

No.121 July 1961



# THE IRON DUKE

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

# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Magazine of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



Hill 60  
Somme 1916, '18  
Arras 1917, '18  
Cambrai 1917, '18  
Lys  
Piave 1918  
Landing at 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

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### BUSINESS NOTES

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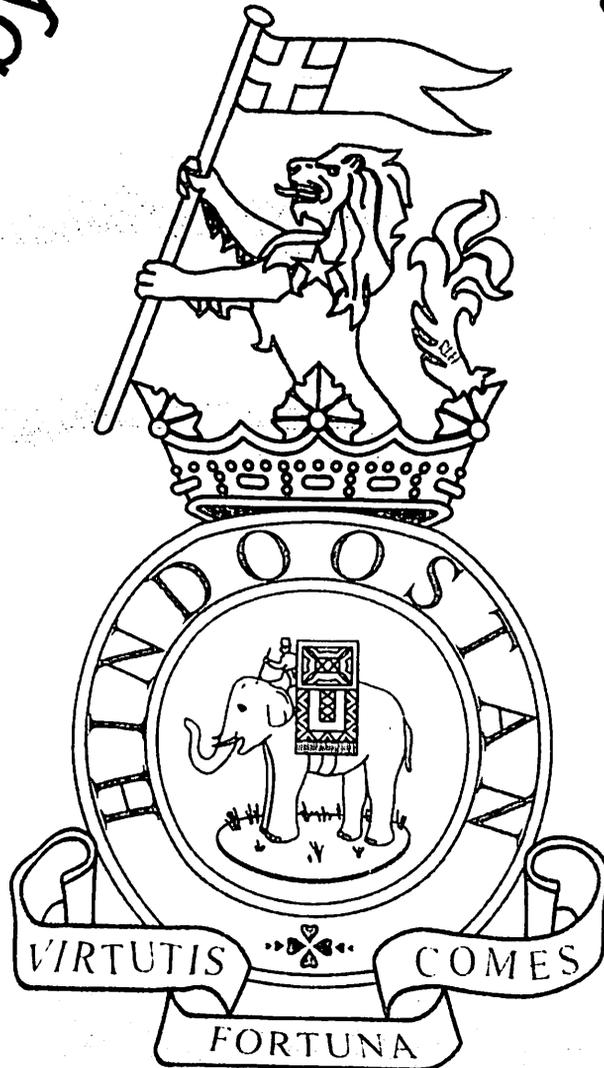
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HALIFAX

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### CONTENTS

	PAGE
<i>The Regiment</i> .. .. .	85
<i>News and Notes</i> .. .. .	87
<i>Regimental Headquarters</i> .. .. .	89
<i>The Yorkshire Brigade Depot</i> .. .. .	90
<i>"The Iron Duke" Appeal</i> .. .. .	91
<i>Museum Acquisitions</i> .. .. .	91
<i>1st Battalion</i> .. .. .	92
<i>The West Riding Battalion, T.A.</i> .. .. .	106
<i>Halifax Volunteers</i> .. .. .	112
<i>"Dusty" Miller</i> .. .. .	112
<i>Book Reviews</i> .. .. .	115
<i>The Officers' Regimental Dinner Club</i> .. .. .	116
<i>The Regimental Association</i> .. .. .	117
<i>From the "London Gazette"</i> .. .. .	120
<i>Obituary</i> .. .. .	121

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# THE REGIMENT

## *Colonel of the Regiment*

MAJOR-GENERAL K. G. EXHAM, C.B., D.S.O., *Farm House, Berriew, Montgomery.*

## *Deputy Colonel of the Regiment*

BRIGADIER B. W. WEBB-CARTER, D.S.O., O.B.E., *Ashton Cottage, Bishop's Waltham, Hants.*

## REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

*Wellesley Barracks, Halifax, Yorks.*

Major J. H. Davis, O.C. and Regimental Secretary      Lt.-Colonel D. J. Stewart, R.O.III

## 1st BATTALION

*Meeanee Barracks, Colchester, Essex*

C.O.: Lt.-Colonel A. D. Firth, M.B.E., M.C.      Adjutant: Captain J. R. P. Cumberlege

## THE WEST RIDING BATTALION (T.A.)

*Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield*

Hon. Colonel: Colonel G. B. Howcroft, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., J.P.

C.O.: Lt.-Colonel F. R. Gadd, E.R.D., T.D.      Adjt.: Captain M. J. Campbell-Lamerton

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5TH BATTALION: Mr. J. T. Gilleard, 39 Springfield Terrace, Somerset Road, Huddersfield

6TH BATTALION: Capt. H. J. Lawson, 59 Short Bank Road, Skipton

8TH BATTALION (R.A.C.): Major F. B. Murgatroyd, 3 Fullwith Lane, Harrogate

9TH BATTALION (R.A.C.): Capt. T. Moore, 21 Granby Drive, Riddlesden, Keighley

10TH BATTALION: Mr. G. R. Goodchild, 10 Willowfield Crescent, Highfield Road, Bradford, 2



*Photo and block: Halifax Courier*

**OPERATION "HAVERCAKE"**

**Halifax, June 1, 1961**

**The Mayor inspects "B" Company at Manor Heath**

**Escorting the Mayor (Alderman Mrs. W. Oxley, J.P.) is the Company Commander, Captain Naughton, with, behind, the C.O. and the Colonel of the Regiment**

## NEWS and NOTES

As Representative Colonel of the Yorkshire Brigade, General Exham had the honour of receiving an invitation for himself and Mrs. Exham to the marriage in York Minster of the Duke of Kent and Miss Worsley.

The Yorkshire Brigade presented Miss Worsley with a silver salver bearing the badges of the brigade and its four regiments.

The union of 382 Medium Regiment and the 5/7th Battalion only, in the words of the C.O., awaits consummation at annual camp. This was due to start on July 14 at Whitburn.

Official approval for the title of "The West Riding Battalion (D.W.R.)" for the new unit has not yet actually been pronounced. There seems, however, no reason to suppose that it will be refused and the title is already in general use, so it has been adopted for the heading of the battalion's notes in this issue.

These notes include a full "order of battle." It is good to see that this covers all the main towns which were connected with our former four territorial battalions. It is also good to see in the order of battle names that have family connections with the "Voluntary Dukes" such as Major Tetlow (three uncles), Lt. T. D. Sugden (father and great-uncle) and 2 Lt. Kilner (two uncles).

R.H.Q. has received a request from Mr. Iain B. Adamson, who is preparing a biography of the late Captain Gilbert Beyfus, Q.C., for help in compiling a chapter on his experiences in the first world war.

As we reported in Captain Beyfus's obituary notice he served with the Regiment until wounded and captured at Hill 60. We also noted that he had escaped but was recaptured in a boat on the Baltic when actually beyond the limit of German territorial waters. Mr. Adamson says that Captain Beyfus made at least two subsequent attempts to escape and possibly a third from Holzminden.

R.H.Q. has sent Mr. Adamson relevant extracts from THE IRON DUKE and Bruce's history and has also given him the names of three officers who were at Hill 60: General Ozanne, Colonel Ince and Lt.-Colonel Cox. Anyone else who thinks he can help should write to Mr. Adamson at 39 Maresfield Gardens, London, N.W.3.

Colonel F. Longden-Smith, M.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., who was C.O. of the 6th Battalion (T.A.) from 1929 to 1933, recently completed 50 years' service with Hattersley & Sons Ltd., the well-known Keighley loom makers. Last year he succeeded his brother, the late Mr. H. Giffard Smith, as chairman of the board of directors. To mark his jubilee he was presented with an inscribed silver salver on behalf of the staff and foremen at the factory.

Colonel Smith has also been active in public life.

### REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner, 1961

The annual general meeting and reunion dinner of the O.C.A. and Regimental Association will take place at the Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax, on Saturday, September 23, 1961.

The A.G.M. will be in the men's recreation room at 5.30 p.m. and the dinner will be in the main hall at 7.15 p.m.

Tickets are 10s. each and can be obtained from The General Secretary, R.H.Q. D.W.R., Wellesley Barracks, Halifax—or from branch secretaries. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Members aged 70 and over are entitled to apply for a free ticket

He is chairman of Skipton magistrates, president of Skipton Building Society, former chairman of Skipton Urban Council and former chairman of Governors of Skipton Grammar School.

A message from Colonel Longden-Smith is among those sent to mark the formation of the West Riding Battalion which are printed on page 110.

The Regimental-Association is hoping to form a new branch in Leeds where, it is thought, there must be enough "Old Dukes" to justify the venture.

Anyone who is interested should get in touch with: Major A. P. Downey, 22 Boston Towers, Lincoln Green, Leeds, 9.

Although circumstances forced Major Downey to do the latter part of his service with other units, he was born in the Regiment, at Fulford Barracks, York, in December 1890 and served with the 1st Battalion in India from 1905 to 1919. He may be best remembered to those of that generation as Sergeant-Drummer in 1912-14. We hope to publish a fuller account of his interesting record in a later issue.

Two readers, Colonel Howcroft and Major Hubert Coop, kindly wrote to identify "P.B.T." whose verse on Iceland we reprinted in the April number. He is Major P. B. Tanner, now of Dobcross, near Oldham, who was a company commander in the 1/7th Battalion in Iceland and whose father, Sir Gilbert Tanner, commanded the 7th during and just after the first world war.

Unfortunately for our hopes of getting further contributions from Major Tanner he writes that his verse making is rather like his piano playing—one time only.

### Late News

1st D.W.R. was flown to Kenya early in July to replace units sent to Kuwait.

### Congratulations Column

A C.B.E. was awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours to Mr. Richard Sugden, T.D., now managing director of the Brighthouse flour milling business of Thomas Sugden & Son Ltd. and, for 11 years before the war, an officer of 4th D.W.R. During the war he held many staff appointments overseas as a lieutenant-colonel. Mr. Sugden is a nephew of the late Brigadier R. E. Sugden.

Two officers of the Regiment were awarded the M.B.E. (Military Division) in the Queen's Birthday honours list on June 10. They are Major D. R. Siddall, T.D., of The West Riding Battalion—he now commands the Skipton and Keighley Company—and Captain C. R. Huxtable, formerly adjutant of the 1st Battalion and now at the School of Infantry.

Another recipient of the M.B.E. was Major B. M. Laverack, W.R.A.C., who was "born a Duke" in Cairo, where her father, "Tom"—though, apparently, now "Vic"—Laverack was serving with the 2nd Battalion. As reported in a recent issue, Major Barbara has been serving on the staff of the D.C.I.G.S.; her next posting is to "Staff Duties" in Oslo.

Brigadier George Laing has been selected for the appointment of Commandant of The Duke of York's School for boys. Although this necessitates his retirement from the Army it is a matter for much congratulation both for him and for the Regiment. Apart from the distinction of the appointment, Brigadier George should be able to steer some "likely lads" in our direction.

Captain P. A. Mitchell and Captain J. M. Newton qualified for the Staff College, Camberley, in the examination held on February 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1961. Captain Mitchell has been selected to attend No. 16 Technical Staff Course which assembles at The Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, on January 15, 1962.

Major C. J. MacLaren was recently admitted as a member of the Glasgow Stock Exchange and has become a partner in the firm of W. J. Paul & Co.

Lt.-Colonel Barry Kavanagh's son, Richard, has won a scholarship to Wellington and was due to start there in May.

At the Royal Tournament, Pte. G. C. Longbottom, a National Service soldier in the 1st Battalion, became the first infantryman to qualify for the final of the Prince of Wales Cup since the competition was started some 40 years ago.

Longbottom, riding his own horse, Marcus VIII, came through to the final, along with 6 others, with no faults at all. He then had a clear round and had to compete in a timed jump-off with three other contestants. He again had a clear round, but so did two others, and he was placed third by the clock.

This was a fine performance by both man and horse, for neither had before competed in this class,

and both received a great ovation from the large and appreciative audience.

An account of the 1st Battalion's Yorkshire tour starts on page 99. As it was "late copy" it had to be kept short and factual and we hope that, perhaps, someone will produce a "light" supplement for the next issue. At the conclusion of the tour the following letter from the Colonel of the Regiment was printed in most of the Yorkshire papers.

June 17, 1961

DEAR SIR,

May I, though your columns, express the thanks of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment for the generous hospitality and many kindnesses extended to them, both publicly and privately, throughout their recent tour of the West Riding.

This was the Regiment's first visit, as a complete unit, to its home area for nearly 60 years, and it has been a memorable occasion for all of us. Many new friendships have been made and old ones renewed and strengthened. As a result I believe that the ties between the West Riding and its own County Regiment have never been stronger.

The success of the tour and the happy atmosphere that has prevailed everywhere have been largely the result of the interest taken in all our ceremonial parades and marches by the presence in the streets and parks of such large numbers of appreciative spectators. We are most grateful for their support.

May I, in conclusion, also say how much we appreciate the help of the Yorkshire newspapers in covering the tour.

K. G. EXHAM,

Colonel, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment

Lt.-Colonel Stewart received an interesting letter from Lt.-Colonel Barry Kavanagh who is at present commanding 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment at Kaduna. He is enthusiastic about the country and the people and has been able to visit most of the main towns. Practically all his platoons are now commanded by Nigerian officers who have been well trained at Mons or the R.M.A.S. and who, he says, are delightful and efficient.

When he wrote, his battalion was training hard in expectation of moving to the Congo in June.

Major Dick Ince, who was on leave in England in May and June, also expected to be going to the Congo on his return to Nigeria.

We have received a letter from the editor of "The Phoenix" which, true to its name, has risen from the ashes of 382 Medium Regiment as the magazine of "A" Company, The West Riding Battalion.

The writer believes that if the Army really wants to attract regular recruits they must produce a more attractive walking-out dress, No. 1 dress

(Continued on page 91)

## REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Once again there has been a change in the static chain of command and no longer are we administered by H.Q. North Midland District at Nottingham. The newly formed H.Q. Yorkshire District at Catterick has taken over and shortly after this happened we were visited by the G.S.O.1, Lt.-Colonel P. N. Keymer, M.C., of the York and Lancaster Regiment.

The traditional St. George's Day arrangements were slightly modified this year because of the forthcoming visit of the 1st Battalion. The Church Parade was held and as usual started from George Street. Both the Territorial detachment and the Old Comrades Association wore white roses. The Halifax branch of the Royal Society of St. George also attended the service at the Parish Church. As welcome a combination, we hope, to them as it is to us.

Planning the tour of the West Riding has been our main interest for the last quarter. A surprising number of ex-Dukes have made themselves known in the course of our liaison visits. Mr. Maun, head of the Parks Department of Spenborough, was once, many years ago, batman to Colonel Armitage. At Keighley we have Mr. Sherriss, until recently a national serviceman with the 1st Battalion, also

in the Parks Department and a member of the newly formed O.C.A. branch at Keighley.

The only big red herring was introduced by Captain Jim Pell when, if we may mix our metaphors, he started the hare of havercakes. The hare was rapidly run to death by the press but not before a goodly collection of recipes had poured into R.H.Q. and Strensall. We even had an offer from someone to sell the Regiment his entire collection of cookery books.

Miss Lord, O.B.E., the daughter of one of the more famous havercake makers of the past, wrote and gave much interesting information—the photograph shows her, with O.C. R.H.Q. and his wife, looking at havercakes made by Mr. Feather of Howarth, the only havercake baker now left in the district. The havercakes shortly after baking look and feel not unlike crepe rubber. How they could be put on the end of a sword and stay there is rather baffling. When crisp, ready to be eaten, they are far too brittle for a sword point. In fact, at the opening of the Regimental Museum at Bankfield last year, the Museum Director experimented with swords and havercakes but failed to make a havercake stick even with the aid of adhesive plaster. This may possibly be another old craft that has died. It undoubtedly was done: Mr. E. Stow, of 6 Briardale Road, Bradford, told us that when he was a boy at Bellevue School—70 years ago I think he said—he remembered the “Havercake Lads Regiment” marching along Manningham Lane to Bellevue Barracks with real havercakes flapping about on their bayonets.



Photo and block: "Telegraph and Argus", Bradford

## THE YORKSHIRE BRIGADE DEPOT

During the last quarter our main preoccupation has been recruiting. The Brigade's unofficial Regimental and Brigade recruiters have now been legitimised to the extent of two officers, two N.C.O.s and two drivers. D.W.R. interests are represented by Captain Pell and by Cpl. Richardson, who shelters recruits on their arrival from the customary brutalities of service life. A careful study of the recruiting charts and graphs in Major Wellesley's office reveals absolutely nothing except that the position is far from satisfactory.

Apart from Operation "Havercake," which is treated more fully elsewhere, we have put in a strong effort with the Army Cadet Force and in Commonwealth Youth Week. This is a field of recruiting which, up to the present, has not been fully cultivated by the regular army but which has great possibilities. The Brigade Colonel has been appointed Deputy Force Commander for the East Riding A.C.F. and Lt.-Colonel Forbes is the Regimental Secretary of the North Riding A.C.F. In May a party of boys was invited to stay two days at the Brigade Depot to see the life here. All were agreeably surprised at the conditions, and the visit resulted in some regular recruits. It is hoped that all readers of THE IRON DUKE living in the West Riding will take an interest in our own "Duke's" cadet units. They are very much a part of the Regiment and support from retired officers and men can do nothing but good.

Our recruiters and displays have been well in evidence at the various West Riding cities and towns which took part in Commonwealth Youth Week. Considerable interest was shown by the young; the actual results are not easy to evaluate but it is essential at this time that we keep the Regiment in the public eye as much as possible.

On May 9 we were visited by the new Director of Infantry, General Darling. He toured the Depot and spoke to many of the recruits. He was kind enough to say that he approved of what he saw.

St. George's Day fell this year on a Sunday and, as it is unthinkable today to interfere with that sacred institution the British weekend, and as the Colonel of the Regiment was visiting Strensall on the Friday, we celebrated on that day. General Exham presented white roses and said a few words about St. George. In the Regiment we refuse to accept the latter's recent demotion to "Saint, 3rd Class." In the afternoon, playing with an unfamiliar shaped ball, we allowed the York and Lancaster Regiment to beat us.

### TRAINING COMPANY NOTES

Our last pass-out parade was held on Saturday, February 4; the Lord Mayor of Sheffield was invited to take the salute as the majority of recruits were for the York and Lancaster Regiment. This

was the last pass-out parade as such and, instead "Parents' Day" has been instituted. Parents and friends of recruits who have finished their training are guests of the Depot; they have an opportunity to see what army life is like, and what their sons have been through during their ten weeks' basic training. Three have been held so far, with great success, and are sure to have a beneficial effect on recruiting.

At Parents' Day on March 23 Pte. P. Wilkinson of 5 Bellgrave Terrace, Sowerby, was the best recruit. On April 28, the best recruit was Pte. J. Malone from Athlone; the best shot, on both the S.L.R. and the L.M.G., was Pte. D. E. Dickens who is the stepson of C.S.M. Costello serving with the 1st Battalion.

Northern Command Rifle Meeting was held on May 11 and 12. We put in a team of four: Q.M.S.I. Markham (S.A.S.C.), Cpl. Cook (P.W.O.), Ptes. Parker and Glew (D.W.R.). In view of the small amount of training carried out the team did well. Q.M.S.I. Markham and Cpl. Cook won the L.M.G. pairs and Pte. Parker won the individual rifle, 17 points ahead of Q.M.S.I. Markham who came second.

General Darling, the Director of Infantry, when visiting the Brigade on May 9, spent considerable time watching training and speaking to recruits. Another visitor has been Colonel Dumas, R.A., newly appointed "job introduction" officer for Northern Command. He studied thoroughly what happens to a recruit from the moment he enters the main gate to when he leaves the Depot after ten weeks. Not only was he concerned with the training but also with how the recruit is encouraged to spend his spare time, and how much spare time he really has.

The Yorkshire Brigade cricket team seems to be centred around Pte. Stead but I'm assured by the Cricket Officer that this is not true. Other "Dukes" in the team are L/Cpls. Threapleton, Eccles, Fallon and Ptes. Wade and Hudson.

### "H.Q." COMPANY

Since our last issue several new faces have arrived at the Brigade Depot: Pte. Morris, who has now settled down to some clerical work with the Quartermaster, and, from reports received, is doing very well indeed, Ptes. Sadler and Stirk, who have arrived to be employed in the Officers' Mess, and Pte. Sayles who is assisting in the accommodation store.

We have one departure to announce: Pte. Pegg, who was employed by the Quartermaster, has left us for civilian life on a compassionate discharge. We wish him well and sincerely hope that his problems are now solved.

In the Junior Wing we have improved our numbers considerably, no fewer than seven junior drummers having enlisted, namely: J/Dmrs. Anderson, from Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.; Thornton, from Reyworth, Notts.; Willetts, from Mansfield, Notts.; Timson, from Mansfield, Notts.; Haigh, from Shipley, Yorks.; Adams, from Halifax, Yorks.; Edmondson, from Bingley, Yorks.

The last named is the "Tich" of the family,

certainly the smallest boy of the Yorkshire Brigade Depot and probably in the Army. On May 29, when Norman Wisdom gave a show at the Rialto, York, for 200 men of the Brigade Depot, Edmondson had the honour of presenting him with a Brigade plaque.

Shortly the juniors go to the Orkneys for a short period of training. This will be our new boys' first experience which I'm sure they will enjoy; we will have their answer for the next issue.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

We have little to recount. We had one guest night which was attended by Colonel Brooke, lately commanding 5th W. Yorks (T.A.), Colonel Bryan, commanding the newly formed 3rd P.W.O. (T.A.), and Colonel Clay, commanding the Leeds Rifles. We were also glad to welcome Colonel "Mouse" Harrison-Topham, late K.O.Y.L.I., who looks after out interests at Records in such a friendly manner.

We have at various times had the pleasure of entertaining, General Darling, General Exham and Colonel Firth at luncheon.

2 Lt. McCaskill, who replaced Lt. Everard as the regimental training subaltern, is at present in Norway doing an attachment with the Norwegian Army.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last publication the "Duke's" element in the mess has dwindled slightly, but we are still strongly represented by C.S.M. Webb, C.Q.M.S. Sullivan, Sgts. Fee, Brown, Gay and Gascoyne. It was with regret that we bade *adieu* to Sgts. Morris, Delaney, Ingham and Holliday who left for the Battalion. They did the Regiment proud during their tour here.

Our social activities have included a St. George's Day Dinner at which we had the company of R.S.M. Frier, R.Q.M.S. Sheehan and C.S.M. Arundel. Needless to say this was a splendid occasion, ending with R.S.M. "Tich" going to bed with toothache (or so he said). On May 17 the Brigade officers and their ladies were entertained to a games evening which proved very enjoyable with, of course, a narrow win for the Sergeants (we ran the scoreboard). Amongst the officers the "Dukes" were represented by Major Jones-Stamp, Captains Newton and Pell and Lt. Stevens (without Knut) who is here on a visit from the Battalion. It is rumoured that, as a result of this evening, the officers are holding secret dominoes sessions in the D.A.A.G.'s office.

Colonel Firth paid us a flying visit and had a quick chat to us all. We were extremely pleased to see him but sorry his visit was so short that we had no time to offer him liquid refreshment. (Note to arrangers of C.O.'s visits: visit Sergeants' Mess during bar opening hours)\* Other visitors have included C.S.M. Eddie Webster, *en route* to 1 Y. & L., and R.S.M. "Thumper" Hall who, we understand, is shortly to receive a Q.M.'s commission in the Duke's.

We are, at the moment, eagerly looking forward to the arrival of the 1st Battalion in Halifax when we hope for an exchange of social evenings.

\* Noted: D.A.A.G.

#### News and Notes (continued from page 88)

being, "to the teenager, old-fashioned, the cloth too heavy and the trousers far too wide at the ankle."

His solution is that each regiment and corps should have a walking-out dress in its own colours. For the Duke's he suggests a combination of maroon and french grey, and he appends a coloured illustration. Unfortunately we can't reproduce this.

The illustration certainly looks smart and colourful. The writer thinks that the men would be prepared to pay for it themselves. We are not qualified to comment on this suggestion but, as he says, it would, anyway, cost less than another war, and "if you don't speculate you can't accumulate."

#### "THE IRON DUKE" APPEAL

Cash donations received now total over £400. The increased subscriptions promised still fall some way short of the target figure of £250 per annum. The brighter outlook for advertisements should do much to make good this deficiency but the appeal is being kept open until the end of this year and further contributions will still be gratefully received.

Meanwhile we thank all those who have responded so generously to the appeal.

#### Fourth List of Subscribers, up to June 10

Captain P. B. L. Hoppe.  
Lt.-Colonel A. B. M. Kavanagh, M.C.  
Captain C. D. Miller.  
In-Pensioner F. Stephenson.  
Captain P. B. Tanner.  
Mr. F. Webb.

In addition to contributions from individuals we acknowledge the sum of £23 6s. contributed by officers serving with the 1st Battalion, and £5 7s. raised by a raffle at the annual dinner of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Regimental Association.

We would also like to acknowledge the fact that a large number of warrant officers and N.C.O.s of the 1st Battalion have registered as individual subscribers to the magazine. We cannot list all their names but are none the less grateful for their help.

#### MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Silver button, 33rd Regiment pre-1830 (numeral within continuous wreath). Presented by Brigadier Webb-Carter.

Maps and other documents connected with the 1st Battalion's service in Korea, 1952/53, and Gibraltar, 1954. Presented by Captain J. H. N. Naughton.

Documents of the late Brigadier R. E. Sugden, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., viz.: Commission in 1st Volunteer Battalion, D.W.R., 1904, six Mentions in Despatches, 1914-18; grant of Dignity of C.M.G., 1919; grant of Dignity of C.B., 1926. Presented by Mrs. R. E. Sugden.

"Personal Recollections of the Waterloo Campaign" by Lt. Frederick Hope Pattison, with a signed photograph of the author. Presented by Mr. F. N. Carline.

## 1st BATTALION

The period under review starts with our rather sad return from the Rugger Final at Aldershot. Many, many inquests were held in the few days before Exercise "Doone Valley" was upon us; this was a series of platoon test exercises, set by the Brigade Commander, on Exmoor.

Once everybody had returned to Colchester from these we found ourselves in the middle of that old boggy, annual classification. This year it was run on a central basis organised by Major Robertson and his "Bisley Bullets." This proved to be a highly successful sausage machine and will most certainly be tried again next year.

During classification the Brigade received a farewell visit from the C.I.G.S. who, in addition to watching the range work and being introduced to the "Bisley Team," saw our newly formed Reconnaissance Platoon carry out a short tactical exercise in conjunction with a helicopter. The C.I.G.S.

also found time to pay a brief visit to the Sergeants' Mess and spoke to many members.

St. George's Day was celebrated by holding a Battalion parade on Sunday, April 23, the white roses being presented by Mrs. Firth. The Battalion then attended the service in the Garrison Church. In the opinion of many it is a great shame the old-time church parades are a thing of the past.

A very good novices boxing meeting was held in April and was enjoyed by all, the spirit shown by all competitors being first class.

This was followed in late April by the Battalion Athletic Meeting, slightly marred by the cold dull weather.

The Assault Pioneer Platoon have just returned after spending seven weeks attached to 3rd Independent Field Squadron, Royal Engineers. They have received a very thorough training from our



NEW REGULAR SOLDIERS ARE SHOWN THE REGIMENTAL COLOURS

(left to right) Ptes. M. Murphy (Leeds); B. Laycock, Siddal (Halifax); W. Donkin, Tockwith (York); D. Rhodes (Halifax); W. Brooks (Oldham, Lancs.)

Sapper friends, for whose kindness to all ranks we are most grateful.

As we go to press the Battalion is moving north on the first stage of the Yorkshire Tour. The Editor plans a special late supplement on the tour so we hope to include a short report and photographs elsewhere in this issue.

### OFFICERS' MESS

There was not a great deal of social activity at the beginning of the quarter. The majority of us were away for the greater part of March. Some had a cold and damp two weeks on Stanford training area; others went to Exmoor for the Doone Valley exercises, and the more boisterous living-in members went on the Yorkshire Rugby Tour.

At our April guest night we entertained Lt.-Colonel Walter Skelsey, who is home from Nyasaland, Lt.-Colonel D. I. A. McKechnie, the Commanding Officer of 20th Field Regiment R.A., and our Brigade Major, Major John Buckridge. We have also had Captain R. T. Rickett, Green Howards, and Lt. J. W. F. Chandler, Staffords, staying with us prior to their support weapons courses at the School of Infantry.

After the St. George's Day parade and church service we entertained our friends and families. We were pleased to have Richard Scott-Evans with us for the week-end.

Life became a little more hectic in May. On the 10th, at a formal luncheon, we welcomed the new Garrison Commander, Brigadier J. A. Rundell, O.B.E., M.C., the Commanding Officer of 6 Command Workshops, Lt.-Colonel C. P. Kerswell, and three editors of the local press. That evening we attended the St. George's Ball given by the Corporals' Mess; we extend our thanks to them for a most enjoyable evening.

At our guest night on the 17th we welcomed Captain J. C. Stopford, O.B.E., R.N., whom we last met in Gibraltar and who has now retired and lives near to Colchester. Also as our guests were Commander J. H. Drake, Lt.-Commander J. M. Garnett, Lt.-Commander D. V. Dowley and Lt.-Commander Hinds from H.M.S. *Ganges*. This could best be described as one of the "old-fashioned" guest nights—with the typical morning after.

We have had the pleasure of entertaining another French officer, Lt. Georges Andres, on exchange *au pair*. He has just left us after a very enjoyable fortnight for a short stay in France and then back to his unit in Algiers.

### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Another three months have flown by and once again it is time to put pen to paper.

In general, life in the Mess has been quiet with no social event breaking up the period. Our numbers have fluctuated through postings in and out: Sgt. Johnny Gay departed to the Yorkshire Brigade Depot and Sgt. Tom Delaney returned from there. S/Sgt. "Tiffy" Kingdon, R.E.M.E., our armourer for five years, left for Tidworth and Sgt. "Tiffy" Blackshaw, R.E.M.E., has arrived to take over the shop. Another renowned Bisley shot, "Tiffy" Blackshaw, arrived on crutches, having

broken his leg some time previously; after a few weeks with us he was allocated a quarter and, so the story goes, the morning after his wife arrived he was able to throw away his crutches—I've often heard the reverse but never this before.

C/Sgt. Quest has returned to us from the Brigade Depot. Sgt. Ray Kirk, R.A.P.C., was also bitten by the "wonder bug" (OIC Records) and has left for B.A.O.R. He has been replaced by Sgt. Dave Ogden, R.A.P.C.

Band Sgt. "Dinger" Bell has departed to the School of Music (the place where they get the full training to become members of the union) for a band masters' course. Sgt. Joe Perrin has also left us, to go to the West Riding Battalion. He is waiting for the day when he can collect his "golden bowler" and join the ranks of the C.S.L.I.

Finally our R.Q.M.S., "Wally" Robins, has left us to take up post as R.S.M. with the West Riding Battalion. We take this opportunity to congratulate him and wish him a successful future.

Congratulations to C/Sgt. Dick Fenn on getting married—another "confirmed bachelor"—or so he thought. Also to Sgt. "Smudge" Smith (B.E.) on the birth of a baby daughter.

Whilst on the subject of marriage I hear wedding bells may soon be ringing for C.S.M. Geoff Nicholson. The more "confirmed" they are the harder they fall.

Recent promotions into the Mess have been Sgts. "Ror" Kelly, Frank Towey and Dougie Carman. We welcome them and wish them every success in the future.

With the departure of R.Q.M.S. "Wally" Robins, C.S.M. "Nick" Nichols has vacated his chair in H.Q. and taken over as R.Q.M.S.; C.S.M. Bill Burke has moved from "D" to "H.Q." Company. The latter, believing in the principle that H.Q. C.S.M. should always stay behind, is thinking of handing his '58 equipment and combat clothing in to the stores.

The R.S.M., among others, was an umpire on Exmoor exercises. His stay down there, compared with some, was short and on the day he was returning to Colchester he was heard to say to one who was staying, "You know, I've really enjoyed this," and then, as though in anticipation of the natural answer, he added, "But I have to go back to camp."

Past members will be pleased to hear that at our April Regimental Dinner we had two old "Dukes" as guests. They were ex-R.Q.M.S. Bob Fitter, who lives in this area, and S/Sgt. Harry Glover, now serving with the M.P.S.C. at Colchester.

As a final word we would like to remind all ex-members that if they are ever in the Colchester area they are welcome to use the Mess.

### CORPORALS' MESS

So effectively did my predecessor cover the happenings of the previous three months that, apart from the annual major event of our Club, I am left with only the minimum of recent activities on which to compile these notes.

The annual St. George's Day Ball—in fact, through unavoidable delays, held on May 11—took place in the N.A.A.F.I. Club which is ideally

suiting for such functions. For the night the building was transformed by the use of flowers on a large scale and, as a finishing touch, the display of the Colours and the Sergeants' Mess silver.

The C.O., R.S.M., representatives from the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and other Corporals' Clubs in the Brigade area, their wives and lady friends, were invited and, judging by the noise at around midnight, all had a very exuberant time.

Smooth running organisation in the hall—notably by Cpls. Senior and Robinson, ably assisted by a fleet of N.C.O.s—did much to ensure the success of the ball. Upon arrival, guests were greeted by a large glass of steaming rum punch—almost before they had had time to remove their coats. This highly coveted job fell to "Titch" Howard, who, on the basis of "one for all and a little one for me," was by about ten p.m. the life and soul of the party. It was largely due to the way "Titch" lashed out the punch that the ice, as it were, was broken so quickly, and everyone settled down to have a good time.

It is interesting to note that this year the warnings of the R.S.M. were heeded: no one actually reached the stage of climbing on to a chair and singing the "who kicked Nelly-in-the-belly-in-the-barn" sort of thing.

After terrific high-level "fixing," the Battalion Bus was sent many miles to pick up approximately thirty-five nurses from a nearby mental hospital (again the subject of a high-level fix with the Matron), only to find that no one there knew anything at all about it.

In anticipation of the antics of the "Cats" amongst us, an upstairs room was organised for the sole purpose of allowing them to hurl themselves around without causing injury to the more sedate types. Music for this was "piped" from the Band

through a fantastic series of wires, amplifiers and such-like with great effect. Incidentally, to fix this up took Cpls. Kelly and Cronin, plus at least half the Signal Platoon, all the previous afternoon.

The only thing which went wrong, really, was that someone forgot to switch off the central heating, with the result that the place was like a hot-house. Even this turned out all right in the end, because everybody just drank more beer.

For a superb buffet we owe Sgt. McGill and Cpl. Radley (not forgetting all their assistants who worked so hard to make it a success) our appreciative thanks; we hope that we can persuade them to try their skill again in the very near future.

For a last word on the ball, and to give satisfaction to all those who spent sleepless nights organising it, might I quote the comment of the R.S.M.'s wife as she was leaving: "It was better than the Paardeberg!"

We say farewell to Cpls. Howarth and Connor, who have departed for the R.M.P. and R.A.S.C. respectively, to Cpls. "Jock" Barnett and Brian Hartley, both to the R.A.S.C. If the present exodus of "Dukes" to the R.A.S.C. continues they will soon have sufficient numbers to form a separate unit.

Congratulations to Sgt. Kelly on his promotion, although we are loath to lose him as he has for so long been well to the fore in Mess activities.

We bid welcome to all those newly promoted who have recently joined us (too numerous to mention and, in any case, I haven't got the list) and hope that their stay will be happy, if not long.

## SHOOTING

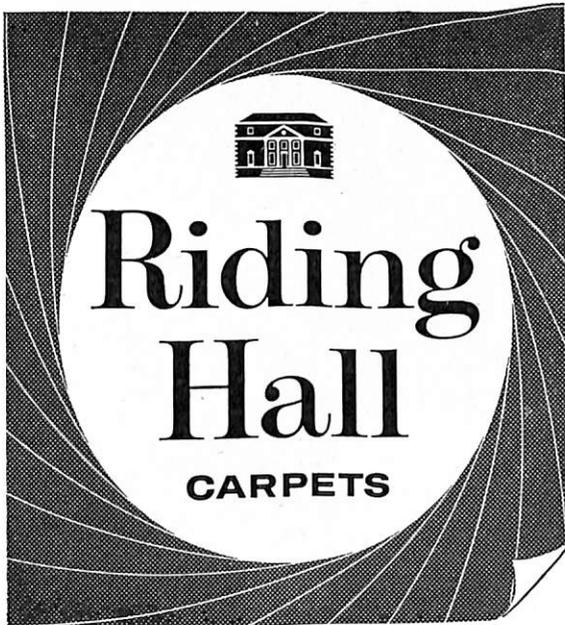
This year we are lucky to have most of the young soldiers who, trained by C.S.M. Norman, did so well in the local competitions last year. So, for the first time since the Battalion began to compete in Army Rifle Association meetings, there has been no early selection and preliminary training.

The first competition of the season was the East Anglian District Rifle Meeting which took place at Middlewick from April 28 to 30. The meeting was organised into two separate categories for Regular Army and T.A. Units. Apart from the S.M.G. team match all competitions were for company or minor units teams. We were only allowed to enter three company teams and two young soldier teams, so an eliminating competition had to be held on April 24.

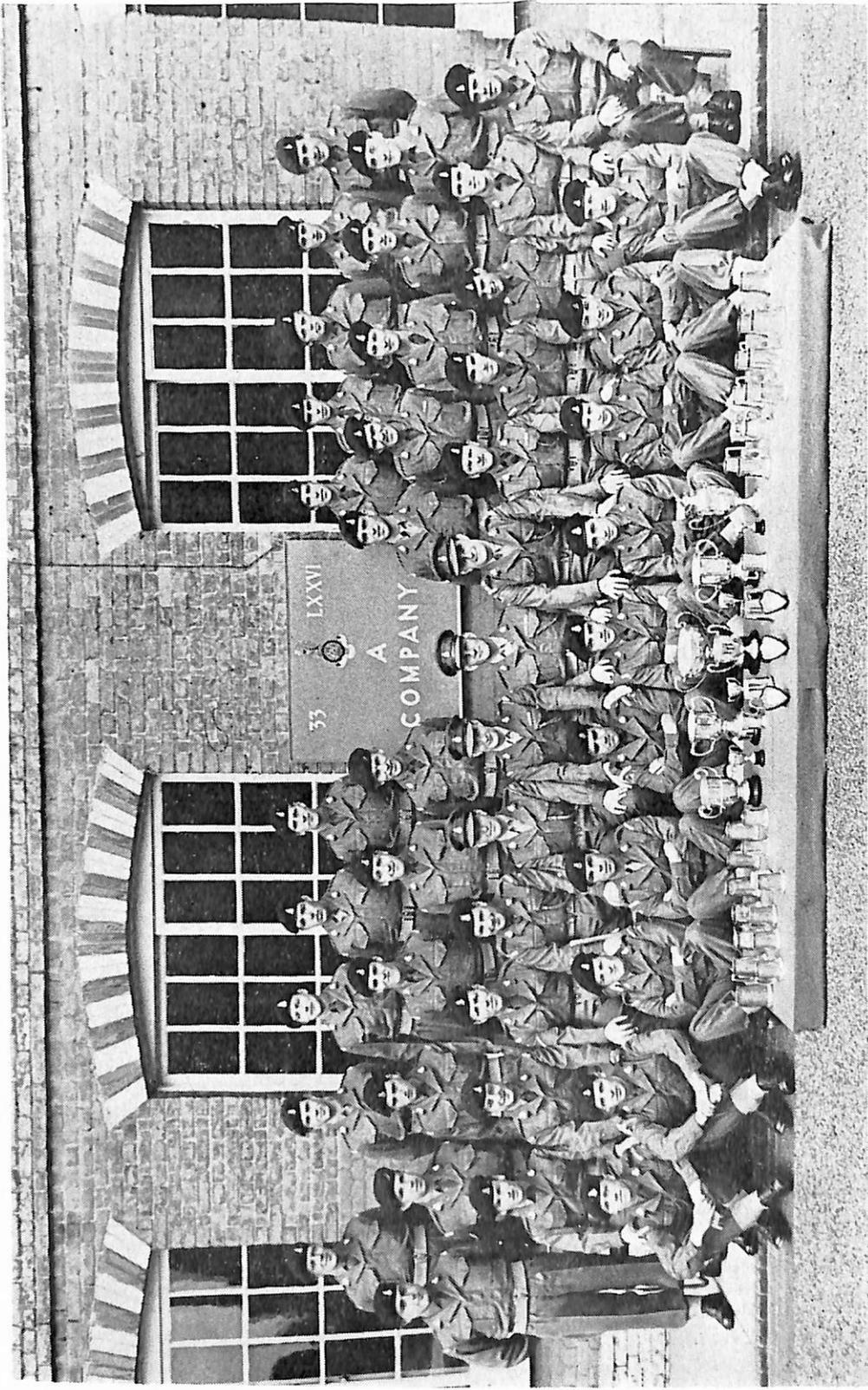
In this, teams from the four rifle companies and "H.Q." Company fired in order to decide who should represent the Battalion. The result, after a close competition, was that "A," "B" and "C" Companies provided company teams and "A" and "B" Companies the young soldiers' teams.

The District Meeting was enjoyable and the results were most satisfactory. Our teams won their events and the individuals were well placed in the prize lists.

Two weeks later, on May 14, we entered for the Essex County Rifle Association Centenary Meeting. It was at the County Meeting last year that H.M.S. Ganges, with the No. 4 Rifle, won the team match, beating our "A" team by one point. This year we



**RIDING HALL MILLS · HALIFAX**



**"A" COMPANY, 1 D.W.R., 1961**

**Commander, Major W. F. C. Robertson**

**Winners of .22 shooting and rugby in the Brigade Minor Units Competition. (The rugby team scored 254 points in 4 rounds with only 3 points against them)**

**Winners of cross-country, boxing, athletics, and swimming in the Battalion inter-company competition**

proved that the S.L.R. was equally as good as the No. 4 rifle and beat H.M.S. *Ganges*.

The Battalion Rifle Meeting was held at Middlewick on May 24 and 25. Conditions were good, inter-company rivalry was strong, and the standard of shooting was much higher than last year. Pte. Parker of "A" Company, the holder of the Cox Medal, almost pulled off a double. At the end of the first stage he was 7 points in front of Major Robertson. However, a very steady shoot in the second stage gave Major Robertson a well-deserved win. "B" Company once again won the Company Championship.

Notable was the enthusiasm of the young soldiers of "C" Company. They should be a force to be reckoned with next year.

#### EAST ANGLIAN DISTRICT—RESULTS

- Individual Rifle*. 2nd, Pte. Brayshaw ("D"); 3rd, Major Wood ("B"); 4th, Major Robertson ("A"); 6th, Pte. Goodyer ("B").
- Young Soldiers*.—1st, Pte. Metcalfe ("A"); 2nd, Pte. Stone ("A"); 3rd, L/Cpl. Griffith ("A").
- E.A.D. Company Team Match*.—1st, "B"; 2nd, "A"; 7th, "C."
- Young Soldiers Team Match*.—1st, "B"; 2nd, "A."
- Pistol*.—2nd, Major Wood ("B"); 3rd, Sgt. Blackshaw ("H.Q.").
- L.M.G. Pairs*.—Open: 2nd, Ptes. Goodyer, Hoddinott ("B"). Young Soldiers: 1st, Ptes. Fearnley, Savage ("B"); 2nd, L/Cpl. Kellest, Pte. Spindloe ("B"); 3rd, L/Cpl. Griffett ("A"), Pte. Metcalfe ("A").
- S.M.C.—Unit Teams*.—1st, 1 D.W.R. "A" Team; 5th, 1 D.W.R. "B" Team.
- S.M.C. Individuals*.—Open: 2nd, Captain Cowell ("H.Q."). Young Soldiers: 1st, L/Cpl. Kellest ("B").

#### ESSEX COUNTY MEETING—RESULTS

- Individual Rifle, S.R. (b)*.—1st, Major Wood; 3rd, Sgt. Blackshaw.
- Individual Rifle, S.R. (a)*.—3rd, Major Robertson; 4th, Sgt. Blackshaw; 5th, Major Wood; 6th, Pte. Hoddinott.
- Unit Team Match*.—1st, 1 D.W.R.
- L.M.G. Pairs*.—1st, Pte. Firth, Pte. Brayshaw.

#### RESULTS OF THE BATTALION RIFLE MEETING, 1961

##### Individual:

- Champion Shot. Winner of the Cox Medal and Champion Officer: Major Robertson ("A").
- Champion Young Soldier. Winner of the Ozanne Medal: Pte. Rawson ("H.Q").
- Champion W.O./Sgt.: Sgt. Holliday ("A").
- Champion Corporal and Below: Pte. Parker ("A").
- Champion S.M.C. Shot: Pte. Hoddinott ("B").
- Champion L.M.G. Pairs: Major Robertson and Sgt. Holliday ("A").

##### Team:

- Platoon Competitions*.—1st, No. 5 Platoon ("B"); 2nd, No. 1 Platoon ("A"); 3rd, No. 7 Platoon ("B").
- S.M.C. Team Match*.—1st, "B"; 2nd, "A"; 3rd, "H.Q."
- Company Rifle and L.M.G. Match*.—1st, "B"; 2nd, "A"; 3rd, "H.Q."
- Falling Plate*.—1st, "D"; 2nd, "H.Q."

#### TABLE MATS

Regimental table mats are available from P.M.C. 1 D.W.R., price 8s. 6d. each. The mats are approximately 7 x 5 in., with the Regimental Crest on a maroon background.

When ordering please send a cheque with the order, and full consigning instructions. Samples may be seen at the Yorkshire Brigade H.Q., Regimental H.Q. and the 1st Battalion.

#### BOXING

The semi-finals and finals of the Inter-Company Novices Boxing Tournament took place on Friday, April 14. Although skill was lacking in many cases it was amply made up for by courage and determination.

The following bouts are particularly worthy of mention. The lightweight semi-final between Pte. Glasby, "C" Company, and L/Cpl. Mapleston, "D" Company; by the end of the third round both men had fought themselves to a standstill; the judges scored L/Cpl. Mapleston the winner and awarded the prize for the "Best Loser" to Pte. Glasby.

The featherweight final between Pte. Wilson, "B" Company, and Pte. Hall, "D" Company, produced the evening's best boxing. Pte. Hall won a clean hard-hitting bout.

The middleweight semi-final between Pte. Howarth, "B" Company, and Pte. Close, "D" Company, was outstanding among the heavier boxers for good boxing and hard hitting. Pte. Close won a hard fight on points.

In the light-heavyweight and heavyweight finals, Pte. Renilson and L/Cpl. Griffet, both of "A" Company, were too strong for their opponents and won on knockouts.

At the end of the boxing the Commanding Officer presented prizes to winners at each weight and the Inter-Company Boxing Shield to "A" Company for the second year running.

Final results were as follows:

1st	"A" Company	40 pts.
2nd	"C" Company	27 pts.
3rd	"D" Company	26 pts.
4th	"B" Company	19 pts.
5th	"H.Q." Company	11 pts.

Individual winners and runners-up at each weight were as follows:

- Bantamweight*.—Pte. Dutton ("H.Q.") beat Pte. Walton ("C"): T/K.O.
- Featherweight*.—Pte. Hall ("D") beat Pte. Wilson ("B"): T/K.O.
- Lightweight*.—L/Cpl. Mapleston ("D") beat Pte. Croxall ("A"): K.O.
- Light-welterweight (1st String)*.—Pte. Austin ("A") beat Pte. Blackhouse ("C"): K.O.
- Light-welterweight (2nd String)*.—Pte. Caplin ("A") beat Pte. Wigglesworth ("D"): Pts.
- Welterweight (1st String)*.—Pte. Stringer ("C") beat Pte. Galbraith ("A"): W.O.

*Welterweight* (2nd String).—Pte. Bonser ("A") beat Pte. Saltenstall ("B"): K.O.  
*Light-middleweight*.—Pte. Gelder ("A") beat L/Cpl. Wade ("C"): K.O.  
*Middleweight*.—Pte. Close ("D") beat Pte. Duncan ("A"): Pts.  
*Light-heavyweight*.—Pte. Renilson ("A") beat Pte. Walsh ("C"): K.O.  
*Heavyweight*.—L/Cpl. Griffet ("A") beat Pte. Bamforth ("B"): K.O.

Two Battalion boxers who deserve special mention are: Pte. G. Simmonds ("B" Company) and Pte. R. Dandridge ("A" Company). Both reached the semi-finals of the Army Individual Amateur Championships which were held at Andover and Aldershot in March.

### EXERCISE "DOONE VALLEY"

The roar of the crowds in the Aldershot Stadium on March 9 had hardly died away when the Battalion directing staff for Exercise "Doone Valley" turned their misty eyes westwards, and headed for Fremington. Here, for the next fortnight, eight platoons in succession were to be the guests of the Amphibious Training Wing, R.A.S.C., through the kindness of the Commanding Officer, Major John Walker.

Exercise "Doone Valley" was a platoon-raid exercise designed to test the fitness and determination of each platoon and the skill and cunning of its commander. A special aspect was ability to achieve comfort in a tactical "lie up" position in enemy territory by day. A description, from a typical platoon-angle, is given at the end of this report.

Fremington Camp is a most pleasant place, particularly in early spring. The weather was warm and dry and the nights clear. The R.A.S.C. fed us well. The North Devon countryside was looking its best and was free of the "tripper" crowds which nearly obliterate the scene later on. The people of the district could not have been kinder and more co-operative and so our training was easy to lay on and most useful. Many will remember the kindness of Mr. George Balment, of Lydcott Hall Farm where the "enemy" rested up, and the beautiful valley of the River Bray below the farm. Along the length of this valley the Exmoor foxhounds hunt the foxes which kill Mr. Balment's lambs and, on one occasion, the hounds swept right through C.S.M. Kirk's patrol as they lay concealed in the bracken and bushes, causing considerable havoc. The River Bray was full of fish and perhaps it was a good thing that Major Le Messurier and C.S.M. Batty were not present.

The Fremington House Officers' Mess is a remarkable building. Distinguished, if not actually beautiful, outside, it has some basically beautiful features indoors, of which, as usual, the W.D. "Works" staff have failed to take advantage. The oak-panelled room now used for TV is supposed to be haunted but, although most of us were in and out of the house at all moments of the night, we did not see anything startling—except the C.O. brewing tea in the kitchen at 4 a.m.!

We were, however, deeply conscious of the latter-day shades of Brigadier Webb-Carter, Colonel Wathen, and Colonel "Swazi" Waller!!

The same old staff, *inter alia* Mr. Metcalf and Mr. Kelly, still runs the Mess. Squadron Leader J. F. Rothwell is still the helpful and hospitable Mess Secretary. They all asked to be remembered to the officers of the Regiment who served at the old Combined Operations School.

As a token of our appreciation for the kindness extended to us the Battalion presented a set of 12 prints of the Crimean War to the Officers' Mess of the Amphibious Warfare Wing, to help replace pictures removed to the J.S.A.W.C., Poole. These prints are similar to the set which used to hang in one of the passages of the old Army and Navy Club. While down in Devon we met Mr. and Mrs. Morgan-Kilner who have just bought a magnificent house at Saunton, nr. Barnstaple. Mr. Morgan-Kilner served with the 2nd Battalion in India before the war and with the 9th Battalion during the war. At least three members of the Directing Staff were royally entertained by the Morgan-Kilners.

#### ORGANISATION

##### (a) Directing Staff

Director.—C.O.

Assistant Director and Chief Umpire.—Captain Hoppe.

Umpire Team One.—Captain Hoppe, C.S.M. Nicholls, Sgt. Parker.

Umpire Team Two.—Captain Lupton, C.S.M. Pennington, Sgt. E. Smith.

Umpire Team Three.—Captain Dasent, R.S.M. Randall, Sgt. Creighton.

S/Sgt. i/c Administration: C/Sgt. Dickie.

##### (b) Platoons Taking Part

"A" Company.—No. 2 Platoon: 2 Lt. Jones, Sgt. Holliday, Cpls. Lindsey, Brooks, Pollard, Gaukroger.

"A" Company.—No. 3 Platoon: Lt. W. R. Mundell, Sgt. Foster, Cpl. Cooper, L/Cpls. Keegan, Cartridge, Sylvester, Dunbar.

"B" Company.—No. 5 Platoon: C.S.M. Kirk, Sgt. Stewart, Cpl. Howarth, L/Cpls. Cameron, Kiernan, Holdsworth. No. 6 Platoon: Sgt. Ingham, Cpl. Bird, L/Cpls. Ramsbothom, McPartland, Wright.

"C" Company.—No. 9 Platoon: Lt. Everard, Sgt. Falkingham, Cpl. Spencer, L/Cpls. Bennett, Stansfield. No. 10 Platoon: 2 Lt. Walker, Cpl. Collins, L/Cpls. Carter, Crossley.

"D" Company.—No. 13 Platoon: Lt. Marsay, Cpls. Clarke, Hartley, L/Cpls. Reidy, Guy, Hollows. No. 14 Platoon: 2 Lt. Bailey, Sgt. Towey, Cpls. Harrison, Laherty, L/Cpl. Ware.

### "DOONE VALLEY"

#### By a Platoon Commander

Devon has been described as beautiful but after this exercise eight platoons have other adjectives for this large county.

The early stages of the exercise were extremely enjoyable: a trip across London and a journey in a fast, luxurious express train. For the platoon this party continued in the public-houses of Barnstaple,

but their commander was whisked away into the briefing room. There he was faced with at least 100 air photographs, numerous models, maps and, worst of all, conflicting rumours and advice from all and sundry.

Time flew and, much later, the platoon commander emerged from this room nervous and worn out. He had decided on his route and made his plans. Then appeared on the scene the chief umpire who, to emphasise his power, invariably said "H-m-m, you can't use that route." That was that, so back to the briefing room and to eventually choosing the route with all the hills and through all the most difficult ambush positions.

At 1000 hrs. the following day the commander was faced by his platoon, still smiling, by the umpires, with a keen and hungry look, by his company commander and the Commanding Officer. Their faces bleared, his voice faltered and he plunged in. Forty minutes later he remembers saying, "Any questions?" Of course the platoon had, and all the points he had forgotten came tumbling out. Afterwards everyone climbed all over the models and then departed; the smiles, however, had disappeared.

The afternoon was spent rehearsing all the various drills and preparing kit. To add realism a period of rest was enforced. For the platoon commander this was an invaluable time to walk round and find the state of morale (most vital) and to answer any final questions such as "What happens if we get lost?" "We don't." "What happens if I fall out?" "You don't." "If you do, . . ."

Dusk fell and the platoon emerged with faces darkened, tested weapons, and climbed into the 3-ton "submarines." Having landed, the platoon promptly settled down to a steady rate of march. A wireless station had first to be blown up; it was situated of course on top of the highest hill in the neighbourhood!

Having completed this task, the platoon marched 20 miles; this was a hard boring slog for the soldiers although one soldier remarked to an umpire he didn't mind marching at night because he couldn't see how far he had to go. For the commander it was a hard slog but far from boring. The route on occasions dwindled to little mud tracks, and crossed over the width of three maps. Map reading, even with the aid of torches, was tricky, to say the least, but eventually the objective was reached.

The objective was an underground nuclear crusher in the third quarry down a certain lane (we found it in the fifth quarry). The approaches to this quarry were limited: the sides of the quarry were out of bounds, being dangerous; that left approaches up or down the road or a steep ascent from a stream below the road. To get a covering party in position was the main difficulty; to achieve this I sent my covering group down the road and the assault troops, in P.T. shoes, followed me down the stream. A quarter of an hour had been allowed for this flanking movement, but it was an hour later when a wet and weary assault party crawled up to the quarry. "All here?"—Wonders, they were! "Right,

for the last 50 yards stealth is out—speed is essential. Cpl. X and L/Cpl. Y, away you go and clear the area around the crusher." It took 10 seconds to find at least two machines. Which one was the crusher? My specialist, a machine tool fitter from Rawdon, was unable to distinguish which was the right one—and was told promptly that he could return to the rank of private. A decision had to be made—we had been there at least one minute—the platoon commander became a scientist, demolished the crusher and blew his whistle to start the withdrawal. Very lights, covering fire from his two L.M.G.s, enemy retaliating all over the place, all encouraged the assaulting troops into a very hurried withdrawal. At the R V, rapid reorganisation and a quick check of personnel and kit presented, surprisingly, no problems, apart from "Sir, I have got two right boots." "Bad luck!" Three miles further away and half an hour later we stopped to get into our boots; the same soldier discovered that he had, after all, a right and left boot—and they were his own!

Our plan, now, was to get right out of the neighbourhood and as far along our route back as possible. It was seven miles back to the wood I had chosen, a long seven miles.

There wasn't a leaf on a tree, so under bramble bushes and into hides we went. Sentry rosters and stand-to positions, breakfast, clean weapons, wash feet and put on all spare clothes: all were done within two hours. Sentries were posted, alarm procedure practised, and then silence and no movement. This was not difficult and, soon, the only noise was some rather loud snoring and the babbling of our neighbouring stream.

During the day the N.C.O. on duty changed sentries and at mid-day more tea was brewed. Then, at 1530, "Stand to!" An enemy patrol was near; the sentry had fortunately spotted them and gave the sleepy platoon time to open their eyes and move to their alarm positions. The attack was beaten off, but the trouble now was that everyone was awake and rested and quite determined to chatter and discuss the situation. By 1830 the evening meal had been swallowed, everything packed and the platoon sat in its order of march waiting to move. Later someone asked "How much longer before we move, sir?" "Four minutes." The stentorian voice of the Chief Umpire butted in: "Five minutes!"

The march back was long and arduous, and the strain began to sort the fit from the not-so-fit. We were ambushed twice. I enjoyed this as, both times, I was caught in the ambushed section and was unable to do anything apart from lying down and returning the fire; it was up to other sections to plough through pigsties, across streams, up hills, and assault the enemy. After we had despatched the enemy, the way back stretched in front of us. The pace slowed (I hear one platoon was helped on its way by a bull) and one's feet became a trifle hot. Eventually the sound of the sea welcomed us, the scheme was over. An Irish member of the platoon summed it up then: "Sir, I'm b—d!" Maybe he was, but then who wasn't? And he has recovered now!



Photo: "Halifax Courier"

### " YORKSHIRE RELISH "

" D " Company on the march. (left to right) Pte. Boyes, Pte. Needham, Cpl. Guy, Pte. Hinchcliffe, Pte. Rhodes

## *The Yorkshire Tour*

Unless we can at least double our present recruiting rate we shall be in an extremely vulnerable position by 1963. All serving members of the Regiment have, therefore, a great responsibility to improve the situation. The future of the Regiment is largely in our hands.

With this in mind, planning for a tour of our recruiting area was put in hand early in the year. In its final form the tour consisted of two parts:

### Operation " Yorkshire Relish "

A 3½-day movement exercise in which the battalion moved 230 miles by means of marching and ferrying in Land-Rovers. This phase was given coverage by the national press and the TV.

### Operation " Havercake "

In this the battalion was to exercise its privilege of marching through our three " Freedom Towns " of Halifax, Huddersfield and Spenborough with bayonets fixed, Colours flying and band playing. It also broke new ground by parading in Bradford and by company marches in Todmorden, Keighley, Skipton and Brighouse. In each case the parade

was followed by the beating of retreat by the Battalion's band and drums who were also to beat retreat in front of Leeds Town Hall.

All these events, of course, were at the mercy of the weather. In the end, despite one or two threatening days, only the final march at Spenborough had to be cancelled.

Two social events were held during the tour. A civic reception was held in the old officers' mess at R.H.Q. and was well attended by local dignitaries. To close the tour the Battalion gave a reception in the officers' mess at Strensall, kindly lent for the occasion by the C.O. of the Brigade Depot. The Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs. Exham received the guests who included General Sir Michael and Lady West, Major-General and Mrs. Shepherd, Lord Savile, Colonel Sir William and Lady Fenton, the Brigade Colonel and Mrs. Nixon and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith.

During the tour the officers of the Battalion were very generously entertained by the officers of the West Riding Battalion on two occasions. The Sergeants of the two battalions also entertained each other.

### Operation "Yorkshire Relish"

The sub-editor said, "Notes, please, on 'Yorkshire Relish,' but keep it short." So . . .

"B," "C" and "D" Companies, with a small staff from Battalion H.Q., left Colchester at 0930 on Friday, May 26, and marched into Regimental H.Q. at Halifax, complete, by 1215 on Monday, May 29—75 hours and 236 miles later.

Troops marched a maximum of 18 miles a day and were ferried in Land-Rovers for the balance. The exercise met a typical requirement for units of the Strategic Reserve who can only count on using vehicles capable of being lifted by air.

Our new reconnaissance platoon (Lt. Marsay) proved invaluable, signing the route and providing traffic control. The Land-Rover drivers drove well over 800 miles with only one minor upset. The Doctor became adept at using the radio and, under a 32-foot aerial mast, kept the control staff informed of progress. The nights were spent in bivouac.

The first leg was a stage of 75 miles to R.A.F. Station, Warboys, north-east of Huntingdon. The Royal Air Force gave us every help for which we are most grateful. The night was frosty.

The second leg was 71 miles to an old airfield at Bottesford, south of Newark-on-Trent, which Mr. Rose, a local landowner, was kind enough to let us use. It rained.

The last leg was also just over 71 miles to the Penistone area where we bivouacked in the grounds of a camp owned by the Barnsley Education Committee. Surprisingly it was warm and dry.

Up to the last day Sgt. Law, of 3 Recce Flight, kept in touch with the column, flying in an Auster aircraft. He managed to land and take up the odd chap to see how we looked from the air.

Of course there were sore feet, but it is just not true that one company tried to poison themselves to get a free ride! It is also not true that those of the rank of sergeant and above fed from a special dixie; their constitutions were ruined years ago, so they were not affected!

The epic ended to the strains of the Wellesley as the Dukes were "coming up the hill," and once again the old barracks is "abustle." I think it is enjoying it.

H. S. Le M.



Photo: "Halifax Courier"

Out through the Depot gates again



Photo: "Halifax Courier"

The C.O.'s jeep is made ready for the parade. (left to right) Ptes. Crossland, Thomas and Wyer

### Operation "Havercake"

May 30, Leeds

The tour was launched to a good start by the band and drums beating retreat outside Leeds Town Hall.

The ceremony was attended by the Lord Mayor, Councillor P. A. Woodward, J.P., and Lady Mayoress of Leeds, supported by Lt.-Colonel Firth, the Commanding Officer, Major Le Messurier, Second in Command, and Major Milligan, the Band President. It was watched by a good crowd which contained many "old Dukes."

This is a suitable point to congratulate the band and drums, under Bandmaster Bowyer and Drum-Major J. Welsh, for their magnificent work on this tour. Without them it would not have been "on." It should not be forgotten that they were the only troops to take part in every event, and they gave a lunch-time concert in St. George's Hall, Bradford, into the bargain. They were a very tired body of men at the end of the tour. Well done, the Band and Drums!

June 1, Halifax

The Battalion exercised its privilege of marching through the town with bayonets fixed, Colours flying and bands playing. The Battalion under command of the C.O. and consisting of "B," "C" and "D" Companies, colour party, band and drums, formed up in Harrison Road at 1830 hrs. and marched to Manor Heath Park. Drawn up in line, it then received the Mayor of Halifax (Alderman Mrs. Oxley), supported by the Colonel of the Regiment, with a general salute. The Mayor inspected the Battalion who then marched past and off parade.

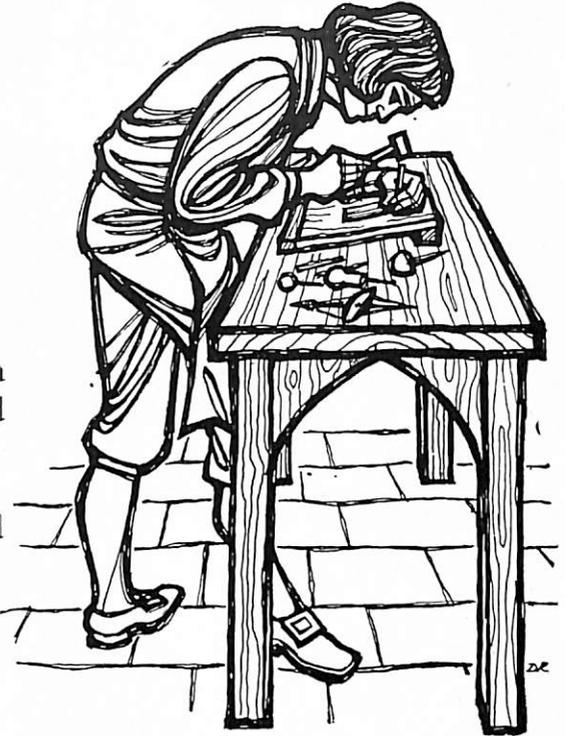
The band and drums beat retreat before a crowd estimated at over 3,000, most of whom inspected the recruiting stand and exhibits under Captain J. Pell.

On their return to barracks the Battalion received hospitality from the Mayor and Corporation of Halifax, while the officers were kindly entertained

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*Cup and Cover, height 7¼ inches. Date: Queen Anne 1705. Maker: John Backe*

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Photo: "Halifax Courier"

### THE BAND AND DRUMS IN HALIFAX

by the Mayor in the Mayor's parlour. Both these functions were very much appreciated.

#### *June 2, Todmorden*

The first of the company marches was that of "B" Company, under command of Captain Naughton, through the streets of Todmorden to Centre Vale Park. The salute was taken by the Mayor of Todmorden, Councillor Powell, supported by Colonel N. T. Bentley, Hon. Colonel-in-Waiting of The West Riding Battalion.

After the march past the band and drums beat retreat before a good crowd and their performance was greatly appreciated. A great interest was taken in the recruiting exhibits by most of the spectators.

After the parade the troops were entertained by the Mayor and Council to refreshments at the cricket ground. These were gratefully received by all.

#### *June 5, Skipton*

"D" Company, accompanied by the band and drums, paraded in Skipton on Monday evening, June 5, 1961. The company formed up in Sackville Street and, with the band and drums leading, marched through the town to Airevale Park.

In Airevale Park the company gave a general salute to Councillor J. B. Panswell, J.P., chairman of the Town Council, who inspected the parade, accompanied by Colonel C. R. T. Cumberlege and Captain Hoppe, "D" Company Commander.

After the inspection the company marched past Councillor Panswell, and marched off parade.

The march, parade and subsequent beating of retreat were watched by a fair crowd who, by their applause, showed great appreciation of the ceremony.

After the parade a large crowd quickly gathered around the Regimental stand, in charge of Captain Pell, on hearing several long bursts of fire from a Bren gun firing bulletted blanks.

Refreshments were provided by the Council for all men taking part during the evening. The refreshments were arranged at the T.A. Drill Hall and were greatly enjoyed by everyone.

All those taking part were very pleased to make the acquaintance of the "Old Dukes" watching the parade and of T.A. members of the West Riding Battalion D.W.R. in the Drill Hall. They wish to thank Major Siddall and his Company for their kindness and hospitality.

#### *June 6, Keighley*

The third company march was carried out through Keighley, to Cliffe Castle Park, by "C" Company under command of Major Blakey. The parade was attended by the Mayor of Keighley, Councillor J. M. Welch, J.P., supported by Colonel Gilbert Howcroft, Hon. Colonel of the West Riding Battalion (T.A.).

Here the turn-out of spectators was rather dis-



Photo: "Halifax Courier"

### THE COLOURS MARCH PAST

Lt. Marsay (Regimental Colour), Lt. Charlesworth (Queen's Colour), 2nd Lt. Bailey (Hon. Regimental), 2 Lt. Bardsley (Hon. Queen's). Escort: C/Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Towey and Cpl. Collins.

appointing though this may have been due to its being half-day closing.

Afterwards those taking part were entertained by the Council in the T.A. Drill Hall, while the officers were taken to the Keighley Club by that old Dukes stalwart, Major Hugh Dixon.

#### June 7, Huddersfield

Events here took the same form as the parade at Halifax, the Battalion marching from St. Paul's Street Drill Hall to Greenhead Park and exercising the privileges of the Freedom of Huddersfield. The Salute was taken by the Mayor of Huddersfield, Councillor H. F. Brook, supported by the Colonel of the Regiment.

This march was in doubt until the last minute, as the battalion convoy passed through very heavy rain on the way to Huddersfield. However, the rain stopped as they drew into the yard at St. Paul's Street and a quick decision was made by the C.O. to carry on.

Unfortunately the rain affected the turn-out of spectators; in the circumstances the crowd of about 2,000 can be regarded as very good.

After the parade the Battalion returned to St. Paul's Street where hospitality was provided by the

Mayor and Corporation of Huddersfield. This was followed by an other ranks dance, organised by the West Riding Battalion, which was a great success and enjoyed by all. At the same time the officers and sergeants were entertained by their respective opposite numbers in the West Riding Battalion, the officers having previously been received by the Mayor in the Town Hall. It was a most pleasant evening.

#### June 8, Bradford

Two companies of the Battalion and the band and drums, under the Commanding Officer, marched from Belle Vue Barracks to the City Hall. The parade was attended by the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor B. W. Berry, J.P., supported by Brigadier Webb-Carter, Deputy Colonel of the Regiment.

After the inspection by the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Colonel presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sgt. Creighton, a Bradford man, who is Officers' Mess Sergeant of the 1st Battalion.

After the parade the band and drums beat retreat outside the City Hall before a large and interested



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crowd of spectators, among whom were many members of the Bradford Branch of the O.C.A. Among those present in the Lord Mayor's Room after the parade was Mr. Fred Gleadhow, M.C., M.M., who celebrated his 80th birthday the following day. Mr. Gleadhow served with the 2nd Battalion throughout the 1st World War, winning his M.C. as a C.S.M. He was later commissioned and left the Army in 1919. He had previously served with the 1st Battalion in the South African War.

Earlier, the band gave a lunch-hour concert at St. George's Hall. They arrived only five minutes before they were due to start as their coach broke down in Halifax and Army trucks had to be commandeered. In spite of this "close-run thing" they gave what the *Bradford Telegraph and Argus* described as "an invigorating programme."

#### *June 9, Brighouse*

The final company march was carried out by "C" Company under command of Major Blakey. This followed the usual pattern, the parade being held in Wellholme Park with the Mayor of Brighouse, Councillor Sampson Williams, J.P., taking the salute, supported by Colonel J. Sugden. Once

again there was a very good turnout at what proved to be the last parade of the tour. The hospitality offered by the Mayor and Council was lavish in the extreme, and a very grateful and happy company and band and drums returned to Halifax much later than had been planned.

#### *June 10, Spenborough*

The final day of the tour had been planned as a "Freedom march" at Spenborough.

Unfortunately rain started to fall at midday and a steady downpour soon developed. It became obvious that the weather had won the last round, and the decision was reluctantly made to cancel the parade.

The Colonel of the Regiment spoke to all ranks in the drill shed and congratulated them on the success of the tour. Then with a certain feeling of anti-climax the members of the Battalion dispersed to their homes for a well-earned free Sunday before being transported back to Colchester on Monday, June 12.

So ended Operation "Havercake"—without doubt a great success.

## ***An Echo From 1903***



*Block by courtesy Brighouse and Elland Echo*

The last recruiting march by the 1st Battalion in the West Riding was in 1903. Here they are seen marching through Brighouse, escorted by the local boys. Those who have back numbers of the Iron Duke will find an account of this march in Nos. 81 & 82, July and October, 1951.

## ***The West Riding Battalion T.A.***

To : Lt.-Colonel F. R. Gadd and All Ranks The West Riding Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

### **SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY**

by

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

Colonel

### **THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT**

All Ranks of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, past and present, send you their warmest greetings on the occasion of the formation of the new West Riding Battalion (T.A.).

The new Battalion is an amalgamation which brings together, once again, into the Regimental family all four of our original Territorial Army battalions. Once more we cover the whole of our Regimental area and are back again in our old drill halls where local ties and loyalties are so strong. The customs and traditions of these famous old battalions, with their splendid fighting record, will be preserved and fostered in the new West Riding Battalion which will now go forward with pride in its past origins and confidence in the future.

The formation of the new Battalion has brought inevitable changes in organisation and these have personally affected many individuals. The cheerful and unselfish way in which these changes have been accepted is in the very best tradition of the Territorial Army and will sustain and strengthen the spirit of comradeship within the Battalion.

We all send you our best wishes for your future success and look forward to hearing of your activities and achievements.

**K. G. EXHAM, Major-General.**

Colonel, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

1st March, 1961.

### **SUB-EDITORIAL**

The new battalion has well and truly taken shape, with a strong and healthy inter-company rivalry. Now that we have five fairly strong companies our resources are tested to the full in preparing everybody for annual camp. The full "order of battle" is shown on page 111.

The Battalion church parade was a great success, with over 200 men on parade and a full band. Everybody made a splendid effort in turn-out and marching. Fortunately the weather was kind and quite a large crowd watched the march past (it was a pleasing thing to note some of the younger generation taking their hats off to the Colours). A special mention must be given to the Colour Party who were excellent (Ensigns: Lts. Sugden and Sharp; Escorts: C.S.M. Laherty, Sgts. Ewart and Simpson).

The West Riding Battalion has inherited all the official functions of its four parent battalions. This is proving quite a problem as the Band is required at nearly all of them. For example, on June 4 we

have three Mayor's Sundays—at Huddersfield, Mossley and Skipton.

Company training is in full swing with the emphasis on range classification and minor infantry tactics. In the field one can still hear "R Battery Right Turn" (then a P.S.I.'s soft voice telling the C.S.M. discreetly "C Company").

"A" Company have the 1st Battalion bug in them as regards to marching and some of them intend to march to camp without any vehicle assistance.

Battalion recruiting is moving along steadily and we have increased our numbers by 15 since the amalgamation. It is intended to hold a big recruiting drive after our annual camp.

We are sorry to see R.S.M. Frier leave us after four years' loyal and devoted service. He has not only been a first-class R.S.M. but a friend and adviser to all in the Battalion. We wish him every success in his new appointment at Sheffield University O.T.C.

We welcome R.S.M. Robins and his wife to our Battalion and hope they will have an enjoyable tour.

We also say farewell to Jackie Horn who is a

# The West Riding Battalion

## *Inaugural Church Parade*

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1961

(right) The Mayor of Huddersfield (Alderman N. Day) taking the salute. Behind the Mayor is the Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, Colonel G. B. Howcroft, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., J.P.

(below) The parade passing the saluting base in Market Square, Huddersfield



member of the civilian staff and has been a "Duke" all his life, either as a son of a "Duke" or a "Duke." We wish him every success for the future and hope that he will be a constant visitor to the Drill Hall.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

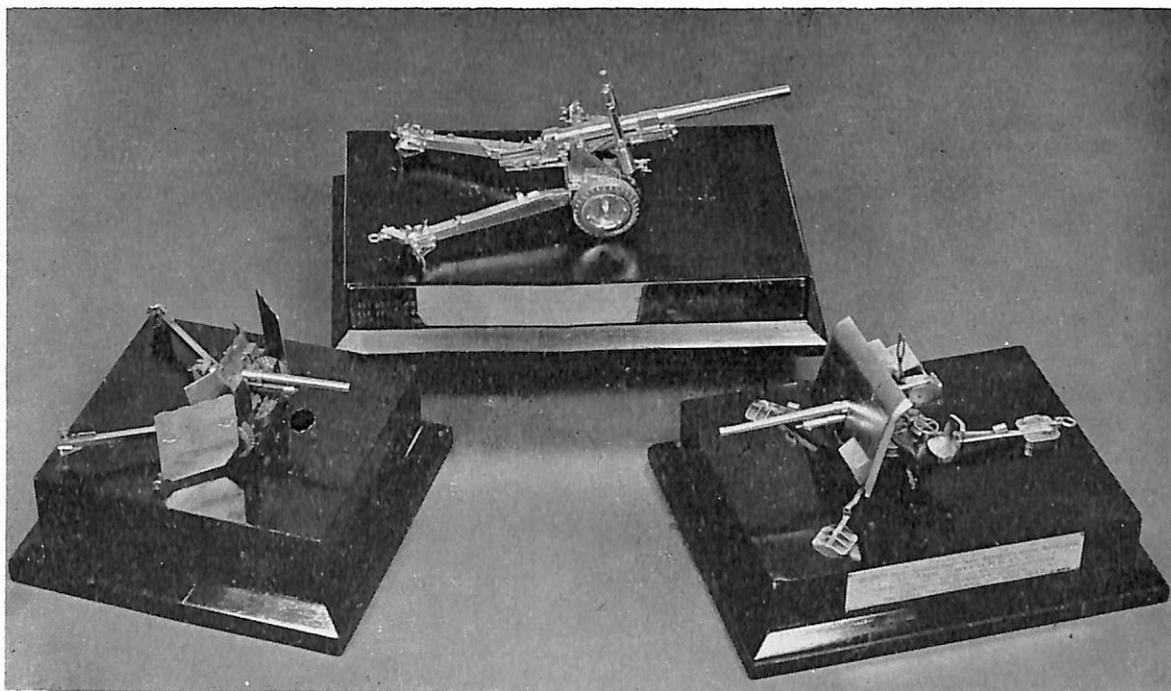
Unlike the previous amalgamation between the 5th and 7th Battalions, which brought into use a new officers' mess for the majority of officers, this time there is no change for most of us and the "off with the old and on with the new" has not affected our immediate surroundings.

Of course, there is a difference in the mess—new faces have been added and, sadly, old faces are missing. While the inevitable has to be accepted in the latter case it is, none the less, an unhappy issue for those concerned. Two stalwarts have

disappeared from the central mess at St. Paul's Street—Majors Jimmy Young and Eric Woodhouse—and, to many minds, both the mess and the Battalion are worse off for their loss.

There is a welcome to the newly-named West Riding Battalion (fortunately our role hasn't changed!) to Majors Brian Farrow, Miles Tetlow, Captains Ken Buckland, Philip Knowles, Mike Rutter, Bob Wilson and Lts. Keith Brown and Ian Fillan and we hope their stay with the unit will be long and happy.

One aspect of mess life has not changed: Major Heaton has been retained as P.M.C. with the amalgamated battalion, having had to relinquish his appointment as second-in-command due to anno domini thrusting up its ugly head at the same time as the 5/7th Battalion ceased to exist.



#### OFFICERS' MESS SILVER

The West Riding Battalion have, as a result of the amalgamation, obtained from the Officers' Mess of 382 Med. Regt. R.A. (D.W.R.) T.A., three silver models. These models represent a part of the life of the old 4th Battalion of the Dukes.

From left to right the models are those of a 6-pounder anti-tank gun, a 5.5-in. medium gun, and a 2-pounder anti-tank gun. Of the three, the 5.5-in. model is perhaps the most interesting, as it is fitted with plates which commemorate the service of three battalions of the Duke's with The Royal Regiment of Artillery. The plates are inscribed as follows:

*Rear:* 382 Medium Regt. R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.

*Right:* 4 Bn. D.W.R., T.A.—1938, 58 (4 D.W.R.) A. Tk. Regt. R.A., T.A.; 1939, 58th and 68th A. Tk. Regts. R.A.; 1947, 382 A. Tk. Regt. R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.; 1951, 382 Fd. Regt. R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.; 1954, 382 Med. Regt., R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.

*Front:* 5 Bn. D.W.R., T.A.—1940, 43rd Searchlight Regt. R.A.; 1944, 43rd Garrison Regt. R.A. (5 D.W.R.); 1947, 578 (Mob.) H.A.A. Regt. R.A. (5 D.W.R.), T.A.; 1952, 578 (5 D.W.R.) H.A.A. Regt. R.A., T.A.; 1955, 382 Med. Regt. R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.

*Left:* 6 Bn. D.W.R., T.A.—1947, 673 (Mob.) H.A.A. Regt. R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.; 1949, 673 L.A.A. Regt. R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.; 1955, 382 Med. Regt. R.A. (D.W.R.), T.A.

At least the new 2IC of the West Riding Battalion, Major Jimmy Moncrieff, won't have the worries of the mess for the best part of a year.

Finally, on personalities, congratulations to Charles Kilner on becoming a second-lieutenant. He has long been a member of the mess as an officer cadet, so is no stranger to us.

Activities during this past quarter have been centred mainly round the two amalgamation functions held at the beginning of May. On May 5 a dinner was held at St. Paul's Street mess to which were invited senior representatives of T.A.F.A. and of the former T.A. Battalions of the Dukes. Our guests were Colonel R. B. Holden and Lt.-Colonel D. P. Bryce, respectively Chairman and Secretary of West Riding T.A.F.A.; Colonel F. Longden-Smith, formerly 6th Battalion; Colonel N. T. Bentley, formerly 4th Battalion and the Honorary Colonel-in-waiting to the amalgamated unit; Lt. Colonel W. A. Hinchcliffe, formerly 7th Battalion; Lt.-Colonel D. H. Hirst, formerly 5th Battalion; and Major Davis from Regimental H.Q. After a first-class meal, prepared as usual by Cyril Kenchington, Sgt. Hannan and their cook staff, and served with the now accepted efficiency of Sgt. Smythe and his staff, Colonel Howcroft, the Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, opened the speech-making with an excellent résumé of the history and activities of the former units now serving as one battalion. In turn, our other guests suitably replied and one gathered that the present formation met with the approval of all concerned.

Following this, on Sunday May 7, a church parade was held for the whole battalion and a truly representative body was led by Lt.-Colonel Gadd to Huddersfield Parish Church. A large number of guests had been invited to the mess afterwards, and some 80 odd were gathered together in the ante-room and dining-room for cocktails and eats.

Early in April the first mess meeting of the West Riding Battalion was held and, while there was some dissension on certain points and customs, in the end general agreement was reached. It was agreed that Prescott Street Drill Hall should remain a subsidiary officers' mess, run under the guidance of the battalion mess, for the benefit of those officers in the Halifax area.

Apart from the aforementioned functions only the two monthly supper/training nights have been held. It is hoped to have another officers' plus ladies' party in the near future and, of course, we expect officers of the 1st Battalion now in the area to be entertained in the mess on some pretext or other—any excuse will suffice for a get-together!

### SHOOTING

There has been a pause in the .303 team practice for the last month, although company classification has proceeded at full speed. We hope now for many more good shots who will show up as potential team members.

On Sunday May 14, Lt. Edward Dye took our .22 team to Leeds to compete in the West Riding T.A.F.A. Small-Bore Championships. Our best team placing was 6th, but there were some notable scores by individuals. George Machen again proved himself top of our unit with 381 points at 25 yards

and with Lt. Dye and L/Cpl. Hollas passed through to the 50 yards shoot where all three fell just short of "honours." Our results each year in this competition show that our skill is definitely increasing and we hope soon to lead the others in.

### MESSAGES

On the formation of the West Riding Battalion the following messages were received.

*From Colonel G. B. Howcroft, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., J.P. Honorary Colonel, The West Riding Battalion.*

It is an amiable human weakness to imagine that we live in a stable and unchanging world and that we have a right to be insulated from any change. Particularly are soldiers, nurtured in tradition, apt to take any change as a personal affront.

Experience teaches us a very different lesson; outward forms are ever changing, and the wise man learns to accept or even welcome changes in form while holding fast to essentials which change little and very slowly.

How happy have been The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and its West Riding Battalion in the changes of form which reorganisation has brought to them. Our regular battalion, surrounded on all sides by amalgamations, has kept its identity with no more change than a new cap badge. The Territorial part of the regiment, reduced in size as military needs dictate, keeps its old area, its old drill halls, its old local connections and, even more fortunate than its regular brothers, its old cap badge!

We talk much of tradition. The real tradition which sustains us is of voluntary military service in the West Riding.

We need not go far back to find different formations and different numbers which meant much in their day—the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Volunteer Battalions of the West Riding Regiment which the older ones of us remember, the 4th, 6th, 9th and 34th West Yorkshire Rifle Volunteers of a century ago, whose identities are now very dim, and our still more remote ancestors of the Napoleonic wars. All these numbers, so dear in their time, have no meaning now; and the numbers 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, though recorded for ever in history, will, as new generations succeed, follow the old numbers into oblivion. But the spirit of the voluntary forces of the West Riding, the memories of the proud part they played in two great wars, the loyalties to the town or district from which we are recruited—all this will live on and will inspire a still better battalion in the future.

Long may the West Riding Battalion of The Duke's flourish.

(Signed) G. B. HOWCROFT.

*From Colonel N. T. Bentley, T.D. Formerly of the 4th Battalion; Honorary Colonel, 382 Medium Regiment R.A.; and Honorary Colonel-in-Waiting, The West Riding Battalion.*

For twenty-three odd years Halifax people—T.A. personnel apart—have been at a complete loss to understand that Prescott Street Drill Hall has been anything other than the home of the 4th Battalion D.W.R. From 1938 we have been



From Colonel W. A. Hinchcliffe, T.D., D.L. Former Honorary Colonel 7th Battalion.

**The West Riding Battalion**

I have been asked for my views on the recent amalgamation of the 382 Medium Regiment R.A. and the 5/7th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. I feel that the new amalgamation is a most happy one and I am sure that the new West Riding Battalion will go from strength to strength, not only retaining but building up the splendid reputation enjoyed by the original four units. After all it is only, as it were, a scaling down of the old original position on the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908. Then we had the 4th (Halifax), 5th (Huddersfield), 6th (Skipton) and 7th (Colne Valley) Battalions forming the West Riding Brigade. Now we have the direct descendants of the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions forming the West Riding Battalion so the wheel has turned full circle and we are where we started but, of course, in a smaller way.

There have been many amalgamations and alterations not only in the Territorial Army but also in the Regular Army, and it is inevitable that these cause a certain amount of worry, distress and heart-burnings but, on the whole, one can safely say that everything is settling down satisfactorily and, as far as the West Riding Battalion is concerned, I feel they are certain to enjoy a very happy and successful future.

Speaking as an old officer of the 7th Battalion, I can assure the Commanding Officer that he can always rely on any support and assistance that is in my power to give.

(Signed) W. A. HINCHCLIFFE.

**Battalion H.Q.**

- C.O. .. Lt.-Col. F. R. Gadd, E.R.D., T.D.
- 2IC .. Major J. C. Moncrieff, T.D.
- Adm. Offr. .. Major H. S. Heaton.
- Trg. Offr./Adjt. Capt. M. J. Campbell-Lamerton (Reg.).
- Asst. Trg. Officer Capt. P. H. Haws.
- Q.M. .. Capt. C. C. Kenchington, M.B.E. (Reg.).
- I.O. .. Capt. R. C. Curry.
- Int. Sgt. .. Sgt. D. Milnes.
- R.M.O. .. Capt. H. L. Roberts (R.A.M.C.).
- Padre .. Rev. R. I. J. Matthews (R.A.Ch.D).
- R.S.M. .. R.S.M. W. Robins (Reg.).
- R.Q.M.S. .. W.O.2 G. H. Machen.
- O.R.Q.M.S. W.O.2 A. Wood.
- O.R.C. .. S/Sgt. A. D. Westerman.

**"H.Q." Company—Huddersfield and Halifax**

- O.C. .. Major B. N. Webster, T.D.
- 2IC .. Capt. H. M. Crowther.
- C.S.M. .. W.O.2 J. Fitton, M.M.
- C.Q.M.S. .. C/Sgt. W. H. Bacon.
- P.S.I. .. W.O.2 S. H. Erswell (Reg.).
- R.S.O. .. Capt. R. A. Hawkins.
- Sig. Sgt. .. Sgt. H. Robinson.
- W.T. Sgt. .. Sgt. F. Binns.
- M.T.O. .. Capt. K. M. McDonald.
- M.T. Sgt. .. Sgt. K. Ewart.
- O.C. Recce Pl. Capt. A. E. Carter.
- Recce Pl. Sgt. Sgt. G. Kenny.
- U.P.M. .. Lt. A. E. Dye (R.A.P.C.).
- Pay Sgt. .. S/Sgt. H. Haigh (R.A.P.C.).
- Asst. Pnr. Sgt. Sgt. J. Pilkington.
- Bandmaster W.O.1 F. Roberts.
- Drum-Major C/Sgt. D. T. Noon.

**"A" Company—Halifax**

- O.C. .. Major M. R. M. Tetlow.
- 2IC .. Capt. M. T. Rutter.
- C.S.M. .. W.O.2 H. Dillon.
- C.Q.M.S. .. C/Sgt. W. J. Reed.
- Pl. Comds. .. Lt. J. A. Shenton, Lt. E. Duckney,  
Lt. R. J. G. Sharp, Lt. C. J. G. Taylor.
- Pl. Sgts. .. Sgt. H. Samson, Sgt. B. Howell, Sgt. R. A. Prince, Sgt. J. Hemmings.
- P.S.I. .. Sgt. R. F. Chilvers (Reg.).

**"B" Company—Mirfield and Huddersfield**

- O.C. .. Major B. Farrow, T.D.
- 2IC .. Capt. K. Buckland.
- C.S.M. .. W.O.2 F. Laherty.
- C.Q.M.S. .. C/Sgt. F. A. Bycroft.
- Pl. Comds. .. Lt. T. D. Sugden, Lt. J. W. Lee,  
Lt. I. Fillan, 2 Lt. C. E. Kilner.
- Pl. Sgts. .. Sgt. F. Bailey, Sgt. N. Schofield, Sgt. D. W. Greenwood, Sgt. H. Procter.
- P.S.I. .. Sgt. D. J. Wood (Reg.).

**"C" Company—Skipton and Keighley**

- O.C. .. Major D. R. Siddall, M.B.E., T.D.
- 2IC .. Capt. P. B. Knowles.
- C.S.M. .. W.O.2 F. A. Harvey.
- C.Q.M.S. .. C/Sgt. W. E. Douglass.
- Pl. Comds. .. Lt. E. Hargreaves, Lt. G. F. Naylor,  
Lt. K. Brown.
- Pl. Sgts. .. Sgt. K. Hurst, Sgt. B. Farrow, Sgt. E. Watson, Sgt. W. H. Edmundson.
- P.S.I. .. Sgt. N. Perrin (Reg.).

(Continued at foot of previous column)

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**"D" Company—Thongsbridge and Mossley**

- O.C. .. Major C. Barnes, T.D.
- 2IC .. Capt. A. E. Hutchinson.
- C.S.M. .. W.O.2 R. W. Wood.
- C.Q.M.S. .. C/Sgt. A. J. Larnder.
- Pl. Comds. .. Lt. R. C. Wilson, Lt. G. E. Tayler, Lt. E. T. Mather, 2 Lt. I. J. Foster.
- Pl. Sgts. .. Sgt. L. N. Newton, Sgt. L. Adams, Sgt. G. Simpson, Sgt. G. A. Tolson, Sgt. R. Preece.
- P.S.I.s .. Mossley: W.O.2 A. Arundel (Reg.);  
Thongsbridge: Sgt. A. J. Spring (Reg.).

## Halifax Volunteers

As this year has seen the amalgamation of 382 Medium Regiment R.A. with the 5/7th Battalion, it would seem a good opportunity to look back at the origins of the Halifax unit.

There appears to have been some form of volunteer unit in Halifax in the middle of the 18th century, but virtually no records have survived. The first unit that we know anything definite about was formed in 1794, at the beginning of the French wars. It was called "The Halifax Volunteer Regiment" and remained in being until 1802. The uniform worn was a scarlet tailed coat of the normal army pattern of the day, with black velvet facings on the cuffs and collar.

By 1804 war had again broken out with France and the volunteer infantry was reformed. Until after the battle of Waterloo this corps, as all similar corps throughout the country, remained in being. Their function was to defend their own area in case of invasion or rebellion, and they could not be used elsewhere in England or abroad. Their uniform was slightly different, in that they had dark green facings—as opposed to the black velvet.

When Louis Napoleon gained power in France in 1859 his name was sufficient to cause Englishmen to fear a second European war, and a vast agitation grew up in the country about the ill-prepared state of the nation to repel invasion. A volunteer movement was introduced and, in May 1859, a meeting was convened in Halifax, which resulted in the formation of the 4th West Yorkshire (Halifax) Rifle Volunteers. This corps had as its first commander Edward Akroyd, the builder of Bankfield, where the Regimental Museum is now situated.

In 1883 the amalgamation of the 33rd and the 76th Regiments had repercussions in the Halifax unit. To this date the unit had been completely independent of any Regular association and, in fact, as the title implies, had been a rifle battalion and had worn a rifle brigade uniform. This was a charcoal grey frock coat, with black frogging. The general reorganisation of the army in this year, however, instituted a form of affiliation between all volunteer battalions and their local Regular regiment. A new title was given to the Halifax unit and they became the 1st Volunteer Battalion (The Duke of Wellington's) West Riding Regiment, and from this date their badge, which had been that of the Halifax Corporation, was changed to the badges of their new regiment.

The next major alteration in the status of the Halifax unit took place in 1908, when the new organisation of Territorial Forces was instituted. Again there was a change of title, and now they appeared as the 4th Battalion (The Duke of Wellington's) West Riding Regiment T.F. It was as such that the Battalion, with the 2/4th and 3/4th, fought throughout the Great War. In the early 1920s the letters "T.F." were altered to the more familiar "T.A."

*(Continued at foot of next column)*

## "Dusty" Miller

*"Dusty" Miller is not a "Duke" but he must be a well-known figure to many generations of Duke's officers, who, we think, will be as interested to read this account of him as we were. We are grateful to the author and to the Editor of "The Wish Stream" for permission to reprint the article which appeared in the Spring 1961 number of that magazine.*

The Summer Term of 1960 saw the retirement of a member of the Sandhurst staff who holds a unique position in the affection and regard of all ranks of the Army.

Jack "Dusty" Miller was a rare handful for the teachers, the citizens, and the coppers of the East End of London as an irrepressible nipper in the closing years of the last century. His upbringing was hard, and for him the world, away from his mother and his few intimates, was not a friendly place.

The noise, the spluttering lights, and the *camaraderie* of a travelling fair and circus caught his boyish imagination. He left home and became an apprentice "barker," huckster, stallminder, tumbler and clown. He saw the world of the South of England and came to know something of the different sorts of people in it.

Hard times came on the circus. He joined the Army, still illiterate and under age but bubbling with a zest for life and an interest in people that have remained with him always. His first taste of soldiering was too much for him—it takes time to weigh off the order, the security, and the discipline against the carefree, hungry, and the "I'm-as-good-as-you"—and he left the Army. It was not many months before he was back and in training on The Curragh of Kildare with the Loyals, the Regiment that he has loved above all others for fifty years.

Here he learnt to be a soldier and, because of the

*(Continued on page 115)*

### HALIFAX VOLUNTEERS *(continued)*

With the advent of the Second World War a further change took place, and the 4th Battalion, which from its inception had been infantry, became a territorial battalion of the Royal Regiment with the title "The 58th Anti-Tank Regiment (D.W.R.) R.A., T.A." A second line battalion was raised with the number "68." These two regiments fought in the Far East and in Europe in this capacity. During the early 1950s, however, their function was altered again, first as a field regiment of the artillery and, secondly, as a medium regiment with the title "382 Medium Regiment (D.W.R.) R.A., T.A."

Once again the Halifax unit of volunteer soldiers has had a change in its title and function. It has returned to the fold of a line regiment with a new title of "A' Company, The West Riding Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, T.A.," but it is still made up of Halifax volunteers, as it was in May 1859.

R.A.I.

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**"DUSTY" MILLER** (*continued*)

interest and the kindness of his Commanding Officer's wife, he learnt to read and write. No small accomplishment for a twenty-year-old whose schooling had been confined to the few days which even his ingenuity had been unable to "mitch."

Here, too, he laid the foundations of his remarkable boxing career and his lifelong devotion to boxing in the Army. He soon became champion of the Regiment and the terror of all others. Back in England he was a popular performer in the Sunday afternoon shows at the famous Ring in Blackfriars, in Liverpool, and in other boxing arenas throughout the country.

The First World War saw him in France and later at Aldershot, working as one of the team of famous boxers like Jimmy Wilde and Bombardier Billy Wells, who were associated with the inauguration of the Physical Training Corps. At this time he became champion of England at his weight and fought an historic contest with the American champion in Germany.

After the First World War, Sgt. Miller was a member of the P.T. staff at Sandhurst and during the "twenties" thousands of cadets passed through his hands and were helped by him from (and to) their corners of the ring. Few officers were commissioned from Sandhurst during this period who did not have lively contact with "Dusty," and have not been conscious of a sense of gratitude to him for what they learnt from him of both the straight left arm and straight dealing in life.

The "thirties" saw him launch, unfortunately, into the commercial world, and it was an impressive tribute to his reputation and esteem that his Regiment came to his help when, due to no fault of his own, a business in which he was a partner came to an untimely end.

The next phase of his career was at the Duke of York's School, where his devotion to and understanding of the young took new significance. Many a boy found life a better place for having met "Dusty" and for adopting his cheerfulness, his loyalty, and his high standards of behaviour.

When Sandhurst reopened in 1947, "Dusty" again joined the staff. Not this time as a teacher of boxing but still as a source of help and inspiration to the innumerable cadets who came for a talk in his sports store near the squash courts in the winter and at Oak Grove in the summer. To some he talked of the old days, of officers and men that he knew during the past fifty years; for others he turned up his notebook in which he had written a round-by-round comment of their most recent bouts; but to every visitor he gave the same glimpse of the philosopher grown old in the service of the Army, and whose philosophy had grown with him from the simple tenets of decency in mind and body, friendliness and straight dealing with his fellow men and cheerfulness in the discharge of whatever duties confronted him.

We wish "Dusty" and Mrs. Miller many years of happiness in their retirement to "Itsawonder" in Frimley, and further success to his two daughters—the Justice of the Peace in Sandhurst village and the teacher in East Africa.

T. S. J. A.

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**BOOK REVIEWS**

**Wellington at War.** Letters selected and edited by Anthony Brett-James (Macmillan, 42s.).

This is a book which should be in the hands of every student of Wellington and it is of peculiar interest to members of the Regiment. Although most of the contents are taken from the volumes of "Despatches of the Duke of Wellington" or from the "Supplementary Despatches" there are a number from other sources not so readily available, such as the Camden Miscellany. In all the letters the character of that remarkable man stands out. For clarity and common sense, expressed in faultless prose, they must be hard to equal. The letter admonishing the hapless Major John Shee of the 33rd and the friendly letters to Merrick Shawe, a later commanding officer of the 76th, and an uncle of W.M. Thackeray's, are of special interest to us.

**Sgt. Lamb of The Ninth,** by Robert Graves. First published in 1940 by Methuen & Co. Ltd. Republished in May 1961 in a cheap edition by Mayfair Books Ltd., price 3s. 6d.

It is good to see this minor military classic issued in paper-back form. It is an extremely interesting account from an "Other Rank's" view of General Burgoyne's fated expedition from Canada in the War of American Independence.

Although presented as a novel it is based on the original manuscript which is in The Royal Welch Fusiliers' Museum in Caernarvon Castle. (Sgt. Lamb transferred from the 9th to the 23rd Foot.)

It contains some interesting and complimentary references to the 33rd Regiment—then commanded by the Marquess Cornwallis.

**The Destruction of Lord Raglan,** by Christopher Hibbert (Longmans, 30s.).

Since the publication of that best seller "The Reason Why"—that most readable and unfair book—there seems no end to the spate of volumes on the Crimean War. This one is extremely well written but does not bring out any fresh facts. The author gives a most balanced and fair study of the character of Lord Raglan. He avoids the excessive adulation that Kinglake exhibits in his classic history of the war but he has respect for the many fine qualities of that most chivalrous, conscientious and utterly unsuitable commander in the

(Continued on page 116)

## The Officers' Regimental Dinner Club

The 59th annual dinner was held at the Hyde Park Hotel on Friday, June 2. The Colonel of the Regiment took the chair. As guests we welcomed His Grace The Duke of Wellington, K.G., and Brigadier Marquess Douro, M.V.O., O.B.E., M.C.

Eighty-five officers of the Regiment attended the dinner. This is the largest attendance there has been in the history of the club whose first dinner was held seventy years ago, on May 28, 1891, at The Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall Street, E.C., when 22 officers dined. The growing popularity of the dinner is a matter for congratulation though the Hon. Secretary, viewing the club's shrinking bank balance, can scarcely conceal his impatience for the 1st Battalion to be posted abroad again.

At the end of dinner, after the toast, General Exham read out H.M. The Queen's message of thanks for the assembly's loyal greeting, and messages from members unable to attend.

He then welcomed our guests, expressing the Regiment's appreciation of His Grace's continued interest and help—which had again included permission to hold our council meeting in Apsley House that morning—and our pleasure that the

### 1st Battalion (1943-45) Dinner Club

The 16th annual dinner of the club was held at the Trocadero Restaurant on Friday, May 12. As this is the first time this event has been honoured by a notice in the Regimental Journal, perhaps a short note on its history may be of interest.

The club was conceived in 1944, shortly after the capture of Florence, by the then Commanding Officer, in consultation with his company commanders. The C.O. departed soon after on other employment and was delighted to find on the return of the 1st Battalion from Khartoum in 1948 that the club was a living entity.

It must be emphasised—without pomposity—that this is the only exclusive club in the Regiment. Mere membership of the Battalion during the African and Italian campaigns is not a pass of entry. Members of the club are passed by a fair but rigorous and entirely unofficial committee of the company commanders in 1944. The only non-regimental members of it, apart from the Chaplain and Medical Officer, are those devoted gunners who supported the Battalion in action; these include members of 19th Field Regiment (Dunkirk) and 2nd Field (N. Africa and Italy). Of the numerous post-war dinner clubs formed, this must be one of the most firmly established. Members dining this year were:

Brigadiers B. W. Webb-Carter and C. W. B. Orr, Lt.-Colonel B. McCall, Majors. T. F. Huskisson, P. R. Faulks, H. J. T. Sills, J. A. Randall, B. Hindley, A. Jacobsen and H. Le Messurier, Captains P. Laycock, A. G. Peel, A. L. Paterson (R.A.M.C.), and L. A. J. Richardson (19th Fd. Regt. R.A.).

presence at our dinner, for the first time, of Brigadier Marquess Douro extended and strengthened the connection between the Duke's family and the Regiment.

General Exham then gave a review of events of Regimental importance during the past year. He concluded by informing the gathering that the appeal for funds for THE IRON DUKE, of the launching of which he had warned them at the last dinner, had met with a generous response which had gone far towards remedying the magazine's financial difficulties.

The following officers of the Regiment attended:

The Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General K. G. Exham.  
Major-Generals Bray, R. K. Exham, Ozanne.  
Brigadiers Fraser, Laing, Miles, Orr, Webb-Carter.  
Colonels Armitage, Harvey, Hinchcliffe, Howcroft, Turner.  
Lt.-Colonels Boutflower, Dalrymple, Davidson, Everard, Firth, Gadd, P. Moran, Price, Sayers, Skelsey, Sugden, Whitaker.  
Majors Blakey, Bruce-Lowe, Burton, Butterfield, Carroll, Cartwright, Davis, Hall, Harms, Huffam, Jones-Stamp, Ince, Isles, H. R. Kavanagh, Lane, Le Messurier, Lennon, Lepper, MacLaren, Milligan, Owen, Robertson, Savory, Scott, Shuttleworth.  
Captains Bolton, M. Campbell-Lamerton, Cowell, J. Cumberlege, Dasent, Hardy, Hoppe, Huxtable, Lupton, Mitchell, Newton, Lord Savile, Southerst.  
Lieutenants Arnold, Bailey, Barkshire, Bellamy, Bray, Bruce-Lowe, R. D. Campbell-Lamerton, Charlesworth, C. R. Cumberlege, Everard, Hayes, Huffam, Marsay, D. P. Miles, H. M. P. Miles, Mundell, Naylor, Pugh, G. A. Reddington, Stacpoole, Stevens.

### The Tea

The ladies' tea was held on the same afternoon, also at the Hyde Park Hotel. The number attending (51) was again an increase on last year (though by no means a record).

Those present were:

The Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs. K. G. Exham, the Deputy Colonel and Mrs. Webb-Carter, Colonel and Mrs. Armitage, Miss Armitage, Captain and Mrs. Bolton, Lt.-Colonel Boutflower, Mrs. Butterfield, Captain M. Campbell-Lamerton, Major and Mrs. Carroll, Major and Mrs. Cartwright, Lt.-Colonel Collins, Colonel and Mrs. Davidson, Miss Davidson, General and Mrs. R. K. Exham, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. A. D. Firth, Mrs. D. E. Firth, Mrs. B. V. Everet, Brigadier Fraser, Mrs. Hardy, Major and Mrs. Huffam, Mr. and Mrs. R. Huffam, Captain and Mrs. Huxtable, Colonel and Mrs. Ince, Major and Mrs. R. H. Ince, Mrs. Kirkland, Lady Landon, Major MacLaren, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. P. Moran, Major R. H. W. Owen, General Ozanne, Mrs. Rusbridger, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Sayers, Major and Mrs. Scott, Colonel Turner.

### BOOK REVIEWS (Continued)

field. When one pictures Lord Raglan, isolated with his staff, far behind the Russian lines at the Alma, watching the battle and quite unable to control it, or at Balaclava issuing vague orders from the heights to bewildered commanders on the plain one can only think of Siegfried Sassoon's bitter poem of the First World War:

"Good morning; good morning!" the General said,

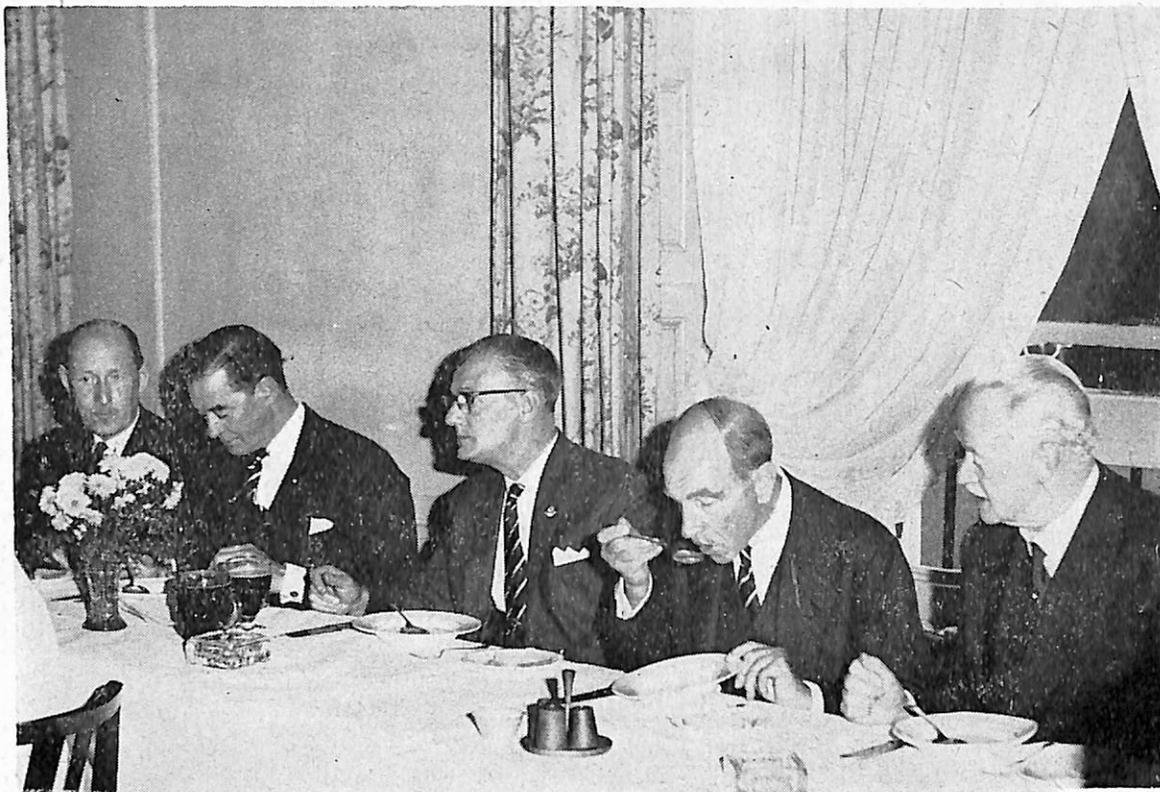
When we met him last week on our way to the line.

Now the soldiers he smiled at are most of them dead,

And we're cursing his Staff for incompetent swine.

"He's a cheery old card," grunted Harry to Jack  
As they slogged up to Arras with rifle and pack,  
But he did for them both by his plan of attack.

B. W. W-C.



THE LONDON BRANCH DINNER

Part of the top table (left to right): Colonel Armitage (President), Brigadier Webb-Carter, Mr. Temple (Chairman), Brigadier Fraser, Lt.-Colonel Cox

## The Regimental Association

### THE LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES

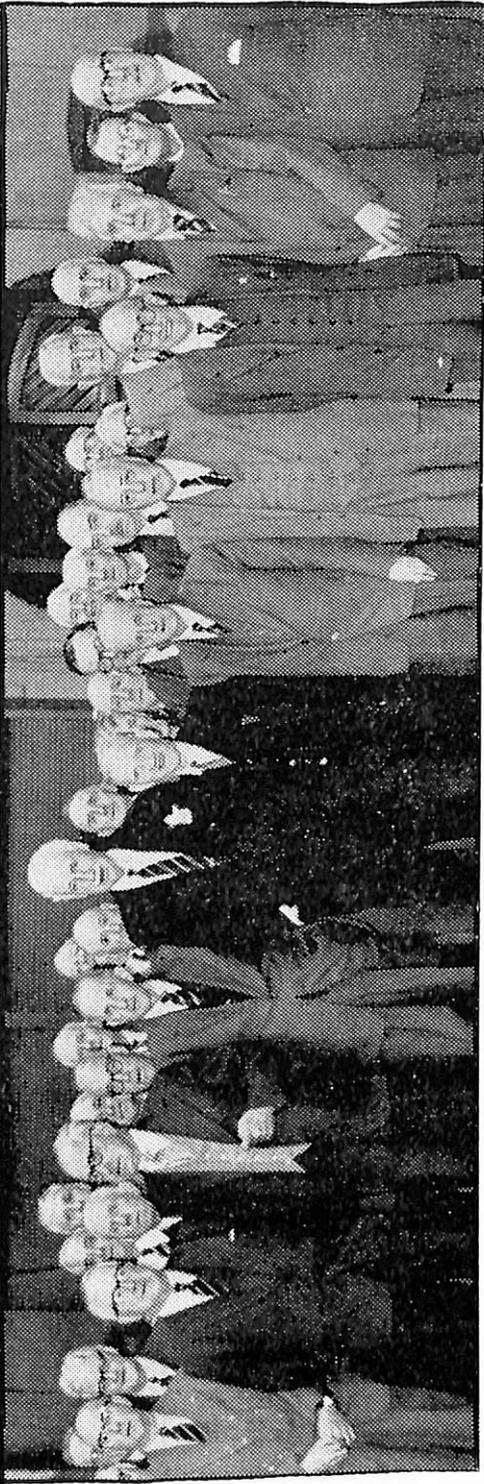
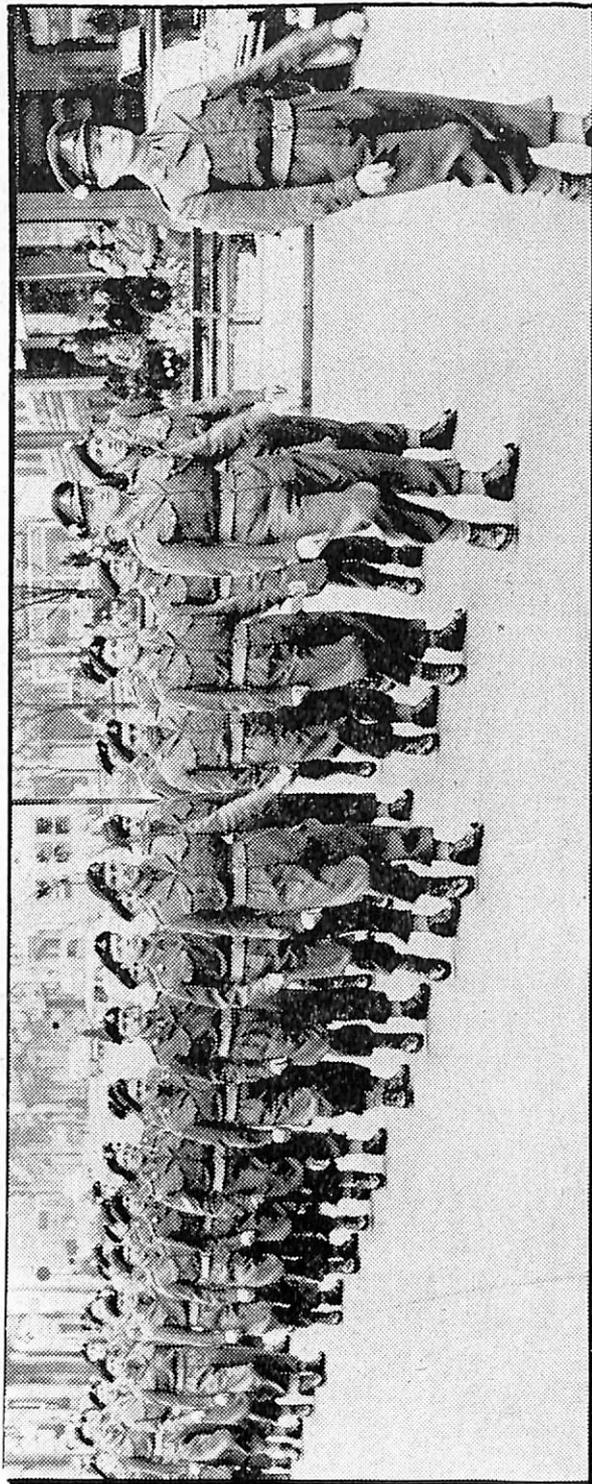
The annual reunion dinner of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Regimental Association was extremely well attended when it was held at the Chevrons Club, Dorset Square, London, N.W.1, on Saturday, May 13.

The presiding officer was the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Webb-Carter, and he was supported by Colonel Armitage, President of the London Branch. Our chairman was Mr. R. Temple.

The function was attended by approximately 100 people, 91 of whom sat down to dinner. Actually 95 dinners had been ordered but, due to last-minute commitments, several people could not attend the dinner. However, three of the places were taken up by people who had not applied for dinner tickets in time. Here I would like to point out how much it would help the secretary if members meaning to attend the dinner would contact him a little earlier, and not leave it to a couple of days before the dinner is held, to apply for tickets. Also, if members who have applied for dinner tickets and then find they cannot attend could possibly let the secretary know in time, he could fit somebody else in.

Prior to the dinner many old friendships were renewed in the lounge bar and from the noise coming from the room no one in the building could mistake where the reunion was being held.

Before dinner was served, grace was said by our President and, at the end of dinner, toasts to H.M. The Queen and The Regiment were proposed by Bob Temple and Joe Hartwell respectively. I think Joe's toast to The Regiment was the briefest I have heard but, nevertheless, it was well received as it emphasised the fact that it was not only The Duke of Wellington's Regiment but "Our Regiment." Brigadier Webb-Carter then read out the following message from the Private Secretary to H.M. The Queen: "*The Queen sincerely thanks the members of the London Branch, The Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association, dining together this evening on their kind and loyal message which Her Majesty greatly appreciates.*" He then gave a very witty and interesting account of the Regiment's activities, including the forthcoming tour of Yorkshire. The Deputy Colonel also mentioned the poor attendance at the regimental plot in the Field of Remembrance at the November Armistice Service, and hoped that more members would stand with their Old Comrades at future services.



Block by courtesy of "Halifax Courier and Guardian"

#### TWO GENERATIONS

(top) A detachment of the "A" Company of the West Riding Battalion (the company with its roots in the former 4th Battalion), led by Major M. R. M. Tetlow, marching in the St. George's Day parade of the Regiment to Halifax Parish Church. (below) Members of the 1/4th and 2/4th Battalions of the 1914-18 War—at their annual reunion at the Prescott Street drill hall on Saturday, April 22

Secretary Ben Hearsam was then called upon for his report and he stated how pleased we were to have the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment with us, and also thanked the Halifax, Huddersfield and Gosport branches for supporting us in such good numbers. He mentioned that, although several familiar faces were missing, most of them had sent apologies (list below). Numbers at the dinner had been kept up to strength by the attendance of a larger contingent from the 1st Battalion and by the addition of new faces. A special welcome was given to our five Chelsea Pensioners. Also among those present we were happy to see Major Ince and Lt.-Colonel Skelsey, both home from Africa.

During the evening a raffle was held in aid of THE IRON DUKE and, after expenses had been met, the sum of £5 7s. was raised to be forwarded to the magazine's business manager. (Prizes were won by Mrs. Wadd and Mrs. Reed.)

The evening was wound up by the secretary rendering "The Dukes are going up the Hill," ably supported by everyone at the bar.

In conclusion it is again hoped that everyone had an enjoyable evening and that "God willing" we shall all meet again next year at the Chevrons Club.

Among those present were: Brigadiers Webb-Carter and Fraser, Colonels Armitage, Cox and Turner, Lt.-Colonels Dalrymple, Johnson and Skelsey, Majors Davis, R. Ince, Lennon, Bruce-Lowe, Randall, R. A. Scott and Le Messurier, Captain R. H. D. Bolton, R.S.M. Randall, R.Q.M.S. Robins, C.S.M. Nicholson, C/Sgts. Brayshaw, Todd and Dickie, Sgt. Wild, Chelsea Pensioners Fred Stephenson, Billy Banks, Fred Bridges, Bill Simmonds and Frank Hickie, Messrs. Ambler,\* Ancill,\* Benson, J. W. Crouch, F. Crouch, Church,\* Coppack, Code, Downey (and brother), Drewitt,\* Downing, Frame, Hartwell, Hearsam,\* Henn, Hammond Richardson, Temple, Gresby, Woods,\* Newly, Fitter, Boon,\* Carter,\* Garrod (and friend), Halstead, Kennedy,\* Kenny, Milne, Pells,\* Reed,\* Rowlands, Samples,\* Stringer,\* Salville, Seed, Wadd,\* Yaxley,\* Cherry,\* Myatt,\* and Callahoun.

\*Accompanied by wife.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Colonel of the Regiment Major-General Exham, Major-General Ozanne, Brigadiers Grimley, Orr and Upjohn, Colonels Pat Woods, Bill Woods, Ince and Boutflower, Majors H. R. Kavanagh, Sills, Savory, Huffam and Connolly, Reverend H. G. Keets, Captain Barber, Messrs. Harry Matthews, Tom McMahon and S. Metcalfe (Sec. Keighley Branch).

#### 4th BATTALION O.C.A.

##### Annual Meeting and Reunion Dinner

Nearly 120 members attended the annual reunion of the 4th Dukes' O.C.A., thus, once again, reflecting the comradeship created in the 1/4th and 2/4th Dukes during the 1914-18 war.

At the annual meeting Mr. H. Collinge of Brighthouse presided. The treasurer, Councillor F. Bentley, reported that an appeal for subscriptions, launched during the year, had been so successful that there had been an excess of income over expenditure during the year of £315; among the donations received was £50 from the Regimental O.C.A. Grants to members had amounted to £98.

Officers elected were: Chairman, Mr. J. B. Carter (who had obtained a special 24-hour pass from Bradford Infirmary to attend the meeting); vice-chairman, Mr. G. S. Seed; treasurer, Councillor F. Bentley; secretaries, Sir Alfred Mowat and Mr. A. Whittaker; auditor, Mr. J. D. Ayrton. Mr. Collinge said that Captain Farrar, who had been a secretary for 11 years, had asked to be relieved of this duty; it was hoped that he would

retain his place on the committee on which he had served since the formation of the association.

At the suggestion of Councillor Bentley, the association agreed to meet the cost of restoring a set of Colours of the 4th Battalion which had been laid up in All Souls' Church since 1910.

At the reunion dinner, Mr. J. B. Carter presided and the chief guests were Major-General K. G. Exham, Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel N. T. Bentley, Colonel-in-Waiting of the West Riding Battalion, and Mr. S. E. Code, Secretary of the Regimental Association.

The toast of "The Regiment" was proposed by Mr. Carter. In response, General Exham said that the deeds of the old 4th Battalion were not forgotten in the Regiment by the serving soldiers; it was ensured that young officers and soldiers were instructed in their regimental history. General Exham gave an outline of recent regiment news. Speaking of the creation of the West Riding Battalion, he welcomed the 4th Dukes back to the Regiment and said that this meant that, although the Depot was now closed, The Duke's were back in Halifax in a big way and the regimental family was united once more.

A toast to "The Guests" was proposed by Colonel Sir Alfred Mowat who said that it was heartening that, even in these difficult times, the comradeship of the 1914-18 war had remained constant. There's something of a closed shop and there could be no new members. They welcomed hearing, however, of the later progress of the regiment and they could tell Colonel Bentley how proud they were of the manner in which the old 4th Battalion had stood up to its rather many changes of role. Colonel Bentley responded

#### ST. GEORGE'S DAY, 1961

##### Halifax O.C.A. Parade

The annual O.C.A. St. George's Day parade was this year attended by some 70 members representing Bradford, Huddersfield, Keighley, Halifax and Sheffield branches.

The marching column formed up in St. George's Street at 10 a.m., with the band and drums of the West Riding Battalion D.W.R. (T.A.) in front, followed by the Old Comrades Association—headed by the Colonel of the Regiment—and a detachment of the West Riding Battalion, commanded by Major Tetlow, for service in the Parish Church at 10.30 a.m.

Besides the Colonel, we had on parade Lt. Colonel Gadd, O.C. West Riding Battalion—and by whose kind permission we had the band and drums of the Battalion to lead us—Colonel Cumberlege, vice-president of the O.C.A., from York; Major Davis, R.H.Q., Captain Newton and C.S.M. Webb from Strensall and Major Webster, West Riding Battalion, from Huddersfield. A very good representation from a very wide field; later on in the Sergeants' Mess we spied many others, who, unable to get to the church on time, had made their way to the mess to await the arrival of the main body of Old Comrades.

On the march to the church, I am afraid, we rather rudely shattered the peaceful Sunday morning



Photo and block: "Halifax Courier"

The Mayor and Mayoress of Halifax (Alderman D. Robinson, J.P., and Mrs. Robinson) arriving for the St. George's Day Service in the Parish Church

air of Halifax with martial music from the band. We saw one or two good citizens pop their heads out of bedroom windows, no doubt wondering what all the noise was about; we also noticed many quizzical and amused glances from obvious "old sweats"—watching from the side walks—when the band played "Colonel Bogey."

At the service General Exham read the first lesson and the president of the local branch of the Society of St. George read the second. The Archdeacon, in his usual forthright way, denounced the 20th-century English of the New English Bible and contrasted it with the beautiful flowing language of the Authorised Version. He said there

was far too much slang, jargon and Americanism abroad in our speech today, and the English language the poorer for it.

After the service all the Old Comrades who had marched to church, along with others who had attended the service but were unable to take part in the march, adjourned to the Sergeants' Mess, West Riding Battalion, at Prescott Street; the Company Commander and the R.S.M. had very kindly placed the mess at our disposal and the R.S.M. with his usual efficiency had provided the sandwiches. With plenty of solid and liquid refreshment to hand the Old Comrades fell-to with gusto.

## From The London Gazette

Supplements dated February 21 to May 12, 1961

### WAR OFFICE

#### REGULAR ARMY

Brig. F. R. St. P. Bunbury, C.B.E., D.S.O., to be supernumerary to Establishment, 25th Mar.

#### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Col. H. G. P. Miles, having attained the age limit for liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Res. of Offrs., 11th Mar.

### COMMANDS AND STAFF

Maj.-Gen. D. E. B. Talbot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., late Inf., to be appointed Deputy Commander British Army of the Rhine and Commander British Army Group Troops, 2nd Apr.

### INFANTRY D.W.R.

#### REGULAR ARMY

Lt.-Col. L. B. B. Beuttler, O.B.E. (Emp. List (i) late D.W.R.) to be supernumerary to Establishment, 25th Jan.

#### Short Serv. Commn.

Lt. C. W. Ivey, Res. of Offrs., is restored to the Active Lst in rank of Lt., 7th Nov. 1960, with seniority 22nd June 1959.

Charles Lionel John Bailey to be 2nd Lt., 3rd Feb.

#### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

##### Class III

Lt. C. M. Wood from Res. of Offrs. Class I, to be Lt., 14th Mar., retaining his present seniority.

The following Lts. from T.A. Nat. Serv. List to be Lt., 27th Apr., retaining present seniority, D. P. Miles, P. W. Wright.

#### ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

##### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2nd Lt. M. Crook from Reg. Army, Nat. Serv. List, to be 2nd Lt., 14th Dec., 1960, with seniority 15th Aug. 1959; to be Lt., 3rd Apr. 1961.

The following 2nd Lts. to be Lt.: S. F. B. Lowe, 24th Apr., C. W. Norris, 24th Apr., G. C. W. Allan, 8th May.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

Pte. Charles Edward Kilner to be 2nd Lt. (on probation), 29th Jan.

Capt. (actg. Maj.) P. B. Knowles from R.A. to be Capt., 1st Mar., with seniority 1st July 1957.

## Obituary

### Major R. O'D. Carey

Major Rupert Carey died on April 14 in the Halifax General Hospital. He was 69 and had been seriously ill since before Christmas.

Born in the Channel Islands, Rubert Carey was gazetted to the Regiment in September 1911 and joined the 2nd Battalion in Dublin. He was a fine athlete and was in the regimental team which won the Army Rugger Cup in 1914.

He embarked with the 2nd Battalion for France in 1914 and was in action at Mons but had the ill fortune to be taken prisoner shortly afterwards during the retreat. General Ozanne writes: "During this brief period of active service he was an inspiration to those under his command and his gallantry was beyond all praise. Alack, and as so often happens in war, the high award for his gallantry, which was so well deserved, never materialised."

During his captivity he studied languages and became a Russian interpreter. Early in 1918 he was transferred from Germany to neutral Holland under an exchange scheme for men captured early in the war. When the armistice came in November he was one of a group of former prisoners who voluntarily stayed on at ports in Holland and Denmark to assist in the repatriation of prisoners still in Germany, thereby delaying their own return to England for several months. This action was typical of Rupert's unselfish nature.

Between the wars he served with both Battalions, being with the 2nd Battalion in Singapore and India. There were few sporting or other facets of Battalion life in which Rupert did not take part and many of his juniors had reason to be grateful for his unobtrusive help and guidance. He was promoted Major while with the 1st Battalion in Aldershot in 1930. In 1934 he was appointed O.C. of the Regimental Depot at Halifax, and retired from there in 1937.

Recalled to the Service in 1939, he stayed with the Regiment until 1945 when he became civilian administrative officer at the Depot—which post he held until 1947.

He had by this time settled in Halifax and in 1952 he was back again, officially, at Wellesley Barracks, this time as adjutant of the 23rd West Riding Home Guard Battalion which was being reformed. Colonel Trevor Bentley, who commanded this battalion, has asked us to record how very valuable to him, during this time, were Rupert's knowledge and cheerfulness.

Rupert continued to be a frequent and welcome visitor at the Depot until its closure. His other chief relaxation, during recent years, was a weekly visit to the Halifax Club to play snooker. Though

he had had more than his share of ill-fortune he retained to the end his lively interest and bubbling sense of humour and, for many of us, a chance to renew contact with him was one of the pleasantest aspects of a visit to Halifax. His death will be universally mourned by all who had the good fortune to serve with him and by his host of friends everywhere.

The funeral service and interment were at St. Bartholomew's Church, Ripponden. The service was conducted by the vicar, the Rev. C. A. Barnes. There was a large gathering of family mourners and friends from Halifax. Mr. Richard W. Asquith (president), Mr. L. H. Sagar (secretary) and Mr. W. Firth represented the Halifax Club. The Colonel of the Regiment was represented by Colonel Cumberlege; Major Davis represented Old Comrades of the Regiment.

### Mr. J. R. Dodman

James Robert Dodman, who died on June 6 at the age of 77, enlisted in the Regiment as a band boy in 1898. He served with the 2nd Battalion, for the first six years in India, until 1924. He earned the 1914 Star, General Service and Victory Medals and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. He finished with five good conduct stripes.

As a bandsman he was one of the party of stretcher-bearers who were the first men of the 2nd Battalion to go into action in 1914 when they were sent out, at Hornem, to collect wounded of the West Kents. He was later himself wounded in the thigh at Ypres in 1915, but he rejoined the Battalion in September 1916 and continued to serve with it until the end of the war.

He took his discharge in Egypt in 1924 and immediately joined the Corps of Commissionaires. He remained a member of this corps until retiring as an honorary life member on May 6 of this year, exactly one month before his death.

### Mrs. C. R. Hetley

Mrs. Hetley, the wife of Major C. R. Hetley, M.C., Heather Hills, West Chobham, Woking, Surrey, died on May 24. Major and Mrs. Hetley were married after he had retired from the Service, so probably not very many people in the Regiment knew her.

### Colonel J. W. Hirst, O.B.E., T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Colonel Hirst, of "Delamere," Fixby Road, Huddersfield, died in hospital, after several weeks' illness, on May 27, at the age of 64.

Colonel Hirst was commissioned into the 5th Battalion D.W.R. in 1915 and was wounded on the Somme in 1916. He served as a combatant officer for three years before being released to continue his medical studies.

He became a general practitioner in Huddersfield in 1921. In 1923 he was commissioned into the

# Saving for Security . . .

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R.A.M.C. (T.A.) and was appointed Medical Officer to 5th D.W.R., continuing in that appointment until after the outbreak of war in 1939. He was then appointed Senior Medical Officer to 31st A.A. Brigade and, after serving in hospital ships, was promoted colonel. He served with the 8th Army and saw service in Cairo, Malta, Sicily and Greece.

On the re-formation of the Territorial Army in 1947 Colonel Hirst was given command of 147 Brigade Field Ambulance, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In 1950 he was again promoted colonel and appointed Assistant Director of Medical Services, 49th Armoured Division. On his retirement from the T.A. in 1954 he was appointed honorary colonel, R.A.M.C. During the Second World War he was awarded the O.B.E. (Military Division) and the Territorial Decoration.

Meanwhile, when not on active service, he continued his general practice in Huddersfield until 1949 when he became senior consultant physician to the Huddersfield Hospital Management Committee. Throughout the time he lived in the town he took a prominent part in its affairs and was widely known and greatly respected. He was a trustee of the Huddersfield Drill Hall, a vice-president of the 5th D.W.R. Old Comrades Association and a member of the 5th Duke's Officers' Dinner Club.

The funeral service, of a semi-military character, took place at Huddersfield Parish Church and was very largely attended; it was followed by private cremation at the Huddersfield Crematorium.

### Lt.-Colonel W. Hodgson, O.B.E.

Lt.-Colonel Hodgson, who died at Woodcote, Oxon, on June 18, aged 70, was commissioned in 1915. He was employed under the Air Ministry, earning the O.B.E., until 1925 when he joined the 2nd Battalion in Cairo. From 1927-30 he was State Adjutant, M.S.V.R., Selangor. He retired in 1935.

### Major W. J. M. Sproule, M.C., J.P.

Major Sproule, of Mirfield, died on May 17 at the age of 68.

He joined the 5th Dukes about 1912, was mobilised with them in August 1914 and went overseas with them on April 14, 1915. When the Machine Gun Corps was formed he was seconded and became Brigade Machine-Gun Officer. He was awarded the Military Cross. After the First World War he rejoined the 5th Battalion for a while and then retired. During the Second World War he was a sector commander of the Home Guard.

Major Sproule was, until his retirement last autumn, Chairman and Managing Director of J. F. and J. Crowther, maltsters of Mirfield. He was a member of the Craven Gentlemen's Cricket Club, of Mirfield Constitutional Club and of the Mirfield Club. He was a Justice of the Peace for the West Riding of Yorkshire and sat on the Dewsbury Bench.

The funeral took place privately on May 20, 1961.