

No.119 January 1961



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 Suwla
Afghanistan 1919
North-West Europe
1940, 1944-45
Dunkirk 1940
St. Valery-en-Caux
Fontena, -le-Pesnil
Djeboul Bou Aoukaz 1943
Anzio
Monte Ceco
Burma 1942, '43, '44
Sittang 1942
Chindits 1944
The Hook 1953
Korea 1952-53

Vol. XXXVII

JANUARY 1961

No. 119

BUSINESS NOTES

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LOCATION LIST OF SERVING OFFICERS

As at January 1, 1961.

Major-General

BRAY, R. N. H. C., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. Land Forces, Arabian Peninsula (to be G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, June 1961).

Brigadiers

BUNBURY, F. R. St. P., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.A.G., H.Q., BAOR.

Colonels

LAING, G., C.B.E. (T/Brig.), D. Comd. S.W. Dist.
UPJOHN, G. F. C.B.E. (T/Brig.), Provost Marshal of England, The War Office.
COUSENS, P. G. L., M.A., Rome.

Lieutenant-Colonels

BEUTTLER, L. B. B., O.B.E. (T/Colonel), A.A.G. (Recruiting), H.Q., Southern Command.
DAVIDSON, J., A.A. and Q.M.G., H.Q., East Africa, Command.
MORAN, P. P. DE LA H., G.S.I.1 (Plans), B.F.A.P.
FIRTH, A. D., M.B.E., M.C., C.O. 1st D.W.R.

Majors

GRIEVE, C. F., C.I., A.P.T.S., Aldershot.
JONES-STAMP, D. S. D. B., D.A.A.G., The Yorkshire Brigade.
INCE, R. H., G.S.O.2, H.Q. No. 2 Bde., Royal Nigerian Army.
HALL, P. B., D.A.Q.M.G., Mid West District, Shrewsbury.
SIMONDS, D., D.A.A.G. (P.S.), H.Q. Southern Command. To retire February 1961.
KAVANAGH, A. B. M., M.C. (T/Lt.-Col.), Comdg. 3rd Queen's Own Nigerian Regiment.
LE MESSURIER, H. S., 2nd in Comd., 1st D.W.R.
MILLIGAN, J. S., 1st D.W.R.
NICHOLSON, R. W., Dept. of M.G.O.
KILNER, B. M., T.D., D.A.Q.M.G. (Ops. and Maint.), H.Q., East Africa Command.
TEDD, G. C. For D.A.A.G. (M.P.A.), G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F.
DUNN, S. G., 5th Battalion Royal Malay Regiment. For 1st D.W.R.
STREATFIELD, J. L., M.C., G.S.O.2, A.P.I.U., Singapore. To retire October 1961.
BROWN, K. W., D.A.A.G., H.Q., Salisbury Plain District.
ISLES, D. E., 1st D.W.R.
ROBERTSON, W. F. C., 1st D.W.R.

Captains

Wood, D. H., 1st D.W.R.
BLAKEY, W., 1st D.W.R.
HARDY, E. M. P., R.M.C.S., Shrivenham.
SHUTTLEWORTH, D. W. For G.S.O.2 (S.D.), H.Q., Northern Command.
COWELL, J. D. P., 1st D.W.R.
HARMS, R. M., M.C. For Staff College, Camberley.
HOPPE, P. B. L., 1st D.W.R.
NAUGHTON, J. N. H., Adj., 5/7th D.W.R. (T.A.). For 1st D.W.R.

STACPOOLE, H. A. J. W., M.C., 1 year unpaid leave.
NEWTON, J. M. The Brigade Depot.
HUXTABLE, C. R., Adj., 1st D.W.R. For Sigs. Wing, School of Infantry.
DASENT, E. J. H., Adj., The Brigade Depot. For 1st D.W.R.
MILLER, C. D. D'E., Instructor, Mons O.C.S.
MITCHELL, P.A., S.C. "A," Aldershot District.
GILBERT-SMITH, D.S., 1st D.W.R. For S.A.S.
CAMPBELL-LAMERTON, M.J., 1st D.W.R. For Adj. 5/7th D.W.R. (T.A.).
BERRY, S.A., Adj., 6th K.A.R.
PELL, J. E., 1st D.W.R., Att. Bde Depot.
SOUTHERST, R. G., 1st D.W.R.
LUPTON, T. D., 1st D.W.R.

Lieutenants

CUMBERLEGE, J. R. P., 1st D.W.R. (Adj.)
GREENWAY, J. B. K., 1st D.W.R. For A.D.C., G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command.
HUFFAM, R., Instructor, M.D.C. Milom.
STEVENS, R. L., 1st D.W.R.
BRAY, M. R. N., A.D.C. to G.O.C. Land Forces, Arabian Peninsula.
MARSAY, D., 1st D.W.R.
PUGH, D. M., 1st D.W.R.
CHARLESWORTH, W. F., 1st D.W.R.
CUMBERLEGE, C. R., 1st D.W.R.
MUNDELL, W. R., 1st D.W.R.
SUMMERS, M. W., 1st D.W.R.

Second-Lieutenants

BELLAMY, G. R., R.M.C.S., Shrivenham.
STACPOOLE, M. G. L. M., 1st D.W.R.
CAMPBELL-LAMERTON, R. D., 1st D.W.R.

Quartermasters

JACKSON, N. (Major), S.C. (Q) Maint. H.Q., Mid-West District, Shrewsbury.
PARR, A. (Capt.), Camp Comdt., H.Q., N.W. District.
KENCHINGTON, C. C., M.B.E. (Capt.), 5/7th D.W.R. (T.A.)
CALLABY, R., M.M., (Lt.), 1st D.W.R.

EXTENDED AND SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Lieutenants

IVEY, C. W., 1st D.W.R.
EVERARD, R. C., 1st D.W.R.

Second-Lieutenants

MCCALLUM, M. C. 6th K.A.R.

Quartermasters

DAWSON, B. (Lt.), 1st D.W.R.

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS

BARDSLEY, P. A. B., 1st D.W.R.
WALKER, J. D., 1st D.W.R.
REID, I. P., 1st D.W.R.
JONES, A. C., 1st D.W.R.
MACASKILL, J. M., 1st D.W.R.



AT THE OCA DINNER

The Colonel of the Regiment and General Ozanne with (left to right) In-Pensioners "Billy" Banks, Fred Bridge, Fred Stephenson and Bill Simmonds.

From the Colonel of the Regiment

The 1st Battalion are safely back from Kenya and have returned to their new barracks in Colchester. They have done very well indeed under rough-and-ready conditions and after a very hurried departure which was a real test of their organisation and ability to move quickly. We wish them the very best of luck in the Army Cup this season when they will again be captained by Captain Gilbert Smith.

Many readers will have read about the War Office plans for the re-organisation of the Territorial Army and this affects the Regiment in a very special way. 382 Medium Regiment (D.W.R.) T.A., which was formed from the old 4th and 6th Territorial battalions, is to be amalgamated with our existing 5/7th D.W.R. (T.A.). The new battalion will cover areas of all our old Territorial battalions and will preserve and carry on their traditions. We are indeed sorry that 382 Medium Regiment must lo-

se its identity as Gunners, but we extend to Lt.-Colonel Wharry and all ranks of his Regiment a very warm welcome back into the Regimental family. This link with them and Halifax has, of course, never been broken and I feel I must mention how much we owe to Lt.-Colonel Simpson, who has commanded for the past four years, and to Colonel Bentley, now Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

After consultation with the Honorary Colonels and Commanding Officers I have submitted a recommendation that the title of the new Battalion shall be "The West Riding Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment."

Colonel Howcroft has agreed to continue for another year as Honorary Colonel of the new battalion and Lt.-Colonel Gadd will also do a further year as Commanding Officer. Colonel Bentley becomes Honorary Colonel in waiting. The West Riding Battalion is therefore assured of

the best possible start and it will have the good wishes of the whole Regiment.

The last call-up of young men for National Service is a reminder of the vital importance of our recruiting to maintain the 1st Battalion at an effective strength and secure the future of the Regiment.

To do this we must get about 250 recruits a year to be safe. In 1958 we got 93 and in 1959 101. Half way through 1959 we improved our recruiting organisation and this year we have 91 in the first eight months. This is a good effort in a year when Army recruiting as a whole has fallen off, but it is not nearly enough.

We intend to make a special effort in 1961 and our main activities will be built up round the visit of the 1st Battalion to the West Riding next June. This should provide a special stimulus and the opportunity for the Regiment to show itself throughout our recruiting area.

But the real success of any recruiting drive must ultimately depend on the soldier himself and whether he enjoys his life in the Regiment. I therefore ask all serving readers who are enjoying their soldiering to make a special effort this year to get a friend to join up.

The Old Comrades, too, have an important part to play, particularly by the influence they exert through the many branches of the Regimental Association. I ask them to do everything to help

encourage young men of the type we need to join up in the "Dukes."

THE IRON DUKE appeal can already be judged a success and the generous support we have received from so many readers is most gratifying and shows how much our Journal counts in the life of the Regiment. We have set ourselves the target of £350 to clear past debts and to place the magazine on a sound footing for 1961 and £307 of this has already been subscribed. I have no doubt that we shall reach and eventually exceed this target. There is also the more important and difficult task of increasing annual income by £250 per annum and we have achieved £110 towards this.

Support has been generous and widespread throughout the Regiment but, nevertheless, out of 70 serving Officers 36 have yet to subscribe, and out of the 266 retired Officers who are on our books, we have only received 86 subscriptions. I am quite sure that all these intend to help but time is slipping by and so I remind them of the old exhortation: "He gives twice who gives quickly."

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members of the Regiment past and present.

K. G. Exham

NEWS and NOTES

On behalf of all ranks we congratulate Major-General Bobby Bray on being nominated as the next C.-in-C., Southern Command. Like C.S.M. Norman (page 21), General Bray was "Always a Duke"; we have a snapshot of him, aged two or three, which would be our first choice for a series we sometimes contemplate depicting "Dukes" before they became distinguished. General Bray does not take up his appointment until next June but it is not too early to wish him every success. He has chosen Lt. John Greenway to be his A.D.C.

The phrase "Once a Duke always a Duke" seems, in the parlance of today (or was it yesterday?) to have caught on in a big way with all ranks. We do not remember it being current in our youth and wonder when it originated.

We found it recently in a back number of THE IRON DUKE. In March 1944 the B.B.C. broadcast in their General Overseas Service, under the title of "Regimental Salute," a history of the Regiment. The narrator ended with these words: "and now to all members of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment serving overseas we bring you this message from your Colonel, Colonel C. J. Pickering, C.M.G., D.S.O."

Towards the end of Colonel Pickering's address occurred the following: "To those who are serving

in units which have discarded the rifle for other weapons I would say, 'once a Duke always a Duke.'" Was Colonel Pickering the author of the phrase?

Colonel G. B. Howcroft, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., J.P., Honorary Colonel of the 5/7th Battalion, has accepted the invitation of the Colonel of the Regiment to become a member of the Regimental Council.

Sir William Fenton has been elected chairman of the East and West Ridings regional council of the Federation of British Industries in succession to Mr. Geoffrey Hirst, M.P. for Shipley. Sir William is chairman of the Cleckheaton company of British Belting & Asbestos Ltd.

Brigadier George Laing writes:

"On September 17, 1960, I represented the Colonel of the Regiment, and the Regiment, at a pageant and display given by 8 (Alma) Field Battery R.A. to commemorate the 106th anniversary of the Battle of the Alma which was fought on Wednesday, September 20, 1854. The display took place in the Royal Citadel, Plymouth, and the salute was taken by Lt.-Gen. Brian Kimmins, K.B.E., C.B.,

representative Colonel Commandant Royal Artillery for 1960.

The proceedings started with the playing, by the Royal Artillery (Plymouth) Band, of the regimental marches of all the regiments who were awarded the battle honour "Alma." Only a few of these regiments were represented there in person.

The pageant consisted of a display of soldiers wearing various uniforms depicting that period and a Russian gun which was captured by the 23rd Regiment, now The Royal Welch Fusiliers, was handed over for permanent custody to No. 8 Alma Battery. An excellent musical drive, alleged to be the first by 3-ton trucks, followed and reached a high standard in its precision.

Ex-Sgt. Arthur Henry Hickie was admitted to the Royal Hospital as an In-Pensioner on October 3, 1960. He is aged 73 years.

Sgt. Hickie enlisted into the Regiment on February 29, 1904, and was posted to Halifax. After four months at the Depot he was posted to Strensall to join the 1st Battalion which, after four weeks' battalion training, marched back to York—to Fulford Barracks. At York Hickie took a great interest in physical training and became a junior instructor.

When the 1st Battalion went to India in October 1905 Hickie had to stay behind as he was under 20 years of age. He joined the 2nd Battalion when they came home. However, on September 20, 1907, he sailed for India and rejoined the 1st Battalion, then at Sitapur.

In 1917 Hickie was transferred along with many others into the 9th Battalion Warwickshire Regiment with whom he served in Mesopotamia. After the 1st World War Hickie was prevailed upon to serve on in the Warwicks. He became their P.T. instructor but after an accident in the gym, which caused a bad rupture, he was discharged in 1921 from Netley Hospital.

On June 8, 1939, Hickie re-enlisted into the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as an over 45 years man and spent four years as a traffic policeman with R. Warwicks and as a C.M.P. Blue Cap with 28th Armoured Brigade. He was finally discharged in 1943.

We now have six "ex-Dukes" at Chelsea, including Mr. Billy Banks who soldiered with Mr. Hickie and was at the Durbar with him.

The article "Air Move to Kenya" in the last issue attracted quite a little attention. The *Halifax Courier* commented on it most kindly, saying that it drew admiration even from "a professional." It did cause the *Courier* to raise "our professional eyebrow" at the remark attributed to the chief clerk, "Sir, there's a flood of reporters outside and a gentleman from *The Times*."

Our blue pencil had hovered over these lines but we had concluded that our other contemporaries would not take them too seriously. However, perhaps Novice Stacpoole—for we suspect that the remark was thought up by the author—should do a special penance for the impertinence.

(Continued on page 6)

"THE IRON DUKE" APPEAL Second List. Subscribers up to December 5, 1960

Lt.-Col. C. R. G. Acworth, Col. F. R. Armitage, O.B.E.

Mr. R. H. Bennett, Capt. R. Bolton, M.C., Maj. R. Booth-Scott, Lt.-Col. E. C. Boutflower, O.B.E.

Lt.-Col. J. Chatterton, M.C., Mr. B. A. Clarke, Lt.-Col. R. G. Collins, M.B.E., Maj. H. Coop, T.D., Mrs. A. M. Crofton, Mr. M. Curran.

Major J. H. Davis, Maj. H. Dixon, O.B.E.

Maj. E. J. P. Emmett, M.C.

Lt.-Col. F. R. Gadd, E.R.D., T.D., Brig. C. W. G. Grimley, M.C.

Mr. J. Hammond, Capt. R. Handyside, Mrs. E. Hanna, Mr. L. Harris, Col. H. Harvey, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Capt. R. A. Hawkins, Mr. J. Hayes, M.A., Lt.-Col. W. E. Horsley.

R.Q.M.S. J. Imray, Lt.-Col. C. W. G. Ince, O.B.E., M.C., Mr. C. Ivey.

Maj. R. F. Jenkins, M.B.E.

Major L. F. H. Kershaw, D.S.O., T.D.

Brig. G. Laing, C.B.E., Maj. F. J. Lauder, Lt.-Col. R. C. Laurence, O.B.E., T.D., Maj. T. V. Laverack, M.B.E., M.M., Capt. H. J. Lawson, Maj. J. A. Lennon, D.S.O., M.C., Major J. G. Lepper, Mr. J. Lobanov-Rostovsky, Brig. C. H. E. Lowther, C.B.E., M.C.

Mr. R. F. Messervy, Brig. H. G. P. Miles, Maj. J. C. Moncreiff, T.D., Mr. and Mrs. W. Musgrove-Wood.

Capt. J. N. H. Naughton, Col. G. P. Norton, C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D., D.L.

Brig. C. W. B. Orr, O.B.E., Maj. R. H. W. Owen, Maj.-Gen. W. M. Ozanne, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.

Mr. L. Passman, Capt. J. E. Pell, Maj. J. E. Pollard, Lt.-Col. O. Price.

Mr. G. A. Reddington, Mr. M. J. Reddington, Maj. D. C. Roberts, Brig. E. W. Rogers, C.I.E.

Capt. D. W. Shuttleworth, Maj. D. R. Siddall, T.D., Lt.-Col. W. Skelsey, M.B.E., Capt. R. A. Smith, Lt.-Col. D. J. Stewart, Col. E. W. Stevens, M.B.E., Maj. J. K. Sugden, T.D., R.A.M.C., Maj. R. E. Sugden, Capt. L. Sykes.

Maj. H. C. H. Taylor, O.B.E.

Brig. B. W. Webb-Carter, D.S.O., O.B.E., Mr. B. C. Wood.

In addition to the above individual donors and subscribers, we have received donations from the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes of the 1st Battalion and from the officers of the 5/7th Battalion.

Lt. Colonel D. J. J. Stewart devoted his entire evening at the O.C.A. Annual Dinner in Huddersfield to running a draw, with a handsome silver cigarette box as first prize, a weight-guessing competition (of the Depot statuette of the Iron Duke in red Cellophane to denote our financial plight) and the sale of back numbers, regimental histories, brochures, old Christmas cards and other treasures from R.H.Q. storerooms. This enterprise produced £39 7s. 0d.—a noble effort.

S/Sgt. Imray, in Malaya, sent a gold and enamel regimental brooch to be sold or raffled for the fund. We have not yet decided how to make best use of this most generous gift.

The Regiment's relations with the Yorkshire Press are, it is good to report, probably closer and better than they have ever been before. As reported in the 1st Battalion Notes Mr. George Beddoe of the *Courier* and Mr. Alec Donaldson of the *Yorkshire Post* spent a fortnight with the unit in Kenya. This excellent innovation resulted in some most interesting and entertaining reports in their papers and we are only sorry that we have not the space to reproduce them. It was slow of us not to ask them for a special article for *THE IRON DUKE*; perhaps the next issue would not be too late for this.

Major Savory tells us that he has embarked on rewriting the history of the 33rd during the Seven Years War. During most of it they were in Germany—a sort of 18th-century edition of a forgotten army—and traversed much of the ground covered by the 1st Battalion during their last stay in that country.

A new effort is being made to obtain for those N.C.O.s and men who were awarded the Military Medal during the 1914-18 War the financial benefits which were given to men who gained the medal after 1939.

All Military Medallists of the 1914-18 War should write to the Hon. Secretary, Military Medallists' League, The Chevrons Club, 3-5 Dorset Square, N.W.1. A stamped, addressed envelope should be included.

Mr. Code has asked for the following to be inserted: Information is sought concerning the army service in the Duke's of No. 27005 Pte. Edward Walmsley Denison from January 31, 1913 to June 29, 1917, when he may have been discharged as medically unfit. He went to Australia after discharge and is believed to have served for some months with the A.M.F. in 1942.

Will anyone who can confirm Mr. Denison's service with D.W.R. please communicate with the General Secretary, The Regimental Association, Wellesley Barracks, Halifax. The information is required for confirmation of service in the "Dukes" and for no other reason. Many 1914-20 records were destroyed by enemy action in 1940 and Mr. Denison's record cannot be traced.

Addresses

The Colonel of the Regiment, General Exham finds that the addition of "Near Welshpool" to his address only causes delay. Letters to him should therefore be addressed simply to "Farm House, Berriew, Montgomeryshire."

As it was felt that the designation of Major Davis as "R.O.II, R.H.Q." was an uncouth conglomeration of letters, it has been decided that, on Regimental matters, he should be addressed as "The Regimental Secretary."

The editor's new address is:

Colonel R. G. Turner,
12a Madingley Road,
Cambridge.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE— Supplements dated September 2 to November 4, 1960 INFANTRY

D.W.R.

REGULAR ARMY

Lt.-Col. P. P. de la H. Moran to be Supernumerary to Establishment, 14th Sept., 1960.

Short Service Commissions

2nd Lt. R. C. Everard to be Lt., 19th Sept., 1960.

Cadet Malcolm Cass McCallum to be 2nd Lt., 13th Aug. 1960. (Direct Entry.)

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Maj. F. J. Lauder having exceeded the age limit, ceases to belong to the Res. of Offrs., 5th Oct. 1960.

(Note. There has been a breakdown in the supply of Gazettes. It is hoped that normal service will be resumed shortly.)

A successful Regimental cocktail party—sorry, reception—was held at the Hyde Park Hotel on December 14. We were very pleased to welcome Major Iain Macleod, M.P., more widely known as the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mrs. Macleod.

On December 18 a parade and service in Halifax Parish Church were held to mark the passing of 382 Medium Regiment R.A. (D.W.R.) T.A. as an artillery unit and in commemoration of the men of 58 and 68 A. Tk. Regiments R.A. (D.W.R.) T.A. who laid down their lives in the war of 1939-45.

In Kenya the Battalion carried out two exercises in the Thompson's Falls area. On each occasion Battalion H.Q. was sited on a landing ground belonging to an old "Duke," Captain Louis Sykes. Captain Sykes, who is in his 80th year, left the Army and went to Kenya in 1919. The C.O. sent us a most interesting letter he had received from Captain Sykes recounting his ups and downs as a farmer up to the present troubled and uncertain times. We are very sorry that we are unable to reproduce it in full.

Awards

Among the awards in the New Year Honours List were those of the C.B.E. to Colonel C. Nixon, the Brigade Colonel, and the M.B.E. to Major J. E. Driver, late of the 5/7th Battalion, who is the Regiment's honorary solicitor.

THE ARMY RUGGER CUP

Progress to date:

4th round—1 D.W.R. beat 6 (Vehicle) Training Battalion, R.E.M.E., at Bordon, 34—3.

5th round—1 D.W.R. beat 1 R.W.F., at Colchester, 6—0.

6th round (U.K. semi-final)—1 D.W.R. beat The Welch Regiment, at Colchester, 11—0.

We are informed that the U.K. final is to be played at Aldershot on February 8 and will be against the 8th Training Regt., Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, who are old opponents. The Army final is due to be played, also at Aldershot, on Wednesday, March 8.

There have been a number of new postings among the officers of the Regiment and a revised location list is included in this number. Among the new postings is that of Major Graham Tedd to G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F. in Singapore. We hear from him that he and his family are going to live "at a place called Tanglin Hill"; some of the old 2nd Battalion will envy him.

Book Review

In *THE IRON DUKE's* spacious days it always gave us a page or more of book reviews. Now, we have not the pages—nor a "Middlebrow" to write the reviews. We have contemplated an occasional short notice to draw attention to a book likely to be of interest to readers but not widely known. So far we have not even found room for this.

For the first time in our editorial life, however, we have been sent a review copy of a book by its publishers. We are happy to recommend "The Two Types" by JON with a foreword by Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis (Ernest Benn Ltd., 5s.). This is a collection of the cartoons which first appeared in "The 8th Army News." Later in the war they reached a wide and appreciative public and many of you will remember the Two (fiercely mustachioed) Types with their sublime disregard for the dress regulations for officers, their addiction to "Demon Vino" and, when they had advanced into Italy, their nostalgia for the sand of the desert and the bints of Cairo. They have weathered the years well and as Lord Alexander writes "for all their absurd appearance they were grand fellows . . . (and) deserve to be remembered and honoured."

THE ROYAL MERCHANT NAVY SCHOOL

The Royal Merchant Navy School, Bear Wood, Wokingham, is now open to sons of serving members of any of the Armed Forces. It occupies the mansion and park known as Bear Wood in Berkshire, three miles from Wokingham and six from Reading. Its grounds of nearly 500 acres provide many playing fields, a lake for bathing and boating, and a home farm. The pupils live in the mansion, to which new classrooms, laboratories and workshop have been added since 1948. The school has its own chapel (C. of E.) and Nuffield Sanatorium (1954).

The school, hitherto co-educational, has always had many more boys than girls. The Governors recently decided that no further girls are to be accepted; when the present girl pupils have left, in about three years, the school will be solely for boys.

Boys enter usually between the ages of 11 and 13 and remain at least until the age of 16, those suitable for advanced work remaining until 18. The school is recognised as efficient by the Ministry of Education. The complement is 240 boys (though it is hoped to increase this to 300).

The fees to sons of serving members of the Armed Forces are £270 per annum. Service grants are available.

For further information apply Headmaster.

THE BRIGADE COLONEL



Photo: Michael B. Wildgoose, Hull

Colonel C. Nixon, C.B.E.

Colonel Nixon was born in Johannesburg on May 8, 1914. He went to Sandhurst in September 1932 and was commissioned into The East Yorkshire Regiment in February 1934.

He served with their 1st Battalion in India from 1935 to 1938. He then served in East Africa with the King's African Rifles and the Somaliland Camel Corps until 1941. He was promoted to captain in August 1940 and appointed adjutant in December. After a year as adjutant of the East African O.C.T.U. he went to the Quetta Staff College. From there he went as Brigade Major to 31 Infantry Brigade. In March 1944 he became 2IC of 16 (K) K.A.R., commanding 2 Nyasaland Battalion from February to November 1945. From 1946 to 1948 he worked at the Colonial Office. In August 1948 he was posted to 1 East Yorks in Austria, becoming 2IC in January 1950. He instructed at the S.O.S. in October 1951.

In August 1953 he assumed command of 4 East Yorks (T.A.) in Hull. From August 1956 he was G.S.O.1 (Training) at Eastern Command until he was promoted colonel and appointed to command the garrison in Aden Colony in September 1958. In July 1960 he arrived at Strensall to assume the appointment of Brigade Colonel.

He was married in Kenya in 1941 and was awarded the M.B.E. in 1945. His interests are fishing and shooting.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

In early September we went to Wombwell to collect a drum presented by Mrs. Randerson. It bears the arms of George III but one cannot really be sure whether an electoral bonnet or royal crown ensigns the Hanover escutcheon. The change took place in 1816, not that it matters much as the drum is obviously older and previous painting underneath can be seen in places.

Mrs. Randerson's great grandfather was called Helliwell and, according to family tradition, loved

to talk of his share in the battle of Waterloo while carrying his drum in the 33rd of Foot.

Our Waterloo roll shows that Drummer J. Hellawell was severely wounded in the battle. One wonders how he acquired the drum as it is much too large easily to be concealed. At present the drum is still at Potters, whose experts are trying to date it and if possible give more information than we already known from hearsay.

Our next item of interest is that R.H.Q. will probably have to leave the mess building and move down to the old museum block. The scheme, known locally as the "Cumberlege plan," may well be completed before next Christmas.

As a long-term project it is much better than holding on to the mess building which is obviously too big and where, who knows?, we might one day find ourselves in splendid isolation in the middle of a prison without bars. The architect's plans for the new H.Q. show the barrack wall in that corner shorn off about 2 feet above ground and the old coal yard converted into a grassy arbour with flowering shrubs. Our boards showing the succession of Colonels and C.O.s, Adjutants and R.S.M.s of the 33rd and LXXVI can be fitted into what used to be the museum block and which we intend to use as a conference room. The lower part of the block, once a barrack room, will be converted into offices.

On his return from his visit to the 1st Battalion in Kenya, George Beddoe (chief reporter of the *Halifax Courier*) gave a talk in Webster's Cafe. He was amusing about the taciturnity of the soldiers and their reluctance to admit, at any time, that they are having a good time. All this he, of course, knows well and expects but even he was slightly taken aback by the soldier in the comfort of the leave camp near Mombasa who said, and meant it, that he would rather be in Pudsey.

Among our visitors was the new G.O.C. of North Midland Area, Major-General Birkbeck. As a change from looking at semi-deserted barracks we decided to show him the Regimental Museum. Like so many ideas it was only a qualified success: the General appeared to enjoy seeing the museum but obviously left with a suspicion that some nefarious activity was taking place in the barracks that we were trying to conceal. Illicit brewing perhaps, or something like that?

We must finish our notes on a sad note as we have to report the death of Bill Brenchley. An obituary notice appears elsewhere. The funeral service took place in the Regimental Chapel, a representative party from the Grenadier Guards Old Comrades Association and a large number of friends and acquaintances from the Brenchley's Halifax days were present. On November 14, in accordance with his wishes, his ashes were scattered on the lawn in front of the officers' mess.

All Saints' Day Service

A service was held in the Regimental Chapel in York Minster on November 1 (All Saints' Day), 1960. The service was taken by The Dean, The Very Rev. Dr. E. Milner-White, C.B.E., D.S.O., and the lesson was read by the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Dean in his address welcomed the Regiment to the Minster and said that it was the first time, at any rate during his tenure of office, that such a service had been held for the Regiment.

There was a good congregation of 50 or so inside the Chapel and approximately 75 in the aisle immediately to the west.

After the service a cocktail party, to which the Dean, his Chamberlain and the Brigade Colonel had been invited, was held in the Officers' Mess of The Yorkshire Brigade Depot. A party was also held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Lord Savile, the Chairman of the Chapel Committee, was unable to attend the service, owing to the Opening of Parliament. It is intended to hold a similar service in the Minster annually, on or about November 1.

Amongst those present at the service and at the parties afterwards were:—

Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. K. G. Exham, Col. Nixon (Brigade Colonel, Yorkshire Brigade), Col. and Mrs. G. Taylor, Col. and Mrs. Wathen, Col. and Mrs. Cumberlege, Col. and Mrs. Waller, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Gadd, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. D. Stewart, Major and Mrs. Wellesley, Mrs. Akroyd, Miss Sugden, Major and Mrs. Roberts, Miss Roberts, Major and Mrs. Davis, Major Jones-Stamp, Major Emmett, Major Blakey, Capt. Dasent, Capt. and Mrs. Newton, Capt. (Q.M.) Kenchington, Lt. Everard, Lt. Lowe, Major L. Wardle and two Cadets, Giggleswick School C.C.F., Lt. P. Mortimer and two Cadets, Heckmondwike Grammar School, two Cadets, Rishworth School, Rev. and Mrs. Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. McMahon, Mr. and Mrs. Code, Mr. Dent, Mr. J. Jackson, Mr. Newby, R.S.M. Frier, 5/7th D.W.R., 11 W.O.s and Sergeants, 12 Junior Soldiers and 62 Recruits from the Brigade Depot.

THE YORKSHIRE BRIGADE DEPOT

The period July to December 1960 has been for the Brigade Depot, and Training Company in particular, a period of non-stop activity. The large National Service intakes have stretched our training facilities to the utmost. In addition, the move of the 1st D.W.R. to Kenya left us with the problem of holding and employing some 150 soldiers who had just finished their recruit training. Accommodation and training were found to be beyond the scope of the small rear party in Colchester. N.C.O.s were hastily collected and borrowed from every available source and Captain Pell was dragged back from leave to keep them amused. This he succeeded in doing with the assistance of 2 Lts. Jones and Walker from Mons and Lt. Garnett on loan from the Green Howards. They did most of their training on the moors at Fylingdales and Otterburn. Also with this party were C/Sgt. Bryan, Sgts. Fee and Wild, the latter straight from the 5th/7th, Cpls. Cairns, Howard, Anderson and Booth. L/Cpl. Booth who had just finished his recruit training was, prior to enlistment, a sergeant in the 5th/7th.

Company Headquarters have retained the same team—Major J. A. Davies, the Green Howards, as Company Commander assisted by Captain Newton and C.S.M. Webb. The Continuation Training Wing will cease to exist on the return of 1st D.W.R. from Kenya, but Captain Pell will remain for six months as Brigade Recruiting Officer. The Training Company Permanent Staff will welcome the run-down of the Company to its normal size during the New Year. It was designed to train one hundred recruits and during most of the last six months has had a strength of about five hundred—a figure that would satisfy many battalion commanders.

One of our last N.S. passing-out parades (we thought at the time that it would be the largest) took place on September 15. The salute was taken by the new G.O.C.-in-C., General Sir Michael West. Those of us who knew him in Korea were not surprised that his address to the recruits and their parents was not of the conventional kind. The burden of his talk was that a regular soldier should set out to enjoy himself, the corollary being that a happy unit or army is also a good one. Afterwards he walked round and talked to many of the parents. The Champion Platoon was Paardeberg (Sgt. Morris) and the Best Recruit and Best Shot on the S.L.R. was Pte. B. A. Glew of Hull. Pte. C. R. Whitehead of Leeds was the Best L.M.G. Shot.

A smaller passing-out parade of only two platoons mainly of York and Lancaster recruits was held on October 13. Lt.-Colonel Nicholson, Commanding the Hallamshire Battalion, took the salute and spoke to every recruit. The shield was won this time by Delhi Platoon (Sgt. Delaney).

On September 28 and 29 we entered a team in the York and North Midland Rifle Meeting. The team

consisted of Sgt. Holliday, Cpls. Barnett and Atkinson, L/Cpl. Booth, Ptes. Glew, Lumley, Rawson, Noon, Suddards, Herberts, Butterfield, Hurst and Thompson. The results were gratifying—Ptes. Rawson and Thompson were first in the L.M.G. pairs, Pte. Lumley third in Class C. Sgt. Holliday, Lumley and Herberts all qualified for the "Best 24."

A recruits' boxing competition has been held for each intake. The prizes were presented by the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel Bade, the Brigade Colonel—Colonel Nixon and the Chief of Staff, Major-General Sheppard. These boxing evenings have been made the occasion for inviting a number of civilian guests and officers of Northern Command.

The next large passing-out parade will be on December 13 when General Sheppard will take the salute. There will be seven platoons on parade—the biggest we have yet held. After that we start the usual Christmas festivities, Officers v. Sergeants football match, Children's Party and Troops' Christmas Dinner on the 21st. After that we break-up for Christmas and look forward to a Prosperous All-Regular 1961.

"H.Q." COMPANY

"H.Q." Company at a Brigade Depot is neither exciting nor glamorous. It does not indulge in exciting ceremonial parades or win District athletic meetings. It is therefore difficult to write about, but we cook and type and shovel coal and count blankets as well as any headquarter company in the land.

JUNIOR SOLDIERS' WING

The Boys have had a very successful six months. The Band and Drums under Bandmaster Crowcroft and Drum-Major Smelt have played at all our passing-out parades and for many outside engagements. Their retreat beating at the Game Fair at Castle Howard received very favourable comment from a highly critical audience. In our last notes we mentioned that the Boys were competing in the Northern Command Boys' Athletic Meeting at Harrogate. This we won, with the Light Infantry Brigade second and the Lancastrian Brigade third; our team included Hornby, Dickens and Waddington.

In the first round of the Boys' Basket Ball Championship at Harrogate, we were narrowly beaten by the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, 26—29; Dickens and Easterbrook played.

Our greatest success so far has been at soccer. In the Army Boys' cup we played the Fusilier Brigade at Newcastle and beat them 6—0. In the second round we beat the Mercian Brigade at Lichfield 2—1. In the semi-final we beat the Green Jackets at Winchester 5—4. This was a most enjoyable trip. We were very hospitably enter-

tained by the Green Jackets who gave us a fine cup as a memento.

As we write this, our team are speeding towards Aldershot (in view of the state of the roads, we hope not too much) for the cup-final with the Wessex Brigade. Our team is as follows: Garnett, Marley, Dent, Warrington, Leigh, Key, Clark, Cockerill, Jemmeson, Stoddart and Taylor. Reserve, McLoughlin.

OFFICERS' MESS

The end of June to the middle of August proved to be a period reminiscent of Gibraltar during the visit of the combined fleets. It started on the last day of June when we dined out Colonel Halford. There is photographic evidence of the occasion—and the camera cannot lie—but the sub-editor has refused to publish it.

On Monday, July 4 (Independence Day), we started our cricket week with a two-day match against a Yorkshire Territorial Army side organised by Tony Stead late of the Green Howards. Included in their side was John Raybould. As some of the "Dukes" were withdrawn at the last moment by those old sillies "the exigencies of the Service" our team was not as strong as it might have been. We were saved from ultimate disgrace by the weather; then the teams and loyal supporters withdrew to the tents for consolation and refreshment. The game against the Lancastrian Brigade on the Wednesday was unfortunately cancelled owing to the weather. Likewise R.A.F. Norton.

On Friday we held our Summer Ball. As our first attempt at anything of this nature it seemed to go with a swing and we hope to have a bigger and better one as a climax to our cricket week next year. On Saturday we slumbered and on Sunday we fortified ourselves to be prepared for our Monday's guests—no less than the Council of Colonels of The Yorkshire Brigade. On the Tuesday the Council conferred and were entertained to lunch. On the Wednesday and Thursday some of us were lucky enough to make the Great Yorkshire Show (we had missed the Tuesday). On Wednesday evening we all attended a farewell party, kindly given by the Halfords, and six couples of Sandhurst beagles with their attendant sprites came to stay. On Thursday we went to watch the beagles at Harrogate and Colonel "Duggie" Nixon assumed responsibility for the Yorkshire Brigade. He signalled this event, very sensibly we thought, by taking three weeks' leave. However he took time off to visit us at the Game Fair. Here we kept open house to, what seemed to the writer, everyone in Yorkshire. It was a most memorable two days. Besides David Gilbert-Smith's Aquatic Circus there were the fascinating displays of fishing, clay-pigeon shooting, archery, gun dogs and falconry, and all in the incomparable setting of Castle Howard. On the Saturday most of "the Dukes" repaired to Nun Monkton, the hospitable home of Colonel and Mrs. George Akroyd.

From then onwards a number of private parties kept us busy until that great Yorkshire social occasion half-way through August, the Ebor Meeting, at which we were pleased to see General and Mrs. Roy Exham.

During the summer there have been so many outside engagements and so many evening activities, such as late tennis parties and rowing, that we have had no weekly guest nights. Indeed we have had no entertaining until a small cocktail party, for private guests only, on the last day of September. This proved such a pleasant evening we are to have another one at the end of January or beginning of February.

On Thursday the 10th we said good-bye to Bruce Lowe and our doctor, John Sayer. This was a memorable evening. We are sorry to lose both of them. The latter proved a veritable Don Quixote in the war against disease—his windmills, our stables and kennels. If we survive infection, we should be delighted to entertain him in the Mess again. There was again photographic evidence of this night—but it also has been suppressed!

Finally on November 17 we were delighted to entertain Mr. George Howard, whose forebear raised The Green Howards. He was kind enough to present us, on behalf of the Country Landowners Association, with a silver pheasant as a memento of the assistance given by the Brigade Depot to the C.L.A. Game Fair at Castle Howard. This is a notable present as it is the first piece of silver which has been presented to the Yorkshire Brigade as such.

During the period under review we have been delighted to have with us, General Exham, Emmett, Robertson, Lupton, Emmett, Kilner, Blakey, Emmett, Milligan, Breare, Southerst, Emmett, Kershaw—oh, and I nearly forgot Emmett.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last issue of these notes we have held our Formation Ball at which we were delighted to see a number of old friends from Halifax and Huddersfield and also some members of the Sergeants' Mess of the 5/7th Battalion. We were most disappointed not to have some mess members of the 1st Battalion with us but, from the obvious reluctance of some of the old comrades and the 5/7th members to leave, it would appear that the ball was a great success.

In October a coach party attended a reunion dinner at Huddersfield when old friendships were renewed, old times recalled and Anzio was lived all over again. We would like to thank R.S.M. Frier and his staff for a very pleasant evening.

We were pleased to welcome Sgt. "Pop" Dodds who arrived on a fleeting visit. We congratulate Sgt. Holliday on his promotion to the Sergeants' Mess and are pleased to have such an accomplished pianist with us. We also congratulate Sgt. and Mrs. Holliday on the birth of their daughter, Julie.

On the September 15 we entertained the Brigade Colonel and Colonel Cleasby-Thompson to dinner; a Yorkshire Brigade plaque was presented to Colonel Cleasby-Thompson on the occasion of his departure as Officer i/c Records.

On December 5, 1960, the Chief of Staff, Major-General Shephard, visited the Mess on the evening of the Novices' Boxing Competition. We were also honoured to receive Colonel Cleasby-Thompson who kindly presented the Mess with a silver salver.

Colonel Cleasby-Thompson said that he had enjoyed his tour as Officer i/c Yorkshire Brigade Records and had received much hospitality from the Brigade, particularly from the Sergeants' Mess. He felt that he had left his mark on the Depot in three ways: firstly, the excellence of the roses in front of the Officers' Mess was, he felt sure, due to the aid of his horse; secondly, the Orderly Room would for years have in its archives the typing of his daughter; thirdly, his dog had undoubtedly helped to swell the canine population of the barracks. The R.S.M. thanked the Colonel for the salver and for the interest he had shown in all the Mess members.

CRICKET

Our first Brigade Cricket Week was unfortunately spoiled by rain. Our first match was on July 4 and 5 against a team of the Yorkshire Territorial Army. In the first innings the T.A. made 184 for 6 and the Brigade 139. In the second the T.A. were 148 and the Brigade 17 for 2 when rain stopped play. The other two matches had to be abandoned.

Probable fixtures for the 1961 week from July 4 to 9 are against: Yorkshire Druids, Yorkshire T.A. and Yorkshire Gentlemen.

RUGBY

The "Dukes" being in Kenya has been a blessing to the Brigade Depot and its rugby team. However all good things come to an end and, with the return of the battalion and the first round of the Army Cup, all our star players were—as we expected—recalled. I refer of course to 2 Lt. Reid, Curry, Sabine and Schofield. However several other good players have emerged who enjoy their game and play hard. The following played regularly for the Brigade Depot team: Capt. Newton, Capt. Dasant, Sgt. Morris, L/Cpl. Cannon, L/Cpl. Andrew, Ptes. Croft, Clay, Walsh, Inglis and Owen; also played: Lt. Buckingham, 2 Lt. Jones, L/Cpl. Threapleton, Pte. Hibbert.

Results:

Malton and Norton	..	Lost	28—0
York R.U.F.C.	..	Lost	14—8
R.A.F. Dishforth	..	Won	18—0
a St. Johns XV	..	Won	22—5
R.A.F. Linton	..	Won	14—6
Hull City Police	..	Won	40—3
R.A.F. Patrington	..	Won	28—0
a St. Johns XV	..	Won	40—5
R.A.F. Leconfield	..	Lost	27—0

SOCCER

The Brigade team this year are having their ups and downs. Having reached the second round of the Army Cup we went down 3—1 to the Royal Signals at Lincoln. So far in the league we have played 6, won 4, lost 2, and the team is lying third, 4 points behind the leaders who have played one more game.

The following have represented the Brigade: Cpls. Haddrell (D.W.R.), Bower (D.W.R.) and Evans (Y. & L.), Sgt. Johnson (P.W.O.), L/Cpls. Bennet (D.W.R.), Parker (D.W.R.), Colten (Y. & L.), Holmshaw (Y. & L.), Cook (R.A.P.C.), Carter (G.H.), Andrew (G.H.) and Sullivan (G.H.), Ptes. Wade (D.W.R.) and Clarkson (Y. & L.).

Correspondence

Ashton Cottage,
Bishop's Waltham.
Hampshire.
October 26, 1960.

DEAR SIR,

With reference to Captain Pell's enquiry in the October issue as to "Who was the Artist?"

I well remember this picture in the Main Guard at Malta when I was there from 1935 to 1939. It was a well-executed copy of the Michael Angelo Hayes picture in "Lloyd's Incidents of the Crimea."

There is no question of its having been done during the 1st Battalion's tour in Malta in the mid-thirties. It was by then an historic piece and must have been done during the only other time the 33rd were in Malta after 1854, viz. 1896-98.

Our generation has done more regimental research than any other, but here, I feel, we are defeated. No officer still lives who was in Malta in 1896-98. Colonel Trench, who I think is our oldest veteran, joined in 1899.

Yours faithfully,
B. W. WEBB-CARTER.

We would never query any pronouncement by Brigadier Webb-Carter on a matter of history but it seems to us possible and, in view of the excellent condition in which Captain Pell found the painting, perhaps even more probable that it was done at some date after 1898 by an officer seconded to Malta—perhaps, like Captain Pell, as Adjutant of the K.O.M.R.

A possible, though perhaps not very inspiring line of research would be to see whether any such officer can be traced. Another possible line would be a search through the copies of THE IRON DUKE's forerunner "The Havercake Lad" which we believe are at R.H.Q. It was being published during the 1896-98 tour in Malta and, if the painting was done then, may have recorded it.—Ed.

Llwyn Celyn,
Pennal,
Montgomeryshire.

DEAR SIR,

I'm afraid I cannot help to answer Captain Pell's enquiry. I do not remember hearing any mention of the painting when I joined the 1st Battalion in December 1899. But then the talk was mostly about the Boer War for which we were mobilising.

Though it is not strictly to the point, I am reminded that I was, before long, to see some similar paintings. I was sent home on sick leave from South Africa in 1900 and, at the end of it, joined the details of the Regiment at Beggar's Bush Barracks, Dublin.

Most of our duties were finding guards for the Castle and the Bank of Ireland, for which we wore full-dress uniform. The officers' room at the Castle was a large one over the guard room. Its walls were

covered with paintings done on the plaster by previous occupants. One I remember in particular, of a rifleman aiming at the viewer, was by Baden Powell. It was so cleverly done that, from whatever part of the room one looked at it, one appeared to be covered by the barrel.

Yours faithfully,
M. V. le P. TRENCH.

68 Philbeach Gardens,
S.W.5.

DEAR SIR,

Whilst not wishing to detract from the sophisticated line penned by your ex-Sub-Editor extraordinary Captain Stacpoole, I feel he must be brought to book for the serious historical inaccuracy contained in the last edition of *THE IRON DUKE*!

He tells us that "the Emperor Claudius, after defeating Boadicea, established a colonia here (Colchester) for discharged soldiers." But, I am afraid that Claudius and Boadicea never had the pleasure of meeting one another—even in battle. They are separated by 18 years of history.

In A.D. 43 Claudius sent his general Plautius to annexe Britain. He was opposed by two "army groups," acting separately and directed by Togodumnus and the famous Caractacus, joint rulers of South-Eastern Britain, whose capital was Colchester (Camulodunum). Togodumnus was killed, and his force dispersed, early on in the campaign. But Caractacus held the line of the Medway against the Roman Legions for two days—an exceptional feat, since battles then rarely exceeded twenty-four hours, though partly explained by the fact that Plautius was fighting "by the book." No mention being made of the Medway in Julius Caesar's narrative, the Roman general did not expect a stand by the Britons until he reached the Thames.

Claudius's arrival in person terminated the campaign. Amongst eleven chiefs from other parts of Britain who submitted to Claudius at this juncture was the King of the Icenii tribe from Norfolk. He was either Boadicea's husband, or more probably, her father. He became a client king under the Romans. Colchester was ordered to be rebuilt on the hill on which it now stands and became the capital of the new province (though the fiscal centre was in London). In A.D. 50 it was appointed a "colonia" for legionaries who had served their twenty years "regular engagement."

It was not until A.D. 61, in Nero's time, that Boadicea led all East Anglia against the power of Rome. The citizens of Colchester readily joined her, incensed at the seizure of their farm lands for the use of the legionaries. These unfortunates were massacred in their Temple of Emperor Worship, whose symbolism had greatly offended the sensibilities of the native population.

I wonder how many of the 1st Battalion, on their return from watching the insurrectionists of our own contracting Empire, will realise that their home in Colchester was once the focal point of our own rising against hated foreign rulers—exactly nineteen hundred years ago?

Yours sincerely,
M. J. REDDINGTON

Bathurst,
Park Road,
Camberley.
October 16.

DEAR SIR,

I have received recently a letter from an old 1st Battalion soldier, R. H. Tomlinson. He joined the 1st Battalion in Palestine in 1920 under Major Tidmarsh. He wrote to enquire if I was any relative of the Rev. S. H. Hardy who was padre to the battalion at the time.

He was also most anxious to trace the relatives of the Padre, and also to make contact with any of the following who might still be readers of *THE IRON DUKE*: C.S.M. Hayton, Sgts. Hemsworth and Prior, M.M., Ptes. Wray, Cullen and Curran.

I have replied to Mr. Tomlinson stating that I hope that this letter will be published in due course and that possibly one reader might be able to send Mr. Tomlinson some information. His address is: 1 Jamaica Street, Bristol.

Yours faithfully,
E. M. P. HARDY.

Mr. Code has sent Mr. Tomlinson the address of Sgt. Fred Hemsworth, who lives at 73 Haigh Street, Battison Road, Halifax. Mr. Code does not know where any of the others are, but believes that C.S.M. Hayton is dead.—ED.

Headquarters,
British Forces,
Arabian Peninsula.
B. F. P. O. 69.
October 26, 1960.

DEAR SIR,

I apologise for being so long in replying to your note in the July issue of *THE IRON DUKE* regarding the date of my joining the 2nd Battalion in India.

R.Q.M.S. Imray in his letter to you has brought back to me many happy memories of the past. However, I am afraid he is mistaken in thinking that I arrived in India in late 1937. I was commissioned into the Regiment in August 1936 and joined the 2nd Battalion in Nowshera in February 1937 in company with the late Colonel Duncan Paton and Roger Sugden. We travelled on the *Somersetshire*, but we must have been at least two voyages ahead of the larger and more illustrious draft to which R.Q.M.S. Imray belonged. I hope these facts will help straighten up the record.

You have asked me for news from Aden. As I have no illusions about my failings as a writer, I shall not attempt to describe my impressions of Aden! As you know, there is a small "Duke's" "cell" here, headed by General Bobby Bray. We are not sufficiently numerous to establish out here an officers' branch of the Dinner Club but we could at one time boast of representing nearly all the main grades of officers' ranks in the British Army, especially when Michael Bray jumped overnight from subaltern to captain.

We were delighted to see so many of the 1st Battalion when they passed through here on their way to Kenya. We hope that our presence at the airfield made them feel that they were not forgotten. I understand Jimmy Davidson took good

care of their interests once they deplaned at Nairobi. Now we await their return on their way back home. They will find Aden a little cooler!

Rodney Harms left for home a few days ago after several false starts. Our numbers are now reduced to three. Unless some more "Dukes" can be encouraged to soldier in Aden I shall find myself in time to be the sole representative in a station which, for some years past, has been a small "Dukes" colony.

There is quite a bit to offer—excellent bathing, sailing, even hiking, and what is more important, plenty of sun!

Yours faithfully,

P. P. DE LA H. MORAN.

59 Burnfoot Avenue,
Fulham, S.W.6.

DEAR SIR,

I was interested to read R.S.M. Smith's letter in last July's issue of THE IRON DUKE.

In 1922 I was with the 1st Battalion at Gibraltar, and R.S.M. Smith was my C.S.M. At some time during that year I (L/Cpl. Temple) and a private soldier were detailed to meet R.S.M. Smith's wife and baby landing from a P. and O. liner, and bring them and their luggage back to the married quarters.

Reading his letter, I find that the baby I first saw 38 years ago was my son's commanding officer at 1st Corps Troops Workshop R.E.M.E. in Germany up to some few months ago when my son, S/Sgt. R. R. Temple, returned to England on a course.

Although my son has served with R.E.M.E. for ten years he has only met the 1st Battalion once, and that was in Korea. C.S.M. Bill Norman will be able to recall the time. He (my son) has met many sons of chaps who served with me—boys who started at the Apprentices' School, Arborfield. One he hopes to meet again in the near future is Jackie Horn's son, now stationed in Aden, because that is my son's next posting.

Jackie Horn and I served together at Tidworth, Gibraltar, Turkey, and Gosport before I was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Cairo. Pity our sons are not with the "Dukes" but, who knows, they may be attached to the 1st Battalion one day.

Yours faithfully,

R. H. TEMPLE.

(Chairman, London Branch Regimental Association.)

P.S.—Jackie, if either of us wins the soccer pools, we'll fly out together and give our sons a surprise visit. (*Unfortunately Mr. Horn may not see this as we don't find him in our list of subscribers. Perhaps Mr. Temple can recruit him for us.—ED.*)

The 1st Battalion's visit to Kenya has renewed some old acquaintance. Mr. J. Stead (formerly No. 4605754 Cpl. J. Stead) wrote to us from the Transvaal to say that he had seen in the local press that Pte. Barry Stead of the "Dukes" had taken six Springbok wickets in a recent match; that he would

like, through the magazine, to congratulate his namesake and possibly, for all he knew, relative, and that he would also like to become a subscriber to THE IRON DUKE.

He was sent a copy of the October issue and we received the following further letter from him:

28 Elm Avenue,
P.O. North Rand, Transvaal,
South Africa.
November 16, 1960.

DEAR SIR,

I write to thank you for the October issue of THE IRON DUKE, sent to me by the courtesy of Lt.-Colonel D. J. Stewart, to whom I am forwarding the 10s. annual subscription for the 1961 issues of the magazine.

It was the first copy I had seen for some thirty years (I left the 2nd Battalion in 1930), so that much of the contents, of course, leave me rather in the dark, e.g. present personalities serving with the Regiment. But, on the other hand, there are some names that I do recognise, and this, together with the strong sense of previous association, made it very pleasant to browse through the magazine.

For instance, the brothers Exham are quite easy to recall over that passage of time, chiefly I think on the rigger field, Major Sir Robert Henniker, Lt. Cumberlege, Colonel Pickering and Lt.-Colonel Burnett, whose signature appears on my discharge certificate. A letter in your Personalia column from Major Laverack takes one back to Ahmednagar when R.Q.M.S. Laverack was first commissioned, and finally I attended a Signals Instructors' Course at Catterick, from Singapore, with Lt. R. G. Turner, in 1926. Could that be the present Editor of THE IRON DUKE? (*Certainly it could. Very glad to hear from you.—ED.*)

With reference to p. 141, it might interest S/Sgt. Brayshaw of the 1st Battalion to know that I wear the blazer badge of the Regiment, also the Regimental tie (bought by my wife when on an overseas trip as, of course, it is unobtainable in the Union). The only one other time I saw the cap badge of the Regiment was in the Middle East during the war (I served with the South African Signals of the U.D.F.), but as I notice that the Middle East does not figure in the Regimental Battle Honours, I think that, perhaps, the wearer was on a course, or seconded.

Last of myself. I emigrated (with my young family of three) to South Africa in 1937. For the family it was perhaps a good time to emigrate and they grew up knowing nothing of the hardships and shortages they would have had to undergo during the war period in England. For myself, I did my five years with the U.D.F., but found an anti-personnel mine and lost a leg.

That was the end of my military career, and perhaps it had better be the end of this letter as, after reading THE IRON DUKE, I am inclined to feel a little nostalgic and nostalgia can easily lead to tediousness.

Yours very sincerely,

J. STEAD.

1st BATTALION

The return from Kenya happened at an awkward time for IRON DUKE notes. As a result some which were expected did not materialise. Christmas leave and the editor's own move made it impossible to round up the missing articles so, regrettably, there are several gaps in the following account of the Battalion's doings in Kenya. It is particularly unfortunate that there is no report of their sporting successes except in shooting.

SUB-EDITORIAL

As these notes are penned in Colchester the return of the Battalion from Kenya is in progress; Battalion H.Q., "S" and "B" Companies are in; a large part of H.Q. is due tonight to be followed by "D" and "A" Companies and the Rear Party in the next three days.

Meeanee Barracks is filling with happy warriors telling the most splendid yarns, showing spears and producing exotic souvenirs. Many a quiet Yorkshire home is shortly to be enriched with examples of African carving and other surprising things. All are in great form, very bronzed and fit, and looking forward to the visit by the Colonel of the Regiment on December 15.

There have been the inevitable slight snags to an air move. The first of our two freight aircraft is now 72 hours overdue and may be later still; it is sitting in the sun at Nairobi awaiting spare parts from England. Needless to say, all the Orderly Room files are on board.

The rugby team played their first match in the Army Cup on Monday, November 28, and beat 6 Training Battalion R.E.M.E., 34 points to 3 points. Our next match is against the 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers and will be a tough hurdle, but we have a good young team and should do well this year.

Now our thoughts turn to a family Christmas and, in closing, we send our relieving Battalion—1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment our very best wishes.

BATTALION NEWS

(Written before the return from Kenya)

We are told that eighty years ago no white man had set foot inland in Kenya. Today there remains very little of that vast territory that has not been trodden by someone of the "Dukes." "B" and "S" Companies have combed the forests on the lower slopes of Mount Kenya and the more intrepid have tackled the higher slopes as well. "A" and "D" Companies have assaulted various features of the Aberdares during their company camps. Battalion H.Q. has hunted imaginary terrorists as

far apart as Eldoret in the North-West and the Ngong Hills in the Central Province. "B" Company has been showing the Kenya Police a few military manoeuvres in the trackless wastes of the Northern Frontier Province where the cartographers either gave up or never reached. The Mortar Platoon blasted other parts of this province in the one month of the year when it is supposed to be free of herdsmen and their herds.

Smaller parties have sallied forth from Nakuru to such places as Mount Kilimanjaro and Mombasa, to the former to climb and to the latter to enjoy the beaches and leave centre. And note that, wherever a company has been with a wireless set, contact has always been possible by this means with base at Nakuru. Is this a record or just a coincidence?

Company camps have now all ended. The year's training cycle ended with Exercise "Straight Flush," at the conclusion of which the great bandit leader Eti Woppin was physically taken prisoner by no less than the whole of "A" Company Headquarters. Exercise "Kerry Blue" which was to have marked the return of the Battalion to England was suddenly cancelled and doubts and rumours began to spread from the usual sources.

The problem was then twofold: how could the rugby and soccer teams be got home in time for the Army Cup games, and how could we occupy ourselves for the rest of November. The answer to the first problem came after the Chief of Staff's conference at H.Q. East Africa Command at which it was the main topic for discussion. The second problem was partly solved by the arranging of a boxing match against the Nakuru Boxing Club, a swimming gala and an inter-company cross country. It was further helped by the offer by 60 Company R.A.S.C., who had to do a long convoy drive, to convey the whole Battalion to Malindi, on the East Coast of Africa, and back—Exercise "Swan Song."

Half-way through October a scheme was started, under the guise of watermanship training, to send thirty or so men at a time to Mombasa for a week. In this way it was possible to augment the flow of men to and from the coast on the normal leave plan to the "Silversands" leave centre.

Also in October, we were visited by Mr. Alec Donaldson of the *Yorkshire Post* and Mr. George Beddoe of the *Halifax Courier*. Their impressions of the activities of the Battalion can best be judged by their own articles in their respective newspapers so it should suffice to say that we hope they enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed having them. We appreciate the time and effort they spent portraying to those at home so accurately and descriptively life with the battalion in Kenya.

The spirit of adventure has been kept alive by mountaineering expeditions, some of which are described below.

The question now uppermost in the minds of most seems to be how to pack and bring home by air all the trophies collected over the last few months—with the secondary consideration of how to get them through the Customs. Rifles are bound in hessian and bundled together in small numbers, so perhaps the same can be done with spears. African drums take up a lot of space although they are light. Cameras and radios are portable but require more thought in the secondary consideration.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Most of our time has been spent at company camps, exercises, and such novelties. This has left us little opportunity to get our own entertainment organised and the result has been that we have spent our spare time at the cinema and whist drives organised by 5th K.A.R.; of course one or two members did have a little drink as well. The camps proved to be rather tough and two members

ended up in hospital as the result, Sgt. Joe Perrin was the first casualty and had to be evacuated to U.K. C.S.M. Bill Burke was rushed to the civilian hospital where, he tells us, it cost the army £3 12s. per day to keep him. Both say they had pneumonia but they must think we are as green as we look and Ike Burke will have more than pneumonia when he hears that he has to refund the cash.

The 5th K.A.R. continue to be very kind to us and we sympathise with them for having to put up with us for so long. We were able to repay a very small part of our debt when they had their annual ball on "Letsagan Day," Letsagan being a battle in which the Regiment distinguished itself in Burma in 1914. We helped run three bars for them (and patronised them) and W.O.2 Benson with Terry Garrity did the buffet which was of a very high standard.

Led by the R.S.M. a good proportion of our members went and it was indeed a very good night.

C.S.M. Ray Batty has taken it on himself to organise the Xmas draw and has, in one week, sold over £58 worth of tickets. He says that I must print



Photo: P.R., HQ E.A. Command

Major Le Messurier bargains for a Masai spear to the amusement of the C.O.

in very large letters that he CAUGHT 251 TROUT whilst at camp. I wonder what else he did?

It can't be avoided; we will have to report that the Coldstream Guards Sergeants' Mess beat us 3-0 at soccer. But what can you expect when Sgt. Ray Kirk (ex-Coldstream) was in goal and another high-ranking ex-Coldstreamer put all our best players on duty. Apart from these fifth-column activities much beer was supplied at half time.

Our thoughts are now occupied with the re-organisation of the Battalion on arrival at U.K. We note that C/Sgt. Bryan and Joe Quest are to return to us after all these years, also Sgts. Wakefield and Buck Houghton. It may be a bit soon to welcome them but we will do so just the same. We will also welcome, in anticipation, Sgt. Tuttiel who has transferred to us from the R.E.M.E. George Tuttiel was the Depot armourer at the time when the Battalion was in Korea; he is a very fine shot and was the R.E.M.E. Champion 1960.

They come, they go and, of the latter, we regret that the following are due to be posted on return to U.K.: Sgt. "Lofty" Coleman is to go to the R.M.P.s, Sgt. Tom Pratt to Bradford as special recruiting Sergeant, and much-mentioned-before Terry Garrity finally, we think, does go to the Pay Corps on January 2, 1961; we also hear that Bob Chilvers has departed to the 5/7th Battalion at Huddersfield. We wish them all a sad farewell but "Once a 'Duke' always a 'Duke'" and we will be seeing you.

At this point we inform the air-minded folk that we must possess the largest plane in the world. Judging by the number who claim to have been on the first chalk we must have a plane that holds at least 700 (900 less souvenirs).

One regret about our move to U.K. is that we loose our "attached personnel." We could not have had a better bunch of men and we have all got on well together. Of the mess members we loose:



Photo: P.R., HQ E.A. Command

TROPHIES OF THE CHASE

(left to right) Pte. K. Barker, Pte. M. Neary, Pte. G. Dungworth, L/Cpl. J. Mitchell.

Sgts. Rex Larham and George Fowler, R.A.M.C.; Sgts. Jim Gardiner and Reg Mudd, R.A.S.C.; Sgts. Paddy Morris and Nick Carter, R.E.; and Sgt. Geordie Mc? (That bloke from the Royal Signals.)

We also say farewell to R.S.M. Rushworth and all members of 5th K.A.R. and to all we offer an invitation to our mess any time they happen to be near enough to come. There are also civilian friends to whom we say good-bye—not least of them Mr. Dougie Belcher and his wife Myra and Q.M.S.I. Bill Lane and his wife Doreen; these intend to visit us at Colchester whilst on their annual leave before Christmas and we look forward to their visit. And now the time-expired writer hands his pen over to C/Sgt. Duncan Brayshaw and proceeds to pack his kit. So long.

SHOOTING

Although the shooting team had broken up after Bisley it had to be re-formed again on a less elaborate scale shortly after the Battalion arrived in Kenya. We were allowed to enter the East Africa Command Rifle Meeting in September, a chance we jumped at right away.

The conditions require a note of explanation. Each rifle match and the Unit Championship were divided into two categories: one, into which we came with the rest of 24 Brigade, was for units armed with the S.L. rifle, the other was for units armed with the No. 4 rifle. In the L.M.G. and S.M.G. matches the match points gained towards the unit championship were awarded separately for each rifle category. Each cup was to be shared for six months each by the winners in the two categories.

The conditions of matches were the same for both rifles except that the timings in snap and rapid practices were adjusted for the S.L. rifle. In order to give the reader an idea of how the team would have fared had no distinction been made between the type of rifle used an unofficial placing was worked out and is shown in brackets under results below.

Training for the Meeting was limited by shortage of ranges and other commitments but we had the great advantage of having the same people available as had trained for the meetings in England earlier in the year. We were fortunate to be able to arrange two friendly matches on the Kenya Police range at Naivasha; the first was against the 5th Battalion The King's African Rifles and the second against 34th Independent Field Squadron, R.E. Both were valuable experience and good practice as well as being good fun.

The Command Meeting was held from September 20 to 24 at Kahawa Ranges, 14 miles out of Nairobi. We stayed, with other competitors from 24 Brigade, with 1st Battalion The King's Regiment and travelled to the ranges daily. The weather was warm and sunny every day and the meeting was not without the usual complaints and protests about scores and results.

The team won over thirty half-pint tankards and three challenge cups. Particular mention should be made of the individual efforts that went to make

up this collection: Pte. Brayshaw won the Individual Rifle Championships (S.L.R.) with an excellent score in the second stage which brought him up from a good position after the first stage to beat many more experienced shots by a clear margin. He also won the Class C L.M.G. pairs with Pte. Firth. Pte. Hoddinott won the Young Soldiers' Individual Match with a score of 54 out of 60, the best score with either rifle.

C.S.M. Norman did exceptionally well in entering the Individual Rifle Championship with both rifles. Concentrating more on his old friend the No. 4, he came second to Captain Welsh of the 60th Rifles; he was 9th with the S.L. rifle. It is interesting to note that Captain Welsh just "pipped" C.S.M. Norman in the Army Championships at Bisley in 1956 when he beat him into third place.

For the future it is encouraging to know that most of the young soldiers will still be with the Battalion next year, but sad indeed it is to realise that C.S.M. Norman will not be. To his skill and enthusiasm many of the Battalion shooting teams owe more than they do to any other individual. He will be a great loss and those who remain will have to put up some really good scores to make up for the deficiency.

East Africa Command Rifle Meeting Results

Major Units Championship.

S.L. Rifle.

1st	1 D.W.R.	..	..	20 points
2nd	1 Coldstream Guards	..	..	13 points
3rd	1 King's	..	..	10 points
4th	1 Royal Inniskillings	..	..	7 points

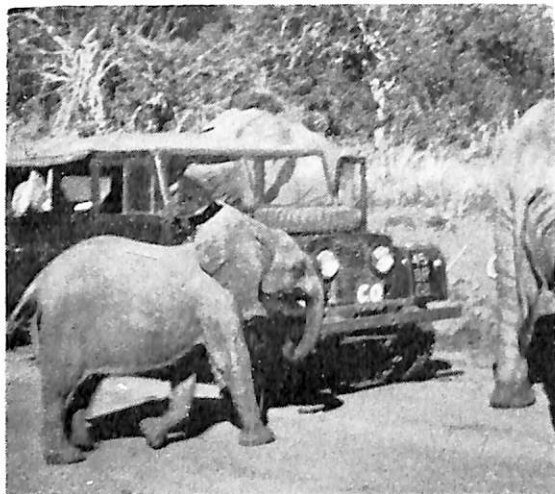
No. 4 Rifle.

1st Kenya Regiment

(1 D.W.R. was 2nd out of 10 teams, 4 S.L.R. and 6 No. 4, competing).

Match I—Rifle Team Match.

1 D.W.R.	..	..	1st, S.L.R.
			(3rd of 10 teams)



POTENTIAL MASCOT?

But he's not apparently intrigued by the C.O.'s Landrover



Photo: P.R. HQ E.A. Command

POTENTIAL RECRUIT?

A Masai boy intrigued by a Landrover.

Match III—Rifle Team Match.

1 D.W.R.	..	..	1st, S.L.R.
			(2nd of 10 teams)

Match VIII—Young Soldiers' Team.

1 D.W.R.	..	..	1st, S.L.R.
			(2nd of 10 teams)

Best Individual on S.L.R. (42 entries): Pte. Hoddinott, 54 points. Runner-up: Pte. Parker, 46 points.

Match IX—L.M.G. Pairs.

1 D.W.R.	..	..	4th of 10 teams
Pte. Firth and Pte. Brayshaw	..	..	Champion Class C Pair

Match X—Sterling Match

1st	Kenya Regiment	..	1355 points
2nd	1 D.W.R.	..	1346 points
3rd	4 K.A.R.	..	1263 points
	Pte Goodyer	3rd highest individual score,	174 points

Match VI—Falling Plates (No. 4 rifles).

1 D.W.R. knocked out in quarter-final.

Match V—Individual Rifle Championship.

S.L.R. (96 entries).

1st	Pte. Brayshaw	..	192 points
2nd	S/Sgt. Kingdon	..	189 points
3rd	Major Wood	..	188 points
5th	L/Cpl. Gott	..	179 points
9th	C.S.M. Norman	..	170 points

No. 4 Rifle (94 entries).

2nd	C.S.M. Norman	..	189 points
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Climbing on Mount Kenya

By Lt. D. M. PUGH

We had been living in our company camp under Mount Kenya in sight of her twin peaks, Batian and Nelion, for almost three weeks when we decided that it was high time we attempted to climb as high up as we could.

There is no tourist route up the mountain and the only peak that our party could tackle at that time of year was Point Lenana, 16,355 ft., a climb which would entail some careful preparation if the attempt was to prove successful. When Assistant Superintendent David Henderson of the Kenya Police General Service Unit offered his services as a guide many of our problems were solved and preparations went ahead.

The party was divided into four tent groups as follows. In the first was myself as general factotum, 2 Lt. Crook and the two enthusiasts, Ptes. Grainge and Doyle. The second tent consisted of 2 Lt. Stacpoole and Ptes. Savage and Waterhouse, while the third and fourth groups, under the able leadership of 2 Lt. Norris, were Ptes. Brown, Darwin, Coates and Pemberton in one tent and, in the other, Cpls. Foster, Bird and Pybus with Ptes. Hutchinson and Ramsden. A special effort was made to include in the party the small nucleus of climbing enthusiasts from the M.T. section who must have sadly missed four-wheel drive on several occasions during the approach march!

We aimed to set off from the meteorological hut at about 9.30 a.m. on Friday, September 23, climb to Point Lenana and return to the company camp on Sunday evening, but, owing to the state of the road lower down, did not receive our transport for the first bit of the approach march until 1 p.m. on the Friday and thus the start was delayed. David Henderson arrived when the party was almost ready to set off and, to our surprise, brought with him two lady climbers. The latter slowed down the approach march to below the pace we had planned on.

We reached the edge of the bamboo forest at a height of 11,000 ft. and made slow progress over treacherous moorland where a small stream had



Platoon briefing: No. 3 Platoon, A Coy.

taken the opportunity to monopolise the track up which we were climbing, making the route a quagmire. It soon became obvious that we were not, as we had intended, going to make Klarwills Hut that night because the route became doubly difficult after nightfall and, at the speed we were going, it would take us another three hours to reach it. We therefore decided to bivouac where we were at 13,000 ft. We pitched camp on a long plateau between some boulders and after a hot meal we slumbered soundly, quite oblivious of a 200 ft. drop that surrounded our tiny camp.

At 8.30 a.m. on the Saturday morning we again set forth. For those who were up early and breaking the ice to wash in a nearby pool there was a magnificent view of the twin peaks of Mount Kenya outlined against the dawn sky.

We moved off in two groups as we could thus travel more quickly and directly. The morning was bright and clear and we made good progress up the right hand side of the Teleki Valley following the Naro Moro Stream. Mount Kenya rose magnificently in front of us as the valley curved around towards the Klarwills Hut, which we reached at 11 a.m. The hut stands at 14,000 ft. and very welcome it was to see it nestling at the foot of some large boulders on the floor of the valley about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the mountain. This, we decided, was an ideal spot to camp for the night so, after carefully checking the direction of the prevailing wind, we pitched the tents in the lee of the hut.

Those spartans, Bird, Pybus, Hutchinson and Grainge, decided to have a swim while the rest of us sorted out the tins of "compo" to avoid getting stewed steak and green peas for breakfast every morning. Then someone thought of taking a count of the party only to discover that the four from the M.T. had not put in an appearance. However, since they were self-sufficient, no one worried unduly about them; they turned up in the afternoon having missed their way and walked up the wrong valley from which they were redirected by a timely encounter with David Henderson then on his way back to Nyeri.

There were two courses now open to us, either to climb Lenana that afternoon or to acclimatise ourselves and tackle it with an early start on Sunday morning. It was agreed to climb that afternoon with a party of five made up of Crook, Norris, Stacpoole, Hutchinson and myself.

We started off at 1.30 p.m. to the accompaniment of ribald comments from the rest of the party who came with us as far as Lewis glacier, armed with cameras. There these faint-hearted individuals proceeded to try their photographic skill while we continued on up the glacier. We moved at a slow but sure pace up a massive scree slope keeping our eyes firmly fixed on the ridge 1,000 ft. above us. Soon the valley behind us disappeared into cloud that was slowly creeping up behind us and, as we approached Top Hut, we left the warmth of the sheltered slopes for bitter winds on the exposed ridge. Then it began to hail and as we climbed higher this turned to snow.

(Continued on p. 20)

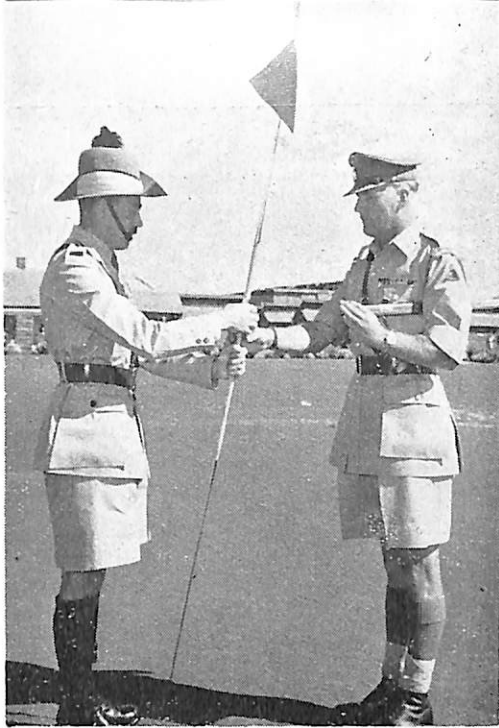
FAREWELL PARADE

**1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's
Regiment and 5th Battalion The King's
African Rifles**

ON Wednesday, November 23, 1st D.W.R. and 5th K.A.R. held a combined parade on the 5th K.A.R. Square at Lanet. Each battalion provided two guards consisting of three officers and forty-eight rank and file.

The parade was formed up in line under Mr. Rushworth, R.S.M. 5th K.A.R., and was commanded by Major Le Messurier. The Commanding Officers of the two battalions were received on the saluting base with a general salute and then Lt.-Colonel R. E. Coles, M.B.E., Commanding 5th Battalion The King's African Rifles, inspected our two guards and Lt.-Colonel Firth inspected the 5th K.A.R. guards.

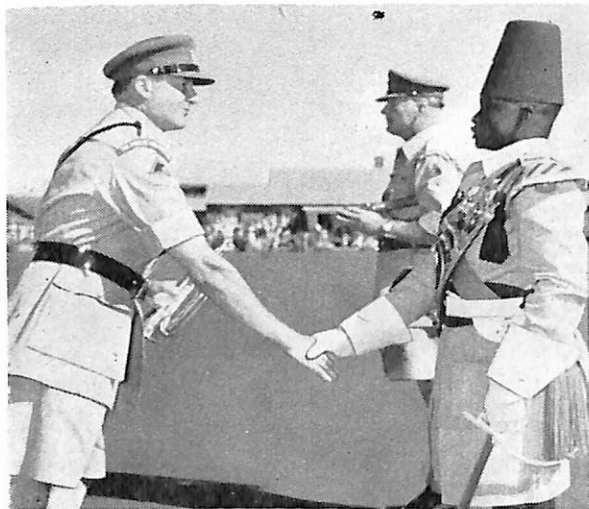
After the inspection Lt.-Colonel Firth made a short speech thanking 5th K.A.R. for all their help and hospitality. He then presented a silver bugle to their Drum Major as a token of our appreciation. Lt.-Colonel Coles then presented Mr. Randall, representing the 1st D.W.R., with a spear, decorated with a pennant in blue and red on which is embroidered the badges of the two battalions.



**Lt. Col. R. F. Coles, M.B.E., Commanding Officer
5th Battalion The King's African Rifles presenting
a Turkana spear to Mr. Randall.**

After these presentations a short church service was held in the course of which Pte. Pickup presented to the Padre of 5th K.A.R. an offertory dish, carved with the badges of both regiments, for their chapel, making his presentation speech in very fluent Swahili.

The parade then marched past to the "Wellesley" and the regimental march of the Kenya Battalions of the K.A.R. before the commanding officers left the saluting base with a final general salute.



(left) The Commanding Officer presenting the Silver Bugle to the Drum Major, 5th Battalion The King's African Rifles. (right) The Commanding Officer inspecting No. 3 guard provided by 5th Battalion The King's African Rifles.



Campballet-Lamerton in Kenya.

We heartily congratulate Captain Michael C.-L. on being selected to play for Scotland against France on January 21 but commiserate with brother Robert on the torn cartilage sustained in the Army Cup match against 1 R.W.F. which will keep him out of the game for the rest of the season

CLIMBING ON MOUNT KENYA

(Continued from p. 18)

Rather than delay at Top Hut we decided to press on up the right hand edge of Lewis glacier. While still in sight of the hut we met a party coming down who warned us of crevasses in the fresh snow and kindly lent us a rope and two ice axes. It was bitterly cold and, although we were following the tracks made by the previous party, we frequently had to cut steps in the steepest parts of the glacier. We finally reached the top 2 hours 40 minutes after leaving Klarwills Hut. We lingered only long enough to establish proof of our ascent and set off down again into the snowstorm before our footprints were all obliterated.

There was a welcome cup of tea waiting when we again reached Top Hut where we met three members of the Kenya Mountaineering Club and exchanged rival experiences. However time was pressing so, making our way across the ridge, we dropped down steeply to the scree slope where some fast scree running brought us to the lip of the 300 ft. cliffs above the valley.

We all felt in fine fettle and no one suffered any ill effects from the altitude. 2 Lt. Norris in spite of a bad back managed all this and more besides as no sooner had we got back to camp than he was

asking for volunteers to climb the peak again early next morning. After much pushing and cajoling he got four "volunteers" in the forms of Cpls. Bird, Foster, Pybus and Waterhouse to join the already enthusiastic quartet from the M.T.

This early morning effort was indeed a fine performance as, on account of the temperature which fell well below freezing point during the night, few of the party had had any sleep.

The whole of the north-west face was in shadow when they started off but it was a beautifully crisp clear morning, so much so that later, on the Lewis Glacier, they found the glare of the sun on the snow quite troublesome. They reached the top of Point Lenana in almost the same time that the first party had but came down considerably faster, anxious to reach the Klarwills Hut in time for a brew-up before lunch.

Meanwhile a small exploratory party, consisting of Crook, Hutchinson and myself, climbed a small peak, Arthur's Seat, on the way up to attempt Point Piggott. The latter we were unable to conquer owing to lack of appropriate equipment. On our way down we stopped to swim in Hut Tarn and nearly froze ourselves solid: the height was 14,700 ft! We heard later that the last idiot to swim in that pool died of pneumonia shortly afterwards.

After a brief lunch we left Klarwills at 1 p.m. and set a fast pace back to where we had left our transport below the meteorological hut. This distance we covered in the record time of 2½ hours. The moorland provided some amusement on the return journey for an unwary footstep precipitated the luckless individual either into a headlong slide or a sideways drift into an even deeper bog!

In retrospect we feel that the expedition was a great success as we managed it all virtually on a shoestring: four boxes of "compo" rations, three primus stoves, two borrowed ice-axes and a rope. We all enjoyed it and only hope that the photographs will reflect our feelings. (*Unfortunately we received none—Ed.*)

KILIMANJARO

At the beginning of September an offer was made by 24 Brigade Medical Company for a few "Dukes" to join their party in an attempt to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and the highest single peak in the world, rising to over 19,000 ft.

The invitation was readily accepted by Lt. Charlesworth, L/Cpls. Normanshire, Leach and Eccleston and on September 12 they set off. The first few days of the climb were uneventful and the party rested for a few hours at a camp at 11,000 ft. to get used to the rarefied atmosphere and to bring up supplies. After this they moved up to Kibo Hut, 15,800 ft., from where the final stage of the climb was to start.

It was here that headaches, shortness of breath and a general feeling of nausea began to be felt. The party began to grow beards as a protection against frost-bite and also owing to lack of shaving water.

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The plan was to make the final ascent starting at 2 a.m. on the 21st when the scree over which they had to climb was frozen and easier to make progress on. Keen frost troubled most of the party and some turned back while the more persistent continued on up to Gillmans Point. As dawn broke the goal came in sight and the cold became less intense although the air got thinner. Going was increasingly difficult but by 7.30 a.m. L/Cpl. Normanshire reached Gillmans Point, followed at intervals by the other "Dukes" until by 8 a.m. all had reached it.

After a few photographs had been taken the party began the descent which proved a far easier task than the ascent.

Later, in October, David Pugh who had already climbed Mt. Kenya decided to complete the double and took his own expedition up Kilimanjaro. His party consisted of 2 Lt. Mike Crook and 20 "Dukes." They all reached Gillmans Point.

Lt. Pugh and five of his party then went on to Kaiser Wilhelmspitz, the highest point of the mountain. As far as he could discover, this is the largest party ever to reach that point.

The six of them spent the night in a G.S., two-men bivouac tent, at Gillmans Point at 18,000 ft. They said they were not cold but could not get their cooker to light. A fine effort.



At Gillmans Point on Mount Kilimanjaro.

(left to right) L/Cpl. Eccleston, L/Cpl. Leach, Lt. Charlesworth, L/Cpl. Normanshire

Celebrity Spot



C.S.M. WILLIAM NORMAN

For William Norman the saying "Once a 'Duke' always a 'Duke'" can be shortened to "Always a Duke" for he was born in the Regiment and all his life has been spent in and around it.

He was born at Sheffield in November 1920 where his father, Drum-Major "Jock" Norman, was serving with the 2nd Battalion; two years later he accompanied his parents with the Battalion to Ismailia. He grew up with the Battalion in Cairo, Singapore, Ahmednagar and Kamptee until his father was invalided out of the Army in 1933 and the family returned to England.

A year later, at the age of 14, William joined the 1st Battalion, then at Aldershot. Here his uncle T. B. Norman, "Old Tom," was Orderly Room Sergeant. William became a band boy.

In 1936 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in India. Here he achieved one of his ambitions—to run for the Battalion in the cross-country team.

In 1941 he was appointed a detachment commander in the newly formed 3-in. Mortar Platoon and as such accompanied the Battalion to Burma. He was in all the Battalion's actions, including swimming the Sittang River, until he was wounded at Swedaung. His wound, though only slight, was not improved when the tank on which he was being evacuated collided with another and he broke a leg. He was evacuated to Bareilly Hospital in India by air; there he recovered in time to rejoin the Battalion later in the year at Shillong in Assam. Here he was promoted to sergeant in the Mortar Platoon.

In July 1943 he was repatriated to England by

the rather circuitous route of Cape Town and New York. This journey occupied several weeks and in the latter city he was delayed for quite a while—which he didn't object to at all.

Arriving home he was posted to 14 D.L.I. as a weapon training instructor, a job which didn't suit a man of William's calibre. He tried unsuccessfully to get himself posted back to one of the battalions of the Regiment so, in desperation, volunteered to serve with the Commandos. He was accepted on condition that he reverted to the rank of private. Undaunted, he trained and was posted to No. 2 Commando with which he saw service in the Adriatic, Balkans and in Italy.

The end of the war found him in Italy and, on the disbanding of No. 2 Commando, he was posted to No. 4, then in Germany. In 1946 this Commando too disbanded and William found himself back with his Regiment, this time the 7th Battalion in Germany. Later that year he transferred to the Regimental Band at the Depot whence he attended a course for band corporals at the Royal Military School of Music.

In spite of this, his next appointment was as weapon training sergeant at 33 Primary Training Centre at Halifax. It was during this period at Halifax that he began to participate in rifle shooting. His first visit to Bisley was in 1947 when he met with absolutely no success at all.

Not discouraged, he joined the Huddersfield Rifle Club and the Elland Small Bore Club. It was at the latter that he gained his first success when he became champion shot of the club. By now he was serving as a P.S.I. in the 7th Battalion and joined the Huddersfield Philharmonic Orchestra where he was able to maintain his interest in music.

In 1951 he was posted to the 1st Battalion where his career as a rifle shot continued with increasing success as the years went by. His uncle had been

a fine shot; he had been in the Army Hundred four times and it was William's ambition to beat this record. This he has managed to do easily: in the last ten years he has reached the Army Hundred no fewer than nine times; on the tenth occasion he was unable to compete as he was serving in Korea. Even in Korea (where he was promoted from Mortar Platoon Sergeant to Colour Sergeant) he still maintained his interest in shooting and represented the Commonwealth Division on more than one occasion. His shooting successes have been too numerous to list in full but in 1956 he finished 3rd in the Army Championship and in 1960 reached the second stage of H.M. the Queen's Prize; he has represented the Army on several occasions both in full and small bore matches and has won over a hundred shooting trophies.

It was while serving in Germany in 1952 that William met his wife, at the time a children's nurse, whom he married in 1954 at her home in Stradbroke, Suffolk. In 1955 his first daughter, Elizabeth, was born in Gibraltar. In this year he was promoted to Company Sergeant-Major. His second daughter, Sally, was born in Bangor, Northern Ireland, in 1958.

To William Norman the Regiment has been "home." In it he has led a useful and active life, serving it efficiently, pursuing his interests in shooting and music to the full and still finding time to devote to his family and his hobby of fishing. But, in his case, it is difficult to know which activities he counts as work and which as hobbies. He shows equal interest in everything he does.

Kenya 1960 is his last active station and the Regiment is to lose a staunch and valuable member. It is good to know that his support will still be near at hand. There is no doubt that he will bring to his new task of recruiting young men for the Regiment the enthusiasm and efficiency with which he has served the Regiment for 26 years.

MEMORIAL TO THE 33rd REGIMENT IN WATERLOO PARISH CHURCH

The following has been received from Mr. William à Beckett Terrell, a nephew of Mrs. Exham. So far as we can discover, the memorial has not been described in *THE IRON DUKE* before.

The memorial to the 33rd Regiment is on the wall of the round of the parish church of the village of Waterloo. The village lies about 18 km. from Brussels on the main road to Charleroi; today it is an extensive and rather smart suburb of the town which stretches out beyond the church, stopping only at the very edge of the Ferme de Mont St. Jean. This farm is in exactly the same condition as it was when it served as the field hospital immediately behind the centre of the English line in the battle of 1815.

The porch and round of the church are late 17th century; the building which is now used as the church, and to get to which one has to pass through the round, was added to the old church 40 years after the battle and is of no significance.

The round of the church is crossed from the porch to the door of the new church by a passage on the marble flagstones which is marked out on each side by iron grills each about 7 ft. high.

As one comes in the left half of the round, beyond the grill, is devoted to some 20 or more memorials, all in an excellent state of preservation, to various British regiments, corps and individual officers. Standing between the wall and the grill is a white marble bust of Wellington. The right half of the round is similarly devoted to the allies who played such an important part in the battle, mostly Dutch and Hanoverian.

The memorial to the 33rd is in black lettering on white marble. It is at the bottom of a column of three memorials, immediately to the right of the central column. The top memorial in this column is one to Colonel Sir Henry Watton Ellis, K.C.B., late 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers. In the middle is a memorial to "Lt.-Colonel Charles Fox-Canning,

late Captain in the 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards and Aide-de-Camp to Wellington." (He also has a large obelisk on the actual field of battle which is the only obvious English or Highland memorial in an area littered with memorials to every conceivable nation under the sun.)

The 33rd memorial reads:

To The Memory
of

Captains	John Haigh Henry Rushton Buck
Lieutenants	John Boyce James Hart Arthur Gore Thomas Haigh John Cameron

Of The 33rd Regiment Of Foot
Who Were Killed At The Battles Of
Quatre Bras and Waterloo

This Stone Is Erected By Their Brother
Officers As A Mark Of Their Esteem
And Regard.

Brigadier Webb-Carter has sent us notes on some of the officers thus commemorated—

John and Thomas Haigh—the elder killed at Quatre Bras, the younger at Waterloo. Sons of Qr. Mr. Haigh of the 33rd who was Sergeant Major in 1793 when the Duke assumed command. Pattison avers that the Duke gave the sons their commissions.

Arthur Gore—younger brother of Ralph Gore who was also present. Sons of Colonel Ralph Gore whose majority in the 33rd was purchased by Arthur Wellesley in April 1793. The Colonel became Deputy Lieutenant of the Tower. His younger brother—another Arthur Gore—succeeded the Duke in command of the 33rd and was killed as a brigadier-general at Bergen-op-Zoom in 1814. Young Arthur was in the Grenadier Company and was killed at Quatre Bras.

John Cameron bore the regimental colour at Waterloo. It is alleged by some that it was this colour that Colin Halkett, the Brigadier of the 5th Brigade, took up to lead the advance of the brigade against the Imperial Guard.

"THE IRON DUKE" SUBSCRIPTIONS

Don't forget that subscriptions for 1961 are due on February 1 to Lt.-Colonel D. J. Stewart, Wellesley Barracks, Halifax.

If you feel able to increase your subscription or send a donation to THE IRON DUKE Appeal Fund it will be very gratefully received.

CAMOUFLAGE

(With acknowledgement to "The Phoenix," the magazine of 382 Medium Regiment)

In modern warfare hiding oneself and one's equipment is of paramount importance. With this in mind, it might be appropriate to introduce our readers to:

THE SAD STORY OF GEORGE NATHANIEL GLOVER

Driver George Nathaniel Glover
Scorned the use of natural cover.
And never, never could be made
To park his lorry in the shade.
In fact his favourite parking places
Were vast and treeless open spaces.

When any of his pals demurred
George gave them all a frightful bird;
Descending from the driver's seat,
And using words one can't repeat,
He'd broadcast to the world at large
His curious views on camouflage.

He would remark, "Cor, Strike me pink!
You must be barmy if you think
There's any need to hide this bus—
The whole idea's preposterous!
Listen, you windy lot of slobs,
You see these greeny-brown blobs;
Well, that's a special kind of paint
That makes things look like what they ain't.
No fooling, it's the latest thing—
It's called 'Disrupted Patterning.'
I'm telling you it's pretty hot,
But if you think that's all I've got—
Blimey. You ain't seen nothing yet!
Look here! I've got this blinking net."

(The net he spoke of was a thing,
Composed of neatly knotted string,
Which he had thrown across the bonnet,
With not a stitch of garnish on it.)

"So what with this here paint and net,"
Said George, "I'm open for to bet
My bus is almost, if not quite,
Invisible to human sight.
Let them as wants to run and hide;
I'll stay right here; I'm satisfied."

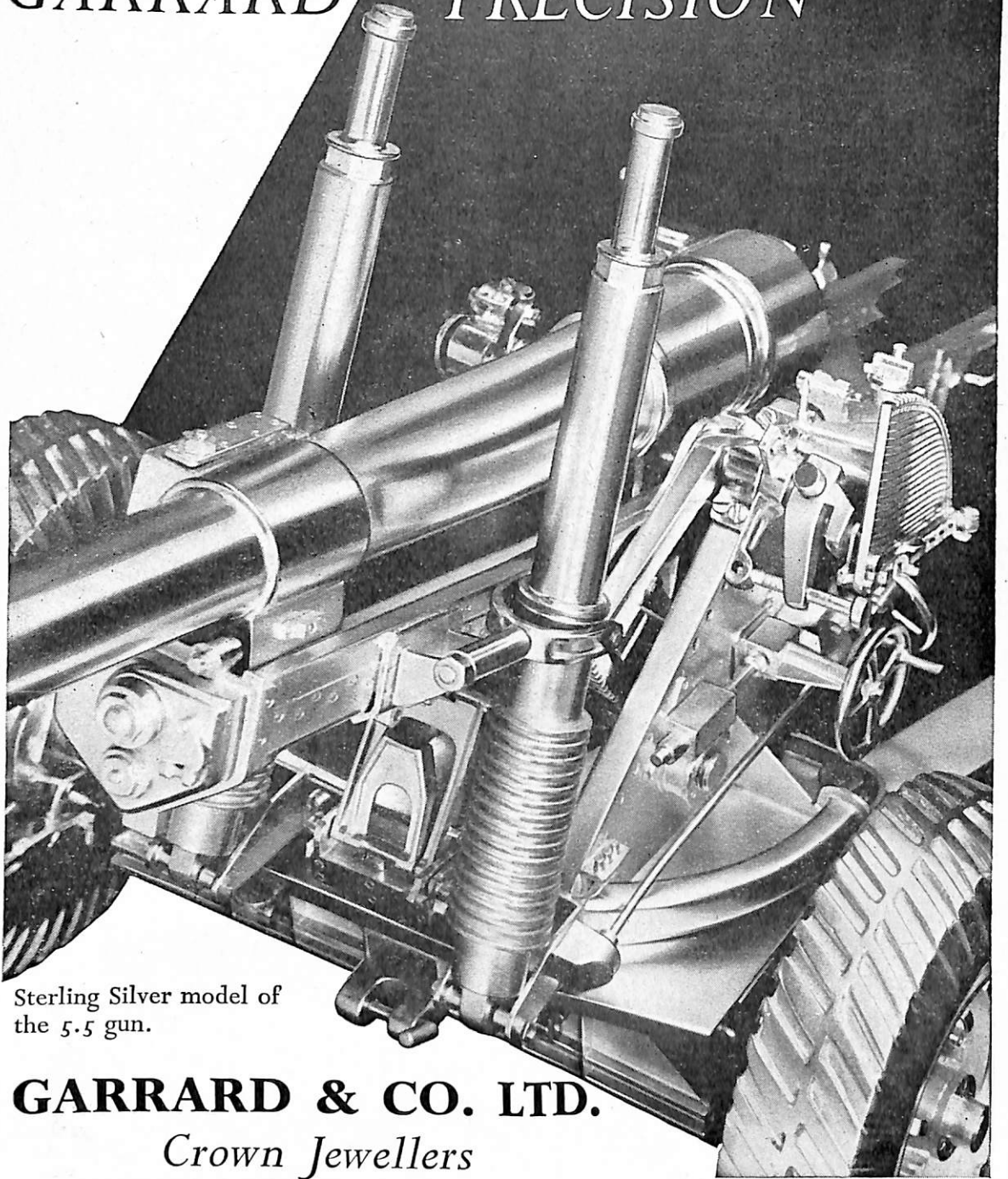
His comrades said, "Excuse us, please."
And sought the cover of the trees—
An act of sterling common sense
And well informed intelligence—
For George had hardly said these words
When foreign planes arrived in herds,
And landed several tons of muck
Right on the top of George's truck.

Emerging later, safe and sound,
His comrades searched for miles around
But Not One Trace did they discover
Of Driver George Nathaniel Glover.
And I am also very sorry
To say they never found his lorry.

The moral is, as all can see,
UNGARNISHED NETS ARE N.B.G.
(ANON.)

Anon?—Camouflage Obviously.

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5/7th BATTALION, T.A.

SUB-EDITORIAL

"Stirring times we live in, stirring times." Although this quotation is getting on for 100 years old it is nevertheless still very true of today.

On November 15 the reorganisation of the T.A. was announced in Parliament and we all prepared for yet another upheaval. As far as this unit is concerned we have been earmarked for another amalgamation. This time 382 Medium Regiment R.A. (D.W.R.) T.A. is to amalgamate with us to become one infantry battalion. This will be the third major event affecting the unit since 1956: first the exclusion of N.S. men from training with the T.A. in 1956, then in 1957 the amalgamation of 5th and 7th D.W.R. and now this new amalgamation. As the Colonel of the Regiment is writing upon this subject elsewhere I will not say any more except to add that both units realise the logic of this merger, which brings together into one battalion the old 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions. We are now working hard and amiably together to achieve the re-organisation.

The Band and Drums have been in constant demand all over the West Riding this summer and they reached the climax of their efforts when, on a return fixture for one held in Wakefield in August, they combined with the Bugles and Drums of 4th K.O.Y.L.I. to Beat Retreat in Greenhead Park on Saturday, September 17. There was a fairly large crowd present, but unfortunately the weather had been shocking all day and remained so until shortly before the performance and this must have had a deterrent effect on many would-be spectators. The Salute was taken by the Mayor of Huddersfield, Alderman Norman Day, assisted by the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel Gadd, with many officers and men of both units in attendance. After a most excellent performance we extended hospitality to the other unit in the officers mess at St. Paul's Street and, for the other ranks, in the Drill Hall of the 49 Division Provost Company R.M.P. (T.A.) at Springwood.

This year the Battalion revived an old custom of the 5th battalion and held a battalion church parade. The Colours were marched through the streets of Huddersfield and were placed on the altar of the Parish Church during the service which was held there. The C.O. commanded the parade and read the lessons, our Padre Roy Matthews delivered the sermon and the service was conducted by Canon Forbes Horan. Our sincere thanks are due to the latter for the splendid way in which he co-operated with us over the whole matter of the church service. The success of that part of the parade was in great measure due to his advice and assistance. The Colour Party consisted of Lt. Naylor (Queen's Colour), Lt. Sugden (Regimental Colour), C.S.M. Laherty, Sgt. Ewart and Sgt. Simpson. The Colour Guards were commanded by Major Woodhouse and Major Barnes.

We have been very pleased to welcome two more ex-subalterns of the 1st Battalion into our ranks. They are Lt. Jim Shenton and Lt. Ted Duckney. We hope they will enjoy their service with us and, also, that they may help to put this unit on the sporting map of 49 Infantry Division.

We are pleased to be able to say that our affiliated school cadet corps are thriving and this year, so far, has seen an all-time record in credit passes in the cadet tests at Rishworth and Giggleswick. This reflects great credit on the contingent commanders. Lt.-Commander Job, who commands the Rishworth Contingent, is leaving the school at the end of this term. We shall be sorry to lose him as we have worked together in great harmony and he has built up the contingent over the last three years out of all recognition. We take this opportunity of welcoming his successor Wing Commander R. Peel who will take over next term and we wish him every success. Our congratulations are also due to Major Wardle and Captain Lincoln of the Giggleswick school contingent on the award of the T.D. Major Wardle has been associated with the corps for 29 years and it now comprises of over 200 boys.

Our last farewell is to Mr. Larry Brennan who is leaving the unit after serving 27 years with the T.A., mostly with 5th battalion. Since leaving the T.A. as a Sergeant in 1959 he has continued with us as a vehicle mechanic. We are very sorry to see him go and now wish him the best of luck in his new post with Thomas Broadbent and Sons engineering firm.

Annual camp for 1961 which was to have been held at Millom has now been changed. The new location will be Whitburn, Northumberland, from July 15 to 29, 1961.

OFFICERS' MESS

During the past quarter one word has overshadowed a period of constant activity for the Mess—amalgamation. To some it will probably mean reprieve for a further period of service, to others, the familiar bowler hat (unlike the Regular Army, with no trace of gold about it). Rumours fluttering through the Mess since the first trickle of information was made available have certainly had many wondering what exact fate was in store for them and it is anticipated that the next few days will produce the final decision.

In many respects the Mess has carried on normally, as will be realised from the variety of activities involved. After the Retreat Beating by the combined Bands, bugles and drums of our unit and 4th K.O.Y.L.I. in Greenhead Park on September 17 we were very pleased to be able to entertain officers and their ladies of 4th K.O.Y.L.I. in the mess afterwards. The guests from K.O.Y.L.I. were Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Bill Lossack, Major and Mrs. Alistair Wilson and Captain and Mrs. McClean (R.A.M.C.).

On the following week-end the 49 Infantry Division Rifle Meeting was held at Beckingham. With Major Heaton as non-shooting team L.O. the following officers took part in the competition—Major Webster, Captains Haws, Curry and Crowther and Lt. Dye (R.A.P.C.). The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Gadd attended the meeting on the Sunday. As usual “a good time etc.” was had by all on the Saturday evening. The standard of shooting for the Battalion was certainly higher than in previous years for which much credit must go to Charles Curry. One notable feat was the pool bull obtained by Pat Haws on the Saturday—unfortunately the financial reward for such marksmanship did not cover all the Saturday night activities.

To end the month of September serving officers dined the 5th Battalion Trustees as a gesture of appreciation for their generosity on so many occasions. This splendid body of gentlemen (usually referred to with some affection as the “old gentlemen”) accepted the invitation as mess members and not as guests. Present were Colonel Keith Sykes, Colonel R. Rippon, Lt.-Colonel Denys Hirst and Lt.-Colonel G. P. Norton. The only guest for the evening was Lt.-Colonel Denis Wharry, Commanding 382 Medium Regiment R.A. (D.W.R.) (T.A.), a stranger to many but an obvious pointer to the future amalgamation. The meal was first class and the service very reasonable. Our new Mess Sergeant, Sgt. Smyth, ex-Depot D.W.R. Halifax in charge for his first function with us did a splendid job. One amusing incident by a brand-new trainee waiter who for ever shall remain nameless: when asked for “white” at coffee time did exactly as requested. But milk alone—even warm—is inadequate without some coffee flavouring!

So often in the past at Battalion dinners and other functions table plans and place cards, menus and music programmes have been admired for the outstanding quality of their work. Always have people asked who was responsible for the penmanship and it is felt that his blushes of modesty can be endured when it is recorded that O.R.Q.M.S. Arthur Wood is our over-willing craftsman. Often he has had tedious hours of work at short notice due to cancellations of guests etc., but always the cards, plans etc. have appeared in the place and at the time needed. The mess as a whole say thank you for this service in the past and fervently hope it will continue in the future.

The 5th Dinner Club held their Annual Dinner on October 5; the Mess supplied the necessary silver and waiter service and many of our own officer members attended. It was a first-class function and an enjoyable get-together before and after the dinner.

The reintroduction of the Annual Battalion Church Parade on Sunday October 9 created yet one more permanent fixture in the future calendar of events. This was an occasion when the officers, wives and families could return to the Mess for drinks, and quite a number came along to brighten the atmosphere for a while.

The advent of the winter training season brought

the officers' supper/training night into operation again and the Mess cooks and staff served a light meal to eighteen officers. As the lecturer later in the evening, Lt.-Colonel Wharry of 382 Medium Regiment was our guest for supper.

The final piece of entertainment in October was the Curry (Indian food not Charles, Captain (T.A.)), party laid on with splendid success by Captain Cyril Kenchington. He was given a free-hand by the P.M.C. and brought out some new ideas which will operate at future parties. The food was absolutely tip-top and of great variety—fortunately those without “sands of India” were not obliged to eat curry as Cook Sgt. Hannan had provided appetising alternatives. Cyril seems to have picked up some peculiar gimmicks for prize-winning dances but they livened up the general entertainment.

The Remembrance Day parades in various parts of the area necessitated officers and troops being shuttled from parade to parade but enabled each one to be numerically successful. Not many wives and families attended Church but those who did, along with the officers of the 5/7th Cadet Battalion, 150 Infantry Workshops R.E.M.E. and several Old Comrades, were entertained in Mess after the morning parade.

As the Divisional Dinner is held on the week-end of the Study Period five officers went down to Nottingham and killed two birds with one travel allowance. The C.O., Lt.-Colonel Gadd, 2IC—Major Heaton, Training Officer—Major Moncrieff, Adjutant—Captain Naughton and Major Webster provided the largest contingent from the Battalion since these study week-ends were initiated a few years ago.

These notes finish almost as they began except that the axe had now definitely fallen and like Mme la Guillotine of Revolutionary France, has been greedy for heads. Since these notes were started the pattern for the future Battalion and amalgamation with 382 Medium Regiment R.A. (D.W.R.) (T.A.) has been finalised and the “outs” and the “ins” know their fate or luck as the case may be. However—sufficient for the moment—more in the next issue but a genuine “good luck” to those of our Mess who made it.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Winter training has commenced in the form of cadres which will be held at Battalion H.Q. This, as far as the Mess is concerned, is excellent because it is on those few occasions we can all get together and we are looking forward to some jolly Sundays after training.

The Mess was well represented in the Battalion shooting team, and we offer our congratulations to all who took part and a special congratulation to C/Sgt. Fred Dews who finished the season as Brigade Champion Rifle Shot.

A farewell dinner for R.S.M. and Mrs. Frier was held on October 15, the only spare week-end we had available before Christmas. When arrangements were too far ahead to cancel the dinner we heard to our delight that R.S.M. Frier's tour had

been extended from January 1961 to June 1961. Mrs. Frier was presented with a very nice necklace and bracelet, and R.S.M. Frier with a nice clock. The evening went with a swing, some 86 sitting down to dinner and fully enjoying the social evening that followed. No doubt we shall have a further dining out dinner for R.S.M. and Mrs. Frier nearer the date of their departure. We must say a special thanks to C/Sgt. Stringer for his excellent catering arrangements and to C.S.M. Laherty as i/c entertainments, not forgetting their happy band of assistants who helped to make it a very enjoyable evening, so successful in fact, that we have decided to hold a dinner annually round about that date.

Amalgamation is once again in the news for us and we are very happy that once again we have remained intact and that 382 Medium Regiment R.A. will be joining us. It will make an excellent amalgamation and we will then be the only T.A. battalion of the "Dukes" and will represent the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions of old. It seems likely that we shall change the title of the unit, as it would be awkward on parade shouting "4th 5th 6th and 7th Battalions The Duke of Wellington's Regiment."

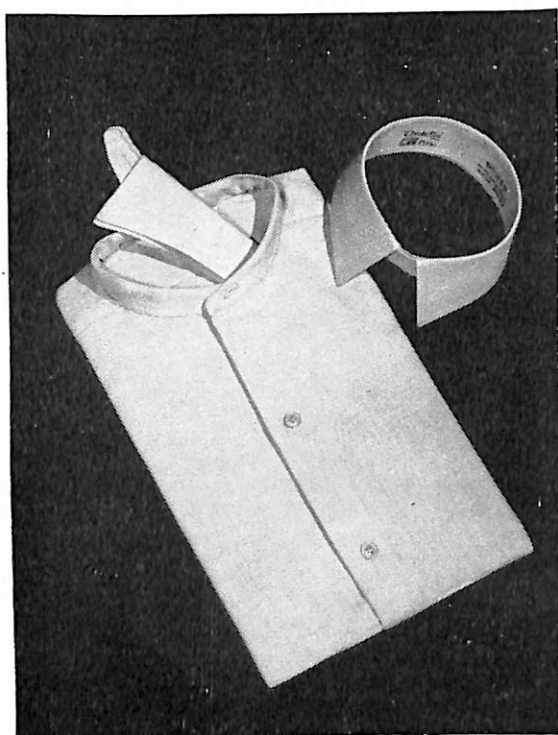
All Mess members were pleased to learn that our present Commanding Officer Lt.-Colonel Gadd has been invited to command the amalgamated battalion.

We are all looking forward to Xmas and the festive parties and may we take this opportunity of wishing all "Dukes" where ever they may be all the best in 1961.

TRAINING NOTES

This coming year is to be a shooting year. After sundry brigade and divisional conferences we have been left in no doubt whatsoever on this point. As a result we have detailed off certain personnel as a Bisley cadre with a view to sending a team to the T.A. Rifle Meeting at Bisley next June. The cadre is being run by Captain Curry and they have been practically excused all duties in order that they may train from now until June without undue interruption.

There is no doubt that the standard of shooting in the battalion has already started to improve within the last year. Last winter H.Q. Company won their division of the T.A.R.A. Decentralised Small Bore League and this month "C" Company have won the Graham and Pott Small-bore Trophy from the British Legion. At the Divisional Rifle Meeting in September our "A" team under Captain Haws came 10th out of 40 teams, and in the individuals C/Sgt. Dews became the first man in the unit ever to qualify to shoot at 600 yds. in Stage II of Match I. He eventually finished 12th out of 680 in the Division and became champion shot of our brigade. In the Young Soldiers L/Cpl. Woodhead shot extremely well to finish 8th out of 108 entrants, thus becoming champion young soldier shot of the brigade. An encouraging feature of our shooting has been the emergence of some very promising new names: Lt. Dye (R.A.P.C.), Cpl. Fossard, L/Cpls. Atkinson and Woodhead. These will eventually replace our well-known champions, men such as R.Q.M.S. Machen, C/Sgt.



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Dews, Sgt. Smith (R.E.M.E.), Sgt. Bacon, as the backbone of the unit team. We wish them all success.

The Brigade Tactical Competition this year was held on September 3 and 4. We entered three teams under Lt. Sugden ("A" Company), C.S.M. Laherty ("D" Company), Captain Carter ("X" Company). The week-end provided some first-class training for all the teams and was greatly enjoyed, in spite of indifferent weather. Lt. Sugden's team was most unfortunate not to win the competition; a little more practice with the compass might gain them the prize next time. As it was they had to be content with second place to a very good team from the Hallams.

This coming year we are to step up our civil defence training. In preparation for this all our P.S.I.s have been sent on a three-week course to the Army School at Millom—W.O.2 Arundel and Sgt. Chilvers are to be congratulated on gaining a "B" grading on their course. Training has already started in the drill halls and first aid courses are being run for "A" and "C" Companies by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, ably assisted by the R.M.O. The officers also spent a most amusing afternoon on October 2 learning and practising rescue techniques from the balcony in St. Paul's Street Drill Hall.

The winter cadre-training Sundays start on December 4. The cadres will be the same as last year, but this time the accent will be on—shooting. Cadres are being run as follows: Trained Soldiers (Major Woodhouse), Recruits (Major Webster), Junior N.C.O.s (Major Siddall), Sp. Weapons (Cpt. Haws), Signals (Cpt. Hawkins), M.T. (Cpt. MacDonald), C.Q.M.S.s (Cpt. Kenchington), Bisley Team (Cpt. Curry).

"A" COMPANY

Farewell to Sgt. Wild—Welcome to Sgt. Chilvers—Good Luck to the former on rejoining the 1st Battalion and good wishes to the latter, coupled with the hope that he settles down to T.A. life and enjoys his stay with "A" Company.

The Company week-end at Ripon Parks, referred to in our last notes, proved of some value as "A" Company team led by Lt. D. Sugden gained second place in the Brigade Tactical Competition, being narrowly beaten by a team from the Hallams. Congratulations to all the team.

November 5 was celebrated at Arden Road with a bigger and better bonfire than ever. This was followed by a well-attended social evening. Our thanks go to all those who worked so hard to produce a very enjoyable "Plot Night."

Rumours, rumours and more rumours have been echoing around the Drill Hall for many weeks following the announcement in the Press of new amalgamations. The truth came out eventually; details are not known as yet but it is probable that "A" Company should benefit from the amalgamation and its strength be increased. Whatever the outcome, it is certain that the wonderful comradeship in "A" Company will see it through the amalgamation and maintain its reputation as THE Company in the Battalion.

"B" COMPANY

We, at Mossley, have had an occasion! There has been a triumphant opening of the new Civic Hall and, during conversation with the Mayor, whispers of greater honours for the Regiment in the New Year from the Borough were mooted. Watch the headlines!

On the training front there has been a quiet re-appraisal of our efforts up to camp and a steady determination to show those "over the brew" just how "Lancashire Dukes" can shoot in 1961—if we are unhampered by triangular bandages, toggle-ropes and several kinds of fall-out! (I joined the Army to see the World—what did I see? I saw film of a b—— great mushroom-shaped cloud over and over and over again!)

Recruiting has concentrated on cadets and they are at present the brightest star in our firmament. I am pleased to say they will be "viable" by 1964—they are now, looking round at some of their activities!

C.S.M. Arundel (P.S.I.) has had a pleasant three weeks course on a stretcher. Our 2IC Arthur (Where's my wig?) Hutchinson, having disposed of most of London's law cases for a few weeks, is with us again, whilst C.Q.M.S. Larnder, having re-organised the electricity system is introducing us to night training—inside the Drill Hall.

As your correspondent pens these lines great changes are taking place in the T.A. (that is to say several Majors are sweating on the top line—and wondering where their motor car allowance will come from if they are slung out).

At these times of great stress we must remember our Regimental Motto "Virtutis Fortuna Comes" and one old "Duke" who used to say "I don't know about owt favouring the brave; I reckon fortune comes to those who are d—— lucky."

"C" COMPANY

The lights and stars of bonfire night die away and leave the "Happy few" of "C" Company in the midst of their winter training, with emphasis on "First-Aid" and C.D.

We are now about half-way through our first-aid course and those of us who manage to untangle ourselves from reef-knots and slings and who survive the tortures of artificial respiration hope to take the St. John's Certificate early in the new year. Sgt. Spring has returned full of enthusiasm from his course at Millom and can hardly wait to get the company extricating bodies from inaccessible situations and lowering some unfortunate victim from the drill hall roof. All this must wait until our "first-aiders" are proficient.

On the more military side of our existence we regret a not-too-good result from the Brigade Tactical Competition although we had to field a scratch team due to injury and the start of the football season when L/Cpl. Kenyon goes into strict training.

The competition to decide the company .22 champion was well supported and showed every sign of being a close thing at the end. The spirit of competition is very keen and has resulted in a very high standard of shooting. The latest call-over

prices are not available at the moment but a whisper from the stable has it that L/Cpls. Atkinson and Woodhead are likely to be joint favourites and the company commander is a good long shot at about 500-1 unless nobbled by watering his beer. Off the course bets can't be sent to "Honest Bob" Spring.

The autumn has seen an increase in social activities. In October the social committee, Messrs. Thewlis, Earnshaw and Bamlett produced a first-class evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended particularly, we hope, the wives and girl friends. The Bonfire Party went with the usual bang in spite of local tribesmen sabotaging our bonfire on the 4th and we believe that the committee have something up their sleeves for December.

Lastly, recruiting—which has been very disappointing. We should like to invite any ex-member of the Regiment who may read these notes and who lives in Holmfirth area just to come and see what facilities Thongsbridge T.A.C. can offer and to think of soldiering on with "C" Company.

"D" COMPANY

The last few months have not been ones of great action. The highlight was the Brigade Tactical competition at Leek. Our team, C.S.M. Laherty, Cpls. Sheehan and Howard, Ptes. Jackson, B. Ellis, F. Wood, Ferguson and Ronayne, unfortunately did not manage to come in with the leaders despite a week-end of hard work.

At the moment of writing our team is on the range firing the T.A. small-bore competitions. We have our fingers crossed, but, by the look of some of the targets, there appears to be a considerable "cross wind" on the miniature range.

December 10 will be the Company's big day as we are laying on the Battalion Adventure Training. In consequence the office is a hive of activity with Major Woodhouse sat before heaps of maps, his face hidden beneath a green eye-shade.

For the last few months we seem to have turned into a Transit Company. No sooner have we managed to get hold of some recruits than H.Q. Company discovers that they are born drivers, wireless operators or cooks! We have said good-bye to Cpl. Howard, who is now in "H.Q." Company as P.T.I., and also to Ptes. Holland and Nicholson.

Nevertheless we are very glad to welcome Captain Haws, L/Cpl. Marshall, a 3-in. mortar expert, Ptes. D. Shaw, C. Clarke, Nottingham, C. Taylor and Charlesworth. We only hope that they stay with us long enough for them to get to know the Company.

"H.Q." COMPANY

M.T. and Sigs. Exercise

During the night of Saturday November 19 and on into Sunday morning, the M.T. and Signals platoons were puzzling their way round a complex route to the east and south-east of Huddersfield. The object of the exercise was to give the signallers practical experience in relaying messages and the drivers practice in map reading and use of the compass.

The exercise, led by Major Young, was carried

out on a competitive basis with teams of two drivers and two signallers leaving the Drill Hall at 15-minute intervals. Fog, rain and greasy roads made the going very difficult. (The course, laid on by Sgt. Milnes, was said to be well-nigh impossible in daylight.)

In the fog a truck driven by an unnamed driver turned determinedly into a turnip field, and went three times round the turnips before finding the gateway again. Another vehicle driven by L/Cpl. Gratton and Pte. Valentine, closely followed by a 3-tonner driven by Ptes. Hever and Symms (cheating really), took a wrong turning into a cul-de-sac, whereupon the following truck's battery failed—and they were both stuck! They were finally extricated by the M.T.O. and Sgt. Pilkington after a hair-raising drive through fog on a possibly fictitious M/R.

Charles Curry, our inimitable I.O., saw two trucks scream past the third check point, coming from Sheffield. They did not bother to stop to explain anything.

L/Cpl. M. Smith, who gallantly volunteered, along with Pte. Field, as a dispatch rider, suffered from what must have been trouble from the "wee folk," for his clutch burnt out at Wakefield. He thumbed a lift back to the Drill Hall on a Scotsman's motor-cycle! When asked what was wrong, he muttered something about "the '—', gears a-groindin' and a-gratin'"—a wealth of meaning in every syllable.

The M.T.O., Captain K. M. MacDonald, was roused from his cocoon on the floor of the Mess by numerous, and sometimes spurious, telephone calls. Captain Bob Hawkins did valiant work on the signals, ably assisted by Sgts. Robinson and Binns, and the whole show was a tribute to the organisation of Sgts. Milnes and Ewart.

Real agonies were suffered by Charles Curry when he sent out the Paymaster, Lt. Dye, Sgt. Robinson and Cpl. Williamson to establish radio contact with No. 1 check point. They motored on until they were able to shout across to the check point, and then returned—much to the surprise of all at check point 2!

THE CARDS OF "Y" COMPANY

"Y" Company was resting gratefully after the first part of the two-day exercise; scattered in groups, they dined and dozed and took their ease. Two men were playing "Brag."

It was at this moment that the Brigadier and the Commanding Officer came on the scene, moving from group to group chatting briefly with each. Eventually, they reached the card players.

Wishing to make sure the men were in the picture as regards the exercise, the Brigadier enquired, "Now, what happens next?"

One of the privates regarded his boots thoughtfully as he desperately searched for words with which to express himself. Suddenly, the light of inspiration gleamed in his eyes. Looking up, and, at the same time, making vague gestures with his hands, he replied, "Well, sir, he brags, then I brag and then —"

Obituary

Mr. Gilbert Beyfus, Q.C.

Mr. Beyfus died at his home in Haslemere on October 30.

It was only six months ago that we published extracts from the National Press recording his retirement, owing to ill health, after a notable career at the Bar. We noted then that, although his active association with the "Dukes" lasted only from August 1914 until April 1915 when he was wounded and taken prisoner, he had been a faithful supporter of the Regiment ever since. By his death we have lost one of our most distinguished Old Comrades.

Of the many tributes to Mr. Beyfus which appeared in *The Times* the following extract from that of His Honour Judge R. B. Willis will be of particular interest to readers of THE IRON DUKE:

"After Gilbert Beyfus was taken prisoner in 1915 he made a number of attempts to escape. On one of such attempts he made his way to the sea and there was able to get a boat and was finally recaptured when at sea. The Germans proposed to punish him for this escape but he told them that they could not do this as, since he had been recaptured beyond the limits of German territorial waters, he had made good his escape and must be treated as a prisoner of war newly captured. Arrangements were made for him to argue this point before the appropriate tribunal in Berlin, but before this happened he was informed by the High Command that it accepted his point as good, and he was therefore never punished for the escape.

"This anecdote, which he told me, would seem to place the German authorities in a good light and to show the advantages of his legal training."

At the memorial service, which was held at the Temple Church, the Colonel of the Regiment was represented by Colonel Armitage and the 1st Battalion by Major Milligan.

Major (Q.M.) W. E. Brenchley

William Ernest Brenchley served in the Guards Machine Gun Regiment during the 1914-18 war (Regimental Number 1556) and transferred to the Grenadier Guards in February 1919 at the age of 22 years with the rank of lance-sergeant.

Lt.-Colonel G. F. Turner, O.B.E., D.C.M., Secretary of the Grenadier Guards Comrades Association has sent us the following appreciation of Bill Brenchley during this period of his career:

I first met Bill Brenchley when he came to the 2nd Battalion at Wimbledon Common in 1919. He was a first-class machine-gun instructor and soon made headway to be sergeant of the machine-gun company.

In that capacity he served in Constantinople in 1922-23 and had an outstanding company of specialists. They won many competitions.

He was also an exceptionally good soccer player (left-back) and captained the battalion soccer team. His team was the only one in the Regiment to win the Household Brigade Cup. He was also an excellent shot with both .303 and .22 rifles and represented the Regiment in many competitions at Bisley and elsewhere.

He naturally went on to C.Q.M.S., C.S.M. and then W.O.2 (Drill Sergeant). It was from that appointment that he was selected to become R.S.M. of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

A great leader of men, who was always cheerful; a great sense of humour—and well beloved.

General Sir Philip Christison writes:

All "Dukes," especially those who served with him in the 2nd Battalion and at the Depot will mourn the loss of Bill Brenchley.

He came to us from the Grenadier Guards in 1933, in Aldershot, and joined the 2nd Battalion in February 1934 at Kamptee. When I took over command of the 2nd Battalion at Nowshera in January 1937, a friendship sprang up which lasted to his death.

Within a few days of my arrival I was faced with a Trooping the Colour Parade for H.E. the C.-in-C. Not having served with troops for 3½ years—I had come straight out from teaching at the Staff College—I was naturally dismayed at the thought. However Bill Brenchley took me in hand and infused such confidence in me that the parade went without a hitch.

He had that delightful type of personality that on parade could be the best type of R.S.M., while off parade his natural charm endeared him to all ranks. He set a fine tone in the Sergeants' Mess where he was respected and yet a good comrade to all.

He was scrupulously fair in recommendations for promotion, and had a quick eye for those whose accelerated promotion would be for the good of the "Dukes" and of the Army.

He took a keen interest in all outdoor sports and activities and, during his period as R.S.M., the 2nd Battalion was unbeatable in athletics; this result was largely based on his daily 7 a.m. athletic parade which undoubtedly brought out new talent.

He served as Quartermaster with the 1st Battalion during the last war, and was awarded the Certificate of Merit for his work in Flanders and during the reorganisation following Dunkirk. He joined the Regimental Depot in 1943 and remained there until his retirement on reaching the age limit in 1951.

After his retirement he showed his great courage in running a farm when difficult conditions of aspect and soil called for efforts that wore him out in the end. But perhaps he would not have had it otherwise.

All "Dukes" will offer their deep sympathy to Mrs. Brenchley and the family in their bereavement.

(Continued on page 31)

Mrs. Brenchley was ever a splendid helpmate to him in the Regiment and the sympathy of our families will go out to her in her loss.

As Plutarch wrote: "The measure of a man's life is the well spending of it, and not the length."

Mr. Hilton Furniss

Mr. Hilton Furniss, a well-known veteran of the Territorial Army and the West Riding Special Constabulary, died in October at his home, Lyndhurst, Manchester Road, Slaithwaite. He was seventy-two.

One of the first to join the 7th Battalion D.W.R. under the Haldane scheme of 1908, Mr. Furniss rose in 11 years to company sergeant-major and was commissioned while on active service in France during the First World War.

During that period he gained four of his eight medals, including the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry, although badly wounded twice, at Bullecourt in 1917.

He bore the scars of 18 separate wounds, was gassed in the trenches and was aboard the hospital ship *Anglia* when it was torpedoed in the English Channel in 1915.

One hundred and forty-seven of the 400 sick and wounded on board were drowned. But, despite a bad wound in the back, Mr. Furniss swam around until picked up by a destroyer.

Mr. Furniss retired in 1953 after 27 years in the West Riding Special Constabulary. He reached the rank of Chief Inspector.

He had been associated for over 30 years with Slaithwaite branch of the British Legion, of which he was a vice-president and former president. He was also a member of the Huddersfield Branch of the D.W.R. Old Comrades' Association.

A keen sportsman in his youth, he was one of the founders of Slaithwaite United Association Football Club, played golf with Slaithwaite and District Golf Club and cricket with Linfit Hall and Marsden.

For 17 years, until he retired in 1957, Mr. Furniss was a member of the clerical staff at Messrs. J. Bailly-Ancion Ltd., scourers and carbonisers, Clough Lee Mills, Marsden.

A widower, he leaves one son and one daughter.

At his funeral, which took place on October 5, the Regiment provided his bearer party; it consisted of two regular soldiers, Sgt. R. Spring and Sgt. D. Wood, two territorial soldiers, W.O.2 H. Wood and C/Sgt. F. Dews and two old comrades, Mr. G. Machen and Mr. J. Horne. Drum-Major D. Noon of the 5/7th Battalion sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

Mrs. C. V. Humphrys

We are informed that Mrs. Humphrys died in the early summer of 1960 at Bath where she had been living for some years.

Mrs. Humphrys was the widow of Brigadier C. V. Humphrys who commanded the 1st Battalion

from 1908 to 1912. She was a Miss Owen and was the aunt of the late Lt.-Colonel Basil Owen and a cousin of Lt.-Colonel Sir Nugent Everard. Until her husband's death in 1944 she attended many Regimental functions and took a lively interest in the doings of her nephew's contemporaries.

Major C. A. J. S. Langdale

The Times carried an announcement of the death at Truro of Major Charles Stourton Langdale, late The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

"Stalky" Langdale, as he was called, joined the 2nd Battalion in April 1900 but was a good deal older than most second-lieutenants as he came in through the University. He was, in fact, then nearly 26 as he was born in August 1874.

Brigadier Burnett writes:

"Stalky" was a scholarly and even brilliant type, a fluent linguist with a ready wit and a great sense of humour. He was very popular, largely I think because his outlook on soldiering was out of the ordinary and his criticisms of the rigid customs which prevailed were often apt and invariably amusing. I have a caricature of him, done in Rangoon days, under which I put the following caption from "Ingoldsby":

"The pride of the Corps, the delight of the fair,
He'd a mien so distingué and so debonair."

Langdale only served for ten years, retiring in 1910. He was, however, recalled from the Reserve in 1914 and, in October of that year, lost a leg as the result of wounds. After the war he lived abroad and, so far as we can discover, never renewed contact with the Regiment or anyone in it.

Mrs. Wellesley

"Mrs. Freddy," as she was affectionately known to several generations of the Regiment, died on November 4 at Bishopsthorpe, York. She was the widow of Lt.-Colonel F. H. B. Wellesley and mother of Major F. H. V. Wellesley and Mrs. (Evelyn) Akroyd.

The daughter of Mr. W. H. Cobb, a York solicitor, she met her future husband, then a subaltern, while visiting her brother, Captain Harold Cobb, who was serving with the 1st Battalion in India. The Wellesleys were married in 1907, in Yorkshire, and returned to the 1st Battalion in India, remaining with it until 1917 when "Freddy" Wellesley got back to the Western Front with the Royal Naval Division.

"Freddy" was one of the last of the "regimental soldiers"; except at this period he never served, or wanted to serve, away from his Regiment. Mrs. "Freddy" was with him in all the Battalion's peace-time stations. She took a keen and kindly interest in the people around her—an interest which was, perhaps, only rivalled by her interest in racing—and she came to know the 1st Battalion and everyone in it as no Army wife now could.

When her husband got command in 1926 and she became "Mrs. C.O." she knew and was known,

and loved, by everybody to a very rare degree. A photograph of her, surrounded by the wives and children of the Regiment, at Willsworthy Camp in 1930, vividly recalls her position as matriarch of the Battalion family. When the Wellesleys left the Battalion she was presented with a diamond regimental brooch by the officers and a gold cigarette-case by the wives.

The break with Battalion life, after so many years, made life seem rather empty to Colonel and Mrs. "Freddy" and in 1936 they went out to

India, to Nowshera, to visit the 2nd Battalion in which her son (who had joined the 1st while it was still her "family") was then serving. She was happy to renew many friendships and to make new ones with yet another generation.

At the funeral service at Bishopsthorpe, on November 7, the Regiment was represented by Major Jones-Stamp and C.S.M. Wood. Other officers present were Colonel Cumberlege and Colonel Wathen.

OCA News

Minutes of an Annual General Meeting of the Old Comrades and Regimental Associations of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, held at Huddersfield, Saturday, October 8, 1960

Present

Major-General K. G. Exham, C.B., D.S.O. (Chairman), Major-General W. M. Ozanne, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., Brigadier F. H. Fraser, D.S.O., M.C., D.L., Colonels G. B. Howcroft, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., J.P., C. R. T. Cumberlege, R. G. Turner, W. A. Waller, O.B.E., M.C., A. H. G. Wathen, O.B.E., Lt.-Colonel F. R. Gadd, E.R.D., T.D., Major J. H. Davis (O.C. R.H.Q.), Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E. (General Secretary and Treasurer), and 30 other members of the Association.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been published in the January issue of THE IRON DUKE, were taken as read and were passed as a true record.

2. Chairman's Statement

General Exham said he intended to confine himself to a few general remarks as most of what he had to say would be more appropriate in his speech to Old Comrades later in the evening. He welcomed all present and commented that we had a very good representative gathering of serving and ex-serving members. He had a special word of welcome for the members present from our new Bradford Branch. He referred to the formation of the new branch at Keighley (see page 36). The formation of new and the encouragement of existing branches was one of our main objects as an Association.

3. Secretary's Report

The Chairman called upon Mr. Code to present his report on the year's working and activities of the Association.

A full report of the Secretary's Statement appears on page 34. The main points of it were as follows: Although we had assisted fewer cases this year we had paid more money out. This was because the Case Committee felt some families needed a little more help.

The Army Benevolent Fund had made us a block

grant of £400; £200 had already been received; a further £200 would be accounted for in next year's balance sheet.

The new membership figure this year (up to June 30) was 148—our best effort for a few years. This was mainly due to the efforts of Major Jones Stamp and C.S.M. Webb at the Brigade Depot, Strensall. The Colonel thanked Major Jones Stamp and asked him to convey his appreciation to C.S.M. Webb.

The Report was adopted on a proposal by Mr. Dickens, seconded by Mr. Temple.

4. Accounts

The audited accounts of the Associations were read out and copies were circulated. The Treasurer offered explanations where necessary and said the accounts would be printed in full in the October issue of THE IRON DUKE. The Chairman said that, as could be seen, the accounts were in a sound state. All benevolent funds showed an excess of income over expenditure. Our policy was to help the needy amongst our Old Comrades or their dependents but, at the same time, we had to build up our resources against a rainy day; he thought we were doing both jobs well. The accounts were well managed and administered.

The accounts were passed unanimously on a proposal by Mr. Cross, seconded by Mr. Foster (both Bradford Branch).

5. Amendments to Rules

Minute 4 of the A.G.M. of October 3, 1959, had deleted Rules 26-28A under sub-section "FINANCE COMMITTEE" and the Managing Trustees had been requested to re-draft this sub-section. This had now been done and was presented for approval as follows:

14 (c) FINANCE COMMITTEE. The Trustees shall nominate a Finance Committee from serving or retired members of the Regiment. This Committee should meet not less than twice a year. Their responsibility will include:

- (i) Consideration and recommendations on matters referred to them by the Trustees.
- (ii) Consideration of and decisions on the O.C.A. quarterly pensions.

(Continued at foot of next page)

I HAD A BATMAN

No. 2. "Robbo"

I remember so well that evening in Devonport, about an hour before Mess, when a burly, rosy-faced private soldier, dressed in G.S. pullover and slacks, presented himself at the door of my room and said that he had been ordered by the C.S.M. to report as my new batman. He added that his name was Robinson but I knew that already as he was a promising scrum-half.

I was in dire need of a batman and of a rather special one at that: one who could be trusted to look after a somewhat irresponsible young officer. I had just discovered that my easy-going carelessness had tempted my previous batman to sell almost my entire wardrobe to the local pawnshop.

So I wasn't feeling very well-disposed to batmen in general, but I took to "Robbo" on sight. No-one could help doing so; he looked straight at one with wide-open blue eyes and one was smitten with a sense of honesty and staunchness.

We soon became great pals—I suppose because we understood each other's point of view. In an unobtrusive way he reorganised my life for me: he saw to it that my remaining wardrobe became presentable and that I was on time for my duties; he drove my car—and what if, as I am sure, he sometimes drove it unbeknown to me?

Other good batmen have done that much for their officers. What was an especial boon was that "Robbo" could type and that his English and general knowledge were a great deal better than mine. You see, he had an extremely keen brain backed by a good grammar school education; I

hated anything which involved pen and paper. So he typed, and improved, my answers to the correspondence course for the promotion exam. which I was then taking with Messrs. Villiers Stuart and the essays we were made to write from time to time in the Battalion. I used to find my next task laid out on my table with a reminder as to when it was due.

And he enjoyed it. There was nothing he liked better than to sit in my room by the hour (batmen were privileged people in those days) typing my nonsense and his own letters or just reading books.

At one thing I wondered: how was it that a person of his ability could be content to be my batman? I asked him once and he told me that he had no desire for responsibility; he was happy as he was. So funny that, when one knows what was to come. Looking back, I think that, apart from being easy-going, he was then still strangely immature. And those carefree days did not ask much of anyone; we young people lived in the present and only a few looked into the future.

So this round-shouldered youth with a square and ruddy face took life as it came, chiefly sitting over a typewriter in my room in his pullover and slacks.

But on the rugger field he would tackle an elephant or fall at the feet of any opposing forward rush, whatever its weight. His chief merit as a rugger player was his courage. He hadn't at that time made the Battalion XV but when he did—first in 1931, when we won the Army Cup—very

OCA News

(Continued from previous page)

- (iii) Decisions on any recurring expenditure referred to them by the Case Committee.
 - (iv) Examination of the General Account expenditure.
 - (v) Advice or recommendations to the Trustees.
- 14 (d) CASE COMMITTEE. A Standing Case Committee consisting of the retired officers serving at R.H.Q., the General Secretary and one other member to be nominated by the Finance Committee shall deal with the applications for grants or assistance from the benevolent funds. This Case Committee will have power to make grants up to £25 in any one case. It is not authorised to make loans nor to incur expenditure of a recurring nature.

Major Davis explained the draft as presented and the Meeting agreed to it without dissent.

6. Proposal to reduce price of Annual Dinner tickets

Mr. Dickens (Mirfield) proposed that the price

of a dinner ticket for the Annual Dinner be reduced for old age pensioners. The Chairman threw the meeting open for a full discussion and it was eventually decided that an amended proposition by General Ozanne "that any member aged seventy or over should qualify for a free ticket" be put to the meeting; it was seconded by Mr. F. Stringer (Halifax). Carried unanimously.

General Ozanne also raised the question of running costs of the annual dinner. General Secretary explained that the price of the dinner ticket was the actual cost of the dinner; other expenses, such as decorations, band, gratuities, were borne by the General Account and to put the cost on to the dinner ticket would increase it by 3 to 4 shillings. It was decided, at the suggestion of the Colonel, to leave the matter in the hands of the Management Committee.

7. Other Business

General Exham reminded members that a draw was to be held that evening in aid of THE IRON DUKE and that tickets would be available after the meeting.

There being no other business to transact, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

I HAD A BATMAN

Continued

much the 1st Battalion owed to him for its successes.

Before that I had been posted to the Depot and we had had to part. Thereafter it was only infrequently, through the calls of rugby football, that we met. He had been induced to take promotion and, once started, his rise was rapid; each rugby season found him with another stripe on his arm. And when, not long before the war, I joined up with him again in India he was a platoon sergeant-major. His ambition had now been fired and there was no holding him back.

Early in 1940—thanks to the generosity of my commanding officer, Hugh Fraser—I was allotted a vacancy at the Staff College, Quetta, and had to relinquish command of my company. What a joy it was to me when I was told that I was to hand over "C" Company to Captain Jack Robinson, my friend and former batman.

Alas, not many more months were to pass before Jack Robinson was once more to be asked to help stop a rush but this time even his brave spirit was to prove unequal to the task.

J. H. D.

We reprint the following extract from the article on the Sittang Bridge battle which appeared in the July issue

"Early that morning 'C' Company, under Major Robinson, had again been detailed for detached duty. After various adventures this company reached the bridge at 1600 hrs. Attempts to cross by daylight were prevented by Jap fire. At 1650 hours swimmers in the company started to make a life-line from pier to pier of the bridge. Enough rope could not be found so Major Robinson, Cpl. Fox and L/Cpl. Roebuck swam to the west bank, 1,100 yards away, swam back with more rope and completed the life-line. This perilous work was carried out under constant fire.

"As soon as it was dark the company, and some 500 Indian troops who had joined them, were successfully evacuated to the west bank, Major Robinson, Fox and Roebuck remaining in the water the whole time to encourage non-swimmers. For this action Major Robinson (tragically he was killed a month later) was awarded the Military Cross and Cpl. Fox and L/Cpl. Roebuck, Military Medals."

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, 1960.

Case Work

During the year 1959/60 the Case Committee have dealt with 101 applications for help from our benevolent funds. This is a decrease as compared with last year's 144 cases.

Of the 101 applications this year 18 were turned

down by the Committee for various reasons. All cases have been properly investigated by trained case workers of S.S.A.F.A., Forces Help Society, War Pensioners' Welfare Service and other recognised welfare bodies. Any applicable state grant or assistance has been claimed before the Case Committee has proceeded with an application.

Details of monies disbursed from our funds are as follows:—

O.C.A. Fund

	£	s.	d.
32 cases helped	202	11	4
Pensions	158	5	0
Cheque books	1	0	0
IRON DUKE Subscription	20	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£381	16	4

Regimental Association Fund

	£	s.	d.
43 cases helped	359	16	0
Secretary's Honorarium and National Insurance	404	14	3
Cheque book	10	0	0
U.S. Trustee fee	17	6	0
IRON DUKE—Subscription	20	0	0
Loss on badges and records	14	19	2
	<hr/>		
	£800	16	11

McGuire Bate Fund

	£	s.	d.
4 cases helped	182	15	0
Officers' Association Subscription	10	10	0
King Edward VII Hospital for Officers	15	0	0
Royal School, Bath	5	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£213	5	0

Mitchell Trust Fund

	£	s.	d.
4 cases helped	48	19	4

Comparison with Last Year

Although we assisted fewer cases than last year more has been paid out. O.C.A. paid just over £20 more and the Regimental Association, apart from amounts paid to institutions and the £20 grant made this year to THE IRON DUKE, £30 more; McGuire Bate Fund is also up about £46 and the Mitchell Trust Fund, which had no cases last year, dealt with four this and so is up £49.

Pensions Grants

During the year the following have been taken off the O.C.A. Pensions grants list: Mrs. Tanner who died last August; Mrs. Butterworth who has been admitted to a State Home and Mrs. Gilbard whose circumstances improved. No new pensions were applied for. We had five quarterly and one half yearly pensioners on our books on June 30.

Institutions

Grants to those institutions we support remain the same as in previous years, i.e. £66 15s. 0d. from Regimental Association Fund plus £25 10s. 0d. from the McGuire Bate Fund.

Accounts

These have been audited and passed by our Honorary Auditors. The Finance Committee recently examined them and also pronounced them satisfactory.

Investments

The Association Trustees reviewed the accounts at their last meeting and decided that the cash balances on hand were sufficiently large to allow some investment. Accordingly, and on the advice of the Bank and the United Services Trustee, we decided to invest £393 7s. 0d. of the Mitchell Trust Fund in 5% Treasury Stock and £400 of O.C.A. money was used to purchase London County 5% Stock.

Army Benevolent Fund

A grant of £400 has been received from the A.B.F. Only the first instalment of £200 on April 1, 1960, was received in time to figure in this balance sheet.

Membership

We are able to report a tremendous increase in membership this year due to the efforts made at the

Brigade Depot by the "Dukes" staff there to ensure all "Dukes" are life members before leaving for the Battalion. Up to June 30, 148 new members had been enrolled and more have come in since. Our congratulations to Major Jones Stamp and C.S.M. Webb for this fine effort.

New Branches

(This part of the Secretary's report is given more fully on page 36.—ED.)

Other Branch News



In future we should like branch secretaries to send their news direct to the Editor of THE IRON DUKE. Perhaps they would consider the idea of appointing a branch press officer who, besides writing up copy for the Regimental Magazine, would liaise with the local paper to try and get branch news inserted. Some papers run a service column and would gladly include O.C.A. activities.

Conclusion

In conclusion we must thank the ladies and gentlemen of S.S.A.F.A., Forces' Help Society and kindred bodies who so kindly undertake, on our behalf, the investigation of cases.

Thanks, too, are again due to those old established friends of the Association; Messrs. Whitham Smith and Mitchell, our Honorary Auditors, and Major John Driver, Hon. Solicitor to the Regiment. Both of them are always on hand to give advice and guidance.

This concludes the report.

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O.C.A.
ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

The reunion dinner, presided over by the Colonel of the Regiment, was for the second year held in the St. Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield, the H.Q. of our 5/7th Battalion, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer.

The hall looked very attractive with its bunting-clad walls and the greenery, tubbed plants and flowers in profusion which did much to enhance the tastefully laid out tables. The uncased Colours of the 5/7th Battalion, floodlit for the occasion, and selected pieces of Regimental silver provided a perfect background.

It was in this happy atmosphere that about 190 members and some wives sat down to a very good dinner. The band of the 5/7th Battalion played during the meal, and after it, under the able baton of Bandmaster F. Roberts. Its high standard of playing elicited much favourable comment.

The toast of "The Regiment" was proposed by Mr. Fred Gleadow, M.C., M.M. Now aged 79 years, he recalled with pride his service with the Regiment, starting with the Boer War, and said that if he had his time over again he would do what he did in '97—join the "Dukes"!

General Exham, replying to the toast, announced that it was planned that the 1st Battalion should come to the West Riding next spring. They would march through Huddersfield, Halifax and Spenborough to exercise the privilege granted by the respective local authorities. It was hoped that Wellesley Barracks would be opened up to house them during their stay.

The Colonel then gave the latest news from the Kenya battalion, who had sent a telegram to the Association, including their successes at shooting and rugby. "I am certain," he said, "that the rugby posts were put up as soon as the Regimental flag."

Turning to recruiting, the Colonel said that the previous month the "Dukes" had recruited more than any regiment in the Yorkshire Brigade and the 5/7th Battalion had doubled their strength in the past year.

In conclusion General Exham thanked Lt.-Colonel Gadd for the use of the Drill Hall and welcomed Chelsea pensioners Bill Simmonds, Fred Stephenson, Billy Banks and Fred Bridge (applause). He asked them to pass on his personal greetings to Will Pentlow and Arthur Hickie, our other two pensioners at the Royal Hospital, who were unable to attend this time.

After dinner a coach from the Brigade Depot at Strensall deposited another 20 or so who had been unable to get away from the Depot in time to make the dinner.

Altogether we had about 260 present at the gathering following the dinner and going from group to group round the bars it was obvious that "a good time was being had by all."

Apologies for their absence, but with best wishes for a successful evening, were received from:—All ranks 1st Battalion, Major-General R. K. Exham, Major T. V. Laverack, Major R. Wood, Major J. E. Driver and Mr. Jack Wood.

NEW BRANCHES

Bradford

A new O.C.A. branch came into being at Bradford on Sunday, June 26, 1960, following a meeting called to find out if in fact there was a need for a branch there. About 22 ex-members of the "Dukes" turned up at the inaugural meeting and a unanimous vote confirmed that a branch should be started forthwith. Since then the branch has grown in strength and is still adding members. The following were elected branch officials:

Mr. A. Cross Chairman
Mr. A. Greetham Secretary
Mr. A. Copley Treasurer

This branch meets fortnightly, on Sundays at 8 p.m., at the sign of the Market Tavern, Godwin Street, Bradford. **Secretary's address: 18 Miles Hill Drive, Bradford, 4.**

Keighley

We have long had our eye on Keighley as a possible spot to start up a new O.C.A. branch and the opportunity came after the 6th Battalion O.C.A. dinner held at Skipton, on Saturday, October 1, 1960. The General Secretary got together a round dozen or so of the younger ex-"Dukes" there to find out what they thought of a local branch. They were very enthusiastic and so it transpired that on Saturday, October 22, at 8 p.m., an inaugural meeting was held at Keighley Drill Hall, by kind permission of the O.C. Keighley Battery, 382 Medium Regiment R.A. (D.W.R.) T.A., and about 20 members attended. It was agreed to start up a branch in Keighley, based on the Drill Hall; the branch would also cater for the surrounding villages. The following officials were elected:

Mr. G. Calvert Chairman
Mr. S. Metcalfe Secretary
Mr. H. Heath Treasurer

It was decided that the branch would meet at the Drill Hall, Lawkholve Lane, Keighley, on the first Friday in the month at 8 p.m. **Secretary's address: 257 Bradford Road, Riddlesden, Keighley.**

THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

As in previous years, members of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Regimental Association assembled at the Field of Remembrance in the forecourt of Westminster Abbey. The plot was prepared and planted with poppies on the Saturday by the chairman of the Branch, Mr. R. Temple. This year, however, the attendance was disappointing, only five members turning up; these were Messrs. Temple, Hartwell, Woods, Hammond and Richardson. The secretary of the Branch, Mr. B. Hearsom, was unable to attend as he had to visit his daughter in a Surrey hospital and the visiting hours did not permit of the trip to London and then back to the hospital.

After the ceremony those present adjourned to the Westminster Dragoons' Mess where they were again made welcome by the steward, Mr. Hookham.

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 1, 1960. The report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1960, 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 Shortbank Road, Skipton, Yorkshire.

The meeting was followed by the Annual Reunion Dinner, at which Colonel F. Longden Smith presided, and which was attended by 67 members and guests.

The guests were Lt.-Colonel D. F. Wharry, R.A., C.O. of 382 Medium Regiment, R.A., Lt.-Colonel D. J. Stewart from Regimental H.Q., Captain P. B. Knowles, R.A., O.C. "R" (6th D.W.R.) Battery, 382 Medium Regiment, R.A., and Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E., General Secretary of the Regimental Association.

Colonel Longden Smith proposed the loyal toast, and Colonel Wharry proposed the toast of the 6th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Old Comrades Association, to which Major Dixon responded.

* * * * *

10th BATTALION O.C.A.

In spite of the passing of more than 40 years since the 10th (Service) Battalion was disbanded 51 members of the unit's O.C.A. and guests attended the 1960 Reunion Dinner held in the Queen Hotel, Bradford, on Saturday, October 29. In the absence—through illness—of Lt. M. A. S. Wood, M.C. (the Association's Chairman), and Mr. Frank Stephenson (Deputy Chairman), Lt. E. L. M. Lumb (Hipperholme) presided. The principal guest was Major-General Exham, Colonel of the Regiment, and others present included Major J. H. Davis and Lt.-Colonel Stewart from Regimental Headquarters, Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E. (Secretary of the Regimental Association), Major J. C. Bull, M.C. (Winchester), Major A. Farrance (London), Captains R. Bolton, M.C., R. S. S. Ingram, and S. Currington, and Lts. C. W. Wildy (Surrey), John Davis, M.M. (Kent), and F. Wilkinson (Harrogate), and men from a wide area of Yorkshire and the North.

Before the reunion members gathered at the Cenotaph in Victoria Square, Bradford, where Major Bull laid a memorial wreath on behalf of the Association, and then attended the Association's 27th Annual Meeting in the Queen Hotel at which the financial statement presented by the Honorary Treasurer (Mr. W. Barker) was approved; the annual report was accepted. The officers—Lt. M. A. S. Wood (Chairman), Mr. Barker (Hon.

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ASIAGO

A view remembered by veterans of "Piave".

Treasurer) and Mr. George R. Goodchild (Hon. Secretary)—and the Committee were re-elected. It was also decided, after discussion, that, in spite of gradually falling attendances, the reunions should continue to be held as long as the Committee were willing to arrange them.

Proposing the toast of the 10th Battalion O.C.A. General Exham said he regarded it as a great honour to sit down with those present at the Association's 21st Reunion Dinner. He brought a message of goodwill, encouragement and congratulations from all ranks of the Regiment. It came from the 1st Battalion in Kenya, the Territorial Battalion covering Halifax and Huddersfield, Regimental H.Q. and all branches of the Regimental Association.

In the Regiment of today, he said, the memory of the 10th Battalion was held in very high esteem indeed. He wanted members of the Unit to know that their great deeds during the First World War were not forgotten. They were in the Regimental histories for all to read and every young officer and man who joined the Regiment was instructed in the history of the Regiment and told of the glorious traditions of the 10th (Service) Battalion. They knew the Regiment was indebted to the Battalion for no less than three battle honours emblazoned on

the Regimental Colours—the Somme and Ypres and, of course, the one gained solely by the 10th Battalion—the Piave. Many veterans of the Piave were present that night—Major Bull and Captain Bolton, for instance—and he wanted them and those who took part in all these three great battles to know they were not forgotten among present-day "Dukes."

General Exham then gave news of the 1st Battalion and the 5/7th Battalion (T.A.) and other matters affecting "our great Regimental family." He emphasized the Regiment's determination to maintain its strong associations with the West Riding. The roots of the Regiment went deep down into the soil of the West Riding and for nearly 200 years Yorkshiremen had formed the majority of the fighting soldiers of the "Dukes." They did today and he would not be surprised if it were found that of the 650 men in the 1st Battalion 600 came from Yorkshire. It was still a Yorkshire regiment and intended to remain so.

Lt. Lumb responded briefly on behalf of the Association.

NOTE—Major A. Farrance was attending his first reunion dinner. Among those present was Mr. H. W. Walker, of Bradford. They both joined the Battalion at Frensham in September, 1914. Major Farrance was too young to go with the Battalion to France in 1915, but Mr. Walker went. Thus they were separated, but this year's reunion brought them together again—after 45 years!

DO YOU REMEMBER?

I wonder how many "old Dukes" remember this incident which occurred during manoeuvres on Salisbury Plain in the summer of either 1933 or 1934.

During a pitch black night the 1st Battalion was approaching its rendezvous outside Netheravon via a sandy track which completely silenced the men's footsteps. The Colonel was riding about 20 to 30 paces in front of the column. When we got to within 200 yards of the rendezvous, which was some disused hangers, the Adjutant, without consulting the C.O., ordered company commanders to disperse their companies quietly to their appointed billeting areas.

This movement had been successfully completed and the men were just beginning to fall out when the Colonel, without looking behind him, roared: "Duke of Wellington's, On the Left Form Close Column of . . ." but he then looked round and finished his command with an even louder roar of: "WHERE THE — HELL ARE YOU?"

If you do remember you will also recall that, apart from the Adjutant having a bit of explaining to do, the battalion had to fall in again in column of fours and execute the "On the left form close column" at 2 a.m. in the morning.

BEN HEARSUM.

We hope this reminiscence will start a series. Do you remember some episode which you find amusing to look back on? Or have you an amusing or interesting photograph which isn't too faded to reproduce?—ED.

Arthur Sunley

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The Diary of No. 12624 Pte. Arthur Sunley

9TH BATTALION, THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

The Diary of a Battalion Orderly during the First World War

(Continued from page 153 of No. 118, October, 1960)

The last instalment of Pte. Sunley's diary ended at Christmas 1917, spent in the line in front of Bourlon Wood.

On January 3 (1918) I left the Battalion to take over duties as clerk at H.Q., 17th Division. It was a great pleasure to have a change, as I had been with the 9th Battalion since leaving England, and thoughts of better rations and less danger made me feel elated and cheerful. But my thoughts would always be with the lads and the old battalion.

Divisional headquarters was a small encampment of large wooden huts at Ypres. The night I arrived Jerry aeroplanes came over on a bombing expedition but none of the huts was hit. The alarm sounded when I was lying asleep in one of the huts; tired and weary after the march down from the line I never heard it and slept on unconscious of danger. When I awoke the hut was deserted and, thinking this strange, I got up and went outside, to find the rest of the men in deep dugouts—the safety zone in case of air raids.

Another evening we heard the drone of an aeroplane engine circling just over the tops of the huts. Thinking it must be one of our own we took no notice but later, much to our surprise, it came down in a field about 150 yards from the headquarters. It was an enemy aeroplane; apparently the Germans had lost their whereabouts or had engine trouble. Anyhow, the four occupants were taken prisoner.

On February 4 I was due for home leave but, unfortunately, all leave was cancelled as a German offensive was expected.

My work at Divisional Headquarters was very interesting: one of the clerks had to be on duty in the Divisional General's office during the time he and the staff officers were at dinner, and on the office wall was a huge map showing every battalion position, machine-gun emplacement, trench-mortar battery, artillery position, etc. It was generally known that a German offensive was to be expected at any time; every brigade and division had to draw up a special defence scheme. Examining the map I thought our divisional defences round Hermies looked impregnable.

On March 21, at 4 a.m., I was suddenly woken from sleep to the fact that something exciting was happening. A terrific bombardment had commenced. Hastily dressing I ran across to the office to learn that here was Jerry's offensive at last.

Orders came and were rapped out quickly. It was surprising to feel so cool, typing orders with shells whistling over the tops of the huts. I remember my script was "Evacuation of Transport

from Velu Wood." This wood was the transport lines for several battalions, heavy guns, tanks and other details. It was found impossible to get the tanks away.

Jerry's main attack was on the 51st Division on our left and on the division to our right. This forced 17th Division, in the centre, to retire; otherwise they would have been isolated and surrounded. The old 9th Battalion was in the front line when the attack started. They received orders to retire and went back as far as Contay.

It was very pathetic retiring through the French villages: women and children were coming out of the houses panic-stricken, and collecting as many treasured possessions as possible, placing them in perambulators and pushing along with the troops, small children hanging on to their mothers' skirts to find a place of safety.

I met some of the old Battalion near Contay, just struggling in from the front line. Making enquiries about Sgt. S. Gledhill, an old comrade from Huddersfield who had joined up with me in the early stages of the war, I learned that he had been killed. Later I heard that, when the Germans got into the front-line trench, Gledhill, throwing Mill's bombs as fast as he could go, got hold of one that had a rusted pin. While he was struggling with it a German, entering the trench, threw his bomb first and, catching Gledhill on the head, instantly killed him. Sgt. Hargreaves immediately shot the German.

The Battalion, absolutely worn out, received orders to move to the right towards Bricourt and Meaulte. So fatigued did they look that there did not seem a march left in them.

What a sight the retirement was! If you can visualise the crowd coming away from a Cup Final at Wembley, that is the nearest sight to which I can liken the horde of men coming down the road towards Contay—men of all and sundry units: infantry, artillery, R.E.s—every branch of the service coming away from the line. The roads were ten deep with men; there was no actual confusion but—well, it was as if they were coming away from a big football match. Had Jerry concentrated his aeroplanes on this target the retreat could have been turned into a debacle and rout. But, perhaps our aeroplanes were doing their bit to prevent this.

Orders were issued for every man in the Divisional H.Q. Camp to move up to the line: Army Service Corps, A.O.C., A.V.C., Labour Corps, in fact every man who could carry a rifle—some even hadn't one, perhaps had never used one! Fred Karno's Army could not have looked any worse.

When we arrived at Senlis instructions were given that we were to hold it till the last gasp. We arrived at night, encountering units of the 52nd Brigade. "Fred Karno's Army" was sorted out and distributed to proper units. Meanwhile a German airman was flying low and machine-gunning the old ruined buildings and up and down the streets, but I did not hear of anyone being hit. No effort was made to fire back at him; everyone remained as much under cover as possible to create the impression that there were no troops in the village.

By April the Divisional Headquarters had moved back to Toutencourt. On May 1 there was a general comb out of A.1 men for replacement by category B or C men. A medical board pronounced me unfit for further service in the line, but on May 15 I was sent down the line to Etaples, was reclassified, supplied with spectacles and marked A.1—fit for service.

I arrived at Etaples shortly after it had suffered a terrible air raid when some hospitals were struck and a great number of nurses and wounded men were killed. The Press made a great noise about the deliberate bombing of hospitals but, in fairness to the enemy, I don't think for one moment that it was intentional. The hospitals were situated near the railhead which was the centre for distributing reinforcements to their stations up the line. I think the railhead was the Germans' objective.

On reporting to the depot I was amazed to see such young boys in uniform. They looked like children playing in the sand; Blackpool ought to have been their destination, not Etaples.

On May 25 I was sent, with others from hospital, before the medical board. Although I had been pronounced by a specialist unfit owing to defective vision this was not taken into account at this examination. With much punching about the chest and ribs I was pronounced fit in about two seconds and, on June 20, was sent up to 62nd Division in charge of a draft of 20 men. Some of these had been veritably kicked out of hospital; they experienced great difficulty in marching and half a dozen of them fell out through sheer fatigue. On arrival I was severely strafed by the depot adjutant but I was indifferent about the business, knowing that the men would eventually arrive. This they did, straggling into camp at all hours during the evening.

Arriving at the 2/5th Battalion, D.W.R., I met a great number of the old 9th Battalion, the early Kitchener's Army men. I was posted as clerk to "A" Company and did no parades, for which I was grateful as by this time I detested discipline. One thing struck me in the 5th Battalion which was that the men's messing was very carefully supervised and I am sure that no battalion could have been better fed. Every day a menu was posted on the cookers; two platoons would have one dish and two another, changing about the following day. This no doubt accounted for the health of the men and their good *esprit de corps*.

On July 15 we moved off by train to Rheims sector—18 hours travel in railway trucks. I remember the train pulling up at a level crossing; a few of us jumped out and over the railings to an estaminet where, in our best French, we asked for a bottle of beer. This was immediately produced by a lady who said in good English: "You want a bottle of beer, boys." She was an Englishwoman from the south of England. The train started and, carrying the valuable bottle of beer, we chased after it and managed to scramble on.

We stayed a few days near Rheims. Then, on July 14, we moved off by French motor transport up the line. We bivouacked in a wood during the night ready to move out in the early morning to get into position for an attack. On hearing the news that we were "going over the top" I had a queer feeling in the bread-basket. Looking round at the chaps, I noted their serious faces while they were busily writing postcards and letters to be left for the transport to post. I, too, left my diary with the Quartermaster-Sergeant to send home if I was unlucky in the attack.

At 8 a.m. we went over in artillery formation. Very soon we came under shell fire and, as we advanced, we opened out into extended order (the feeling in the bread-basket had now disappeared) suffering many casualties on the way. One of the first was the company commander (Captain Sykes from Huddersfield) who was very popular and respected by the men.

We steadily advanced through a cornfield and, arriving at the top of the ridge where it ended, were subjected to heavy machine-gun and rifle fire. We dropped down but, seeing that men were being hit as they lay, I dashed forward and down the other side of the ridge. In doing so I was hit on the head, falling flat. I gingerly took off my helmet and rubbed my hand over my head but could find no blood. I then found that there was a dent and groove on one side of my helmet, caused by a bullet. I suppose if I had been stationary it would have gone straight through but the action of running caused it to ricochet.

Creeping forward 25 yards I saw a large shell hole into which I immediately got with the knowledge that when the Battalion advanced it was bound to come this way. After an hour, however, no-one came so I gingerly hoisted my helmet on my rifle over the top of the shell hole. This was immediately followed by the ping-ping of snipers' bullets, much too close to be healthy, so the helmet immediately disappeared to the bottom again. After being there for hours I could not understand why the chaps had not come this way. All kinds of thoughts went through my head; I wondered if they thought I had deserted, or if orders had come to change position and move half right. After another hour I thought, "Oh Hell, what is the use of worrying?" so I took my rations out and had a good feed which I quite enjoyed and then fell asleep at the bottom of the shell hole.

(To be continued)

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