is affected, my strength gone, and I am unable to work much, but to all intents am still going strong.

Hoping I am not too long-winded,

Yours sincerely,

W. MASKELL.



What is this this National Association, and why do we use these three question marks in the shape of a Sailor, a Soldier and an Airman as our "signature tune?" We have a nasty feeling that there are very few of you who could give the answer, so here goes.

It is called the National Association because it is nation wide. It exists for one purpose and one purpose only, to help you, the men in the Services, to get yourselves settled back into that rather strange place "Civvy Street." Even if you haven't been away from it very long it is a bit queer to come back to and you may not have any connections which will help you to find the sort of work you want to do ; even if you have the slightest idea yourself what that is!

The National Association, therefore, having this one object, is a business-like civil organisation which has spent years studying the matter and through its 50 odd branches all over the country aims at giving you personal service without charge. Obviously the best way to help you men is by obtaining the goodwill of employers of labour and this can be done easily by supplying them with the sort of men they want on whom they can rely, who give them service in exchange for a square deal.

If you haven't a job to go back to get in touch with your nearest branch of this Association as soon as you go home on discharge leave and have a talk with them. They will help you to sort out your own ideas by being able to tell you what sort of jobs are likely to be available in your area, and having done this and found out all about you they will then arrange an interview for you with a likely prospective employer.

That answers the first part of the question, but what about the second. Something was wanted which would catch the eye and at the same time arouse your curiosity as to the connection with the Services. Furthermore, we hope that you will quickly recognise this sign and even without seeing the name realise at once that underneath it you will find something about the National Association for Employment of Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen. To give you some idea of the amount of resettlement which is carried out by the Association, the number of placings recorded for all branches in the first nine months of this year, total 40,051.

When you get your bundle of papers on starting your leave you will find amongst them a postcard already franked and addressed to the Regular Forces Employment Association (which is the National Association's short title). If you want to try us out all you need to do is to fill in your name and address on the other side and post it. Shortly afterwards you will hear from the branch of this Association in whose area you live.

By the way, you needn't have any fear that the Control of Engagement Order will upset this business, it won't. The National Association is an approved agency, so don't hesitate on that score.

Regular Forces Employment Association, 14 Howick Place, S.W.1.

The Corps of Commissionaires.

[We regret that we have no space to print an article on the evolution of The Corps of Commissionaires, sent by the Commandant, except for the following extract.—ED.]

There are at present 34 ex-Duke of Wellington's Regiment members of the Corps' in the Leeds Division. Here are their names and the jobs they are doing :—Sgt. E. Goodwin, Caretaker ; C.S.M. S. Clarke, Resident Messenger ; Cpl. W. Lilley, Gateman ; R.S.M. H. Mills, Telephone Operator ; Sgt. T. Bowers, Timekeeper ; L/Cpl. H. Barron,

Metro Vickers, Civilian Post ; C.Q.M.S. A. Butterworth, Bank Messenger ; Sgt. J. Brown, Night Commissionaire ; C.Q.M.S. T. Melville, Civilian Post on return from Service ; Sgt. T. Dennett, Timekeeper ; Sgt. W. Taylor, Gateman ; L/Cpl. G. Barrin, Basement Porter ; C.Q.M.S. J. Kenny, Reception Clerk ; Cpl. F. Headford, Gateman ; C.Q.M.S. G. Dickens, Receptionist ; Pte. J. Hirst, Gateman ; Sgt. B. Bennett, Attendant ; Cpl. E. Larcher, Bank Messenger ; C.M.S. R. Jones, — Sgt. G. Kershaw, Receptionist and Timekeeper ; Sgt. G. Henderson, Messenger ; Sgt. F. Merry Receptionist ; Cpl. W. Stead, Civilian Post ; Sgt. T. Hutchinson, Porter ; Cpl. H. Mitchell, Night Commissionaire ; C.Q.M.S. J. Coppack, Receptionist ; L/Cpl. H. Smith, Timekeeper ; Cpl. S. Breen, Gateman ; C.Q.M.S. P. Hembleys, Receptionist ; C.Q.M.S. D. Moore, Store Commissionaire ; C.S.M. S. Beadnall, Commissionaire ; R.S.M. G. Townend, Civilian Post ; C.S.M. H. Mountain, Hall Porter and Caretaker ; Pte. G. Sharpe, Timekeeper ;

Obituary.

We regret to record the following deaths :—

FORSTER.—On 26th October, 1947, at his home 65 Boundary Road, Higher Irlam, Manchester, after a short illness, Mr. Claude E. Forster, late C.S.M., The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Mr. Forster joined the Regiment as a boy in September, 1894, and served with the 2nd Battalion in Africa, India and Burma, and was for several years drum-major of the Battalion. He later transferred to the 1st Battalion and after 25 years' service, retired while serving at Quetta in February, 1920, with the rank of C.S.M. On his discharge he took up employment with the Lancashire Steel Corporation, retiring in 1945 after 25 years service with them. Mr. Forster leaves a widow and four daughters, three of whom are married.

PUPLETT.—On 11th November, 1947, at her home, The Evangeline Hotel, 227 Brunswick Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, after an illness of two years, Laurretta Melinda, wife of the late C.S.M.I. C. J. Puplett, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and Canadian Army, in her 76th year. Mrs. Puplett was born at Hubbards, Nova Scotia.

She met Mr. Puplett whilst he was serving with the 2nd Battalion at Halifax, N.S. In the latter part of 1892 he was moved to Jamaica, and they were married at the Military Church, Newcastle, Kingston, on 5th February, 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Puplett celebrated their golden wedding anniversary a couple of months before his death in 1943, an obituary notice of which appeared in No. 56 (Oct., 1943) of THE IRON DUKE. Mrs. Puplett is survived by five daughters : Florence M. (Mrs. E. Hicks), Winnifred (Mrs. W. F. Weare), Trudeth (Mrs. E. Barber) Grace (Mrs. H. Nobuary), Joyce (Mrs. M. Singer), also nineteen grand children and thirteen great grand-children. Besides her immediate family, she leaves two brothers and five sisters with their large families.

PAYNE.—On 26th December, 1947, at his sister's home at Grimsby, No. 20545 ex-C.Q.M.S. Alfred C. (Tashy) Payne, M.M., late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, aged 70 years. Mr. Payne enlisted in the Regiment at Dalston on the 4th October, 1897, and except for two years spent with the East Yorkshire Regiment during the 1914-1918 war, served the whole time with the 2nd Battalion. He was discharged as unfit in February, 1918, with 20 years and 154 days' service. He was awarded the Military Medal at Ypres in December, 1914, whilst with the 2nd Battalion and was wounded at this time. His home address was 104 Highwood Well Lane, Halifax.

DEKKO!

DEKKO!


THE IRON DUKE
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S
REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) Articles and stories, especially those of a light nature.

(b) Personal notes.

All contributions to be in

B  **15th April**

Punctuality in this respect helps publication to time.

Annual Subscription 3s.

Single copies and back numbers from the Business Manager, 1/3 per copy, post free.

When six or more back numbers are purchased a reduction of 25 per cent. will be made.

3 Numbers each year

F E B R U A R Y

No
69

O C T O B E R

* * JUNE * *

TREASURER'S REQUIREMENTS

Outstanding Subscriptions
 Subscribers with banking accounts are reminded that Bankers' Orders do away with "outstanding subscriptions."

Subscribers are requested to let the Business Manager know at once of any change of address.

Every new subscriber helps, so show this copy to any "Old Duke" who doesn't subscribe.

Messrs. LAWRENCE BROS, Ltd., Weston-super-Mare, bind the three numbers, issued annually, into one volume for 15/- return carriage paid. Annual indexes are supplied by Messrs. Lawrence Bros., or by the Business Manager free of charge.

Subscriptions and Business Correspondence to:— THE TREASURER & BUSINESS MANAGER, Coed Mor, Groes Lwyd, Abergele, N. Wales.	Contributions and Correspondence to:— THE EDITOR, Llwyn-Celyn, Pennal, Machynlleth, North Wales,	Advertisements to:— COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS, 67-68 Jernyn Street, St. James's, S.W.1.
---	---	--

The Colonel of The Regiment: General Sir A. F. P. CHRISTISON, Bart., G.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.
 Editor: Lt.-Colonel M. V. le P. TRENCH.
 Treasurer & Business Manager: Brigadier V. C. GREEN, C.B.E.
 Advertising Managers: COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS.

THE IRON DUKE.

(INSERT YOUR BANKER'S NAME) To..... Date.....

Please pay to Lloyds Bank Ltd. (F Section), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1, for the account of the above, my Subscription of for the current year and continue to pay annually on 1st February until further notice.

Address to which Magazine should be sent (Signature).....

2d.

Stamp.

NOTE.—Please send this form when filled in to the Hon. Treasurer at the address given above.

NOTICE

Owing to financial and other reasons, it was decided at the Senior Officers' Conference, held at Halifax on 15th January, 1948, that there would be only one more issue of "The Iron Duke" this year. The next number will therefore appear in August, instead of June, and a full report of the reasons for the decision will be given in that issue.

Sub-Editors and other contributors please note that articles should reach the Editor by 15th June, 1948.

Digitised by The Regimental Archives

