

No.82 October 1951



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
Seringsapatam
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*

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J. H. D.



A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ARMY RUGBY UNION

THE REGIMENT

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT:

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS:

1st Battalion, Chisledon Camp, Wilts.	Lt.-Col. J. H. Dalrymple
Regimental Depot, Wellesley Barracks, Halifax	Major W. Skelsey
382 Field Regiment R.A. (4th D.W.R.), The Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax	Lt.-Col. J. F. Crossley, M.B.E., T.D.
578 H.A.A. Regiment R.A. (5th D.W.R.), The Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield	Lt.-Col. J. B. Sugden, T.D.
673 L.A.A. Regiment R.A. (6th D.W.R.), The Drill Hall, Arden Road, Halifax	Lt.-Col. D. Scott, Bt.
7th Battalion, The Drill Hall, Milnsbridge, near Huddersfield.	Lt.-Col. Sir N. H. Everard, Bart.
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 and Hon. Treasurer : Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E., Wellesley Barracks, Halifax.

Editorial

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Before the next number of THE IRON DUKE appears the 1st Battalion will be in Germany. Regret for their departure from this country will be tinged with pride in their achievements. During the past few years the Battalion has distinguished itself in every form of activity, not least at Bisley, when the team again put up a splendid performance. Many members of this Regiment and others will remember with pleasure and gratitude their unflagging hospitality. To Lt.-Col. Dalrymple and all ranks we wish *bon voyage* and every success in their tour on the Continent. May it not be unduly prolonged.

* * * *

The Business Manager most earnestly requests those readers who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 1951 to do so as soon as possible. Out of 120 reminders sent out during August only 50 replies have been received. THE IRON DUKE depends almost entirely for its income on subscriptions and unless these are punctually received it cannot pay its way. Will therefore subscribers who have overlooked this small matter please apply the necessary remedy without delay.

* * * *

The following letter has been received from Sir James Adams, K.C.V.O., Hon. Appeals Secretary, King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers (Sister Agnes, founder) :

May 17, 1951

Dear Sir,

Will you allow me, through your journal, to make known the additional facilities now available

in King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, Beaumont House, Beaumont Street, W.1.

Until recently patients have as a rule made their own arrangements for the payment of their physicians and surgeons, but the Council of the hospital has now taken the important step of inviting a number of eminent London physicians and surgeons to form a consulting staff. Patients who desire to avail themselves of the service of the consulting staff will be charged fees in accordance with their means on an agreed scale. Patients may, however, still make their own arrangements with any physician or surgeon of their choice if they so desire.

Subscribers, who are entitled to special rates for nursing and maintenance, are asked to pay £1 yearly by banker's order, which can be obtained from the Hon. Appeals Secretary, Empire House, 175 Piccadilly, London, W.1, who will also be pleased to receive donations.

Yours very truly,
JAMES ADAMS.

Empire House,
175 Piccadilly,
London, W.1.

* * * *

The Officers' Pensions Society is an association of retired officers of the three Services, officers' widows and serving officers' wives, formed for the purpose of watching over the interests of officers of the Armed Forces and their dependants.

Among its activities it gives advice on pension problems, obtains legal opinion in cases of hard-

ship and represents the views of its members to Ministers and State Departments.

Its immediate aim is to increase the present disgracefully low pensions and allowances for the widows and children of officers who die under peace conditions. Among its long-term aims is one to secure an improved and *universal* scale of retired pay for all officers.

The Society now numbers many thousands and is rapidly increasing. Anyone wishing to obtain further particulars should write to the Appeals Secretary, the Officers' Pension Society, Browfield, Dagmar Road, Exmouth, Devon.

* * * *

Major J. K. Wright sends the following cutting from the *Bingley Guardian* :

"Proposing the toast of the Airedale Agricultural Society, Mr. O. B. Stokes, J.P., O.B.E., quoted an amusing story about the Duke of Wellington who, tired of London life, decided to seek the peace and quiet of the country. The vicar paid a call on the great man and asked him what he wanted the sermon to be. 'Ten minutes,' replied the Duke, briefly!"

This reply may be paralleled with one attributed to the late Bernard Shaw. When dining at a restaurant, he summoned the *chef d'orchestre* and asked him if he could play something for him. Highly flattered by this attention from so famous a musical critic, the *chef d'orchestre* said he would be only too delighted. "Then," said the great man, "can you play darts or dominoes till I've finished my dinner?"

1st BATTALION

SUB-EDITORIAL

When our last notes were written our advance party had just left for Bisley. The whole Battalion moved there at the end of June and there we remained for a month, administering the A.R.A. and N.R.A. camps, providing large parties for range duties—and shooting. The success of our shooting team has been a great source of pride to us. As described in more detail in the shooting notes, we all but swept the board at the Salisbury Plain and 6th Armoured Division Rifle Meeting in June, winning six out of seven events for which we entered teams. At Bisley we finished third in the King's Royal Rifle Cup, the inter-unit championship. This was a remarkable effort considering it was only our second year at Bisley. We offer our heartiest congratulations to all members of the shooting team, but in particular we congratulate our 2IC, Major F. R. St. P. Bunbury, D.S.O., without whose advice, encouragement and supervision our victories would never have been possible. We hope that he will still be with us next year to spur us to still greater heights.

Before we left Chisleton for Bisley we took part in the Salisbury Plain District Inter-Unit Athletics

Meeting. Considering the great difficulties we had in finding time for training, our team did extremely well in obtaining third place. 2/Lt. D. B. Stronach was the team captain and we congratulate him on both his own and the team's good performance. Unfortunately for us, 2/Lt. Stronach leaves shortly to continue his studies at Cambridge, where we wish him every success.

Life at Bisley was much less hectic than at Chisleton and because of its more central location we were able to meet many old friends. It also enabled us to renew contact with Wellington College, whither we sent the Band for a day and with whom we have arranged a rugby fixture during the forthcoming season.

Our pleasant interlude at Bisley ended on July 24. On August 1 we were on our way to Okehampton, in Devon, with the rest of our Brigade intent on a fortnight's hard training. Such, indeed, it turned out to be and no one then with the Battalion is soon likely to forget the two days and a night we spent on Dartmoor in pouring rain. The Colonel can now describe the tops of several tors in remarkable detail. On achieving the top of the highest of all, he was heard to say, "I am fitter than I thought I

was"; but who picked up this remark it is difficult to say, for, as far as we can gather, his entourage was still struggling halfway up the slope.

Never did our camp at Chisledon appear more comfortable than the night we returned from Devon. But we did not stay long, for two days after our return the majority of the Battalion was sent on 14 days' leave. This has just been concluded and we are now once again involved in a more than full training programme. By the time these notes appear in print we will have been to Norfolk for a week and will probably be involved in the "biggest ever" Army manoeuvres. After that a little more leave and then to Germany, where we expect to be settled before Christmas, and from where our next notes will be written.

OFFICERS' MESS

It can hardly be said that we have ever really got into our stride in the Mess since we arrived at Chisledon. Just as we have thought that we could see a little daylight ahead something new has always arisen to shatter any complacency.

Such an occasion occurred one night, when almost at the witching hour, O.C.s were summoned to a conference. It was a relief to hear that we were only going to Bisley. Nevertheless it meant quite an upheaval. As every available man was required at Bisley, we had to close the Mess down and place the Mess silver in safe custody with the Midland Bank. One of the Mess staff was detailed to give the bank the dimensions of the boxes we required storing. Somehow the measurements got converted from feet to inches so that when the silver arrived the bank were somewhat astonished to see 14 large packing cases. However the bank coped manfully and there the silver remained until after our return from Brigade camp at Okehampton.

Whilst at Bisley we were happy to have officers from the 1st Battalion the Border Regiment and the 1st Battalion the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers living with us. We were quite comfortable at Bisley. Thanks to the kindness of the R.A.F., the Mess was equipped with electric light and by day the sun shone brightly, except on the last Sunday when half the camp was washed away.

On July 3 we had a large cocktail party attended by many personalities in the shooting world and other local celebrities. We were also delighted to see many past and present members of the Regiment, both at the party and on other (?) occasions, and thank all those that called to see us. Amongst the latter especial mention should be made of Brigadier K. G. Exham, who took a keen interest in the shooting as well as in the other activities of the Regiment.

It was a pleasant surprise to see Brigadier Rogers, although he will not be known by many serving officers, as he transferred from the Regiment to the R.A.O.C. as a subaltern in about 1928. Amongst the competitors at Bisley we saw Lt.-Col. M. N. Cox and Majors M. E. Crane and C. K. T. Faithful taking on the best the Empire could produce. Other visitors who we were delighted to see included Brigadiers C. W. G. Grimley and H. G. Miles, Cols. Ince and F. R. Armitage, Lt.-Col.

C. R. Hetley and Majors H. R. and A. B. Kavanagh, J. E. Lennon and A. E. Miller (father of "Dusty"). An old friend from Portsmouth days that we welcomed to the party on July 3 was Major-Gen. Leach Porter of the Royal Marines. We asked Dudley Nourse, the captain of the South African cricket team to attend, but he was unfortunately too heavily engaged playing cricket.

We held Regimental Guest Nights on July 5 and 17. On the first occasion the guests included Major-Gen. W. A. Dimoline (Commander, Alder-shot District), Brigadiers E. E. E. Cass (Secretary of the National Rifle Association), K. G. Exham and C. W. G. Grimley, Col. F. R. Armitage and Lt.-Col. M. N. Cox.

On the second occasion we had the honour of dining the headmaster of Wellington College, Mr. House, and Mr. Parkes, an assistant Master. We thus had a chance of cementing our always good relations with Wellington. Mr. Parkes, it may be remembered, served with the 6th Battalion during the war. We were lucky to find Major Terence Carroll visiting the south and to be able to include him amongst our guests for dinner.

From Bisley the Mess rear party only arrived back just in time to go straight on down to Okehampton on Dartmoor. There, partly due to restricted accommodation and partly to restricted transport facilities, we had to live rather "harder" and it was not made any softer by incessant rain. We know now what it means to live in the clouds. However, we had one small informal guest night at which we entertained our Brigade Commander, Brigadier F. C. C. Graham, together with his Brigadier Major, Major John Strawson and his D.A.A. and Q.M.G., Major Hargroves, also Lt.-Gen. Sir R. A. Savory and Lt.-Col. "Tuppence" Harvey.

Just before going to Okehampton the C.O., Derek Harris and Tony Savory went to cocktails and supper with the 382nd Field Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A., who were in camp at Windmill Hill near Tidworth. It was great fun seeing friends from Yorkshire so unexpectedly again.

During the leave period in August we were very sorry to miss a visit from Major Harker Taylor who called on the Mess in Chisledon. We hope that finding the shutters up will not deter him from calling again next time he is down our way.

Before closing these notes we would like to record our very sincere grief on hearing of the passing of Mrs. Betty Markham, formerly Mrs. Basil Owen. Betty never ceased to take a great interest in the "Dukes" and we wish we could have seen her at more parties which were always the brighter for her natural charm and gaiety. To Mr. Markham we extend our deep sympathy.

And now already the advance party for Germany has been selected. In truth there is never a dull moment in the Army of today. Some members of the Mess are already looking back with a certain amount of envy on the jobs they have recently vacated on the Staff. Other old friends will soon be returning there once more. But let us not anticipate this. Instead let us welcome Major Lewis Kershaw from West Africa, Capt. Robin Cartwright from

the War Office and Capt. Fred Atkinson of the Green Howards from Malaya. To the more junior and therefore less well-known members of the Mess who have joined us since our last notes we would also like to extend a hearty welcome.

SERGEANTS' MESS

These notes are written as we make one of our infrequent and brief visits to the barracks they told us was to be our station in the South of England.

During the period under review we have enjoyed two considerable spells in a store tent mess. At Bisley we shared our Mess with a very strong contingent of Border Regiment and Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. There was so much to be done that we were not able to have any parties while we were there, but we had a pleasant Mess, plenty of salad, and good weather. C.S.M.s Shotton and Shield formed a separate Mess for "B" and "D" Companies and competitors in the N.R.A. camp, and made a great contribution to the comfort of the competitors. A.Q.M.S. Stevens and Sgts. Norman and Nowell shot with our Battalion team and, we hear, did quite well for themselves. Sgt. Brown also competed as an individual. The bulk of Mess members sunned themselves on firing points in the guise of register keepers or toiled in the butts. R.Q.M.S. Dawson was borrowed from us for two months to look after the A.R.A. and C.S.M. Turner looked after the "Q" department very ably while we were at Cowshott Camp. R.S.M. Pearce marked the conclusion of our stay there by announcing with pride the birth of a son and heir, Michael Robert. We congratulate him and Mrs. Pearce. C.S.M. Callaby promptly ordered "Daddies" sauce to keep the lettuce company.

We have little to report of our stay at Okehampton. All those who had been to that area before—R.S.M. Pearce, C.S.M. Wilson, C.Q.M.S. Munro and others—warned us that it would rain. It did. At the least it does make us appreciate our permanent Mess, though we have a sneaking feeling that some married members thoroughly enjoyed their fortnight "off the lead."

Waterloo Day festivities this year were marred by the fact that "B" and "D" Companies were away at Bisley and many officers were on an exercise. Feeling confident that we could outplay those who were fortunate enough to stay behind, we invited them to our Mess for the evening. The Commanding Officer brought Brigadier J. C. Burnett down to see us, to our surprise and pleasure. We did defeat the officers at indoor games by a tactfully small margin.

Of personalities, we are very sorry to see Capt. (Q.M.) Jackson leave and welcome Lt. (Q.M.) Parr in his place and congratulate him on his appointment. C.S.M. Crosbie tried on his respirator and walked the length and breadth of Salisbury Plain before leaving. He has joined the Group Training Centre. We shall miss him and his pint pot. C.S.M. Shotton, unfortunately below medical standard, has gone to Catterick. Sgts. Bagshaw, Woodman, Plimmer, Postgate and Daines have also left. Our best wishes go with them all.

Congratulations to C.S.M.s Turner and Randall

on their promotion, and a hearty welcome to C.Q.M.S. Pickering and Sgts. Robins, Clark, Houghton, Howell and Rutherford on arrival or elevation from the Corporals' Room.

"H.Q." COMPANY

"H.Q." Company has, since the last issue, shouldered the experience of trips, first, to Bisley, then to Okehampton. At Bisley for four weeks we endured the duties of butt marking and range work, to be followed by a week at Okehampton, where exercises on Dartmoor were carried out enthusiastically, even if pouring rain made life a little exasperating at times. During the Bisley period the Signals Platoon trained at Tidworth with the 6th R.T.R., where they played an "A" team of that Regiment at cricket and lost by only four runs.

To the Company we welcome Capt. Atkinson from the Green Howards, Lt. Teague from Stren-sall, and Lt. Cowell, who is now Assistant Adjutant, after a spell with "B" Company. We also welcome Lt. Parr, who was R.S.M. at the Regimental Depot, as the new Quartermaster. He replaces Capt. Jackson, who will be very greatly missed in the 1st Battalion, and we wish him, his wife and children all happiness when he joins the 7th Battalion in the near future. Those whom we have lost to Korea include Cpls. Coyne and Curran. We extend our best wishes to them. On the social side we congratulate Lt. Shuttleworth on his engagement and the following on getting married: Cpl. Ableson, L/Cpl. Begley and Ptes. Gradwell and Mollett. We congratulate R.S.M. Pearce on the birth of a son and Sgt. Appleby on that of a daughter. Congratulations go to Sgt. Randell on his posting to "C" Company as C.S.M., also to Sgt. Howell on promotion to Signals Sergeant.

The only death we have to record is that of C.S.M. Wilson's dog, "Major." I will leave condolences to the imagination of those who have read the "Loved One." Lastly, we hope that C.Q.M.S. Munro will survive his pilloried stand against stores checks, boards, pay fluctuations and other encumbrances. The Company Office will also continue to function when we finally lose our clerk, Pte. Fairbairn, who will be missed when he leaves in a very short while. So until our next issue, when we will be leaving for Germany, we say a very good-bye.

"A" COMPANY

Since our last notes much has happened. We are now getting well into our stride as a rifle company and have posted, reluctantly, to other companies all our spare men.

Continuation training on the six weeks system has been discontinued and we are now busily engaged on section, platoon and company exercises.

Six weeks at Bisley working for the N.R.A. and A.R.A. meetings gave the men their first experience of life under canvas and was enjoyed by all, everyone remaining cheerful in spite of the snags encountered.

On the last Sunday at Bisley we experienced a heavy downfall of rain, which completely washed out the camp. At the height of the storm men could be seen in all manner of dress frantically baling water with mess tins, mugs, steel plates or anything

which would move water from their tents, some even resorting to the use of steel helmets and stirrup pumps.

On returning from Bisley we prepared for Dartmoor. The 12 days spent there made all appreciate Chisledon, but much valuable training was done despite the weather.

On the return journey the C.S.M., Sgt. McCarthy and some members of his platoon had a narrow escape when the truck in which they were travelling decided to take a cross-country trip, mounted the bank at the side of the road and overturned.

At the time of writing we have just completed our first block leave period of 14 days. There were envious looks from the younger members of the Company as N.C.O.s and men entitled to leave left on the journey home. However, they themselves will be going during the next period.

The following have been promoted recently: To Corporal: L/Cpls. Grace, Lister, Oldfield, Brown and Spring. To Lance-Corporals: Ptes. Litster, Flockston, Armstrong, Hoyle, James, Locke, Crisp, Dawson, Smith and Horsnell. We take this opportunity of congratulating them all.

We have lost C.Q.M.S. Turner, now C.S.M. of "D" Company, and Cpl. Downing, who has left for a more active theatre. We wish them luck.

Training commitments have left us little opportunity for sport. We have, however, the nucleus of promising rugby and soccer teams and hope to acquit ourselves well in future competitions.

We welcome C.Q.M.S. Pickering, who has joined us from Strensall, and hope he has a happy stay with us.

In closing may we take this opportunity of wishing all ex-members of "A" Company, wherever they may be, good luck and good health.

"B" COMPANY

While these notes are being written we relax and recover from the toils, rain and chilly blasts of Dartmoor. It was there that we had a minor taste of battle conditions—without the additional discomforts of live ammunition. Should we ever become involved in a hot war, we hope that the fear of bullets will remove some of the unpleasantness of sitting in waterlogged slit trenches. The forbidding heights of Steeperton Tor will remain indelibly imprinted on our minds. Could anyone who ever spent a night on that bleak spot ever forget it? To make matters worse, those of us who were not scouring the countryside for enemy were detailed willy-nilly to act as coolies. Having chased an elusive enemy all day, we had to forsake our rock-like beds in the pitch darkness to ferry up from the bottom of the hill the necessities of life. No doubt future generations of Medleys, Galleys and McCaffertys will listen open-mouthed with awe to the many stories that will be told about the experiences of "B" Company on "ere summits" during the weekend of August 4-5, 1951.

Our impressions of Devon were marred by bad weather, so we left Okehampton with little regret. Even up to the last moment of our departure we remained enveloped in a mist of rain, but we still retained our self-composure and, as far as we know,

the language kept within the bounds of respectability. Not to be forestalled, and to give us a really generous send-off, the Dartmoor climate pursued us all the way to Chisledon. 2/Lt. Stronach's platoon were victims of misfortune, as one of their lorries faded out near Lark Hill and remained marooned for several hours, while the unhappy party had little to cheer themselves up with except empty stomachs and the thoughts of things to come in the pleasant guise of 14 days' leave. Despite these drawbacks, we must make allowances for glorious (??) Devon, as it was there that the Company was re-formed and properly organised. We are now nearly at full strength, with three platoons that do, in fact, exist in reality and not merely on paper. The days of finding drafts and fatigue parties are gradually receding into the background. The platoons have settled down well and, through the school of hardship, have become solid bodies rather than lists of numbers, ranks and names.

Little else is of interest to readers on general topics, but, before passing to the personal column, a word or two on Bisley. Our six weeks' spell at the chief rifle shooting centre of England was on the whole uneventful. We formed part of the advance party which left Chisledon hurriedly early in June. Our arrival at Bisley Camp was heralded by a long spell of fine weather which gave us opportunities for sunbathing, when C.S.M. Shields could be avoided. We seemed to spend most of our time there pitching or striking tents and when this work was completed we were driven like cattle into the butts to repair the targets. We did not feel that this form of pastime was in keeping with our role as a lorried infantry battalion, but no doubt our presence at Bisley was very necessary, as otherwise our unit rifle team might never have had the chance of winning further renown and glory for the name of the Regiment.

A few changes have taken place in the Company recently and more are to follow. Sgt. Marchant has unfortunately developed "flat feet" through overstrain at Bisley and is likely to leave us soon. We shall be very sorry to see him go. In his place we are very glad to welcome Sgt. Robins back from his tour of duty at R.M.A. Sandhurst and we are sure that he will be a big help to the Company. There are also rumours that Sgt. Fletcher of "D" Company, who was attached to us at Dartmoor, is coming to us permanently. We hope to report his arrival in our next notes.

On the matrimonial side we offer our heartiest congratulations to L/Cpl. McEvoy on his marriage on August 4. In anticipation, we also wish the best of luck to Cpls. Miles and Medley whom, we understand, are getting married in the very near future.

"C" COMPANY

On July 25 we were sorry to lose Capt. E. J. P. Emmett (O.C.); he is now a member of the Battalion training team. We feel that perhaps "lose" is not quite the right word, as on training we frequently see a "baronic" figure advancing towards us, swinging the Battalion training team walking stick. We extend a sincere welcome to Capt. R. V.

Cartwright, who has now become our O.C. Shortly afterwards, on July 28, Lt. W. Blakey joined us as 2 IC; his knowledge of tanks should be most useful to us. We congratulate Sgt. Randall on his promotion to C.S.M. and extend a hearty welcome to him. We congratulate Sgt. Rutherford, Cpls. Perrin and Sadler and L/Cpls. Heweth, Clark, Fairfield, Stobbs and Jackson on their promotion.

On June 7, "C" and "S" Companies took part in the King's Birthday Parade at Salisbury. Contingents of The King's Own and the D.C.L.I. were also present. We marched through the streets with the Band and the Colour party to the market place, which was lined with crowds and decorated with bunting. The Divisional Commander carried out an inspection and took the salute. The two Companies were judged by the C.O. and the Drill Sergeant, and "C" Company was deemed to be "Champion Company" and was granted 72 hours' leave.

After a number of rehearsals, the Divisional demonstration, "Showboat II," took place on June 21. "C" Company, supported by one troop of the 6th R.T.R. and one battery of the 5th R.H.A., did a Company attack which, it was agreed, was very successful.

Preparations for Operation "Blister," including prolonged route marches in respirators, gas chamber tests, etc., were pushed forward at top speed and resulted in the more apt rechristening, "Operation Breathless." We, the guinea-pig Company, supported by the 8th R.T.R. and the 5th R.H.A., took the field at Imber Ranges on June 24. As usual, the result was very satisfactory and, in spite of some initial doubts as to the possibility of survival, there was only one casualty—a sprained ankle—which would hardly be attributed to the goggle-eyed guise which we wore for several periods of four hours at a stretch. The "Bearded Baron," who led the attack, had received his battle scars (contrary to popular, but uncharitable, opinion) in a Quixotic encounter with a tilting Bren-carrier. We understand that the latter is making satisfactory progress. The powers that be took an anti-dim view of the whole affair and congratulatory letters rained down on us from various elevations.

At Bisley we carried out the duties of butt marking for three weeks and perhaps the most remarkable sight there (amongst many) was during the change-over from the A.R.A. Meeting to the N.R.A. Meeting. One day we were smartly saluting generals and brigadiers, who were in their "red tabs," and the next morning, to our utter amazement, the "red tabs" had given way to gaily coloured sombreros, bright red and yellow waistcoats and umbrellas of phenomenal size, but, of course, we still saluted and were gratified to be acknowledged by a gay wave from the sombreros.

After the Brigade exercise at Okehampton, "C" Company carried on with platoon and Company training among the bogs and tors of glorious Devon—a misleading adjective, not in accordance with the more accurate, if somewhat sanguinary, expressions of some of us. In spite of the unkind weather, morale was high and dropped briefly on only one occasion when the lunch wagon was reported miss-

ing, but after a short delay it was found that over-exuberance with regard to camouflage and concealment was the only crime, and all was forgiven.

As we leave you from rainy Chisledon, we are now selecting our advance party for Germany, and so we suggest you have a German dictionary available before the next IRON DUKE is published. *Auf wiedersehen.*

"D" COMPANY

Since the departure of the "Z" Reservists "D" Company has led a very varied existence and only now are we settling down to training seriously as a rifle company. Major Moran took over "B" Company when the Reservists went and 2/Lt. Hoppe held the reins until Major Kershaw rejoined the Battalion from West Africa.

He was despatched, however, with almost indecent haste to Bisley to act as officer in charge of the advance party, together with the 20-odd men who claimed to belong to this Company. Reinforced by "B" Company and a party of Royal Marines and R.A.S.C. they spent the time at Bisley on administration duties in the N.R.A. camp, doing a lot of hard work behind the scenes.

Returning from Bisley, the Company could not muster a full platoon and therefore did not have the pleasure of accompanying the Battalion to what is described rather aptly at the South Bank Exhibition as "that primeval waste of bog and granite called Dartmoor." Instead we stayed in the greater comfort of Chisledon as the rear party. C.S.M. Turner joined the Company at this point, and we congratulate him on his promotion and are glad to have him with us.

The long awaited block leave period was also the signal for a draft to descend on us from Strensall and with great rejoicing we set about the task of training the Company. Another draft has arrived since and we now have two full platoons and hope to catch up the other companies in standard of training before long. Inter-platoon competitions are under way and the betting in No. 11 Platoon indicates confidence in their success. It is believed different odds are being offered in No. 10 Platoon.

As yet we do not know if we are going to Norfolk with the Battalion, but we hope we shall, if only to show we are no longer the Battalion's lame duck.

"S" COMPANY

After 14 days' leave, from which we have just returned, the Company has at last recovered from the war against the elements at Dartmoor, our clothing and equipment is once again clean, dry and complete, except for a few small articles left behind as souvenirs on the slopes of Steeperton Tor. The latter, incidentally, has become the M.M.G. Platoon's first battle honour. There may be higher mountains, but surely there can be no steeper ones.

We have been fortunate in the last few months in that we have lost only one N.C.O. He is Sgt. Bagshaw, who has been posted to Strensall, where he will be able to use his great experience as an instructor before he retires to civilian life, where we are sure he will again be very successful. To fill

the gap comes Sgt. Clark from the R.N.F. whom we are glad to welcome and who joins the M.M.G. Platoon.

Apart from some very concentrated work on Dartmoor, the Company has not been able to get down to much training, as we were helping to run Bisley with the rest of the Battalion from June 25 to July 25. This was hard but enjoyable work, amid pleasant surroundings, and everyone found it very interesting, while it afforded a very welcome break from routine.

The Battalion shooting team did very well at Bisley and we congratulate Lt. Robertson, Sgt. Norman and Cpl. Fifield, who were members of this now famous team.

Congratulations on promotion go to Sgt. Houghton and Cpls. Tittensor and Muxworthy.

The Company is very nearly up to strength now, equipment is still pouring in and, by the time the "biggest ever" Army manoeuvre comes off in October, we shall certainly be a force to be reckoned with.

SHOOTING

Our shooting efforts during the past six months are now common knowledge. It is proposed, therefore, to limit these notes to a minimum.

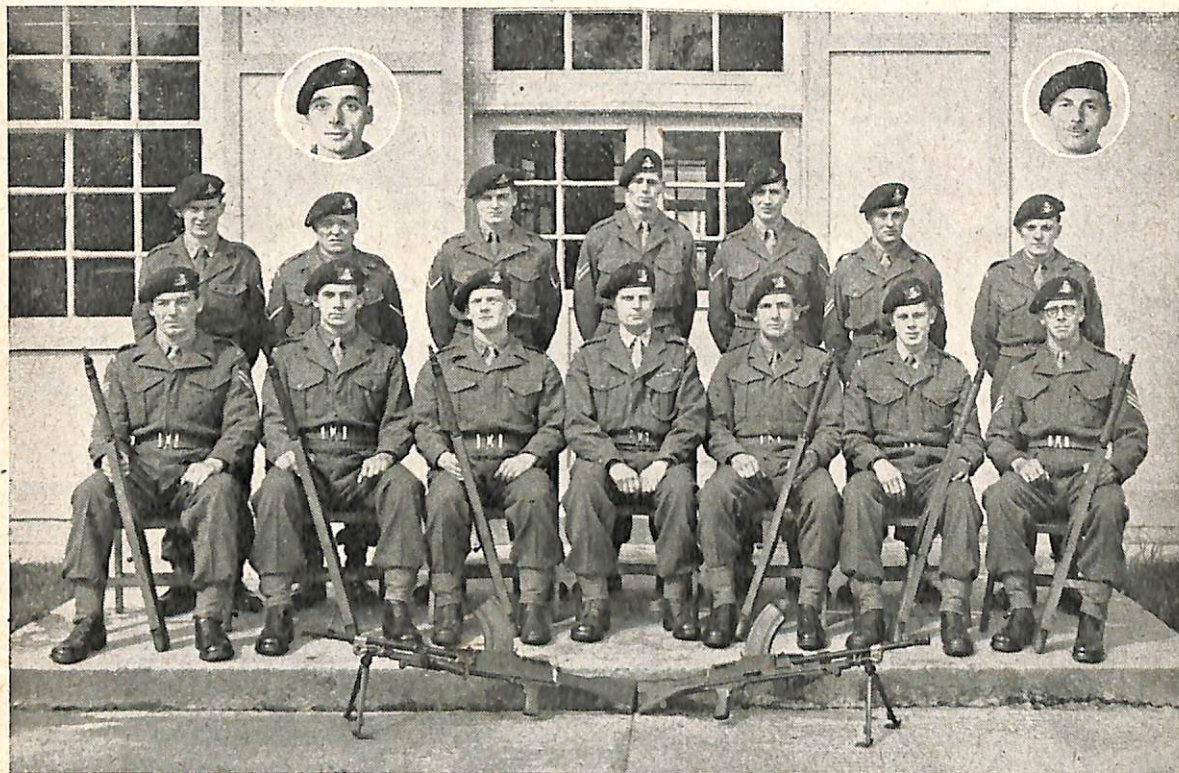
In the Salisbury Plain District Meeting, out of

the six events for which we were eligible to enter we won five and were second in the sixth. Our successes included the District Championship, the District Rifle Match, the District L.M.G. Match, the 6th Armoured Division Rifle and L.M.G. Match and the Falling Plates.

At Bisley, in spite of some disappointing shooting by the more experienced shots, the results were very satisfactory. In the inter-unit championship, the K.R.R.C. Cup, we finished third, only five points behind the winners. In the Britannia Trophy and Northamptonshire Cup, both team rifle matches, we were third and second respectively and, in the Eastern Command L.M.G. Cup, we were fourth. In the Small Arms Cup, a rifle and L.M.G. match, we dropped to seventh after leading in the first stage. The average number of teams entering was about 35.

Perhaps the best achievement was to get seven out of our team of sixteen into the Army Hundred, more than any other unit and not far short of an Army record. Those successful were 2/Lts. Cowell, Perkis and Plummer, A.Q.M.S. Stephens, Sgt. Norman, Cpl. Davies and L/Cpl. Buxton. We congratulate Major Faithful who, without practice and with a borrowed rifle, qualified for the Hundred.

In the Worcestershire Cup, an L.M.G. pairs'



1st BATTALION SHOOTING TEAM, BISLEY, 1951

Sitting (left to right) : Cpl. Davis,* 2/Lt. M. J. Perks,* Lt. W. F. C. Robertson, Major F. R. St. P. Bunbury, D.S.O., Lt. J. D. P. Cowell,* 2/Lt. A. Plummer,* Sgt. Nowell.
 Standing : L/Cpl. Wood, L/Cpl. Buxton,* L/Cpl. Jackson, Cpl. Lister, L/Cpl. Clark, Cpl. Bailes, Pre. Frisby.
 Inset : Sgt. Norman,* A.Q.M.S. Stephens.*

*Army Hundred, 1951.

match, Cpls. Bailes and Lister won the young soldiers' class.

The total prize money, excluding sweepstakes, was just under £40.

Most of our success was due to the untiring assistance given by our armourer, A.Q.M.S. Stephens. An excellent shot—he finished fourth in the 1950 championship—his advice and coaching were invaluable. It is hoped that he will accompany us to Germany.

A special word of praise must also be given to the young soldiers. Outstanding were Cpl. Bailes, L/Cpls. Wood and Clark and Pte. Frisby in the rifle and Cpls. Bailes and Lister and L/Cpls. Clark and Jackson in the L.M.G. We hope that the N.S. men amongst them will decide to become regular Dukes.

We are entering for a number of A.R.A. non-central matches, i.e. matches fired under unit arrangements and supervised by neutral officers. They may be fired any time up to November, consequently the results will not be known until the end of the year. So far, we have shot off the Young Soldiers' Cup and the Company Shield. We are more than optimistic about our chances, particularly so in the latter where we beat last year's winning score, made by the Rifle Brigade, by 40 points.

REGIMENTAL BAND

Since the last issue of THE IRON DUKE we have travelled the length and breadth of England performing engagements and duties. We have had a very successful tour and we terminate it by going to Bexleyheath in Kent for a fortnight on Saturday, September 8.

We seem to meet old "Dukes" wherever we are performing, and at Crosby, near Liverpool, we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Hancock, who was Bandmaster of the 2nd Battalion for a number of years, finally retiring in 1919. He was suitably impressed with the Band and expressed his appreciation in a very nice letter to the Commanding Officer, which is reproduced herewith.

A very pleasant week was spent with the 7th Battalion at their annual camp at Barnard Castle. During this week we made Regimental history by performing a massed Retreat with the Drums of the 7th Battalion. We believe we are right in saying that this has never before been attempted. We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Drum-Major and drummers of the 7th, who were comprised mainly of "Z" Reservists, on their excellent performance after only four rehearsals. We also congratulate Bandmaster Sturmy on his able direction of the parade.

We offer our congratulations to L/Cpl. Begley on his marriage. We also congratulate Bds. Broomhead on the birth of a daughter. We now have 15 married men out of a total of 31 members of the Band. Carrying on at this rate we shall soon need a special block of married quarters for bandmen only.

Our future place of abode is a little hazy at present, but we are living in hopes of being able to proceed with the Battalion wherever they are bound.

9 Saunders Street,
Southport,
Lancs.

August 9, 1951.

Dear Sir,

At Crosby yesterday I had the pleasure of hearing the Band of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment under Mr. Seed.

As Bandmaster of the Band of the 2nd Battalion from 1909-19—and now in suspended animation—it gives me great pleasure to state how well your Band played, and how tunefully.

Right and left of me I heard nothing but praise of their performance and the excellent impression they will have left when they leave Crosby during the weekend.

In addition, their smartness and turn-out were a credit to the Regiment of which you have the honour to command.

I am 74 years of age this month, and when I heard the Band were so near I just could not miss hearing them.

Yours respectfully,

A. D. HANCOCK.

Lt.-Col. J. H. Dalrymple,

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

ATHLETICS

This year we were unable to devote a great deal of time to athletics owing to our preoccupations at Bisley and Dartmoor, but, despite this, our team enjoyed its short season of strenuous and successful activity. It will be remembered from previous notes that our season began with the Regimental sports which were held at the end of May, in order to select a Battalion team to take part in the District and Command meetings. The results were surprisingly good and we were soon able to build up quite a well-balanced team, with a nucleus of more experienced performers.

Our first engagement took place on June 5 at the Salisbury District Individual Championships. With a view to "bleeding" as many of the team as possible, we put in rather a large entry of 16½ competitors. Lt. Miller did very well to win the 120 yds. hurdles with a time of 16.6 seconds. Meanwhile, the remainder of the team obtained ten positions between second and sixth place in the other events.

Our second meeting began a week later at the Southern Command Individual Championships. Here no individual title fell to us, but our somewhat smaller team claimed nine positions among the first six places in the events for which we entered.

These results augured well for the approaching District Team Championships on June 20, which stood out, of course, as the most important meeting on our programme. The Battalion was represented by its full team of 32 competitors. As there were 12 teams originally entered for the championships, the first day had to be occupied with running off heats to decide which relay teams would run in the senior or junior finals. We began well by qualifying easily in the sprints, hurdles, quarter-mile and mile relays for the senior finals. In fact, at the day's close we occupied third position. But, unfortunately, our

successes had been marred by a most unfortunate accident, when Lt. Miller badly twisted his ankle while high jumping. As we found later, this was to cost us many points in the hurdles and pole vault finals.

The meeting was concluded on the second day when the majority of the events were decided. In the field events Cpl. P. J. Taylor and Pte. W. V. Smith came first in the weight, while Lt. Miller and Cpl. Davies won the high jump. In the long jump Cpl. Davies and 2/Lt. Stronach came third, an inch behind the runners-up. Of our relay runners, our

milers (2/Lt. Harms, Cpl. Houghton, Ptes. Lonsdale and Riley) and our quarter-milers (Lt. Shuttleworth, Cpl. Robinson, Ptes. Warrington and Parker) were the most successful. In the 4 x 110 yds. our sprint team (Cpl. Taylor, Pte. Hogg, 2/Lt. Stronach and Lt. Hardy) was unfortunately disqualified for a faulty take-over, and had to be content with last place in the senior relay. At the end of the competition we found ourselves still third which, particularly in view of our two mishaps, was a most satisfactory result and one which concluded our season successfully.

REGIMENTAL H.Q. and DEPOT

We closed our last notes commenting on our future as a "Reactivated" Depot and expressing regret at not being able to tell readers any details. We are now happy to report that a certain amount of order is coming out of a sheaf of directives and instructions and we can see ahead up to the beginning of December.

We are scheduled to reorganise on to our new establishment on October 15, by which date we expect to have received all our permanent staff. In the provision of permanent staff it is gratifying to note that Records are adopting a policy, not hitherto followed nor practicable within the Group system of posting only "Dukes" to the new Depot permanent staff. Personnel of other Regiments will be posted to their parent Depots or Regiments within the Group. The new establishment, although larger than that at present, is not over-generous and in one or two places there are ominous creaks. A startling omission is a Company Sergeant Major! The first intake of N.S. men is due on November 15.

Our activities over the last few months have been directed towards getting the Barracks renovated and repaired for its full use again and to remove those horrible signs of four years' neglect.

Departures from the Depot have not been numerous. Notable amongst them was the loss of "Bill" Brenchley, who we were very sorry to see depart. The chairs in the Mess and his office breathed with a sigh of relief, however, and took on a new lease of life—only to emit dolorous groans when he visits us, as he does, frequently. We also bid farewell to R.S.M. Parr on being granted a commission and being appointed as Quartermaster in the 1st Battalion. We congratulate him and wish him every success in his new venture.

As a result of these two departures we are without a Q.M. and a R.S.M. Our new Q.M. is to be Major F. Allsop of the 7th Battalion, at the moment winding up his side of the annual camp at Barnard Castle. Our R.S.M. is C. Kenchington, who is engaged in handing over his duties of R.Q.M.S. at Strensall.

We extend a welcome to Cpl. Oakes and his wife

from the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, who is to be the A.I.P.T. on the new establishment, and Pte. and Mrs. McIlheron from No. 12 Families' Camp, Hull.

With the advent of summer we turned in our leisure moments and our limited resources to cricket. As reported in our last notes we have been fortunate in having Lt.-Col. Everard, Major Banks, C.S.M. Stringer and Mr. Greenwood to swell the side. Sgt. Craven and Pte. Hands of the 7th Battalion, Mr. Jarvis of King Cross and Mr. Greenwood's son have also turned out on numerous occasions.

Opposition has been varied but the cricket has been most enjoyable. Out of a total of 18 matches played to a finish we have won 10 and lost 8. Lack of change bowlers has been our main worry. The main attack devolved upon R.S.M. Parr and C/Sgt. Hallsworth with C.S.M. Stringer, Col. Everard and the C.O. relieving with their slow spinners.

Waterloo Day saw a holiday and an all-day cricket match against Depot The York and Lancaster Regiment. A small luncheon party was given in the Officers' Mess, where we were very happy to welcome Col. Goldthorpe, Honorary Colonel 382 Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), and Mrs. Goldthorpe, Col. R. M. Tidmarsh, late D.W.R., and Capt. Streatfeild, Adjutant of the 7th Battalion, and Mrs. Streatfeild. The weather was fine and warm and we had an enjoyable day's cricket, winning by an innings and 78 runs. The visit of Col. Tidmarsh was an occasion. His last visit to the Depot was when he was attached to the Militia in 1897. Whilst he was here, Col. Tidmarsh presented to the Museum four Commissions of his father, the late Lt.-Col. F. J. Tidmarsh (Ensign 1864, Lieutenant 1866, Captain 1873 and Adjutant, Volunteer Forcès, 1878, and his father's Abyssinia Medal. It will be remembered that Lt.-Col. Tidmarsh (then Lieutenant) served with the 33rd in the Abyssinia campaign and later commanded the 33rd in 1888 and 1889. Col. R. M. Tidmarsh himself served with the 1st Battalion in South Africa and the 2nd Battalion in the Great War. We were very happy to see him and are very grateful for his generous gift.

We have had visits from several "Dukes" in

the last three months, either passing through Halifax or on leave; amongst them have been Capt. Milligan from Germany, Capt. Walton (now with the 1st Battalion), Capt. Ellis (with the Colonial Survey Department in the Gold Coast), R.S.M. Pearce from the 1st Battalion, Sgt. Norman from the 1st Battalion, Major Laverack, Major Jock Huffam and Mrs. Travers, widow of Capt. Travers (late 2nd D.W.R.) killed in the Great War when serving with a battalion of the Regiment at Gallipoli. Mrs. Travers has been very generous and has presented to the Depot all the Regimental effects of her late husband. Parting with all these articles must have been very difficult and we appreciate her act.

Mrs. Travers has also been kind enough to present to the Regiment an extremely fine silver cup, the lid of which is surmounted by a beautifully modelled figure of a horse and rider. This cup was awarded to Major Travers's uncle, Gen. Travers, V.C.

It bears on one side the inscription:

Deyrah Races, 1872

Presented by the Officers of
The 92nd Gordon Highlanders.

On the other side is engraved the badge of the Gordon Highlanders. The ultimate destination within the Regiment of this cup will be decided at the Regimental Council meeting in September, and it is being held for the time being with the Silver of the Officers Mess at Regimental Headquarters.

The Clerk of the Works is working hard to restore the buildings to their original pristine splendour in time for the first intake of N.S. men—it is surprising what difference a coat of paint can make.

We think it is fitting to close on a note of congratulation—to the 1st Battalion for their record at Bisley this year. We have felt a reflected sense of glory at numerous glowing tributes by other individuals, sometimes complete strangers, to the 1st Battalion effort at Bisley. We do offer our sincere congratulations to the 1st Battalion for a magnificent performance and say "Well done, 33rd!"

578 (Mob.) H.A.A. REGT., R.A. (5 D.W.R.), T.A.

The period following annual camp is always uneventful for these notes and comes as an anticlimax to a fortnight of real soldiering.

Before moving into this period, let us say that in annual camp this year the Regiment were able for the first time to submit OsFC for trade test. Out of the seven men who went in for the test, two passed as Group III OsFC and five as radar layers. Our congratulations to them.

After camp three Officers were transferred to the T.A.R.O. at their own request: Major G. P. Norton, T.D., Capt. A. W. R. Brook, T.D., and Capt. P. Goodall, T.D. This is a great loss to the Regiment and their places will be very hard to fill—particularly as they were leading lights in entertainments of chance and nocturnal conviviality! We should like to thank them for their long services to the Regiment.

On July 29 the Regiment held a Ceremonial Church Parade. Col. K. Sykes, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., J.P., Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, took the salute at the base in Huddersfield, and Canon F. Woods, the Regimental Chaplain, took the service in the Parish Church. It was good to see so many Old Comrades assembling at the Drill Hall before the parade, and better still to see Lt.-Col. D. H. Hirst, M.B.E., T.D., so befittingly nominated as their Commander, marching them off with the parade. The Colours of the Regiment, glorious with history, and the Band, gay with scarlet, made it all into an occasion.

We should like to congratulate the following: Major J. A. Bearder, who has taken over Major G. P. Norton's position as Battery Commander at Huddersfield, on his promotion; Major S. W. Higgins, M.B.E., T.D., R.A., on his re-entry into

the realms of regular service (in August he was awarded a short service commission and granted the rank of Major—we hear he had to wait 355 days for his application to bear fruit!); Sgt. Proctor on his appointment as a P.S.I. to the Regiment—he has been with us for four years on the civilian staff.

During the summer most of us have been to the open range at Deerhill to fire our musketry courses. On most occasions it was possible to see the target well, the sweeping rains of the bleak moorland taking much well-earned rest during the firing.

As we write these notes there is already activity being shown towards the Regimental competitions. September will see the firing of the various musketry competitions, and October the holding of the gunnery competitions. There is not only a competition for every type of equipment we use, but also one to cover each of our sideline roles. Opportunity certainly offers itself to all ranks. The climax of all these competitions is reached at the Regimental Prize Distribution which this year takes place on December 7.

At the close of camp it was very gratifying to find eight of the "Z" Reserve Officers deciding to join our Dinner Club, and we give them a hearty welcome. They are: Major O. C. D. Berry, T.D., Capt. T. J. J. Kilby, Lt. N. H. Bousfield, Lt. S. T. Dibnah, Lt. H. Sowden, Lt. G. Brabbs, Lt. D. C. Harris, Lt. N. J. Brookes.

Our Old Comrades' Association continues to function with great success and helps many past members needing assistance. On March 17, 1951, a very enjoyable "Smoker" took place at Headquarters Drill Hall which was largely attended. During the evening the president (Col. K. Sykes)

proposed a toast to the Volunteers from the Battalion who sailed to South Africa 50 years before on that very day. It was gratifying to know that several of them are still members of the O.C.A.

On May 11, 1951, the Annual Meeting and Supper of the Mirfield Branch was held under the chairmanship of Major T. Goodall, D.S.O., M.C. It was a very well attended gathering with a great spirit of comradeship.

During the summer the Holmfirth Branch arranged their usual Children's Treat which was a great success, and have made arrangements for a trip for the members.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner for the whole Association is to be held at the Drill Hall, Huddersfield, on Saturday, November 10, 1951.

We much regret to announce the deaths of Lt.-Col. H. O. Browning, M.C., and Lt. Fred Chapman, M.C.

Col. Browning died in a military hospital after much suffering on July 22, 1951. He served with the 1/5th and 5th Battalions Duke of Wellington's Regiment throughout the First World War. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1917, and was

wounded in April, 1918. Since then he has served continuously in the Royal Army Pay Corps up to the time of his death.

Lt. Fred Chapman, M.C., died at the age of 53, at the Memorial Hospital, Huntsville, Canada, on June 25, 1951. Mr. Chapman served with the 2/5th and 5th Duke of Wellington's Regiment in France in 1917 and 1918 and was awarded the Military Cross. The funeral took place at Hutcheson Memorial Cemetery on June 28, 1951, and was in charge of the Canadian Legion.

Col. K. Sykes has resigned as active Hon. Secretary of the Dinner Club after 32 years in that position, and Lt.-Col. D. H. Hirst, M.B.E., T.D., at the request of the Committee, has undertaken to fill his place. This does not mean any slackening of interest, and Col. Sykes has agreed to continue in an advisory capacity.

The 25th Annual Dinner of the Dinner Club will be held at the Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield, on Friday, October 5, 1951, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Amongst the guests will be the Mayor of Huddersfield (Councillor G. B. Jones, M.B.E., J.P.), Brigadier Cleeve, Lt.-Col. Sir Nugent Everard and Major Skelsey (Depot).

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

It is with regret that we notice that no notes on the activities of the 673 L.A.A. Regiment have appeared in THE IRON DUKE since July, 1950. As one of the Territorial Units in the Regiment we hasten to extend our apologies to all our friends and readers, and to rectify our omission.

We think the most suitable note on which to begin is the Army's game of "Changing of Roles." We very regretfully left the 69 A.A. Brigade and joined the "Field Force" boys, in becoming part of the very famous 50th Northumberland Division, commanded by Maj.-Gen. H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O., who visited us at Halifax on April 18, 1951, to meet the officers and permanent staff, and to welcome us into his division.

To add to our "Changing of Role" we also had to cope with an inter-Regimental change, when, by higher policy, the Regiment absorbed the 538 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A., who have now become our "R" Battery at Huddersfield. Our Ilkley Battery amalgamated with "Q" Battery at Skipton. This now leaves us with a very large recruiting area, and the Regiment extends from Settle to Huddersfield; very large indeed, which our Colonel appreciates when he makes his visits to Battery Drill Halls. Over the year the unit has been welded together, and at Camp this year proved to be a happy and capable unit.

During the past year quite a few changes have taken place amongst our officers and staff. We regretfully saw Lt.-Col. W. E. Dale Shaw, T.D., leave us to become a full-time civilian, and wel-

comed Lt.-Col. D. Scott, T.D., to take over the reins. We wish both well in their new appointments. We dined Lt.-Col. Dale Shaw "out" and Lt.-Col. D. Scott "in" at a dinner in Halifax on May 1, 1951, when the officers presented Lt.-Col. Dale Shaw with a silver salver, bearing the regimental crests of the "Dukes" and Royal Regiment of Artillery, and the signatures of all the officers who served with him.

The Adjutant, Capt. John Bindloss, relinquished his appointment, but remained with the Regiment, and became Battery Captain of "P" Battery. He was succeeded as Adjutant by Capt. L. Ball from Egypt on February 10, 1951, who has already settled down amongst us. Whilst we appreciate his capabilities as Adjutant and connoisseur of "Tom Thumb," we hardly hold with his midnight bathing.

We also welcome to the Regiment three new officers, Lts. Alderton, Prager and Wilson, and are pleased to see our strength increasing.

Since our last notes we have been receiving into the Regiment the National Service men, most of whom are volunteering for T.A. enlistment. We find them good material, and a great help in increasing our strength.

Prior to Camp, each battery held training week-ends at their respective Drill Halls and at Selby Camp. These proved of immense value for Camp. As we could call on all our strength, including N.S. personnel, much valuable training was got from these week-ends, including "house breaking," when

Capt. Bateman was seen trying to "break in" into the "Dome Teacher," assisted verbally by the officers and N.C.O.s of "Q" Battery.

Annual Camp was spent at Towyn, North Wales, when the much-discussed "Z" personnel joined us. We welcomed eight officers and 205 N.C.O.s and men. We found them excellent chaps. In a very few days they were back in their stride, thoroughly enjoying themselves, although a few of them won't admit it.

At this stage we must pay tribute to our Q.M. and Administrative Staff. They worked wonders and produced anything they were asked to, including extra S.P.s and vehicles. Some of the "anything" had to be pleaded for, as is normal by Regimental officers requiring the favours of the Q.M.'s staff. The training was hard, and of excellent value. Each Battery got two days' shooting, and in some cases the guns were manned by "Z" personnel entirely. Each Battery obtained a sleeve, and also claimed many near misses. Two big exercises were held—a night exercise, and a follow-up exercise of a daylight occupation. These both went well, so it is reported on paper. "Bobby" Constable,

who it is reported spent the night on Snowdon, said he never saw so many lights and heard so much noise since "D-Day"—it is said he had been looking at the lights on Barmouth promenade.

Whilst in Camp we were visited by the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, Lt.-Gen. Sir Philip M. Balfour, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., and our Divisional Commander.

Our C.R.A., Brigadier H. W. L. Cowan, D.S.O., O.B.E., stayed with us the major part of Camp, and greatly assisted us in our training. His presence in Camp was much appreciated by all ranks.

We are sorry to lose three officers from the Regiment to other spheres of life: Capts. Goodall and Skew and Lt. Eastwood. We wish them well.

We congratulate the undermentioned officers, to whom His Majesty the King has graciously made the following awards:

Lt.-Col. D. Scott, R.A., T.D. .. 1st Clasp.

Major Constable, R.A., T.D. .. 1st Clasp.

Capt. T. W. Chadwick, R.A. .. T.D.

and also to Major D. Tanfield and Capt. Turton on their respective promotions.

T.W.C.

7th BATTALION

Once again the Battalion's rear party is scarce returned from annual camp ere these jottings must be in the hands of the Editor. This circumstance involves the chronicler of these notes in a hectic literary weekend, hence the following inadequate account of the Battalion's activities over the past three months.

The main topic of interest during the period under review, and, indeed, little else has occupied our minds for some time past, has been our annual camp, which took place at Barnard Castle from August 11 to 25. During the period of camp our numbers were supplemented by no less than 750 "Z" Reservists, including officers, and it is pertinent first of all to record the reason why the "Z" Reservists were recalled to the Battalion. In the light of these reasons the resounding success of our camp this year will appear all the more gratifying.

The "Z" Reservists who were recalled for training with the Battalion this year are those who will actually be called up for service with the Battalion in the event of mobilisation. The reasons for their recall are therefore twofold: firstly, to weld the Battalion together into a workable team and, secondly, to give all Reservists a fortnight's refresher training. It can, we feel, be asserted without fear of any contradiction that not only have both these objects been achieved, but the camp has been outstandingly successful and enjoyable from every point of view.

The speed with which the new Battalion knitted itself together almost passes belief when one realises that on the Saturday afternoon it consisted

of the advance party, by Sunday afternoon it had reached a strength of between 900 and 1,000 and on Monday morning the scheduled training programme went into operation without a single hitch. Great credit is due to all elements of the Battalion Volunteers, National Servicemen and "Z" Reservists alike, for the smooth way in which they got together and made things work. It is no exaggeration to say that, in spite of the careful work done in preparation for camp, unless everyone had worked hard to make it a success it would at best have been in the mediocre class. All this is the more surprising in view of the fact that several key appointments had to be found from "Z" Reservists and two complete rifle companies had to be raised where none existed before. We are very grateful to the Depot of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, who provided us with the staff for one rifle company in the shape of Major R. S. Ferguson, a C.S.M., C.Q.M.S. and a clerk. We must also express our thanks to Major W. Skelsey, of our own Depot, who acted as Training Officer, and to C/Sgt. Watters, who acted as C.Q.M.S. of "C" Company.

On the training side all went very smoothly and the only main criticism against the syllabus was that the work was perhaps too hard in the first week and ended up with somewhat of an anticlimax after an extremely strenuous Battalion exercise in the second. It was a disadvantage that most of the training areas were a considerable distance from the camp, but this was overcome by early rising. Most of the training was laid on

beforehand, thus absolving Company Commanders of the detailed work of preparation. As far as Support Company was concerned, we saw very little of them, as their training for the first week was organised and run by specialist officers from B.A.O.R. They all, however, got good recommendations for their work and, as far as we can gather, enjoyed themselves very much into the bargain.

It is early yet to assess what value the recall of Reservists has been to recruiting for the T.A., but there have been several enquiries as to the possibility of attending camp with the Battalion next year and so far one officer has actually joined. We are very pleased to record that Bernard Ellam has decided to take the plunge and we shall no doubt soon see him again at the helm of "C" Company, which during a mere fortnight built up for itself a wonderful *esprit de corps*. It is a popular opinion that, were this call-up made an annual undertaking, it would find favour with the majority of those recalled because they would be able to enjoy a fortnight's camp each year and explain to their wives and employers that they have been ordered to attend.

We were most fortunate in having the services of the 1st Battalion Band at our disposal for the first week of camp and we should like to offer our grateful thanks to Mr. Seed and all the members of the Band. They put on several entertainments for the men, played in the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and, together with the Battalion Corps of Drums, played for the Battalion parade which took place on Middle Saturday and, in addition, that evening beat Retreat.

Since our last notes we have had two weekend camps, one at Deer Hill on June 23 and 24 and one at Farnley Park on July 28 and 29. They were both very successful and the latter occasion was the

first time we have seen all our National Service men *en masse*.

Finally, a word of appreciation to all those volunteers who have indeed this year borne the heat and burden of the day, and some of them in appointments of which they have had little or no previous experience.

OFFICERS' MESS

Since we last went to press affairs in the Officers' Mess have been somewhat quiet. We did hold a cocktail party at Milnsbridge on July 15 in order to meet as many "Z" Reservist Officers as possible. This was well attended and was a great success, as those who were able to come were not strangers to one another when we finally assembled at Barnard Castle. Work on the conversion of the Mess is proceeding slowly, as is the custom nowadays, but we hope to be in a position to put on some really good monthly suppers at Milnsbridge during the winter.

The large expansion necessary to cater adequately at annual camp for a full establishment of officers caused those responsible a number of mild headaches, but finally the difficulties were all overcome and most members agree that the Mess at Barnard Castle was comfortable and well run, without being unduly lavish.

The only real dinner night was held on the first Monday, and this proved to be a stiff test for a completely green Mess staff. They rose to the occasion manfully and a most enjoyable evening resulted. There were only two guests—Capt. Arnold Woodcock and Keith Wright, who had been recalled as I.O. and G.3 at Brigade Headquarters—and we were very glad to welcome them and that



7th BATTALION THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

Back Row : Lt. P. Pocklington, Lt. C. Bates, Lt. J. E. Hyde, Lt. D. A. Lee, Lt. K. M. Dyson, Lt. D. Broadbent, Lt. J. G. Shaw, 2/Lt. P. J. Schofield, Lt. H. Nock, Lt. K. H. Waterhouse, Lt. G. N. Thornton.
 Centre Row : 2/Lt. M. R. Dove, Lt. H. M. Crowther, Lt. P. H. Haws, Lt. J. C. Moncrieff, Lt. G. A. Dyson, Lt. H. N. Johnson, Lt. R. Turner, Lt. D. Gibbard, Lt. G. M. Sandford, Lt. R. Morton, Lt. P. R. Bell, Lt. C. H. Brooks, Lt. T. G. Turnbull, Capt. B. Clay.
 Front Row : Capt. J. Forty, Capt. D. R. Siddall, Capt. H. S. Heaton, Major B. L. Ellam, Major R. S. Fergusson (att.), Major A. T. Banks, M.B.E., Lt.-Col. Sir N. H. Everard, Bt. (C.O.), Col. W. A. Hinchcliffe, T.D. (Hon. Colonel), Capt. J. L. Streatfeild, M.C. (Adj.), Major W. Skelsey (att.), Major F. Whitehead, Capt. T. H. Williams, Capt. W. E. Townsend, Capt. R. W. J. Naismith, R.A.M.C., Capt. C. Barnes.

the former is still capable of providing non-stop entertainment was proved to the hilt.

A very exacting training programme prohibited any other functions except for a pre-luncheon cocktail party on Middle Sunday. Among the guests were the Divisional Commander, the Brigade Commander and the Honorary Colonel. We were also very fortunate in having a representative gathering of ladies, whose presence added the necessary touch of colour and charm to the occasion. Most of the guests stayed to partake of a most

sumptuous buffet luncheon and all voted it a most successful party.

Throughout the camp period the weather was never really suitable for shirt sleeve order, with the result that the Mess is now left with a very large stock of unsold slip-on badges of rank, and this appears to be the only instance of really bad budgeting.

In conclusion, we would like to say how much we enjoyed the company of Majors Skelsey and Ferguson, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, who were attached to the unit for the camp period.

4th CADET BATTALION

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment

The first item of importance which we take great pleasure in recording is the award of the Army Cadet Force Medal to our C.O.—Lt.-Col. E. Tillotson—and also to Major G. Roscoe Jones. The congratulations of all ranks of the Battalion are extended to these officers.

The summer, with all its advantages for outdoor training, is passing all too quickly, but reports of week-end camps, night exercises, etc., from all Companies prove that no time has been wasted. We hope that the report of the next Certificate "A" Board will show a marked improvement in Fieldcraft and Map Reading as a result.

Annual Camps at Mablethorpe and Whitburn were much enjoyed, and as the weather during both weeks was uncommonly clement, all ranks returned looking bronzed and fit. On the debit side, our Camp Stores Deficiency bill was a rod for a mustard pot. The permanent staff at both Camps are to be congratulated for their efficient organisation, which ensured our comfort and enjoyment.

At the Regimental Swimming Gala, held at Keighley Baths on June 23, and also at the Regimental Sports, held at Wellesley Barracks, Halifax, on July 7, our Battalion representatives fought gamely but unsuccessfully for honours. Both events, however, proved that we have some promising youngsters coming along, so look to your laurels, Major Jamieson.

We must record a very enjoyable event which took place at Wellesley Barracks, early in June, the occasion being a cricket match between Cadet officers and the personnel of the Depot. The Cadets, who batted first, made a disastrous start, losing the first four wickets for no runs. Recovering slowly, they managed to compile a total of 50 odd runs for the first innings. This score was, however, very quickly passed by our opponents' opening batsmen, after which their team very sportingly ignored the scoreboard and contented themselves with a short knock each. Major Skelsey and his staff hospitably entertained the Cadet team to tea, and we thanked him for a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon. Although our heads were "bloody but

unbowed" we look forward to a return match next season.

In conclusion, we are pleased to report that a satisfactory number of cadets have already qualified as marksmen under the Empire Test, and more are in training to obtain badges.

Now to our winter training programmes and our social activities.



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REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The Museum Committee have much pleasure in acknowledging receipt of the following articles, kindly given or lent to the Museum during the period March to May, 1951, and wish to express their thanks to the donors for their generous assistance:

Capt. G. C. Tedd, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

- 301 Bush hat.
 302 Jungle green beret (Indian pattern).
 303 Jungle hat (green).
 304 Khaki beret.
 305 Japanese soldier's pay book.
 306 } "Safe conduct" passes dropped to Japanese inviting their surrender.
 307 }
 308 Japanese paper money.
 309 Japanese soldier's "chop" (seal) in a case.
 310 Field message (Chindit column).
 311 Reprint *Yorkshire Post* article, Chindit operations.
 312 Copy, Special Order of the Day, issued to 23rd British Brigade Group, in which 2nd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment was serving, on leaving India, by G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, India, dated July 23, 1947.
 315 Formation sign—Chindits.
 316 Formation sign—39th (Light) Division.
Lt.-Col. Owen Price, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.
 313 Formation Signs, SHAEF, and The Yorkshire Division.
Mr. Alfred Beardmore, son of the late C/Sgt. Thomas Beardmore, 33rd Regiment, later Q.M.S., South Staffs. Militia.
 314 Letter written to C/Sgt. Thomas Beardmore by John Talbot, 33rd Regiment, from "Camp outside the walls of Sebastopol, November 13, 1854," mentioning mutual friends and commenting on the Alma, Sebastopol and Balaklava.

R. Q.M.S. J. Imray.

- 317 Pair of brass elephant collar badges and a pair of "D.W."s.
 321 A Sergeant's sash.
 322 A Lance-Corporal's stripe.
 323 A pair of red hose-tops.
 324 A set of brass jacket buttons.

Mrs. A. H. Montague, widow of Mr. A. H. Montague, who joined The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1893 and served in the South African War and the Great War, 1914-18.

- 318 A collection of photographs and other relics of the 2nd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment when stationed in Bangalore and Rangoon, 1898-1900.

Mr. E. Craven, formerly of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

- 319 Scale replica of Colours, 33rd Regiment, embroidered and framed.

Miss G. S. Champion de Crespigny, Corona, Instow, North Devon.

- 320 A glass water bottle in wooden case, the property of Lord Lake, under whom the 76th "Hindoostan" Regiment served from 1799 to 1806.

Mr. C. E. Pollard (late W.O.2, 1st D.W.R.).

- 325 A Nazi vehicle identification flag.
 326 Nazi propaganda pamphlets dropped in the Anzio beach-head.

Lt.-Col. M. V. le P. Trench, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

- 327 Dress sword belt, with slings.
 328 Sam Brown belt, with one shoulder strap.

Lt.-Col. W. G. Officer, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

- 329 One Webley-Fosbery repeating revolver, .455, No. 2051, with leather holster, cord lanyard, cleaning rod and brush.
 330 One pair Field Officer's spurs, Field service order, one pair of chains, and one pair of guards, for spurs, in full dress.
 331 One pair of shoulder straps, British warm, with badges of rank of Captain, and four pairs of stars.

Location of Officers

BRIGADIERS

K. G. Exham, D.S.O., D.D.M.T., The War Office, London, A.D.C.

COLONELS

B. W. Webb-Carter, D.S.O., T/Brig., Comdt. School Amphibious Warfare, Fremington, Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon.

LIEUTENANT-COLONELS

F. R. Armitage, O.B.E. .. T/Col., A.A.G., The War Office, London.
 C. R. T. Cumberlege .. T/Col., Bde. Col., Y. & N. Bde, Imphal Barracks, York.
 J. H. Dalrymple .. Comd. 1st Bn.
 C. W. B. Orr, O.B.E. .. T/Col., L/A.W. Directorate, The War Office.

MAJORS

F. P. A. Woods W.S./Lt.-Col., Comd. 23 Gp., R.P.C.
 A. H. G. Wathen S.O.II (P.T.), H.Q. Aldershot District, Aldershot.
 C. K. T. Faithfull H.Q., B.A.O.R.
 J. E. Frankis T/Brig., Comd. 3 Inf. Bde., B.A.O.R.
 R. K. Exham, C.B.E., M.C. .. T/Lt.-Col., Comd. 7th D.W.R. (T.A.), Huddersfield.
 Sir N. H. Everard, Bt. .. T/Brig., B.G.S., H.Q., B.A.O.R.
 R. N. H. C. Bray, D.S.O. ... W.O.S.B., Barton Stacey.
 F. H. V. Wellesley Comdt. 2nd Nigeria Regt., R.W.A.F.F., Accra, Gold Coast.
 M. M. Davie 2 IC 1st Bn.
 F. R. St. P. Bunbury, D.S.O.

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of the 7th Battalion, kindness, help and sympathy have been his outstanding characteristics.

"His services to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in general and the 7th Battalion in particular have been invaluable, and the Regiment owes him a great debt of gratitude.

"It was a joy to have him with us at annual camp and other Battalion functions, and he will always be remembered with the deepest affection by all ranks of the 7th 'Dukes'."

ROLL OF HONOUR

We deeply regret to announce the following casualties during the fighting in Korea :

14453026 SGT. CECIL CLARK

Killed in action on April 25, 1951.

21013197 SGT. ROBERT ANDREW DONALD

Missing, believed dead, on April 25, 1951.

Both the above were serving with the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.

14448578 CPL. R. F. FIRTH

Died from gunshot wounds on July 10, 1951, while attached to The Gloucester Regiment.

We also deeply regret to announce the following deaths :

LT.-COL. HENRY WRIXON BECHER, D.S.O.

Aged 84

Lt.-Col. H. K. Umfreville writes :

"Lt.-Col. Becher died at his home in Mallow, Co. Cork, last June. Mick, as he was usually known, joined the 76th at Tipperary in 1883. He spent all his service with the 2nd Battalion, except during the South African War, where he earned his brevet majority and was mentioned in despatches. Later he rejoined the 2nd Battalion in Calcutta, where he was invaluable. Col. S. D. Trench was commanding at the time. Shortly after Col. Trench retired, Mick retired also. It was a great loss to the Regiment. In the 1914-18 war he commanded a labour battalion in France, being awarded the D.S.O. and the Belgian War Cross. While in France he often visited the 2nd Battalion where he was always welcome. Mick was ideal. There was something paternal about him, something which few men possess, a soundness which impressed itself on you the moment you met him. He always held things together in critical times. He inspired confidence in all ranks. He lived for the Regiment and was never afraid to voice his sound opinions. Although of a genial disposition, he was a good disciplinarian and made people toe the line. He always stopped any signs of silly quarrels. He knew how to come down heavily on the presumptuous. When a certain young officer boasted of his merits as an actor Mick told him that the only possibility

for him on the stage was the hind part of an elephant in a pantomime ! He was a great standby to me when I was Adjutant and Paymaster."

LT.-COL. E. A. BALD, M.C.

Lt.-Col. E. A. Bald, M.C., 10th Gurkha Rifles (late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment), died on July 5, 1951, at Lindum, Berkhamsted.

Lt.-Col. F. H. B. Wellesley writes :

"I was very sorry to see the death of Willie Bald, for he was a great friend of mine. He joined us in Ambala in 1909 and served with us until just before the outbreak of the 1914 war, when he transferred to the Indian Army. After war was declared he tried hard to get back to us, but the India Office wouldn't allow it. During all the time he was with us he was my subaltern in 'C' Company. He was always very cheery and good at sports. He kept in touch with the Regiment and regularly attended the regimental dinner when he had the chance. He won his M.C. on the North-West Frontier in 1920 for helping to save the life of a wounded brother officer under fire."

BRIGADIER-GENERAL R. E. SUGDEN, C.B., C.M.G.

Brigadier-General R. E. Sugden, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., Deputy Lieutenant West Riding of Yorkshire, Freeman of the Borough of Brighouse, died on May 9, 1951, aged 79.

F. S. writes :

"To many readers of the daily press the news of Brigadier-General Sugden's death was a mere formal announcement, but to those who had known him, sported with him, served with and under him and also to those who could claim a place in that large circle of his many friends, the news caused a suspension of all feeling save that of deep loss and a sincere regret at the passing of a distinguished and colourful personality. Affectionately known to all as 'R. E.', he was a well-known figure in many spheres and over a wide area. To detail all his public and semi-public activities would need several pages. As a forthright and humorous public speaker he was in demand, and as a raconteur and after-dinner speaker he had few equals.

"It is, however, as a 'Duke' that Brigadier-General Sugden appeals to the readers of this journal especially as the Colonel of the old 4th Battalion.

"At the Battalion reunion when the orators have had their say and the men separate into little friendly groups to rekindle the friendships of the first war days, when the battles are fought over again and old stories retold, there is certain to be recalled in each little circle the exploits and sayings of 'R. E.'

"One, often repeated, is that concerning a sickly soldier wending his way from the trenches on the canal bank at Ypres minus (strictly against orders) rifle and equipment. As he approached one of the bridges crossing the canal Major Sugden, as he was then, suddenly appeared in view and the dialogue was as follows : 'Where is your rifle ?' 'Trenches, sir.' 'Where is your equipment,'

'Trenches, sir.' 'What would you do now if the Boche came over? I expect you would do the same as they do in Ossett—pawse 'em back.'

"During 'R. E.'s' command of the 4th Battalion crime was practically non-existent. He was an excellent magistrate, as he was afterwards in public life, being just and outspoken. Humanity and charity characterised his decisions.

"The fame of R. E. will not die out in this generation. Those who served with him, when gathered around the domestic hearth, have told to their children the exploits of a rugged personality—R. E. Sugden.

"During his war service he took a keen and personal interest in the welfare of his comrades, officers and men alike and, after the first world war, his interest was directed to the work of the British Legion, where he served for a long time as chair man of the Yorkshire area."

BRIGADIER JOHN HILLIARD CAIRNES LAWLOR

Brigadier J. H. C. Lawlor, who died at the Fermagh County Hospital, was originally commissioned in the Munster Fusiliers, with whom he served in France, where he was wounded and mentioned in despatches. When his regiment was disbanded after the war he transferred to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He was seconded for a tour of duty to the Sudan Defence Force, after which he joined the 1st Battalion at Devonport. He was later Staff Captain to the 2nd Infantry Brigade and in 1933 took over the adjutancy of the 1st Battalion; later he became Brigade Major of the 147th Infantry Brigade. On the outbreak of war he was appointed to the command of the 1/6th Battalion and took them on the expedition to Norway and to Iceland. He was then given a brigade in the 61st Division in Northern Ireland, but had to relinquish command of this on account of ill-health. Later he was employed in command of a troopship to the East and finally as commandant of a P.O.W. camp.

Brigadier C. W. G. Grimley, M.C., writes :

"It was a great shock to me when I read of the death of John Lawlor. We first met in 1930 when he joined the 1st Battalion at North Raglan Barracks, Devonport, after a tour of service with the Sudan Defence Force. We continued to serve together when the Battalion moved to Aldershot, where he took over the Adjutancy from me in November, 1933. Later we served together as Battalion Commanders in the 147th Infantry Brigade in Iceland. He had a quiet, calm manner and a rather reserved personality, but one which inspired all who knew him with confidence, respect and genuine affection. I know the 1/6th Battalion, which he commanded in Iceland, had the highest regard for him and deeply regretted when he was promoted to the command of an infantry brigade. He was a very keen sportsman and seldom missed an opportunity of hunting, shooting or fishing. In Iceland he accounted for a number of salmon and I had the pleasure of watching him kill two nice fish in 20 minutes on the Laxvogeur.

"The characteristics of John Lawlor which

remain clearest in my mind are his sincerity, loyalty to his friends, and his practical, straightforward and uncomplicated approach to all problems, great or small."

Brigadier B. W. Webb-Carter, D.S.O., O.B.E., writes :

"As John Lawlor's 2nd in command in the 6th Battalion in 1940 and 1941 I would like to add a few lines to what Brigadier Grimley has written. I doubt if anyone who was not in the old 147th Infantry Brigade at that time could quite appreciate what John Lawlor meant to the 6th. As a comparatively unknown Regular he took over from a popular T.A. C.O. at a particularly difficult time. He had to turn the Battalion over from a semi-peace footing to a mobilised unit and embark it—abortively as it turned out—for the Norwegian operations. Shortly after he took us to Iceland, where he came into his own and trained the Battalion to a high state of efficiency. By this time all ranks had penetrated the reserve which distinguished him and he was trusted and admired by us all. Very few knew of the almost constant bad health which dogged him at this period and kept him often in pain, but which never interfered with his duty. As one of his T.A. officers wrote to me last week, 'through all the Battalion's service there was always a part of John Lawlor there.' The active Army suffered a loss when bad health at last compelled him to give up command of the Brigade to which he succeeded on leaving the 6th Battalion."

LT.-COL. H. O. BROWNING, M.C., R.A.P.C.

Lt.-Col. H. O. Browning, M.C., R.A.P.C. (late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment), died on July 22, 1951, at Millbank Military Hospital after much suffering borne with inspiring courage.

MURIEL CLAIR MARKHAM

Muriel Clair Markham, wife of Ernest Markham, of Vale House, Stamford, died on July 30, 1951, at the age of 41.

Mrs. Markham, the daughter of the late Mr. James Holdsworth and Mrs. Eva Holdsworth of Sandal, married in 1932 the late Lt.-Col. H. B. Owen, who was killed while commanding the 2nd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Burma. In 1945 she married Mr. Ernest Markham, of the Vale House, Stamford. Fond of all games, a good swimmer and a keen rider to hounds, she took a prominent part in the social life of Stamford and was an active member of the Music and Drama Club. She had three daughters by her first marriage, all of whom survive her.

PERSONALIA

MARRIAGES

CAREY—HANSON.—The marriage took place at St. George's Church, Sowerby, on June 23, between Mr. Leon Francis Timothy Carey, second son of Major Rupert O. D. Carey, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and Mrs. Carey, of "Green Shutters," Ripponden, and Miss Jean

Hanson, third daughter of Mr. Selwyn Hanson and the late Mrs. Esther Hanson, and step-daughter of Mrs. Selwyn Hanson of "Beirnfels," Sowerby Bridge. Present address: "St. Ives," Ripponden.

BIRTHS

JONES-STAMP.—On August 10, 1951, at Chertsey Hill Nursing Home, Carlisle, Marion, wife of Major Douglas Jones-Stamp, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, of a son (who only survived two days) and a daughter.

FIRTH.—On September 23, 1951, to Alec (nee Temple-Phillipps), wife of Major A. D. Firth, M.B.E., The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, of Maple Cottage, Wivenhoe, Essex—a daughter (Robyn Hand).

Major H. P. E. Pereira, F.S.A., Curator of the Scottish United Services Museum, sends the following items of news published in *The Scotsman*, July 30, 1951:

"The Mayor of Berwick, Councillor G. M. Lamb, called upon Mrs. Margaret Henderson at her home, 17 Church Street, on Saturday, and congratulated her upon her 100th birthday.

"With the Mayor went Councillor T. Evans, who presented her with an illuminated address of congratulation on behalf of the Freemen of Berwick, Mrs. Henderson being the widow of a Freeman.

"Born in Edinburgh Castle, where her father was serving with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, she was christened in St. Margaret's Chapel. She went to Berwick when 13, and has lived in the same house for 70 years.

* * * *

Our heartiest congratulations to Major J. E. V. Butterfield, Major H. S. Le Messurier and Capt. R. W. Nicholson on being selected for the Staff College Course starting in January, 1952.

Also to the following, who qualified "A" (equivalent to the old "D") on courses at the School of Infantry:

Small Arms Course—2/Lt. R. M. Harms and 14909049 Sgt. G. France.

M.M.G. Course—4271809 Sgt. J. Frier.

* * * *

Lt.-Col. J. H. Dalrymple has been elected a vice-president and member of the Executive Committee of the Army Rugby Union.

* * * *

Capt. T. N. B. Williams writes from Pahang, Malaya, sending his best wishes to his old friends who were in the 1/6th in Iceland and in the 2nd in the Naga hills. He is now managing an estate in a tough district and goes his rounds in a Morris Recce car with an escort of six Malay special constables. He has promised to write an account of his daily life for THE IRON DUKE. His address is Tuan Estate, Bentong P.O., Pahang, Malaya.

* * * *

Lt.-Col. D. Scott, T.D., R.A. (T.A.) has assumed command of the 673rd L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (6th Battalion D.W.R.) in succession to Lt.-Col.

W. E. Dale Shaw. We wish him every success in his tour of command.

CORRESPONDENCE

Saturday, May 26, 1951

Dear Sir,

I received your most welcome letter and acknowledgment for my postal order just over two weeks ago, and I must apologise for the delay in sending my thanks for your kindness for sending THE IRON DUKE to me, although I have not yet received a copy owing to the fact that it will be coming by sea mail (a six-weeks' journey). I am looking forward, however, to some pleasant reading.

It is, sir, with great regret I have to inform you that in our recent operation (the Chinese spring offensive) the "Dukes" lost two ex-members. On April 23 Sgt. "Nobby" Clarke was killed in action on the hills overlooking the Imjin River, and in the two days following it was reported that Sgt. Bob Donald was missing, presumed killed in action. It was a great shock to me to lose two of my friends in such a short space of time, and I know that all members, past and present, of the 1st Battalion will feel this terrible loss.

Sgt. Donald joined "A" Company, 1st Dukes, at the Moascar Garrison, Egypt, with me in January, 1946, after we had been transferred from the Black Watch. He served with us in Palestine and the Sudan, leaving us on Class "A" release just before the Battalion returned to England in November, 1947.

After a short spell of civilian life he rejoined the colours on a Regular engagement and found himself once more with the Battalion at Proteos Camp, Ollerton, where he decided to join the regimental provost staff.

It was at Strensall, mid-1949, that the urge for another overseas tour got him and it was not long before he was serving with the 1st Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers at Gibraltar. That was the last I saw of him until I met him some months ago in this unhappy land.

Sgt. Clarke was an "A" Company 1st Battalion man, joining us from the "Dukes'" training centre in the middle of 1946, when the Battalion was at Haifa, Palestine, staying with us till 1948, when he left Strensall to serve with the 1st Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers at Gibraltar. He will always be remembered for his cheerfulness and his fine sense of humour, which made him friends wherever he went.

Before closing this letter, sir, I would like to add my congratulations to 2/Lts. Shuttleworth and Hardy on their selection for England, and trust this is only the beginning of the honours they have worked for so hard.

With that I say cheerio for now, and to all "Dukes" all the best and good luck in the future.

I remain, sir,

D. BRAYSHAW, Cpl.

H.Q., 29th British Ind. Inf. Brigade,

B.A.P.O.3.



June 11, 1951

Dear Sir,

This photograph might interest you and members of your Regiment.

The grave is at Senafe on the Eritrean side of the strip of neutral territory between Abyssinia and Eritrea, about 75 miles south of Asmara, and about 400 miles due north of Addis Ababa. As you can see it covers the remains of Col. Dunn, V.C., who was killed during Lord Napier's Abyssinian expedition in 1868, while still only about 100 miles from Zula on the Red Sea coast, where the force disembarked. Senafe is about 8,000 ft. above sea level. This photograph was taken in October, 1949, when I passed through Senafe with an R.A.S.C. convoy. The grave was enclosed in a small and well-kept cemetery beside the graves of about five Italian officers killed in the Abyssinian war of 1935.

Yours sincerely,

A. NOTTIDGE.

Pembroke College,
Cambridge.

(NOTE.—Col. Dunn Alexander Robert Dunn, V.C., was killed by the explosion of his rifle while out shooting. He won his V.C. in the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava on October 25, 1854, when a lieutenant in the 11th Hussars.—Editor.)

August 22, 1951

Dear Sir,

Recently I did a tour of the Tunisian battlefields during which I had a chance to visit some of the war cemeteries.

I am afraid time was too short for me to stop and make a note of those who were buried in each cemetery, but I thought it might interest some of your readers to know that without exception all the cemeteries were extremely well cared for and tidy.

The one with the most "Dukes" buried in it is that at Medjez-el-Bab. This cemetery lies about a mile to the south-west of the town beside the Medjez-El Aroussa road and is very well looked after in every way.

The whole of northern Tunisia has now been completely cleared up and shows no sign of war, except on the tops of the hills where the old slit trenches still remain.

My good wishes to all "Dukes" wherever they may be.

Yours faithfully,

R. H. INCE.

M.S. Branch,
H.Q. B.T.E.,
M.E.L.F. 14.

BOOK REVIEWS

REGIMENTAL COLOURS

By MAJOR A. C. S. SAVORY

The articles on the Colours of the 33rd and 76th Regiments, recently published in *THE IRON DUKE*, have now been reprinted and are available in a convenient and attractive brochure. They have been considerably revised in the light of new information that has come to hand, particularly in the early part, where two more stands of Colours have been identified. Major Savory is to be congratulated on a most valuable piece of research and a fascinating addition to the history of the Regiment. His account of the succession of Colours is very clearly and intelligibly set out, it is admirably illustrated and, by linking up each individual stand with the history of the Regiment at the time, he has added life and colour to his narrative. When one considers that in the early days regimental Colours were supplied by and remained the property of the Colonel and that often their active life was only a few years, and when one recalls the vicissitudes to which they were exposed by land and sea and on the battlefield, one can only wonder that so much information has survived.

Next year the 33rd celebrates its 250th birthday. By dint of patient research, the author has succeeded in identifying all the Colours carried during 213 years of its long life—13 stands to be precise. Of their predecessors nothing as yet has come to light.

The record of the Colours of the 76th, as might be expected from its later formation, is more nearly complete. All its seven stands have been identified, though in most cases little or nothing material has survived. There is a very full account of the

history of the honorary Colours, that unique honour which has never been bestowed upon any other regiment. The privilege of carrying four Colours on parade has been challenged from time to time—dare we suggest from motives of jealousy—but without success. The author's concluding paragraphs put a valuable weapon into the hands of any who have to meet such challenges in future.

The brochure can be obtained from the Administrative Officer, Wellesley Barracks, Halifax, for 2s. (post free). No one who takes a pride in our great traditions can afford to be without a copy.

L/SGT. BERGIN'S VICTORIA CROSS

The recent purchase by the Regiment of the medals won by L/Sgt. Bergin is reported elsewhere in this issue. A short account of the exploit which won him the Victoria Cross is given in Chapter

XXXV of Lee's History of the 33rd Regiment. A more highly coloured account is given in Volume II of "Her Majesty's Army" by Walter Richards. This account is based on the same essential facts as that of Lee, but the characteristic Victorian prose gives it the added charm of a period piece.

James Bergin was born at Killbricken, Queen's County, Ireland, in 1845. He enlisted in the 10th Foot in 1862 and in 1867 transferred into the 33rd with whom he served throughout the Abyssinian War. In April, 1868, the 33rd formed part of the force under the command of Gen. Sir Robert Napier which had penetrated into Abyssinia and was approaching the capital Magdala. Here Theodore, Emperor of Abyssinia, was preparing to make his last stand.

The assault contained the two familiar characteristics essential to all true operations. In the first place it began on a Sunday—April 13, 1868. In the second place a major error on the part of



THE MEDALS OF L/SGT. BERGIN RECENTLY ACQUIRED BY THE 1st BATTALION

some person or persons, now mercifully anonymous, thoroughly disorganised the original plan.

The 33rd began the assault and from Richards we learn that "The 33rd was marching in fours, firing right and left as they went up the steep road, headed by the Engineers." It was at this point that the inevitable error became apparent. "All of a sudden it became known that the blasting powder had been forgotten, and the stormers must dispense with its assistance."

It is agreeable to speculate on the comments of the Regiment when this news was disclosed. They were evidently no less outspoken than any other body of Infantry under such circumstances, for only a few weeks before the Commander-in-Chief had commented on their "want of reticence in expressing their opinion on things in general" during the 18-mile climb from Marawa to Dildi. Richards, however, throws no light upon this aspect of the subject and proceeds smoothly with his narrative.

"On receiving the intimation, the 33rd broke off from the road and clambered up the hill under the fire of the enemy. On reaching the foot of the wall they found that it was, in fact, a scarped cliff, about seven or eight feet high, with a hedge of prickly bushes about a foot high at the top. Pte. Bergin, who was a tall man, six feet in height, contrived with his bayonet to make a gap in the hedge. Drm. Magnor, of the 33rd, was by his side, and Bergin said, 'Let me help you up, and then you can pull me up.' Magnor agreed, and getting on Bergin's shoulders caught hold of the top of the cliff with his hands, and being shoved up by the butt of Bergin's rifle, got to the top, and then pulled up Bergin, who was assisted in mounting by Ensign Connor and Cpl. Murphy. Bergin saw a cluster of the enemy standing at the gate, which was about forty yards off. Ensign Connor asked Bergin to give him a hand, but Bergin replied that he wanted to have a shot at the enemy, and that

the Drummer, having no rifle, had better help the rest of the party up. Meanwhile, the enemy had been firing at Bergin, who lost no time in replying, advancing as he fired. Some of the enemy kept on firing, but the others ran away. By the time he had fired ten or twelve rounds Bergin had reached the gate, the enemy falling back before him, at least such of them that were not killed by his breech-loader, which caused several to drop. It was then that some officers and men came up, and the whole party advanced towards the inner circle of fortifications. All of the enemy, save one, had disappeared through an open gate. The one exception stood his ground, and tried to fire four or five rounds at Bergin and an officer who accompanied. It had been raining heavily that afternoon, and the Abyssinian's gun snapped each time. The officer, saying, 'I'll make him a prisoner!' rushed forward to seize the man. The latter drew a sword and in another instant would have cut the officer down, when Bergin promptly shot the Abyssinian through the head. The officer might have easily protected himself for he was armed with sword and revolver, but he was so intent on capturing his gallant foe, that but for Bergin he would have been slain. Notwithstanding his narrow escape, this officer, with the true spirit of an English gentleman, exclaimed, when he saw the man fall, 'It was a pity to kill him for he was a brave soldier!' Bergin and his comrades then entered the gate, and skirmishing through the inner town soon put an end to all resistance. For this exploit both Magnor and Bergin were given the Victoria Cross. The flank movement of the 33rd practically achieved the capture of Magdala. At the top of a flight of steps remained one obstacle, a gate, which the rifles of the 33rd soon blew in. Within the gate lay the corpse of Theodore, habited as a simple chieftain, slain by his own hand. With the fall of Magdala ended for the time the warlike achievements of the famous 1st Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment."

A.C.S.S.

A RECRUITING MARCH

PART II

(Continued from the July, 1951, issue)

WAKEFIELD TO HUDDERSFIELD

"When we set out from Wakefield the sun was shining, but overnight rain had left the roads greasy and difficult to walk on. We were accompanied as far as Horbury by a big crowd, but the 'hill without a top' choked most of them off and we were left, after another mile, with only a travelling fiddler. He carried a pack on his shoulder and, by the first halt, was fairly pumped, but he came to after the kindly offer of a water-bottle and livened the men up with a merry jig.

"At last, at Waterloo, we struck our own territorial district and were met by the Band of our own Volunteer Battalion and fully a couple of thousand citizens who gave the Regiment a rousing reception as they came swinging down the hill. When we set

off again, after a halt for light refreshment, the traditional havercakes came into evidence. The havercake is an oatmeal fritter, oval in shape and about a foot across at the widest part, thin, excellent eating, and peculiar to the district. About a couple of hundred years ago the recruiting sergeants used to scatter these cakes around as they went, and the officers have recently secured for their mess a print of these things stuck on the bayonets. Yesterday, the old tradition found repetition. The colours were uncased and flew gallantly in the breeze; each Colour-Sergeant carried the cake, stuck on his bayonet at the slope, and a couple of smart drummer boys were told off to distribute the bread. It was a capital idea, but the Regiment is great on the observance of traditions as was further shown,

on arrival in Huddersfield, when the drums were sent out to 'cry the credit down.'"

Huddersfield did the visitors proud. After an inspection by Brigadier General Brown, V.C., commanding the North-Eastern District, a capital dinner was provided in the drill hall by the Volunteer Battalion. In the afternoon and evening, every place of amusement was thrown open to the troops; the trams were available at a halfpenny per mile; clubs threw their quarters (including billiards) open; all N.C.O.s and men were admitted free to the football match, Huddersfield v. Halifax, and, in the evening, to the Empire Theatre. "Nothing could have been nicer than the arrangements made by the Volunteers for their comrades of the line. An equally good tea followed the dinner and a capital supper was also provided." Over a hundred waiters had been engaged to attend to the troops.

The Battalion stayed in Huddersfield over Sunday and attended Divine Service at the Parish Church. After the service, the General presented the Long Service Medal to: C/Sgts. H. Prior and J. Jackson; Sgt. F. Wear; L/Sgts. T. Brennan, A. Hirst and H. Turner; Ptes. E. Robinson and E. Riley.

HUDDERSFIELD TO HALIFAX

"On Monday, we set off from Huddersfield on the tick of nine, the bands playing 'Auld Lang Syne' and the people taking up the refrain all along the way. In Brighouse, the populace met us in full force and escorted us through the township, after the mayor and civic authorities had welcomed the Regiment in the market place. We met a lot of our reservists and there was some little difficulty in keeping rank, the inhabitants were so glad to see the soldiers. We would have made a detour to pass through Sowerby Bridge, where the Regiment was raised two hundred years ago, but the roads were reported as being 'heavy for the transport.' At Elland we got another ovation and at a cracking pace we came to Salterhebble. The cobble-stoned street was like the face of a wall, but there was no slackening of the pace. At the top we filed into a field for a brief rest, the Regiment having been invited at this point for refreshment by ex-Quartermaster Sergeant Major, now mine host of the Stafford Arms. Each man was given a pint of beer, a cigar and a package of biscuits and cheese. Brigadier-General Brown asked for an introduction to Mr. Major, and thanked him personally for his polite attention to the troops."

And so the final stretch into Halifax. "The column had been joined for this day's march by C/Sgt. Instr. Robinson, late Sergeant Drummer of the Battalion. It had been arranged for him to march to this our depot town by the side of our present wielder of the staff, Sgt.-Drummer P. Clarke. But at Salterhebble we had the added pleasure to find awaiting us a Sergeant-Drummer of an earlier generation. This was none other than the old veteran, Mr. Watterson, father of one of our present serving Sergeants, and the proud wearer of a three-barred Crimean medal, backed up by the Turkish decoration. He left the Regiment over forty years ago. He had the honour of

marching immediately in front of the Colonel for the remainder of the distance, being supported up the hills by a Sergeant."

Halifax had a general holiday. On the Green, the Battalion was met by the Mayor of Halifax (Alderman J. Wade), the town clerk and corporation, fully robed, and welcomed to the town. The troops were mustered in square formation in front of the Mayor's carriage, and the Colonel was formally introduced to him. After three cheers for "The Havercake Lads," given at the call of Janitor Mitchell, the mayor addressed the Regiment. Alderman Wade would clearly have had strong views on the present controversy in these columns about the regimental title. He started his speech: "The name by which you are now designated is rather too long for me; I will call you the Havercake Lads." (Cheers.) After this the march was resumed to the drill hall, where dinner was provided through the generosity of the mayor.

The mayor dined with the officers in a separate room, where there was more speech-making. The mayor repudiated the charge of being a "little Englander." He expressed Halifax's pride in the Regiment and in the Army, "though it was rather a pity that they had to have armies," and said that "whether the Russian or the Frenchman came near England's shores, they slept, thinking themselves perfectly safe with the army defending them." Alderman Smith endorsed the mayor's remarks and incidentally mentioned that more men owned their own houses in Halifax than in any other town in England, and this showed the stuff they were made of.

In the evening, the whole Battalion was entertained at the Halifax Palace Theatre—"a new building, very prettily arranged." The chief turn was an exhibition of Lockwood's performing elephants which was especially arranged by the management as a direct compliment to the Regiment. Afterwards, the officers were entertained to dinner at the Depot and the W.O.s and Sergeants to a smoking concert.

Next morning all were well astir by 5 a.m. As the transport was parked some distance from the drill hall, blankets and kits had to be away earlier than usual. "Not a whisper of complaint, however, was heard in the lines and full justice was done to the breakfast provided by Sgt.-Cook Tungate. At this point it may be interesting to mention that, for the meals provided regimentally, no less than 400 lbs. of meat has to be cooked per day in camp ovens, with an equal amount of mixed vegetables, and 120 gallons of tea or coffee. Bread, butter and groceries are purchased on the line of march, and bacon for breakfast has also to be cooked in the camp ovens."

On this morning, however, the W.O.s and Sergeants proceeded by special tram to breakfast with the Sergeants of the Depot at their kind request. A capital feed was offered and "Euchre provided sport by his fraternisation with the Depot baboon."

HALIFAX TO BRADFORD

During the next stage to Bradford, the rain never ceased to pour down, "but it did not damp either

the spirit of the men or the ardour of the populace, who turned out at every street corner to cheer." At Buttershaw, the school children paraded with rosettes and sang "Soldiers of the King." A gentleman advanced from the sidewalk and presented the Colonel with an illustrated history of the district through which the Regiment had marched. From Bankfoot on, the company on the sidewalk began to thicken and, "but for the capital work done by the pioneers, the troops would have been carried straight along without the trouble of marching, so eager were the civilians to welcome them.

"Bradford, where the Regiment was stationed in 1892-3, is noted for its loyalty and high regard for the King's soldiers. If work was done in the city this day, it was either before or after the troops arrived for during the progress all the world and his wife appeared to be lining the streets." After being addressed by the mayor (Alderman David Wade) in the Town Hall Square, another mile was trekked to the drill hall. At the barrack gates, the Colonel, "in accordance with the custom which had been universally observed throughout the march, called for three cheers for the King and these were given with the greatest heartiness. No time was lost in filing into the drill hall, which was found in a perfect state of cleanliness and where a capital dinner was provided by the Volunteer Battalion."

The evening's programme was similar to that observed in the other towns visited. The officers were entertained to dinner in the Town Hall by the mayor, and afterwards visited the "Empire" with him. The men were also invited to the "Empire" and other theatres. One of the turns at the "Empire" was Harry Lauder, but he does not seem to have impressed Mr. Forrest Frank as much as the performing elephants in Halifax.

And there the march came to an abrupt end. It had been intended to return to York via Arthington and Wetherby, but this was cancelled "owing to the heavy state of the roads due to the rain," and the Battalion returned to York next day by train. "We have had a rattling tip-top time and everybody was awfully sorry when the news ran round. The men were in grand fettle and could have done a forty-mile stretch if necessary, just as they did in one day in South Africa. But it was not necessary; conditions generally were very unsatisfactory for the bivouac at Arthington and there was no commonsense reason for exposing the men to chills on sodden fields when quarters might be reached comfortably."

So the Battalion left by train, being given a tremendous send-off from Bradford, where many of the mills allowed their employees a half-day off to see the Battalion away and Mr. Forrest Frank concluded his report with a glowing tribute to the fitness, spirit, behaviour and cleanliness of the Havercake Lads. In this he mentions particularly the Quartermaster, Major Seaman, who had served with the Regiment for forty years, including the Abyssinian campaign.

Mr. Forrest Franks makes no mention of any recruits being attracted after the first enthusiast on

the outskirts of York. Another reporter notes that a woman in Wakefield exclaimed that "Soldiers should not have her Frankie for she'd lock him in." Mr. Forrest Frank's silence in the matter is suspicious, since he was clearly determined, and presumably instructed, to see the whole march through rose-coloured spectacles. Even so, and whatever the actual harvest of recruits, it seems clear that the march was a success in establishing good relations between the Havercake Lads and their territorial district; and that the troops were received with great kindness and hospitality in an area where, only some thirty years before, a petition had been organised against the establishment of an army depot. It would be interesting to hear from any reader who has personal recollections of the march. It is surprising to learn that the Battalion marched through these towns with bayonets fixed, colours flying and drums beating, but the havercake ceremony seems a custom which might be revived on a suitable occasion. And, here, one would like to suggest that the Havercake Lads (one is on the side of Alderman Wade), or, perhaps better, the Depot, should preserve the art of baking havercakes which, it would seem from Major Wright's letter in No. 69 I.D., is a unique art and in danger of becoming a lost one
R.G.T.

Horace's Odes

Book I—XXII

To Chloe (aged 4)

An upright man like me has nought to fear,
Spurns the steel helmet and such craven gear,
Nor deigns when sirens scream to disappear
Downstairs and shiver.

Unscathed amid the churlish Alps, he'll stray
By dragon-haunted loch and faerie brae
Or where the burning winds of Libya play
Hell with the liver.

One day rehearsing, as I loved to do,
My Chloe's charms I met a wolf! It flew
Straight at my throat, but on my murmuring
Ran like a rabbit. ["Shoo!"]

Such a portentous beast with such a bark
As ne'er was whelped in Whipsnade or those dark
Unsavoury dungeons which in Regent's Park
Lions inhabit.

Then set me on Helvellyn's frozen steep
Or where Mancunian skies for ever weep,
Or send me with a shotgun and a Jeep
'Gainst tanks to battle.

In foetid jungle swamp, beneath the blaze
Of tropic suns undaunted still I'll raise
To Chloe's artful smile my hymn of praise,
Her artless prattle.

O.P.

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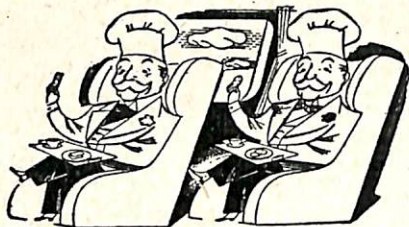
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*The appointment of Mr. Richard Cox in
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O.C.A. NEWS

Dewsbury, Ossett, Wakefield.—News this quarter is rather scanty. This is due, in the main, to the holiday period being in full swing. Securing transport bookings for any social fixtures is indeed a problem, and one might add, a headache. It was hoped that with this issue we could have given an account of our return social visit to our Sheffield Branch. This, unfortunately, has had to be postponed until transport is available and after the "tripping" season closes. Sheffield Branch will, we feel sure, readily appreciate the position, and, like us, consider the visit postponed and not cancelled.

An enquiry from our nearest neighbours, the 5th Battalion, O.C.A., regarding a possible social evening, consisting of rifle and darts matches, has been received with keen interest. We sincerely hope this gets past the "talking" stage, as many of the Mirfield members are well known to some of us in this Branch, with whom they served during the late war. If this social takes place I am sure

our Mirfield Branch will find our chaps "upright and on target."

Meetings during the past quarter have been below our usual standard of attendances—again due, no doubt, to the holiday period. Absentees from previous meetings often reappear looking rather "browned off" and with that "had a nice time" look about them, with tales to tell, tall and otherwise.

Again, as last year, the Branch is all set to attend the Reunion Dinner in force. As we have been let down rather badly by our bus contractor, regarding our Dinner booking, and have not yet secured alternative transport, we wonder what they will look like marching to Halifax in columns of three!

In conclusion, the Branch tenders its deepest sympathy with our fellow-members—Mr. J. S. White, in the recent loss of his wife, who died in hospital; and Mr. H. Ashton, in the sudden death of his father, yet another old "Duke."

H.F.H.

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PLEASE NOTE !!

all contributions for the

JANUARY ISSUE

should be in the editor's hands by

DECEMBER THE FIRST

EXTRACTS

from the Diary of Lt. William Thain, 33rd Foot

(Adjutant, 33rd Foot, May 11, 1815—July 13, 1826)

Transcribed from the original by Lt.-Col. C. W. G. INCE, O.B.E., M.C.

Continued from page 110, THE IRON DUKE, No. 81

Stralsund, Saturday, August 14, 1813

I was much surprised at the women of the house this morning who awoke me and brought me coffee. I called on Capt. Freeman. A regimental order was issued this evening for the officers to wear white pantaloons and boots and the men white breeches and gaiters. I dined and drank coffee with Capt. Freeman this evening at the "Spread Eagle" in the Alte Markt.

Stralsund, Sunday, August 15, 1813

Parade this morning at 6 o'clock. We heard from Gen. Gibbs that Bernadotte had been fired upon from Leipzig contrary to the articles of the Armistice and that a shell burst within 20 yards of him. Met with a Swedish captain, who had been 28 years in the service and had served in the same campaigns as my father in Finland. He told me that the Swedish regiment here belonged to Gen. Englebrect, the Governor of Stralsund and Rugen; he also informed me that Field-Marshal Baron Steding had the command (under Bernadotte) of the whole Swedish army now in Pomerania, that Gen. Peyron (?) is in Sweden, and that Gen. Vegesack (?) commanded the garrison in Wismar.

Stralsund, Monday, August 16, 1813.

Went on the main guard with Howard and Capt. Milward; 207 men, one Captain and five subalterns mount guard every day; the main guard consists of 57 men. We dined at 1 o'clock at the ordinary in the "Spread Eagle", which is almost next door to the guard room; about 40 gentlemen sat down to dinner, who all took a dram before they begin to eat. We had everyone a plate of soup given to us first, then each a plate with some cutlet or stew upon it brought into them; after that we had each a plate of fish and then some roast veal; the only vegetables were potatoes and cucumbers, a certain quantity of which was brought in on each man's plate. We got good English porter at 2s. 4d. British a bottle.

I can now understand and make myself understood in German tolerably well; the people in the house where I live take great pains to teach me.

Stralsund, Tuesday, August 17, 1813

We were relieved to-day at 10 o'clock. . . . 800 Swedes marched in to-day.

Stralsund, Wednesday, August 18, 1813

As the morning was very wet at 6 o'clock, we had no parade. Pagan and I had a walk to the island of Denholm, which is joined to the mainland by a bridge of boats. On it there are two batteries lately erected, one of 6 24 pounds and the other of 4. A man from Hamburg has pleasure gardens upon it; he also farms the whole island, for which he pays £100 sterling per annum; it belongs to the town. We afterwards walked round the town upon the foundation of the old walls which were destroyed

by the French, who scarce left one stone upon another. At every entrance, however, they are again building them up and placing cannon upon them. I dined with Pagan upon our return to the Regiment. Went out to drill under the Adjutant at 6 o'clock. Pagan spent the evening with me, which we did in a most rational manner, reading German first and then Lord Chesterfield. We also looked at Le Blond for the different parts of the fortifications which we had seen in our walk.

Stralsund, Thursday, August 19, 1813

We had a field day at 5 o'clock this morning. We were ordered to wear grey pantaloons and half-boots, the men white breeches and gaiters. Breakfasted with Capt. Freeman. . . . I like Stralsund very much, and the people seem to like the English. Every evening music of various kinds is playing about the streets until midnight and the people are dancing in every house; surely this could not be the case when the French were here? Kerr and I dined together at the "Medini"; we had a very good dinner, which cost 2 crowns English each, and a very good bottle of claret between us. The Regiment went out to drill under the Adjutant at 5 o'clock this evening. It was in orders that the 54th (now the 2nd Battalion The Dorset Regiment), now in garrison with us, should hold themselves in readiness for a particular service at a moment's notice.

Stralsund, Friday, August 20, 1813

Parade at half-past 5 o'clock, but we could not get out to the field for it began to rain soon after we fell in. I inspected the necessaries of my squad at 12 o'clock and found great deficiencies. A general order was issued for all the Regiments in garrison to parade at half-past 2 to-morrow in light marching order; parade in the evening without officers. This was the first day of our messing; Mrs. Gore honoured us with her company at dinner.

Stralsund, Saturday, August 21, 1813

A Brigade parade was ordered to form at 2 o'clock, but the rain prevented our going out.

Stralsund, Sunday, August 22, 1813

. . . Fitzpatrick, with a detachment, was sent out to guard some ammunition. Getting the Company complete in necessaries as quickly as possible.

Stralsund, Monday, August 23, 1813

Most of the men were on duty so we had no parades. The General and his staff, together with the heads of Corps and Departments, dined with us to-day. . . .

Stralsund, Tuesday, August 24, 1813

Parade for muster at 6 o'clock in the evening, making out Company's returns, etc. . . .

Stralsund, Wednesday, August 25, 1813

This morning at about half-past 5 o'clock, poor Moore, our Adjutant, shot himself with a musket

loaded with two full cartridges; his mind has been quite disordered for a day or two, supposed to have arisen from the state his pecuniary affairs were in, together with his having got into his head that his returns were not correct, which was not the case. He was on parade last evening, and though he was much dejected he did his duty as well as ever. He is a great loss to the Regiment. He was an excellent drill (*word missing*), which we are much in want of, and we shall have some difficulty in getting another.

At 2 o'clock the whole Brigade went out under the General, who put us through a few manoeuvres and brought us in again at about half-past 5.
Stralsund, Thursday, August 26, 1813

Parade at 6 o'clock this morning. Accounts are circulating that Walmsden has been defeated and that the French are near Schwerin in great force, in consequence of which all inhabitants are upon the works as busy as possible in erecting them and placing the guns, under the direction of the engineers; in the evening they all came into the town in a body with their spades shouldered and singing the tune to "God Save the King"; the gentry came in a body together, they marching with their spades shouldered like the rest, but if I may judge from appearances, I think that the

people are not so heartily in the cause as they ought to be. There is a concert this evening, to which I have observed crowds of people of both sexes are going when I think their thoughts and time ought to be otherwise occupied; great numbers of families are coming in from Berlin, Wismar, Rostock, etc.

We have heard that another victory* has been gained by Lord Wellington, but have no particulars, for we scarce have any news here even of the service in which we are engaged.

(* This probably refers to Wellington's siege of St. Sebastian, which surrendered finally on September 9, 1813.)

Stralsund, Friday, August 27, 1813

At 6 o'clock we went out to fire ball; each man had 8 rounds. At about 12 o'clock we were ordered to be on our alarm posts at 3 o'clock; this was, however, countermanded and the regiments were to be in readiness to turn out at a moment's warning, for the place was to be considered in a state of siege. The light companies were sent out at about 5 o'clock, under Major Parkinson. . . .

Between 8 and 9 p.m. a verbal order came out for all regiments to be on their alarm posts at 2 o'clock a.m., there to remain till daylight.

THE LETTERS OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM DANSEY

33rd Regiment

Written during the American War of Independence (1775-1783)

PART III

Immediately Washington learnt of Gen. Howe's intention to land at the head of Chesapeake Bay, he moved his force to Wilmington to bar the road to Philadelphia. Howe meanwhile advanced slowly towards him and on September 3, 1777, the advanced parties came into contact. Washington thereupon withdrew to his selected position at Brandywine. The Battle of Brandywine was fought on September 11 and resulted in a victory for Howe.

The 33rd Regiment, together with the Light Battalions, formed part of the left wing under Lord Cornwallis and were in the thick of the battle. Dansey was wounded in the hand during the engagement, a matter to which he refers in his next letter, which is dated October 9, 1777, i.e. after the Battle of Germantown, which was fought on October 4, 1777.

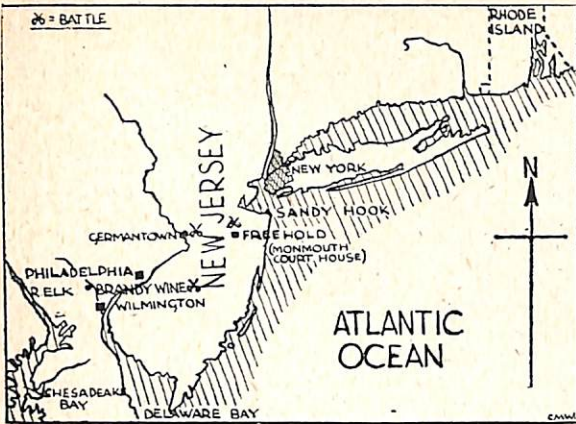
"Camp at German Town near Philadelphia Oct 9th 1777

"My ever dear Mother.

"I cannot easily exprefs to you, how thankful we ought to be to Heaven that I am still alive and well to write to you at present. The Prayers and good wishes for my Health and Preservation, of you and my dear intended have prevail'd, and I hope you will earnestly join me in returning God thanks for it and imploring a continuance of the Protection of his Goodness and Mercy he has hitherto favour'd me with, and to grant me a speedy

and safe return to you to enjoy the Blessing of Peace after the boistrous Storms of my Profefcion, which by his Divine Favour I have been enable to go thro' with that Spirit of Cheerfulness and Resolution, which characterise the Good Soldier and honest man, which character with God's Afistance I shall ever labour to deserve. I dont know how I shall end this letter or when. I write to you and Mifs Malet as soon as I was able to handle a pen, which I do now in pain and cannot bear to write long at a time, owing to a slight wound which I received this Day four weeks, which is now healed. I was shot through the joint of my right thumb, which did not make me quit the Field or my Duty afterwards. It is not too bad to be able to write at all and I hope in time to have it as well as ever tho, at present I have a stiff joint and very little strength in it. If I have time and am spared from it to give you a Description of our Campaign you will be thankful with me that's no worse, for where I expected to have lost my head I had liked to have lost my Thumb. I am quite tired and think I have done pretty well today, so at present adieu. . . .

"OCT 15th. The Packet was in yesterday's Orders, so I must conclude. It will bring great news to England, Philadelphia taken and the Rebels twice defeated, I was in the Heat of Both Engagements and thank God that I have received no other hurt than I have mentioned. I shall send



this letter immediately for fear I shou'd not have time to write again. Lieut Georges is very well and is now in the Grenadiers, best respects to all friends

“Your ever most dutiful Son

“W. DANSEY.”

“OCT 17th Yours of March 9th I have not received. It makes me exceedingly happy the good correspondence between you and my dear intended. I shall return to you both as soon as possible let what will happen, as I look upon the Glory of this War over. I have been at the beating of the Rebels in two general Engagements and I have seen their Capital taken. . . .

“I perhaps may write to you again by this Packet but if I should not please remember my Christmas present to Mary Colley as was. Ben is very well. He wishes to give his parents two guineas to help them in the Winter. I shall be obliged for you to pay it for him on my account, as he saves all his wages and leaves them in my hands.

“I must tell you a piece of good luck I had a few days before the Battle of Brandywine. On a Flanking Party I took Horse, Arms, Colours and Drums belonging to a Rebel Colonel of Delaware Militia, made his Brother prisoner and caused all his baggage to be taken, which the General very politely sent back again ; but the Horse, Arms and Colours came to my share. The latter I hope to bring back as a Trophy to Brimsop.”

The Colours of the Delaware Militia came back to England, where they remained until 1928. In that year they were purchased by the Historical Society of Delaware, together with the originals of Dansey's letter.

As already stated, the Battle of German Town was fought on October 4. In *The History of the 33rd Regiment* Lee records that both the 33rd and the Light Infantry suffered severely and adds that unfortunately no record of their losses is available. Dansey's next letter, however, throws an interesting light on the casualties during the war.

“Philadelphia Jany 19th 1778

“My Dear Madam.

“Ice now being in Delaware the Octr and Novr Mails are gone to New York, so that we have had

no letters since Sept'r Packet. Your last to me is Aug 29th which I acknowledged receipt of, by Lord Cornwallis's Aid de Camp. I intend making you amends for that short Epistle by a very long letter in Winter Quarters, but since we were settled which was not 'till the 28th of last month I have been exceedingly busy in my Companies Accounts which had not been settled for these last four months, and I met an irreparable Lofs in having my Paymaster Secy kill'd, which you know very well is always the Captain's right hand man in the Companies Bufsinefs. Indeed in the course of last year I lost three of the best Serj'ts in the 33rd Regiment out of my Company and to show you what havock War makes with us observe this return :—

“ Strength of the 33rd Light Company at Cork Jany 1st/76					
“ Capts	Lieuts	Serjts	Cpls	Drum'rs	Privates
“ 1	2	3	3	1	36

“ Casuals from Jan 1/76 to Decr 31st/77					
“ Capts	Lieut	Serj	Corpls	Drummr	Private
“ Dead		1			8
“ kill'd		1	2		5
“ Wounded	1	3	1	2	20
“ Prisoners			1		4

“ Total	1	3	4	4	37
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“You will see that Cafsualties in the Company exceed the Original Strength of it, which is by getting fresh Men for those kill'd and disabled and observe that the kill'd and wounded amount to 33, the Number of the Regiment. On Christmas Day at Newport five Officers of the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the 33rd joined together and before that Day twelvemonth two were kill'd and the other three wounded, and we three wounded ones last Christmas Day had Musket Balls flying about our ears for a Minuit as thick as anything during the War, a drole way of keeping Christmas but thank God neither officers or Men were hurt and we kill'd three of the Enemy and took five Prisoners. It is very good fun fighting when all the kill'd and wounded are on the side of the enemy. I like it prodigiously. It is better than a fox chase. As I have said in my former letters I have the greatest reason to thank God for my good fortune in escaping almost untouched these two years past, for as to my Thumb it is now none the worse and it is seldom I feel any inconvenience from it.

“I have thought a good deal lately about Brimsop, the Prospect of it is very flattering and desirable to me and has checked my ardor after Military promotion at an advanced Price, which every rank bears here astonishingly. Shou'd the purchase of a Majority happen to offer at the regulated price it is to be managed with your kind afistance and my Friend Mr. Meyricks without touching my 5000 which I wish to leave where it is and dont care how much it accumulates.

“As to News from hence we have none. It is from home we must have News about what we are to do next year. We have taken Philadelphia and here we are and think the War only beginning.”

The table included in the above letter is also interesting on account of the details its gives of what was presumably the establishment of a light company—a mere 43 other ranks.

On May 8, 1778, Gen. Howe handed over the command of his Army to Gen. Sir Hentry Clinton, who immediately set about the evacuation of

Philadelphia. His plan, as eventually decided upon, was to march the Army to New York, and this he commenced to do on June 18. On June 28 he was attacked by Washington at Monmouth Court House (Freehold), an action in which the 33rd took part. On June 30 he embarked his troops at Sandy Hook and sailed to New York. A week later a new element entered the campaign, the French Navy appearing at the mouth of the Delaware and proceeding shortly afterwards to Sandy Hook. After a short while the French fleet again moved and on July 29 arrived off Rhode Island.

*On board His Majesty's Ship "The Experiment."
Off Sandy Hook. July 29th, 1778.*

"Dear Madam,

"I suppose, from whence I date my letter you will hardly know where I am or what I am about, but upon the French blocking us up here, 300 Light Infantry and Grenadiers volunteered to serve as Marines on board the Fleet, they being short of their Compliment of Marines on board the large Ships, but now the French are gone off we return to the Army in a day or two. . . . I believe I have misfd writing to you by one Packet since the march thro' the Jersies and the Battle of Monmouth, therefore any account of that Affair must be needlefs, I have only to tell you that I had a very narrow escape from being taken Prisoner with my whole Company we were obliged to run up to our middles in a bog to get away from the Rebel Light Horse and I had only one man taken. You may be sure I shou'd not be guilty of so great a neglect as not writing to you but unavoidably for when we hurried on board the Men of War I lost the Opportunity. I am now Endeavouring to make it up by leaving this letter in the Fleet to go by the first Man of War Packet that sails.

"The Event of the French blocking us up here will be so material in its Consequence that a few particulars can't fail of being acceptable to yourself and Neighbours; therefore tho' I must be concise I will say a little upon it. The first week of this month we got the Army over from the Jersies to Staten Island and Long Island and we got to Camps of Refreshment after our fatiguing march. On Saturday of the 11th we were surprised by the appearance of the French Squadron in the Offing and the Wind and tide not favouring their coming in they came to an anchor at the back of the Hook. Sunday our Fleet assembled here, within the Hook, to oppose their entrance. The glourious Spirit of our Officers and Seamen on board the Ships of War, the prudent and active conduct of Lord Howe (the Admiral) back'd by everybody of the People here, shew'd most conspicuously the brave character of the English in times of greatest danger, which could never be more apparent than on this occasion. One of the most powerful Fleets that ever sail'd

from France at the Harbour's mouth ready to come and crush us to atoms on the first fair Wind, our Army Block'd upon the Islands after three years being victorious and unable to do anything, tho' instead of dismaying caused such a Spirit of Bravery, Unanimity and Resolution, seeing that with the Fleet, fell the Army and all we held here and with us the Glory of the British Empire never sullied before. A British Admiral pent up in an Harbour, History never furnishes such an instance. How every Englishman's heart felt the Indignity of the Event. Upwards of two thousand seamen from the Transports, with 50 or 90 Masters and Mates, came as volunteers immediately on board the Men of War. The Army not forgetful of the many services it had experienced from the Fleet unbraced with ardor this Opportunity of showing their Sense of it and Anxious for their Country's Honour and to show the Glory of its Defence offer'd their Service on the Occasion to act on board the Men of War as Marines. 300 men only were wanting, which the Distinguished Corps of Light Infantry and Grenadiers most readily furnished, and I was happy in having my Company a part of the 300 Volunteers. Indeed everybody turn'd out that were near the Fleet and we were obliged to draw for the Honour in which I was fortunate and likewise in getting into the Ship commanded by that Hero, Sir James Wallace. Such Spirit and Resolution in individuals headed by one of our First Naval Officers in the world dared to look the Formidable Force of France in the face and bid its defiance, tho' on Comparison of the size of the Ships, number of Men and Gunners three times our strength. The French Fleet consisted of one 94.7 one 20.7 six 74s three 64s one 54 and three Frigates carrying 942 Gunners and 11,064 men. Our Fleet seven 64s, two fiftys two 40.7s and a larged Armed vefsel and an old Seventy gun ship which was a Store Ship with a few Gunns in her, about six or eight Frigates and Sloops of War with a Row Galley or two, and a small craft which Lord Howe disposed with such prudence and she'd such a Countenance that except the Destruction of the Enemy's Ships had every Effect of a Victory.

"On Wednesday the 22nd, both Wind and Tide changed in favour of the French, they got under way and stood in for the Harbour to near Cannon Shot when discovering the warm reception they were to meet with, they put about and sheered off and we have seen no more of them since but are now in hourly Expectation of Comodore Biron when we make no doubt Lord Howe will have his Revenge and make the French repent coming here. Was the Spirit, Bravery, and unanimity to reign in the Councils of Great Britain as manifested itself on her Fleets and Armies she may yet be Great.

"As the May Packet was taken I have not heard from you for a great while but hope for the safety of the June Packet. I must now conclude with my usual compliments and afsuring you my ever dear Madam that I remain most sincerely with Truth and Affection your most ever dutiful Son
W. DANSEY."

Shortly after this letter was written Dansey went on leave to England.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
? have you paid your ?
? IRON DUKE SUBSCRIPTION ?
? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

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