

No.75 January 1950



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

*Dettingen
Mysore
Seringapatam
Ally Ghur
Delhi, 1803
Leswarree
Deig
Corunna
Nive
Peninsula
Waterloo
Alma
Inkerman
Sevastopol
Abyssinia*



*Relief of Kimberley
Paardeberg
South Africa 1900-02
Mons 1914
Marne 1914, '18
Ypres 1914, '15, '17
Hill 60
Somme 1916, '18
Arras 1917, '18
Cambrai 1917, '18
Lys
Piave 1918
Landing at
Suvla
Afghanistan 1919*

Vol. XXVI

JANUARY 1950

No. 75

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THE BARRACKS,
HALIFAX

Business Manager: LT.-COL. D. J. STEWART,
THE BARRACKS,
HALIFAX

Copy for the APRIL issue should be in the Editor's hands by MARCH 1, 1950



All Saints' Chapel, the Regimental Chapel of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, York Minster

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THE REGIMENT

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT:

Gen. Sir Philip Christison, Rt., G.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

COMMANDING OFFICERS:

1st Battalion, Strensall	Lt.-Col. C. R. T. Cumberlege
Regimental Depot, Halifax	Major R. E. Austin
382 Anti-Tank Regiment R.A. (4th D.W.R.), The Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax	Lt.-Col. N. T. Bentley, T.D.
578 H.A.A. Regiment R.A. (5th D.W.R.), The Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield	Lt.-Col. D. M. Hirst, M.B.E., T.D.
673 L.A.A. Regiment R.A. (6th D.W.R.), The Drill Hall, Arden Road, Halifax	Lt.-Col. W. E. Dale Shaw
7th Battalion, The Drill Hall, Milnsbridge, near Huddersfield	Lt.-Col. S. R. Hoyle, M.C.
2nd (Cadet) Battalion, The Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield	Major F. W. Fielding, M.C.
3rd (Cadet) Battalion, The Hutments, Hunger Hill, Halifax	Major W. S. Jamieson
4th (Cadet) Battalion, The Drill Hall, Victoria Road, Guiseley	Lt.-Col. E. Tillotson
5th (Cadet) Battalion, The Drill Hall, Keighley	Major A. Dewhirst

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION (including Old Comrades' Association):

Secretary:	Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E.	The Barracks, Halifax
Hon. Treasurer:	Major R. E. Austin	The Barracks, Halifax

Editorial

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We are able to look back with some modest satisfaction on the year's financial aspect. If all subscribers to whom we have sent bills pay their arrears of subscription for 1949 we shall have ended the year close on £10 to the good. If they have not paid by January 15 we shall cease sending them their copies and thereby save money in future, but we shall be down on this year's "trading."

The next issue of THE IRON DUKE, which appears in April, will be the Silver Jubilee Number, which we hope to make as memorable as possible. We have invited all the old contributors to assist in this task, and would welcome contributions for it from the younger generation.

May we here plead for more co-operation from Sub-Editors. In one series of notes sent to us for this number there were 23 spelling or grammatical errors of momentous proportions on the first page. Fortunately things got better towards the end. The correction and tidying up of unit copy is, and must be, the task of the unit Sub-Editor, who can help in so many ways. He can put the number of words in each article at the end, thus saving the Editor the worst and most boring of his jobs. If notes and articles are on time this is not so serious, but when they are a week to ten days late, and copy has to be got off to the printers almost by return, it is most disheartening to have to check every line at least twice to ensure that people's names are spelt in accordance with their birth certificates and the Army List, and not in accordance with the whim of some clerk or his typewriter.

Advertisements

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our magazine

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when you leave the Regiment

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address recently write in to
the Secretary, Regimental
Association and let him
know.

Since our last issue the Regimental Museum has returned to its rightful place at the Depot, and a tremendous amount of work in re-organising it is in progress. Coupled with this work, a lot of historical research is taking place into the Colours, badges and uniforms, the results of which will be placed on permanent record in the pages of future IRON DUKES, and it is hoped, within the next six months, that we will have set up as complete a documentary research and reference library as any unit can boast of. This will be cross-referenced with the various sections of the Museum, so that future students of Regimental History will find their tasks much lighter.

As this Editorial is being penned on New Year's Day, it is most fitting that we end it by wishing all our readers the best of health, fortune and happiness for 1950.

LATE NEWS

We heartily congratulate Lt.-Col. R. C. Laurence, T.D., the late C.O. of 578 (Mob.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (5th D.W.R.), T.A., on his appointment in the New Year's Honours List to be an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Military Division).

Birth

GILBEY—On December 29, 1949, at Nuffield House, Guy's Hospital, to Maureen, wife of the Hon. John Gilbey, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—a son.

Obituary

STRATTON—On October 8, 1949, at Oldham, Capt. H. Stratton, late 7th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Col. G. B. Howcroft writes:

Harold Stratton was commissioned to the 7th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1925, having previously served in the North Russian Expeditionary Force in 1919. He served for some eight years, first as a most conscientious subaltern and eventually as commander of "D" Company, then recruited at Springhead.

His work in 1933 took him to Kendal and there, when he attempted to transfer to the Border Regiment, he discovered that he was no longer fit. During the war, however, in spite of his unfitness, he commanded a company of the Home Guard at Kendal with the same energy and enthusiasm that he had always put into his work as a Territorial.

To the delight of his many friends he was in 1946 appointed manager of a bank in Oldham, and though he could no longer serve the Regiment actively he did what he could as treasurer of the local branch of the Regimental Association. We mourn the loss of a most sincere man and a true friend of the Regiment.

PARSONS—On December 21, 1949, at Hove, Lt.-Col.

Edward M. K. Parsons, late the 76th Regiment.

An obituary notice will be published in our April number.

and ceremonial and other matters connected therewith.

In our last report we gave an account of the wrought-iron screen. Since we wrote that account it has been discovered (quite by accident) that in designing the screen the late Sir Walter Tapper was clearly inspired by the iron screen of the Chapel of the Palazzo Publico at Sienna. The similarity was noticed by one of the Minster clergy who took his holiday in Sienna last year. The splendour of this Italian-born screen in the Minster is quite stupendous and, as the Dean of York has said, the Regiment has "had the satisfaction of adding an unchallengeable beauty to a great English cathedral."

With regard to the Book of Honour, will anybody who detects any mistake or omission kindly write and tell the Secretary, who will take the necessary action. When we know what our 1939-45 battle honours are we shall insert them in the Book of Honour and affix them to the new portion of the wrought-iron screen.

Our last report contained a description of the 17th century French window which was restored

in memory of Gen. P. A. Turner by his family. The other window on the south side of the Chapel was restored by the Regiment and dedicated with the other memorials. We hope to include an account of this window in our next report.

Finally, we again thank most sincerely all those who have sent subscriptions to the Chapel Fund. The following are names of 1949 subscribers (as per bank statement):

Lt.-Col. E. A. Bald, Hindoostan Fund, Lt.-Col. R. K. Healing, Capt. A. F. Hemming, Major J. P. Huffam, Lt.-Col. C. W. G. Ince, Lt.-Col. E. M. Liddell, Lt.-Col. W. G. Officer, Maj.-Gen. W. M. Ozanne, Lt.-Col. E. M. K. Parsons, Col. C. J. Pickering, Brig. E. W. Rogers, Lt.-Col. R. M. Tidmarsh, Lt.-Col. N. R. Whitaker, Lt.-Col. H. W. Becher, Col. F. S. Exham, Brig. J. H. C. Lawlor, Mrs. E. M. Strafford, Brig. J. C. Burnett, Lt.-Col. M. V. le P. Trench, Capt. J. A. Whitaker, Mr. Gilbert Beyfus, K.C., Col. E. M. Huntriss, Lt.-Col. R. C. Laurence.

We present (below) the balance sheet and account for 1949:

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME		£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward (see IRON DUKE, January, 1949, page 31)	.. .. .	68	13	10
Subscriptions	.. .. .	21	14	6
Interest on investments	.. .. .	7	3	8
		<hr/>		
		£97	12	0

EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.
Subscription, IRON DUKE	.. .. .	9	0	
Postages	.. .. .	8	0	
Friends of York Minster	.. .. .	1	1	0
Photographs of Chapel, etc.	.. .. .	15	0	
Press expenses in connexion with Dedication Service	.. .. .	21	8	6
Clerk's honorarium for work done in connexion with same	.. .. .	2	0	0
Gratuities	.. .. .	5	0	0
Balance in hand on 1st December, 1949	.. .. .	66	10	6
		<hr/>		
		£97	12	0

BALANCE SHEET

LIABILITIES		£	s.	d.
Creditors	.. .. .		
Balance credit of Fund	.. .. .	424	10	9
		<hr/>		
		£424	10	9

ASSETS		£	s.	d.
Balance at Bank	.. .. .	66	10	6
2½% Defence Bonds	.. .. .	150	0	0
3% British Transport Stock	.. .. .	208	0	3
		<hr/>		
		£424	10	9

Duncombe Place,
York.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,
W. H. C. COBB,
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

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1st BATTALION NOTES

SUB-EDITORIAL

Since our last issue your Sub-Editor has changed. Your new one feels very frightened, as it is some time since he tried to write English, but he will do his best and hope there is not too much criticism.

The main event of this quarter has been the dedication of the War Memorial in the Regimental Chapel at York Minster on November 1. We were delighted to be able to entertain so many old "Dukes" and their families. For this memorable occasion we had the pleasure of a visit from the Duke of Wellington and Gen. Sir Philip Christison, the Colonel of the Regiment, both of whom were entertained to dinner in the Officers' Mess. A detailed account of the dedication service appears elsewhere in this issue.

Games have been dealt with elsewhere. It is sufficient to say here that we have not been as successful as last season. The Army Rugby Cup went out of our clutches in the preliminary round, and the Hockey Cup in similar manner. The soccer team have had about the same amount of success as last season, but they, too, are now out of the running for the Army Cup.

In the sphere of training the machine steadily continues to play its part in turning out National Service men. In recent months we have been extremely short of N.C.O. instructors, but we are glad to say that things are looking up, as each battalion of the Group is now sending us some of their N.C.O.s to help fill the vacant places.

Finally, we must record with regret the fact that Lt.-Col. C. R. T. Cumberlege is relinquishing command in February, 1950. We hope that he has not lost too much hair in his efforts to look after us and sort out many worries. In his place we shall be welcoming Lt.-Col. J. H. Dalrymple, who needs no introduction.

OFFICERS' MESS

Since our last notes the Mess has had an extremely busy time. We have had three Regimental dinner nights and a Regimental tea party. The strength of officers has been brought up to full establishment and, in addition, we have had some eight or 10 officers waiting to go overseas, all of whom have had a long stay with us. This has led to much doubling up and overcrowding in the Mess. At the same time, the Mess staff has been sadly depleted; many of the old hands have gone and suitable replacements are most difficult to find. All this means that C.Q.M.S. Shearer, the Mess Sergeant, has had an extremely harassing three months. It is largely to his credit that the Mess continues to prosper and run so smoothly.

On September 15 we had the first of three Regimental dinners. Our guests on this occasion were Air-Commodore A. D. Gilmore, Brig. D. Dawnay, Lt.-Cols. J. C. Preston and A. W. Edmeads, Major

H. A. Collins and F/Lt. L. Holmes. We also used this occasion to "dine in" our two most recent arrivals on Regular commissions to the Regiment, Lt. F. W. C. Robertson and 2/Lt. J. D. P. Cowell. To both we wish every success and good fortune.

Knowing that there would be a great influx of Regimental personalities to York for the dedication of the War Memorial on November 1, we took the opportunity of dining a number of retired and serving officers on the previous evening, October 31. Our guests included the Duke of Wellington, Gen. Sir. Philip Christison, Maj.-Gen. Ozanne, Brigs. Fraser, K. G. Exham, Miles and Webb-Carter, Cols. Pickering and R. K. Exham, Lt.-Cols. Wellesley, Ince, Boutflower and Dalrymple and Majors Carroll, Cobb and Austin. We offered them once again the traditional guest night games. It was a great pleasure for those of us here to see so many old "Dukes" in the Mess. May we again say how much we enjoy these visits and hope that more will find it possible to visit the Regiment while we are so conveniently placed in this country.

Following on this guest night the Mess was turned almost upside down—I am afraid to the discomfort of those staying with us—for the tea party which followed the War Memorial Dedication Service. On this occasion we had as our guests, in addition to those who dined in the Mess on the previous evening, and in many cases their wives, Lt.-Gen. and Mrs. Balfour, Air-Commodore and Mrs. Gilmore and the senior military commanders. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of York, the Mayors and Mayoresses of the towns in the Regimental area, Halifax, Huddersfield, Brighouse and Mossley, the Chairmen of the Urban District Councils and their ladies, the Earl of Scarborough and many other civic dignitaries from York and the West Riding. Also those retired and serving officers of both Regular and Territorials who were able to come to York. We were delighted to see so many old friends in the Mess.

On November 24 we had our third guest night of the quarter, when our guests were Maj.-Gen. J. H. Whitfield, Capt. E. L. Tottenham, R.N., who commands H.M.S. *Ceres*, the Lord Bishop of Whitby, Lord Savile, Lt.-Col. N. C. Stockwell, Lt. M. Hollidan, R.N., and Dr. Walter Henderson.

We are indebted to Major C. H. B. Pridham for the gift of his book, *The Charm of Cricket, Past and Present*, which contains three excellent chapters on 2nd Battalion Regimental cricket in Egypt; and also to Miss Heather Stansby for the gift of a picture.

We welcome the following officers on posting to the Battalion and wish them a happy stay with us: Majors Bunbury, Marett and "Pip" Moran and Lt. Bilham, of the Regiment; Major Mander-Jones, the York and Lancaster Regiment; Lt. Turner, the Green Howards; Lt. Ward, the Royal North-

umberland Fusiliers; 2/Lts. Haye and Daniels, the West Yorkshire Regiment; and 2/Lts. Lister and Burton, the East Yorkshire Regiment.

We have lost Major Upjohn to the War Office, Major Grieve to H.Q. North Midland District, Capt. Streatfeild to the 7th Battalion and 2/Lt. Hurrell on release and will shortly lose Capt. Cordwent, who is going to instruct at Mons O.C.T.U., Aldershot. To all we wish good luck in their new appointments.

Finally, we congratulate Major Sugden on his promotion to field rank and Capt. Dunn on his recent engagement and forthcoming marriage.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Though apparently nothing is wanting to produce a gay evening, we must confess to having led an extremely quiet life. Since our last report was rendered we have had a dance or two on Sunday evenings and many, many domino schools, but little else to excite the author of these notes to an easy flow of description. A cheerful gang of some 20, chaperoned by some of the ladies, went by bus on September 24 to Halifax to attend the O.C.A. dinner. This was a most enjoyable occasion to all of us who went. Those who have a feeling of advancing age and look forward to retiring shortly to a well-earned pension were suddenly aware that perhaps after all they were not such old soldiers when they ran into those who had known them as recruits long ago. We were greatly cheered to meet once more such old ex-members of the Mess as Bill Seaton, Jackie Horne, "Topper" Brown, "Spud" Murphy and Dougie Wood, who helped to make some of us the men of might and muscle we are, and "Studs" Sullivan, who managed to pop in for an hour after (his) closing time to try some other ale.

We bade farewell to C.S.M.s Frank Brighton and Harry Shepley this autumn when they finally left us on discharge to pension. We have heard from Frank Brighton, who is living down in the South near Bath. We hope he will be able to make his way up to the reunions occasionally. Both carry our very best wishes with them for the future and may they live long and enjoy the reward so thoroughly earned. The R.S.M. took one look at the weather outside last week and has now extended for a further year. Some of us hope that with advancing years his right arm, wielding the stick, will grow just a shade feeble, at least when we are within arm's reach. Sgt. Cox was recently unfortunate enough to find himself in hospital, but we are glad to see that he is rapidly recovering his form and once more swishes his way round the Mess. We welcome to the Mess on promotion Sgts. Ellis, Webster, Hutchings and Haywood. We hope they will be happy with us. C.S.M. "Garry" Hall, having nobly helped out the P.R.I. for a year past, has now moved to the Families Camp at Hull. C.S.M. Martin has joined us to replace C.S.M. Brighton. Other additions to the Permanent Staff and to the Mess are Sgt. F. Hatton, who now caters for all tastes and does it very well, and Sgts. McCarthy ("D" Company), Chadwick ("A" Company) and Sweeney ("B" Company). C.Q.M.S.

Seal has joined "A" Company in place of C.Q.M.S. Short, who shortly leaves for overseas.

W.O. Last and Sgts. Gregory and Tipper (R.A.E.C.) have left us on Class "A" release. We shall miss them and their work for the Battalion and the Mess.

To all who have left we send our greetings for the New Year and hope that if they find themselves in York they will pay us a visit. We are always glad to see you.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The tempting advertisement so brilliantly presented in the last issue has not had the desired effect. Apparently York's talent must be lacking somewhere and Strensall's Common cannot be an attraction in winter, for our plight since last going to press has not shown any appreciable improvement. Men are short; we are daily besieged by harassed employers each asking, "When shall I get my authorised establishment?" The smile and apologetic words are becoming harsh and hard as these visits increase in frequency, particularly as our efforts to find new faces have been abortive. However, we are being allowed to keep our Regulars and we hope the man-power situation will ease in the coming months so as to relieve our main headaches.

In the realm of sport the Company activities have been quiet. Soccer caused a stir. We fielded seven teams in the inter-platoon competition and the Company fancied its chances of winning. Much to the disappointment of Company supporters, our chances waned as each platoon was overwhelmed. Our most successful team (M.T. and Clerks) was beaten by "D" Company in the semi-final after a hard match. We are inclined to think that we may have been too ambitious to enter so many teams for this competition and, although they all gave a very good account of themselves, it was a case of youth triumphing over age and experience.

The inter-company games due to commence this month should see us well to the fore and with a little subtle planning we should be able to select an invincible side.

During the past few months changes have been occurring with the usual frequency. Major P. P. de la H. Moran has taken over the Company from Major Sugden, who, fortunately, has not strayed far and finds time periodically to visit Company Office from Waterloo Platoon, where his presence has already been felt. We all congratulate him on his majority.

To ease the man-power problem we now have a few civil employees on the Company strength who have still to start breaking pots. Many is the time a three-star soldier can be found regarding the civilians intently and counting laboriously on his fingers, trying to assess his value to the community as expressed by the cost of labour which has usurped his post. Pte. Whittaker (Herbert) said a fond good-bye to the bath-house, which is now being cleaned and heated by our civilians, but the others are loath to leave their domain. As expected, the handing over period is likely to be stretched to the utmost.

The number of marriages taking place, or about to, is very high. Next of kin are changing daily and some of our eligible bachelors openly boast that they will be married shortly. Moore (o8) is "having a go" in December. By the time these notes are published he will have sealed his future fate and become another contender on the list for married quarters. The R.S.M. is managing to live up to his motto of spending his own money and seems likely to carry on in that happy state. We feel that he might be courting disaster and end up a lone wolf.

We are rapidly approaching our third Christmas since returning to "Blighty" and almost everyone will be given the opportunity of spending it in their own homes. The few remaining in camp over Christmas are chiefly volunteers and consist mainly of Scotsmen, who will be given the New Year period in which to celebrate. The Battalion will be holding its festivities on December 30, when everyone will have returned and had time to recover from their Christmas leave. The cooks are taking no chances and have already started preparing the puddings and cakes, which are full of spices, so the New Year should see some very satisfied soldiers strolling around the Strensall area. We hope they will not find the fare too rich after the normal diet.

We are due to lose a few Regulars in the coming year, but hope that some of them will think again and decide to re-engage when the time comes to leave us. In closing may we take this opportunity of wishing all ex-members of the Regiment, and particularly the Company, good health and good luck in 1950.

"A" COMPANY

In October we received a shock, when Major Upjohn informed us that at the end of the month he would be leaving us for a spell of duty at the War Office. We were sorry to see him go, but nowadays one has to get used to these comings and goings. Everyone in the Company wishes him the best of luck.

We began to speculate on his successor and, lo and behold, who should arrive but Major F. R. St. P. Bunbury. Many old "Dukes" had almost forgotten about him, for he had been away from the Regiment for about eight years. We hope his stay with us will be long and happy. There should now be no doubt about which company wins the shooting next year.

During the last month the Company Office has returned to normal, for with Major Upjohn went all the Battalion sports files, and we can now have Company conferences instead of Battalion ones.

The following officers have joined the Company since our last notes: 2/Lt. Teague (R.A.O.C.), from Sandhurst, who is to stay with the Battalion for two and a half years before he goes off to control issues from Ordnance; 2/Lt. Flannery, from Eaton Hall; Lt. Wareham, from "C" Company; and 2/Lt. Lister from B.T.A. 2/Lt. Lister spent about two months with us prior to going to Austria. We welcome them to the Company and hope they will be happy with us.

All the best of luck to Lt. Hubbard, who left us to join the R.A.O.C.

We are sorry to lose C.Q.M.S. ("Jerry") Short

and wish him the best of luck in his new battalion. We welcome in his place C.Q.M.S. Seal, of the West Yorks.

Lt. Robertson is at Warminster and 2/Lt. Shuttleworth at Hythe. So they are lost to the Company until next January.

Appendicitis has temporarily taken its toll, the first victim being Capt. Ormsby and the second that smiling Sergeant called Cox. We are glad to say that they are both recovering. Capt. Ormsby is now back at duty, but Sgt. Cox is enjoying a spot of leave.

Very little has been happening in the sport line, but in the inter-platoon soccer No. 1 Platoon managed to get to the semi-final, but were beaten by the Continuation Platoon by 5-3. We are now in training for the inter-company soccer knock-out and Cpl. Brayshaw keeps saying we shall have a good team. Let us hope so. We have held a couple of cross-country runs to try and find talent good enough for the Battalion team.

Congratulations to Sgt. Haywood on his promotion. He seems to have been doing a sergeant's work for a long time and at last has been rewarded. Congratulations also to Cpl. Tillison on his promotion.

Once again we congratulate 2/Lt. Dennis Shuttleworth, this time on being awarded his county cap. Next time let us hope it will be an international cap.

We wish all old "Dukes" a merry Christmas, and do not forget—any ex—"A" Company men, if you are in the area we shall always expect you to pay us a visit.

"B" COMPANY

Very shortly after our last notes had been passed by the Sub-Editor we were surprised and disappointed to hear that Major C. F. Grieve was to leave us. In early October he departed to H.Q. North Midland District to become S.O.P.T. We are sure he will enjoy being a kingpin in the sports world, in which his performances are so well known, and he takes with him our very best wishes. Major B. N. O. Gosden arrived from "D" Company at the beginning of November and has taken over the reins. We hope that his stay will be much longer than his predecessors' have been and that after the hurly-burly of the Holding Company we shall offer him a more stable throne and empire.

Capt. D. S. D. Jones-Stamp was to have left us very shortly to go to Australia, but with mixed feelings he finds he will be with us a little longer before going to the Staff College early in the New Year. 2/Lt. J. Brown has joined us from the R.A.O.C. on a long attachment and is now looking after our soccer activities, a most important post in view of our self-imposed role of nursery for Battalion players. 2/Lt. W. J. Patterson has joined us once more from O.C.S., Eaton Hall, and we hope he will be as happy here in his new capacity as we believe he was during his basic training.

Our catalogue of arrivals and departures continues unabated. Sgt. Cuff has passed on, complete with lumber jacket, to civil life. His cheery ways and hard work will be greatly missed. Sgt. Ellis, having joined us from "C" Company, was bitten by the bug of wanderlust and departed to the S.P.

staff. Cpl. Pullan, who could not succumb to the temptation of a life of ease promised by A.F.B.271, left for civil life. His steadfast bearing and hard work will remain an example to his former comrades. Cpl. Robins has been selected to go to R.M.A., Sandhurst as a sergeant instructor, where we believe he will do very well and hope he will be very happy. All of them take our very best wishes for success in their different spheres.

The inter-platoon competition has been won in turn by Sgts. Bagshaw, Hutchings and France. We have to congratulate Sgt. Hutchings and Cpls. Cullen, Sullivan, Sykes and Morrow on their elevation to those ranks and welcome L/Cpls. Banks and Honeybun to the staff from "A" Company, where they were trained. Thank you, "A" Company. We hope to do as much for you one day. Our own graduates seem to pass to "C" Company, for that is where Cpls. Downing and Blezard, M.M., and L/Cpl. Salt, M.M., are now thriving.

There is little inter-company sporting activity these days; we reserve our energy and interest for Battalion teams and inter-platoon games. Ptes. Berry, Balmforth, Margison, Hutton, McGinnis and Newlove have been included in a Battalion boxing team which met No. 7 Selection Regiment, Royal Signals, on Friday, November 4. Pte. Berry put up a remarkably good performance. He had only joined the Army the day before and knocked out his opponent in a very brief but powerful fight.

We commiserate with the Battalion rugby and soccer teams in their short life in the Army Cup matches. Of this Company, 2/Lts. Hardy and Cowell, Sgt. France and Ptes. Turnbull, Wood and Tanfield were in the Battalion rugby team which was defeated at Ripon, and Pte. Downey, who played a terrific game, was in the Battalion soccer team which was defeated at Worksop.

"C" COMPANY

Since our last notes Capt. Harry Cordwent, our 2 i/c, has left us and gone to "D" Company; we miss his winning smiles and quiet efficiency. We hear that he is leaving the Battalion and joining the instructional staff at Mons O.C.T.U., Aldershot. We wish him every success in his new post and bid him farewell.

Once again the Company has done well on the sports field, we won the inter-platoon soccer competition with No. 3 (Continuation) Platoon ably led by L/Cpl. Castles. We were represented by two officers and one private in the Battalion boxing meeting against 5th Training Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals. All three fought extremely well and Lt. Turner gained a cup for the best loser. We are now preparing for the inter-company games in which we hope to do well.

Lt. Bilham has left us after a very short stay to take over the duties of Messing Officer. Lt. Turner has temporarily taken over the duties of assistant Adjutant.

2/Lt. Dillon, 2/Lt. Reddington, C.S.M. Wilson and C.Q.M.S. Sowerby have all been away on courses. They return to us eager to pass on the newly acquired information.

We are still running the Continuation Training.

One night some guests of the officers were truly surprised to be greeted by a finale of lights and explosions. Once again the Continuation Platoon was carrying out a night exercise.

We congratulate L/Cpls. Blezard, M.M., Dodds and Webb on being promoted to full Corporals.

We welcome to the Company Lt. Turner (Green Howards), 2/Lts. Haye (West Yorks) and Chaplain, Cpls. Blezard, M.M., and Webb, and L/Cpl. Salt, M.M.

Sgt Hall has left the Company to take on the duties of P.S.O. Testing Sergeant. We wish him every success.

"D" COMPANY

As we go to press a deep sigh of relief goes up from all members of the permanent staff on finally managing to move several drafts who have been held waiting for several months.

We regretfully said farewell to Major Gosden who had been with us for some considerable time. He handed over to Major G. Mander-Jones, who is now in the process of handing over to Major R. Marett prior to attending a tactical course at Erlestoke Park. The "Baron" is at present attending a course at Warminster, but should be returning in the near future.

Capt. Harry Cordwent who has been handling the pay side of the Company is leaving us shortly to take up an appointment at Mons Barracks. We hope he will make a rapid recovery from his present material relapse.

Capt. Steve Dunn is busy looking after the Pay Office and in his spare time endeavouring to find drafts sailing from a southern port in order that he can escort them and have further chances of getting his pre-matrimonial affairs fixed. We wish him all good luck in the future.

We are all very glad to welcome W.O.2 Dickinson who, having handed over the job of Drafting C.S.M. to Sgt. McCarthy, is now in the chain of office of C.S.M. in place of C.S.M. Shepley, who after 21 years' service has decided to become a civilian.

Since last writing these notes we have not had very much in the way of sport, although we did manage to reach the finals in the inter-platoon knock-out competition, but were unfortunately beaten by "C" Company's Continuation Platoon with a score of 5-4.

THE BAND

After our very hectic summer season the quiet that has now descended upon us seems almost too good to be true. Apart from an occasional dinner in the Officers' Mess and the usual fortnightly Passing-out Parade, not forgetting of course our frequent visits to Ripon for the S.M.E. Passing-out Parades, we have had little to upset our calm, and to the great delight of the Bandmaster have been able to settle down to some really serious practice. It is with deep regret that we say farewell to Cpl. Pittick who has left us after 27 years in the Army for, we hope, a longer sojourn in Civvy Street. We wish him every success for the future and welcome a visit from him at any time.

We welcome back to the fold Bdsm Fry, who

rejoins us after a successful course at the School of Music. To him we extend our hearty congratulations for winning the first prize for the pianoforte, and wish him success in his other examinations.

It is our regular task to welcome newly-married members to our ever-growing married families' roll. Bds. Gilbert and Crawshaw are the latest additions, and we hope that their futures will be long and happy and they are blessed with many sons (the future of the Band is always in our thoughts).

We congratulate Capt. Streatfeild, M.C., our late Band President, on his appointment as Adjutant to the 7th Battalion, and welcome in his place Major Sugden, and assure him of our every support.

In the realms of sport we have little to say. We hold the record of losing in the first round in every sport entered. We can only hope for greater success in the future.

THE DRUMS

Since the end of the summer season we have had a break in our many engagements with the Band. This has enabled us to put in plenty of indoor practice for what we hope will be as busy a season as last.

Congratulations to Dmr. and Mrs. Jagger on the arrival of their bouncing 10 lb. daughter. The worried look has left Norman and he is now his genial self again.

The soccer season has seen many struggles with our old rivals, the Band, who have yet to defeat us.

We are hoping to see some new faces in the Drums soon as replacements for those who are regretfully leaving us to return to civil life.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

The opening fixture of the 1949-50 season was against the York Railway Institute. Training for this game began on September 1 and it was soon apparent that we were going to have the same problem as last year, good three-quarters and light forwards. We could no longer count on Major Davidson or Major Grieve, while it was problematical as to how often we could expect to have Capt. Isles. Despite these drawbacks, the Battalion fielded a well-balanced side for our first match.

The game was played at York and for the first 20 minutes it was good, open, fast ruggar. At half-time we were only six points down, but in the second half the scrum began to tire, tackles were missed, and in the end the score mounted to 11-8.

Our next fixture was against York. This was played at Hob Moor, and once again this game demonstrated our weakness in the pack. We were still without Capt. Isles and Cpl. Frost. From the beginning it was played at a fast pace and both in the loose and in the tight the Duke's dominated the game. The second half witnessed the superior team work and weight of our opposition and, coupled with some missed tackles, the score began to mount rapidly, the final score being 29-3.

We next met Carnegie P.T. College in the first round of the Yorkshire Shield. For this game we were able to call on Capt. Isles and Cpl. Frost.

Played at Strensall on October 8, it was the best game we had played this season. In the scrums we were pushing our opponents, while the three-quarters managed to run fast and handled well. We won 25-12. The Battalion beat St. Peter's, York, 11-0. Here again the team played well, although numerous chances to score were spoilt by faulty handling by the backs.

We met S.M.E., Ripon, in the first round of the Army Cup. For this game the strength of the side lay in the three-quarters. In the forwards we were without Capt. Isles, so that the only members of last year's pack were R.S.M. Birch and Cpl. Frost. Just before the kick-off a torrential downpour assured us of a slippery ball, so it was obvious that the game would revolve around the forwards. In the first half Pte. Turnbull scored in the right-hand corner after a quick heel, and at half-time we were leading 3-0. In the second half their forwards began to obtain mastery in the tight scrums as well as in the loose and they scored twice, once the result of a forward rush and the other a result of a missed tackle. Both tries were unconverted, so at "no side" the score remained at 6-3.

On October 26 we played against Leeds Training College. Capt. Isles, having recovered from his illness, was able to play. Unfortunately, the remainder of the pack could not produce the fire they had had against the S.M.E. It was a scrappy game, in which there was little constructive football, although Pte. Heath, at full-back, played his usual very steady game.

E.M.P.H.

SOCCER

The season opened on September 1 in boiling hot weather. We felt we ought to be bathing and playing cricket instead of football.

This season we once again entered the York Half-Holiday League, which means that we have a match nearly every Wednesday. We also entered for the York Garrison League and therefore usually have another match some time during the week.

In the Half-Holiday League we have not lost a match, but we lie second in the league because we have drawn two of our games. We have not yet met Clifton Hospital, our old rivals of last season, and it is to be hoped that this year we manage to beat them.

In the Garrison League we are easily top of the table, so we hope to keep the cup which we won last year.

As usual, we entered the York and District Charity Cup. We have so far survived three rounds and the semi-final is due to be played shortly. If we run true to form it looks as if we shall meet Clifton Hospital in the final.

In the Army Cup we have not been quite so successful this year as last. In the preliminary round we met S.M.E., Ripon, and managed to beat them 2-1 on our own ground. The first round was played away at Lincoln against 62nd H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. This was an extremely hard game and we just managed to pull it off, beating them 1-0.

In the second round we again played away, this time to 6th R.T.R. at Worksop. In this game it

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was quite obvious from the start that they were the better side, but we fought back well and were a little unlucky not to score more than once. The score was 5—1 against us.

The boys' football team have not yet performed in any competitions, but very shortly they meet the North Staffordshire Regiment in the second round of the Boys' Army Cup, having had a bye in the first round. We wish them the very best of luck.

BOXING

The highlights of our activities in the boxing world were rather suddenly centred round the preliminary stages of the Army Inter-Unit Competition. Up till then we had our usual "pass out" inter-platoon competitions which, although run with enthusiasm and efficiency, were not very helpful in producing a unit team. Time was very short and it became very necessary to "scrape the barrel" at the last minute without being able to run an inter-company competition. However, after many heart-aches and various setbacks we managed to coerce a few stalwarts down to the gymnasium every night for a week before the event. Fortunately we were lucky to secure a bye in the first round of the Catterick District Competition. Our opponents in the second round, held at Strensall on November 4, were to be the Selection Regiment, Royal Signals of Catterick. It was understood at the time that they had been sharing our difficulties but their subsequent performance showed that they were, in fact, a far fitter team. Notwithstanding our troubles we put up a remarkably good show and after an agonising half-hour for the weigh-in during the morning (all the team without exception made the weight) there were no absentees and our reserves were able to sit back and relax and watch their team mates do battle.

After the first six bouts we were only losing by two points and things were looking hopeful, but of the remaining five fights we only managed to secure one. However, it is understood that both teams enjoyed a well-earned supper at the N.A.A.F.I. afterwards. It is impossible to single out individuals except to congratulate Lt. Turner, who was nominated the best loser, and who, incidentally, worked like a Trojan during the training and credit is due to his enthusiasm in keeping up the team's morale. It was also a creditable performance considering that eight out of the 11 in the team were recruits. Our thanks are extended to Sgt. Preston, who never spared his efforts both during the training and as our chief second, to Q.M.S.I. Cooper and Sgt. Instructor Mann (who but for a last minute scrutiny of the rules might well have been in the team) and the P.T. Staff for their help during training and for the excellent arrangements for the competition. We were also pleased to see Sgt. Lockwood (now attached to No. 7 Selection Regiment), who came over to see fair play at the weigh-in.

The results were as follows:—

Bantam Weight: 1st string, Pte. Clarke (D.W.R.) lost to Sgmn. Lane (R.Sigs.).

Feather Weight: 1st string, Pte. Margison (D.W.R.) beat 2/Lt. Thomas (R.Sigs.).

Light Weight: 1st string, Pte. Hutton (D.W.R.)

lost to Sgmn. Pettit (R. Sigs.); 2nd string, Pte. Balmforth (D.W.R.) lost to Lt. Wilson-Wilcox (R.Sigs.).

Welter Weight: 2nd string, 2/Lt. Haye (D.W.R.) beat Sgmn Wickes (R.Sigs.); 3rd string, Pte. McGinnis (D.W.R.) lost to Sgmn. Trood (R.Sigs.).

Middle Weight: 1st string, Pte. Wappett (D.W.R.) lost to Sgt. Gelfs (R.Sigs.); 2nd string, Lt. Turner (D.W.R.) lost to L/Cpl. Eccles (R.Sigs.).

Light Heavy Weight: 1st string, Pte. Berry (D.W.R.) beat S/Sgt. Baxter (R.Sigs.).

Heavy Weight: 1st string, Pte. Squirrell (D.W.R.) lost to L/Cpl. Davies (R.Sigs.).

Welter Weight: 1st string, Pte. Kett (D.W.R.) lost to Cpl. Davies (R.Sigs.).

Result: 1st Battalion D.W.R., 14 pts.; No. 7 Selection Regiment, 19 pts.

It is clearly obvious that if we are called upon to find a unit team in the future that we must concentrate on "talent" from the Permanent Staff. Let us hope that we have the same number of volunteers for the next occasion as we did on the morning after the last one. However, it is hoped to run an inter-company competition after Christmas and we will then be able to see how things are shaping.

HOCKEY

These notes are written in rather an atmosphere of gloom, because only today we lost 4—2 to S.M.E. Ripon at Strensall in the second round of the Command Cup, and all this after leading 2—0 at half-time.

This is not the only disaster that has befallen us, because last week we lost 1—4 to the 8th R.T.R. in the first round of the Army Cup.

In both matches we have no complaints, both opponents were better than we were, our only regret being that in today's match, after leading at half-time, we should have pulled the fat out of the fire despite the S.M.E.'s possession of an international left wing, W.O.I Green.

These losses so early in the season were not unexpected because up to date we have been at sixes and sevens and undoubtedly have not got the team we had last year. Our old friends Sgt. Alton, C.S.M. Wilson, Pte. Onslow and Sgt. Hatton are our only last year's players and we have tried to build a team round them. Major Grieve also came up and played in our cup matches for us, but in our other matches we miss him a lot.

Amongst the new players who have played for the 1st XI (when we say new we mean those who have come forward this season) are Pte. Bray, Lt. Baxter, Sgt. Gregory (R.A.E.C.), C.Q.M.S. Sowerby, Cpl. Frost, Capt. Follett, Q.M.S.I. Cooper (A.P.T.C.) Major Moran, Sgt. Waters, 2/Lt. Hardy (when he can be spared from rugby), 2/Lt. Haye, Lt. Ward, D.M. Gill, Major Sugden and L/Cpl. Letts.

There are many others who have played for us, C.S.M. Lemons, C.S.M. Callaby, M.M. (a cheerfully wicked full back), Capt. Dunn (whose body will keep on getting in the way), Major Gosden, Sgt. Sweeney, Sgt. Hobbs, Sgt. Bagshaw, C.Q.M.S. Robinson, Lt. Lister, Pte. Welch, Lt. Turner, Lt. Miller and many more.

Before closing we must give a very special mention to our goalkeeper, Pte Bray (always ready to turn out), the best goalie in the Command (this from a Command selector) and in many matches our saviour.

It is with regret also that we have to part with Capt. Follett of the E.Yorks, who has done us well, and who despite the blandishments of the officer i/c hockey, insists on going to Malaya.

We have left to look forward to, the six-a-sides and the York Garrison League, which should be easy except for H.Q. Northern Command, whose ideas of hockey are as robust as ours.

We would like to say this in conclusion: The "Dukes" are still, thank heaven, a rugged Regiment. Soccer will always be played wherever Yorkshiremen are gathered together, but we do feel that with last season's successes and this season's

nervous spasms hockey has become a game in which at least 2 per cent. of the Battalion are interested, and we hope this interest will stay so that one day we may be considered a power in the land at hockey.

BASKET BALL

In the past attempts have been made to interest the members of the Battalion in this game. Unfortunately the reception was not very good. At the moment, therefore, a revival is under way. Q.S.M.I. Cooper and his staff have been extremely willing helpers, spending a lot of their free time marking a new court in the gymnasium.

The games up to date have mainly been played by the officers and P.T. staff with a few others joining in. When everyone has become conversant with the recently amended rules quite a good team should materialise.

382 ANTI-TANK REGIMENT, R.A.

(4th Duke of Wellington's Regiment) T.A.

Whilst browsing through the pages of the November issue of THE IRON DUKE our peace of mind has been rudely shattered on reading the last paragraph of the editorial:

"Our next number will be published on January 25, 1950, and all copy should be in the Editor's hands by December 5 in view of the Christmas holiday period."

The preparation of Regimental Christmas cards for despatch has been shelved and we hasten to comply with the Editor's request.

OFFICERS' MESS

Dr. J. D. G. Turner has now joined us. At the time of writing technicalities in the shape of form filling have still to be completed, but these are mere formalities and all members of the Mess extend a hearty welcome to our new M.O.

We congratulate Capt. J. D. Greenwood and D. G. Goodlet on their recent promotions.

It is regretted that Major R. Smith, M.C., has found it necessary to tender his resignation, and we hope that he will find time to visit us whenever he is in the vicinity.

In company with other Messes, we find it extremely difficult in these days of austerity and frustration to make the Mess what it should be, a home from home for all members, but we are pressing on and hope in the near future to have a bar constructed. This will be sited adjacent to the anteroom. It is also proposed to redecorate the present rather dreary passage which gives access to the anteroom and our future bar.

A further effort is being made to get back to pre-war standards by the reintroduction of dinner nights. The first of these was held on the evening

of Tuesday, October 18, and, despite the lack of adequate cooking facilities, proved successful. We were pleased to welcome many of our old and one or two new friends on this occasion. All the time-honoured traditions of a Mess gathering were observed, but we are pleased to report that no damage was suffered either by personnel or equipment. The C.O. is rather concerned over this lack of damage, as he is inclined to regard it as a reflection upon the excellence of our entertainment, but we intend eventually to run dinner nights once a month, so ample opportunity will be afforded us to demonstrate our capabilities as hosts.

Although Service life is made up of continuous comings and goings, it is always with the feeling of real personal loss that we view the retirement of personalities associated with the Regiment, and so it was with mixed feelings that we received the late C.R.A., Brig. B. J. Fowler, M.C., on the evening of Thursday, October 13, the occasion of his farewell visit. Brig. Fowler was accompanied by his successor, Brig. E. D. Howard-Vyse, M.C. All members of the Regiment wish the late C.R.A. every success in his retirement, and for Brig. Howard-Vyse a long and happy tenure of office.

SERGEANTS' MESS

With the Christmas festivities near at hand, it is a case of quiet before the storm in the Mess at the moment, but it is expected to break with a vengeance when we commence with our annual Officers' and Sergeants' Night on December 14.

This year the Mess has taken on its shoulders the task of running a party on December 17 for the children of all personnel of the Regiment. It is expected that about 100 children will be present.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have given us assistance in so many ways, without which we should have been unable to run the party.

We dare not forecast the remaining events over the Christmas period, but we feel sure they will make interesting news in our next notes.

In the past few months three of our members, Sgts. Hunt, Fordham and Smith, have joined the Regular Army. We wish them good luck and every success in their new venture.

All members of the Mess congratulate B.S.M. Wilson (P.S.I. for "R" and "S" Batteries) on being awarded the L.S. & G.C. Medal.

SOCIAL EVENTS

On Saturday, January 21, 1950, the Drill Hall, Prescott Street, will be the scene of the Regimental social and prize distribution. This will be the first function of its kind within the Regiment since its reconstitution and we have no doubt that it will be a memorable occasion. It will be fully reported in the next issue, so "sufficient unto the day," etc.

The outstanding event of the past few months was undoubtedly the dedication of the 1939-45 war memorial in York Minster and it is regrettable that it had to take place on a working day, thereby making it impossible for us to send a representative detachment. Lt.-Col. N. T. Bentley, 2/Lt. N. Berry, Sgt. W. J. Reed and Gnr. P. W. Blakeney did, however, manage to steal the necessary time off work in order to attend this most impressive service.

TRAINING

Once again the generosity of our R.A.F. friends was lavished upon us and the Regiment spent yet another enjoyable weekend camp on the R.A.F. Station at Yeadon (October 1 and 2). The practical training the Regiment undergoes at these weekend camps is worth weeks of evening drills. The truth of this statement was borne out with a very expert performance by our "Q" Battery Commander, who demonstrated, whilst driving a S.P. 17-pounder gun, how simple it is to shed a track. The knowledge gained by a score of men who assisted in the replacement of the said track was worth a week's course at the R.A.C. Centre.

On Sunday, October 16, the annual classification tests were fired at Deerhill ranges. Considering the small amount of practice that members of the R.A. get in this type of training, the percentage of passes obtained was most gratifying.

In conjunction with the annual classification, the opportunity was taken to fire off a number of competitions, the results of which are as follows:

OFFICERS' CUP

	Score	Possible
*1. Major J. W. H. Frame, M.C. ("Q" Bty.) ..	32	40
2. Capt. J. D. Greenwood ("Q" Bty.) ..	32	40

* Major Frame won on the shoot off.

SERGEANTS' CUP

1. Sgt. J. Greenwood ("R" Bty.) ..	43	50
2. Sgt. B. J. King ("S" Bty.) ..	39	50

OTHER RANKS' CUP

1. Gnr. F. Crabtree ("S" Bty.) ..	37	50
2. Gnr. A. Crowther ("S" Bty.) ..	33	50
Gnr. I. Roberts ("S" Bty.) ..	33	50

It is now confirmed that both the location and form of training for the 1950 annual camp will be different from that of the past two years. July 22 will see the Regiment at Tidworth with only two or three days allowed to fire off our quota of ammunition on the anti-tank ranges; the remainder of the time will be spent at driving and signals training, tactical exercises with other arms of the Brigade Group, etc. We view this complete change with a certain amount of apprehension, as we had come to regard the camp at Belford as our spiritual home. Nevertheless, an open mind is being kept on the subject.

Apologies are made to "R" Battery for denying them the fruits of victory in the last issue of THE IRON DUKE. The results of the Inter-Battery Laying Cup should have read as follows: 1, "R" Battery; 2, "P" Battery; 3, "S" Battery; 4, "Q" Battery.

RECRUITING

During September our "P" and "Q" Batteries, who are stationed at Ovenden Park Camp, staged recruiting drives in the Elland, Sowerby Bridge and Hebden Bridge areas. Four S.P. 17-pounder guns, a display van and a jeep fitted with a public address system were paraded on all occasions. These drives were given generous publicity in the local Press. The guns were greeted with howls of delight by members of the public between the ages of four and 14 years, but it would appear that the majority of the age groups from which we expect our volunteers prefer the delights of the cinema and dance hall, but we will continue to press on in the hope that one day they will see the light.

"R" Battery at Brighouse ran a recruiting campaign in the Brighouse area on Saturday, November 5. It was conducted on similar lines to those of "P" and "Q" Batteries and was received with the same depressing apathy on the part of the public. To sum up, the Regiment has recruited some half-dozen men during the past three months.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

During October a R.E.M.E. inspection team descended on our vehicles and almost completely immobilised the Regiment. Having recovered from this we are now threatened with a further inspection in the near future by a team from the Ministry of Supply.

The C.R.A. paid his first visit to R.H.Q. and all batteries on Tuesday, November 8, and later dined with officers of the Regiment. With the reintroduction of annual administrative inspections we shall be seeing Brig. E. D. Howard-Vyse, M.C., again on January 10, when he will carry out a more formal inspection of the Regiment.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

In our last notes the promotions of Cpl. Pearce to Sergeant (A.C.C.) and Cfmn. Lord to Corporal (R.E.M.E.) were in the nature of intelligent anticipation. Unfortunately, the wheels have ground even slower than usual and official approval has not yet been received from the powers that be. We trust that our congratulations will be in order by the time these notes are published.

578 (MOB.) H.A.A. REGIMENT, R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.

We are now at the beginning of our third Territorial year since the Regiment re-formed in May, 1947. Time passes. The pending retirements of senior officers reported previously have now taken effect. The annual individual and battery competitions are completed and the annual distribution of prizes is almost upon us. We welcome the impending visit of the Colonel of the Regiment (Sir, A. F. Philip Christison, Bart., G.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.), on December 9 to present the prizes. The G.O.C. 5th A.A. Group, Maj.-Gen. L. K. Lockhart and Brig. A. J. E. Cleeve have also accepted invitations.

We have much pleasure in welcoming the appointment of Col. K. Sykes, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., J.P., as Honorary Colonel from June 23, 1949. Col. Sykes joined us in 1912 and served throughout the Great War as Adjutant. He afterwards commanded the Regiment for seven years, during which period the conversion to searchlights took place. Col. G. P. Norton, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., J.P., from whom Col. Sykes takes over, joined the Regiment in 1903. He re-formed the Regiment in 1920 and commanded it for a number of years afterwards. On the retirement of Col. Sir Hildred Carlile in 1939 Col. Norton became Honorary

673 L.A.A. REGIMENT R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.

The period under review, i.e. September to November inclusive, has been spent quietly re-organising ourselves for the 1950 training season, ridding ourselves of the "dead wood" and conducting a vigorous recruiting campaign for new members through the medium of the Press. The latter has resulted in the enlistment of 20 men to date, which means that our other rank strength is very near the century mark.

The "Keighley for Britain" Exhibition was held at the T.A. Centre, Lawkholme Lane, Keighley, from November 19 to 26 and was opened by Lord Calverley. The display of silver and Regimental trophies of the old 6th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment on the recruiting stand of the unit was much admired. The P.S.I. (B.S.M. Rudman), ably assisted by B.Q.M.S. Stead, put a lot of work into this show. Exhibitions of gun drill were given by the T.A. soldiers, under the command of B.S.M. Rudman, for the benefit of the public.

The Halifax Battery have held weekend camps at Brayton Camp, Selby, since annual camp and all have benefited from the training with the "Dome Teacher."

The Adjutant (Capt. Bindloss) and Lt. Turton and his wife attended the dedication of the war

Colonel and many "Dukes" in all stations of life will remember and appreciate his interest in the Regiment at all times, and particularly during operational deployment.

On November 1 a party from the Regiment attended the dedication ceremony of the "Dukes" Memorial Chapel in York Minster. The Commanding Officer was a member of the procession to the Chapel and a witness of the ceremony performed by the Archbishop. The Regiment very much appreciated the invitation from the 1st Battalion to take part in this impressive ceremony.

At St. Paul's Street Drill Hall the form of the Regimental War Memorial for 1939-45 has been agreed in principle and work is proceeding.

Remembrance Day services were attended at Huddersfield, Holmfirth and Mirfield by the batteries of the Regiment.

A pleasant evening took place at "R" Battery H.Q., Mirfield, on December 1, when Major Kilner, T.D., invited members of the Battery and guests to a dinner which was very much enjoyed by all.

The tickets for the Regimental officers' dance on December 30 are believed to be going well; so well, in fact, that almost 200 applications were received by return of post.

After completing his period of National Service, 2/Lt. R. H. Hirst has joined us. We wish him many years of enjoyable service.

By the time this edition is produced we shall be in 1950. We wish our friends in all parts a happy and enjoyable New Year.

memorial to the fallen of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment at York Minster on November 1. Detachments of officers and men took part in Armistice Day ceremonies on November 6 at Ilkley, Skipton and Halifax. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Regiment.

PERMANENT STAFF

In our last issue we mentioned that R.S.M. Taylor, had left us for civilian life. His successor, R.S.M. W. E. Jaine, has now joined us from 538 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), Huddersfield. R.S.M. Jaine has had a varied and interesting career. He took part in the early desert campaigns under Gen., now Field-Marshal, Wavell and served in Greece and Crete, being evacuated from both places after severe fighting. He was awarded the Commander's Certificate for his services in the M.E.F. He later served in Germany before joining the Huddersfield unit in 1947. We are glad to have him with us.

OFFICERS

We are sorry to lose Major J. M. Horsfall, M.C., T.D., R.A. (T.A.), who has decided to revert to the T.A.R.O. (D.W.R.) due to pressure of business. Although no longer active, we hope to see him often socially. Lt. Thomson has also reverted to the T.A.R.O. for the same reason. We welcome to the Halifax Battery Lt. D. A. Northrop. Congratulations to Lts. T. W. Chadwick and B. A. Sanders on their promotion to the rank of Captain.

673 L.A.A. REGIMENT, R.A. (6th Bn. D.W.R.) (T.A.)

Gun Teams "in action," firing at targets towed by aircraft—at Annual Camp, 1949, Stiffkey, Norfolk



The C.O. (Lt.-Col. W. E. Dale Shaw, R.A.) explaining to No. 7 on the gun "how it is done," during Firing Practice at Annual Camp, 1949, Stiffkey, Norfolk

7th BATTALION

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (T.A.)

Since our last notes the Battalion has settled down to Drill Hall training, combined with various social occasions, and the recruiting graph is going slowly but steadily up.

Six officers, consisting of the C.O., Adjutant, Major Carling, Capt. Williams and Lts. Broadbent and Forty, attended the Divisional exercise "Murrayfield II" at Harrogate on November 12-13, 1949. The exercise was both instructive and amusing, and one was most impressed by the histrionic ability of some of the officers of Northumbrian District. A dance was held on the Saturday evening and was a great success.

A contingent from the Battalion went over for the ceremony of unveiling the Regimental War Memorial in York Minster on November 1, 1949. Owing to the fact that it was in the middle of the week, few members of the T.A. could attend and the contingent, which marched past the Colonel of the Regiment after the ceremony, consisted mostly of the Permanent Staff.

In the Indoor Games League of the T.A. units in Huddersfield we are doing well, and it looks as if we may win the competition again, as we did last year. The Battalion is taking part in the Divisional Football Competition. The first game, which is the second round, takes place on December 17, 1949, and will have been played when these notes appear in print. We hope to have quite a good team, though one or two of the players will be unable to turn up on the day of the match.

We are trying hard to form a Regimental Band and there are distinctly favourable signs in the Elland area, and it is hoped that by the next issue we may be able to report that our aim has been achieved.

Slaitwaite Drill Hall, which is to be the Headquarters of "B" Company, has now been re-decorated and will be taken into use in the New Year. Rumour hath it that approximately 15 potential recruits are only waiting for the doors to open before they present themselves for enlistment. It is to be hoped that this rumour proves to be a true one.

The social season is upon us in earnest and, in addition to the functions of other units, we are looking forward to various Christmas parties to be held at our many drill halls.

OFFICERS' MESS

Our first meeting after camp was the occasion of the official "dining out" of our old friend and Adjutant, Hugh Le Messurier. As usual, an excellent meal had been arranged at Mossley Drill Hall and we were able to "dine in" our new Adjutant, Capt. John Streatfeild, M.C.

The Commanding Officer thanked Hugh for all the hard work he had put in since the re-formation of the Battalion and presented him with a silver tankard. We all wish him well in his new appoint-

ment and hope that devaluation will not hit him too hard. If he finds his messing expensive in Bermuda, he can always live at Butlin's Camp, where we are sure he is certain to meet old friends of the Mess.

The dinner was attended by our new Honorary Colonel, Col. W. A. Hinchcliffe, T.D., who presented the Mess with a beautiful piece of silver. There was some suggestion that the cup should be competed for annually and awarded to the best all-round soldier. As the P.M.C. pointed out, on those conditions we might as well give the cup immediately to Sgt. Marchant. Other suggestions are now being considered.

Since the last notes our Quartermaster, Fred Allsop, and the O.C. "A" Company, Frank Whitehead, have attained their majority. We all offer our congratulations and look forward to celebrating these events in the traditional manner. We hear that Frank is still unable to understand why the *London Gazette* should hear of and publish his promotion before Battalion Headquarters.

Our next social function will be the Military Ball, to be held at Mossley Drill Hall on March 31, 1950. It was a great success last year and for that reason only is being held at Mossley again instead of Huddersfield. We hope our many friends in Huddersfield will understand that the Mess funds are in no condition to finance anything in the nature of an experiment, however much we should like to.

"A" COMPANY

Since our last notes Major F. Whitehead has taken over the command of Major A. A. H. Hopkinson, assisted by Capt. W. G. T. Bradbury and Lt. Mayson.

"A" Company has again settled down to training based on the very valuable experience gained at our annual camp at Rolston. We are being rather handicapped by the retirement of Major A. A. H. Hopkinson and also by the fact that Capt. W. G. T. Bradbury has been absent for two months whilst on a business tour of Norway and Sweden and that Lt. Mayson has been absent for three months on a business tour of the United States. They are, however, back with us again and taking a share in activities.

We have been very fortunate recently in having brought in quite a number of new recruits, all of whom are very young and keen. This has been partly due to the activities of the Social Committee under C.S.M. Maltby and C/Sgt. Cutler, our P.S.I., who are now busy organising a Christmas party for the children of men in the Company. To help in recruiting, the Company put on a first-class variety concert and a film show in colour was given by the O.C., which was taken during his holiday on a tour of the Continent. These, along with weekly whist drives, have all helped to make a very interesting and busy period.

SUPPORT COMPANY

As Christmas approaches our thoughts turn to the various social functions which will take place at our Drill Hall. On the training side we are carrying out shooting on the miniature range, together with long and arduous delvings into theory. The internal combustion engine, the oiling system of a carrier, indirect fire and the mortar plotter and the sand table are some of the topics which occupy our minds, not forgetting those beloved winter twins, organisation and administration.

We have been given a most terrifying officers' winter exercise, as a result of which our Company Commander has asked for Gale and Polden's catalogue in an attempt to get hold of that sought-after document, "The School Solution."

We are looking forward to the summer, when we shall be able to get out of doors and start to swell our numbers with National Service men. Our strength at present is more or less satisfactory; some come and others go, but the hard core remains and takes on for another four years.

4th BATTALION

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

The Committee of the Association has had many calls upon its funds of late and it is pleasing to record that help was forthcoming in every case.

For each meeting now there is practically a full attendance of the members, all of whom are helpful and wishing to be of service to those of the 4th who need a "lift by the way."

One who lost a limb and gained a Military Medal in the Ypres sector has been enabled recently to buy his own business premises and the daughter of another old "Duke" who has passed away is constantly visited and cared for, being helpless and bedridden. At the last meeting, when Christmas cheer was an item on the agenda, those Old Comrades who were known to be ill and the widows and children of many who have died were not forgotten.

The Association was represented at the Parish Church when the Regimental Old Comrades' Service was held on September 25, and at York Minster on November 1, when the war memorials of the last war in the "Duke's" Chapel were dedicated, and at the Halifax Cenotaph on Sunday, November 6.

There is a strong feeling amongst the members, which feeling is also shared by many other organisations in the town that some steps should be taken to revive that well attended Memorial Service which for many years was held in the Parish Church about Armistice time. The service is now held at the Cenotaph on the afternoon of Armistice Sunday, but, apart from that service, it is felt by a very great many that a Divine Service should be held annually in the House of God. As a "Duke's" Chapel in the very near future will be a part of our ancient Parish Church, the time seems appropriate for considering the service suggested.

It is with very deep regret that the members of the Committee heard of the passing of Lt.-Col. H. A. S.

Stanton, D.S.O. He will be remembered always by those who were members of the 4th Battalion in 1914, when as Adjutant he prepared the troops for France—a fine soldier and a gentleman.

One mental picture has never left the writer: the meeting of Gen. Sir Douglas Haig and the then Capt. Stanton at Donlieu in April, 1915, when a well-meaning subaltern was caught in the act of supplying rum to his platoon during unauthorised hours.

6th BATTALION

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

The second Reunion Dinner for officers who had served with the 6th, 1/6th and 2/6th Battalions The Duke of Wellington's Regiment was held at the Devonshire Hotel, Skipton, on Friday, September 30, 1949.

In all 55 officers attended, representing the 6th Battalion of both wars, and we were particularly pleased to welcome Brig. B. W. Webb-Carter, Cols. C. M. Bateman, F. Longdon-Smith and S. C. Spencer and Lt.-Cols. C. R. T. Cumberlege, E. H. Llewellyn and N. Gildard.

Letters had been received from our other Commanding Officers regretting their unavoidable absence, but hoping that they would be with us next year. Two telegrams were received from Brig. J. H. C. Lawlor and Major T. L. C. Ingram.

Toasts were proposed as follows: "The King," Major C. Hill; "Absent Comrades," Major E. D. R. Whitaker; "The Regiment," Col. C. M. Bateman; response, Brig. B. W. Webb-Carter.

Speeches were also made by Cols. F. Longdon-Smith and J. C. Spencer, Major R. Woods, Secretary of the O.C.A., 6th Battalion D.W.R., asking for support of the Association, and Capt. T. Tynoc. In lieu of a speech "Doc" Nichols rendered the "Woodpecker's Song," which was greatly appreciated by all his Icelandic associates.

We were particularly pleased to welcome our guests, Lt.-Col. W. E. Dale-Shaw, Officer Commanding 673rd L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A., the Regiment being the new T.A. role of the 6th Battalion D.W.R., and his Adjutant, Capt. J. Bindloss. Lt.-Col. W. E. Dale-Shaw in his remarks asked for support of the Regiment by all officers of the 6th Duke's.

A committee was formed as follows:

Chairman: Col. C. M. Bateman. *Members:* Brig. B. W. Webb-Carter, Cols. F. Longdon-Smith and S. C. Spencer, Lt.-Col. C. R. T. Cumberlege and Major J. M. Horsfall.

This committee is to discuss and decide how and when the Colours of the 6th Battalion D.W.R. should be hung in Skipton Parish Church.

Permission had been granted by Lt.-Col. W. E. Dale-Shaw for the Colours to be mounted in the dining hall for the Dinner and many officers saw this very fine set of Colours for the first time.

It is intended to hold the Dinner again next year. All officers will be circularised regarding the date and place during the coming year and it is hoped that everyone will be able to be present.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE 10th BATTALION 1914-18

The Battalion with the 11th West Yorks and 8th and 9th Yorks formed the 69th Brigade, which along with the 68th and 70th Brigades and the Divisional troops, viz. artillery, etc., made up the 23rd Division.

Concentration of the Division started on September 16, 1914, the 69th and 70th Brigades at Frensham Common, in Surrey, under canvas. Capt. Bathurst took the nucleus of the Battalion from Halifax to Frensham, where he was joined by Col. Crawford, who took command, with Tom Broadley as R.S.M.

We slept 13 or 14 in a tent and, as far as possible, lads from one village or town were put together. At this time there were no Battalion cooks or organised A.S.C., therefore arrangements were made with Lyons and Co. to cater for the troops. I have read that this arrangement was very satisfactory. It might have been to the gilded staff. Ask the lads.

We were rather a motley crew (but later days proved our men had plenty of guts). One man was wearing a khaki tunic, blue trousers, brown boots and a bowler hat, and a few had red tunics. Most men had come in old suits and these were soon in rags.

Eventually order came out of chaos: we were issued with a blue serge uniform with a back-to-front cap and a white armband stating "Kitchener's Man." We looked just like a lot of warders! At this period we were a raw lot. To give you an idea as to how much we knew about soldiering, Gen. Babington (G.O.C. 23rd Division) had a habit of walking about the camps and talking to the men. On one occasion one of our officers reproved a group of men for not standing to attention, asking if they did not know who had been speaking to them. One replied, "I doant naw reight, but ah reckon he'll be one o' t' directors."

About the end of November the weather became very cold and on the 30th a gale blew down most of the tents. On December 1 we moved to North Camp, Aldershot, for Battalion training. On December 7 we moved to Eversley and Camberley for field training. December 16 Christmas leave started, "A" Company first, and off we went in our blue serge horrors and hair cropped like convicts.

January 14 we were back in Aldershot, and on the 22nd M. Millerand (French Minister of War) and Lord Kitchener came to inspect the Battalion. The Battalion paraded at 9 a.m. (for inspection, I think, at 2 p.m.). When they got to the parade ground it was 4 inches thick with snow. Then about noon it started to rain. What a day! If my memory serves me right, the inspecting officers were very late and never even got out of their cars.

About the end of January we went back to Camberley and district for three weeks' intensive training, then back to Aldershot. Then came great news: we were to move on February 24 to Shorncliffe area and the "Dukes" were to be billeted in private houses in Folkestone.

Now you must remember the infantry in those

days moved on their feet and this was going to be in the nature of a Brigade test march. The distance was about 100 miles and a real test of stamina. I decided to go on the march—much against Capt. Hilyard's wish, as, having been in the Company Office, I had had no training and it was strictly understood that no one had to fall out if it were possible to limp to the destination. The unfit went by train as baggage guard and 200 toughs from each unit of the Brigade set off on the march. Our route was via Guildford, Dorking, Edenbridge, Tonbridge, Maidstone and Ashford, but am not quite sure at which places we stayed overnight.

About this time Col. Crawford was taken ill and surrendered his command. He died soon afterwards. Major Mayer then commanded temporarily until Col. Bartholomew came to take over at Maidstone.

Our Battalion came out with a very good record. I think we had only about 3 per cent. who did not finish, and I also think it can partly be claimed that this success was due to the fact that a good number of the men came from the Airedale and Wharfedale districts, men from the country who had been brought up to walk, as there was not much to ride on. To illustrate my meaning I will tell you a story about Capt. and Mrs. Bolton. Some years ago, when returning from a holiday in Ireland, they broke their journey either at Settle or Hellifield to see Capt. Bolton's old runner, Billy Hoyle. After making enquiries which road to take to Billy's farm, they set out over what we call hedge and dike. Now from every farmer they saw they enquired how far it was, and it was, "Just go through that field and over the wall and you will soon be there." How long it took them I forget, but, after staying some time with Billy, they made their way to Bradford, as they were staying overnight with me, and when I met them, well, were they tired. I had to take them home in a taxi and, believe me, neither of them needed to be rocked to sleep. Now one of your Dales lads would have done that before breakfast gathering mushrooms!

We had a good time in Folkestone, worked hard, were inoculated, so it seemed, every few days. We had three inspections by Generals between April 9 and May 11, and we left with happy memories of the town and the people who had looked after us. I should not be surprised if there are some "Dukes" there yet.

May 24, after nearly three months in Folkestone, we moved into the Borden area, the 68th and 69th Brigades into huts on Bramshott Common. "A" Company's Orderly Room tent was at the top end of our block. About 10 yards away the Orderly Room tent of either the 8th or 9th Yorks was at the bottom of their block, and it was there that I first met C.Q.M.S. Agar, who later joined the "Dukes" as an officer. Well, a lot of you know Mr. Agar and we regret he has not been with us this last few years at our annual reunions.

On July 7 embarkation leave started and finished

second week in August. On August 16 the Division was inspected on Hankly Common by the King and Queen and, of course, we were a fine body of men. I think the explanation lies in the fact that I was not on parade. I did not like inspections.

Going overseas was the gossip of the day and on August 20 the first advance troops entrained for the port of embarkation. On the 23rd the main body entrained at Liphook Station, arriving at Folkestone for embarkation to France.

After seeing "A" Company safely on board, I went to find Capt. Bolton to report all correct. I found him forward on the bridge deck and there we stayed until we reached Boulogne. We then marched up the hill to St. Martin's Camp.

Now I have got the Battalion to France in August, 1915, I will stop. I hope Capt. Bolton will continue the story from here.

F. STEPHENSON, ex-R.Q.M.S.,

146th REGIMENT, THE ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

9th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment

The second annual reunion was held on October 22 at the Hotel Metropole, Leeds.

Instead of a dinner a running buffet of generous proportions was provided, although full advantage was not taken of it by some people who had a lot to talk about.

About 110 Old Comrades attended, of whom quite a number had not attended the year before. The ex-officer attendance was not as good as it might have been, due in a few cases to their being or just becoming proud fathers. However, Lt.-Col. Agnew came up from Brackley and Major Alex. Luhrs came down from Dundee. Other long-distance men were J. H. Hunt (from London), V. A. T. Morris (from Romford), W. G. Pratt (from Glasgow), J. Clark (from Bristol) and Billy Pearson (serving with R.T.R. at Crookham).

The first annual dinner had been mixed, so that wives were able to attend. This year it was a stag party and many were the disappointed wives who had to remain at home. In addition, there was some very active campaigning for a mixed reunion next year with a sit down dinner instead of a running buffet.

Lt.-Col. R. L. Agnew welcomed all present and expressed his pleasure in seeing so many Old Comrades.

The Secretary (Capt. T. Moore) read out the many apologies for absence.

Lt.-Col. F. P. A. Woods was unable to attend, as his ship was on its way to East Africa.

Capt. "Bish" Carey, serving with 5th R.T.R. in B.A.O.R., was looking forward to being present, but an Army examination put paid to his chances. Even so, he sent a donation of £2.

Padre Hall, in Eire, sent £1 and was sorry he could not attend.

Lt. Tom Dickson sent £1 from Co. Tyrone and hoped that he would be able to attend.

Ian McMorland, who is now farming in Canada, sent his very best wishes to all his old friends.

The one and only John Bilham, who is O.C. at a national boys' camp at Hemel Hempstead, was expecting a large party of boys on the 22nd and sent his best wishes to all present.

Major Arthur Spong, who was O.C. "C" Squadron on arrival in India, was very disappointed that he was unable to attend.

Tony Verity, who is the proud father of a four months old daughter, was unable to attend at the last moment.

"Jock" MacIntyre was expecting to be a proud father at any moment.

Anders Westman was unable to attend, as he had an increase in the family.

Gordon Buckley, M.C., was struck down with influenza a day or two before the reunion.

Donald Stebbings, O.C. "H.Q." Squadron on arrival in India, now living in Lowestoft, had an increase in his family as his main reason for not attending.

Jim Stockley was due in West Africa about the time of the reunion. Meanwhile, his 14 months old daughter is growing up.

Les Parsons, who is the proud father of 13 months old twins, wished to be remembered to all his old friends.

G. W. Hands, late of "B" Squadron, was due to be married the same day, so that fixed him!

Tony Butcher had planned to come, but had to change his plans at the last minute.

A. T. Selby found Leeds too far away from Essex, but sent his best wishes to all his old comrades.

John Shaw, of Huddersfield, was disappointed he could not attend due to a previous engagement.

Lt.-Col. "Jock" Hetherington is an Education Officer in Northern Rhodesia and has been there since July, 1948. Mrs. Hetherington almost immediately followed him out and they live in a very pleasant bungalow at Lusaka. They do not expect to come back to England until late summer in 1951, so he will be detailed to attend the reunion dinner in 1951.

The housing problem in Rhodesia and East Africa is apparently just as great as in England, as Capt. Gerry Clarke, who is with Shell Mex in Uganda, found on his arrival, so Lt.-Col. Hetherington reports. He is also in touch with Capt. J. W. Russell, who is at Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia.

The school to which Lt.-Col. Hetherington is at present attached is a secondary school and combined trades school and has a section which is almost self-supporting in regard to building, so much so, he says, that he is almost a builder himself. They are building themselves another school. Amenities on the line of the railway are very good, but off the railway area things are very primitive.

We close with messages of good cheer and good luck for 1950 to all "Dukes" wherever they may be.

ARMY OFFICERS' RESERVES

An Appeal by the Colonel of the Regiment

THE War Office is appealing for a limited number of ex-Emergency Commissioned officers of the late war period to join either the Regular Army Reserve of Officers or the Army Officers' Emergency Reserve.

It is quite understandable that many ex-officers cannot at the moment undertake the obligations entailed in joining the Territorial Army and it is to this class that I address my appeal.

In the event of war all of you will either join up immediately or be recalled on your existing commissions. It is, therefore, of value, both to the Regiment and to yourselves, if you will register now and know that either you will come to the regiment to which you were originally gazetted or that the Army can plan your employment to its (and your) best possible advantage in advance.

These are the conditions for joining:

R.A.R.O.

Eligibility. Officers who have held Emergency Commissions and are suitable for employment at regimental duty, provided they have not passed the following ages for the ranks stated:

- (a) W/S Captain and T/Major, 35 years.
- (b) W/S Lieutenant and T/Captain, 30 years.
- (c) W/S Major and T/Lieutenant-Colonel, 48 years.

NOTE.—With regard to (c), each case will be considered by the War Office on its individual merits.

Officers who are accepted will be granted the substantive rank in the R.A.R.O. equal to the substantive or war substantive rank they already hold, provided it is not above that of Major. Substantive rank based on war substantive rank above Major will not be granted.

A.O.E.R.

This is a register of gentlemen who volunteer to serve as officers in any future war. No one over the age of fifty-five will be considered for registration.

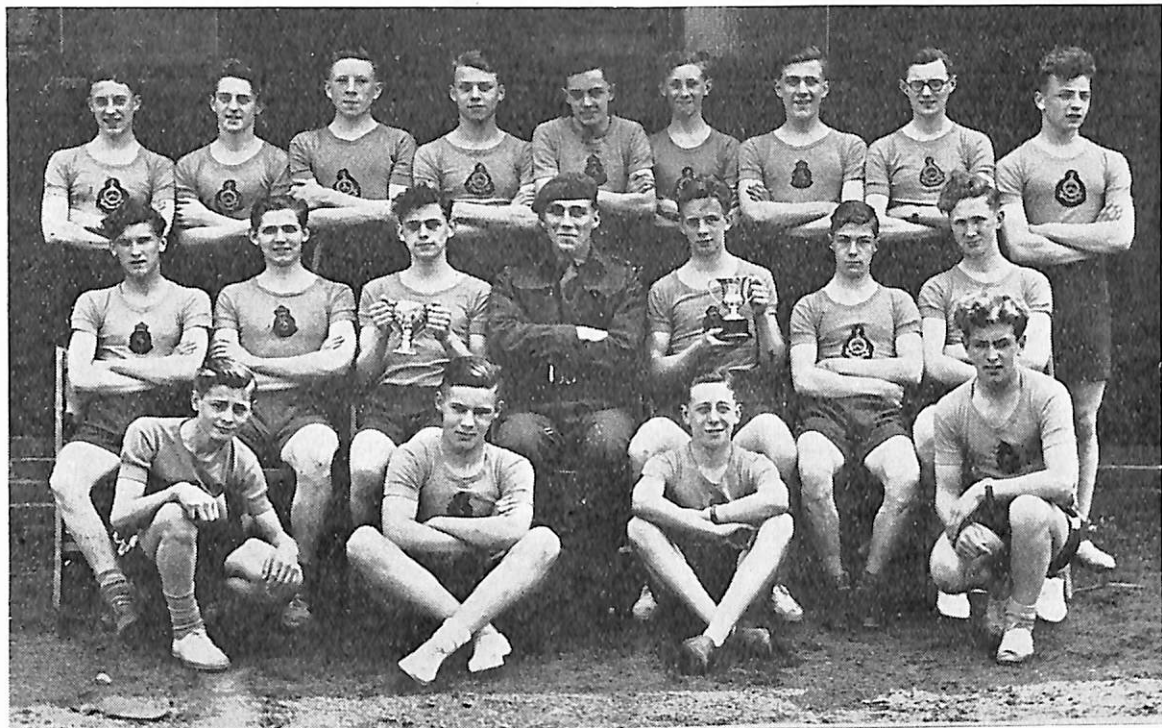
Ex-officers who join this Reserve will be liable to recall under the present emergency regulations. When these regulations lapse, officers will have no legal liability to recall, other than whatever may be imposed by national service legislation on citizens generally in a future war.

This appeal will reach quite a number of those who served in the 1939-45 war through the medium of THE IRON DUKE, to which you subscribe. A large number of ex-officers, however, are not subscribers, but you probably are in touch with some of them. Will you pass this information on to them.

Full details and application forms can be obtained from:

The Officer Commanding,
The Regimental Headquarters and Depot,
The Duke of Wellington's Regiment,
The Barracks,
Halifax.

Perley Christian



3rd Cadet Battalion Athletic Team, winners of the Senior and Junior Trophies at the Championship Sports at Doncaster

2nd CADET BN. (D.W.R.)

In this, our first venture into print in THE IRON DUKE, we feel, not unnaturally, like a young child who has just returned from his first party and wants to talk about everything he has done at once. This may be delightful for the parents, but not so for our readers. Therefore we must exercise restraint.

We do feel that, whilst we have not grown in numbers, we have quite definitely increased our standard of efficiency in the last six months. We have concentrated upon the training of our N.C.O.s and under Lt. Forty, of the 7th Battalion (T.A.), they have derived great benefit and are now really useful. We are indeed very indebted to the 7th, to whom we are affiliated, in all manner of ways. Capt. Hugh Le Mesurier has been a tower of strength to us. We wish him every success in his new sphere. Five more boys have obtained Certificate "A," Part 1, and 10 more boys have obtained their Part 2. The annual Empire Test produced 10 first-class shots and four second-class shots. There has been one outstanding ceremonial parade. Capt. Coombs and 20 cadets attended the unveiling ceremony of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment's memorial at York Minster on November 1.

Our Drums are again being rebuilt after many losses to the Forces, under the guidance of Capt. Coombs. We are also greatly indebted to 578 (MOB.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (5th Duke of Wellington's) (T.A.), who accommodate us and help in so many ways.

In the field of sport we have little to report in the way of successes. We can only say that we have entered for many events and been, we hope, good losers. In camp we did manage to come second in the field sports.

Welfare in this unit has, in the past, been entirely run by its own officers, but a long-felt need has now been fulfilled. Nine good and prominent citizens of Huddersfield now form our Welfare Committee under the chairmanship of Col. Hinchcliffe, and we feel that their interest and support will greatly help our cause. Amongst their names readers will recognise several old "Dukes":

Col. W. A. Hinchcliffe, Mr. Rex Hirst, Major H. L. Simpson, Aldermen Sidney Kaye and J. F. C. Cole, Councillors N. Hobson, A. T. K. Sykes, N. Wimpenny and Mr. F. Crawshaw.

Recruiting has been so bad that one could easily develop fears for the future, but it is felt that with the morale and keenness of our boys being as it is at such a high pitch our anxiety is groundless.

3rd CADET BN. (D.W.R.)

It is with great pleasure that the 3rd Battalion accepts the invitation to submit details of the progress of the unit during recent months for insertion in THE IRON DUKE.

The strength of the Battalion consists of 23 officers and 367 other ranks. As, however, it covers a considerable and wide area (Battalion H.Q. and "H.Q." Company having their Headquarters at

Hunger Hill, Halifax; "A" Company, Dobroyd and Todmorden; "B" Company, Brighthouse, Cleckheaton and Hipperholme; "C" Company, Sowerby Bridge and Hebden Bridge), the large number of cadets is really not surprising.

Response to recruiting after having a temporary lapse is now improving and the influx of recruits more than balances cadets leaving to join H.M. Forces.

The Battalion has, without boast, an exceptional record of athletic achievements for 1949. Amongst these are:

Northern Command Junior Athletic Champions.
Northern Command Class "C" Boxing Championship.

Yorkshire Senior Athletic Championship.
Yorkshire Junior Athletic Championship.
Regimental Senior Athletic Champions.
Regimental Junior Athletic Champions.
Regimental Senior Swimming Champions.
Regimental Junior Swimming Champions.
Todmorden Youth Council Athletic Trophy.
Todmorden Home Guard Athletic Trophy
("H.Q." Company).

The Battalion was represented at the dedication service of the war memorials at York Minster on November 1, 1949, by the Commanding Officer (Major W. S. Jamieson), four officers and 30 other ranks.

Annual camp this year was held at Weelsby, near Cleethorpes, and was attended by 10 officers and 160 other ranks. Next year the Officer Commanding hopes to take a contingent to Ireland.

The Battalion records with deep regret the resignation of our Training Officer (Capt. P. W. Swire), who is leaving this month to take up a post with the Colonial Office in Nigeria. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

4th CADET BN. (D.W.R.)

"For men may come and men may go . . ."

A cadet battalion may aptly be compared with a river, sometimes in flood (in numbers) and sometimes being in low water, but always passing its members along through ever-wider experiences towards the ocean of life. Nothing is ever static in a cadet battalion, not even the size of a cadet, as every Q.M. knows.

In a unit dispersed over an area of some 70 square miles it is a well-established fact that the efficiency of the unit depends fundamentally on the efficiency of the Company Commanders who meet the cadets week by week in the drill hall. Our Company

Commanders in the persons of Capts. Haigh, Hogan, Stansfield, Power and Walker are doing a voluntary job of work of real national importance. The roots of their work are in service; the substance of the work is in club activities, and the flower of the work is Certificate A. Sgt. W. Abbott captained the West Riding Association Football XI and played for the English XI. Cadet L. Mangan played in these teams and also with the Great Britain v. Northern Ireland XI. Sgt. A. Bolton was Northern Command boxing champion at his weight and was reserve for the A.C.F. boxing finals in London. During the summer season a number of field days and one or two night exercises were held; there were a number of week-end camps including a very enjoyable one at Strensall, and the annual camp was again at Cleethorpes.

Finally we wish God-speed to our last remaining Grammar School Company who, having been nurtured amongst us, have now elected to join the newly-constituted Combined Cadet Corps. May they flourish exceedingly.

5th CADET BN. (D.W.R.)

The Battalion covers a wide area, extending over a radius of 20 miles from Keighley, which is the Battalion Headquarters. It has detachments at Keighley, Haworth, Silsden, Skipton and Barnoldswick and is shortly to extend to Settle.

Two companies are accommodated at T.A. Centres, one has the use of an old drill hall and two are using huts.

The wide area covered creates various problems, and transport difficulties make concentration of the Battalion as a whole at any one point almost impossible. Again, sporting activities are kept on a company basis and very rarely can a Battalion team be formed in any sport due to the difficulties of combined practice.

In the West Riding each town has its own particular feast week, and as these are held on different dates it makes a combined Battalion camp impossible. However, two contingents were able to have a week in camp at Weelsby and spent a happy and profitable time there.

Recruitment is steady, although it is found that the younger cadet is coming forward rather than the older boy, who might, with advantage, benefit from training prior to call-up for National Service.

Our Contemporaries

We have to acknowledge with thanks the following Regimental journals :

Old Contemptible, The Dragon, The K.S.L.I. and Herefordshire L.I. Regimental Journal, The Snapper, The Tank, The Suffolk Regimental Gazette, St. George's Gazette, R.A.O.C. Gazette, The Sapper, The Queen's Own Gazette, Firm, The Lion and The Rose, Our Empire Today, The Borderers' Chronicle, The Green Howards' Gazette.

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The King's Regiment
The Devonshire Regiment
The Suffolk Regiment
The Somerset Light Infantry
The East Yorkshire Regiment
The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment
The Royal Leicestershire Regiment

The Gloucestershire Regiment
The Worcestershire Regiment
The East Surrey Regiment
The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry
The Duke of Wellington's Regiment
The Border Regiment
The Royal Sussex Regiment
The Royal Hampshire Regiment
The South Staffordshire Regiment
The Dorsetshire Regiment
The Welch Regiment
The Essex Regiment
The Sherwood Foresters
The Loyal Regiment
The Northamptonshire Regiment
The Royal Berkshire Regiment
The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment

The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
The King's Shropshire Light Infantry
The Middlesex Regiment
The Wiltshire Regiment
The Manchester Regiment
The North Staffordshire Regiment
The York & Lancaster Regiment
The Durham Light Infantry
The Royal Ulster Rifles
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The Royal Army Ordnance Corps
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ABYSSINIA

1867-68

King Theodore's Throne Cloth

BY MAJOR R. E. AUSTIN

A short time ago, in order to beguile away a long and tedious railway journey, I bought at a station bookstall a slim volume entitled *Small Wars of the Empire*, which was a collection of short stories reprinted from *Blackwood's Magazine*, all of the subject matter propounded by its title. The first story was called "The Burden and Heat," the author hiding behind the anonym of "Linesman." To a lover of military history it was an enthralling article, drawing back, as it did, the cloudy veil of the past and bringing into the full light the names and characters from many units whose deeds have added lustre to the pages of those units' histories. But, says the author, and how truly, "In nothing does the prevailing lack of information more abound, and appear more heartless, than in the people's ignorance of the identities of those who serve or have served them . . . their work is accepted almost as the gift of Nature . . . ask most of all in vain about the fighting men, the real bricks, pillars and foundation of every sublunary state, the only 'old nobilities' of civilisation. Here must the questioner expect not only ignorance of heroes, but even of their deeds . . . only in regimental histories are the real stories of wars and warriors to be found, and they are commonly so dull and inaccessible that the riches within them lie, like the treasures in the vaults of a bank, heaped up but invisible . . . Who were the two privates who, with almost fantastic valour, attempted to take Magdala alone?"

I realised that, though the names of Bergin and Magner came straight to my mind, I was, in fact, in abysmal ignorance of why the Abyssinian War of 1867-68 (in which these two members of the 33rd Regiment received the highest British award for valour in the field) was fought, and of any details of it. I determined, therefore, to waste no time in consulting the history books when I reached Halifax.

I had been on 10 days' leave and found a monstrous pile of correspondence awaiting my pleasure. One of the letters was from a Mr. Rigby Wason, offering to the Regiment the throne cloth of King Theodore of Abyssinia, which had formed part of the loot of his ancestor—Capt. Sandys Wason, of the 33rd Regiment—in this same Abyssinian War. After writing to accept on behalf of the Regiment so splendid and unusual a gift, I seized the Mess copy of Lee and Markham's *Abyssinian Expedition*.

In order to refresh the reader's mind, here, briefly, is the story of this short and somewhat bloodless campaign.

In the early half of the 1860s Abyssinia was ruled by one Theodore, who was in perpetual conflict with the Rassas ruling over the tribes and provinces that made up the land of Ethiopia. He genuinely desired friendship with England, as,

although a despot, he was benevolently inclined and had every desire to give his country the benefit of European advice and culture. In furtherance of this desire he sent a letter to the Foreign Office by the hand of the British Consul at Massowa, who was returning to England on leave. The Foreign Office vouchsafed no reply, having no wish to get involved in the internal disputes of Abyssinia by showing favours to one of the contending parties, although Theodore was the acknowledged King of Kings.

This somewhat contemptuous silence on the part of the British Government irritated King Theodore, who clapped the British Consul in gaol on his return from leave, together with most of his staff, and added a couple of German missionaries to keep them company.

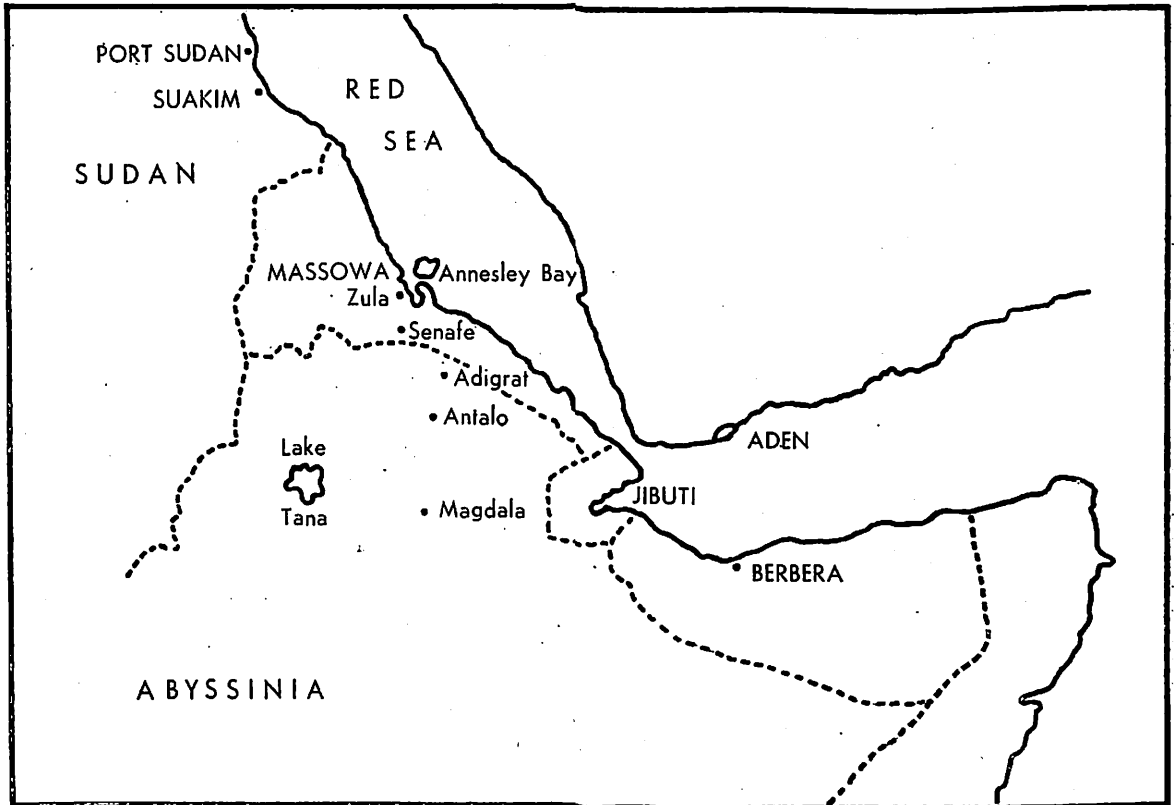
The British Government was, not unnaturally, somewhat indignant at this high-handed conduct and sent a belated reply, together with a remonstrance to King Theodore, by the hand of a gentleman named Mr. Rassam, who was accompanied by two British officers of the Bombay Staff Corps. The King at first refused to receive these envoys, but after some protestation on their part he did so and released the prisoners, who joined Mr. Rassam's party, which then made hurriedly for the coast in full realisation of the precariousness of its position. King Theodore, for some obscure reason, pursued them, took the whole lot prisoner and incarcerated them, loaded with chains, in the fortress of Magdala. This was in April, 1866.

The British Government, stirred by such untoward behaviour towards its representatives, protested most vigorously and demanded their immediate release, to which protest King Theodore returned an insulting refusal and rendered the lot of the captives even more unenviable by adding balls to their chains.

Nothing, therefore, remained to the British Government but to organise an expedition to release the prisoners, and Gen. Sir Robert Napier, C.-in-C. of the Bombay Army, was appointed to command it. The units selected to take part in this enterprise were all taken from the Indian establishment, and amongst the British units chosen was the 33rd Regiment.

As the main object of the expedition was to secure the release of the captives with the least possible delay, the British Political Resident at Aden was instructed to collect all the necessary intelligence data. His recommendation was that the force should land at Mulkutto, in Annesley Bay, which, besides possessing a good anchorage, safe landing beach and excellent water supply, had the added advantage of being the nearest point on the coast to the inland fortress of Magdala, which occupied a commanding position on the eastern horn of a crescent-shaped mountain range over 9,000 feet above sea level, and nearly 400 miles from the coast.

The advanced reconnoitring party of the expedition left Bombay in September, 1867, constructed a landing pier at Mulkutto and sent parties inland to explore the best routes across the hinterland. By November everything was ready for the



arrival of the advanced brigade, which proceeded straight inland to Senafé, a distance of 68 miles, and formed an advanced base.

The main body of the expedition was meanwhile being mobilised in India and comprised three brigades and ancillary troops to a total number of 16,000, to which must be added 3,200 camp followers and 12,600 transport train personnel, giving the expedition a total strength of 32,000 men.

The 33rd Regiment, less one company, was in the 2nd Brigade and embarked at Karachi on November 21, landing at Annesley Bay on December 4. The remaining company was in the 3rd Brigade.

On the day of departure from India the C.O. of the 33rd (Lt.-Col. J. E. Collings) was appointed Brigadier-General to command the 2nd Brigade and was succeeded in command of the Regiment by the second Lieutenant-Colonel, A. R. Dunn, V.C. Lt.-Col. Alexander Robert Dunn won his V.C. as a Lieutenant in the 11th Hussars in the charge of the Light Brigade at Balacava on October 25, 1854, for saving the lives of two Privates. In 1858, as a Lieutenant-Colonel, he raised and commanded the 100th Royal Canadian Regiment (later 1st Leinsters) and transferred to the 33rd in 1864. Unfortunately, he was killed in a shooting accident on January 25, 1868, and the command of the 33rd devolved upon Major A. S. Cooper, who was, however, not promoted Lieutenant-Colonel until the following October.

The other units of the 2nd Brigade were the

3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, "B" Battery, 21st Brigade, R.A., and a Naval Rocket Brigade.

On January 12, 1868, the 33rd were ordered up to Senafé, a journey which was completed in five marches.

The C.-in-C. had decided that Magdala was 30 marches from the coast and was determined not to advance forward of Senafé until a month's rations and supplies had been built up there for a striking force of 9,500 men. As a result of this decision most of January was devoted to the provisioning of the advanced base and to the organisation of an efficient supply and transport system.

On January 18, however, "D" and "H" Companies of the 33rd were pushed forward 12 miles to a place called Goona-goona to guard the line of advance of the artillery pack train.

By January 31 Gen. Collings's vanguard, consisting amongst other units of four companies of the 33rd, had reached Adigrat, 30 miles forward of Senafé, and early in February moved forward another 90 miles to Antalo, where it remained for close on a month.

A reorganisation of the force now took place, and two companies of the 33rd were pushed forward under Col. Playre, a political officer, as a vanguard. The remaining troops at Antalo were split into two brigades, one commanded by Gen. Collings being built round the remainder of the 33rd, with which Gen. Napier and his H.Q. staff moved, the other built round the 4th Regiment.

Magdala was now just over 200 miles away and Gen. Napier issued orders that it must be reached with all possible speed. The difficulties of terrain encountered were extraordinary and frequently a day's march was no more than eight miles. However, by March 30 the force was within 60 miles of its objective and Gen. Napier calculated that a further seven marches would bring him in sight of Magdala. In actual fact it was 10 days before this was achieved, and by then Gen. Napier's force consisted of only 3,273 unmounted men, because of breakdowns in the transport train during the final stages of the march.

On April 9 at 0600 hours the force moved forward on the last lap but one of its journey. As yet King Theodore had made no hostile move against the expedition, though during the latter part of the advance there was much evidence, in the shape of burnt and gutted villages and kraals, that he was destroying potential British sources of supply and the homes of potential suppliers.

It was reported by the local inhabitants that Theodore had withdrawn into the fortress of Magdala, where only from that fastness was he prepared to put his fortunes to the test in battle with the British. This report appeared to be correct, and it looked as though one last quiet, undisturbed night would be the lot of the force before it would itself up for the final assault. However, during the course of the afternoon a fusillade of shots rang out from the hill of Fala, and across its plateau swept a great horde of savages intent on attacking the baggage train winding its difficult way along the side of the Dam-Wang ravine. Two companies of the 4th Regiment were acting as baggage guard and they received the advancing enemy with heavy and well-directed rifle fire, ably assisted by the Naval Rocket Brigade. The result was the utter rout of the Abyssinians, who left 800 dead and 1,500 wounded on the field out of a total attacking force of 4,000.

This battle of the Dam-wang Ravine is memorable for the fact that it was the first occasion on which the British Army used the Snider rifle in anger.

As a result, King Theodore's field army was finished; nearly all his commanders and chieftains had been killed or wounded, and the remnants of his fighting men had fled, broken and demoralised. There only remained to him the craggy fortress of Magdala and its garrison. On April 11, therefore, he made overtures of peace, sending two of his British prisoners as his messengers. Gen. Napier replied by a phrase that has since become world-famous in another connection. It was "Unconditional surrender." The prisoners returned to King Theodore with this reply, expecting the immediate execution of themselves and their fellow Britons. To their surprise, they were sent back to Gen. Napier to say that Theodore would never surrender, but would fight to the last. Nor did the King kill the remaining prisoners, but released them and sent them to the British camp in two parties with further pleas for peace and the promise of many sheep and cattle.

Gen. Napier, realising that Theodore would not

surrender unconditionally prepared to assault the fortress and the day appointed was Easter Sunday, April 13.

The battle of Dam-wang Ravine had been to the glory of the 4th Foot; now it was the turn of the 33rd, who were selected to lead the final assault and assembled on a narrow rocky ledge, from which it was necessary to scramble up a steep and rocky path bounded by a sheer black basalt cliff. This path led up to a 15-foot deep roofed stone gateway called the Koker-bir, with massive wooden doors heavily barred on the inside. On either side of the gateway were strong defences of prickly hedge strengthened with stakes. Once through this gateway it was necessary to scramble up a steep 70-foot rocky escarpment, the top of which was lined with another hedge and stake defence line. From here another rocky path strewn with great boulders led to a second fortified gateway opening on to the flat summit of the Magdala plateau.

When "Advance" was sounded the 33rd, under the command of Major Cooper, scrambled up the steep path and opened a heavy fire on the defenders of the first hedge and gateway. Under cover of this fire the leading company arrived to within a short distance of the Koker-bir. Now came an ugly pause, when it was discovered that the detachment of Madras Sappers and Miners accompanying the 33rd had forgotten to bring the powder with which to blow in the gateway, as well as all their other assaulting equipment. As it was deemed inadvisable to wait too long for the arrival of the explosives and ladders, the 33rd were ordered to storm the fortress. Under somewhat heavy fire the Regiment reached the first prickly hedge, which was then found to be growing on top of a sheer-cut rock cliff some 8 feet high.

It was at this point that the two V.C.s of the campaign were gained, both by soldiers of the 33rd. Pte. James Bergin, a very tall man, made a gap in the hedge with his bayonet and, turning to Drm. Michael Wagner, asked him to give him a lift on to the scarped cliff. Wagner, however, clambered on to Bergin's shoulders and, by dint of a heave from the latter, climbed on to the cliff through the gap in the hedge. He then squirmed round and grasped Bergin by the hand, and the latter, pushed from below by Ensign Connor and Cpl. Murphy, also reached the top of the cliff. The defenders, perceiving what was happening, opened heavy fire on the two men. While Bergin kept firing back at them coolly and collectedly, Wagner helped more men of the 33rd up the cliff, and the enemy finally withdrew in some confusion through the Koker-bir. Bergin and Wagner, with others of the 33rd, rushed the gateway before it could be closed and from there the gallant band stormed up the 70-foot escarpment and captured and held the second gateway in the ensuing confusion.

With the 33rd on the plateau Magdala was as good as won.

Just inside this second gateway was found the body of King Theodore. As soon as he saw that the battle was lost and the fortress bound to fall he had shot himself.

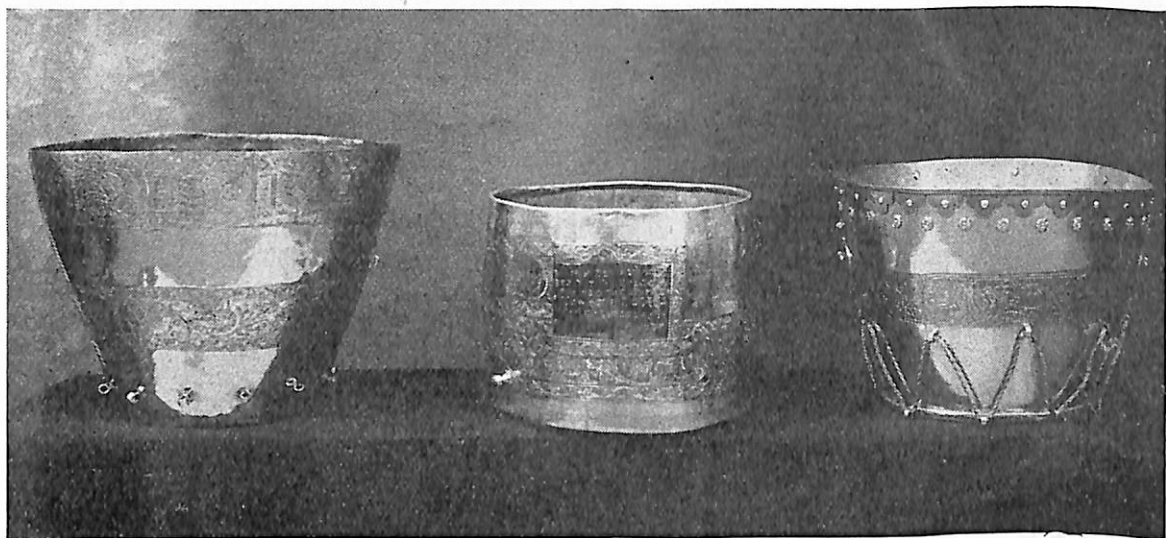
The war thus fizzled out, the Regiment having



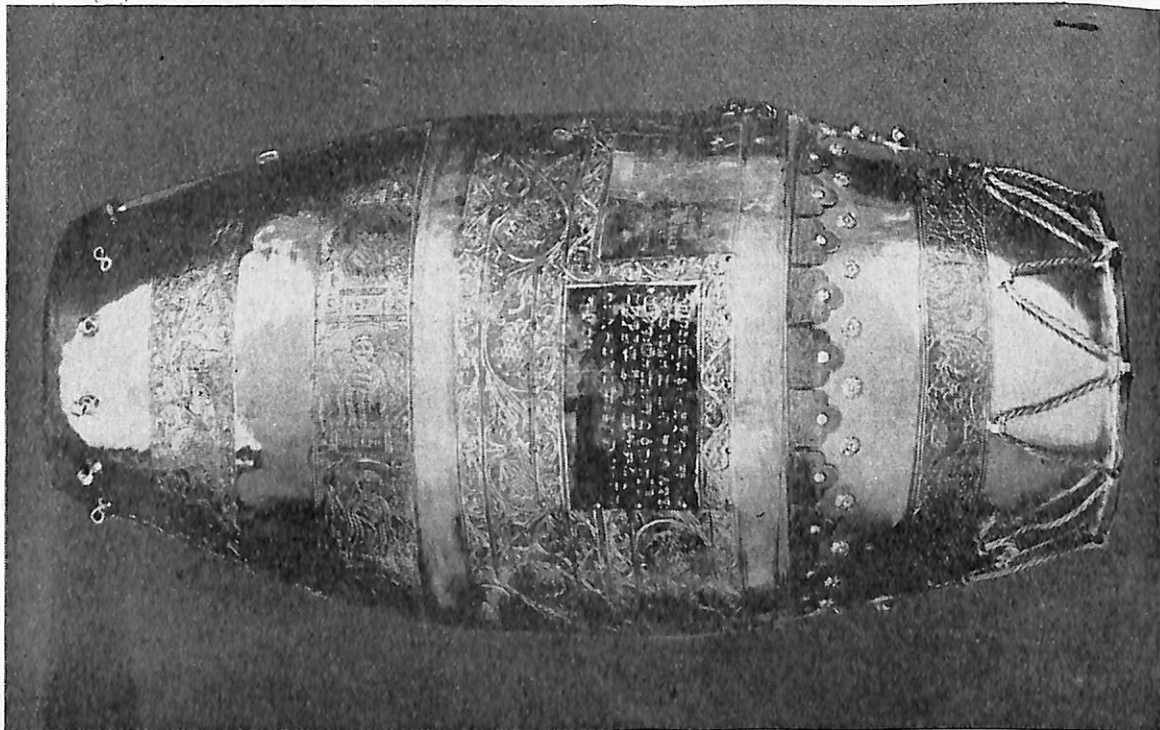
King Theodore's Throne Cloth

[Halifax Courier

KING THEODORE'S DRUM



King Theodore's Drum as divided
showing the portions allotted to (right)
3rd Dragoon Guards, (centre) 33rd Regiment
and (left) 4th Regiment (King's Own)
with beneath a composite photograph of
the drum reconstructed in 1929



suffered a total loss of three officers died and two men wounded.

The 33rd formed part of the garrison of Magdala, with orders to stop all plundering. The gates of the fortress were blown up, its pieces destroyed and the huts and palace burnt to the ground. On April 18 the force abandoned the place and withdrew towards the coast. Two marches away from Magdala, when the force had crossed the Bashilo River, a grand review was held, after which Gen. Napier held an auction of all the loot which had been collected centrally. The money thus raised was distributed equitably among the troops.

Capt. Sandys Wason, of the 33rd, acquired King Theodore's throne cloth, a truly rich and splendid trophy some 10 feet long and 6 feet wide. It is worked in gold thread on blue and scarlet velvet and is of considerable weight. Originally it was encrusted with jewels, but these had been wrenched off before its acquisition by Capt. Wason. This officer also obtained King Theodore's white charger, but no one knows its later history. On his return to England Capt. Wason had a magnificent glass-fronted oak cabinet made to house the throne cloth, which, suitably inscribed, he presented to his uncle, Rigby Wason, M.P., of Corwar.

The complete trophy now comes to the Regiment as the gift of another Rigby Wason, the grandson of the original owner.

Our gratitude to Mr. Rigby Wason is enhanced by the knowledge that, besides obtaining a relic of the utmost historical and sentimental value, the Regiment is now the proud possessor of a quite unique and intrinsically very precious exhibit of which any of our national museums would be inordinately envious.

*Note by Brig. B. W. Webb-Carter,
D.S.O., O.B.E.*

As is well known, the 33rd Officers' Mess has in its possession the central part of King Theodore's state drum. This drum was divided into three portions and the two end sections were given to the 3rd Dragoon Guards and the 4th (King's Own) Regiment respectively. In 1926, when all three regiments were in Southern Command, it was possible to reassemble King Theodore's drum and a photograph was taken of it and is now hung in the Officers' Mess of the 1st Battalion.

No serving officers will now remember King Theodore's glass which used to stand on his drum on 33rd guest nights. It was last seen intact at Gibraltar in 1923 and on the unpacking of the Mess property at Gosport in 1924, after the return of the 33rd from Constantinople, the then P.M.C. (who shall be nameless) insisted on personally unpacking the famous glass. This he did with such success that it was shattered to a thousand pieces.

Location of Officers as at January 1, 1950

LIEUTENANT-COLONELS		CAPTAINS	
F. R. Armitage, O.B.E.	.. War Office.	L. F. Kershaw ..	.. 4th Bn., Nigeria Regt., R.W.A.F.F.
C. R. T. Cumberlege	.. Comd. 1st Bn.	D. M. Harris ..	.. 1st Bn.
J. H. Dalrymple	.. S.O.I. (P.T.), H.Q. A.A. Command.	D. S. D. Jones-Stamp	.. Student Staff College, Camberley.
		A. C. S. Savory ..	.. Adjt., Regt. H.Q. and Depot.
		P. B. Hall ..	.. S.C.(A.), War Office.
		A. D. Firth, M.B.E.	.. S.C.(Q.), War Office.
		R. H. Ince ..	.. 1st Bn.
		D. N. Simonds	.. ?
		A. B. M. Kavanagh, M.C.	.. ?
		J. E. V. Butterfield	.. 1 R.N.F., Gibraltar.
		D. C. Roberts	.. Adjt., 1st Bn.
		R. V. Cartwright	.. G.III, War Office (M.T.).
		H. S. Le Messurier	.. Staff Capt., (A/Q.) Bermuda.
		R. W. Hatch ..	.. W.S./Major, B.M., H.Q. 23 Inf. Bde. F.A.R.E.L.F.
		J. S. Milligan	.. A.L.O., M.E.L.F.
		A. F. Mitchell	.. ?
		R. W. Nicholson	.. Ministry of Supply, Pendine.
		E. J. P. Emmett	.. 1st Bn.
		B. M. Kilner ?
		G. C. Tedd ..	.. G.III, H.Q. Northern Command.
		R. Scott-Evans	.. 1 W. Yorks Regt., B.A.O.R.
		S. G. Dunn ..	.. 1st Bn.
		J. L. Streatfield, M.C.	.. Adjt., 7th Bn., D.W.R. (T.A.)
		K. W. Brown	.. R.A.F., Netheravon.
			LIEUTENANTS
		H. S. Sampson	.. ?
		D. E. Isles ..	.. T/Capt., G.III, H.Q. North Midland Dist.
		D. H. Wood ..	.. 1 Green Howards, F.A.R.E.L.F.
		W. F. C. Robertson	.. 1st Bn.
		J. A. D. Miller	.. 1st Bn.
			2ND LIEUTENANTS
		E. M. P. Hardy	.. 1st Bn.
		A. M. Dillon ..	.. 1st Bn.
		M. J. Reddington	.. 1st Bn.
		D. W. Shuttleworth	.. 1st Bn.
		J. D. P. Cowell	.. 1st Bn.
		R. M. Harms	.. 1st Bn.
			QUARTERMASTERS
		W. E. Brenchley	.. Major, Regt. H.Q. and Depot.
		F. Allsop ..	.. Major, 7th Bn., D.W.R. (T.A.).
		N. Jackson ..	.. Lt., 1st Bn.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE, WESTMINSTER

BY GEORGE FINDING

The Empire Field of Remembrance at St. Margaret's, Westminster, rededicated on Thursday, November 3, 1949, had again been well planned by the officials of the British Legion, and on the Sunday, Remembrance Day, it presented a very striking picture. The bright sunshine of the day did justice to the evident increased efforts of the many regiments and Services to pay fitting tribute on this occasion.

The Duke's plot was again the object of much admiration. Wreath crosses, suitably inscribed, representing all units of the Regiment, with the badge cross from the Colonel of the Regiment, were planted the previous day by Mr. C. V. D. Kirkham, Chairman of the London and Home Counties Social Club, assisted by Mr. H. Butterworth, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Wood and Mr. G. Finding. A wreath cross representing the London Club was also planted, together with many individual small crosses.

As in past years, old "Dukes" forgathered at the plot in advance of the service at 11 a.m. Among those present were the following: Messrs. S. Ambler, E. H. Briscoe, A. E. Burton, H. Butterworth, C. Cakebread, J. Cunningham, J. Dodman (Bandsman, 2nd Battalion), H. T. Green, G.



Sergeant J. T. Kennedy, one of the Regiment's Chelsea Pensioners, planting the Colonel of the Regiment's Wreath Cross

Finding, J. Hartwell, B. Hearsom, A. R. Humphries (Bandsman, 2nd Battalion), C. V. D. Kirkham, J. Richards, R. Temple, J. Wood and C. E. Yeo and Sgt. J. T. Kennedy (Chelsea Hospital).



Members of the London and Home Counties Social Club at the Duke's Plot, Field of Remembrance

A NIGHT OF MEMORIES

BY CAPT. R. MAURICE HILL

November 5, 1949—at any rate, so far as London was concerned—was one of the rainiest nights imaginable. A steady downpour for hours on end must have caused great disappointment to those who planned to light the bonfires which annually commemorate Guy Fawkes, the York ex-Serviceman who has been called “the only man who ever went to Parliament with really good intentions.”

Held up in a traffic jam near the statue of Wellington at Hyde Park Corner, as I saw the rain-drops falling from the “Iron Duke’s” cocked hat and running in rivulets down the carved mane of his charger, I remembered that, according to the history books, it rained heavily on the eve of Waterloo, and of Quatre Bras as well, so that Wellington, silhouetted against the gloomy sky, must have looked in real life very much as his statue does tonight. Then I found myself wondering what the “Iron Duke” would have thought of the errand on which a former member of his old Regiment was abroad this stormy night. I am sure it would have surprised him considerably to hear of such a function as the British Legion Armistice Festival of Remembrance, where war veterans of every rank and of all arms of the Service mingle freely. He would have understood the spirit of commemoration all right, for his Waterloo dinner at Apsley House was always a red letter day in his calendar, but one feels that he would gaze with astonishment at an organisation in which retired admirals, generals and air marshals rub shoulders in cheerful equality with ex-ratings, other ranks and “erks.”

Arrived at the Albert Hall one joins the queue and, listening to the voices around, it soon becomes apparent that tonight’s audience is drawn from a wide field. Every dialect in Britain seems to be spoken here. One cannot help overhearing snatches of conversation from those near by, and I was rather amused by one bit I overheard: “He said he was senior to me; he had 12 years in,” a man was informing his neighbour, “but I told him we knew all about him having 12 years in—six years in the guard room and six years in the detention barracks.”

The doors open and the crowd files in, not with the selfish mad rush one so often sees nowadays, but in a quiet, orderly manner, as befits men and women trained in the discipline of His Majesty’s Forces. In spite of the awful weather, the hall is filling rapidly and soon there is not a vacant seat to be seen in the house. The Royal party arrives. His Majesty the King is in a dark lounge suit, wearing the medals of the two wars, with his British Legion badge and his poppy in his buttonhole; in other words, he is dressed just like the majority of ex-Service men who are here tonight, and what could be more fitting? For His Majesty is an ex-Service man; too. He earned that title in many

ways, not least on the day when he fought in the Battle of Jutland as a midshipman, R.N., in charge of one of the gun turrets of H.M.S. *Collingwood*.

Now all is set for the great occasion. The massed bands of the Brigade of Guards are in position, a solid bank of scarlet, with the lights flashing on their gleaming instruments. A stirring fanfare from the trumpets of the Household Cavalry opens the proceedings and a single standard bearer, a British Legion member in the “rig of the day” (plain clothes with medals), carrying the Union Jack, enters the arena and marches smartly to his allotted station. He is followed by 210 other standard bearers, each one bearing an area or branch standard of the British Legion; and, to me, this was one of the finest moments in the whole evening, for not one of those standard bearers ever put a foot wrong, and they kept their distance and the step to perfection, though some of them wore the medals for the Boer War, 1899-1902, and must, therefore, be at least 70 years of age. The standards are massed in position, making a wonderful blaze of colour: the red, white and blue of the Union Jack, and the blue and gold of the British Legion.

The representatives of the fighting forces enter, and one breathes a sigh of relief to see that the Army’s representatives wear peaked caps (well over the nose in true Guardsman’s fashion) and not that modern monstrosity, the beret, which puts the soldier at such a big disadvantage by comparison with the other two Services on ceremonial occasions. They are followed by the Women’s Services, and I am glad to see that the W.R.A.C. (late A.T.S.) are just a shade better marchers than the rest. They are followed by the Nursing Services. Then comes another representative detachment, whose officers wear uniforms, but whose men are in civvies, the men of the Merchant Navy, who got (and deserved) a tremendous welcome, for everyone in the audience knows how much our country owes to this most modest and unassuming Service, “unarmoured save in valiant hearts and strong in naught save soul,” who ran so many risks to feed us all through the war years, in which they had (proportionately to numbers) the heaviest death roll of all.

The last of the representative detachments is composed of Pensioners from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in their long red coats and three-cornered hats. On their breasts glitter medals earned in wars of many years ago: Punjab Frontier, 1897; Khartoum, 1898; South Africa, 1899-1902. All these are represented here tonight among the more elderly Pensioners, and quite a few wear the bronze star with crossed swords and the accompanying clasp which shows the wearer to have been one of that “little, mighty force which stood for England” in the early days of World War I. As they march

into the arena, still with a grand soldierly air, despite the weight of years, they are greeted with well-deserved applause.

Next we are given a preview of the new types of ceremonial and walking out dress which have been approved for the Queen's Royal Army Nursing Corps and the Women's Royal Army Corps. I will not attempt to describe them in detail, but I will admit that I like them. I am glad the nurses are keeping to their time-honoured scarlet and grey. In those distant days before August, 1914, I remember that the Queen's Westminster Rifles used to wear grey with scarlet facings, which some of their more aesthetic members used to call "lavender and poppy." I wonder if there are any old Queen's Westminsters present tonight who were lining the streets at Erquinghem on a cold November day almost exactly 34 years ago, when that beloved leader, Lord Roberts, made his last inspection.

A display of "The Royal Air Force at Leisure" shows how almost every conceivable sport is catered for in the modern R.A.F., even such things as ski-ing and ice hockey, of which the "old sweat" never dreamed.

The Army's display includes piping and dancing by the 1st Battalion Scots Guards. I notice that most of the pipers have campaign stars or medals and I wonder if they play the Scots Guards into action as their predecessors did in days gone by. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Scots Guards had, between them, seven pipers killed and 17 wounded in the *first year* of the "Kaiser's War."

When the Scots Guards pipers in their kilts of red Royal Stuart tartan withdraw they are followed by other pipers in dark green doublets and saffron yellow kilts, with plumes of the bright blue colour of St. Patrick himself in their dark green head-dress; these are the pipers of the Irish Guards and the London Irish Rifles. At their head comes the drum-major of the Irish Guards in all the glory of scarlet and gold, topped with black bearskin. Behind them come the drummers of the London Irish and buglers of the Royal Ulster Rifles in dark green, and Irish Guards drummers in scarlet, white and blue. The blending of the colours as they march and counter-march before the sounding of Retreat made a magnificent spectacle.

The Royal Navy's turn tonight consists of a display by the massed bands of the Royal Marines, and when they put on a show it is almost superfluous to say that it is absolutely first class. What a fine corps they are, the "Joeys." As I watch them marching into the arena tonight I recall some verses written by a grand old Marine veteran, Col. W. P. Drury, C.B.E., a stalwart British Legion member who left us only a few months ago:

" For their drums two hundred years and more have
thundered on the quay
At the grand old Regiment marching by detach-
ments to the sea:
Ocean soldiers who have hammered long to forge
the golden chain
Of victories that links us to the Merrie Monarch's
reign."

Now the bands are halted and the drummers are

giving us a perfectly timed display, their sticks rising and falling like one. As I watch them I remember a story about one of these Marine drummers in World War I. It was blowing a gale in the Channel. H.M.S. *Formidable* had been torpedoed and was sinking. An older comrade suggested to Drm. S. C. Reed, "Hang on to your drum; it will help you to keep afloat in the heavy seas." Drm. Reed (who was only 16 years of age) agreed, but a few minutes later, seen without his drum, he explained that he had lent it to a Bluejacket boy who had nothing to help him keep afloat and that he himself "would manage somehow." He did not feel nervous. He went down with the ship and is one of the heroes we are commemorating tonight.

As a Yorkshireman I feel rather proud of the fact that the officer in charge of the massed bands tonight is a former Bandmaster of the Green Howards. Probably few people in the Royal Albert Hall tonight are aware that, at Shanghai more than 20 years ago, long before he became a Marine himself, when serving with the Green Howards in the International Force, he trained the first drum and fife band to be organised in modern times in the United States Marine Corps.

Next comes the community singing. Of the songs included in the programme there is only one ("Keep the Home Fires Burning") which can really be classified as one of the popular marching songs of World War I, and we can accept "Roll Out the Barrel" as having had a run of popularity with the troops in World War II, but the general comment on the inclusion of "Bless This House," for instance, is that it recalls memories of the Kentucky Minstrels rather than of the Services. In any case, though shown in the programme, it is not sung, nor is "All Through the Night," the representative item for Wales, which certainly has a pretty strong claim to inclusion, for was their ever a Welsh regiment whose men did not lift their voices in this or in "Cwm Rhondda"?

At length we reach the more solemn part of the evening, a Service of Remembrance led by the Dean and choir of Chichester Cathedral. A deeply moving service, in which the crowd joins with earnest reverence. The Last Post rings out, that beautiful call which marks the end of the soldier's day. This alone of all the Army's many bugle and trumpet calls has no popular words fitted to it. Somehow it has a beauty which appeals to the innate good taste of even the unlikeliest people, so that even rough types who show little or no reverence for anything will be surprisingly quiet and respectful when Last Post sounds. Tradition says that Haydn composed the original trumpet and bugle calls of the British Army. If he did, Last Post deserves to be recorded as one of his greatest successes.

And now, as the last echoes die away, comes the Act of Remembrance, which is the keystone of the whole ceremony. Clearly and plainly, with deep sympathy and feeling, the voice of Sir Ian Fraser, C.B.E., M.P., blinded soldier of World War I, rings out through the hushed assembly: "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn:

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them."

The great audience, obviously stirred, repeats after him, "We will remember them." Every one of us has his or her own memories. Some of us whose memories range back to World War I are thinking of youngsters who would, had they survived, now have been middle-aged men; those lads of whom Alfred Noyes so truly said:

"They never knew the secret game of power.
All that this earth can give they thrust aside.
They crowded all their youth into an hour,
And, for one fleeting dream of right, they died."

I have often wondered to what extent the troubles our nation has known in these past three decades have been aggravated by the loss of the young men who made the supreme sacrifice before they were old enough to rise to positions of leadership and authority in the public life of their country.

Once more the trumpets ring out the Reveille, and then comes the Silence and the falling of the poppies. As they float gently down, like scarlet snowflakes, we think of the lost lives they represent and I feel sure that most of us in our hearts are praying that our country may be spared the cruel ordeal of another war, with its attendant drain on the best and bravest of our young men.

The singing of the final hymn and the National Anthem brings the evening to a close. The Royal party leaves amid demonstrations of loyalty and the crowds pour out into the rain-swept street. A few minutes ago the medals on their breasts reminded you that these men were "Old Contemptibles," Kitchener's Army, Allenby's Crusaders, Wingate's Chindits, "Monty's Greyhounds," airborne men who fought at Arnhem, air crews who had dared death regularly over occupied Europe on nights when the sky was swept by searchlight beams and flak was flying in all directions, sailormen who defied dive bombers and dodged submarines, soldiers who had fought from Normandy beaches to Berlin or on other battlefields the wide world over. Now their medals are hidden by their greatcoats and they are just an ordinary crowd of typical British citizens, of many trades and professions, drawn from all ranks of society.

Why were they here tonight? Because they believe, as members of the British Legion, that we should try in peace to serve our country as faithfully

as did our pals who died for it in war. If we could only get the Legion's motto of "Service, Not Self" lived up to by everybody, how much better life would be, and how far should we be travelling along the way back to happiness and prosperity.

Was our attendance here any good? Yes, most emphatically, for I do not think any right-minded person could fail to draw some inspiration from such an evening as this, or could fail to find the fires of idealism (so apt to burn low in these days of greed and grab) rekindled.

In a world where, instead of drawing closer together, men seem to be erecting barriers to keep themselves apart, the British Legion is one of the few organisations which not only believes that "a man's a man for a' that," but which lives up to its creed, without either snobbery or its twin brother, class hatred. I think it is a good example of the true British Legion spirit that I, an Englishman who served in English regiments, should have had the honour of being one of Wales's representatives at this year's Armistice Festival of Remembrance. Fate may move you far from your native place, but if you are an ex-Service man you need never be a lonely exile. You will always find friends to welcome you in the nearest British Legion branch, no matter where you go.

Is the British Legion still needed? Yes, for every year we get older, and the older men get, the more likely are they to need a helping hand. Already the youngest "A4" boys of 1918 are nearing their fiftieth birthday. The average age of the B.E.F. at Mons has been estimated at twenty-seven so, that practically all 1914 Star men are now over sixty. The day will come when the young men of World War II will also grow "shorter in wind as in memory long." Meanwhile, let all of us, whether World War veterans or post-war Service men, rally round the blue and gold standard of the British Legion and help to keep our country as those who died for it would wish it to be, for, in the words of an Australian ex-soldier poet (C. R. Collins), we who are left:

All battle scarred and weary, we tread the roads
of Time,

The ever-dwindling rearguard of an Army Corps
sublime.

Oh! the weary tramping rearguard in the
thickest of the dust

Must plod along and do the thousand things a
rearguard must:

Hump the weakling's pack and set the straggler
on his feet,

Ginger up the faltering ones, renew the faint
heart's beat;

Make the grumbler smile again, and spread the
way with song;

The thousand unobtrusive jobs that earn a bloke
no gong.

Yes, there is need for every ex-Service man to join the great brotherhood which has done so much good work, supporting its future efforts so that:

God grant that we'll be fit, when all the final
rolls are checked,

To give the honest answer, "All present—and
correct!"

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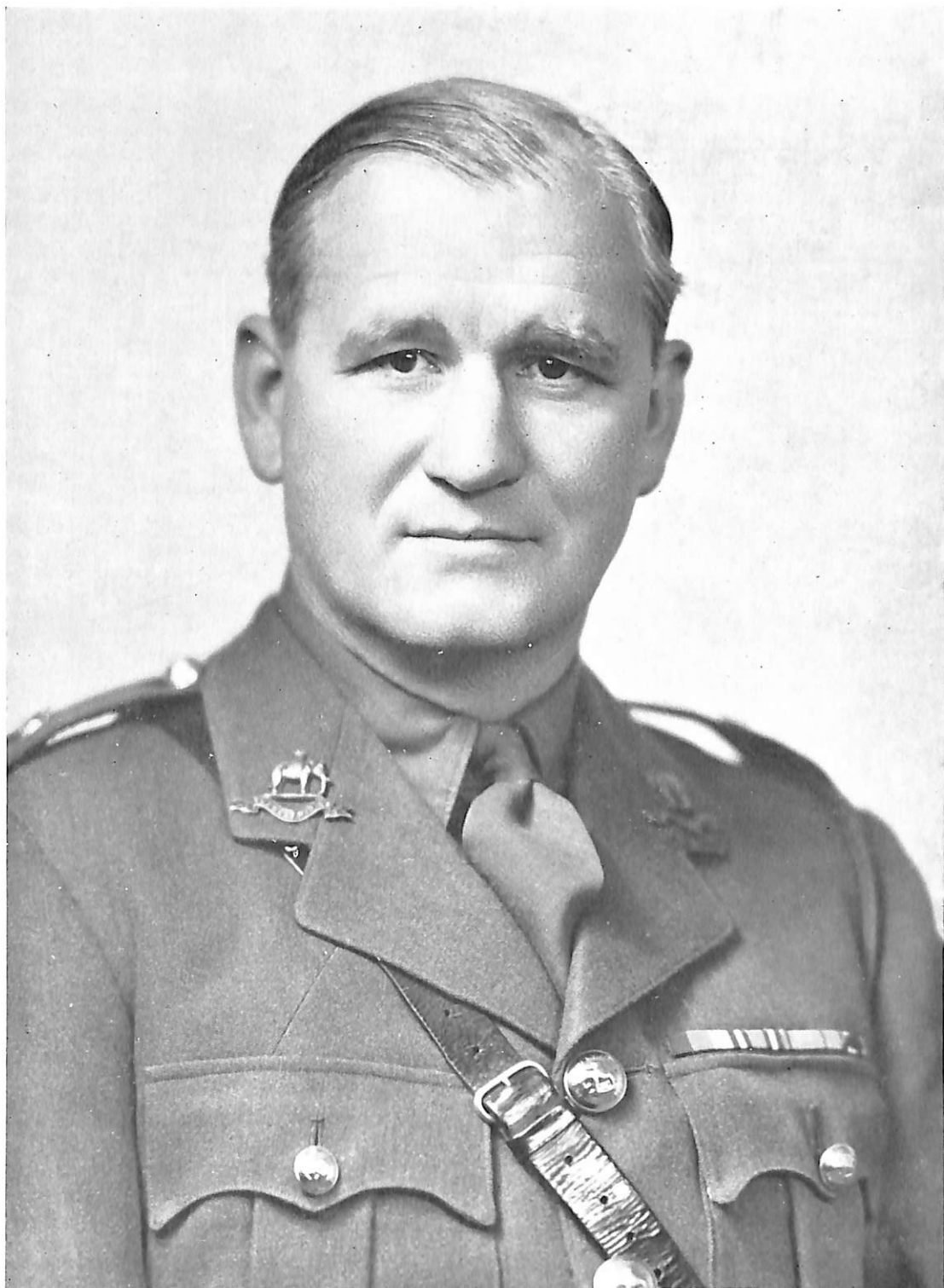
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Lt.-Col. J. H. Dalrymple

[Navana-Vandyk

PERSONALIA

Our heartiest congratulations to the following officers on their promotions:

Brig. K. G. Exham, D.S.O., to Substantive Brigadier (March, 1949). He is the first officer of the Regiment to be promoted to this new substantive rank.

Brig. B. W. Webb-Carter, D.S.O., O.B.E., to Substantive Colonel (October, 1949).

Lt.-Col. J. H. Dalrymple to Substantive Lieutenant-Colonel (October, 1949).

* * * *

Brig. J. C. Burnett's address is now:
Whincroft Hotel,
Ferndown,
Dorset.

* * * *

Another change of address to be recorded is that of Lt.-Col. D. Paton, who now lives at:
"Rosebank,"

Stoford,
Nr. Salisbury.

* * * *

Majors G. Laing, M.B.E., and D. M. Harris have both arrived in England on leaving the B.M.M., Greece. Both are posted to the Y. and N. Training Brigade at Strensall, though rumour has it that the former will shortly be proceeding to B.A.O.R. to join the 1st Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment.

* * * *

A very old friend of the Regiment in the person of Canon P. E. James, Vicar of Halifax, has recently left Halifax and retired to New Zealand. His departure is a serious loss, not only to the Regiment, but to the town of Halifax, where he had endeared himself to all by his innate goodness, sincerity and charm. He was tremendously interested in the project for having a Regimental Chapel in Halifax Parish Church, and it is sad to think that now this project is approaching fruition we are deprived of his friendship and help. His address is: 7 Rangiuru Street, Rotorua, New Zealand.

* * * *

Mr. J. C. Thomas, 5 Bar Terrace, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancs, is most anxious to get in touch with Mr. Stanley Beardnall. Will any reader who can assist by giving Mr. Beardnall's address either let Mr. Thomas know direct or via the Editor.

* * * *

The 10th Battalion (1914-18) O.C.A. annual reunion dinner was held at the Emporium Café at Bradford on October 29, 1949. The Association decided this year that, in order to keep memories green at each annual gathering, a selected member of the company should give a portion of the Battalion's history. This first year ex-C.Q.M.S. F. Stephenson was chosen to start the ball rolling. The recital was greeted with rapturous applause, and it struck us that it would be a good idea to publish it more generally. We therefore asked Mr.

Stephenson for his manuscript, which he kindly placed at our disposal with the proviso that we should state clearly that it was written from memory. Duly edited and slightly expurgated (!) it appears on another page of this issue.

Engagement

MACNAIR—TRENCH.—The engagement is announced between Capt. Richard Hugh Derek Macnair, R.A., son of Brig. and the Hon. Mrs. J. L. P. Macnair, of Ruckinge House, near Ashford, Kent, and Elizabeth le Poer, elder daughter of Lt.-Col. M. V. le P. Trench, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and Mrs. Trench, of Llwynycelyn, Machynlleth.

Births

SUGDEN—On June 24, 1949, at Huddersfield, to Helen, wife of Major J. B. Sugden, T.D., R.A., 578 (Mob) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (5th Duke of Wellingtons), T.A.—a son (William Andrew).

SCHOFIELD—On October 16, 1949, at Andrew Laing Maternity Hospital, Wallsend, to Heather, wife of Lt. J. Schofield, R.A.R.O., late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—a son (Nigel Geoffrey).

Obituary

MAY—On November 24, 1949, at Rockingham, Winchester, Col. George Lycett Engledene May, late XX Lancashire Fusiliers, formerly of the 76th Regiment, aged 99.

Col. May was within two months of his hundredth birthday. Born on January 16, 1850, Col. May became an Ensign in the 76th Regiment in 1868. He was promoted Lieutenant in 1871. In 1897 he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel to command the 1st Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers. In 1901 he was promoted Colonel, retiring in the following year.

The funeral took place privately at Sparsholt, Brig. F. H. Fraser, D.S.O., M.C., representing the Regiment.

BOYES—On October 11, 1949, at Keighley, Yorks, Mr. William Boyes, late the 1/6th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, aged 87.

Mr. Boyes was a native of Battersea and came to Keighley at the age of 18. From 1894-1912 he was sub-postmaster and postman at Cross Roads.

He served for many years in the 3rd Volunteer Battalion, and from 1908 in the 1/6th Battalion of the Regiment. During the 1914-18 war he was in the 2/6th Battalion and rose to be Colour-Sergeant in "G" Company.

BROWN—On November 15, 1949, at Wibsey, ex-R.S.M. Albert Henry Brown, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, aged 70.

R.S.M. Brown served throughout the South African War and volunteered again in 1914, joining the 6th Battalion of the Regiment at Bingley. After being badly gassed in France in 1916 he was invalided back to this country, becoming an instructor to Volunteers with the rank of R.S.M.

From 1925-47 he was a messenger at the National Provincial Bank at Bradford, having to retire in the latter year on account of failing health. He had spent his last six months in hospital.

BREWER—On October 31, 1949, at Acton Green, London, W.4, Mr. James Brewer, ex-C.Q.M.S., The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, aged 70. Mr. George Finding writes:

"Jim Brewer joined the Regiment on October 15, 1897, only a few weeks after myself. He served in India, Burma and South Africa and received the King's and Queen's Medals with four bars. After the 2nd Battalion's return to England, he was posted to the Regimental Depot at Halifax, where he served until taking his discharge in 1909. He served with Section "D" from 1910 until 1914.

"Joining the Regiment again upon the outbreak of war in 1914, he was posted to the 7th Battalion and served in France until 1917, when he was invalided home. On regaining his health he continued his employment with the Postal Service, being transferred from his home at Sowerby Bridge to London. He completed 28 years, for which he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal for meritorious service in 1941.

"In civil life, as in the Service, Jim had to be doing something. His unbounded energy had to have an outlet. Whilst in the Army he could find this in sport, Rugby in particular. In civil life he took to public voluntary work. He was Secretary of the Hospitals Savings Association, member of the Finance Committee of the Chiswick branch of the British Legion, Chairman and Secretary of the local branch of the Post Office Workers' Union, and was also on the local Executive Council of the Conservative Party.

"On the occasion of his first and only effort to get on the local Borough Council he was defeated by only five votes. He always said it was due to his supporters being so cocksure of his being elected that, being a wet day, they let the other man do the voting."

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REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The Regimental Museum of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment came into existence after the first World War, and the earliest catalogue available—that of 1924—shows that it was generously furnished with material by donors who did not hesitate to part with personal treasures. The Museum was housed at first in one of the Depot barrack rooms, but subsequently, about 1937, a special building was put up in which the collection has since been displayed with only one break in continuity. A photograph in THE IRON DUKE of October, 1940, shows a well cared for display and a great variety of specimens.

About two years ago all the exhibits were lent to the civil authorities of Halifax at a time when it seemed possible that the Highroad Well Barracks might cease to be the home of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. This danger passing, the Museum returned in November, 1949, to the keeping of the Regimental Depot. A new Museum Committee has been formed and the work of re-constitution is in hand.

The quickening of public interest in military museums has led to a change in the attitude of visitors which must be noted and respected by curators. It is no longer sufficient to let exhibits speak for themselves and leave it to the student to deduce their associations and value. Nor can originality, antiquity and uniqueness alone be the factor by which exhibits make their appeal. The intelligent and instructed visitor demands "why" and "for what"; he inquires into associations, links and background. Consequently museums must tell a story, and in common with all good stories the human side must weigh heavily. There must be names, birthplaces and links of every kind to enable the visitor to illuminate the past from his own comparable experience. These considerations are in the mind of the Museum Committee, who greet in all humility the opportunity for practice and experiment.

The Committee's task has been made easier in several ways. There is a clear directive from the Colonel of the Regiment who has laid down that the Museum shall have as its primary object that of appealing to and stimulating the imagination of the officer or soldier who is studying the history of his Regiment. To fulfil this object and to aid research, exhibits are to be grouped in sections, each section covering a specific historical period and illustrating the contemporary life of the Regiment. The Museum will thus take its place as one of the sources from which Regimental *esprit de corps* and tradition can be nourished, and with the Mess Libraries and the Records will be available at the Regimental Depot for the use of the student.

Again, the Colonel of the Regiment has made a most generous money grant towards Museum expenses. The Museum has been given more than double the floor space which it originally occupied, and the Committee have also been fortunate in receiving the advice of Mr. L. E. Buckell, the eminent authority on military history, who is a member of the War Office Military Museums

Co-ordinating Committee and Convener of the Museums Committee of the Society for Army Historical Research, and who has done so much to assist in the reconstitution of Regimental Museums since the war ended. The Committee welcome this opportunity of recording their gratitude to Mr. Buckell, whose valued counsel was made available to them without stint.

Since Mr. Buckell's visit, the Curator, Pte. Peach, M.M., The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, has sorted and docketed the exhibits and has done a great deal of preliminary spade work. The Committee hope to be "At Home" to visitors early in the New Year.

D.J.S.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Birch House,
Berry Brow,
Huddersfield.
December 3, 1949.

Dear Sir,

I hope you will not mind me pointing out an error in the last issue of THE IRON DUKE. The photo of the guard of honour on page 172 refers to it as the guard of the 7th Battalion. In fact, it was a composite guard from 538 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A., 578 (Mob.) H.A.A. Regiment (5th D.W.R.), R.A., and the 7th Battalion. As the 5th Duke's have always been the Duke's Battalion in Huddersfield and have fought hard to retain the name in our Regimental title, we do not want to appear to have dropped out.

Yours sincerely,
J. B. SUGDEN, Major.

[We apologise profusely, but in our defence point out that H.R.H. is actually inspecting part of the 7th Battalion contingent in the photograph.—Ed.]

4 Old Deer Park Gardens,
Richmond,
Surrey.
November 4, 1949.

Dear Sir,

I thought you may care to know that on behalf of the 1st Battalion I propose to lay a wreath of remembrance at the memorial to the Duke, opposite Apsley House, Hyde Park Corner, tomorrow morning.

As I was an *attached* non-active service member of the Regiment, it may prove my profound respect for the men I served with in Palestine.

I remain,
Yours respectfully,
L. LAMBERT-STOCK,
EX-14848884 A/Sgt.,
R.E.

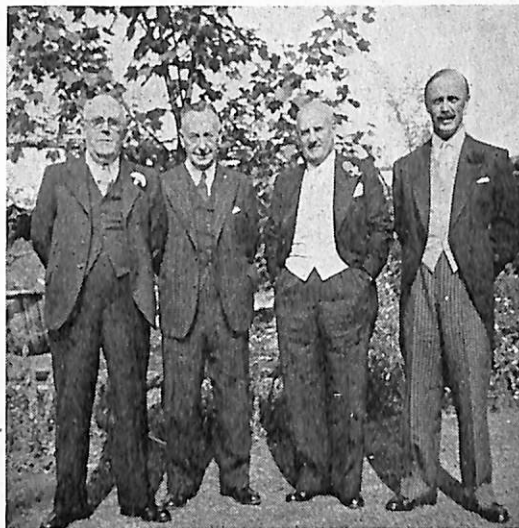
"Wetherby,"
13 New House Park,
St. Albans,
Herts.

November 22, 1949.

Dear Sir,

I see by your notes—THE IRON DUKE No. 74—that copy for the next issue is to be forwarded by December, 1949.

The following photograph may be of interest.



The photograph is of George W. Hanna, M.M., "Chips," Duke's, 1895-1921; his brother John W. Hanna, Duke's, 1899-1920; "Chips's" son Robert G. Hanna, Duke's, 1939-1946; and myself, "Jock" Huffam.

The occasion was the jolly wedding at Hillingdon, Middlesex, on September 17, 1949, of "Chips's" daughter, Brenda Elizabeth, to Mr. Pat Hall, of Highgate.

Very much a Duke's occasion, although the bridegroom is ex-R.A.F.

Bob Hanna is about to proceed in January, 1950, to Sydney, Australia, to be his London firm's representative there. His wife and two daughters will join him in Sydney later.

I am,

Yours sincerely,
"JOCK" HUFFAM.

Full information concerning the formation of Branches of the Association can be obtained from the Secretary, Old Comrades and Regimental Associations, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, at The Barracks, Halifax

HOT WORK ON SALISBURY PLAIN

"Had they ever been on manoeuvres on Salisbury Plain on a really hot day?" asked "Clo-ey" of those perfect little gentlemen in his excellent article, "Ne'er-do-wells," in last July's IRON DUKE. Maybe when he asked that question he was thinking of the 2nd Battalion doing field firing near Larkhill in the hot summer of 1911. It certainly was hot. One hundred degrees in the shade, they said it was, but there was no shade where we were. That was only to be found in some wooded spots near Beach's Barn.

Anyway, they had us out early that morning and we marched to Bulford, where we crossed the Avon, by which time it was getting hot enough for the wasps to take an intelligent interest in the water bottle of a certain red-haired Irish sergeant of "D" Company. Soon after this we launched our attack, firing at lines of iron plates, while the R.F.A. with their 18-pounders provided covering fire. It was not one of those nice brief attacks. It just went on and on, attacking one line of plates after another, and the weather got hotter and hotter, and so did a certain general, who was seen doubling after one of our subalterns, telling him exactly where he got off. That subaltern is now a retired colonel full of honours and decorations. As evidence of the heat, it is sufficient to say that the cheese in the writer's haversack was completely liquid.

Eventually the long-awaited "Cease fire" went and we began to form up, only to find that there were many absentees, just clean bowled over and knocked out by the heat, and that in a Battalion in which the men never fell out. We had to send out our G.S. wagons to collect them and bring them down to our rendezvous under the trees in the water meadows on the banks of the Avon. Here we all bathed and had tea, which put everybody in good heart once more. This, however, was not the end, for later on we were to cross the river by a trestle bridge built after dark by "E" Company, the bridging fans of the Battalion, do a night march and an attack at dawn.

Nobody got a ducking that night; the Battalion and its first line transport, including the cooks—generally called "Sgt. Hannah's aeroplanes" after the cook sergeant—crossed quite safely. The transport was in the tender care of "Dicky" De Wend, Sgt. Absalom, "Darky" Woodcock and Co., if I remember rightly.

By this time all the Battalion had recovered, with the exception of one man, Drm. Hopkins, who, much to his indignation and annoyance, was ordered by the M.O. to go home on a wagon. He was a good man and no shirker. He was my batman in later years.

After the usual night march and attack at dawn near Silk Hill we started homewards, to be met not far from barracks by the Band, sometimes known as the "Crown Jewels" or "Koh-i-noors." It

was a very good band, but to expect a band to play for any distance over the rough, uneven turf of the Plain was asking a bit much. The rank and file, however, thought otherwise, hence the nicknames.

The 2nd Battalion was in the 7th Brigade, Tidworth, in those days and, just to show how that Brigade could march, it will be remembered by some of the old hands that Brigade training was near Wantage, 40 miles from Tidworth, in 1911, where after one morning's training, in which the Brigade had covered some 15 miles, everybody was resting or bathing during the afternoon, when about tea-time the order came through to strike camp and return to Tidworth forthwith to stand by for the railway strike. The Brigade did it all through the night, good honest-heel and toe—none of your modern lorry rides—and Brig.-Gen. Drummond footing it all the way at the head of his Brigade, while his horse was led at the rear of the column. Most of the men had under two years' service. The Brigade reached Tidworth next morning, sleepy eyed but singing, to find breakfast ready, thanks to the rear party, who had had scouts out on bicycles to give the cooks fair warning. Breakfast did not take long. All heads were soon down, and just as well, too, for they had us out just after dawn next morning and on parade without breakfast, and haversack rations being handed out, when the order came round, "Fall out for two hours; there is no engine available for the troop train as yet," and so we got our breakfast after all and later entrained for Birmingham, they told us. As a matter of fact we were sent to Wolverhampton, where, without warning the inhabitants, we marched into the town, 600 bayonets and two machine guns, which completely deflated the local trouble makers.

With regard to the Battalion's doings in Wolverhampton, have they not been recorded by "Inky" in his "Reminiscences of Forty Years" in THE IRON DUKE of August, 1948?

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