

No.112 April 1959



THE IRON DUKE

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

THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Magazine of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

Dettingen
Mysore
Seringapatam
Ally Ghur
Delhi, 1803
Leswarree
Deig
Corunna
Nive
Peninsula
Waterloo
Alma
Inkerman
Sevastopol
Abyssinia
Relief of Kimberley
Paardeberg
South Africa 1900-02
Mons 1914
Marne 1914, '18
Ypres 1914, '15, '17



Hill 60
Somme 1916, '18
Arras 1917, '18
Cambrai 1917, '18
Lys
Piave 1918
Landing at Suva
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
The Hook 1953
Korea 1952-53

Vol. XXXV

APRIL 1959

No. 112

BUSINESS NOTES

Published Quarterly — January, April, July and October

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

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

Editor: COLONEL R. G. TURNER,
29A BROOK STREET,
LONDON, W.1

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

Copy for the July 1959 issue should be in the Editor's hands by June 1, 1959

CONTENTS

	PAGE
<i>The Regiment</i>	32
<i>Editorial</i>	33
<i>Regimental News</i>	34
<i>1st Battalion</i>	35
<i>Regimental H.Q. and Depot</i>	41
<i>5/7th Battalion, T.A...</i>	42
<i>Commanding Officers</i>	45
<i>The Colonel and the Sniper</i>	46
<i>11th Battalion in Camp, 1915</i>	47
<i>Personalia</i>	48
<i>Memorial to Lt.-Colonel F. H. B. Wellesley</i>	49
<i>Regimental Association</i>	50
<i>Correspondence</i>	50
<i>Three C.C.F. Cadets visit India</i>	51
<i>Obituary</i>	52
<i>Diary of Pte. Arthur Sunley</i>	55
<i>Retired Officers' Fund</i>	57

THE REGIMENT

Colonel of the Regiment :

MAJOR-GENERAL K. G. EXHAM, C.B., D.S.O.

Deputy Colonel of the Regiment :

BRIGADIER B. W. WEBB-CARTER, D.S.O., O.B.E.

Commanding Officers :

<i>1st Battalion, Palace Barracks, Holywood, Belfast, Northern Ireland</i>	Lieutenant-Colonel P. P. de la H. Moran.
<i>Regimental H.Q. and Depot, Wellesley Barracks, Halifax</i>	Major R. H. Ince
<i>5/7th Battalion (T.A.), Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield</i>	Hon. Colonel: Colonel G. B. Howcroft, M.C., T.D., J.P.
	C.O.: Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Gadd, E.R.D.

AFFILIATED ROYAL ARTILLERY REGIMENT OF THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

<i>382 Medium Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A., Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax</i>	Hon. Colonel: Colonel G. H. Aykroyd, T.D.
	C.O.: Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Simpson, R.A., T.A.
<i>"P" (4 D.W.R.) Medium Battery, R.A., Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax</i>	Major H. A. Ballantine, R.A., T.A.
<i>"Q" Medium Battery, R.A., Drill Hill, Mirfield</i> ..	Major B. Farrow, R.A., T.A.
<i>"R" (6 D.W.R.) Medium Battery, Drill Hall, Otley Street, Skipton</i>	Major A. V. Fawell, R.A., T.A.

ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE CANADIAN ARMY

<i>Le Régiment des Voltigeurs de Quebec, Ménage Militaire, Grand-Allée, Quebec</i>	Hon. Colonel: The Right Honourable Louis-S. St. Laurent, M.P., C.P., C.R., LL.D.
	C.O.: Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Matte

AFFILIATED UNITS OF THE ARMY CADET FORCE

<i>382 Cadet Medium Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.), The Hutments, Hunger Hill, Halifax</i>	Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Jamieson.
<i>7. Cadet Battalion (D.W.R.), Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield</i>	Major W. A. Briggs.
<i>A.C.F. Contingent, Heckmondwike Grammar School</i> ..	Captain A. M. Hey.
<i>Independent A.C.F. Company, Eshton Hall School</i> ..	Lieutenant-Colonel G. Dadson

AFFILIATED UNITS OF THE COMBINED CADETS FORCE

<i>Leeds Grammar School C.C.F. Contingent</i>	Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Whitmore, O.B.E., T.D.
<i>Giggleswick School C.C.F. Contingent</i>	Major S. Wardle.
<i>Rishworth School C.C.F. Contingent</i>	Lt.-Commander P. D. Job, R.C.N.(R.), Ret'd.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Patrons:

His Grace The Duke of Wellington, K.G.
The Right Honourable The Earl of Scarbrough, K.G.

President:

Major-General K. G. Exham, C.B., D.S.O.

General Secretary:

Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E.

EDITORIAL

The first number of *THE IRON DUKE* was published in April 1925. It recorded the recent death of the last Regimental survivor of the Crimean War; it carried some advance publicity for the diary of a certain Lt. William Thain and, among matters of current interest, noted that Captain O. Price had completed a tour at the Depot and that 2 Lt. R. G. Turner had joined the 2nd Battalion. We don't know about Captain Price, but can say that no pricking of the thumbs warned 2 Lt. Turner who would be editor of No. 112.

However, that's us that was, and we can, at any rate, get a good start by pointing out a lapse on the part of the editor of No. 1. The Crimean veteran was a Mr. Geo. Anderson, and the editor quite failed to point out that he was a kinsman of a future Prime Minister, although the contributor supplied the information that Mr. Anderson's mother was Mary Macmillan, a sister of the founders of the great publishing house.

For 23 years the magazine was edited from an unpronounceable address in Wales by Lt.-Colonel Mordaunt Trench; he gained for it the reputation of the best regimental journal in publication. Then, Major Austin combined editorship with the duties of O.C. Regimental Depot but, being the right man in the right place, was posted elsewhere. For nearly eight years, Lt.-Colonel Owen Price has, from the cliffs of Dover, battled with the ever-rising tide of difficulties which besets regimental journals. The difficulties, mainly financial, are more serious than most readers realise; much credit is due to O.P. for having maintained the standard of the magazine as well as he has done. He remains our poet laureate. For the past year, the Regimental H.Q. and Depot staff have held the breech, while taking good care to make clear that it hurt them more than you.

The Regiment owes a debt of gratitude to all the above, and particularly to what one may perhaps without offence call the two "proper" editors who, between them, have kept the Regiment's first and only magazine in regular production for so long. It is a sad coincidence that both of them have had to undergo an operation for cataract (we can only hope that this is not an occupational affliction). We feel that readers will wish for news of them, and publish this in the "Personalia" column.

Now, the editorial office has moved to Mayfair. This is more get-at-able than Wales or the white cliffs, and callers who are not afraid of a few flights of stairs will be welcome.

Our editorial policy is as yet nebulous—we are still struggling to learn the works and spot the snags. In any case, as previous editors have pointed out, the magazine must be largely what you, the readers, make it. You are our (unpaid!) reporters, while, without your comments and suggestions, we can't tell what you like or hate or, in fact, if anyone reads the damn thing, anyway.

We do know that we want to try to expand the

"Personalia" section; we think that a most useful function of the magazine is to keep old comrades in touch with one another. So, we particularly want from you items of personal news. We have, we consider, an interesting "Personalia" in this number, but some may note that it is very largely made up of news of contemporaries and friends of the editor; this is inevitable if "Dukes" of all ranks and ages do not send news of themselves and their friends, particularly those "far-flung" or otherwise out of touch with the Regiment of today.

We also want more people to send accounts of their experiences. *THE IRON DUKE* has published many diaries and letters. Some have been rather old history and, while we will always be glad to publish new light on the Regiment's past, we will be even happier to publish eye-witness accounts of more recent events. The magazine should aim to be a happy hunting ground for future historians. In any case, the well of history seems to have dried up; even the redoubtable William Thain who started in No. 2 (long before Mrs. Dale was heard of) came to an end in No. 109.

So, where are the diaries and letters from Korea and Cyprus? Don't think you have to cover the whole campaign—a quarterly journal is not really a good medium for serial stories, so accounts of a single adventure are more suitable. An admirable example by our Deputy Colonel appears on page 46. And the shorter the account the better. This, incidentally, applies even more strongly to verse; we will not publish long poems unless they are pretty good, but will almost guarantee to find room for anything under eight lines—no matter how rocky its rhyming and scansion.

We have "hogged" (with acknowledgments to the late sub-editor of the 1st Battalion) this editorial, and will probably do so again, so we have started a new column headed "Regimental News," which will be found on the following page and which summarises news of interest from all elements of the Regiment.

We meant to end by quoting something we saw in another journal—we think in one of the Ski Club of Great Britain publications. Unfortunately, we cannot now locate it but, from memory, it ran: "If you find any misprints, remember that we try to please everybody, and some people aren't happy unless they can find something wrong."

DINNERS

The Annual Dinner of the Officers' Dining Club and the Regimental Tea will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.1, on Friday, May 29, 1959.

* * *

The Annual Dinner of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Regimental Association will be held at the Westminster Dragoons' Drill Hall, 1 Elverton Street, Victoria, London, S.W.1, on Saturday, May 9.

REGIMENTAL NEWS

The return of the Colonel of the Regiment from his appointment in Nigeria has been delayed, probably until about mid-June. This means that he will not be able to attend either the Regimental Dinner or the Trooping of the Colour which the 1st Battalion is due to perform on June 5. The Colonel's absence from these events will be much regretted but, unfortunately, it has proved impossible to postpone either of them.

The newly constituted borough of Shenborough in the West Riding has done the Regiment the signal honour of granting it the freedom of the borough. This will be conferred on June 20, 1959, at Cleckheaton. The Colonel of the Regiment hopes to be back in time to attend this ceremony.

A number of farewell functions, to mark the closing down of the Regimental Depot at Wellesley Barracks, are planned to take place in Halifax and district between June 17 and 21. The Depot staff has not yet been able to supply exact details of the programme but proposes to send them later to all IRON DUKE subscribers.

It will be some considerable time before the new Yorkshire Brigade Depot at Strensall is ready for occupation. In the meantime our recruits are to be trained at the Depot of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire at Beverley; this process has, in fact, already begun. Readers will learn from the Regimental H.Q. and Depot Notes that the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment has expressed the wish that all past and present members of the "Duke's" should treat Beverley as their own depot. This gesture will be greatly appreciated.

In July the 5/7th Battalion is celebrating the centenary of the formation of the Huddersfield Rifle Volunteers from which corps both the former 5th and 7th Battalions could claim uninterrupted descent.

The 5/7th Battalion has a new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel F. R. Gadd, E.R.D. The former C.O., Lt.-Colonel J. Davidson has been appointed to East African Command as A.A.G. A brief account of Lt.-Colonel Gadd's service is given on page 45. On the same page is also a short "profile" of Lt.-Colonel R. Francois Matte who, last year, took over command of our allied regiment of the Canadian Army, Le Régiment des Voltigeurs de Quebec.

The following officers have been gazetted to the Regiment from the R.M.A. Sandhurst: W. R. Mundell and M. W. Summers. 2 Lt. Summers is the son of Brigadier W. H. Summers who was in the 1st Battalion from 1932 to '35 before trans-

ferring to the R.A.S.C. 2 Lt. Mundell got his colours for the R.M.A. rugby XV and won the Tactics Prize,

The Colours presented to the 4th (T.A.) Battalion in 1927 are being laid up in Halifax Parish Church on Sunday, April 26.

The Korean battle honour plaques are now in position on the screen in the Regimental Chapel in York Minster. A wreath of Flanders poppies was placed in the Chapel on Remembrance Day.

Most readers have probably already learned with regret that the 1st Battalion rugby XV was beaten by 5 points to nil in the Army Cup at Catterick by the 1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals who went on to beat the South Wales Borderers by 3—0 and, in the final, the Royal Scots by 12—9. Three members of the 1st Battalion side: 2 Lt. S. R. Arnold and Cpl. J. Scroby (forwards) and Pte. P. J. Davies (scrum half) have been playing regularly for the Army and were in the Army team which lost to the Royal Navy at Twickenham on March 7. L/Cpl. D. Davies was picked as travelling reserve for the Welsh rugby league team to play France.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE CENTENARY

To quote once more from the first number of THE IRON DUKE: "The honours that had been bestowed on the great Duke of Wellington in his lifetime did not exhaust the gratitude of his Sovereign and country for the eminent services he had rendered. Shortly after his death, which occurred on September 1, 1852, three lasting memorials were created in his honour. A magnificent tomb—one of the finest monuments of its kind in the world—was erected in St. Paul's Cathedral; the 33rd Regiment, in which he had served, and with which he had been closely associated throughout a large part of his military career, was, by command of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, designated 'The Duke of Wellington's Regiment'; and Wellington College was founded by public subscription, primarily for the education of sons of deceased officers of Her Majesty's Army."

The formal inauguration of the College took place early in 1859, Her Majesty, the Prince Consort and the Princess Alice being present on the occasion. The centenary is being celebrated at the College during the week June 15-21.

On behalf of the Regiment, which has always maintained as close a liaison as possible with Wellington College, and has received from it many distinguished officers, including at least one Colonel of the Regiment, the late Lt.-General Sir Herbert Belfield, we would offer our congratulations on this landmark in the history of the College and our best wishes for its continued success.

1st BATTALION

SUB-EDITORIAL

Roger Sugden, now rejoicing in his freedom from this chair and indeed from the Army, stated in his last editorial that he would keep it short—"succinct" was the word (or one of them)—and then proceeded to write nearly two pages of print. His successor, who supposes that he has earned the appointment on the strength of some spurious doggerel written for *The Onlooker* in India, hopes not to fall into the same error. Shakespeare has it somewhere that "Good wine needs no bush," and this seems a good text for a sub-editorial.

Christmas passed in its usual whirl, a hair's-breadth above reality. A concert, ably organised by Major Barry Kavanagh, made some £25 for S.S.A.F.A. and Cancer Relief. Many and prolonged were the off-stage dramas before the opening night and, at one stage, some members of the Band almost came to blows. This "turn" was very nearly included in the programme to give some variety to a multitude of skiffle groups who all wanted to sing "Tom Dooley."

The children's Christmas party was well organised and a great success. Captain Cyril Kenchington made a genial Father Christmas and Padre Comyns controlled the large number of children in the manner of one who has spent many years persuading recalcitrant Christians (military) to come to church.

By mid-January all leave parties had returned and things were back to normal. Our defeat in the Army Cup is dealt with elsewhere, but when the news was telephoned from Catterick there was a stunned silence in the barracks. The President of the Audit Board was so overcome that he upset a cup of tea, to the permanent detriment of a list of sundry creditors. The more cynical have it that, next year, the team will get the morning off for training as well as the afternoon. Seriously—Hard lines! and better luck next year.

The annual administrative inspection is again drawing close. Paint and its concomitants are much in demand—one company has even painted its dust-bins!—and the voices of many turtles are heard in the land.

After March, when April follows, will come the St. George's Day Parade and after that Trooping the Colour in June. Some of the more slender field officers are determined, so it is said, to put on weight—pear-shaped majors not being in much demand on the parade ground for such an auspicious occasion. After this we have the summer training cycle of classification and company camps at Magilligan. Our Bisley team will have some worthy opposition in N.I.D. in the shape of the 60th Rifles who are now stationed at Ballykinlar.

In the early autumn the Battalion is due to move to England to join the strategic reserve. Our destination is said to be Warley Barracks at Brentwood, Essex, but we cannot plan far ahead these days.

We must pay a tribute to Brigadier O. G. Brooke, C.B.E., D.S.O., who has handed over command of our Brigade. He has been a great friend and supporter of the Battalion and he will be much missed by all ranks. His successor is Brigadier V. W. Street, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., erstwhile of the Rifle Brigade and a noted horseman.

OFFICERS' MESS

After our last notes were written, autumn faded imperceptibly into winter, but Mess life changed not at all. Still governed by the "square box," the living-in officers became ardent fans of Ernie Bilco, admirers of Monty and slaves of Quatermas. Nevertheless, when occasion demanded, even the nine permanent fixtures in the TV room emerged and we have had several successful Mess functions.

Our November guest night was blanketed by a thick pall of fog, and the two guests who made it, Colonel E. D. R. Shearer, O.B.E., T.D. (Deputy Commander 107 Infantry Brigade, T.A.), and Mr. R. G. C. Kinahan, M.P., deserved medals for navigation and perseverance.

On December 12 we held a Regimental cocktail party. The original idea was to have a small party, but we have made so many friends in Ireland that the list grew rapidly. The party was a huge success and did credit to all those who worked so hard to plan it and to put it on. The Mess looked its best with greenery begged, borrowed or stolen by the P.M.C., and beautiful flowers arranged by Mrs. Harris. We cannot pass on without a word for the Mess staff, under Sgt. Creighton, who worked so very hard and who, on the evening, were immaculate. The champagne flowed freely and, after the party, the more intrepid younger officers carried on to a ball in Armagh. For some time they were accused of over-indulgence as they gyrated along the roads; eventually, all realised that the road was coated with black ice, a nasty proposition which only the more determined overcame.

December 18 saw the dining-out of Roger Sugden, now with the "golden bowler." It was his night: he chose the menu, the wines, conducted the Band for "Ikla Moor" (even producing new words) and organised games. The high-light came at blow-football on the billiard table when a "blow" from Gilbert-Smith coincided with a "suck" by Tedd. The table-tennis ball disappeared and Tedd's eyes came out on stalks, a sight which reduced the C.O. to near-hysteria. With a dainty cough the P.M.C. reproduced the ball, which sped like a bullet down the table and scored a goal. It was a wonderful evening, tinged with sadness. We wish the whole Sugden family the very best of luck in York.

Christmas came and went, and we are rather hazy as to what happened. Reciprocated visits between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes were undertaken; we served out Christmas dinner in the cookhouse, and the soccer match on Boxing Day

was the usual chaotic draw—the equalising goal being scored, in William Webb-Ellis fashion, through a haze of red smoke in the dying moments. There is no doubt that the officers' fancy dress was more fancy than the sergeants'!

On New Year's Eve an informal dance was held which was a great success. The changing of the years was marked by a pageant worthy of Earls Court: "The Old Year," Shenton, staggered out (a born natural actor), whilst "The New Year," Gilbert-Smith, the ugliest of new-born babes, was delivered by the midwife, Campbell-Lamerton, who placed him gently on the floor and uncovered his baby shape. All the while the gentle Hoppe was beating out the chimes on a fragile-looking gong, attired in a leopard skin.

January was a quiet month, enlivened only by the visit of the 3rd Submarine Squadron to Belfast. We entertained Captain Adams and his officers to tea and drinks in the Mess, after a visit to their ships at lunch-time.

With the arrival of February the tempo has increased slightly, and on February 5, the occasion of the N.I.D. Cross-Country Championship, which was organised by the Battalion, we entertained many of the spectators to tea. Amongst these, we were proud and happy to welcome the former C.I.G.S., Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, in his capacity as Colonel of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. We were also pleased to see the C.O. and officers of the 60th Rifles who have recently joined our Brigade.

Au revois have been said to the Harrises now in Germany, to the Le Mesuriers who, after a happy reunion at Christmas, are now in Rhodesia—and, of course, the Sugdens. "Sic transit gloria mundi."

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

The final mention in our last notes was the Christmas draw. This we held just before Christmas and it seemed to be the best ever, the Mess being full to about bursting point with members and guests, all in great spirits. The number of tickets sold ran into thousands and prizes were even bigger and better than on previous occasions. Nearly everyone seemed to win something and, as the writer sits racking his brains, chocolate biscuits continue to come out of his ears. A good evening was had by all and we must congratulate the organisers on doing a splendid job.

Christmas and New Year saw most members on leave, which did not warrant any great Mess celebrations, but the "rear party" did get the spirit going.

It was decided that for December we would hold a dinner dance in place of the usual monthly dinner. Wives and friends were invited and good reports of the evening were to follow. In January we invited guests from our neighbouring units and we were pleased to have the 2IC, Major A. D. Firth, M.B.E., M.C., and the Q.M., Captain C. C. Kenchington, M.B.E., as our guests.

"If you can't bust the racket, then get into it," is the old soldiers' advice. Some members have taken this to heart and, at long last, the R.Q.M.S. has become engaged (Malta company commanders

of "Bravo" to note!). We certainly give him our very best wishes, and also to Sgt. Gunn who returned from his recent leave a married man. These two stalwarts of the anti-married men's league are very quiet these days. Are they subdued, or haven't they anything to talk about any more? Also in this school is C.Q.M.S. Dickie, who again tells us that he is engaged (we will congratulate you when it happens, Tom). If the single men continue to fall at such a rate, we will have to evacuate the top-floor bunks and run a bus to Bangor.

Bob Scott, the Cook Sergeant, has left us for that rough county of Yorkshire and in his place "marched in" a soldier of the Queen, Jock McGuigan, from north of the border and late of the K.O.S.B. Good-bye to you, Bob, and may you be happy at your new station; now the Mess needs a new snooker coach. Welcome to you, Jock, and to Sgt. Smith who is back from the 5/7th. We also say farewell to C.S.M. Arundel and that "S" Company stalwart, Sgt. Bob Spring, who have gone to the 5/7th Battalion. We will be seeing you at various functions, so it is not a good-bye, but congratulations on your promotion, Al. Another lost to us is Sgt. Bailes, who has gone to do a tour with the R.E.M.E. Training Establishment at Aborfield. Congratulations on the birth of your daughter, Joe, and don't teach R.E.M.E. to shoot too well, please.

Improvements to the Mess continue and we now have the loudest telephone bell in barracks. I suggest we move it to the bunks of those who use it most, Willy Wass and Ginger Tom!

With these notes finished, we look forward to the Paardeberg Ball which takes place this very week, and much sweat is being shed over the preparations. So the exhausted writer will retire, giving our best wishes to all our readers and our not-forgotten old comrades.

CORPORALS' MESS

December 19 saw the Mess back in social life with a Christmas party which was, as usual, a success. As guests we had the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Moran, the 2IC, Major Sugden and Mrs. Sugden (whom we all take this opportunity of wishing the very best of luck) Captain and Mrs. Shuttleworth, and Captain Huxtable and his fiancée.

Since we entered the New Year, social life has been quiet, but behind the scenes preparations are being made for the St. George's Ball which we hope will be held in the Queen's Hall, Holywood, and on the correct day this year.

On January 30 we were once again guests at the Lough View Hotel for a darts match; unfortunately we lost (one can't win all the time—ask the rugby team!).

Friday, February 23, saw us turn out at football against the Sergeants' Mess; the actual result was a 4—2 win for the corporals, but the referee, being neutral (R.S.M.'s batman), allowed the sergeants to score two offside goals to make the score even. The main thing to note about this game was the three "own goals" which the sergeants kindly

gave us. Sgt. Chilvers, being the old sport that he is, gave us the first.

In our last notes we welcomed back in the Mess Cpls. Hudson and Wright; once again we have lost these much travelled N.C.O.s, Cpl. Hudson to a Signal's course at Hythe and Cpl. Wright to the Boys' School at Plymouth (congrats, Norman, on your promotion to Sergeant). Amongst other congratulations we must not forget John Fee (up to Sergeant), and L/Cpl. Walker (Drums) on his recent marriage. We wish both Alfie and Bertha all that they may wish themselves.

Since our last notes we have lost on posting to the Brigade Depot, Beverley, three of our oldest members, Cpls. Hartley, Rusby and Proctor. Good luck, chaps! We hope that you all do well.

Our heartiest congratulations to L/Cpl. ("Quick Silver") Derek Davies on being picked as travelling reserve to the Welsh Rugby League side to play in France.

Greetings to all past members of this Mess who may read these notes.

RUGBY NOTES

The stop press of the last issue contained the results of the Army Cup games against 38 Training Regiment, R.A., and 17 Training Regiment, R.A. We are sad to relate that our progress in the competition was halted by 1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals, at Catterick on January 21. The score was 5—0.

The game against 17 Training Regiment, R.A., at Oswestry, was played on December 9, and there followed a frustrating period of postponement and cancellation; the next time we took the field was at Catterick. The difficulties during this period were caused by excessive rain in Ireland, the Christmas break and the long icy period in January. The game against the Signals was originally arranged for the beginning of January, but our journey was halted at Halifax and we were forced to return to Belfast until the weather cleared.

Although there was plenty of gym training during this period, we were a long way below peak form on the day and failed against our old foes. They fully deserved their victory for they were quicker to the ball and scrummaged very well. They scored in the first half and held on to this lead when the "Dukes" began to attack in the last twenty minutes. The Signals now appear well placed to win the cup once more.

After this great disappointment our next game was a relaxation from cup football. We beat Trinity College in Dublin by 9 points to 8. A certain consternation was caused in official circles in the North for we omitted to inform the Ambassador that the Regimental XV was crossing the frontier, and the police were most concerned about our safety. Our reception in Dublin could not have been better and all "incidents" were extremely pleasant. There were various complimentary remarks about the type of football played. 2 Lt. Shenton returned to the team, having broken his collar-bone against 38 Training Regiment, R.A.

Against Dungannon, a senior Ulster side, we had another bad day and lost our unbeaten record in Ireland this season. Some weak defensive play and

our inability to win the ball in the scrum allowed our opponents to build up a lead of 9 points (1 try and 2 penalties). Although we replied with 2 tries, one a magnificent effort by Haywood, we were unable to convert them and the game ended 9—6.

The "Dukes" XV represented N.I.D. against the Royal Navy in Ireland and, on a perfect day on a firm pitch, we were able to take revenge for last season's unfortunate defeat.

It has been reported that for twelve months the Navy has existed on last year's win; comedians at ship's concerts obtained a good laugh simply by producing a rugby ball on the stage and asking: "Who beat the 'Dukes'?" During the first half the game was tight and the Navy tackled very well. After half-time everything "clicked" and some glorious running was seen. Forwards and backs were equally responsible for the final score of 51—3. Unconfirmed reports state that the G.O.C. was offering the following terms to the assembled company: first, "odds on the 'Dukes' to win," then "odds on the 'Dukes' winning by 10 points," and finally, "odds on how many points would be scored during the next five minutes."

It is with regret that we have said good-bye to L/Cpl. Haywood. He was a major factor in our success last season and has been outstanding this year. His tries against the Welsh Guards, the R.A.S.C. in Germany, 17 Training Regiment at Oswestry, and Dungannon, will be remembered by those who were watching and playing. Far more important, however, was his splendid team spirit and his unassuming approach to the game.

Other notable features of this part of the season have been:

(a) The arrival of Pte. Allen, the Yorkshire centre.

(b) The arrival of Pte. Davies, the Blackheath and present Army scrum-half. It is understood that the approval procedure for his transfer to the Regiment was a model of democracy and speed. On applying to join, the new recruit was interviewed and accepted by one of our Generals almost before his ink was dry!

(c) Captain Hoppe, 2 Lt. Arnold, Cpl. Scroby and L/Cpl. Davies played in the Army trial at Sandhurst. 2 Lt. Arnold and Cpl. Scroby, at the time of writing, are playing regularly for the Army, and we hope that they will win their Army caps. Cpl. Saville has been dogged by injuries but is now recovering his form.

(d) The utter unreliability of the mechanical conveyance of one of our wing forwards. It may be a burst tyre and a flat spare, or lack of water in the radiator and a burst tyre but, whatever the combination, we have learned that it is wise to start very early for "away" games.

We have entered for the Ulster Senior Cup and in the first round, on March 21, we meet the favourites, the unbeaten Queen's University side.

Players and readers will not be surprised to hear that, in spite of our defeat in the Army Cup, the writer has already received his instructions for next season. It is also understood that the president of a certain London club is highly delighted about our expected move.

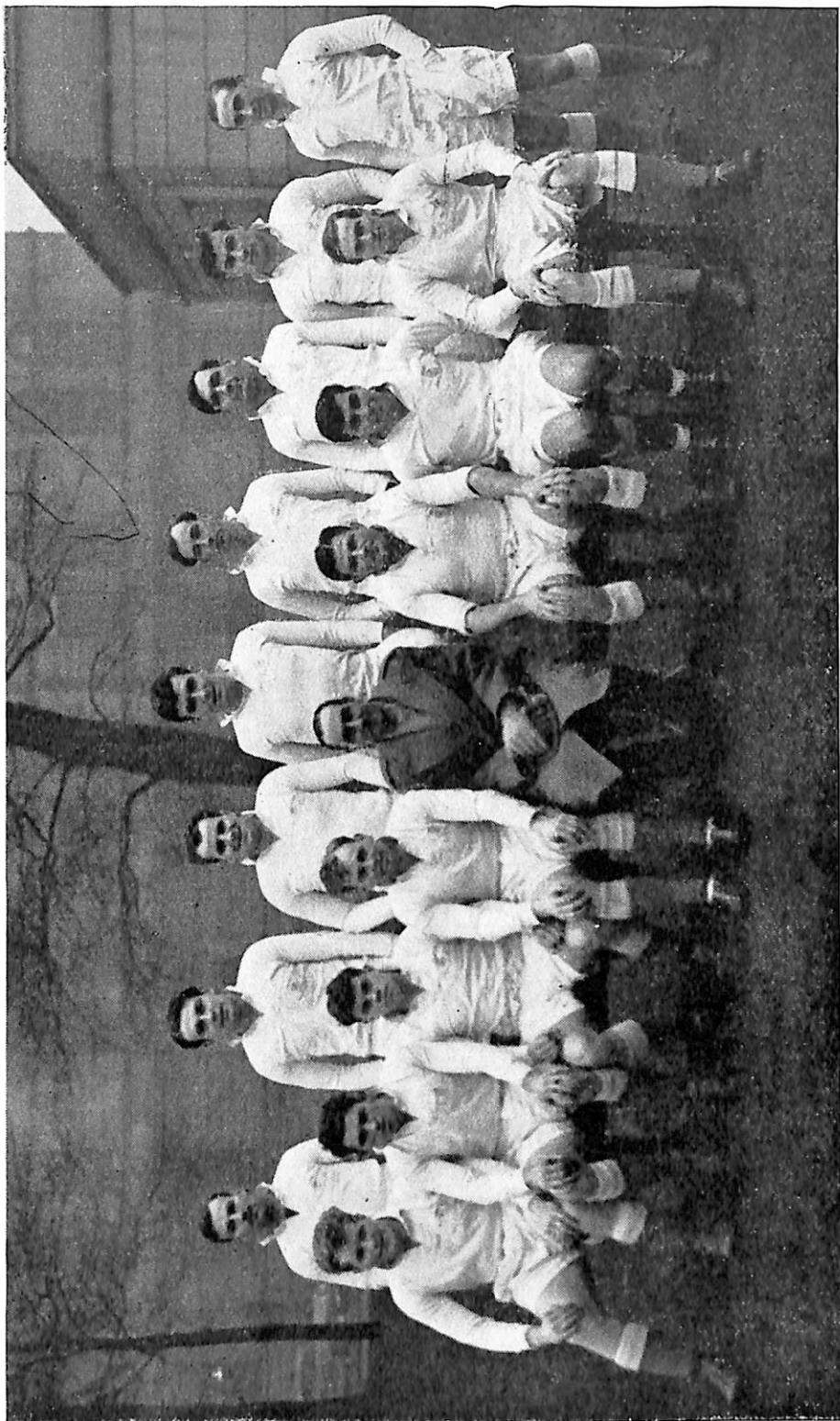


Photo by Thos. B. MaccNally, M.R.P.S., 14 D'Olier Street, Dublin

1 D.W.R. v TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, on JANUARY 28, 1959, at DUBLIN.

Standing: Capt. C. D. Miller, Lt. I. A. Addison, Cpl. J. Scroby, 2/Lt. S. R. Arnold, 2/Lt. J. Shenton, Capt. J. D. P. Cowell, Pte. N. Field, Lt. J. B. K. Greenway.

Sitting: L/Cpl. D. Glanfield, L/Cpl. R. Haywood, L/Cpl. D. Davies, Capt. D. W. Shuttleworth, Lt.-Col. P. P. de la H. Moran, Capt. P. B. L. Hoppe, Capt. D. S. Gilbert-Smith, M.C., 2/Lt. D. Marsay.

2ND XV

The 2nd XV have been playing in the Ulster Junior League; their results have varied considerably, depending upon the availability of players. They have played almost every weekend. Some of the pitches will long remain in the memory of those who played, especially the match against Shorts when the team almost literally waded on to the pitch. They have played 11 matches, winning 4 and losing 6, with 1 drawn.

It would be unfair to mention any one player by name as a great number of people have played for the team, many even at very short notice. On the whole, those who have played have enjoyed their rugby, which really is the whole idea of the game, anyway.

The 2nd XV also entered for the Ulster Junior Cup but were knocked out in the first round by Ballymoney, a penalty goal to nil. This game was memorable not for mud but for the rain. It sheeted down the whole time.

FOOTBALL

Our last notes mentioned our impending third round Army Cup match with 17 Training Regiment, R.A. We held them to a draw up to full-time and, being unbiased, thought that we were unlucky not to pull it off in extra time. The final score was 2—2. The replay took place in the stadium at Oswestry, and there we were beaten 1—0, the goal being scored about 15 minutes from time. The team played well and hard, and what was lacking in skill was made up in spirit and enthusiasm. We then played the 15/19th Hussars at Omagh and drew 1—1. Our second defeat of the season came at the hands of the R.U.C., when we lost 6—2. The K.R.R.C., who relieved the Royal Warwicks, were beaten 4—2, but the return match was a draw, 2—2, our two full-backs (Waite and Deakin) being the goal scorers. We then played the Depot, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, in the N.I.D. semi-finals and beat them 5—2, the goal scorers being Carrol, Mitchell and Smith (3). Our opponents in the final are the 15/19th Hussars, whom we have already beaten twice and drawn with once, so we hope our luck holds out.

The inter-Company knock-out is in full swing; so far "H.Q." Company has beaten "C" 5—0, and "D" has beaten "B" 6—2.

BASKETBALL

Basketball has taken on a new lease of life in the Battalion. We have started a tough training programme under S/Sgt. Mann and Sgt. Garrity, who keep us hard at it, but this has proved well worth while in our recent matches.

We played the Depot, Royal Ulster Rifles, in the first round of the Army Cup and had a convincing win by 50 pts. to 18. The star players were the first-string forwards, Cpl. Reddy, Sgt. Garrity and S/Sgt. Mann, who played havoc with the R.U.R. zone and put in some brilliant shots at the basket.

The second round is against the Depot, Royal Inniskillings, whom we should beat, but we mustn't treat them too lightly. If we win that match we

go to Aldershot; this, it is believed, will, if it happens, be the first time the Battalion has reached Aldershot in the Army Championships.

The Battalion team is as follows: Captain Shuttleworth, Lt. Campbell-Lamerton (Captain), S/Sgt. Mann, Sgt. Garrity, Cpls. Reddy and Connor, L/Cpls. Wood and Seage, Ptes. Dunning, Nash, Riley, Howard and Ryan.

CROSS-COUNTRY

All efforts this year were concentrated on the N.I.D. Championship held here at Palace Barracks, on February 5.

The team started training in good time, and a couple of months produced a marked improvement on earlier form. Our first race was in mid-January against Methodist College, Belfast; this was drawn, 40 points each. We had the individual winner in Cairns (York and Lancaster Regiment, attached D.W.R.), Robson being our second man home. The remainder of the team was fairly well bunched, and we were optimistic for the future.

The following week we ran against, and defeated, Campbell College in a fairly convincing manner. Cairns again ran with very good judgment to win, and this time Wilkinson was our second man in.

So to the 5th when, in the presence of Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, the N.I.D. Championship was decided over a gruelling course in the Hollywood area. The team ran very hard, and although coming second to a strong team from the Royal Ulster Rifles Depot, did well enough to make the training effort worth while.

Our congratulations to Cairns, who individually took second place; he now goes on to the Army Championships at Aldershot, where we wish him the best of luck.

The notes would not be complete without reminding the team of the Lone Ranger shot down by Sgt. Simpson on Hollywood Heath, or without giving our thanks to Major Kavanagh for organising, and 2 Lt. Cumberlege and the stalwarts of "B" Company for marking, the course for the N.I.D. race.

STOP PRESS

Football team won N.I.D. final 6-4.

Basketball team won N.I.D. final 46-19.

.22 SHOOTING

During November and December, the inter-Company small-bore competition was held with a view of "working up" teams for the N.I.D. inter-unit small-bore league which starts soon and which was won last year by the Regiment with a record score. We are hoping to beat that score this year.

The results of the inter-Company competition were very good and the standard of shooting was high. Competitors used No. 8 rifles, without slings, and fired on standard N.R.A. targets. Each competitor fired six shots, the best five counting, and giving a highest possible score of 1,000. The leading teams were: "H.Q." Company, 1st; "B" Company, 2nd; "A" Company, 3rd.

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

Class "A": 2 Lt. Fawcett, "A" Company, 928; Sgt. Fenn, "D" Company, and Cpl. Hanley, "H.Q." Company, 905.

Class "B": L/Cpl. Braithwaite, "H.Q." Company, 935; Pte. Bell, "B" Company, 926; Pte. Edwards, "B" Company, 919.

Lyden Trophy: L/Cpl. Braithwaite, "H.Q." Company.

The Lyden Trophy was being competed for for the first time. This trophy, which is a telescope mounted on a stand, was presented to the Regiment in Gibraltar by Lt.-Colonel Lyden, who commanded the R.E.M.E. Workshops on the "Rock." At that time the Regiment had a young soldiers' small-bore team which won nearly every competition. Lt.-Colonel Lyden was so impressed with the team that he presented this trophy to the Regiment. It is now awarded to the best "young soldier" small-bore shot of the year.

ROUGH SHOOTING

Ireland is well known for its bogs and large expanses of marsh and estuary. To these, many wickering wings of waders and wild fowl descend during their long migratory flights from the Siberian tundra and the white Arctic regions. They feed and rest their tired bodies upon the lush *zostera marina* and marsh grasses, here to stay

until the surge of spring returns them to their breeding grounds.

Whilst up at Derry the three shots of "A" Company, ably led by Gerald Fawcett, along with two equally keen wild-fowlers of the Royal Marines, enjoyed some excellent wild-fowling and rough shooting. We started our season by having an Army v. Royal Marines clay pigeon shoot to get our eyes in tune but, in fact, had our eyes completely wiped! C.S.M. Batty, having been coached previously by experts and following instruction rigidly, found the clays very difficult, but told his officers that if the clays were ducks they would assuredly be "dead 'uns." "S" Company carried on in Derry where "A" Company left off.

The season started very slowly and the duck stayed on the estuary, feeding on the tiny molluscs in the mud. Greylag geese were seen but not in any great number. Several teal and shoveller were shot, but were poor meat in comparison with the mallard and pintail, who would not flight. We spent many an evening on the edge of an inviting salting, only to come away with a brace of teal to the sound of a quacking mallard far out on the mud.

In January, however, the geese were in quantity and the harder weather brought the duck inland to the flooded fields. Here we realised our dreams of a "parka"-clad figure, in muddy thigh boots and deer-stalker, with icy hands gripped tightly round the necks of three geese and a brace of duck. A small bag, as bags go to some, but to the wild-fowler a very rewarding end to long hours of waiting in icy winds and cutting hail. Between us we accounted for a dozen greys and quite an assortment of duck, including mallard, pintail, shoveller, teal and widgeon.

We were very grateful for invitations to several snipe shoots with the District Commandant, Ulster Special Constabulary, Mr. Wallace Clark of Upperlands, during which he really put us through it and, on several occasions, up to our middles in it. We, as Englishmen, were unaccustomed to the hiding places and habits of snipe, e.g.: "The wee birds'll be on the heather under a full moon," and, unaccustomed to the high jinks and fantastic aerobatics by the "wee b—s," we invariably missed, whereas our hosts showed astounding accuracy. However, we much enjoyed the "missing," and even more the "Messing" afterwards.

The following were seen out shooting this year—some more often than others!! Major Sugden, Major Firth, 2 Lt. Stevens, 2 Lt. Faithful, 2 Lt. Fawcett, R.Q.M.S. Robins, C.S.M. Batty, C.S.M. Nicholls, Sgt. Almond and Pte. Moore.

Gerald Fawcett has been the leading light, and his bag for this season includes: Greylag, 6; pintail, 1; mallard, 2; widgeon, 1; shoveller, 2; teal, 7; snipe, 3; pigeon, 8; hare, 7.

Now, save for the wood-pigeon, we have stowed our guns and look forward wistfully to the next fowling season; possibly on East Anglian estuaries, or maybe even further east. In the New Army concept, one factor is definite: shot-guns are air-portable.

A tradition throughout Six Reigns



Wines, Spirits & Cigars

SACCONE & SPEED. LTD

32 SACKVILLE ST. LONDON, W.1.



ESTD 1839

TRADING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Telephone: REGent 2061

(1st Battalion notes are continued on page 58)

REGIMENTAL H.Q. and DEPOT

SUB-EDITORIAL

Since our last notes our recruits have started training at the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire Depot at Beverley. We understand that they are setting a very high example.

Our last squad of recruits here at Halifax pass out at the end of April. From May 1 onwards we shall gradually close down until we disappear finally on August 6.

From August 7 onwards our Depot will be combined with that of the P.W.O. at Beverley and we shall be represented in Halifax by a small Regimental H.Q. It is the wish of the P.W.O. that all past and present members of the "Dukes" treat Beverley as their own depot. For this privilege we offer our sincere thanks to the P.W.O.

We had hoped to give a detailed programme of our farewell festivities in Halifax. Unfortunately the Colonel of the Regiment's departure from Nigeria has been delayed, which means that arrangements are now slightly in the air. It is hoped that all festivities will take place between June 17 and 21. A detailed programme of events will be circularised to all IRON DUKE subscribers when known.

OFFICERS' MESS

The period under review has been exceptionally quiet.

In January we acted as hosts to the 1st Battalion rugby side who came over to play against the Signals at Catterick. After a stay of two days they had to return to Northern Ireland, due to the weather postponing the game.

Visitors to the Mess have included Colonel Turner, Major Savory and Major Ackworth.

We welcome into the Regiment 2 Lts. Mundell and Summers, who have just joined from Sandhurst. They are at present carrying out their young officers' courses at Hythe and Warminster.

We look forward to entertaining many retired officers in June.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Our Christmas draw was, as usual, a great success, prizes being fairly evenly distributed. All our friends turned out in force to make our last draw one to be remembered. We saw the New Year in in traditional style, each one of us wondering, for different reasons, what would be in store this year.

We have got over the festivities and reverted to our usual Sunday lunch-time sessions, with the very able help of some stalwart old comrades and honorary members.

The Depot is now like a dying duck, people going from office to office trying to find something to do. Sgt. France went to Beverley to the P.W.O. Depot to help train our new recruits, who are now going there.

Sgt. Innes is here for a few days, prior to proceeding to warmer surroundings. We wish him

well and, after the usual Halifax weather, wish we were going with him.

Sgt. Pratt has rejoined the fold, having had enough of Civvy Street.

CORPORALS' MESS

Now the closing of the Depot is in sight, our numbers are gradually decreasing. During the past months we have said good-bye to Cpl. Peckover and L/Cpls. Oddy, Cairns and Murphy who have returned to civilian life, and to Cpls. Illingworth and Greenwood who are now at the Depot P.W.O., Beverley, looking after the "Dukes'" interests, as our recruits are now being trained there, and to L/Cpl. Hayton who is now looking after the Brigade Colonel.

We welcome to the Mess L/Cpls. Spivey and Smyth, and offer our congratulations on their promotions.

The Christmas festivities this year included a football match and a social evening to which all the members of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes were invited, a wonderful time being had by everyone.

The football match was against the combined Officers' and Sergeants' Messes which finished all square, the result being 3—3. We have also played two challenge matches against the privates recently, but no satisfying result has yet been gained as both matches have been drawn.

FOOTBALL

Since our last issue our activities haven't been so numerous, due to the bad weather and the difficulty in obtaining fixtures. Only three games have been played. The first game being the first round of the Northern Command Minor Units Cup competition in which we lost to R.A.P.C. Ovenden by 3—1 after a very tight game.

In our return match with the Depot York and Lancaster Regiment we more than reversed the score of our first encounter as we defeated them by 8—1, Pte. Howden scoring a "hat-trick," who also scored two of our goals in our last match, which was against B.C.P.T. (Bradford) and ended in a 4—4 draw.

Good news regarding L/Cpl Spivey, whose trial earlier in the season with Bradford P.A. turned out to be very successful.

R.W.A.F.F. DINNER CLUB

The Colonel Commandant of the Royal West African Frontier Force has asked us to let it be known that there is a dinner club for officers who have served at any time in that force.

Life membership of the club costs 10s. only. The dinner is normally held in October each year. Enquiries for membership should be sent to the Hon. Secretary: Lt.-Colonel G. Blackburne-Kane, "Bisterne," Normandy, Surrey.

5/7th BATTALION, T.A.

SUB-EDITORIAL

Many changes have taken place in the command structure of the Battalion. It was a great shock when, last December, Colonel Davidson's posting, which had originally been scheduled for July, and which everyone hoped would be postponed until after annual camp, was suddenly brought forward to February 1.

He handed over command on January 16, 1959.

It was with great regret that we saw Colonel Davidson go; since being appointed to command the 7th Battalion on December 1, 1956, he has earned the sincere gratitude and respect of the whole Regiment for his masterly and sympathetic handling of the amalgamation of the 5th and 7th Battalions in 1957 and his wise and successful guidance of the new 5/7th Battalion during its early months of existence. His tour of command has also covered the dreadful period of almost suspended animation which followed immediately upon the 1956 order releasing N.S. T.A. men from their training obligations when, almost overnight, the effective training strength of the Battalion fell from some 700 men to some 50 volunteers. It has been very largely due to his efforts that the volunteer strength of the unit has now more than doubled and, with the opening of Thongsbridge T.A.C. in April will, we hope, soon be trebled. On the social side, too, we owe a lot to Colonel Jimmy; he has left behind him a happy officers' mess and a battalion which, through the way in which it has co-operated with local ex-service and civil organisations, has earned for itself a high standing in the Huddersfield, Halifax and Mossley areas.

Lt.-Colonel Davidson is succeeded in command by our former 2IC, Major F. R. Gadd, E.R.D., a record of whose service appears on page 45. We welcome Colonel Gadd and hope that his period of command will be both happy and successful.

The successor to Colonel Gadd as 2IC is Major H. S. Heaton, who has been with the 7th and later 5/7th Battalions since 1949 and until recently held the appointment of Unit Training Officer. We offer him our congratulations and also congratulate Captain Barnes and Captain Webster on their promotions.

As a result of these promotions the following changes have taken place: Major Webster has been appointed to command "A" Company, Major Moncrieff assuming the appointment of Unit Training Officer; Major Barnes has been nominated to command the new "C" Company which is to be formed at Thongsbridge, and Captain Crowther has become 2IC "D" Company in his place.

We welcome Sgt. Spring, who has come from the 1st Battalion to become P.S.I. of "C" Company. He will have as his C.S.M. an old friend of the unit, ex-P.S.I. C.S.M. Wood, who retired from the Army this February and immediately applied to rejoin the Unit as a volunteer. C.S.M. Wood

had just completed a full tour with the 5/7th Battalion as P.S.I. and we should have been very sorry to lose his valuable services. To C.S.M. Arundel, recently arrived from Ireland, we also extend a hearty welcome and hope that his stay with "B" Company at Mossley will be a happy one. To Sgt. Smith, who has just completed his tour as P.S.I. with "B" Company we say "good-bye" and a sincere "thank you" for two years of loyal and cheerful service. We wish him all the best for his new posting to the 1st Battalion.

Preparations are going ahead under the direction of a committee headed by the Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, Colonel G. B. Howcroft, M.C., T.D., J.P., for the celebration of our centenary in June. More about this will appear in the next issue.

RECRUITING DRIVE

The West Riding Territorial Association has allocated all T.A. units certain funds to be spent on recruiting before March 31, 1959. In Huddersfield the various units have decided to combine and, during the week March 16-21, among other measures to encourage recruiting, an exhibition is to be held in St. Paul's Street Drill Hall and a recruiting film shown at the Rex Cinema.

TRAINING

Starting the year with bright prospects of several interesting weekend camps, we were brought up with a nasty jolt on January 9 by a directive from District that until March 31 no more pay at full daily rates would be allowed. This meant no weekends and, possibly, greatly reduced attendance even on single days as pay would be cut down to about one-third of normal. There was even a small body of opinion that attendance would be so small that it would be a waste of time to hold training days. In the event, attendance at our two training days on Sunday January 18 and Sunday February 8 was almost normal and much useful work was put in. This is a fine and just illustration of the spirit of the Battalion. We have now, after all, got two weekends with full pay approved by Brigade for March.

All training so far has been directed towards producing the three winning teams at the Brigade Tactical Competition to be held in May. The teams will consist of one subaltern, two sergeants and 7 other ranks, and the subjects include practically every aspect of training from platoon defence to field cooking. Training so far has had to be theoretical. It was to have been extremely practical on February 8, but the fog was so thick at Deer Hill that we were forced to return to the drill halls.

On a slightly higher level, on January 18 the syndicate detailed to give the Battalion's views (worked out at an officers' training day last December) on the defence of an obstacle in nuclear warfare went to Brigade H.Q. for the Brigadier's study day. It was an extremely well-organised day and,

at the end of it, General Goodwin was moved to remark that he had heard more sound horse-sense talked by T.A. officers that day than he could remember for a long time. Of course, the solutions he put forward at the conclusion of the exercise bore no relation to the ones submitted by the unit syndicates. But still . . . !

Of the two now happily-restored training weekends, the first (March 7-8) will now be devoted to the practical application of subjects already covered in the drill halls, followed by a whole-day scheme on the moor in which the sections will operate against each other. For this weekend we are hoping to stay in a large barn some miles outside Halifax, where we shall be afforded both protection against the weather and entertainment—the barn is attached to a pub.

The second weekend (March 21-22) is Pronto's. It will consist of concentrated R.T. procedure revision followed by an indoor exercise, for which we shall borrow some of the other drill halls in Huddersfield for use by various sub-units. This promises to be a most amusing weekend, and Bob Hawkins, our Pronto, is going to take the opportunity to indoctrinate the unit with the ideals of R.S.V.P., security and brevity on the air.

Between March 12 and 17 a School of Infantry training team is running courses at Pontefract for P.S.I.s and T.A. N.C.O.s. These courses include firing point instruction and teaching methods and should greatly help our training for the Divisional Rifle Meeting.

SPORT

The great event has been the 49 and 50 Divisional Cross-Country Championships which were held at Old Dalby on February 1. Chris Taylor, our cross-country officer, had put in a lot of effort since December trying to raise a team of nine men. The degree of enthusiasm in the Battalion was surprising: runs were organised with a local harrier club each Saturday, joint training was held each Sunday at the Drill Hall, and during the week each runner had a personal training schedule to complete. On the day, we came third out of ten teams from our 49 Infantry Division (T.A.) and sixth in the whole competition—a result we were more than satisfied with. Sgt. Pollard came in fourth and thus qualified to run as an individual in the T.A. Central Championships at Lichfield on March 14, 1959. He is to be congratulated on being the first member of a 5/7th D.W.R. sports team to qualify for a T.A. central competition. The team which finally represented the Unit in the competition consisted of: Lt. Taylor (captain), Captain Naughton, Lt. Lee, Sgt. Pollard, Sgt. Booth, Sgt. Laherty, L/Cpl. Smith, L/Cpl. King and Pte. Allen. The most encouraging aspect, however, was the number of all ranks who were prepared to "have a bash." This is the spirit we want, and it certainly seems as though we have got it.

OFFICERS' MESS

As forecast in our last notes, our post-camp calm was rudely shattered around Christmas and the New Year. Before the January issue was in print one very important part of our notes was out of date as, on January 16, 1959, a full Mess dined Lt.-Colonel Davidson "out" and Lt.-Colonel Raymond Gadd "in."

Although this subject is dealt with elsewhere, these notes would be incomplete without a word of farewell to Colonel Jimmy, for we all know the constant thought and effort he devoted to making our Mess at St. Paul's Street the happy and efficient place it is now. We wish him and Mrs. Davidson well in their new sphere—with envy because of the obvious improvement in climatic conditions.

The short time that Colonel Gadd spent as our P.M.C., prior to his promotion, enabled us to see that those duties were in capable hands. All members welcome his new appointment and wish him a happy and successful tour of duty. We wonder if the announcement in consecutive issues of his appointment to Second-in-Command and then to Commanding Officer constitutes a record.

The season of festivity in the Mess commenced on December 5 with a beer and cheese party. Arranged by Major Brian Webster and Captain Bob Hawkins, it proved such a success that another was arranged for February 27. The varied breads and cheeses were so delectable that most people seemed to make polite hogs of themselves and supper-time appeared unending. The second of December's functions was a cocktail party, well attended and, as usual, enjoyed by all.

With private Christmas parties to further whet everyone's appetites, the New Year's Eve Ball found all in good spirits—well, take it whichever way you like! The Ball, although not essentially a Mess function, must be the high-light of our social life in the Unit. Its success was again beyond question, and we hope that this will also prove true financially for, as Colonel Gadd remarked at his dining-in: "This year, we dispensed with the little boy centre-piece on the floor because last year it cost about £1 per pint!"

As the ladies' dinner night was so popular with our wives and lady friends last year we repeated the event on January 30 and just managed to squeeze everyone in. At one stage it appeared that this would be impossible owing to the apparently polygamous intentions of some of our unmarried subalterns, but when advised of this, the subalterns agreed we should show some semblance of a civilised society and became "monogamous" in the good cause. Again, an excellent affair and, we feel, a nice gesture to our ladies for their long suffering in the name of the T.A.

The Mess fender having been sent away for repair, we now find that many more can get nearer to the fire than before. The general feeling is that it should not be replaced until the warmer weather appears. The kindness of the trustees in providing a heater for the bar area has greatly improved matters. No longer do we feel icy draughts flowing around our legs, although we do have normal

Have you paid your subscription to the
IRON DUKE? Due February 1.

draughts of a more correct temperature flowing down certain hollow legs—which is a reminder that Arthur Hutchinson has forsaken these environs for the more hectic ones of London for some months in connection with his law career—at least, that's his official excuse.

Gone also to the City for his law finals is Bill Duckney. We wish him every success and hope to see more of him when he is back in this circuit.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The ban on paid training days has somewhat restricted our activities, but things have not come to a standstill. In the Divisional Cross-Country Championship we provided one-third of the Battalion team (see Training Notes), and particularly congratulate Sgt. Pollard on his performance. That .22 marathon, the Graham and Pott Trophy, was again fired off at St. Paul's Street, and it is with regret that we announce that R.Q.M.S. Machen had to relinquish the honour of best individual which he so clearly won last year.

A social evening in the Mess on December 13 was extremely enjoyable, thanks to the work of the entertainment committee (C/Sgt. Noon and Sgt. Laherty) and the culinary efforts of Sgt. Wallace. As usual, the high light of this period was the children's annual party which has grown from being a purely Sergeants' Mess affair into one for the children of all ranks. Eighty children and a like number of parents were entertained at St. Paul's Street on January 17. Many thanks to those stand-bys: R.Q.M.S. Machen, C.S.M. and Mrs. Woodcock, Sgts. Hannan, Brennan and Wallace. Many thanks also to Cpl. and Mrs. Pilkington, Ptes. Row, Dixon and Smith, and Mr. Lockwood who, although not members of the Sergeants' Mess, contributed in no small way to the success of this party.

Again, those "twin terrors" of the T.A., age and civilian commitments, have taken their toll and further depleted our ranks. It is with regret that we say good-bye to Bandmaster White, Sgts. Jacques and Brennan; may we continue to see their faces at St. Paul's Street for many years to come. Good-bye must also be said to Sgt. Smith (P.S.I.) who has left us for the 1st Battalion, having completed his tour. Welcome to the Mess to C.S.M. Arundel and Sgt. Spring, who have joined us ex-1st Battalion. Welcome, also, and congratulation on his promotion to Sgt. Smith (R.E.M.E.).

C/Sgt. Thorpe is tottering on the brink and must soon decide whether to remain or go; may he decide to stay as he would be sadly missed in both "D" Company and the Sergeants' Mess. C.S.M. Wood (P.S.I.), after 25 years' regular service, decided to face the rigours of civilian life and is now living and employed in Huddersfield—to him, however, we need not say good-bye; how glad we are to have him back with us again!

"H.Q." COMPANY

Congratulations to Captain Brian Webster on his promotion to Major and new command as O.C. "A" Company. We also congratulate Bandman C. Wheelhouse on his promotion to Corporal;

he has transferred to the Drums. Dmrs. M. Smith and G. Balmforth have been appointed to Lance-Corporal.

We are sorry to lose Bandmaster Bert White, who has left the T.A. because of business commitments. He did sterling work for the Band which, thanks to his efforts, has come on splendidly. Sgt. Brennan, one of our oldest members, is leaving. The M.T. will miss him.

For the purposes of training we have split the Company up into separate units. This has been necessary because of the increase in numbers; we have had a steady increase during the past quarter.

"B" COMPANY (MOSSLEY)

Now that a heavy censorship appears to exist, and budding journalists are stifled in their cribs, generations of the faithful of the "Lancashire" company of the "Dukes" will be wondering if we still exist! Exist—why, if it were not for us the higher arts of "Rock" and "Cha! Cha! Cha!" would be lost to the Regiment—to say nothing of 57 ways invented by our O.C. for filling in A.F. 1514; (he is going on a course to learn the "58th" and army way soon).

Our January notes (completely cut by censor) told much important news: good-bye P.S.I. Sgt. Smith—Hullo P.S.I. C.S.M. Arundel; congratulations to Lt. and Mrs. Mallalieu on their wedding. Since then things have been quiet—hard work by our willing instructors, C.Q.M.S. Larnder and Sgt. Newton, supervision by C.S.M. Arundel, with Lt. Mallalieu fitting in the "twiddly-bits"—like explaining to a recruit of one hour's service the major part of infantry tactics in a ten-minute lecture. We are kept "noses to the grindstone"; let's hope our resultant sharpness will continue to show the world "We're Better in 'B' Company"!

"D" COMPANY

It is very heartening to be able to report that, during the past few months, evening training periods have been well attended and that several new recruits have joined us.

The Company .22 rifle team has had reasonable success in the T.A. decentralised competition, having won three matches recently. In January our P.S.I. (Sgt. D. Wood) had to show his skill with a .22 rifle in rather an unpleasant way: he was called in by the local police to shoot a kitten that could not be removed from the upper branches of a very tall tree, in spite of efforts by the Fire Brigade and R.S.P.C.A.

Congratulations to Captain Barnes (our 2IC) on his promotion to Major and appointment as O.C. "C" Company, shortly to be reformed at Thongsbridge; we also extend a warm welcome to Captain Henry Crowther, who will be our new 2IC.

St. Paul's Street Drill Hall sees a variety of activities throughout the year, so one should not have been surprised to see a caged birds' exhibition being prepared recently. There is no truth in the rumour that one wily old parrot in a corner cage dismissed the evening parade ten minutes early and swore he would take R.S.M. Frier's job from him.

COMMANDING OFFICERS

LT.-COLONEL FRANCOIS MATTE



Lt.-Colonel Matte, who is now Commanding Officer of Les Voltigeurs de Quebec, was born in Quebec City on May 21, 1916. He enlisted in Les Voltigeurs as a rifleman in 1935, was commissioned in February 1941, and was on active service from 1941-45, spending three and a half years overseas with the Canadian and British armies. He was promoted to lieutenant-colonel and appointed Officer Commanding Les Voltigeurs de Quebec on February 1, 1958. He is the third member of the family to command this regiment: Lt.-Colonel J. B. Matte (uncle) commanded it in 1919-20 and Colonel Jos Matte (cousin) in 1937-40.

Lt.-Colonel Matte is Chief Forester of Howard Smith Paper Mills and subsidiary companies. He is a bachelor of arts and bachelor of the sciences of forestry of Laval University, a director or associate of a large number of institutions and associations connected with forestry, and is also a director of the United Services Institute of Quebec.

Lt.-Colonel Matte is married and has two daughters: Louise, ten, and Suzanne, eight.

LT.-COLONEL F. R. GADD, E.R.D.

Lt.-Colonel F. R. Gadd was commissioned in the Royal Artillery Supplementary Reserve of Officers in September 1938, and attached to the 6th A.A. Regiment at Aldershot. He was called from reserve in June 1939, and in September went to France with his regiment. From December 1940 to May 1941 he did duty as an instructor, in the rank of Captain, attached to the Royal Canadian Artillery in Canada. He was later tactical instructor on the staff of the 11th Brigade, and was promoted Major in August 1943, subsequently becoming a battery commander in 120 H.A.A. Regiment.

He was released from the Army in the rank of Major in February 1946, and in 1952 joined the Territorial Army from the Regular Army Reserve of Officers and served at St. Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield, with 578 (5 D.W.R.) H.A.A. Regiment R.A. (T.A.), in which he was appointed to command "R" Battery at Mirfield in 1954.

Lt.-Col. Gadd commanded "Q" (5 D.W.R.) Medium Battery on the amalgamation in 1955 of 578, 673 and 382 Regiments, and in 1957 was for a time the 2IC of 382 Medium Regiment, R.A., before transferring to the new 5/7th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

We asked for a photograph of Lt.-Col. Gadd, but his sub-editor reports him as saying that he has not got one. We hope that he may be able to find one for a later issue.—Ed.

Arthur Sunley

LADIES AND GENTS CIVIL AND
MILITARY TAILORS

(Tailored on the premises)

**Silk Ties and Blazers Badges in stock for the
Dukes and all other Regiments and Corps**

44, TRINITY STREET, HUDDERSFIELD

Telephone: Hudd. 1158

Telephone 3198

GIBSON DIXON

M.P.S.

*Chemist and Pharmacist
Table Water Manufacturer
Wine and Spirit Merchant
Photographic Dealer*

8 OLD MARKET, HALIFAX

THE COLONEL AND THE SNIPER

A trifle of the North African Campaign

The scene was Gueriat-el-Atach Ridge, though it was by no such exotic name that the place was known to the 1st Division. "Points 176 and 174" was the bleaker title given to the objective which the Battalion gained on April 23, 1943.

Like all battles it had been a muddled affair from the worm's-eye view of the infantry. The Battalion had been put under command of another brigade for the attack and, after two battalions had taken the ridge but then been counter-attacked off it, the Colonel was sent for and told to recapture the objective. It was quite simple, he was told, as our tanks were still on the position. Indeed, from the farm house which formed Brigade H.Q., the Churchills could be seen milling about on the reverse slope of Point 174. The crest was marked by one motionless tank which was on fire.

The assault was conventional, only enlivened by a low flying air attack and, when Battalion H.Q. was half-way to the objective, by a message from Brigade to warn the Colonel that he was in an anti-personnel minefield and should "exercise the utmost care."

Standing in his carrier, the Colonel reached a small depression on the reverse slope of the ridge. It seemed a suitable position for his H.Q., which consisted of the Adjutant, Pte. Betterton who drove the carrier, Pte. Gough (the Colonel's batman), a Gunner major and some signallers. Three companies were dispersed in captured German positions just short of the crest; the fourth was in reserve behind Battalion H.Q. No one at that stage quite appreciated that, basically, the assault was a failure. The Battalion had failed to top the crest and clear the forward slope, and this was still firmly in German hands. Our tanks showed no desire to go over the crest; the only one that had tried was the one burning spasmodically on the hill-top.

For the moment things seemed quiet and the Colonel walked forward to look at the companies in position. At the one on the left he found the company commander sitting on a German corpse and eating a bully beef sandwich. This struck the Colonel as being somehow unsuitable but, as he meditated a rebuke, he heard a distant shout and saw the Adjutant beckoning from Battalion H.Q.

The Colonel walked back. An altercation was in progress between the Adjutant and the commander of the Churchill squadron. The latter wanted to retire to a vague destination which he called a "rear rally" to rearm and maintain; on being ordered to stay on the ridge, he triumphantly produced his trump card: he was "in support," not "under command." He had long fair hair and a long blond moustache; the Colonel had no difficulty in disliking him on sight.

As the Colonel began to explain the situation on the wireless to Brigade, the enemy delivered another low-flying attack. The squadron commander took advantage of the confusion to depart at speed for his "rear rally."

At this moment a rifle shot cracked overhead. Everyone at Battalion H.Q. was far too angry with the tanks to react to this, but a second shot, somewhat nearer, attracted attention. "Someone's sniping at us," said the Adjutant crossly. Everyone looked vaguely about. A third shot went by.

The Colonel cast his mind back to what had then been called a musketry course at Hythe and to a sergeant instructor with a waxed moustache talking about "the crack and the thump"; you heard the crack as a rifle shot went overhead and, after a perceptible pause, you heard the thump from where the rifle had been discharged.

Another shot obligingly cracked; a thump seemed to come from the slopes of Point 176, some 300 yards away over to the left. We had by then no troops on that feature, but the Colonel, scanning it through his glasses, fancied he saw a movement. "Give me my rifle," he said—it was a recent divisional order that all infantry officers should carry rifles, with the laudable notion that they should, at a distance, be indistinguishable from their men. The Colonel's rifle lived in his carrier among the wireless sets, the packs and valises of Battalion H.Q. The weapon was retrieved by Pte. Gough. "The Colonel is going to shoot the sniper," he said impressively.

As the Colonel grasped his rifle and stared anxiously over at Point 176 the fact that, except when the markers were exceptionally kind, he had nearly always been a second-class shot quite escaped him. He rested his rifle on the carrier, held his breath and pressed the trigger. All Battalion H.Q. stared towards Point 176. It must have been quite a good shot. Two figures came to life on the distant ridge and began to gesticulate. "They're surrendering!" said Pte. Gough.

But it was otherwise. Over the still North African air was heard, in very un-Teutonic accents: "What the adjective hell do you think you're doing?" followed by similar purely rhetorical queries.

The two figures began to leave Point 176. They passed close enough to the carrier for it to be seen that they bore the shoulder flashes of the Scots Guards. They had no business to be on Point 176—the Guards Brigade were far to the left—but the Colonel felt disinclined to press this point. He had fired his first and last shot in anger in the World War—and the result might have been worse.

Oddly enough, the sniper did not fire again, but events crowded so closely on Battalion H.Q. after this that no one had the leisure to reason why.

B.W.W.C.

once a 'DUKE'

—always a 'DUKE'

So keep in touch by joining
The Regimental Association

11th Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment

(In Camp on Whittington Heath, Lichfield, July 1915)



(Number from left in each row)

5th Row: No. 4, G. R. Peacock; No. 6, F. W. Beard; No. 9, A. Shaw; No. 10, F. C. Glover; No. 11, A. E. F. Hill; No. 12, J. J. Horsfall.
4th Row: No. 1, D. Harvey; No. 3, G. D. Veitch; No. 6, J. S. Milligan, No. 10, H. Harvey; No. 11, N. P. Greening; No. 12, A. B. Garside; No. 13, L. G. Watson.
3rd Row: No. 2, W. R. Bradley; No. 6, E. H. Molyneux; No. 8, E. W. Rodgers; No. 9, S. E. Baker; No. 14, A. E. H. Sayers.

Seated: No. 4, R. F. Messervy; No. 5, J. T. Murray; No. 6, E. M. Huntriss; No. 7, A. H. Kellie, 2IC; No. 8, Lt.-Col. W. G. Hatherell; No. 9, A. G. Lias, Adjt.; No. 11, A. Hellewell; No. 12, Wood.

Front Row (on ground): No. 1, C. K. Kimpton; No. 2, E. A. Millichap; No. 3, J. D. M. Stewart; No. 4, Carrington; No. 11, G. Hammerton.

PERSONALIA

We have received the following news of THE IRON DUKE's two previous editors:

Lt-Colonel Trench writes: "The operated eye will be very good when the oculist allows me to have the special lense for it but until the other eye is much worse I have to go on using it alone. The consequence is that I see very indifferently and have to use a magnifying glass to read anything but the largest print. I hope he will give me a lense before the summer or I fear I shall not see well enough to fish." Lt-Colonel Trench cannot, at any rate for the present, have the other eye operated on owing to a troublesome cough which would not allow him the absolute stillness necessary after the operation.

Incidentally, Lt.-Colonel Trench believes that he is now the oldest surviving regular officer of the Regiment. Any contenders ?

* * *

Lt.-Colonel Price writes that his operation was very successful and that he is hoping to have the other eye done at the end of April. He finds reading the papers rather difficult and doesn't get much beyond the headlines at present.



LT.-COLONEL OWEN PRICE
Our late Editor

Colonel and Mrs. F. R. Armitage celebrated their Silver Wedding last year. They have moved to Camberley where they are building a house. Meanwhile, their temporary address is: Little House, Grange Road, Camberley.

Major-General Bray has been designated as the next Chief of Staff, Southern Command. The *Daily Telegraph* of February 3, reported that Southern Command was to be made responsible for the whole strategic reserve, and commented: "The G.O.C.in-C. Southern Command, Lt.-General J. H. N. Poett, who has recently taken up his appointment, and his Chief of Staff (Designate), Major-General R. H. N. Bray, have both obviously been chosen with their new role in view. Both are distinguished former members of the Parachute Regiment with long experience of airborne operations." We understand that General Bray is not due to take up his new appointment until December.

The marriage took place at Cheltenham, on September 8, 1958, of Mary Mortimer, only daughter of Brigadier and Mrs. V. C. Green, to Peter Morden Carthew, elder son of the late Canon C. R. C. Wakefield and of Mrs. Wakefield of 35 Westerfield Road, Ipswich. Brigadier Green writes that his son-in-law, who had a short-service commission in the Royal Norfolk Regiment, was with 1 D.W.R. at Anzio, but for a very short time only, as he was wounded. The Wakefields are at present living in Cheltenham.

Mr. Code has asked us to let it be known that it would be much appreciated if any past or present member of the Regiment living near, or visiting, Purley in Surrey, could find time to visit ex-R.S.M. A. W. Harrison, D.C.M., M.M., who is ill at his home: 18 Glenn Avenue, Purley. R.S.M. Harrison served with the 2nd, 1st and 7th Battalions. His son has written that his father is an avid reader of THE IRON DUKE, and that nothing pleases him more than to talk of his days in the Regiment.

Lt.-Col. H. Harvey has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Somerset. "Tuppence" — if it is not lese-majesty to refer so to a D.L. — still does the job of Commissioner for Scouts and County Commandant for the Army Cadet Force and so is, he says, kept fully employed and interested. Last summer, while in camp at Browdown, he visited Mrs. Pickering in Alverstoke and found her very well, and anxious for all news of "The Dukes"

We are indebted to Lt.-Colonel Harvey for the obituary notice of Lt.-Colonel Hatherell. We were very unlikely to have learned of Lt.-Colonel Hatherell's death otherwise, and this is an example of how dependent the magazine is on its readers for news of old comrades.

Lt.-Colonel Harvey has been in contact with Mrs. Hatherell, who has kindly lent a group of the officers of the 11th Battalion in 1914, which we print opposite page 46. We believe it is the first photograph of the 11th Battalion ever to appear in the magazine. Lt.-Colonel Harvey sent the group round to several people, but only comparatively few of the officers in it have been identified. The names of these are given under the photograph.

We shall be glad if anybody can add to the list.

Major and Mrs. H. R. Kavanagh have moved to a new address: "Trees," Gaston's Lane, Farrington, near Alton, Hants. (Tel. Tisted 293).

The Government of India this year invited representatives of the cadet forces of other countries of the Commonwealth to attend the Indian Republic Day celebrations in January. The representatives from Great Britain were:—Royal Navy: Cadet Coxswain M. J. P. Miles (Wellington); Army: Under-Officer P. H. Cordle (Wellington); R.A.F.: Under-Officer R. A. F. Wilson (Tonbridge).

The "coxswain" is Brigadier H. G. P. Miles's third son, Martin, who had just left Wellington College where he was Head Boy, winner of the Queen's Medal and captain of the XV. With some difficulty we have extracted from him a short account of this interesting experience. It will be found on page 51.

Iles.—On February 28, 1959, in the Royal Air Force Wing, French Hospital, Fontainebleau, to Bidy (née Ozanne) and Derek Iles, R.A.F.—a son.

General Ozanne's second daughter, Miss Patricia Ozanne, took part in the Monte Carlo Rally again this year, this time as co-driver to Mr. Jack Bowdage in a Jaguar X.K. 150. They reached Monte Carlo, but just failed to qualify for the mountain circuit. Unfortunately we are unable to print a fuller account of their, at times hair-raising, drive.

After this Miss Ozanne took part in the exploit which the *Daily Mail* reported under the headline "The Mad Minx Girls bump on and on." The following are extracts from the report:

"The Belgians call it the Mad Minx. For 20 days now a little grey Hillman has been careering round a 112-mile circuit of some of the worst cobbles in Europe. Five women have taken turns at driving it through fog, ice and rain over this punishing *pavé*. The 'crazy five' are all brilliant rally drivers: Miss Sheila Van Damm, Miss Mary Handley Page, Mrs. Nancy Mitchell, Miss Pat Ozanne and Mrs. Françoise Clarke. They were hired by Lord Rootes to show motorists of the Common Market countries just how much punishment British cars can take. They were told to drive the Minx as hard as they could for 25,000 kms. (15,534 miles). By 10 o'clock tonight they had completed 14,500 miles at an average speed of 41 m.p.h. The only stops since February 10, apart from one in thick fog, have been for tyre changes and fuel. FOOTNOTE.—The British Motor Research Industry Association says a car driven 1,000 miles

over Belgian *pavé* is knocked about as much as in a lifetime of normal motoring."

Miss Ozanne writes that they completed the test fully successfully, and that it was something of an achievement for an absolutely standard family saloon. She adds that it now "feels funny to be driving on good roads."

PLUS ÇA CHANGE

Extract from the "Digest of Service" of the 76th "Hindoostan" Regiment

In April, 1878, in consequence of the probability of war with Russia, the establishment of the Regiment was increased to 1,096 of all ranks and, the Reserve having been called out, 313 men of the Militia Reserve were sent to join the Regiment as follows—viz. 160 men of the North Tipperary Militia, 153 men of the 6th West Cork Militia.

The Treaty of Berlin having put an end to the immediate probability of war, these men were sent back to their homes at the end of July, 1878, and the establishment of the Regiment reduced to 25 officers and 668 N.C.O.s and men.

MEMORIAL TO LT.-COLONEL F. H. B. WELLESLEY

On November 20, 1958, His Grace the Lord Archbishop of York, Dr. Ramsay, dedicated a priest's chair placed in the Regimental Chapel in York Minster in memory of Lt.-Colonel F. H. B. Wellesley by his wife and children.

The chair is made of oak in the form of a 14/15th century "X" chair and is covered in maroon velvet, embroidered and decorated in gold. This most beautiful work was executed in the Minster workshops under the direction of Mr. Jesse Green, M.B.E. On the back the chair bears a plaque with the inscription:

Given by his devoted wife and children
in memory of Lieutenant-Colonel

FREDERICK HENRY BURTON WELLESLEY
who joined the Regiment in 1900 and commanded
the 1st Battalion 1926-1930

The Archbishop, who was assisted in the service by the Dean of York, the Very Reverend L. Milner-White, D.S.O., pronounced the Dedication in the words:

"In the Faith of Jesus Christ we dedicate this chair to the Glory of God and the Service of this Chapel: in the memory of his soldier and servant, FREDERICK HENRY BURTON WELLESLEY; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

The ceremony was attended by Mrs. F. H. B. Wellesley, Major F. H. V. Wellesley (son, also representing Brigadier B. W. Webb-Carter, D.S.O., O.B.E., Deputy Colonel of the Regiment), Mrs. J. F. Akroyd (daughter), Colonel C. R. T. Cumberland, Lt.-Colonel W. A. Waller, O.B.E., M.C., Mr. T. McMahon (representing the O.C.A. and the wives and families of the Regiment), Mrs. A. H. G. Wathen (representing Colonel Wathen, Secretary of the Chapel Committee), and other members of the family and close friends.

Regimental Association

A list of institutions and charitable organisations we help to support by yearly contributions from our own charitable funds, is given below:

Charity	Amount		
	£	s.	d.
Royal Soldiers' Daughters' Schools ..	6	6	0
The Forces Help Society and L.R.W. ..	5	0	0
B.L.E.S.M.A.	5	5	0
British Legion	1	1	0
Halifax Council of Social Service ..	2	2	0
Sir Beachcroft Towse Blind ex-Service Fund	5	0	0
Not Forgotten Association	2	2	0
Embankment Fellowship Centre	3	3	0
Royal Military Benevolent Fund	2	2	0
Regular Forces Employment Association	20	0	0
S.S.A.F.A.	5	5	0
Sheffield Council of Social Service ..	2	2	0
Salvation Army	2	2	0
Royal Cambridge Homes for Soldiers' Widows	5	5	0
*Officers' Association	10	10	0
*King Edward VII Hospital for Officers	15	0	0
	92	5	0

*These contributions are from the McGuire Bate Trust.

Copy for the July 1959 issue should reach the Editor by June 1, 1959

Correspondence

The following letter was received by the Depot from Major J. V. Parnell, commanding the Regimental Depot, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders:

The Castle,
Stirling.

December 20, 1958.

DEAR MAJOR ROBERTS,

I have been told by Lady Glanusk that, when your Regiment (I don't know which battalion) was occupying Glanusk House in South Wales during the war, the original painting of the "Sinking of the Birkenhead" was given to you.

I see that your Regiment was not involved in the incident, and wonder if you have an interest in the picture? If it is not one of your treasured possessions, we would love to have it in our Museum!

Can you, anyway, let me have some news of it, even if you feel you can't let us have it.

Yours sincerely,

J. V. PARNELL.

The Depot Staff say that the battalion concerned might have been the 1/6th or 1/7th. They have referred the matter to General Roy Exham, Colonel Bishop, Colonel Tissington and Captain Denton who, between them, are thought to cover the period when these battalions were anywhere near Glanusk House, but none of these officers knows anything about the picture.

If any reader can throw light on the matter, will he please communicate with the Editor.



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
MATTERS

Herbert Johnson
(BOND ST.) LTD.,



**REGIMENTAL
CAPMAKERS TO**

**THE
DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S
REGIMENT**

HERBERT JOHNSON

specialise in hats for every occasion — faultless hats made to suit you personally, with the same distinctive correctness that is observed in the making of all regimental headgear. Also available are impeccable accessories including regimental and club ties.

38 New Bond St., London W.1.
Mayfair 0784
Weekdays 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
(Thursdays 6.30 p.m.)
Saturdays 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
40a London Rd., Camberley
(Wednesday afternoons only)

THREE C.C.F. CADETS VISIT INDIA

This year, two Wellingtonians and a Ton-bridgian were fortunate enough to go to India, at the invitation of the Indian Government, to represent the Combined Cadet Forces of the United Kingdom at the Indian Republic Day celebrations.

We took off from Lyneham, leaving fog and snow behind, on January 16. After night stops at Malta and El Adem we were delayed at Khartoum for three days by a collision with a kite-hawk which caused serious damage to our tail-plane. Then, after brief visits to Aden and Karachi, we arrived at Bombay on January 23 and left by train the same night on the 24-hour journey to New Delhi.

We spent the time in New Delhi sightseeing, attending functions and watching the colourful parades which lasted for four days and made up the Republic Day celebrations. The main parade took place on January 26; representative detachments from all branches of the three services marched past over an eight-mile route; they were followed by displays of all forms of industry, mounted on tractor-drawn trailers; there was also a fly past.

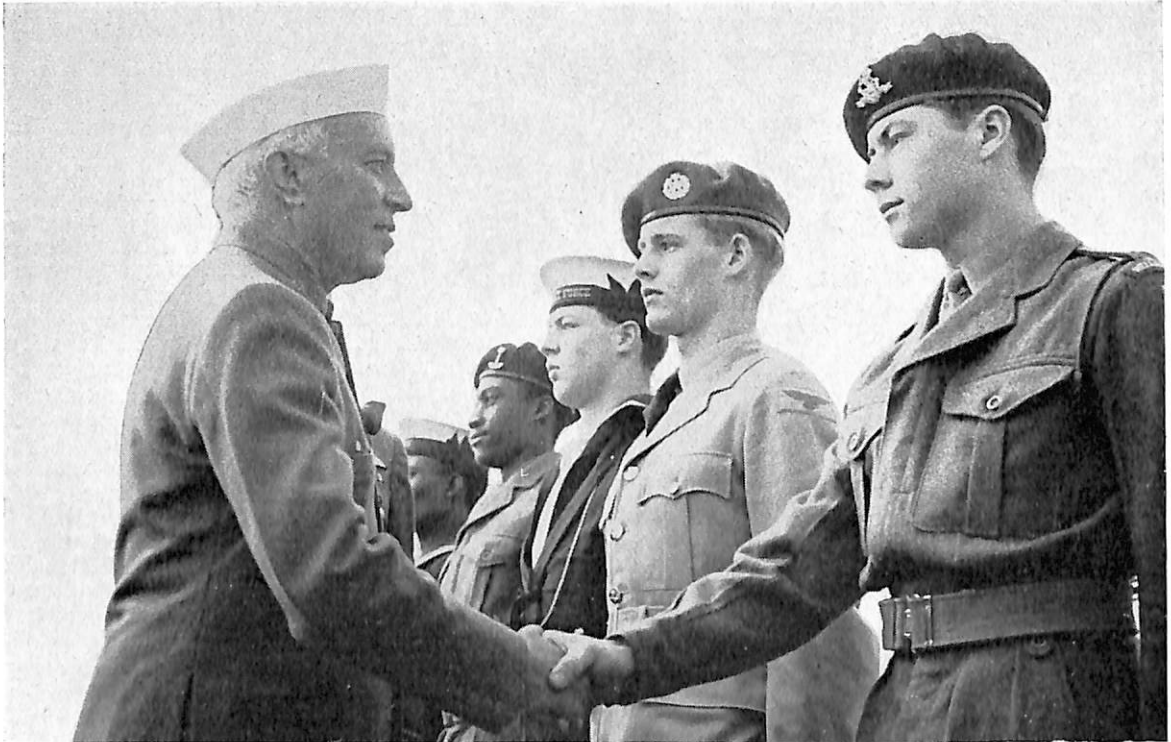
On another day there was the Cadet Corps rally. This consisted of a parade and demonstrations by members of the National Cadet Corps, followed by the presentation of prizes and trophies to individuals and units. Another colourful ceremony

was a beating of retreat by massed bands. This was very impressive and moving; it took place in front of what used to be Vice-Regal Lodge—now the President's residence.

The other functions which we attended included: a reception for the Duke of Edinburgh given by the U.K. High Commissioner, an "At Home" given by the President for all the cadets who took part in the rally, a folk dance festival with teams from each state and, finally, a "Cultural Evening" at the cadet camp. This consisted of songs, dances and acts which had been rehearsed during the fortnight the cadets had spent in camp just outside Delhi. At 48 hours' notice we, too, had to put on a performance, which shook us a little; however, we got away with singing two verses of "There is a Tavern in the Town"!

During our stay in Delhi we were introduced to the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru (see photograph below), the President, also to the Defence Minister and the three Chiefs of Staff. We were to have had breakfast with Mr. Nehru but the Duke's visit prevented this.

For the remainder of our fortnight in India we visited places with historical or military associations. From Delhi we went north to Dehra Dun, where we stayed at the Military Academy, founded by Field Marshal the Lord Chetwode in 1932.



[Baxi Photo Service, Delhi-6

Mr. Nehru greeting the cadets. Right to left: Cordle, Wilson, Miles.

From Dehra Dun we visited the hill station of Mussoorie. At Jaipur we saw the palaces of the Maharajah and also schools and the university. The city of Jaipur was, to our minds, most typical of the "mystic east" as imagined by Europeans. A visit to India would not be complete without seeing the Taj Mahal at Agra—and this was, indeed, perhaps the finest spectacle of the tour.

We then journeyed south by train to the National Defence Academy at Poona. This is a magnificent establishment, beautifully built and equipped for training boys between the ages of 15 and 19 who wish to make the services their career.

During our trip we were looked after by officers of the National Cadet Corps and were treated with the utmost kindness. We met a great many cadets, both from the Cadet Corps and military academies. Most of these were really friendly; a surprising number had friends or relations in England and so seemed interested in us. Most of the questions we were asked concerned the C.C.F. or the services, but we were asked two or three times if there was still much snobbery and class distinction in England. What surprised me was that a large number of our own generation had no idea what the Union Jack was.

All the Messes we stayed in were spotlessly clean

though not always modern. The food was generally Indian, though with an English breakfast; both food and service were, on the whole, excellent. The officers were friendly and very hospitable; even in "dry" areas, all Messes have a bar. Many of the trophies on view date back to the days of the British. We were, indeed, much struck by the tremendously British element in practically everything. The Indians themselves admit this as regards their Messes and, indeed, as regards most things connected with the three services. Otherwise, although on one or two occasions they praised our administration, they were not prepared to admit that Britain had given their country anything of lasting value.

Cadets from other countries of the Commonwealth had been invited but, in the end, the only ones to attend were two from Ghana and two from Ceylon. We found the Ghana cadets amusing though rather wild at times; the Ceylon cadets were very quiet and subdued.

All too soon our most enjoyable and interesting tour came to an end and, on February 8, we left the sunshine and gaiety of Bombay behind us and, four days later, were welcomed home by fog though we were spared snow.

M.J.P.M.

OBITUARY

We deeply regret to record the following deaths:—

HATHERELL.—On January 19, 1959, Lt.-Colonel W. G. Hatherell, of "Glaisdale," Barrow Road, Burnham-on-Sea.

The following is extracted from the Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Gazette and Express of January 22, 1958:—

Much regret has been occasioned by the death of Lt.-Colonel W. G. Hatherell, aged ninety-seven, who was one of the oldest officers of the British Army, having been commissioned by Queen Victoria in 1881 when he was twenty. He joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and later the Indian Army, in which he served until 1910.

In 1914 he volunteered for further service and formed the 11th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

After the 1914-18 war, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Hatherell lived in Clifton until they lost their home during the air raids on Bristol in January 1941. They have lived at Burnham-on-Sea for about the last 14 years. Lt.-Colonel Hatherell leaves a widow and two sons; one son lives in Johannesburg, the other is Mr. Alan Hatherell, of Brea.

HEMBLYS.—On January 3, 1959, ex-C.S.M. Albert Hemblys, aged 77 years.

S.M. Hemblys joined the Regiment as a band boy in November 1897 and joined the 1st Battalion in Malta in April 1898. He subsequently served with that battalion in South Africa and India and with the Indian Expeditionary Force in France until invalided home in 1916. Returning to the 1st Battalion in India in 1917 he served with them in the Afghan operations in 1919. In that year he returned to England to represent the Regiment at the march past of British and Indian troops in London. After further service with 1st Battalion in Palestine, Egypt, Ireland, Tidworth and Gibraltar he came to York. When the battalion arrived home from Constantinople he rejoined them at Gosport, where he was discharged after 26 years' service. He became a postman at Halifax and remained with the G.P.O. until he retired on pension. His funeral was attended by representatives of the Post Office at Halifax and the Old Comrades' Association, amongst whom were: Messrs. T. Peacock (son-in-law), T. McMahon, G. Dickens, G. Annesley and J. Yaxley. C.S.M. Hemblys was one of a family which has had a long and meritorious connection with the Regiment. He is survived by his widow, two sons and three daughters.

HEWARD.—On November 27, 1958, after a very short illness, C.S.M. Edward Heward, of 27 The Knowl, Mirfield.

C.S.M. Heward joined the Mirfield Company of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) in 1906 as a private and served with them until 1908 when, as the result of the Territorial Army Act, this Company became part of the 5th (T.A.) Battalion. He served continuously with the 5th until the end of the 1914-18 war, attaining the rank of company sergeant-major. On the re-formation of the "5th Dukes" in 1920, he rejoined and served as Company Sergeant-Major of the Mirfield Company until 1931. In 1936 he joined 373 Company, 43rd (5th D.W.R.) A.A. Battery, R.E. (T.A.), as a sergeant, attained the rank of battery sergeant-major, and served until 1942 when, for health reasons, he was retired.

He was a founder member of the Mirfield Branch of the 5th Duke of Wellington's Old Comrades' Association and, except while serving during the Hitler war, was secretary of that branch until April 1957 when, at his own request, he took a well-earned retirement, but he continued to serve on the committee until his death.

C.S.M. Heward was a well-known personality in the 5th Battalion; he always had its interests at heart and his genial presence and comradeship will be greatly missed.

LEES.—On January 10, 1959, suddenly in hospital, ex-C.Q.M.S. Ernest Lees, M.M., aged 64 years.

Mr. Code writes: "Jigger" Lees, as everybody knew him, joined the 7th Battalion D.W.R. (T.F.) in April 1911 and served with them until April 1916 when he was transferred to the York and Lancaster Regt., with whom he won the Military Medal as a sergeant. Demobbed in 1919, he rejoined "The Dukes" in August 1919 on a regular engagement. After service with the 1st and 2nd Battalions, he retired on pension in March 1937. September 2, 1939, saw "Jigger" back once more in uniform at Regimental H.Q. Posted to the R.A.S.C., he went out to the B.E.F. on September 12; during the evacuation of the B.E.F., he received a mention in despatches. From November 1940 until August 1945 he served as a C.Q.M.S. of a Royal Pioneer Corps guard company. In civilian life once more, "Jigger" devoted his energies to much voluntary work with the British Legion and the W.E.A. movement in the Birmingham area. From 1945 until his death he held a post with British Road Services. Mr. Lees is survived by his wife and son, Michael, whom many of us remember as a baby. Michael wrote and told us of the very impressive ceremony prior to the cremation of his father. Many Legion branches were represented with their Standards, as were members of the various organisations with which Mr. Lees associated himself during his residence in Birmingham. All who knew "Jigger" will, I am sure, remember him and his ultra-efficiency quips and

systems with much affection. Michael has sent along "Jigger's" medals which Mrs. Lees wishes to go into the medal section of the Regimental Museum; our best thanks to Mrs. Lees for this gesture.

PATON.—On March 8, 1959, very peacefully, at Newton Cross, Barnstaple, Duncan Paton, Lt.-Colonel, late of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, dearly loved husband of Violet.

Lt.-Colonel Duncan Paton died at his family home, Newton Cross, where he was born on March 14, 1896.

In 1913 he went from Marlborough to the R.M.C., Sandhurst. On August 12, 1914, he was commissioned into the Regiment and joined the 3rd Reserve Battalion at Earsdon. He went to France on November 9, 1914, and was posted to 2nd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards). He served with them until he was very badly wounded in both thighs early in March 1915; he lay out in "No Man's Land" with a badly shattered thigh for about two days before he could be brought back to our lines. This wound finished his active service for that war, and he was forced to serve in administrative posts at home, when the hospitals did not claim him.

After the war he joined the 1st Battalion, who had arrived in Palestine from India. Unfortunately his old wound broke out and, after a spell in hospital, he was invalided home. In August 1921 he rejoined the 1st Battalion at Tidworth and was with them at Gibraltar and Constantinople during the Turkish trouble; he remained with them until 1933, except for a tour of duty at the Depot in 1925-27.

In Devonport his wound again broke out and he had a long spell in hospital. However, Aldershot proved to be his lucky station as, whilst serving there, he met Miss Violet Stowe in the house of Colonel and Mrs. Cecil Ince, and married her on October 31, 1931. In the same year he qualified for the Staff College.

In January 1933 he was appointed Staff Captain, 43 (Wessex) Division, T.A., where he remained until he was promoted Major in June 1936 and posted to the 2nd Battalion in India. He joined there on February 1937 with his wife and Malcolm. The outbreak of the 1939-45 War found them home on leave and Duncan was posted to the 1st Battalion at Bordon, and went to France with them on October 1, 1939, as Second-in-Command.

During this war he commanded the 1st Battalion, for a short time in France, and subsequently 11th Bn. South Staffs. Regiment; I.T.C., D.W.R., Halifax, and 4 I.T.C., Brancepeth. In 1940 he was promoted substantive lieutenant-colonel. He retired in July 1946 and settled in Wiltshire; for some years he held a retired officer's appointment at H.Q., Southern Command.

Duncan Paton was good-natured, gregarious, and very companionable. In his young days he loved a party and was always excellent value at one. He liked all games, also riding, shooting and fishing,

but he was handicapped by his wounded leg. Always very keen on the Regiment, he never missed a Regimental occasion if he could help it.

He must often have suffered from his leg, but he never grumbled about it. His death will be keenly felt by all his many friends, both in and outside the Regiment, who will wish to express their deep sympathy to his wife and younger son Angus in this, their second great loss is so short a time.

C.W.G.G.

The Regiment was represented at Lt.-Colonel Paton's funeral by Major J. S. Milligan; the Regimental Depot provided a bugler and firing party.

SMITH.—On February 16, 1959, at 30 Marlborough Road, Westbourne, Alexander Glegg Smith, M.B.E., M.C., aged 75 years, beloved husband of Christina Macdonald, and late of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Captain Glegg Smith was commissioned from the cavalry in 1915 into the Royal Irish Regiment and, on the disbandment of that regiment in 1922, was transferred to the "Dukes." He joined the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar and remained with it until 1925 when he was appointed Adjutant of the 5th Battalion. He retired in 1928 but remained with the 5th Battalion until 1930. He was an experienced horseman and did good work in coaching individual riders and teams in the Battalion.

From 1930 to 1945 he was Assistant Secretary, West Riding Territorial Association and, during this period, was a member of the Regimental Chapel Committee. During recent years he had been living at Bournemouth and, until the middle of last summer, had been working for the Army Cadets in that area.

Brigadier Fraser represented the Regiment at the funeral, and wreaths were sent from the Retired Officers' and Old Comrades' Associations.

TIDMARSH.—On January 29, 1959, at home in Hythe, in his 81st year, Robert Molyneux Tidmarsh, late 33rd Regiment of Foot, only son of the late Colonel Tidmarsh, also 33rd Regiment, and husband of Daisie.

Lt.-Colonel Tidmarsh was educated at Cheltenham College. He was gazetted to the Regiment from the Militia and joined the 1st Battalion in Aldershot in December 1899, in which month the battalion received mobilisation orders to proceed to South Africa. He served in that campaign, including the two operations 'Relief of Kimberley' and 'Paardeberg' which are inscribed on the regimental colours as battle honours, and gained the Queen's Medal with three clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps. Shortly before the end of the campaign he was seconded to the King's African Rifles which was then being formed. He

served throughout the 1914-18 War. He retired in March 1924, with the rank of Lt.-Colonel.

Lt.-Colonel Tidmarsh's father, Colonel F. S. Tidmarsh, was with the 33rd Regiment at the capture of Magdala in 1868, and later commanded the 1st Battalion in India from 1887 to 1889.

Lt.-Colonel M. V. le P. Trench writes: By the death of Bob Tidmarsh I have lost a friend of 60 years' standing. Bob joined the 1st Battalion at Aldershot in December 1899, a few days after I joined it. He was two years older than me, having served previously in the 3rd (Militia) Battalion of the Regiment. He told me that he could remember Aldershot in 1885—his father had been stationed there with the 2nd Battalion before getting command of the 1st—and "Tit Willow" (the late Brigadier-General W. M. Watson) joining there in that year.

After his service with the King's African Rifles, Bob rejoined the 1st Battalion in York, and we served together on and off for the next 20 years. In a recent letter, when referring to the deaths of so many of our contemporaries, he wrote: "Do you realise that you and I are the two oldest members of the Regiment left?"

Bob was a fine cricketer and tennis and racquets player, and his drives in these games were very powerful. He and Mrs. Tidmarsh were a very strong pair at tennis. He was a lively companion, for he had a pretty wit with a fund of stories. He told me that he got permission for officers to wear dinner jackets at the Regimental dinner: "I told them that old men who had lost their figures and could not get into their old evening dress would certainly not spend £75 in buying a new one at their time of life!" That he was responsible for the wearing of dinner jackets is perhaps not exactly true, but the story is typical of his humour.

Bob and Mrs. Tidmarsh would have celebrated their golden wedding this year.

A codicil to Lt.-Colonel Tidmarsh's will reads:—

At my death I wish the under-mentioned articles bequeathed to the officers of my late Regiment, viz. the 33rd Foot:—

1. Gold hunter watch with Garter Insignia on face and which plays "God Save the Queen," formerly belonging to the Iron Duke (2 keys).
2. My gold signet ring, made from a piece of gold taken from the crown of King Theodore after the storming of Magdala and given to my father in 1868—an inscription inside the ring now very faint.
3. The silver cups (4) won by my father at Aldershot in 1869-70 and the long-jump medal also won by him.

Given under my hand this ninth day of June, 1956.

ROBERT MOLYNEUX TIDMARSH,

Lt.-Colonel.

(Late) the 33rd Regiment.

Greenhill,
Hythe, Kent.

The Diary of No. 12624 Pte. Arthur Sunley

9TH BATTALION, THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

The Diary of a Battalion Orderly during the First World War

(continued)

The first instalment of Pte. Sunley's diary was published in the October 1958 issue. It recounted how he embarked with the 9th Battalion for France in July 1915 and, in due course, reached the front line. The instalment ended with the Battalion in trenches in the third line of defence near Ypres, in December 1915, when a German attack was expected on the main Menin-Calais road. Pte. Sunley was then still serving in one of the companies; he becomes a Battalion orderly in this instalment.

At the risk of forfeiting suspense, we feel that some readers will welcome the assurance that this diarist, in spite of harrowing experiences, survives! Evidence of this will be found in an advertisement on page 45. The diary was, in fact, compiled by Mr. Arthur Sunley in the "early twenties" from notes made by him at the time of the events which he so graphically describes.

The Battalion was inspected by the Divisional General, who, in his address, said he expected us to uphold the traditions of the Regiment. We seemed to have heard something like that before, so that the usual sarcastic remarks from the troops about Generals well out of the danger zone gained point. The lads knew an inspection by "Red Tabs" was followed by a general attack and realised that there was something out of the ordinary to take place. The Battalion marched out of Outersteen, through Proven and Poperinghe on to Ypres, passing the famous Cloth Hall which was so completely in ruins, flitting through Ypres single file like ghosts, everything as silent as the grave—the calm before the storm. We arrived at the ramparts, which was to be our home for a few days. There was an air of depression about the place which could be felt; perhaps this was why one of "B" Company shot himself through the head on the first day. He was a chap who was not understood by the Sergeant-Major and Captain of the Company, and had been severely reprimanded in the Orderly Room ten minutes previously.

On the morning of December 19 we woke about 4 a.m., coughing and choking, thinking that some fool was lighting a fire. The place was full of gas, so the order "Stand to and adjust gas helmets" was rapped out. At that time it was the old P.H. helmet which you tucked in at the collar and hoped for the best. The troops were hastily lined up in battle formation outside the ramparts, served with extra ammunition and moved to the front line. "Jerry" was pumping gas shells into Ypres as fast as the devil; we had many casualties going up. Just outside Menin Gate a shell burst right amongst us, but falling flat, I luckily escaped. Hearing groans I found Lt. G. Hawkes, who was leading his platoon, badly wounded. I was acting as his batman at that time, so felt it my duty to carry and assist him to a dressing station in the ramparts, where he was bandaged up by the M.O. On visiting him a few minutes later I noticed blood still flowing profusely; I called Sgt. Horseman, who ripped the bandages off his leg and applied a tourniquet which stopped the bleeding. But for the Sergeant he must have bled to death. The dressing station was packed full of wounded,

including the Colonel, Major C. Barnard, and the Adjutant (Captain Miller) who appeared in great pain. (we heard later that his leg had been amputated.) He was a splendid officer and gentleman and extremely popular with all ranks.

I proceeded in the ambulance to Poperinghe Clearing Station with the three officers and stayed on duty all night, assisting the hospital orderlies, who had more wounded to cope with than could be dealt with by the staff. The officers were evacuated by train the following evening to a Base hospital.

I then rejoined the Battalion, who were in dug-outs near the White Chateau. Roll call disclosed how many of the old boys had gone west—approximately, the casualties for the Battalion were 220 to 280.

The Battalion went into the front line at Hooge, via Menin Road, and was "in" on Christmas Day. Whilst scouting around, a chum and I had the good fortune to find a bag of rations and a bottle of rum which cheered us up considerably. The first two days it rained continuously and our only shelter was a waterproof sheet, fastened to the side of the trench, under which we could just obtain sufficient cover to make us comfortable—the sort of comfort one gets from an umbrella in a heavy rainstorm. My co-sentry, Wright, from Barnoldswick, was noted as the best grouser in the Company, and here he had a good field-day; but he was a good soldier and would go fifty-fifty with both work and rations.

The Battalion was relieved in December and marched down to "Buzzy-Boom" Huts. While we were being relieved, Jerry commenced shelling, and we had a few casualties and "wind-up" until our arrival at rest billets. We were all soaked through, which did not tend to make us very cheerful, and our rest billets were very much under water. Oh, Belgium—what a place! Water, water everywhere—it could not have been much damper at the bottom of the sea. To give some idea, a fellow named Mitchill, from Halifax, and I were proceeding across country, heavily laden with full pack, when, near White Chateau, I got stuck, and for a quarter of a mile we alternately dragged each other out of the mud.

The first day of rest was spent in cleaning up, scraping filth off clothes, and making ourselves relatively presentable. Then the Battalion was lined up in camp, in square formation, waiting to be inspected by General —, Commanding —. We heard a whistle like a shell and, thinking that we were being shelled by artillery, all the men fell flat on the ground. An explosion followed, then another. It appears that a Bosche aeroplane, flying very high, must have spotted the gleam of bayonets, or a rest camp, and dropped two bombs. One fell near the Battalion Orderly Room, killing the Orderly Room Corporal and one orderly, and wounding another. The other bomb dropped within 10 yards of the troops on parade. Fortunately for the men, there was the Colonel's groom and two horses standing between them and the burst. The horses got the full force of the explosion and were badly hit. Colonel Wannell, who was in command, walked over to the horses, and put them out of their misery by shooting them.

I left the Company to take over duty as a Battalion orderly. There had been three casualties at Ypres, and I was one replacement to make up the normal strength of eight orderlies.

The Battalion entrained at Poperinghe to proceed to St. Omer for a long rest—the lads quite cheerful at the prospect of getting away from the mud and filth of Flanders. From St. Omer we marched to Eperleques (Watten l'Eperleques—*Ed.*) and stayed there three weeks and had a splendid time; the change from the Ypres sector was like being transformed into a new world. The billets each accommodated 30 to 50 men and were wonderfully clean, new straw having been laid, and we were as happy as bees in a hive; it was not long before we had forgotten a war existed. During the day, football matches and sports were arranged. In the evening, the chaps generally adjourned to the estaminets, drinking mild French beer and playing "housey-housey," a game that was exceedingly popular.

Here, I received a registered letter from the father of Lt. Hawkes, also umpteen parcels from his family, as an appreciation for assisting their son in the gas attack of December 19. With four good chums I adjourned to the nearest estaminet to celebrate this good fortune in proper style. Then, no money left, we adjourned for "lights out." Five happy souls arrived back at billets, carolling "By the light of the Silvery Moon."

We left Eperleques with many regrets and marched to hutments at Reninghelst on February 2 and, on the 4th, relieved the 3rd Division in the line at St. Eloi, Battalion H.Q. being at Voormezeele. The trenches were in very good condition, with deep communication trenches, and had every appearance of being a "cushy" part of the line.

One morning I received notice to proceed home on leave. At 6 a.m. I was detailed by the Sergeant-Major to take a message to the front line, but this I definitely refused; there was a rooted superstition about taking risks when you had leave papers in your pocket. I hastened away as quickly as possible and walked to Reninghelst, slept in huts there, and left to catch a train at Poperinghe. The distance walked with full pack would be about 22 km. On

my way I met a pal named Cpl. Oldfield, from Huddersfield, and we chummed up for the rest of the journey. We had a windy feeling until well away from "Pop" for the Bosche started shelling as we left.

Arrived in England dirty, tired, with four days' growth of beard, but cheerful, and landed safely in Huddersfield about 6.30 a.m. What a great feeling . . . HOME! The finest place in the world—even St. George's Square held some distinction.

After five hectic days I returned to the Battalion at Reninghelst. They were preparing to proceed "up the line"; all leave was cancelled; it appeared that the Germans had blown up "International Trench" and captured the position. Our Battalion was in support alongside the railway cutting, with the Northumberland Fusiliers in the front line, assisted by two machine-gun teams from "The Dukes." Lt. Wood, a very young, but good and popular officer, was killed here by a sniper.

We moved up to the front line on the 28th, and on March 2 a heavy bombardment commenced at 3 a.m. I think all the artillery on the Western Front was concentrated on this small frontage. The earth shook as if in an earthquake. All Hades was let loose, the shells just skimming the frail dugouts made in the side of the trench and covered with corrugated iron.

One shell landed on a dugout and Sgt. Haigh, who was in charge of headquarter orderlies, was instantly killed. Hearing a shout for help, I went round the corner of a trench and, with the help of Cpl. Williamson (Signals), from Huddersfield district (Holmfirth, I believe), carried out a wounded orderly. But it was of no avail; he was mortally hurt—poor Tom Healey from Ilkley; he was to have gone on leave directly I returned to the Battalion. Such is fate. He was a gallant youth. Hearing another cry, we found another chap buried up to the waist and, after struggling for an hour, managed to release him with the help of a signaller named Snow. We were carrying him to the dressing station when I stepped on another man; this proved to be Cpl. Williamson—who had earlier assisted me with Healey—quite dead!

I was then detailed to proceed to Railhead for a new draft from England. Poor fellows, what a baptism! All the way, the light railway was under very heavy shellfire. I arrived at "B" Company H.Q. with about two-thirds of them; the remainder were casualties. This was about 11 p.m. and some of the chaps were weeping from sheer exhaustion. It was enough to unnerve the bravest: straight from England into one of the fiercest bombardments it was possible to experience; they had had a forced march of about 15 km. with full pack and, on arrival at Railhead, had to carry the rations, etc., to the troops in the front line. They were b . . . d with fatigue.

The 3rd Division went over during the bombardment and had the satisfaction of retaking the position. But at what a cost—dead men all over the place! Some 300 Wurtembergers were taken prisoner; they looked as if they had had a rough time and were pleased to come in. The Battalion's

casualties would be in the region of 300; three company sergeant-majors were killed, including Sgt.-Major Liversedge, from Meltham—a splendid fellow; we were chatting a few minutes before.

Sent with a message to the D.L.I., I arrived at their Battalion H.Q. after an exciting run through shell-fire. It was like a field-ambulance dressing station. On the way back I met Lt. Potts, grinning as usual, who gave me some German souvenirs, taken from prisoners, to hand in to Battalion H.Q. There were only four Battalion orderlies left, so we were kept moving with one message after another. The last message ran: "Hang on like Hell. We shall be relieved tonight," and was sent by Captain and Adjutant S. Danby. I was quite bucked taking this message to the front line, nor was I alone in this: Captain P. R. Simner, "A" Company, gave a light cheer and said: "Notify all the boys as you go round"; Captain Robertson, of "D" Company, was also cheerfully excited; Captain Cullinan, "C" Company, was in a dugout with other officers and they, too, cheered to the echo; Captain G. Benjamin, "B" Company, looked at the message and remarked: "Oh! Is that so, Sunley?" and looked disappointed he was going out. The Battalion were very fortunate in their company commanders; no battalion could have wished for better officers or finer gentlemen.

We commenced moving out at dusk. Unfortunately "Jerry" also commenced another heavy bombardment and a great number of casualties accrued before we reached the safety zone.

I was detailed with another orderly, Dick Shorracks, to guide a company of the relieving unit, the Border Regiment. It was a fearful business, moving at crawling pace under heavy fire; I did not feel comfortable until we dropped into the trenches. At one particular spot the Bosche bom-

barded a 100 yards stretch with whizz-bangs at half-minute intervals; you could just run the distance in safety if you started as the last shell dropped.

However, there was always a little humour: at one point (it would be about midnight) we had to cross some narrow duckboards. A big, bulky officer of the Borderers missed the duckboard in the dark and fell into a deep trench full of water, dragging Shorracks on top of him. From the bottom of the trench came a wonderful flow of army vocabulary—the air was quite blue. Nearly choking with laughter, we carried on to Company H.Q.

At long last we made our weary exit from the line: no puttees, no equipment—sunk without trace in Flanders mud—not even a "best friend." On the way we met a party of R.G.A., who gave us a good feed. What a meal that was! We had had nothing much to eat for two days and considered it the best meal since leaving England. After a grateful farewell we scrounged a lift in a motor lorry to Reninghelst and so crawled into camp. Noticing a tent marked "Orderlies," we blundered in and, burying ourselves in blankets, were asleep in a minute; nor did we move for 24 hours. Only four of us, out of the eight orderlies, returned. The R.S.M. was heard occasionally bawling: "Orderly," and banging on the tent; he even opened the flap and looked in once, but he could see nothing but blankets; we were well underneath and too weary to take notice of even the most formidable of sergeant-majors. Waking up at last, aching in every limb, we washed, shaved off four days' growth—not pleasant, that, with our type of razor—and, looking more presentable, regained the joy of living.

(To be continued)

RETIRED OFFICERS' FUND

Owing to slips of the pen, the statement of accounts for 1957, as published in the April 1958 issue, was nonsense. Nobody appears to have noticed this; anyone now interested will find that if he corrects Colonel Wathen's life membership subscription from £1 1s. to £10 10s. the income and expenditure columns will then both total £68 17s. 11d. The balance credit was, therefore, correctly shown as £3 11s. 11d.

Statement of Accounts for 1958

INCOME		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.
Balance Credit, 1957		3	11	11	Officers' Families Fund		3	3	0
Members' Subscriptions		41	1	6	Royal School, Bath		5	0	0
New Members:					I.D. Production Fund		10	0	0
Major Maclaren (life)		10	0	0	Officers' Mess, Depot		10	0	0
Lt.-Colonel Skelsey		5	5	0	Bought 5% Defence Bonds		100	0	0
Lt.-Colonel Sir N. Everard		3	1	0	Commission			2	6
Dividend, 3½% Defence Bonds		1	15	0	Bank Charges			10	6
Sale of		100	0	0	Balance Credit		38	8	10
Premium on		2	10	5					
		<u>£167</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>			<u>£167</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>

F. H. FRASER (Brigadier).

1st Battalion Notes

Continued from page 40

"A" COMPANY

Company Commander: Captain D. H. Wood
 C.S.M.: C.S.M. R. S. Batty
 C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. T. T. Dickie
 No. 1 Platoon: 2 Lt. Fawcett, Sgt. Todd
 No. 2 Platoon: Lt. Addison, Sgt. Delaney
 No. 3 Platoon: 2 Lt. Arnold, Sgt. Simpson

The Company has returned from Londonderry, where it is generally agreed that they made a considerable name for themselves in many different spheres. We managed to do more security work than any previous detachment, much to the annoyance of 2 Lt. Fawcett, whose rough shooting was considerably curtailed as he was the only subaltern in action. There we said good-bye to Major Firth, who has left us for the "hot desk" of 2IC. We wish him every success in his new job and hope that it will lead him to greater things; it is sad to realise that we have lost the Porthos, of the "Three Company Musketeers." (This name could, however, have referred to C.S.M. Batty before his return from visiting friends at Pirbright.) Command of the Company has been taken over by Capt. D. H. Wood.

Since our return to Palace Barracks life has been very tedious, with many duties and only a little training. Also we are in the pre-administrative-inspection phase, a time in which both the O.C. and the C.Q.M.S. grow many grey hairs. We have temporarily lost Cpl. McLoughlin who, with Smith (51), Beck and Childerson, is guarding the G.O.C.'s interests at Cloona House; as yet they have not been attacked, but it seems that they are prepared for the worst.

The C.Q.M.S. joyfully announced to us that, after ten years of fleeting visits to Glasgow, he has at last decided to take the plunge and get married. He has been noticed in deep conversation with the C.S.M., and one can only guess what their talk concerned. We all wish him and his fiancée all the happiness in the world.

We have lost Cpls. Oldfield, Freeman and Broadbent to civilian life. Cpl. Freeman was very glad that he did not have to undertake any more journeys to Londonderry by car with Lt. Addison, who was continually trying to break the record for that journey. Ptes. Dickinson, Cox, Ashworth and McGreavy have also gone to the unemployment exchange; McGreavy, we presume, will try and emulate Tommy Steele. L/Cpls. Reddy and Young have been promoted corporal, and L/Cpl. Buglass was given a second stripe on leaving the Company for "H.Q." Company. Ptes. Beal, Goodfellow and Carroll have been made lance-corporals. We welcome Cpl. Kelly, Ptes. Keegan, Sykes, Simcock and Manners to the Company, and congratulate Cpl. Reddy on coming top in his cadre. We hope that he goes even further in the future.

Last, but not least, we must congratulate 2 Lt. Fawcett on winning Class "A" in the inter-Company small-bore competition. He received the medal, with full honours, on a C.O.'s parade.

"B" COMPANY

Company Commander: Captain P. L. B. Hoppe
 C.S.M.: C.S.M. S. H. Kirk
 C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. G. Nicholson
 Clerk: L/Cpl. D. R. Milner
 Runner: Pte. W. Berry
 No. 5 Platoon: 2 Lt. M. Ralph, Sgt. J. P. Collins
 No. 6 Platoon: 2 Lt. C. Cumberlege, Sgt. A. Brown

We are concentrating on building our Company boxing team for the Battalion competition in early March, and training our marksmen for the Battalion rifle meeting. Because of the cadres we have been working with a skeleton staff which has often been under considerable strain, having to do double the amount of duties usually required.

C.S.M. Kirk has returned from a successful drill course at Pirbright; the bearing of the Company is already smarter as a result. Sgt. Brown has also been away learning all about chemical warfare. So we can really say the old and the new teaching are walking hand in hand in "Shiny B."

On the sporting side, we had three stalwarts in the Battalion cross-country team, namely, 2 Lt. Ralph and Ptes. Porter and Carter; they all ran stoutly.

Once again there have been a good many changes: Major Harris has left us for the staff at H.Q. B.A.O.R. C.S.M. Arundel (congratulations on promotion) has finally managed to pull out of our stores. Sgt. Wright has left us for the Infantry Boys' Training Battalion, and Cpl. Procter for the Brigade Training Centre. Many of our star performers in games have left for civilian life: Cpl. Barker, L/Cpl. White (football), Ptes. Edwards (shooting), O'Brien and Poole (basketball). We would like to wish them all, wherever they are, the best of good fortune.

C.Q.M.S. Nicholson is now in sole charge of our stores; others who have joined us are Cpls. Lane, Stowell, Morgan and Coleman. Cpl. Lane, unfortunately, only for a short period before returning to civilian life.

Lastly, congratulations to Sgts. Fee and Wright on their promotion.

"C" COMPANY

Company Commander:
 Major A. B. M. Kavanagh, M.C.
 2IC: Captain D. S. Gilbert-Smith, M.C.
 C.S.M.: C.S.M. P. Sheehan
 C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. Costello
 Clerk: L/Cpl. Bottomley
 Runner: Pte. Dickinson
 Storemen: L/Cpls. Self and Greenwood, Pte. Poole
 N.C.O.'s Cadre: Captain D. S. Gilbert-Smith, M.C.
 Sgt. J. G. Simpson and Cpl. G. Holliday
 Junior Cadre: Lt. Duckney, Sgt. R. Wilkinson and Cpl. Clifton

The Company has been fully employed in running unit cadres for both senior and junior N.C.O.s. The first two were completed in December 1958, and our instructors are pleased to note that several students are now proud possessors of one or more stripes. After Christmas, a short weapon training cadre was run by two old hands

of the S.A.S.C., namely, S/Sgt. Schofield and Sgt. Almond; if they should ever read these notes, we would like to thank them for their assistance. We are now nearly at the end of our second two cadres and are hoping for as many successes as from the previous two.

Our Company Commander lost considerable weight while organising and running the Unit cross-country team and N.I.D. championship.

With much regret we say good-bye to C.S.M. Nichols, who was the oldest reigning member of the Company since the Battalion came to Northern Ireland. Nevertheless, we welcome C.S.M. Sheehan to "Charlie" Company. After only a few short weeks he has left us for a Guards' drill course, but "Reuter" informs us that he is in hospital. We hope he soon recovers and remembers "NOT to bend that knee." Once again, Sgt. Simpson is standing in and is taking the weight of C.S.M. on his shoulders for the period of the administrative inspection; we all wish him the very best of luck (he is still vigorously using his "Elliman's Rub").

In the middle of February strange visitors were noticed in the Battalion; these were the Gurkha Signals who were visiting us for a short spell of leave. When we first heard of their visit all sorts of rumours were floating about the Company and we were in expectation of meeting fierce little men with razor-edged knives. When they arrived we found them to be quite tame, in fact a very pleasant set of men, and we all got on very well with them.

So far we have failed to mention our soccer team. In the inter-Company knock-out we were again well and truly beaten by "H.Q." Company. C.S.M. Nichols must have been laughing up his sleeve when he found that his team had been drawn against "C" Company.

Congratulations to Pte. Greenwood on his promotion to lance-corporal; we now have an even number of lance-corporals to fit in for C.O.'s duties.

Other odd incidents have occurred, such as the time when our "B-echelon" wallahs, to wit, L/Cpl. Bottomley and Pte. Dickinson, were wrenched out of bed at about 1000 hrs. on a Sunday morning to take part in the crossing of Belfast Lough by canoe. "You can lead a horse to water"—and you can also make it drink. However, to the tune of the "Vikings," and getting a little wet, cold and seasick, we accomplished our little escapade.

"D" COMPANY

Company Commander: Major G. C. Tedd

2IC: Captain J. D. P. Cowell

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

C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. Pennington

No. 11 Platoon: 2 Lt. Shenton, Sgts. Fenn and Pratt

No. 12 Platoon: 2 Lt. Marsay, Sgts. Chilvers and Morris

The winter months have seen most members of the Company disappear at odd intervals to attempt to educate themselves or to join cadres in "C" Company, whilst others can be seen perspiring along the Bangor road, dangling from ropes near the gym or otherwise contorting themselves in those invigorating bouts of fun and frolic known as Assault Course and P.E. As a result of schooling

the following are to be congratulated on education certificates: 2nd Class: Cpls. Hartley, Barnett, Clarke and Dowdall, L/Cpls. Slater, Shepherd and Harrison, Ptes. Marney, Parker, Bowden and Fletcher (00); 3rd Class: L/Cpls. Beetham and England, Ptes. Greenwood, Warburton, Timlin (02), Brook (third time lucky), Moon, Mapleston, Kilner, Joyce and Fletcher (90).

The reactions to the physical activity were interesting and varied: Hook broke a thumb, Ormerod went to "S" Company, Mr. Duckney went to "C" Company, Sgt. Chilvers went on leave, L/Cpl. Slater got married and Merrin became a father. But the most original was Mr. Shenton who, when faced with a forced march, took the easy way out by breaking a collar-bone! (But he has covered some miles since!)

The result of all this winter training activity is that we have only a handful of the unlearned and, by dint of dragging out some of our less active brethren from their warm hiding places, our P.E. progress chart is almost complete.

In January our numbers were increased by another draft of 18 from the York and Lancaster Regiment. Now that they have been successfully woven into the pattern of Company life they, and the earlier draft, are to leave for their 1st Battalion on March 3. We hope they enjoyed their stay; we are sorry to see them go—and we wish them well.

At the Battalion concert the promise previously shown at the Company party was amply proven and, amongst many good performances, the "Delta Dungeonaires" (Duckney, Marsay, Wilkinson, Taylor and Lancaster) are to be congratulated on being the most enjoyable and polished.

We have to congratulate Cpl. Scroby on playing rugby for the Army against Sandhurst, Oxford University, Cambridge University, Gloucester and the Civil Service—we hope to see him in possession of some Army caps before long; L/Cpl. Davies has been selected to travel to France with the Welsh Rugby League team. Nash has represented the Battalion at basketball, and Sgt. Morris, Marney and Hill (56) have been in the Battalion cross-country team, whilst no less than seven members of the Company: Cowell, Shenton, Marsay, Duckney, Scroby, Connor and Davies, have represented the Battalion at rugby.

Congratulations to L/Cpl. Slater on his marriage and Pte. Merrin on the birth of a daughter.

And farewell to Doughty, O'Shea and Cpl. Palmer to civilian life, Stansfield to York, Cpl. Hartley to Beverley, and Dickie Ormerod and Griffiths to "S" Company. Soon it will take less space to print the whole Company roll!

"S" COMPANY

An "Order of Battle" can, we feel, only be justified as a means of "padding" some otherwise skimpy notes, or to announce a major change in personalities. Neither contingency exists on this occasion. The departures and arrivals which have occurred are mentioned separately in the Platoon notes. However, we feel that Sgt. Spring of the M.M.G.s and Cpl. Kelly of the Mortars deserve special mention as real old hands (the former in

every sense) of the Company. They did us well.

Specialist courses are in full swing and, by mid-summer, we should have five Netheravon graduates in the Mortars, five in the M.M.G.s and there are three already in the Anti-Tank Platoon. These figures include the respective Platoon Commanders. Finally we hope to graduate Cpl. Butterfield of the Assault Pioneers at S.M.E., Ripon. Since all the N.C.O.s concerned are long-term regulars, the success of "S" Company platoons should be assured for some time to come.

"S" Company is in a peculiar state at the moment, just over half of it being at H.M.S. *Sea Eagle*, Londonderry, acting as simple "foot-sloggers" on internal security support to the Police. The lesser half remains at Palace Barracks, largely because of restricted accommodation at Derry, and is engaged in the important task of initiating fresh regulars to the mystery of the Vickers and B.A.T. The Derry contingent consists of the M.M.G. and Mortar Platoons with the odd (nothing personal!) Assault Pioneer thrown in for good measure. Mr. Stevens finds himself, in the absence of Mr. Bray at Netheravon, in the unexpected position of Mortar Platoon Commander. The strangely good relations between Mr. Stevens and his men can only be explained by the fact that we have none of our support weapons in Derry. As always there is intense rivalry between the three platoons, each firmly of the opinion that its own main weapon is the only one that really matters in the Regiment.

Due to the rather severe weather since our arrival on January 19, sports grounds have been generally out of commission and only in our fourth week have we been able to get on to a sports field. However, we managed a number of substitutes to our fairly heavy I.S. patrol programme—basketball, swimming instruction under the tuition of the Navy and softball *à la mode de* "Chuck" Ivey. The last game has become popular, though the trans-Atlantic jargon which goes with it is incomprehensible to all of us.

The other day a high powered section comprising two officers, the C.S.M., two sergeants and a couple of Company H.Q. staff sallied forth on the nine-mile march in two hours. For one reason or another they had missed this PE test which had been completed by the rest of the Company. Fortunately, we can record a 100 per cent. pass, though there were some misgivings when, at one stage, the C.S.M. was heard to murmur "speed kills."

A good liaison has been established with the Royal Navy and the R.A.F. at H.M.S. *Sea Eagle*. As a result a third of our strength has already had two days at sea in destroyers which have been taking part in N.A.T.O. anti-submarine exercises. There will be more sea trips to come; and flights in Coastal Command "Shackletons" from Ballykelly are also promised for all.

Finally, a word about the Assault Pioneers who will not have separate notes in this issue. As mentioned elsewhere, Cpl. Gee has joined the Mortars in order to even out the N.C.O. situation. This leaves Cpl. Butterfield in charge and he should be well up to this task after completing an N.C.O.s cadre, which ends in a few days, and a course

at Ripon in June. Pte. Phillips, apart from Cpl. Butterfield the oldest member of the Assault Pioneers, shortly leaves us for civilian life after much good work. We wish him success and good fortune.

3-IN. MORTAR PLATOON

The New Year finds us once more in Londonderry, the spiritual home of all good "S" Company men. In spite of the duties, most members of the Platoon are glad to be back.

Our role mainly consists in working with the Police and, although we are scarcely functioning as a self-contained Platoon, we still manage to keep alive a feeling of unity by occasionally mentioning the forgotten word "3-in. mortar." Pte Stott maintains that there is no such weapon; that it is just a mirage or confidence trick worked ages ago on young recruits.

However, we did manage to get a couple of good days' shooting in September. In coldish weather, and with the welcome help of C.M.S. Norman, Mr. Bray and Cpl. Broomhead tried their hand at live firing as a climax to their pre-mortar course training.

We welcome Sgt. Falkingham and Cpl. Gee to the Platoon. We also, with many regrets, say farewell to the old faithful, Cpl. John Kelly. Many thanks, John, and the best of luck in your new company.

M.M.G. PLATOON

The platoon has moved to H.M.S. *Sea Eagle* once more. We are re-learning all our naval jargon and renewing old acquaintances (particularly with the W.R.N.S.!). The Platoon Commander has his "new limousine"—and how it managed to get here is still a mystery.

Sgt. Spring and Cpl. Rusby have left us, and Pte. Bennett, No. 1 Section's rangetaker, has been posted to the Depot. With all three go our very best wishes.

Congratulations are due to Sgt. Parker-Smith on obtaining an excellent "B" (so good they want him back as an instructor), and also to Cpl. Stewart, who pulled off a very good "C." L/Cpl. Garth is, at the moment, on his course, and the Platoon Commander is expecting a very good result from him as well.

We welcome to the "fold" a host of new regulars, who are now doing their M.M.G. cadre. These are Sgt. Smith, Ptes. Keating, Brown, Lodge, Ormerod, Sharp, Blenkinsop and Lane. We are expecting a very high standard of gunnery from them when they finish.

Old machine-gunners will no doubt be interested to hear that we have registered for the machine-gun matches in the Bisley non-central competition. This competition will be fired during our summer camps at Magilligan and we are very fortunate in having a month's continuous training before the matches.

L/Cpl. Culloden's and Pte. Liburd's new sons are coming along nicely, and will no doubt, in due course, make good machine-gunners.

We are in the throes of the pre-admin inspections,

and are amazed at all the number of people taking an interest in us! However, we are grateful that our inspection is at Londonderry and not at Palace Barracks!

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

The year 1959 may be a very important one for us, for we hope to see the new anti-tank gun within the next twelve months. The Amalgamated Union of Tank Destroyers has announced a new rule: that no anti-tank gun may be made light enough to be carried by its detachment. We, as good union members, should be most relieved that we are going to maintain our status, unlike the coolies and porters in other support platoons. This year's Union conference is to be held in June at Andy Capp's on Magilligan Point.

Sgt. Curling and Cpl. Kelly completed their Netheravon courses and are now back with us, spreading the gospel of the B.A.T. to anyone they can catch who has nothing else to do for a few hours. Knut attended a gun-dog course, but unfortunately failed the written part of the passing-in exam, and was returned to unit. Now he and Pte. Wager are trying for their 3rd Class Army Certificate of Education. Cpl. Smith is at Netheravon to be "brainwashed" of the 17-pounder. We wish him well.

At the Garrison concert this platoon excelled itself by producing three separate acts. Pte. Wager did a series of impressions, Ptes. Spurr, Jackson and McDougall sang in harmony and even Mr. Stevens was dragged on to the stage to play his saw and harmonica.

Now the Company has split, owing to limited accommodation in H.M.S. *Sea Eagle*, and the Platoon is left in Palace Barracks to do a five-week cadre for the new arrivals; these are Ptes. Turner, Fill, Naylor, Heley, Goldspink and, every now and again, Brown.

We are still fighting for more ammunition and are hoping to get another gun. We will be firing in the middle of this year.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Nearly all the Company returned to England either for Christmas or New Year and, although the odd man confused the dates of his pass with the unit telephone number, it is gratifying to know all have returned—well, nearly all; we have the Irishman who lives on the opposite side of the border, but we live in hopes that our Company Commander, while visiting his home land, will bump into him.

The Company has played a major role in most of the Battalion activities which have taken place since our last notes. The children's Christmas party was organised by a very able team which included Captain D. W. Shuttleworth (P.R.I.), Captain (Q.M.) C. C. Kenchington, M.B.E. (Father Christmas), and our Padre, Captain C. J. Comyns. Our Padre is worth a mention: his task was to control 192 children; this he managed to do, but not without the aid of a megaphone and a long whip. We hope British Railways have a spare ferry for our families when we are posted to our next station.

We were well represented at the Battalion concert. The Signal Platoon and the Officers' Mess staff provided skiffle groups. The Signal Officer (Lt. M. J. Campbell-Lamerton) in his grass skirt and pink brassiere looked cute, to say the least, providing you ignored the hairy chest, knobbly knees and forty-inch waist, but "Old Dukes" will tell you that we have been in stations where such a spectacle would have roused the imagination. We must also mention the mystery voice; there has been a great deal of speculation on whose it was; many have even said that it was often heard on the *Devonshire* whilst steaming through the Red Sea on the way to Korea, although most agree it has mellowed a little with the years. The writer of these notes, however, was not on that good ship, so the voice to him remains a mystery.

In the field of sport we are holding our own. The inter-Company soccer has started with our team handing out a 5—0 thrashing to "C" Company. Five of our team are battalion players and we feel that the other companies think the competition rather one-sided. The winning team will go forward to represent the Battalion in the N.I.D. minor units knock-out competition, and which company could be better fitted for such a task than "Hotel Quebec"? The Company rugger and hockey sides are quite strong; the difficulty is finding worthy opponents. Before we finish with sport we must congratulate L/Cpl. Robson on his magnificent run in the N.I.D. inter-unit cross-country race; although the first man home in the Battalion team was Pte. Cairns (Y. and L. Regt., attached), L/Cpl. Robson, second in the Battalion team and fifth in the race, was the first true-blooded "Duke" over the line—a very fine run indeed.

The annual administrative inspection takes place on March 24. Some of the preliminary inspections have already been completed, and we are told that we received a good chit for our weapons; L/Cpl. Mountain, the arms storeman, must be congratulated for helping to achieve this result.

We have said farewell to S/Sgt. Scott (A.C.C.) and Sgt. Bailes on posting to England. L/Cpls. Liggett and Spain, Ptes. Short, Parkinson and Morrill, to mention but a few, have gone to try their hand in civilian life. We wish them all luck. If they ever come our way again we hope they drop in.

C.S.M. Sheehan, almost our oldest member, has changed duties with C.S.M. Nichols. We hope C.S.M. Sheehan will be able to find time to play his usual afternoon game of tennis when the season starts again.

We conclude on the same note as we commenced. Easter is on the horizon and we pray that applications to go home to Mum are not too many.

M.T.

The vehicle (C.R.E.M.E.) inspection has finished for yet one more year; now we may be able to see the faces of our drivers.

Mr. Huffam is away in Waringfield Hospital. Knowing Mr. Huffam, we are wondering if he is really sick or just having a few days off on the vintage car business. We hope that he will be around soon, if only for the tea breaks. We would

like to congratulate him on his patent pattern to save officers loosing sticks (patent pending).

The strength of the M.T. grows daily; we now have 20 would-be drivers waiting to get behind the wheel.

The M.T.O., Lt. (Q.M.) "Farmer" Dawson, and Hancock's "Half Hour" walk around these days saying, "Our pigs are not dying" (wonder what the P.R.I. is doing?). We often wonder if one of these days we are going to draw a cattle truck from Longkesh for . . . (well you know what for, but you cannot say). One or two drivers are looking hopefully for "Muck Pay."

We are still getting through a lot of petrol with the details we are having to do, but (keeping our fingers crossed) have had few accidents. Our greatest headache is "Outward Bound" details; so far they have got through two trucks. It is said that rock climbing is good for you, but the "Dukes" are known in all the little out-of-the-way pubs in the Mourne Mountains area. Still they must have a base camp (so we are told).

SIGNAL PLATOON

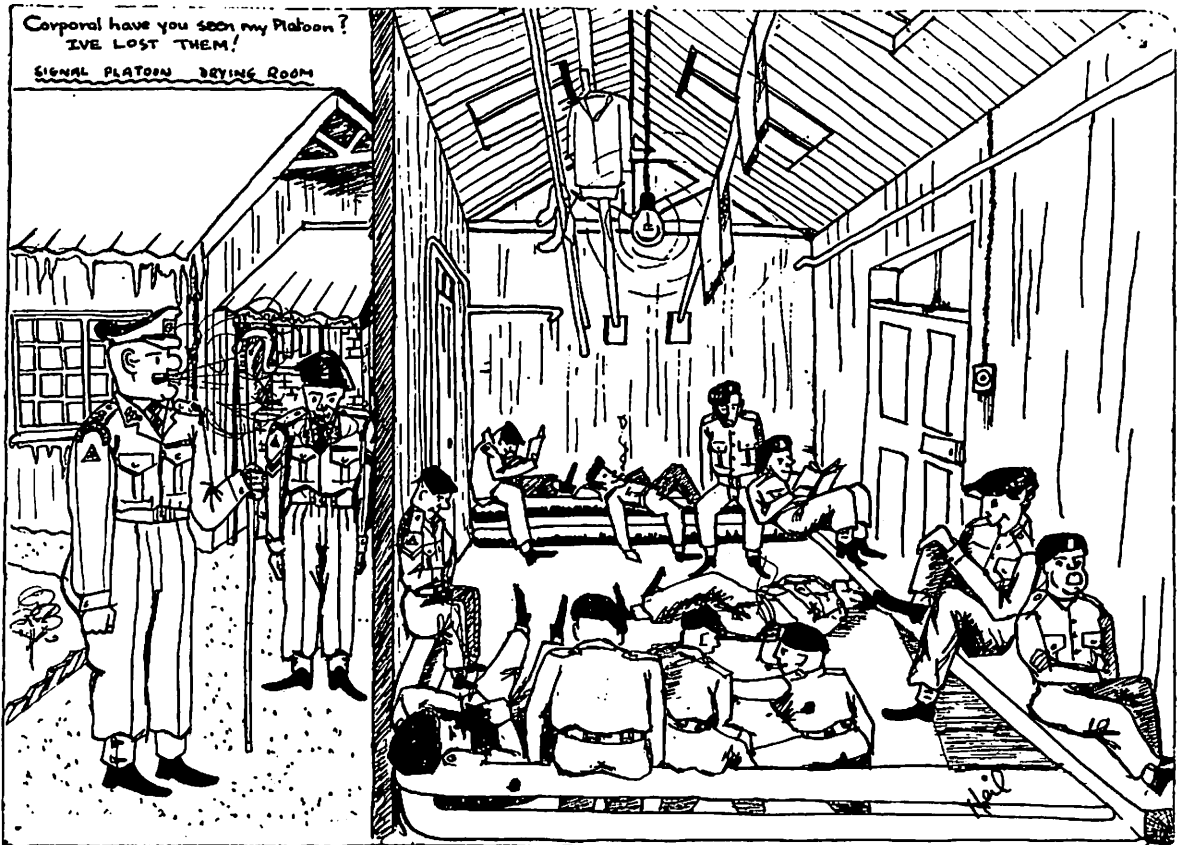
Most of our signalling activities have been confined to the classrooms, with a few morse and aerial exercises around the camp area. The latest craze in the Platoon is the drying room, the only warm place in the Platoon area; as signallers pass one another, instead of saying "Quo Vadis?" they say "Drying Room." The drying room is just bare wooden walls and a concrete floor, with a maze of

hot pipes. In this seat of learning, world affairs are discussed and, of course, the latest ways and means of dodging the R.S.O. and Sgt. Gunn (see cartoon).

Our last cadre is to be congratulated on their results; we only had one failure in the three star classification held by the Brigade Signal Officer. The following passed: Ptes. Appleyard, Cronin, Dunning, Kingdom and Whitehouse—the latter has now gone off to Hythe with Cpl. Hudson on a three-month R.S.I. course. Back from the Hythe R.S.I. course are Cpl. Owers and Cpl. Waddington, both having done extremely well with a "C" and "B" grading respectively. By the end of August we will have had all our regular instructors through Hythe which will be a great asset in forming an all-regular platoon. At the present moment we are in the third week of an all-regular cadre who are doing fairly well—we wish to take this opportunity of welcoming the following to the platoon: Ptes. Barker, Brown, Dillon, Fern, Jaundrill, Lawrence, Tomlinson, Howard and Roberts. We hope to classify all these in two months' time.

Apart from signalling we have been preparing for the administrative inspection. We are already in the middle of our R.E.M.E. inspection of wireless equipment, for which Cpl. Senior, Ptes. Cairns and Wood have worked extremely hard.

The gardens are being cultivated again after a few months of neglect. This has proved a very amusing affair, with such miracles as plants flowering overnight—where they came from is still a mystery.



One character, who shall be nameless, dug up a patch of ground and removed all the weeds only to sweep them back on to the same piece of ground again.

On the sports field the Platoon has excelled, sweeping all opposition aside in football, hockey and basketball. The hockey team started as an experiment under Cpl. Hudson and Pte. Cronin's guidance. The first match had to be seen to be believed: out of 22 men and the referee only three men survived unscathed, the referee not included. Muster parade the following morning was a sorry sight. But the team has gone from strength to strength and, challenging Major Simonds' team, we had a glorious victory, the battle cry being "Ad Mortem"!

The Battalion Christmas concert went extremely well and the Platoon played a prominent part; our skiffle group, consisting of L/Cpl. Seage, Ptes. Gully, Hall, Tock, Jinks and Armstrong, was by far the best group and received tremendous applause. We also provided a duet by the world-famous sisters, Lt. Campbell-Lamerton and Pte. Cronin, who sang "Mad Passionate Love" with conviction! They were besieged by "Stage Door Johnnies."

Sgt. Gunn has got married and we wish him every happiness for the future—since he has been back the Platoon is mentally refreshed by sudden bursts of poetic verse blossoming forth from Sgt. Gunn's elated inner-self!

We say goodbye to Pte. Morrill who has been demobbed. He held a very good farewell dance at the King Edward Hall, Holywood, after which most of the Platoon suffered from sore heads in the morning—we wish him the best of luck for the future.

CORPS OF DRUMS

First of all, we should like to welcome Drum-Major Welsh back to the fold, to offer him our congratulations and to pray that he does not drive us too hard. We fear, however, that our last wish is unlikely to be fulfilled, as he has just returned from a course at the Royal Marine School of Music where he spent four weeks learning to be a bigger and better drum-major than ever.

While the Drum-Major was away, S/Instructor Martin of the R.U.C. very kindly came over from Ballymena twice a week to instruct the buglers. His help and encouragement were very valuable, and we are most grateful to him.

The bugle competition was held in January and we congratulate L/Cpl. Wilson on winning the Commanding Officer's bugle, and Drm. Batty on winning the Adjutant's bugle. We further congratulate L/Cpl. Wilson on his recent marriage and wish him all the very best of luck.

We have lost several members to civilian life during the last month or so, and we wish them all the best of luck and assure them that we should be pleased to see them back at any time.

We are now starting training and rehearsals for Trooping the Colour in June, and the Corps of Drums can be seen drilling and practising all over the barracks at all times, much to the surprise of

O.C. "C" Company. No doubt the pace will have quickened even more by the time the next notes are due to be written.

BAND

We wish farewell and "all the best" to L/Cpl. Cowburn and Bds. Blackmore who have departed to try their luck in Civvy Street, and to L/Cpl. Jones who has left us to join the Cameron Highlanders.

Once again we welcome a new Band President, namely Major A. B. M. Kavanagh, M.C., whose stay we hope will be a long and pleasant one.

There is a gleam of delight in the eyes of most members of the Band at the prospects of a visit to Casablanca as guests of the Navy. This time next month we hope to be reclining in the sun.

In June we proceed to Halifax for the closing down of the Depot. During our stay we will be kept very busy performing at various functions throughout the West Riding. We will be Beating Retreat both at Halifax and Huddersfield, and are also giving an afternoon and evening concert in People's Park, Halifax.

On February 5 we gave a broadcast from the Belfast B.B.C. studios on the Northern Ireland and the North of England Home Services, and from all reports it sounded quite well.

We close by wishing all the best to ex-members of the Band and hope to see many of them when we visit the West Riding.

UNIT PAY TEAM

Cpl. Freeman has left the treadmill for saner pursuits, and Pte. Hey arrived from Devizes as replacement. He is busily engaged in learning the form, and committing to memory the "few" who are more trouble than they should be (every company has them).

The New Year has so far resulted in a selection of colds and coughs, and one or two debtor balances; it is quite surprising how just a little money can cause so large a headache.

On February 23, the annual inspection by the District Paymaster takes place. All is in order: the colour of the office linoleum can now be discerned, the skin of dust which covered it having been removed. A handsome fire point has been built by Sgt. Parker and staff; it will doubtless be used to lean against by hopeful soldiery seeking the silver lining. Captain Hamlet, the Visiting Paymaster, will presumably spend upwards of five or six hours on the pay records of the Battalion. It is to be hoped that ultimately all documents will be reduced in number and size to a shape in keeping with the nuclear age.

Concerning sport, the staff was all set to join forces with the Orderly Room when the playing fields were put out of bounds, so the talent of our footballers remains imponderable. Staff Rodger and Sgt. Kirk played for the Sergeants' against the Corporals' Mess and, in a rousing 4—4 draw, were still standing up at the final whistle. The latter went so far as to score a goal, a fact duly recorded in the R.S.M.'s black note-book.