

No.105 July 1957



THE IRON DUKE

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

THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Magazine of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

*Dettingen
Mysore
Seringsapatam
Ally Ghur
Delhi, 1803
Leswarree
Deig
Corunna
Nive
Peninsula
Waterloo
Alma
Inkerman
Sevastopol
Abyssinia
Relief of Kimberley
Paardeberg
South Africa 1900-02
Mons 1914
Marne 1914, '18*



*Ypres 1914, '15, '17
Hill 60
Somme 1916, '18
Arras 1917, '18
Cambrai 1917, '18
Lys
Piave 1918
Landing at Suvla
Afghanistan 1919
North West Europe
1940, 1944-45
Dunkirk 1940
St Valery-en-Caux
Fontenay-le-Pesnil
Djeboul Bou Aoukaz 1943
Anzio
Monte Ceco
Burma 1942, '43, '44
Sittang 1942
Chindits 1944*

Vol. XXXIII

JULY 1957

No. 105

BUSINESS NOTES

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TEMPLE EWELL,
DOVER.

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WELLESLEY BARRACKS,
HALIFAX.

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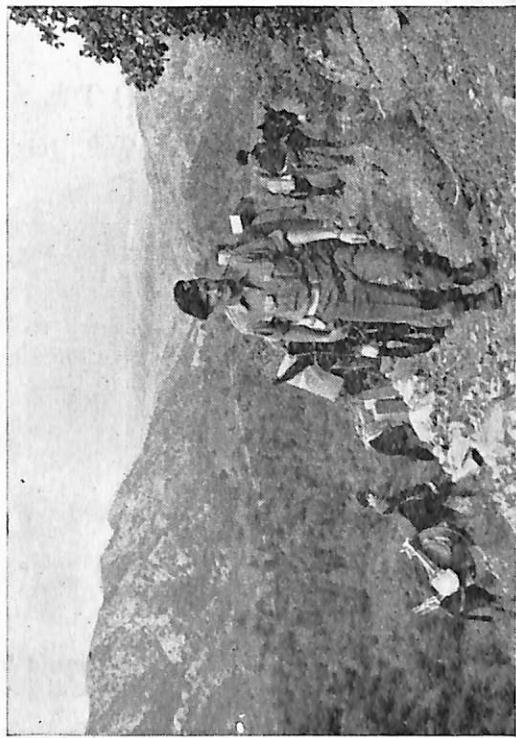
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KYKKO MONASTERY. Bn. Tac. H.Q. was in the "Guest Wing," the building on the right, for just under two months.



'D' Company mule train up Markhaeras Mountains



Captain Hoppe leaving Afxentiou's hide in a hurry.

THE REGIMENT

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GENERAL SIR A. F. PHILIP CHRISTISON, BART., G.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., D.L.

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Regimental H.Q. and Depot, Wellesley Barracks, Halifax	Major D. C. Roberts
5/7th Battalion (T.A.), Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield	Hon. Colonel: Colonel G. B. Howcroft, M.C., T.D., J.P. C.O.: Lieutenant-Colonel J. Davidson

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A.C.F. Contingent, Heckmondwike Grammar School ..	Captain A. M. Hey
Independent A.C.F. Company, Eshton Hall School ..	Captain G. H. Slee

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 CAMPBELL-LAMERTON, M. J., 1 D.W.R.
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 CUMBERLEGE, J. R. P., 1 D.W.R.

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 STEVENS, R. L., *Course for 1 D.W.R.*

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 MILES, D. P., 1 D.W.R.
 CARTER, T. T. T., 1 D.W.R.
 WRIGHT, P. W., 6 K.A.R.
 SUGDEN, T. D., 1 D.W.R.
 BATEY, B. D., *Jamaica Regt.*
 ADDISON, I. A., 1 D.W.R., *att'd. Depot*.
 SHARP, R. J. G., 1 D.W.R.
 CHAFFER, P. C., 2 *Nigerian Regt.*
 CONNOLLY, P. J., 1 D.W.R.
 SHENTON, J. A., 1 D.W.R.

EDITORIAL

The outstanding event of the past quarter has been the resuscitation of the 5th Territorial Battalion and its amalgamation with the 7th. Full details will be found on another page. It is needless to add that the whole regiment will be delighted to see the re-appearance in our midst of this famous battalion, which has always retained in its Officers' Club and its O.C.A. a strong *esprit de corps*.

The new station of the 1st Battalion will be Holywood Barracks, Belfast, not Devonport as forecast in our last number. We believe this is the first time that any of our battalions has been permanently stationed in Northern Ireland, though the 2nd Battalion paid it a short visit while it was at Collinstown during the "troubles."

A very full account of their recent successful operation against the terrorists appears in this number. One likes to think that their prowess in this field has led the authorities to hope that they may be as effective against the I.R.A. as they have been against EOKA.

They are due to arrive in Liverpool in the "Dunera" on September 15. On Thursday, October 3, their rugby team will play a match against Halifax R.F.C. at Ovenden Park, at 17.30 hrs. The annual reunion will take place on the following Saturday, October 5; the programme being as follows:

- 11.00 hrs. Laying up of the old Colours in Halifax Parish Church;
- 17.30 hrs. Annual General Meeting (O.C.A.) at Regimental H.Q.;
- 19.30 hrs. O.C.A. reunion dinner at Regimental H.Q.

* * *

Major C. R. Taylor writes to point out an error in the Sandhurst Roll of Honour: Lt.-Colonel H. T. D. Bridge should have been shown as Lt.-Colonel H. Bridge, T.D. The error occurs in the original script and is not caused by a faulty transcription in THE IRON DUKE.

* * *

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND DIARIES

Cards 15s. 0d. a dozen. They contain a reproduction of the print "The Storming of Seringapatam, May 4, 1799."

Diaries, 5s. 3d. each, post free. The usual A.S.C.B. diary with a regimental section.

These may be obtained from the Administrative Officer, Regimental H.Q.

* * *

The annual Woolwich Tattoo takes place in the Woolwich Stadium from September 11-14, at 7.30 p.m., with a daylight performance at 2.30 p.m. on September 14. Tickets are obtainable from the Tattoo Box Office, 90 New Bond Street, W.1, or the usual ticket agencies. The Tattoo includes the official United Kingdom celebration of the founding

of the first English settlement in Jamestown, Virginia, 350 years ago.

* * *

The Colonel of the Regiment has received a letter from the Chief of Staff, Muscat Armed Forces, pointing out that there are opportunities for officers who have retired, or are on the point of doing so, to continue their military careers in the service of the Sultan of Muscat and Oman. This country, though sovereign and independent, is linked by treaty and many years of mutual goodwill with the United Kingdom. There are three infantry, one artillery and one ancillary unit, all equipped on British Service lines. At present there are two vacancies in the rank of Major, and two more may arise in the autumn. Contracts are for three years, renewable by mutual agreement; pay is comparable with that of the British Army; leave and passages home are on a generous scale.

Further particulars can be obtained from Colonel P. R. M. Waterfield, M.B.E., H.Q. Muscat Armed Forces, Muscat (Persian Gulf), (who will be in England in July and August this year and could interview any applicants) or the Sultanate Agents, Charles Kendall and Partners, Ltd., 7 Albert Court, Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7.

* * *

On June 18 an interesting letter appeared in *The Times* written by Mrs. Hatherell, the wife of Lt.-Colonel W. G. Hatherell, who raised our 11th Battalion in the 1914-18 War. He is now in his 97th year and except for failing eyesight in good health. She believes that his commission, dated October 22, 1881, and signed by Queen Victoria, is the earliest extant. He began his service in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and he and Mrs. Hatherell hope to celebrate their diamond wedding in less than two years' time.

* * *

Notes for the October number of THE IRON DUKE should reach the Editor not later than September 1.

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1st BATTALION

SUB-EDITORIAL

DEAR EDITOR,

Always you are saying to us that the 1st of some specific month is zero day for these notes—always we are needling grey-haired Company Commanders to have their notes in by the 27th of the previous month—always we are thinking there is ample time—and always, just when we think we have Company Commanders with no excuses at all for not writing their notes because we are temporarily static, the “Dukes” move.

Yours sincerely,

SUB-EDITOR.

And what a move this last lark was. It was a sober moment under a tree at the back of the police station at Pano Pannayia, when Colonel Moran, recently returned to the fold, told us that after 9½ weeks spent on well-nigh vertical slopes in the Paphos mountains, we were to go home to Wellesley Camp. It was perforce sober because it was then 9 a.m. The unencumbered with wives sadly shook their heads, mentally bewailing the fact that they would miss those long strides over the mountains and the cosiness of their tents at night, where only moufflon, owls or terrorists make a noise. Those with wives or girl friends forgot their carefully-planned excuses for return to base, such as cess pits, flyproofing, misplaced vertebrae or some errant sub-account, and manfully subdued their glee and looked more than usually intelligent.

Mind you, we should have known—at 10.30 a.m. the same day a report came through that an obscure policeman had seen three high-powered terrorists leaving a village near Pano Pannayia, and we were off again—regiments and battalions, batteries and companies, troops and platoons, drivers and sanitary men, redeployed. First we faced this way and then that and then, remarkably, the other. “A” and “S” Companies sped down the mountain lanes (and it is with a somewhat cynical chuckle we use the word sped) and there we were again, playing ring-a-ring-a-terrorist with 1st A.G.R.A., under whose command we temporarily came. For Battalion H.Q. and all companies, except “S,” who remained in the forest, Pano Pannayia and its environs were a pleasant change from the endless fir trees and almost sheer mountains. Pano Pannayia is mostly limestone country and vineyards, fields of rye and fruit, and nut trees of every description abound. Unfortunately, the cherries are now ripe and the trees, groaning under the weight of luscious-looking cherries, are a desperate temptation. We had no luck at this operation, which was the first time we employed the technique of really systematic searching ground.

The main event in the period covered by these notes was our success on “Whisky Mac.” We will say no more of this as there is a full report of it in this issue. The report is the joint effort of those officers who were in at the kill. The only thing not mentioned in the report is the C.O. standing on the upper track trying to control the spectators from Press and other regiments. If we had charged

an entrance fee, say, 10s. for the grandstand and 5s. for the stands, P.R.I. would have materially benefited. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Cpl. Peter Brown’s parents and fiancée, and if it is any solace the whole Regiment is proud of him.

Ten days back at camp, and then, off again, on what started as “Lucky Dip” and then unaccountably changed to “Lucky Mac.” As the days went by we wondered if we would beat “Lucky Alphonse” of last year, which then held the record for an operation—17 days. When we did we felt tough, when we doubled it, trebled it, and quadrupled it, we just evinced a certain nonchalance at having taken part in the longest operation in the history of this present disturbance.

There is little startling one can say of “Lucky Mac.” Major Davis was C.O. and blandly directed our efforts to catch Grivas. Battalion H.Q. was at Kykko Monastery, a photograph of which, taken from a helicopter, appears in these notes. Company H.Q.s’ locations are graphically described in their notes, as are their activities. We wish we could enlarge generally on the “Dukes” doings on “Lucky Mac,” but in nearly 2½ months of racking our brains how to catch the elusive pimpernel Grivas, and of gazing at these aforementioned slopes and trees, there is so much to say that we cannot generalise, and to go into detail would require a short book. The siege of Millikouri, mentioned in “D” Company’s notes, was quite a thorn in our flesh, but Major Harris and “D” Company benevolently and firmly controlled the life of that village for two months. Perhaps the best comment was from one of the villagers, broadcast by Cyprus Broadcasting Service, when he said that within the bounds of what the soldiers had to do in the course of their duty, they behaved as soldiers always do, kindly, cheerfully and affectionately.

A typical example of the village’s somewhat two-faced reaction to the siege was, firstly, the letter sent to that Makarios, saying how the village, in the midst of peace, was facing a fearsome ordeal for, presumably, the sake of Enosis; secondly, an officer leaving the outskirts of the village in a Land Rover, was stopped by a rope drawn across the road by two small girls, cheerfully demanding chocolate. If this had happened two months ago soldiers would have leapt from the vehicle, guns a-bristle, expecting the worst, but now it had to be explained rather shamefacedly that we were from Battalion HQ. and had no chocolate as Campbell-Lamerton had eaten it all.

Two other incidents in “Lucky Mac” were Operations “Moonlighter,” where certain of us went about the forest in the dark, armed with sticks and staves, the idea being further to prevent terrorist movement by night, and “Invitation Meet,” where each battalion on the operation had companies and batteries from other units to assist flush certain heights. Sweeps were controlled mainly by Lt. Huxtable at the wireless set, who relished, every hour, giving the command “Make Smoke,” so that the C.O. would know where his searchers

had got to. It should be explained that on this operation as well as 3rd Independent Infantry Brigade there were 50th Medium Regiment, R.A., 1st Battalion The South Staffordshire Regiment, 1st Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers, with The Blues, R.A.F. (helicopters and light aircraft), and Searchlights holding the ring. We nearly forgot the people closest to us—7th Company R.A.S.C., who carried us and fed us and never let us down—many personal attachments have been made between ours and theirs.

And so forward, looking to Ireland—our tame Irish Sgt. Dickie cheered us up a lot by saying, when asked what Ireland was like: "Nine months of the year it rains, the remaining three months it drips from the trees." Also, trained as we are in anti-terrorist measures, we feel that if a few copies of THE IRON DUKE were dropped near I.R.A. H.Q. they would fold their tents and silently steal away.

P.S. to Editor:—That's your lot—we are now back at base, sorry, Wellesley Camp, and the fight turns against grass and flies, dust and heat and the oxy birds in our drainage system.

OFFICERS' MESS

Our last notes claimed that the dominant factor in the life of the Mess had been movement. For the greater part of the period covered by these notes we have been static, but not in Nicosia!

After a lengthy stay of about a fortnight in camp, the majority of officers moved out on operations, which have just ended. But during our short respite we were delighted to welcome Colonel George Laing, who paid us a short visit. We wished that he could have stayed longer. Brigadier Bunbury is another very welcome visitor whenever he has time to drop in. Another old "Duke" who has shown his face is the Assistant Chief Commissioner of Police, Robbie Burns, whom many will remember who served in the Battalion during the last war.

A small rear party has been keeping the home fires burning so successfully that one-third of the Mess marquee tents was razed to the ground. Luckily none of our few pieces of silver were involved.

For months now our new Mess of the Nissen hut variety has been under construction and we are to move in shortly. There will be a lot of work for us to do in and around it and the material will have to be found in the time-honoured way. We hope to build a loggia to provide a pleasant sitting-out place in the evenings.

The house-warming party will be a curry lunch, to which officers will be asking their friends and it will be quite informal. Later we shall be able to hold a guest night and we are, therefore, digging out our white Mess kits, for winter has given away to summer since we were last in residence.

The relaxation of the security restrictions has made it possible to walk out without the tedious necessity of carrying a shoulder holster, for which our respective tailors had never catered.

The Nicosia Club has been a most pleasant oasis where officers have been able to swim, play tennis and squash, and where subaltern officers have

brightened the life of the club members, particularly of the female variety.

Roger Sugden, Derek Harris, Dennis Shuttleworth, Edward Dasent and Peter Mitchell have all recently gone on to the "Lodging List" since the arrival of their wives. Having seen them safely installed they promptly abandoned them and escaped to the hills!

During this period Bertie Beuttler has gone home on leave and Hugh Le Messurier has rejoined the Battalion. Jim Newton has left for the U.K. and Derrick Wood is at Bisley; we wish them both success. Edward Dasent is shortly off to the Depot and we hope to see him again soon. We extend a warm welcome to 2 Lts. Charles Ivey, John Greenway, Richard Sharp, James Shenton, Bob Huffam and Pat Connolly. In the case of Bob Callaby it is *ave atque* value—after all-too-short a stay with us he has been unaccountably posted to the Aden Levies.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The writer of these notes sits amidst much mortar, bricks and lumps of Nissen huts, with many mosquitoes having their evening meal, and some sweat on his brow, formed through trying to get enough material to make up our contribution to this edition of the Regimental Magazine. Since our last issue the Battalion has been on I.S. operations practically the whole time and social life in the Mess is restricted to the R & R visits of *combat* members who are supposed to come for a rest.

From a hessian construction we hear that our next station is to be Northern Ireland and already C.S.M. Sheehan has appointed Sgt. Dickie as his Adjutant in the D.W.R. branch of the I.R.A. Maybe Rex Webb will sabotage this by persuading the latter that marriage is a good institution. We all look forward to an Irish wedding and sincerely hope that Rex succeeds. On the subject of marriage we take this opportunity to congratulate Sgt. "Bill" Pounder on his marriage whilst on leave in the U.K. Another happy event was the birth of a son to our present caterer, Sgt. "Duggie" Wood. Our congratulations to you, Duggie, and to your wife.

The Skiffle Club seems to have come to an end with the departure of our muscleman, who has left us for Malaya, where we know he will be as popular as he was with us here. Good luck to you, "Tich," and may we see you again.

We regret to report that our "Tiffy" went to visit the local prison Mess and although he managed to get away he has been almost a sworn teatotalter since! May it not affect his shooting at Bisley this year. The departure to that happy land, roughly north-west of this spot, of C.S.M.s "Nobby" Clark and Alec Munro, gives us cause to congratulate C/Sgts. Sheehan and Batty on their promotion to C.S.M., and Sgts. Pennington and Mountcastle have been elevated to Colour-Sergeant.

One of the first incidents in Tom's career as a C.Q.M.S. was to go on operations and get lost and the following wireless message may have been received with much wonder: "Lost in the Troodos Mountains one Ginger-headed Moular."

The Carmans come, the Carmans go, and we bid farewell to Sgt. Arthur Carman, whom we

have seen little of as he has been with the M.C.E. but did pay us a farewell visit. If any of the recent ex-members fail to recognise the body of a very familiar voice they might blame our dear old Mac, whose weight-lifting antics have really to be seen to be believed. We have not yet seen this but ask Geoff Evans, who owns the voice. There must be something in it because the Mess cook was seen to have his arms in a sling, the cause of injury is said to be the dumbbells.

Hail and farewell to our dear old ex-member, "Cab" Callaby, and may we extend our congratulations to you on receiving your commission. We regard your posting to the Aden Levies as a major tragedy and may we see you again soon, but not in Aden.

The best-looking C.S.M. in "B" Company was a very despondent man recently when, after much "bulling" of boots, he was unable to accompany his dear friend on his lecture tour, the subject of which was "With a Land Rover in the Troodos Mountains."

Our one and only visitor was Mr. Webb, ex-K.O.Y.L.I., who stayed with us whilst visiting his son in the B.M.H., Nicosia.

The writer is exhausted and bids all readers a long farewell until the next issue. And he hopes to beat the notes home. Look out, Sheffield Branch of the O.C.A., we have quite a group of Tykes in the Mess and have sworn on oath to all gang up and pay you a visit. May it happen, and soon.

"A" COMPANY

The report for this period is dominated by two events of major importance to the Company. Most of the time has been spent on operation "Lucky Dip" in the mountains and there have been a large number of appointment changes in the Company.

Major Sugden left at the beginning of the operation to act as 2IC and, on Lt.-Col. Moran's return, as Administrative Officer. Captain Shuttleworth has taken over as Company Commander.

C.S.M. Clark was transferred to "H.Q." Company and from there to the 7th D.W.R. (T.A.) at Huddersfield. This move enabled C/Sgt. Batty to be promoted to W.O.2 and Sgt. Mountcastle to become our new Colour-Sergeant. Whilst wishing the new C.S.M. and C.Q.M.S. every success, it is with regret that we must say good-bye to C.S.M. Clark. He effectively guided the Company during our infant days in Chiseldon and Malta and to maturity in Cyprus.

The position of 2IC has remained vacant, except for a brief visit from Lt. Dasent, whose period in office will be remembered by Company H.Q. as a time for cleaning dixies, white-washing stones and voice procedure lessons. Lt. Dasent will not quickly forget his first day with the Company on "Invitation Meet," nor that one momentous day of order and counter-order when he was required to move the Company from Kykko Monastery. Sgt. Wild is now with No. 2 Platoon, where he has replaced C.Q.M.S. Mountcastle. We hope that he enjoys his stay with the Company. Whilst 2 Lt. Miles was on leave our

new Canadian officer, 2Lt. Ivey, served his apprenticeship with No. 3 Platoon.

No. 1 Platoon will never forget the first platoon base on the river bed. The precipitous sides, down which they slipped on the first day, necessitated a helicopter to extricate their kit on the third day. The C.Q.M.S. will never forget his visit with supplies to No. 1 Platoon on that first day. He got there but, when evening fell, he could not climb out of the valley to return. He thereby achieved fame throughout the Brigade as the missing "red-headed moular." At a somewhat later date, in similar circumstances and in the same valley, our Brigadier emulated the feat.

Who was the private soldier specially selected by the experts for Bisley training in spite of his protests that he had never been better than a 2nd class shot?

The serious business of night ambush, day O.P. and area search continues and in all these we are achieving an efficient technique. We are still hoping for the day when Grivas will walk into an "A" Company ambush. A moonlight patrol has added variety to our nocturnal proceedings and Pte. Kinvig's novel method of departure from a moving Land Rover inspired the cartoon in this issue.

These remarks on operation "Lucky Dip" would not be complete without mentioning the part played by our drivers. The roads are appalling and flanked in most cases by precipitous drops. It is to the credit of L/Cpl. Titherington, Ptes. Beckett, Buckley and Steward, that they have kept their vehicles going and, to this date, driven safely and well.

The Company has provided three of a Battalion party of six who will shoot this year at Bisley. Cpl. Holliday, Ptes. Tyrell and Ware carry our best wishes.

The following have recently been promoted:
To Corporal: L/Cpl. Titherington.
To Lance-Corporal: Ptes. Buglass, Gaukroger, Meltham, McLoughlin and Robins.

ORDER OF BATTLE

Company Commander:
 Captain D. W. Shuttleworth
 C.S.M.: W.O.2 R. S. Batty
 C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. T. Mountcastle
No. 1 Platoon
 Platoon Commander: Lt. J. R. P. Cumberlege
 Platoon Sergeant: Sgt. F. Creighton
No. 2 Platoon
 Platoon Commander: 2 Lt. D. Parnham
 Platoon Sergeant: Sgt. A. Wild
No. 3 Platoon
 Platoon Commander: 2 Lt. D. Miles
 Platoon Sergeant: Sgt. J. G. Simpson

"B" COMPANY

Our last notes closed prior to the operation in which the E.O.K.A. leader, Afxentiou, was killed and his gang captured. No doubt this great event will be fully covered elsewhere. Suffice it to say that No. 4 Platoon and No. 5 Platoon took a hand in the proceedings and Captain Shuttleworth and

Captain Hoppe were in at the kill. The Company Commander was unfortunately quoted in the Press as "Sapper" Shuttleworth, owing to confusion between two gentlemen of the Press in interpreting the term "the last charge."

The first fortnight in March was spent in camp, during which time we said farewell to Captain D. W. Shuttleworth, who has done so much for "B" Company, on his appointment as O.C. "A" Company.

Major H. S. Le Messurier, arriving out from the U.K., had just time to take over before we were off on the operation which has now ended after 11 weeks.

A catalogue of place names is confusing for those who have not been to Cyprus but, in brief, we motored in the dead of night up fiendish mountain roads to cordon and search villages high in the hills. This turned out to be a cover-plan which certainly succeeded in confusing us. Two days later we were off again to an area above the village of Milikouri, where we were to remain for about eight weeks. Platoons were soon at it, ambushing, searching and manning O.P.s in the heavily-forested mountains, and very well they did, too. The weather was the main enemy, with rain persisting well into May, an almost unheard of event in this country. As a result, a rum ration became a fairly frequent event.

Men went back to base in turn for a brief rest and change of diet and weekly runs to the N.A.A.F.I. were made, bringing back necessary comforts, including the C.S.M.'s nightmare "bottle of pop," the nightmare being the subsequent rounding up of "empties."

As the intelligence tide ebbed slowly in and out, we were ordered to move from the Forrest area to the village of Pano Pannayia. The 7th of May dawned dark and cloudy and by the time tents were struck it was pouring. That journey, luckily in 1-ton vehicles, was only twenty odd miles, but took 4½ hours to complete.

Company H.Q., with pick-helves and ball, started the M.C.C. (Milikouri Cricket Club), with such founder members as "Dog-eyed Sykes," since departed on demob, "Sneby Ried," "Fly Fred," the cook, and other characters. The C.S.M. is twelfth man and, to bring in some class, C.Q.M.S. Arundel plays on occasions.

We have suffered some heavy losses through the call of civilian life. Cpls. Kitching and Hill, and Ptes. Mitchell, Galloway, Croft, McDanielson, Witty, Bentley, Millard and the terrible twins, Young and Standing, have all said good-bye. To them all we say thank you for all their hard work and wish them all good fortune. We all miss Sgt. Pratt, who has left No. 4 Platoon to become Officers' Mess Sergeant, and wish him the best of luck in his new appointment.

Then 2 Lt. Greenway arrived to turn Miles's Marauders into Greenway's Gangsters and, very recently, we have been more than glad to receive a first-rate new draft who have very quickly settled in. We congratulate Cpls. Scott, Hargreaves and Cross and L/Cpls. Fisher, Bingley, Proctor and Bowmer on their promotions and Sgt. Pounder

and L/Cpl. Mooney on their recent marriages. Now for a short rest and, we hope, an early return to the mountains.

ORDER OF BATTLE

Company Commander: Major H. S. Le Messurier
 2IC: Captain P. B. L. Hoppe
 C.S.M.: C.S.M. W. Robbins
 C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. A. Arundel
No. 4 Platoon
 Commander: 2 Lt. A. Skinner
 Platoon Sergeant: Sgt. Cleator
No. 5 Platoon
 Commander:
 2 Lt. H. M. P. Miles and 2 Lt. J. Greenway
No. 6 Platoon
 Commander: 2 Lt. T. T. Carter
 Platoon Sergeant: Sgt. Smith

"D" COMPANY

Milikouri—long will that name be remembered. The siege of Milikouri, as some local newspapers described it, lasted for 54 days. During that time Company H.Q. was comfortably established in the school and adjoining buildings, while No. 11 Platoon surreptitiously slipped into the newest and most modern house in the village. Nos. 10 and 12 Platoons were situated outside the village, both about a mile and a half from Company H.Q. Donkeys have been in constant use and no doubt one or two people had their first unofficial riding lessons.

During our stay in Milikouri, we searched, with the help of the police, all houses no less than three times. Great excitement occurred and we really thought we were on to something when No. 12 Platoon found an ancient shotgun and three rounds of nine millimetre. We are sorry to say that this did not lead to any more notable finds. However, the villagers did not seem to take offence at our searching and many parties were enjoyed by both sides. Invitation meets were held between companies of other battalions and many gruelling days were spent in searching the most rugged hills that they could find in their area.

While on this operation Major Harris earned himself the name of "The Muktar of Milikouri" by his habit of marching purposefully up and down the village every day, stick in hand, directing the day's work. 2 Lt. Naylor held a most enjoyable barbecue in his area and many people were seen making their way back to their respective homes rather the worse for wear. We believe that night the sentries had rather a trying time! Up to press this operation, which incidentally is called "Lucky Mac," has been going on for 10 weeks and there seems a chance of it going on for another ten.

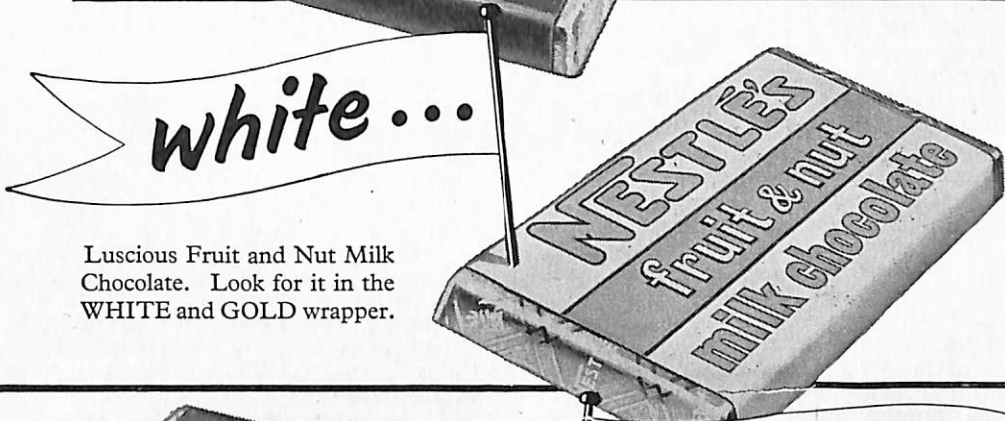
No doubt the greatest success and excitement that we have had, occurred on operation "Whisky Mac," when we were in the Markhaeras Monastery area, past scene of many of our activities. The Company played a leading part in the killing of Afxentiou, No. 2 terrorist, and the capture of four other wanted men. Major Harris was in charge of the operation for the day and successfully the use of

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petrol, explosives and small arms fire brought the operation to a satisfactory conclusion.

Whilst on the same operation we think it ought to be mentioned that No. 11 Platoon, with the S.O.E. Platoon, who were attached to us, were both living somewhat uncomfortably 4,463 ft. up, in what was known to have been Afxentiou's training area. They had the good fortune to find there arms and food caches and we believe quite a party was had on the food, which was reported to be excellent.

To sum up the general activities, we think it would be true to say that we have hardly had a day in camp and have been doing nothing else except I.S. duties in the Troodos mountains. We are sure we can quite safely say that we have learnt a great deal and consider it to be a worthwhile experience and have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Since the last notes there have been the inevitable changes in the Company and we apologise for not being able to mention everyone. We are sorry to lose C.S.M. Wood as 2IC after so short a stay and we wish him the best of luck as M.T.O. Sgt. Evans has also gone and we wish him every success in his new appointment in the Drums. We would like to welcome 2 Lt. R. Huffam, recently arrived from Eaton Hall, Sandhurst, and innumerable courses. Our congratulations to C.S.M. Sheehan, whom we are sorry to lose to "H.Q." Company, and to C.Q.M.S. Pennington on their promotions.

To the many who have left us for the rigours of civilian life, we say good-bye, and to all the new blood we extend a warm welcome.

ORDER OF BATTLE

O.C.: Major D. M. Harris

2IC: Lt. R. J. M. Birch

C.S.M.: W.O.2 W. Burke

C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. P. Pennington
No. 10 Platoon

2 Lt. R. Huffam and Sgt. R. Chilvers
No. 11 Platoon

2 Lt. P. Naylor and Sgt. W. Morris
No. 12 Platoon

2 Lt. D. Sugden and Sgt. R. Fenn

"S" COMPANY

As we go to press we are at last moving back to camp, after a continuous spell in the mountains of nearly 11 weeks on Operation "Lucky Mac." Most of us would prefer to remain in the hills and thus avoid the heat of Nicosia. Though the latter has "attractions" for some not found in the more rugged hills.

We pride ourselves on our name as a hospitable company and we hope to increase this as a result of Major Luce's last R & R visit to Nicosia, when, through an old friend, he secured a number of crates of beer—free!!

We have now attained a liaison of considerable dimensions with 7th Company R.A.S.C. and have been most fortunate in the excellent drivers who lived with us for the last two weeks of the operation.

A word of praise for the C/Sgt. and his staff who managed to produce most excellent curry lunches on Sundays, as a result of which Coy. H.Q. found itself flooded with visitors about lunch time, all of



Drawn by R. Warren

OPERATION "MOONLIGHTER"

To try to surprise the terrorist a mobile patrol is dropped from a moving land-rover. This is one of the more unorthodox methods of exit.

whom had discovered pressing reasons to be present.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the parents and relatives of Ptes. Bullock and Harker, both of whom were accidentally killed on this operation.

3-in. ASSAULT PIONEER MORTARS

It is quite true that "S" Company is continually changing its organisation, but do not be trapped into thinking that the heading of these notes heralds the beginnings of a new platoon with some weird and wonderful organisation. It all comes about because the Mortars and Assault Pioneers are still amalgamated and nobody seemed to know which name to give us. To save honour on all sides it was decided to compromise—hence the 3-in. Assault Pioneer Mortars.

We are still acting as a rifle platoon and, presumably, will do so until either the present trouble stops or when we leave Cyprus.

We have had our exciting moments, which liven up the normal routine. Our three-tonner turned completely over with 20 men in it but, fortunately, we only had one casualty, Cage breaking his ankle. We are glad to hear that he is now up and about again.

Cpl. F. Kelly rejoined us from civilian life as a reservist for some time and we were sorry to see him go. Congratulations to Cpl. Dickinson on reaching full rank; we now have nearly as many N.C.O.s as privates with Cpls. Brown, J. Kelly, Norman and Dickinson and L/Cpls. Charlesworth and Johnson. Lt. Pell rejoined us after being away for nearly a year. Congratulations on his marriage. Ptes. Moss and Brady are now civilians and we all wish them the very best of luck. Unfortunately, we

also lost Pte. Stead, who is now in hospital in England, and we wish him a quick recovery.

Quite a number of us hope to be at the Depot for the O.C.A. dinner, on October 5, and we look forward to seeing many ex-members of both platoons. The Platoon Commander and Sgt. Dickie are going to be the guests of Sgt. Sullivan, now instructing at the Depot. Of course, he doesn't know about the invitation yet—but he will!

MEDIUM MACHINE GUN PLATOON

We are now finishing our tenth week on operation "Lucky Mac." During that time we have moved our position several times.

On July 1 we must say good-bye to Sgt. Houghton, who will be returning to the Depot. We guarantee to give him a tremendous send-off the night before.

Our congratulations to L/Cpl. Pollard and Cpl. Hinchliffe on their new promotions.

L/Cpl. Bower and Pte. Todd are nearing the end of their engagement. Both, however, are positive they'll "sign on" (L/Cpl. Bower, please note).

We feel we must mention our two platoon "chefs"—Ptes. Adamson and Coughlan. They are doing an excellent job and both are now able to boil water successfully.

On the whole the Platoon are enjoying this operation and are not looking forward to drill parades back at camp.

We close now with best wishes for all ex-machine-gunners and a hearty welcome for new ones.

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

The weather in the mountains is wonderful. An assiduous reader of this journal will, no doubt, be heartily tired of reading of the various feats of physical endurance and operational efficiency of the other sub-units of the Battalion. Suffice it to say that we of the Anti-Tank Platoon have done everything that everyone else has, but, despite occasional excitements and alarms, have failed, as yet, in contacting the enemy—but that is lack of luck, not enthusiasm or zeal.

Once again I have to report that we have lost a number of personalities. Cpl. Hill, who suffers from a shoulder complaint; Pte. Muller, having burst his own eardrum with his famous rendition, "Presley" style, of "Hound dog"; and Cpl. Chivers, who finds life more congenial in the orderly room.

Cpl. Lawton is to be congratulated not only on his promotion, but also for being selected to play rigger for the Army in Cyprus.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the tragic deaths of Ptes. Harker and Bullock. Pte. Bullock was one of our carrier drivers when we still had "big guns." To both their families we all send our deepest sympathy.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Many changes have taken place in the hive of industry since our last notes. That old stalwart, C.S.M. Munro, has left to sample the rigours of life at the Depot. He was replaced by that rotund figure, C.S.M. Clark, from "A" Company, but he

shone but briefly in our orbit, for he was soon on his way to that haven of rest, the 7th, at Huddersfield. We almost had C.S.M. Nichols to reign over us in his stead, but I have it on good authority that his physical assets were lacking that majestic girth and so we welcomed, instead, C.S.M. Sheehan, whom we must all congratulate most heartily on his promotion. Long may he be with us.

We welcomed Lt. (Q.M.) Callaby, M.M., for a few days, then he was moved rather swiftly to Aden. We wish him a pleasant stay in that hot spot.

Sgt. Carman came with the last draft from the Depot and has replaced Sgt. Galley as "Sgt. i/c. 'H.Q.' Company in the field." Sgt. Galley is now at H.Q., 3rd Infantry Brigade as Defence Platoon Sergeant and is now settling down for a full tour in Cyprus. Cpl. Hudson has come back after a try at civilian life: intending civilians please note that it isn't all it's cracked up to be in the grey, cold world outside. However, we wish Seymour all the best when he makes his debut in June and L/Cpl. Rainforth, who has already sallied forth.

Since our last notes the Battalion has been out on continuous "Ops." The task of guarding and maintaining Wellesley Camp has fallen upon those who normally belong to the "Protected Classes."

The C.O. has rejoined us from a well-earned leave and I'm sure all ranks are pleased to see him back. We believe he brings tidings dispelling those ugly rumours of disbanding and amalgamation which have been doing the rounds.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the deaths of Cpl. P. Brown and Pte. D. Bullock. Cpl. Brown, of the Regimental Police, was outside the entrance of Afxentiou's "hide" when it was found and he was killed by an untimely burst of automatic fire from the "hide." Pte. Bullock was killed as a result of a traffic accident in the mountains during the present operations. Both were buried in Nicosia Military Cemetery with military funerals and attended by many members of the Regiment, as well as representatives from other units. Both were good and popular soldiers and all ranks send to the parents our deepest sympathy.

ORDER OF BATTLE

Company Commander: Major K. W. Brown
 C.S.M.: C.S.M. P. Sheehan
 C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. J. Waite
 Orderly Sergeant (Bloodhound): Cpl. D. Pinder
 Company Clerk: L/Cpl. E. M. Cox
 Company Storeman: Pte. D. Queenan

SIGNAL PLATOON

Since the last IRON DUKE notes were written we have been occupied on operations almost continuously. The Command vehicle 19 set established a Cyprus all-comers' record when it passed six weeks' continuous running before being retired as a spare set.

The quarter has been enlivened by various incidents. Sgt. Gunn went on leave for a month, to the detriment of the National Savings campaign. Cpl. Senior left the stores and engines for a month to return to England and we would all like to congratulate him and Mrs. Senior on the arrival of a new addition to their family.

During the quarter we have said good-bye to several members of the Platoon, among them Ptes. Depledge and Kershaw. We have been very pleased to welcome Cpl. Hudson back to the Platoon after a long break. Some of our long-term readers may remember him from Korea. Pte. Cairns has also joined us after training with 1st N.F. in Northern Ireland.

Although line communications are not among the more fashionable departments of signalling in Cyprus, they can occupy a large proportion of the waking hours of one man, as Pte. Mallinson will bear witness. He practically declared war on the village of Pano Pannayia after they had cut large pieces out of his line three nights running. L/Cpl. Peel can describe how dangerous an occupation line-laying can be!

AS AR

M.T. PLATOON

Notes under this heading have not appeared since the balmy days of Malta and so, naturally, there is a lot of ground to cover. Fortunately, most of it is now history and so we can come right up to date and talk about things that happened yesterday, like Captain Wood relinquishing command of the M.T. Section to attend the annual Army Meeting at Bisley. We wish him every success and, in his place as M.T.O., welcome Lt. Wood and his dog ("a sort of alsation").

We must also congratulate L/Cpls. Potter, Harker, Mallen, Brown, Morgan and Cottrell and Cpl. Sadler on their respective promotions. We say farewell to Pte. (now Mr.) Platts and wish him all the best in the world outside.

The Battalion has been out on operation "Lucky Mac" since March 16 and shows no sign of returning yet-a-while. In an endeavour to prevent the trucks grinding to a halt we have started a constant turn round of vehicles coming down from the hills for periodic checks and servicing. This involves Sgt. Almond and his R.E.M.E. fitters in a lot of hard work and, so far (fingers crossed), no truck has beaten them.

We are just managing to keep our Section up to strength, thanks to the efforts of 7th Company R.A.S.C., who are training some 3-ton drivers for us, and L/Cpl. Schofield, who is training our Land Rover drivers. L/Cpl. Schofield is also training the Provost Sergeant, Sgt. McKenzie, M.M., who solemnly assures us that though he could drive in 1948, he has now forgotten how it should be done. No comment.

We have trouble with mosquitoes in this glorious Cypriot summer, big ones too. Big enough to necessitate the Tech Staff using a 3-ton camouflage cover as mosquito net!

S.O.E. PLATOON

Our last contribution to THE IRON DUKE was written in Ayros Ioann, whilst we were engaged on operation "Green Dragon."

Our noteworthy feature of that operation was the six-hours' night march to get to the top of Papousa, to lay ambushes in the hope of killing Afxentiou. If only we had known we could have been saved the effort.

As it turned out, it was not long before we were out again on operation "Whisky Mac."

The role of the Platoon was to work with "D" Company, flying-in in the early hours of the morning, to be unceremoniously dropped at the rest house way up in the clouds.

Within hours of our arrival Quilliam had levered out a concealed E.O.K.A. small pack with appropriate contents and a book of E.O.K.A. poems.

This was followed by the arrival of two ex-terrorists, who proceeded to show us and No. 10 Platoon, who were our neighbours, all the caches in the area, which brought in quite a considerable amount of food and explosives.

That night they were pumped for information, some of which gave the lead to the whereabouts of Afxentiou's hide.

The following day was spent busily digging our own terrorist-type hide, with the idea that we would remain behind in it when the Battalion pulled out, in the belief that Afxentiou and his gang would return.

After "Whisky Mac" we spent eight pleasant days near the village of Orga, on the North Coast.

We were unfortunate to get involved in an unpleasant traffic accident, which resulted in six of the Platoon being carried off to hospital.

However, it was not long before they were back, telling us all about the nice nurses and wonderful food and asking when they could go back.

We arrived back from Orga to leave straightaway for operation "Lucky Mac."

It was whilst we were on this that we lost the Drummers, who went back thankfully to do their rightful task.

We spent most of our time in the outbuildings of Kykko Monastery, which turned out to be our most comfortable position whilst on the island.

Under the direction of Cpl. Matthews, a first-class boiler and water tank were concreted in and a luxurious four-man bath-house was made.

We were also fortunate to find a 100-ft.-deep well and actually inveigled the Company Commander to allow himself to be lowered and hauled up. It is enough to say that we needed an eight-man team to bring him up.

Tracker dogs, in the form of Hassan and Pip, came to join us and their respective handlers, L/Cpls. Grimwood and Russell. In addition we received an infantry patrol dog called Nuts (Pte. Horner), primarily for use on ambushes.

They proved to be a very capable team, with Pte. Cooper as its tracker and L/Cpls. Donkersley and Clifton as the two snipers. Kelly completed the team as the wireless operator, although unfortunately he is only on loan to us for operations.

At the time of writing, 2 Lt. Sharp is commanding the Platoon as Lt. D. S. Gilbert-Smith, M.C., is now a member of the staff of the I.S. School, Platres.

Otherwise all the old faithfuls are there. Funny man Clifton, "Poacher" Allatt, "Talker" L/Cpl. Brunning, the Platoon "Jack" Dawson, and Uncle Sgt. Innes and all.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Since our first operation "Golden Rain" the Intelligence Section has learnt and improved a great deal. Our first major lesson was with Cyprus maps; they bear no relationship to the ground, especially the roads. This meant extensive road reconnaissance, in which Sgt. Garrity and Cpl. Bailey must be complimented on their excellent going traces, also the I.O. must be complimented on getting a 24-hr. 10-man pack for six men for one meal!

The I.O. and Cpl. Carter have been trying their hand at interrogating and, we might add, learning the hard way. During one of the Battalion's cordon and searches, we discovered a lone Turkish woman in a Greek village. After interrogation we were told where a shot-gun was hidden. There was great excitement and the suspected house was searched—result NTR. It was only later discovered that the owner of the house we searched had a better business than the son of the Turkish woman!

Cpl. Carter has put in some sterling work during the "Siege of Milikouri" with "D" Company and has certainly improved his Greek.

Congratulations to Bailey and Carter on being promoted to full Corporals.

RUGBY NOTES

Rugby has not flourished since our last report. Almost all our time has been spent in the mountains on various operations. The three games we have played have been at short notice, without team or

fitness training. Hill climbing has never been recognised as the ideal training for rugby!

After some difficulty with fixtures we played the 3rd Grenadier Guards at Nicosia. The opposition was extremely poor and we had no difficulty in scoring 47 points. The game was important as an experiment for we had a completely new left wing pair, composed of Lts. Mitchell and Cumberlege. Lt. Cumberlege, who has never before played rugby, ran extremely well and finished with four tries.

And back to the hills until the day before we were due to meet the Royal Leicesters in the semi-final at Famagusta. The ingredients were there for a keen match. All the old rivalry was apparent, General Kendrew, Brigadier Bunbury, Colonel Laing watching, Lieutenant-Colonel Moran and the C.O. of the Royal Leicesters, Lieutenant-Colonel Nichols, in opposition and, on the day itself, a very large crowd of supporters with the Royal Leicesters' Band playing before the game.

We were, unfortunately, not at full strength in these games, since Lt. Campbell-Lamerton was on leave in Gibraltar. Although Captain Hoppe filled the breach, we missed the extra inches in the line out.

From the beginning it was obvious that the Royal Leicesters intended to drive us into the Mediterranean and were not to be deterred by reputation. A great forward battle developed and it was a close run thing at one time, but, when order and form had been restored, the issue was never in doubt. Once the forwards were on top the three-quarters were able to free themselves from the very close attention of the opposition. When this did happen the result was certain and we eventually won by 22 pts. to 3. On the day three players deserve special mention. Captain Hoppe and Lieutenant Birch were always in the thick of the fight, playing extremely intelligently and L/Cpl. Brown had a very good game as hooker.

And, again, back to the hills until the final against G.H.Q., Episkopi, at Nicosia. The pattern of the game was very similar to that against the Royal Leicesters. The opposition had a strong, robust pack, three-quarters who would tackle, but, as a team, lacked constructive ideas. They gave us a hard game and some uncomfortable moments but they had no answer to the speed of Lt. Dasent and Cpl. Lawton. Again, once the three-quarter line functioned smoothly, the result was certain. The pack weathered the storm after a gruelling time. Nothing has been better this season than the sight of the "Dukes" pack with the ball at its feet. During this game Lt. Gilbert-Smith was at his destructive best and almost obliterated the opposing fly-half.

The cup was presented by General Kendrew and all members of the team received an attractive beer mug.

The following players were selected to play for the Army, Cyprus, against the R.A.F.: Captains Hardy, Shuttleworth and Hoppe, Lt. Gilbert-Smith, Cpl. Lawton and L/Cpl. Brown.

The team for the final v. G.H.Q., Episkopi was: Pte. Hildred, Lt. Dasent, Cpl. Lawton, Lt. Mitchell, Lt. Cumberlege, Captain Hardy, Captain Shuttleworth (capt.), Lt. Gilbert-Smith, 2 Lt. D. Miles, 2 Lt. Skinner, Captain Hoppe, Lt. Birch, Cpl. Connor, L/Cpl. Brown, Cpl. Barron.

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The Story of the Operation Against Afxentiou Group

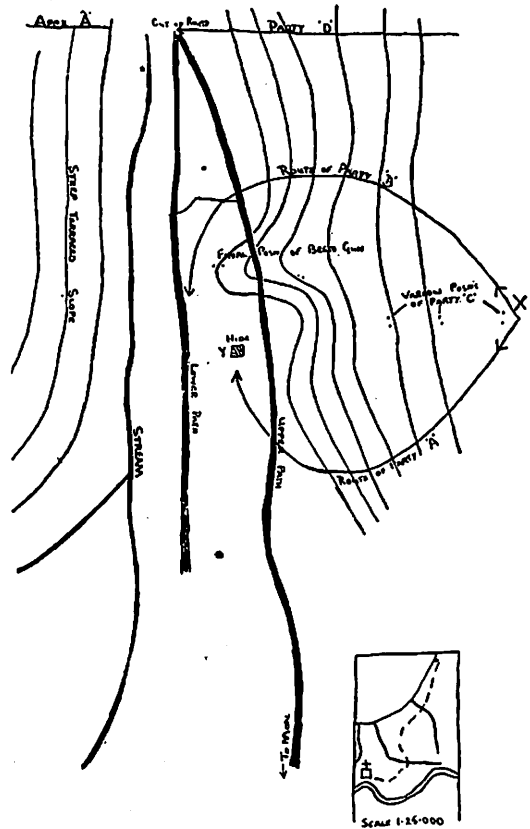
Any account of the discovery of Afxentiou's hide, below the Markhaeras Monastery, on Sunday March 3, and the action which then developed, must logically start some days earlier.

On February 28, No. 11 Platoon and the S.O.E. Platoon, who were under command of "D" Company, were deployed in the vicinity of a Forest Rest House and a nearby deserted cottage, some three miles to the north of, and 2,000 ft. above the Monastery. It was strongly suspected that Afxentiou might have been using these buildings and two informers, one of whom had been a member of Afxentiou's gang before his capture some months previously, were brought from Platres and sent up to the Forest Rest House, where they remained for 24 hours.

Whilst they were there they pointed out caches of ammunition, explosives and food, and, more important, they were questioned in great detail and at great length by the two Platoon Commanders concerned, Lt. D. S. Gilbert-Smith, M.C., and 2 Lt. P. Naylor. In the course of their questioning these two officers discovered that Afxentiou had, in fact, lived in the Forest Rest House for long periods in the past and that on these occasions supplies had been brought up from the Monastery on mules, led by a man named Petros, who was employed there. This information was to prove the lead which finally ended in the killing of Afxentiou.

Petros was arrested on March 1 and sent to H.Q., 3rd Infantry Brigade, for questioning. He produced information which led to the discovery on March 2 of two pistols a short distance outside the Monastery walls and then, at approximately 1630 hrs. on the same day, a signal was received from 3rd Infantry Brigade ordering a snatch party to stand by and that a guide was being brought by road to Battalion H.Q. Captain J. Newton accordingly assembled a small party from Battalion H.Q., which he was preparing to take out himself, when Major Rodick arrived with the guide, who was, in fact, Petros. He said he was willing and able to lead a party to a hide into which Afxentiou and a party of four men had moved, from the Monastery at 2200 hrs. on February 27, and where he thought he still might be.

It at once became apparent that Captain Newton's original party was not sufficiently strong, as it was considered almost certain that Afxentiou would fight if cornered. Command of the operation was therefore given to Major D. M. Harris, in whose company area the hide was said to be located. After careful consideration the Commanding Officer directed that Afxentiou was to be taken at first light on March 3 as he considered an approach march across unknown country with no moon, heavy rain which was then falling, and with a guide whose reliability was an unknown factor, might well fail to reach the correct objective or prove so noisy that the quarry would have time to escape. A further factor was the strong feeling that if Afxentiou was intending to move that night



he would already have done so and that nothing would therefore be lost now by waiting until dawn.

Planning proved extremely difficult as neither Major Harris nor anyone else knew the area in which Petros stated that the hide would be found and Petros himself proved extremely dull and slow-witted, with absolutely no idea of distance or time. In addition he spoke no English so that all questioning had to be done through an interpreter. As an example of the difficulties encountered, Petros stated again and again that the hide was in a small isolated wood. When it was eventually found it was concealed in thick scrub and brushes with not a tree near it.

The following plan was, however, finally produced and agreed by the Commanding Officer. A cut-off party was to move off at 0400 hrs. and take up a position approximately 100 yards north of the hide, covering the track and stream which flowed down from the suspected location of the hide.

This was considered to be the only likely, or indeed practicable, escape route. At 0455 hrs. two snatch parties and two Bren gunners were to move off and approach the hide from the east. At a point some 300 yards from the hide the Bren gunners were to take up positions covering the general area of the hide, while the two snatch parties were to separate and approach the objective in a pincer movement from north and south.

The various parties named above were organised as follows:

- (1) Commander: Major D. M. Harris.
- (2) Party "A" (Snatch Party): Lt. E. J. H. Dasent, Sgt. J. Mounsey (Special Branch, Cyprus Police), Petros (guide), 2 Lt. G. Middleton (R.N.F. interpreter), Cpl. Brown, L/Cpl. Dowall, L/Cpl. Martin.
- (3) Party "B" (Snatch Party): Captain J. M. Newton, Major E. L. Rodick (Com. Intelligence Wing), Inspector W. Sharpe (C.I.D., Cyprus Police), Cpl. Trinder, Pte. Riley, Pte. Bramham.
- (4) Party "C" (Bren Gunners): Lt. C. M. Wood, Pte. Seymour.
- (5) Party "D" (Cut-off Party): 2 Lt. T. D. Sugden and two O.R.s.

In addition, a small party, under R.S.M. Randall, was to move off at first light and take up position on the slopes on the opposite side of the valley, in case anyone should attempt to escape in this direction, and also to observe across the valley and watch for movement. It was felt with a certain degree of confidence that no one would attempt to escape up the valley to the north, as this led back to the Monastery, where Battalion H.Q. was located, or directly into the area occupied by "B" Company. Finally, the Commanding Officer arranged for a helicopter in which were Major Davis and one soldier, to fly over the area at first light to be in position to follow up any breakaway should it occur and, indeed, to attempt to contain it by fire from the air.

Having sent off the cut-off party at 0400 hrs. the main party left "D" Company at 0455 hrs. After an extremely difficult cross-country march over precipitous slopes, point "X" was reached at approximately 0530 hrs., just before first light. From here it was expected that the exact location of the hide would be seen but, owing to the contours of the ground, this was not possible. As the light increased, however, Petros was able to point out the general area of the hide some 300 yards down the slope to the front.

Here parties "A" and "B" separated and the two Bren guns gradually worked their way down the slope, hoping to be able to see the objective. This, in point of fact, we were never able to do. Parties "A" and "B" in the meantime worked round the flanks to the area indicated by Petros. The two parties met at approximately 0600 hrs. and were joined by Major Harris, coming down the slope from the two Bren gun positions. At this point Petros stated that he was unable to point out the exact location of the hide but gave the approximate area (marked "Y" on sketch).

It was therefore decided to search this general area and almost immediately Cpl. Trinder of "B" party noticed a small track running up the hill from the lower path. Cpl. Trinder followed this track and after about 10 yards noticed some footprints. He looked more closely and discovered that some of the branches of the bushes to the right of the path had been tied down to form what looked like an archway about 4 ft. high. He went inside the archway to investigate and then noticed some large

stones lying on the ground. He removed these and disclosed the mouth of a 40-gal. drum lying on its side and buried in the slope of the hill. On looking inside he found a 2-in. mortar wrapped up in brown paper; it was undoubtedly this discovery of Cpl. Trinder's, due to his keen observation and perseverance, that confirmed that terrorists were, or had been, in the immediate area, and led to the next stage, which was the discovery of the hide.

At this time the helicopter was circling the area and this was signalled down and a request sent back for a platoon to cordon off the area while a thorough search was being made.

The time was now approximately 0615 hrs. and Captain Newton, following up the small track from the arms cache, noticed that the ground under his feet was seemingly hollow. He thereupon called up Cpl. Trinder, who confirmed this, and they noticed some unusual-looking stones, which on removal proved to be the entrance to a hide. Captain Newton looked inside and saw some clothing and concluded that the hide was empty. By this time the rest of the party had concentrated at the entrance and voices were suddenly heard from inside the hide.

The interpreter then called to the inmates to come out without arms, and four men crawled out slowly, offering no resistance. The entrance was a tunnel, approximately 18 in. x 18 in. The four who came out were asked how many were inside and they stated five and that Afxentiou was still there. He was called upon to come out and the answer was a burst of fire, which hit Cpl. Brown, who was standing in front of the entrance, and knocked him backwards down the hill, badly wounded. Captain Newton then threw a grenade in the entrance. After the explosion, which was clearly inside the hide by the sound and the fact that smoke came out of the roof, there was a short silence. It was therefore decided to put one of the terrorists already taken prisoner back into the hide to see if Afxentiou was dead, or if wounded bring him out, rather than risk the life of one of our own men.

After this had been done Afxentiou shouted out in English and with great defiance: "Now we are two. Come and get us." He thereupon fired one shot out of the hide. The entrance was kept covered and shortly afterwards a phosphorous grenade was thrown out of the hide. On its explosion fire was immediately opened on the entrance by Major Rodick and Cpl. Trinder and L/Cpl. Martin and this was maintained until the smoke dispersed and it was considered virtually impossible for anyone to have escaped during this time.

At about this time L/Cpl. Dowall attempted to drag Cpl. Brown away from the entrance of the hide, but after moving him a short distance was heavily fired upon and had to abandon the attempt.

The two Bren gunners were now called forward and put into position, approximately 30 to 40 yds. above the hide, covering the entrance.

The following appreciation was made. First, the terrorists already captured stated that Afxentiou had two machine-guns, with a quantity of ammu-

dition, three pistols and a number of bombs in the hide with him. Secondly, previous information, and his present actions, indicated that he was likely to make a suicidal last stand with the object of killing as many as possible. Furthermore, it would have been quite possible for him to throw a grenade just out of the entrance, which would have undoubtedly have caused severe casualties to anyone standing on top of or above the hide, while doing little or no damage to those inside. Thirdly, the hide was surrounded and escape virtually impossible. It was therefore decided that it was an unacceptable risk to remain standing on the roof of the hide (bombs of unknown type within) and the party accordingly withdrew to the upper track, and it was decided that some other means would have to be found to get him out. This decision was confirmed by the Commander, 3rd Infantry Brigade, and the Commanding Officer, who arrived by helicopter at this stage and gave direct orders that Afxentiou was to be killed before any further casualties were suffered. The time was now 0715 hrs.

It was then decided that the two best means of accomplishing this were:

- (a) To burn him out.
- (b) To explode a heavy charge on top of the hide.

Accordingly a request was sent for 50 gal. of petrol and Engineer assistance.

At approximately 0745 hrs. No. 10 Platoon, "D" Company, arrived at the scene and formed an outer cordon, with two additional Bren guns covering the immediate area of the hide. A short lull now occurred, during which a certain number of bushes above the hide were cut down and sporadic firing was kept up in the area of the entrance.

Owing to the fact that the hide was extremely well camouflaged on a steep slope, covered with dense bushes, and that the members of the original party approached from the lower path, it was extremely difficult to locate the exact position of the hide from the upper track, from which operations were being conducted. The approaches from the lower track were covered by fire from the entrance to the hide.

At this point it is desired to point out the extremely difficult nature of the ground on which all features looked the same, and consisted of steep screen and large lumps of thick and identical-looking bushes. In fact, when one of the captured terrorists later volunteered to point out the exact location of the hide from the upper track he was unable to do so accurately.

At approximately 0900 hrs. a mule train arrived carrying 50 gal. of petrol and this was thrown over the suspected area of the hide from the upper path and ignited with the following purposes:

- (a) To burn out the hide and kill Afxentiou.
- (b) If this failed, to clear the immediate area of all bushes and undergrowth with a view to further operations.

Unfortunately, by this time, heavy rain, interspersed with showers of hail had set in, with a result that the bushes failed to burn. Also, owing to the reasons stated above, the petrol was thrown

some few yards to the south of the hide and, therefore failed to have the desired effect of burning Afxentiou out. During the latter stages of this fire a grenade was thrown from the hide.

At approximately 0915 hrs. an Engineer officer, with various explosives, arrived on the scene of the operations. The problem having been explained to him, he decided on the use of 6 lb. of plastic explosive to blow in the roof of the hide. One of the captured terrorists was brought forward but, as previously explained, was unable to point out the position of the hide with the required degree of accuracy. The charge was, therefore, unfortunately exploded some few feet south of the hide and did no damage and, three minutes later, a further grenade was thrown out of the hide.

Prior to this a further demand for petrol and Avgas had been made and, in the interval prior to its arrival, grenades were thrown at the hide and harassing Bren gun fire was maintained.

At about 1200 hrs. the Avgas and additional petrol arrived and this was thrown with great effect by Captain Hoppe onto an area some few yards further north than that previously fired. As soon as the petrol was ignited screams were heard from the hide and a figure was seen to crawl from the exit into a neighbouring clump of bushes. Fire was immediately opened by the four covering Bren guns and all escape routes were covered.

Some few minutes later ammunition was heard exploding inside the hide, followed by an explosion and smoke coming from the area of the hide. It was therefore deduced that the fire had been effective but to make sure it was decided to explode a further charge on top of the hide.

This was done at approximately 1330 hrs. and immediately followed up by a small party armed with Sten guns, under the command of Captain Shuttleworth, who moved down from the path to the hide. Capt. Newton was in this party and was able to point out the entrance to the hide.

A tear-gas bomb was thrown into the hide and, also, shots were fired into the entrance. Remembering at this time that a figure had crawled out of the hide, a search was made of the surrounding area, discovering the terrorist who had been put back into the hide in the initial stages of the operation. He was extremely frightened and shouting: "Do not shoot, I surrender." He also stated that Afxentiou was dead, but to make certain he was put back in the hide and told to pull out Afxentiou's body. This he could not do but provided sufficient evidence to prove that Afxentiou was dead.

Owing to the fact that the hide was still burning and that there were still unaccounted-for bombs inside, it was decided to extinguish the fire, place a cordon round it for the night, and search it thoroughly the following morning.

In the search that took place on March 4 the following items were found and Afxentiou's body was finally recovered in a badly-burned condition.

Two Thompson sub-machine-guns and six magazines (four full and two half-full).

One Brevete automatic pistol and one magazine.

One Bretta automatic pistol and one magazine.

One Smith and Wesson .38 pistol.

Three home-made grenades.
 Rounds: fifty-five .45 mm., nineteen .38 mm.,
 twelve 9 mm.
 One American bayonet.
 One belt with holster and ammunition pouch.
 Two pairs binoculars.

Two spent .45 mm. rounds.
 .Head, body, fins 2-in. Hemor bomb (exploded).
 One dental plate (B.M.H.).
 Items of clothing.
 One small notebook and various torn scraps of
 paper.

REGIMENTAL H.Q. and DEPOT

SUB-EDITORIAL

It seems very unwise to make optimistic remarks about the weather. Our notes a year ago alluded to the prospect of a good summer, and we never had one. Shirt-sleeve order was worn for about four days and was then abandoned as everyone came out in "goose pimples"!

Our annual inspection in February now seems a long time ago, but the report had not arrived when our last notes went to press, and we are glad to record that it was a good one.

We were somewhat hurt a short time ago to hear that Mr. Craddock, M.P., referred to the barracks as a "beastly place." For some reason or other it has become a sort of "Aunty Sally" for politicians, but the Press rallied round strongly and produced a very good rebuttal. One assumes that his remarks were based on a visit he paid in September, 1955, when he announced that the only criticism he had was the drabness of the paint. Since then almost the entire barracks has been repainted, both inside and out.

A party of officers and their wives paid a visit to Bradford in March to see the film "War and Peace." Some exhibits from the Museum were on display for the week that the film was being shown, and a guard of honour was provided for the Lord Mayor.

Our latest effort to encourage recruiting had an amusing outcome. Most young men who express a desire to join the Army say that they want to learn to drive, and we accordingly put an advertisement in the paper asking for drivers. There was an immediate spate of visits and telephone calls from potential drivers, but it turned out that the majority were only interested in driving as civilians!

The last two passing-out parades took place on March 15 and May 1. The salute at the former was taken by Lieutenant-Colonel Davidson, and at the latter by the Colonel of the Regiment. We were very pleased to see him and were delighted that Lady Christison was able to be present.

St. George's Day this year occurred immediately after the Easter holiday, and the occasion was celebrated by a simple parade in the barracks, at which white roses were very kindly presented by Mrs. Roberts.

We were delighted to see Lieutenant-Colonel Moran who paid us a visit in April. He gave a most interesting talk on the operations in Cyprus, and we hope that he enjoyed his short stay.

Two recent items of interest have been a talk on "The Secrets of Film-making" by one of the experts, and a showing of the film of the Melbourne Olympiad, both of which were very much appreciated.

On May 26 we took part in the church parade of the new Mayor of Halifax. The Band and a contingent of recruits led the parade and attracted favourable comment. It is felt that the aplomb of the Bandmaster in his reaction to a police officer's attempt to set the parade in motion is to be commended. The officers who formed the escort to the Mayor had to march immediately behind the Salvation Army band, and found the very short step extremely difficult to cope with, especially on an upward gradient!

OFFICERS' MESS

During the last three months there has been quite a buzz of activities of one sort or another. Early in March we had a Guest Night and entertained Commander S. G. C. Rawson, Lieutenant-Colonels J. Davidson, R. Simpson and D. H. Hirst, and Mr. Richard Aykroyd.

The weather, "mild for Halifax" they say, encouraged endless enthusiasm on the squash court. A strong lead was given by the C.O. until the visit of Lieutenant-Colonel Moran, when the latter stole the limelight for a few days. The Colonel was visiting us during his leave from Cyprus, accompanied by Mrs. Moran, and we enjoyed their stay immensely. We gave a small party for them at which several familiar faces appeared, including Major and Mrs. Firth from Chester, Major and Mrs. Milligan over from York, and Mr. George Naylor.

The annual cocktail party this year was held on May 1. The Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Christison came down from Scotland for the occasion. Prior to the General inspecting the passing-out parade in the afternoon a small luncheon party was held in the Mess which officers and their wives attended. The cocktail party in the evening was a great success and many old friendships were renewed. Lieutenant Southerst was unfortunately unable to attend owing to a rugger injury, but one gathers that he enjoyed the spirit of the evening in his room!

Visits to the Mess have been paid by Majors R. O'D. Carey, F. Allsop and Edward Emmett, Captain Harms, Lieutenant Lupton and Mr. Michael Grainger. Lupton passed a month with

us in transit from the 1st Battalion to a parachute course at Aldershot. We hear that he is now over his first hurdle with only a few bruises and scratches!

We welcome Greenway, Huffam and Stevens who join the Regiment from Sandhurst, and Ivy, Chaffer, Addison and Sharp who come from Eaton Hall. Chaffer has departed for Nigeria and Addison is to stay at the Depot until September. The others, including Connolly and Shenton who have just arrived, are for the 1st Battalion.

The Mess has been considerably enlivened by the presence of Captain Blakey who is helping out here while awaiting posting to a staff appointment in Gibraltar. Those of us who were there are feeling most envious!

All ex-members of the Mess will be pleased to learn that Hayton, who has rendered such stalwart service to the Mess, has been promoted Lance-Corporal. It will be a sad day when he leaves. We were very sorry to lose Pte. Haddershaw, another old member of the Mess staff, who nearly decided to sign on, but eventually decided against it.

We close on a pleasant note of anticipation of meeting many old friends at the Regimental Dinner in a few days' time.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last notes went to press several fresh faces have arrived. C/Sgt. Munro came from the 1st Battalion, and at the moment spends most of his time at the top of the Keep. We hope his stay will be a long and happy one. We also welcome Sgt. Reggie Mitchel from the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, and Sgt. Costello, who has just done a tour with the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. They are now awaiting posting and relieve each other as Mess Caterer.

Mr. Lupton, the Barrack Inventory Accountant, is still with us and we very much like his company. Most nights he can be seen proceeding out of barracks with numerous Mess members in search of a Lodge.

During April we entertained the Friendly Working Men's Club and the Birstow Mills, Sutton-in-Craven, Institute to a social and games evening, which was much enjoyed by all. We take this opportunity of thanking Sgt. Holmes for an excellent support on both occasions.

Very soon we shall be saying farewell to Sgts. Wilkinson and Costello, who leave shortly for the 1st Battalion. We wish them "Bon Voyage" and every success in their new sphere.

In closing we send our best wishes to all ex-members and hope that they will pay us a visit whenever they happen to be in the Halifax area.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Since the last issue of THE IRON DUKE there have not been any social functions of note.

We were sorry to lose our last president, Lieutenant Callaby, but we congratulate him on his promotion and wish him all success in his new post. We have, on the other hand, the pleasant task of welcoming our new president, R.S.M. Jobling, and we hope that his duties as president will be congenial.

We should also like to congratulate several members on their recent promotion. First, Sgt. Parker-Smith, who has now left us, receives our hearty congratulations both on his promotion and his qualification at the Small Arms School, Hythe. Other promotions are Cpls. Pearce, Broadbent, L/Cpls. Twibill, Ashton, Hayton, Jennians and, last but not least, Wilson. We extend to them our best wishes and hope that they will do well.

Cpl. Wakefield has recently joined us from York, and we hope that his stay will be a happy one. We also welcome Cpl. Wright who recently re-enlisted and is due to join the 1st Battalion in the near future. Cpl. Broomhead, who has transferred from the Band to Training Company, is due to go on a cadre, and we wish him the best of luck.

We should like to send greetings to our friends who left us a short time ago for the 1st Battalion—Cpls. Matthews, Hudson, L/Cpls. Petty, Royston and Devanney—and we wish them all success in their present duties.

The next important event is Waterloo Day and we shall no doubt report on our activities in our next notes.

REGIMENTAL BAND

The members of the Band continue to change, but we are maintaining, very appropriately, an average strength of 33. We were very sorry to lose Cpls. Cuff and Hiley, who left us recently, and we send them our best wishes. We welcome Ptes. Blackmore, Gill and Magill, and hope that they will enjoy their stay with the Band.

We congratulate Smith, Hartley and Jennians on their promotion to Lance-Corporal, and extend our good wishes to Sgt. Bell who is to enjoy the Surrey air and undergo the rigours of a drill course at Pirbright in June.

The Band are still holding their own at games, and in the past few weeks we have only lost one game of basket-ball at the Depot. While away at Pontefract for a passing-out parade we challenged the York and Lancaster Depot, and though we lost by 63 points to 36, 32 of our points were scored in the last quarter of the game. At cricket, though lacking a Sir Leonard and perhaps a Denis Compton, we are having valuable practice, and are getting ready to challenge the Depot.

We are now getting a few engagements for the summer, and are still holding fortnightly dances in the Gymnasium. These are to raise money to help pay off the large bill we owe for the recent purchases and repair of instruments.

The church parade for the Mayor on May 26 went off very well, in spite of the many changes of instructions from the police who were directing operations, and we should be in really good shape when the Battalion comes home.

We now have seven boys who are under training at the Brigade Bandmaster Unit at York, and, judging from progress reports, we should have some useful reinforcements in due course.

TRAINING COMPANY

For our classification shoots we have abandoned Deer Hill and Hawksworth Ranges and spend

three days at Strensall instead. The 42nd Intake was the first to go there. They lived in the weekend training centre and were fed by the K.O.Y.L.I. Depot. The 43rd Intake followed suit, but stayed at Fuiford Barracks in York and travelled daily to the ranges at Strensall. The excursion is most popular and it is hoped that the standard of shooting will benefit from the better ranges.

The 43rd Intake, who arrived on February 21, were divided into a Regular and a National Service Platoon to see who would produce the best results during their ten weeks' training—a daring experiment which worked well. Competition was keen and almost "cut-throat" at times. Two separate competitions were run, one in purely training activities and the other in games. Delhi Platoon, the Regulars, under Sgt. Wilson taking his first Platoon at the Depot, won the training competition by a narrow margin from Corunna Platoon under Sgt. Davie. The honours in the games competition were shared equally between the two Platoons, Corunna winning the .22 shooting, basket-ball and table tennis, and Delhi the soccer, running and boxing. The boxing competition produced a fine show of spirit and enthusiasm even if skill was lacking in some fights, and was a worthy finale to the ten weeks of training.

The passing-out parade of this Intake on May 1 was taken by the Colonel of the Regiment, and the parade was commanded by Lieutenant Berry.

On May 9 we were visited by Brigadier P. Barclay, D.S.O., the inspector of P.T., who saw Dettingen and Waterloo Platoons performing in the Gymnasium. We hope he was pleased with what he saw.

Our next draft to the 1st Battalion consists of Regulars only and leaves for Cyprus at the beginning of June. The National Servicemen of the last Intake to pass out and the next two to do so will be drafted to the 1st Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment.

We welcome 2 Lt. Addison, who has recently joined from Eaton Hall.

We congratulate Sgt. Parker-Smith and Cpls. Pearce and Broadbent on their promotion, also Cpl. Sutcliffe on the birth of a son and L/Cpl. Graham on his marriage. We welcome to the Company Cpl. Wakefield fresh from Hythe and the Y. & N. Brigade Training Centre, and Cpl. Broomhead who has left the Band to try his hand at weapon training instead of music. We also welcome as assistant instructor L/Cpls. Hall, Connolly, Peckover, Ashton and Hamilton. Pte. Oddy is our new clerk in place of Pte. Liggett who is moving on to the Battalion to increase his knowledge and skill. The latter we thank for his work and wish him success.

The present Company establishment is as follows:—Training Officer: Captain J. D. P. Cowell. C.S.M.: C.S.M. R. Williams. Company Clerk: Pte. G. Oddy. P.T.Is.: S.S.I. Winning, A.P.T.C., Cpl. Breaks, Cpl. Copley, L/Cpl. Hamilton.

44th Intake.—Training Subalterns: Lt. R. G. Southerst and 2 Lt. I. A. Addison. Waterloo Platoon: Sgt. Sullivan, Cpl. Hattersley, L/Cpl.

Barker, L.Cpl. Peckover. Dettingen Platoon: Sgt. Parker-Smith, Cpl. Broadbent, Cpl. Sutcliffe, L/Cpl. Ashton.

45th Intake.—Training Subaltern: Lt. Berry. Delhi Platoon: Sgt. Wilson, Cpl. Hellawell, L/Cpl. Graham, L/Cpl. Connolly. Corruna Platoon: Sgt. Davie, Cpl. Wakefield, Cpl. Pearce, L/Cpl. Hall.

SPORT

RUGGER

The highlight of the Depot's rugger was the performance of the seven-a-side team in the Northern Command Competition held at Catterick on March 27. After a week of training, the team, accompanied by a few supporters, travelled to Richmond where they were looked after very well by the Green Howards Depot.

The first two rounds were played in the morning against the detachment of the Guards Training Battalion and the Royal Signals Wing, both won by the Depot.

In the afternoon the Depot met the Officers' Training Wing Royal Signals "A," whom they defeated, and went on to meet No. 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals "A" in the semi-final. This last match proved the most exciting of the day. Scoring was opened by the Signals who scored a try which they failed to convert, then a try by 2 Lt. Greenway was disallowed because of a knock on. The Depot replied with a try by Pte. Haywood just after half-time, which L/Cpl. Howlett converted. Then the Signals were awarded a penalty kick for an offside where they scored 3 more points some two minutes before the end of the match. It was indeed unfortunate to have lost by this solitary point, especially when the Signals in the final beat the 7th Royal Tank Regiment by 18 points to nil. Although the whole team played well throughout, their success was mainly due to Lt. Lupton at scrum half who played in masterly style. The scores and scorers were as follows:

1st Round: Depot, 11 points (Lupton 2 tries, Haywood 1 try, Howlett 1 conversion); Guards Training Battalion, nil.

2nd Round: Depot, 5 points (Cowell 1 try, Howlett 1 conversion); Royal Signals Wing, 3 points.

Quarter Final: Depot, 13 points (Haywood, Royle, Greenway 1 try each, Howlett 2 conversions); O.T. Wing Royal Signals, nil.

Semi-final: Depot, 5 points (Haywood 1 try, Howlett 1 conversion); No. 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals, 6 points.

The Depot seven was: Pte. Duckney, Captain Cowell, L/Cpl. Howlett, Lt. Lupton, Pte. Royle, Pte. Haywood, and 2 Lt. Greenway.

There are two other rugger matches to report, one between the Depot and Health Old Boys, which was won by the Old Boys by 18 points to 17, and a match between a "Duke's" XV and Halifax R.U.F.C.

The latter it is hoped will become an annual event between the Regiment and the Halifax R.U.F.C. The match took place on the evening of April 25. The "Dukes" team, which had hardly played together before, took a while to settle down and in the first half Halifax gained a substantial lead. Pte. Haywood scored the only

"Dukes" try which was converted by Cpl. Holmes. The final score was 19—5 in favour of Halifax.

After the match both teams celebrated the fixture and a Regimental Shield was presented to the Halifax captain to commemorate the long association between the Regiment and the Club.

The "Dukes" team was as follows: Cpl. Copley (Depot), 2 Lt. Addison (Depot), Pte. Haywood (Depot), ex-Cpl. Holmes (late Signal Platoon, 1st Battalion), Lt. Southerst (Depot), Pte. Hartley (Joint School of Languages), Pte. Royle (Depot), Lt. McDonald (7th Battalion), Captain Cowell (Depot), L/Cpl. Ashton (Depot), Sgt. Pollard (7th Battalion), Major Moncrieff (7th Battalion), L/Cpl. Howlett (Y. & N. Brigade Training Centre), O.Cadet Duckney (Eaton Hall O.C.S.), and Captain Harms (7th Battalion).

The seven-a-side team, somewhat altered from that which played at Catterick, entered for the local seven-a-side tournament, but were unfortunate to meet the Halifax R.U.F.C. first team in the first round and lost 11—0.

BASKET-BALL

Since our last notes the Depot team has played two friendly matches against the Depot The York and Lancaster Regiment, winning the home and losing the away match.

In the League within the Depot the Cooks' team won the League without losing a single match, while the Band "B" team were second losing only to the Cooks. The Cooks are to be congratulated as they showed great keenness and skill throughout, apart from having only a limited number of men from which to pick their team.

ATHLETICS

Athletics training is under way, but it is too early to be able to report on any matches. A friendly match has, however, been arranged against the Depot The York and Lancaster Regiment from June 12, 1957.

We also are holding a Sports Meeting on June 15, 1957, to celebrate Waterloo Day, the date being the nearest Saturday to the actual day.

CRICKET

The Depot team has a full fixture list this summer which includes matches against the Depots of the K.O.Y.L.I., Lancashire Fusiliers, West Yorkshire, Manchester, and York and Lancaster Regiments, as well as several fixtures against local clubs. The team has entered for the Northern Command Cup and the local Collinson Cup open to cricket clubs in the Halifax area.

Three players, 2 Lt. Addison and Ptes. Saville and Mallinson, played in the Area Trial.

So far the following matches have been played, with results as shown:—

Depot III v. R.A.P.C. Ovenden 160—lost.

Depot 86 v. Slaters 33—won.

Depot 130 for 4 dec. v. Borough Police 96—won.

K.O.Y.L.I. 86 v. Depot 65—lost.

Those who have been playing regularly for the Depot are: 2 Lt. Addison, C.S.M. Williams, Pte. Saville, Pte. Mallinson, Pte. Cox, Cpl. Hellawell, Cpl. Pearce, Cpl. Hattersley, L/Cpl. Drake and L/Cpl. Graham.

MUSEUM

We acknowledge with thanks a large number of items of uniform given by Major R. O'D. Carey.

5/7th BATTALION, T.A.

SUB-EDITORIAL

It is with great joy that we announce the War Office decision to amalgamate the 5th and 7th Battalions of the Regiment to take effect from May 20, 1957.

Both these Battalions have a long and glorious history, together as one Unit "2nd Volunteer Battalion (Duke of Wellington's) West Riding Regiment" until the formation of the Territorial Army in 1908, and thereafter, as The 5th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment based on Huddersfield and the Holme Valley and the 7th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment based on the Colne Valley and Saddleworth areas.

The 7th Battalion have always been Infantry and since World War II the only remaining Duke of Wellington's Territorial Infantry Battalion. The 5th Battalion, after 77 years as Infantry was re-organised in 1936 as a Searchlight Regiment (R.E.) and later as a H.A.A. Regiment (R.A.) and finally they became "Q" (5 D.W.R.) Bty. 382 Med. Regt. R.A. Throughout this period they have remained intensely "Dukes" sharing the same

esprit de corps, the same pride and the same traditions of which we, as a Regiment, are so proud.

On this great occasion Lt.-Colonel J. Davidson in a Special Order of the Day to All Ranks of the old 7th Battalion, said:

"That these two famous Battalions should be joined together once more will be a matter of great satisfaction to all ranks of the Battalion.

"On this occasion I wish to thank all ranks of the 7th Battalion for their loyalty and service to me as Commanding Officer and to their Battalion. At the same time I look forward to their equal loyalty and support in the new amalgamated 5th/7th Battalion and ask that all ranks will ensure that the traditions, *esprit de corps* and pride of our great and famous Duke of Wellington's Regiment will continue to be upheld and indeed reach new peaks in years to come."

At the time these notes go to press the amalgamation is still in the "paper stage" and will not be physically completed until the new Battalion moves to St. Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield, and the transfer of personnel who volunteer for the new Battalion takes place.

To those members of the old 5th Battalion who are coming to the new amalgamated Battalion as infantry we extend a hearty welcome and in our next notes we shall give more details and personalities.

The new headquarters of the Battalion will be based on St. Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield, and the move is expected to be complete by July 1, 1957. The new deployment of the Battalion will be:

Bn. H.Q. 5/7 D.W.R.,
 "H.Q." Coy., "A"
 and "D" Rifle Coys. St. Paul's Street,
 Huddersfield
 "C" Coy. 5/7 D.W.R. T.A. Centre, Elland,
 Yorks.
 "S" Coy. 5/7 D.W.R. T.A. Centre, Arden Road,
 Halifax
 "B" Coy. 5/7 D.W.R.
 less two Platoons .. T.A. Centre, Milnsbridge,
 Huddersfield
 Two platoons "B" Coy.
 5/7 D.W.R... .. T.A. Centre, Mossley,
 Lancs.

Extracts from the *Weekly Examiner*, dated May 25, 1957, referring to the amalgamation are reprinted with these notes.

JOINING UP

On behalf of the citizens of Huddersfield, the Colne Valley and the neighbourhood, we welcome the decision of the War Office to implement proposals already approved by the local organisations concerned; namely that as part of the re-organisation of the Territorial Army our two local Duke of Wellington units, Q (5 D.W.R.) Med. Bty., R.A., and the 7th D.W.R. shall be amalgamated under the style and title of the 5th/7th Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, T.A., with headquarters at St. Paul's Street Drill Hall.

Thus it should be a source of great satisfaction to all past and present members and to their very many supporters, that they have once more, after nearly half a century, become one again, sharing the same traditions, the same *esprit de corps* and the same pride which they have over the years held equally but hitherto separately, but will henceforth hold equally and jointly. Those who believe, as indeed all must believe, that the consolidation of our manpower where it can be most effective is the right policy to pursue will heartily approve this merger; and those who not only approve but will support it actively by "sparing time for Britain" will find true reward in joining up.

* * *

"DUKES" MERGER

Huddersfield is Infantry Centre Again

By Redcoat

The amalgamation of the 5th and 7th Battalions of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (T.A.), approved by the War Office this week, means that after 50 years, Huddersfield will again become the centre for the "Dukes" as an infantry unit.

With the formation of the new 5th/7th Battalion

the 7th will vacate their present headquarters at Wellesley House, Botham Hall Road, Longwood, and will move to St. Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield, which has been the Battery Headquarters of "Q" Battery (5th Duke of Wellington's Regiment) of 382 Medium Regiment R.A.

Together Again

The merger brings the two units together again as they were almost 50 years ago, for it was in 1908, under the Lord Haldane Territorial Scheme, that the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the West Riding Regiment was re-formed, the Huddersfield companies becoming the 5th Battalion the (Duke of Wellington's) W.R. Regiment, and the Colne Valley companies becoming the 7th Battalion the (Duke of Wellington's) W.R. Regiment.

The 6th W.R. of Yorkshire Volunteers, formed in Huddersfield, first appeared in the Army List in 1860, and in 1883 the name was changed to the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, The (Duke of Wellington's) W.R. Regiment, with a recruiting area covering Huddersfield, Mirfield, the Holme and Colne Valleys and over the Pennines to Diggle and Mossley.

Re-formed

In the First World War the 5th went to France in April, 1915. They were re-formed as the 5th D.W.R. in 1920 and continued as such until December, 1936. In that year the Battalion was converted from infantry to searchlights.

With the formation of the 5/7th, "Q" Battery of 382 Medium Regiment will continue, but without the sub-title of 5th D.W.R., and will have headquarters at Mirfield Drill Hall.

The development of the new Battalion will be: "H.Q." Company and two Rifle companies at St. Paul's Street, and companies at Milnsbridge, Mossley, Elland and Halifax.

Lt.-Colonel J. Davidson, Commander of the 7th, will continue as Commanding Officer.

OFFICERS' MESS

We welcome the news of the amalgamation of the old 5th and 7th Battalions to form the 5th/7th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's.

Our new Mess will be in St. Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield, and whilst Wellesley House will always be remembered with pride and pleasure we are looking forward to our move to the excellent and more spacious Mess at St. Paul's Street. A great advantage of our new Mess is its central location and historically it is the rightful location for the Mess of the new Battalion.

Cheering news all round of volunteers in the note that 2 Lt. George Naylor of Baildon and 2 Lt. John Lee of Liversedge have volunteered for Active T.A. Commissions and are now on the volunteer strength of the unit, also Lt. A. E. Carter of Halifax has transferred to us from 5th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters as a volunteer officer. Lt. Carter attended camp with us as an attached officer at Fylingdales in 1954. We extend to them a hearty welcome.

We understand that Major (Q.M.) Bert Burrows is contemplating civilian life in the near future after

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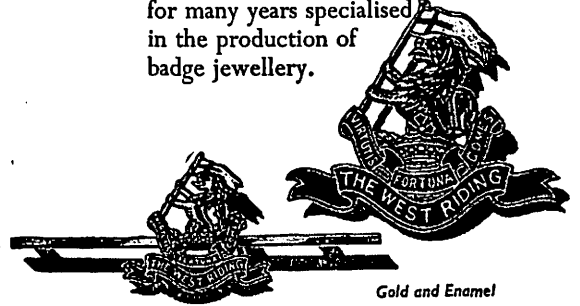
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34 years service in the Army, five of them with the 7th. We shall not wish this "adopted Duke" goodbye in these notes as we hope to see quite a lot more of him before our next notes.

Arrangements are going ahead for Annual Camp which is being held this year at Ollerton, Notts. The Mess this year will be established in a building as opposed to the tented accommodation which we have become almost expert in putting up. The last few "Northern Summers" have usually resulted in mad dashes rescuing Mess equipment from the gales that have tried their hardest to dampen our enthusiasm but without success. Henry Crowther has once more been selected to attend to officers messing and we should therefore be well provided for.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Although short of activity on the social side, the Mess has been extremely well represented in the competitions and weekends (mostly shooting) which have taken place at Leeds, Strensall and Deer Hill.

At Knostrop a Unit team including Mess members R.Q.M.S. Machen, Sgts. Ewart, Robinson and Pollard came fourth out of a total of 15 teams entered and the R.Q.M.S. was fourteenth out of a total of 140 competitors.

At our last visit to Strensall a number of the Mess members visited the old 7th stamping grounds (at the beginning of the war) in the Amotherby, Slingsby and Hovingham area and many enquiries were received about members who are, alas, no longer with us.

A Brigade inter-unit "Grand National" competition was held at Stocksbridge and the Battalion team, composed of two subalterns and six W.O.s and Sergeants, came in second. Amongst the Mess members taking part were, C.S.M. Fitton, M.M., C/Sgts. Pearce and Stringer, Sgts. Booth, Pollard, Bacon and Ewart. C.S.M. Fitton was top scorer in the motor cycling and still wonders where he lost that point. Great feats were performed by some of our learner motor-cyclists on the cross-country course and two motor cycles were rendered *hors de combat* much to the chagrin of the P.S.I.s holding the said motor cycles on charge.

It is good to see that Sgt. Dews is once again in circulation after his long and painful illness. However, as we greet one so we must say goodbye to another, C.S.M. Rayne has announced that owing to his civilian commitments he will be "running out."

It has been announced that Sgt. George Finan of 45 Mount Street, Mossley, a former member of the 7th Battalion has met his death whilst employed on the British Railways as a platelayer.

His passing will be regretted by all who knew him.

Finally we look forward to meeting new members and to our move to St. Paul's Street Drill Hall, resultant from our amalgamation with the 5th, reported elsewhere.

"A" COMPANY

The formation of the 5th/7th Battalion brings little change to "A" Company. The fact that we are at last relinquishing Sowerby Bridge T.A.C., in theory as well as in fact, will make it a lot easier for

the Company Commander on the Brigadiers' inspection.

Arden Road has for the past month been quite lively on Drill nights with the running of the combined cadre with "C" and "S" Companies.

Valentines "Sand Table Exercises" has once more appeared. The P.S.I.s have constructed an excellent "Sand Table" model. Time honoured expressions such as "The school solution is not necessarily right," and "You are commanding 2 Platoon which is here," have come into use again. The resultant exercise has produced a lot of healthy argument and interest.

We take pleasure in welcoming to the Company, C/Sgt. Pearce, well known to the 1st Battalion and Lt. Carter who has transferred to us from the Foresters. Lt. Carter is already well known to us as he was with "B" Company at Fylingdales. We are very glad to see them both.

Whilst welcoming new members to the Company it is sad to see appearing in orders as "Time Expired," many of the names of that excellent Company which went to Scarborough and Wathgill. As many people have discovered, the National Serviceman makes a first-class soldier. One always felt that it would not have taken long to get ready to go to war. One only hopes that with the conclusion of National Service we shall be enlisting the same material as T.A. volunteers.

"B" COMPANY, MOSSLEY

During the last three months the Company has been running high in the "recruitment stakes." The majority of the 12 lads who have joined the Company are between 17 and 19 years of age. They have all expressed a desire to learn as much as they can about Army life before their time for National Service comes around.

As a result of this influx, activity on the drill nights has increased and the drill hall now echoes to the sound of boots and rifle butts on the floor interspersed with the stentorian tones of R.S.M. Frier as he drills his men.

Slaithwaite drill hall is now closed to all intents and purposes and all members of "B" Company living on the Yorkshire side of the Pennines now report to "D" Company Drill Hall in Fitzwilliam Street (Huddersfield), for their drill nights.

Here at Mossley we have had a visit from the Army Recruiting Officer who has unloaded large quantities of his literature on us. Those of the lads who consider making the Army their career can now have all queries answered on the spot.

The Company's P.S.I. Sgt. Smith and Sgt. Larnder are giving yeoman service in the drive for recruits and as every new man joins he is encouraged to bring along one of his pals. We are fast forming a hard core of young keen soldiers who will be a credit to the Battalion.

"D" COMPANY

Perhaps the most important event during the past three months was the amalgamation of our own 7th Battalion D.W.R. with the 5th Battalion D.W.R. We, now as "D" Company of the 5th/7th Battalion D.W.R., are hoping soon to be

installed in new quarters at St. Paul's Street, T.A.C. where we expect an increase in the number of volunteers. Training recently has been confined to lectures and demonstrations on Signals, M.M.G., mortar, and Platoon tactics, and Sgts. Kenny and Prince from "S" Company have been especially welcome: their series of lessons on the M.M.G. were much appreciated.

We have been pleased to share our training facilities with Major Jimmy Young and his "H.Q." Company "spivs" and with local "B" Company personnel who have also helped to swell our bar profits. "D" Company has been well represented lately in various civic parades and Captain Colin Barnes, our Company 2IC, with his usual aplomb, ably represented the Battalion on the Huddersfield Fallen Heroes Day Parade. Sgt. Laherty is still apparently able to point his rifle correctly down the range as he has been chosen for the Battalion shooting team—we wish him luck.

May 26, 1957, must certainly be a memorable day for our P.S.I. Sgt. "Spud" Taylor; due to the absence of one of the drummers he took over the job of beating the big drum in the parade at Meltham. Major Eric Woodhouse, the Company Commander, has had to point out to Sgt. Taylor that although it is permissible for him to wear an embroidered drum on his pyjama pocket, it is definitely against regulations for him to wear gold drums instead of "Jumbo" collar dogs.

The Company now looks forward to camp at Ollerton, of which details will be given in the next issue of THE IRON DUKE.

"S" COMPANY

The past few months appear to have been rather quieter than for some while. Rumours of "we're still in the Establishment" and "we're out," seem to bewilder us: but, while this does not yet cause undue distress, it is realised that the chance that the team may be split up after such a long association is not a happy one.

On a recent weekend at the W.E.T.C. Strensall, the M.M.G. Platoon (T.A. only) spent a day on dry drill and Sgt. Kenny happily reported afterwards that he hopes again to have two full teams for the T.A.R.A. decentralised competitions later in the summer. Having once tasted the ultimate fruits of success in these competitions it is foreseen that Sgt. Kenny will keep the whip cracking and so ensure that his boys do the best they possibly can. Once again, R.S.M. Frier has taken the M.M.G. teams under his capable wing so his expert tuition should be effective in the long run.

At the end of the N.A.R.A. small-bore competitions "S" Company finished as runners-up in their league. As the first set of cards was lost in the post and it was impossible to re-fire when this fact was finally established, the fact that we won all the other eight matches indicates that we might have been league leaders but for the loss of that first set. However, again we look forward to next winter to enable us to pull off that top place next time.

As a result of lectures by the Adjutant, sand table exercises by the Commanding Officer and Major

Moncrieff—with chores for other Arden Road officers to follow—we are again partaking of instructive training and enjoying it. The combination of "A," "C," and "S" Companies at Arden Road T.A.C. usually means more bodies around to take part in organised training. The introduction by the C.O. of model soldiers representing various members of a Rifle Platoon has certainly added realism to the sand table exercises, but the C.O. may find that he has to keep a close eye on them as several of the chaps have small sons!

By the time the next notes are written we hope to be able to report the most successful annual camp ever, and—with all due respect to the various good shots of the 1st Battalion—that the Battalion shooting team, which includes members of "S" Company, have swept the board completely at Bisley!

So saying, these notes appear to have ended on the note on which they started—looking to the future and, like the words of the popular song, "Whatever will be will be . . ."

"H.Q." COMPANY

The new arrangement of training with "B" and "D" Companies at Fitzwilliam St. Drill Hall instead of Milnsbridge seems to suit most of the Company as it is so much more central. We also enjoy doing the combined training with the other Company personnel. The training at present is signals, M.M.G. and platoon lectures and exercises all under the general auspices of Major Woodhouse.

Quite a few of the Company are on the shooting team and R.Q.M.S. Machen is at present in great shooting form which augurs well for our chances at Bisley.

We would like to congratulate Lt. Charles Curry, our I.O. on his recent engagement. We hear from Charles that he hopes to live in Leeds. We welcome C.S.M. Clarke from the 1st Battalion as our new P.S.I. We were indeed sorry to lose R.S.M. Frier but see him frequently in his duties as the R.S.M.

The petrol rationing adversely affected our attendances, not the least being our Company Commander Major Young, who apparently has a strong aversion to walking. However, O.R.Q.M.S. Wood seems to have managed to keep his ancient Morris going during the rationing as he always turned up in style with the remainder of the Battalion Orderly Room piled into it.

Personalia

BIRTHS

HALL.—On May 3, 1957, at Shaftesbury, Wiltshire, to Diana, wife of Major P. B. Hall, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, a daughter (Sarah).

HONOURS AND AWARDS

We heartily congratulate Colonel G. Laing on being awarded the C.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List.

REGIMENTAL TEA AND DINNER

(At the Hyde Park Hotel on May 31, 1957)

For the tea and dinner this year the Hon. Secretary with his usual acumen selected a glorious summer day, the first really warm day of the year. Knightsbridge was looking its gentlemanly best, marred somewhat by the monstrous blocks of offices, that have sprung up like gargantuan toadstools since this time last year. The absence of the 1st Battalion in Cyprus reduced of course the numbers attending both functions, but not to any great degree, and it is a tribute to the regimental family spirit that so many of its members brave the ever more congested roads and ever mounting railway fares to be present year after year. The room overlooking the Park was not available for the tea this year and we missed the magnificent spectacle of the Household Cavalry passing on their way to the Horse Guards. But everyone agreed that it was as enjoyable a tea as ever it was, marred only by the thought that this was the last time Sir Philip Christison would preside as Colonel of the Regiment. Ill-health prevented Lt.-Colonel Ince and Brigadier Grimley from attending. We greatly missed their cheerful presence and wish them both a speedy recovery.

The following attended the tea: Mrs. Cecil Ince, Mrs. Dick Ince, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. J. Davidson, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. G. F. Upjohn, Captain R. H. D. Bolton, Major and Mrs. R. A. Scott, Lt.-Colonel O. Price, Major and Mrs. J. P. Huffam, Major-General and Mrs. R. N. H. C. Bray, General Sir Philip Christison, Colonel and Mrs. C. R. T. Cumberlege, Colonel A. H. G. Wathen and Miss Wathen, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. A. E. H. Sayers, Mrs. J. V. Kirkland, Brigadier F. H. Fraser, Colonel and Mrs. F. R. Armitage, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. E. C. Boutflower, Major and Mrs. T. St. G. Carroll, Mrs. J. Naylor and Mrs. Roberts, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. D. Paton, Major D. S. D. B. Jones-Stamp, Lady Landon, Major and Mrs. A. D. Firth, Major and Mrs. R. V. Cartwright, Major-General W. M. Ozanne, Colonel R. G. Turner, Mrs. K. J. Cameron and Major-General and Mrs. R. K. Exham.

In his speech at the dinner the Colonel of the Regiment began by reading the telegram of loyal greetings that he had sent to H.M. The Queen on behalf of the Regiment and her gracious reply. He had received telegrams of good wishes from Kenneth Exham, Ince, Bunbury, Hinchcliffe and Bob Moran. He welcomed once again our guest, His Grace the Duke of Wellington, who had told him that of the many dinners he attended, he particularly enjoyed ours, and this not solely because it was almost the only one at which he did not have to make a speech. The Colonel welcomed Lt.-Colonel Agnew, High Sheriff of Northamptonshire and Jimmy Davidson, the new Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion. Everyone, he knew, would be delighted to hear that the 5th Battalion had been resurrected and would be amalgamated with the

7th Battalion, whose colours would now be emblazoned 5th/7th. This happy union was largely due to the enthusiasm and tact with which Jimmy Davidson had tackled a far from easy problem.

The 1st Battalion was making a great name for itself in Cyprus, and was, so Bob Moran had told him, hot on the trail of Grivas. A very high-ranking officer, who must remain anonymous, had told him that he would rather have the "Dukes" in Cyprus than any other battalion.

On their return the 1st Battalion were to be stationed at Belfast. The Band would be in Halifax for the Annual Reunion and the laying-up of the Old Colours in Halifax Parish Church. The time had come for the Band to be re-instrumented, a heavy drain on its funds. A very handsome gift of £50 had already been received and he hoped that other officers might be able to follow this admirable example.

Finally, he said that this was the last dinner at which he would preside as Colonel. He well remembered how, when he was posted to the "Dukes," Colonel Exham, father of Kenneth and Roy Exham, entertained him to lunch and welcomed him into the Regiment. He wished to thank everybody for the kindness they had shown to the "wild Highlander," who had intruded into their fold and hoped that he would remain "one of us." He also thanked all the retired officers, who had helped him in different ways and mentioned in particular Lt.-Colonel D. J. Stewart, administrative officer at the Depot, who, a York and Lancaster by extraction, had become so thorough a "Duke" by adoption; the Hon. Secretary to the Dinner Club—an annual tribute—and the Editor of THE IRON DUKE.

The following attended the dinner: General Sir A. F. Philip Christison (Bart.), Colonel of the Regiment; Major-Generals R. N. H. C. Bray, R. K. Exham and W. M. Ozanne; Brigadiers F. H. Fraser, C. W. B. Orr, G. F. Upjohn and B. W. Webb-Carter; Colonels F. R. Armitage, C. R. T. Cumberlege, F. G. Turner, A. H. G. Wathen and G. C. H. Wortham; Lt.-Colonels R. L. Agnew and E. C. Boutflower; Wing-Commander H. A. Crommelin; Lt. Colonels J. H. Dalrymple, J. Davidson, H. Harvey, W. Hodgson, D. Paton, O. Price, A. E. H. Sayers and F. P. A. Woods; Majors L. B. B. Beuttler, R. V. Cartwright, T. St. G. Carroll, E. J. P. Emmett, A. D. Firth, J. P. Huffam, D. S. D. B. Jones-Stamp, A. B. M. Kavanagh, H. R. Kavanagh, B. M. Kilner, J. H. S. Lane, J. A. Lennon, J. G. Lepper, J. S. Milligan, P. P. de la H. Moran, D. C. Roberts, R. A. Scott and J. L. Streatfield; Captains R. H. D. Bolton, J. D. P. Cowell, R. M. Harms, H. Middleton-Hands, J. A. d'E. Miller, J. N. H. Naughton, J. M. Newton, The Lord Savile and H. A. J. Stacpoole; Lts. S. A. Berry and G. Reddington. Guest: His Grace The Duke of Wellington, K.G.

Obituary

ROLL OF HONOUR

We deeply regret to announce the deaths on Active Service of the following

23202098. Cpl. Peter Brown, aged 23. Killed in action on March 3, 1957.

22546757 Pte. Derek Bullock, aged 23. Died on May 10, 1957.

23264062. Pte. Clarence Harker, aged 19. Died on May 12, 1957.

* * *

WE DEEPLY REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING DEATHS

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM GERALD OFFICER.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Gerald Officer died on April 9, 1957, aged 74. He was born on March 8, 1883. He was commissioned in the 1st Battalion on December 6, 1905, was Adjutant from 1914 to 1917 and he served with the Battalion in India until 1917, when he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in France in February 1917. During the operations near Ypres, he was wounded when the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Horsfall was killed in October 1917, and was invalided to England. Early in 1918 he returned to France and took over command of the 2nd Battalion from Lieutenant-Colonel Walker. He was severely wounded in the head during operations in the La Bassée Canal area in April and was mentioned in despatches in December 1917. In 1920 he was put on half pay, and retired on June 1, 1925.

In 1915, Colonel Officer married Miss Winifred Kensington, daughter of Sir Alfred and Lady Kensington, in Lahore, where Sir Alfred was Commissioner. Mrs. Officer died in March 1951, and their only child, Angela (Mrs. Godfrey Cavendish) survives them.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. V. le P. Trench, writes:—Gerald Officer was my closest friend for nearly 50 years, and until last year we had met every year and corresponded frequently. He joined the 1st Battalion when we were in Lepong, India, from Australia, where he was born and had lived up till then. At that time a few direct commissions were being given to Colonials, and it was with one of these that he entered the Army. As befitted an Australian brought up on his father's ranch, he was a strong horseman and first rate horsemaster, and as some of us polo players were mounted on walers, his knowledge of them was invaluable. The terrible head wound he received in 1918 would have killed most people, or at least have affected them mentally, but he remained the sane and conscientious man he had always been, though he suffered greatly from headaches. He and Mrs. Officer returned to Australia just after 1918, but conditions there had changed with a Labour Government in power, and

they returned to England after a brief stay there. After his wife's death in 1951, he lived in London, and was generally to be seen at his club, The United Service Club. He was devoted to the Regiment, and attended almost every regimental gathering he could until the last year or two; his generosity to Regimental Charities, especially the O.C.A., was most marked.

If I had to choose one word to sum up Gerald Officer's character it would be "integrity."

MR. EZRA WILSON HAWLEY, late R.Q.M.S., 1st Battalion.

The death took place at his home, 24 Otley Street, Skipton, Yorkshire, of Mr. Hawley, on January 20, 1957, at the age of 69. He was unmarried.

"Ez," as he was more familiarly known throughout the Regiment, enlisted into the Dukes in 1914, and served with the 6th Battalion all through the First World War. In 1919 he re-engaged in Palestine with the 1st Battalion and was appointed Pioneer Sgt. Promoted W.O.II in 1924: appointed R.Q.M.S. in 1930, he served with the 1st Battalion the whole time, taking his discharge in 1938. During the 1939-45 War he re-joined the colours and served until 1942 with 304 I.T.C., when he was again discharged, unfit for further service.

Ezra had a most engaging personality and character, well liked and respected by all who came into contact with him. Most tactful in his dealings with everyone and possessing the knack of getting things done with the minimum amount of fuss, he will be sadly missed by his contemporaries and his numerous friends in Skipton, where he was a familiar and well-known figure.

MR. E. POGSON, D.C.M., late C.S.M., 1st Battalion.

At his home, 73 Wellington Lodge, Littleborough, Lancashire, at the age of 73 after a long illness.

Mr. Pogson enlisted in February 1904, at York, and went with the 1st Battalion to India in 1905. Following an educational course at Lucknow, he became an Army Schoolmaster with the Regiment. A breakdown in health caused his return to the U.K. in 1912 and he was discharged from the service. He took up teaching as a profession until re-called in 1914. Proceeded overseas with the 2nd Battalion and served with them at Mons. Awarded one of the first D.C.M.s in the Regiment, he served with the 2nd Battalion the whole of the war, excepting two short spells at home with wounds. In 1918 he was awarded the M.S.M. and Mentioned in Despatches.

After demobilization he resumed teaching and for some years before his retirement he was Headmaster of Calderbrook C.E. School, Lancashire.

WILLIAM BROWN

One of the leading members of the 10th (Service) Battalion's O.C.A.—Mr. William Brown, of 8 Wingfield Street, Bradford Moor, Bradford—died on May 30 after a long period of ill-health. The Battalion served during the First World War in France, Belgium and Italy, but Mr. Brown left it before the end of hostilities to take a commission. When the Battalion's O.C.A. was formed in 1933, he became one of its first members and was on the Committee until the time of his death. He rendered great help to the Association as Assistant Honorary Secretary, and it was his boast that he never missed a reunion. He was 64 years of age and is survived by Mrs. Brown and a married daughter.

3850 Ex-PTE. C. ROULLIER. Late Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

At the Leatherhead Hospital, on March 18, 1957, aged 81 years.

Mr. Roullier enlisted at Halifax on July 11, 1893 and was posted to the 1st Battalion at Dover in 1894.

Here he served in the orderly room until being posted to the 2nd Battalion at Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, in 1895. He moved on to India with the Battalion in November 1897, and served at Bangalore in 1898. From there he went on to a staff appointment at Rangoon and remained there until rejoining the 2nd Battalion at Dinapore, India, in 1904. He was discharged on completion of his 12-year engagement in 1905.

Re-enlisting in 1914, he was posted to 8th Battalion at Grantham, transferring later to the 3rd Battalion, North Shields; and posted to section D reserve in 1917.

Mr. Roullier became an In-Pensioner in May 1952. He was very happy at the Royal Hospital until the latter half of 1956 when an operation became necessary to remove his left leg. Mr. Roullier was a quite, scholarly chap whom it was a pleasure to meet and chat with; listening especially to his stories of the Dukes of yesteryear.

(Continued on page 91)

Correspondence

DEAR SIR,

It may interest your readers to know that whilst on an *Echange au pair* visit to the Norwegian Army, I met an old Iron Duke who was called up for his Military Service near Bergen. He was Major Anton H. Jacobsen, M.C., who fought in North Africa, Pantellera and Italy, with The Dukes until he was eventually captured at Anzio.

He was the Commander of the Brigade Company and took a very prominent part in the training, being one of the few officers in the Brigade to have seen active service in the war.

I am sorry to have to say that he was taken ill during the exercises but I am glad to say that he got rapidly better when given the correct medicine, which is brewed only in Scotland and which, fortunately, I was able to supply.

Yours sincerely,

Colonel D'A. J. D. MANDER, D.S.O.,
H.Q., Yorkshire and Northumberland Brigade,
Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York.

DEAR SIR,

I enclose a cutting from a recent issue of the *Singapore Straits Times* which you might like to publish in THE IRON DUKE.

I doubt if anyone who served in Singapore in 1925 would be able to recognise the place now. It changes almost before one's eyes with new roads, skyscrapers and other adjuncts to modern life, springing up daily. The population of the island is now 1½ millions, which must be a great increase over 1925, and I think there are now something like 50,000 private cars. When one is trying to park a car it seems as if there is one for every inhabitant.

I hope the Dinner goes off well.

Yours sincerely,

TONY SAVORY.
H.Q. Singapore Base District,
c/o G.P.O. Singapore.

"Which was the greatest team in Singapore league football? Who were the best players of the past? Which was the best overseas soccer team to play in Singapore before the war? From whom did Dolfattah learn his uncanny heading?"

"These were some of the questions I put yesterday to a man whose opinions are of more value than most people's—Choo Kwai Low, known to officials, pressmen and players as 'Mr. Soccer Secretary,' the ideal sports official, whose reputation for hard work and quiet efficiency is acknowledged from Singapore to Shanghai, from Siam to Sourabaya.

"Last Sunday Kwai Low relinquished the No. 2 post in Malayan Chinese football when he declined re-election for a 10th term as M.C.F.A. secretary.

BEST TEAM

"Kwai Low's interest in football dates back to 1925, when he was 15. The team of the 2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment had just begun its three-year conquest in the S.A.F.A. League and Cup competitions, and they were young Kwai Low's heroes.

"'They were the best team I have seen in Singapore league football,' recalls Kwai Low, 'and they had a forward, Hawthorne, who really taught the Singapore civilian players the art of heading.'

"Hawthorne hardly ever missed with a header, Kwai Low says, and soon that great player Dolfattah had copied Hawthorne's style and mastered his technique. Until this day Dolfattah is renowned as the most skilful 'header' ever in Malayan football."

DEAR SIR,

The enclosed extract* is from "Illustrated Arrow" Series published by Hutchinson Authors Ltd., and I am sure would interest many old and young "Dukes."

Lindsey speaks of the old soldier's mind going back over those years. We are particularly fortunate in having a magazine like *THE IRON DUKE* which gave us a copy, in the Silver Jubilee issue, of a photograph taken in Malta in 1897 of the officers of the 1st Battalion. This was the year I joined the Battalion; I knew most of them, and later I served with several of them in the 2nd Battalion.

It must have been taken early in the year as Colonel Lloyd was in command and Captain J. F. Seaman ("Big Jim") was serving as Quartermaster at the Depot, Halifax.

I have to chuckle when I think of the names some of them were known by beyond those printed at the bottom of the picture.

In this respect I recall that on joining the 2nd Battalion the following year in Bangalore the R.S.M. was known by the other ranks (unofficially,

of course) as "Pym," just this and no further trimmings.

It was said that when he first learned of this he strongly objected to being called, as he put it, "after Captain Coode's blasted dog." He ought not to have been concerned, they were both thoroughbreds—Captain Coode owned a fine bloodhound named "Pym." Sgt.-Major Powell was without doubt a fine upstanding Yorkshireman.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE FINDING
(5532 of the "Dukes").
7 The Crescent,
Rustington, Littlehampton.

*This extract contains the account of the origin of the name Thomas Atkins, which appeared in *THE IRON DUKE* some years ago. Unfortunately it is almost certain that the story cannot be anything but a picturesque legend.—EDITOR.

Colonels of the Regiment

By J. W. HAYES

John Johnson (1739-53)

Anyone who has spent any time in the First Battalion Mess will probably be familiar with the physiognomy of John Johnson. Clad in the conventionalised armour of the time, he stares down, benignly for the most part, upon the company assembled in mess-room or ante-room. Unfortunately, although we have his portrait we have little more, since he is one of the most elusive of our early Colonels. Nothing definite is known of his parentage, and his will, in many cases a source of useful information, yields nothing more than his wife's Christian name and the fact that he was the owner of several manors and properties, all most inconveniently unspecified.

However, it can be deduced from various sources that he was probably the son of some city merchant who, having flourished in business, had set himself up as a country gentleman somewhere in the home counties, rather in the style of the cockney squire of Hillingdon Hall. Young John, almost certainly one of several children, improved his own situation by marrying an heiress who brought him the possession of several manors. His father and his wife together helped him to become a country-gentleman in his own right, and as such his estates went on to his son, another soldier.

John Johnson was distinctly the veteran soldier. When he was appointed Colonel of the 33rd in 1739 he had soldiered for 35 years—for the latter part of that time in the Guards—and had fought in Spain during Queen Anne's wars. And he went on fighting. It would appear that he went on service with the regiment when it went to Flanders with the expeditionary force in 1742. He may have been present at Dettingen the following year and also at Fontenoy. He was, at any rate, with the force, because in 1745 the Duke of Cumberland who commanded the British contingent applied to his

father, George II, for the removal of two Colonels, one of whom was Major-General Johnson, on the grounds that one was already in a madhouse, and the other (Johnson) was a doddering and useless old man! The duke emphasised how much it was for the good of the service to get rid of "useless worn-out officers," and went on to specify these two unfortunates as "two worn-out Colonels" who were "utterly useless," Poor Johnson! George II, however, was not the man to treat his old soldiers harshly, and Johnson remained until, in 1753, death removed him from the head of the Regiment.

This is the sum total of our present information. Johnson may be chiefly remembered for the fact that it was during his tenure of command, and very possibly under his immediate command, that the Regiment won the earliest battle-honour to appear on its colours (in date), that of "Dettingen," although the award was not made until 1881. During this period the 33rd fought bravely and suffered heavily at Fontenoy, Roucoux and Laffeldt, battles whose names are now generally forgotten, although they reflected the greatest credit upon the indomitable qualities of the English fighting man. It was in Johnson's time, too, that in 1751, the Royal Warrant regulating colours and uniform appeared. Johnson himself, as we learn from Major Savory's brochure on colours, had presented the pair that were carried into action at Dettingen and Fontenoy and were retired shortly afterwards—undoubtedly for the very good reason that they and their poles had been shot to pieces in the fury of battle. Though himself in most respects rather a nonentity, General Johnson's tenure of the Colonelry is remarkable for the stirring times it witnessed, and for the battle honour which, quite probably, he in person helped to win for the Regiment.

EXTRACTS

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

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

Continued from page 21, The Iron Duke, No. 103

Antwerp, Wednesday, May 18, 1814

There are several hundred galley slaves in the Citadel who, loaded with chains, are employed continually in the most laborious work. We have got one poor unfortunate Sergeant-Major out. He was condemned to serve in them for fifteen years, having been caught recruiting in Hanover for the King's German Legion; an ample subscription was made for him in the Garrison.

I was this day in General Orders for Town Adjutant. No French soldier is allowed to appear in the streets either night or day.

Antwerp, Thursday, May 19, 1814

The French garrison of Coudenen arrived today in the suburbs on their return.

Antwerp, Friday, May 20, 1814

The French garrison of Coudenen went on today and the garrison of *** arrived.—Wrote to my father giving him a long account of my success.

Antwerp, Saturday, May 21, 1814

Dined at General Cooke's.

Antwerp, Sunday, May 22, 1814

Occupied by the same duties as usual, dined with my landlord who is a rich merchant.

Antwerp, Monday, May 23, 1814

Walked down the Scheldt as far as Fort Ferdinand which is a very strong place at one of the turns of the river. All the way between this and the town is covered with forts of 24-pounders looking down the river and the French ships of war are still lying with their broadsides against any attempt to come up to the place; in fact, I should almost think it impossible for a fleet to approach.

Antwerp, Tuesday, May 24, 1814

We furnish a detachment of fifty men to the Tete de Flandre every third day. The detachment at Fort Lillo is entirely furnished by the 1st F. Veterans stationed at the village of ***.

Antwerp, Wednesday, May 25, 1814

None of the British are allowed by the French Guards to enter the Dock Yards or Basins.

Antwerp, Thursday, May 26, 1814

Hundreds of people discharged from the French armies are passing through Antwerp daily on their return home. I am to sign all their passports.

Antwerp, Friday, May 27, 1814

Bought an excellent little grey horse with saddle and bridle from Captain McDonald, 91st Regiment, for 30 guineas.

Antwerp, Saturday, May 28, 1814

A grand subscription ball at the theatre this evening, tickets five francs each. There is no public assembly room in the town.

Antwerp, Sunday, May 29, 1814

A parade on the esplanade of the whole of the troops in garrison.

Antwerp, Monday, May 30, 1814

Rainy weather. My occupations are nearly the same every day.

Antwerp, Tuesday, May 31, 1814

Dined with the 37th.

Antwerp, Wednesday, June 1, 1814

Took a walk with Archbold round the place and dined together at a Restaurateur afterwards. A Garrison Court of Enquiry is sitting on the conduct of Ensign Ryan 69th Regiment and Ensign Staunton 37th Regiment, who thrashed some French officers in a coffee house the other evening.

Antwerp, Thursday, June 2, 1814

Mounted my Staff uniform for the first time.

Antwerp, Friday, June 3, 1814

Guard mounting at 11 o'clock in the morning. I give the Garrison Orders out at 1 o'clock.

Antwerp, Saturday, June 4, 1814

A grand ball and supper was given to the inhabitants by the Military where we danced till 6 o'clock in the morning. About 600 bottles of champagne were drunk the first two hours.

Antwerp, Sunday, June 5, 1814

Divine service in the Bourse, Fetes de Champetre in the gardens of the different societies almost every evening.

Antwerp, Monday, June 6, 1814

Frequent patrols to be sent out by each town guard for the state of the public mind is such at the present moment as to require the strictest attention on the part of the military.

Antwerp, Tuesday, June 7, 1814

Was attending a Garrison Court Martial all the morning.

Antwerp, Wednesday, June 8, 1814

Williamstadt still remains the depot of the Army, but large military stores are beginning to form here.

Antwerp, Thursday, June 9, 1814

After this day my occupations begin to continue the same from one end of the month to the other, I shall therefore content myself with taking note of the most particular occurrence only.—Every evening almost is now spent in brilliant Fetes de Champetre in the gardens of the different societies, which are entertaining enough. In the day the streets are blocked up by numerous religious processions which the people are now again launching out into since the French left them, who always forbid them. They also destroyed several churches and all the images of the Virgin which the inhabitants are now busily employed in re-erecting. The French would not allow a priest to appear out of the Church in his robes, but now they parade about with them every way.

The ancient nobility are fond of this change as are the poorer class of inhabitants, but the middling and more informed dread the return of priestly power and superstition. The majority is, however, against the latter, for the major courts the priesthood to gain popularity.

About this time I went to the theatre to see the famous tightrope dancer Madame Saqui, who excels by far any that I have seen in England.

(Here ends this part of Thain's diary. From June 9, 1814, to May 16, 1815, there is a gap. Thain during this time remained in Antwerp as Town Adjutant, and as he suggests in his last entry, found little to write about. But on May 16, 1815, he was recommended to succeed to the

adjutancy of the 33rd and resigning the Town Adjutancy rejoined the regiment at Soignies, south of Brussels. Napoleon was now concentrating his army on the French-Belgian frontier, after his escape from Elba, and the Allies were mobilising their forces for a projected invasion of France. The next few months of Thain's life were to be anything but humdrum and his diary includes a description of Waterloo and the occupation of Paris.—EDITOR.)

O.C.A. NEWS

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION AND O.C.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION DINNER FOR 1957

In order to fit in with the return of the 1st Battalion from overseas and the laying-up ceremony of the Colours, the date of this annual gathering will be Saturday, October 5th.

The annual general meeting will be in the T.V. room, at Regimental Headquarters, with the Colonel of the Regiment in the chair, at 1730 hrs. As this will be the last O.C.A. meeting General Sir Philip Christison will attend as President, we should like as many members as possible to attend on this occasion.

Reunion Dinner. As usual this will be held in the Depot Dining Hall at 1930 hrs. Tickets 8s. 6d. each. Admittance will be by ticket only and seating is limited to 250. Tickets will be available after September 1. Only members and their wives are entitled to attend the dinner.

Running Buffet will be arranged in the Gym for those unable to obtain dinner tickets. Buffet will be open from 1900 hrs.

Dancing will follow the dinner to which members may introduce their lady friends.

Laying up of the Colours Ceremony. This takes place at 1100 hrs. and the details will be found elsewhere in this issue. Although the time may prove inconvenient for "Out Station" members we very much hope all who can get to Halifax for the ceremony will do so and reinforce us "locals." Members will be circularised by the General Secretary about O.C.A. arrangements, later.

Chelsea. Another ex-member of the Regiment has entered The Royal Hospital as an in-pensioner. He is 5128 Pte. W. A. Pentlow, aged 78 years. Enlisted January 20, 1896, and was discharged January 18, 1903. During the First World War he served in the R.A.S.C. from May 13, 1915 until January 1, 1919. He holds the 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals. Mr. J. R. Willcocks, himself an in-pensioner, is unable to give any more information about I/P. Pentlow at the moment, because he was almost immediately admitted to the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich.

Obituary

(Continued from page 88)

MR. E. C. TAYLOR, late Bandsman, 1st Battalion.

Mr. Taylor died at his daughter's home, 43 Malvern Avenue, Highams Park, E.4, on March 12, aged 80 years. He enlisted into the 1st Battalion as a boy musician at the age of 14 on January 21, 1892. Joining them at York, he served through the South African War, India and Malta, eventually being discharged, at his own request, from Solon, India, in November 1910, after 18 years' service. Re-enlisting in August 1914, he served with D.W.R., on home service, until 1919. His daughter, Mrs. Jay Wheal, tells us his whole heart was with the Regiment right up to the end. Certainly his many references from officers under whom he served give proof of his abilities as a soldier and as a musician. Mr. Taylor attended, until quite recently, Regimental reunions and functions, both here and in London. He also paraded and marched with the O.C.A. on the occasion of the Queen's Coronation Parade in Hyde Park, in 1953.

Once a 'Duke'
always a 'Duke'

so keep in touch by
joining the Regimental Association
when you leave the Regiment

London and Home Counties Branch O.C.A. Reunion Dinner



The annual reunion dinner of the London and Home Counties branch of the O.C.A. was held in the Officers' Mess of the Westminster Dragoons on Saturday, May 11. The attendance was gratifying, the majority taking the hint given on the tickets, "7.30 for 8 p.m.," that a drink and a chat beforehand were good appetisers for the dinner to follow.

Sixty-three sat down at the well-appointed tables and apologies for absence received by the secretary, Mr. J. Smith, often included donations towards the funds, thus assisting the aim of the present committee—a sound financial basis towards pleasant reunions to follow.

Mr. R. H. Temple was in the chair, and following the Royal toast and the toast to the Regiment, introduced Colonel F. R. Armitage, O.B.E. Briefly giving details of the Regiment's activities, the speaker spoke of the 1st Battalion's move to Malta

and subsequent departure for Cyprus where they distinguished themselves against the terrorists (applause). He concluded with the news that the Battalion was due home in September before proceeding to Ireland, and also expressed thanks to Mr. Hookham and his staff for the excellent dinner.

Many old friendships were renewed and new acquaintances made during the evening, stimulated by the thought that this reunion dinner would be followed by many similar gatherings.

Letters of apologies for absence were received from General Sir A. F. Philip Christison, Bt., G.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., D.C., Major-General W. M. Ozanne, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Dalrymple, O.B.E., Captain M. H. Hands, Brigadier C. W. Grimley, ex-Drum Major J. Willcocks, Major A. Glover, U.S.C., and Mr. J. A. Haugh.

The English Association with Minorca

BY PETER B. PRICE

The first occupation: November 17, 1712-June 29, 1756

In 1708 Port Mahon was captured by General Stanhope. Subsequently the Treaty of Utrecht confirmed this first occupation of Minorca, which lasted 54 years.

General Sir Richard Kane was appointed Lieutenant-governor in 1713. After a short interval as Lieutenant-governor of Gibraltar he returned to Minorca with the rank of Governor and remained there until his death in 1736. He is buried at Fort St. Philip, commanding the entrance to Port Mahon, which was later the scene of two British surrenders. Kane appears to have been the ablest and best-loved of all the British governors of Minorca. Many of the delightful Queen Anne houses and Georgian squares, which to-day lend such charm and distinction to the capital, were built under his administration. His most notable achievement was the great highway, still the best road on Minorca, running from Mahon at one end of the island to the old capital of Ciudadela at the other. The first milestone outside Mahon consists of a monument to this remarkable man. Professionally he was an original tactician and the author of "A New System of Exercise for a Battalion of Foot," which went through several editions and was highly thought of by General Wolfe.

The port of Mahon is among the finest and most beautiful natural harbours in the Mediterranean. Its anchorage, lying at the end of a broad channel three miles long, must have been even more suitable for sailing ships than that of Valetta, which it somewhat resembles. In the words of Andrea Doria, who commanded the Genoese squadron at Lepanto:

"Junio, Julio, Agosto
y el puerto de Mahon
los mejores puertos
del Mediterraneo son."

It was doubtless on this account that in 1722 Kane ordered the capital to be transferred from Ciudadela to Mahon, where it has since remained.

In 1756, at the beginning of the Seven Years' War, French troops under the Duc de Richelieu landed in Minorca on Easter Day. On April 29 the English garrison at Fort St. Philip surrendered and were allowed to march out with the honours of war. Meanwhile a relieving squadron sent from England under Admiral Byng had withdrawn after an inconclusive engagement with the French. It appears that Byng adhered too strictly to Admiralty textbooks and failed to anticipate Nelson's celebrated but unorthodox manoeuvre of "breaking the line." The defeat caused an uproar in England, as a result of which Byng was court-martialled and

shot on the quarter-deck of his flagship. This savage punishment occasioned Candide's remark: "Dans ce pays-ci il est bon de tuer de temps en temps un amiral, pour encourager les autres."*

The French capture of Minorca gave rise to another incident, less dramatic and notorious than Byng's execution. The Duc de Richelieu insisted that his food should be as succulent on active service as it was at Versailles. For this purpose he had brought with him one of the best cooks in France, who found to his dismay that Mahon could provide neither cream nor butter for his master's table. He therefore invented a new sauce, requiring only eggs and olive oil, to which he gave the name it still bears, "la Mahonaise."

The Second Occupation:

July 3, 1763-December 12, 1781

The capture of Minorca was almost the only French success to offset the disasters of the Seven Years' War, and by the Treaty of Paris in 1763 the island was retroceded to Britain. The second period of English rule seems to have been less fruitful than the first. The Governor, Sir James Johnston, is described by a Minorcan historian as "rash and violent." He is chiefly remembered for having forbidden the practice of carrying corpses through the streets on open biers. Nonetheless, English administration at its worst seems to have been preferred to French or Spanish. For the historian goes on to observe that when the Spaniards captured Mahon on December, 1781, during the closing stages of the American War of Independence, the citizens, "far from welcoming their Spanish rulers with joy, received them in deep silence and closed their doors and shutters when the Spanish troops marched at dusk through the streets of Mahon."

To Minorcans the chief merit of the English was that they let them be. To quote the same historian: "Let us note, as conclusive evidence of the extreme tolerance shown by the English, that never during their three occupations did they build a single church dedicated to their Protestant Faith, but contented themselves with the Church of St. Joseph, bestowed on them by the clergy of Mahon." The non-Spanish reader may wonder how far this was due to tact and how far to thrift.

In 1783 the Treaty of Versailles confirmed Spanish sovereignty over Minorca, in return for an undertaking by Spain to renounce for ever her claim to the "Plaza de Gibraltar."

* The English believe in shooting an admiral every now and then in order to encourage the others.—VOLTAIRE

The Third Occupation:
November 11, 1798-June 16, 1802

In November, 1798, a force of 350 British soldiers under Colonel Paget landed in Minorca and captured Mahon without loss. When the Alcalde came forward to surrender the keys of the city, Colonel Paget gracefully declined them, saying it would be enough that the people of Mahon should signify their return to the old allegiance by giving three cheers for King George. This they did with enthusiasm.

The third British occupation was also the shortest. In 1802 the Peace of Amiens called a brief halt to the war against Napoleon, and Minorca was restored to Spain in accordance with Pitt's policy of appeasement. On June 16 the last British garrison marched out of Fort St. Philip and departed in a blaze of naval splendour, the escort consisting of two ships of the line, eight frigates and ten barquentines.

Since that day the British Government has made one fleeting appearance in Minorcan history. In 1938 the cruiser *Devonshire* negotiated the surrender to General Franco of the last piece of Spanish territory which had remained loyal to the Republic.

Of this historic association what remains? The visible monuments are, principally, General Kane's

highway, Admiral Nelson's farm overlooking the harbour of Mahon and a wealth of graceful Hanoverian architecture. Many Minorcan houses have fanlights and sash windows, which are found nowhere else in Spain.

In Mahon and the neighbouring villages one sees round-faced tabby cats, sleeker, better cared-for and more forthcoming than is usual among Latin cats. Are they perhaps descended from wardroom favourites?

One of the most striking legacies of British rule is the words that have become embedded in the Mahonese dialect, a mixture of Catalan and Provençal. Bartolomé, Gabriel and Antonio are known as Mevis, Bili and Tony. Carpenters speak of "jach," "bit," "escru" and "tornescru." Children play "mervels" (marbles); butchers sell a "xanc" of beef; you buy a "botil" of wine and conclude a "berguin."

In these days of wrath it is pleasant and consoling to find one spot in the Mediterranean where the British are recalled with affection, even regret. Perhaps in a generation or two we shall enjoy as warm and friendly a remembrance in Cyprus, when all that remains of us is efficient plumbing and the ability to make a "cuppa."

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