

No.88 April 1953



# THE IRON DUKE

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

# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Magazine of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



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

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Vol. XXIX

APRIL 1953

No. 88

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Published Quarterly—January, April, July and October

Annual Subscription Rates—10s. for officers; 6s. for all others, payable in advance to the Business Manager on February 1

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

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HALIFAX.

Copy for the July, 1953, issue should be in the Editor's hands by May 28th, 1953  
Copy should be sent to Lt.-Col. O. Price, "Highfield," Temple Ewell, Dover, Kent



*By courtesy of the "Halifax Daily Courier and Guardian."*

**Turning a page on the Roll of Honour. A selected recruit is given the privilege of performing this ceremony in the Memorial Chapel at Halifax every Saturday Morning**

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.P.O. No. 3 .. .. . Lt.-Col. F. R. St. P. Bunbury, D.S.O.  
 Regimental Depot, Wellesley Barracks, Halifax .. .. . Major J. H. Davis.  
 382nd Field Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.), The Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax Lt.-Col. J. F. Crossley, M.B.E., T.D.  
 578th (5th D.W.R.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., The Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street,  
 Huddersfield .. .. . Lt.-Col. J. B. Sugden, T.D.  
 673rd L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (The 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, Bt.  
 382nd Cadet Field Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.), The Hutments, Hunger Hill,  
 Halifax .. .. . Major W. S. Jamieson  
 2nd Cadet Battalion (D.W.R.), The Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield Major F. W. Fielding, M.C.  
 673rd Cadet L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.), The Drill Hall, Keighley .. Major A. Dewhirst  
 4th Cadet Battalion (D.W.R.), The Drill Hall, Victoria Road, Guiseley .. Major T. Dewhirst

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION (including Old Comrades' Association):

Secretary and Hon. Treasurer: Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E., Wellesley Barracks, Halifax.

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AS THE IRON DUKE was going to press, news came that on the night of March 24 Queen Mary had passed away peacefully in her sleep. Tributes to her memory from all parts of the world testify to the respect and affection she had won during her long years of service to her people. The following telegram was sent to Her Majesty The Queen by the General Secretary of the Regimental Association:

"Gen. Sir Philip Christison, past and present members of the Regiment offer their heartfelt and deepest sympathy to Her Majesty The Queen at this time."

The following telegram was received in reply:

"I am sincerely grateful for your message. Please assure those for whom you speak that I deeply value their sympathy.—Elizabeth R."

\* \* \* \*

Most readers will have seen in the daily papers accounts of the patrol in which Lt. R. M. Harms and 2/Lt. P. I. Orr were honoured with the immediate award of the Military Cross. Later in this number will be found an account of the action written for official publication. It seems to have been a perfect example of a military operation meticulously planned and boldly carried out; in fact we are told that it so excited the admiration of our American allies that they sent along to find out how it was done.

The Colonel of the Regiment has received the following letter from the Duke of Wellington on this occasion:

"Dear Christison,  
 "I was much interested to hear of the exploits of Harms and Orr and their men in today's Times.  
 "It must be a great source of pride to the Regi-

ment that members of the 1st Battalion in Korea have so distinguished themselves and everything that interests the Battalion interests me.

"I hope that you as representing the Regiment will accept my warmest congratulations.

"Yours sincerely,

"WELLINGTON."

We are sure that all our readers will wish to add their congratulations to those of the Duke and to compliment the members of this gallant patrol on the distinction they have earned for themselves and the Regiment.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 1st Battalion have sent us a magnificent budget of news; our thanks are due to all those who have compiled these notes under most adverse conditions and particularly to Major Austin, as sub-editor, for his efforts in collecting and collating them, as well as for his interesting account of science's latest achievement—cold weather clothing. Typewriters are hard to come by in those barren wastes and all the copy had to be sent in manuscript. If now and then a mis-spelt name occurs the Editor begs the indulgence of the victim.

\* \* \* \* \*

In this number of THE IRON DUKE appears the last instalment of the Dansey Letters. These have made a valuable contribution to the history of the Regiment and Major A. C. S. Savory is to be warmly congratulated on his skilful editing of the letters—a task which involved a great deal of hard work.

\* \* \* \* \*

Major D. N. Simonds sends us the following cutting from the *Irish Times*:—

VOLUNTEERS TO GIVE THE IRON DUKE A  
SPRING CLEANING

The Duke of Wellington monument in Trim, Co. Meath, is to be cleaned today by a number of volunteers from the town armed with shovels, slash hooks and paint brushes to give the Iron Duke a new look.

It will be recalled that the cleaning of the 75-ft. monument, which has been surrounded by briars and weeds, was discussed by the Trim Urban Council, but after a conflict of views on the matter it was decided to ask An Bord Fáilte to do the job. No reply was received from the latter body, and so several workers have volunteered for the work.

Men behind the idea are Mr. Peter Darby and Councillor Michael Keogh, both employees of Messrs. J. and E. Smyth, Trim.

Mr. Keogh, who declared that "talking about it was no use," told our representative that there were about 15 workers prepared to start the cleaning today, as it is their weekly half-holiday. Mr. Darby said it should be cleaned irrespective of An Tóstal and irrespective of who was on top of the column.

Mr. Keogh added that they intended opening a voluntary fund to finance the work, which would include carting away the briars and grass, painting the surrounding railings with silver paint, and coating the base with sand or gravel. Any surplus money, he said, would be kept for an annual "touching up."

### THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENTAL DINNER CLUB

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining accommodation during Derby Week this year, and as the Coronation is on June 2, it has been decided that the Regimental Dinner and Ladies' Tea will not be held, as is the usual practice, during Derby Week.

In 1953, therefore, the Regimental Dinner and Ladies' Tea will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel on Friday, October 2. It is, however, intended that in 1954 we shall revert to our Regimental custom of holding the Dinner and Tea during Derby Week.

(Signed) R. H. D. BOLTON, Capt.,  
Hon. Secretary.

### ARMY ART SOCIETY

\* \* \* \* \*

There are probably many amateur artists serving in the Forces who have not heard of this Society. It is an entirely unofficial organisation and exists to encourage Art amongst past and present members of the three Fighting Services. For several years, very successful exhibitions have been held in London each autumn and these afford an opportunity for young artists—who often have the advantage of painting subjects overseas—to show their works and compare them with others. This adds a real interest and object to their hobby.

The work of serving personnel, of all ranks, is particularly welcome and intending exhibitors are invited to apply now for particulars about the next (22nd) Exhibition. This will be held at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, from October 20 to November 7, 1953.

Applications should be addressed to E. A. Callam, Esq., Hon. Secretary, Army Art Society, 66 Apsley House, St. John's Wood, London, N.W.8.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 1st Battalion Band has recently made a 12-in. gramophone record containing on one side "Ilkla Moor," "1st Battalion Call," the "95," "2nd Battalion Call," "Scotland the Brave" and "The Wellesley"; on the other side "The Rugby Song: The Dukes are Coming up the Hill." This is a first-class recording and can be bought from the General Secretary of the Regimental Association for 8s. 6d., which gives a small profit for the Korean Comforts Fund. It is a bargain at the price, as it is exempt from purchase tax, on the condition that it is sold only to members of the Regiment. Other items for sale are blazer badges at 10s. each—another smashing bargain—and coat lapel badges for members of the Association and lady associate members; both types are 2s. each. Profits go to the Regimental Association. The General Secretary asks for books to send to the troops in Korea and any old clothes readers may wish to discard, as he has many calls on him from the needy these days.

\* \* \* \* \*

Owing to pressure on space it has not been possible to publish a further instalment of Lt. Thain's diary in this number. It will appear in the next.

A further list of gifts to the Regimental Museum will be printed in July.

## 1st BATTALION

### SUB-EDITORIAL

It was most unfortunate that there were no 1st Battalion notes in last January's issue of *THE IRON DUKE*, but this was unavoidable. In the first place the notes should have been despatched to the Editor by November 15 to reach him by December 1, and the Battalion only landed in Korea on October 31. Secondly, although the Editor was prepared to give us a great deal of grace and latitude with regard to the time factor, it will be seen from the Company notes that a most hectic fortnight's training, followed by a move into the front line and changes in position, proved too much for the Battalion scribes. Thirdly and lastly, the unfortunate Sub-Editor, who might well have been expected to put pen to paper and redeem the Battalion's honour, was suddenly smitten with appendicitis in England and only joined the Battalion in December, and, going straight to a forward Rifle Company was operationally tied up and in no position to write about what he did not know.

However, we feel we have really gone to town for the April issue, and the Editor is probably cursing us all for the fluency of our pens.

All the Battalion news is contained in the Company and other notes, and through reading them you will realise how happily the Battalion has settled down in this theatre.

Everyone who has served in the Regiment will be pleased and proud to know that the 1st Battalion has achieved a reputation second to none in the Commonwealth Division, and is worthily upholding the traditions of 250 years. This is not just a figure of speech, but is based on reports and remarks which have reached our ears from sources of all ranks in other units.

We are now back out of the line training hard and preparing for all future eventualities. Morale is high and we confidently look forward to anything that may happen.

### THE ADVANCE PARTY

The Advance Party of 9 Officers and 20 O.R.s, commanded by Major Walter Skelsey, sailed from Southampton on *H.M.T. Empire Orwell* on August 20, 1952. The voyage was a very agreeable one. For most of the party it was their first journey outside Europe, and all were able to get ashore at Aden, Colombo, Singapore and Hongkong.

The entertainments on the ship were particularly well organised, ending up with a very successful boxing tournament run by Capt. Sam Robertson.

At Hongkong the 1st Battalion The King's Regiment embarked on their way to join the same Brigade as ourselves (29th British Infantry Brigade) in Korea.

We arrived at Pusan on September 19. The Advance Party disembarked the next day and travelled up to the Commonwealth Divisional Area by train under Capt. Robertson. Major Skelsey and Capt. Bernard Kilner travelled on to Kure, Japan, and spent three days visiting the Base

Establishments, and being entertained by Capt. John Streatfield, who is Staff Captain (Q.) there. They then flew back to Korea and rejoined the Advance Party.

On arrival in the Divisional Area the Advance Party was posted to the 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment, which the Battalion was to relieve. The Welch were out of the line at the time and received us with the warmest of welcomes. One must always welcome, one imagines, the Battalion that is going to relieve one's own in Korea, but as representatives of their ancient enemies on the Rugby field we were made doubly welcome, and the Welch could not have been kinder or more helpful. The Advance Party learnt a great deal from them. It was split up throughout the Battalion, each man understudying his own particular job.

When the Welch went back into the line on October 5 we all had an excellent opportunity of getting first-hand operational experience. In particular, many of the Advance Party were able to go out on Welch patrols, gaining knowledge that was to prove of the greatest value later. By the time the "Dukes" arrived we had all become thoroughly integrated into the Welch—in fact Lt. David Borwell was 2IC of a Welch Rifle Company and Cpl. Donaldson was commanding a Welch Section.

The C.O. joined us on October 27, having flown on from Singapore, and the main body of the Battalion arrived at Pusan on October 29. Capt. Robertson travelled down to meet them and was thus able to cash in on the opportunity of telling all the best stories first. Even so, when the Battalion arrived in the Divisional Area we were able, for a brief period, to enjoy the spotlight of being regarded as authorities on everything from Chinese tactics to Australian concert parties, before relapsing into our normal rôles. We had had an interesting job, made particularly pleasant by the helpfulness of the Welch.

We have always regarded the phrase "First in, first out" as a fine old Army maxim, and we are ready to do the same job for the Battalion any time it is required—preferably this coming autumn.

### THE VOYAGE

#### THE VOYAGE BEGINS

The Battalion embarked for Korea on *H.M.T. Devonshire* at Liverpool early on September 22, 1952, and all ranks were on board by mid-day.

Besides the Battalion, some 600 all ranks of other units, a number of families, and several Q.A.R.A.N.C. Nursing Officers bound for Kure, embarked for various Far East destinations.

The Band of the 1st Battalion, under Bandmaster Seed, was quite untiring and entertained us all day, playing in the midst of the inevitable chaos on the quay.

At about 5 p.m. the ship swung slowly out into the stream, the Band playing the Regimental Marches but *not* Auld Lang Syne, and barely an

hour later we were watching the lights of England gradually disappearing astern.

#### THE SHIP

We found the *Devonshire* a very well-run and happy ship. The Officers' accommodation was adequate enough, but, unfortunately, arrangements for Sergeants and other ranks were not up to the latest standard. The old-fashioned mess decks have not yet been replaced by the modern feeding and sleeping facilities which so many Troopers now provide.

#### THE VOYAGE

The passage through the Atlantic passed without incident and quite soon we were enjoying the warmer weather of the Mediterranean. Gibraltar looked very inviting in the afternoon sunshine and we all hoped that there would be no change in the plan to send us to "The Rock" as our next station after Korea.

Passengers were not allowed ashore at Port Said, where we remained for some 12 hours. However, the time-honoured invasion of the ship duly took place. They were all there, from the "gulligulli" man to the optimists trying to sell leather cushions on the ends of pieces of rope. No one seeing it for the first time could complain that the performance did not live up to its description.

The passage through the Red Sea was a hot one with the wind, as always, in the wrong direction for comfort. Everyone, with the possible exception of Major Dick Ince who seemed to thrive on it, was glad to leave the stifling heat behind, as "Old Aden" came into view at last. All ranks were able to get ashore there for two or three hours, which made a most welcome break, particularly to those living on mess decks.

Halfway across the Indian Ocean the ship was invaded by a swarm of locusts which added interest to our lives in a variety of ways. Also about this time we passed H.M.T. *Empire Orwell* sailing home with the Advance Party of the 1st Battalion The Green Howards on board and signals were duly exchanged.

Colombo was reached about midday and everyone was given immediate shore leave. The Commanding Officer and a party of Officers called on Col. Muttukumar, the Chief of Staff of the Ceylon Army, who had stayed with the Battalion when he had visited Germany earlier in the year. They were received with great hospitality and entertained for the rest of the day. Very early the next morning the whole Battalion went ashore for a six-mile route march. We were played through the town by the Band of the Ceylon Light Infantry, an arrangement most kindly made by Col. Muttukumar. After the route march the Battalion formed up in front of the Galleface Hotel, and then marched past the Commander-in-Chief of the Ceylon Army along the sea front. The Battalion was complimented on its very smart appearance and bearing on parade and for its exemplary behaviour in the town while ashore.

At Singapore the Battalion was welcomed by the Band of the 1st Battalion The Green Howards,

which very kindly played a programme of music on the quay, commencing with "Wellesley" as the *Devonshire* came alongside. The Green Howards went out of their way to look after us all, and guides were laid on to take us off to their messes and canteens. We are most grateful to them for their kindly thought and hospitality, which made so great a difference to our brief stay there.

The C.O. disembarked at Singapore and went on to Korea by air in order to get "well in the picture" before the Battalion arrived. The last of the families also left us at Singapore, and at first the ship seemed quite strange and quiet without the children.

The last stage of the voyage was rather marred by very rough weather which meant that the boxing tournament had to be cancelled, and at times even the cinema could not function.

Finally, very early on October 29, we steamed slowly into the land-locked harbour of Pusan with its tall surrounding hills, and, like some earlier soldiers on the other side of the Pacific, each of us was conscious of a "wild surmise."

#### TRAINING ON BOARD

Deck space was limited but it was possible to put into operation a fairly comprehensive training programme as soon as Companies had had a day or two in which to settle down. The ship's officers and R.A.F. staff gave their full co-operation and training continued throughout the voyage. It included drill, weapon training, P.T., lectures and training films. Probably the most popular item was the shooting from the poop at targets dropped over the stern. These targets were improvised from empty beer-cans and included balloons which we had bought in large quantities for the purpose from Woolworth's in Liverpool.

Many of the Officers of other units on board were going to the same Division and even the same Brigade as we were. Both from an operational and a training point of view this was most valuable as we were able to get to know a number of people with whom we would be working. For instance, the Advance Party of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment was on board, and various members gave us lectures on the employment and capabilities of their tanks and weapons. Major John Firth, R.A., who later became A.C.B.O. at H.Q. 29th Brigade, gave us lessons on target indication, etc. Major Rex Sawers, who was to command the Signal Squadron with the 29th Brigade, was most helpful with signal training and R.T. procedure, and ran the Battalion signal exercise for us.

Behind the scenes the organisation of training stores and other arrangements were in the capable hands of Capt. Derek Wood, assisted by Sgt. France, who will probably never forget the heat of the ship's weapon-training store in the Red Sea.

#### RECREATION

The organisation of recreation on board a troopship is never very easy, but Major Barry Kavanagh, who took on the post of ship's entertainment officer, saw that everything possible of this sort was arranged. If anything looked like interfering with

his arrangements he was soon on the warpath protecting the interests of the troopdeck concerned. He was assisted by C.S.M. Callaby and a very strong team of helpers and talent.

The regular amusements were sing-songs, housey-housey, sweepstakes and the cinema, which Mr. Bowyers, the A.K.C. representative, managed to keep going for long hours often under most trying conditions.

Three ship's concerts of an unusually high standard were produced. The regimental stars were Major Denis Simonds, Capt. "Topper" Brown and Derek Wood, Lts. Bill Blakey, John Reddington and Rodney Harms, C.S.M. Corke, and Ptes. Kirk, Wilde and Robinson, and last but not least C.S.M. Callaby who doubled the roles of M.C. and raconteur.

#### THE LAND OF MORNING CALM

As previously stated, we steamed into Pusan harbour early on October 29. The Battalion did not disembark until the next day.

Major Charles Grieve represented the C.O. at the impressive ceremony of welcome given to each unit on arrival in Korea. There were two bands, one American, and several Colour Parties. A number of distinguished Officers and Korean civilians were presented, including representatives of President Syngman Rhee and Gen. Mark Clark. Major Grieve replied to the speech of welcome with an excellent speech of his own. He was then presented with bouquets of flowers by very attractive young Korean damsels and the ceremony was complete.

Disembarkation was carried out efficiently and the Battalion moved straight from the ship into the train that was to carry it to Tokchong, just north of Seoul. The train journey was, without doubt, a most uncomfortable experience for all concerned, and we were all glad when it was over.

Major Walter Skelsey was waiting for us with the Advance Party and transport to take us to Britannia Camp.

We had arrived.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

Events since we left Minden have been so many and are being discussed under their respective headings in this issue that it is hoped we may be forgiven for any repetition which may appear in these notes.

Our short stay in the Depot Officers' Mess of the York and Lancaster Regiment was made very welcome for us by Majors Mott and Hawkins and their staff, to whom we owe a debt of thanks. Here many old faces were welcomed back to the Battalion and discussions lasted far into the evenings. Highlights of our short stay in Pontefract were marked by the cocktail party held at the Depot in Halifax on the Sunday following our laying-up of the Colours in Halifax Parish Church. We are grateful to John Davis and Donald Stewart for all their help which enabled past and present members of the Regiment to attend.

We had many visitors at Pontefract, including Roy Exham, George Laing, Bob Moran (who was



**MAJOR GRIEVE (representing the C.O.) GARLANDED ON ARRIVAL AT PUSAN**

to join us later) and Russell Hatch. It was also in Pontefract that we regretfully had to say good-bye to Robin Cartwright, who has now retired.

On our departure from Liverpool we were visited by Gordon Upjohn, Graham Tedd, David Breare, John Davis and his wife.

After about a week at sea we decided to have a cocktail party, and with the kind permission of the Ship's Captain, Capt. Belharrel, we gave this party prior to the usual Saturday night dance held on deck. This gave us all an opportunity of meeting and making friends with other people bound for Korea, many of whom we still see during our course of duty.

Our first shore leave was granted at Aden, where Roger Sugden had flown across from Somaliland to greet us. The swimming pool at the club was well attended and here also some officers even managed a game of squash.

Our next stop was at Ceylon, where the C.O. was met by Col. Muttukumaru, Chief of Staff of the Ceylon Army, whom many of us had had the pleasure of entertaining in Minden. He very kindly invited the C.O. and three officers to dinner.

As is usual on a voyage many of us celebrated birthdays and hardly an evening went by without a gathering of "Dukes'" officers and their guests entertaining on the sun deck before dinner.

Our next stop was at Singapore, where the Battalion was welcomed by the Band of the Green Howards, who very kindly played a programme of music on the quay for us. Bertie Beutler and Pat Hall came to meet us. Steve Dunn joined the Battalion and became 2IC of "B" Company. Mrs. John Williams, whose husband had served with the 2nd Battalion in both Burma campaigns and is now stationed at Singapore in the Foreign Office, also came on board. Work prevented John Willie meeting the ship in person, but he entertained a large number of old friends at his hotel later on. It was at this stage the C.O. left us to complete the journey by air.

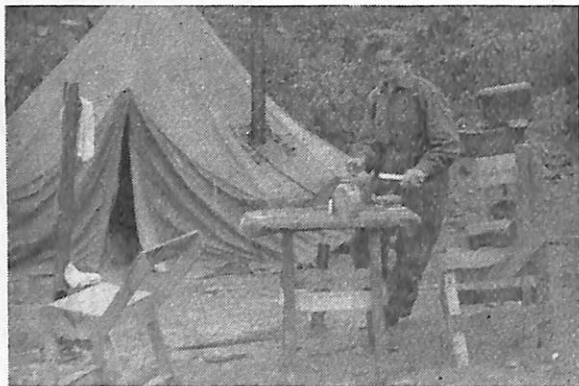
Finally we left on our last lap for Pusan. We had hoped to stop at Hong Kong, but this did not



materialise. We had a final cocktail party just before arriving, and as events turned out this was to be the last occasion we were to be all together for quite some time. We were soon to say farewell to the Ship's Captain and staff, who had been so very kind and helpful during the voyage. As a memento we presented a regimental plaque to the Captain.

In our first area, where we relieved the 1st Welch Regiment, we had Company messes, which only lasted for a very short time before we went into the line.

In December we welcomed Bob Moran, Bill Oliver and Rudolf Austin. The latter has fully recovered from the attack of appendicitis which laid him low just before we sailed in September and very unfortunately forced him to remain behind in hospital. Geoffrey Ingram arrived in January and has joined the Baron in "D" Company. Michael Hardy joined us in February and has gone to the Mortar Platoon. We had John



**"THE DAILY ROUND, THE COMMON TASK"**  
Pte. Goodall heating Major Ince's shaving water

Streatfield to stay with us for one night whilst we were in the line.

Although we have Company messes in our present area, as we are concentrated, we do manage to see quite a lot of each other and bridge is very popular in the evenings at the C.P. Mess. We intend holding a cocktail party followed by a buffet lunch in the very near future. Meanwhile a number of us have attended some excellent parties given within the Brigade.

Our intended move to Gibraltar, when we leave Korea, is discussed with great interest and in our next issue we hope to give further details.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

The morning when we left Pontefract, September 22, was such a miserable wet day that we counted ourselves lucky to entrain without getting soaked. The fact that the train pulled out nearly leaving two harassed C.S.M.s and a C.Q.M.S. on the platform added to the joy of the occasion. It was brighter but cold as we filed on to the *Devonshire* at Liverpool. Aboard, the C.Q.M.S.s and Sergeants

found themselves on a troop deck just over the screws. The W.O.s were close by, in cubicles near the sick bay. It was not until after we left Singapore that W.O.s and C/Sergeants were able to move into cabins. We found our sea legs quickly—Biscay was uncommonly kind to us. Routine was—training from 0830 until 12 noon, and again for an hour after tea. Added to this, the P.T. instructor did his best to fit us for the slaughter at some abominable hour before breakfast. Muscles, how close you came to going overside when you insisted on those extra press-ups!

Our Grade B lounge, where W.O.s and C/Sergeants foregathered, was moderately comfortable and we had every chance to study the patience of the East while waiting from 20 minutes to an hour for a beer. The Sergeants had a lounge just aft of this, and frequently we would visit them, not only because we chafed at the segregation but also their service was much quicker. However, two or three weeks after sailing, the ship's pay regulations took care of our impatience, as few had enough money to drink.

We got ashore at Aden for a couple of hours and were not impressed. C.S.M. Randall, who had been stationed there during the war, claimed that all the landmarks had moved round and was highly indignant when he found that his old barracks as it seemed had moved five miles. At Colombo it was C.S.M. Corke's turn to be confused. After 10 years' absence he didn't know Galleface from Slabe Island. Here we did a route march—a Paul Jones for "H.Q." Company—through Colombo and marched past the Brigadier commanding troops there.

At Singapore we were delighted to meet the 1st Battalion The Green Howards, who were on the dockside in strength to welcome us. Among them were C.S.M. Short, C/Sgt. Gill, C/Sgt. Garforth, Sgt. Williams and Drum Major Bryan, who had served with us. We are very grateful to R.S.M. Rayner and all of them for a very pleasant evening at Selarang Barracks. We only just made the trip back to the ship in time. Two days later the Green Howards sailed for home.

The China Seas gave us our first taste of rough weather, and apart from the spell in the Red Sea when half the Battalion were sick with food poisoning, may be reckoned as the least pleasant part of the voyage.

We had the usual reception at Pusan from the local dignitaries and after a deal of shunting set off in a most uncomfortable train for the North. Those who were familiar with the vagaries of Indian troop trains during the war were agreed that the Korean railways equal the old G.I.P. in all their worst attributes.

Arrived in the Commonwealth Divisional area, things began to move very much more efficiently. Within a couple of hours of reaching Britannia Camp, advance parties went off to take over from the Welch. Others spent a night at the Camp and we were surprised and pleased to have a visit from M. A. V. P. Sweeney, now elevated to the dignity of C.Q.M.S. He went home a few days later.

We spent our first fortnight drawing and sorting

kit and training. It was here that Companies formed their own messes, Battalion H.Q. and "A" Echelon being together. Then, after an exercise, we moved into the line. There are four Sergeants' Messes going at present. One with the reserve Company, one at Battalion H.Q., one at "A" Echelon and at "B" Echelon. The two messes to which most members find their way when they can are Battalion H.Q. and "A" Echelon. At Battalion H.Q. we are partly dug into the hill and have a comfortable, warm hut, electric light and a radio. "A" Echelon mess is really our main effort and it is there that members go for a rest from the line, in their turn.

Our membership as we arrived was:

"H.Q." Company—R.S.M. Pearce, R.Q.M.S. Dawson, Q.M.S. Hall (O.R.S.), C.S.M. Corke (Drill Instructor), C.S.M. Cunningham (now "D" Company), C.Q.M.S. Munro, S.S.I. Burgess (A.P.T.C.), Sgts. Mills (Provost), Alton (Drums), Goddard (Int.), Nowell (Sniper), Robins (Signal Platoon), Powell (R.A.P.), Dickson (R.A.M.C., R.A.P.), Gray (P.R.I.), Wilkinson (R.E.M.E.), Knowles (A.C.C.), Fielden (A.C.C.) and Holmes (R.A.P.C.)

"S" Company—C.S.M. Williams, C.Q.M.S. Quest, M.M., Sgts. Webster, Waiter, Sullivan, Batty and Norman.

"A" Company — C.S.M. Callaby, M.M., C.Q.M.S. Clark, Sgts. France, Arundel and Davie.

"B" Company—C.S.M. Frier, C.Q.M.S. Preston, Sgts. Wood, Lancaster and Fletcher.

"C" Company—C.S.M. Randall, C.Q.M.S. Leach, Sgts. Perrin, Penn, Kirk and Rutherford.

"D" Company—C.S.M. Turner (now "H.Q." Company), C.Q.M.S. Jobling, Sgts. Simpson, Morrow and Hutchinson.

Since arrival the following have been promoted to join the Mess: Sgts. Brown ("A"), Jackson ("C"), Spring ("S") and Dickie ("C").

We were all deeply grieved when Sgt. Jackson was tragically killed in action within a few days of his promotion and we offer our deepest sympathy to his parents.

Just before these notes go to the Sub-Editor we have time to add that we have just moved south for a rest and to note how pleasant it is once more to have all members together. There is but one drawback, our bunkers were far warmer than the tents we now occupy. We have had our belated Christmas dinner and a very good one it was. The Brigadier, the C.O. and officers came into the Mess for a drink in the intervals between serving the Companies' meals. We played the officers at football—soccer, rucker union and rucker league; the expected result being an honourable draw as the referee very rightly disallowed Lt. Naughton's goal. After all, he was a spectator. So should Sgt. Alton have been, but no one said anything and in any case he played more off the field than on. R.Q.M.S. Dawson showed flashes of his old form, the R.S.M. tackled hard, and C.S.M. Callaby kept goal well—fairly well.

Since the officers could not defeat us on the field, they tried hard in the Officers' Mess, where they kindly invited the Sergeants' Mess team.

Some of us came nearer capitulation at this stage, though we rallied before the evening.

We hope now to visit some of the other Sergeants' Messes and to persuade them to come and see us. So far we have exchanged visits with the Artillery and the Durham Light Infantry.

In conclusion, we send our best wishes for 1953 to past members and other friends and assure them that we are as happy a crowd as ever, changed in face, but unchanged in spirit.

### BATTALION COMMAND POST

The essential ingredients of Battalion H.Q. in the line are a large hill, the C.O., 2IC, and Adjutant normally at its summit, and descending in physical and military height, Intelligence Section, Signallers, Officers' and Sergeants' Messes to a covey of jeeps and regimental police at the foot. We have spent the larger part of our time here on such a hill, for which in time we came to have a grudging regard. It was capped with myriad wireless aerials, and draped with a profusion of telephone wires. Major Skelsey lived in a bunker at the very peak, from which he looked down the chimney of the C.P. proper. This, Major Firth's domain, was the Mecca to which each morning great and lowly would make a pilgrimage, to be given the latest news by Lt. Harms. The C.O.'s bunker, boasting a verandah from which on milder days justice would be dispensed to the malefactors, was tactfully sited between the C.P. and the Officers' Mess. Dotted around on the hill face were bunkers of gunners, signallers, and the Officers of Battalion H.Q. At the bottom, from two erections of wood and tarpaulin, issued vast clouds of smoke. One was the cookhouse supervised by Sgt. Fielden, the other the bathhouse supervised by a smoke-blackened Korean. Despite the forbidding appearance of both these structures they were remarkably efficient, and kept us well fed and clean as required.

A canteen for the Corporals and men was run, firstly, by Cpl. Simpson, and later by Cpl. Jackson, the M.T. Corporal. It proved very popular and its turnover would have been no discredit to a village shop at home.

R.S.M. Pearce, assisted by Ptes. Olby, Abbott and Thornham, and two antiquated 15-cwt. trucks, nightly moved vast quantities of wire, pickets and timber to supply the vast appetite which the Rifle Companies developed for this solid diet. The Provost Sergeant, Sgt. Mills, with the help of two most efficient Korean carpenters and a sign writer, provided a galaxy of dazzling signboards, which we would have given much to have had in our days in the 6th Armoured Division.

All in all, the 80-odd souls in H.Q. have now found their feet, are getting to know what is required of them, and can move from A to B and set up shop again in quite good order.

### "A" COMPANY

The "A" Company which landed at Pusan was a very different Company to that which had arrived at Harwich in early August. All the Officers and several of the senior N.C.O.s had changed and we had lost one complete Platoon

(No. 2) on the ship to the reformed "B" Company. Major D. N. Simonds was in command with Capt. J. S. Milligan as 2IC and 2/Lts. P. M. C. Guthrie, J. R. Keatley and D. N. Gascoyne commanding Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Platoons, with 2/Lt. D. J. Saunders as a reinforcement. C.S.M. Callaby rounded off this team.

On arrival in our concentration area at Myon we were brought up to strength with drafts of K.O.S.B. and other Regiments, and so a new No. 2 Platoon was born and with remarkable speed reached the standard of the other two. Great credit is due to all on this fine achievement.

After 17 days of really intensive training it was a relief to go into the line. We took over from "A" Company 3rd Royal Australian Regiment and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their kindness and very great help to a "green" Company.

We had just about settled in and given most of the Company patrolling experience when we received orders to relieve "C" Company 1st D.L.I. as part of a general reshuffle in the Commonwealth Division.

This time the relief did not proceed as smoothly as the first one. Heavy rain during the preceding day turned to snow at dusk, making the supply routes into the new area almost impassable even to jeeps. However, in the end we were duly installed and soon settled down.

Early in December we said farewell to the Company Commander, Major D. N. Simonds, and welcomed in his place Major R. E. Austin, whom we congratulate on making such a rapid recovery from his sudden illness and operation during the "Halifax-Huddersfield" weekend. At the same time 2/Lt. B. R. Oliver took over No. 1 Platoon.

Life in the forward Company area was something of a revelation to all. Everyone dwelt in holes dug into the hillside with roofs protected by beams, sandbags and thick layers of earth. All weapon positions were approached by long communication trenches, and across the valley some 600 yards away the Chinese dwelt in like manner.

The operational activity of the Company was carried out at night-time and consisted of patrols designed to keep the Chinese away from our positions and to give early warning of his approach. At this time we had a tremendous liaison with "C" Company which lay back behind us and found the longer distance fighting and recon patrols which passed out into No Man's Land through "A" Company, and were regaled by us on their return with soup, rum and cocoa. This happy liaison continued when we changed over, and the proof of it is contained in the fact that the respective Company Commanders cheerfully allowed each other to control each other's patrols.

For the Battalion raid on January 24 (details of which appear elsewhere in this issue) "A" Company had the privilege of finding the majority of the raiding party. They came from No. 1 Platoon and acquitted themselves well.

We are now well back behind the line resting with the remainder of the Commonwealth Division, and training hard for when we return. Strangely

enough, the change in accommodation from "hoochis" to tents (and greater civilisation) is not as popular as the reader might think. But that is the fault of the intense cold.

We celebrated Christmas on February 5 with the traditional dinner of roast turkey and pork and all the trimmings which had been kept in cold storage for us. It was a wonderful day which will remain long in our memories and ended with a sing-song presided over by C.S.M. Callaby and attended by R.S.M. Pearce who brought the house down by his rendering of an old soldier's ditty.

Now we have turned to more serious things and are in for a really busy three weeks. So on that note we will close.

### "B" COMPANY

Now that the Battalion is in reserve many sheets of foolscap are being written upon and tossed away, in a violent endeavour to supply the quarterly notes in time. Here starteth the argosy of "B" Company in the Land of Korea.

On arrival at Pusan the Company came ashore about 65 strong, having formed on the voyage out. Since then we have been made up to strength by drafts from many places. We have been very fortunate in our reinforcements. They were men who arrived wearing the cap badges of many famous Regiments, and in no time at all they settled into the Company. We are delighted to have them with us.

The time spent at Myon Camp will no doubt be described in detail in some other part of the Battalion notes. We had been told to expect a hectic time—and we got it! For us, not only had training and equipping to be carried out, but also reinforcements had to be received and absorbed. After a couple of weeks at Myon the prospect of going into the line was a rosy one!

Our first front line position overlooking the Samichon Valley was a quiet one, and we were able to get useful experience in patrolling, although no enemy showed themselves in our area. Every N.C.O. in the Company during this period was able to take part in standing patrols and fighting patrols. Our stay in the Samichon position was uneventful except for the very last day when advance parties of the French Canadians were beginning to arrive to take over from us. The Chinese—who had observation on to our Company locality from the other side of the valley—suddenly decided to do a bit of shelling, and threw over some shells on to No. 4 Platoon area. One member of this Platoon was able to disprove a certain saying which is sometimes attributed to Confucius. He definitely proved that a man can run with his trousers down!

Having got the range of No. 4 Platoon the Chinese then lifted along the spur to Company H.Q. Unfortunately, the Company command post, either by accident or design, looked suspiciously like a tank from the front. The Chingloos apparently thought so and managed to knock off the 31-set aerial. (Please note—certain members of "B" Company. This is the sort of occasion when you can claim for kit lost in action. "Long

Johns" lost on standing patrol cannot be placed in the same category.)

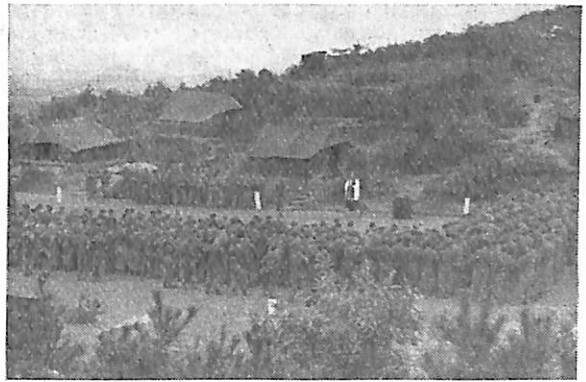
Our stay in our next position further north was more lively all round. Our move into it coincided with the first real winter spell which froze up all the roads and tracks. Being the right forward Company position, vehicles could only move forward at night which added considerably to the difficulty of supply. The Company jeeps could not pull loaded trailers over the "switchback" road, and therefore all stores, bedding rolls and rations had to be ferried forward in the back seat of the vehicles. Our second jeep on the first night skidded backwards way down the "switchback" and finished up in the ditch. As the clutch and brakes had gone, it was off the road for some days. Pte. Walker, the Company Commander's driver, did noble work during the first four nights, working from dusk to dawn getting up the supplies and stores.

It quickly became apparent that we were due for a more hectic time than before. Christmas was approaching and the Chinese became active with "Christmas card" patrols. They went to great pains to deposit propaganda parcels of leaflets and cards in our wire and on the minefield boundaries. Platoons had standing patrols out every night to intercept them. However, the Company area was a thousand yards long, and we did receive a large number one night.

We had a fair share of enemy shelling and mortaring, but fortunately it had very little effect. We were deeply grieved to lose Pte. Kirkpatrick, of No. 6 Platoon, who was mortally wounded by a mortar bomb which landed in the communication trench. On behalf of the Company we offer our sincere condolences to his wife and mother.

After four weeks in the forward position we changed over with "D" Company and became reserve and counter-attack Company and custodians of the camouflage road (that well-known target for Chinese shells). Here we were able to move more freely and even drive jeeps in daylight. Pte. Imlah, our Company sanitary wallah (or should we say sanitation inspector?) came into his own, and might be seen daily patrolling the H.Q. area with his attendant "Gook" (nickname for local inhabitant), prior to starting up his infernal machine known as an incinerator. Cpl. Donaldson took over management of the Hillside Tavern for the sale of ale, chocolates, chewing gum, biscuits, and other commodities, the supply and control of which form a constant nightmare for all Company 2ICs.

Two weeks ago we handed over to an American unit and are now launched into a hectic training programme in a reserve area. The Company can look back with pride on the ten weeks spent in the line and prepare for the next round. We have had a share in the patrolling activity, the shelling and discomfort, and from being the youngest Company in the Battalion are now as old in experience as any other. We have got through the worst part of the winter successfully, and when we next go into the line the weather will be much warmer. By the time this is in print we may well have discarded the ingenious heating gadgets which every soldier



THE LAST CHURCH PARADE BEFORE GOING INTO THE LINE

now knows how to construct to make life in a "hoochi" bearable.

The next thing to look forward to is mosquito nets and flies.

#### "C" COMPANY

Christmas Eve, 1952, and yet the date, February 3, 1953; a long spell in the line compelled us to postpone our festivities until to-morrow, when early-rising officers and Sergeants will hand round tea and rum to a Company which has changed but little since we sailed on September 22. Some new faces: 2/Lt. Arthur Fitch has taken over No. 8 Platoon from 2/Lt. Jim Newton, unfortunately slightly wounded by a mortar. We also welcome 2/Lt. Dennis Saunders and Sgt. Rutherford—both are with No. 9 Platoon—and those much needed reinforcements who have joined us at various times.

The troopship *Devonshire* was without cream or cider, and suffice it to say that the voyage from Liverpool to Pusan happened; nor were there many incidents to brighten the long train journey from Pusan to Tokchong.

We arrived at Britannia Camp, nor far from Seoul. The tents were pitched in a shallow valley, between typical Korean rounded hills. "Land of morning calm" is the old native name for this country; and we felt it to be appropriate, though the feeling was destroyed for one distressed soldier early next morning, when he mistook the phutting of a faulty immersion heater for the rumbling of Communist guns. However, morale was high; the food was good; "Korea's not as bad as people said," we thought.

Soon we moved forward to replace "A" Company, The Welch Regiment, in a reserve area. Training in earnest started; speculations were made on methods of patrolling, defending, attacking—practically all was new in this unusual countryside.

Scarcely had we settled in when our next move came, this time into the line, the Battalion relieving 3rd R.A.R. Our new Company position was on a peculiar cone-shaped hill of great height, at least so Major Kavanagh always insisted. It was decorated at its summit by one rather miserable lone tree. In this our first position, we expected the

Chinamen nightly on our forward slopes; however, the only disturbances proved to be the occasional visits of foxes and cats, and life was, on the whole, uneventful, punctuated only by the exciting display of the Battle of the Hook, when our standing patrols could see the flashes of "burp" guns, and hear the crunching of Chinese feet in the valley, as the fierce attacks against The Black Watch took place.

So much for Yong Dong, the hill of the lone tree. From this position we expected once again to move into reserve, for Christmas, a gay Christmas, with plenty of turkey, and a double issue of whisky for officers and Sergeants. It was decreed otherwise, and we eventually relieved the D.L.I. further north. Here we became layback Company and set our minds to patrolling and improvement of defences. Life was quite interesting; platoons vied with each other as to the number of shells they received: Cpl. Imfoot's section, No. 7 Platoon, proudly tells of the afternoon when 36 fell in their area. There was also rivalry in digging. Trenches of immense depth appeared, coupled with head covers of varying thicknesses, shapes, and designs.

It was from this position that the Company really started patrolling. Many were sent out (recce, fighting and ambush), but no contacts made. The most remarkable patrol was one on which 2/Lt. Orr and Sgt. Noel (Snipers) spent a whole day lying up on an enemy-occupied spur watching the Chinese going about their daily business. They brought back much useful and interesting information. It was this expedition which later led to another patrol at Battalion level, including a strong element of "Charlie" Company, the assault group consisting of 2/Lt. Ian Orr, Sgt. Dickie, Cpl. McKenzie, L/Cpl. Bangs, Pte. Coulson, and a Sapper Corporal. L/Cpl. Evans, also, was a bren gunner in the covering party. This patrol is fully described in another part of this IRON DUKE.

After a month had passed in this position, we relieved "A" Company, forward, just as the cold was really settling in. Life was harder, and a three-hour standing patrol was no enviable employment, even with the introduction of pocket warmers and sandbags for the feet. Yet these patrols sometimes had their humorous side. One night Cpl. McKenzie went out with two men from No. 9 Platoon. He posted Pte. Enoch, his bren gunner, on one side of the spur, while he and the wireless operator went on the other. After some time he decided to check his bren. Moving slowly over the crest, he saw Enoch furiously waving one hand—Cpl. McKenzie froze. A few minutes later he made as if to move once more, but again Enoch gesticulated. This continued periodically for some time, until Cpl. McKenzie was almost literally freezing, so he decided to move whatever the consequences.

"What's the matter?" he enquired.

"What?" said Enoch, distinctly bewildered.

"Why were you waving your hand?" continued McKenzie.

"Oh, that," said Enoch, nonchalantly, "I was just trying to keep my hands warm."

Here we continued to dig, and, above all, wire; by the time we left, there were enough double

aprons round "C" Company to turn the Housewives' League green with envy.

Eventually news reached us that we were to be relieved by the Americans, who, when they did arrive, seemed suitably impressed with our positions; though not perhaps enough, in the eyes of No. 7 Platoon, with a five-man tunnel which had laboriously been dug in the platoon area. Their only comment was, "Gee, I guess we saw a cave."

An extremely unpleasant nocturnal lorry journey accompanied our move into reserve, where the novelty of a night in bed, a warm tent, and a belated Christmas in the offing, soon occupied our minds, and we have settled down to await the time when once again we will move forward.

Numerous promotions have been made and those concerned are to be congratulated; there are too many to enumerate.

Everyone in the Company has worked hard, volunteered for numerous dangerous patrols, stood for hours in below-zero weather on sentry or standing patrols and all have kept magnificently cheerful and morale has been high. The reputation of "The 3rd Battalion" is second to none.

As a final word we have just received the news of the award of the Military Cross to 2/Lt. P. I. Orr, to whom the Company offers its heartiest congratulations.

#### "D" COMPANY

Before sailing for Korea Major E. J. P. Emmett took over command of the Company, and had Capt. "Toppi" Brown to assist him as 2IC.

After nearly six weeks at sea and a long and cold train journey from Pusan we arrived in high spirits at Tokchong station. Our Advance Party, Lt. David Borwell and Cpl. Pounder, were on the platform to meet us with a cheery welcome—and a few lurid details of what the future held in store.

From then on life became a whirl of activity—first to Britannia Camp where we were kitted out with our excellent winter clothing, and then a few days later we moved on to Myon staging area to enter a period of intensive training prior to going into the line.

Any feeling of homesickness brought about by the sight of the Welch Regiment marching rapidly south was soon dispelled by the tempo of our training programme, which left no time to think about anything else.

We were lucky in finding the weather comparatively warm, and except for a couple of days' heavy rain, which made one night patrol exercise a little too realistic, we were all complete on training under fairly reasonable conditions. For two weeks we were kept hard at it. Platoon exercises were followed by Company exercises in rapid succession, until we reached the climax in a Battalion exercise, set by Brigade to test our battle worthiness. It was gratifying to learn from the Brigadier that our efforts were most satisfactory!

C.S.M. Turner left us at Myon Camp to take over C.S.M. of "H.Q." Company, and C.S.M. Cunningham took his place. Our order of battle prior to moving into the line was as follows: Company Commander, Major E. J. P. Emmett;

2/Lt. Capt. Brown; C.S.M., C.S.M. Cunningham; C.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S. Joblin; O.C. No. 10 Platoon, 2/Lt. Simon Berry, Sgt. Hutchinson; O.C. No. 11 Platoon, Lt. David Borwell, Sgt. Simpson; O.C. No. 12 Platoon, 2/Lt. Douglas Holland, Sgt. Morrow.

On the night of November 15, with the Assault Pioneer Platoon commanded by 2/Lt. John Stacpoole under command as an Infantry Platoon, we boarded our trucks and set forth for our first tour of duty in the line. We took over the Naegong position—a "Big Steep Korean Hill"—from "C" Company 3rd R.A.R. that night without incident. We found the Australians very helpful and anxious to do all they could to give us a good start in Korea—a fact we would like to take this opportunity to record.

Very rapidly we settled down to the daily, or rather nightly, routine of holding a defensive position. The Company locality consisted of four Platoon positions, and provided four standing patrols which were located up to 800 yards in front of the Company locality. These standing patrols were initially to provide the source of a number of "private wars" and gave us a nightly "myths of the mist" serial over the air.

However, we very soon became accustomed to being in close proximity to the Chinaman and viewed his positions across the Samichon Valley with less apprehension—even if the width of the valley was to a number of us a source of constant relief!

After we had been in the line about ten days we were very proud to receive the Battalion Defence Platoon, consisting of our Corps of Drums commanded by 2/Lt. Ernest Kirk, as reinforcements. The Company locality was a big one and these extra men were a great help to us—and within 24 hours they were out in the valley on ambush patrols.

We remained in this position until the end of November and can safely say that during this time we had the somewhat dubious honour of providing more patrols of all types—and receiving more shells than any other Rifle Company!

The highlight of our activity must surely have been David Borwell's pursuit across the valley after an enemy patrol on a very misty morning—and our Company Commander's highly successful tank shoot at an enemy digging party!

Our hopes for Christmas in Brigade reserve were soon dashed when we were told that the Divisional front was to be reorganised and that the Battalion was to move into another locality on the Divisional front. So on the night of November 29/30 we handed over our charming riverside estate—improved by a newly-built Company Command post with all modern conveniences—to the Royal 22nd Regiment of Canada, affectionately known as the "Vandooze."

After a short breathing space of 36 hours in a staging area, where we lost Simon Berry to Division, we were back again in the line—in a slightly "sharper" place. The Company moved into the Reserve Company position with two Platoons—No. 10 Platoon now commanded by 2/Lt. Ernest

Kirk left us to reinforce "B" Company forward with a fourth Platoon.

Reserve Company to us spelt "patrolling," and we can claim several successful patrol actions. Two deserving especial mentions whilst in the Reserve Company position are Douglas Holland's classic winter ambush action in the valley of "the jaws of death," resulting in a successful small arms battle against a party of approximately 20 enemy who attempted to ambush 2/Lt. Holland's patrol (the action is to date the only major small arms patrol clash that the Battalion has had). The other was David Borwell's ingenious attempt to capture a prisoner-of-war on Christmas Day. The plan briefly was to cut a telephone cable laid along a communication trench leading away from the rear of an enemy forward Platoon position. A snatch party was then to lay up over the "break" ready to pounce on the unsuspecting enemy line party sent to repair the cable.

The cut in the cable was made under cover of a deception artillery fire plan, and the "snatch" party in position at about 3 a.m. on a very cold and snowy Christmas morning. After waiting about an hour two enemy signallers dutifully came along the trench inspecting the cable and discovered the break. The trap was sprung, much to the Chinaman's surprise so much so that he bolted like a rabbit down its hole with such speed that the "snatch" party, who had jumped into the trench on to the Chinaman, slipped off their backs on to the ground. The rat was out of the trap—the eel out of the net—and away!

It was a thrilling experience, and although the little Chinaman did get away and was able to have his Christmas breakfast in his own Company instead of ours, it was very satisfying to have outwitted the enemy at his own game. It should be emphasised that a considerable number of recce patrols were necessary before this action was possible.

The rest of Christmas morning was spent in being televised by the B.B.C., who insisted on the Company Commander and the C.S.M. taking "gunfire" round to the men in their bunkers. We had a happy morning terminating in the arrival of C.Q.M.S. Joblin as Father Christmas riding on his present-laden sledge, drawn by four gnomes dressed in white camouflage suits. The dignity of his arrival was somewhat spoilt when the sledge capsized after hitting a rock—and Father Christmas and presents were thrown in profusion amongst the spectators and the B.B.C. cameramen.

Although we were not able to enjoy Christmas as we would like to have done, we feel we made the best of the opportunity of being in Battalion Reserve. The B.B.C. were certainly able to get plenty of material.

After enjoying New Year's Eve we relieved "B" Company and rejoined No. 10 Platoon in the right forward Company position—leaving our usual "memento," this time in the form of a newly-built bomb proof officers' mess.

We were four weeks in the right forward Company position, and during this time David Borwell

commanded another patrol whose task was again the capture of a prisoner.

The patrol was launched under considerable artillery support into the enemy lines to attack from the rear an isolated enemy post. Fortune was not with them—the post was empty! It was a very disappointed patrol that returned.

Capt. "Toppi" Brown left us in the middle of January for S/C (A) at Division. David Stowell took over 2IC and 2/Lt. Jeffrey Ingram took command of No. 11 Platoon.

The remainder of our stay in this position was uneventful, our main energies being devoted to improving our defences and building a really magnificent new Company Command Post with necessary bunkers. In all we dug and built a total of eight bunkers, besides deepening a vast acreage of trench works.

Thus, after nearly three months of continuous service in the line we came into reserve on January 29, 1953, and having now just enjoyed the Christmas Day we were unable to have in the line—and a truly traditional regimental Christmas—on February 5, we are once again entering the rigours of Company and Battalion training.

#### "A" ECHELON

"A" Echelon, under the command of Major C. F. Grieve, and consisting of the Headquarters personnel of "H.Q." Company, Capt. B. Kilner, the M.T.O. and the majority of drivers, 2/Lt. P. McG. Guthrie, the Assistant Adjutant, O.R.Q.M.S. Hall and the Battalion Orderly Room, Sgt. Holmes and his central Pay Office, Sgt. Grey and his P.R.I. shop and a cinema operated by our A.K.C. Sergeant, Sgt. Arnott, came into being when the Battalion moved into the line.

Before any work could be started to make ourselves more comfortable in preparation for the dreaded winter months, word was received that the Echelon was to move and at the beginning of December this move took place. With the aid of a bulldozer and the luck of continued mild weather a new camp was erected and we had settled in just before the winter arrived.

Here, though more comfortably situated than those at the "sharp end," we did not have the shelter against the cold of warm bunkers and those of us in tents spent our early mornings and evenings huddled round heaters trying to keep warm. The drivers dug themselves into the ground and slept in two- or four-men "Hoochies" and in this way kept themselves fairly warm.

The main attraction at "A" Echelon has been the cinema. Every night Sgt. Arnott has put on a show and, despite the cold, he has shown his films to packed houses. Timber was bought and Cpl. Dodds and his Pioneers built a cinema large enough to seat 120 at a time.

The P.R.I. and Sgt. Grey have been very busy. Twice a week trucks have been to the NAAFI and have brought back large quantities of goods. The amount of business conducted with Company 2ICs has been considerable and the P.R.I. accounting has become intricate and lengthy. Sgt. Grey now feels that he has the experience and training to

open up a large shop when he retires from the Army.

Local Rest and Recuperation Leave has been spent at the Echelon by groups of men from the forward Companies. This one-day's leave has provided an opportunity of getting a haircut and bath, a game of football, a cinema show and some beer in the evening in the canteen. The main drawback has been the inability to get real rest at night owing to the bitter cold.

Though our Christmas celebrations were put back till the Battalion was to be in reserve, the Day was not allowed to pass unnoticed. Only the really essential jobs were carried out, the M.T.O. and his N.C.O.s did the M.T. detail, extra rations were bought, 20 cigarettes and a bottle of beer was provided by the *Daily Mail* and Cpl. Flowers and his cooks produced a first-class Christmas dinner. In the afternoon the car park was cleared and a 20-a-side football match was played. In the evening the officers had the W.O.s and Sergeants in for a drink and those men in the canteen retired to their "Hoochies" to keep out the cold.

During this period, Cpl. Abbott, who has done a lot of hard work as Company Clerk for the past year, left us to go into hospital and it is regretted that he will not rejoin us. We wish him a speedy recovery of health.

We have now moved once again and have rejoined the Battalion in reserve and "H.Q." Company is reunited.

#### "S" COMPANY

The Company, after many changes in personnel, rapidly became support-minded in every respect. Our voyage has been fully dealt with by the Platoon Commanders, Capt. Robertson of the M.M.G. Platoon, Capt. Blakey—to whom we offer our congratulations on his promotion—of the 3in. Mortar Platoon, and 2/Lt. Stacpoule of the Assault Pioneer Platoon.

We are now in our reserve area for an eagerly awaited rest and re-fit. Our three months in the line has given us very valuable experience and we shall eventually return with greater confidence.

The Korean winter has not proved as exacting as was expected. This may be due to many unexpected fires which occurred at all times of the day. It is not true that some of the men in the Assault Pioneer Platoon are going into the rag trade as a result of these fires.

Due to our being in the line on Christmas Day, our festivities had to wait until we reached our present area. It was here we appreciated to the full the cooking talents of Sgt. Sullivan, who produced a truly excellent bill of fare for the Company on February 5, Christmas Day to us, followed by an impromptu sing-song, ably assisted by Pte. Kemp, Cpls. Dawson and Fitzhenry and, of course, not forgetting C.S.M. Williams.

Our canteen, erected with the help of the whole Company, has proved a great success and has now aspired to be called "The Supporting Arms"—resident landlord, Cpl. Hildred. Thanks should be given for some excellent sketches adorning the walls by L/Cpl. Hibbert.

On "Boxing Day," February 6, the Company

had the pleasure of seeing the Officers versus Sergeants football match, and the further pleasure of Major Kershaw being prostrated by an immovable object in running into C.S.M. Randall.

Our congratulations to the following on promotion: Sgt. Spring, Cpls. Fitzhenry, Parker, Dawson, Withers, Flood, Lodge, McDermott, Smith, and to the following who have started the upward trend: L/Cpls. Bertram, Kift and Silversides.

To all those who will be leaving us on release before our next notes we wish the best of luck wherever they may go, and to who who have joined us we offer a hearty welcome. Good luck and close support from all in Support.

#### MACHINE GUN PLATOON

It was just as well that the Machine Gun Platoon were trained before they stepped on the *Devonshire*, for we soon found that the Vickers was a very popular toy, and every time they were produced a large collection of Officers and passengers, including non-combatants, wanted to "press the tit." The Gunners got a look in now and again, however, although there was not very much scope for training on board, even on a mammoth liner like the *Devonshire*!

Capt. Robertson met us at Pusan and told us all about the life out here and the jobs we did. Some of it was hardly creditable at the time. He also lightened the horrors of the train journey by producing a few precious candles.

After some hard training in reserve the Platoon moved into the line on November 17. On the night of the 18th we fired periodically for 11 hours in support of the Black Watch who were being attacked on our left. It was all map shooting controlled by them over our direct link. The attack was an expensive failure for the Chinaman, and at 0830 hours next morning, when we finally finished firing, we found it had been pretty expensive for us too, and spent the rest of the day lugging 50,000 rounds up the hillsides.

We also fired for the next two nights for the Black Watch, and then things quietened down a bit and we returned to our normal patrol support and harassing.

We then moved straight out into another part of the line, finding the problem of relieving a Machine Gun Platoon in the line with one jeep and trailer pretty formidable. However, nothing was lost and we settled down to a very happy two months, with two Sections and Platoon H.Q. together in Vickers Village, and Sgt. Houghton's Section on their own by the Battalion C.P.

Our two Korean cooks, Chang I and Chang II, kept us very well fed, and the four other porters kept us amused. During this time Ptes. Flood, Smith and Lodge and L/Cpl. McDermott became Corporals, and Cpl. Spring a Sergeant. We finally managed to conquer the problem of broken firing pins and frozen guns, without resorting to keeping firing pins in our "hoochies," and experimented successfully with a mirror inside the gun pit to eliminate false angle. We also managed to place our close D.F.s on the forward Company's barbed wire, 20 yards in front of them, firing

indirectly at a range of approximately 2,000 yards.

When January 28 arrived, and we moved back into reserve, we had fired a total of 410,000 rounds, mainly over the heads of patrols. We caused them a bit of heart failure, but no casualties.

#### MORTAR PLATOON

During the voyage out the Platoon did all its training on blackboards as no mortar was available. The accommodation was cramped, and the food not too good. However, this was offset by three excellent variety shows which were staged and the many impromptu concerts which developed all over the ship at odd hours. The ringleaders included Cpl. Fitzburg and Pte. Robinson who, I'm sure we all know by now, are doing their second tour out here.

Inoculations and vaccinations proved to be more than a little harassing and descended heavily upon those who had dodged them in Pontefract, including the Platoon Commander.

We disembarked on October 31 and a fortnight's training in Myon Camp got us familiar again with the intricacies of mortar work, and we were soon ready for anything. A hilarious hand-over from the Mortar Platoon 3rd R.A.R. took place and we settled in comfortably.

L/Cpl. Goodall and Ptes. Smith and Sanderson had the honour of doing a standing patrol in the Samichon Valley on the first night. Apart from being unable to reach the Chinaman, unless the wind was in the right direction, and dropping a bomb on top of an "A" Company "hoochie," we were content.

Unfortunately on the afternoon of November 23 Pte. Alwyn Schofield had a serious injury in the baseplate position. His courage and bearing throughout were a great inspiration, and we of the Platoon are proud to have known and served with him. We are glad to report that he is recuperating rapidly at his home in York.

On Dec. 1 we did a smart right turn and relieved the 1st Battalion D.L.I. There we occupied a delightful village, with quite a bit of good rough shooting, much to the delight of Sgt. Batty, who had by then acquired the Officers' Mess gun. Quite a good bag resulted, and no one seemed to mind him having the gun so long as the Company Commanders were supplied with the occasional pheasant.

The O.P. kept us busy firing at Chinamen and mortars which, contrary to all reports, were there. Occasionally one of the forward Companies had to be reassured when they thought the odd bomb was going astray, but as yet they have been unable to pin anything on us.

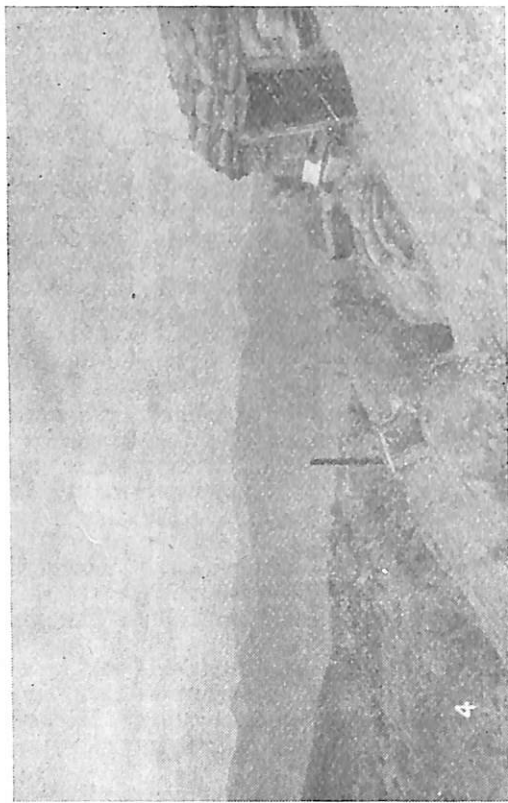
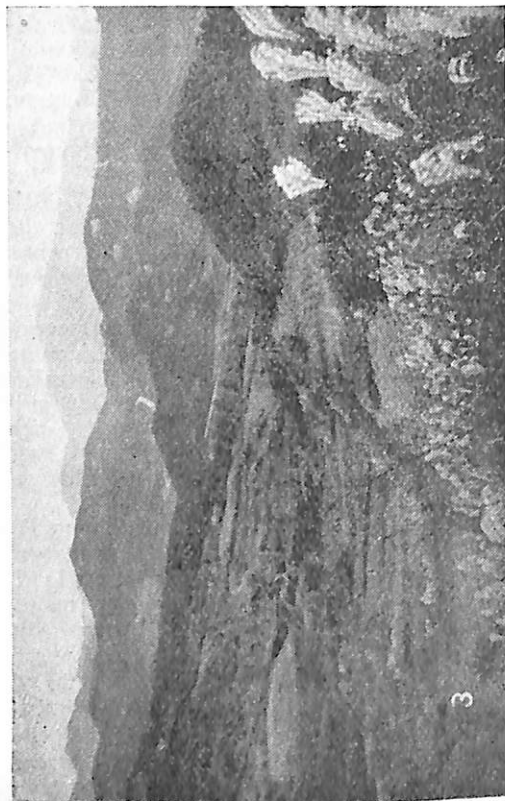
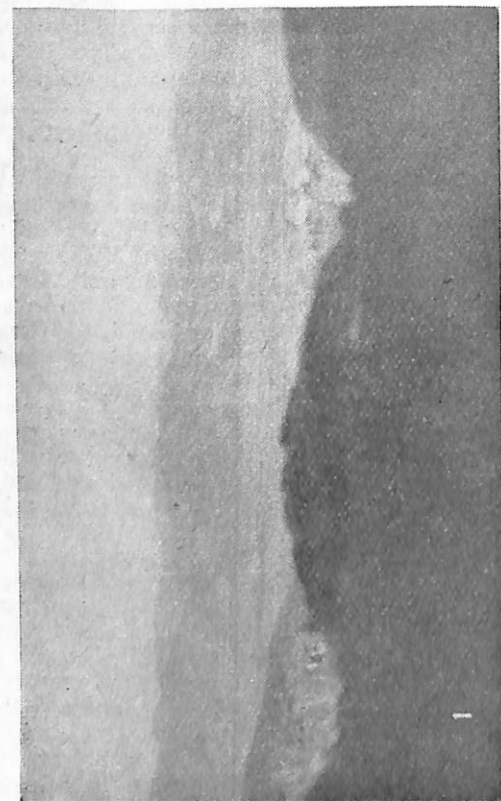
Our Signals Section did extremely well under L/Cpl. Smith. He had obviously selected the other two members of his section very carefully. They both ate little, and one didn't smoke. Consequently, Smith waxed fat and filled the C.P. with impenetrable clouds of free issue smoke.

The standard of the food was excellent, thanks to our Korean cooks, and no complaints were received. Even the cry of "any luck" was not to be heard, so large and filling were the helpings.

We fired most of Christmas Eve in support of



WITH THE 1ST BATTALION



1. SAMICHON VALLEY. Chinese positions in distance. 2. CAMP SITE IN RESERVE AREA 3. TYPICAL KOREAN SCENERY  
4. A TYPICAL "HOOCHI" IN THE LINE

a patrol lead by Lt. D. Borwell of "D" Company, who just missed catching a prisoner for the C.O's Christmas stocking.

About this time Pte. Bolton was made rodent officer for the Platoon and did a sterling job with the help of L/Cpl. Brouston. Squeals of surprise came from the rodent population as the traps did their work, and squeals of delight came from Bolton and Brouston as they surveyed their handiwork.

The warmth of our "hoochies" is missed, but the opening of the Company pub, "The Supporting Arms," is adequate compensation. The landlord is Cpl. Hildred, ably helped by Pte. Brawn. The Pioneers (Assault) did a first-class job of interior decorating and bar making and the Pioneers (Regimental) did likewise on the pub sign.

We celebrated Christmas on February 5 and a wonderful time was had by the Platoon. The Christmas dinner was excellently prepared by Sgt. Sullivan of the M.M.G.s, helped by Ptes. Bolton, Helliwell and Small. Many thanks to them, and may they be with us to cook next year's dinner!

#### ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

The voyage out to Korea was enjoyable—apparently more so than usual. The tone was essentially lighthearted: L/Cpl. Dawson was a leading figure in most of several concerts; Pte. Kempt, too, contributed.

The journey from Pusan to the railhead forcibly shook us out of our easy ways. The coaches would not pass third class French railway standards and the trip lasted from the morning of October 31 until well past dawn of the next day.

After a fortnight of training—wading through paddy up to one's ears, laying rather abortive ambushes for other patrols which never arrived at the right spot, waking the "gooks" for miles around with night field firing exercises—we did the Battalion exercise, the "Chunkies," as always, in their mobile role of route-marking and controlling the debussing area.

In mid-November we took our place in the line, temporarily under command of "the Baron," as his fourth Platoon. It was two days later that we were sent on an ambush patrol in the Samichon Valley, where for half the night we had ringside seats for the famous "Hook" battle of the Black Watch. Soon after this reinforcements from the Welch Regiment joined the Platoon, setting up a strong rivalry with the "old school" until they settled down.

In December the Battalion changed its front. The Pioneers left "D" Company to go off to Kausas (the fall-back positions) to improve the defences there. Cpl. Withers and Sgt. Webster were in their seventh heaven with "beehives" and plastic explosive *ad lib*.

Christmas came and the Chinese showed no signs of making a push. So the "chunkies" turned their efforts to building shellproof bunkers for the forward Companies. Often the work has to be done out of sight or at night; often at dawn Pioneers would be seen—disturbed from their job by the whine of a sniper's bullet—diving headlong

into a trench. "The 200 yards dash," a stretch of road in sight of the Chinese lines, mortared chronically during daylight, became a by-word in Platoon conversation.

Our biggest bunker-building venture was a new command post for "D" Company in which L/Cpls. Bertram, Silversides and Kift gave a strong lead.

In mid-January it was announced that the Commonwealth Division was going into reserve. At once the Assault Pioneer Platoon was sent as part of the Battalion advance (or should it be withdrawal?) party to the new area. Since then we seem to have spent the rest of our waking hours erecting tents and building furniture.

#### HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S

### Review of Ex-Service Men

#### IN HYDE PARK, JULY FIFTH

Dear Member,

Many of you will have heard on the wireless or read in the Press that Her Majesty is to review ex-service men and women in Hyde Park on July 5, 1953. Details of this review are not yet settled, but in general terms it will follow the pattern of the review held in 1937 in Hyde Park, consisting of a parade, a short religious service, and a march past, lasting some two hours in all.

Our Association has been allotted 145 vacancies. This allotment does not cover disabled ex-ex-servicemen, for whom separate arrangements are being made by the Ministry of Pensions.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Gen. Sir Philip Christison, will be on parade as President of the Association and hopes that as many ex-members as possible will be present with him on this historic occasion. Details can be obtained from your Branch Secretary or from the undersigned.

*Widows and Relatives.* A limited number of reserved seats will be available for widows and relatives of ex-servicemen (sponsored by Associations) to watch the proceedings. Details can be obtained from the undersigned.

It is regretted that the Association cannot provide accommodation in London, but it is hoped that our London members and friends will be able to provide hospitality to as many as possible for the Saturday night, July 4. I should, therefore, be very grateful if our London "Dukes" who are able to assist in this direction would kindly let me or Mr. Butterworth know as early as convenient.

*Transport.* The Committee have agreed to provide, and defray the cost of, coaches to convey organised parties from Halifax and Gosport for the ceremony. The General Secretary will arrange picking-up points at Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Sheffield, Ossett, Wakefield and Doncaster. Members living outside these towns will have to make their way to the nearest P.U.P. Gosport branch please make their own arrangements. We shall be

going up to London on Saturday, July 4, and returning Sunday, July 5. I shall be writing you later to give final details of London accommodation, the parade and firm timings, etc., on receipt of my next instruction from the War Office.

The Colonel of the Regiment has expressed an earnest desire that Service and Territorial Battalion Associations take part in this parade. He therefore cordially invites our brother O.C.A.s to

send contingents, to join up with us, in order that we will march past Her Majesty as one large family of the "Dukes." The transport and possible accommodation facilities are extended to include all ex-members of the Regiment.

Yours faithfully,

Wellesley Barracks,  
Halifax.

S. E. CODE,  
*General Secretary,  
Old Comrades Association.*

## REGIMENTAL H.Q. and DEPOT

The period under review in this issue of the IRON DUKE has seen the Depot continue its quiet and peaceful progress.

We have now become quite accustomed to the increased period of training, and the general opinion seems to be that it is more satisfactory than the old six weeks' training. The last four weeks do show a reward for the initial hard work put in by the training N.C.O.s.

The 8th intake passed out on December 31, the parade being taken by Col. Bentley, C.O. of 23rd West Riding Home Guard unit; this intake is now on its way to the 1st Battalion in Korea. The 9th intake passed out on February 18, Gen. Sir Philip Christison coming up to take the parade. We were not sure until the actual day of the parade whether we would be able to hold it on the square, but a considerable amount of hard work and a providential thaw enabled the parade ground to be used. These recruits are to join the East Yorks in Malaya. The snow, for about a week, provided considerable distraction for the Depot—very little training being carried out.

The Coronation is now looming large in everyone's mind, and we will be pleased when it is known definitely who will take part in the Coronation parade in London.

I suppose rigger in a Duke's Depot could never be dormant for long and, since Christmas, enough stalwarts have been found to enable Lt. Dennis Shuttleworth to arrange a fixture list. Our first game against the West Yorks and Brigade Depot brought a certain nervousness to those people active in arranging the game. We had no touch-stone with which to measure the capabilities of the XV. Though we lost, the game was close, and gave encouragement for the future. Since then we have played five more games, being victorious in them all, including a return match with the West Yorks. We have been fortunate in possessing various members of the 1st Battalion's team in Germany, including Lt. Shuttleworth, Cpl. Jones and Cpl. Oakes.

The Depot was delighted to hear of the awards in Korea to Lt. Rodney Harnes and 2/Lt. Orr. A very good show.

Christmas for the Depot was on December 23.

With about 300 people in barracks the Christmas dinner went with a swing and, despite an alarm regarding the beer, everything was well on the day. The recruits and permanent staff went on Christmas leave immediately afterwards, leaving only a skeleton staff.

A new Regimental custom has just been started. Every Saturday morning (in the Regimental Chapel in the Halifax Parish Church) a page of the Roll of Honour will be turned by a recruit of Training Company. This will be an honour to be coveted by recruits undergoing training. The members of the permanent staff have changed but little in the past three months. C.S.M. Wilson has left us to go into civilian life. Cpl. Oakes, Sgt. Sugden, Sgt. Medley, L/Cpl. Bamlett, Cpl. Hassard, Pte. Pearce and L/Cpl. Greenbank have gone, and we wish them the best of luck in the future. Cpls. Lawless and Hall and L/Cpls. Gahan and Christian have joined Training Company staff, and we are very happy to welcome them.

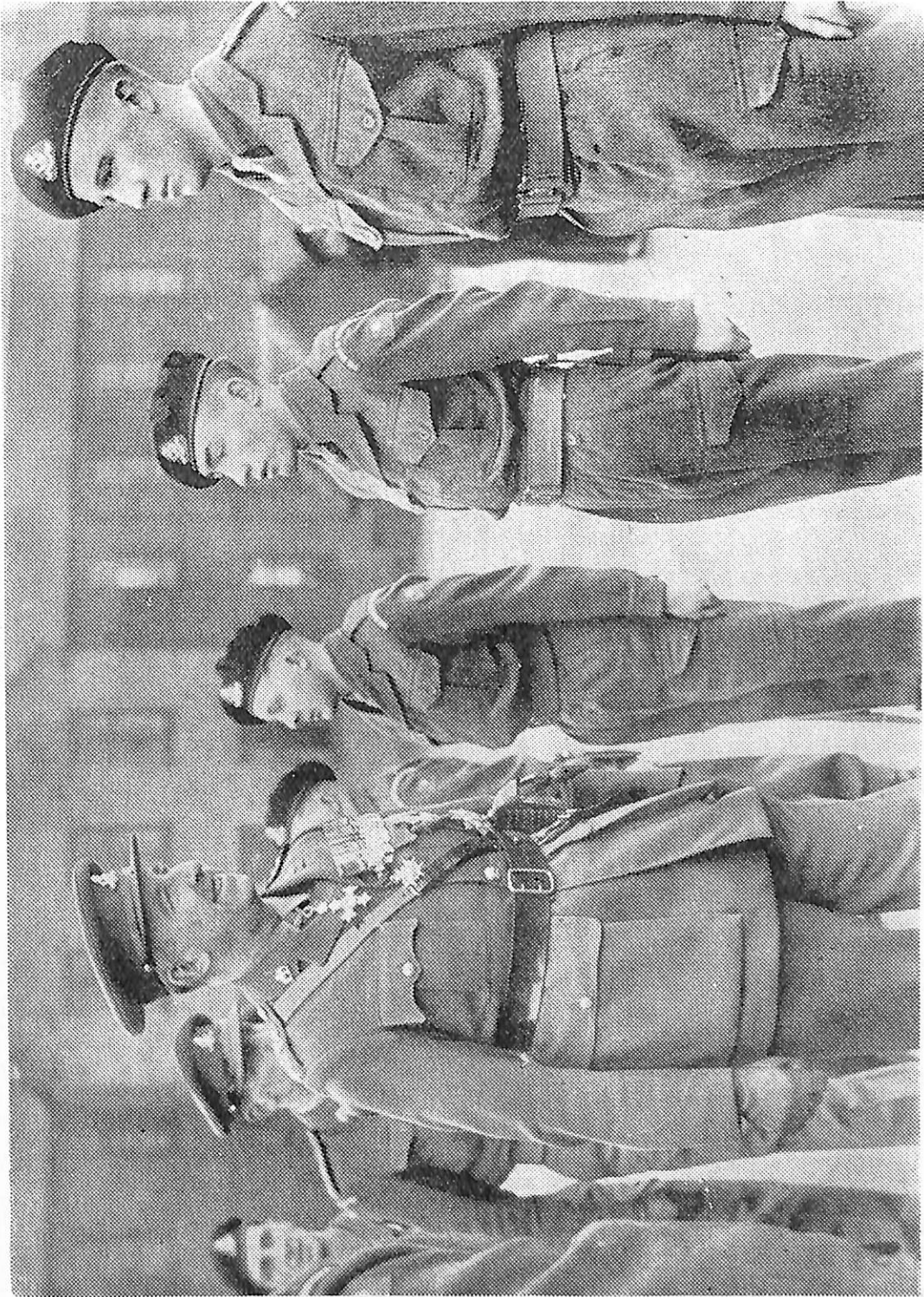
We congratulate Sgt. Galley on his promotion and succession to the post of Sergeants' Mess caterer. Perhaps no longer will the Sergeants go around with that lean and hungry look.

Many subalterns have been passing through, giving us a brief glance, and hurrying on to join the 1st Battalion. Among them were 2/Lts. Oliver, Miller, Mitchell, Dasent, Hayes, Camidge and Lawton.

Lt. David Cowell, after months of effort, has at last been upgraded and expects to sail on March 16. His sunny presence will be greatly missed and we wish him the very best of luck. Sgt. Nichols, also, we hear, will be going out to the Far East on March 16.

Lastly, but by no means least, we must mention success in a different sphere. R.S.M. Kenchington, Mr. Sidney Code and Mr. Berry have managed to persuade the Pools' promoters to part with some of their spoils. We congratulate them on their success, and only wish they would let us know how it is done.

For the future, we are looking forward to the advent of the cricket season and, perhaps, who knows, success in this year's Northern Command Cup.



*By courtesy of the "Halifax Daily Courier and Guardian."*

**The Colonel of the Regiment inspecting the Ninth Intake at their passing out parade on February 18, 1953**

## 382 FIELD REGIMENT, R.A. (4 D.W.R.), T.A.

In this, our close season, our guns have been laid up in our now (almost) snug garages. Members of the Regiment have been braving fog, snow, etc., meeting in odd dark corners shaping our future for the coming year, and it is hoped, from the writer's angle at least, that all plans have been well and truly laid and that it may still be possible to use a little, if not all, of the previous year's admin. orders.

Up to the time of writing we shall field the same team as last year and hope for even better results.

### TRAINING

Three week-end training periods have been arranged before annual camp, the first being on March 28/29 for which we have had an encouraging response from the N.S. men for whose special benefit this period is being held.

The unit P.S.I.s have spent a whole month over

at Leeds plugging up in preparation for the whole-time training ahead.

Specialist classes have commenced. It is very encouraging to note that all has not been forgotten.

Due to the technical nature of our craft we always find great difficulty in getting time to learn to handle our personal arms.

As a result we have started a .22 rifle league. Only two matches having as yet been decided it is a little too early to comment. One point, however, has emerged, that we should have started much earlier, as the results have shown.

### SOCIAL

Children's parties were given by the Sergeants' Messes of Halifax and Brighouse and were their usual "howling" success.

The annual officers' and Sergeants' night lived up to its boisterous reputation.

## 578 (5 D.W.R.), H.A.A. REGIMENT., R.A.

The one and only big event of the period of these notes, and the last of the season, was the annual prize distribution which took place on December 1 last.

A small change was made this year in the procedure and the annual report of the activities of the Regiment was printed in the programme; in the past this had always been read by the Adjutant. It was felt that this was an improvement. The proceedings were opened by the C.O.'s address, after which Maj.-Gen. B. C. H. Kimmins, C.B., C.B.E., Director of the T.A., presented the prizes. The Hon. Colonel, Col. K. Sykes, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., J.P., proposed the vote of thanks and this was seconded by Brigadier G. Marnham, O.B.E., M.C., Commander 69th A.A. Brigade, T.A. Afterwards there were refreshments and dancing. The evening was obviously a success and nobody even imagined that his "right" might be his "left"!

The year finished with the officers' New Year's Eve ball—as good as ever—and early in January the Regimental children's party was held—better than ever. This party has now become a notable function in the Regimental year; much is due to those who gave their time to the organisation of it—Major and Mrs. S. W. Higgins, Sgt. and Mrs. Brennan, Sgt. and Mrs. Woodcock, Sgt. and Mrs. Marshall, B.S.M. W. Maw, Sgt. Swaine, Bdr. Richards and L/Bdr. Brambles. Each child of every member of the Regiment gets a present off the Christmas tree, handed over by Father Christmas in person after being dragged into the hall on his sleigh. We wonder whether anyone will recognise Sgt. Brennan in the future!

Serious pre-camp training began in the New Year

and will continue unabated at the rate of two drills per week and a week-end camp per month until May 3, when we go to annual camp. As time goes on the T.A. element gets less and the N.S. element is much on the increase. It is good that so many N.S. men (some not even volunteers) are attending drills. We are particularly looking forward to camp without the worries of "Z" Reservists.

There has been some relief from training in these two months in the form of a Coronation pie supper given by "P" Battery; 100 attended and enjoyed the atmosphere of conviviality amongst the "crowns and other regal emblems" which adorned the drill hall. A special feature of the evening was the "Coronation of the King of Pie Suppers" in which "P" Battery's commander, Major J. A. Bearder, was so crowned with elaborate ceremony in extreme burlesque.

All the three batteries have held dances in aid of the Korean Comforts Fund and as a result £25 has been raised.

We congratulate Lt. Rycroft on his promotion to Lieutenant and welcome 2/Lts. D. K. Haigh and P. D. Dickerson, who have been commissioned into the Regiment. We also extend a welcome to 2/Lt. D. B. Hoyle who has joined the Regiment from National Service. We are pleased to record that Sgt. Charlesworth has been accepted for a "T" type engagement and has been posted as a P.S.I. to "Q" Battery, where there is now a full set of equipment.

We should like to congratulate the following who have been chosen to represent the Regiment at the Coronation: Bdr. Richards, L/Bdr. Dutton, L/Bdr. A. Robinson and Gnr. Horsfall.

## 7th BATTALION T.A.

### SUB EDITORIAL

Spring is certainly in the air as these notes are being written, and once more we are thinking in terms of weekend camps and summer training. So far we have been very fortunate with the weather, and are glad to say we have been spared the misfortunes which have hit so many parts of England.

The Drill Hall at Milnsbridge is now looking very spick and span after the decorators have been to work—not forgetting our interior decorator, C.S.M. Lamb.

The Battalion is gradually growing in numbers, and it is hoped that by the time we go to camp in July—which, incidentally, is being held on Salisbury Plain—we should be about 450 strong. The quality and quantity of N.S. men who have been joining up has been very high, and it is hoped that we shall be able to get an increasing number to sign on as National Service volunteers.

The winter months have not passed without their inspections, which include an "A" vehicle inspection on which we obtained a "Good." Well done, those responsible. Our hardy annual, the annual administrative inspection, also went smoothly and, as a result, we expect a good report.

The attendance at Drill Halls, especially Milnsbridge, has shown a marked improvement. Every Monday and Thursday a keen M.T. cadre is at work, whilst at the other side of the hall the Regimental Signallers have been busy with their wireless sets preparing them for a Brigade Signals exercise which is taking place in the near future.

As for personalities, we have had quite a change over during the last three months. Sgt. Lomas has now finished his time in the Army and is awaiting shipment to Canada to take up a civilian job. To both Sgt. and Mrs. Lomas we send our best wishes for their new life. Sgt. Craven has left us for Korea, and in his place we welcome Sgt. Fogarty from The West Yorks.

Our M.T. permanent staff has now changed round again. At present, we have only one driver, Pte. Dolan, from The Green Howards. Pte. Renwick, one of our ex-drivers, has now joined the Battalion as a National Service volunteer, so we shall be seeing something of him.

By the time the next notes are written we shall be in the middle of summer training, once more preparing for the climax of our training year—annual camp.

### OFFICERS' MESS

The highlight of the last three months was undoubtedly the Officers' Mess dance which was held at Milnsbridge on January 30. This was run on similar lines to the one held last year, but it can be said that the Drill Hall was just that little warmer which made all the difference to the comfort of the guests. We must record our thanks to C.S.M. Lamb, who put in some very hard work to make the hall look so presentable.

Apart from this, the Mess has been very quiet

except for the hard core who put in an appearance regularly every Monday and Thursday.

The next big social event, although not exactly a unit occasion, will be the Korea dance which is being held at Halifax in March. It is hoped that this will be well patronised by all Mess members.

We were very pleased to hear how Jimmy Moncrieff has distinguished himself on the soccer field. He certainly contributed very largely towards Halifax Town's defeat of such clubs as Cardiff and Stoke City. We all hope, however, that now the soccer season is drawing to a close he will be able to discard some of his fitness and pay us a visit at Milnsbridge.

We understand that Major Alec Banks is returning from the Middle East for a spot of leave in the U.K. We hope he reads these notes and in turn pays us a visit at Milnsbridge.

### "H.Q." COMPANY

With the milder weather which we are enjoying our thoughts must inevitably turn to out-of-doors training and, by the look of the programme, we shall be able to have a very interesting "season."

The indoor training this winter has been very successful, notably the vehicle mechanic's course which has been run under the instruction of Lt. Woodcock, C/Sgt. Hawksworth and Sgts. Dawson and Baker. Signallers have had an opportunity of learning the new voice procedure in a series of lectures by Sgt. Keiley, and the results will soon be put to the test at a Brigade Signal Exercise which is being held at York on March 7-8. This exercise should also give valuable experience to the Intelligence Officer, Lt. Haws, and his chief *aide*, Sgt. Glynne-Walton. While on the subject of I.O.'s *aide*, Sgt. Glynne-Walton has been giving lectures on map reading and compass work, which have proved to be of great interest.

The dance to raise funds for the 1st Battalion in Korea was a great success, and our grateful thanks are extended to the many helpers who so kindly gave their services.

Our badminton court is now marked out, but as yet we have not got down to any serious playing and, of course, we are starting at the wrong end of the year.

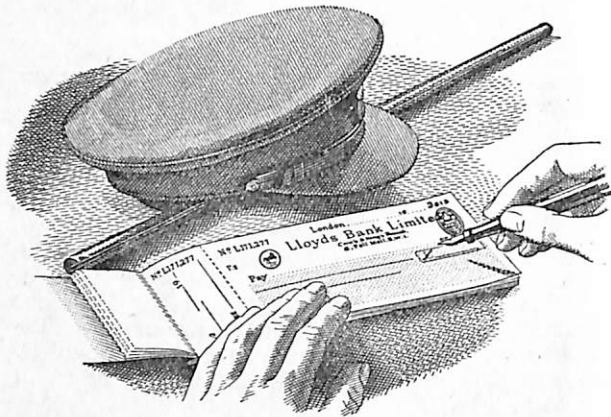
We must say that Cpl. Smith, the Provost Corporal, has done a good job in sprucing up the Drill Hall, and we extend our thanks.

Congratulations are due to our P.S.I., C.S.M. Lamb, on the birth of a daughter.

### "D" COMPANY

The strongest infantry Company, on paper, we are shortly to get together for a weekend at Deer Hill, when we hope to get to know each other better than the normal drill nights allow. This will be the first outdoor activity since last annual camp, when we operated as a Company for a brief fortnight.

In September, P.S.I. Keily was allotted to us, and we were resurrected once more, although



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living parasitically on "H.Q." Company, to whom we are most grateful. Our munificent state of well-being, with a member of the permanent staff looking after us, came to a speedy end when we were sorry to lose P.S.I. Keily to "B" Company. We are now even more grateful to "H.Q." Company, and C.S.M. Lamb in particular, for taking us under their administrative wing.

We congratulate C.S.M. Lamb on the birth of a daughter in January.

By the time the next issue of THE IRON DUKE goes to press we shall perhaps have some more stirring deeds to report.

### "C" COMPANY

We are pleased to report that C.S.M. Dick Bye is now attending the Halifax T.A. Centre after three weeks in hospital, where he underwent an operation.

Until recently we have had little activity at the T.A.C. We are hoping to have some more N.S. men to volunteer for the T.A. in March.

C.S.M. Bye and Cpls. Goodbody and Birkby have been attending the N.C.O.'s cadre at Battalion H.Q., and we hope this will stand them in good stead for the coming training season.

We offer our congratulations to Cpl. Goodbody on his promotion to Sergeant.

### "S" COMPANY

With the spring has come a change in P.S.I.s. We say goodbye to Sgt. Craven, who is on his way to the 1st Battalion, and welcome Sgt. Fogarty, late of the West Yorks, who was latterly a Signals Sergeant, so our communications should be secure.

As 1953 gets under way preparations are afoot for Company schemes and weekend camps, and we are looking forward to good weather and good shooting in 1953.

### M.M.G. PLATOON

Training has proceeded during the winter months on individual drill and theory.

An interesting recruit is Pte. Vanston-Rumney from Eire, who is a keen gunner.

### ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

At last we have received a commander for the Platoon, so long a Cinderella of "S" Company, and we hope 2/Lt. Mortimer will enjoy his stay.

### MORTAR PLATOON

During the past three months training for the Platoon has been carried out in the drill hall. From now onwards, however, we hope the weather clerk will favour us and allow us some outdoor training.

The new 3.5 rocket launcher has proved a welcome addition to the Platoon armament and we hope soon to have some first class bazooka men.

Finally, we extend a hearty welcome to Cpl. Beaumont, one of last year's "Z" men, who has joined us as a T.A. volunteer.

## OBITUARY

### ROLL OF HONOUR

We deeply regret to announce that the following members of the Regiment fell in action with the 1st Battalion in Korea:

December 2, 1952: 22772201 Pte. B. Pickles.

December 20, 1952: 22574357 Pte. R. M. Kirkpatrick.

January 13, 1953: 22305528 Cpl. D. A. Jackson.

We also deeply regret to announce the following deaths:

COL. KENNETH ANDERSON MACLEOD. On February 9, 1953, at 17-18 St. James Place, S.W.1.

Col. Macleod was gazetted to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1890. He served on the staff in the South African War and was severely wounded at Magersfontein. He took part in the operations in the Orange River Colony in the Transvaal and in Cape Colony and was awarded the Queen's Medal with three clasps and the King's Medal with clasp. From 1905 to 1907 he was instructor at the R.M.C. In 1914 he went to France with the 2nd Battalion as 2IC and commanded the Battalion during the retreat after Col. J. A. C. Gibbs was wounded at Mons. In September, 1914, he was invalided home and was appointed Assistant Military Secretary to the Governor of Gibraltar. He later commanded the 3rd Reserve Battalion in North Shields.

Lt.-Col. M. N. Cox, M.C., writes:

"It was with great regret that I learnt of Lt.-Col. Macleod's death on February 9. I was posted to his Company when I joined the 2nd Battalion, on first appointment, at Tidworth in September, 1908, and I had the honour of serving under him for two years. One could not have had a better Company Commander; he encouraged initiative in those under his command. He gave one responsibility right away and a free hand with the training of one's half-company. He was a fine sportsman, very keen on hunting, a good shot, a first-class fisherman and played for the 1st Battalion polo team in Malta. His nickname in the Regiment was 'Chutney,' and he certainly lived up to this. He was immaculate, whether in uniform or mufti, and he expected his subalterns to conform to his pattern.

"When I joined the 2nd Battalion in Dublin in August, 1914, he was 2IC to Col. Gibbs. When we were marching up to the concentration area on the borders of France and Belgium, after detraining at Abbeville, Macleod always got a cheer to himself from the villagers who turned out and lined the route; he certainly was an imposing figure on his good-looking charger. He assumed command of the Battalion after the action at Wasmes, when we were doing rear guard to the 5th Division, and lost in casualties 16 officers and 450 other ranks, amongst others, Col. Gibbs, who was seriously wounded and captured by the Germans.

"His health broke down in September, 1914, when the Battalion, after crossing the River Aisne, was in occupation of Missy, an isolated bridgehead

on the northern bank of the river, and he was invalided to England, Col. Umfreville assuming command of the Battalion.

"After his retirement he lived for many years at the 'Rag,' where he was a well-known figure. Up to his last days he retained his keen interest in the Regiment and seldom missed the Regimental tea and dinner."

FRED HINCHCLIFFE *NOT I.D.*

Died suddenly in Huddersfield Royal Infirmary on January 4, 1953, aged 58. Mr. Hinchcliffe served with the 5th "Dukes" in the First World War and was an active member of the 5th Duke of Wellington's Old Comrades Association, being Chairman at the time of his death.

MAJOR G. H. OLDHAM, T.D. *NOT I.D.*

Died in a nursing home in Leeds on January 6, 1953, at the age of 52. He joined the 5th Duke of Wellington's Regiment at Holmfirth in 1923 and continued his service to the end of the late war, when he transferred to the T.A.R.O.

MAJOR T. G. ROBERTS, M.B.E., D.C.M., T.D. *NOT I.D.*

Died suddenly at Huddersfield on January 9, 1953, aged 69. Enlisting in the Cheshire Regiment before the First World War, Major Roberts served in India, Burma and South Africa before joining the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1914. After service in Calcutta, following the end of the war, he was appointed Quartermaster of the 5th Duke of Wellington's Regiment at Huddersfield in 1923. He retired at the end of the Second World War.

MR. TOM SHARMAN ("Bob") *NOT I.D.*

Mr. Sharman, of 112 Albert View, Pellon, Halifax, died in the Royal Halifax Infirmary on December 14, 1952, after a long illness; he was 59 years of age. The funeral took place at Christ Church, Pellon, Halifax, on December 17, 1952, and was attended by several members of the O.C.A.; a bearer party was furnished by the Regimental Depot.

He served with The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in France and Germany in the First World War, enlisting in 1916 and being discharged at Halifax in 1937. He also served as Cook at the Regimental Depot from 1919 until his discharge, being appointed Cook Sergeant in May, 1923.

After leaving the Service he was employed at the G.P.O., Halifax, until 1950, when he retired on account of illness. He was a life member of the O.C.A.

He leaves a widow and three sons, to whom we extend our sympathy.

MAJOR W. T. WILKINSON, M.C., M.M., in Too-woomba, Queensland, on February 23, 1953.

Major Wilkinson enlisted in the Regiment when



he was eighteen years old and served with the 1st Battalion in Malta, India and South Africa.

Mr. George R. Harrington, of Toowoomba, who notified us of his death, writes as follows:

"On his discharge, he emigrated to Australia, where he again joined the military forces as instructor and later was a member of the first military unit to occupy New Guinea in 1914. On his return he enlisted in the A.I.F. and later became O.C. of the 5th Pioneer Battalion with the rank of Major.

"While serving with the A.I.F. he was awarded the M.C., M.M. and French Croix de Guerre.

"On his return to Australia and his retirement from Army Service, he took up a copra plantation at Malakula in the New Hebrides, from which island he subsequently returned to Australia and became a military instructor at Brisbane—thence to Warwick, from where he subsequently became Area Officer of the Toowoomba Area.

"During his service in Toowoomba he organised and designed the Anzac Day parades, having trained the Grammar School, Downlands College and Christian Brothers College Cadets, and was responsible for the detail of the general Anzac Day parades, including the 'Fade Away of Old Diggers,' during which the torch of service is handed over to the young generation of the services.

"Major Wilkinson was an active member of the Toowoomba Sub-Branch R.S.S.A.I.L.A. and held the position of vice-president and committee-man and also a member of the Western District Council for a number of years.

"For his outstanding services to the League he was awarded the Gold Badge and Certificate of Life Membership."

He retained his interest in the Regiment till the end of his life and only last year sent us a copy of the Anzac Day programme in Toowoomba, when he officiated as Marshal of Parade. He is survived by his widow.

MR. JOHN GIBBENS *NOT I.D.*

The death occurred at Lambeth Hospital recently of Mr. John Gibbens, of 15 Lydden Grove, Wandsworth. He was 66 and a resident of Lydden Grove for 40 years.

Mr. Gibbens served in the first world war with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment until 1918. He was also employed at the motor works of Messrs. Wilson & Sons, in Kingston. Since then he had been working for 13 years as a civil servant for the Army Forms department of the War Office, where he was a packer, and retired at the age of 65.

Mr. E. Clothier, who sent us the above information, writes:

"Mr. Gibbens was very popular in this district and greatly respected by all who knew him. He was invalided home from France in the first world war and received his discharge in 1918. During the blitz both he and his wife were blown up and Mrs. Gibbens received severe injuries to her legs. He is survived by his widow and one son who works in the same department of the War Office as did his father."

## PERSONALIA

### APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier C. W. B. Orr, O.B.E., has been appointed to command the 129 Inf. Bde. (Oxford).

Lt.-Col. D. J. Strangeways, D.S.O., O.B.E., has been appointed to command the 5th Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment. Lt.-Col. W. R. Waller, O.B.E., M.C., has been appointed to the School of Amphibious Warfare as A.A. & Q.M.G. We

offer them our congratulations. Congratulations also to Capt. R. H. D. Bolton who has been selected for duty in the Abbey at the Coronation as Commander of the Gold Staff Officers.

And to Lt. D. W. Shuttleworth on being selected to play for the English Rugby XV against Scotland.

\* \* \* \*

Capt. J. Bond writes from Christchurch, New Zealand on his 85th birthday. He recalls that his parents were contemporaries of Mrs. Henderson, whose death recently occurred at the great age of 101. At the time of his birth in Karachi his father was away in Abyssinia, his company commander being a young officer, recently joined, by name Ensign Cecil Conor.

\* \* \* \*

The following have been selected from the 1st Battalion to carry the Colours at the Coronation:

Capt. S. G. Dunn, Sempstead, Sussex; Lt. D. L. Borwell, Albertsville, France; C.S.M. R. M. Cunningham, Berkshire; C/Sgt. A. Preston, Chichester; Sgt. R. Morrow, Blackhall Colliery, Durham; Sgt. M. Swales, Union Street, Scarborough; Cpl. C. Newton, Cary Road, Sheffield;

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\* \* \* \*

Maj.-Gen. W. M. Ozanne writes:

"In 1951-52 I was raising, and was to captain, the British Seniors Golf Team to take on the American and Canadian Seniors in a triangular golf match in Bermuda. This tour had to be cancelled for the time being, but it materialised in January this year under the same arrangements. The Americans, with a very hot side, won; we were second and the Canadians third. We had a marvellous fifteen days in Bermuda and the hospitality was beyond belief. The Mid Ocean golf

course is a first-class one and a real test for the Tigers. We travelled out by air and unexpectedly saw half the world by so doing. Owing to fog, technical troubles, etc., we went out via Iceland and Newfoundland and came home via New York and Montreal. The latter was unexpected and most enjoyable, particularly as I spent three days in New York as a guest to one of the American side (their president) and 24 hours in Montreal as guest of the B.O.A.C. The tour was a great social success. We got on like wild-fire with the Americans and Canadians and there was not an ill word or unfortunate incident throughout. This speaks volumes for the tour, run on an international basis as it was."

## C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

The following letter from Mr. H. Hagger, D.C.M., M.M. (late D.W.R.), sent to us by Mr. H. Clothier, gives a graphic picture of the suddenness and overwhelming power of the floods on the east coast. On behalf of our readers we offer Mr. and Mrs. Hagger congratulations on their miraculous escape and our sympathy in the loss of all their possessions. A more recent letter from Mr. Hagger says that Sir Stephen Green, of Ken Hill, Snettisham, hearing that he was an old "Duke" has given him a cottage in Heacham.

*February 10, 1953.*

DEAR CHUM,

I am so pleased to say that God kept us safe. I am sorry to have not written before, but we have had a terrible time. We had just had our tea when the terrible storm broke on us. The bungalows in front of us just disappeared. Our place was built on a big boat, but the force of the water carried us 200 yards on the waves until we landed on high ground. We were in the place all night, which listed over to 45 degrees. We were rescued about 10.30 a.m. next morning. We have lost everything we had. Everyone says it was a miracle. My wife and dog both kept their heads and took orders from me. At one time we were up to our necks in water, but—thank God—it gradually went. The Heacham people have been wonderful and we are in good hands in this house, which belongs to an old 1914-18 man. The Council hope to get us a house soon. We are so pleased to be alive. My dog was wonderful; she showed us the way out at daybreak. Tell the boys I am safe. Goodbye now, and God bless you all.

"OGGIE."

(The Old "Duke" made it.)

H. HAGGER.

"Tryella,"

Heacham,

King's Lynn, Norfolk.

The Editor,

THE IRON DUKE.

DEAR SIR,

I was gazetted to the Regiment only last month and on first picking up a copy of THE IRON DUKE I was most interested to see that you were publishing in instalments the diary of Lt. William Thain. I take rather an interest in military biography and it occurred to me that I might be able to give readers some information on his subsequent career and on his rather tragic death.

William Thain was an interesting figure. Commissioned into the 33rd in May, 1813, he held the adjutancy of the regiment for over 11 years. When he relinquished the appointment in July, 1826, he was then a Captain, having been promoted to Lieutenant in the summer of 1815 and to Captain in March, 1825. He had served with the regiment in Holland in 1813 and 1814 and with it, as adjutant, in the Waterloo campaign of 1815, in which he was wounded. In the autumn of 1839, being then nearly at the top of the Captains' list in the 33rd, he exchanged, as Captain, for reasons I have not yet been able to discover, into the 21st Royal North British Fusiliers (now Royal Scots Fusiliers) and, in accordance with the custom of the day, found himself the junior Captain on the regimental list of that regiment. This was, of course, a rather serious step to take, for it postponed his promotion to a regimental majority indefinitely and, after 26 years' service, it was quite time that he did attain that rank. It would be interesting to know the reason which prompted his transfer. He was, however, a Major in the Army, as opposed to his Regiment, since he had been given the brevet of Major in the summer of 1838.

At the time of his transfer he was employed on the staff of one of the Queen's (as apart from the Company's) Major-Generals in the Bengal Presi-

*February 23, 1953.*

dency of India, and it is here, at this point, that his story becomes of more interest to the Regimental historian. In 1840, Major-General William Keith-Elphinstone, C.B., went out to take up the appointment of Major-General in the Bengal Presidency. He chose William Thain as his *aide-de-camp*, a position which Thain had held under the General's immediate predecessor.

Under the date December 19, 1813, Thain notes in his diary: ". . . Lieutenant Colonel Elphinstone joined and took command of the regiment." Seventeen months later he became the latter's Adjutant. The intimate connection was re-established in 1840, when the Lt.-Col. of 1815 became the G.O.C. and the erstwhile Adjutant became his *aide-de-camp*. An interesting link on any count, it becomes doubly so when, in 1840, Thain followed his General to Cabool.

In October, 1841, there broke out in that city the rising which was to end, but a few months later, in the utter destruction of the army under Elphinstone's command, amid the rocky, ice-bound defiles of the Khyber Pass. Amid so much that was

despicable and pusillanimous, William Thain's conduct shines forth like a guiding beacon. A tribute to his memory is given by Lt. (later Major-General Sir) Vincent Eyre, one of the few survivors of the Cabool force, in his "Memorials of an Afghanistan Prisoner," published by John Murray in 1843. I quote from memory: "Few men, if any, have ever borne so conspicuously the qualities of the good soldier and the good man, as did the gallant Major Thain, A.D.C., of Her Majesty's 21st Fusiliers." From the outbreak of the rebellion until the last scenes in the Khyber Pass, Thain upheld both his own personal honour and that of the corps from which he sprung. We do well to remember his memory in the old 33rd.

I venture to hope that the above has been of some interest, particularly to those who have been following up the diary.

Yours faithfully,

J. W. HAYES (2/Lt., 1st D.W.R.).

Yorks & Northumberland Brigade Depot,  
Imphal Barracks, York.

## Winter Clothing in Korea

BY MAJOR R. E. AUSTIN

I have been invited by the Editor to give readers of THE IRON DUKE a brief description of the cold weather clothing provided for British troops in Korea. I think the best way of tackling the subject is to start from the bottom and work from the inside to the out.

The cold in Korea is far greater than anything any of us have ever experienced in the British Isles, but the main cause of discomfort is not so much the lowness of the temperature as the biting winds. These cause physical pain to the extremities of the body: the hands, ears, nose and feet. Provided these can be kept at a reasonable temperature no very great discomfort is experienced.

The first item of clothing which we will touch on are the heavy woollen white socks, of which every man is issued with six pairs. They are much thicker than the normal Army grey socks, and two pairs are always worn. They are unshrinkable and large enough to allow the toes to be wriggled about, thus ensuring circulation of the blood.

On top of these socks we wear a pair of heavy black leather boots with  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. moulded rubber soles. The boots have a reinforced metal toecap so that they cannot become distorted, and allow free movement of the feet. These boots are worn one size larger than normal, and are fitted with a removable plastic insole strongly resembling loofah. This insole affords insulation and ventilation by allowing a layer of warm air to circulate under the stockinged feet. So much for footwear.

The following are the items of underclothing issued. The first item is long cotton-knitted fabric white pants resembling pyjama trousers (called by everyone out here "Long Johns"). They are kept up by an elastic waistband and form the first layer of the cold climate range of clothing for the lower body.

For the upper body we are issued with string vests crocheted from the pre-war type of dishcloth string. This vest provides excellent insulation by maintaining an uncrushable layer of air next to the skin. It is not as uncomfortable as it sounds and is a most efficacious garment.

Inner trousers of dark green heavy knitted woollen fleece are also issued as the main insulating layer of clothing for the lower body. But I think it is correct to say that most of us have not found it cold enough to need to wear them, except when going out on night standing and ambush patrols lasting some hours.

Over these are worn jungle-green combat trousers of windproof and water-repellent cotton gaberdine which are reinforced with a double thickness of material at the seat and knees. They have one waist button and a front zip fastener. These combat trousers are kept in place at the ankle by gaiters or puttees.

For the upper body a thick flannel khaki shirt is worn over the string vest and this, worn beneath a

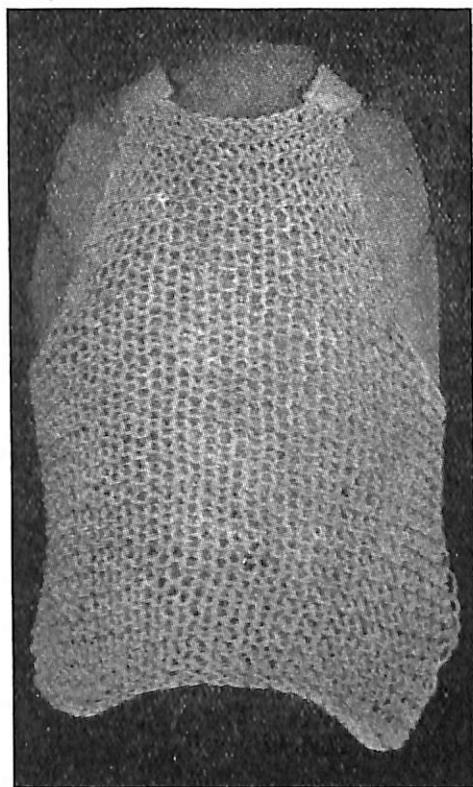
*Continued on page 65*



**"MAN AGAINST THE ELEMENTS"**



**THE MIDDLE PARKA**



**STRING VEST**



**THE COMBAT SUIT (WITH HOOD UP)**

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

### Citations

*Her Majesty The Queen has been most graciously pleased to approve the immediate award of the Military Cross to the following officers of the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment*

#### LIEUTENANT RODNEY MALCOLM HARMS

On the morning of Jan. 24, 1953, Lt. Harms was in command of a raiding party with the special mission of destroying an enemy strong-point that was being extensively developed in the enemy's defensive position. In daylight, under artillery preparation, he led his raiding party of two officers and 15 other ranks across the 1,000 yards of No Man's Land on to a spur of ground between two strongly fortified Chinese localities. When only 20 yards from the objective he disposed his covering force to enable the assault party to deal with the tunnel and trenches. Whilst the assault was in progress a Chinese officer, armed with a machine-gun, appeared unexpectedly from a trench and was killed by Lt. Harms with a grenade. Meanwhile, shells and mortar bombs were falling round the position.

Disregarding his own safety, Lt. Harms moved among the men giving encouragement and instilling confidence. When the tunnel and strong-point, together with its occupants, had been destroyed he collected his force and led them back, bringing with him the dead Chinese officer on whom were found documents of military value. Throughout the action he sent back on his wireless a flow of information which enabled the Commanding Officer to keep in touch with the battle, and to adjust the supporting fire accordingly. The raid was entirely successful, killing about ten Chinamen, and no casualties were incurred by the raiding party. During the whole operation Lt. Harms displayed initiative and leadership of the highest order, whilst his courage and coolness were outstanding.



#### SECOND-LIEUTENANT PATRICK IAN ORR

In December, 1952, 2/Lt. Orr carried out a very bold reconnaissance behind the enemy lines. It was necessary for him to move out and back across No Man's Land and between strongly defended enemy localities in darkness and, having reached his point of vantage, to remain motionless during the hours of daylight. This he did, although the temperature never rose above freezing point. In spite of the intense cold and in spite of finding himself, when daylight came, within 20 yards of a Chinese sentry, he was able to bring back information which subsequently enabled plans to be made for several successful operations against objectives in rear of the enemy front line positions.

About two weeks later, acting on this information, he led a fighting patrol in a night attack against a tunnel which the enemy were known to be preparing for occupation. Unfortunately the patrol was observed and on reaching the tunnel they saw the enemy in flight. Nevertheless, much useful information about the tunnel itself and the surrounding defences was obtained.

As a result of these two excellent patrols it was possible to plan, in detail, a second attack.

Accordingly, on January 24, 1953, a raiding party was sent out in daylight. 2/Lt. Orr was in command of the assault group whose task it was to destroy the tunnel. On approaching the tunnel 2/Lt. Orr heard excited Chinese voices and firing which indicated that the alarm had been given. Nevertheless, he boldly ran forward and placed himself in front of the entrance from where he could effectively throw a phosphorous grenade. Whilst in the act of throwing he saw a party of Chinese soldiers and immediately came under sub-machine gun fire. Not being satisfied that his first grenade had landed sufficiently far inside the tunnel, he again rushed forward in front of the entrance and threw another grenade. As the machine gun fire still continued he hurled grenades into the tunnel until the enemy was silenced. He then called forward a member of his group who blew up the tunnel with a prepared explosive charge. By his bravery and complete disregard for his own personal safety 2/Lt. Orr was able to silence the enemy opposition, thus allowing the tunnel to be destroyed and ensuring the complete success of the mission.



Lieutenant R. M. Harms (left) and Second-Lieutenant P. I. Orr

## WINTER CLOTHING IN KOREA

*Continued from page 62*

long-sleeved thick woollen jersey pullover, with drawstrings at the neck is our normal everyday dress.

There is, however, an additional outer garment called a combat jacket made of the same material as the combat trousers. It is of double lining throughout and is reinforced at the elbows. It is fitted with draw cords at the waist and bottom hem and is fastened up by the front from bottom to neck by a zip fastener over which there is a buttonable flap. It resembles the pre-war high necked service dress jacket in that it has breast and lower pockets. For cold weather there is an attachable hood which is buttoned on to the shoulder strap buttons and to the middle of the back of the neck. Draw cords close the hood round the face.

For the protection of the hands thick woollen wristlet mittens covering half the forearm are issued to be pulled on over the shirt cuff. These protect the arteries in the wrist against cold—a most important factor in keeping the hands warm. Over these mittens we wear three-compartment woollen gloves: one for the thumb, one for the trigger finger, and one for the remaining fingers, while above these are worn leather gloves of two compartments, one for the thumb and one for the fingers, which have a canvas gauntlet with a strap for tightening at the wrist.

The final item of clothing is the outer garment of all, known as the middle parka, which is designed for wear over the combat jacket in extreme cold. It is made of windproof jungle-green cotton gaberdine and lined throughout with wool pile. It has an attached hood, the front cowl of which has malleable wire round its outer edge which by bending allows the front opening of the hood to be

adjusted to give protection against wind from any direction. There is a draw cord on the inside of the parka at the waist and it is fastened by a zip from below the waistline to the neck. From the rear it is not unlike an evening dress tail coat to which is attached (though normally buttoned up inside at the back) a crutch strap which passes between the legs and is buttoned up around the waist.

Illustrations showing the combat smock and the middle parka are shown with this article, while other snapshots in Battalion notes show other forms of daily dress.

The normal headgear in the Battalion is the blue beret, but trials have been carried out with two types of canvas headdress called combat caps and ski caps. These are both somewhat similar to the well-known Afrika Korps type headgear with the inclusion in both cases of ear flaps for ear protection. Illustrations of both will appear in the next issue of THE IRON DUKE.

There is no doubt that this clothing is quite first class and adequate for the job, provided that everyone knows how to wear it. The only criticism that can be levelled against it is that the cotton gaberdine material of the combat jackets and trousers is fragile and easily tearable, and it does, under front line treatment, tend to get dirty very quickly.

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TRADING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

## Korea Comforts Fund D.W.R.

Gifts to the Korea Comforts Fund acknowledged in the January, 1953, issue of THE IRON DUKE were those received up to December 8, 1952. It is regretted that a donation kindly sent by Brigadier J. C. Burnett, D.S.O., was not included in this list.

The chairman and committee wish to extend their warmest thanks to the donors of further gifts to the fund, received between December 8, 1952, and March 3, 1953.

### (a) Gifts in kind:

Halifax Branch, Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association (Mr. T. McMahon): Two parcels containing soap, razor blades and other comforts.

Col. R. G. Turner: Magazines.

### (b) Donations:

	£	s.	d.
O.C. 578th (5th D.W.R.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., T.A. (proceeds of dances)	25	0	0
O.C. 7th D.W.R., T.A. (proceeds of dances)	31	11	3
Craven District Branch, D. of W. Regimental Association (per Lt.-Col. H. Dixon to complete £150)	14	4	0
Halifax Table Tennis League	4	4	0
Halifax Scouts		10	0
Halifax C. of E. Men's Society	1	0	0
Claremont School (per Lt.-Col. J. H. Dalrymple, O.B.E.)	5	10	0

### (c) Individual donations totalling £52 15s. 0d. from the following:

Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Aykroyd, Mr. and Mrs. Dryden Brook, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Cameron, Major A. S. Carlyon, Lt.-Col. J. Chatterton, Mr. and Mrs. K. S. Dick, Major-General and Mrs. K. G. Exham, Mrs. A. D. Firth, Mr. J. Fort, Capt. H. Middleton Hands, Lt.-Col. E. M. Huncriss, Capt. W. R. Huxtable, Major and Mrs. C. J. Maclaren, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. D. Paton, Lt.-Col. F. G. Peake, Mrs. A. E. Willson Pepper, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ramsden, Lt.-Col. A. E. H. Sayers, Mrs. L. Shires, Mr. D. G. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith, Mr. G. R. Snowden, Mrs. Waterhouse, Mr. J. Yaxley.

(d) Sums raised at weekly dances held at the Depot by R.S.M. C. Kenchington, M.B.E., and Mr. F. Ashton-Jones: £69 15s. 10d.

## For Your Diary

May 16. The London Branch O.C.A. Dinner at the Lord Raglan, St. Martin's Le Grand.

September 26. Halifax O.C.A. Dinner in the New Gym. Tickets 7s. 6d. each.

May 28. Copy for the July number of THE IRON DUKE.

# Regimental Museum

The Museum Committee have much pleasure in acknowledging receipt of the following articles kindly given or lent to the Museum since June, 1951, and wish to express their thanks to the donors for their kind assistance

## MRS. I. CROKER-FOX

332. One helmet plate, D.W.R., 1897.  
 333. Full dress sword belt with slings.  
 334. An officer's full dress sash.  
*All the property of Capt. F. H. A. Swanson, D.W.R. Died at Maritzberg, January 23, 1897, of fever contracted on active service in Mashonaland at the age of 32.*

☆

## LT.-COL. R. M. TIDMARSH, Late D.W.R.

335. Commissions of the donor's father, F. J. Tidmarsh, Esq., as Ensign, Lieutenant and Captain in the 33rd Regiment, dated respectively June 14, 1864, June 29, 1866, September 24, 1873, and as Adjutant, Volunteer Forces, July 31, 1878.  
 336. The Abyssinia Medal of F. J. Tidmarsh, Esq.

☆

## MRS. F. HOWARTH

337. The Military Medal. The 1914-15 Star. The General Service Medal, 1914-1918. The Allied Victory Medal, 1914-1919.  
*Medals of her husband, No. 201687 Pte. F. Howarth, West Riding Regiment (deceased).*

☆

## MR. E. JACKMAN, B.E.M.

338. Facsimile of reprint of Cromwell's "Soldier's Pocket Bible," published in 1895.

☆

## MRS. R. TRAVERS

*Widow of Major H. E. Travers, D.W.R., killed in action, August 7, 1915.*

339. Full dress tunic, D.W.R.  
 340. Scarlet mess jacket, D.W.R.  
 341. Scarlet mess jacket.  
 342. Blue frock coat.  
 343. Blue patrol jacket.  
 344. Blue pantaloons.  
 345. Four pairs of strapped overalls.  
 346. Full dress sash, officers'.  
 347. Full dress sword belt with slings and sword knot.  
 348. Pair of patent leather wellingtons with trees.  
 349. Pair of box spurs.  
 350. Cane, embossed crest.  
 351. Blue flannel bag for full dress scabbard.  
 352. Infantry officer's sword, hawkes, Edward VIIth, No. 6124, with leather sword knot, leather scabbard, and shiny leather bag.  
 353. Sam Browne belt with one shoulder strap and frog.  
 354. Khaki cap, S.D., officer's pattern, 1914.  
 355. Pair of S.D. nickel spurs, Infantry mounted officer's.  
 356. Bandolier, sporting cartridges.  
 357. Patch pocket, 76th Regiment, from blazer.  
 358. Khaki shoulder patch with hook and button holes.  
 359. Writing case, embroidered D.W.R. badge.  
 360. Helmet plate, 1902-1927, West Riding Regiment.  
 361. Pair of collar badges, West Riding Regiment, 1914.  
 362. One Webley Service revolver, No. 10538.  
 363. One leather holster for revolver.  
 Bone and horn whistles for controlling gun dogs.  
 364. One tin helmet case.  
 365. One officer's pattern blue full dress helmet with spike chain and helmet plate, D.W.R.  
 366. One officer's pattern blue peaked forage cap with white cap cover and badge, D.W.R.

☆

## MAJ.-GEN. C. A. HEYDEMAN, C.B., M.C. (Retd.) Late The Queen's Bays.

367. Forage cap, Field Officer's pattern, 1895.  
 368. Tin case for 367.  
*The property of the donor's father, Lt.-Col. H. E. Heydeman, 3rd D.W.R., 1880-1900, who died in January, 1951, aged 97½ years.*

☆

## LT.-COL. W. G. OFFICER Late D.W.R.

369. Set of three leather ammunition pouches used by a German sniper, Cambrai, February, 1918.

## MR. W. GREENWOOD

370. Coloured picture, uniforms about 1885, Field Officer, Officer and Bugler.  
 371. Photograph, c. 1913. 2nd D.W.R. rugby team.  
 372. Photograph, c. 1913. 2nd D.W.R. cricket team.  
 373. Photograph, c. 1913. Officers, 2nd D.W.R., Dublin.  
 374. Photograph, c. 1914. Officers, 2nd D.W.R., Dublin.

☆

## MAJOR T. ST. G. CARROLL Late D.W.R.

375. Full dress tunic—Captain.  
 376. Two pairs parade overalls—blue.  
 377. One pair pantaloons—blue.  
 378. One scarlet mess jacket.  
 379. One full-dress helmet, blue, with spike, no chain or plate.  
 380. One Wolseley helmet.

☆

## MR. FRED SINGLETON and MISS JANET SINGLETON

381. 1914-15 Star, General Service Medal, Victory Medal of their brother, No. 8752 Pte. W. Singleton, 1/4 D.W.R., West Riding Regiment, killed in action, June 4, 1915.  
 Also Crimea Medal of Pte. Singleton's great uncle, F. Singleton, 63rd Regiment, with bars Sebastopol, Inkerman, Balaklava and Alma.

☆

## MRS. J. G. BRENNAN

382. Gurkha knife and other souvenirs from India, brought by her husband, R.S.M. Brennan, late 1st and 4th Battalions, D.W.R.

☆

## MAJOR F. B. MURGATROYD,

*(Late 8th Battalion, D.W.R. (145 Regiment, R.A.C.).*

383. One model Churchill tank.  
 384. One Italian flag.  
 385. One Italian officer's sword.

☆

## MR. R. H. TEMPLE

*(formerly No. 737952 Sgt. R. H. Temple, "D" Company, D.W.R.).*

386. One copy, Sergeants' Mess Rules, c. 1928.  
 387. Souvenir programme of Military Tattoo, Singapore, 1926, in which 2/D.W.R. took a leading part.

☆

## MR. H. A. HAGGER, D.C.M., M.M. Late D.W.R.

388. One scarlet tunic, other ranks pattern, white facings, 1914.  
 389. One Regimental football cap, 1912-13.

☆

## MAJOR A. C. S. SAVORY, D.W.R.

390. Three badges, D.W.R., as used on side drum carriage belts in 1 D.W.R. Discontinued, October, 1951.

☆

## LT.-COL. E. C. BOUTFLOWER, O.B.E.

391. One helmet plate, 76th Regiment, Prussian Infantry, picked up at Sedan in 1874.

☆

## MR. A. E. BEAUMONT

*(Ex-Pte. No. 10418, 1 D.W.R.).*

392. Water colour paintings of the Regimental Colours (two paintings) (both framed), 1 and 2 D.W.R. Painted by Pte. G. Bardot, "D" Company, 1 D.W.R., Ambala, India, 1912.

☆

## COL. N. T. BENTLEY, T.D., R.A.

393. Formation signs:  
 The White Rose of Yorkshire. 49th West Riding Division.  
 The Polar Bear. 49th West Riding and North Midland Division. As worn by 4th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, later 382 Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A. (4 D.W.R.) (T.A.).



# THE LETTERS OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM DANSEY

## 33rd Regiment

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

### PART VI

These final extracts from Captain Dansey's letters cover the period between the conclusion of Peace with the American Colonies (henceforth referred to as the United States) and the departure of the 33rd for Nova Scotia, later in the same year (1783).

The extracts have been augmented by quotations from old letters preserved in a book, which has long been in the possession of the 1st Battalion. From a perusal of these documents (which are originals), it seems clear that some must have at one time been in Captain Dansey's possession. I am unable to say how the 1st Battalion acquired ownership.

From one of these old documents, which are of particular interest in that they provide details of the strength and location of the 33rd during this period, the following details have been extracted:

"Kingsbridge. May 28, 1783.  
33rd Regt. . . 14 officers, 30 Sergeants, 22  
Drummers, 399 rank and  
file."

The senior officers present with the Regiment were: Major William Dansey, Capts. Frederick Cornwallis, Hild Oakes, James Ingram and George Stewart, Ensign and Adjutant John Fox.

Ensign Fox appears to have been in some difficulty concerning the purchase of his Lieutenantcy as is shown in the next letter quoted. The date of the letter is not certain, but it would probably have been written in late June, 1783, the Regiment then being at Flushing:

"I have the honor to enclose to your Lordship an effective Roll and State of the Regiment. You will see 2 Corporals and 25 Privates struck off the Strength by a Genl. Order for not returning from Captivity. I believe I may flatter the 33rd that it is a proportion as small as any Corps in the Service.

"We have been canton'd here since the latter end of May which time has been employ'd, as much as the Weather wou'd permit, in getting ourselves into some kind of Order, tho' no Commanding Officer of the 33rd can expect any Merit, after the distinguish'd Officers who have been at the head of it and the making of it. Yet, My Lord, I trust you will see the traces of their Merits still among those who were educated under them and with their support and afsistance I flatter myself with bringing the Regt. home with some Appearance of what it has been.

"It is incumbent on me to represent to your Lordship, an injustice that will arise to Lt. St. John and Ensn. Fox, by Lt. Fenwick's Commifision being sold at home. Lt. Lockhart is now over both their heads. From unavoidable delays Lt. Kelly's Commifision was not sold 'till the 5th April & by the last Packet I received Lt. Lockhart's Notification of the 29th March. Ensn. Fox has long ago

notified himself to me as a purchaser and had the Vacancy by Lt. Fenwick's Promotion come out, I should have recommended him. He has certainly deserved every Encouragement in the course of this Spring and I am sorry to see a Person over his head.

"In flattering hope of standing well in your Opinion and unwearied attention to deserve it, I remain with the profound Respect,

"My Lord &c &c &c,  
Lord Cornwallis."

The next letter is also written from Flushing and is to Col. Yorke. In it he makes reference to Col. Webster, who commanded the 33rd during the War and was killed at Guildford in 1781. Col. Webster was a first cousin of James Boswell, the famous biographer.

A reference is also made to the 76th Regiment and some drums they had lent or given to the 33rd. This regiment was the 76th (MacDonald's), raised in 1778 for service in America and disbanded in 1784.

"Flushing, July 11th, 1783.

"My Dear Colonel,

"I am happy to find Lord Cornwallis is not gone to India, and by this Packet I have sent him a State of the Regiment. I can with pleasure say we are going on vastly well, and I shall not be afraid or ashamed to shew the 33rd to anybody. The zealous support I meet with from some Officers makes the whole unanimous in our Endeavours to get like ourselves again. I am pleased to find our improvement very conspicuous and that our groundwork is not quite gone and that Lord Cornwallis and Webster are not wore out of the 33rd. After such officers there is no merit to be gained, but I shall be very happy if I bring the Regiment home in such Order as to merit the Approbation of Lord Cornwallis and yourself, and close my Military career of this War with Satisfaction and Afsist you with my most zealous endeavours for the honor and credit of the 33rd.

"I cou'd not help mentioning to Lord Cornwallis chagrin that the risk of Lt. Colonel shou'd stop at me, but I trust that as long as I merit his good Opinion, I may have reason hereafter to be satisfied.

"I dare say you will be pleased to hear that on coming to these Cantonments we establish'd a Regiment Mefs and are living together very comfortably. For that and most other things that are going on well we stand much indebted to Oakes. I need say no more, you know him as well as I do.

"Captn Graham of the 76th applied to me about six Drums received from that Regt by the 33rd which he desires the Colonel may be paid for as have not been return'd in their lofs of Accoutrements at Yorktown. You will have of course have

to certify them lost in the 33rd, to indemnify Lord Cornwallis.

"I was rather disappointed in not having heard from you last packet. Our uncertain Situation about when and how we are to come home is very irksome. Pray don't give up writing to us 'till you hear we are embark'd.

"Ensn Lockhart by purchasing Fenwick's Lieutry at home is got over Lt. St. John and Ensn Fox which I have represented to Lord Cornwallis."

On 22 August, 1783, Dansey writes to his mother from "a Camp on New York" informing her that he is commanding five regiments and that the 33rd is due to proceed to Nova Scotia. From strength returns it would appear that the Regiment was actually stationed at Newtons Creek and that the other Regiments were the 38th, 71st, the King's American Regiment and the Flank Battalion.

The total strength of the command was 59 officers (Dansey being the only Major), 102 Sergeants and 1,528 rank and file (including 238 sick).

"I hope that we may once more happily meet. I am sorry to say that pleasure is made some Months more distant than I was flatter'd with, as the last Packet brought Orders for the 33rd to remain out here in Nova Scotia. Consequently I can't leave it 'till the Lieut.-Colonel comes out or the Regiment is settled in their Quarters, which may not be 'till next Spring: tho' I am not without hope of meeting Colonel Yorke at Halifax. If so I may be home the sooner by it. However, this Circumstance does not make me very uneasy as when I come home I shall be sure of a year or two entirely to myself, which you know is very necessary for the settling of my private Affairs, which have been neglected during the War.

"Certainly most dear Madam I cannot refuse your kind invitation for a few weeks, but I shall settle myself at Brimsop or somewhere, as I hope to have a long stay at Home and in all probability before it will be my turn to come abroad, the Regiment will come home, or perhaps I will alter my future Plan of Life; but that will depend on the dear Partner of my Cares without whose Concurrence and Approbation I shall never decide on anything.

"I think that two Months at farthest will take us away from home and I beg the favor of you still to continue writing 'till you hear from me that I am embarked for England. You may venture to address your next letter to *Nova Scotia*. I am not certain what part the 33rd may go to in that Country but if we don't meet the Officers from England, I shall be the oldest Field Officer of the Regiment going there, which may occasion my being detached to some command. In this Camp I command the first Line of British consisting of five Regiments, by which I get nothing but trouble and the honor, which makes my name very well known in this Army, a thing more flattering than being among the Missions of a Court, and tho' I am overlooked at St. James's and Preferment stop'd at me, the Name of Dansey will remain on the Records and in the minds of this Army among the last who persevered in the Defence of the Honor of our Sovereign and Country and remained

a melancholy Spectator to see it barter'd away by turbulence and Faction to the most ignoble of the Wretches. The State of this once happy Country under their new Rulers is worse than the most violent Rage of War and now the Sword is sheathed Persecutions are begun more inquisitous and horrid than the Inquisitions and they will not only drive the Loyalists away but all peaceable and moderate men.

"I have been in New York some days upon a very interesting Court-Martial, trying people for forging Confrefs Notes to depreciate the Credit of this new Nation. It is expected this will make a noise not only here but in Europe. I believe we shall pass sentence to-day and I shall return to Camp, leaving this letter to go by the first Man of War."

The 1st Battalion book previously mentioned contains a small piece of paper which records some interesting particulars concerning the Court Martial. The President was Lt.-Gen. Campbell and there were no less than fifteen other officers as members of the Court. There were six prisoners and the charge was—

"of having combined and confederated together to counterfeit, utter and pass, or cause to be uttered, certain Bills or Notes issued under the authority of the United States of America signed Robert Norris, an offence against the King's Peace, being wicked, fraudulent and felonious, and of ill example and contrary to the good faith and Law of Nations, as well as the Laws of the United States."

The fate of those Americans (Loyalists) who had fought on the British side during the war was extremely difficult and many fled to Canada. Others tried to settle down in the United States, but their fellow-countrymen did not view this with favour and there was much civil strife.

"Camp at Huntington, Long Island,  
August 30, 1783.

"My Lord,

"I am sorry it is not in my power to give your Lordship a State of the Regiment by this Packet, but just at the time we were settling with the men for their Back Pay and with those entitled to their discharge, I was sent up here with a detachment of the 17th Dragoons, Light Infantry, Grenadiers, and 33rd Regt. and two six pounders, on the inhabitants of this Country assembling in Banditries to rob and plunder the Loyalists. I have fortunately apprehended many of the Gang and drove the Country of the rest, without firing a shot and have got my Prisoners safe on board the Grana Frigate, which was sent purposely to receive them. I have got all the Loyalists with their Effects embarked, and wait only for them to return to the Army.

"This has been a very critical Service and had not I been very cautious and the Troops under my Command in high discipline, I might have re-kindled the Flames of War from the violent disposition of the Inhabitants of this New Nation.

"As the Regiment is to remain in Nova Scotia, I hope to be honor'd with a letter from Your Lord-

## The First Step



ACTING—TEMPORARY—PROBATIONARY—SUPERNUMARY—UNPAID LANCE-CORPORAL BROOM now has a handle to his name

To quote the words of a very highly-placed and famous soldier, who rose from "Private" to the premier rank of "Field-Marshal," the greatest thrill that promotion had brought to him was when he received his first stripe. I have no doubt that many who have subsequently reached high grades of military rank will endorse this opinion.

No longer a mere piece of flotsam, a private at the beck and call of every Tom, Dick, or Harry, in possession of one, two or three stripes, he now has a standing, and is only errand boy or what have you to those senior in rank—that is, of course, if he doesn't see them first. No longer Nobby, Spud, Pedler, Slinker, etc., etc., he now has a handle to his name—and don't you forget it, young fellah me lad. SEE!

I believe he can, perhaps, go as far—mind you, I won't vouch for this—as to call a Sergeant

"Sarg." without being bitten on the spot.

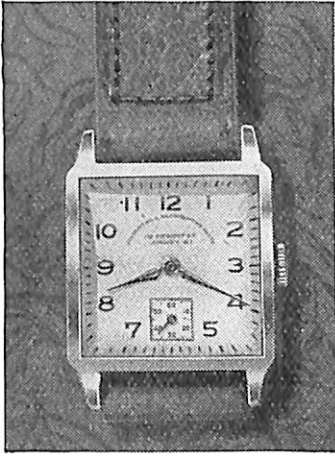
I remember a dear comrade once telling me that the only two things he hated in life were a mad dog and an unpaid Lance Jack. You could and did shoot the mad dog.

I think that opinion was rather unfair. I have met Lance Jacks who otherwise were quite decent chaps and would allow you to buy them beer—no in public, naturally. Besides, every one had a mother. So it all goes to show—What? I dunno.

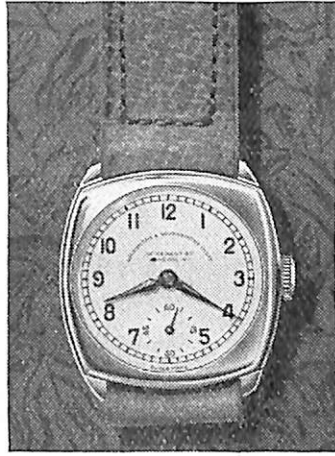
So keep your chins up and your chests out, my budding Field-Marshals. Who was it said Lance Corporals were the backbone of the British Army? Again, I dunno! Oh, the statement had reference to Sergeants! Well, what do you know? Still, what's a couple of stripes between pals, anyhow, and having got the first one—don't get drunk and lose it.

BLOB.

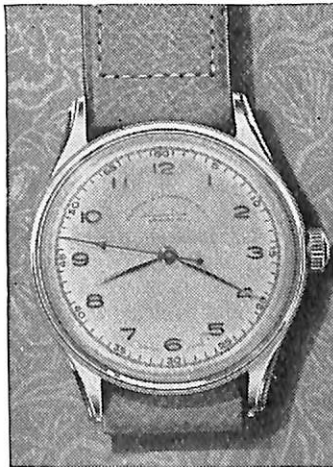
# WATCHES FOR MEN



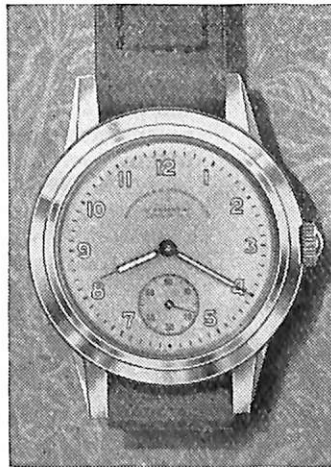
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# A Daylight Raid in Korea

*The following account of a highly successful small action carried out by the Battalion has been written for publication in official military journals.*

*In sober language, it gives a factual account of a raid which was the culmination of a series of reconnaissance patrols, followed by careful and minute planning.*

*It is felt that its inclusion in the "Iron Duke" cannot but thrill the readers, and delight all past and present members of the Regiment.*

R.E.A.

## INTRODUCTION

On January 24, 1953, a patrol consisting of 2 Officers and 15 men of the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, carried out a daylight raid on an enemy post, killing the garrison and destroying the fieldworks.

## GROUND

The outpost Anthony (shown on the attached sketch) is a scrub-covered spur leading down from a ridge line which forms the enemy main position. Flanking this spur are two more enemy outposts, Eden and Patience. Near the foot is a small knoll, behind which the Chinese were constructing a tunnel large enough to house at least 12 men. The approach to this tunnel entailed the traverse

of a valley across half a mile of frozen paddy, followed by a gradual ascent of some 200 yards.

## RECONNAISSANCE

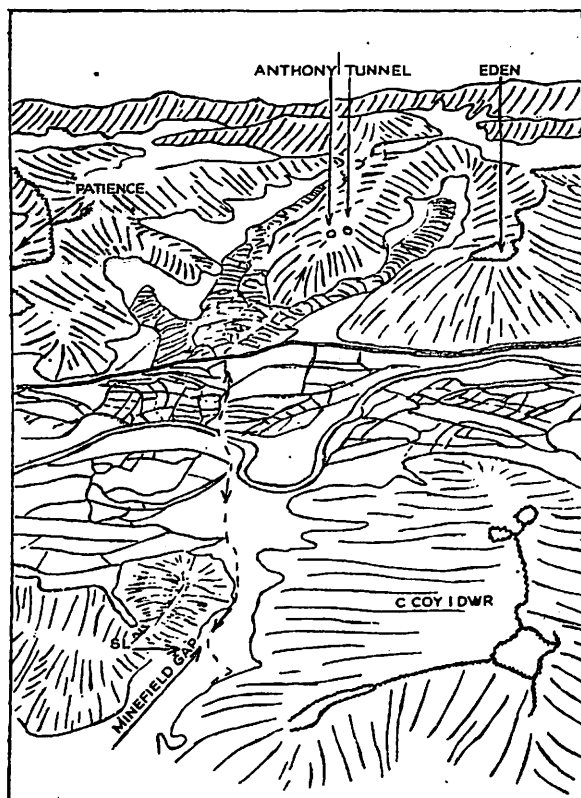
Until December Anthony was thought to be unoccupied. Early in the month, however, digging was heard and a few days later the tunnel was discovered by two men who lay up all day on the spur. On Christmas Eve a fighting patrol was sent out to investigate, but it was seen by the enemy who promptly withdrew. The patrol commander entered the tunnel and was able to bring back useful information about its construction and defences. From then on the Battalion snipers and Company observers maintained a daily watch on the position. It was soon established that the tunnel was in permanent use and the habits, daily routine and even the personalities of its occupants became well known.

## OUTLINE PLAN

In order to achieve surprise it was decided to attack the tunnel by daylight, as for some months previously all activity on the Divisional fronts had taken place at night. The chief problem was how to advance 1,100 yards, demolish the tunnel and then return again, all in full view of the enemy. This, it was decided, could be overcome by starting the attack just as the sun rose, in order to dazzle the Chinese, and also by using artillery, tank and mortar fire to keep the enemy below ground and to increase the blinding effect of the sun by smoke and dust. The advance was timed to start five minutes after the opening of the bombardment. On reaching Anthony a covering force were to occupy the knoll whilst an assault group attacked and demolished the tunnel, then the whole party were to withdraw.

## PREPARATION AND TRAINING

On January 18 the team, including some spare men, were assembled in a Reserve Company area and put into training for the operation. As everyone taking part had been in static positions for some time, fitness training, in the form of road and cross-country work, was given priority. Tactics were carried out on ground similar to Anthony and battle drills were rehearsed until each man knew his role by heart. Other subjects included first aid, stretcher bearing and the identification of



mines and booby traps. The raiding party were divided into a covering force of one officer and ten other ranks and an assault group of one officer and five. The assault group were given special training on a tunnel of identical size built by the Divisional Engineers and a drill was evolved to demolish the tunnel with a 20 lb. satchel charge.

Each evening the Commanding Officer held a planning conference which was attended by the two officers-taking part in the raid, also by snipers and observers who had been keeping watch on the tunnel during the day. A papier-mâché model of Anthony was made by the Battalion Intelligence Section for detailed briefing. Prior to the raid all members of the patrol studied the objective and its approaches from a forward observation post.

#### THE DETAILED PLAN

##### *Infantry:*

- (a) *Timing.* Party to cross start line at 0805 hours.
- (b) *Route.* Direct across valley and on to objective (see attached sketch).
- (c) *Action on objective.* Covering force to establish position of all-round defence on knoll. Assault party to move forward to tunnel, silence opposition from inside with phosphorous grenades, then demolish the tunnel. On completion of task assault party to withdraw, protected and followed by covering force.

##### *Tanks, Artillery and Mortars:*

- (a) Create diversion.
- (b) Blind all known enemy positions with smoke and dust.
- (c) Neutralise enemy in the area of Anthony, Eden and Patience and mortar positions in rear.

##### *Deception:*

To mislead the enemy as to the place and direction of attack certain measures were taken to draw his attention to the opposite flank. These included:—

- (a) The holding of an obvious reconnaissance on D-I;
- (b) Harassing fire and target registration by artillery;
- (c) The laying of a 3-in. mortar smoke screen five minutes before H hour.

##### *Organisation:*

- (a) *Covering Force.*
  - One Officer.
  - One Corporal (2IC).
  - One wireless operator.
  - Two L.M.G. teams (total four men).
  - Two riflemen (one with spare wireless set).
  - Two stretcher men (each with folding "airborne" stretcher).
- (b) *Assault Group.*
  - One Officer.
  - Grenade party (two men).
  - Demolition man, with satchel charge.
  - Protection (two men).

##### *Equipment:*

In view of the importance of speed, equipment was

kept to a minimum. The covering force were armed mainly with rifles or L.M.G.s to provide the long range fire whilst the assault group carried machine carbines for close-quarter fighting. Ammunition taken was sufficient only for a short engagement. Combat uniform with peaked caps, similar to the Chinese pattern, were worn, ammunition and grenades being carried in the pockets.

##### *Medical:*

Each man took with him a vaseline-coated shell dressing for treating phosphorous burns, in addition to the normal field dressing. Some of the party carried leather gauntlets for handling phosphorous cases. The two Officers carried morphine capsules.

##### *Control:*

Control was maintained by wireless from a specially constructed command post manned by the Commanding Officer with the artillery and tank commanders.

##### *Security:*

The operation was given the code name Full-moon and, except for key personnel, all connected with the operation were given to believe that it was to take place by moonlight five days after the actual date selected. The patrol themselves only learnt the time and date during the afternoon prior to the raid.

#### TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

The operation went according to plan. The summary of events was as follows:—

- 0805 hrs. Start line crossed.
- 0812 hrs. Stream crossed.
- 0817 hrs. Party deploying at foot of Anthony.
- 0825 hrs. On knoll.
- 0826 hrs. One enemy seen running into tunnel followed by shouts from within.
- 0827 hrs. Phosphorous grenade thrown into tunnel. Enemy sub-machine gun fired. More phosphorous and H.E. grenades thrown in. Tunnel catches fire.
- 0829 hrs. One enemy appeared on knoll armed with L.M.G. He had been "flushed" from a subsidiary tunnel by the fumes.
- 0830 hrs. Tunnel blown. Large blast with logs hurled 20 ft. into the air.
- 0831 hrs. Assault group withdraw.
- 0835 hrs. Covering force withdraw carrying dead enemy.
- 0848 hrs. Party recross stream.
- 0903 hrs. Through minefield gap.
- 0912 hrs. Arrived back.

##### *Enemy Reactions:*

Enemy reaction was slow and confused. Whilst the party were on the objective a few shots were fired from Patience, and during the withdrawal the enemy put down mortar fire on the approaches to all his outpost positions along a one-mile front. Owing to the smoke, dust and dazzling sun the enemy could at no time bring any aimed fire to bear. It is probable, too, that the shelling severed telephone cable so that headquarters in rear were completely out of touch with the situation. Long

after the raid was over and the smoke had cleared enemy troops were observed manning their positions. This they continued to do for another four hours although subjected to artillery fire. Some retaliation was received during the morning, but it fell many hundred yards away to the right, indicating that the enemy had in fact been misled by the deception plan.

#### INFORMATION GAINED BY THE PATROL

Although no unit identification was obtained, the dead Chinaman turned out from examination of his person and the papers in his pockets, to have been an officer. His diary, and a unit newspaper which he carried, revealed that he belonged to a formation which had only recently arrived opposite the Commonwealth Division.

#### CONCLUSION

Careful reconnaissance, planning, training and rehearsal ensured that the operation was a complete success. The patrol were able to carry out their task and return without a single casualty.

### THE LETTERS OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM DANSEY

*Continued from page 68*

ship by the July Packet, and to hear your Lordship has order'd all the Officers at home out to Halifax, where we expect to meet them to relieve those here, and I hope to see Colonel Yorke. We have every reason to expect such indulgence, who have maintain'd the 33rd a conspicuous Character, and I hope your Lordship will be pleased we were employ'd on his consequential Service.

"I have the honor to be, &c., &c., &c."

"Earl Cornwallis."

By the same post Dansey once again wrote to Colonel Yorke.

"Huntington,  
August 30, 1783.

"My dear Colonel,

"I have a hope that this will not find you in England but if it shou'd I send you a copy of my Letter of this day to Lord Cornwallis to account for the Place of it. You will see the 33rd are employ'd to the last moment. I believe I shall have added to the honor of holding the last Hostile Post, that of leading the last Coloumn that moved into this Country.

"I had the pleasure of yours of May 29th by the last Packet. As you know the disagreeable Orders that Packet brought out, I can have very little to say as there is a pofsibility of our meeting at Halifax; but if by the next Packet I shou'd find I am not to see you 'till Spring, I will write to you very fully.

"By the Order about the three years men we lose two of the Musick. Three are entitled to their discharge, viz., Collier, Lisk and Carey, but the two latter will not enlist again (ungrateful Dogs). So my dear Colonel do enlist two clarinets and what other Musick you think proper, especially a

Horn or two. I never wish to be without a Band as long as I have a Penny to spare and the whole of us here are of that Opinion.

"My dear Colonel, &c., &c., &c.

"Colonel Yorke."

As regards the Order "about three years men." Under special Recruiting Acts of 1778 and 1779 great numbers of men had been enlisted for three years' service. On the notification of Peace hasty and ill-considered orders were issued that all soldiers who had engaged themselves for the three years were at liberty to take their discharge whether they were time-expired or not. Such an abrupt demobilisation scheme had appalling results and Fortescue records that one regiment, for instance, lost 500 men out of a strength of 700.

All men were invited to re-enlist, but as the bounty offered was only a guinea and a half, the "ungrateful dogs" were not attracted.

At the end of 1783 the 33rd sailed for Nova Scotia, where they remained until 1786. There, no doubt, they recovered from the arduous of the War and reverted to the pleasant routine of peacetime soldiering and the activities of its concomitant "paper" War, of which this last extract is probably a fair example:

*Jany. 18th, 1784.*

"The 33rd Regiment was paid for their  
Clothing of.. .. '74

And at			
Cape Fear in	May, '76	was clothed for	'75
Bonham Town	May, '77	" "	'76
Philadelphia	May, '78	" "	'77
Verplanks	Jun., '79	" "	'78
Winsborough	Jan., '81	" "	'79
York Town	Oct., '81	" "	'80
Lancaster	'82	" "	'81 in

which clothing the Regiment went to Halifax, and in Nov., '83 put on Clothing for that year, so '82 remains due to the Regiment."

I hope they received it, for they had certainly earned all that was due to them.

A.C.S.S.

## Retired Officers' Fund

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

*Year ended December, 1952*

	£	s.	d.
<i>Income</i>			
Balance, Credit, brought forward ..	153	3	1
By Subscriptions .. .. .	24	2	6
	<u>£177</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
<i>Expenditure</i>			
Subscription, Officers' Families Fund	3	3	0
Stamp on Order .. .. .			2
P.R.I., Depot, I.D. Production Fund	10	0	0
P.R.I., Depot (Mrs. Herepath) ..	10	0	0
Balance, credit .. .. .	154	2	5
	<u>£177</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>

F. H. FRASER, Brigadier.

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