

No.120 April 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



33



LXXVI

Hill 60
Somme 1916, '18
Arras 1917, '18
Cambrai 1917, '18
Lys
Piave 1918
Landing at Suva
Afghanistan 1919
North-West Europe
1940, 1944-45
Dunkirk 1940
St. Valery-en-Caux
Fontenay-le-Pesnil
Djeboul Bou Aoukaz 1943
Anzio
Monte Ceco
Burma 1942, '43, '44
Sittang 1942
Chindits 1944
The Hook 1953
Korea 1952-53

Vol. XXXVII

APRIL 1961

No. 120

BUSINESS NOTES

Published Quarterly — January, April, July and October

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

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HALIFAX

Copy for the July 1961 issue should reach the Editor by May 30, 1961

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Photo: Prettygate Studios, Colchester.

AT THE PAARDEBERG BALL
The Sergeants' Mess Plate, with the Colours and Drums of the Battalion

From the Colonel of the Regiment

Last year we decided to revive the old 2nd Battalion tradition of celebrating St. George's Day by holding an Old Comrades' Church Parade in Halifax. This was well attended and I hope it will develop into an annual event. This year the parade will be on Sunday, April 23, and the Regimental Secretary will be sending out details of where to parade and what time to be at the Parish Church. I hope as many Old Comrades as possible who live in the West Riding will support this service so that we shall have a really strong and representative turn out. The Archdeacon of Halifax will preach as he did last year.

The 1st Battalion will be visiting Yorkshire during the first ten days in June with the object of strengthening our links with the West Riding and stimulating recruiting. I believe the last visit of this kind was as long ago as 1903, when the custom of the recruiting sergeants carrying the havercake on their bayonets was revived. We shall be opening

up Wellesley Barracks again to accommodate the Battalion and shall exercise our rights as Freemen of the Boroughs of Halifax, Huddersfield and Spensborough and march ceremonially through these towns with "bayonets fixed, colours flying and drums beating." The Band and Drums will beat retreat and there will also be military recruiting displays, band concerts and various sporting activities in many other towns.

We propose to give an official cocktail party for the West Riding in the old Depot Mess and a private one at Strensall towards the end of the tour for our own serving and retired officers.

The programme* will be circulated and published in the press.

K. A. Exham

(* A summary appears on p. 5.—ED.)

NEWS and NOTES

Observant readers will see many more advertisements in this issue than we have had for a long time. An approach was made to leading firms in the West Riding and a number of them have responded nobly. We are most grateful for their support and urge our readers, in turn, to support these firms if they have a chance to do so.

Unfortunately, news from both units and individuals this quarter has been scant—and photographs are dismally few. We wish to make clear that the news pages have not been reduced to make room for the advertisements. Had it not been for the extra pages of advertisements we should have been hard put to it to make up a minimum-size number. We hope to include in future as many pages of reading matter as hitherto. But, as we have said before, if you don't send us the news we can't publish it.

The official date for the amalgamation of 382 Medium Regiment R.A. with the 5/7th Battalion was March 1. In practice, however, the task has not yet been completed nor has the new title of the combined unit yet received War Office sanction. We hope to celebrate the birth of the West Riding Battalion in the July issue and the notes from Huddersfield in this number will still be under the old title.

On February 3, Colonel "Tuppence" Harvey retired from the Somerset Army Cadet Force, after an extension of the normal period of command, and handed over command to Lt.-Colonel Sir Henry Farrington, Bt. Colonel Harvey joined

the Army Cadet Force in 1948 and commanded a company and then a battalion before becoming Deputy Commandant and, in March 1957, Commandant in Somerset.

As a token of appreciation for the splendid work done by Colonel Harvey a luncheon was given for him at the Castle Hotel, Taunton, on February 1, by Major-General A. H. G. Ricketts, C.B.E., D.S.O., Chairman of the Somerset Army Cadet Force Committee. Among those present was Brigadier George Laing who kindly sent us this account.

Congratulations are due to Brigadier Laing, himself. As reported in the extracts from the *London Gazette* on page xx, he has been appointed an Aide-de-Camp to H.M. The Queen.

Congratulations are also due, though we fear he is no longer a reader of this journal, to Group Captain C. L. ("Jimmy") Troop who was appointed a C.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List.

Major Walter Skelsey is home on leave from Zomba, Nyasaland. His address is The Army and Navy Club, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.

BIRTHS

Booth.—On March 11, 1961, at B.M.H. Hostert, B.A.O.R., B.F.P.O. 40, to Eva (*née* Simpson), wife of Major Derek Booth, R.A.O.C., a son (Andrew Charles David).

Maclaren.—On March 10, 1961, at the Park Nursing Home, Glasgow, to Ronnie (*née* Key) and Jim Maclaren, a son.

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●
● **Telephone: 62022-6 (5 lines)**

● **Telegrams: "SECO, Halifax"**
●

We learn from "The Phoenix" that the recently appointed Under Secretary of State for War, Mr. James Ramsden, is a former officer of 382 Medium Regiment R.A. (D.W.R.) T.A.

Whilst on the subject of Parliament we understand that in a recent film, "No Love for Johnnie," which some readers may know to be about a Labour M.P., the scenes in Johnnie's constituency were filmed in Halifax. We have not, however, seen the film and learn that the shooting, if it took place, did not disturb the normal tenor of life at Highroad Well.

"THE IRON DUKE" APPEAL

Helped by a generous gift of £20 by Captain The Lord Savile, the cash donations to the appeal fund have passed the set target of £350. This has enabled us to clear past debts and to end the last financial year with a small credit balance to add to the income from 1961.

The target of £250 per annum in increased subscriptions is proving harder to hit. So far, we have promises of about half that sum. It is hoped that a drive which has been made to get more advertisements will shortly produce results and provide at any rate part of the additional income required. We cannot yet, however, be certain of this* and we have now once again been faced with an increase in the cost of paper.

Therefore, although the magazine is solvent at the moment, the future is not assured. So we hope there may still be some readers who have been meaning to help but haven't quite got round to it or who have been waiting to see what was really needed.

Third List of Subscribers up to March 1, 1961

Mr. G. W. Annesley, M.B.E.
 Major D. Booth, R.A.O.C.
 Col. P. G. L. Cousens.
 Maj.-Gen. R. K. Exham, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.
 Mr. E. W. Harris, M.C., Mr. F. J. S. Harte
 Maj.-Gen. J. W. N. Haugh, Col. J. W. Hirst
 O.B.E., T.D.
 Mrs. J. W. Kirkland.
 Lady Landon, Lt.-Col. H. A. Luhrs.
 Mr. D. P. Miles, Mr. H. M. P. Miles.
 Maj. R. W. Nicholson.
 Maj. W. F. C. Robertson.
 Capt. The Lord Savile, D.L., J.P.
 Maj. L. S. Wardle, Lt.-Col. N. R. Whitaker,
 Maj. R. Wood.

* Since this was written we have, as reported on page 45, received the first fruits of the advertisement drive and it is a good crop. We have not yet heard whether we can count on a similar number of advertisements for each of the four quarterly issues.

We have also just received a most unexpected donation of £5 from our allied regiment of the Canadian Army, Les Voltigeurs de Quebec. We are most grateful for this generous and friendly gesture. (We wish, however, that they would occasionally send us an account of their activities.)

The Annual Dinner of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Regimental Association will be held on Saturday, May 13, 1961. The venue will be the same as last year—The Chevrons Club, 3 Dorset Square, N.W.1—but the time will be half an hour later than last year. Meet in the lounge at 7.30 for dinner at 8 p.m. Dress: Informal.

The Chevrons Club is within two minutes' walk of Baker Street tube station.

The price of the dinner ticket is 11s. 6d. Although this is slightly dearer than last year the price is still below what the dinner actually costs per person. The Hon. Secretary of the Branch, Mr. Ben Hearsom, 198 Wrythe Lane, Carshalton, Surrey, asks that anyone who is an old age pensioner, or whose finances are "not too good," should have no hesitation in applying to him so that he can be invited as a guest of the branch.

The annual dinner of the Officers' Dining Club and the Ladies' Tea will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.1, on Friday, June 2. The cost of the tea will be 8s. 6d. and there will almost certainly be a levy at the dinner. We do not believe that in this case, the Hon. Secretary is prepared to accept any plea of "not too good" finances.

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Programme

VISIT OF 1st BATTALION TO THE WEST RIDING

Tuesday, May 30	LEEDS	Retreat Beating	1730-1815 hrs., outside Town Hall
Thursday, June 1	HALIFAX	Battalion March	1830-1900 hrs. (approx.)
		Retreat Beating and Demonstration	1900 hrs., Manor Heath Park
Friday, June 2	TODMORDEN	Company March	1830-1900 hrs. (approx.)
		Retreat Beating and Demonstration	1900 hrs., Centre Vale Park
Monday, June 5	KEIGHLEY	Company March	1830-1900 hrs. (approx.)
		Retreat Beating and Demonstration	1900 hrs., Cliffe Castle estate
Wednesday, June 7	HUDDERSFIELD	Battalion March	1915-1945 hrs. (approx.)
		Retreat Beating and Demonstration	1945 hrs., Greenhead Park
		(There will be a civic reception after the event and an O.R.s' Dance in St. Paul's Street Drill Hall)	
Thursday, June 8	BRADFORD	Band Concert	1310-1355 hrs., St. George's Hall
		Battalion March	1830-1900 hrs. (approx.)
		Retreat Beating	1900 hrs., outside City Hall
Friday, June 9	BRIGHOUSE	Company March	1830-1900 hrs. (approx.)
		Retreat Beating and Demonstration	1900 hrs., Wellholme Park
Saturday, June 10	SPENBOROUGH	Battalion March	1830-1900 hrs. (approx.)
		Retreat Beating and Demonstration	1900 hrs., Royds Park
	HALIFAX	Manor Heath Park Gala	
		Band and Drums head Gala Procession	1415-1500 hrs.
		Yorkshire Brigade Band Beat Retreat	During interval

An old "Duke" whom the 1st Battalion met in Kenya but who was not mentioned in the last issue, was Mr. H. H. Peet who was in the 1/6th Battalion in the 1914-18 war. Mr. Peet, whose address is P.O. Box 255, Nakuru, Kenya Colony, kindly sent us a copy of "The Looking Glass," The Magazine for East Africa. It has a special feature on Nakuru, where the 1st Battalion was based, with some excellent photographs which conclusively disprove the description of it, which was referred to in our October issue, by a Sunday newspaper as being "like a mid-west frontier town with a dusty main street." "The Looking Glass" comments on this: "When the late Lord Delamere, some time in the 1920s, referred to Nakuru as 'an objectionable cow town,' his constituents were, not unnaturally, annoyed; when an English newspaper, much more recently, in picturing the hardships of British troops in Kenya, described it as a 'frontier town,' the label was so far from apt that the whole colony laughed—and was resentful."

HITTING THE HEADLINES

Several "Dukes" have been in the news. Among the headlines—the first two of which, not surprisingly, concern rigger—to come our way are:

"A Cap for the 17-stone Captain"

Under this heading *Soldier Magazine* for March gives a full-page "profile" of Captain Michael Campbell-Lamerton with an account of his determined and courageous self-rehabilitation after his accident in Cyprus in 1957 when it was thought that he might never play rigger again. We congratulate Captain Campbell-Lamerton on his Scottish "Caps." We understand he and Mrs. Campbell-Lamerton are also to be congratulated on the birth of a daughter. They are now with the 5/7th Battalion in Huddersfield. Mike, himself, is there sometimes.

"Private Renilson beats Quins"

So the *Daily Express* of February 23 captioned its account of the match in which The Army beat The Harlequins, 12—5. From an onlooker's point of view the "crew-cut Scotsman," as the *Express* call him, was also outstanding in the U.K. Final against the Royal Signals. We congratulate him on his Army "Caps."

"Private's Progress"

"Zipping along in six short months of army life . . . 17-year-old Halifax mill boy . . ." Pte. F. Pilling was featured by the *Daily Mail*, and we believe other papers, when he was chosen to be batman-butler for General "Joe" Kendrew, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., in Australia where the General was to take up the appointment of U.K. Chief Liaison Officer at the end of March. The Press found it remarkable that the General had selected a "Duke" and not a man from his own Regiment. The replies of various "spokesmen," including Major Wellesley, who were interviewed did not, as quoted, really explain the reason but we are informed that the General's driver is to be a Royal Leicestershire man.

"Bayonets to Lhasa," Colonel Peter Fleming's account of the Younghusband expedition to Tibet, was published recently. It may be remembered that we sent Colonel Fleming, in response to his appeal in the *Sunday Times*, some extracts from letters from two sergeants of the 2nd Battalion who were attached to the expedition. Colonel Fleming replied that he was fascinated by the programme of a gymkhana held in Lhasa, which was described in one of them, and hoped to include it as a footnote. The footnote appears on page 241. The account of this strange adventure which brought British bayonets to Lhasa, and of the odd characters who were involved in it, is very much up Colonel Fleming's street as an author.

Correspondence

THE MCGUIRE BATE FUND

DEAR SIR,

Many officers, serving and retired, will be aware of the existence of the McGuire Bate Fund. It has now been established that this fund may be used to assist not only regular officers but any officers who have at any time served in any battalion of the Regiment, together with their wives, widows or children, who may become in straightened financial circumstances or be actually suffering hardship.

The Committee feel that there may, therefore, be many older retired officers in particular who are unaware of the fact that they might be able to obtain assistance from this fund. Many of them may well never read your magazine and so are difficult to trace. There may be others who feel that their own particular difficulties do not warrant help from this fund.

Cases which we have in mind would include those where some disaster may have occurred to a family, undue or unforeseen expenditure incurred, causing temporary embarrassment, or excessive expenses as a result of ill-health which cannot be made good from national sources.

During the last year or so our expenditure has been comfortably within our annual income. It would not, however, have been the wish of Major McGuire Bate that we should merely build up the fund but rather that the income should be used fully to mitigate distress.

Our present excess of income, however, is not such as to allow us to make disbursements without satisfying ourselves that a real need exists, but we do feel that the fund requires to be more widely known. I hope, therefore, that your readers will help us by bringing to our notice any needful cases of which they may be aware so that we can, on verification, distribute grants or pensions, even though they may not be large, and so in some measure alleviate the position of those in need.

Yours sincerely,

F. R. ARMITAGE,
Chairman,

McGuire Bate Fund Committee.

Tanglin House,
Park Avenue, Camberley.

(Continued from next column)

berley, and at the end of the course in December was appointed D.A.A. & Q.M.G., 9 Infantry Brigade, serving with them in Holland and Germany until October, 1945. After 10 years in the T.A. Reserve of Officers, Major Driver has been D.A.A. & Q.M.G., 127 (East Lancs.) Infantry Brigade (T.A.) from February, 1955, to October, 1960.

He was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration in 1948, with bar in 1960. We heartily congratulate him on the award of the M.B.E., which he received from the hands of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, at a recent investiture at Buckingham Palace.



Photo: "Oldham Chronicle".

MAJOR J. E. DRIVER, M.B.E., T.D., LL.M.

In April, 1948, Major John Driver, a principal of Messrs. Ponsonbys, solicitors, of Oldham, Lancs., accepted an invitation to become the Regiment's honorary legal adviser. Since then we have had reason to be extremely grateful to him for the vast amount of work he has done for us on many complicated legal matters and in such tasks as piloting through the proper channels our War Memorial Fund, new rules for the Regimental Association, and other such items.

The Regimental Association is particularly indebted to him. He is one of its trustees and is a member of its Management and Finance Committee. The Secretary of the Association, Mr. Code, has frequent recourse to him for advice and guidance, and is much helped by the free and friendly manner in which these are given.

Major Driver, who retired recently from the T.A., was commissioned into 2/7th D.W.R. in the summer of 1939. He transferred to 1/7th on the embodiment of the T.A., and was with that battalion in Iceland from April, 1940, to September, 1942, being appointed first intelligence officer and then adjutant.

He went to H.Q. 147 Infantry Brigade as intelligence officer in September, 1942, and was staff captain of the brigade from March, 1943, until after the Normandy landings in June, 1944. In July he was selected for the Staff College, Cam-

(continued opposite)

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

The initial preparations for the forthcoming visit of the 1st Battalion in June are already taking up much of our time. So far a battalion march, followed by retreat beating by the band and drums, has been arranged for Halifax, Huddersfield and Spensborough to exercise the rights and privileges of the freedom of these boroughs.

A rather less spectacular effort is being made in Bradford where a lunch-time band concert is being given in St. George's Hall, from 1310 to 1355, on Thursday, June 8, in addition to the march through the city.

Other towns to be visited officially are Brighouse, Todmorden, Skipton and Keighley. At each place will be arranged some interesting demonstration or exhibition. We had hoped to lay on helicopters for Halifax but this has had to be cancelled as the offer of the helicopters was withdrawn.

We have sent the 2nd Battalion's company billiards league cup to the Junior Leaders Battalion on long loan. It will be used as a challenge cup for place kicking, and we hope it will be won by one of our own eight juniors.

Tom McMahon borrowed the mess rooms one evening to celebrate his ruby wedding. He was married on February 1, 1921, at Surafend while serving with the 1st Battalion in Palestine.

The "Cumberlege plan" had a minor setback

when the War Office thought R.H.Q. might be more appropriately sited in the area of the old stables at the top corner of the barracks, near Asquith's. A meeting on the ground was only narrowly averted by the withdrawal of the War Office representative and project, but we expect this disagreement will have put back our date of move.

The Colonel of the Regiment has sanctioned a request from the Gurkha Signals to adopt "Scotland the Brave," the unofficial march of the 76th, as their regimental quick step for both military band and pipes.

We have to report with regret the death of Major J. Bigley, M.B.E. who, although not a "Duke", served the Regiment well for a number of years. He first came to Wellesley Barracks in 1938 as a civilian clerk of works to supervise the modernisation programme, which included building the new gymnasium, sergeants' mess, Cornwallis block and improvements to a number of existing buildings.

He was embodied during the war years and left Halifax in 1940 in the rank of Major to become D.C.R.E. at Loughborough, where he was awarded his M.B.E. He returned to Halifax in 1946 and helped considerably in getting 33 P.T.C. away to a good start. He left us again in 1950 on being posted to York.

THE YORKSHIRE BRIGADE DEPOT

The period since Christmas has brought no event of great importance. The last big passing-out parade was on December 13, when General Shephard, the Chief-of-Staff, took the salute. The best recruit was Pte. Pilling, of Halifax, and the best L.M.G. Shot Pte. Brook, from Huddersfield. The former has been selected to go to Australia for two years in the train of General Kendrew. Who can say that there are no plums for the modern soldier?

The only other passing-out parade was held on February 4, with but two platoons, mainly York and Lancaster, on parade. The Lord Mayor of Sheffield took the salute on this occasion.

The first response to our recruiting drive has been moderately encouraging but we still have great strides to make before we approach our target figure. Captain Pell, in addition to looking after our interests, has been appointed Brigade Liaison Officer—a task of the very greatest importance during the next two years. C.S.M. Webb, now substantive in that rank, and C/Sgt. Sullivan are still with Training Company and Headquarter Company respectively. The "Dukes" training team are Sgt. Brown, Cpl. Procter, L/Cpls. Hodgkinson and Parker. Sgt. Fee is still the Cadre Sergeant.

On February 14 the Council of Colonels of the

Yorkshire Brigade was held once more at Strensall. We welcomed for the first time Brigadier G. T. Denaro, C.B.E., D.S.O., the new Colonel of the York and Lancaster Regiment.

OFFICERS' MESS

There has been little to record recently of note. We have entertained inspecting officers and their entourage to luncheon, some of the pictures have changed places on the walls and, on January 26, we said goodbye to Edward Dasent at a guest night. To be accurate we said goodbye to him on January 27; he seemed very unhappy to be leaving.

On February 13 we held a "small" private cocktail party which eventually swelled to about 150 guests. On January 4 the Middleton met at the Mess; a very cold bad scenting day. There was a long slow hunt enjoyed by hundreds of pony club children.

We have been visited by many past and serving members. It is hoped that all retired regular officers understand that they will be as welcome here as they would have been in Halifax in the old days.

SPORT

After last year's success it is sad to record that rugby has gone through a lean period. Our per-

manent staff is much smaller than last year and the absence of N.S. men has been felt severely. Only two games have been played; in one we beat Hull City Police 23-nil; in the second we were beaten by R.A.F. Leconfield 40-nil.

In soccer we have done better, considering the numbers of regular players lost on posting and release. At the time of writing we occupy second position in Division II of the York Half Holiday League. We have been knocked out of the following competitions, Army Cup, York Charity Cup, Minor Units Cup and Half Holiday Trophy but are hoping to reach at least the semi-final of the League Cup.

Record of the team in all matches played is as follows:

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against
22	15	1	6	129	54

Leading goal-scorers are: Cpl. Cook (R.A.P.C.), 41; Pte. Trickett (Y. & L.), 20; L/Cpl. Parker (D.W.R.), 14.

The following members of the Regiment have played for the team: Cpls. Bower, Haddrell, L/Cpls. Bennett, Parker, Thornton, Ptes. Wade and Hudson.

Finally we have to report the success of the boys in beating the Wessex Brigade at Aldershot 4—3, and thus winning the Boys Army Cup. (*According to "Soldier" magazine, which gave a report of the match, the score was 2—1. But, anyway, our boys won.—Ed.*)

The Craigcleuch Hounds

We publish here two photos of Major Douglas Jones-Stamp's hounds. They were sent us by R.H.Q.—without explanation except that the Colonel of the Regiment would like them to be published, and R.H.Q. thought that, in these days when people were inclined to take soldiering too seriously, such activities deserved encouragement.

Thinking that the photos would be more interesting with some explanatory account we applied to Major Jones-Stamp, who replied:

"Ref. the photos, I was not keen for them to go in . . . I have kept and bred a few basset hounds for the past 12 years. Last year we started hunting regularly and built up a small pack. They are called 'The Craigcleuch'; the 'country' is the south-west corner of Dumfriesshire.

"We also hunt, by permission of the Derwent Valley Beagles, in the neighbourhood of York. We hunt on Wednesday afternoons in Yorkshire and Saturdays in Scotland. This season, owing to floods and foot and mouth disease, hunting has been practically confined to Yorkshire.

"I have got at present seven and a half couple of pure-bred and English basset hounds. Some are of



The Craigcleuch outside the Officers' Mess, Strensall

my own breeding, some are from the Westerby and some from Sir Jocelyn Lucas's pack. Bassets hunt in rather a different manner from beagles, being slower but having better noses. They also have a wonderful 'cry'; hence one can do with a smaller pack.

"This is a private pack, with no subscription or cap. We have a small, faithful following. The whippers-in are Captain Pell, Pte. Foulkes (kennel-huntsman), Lt. Garnett (Green Howards) and Captain Smythe (P.W.O.). The uniform is green corduroy, green stockings and silver hunt buttons. Evening dress is scarlet with green velvet collar and waistcoat."

Some readers may remember that, as reported in the July 1960 issue, one of the hounds, "Craigcleuch Rhapsody," was successful at the M.B.H.A. Show at Aldershot last year,



(Left to right) Capt. Pell, Major Jones-Stamp, Pte. Greenwood, D.W.R., Pte. Foulkes (K.H.), Y. & L., Lt. Garnett, Green Howards

Some Reflections on Receiving a Christmas Card ★

I have in my possession copies of a number of letters written by two officers of the 33rd Regiment during the Seven Years War (1757-63), which throw an interesting light on campaigning in Germany during that period. When I first received them it seemed a sensible and not too onerous task to edit them with a view to high-lighting some aspects of the activities of the 33rd in the campaign, and perhaps making the official history a little more human—not to say more interesting. How wrong can one be? After twelve months intermittent work I have hardly progressed at all. This note, written whilst recovering from an attack of 'flu will, I trust, serve as a solemn warning of the sort of frustrations to which the would-be historian must accustom himself.

Almost before I had started I thought it only fair to warn the Editor of THE IRON DUKE of the interesting work upon which I was about to embark, thereby giving him plenty of opportunity to plan ahead. By smart return came an encouraging reply, though his remark that he hoped the article wouldn't be too long, as if so no one would read it, was at first glance rather a back-hander. But of course he is right, for we have all had, at one time or another, to read through pages of so-called history, which have left us bored stiff. When we think back over our own battle experiences we recollect the gay, unusual and exciting moments, and are delighted to recount the details of anyone willing to listen—and people are interested and do listen. Then put to paper and what happens? It becomes full of significant details about strengths, map references, etc.—and as dull as dish water. The trouble is that the historian feels he is writing for posterity and must get all the facts recorded, with the result that, the more accurate he is, the less readable becomes his history; though some history can be pretty deadly with a few facts, and those wrong. In this category I must regretfully place Albert Lee, who wrote the now out of print "History of the 33rd Regiment." I think one of his better efforts was to have the Regiment marching up to Halifax in 1782 when at the time they were encamped 2,000 miles away in Halifax (Nova Scotia), but there are many other errors on a par with that.

All this is getting me away from the Seven Years War. I first read Lee, who—utterly befogged me. Then I read the "History of the XXIVth Foot, in which I found a reference to "The glorious reinforcement"—which rang a bell from Sandhurst days.

It seems the 33rd formed part of it. I therefore checked Lee, but found no mention of it (another black mark for Lee). I next read the "History of Fifth Fusiliers"—which is very good (by a woman), and finished up with "History of the British Army" by Fortescue. As a result I had a broad picture of events.

I then followed the movements of the 33rd. Everything went well until I found that I had been following the movements of the Grenadier Company, which at that time always fought with other grenadiers as a separate regiment, often miles away from the 33rd. I therefore tried to sort out the Grenadiers, but found there were two Regiments, one commanded by an officer of the 33rd. Eventually I discovered he was commanding the Hanoverian Grenadiers. Everything was now clear, or

LEE'S HISTORY

With all its faults, Lee's History is the only full account of the 33rd Regiment that we have. It is out of print and copies are now scarce. If any reader has a copy which he does not wish to keep it would be appreciated if he would send it to R.H.Q. at Halifax (Yorkshire, not Nova Scotia). And, although old soldiers never die, wise ones make a will; so, if you do not want to part with your copy now, please think of bequeathing it (and any other regimental records) to R.H.Q.

so I thought, when along came another 33rd officer commanding the Grenadiers and the last I had met him he was commanding the 2nd Battalion the 33rd, which resulted in more checking and cross-checking.

I decided that it would all be much easier if I had a few clear maps, so I started to draw my own. Snag: Few of the places mentioned in the history books are shown on the maps that I possess.

At this moment I have beside me four large history books, a map of Europe, two atlases and copies of 26 letters, written by the two officers of the 33rd. Progress to date: four pages of manuscript describing events of the years 1757 and 1758, at which point the 33rd were then still in Dorset and had yet to see a shot fired in anger.

I mentioned earlier that writing history can be very frustrating; but quite obviously there is more in it that I have described above. For myself I think the chief pleasure is that of detection: that is to say the putting together of facts and information from different sources, so that in the end one has (one hopes), a more complete, watertight and satisfactory story than when one started. The analogy with the relaxation obtained from reading a detective novel is very close, and for that reason, if for no other, those who are interested will one day be able to read a revised version of the part the 33rd played in Germany just over 200 years ago. . . .

A.C.S.S.

* The Christmas card? Oh, well, it contained a note as follows: "How is your article going about the Seven Years War?"

1st BATTALION

The last edition of THE IRON DUKE went to press with the Battalion en route home from Kenya. They duly arrived, safe and sound, in Colchester by November 24, 1960, the worst hazard of the journey, according to the 2IC, being the floods in Wiltshire.

The Colonel of the Regiment, supported by the Brigade Colonel, Colonel C. Nixon, addressed the Battalion on parade on December 8 and warmly congratulated them on their achievements in Kenya and on the additions made to the Regiment's high reputation. After he had wished all on parade a good leave and a happy Christmas, the Battalion advanced in review order, and the General retired to the Sergeants' Mess.

The following day, after watching the Battalion soccer team have the misfortune to lose the replay of their third-round Army Cup match, most people departed by special train for a well-earned leave until the New Year.

On return there loomed over everything the awful spectre of the "annual administrative inspection," that bogey of so many generations of soldiers. Practice and preparation filled in much time during January and, as so often happens, the inspection, by Major-General C. H. P. Harrington, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. 3 Infantry Division, went off far better than anyone had dared to hope. This in spite of concurrent reorganisation on to the "774" establishment and the arrival of the two very large drafts of about 100 each from Strensall and a draft of 50 from Beverley, raising our strength to over 1,100 all ranks.

The result is that we now occupy two barracks. "A" and "C" Companies are in the old Cavalry Barracks some half a mile away from Meeanee Barracks. They have already become known to some as the 2nd Battalion.

Since the inspection the battalion has been flat out on training, marching and shooting; the rifle companies are making full use of the facilities of the Stamford training area and are running company training camps there.

The third week in February should have seen a full-scale battalion air move to Scotland, Ex. "Hare Hunt"; this unfortunately had to be cancelled by the R.A.F. at the last moment, greatly to the rage of the Unit Emplaning Officer and his staff who had burnt much midnight oil during the previous week and of the advance party who had gone up by road. As we go to press Ex. "Doone Valley" looms ahead. This is a brigade test exercise for platoons to be held in the wilds of Exmoor and there are terrible rumours around as to its toughness (see our next issue for further details).

In addition the usual cadres have been taking place: N.C.O.'s, signals, support weapons, M.T. drivers, and what have you.

As usual a great deal of sport has been played. With the sad departure of the Battalion team from

the Association Football Cup, in spite of the great efforts of Mr. Randall, the main interest has been the rugby team's progress in the Army Cup. This is fully covered elsewhere in this issue as are our other sporting activities.

Five very welcome visitors to the battalion were our pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea who attended the Paardeberg Ball. They were accommodated in the Sergeants' mess and returned to Chelsea full of tales of how the modern soldier lives, having been most impressed by this very new barracks.

This has been a quiet period and it is hoped to have much more to report in the next issue.

OFFICERS' MESS

Late November saw us back once more in Meeanee Barracks, lovingly sorting through the treasures we had so hurriedly left behind and spending many hours trying to start our cars after a four-months' lay-up. Many the loud bangs and clouds of smoke.

Once the dust had subsided we took stock and planned our Christmas leave.

As a send-off we had a visit from the Colonel of the Regiment, supported by the Brigade Colonel, and Colonel Dick Cumberlege and Major Lewis Kershaw. We took the opportunity to hold a guest night and were very pleased to be able to dine-out Lewis on the eve of his retirement. General Kenneth made a short speech wishing him well, to which we all add our own good wishes.

We held a second guest night on January 12 when we were honoured by Lt.-General Sir John Cowley—Master General of Ordnance, Major-General D. E. B. Talbot, G.O.C. East Anglian District, Brigadier J. M. Northern and others. The M.G.O. remarked how nice it was once again to dine in a regimental atmosphere.

We also had lunch parties for supporters at our two home ties in the Army Rugby Cup and were happy to welcome old friends too numerous to mention.

For a very enjoyable fortnight we entertained, "exchange au pair," Captain F. Hugerin of the Foreign Legion. After 14 days with an English battalion preparing for its annual administrative inspection he left us in baffled bewilderment.

In the course of the administrative inspection we entertained General Harrington and his staff to what we thought was a very pleasant lunch party. We shall know if we were right when the report arrives.

The Mess has received two splendid gifts: Colonel "Pip" Moran has presented a superbly bound "Historical Record of the Mess Plate," to mark his tenure of command; "Baron" Emmett has presented a beautiful silver tray on retirement. To them both our heartfelt thanks for such useful and handsome gifts.

Most of us managed to attend the most successful Regimental Reception in the Hyde Park Hotel in December and enjoyed meeting so many old friends once again, in such pleasant surroundings.

We congratulate Donald Isles on his selection for the next course at the Joint Services Staff College; he is surely the first "Duke" to attend for many years?

We welcome back to the fold Nick Naughton, Rodger Southerst, Edward Dasent, and Chuck Ivey and extend a greeting to our newcomers Ian Reid, Alan Jones, John Walker and, only just in (rugger) time, Bill Bailey.

During this period Mike Campbell-Lamerton has left us to become adjutant of the 5/7th Battalion—and to play rugger for Scotland (many congratulations, Mike).

We were also sorry to lose three of our National Service Officers, Chris Norris, John Goulding, and Graham Allen. We wish them well. They were all we could possibly wish for.

In February we were all the guests of the R.S.M., Warrant Officers and Sergeants at their magnificent Paardeberg Ball and to them we can only offer our grateful thanks for one of the best evenings we have had in Colchester.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

The past months have been taken up in preparation for our annual administration inspection and settling down from our sojourn in Kenya. The inspection is now over and all the sighs of relief expelled.

The Christmas Draw was held on December 15, the night before the Battalion went on leave, and was without a doubt a huge success. For this we owe thanks to C.S.M. Batty and his committee. The draw was attended by some of our K.A.R. friends from Kenya; W.O.2 Bill Lane and his wife Doreen and Mr. Dougie Belcher with his wife Myra. We were all pleased to see that their visit was not in vain and that they managed to take some prizes away with them.

On January 18 we held our first Regimental Dinner in Colchester. This was attended by the members' wives and also we were pleased to see some of the familiar faces from our attached units in Kenya. The intention for the future by the way is to dine the ladies once a quarter. The dinner was followed by dancing which helped to make the evening a greater success.

All of our forecast departures (last issue) did in fact leave us and we are sorry to say C.S.M. "Jock" Norman has also departed to take up his recruiting duties in Huddersfield. No more is the voice heard saying, "It wasn't like this in India," and we only hope that the potential recruits are talked into the "Dukes" (1st Battalion) and not into service in that other distant land where the 2nd Battalion do not hold fort any more.

We welcome Sgts. "Peanut" Ingham, Wally Morris, Allan Wylde and Geoff Holliday who have returned to us after their holidays at the 5/7th and Brigade Depot, also Sgt. Buck Houghton who has been away recruiting and is now going to leave us

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AT THE PAARDEBERG BALL

(Left to right) Pioneer Sgt. Dodds, Sgt. Curling, the C.O., Pensioners Sgt. Banks, Pte. Bridges, Sgt. Hickey and C/Sgt. Stephenson

again with a "golden bowler." We wish them luck in the future.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Geoff Nicholson and C/Sgt. "Simmo" Simpson and Sgt. Owers on their promotions—that will bring a few sighs of relief from the long-suffering promotion roll. (Ah! another step nearer.)

Congratulations also to "Pop" Dodds and Tom Hudson on their recent marriages and to C/Sgt. Dick Fenn on getting engaged.

It is rumoured very strongly that C.S.M. "Nick" Nichols is going to go out with the Battalion in the event of another air move. There is strong competition for his place in rear details at the moment but we have no doubt who shall win (his Depot service will have given good experience for the job).

Another air exercise is due towards the end of the month and our venerable C.S.M. of "H.Q." Company is considering withdrawing from this as he got rather wet on the last one. He and the R.Q.M.S. found that trying to have a bath in bed in the middle of the night wasn't really comfortable. The R.Q.M.S. has since withdrawn from ops and exercises; after all someone has to look after the barracks.

Our annual Paardeberg Ball was held on February 17 and, thanks to the ball committee, it was a wonderful success. For the occasion we took over Colchester Garrison N.A.A.F.I. Club. This dispelled the rumours that the ball was to be cancelled,

to be held on the square or in case of emergency in the Military Hospital (Ward 10).

The ball was well supported without being overcrowded, without a doubt a good evening was enjoyed by all. Among the guests were the following former mess members, R.S.M. "Tich" Frier, C.S.M. Al Arundel and C.S.M. "Jock" Norman. All of them travelled down from Yorkshire for the evening.

We were delighted to have with us five former "Dukes" from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. They were:

- Bill Simmons .. A one-time Signal sergeant with the 1st Battalion who actually served at Paardeberg.
- Fred Stephenson Colour-sergeant, served with the 2nd Battalion.
- Frank Hickey .. Sergeant, served with the 1st Battalion.
- Bill Banks .. Sergeant, served with the 2nd Battalion and represented them at boxing and rugger.
- Fred Bridge .. Private, served with the 1st Battalion then transferred to R.T.R.

These wonderful "young" veterans stayed for the weekend and managed successfully to look after Sgts. "Pop" Dodds and Cyril Curling and ensured they didn't get into trouble. We sincerely hope that



Photo: Prettygale Studios, Colchester.

Pensioner Sgt. Simmonds with Brigadier Jackson, the Brigade Commander

opportunity comes our way again to invite them down for another function.

Past members of the mess and those serving away would have been astonished at the very colourful scene that was presented at the ball by our new scarlet mess jackets. They did much to make the evening more pleasant—it's surprising how much easier the beer can flow with no real restriction around the neck.

We deeply regret to announce the death of a past member, C/Sgt. Jack Waite, who passed away on January 17. He is affectionately remembered for his work in the Battalion as M.T. Sergeant and later as C.Q.M.S. on the Quartermaster's Staff. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow and children.

As a final note I would like to say that S/Sgt. Duncan Brayshaw did not compile these notes as forecast in the January issue so please don't blame him for this effort.

(Footnote: I wonder if "Pop" Dodds has seen the M.T. Tech Store Fire Point.)

CORPORALS' MESS

The call Aya! Aya! Aya! has finally been dispensed with, and we are proud to say it is once again: "Stick it the 33rd." Yes, one more station (Kenya) has been left behind and we are once again in our home country and settling down in the new barracks at Colchester. The next big step we have to concentrate on is our Yorkshire tour in June; they tell me that our R.S.M. has even gone as far

as to buy a new pace stick for the memorable occasion.

First let me dwell on our short but memorable stay in Kenya. The Battalion and the Mess made names for themselves during our tour out there. The first by its efficiency, whilst the latter, our Mess, came first in the Tusker Drinking League led by our P.M.C., Cpl. Frank Elston. Late in November 1960 a social was held in the mess with great success; it included the Commanding Officer and our R.S.M. being "Mickey Finned" by our barman, Cpl. (Geordie) Connor, and I would like to ask for two minutes silence whilst both of them recover from their hangovers. A lot of hard voluntary work was put in by all the mess members and we would like to offer a vote of thanks to Cpls. "Saffy" Lawrence, Radley and "Long John" Hobbs, also not forgetting our honorary member Sgt. "Jock" McGill, for the excellent buffet they produced. I believe Cpl. Hartley is still over there eating the remains of the ham. An impromptu concert was organised by our M.C., Cpl. "Mallett" Carman, and we found that there was hidden talent amongst us that could be put on at the London Palladium without being disgraced. Artists such as L/Cpls. "Gigi" Hollows and "Ecstine" McPartland gave fine renderings of some good songs. The evening was a great success and nearing the close our R.S.M. led us into a community song which he said he had written himself; it was something about "Green Grow the Rushes, Oh." Our last and final act was our old friend Cpl. "Nobby" Clarke nursing a full bottle of rum singing "Show me the way to go home."

The next thing we all looked forward to was our air lift back to Blighty. A very well organised move and welcomed by all members of the Battalion. Presents and gifts took first priority and, even though we have no mess silver, Cpl. Jacko tried his best to get through with a silver spoon, declaring it as Mess property. (Full marks to him for his initiative.) He has now taken the first steps in Holy Matrimony and we offer our best wishes to him and his wife (It's time he settled down, anyway, to give the young ones a chance). One thing was in all our minds, and that was leave granted through the kind permission of the Commanding Officer. As far as possible everyone available was home for Christmas leave with their families.

Came January and the wheels were turning again: "Come here, you dozy man." Yes, once again our R.S.M. was putting us through our paces in preparation for the Admin. Parade on February 9, 1961. Oh, by the way, I forgot to mention that the R.S.M. has started diving lessons for the Corporals; it seems he gave a magnificent display of diving or, should I say how not to dive, into 3 in. of water, when he was down at Mombasa in Kenya. Anyway the Mess members have formed a diving club with the kind permission of the R.S.M.

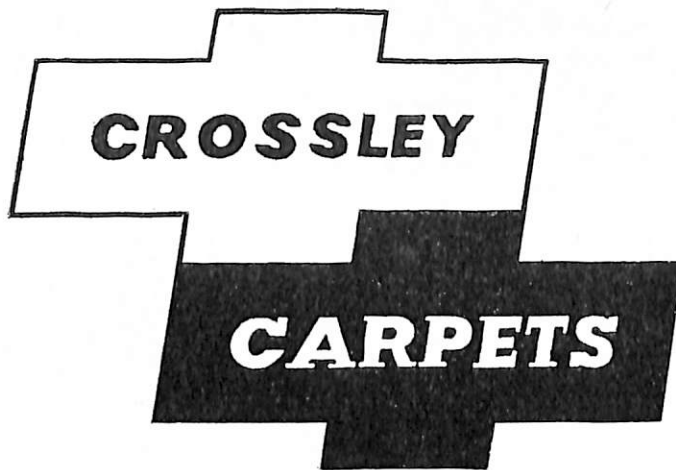
In the sporting circle the Mess has produced members in every sport. Our Battalion soccer team gallantly led by L/Cpl. Cameron got as far as the fifth round of the Army Cup, and delighted the spectators with some grand performances. He still carries a chip on his shoulder for the penalty he missed against the Buffs, but we say he did a

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grand job. Our regular goalkeeper, Cpl. ("The Cat") Pybus, was unable to play in that vital match owing to a broken arm, and his place was taken by L/Cpl. Acaster who has now left us for Civvy Street. Other members in the Battalion side are Cpl. "Jock" Waite, L/Cpls. Kellet, Hollows and Grainger. Though beaten 5—3 we were not disgraced.

On the rugby field some fine performances have been put up by L/Cpls. Keegan and Griffett and by Cpl. "Dinkie" Huddart, and we pride ourselves on the performances of the Mess members who have been partly responsible for the Battalion success. Cross-country Championships next, and stalwarts like Cpl. Lindsay, L/Cpls. McDougal, Reidy and Hollows were once again called on to prove their mettle. I say we did well to come a close runner-up and with such short notice. Last but not least, basket-ball; the Battalion once again came runners-up, but medals were won by Cpls. "Basket" Reddy, "Elvis" Dowdall, "Nobby" Clarke, "Gary" Cooper and L/Cpl. "Jenny" Wren. The team was beaten after an exciting game by last year's holders, and I believe the score was 58 points to 42.

Cold, wet, blustery February made the administrative inspection and parades the main topic of conversation in the Mess. It has been said that two members of the Mess have gone bald with worrying over it, and we did hear that the same two concerned are creeping back into camp to see if the vehicles are still there. The two members concerned are "Geordie" Hart and "Topper" Brown who, by the way, was up on the C.O.'s roof until the admin. was over.

Before closing we would like to offer our congratulations to the under-mentioned who have reached the dizzy heights and wish them every success: Cpl. Owers to Sergeant; L/Cpls. Pybus, Claviver, Pollard and Gott to full Corporals; Ptes. Holdsworth, Waite, McDanielson, Pickering, Mapleston, Holbrook, "Digger" Lee, Mason, Barker, Kellett and Hutchinson, Smillie, Sharkey and the R.A.P.C. to Lance-Corporals.

We welcome back old faces as well as new, and hope their stay with us will be a long one. Cpl. Frank Towey has joined us from the 1st P.W.O. Cpls. "Paddy" Collins, "Jock" Barnett and Rusby, L/Cpls. Jones, Anderson, and not forgetting our W.T., Cpl. Atkinson, are all from the Depot. It is with regret we say good-bye to L/Cpl. Acaster and Cpl. "Long John" Hobbs, but we wish them every success in civvy life.

They tell me that the Q.M. and the R.Q.M.S. Wally Robbins are now getting to sleep at night after sorting out a new B.D. for Cpl. Chivers; he has promised to go on a diet so all is well.

It is rumoured that Cpls. Foster and Butterfield and L/Cpl. Cameron are forming a lonely hearts club; would anyone interested please contact any of the above any time during working hours.

We wish both Cpls. Spearman and Carolan, who are present in hospital, a speedy recovery back to the Battalion.

SPORTS SUMMARY

Apart from the Army Cup rugby and soccer not as much sport as we would have liked has been played since our return from Kenya. This has been not only because of the exacting demands of work, but also because of an acute shortage of grounds in the Garrison. This is a big problem, and future designers of barracks would do well to remember that playing fields in the middle of barracks are really just as necessary as the barrack square. Even small "kick-about" areas would do.

However we hasten to assure readers that, despite all this, we have played some sport. In fact we have done, and are doing, well. We entered company teams in the Brigade Minor Units Competition. In the soccer it looks as though we might well produce both finalists. In rugby we have "A" Company, with a first-round victory of 76 points to nil over last year's runners-up, heavily favoured to win the cup. And, although hockey saw the exit of "H.Q." Company, "D" Company are still battling in round 3 of the basketball. All in all we seem to be dominating the Brigade competitions.

As a battalion we came second in the District Cross Country and here we must congratulate Cpl. Lindsay on his selection to run for the Army. Captain Hoppe has again taken over boxing and, after the Inter-Company Boxing in April, is hoping to build up a team for next autumn's Army Inter-Unit Boxing. It is high time we entered the lists of this sport again.

The cricket fixture list is almost full and swimming and athletics training will start soon. If we are left in peace it should be a good sporting summer.

SOCCKER

On our return to the U.K. we went into the Army Cup, and were drawn to meet the Queen's Own Buffs at Shornecliffe.

This was quite a game; when we were leading 3—2 a nasty accident occurred in which our goalkeeper, Cpl. Pybus, sustained a broken arm. Consequently the team had to be readjusted and the game finished 4—4.

On the replay at Colchester we had a good chap in the goal, namely L/Cpl. Acaster; but, although quite a good goal-keeper, he could not keep out the "Buffs." The Battalion played quite well but lost 5—3.

Our present concern is the E.A. District and Eastern Command League. In the District we played Brigade "H.Q." and beat them 6—3, goal scorers being Ptes. Hodgson (3), Lumm (1) and Kellett (2) all "B" Company (other Companies please note).

Our next opponents for the E.A. District Cup is the 20th Field Regiment R.A. whom we entertain on March 22, 1961.

Our team for the last match was: Goal-keeper, Lt. Summers; right-back, Cpl. Waite; left-back, Pte. Brown, "D" Company; right-half, Pte. Wilson, "H.Q." Company; centre-half, L/Cpl. Cameron, "B" Company; left-half, Cpl. Hadrell, "C" Company; right-wing, Pte. Cussins, "D" Company; left-wing, Pte. Lumm, "B" Company; inside-right, Pte. Hodgson, "B"

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Company; inside-left, L/Cpl. Grainger, "A"
Company; centre-forward, Pte. Kellett, "B"
Company.

We are sorry to lose L/Cpl. Grainger who has been quite a stalwart in our team for two seasons, and we wish a speedy recovery for Cpl. Pybus's arm.

RUGGER

These notes cover the period from the return of the Battalion from Kenya to the eve of the Army Cup Final versus the K.O.S.B.

Our highly successful and enjoyable games in Kenya were covered previously* so our first match of interest was the fourth-round Army Cup match against 6 Vehicle Training Regiment, R.E.M.E., at Bordon.

This was a good opener and ended in a comfortable 33—3 victory. It was interesting to see our newcomer, Sabine, in the centre. He has proved himself very fast off the mark and a hard tackler.

The next round was against the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at Colchester and it turned out to be a bitter forward maul. The ball rarely came out of either scrum and there were several unfortunate incidents. We lost Campbell-Lamerton junior in the first half and were struggling along locked in deadly battle all the time thereafter.

Reid, at fly-half, played excellently and managed to make a clean break and try which clinched the game.

The sixth round was against the Welch Regiment again at Colchester and they gave us a very hard, tough and enjoyable game. We were weakened by the loss of Campbell-Lamerton junior and Renilson who had broken his collar bone in a Club match. Major Rodney Harms and Pte. Croft came in to fill the gap and both gave good value. Curry was also hurt and Keegan moved up from full-back and Bardsley brought in.

We were matched and even beaten at times forward and it was fortunate the Welch Regiment could not pierce our defence outside. Eventually when matters were looking desperate for us Sabine made a beautiful break and found Greenway up with him to take the scoring pass. That was the crisis point of the match and thereafter we ran out winners at 11—0. To quote from the illustrious Duke: "It was a damned close-run thing!"

The Home Command Final was against our old enemies, 8th Training Regiment, Royal Signals. They were served at fly-half by the Scottish International, Gregor Sharp.

It was a day in which all went well for the Battalion. After our usual appallingly slow start, play warmed up and Reid at fly-half opened our account with an excellent drop goal.

The forwards as a pack were in excellent form, Michael Campbell-Lamerton and Bill Bailey (just joined and captain of Blackheath) dominating the line-outs and Renilson and Griffett in great form in the loose. Atkinson, newly in the front row, played a fine debut in his first Army Cup game. He was often prominent in breaking through the line-outs.

Curry was still absent injured but Keegan, his stand-in, distinguished himself with a drop goal shortly after Reid's. Following this Reid made an excellent break and good passing led to Marsay going over in the corner. Although this was a very difficult kick, Keegan obliged and we led 11—0 at half-time.

We were up against a steady wind in the second half but rarely found ourselves in our own half thanks to excellent kicking and all-round play by Reid.

Baxter's hooking was really good in the second half and he managed to win several balls against the tight head.

Reid dropped another fine goal shortly after the resumption and we had several good moves which nearly produced tries. Eventually, Renilson made a brilliant break from the line-out, beating several defenders and passed on to Gilbert-Smith who fed Sabine. He in turn gave a well-timed pass which put Marsay in in the corner. That had the match sewn up.

Everyone had a good game particularly Reid at stand-off half and Renilson on the blind side. We now wait in hope for a successful result in the final.

We congratulate Michael Campbell-Lamerton on winning International honours and it has given us great pleasure to learn of his outstanding performances for Scotland. He has always been full of potential. Big and strong and a good jumper in the line-outs he has at last produced the required form. He certainly deserves all his success for the excellent service he has given the Battalion as well as in overcoming his ankle injury.

We also congratulate C. Renilson on some fine performances and on his Army Cap. Let us hope he will add a cup-winner's medal to it.

THE ARMY FINAL

1st D.W.R. 3—K.O.S.B. 6

Once again K.O.S.B. have been successful against the Battalion in the Army Cup Final. This year's game was very similar to last year's although the conditions were opposite. It was played on a lovely sunny day with hardly a breath of wind.

The "Dukes" started strongly and pressed K.O.S.B. very hard in their own 25. We were unfortunate not to get a score early on.

The K.O.S.B. pack proved themselves very hard and robust in the line-outs and handled well as a

(continued at foot of next page)

*If so, we missed them.—ED.

From the "London Gazette"

Supplements dated November 8, 1960, to February 17, 1961

WAR OFFICE

Brigadier George Laing, C.B.E., late D.W.R., is appointed Aide-de-Camp to The Queen, 7th Jan. 1961, in succession to Brigadier John William Tweedie, C.B.E., D.S.O., late Inf., retired.

INFANTRY D.W.R.

REGULAR ARMY

The following from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List to be Lt.: Lt. Charles Robert Cumberlege, 26th Oct. 1960, with seniority 3rd May 1960; Lt. Robert David Campbell-Lamerton with seniority 6th Aug. 1960.

Captain W. F. C. Robertson to be Maj. 28th Oct. 1960.

The following 2nd Lts. to be Lt., 19th Dec. 1960: W. R. Mundell, M. W. Summers.

Major L. F. Kershaw, D.S.O., T.D., having exceeded retiring age, is placed on retired pay, 14th Jan. 1961. (Reserve Liability.)

Major D. N. Simonds retires on retired pay 9th Feb. 1961. (Reserve Liability.)

Lt. J. R. P. Cumberlege to be Capt., 4th Feb. 1961.

1st BATTALION NOTES (continued)

team. As the game wore on the "Dukes" handling deteriorated and the mistakes proved costly.

K.O.S.B. finally opened the scoring with a penalty inside our 25 and thereafter played with their tails up. However towards half time the "Dukes" were holding their own well and were carrying out some menacing raids.

The second half began with pressure by the "Dukes" which eventually yielded a drop goal by Curry to level the score. We then had a period of great intensity and it almost resulted in a try by Marsay on the right and a push over a short time after.

However the tide ebbed and K.O.S.B. were able to keep the line-out play tight and to kick their way down into our half and stay there. Macdonald eventually kicked an excellent penalty from the half-way line and the game finished out in a series of line-outs inside the "Dukes'" half.

Altogether ours was a disappointing performance particularly as there is such a wealth of talent in the side.

The following played for the Battalion:

L/Cpl. Keegan, Lt. Marsay, Pte. Sabine, Pte. Curry, Lt. Greenway, 2 Lt. Reid, Pte. Inglis, Lt. Mundell, Pte. Baxter, Pte. Atkinson, Captain Campbell-Lamerton, 2 Lt. Bailey, Pte. Renilson, L/Cpl. Griffet, Captain Gilbert-Smith (captain).

LATE NEWS—SPORT

Rugger.—2nd XV won East Anglian District Cup, beating 20 Fd. Regt. R.A. in final, 17—6.

Soccer.—1 D.W.R. was beaten in E.A. District Cup by 20 Fd. Regt. R.A., 6—2.

Y. & L.

Col. (Hon. Brig.) George Tancred Denaro, C.B.E., D.S.O., is appointed Colonel, The York and Lancaster Regiment, 1st Jan. 1961, in succession to Col. (Hon. Brig.) Christopher Gray Robins, C.B.E., tenure expired.

D.W.R.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

The following cadets to be 2nd Lt.: Allan Charles Jones, 10th Sept. 1960; John David Walker, 10th Sept. 1960; Ian Peter Reid, 8th Oct. 1960; John Magnus Macaskill, 5th Nov. 1960.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

The following, having exceeded the age limit, cease to belong to the Res. of Offrs., 21st Dec. 1960: Lt-Col. J. H. Dalrymple, O.B.E.; Major J. H. S. Lane.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

The following from Reg. Army, Nat. Serv. List, to be 2nd Lt.: J. P. B. Golding, 30th Sept. 1960 with seniority 16th May 1959; C. W. Norris, 30th Nov. 1960 with seniority 10th Oct. 1959; F. S. B. Lowe, 30th Nov. 1960 with seniority 10th Oct. 1959; G. C. W. Allan, 28th Dec. 1960 with seniority 10th Oct. 1959.

2nd Lt. P. J. Davies to be Lt., 13th Feb. 1960.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Major J. E. Driver, T.D., retires 31st Oct. 1960, retaining the rank of Maj.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the 1st clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration upon Major J. E. Driver, T.D., Retired.

The following from A.E.Res. of Offrs., Nat. Serv. List, to be Lt.: Lt. E. Duckney, 10th Oct. 1960 with seniority 3rd May 1959; Lt. J. A. Shenton, 8th Nov. 1960 with seniority 1st Feb. 1959.

Lt. (Actg. Capt.) R. C. Curry to be Capt., 25th Dec. 1960 with seniority 18th July 1959.

Lt. E. H. Hargreaves from Glosters, to be Lt., 1st Nov. 1960, with seniority 18th Sept. 1959.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt. W. P. Duckney from Active List, to be Lt., 26th Nov. 1960, retaining his present seniority.

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Farewell to 382 Medium Regiment, R.A.

The following is based on items appearing in "The Phoenix," the magazine of 382 Medium Regiment. We take this opportunity of expressing our thanks for the help which we have received from "The Phoenix" and our hope that it will live up to its name and once again rise from its ashes as the magazine of The West Riding Battalion.

In 1938 the 4th (T.A.) Battalion D.W.R. was converted into an artillery unit. In THE IRON DUKE No. 42 of that year the Battalion sub-editor commented: "With these notes we write *finis* to our history as an infantry unit." Time has shown that this was a short-sighted view: 58 Anti-Tank Regiment R.A. which was the title the unit was provisionally allotted (it was hoped to add D.W.R. in brackets) became, after several changes of role and title (but with the D.W.R. always there) 382 Medium Regiment R.A.

Now that unit is being amalgamated with our one surviving T.A. infantry battalion, the 5/7th. So in 22 years, the unit has gone, as Archdeacon Treacey commented in his sermon at 382 Regiment's farewell church parade, in orbit from feet to feet.

On the announcement of the forthcoming change the following letter was received by the C.O., Lt.-Colonel D. S. Wharry, R.A.:

"I see from the White Paper dealing with the re-organisation of the Territorial Army that the Regiment which you command is to amalgamate with 5/7th Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. I would like on behalf of myself and the Royal Regiment of Artillery to thank those Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men who are leaving your Regiment for their loyal services to the Royal Artillery and I should be glad if you would give them my very sincere wishes for their future prosperity and happiness in the infantry."

Signed: The Master Gunner—General Sir Robert Mansergh, G.C.B., K.B.E., M.C.

In acknowledgment the Colonel replied:

"Thank you for your letter of 10th January, 1961. I should like to express the gratitude of all my officers and men to you for your good wishes for the future. Although they are all leaving the Royal Artillery, they will carry with them the memory of many happy years spent in the good fellowship of a great Regiment."

Colonel Wharry, himself, issued the following farewell message to the unit:

"The day of our amalgamation with the 5/7th Duke of Wellington's Regiment (T.A.) draws near—it is in fact the 1st March, 1961. But our own Regiment does not cease to be on that date; it continues to exist for a few weeks, whilst final stores and records' office transactions are completed.

"For all practical purposes you will be infantrymen next month, and darned good infantrymen at that. I have watched your training with interest during the last two months. I have seen you develop your powers of command and leadership, and at times your musketry. You have a long way to go,

but the route is interesting; you have faced up to the fact that yours is a new job, and you are obviously going to make a success of it. We are all sorry to see our fine Regiment disappear, but we will always carry a very happy memory of the great times we have had and the smell of success we have enjoyed. I will not dwell on these things, as the mill wheel is never turned by water which has passed. You must go your new way, and I must go mine. Before I do go, however, I must tell you all how much I have enjoyed your company and the honour of commanding you. I will watch your progress with a keen and interested eye, and will make a point of seeing you at Annual Camp whenever I am in the United Kingdom.

"The very best of luck to you all."

D. S. WHARRY,
Lt.-Colonel, R.A.

Colonel N. T. Bentley, the Honorary Colonel of the unit, in a farewell message which recalled that it is 32 years ago this year since he first joined the 4th Battalion, the forerunner of 382 Regiment, paid the following fitting tribute to the C.O.:

"I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all ranks of the T.A. of paying a very warm tribute to Colonel Wharry who within weeks of taking over the Regiment realised that his tenure of command was to be extremely short lived and that his main job in life was to convert the Regiment into part of an infantry battalion. With his small band of Regular and Permanent Staff, who have all become extremely loyal members of the Regiment, he has carried out a most difficult task—and I am glad to say is still doing so—in a most praiseworthy fashion. I only hope that all his efforts will be rewarded and that when he visits us as an honoured guest of the West Riding Battalion he will see the prints of his labours."

Lt.-Colonel Wharry has been appointed G.S.O.1 (S.D3) in the War Office and takes up his new appointment on May 1.

During its generation as Gunners the unit has had a fine record. It is natural that there should be a sense of shock and sorrow in its ranks at its termination. We will not dwell on this for reasons well expressed in Colonel Wharry's message. Our purpose here is to pay respect to 382 Medium Regiment and to welcome those of its members who are to join the West Riding Battalion. In conclusion, therefore, we will only retell the episode of:

The Reluctant Gun

On the morning of Friday, January 20, 1961, the Regiment's guns were lined up for the long trek to the Ordnance Depot, Donnington.

To an old artilleryman it was a sad sight indeed. The weather, too, seemed to be in sympathy with the occasion, dull and miserable. Even one of the tractors seemed to be shedding a few tears but perhaps it was just that its driver had filled its radiator too full.

(continued at foot of page 63)

A Subaltern in Abyssinia

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

We are indebted to the Army Historical Research Society for permission to reprint this article which has been published by the Society.

The Regiment is indebted to the late Brigadier H. W. Wynter, D.S.O., R.A., for a copy of a narrative based on notes made on his life by his father, Colonel W. A. Wynter, who served in the Abyssinian campaign as an Ensign in the 33rd Regiment.

Walter Andrew Wynter was born in 1847, one of a family of twelve, and the son of the President of St. John's College, Oxford. He went to Sandhurst and was gazetted an Ensign in the 1st Royals in August, 1865, when under eighteen years of age. Wishing to serve abroad, he transferred the following month to the 33rd Regiment, then stationed in India. He received a passage in the P. and O. ship *Tanjore* which left Southampton on January 27, 1866, and arrived at Bombay exactly a month later. He reported for duty to his regiment at Poona on March 1.

The 33rd (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment was at this time commanded by its second Lt.-Colonel, Alexander Roberts Dunn, v.c.

(We have omitted some description of Lt.-Colonel Dunn and of his death (p. 64) as we hope the author is going to write a fuller account of this colourful officer.)

The ranks of the 33rd at this date contained a large proportion of Irishmen—"hard drinkers all". This was so much a fact that H. M. Stanley in his account of the Abyssinian campaign* refers to the 33rd throughout as "the Irish Regiment". Wynter remarks on the men as "quite magnificent in appearance, but their discipline was gradually deteriorating". The ensign's stricture was to be borne out in an incident during the coming campaign.

In December, 1866, the 33rd moved to Karachi, relieving the 95th Regiment commanded by

* "To Magdala and Coomassie," by H. M. Stanley.

382 REGIMENT (continued)

That was the last the Regiment expected to see of their old friends. Little was it dreamed that one of them would rebel but, in fact, one of the guns did—in cahoots with its tractor. At about 1100 hrs. Tractor 90 YY 07 came limping back and reported sick, the complaint being a "slipping clutch." The gun also reported sick with a "gammy leg" (puncture). Both were suspect and were forthwith given C.B. The M.O. (Mr. Stansfield) after examination found it necessary to send 07 to hospital (4 Comd. Workshop). The gun's "gammy leg" was soon put in order. Another tractor was then ordered to take the gun to Ordnance but still the gun refused to budge by locking its brakes. After a severe reprimand and further attention by the M.O. Thursday morning saw the gun being reluctantly towed away by Tractor 90 YY 17.

Lt.-Colonel Thesiger, the future Lord Chelmsford and C.-in-C. in the Zulu War of 1879. At Karachi, the first Lt.-Colonel of the 33rd returned from leave and assumed command from Colonel Dunn. He was John Elias Collings, a Crimean veteran of the regiment and under him the 33rd had "drill and nothing else from morning till night". At this period there were eight captains away as well as several senior subalterns and the junior major, with the result that Ensign Wynter found himself in command of a company the day he joined.

During the autumn of 1867 the 33rd learnt it was selected as one of the regiments to take part in the coming campaign in Abyssinia. Some 90 men were drafted in from the 109th Regiment to bring the 33rd up to strength. A proportion of these men were German, the result of the absorption by the 109th of the Jäger Corps who had volunteered from the Cape for service in the Mutiny. Colonel Collings intensified his training, which included the posting of outlying piquets, the pitching of tents and "everlasting light infantry drill", which was done to the bugle.

The 33rd received its orders in November and sailed on the 21st. Officers had returned from leave and Wynter had handed over his company to Captain Douglas Johnstone, the son of a Crimean commanding officer of the regiment and a future one himself. The regiment proceeded in three ships. The left wing, including Captain Johnstone's company and four others, were in a sailing ship, the *Indian Chief*, which was towed by a P. and O. steamer containing headquarters and three companies. The remaining two companies were in a smaller P. and O. vessel. Though Colonel Collings embarked with the regiment, he was appointed a Brigadier-General and Colonel Dunn resumed command of the 33rd. The detachments of the regiment aboard the two P. and O. ships were well treated, but the five companies in the *Indian Chief* were not so fortunate. The ship was full of cockroaches and "the food was atrocious". The officers messed with the captain in a very small cuddy where the dinner was the same every night—"a couple of ducks and salt beef". After sailing along the south coast of Arabia and stopping a few hours at Aden, the convoy reached Annesley Bay on the Abyssinian coast on December 3.

There was a chaotic state of affairs ashore with no one in command until the arrival of General Collings. Captain Johnstone's company was ordered ashore immediately with orders to round up, water and feed the thousands of ponies and mules which had been dumped in the port with no feeding arrangements. There was no water available except that which was distilled in H.M.S. *Octavia*. This was brought in by boats from the *Octavia* and shot into wooden troughs, whilst the animals fought to get near them. Some order was gradually restored and when, after three weeks, the regiment began its march to Senafe "things were getting

pretty ship-shape". Johnstone's company had its Christmas dinner at Zoula in Annesley Bay, the officers' food being cooked by Johnstone's Indian cook. This man had been Sir Charles Napier's servant at Meanee in 1843, and provided an excellent meal, with a plum pudding made from pounded ships' biscuits.

The regiment had landed in what Wynter describes as "Waterloo-red full dress tunics and khaki drill trousers". It appears, however, that when the march began the regiment was dressed in khaki completely; a contemporary account* mentioned that on March 19, 1868, "The 33rd have just paraded in front on the grass in their scarlet coats; the band is playing while the inspection is taking place and crowds of Abyssinians are coming up to see what is going on. They have only seen the men, as yet, in kharkee coloured marching dress, I fancy". White helmets were worn as in India.

The long march of 397 miles to Magdala now began. It took the 33rd thirty-four marching days and it is with justifiable pride that Wynter records that he was the only officer who marched to Magdala and back on foot.

The first stage was to Senafe and proved hard going, particularly for men recently disembarked and carrying packs and 60 rounds of ammunition. The expedition halted for some three weeks at Senafe, though Captain Johnstone's company, with Wynter as its ensign, was sent forward, after only three days' rest, to Goongoona, 12 miles distant, to prepare the road. The only tools available were the regulation pick and shovel, and solid rock had to be levelled with these implements. Goongoona was "a lovely spot—full of wild

flowers". Wynter was out every evening shooting for the pot. His supply of cartridges for "a pin fire gun by Reilley" was limited, and the ensign made it a practice to get half a dozen birds in line before he pressed the trigger. At this juncture the company heard of the death of Colonel Dunn.

Colonel Dunn was succeeded in command by the senior major, Arthur Sisson Cooper, who had transferred to the 33rd from the 27th in 1861. Wynter remarks of this officer: "He had always had staff appointments. He was quite unknown to the officers and men and seldom spoke to anyone". Under this inspiring leader the regiment pressed on to Magdala.

The rigours of the march now increased considerably. At Antalo the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Robert Napier, had determined to make a forced march to Magdala. He therefore dismissed all native servants and mule drivers. Each man, other than those in the advance or rearguards, had to lead a mule beside carrying his full kit and 60 rounds of ammunition. Officers slept 12 in a bell tent and the other ranks 20. The meat ration was provided from cattle which accompanied the column on the hoof. Tea and sugar were in very short supply. The combination of these conditions with the defective discipline which Wynter had remarked upon in India produced an incident which sadly affronted the author of "Letters from Abyssinia by a Staff Officer". He says, in an entry dated March 30, 1868, "The 33rd announced their arrival by playing in to the tune of 'Slap bang, here we are again' and I see the Belooch fifes and drums doubling out to meet them. They are quite close now and inquiries are being made as to how they feel after the hill. The camp here is about a mile from the top of the hill across the plateau. They must have halted under the hill last night to get up so early. I see the Commanding Officer must have got the whole of his bedding on his horse, apparently, a great roll of rezai hanging down on each side over his horse's loins. The men are stepping out as fresh as ever. The regiment, I fancy, was left behind and passed *purposely* by the 4th King's Own as the men were getting a little unruly a few marches ago. One long march to Dildee, they were cursing and swearing and abusing everything from beginning to end relating to the expedition—mentioning names too, I fancy, rather too close to some people. They were falling out from the baggage guard, throwing themselves down and refusing to move and all that sort of thing The 4th King's Own are twice the regiment. They were called up, made a forced march, passed them and came on with us".

Sir Charles Markham, the historian of the campaign, took a less serious view than the somewhat pompous "Staff Officer": "The 33rd had been the first English regiment to land at Mulkutto and had worked hard and steadily ever since, though the men were addicted to strong language and liked an occasional good growl . . . If they could growl, they could also work—no men better". Wynter makes no reference to the incident whatever, which seems a pity.

The regiment crossed the Anshilo river, about

* Letters from Abyssinia, by a Staff Officer.



RIDING HALL MILLS · HALIFAX

eight miles from Magdala, on April 10 and heard the firing at Arrogee, where the 4th King's Own were heavily engaged with the enemy. The following day the 33rd pushed on to the outskirts of Magdala where they "formed line, piled arms and lay down by their rifles". It may be noted that the two British infantry regiments were armed with the Snider-Enfield rifle used in action for the first time in this campaign.

Wynter was on outlying piquet this night and passed through his line an Engineer officer, Prideau, who was one of King Theodore's prisoners sent by him to treat with Sir Robert Napier. His terms were that he would return all his prisoners if he was left in peace, but Napier demanded unconditional surrender. The unfortunate Prideau, returning with this uncompromising reply, confided to Wynter that he had little hope of seeing the morrow. A similar appeal by Theodore on April 12 (Easter Sunday) met a similar reception and by noon all the European prisoners were, somewhat surprisingly, released.

The next day the British forces moved out for the assault on Magdala. The post of honour was given to the 33rd Regiment, a fact which seems to indicate that the regiment had atoned for its "growling" at Dildee. A rocky ledge called Islangi, which is connected to Magdala by a narrow causeway, was occupied without opposition. A number of deserting Abyssinians were found there. For about two hours a preparatory bombardment was carried out by the guns and rocket tubes of the force and then, preceded by a few Madras Sappers and Miners under Major Pritchard, R.E., the 33rd advanced to the assault. This was an historic occasion for the regiment, for it was the last time the Colours were carried in action; they were borne by the senior and junior ensigns. The Queen's Colour was carried by Howard Melliss. The Regimental Colour fell to Wynter's charge. Before the advance, General Staveley, the Divisional Commander, rode up to the Colour-party and told them to wave the Colours as soon as they were inside the gate of the fortress—an unusual form of success signal. Under heavy fire the regiment advanced up the approach and reached the gate. It was the function of the sapper party to blow this barrier; but, a trifle surprisingly, they had omitted to bring up any explosives. There was a delay whilst Pritchard sent back to the artillery for some powder. Three companies of the regiment moved off to the right and began to clamber up the hill face, still under heavy fire. Despite protests from Melliss, Wynter and the Regimental Colour moved with this party. It was now that the two first awards of the Victoria Cross were earned by the 33rd. Pte. Bergin, a very tall man, contrived with his bayonet to make a gap in the hedge which fronted the wall. Turning to Drm. Wagner, he asked him to help him to scramble up. The drummer, however, clambered up on Bergin's shoulders and just managed to reach the top of the wall with his hands. A vigorous push from the butt of Bergin's Snider deposited Wagner on top

of the obstacle. Lying flat, he held down his hand for Bergin who, helped up by Ensign Connor and Cpl. Murphy, scrambled up in his turn. Whilst Wagner helped up more of his comrades Bergin kept up a continuous fire and eventually drove the defenders inside the second gate. Wynter reached the top of the wall in his turn: "I was hardly ever on my feet as the men took me and the Colour in their arms and passed me from the centre of the column to the front". He continues: "I shall never forget the exhilaration of that moment, the men firing and shouting like madmen". The ensign now carried out General Staveley's orders and duly waved the Regimental Colour to indicate that the assault had succeeded. Melliss, with the Queen's Colour, arrived with the main body of the 33rd—the flanking party having opened the main gate for them. He rejoined Wynter "in a fury" and threatened to put him under arrest for disobedience of orders. However, the two ensigns seem to have become speedily reconciled, and having affixed the Colours to the top of a church "in accordance with Sir Robert Napier's instructions", they looked about for some food. They found some beer made of honey, "very good and very intoxicating", and a chicken.

Orders about loot were very strict, records Wynter demurely. Anything not taken at the point of the bayonet had to be handed over to the prize-master. For this reason Wynter had to hand over the silver head of a processional cross which, he states, is now in the R.A. Mess at Woolwich. However, he obtained a large rhinoceros hide shield, heavily plated in silver, for five dollars from Sgt. Cook of the regiment, who had gained it "at the point of the bayonet". It is interesting to see the various items, captured at Magdala, which adorn the Officers' Mess of the 33rd and the Regimental Museum, and it is hoped all were gained "at the point of the bayonet".

On Wednesday, April 15, 1868, the 33rd marched out of Magdala and, after an arduous but uneventful series of marches, embarked at Zoula in a transport which conveyed the regiment to Suez. After a journey by train to Alexandria, the 33rd boarded a new Government transport, *The Crocodile*, and landed at Portsmouth on June 20. All the ships in the harbour and at Spithead were dressed and manned, while bands on Southsea and other piers played "Home Sweet Home" and "See the Conquering Hero Comes". There were large crowds in the streets who chaffed the soldiers on their ragged clothes. A big woman took Captain Johnstone, "a very little man in her arms and kissed him, much to his fury. It was funny to see his struggles".

Amid the plaudits of the Portsmouth crowds we leave the 33rd after their successful campaign. Ensign Wynter served on with the regiment until 1881, gaining a brevet majority and seeing much service in Ashanti and Afghanistan. The introduction of the Cardwell system caused him to retire. Subsequently he joined the 5th (Militia) Battalion of The Royal Fusiliers as second-in-command, and after commanding it for some years retired as a full Colonel.

5/7th BATTALION, T.A.

SUB-EDITORIAL

These notes cover the last quarter of the 5/7th Battalion now in the process of amalgamation with 382 Medium Regiment R.A. (D.W.R.) (the old 4th and 6th Battalions). Full details of the amalgamation ceremonies will be in the next issue of **THE IRON DUKE**.

The past many weeks have been full of activity, with conferences, amalgamation boards and general discussions from various members of the old 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions on traditions and customs for the new battalion. It is wonderful to see how much alive the "Dukes" are in the West Riding and how strong battalion loyalties are, especially amongst the Old Comrades. (Note from Captain Campbell-Lamerton—"A newcomer to the West Riding I never realised before the interest taken in the Regiment by past members; it is a heartening sight to see so many 'Dukes' ties being worn, not only by the war veterans but by ex-national servicemen as well.") A welcome fit for our 1st Battalion awaits them on their tour of our area in June.

Nearly four years ago the 5th and 7th Battalions amalgamated. During that period they have grown from strength to strength, not only in numbers but also in enthusiasm and military skills.

We are indeed fortunate this year with our Annual Camp. The new battalion has been

allotted Whitburn for an independent camp. The last visit to Whitburn was in 1958 and it was a very happy and profitable camp. This is a good omen.

Our congratulations to Dick Sharp on getting his R.C.B. and we wish him every success in the Regular Army—it is not yet decided which Regiment he is going to. Also our congratulations to Charles Kilner on passing his T.A. Commission board with flying colours and we welcome him as a brother officer into the Battalion.

Finally with great sorrow we say farewell to yet another adjutant—Captain Naughton, who has returned to the 1st Battalion after a most successful two years with us. To Captain Campbell-Lamerton, his successor, we wish a happy tour of duty; at present he is known as the "Phantom" although it has been heard from certain quarters that he is shrouded in Scottish mist. We are proud that we now have a representative playing for the mighty 1st Battalion rugby team.

Time marches on—with recurring changes. Ex-C.S.M. "Jock" Norman is once again in our area (Recruiting N.C.O. for Huddersfield). His proven weapons are now in our custody and he has kindly offered to coach our "shots" for this year's shooting competitions. 'Ware bygone champions!

OFFICERS' MESS

The final three months of mess life for the 5/7th Battalion has followed the normal pattern for the time of the year. Early in December we dined out Captain "Nick" Naughton. We had as guests Major Douglas Jones-Stamp and Captain Edward Dasent from Brigade Depot at Strensall. It had been hoped to have Major Rodney Harms with us (he missed being dined out!) but heavy fog made the journey from Knaresboro' too hazardous to undertake in the time available.

The meal was of the highest order and, with a total of 24 officers present, the whole evening was a success. A most appreciated gift to the mess of a silver cruet was made by "Nick" and he, in turn, accepted as a token of our gratitude for two years' good work a silver cigarette box.

We were pleased to "loan" the mess to Captain Naughton on the Sunday following for a personal cocktail party which he kindly gave to his many friends. Of course, officers and their wives were prominent amongst the gathering.

Our usual December cheese, beer and wine party was, once again, excellently organised by Major Brian Webster and enjoyed by all present.

The last function of 1960 was the Annual Officers' Ball which had to be held on Friday, December 30, due to New Year's Day falling on a Sunday. However some 350 attended; the guests were received by the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Gadd before dancing commenced. So enjoyable did it turn out to be that two extensions to the dancing times were allowed by the C.O.

Brigadier J. C. Commings held his annual

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inspection on January 15 and all officers had luncheon in the mess at St. Paul's Street.

The monthly supper and training night on January 19 had six officers from 382 Medium Regiment dining with us for the first time. These were the officers who were expected to form part of the new Battalion.

The final official mess function of the 5/7th Battalion was Ladies' Dinner Night, held on January 27. The 'flu epidemic curtailed the numbers and only 14 officers and their ladies attended against an expected total of 36. This factor in no way interfered with appetites or general enjoyment, and Lt.-Colonel Gadd, in his brief speech after dinner, made plain our gratitude to our wives for being uncomplaining T.A. "widows" on so many occasions throughout the year. Mrs. Gadd suitably responded and one gathered the impression that our ladies may be secretly proud of our militant activities—or did I get the wrong impression?

On February 16, what was to have been the monthly supper/training night turned out to be supper/committees' meeting night. The following old 7th Battalion "Dukes" were present for a trustee meeting—Colonel Howcroft, Colonel Bill Hinchcliffe, Lt.-Colonel George Taylor, Major John Pyrah, Major Gilbert Tanner and Major Firth. It is believed that one "Sub-Committee" was formed about midnight with the object of settling *all* problems but dispersed around 3 a.m. when they remembered that the fairer sex waiting at that time of morning was probably the biggest problem of all! (Jimmy Moncrieff please note!)

Sunday, February 26, was the last Cadre Day for the 5/7th Battalion and the Mess had as guests our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier J. Deedes, O.B.E., M.C., and Major F. F. R. Bullock, Brigade Major. Most company officers were present, again including three from 382 Medium Regiment.

On Wednesday, March 1, the 5/7th Battalion ceased to exist to all intents and purposes and with this fact in mind these notes do represent a "Requiem" on the Officers' Mess. The partnership of the 5th and 7th Battalions has not been lengthy but it is true to say it has been happy. May the new unit—a partnership in "Duke" terms of 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions—be as successful and happy, and long may it remain so.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since last going to press the accent has been on amalgamation. This, although bringing us a lot of new faces, is apparently going to cause us to lose some of our older members who will as yet be nameless.

A civil defence training day was organised on January 26 and the Sergeants' Mess members of 382 Regiment who were to come to us on amalgamation were invited to attend. A good number availed themselves of the opportunity to see what we were like. They proved themselves to be "good types" and had it not been for the "flashes" they were wearing they would have been hard to pick out from the "Dukes" present. It bodes well for the new unit that members of the Sergeants'

Messes of two different arms of the service can so readily "muck in" together.

R.S.M. Frier and C.S.M. Arundel travelled down to, and were entertained by, the members of the 1st Battalion Sergeants' Mess at their palatial palace at Colchester on the occasion of the "Paardeberg Ball"; needless to say a wonderful time was had by all.

The children's annual party was held in January under the management of the Sergeants' Mess and really went with a swing, thanks to the splendid efforts of the following who put in a tremendous amount of work to ensure its success: C.S.M. and Mrs. Woodcock, Sgt. Pilkington, Sgt. Pitchforth, L/Cpl. and Mrs. Winteringham, L/Cpl. Row, Mrs. Mounsey, Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. McAllister and Mr. Lockwood.

Finally we must close on a sadder note and with regret say good-bye to C/Sgt. Bob Pearce who is our first casualty to the combination of age and amalgamation.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE COMPETITION

MARCH 4, 1961

Despite a smaller turn-up than was expected, a keen spirit of competition prevailed at the final shoot of the Battalion competition. An interesting feature of the afternoon was the fine performance of Pte. A. Nottingham of "D" (old) Company; one of the newest soldiers in the unit, he managed to win the Young Soldiers' Trophy from more experienced entries. He made his "double" by also winning the individual Falling Plate Knock-Out from R.Q.M.S. Machen in the final. George Machen remained undefeated as the "open" winner, and one is left to wonder how he does it time after time. The highest card of the afternoon was fired by Sgt. Derek Milnes, but unfortunately the other one required to make up his pair was "a little off."

We are all very grateful to the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Gadd for coming along during the afternoon to give their support.

At the completion of firing, all adjourned to the canteen, where another pleasant hour was spent congratulating the winners.

RESULTS: (Company designations on the old establishment):

Open Trophy.—1st: R.Q.M.S. G. Machen ("H.Q."); runner-up: Cpl. Williamson ("H.Q.");

Young Soldiers.—1st: Pte. A. Nottingham ("D"); runner-up: L/Cpl. G. Atkinson ("C").

Knock-Out.—Pte. A. Nottingham ("D").

The Team Trophy was not awarded this year.

"A" COMPANY

A sad occasion indeed—the last time these notes will be written from Arden Road drill hall; in a very short time we move down to Prescott Street and become members of Headquarter Company.

The amalgamation has probably affected "A" Company more than any others because its members are to change their role and be either assault pioneers, medium machine-gunners or signallers. However, there is no doubt in anyone's mind that all will put their backs into the new tasks and carry the spirit of old "A" Company into Prescott Street.

Unfortunately, the changes have meant that we must say good-bye to C/Sgts. Pearce and Stringer, both suffering from the "axe." Both have been with the company a long time and have served it with loyalty, efficiency and "old soldiers' tales" over a number of years.

Lts. Sugden and Shenton also leave us to go to rifle companies as do Sgts. Bacon and Prince although we shall still see them and, no doubt, hear them as they will be with the new "A," also in Prescott Street.

Cheerio, Arden Road—Prescott Street here we come!!!

" B " COMPANY

The movements of officers commanding—like celestial bodies—are indeed strange and mysterious! Having been perpetually astonished to see "DRS. 100" hovering out of the snow and fog to descend on us from great heights, and having seen his shadow grow even weightier during his two years with us, we hear now he is going to join the farmers at Skipton and travel even farther to his drills! From the days of the Great Exhibition after the Hall was repainted and the Company re-orientated (and let us not forget the cocktail party nor how the waiters got home!) to our final fling with Major "D.R.S."—when he told the Brigade Commander on his Annual Inspection to "Mind the floor—the Bull's been loose"—we have not had a dull moment!

To see the drill hall swarming with cadets; to watch the Coleman brothers with their mortars; to see something at least stirring—then it is to know that the Spirit is there in "B" Company!

The fire, well kindled, will be carried on by one of Major Siddall's closest T.A. colleagues. He is the second-longest-serving 7th "Duke" and a keen specialist—Major Colin (don't just ask for a Machine-Gun—make sure it's a Vickers!) Barnes. May we wish them both "Good Luck" and "Good Hunting"—and, as the Rover disappears into the North we say farewell . . . and we remember our motto "It's better in "B" Company . . . ! (But somehow I bet there is going to be an awful lot "cooking-up" in Skipton and Keighley very soon!)

" C " COMPANY

These will be the last notes from "C" Company 5/7th D.W.R.; in fact, being some days late—as usual—we hardly know if they shouldn't be headed "D" Company (see below).

The Company .22 Championship was won by L/Cpl. Atkinson, although the final result was in the balance until the last moment. Winners of the individual competitions were: Application 10 Rounds—L/Cpl. Atkinson; Snap—Sgt. Tolson; Application 5 Rounds—L/Cpl. Woodhead; Application kneeling—Sgt. Simpson; Falling Plates—L/Cpl. Atkinson. The competition was well supported and resulted in some very good shooting.

The highlight of our winter activities has been .22 shooting and our team won the Graham & Pott Trophy in February against some pretty fierce opposition, and our hastily formed reserve team deserve our congratulations for being placed third.

Examinations for the St. John's Ambulance

Certificate were held in January and we are now awaiting the results. It was remarkable how, on the day of the examination, the Company Commander found stacks of urgent paper in his "In" tray which required immediate attention!

Our hearty double congratulations to Pte. L. Thewlis who has become the father of twins, and our farewells and best wishes to Pte. Marston who has left us for the regular army though unfortunately he has elected to ride with the R.A.C. rather than march with the infantry.

Finally—Amalgamation—which has effected us very little except that "C" Company at Thongsbridge and "B" Company at Mossley now combine to form "D" Company of the new battalion and to represent the old 7th Battalion D.W.R. whose great traditions we hope to emulate. The happy combination of the two old companies must be tinged with a certain amount of sadness at the departure of Major Dennis Siddall who, after such sterling work at Mossley, goes to break fresh ground at Skipton. We wish him the best of luck and know that he will be very successful in his own inimitable fashion.

" D " COMPANY

On March 1 "D" Company of the 5/7th Battalion became "B" Company of the new battalion. This, of course, has meant changing and we are very sorry indeed to lose Major Woodhouse. Under his command we have steadily progressed, and we shall always remember his friendly leadership and indomitable sense of humour.

Our new company commander is Major Farrow. He has already made himself noted for his enthusiasm, and we are very pleased to welcome him.

It is not only "at the top" where there have been comings and goings. Sgt. Preece has moved to another company, and we have been joined by Captain Buckland, Ptes. Nottingham, Parkin, D. Shaw and Charlesworth. Another old friend in a new guise is 2 Lt. Kilner who has just gained his commission. Congratulations!

Looking back over the last quarter, the amalgamation has considerably slowed down the pace, and consequently there is little to report.

The Adventure Training we were to lay on had to be cancelled due to the atrocious weather, and because the local authorities informed us that the proposed training was in the middle of a "water catchment area." They feared we would pollute the drinking water for miles around, and if we went into the area at all we would have to be medically examined! Instead we have turned ourselves to shooting. In the pistol shoots we have won five out of six of our last matches. The team has been made up by C.S.M. Laherty (who is practising with the Battalion Bisley Team), L/Cpl. Marshall, Ptes. Jackson, Ferguson, B. Ellis and Nottingham. Nottingham is a new recruit who has proved himself a natural shot; we are very proud of his successes reported under the heading of "Shooting." Now that we have got 10 new S.L. Rifles we hope that we shall be able to keep up an equally good standard. This indeed should not be too hard as C.S.M. Laherty and our P.S.I., Sgt. Wood, have just been on a Range Coaching Course at Leicester.

Obituary

Mr. G. V. Baxter

The death occurred on December 17, 1960, of G. V. Baxter, who was well known to many Huddersfield people and to the older members of 7th D.W.R.

He joined 2/7th D.W.R. in the ranks, in October, 1914, was commissioned to the 10th Manchester Regiment, came back to the 7th D.W.R. when it was reformed in 1920 and, after serving for some years as a captain, transferred to a Huddersfield battery of medium artillery.

In the last war he joined the R.A.F. Regiment and was employed on the defence of various airfields in England.

He was a solicitor in Huddersfield but for the last few years had lived in Cheshire and devoted most of his time to a very beautiful garden.

Major J. E. S. P. Bradford, M.B.E., M.C.

Jocelyn (Jock) Bradford, who died in December 1960, joined the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion, D.W.R., from the R.M.C., Sandhurst, in the spring of 1916. He was a nephew of Captain Ernle Taylor who had been killed leading "D" Company at Hill 60 in April 1915.

He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps but rejoined the Regiment after the war for a short time, serving with it in Palestine, before retiring as a subaltern. He became a newspaper man and also a broadcaster giving, in particular, a series of radio talks on interesting and attractive aspects of the Army.

He gained his M.C. in the 1914-18 war. We do not know the particulars of his service in the 1939-45 war.

The Reverend A. L. Minns

Until 1954 Vicar of St. Hilda's, Halifax, and Assistant Rural Dean of Halifax, the Rev. Arthur Minns died recently, aged 52. He had been ill for some time.

For more than eight years Mr. Minns was officiating chaplain to the Depot and was a good friend to many people of all ranks there. He was also for five years chaplain to 382 Field Regiment R.A.

Mr. Minns was well known as an oarsman; he rowed twice at Henley in the Thames Cup and the Wyfolds.

At the time of his death Mr. Minns was Rector of Holy Trinity, Chester. Holy Trinity Church has recently been closed because the population has moved from that part of the city and Mr. Minns

had a new parish church on a large council housing estate in the same parish.

He leaves a widow and family.

Mr. J. May

"The Old Contemptible" announces the death on November 15, 1960, of Mr. J. May, Warwick and Leamington Spa Branch, formerly No. 7410 The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Major V. A. Milligan

Major V. A. Milligan died at his home, 6 Heath Avenue, Halifax, on December 23, 1960, at the age of 79.

He was commissioned into the 4th D.W.R. in 1908 and in 1916 was attached to the Machine Gun Corps. He was later attached to the newly-formed Tank Corps and remained with them until demobilisation in 1919.

He leaves a widow and one son (Major John Milligan of the 1st Battalion).

Mr. W. A. Grant

The sudden death on February 3 of "Tich" Grant came as a great shock to his many friends and old comrades. He will be remembered as an excellent sportsman and one who always strove to maintain the traditions and spirit of the Regiment.

Grant enlisted in October, 1923, and soldiered practically all his time with the 2nd Battalion. He was with them in Egypt, Singapore, India and Burma. He spent many years in the Signal Section and was for a time Signal Sergeant. He was discharged to pension in 1946.

For the past twelve years he has been caretaker and mess steward at Somme Barracks, Sheffield. He is survived by his widow and daughter.

Major W. E. Brenchley

Lt.-Colonel Collins writes:

No mention was made in his obituary notice of Major Brenchley's service in operations on the North West Frontier. As the first medal he was awarded whilst in the Regiment must have been the I.G.S.M. with clasp "Loe Agra" he must have been particularly proud of it, as were all those who received it.

He was splendid in those operations and, as he had only been with the battalion a short time, it must have been a great test to find himself R.S.M. on active service in that difficult country in a type of warfare strangely bound by unbreakable Indian Army doctrine.

trench a little fat chubby boy came running towards us, crying "Kamerad! Kamerad!" He did not look over 17 years of age. He had some rosary beads on his hands and was holding them up and crying piteously. One of our chaps lightly kicked his trousers seat and sent him off in the direction of our lines.

Some of the boys searching a dugout found some cigars which were immediately handed round amid general approval—oh for a camera! It is remarkable how chaps can be serious during a crisis but, when it is over, get as much humour out of it as possible.

Orders were received to push on to the next position and, leaving one company to consolidate the captured trench, we moved slowly forward in extended order with Lt. Morton (only a little chap) walking in advance with his revolver at the ready; he was a game officer.

We gradually got to within 10 yards of the German position. Here we lay down, firing as rapidly as possible, but this time the German fire was too heavy for us.

I was lying down behind a tree, firing round the trunk, when something red-hot hit my leg and, with a feeling of numbness, I realised that I was shot. Wriggling out of my equipment I started to crawl away—looking at my chum on my left I saw that he was dead. I hadn't gone five yards when another bullet hit me, this time in the muscle of the right arm. It has ever been a mystery to me how I managed to get away from such a hail of bullets without being positively riddled.

Feeling a bit windy I wondered if I was going in the wrong direction but then I came across a dead

German whom I had noticed whilst advancing. My spirits revived at this and I was feeling quite cheerful when I eventually found my way to our own stretcher bearers who bandaged my leg up. I said I would get my arm bandaged lower down the line; I was anxious to get away quickly and did not wish to be knocked out now when I realised that I had received a "blighty" wound.

I carried on for about a mile but had repeatedly to take cover from shell fire. Once I dropped into one of the trenches manned by the French and asked for a drink of water but the poilu conveyed to me that they had not enough water to last them for the day. I realised the common sense of this remark—they might require it more than I did before the day was over—so I bade him "au revoir."

I carried on until I reached Battalion Headquarters where a German, taken prisoner earlier in the day, bandaged up my arm. I then hobbled away until picked up by some men of the R.A.M.C. and placed on a stretcher to be carried to where motor ambulances were waiting to take the wounded down to hospital.

I was eventually placed in a train bound for Rouen and there stayed at an American hospital where I was operated on and made very comfortable. The staff of that hospital was exceptionally kind and attentive to all the wounded.

I stayed there until August 1 and then crossed over the Channel to arrive at Stourbridge General Hospital. I was later transferred to a V.A.D. hospital at Tenbury Wells and eventually arrived home just in time for Christmas—my first Christmas at home since enlisting in 1914.

(Concluded.)

TWENTY YEARS AGO

ICELAND

I think of spray lashed by a northern gale against the grey rocks of the coast;
 The blast of wind-driven snow beating at the hut doors on a wild winter night;
 "Islands of Sun" yellow in the fields by Kollafjord;
 The white nights on Skalafell stricken with silence;
 Thingvellir shimmering in the sunshine, dreaming of its past;
 Sangars standing in the rain, and men bedraggled there;
 The smell of fish, and cod-heads staring by the roadside;
 A late November sun, on a frosty morning, painting Esja's whiteness with magic colours;
 Arctic terns diving and wheeling on the moors near Hafnavatn;
 Trout playing in the stream at eventide;
 The afterglow on Vifilsfell;
 Pink flowers defiant in a waste of black sand;
 Women in black Sunday velvet walking to the church door;
 Little children laughing, eager, trusting, fair and free.

I think of the lights of Hafnarfjorour shining across the bay on a calm September evening;
 The "Northern Lights" stabbing the clear night sky with mystery from some other world;
 The hush of a dead land and the teeming silences heard there;
 Nissen huts haphazard, squatting between earth and sky;
 The Westmann Isles standing sentinel in the sea far off to the south;
 A trawler struggling home at eventide, and women waiting on the quay;
 Rejkjavik in Christmas week and people hurrying by;
 The tramp of marching feet across the Sandskeid plain.

All this I remember as if it were yesterday.

P.B.T.

The above poem is reprinted from "Iron Duke" No. 53. We have not succeeded in discovering who P.B.T. was and would welcome any information.—Ed.

Regimental Family Records

Sergeant Jonathan Rush and his Sons

We have received the following from ex-R.S.M. J. P. Rush, D.C.M., who was R.S.M. at the Depot from 1920 to 1922.

My father, Sergeant Master Shoemaker Jonathan Rush, served in the 33rd Regiment of Foot for 22 years, retiring on pension from Kamptee, India, in 1879.

He had 13 children, six boys and seven girls, and his four eldest sons followed in his footsteps and joined the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

The eldest son, William Rush, served in the Army for 36 years altogether, completing his service in 1922 at the age of 50 as a conductor in the Indian Army Ordnance Department. He had two sons who passed through Sandhurst in 1932/33; the younger attained the rank of brigadier at the age of 46 and retired from the Army in Cyprus in August 1959.

Jonathan Rush's second son, James, enlisted in the "Dukes" in 1894, at the age of 14, retiring from the Army in Ambala in 1910. He had one son who joined the Royal Marines Band on the outbreak of World War II.

The third son is myself.

The fourth, Henry, enlisted in the "Dukes" in October 1900, also at the age of 14. He completed his 12 years in Ambala and emigrated to Australia in October 1912. He joined the Australian Infantry Division and saw service in World War I on the western front. He was twice wounded and was invalided back to Australia with wounds which necessitated his leg being amputated and which eventually caused his death. He had three sons who all served in World War II in Burma and Malaya; all three were wounded, one of them twice.

Of the two sons who did not join the "Dukes," George died at the age of 12. The other one, Joseph, was serving, at the outbreak of World War I, in the London Cadets, a voluntary organisation. They formed part of Kitchener's Army and served in France, at first on the lines of communication but later in the firing line, and Joseph, the youngest of our family, was killed at the Battle of Loos in May 1915 shortly after his 18th birthday.

My father served in the Abyssinian campaign of 1867 and was seriously wounded when pursuing King Theodore into the turret where the king shot himself. We boys had to know thoroughly the "Battle Song of Magdala" and we had to emphasise the lines "Through brushwood and through briar the 33rd led the way; followed closely by the 45th they captured Magdala."

Record of Service of ex-R.S.M. J. P. Rush, D.C.M.

I enlisted in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, at Warley Barracks, Essex, on August 31, 1899, at the age of 15 years, 6 months, after a period of 84 days in the 3rd Essex Militia as a bugler.

I joined the 1st Battalion at Dover but in October the Battalion moved to Blenheim Barracks, North Camp, Aldershot, for mobilization for South Africa. The battalion was short of one drummer and I and another boy, named Howarth, had to parade in front of Colonel Lloyd, Captain Tyndall and Sgt. Drm. Clarke with bugles to have a test as to which of us would be selected. I had no doubt that Howarth would be chosen as he had two years' service and was an ex-cornet-player from the band. And so it turned out but the fact remains that I had an even chance to go with the battalion to South Africa at the age of 15 years and 10 months

(continued on next page)

7th BATTALION DINNER CLUB

The Dinner Club met for another of its informal, infrequent, but thoroughly enjoyable reunions on Saturday, December 3, 1960.

Colonel Howcroft our Honorary Colonel (and C.O. at one time or another to most of those present) was in the chair, and very gallantly responded to the toast of the "Dukes".

It was, perhaps, the event of the year to have "dug-out" Brigadier "Bonzo" Miles, referred to on the card as our "Sometime Adjutant", to propose the Regiment.

This he had, in writing, declined very firmly to do, but our honorary secretaries, very rightly taking no notice of a Regular, had him "impromptu". It is many years since this writer enjoyed anything more than those few minutes of superlative speech we heard from "H.G.P." (and that bit about assistant game-keepers was very rewarding!) It is not often we see one of our living 7th legends but here he was—"Bonzo"—very much in the flesh!

Of course everyone spoke: "Tissy", the C.O., Colonel "George"—our guests Colin Hill (another immortal!) of the 6th and Colonel "Bill"—and so on and so forth.

Jerry Fontes, having so far forgot himself as to nearly propose the Duke of Lancaster, was allowed to remind us that the 7th Duke's still have a big Lancashire following—even if the War Office have forgotten that Mossley is a "Duke's" recruiting area!

Those present were: Brig. H. G. P. Miles, Col. Howcroft, Col. Hinchcliffe, Col. Watham, Lt.-Col. G. Taylor, Lt.-Col. Tissington, Lt.-Col. F. R. Gadd.

Majors G. Fontes, J. Bailey, C. Hill, S. Waite, T. Hibbert, E. Woodhouse, G. Driver, A. Woodcock, J. Davies, Emmett, D. R. Siddall, J. Pyrah, C. Barnes.

Cpts. S. Scarlett, S. Richards, L. Denton, Wright Hamer, E. Mowat, V. Gledhill, Mayson, H. Crowther.

with only four months' service. If Mr. Howarth is still alive he will remember this.

The details of the battalion moved to Ireland and were in several barracks in Dublin and Cork. At Mullingar C/Sgt. Instructor of Musketry Chapman, who was acting O.R.Q.M.S., called me to the orderly room and said: "Rush, I want you, in addition to your bugling, to help in the Q.M. Stores with clothing fitting and issue of equipment. He instructed me for a week and then every morning I called at the orderly room for the keys of the Q.M. stores. In one month I knew the regimental number, rank, name, etc., of every soul in the details and became an expert in the job.

In May 1901 a draft had to be fitted out for South Africa and, strange to relate, once again a drummer had to go and once again I had to parade with another boy for selection. This boy, Haslett, and I had to parade at the orderly room with the colour-sergeants of our two companies who were to draw lots for the choice in front of the C.O. I belonged to No. 1 Company whose colour-sergeant was Oliver who had been invalided home from Africa. (He was quartermaster at the Depot when I was appointed R.S.M. there in 1920.) C/Sgt. Oliver lost the draw so I remained in the Q.M. Stores until August 3 when I went out with the ill-fated draft which was blown up in the train ambush at Water-vaal North on August 31, 1901. What was left of the draft joined the battalion at Pienaar's River, Transvaal. Colonel Rivett Carnac was then C.O., and Station Commandant, Capt. Tyndall was Adjutant and Station Staff Officer and Band-Sgt.

Columbine was the Staff Clerk. I was appointed Commandant's orderly.

Peace was signed on May 31, 1902, and we sailed for home in September. We were stationed at Fulford Barracks, York, until we went to India in 1905.

I was by then a corporal and signals instructor. In 1906 I was placed in charge of a lance-corporal and six men on a long-distance signalling scheme between Darjeeling and Gyantse on the Tibetan border. Our post was at Kalimpong and we stayed there a month.

I was promoted full sergeant in 1910 and attended the Delhi Durbar when King George V and Queen Mary were crowned.

I returned to the home establishment in 1912 and, after a tour of duty with 5th D.W.R., was C.S.M. of "A" Company of the 2nd Battalion at the start of the World War I. I was wounded in the second day's action, August 23, 1914, at the battle of Mons and, together with Colonel Gibbs, Major Townsend (my company commander) and other wounded officers and men, was captured. We were in hospital first at Wasmes and then at Lubeck near Hamburg; then all prisoners of the "Dukes" captured at Mons were sent to a camp at Gustrow, Mecklenburg. On January 1, 1918, I and several others went to Holland on an exchange of prisoners. After the armistice I rejoined the 2nd Battalion at North Shields.

In June 1920 I was promoted to R.S.M. and posted to the Depot at Halifax where I remained until my retirement under the Geddes axe on August 31, 1922.

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A Night to Remember

By Staff-Sergeant J. Imray

It was 1935 and about three days to Christmas. We of the 1st Battalion, in Malta, were preparing for that happy season but work had to go on. Messes and other establishments still had to be cleaned and on the morning in question it was the turn of "C" ("S") Company to provide the men for fatigues.

With two other men I had to report to the officers' mess and, having done the job a few times, I knew what to expect. In the sergeants' mess we at least got a cup of "sergeant-major's" tea but in the officers' mess we were detailed by Maltese servants and never a drop to drink. The kitchen was as big as a tennis court and it had to be scrubbed on hands and knees.

But that day there seemed a new spirit—maybe the spirit of Christmas—about. Our tasks completed, we were offered large mugs of first-class coffee. Even the lance-corporal (Tingle, I think) unfroze and two of the waiters, the Jones brothers, were pals of mine. To a very young soldier, due to experience my first Christmas abroad, the world seemed fine.

Later the day became even more memorable because I was to experience something which doesn't often happen to private soldiers with 20 months' service—I was a guest in my officers' mess. Yes, I scrubbed it in the morning and was hobnobbing with the officers in the evening. Let me tell you how it happened.

When the battalion arrived in Malta I had joined a club called "The Knights of St. Columbia" and was an active member. It was a Catholic organisation and the members were mostly servicemen or civilians working in local firms or the dockyard. I was the only private soldier. It cost 21s. to join and about 10s. a quarter and that was beyond the pocket of a private unless he was thrifty in barracks.

The club was patronised by a lot of young English girls so we young soldiers who did join found it a home from home and it kept us away from less reputable places. The Maltese were not allowed to join by order of the Hierarchy unless they joined the Order of the United Kingdom.

With Christmas coming we decided to form a carol-singing party to go round the messes and clubs—the money earned to be given to the poor children of Malta for Christmas.

Before setting off it was agreed that on no account would we visit the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. "Geordie" (that's me) wasn't allowed civilian clothes and would get into trouble. (I kept my civilian clothing in the club for which I paid 1s. a month. This was a common practice in Malta where R.N. ratings had to disembark and board in uniform.)

We hired a bus and about 20 of us trooped aboard. One chap played a piano accordion and one of our R.E. members had made a music stand and candle holders. We went first to Tigne Barracks and the officers' mess Royal Artillery. We sang our carols in the forecourt and the P.M.C. came out and gave us 5s.

Then he said the fatal words: "Why don't you go to the 'Dukes'; they would love to have you." My spirits sank. There was a debate and it was agreed that we would stay outside and that "Geordie" could stay in the shadows and be inconspicuous. So off we set for St. George's Barracks with me picturing a cell and the look on the C.O.'s face as he thundered: "Damned insolence. I'm not having it. Twenty-eight days' Detention!" Poor old "Geordie."

My pal, Wally, who was a staff-sergeant, R.E.—and is now a major—knocked at the officers' mess and announced who we were. Then the worst happened—we were invited inside. However, isn't the "Dukes" motto "Virtutis Fortuna Comes." So I was brave and fortune did favour me.

The officers were in mess kit and I can still remember the young subalterns of those days, Mr. Cousens, Strangeways, Beuttler and others. They were in real festive mood and joined in our carols. Out of the corner of my eye I could see the Jones brothers watching and, worse still was that dreaded lance-corporal and Sgt. Sutherland, the Mess Sergeant. But I thought "In for a penny, in for a pound" and decided to enjoy the party like the rest.

After the carols the lance-corporal brought round sherry. When he got to me he said: "Haven't I seen you somewhere before, Sir?" I couldn't remember where and drank my sherry. The party

DO YOU REMEMBER ?



Sgt. Lucas, commanding a "naval" detachment in the Singapore Tattoo, 1926.



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was really amusing me. The officers were laughing over the large snowdrops we had painted on our windows with white blanco; they said they had never seen such snow.

But even worse was to follow. The officers rang the sergeants' mess. They were having a party and would love to see us. There was less chance of my remaining unrecognised there and, as we trooped over, I mentioned my fears to Wally. He told me not to worry, he would see the R.S.M. The R.S.M., Mr. Allsop, told Wally: "Bring him in. I'm proud of any of my men who do such work." So "Geordie" was in. After refreshments and a grand collection from the sergeants, the R.S.M. asked us to call at the corporals' club. They were also having a party.

Most of the corporals, of course, knew me but, as I had never given any of them any trouble, I didn't expect any from them. They were all inquisitive as to how I had got into such company and wanted to know if they could also join. The young ladies were the attraction and the corporals were a bit put out when I mentioned that the club was only for Catholics.

Another good collection was taken and we set off back to our club on Crucifix Bastion in high spirits. We had collected over £5 and been royally entertained. The only worry was "Geordie." "Will you get into trouble?" the girls asked. The men said: "You'll be all right." But I wasn't so sure; my escapade would be all over barracks by now.

Changing back into uniform, I hurried back to barracks in time and entered the guard room to report in. The guard commander was Cpl. Quirk. He said, "You've committed three offences tonight. You wore plain clothes; you broke into barracks and then you broke out of barracks. What have you got to say for yourself." I mentioned the R.S.M. but R.S.M.s didn't count, it seemed; the corporal did his job according to regulations and I went off to bed in fear.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Very One Pip

I was standing admiring myself in those windows outside the adjutant's office at the Depot. But, of course, I am growing old. You won't remember those windows—or the Depot. It was a stony place which had snow all the year round; you took a quaint little tram up a very long hill to get there.

I had been commissioned a fortnight; the "pip" still shone very brightly. I thought I looked a treat and my right arm was not at all tired of returning salutes, especially from sergeants and above. Like these two fierce war-like creatures approaching me now. R.S.M. Code. Did the R.S.M. salute one?

He did. "Sir, if you would give me the name of your batman I will see that he is shown how to clean your belt properly—and where to get the correct Regimental lanyard—SIR."

D.R.S.

No one was asleep. Everyone had lain awake waiting for me to arrive. Eventually, after a lot of back-chat and advice to go and see the R.S.M. in the morning, we were ordered to "Shut up and get to sleep" by L/Cpl. Jack Aynsley.

Next morning we were all on the range. The Jones brothers, amidst a lot of laughter, told me that the lance-corporal still couldn't fathom where he had seen me before. (Later, when I was again on fatigue in the mess, he was a real sport about it.) And, although I spent some uneasy hours, I never heard anything more about the triple charge.

The following Sunday night, at our weekly dance, we found that, in addition to the money, we had collected three recruits for the club from the "Dukes." So every one voted it a very successful night.

Especially "Geordie."

THE RETIRED OFFICERS' FUND

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1960

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance Credit, 1959	21	8 1	Donations:		
Subscriptions:			Officers' Families Fund	3	3 0
Major Burton	1	1 0	Royal School, Bath	5	0 0
Major Butterfield	1	1 0	Honorary Colour Fund	15	0 0
Lt.-Colonel J. E. Johnson	2	2 0	R.H.Q. Entertainment Fund	10	0 0
Major-General R. K. Exham	6	6 0	IRON DUKE Production Fund	15	0 0
Colonel R. de la H. Moran	2	2 0	Scarlet silk runner for 1st Battalion		
Lt.-Colonel Sir N. Everard	1	1 0	Officers' Mess	20	12 0
Officers	45	17 6	Bank Charges		10 6
Defence Bonds dividends	7	1 11			
Refund from R.H.Q.	10	0 0	Balance Credit	28	15 0
	£98	0 6		£98	0 6

F. H. Fraser (Brigadier)
Oi/c Fund. January, 1961.

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