

No.133 July 1964



THE IRON DUKE

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

THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Magazine of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



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

Vol. XL

JULY 1964

No. 133

BUSINESS NOTES

Published Quarterly — January, April, July and October

Annual Subscription—10s. (6s. for serving soldiers under the rank of W.O.) payable in advance to the Business Manager on February 1.

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

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Copy for the October 1964 issue should reach the Editor by September 1, 1964

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Two Anniversaries	101
Regimental Sweepstake	101
Regimental Headquarters	103
The Yorkshire Brigade Notes !	104
The Officers' Association	106
1st Battalion	107
Macdonald Highlanders' Regimental March	118
Correspondence	118
Regimental Lunch and Dinner	119
The West Riding Battalion (T.A.)	121
Diplomatic Soldiers	125
Blow Your Own Trumpet	127
Personalia	129
Obituary	131
Commemoration of the "Sortie de Bayonne"	132
From the "London Gazette"	132
More Reminiscences of a Subaltern in the Boer War, 1899-1902	133
The Regimental Association	135

TWO ANNIVERSARIES

August of this year sees the 50th anniversary of the 1st Battle of Mons—the first battle of the war that the 2nd Battalion took part in and the battle which was the vindication of the training of the pre-1914 regular army.

It was in this battle that the legend spread amongst the Germans that our infantry regiments were armed with innumerable machine guns; the Germans could not believe that the fire they had to face was produced by rifles. The army that fought at Mons is the army that took its most famous title from a contemptuous remark of the Kaiser's and bore it proudly: "the contemptible little army."

When the Old Comrades meet in Halifax in September for their annual dinner the centrepiece of a display at Prescott Street will be the Mons Drum. For those who do not know its story it is simply a brass cylinder with odd scraps of paint still visible; but the truth exemplifies the devotion of one man to his drum and the bravery of a Belgian woman who for four years hid this drum in her garden whilst the whole district around her was in the hands of the Germans.

In 1937 a short article written for THE IRON DUKE by the late Colonel R. H. Goldthorpe of the 4th Battalion gives the story in full. Colonel Goldthorpe in 1919 was in command of the Artists Rifles and he set up his headquarters at the town of St. Ghislain on the Mons Canal. Shortly after arriving there one of his company commanders told him that the lady of the house where he was billeted had produced a drum which she had hidden since August 1914. It was almost impossible to recognise the regiment whose drum it was and it is one of those fortunate chances that the officer commanding the unit to which it was returned should have been a "Duke." Colonel Goldthorpe passed the drum back to its rightful owners, the 2nd Battalion, and from them it came to the Museum.

The story of its earlier history is as follows.

On August 22, 1914, the 13th Brigade, of which the 2nd Battalion formed a part, crossed into Belgium and took up positions upon the Mons Canal. Early in the morning of Sunday, August 23, the Germans attacked and the 2nd Battalion, which had been ordered to relieve the 1st Battalion Royal West Kents on the evening of that day, were already in battle. The order came to march from their billeting area without packs and the drummers were ordered to leave their drums but take their bugles. Drummer Mellish asked the owner of the house where he had been billeted the night before to look after his drum until he returned. Shortly

afterwards the Germans arrived and with great presence of mind and equal courage this lady hid the drum under her long skirts until the Germans, having searched her cottage, left and she was able to bury it. Neither Drummer Mellish nor the rest of the Battalion ever went back to St. Ghislain during that war and the Belgian lady kept his drum until she could hand it over to the first British troops she saw, four years later.

Part of the display at the Old Comrades dinner will be of all the Mons Stars in the Regimental Museum. We hope that those who see them and know of other Regimental Stars in the possession of descendants and relatives may think it worth while to try to obtain them for our collection. Many, many medals have been issued to the Duke's since the Waterloo Medal of 1815, but few, if any, have been given for a more magnificent action than Mons.

R.H.I.

D. Day

This quarter is also the 20th anniversary of another epic engagement, the invasion of Normandy.

In our first flush of enthusiasm as editor we launched a series of personal reminiscence of "Twenty Years Ago." This soon died from lack of support and we can produce no article to commemorate the sailing of the greatest armada in history under the directive: "You will enter the continent of Europe and . . . undertake operations aimed at the heart of Germany and the destruction of her armed forces."

Our Regiment was represented in the invasion by the 1/6th and 1/7th Battalions and, doubtless, many individuals with other staffs and units. Is it too much to hope that one of them will send us his recollections for the next issue?

THE REGIMENTAL SWEEPSTAKE

The annual Regimental Sweepstake will again be run on the St. Leger this year. The proceeds will be devoted to the charitable funds of the Regiment. The Regiment really does need this money in order to keep our charitable work amongst old comrades and their dependants up to its present standard.

We have already started to send out books of tickets. If you have received some please sell them and ask for more. If you have not received any please apply to Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E., at Regimental Headquarters, Wellesley Park, Halifax.

Tickets cost 1/- each and are in books of 10.

The prizes will be the same as last year:

	£
1st	100
2nd	50
3rd	25
4th	10
Any starter	1

The Frontispiece

The Mons drum is seen with a 2nd Battalion drum to which it must have been similar when new. The 2nd Battalion drum was painted especially for the Regimental Museum and presented to it by Potter's of London.



BY APPOINTMENT
SEAL ENGRAVERS TO
THE LATE QUEEN MARY

AN OFFICER AND GROOM OF THE 15TH LIGHT DRAGOONS, C. 1805

In 1805 Strongi'th'arm was appointed seal Engraver to the Duke of Cumberland, then Colonel of the 15th.

In the papers of Lt. Colonel R. B. Long, at that time the Commanding Officer, there is a memorandum to the Paymaster, attempting to justify his accounts, one item of which reads:

"December: Strongi'th'arm for two seals £5.13.0d."

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REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

We welcome Captain Pugh who has taken over the regular recruiting team detached from the 1st Battalion. Captain Stevens, whom he relieved, has left for a staff job on the Headquarters of The Yorkshire Brigade.

Captain Pugh lives up to his reputation of being elusive and can only rarely be found in his R.H.Q. office. In fairness, though, both he and his team work long and unusual hours both at week-ends and on a number of evenings each week.

The St. George's tide week-end began as usual with our annual cocktail party but, as our new building is so much smaller than the old mess, only about half our usual numbers could be fitted in. The others we hope to have at a second party to be held this year on Waterloo Day.

The Sunday church service was less well attended than usual as the West Riding Battalion now alternates between Halifax and Huddersfield for the St. George's tide service. The O.C.A. met on the lawn outside the church. Next year we will again revert to a full-scale parade in Halifax with the support of the West Riding Battalion.

The Regimental Museum

The Regimental Museum in Bankfield Museum is being expanded by the Director, Mr. Innes, and has taken in a new room.

Some of the existing displays have been re-arranged. Among the new ones is a separate case for the Duke's frock coat and cocked hat. The frock coat has been embellished with reproductions of the Star of the Garter and the Order of the Golden Fleece. The Duke was rarely seen without these two and seldom wore any of the many other decorations with which he had been presented. The cocked hat is interesting as, with it, are displayed the cockades of a field marshal of four countries that the Duke regularly wore. Normally these can only be partially seen through the plumes. The cockades are orange for the Netherlands, scarlet for Spain and red and blue for Portugal; these three are mounted on a bigger black one for Hanover representing Great Britain.

A new band and drums case contains the scarlet uniforms of bandsmen and drummers, including the complete uniform of the late Drum-Major Miller of the 4th Battalion with Regimental sash and mace. The 10th Battalion bugle, Mons and Waterloo drums are shown together with the modern 2nd Battalion tenor drum recently presented by Potters of London.

In preparing this case, Mr. Innes had quite a shock to find that the cost of the gold lace lyre badge and drum badges is now 50/- each. Lace for the drummer's jacket was difficult to obtain and it was found that rather more than 4½ yards is required for each jacket.

Colonel Hardy's uniform now has a reproduction of the Order of a Knight of Hanover which he was given for his services as a captain in command of a company of the 33rd at Waterloo.

The new room shows some of our recently acquired weapons from the Technical Stores Depot at Weedon. There is no doubt that the weapons section is a big attraction. The museum staff occasionally hear a father explaining to his son how a weapon works or how he won this or that battle with just the sort of Bren gun on display.

The Director wants to add mortars and hopes that someone may have a 3 in. mortar among his war souvenirs that he feels he could now part with.

He would also like relics of the 1956 internal security actions in Cyprus.

The Duke of Wellington has very kindly authorised a loan from the Apsley House collection of six dessert plates from each of the Louis XVIII Sèvres set and the Meissen set depicting different actions of the first Duke.

A visit to the Museum is suggested as part of your programme for this year's O.C.A. Reunion in Halifax over the week-end of September 26/27.

Colonel Ogilby

Army museums in general suffered a loss when Colonel R. J. L. Ogilby died in January. He founded the Army Museums Ogilby Trust in 1954. His interest in regimental museums and the advice and help he has given have been of great value. He last visited the Duke of Wellington's Regimental Museum in 1961. The trustees of our museum have recently been given £500 from the Army Museums Ogilby Trust to create a museum endowment fund.

Medals

The medal cases in R.H.Q. are in the process of being re-arranged. Major W. E. Brenchley's medals are now in a separate case. One of the main cases shows the medals of the Kennedy family, one of the notable Regimental families which have been described in previous Iron Dukes.

What may be a unique record is that Sgt. Michael Kennedy and his son, Pte. William, served respectively in the Crimea and second world wars which ended 90 years apart.

We would now like to assemble the medals of some of the other "notable" families.

Trooping the Colour, 1913

Mr. R. A. Innes, Director of Halifax Museums, has discovered that a film was made of the ceremony of trooping the Colour which the 2nd Battalion carried out in Dublin in 1913.

Mr. Innes has written to half-a-dozen addresses, in both England and Ireland, in the hope of locating this film but has had no success. The National Records of Ireland have a note confirming that the film was made but state that they never received a copy.

Should any reader of THE IRON DUKE chance to have any information about the film or its present whereabouts will he please write to Mr. Innes at The Bankfield Museum, Halifax.

THE YORKSHIRE BRIGADE NOTES

Since the issue of our last notes Brigade Headquarters has moved back into its permanent location which has been modernised, as has a great deal of the accommodation at Strensall.

The official opening of the modernised barracks takes place on June 11 when Lord James of Rusholme, Vice-Chancellor of York University, will unveil a plaque at the entrance to the Brigade Headquarters building. A number of distinguished guests will be present and our Council of Colonels will be represented by Brigadier G. H. Cree, C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

Major-General K. G. Exham, C.B., D.S.O., Colonel, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, visited us on April 29 and is now in Canada visiting Les Voltigeurs de Quebec, the Allied Regiment of the Canadian Army to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Brigadier G. W. Eden, C.B.E., Colonel, The Green Howards, is spending the day with us on June 1 and we are looking forward to seeing him again.

The Brigade Colonel, after a series of visits to a wide variety of places which included London, Shrewsbury, Bury St. Edmunds, Sheffield and Richmond, has finally disappeared to Catterick for a month where he is doing a resettlement course and apparently thoroughly enjoying it.

It is understood that he has bought a house in London and will be moving in shortly before taking up his civilian job.

The following changes amongst our Commanding Officers have recently been announced. Lt-Colonel Roy Birkett, PWO, at present on the DS at the Staff College, is taking over command of 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire from Lt-Colonel Peter Taylor in May 1965. Major Donald Isles, DWR, at present Assistant Military Attaché (Technical) British Embassy, Paris, is taking over command of 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment from Lt-Colonel Barry Kavanagh in June 1965 who will be taking up the appointment of Chief Recruiting Officer, Northern Command, shortly afterwards.

Major E. A. K. Denison, T.D., 3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own has been selected to command that battalion in February 1965.

In addition, Major Gilbert Evans, Y & L, our Deputy Assistant Adjutant General and Brigade Adjutant, is taking over command of The Federation Military College, Malaysia, in December 1964. We heartily congratulate them all.

Major Graham Tedd, DWR, will take over as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General and Brigade Adjutant at Strensall in late October and we look forward to his arrival.

Our congratulations also to Lt.-Colonel Billy Armour on his appointment as Commander Designate 146 Infantry Brigade (TA) and to Lt.-Colonel Tony Firth on his appointment as

Commander Designate 127 Infantry Brigade (TA). Both appointments will be assumed during 1965.

Acting R.S.M. S. H. Kirk is also to be congratulated on attaining substantive rank with 1st Battalion, The York and Lancaster Regiment and C.S.M. P. Savidge on promotion to substantive Regimental Sergeant Major with the 3rd Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

The following NCO's have all been promoted substantive Warrant Officer Class 2 and our congratulations go to them also: C/Sgts. W. Birch and S. B. Shepherd, PWO, Sgt. F. Hayhurst, Green Howards, Sgt. R. C. Fenn, DWR and C/Sgt. P. Chandler, Y & L.

Captains Steve Burnip, PWO, and Jim Pell, DWR, have qualified and will attend No. 36 General Staff Science Course at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, from October 12 to December 18, 1964 and also No. 36 Staff Course at the Staff College, Camberley from January 21 to December 10, 1965.

Captain Michael Sharpe, Y & L has also qualified and will attend the same course at Shrivenham but will be attending the Defence Services Staff College, India during 1965.

Our heartiest congratulations to them all.

It is of interest to note that two officers of the Brigade, Lt. C. J. Marchant-Smith, Green Howards, and Lt. G. R. Bellamy, DWR, are at present reading for degrees at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, and that 2 Lt. C. J. Lacy, Green Howards, has been selected for a place at Queen's College, Cambridge in October 1965 to read for the Mechanical Sciences Tripos.

Amongst recent visitors to Strensall have been Lt.-Colonel John Sanderson, OC Depot designate, Captains Dick Glazebrook, David Rothery and Michael Smyth, all PWO, and Captain Slim Callaghan, Y & L.

2 Lts. Bailey and Truefit, Green Howards, Luscombe, Pethybridge and Robbin, Y. & L, have all spent a little time here between leaving Mons and joining their Regiments.

The half yearly Records Meeting was held here on 13th April and was attended by Colonel Jimmy Davidson, all our regular Commanding Officers, with the exception of Lt.-Colonel John Collard who could not get back from Swaziland, and representatives from all our Territorial Battalions.

To turn to recruiting once again. During March recruiting continued at much the same level as in February and a total of 39 were enlisted. On 1st April the new regulation came into force whereby boys could be enlisted as adult recruits at the age of 17. During the first three days of the month 10 seventeen year olds enlisted, most of whom had obviously been waiting to join since leaving school. Soon, however, the flow slowed down and by the end of the month out of a total of 52 recruits only 24 were under 17½. This month so far out of a total of 26 there are only 7.

Enlistment of Juniors continued to be good for the Junior Soldiers Company at Strensall but only average for the other Boys Units. The following join in Summer Term at the various Boys Units—

	<i>Green</i>				
	<i>PWO</i>	<i>Howards</i>	<i>DWR</i>	<i>Y & L</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bde. Depot,					
Strensall	8	—	11	3	22
IJLB,					
Oswestry	1	2	—	2	5
AAJLB,					
Tonfanau	—	—	1	3	4
JTR, Troon	1	1	1	1	4

All Army Youth Teams of the Brigade are now working at full stretch and while it is still too early to judge results their help is much appreciated by Cadet detachments and Youth Clubs. As a result of the visits they made during the winter months, they are much in demand for running camps and expeditions to qualify Youth Club members for Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. On the ACF side they are concentrating on making life more interesting for the post Cert A cadets by organising arduous weekends designed to bring out the qualities of leadership and love of adventure in the boys. Their display season has now started with the usual round of shows and galas, again a weekend occupation. All in all they are hardworked, happy and popular.

The Brigade Depot

Officers' Mess

At last we are back in the mess. That is not to say the contractors have finished, but our patience was exhausted and we moved in willy nilly just before Easter. The rebuilding and painting looks well, but it would be nice to have some bath plugs (Housemember please note).

Since the last notes Mike Stacpoole has left us to return to the Battalion (the thrift shop has 1s. 9d. cash for him. I wonder what that was). However, there has been a large influx of "Dukes": Major Cowell as O.C. Training Company, Robin Stevens as Brigade Liaison Officer, Ian Reid and Robin Newell to Training Company and Knut to general duties. There are now four black labradors in the mess, so Mr. K has had his work cut out teaching them to respect a dog of his seniority.

We were delighted to see Colonel Davidson who came for a quick visit prior to his takeover in June.

Nothing to report about social events as we are busy saving up for the summer ball in July, but, on the sporting side, the croquet season is under way so certain officers are likely to be no longer on speaking terms.

Sergeants' Mess

The members of the mess have been enduring severe hardship during the rebuilding programme, but they are now all comfortably settled in although, because of birds of passage, it is rather a tight fit.

We welcome Sgt. Hudson from the 1st Battalion and hope he enjoys his stay with us. He has replaced Sgt. Stewart to whom we wish the best



Junior Bandsman P. D. McArthur (D.W.R.) looking down from Great Gable

of luck. Sgt. Kelly has been to see us now that he is working with the West Riding Battalion.

Training Company

The company is now housed in the rebuilt barracks—nearer the gym and cookhouse, even if a bit further from the ranges.

Of the April pass out parades, "Dukes" prize-winners were:—

ANZIO PLATOON—April 9, 1964—27 strong:

Best shot, SLR Pte. Dobson

Winner PT comp.; winner

cross-country Pte. P. J. Bird

SOMME PLATOON—April 30, 1964—26 strong:

Best recruit Pte. K. Wood

Best shot, SLR Pte. J. C. Frear

Best shot, SMG Pte. J. C. Hayes

Winner PT competition Pte. K. R. Uttley

As from April 1, 1964 the company developed a slightly new look in that 17-year-old recruits were accepted for the first time. Twenty-six joined in the month and the first difference the staff has noticed is that they appear to be much fitter than the 17½-year-olds.

Junior Soldiers' Company

The new term has just started with the good news that 11 out of the new intake of 22 junior soldiers are "Dukes." Our representation has, in the past, been low. Let us hope this is our comeback.

Congratulations to J/L/Cpl. Fry on his promotion.

A party of 12 members of the company spent a week of their Easter leave under Sca Fell; J/L/Cpl. Fry and Junior Soldier McArthur represented us.



Junior L/Cpls. D. C. Fry (D.W.R.) and G. Warrington (P.W.O.) canoeing on West Water

Depot Shooting

Major Cowell is hard at work organising the Depot Bisley team. They have taken part in two competitions so far. In the first a Depot team consisting of:—Major Cowell, DWR, R.S.M. Campey, PWO, Q.M.S.I. Church, SASC, Sgt. Gorse, REME, entered for the Yorkshire XX team shoot. They were placed 4th out of 10.

The second competition was the Northern Command Small Arms Meeting on May 7/8. The general conditions were very bad with gale-force winds and rain showers. The results were:—

- Minor Unit Championship, 2nd.
- Minor Unit Rifle Match, 3rd.
- Unit SMG Match (Major or Minor Units) 4th.
- Minor Unit LMG Match, 1st 484 pts. (2nd, 230).
- Individual LMG pairs (all comers):
 - Class A—Q.M.S.I. Church and Sgt. Gorse.
 - Class B—J/Sgt. Fox and J/Cpl. Bradley.
- Individual SMG:
 - Major Cowell, 1st.
 - R.S.M. Campey, 2nd.

Arthur Sunley

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The Officers' Association

The Officers' Association was founded by Field Marshal Earl Haig in 1920, with the primary object of assisting those who at any time held a commission in the Army, Navy or Air Force, and their wives, widows and dependants.

On the formation of the British Legion in 1920, the Officers' Association adopted the additional title of "The Officers' Benevolent Department of the British Legion," and it obtains its funds mainly from the British Legion Poppy Day Appeal and from the three Services Benevolent Funds.

The Officers' Association is not a fund raising organisation and has no membership as such, but nevertheless welcomes subscriptions and donations.

The Association has seven main functions:—

(a) *Financial Help*—the association is prepared to consider assistance to ex-officers and their dependants who find themselves in temporary financial difficulties.

(b) *Education*—assistance towards school fees. This is normally restricted to the children of war disabled or deceased officers.

(c) *Advice*—on a wide range of subjects, including legal advice.

(d) *Service Pensions and War Disability Pensions*—advice is given on the preparation and submission to the Minister of Pensions of claims in respect of War Disability Pensions. In addition advice is given on questions concerning Service Retired Pay and Forces Family Pensions.

The Association co-operates closely with the Officers' Pensions Society on these matters.

(e) *Homes*—the Association has its own Home in South Devon, with 35 residents, for elderly and lonely ex-officers of limited income. It also has the right of nomination to a number of other homes where officers or their widows can possibly be accepted at low rates.

(f) *Clothing Store*—clothing of all kinds can usually be provided from the store for those in need.

(g) *Resettlement and Employment*—this Department whose address is 46 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, is at the disposal of any officer, male or female, at any time for advice, and when nearing retirement can give direct introductions to employers.

The Association works through a system of honorary representatives throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and elsewhere and it is these representatives who find the cases of hardship or distress, or investigate cases that come to Headquarters in other ways. Adjudication on cases is done by a team of honorary workers who, in turn, attend at Headquarters every day of the week. This enables cases to be dealt with speedily and effectively. The help of all these honorary representatives and workers is invaluable and the Association is most grateful to them.

Anyone hearing of cases of distress or hardship among ex-officers, their widows or dependants, should refer them to:—The General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 28 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.



Photo by John P. Lavan

THE NAME PLATE OF L.M.S. STEAM ENGINE No. 6145

This plate is now mounted outside the Battalion Guardroom and, as can be seen from the photo, looks most impressive

1st BATTALION

Sub-Editorial

All are safely gathered in. The Battalion is no longer scattered in penny packets, Alma Company having rejoined us in March after their successful tour in British Honduras. The Commanding Officer can again say, "Two up, one in reserve, and bags of smoke," and mean it. The Caribbean era was a useful and happy one, but nothing can make up for having the battalion split into two parts. Now we can look forward to an equally useful and happy tour of Germany.

The standing joke in Chisleton in 1956 was that we had been sent there to repair the camp lawns. (Shades of "But we only have two pairs of shears." "Bricks without straw, man, bricks without straw.") An ex-Chisletonite has been heard to say that the powers that be heard that we made such a good job of it that they decided we should put Quebec Barracks, Osnabruck, to rights. True

that it is not in good shape at the moment, but "Dukes" "know-how" will make it the show place of B.A.O.R. before we leave. With a bit of luck the barracks in Hong Kong or somewhere equally exotic will be in an appalling state by 1966.

The factor that makes our present posting so different from the others is that we are mounted in armoured personnel carriers. Administration and tactics are both geared to the "Pigs," or A.P.C. to the uninitiated. We call them "Pigs" because they are. Anyone who has hit his head on a very steel roof whilst going over a slight dip at 15 m.p.h. will bear this out. Some "rear-end Charlies" have been seen sneaking behind buildings to dent their steel helmets with rocks to give them that "I know my way around the A.P.C" look worn so naturally by the rifle company man. Keeping them on the road also causes headaches; clutches tend to burn out, and a "Pig" that settles in the mud is like pigs all over the world and stays settled.

However, one becomes quite fond of one's own particular vehicle, and there would no doubt be an outcry if they were taken from us and we found ourselves singing "Boots, boots, boots," again. Later in our tour we are due to receive a rather superior model which will no doubt be called "Swine."

The pace is hot in Germany. In the field for three weeks, camp for a week, out for two weeks—and so it goes on. In the meantime, keep those "Pigs" serviced, send men to Norway, Italy, Holland and Bavaria on adventure training, teach the general purpose machine gun, shoot that rifle in the Brigade Shooting Meeting, jump that long jump in the Athletics Meeting, get a little drunk and you land in jail. (To be sung to the tune of "The Dukes are coming up the hill, boys".)

We did not have a lot of time to see to the A.P.C.s, arms, equipment, and general settling in before we left for the All-Arms Training Centre at Sennelager for nearly a month's stay. Although very close together we were in three quite independent company camps, each running its own cookhouse, canteen, and messes. The Sennelager ranges are world famous, and deservedly so. Everyone of us commented on how worth while was the time spent there, and how well administered by the small British permanent staff and the German range wardens. The mechanical targets actually work, and the electrical range is to soldiers as an electric train is to small boys. One could play with it for hours. No patching up, no butt party, and targets that fall down when they are hit.

The German range wardens have been mentioned—they were very efficient and helpful. Without saying so in so many words they could make it quite clear to a young officer that right flanking wasn't really the answer—no, what you should do is to go left flanking with your fire section by those pines over there. They have seen it all before, and

one or two of them were kind enough to say that we compared favourably with other units of the various armies that they had seen. Very efficient they were, very German. The glorious superb exception was the drunk who staggered onto the electrical range half-an-hour late when Alma Company were due to do night firing. The G.O.C. 2 Division was waiting patiently and the best crackmen in Alma had broken into the generator plant to try and get it going themselves when along he came full of *schnapps* and *wiener-schnitzel* quite delighted with the commotion he had caused. Later he attempted to mend a fuse by torch-light with the power still on—"Is OK, Herr Kapitan, I fix." Herr Kapitan, who is petrified of anything electrical and the sight of sudden death, suddenly remembered a pressing engagement elsewhere on the range. He was sacked the next day—the warden, not Herr Kapitan.

Whitsuntide found some of the Battalion in Amsterdam on a tour organised by our W.V.S. representative Wendy Powell. Others were out rambling in the Osnabruck area with a haversack and bivouac, the marrieds were trying to tame gardens which had run riot over the last month, some were back in England ("Haven't been here 10 minutes," snort those who could not afford it), and many others were carrying on the old army tradition of "in bed or out of barracks." And why not, it has been a month of solid hard work, and lots more to come. Grab your rest when you can.

To be honest, most people were a little disappointed when they first arrived. It wasn't quite what was expected but, there again, things rarely are. However, in the short time that we have been here people's views are changing. This is a good place to soldier, and the opportunities to do other things out of soldiering hours seem endless. This is going to be a good posting.

NEWS FROM THE MESSES

OFFICERS' MESS

Largely because of our phased move to B.A.O.R. and as a result of the elusiveness of men like Michael Bray—(have we found a new "Phantom" to replace Pugh?)—we staged a silent withdrawal from Catterick. We gave no farewell party as such, although we tried to make sure that we saw and thanked all those who had helped make our time in Catterick so pleasant. Amongst the last to come to the mess were Colonel Swift, our R.M.O., Bill Treadwell, our education officer, and his wife Philomena.

Similarly our arrival in Osnabruck was as silent as the disastrous, but accidental, smashing of regimental crockery would allow. It has taken two months to assemble all our officers once again, the last to arrive being Peter Mitchell fresh from Shrivenham.

Although it is good to feel the mess a corporate body once more, the demands of training have not

allowed us to remain in Osnabruck long and, as a result, we have not yet been able to repay the hospitality of any of the neighbouring units who have all been most kind.

Nobody can quite recall where it was that Peter Mitchell last served with the Battalion, but at least two officers clearly remember him bowling from the Ledra Palace end on the Wolsey Barracks ground in 1957, so he must have been with us then. Mike Stacpoole is welcome back after a long spell away. By way of exchange we have lost Robin Newell (and his tonsils) to the Depot. It was a great pity that he had to leave in mid flight, as it were, between Belize and Osnabruck.

Although we have arranged nothing official, sundry callers have brightened our social horizon from time to time. The RMA Sandhurst touring rugby side stayed for one night in March and we were glad to see Redwood-Davies whom we shall welcome again in July. During one of the spells at

AT SENNELAGER



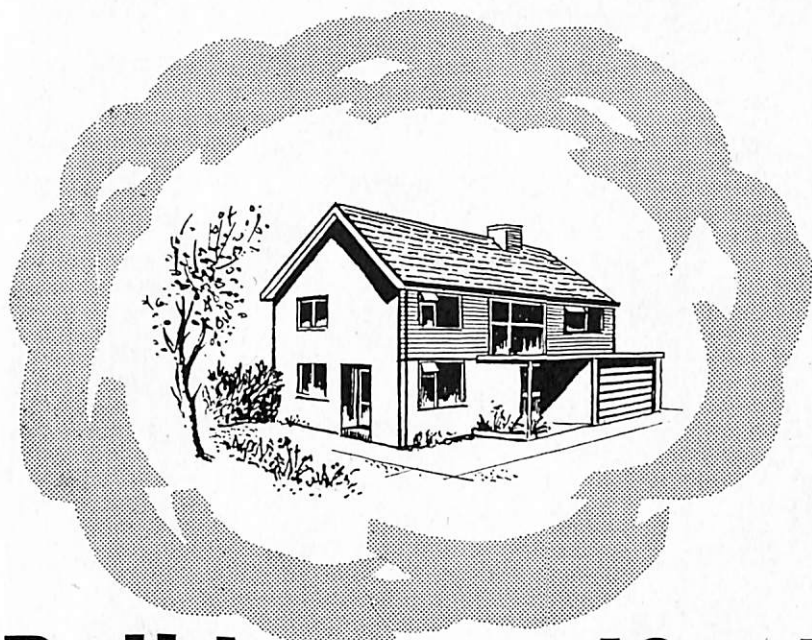
The G.O.C., 2 Div., talking to Pte. Ibbotson (Alma Coy.)
 Left to right: The C.O., Capt. Pell (O.C. Alma), Major-General T. N. S. Wheeler, O.B.E., Pte. Ibbotson,
 Sgt. Reddy



Photos by John P. Lavan

BURMA COMPANY EATING IN THE FIELD

Ptes. Henderson and McCormack (with one of the T.A. "Ever Readies" between them), are served by
 Pte. Davis and Pte. Robinson



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WEDDING

**Mr. A. J. Nickell,
1 D.W.R., was married
to Miss Monica Burton
at Bank Buildings
Baptist Church,
Weymouth, on March
21, 1964. Mr. D. R. D.
Newell, 1 D.W.R.,
was best man**



Photo by Herbert of Weymouth

Sennelager who should appear but "The Baronet of Milikouri"—Proctor Naylor—who was over here in his capacity as a territorial officer of the Royal Fusiliers. David Sugden is with us now having brought with him the Ever-readies of the West Riding Battalion.

Cpl. Wallace, having done sterling work repairing the ravages of eighteen months' worth of assorted officers in Catterick, has now rejoined us and is working with the remainder of the staff under a new broom, in the shape of S/Sgt. Pratt, who fills the newly upgraded Mess Staff Sergeant appointment. We always knew our officers were too much for a sergeant.

The new PRI, *ptsc*, escorted by the recently qualified (but admittedly unpractised) intelligence officer and a highly experienced support platoon commander set off for a cocktail party in Minden the other evening. The result of the pooling of all this intellect was a mystery tour to Munster and three very thirsty officers—words fail one.

Behind us in Catterick we have left mess golf, a memorable game of mess rucker versus the sergeants, Lilli Marlene on tape, the epic week of Alma's farewell, and the many "Dukes", Regular and Territorial, serving or retired who came and saw us in Catterick.

W.O.S' and SERGEANTS' MESS

In BAOR for the first time since Minden in 1952 we find the mess has potential though badly in need of decoration. It is large and well laid out, or at least it is once you become accustomed to the idea of having the billiard table in the dining room.

We soon had our own bits and pieces out and arranged an opening social to which we invited representatives from all the Sergeants' Messes in the

garrison. This was a most successful evening during which the Regimental Band's new twist group made its first public appearance. The evening can truly be said to have gone with a swing.

Soon afterwards we were fortunate in arranging a social evening with the Sergeants' Mess of the 1st Bn. The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. They had come from Berlin to train at Sennelager. This evening was the first time that the two Messes had met, but the happy atmosphere and the quantity of drink consumed proved that one Yorkshire regiment is much the same as another when it comes to having a good time. We are looking forward to other nights together.

Apart from these socials and the occasional weekend get-together, our social activities have been limited by training commitments, especially during the periods that the companies have been away at Sennelager and Haltern. However we have a number of pending invitations to other messes which we will fit in when and as we can.

We did, however, play hosts to over fifty sergeants from visiting units during the week before the 2nd Division massed bands display held in Osnabruck. This put quite a strain on the kitchen resources and waiters but, under the guiding hand of Sgt. Ogden (RACP) who was standing in for the messing committee, we managed to pull through. Most of our guests were from the band of the Black Watch of Canada (the whole band were sergeants with the exception of two corporals and one poor private). Among them was Sgt. Adcock who left our own band in Chisleton in 1956 to join the Canadians.

Other visitors have included QMSI Winnings (APTC) and S/Sgt. Butterfield (RACP), both of whom served at the Depot at Halifax for some years. We have also heard from Bill Costello who is now

established as the landlord of The Mousetrap Inn, Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos. He would be pleased to see any "Dukes or ex-Dukes" who happen to pass that way.

We welcome to the mess S/Sgt. Derbyshire from 1 PWO, SI Beaty, our new APTC instructor, and Sgts. Johnson and Quayle on promotion. We also offer our congratulations to S/Sgts. Pratt and Garrity on their promotion, and to CSM and Mrs. Fenn on the birth of their daughter.

CORPORALS' MESS

Since our arrival in BAOR, this being the first visit for most of our members, we have been exploring our new surroundings and sampling the local brew—a bit potent for some of us.

Our mess is run by NAAFI and is larger than some we have had recently. However, as it is rather sparsely furnished and shared by the corporals from Brigade Headquarters, it is none too

large for our requirements.

Our house warming party was "stag" and took the form of a games tournament. We invited representatives from all the other messes in the garrison, and most of the guests took part in the games. Cpl. Hunking (ACC) provided a first class supper. Our other social activities have been impromptu get-togethers; like everyone else we have been affected by the full training programme.

We welcome the following new members: Cpl. Hunking (ACC) and L/Cpl. Nixon on posting in, and L/Cpls. Almond, Ward, Searson, Hewson, Timpson, Gray, Bowler, Wilkinson, Dickens, Lavan, and Healey (ACC) on promotion. We also congratulate Cpls. Rawcliffe, Anderson, Leachman, Wilkinson, Dunbar, Brown, Pickles, Craig, Whitaker, and Dean on their promotions. To Cpl. Harrison and L/Cpl. Herberts who have recently left us we say good luck and best wishes in your new postings.

AROUND BARRACKS

Alma Company arrived in two groups in March and April, particularly proud that only one man was missing—an Eire man, and he had asked for just a single railway ticket when he went on leave.

No. 1 Platoon has been placed in suspended animation. The N.C.O.s went *en bloc* to Corunna, the main body of the platoon are scattered about the battalion as drivers, carpenters and butchers, and the few riflemen left went to Burma.

C/Sgt. McManus and his helpers fed the company extremely well at Sennelager. However, he could never quite get over the idea of seeing people go to the NAAFI van for cups of tea when he had a great steaming urn which cost nothing. Perhaps it was the little cardboard cups that the NAAFI use.

S/Sgt. Pratt and Sgt. Booth have left the company for the officers' mess and signals platoon respectively. Their experience will be missed.

Burma Company are particularly proud of their soccer successes. They have a very good company side, and No. 6 Platoon won the battalion inter-platoon soccer competition. No. 8 Platoon reached the semi-finals.

During the Easter break No. 6 Platoon camped at a farm near to the Danish Border. All who went were thrilled with the hospitality shown them. On his return the platoon commander reported that the farmer had tears in his eyes as they were leaving—we bet he had!

During the Sennelager period a new Miss Fenn was born. Mother and daughter were both well—and the C.S.M. too, for he had a terrible time (pronounced with a slight Belfast accent).

In the "food stakes" the C.Q.M.S. is reported to have administered the company well, although some were near to calling for a minister after one particular stew. In fairness to the C.Q.M.S. it must be recorded that he remained cheerful in spite of the anguish all around him. He had not had any.

A certain N.C.O. of the company wins the prize for the best remark at Sennelager. He collapsed to the ground exhausted at the end of the last attack of a section attack course. He gasped to his section wireless operator, "Quick, tell the platoon commander we've run out of ammunition, we are in a very funny predicament—and put it in griddle!" (Note: Griddle is a letter code for disguising grid references).

The tragic death of Pte. Singer has been a great blow to the company. He was knocked down by a motor car on the evening we returned from Sennelager and died almost immediately. He had not been in the company long, but all liked and respected him. There was certainly no better trier in the company. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife and parents.

Corunna Company also report a very successful stay at Sennelager. Previously the company had run the Battalion N.C.O.s Cadre and provided the quarter guards for the visits of the Divisional and Corps Commanders.

At Easter over 40 men of the company camped by the Dummer See, a large shallow lake only 40 miles from Osnabruck. In spite of snow on Easter Day they all enjoyed the change from barracks, and had a chance to canoe and visit the local *gasthause*.

During helicopter training at Sennelager the S.A.S. were practising free-fall descents on another part of the huge sports field. This prompted Robinson 88 to do his own free descent from a tall pine tree. As he was holding bird's eggs at the time this could have been tricky, but he was able to let go of them in time so that they fell on Ratcliffe's head.

A company smoker was held on the last night at Sennelager. The "A" Tank section under Sgt. Hall provided the fire. The C.Q.M.S., with McGee and Hill, the food, and Cpl. Bower, assisted by Sgt. Middleton and Cpl. Devanney, ran the bar. The rest of us merely provided our throats (for singing, as well as eating and drinking).

Hook Company continue to thrive and postings in always seem to outnumber postings out. This is a good thing in some ways for, when the rifle companies are out on training (which they are more often than not) the company have to area-clean the whole camp. This is some job and every manjack is needed. In spite of our efforts the camp is looking cleaner and tidier.

The Assault Pioneer Platoon has been re-activated. Immediately on reforming, the platoon started a thorough course of training in conjunction with the battalion's affiliated engineer troop of 7 Field Squadron. Cpls. Senior and Butterfield

report good progress by their charges in all the various aspects of assault pioneer soldiering.

The company held a very successful sports meeting on Friday, May 8, on the Roberts Sports Field. C.S.M. Sullivan is now the school children's "No. 1 Pin-up Boy" as he arranged an extra half holiday for the afternoon's events. The company orderly sergeant was signing for children on an AF1033. The only near loss was Mr Bowyer's small boy. "I've lost my mummy" is now the band's theme song. The day's sports were won by the signal platoon who can now place a light in each of their billets to find their way home! The company athletic team went on to win the battalion sports.

In the shooting world, congratulations to Sgt. Blackshaw, winner of the BAOR REME championships and fifth in the world-wide REME championships.

In the company office, L/Cpl. Firth, having well earned his pay as company clerk, has now moved to the Q.M.'s department, and Cpl. Craig, whom we congratulate on his promotion, has now moved into the "hot seat" from Corunna Company.

Lastly the company bid adieu to Captain Berry, who has joined Corunna Company. Major Hoppe joins the company from the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Oswestry.

From Zombies to Hooks, the pattern is not unfamiliar.

In spite of changing to the "wrong" side of the road and having a large number of new drivers the **MT Platoon's** first few months in Germany



THE OLD SOLDIERS' RACE AT "H.Q." COMPANY SPORTS

The C.O. leads the field (but he had a start)

Also running (from l. to r.) Lt. Wiley, Cpl. Wallace, W.O.2 Sullivan, S.Q.M.S. Benson, S/Sgt. Sykes, W.O.2 Batty, R.Q.M.S. Brint, Cpl. Cronin, Cpl. Jackson, Capt. Callaby, S/Sgt. Garrity, Sgt. Creighton



S/Sgt. Welch and Sgt. Middleton with a Panzer Grenadier at Sennelager

In spite of the look of things, this was a most friendly and convivial evening. The "Dukes" entertained 30 of the Panzer Grenadiers and regimental plaques were exchanged

have passed without disaster. We regret striking Mr. Cartwright's new car but Mr. Westcob evened the score by wrecking one of our Land-Rovers. Mr. Wiley had his car bumped twice and has retired as M.T.O. and become Technical Q.M. Captain Bray has arrived for a short stay and thinks things are under control (ignorance is bliss). We have with us W.O.1 Rutherford in charge of our REME detachment which we hope will grow in due course.

Most of the drivers and vehicles are permanently allotted to rifle companies and are settling into rifle company routine with mixed feelings. The Signal Platoon do their best to crash our 3-tonners and are also believed to be partly responsible for our stores being struck by lightning. This unusual occurrence burnt some of our equipment and half of our roof. On the same day our chief storeman, Sgt. Garrity, was promoted S/Sgt.—no connection we trust.

S/Sgt. Garrity and Cpl. Rawcliffe are both congratulated on their excellent reports from the MT School and on their promotions.

We are grateful to the 2nd East Anglian Regiment who have helped us greatly with our teething troubles.

The Signal Platoon had a very good handover to 1 KSLI in Catterick. The R.S.O. and S/Sgt. were off to Osnabruck with the Advance Party on February 4, 1964, to take over from 1 LF. During the next two months the entire platoon consolidated in BAOR; we saw all the old faces from Alma

Company, plus some new ones from that company. Troon and Rhyll produced their first two operator trained boys—Gunn and Heaver. With the return of Sgt. Coll it looks as though we might be complete.

BAOR. New sets, new maps and APCs have brought their problems; but training is progressing, only Waquabaca has crashed his vehicle, and the R.S.O. is still being talked out of officers/sergeants signal training.

We must welcome our Royal Signal troop. Sgt. Wright and his four men are a great help and Lockwood plays soccer as well, much to Cpl. Lawrence's delight. While welcoming people, we must look forward to Sgt. Booth arriving any day! On the congratulations side, L/Cpl. Pickles and Wilkinson have been promoted full corporal and even L/Cpl. Brown (DWR) has got a second stripe. We will miss his shape in the stores when he leaves shortly. Kelsey and Rhodes have produced children—congratulations. Cpl. Livesey has got married—Pary again—Cpl. Livesey has got married.

Recreationally, trips to Amsterdam have proved popular. There was a trip to Mohne Dam at Easter which Gunn should remember. At Whitsun the R.S.O. plus 10 went to Diemar Fatspe and Cpl. Turner sums it up with "I don't often say this but poooooh!"

The Band are now the proud possessors of a fish pond complete with fountain. C.S.M. Batty, after a successful fishing expedition, kindly donated some

of his catch to keep our goldfish company. The waste piece of land surrounding the billets has been turned into a "Garden of Eden" and L/Cpl. Millare (Mugs) is investigating the possibilities of growing "King Edwards" in the adjoining field. We are now awaiting for a gardening competition which we hope is to be held very soon.

The engagement book is starting to fill up. We are taking part in a Massed Bands Display in Osnabruck, British Week in Dusseldorf, and a Queen's Birthday Parade in Grobbendonk in Belgium.

Congratulations are due to L/Cpl. Dean, Bdsm. Parkinson and Almond on their promotions to Cpl. and L/Cpls. respectively.

After many years, The Band has again formed a hockey team. We have played other bands in the area and find that we can hold our own with them. Any challengers? Our only inter-platoon match so far has been against the Signal Platoon whom we held to a 3-3 draw. On April 19 we were invited to play a local German soccer team which we won 8-4. After the match we entertained the opposition in the

Band social room and the *bier* went down very well with the aid of a great deal of singing. The Band soccer team were then invited out into Osnabruck with the locals, and, after one or two drinks, L/Cpl. Kendrew presented them with a Regimental plaque. We reached the final of the inter-platoon soccer KO competition in which we lost after a hard game to 6 Platoon. Score: 1-0.

It has been reported from the sharp end that S/Sgt. Welsh had a pit dug and camouflaged to try and catch a wild boar that was continually raiding the swill bins at Sennelager.

The pit was six foot deep and perfectly camouflaged, so much so that a certain field officer, whilst showing C/Sgts. McManus and Chilvers where the pit was, fell in. Picture the scene—an exasperated field officer calling for help from a very deep pit, and two hysterical C/Sgts. helpless with laughter.

Congratulations to Sgt. Wappet on the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. It was presented to him by Brigadier P. T. Tower, D.S.O., M.B.E., on St. George's Day.

SPORT

RUGBY Seven-a-side

2nd Division

Our entries for the 2nd Division "Sevens" were submitted from Catterick before the Battalion reached Osnabruck and our two teams assembled at Minden on April 18 on a perfect spring day.

The draw was unfortunate in that, after winning their first round match, the "B" side came up against our own "A" side. This resulted in the friendliest of friendly matches and the eventual concession of the match to the "A" side.

This side continued through the competition and won very easily scoring over 30 points in the

final against 25 Corps Engr. Regt. They played some excellent rugby and provided a grand spectacle for the onlookers.

B.A.O.R.

The following Saturday the "A" side assembled once again at Minden and enjoyed another good afternoon's rugby, winning the competition comparatively easily and again producing some excellent football.

It would be invidious to single out any one player, as each one made his contribution during the afternoon, but mention must be made of the vociferous support, in face of considerable opposition from the Kings Own Borderers, of the men who

B.A.O.R. SEVEN-A-SIDE COMPETITION, 1964

<i>First Round</i>	<i>Quarter Finals</i>	<i>Semi-Finals</i>	
A, 1 D.W.R.	1 D.W.R. 13.0.....	1 D.W.R. 16.0.....	} D.W.R.
34 Lt. A.D. Regt.			
B, 26 Armd. Engr. Sqn.	1 R.W.F. 11.5.....	Q Surreys 8.5	
1 R.W.F.			
A, 1 Q. Surreys.	Q. Surreys 5.0.....	7 Sig. Regt.	} K.O.B.
1 P.W.O.			
B, 21 Loc. Regt.	21 Loc. Regt.	King's Own Border.....	
H.Q. B.A.O.R.			
A, 7 Sig. Regt.	7 Sig. Regt. 3.0.....		
16 Lt. A.D. Regt.	Q.D.G. 8.0		
B Q.D.G.			
22 Lt. A.D. Regt.	L. Cheshire 11.5.....		
A, 1 Cheshire.	K.O.B. 18.0.....		
25 Corps. Engr. Regt.			
B, 4 Armd. Wksp. R.E.M.E. ...			
1 King's Own Border			

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had travelled from both Osnabruck and Sennelager for the afternoon. Their enthusiasm was enormous and revealed itself in the final through unbroken cheering and singing of Regimental songs. There's no doubt that ale played its part—but then cheering is thirsty work.

Greenway collected the trophy from Lt.-General Sir Richard Goodwin, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Commander 1 (BR) Corps, amidst continued vocal support from the spectators.

The sides which played were:—

"A" Side: Captain Greenway (captain), 2 Lt. Nickell, Pte. Waqabaca (Hook Sigs), 2 Lt Edwards, Lt. Pettigrew, Captain Mundell, 2 Lt. Westcob.

"B" Side: L/Cpl. Pickles (Hook Sigs), Pte. Basu (Corunna), Lt. Walker (captain), 2 Lt. Cartwright, 2 Lt. Fitzgerald, Pte. Shadbolt (Hook-MT), Sgt. Hall (Corunna).

FISHING

The following members of the Battalion have now joined the Osnabruck Angling Club: C.S.M. Batty, Sgt. Morris, Sgt. Gott, Cpl. Cooper, Cpl. Craig, Cpl. Cronin, L/Cpl. Todd, L/Cpl. Morgan. There are at least another six who are about to join.

The German club now have 37 English members.

On April 26, we turned out a team of 15 members to fish against a team of 15 Germans. This was a great success. Our team won by a large margin, and

C.S.M. Batty won the trophy for the highest individual catch. We now have a match or an outing every fortnight. About 40 anglers turn out each time.

We are now planning a match between English, German and Dutch teams. We hope to give the result of this in our next notes.

At present our club room is in the Aquarium Hotel in Osnabruck. This is due to change in the near future, and we are opening up a new club centre in the 9/12th Lancers Barracks. The chairman is Lt. Norman (Q.M.) 9/12th Lancers and, at the last meeting, C.S.M. Batty was nominated as match secretary.

Cpl. Craig and Cpl. Cooper have been getting good catches; on match days things have not gone their way but it seems certain that they will soon get among the prizes.

A match was fished on Whit Monday on the River Dute about 20 miles from Osnabruck. The "Dukes" were again to the front. C.S.M. Batty was first with 5 lb. 14 oz. and Sgt. Gott was second with 4 lb. 9 oz., Sgt. Morris finished fifth, and just failed to get a prize. The largest fish prize went to Cpl. Maddison, 12th Infantry Brigade.

We hear the commanding officer has been enquiring about a fishing licence; perhaps our transport problems will soon be solved, we keep trying to get the MTO to join but he doesn't appear very keen, in fact I believe he thinks we are a little mad.

EXERCISE KLETTERMANN

During the summer months 12 Inf. Bde. are running four adventure training centres in various parts of Europe, these being skin diving in Northern Italy, climbing in Bavaria, sailing in Holland and canoeing in the North Sea. Each major unit is responsible for running one of these centres and it has fallen to The Duke's to run the climbing in Bavaria.

The first course, consisting of eight students, has just started. Later on this will be increased to 16 students when the centre gets more instructors.

The aim of the course is to teach self-sufficiency in the field and rock climbing, including the tactical application. The subjects taught therefore include navigation, survival-type cooking, first aid, mountain rescue, resistance to interrogation, evasive movement, rock climbing and abseiling. It finishes up with a large scale escape and evasion exercise involving all the subjects taught.

The local German soldiers are co-operating and are turning out to track and hunt down the evaders before they reach home territory. Each student has been invited to put "blood money" on his head which will be given to the German soldiers capturing him.

Perhaps one of the most unusual subjects is the survival-type cooking. In this live animals, such as chickens, will be given to students as their rations. It will be up to them to kill, skin, gut and cook the animals (if they are to eat).

At the present time the centre is understaffed, there being only the O.C. (Captain D. S. Gilbert-Smith) and Cpl. M. Howard to do all the instruction. The other Cpl. Howard, now at the Depot, and Sgt. Carpenter from 9/12 Lancers are expected to arrive at the end of May to complete the Staff. It is fortunate that the O.C. has his "girl Friday" in the form of his wife to assist him. Her duties include typist, interpreter, food and beer contractor, part-time chauffeur, exercise agent, besides being his wife and producing his first born at the same time—some girl!

L/Cpl. Healey is the cook and is to be seen with his pride and joy, 20 live chickens which are earmarked for survival-type cooking. One laid an egg at the sight of him and he was heard to mutter "I'll clobber anyone who touches that one!"

Murphy and Robinson are drivers, agents for the escape and evasion exercise, part-time students and various odd job men. They appear to be coping very well.

Hawkins is the last member of the staff and his job is quite simple; just care for £1,000 worth of equipment although he has never stored in his life before. At the moment he spends all his time caring and accounting for Cpl. Howard's pride and joy, the climbing ropes and equipment! Considering he never heard of a piton or karrabiner ring before, he is not doing too badly—especially when all the instructions are written in German!

Macdonald Highlanders' Regimental March

In the current number of the Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research is an article on one General John Reid (1721-1807). This singularly undistinguished General Officer had the somewhat unusual trait, for one of his rank, in being a composer of music, though in all fairness it must be stressed that the majority of his compositions were regimental marches.

General Reid's last appointment was Colonel of the 88th Foot (The Connaught Rangers). A less suitable billet for an officer with marked artistic leanings would be hard to match: the 88th, that tough infantry battalion of the Peninsular War, was usually launched into battle by its Divisional Commander, Sir Thomas Picton, with the exhortation "Come on, ye murdering blackguards. Come on, ye Rangers of Connaught!"

What is of interest to us is that among the marches composed by the General is one for the 76 Macdonald Highlanders. For the information of some readers it should, perhaps be stated that

this regiment was raised in 1777 and, after action in the American War of Independence, was disbanded in 1784. It was the immediate predecessor in the number of our 76th, lately our 2nd Battalion.

General Reid, who was of ample means, left his money to Edinburgh University which devoted it to the foundation of the Reid School of Music. A concert is performed there annually on the Thursday nearest to General Reid's birthday—February 13—when a solo, a march and a minuet of his composition are played. We are informed that the 76th March is frequently played on this occasion.

Mr. R. A. Innes, the Director of Halifax Museums, was good enough to procure some copies of the score of this march and both the 1st and West Riding Battalions have been given copies. It is hoped that their respective bandmasters are now converting the score from the 18th century wind instruments to the brass of the modern military band.

B.W. W-C.



Photos by Sgt. Ingham, D.W.R., alt. Bde Depot

CORRESPONDENCE

SIR,

In March this year the Regimental Secretary of The Prince of Wales's Own told me that he had seen an item in a sales catalogue of a medallion presented to Major F. H. B. Wellesley, 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, by the town of Mons. I realised that this must be my father although neither I nor any member of my family now alive had ever seen the medallion or even heard my father mention it. I naturally bought it.

It is made of white metal about 1½ in. in diameter. I enclose photos of both sides of the medallion which will be seen to have a design of lightly draped female figures, presumably of some allegorical significance, with, on one side, the inscription "au Major F. H. B. Wellesley, 27 Avril, 1919" and "2nd BATTN, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment."

On the other side is inscribed at the top "Ville de Mons."

My father took over acting command of the 2nd Battalion in Belgium in January 1919 while demobilisation was taking place and brought the remaining cadre back to England in June of that year. The other officers who came home with the cadre were Captain Bilham, Captain Cooke, Captain Colson and Captain and QM Shepherd.

It is indeed strange that the medallion ever got out of the possession of my family as it is just the sort of thing my father would have treasured most. If any reader has ever heard anything about it and in particular about the circumstances of its presentation the information would be of great interest.

Yours etc.

F. H. V. WELLESLEY,
H.Q. The Yorkshire Brigade,
Strensall. Major

The Regimental Lunch and Dinner

The Officers' Regimental Dinner Club held their annual dinner at the Hyde Park Hotel on Friday, June 5.

The Colonel of the Regiment presided and the Bishop of Pontefract, chaplain to the regiment, was

CORRESPONDENCE—(continued)

The Lichfield Group

SIR,

I was very much interested in the photograph "Lichfield 1906, W.O.s and Sergeants of the 2nd Battalion with new Colours" appearing in the last issue. Although I did not join the Battalion until 18 months after the photograph was taken, most of those appearing thereon were then still serving. It is disturbing that, with the years, one's memory is unequal to recall names, so we are indebted to my friend O'Kelly—he once put splints on my fractured leg so efficiently that the medicos were satisfied to leave them untouched on my arrival in hospital—for some of the names. I think he is mistaken in attributing the name "Abrahams" to No. 5 in the front row, I think it is "Bennett" who later became R.S.M.

I can recall names of some others:—No. 6, Top Row, Billy Naden; No. 7, Top Row, George Lister; No. 6, Second Row, Archie Graham; No. 5, Third Row, Campbell; No. 9, Fourth Row, I think was Sgt. Master Tailor Roach.

I remember that George Lister was my first Section Sergeant. I am not sure whether he was a brother of the C/Sgt. Lister who is rightly identified as No. 1, Third Row. They were much alike.

In striking contrast to present day male styles, is the predominating number of moustaches worn; they were compulsory in those days. I don't know why Drummy Foster and Billy Naden should have claimed exemption.

C/Sgt. Paling, No. 6, Fourth row, was for many years general secretary of the O.C.A.

It is a sobering thought that most, if not all, appearing on the photograph are, if still alive, octogenarians. Come to think of it I shall soon be one myself.

I am grateful for the memories, most of them pleasant, that this photograph has recalled.

Yours sincerely,
J. BOURN.

6 Montague Avenue,
Leeds, 8.

We have also heard from Major Scott who confirms that No. 5, Front Row, should be identified as R.Q.M.S. G. Bennett who later became R.S.M. and was commissioned during the 1914-18 war. Major Scott also confirms No. 5, Third Row as Sgt. Campbell and identifies No. 8, Third Row, as Sgt. Morris who was later sergeant i/c musketry at Tidworth when Major Scott joined in September '09.

—EDITOR.

present. The guests were the Duke of Wellington, Rear Admiral C. M. Blackman and Colonel G. S. Powell, Brigade Colonel of the Yorkshire Brigade.

There was a strong attendance in spite of the fact that the 1st Battalion in Germany could only be represented by their C.O.

After the loyal toast, the president read messages of good wishes from some of those unable to be present, including one from our allied regiment, Les Voltigeurs de Quebec. After welcoming our guests he then gave his usual excellent review of matters of Regimental importance. In a more than usually serious peroration he spoke of the problems facing infantry battalions at the present time and of the impossibility of standing out obstinately against the present trend towards the "big regiment."

On view in the Hyde Park Hotel were the copy of the Hoppner portrait, presented by the Duke of Wellington and the models portraying the uniform of the 33rd, made and presented by Admiral Blackman.

The records of the Dinner Club show that, at the dinner held on June 1, 1911, at the Trocadero Restaurant, the Hoppner copy presented by the 4th Duke, who was present at that dinner as a guest, was displayed on an easel at the end of the room.

The then Hon. Secretary of the club recorded: "*It was as interesting as it was an unusual event at such a gathering and made our dinner this year a memorable one.*" One could use the same words for the 1964 occasion.

Members of the Dinner Club attending the dinner were:
The Colonel of the Regiment, Maj.-Gen. K. G. Exham,
The Deputy Colonel, Brig. Webb-Carter,
The Right Reverend Eric Treacy, Lord Bishop of Pontefract,
Major-Generals Ozanne and Upjohn.
Brigadiers Bunbury, Miles, P. P. Moran, Rogers
Colonels Armitage, Cumberlege, R. Moran, Stevens, Taylor, Turner.

Lt.-Colonels Dalrymple, Gadd, Isles, Kavanagh, Le Messurier, Moncrieff, Peake, Sayers, Skelsey.
Majors Brown, Coop, Cowell, Davis, Driver, Dunn, Faulks, Hardy, Harms, Hindley, Huffam, Huskisson, Jones-Stamp, Ker-shaw, Kilner, Lane, Lennon, Lepper, MacLaren, Naughton, Newton, Randall, Robertson, Scott, Siddall, Sills, Streatfeild.
Captains Bolton, Campbell-Lamerton, Cumberlege, Huffam, Laurence, Middleton-Hands, Pugh, The Lord Savile, Stevens, Summers.

Messrs. Arnold, Barkshire, Bellamy, Campbell-Lamerton, Mesquita, D. P. Miles, Naylor, Reid, Shenton.

Lunch

The models were also on view at the buffet lunch which was held at the Naval and Military Club.

This lunch proved a most successful innovation. Naturally, on a first occasion, there were one or two points which it was felt could be improved. Plans are already being made to do this next year when it is intended to repeat the luncheon.

Those present at the lunch included: Col. and Mrs. Armitage, Col. and Mrs. Bishop, Capt. and Mrs. Bolton, Mrs. Boutflower, Mrs. Cameron, Major and Mrs. Cartwright, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Chatterton, Col. and Mrs. Cumberlege, Mrs. Campbell-Lamerton, Major and Mrs. Davis, Major and Mrs. Dunn, Gen. and Mrs. K. G. Exham, Gen. and Mrs. R. K. Exham with Mrs. Lang, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Gadd, Mrs. Grimley, Major and Mrs. Hardy, Capt. and Mrs. R. Huffam, Lt.-Col. Isles, Major and Mrs. Jones-Stamp with the Misses Jones-Stamp, Lt.-Col. Kavanagh, Mrs. Kirkland, Lady Landon, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Le Messurier, Major and Mrs. MacLaren, Brig. and Mrs. Miles with Miss Greene-Kelly, Lt.-Col. Moncrieff, Brig. P. P. Moran, Mrs. Newton, Mrs. Orr, Gen. Ozanne with Mrs. Isles and Miss Ozanne, Mrs. Paton, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Peake, Capt. and Mrs. Pugh, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Sayers, Major and Mrs. Scott, Lt.-Col. Skelsey, Major and Mrs. Streatfeild, Col. and Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Treacy, Col. Turner, Gen. Upjohn, Col. and Mrs. Wathen, Brig. Webb-Carter.

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THE WEST RIDING BATTALION T.A.

Sub-Editorial

Over the past quarter the Battalion has been running at maximum revs. There hasn't been a single weekend when somebody wasn't doing something—somewhere. Just what has sometimes puzzled Battalion HQ.

Our main function has been the St. George's Day parade, held this year in Huddersfield. We exercised our privilege by marching through the town with Colours flying, bayonets fixed.

The Mayor of Huddersfield (Alderman Mrs. Haigh) took the salute, supported by Brigadier Moran, after the church service at Huddersfield Parish Church.

The Battalion is now well under way with the annual classification, whilst in the background the

HQ staff prepare for the move to annual camp at Garelochhead, Dumbarton. It is hoped that as many "Old Dukes" as possible will make the journey into the wilds of Scotland to look us up.

"Ever-readies"

We have again been fortunate this year being the selected unit in Northern Command to send our TA Emergency Reservists for special training in BAOR, also having the good fortune to be attached to our Regular Battalion.

Fifteen men under the command of Lt. T. D. Sugden left Huddersfield on May 22, 1964, for Manchester, thence by air to BAOR where they were being met by the 1st Battalion.

At the time these notes are being written they are



Block by courtesy of The Huddersfield Examiner

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH PARADE

The West Riding Battalion exercise the Regiment's privilege of marching through Huddersfield with bayonets fixed, colours flying, and bands playing

still out there and we have not yet heard whether they are acquitting themselves nobly, wisely, with credit, or otherwise; but we do know that they left with great enthusiasm and high spirits.

A full report will be forwarded for the next issue of THE IRON DUKE.

Shooting

Classification is in full swing whenever the weather permits on Deer Hill; rain and gale-force winds from the east are accepted, but there is a murmuring in the ranks when the hill mists obscure the targets. However, the Battalion now realises that you do not have to see the target, only hit it.

Company teams are managing to fit in some shooting practice on training nights between 1900 and 2100 hrs. in preparation for the Bn. S.A. Meeting to be held at Strensall on 6/7 June. The Bisley team is hard at it whenever possible. The vast drill hall at St. Paul's Street echoes to the high protests of the thousands of empties being counted, the bulls and the flags heaped ignominiously into so many pounds of brass.

At the Northern Command Arms Meeting, held at Catterick from May 7 to 10, 1964, the Training Major was runner up in the Individual Rifle Championship, beaten by 1 point or a 1/5th of a bullet. This was doubly annoying because it was hoped to keep up the tradition of "Dukes" winning the big event at this meeting. Last year it was won by Major Wood. However Major Cowell made up for it to some extent by winning the Individual SMG.

On Thursday, May 28, the PSI trophy was competed for at Deer Hill. It was a lovely day, and there was a very high powered butt party from the civilian permanent staff. The shoot went to plan and by lunch time at 1300 hrs. Sgt. Clarke was almost impossible to eat with; he had lost interest in the Training Major's score, who was not counted as a PSI anyway, and he was 21 points ahead of last year's winner, CSM Webb; we had already finished "Standing" at 100 yds., "Sitting" at 200 yds. and "Rapid and Snap" at 300 yds., there was only the "Deliberate" at 500 yds. left and as Sgt.

Clarke lay lurching on the 500 yds. firing point he demanded his winning tankard to drink his beer from. A 21 point lead with an HPS of 50 to go—it was in the bag! Perhaps the beer is the clue, or perhaps you really need to be a gravel belly for this 500 yd. stuff. Whatever the reason, the fact remains that Sgt. Clarke hit his 4 ft. target twice out of ten rounds and scored 6 points. C.S.M. Webb scored 36 and therefore won the PSI trophy by 9 points. The Training Major overdid it a bit with 46 out of 50 but he didn't count, so once again C.S.M. Webb won the beer tankard. Next year it may be a water carafe instead.

Officers' Mess

The difficulty of fixing the first Sunday in the month as a family gathering for drinks is that so many companies seem to arrange their training for the same day. However, we keep going, sometimes with only one or two members present, and sometimes we get very busy.

On March 13 we again entertained our ladies to dinner. As previously reported this has become an annual occasion. This was the first guest night that our new mess sergeant, Sgt. Bacon, supervised and, to make things more frightening for the PMC, all the waiters were also new to the job. Everything went with a swing and the staff are to be congratulated for doing so well on a first occasion.

On Friday, April 24, prior to the St. George's Day Parade, the officers dined in mess. We were very pleased that the Colonel of the Regiment was able to dine with us and also Major-General Upjohn. At a late hour, both the Colonel of the Regiment and General Upjohn were seen playing mess games with great gusto. Cyril Kenchington acted as referee; he controlled the games with an iron-hand. We hope all contestants are fully recovered.

On the Sunday following, after the Church Parade, we entertained the Mayor of Huddersfield, Alderman Mrs. Haigh, to tea in the mess. Apart from members, there were also a good number of honorary members and old comrades present.

NEWS FROM THE COMPANIES

"H.Q." COMPANY

Recruiting was the main theme in March and once again we opened our "shop" in the centre of Huddersfield and waited for the crowds of young men to swell our ranks. Unfortunately we didn't have the success we had worked and hoped for, but the "after effects" have been quite good and we can welcome 15 effective new members to the Company.

A welcome also to Cpl. Ellis from "B" Company, who will no doubt add weight to the Recce Platoon, and to Sgt. Parks who has joined us from the Royal Military Police to take up the duties of M.T. Sergeant. Lt. Tyler has at last made his entry having been "on paper" for some time.

We hope all of you have many interesting and happy years ahead in "H.Q." Company.

What of activities in the last few months? Our team in the 49 Div. Driving Championships did extremely well and fully intend winning next year; congratulations, and good luck for 1965. The Signals Platoon acquitted themselves well on the Brigade Signals Exercise in spite of the dreadful weather. The Band and Drums put up an excellent show on the St. George's Day Parade, held this year in Huddersfield. We had to find a substitute for the Drum Major and, of course, there was only one choice—W.O.2 Bryan (P.S.I.), the one-time drum major of the 1st Battalion, who "willingly" came forward and did a grand job.



Block by courtesy of The Huddersfield Examiner

The "Ever Readies" prepared to embark for B.A.O.R.

The cooks very rarely get a "mention" in these notes, but they, along with many other "odds and bods" (no offence) in the Company, all work very hard to make the Battalion activities "tick."

June will find us at Strensall for the Battalion Rifle Meeting where we hope to sweep the board, as we did in 1963, but the main emphasis will be preparing for annual camp. Getting geared for Garelochhead!

"A" COMPANY

Regular readers of this magazine who follow the activities of "A" Company will be delighted to know that the spirit in Prescott Street drill hall has never been better. In fact, we can show far more than spirit, we can show flesh and blood, and plenty of it. Recruiting so far this year has broken all records and on drill nights it is a pleasure to see squads of men working away at a new craft of soldiering.

Many of these recruits attended the three day exercises we held at Easter and Whitsuntide and are now looking forward eagerly to annual camp. The Easter exercise was at Helwith Bridge at the foot of Penn-y-Ghent and as guests we had the RMO, Major Turner, and the Medical Sergeant, Sgt. Smith. Both joined in all the activities and agreed that crossing the ice-cap on Penn-y-Ghent was rather like being in the Alps except for the fact

that there was thick cloud and they couldn't see a thing. In future, a St. Bernard (with barrel) will be taken on all exercises.

The Whitsuntide exercise was held in the Pickering area of North Yorkshire and was run by the NCOs of the Company under command of C.S.M. H. Dillon. On this occasion there was a good attendance from members of the "old school," the lads who helped to give "A" Company the reputation of being a tough company. Men like Cpl. Thompson, Cpl. Peckett, L/Cpl. Dare and L/Cpl. Moore. This time the weather was much more favourable and the men returned bronzed and fit except for a proud collection of blisters on the feet. Sgt. Smith, R.A.M.C., and Sgt. Collier, A.P.T.C., attended to the physical well-being, and Ptes. Booth and Dodds, A.C.C., attended to the needs of the inner man.

A popular night at the drill hall is games night and Sgt. Collier usually manages to be there; in fact, he has worked up so much enthusiasm that C/Sgt. Reed and other more senior members of the Company often join in. The Company 2i/c, Captain McDonald, and the P.S.I., Sgt. Clarke, also like to have a go. So far we have been unable to tempt Major Haws and C.S.M. Dillon—they must be too busy.

It is obvious by the way C.Q.M.S. Reed and Sgt. Howell keep popping in and out of the stores with pots of paint and pieces of timber that annual

camp is getting very near, but more about that next time.

Finally, congratulations to Sgt. B. Howell on the award of the Territorial Efficiency Medal.

" B " COMPANY

Mirfield Drill Hall has become a very well-used building. Every Tuesday and Thursday our own Territorials parade as usual, but are now joined on the same parade by our own Army Cadet Detachment who are very keen and turn up in good numbers.

Two nights per month we invite the Sea Cadets to use the rifle range, and we rejoice in the sight of their " naval rig."

Dewsbury Rifle Club use our range as well once every week, and on Monday evenings a select band of athletic ladies from Mirfield play squash in the main body of the hall.

Last month we were delighted to act as hosts to the Old Comrades' dinner again, where we had the pleasure of seeing Colonel John Sugden, Lt.-Colonel J. C. Moncrieff, the C.O. (who was taken to be a subalterner by one of the old comrades), Colonel J. Brooke, Colonel Huxley and Colonel Ray Gadd whom we were particularly pleased to see again.

Sgt. Horace Procter, who lived in the drill hall quarters for many years, came back to see how things were going, and a fairly recent ex-T.A. Sergeant, Brian Whitely, had his leg pulled all through dinner as to the future of British Railways.

The local Royal Observer Corps group have been down to wage war against us on the dart-board and next month are asking officers and N.C.O.s of the Company to visit their new underground control centre.

It will seem from these activities that we are attempting to follow the example of the Defence Ministry and combine all arms activity at our T.A. Centre.

Training has been progressing well, and lighter nights have allowed more outdoor training, and learner driving to be practised. On pay nights a social evening follows the pay-out and a considerable amount of drill money passes over the counter. A " wooden-spoon " competition tests the prowess of the hardened beer drinkers, and the Men's Canteen have to beat the Sergeants' Mess team next month to get rid of the wooden-spoon.

Refreshments (edible) on these occasions are provided by Pte. Laycock of the M.T. Section who drives in his mobile hamburger van and carries on a thriving business, some members having been known to eat six portions at a sitting.

For the last two months, a weapon training trophy has been awarded to the soldier with the highest marks in the end of month weapon training test. The marks scored on these tests have been a pleasant surprise to Sgt. Hartley, P.S.I., but an even greater surprise was when the winners were Pte. Perks (3 in. Mortar) and the afore-mentioned hamburger vendor of the M.T., Pte. Laycock.

The next notes will have a Scottish flavour to them, after our exploration of Garelochhead where annual camp is to be held in July. Scots beware!

" C " COMPANY

We spent a vast amount of time, thought, effort and some money during the recruiting fortnight from March 7-21, and the response was not particularly encouraging. We had a trickle of recruits during the fortnight, all of very high calibre, but the total was disappointing. Since the recruiting fortnight ended the response has been much better and, as these notes are being written, four potential recruits are being documented. We have interviewed every potential volunteer and made searching enquiries as to why they wished to join; in each case it was a personal introduction by a present member. Our experience has been that press publicity, advertising, recruiting-stands in market-places, and open nights have played an insignificant part in attracting volunteers compared with the personal efforts of our present members in introducing their friends. " D " Company may well boast that one man has introduced his son into the unit. We have one man who has brought his father in! (Is this a record?)

Training is now at fever-pitch, and virtually every week-end is occupied until camp. Classification week-ends and Battalion rifle meetings take up part of the time, but we will be spending several nights either under canvas or in the open during the next two months. Not the least of the advantages which " C " Company have is that of a very large potential training area on its doorstep.

In common with the other companies, we have three members of the Ever-Readies training in Germany at present. If ways and means could be found for ordinary members of the T.A. to train abroad occasionally, and for a smart uniform to be issued, then it is more than likely that we should have a waiting list for volunteers. At the beginning of the recruiting fortnight an anonymous letter was received at Keighley Drill Hall. It read:

" Dear Sir,

You have my sympathy as regards recruits. The boys want something smart to walk out in.

Yours,

Old Sweat."

We believe that these sentiments are shared not only in this Company and Battalion but throughout the Territorial Army.

" D " COMPANY

At the time of writing these notes we are in the midst of Annual Classification—this year, for the first time, with the S.L.R. Fortunately, we were able to spend a full day zeroing and getting the feel of the new weapon, but it is obvious that we need a lot more practice, particularly for the old hands who were brought up on the No. 4 rifle.

A week ago our " Ever-Readies " departed in high spirits to spend a fortnight with the Regular Battalion in B.A.O.R. Out of our Battalion's 15 we are fielding seven and trust that they have an enjoyable and instructive 15 days. Unfortunately most of them will not be able to attend camp as well, so their experience will be lost to the Company, at least for this year.

The St. George's Day Parade went off well and

(continued at foot of p. 125)

DIPLOMATIC SOLDIERS

"The Saint Petersburg Embassy is vacant. Now, of four Generals commanding corps, three have asked for the Embassy . . . They have to lead a quarter of a million men, to defend the country; they dream of a job."

French General Gallifet, 1890.

Although taken very much out of context such a quotation does show that the post of military attaché has always exerted an attraction on some soldiers. In fact it is not so long ago that there existed in most armies a race of professional attachés; even the British Army was not immune and possessed its own exclusive band. Usually excellent linguists, in the crack regiments, socially well-connected, they had "married well" and they were at home in most of the capitals of the world, capitals to which they added a military elegance all of their own.

Paris, Rome, Berlin and Brussels were always the most sought after embassies, although those at Vienna and Budapest were not unattractive. The diplomatic language has always been French and, as now, the social round was always important; much diplomatic gossip was of vital interest to ambassador and war offices alike and an intelligent attaché could pick up a great deal of useful knowledge—not infrequently from the lips of some distinguished hostess.

At the beginning of this century it was not unusual for foreign attachés to be dealing with spies and one has only to read accounts of the Dreyfus Affair to realise how wide-spread such traffic was; in fact Colonel Max von Schwartzkoppen of Prussia, the French Deuxième Bureau and the Italian Military Attaché were all dealing with the same few disreputable spies in a ceaseless quest after details of frontier fortifications, the new melinite-filled shell, the new quick-firing field gun and other such delightfully named antiquities.

Spying in those days must have been much more fun than in these modern times, when the vital piece of information is more likely to be the solution to some abstruse differential equation. Nowadays such spying by attachés, other than the somewhat sinister Iron Curtain variety, must be rare; spying

"D" COY.—(continued from p. 124)

provided the best giggle of the year so far—C.S.M. Webb's most correct salute to some "Brownie" leader being returned by one of two vertical fingers!

Rumour having it that training this year at annual camp is to be on the lines of N.W. Frontier operations, C.S.M. "Lakri" Wood has "Sunray" under instruction on picqueting heights, use of pointer staff, range screens and flags. We hope that camp does not produce any blood, but the sweat and toil seem to be most probable.

Finally, our congratulations and best wishes to Pte. Smith (D) on his recent marriage, and a welcome back to El Sgt. Simpson, very bronzed after his year in Spain.

has become more sophisticated and attachés are usually careful to respect their diplomatic status.

The professional attaché is now largely a thing of the past, although some of the more exotic countries still produce this breed of soldier.

Certainly he must be "out" in the British Army for otherwise no MS in his right senses would translate an average company commander, quietly sweating it out in British Honduras, into the cosmopolitan capital of Paris with its large and busy embassy.

However, professional or not, there is much to do. As an attaché one has many masters—practically all the War Office branches in addition to one's Ambassador have from time to time to be satisfied with information. Much representational and ceremonial work has to be done, and many wreaths have to be laid—particularly in the north of France where so many of the British Army and our Regiment lie, and where the friendship for England and its army is as great as it ever was.

Many of the *voyages d'information* organized for all the attachés in Paris are most interesting and provide some amusing outings. It is always fascinating to hear the view from the "other side of the hill" and to talk to past enemies over a glass of whisky in a bar or hotel bedroom. Now I know why the Battalion never did capture any of the Haganah or Stern Gang during those far off days in Palestine some twenty years ago! Humorous stories can be excruciatingly funny when first told in English and then translated into Japanese by the South Korean Air Force Attaché for the sole benefit of the Japanese Naval Attaché. The Japanese translation tends to be infinitely more amusing than the English original.

Perhaps the most vital piece of equipment of any attaché—even more important than his ceremonial sword or his golden aiguillettes—is his pair of scissors. Innumerable newspapers and journals have to be read and anything of interest snipped out, translated and sent home. Gone now is that guilty feeling of being caught reading a newspaper in the office!

Big lunches, even bigger dinners, "*le scotch*," endless standing and talking at receptions, coupled with late nights and the Paris traffic, all produce serious problems that have to be mastered if one is to survive. Stamina in no small measure is needed to stay the social round; perhaps the best way to increase this stamina is to switch to tomato juice fairly early in the evening, never to use the lift and to pack in exercise at each and every opportunity.

When Alka-seltzer fails to produce any of that much advertised relief is possibly the right time to take stock. But if the Sam Browne that has fitted since subaltern days suddenly shrinks and becomes bewilderingly too small then perhaps it is already too late, and it might be better to write to Gieves, order a new belt and carry on as before. Certainly it's more fun!

D.E.I.



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OLD SOLDIERS

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RAMSDEN'S

ales

Blow your own trumpet

This article is reprinted (slightly shortened) from IRON DUKE, Vol. X of 1934. It seems that the author, Captain P. M. Learoyd of the 4th Battalion, was some 30 years ahead of his time.—ED.

In the feverish competition of modern times, when advertising plays such an important part in the business of getting on in the world, it is amazing to see how far the Army lags behind in this respect. The posters issued with a view to inducing youth to join the forces are, for the most part, as stale, flat and flavourless as yesterday's beer. No imagination is displayed, no punch, none of that breath-taking, quick-fire appeal which is so essential to success nowadays.

This is particularly hard on the Infantry which, by very reason of its job, has the least to recommend it. Denuded of its bands it would sink into almost total oblivion as far as the public was concerned. The Cavalry can look dashing on their horses, the Gunners aloof and haughty behind their guns, the Tank Corps appear mysterious supermen rolling along in their unwieldy tin forts, whilst an Airman,

as everybody knows, represents the complete answer to a maiden's prayer.

Anyone who has served at any time with the Infantry, is perfectly well aware that the Infantry man is the cream of the Forces, the keystone of the Army. He is the man who wins the battles. Of all the muck, metal and criticism that is chucked about in war time, 90% is directed at him, and most of it hits him. And yet when recruiting is slack during peace time one can almost detect a note of veiled reproach in the press paragraphs announcing it.

What is required is a system of red-hot up-to-date advertising produced by each individual unit. Every regiment ought to have its own fully trained advertising expert. Once the scheme got under way the outcry about poor recruiting would be a thing of the past. There would be waiting lists, of that I am convinced.

For the benefit of any who may be uncertain of how to set about it I have drawn up the few following examples of what I consider to be the best styles of appeal:—

LET ME BE YOUR FATHER

Leave
Your
Future
To Me.

Bayonets (spirit of).
Light automatics.
Musquetry.
Coquetry.
High Jumps.



Nothing
Succeeds
Like
Success.

Discipline.
Lead Swinging.
Fire
Movement.
Pack Drills.

GET OUT OF THAT RUT!

Don't be satisfied to
be just one of a crowd.

Increase your prospects and be a key man by joining:

THE DUKE OF CORNFLOWER'S LIGHT INFANTRY

THE MOST PROGRESSIVE REGIMENT IN THE ARMY

INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT GUARANTEED

Some of my outstanding successes:—

Private to Sergeant, 12 years.
Private to C.S.M., 17 years.
Sergeant to Private, 4 minutes.

Delay is fatal. Write at once for free explanatory booklet containing full information to Orderly Room,
Depot Duke of Cornflower's L.I., Oswaldtwistle, Lancs.

ARE YOU A SLAVE TO YOUR TROUSERS?**Fling them Off!****DO YOU SUFFER FROM THE CRAMPING CONSTRICTION OF BRACES?****Cast them Aside!**Why keep your peace of mind precariously
suspended on six buttons?Free yourself of this sartorial tyranny
by joining**THE AGILE AND SOFORTH HIGHLANDERS**Come to Bonnie Scotland and breathe air
untainted by the Sassenach.**Startling Free Offer!**Illustrated six-page booklet entitled
"THE LEG COMPLEX"

By Major MAC'ICUP.

Author of "Kilts in the Wind," etc.

The above booklet will be sent absolutely free of charge on receipt of 2/6 (half a crown or two shillings and sixpence) to cover cost of postage, packing, etc. Don't lose a minute. Write at once to Advertising Manager, Depot The Agile and Soforth Highlanders, Scotland.
N.B.—Postage and packing subject to increase without notice.

LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR!**DOES IT MAKE YOU WINCE?**

Do you realise the danger you're in? Are you nervous? Weak? Flat chested? Flat footed? Spineless? Chinless? Are you the victim of bad habits? Have you a danger curve, hairpin bend or a blind corner?

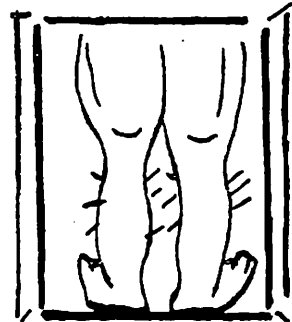
If so, join:—

THE JUKES (West Riding Ltd.)

All we ask is ninety days, just ninety days to put layer upon layer of good solid unpuncturable muscle all over you. You'll be crawling with it. You'll be bursting with vitality.

YOUR FRIENDS WON'T KNOW YOU!**YOUR CREDITORS MAY NOT!**

Women's eyes will tell you that you are man, all man.
The 100 per cent. Fighting Male. Write at once for
Free Booklet entitled "Muscle Muscle everywhere" to
The Depot, Jukes (Dept. 303), Halifax.

A Juke's result

Unretouched photo of the
back legs (relaxed) of our
physical expert, Capt.
"OXO" FAITHLESS.

One could go on indefinitely drawing up such—I think "layouts" is the correct term—but these are sufficient to illustrate the idea. If it meets with the approval of the powers that be, and any

officer experiences any difficulty, I shall be pleased to offer my services at a moderate fee. I am full of ideas from 9 p.m. onwards.

P.M.L.

PERSONALIA

The Colonel of the Regiment returned on June 2 from his visit to our allied regiment of the Canadian forces, Les Voltigeurs de Quebec. He was received with the greatest friendship and hospitality and had a splendid time.

He feels that he must have leisure to write an adequate account of his stay instead of trying to rush it into this number. The account will therefore appear in October.

Depot Ceremony

The rebuilt Queen Elizabeth Barracks of the Yorkshire Brigade H.Q. and Depot at Strensall were officially opened on June 11 by Lord James of Rusholme, Vice-Chancellor of York University.

A full account of the ceremony will doubtless appear in the next Brigade notes but it may be said now that it was a successful occasion. The weather was reasonably kind. Lord James,

after an amusing speech, unveiled a plaque on the wall of the Brigade H.Q. building. He was welcomed and thanked by Brigadier Cree, Colonel of the Prince of Wales's Own, deputising for General Exham as Representative Colonel.

Parties of guests were then led on conducted tours of the new buildings and duly admired the amenities, not to say luxury, displayed. After this they were entertained to drinks in the mess and an excellent buffet lunch in a marquee on the lawn.

We were unable to obtain a block of the unveiling so include, by courtesy of the *Yorkshire Post*, one of Lord James, accompanied by Lt.-Colonel Hugh Le Messurier, inspecting dinners.

We offer our congratulations to Lt.-Colonel Donald Isles who, as recorded in the Brigade notes on page 104, has been selected to succeed Lt.-Colonel Barry Kavanagh next year as C.O. of the 1st Battalion.

Congratulations, also, to Lt.-Colonel Tony Firth on his appointment to command 127 Inf. Bde. (T.A.) (we understand he is due back in England on August 15) and to Lt.-Colonel Jimmy Davidson on appointment as Brigade Colonel, The Yorkshire Brigade. The Dukes will have a strong team there with him, Major Graham Tedd and

Major "Ginger" Wellesley. The latter, incidentally, is keeping his brain active by learning Gaelic.

Mr. W. Robins, who has been R.S.M. of the 1st Battalion for two years, has been selected to attend a quartermasters' course at the R.A.S.C. Training Battalion, Aldershot, commencing in August. Assuming that he passes this successfully he will return to the 1st Battalion in January as quartermaster.



Whilst visiting units of the Norwegian forces stationed in Finmark, North Norway, Michael Bray met a Colonel K. Hjelvik who had served in The Dukes. The Colonel served as a captain in Iceland with the 1/6 Battalion under Colonel Lawlor. He was probably the platoon commander of the platoon of the Norwegian Army mentioned in the Regimental History as being attached to The Dukes at that time. The Colonel now commands a territorial unit at Banakas in Finmark.

Birth

On June 25, 1964, at the R.A.F. Hospital, Wroughton, Wilts., to Christel (née Müssigbrodt) and Major Nicholas Naughton—a daughter (Susan Margaret).

Adoption

By Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. J. C. Moncrieff, a daughter, Susan Mary, May 4, 1964, a sister for Charles.

We congratulate Captain Mike Campbell-Lamerton on being selected as a member of a team representing "World Rugby" which visited South Africa in the spring to celebrate the 75th anniversary of South African rugby. The side included players from the four home countries and Australia and New Zealand. The tour lasted 10 days and three matches were played, at Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

To be selected for it was as high a distinction as a rugby player could earn and a notable tribute to Mike's outstanding rugby career.

We also congratulate Captain Martin Summers on being selected to play for the Regular Army at cricket against the Territorial Army.

Major and Mrs. Ince have returned from Nigeria. He has been appointed G.S.O. (2) S.D., Headquarters Western Command, Chester.

Mr. Harry Randall, late R.S.M. of the 1st Battalion, has moved from the British Embassy, Vienna to the British Embassy, Sofia, Bulgaria.

S/Sgt. D. Brayshaw has been appointed Chief Clerk to the Trucial Oman Scouts at Sharjah, B.F.P.O. 64.

We congratulate Captain J. E. Pell on having been selected to attend the Staff College, Camberley. He joins in January 1965.

Brigadier and Mrs. Miles have sold Norfolk Farm House, Pyrford, and have moved to a flat at 71 Palace Court, London W.2.

Colonel and Mrs. Bishop, on the other hand, have left London as Colonel Bishop has retired from I.C.T. Their address is now: 29 Sherlock Close, Cambridge.

Skol Lager for Germany

The formation of a new international company to market SKOL means that this Ind Coope lager will be brewed in Germany and be available immediately to British Forces there.

In this connection, Colonel S. L. A. Carter will head a team of experts which will call on all units in B.A.O.R.

This is believed to be the first time that a lager originating in the U.K. has been made available to our troops in Germany.

We offer our belated congratulations to Colonel J. B. Sugden, T.D., J.P., on being appointed a deputy lieutenant of the West Riding.

We also congratulate Major J. E. Priestly and Mr. M. Ramsden on being appointed to the Halifax Bench of Magistrates.

Colonel George Taylor has been appointed a trustee of the Regimental Association funds.

Captain Campbell-Lamerton tells us that Major Jeffrey Reynolds has moved on from the hotel which he had near Capetown and is now managing the Country Club at Johannesburg. We believe that a former manager of this club was Mr. Michael Firth, brother of Lt. Colonel Tony Firth. Mr. Firth now runs a successful restaurant and night club in Johannesburg called the "Balalaika."

Colonel Harvey, who has been visiting his son in Rhodesia and thoroughly enjoying the trip, expects to start back towards England about the end of July. He hopes to travel home via the east coast of Africa.

When Mr. Harry Webster of Halifax, who served for many years with the 2nd Battalion, was recently on holiday in the south of England he paid a visit to Brigadier Fraser at his home, Haylands, Itchen Abbas, Winchester. Brigadier Fraser has been confined to his bed for some time but Mr. Webster found him in very good spirits.

Mr. Webster also paid a visit to Brigadier Burnett who was then in hospital in Eastbourne. We are glad to be able to report that Brigadier Burnett has since made a good recovery. He has left hospital and is back at his home, Forest Corner, Burley, Ringwood, Hampshire.

Many members of the Regiment will remember the Victoria Hall, Halifax. Some three years ago it was acquired by the Halifax Corporation. It has been completely redecorated and modernised and is now one of the finest municipal halls in the country.

Mr. J. Habishaw of North View, 71 Keighley Road, Illingworth, in a recent letter to *The Halifax Courier*, recalls a memory of the Victoria Hall at the beginning of World War I. He writes:

"I wonder how many people are aware that the Victoria Hall, so much in the news nowadays, was once used as a billet for a party of volunteer soldiers. In September 1914, a company of Kitchener's Army arrived at Halifax Barracks—and there was no room for them there. Consequently the lads were billeted in the Victoria Hall and marched to and from the Barracks daily for a week for training and meals, until they left the town for Frensham Common in the beautiful countryside of Surrey. We slept on the floor of the Victoria Hall—one blanket underneath, one blanket to cover us."

Some readers may perhaps share Mr. Habishaw's memories of the Victoria Hall 50 years ago.

Obituary

We greatly regret to announce the following deaths and, on behalf of the Regiment, offer our deep sympathy to the families of the deceased.

Mr. J. W. Casson

Mr. James William (Bill) Casson, aged 48, died in Huddersfield on May 22, 1964.

"Bill" joined the 1st Battalion after Depot training in 1934 at Aldershot and served in Malta. He joined the 2nd Battalion in India from Malta in 1935 and served with the Battalion until 1944, when he transferred to the Army Air Corps as a parachutist.

He was on operations in North-West Europe from 1944 and suffered severe injuries whilst dropping with the 6th Airborne Division on March 24, 1945.

He was invalided out of the Army in 1946, disabled, but his never failing cheerfulness and enthusiasm for the Band and Drums of The West Riding Battalion at their drill hall in St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield, made him a welcome and popular visitor.

In the words of his Commanding Officer on discharge—"A man who has served his country well at home and abroad"—and in the words of a gentleman with whom he stayed whilst convalescing from his injuries in the South of England—"the pluckiest man in the world"—a fitting last tribute.

Mr. H. R. Clinch

In the last number of THE IRON DUKE there appeared an interesting and amusing article by R.Q.M.S. J. Imray entitled "Matty—an Appreciation," which paid tribute to that great Regimental character C.S.M. H. R. Clinch.

It is very sad to have to record that by the time the article was being read "Matty" Clinch had died.

Herbert Richard Clinch joined the Regiment in 1913 and served with it throughout World War I in France and Germany. After the war he continued to serve in the Regiment and finally took his discharge in the rank of C.S.M. in 1936.

He rejoined the Regiment in 1940 and served at the I.T.C. at Halifax. He was C.S.M. of the Depot Company throughout World War II. In 1945 he resumed his civilian employment with the G.P.O. Halifax from which he retired in 1958.

He entered the Royal Hospital, Chelsea as an In-Pensioner in October 1963. He died on April 17, 1964 at the age of 67. His wife had pre-deceased him but he is survived by a sister and two sons. Major J. A. Lennon and In-Pensioners F. Stephenson and A. H. Hickie represented the Regiment at his funeral.

Mr. R. Pearce

Mr. R. Pearce, late R.S.M. of the 1st Battalion, died suddenly at Halifax on April 25, 1964. He was buried at Stoneyroyd Cemetery on April 30. The funeral was attended by representatives of the Sergeants' Mess, The West Riding Battalion, and of the Army Cadet Force, and by a large number of Old Comrades. A bearer party was provided by The West Riding Battalion.

Warrant Officer A. England writes:

"Bob Pearce enlisted in 1929 and served with C(MG) Company of the 1st Battalion in Devonport, Aldershot, and Malta. He was posted to the Depot as a P.T. Instructor in 1936. In 1940 he joined the 2/6th Battalion as a C.S.M. and was with that Battalion when it was converted into an R.A.C. Regiment in 1942.

After the war he rejoined the 1st Battalion at Khartoum and served with the Battalion in England, in Korea, and at Gibraltar as Regimental Sergeant Major. He left the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar to become R.S.M. of the Depot and finished his regular service at Halifax. He received a "Mention in Despatches" for his good work in Korea and was the holder of the Meritorious Service Medal.

On leaving the Army he became a licensee for a while and then became a storeman, a job he held until his death. Shortly after leaving the Regular Army he joined the 5/7th Battalion D.W.R. (T.A.) and served with that Battalion until 1961 when he joined the Army Cadet Force (D.W.R.) in Halifax.

Bob and I were very close friends for many years and served together continuously from 1929 to 1943. When I was made R.S.M. of the 2/6th Battalion in 1941 and had one of my many problems to solve I could always rely on Bob's commonsense and advice to make that problem become so much easier. He was a great believer in things "being right" and would pursue anything he believed in to the end to get it put right. He was not a bombastic type of man but in his own quiet way he could always manage to get that little bit extra from his men which others couldn't. He will be sadly missed by his numerous friends of all ranks in the Regular and Territorial Battalions, and particularly in the Army Cadet Force where he was a tower of strength.

He leaves a widow, Anne, and a son, Michael, to whom Bob was deeply attached and who will miss his father very much indeed."

Mr. O. Teal

Mr. Orissa Teal died in St. John's Hospital, Halifax on May 6, 1964 at the age of 59. Mr. Teal served in the Regiment from February 1924 until June 1940 when he transferred to the Army Physical Training Corps. He continued to serve in that corps until his discharge, in the rank of C.S.M. (I), in October 1945. Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E., represented the Regiment and Old Comrades Association at the funeral.

He leaves a widow, a son, and a daughter.

Commemoration of the "Sortie de Bayonne"

Ceremonies were held in Bayonne and Biarritz on Sunday, April 12, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the "*Sortie de Bayonne*" which was the last engagement of the Peninsular War and the last battle to be fought between French and British on the soil of France. The actual date of the *sortie* was April 14.

At the beginning of 1814 Wellington, with his mixed army of British, Portuguese and Spanish troops, had driven Marshal Soult's army out of Spain. Before continuing his march eastwards Soult posted a strong garrison in Bayonne under command of a very tough-minded soldier, General Thouvenot. Wellington, following up the retreating French army, left a force to invest Bayonne.

A series of engagements between the two main armies followed and on April 10, Soult was again defeated at Toulouse. Two days later news reached Wellington of Napoleon's abdication. Wellington immediately informed Soult and hostilities came to an end. Soult, it is presumed, sent a message to Thouvenot in Bayonne but the French garrison there made a gallant, if in the circumstance useless, *sortie* with heavy casualties on both sides, the French losing 900 men and the Allies 800.

The 76th Foot was part of the investing force but was in reserve at the time of the *sortie*, having been relieved from the outposts on the 12th. They were not, therefore, directly involved in the action but in some way contrived to lose one drummer in it. (Did the orderly room perhaps seize that last chance of returning as a casualty a man whom they had mislaid?)

The units chiefly concerned in the action were the Coldstream Guards and the Third (now (Scots) Guards. Their private soldiers were buried where they fell but the officers were interred in two little cemeteries just north of Bayonne. These are maintained by the proceeds of a trust fund set up by the sister of one of the dead officers, Captain Holburne, adjutant of the Third Guards. They have always been looked after voluntarily by members of the resident British community with unfailing and generous assistance from the Municipality of Bayonne.

The Memorial Porch

The officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the British Army who fell in the south-west of France from October 7, 1813, to April 14, 1814, are commemorated in the memorial porch of the anglican church of St. Andrew at Biarritz. Here are listed 63 British regiments which took part in the various engagements and their respective casualties.

As reported in a previous IRON DUKE this porch was damaged during the last war by bombs dropped by an Allied plane which had lost its way and thought it was jettisoning its bombs into the sea.

As the result of a successful appeal for funds,

to which the Regiment contributed, the porch has been restored and one of the events of the anniversary ceremonies was its re-dedication by the Bishop of Fulham.

Representatives of 23 regiments, out of the 63 named, were present at the ceremonies at which the Band and Drums of the Worcestershire Regiment played. Lt.-Colonel Donald Isles was to have represented the "Duke's" but was prevented from doing so by other duties. The British Military Attaché in Paris, Brigadier B. Wilson, D.S.O., kindly represented the regiment in his place.

From the London Gazette

Supplements dated 13th March to 2nd June, 1964

INFANTRY

D.W.R.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Class III

The following Lts. from A.E.Res. of Offrs., Nat. Serv. List, to be Lt.: S. F. B. Lowe, 6th May 1964; M. Crook, 20th May 1964.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Pte. David Harker Cole to be 2nd Lt. (on probation) 26th Apr. 1964.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Capt. (Hon. Maj.) R. A. Boxall, having attained the age limit, relinquishes his commn., 12th Apr. 1964, retaining the hon. rank of Maj.

ROYAL UNITED SERVICE HOME FOR GIRLS, NEWQUAY

The title of this home, which is for daughters (orphan or otherwise) of men and women below commissioned rank, has been changed. It is now to be known as "Alexandra House" (Royal United Service Home for Girls) Narrowcliff, Newquay, Cornwall.

At present 21 girls are permanently accommodated, although there is room for 28. It is hoped that in the future boys aged 5 to 9 years may also be accommodated. Further details can be found on page 10 of the "Advertiser" at the back of the Army List.

Retort not so Courteous

A recent exhibition of paintings in Cambridge included a sketch of the back view of the Great Duke done from life on the back of a menu card by C. R. Leslie, R.A. The sketch had belonged to Mr. John Murray, III, of the publishing firm, and a note attached to it recalled that he was once asked by the French explorer, de Chaillu, why he set such a store by the back view of the Duke. Mr. Murray replied: "I like it because it is the point of view the Frenchmen never saw."

More Reminiscences of a Subaltern in the Boer War 1899-1902

By the late Lt.-Colonel M. V. le P. Trench
(Continued from THE IRON DUKE, No. 132, page 93)

In August 1901 "B" and "F" Companies of the 1st Battalion were on detached duty in the Heckpoort Valley, south of the Magedisburg Range, west of Pretoria.

On 28th August we took over the *kopje* position from the Inniskillings. My blockhouse was very isolated and high up, and we had to complete it as it was only half finished; we also had to do the wiring round the perimeter. It was a very windy spot and we had to tie the roof on with wire anchored to the rocks to prevent it from being blown away. The only water was from a small spring which we had to open up to make a pool to dip our cans into, no easy job in the hard rock. The rock formation was most fantastic, many of them like mushrooms, with large rocks some tons in weight supported by slender stems.

General Barton came round on inspection on 2nd September and was very critical of our stone walling, which we had to pull down and re-build at a different angle. He was a fussy old thing though nice socially.

We had news today that a draft of young soldiers from England coming to join the regiment were ambushed near Waterval, their train being blown up with many casualties. Some time later I received a full account of it from Acworth, who was on the train. (*This account was published in THE IRON DUKE No. 37, of June 1937, so is not included here.—Ed.*)

On 7th September we heard heavy firing to the north, guns and pompoms, and through my glasses I could see shells bursting over some small conical *kopjes* some miles away, and a lot of mounted troops. Later we heard that Allenby's column had surprised a Boer *laager* at Skeerkraal.

On the 9th we marched to Gun Hill near Nootgedacht, which was held by the Camerons, and the following day on to Groblers Pass, seven miles to the west. Greenwood and Taylor with F. company left that day for Pretoria.

We took up positions on the east side of the pass, with the K.O.S.B.s holding the west side. The *kopjes* here consisted of a series of ridges with huge rocks, many of fantastic shapes, and one had to climb on one's hands and knees at times. The weather had turned very cold and the nights were bitter bivouacking. We were kept very busy building platforms and walls for blockhouses, the R.E.s putting up the superstructure. One's hands got very torn, and many of us got veld sores which were most painful and difficult to cure. One I had under a fingernail required the removal of the nail. The wind blew constantly and was so strong at night that one had difficulty in keeping one's blankets round one.

On the 15th we were relieved by the K.O.S.B.s and marched down to the *nek*, where we spent a miserable night in a gale of wind and heavy rain, which continued all next morning as we marched back to Gun Hill and joined some of the Lincolns and Yeomanry. Becher was down with fever so we pitched the Boer tent we had found on one of our patrols and he was able to get some sleep. Another storm with thunder and lightning swept the valley and nearly blew the tent away. All our belongings were soaked, and our dinner too, and all our poor cook could produce was some cold soup and moist bread and cheese.

Fortunately next day was sunny and we were able to get things dried. Harman and I rode over to Nootgedacht to see the site of General Clements' disaster. There were graves dotted about and piles of cartridges where a M.I. post of the Camerons had held out all day; the skeletons of their horses were still lying with their halters tied to trees where they had been picketed. Burnt wagons, equipment, helmets, etc. were lying about all over the place.

On 18th September we had the worst thunder-storm of any we had had, starting just as we finished dinner. The lightning was continuous, lighting up the whole countryside. Our tent seemed to be standing up to it when a sudden gust blew it away leaving us shivering in pouring rain. It was so ludicrous we all burst out laughing, but we spent a miserable night.

On 20th we marched to Bells Drift two miles from Skeerpoort, and on 21st to Reitfontein, where the Lincolns headquarters were, and had a very good dinner with them and tents to sleep in. They had their band there and it all seemed very civilised after our long spell in the wilds. Harman and I visited the hospital next day and had tea with the nurses, luxury indeed! They told us that the recent storm had blown down some of the tents and patients had to be carried into those that remained standing.

On 23rd we marched to Zilicatz Nek just opposite Reitfontein to build blockhouses there. My post was on the top of the ridge, the highest point we had ever been on, and the view was magnificent. One could see all along our range and the valley to the west and, on the south, the mines near Johannesburg. There was no water and it, with our rations, had to be brought up on mules. Harman and I built the platforms and walls of two blockhouses; natives carried up the shields and roofs, and we completed them by 4th October.

(to be continued)



T. F. FIRTH & SONS LTD

*Makers of fine Carpets
and Furnishing Fabrics*

HECKMONDWIKE and BRIGHOUSE, YORKSHIRE

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

REMEMBER THE DATE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION DINNER, 1964

The annual general meeting and reunion dinner are to be held on **Saturday, September 26, 1964, at the West Riding Battalion's Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax.**

The A.G.M. will be held at 5.30 p.m. in the sergeants' mess. The dinner is at 7.15 p.m.; price of tickets 10/- each, obtainable from the General Secretary at R.H.Q. or from Branch Secretaries.

Regimental Benevolent Funds 1963/64

1. Introducing the annual audited accounts once again it is gratifying this year—the first full year of the operation of the new investment scheme—to be able to report how successful and wise was the trustees' decision in 1962 to go ahead with the scheme.

The wider range investments (equities) show an all-round capital appreciation since their purchase and an even more material feature is the increase in annual income to all elements of the benevolent funds, as under (to nearest £1):—

R.A. Fund	by £65
O.C.A. Fund	by £21
McGuire Bate Fund	by £39
Mitchell Trust Fund	by £10

2. During the year the trustees authorised the undermentioned share purchases:—

O.C.A.

250 Thos. Tilling £1 Cum. Pref. Shares, 6½%.

McGuire Bate

25 £1 Ord. Stock Units, British Insulated Callender's Cables Ltd. (A free rights issue of 25 £1 Ordinary Stock Units in that Company was also received.)

S. E. CODE,
Treasurer.

(The accounts are set out on the following pages 136 and 137.)

London and Home Counties Branch

The annual re-union dinner of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Regimental Association was extremely well attended when it was held at the Victory Club, Seymour Street, London, W.1., on Saturday, May 9.

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. Dave Benson.

The function was attended by approximately 90 people, 80 of whom sat down to dinner. I was very

pleased to see the Halifax and Huddersfield Branches supporting us so well, also the four Chelsea Pensioners. I wonder what happened to the Gosport Branch this year?

Prior to the dinner many old friendships were renewed in the bar, and it was good to see some of the very old members of the London Branch who go back to the Hand Court, Holborn, days of long ago.

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 Dave Benson and "Sax" Rowlands respectively. 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, 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 1st Battalion's activities in Germany. A number of members of the London Branch live in hopes of seeing the 1st Battalion in Germany if a trip takes place at some future date.

In conclusion I hope that everyone had an enjoyable evening and that "God willing" we shall all meet again in 1965 at the Victory Club on Rugby League Cup Final Night.

R. H. TEMPLE,
Hon. secretary London Branch.

Those present included:—
Brigadier Webb-Carter; Colonels Armitage and Turner; Lt-Colonels Dalrymple and Skelsey; Majors Davis, Huffam, Lennon, Randall, Scott; Captains Bolton, T. Dalton; R.Q.M.S. J. Imray; In-Pensioners A. Hickie, G. Shaw, W. Simmonds, F. Stephenson; Messrs. S. Ambler, A. M. Ancill and wife, D. P. Benson, A. E. Burton, D. Coppack, F. Crouch, S. Gill, G. A. Greagsbey, G. Guy, D. W. Hammond, Mrs. Hearsum and daughter, J. Hartwell, J. S. Lewis, J. McGovern, A. R. Martin, R. Owers, M. Reed, F. W. S. Richardson, Sgt. Swift, A. Sykes, R. H. Temple, K. Walker, E. S. Watkins and 33 members of the Halifax and Huddersfield branches.

ASK YOURSELF

Have you enjoyed this issue?

Have you any news which would be of interest to other readers?

If so, send it along.

Have you any constructive suggestions for improving the Journal?

Have you changed, or are you about to change, your address?

If so, tell the Business Manager.

Is your annual subscription due for renewal?

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