

No.84 April 1952



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*

Vol. XXVIII

APRIL, 1952

No. 84

Published Quarterly—January, April, July and October

Annual Subscription Rates—10s. for officers; 6s. for all others, payable in advance to the Business Manager

Subscribers are earnestly requested to keep the
Business Manager informed of any change of address

Editor: LT.-COL. O. PRICE,
"HIGHFIELD,"
TEMPLE EWELL,
DOVER.

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

Copy for the JULY, 1952 issue should be in the Editor's hands by June 1, 1952
Copy should be sent to Lt.-Col. O. Price, "Highfield," Temple Ewell, Dover, Kent



[Photo: Dorothy Wilding Portraits Ltd.]

HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI

December 14th, 1895—February 6th, 1952

King George the Sixth

Fifteen years ago "The Iron Duke" recorded the accession of His Majesty King George VI; to-day it has the sad duty of expressing the grief of all members of the Regiment at his sudden and tragic death.

His reign has been perhaps the most momentous in our history. Storm-clouds were gathering when he ascended the throne; within three years he saw his country come nearer to destruction than ever before; he saw his people defiant and undaunted in "their finest hour." Great defeats were followed by great triumphs, and a victory so overwhelming that it promised peace in our generation, split the world in two and threatened yet another world war. The closing months of his life were darkened by the menace of economic disaster.

Such were the anxieties and responsibilities that he was called upon to bear as a monarch, and as a man he with his family was exposed to personal dangers such as none of his predecessors had known. He faced them all with a cheerful, unassuming courage that has won the admiration not only of his subjects but—as the tributes paid at his funeral have shown—of the whole civilised world.

The Services above all have cause to mourn his loss, for his experience as a commissioned officer in the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force gave him a personal insight into their problems; he had himself been in action and understood the difficulties and anxieties of the fighting man.

Those who were serving in France in the early days of the war will recall that cold December morning somewhere north of Metz, when His Majesty did the Regiment the signal honour of inspecting the First Battalion on parade immediately after its tour of duty in the Maginot Line. To-day such memories are precious.

It was by sharing with his subjects their pleasures and their privations, their dangers and their discomforts, that he established so secure a place in his people's hearts. We salute the memory of a great King and a brave man.

To Their Majesties the Queen and the Queen Mother and to all the Royal Family we offer, on behalf of the Regiment, our deepest sympathy and we assure our new Queen of our continuing loyalty and devotion.

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, B.A.O.R. 29.	.. Lt.-Col. F. R. St. P. Bunbury, D.S.O.
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, *T.D.
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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The 1st Battalion bids fair to break the record for rapid and frequent moves held by the 1st Battalion after the first World War. Barely two months after arriving in Germany they have been warned for service in Korea. We congratulate them on being selected for so important a duty and, at the same time, extend our sympathy for the dislocation which such an unexpected move must entail in their plans for the immediate future. We have not heard the date of their move, but hope that it will not prevent their completing their winter sports programme, in which they have been so successful up to date.

* * * *

We would draw attention to the following dates:
 May 24 and 25: Celebration of the Regimental anniversaries at Halifax.

May 30: The Regimental tea and dinner.
 Details of both these important functions will be found on page 53.

* * * *

The Hon. Secretary of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Regimental Association, Mr. H. E. E. Butterworth, has changed his address. He is now living at 212 Rush Green Road, Romford, Essex, and invites readers who wish to know more about the branch activities to write to him for information, which he will be more than pleased to provide.

* * * *

The Colonel of the Regiment has received a letter from Lt.-Col. G. M. Roy, M.B.E., M.C., T.D.,

commanding the Wellington College J.T.C., thanking him for giving permission for the Corps to wear the scarlet lanyard and saying how glad they were of the opportunity to make contact once again with the 1st Battalion on the rugby field and also on the field of battle, where the Battalion provided some officers and N.C.O.s as umpires. These must have done their ticklish job with more than customary tactfulness, as Col. Roy believes that their efforts will encourage his boys to choose the right regiment.

* * * *

A letter has been received from a very old friend of the Regiment, Ahmed Din, for years the 2nd Battalion's contractor in Singapore and India. He offers his services to the 1st Battalion on their eagerly expected arrival in Malaya! Brewers and contractors used to be the most reliable of weather prophets. Are they losing their grip?

The Yorkshire County Regimental Museum, the first of its kind in the country, was opened on January 24 by the Earl and Countess of Scarborough in the old 18th-century debtors' prison, which has been adapted as an annexe to the famous York Castle Museum. Gen. Sir Philip Balfour, G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, speaking at the ceremony, said: "It is very right and proper that the Yorkshire regiments, who are some of the most famous in the British Army, should have their story told at York, the capital of the 'Fighting North.'" The idea of a military museum was suggested by Col. W. T. C. Huffam and it was largely due to his patience and interest that the idea became reality.

* * * *

Our thanks are due to the Editor of *The Tank* for his kindness in lending the block for the portrait of His late Majesty, which forms the frontispiece of this number.

* * * *

We would also express our thanks to the *Halifax Courier and Guardian* for their active interest in THE IRON DUKE. Their help in the provision of illustrations has been of particular value and helped us to maintain our standard in these hard times.

* * * *

The excellent photographs of the War Memorial Chapel and the Dedication Ceremony which appeared in our last number were provided by them and published with their permission which we gratefully acknowledge.

* * * *

Contributions to the July number, which will be a special number commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the 33rd Regiment and the centenary of

the death of the first Duke of Wellington, should reach the Editor not later than **June 1, 1952.**

* * * *

GILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

A number of Gill Memorial Scholarships and Exhibitions at Brighton College are offered this year for competition among sons of officers who hold or have held a commission in the Army. These awards are tenable all the time a boy is at the College, providing he is satisfactory. Their value will depend upon the financial position of the boys' parents. Candidates must be under 14 years on June 1, 1952. The awards will be made on the results of the June Entrance Scholarships examination at the College.

One Scholarship for the Brighton College Junior School will also be open to candidates who are under 11 on June 1, 1952.

Successful candidates for any of these awards will enter the College in September.

The War Office has power to nominate boys to compete for these awards, and applications for nomination by the War Office, accompanied by birth certificate and certificates of conduct from the headmasters of the schools which the boys have attended for the previous two years, should reach the Under Secretary of State (C.2), The War Office, London, S.W.1, not later than April 17, 1952.

Further particulars about the awards may be obtained from the Headmaster of the College.

FOR CLEAN GROOMING

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1st BATTALION

SUB-EDITORIAL

We had been in Germany for a period of two months and had comfortably settled in. In the circumstances, therefore, it hardly surprised us to learn one day that we had been selected for Korea in the near future. We feel honoured at the choice which has been made, although naturally this unexpected news has caused a considerable amount of confusion in the private affairs of a large number of individuals. Many changes will be necessary in the Battalion, chiefly on account of the fact that a large number of men will be ineligible to proceed to the Far East because of their impending release or discharge. Be that as it may, we feel sure that those who remain will rapidly absorb and weld the newcomers into a fine Battalion and that we will acquit ourselves well in whatever tasks that may be set us.

Since our arrival in Minden in the middle of December life appears to be little less hectic than it was in England. Christmas was upon us before we had time to unpack our boxes. Considering the very short notice we had in which to make preparations for the season of festivities, we had a most pleasant and enjoyable time. The short pause on account of Christmas was soon over. Then, scarcely before we realised it, we were once again in the midst of the individual training programmes which in this country are enlivened by 72-hour exercises. These necessitate every possible man living out of barracks for three consecutive days and nights once a month. In the middle of winter this can be a cold experience and experiments in the best way to keep warm on such occasions have been many and varied. We do not know if the right answer has been produced; perhaps there is none.

Our football team has been singularly successful since their arrival in Germany and it was hard luck that they had to play the first round of the Army Cup so soon after the end of Army manoeuvres last year.

In the Army Rugby Cup we have now advanced to the B.A.O.R. semi-final by defeating the King's Own Royal Regiment 12—3. Our next game is on March 3, when we play the 1st Battalion The Welsh Guards.

The sub-editor, like the majority of individuals in the Battalion, is now involved in the preparations for the annual administrative inspection, which takes place on March 4. For this reason, therefore, we must now close these notes.

OFFICERS' MESS

Thanks to the efforts of Major Kershaw and Capt. Emmett, who came over to B.A.O.R. with the advance party, we are now very comfortably established in a pleasant Mess located about a quarter of a mile from the barracks. Notwithstanding the fact that we arrived in Minden so shortly before Christmas, our entertainments over the Christmas period were most successful. Only our annual football match against the sergeants had to be cancelled and this was on account of the weather.

The bachelors entertained the married officers

and their wives on Boxing Day and a very enjoyable dinner in the Mess, the highlight of which was a roast sucking pig, was followed by a dance at the Officers' Club. Unfortunately, this was the last occasion on which we were able to attend the Officers' Club, as on the following day it was closed for good. We understand this was for financial reasons and had nothing to do with the arrival of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Minden.

In January Miss Gracie Fields visited Minden with Billy Ternent's Band and gave a show in the garrison theatre. After this show we entertained Gracie and some of her party in the Mess. The following evening we ran an impromptu dance. Assisted by Billy Ternent and his pianist, our dance orchestra were inspired and the party did not break up till a late hour. Strangely enough, Mr. Billy Ternent's next engagement, after leaving Minden, was in Halifax. We therefore gave him a number of messages to our friends in that town, which we gather he safely delivered.

More recently our activities have been considerably curtailed on account of the death of His late Majesty King George VI. The only engagement we have at the moment is an invitation to the members of the Sergeants' Mess to come and compete with us at indoor games, but more of this will be written anon.

We were recently rejoined by Charlie Grieve, Barry Kavanagh and David Breare. Dennis Simonds will rejoin us in the next few days. New-comers to the Regiment are Gerald Vessey, Bill Duckney and David Gilbert-Smith, whilst John Antrobus and Ken Brown have left us for service with the Royal Leicesters in Korea.

Since our arrival here we have been very pleased to see several "Dukes" serving in B.A.O.R., including Brigadier R. N. H. C. Bray, who, we understand, is shortly off to Korea, Lt.-Col. E. W. Stevens and Major G. Laing.

SERGEANTS' MESS

We were delighted to find when we arrived in B.A.O.R. that we had a very comfortable Mess, spacious and well furnished. We have been very fortunate in our German staff, who have worked very well and have made the dining-room a model, we claim, for any Mess. Our advance party had organised themselves extremely well and gave us a huge meal as soon as we walked in. We are slowly accustoming ourselves to local beer, and if the quantity we demolish is any guide to its popularity we deserve a visit from Alcoholics Anonymous. From the very day of our arrival we have had some most enjoyable evenings in our own and other Messes. Very shortly after we came we made the acquaintance of the R.A.F. at their "A" and "B" Messes close by and extremely good hosts we found them. We were quite overawed by the magnificence of their "A" Mess, which, we are told, is the B.A.O.R. show piece.

At Christmas we had parties on Boxing Day and New Year's Eve. Both were very merry affairs.

The author of these notes is not sure how they finished, as when invited to share the "dumb waiter" with a very rotund colour-sergeant he retired hastily. The cake on each occasion was cut in style with a sword by one of our ladies. Some very compromising photographs were taken by a local photographer. One or two are rumoured to have bribed him to suppress the more outrageous.

Some of us have visited the Mess of the 1st Battalion D.C.L.I., one of our sister regiments in the Brigade. We have had some very enjoyable evenings there and we are keenly disappointed that we have not yet had the opportunity to repay their hospitality.

We have restarted the custom of a monthly dinner night. The first was held, without guests, in late February. We are sure that our married members will welcome another excuse for a late night out and that they will prove a popular function.

Our Paardeberg Ball, scheduled for February 22, has, of course, been postponed, but we hope to arrange a similar function shortly, when we shall get to know the others in the Brigade.

Our annual fancy dress football match was rained and sleeted off, but the officers paid a visit to the Mess and, we believe, enjoyed themselves.

We have welcomed Sgts. Preston and Wilkinson from the Group Training Centre. Sgt. Wilkinson has gone since to a job near Dusseldorf, where, we trust he will enjoy his stay. Our best wishes go with him. We congratulate Sgt. Jobling on his promotion to Colour Sergeant, and welcome Sgts. Waite and Barrett on promotion from Corporal. Sgt. Rutherford has rejoined us after a protracted stay in hospital in England. Wives continue to join husbands in married quarters in a steady flow and we have now quite half the Mess living out. They come in very regularly every weekend to chaperone their husbands and to help us to make a gay evening.

"H.Q." COMPANY

We are now installed in Germany and the training of our specialist platoons is under way. The Company is much the same since our last issue, except that Sgt. Sheehan has left us to become an instructor at the School of Infantry at Hythe. We wish him the best of luck and we feel sure that all future signallers on the Hythe course will be ably assisted. We also welcome Mr. Naughton to the Company as Signal Subaltern.

At the moment much of our time has been spent on 72-hour exercises. These monthly schemes are put to try us against the bitter winter weather and, by and large, those who actually passed the nights away from barracks seem to have mastered the science of sleeping in snowbound bivouacs, though those who spent their "nights out" in the drill sheds appear to have been more than inconvenienced.

Tragedy seems to have overcome the older members of the Company. Sgt. Cox landed on the back of his head whilst boarding the duty truck one frosty morning, while C.S.M. Wilson has

suddenly been taken ill and is now in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery. Shooting in the platoon competition is nearly finished and all our divers platoons seem to have got good scores. The platoon Rugby will be starting in the near future. Soon we will be leaving for England again and preparing for our move to the Far East. There will then be many changes, but for the moment we say goodbye to Lt. Teague, who leaves to the M.T. the pleasant memory of having won the platoon football competition. So with that we say goodbye till our next issue.

"S" COMPANY

Many new faces are to be seen in "Specialist Mansion" since our arrival in BAOR, due to the turnover, and many of the old faces, now languishing in rifle companies, long for the good not-so-old days. New arrivals include Cpls. Honeybun, Stobbs, Spring and Waters from rifle companies; Ptes. L. Fox, H. Fox, G. Healey, D. Healey, Quarmbly, Waite and Smith from the U.K. and Pte. Llewellyn from the R.N.F. in Korea. Sgt. Waite and L/Cpl. Swift are to be congratulated on their promotions. Returned from courses are Lt. Blakey and Sgt. Breeze (Mortar Platoon) and 2/Lt. Thomas and L/Cpl. Howarth (Anti-Tank Platoon). However, the Company's backbone is unchanged, except that Sgt. Batty is at present acting/C.S.M. whilst C.S.M. Williams is taking his degree.

The Company has, as usual, been busy at work and play. Two "Cold Finger" exercises are behind us, and the knack of keeping warm in cold places is rapidly being learnt. We now have in the Company a number of experts in the art of brick-making, much interest being centred on the preparation of kilns, cold soldiers, for the use of. Our temporary home during "Cold Fingers 1" resembled a large semi-open-air cafeteria, with an endless belt of trays winding its way through many nooks and crannies, with an endless belt of hungry soldiers also winding its way through the same nooks and crannies. C.Q.M.S. Quest and his staff ably dealt with the latter, and all was well, but the old cry of "any buck" was still to be heard.

Gas-mask drill became popular, due to the shock-absorbing qualities of the facepiece when struck by large pieces of snow. Following this exercise it was rumoured that Mr. Thomas had insured his anti-tank guns against loss.

Sgt. Batty qualified for his "pathfinder's badge" following a great piece of map reading which enabled

LATE NEWS

ARMY BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

In the final of the light-heavyweights, 2/Lt. P. B. L. Hoppe became the first commissioned officer to win an Army title since the championships were made open to all ranks.

the Company to arrive in barracks only three hours after the cooks' truck. The Company moved to and from the training area on foot. Rifle companies please note.

The Company did not do so well in the soccer knock-out, and it was left to the Mortar Platoon to uphold the honour of the Company by reaching the semi-finals. For the forthcoming events in the platoon flag competition, a great deal of practice in shooting, running and the passing of balls, other than round, is going on. The Company is confident.

Among those who have left us are Cpls. Benson, Muxworthy, Storr, Shooter, O'Keefe and Spence and L/Cpl. Hunter transferred to rifle companies, and 2/Lt. K. Brown (Assault Pioneer Platoon), who is Korea-bound. We may possibly see him again soon.

"A" COMPANY

We have now settled down in Minden and the novelty of being abroad is quickly wearing off. However, from the training side, we have been able to buckle down to some hard work and everyone is looking fit and full of beans.

At the present we are going out one day each week and doing some training out of barracks. This usually involves a route march, during which we can appreciate the German countryside, architecture and people. Once each month we go out for a 72-hour exercise. These generally take the form of a "free for all" and are much enjoyed.

Capt. E. J. P. Emmett usually manages to create an interest and, with careful umpiring, this is maintained to the end. During these exercises platoons are self-contained, doing their own cooking and administration. Some weird and wonderful concoctions are produced by the temporary cooks which are always devoured with great relish (not the cooks but their products).

"A" and "C" Companies always go out together on these exercises and the rivalry stimulates much interest.

A guard-mounting competition is being run within the Battalion and "A" and "C" Companies are running neck and neck at the head of the table. All work stops when either Company mounts guard and any mistake produces a groan on the one hand and a cheer on the other. C.S.M. Calaby, M.M., and C.S.M. Randall have a large wager on the result of the competition and each swears he will win. The points earned to date are as follows (maximum score, 25 points per guard):

"A" Company 8 guards	..	175 points
"C" " " (7 " ")	..	152 " "

Our arrivals and departures have not been so numerous as those previously reported, the notable arrivals being Major C. F. Grieve and 2/Lt. Vessey, whom we welcome, the former back to the fold after his spell as S.O.P.T. and the latter joining from Eaton Hall.

In the realm of sport some very keen soccer games have been played in an inter-platoon competition which terminated recently. Of the "A" Company teams, No. 1 Platoon reached the quarter-finals, losing 5—1 to No. 7 Platoon; No. 2 Platoon reached the fourth round and lost to the M.T. 5—1;

and No. 3 Platoon were knocked out by No. 7 Platoon by 2—1 after a hard and close game. In spite of our defeats at soccer the inter-platoon Rugby is still to be played and we have high hopes of winning this competition.

"B" COMPANY

Leave was uppermost in our thoughts in November when most of us were away from Chisledon enjoying a well-earned rest after the ravages of Army manoeuvres. At Chisledon the final touches were being put to the preparations for the move to Germany, which went very smoothly. Between the Hook of Holland and Minden many were afraid that the train was going round in small circles, since every station they passed through appeared to be called "Ausgang."

On arrival at Minden, we were greeted by a familiar baronial figure, complete with stick and dog, who assured us that life in BAOR could be most enjoyable and, indeed, we soon found that this was, to a certain extent, true. On Christmas Eve the Company really "went to town," when it was discovered that the main landings in "A" and "B" Companies block were ideally suited as bowling alleys. This discovery made quite an impression on the windows at either end.

Early in the New Year we started individual training and in January, also, we went on our first "toughening-up exercise," which quickly taught us to make good use of all the comforts the surrounding country offered. The brick kiln was not left unexplored.

We welcome to the Company, Cpl. Clarke from "C" Company, who will help us a great deal with our shooting; Cpl. Muxworthy and L/Cpl. Hunter from "S" Company; and L/Cpls. Mitchell and Benson from the Signals.

After competing his course at Hythe, 2/Lt. Naughton came back to us, but very soon left again to take up duties with the Signal Platoon. At the beginning of February, just in time for the Army Cup match versus King's Own, 2/Lt. Gilbert-Smith joined us from the R.N.F.'s Depot together with a draft of R.N.F.s, some of whom recently returned from Korea.

The future, one asks? We await impatiently definite news of the "new move." No comment.

"C" COMPANY

We arrived in Minden just in time to organise a Company party for Christmas Eve, which was enjoyed by everyone. In spite of this eve of Christmas party, everyone was seen to be thoroughly enjoying the excellent Christmas dinners, in fact, at least one man of the Company was seen to have four helpings of "duff."

By January 1, 1952, we were unpacked, and started our training, sport, drill competition, German lessons, etc., in earnest.

As these notes are being written, there is the sound of a solitary drum being beaten and the voice of our ex-Coldstream Guardsman, C.S.M. Randall, who is putting our next competition guard through its paces. At the moment there are only two Companies in the running, which are ourselves and

"A" Company, who are neck and neck, but, needless to say, we are fully confident of the final result.

There is much rivalry in the platoon flag competition and, in the soccer, No. 7 Platoon, under the able captainancy of L/Cpl. W. H. Baxter, were only just beaten by the M.T. in the final, the score being 4—3.

We have a very definite Company social life in the evenings. Cpl. Gray and L/Cpl. Drake have organised a most efficient soft drink cum "char and wad" bar in our Company Quiet Room (possibly misnamed). Bright ideas are daily put into practice and frequently there is a "full house."

From the training angle, we are now drawing to the end of our individual training and are hoping that the results of our toils will be shown in our classification shooting results which will be shot in the middle of March.

During January and February, as ordered by Corps, we had to spend two periods of three days and nights out of barracks. This we did—both times with snow on the ground and the second time with 19 degrees of frost. On this training we were engaged in hard battles in a "free for all" against "A" Company. There were many battles and incidents, amongst which Sgt. Kirk (No. 8 Platoon) was able to annihilate one of the opposing platoons on a night fighting patrol when he answered a very firm challenge from a very alert sentry. The conversation went like this:

Sentry: "Halt, who goes there, friend or foe?"

Sgt. Kirk (*sotto voce*): "Friend."

Sentry: "Advance, friend."

Then the massacre began.

The O.C. (Capt. R. V. Cartwright) at a discussion on the two exercises was confident that there had been considerable training value during them, and had to disappear behind the blackboard when he asked Pte. Nasey (No. 7 Platoon) to give the soldier's point of view of the exercise and the reply was: "Well, sir, it was like this, sir, I never had a clue what was happening, but it was good fun."

We heartily congratulate Cpls. Sadler and Vipond and L/Cpls. Walker and Fairfield on their marriages.

We also congratulate Ptes. Fowler, Drake, Prosser, Morley, Acaster and Davies on their promotion to L/Cpl.

We were very sorry to lose 2/Lt. Peter McAlister, who has been through thick and thin with No. 8 Platoon for over a year. He has now become Battalion Administrative Officer. We welcome 2/Lt. W. P. Duckney who, as we go to press, has just joined us and is now the Platoon Commander of No. 7 Platoon.

We end these notes by wishing the best of luck to the many "C" Company "Dukes," who have left us during the period these notes cover to return to civilian life.

"D" COMPANY

Much to our dismay, we were disbanded and split up among the three other rifle companies for the Army Manoeuvres, 1951, and for the subsequent move to Germany. Nevertheless, on arrival in Minden we found ourselves once more reactivated and since then we have taken our full

part in the training of the Battalion and have already been on two 72-hour exercises.

We arrived here shortly before Christmas and found it rather difficult to organise entertainment. Nevertheless, on Friday, December 20, we held a Company party and, judging from the rate the sumptuous fare was disposed of and the somewhat "happy" turns several members of the Company produced, it was a success.

We extend a hearty welcome to Capt. W. D. Breare, who has joined us as 2IC, and we congratulate C.Q.M.S. Jobbling and Sgt. Barritt on their promotion.

C.Q.M.S. Shearer has left the "Q" side of the Company and is now looking after the administration of the families.

REGIMENTAL BAND

After our long sojourn in England most of us welcomed the opportunity of a tour in Europe, and now that we are settled in our new station we are not disappointed with the prevailing conditions. With a large centrally-heated practice room, very comfortable billets for the members of the Band and Cpl. Horner and his stores tucked away in a maze of cellars, we have been able to work under very congenial conditions and hope to benefit considerably in the future.

We are hoping to see many old friends during May, when we expect to visit Halifax to take part in the celebrations in connection with the 250th anniversary of the formation of the Regiment. The people of Halifax have been warned of our coming by advanced notices in the local papers.

Congratulations to L/Cpl. Begley on the birth of a son. He, at least, is looking forward to May, when he hopes to spend some time with his newly-acquired family.

We would like to take this opportunity of sincerely thanking Lt.-Col. M. V. le P. Trench for very kindly presenting his sword to the Band for the use of the Band Sergeant. It is an honour to use this sword and we can assure Lt.-Col. Trench that it is in safe hands and will be well cared for.

RUGBY

Since we arrived in B.A.O.R. the number of matches we have played have been deplorably few, owing to various obstacles that seem to have been placed in our way. To begin with, we were unable to arrange fixtures until we arrived here, then when we tried to do so most teams had full fixture lists; frost and snow has prevented play for a long while and finally everybody has been so busy settling in that rugger has been one of many priorities.

We have, however, played two matches. The first was against H.Q. B.A.O.R., which we played at Bad Oeynhausen on January 9 and which we won 20—0. The ground was very soft and wet, but, despite this, the outsides handled surprisingly well when they were given the ball. It was essentially a day for forwards and the pack played a robust game, consisting mostly of kick and rush tactics, which our opponents had great difficulty in overcoming. During the second half we had the advantages of the slope and the wind, but, nevertheless

we only scored one goal, which is an indication of the hard fight that our opponents put up, for we were leading by 15 points to nil at half-time.

Although one or two members of the team played for the Lubbecke Area XV occasionally, we did not play again until February 19, when we met the King's Own Royal Regiment at Minden in the Army Cup competition. This match was of great interest and the cause of no little anxiety to many for several reasons. Firstly, it was the final of 6th Armoured Division, also we were both in the same Brigade, moreover, as some of our older readers will remember the "Dukes" have been defeated in the Army Cup in the past by the King's Own and both regiments have a great rugby tradition.

After several alterations the date was finally fixed for February 19 and just before the kick-off at 3 o'clock men could be seen shovelling ice off odd parts of the pitch while spectators were arriving in hundreds from various parts of B.A.O.R.

The King's Own started off well and attacked vigorously and during the first 10 minutes had scored from a forward rush. This try was not converted, but showed up our weakness at falling on the ball and tackling. This initial score made us liven up and after fighting back we were awarded a penalty kick in their "25," which Lt. Hardy took, thus evening the score. Shortly after this, from a quick heel from a tight scrum in the King's Own "25," Bds. Jones scored at right centre. Cpl. Hildred failed to convert. We were now leading and continued to do so. For the second half we had the wind in our favour, which helped our touch kicking a great deal, but, despite this, we scored only twice. One more try, this time scored by L/Cpl. Barnes, and one more penalty goal kicked by Lt. Hardy. The match was hard fought throughout and there were many exciting moments when both sides just missed scoring. It is fair to say that the King's Own pack played more as a pack than did the "Dukes" and the "Dukes'" defence needs improving. The King's Own defence was sound and many times we were prevented from scoring by a last-minute tackle almost on their line.

We are now busily putting right our faults and when we have had another game or two should be a formidable side, as we have the potentiality but not the practice a team requires. Our next encounter in the Army Cup will be with the Welsh Guards, who will prove to be a team to be reckoned with. The winner of this match will then have to play in the final of the B.A.O.R. side of the draw to decide who goes to Aldershot on April 2 for the final of the Army Rugby Union Challenge Cup. It is too early now to speculate, but there is no harm in being optimistic.

SOCCER

The Battalion played a number of very successful friendly games, mainly against other units in the Brigade, shortly after arriving in B.A.O.R. The game then received a further shot in the arm on account of the decision to run a knock-out competition as one of the events in the platoon flag competition. Twenty-one teams entered and there

was great rivalry throughout the Battalion. The competition was eventually won by the M.T. Platoon after very entertaining football had been played. Outstanding opponents to the M.T. Platoon were No. 7 Platoon, who lost 4—3 in the finals, and the Mortar Platoon, who lost 3—2 to the M.T. in the semi-finals after extra time had been played. Referees Evans and Bousfield worked hard and well and are to be congratulated.

We were asked to play Minden Town Reserves and beat them soundly 9—1. Cpls. Abbott and Hildred, L/Cpls. Baxter, Broughton and McDonald and Ptes. Jackson, Lawson, Hayes, Weston, Thornton and Hogg represented the Battalion. It was then suggested that we played their first team, who, we were told, were naturally much superior. An added attraction was the promise of 50 per cent. of the gate money, which would be quite considerable, as half Minden was sure to turn out for this game. The R.S.M. and the Soccer Officer had visions of an armed guard and a 15-cwt. truck to carry back our share of the gate. This vision disappeared abruptly when the stadium was reached. The Mindenites had not turned out and our share of the takings could have been lifted by carrier pigeon. On top of this, the Battalion won 9—0. Minden are still trying to work out what L/Cpl. Shaw does with the ball. The week after a request was made by Minden for the services of Cpl. Hildred, L/Cpl. Shaw and Pte. Hogg.

Cpl. Hildred, L/Cpl. Shaw and Ptes. Hogg, Dixon and Broughton have been selected to play in a trial match to pick a representative team for Lubbecke area against a team from 11th Armoured Division. We wish them luck in this game.

An inter-Company knock-out competition is to be run and should prove extremely popular. In addition to this, we have quite a number of friendly games still to play and there are rumours of a Brigade league.

BOXING

Everyone in the Battalion is now being taught to box, either during their P.T. or games periods. We are also holding an inter-platoon novices' competition in March, which will be part of the platoon flag competition for the champion platoon. We are expecting approximately 120 entrants.

Our activities have been seriously curtailed on account of the fact that we were unable to bring our boxing ring with us, and there appear to be only two or three such rings in the whole of the Rhine Army. Our neighbours, the D.C.L.I., are also without one, but we have had a promise of one from Minden Garrison some time in the future.

The Battalion team has a provisional fixture with the D.C.L.I. in the middle of March.

2/Lt. Hoppe and Lt. Robertson have boxed for the Army officers against Belsise and R.A.F. A mention is certainly due to Peter Hoppe for his magnificent fight against the famous John of Belsise, which drove the crowd completely out of control and was only ended by the seconds pulling them apart. Peter won on points and is being tipped by the sports writers as a future Imperial Services champion.

Seven of our best boxers have entered for the

Army Individual Championships and are boxing in the 6th Armoured Division eliminating round in one of the precious Rhine Army rings on February 26 and 27. They are:

Light heavy, 2/Lt. Hoppe; middle, L/Cpl.

Aukett; welter, L/Cpl. McHieron and Pte. Warrior; light welter, Pte. Wilson; light, Pte. Barker; bantam, Pte. White.

We wish them the best of luck, but we are sure they will not need it.

REGIMENTAL H.Q. and DEPOT

Our last notes saw us having started up again as a live unit and with our first intake installed. That first intake duly completed its training and "passed out" on January 9. In the middle of the training cycle came Christmas and we, as a unit, combined some privilege leave with the Christmas leave and departed to spend Christmas in our respective homes, leaving behind a small skeleton staff.

Christmas dinner in the barracks was served on Saturday, December 22, and full well did the Messing Officer, Cpl. Harris and the cooks deserve their vote of thanks.

We had hoped that Gen. Christison would be able to come to take our first passing-out parade, but unfortunately an injury to his back prevented him from coming. We were very glad to see in his place, however, Col. Cumberlege, the Brigade Colonel. The weather would not permit us to hold the parade on the square and it had to be held in the gymnasium. Although the form of parade was strictly curtailed, the large gathering of parents appeared to be impressed and certainly enjoyed themselves making a tour of inspection of the barracks afterwards.

Of this intake, 16 departed as R.A.E.C. recruits to their Depot, the remainder all going to the 1st Battalion in Germany, where we may say we were delighted to see one of them, Pte. Atha, become C.O.'s stick orderly on February 23.

The second intake, including 14 Regulars and five R.A.E.C., arrived in a blizzard with six inches of snow on the square on January 17. The snow persisted for days and even weeks—the square itself becoming a sheet of ice—and the intake, in the first three weeks, only had three days on the square. Such was the state of training when we were called upon to provide a guard of honour for the Proclamation of the New Queen on Saturday, February 9. Training staff worked hard and the recruits themselves worked hard. The result was very satisfactory, for, considering their lack of experience and their short time in the Army, the recruits' drill and turnout was excellent.

On the sad news of the death of H.M. King George VI the following telegram was sent to Her Majesty by Gen. Christison on behalf of all ranks of the Regiment:

"Gen. Sir Philip Christison and all ranks of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment tender their deep and loyal sympathy on your bereavement."

The following gracious reply was received by the General from Her Majesty the Queen:

"Would you please convey to all ranks of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment my warm appreciation of their kind message of sympathy.

"Elizabeth R."

On Sunday, February 17, the intake was again called upon to represent the Regiment, this time in the memorial service for his late Majesty, by marching in procession through Halifax and lining the road before the parish church. The C.O. and Training Officer accompanied the Mayor in procession.

Two days earlier, the entire Depot paraded under the C.O. for the two minutes' silence in memory of the King.

And so the recruits continued their training and gradually improved. Their shooting has been particularly good. Eventually passing-out parade came on February 27—this time in good weather, with bright sunshine and the band of The West Yorkshire Regiment. Lt.-Col. Sir Nugent Everard honoured us by taking the salute, inspecting the recruits and addressing them.

Of this intake, only the Regulars are going to the 1st Battalion, the remainder going to the Brigade depot in York and thence to the 1st West Yorks in the Middle East.

We are taking part in a number of inter-Depot and inter-unit area competitions at the moment. Each intake competes against other intakes in the other Depots in the Group in shooting. For the first intake we came second, although top in the rifle. The second intake scoring has been better, but we await the final result from Brigade H.Q.

Soccer and also basket ball are going apace, though the weather has put one ground out of bounds and almost banned the second. Numerous friendly games of soccer have been played, in which we have only conceded 5 goals, whilst scoring nearly 30. The area first-round game takes place next week against the Depot, York and Lancaster Regiment. We have passed through the first round of the basket ball by beating Area H.Q. 41—13. Next week we again meet the Depot, The York and Lancaster Regiment, in the second round.

Certificate "A" examinations, weekend exercises with T.A. Brigades and Divisions and the like

keep the C.O., Training Officer and Adjt. (not forgetting Rugby football in Germany) very busy. Sgt. Nichols has now settled in married quarters. We congratulate Sgt. Mills on his marriage and on the purchase of a car; we did not think that the two together were possible! We also congratulate Cpl. Oakes on his basket ball course results; O.R.Q.M.S. Hallsworth on his promotion, L/Cpl. Russell on his 1st Class Certificate of Education and Walter Birch on his discharge and immediate re-employment as civilian groundsman! "Sailor" Hill continues to rule the dining hall with a rod of iron and Pte. Whittaker has found his vocation as a "cinematograph projectionist" by showing our training films.

A number of new "old" faces have come and gone. C.S.M. Lamb, late 76th, arrived home from East Africa and is now a C.S.M. with the 7th Battalion; C.S.M. Joyce came to us in reverse and has gone to Africa. Capt. Scott-Evans, new Adjt. of the 7th Battalion, now lives in the Mess, and Capt. Streatfeild "studied for Staff College" with us for a week. New officers have come and gone—Lt. Cook to East Africa, Lt. Tree to Malaya,

2/Lt. Cullen to the 1st Battalion and 2/Lt. Duckney to East Africa. We wish them all the best of good fortune.

Our first intake was visited on occasions by the G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, Gen. Sir Philip Balfour, the Area Commander, Brigadier Springhall, and the Brigade Colonel, Col. Cumberlege. On February 21 we had the honour of receiving a visit from the Mayor of Halifax, Alderman and Mrs. Pickles, and Archdeacon and Mrs. Treacy. The visitors toured the entire barracks all morning, talking to a number of recruits, and expressed themselves as being most impressed and pleased with what they saw. The visitors were entertained to luncheon in the Officers' Mess.

Work is going ahead both in the C.O.'s office and in the Town Hall for the centenary celebrations to be held in May.

So we come to the end of another chapter. Spring is just around the corner, and a new spirit of life and energy is being felt all round.

And with the close of our notes we repeat the prayer that in the last two weeks has gone round the word: God save the Queen.



DEPOT PERMANENT STAFF, JANUARY, 1952

Back Row (left to right): Ptes. Whittaker, Hall, Hoyle, Scott, Chilton, Laphorne, Matson, Pearce, Cross, Halligan, Cooper, Jacobs, Jackson, Lunn, Jenking, Gregson, Scholey.

Third Row (left to right): Dmr. Gunning, Pte. Winter, Pte. Booth, L/Cpl. Bamlett, Cpl. Harris, L/Cpl. O'Driscoll, Cpl. Wortley, Cpl. Burton, L/Cpl. Shields, Pte. Campbell, L/Cpl. Atkins, L/Cpl. Pryor, L/Cpl. Russell, Cpl. Duffy, L/Cpl. Kitching, Dmr. Jagger.

Second Row (left to right): Pte. Hill, Cpl. Holt, Cpl. Wheeler, Cpl. O'Hara, Cpl. Best, Sgt. Symons, Mr. Prince, Mr. Berry, Mr. Birch, Mr. O'Kelly, Sgt. Sugden, Cpl. Medley, Cpl. Peach, M.M., Cpl. Pratt, Cpl. Galley, Pte. Grice.

Front Row (left to right): Mr. Newsome, Sgt. Mills, Sgt. Erswell, C/Sgt. Benner, R.S.M. Kenchington, M.B.E., Lt.-Col. D. J. Stewart (ret.), (Admin. Officer), Capt. G. C. Tedd (Training Officer), Major W. Skelsey (C.O.), Lt. D. W. Shuttleworth (Adjutant), Major F. Allsop (Q.M.), Lt. D. L. Borwell (Training Sub.), Sgt. Hutchinson (A.P.T.C.I.), Sgt. Wond, Sgt. Nichols, Mr. McMahon.

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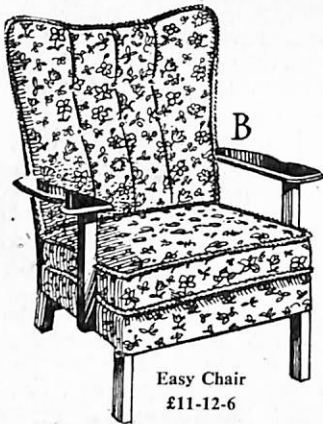
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382 FIELD REGIMENT

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

Apologies are overdue from this particular sub-editor. Excuses there are, but if he may be excused from excusing himself so much the better.

Since the last report it has been our pleasure to welcome:

Major C. K. Lethbridge, R.A., who came to us from the School of Artillery to instil into us the mysteries of field gunnery and whatever his thoughts on the subject may be (we have not asked him) we hope that in the very near future he will be proud of his and our efforts to achieve this object.

Capt. D. J. Coates, R.A., rejoining us from our sister Regiment (269 (W.R.) Field Regiment, R.A. T.A.) at Leeds to be Adjutant.

2/Lt. M. R. M. Tetlow, whom we are more than pleased to welcome—our first N.S. officer and a nephew of one of our former C.O.s. May he stay to give the sterling service given previously by his uncle. Miles Tetlow comes from the 19th Field Regiment, R.A., in BAOR.

Capt. (Q.M.) J. Hill, R.A., from 359 Medium Regiment, R.A. (T.A.). Capt Hill is due to join on the day THE IRON DUKE is published, but our welcome is none the less sincere.

B.S.M. W. Astin, who joins us, also from BAOR, on T-type engagement—to take over the running of our Cleckheaton branch.

It is regretted that wherever the ebb so must there be the flow and, whilst the flow may be postponed for a short while, it cannot be indefinite:

Capt. (Q.M.) S. C. Mills, R.A., has been with the Regiment since first being commissioned (10 years) and it is with the utmost regret that we see him depart for pastures new. He goes to Stockport to 360 Heavy A.A. Regiment. As a Gloucester man it is doubtful whether he will see the subtleties of the pastures new after Halifax—the mysteries probably being only apparent to the followers of the Rose, the difference probably being small between the White and the Red.

Major J. W. H. Frame, M.C., leaves us on relegation to TARO, the command of "P" Battery falling on the capable shoulders of Major L. J. Braddock, M.C., T.D.

Capt. F. Stilling, R.A., the late Adjutant and sub-editor of these notes, is now down at Woolwich sub-editing the movement orders of those going to and from home duties.

Our congratulations to our late C.O., Col. Bentley, T.D., on his promotion to Brevet Colonel. Rumour has it that he has forsaken his old love of gunnery for the new one of "pikery"—he has been given command of the local battalion of the Home Guard.

TRAINING

The highlight of the Regimental training year was the fortnight spent at camp at the end of July last. This was a Divisional T.A. camp and probably the last we shall attend as such, units having

grown so rapidly since they were re-formed that it will be hard to fit us all in at Windmill Hill camp on Salisbury Plain.

It was a very busy time for us as it was our first camp as field gunners and the handling of field artillery was an entirely new technique. However, everyone rose to the occasion, as was proved when we went on to the ranges.

Life was not all training, however, there were weekend trips to Pompey and the big night of any camp when the Sergeants' Mess entertained the officers to a number of convivial contests in the Mess.

The unit also found time to visit Farnley Park, Otley, for two weekend training periods. It is regretted that we cannot have a repeat of this in the current training year due to the camp being occupied by "Z" Reservists for most of the season.

A day on the ranges completed our outside training of the season, most of the cups and prizes competed for going to a new home for another year.

The Regiment combined with the Depot and the Cadets in an Armistice Day Parade and Service at St. Hilda's Parish Church, the spiritual home of our Padre, Capt. Minns, R.A.Ch.D. There was a very heartening response to the request to turn out on that day. At the conclusion of the service the salute was taken by our Honorary Colonel, Col. Goldthorp.

The unit had representatives at Halifax, Brighouse and Cleckheaton on the days of Her Majesty's proclamation and also on parades and services on the occasion of His late Majesty's funeral.

SOCIAL

Events have been many and varied and if these notes are to be ready in time reference to them must be short and to the point.

Children's parties were held at Halifax and Cleckheaton, the children not being alone in the enjoyment of the fun and fare laid on.

The officers and sergeants' celebration in the time-honoured fashion the annual get-together evening.

The Waterloo Ball, officers' supper night, farewell parties to the late C.O., the Honorary Colonel's night, all these spring to mind and would probably spring to the pen of one of journalistic leanings, the sub-editor regrets.

Our camp this year at Sennybridge is to be enlivened by the inclusion of numbers of "Z" Reservists. To this end all were invited to an "At Home" at the three drill halls, when it was hoped that a few of them would be able to come along and do a little pre-camp training; we have had a few so far and hope to do better when the light evenings are with us. This evening was a great success and we hope we were able to prove to our visitors that, whilst to us this was just another job of work, we were out to do it in as pleasant a manner as they themselves would allow.

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

The period of these notes opens with the more fortunate of us going up to receive our prizes from Maj.-Gen. C. H. Norton, C.B.E, D.S.O., which a great many of us did on December 7. The attendance was good and it was a pleasant evening. We record with pleasure several new faces amongst the prize-winners this year. We hope that some will soon be able to distinguish between their right and left!

We record with pleasure the award of the Meritorious Service Medal to R.Q.M.S. J. Fitzgibbon.

The first social function was the annual New Year's Eve officers' ball on December 31, which 500 to 600 guests attended. An innovation which largely contributed to this year's success was the central bar in the main hall, which was open for cocktails from 8 to 9 p.m. and ensured a friendly atmosphere for the evening. We should like to thank the Dance Committee for all their hard work and highly efficient arrangements for a most enjoyable function.

The New Year began well with the Commanding Officer's compulsory parade on January 7 for all N.S. men. This marked the beginning of the Regimental training period which is to last until camp in early July and by assembling all our N.S. men, in addition to a good turn-up from our T.A. chaps, we all really felt we had sown the seeds of a successful period of training, had a chance to mix up everybody; in fact, we felt we were getting somewhere.

The N.S. men are getting sufficient in numbers now to make their presence felt in the Regiment. Our limited experience to date shows that most of these chaps are going to be keen; in them there is undoubtedly good material. It is significant that, although a small percentage have joined the T.A., quite a reasonable percentage of those who have not are attending drills regularly.

The annual children's party was held on January

5 and many invitations were sent out to children, who were asked to bring their parents. A whale of a time was had by the children, as usual.

Other social events have included a Sergeants' Mess dinner and social evening, a Sergeants' Mess dance and also two of the series of three concerts being given by the Band in each of the three drill halls. These functions were successful and those who attended greatly enjoyed themselves.

We welcome a new officer to the Regiment, Lt. N. H. Bousfield, R.A., who has joined us as a result of his "Z" Reserve training with the Regiment last year. We are also pleased to record that 2/Lt. R. A. Hawkins, R.A., has successfully changed his commission into a T.A. commission. The Regiment also is particularly keen to welcome back into its midst Rev. H. Tuff, B.A., C.F., who has been attached to the Regiment as our Padre, as successor to Canon Frank Woods, who was recently consecrated Bishop Suffragan of Middleton. It will be recalled that Padre Tuff served with the Regiment for a time before and during the Second Great War. Our congratulations to Lt. B. N. Webster, R.A., on his promotion to captain.

The Regiment is making plans to take part in the celebrations in Halifax on May 24 for the 250th anniversary of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The Regimental church parade will be held on the following day in Huddersfield.

Camp this year is at Tonfanau from July 6 to 20, and once again a large number of "Z" Reservists will do training with us; far more than last year. We hope to see many past serving officers again on the middle weekend.

We have left until the end of these notes our expression of sorrow at the passing of our beloved King George VI, in which we join with the Editor and other contributors of THE IRON DUKE.

The Regiment paraded at the proclamation of Queen Elizabeth II in Huddersfield on Proclamation Day. Long live Queen Elizabeth II.

7th BATTALION T.A.

SUB-EDITORIAL

Much time has been spent during January and February trying to keep warm. The weather has indeed not been very kind to us and for a long period the roads have been under a layer of ice; nevertheless, in spite of this we have not had to cancel any of our training periods and exercises, most of which have been carried out under arctic conditions. Probably the best example of this was a Brigade Defence TEWT, which was held at Harrogate. It was one of those healthy sort of days when the sun was shining with no apparent effect. The evening before the exercise the Brigade Commander gave a cocktail party at the Grand Hotel,

Harrogate. The C.O., Majors Banks and Ellam, and Capt. Ashton were amongst those present. There have also been numerous cloth model exercises for the Battalion.

February seemed to be a month of inspections, the first Sunday of which we had our Annual Administrative Inspection. The Brigade Major tried hard to catch us out, but we don't think he was successful. We have every reason to believe that our report will be good.

Later in the month we had a C.I.V. Inspection and from all reports the R.E.M.E. Inspectorate was satisfied.

So much for past training. We are now getting

plans ready for our Annual Summer Camp, which is being held this year in Norfolk; in addition, we have made arrangements for numerous week-end camps to be held locally. Practice will soon commence for the Divisional Rifle Meeting, which is being held at Strensall on May 11; let's hope we have good luck. The Battalion will also be taking part in the 250th Anniversary Parade at Halifax on May 24. We shall include full reports on this and other events in the next issue of THE IRON DUKE.

A number of the permanent staff, including the C.O. and Adjutant, represented the Battalion at a Memorial Service held at Huddersfield Parish Church in commemoration of His Late Majesty King George VI.

This quarter has seen the arrival of our new R.S.M., Mr. Smyth, of the York and Lancaster Regiment. We welcome him to this Battalion and hope that his stay with us will be a happy one.

On Saturday, February 16, a reunion dinner was held at the White Swan Hotel, Halifax, for past and present members of the Battalion. Speeches were made by Cols. Howcroft and Hinchcliffe, and Capt. Streatfeild. It was good to see so many old faces again and to reminiscence over the past. Our thanks go to Major John Pyrah, who organised an excellent evening on our behalf.

Last, but by no means least, we have to report the departure of John Streatfeild, who has been our Adjutant for 2½ years. We were pleased to show our appreciation of him on two occasions, the first of which was in the form of a dance held at Milnsbridge on January 18. This was really a family party, but we were very pleased to have Major Walter Skelsey and Capt. Graham Tedd from the Depot with us for the occasion. John was finally "dined out" at Milnsbridge on February 22, when the C.O., Lt.-Col. Sir N. Everard, Bt., presented him with a silver salver as a parting present from the officers of the Battalion, a present he so rightly deserved. We had a good evening and our thanks go to Major Alec Banks who was responsible for organising both this dinner and the dance. We are all very sorry to see John go, but one thing is certain, our loss will be somebody else's gain.

OFFICERS' NEWS

Much has happened since our last notes appeared, the most important item of news being that we have had a change of Adjutants. We welcome Dick Scott-Evans wholeheartedly and hope that his time with us will be both happy and successful; at the same time it is with great regret that we see John Streatfeild depart. To say that he will be missed by all is an understatement, but we are sure that he is in no doubt as to our feelings and that further comment would be superfluous. We dined John out and Dick in at Milnsbridge on February 21, and the former was the recipient of an engraved salver presented to him by the C.O. as a token of good will from us all. Our Honorary Colonel, Col. Hinchcliffe, added a few well-chosen words to the C.O.'s eulogies and John made a suitable reply. We were delighted to have Col. Sam Hoyle with us and congratulate him for making such a sporting and plucky gesture. We all wish him speedy

restoration to full health. It was with great difficulty that we restrained Dick from making a "maiden speech," but doubtless we shall give him his head one of these days.

At last Bernard Ellam has come back to the fold and he should be a great acquisition. He has arrived in time to shoulder some of the responsibility in connection with our Annual Ball; which is a great comfort to the writer.

Majors Frank Whitehead and John Carling are both going on to the Reserve and are a great loss. We have no senior officer "over the hill" and there is no doubt that the lack of Frank's guiding hand will be felt at Springhead. John Carling will leave a great gap in our shooting team and there is absolutely no one to take his place. We sincerely hope that he will make himself available as a coach when the time comes and not desert us entirely.

The latest member to join the ranks of the Benedicts is Henry Crowther. We congratulate him heartily and wish the young couple every happiness during their voyage through life.

Before closing these notes we should like to refer to a small dance that was held at Milnsbridge on January 18. This was attended by about eighty people and was confined to members and their immediate friends and to our "Z" Reserve officers and friends. We had no official guests, but Major Skelsey and officers of the Regimental Depot were asked as being part of the family. The affair was a great success, but it was felt that the response from our "Z" officers might have been better. Any reading these notes might care to know that it is intended to hold similar functions in the future and that they will be made most welcome if they can make it convenient to attend. One of the reasons for instituting these dances is to give our "Z" officers opportunities of really getting to know us and of building up the team spirit.

"A" COMPANY

Since the publication of our last notes the Company has taken part in a Battalion shooting competition with the 4th K.O.Y.L.I. at Wakefield. Sad to relate we lost the match by six points; nevertheless we look forward to the return match on our own ground.

Company training programmes are running smoothly and we are slowly gaining strength. We will all be glad when we can continue our training out of doors and settle down to getting ourselves fit for Annual Camp.

We regret to note that C.S.M. Maltby has been admitted to hospital for an operation. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope he will soon be back with us.

Our children's Christmas party on December 29 was a great success. The traditional Father Christmas paid a visit and gave each child a present. After the children had been put to bed a dance was held for the parents; this too was very successful. Our thanks go to Sgt. Lomas and his wife for their hard work in connection with this function.

In closing these notes we would like to send our best wishes and congratulations to Capt. Williams, who has recently become engaged.

SUPPORT COMPANY

Winter activity at Elland has been limited to indoor work, but the turn-up has been good and, under the enthusiastic eyes of the T.A. instructors, many National Service men have found new interests in Support Company's weapons.

Planned for the spring and summer before camp

are several compulsory week-ends and these will include a special firing camp at Great Cowden for the Machine-guns and Mortars; also a Demonstration, during the 250th Anniversary celebrations at Halifax.

The personnel have remained the same and we have seen little changes since our last notes.

4th CADET BATTALION

Reports from Companies since the beginning of the year indicate that a busy winter programme has been maintained throughout the Battalion. A very satisfactory number of Cadets have qualified for the marksman's badge under the Empire Test and in spite of the recent arctic weather conditions, 303 shoots on the open range at Yeadon, have been held on Sunday mornings and thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned.

The revived Ilkley Platoon, under the command of Lt. F. S. Stockdale, has attracted a dozen or more keen youngsters up to date and recruit training for these Cadets is well under way. We hope, ere long, to see Certificate "A" Badges decorating uniforms in that area.

Capt. George Barlow and his warriors of Otley Company seem to have settled down to their new premises at Farnley Park Camp and now have plenty of room for their schemes and manoeuvres. We congratulate Capt. Barlow on his recent promotion.

We offer our condolences to Cpl. F. D. Doyle, who was a gallant loser in the Army Cadet Force Northern Command Boxing Championships at Lincoln. We must mention in passing that Cpl. Doyle sustained a shoulder injury preceding his fight, but gamely decided not to drop out. We offer our congratulations on his plucky effort and his skill, which took him so far along the road to the National Championships.

A welcome visitor at Rawdon Company H.Q., recently, was ex-Cadet T. Heys, now Cpl. T. Heys of the Coldstream Guards, enjoying a spell of leave, who appears to be very happy in his National Service. It is nice to see these "old comrades" and to learn at first hand that Cadet training has been of some use to them.

In conclusion, we most sincerely congratulate our Deputy County Commandant, Col. G. B. Faulder, D.S.O., on his Home Guard appointment.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the raising of the 33rd Foot, March 14, 1702, and the 100th Anniversary of the death of the first Duke of Wellington, November 18, 1852

These anniversaries are to be commemorated at Halifax on Saturday and Sunday, May 24 and 25, 1952. The commemoration arrangements will comprise:

ON MAY 24, 1952

At 2 p.m. The exercising by the Regiment of the privilege conferred upon it with the Freedom of Halifax in 1945, of marching through the town with Colours flying, Bands playing, and bayonets fixed.

Troops taking part will be:

The Bands of the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 578 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.) (T.A.), and the Army Cadet Force.

Detachments from: Regimental Depot; 382 Field Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.) (T.A.); 578 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.) (T.A.); 673 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.) (T.A.); 7th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (T.A.), including the Colours; 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Cadet Battalions The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

A representative contingent from the Old Comrades' Association and the Regimental Association, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, will march in the Column.

The route to be followed will be: North Parade (assembly area), Waterhouse Street, Commercial Street, Huddersfield Road, Heath Road, Skircoat Green Road, Manor Heath Park (dispersal area).

The saluting base will be on the west side of Commercial Street, in George Square.

The salute will be taken by the Colonel of the Regiment.

At 3.15 p.m. On completion of the march through Halifax, a Military Display will be staged in Manor Heath Park, comprising short demonstrations by 382 Field Regiment, R.A., 673 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A., and by "S" Company, 7th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. During these demonstrations equipment of 578 H.A.A. Regiment will be set out for inspection.

At 5.30 p.m. The Band and Drums of the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment will beat "Retreat" at Bull Green, Halifax.

At 7.30 p.m. An All Ranks' Dance will be held at the Regimental Depot, Wellesley Barracks.

ON MAY 25, 1952

At 9 a.m. A Communion Service will be held in the Regimental Chapel, Parish Church, Halifax.

REGIMENTAL DINNER, MAY 30

The Annual Dinner of the Officers' Dinner Club and the Regimental Tea will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1, on May 30, 1952.



LT.-COL. F. R. ST. P. BUNBURY, D.S.O.
Commanding 5th Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment

OBITUARY

ROLL OF HONOUR

We deeply regret to announce the death on active service in Korea of the following former members of the Regiment:

144454933 L/Cpl. L. G. Leach, posted from the Duke of Wellington's Regiment to the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers on August 15, 1950. Killed in action on October 5, 1951.

4615187 L/Cpl. H. Hamer, posted from the Duke of Wellington's Regiment to the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers on August 10, 1950. Killed in action on April 23, 1951.

We also deeply regret to announce the following deaths:

In December, 1951, Capt. R. Maurice Hill, M.B.E., T.D., at 23 Richmond Road, Cardiff, Wales. Capt. Hill served with the Duke of Wellington's in the first World War, later transferring to the Royal Army Pay Corps. He was a writer of considerable talent and the author of many articles in THE IRON DUKE. He had a gift of bringing the past to life, illustrating it from his own reading and recollection. Shortly before his death the Editor received a letter from him in which he offered to write an article on the place the great Duke held in the affections of the Army. He was a loyal friend to the Regiment.

On January 23, at Lyndhurst, Sutton-in-Craven, aged 67 years, Col. Charles Malcolm Bateman, D.S.O., T.D., J.P. Col. Bateman was a prominent figure in business circles and had a long and most distinguished military career.

He served with the 6th Battalion in the 1914-18 war, when he was awarded the D.S.O. and bar and four times mentioned in despatches. After the war he maintained a keen interest in the Regiment, he commanded the 6th Battalion for nine years and was an indefatigable worker in many causes, particularly the British Legion and the Old Comrades' Association. He commanded the 27th Battalion (Keighley) Home Guard in the late war. He is survived by his widow, two sons and a daughter.

COL. F. S. EXHAM, D.S.O.

Col. Frank Simeon Exham was the eldest son of Col. S. H. Exham, C.B., C.B.E., of Walton House, Felixstowe, Suffolk, and was born in 1875. He received his commission in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1895. He served with the 1st Battalion in Malta, Dover and Aldershot. In 1899, he proceeded on active service to South Africa with the 1st Battalion, serving throughout the campaign until the Battalion returned home in 1902. In the South African War he was present at the battles of Driefontein, Rhenoster Kop and Paardeburg and was also awarded bars for Transvaal and the Relief of Kimberley.

In 1902 he transferred to the R.A.O.C. and in the same year married Frances Mary Body of Crediton, Devon.

After service in the R.A.O.C. in Portsmouth, Bermuda and Stirling, he served throughout the

Great War at H.Q., B.E.F. In 1918 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and, after the war, was appointed to the War Office. He subsequently served as C.O. of the Central Ammunition Depot, Bramley, and as A.D.O.S. in Shanghai and at H.Q. Southern Command. He retired in 1932.

During the second world war he was actively associated with Civil Defence and fire guard duties in the Woking area.

In 1948 he moved to Cheltenham, where he died on December 17, 1951.

Col. Exham was an enthusiastic and excellent all-round games player. As a cricketer he played in the Scottish counties championship and at tennis represented the Army at doubles. He was for many years chief steward of the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon.

After his retirement he remained closely interested in all regimental matters, contributing to THE IRON DUKE and always attending the dinner whenever he was able.

In his death the Regiment has lost a faithful old comrade and one of the few surviving veterans of Paardeburg.

H.K.U. writes:

"Exham was one of the most conscientious subalterns I have ever known. In matters of duty he never spared himself and was most punctilious in the performance of every detail. When he first joined the 33rd he was a self-effacing and shy individual, always keeping himself in the background, but ever ready to come forward if any job was to be done. He played a good game of tennis and had the makings of a good racquet player. He was devoted to music, especially the violin. Everyone liked him. He had not an enemy in the world. He was always ready to do a good turn to anyone and could be relied on to do it well and wholeheartedly. Not strong physically, he stuck the hardships of the South African War by sheer grit. He was married shortly after its conclusion."

PERSONALIA

Engagement

The engagement is announced between Sgt. Stephen Slade Carey, R.A.F. (air crew), youngest son of Major and Mrs. Rupert O'D. Carey, Green Shutters, Ripponden, Yorks, and Anne Margaret, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hickman, Westcliffe Drive, Halifax.

* * * *

Major R. G. Collins, M.B.E., writes from the R.A.F. at Abingdon, where he has been in charge of parachute trainees, to say that he is being invalided out of the Army on account of deafness and is looking out for a job in civilian life. This is indeed

bad luck and on behalf of his many friends in the Regiment we send him our best wishes for a successful career as a civilian.

* * * *

We are indebted to Mr. J. Beddoes, of the *Halifax Courier*, for the following communication:

It is fitting that in the anniversary year of the Regiment the Mayor of Halifax should himself be a former member of one of the Territorial battalions. In May the new Mayor of Halifax will be Councillor William Regan, who served from 1915 to 1919 with the 2/4th.

William Regan is a native of Halifax who has spent a great many of his 63 years in the service of his fellow townspeople and he has been a member of the Corporation since 1924. He has been a Justice of the Peace since 1933 and is a former president of the Halifax Labour Party and of the Halifax Trades and Industrial Council.

His wide knowledge of public utilities was recognised in 1949, when he was appointed by the Minister of Fuel and Power to be the chairman of the North-Eastern Area Gas Consultative Council.

He joined the 2/4th in Halifax in 1915 and was appointed lance-corporal in the Signal Section in the following year, when the Battalion was at Salisbury. He went abroad with the Battalion and received a mention in despatches, being promoted corporal in 1917. His demobilisation came in 1919 and for a period after the war he served on the committee of the Old Comrades' Association.

The Mayor-elect has expressed himself par-

ticularly gratified that his mayoralty will fall in the 250th anniversary year of the Regiment.

But the coincidence—if such it can be described—goes one stage further, for in the adjoining borough of Brighouse the Mayor in anniversary year will also be a former "Duke." He is Councillor George Turner, M.C., who has also had a distinguished record of public service in the district in the last 30 years.

Capt. Turner enlisted in the ranks of the 4th Battalion in 1914, but in the following year he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery. He was awarded the Military Cross while serving in that corps. His service with the "Dukes," however, entitled him to membership of the Old Comrades' Association and for a period he was chairman of the committee.

* * * *

Brigadier K. G. Exham, D.S.O., A.D.C., writes to say that he is now back at school in the Imperial Defence College and thoroughly enjoying it.

Two well-known Dukes of the old school, Mr. J. Norman (Old Tom) of 13 Cecil Street, Huddersfield, and Mr. H. Matthews, of 85 Donaldson Road, Shooters Hill, S.E.18, have both written to say they have received the Meritorious Service Medal. Unfortunately we have no room to publish any correspondence in this number, but hope for better luck in the next.

Captain K. W. Brown writes to say that he has a new address:

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The Manchester Regiment
The North Staffordshire Regiment
The York & Lancaster Regiment
The Durham Light Infantry
The Royal Ulster Rifles
The Royal Tank Regiment
The Royal Artillery
The Royal Engineers
The Royal Signals
The Royal Army Service Corps
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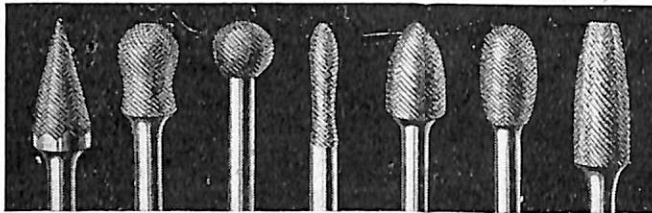
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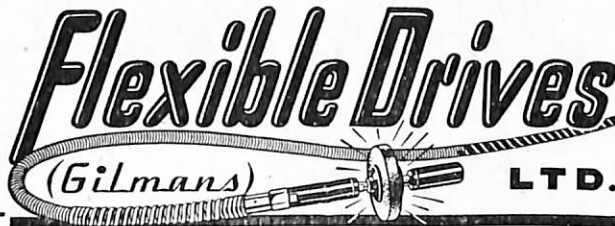
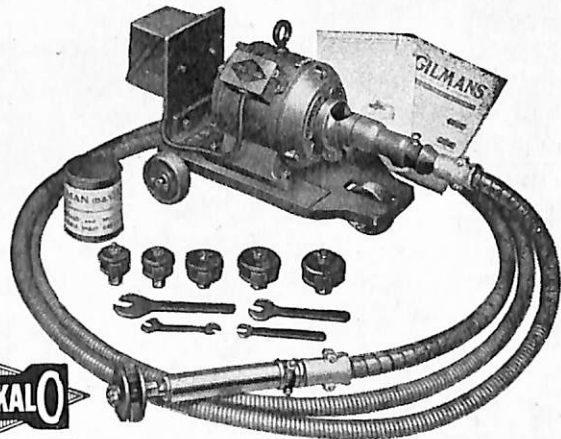


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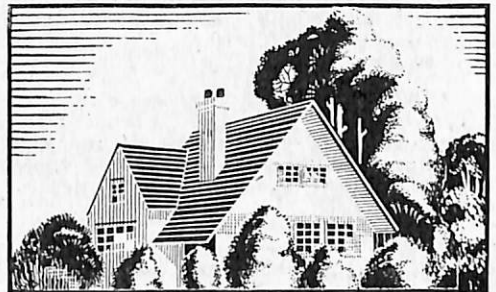
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ECHOES OF THE PAST

We are indebted to Lt.-Col. F. H. B. Wellesley for permission to publish the following letter from the 1st Duke of Wellington to his brother, the Rev. Gerald Valerian Wellesley, Col. Wellesley's great-grandfather. It was written at the Duke's H.Q. at Lesaca, a village not far from St. Sebastian, on the day before the opening of the second siege of that fortress. The postscript is of particular interest. In modern warfare the commander-in-chief does not expect to become engaged in a hand-to-hand combat. But there was at least one occasion in the Peninsular War when the Duke had to draw sword in his own defence. In the course of the withdrawal before the battle of Salamanca he had ridden out to inspect his rear-guard, when the French cavalry charged the hill, from which he was watching the operations, and drove back the forward cavalry. The regiment in support, mistaking an order, also began to withdraw, instead of advancing to relieve their companions. As a result, a confused mass of French and English cavalry swept down on the headquarter staff, who had to fight their way back. "It was a dangerous moment for the allied army—a chance thrust in the mêlée might have killed or disabled Wellington and thrown the command into the hands of Beresford or Stapleton Cotton.* The Duke had another close shave at the relief of Salamanca; while writing orders on his sabre-tache he was charged and nearly unhorsed by a drove of enthusiastic Spanish ladies.—Ed.

LESACA,
August 25, 1813.

MY DEAR GERALD,

I have not heard from you since I wrote to you upon poor Cadogan's death.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will go to my house in London, where you will find a sword with a gilt handle in a silver-gilt sheath, which I shall be much obliged to you if you will send me. The sheath and handle ought to be new gilt, but there is a wooden lining to the sheath fixed in a particular manner with screws and unless great care is taken in taking out the lining in order to gild the sheath, I am afraid that they will spoil it. I shall be obliged to you if you will explain the matter, particularly to Gilbert.

As soon as the sword will be ready, have a case made for it the same as those for my other swords and get it sent to me by the first messenger or person who comes. Get a belt for it of plain black patent leather, ornamented and kept together with plain silver gilt rings and nothing more.

Give my best love to Emily and believe me, my dear Gerald,

Ever yours most affectionately,

WELLINGTON.

You had better enquire from Lady Wellington

where the swords are in Harley Street. Let the sword itself be sharpened in case I should get into a mêlée by accident.

Redfold, Nutbourne,
Pulborough, Sussex.
August 12, 1951.

The Editor,
THE IRON DUKE.

Dear Sir,

I enclose copies I have made to-day from the original letters to Mr. Trevor, who, judging from these letters, was Surgeon to the 33rd from 1793 to 1807. Three of these letters are from the Duke of Wellington, dated 1800, 1846 and 1852 respectively. One is from J. C. Sherbrooke undated, possibly the Gen. J. C. Sherbrooke who became Colonel of the Regiment in 1813 when the Duke was appointed Colonel of the Royal Horse Guards, and one from Col. Gore when commanding the 33rd.

The Notes I have added at the foot of some of the letters are taken from Lee's History of the 33rd.

The original letters were bequeathed to Trevor's granddaughter, who was daughter of one Charles Trevor, a High Court Judge in India. She died this year, aged 98. She in turn bequeathed them to her granddaughter, the wife of my nephew, Major Keymer of the York and Lancaster Regiment, who quite unexpectedly sent them to me on loan a few days, inviting me to use any of these letters for THE IRON DUKE.

With regard to Gen. Sherbrooke's letter, Keymer writes: "It appears that in those days, too, the line of march was full of dogs, some of which got lost, as they do to-day!"

Yours sincerely,
R. A. SCOTT.

Copies of Letters.

London, August 24, 1852.

My Dear Mr. Trevor,

I saw Mr. ? yesterday at Bedford Place and he told me that you are in London!

I hope that I shall see you.

I am going to make calls to-morrow but if you are able to call here by twelve at noon I should be happy and delighted. ? ?

? Yours most sincerely,
WELLINGTON.

Note.—The original of this letter is still contained in its original small envelope measuring 4 x 2 inches. It is addressed to Mr. Trevor, No. 27 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, and marked "Immediate." The penny stamp is still on the envelope. On the back of the envelope is the Duke's seal, unbroken, and the post mark Piccadilly, Au. 24, 1852.

The handwriting of this letter is very shaky and hard to read, hence the queries for a few illegible words. That the writing is not as clear as the two

*Oman

other letters is not surprising, for the Duke died on September 14, 1852, aged 83. R.A.S.

London, May 8, 1846.

The Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Mr. Trevor. He has received his letter.

There are Clerks in the Office of the Commander-in-Chief where duties are of a confidential nature, but it is impossible for the Duke to hold out expectations that he will appoint any Gentleman to fill one of these Offices till it shall be vacant, and he must add that he will select to fill it the person most capable of performing the duty and in whose conduct and discretion confidence can be placed, be the person who recommended him *who he may*.

It is absolutely ? ? for the Duke and he is under the necessity of declining positively and distinctly to what office ? any of his Colleagues in favour of any person whatever.

Andrew Trevor, Esq.

Seringapatam, February 20, 1800.

Sir,

I have received your note and the extract of a letter from Mr. Ewart which you enclosed. I don't recollect that the form of the return or monthly report which you are requested to send to Mr. Ewart, which was received from the Adjutant General's Office contained any place for the name of the Commanding Officer of the regt.; and I know there was no order to the commanding officers of regts. to sign and transmit reports to Mr. Ewart. As, however, it appears that the want of my signature to your report has drawn from Mr. Ewart an insinuation that I am not satisfied with your general conduct, I think it but justice to you to state that you have now been under my command for seven years, that during that time the regt. has been employed in different parts of the world and various climates, and upon all occasions your attention to your duty, your humanity and your skill have claimed and received my fullest approbation. I have also the pleasure to inform you, that having at different times had occasion to converse with the medical gentlemen on the staff of the Armies in which we have been employed, they have uniformly given testimony of your good conduct; particularly that gentleman has, who is at present at the head of the medical department of the Army in the Mysore Country.

You have my permission to communicate this letter to Mr. Ewart or to whom else you please.

I am, Sir,

Your most faithful ?

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Surgeon Trevor,
33rd Regt.

My Dear Trevor,

After the medical assistance you have been kind enough to afford me (during my late Indisposition most particularly) I fear you will think me an ungrateful fellow in not having bid you adieu and thanked you for your kindness. The fact is I have a particular antipathy (inasmuch as it always gives

me pain to say farewell to those whom I esteem). Do me the favour, therefore, to excuse me if you should have entertained any unfavourable Impressions on this Acct. against me, and add to the obligation by presenting my best respects to Dr. Flemming with my most grateful acknowledgements for his professional attentions during my late illness.

Write to me at Madras (? name rather illegible) and if there be anything I can do for you either there or in Europe you will by employing me

Much oblige

My dear Trevor,

Yrs. very truly,

J. C. SHERBROOKE.

I lost poor Swift on the March today. Should he return to Seringapatam Pray take care of him till Deeds return to whom I have given the Dog.

Muddoor,

Saturday Night.

Note.—The writer of this letter is presumably Gen. J. C. Sherbrooke, who became Colonel of the 33rd in 1813, in succession to the Duke of Wellington, who was appointed Colonel of the Royal Horse Guards that year. The 33rd came home from India in 1812. The above letter is undated. R.A.S.

INFANTRY REGIMENTAL BOYS' BATTALION

W.O. Memorandum dated January 31, 1952

An Infantry Regimental Boys' Battalion is forming at Tuxford Camp, Notts., in March, 1952.

The Battalion is being formed with the object of training boys between 15 and 17½ for the Regular Infantry.

Recruiting opens for the Battalion on February 14, 1952, and boys will be accepted into the Battalion from April 15, 1952.

Boys can be accepted between the ages of 15 and 16½ years.

Boys can be accepted for any Line Regiment at the time of their enlistment. On reaching Men's Service boys will do 8 years with the Colours and 4 years with the Reserve, or 12 years with the Colours.

Past and present infantry soldiers with sons are invited to consider earnestly the advantages offered by this scheme to boys of suitable age. Experience has shown that boys' units produce a high proportion of potential Regular leaders.

PLEASE NOTE !!

all contributions for the
JULY NUMBER

should be in the Editor's hands by

JUNE 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 142, THE IRON DUKE, No. 82

Stralsund, Saturday, August 28, 1813

At 2 a.m. we were on our alarm posts and stayed there till 5. At 6 I went to bed, was up again at 9, mounted main guard with Capt. Pagan and an officer of the 91st at 10, but we were soon relieved by the Burghers armed with English accoutrements. The Prince of Mecklenburgh arrived here yesterday, as did the Prince of Hesse. Accounts are received that the French are retreating from Rostock; great quantities of military stores go out daily to the Army.

Stralsund, Sunday, August 29, 1813

At 4 in the morning the drums beat to arms both for the Swedes and English, but the former were on their alarm posts long before us. We remained under arms till 6, when I went to bed. Breakfasted with Capt. Freeman at 8, visited the quarters of the Company, reported three of them having bad fitting beds.

... Light Company returned to-day as did the 54th Regiment (now the 2nd Battalion The Dorest Regiment), the enemy having been obliged by part of Bernadotte's army to retire with some loss, though Walmsden was defeated by them. A party of Don Cossacks went through to-day, under the command of an officer who wore a uniform of scarlet the same as the officers of the native cavalry of India; they wore a brace of long pistols each but had no lances.

Stralsund, Monday, August 30, 1813

Drums beat to arms at quarter-past 3 this morning; the men turned out very well. . . .

Stralsund, Tuesday, August 31, 1813

On our alarm posts at a quarter past five as usual. The 73rd (now the 2nd Battalion. The Black Watch) marched to-day to Tripsees.

Stralsund, Wednesday, September 1, 1813

Working parties from every regiment are on the works as well as the Landtsturm, who are marching in by hundreds. A return was sent in to the General to-day, specifying the number of men fit to take the field. The Court, of which Lt.-Col. West, 33rd Regiment, was President, have determined the relative rate of currency to be as follows: the Pomeranian Rix dollar of 48 shillings equal to 3/6 sterling; the Frederick d'or five dollars, six shillings Pomeranian currency, and the Pomeranian and other silver coins at the respective value they . . . (?) current in Pomerania; this will bring the Frederick d'or to the sterling value of 17/11¼ and the 2/3 pieces of 33 shillings Pomeranian currency to 2/4¼, and in order that no difficulty may arise it is recommended that all receipts and payments be made and that all army accounts be kept in Pomeranian Rix

dollars, of 48 skillings equal to 3/6 sterling, and is approved by Major-Gen. Gibbs.

Stralsund, Thursday, September 2, 1813

... We heard to-day that the French, under Davout*, had been obliged to retire and that they had taken their route towards Lubeck. The Royals arrived to-day.

Stralsund, Saturday, September 4, 1813

Fitzpatrick was to-day appointed Acting Adjutant of the Regiment.

Stralsund, Sunday, September 5, 1813

The General took the whole Brigade out this evening at 6 o'clock. The Duke of Mecklenburgh was on the ground with his suite, as was Gen. Englebrecht and his staff.

Stralsund, Thursday, September 9, 1813

... An order was issued by Col. Gore expressing his great displeasure at the irregularity of the Regiment on the last guard, which had led the Swedish Governor to say that ours was the worst regiment on duty of any in the garrison.

Stralsund, Friday, September 10, 1813

A report is in circulation the Danes in Hamburg have entered into an armistice with the Swedes.

Stralsund, Saturday, September 11, 1813

A regimental court martial was held at 11 o'clock. Two of the men of the 8th Company were tried for being drunk and absent from parade.

Stralsund, Sunday, September 12, 1813

An order was issued for the 33rd to march to Barth tomorrow, there to remain till further order. This was, however, countermanded.

Stralsund, Monday, September 13, 1813

We were relieved at 10 o'clock as usual. We were ordered today to march tomorrow to Barth. Am packing up in consequence. Find it the worst thing in the world for an officer to have much baggage on service. We were ordered to fall in at 7 o'clock and all the heavy baggage is to round by sea.

Stralsund, Tuesday, September 14, 1813

At 10 we left Stralsund, roads very wet. The

*[Louis Nicholas Davout, Marshal of France, was commanding the Hamburg military district. Of noble birth, he was regarded by his contemporaries as one of the ablest of Napoleon's generals and was implicitly trusted by the Emperor. On the latter's return from Elba, Davout became Minister of War and was charged with the reorganization of the Imperial army. In consequence he remained at Paris instead of accompanying his master to Waterloo. It has been suggested that his skill and courage might have turned the scales in that delicately balanced campaign.—Ed.]

day was very fine with the exception of a few showers of rain. We were commanded by Major Harty, for Col. Gore was left to act as president of a General Court Martial which was ordered to be held for the trial of an officer of the 91st (1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders). It is about 10 English miles from Stralsund to Barth, where we arrived between 4 and 5 o'clock. The country we passed through was fruitful in grain but quite unenclosed and had not so much wood about it as most parts of Germany have. We dined at the two principal inns of the place, which are in Langen Strasse. We all got own comfortable quarters.

We relieved a party of the Mecklenburgh Jagers, who marched out today; this is a fine corps composed entirely of the sons of gentlemen or burghers. Their dress is a dark green frock coat and trousers with facings of scarlet, and black belts. They have been of great service to the main army.

Barth, Thursday, September 16, 1813

Our baggage arrived today. . . . We have a parade every morning at 10 and evening at 6 o'clock.

Barth, Friday, September 17, 1813

Busy making out the accounts of the men in England up to July 10 to be sent to the Officer Commanding the Depot.

Barth, Saturday, September 18, 1813

In the house reading *Virgil*, etc. Went to the play in the evening and was much entertained. The actors, I think, were better, but the music certainly superior to anything of the kind to be met with in a theatre of a country town in England.

Barth, Sunday, September 19, 1813

Gen. Gibbs came over today from Stralsund and immediately issued an order that the 33rd was to march on Tuesday towards Rostock in light marching order. Dined at the Mess, which we had just got established. . . .

Barth, Monday, September 20, 1813

Col. Gore ordered that we should march tomorrow to Remnitz. We heard today that poor Moreau* had died of his wounds.

Barth, Tuesday, September 21, 1813

We did not set off before 9 o'clock, when it rained torrents and continued to do so for nearly half an hour. We passed through a very large forest about three miles from Barth; the roads were shocking. We did not reach Remnitz in consequence before it was near 5 o'clock. The inhabitants had a dinner provided for us. . . . The Burgomaster said he had given billets for 1,300,000 Frenchmen within the last 15 years. Remnitz is a small defenceless place in the Duchy of Mecklenburgh Schwerin.

*General Moreau, the greatest of the French republican generals and victor of Hohenlinden. He became embroiled in a conspiracy against Napoleon, was arrested and finally exiled to America. He returned to Europe at the instigation of Bernadotte and became military adviser to the allied sovereigns. He was mortally wounded while talking to the Tsar at the battle of Dresden and was buried in St. Petersburg.

Remnitz, Wednesday, September 22, 1813

Marched at 8 o'clock, the morning very fine. Arrived at Rostock between 3 and 4; the country on the way was very flat but had plenty of wood upon it and, though it produces abundance of corn, yet it was quite unenclosed with the exception of one gentleman's place which had good hedges upon it.

Rostock, Thursday, September 23, 1813

Parade this morning at 11 o'clock.

Rostock, Friday, September 24, 1813

Morning parade at 10 o'clock. . . . An order was received from Gen. Gibbs today for us to march to Wismar tomorrow but, a representation being made to Col. Gore that Wismar was so filled with the Landsturm that we could not possibly be received there, he put off the order until he could get an answer from the General to a letter which he immediately sent to him on the subject.

Rostock, Saturday, September 25, 1813

. . . Mr. Bückrine came to spend the evening with us. He introduced me to the Society's rooms. On speaking of the present Duke of Mecklenburgh Schwerin, he said that he was a very weak-headed old man and who though now arrived at the age of 55 years, had led such a profligate life as to run his dutchy into debts amounting to (?) dollars. (*Note*—the Diary here is damped and illegible.) . . . The hereditary prince is, however, a fine young man of whom the people are very fond and from whom they expect much.

Gen. Gibbs arrived here this evening from Stralsund.

Rostock, Sunday, September 26, 1813

The General went on this morning to Wismar. I forgot to mention that the 73rd (now the 2nd Battalion The Black Watch) marched in yesterday.

Rostock, Monday, September 27, 1813

We had our first Mess dinner today at 4 o'clock.

Rostock, Tuesday, September 28, 1813

A large market was held this morning which was crowded with people from the country. A great number of very fine horses were bought and sold, prices nothing like so high as they are in England; an officer of Cossacks bought two or three for 20 Frederick d'ors a piece (about £18). There were a great number of toys and shoes in the booths.

Rostock, Wednesday, September 29, 1813

Parade at 7 o'clock. Five men were punished. We were afterwards put through several manoeuvres.

Rostock, Thursday, September 30, 1813

The weather is now most delightful. The air is frosty. . . .

Prince Charles of Mecklenburgh and his staff dined with us today, as did five or six noblemen of the Court; he is a General in the Russian service and has been in several engagements. He is quite a young man and appears to be fond of his bottle. He talks a little English and seems extremely sociable and pleasant. He conversed a great deal with everyone around him and laughed very heartily.

(To be continued)

IDLE AND DULL

If asked for the source of the above quotation, most of you, I fancy, would reply, without hesitation, "From a school report"; and those who were frank would add, "Probably from one of my own reports." The style speaks for itself. In what other literary exercise would you find such profound emotion so succinctly expressed; a whole term's loathing, boredom, and exasperation condensed into three pungent monosyllables (or nearly so). Schoolmasters, of course, become very proficient in this art of compression. In their early days they are allotted a space of approximately a half by an eighth of an inch in which to sum up their opinion of any given pest. As they advance in their profession, they get more scope and can express themselves at greater length. We recall one of our housemaster's housemasterpieces, which ran as follows: "I am most gratified to note that Smith Minor in his more lucid intervals periodically manages to catch a glimpse of the obvious." But such rolling periods are not for the junior beak. His is the technique of the epigram, the aphorism, the wise-crack, and in the dusty archives that record the indiscretions of our youth, lie buried rich specimens of his art:

Full many a shaft of deadliest satire keen
Lurks in the records of our infant years,
Full many a joke is born to blush unseen
And waste its wit on dull parental ears.

In our family circle we cherish two such gems, which are from time to time disinterred and never fail to awake irreverent mirth. The work of one, destined in later life to hold a responsible military post in Paris, was characterised—by his French master—as "Bon pour lui"; a female relative, who might otherwise have married a bishop, was described as "giddy at prayerbrook." But, all said and done, "this merriment of ushers was mighty offensive" to us, who were its victims.

Some schools had a mean and dirty habit of sealing the report up in a plain envelope and giving it to the reportee himself to carry home. Thus the wretched lad became the harbinger of his own doom: he carried as it were an asp in his bosom: and all the innocent happiness of his first day at home was shattered by a summons to the Presence and the breaking of the seals. Fortunately the whole loathsome practice ceases with our schooldays, and the grown man is not expected to endure thrice yearly slanderous comments on his brains and behaviour by his employers. What never? Well, hardly ever.

There is one exception, the honourable profession of arms; here, no matter what distinction he attains, once a year he will still be subjected to this humiliating ordeal: once a year in his confidential report his appearance will be mocked, his morals impugned and his foibles held up to ridicule. It is the recollection of this annual castigation that makes so

many retired officers go bald and beat their wives. Such conduct in former days was imputed to the over-consumption of curry in foreign climes; to-day psychiatrists agree—as far as psychiatrists agree about anything—that it is caused by a Rhadamanthus* complex.

The confidential report is as much detested by those who initiate it as by those who initial it. No other Army Form has been more frequently changed in efforts to decrease its unpopularity. It has varied between one that gave unbridled licence to the senior officer to be as rude as he liked, and one that restricted his venom to a selection of epithets, of which he could erase those he considered inapplicable. It goes without saying that most were rude and some unprintable. A distinguished officer told us that in his youth he once received the following encomium: "This officer takes more interest in polo than in his profession and as far as I can ascertain is in possession of no military books whatsoever."

"No military books whatsoever." What memories do these words recall! The eve of the annual inspection, the frenzied collection of manuals from improbable sources, the hurried visit to the Orderly Room before the Adjutant's arrival, and the furtive depositing of the precious bundle in the remotest corner, where, if the fates were kind, it might be overlooked.

The following legend is—or was—current in the Regiment. The occasion was an inspection which was not going too well. The Brigadier spotted one particularly dilapidated set of books and asked that they should be brought forward for his closer inspection. As he placed them on the table, the Adjutant noticed an amendment gummed on the cover of the uppermost book. It read, "In all cases for 'matchlock' read 'firelock.'" But even as he reached for a knife to cut the string, he felt a cold wind on his cheek, and the pile of books crumbled away, leaving nothing but a little heap of dust on the table, and a visiting card yellow with age, on which was inscribed:

*Ensign W. H. Pulkinghorn
Her Majesty's 33rd Regiment of Foot*

Will's Coffee House

Had some kindly shade of the 18th century, seeing his regiment in distress, brought help from the Elysian Fields?

Or was it after lunch?

In conclusion, our readers, if any have got so far, may be glad to know that the title of this article was taken, not from a School Report, but from *The Times*, where it recently formed the heading of the Stock Exchange News.

* Rhadamanthus. A hanging judge.

THE LETTERS OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM DANSEY

33rd Regiment

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

PART IV

Part III of this series of extracts from the letters of Captain William Dansey concluded with the remark that he went on leave to England shortly after writing his letter of July 29, 1778. Actually he does not appear to have gone on leave until early in 1779. Be that as it may, there are very few further letters which refer to active service and the remainder, which are certainly no less interesting, chiefly refer to administrative problems during the years 1781-1783.

Extracts from these letters will be quoted, but before doing so, it is proposed to quote from two of his letters relating to life on active service and then to briefly describe the military events of 1780 and 1781, which culminated in the capitulation of York Town.

"Any fool can be uncomfortable"

The following is an extract from an undated letter. It was probably written in the spring of 1778:

"After procuring a Horse I have been this Month past contriving what things to carry on him that will be most comfortable and convenient and not overload him.

"My first thought was a comfortable Tent. I have been lucky in contriving and executing one that is admired by every Body for its convenience, Elegance and Lightness. It holds four people very well either to dine or sleep in, being a square of seven feet and Eight Foot high, lin'd with an Elegant Callicoe. I don't know if ever you saw a Tent or may comprehend my Description. It has only one Pole and twenty Eight pins. It is pitch'd

or struck in five Minutes and its Weight with the Valise it goes in, Pole, Pins and Mallet included; is but fifty two pounds.

So much for my House. Now for Furniture. First a Floor cloth, which serves as Bedstead as also to cover my Baggage when loaded. A Paillafse, weight about two pounds, to stuff either with leaves, Straw or Grafts for a Bed. Two Blankets, my Portugee Cloak, my Bed Cloths. A small Portmanteau holding a change of Necefsaries is my Pillow. A pair of Canteens holding my Liquor and Provisions and a small writing Trunk holding Paper and some Nick Nacks. This the whole of my Baggage that I expect to see before Christmas next and these are great Conveniences and Comforts compared to what I had last Campaign. In Consequence of them I hope to prove a more regular Correspondent than I was last year."

Dansey refers with pride to his tent in another letter, written on June 7, 1788. A photograph of a sketch of the tent was reproduced in *THE IRON DUKE*, No. 10 :

"I am in good Health and Spirits for a Campaign and am look'd upon in the Army as the finest equip'd Man in it. I have a Tent of a very singular construction entirely of my own Invention. I had one of the sort last Campaign which I have improved to such perfection that I am copied by all that can get my Instructions for the making of it. If we have another Campaign the great Utility of them will so much appear that they will be made use of instead of the old Tents and if I can get my Invention patronised by some Great Man I shall mortalise my Name by the simplicity and Use of it, for they are called *Danseys* now, not Tents. I was bold enough to be singular in the whole Army last year and now have the pleasure of my Invention being generally approved. Was I at home I wou'd get a Patent for it.

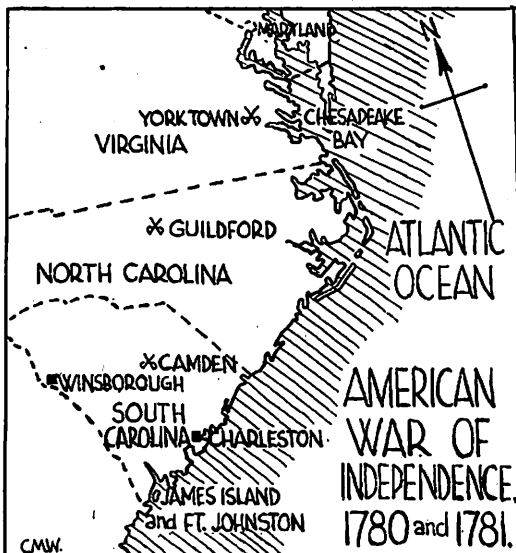
"It is what I can't well describe to you but if Peace comes you will see the Original as I had it pitch'd on the memorable field of Battle of the Brandywine."

And so to England: "a good deal altered . . . and I may speak the Roughness of my Profession, but the mild climate of the country and the company of Females may soon polish and make me a more agreeable member of Society, than if I had never experienced the life I lead."

The Carolina Campaign, 1780-1781

Although Dansey does not again appear on the American scene until January, 1782, it is necessary briefly to record what occurred in the intervening years in order to give the background to his subsequent experiences.

For most of 1799 the Army remained in the area of Long Island and there was no major campaign. For the year 1780 it was decided to split the Army in two, one part to remain based on Long Island



under Gen. Clinton and the other to be based on Charleston in S. Carolina under Lord Cornwallis.

Cornwallis's main engagement in 1780 was fought at Camden on August 16 of that year and resulted in a victory for the British forces. The total British casualties were 324 all ranks killed and wounded, of whom 100 belonged to the 33rd. The original plan of campaign was for Cornwallis to continue his advance into North Carolina, but by the end of 1780 this appeared, for several reasons, to be a hopeless task and the Army therefore wintered in the area of Winnsborough.

Early in 1781 Cornwallis started his advance into North Carolina with a force which consisted of, amongst others, the 7th Fusiliers, 23rd Fusiliers and 33rd Regiment. Seventy-three years later these three regiments were to form the First Brigade at the battle of the Alma. On March 15, 1781, a victorious battle was fought at Guildford concerning which Fortescue states: "Never perhaps has the prowess of the British soldier been seen to greater advantage than in this obstinate and bloody battle." Col. Webster, the gallant Commanding Officer of the 33rd Regiment, died as a result of the wounds he received whilst leading a brigade in the battle.

Cornwallis now continued his advance into Virginia and eventually arrived at Yorktown in August. By this time Charleston was the only base still held by the British in South Carolina. On October 19 he surrendered, together with all his troops, which included the 33rd Regiment.

After the Surrender

It appears, however, that certain details of the 33rd Regiment, including the Grenadier Company complete, were still at Charleston and it is at this juncture Dansey re-appears on the scene:

"Head Quarters,
Camp near Charles Town.
25 Jan. 1782.

"Sir,

"Lieut.-General Leslie has directed me to acquaint you with his desire that you do immediately proceed to James Island, and there put yourself under the orders of Lieut.-Colonel Thomas.

"You will likewise please to take upon you the command of the remains of the 23rd, 33rd and 71st Regiments.

I have the Honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient and
most Humble Servant,
C. NUBIK,

A.D.C.

(To be continued)

LATE NEWS

We regret to announce the death on March 12, 1952, at Wyndhurst, Savile Park, Halifax, of Captain Joseph Ackroyd Whitaker (formerly of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment).

REGIMENTAL WAR MEMORIAL CHAPEL
All Saints' Chapel, York Minster

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

Major B. V. Thomlinson.
Major W. H. C. Cobb.

We thank very sincerely all those who have subscribed to the Chapel Fund; the following are the names of the 1951 subscribers (as per the Bank statement):

Capt. A. F. Hemming, Major J. P. Huffam, Lt.-Col. C. W. G. Ince, Lt.-Col. E. M. Liddell, Lt.-Col.

W. G. Officer, Maj.-Gen. W. G. Ozanne, Brigadier E. W. Rogers, Lt.-Col. A. A. Tidmarsh, Lt.-Col. N. R. Whitaker, Lt.-Col. H. W. Becher, Col. F. S. Exham, Lt.-Col. E. A. Bald, Col. E. M. Huntriss, Brigadier J. H. C. Lawlor, Capt. J. A. Whitaker, Lt.-Col. M. V. le P. Trench, Mr. Gilbert Beyfus, Q.C., Brigs. J. C. Burnett and D. H. Hirst.

The Chapel in its completed glory is a great joy to all who see it. In reply to one of your readers who has made some inquiries, there is a Celebration of Holy Communion in the Chapel at 8.45 a.m. every Sunday.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, 1951

INCOME		£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward (see THE IRON DUKE, July, 1951, p. 98)		82	18	8
Subscriptions		10	4	6
Interest on Investments		3	11	10
		<hr/>		
		£96	15	0

EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.
IRON DUKE Subscription				9 0
Friends of York Minster			1	1 0
Bank Charges				2 6
War Memorial Fund			64	15 8
Balance			30	6 10
		<hr/>		
		£96	15	0

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.
Sale of Investments :			
£150 2½% Defence Bonds	147	13	6
£208 os. 3d. British Transport 3% Gtd. Stock at £90 13s. 9d.	£188	12	10
Less Commission and Stamp		1	2 0
	<hr/>		
	187	10	10
	<hr/>		
	£335	4	4

	£	s.	d.
War Memorial Fund	335	4	4
	<hr/>		
	£335	4	4

O.C.A. NEWS

10th (SERVICE) BATTALION

It is probably a "ridiculous" thing to try and organise a London reunion of Southron members of a Battalion of the "Dukes" which was disbanded in 1919—more than 30 years ago—but the 10th (Service) Battalion, O.C.A., are doing it and already nearly 40 officers and men have promised to attend such a gathering, which will be held at the Royal Court Hotel, Sloane Square, London, on Saturday, April 26, at 6 p.m. (dinner 6.30 p.m.).

There are, of course, many more ex-10th Battalion men living in the South and everybody would be glad if they would rally round and support this "hair-brain" idea, for the opportunities for meeting one's war-time friends after 33 years are now few and far between.

It is most encouraging to know that Lt.-Col. S. S. ("Slasher") Hayne, D.S.O., will be present and that others like Major J. C. ("Daddy") Bull, M.C., and Capt. the Rev. L. Norman Phillips, M.C. (Adjutant), have intimated their intention of attending. The Chairman of the O.C.A. (Lt. M. A. S. Wood, M.C.) will preside and a contingent of men from the North will make the journey to London to meet their old comrades. It should be a good "do." It is whispered privately, by the way, that a small party under the guidance of Capt. R. S. S. Ingram (Surrey) intend visiting the original 1914 "haunts" of the Battalion in and around Frensham.

If these lines should catch the eye of any ex-10th (Service) Battalion officer or man who has not previously heard about the London Reunion and would like to attend, he should write at once to Mr. George R. Goodchild (Honorary Secretary), 10 Willowfield Crescent, Highfield Road, Bradford, Yorks., who will be delighted to supply all details.

The Archdeacon of Craven (the Ven. T. J. Williams, M.C.), who was one of our Padres during the first World War and to-day occupies a similar position in the O.C.A., spent the whole of January in a Leeds nursing home for observation and rest. At the beginning of February, however, he was able to return to his home—The Vicarage, Otley, Yorks.—and then left for a few weeks' convalescence and further rest. When this note was written he expected to resume his diocesan and parochial work early in March. We all wish him a speedy return to health.

One of our most popular members—Mr. W. J. ("Bill") Beeby—died at Morecambe on February 16. Having lost his wife, he decided to give up his house in Bradford and take up his residence with some relatives at Morecambe. Unfortunately, he only enjoyed his life at the seaside for a few months, for the heart affection from which he lately suffered proved too much for him. Bill joined the 10th Battalion in 1914 and served throughout the 1914-18 war in France, Belgium and Italy. For a time he was a clerk on 69th Brigade H.Q., but he returned to his Battalion and was appointed to Orderly Room Staff. He was formerly in the booking

office at Forster Square Station, Bradford, and from his "peep hole" frequently came across colleagues who had served with him during the first world war. Before he went to live at Morecambe he was a member of the O.C.A. Committee and had always supported the Association. He will be remembered for his cheerful disposition, his ability to tell a good story, and his friendly nature. At his funeral at Scholemoor-Crematorium, Bradford, on February 20, the O.C.A. were represented by the Deputy Chairman (Mr. Frank Stephenson) and Mr. George R. Goodchild (Honorary Secretary).

Another member of the 10th Battalion, O.C.A., Committee—Mr. Frank Bounds, of Barnsley Road, Wakefield—died on February 5, following a heart attack. He was the Wakefield District representative on the Committee and, although, by reason of his work—he was a miner—he was unable to attend many meetings, he always liked to be kept in touch with what was going on and was a regular attender at the annual reunions. He was wounded while serving with the 10th Battalion during the first world war and suffered from lameness for the rest of his life. His cheerful and robust personality will be missed by his friends. The O.C.A.'s sympathy has been expressed to Mrs. Bounds. Frank was buried at Wakefield Cemetery on February 7.

DEWSBURY, OSSETT AND WAKEFIELD BRANCH

There is a lot of meaning in the old saying "Please the kiddies—Everyone is happy!" Ample proof of this was given at our Annual Children's Party on January 5, which took place in the British Legion H.Q. (W.S.), Dale Street, Ossett. This was attended by approximately 40 children and most of the members and wives. The function itself was, if anything, an improvement on last year's effort and, from all angles, was a terrific success. We were very pleased to have, as guests of honour, Major W. Skelsey (O.C. The Depot) and Mr. S. Code, M.B.E. (General Secretary of the Association). The large room had been beautifully decorated by the members and wives and, in addition, an 8-ft.-high Christmas tree, lit by coloured fairy lights, gave the right touch to the party spirit. Balloons, squeakers, hats and novelties completed the picture. After tea had been served, the children were entertained by Mr. G. White, of Horbury, who gave a really excellent and mystifying performance of conjuring, which included such tricks as producing watches out of an ordinary sheet of brown paper, and withdrawing a string of shining razor blades from his mouth, after swallowing them separately. Following this, games were played, with music from the amplifier, and under the leadership of Mr. G. White, assisted by ladies of the Branch.

A rousing reception was given to the arrival of Santa Claus, again a little late this year, but none the less welcome, who, after a confidential chat with the children, gave each child a handsome

present from his toy sack. After a further chat with them, during which he gave them his address, with instructions to post their letters in good time for next Christmas, he left to the children singing "Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer," accompanied by whistles and other noise producers. Shortly before the children left for home, each child was given two oranges and a bag of buns.

Later on the adults adjourned to the H.Q. for a social evening and concert, entertainment being provided by a very promising young contralto from Dewsbury, assisted by the pianist. As we had decided to have "open house," the club room was filled to overflowing and many were turned away on this account.

Again our grateful thanks are due to the valuable assistance given by our ladies of the Branch who, by their contributions in the food line and preparing of the tea, made this function another outstanding event in Branch life. We are very fortunate in such support, which has been generous and unstinted on all occasions.

Finally, we look forward to the possibility of arranging at a later date mystery trips and other outings, and would welcome a combined social and darts evening with any other Branch at our H.Q. So far, only Sheffield Branch have shown interest in the Darts Shield. The lack of competition is to be regretted; maybe we shall be "good losers" before the season 1951-52 is con-

cluded. We assure all Branches the shield is still at H.Q. and that we have not pawned it—yet.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

A very pleasing thought, and which will be fully attended by this Branch. All are looking forward to it.

In closing we welcome as new members Mr. N. Crowther, Mr. J. T. Platt and S. Bell ("Dinga"), all old 2nd Battalion men, who are already "digging in" and have shown keen interest. We look forward to their continued assistance at future functions.

H.F.H.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Readers will be sorry to learn that Charles Spink, one of our members, is at present in hospital suffering from multiple injuries following a serious motor-cycle accident recently. He is making satisfactory, but slow, progress and we send him our best wishes for his ultimate recovery.

We were also sorry to hear that Mrs. C. Brooks, the wife of one of our regular supporters, had been in hospital recently, but are glad to learn that she is now home again. Our good wishes go to her also for a speedy return to health.

Those members who have not been able to attend any of our functions recently will hardly need reminding that their annual subscription to the



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CIVIL & MILITARY HATTERS · REGIMENTAL AND CLUB TIES



SOME OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

Standing (left to right): Capt. J. H. Lister, C. Brooks, Lt. D. L. Bortwell (Depot), "Blimey" Goodwin (Treasurer), Tommy Reeves, Capt. G. C. Tedd (Training Officer, Depot), A. Crooks, R.S.M. Kenchington, M.B.E. (Depot), A. Marsden, F. Hallworth, Walt Ley, Ted Green (Branch Secretary), Sid Code (Gen. Secretary, Halifax), Capt. John Satterthwaite (Chairman).

Sitting (left to right): R. Coates, Mrs. Coates, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Reeves, Mrs. Marsden, Mrs. Lister.

(Published by courtesy of the Editor, "The Yorkshire Evening News" and "Doncaster Gazette.")

Branch is now due. Remember that we meet regularly as follows:

Social evenings: the third Saturday each month.

Meetings: the last Friday of every month.

All are held at the same place and time—"The Horse and Jockey," St. Sepulchre Gate, Doncaster, at 7.30 p.m. We shall always be pleased to see you there, but if you cannot come to the next one or two please send your subscription to any one of the Branch officials named at the foot of this report. It is a very cheap five bob's worth and it saves us a lot of time and trouble if you let us have it promptly.

Our best thanks are extended to the Pollard family for organising a very successful dance at "The Mason's Arms," Wickersley, Rotherham, on Friday, February 1. There were over 100 present and it was so obvious that everybody enjoyed themselves there was no need to ask. The "Knobby Knees" contest was only excelled by the competition for drinking a bottle of beer through a baby's teat. Mr. Ted Pollard was M.C. and a special bus brought the people from Thorne and Doncaster. We are greatly indebted to certain anonymous donors for defraying the expenses of

the evening, which resulted in a net profit of over £19 to the Branch funds. Our best thanks to you, Ted, and to Amelia and—oh, there are so many of these Pollards!—to the whole blinking lot of 'em. Jolly good show, Pollards!

We also send our congratulations to Mr. H. O. Smith on the wedding of his son, Mr. Tony Smith, on February 14 last. Tony Smith is now in partnership with his father in the firm of H. O. Smith & Son, cycle agents, Doncaster, which Mr. H. O. Smith has built up successfully over a number of years. Unfortunately, as we are going to press we hear that H. O. Smith is laid up with an attack of bronchitis, but we hope that it is not serious and that he will soon be up and about again.

Now, before concluding, if you have not already paid your sub., do not rest until it is in the hands of one of the following: Chairman, Capt. J. Satterthwaite, 160 Zetland Road, Doncaster (Tel. DON 61801); Treasurer, Mr. E. J. Goodwin, Lloyds Bank Chambers, 55 High Street, Doncaster; or the Branch Secretary, Mr. A. E. Green, 101 Elmfield Road, Doncaster.

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