

No.115 January 1960



# THE IRON DUKE

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

# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Magazine of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



*Hill 60  
Somme 1916, '18  
Arras 1917, '18  
Cambrai 1917, '18  
Lys  
Piave 1918  
Landing at Suvla  
Afghanistan 1919  
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*

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JANUARY 1960

No. 115

### BUSINESS NOTES

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HALIFAX

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# 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.

*Regimental H.Q., Wellesley Barracks, Halifax:* Retired Officer I/C, Major J. H. Davis

## Commanding Officers :

1st Battalion, Warley Barracks, Brentwood, Essex	Lieutenant-Colonel P. P. de la H. Moran.
5/7th Battalion (T.A.), Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield .. .. .	Hon. Colonel: Colonel G. B. Howcroft, C.B.E. M.C., T.D., J.P.
	C.O.: Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Gadd, E.R.D.

## AFFILIATED ROYAL ARTILLERY REGIMENT OF THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

382 Medium Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A., Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax .. .. .	Hon. Colonel: Colonel N. T. Bentley, T.D.
	C.O.: Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Simpson, R.A., T.A.
"P" (4 D.W.R.) Medium Battery, R.A., Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax .. .. .	Major M. R. M. Tetlow, R.A., T.A.
"Q" Medium Battery, R.A., Drill Hill, Mirfield ..	Major B. Farrow, R.A., T.A.
"R" (6 D.W.R.) Medium Battery, Drill Hall, Oiley Street, Skipton .. .. .	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

382 Cadet Medium Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.), The Hutments, Hunger Hill, Halifax .. .. .	Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Jamieson.
5/7th Cadet Battalion (D.W.R.), Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield .. .. .	Major R. Scott-Evans, M.C.
A.C.F. Contingent, Heckmondwike Grammar School ..	2nd Lieutenant J. G. H. Field
Independent A.C.F. Company, Eshton Hall School ..	Lieutenant-Colonel G. Dadson

## AFFILIATED UNITS OF THE COMBINED CADETS FORCE

Leeds Grammar School C.C.F. Contingent .. ..	Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Whitmore, O.B.E., T.D.
Giggleswick School C.C.F. Contingent .. ..	Major L. S. Wardle.
Rishworth School C.C.F. Contingent .. ..	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 Scarborough, K.G.

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

Vice-President: Colonel C. R. T. Cumberlege

General Secretary: Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E.

## Editorial

One wheel has turned full circle and the 1st Battalion finds itself having to march on its flat feet. Old stagers may get a certain wry amusement from the pained surprise with which this development is greeted in some of the company notes.

Needless to say, as one company puts it, "If we must march we will march," and they are setting about it with a will. Probably not many old stagers can boast that they ever completed a 20-mile march, played rigger in the afternoon and paraded in Piccadilly Circus at midnight to march back to Brentwood.

But that exploit is not recorded in this number and we are stealing the sub-editor's embryo thunder. So we have turned our minds to the past!

The longest march that we know of in Regimental history was the move of the 1st Battalion from Lucknow to Nowshera, which was done on flat feet. They completed the 872 miles in 76 marches, setting out on November 1, 1882, and arriving on January 27, 1883.

An account of this march is given in THE IRON DUKE, Vol. II, on page 329. It starts: "Till the weather got too cold, when under the Himalayas, 'Rouse' sounded 3 o'clock a.m.; all tents were struck and packed. Any officer who overslept himself, on awaking, found his tent down and his bed in the open. Native servants prepared a cup of tea and one piece of toast to officers dressing. Length of daily march, 10 to 15 miles.

"Every seventh day (generally Sunday) a halt to rest baggage animals. Parade as a rule 3.30 a.m.; rate of marching restricted to four miles per hour, and each company in turn marched at the head of the Regiment. Halfway, the Regiment halted for 20 minutes for coffee and light refreshments, supplied by 'Sallygram,' the regimental contractor.

"Arrival in new camp about 9 o'clock. The Quartermaster, W. Aimes, and party marched a day in advance and laid out the camp and marked the position of the mess tent and those of each company. The tents were large square double-fly tents, holding 16 men, and were pitched and supplied with straw bedding in about 20 minutes.

"A subaltern's party was left behind to burn all old bedding, clean up the camp, and then follow on. This party tried its level best to catch the Regiment up at the halfway halt, and seldom failed or the refreshments did. Sportsmen leave for shooting about 11 a.m. and return to camp in time for mess dinner at 6. Mess tent struck and packed at 8 o'clock p.m."

Possibly some of those now marching might care to while away a stage or two in ruminating on the difference between that march and theirs and on the advantages and disadvantages they enjoy and suffer as compared with their predecessors of 1882—and send us their conclusions. Or, perhaps, one doesn't get time to ruminate when marching these days.

## Regimental News

Major A. D. Firth has been selected to succeed Lt.-Colonel Moran as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion.

Colonel N. T. Bentley, T.D., has been appointed Honorary Colonel of 382 Medium Regiment, R.A. A photo and short record of Colonel Trevor Bentley appear on page 27.

Our recruit training is now established at Strensall. We publish the first notes from the Brigade Depot and a "parade state" of the Brigade H.Q. and Depot Staff.

The 1st Battalion rigger team have had convincing wins in four rounds of the Army Cup, scoring 134 points to nil. To avert the intervention of some jealous goddess we add quickly that they have some way to go before equalling the record of the team which won the cup in 1930-31 with a total of 202 points to nil.

The annual dinner of the Officers' Dining Club will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.1, on Friday, June 3, 1960.

Dates to note:—

February 1.—THE IRON DUKE subscriptions due.

April 23-24.—See page 4.

May 14.—See page 12.

### STOP PRESS

Army Rugby Cup, U.K. semi-final: 3 Training Battalion, R.A.O.C.—0; 1 D.W.R.—25.

### THE REGIMENTAL COUNCIL

The Regimental Council had its inception in the series of meetings of senior serving and retired officers of the Regiment held by Colonel C. J. Pickering immediately after the war. It was at these meetings that plans were worked out to resume the Regiment's peace-time functions and activities, many of which had been in abeyance during the war.

In 1950 General Sir Philip Christison formed the Regimental Council as a body to advise him on Regimental affairs and to undertake duties on behalf of the Regiment.

The Council is an advisory body to the Colonel of the Regiment whose responsibilities and authority remain unchanged. Meetings are held twice a year; firstly, on the day of the Regimental Dinner in the Iron Duke's study at Apsley House and, secondly, in Halifax on the day following the Old Comrades' reunion. The privilege of meeting at Apsley House, by permission of His Grace the

Duke of Wellington, is greatly appreciated by the Regiment.

Members of the Council are appointed by the Colonel and fall into three categories:

- (a) Serving officers.
- (b) Retired officers.
- (c) *Ex officio* appointments.

Officers in category (c) include the Commanding Officers of the Regular and Territorial battalions. Other officers are co-opted to the Council as necessary and certain members are allotted specific responsibilities such as the Old Comrades Association, the Dinner Club, the Regimental Museum and the Retired Officers Association.

The present composition of the Council is as follows:

*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.

*Serving Officers:* Major-General R. H. N. C. Bray, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.; Major-General R. K. Exham, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.; Brigadier F. St. P. Bunbury, C.B.E., D.S.O.; Brigadier G. Laing, C.B.E.; Brigadier G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E.

*Retired Officers:* General Sir Philip Christison, B.T., G.B.E.; etc.; Major-General W. M. Ozanne, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.; Brigadier F. H. Fraser, D.S.O., M.C.; Colonel C. R. T. Cumberlege; Colonel F. R. Armitage, O.B.E.

*Ex officio Members:* Lt.-Colonel P. de la H. Moran; Lt.-Colonel F. R. Gadd, E.R.D.

*Secretary:* Major J. H. Davis.

## Regimental Headquarters

The Depot rear party has gone. It had been dwindling slowly until at the end of November only Major (Q.M.) Jackson, Cpl. Blacow and Pte. Mulrooney were left. The barracks are now even quieter still.

Of our staff, Mr. McMahon will celebrate his 50th year of service in the Duke's in January 1960. He started with the 4th Battalion in 1910 and is still going strong. So is Jock O'Kelly who was born into the Regiment way back in 1888 and has been with it ever since—even, in spirit, during a short spell of 21 years with the Post Office. Possibly this is enough boasting about our ages or we'll have enquiries as to whether the one invalid chair we keep on the ground floor is really enough.

We've had a number of visitors and even a sprinkling of inspections. The unfortunate officer conducting the annual administrative inspection seemed somewhat at a loss as so few of the questions on the proforma seemed to fit. It was with evident relief that he recorded the answer to how many fire appliances there were!

Major Tedd from the 1st Battalion spent a busy fortnight assisting Mr. Innes, the curator of Bankfield Museum, to check and assemble the exhibits transferred from our Regimental Museum. Major Tedd and Mr. Innes have managed to assemble 20 complete uniforms for the period 1856 onwards,

varying from full dress to service and battle dress. One of the features planned is a display of campaign medals of all the campaigns in which a unit of the "Dukes" served. We are lucky indeed to have someone with the enthusiasm and drive that Mr. Innes is devoting to provide as fine a display as possible.

The opening of the new museum on St. George's Day will be the main feature of a Regimental weekend to be held over the week-end of April 23-24. There will be an O.C.A. parade on Sunday, April 24. The service, which will in future be an annual event on the nearest Sunday to St. George's Day, will be held in the Parish Church, Halifax. We hope a large contingent of "Dukes" will attend, wearing a white rose for the occasion.

Captain Robertson has been more than a visitor. His task was to produce a county recruiting plan. Beer mats, or drip mats as he insists they must be called, have been scattered throughout the West Riding together with other literature and posters. There was quite a struggle to get permission to remove posters from our own barrack walls advising one to join various corps and to substitute the exhortation "Don't just join the Army—join the 'Dukes.'" Pte. Hartley, Captain Robertson's batman, deserves a mention: apart from his paintings and the embellishment of our display tent, he has distributed recruiting literature over a wide area and has thus reduced considerably the work of Sgt. Collins who has come as a special recruiter for Leeds and area.

Halifax Golf Club have kindly made us members, so bring your clubs when you visit Halifax. Someone told me Henry Cotton had played over the course and remarked that it was an excellent course, but qualified his praise by adding: "if you are a mountain goat."

Among our outside activities has been assisting S.S.A.F.A. to run a flag day. The families rallied round and all helped either with gifts for the stall, which was given a good start by the patronage of the Mayor of Halifax (Miss Mary Pickles), or by selling flags. There was a variation of the theme of trespassing on an established beat when one pair of flag sellers got chased away from the entrance to a football field by the collectors of some other charity.

The heaviest load fell on Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Stewart who were to be seen trying to cope with flags, cans, trays and many other bits and pieces. They really did work hard and probably Colonel Stewart regretted the day he failed to think up due cause why he should not have been nominated honorary secretary to the Appeals Committee.

## Regimental Museum

It was decided at the Regimental Council Meeting held last July to accept the offer to display the exhibits of the Regimental Museum in a section of the Bankfield Museum in Halifax. This offer was made by the Borough of Halifax. It was decided at the same meeting that our Museum should be put into trust and that the exhibits should be passed to the Borough of Halifax on "long loan."

The Council also considered the appeal by Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer on behalf of the National Army Museum now forming at Sandhurst. It was decided to entrust—again on “long loan”—three of our best items to represent our Regiment worthily in this National museum. The three chosen were:—

1. The shako of Ensign Howard, 33rd Regiment, worn at Quatre Bras and Waterloo, showing the bullet hole it sustained at the latter battle.
2. The cocked hat bearing the original “elephant” button of the 76th Regiment, c. 1807.
3. The cocked hat and case which belonged to the Great Duke.

The Trust for our Museum is now in being; the trustees are:—

The Colonel of the Regiment (*ex officio*).

The Officer i/c Regimental H.Q. (*ex officio*).

Brigadier B. W. Webb-Carter.

The trustees have inspected the accommodation at the Bankfield Museum and found it extremely satisfactory. The Curator of the Museum, Mr. R. A.

Innes, A.M.A., F.R.G.S., is a most competent antiquary and is very enthusiastic about the acquisition of our Regimental Museum. He has large and imaginative ideas about its display and has already acquired a considerable knowledge of military and regimental history.

The contents of our museum were moved to the Bankfield in October and are being carefully sorted and re-catalogued. Lt.-Colonel Moran was good enough to make the services of Major Graham Tedd available for a fortnight to assist Mr. Innes in identification, dating and other queries. Those of us who know Major Tedd's interest and knowledge will appreciate what a service he has rendered to the Regiment in this.

There seems little doubt that we shall see our relics better displayed than ever before and, with the additional space available, many items previously kept in store will be on view.

It is hoped to have the Museum ceremonially opened on St. George's Day.

B. W. W.-C.



Photo: "Halifax Courier" Ltd.

Mr. Innes with Major Tedd (in white coat) sorting uniforms for the Regimental Museum

# THE YORKSHIRE BRIGADE

As at December 1 1959

## HEADQUARTERS THE YORKSHIRE BRIGADE (Tel. Strensall 233)

Brigade Colonel .. .. .	Colonel M. C. K. HALFORD, D.S.O., O.B.E., late Y. & L.
D.A.A.G. .. .. .	Major D. S. D. B. JONES-STAMP, D.W.R.
Staff Captain .. .. .	Major F. H. V. Wellesley, late D.W.R.

## DEPOT THE YORKSHIRE BRIGADE

C.O. and Deputy Commandant .. .. .	Lt.-Colonel J. S. BADE, T.D., <i>Green Howards</i> .
Adjutant .. .. .	Captain E. J. H. DASENT, D.W.R.
Quartermaster .. .. .	Captain D. SMYTHE, D.C.M., Y. & L.
P.R.I. .. .. .	Lt.-Colonel J. F. NEWMAN, late <i>West Yorkshire Regiment</i> .
R.S.M. .. .. .	R.S.M. J. T. H. COOPER, Y. & L.
R.Q.M.S. .. .. .	R.Q.M.S. R. G. MCQUEEN, Y. & L.
O.R.Q.M.S. .. .. .	O.R.Q.M.S. A. P. PARKIN, B.E.M., P.W.O.

## "H.Q." COMPANY AND BOYS' WING

O.C... ..	Captain B. SHAW, Y. & L.	C.Q.M.S.2 ..	C/Sgt. P. McMANUS, P.W.O.
Subaltern ..	Lt. J. A. C. WARRINGTON, <i>Green Howards</i> .	Bandmaster ..	Bandmaster E. CROWCROFT, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., P.W.O.
C.S.M. ..	C.S.M. F. M. MACHIN, Y. & L.	Band Sergeant	Band S.M. J. A. BILSLAND, P.W.O.
C.Q.M.S.1 ..	C/Sgt. C. SULLIVAN, D.W.R.		

## TRAINING COMPANY

O.C... ..	Major J. H. DAVIS, <i>Green Howards</i> .	Korea Pl. ..	Sgt. R. FENN.
2IC .. ..	Captain J. M. NEWTON, D.W.R.		Cpl. K. M. JOHNSON.
Subalterns ..	2 Lt. W. F. CHARLSWORTH, D.W.R.		Cpl. J. KELLY.
	2 Lt. B. LOWE, D.W.R.		L/Cpl. A. ROBINSON.
C.S.M. ..	C.S.M. R. C. WEBB.	Burma Pl. ..	Sgt. J. FEE.
Hook Pl. ..	Sgt. W. MORRIS.		Cpl. M. G. HALL.
	Cpl. G. HOLLIDAY.		Cpl. P. J. BARLEY.
	Cpl. R. W. PROCTER.		L/Cpl. R. GARNIER.
	L/Cpl. B. R. HADDRELL.		

### NOTICE

The Yorkshire Brigade tie is now available from Messrs. Hawkes Ltd., 1 Savile Row, W.1, at the following prices:

All silk .. 19s. 6d. Terylene .. 15s. 6d.

The tie may be worn by all ranks, Regular or Territorial, serving or retired, of the four regiments of the Yorkshire Brigade and its affiliated units. The design is the Brigade cap badge (without the scroll and word Yorkshire) embroidered in "gold and silver," and arranged diagonally in stripes, on a black background.

## Arthur Sunley

LADIES AND GENTS CIVIL AND  
MILITARY TAILORS  
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Silk Ties and Blazers Badges in stock for the  
Dukes and all other Regiments and Corps

44, TRINITY STREET, HUDDERSFIELD  
Telephone: Hudd. 1158

## THE BRIGADE DEPOT

Readers of THE IRON DUKE will have learned with sadness of the closing of the Depot at Halifax. Thus comes to an end a chapter in the history of the Regiment. On November 5, 1959, 80 recruits for The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, both regular and national service, arrived at Strensall to start their training. And a new chapter began.

The Depot of The Yorkshire Brigade officially came into being on August 7, with a three-fold task. Firstly, to train recruits for the four Yorkshire infantry regiments; secondly, to be a holding unit for men in transit, for E.R.E., or discharge; and thirdly, to be the headquarters and home of officers and men of The Yorkshire Brigade. The position on August 7 was that the depots of the "Dukes" and the York and Lancaster Regiment had closed down and their recruits and holdees were being looked after by The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire at Beverley and The Green Howards at Richmond.

We were indeed fortunate to secure Strensall for the Brigade in the face of considerable opposition from other vested interests. Those who served with the 1st Battalion in 1948-50 will remember the place

with affection. As a depot it has three principle qualifications: it is in the country, it is only six miles from York, and it is the focal point for the three Ridings and the four regimental districts.

In forming brigade depots the War Office was determined that a very high standard of accommodation and amenity was essential. Queen Elizabeth Barracks, although well situated and well built, require a deal of work before they reach the standard considered meet for 1959. As readers of THE IRON DUKE are aware works services, even in 1959, are not completed overnight. According to the latest forecast it will be well into 1961 before work to accommodate the whole depot is completed. Until then the Yorkshire Brigade outstations at Beverley and Richmond will continue to train recruits for the P.W.O. and the Green Howards. As from December 3 all recruits and holdees for the York and Lancasters will join those of the "Dukes" at Strensall.

Most of the instructors for the recruit squads, including Lt. Charlsworth, came over from Beverley when their squads there passed out. Our thanks are due to Major D. M. Maude and the P.W.O. who for



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Photo: The Yorkshire Post

The Adjutant, Captain Dasent serves Junior Bandsman J. Richardson of Halton, Leeds, with his parents



six months have nursed their cuckoos so well. This period proved that members of the two regiments can work together as a happy team while still retaining their own identity.

On December 3 we shall also welcome our Yorkshire Brigade boys, who have been at Pontefract as the guests of the K.O.Y.L.I. Under Captain Thornton-Berry of the Green Howards and Mr. Crowcroft they have achieved a standard, both military and musical, of which we can all be proud. They will move into the first sector of the barracks to be modernised. The degree of comfort and the tasteful colour schemes will provide a background in which an artistic spirit may develop and which will certainly astonish all old soldiers.

#### GAMES

Needless to say the rugby enthusiasts lost no time in starting to train under Lt. Charlesworth although we have not yet had the time or sufficient numbers to create a proper side.

On December 1, Captains Dasent and Newton, 2 Lt. Lowe and Pte. Griffett went south to represent the Regiment against Wellington College. The story of their drive back on Tuesday night—an epic 13½ hours through the fog—to get back in time for parade on Wednesday, lost nothing in the telling. For all the use they were on Wednesday they might as well have spent the night in London.

Our newly-formed soccer team have started well in the York Area League. So far we have played 7 matches, won 6, drawn 1, lost 0, and scored 13 points. Our only rivals seem to be "Camp" Northern Command. The following have all represented the Brigade in at least three matches:

L/Cpl. J. Bower (capt.)	D.W.R.		
Cpl. M. Conroy	Y. & L.		
Pte. A. Lee	P.W.O.		
Pte. J. Bottomley	D.W.R.	..	3 goals
L/Cpl. B. Haddrell	D.W.R.		
Pte. J. Campbell	R.A.M.C.	..	1 "
Pte. J. Marshall	D.W.R.	..	4 "
Pte. D. Wilson	D.W.R.	..	5 "
L/Cpl. A. Spivey	D.W.R.	..	6 "
Pte. C. Longley	D.W.R.	..	5 "
Pte. D. Jaques	D.W.R.	..	4 "
Pte. D. Carter	Green		
	Howards		8 "
Pte. B. Cook	R.A.P.C.	..	14 "
Total goals scored	..	..	50
Total goals against	..	..	10

#### YORKSHIRE BRIGADE OFFICERS' MESS

Although Headquarters The Yorkshire Brigade moved out to Strensall from York in May we did not take over the Mess until half-way through August. After much pressing the Royal Engineers consented to give a lick of paint to dining-room, ante-room, upstairs passage and four bedrooms. Everything else including the "usual offices" must wait until the grand modernisation plan is put into effect. By this time the summit conference may well have made the need for a regular army unnecessary. Meanwhile we have gratefully and gradually ac-

quired from regiments of the Brigade the more essential pieces of silver, pictures, et cetera. Orderly officers and the Drum-Major of the "Dukes" have on guest nights a slightly more responsible task than most regiments. Their labours, however, are nothing to those of their counterparts of the Yorkshire Brigade who have no less than five stands of Colours to uncase and case. That they do not have six is only because one regiment has its Colours glazed and framed. The Regiment is represented by the Colours of the old 3rd Militia Battalion, familiar for so long on the wall of the dining-room in Halifax. They are at present in London under repair.

It was decided at a meeting of the Council of Colonels of Regiments held at Strensall on October 21, 1959, that all serving officers and all retired regular officers of The Yorkshire Brigade would be automatically honorary members of the Yorkshire Brigade Mess. It is hoped that retired officers living nearby or passing through York will regard the mess in the same way as they did the old mess at Wellesley Barracks.

On October 21 the Mess held its inaugural cocktail party at which we welcomed the Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding, Lord Scarborough, the colonels of all the regiments in the Brigade, many Yorkshire mayors and people prominent in the services and the county. So far we have had one "Regimental" guest night; we intend to have one once a month in future.

Another amenity at Strensall is the Brigade shoot. The main object is to give young officers the opportunity to get some reasonable rough shooting at low cost. Thanks to the generosity of regiments a start has been made and a keeper has been engaged. Trapping and planting have been started and a limited amount of rearing is to be undertaken. The nature of the area, which is wild and boggy with no large coverts, makes it unsuitable for large organised shoots, but this year's experience holds out a strong hope that it can be improved. For this season it has been found necessary to limit the guns to eight but Yorkshire Brigade officers living nearby or passing through will always be welcome for a day's rough shooting if they will telephone to the Mess Secretary.

#### YORKSHIRE BRIGADE NOTICES

It was agreed at a meeting of the Council of Colonels of the Brigade, held at Strensall on October 21, 1959, that, in addition to serving officers of the Brigade, all retired officers of the regiments of the Brigade should automatically be honorary members of the Brigade mess.

All military members of the Brigade Depot mess and Regular serving officers of the Yorkshire Brigade staying in the mess are now members of the Yorkshire Club. A mess subscription of £15 has been accepted for the time being.

The Brigade Depot is trying to acquire a few second-hand guns for the use of young officers and would be grateful to hear from anyone who has given up shooting and is prepared to present, or sell cheaply, his gun or guns.

# THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

## HONORARY SECRETARIES OF BRANCHES AND BATTALIONS

### BRANCHES

- London and Home Counties.**—Mr. Ben Hearsam, 198 Wrythe Lane, Carshalton, Surrey.
- Doncaster and District.**—Mr. R. Coates, 39 Fieldside, Thorne, Doncaster.
- Gosport.**—Mr. J. Myatt, 3 Pelham Road, Gosport, Hants.
- Halifax.**—Mr. G. E. Belfitt, 18 Mayfield Terrace South, Halifax.
- Huddersfield.**—Mr. G. Machen, H.Q. 5/7th Battalion, D.W.R. (T.A.), Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield.
- Manchester and District.**—Major W. L. James, M.B.E., 7 Burnham Avenue, Manchester, 19.
- Ossett and District.**—Disbanded.
- Sheffield and District.**—Mr. J. A. Hough, 43 Heeley Green, Heeley, Sheffield.
- South Elmsall.**—Mr. F. Morley, 37 Dunsley Terrace, South Kirby, nr. Pontefract.

### TERRITORIAL AND SERVICE

#### BATTALIONS' O.C.A.s

- 4th Battalion.**—Capt. N. T. Farrar, M.C., The Rocks, Rocks Lane, Ogden, Halifax.
- 5th Battalion.**—Mr. J. T. Gilleard, 39 Springfield Terrace, Somerset Road, Huddersfield.
- 6th Battalion.**—Capt. H. J. Lawson, 59 Short Bank Road, Skipton.
- 8th Battalion (145 R.A.C.).**—Major F. B. Murgatroyd, Mill Crest, Fulwith Mill Lane, Harrogate.
- 9th Battalion (146 R.A.C.).**—Capt. T. Moore, 21 Granby Drive, Riddlesden, Keighley.
- 10th Battalion.**—Mr. G. R. Goodchild, 10 Willowfield Crescent, Highfield Road, Bradford.

### MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD COMRADES AND REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT (WEST RIDING)

at St. Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield, on Saturday, October 3, 1959

#### PRESENT:

- Major-General K. G. Exham, C.B., D.S.O. (Chairman).  
 Brigadier B. W. Webb Carter, D.S.O., O.B.E.  
 Brigadier F. H. Fraser, D.S.O., M.C.  
 Colonel C. R. T. Cumberlege.  
 Colonel A. H. G. Wathen, O.B.E.  
 Colonel G. B. Howcroft, C.B.E., M.C., T.D.  
 Lt.-Colonel P. P. de la H. Moran.  
 Lt.-Colonel F. R. Gadd, E.R.D.  
 Major J. H. Davis, Major T. V. Laverack, M.B.E., M.M., Major W. L. James, M.B.E., Major D. S. D. B. Jones-Stamp, and some 30 other members.

#### APOLOGIES FOR THEIR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM:

Major-Generals R. K. Exham and Ozanne, Colonel Hinchcliffe, Majors Huffam, Scott, R. Wood; Lord Savile; Messrs. R. Huffam, J. Wood, C. E. Pollard and Ben Taylor.

#### MINUTES

The Chairman asked if the Minutes of the last meeting, which had been published in the January issue of THE IRON DUKE, could be taken as read. The meeting agreed and the Minutes were passed without comment.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Code reported there had been 144 requests for assistance from the funds which was a small increase on the previous year's figures. Total income of the benevolent funds was £2,107 11s. 8d. of which £1,065 1s. 4d. had been disbursed on grants and pensions. No new pensioners had been elected. A full report of the Secretary's statement appears on page 10. The report was adopted on a proposal by Mr. J. Hough seconded by Brigadier Webb Carter.

#### ACCOUNTS

The Colonel of the Regiment said the accounts were in a very healthy condition and that we were living within our means. Money was accumulating and now was the opportunity to invest. General Exham thought we should put up a case to the Army Benevolent Fund for a grant to reimburse ourselves for money paid out during the last year on benevolence. The audited accounts of the Associations

were circulated amongst those present who had no comments. Proposed by Mr. F. Stringer and seconded by Brigadier Fraser "That the accounts be passed." *Carried.*

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULES

Major Davis explained alterations required to the rules as a result of, firstly, the disbandment of the Depot D.W.R., secondly, the provisions of the trust deed governing the Regimental Association Charity Fund. Proposed by Mr. McMahon and seconded by Colonel Cumberlege. *Carried.*

The details of the amendments are as follows and should be entered in all rule books:—

1. In all places where Regimental Depot D.W.R. is mentioned delete Regimental Depot and substitute Regimental H.Q.
2. Rule 15. Delete in line one the words "and financial control."
3. Remove rules 24 and 25 from sub-section "PROCEEDINGS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE" and re-number as rules 14(a) and 14(b) under sub-section "TRUSTEES."
4. Delete rules 26-28a under sub-section "FINANCE COMMITTEE."

The Managing Trustees are being requested to re-draft this sub-section.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Temple, London Branch, spoke about more publicity for his branch. It was recommended that THE IRON DUKE be used as a means to this end. Mr. Temple answered Sheffield branch queries *re* the last London dinner and agreed there could be better liaison in the future.

Major Laverack asked about branch visits, etc. Secretary said he would let him know when branches were running functions.

Mr. Temple and Mr. Benson asked that in future the timing of the A.G.M. be revised in order that London members could attend local football matches. Secretary undertook to give the matter consideration.

Mr. Hough asked about headed notepaper for his branch. Secretary reminded him that such expenditure was catered for in his branch postage account and would be refunded from H.Q. in the ordinary way. Mr. Hough asked if the Reunion Dinner could be held in Sheffield one year. It was agreed to refer this to the Management Committee for consideration. Mr. Hough also brought up the question of a 9th Battalion reunion dinner held in Leeds each year on the same date as the Regimental Association Dinner and run by Captain Moore. Secretary said he knew nothing of this and agreed to make enquiries.

Mr. McMahon brought up the question of members' addresses, saying that some difficulty was experienced by the Secretary in keeping trace of members demobbed after the last war and those who remove without notifying him. An appeal was made to all members and branches to forward addresses to the General Secretary in order that these may be brought up to date.

Apart from notifying selected members at their home addresses by circular letter, the dinner was

publicised in THE IRON DUKE, *News of the World*, *Halifax Courier* and *Huddersfield Examiner*.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Major Jones Stamp undertook to take on the job of Association representative at Strensall and to encourage recruitment to the O.C.A.

There being no other relevant business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 1830 hours.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting my report of the year's working of the Associations up to close of business, June 30, 1959.

#### CASE WORK

During the year 1958/59 the Case Committee have dealt with 144 applications for help from our funds—a small increase on last year when we had 133. Of the 144 this year 109 were assisted and 35 turned down. This may seem a high proportion turned away but, after investigation by an independent body, it was found they fell into the following categories: (a) outside the scope of the funds; (b) not cases of genuine hardship; (c) referable to the claimant's "parent unit" when he had served in more than one. In many cases we co-operated with other regimental associations and the British Legion.

Details of monies disbursed from our funds are as follows:

#### O.C.A. Fund

	£	s.	d.
50 cases on which we disbursed ..	225	18	6
(Last year: 43 cases—£225 8s. 11d.)			
Pensions .. .. .	249	5	0
Grant to THE IRON DUKE .. .. .	20	0	0
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>£495</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>

#### Regimental Association Fund

59 cases on which we disbursed ..	242	12	10
(Last year: 53 cases—£279 9s. 2d.)			
Grants to Institutions .. .. .	66	15	0
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>£351</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>

#### McGuire Bate Fund

Four cases assisted (yearly except one)	137	0	0
Grants to Institutions .. .. .	25	10	0
Transfer to Regimental Association ..	50	0	0
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>£212</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Mitchell Trust Fund

No cases .. .. .			Nil
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#### COMPARISON WITH LAST YEAR

It will be seen that, within a few pounds, amounts disbursed on benevolence are the same. The Mitchell Trust Fund had no applicants and accumulates. This is due to the rather narrow conditions governing the trust. Briefly, in order

to qualify for assistance from this fund, a man must have served overseas with the Regiment, been disabled in war and be ordinarily resident in the ancient parish of Halifax. The Association Trustees have asked our Hon. Solicitor, Major John Driver, to see if the scope of the fund can be widened. Major Driver has very kindly agreed to do this.

All our benevolent funds show an excess of income over expenditure this year and £400 each from the Old Comrades' Association and the Mitchell Trust Fund is to be invested.

#### PENSIONS GRANTS

No new pensions have been applied for. S.S.A.F.A., who act as almoners in nearly every case, let us have yearly reports on our pensioners and generally keep a benevolent eye on them on our behalf.

Mr. J. F. Kennedy who lives in the I.O.W. visits Mr. May and lately Mrs. Tanner and acts as our agent there. We are paying eight quarterly pensions at £6 10s. 0d.; one at £3 5s. 0d.; and one half-yearly pension of £12 10s. 0d.

#### INSTITUTIONS

The amounts paid to the various institutions we support remains the same, i.e. £66 15s. 0d. plus £25 10s. 0d. paid from the McGuire Bate Fund.

#### ACCOUNTS

The Accounts have been audited and examined by the Trustees and the Finance Committee. I do not propose to give details as they are published in THE IRON DUKE.

#### INVESTMENTS

No investments have been made during the year but £300 worth of O.C.A. 2½% Defence Bonds have been converted into 5% Defence Bonds.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership has been at a standstill due to the change-over at the Depot. Arrangements have been made with Major Jones-Stamp to encourage new members from recruits training at Beverley and Strensall. The question of non-members serving with the 1st Battalion is being taken up.

#### BRANCHES

Major James feels there is a good chance of starting up a branch in Manchester and hopes to be able to let us know something concrete shortly. Major Davis and I are starting a series of regular visits to branches. More inter-branch socials are planned. The Colonel of the Regiment has expressed a desire to pay branches a visit in the near future.

Halifax, Huddersfield and Sheffield seem to be going well but we have not heard much from Doncaster recently. Ossett branch has not reformed as yet but there seems no reason why not as some 20 members of the Association living in that area have signified their intention to attend the Reunion this year.

I usually conclude the report by thanking all those ladies and gentlemen of S.S.A.F.A., Forces

Help Society, etc., for their kindness in the investigation of cases. Although this appears to be just a formality our thanks are none the less sincere; their work is entirely voluntary and dedicated; their activities on behalf of the serving and ex-service man and his dependants are too well known to bear repetition here.

Thanks are also due to our auditors, Messrs. Whitham, Smith Mitchell & Co., and to Major John Driver, our Hon. Solicitor, for help and advice to the Committee and myself always so readily given. Major Driver, an Association Trustee, has, over the years, done a tremendous amount of legal work on behalf of the Associations and we count ourselves fortunate indeed to have such an invaluable member in our midst.

This concludes the report.

#### ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

This year the reunion dinner, presided over by the Colonel of the Regiment, was held in the St. Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield, the R.H.Q. of our 5/7th Battalion, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel Gadd, whom we were pleased to see at the dinner.

The hall had been very tastefully decorated by the headquarters staff under the supervision of Mr. Callaby, the Q.M., who had also arranged for the floral display and for the floodlighting of the Colours of the 5/7th and 3rd Battalions which were on show.

About 180 members and some wives sat down to a good meal with musical accompaniment provided by the Band of the 5/7th under the baton of Mr. F. Roberts, their Bandmaster.

During the meal one heard the usual cheerful banter between old comrades, interspersed with yells as old friends recognised each other across the hall. And, as refreshment-assisted minds began to turn over and memories came flooding back, more and more reminiscences and tales (some tall) were told, ranging from World War I through the N.W. Frontier and World War II to Korea and Cyprus. We have heard them all before, especially the older sagas, getting a little more colourful as time goes on. But who minds? We only meet once a year.

The toast of "The Regiment" was proposed by Colonel Howcroft, Honorary Colonel of the 5/7th Battalion. It was the first occasion that this toast had been proposed by a territorial officer. Colonel Howcroft said the honour of being invited to propose it was a confirmation of the close links which existed between the territorial and the regular units. Some might think such a link was in the course of nature but that was not so. The Volunteers had been started without any link with the Regular Army and he did not think he had come across a single regular "Dukes" officer during his service with the 7th Battalion in the 1914-18 War. The link only became close in 1928 when someone thought of the brilliant idea of attaching regular officers to the territorial battalions for annual camp.

Responding to the toast the Colonel of the Regiment said: "There is a misapprehension, and a dangerous one, that seems current in the West Riding, and that is that the 'Dukes' are leaving

the West Riding. They are not. All our activities in the West Riding will continue except the training of the young soldiers. It is here that our regimental roots are and here they will continue."

The Battalion, he said, was moving to Brentwood from Ireland. In about May next year it would move into brand new barracks in Colchester—and it was quite time it had a break like that. Next year the Band was to carry out another tour of the West Riding and that would be linked with a big recruiting campaign.

General Exham said that the Regiment had to have regular recruits but was not getting them in sufficient numbers. For the recruiting campaign in the West Riding the co-operation of all members of the Regiment was needed. He hoped that they would urge young men "Don't just join the Army . . . join the 'Dukes'."

In conclusion, General Exham praised the prowess of the 1st Battalion, during the past year, in all forms of sport and for being 4th in the shooting championship at Bisley. He added: "The Battalion is leaving Belfast with a formidable list of achievements in all spheres of Army life and with the memory of splendid relations with the people of Northern Ireland during the whole of its tour of duty there."

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### NOTICE

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The annual dinner of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Regimental Association will be held on Saturday, May 14, 1960, at the Chevrons Club, 3 Dorset Square, N.W.1. Meet in the lounge at 7 p.m. for dinner at 7.30 p.m. The Colonel of the Regiment will preside at the dinner.

Old Comrades are requested to note the new venue for this dinner. The Chevrons Club is within two minutes' walk of Baker Street tube station, which is easily accessible from most main-line stations.

The club offers a well-furnished lounge, with bar, separate from the dining-room and can accommodate more members than could the Westminster Dragoons' Drill Hall. Even so, accommodation is limited to 100 diners. So, as a big turn-out is expected, apply early for your tickets. (Price, 12s. 6d. each, obtainable from the secretary, Mr. B. Hearsam, 198 Wrythe Lane, Carshalton, Surrey.)

#### 6th BATTALION O.C.A.

The annual general meeting of the 6th Battalion O.C.A. was held at the Devonshire Hotel, Skipton, on Saturday, October 3, 1959. The report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1959, were read and approved. The following officers were re-elected:

*President:* Colonel F. Longden Smith, M.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P.

*Chairman:* Major H. Dixon, O.B.E., J.P.

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. J. W. Minnikin.

*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:* Captain H. J. Lawson, 59 Short Bank Road, Skipton, Yorkshire.

The meeting was followed by the annual reunion dinner at which Colonel F. Longden Smith pre-

sided and which was attended by 72 members and guests.

Major A. V. Fawell, R.A., Officer Commanding "R" Battery (6 D.W.R.), 382 Medium Regiment, R.A., was the chief guest.

Colonel Smith gave the loyal toast. Colonel A. C. Haddow, T.D., R.A.M.C., a former medical officer of the 6th Battalion, proposed the toast of the 6th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, to which Colonel Smith responded.

#### 9th BATTALION D.W.R. (146 R.A.C.)

The twelfth annual reunion dinner was held at the Victoria Hotel, Leeds, on October 3, 1959. It was unfortunate that this date clashed with the Regimental O.C.A. dinner and it is felt that next year this should not happen. The turn-up was slightly down this year, but almost 60 members of the 9th Battalion enjoyed an excellent meal and prolonged noggin and natter.

Lt.-Colonel F. P. A. (Pat) Woods presided and told everyone how pleased he was to see the old comradeship being carried on throughout the years, and recalled the excellent feeling throughout all ranks of the Regiment during the wartime period.

The Secretary, Captain Tom Moore, read apologies from Lt.-Colonel R. L. Agnew, Majors Cocky Haslock, Arthur Spong and Alex Luhrs, Captains Tony Verity, Paddy Tunney and Tom Dickson, and Messrs. H. Horner and F. W. S. Richardson.

The ex-officer strength was aided by Bob MacIntyre and Stanley Gorst, while ex-S.S.M. Garry Hall kept the W.O. colours flying. It is impossible to mention all present, but two faces familiar and to the fore were Ken Winship and H. Kelly.

Several people turned up for the first time and were surprised how little everyone had changed and how much they enjoyed themselves.

The Secretary again stressed the need for change of address to be notified and addresses of more ex-9th Battalion members obtained.

#### 10th BATTALION O.C.A.

The annual reunion dinner of the 10th (Service) Battalion O.C.A. was held at the Co-operative Cafe, Bradford, on October 24, under the chairmanship of Lt. M. A. S. Wood, M.C. (Chairman of the Association). The gathering numbered close upon 60 and included members from London, Surrey, Sussex, various parts of Yorkshire, Kent and Morecambe.

The Association's principal guest was Major Hugh Dixon, of Keighley (formerly of the 6th Battalion of the Regiment). He proposed the toast of the Association and suggested that Henry V, by his words to his men before Agincourt—when he said that those who survived the battle would meet and talk of their exploits in later years—was possibly the first man to propound the idea of old comrades' reunions—and that was 544 years ago. The "Dukes" Depot at Halifax no longer existed, but he hoped there would always be a Regimental connection with Wellesley Barracks and Halifax.

Captain Robertson of the 1st Battalion, who is

in the West Riding to organise the recruiting campaign for the Regiment, also spoke. He warned his audience of the danger of the "Dukes" losing their Regimental identity unless regular recruiting was improved to produce the average of 22 recruits per month, which was required to make the 1st Battalion up to strength with regular soldiers by 1962. He mentioned the main factors, such as full employment and ignorance about the Army, which militated against regular recruitment and outlined plans for an intensive recruiting campaign in 1960.

Before the dinner Captain R. Bolton, M.C. (Surrey), laid a wreath on the Cenotaph in Victoria Square, Bradford, in memory of 10th Battalion men killed in the Great War or who have died since. At the annual meeting which followed Lt. Wood, Mr. Walter Barker and Mr. G. R. Goodchild were re-elected Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively, and the Committee were reappointed *en bloc*.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

Old Comrades took part in Remembrance Day services and parades in many parts of the country. In most instances branches and individuals of the Association paraded with the British Legion and other ex-servicemen under civic auspices. Regimental poppy wreaths were laid by branch representatives on the local cenotaph or memorial. Except where stated the homage to the nation's fallen was paid on Sunday, November 8.

Our 10th (S) Battalion O.C.A. laid their wreath on the Bradford War Memorial on Saturday, October 24. They choose this date because it was the 41st anniversary of the start of the battle of Vittorio Veneto which led up to the Piave and gained us a battle honour on our Colours. The 10th (S) Battalion took a notable part in this battle. Their O.C.A. party was led by their Chairman, Lt. M. A. S. Wood.

The 5/7th Battalion, who took part in the Huddersfield civic procession on Sunday, November 8,

also laid a wreath on the War Memorial in Greenhead Park on the 11th at 11 a.m. R.S.M. J. Fryer laid this wreath on behalf of the Battalion.

The Field of Remembrance at Westminster opened on Thursday, November 5, and the ceremony was attended by the Colonel, who represented the Regiment at the dedication. On Sunday—Remembrance Day—the Colonel, accompanied by Mrs. Exham, laid a wreath cross on our Regimental plot at Westminster on behalf of the Regiment. He was supported by Mr. and Mrs. Code, Mr. B. Hearsam (London Branch Secretary), Mr. R. Temple (London Branch Chairman), Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Mr. G. Lightowler and son, Mr. J. Hartwell and son, Mr. S. Ambler, Mr. D. Benson, Major Bruce Lowe, Mr. D. W. Hammond, Mr. G. Guy, Mr. G. A. Richards and Mr. J. Cunniff. The London Branch had arranged the layout of the plot which had a wreath cross for each of our units, including those converted to other arms in the Second World War. Mr. Wood's son very kindly took the photographs of the plot and of those attending which appear here.

Afterwards, the Old Comrades adjourned to the Sergeants' Mess of the Westminster Dragoons for a "Chota Reunion."

Wreath-laying ceremonies also took place at:  
*York Minister Regimental War Memorial Chapel.* Wreath laid by Colonel Wathen on behalf of the Regiment.

*Halifax Parish Church Regimental War Memorial Chapel.* Wreath laid by Major Davis on behalf of the Regiment. Representatives of the 4th and 9th Battalion O.C.A.s laid wreaths on their respective war memorials in the Parish Church.

*Halifax Town Cenotaph.* Mr McMahon laid the wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association and Mr. Belfitt on behalf of the Halifax Branch. Earlier a contingent of Old Comrades marched in procession, with the Association Standard, to the Cenotaph, along with other ex-service organisations.

*Bradford City Cenotaph.* Among many ex-



**General and Mrs. K. G. Exham, supported by Mr. and Mrs. Code (on right) and members of the London and Home Counties Branch, at the Field of Remembrance**

members of the Regiment attending the service we had a Boer War and First World War veteran. This was Mr. Fred Gleadow, M.C., M.M., late 2nd Battalion. He is a member of the local S.A.W.V.A.

*Keighley War Memorial.* Although many ex-“Dukes” attended this ceremony, the main Regimental contingent paraded with the procession at:

*Skipton* where the 6th Battalion had a fairly large party on parade. The Secretary of the 6th Battalion O.C.A., Captain H. J. Lawson, laid a wreath on behalf of the Battalion.

*Huddersfield.* The 5/7th Battalion paraded with the civic party and attended the service at the Parish Church. Lt.-Colonel Gadd was in command. As stated earlier, the Battalion's wreath-laying ceremony was reserved until November 11. The 5/7th, besides the detachments at Halifax and Huddersfield, had parties at the ceremonies at Mossley, under Major Siddall, and Holmfirth, under Major Barnes.

*Horbury.* Mr. G. Townend represented the Regimental Association, parading with the local British Legion.

*Sheffield.* Mr. Hough, Sheffield Branch Secretary, reports that the Branch paraded with the British Legion and the joint services' contingent and a wreath was laid on behalf of all affiliated associations.

We have received no reports of the activities of Ossett and Doncaster members, but are confident that, as usual, they attended services.



Regimental Plot at the Field of Remembrance,  
Westminster Abbey

## Obituary

### Lt.-Colonel P. L. E. Walker, D.S.O.

Lt.-Colonel Phillip Lionel Edward Walker, Deputy Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, of Great House, Chipping Sodbury, collapsed suddenly when about to drive his tractor.

Lt.-Colonel Walker, who was 76, was educated at Eton and Oxford and joined the 7th Hussars. He commanded the 2nd Battalion, D.W.R., for a period in 1917-18 in France, taking over from Major R. J. A. Henniker, M.C., and being succeeded by Major W. G. Officer. He was badly wounded, lost a leg and was awarded the D.S.O.

For many years he has been prominent in local government and welfare work in Gloucestershire.

The above information was supplied by Mr. R. A. McDowall of Clifton who was a subaltern in the 2nd Battalion under Lt.-Colonel Walker and was himself wounded early in the March 1918 offensive. He adds that Lt.-Colonel Walker, whom he had come across a few times since those days, never forgot them and was proud of having commanded a battalion of the Duke's.

### Mrs. Alethea Whitaker

Mrs. Whitaker was the widow of Captain Joseph Ackroyd Whitaker who was gazetted to the Regiment in 1900, joining the 1st Battalion at Bloemfontein. He served with the Battalion until the end of the South African war and, afterwards, in England but resigned his commission in 1906. He died in March 1952.

Although it is many years since Mrs. Whitaker attended any Regimental reunion she continued to make donations to the Officers' Dinner Club in memory of her husband; in May 1959 she sent £2 in response to the notification of the Ladies' Tea and, only a few weeks before her death, a further £1 for the Regimental cocktail party.

### Mr. E. Clothier

Mr. E. Clothier died on November 27, 1959, at his home, 78 Ashridge Way, Morden, Surrey, aged sixty-nine.

Mr. Clothier enlisted on January 17, 1907, (Regimental number 8864) and served his seven years with the 2nd Battalion. He was recalled to the Colours on the outbreak of war in 1914 and served with the 2nd Battalion in France. He attained the rank of sergeant and was awarded the Croix de Guerre. He was discharged in 1919.

He had been gassed during the war and in 1930 had a serious operation on his throat and was under treatment for the next five years. He then managed to get on his feet again and was appointed

Claims Secretary for the ex-Regular and Fifth Army Association.

Mr. Clothier was mainly responsible for founding the London Branch of our Regimental Association. On July 26, 1937, a meeting, under his chairmanship and attended by some 10 ex-members of the Regiment, was held at the Telegraph Hotel, Brixton Hill. At this meeting the branch was born, though it was at first called a social club.

Only quite a short time before his death Mr. Clothier wrote us a very nice letter of appreciation for THE IRON DUKE. Included was an original membership card of the Social Club; Mr. Clothier was the hon. organising and general secretary; the

president was Captain R. H. D. Bolton, and the vice-presidents Captain G. P. Bennett, D.C.M., and Captain J. H. Moore who had helped Mr. Clothier to found it.

Ill health, which he was to suffer increasingly for the rest of his life, soon forced Mr. Clothier to resign his office, but he remained a member of the branch until his death. He wrote that he felt very proud to learn from THE IRON DUKE that so many members were now attending the annual reunions, and he suggested that there ought to be a special dinner and dance to celebrate the fact that the London and Home Counties Branch has now passed its 21st birthday.

## 1st BATTALION

### SUB-EDITORIAL

"In a well-planned battle," wrote Sir John Monash, the brilliant Australian general of the Great War, "nothing happens, nothing can happen, except the regular progress of the advance according to the plan arranged . . . it is for this reason that no stirring accounts exist of great set pieces . . . they will never be written, for there is no material on which to base them. The story of what did take place on the day of the battle would be a mere paraphrase of the battle orders prescribing all that was to take place."

The course of the last three months has been, for the Battalion, a regular process of handing over Palace Barracks, bidding farewell to Ireland, installing itself in Warley Barracks in Essex, and becoming immersed in the affairs of its new parent formation. All this has gone according to the prescribed plan and no stirring accounts can be written.

Of note in Ireland was the farewell parade given for General Sir Douglas Packard, the G.O.C.-in-C., and our Brigade Commander, Brigadier Vyvyan Street. He too has left Ireland and now finds himself in Jordan treading a path that Peake Pasha of our Regiment once trod.

The move to the boat, the move of the families the handing over of our barracks to the Royal Sussex all went according to plan. We said goodbye to H.M.S. *Sea Eagle* and so ended a happy association of two years standing with the Royal Navy.

It is hard to describe the scene at the docks. So many people came to see us off: friends from the two headquarters, from almost every unit we have had dealings with and, in addition, a mass of our civilian friends, some of them dear to us—dear enough, at least, to force their way through the police cordon to give a final wave of farewell on the brink of the quay. Bands and Bugles played. We wondered if we would ever get away.

Warley is windy and wet and very ready to be demolished. The officers' mess is new enough but the rest is early Victorian. We know that we are

birds of passage, waiting to move into barracks being constructed for us at Colchester, but it will be a chill wintry wait.

When we are not thinking of coal and central heating, we think about airportability. In our new role we are liable to be flown overseas at extremely short notice. Load tables, manifests, weight trials, route marches, size rolls; all these have become the bread and butter of our daily soldiering.

We are too new to the game to take part in the winter air exercise, "Winged Coachman"; so we are gaining first-hand information and experience by running the air transit camp and providing umpires. These notes are written at Ogbourne St. George, familiar ground to us, and now a transit camp for R.A.F. Transport Command.

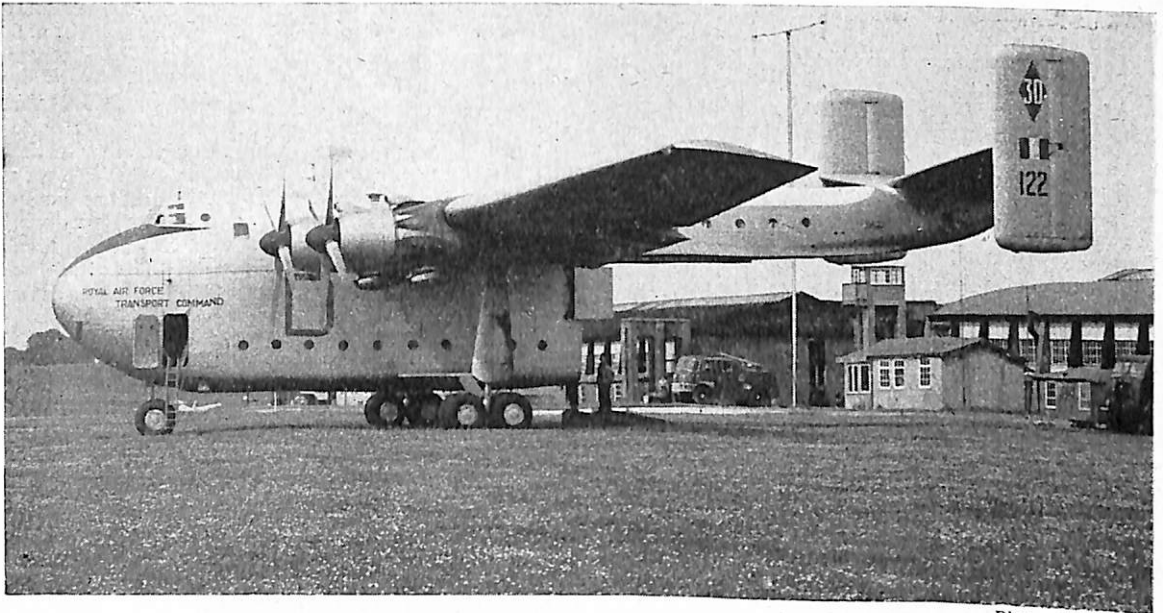
### OFFICERS' MESS

As with the rest of the notes, a little Ireland and a little Essex, one wet and the other both wet and cold.

On September 19, Peter Hoppe married Audrey McTighe; we wish them every happiness. During the month, the Bishop of Maidstone and the Colonel of the Regiment visited us. Following this, the advance party of the Royal Sussex arrived and it dawned on us that our days in Ireland were numbered. As a mark of our gratitude for two first-class seasons of sailing, we presented a regimental crest to the Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club; had we presented instead a trophy for the most consistent losers, and had this been presented in time for us ourselves to compete, we would most assuredly have produced the prize-winner again and again.

The farewell was memorable. General Sir Douglas Packard, the G.O.C.-in-C. of what has since become Northern Ireland Command, and others of both headquarters came to see us off. As the boat pulled out, the Band and Bugles of the Second Greenjackets played Auld Lang Syne. As we passed the Yacht Club, salvos of farewell





“Airportability”

Photo: A.A.T.D.C.

The Beverley which carries troops in the upper compartment and vehicles, trailers and freight below

rockets were sent up. It was an emotionally exhausting day.

No sooner had we reached Warley than Bob Huffam turned round and went back to get married. We wish both him and his wife, Nancy, every happiness. It is only surprising that there were not other officers with the tenacity of purpose to double back.

On October 30 a Regimental cocktail party was held in the Army and Navy Club to welcome us back. Before the party, General Exham, our Colonel, conducted us on a pilgrimage around No. 1, London—Apsley House—the home of our late Colonel, the Duke, and of his successors. We saw batons, regalia, plate and china presented to the Duke by the crowned heads of Europe.

Rugger is in full swing. It affects the Mess more than any other element of the Battalion as we have 11 officers in the team. Home matches make a good excuse for asking old “Duke’s” officers down from London to support us and giving them—and ourselves—several gins before lunch.

Bill Blakey has rejoined us from Middle Wallop where, on his own evidence, he too often nearly came a wallop on landing. John Stacpoole returns to us from Africa. Jeremy Cumberlege has come down from the Brigade Depot to take on the mortars as Mickie Bray is off to be A.D.C. to his father in Aden; it will be a gay day when Mickie’s father has to draft his son’s confidential report! We had, all too briefly, a new and exotic R.M.O. who came down from Cambridge, talked much about cerebral metaphysics, thrust needles into us all which sent even the C.O. to bed, and then disappeared to Millbank for ever. He left behind him a “Duke’s” XV on their backs, floored by the

hand of one man. Other arrivals have been Chris Norris, Graham Allen (who keeps slipping away to play rugger for Yorkshire), David Pugh and Paul Davis (who keeps slipping away to captain Blackheath). Jim Shenton has left us to join Shell Oil and Simon Arnold has returned to being “something in the City.” Chuck Ivey is off, not back to Canada, but out to join the Rhodesia Police. Graham Tedd is off to the R.A.F. Staff College to give his views on airportability to Transport Command.

Here we should mention that we owe Graham a great debt for the hours of research he has put into a full documentation of the regimental silver. These columns will later reflect some of this work, but be assured that, like the iceberg, only one-ninth of the whole will show.

Robert Campbell-Lamerton has passed his R.C.B. and like his brother (and the poor) is with us for life. We are delighted both to have him and because it carries on the regimental tradition of brothers-in-arms that we are famous for, from our Colonel and Commanding Officer downwards.

The Mess has become rather cosmopolitan of late. Apart, of course, from Chuck Ivey, who is as British as any Canadian can be, Major Silva of the Portuguese Army came to stay for three weeks and brought with him much port which he was determined to dispense before dinner. Two Nigerian officers are with us for a secondment before returning to the Q.O.N.R. from Mons.

Among many who have lunched or dined with us recently are our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier D. W. Jackson, and our Divisional Commander, General R. G. S. Hobbs. At the other end of this scale, Mr. Guy, late of the Regiment (1913), came to support us at one of our home

rugger matches and lunched in mess. It must be some time since we have given one of our former private soldiers lunch in mess.

### GOLF

On a superb sunny day on Friday, September 4, at Holywood Golf Course, cleared of most innocent bystanders for the occasion, some self-confessed golfers and a protesting Dennis Shuttleworth competed for the Silver Putter. Thirteen more modest officers competed for the Wooden Spoon over nine holes of the same course, each using one club only.

As statistics prove nothing no scores will be reported, except that Chuck Ivey's 19 strokes for one hole seem worthy of mention as a record likely to stand for some time. Some accredited cricketers murmured wistfully that they wished they could score as highly at that other summer game.

At the end of a tiring but amusing round Jean Shuttleworth presented the Silver Putter to John Butterfield, who had tactlessly beaten the Commanding Officer by one stroke, and Angela Burnett presented the Wooden Spoon (won with the usual display of cheating) to John Golding who, of course, will join the "Pros" in the Silver Putter in future.

### REGIMENTAL PROFILE

Cyril Kenchington, the 1st Battalion's Quartermaster, has left us after six years' continuous service in that appointment. It is a long time, six years—long enough for him to have shepherded the battalion through Gibraltar, a spell of soldiering in England, a hectic move out to Malta, and an equally exciting move on to Cyprus with the smell of Port Said gunpowder in our nostrils; then a more leisurely move home to Northern Ireland, and finally the journey across the Irish channel to Brentwood. As Quartermaster he has solved a few problems for us in the course of these peregrinations!

He joined the 2nd Battalion in the days when the Regiment had a second battalion serving in India. From 1933 to the outbreak of war, he found himself serving at Kamptee; his first commanding officer was Colonel Burnett, with Major Barry Kavanagh's father as his company commander and Brigadier (as he is now) Ramsay Bunbury as his "officer." During the course of these years, he saw service on the North-West Frontier, and was twice given the Army Commander's Commendation (once during the Mohmand Operation of 1935).

He spent the war years with the First Reconnaissance Corps. This took him to France, North Africa, Italy, Egypt and Palestine—a sort of poor man's grand tour of the Mediterranean at His Majesty's pleasure. While Cyril was in Italy, he found himself at Anzio immediately next door to the 1st Battalion; to his undisguised surprise he found that it was being commanded with great panache and élan by Lt.-Colonel Webb-Carter whom he had last seen as a subaltern.

At Gibraltar, Cyril joined the Battalion as its quartermaster, to find that the Colonel was from his old company (3 Pl.) and the 2IC also (2 Pl.)—such is the strength and endurance of regimental



Captain C. C. Kenchington, M.B.E.

service. Many people will remember Cyril from these days, either as Father Christmas trundling through the town fully attired and mounted in a sleigh to the astonishment of the Gibraltarians, or as the master and host of "Kench's Cafe." (Particularly, one hears, will the frequenters of Barclay's Bank remember this facet of him.)

Malta was a contrastingly holy phase of his life for he found himself sharing his room for three months with Fr. Mathew Burn who now preaches on the Light Programme each Sunday a short remembrance service. "For three months he made me live a devout life," was Cyril's comment.

The children's parties miss the comic face; the quartermaster's stores miss the deliberate pipelighting and the guiding hand; and many charitable ventures within the Battalion miss the quiet urge of assistance that we have been used to from Cyril Kenchington for the past six years. Our loss is the Territorial Battalion's gain.

### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Winter finds us in temporary residence at Warley Barracks, Brentwood. Though the mess is very old and a contrast to our previous one we really have little to complain about and everyone seems to have quite settled down. The lack of married quarters has resulted in members being spread far and wide resulting in a lack of mess social life. This is serious, and the age-old custom of the Christmas dinner had to be disregarded this year, but we

expect to get back to our normal mess life at Colchester. We did have a mess dinner in November which was successful but our hope of inviting ex-R.S.M. N. ("Cabby") Smith, D.C.M., did not come off as he has emigrated with his wife to Canada. We welcomed the new Cook Sgt.-Major Benson who cooked for us with the aid of Jock McGill.

Before leaving Palace Barracks a farewell social was held, mainly for our civilian friends, and it was with genuine regret that we had to say goodbye to them. Quite a number of colleens have left the green isle to be with their husbands in the regiment and not a few members save up to fly back once a month. Noticeable among them is Bob Chilvers and his pal Jack. Bob became engaged before he left and hopes to be married in March. We all give him and his fiancée our very best wishes for their future happiness.

We have made some acquisitions to our silver and property; much of the silver is from the 2nd and 3rd Battalions and the Depot. We have the two brass elephants which adorned the Depot mess mantelpiece for such a long time. Nobody seems to know the origin of them; maybe some old soldier reading these notes could tell us so that we may put it on record. We also possess the carved plaques of the cap badge and Regimental crest. One of our old soldiers says that ex-Drm. Swift of the 2nd Battalion carved them; we would also like to have this confirmed. If any person still cares to say we have no good pictures of the Duke of Wellington, we can show him the full-sized portrait by Robert Home which now adorns the ante-room wall. It was purchased at great expense from the Parker Art Galleries.

Back to the Battalion come Sgts. Galley and Wappett. Bill Galley left us in Cyprus; he will be remembered as an ex-drummer. Sgt. Wappett comes from the boys' school at Harrogate and brings with him the best wishes from an old member there, W.O.1 Alec Renton who was "Schoolie-in-Chief" at Gibraltar—many present members with thick skulls will remember his wrath. We also welcome two new members, Sgt. Carolan, an Irishman and an ex-Green Howard, and Sgt. Stewart who joined the Regiment from the R.N.F. at Holywood. Congratulations to both. With regret we say farewell to the Queen's Soldier Cook Sgt.-Major Jock McGuigan, A.C.C. Rex Webb we congratulate on his promotion to C.S.M. but regretfully say also farewell to him and Mrs. Webb; they go to the Depot at Strensall. Rex joined us shortly after the war and served with the Regiment at Chiseldon, Germany, Korea, Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus and Ireland. Much of his time was spent on the M.T. and his distinctions of racing on the air-strip, and fixing the C.O.'s car at Gibraltar will long be remembered. His place as C/Sgt. "S" Company is to be taken by Sgt. Wilson, but we will congratulate you in the next issue "Tug"—if you behave yourself!

It will be of interest to many readers that the Army suddenly discovered that bodies of troops can be moved from A to B without the use of mechanical or animal transport and, in our new air-portable role, we move from A to B, and beyond, by route

march. Everyone is marching mad (not to break any records, thank you) and there were many titters when the R.S.M., dressed in denims, looked out of the mess window and said that he hoped it would not rain. Even the newly-married R.Q.M.S. was seen marching, and on a Saturday morning, not to mention the gentlemen of the orderly room Messrs. Brayshaw and Smith. But the latter treat it very conscientiously and with them goes the whole staff. (The writer of these notes says he never used to get blisters in India!) Not content with our suffering feet the Regimental Leech, namely Sgt. Sargent, has paid us all up with as many innoculations as he possibly can. Of course the T.A.B. is once again "a new one that does not hurt." So with aching feet, swollen arms and fever we end these notes and hope to raise enough strength to write out a sick leave application. Still, jabs were much worse in India!

*Footnote.* Alas! we regret to announce that "Nora" became a casualty during the move and is beyond all hope. After surviving the many battles of Korea and Gib. she died of sickness on the Irish Sea. Two minutes' silence will be observed at the next dinner.

P.S. Route Marching. Nick's got a little list; they'll none of them be missed. (With apologies to W.S.G.)

#### CORPORALS' MESS

Amid the paying, painting and packing, we found time for a farewell party at which the Commanding Officer and the Regimental Sergeant Major honoured us with their presence. Cpl. Dyer and others produced a splendid buffet and, after sampling this supported by much Good Ale, our civilian friends with fervour regretted our departure. We had arranged to have a small dance band present, and the few ladies with us were kept busy for the rest of the evening.

#### RUGGER

The rugger team have had a successful season to date.

It began in Northern Ireland where we played six matches within a month. These provided us with a sound team-building start for the Army Cup competition. Despite several of our players being at Mons O.C.S. and on the advance party to Brentwood we acquitted ourselves nobly and left the Emerald Isle with an enhanced reputation.

In Ireland our pack was the dominant factor and, time and again, proved an irresistible force even against the tough Irish eights. Peter Hoppe, Simon Arnold, Ted Duckney and Dick Mundell were all little "power houses" in themselves: when knitted and working together they were unstoppable. Cpl. Brown at times reached heights with his hooking. Jim Shenton and Cpl. Scroby always turned out a good sound performance.

Behind the pack, the cohesive thrust that we have since acquired was then lacking. Mike Crook at full-back played a good game for us against Ulster but otherwise his potential was not realised through his trying too hard and becoming over intense. However, we feel in time he will serve us well at that position. Danny Marsay on the right-wing

has steadily developed into a good attacking wing, reaching peak form against Blackheath. L/Cpl. I. Davis is our fastest back and his change of pace and acceleration have been a joy to watch. He has defensive lapses though and at times runs across too much.

John Golding was our other centre in N. Ireland but has now moved to full-back to make way for Graham Allen. He has steadily improved his play but tends to be individualistic and to risk moves from precarious positions. However he has made the Blackheath side and promises well. On the left-wing L/Cpl. Field has proved a very dangerous attacker. His only fault is that he tends to die rather than part with the ball. John Greenway started at fly-half but looks a natural for the wing position.

At scrum half we had the inimitable Dennis Shuttleworth. We cannot in the space allowed pay enough tribute to this fine player and captain who has done so much for the success of the Regiment at rugby. All those who served under Dennis during his past two years have only praise for his fine example and leadership. It will be a long time before we get another player of his class and another such captain. It was with real sadness that we witnessed his hanging up of his boots at

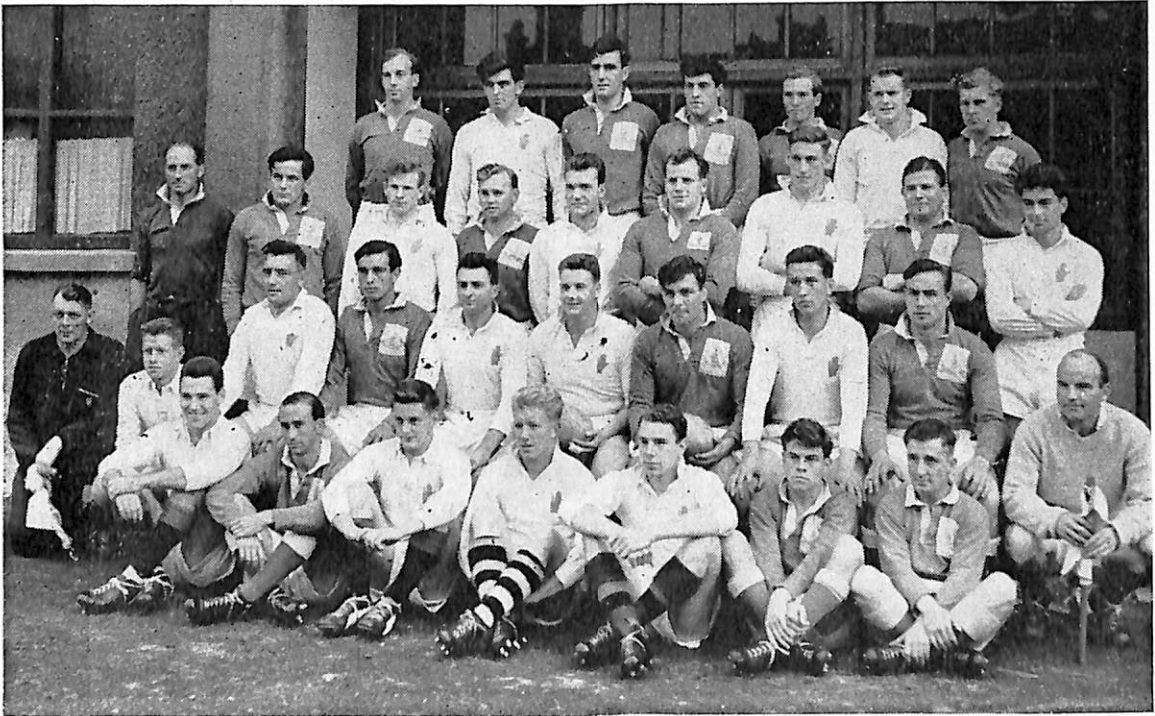
Ravenhill after playing a top-grade farewell match against Ulster.

Paul Davis, last year's Army scrum half, has taken over his place and has put in solid performances for us.

New arrivals are Pte. Reid, of London Scottish, and Graham Allen, of Blackheath and Yorkshire, who is a determined player with a noteworthy tackle. Keegan, an outstanding Rugby league full back, joins us on December 4, 1959, by which time we will be so flush with talent that we will not know who to leave out. Daniel Pugh of Bradford is also on our books. He played centre or wing for their first team, but we are busy converting him to wing forward to step into the shoes of Edward Duckney when he leaves us in January, 1960.

We have unfortunately just lost Jim Shenton and Simon Arnold on demob., but then Michael Campbell-Lamerton has returned to the side. At present he is improving with every game and we hope he will be considered for the Army side this year. He now leads the pack and is a great force in line-out and scrum. His brother Robert is being groomed to play alongside him: brothers-in-arms!

Our great matches this year have been: against a selected Ulster XV, whom we defeated 19—5 in



#### 1st D.W.R. v. Ulster

*Back row (left to right):* Lt. J. Shenton, J. Boyle, 2/Lt. S. Arnold, 2/Lt. E. Duckney, Lt. D. Marsay, F. W. Keepe, 2/Lt. M. Crook  
*Second row:* Mr. Jackson, 2/Lt. W. R. Mundell, S. D. Irwin, Captain D. W. Shuttleworth, R. A. F. Smith, Cpl. J. Scroby, W. J. McBride, Captain P. B. L. Hoppt, T. Maxwell  
*Third row:* E. Lindsay, 2/Lt. J. Golding, D. C. Glass, A. C. Pedlow, Captain D. S. Gilbert-Smith, T. A. Donaldson, L/Cpl. N. Field  
*Front row:* F. G. Gilpin, R. McC. Wilson, Lt. J. B. K. Greenway, R. T. P. Good, T. Moffatt, D. G. McDevitt, L/Cpl. D. Davies, Cpl. K. Brown

an unforgettable match; against Blackheath, when we also found the golden touch in the second half and won 24—0; and, in spasms, against Richmond (19—6). However, the focus is on the Army Cup. Our easy victories of the past are over and we must expect some tough battles ahead.

Our results up to date are as follows:

#### Northern Ireland

v. Civil Service .. .. .	Won	14—6
v. Collegians .. .. .	Lost	8—11
v. Ballymena .. .. .	Won	10—0
v. Queen's University .. .. .	Lost	11—16
v. Ulster XV .. .. .	Won	19—5
v. Instonians .. .. .	Drew	6—6

#### England

v. 34 L.A.A. Regt. (Army Cup)	Won	49—0
v. Blackheath .. .. .	Won	24—0
v. Guards Depot, Chatham (Army Cup)	Won	28—0
v. Richmond .. .. .	Won	19—6
v. S.M.E. Chatham (Army Cup)	Won	25—0
v. Mons O.C.S. (Army Cup)	Won	32—0

#### SOCCKER

Owing to training commitments and our move to Brentwood we did not bother to compete in the Army Cup, but we did join the Southend League upon our arrival here.

Our first game, which was a friendly (and really a Battalion trial), was against 7th A.G.R.A., whom we beat 6—2. We then played Southend Municipal College Seniors at Southend and defeated them 8—0. Our next game, also away, was against Howards Dairies, whom we beat 4—0.

Next, 7th A.G.R.A. came to our ground, only this time for a proper league match. The ground was like a quagmire after a recent heavy storm and good play was limited. Nevertheless, we beat them 9—2.

As you, reader, will see, our victories have been very decisive, but we do have much stiffer opposition in the league. We were fortunate in first meeting the three lowly teams which gave us the chance to settle down. Our team and reserves are as follows:

Goalkeepers: L/Cpls. Acaster and Coates; backs: Cpl. White, Pte. Brown; half-backs: L/Cpl. Simpson, Pte. Cameron, Bds. Kendrew, Sgt. Pratt, Pte. Deakin; forwards: Pte. Cousins, Pte. Wilson, L/Cpl. Sloane, Pte. Smith, L/Cpl. Grainger, Pte. Sellers, Bds. Flaherty.

We were sorry to lose Cpl. Carroll and Cpl. Mitchell to civilian life; each has been a mainstay of our team.

Our goal average is as follows: For, 21; against, 2. Goalscorers are: Grainger, 6; Carroll, 2; Mitchell, 4; Smith, 2; Wilson, 4; Simpson, 1 (pen.); Kendrew, 1; White, 1. Credit must be given to L/Cpl. Acaster who saved a penalty in his first game.

Pte. Smith has been picked up by Milwall scouts and has had three games with the reserve team.

#### HANDICRAFTS

The momentum which gathered while we were at Palace Barracks produced a clinker-built sailing dinghy and 14 canoes.

A week after we arrived in Brentwood the dinghy, made by L/Cpl. B. Tordoff and Pte. B. Knowles, two canoes, made by L/Cpl. A. Watts (one of them was identical to those used in the crossing of the Irish Channel last April) and a radio-controlled model launch, by Cpl. T. Smith, were submitted to the Army Arts and Crafts Exhibition at the Air Ministry Building in Whitehall.

The move from Northern Ireland prevented our submitting, as had been intended, other examples of indoor activity which had won prizes at the N.I.D. exhibition. Even so we carried away from the Army exhibition two, first prizes, one second prize and the award for the best unit entry.

These activities depend on spare time, however, and there has been little of that since October. We have many plans for the New Year but have had to bow during the past two months to the full force of a heavy military programme.

"Art is long, life short."

#### "A" COMPANY

We are hard at work getting ourselves fighting fit. "Route March" is now a familiar item on the training programme, and of late we have been doing our marches wearing the new 1958 pattern equipment; it is a vast improvement on the old 1937 pattern. Map-reading is being learned the hard way—one popular officer added an unexpected five miles to the last route march. Trial loads have been worked out and experimented on. Loading and lashing teams have been trained and four men have been getting the "know-how" on anti-malarial duties. The R.M.O. has had a field day giving jabs left, right and centre. We look forward to a Battalion 20-mile route march.

On the sports field the Company has maintained its reputation. The soccer team continues to play well, despite a shortage of pitches in the Brentwood area. It has lost to civilian life four of its strongest players in Carroll, Mitchell, Craghill and Ibbotson.

Our cross-country team is training hard under Sgt. Simpson (who else, indeed). They showed "H.Q." Company a clean pair of heels and then went on to win the Battalion meeting, on November 24, over a six-mile course.

Many of the Company have managed a spell of leave, including the C.S.M. and Jim (our war dog who has by now many miles of route marching behind him).

Again we have had a mass of departures. We wish Captain Dennis Shuttleworth, our O.C., success at the Staff College. 2 Lt. Arnold, a fine stalwart of "A," has returned to Lloyds. Cpls. Armitage, Carroll, Boakes, Bowles and Mitchell have all become civilians.

Our new commander is Major Kavanagh, and 2 Lts. Norris and Allen have joined us as platoon commanders. Sgt. Foster, fresh into "Duke's" badges, has already been netted by the cross-country team.

We congratulate Cpl. Gaukroger and L/Cpl. Cooper on the additions to their families, and Mr. Allen on playing rugger regularly for Yorkshire.

**I. D. Subs—due February 1st**

1st D.W.R. v. Ulster, September 30, 1959



John Greenway, attempting to go blind, is caught by an Ulsterman. L/Cpl. Field (No. 11) to the left



L/Cpl. Field scoring a try—In support are (left to right) Mundell, Arnold, Duckney

### " B " COMPANY

There was one important event before the company left Ireland: Mrs. Coleman caused a late change in the C.S.M.'s nominal roll of families moving to England by giving birth to a fine 8½-lb. baby girl.

The send-off on the dock side will long be remembered. Most people had girl friends at the boat to bid them good-bye. The C.S.M. is still busy writing out warrants and leave passes for people who want to make the journey back to Ireland.

At Warley, we soon got down to real training, route marches being the top priority. We already have two 15 milers behind us; most people can now do this distance without much trouble. An enjoyable two days was spent at the P.T.A. Stanford (more of this type of real training would be welcome).

In sport the company has shown improvement. In the Battalion cross-country race " B " Company came 3rd after a keen struggle with " D " which we lost by only 2 points.

Porter and Healey did exceptionally well, Porter finishing 5th. The Company Commander is still limping after his yeoman efforts. The C.S.M. did well enough but regrets that he did not have more time to train for the event.

Football appears to be our strong point. In the new draft there are two or three potential Battalion players. These, along with others of above average ability, make the prospects very bright. In the league match against the Signal Platoon we were able to try out other players as many were at Stanford on training. The final score of 4-2 was a fair reflection of the game. Goals were scored for us by Cpl. Read (2), Holbrook (1) and Hodgson (1).

### " C " COMPANY

" C " Company still remains the training company of the Battalion but has a very changed staff: Major Kavanagh has left to take over " A " Company. Captain Gilbert-Smith is the present commander with C.S.M. Norman and C.Q.M.S. Costello as old stagers under him.

The Drums remain within the Company but the Band has been transferred to " A " Company where Major Kavanagh is also their Band President.

Training in the shape of cadres and continuation squads is in full swing. 2 Lt. Bellamy (" B " Company) and Sgt. Collman have been running the first five weeks continuation squad very successfully. Six of this squad have been promoted to an N.C.O.s' cadre which Lt. Duckney and Sgt. Chilvers are running. Two more squads start on December 7, 1959, under 2 Lts. Crook and Campbell-Lamerton.

### " D " COMPANY

Since our arrival in Warley Barracks we have made two sorties worthy of note. The first was a two-day visit to the Practical Training Area at Stanford in Norfolk where we carried out some more interesting weapon training than our normal routine. We saw that this area provides great scope for training and that the adjoining camp can be

made quite comfortable. On our return journey from Stanford we tested a system of movement likely to be adopted when the Battalion has to move with no troop-carrying vehicles. This system requires Land-Rovers, filled to capacity with men, to drive for a given time along a route, deposit their loads, return to collect the next batch and so on until the whole party has been lifted; meanwhile those not being driven are marching. Our test proved to be an interesting novelty and all agreed that if we have to march a long distance the further we can ride the better.

Our next sortie was to Ogbourne St. George Camp which will be described more fully elsewhere in this issue. Suffice it to say here that one or two older members of the Company renewed acquaintances in such places as the " Patriot's Arms " at Chisleton and in other less well-known haunts.

We at last have hopes of longer muster-role in future; drafts are migrating here from the Far North where it obviously must be getting rather wintery. After a spell of continuation training we hope to have enough talent to be able to field a useful soccer team and to prepare to defend the inter-company boxing title.

The stork which seems to crop up in these notes in each edition has called again. Captain Cowell has been left a second daughter and L/Cpl. Slater his first. Pte. Foster has taken the plunge and we wish him and his wife every happiness.

We welcome Sgt. Wappett, recently returned from the A.A.S., Harrogate.

### CONTINUATION TRAINING (" B " and " D " COMPANIES)

On November 1, 16 members of each " B " and " D " Company started a five-week continuation training course.

The first week's training culminated in a Saturday spent at the River Crouch near Burnham where a practice bivouac camp was pitched. During the afternoon everybody went canoeing on the river and surprisingly enough there were no mishaps. An initiative test was also laid on and Pte. Holdsworth (" B ") showed a monkey-like agility in climbing pylons.

The first exercise was in the second week and took place near Rochester. It involved hard marching and several members of the platoon suffered from blisters. During the river-crossing Pte. Sharpe (" B ") lost his plimsols in the sticky mud which was uncovered at low tide. The inter-section competition was won by L/Cpl. Cust's section who did the rope-crossing of the river Darent in very fast time. The rope-crossing proved an entertaining spectacle for several Kentish villagers who saw Ptes. Cameron and Wilson fall in the water.

A hastily improvised confidence course behind the swimming bath was used by the continuation platoon and, despite the difficulty of many of the obstacles, the only injury sustained was by Pte. Short (" D ") who has now almost fully recovered.

At the time of going to print the continuation platoon is down at P.T.A. Stanford where the excellent field firing ranges are being put to good use.

## SUPPORT COMPANY

After hearing some grim tales about our new barracks, we were quite surprised when we found that the barrack rooms did have roofs and that there were even a few wash-basins. After a few days' work with vim, soap and polish we managed to make them quite presentable.

With regret we said good-bye to C/Sgt. Webb. He has served us as C.Q.M.S. for four years and will be greatly missed by all ranks of the Company. We wish him luck in his new appointment as C.S.M. at Strensall. In his place we welcome Sgt. Wilson.

Another departure from Company H.Q. was Pte. Logan. He joined us from the Green Howards for his last six months of service and proved himself a very useful member of the Company office staff. We welcome Pte. Taylor as a trainee clerk and Pte. Stead to the Company stores.

## ANTI-TANK PLATOON

A great deal has happened since we last wrote our notes. We have done our annual firing, we have changed station and we have started a cadre on our new guns.

Firstly—our Ballykinlar fortnight. The weather was very kind to us. For the first week we were on our own in the musketry camp and during that time we fired 90 rounds of 120 mm. This caused the 60th much distress as their buildings rocked every time we pressed the button; every cracked window in the camp that month was blamed on us! Our firing was a little disjointed for we had to stop firing every few rounds, leap into our trucks and drive out to the range area before the fires we caused took a real hold on the very dry grass. The Mortar Platoon came down on our last day and watched us fire. We invited them to sit behind the gun but they declined, having examined the smoking blasted seat we offered them. The Mortars were most impressed with our accuracy at the moving target, particularly when we shot the towing cable away. During this first week we had a ration scandal: L/Cpl. Knut was met coming out of the cookhouse with a steak; the Platoon Commander saw him and spoke most severely to him; he slunk away and buried the steak. A few hours later it was discovered that this steak was not the first but the 13th to be mis-applied—the L/Cpl. having eaten the other 12 on the spot. Result—short rations for lunch and Knut reduced to substantive dog again. (*The then L/Cpl. Knut appears in the photo of the Battalion shooting team at Bisleigh published on page 113 of the October issue.*—Ed.)

At the beginning of the camp, the Platoon Commander announced that the Platoon would march back to Palace Barracks. This was greeted with derision and blank disbelief, for the Anti-Tank Platoon NEVER marches anywhere (so we thought). We had time for two practice marches, one of six and one of 12 miles. Then 16 of us set off, after tea on a Friday evening, dressed in B.D. trousers, shirtsleeves and battle order and carrying our new rifles. We marched through the night, resting 10 minutes in the hour, in tactical formation. Three times we were fortified with tea, kindly organised by C/Sgt. Webb. We arrived complete with no

stragglers 11 hours 5 minutes later, having covered a distance of 31.9 miles. Now, we admit that is not a world record march, for we were wearing full kit and were untrained, but we trust it will serve to stir up the rifle companies from their sluggish apathy. Those who did the march were Lt. Stevens, Sgt. Curling, Cpl. Kelly, Cpl. Smith, Ptes. Jackson, Naylor, Spurr, Wager, Turner, Fill, Hincliffe, Goldspink, Foster, Healey, Rollinson and Knut.

We now find ourselves in Brentwood, studying our new American gun. The following, to our chagrin, have left us—Cpl. Panton, Ptes. Jackson (21), McDougall, Rollinson, Dyes and Singleton.

## 3-IN. MORTAR PLATOON

The Platoon continued its nomadic existence in Ireland and followed up the Ballykinlar display with a variety of exercises. We gave a display to cadets at Magilligan at the end of July, had some leave, and then returned there for the first week of Battalion Camp to join "A" Company as enemy for the Welsh Guards on Exercise "Red Onion." This was the first occasion we had worked as a mortar platoon in the field and it proved most instructive and, despite statements in the press, we reckon we won. Mr. Bray led a patrol up the River Roe in canoes to blow up a vital bridge and with the assistance of the weather which was excellent we all enjoyed ourselves.

When "Red Onion" finished we returned to Ballykinlar for a week's mortar training and had a busy week. Each morning we ran down to the beach and bathed. The Platoon Commander reckons the successful "persuasion" of three sergeants, including Sgt. Battye, to bathe before breakfast as the number one achievement of the year. We fired a lot of sand-filled bombs and some H.E. We also had another good day in the Mountains of Mourne before returning to Palace Barracks to prepare for our final fling.

This was as bandits on an I.S. exercise against the K.R.R.C. We trained ourselves in the art of unarmed combat and led the K.R.R.C. all over County Londonderry. Mention must be made of Pte. Jackson (59) who got "lost" for three days. He maintains that he was working behind enemy lines but we know better and so does a certain generous farmer.

Before leaving Ireland we lost three good mortar-men and friends, Jenkinson, Price and Stott, and, shortly after that, Knight and Haigh followed them. Such people make one a firm believer in National Service. On the credit side we gained six new men and later in England another six. These 12, whose names will appear in due course, promise extremely well both from the military and the sporting points of view. Also congratulations to Stocks who gained a wife—and some most attractive crockery as a wedding present from the Platoon.

We were sorry to leave Ireland but have got off to a quick start in England. Both our new intakes are busy doing a month's cadre. Our accommodation although not palatial is better than most and we are lucky in having a small domain to ourselves complete with stores and lecture room.

Finally congratulations to L/Cpl. Berry on his promotion.





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### MACHINE-GUN PLATOON

We have had quite a change in personnel, mainly the N.C.O.s. Sgt. Parker-Smith, our Platoon Sergeant, has left us for the School of Infantry, where he will be an M.M.G. instructor. Our best wishes go with him. In his place is Sgt. Smith, formerly a section commander.

Sgt. Middleton has joined from another regiment and has passed his "initiation" satisfactorily. He will be going on a course in the new year.

Congratulations to Sgt. Stewart on his well-earned promotion to the "senior rank" bracket.

We have a lot of new faces in the platoon; they are Ptes. Spencer, Elliott, Whittaker, Clough, Doherty, Smith, Bickerdike, Dixon, Thomas, Brown (78), and lastly Baines, who was with the platoon in Korea. Baines, incidentally, has recently won promotion to Lance-Corporal. With so many new people, we have had (as some of our readers may have already guessed) to say good-bye to old members, namely, Ptes. Strangeway and Knowles.

We have recently finished a cadre for the new hands, and spent a very good week (if somewhat cold) at Stanford Practical Training Area. This week was the climax of our cadre and entailed learning our role as M.M.G.s in war. It was the same thing as at Netheravon last year, only on a smaller scale. The Platoon Commander substituted a "crown" for one of his "stars," and made Sgt. Smith acting local unpaid lieutenant. Our new Colonel then spent most of his time chasing pheasants with the "R.S.M." (Pte. Stead). Acting local unpaid Lt. Smith handled the platoon very well and, under the guidance of the "C.O.," learned a great deal.

Being in the "Fire Brigade" is far more interesting than Palace Barracks—and strenuous. Our big complaint is that we must learn to *march*. Our readers can well imagine our feelings, but if we must march, we will march (or so says the Platoon Commander, who has yet to be seen on a route march).

### ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

For the past three months the Assault Pioneers have daily been doing fatigues and guards and we are thinking of changing our name to the Royal Pioneer Corps.

One amusing incident took place at Thetford in Norfolk with the M.G. Platoon on an exercise, with Cpl. Butterfield and the skilful assistance of Cpl. Leaf, when we laid charges of guncotton to represent artillery fire and mortar fire. Sgt. Smith of the M.G.s, who were doing a tactical advance, thought he was on the way to the next world when the first line of charges exploded less than ten yards away from him. But we experienced "Chunkys" have dealt with so much explosive in our time that we know just when to explode it.

Congratulations to Pte. Huggan on his marriage and we wish him and his wife all the best for the future.

We are sadly losing Cpl. Butterfield, who has been in the "Chunkys" for the past four and a half years and who is now leaving us for the Royal Artillery. Filling the gap left by him will be Cpls.

Leaf and Senior who, we hope, will keep his good example going.

### "H.Q." COMPANY

Quite a lot of effort was put into the handover to the Royal Sussex at Palace Barracks, and no small credit must go to the C.Q.M.S. and Sgt. Garrity for ensuring that all our kit was there, and to the Pioneers for keeping down barrack damages.

We arrived at Warley to be met by Captain Miller, who was O.C. "H.Q." Company advance party. We soon realised that our new billets were below the standard of those we had left behind. The barracks are very old, with small rooms accommodating eight men. However, compared to the rifle companies, we are well enough off.

We have refrained from heading our notes "Champion Company" but we must, nevertheless, place it on record that "H.Q." are the 1958-59 champions (Major Simonds please note!). Competition this year will be stiffer; we have shamed rifle companies into getting themselves organised.

We arrived to find Captain W. Blakey chief "duff puncher," after attending a messing officers' course at Aldershot. He is well known by many of the older members of the Company, but we don't hold this against him; he is very welcome.

Training and route marches are Number 1 priority. Even though we cook, mend windows and drive trucks, the Chiefs insist that "H.Q." "squaws" march alongside the rifle company "braves." All are trying to become air portability-minded, absorbing load scales, chalk numbers, size rolls and all the funnies that are linked to our new role. However, it is something new to get our teeth into and it should prove interesting.

We congratulate the following on their promotions: Cpl. Carolan to sergeant, L/Cpl. Russell to corporal, and Ptes. Howard, Houghton, Cairns Lawrence (31), Middleton, Craig and Dunn to lance-corporal.

Since our last notes the stork has visited Cpl. Dowdall and Ptes. Woolridge and Bolton. With recruiting so difficult we will one day need these children.

Incidentally, if any old member of the Company who happens to read these notes is still young enough to re-enlist and unhappy enough in his civilian life to have aspirations of becoming a C.S.M., all he has to do is report to his local recruiting officer; he can be assured of a very warm welcome back to the Regiment, especially if he served in Cyprus and Korea.

Release has taken a heavy toll. We offer a special farewell to Tommy Trinder; he didn't reach any great rank but he gave 22 years' service cheerfully. L/Cpl. Hoyle and Ptes. Pottinger, Allen (65), Bates, Redfern and Beaumont, to mention but a few, are trying civilian life. We wish them well. The Dog Section has left us to join "B" Company and we hope that the change from mounting guard with a dog to mounting with a rifle does not over-tax them.

### SIGNAL PLATOON

We are now accommodated in a Regency house. (It is rumoured that the Duke and his men stayed

here before embarking for the Peninsula! Looking in the cellars, it seems quite feasible.)

We are up to full strength and two new cadres are under way—through by January, 1960, we hope. If so, the Platoon will be able to function properly for 18 months without another cadre.

Since leaving Ulster we have said good-bye to some of the veterans of the platoon: Cpl. Waddington, L/Cpls. Wood, Bruce, Hall and Seage, and Ptes. Betts, Jinks, Kingdom, Dunning, Tock and Whittaker. We wish them every success in Civvy Street.

The following have been promoted to lance-corporal: Howard, Cairns, Houghton, Middleton and Lawrence.

Several members of the platoon have forsaken the traditional "English Rose" and have lost their hearts to the "Blue-eyed Irish Colleen." It is not true that money from the platoon fund is to be used to charter a plane for these members to fly to Ireland for a "long 48."

The issue of winter clothing and new equipment has been a signal for a flood of stories from the old soldiers of the platoon (anyone who has more than three years' service) while the new members have been wondering whether they have to wear it or send it home. We have been issued with a new type of wireless set, the A40, which, although very popular with the rifle companies, is proving to be a headache to the signal platoon.

The platoon will be starting advanced signal training in the New Year, ready for forthcoming exercise.

*(Battalion Notes are continued on page 28)*

# WEBSTER'S PERFECT BEER



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## A Colonial Note—Nigeria

(Condensed from an article by the author which appeared in the "British Army Review")

When I was in the Mess of 3rd Battalion The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment at Enugu in the eastern region of Nigeria recently, I began looking at the pictures on their ante-room walls. One was of a group of officers that included Brigadiers (as they are now) Grimley and Laing, dressed in topees and riding-breeches. It made me wonder how many of us have been out to Nigeria to serve in the R.W.A.F.F. Recently, as a regiment, we seem to have surpassed ourselves: our Colonel has been the senior soldier on the West Coast for the past two or three years and took out Tony Mesquita and myself in succession as his A.D.C.; Major "Topper" Brown has been with the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment for two years now; Major Dick Ince is on the Staff at Lagos and Major Barry Kavanagh is due to go out to Nigeria next June.

What makes people volunteer to go out and serve with the R.W.A.F.F.? What makes them want to go out to another man's country, to join another man's army, to command another nation's troops? Perhaps it is the pleasure of commanding these troops. They are all twenty-two year regulars who are as keen as mustard and who hope never to have any life outside the Army. (They seldom live long after their retirement, and are loath to leave their regiments and go into retirement at all, beginning, as the time draws near, to badger their officers for an extension of service.)

Field Marshal Sir William Slim wrote of these troops: "Their discipline and smartness were impressive and they were more obviously at home in the jungle than any troops I had yet seen." General C. R. A. Swynnerton, who commanded a brigade of them in the jungle, paid tribute to the "West African soldier, who alone among all the different nationalities from which the British Army in Burma was drawn, was capable of operating for months on end in the worst country in the world without vehicles and without mules, and was alone able to carry all his warlike stores with him."

This is the most striking characteristic of the R.W.A.F.F. soldier, his phenomenal capacity for self-sufficiency. He has not the imagination that British troops have for improvisation, but he demands less from his surroundings. He is not rationed at all when serving in his own country but is given an allowance and manages to fend for himself, whether in barracks or on the march. The Nigerians are used to sleeping only for a few hours at a time, anywhere and at any time of the day or night. Drivers sleep in their vehicles between duties; infantrymen will fall asleep during breaks in their work, wherever they may find themselves; clerks sleep on their elbows at their desks! They have no regular routine and the African living quarters of towns and villages are as much alive at four in the morning as at eight at night. Their minds are equally self-sufficient: they read little, talk a lot and worry mostly about their families and physical welfare. The world and Nigerian politics

are only a diversion to them for they are entirely wrapped up in their families (which span a wider relationship of second cousins than any English family would be able to trace). They are absorbed also in their duties to their fathers, wives and village patriarchs, and to the sub-unit with which they are serving. They are immensely loyal and immensely aware of their responsibilities to the traditional organisations in which they serve.

The Nigerian soldier has a naivety, a simplicity in his approach to life, a confidence in his superiors and a mental dependence on them, particularly Europeans, which rivals the faith of a child. He looks for a lead in whatever he does, and obeys implicitly, regardless of whether his own experience should tell him that he knows better. He assumes that his officers, after a couple of months of secondment to the Royal Nigerian Military Forces, are more conversant with the country and people other than his own tribe than he is himself; here lies a strong danger of his shunning responsibility and having all his latent initiative stifled. To deal with the Nigerian requires a wealth of patience, an easy temperament that is slow to anger, and a capacity to explain and teach slowly, clearly and repeatedly. The Nigerian has an infectious sense of humour which will quickly dispel his sometimes passionate displays of righteousness provided that his humour is appealed to. He is naturally cheerful, quick to smile and gay in adversity. Hard work does not greatly amuse him but he is capable, when driven to it, of withstanding the most arduous conditions. He is generally more indolent and less physically fit than the European though he is as resilient in sustaining hardship such as long marches, can tolerate great pain without it troubling him, and can carry great loads through the day; this he does usually on his head, a thick skull supported by a well-muscled neck, used for carrying since he was a child.

Religion dominates the Nigerian soldier's life. He may come from the north where, as a Fulani or a Hausaman, he will probably be a Mahommedan; or he may be an Ibo from the east, and almost certainly a Christian; or he may be a western Yoruba with either religion. Whoever his God, it is certain that he has one and is conscientious in his worship. His life and his tribal customs are predominantly fashioned by his religion and he expects from the European the same fervour and the same respect for others' religions as he accords himself. Intellectually unsophisticated as he is, his beliefs often border on superstition—so much so that the juju or witchcraft cults have profound influences on his life even to this day. Fear mingles with ignorance, and with blind illogical faith, until it can drive these people, brought up on fearful folk-stories, to a complete response to the juju spells. This is a constantly present factor in serving with them.

The British officer is held in great respect and affection by his troops who will certainly call him

the "Bumbaturi," the "Fine Fine White Man," and who will as certainly give him a personal nickname. Much will be given in personal devotion through three years of a colonial tour, and the day of parting will be a day of mourning by the troops concerned and by many others—the horse-boys from the polo club, the household servants (three or four of them), the village heads through whose

ground the Baturi has regularly shot and dashed (tipped) the beaters, and many others.

It is for all of this, and for the pleasure of commanding the same set of long-term regular soldiers without change for three unbroken years, that we find ourselves wanting to go and join another man's army in another man's country.

H. A. J. S.

## PERSONALIA



Photo: Greaves, Halifax

**COLONEL N. T. BENTLEY, T.D.**  
(Honorary Colonel, 382 Medium Regiment,  
R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.)

Colonel Trevor Bentley has been appointed to succeed Colonel G. H. Aykroyd, T.D., as Honorary Colonel of our affiliated regiment of the Royal Artillery, T.A.

Colonel Bentley was first commissioned in August 1929 into the 4th (T.A.) Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He remained with that unit after its conversion in 1938 to 58 Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.), leaving it in 1942 to become an instructor in converting static A.A. artillery to a field force role.

After a period as second-in-command of 110 L.A.A. Regiment in 43 Division, Colonel Bentley

assumed command of 68 L.A.A. Regiment in 59 Division in February 1943. He commanded this regiment until it was disbanded after the fighting in the Falaise gap and then commanded 71 L.A.A. Regiment in 2nd Army until the end of the war.

After the war he rejoined the T.A. and, as second-in-command, helped to reform his old unit as 382 Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A. (D.W.R.). He commanded 382 Regiment from 1948 to 1951; during the latter part of his command the unit was converted to a field role and became 382 Field Regiment R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.

Colonel Bentley's war service earned him a mention in despatches; he was also awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre and appointed a Chevalier de l'Ordre de Leopold.

It was reported in the July number that Colonel Bentley had recently undergone a serious operation as the result of having been attacked by arthritis in the hips. We are glad to learn that he is making a rapid recovery and are sure that all who know him will join us in congratulating him on this improvement as well as on his new appointment.

The fourth leader of *The Times* of October 15 concerned the difficulty of disposing of those slices of wedding cake one is apt to receive in little cardboard boxes. Some readers may have spotted a resultant letter from our first editor, Lt.-Colonel Trench, which told of one slice which had presented no problem as it had reached him during one of the worst periods of the South African war when the unit was on half-rations.

Colonel Trench writes: "One result of my letter to *The Times* was a nice letter from a Colonel Jourdain, late The Connaught Rangers, who reminded me that we had travelled home on the same ship from South Africa in 1902. We have never met since. He is 88 years old and is still editing their regimental journal, which he has done for 37 years. What surprises me is that the regiment was disbanded 37 years ago, and yet they keep on the journal and it is quite a good production (he sent me a copy). How on earth do they finance it?"

Well, it certainly makes it sound a bit silly to talk about the difficulty of financing a regimental journal with only one Regular and one Territorial battalion.

Valerie Owen, youngest daughter of the late Lt.-Colonel Basil and Mrs. Betty Owen, was married on October 31 at All Souls' Church, Langham Place, W.1, to Lt. Robert Stribley Helliwell, R.N. Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Thomas, the bride's aunt and uncle, held a reception in the House of Commons. Members of the Regiment who attended were Major and Mrs. Huffam and Major Johnny Lane, who is the bride's godfather.

The marriages of Valerie's two elder sisters were reported in an earlier number. Bridget, married to Tony Rylands, solicitor, lives at Sleights, near Whitby; Airlie, married to Michael Angel, R.N., at Weymouth.

Somehow, during the run-down of the Depot, the departure of O.R.Q.M.S. Akrigg was allowed to pass unnoticed.

T. W. Akrigg enlisted at Middlesbrough on April 19, 1934, as a boy and joined 1st D.W.R. at Mandora Barracks, Aldershot. At the end of the year he sailed for India and the 2nd Battalion. He was soon employed in the orderly room, the adjutant being Lt. R. K. Exham, and spent virtually the whole of the rest of his service in the orderly rooms of various battalions.

U.K. leave in the summer of 1939 resulted in his spending the war years here, mostly with 50 (Holding) Battalion, D.W.R., which later became the 10th Battalion. He rejoined the 1st Battalion in Khartoum in 1947 as O.R.Q.M.S. After a tour with the 5th (Kenya) Battalion, K.A.R., he spent the last years of his service as O.R.Q.M.S. at the Depot. He left in February, 1959, after 25 years of faithful service and, as he says, "one hell of a good party."

We are informed that Mr. Simon Berry, now serving with the K.A.R. at Dar-es-Salaam, announced his engagement in October to Miss Jan Robson.

Captain R. H. D. Bolton ends his period of service as Chief Constable of Northamptonshire in January and is returning to London. His address, for the time being, will be: The Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

Sgt. William John Simmonds has been admitted to the Royal Hospital as an In-Pensioner.

Sgt. Simmonds enlisted for the "Dukes" in London on October 19, 1896 (Regtl. No. 5260). He joined the 1st Battalion at Malta in September 1897 and served with them at Dover, Aldershot 1898-99 and South Africa 1899-1900. He was invalided home in 1900 but in 1905 returned to the 1st Battalion in India where he served at Lepong, Sitapur and Ambala. He was promoted Corporal 1902 and Sergeant 1906. Ill health again caused him to be invalided home in 1911 (when Signal Sergeant) and he was discharged the service from Netley Hospital in March 1911. He was granted a disability pension. His medical history precluded him from service in the 1st World War.

From 1915 until the end of the 1945 war Mr. Simmonds was a civil servant. He is a life member of the O.C.A.

Colonel Pat Cousens, who sent us the interesting contribution to "Twenty Years Ago" on page 35 (and also an account of being "M. A. Rome," which will appear in the next issue) writes:

"1960 is Olympic year in Rome and the writer has landed the job of Olympic Attaché—just to fill in his time. This fact is mentioned as the word may get round and it may, therefore, be as well to make it quite clear, regretfully but firmly, that P.G.L.C. is *not* the person to write to for tickets, or for a bed (very sorry) or for a job on the Olympic staff for that young sister who may think this a golden opportunity to see Rome at someone else's expense. He will, however, be genuinely delighted to offer such other hospitality as he can to any member of the Regiment who finds his way to Rome during the Games."

(1st Battalion Notes continued from page 25)

#### BAND

We have been kept very busy with two passing-out parades, one administration parade and the Armistice Day parade and service. All were very successful.

Our heartiest congratulations to Cpl. Allerton (and Mrs.) on the birth of a son, Mark Nicholas. (We hear he will be sitting the Grade III at the next trade classifications.)

We were sorry to bid farewell to Bdsm. Phillipson and Williams who have left us for civilian life but are pleased to welcome into the Band Ptes. Boase, Crossland, Garthwaite, W. Harrison and Ackerley.

We welcome back Bdsm. Melvin and R. Harrison who have just completed a course at the Royal Military School of Music and send our best wishes to Bdsm. Almond and Cook who have just commenced the course.

There is a saying which goes, "A team is only as strong as its reserves." If this is true, the future is quite bright (on paper) as we have 15 boys all due to join us by Christmas 1960.

#### UNIT PAY TEAM

The first settling-in chores have been completed, and the office is at last wearing a purposeful look. A counter running the length of the room gives the impression of a post office, without the knitting and gossip normally associated therewith. A man can come and enquire about his (usually mythical) credits, stand at the counter, and be given the position, without leaning all over the clerks' table.

Brentwood has one major snag compared with the quiet village of Holywood: the main London road, which makes it almost impossible to park the pay truck.

It is understood that the administrative inspection of Pay Services is to be held on January 25 and 26. In preparation, many old and unnecessary records are being thrown away as are whole heaps of A.F.N. 1514 relating to the misty past which were cluttering up the main cupboard. These old documents are one of the handicaps of an office such as this; it is difficult to see what improvement could be made, unless accounting was made obsolete. This would not upset certain of our friends!

## LT.-COLONEL JAMES WEBSTER

(1743-81)

After Arthur Wellesley, James Webster was probably the most distinguished of the Regiment's lieutenant-colonels during the 18th century. When he died, at the early age of 38, from wounds received in one of the last battles of the American War of Independence, he had commanded the 33rd Regiment for seven years, most of them on active service, and had won, both for the Regiment and for himself, a high reputation.

It is, thus, all the more unfortunate that we know very little about James Webster and, for his early years, are dependent on a few official facts and tantalising glimpses in other people's letters and papers, notably in the journals of a cousin of his who happened to be James Boswell.

Webster was the son of Doctor Alexander Webster, a celebrated Scottish cleric and writer on ecclesiastical matters, who was at one time chaplain to the Prince of Wales, later King George II. His mother was a member of the Erskine family whose strong connections with the army may well have induced young James to take up a military career.

This he did at the tender age of 15, entering the 33rd as an ensign in June 1758 and being promoted to lieutenant two years later.

Those were stirring times. The 33rd was engaged in the Seven Years' War and James became a veteran of several campaigns at an early age. He seems to have escaped injury and, when his cousin Boswell saw him in December 1762 "newly arrived from Germany", he "looked healthy and spirited notwithstanding of all the severities he had endured."

In the following weeks James spun his cousin a few old soldiers' tales and we have Boswell recording in his journal: "I went and sat a while with Captain Webster. He told me that the fatigues of a German campaign are almost incredible. That he was fourteen nights running without being under cover, and often had scarcely any victuals. He said he never once repented being a soldier, although he cursed the sad fatigues. Men, said he, are in that way rendered desperate; and I have wished for an action, either to get out of the world altogether or to get a little rest after it."

Webster's promotion to captain had been obtained by his father who had been canvassing prominent persons to secure a company for James in one of the newly raised regiments. James had been recommended to the Commander in Chief for a company in October 1761 but nothing came of it and, in the following August, his father wrote to a Scottish Member of Parliament: "It would seem that Lord Ligonier (the C. in C.) has either forgot, or has not mentioned to His Majesty by whom he (James) was recommended, for nothing has been done." The elder Webster obviously thought he had a claim to plead for his son's preferment and, in a covering memorandum, remarked: "As I was chaplain to the Prince of Wales, His Majesty's Royal father, I would willingly flatter myself my family will not be altogether overlooked." It appears

that something might have come his own way but he assured his correspondent: "A company for my son is what I have more at heart than my own personal interest."

His efforts were successful and James was gazetted a captain in January 1763, thus leaving the 33rd for a time. However, he was not long away since he returned to the 33rd, as a captain, in May of the same year. This was his only period away from the Regiment in his 23 years of service.

He seems to have spent this time in London where he saw quite a lot of Boswell. Both seem to have suffered from bouts of depression. "Webster," notes Boswell, "was with me for a while. Though he got a company the other day, he was discontented, and repined, and talked forsooth of retiring from the world." Then it is Boswell's turn—but Webster was able, at any rate, to provide material comfort—"I was in miserable spirits. All was dark. I dined with Webster who treated me as his guest at a military mess at the Tilt Yard (in Whitehall). Really it must be observed that officers live rather better than any other society. They have less to do, so it is a more important object. I had this day the satisfaction of a very good dinner, genteely served up in an elegant room, and a good company round me."

After this we lose sight of James Webster for some 15 years, knowing little more than that he became a major of the 33rd in 1771 and, three years later, on April 9, 1774, succeeded to the lieutenant-colonelcy. This was during the colonelcy of Lord Cornwallis who seems to have brought the 33rd to a high condition of efficiency. For this James Webster must have been, in part, responsible but it is not until the 33rd were again on active service, this time in North America, that he receives mention in Lee's history.

It was in 1776 that the 33rd embarked for North America where an attempt was being made to suppress the rising of the mainland colonies. Like the German war this campaign was a most arduous one. Something of its nature may be gathered from a description by Sir Henry Clinton of the operations which preceded the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781. Clinton, who was the British Commander in Chief in the last years of the war, writes of Lord Cornwallis, with whom were Webster and the 33rd, "forcing the passage of several great rivers, fighting a bloody battle, and running 820 miles over almost every part of the invaded province at the expense of about 3,000 men."

The campaign ended in disaster. But, during its course, the 33rd gained such high repute that, even after the war, it was known as "The Pattern."

That James Webster won a like reputation for himself is shown by the fact that, during his last year, he is normally found commanding forces larger than his own regiment. Before Charlestown in 1780 he was entrusted with a special task at Cooper's River and took with him the 33rd, also the 64th and some cavalry which brought up his force to 1,400 men. In the same year, at Camden, "Lt.-Colonel Webster commanded the front division of the army. He composed his advance guard of cavalry and mounted infantry, supported by four companies of light infantry, and followed by

the 23rd and 33rd regiments of foot." In both battles Webster's force achieved success against heavy odds.

His reputation is vouched for by the Commander in Chief's account of the campaign, which speaks of him as "that gallant officer, Colonel Webster" and "an officer of great experience on whom I reposed the most implicit confidence."

Webster's last fight was the battle of Guildford Court House of which Fortescue writes: "Never perhaps has the prowess of the British soldier been seen to greater advantage than in this obstinate and bloody combat." It was, again, a tactical success but was won at such a cost that it finally robbed the British of any hope of ultimate victory.

No regiment suffered more heavily than the 33rd but their greatest loss was that of their lieutenant-colonel, James Webster, who, wounded in the battle, died a fortnight later.

It was acknowledged that "his skill as a commander and his bravery as a soldier was scarcely equalled among his contemporaries." His untimely death was a loss not only to the regiment he had served so well but to the British Army in which he might, had he lived, have reached high rank.

J.W.H.

*References: Boswell's London Journal; Lee's History of the 33rd, pp. 121 to 132; Pembroke Papers (1950) by Lord Herbert, p. 133; memoirs of James Gatiff (1938), p. 252.*

## 5/7th BATTALION, T.A.

### SUB-EDITORIAL

Compared with the activities we crammed into the previous months, one might almost say that nothing worth reporting in these notes has happened this quarter. However, life has continued.

The Battalion has mainly concerned itself with the problems of assimilating its large number of recruits. The problems presented to a unit which practically doubles its strength in nine months are considerable, both in organisation and in training. As regards the former, we now feel ourselves strong enough to create a support platoon. This consists of a M.M.G. group under Lt. Taylor, a mortar group under Lt. Lee, a civil defence section under Captain Crowther and a (future) assault pioneer section. The platoon is officially commanded by Captain Haws, but as he is busy with other duties Captain Crowther is in charge of training in the immediate future.

Captain Haws has recently assumed a new appointment in the unit—Public Relations Officer. This appointment is tied in with the unit's recruiting effort, which is also run by Captain Haws, and between the two tasks he is being kept pretty busy. Aided by his photographer, Pte. Nunn, he attends all week-end training and feeds the press articles and photos of the local "Dukes" in action. His real test will come when covering the adventure training: to get good coverage of that will require more than just literary effort!

Two other appointments are Lt. McDonald to M.T.O. and Captain Curry to Officer I/C Shooting. Captain Curry is replacing Major Heaton, who has done this very important work for the last few years. We wish them success in these two vital appointments.

One direct result of the closing of the Depot and the change-over to a Regimental H.Q. is that affiliated school cadet corps which were once administered by the Depot are now being catered for by us. We take this opportunity of saying that we are delighted to have them, and from what we have seen of them so far—in some cases quite a lot—we are sure that the partnership is going to be mutually most agreeable.

We have been very pleased to have visits during

the quarter both from our brigade commander and from Colonel Halford, commanding the Yorkshire Brigade. We shall be seeing Brigadier Commings again on December 6, when we have our annual administrative inspection.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Arundel on gaining his substantive promotion; he is at present serving with "B" Company at Mossley and is proving a tower of strength to that rather isolated company.

We also have the pleasure of welcoming our first second-lieutenant—Ivan Foster. He is our first entry under the new scheme whereby young men of the right quality having no previous full-time service may get probationary commissions for a two-year period on passing an area selection board. We hope his period with the Regiment will be a long and happy one. We also welcome into the unit our new Paymaster, Lt. Dye, and our latest ex-1st Battalion officer, Lt. David Sugden. Ex-national service officers of the 1st Battalion are always not only very welcome, but also very useful to us.

One of the more bitter pills fed to us by fate has been the loss of one of our now fast dwindling office staff. This tremendously hard-working, unobtrusive and loyal hand has been reduced by three in the last 12 months—even though the volume of work to be dealt with has just about doubled! The latest, and we sincerely hope the last, to leave us is Mr. Ashton. Anyone who has worked at Battalion H.Q. will know just how well he has served us and what a loss he will be and will wish me now to thank him very much indeed for his past loyal service. We still see him around occasionally in his capacity of C.S.M. of our affiliated cadet unit.

The two football teams fielded by the unit in the Huddersfield and Mossley leagues have been having a hard time of it, but are now beginning to get their second wind. Their hard-working team secretaries, L/Cpl. Balmforth and L/Cpl. Akers, have done a really tough job in getting these teams started. The difficulties have been tremendous.

The basketball team is having a much better time and is breaking even in its first season in the league. Our new basketball stands, made by Messrs. Siddall

and Hilton Ltd., are the envy of the whole town.  
**Annual Camp in 1960 will be held at Otterburn, Northumberland, from June 5-18.**

### TRAINING

This quarter has been an outstanding one in the annals of the present Battalion from one particular point of view—at last a determined effort has been made to overcome the eternal drawbacks of T.A. training: irregular attendance, scattered companies and the difficulty of maintaining training records. This effort has been forced upon us as one of the many effects of our increase in strength; the task of sorting it out has fallen into the industrious and capable hands of—guess who; of course—the training officer, Major Jimmy Moncrieff. As a result of his efforts we have started a four-Sunday battalion training cadre covering support weapons and the training of potential N.C.O.s, recruits, trained soldiers and other specialists. On these Sundays the unit works on the organisation it will assume in camp next year, which should give us a flying start when we get there next June. Also, a standard unit programme of recruit training and tests is being thrashed out which will greatly improve our drill-night activities and ease the burden of the company commanders.

Accompanying this programme is a new personal record sheet for each man, which should both keep the powers that be informed on his state of training and prevent his being put through the same old lessons time and time again, just because nobody realised that he had already done them.

There are two novelties to note in the training completed since August: firstly we assisted the Huddersfield Civil Defence in an exercise and secondly we are due to go adventure training this month (December). The civil defence exercise was great fun and proved to be most valuable experience in preparation for our C.D. year in 1961. The C.D. were given the task of clearing a blitzed area of slums and requested military assistance. We sent in two platoons, one of 3 x 10 man sections under Lt. McDonald, the other of 2 x 10 man sections under Lt. Mather. The military effort was controlled by Major Woodhouse from a tac. H.Q. set up alongside the C.D. control centre. Although they had little experience in light rescue our men worked extremely well and rescued many "bodies." They worked so hard, in fact, that the exercise finished much sooner than the C.D. organisers had anticipated. We certainly began to realise the value of a disciplined body of men with good communications.

The adventure training, which involves a race down a section of the Pennine Way, will be reported in the next issue of the magazine.

The last quarter of the year is always a busy one for the shooting fraternity. The first big event was the Battalion rifle meeting, held at Strensall on September 5 and 6. The standard of shooting, under ideal conditions, was very high. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Best Individual Rifle Shot.—Cpl. E. Williamson. Score 81 out of 85.

Best Individual L.M.G. Shot.—A tie between

C/Sgt. F. G. Dews, L/Cpl. C. Hollas, Pte. A. Sheehan. Score 104 out of 120.

Best Officer Shot (rifle).—Major H. S. Heaton.

Best Officer Shot (L.M.G.).—Major H. S. Heaton.

Winner, Inter-Company Falling Plate Competition.—"C" Company. Team: Sgt. Spring, L/Cpl. Woodhead, L/Cpl. Atkinson, Pte. Kenyon.

Hard on the heels of this meeting came the Divisional rifle meeting, but, as we did not distinguish ourselves particularly, there is little to say about it.

In the T.A.R.A. decentralised competition, however, we have done much better than last year and our L.M.G. pairs have come second in the Division.

In the Graham and Pott Trophy shoot L/Cpl. Hollas gained the highest individual score, reaching 59 out of 60 points.

The improved results of our shooting this year are in part due to the entirely voluntary efforts of Captain Robertson, who is in this area from the 1st Battalion. He has given the team a lot of his valuable week-end leisure and this has been much appreciated.

On training in general it can be said that we are being primed now for 1961, the civil defence year. The C.O., 2IC, Training Officer and Adjutant have all attended exercises at Area H.Q. on C.D. and now have a very real appreciation of what is involved in military aid to civil defence. One thing we are all trying to put over is that as far as the Infantry is concerned there is no boggy about the requirements of civil defence training in that it only involves extra training in first-aid, light rescue and protection; its other requirements are no different from those of normal infantry training.

### OFFICERS' MESS

The period since annual camp must have been one of the quietest in the history of the mess, there having been no official mess functions during the past four months.

Part of August, the whole of September and practically the whole of October saw many of our officers busy on the ranges. We were fortunate in receiving many words of advice—pearls of wisdom to us—from Captain Sam Robertson on the subject of shooting. We only wish we could "borrow" him for a whole season to direct our efforts into better and more successful channels. We greatly appreciated his efforts on our behalf.

To offset this quiet period we are planning our Christmas party to take place on Friday, December 18—the ever-popular wine, beer and cheese function.

During October the Regimental Association held its annual dinner in St. Paul's Street Drill Hall for the first time and we were extremely pleased to welcome General Kenneth Exham and all other officers present—far too numerous to mention by name, but none the less welcome for that.

We have welcomed as new mess members David Sugden, well known to the 1st Battalion, Edward Dye, our new R.A.P.C. officer, and Ivan Foster, who has been newly commissioned into the T.A. We hope that their stay with us will be a long and happy one.



Captain Henry Crowther has forsaken us for a few weeks on an oft-planned journey to India. Something is bound to happen in the shoddy trade now—one way or another—and it is also rather worrying to note that in the two weeks Henry has been a pukka sahib again relations between India and its neighbours have definitely worsened. We hope Henry is not to blame, but we shall feel happier about it when we see him with us again. He will probably be the only member of the mess with his knees brown!

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the turmoil of the Centenary celebrations life, especially social life, has continued in a much quieter vein.

Things have not, however, come to a standstill. A social evening was held in the Sergeants' Mess at St. Paul's Street on September 12 and all who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. As usual, the attendance was limited by the long distances many of our members must travel to get here and by the fact that most buses stop running just as the party is warming up.

It was impossible to arrange any social activity during October as the Ideal Homes Exhibition took over the main hall for the greater part of that month. We did, however, play host to the O.C.A., who held their annual dinner at St. Paul's Street for the first time on October 3; many old faces were seen on that occasion.

No doubt R.S.M. Randall will silently rejoice to know that his "brain child" has finally come to maturity and a subsidiary sergeants' mess is now in operation at Arden Road T.A.C. to cater for the

large number of members in the Halifax area. To mark the opening of this mess a social evening was held at Arden Road. The guests of honour were Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Gadd; an invitation was extended to all officers and their ladies and a thoroughly good attendance resulted. The whole evening was a resounding success, due in no small part to the efforts of C.S.M. Fitton, C/Sgts. Stringer and Pearce and Sgts. Prince and Booth.

We offer our congratulations on their promotion to the following new mess members: Sgt. Binns (Signals), Sgt. Philpot (Drums) and Sgt. Milnes (Intelligence); may their stay in the mess be long and happy. Also due for congratulation is C.S.M. Arundel (P.S.I.), who recently gained his rank as substantive W.O.2.

Sgt. Pollard, who captains the Halifax Vandals, has had his name put forward to play for the Territorial Army rugby team and we wish him every success.

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

The Company is progressing in satisfactory manner under the guidance of our O.C., Major J. C. K. Young, M.C.

On drill nights the M.T. Section have had intensive teaching in map reading under that experienced I.Sgt.—D. Milnes. Concurrently the Signal section has pounded furiously at morse keys under Captain Hawkins in their little "club-room," the door of course being locked. The result of all this activity was an "H.Q." Company night scheme over November 21/22: after due maintenance on vehicles the drivers had to put their acquired knowledge of map reading to the test and prepare routes



**The Night Exercise**

*Left to right: L/Cpl. Field (on motor-cycle), Captain Hawkins, Sgt. Binn, Sgt. Milnes, Sgt. Ewart*

from a fearsome-looking list of grid references; at 2230 hrs. transport rolled forth from St. Paul's Street into the night (very cold), the event being duly recorded for the Press. At length, after much standing around at check points by Major Young, Sgt. Ewart, Pte. Fields and others, all vehicles returned to the Drill Hall by 0730 hrs. for breakfast. Winners were Ptes. Vernon and Pearson. The exercise was inspired by Sgt. Ewart and worked out by Sgt. Milnes with minor assistance from the I.O. and the R.S.O. Sgt. Binns as usual provided entertainment for the troops whilst carrying out his signal duties. Sgt. Wallace and his cooks kept all ranks well fed.

Under Bandmaster Roberts progress with the band has been good. In addition to their normal duties the dance band has carried out many engagements; these will culminate in the Officers' New Year's Eve ball. The band played at the Huddersfield v. Australians rugby match. All this activity shows that a good standard is being maintained. The drums practise diligently and Cpl. Philpott has now risen into the Sergeants' Mess.

Further congratulations on promotion are due to Sgt. Milnes (I. Sec.), Sgt. Binns (Sigs.), Sgt. Pitchforth and L/Cpl. Hollas (Provost).

The I.O., Captain Curry, is now Battalion shooting officer and visitors to the I. office are left wondering just what exactly does go on inside. There appears to be more paper there than in O.R.Q.M.S. Wood's sanctum below.

We welcome as new M.T.O. Lt. K. McDonald. C.S.M. Woodcock continues to serve us all well. We hope to continue to progress so that we shall be ready for the next Camp.

#### "A" COMPANY

We have had no notes for three issues and, during that time, a change of command at Arden Road. But, now, news must be of the more immediate past.

The most encouraging news is that "A" Company has almost doubled its strength since camp, a feat due entirely to the old adage that a "satisfied customer is the best advertisement".

The Battalion shooting programme has taken care of a number of week-ends since camp and "A" Company was well represented in both the decentralised and Divisional shoots. We also managed a Sunday training, which took the form of a map reading exercise in the Ilkley Moor area. The famous song could almost be rewritten. Owing to an "oversight" the potatoes for lunch were left at the Drill Hall and, owing to either a terrific show of initiative or complete inability to read maps, two members of the party were presumably left on the moor. "On Ilkla' Moor bah't potatoes, bah't soldiers". Naturally we had to have a happy ending: the "missing" were safely home before the main body!

We have been very pleased to welcome the Old Comrades' Association to Arden Road for their weekly meetings and their help in swelling Company funds is more than welcome!

Following a Sergeants' Mess social, a Company social was held, when we welcomed Sgt. Smith's British Railways friends and a good turn-up from

members of the Company. The highlight of the evening was a "rock 'n' roll" competition, which resulted in Pte. Prince dead-heating with a visitor—but looking very pale!

A "Plot" night was held on November 5 and the drill hall was almost in danger, probably owing to our caretaker doing battle against the local trees with a cross-cut.

All in "A" Company are looking forward to the completion of the redecoration of the drill hall. If the proposed plans and colour schemes bear fruit, we should have the finest drill hall in the Battalion.

#### "B" COMPANY

##### ORDER OF BATTLE

O.C.	..	..	..	Major D. R. Siddall, T.D.
2IC	..	..	..	Lt. J. Mallalieu
C.S.M.	..	..	..	W.O.2 A. Arundel
C.Q.M.S.	..	..	..	C/Sgt. A. J. Larnder
				Sgt. L. H. Adams
				Sgt. L. N. Newton

We are still toiling towards our new targets and, as one peak is reached, new heights are laid temptingly before us. When will the C.O. run out of carrots?

We welcome recruits too numerous to mention; our loss to the Services has become smaller now—though if "Dukes" bound we should not mind it increasing a little!

The new Cadet "Wing" under ex-2nd Battalion Sgt. Nichols is doing fine and will provide a steady flow of "Terriers" and Regulars, we hope.

The football team, cunningly strengthened, is beginning to surge up the league. Snooker and billiards enthusiasts have got their table at last.

Meanwhile remember it's "Better with 'B'" and the Lancashire "Dukes" will be on top of the "Brew" when the rest of you are still coming up the hill!

#### "C" COMPANY

Over the brow of the hill comes a faint smoke signal—Thongsbridge is making its first transmission. We do not complain, for we are very comfortable, thank you. Indeed, Caesar might well have winter-quartered here, there being no Trust Houses within easy reach during his day.

Though our numbers are as yet small, our enthusiasm is considerable and our activities various. We have our own miniature range, our own dance hall and our own canteen. The standard of darts, dominoes, cards and snooker is high. Training is not forgotten.

Since our formation is so recent it might be considered presumptuous of us to record that we supplied one of the Battalion M.M.G. teams in the decentralised competition, and almost conceited to boast that we won the falling plates competition at the Battalion rifle meeting in the face of the most impressive competition. Therefore we feel these accomplishments are best left unrecorded: but let us mention *en passant* that Sgt. Spring is a skilful gunner and an accomplished instructor.

So far as other personalities are concerned we are happy to congratulate Ptes. Atkinson and Woodhead on their promotions to lance-corporal. Pte. Thewlis has assumed the duties of R.T. instructor: he is quite the fiercest instructor imaginable—even the

company commander dare not miss his classes. Pte. Bamlett's services to the Company are less spectacular, but equally desirable, for he pulls a handsome beer pump. Pte. Kenyon is no longer a boy, but a man; we cannot see any difference, for he always was a big lad. Pte. Hammond we have rarely seen since he accidentally let slip a disc one Sunday morning at Strensall; perhaps he is still trying to find it.

Recruiting is our main preoccupation at the moment. The natives are very friendly—from a distance. They came down from the hills to join us when we held tribal dances round a bonfire on November 5; they compare with envy their pikes to our rifles at Holmfirth's Armistice Day Parade, but they won't join us.

Did I say they were friendly? I think not. I hear Fort Thongsbridge has been fired upon!

### "D" COMPANY

Largely due to the number of recruits that have joined us, company training during the past few months has been much more interesting. It is now possible to have a trained soldiers' platoon. This is commanded by Lt. Eric Mather, who has the additional task of organising the Battalion basketball team.

Lt. Richard Sharp supervises the recruit training as well as keeping a watchful eye on the activities of the Battalion soccer team.

Once again we have entered a team in the T.A. decentralised .22 rifle competition and we would like to thank Captain Charles Curry, of "H.Q." Company, for the help he has given us in the competition.

Civil defence training has never been a highly popular pastime, but we fully realise the need for it and it must be admitted that much value was gained by all the Company taking part in an exercise with the local Civil Defence early in October. In this exercise we were required to assist in rescue and demolition work; the "Dukes" worked with such enthusiasm that the Civil Defence authorities were rather taken aback and the exercise ended ahead of schedule.

As in past years, "D" Company supplied a contingent of men to take part in the Remembrance Sunday parade to Huddersfield Parish Church. The Company Commander wishes to compliment all ranks on their turnout and bearing on this occasion.

An adventure training week-end is being planned by Battalion H.Q. for December 12 and 13 and a Company team is being entered for this event; Sgt. Laherty is already counting the studs in his boots, and Lt. Sharp is in strict training—or is he?

Finally, from the "Dukes" of "D" Company to "Dukes" wherever they may be we send our best wishes for 1960.

## From the London Gazette

Supplements dated October 6 to December 22, 1959

### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace,  
December 4, 1959.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotion in the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of distinguished service in Malaya for the period January 1 to June 30, 1959.

*To be an additional Commander of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:*

Brigadier (temporary) Gordon Farleigh Upjohn, O.B.E., late Infantry, seconded to The Federation of Malaya Military Forces.

### WAR OFFICE

#### REGULAR ARMY

Major-General K. G. Exham, C.B., D.S.O., retires on retired pay, October 11, 1959.

The undermentioned Lieutenant-Colonels to be Colonels on the dates shown:

M. C. K. Halford, D.S.O., O.B.E., B.A., from Y. & L., February 16, 1959.

P. G. L. Cousins from D.W.R. (Emp. List 1), February 26, 1959.

### INFANTRY

D.W.R.

#### REGULAR ARMY

Lt. David Maurice Pugh from Bedfs. T.A. to be

2 Lt., Oct. 26, 1959, with seniority from March 7, 1959.

Lt.-Colonel J. Davidson to be Supernumerary to Establishment, December 1, 1959.

#### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

Cadet Michael Crook to be 2 Lt., Aug. 15, 1959.

2 Lt. E. Duckney to be Lieutenant, May 3, 1959. The undermentioned Cadets to be 2 Lts., Oct. 10, 1959: Paul Jeremy Davis, Christopher William Norris, Graham Christopher Whiteley Allan, Stephen Francis Bruce Lowe.

#### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

##### Class III

The following to be Lts., retaining present seniority:

Lt. C. R. Green from T.A. Nat. Serv. List, July 6, 1959; Lt. C. Jenkins from A.E. Res. of Offrs., Aug. 18, 1959; Lt. R. H. Carter from T.A. Nat. Serv. List, Nov. 6, 1959; Lt. G. C. Cooper from T.A. Nat. Serv. List, Nov. 6, 1959.

##### Short Service Commission

Lt. H. Kelly from Active List to be Lt., Nov. 17, 1959, retaining his present seniority.

#### ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

##### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2 Lt. G. N. Fawcett from Reg. Army, Nat. Serv. List, to be 2 Lt., Sept. 22, 1959, with seniority May 10, 1958.

2 Lt. M. Ralph from Reg. Army, Nat. Serv. List, to be 2 Lt., Oct. 25, 1959, with seniority June 7, 1958.

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

### CHRISTMAS IN YORKSHIRE

I wonder if we can all remember just how we spent Christmas, 1939? I shivered on the top of "Blue Skies." That was the name of the highest (2,200 ft. above sea level) and most unpleasant of the smoke shafts for the railway tunnels running under the Pennines. We were guarding them against I.R.A. attempts to drop bombs down them. So on this occasion I guarded, and shivered, with "Sailor" Lodge and Dennis Broadbent. And, because we did not spot the then Sgt. "Tich" Honeybell (of 2nd Battalion fame) at about one hundred paces in the wildest, coldest, snowy night I can remember, we were given a lecture about what would have happened to us in India if we had been such sloppy sentries, ending up, for good measure, with a tale about the white-washing of a legendary C.O.'s charger—which Sgt. "Tich" must have thought was good instruction for men of the Potential Officers' Company (W) of 2/7th Battalion, D.W.R. (T.A.).

However, it is not that I really wanted you to remember (nor is it Boxing Night, when Jack Illingworth shot an 'I.R.A. man' and we all had Saddleworth lamb for a week—though that is quite a good story, too.)

No, this fragment to remember concerns an evening in Yorkshire at Christmas, in a village, well-kept, agricultural and prosperous—the village of Hovingham. The local "nabob," Sir William Worsley, was being entertained by the "Dukes" officers. Grim realities, like gas-masks and imprest accounts, and the shadows of Iceland were cast

aside; the port had been passed, toasts drunk; cigars were alight; liqueurs were before the gathering. Everyone paused (perhaps twenty minutes to?). Thoughts of home? What lay in store? A sober second in a world of ruined personal dreams.

Then—"Christians, awake! Salute this Happy Morn!" carolled forth from a hundred voices. A better-timed, better-drilled, better-organised surprise has never, surely, been so enjoyed by any officers' mess. As the curtains in the hotel dining-room were pulled back by the appreciative mess they disclosed the Band, the Company (1/7th) billeted in the village and the squire's own retainers—all quite as much enjoying it as did those officers that Christmas night.

A wonderful piece of organisation and split-second timing. Worthy of the Guards, you say? Well, now, ask mine host of the "King's Head" at Malton. And who is he? Ted Chandler, ex-sergeant of the Coldstream Guards, ex-R.S.M. of the 1/7th D.W.R. and ex-major of the 1/6th.

And his final tale is that, when he came back to apply for his licence to become a landlord, he thought that the Chairman of the Bench looked familiar. Sir William Worsley took one look: "Chandler?"—"Sir." "Carols, Worsley Arms, 1939?"—"Sir." "Licence granted. Next case." And I wonder who in court, other than those two, knew what it was all about.

D.R.S.

### ON THE ABYSSINIAN FRONTIER

I had been sent down in April 1939 for a six months' tour of duty as commandant of the little garrison of fifty-odd which the Eastern Arab Corps of the Sudan Defence Force used to maintain at Gallabat on the border of the Sudan and Abyssinia.

Gallabat was, and almost certainly still is, a scruffy, over-grown village with a not very endearing population of low-grade Sudanese and dubious Abyssinians. Roads are very few in that part of the world and Gallabat's importance lay in the fact that it was the frontier post on the road linking Gedaref, 95 miles away on the railway, with Gondar and the centre of Abyssinia.

The Italians had been quick to sense the importance—comparatively speaking—of this area, and by 1939 they were established in a strongly fortified camp at Metemma, on the other side of the little seasonal river which was the frontier, with a garrison of about 1,200 men. Metemma for them was a crossroads as it also lay on the north-south road which they had built down the frontier; this road, like the other, was only of use in the dry weather before the flood waters of the River Atbara came hurrying past a few miles north to create a natural and insurmountable road block.

I had received a rather vague directive indicating

that I should do my best to maintain and perhaps improve the friendly relations which had been established with the Italians. This was not a very onerous task and there was no shortage of whisky on the far side or of good Chianti (Brolio, for the benefit of the cognoscenti) on my side of the frontier. We would meet for dinner-parties in my house or in one of their two messes about once a week.

There were few other amusements during the rains as one could not get about much and game in that area was scarce. We got down to our Range Courses and I recall that the seed of interest which had been forcibly planted in Malta by the—as it then seemed—impertunate demands of the Rifle Brigade for neutral officers to supervise their competitive efforts, and which had later been fertilised by the enthusiasm of "W.M.O.," bore a really remarkable crop. So remarkable that my acting C.O., a miserable, suspicious Irishman—may he drown in his ill-favoured bog—refused flatly to believe our results. I do hope he reads this by some remote chance.

I also recall the locusts. No one who has not experienced locusts can quite believe that it is possible under nature for a green fertile area to be

reduced to brown nakedness in a matter of hours. Or that the sun can be blacked out more effectively than by an eclipse, so that it becomes impossible to see fifty yards across a small parade ground. Fortunately for the locals, on this occasion, the attack came sufficiently early in the season to permit of re-sowing on a limited scale.

Other diversions included the weekly "Town Ride" (carried out on foot). This consisted of a perambulation through the village, accompanied by the local Sheikh and other dignitaries, to see that everything was in reasonable order—by Gallabat rather than Wellington Barracks standards. The climax of the "Ride" was always the visit to the beer-shops to sample the brews. Anyone can have "merisa" (made with millet, the staple crop) so far as I am concerned, but there was one pub where the girls used to concoct a very reasonable beverage made of a mixture of millet and fermented honey. Not at all bad. [They used to get the prize week after week, to the accompaniment of much "lu-luing," and they even used to hoist a special flag which irritated their rivals quite a bit. Needless to say, the beer-shops provided a further essential social service, but one's writ as Commandant did not cover this aspect of their business, anyway not officially.]

Time and distance are apt to make an uneasy equation. Gedaref to Gallabat represented four hours by car on a rough, rutty road during the dry season. During the rains the road was virtually impassable by M.T. and the mail ambled through once a fortnight on the back of a very tatty camel—tatty because Gallabat was in the fly zone during the wet weather, and no self-respecting camel would go near it. Supplementing the camel mail was the telegraph line which worked unless—as happened not infrequently—a storm caused a tree to collapse on top of it.

Very friendly though Anglo-Italian relations were, it will be understood that the situation did become a trifle tricky during August 1939 and by tacit agreement we met rather less frequently than hitherto. About the middle of August I received a signal ordering me to evacuate my married families by camel and on foot as soon as I could get the animals organised. This, it will be appreciated, was an order which was a great deal easier to issue than to carry out; all the villages for miles around had to be combed for camels—camels which would never have been there had they not been already beyond hope. Eventually we collected the minimum number. Even now I shudder a little when I recall the condition of those miserable beasts—some had not just one but four saddle galls which you could have stuck your fist into in the improbable event of your feeling so inclined. I can make no attempt to describe what the convoy looked like as it set off, but somehow or other it reached journey's end about a week later.

The day after it set off, the Italian O.C. Troops, who was a particular friend, sent word over that he would like to come across for a chat. He arrived with a broad smile on his face.

"You had a busy day yesterday," he said.

"? ? ?"

"I was watching the preparations through field-

glasses. I couldn't make out what state the camels were in, but I don't think you need bother to tell me. Seriously, though, why the flap? I know the news isn't too good but you and I know one another well enough to sort things out amicably even if someone does fire an ill-advised shot one way or the other. We are not, I assure you, preparing to invade you. This war—if there is going to be a war—won't be won on the Gallabat-Metemma front. What I really came over for, however, was to extend an invitation from the Commandant to have dinner with us tomorrow night."

The following night was, I think, August 31. It was, so to speak, a full Guest Night and there must have been nearly 40 Italian officers present. At the end of an excellent dinner the Commandant got up and made a very effective and very moving speech in which he expressed the confident hope that, come what might, Anglo-Italian friendship would prove strong enough to survive in a happier future. He then proposed the toast of His Majesty King George VI. All the officers stood up and the toast was honoured with enthusiasm.

After a suitable pause I got to my own feet. I had never in my life had to do anything comparable even in English—and this had to be in Italian. Somehow I lurched through it, ending with a toast to His Majesty King Victor Emmanuel III. No mention was made of Il Duce by either of us. We then moved outside and sat around a huge fire consuming the odd drink and gossiping. It was an odd feeling as we all thought that we should probably be at war within the week. I myself had the sensation that I had moved back a couple of centuries to a more chivalrous age, and vague recollections of what I had once read about the battle of Fontenoy passed through my mind. Eventually I felt it was time to go and I did my best to make my departure as matter-of-fact and undramatic as the circumstances permitted. We agreed quietly before I left that this would be our last encounter until the air cleared one way or the other.

In the event, of course, nothing did happen at that juncture and within a short time we were meeting again on much the same terms as before—albeit with a slight feeling of anti-climax. I subsequently spent ten days around New Year in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, as the guest of my Italian opposite number, and found the greatest friendliness on all sides, coupled with any amount of wishful thinking about Italy not necessarily having to come in; political and personal considerations apart, they were far too busy trying to consolidate to view with anything but horror the prospect of a major war. Six months later, however, the die was cast and friends became enemies overnight. It would have taken a very much more single-minded soldier than myself to have contemplated with anything but acute distaste the possibility of such a war, but that is an occupational hazard of the profession. All things have an end, however, and it is pleasant now to look back and to feel that the Italian Commandant's hopes for the future were, after many years and much tribulation, to be fully justified. P.G.L.C.

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