

No.134 October 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 Suwla  
Afghanistan 1919  
North-West Europe  
1940, 1944-45  
Dunkirk 1940  
St. Valery-en-Caux  
Fontenay-le-Pesnil  
Djeboul Bou Aoukaz 1943  
Anzio  
Monte Ceco  
Eurma 1942, '43, '44  
Sittang 1942  
Chindits 1944  
The Hook 1953  
Korea 1952-53

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### BUSINESS NOTES

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*Editor:* COLONEL R. G. TURNER,  
12A MADINGLEY ROAD,  
CAMBRIDGE  
TEL.: 50923

*Business Manager:* LT.-COL. W. SKELSEY, M.B.E.,  
WELLESLEY PARK,  
HALIFAX

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**A VISIT TO LES VOLTIGEURS** (see page 150)

The Colonel of the Regiment being greeted on arrival by (left to right) Colonel P. Matte, Honorary Colonel Rt. Hon. Louis St.-Laurent, P.C., Q.C., LL.D. and Lt.-Colonel P. E. Defoy, C.D.

# THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

## THE ANNUAL RE-UNION

Owing to the illness of the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Webb-Carter presided at the annual reunion dinner of the Regimental Association which was held at the Prescott Street T.A. Centre, Halifax, on September 26.

This year being the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Kaiser's war the theme of the dinner was Mons. Veterans of that battle had a place of honour and the hall was decorated with relics of 1914. These included the "Mons drum" and a panel of photographs from that period while from the balcony a figure dressed in the uniform of the "contemptible little army" looked down on the proceedings.

In addition to the normal toasts Mr. S. E. Code, general secretary of the Association, proposed one to "The Old Contemptibles." This was responded to by Mr. F. A. O'Kelly, M.M., who joined the Regiment in 1904; he said that, at Mons and after, they had shown the Kaiser what they thought of the title he had accorded them. Major-General Ozanne, who was M.G. officer with the 2nd Battalion at Mons, proposed the toast to The Regiment and recalled his memories of 1914.

### A Message from the Colonel

Brigadier Webb-Carter, in responding, read out the following message from General Exham:

*I am so sorry that I cannot be with you this evening the 50th anniversary of Mons, a battle in which our old and well loved 2nd Battalion gained glory for all time in their epic fight with the German Fusilier Guard. General Ozanne—himself an "old contemptible" of renown and a great "Duke" if ever there was one—will have told you the splendid story of that battle. This was in the true tradition of the "Duke's" and our younger soldiers have kept the standard, set them by their fathers and grandfathers, both in World War II and in engagements since then.*

*This is an historic night when we should remember with pride those who have gone before us, the work they have done for us and our country and their fine example of courage and endurance.*

*Best wishes to all Old Comrades and especially to the "Old Contemptibles."*

Brigadier Webb-Carter said that next year we would be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the battle of Waterloo. We could hardly expect to have any survivors of the 33rd but it was a great occasion in the Regiment's history.

He then reviewed current affairs of the Regiment and referred to our loss of Brigadier Hugh Fraser and Mr. Tom McMahan.

He expressed pleasure at the presence of the Mons veterans, of two of our Chelsea Pensioners and of Colonel Bentley, Honorary Colonel of the West Riding Battalion, and Lt.-Colonel Moncrieff, its C.O., by whose courtesy we were able to meet in the drill hall. He also thanked Mr. Innes, the Halifax Museums Director, for the display of historic items.

During dinner the band of the West Riding Battalion played part of a programme of music which was played by the orchestra of the 2nd Battalion before King George V at Valenciennes in December 1918.

Messages of good wishes were received from the following who were unable to attend: Brigadier Burnett, Colonel Ince, Major Scott, Major Driver, Major Dixon, Sgt. Major Harrison, D.C.M., M.M., and from R.S.M. E. Mosely, Harry Hagger (Oggie Weeks) and Bill Blower who were, all three, Mons veterans, unable to attend owing to illness.

### The Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Regimental and Old Comrades Associations was held before the dinner. Brigadier Webb-Carter was in the chair and some 50 members were present.

The only item arising out of the minutes of the previous meeting was the proposal to establish an O.C.A. club room in Halifax. Captain H. Rowlands reported that his letter outlining the proposal had been published in the local newspapers but had produced no response so he had decided not to pursue the matter.

The general secretary then gave his report, which is on page 185, and the accounts were passed.

The chairman commented on the generosity of Captain Middleton-Hands who won the regimental sweepstake and who donated half his prize to the Association. He noted that the sale of tickets had on the whole been satisfactory but that disappointingly few had been sold in the 1st Battalion.

## REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

### Huddersfield Branch

The Branch is endeavouring to hold a social evening once a month. A Committee has been formed to arrange programmes for these Socials. The Committee will meet the 2nd Friday of each month.

To date, two social evenings have been held and we were delighted to welcome guests from Halifax and Denby Dale. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by all. Owing to Annual Camp, Huddersfield Holiday period and the Regimental annual dinner at Halifax, our next social will be held on the last Friday in October.

We are sorry to report that one of our members, Albert Shaw, was recently involved in an accident at work, with the result that he has now lost part of a leg. We are pleased to say that he is improving and is cheerful.

While visiting Albert Shaw at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, I met an old 2nd Battalion man, Ted Shaw, who lost his leg about 2½ years or more ago, as a result of an accident at his work. He was receiving treatment, but was cheerful.

## REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

We have suffered a great loss by the death of Tom McMahon. His services to us and to the Regiment are described elsewhere in this issue. Two other Halifax friends, Geoffrey Butler and Miss Katie Roscoe, have also died recently.

We have been pleased to see a number of visitors this last quarter—there is also, of course, a steady flow of soldiers on leave from the 1st Battalion in Germany who try to show us reason why their leave should be prolonged.

On August 4, anniversary of the outbreak of the first world war, we had the pleasure of a visit from Jock O'Kelly, one of our Old Contemptibles. On another of his visits he found himself in the unusual position of junior soldier, as Frank Harte had been brought over from Rotherham by his niece, Miss Winifred Harte.

The Harte family featured in the 1935 IRON DUKE, Volume II. Frank Harte joined the 1st Bn. in 1893 and served in the Boer and 1914-18 war. From our archives we produced a letter written by his father, Q.M.S. Charles Harte, in 1855 which, with Frank's permission, is reproduced elsewhere. Charles Harte married Sophia Harper, of another famous regimental family, so readers of his letter may wonder what happened to his "Fair Maid of Perth."

We were also very pleased to receive a visit from Major Monty Banks. He originally joined the 1st Battalion as a drummer before the war and served in Aldershot, Malta and Borden. He finished his service with the Regiment as R.S.M. just after the war. Later he transferred to the R.E.M.E. where he was commissioned. He has just returned from Singapore where he saw quite a lot of Majors John Milligan and Bill Blakey. His next appointment is with 46 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., Holywood Barracks, County Down.

We also had a visit from Mr. M. Reed of 5, Devonport Hill, Devonport. Mr. Reed served for many years in the Regiment eventually taking his discharge in the rank of C.S.M. He is now a Barrack Inventory Accountant at Plymouth and cast a critical and professional eye over our furnishing arrangements.

Thanks to the kindness of many friends in providing the funds and to some excellent work by the head of our Parks Department (Mr. Prince) we now have a modest lawn, some elegant flowering shrubs and a very respectable show of roses. Not yet quite, perhaps, of a sufficient standard to appease the severe judgement of the Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion, but we are trying.

No major structural alterations have yet been made in our old Depot. The playing fields, however, are in excellent condition. They are still being maintained by Mr. E. Jones, the father-in-law of Captain Bob Callaby, who has looked after them with expert care for many years. It is very satisfying to know that they are still in such good hands.

### THE REGIMENTAL SWEEPSTAKE

The following were the prize-winners in the Regimental sweepstake on the St. Leger:

1st (£100), Indiana—Captain H. Middleton-Hands, Long Compton, Warwickshire.

2nd (£50), Patti—John Gadd, Soynle Cottage, Prinstead, near Emsworth, Hants.

3rd (£25), Soderini—Andrew Bassett, H.Q. 146 Brigade, York.

4th (£10), I Titan—Brigadier Bunbury, 16 Lancaster Road, SW19.

Runners—£1 each

Sunseeker—D. Bentham, c/o Green Hall Farm, North Rigton, Leeds.

Sunny Prince II—G. J. White, 20 Argyle Terrace, Burley, Leeds 4.

Fighting Charlie—S. Slee, 1 Forest Close, Harrogate.

Nicarion—Jane M. Randall, 14 Faircross Way, St. Albans.

Windmill Girl—??? (Ticket No. 04550).

Onsidium—Pte. C. T. Robson, Quebec Platoon.

Beaufront—Pte. Field, Training Company, Yorkshire Brigade Depot.

Anselmo—Richard J. Pugh, Tymawr, Penegoes, Machynlleth.

Dieu Soleil—J. Edwards, H.Q. Company, West Riding Battalion.

Impact—Mrs. B. Sayer, 12 Railway Cottages, Gilliedyke, Brough.

White Label II—J. H. Smith, 4 Swincar Avenue, Yeadon.

Earldom—W. J. Falconbridge, 34 Church Lane, Fakenham, Norfolk.

## King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers

Many officers will have received a copy of the Sister Agnes Extension Appeal brochure and I have also had one as Colonel. For some years since the war the Regiment has subscribed £15 a year from our charitable funds and this subscription, which has now been taken over from us by the Army Benevolent Fund, will be continued.

I feel, however, that the appeal is very much a matter for individual officers and that the best way those of us who subscribe to Sister Agnes can help is by converting our present subscriptions into covenants. To those who do not already subscribe I recommend the appeal as in every way worthy of our support.

*K. G. Exham*

## DRESS REGULATIONS

### Decorations with Dinner Jackets

The *London Gazette* of September 1 announced a new court ruling that stars and badges of the orders of chivalry may now be worn with dinner jackets.

Permission was given in 1948, as a temporary measure, for miniatures of orders, decorations and medals to be worn with dinner jackets "by those not in possession of full evening dress".

The new instructions for dinner jacket dress state that not more than one star (or the badge of a knight bachelor) and one neck badge will be worn. The star will be worn on the left breast and the neck badge close up below the tie.

The number of miniature badges and medals, worn on a medal bar, is not limited.

On occasions when decorations are to be worn, invitations should state either "Evening dress decorations" (signifying white tie with full orders, decorations and miniatures) or "Dinner jacket decorations" (signifying black tie with orders, decorations and miniatures as described above).

### Wearing of uniform by retired WOs & NCOs

By ACI/49/64, recently published, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of substantive rank who retire or are discharged from the Army having completed not less than ten years unbroken service on a regular engagement, and in possession of a military character assessed not lower than "Very good" may, upon retirement or discharge and upon making application, be granted permission in writing by the appropriate officer i/c Records, to wear a prescribed uniform under the conditions and upon the occasions set out in the following paragraphs. Permission once granted remains in force until withdrawn.

**Conditions:** (a) Only the current pattern of No. 1 or No. 2 Dress or Mess Dress may be worn. When worn the uniform will always carry the letter 'R' above the badge of rank on each sleeve. The symbol 'R' will be of metal as for officers, 4/10ins. high, 3/10ins. wide.

(b) The uniform will be provided at the wearer's expense and when worn shall conform to the standard of repair and smartness required of a Service W.O. or Sergeant.

**Occasions:** A uniform prescribed as above may be worn when attending:

- (a) An officially-sponsored function in celebration of the Sovereign's (official) Birthday;
- (b) an officially-sponsored function in connection with Remembrance Day;
- (c) a regimental function in barracks or any other military establishment, with the approval of the appropriate military authority;
- (d) any occasion concerning which a special War Office announcement has been made regarding the wearing of uniform.

Application to wear uniform other than on the above occasions will be made in writing on each occasion to the appropriate officer i/c Records. Applications to wear uniform outside the United Kingdom will not be granted.

All warrant officers and sergeants who may wish to avail themselves of this permission should note that it is a privilege which if abused may be withdrawn either generally or in a specific instance. They are also warned that the wearing of uniform must not contravene the provisions of the Uniform Act, 1894.

### *From the London Gazette*

*Supplements dated June 5 to August 11*

#### MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

##### REGULAR ARMY

Col. G. S. Powell, M.C., late Inf., retires on retired pay, 4th July 1964.

##### INFANTRY

###### D.W.R.

##### REGULAR ARMY

The following 2nd Lts. to be Lt., 21st June 1964:

C. G. Edwards, J. F. B. Power.

Capt. J. M. Newton to be Maj., 3rd Aug. 1964 with precedence in the Yorkshire Bde. next below M. A. Stevenson, P.W.O., and above I. P. Tennent, Y. & L.

##### TERRITORIAL ARMY

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the Territorial Efficiency Decoration upon Capt. R. A. Hawkins and Capt. R. C. Wilson.

L/Cpl. John Bertram Widdop to be 2nd Lt. (on probation) 29th June 1964.



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# A VISIT TO LES VOLTIGEURS DE QUÉBEC

By The Colonel of the Regiment

Last year our friends Les Voltigeurs de Québec celebrated their centenary in the Canadian Militia and kindly sent me an invitation to visit them this spring. This I was able to accept, through the help of the War Office, and on 21st May I set off from London Airport by BOAC. A short six hours or so later my luxury Boeing 707 landed me safely at Dorval Airport, Montreal, where I was met by Major General Fleury, now GOC Quebec Command, who had been Area Commander in Quebec when I was last in Canada at the time that our Alliance was first made. The General drove me round Montreal in his car and then put me onto the plane for Quebec and this personal kindness was typical of the consideration shown to me throughout my visit.

## Reception

At Quebec airport I found a tremendous reception party in the shape of The Hon. M. St. Laurent, Honorary Colonel of Les Voltigeurs and a former



Men of Les Voltigeurs in full dress uniform

Prime Minister of the Dominion, Colonel Francois Matte, a former C.O. of Les Voltigeurs and now commanding the Quebec Militia Group, and Lieut. Colonel Paul Defoy the present Commanding Officer. Tony Firth had also driven up from Ottawa to complete the party. There was also a formidable press contingent as a result of which I appeared that night on Quebec television.

After introductions we drove straight to the famous Chateau Frontenac hotel where my kind hosts had reserved me a most comfortable suite of rooms overlooking the St. Lawrence river. Most appropriately the first thing one saw from the sitting room window was the memorial column to Montcalm and Wolfe. Tony had arranged drinks for us and we had a great talk before dining privately with Francois Matte at his club. Then back again to my delightful quarters and so to bed for my first night in Canada for ten years.

## La Citadelle

The next morning I was collected by Colonel Paul Defoy who took us on a tour of La Citadelle where we saw the very fine chapel and museum of the Royal 22e Regiment. The position of the old fortress looking out across the narrows of the St. Lawrence river is most commanding and impressive. The museum is in the care of Major Guy Belleau, himself an ex-Voltigeur, and he well remembered meeting Brigadier Brian Webb-Carter when he visited Quebec. After our tour the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel John Closson, joined us in his Mess where Tony got into a great conversation with Capt. Roger Gigers whose company was relieved by "B". Coy 1 DWR on the Naechon position in the closing phase of the Korean war. I was by this time thoroughly enjoying myself talking my way through the Reichswald battle with Lieut.-Colonel Closson and Paul Defoy.

Paul took us to lunch at The Holiday Inn and in the afternoon we called on the Mayor of Quebec City. I signed the visitors' book and was presented with a fine shield as a souvenir which I have sent up to the Regimental Museum.

## Guest Night

In the evening Les Voltigeurs held a guest night in my honour at the Garrison Club. This was a truly magnificent affair at which I was presented with a plaque bearing the crests and badges of both our regiments beautifully carved on maple wood in the Quebec style. In return, I gave them a picture of the officers of the 76th wearing their winter uniforms when stationed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1890. Paul Defoy and M. St. Laurent made very friendly speeches of welcome and I replied—in French, of course! Altogether it was a night to remember and a wonderful opportunity to meet so many Voltigeurs, past and present. I must make mention of their excellent regimental band which was one of the best I have heard.



#### THE CHURCH PARADE

General Exham talking to R.S.M. (W.O.1) P. E. Ouellet, C.D. Behind can be seen Colonel St. Laurent and Lt.-Colonel Tony Firth

On Saturday the 23rd we had a quiet morning and after lunch drove round the Isle of Orleans. It was here that Wolfe first landed his army and we drove past the house where he had his headquarters. We also saw some wonderful old village churches, including some fine early eighteenth century carvings in wood. Paul Defoy was our untiring and excellent guide. We finished the tour at The Manoir Saint Castin at Lac Beauport where Tony and I entertained Francois Matte and Paul Defoy and their wives to dinner overlooking the beautiful lake in the shadow of the mountains.

#### Regimental Association

After dinner we returned to Quebec and went to a gathering of the Regimental Association in the Sergeants Mess at The Armoury. Here I presented a silver salver to the RSM on behalf of the Warrant officers and sergeants of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and Tony personally presented a picture of the Regiment in the Crimea as a souvenir of his pleasant visits to the mess during his time in Canada. I was then given a set of regimental cuff links by RSM P. E. Ouellet on behalf of the Sergeants Mess which was very nice. To round off the evening I presented the RSM

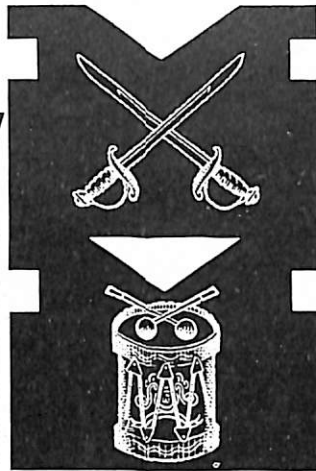
with a "Dukes" tie which he immediately put on amid scenes of considerable enthusiasm. Altogether a very happy occasion in a typical Old Comrades' atmosphere.

#### Church Parade

On Sunday morning, Tony and I, in ceremonial No. 1 dress, attended Battalion Church Parade at The Armoury conducted by Major (Padre) Fortier after which I addressed them (in French again!) and took the salute as the Battalion and their cadets marched past down the Grande Allée. We all then went back to the mess for a very pleasant drinks party where I was able to meet the wives of the officers and to see my old friend, Colonel Don Corbett, who commanded Les Voltigeurs when our Alliance was first formed. We were taken out to lunch at the well-known Vendome Restaurant; this was a great gathering, including the Mattes, the Corbetts, the Roberges, and the Defoys. In the evening I arranged a dinner party for Capt. Peter Wainwright, who is the British Exchange Officer with the 3rd Battalion of the Royal 22e Regiment, and his Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Marcel Richard, with their wives. I was thus able to make a personal contact



A MILITARY



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with the Royal 22e Regiment, a pleasant task which General Hugh Stockwell, the Colonel of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, their Allied Regiment, had given me.

#### Farewell Lunch

Monday the 25th was the last day of my Quebec visit and we left the Chateau Frontenac, with Paul Defoy, and toured Camp Valcartier, some twelve miles out in the country, including the Canadian Army Research and Development Establishment. Camp Valcartier is the home station of the Royal 22e Regiment, La Citadelle being their Depot. We had a farewell lunch in the Headquarters Officers' Mess as guests of Colonel La Haye, the Commander Eastern Quebec Area. M. St. Laurent, Colonel Roberge, Colonel Matte, Lieut.-Colonel Defoy and Lieut.-Colonel Corbett were all there and it was a very pleasant way to say goodbye after such a perfect visit.

After lunch, Tony and I drove off down the north shore of the St. Lawrence, through some lovely French-Canadian countryside to Montebello on the Ottawa River where we were to be the guests of Mr. Robert Bright at the Seigneurie Club. We had an excellent dinner and retired to bed early, having made our plans for fishing the next day.

#### The Seigneurie

The Seigneurie is based on the old timber manor house of the original French-Canadian estate and is probably the biggest "log cabin" in North America. It is a country club, providing every kind of sporting amenity, including fishing and shooting, golf and winter sports. The club itself is magnificently equipped and every creature comfort is there for its members to enjoy after their outdoor pursuits. Needless to say we enjoyed them all to the full.

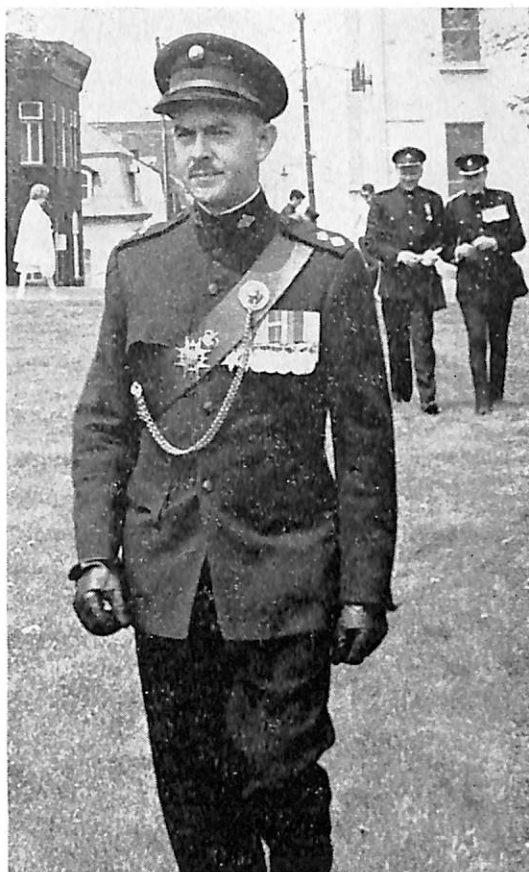
For the next two memorable days we fished on some beautiful Quebec lakes, in lovely weather, and got some big grey trout. Robert Bright was a most kind and generous host and this was two wonderful days' fishing. Tony and I were together in one boat and we got our limit of ten fish the first day and had seven the second.

#### Ottawa

On the evening of the 27th, Tony drove me down to his house in Ottawa where Alec and a delightful dinner were waiting for us. Early to bed and dreams of more fishing days ahead.

Next day, the 28th, I called on the Governor-General and then had a most interesting morning with Mr. Donald Thompson, the Secretary of the Royal Canadian Legion, in my capacity as representative of the Nigerian Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Association on the Council of the Commonwealth Ex-Services League. Donald Thompson arranged a lunch party for me afterwards where I met many of the senior officials of the Royal Canadian Legion. As a result of this contact the Secretary of the Nigerian Legion has been invited officially to visit Canada.

In the evening, Brigadier Peter Bradley, the Senior British Army Liaison Officer, and his wife gave a supper party for me in his house and I met many Canadian Army Officers, including General and Mrs. Bernatchez, and Colonel and



Lt.-Colonel P. E. Defoy, C.D., C.O. of  
Les Voltigeurs

Mrs. Dick Ross—he was commanding the Canadian Black Watch in Korea at the time when General Bobby Bray was commanding a brigade there.

On May 29th I called on the British Deputy High Commissioner and afterwards General Bernatchez, as VCGS and the senior serving French-Canadian in Ottawa, gave me lunch at the Army Headquarters Mess and we were able to talk about the alliance and future plans for exchanging visits. Brigadier Turcot, DGMT and also an old "Vandoo," was with us and we had a very amusing party.

#### Wolves

After tea, Tony drove me and Robert Bright up the Gatineau valley to his own fishing club at Lac St. Germain. It was quite a long walk through the woods from where we had to park the car to where the boat met us to take us across the lake to the clubhouse; but a tractor had been thoughtfully provided to carry our kit. We were soon out on the water, in the last of the daylight and, as the moon rose, I heard for the first time the howling of Canadian wolves in the forest around the lake.

Here we had another very pleasant and successful two days' fishing in really lovely surroundings and got back to Ottawa in time for tea on the 31st of May. Our "bag" included speckled trout and "truites rouges," or Marstoni trout, which are quite

# Fillans

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unique to Quebec. We were told that the weekend of our visit was the record catch of the Club and I am glad to say we made a satisfactory contribution.

On the 1st June, we left Ottawa for Kingston where I called on the Commandant of the Royal Military College and had lunch with him in their fine new officers' mess overlooking Lake Ontario.

Afterwards we visited the museum and saw the items which the Regiment had presented. These were well displayed and very nicely mounted. We also visited Old Fort Henry nearby where the 76th served on several occasions in the early nineteenth century. Unfortunately heavy rain washed out the guard mounting ceremony which I had been particularly anxious to see.

In the evening Tony had organised a cocktail party in the Canadian Staff College Mess where I met the Commandant and some of the directing staff and many other interesting people, including the two British students and their wives. One of these was Major Ashforth of the York and Lancaster Regiment who kindly took me out to dinner afterwards. Tony had to get back to Ottawa that night and I was thus unfortunately deprived of his magnificent support for my last day.

After a very comfortable night at the Staff College I left early by car for Montreal with a Canadian Army conducting officer who took me round Upper Canada Village near Morrisburg and the battlefield at Chrysler's Farm on the way. I was particularly interested in this battle, fought in 1813, where two famous British regular regiments, the 49th and 89th, supported by local fencible units and Canadian voltigeurs defeated a vastly superior American force on its way to capture Montreal. The battle was entirely decisive and undoubtedly saved Canada.

It was a lovely sunny day and the St. Lawrence Valley was looking its best as we drove along the edge of the river. That evening I took off from Dorsal on my return trip to England.

#### A Memorable Visit

Throughout the whole of my time in Canada and with Les Voltigeurs I was everywhere received with the greatest kindness and the most generous hospitality. Everything possible was done by my hosts to ensure my comfort and to make the official side of the visit a success. As an example of the thoughtfulness of Paul Defoy and his officers my wife received a lovely box of flowers from Les Voltigeurs the day after I left for Canada.

A truly memorable visit for me in every way and one that has, I am sure, helped to make our alliance with Les Voltigeurs a live and worthwhile affair. It was my great good fortune to have Tony Firth to look after me and I am most grateful to him for all the trouble he took to arrange my programme and also to Alec for her charming hospitality in Ottawa.

It remains now for us to arrange a reciprocal visit by Colonel Defoy and I have officially invited him to come to England and BAOR next year as our guest.

*J. G. Exham*

# THE YORKSHIRE BRIGADE

## NOTES

The first notable event during the period under review was the Presentation of Colours at Strensall to the 3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal on Saturday, June 27 in the presence of a number of distinguished guests.

This was followed on July 3 by the Brigade Summer Ball which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. It was nice to see so many members of the Brigade present although our four regiments were overseas.

### Cricket Week

The following week was the Brigade Cricket Week which ended with honours fairly even. On the Monday and Tuesday we played The Lancastrian Brigade and beat them for the second time this season. This match was notable for the fine batting and bowling of Lt. Ian Reid, DWR, who scored a century, and Lt. Robin Newell, DWR, who got 65 after having taken 7 wickets for 5 runs.

On the Wednesday we played The Free Foresters who had in their team Major General Gordon Upjohn and Brigadier Pip Moran. Aply led by the latter, and after some resolute hitting by the former, they beat but did not disgrace us.

Thursday brought the Harrogate Druids and a drawn game. Friday saw a combined officers' and sergeants' team play the corporals, in what was the most exciting game of the week—the officers and sergeants winning in the end by one wicket. The final game was against The Yorkshire Gentlemen which they won fairly comfortably.

The weather was kind and all who played and watched had a most enjoyable week.

### Quartermasters

Our congratulations go to Lts. (QM) E. Mottram and N. D. Taylor, PWO, on their appointment to regular commissions and to RSM J. W. Peterson, on his appointment to a short service quartermaster commission.

The following changes in the quartermasters' field are imminent! Captain A. H. Sedgewick moves from 1 to 4/5 Green Howards this autumn, Lt. J. W. Peterson having already arrived at 1 Green Howards; Captain W. N. Oliver goes from 4/5 Green Howards to the Army School of Civil Defence, Devizes.

### Depot Commander

Lt.-Col. John Sanderson, Y & L, took over command of the Depot from Lt.-Col. Hugh Le Messurier DWR, on August 1. The latter will be remaining in Strensall for some time learning Serbo-Croat—a special course having been arranged for him in York—prior to assuming the appointment of Military Attaché Belgrade in June next year.

### Visitors

Amongst recent visitors to Strensall have been Majors J. A. Davies, Green Howards, W. F. C. Robertson and D. H. Wood, DWR, Captains Emery and Wood, Y & L. Lt.-Col. John Scott

commanding 1 Green Howards also paid us one of his periodic visits, this time on the termination of a COs' signal course at Hythe.

### Recruiting

To turn to recruiting once again. After the good month of April, due to the introduction of adult enlistment at the age of 17, recruiting fell during May and June to the usual average of 35-40 per month and then again fell disastrously to only 26 in July and only 33 in August. The reason for this is not apparent; it is always said that recruiting is bad during the summer holiday period but records show that this has not been true, anyhow as far as this Brigade is concerned, until this year. There are slight signs of a revival but great efforts will be needed to make good the bad figures of July and August. At present about one third of recruits enlisting on an adult engagement are under 17½.

Enlistment of juniors is much healthier and 26 boys are due to join the Junior Soldiers Company at the Brigade for the autumn term.

### Youth Teams

All army youth teams of the Brigade have had an extremely busy summer and have attended many shows all over the county.

In addition a team of two officers and twelve soldiers from the 1st Bn The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, together with 9 AYT, toured the West and East Riding of Yorkshire from July 20 to August 20.

The team aimed to show to the public in the two Ridings the new range of infantry support weapons. A small stand consisting of three vehicles, Wombat, 81 mm mortar, Carl Gustav, GPMG, was set up for two days in Hull and for one day in Beverley, Drifffield, Bridlington, and Hornsea. The stand attracted much attention in all these towns. Over the August Bank holiday the KAPE team formed part of a large army display at the Roundhay Gala at Leeds. The last week of the tour was spent with the East Riding Army Cadets at Weymouth. Here the team assisted the cadets with their training. During the stay they laid on demonstrations of watermanship, section tactics, gave a display of new infantry support weapons, and coached the cadets firing the 7.62 rifle and Bren; weapons which most of the boys at camp had not handled.

An added attraction were the performances given by the Avengers, the Regimental Beat Group. This group consisted of Cpl. Dunleavy, L/Cpl. Harrison, Ptes. Gibson and Guest. The group made a special appearance at the Hull Locarno which was well publicised and a great success. They also performed from the main band stand at the Roundhay Gala, and at a number of youth clubs.

It is too early to judge the effect on recruiting. However, the team were popular wherever they visited and it is certain that they gave a good account of themselves and provided good publicity for their regiment and the Army.

## YORKSHIRE BRIGADE DEPOT NOTES

### TRAINING COMPANY

The following Platoons passed out on the dates shown:

**CAMBRAI PLATOON, MAY 21, 1964**  
 Best Recruit .. Pte. Vowden, H. (Y & L)  
 Best Shot SLR .. Pte. Waterhouse, J. J. (PWO)  
 Best Shot LMG .. Pte. Kettlewell, H. (PWO)  
 Winner PT. Comp. Pte. Pennington, D. (DWR)  
 Winner X Country Pte. Vowden, H. (Y & L)

**GALLIPOLI PLATOON, JUNE 12, 1964**  
 Best Recruit .. Pte. Trueman, R. I. (Green Howards)  
 Best Shot SLR Pte. Roberts, M. E. (Green Howards)  
 Best Shot LMG .. Pte. Hoyle, M. D. (DWR)  
 Winner X Country Pte. Barrett, A. E. (PWO)  
 Winner PT. Comp. Pte. Baldwin, D. (Y & L)

**IMPHAL PLATOON, JUNE 25, 1964**  
 Best Recruit and  
 Best Shot SLR .. Pte. Richardson, J. S. (Y & L)  
 Best Shot LMG .. Pte. Broadfield, E. (DWR)  
 Winner X Country Pte. Beal, A. A. (Green Howards)  
 Winner PT. Comp. Pte. Jones, A. (PWO)

### Promotions

Congratulations to W.O.II. I. Shepherd S.B. (PWO) on promotion to that rank, and to Sgts. Miles (PWO) and Banks (Y & L) on promotion to C/Sgt.

### Births

Congratulations also to Sgt. and Mrs. Gorse (REME) on the birth of a son on July 27, and to Cpl. & Mrs. Bruce (DWR) on the birth of a daughter on July 7.

### JUNIOR SOLDIERS COMPANY

On June 24 the Company took part in the Depot Inter-Coy Athletic Match and, after a very exciting and entertaining afternoon, won the match, much to the embarrassment of HQ and Training Companies. The following are to be congratulated on winning their events:

4 x 100 yds Relay J/Sgt. Leonard, Green Howards, J/L/Cpl. Fry, DWR., J/Dmr. Smith, POW., and J/Dmr. Berry, PWO.  
 100 yards J/Sgt. Leonard, Green Howards  
 High Jump J/Dmr. Cawkwell, Y & L  
 Long Jump J/Dmr. Wells, PWO.  
 Discus J/Bdsm. Hynard, Green Howards.  
 Javelin J/Dmr. Polhill, PWO.

The Band and Drums are still kept busy playing at various outside functions. They did extremely well at the Green Howards Laying Up of the Old

Colours in the Regtl Chapel in Richmond Parish Church on July 12.

The Band also played on two occasions during the Regimental Cricket Week and received congratulation from Maj. Gen. Upjohn, GOC Yorkshire District.

Congratulations to Cpl. & Mrs. Brooking Y & L on their addition to the family, Denise Anne born at Strensall on May 16, 1964.

### ATHLETICS

Cpl Clarke (Y&L) won the Northern Command Minor Units Shot Put with a throw of 35 ft.  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. S/Sgt Banks (Y&L) was second in the Javelin with throw of 115 ft.

### SHOOTING

The Annual Depot Rifle Meeting was held on June 18 and 19. The weather was dull and wet at times but the meeting was brightened by the outstanding shooting of Sgt. Gorse (REME) who scored a possible and won the transistor radio, the prize for the champion shot. Pte. Grey (Green Howards) did very well to win Class 'B' with a score of 73 out of 75.

The falling plate competition was won by the officers team who beat the sergeants team in the final after a reshoot. This left the sergeants thirsting for revenge.

### ACF Rifle Meeting

The Depot ran the ACF Rifle Meeting for the ACF of the North, East & West Ridings on the June 20 and 21. The Brigade Shield presented by the Yorkshire Brigade for the winning falling plate team was won by the East Riding ACF after some very creditable shooting by all teams.

### Bisley

The Depot sent a team to Bisley. We entered the Minor Units Championship for the RASC Cup. After a reasonable start and a disappointing middle part we finished on a high note coming third in each of two team matches (The Staff & Schools and the Minor Units Small Arms), to be placed 4th equal in the Championship. We were equal with the Royal Pioneer Corps Depot, our old rivals of the Northern Command Rifle Meeting. The Light Infantry Brigade Depot, whose team stayed at Strensall with us and used the ranges here for a month before Bisley, beat us by some 6 match points.

Junior Corporal Brailey (PWO) was 12th in Class 'B' in the Henry Whitehead Cup. This was his first Bisley and this result augers well for his future visits.

The meeting was something of a re-union for some of us. Majors Robertson (DWR), Wood (DWR) now at Small Arms Wing Hythe) and

Cowell (DWR, Depot) all reached the Army 100 and shot for English Regiments in the Methuen Cup. They were last at Bisley together in 1961 with the 1 DWR team. Lt. Desmond and C.S.M. Morris were both there from 1 PWO getting the form for next year when 1 PWO will be at home. Q.M.S.I. Brint (SASC) late of The East Yorkshire Regt was shooting for Small Arms Wing, Hythe. S/Sgt. Wolstenholme RPC (late DWR) was also there. Major Little (PWO) appeared for a short visit on the final day. Ex Private Seymour (late DWR), himself an Army 100 shot, made what he calls his annual pilgrimage to Bisley on the final day.

### OFFICERS' MESS

With the beginning of summer, activity increased in the officers mess. The barracks were formally opened by Lord James of Rushholme on June 11, the ceremony culminating in a lunch party for 150 in marquees in front of the mess. The weather was kind to us and the rain kept away.

On June 19 Colonel Powell was dined out by the officers. After dinner he gave a masterly display of his ability to conduct the band (Junior Soldiers) and, although using a drum stick instead of a baton, managed to keep time with the music. We wish him the best of luck in his new civilian appointment.

Less than a week later 3 PWO moved into barracks to make their final preparations for the Colour Presentation. The officers had to be accommodated in a barrack block as there was not enough room in the mess, but they fed with us and were very welcome guests.

On June 27, when H.R.H. The Princess Royal presented new Colours to 3 PWO, we were invited to lunch with 3 PWO and their guests in a magnificent marquee pitched in the mess paddock. We must congratulate the officers of 3 PWO for the excellence of their arrangements, and thank them for their hospitality on this occasion.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

The Brigade Depot W.O.s and Sgts Mess is now returned to its permanent site. In spite of many misgivings it proved to be a fairly painless operation. Foremost in the operational field was Sgt Joe Ingham (DWR) who did his very best to rebuild Rome in a day. One thing is quite certain: when his army stint is over he will be a way ahead of his instructors should he elect to take Household Maintenance. I still think, though, that his Guardsman flair for bright objects, took very much off the value of our old copper urns.

The billiards room we hope to fit out with relics of bygone days in the field of arms. So, if anyone passing the Depot chances to have the odd suit of armour, Swazi shield or spear, or horse brasses, they will be very gratefully received.

Just prior to our move we said farewell to two families who entered into the spirit of the Mess. Swaziland is no doubt still rocking under the impact of their arrival. We trust that Sgts Leach and Humphries (Y&L) have now settled in.

Our installation within the rebuilt Mess was the start of quite a hectic social whirl. Notable amongst many was the official opening of barracks when the official party were entertained to pre-lunch drinks. Following on soon after was the dinner night for the DWR. The principal guest was the Brigade Colonel, Col. Powell, MC., when the mess "dined him out." As usual a very fine meal was produced by S/Sgt G. Pitkin, BEM, who has now got round to counting up week-ends to do, it seems he expects to leave the Army soon.

The Law invaded the mess when 25 sergeants of the Experimental Mobile Police Column joined us for a games night. The police lived up to all expectations for their capacity to enjoy themselves, resulting in a very happy occasion. They presented the Mess with an inscribed tankard to mark the visit, and that after the Mess had won the games.

The 3 PWO have spent the last few days of their camp preparing for the presentation of New Colours by H.R.H. The Princess Royal. The mess, our temporary quarters, was taken over by their WO's and Sgts, who invited the Mess to a games night, the results of which are a little obscure. Suffice that all agreed a good time was had by all. On the day of the presentation the 3rd Bn invited Mess members to drinks and a buffet lunch.

In the evening the Depot Mess played host with a social evening. A highlight of which was horse racing run by S/Sgt Miles PWO, and Atkinson PWO, for which the Tote was in the very capable hands of SQMS Higgins, RAPC; who better than "money bags" himself?

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# 1st BATTALION

## Sub-Editorial

Quebec Barracks looks tidy and lived in. When the A.P.C.s are roof loaded it does not appear that the first sharp bend will see the lot off. The new boys now wear their front pouches at the front and not somewhere around the back. We talk casually of kilometres, litres, and centigrade, and most could tell you to the nearest penny the value of seven deutsche marks sixty pfennigs. In fact we are settled in.

The Commanding Officer's policy for the period immediately after our arrival in B.A.O.R. was that the companies should have until June to train for our new role. In mid-June we moved to the training grounds of Haltern for an assessment of progress. Each company was exercised in turn for twenty-four hours on the advance to contact, the attack, defence, and the withdrawal. If there had been anything of a stream running across the area there is little doubt that we would also have done an assault river crossing. Because of the limitations of the training area all companies used the same piece of ground for the tests and as one company completed the tests and moved off another moved on. This gave rise to rumours that bird watchers might well be out with their binoculars trying to spot the Burmese Shuttletcock in its night lair, or get a glimpse of the Dry Alma bird (so called because of its continual cry of "Thirsty! Thirsty!"). These rumours are quite baseless and arise purely from professional jealousy.

No league table was produced as a result of the tests, but the Commanding Officer said that he was pleased with the progress made. After a short period in barracks, during which some of the faults that had occurred during the test exercises were ironed out, the battalion moved out again. This time it was to Luneberg for a full battalion exercise.

## Battalion Exercise

This exercise lasted four days and again ran the gamut from the advance to contact to the withdrawal. Still no river crossing. The exercise began with a seven hour convoy, much of it at night. Returning from the exercise took five hours,

further proof of the natural law that states that all "Dukes" get back from an exercise quicker than they went out in the ratio of half an hour for each day spent in the field. The main aim of the exercise was to practice the defence, particularly re-supply. A lot of valuable lessons were learnt, although we were rather hampered tactically by crops. One gained some consolation by remembering that the Regimental History mentions on page 30 that the 1st Battalion was not allowed to cut fields of fire in the French crops during the preparation of the "Gort Line" in 1940. On second thoughts, perhaps one does not get any consolation from it; we were rather banking on cutting them down if it was the real thing.

## Mortar Battle

The exercise had its lighter moments. A particularly cunning mortar battle involving all companies was fought against an enemy vehicle moving along the road between the companies one night. Whilst everyone was congratulating everyone else on a job well done the information got back that the vehicle belonged to a Pronto Minor who had either taken the wrong road, not heard of the restrictions placed on vehicles, was determined to get a mention on the strength of "the batteries must get through" act, or a combination of all three. In another incident a patrol stalked an enemy digging his weapon slit for half an hour. Eventually he was pounced upon and told to come quietly. "Well, you had better ask my officer, mate. I'm the advance party for the Wiltshires, and if I don't finish this latrine pit . . ." It would be a very dull exercise if nothing went wrong, and enough went right for us to look forward to the Brigade and NATO exercises with some confidence.

## Leave Period

Immediately after the exercise the leave period began. This lasts from mid-July until mid-September. During this time the Battalion takes a two-week leave, a third at a time. Those left behind pretend that nothing has happened and carry on as usual. "I know just the man for this job—Smith." "He is on leave." "Well then, Jones." "He is on leave too." "All right, Evans—no, don't tell me." However, it is a useful period for administration, all those little things that one never has time for usually. We also catch up on education, battle efficiency tests, the training of company radiac teams and the other useful skills which are needed to do our job properly here and for which time is always difficult to find.

Space is difficult too. Space to mention all the events that have taken place and that are going on now. W.V.S. trips to Berlin, Support Platoon concentrations by the Baltic Sea, adventure training, preparing for our new A.P.C.s, the 432, beating retreat, comings and goings. There is plenty happening in B.F.P.O. 36!

## Arthur Sunley

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## NEWS FROM THE MESSES

### Officers' Mess

The mess is still something of a shambles, decoratively speaking, but it does look better than when we first arrived. On the strength of the success that we have had in making it more comfortable we have had several parties, formal and informal. One of the most pleasant of the latter was a curry lunch held one Sunday for Colonel and Mrs. Davidson who were accompanied on their visit by Diana.

The guest nights held so far have been most successful, but always seem to finish with too many injuries. Doesn't anyone know any quiet mess games? The Queen's Own Highlanders attended one such night and were obviously longing to hurl themselves into the fray with strange Scottish oaths, but their mess kit hardly lends itself to such carryings on. They have stated their intention of wearing trows the next time that they are asked.

Dinner nights are held when training permits, the bachelors entertaining any friends they may care to ask along. Strangely enough these tend to be more decorous than the official guest nights, although full mess kit costs much more than a dinner jacket. Decorous, that is, if one accepts finding a small car in a very small card room next morning.

Captain Andre Dennison, Y. & L. and lately S.A.S., has joined us and, on the strength of owning his own clubs, is organising the Silver Putter competition which, this year, is being held in Holland. Martin Bray is also supposed to have arrived, but the only proof is a photograph of him sailing at Dummersee. The other arrival is Mike Fife's daughter, born in July. Peter Pettigrew, Godfrey Bellamy, and Johnie Walker have got engaged.

Dick Mundell, having totted up the score, whipped off to England for a fortnight's leave but came back still unattached.

Apparently Ian Kibble will not give up being adjutant at the Brigade Depot, so Robin Stevens called at the mess on his way to underwater swim in Trieste. Other visitors were Robert Campbell-Lamerton and Robin Newell who brought a party of junior leaders to stay with the battalion for a few days.

David Miller to the West Riding Battalion, Jim Pell to Staff College, Hugh Cartwright to the Brigade Depot, and Charles Bunbury to Norway, as A.D.C. to General Sir Robert Bray, complete the list of "ins and outs."

### W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess

We mentioned in our last notes that we had a number of social engagements pending; these were taken up with great enthusiasm and we have had three really good parties.

The 9/12th Lancers invited us to their mess and gave us a very good evening; this was followed by one with 35 Regiment, R.E. We then returned the hospitality by entertaining the 9th/12th in our own mess; this was combined with a farewell party for R.S.M. and Mrs. Robins.

For the record, most of the entertaining in British messes in Germany are free nights. On levy nights "beery" is possibly the better word. Everyone drinks and thinks "blow the expense" until the day of reckoning arrives when the cost is worked out and the R.S.M. decides how much the levy will

Lunch at Haltern (very definitely non-tactical)

Left to right: The C.O., The Padre, The Rev. Michael Wright, Major Tedd, Major Burnett







  
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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:

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be. This is where our one-armed bandits come into their own. The profits from these help to defray the expenses and we take this opportunity of giving a vote of thanks to the innumerable optimists who so thoughtfully feed these machines for us. Many old members would turn in their graves at the thought of these contraptions in the mess, but the machines are kept well in the background. One fine mess we visited had two bandits, one installed in the "ladies" and the other you know where, and by all accounts they were well played.

We have also been kept quite busy on the more serious side of life. Companies have been to the training areas where they have run small company sergeants' messes. S/Sgt. McManus excelled himself by producing an excellent curry lunch in Alma Company mess, having invited the Commanding Officer and Major Tedd.

Some of the mess members visited Berlin over the August bank holiday period, staying as guests with the P.W.O. Although they ventured into the Eastern Sector and, it would appear, spent most of their time in a daze all arrived back in Osnabruck. We are certain that now the Russians have seen Cash Ogden and Mick McManus they will think seriously before they blockade Berlin again.

We have said hello to the young Miss Fenn, the new daughter of C.S.M. and Mrs. Fenn; the baby's christening was celebrated by most of the mess members and their wives one Sunday lunch-time. We all welcome Sgt. and Mrs. Cooper; Sgt. Cooper is attempting to outgrow our old pioneer sergeant, Sgt. Dodds. It must be agreed that the new growth of beard is not so grey and shaggy as "Pop's."

We have said good-bye to S/Sgt. Mountcastle who has joined the W.R. Battalion soon to be followed by C.S.M. Sullivan. We wish them both success, also C.S.M. Arundell who has joined the staff of the Yorkshire Brigade.

We would like to finish these notes with a fond farewell to R.S.M. and Mrs. Robins. They have done much for the Mess during their time in office, and both will be very welcome as our guests when they return. A clock was presented to them when they left, suitably inscribed. We know they have a collection of barometers, so the clock turned out to be a good buy. R.S.M. and Mrs. Nichols have arrived from the W.R. Battalion. We welcome them and wish them a happy tour.

### R.S.M. NICHOLS

R.S.M. F. Nichols entered the Army as a general serviceman on June 7, 1945, completing his basic training at Brentwood, Essex.

After attending the training centre run jointly by the "Duke's" and the Durham Light Infantry at Branspeth, he joined the 2nd Battalion at Dehra Dun in November 1945. Posted to "D" Company, he was promoted to corporal within seven months, and acting sergeant in 13 months.

When the 2nd Battalion was placed in suspended animation in 1948, he was posted to Strensall, in his substantive rank of corporal, where he performed the duties of officers' mess corporal. Later in 1948 he moved to H.Q. Northumbrian District at



Darlington as officers' mess sergeant. After two years in this post, he returned to the Yorkshire and Northumberland Brigade Training Centre at Strensall as a training sergeant. When the Regimental Depot re-opened at Halifax in 1951 he was one of the original instructors.

In 1952 he was selected for the training staff of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, but asked to be allowed to serve with his brother who was with "The Duke's" in Korea. He arrived in Korea in March 1953, again being posted to "D" Company, becoming C.Q.M.S. of the company later in that year. He remained in this post during "The Duke's" tour of Gibraltar until February 1955, when he was promoted to W.O.2 and moved to the 7th Bn as PSI of "C" Company at Halifax.

He returned to the 1st Bn in March 1957, rejoining as C.S.M. of "C" Company in Cyprus. He moved to H.Q. Company in March 1958 and remained with the company until May 1961 when he was appointed Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant. He was appointed R.S.M. of the West Riding Battalion in June 1962, and returned to the 1st Bn as R.S.M. on August 1, 1964.

R.S.M. Nichols is a Norfolk man. He married Miss Ann Petty of Darlington in April 1950.

### Corporals' Mess

We have now settled down in our new barracks and overcome most of our teething problems. The social side of life, although not hectic with organised functions, is nevertheless going well. Quite a number

of our members with wives attend impromptu gatherings in our club at weekends.

We have paid a visit to Osnabruck (Brurie) and, with very little prompting from mess members, free pints were passed round followed by free food. The social evening was well attended and quite a number of wives turned up to dance. This night finished in a rather romantic setting; the lights fused and we completed the evening by candle light.

On July 25 we were entertained by 9th/12th Royal Lancers. This took the form of a games evening. We were beaten 5-4; however, our ladies saved our reputation by winning 7-2. Of course we men have not been allowed to forget our defeat.

Cpl. Livesey and L/Cpl. Haigh have left us for civilian life and Cpl. Cooper has been promoted to sergeant; we wish them luck in their new environments and hope we all meet again.

We welcome L/Cpl. Greenwood and L/Cpl. Baker and congratulate Cpl. Toplis and Cpl. Moulson on their promotion to full corporal. There are a number of our members on leave in U.K. at the moment enjoying their summer vacation; however we remind them that the future exercises have not been cancelled and they will require all their energy when they return to dig those little holes.

## AROUND THE BATTALION

Congratulations to Capt. Bob Callaby on the award of the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List. Bob has seen the battalion through more moves, both hasty and deliberate, than any other quartermaster since the war. He will be greatly missed when he takes over from Cyril Kenchington at Huddersfield.

At Haltern we were visited by Messrs. Alec Donaldson (*Yorkshire Post*), George Beddoe (*Halifax Courier*), and Maurice Ford (*Huddersfield Examiner*). Newspaper cuttings from the papers duly arrived, the general tone of them confirming the grave suspicions that we had had for some time: we were working extremely hard and keeping very odd hours.

The Director of Infantry, Major General P. Gleadell, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., visited us in barracks on June 26. Brigadier D. G. T. Horsford, C.B.E., D.S.O., B.G.S. Rhine Army, visited us on June 30. Those who served in Korea will remember him as Adjutant of the King's Regiment.

W.O.I Nichols took over from W.O.I Robins as R.S.M. on August 9. W.O.I Robins has gone on his Quartermasters course in U.K.

Alma Company had their first reinforcement for over a year when seven ex-recruits from the Depot joined in June. Otherwise the company personnel have served together for this period which, surprisingly enough in this all-regular army, is quite a record.

The Company Sergeants' Mess has a tradition of curry lunch parties during non-working weekends whilst on the training areas. An excellent one was held at Haltern, the guests being the C.O., Major Tedd, Capt. Mundell, the company officers, and the sergeants of the other companies. Conversation got around to the veterans' race at the Battalion Sports, and C.S.M. Simpson from Corunna found himself having to prove form by running it again. The only handicap was the amount of beer and

curry that each contestant had put away instead of the usual "yard for a year." C.S.M. Simpson again proved that he is the fastest of this year's veterans, with the 2 I.C. a close second. The dark horse of the race, Sgt. Wappett, finished strongly, in spite of being interfered with at the start, and came third. The party was prolonged in an attempt to revive the field.

2 Platoon held a platoon smoker in July—marquee by courtesy of Q.M., record player by courtesy of Wendy Powell, our W.V.S. representative. Pte. Sholanke gave a farewell speech for the Company Commander, although he wasn't going until September. It was certainly a good night, as far as most of us remember. Did Wendy ever get her record player back?

At least eight men formed up for interview when the rumour got around that various E.R.E. appointments in British Honduras required volunteers. In fact there is a vacancy there for a W.O.II, which rather lets out our volunteers, but why is it that the last posting is always so much better than the present?

We have reports from Burma Company on the West Riding Battalion and Green Howard "Ever Readies" who spent a week with the company. They formed a third platoon during company exercises with Lt. David Sugden as platoon commander. As a T.A. officer, "non-Ever Ready," he had merely come along as draft conducting officer; but it is thought that he saw the joke.

The "Ever Ready" platoon were really thrown into the deep end after the shortest of preparations. It was great fun to hear the platoon runner describe how he had not had a wink of sleep for four days, without using any word that appears in a standard dictionary, and also to hear an O.P. describe the location of the enemy as "just to the right of the pointer on my compass." The platoon was full of spirit and showed some considerable skill in their operations. The company enjoyed having them.

The major satisfaction of the test exercise at Haltern was that the assault by 6 Platoon on the last feature was so fast that they had to be slowed down by the umpires until the enemy were fully ready. It is always nice to hear an umpire say "Well look, old chap, I know it isn't exactly tactical, but . . ."

The company fought a grim battle at a rather important cross-tracks during the battalion exercise. 5 Platoon and its supporting mobat engaged numerous enemy scout cars who refused to react to the blank fire. Eventually two A.P.C.s formed a road block so that the scout cars just had to stop. It then turned out that the scout cars belonged to Recce Troop of a squadron camped nearby—in the wrong area. All was resolved when the company commander discovered that the squadron commander was an old rugby chum.

Sgt. Gott attended a leadership course at the Seventh United States Army Non-Commissioned Officers Academy. He distinguished himself by coming second out of 130 students, and winning the "General Douglas MacArthur Award for Leadership." His citation is really something to see.

**Corunna** Company, a comparatively young and new company, has discovered that they can dig, and are rather proud of the fact. Of course they can dig; *All "Dukes"* are good at it and always have been.

The command element has changed considerably. Major Hoppe has taken over from Major Fife, and C.S.M. Simpson and C.Q.M.S. Welsh from C.S.M. Mountcastle and C.Q.M.S. Spring. Sgt. Broomhead's help during these changes was much appreciated.

Cpl. Devanney, our medical orderly, looked after the aches and pains of the company, but drew the line at cooking. He successfully avoided later exercises with the plea of urgent business in barracks. This prompted Cpl. Pickle and Cpl. Lancashire to send him a white feather through the post. He will be out next time.

At a company conference to detail officers to be in charge of various sports Major Hoppe, keeping a very straight face, said "I will take boxing. I know a little about it."—and everyone laughed.

A *crie de cœur* from **Hook** company. It has 10 different departments and nearly 300 men. What a snip when doing duty company; what reserves of man-power! But when storemen are a-storing, mess-waiters a-waiting and bandsmen a-bandoning, the Sergeant Major's lot is not a happy one.

Most of the company were out on the battalion exercise. **The Drums** did well as the Defence Platoon, and the **Assault Pioneers** dug a very deep and well-camouflaged command post which

won praise from the Brigadier downwards. The C.O. now calls them his "moles."

Sgt. Cooper is the new Pioneer Sergeant and is carrying on the tradition re-introduced by "Pop" Dodds of growing a beard. It cannot yet be called "magnificent," but it is coming on very nicely. A wet summer with plenty of sun in the dry spells should do it the world of good. The camp gardener was seen lugging a great drum of Fisson's fertiliser from the pioneer stores the other day.

*(Sub-Editor to Editor: Can we claim for the advertising there? Editor to Sub-Editor: You might have been able to if you had spelt Fisons correctly.)*

The **Signal Platoon** are already affected by the change over to the 432 A.P.C.s in that there is a great call for signallers to be able to drive and so act as driver/operators. The result is that they have been able to help the M.T. to smash various vehicles both on and off duty.

The platoon soccer team always looks very professional, clean kit, stockings tied up and all that, but they always seem to get beaten by some minor team. We fancied our chances at tug of war, but on the morning of the sports we spent too long practising by pulling A.P.C.s about. However we did get to the finals.

Even we had to dig on the exercise. The R.S.O. was using one trench to explain to the assembled



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signallers that there they had an example of good camouflage but not nearly enough overhead cover. He was informed quietly "There's hell on; that's the Colour-Sergeant's trench."

Quote of the battalion exercise: "Hello 2, we have captured figures one enemy officer but cannot understand him as he is of foreign origin." (Apologies to Pte. Kelsey.)

The MT report a very full summer, having done their best to cater for such requests as "Collect one dog from Hamburg Docks" and "Provide one three-ton truck for Regimental Pioneers' weekend in Amsterdam," as well as the considerable mileage done on exercises. They have now used most of their petrol allocation for the year and confidently expect to go on leave soon until April 1, 1965.

A motorcycle club has been formed under 2/Lt. Westcob's guidance with Cpl. Wilson giving the expert advice. The aim is to produce a scramble team. Of course, after one glorious revving weekend all the bikes are off the road. Cpl. Wilson, just back from Bordon, has also got his sights set on the battalion soccer team. He is thought to work in the L.A.D.

We are entering a team for the B.A.O.R. Driving Championships with A.S.M. Rutherford as captain. S/Sgt. Sykes has given up rally driving to devote more time to military gardening (or was it area cleaning?). Pte. Murphy deserves a special mention for his hard work with the Mountain Training Centre in Bavaria. He must be known throughout Germany by garages, police, and the U.S. Army.

The M.T.O. is taking his responsibilities as sailing officer seriously, and is considering installing tillers instead of steering wheels. At least the water cart should get further than usual under sail. Several drivers have been seen tacking furiously

through Osnabruck, and Ptes. Waterman and Waqabaca have been permanently shore based for executing too many accidental gybes. The former even managed to produce an A.P.C. with cauliflower ears.

The Drums have had a busy summer. An account of the Band's activities appear elsewhere in this issue, and of course the Drums accompanied them on many of the engagements. Apart from their more genteel appearances they have also acted as enemy on the test exercises and as Defence Platoon on the battalion exercise. They are all also highly trained in nuclear and chemical warfare as the Drum Major is one of our experts on the subject.

Whilst in Belgium to play at the Queen's Birthday Parade they had an interesting day out at Waterloo. Their report on the visit to the spot which has so much historical connection with the regiment reads, "We drank a lot of beer on the very ground that the Duke planned his battle." Typical.

Still thinking of their stomachs, their chief memory of the *Schutzfest* at Horst, where they stayed with the German army for four days, was that they lived on a diet of bread rolls, carrot soup, coffee, and on one memorable occasion, mint tea. They now think we eat very well at Quebec Barracks.

Which leads us on to the Messing department. First time I have ever seen any notes from there, but the messing officer was insistent that the rations staff of Cpls. Cartridge and Lockwood and Pte. Hawkins should have a mention for their hard work in keeping the companies supplied when they were out on the various training areas. Cpl. Cartridge even went so far as to produce the eggs already scrambled on one occasion. Our A.C.C. and regimental cooks have learned a lot about field cooking, which is a good thing because, if all "Dukes" can dig, they can certainly all trough as well.

## SPORT

### Athletics

Training for all sports has been very limited because of our military commitments. However, our policy has been to have a try at everything.

At the 2 Division Athletics Meeting we came fourth, only one point separating us from the third team. Apart from our recognised "stars," Pte. Nee (Alma) ran a particularly fine 800 metres, and Pte. Wilson (Corunna) cleared over 10 ft. in the pole vault at what was only his second competitive meeting.

We were well represented at the B.A.O.R. Individual Championships. Captain Greenway won the 220 metres and was second in the 440 metres. Pte. Waqabaca won the javelin event, with Ponajasi eighth. L/Cpl. Walker reached the semi-final of the

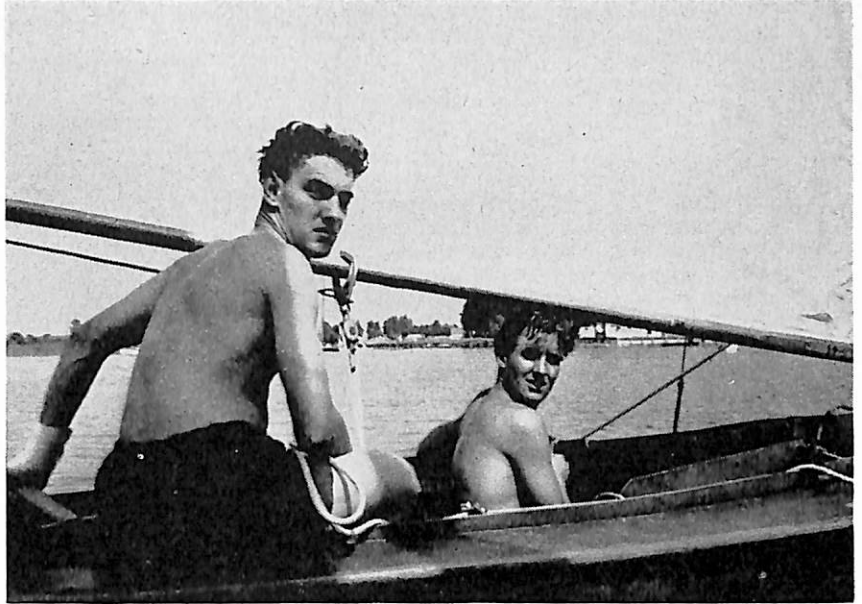
100 metres, but pulled a muscle and had to withdraw. Lt. Pettigrew was suffering badly from a very rough guest night and, in the pole vault, just managed to beat the W.R.A.C. high-jump record.

In the Army Championships at Aldershot, Captain Greenway was third in the 220 yards and fourth in the 440 yards, Pte. Waqabaca was fifth in the javelin event.

### Sailing

We are very fortunate in being fairly close to the Dummersee Yacht Club which we have made full use of. Cpl. Bower and Pte. Bell have been living in the club as caretakers and barmen. They have done excellently and kept the place in good order.

**Pte. Stokes (Q.M. Dept.) and Pte. Bennet (Orderly Room) sailing at Dummer See during a week's instruction**



2 Lt. Bray and Sgt. Middleton have been running weekly courses for our men, some of whom are showing promise as sailors. We are holding a regatta in September.

The following have achieved distinction: Capt. Berry—largest hole in boat. Major Hoppe—most crews thrown overboard. Capt. Callaby (after sinking in a canoe) as a drinking member. Sgt. Middleton—most capsizes. Lt. Edwards—most disqualifications. Cpl. Bower and Pte. Bell—Anglo-German relations and Capt. Bray has won a trophy presented for points races in the first half of the season.

In addition we have been sending a number of men on sailing courses at Kiel and hope in due course to have men qualified to cruise in the Baltic.

### Fishing

Since our last notes three more members of the "Dukes" have joined the Osnabruck Angling Club; we now have twelve members in this German Club.

Our matches and outings continue to be a success. Since our last notes five matches have been fished and the following have won prizes: C.S.M. Batty, Sgt. Cooper, Cpl. Cronin, Cpl. Craig, Cpl. Waite and L/Cpl. Woolridge.

We fished an individual match on the River Hunte on July 26, the "Dukes" were again to the front and Cpl. Craig cleared the board. He won with a total weight of 13 lbs. 1 oz., and also won the largest fish competition with a bream of 1 lb. 11 oz.; C.S.M. Batty was second with 8 lb. 5 oz.

We have entered a team for a competition on August 16 at Munchen Gladbach. This competition is open to teams from the forces and any German club. Providing we can get permission from our wives, we intend to travel there on Saturday morning, August 15 and we are kindly being

accommodated by 17 R.V.D., R.A.O.C. The match commences at 0500 hrs. Sunday, August 16, and we shall travel back to Osnabruck in the evening.

We congratulate L/Cpl. and Mrs. Woolridge on the birth of a daughter, the Rod and Reel Club presented the new arrival with a silver spoon, complete with fishing motif.

Mr. Williams, a school teacher at Lancaster School, is also a member of our Club. He is very keen for us to start a Junior Section, so if any of the Dads in the "Dukes" have sons who would like to learn the art of angling please contact C.S.M. Batty. We shall be only too pleased to take them with us on our outings.

### Cricket

This has been a disappointing season. Disappointing in that because of exercises, there have been so few games and also because we narrowly lost to 2 Signal Regiment in the semi-final of the Divisional 30-over knockout competition.

Set out below is a summary of the games played. It is apparent that the side has not scored many runs and it was our inability to score enough quickly which caused our downfall in the knockout. There have however been some individual innings of note: Capt. Greenway scored an excellent century; Sgt. Reid got a good half century and generally has been reliable; S/Sgt. Pratt has seldom failed to provide backbone to an innings. The accolade for the best batting performance must go to 2/Lt. Nickell for his 46 not out in the semi-final. In the last few overs against some good bowling he took us from a miserable 40 runs to a total of 99 and so gave us a fighting chance.

Our bowling has been quite different and, with Capt. Mitchell and 2/Lt. Nickell spearheading the attack, our change bowlers have seldom been called on for more than a few overs. The two performances

of greatest significance were in the games against 1 R.F. and 2 Signal Regiment. In the former we were all out for 68 and were up against it. However we got a wicket with the first ball of the innings and finally had the opposition out with 30 runs to spare. Against 2 Signal Regiment, the favourites to win the competition, we could only muster 99 runs. The opposition had 40 on the board in short time but then collapsed to 87 for 9 due to some persistent bowling by our opening pair. Their last two batsmen unfortunately "acquired" the necessary runs in a fascinating finish.

Major Shuttleworth, Capt. Mitchell and Capt. Greenway and Lt. Pettigrew have played for the Divisional side. Capt. Mitchell has also been selected for the B.A.O.R. team

Although we only lost one game in this short season it was the one which mattered most. We cannot therefore but agree with our Paymaster who dolefully maintains that, all round, it has not been a good year for the Yorkshiremen.

#### *Opponents      Scores*

##### 9th/12th Lancers

1 D.W.R., 108 (Capt. Mitchell 33).

9th/12th Lancers, 61 (Mitchell 7 for 19).

##### Queens Royal Surreys

1 Queens Surreys 92.

1 D.W.R. 93 for 5 (Lt. Pettigrew 38).

##### 4th/7th Dragoon Guards

1 D.W.R., 157 for 4 dec. (Capt. Greenway 118 not out).

4th/7th Dragoon Guards, 44 (Lt. Edwards 3 for 14, Pte. Pennington 3 for 1).

##### 9th/12th Lancers

1 D.W.R., 151 for 6 dec. (Lt. Nickell and S/Sgt. Pratt each 45 not out).

9th/12th Lancers, 53 (Major Shuttleworth 6 for 11).

##### 25 Corps Engineer Regiment

1 D.W.R. 149 (Sgt. Reid 50).

25 Corps Engineer Regiment, 59 (S/Sgt. Pratt 4 for 11).

##### 1 Royal Fusiliers

1 D.W.R., 68

1 Royal Fusiliers, 34 (Capt. Mitchell 4 for 13, 2/Lt. Nickell 6 for 21).

##### 2 Signal Regiment

1 D.W.R., 99 for 6 at end of 30 overs (2 Lt. Nickell 46 not out).

2 Signal Regiment 100 for 9 (2 Lt. Nickell 6 for 55, Capt. Mitchell 2 for 41).

## 1964-Regimental Golf Meeting

There was an international flavour to the 1964 golf meeting held at the Twentsche Golf Club at Enschede, Holland.

Twenty three potential Palmers contested the two highly sought-after trophies and, at the end of an eventful day's hacking, the Silver Putter was won by Peter Mitchell while Mike Fife, with the aid of a sneaky one-club 55, made off with the Wooden Spoon. The handicapping committee effectively put themselves right out of it, though the winner's gross 84 and 34 Stableford points would have won for him under any conditions.

Judged on the quality of his play through the green, Chris Edwards deserved many more points than he in fact won, but time after time he would cover upwards of 350 yards with two perfectly struck shots only to scratch around with his putter, like a park keeper spiking waste paper, until he had expended a further three or four shots in getting the ball into that all important little cup.

He achieved a measure of redress in the four-somes by winning in company with Peter Pettigrew who, in turn, won fame by driving the green on the 270 yards 5th, an apparently impossible feat which may be compared with driving a golf ball 250 yards down the Blackwall Tunnel without touching the sides.

The third member of the theoretically top threesome was another whose only relief in a day of trashy gutless golf was a couple of good tonks with a driver. The first was a 280 yarder down the 8th which almost decapitated Davis Dodd as the latter was inoffensively preparing to sink a 100 yard approach. The second was a similar effort down the 290 yard fairway which again almost despatched the ill-starred Dodd in the course of finishing two yards short of the green. At this point Davis retired to the club house to try and subdue his growing persecution mania with strong drink.

All in all the Enschede area was an unsafe place to be for about eight hours on September 9.

The woods resounded with the noises off which accompanied the search for lost balls and, in the midst of it all, "The Wreckers" (Sunray's phase) could be seen majestically and inexorably playing their own game come bunker, tree, stream, or Dutchman. This distinguished quartet of Messrs. Tedd, Fife, Callaby, and Pell in fact did quite well for themselves. The Fife saga has already been unfolded and the other three were involved in a five way second place tie for the doubtful privilege of amassing the most strokes on the first three holes. Their 32 shots were just short of Mike Stacpoole's effort. He, in three action packed holes, expended exactly the same number of shots as the score card allows a scratch golfer for the complete 9 holes.

After Mike's effort, the next best analysis was achieved by Mickey Bray, with a solid 8 for 17—the 8 being lost balls and the 17 being Stableford points.

All in all a great little day out!

## THE BAND

The band took part in the very successful massed bands display at Osnabruck and at Dusseldorf. On both occasions those who were playing were reminded of the love and appreciation Germans have for military music.

Thanks to Colonel Cousens at H.Q. Advanced Base in Belgium we managed a trip to Grobbendonk in Belgium for the Queen's Birthday Parade.

The British Ambassador to Belgium was present when the band performed at this parade. The parade was followed by a band concert which was well received. Even so this was nothing compared with the reception given to the "twist" group when, later, it performed in the interval during a bingo session in the local NAAFI. Many addicts of tombola were cured for the evening for they stayed away from their game to watch, listen and twist.

Perhaps the highlight of this five-day visit to Belgium was our pilgrimage to the field of Waterloo. There Brigadier Ashburner, M.C., who, in addition to being the Military Attaché in Brussels, is also an authority on the great battle, gave us a clear and interesting account of what happened in 1815. The weather throughout the visit was very hot so presumably this accounts for the Drum Major's desire to swim in the canal, fully clothed at midnight.

The first concert engagement before a German audience was at Melle towards the end of June. The dance band played one evening and the military band the following night. As a gesture of appreciation Mr. Bowyer was asked to accept a bouquet of carnations. He looked suitably modest and embarrassed during the presentation.

Following appearances at various cocktail parties and officers' mess dinner nights, including one at the mess at H.Q. B.A.O.R., the next engagement was at a *Richfest* in Osnabruck. The Germans accept every excuse for a party, so obviously the completion of the last building in our new Army estate of flats and quarters was a perfectly splendid reason for a "fest." After a wreath had been hoisted on the highest point of the last building all the workers on the site, and all others concerned, retired to one of the largest guest houses in the city. There an excellent dinner was served followed by endless speeches and light music from the band. Later even the band joined in and one and all agreed that a *Richfest* is a splendid idea.

Later, after a number of minor engagements and a beating the Retreat in Osnabruck, we set out for the Ruhr and what many of us believe to have been the most hectic four days in our band careers to date.

The first day we gave a concert at Mulheim-Ruhr in conjunction with a Bundeswehr band from Dusseldorf. This we believe was rather a success



Photo by Fotodienst Marquies, Dusseldorf

The Band on one of its many outside engagements



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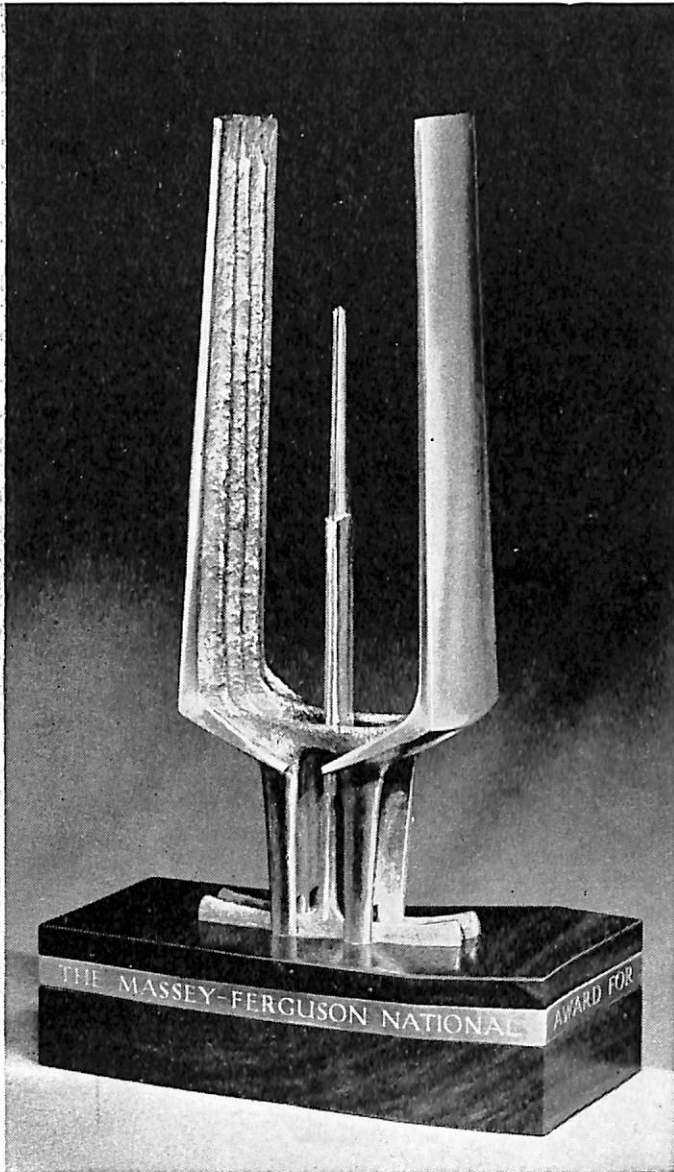
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but it was a quiet and sedate opening to the *Schutzenfest* which followed at Horst Emscher.

A *Schutzenfest*, we learned, is a festival held annually to select the *Schutzen* king for the town. The winner is rarely the best shot for, once appointed, one of his pleasures is to provide drinks at this and other functions during the year. More often therefore the crown goes to one of the wealthier men of the town who is able to provide that little extra which makes all the difference.

The band and drums were worked hard. Both performed each day at 3 p.m., 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. and the band continued until 2 a.m. It was well worth the effort, though, for press and public were overwhelming in their praise, and all members cannot but be rather proud of the tremendous reception each performance received. We returned to Osnabruck tired and satisfied and without many of our collar and cap badges which went to the local inhabitants of this pro-British town. Of course we did not return without a few trophies of our own.

Our band rehearsal room has recently been completely transformed due to the hard work put in by many members of the band and local decorators. It is now suitable for social evenings and there was a very successful opening night on July 31.

On the domestic side we note with pleasure the arrival of sons for Cpl. and Mrs. Harrison and Bds. and Mrs. Foster. Our best wishes for a long and happy married life go to L/Cpl. Almond and Bds. Netherwood, both of whom were married on August 8.



Photo by Fotodienst Marquies, Dusseldorf

The Bandmaster talking to Mr. Edward Heath, Secretary of State for Industry

## I DWR Mountain Training Centre. Bavaria

"*Hande hoch!*" the German soldier shouted as he flushed out Kennedy and McColl from their lying-up place. The two slowly crawled out of their hiding place and raised their hands. They were quickly bound and led off to the Commander's H.Q. "Where is your agent?" they were asked and "Where were you heading for!" Both remained silent. Both were then stretched at full length against a tree with all their weight on their fingertips. "You will tell us everything or you will not see your home again." Neither man moved.

The German interrogator decided on further inducement after getting no information after an hour. Kennedy and McColl were then plunged into an ice-cold mountain river up to their necks. Neither spoke a word. They were then taken out and placed under guard. Later in the night they effected their escape and regained contact with the escape organisation and eventually recrossed their own "frontier" to freedom and safety. So ended Exercise Jagermann One for them.

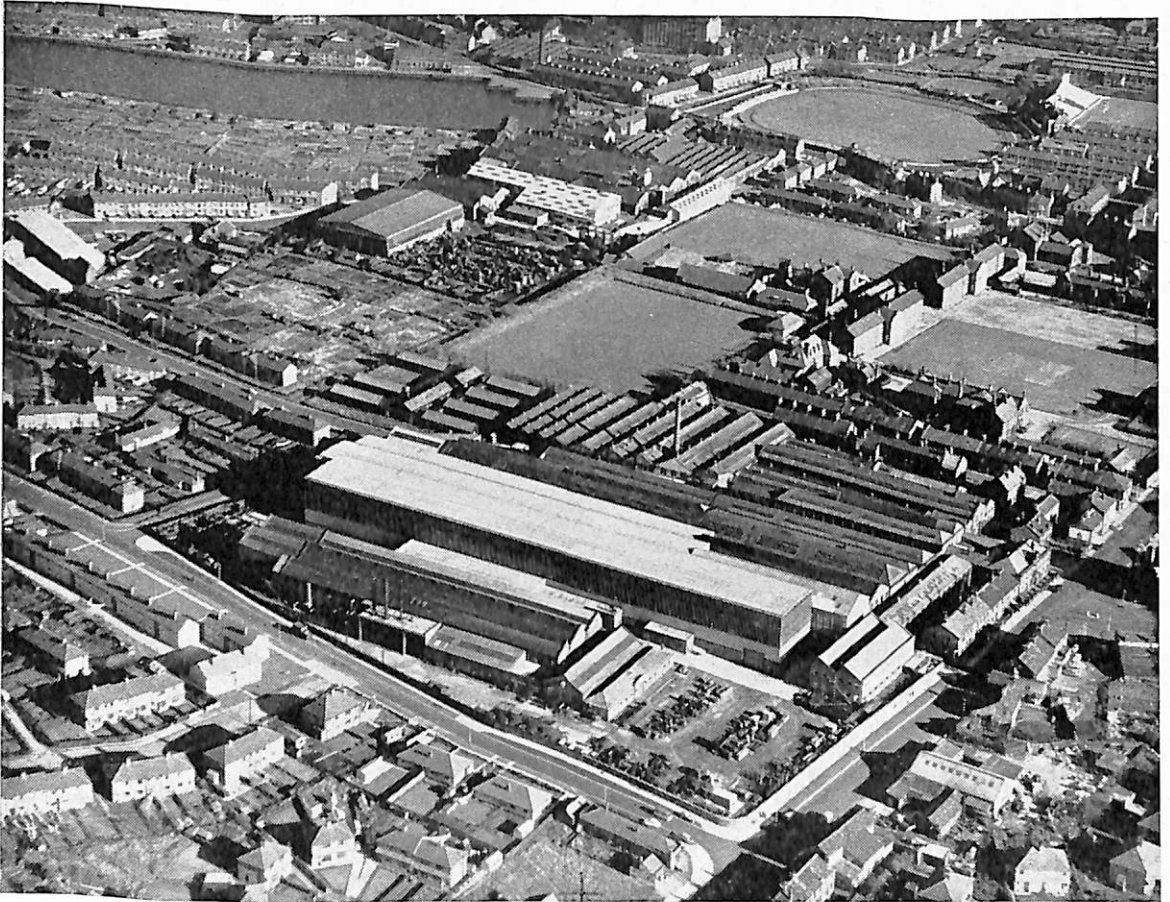
This was the culminating four-day escape and evasion exercise of their 18-day mountain training course. They had arrived as raw students, hardly able to read a map or look after themselves in the field. They had been taught navigation at night in the mountains. They had learnt how to make bashas, to pluck birds and gut animals, and to cook. They had raced with the other students each morn-

ing over the "Speed March," a mile and a half of steep gradient, to their climbing areas. They had been instructed in climbing, abseiling and mountain rescue. Finally they had been brought up to the pitch of the trial exercise, trained and prepared in escape and evasion techniques, and to resist interrogation if captured. They were to prove that they, as private soldiers entirely on their own and moving only at night, could cross 20 miles of mountainous country intensely patrolled by the enemy.

### Mountain Rescue

So far four courses have been run and we have been lucky to gain access to the wonderful climbs in the Hockvoger area on the Austrian border. This contains all grades of climbing and one magnificent climb of 500 ft. which all the students do. Also there is a very realistically-staged mountain rescue operation which the teams have to carry out. This involves abseiling down to a ledge where an injured man has "fallen" and "broken" his leg. The teams are required to render him first aid and to lower him down the 130 ft. to the ground. From there using improvised rope stretchers or harnesses they carry him the mile to the first aid station. The record time for this is 2½ hours.

The escape and evasion exercises have also developed considerably. We now have a German mountain battalion as hunters and they have proved extremely capable, efficient, and well-trained sol-



*A recent aerial view showing the Asquith works, with Wellesley Barracks to the right of the picture*

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diers. We have attached to them two N.C.O.s for intelligence purposes in the form of Sgt. Carpenter and Cpl. Slinger. The Germans were very loath for political reasons to be harsh with the students they caught and were far too kind after interrogation in that students were fed and given cigarettes, and their clothing was dried out for them before they were "permitted" to escape. Sgt. Carpenter and Cpl. Slinger in contrast would take a leaf out of the Russian MVD book!

On Jagermann Three, the last escape and evasion exercise, the Germans employed dogs, helicopters and psychological warfare in the form of loud-speaker broadcasts inducing escapers to give themselves up. They were so thorough and efficient in their searching that only Rountree from the students made a successful escape to reach home ground. They have yet to capture "Der Hauptmann," the O.C. of the Course, who spent four hours of the night wading and swimming the Alp Sea in order to elude them on the last exercise.

## THE FAIR MAID OF PERTH

*Reproduced below is the letter referred to in the RHQ notes on page 148. It was written by Charles Harte to his father in 1855. Charles enlisted in the 69th Foot, apparently under a false name, in 1853 and transferred to the 33rd in 1856. He served for 21 years in the Regiment becoming Quartermaster Sergeant. He died in Halifax in 1889. The letter is reproduced with the permission of his son, Mr. Frank Harte, who served in the Regiment for many years. Charles Harte was 19 when he wrote the letter. Two obvious "slips of the pen" have been corrected and a few full stops inserted. Otherwise the letter is as written. In spite of its lack of punctuation your editor would be happy if all contributions to the journal were as simply and clearly expressed.*

Perth Barracks  
May 30, 1855.

Dear Father,

We are at present under orders for Ireland and expect to go there next week. Previous to my going there I engaged myself to get married to a young lady belonging to this town very much against the wish of her Friends who are very respectable and who would never have consented to her marrying me if it had not been that she said if they did not consent she would follow me in spite of them. I have got inextractably involved in the matter now and the only way I have of getting out of it decently is by getting married not that I dont want to for I am as fond of her as it is possible for me ever to be fond of any one. The first commencement of my love affair was simply that she was considered the belle of the Town and to be called the Fair Maid of Perth is no slight honor and we heard her fame long ere I got acquainted with her which had a little touch of the Romantic in it and a good Many of our Officers as well as Serjeants were breaking their necks after her and how I came acquainted with her was as follows.

All this makes for a wonderful spirit of friendly rivalry and co-operation between 225 Mountain Battalion and ourselves. They were so impressed with the last lot of students, amongst whom Ward from 1 D.W.R. was outstanding, that they presented each man with their famous *Edelweiss* badge which is only worn by their mountain troops. At the time of writing Jagermann Four is in progress and they have supplied signallers to go with us to assist communication with agents and for contact with the "Der Hauptmann."

P.S. Jagermann Four exercise was as good as the previous ones. Eight escapees managed to get through the German lines to safety, although only two of these were students (Butterworth 1 D.W.R. and Ballinger 1 R.F.). The German agents were first class, one of them living up a tree for two nights in order to avoid detection. Also the German signaller with the Hauptmann appeared thoroughly to enjoy himself and has volunteered for a spell in The "Dukes."

I was walking one night last February by the bank of the Tay a little way from Town and seeing a couple of young ladies a little way ahead of me terribly annoyed by a couple of Drunken Civilians and being now neither one of the Weakest or Smallest I walked up to them and floored them and escorted the ladies home never thinking for one instant matters would come to such a serious issue as I thought it would be an impossibility that she would cast a single thought on the much despised soldiery of England. There is an old proverb, "None but the brave deserve the fair" and so it appears the fair lady thought for I saw her once or twice again before my departure to Loch na Gair and being gifted with an oily tongue and I may say without flattery winning manners and not one the ugliest of figures I made an impression on her she did not forget and when once returned to Perth our acquaintance grew more fervant firstly because it was flattering to my vanity to lead the Dance where all our fellows and a number of civilians where distanced Secondly because I at last did fall in love with her considerably.

I would not have troubled you with the details of the case but that her father desired me to give him your address so that he could write you on the subject but your consent I know you will give for I have been away from you too long for you to imagine what I am and must think I am best judge of what to do myself. If he asks you how old I am you must give him my present Soldiers age 22 as when I enlisted I enlisted for 20 and might get into a Row if any difference was found out. My change of name I amply explained.

Hoping you will send me as good a character as possible I remain

Your Aff. Son

Chas. Harte Serjeant.

## The New Chief of the General Staff

Military careers at the highest level seem nowadays to follow the pattern of two-stage rockets. The father is required to reach some military prominence and to create a sufficiently intense environment in his home life to groom his son to go on to heights on the threshold of which he himself had to retire exhausted. So it has been with the Chief of the Defence staff, Lord Mountbatten, whose father before him was the First Sea Lord; and the present C.G.S., Gen. Sir Richard Hull, son of a general; and the present Adjutant General, whose father was the C-in-C of the Army in India until Lord Auchinleck took over in 1941.

Three years ago General Hull and General Cassels stood together on the short list for the appointment of CGS. General Hull, the younger man by a couple of months, was selected. Gen. Cassels then became the Adjutant General and the Second Military Member on the Army Council; and all his friends said, "Poor Jim Cassels, he's got the *proximus accessit*: no man has ever gone from AG to the top. He'll have to be content with his G.C.B." But it was announced on July 16 that he is to do what has never yet been done, to move up in the New Year from Second Military Member to First Military Member and serve six consecutive years in the Army Council, ending at the top of his profession.

Naturally it is conjectured in consequence that General Hull, still young at 57, is to take over Lord Mountbatten's post; whereby two men of equal age, experienced at working together, will be the professional heads of the Armed Forces. But this last appointment has sufficiently political connotations for the Cabinet to defer the decision until after the election in October.

Gen. Cassels has already led a remarkable life, having started the Second War as a captain and finished it as a major general. He has commanded three remarkable divisions at three remarkable times in our history—the 51st Highland Division in Europe in 1945, the 6th Airborne Division in postwar Palestine, and the Commonwealth Division in Korea, where he made his name as a diplomat among soldiers and as a great leader of combined national forces.

When Cassels, after Rugby and Sandhurst, was commissioned in 1926 into the Seaforth Highlanders, his father was commanding Peshawar District in India as a major general. When he became the Indian Adjutant General, his son was promoted to lieutenant, where he stayed for ten years until just before the War. He was still a captain when his father retired from his membership of the Executive Council of India in 1941: but three years later the captain had been promoted to command a brigade in the Highland Division, which played such a distinguished part in Normandy and the N.W. European campaign. It was then that Cassels, a brigadier aged 37, was awarded the D.S.O. He was

promoted the following year to command his division, as a major general aged 38.

At 39, when most able soldiers nowadays hope to get command of their regiment, he took to parachuting and was given command of his second division, the 6th Airborne Division (veterans of the Normandy landing under Gale) in the political hotbed of Palestine, then under British mandate and brewing up to the Israeli-Jordan war. After a spell there, he handed over to Gen. "Hughie" Stockwell (now Deputy Supreme Commander of NATO), and returned to the Imperial Defence College to "continue his education." From this he became Director of Land/Air Warfare at the War Office.

He first achieved fame of national proportions in 1951 when, as a man of 46, he received command of his third operational division. The Korean war had broken out and the immediate British contribution had been the two brigades, 27th and 29th which fought a winter under appalling conditions without proper cold weather clothing or equipment. The following year these and the Australian, New Zealand and Canadian troops were reformed into the Commonwealth Division under Gen. Cassels' leadership. It was a multifarious army, with Indian field ambulances, Korean ancillary troops, American heavy artillery support and French, Turkish and Thailand troops on its flanks. The field drills of the various armies participating were seriously different at every level from machine gun shoots to divisional staff procedures; it needed a man of great patience, great charm, and great natural optimism to make such a Commonwealth collaboration work under such conditions. Cassels proved an unqualified success, and many are the tales of diplomatic triumphs out in Korea. His soldiers knew him too, and were proud of him as a massive humorous father-figure, striding out over slopes with his six-foot thumb stick.

In 1952, aged 45, he was made a knight, relieved by Gen. West (another of his kind), and sent off to command the 1st Corps in Germany as a lieutenant general. His last job before becoming Adjutant General was on the same ground, as Commander of Northern Army Group and C-in-C Rhine Army.

Here then is a man who has spent his life in high rank in high endeavour in places of high tension. Few are the soldiers who have had more experience than he: and yet he has walked with kings and not lost the common touch. It was typical of him that he should stop outside the R.U.S.I. lecture hall after one of the Montgomery "French Window" lectures, and accost a young officer wearing a Commonwealth Divisional tie, saying, "That's a good tie. That one I sometimes wear myself!" And it is typical of him that his "Who's Who" entry should read—"Recreation: all forms of sport."

A. J. S.

# THE WEST RIDING BATTALION T.A.

## OFFICERS MESS NOTES

As the C.O. was heard to remark, "We were heavily shot over by visiting generals at annual camp this year." With so many guests visiting the Battalion to see the training, the mess had a very busy life.

The first, and in fact the most important, function was our guest night. This takes place usually on the first Friday of camp, this year on Friday, July 17. The Colonel of the Regiment dined with us and our Honorary Colonel, Colonel Trevor Bentley. Our guests included our G.O.C., Major-General C. M. M. Man. our Brigadier, Brigadier Moran, the Camp Commandant, Lt.-Colonel V. E. O. Stevenson-Hamilton, Lt.-Colonel Walter Skelsey and Majors John Davis, Jim McLaren, and Tony Savory. The evening went very well indeed and, in particular, Arthur Hutchinson is to be congratulated for upholding the high traditions of the Mess under extremely adverse conditions. We shall be delighted to pay for the cleaning of his trousers.

On Saturday we entertained the Sergeants to lunch time drinks. We are sad to report however that the tradition of R.Q.M.S. Machen being the last to leave was broken this year—by a rank outsider.

To keep the tempo in full swing we followed on Sunday with our usual lunch-time drink and buffet (the C.O. is especially concerned that it should not be a cocktail party, but this year it began to look suspiciously like one). We had as guests several officers from the submarine base and also the officers from the L.C.T.s based on Helensburg.

We had a number of other guests: the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, Lt.-General Sir Charles Richardson, visited us on Tuesday, July 21, and had lunch in the mess and, of course, we were delighted to see Colonel Bryce, Secretary W.R. Yorks. T.A.F.A., who stayed with us for two days, Colonel Davidson, Brigade Colonel, The Yorkshire Brigade, and the Deputy Commander 146 Inf. Bde.(T.A.), Colonel Robinson.

## THE 5th BATTALION SILVER

On July 3, 1964, a short but moving ceremony took place in the officers mess of the West Riding Battalion—successors to the 5th Dukes.

A very handsome silver salver was handed over by Lt.-Col. D. H. Hirst, MBE, TD., deputising for Colonel K. Sykes, OBE, MC, TD, JP., on behalf of the trustees of the 5th Bn silver. The salver is to commemorate certain 5th Bn cups which are no longer competed for, and which have been disposed of by the trustees. A full list of the donors is inscribed on the salver. Col. Hirst emphasised, when handing the salver to Lt.-Col. J. C. Moncrieff, that it was for use and not ornament.

Lt.-Col. Moncrieff thanked the trustees and expressed the great pleasure and satisfaction the officers and himself felt at the continuing efforts and time the trustees gave to keep the Town's Drill Hall

up to the high standards always presented by the 5th Dukes.

## SERGEANTS MESS NOTES

Scribes from our Sergeants Mess seem rare—whether it is that we consider "actions are better than words" or sheer "pen shyness" we don't know, but we apologise for our silence in the last two issues of THE IRON DUKE and commence these notes with the latest changes in our members.

In the "top drawer" we said goodbye to R.S.M. Nichols and welcome R.S.M. Pennington. R.S.M. Nichols should remember his departure every time he hears reveille. After his second tour of duty with our Battalion he should now be a well and truly seasoned "territorial." To him and Mrs. Nichols we wish every success. In the throes of the second week of camp we welcomed R.S.M. Pennington—a rough time to take over but, with the dignity of his rank, accomplished. We hope R.S.M., Mrs. Pennington and family will enjoy their stay in Huddersfield and that our week-end soldiering doesn't prove too hectic.

An old well-known member of the Mess, "Tich" Frier has now rejoined the Battalion as Lt.(Q.M.) (T.A.). We offer our congratulations and support.

Sgt. Perrin has been promoted to staff sergeant and appointed C.Q.M.S. "C" Coy. and S/Sgt. Ewart to C.Q.M.S. H.Q. Coy. Sgt. Kelly and S/Sgt. Mountcastle have entered into battle to replace Sgts. Clarke and Wilkinson who will be rejoining the 1st Battalion.

Sgts. Smyth, Holberry and Watson have left us owing to increased civilian commitments. We wish them well.

From the R.M.P. we welcome Sgt. Parkes, who is in the throes of putting our M.T. Section in order, and new faces include Sgt. Roberts, "B" Coy., Sgt. Peckett, "A" Coy., and Sgt. Tennant, "C" Coy. We welcome them in our midst. Our newly appointed Drum Major, Sgt. Pickles, is setting about a full programme with zest. Congratulations.

Our two weeks yearly as a complete Mess—annual camp—was spent this year at Garelochhead in Scotland and it has been said that had the beer pipes been connected to the loch all craft, including submarines, would have been beached. Every record was broken and, with the help of the chiefs and petty officers of the submarines crews and warrant officers and sergeants from the L.C.T.s, our Mess achieved fame. It was indeed an inter-services fortnight as far as social life was concerned, with the "Open Day" on the middle Sunday the highlight. "Up periscope," "Down periscope"—up to the soldiers camp, down in the submarines. Many firm friendships were formed and The Dukes' name will long be remembered in many a submarine as will the name of many a submarine bring happy memories of our stay at Garelochhead.

On the Open Day, and repeated on the "Officers'

Night" the following Tuesday, through the great efforts of Sgt. Clarke (Nobolian Productions Inc.) we produced a variety show from the hidden talent within our Mess which included the great "Faziton" (alias Fitonovski) from Halifax, Reedski, Newtonovitch and Ewartoff (the Dying Swanettes) the muscles of S/Sgts. Collier, Reed, C.S.M. Jackie Bryan, and Sgt. Field getting "mixed;" that warbler Webb (Commander Asdics) preparing for the recruits starring Jackie Bryan, Mick Dillon and Joe Perrin and Alec Bycroft and his impersonations and others behind the scenes, giving us a show that couldn't have been bettered by professionals.

Miss Fairclough, Battalion H.Q. clerk, was our guest during camp and she helped us in many ways (and, if she kept her ears open, learned spatterings of Anglo-Saxon!). She asks that her thanks be sent to all Mess members for their kind hospitality.

Ere any reader gets the illusion that camp consisted

of beer and parties let him remember that if we played hard we also worked hard, cursing and enjoying the training, exercises and tuition. We came back to home stations a band of wiser, happier, maybe poorer—but mentally richer—men.

Activities since camp have included a visit to Strensall for the Depot's W.O.s and Sergeants Shoot where we met many old friends. Although we didn't win any prizes we enjoyed the day out in excellent weather and we would like to take this opportunity of recording our appreciation to the W.O.s and Sergeants of the Depot for their first-class arrangements.

Our next big social event will be the W.O.s and Sergeants Ball which will be held this year at Halifax on Saturday, November 28. C.S.M. Dillon, C/Sgt. Reed, Sgt. Howell and party are already at work to prove that Huddersfield is not the only venue for this great event.

## SHOOTING

### The Battalion Small Arms Meeting

The Battalion Meeting was once again held at Strensall, on June 6/7, and run along the same lines as last year:

*Friday, June 5, a.m.*—Pre-advance party, R.Q.M.S. Machen and a gallant band, takes over 27 W.E.T.C.

*Friday, June 5, p.m.*—Advance party arrives at York 27 W.E.T.C.

*Saturday, June 6, a.m.*—Advance party erects tents, lays line at Strensall.

*Saturday, June 6, p.m.*—Officials and butt markers rehearse, marksmen practice.

*Sunday, June 7*—Battalion Small Arms Meeting, with the band playing and various messes and N.A.A.F.I.'s dispensing refreshments, including ice-cream.

The weather was in a temperamental mood, but it played fair over the prize-giving and Mrs. Bentley.

H.Q. Coy. once again won the company team match, and got maximum points for the Champion Coy. Competition. Headed by their Commander they were a formidable team, and the audience at prize-giving did not fail to notice that their lowest rank was sergeant. The team, which also won the China Cup (Match 3), was:—

Major Webster, Capt. Crowther, Lt. Tyler, R.Q.M.S. Machen, C.S.M. Fitton, Sgt. Bacon, Sgt. Fossard and Sgt. Field.

However, any company could produce a high powered team like this—apart from the R.Q.M.S. and there is always a C.Q.M.S. to take his place—so, in spite of the muttering in the ranks of the rifle companies, no changes in rules are being made.

This was the first time that we had used the S.L.R. for the annual meeting, and it was very noticeable that this was so. Out of the top ten, seven were young soldiers; many of the older marksmen had not quite mastered the new rifle, and the "educated bolt" was now of no use. R.Q.M.S. Machen was not far from the top, however; he continues to be an exception in the shooting world.

The young soldiers from "C" Coy. easily won their match, and "A" Coy. astonished everyone by producing a falling-plate team that not only won the competition, but also produced a time of 35 secs. to run 100 yds. and knock eight plates down.

Pte. Andrews should also be congratulated; he was a young soldier plus one day, and yet he won the open competition. In 1963 another young soldier, L/Cpl. Williams, won the open competition. Perhaps there is something in this Bisley training after all.

Detailed results were as follows:—

#### Match 1. Rifle—Individual Clampionship.

Open—Winner: Pte Andrews, R., "A" Coy.  
Runner-up: Pte. Purvis, M. A., "C" Coy.

Y.S.—Winner: Pte. Purvis, M. A., "C" Coy.  
Runner-up: Pte. Akrigg, M. G., "C" Coy.

#### Match 2. M.M.G. pairs

Open—Winners: C/Sgt. Reed, Sgt. Clarke, "A" Coy. Runners-up: Sgt. Fossard, Sgt. Bacon, "HQ" Coy.

Y.S.—Winners: Pte. Smith, D., Pte. Wood, M., "D" Coy. Runners-up: Pte. Purvis, M. A., Pte. Akrigg, M. G., "C" Coy.

#### Match 3. China Cup

Winners: "H.Q." Coy. (team as listed above).

#### Match 4. S.M.G.

Winner: C.S.M. Webb, "D" Coy. Runner-up: Major Haws, "A" Coy.

#### Match 5. Falling Plates

Winners: "A" Coy., No. 2 team.

#### Match 6. Young Soldiers' Team Match

Winners: "C" Coy.—Pte. Jackman, Pte. Gibb, Pte. Stead, O/Cadet Bateman, Pte. Akrigg, Pte. Bush, Pte. Butterfield, and Pte. Purvis.

Runners-up: "D" Coy.

#### Match 7. Coy. Team Match

Winners: "H.Q." Coy. (team as listed). Runners-up: "A" Coy.



Elock by Courtesy of Huddersfield Examiner

Major Robertson directs M.M.G. training; the Padre the Rev. R. I. J. Matthews looks on

### Bisley, 1964 (July 5-8)

Once again this year we concentrated on young soldiers and it was not therefore expected that we could compete on even terms at Bisley. There is no Young Soldiers' Competition at the T.A.R.A. Bisley Meeting. The team also suffered a heavy blow when Pte. Halcrow, our Number 1 on the L.M.G. for the China Cup, discovered that pay complications meant that he would lose his T.A.E.R. bounty of £150 if he attended Bisley. Evidently, shooting at Bisley is not good enough training for an infantryman in this nuclear age, and so the Queen's enemies live on.

Matches entered were: The Bisley Bullet, Sec. of State, Kinnaird, B.S.A., Sitting, Queen Mary and Standing.

Adding all together, the following scores were made: Major Robertson, 345 and 164 for 2nd Stage Queen Mary for top 50; L/Cpl. Williams, 285;

Pte. Andrews, 284; R.Q.M.S. Machen, 243 (less one practice for O.S. Queen Mary, i.e. excluding run down); Pte. Walker, 266; Lt. Dye, 256; O/Cdt. Marshall, 245; Pte. Edwards, 214 (less one practice); Pte. Brook, 216; L/Cpl. Parr, 189; Pte. Kehoe, 162; Pte. Murphy, 155 (less one practice); Lt. Tyler, 156; C.S.M. Laherty, 152.

The only team match entered was the China Cup. The riflemen did well, scoring 209, but our reserve L.M.G. team only managed to score 72 making a total of 281. However, as some units never even managed to knock all the snap targets down to score at all, it could have been worse, especially as six out of our team of eight were young soldiers. The winning score was 494.

We are now about to start practising for the 49 Div. Rifle Meeting on September 12 and 13, which will be held at Beckingham. There are no Bde. Meetings this year.

## T.A.E.R. Trip to Germany - May 1964

Everyone would agree that the fortnight's stay with the 1st Battalion was extremely enjoyable, helped along by very good weather.

We would straight away like to thank very much all those in the 1st Battalion who helped us throughout

our stay. There were many old friendships remade by all our own ranks. Particularly would we like to thank those in "B" Coy. from Major Shuttleworth downwards.

The flight out was quick and comfortable and was



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preceded by a short filming for that night's I.T.V. News of the lads as they boarded the aircraft at Ringway.

When we arrived we found that we had with us seven junior ranks from the 4th/5th Green Howards based at Richmond.

The first week was given over entirely to tactical exercise with the rest of "B" Coy. at Sennelager. Those five days were entirely tactical though for us part-time soldiers, at least during the first two days, one would not have thought so. However, we picked up many tricks that most of us had learned many years ago and we all felt we had a most enjoyable time.

Two of the highlights were when Cpl. Price of the 4th/5th Green Howards reported sick one night and in making his way from the Platoon position to "H.Q.", all of 500 yards, lost his way. There was much relief when he was found some 12 hours later walking along the road somewhere on the training area with, at least, a grin on his face.

Also we recall a poker school which was not exactly popular during the tour of a certain senior officer.

Perhaps one of the grandest sights was the whole of the T.A.E.R. Platoon advancing during the second phase of a company attack in pouring rain,

nearly every man wearing a ground sheet, much to the amusement of the lads of "B" Coy.

The tactical days behind us we looked forward very much to our trip to Amsterdam and, by Jove, what a trip that was. The rest is unprintable.

During the second week we were most interested to have a look over the Conquerer and Centurion tanks of the 9th/12th Lancers. We had a short period training on the G.P.M.G. but the 1st Battalion found they were unable to fit us in for live firing on the open range.

The morning of the Sports Day was spent with the Signals being shown around the much more modern equipment issued to the Regular Army nowadays. During the afternoon the best we could manage in the sports was second in the sack and three-legged races.

We found the next day that we were very quietly dropped into the gas chamber, which was a new experience for 90 per cent. of us.

By then it was almost time for us to leave for home and the last afternoon was spent shopping in Osnabruck, which was an extremely popular move.

The C.O. very kindly found time to come out and bid us farewell on the Thursday afternoon and on Friday morning we could very truthfully say that we were extremely sorry to leave.

## NEWS FROM THE COMPANIES

### "H.Q." COMPANY

The Company made a good start to the summer activities by winning the Battalion Rifle Competition at Strensall. The Company had four in the top ten finalists, won the China Cup with 403 points, which would have won at Bisley [the winning score at Bisley is given in the Shooting Notes as 494—ED] and ended up with a 200 point lead in the Team match. Once again R.Q.M.S. George Machen appeared near the top, 3rd on this occasion.

Camp went with a swing and the Company showed itself in good light. The weather was fair but even this did not tempt the Recce Platoon to join O.C. Coy. bathing in the burn. The platoon, however, learned a lot and this was evident during the Battalion exercise. Capt. Hawkins re-joined Sigs. for camp, taking them out on "schemes" most days. This was one group the generals never met. The Command Post/Int. caravan stood up to 600 miles of towing and a very hard run down the



Elock by Courtesy of Helensburg and Gareloch Times

Band and Drums beating retreat at Helensburg

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Yankee Road—voted a great success and more caravans now on the way. Camp Garelochhead agreed as A1.

The cooks subjected themselves to trade tests, L/Cpl. Hollingworth and Pte. Thewlis passing to higher grades. Congratulations must be also offered to Sgt. Mills on joining the Sgts.' Mess, Cpls. Howard and Smithson, to L/Cpls. Jackson, Lamb, Pears and Todd on putting their feet on the first rung of the promotion ladder. Another recruit has been lost to the Battalion as Capt. Curry's new offspring is another girl.

August once again brings a quiet period. The Band have collected their letters from Scotland, the O.C. has gone on holiday at last, and the pay sheets are wrong again—so far.

### “ A ” COMPANY

After the words “ Annual Camp ” had been emblazoned in red letters on everyone's mind for weeks, it seemed almost anti-climactical when it actually loomed through the mist, perched precariously on the hillside overlooking the loch. However, this feeling did not last for long.

Our company is famous (or is it notorious?) for settling in and quickly taking over a place—and Garelochhead was no exception. We did, of course, once again lose our identity during the first week as we were all “ farmed out ” to the various cadres, but this was made up for during the second week. It was then we came joint first with “ C ” Company in the drill competition, and won the football knock-out competition, amassing such a number of goals that everyone eventually lost count!

At a special muster parade towards the end of camp R.S.M. Nichols, who was leaving the Battalion was presented with a gift by Pte. Dunn on behalf of “ A ” Company. Pte. Dunn quite amazed his friends by his unexpected burst of loquacity. When it became Mr. Nichols' job to reply, he said he had always had a “ soft spot ” for the Company, as it appeared to have the greatest number of “ rogues ” in it. (The number of self-deprecating smiles which fitted through the ranks hardly gave the lie to this statement!) Needless to say, Mr. Nichols carries on his voyages all our best wishes.

On the lighter side, we had the journeyings of Sgt. Thompson and L/Cpl. Hill and the antics of Cpl. Dare to amuse us and to keep our name in the press, back in Halifax.

Messrs. Thompson and Hill were just recovering from their mirth and incredulity at the sight of a Scotsman in a kilt, riding a scooter, when they came upon an itinerant Scottish minstrel, complete with a rather moth-eaten set of bag-pipes. Having heard the effect of the pipes across the loch on the previous night, L/Cpl Hill was convinced he could produce sounds no less stirring. So the bag was filled, and the pipes manipulated. (Both of them were still breathing heavily, and looking anxiously over their shoulders for the sight of the first claymore, whilst reporting the incident to Lt. Edward Dye, our unofficial publicity officer).

Cpl. Dare must not be forgotten, though. After the Company social on the second Monday evening,

he provided the highlight of the event by stripping down as far as he decently could, then plunging into the loch and swimming to a yacht moored 300 yards out. His incentive appeared to be a young lady leaning over the yacht's rail for he calmly “ chatted up ” this damsel before returning, to shouts of encouragement such as “ Dive, dive, dive! ” and “ Come in, No. 4, your time is up! ”

This sort of initiative(?) apparently receives its reward, as Cpl. Dare figured in the promotions list published later. This included:

Cpl. Peckett to sergeant; L/Cpls. Dare and Mongan to corporal; Ptes. Price, Sullivan and Hill to lance-corporal.

Congratulations to all of them, and a big “ Thank You ” from the Company Commander, Major P. H. Haws, to all the Company for their efforts at camp.

### “ B ” COMPANY

The scene at Mirfield Drill Hall is now returning to normal; various members are coming back, having had their holidays, and brown faces and empty pockets are the vogue. What is more encouraging is that there are a few new fresh young faces to be seen, and this makes a new group who are unable to tell tall stories of what happened to them at Garelochhead Camp 1964.

The Company went to camp to find that Scotland was not as bare and forbidding as they thought. In fact, the sight of the loch in the early morning, with the hills all around, was a pretty fair improvement on Huddersfield gasworks or Windybank Housing Estate. During the first week, in the absence of C.S.M. Laherty, C/Sgt. Alec Bycroft performed the most amazing duties, ranging from his normal, to acting C.S.M., pay clerk, armoury storeman, entertainer and father confessor.

The Company party, held at a splendid hotel at Rhu, was a great success. A three-piece band from the Regimental Band played all the tunes, and many marching-type songs were sung, including the “ Dukes ” Rigger Song of course. This extreme rhythmic action caused the chandeliers to swing to good effect in the room below, and the locals formed the opinion that the English were really rather mad.

Thanks to the initiative of Cpl. Roberts a big party went on one of the “ Round the Isles ” cruises on the middle Sunday, which was very enjoyable despite the high flying seagulls.

Food was particularly good at camp this year, and three key figures who rendered this possible were from the Company. Captain K. Buckland, as messing officer, really produced the goods and even subjected the servers in the cookhouse to a short sharp spell of time and motion study. L/Cpl. Fowler, as ration storeman, was like a guard dog when any unauthorised person entered his stores—and on one occasion, when acting as guard commander, dealt with a rather tricky episode when he confronted one of his company officers at the camp gates in his car, smuggling what can only be termed as very imperishable goods. Pte. Sharp, W., as butcher, did great service, and was so keen as to bring his own choppers and knives from civvy street.

Major Farrow's dog, Simba, attended his second

camp and did quite well, having reduced his barking in the middle of the night to an acceptable minimum. Lt. Charles Kilner showed great courage in saving this beast, whilst practising battle procedure, in restraining it from retrieving a thunderflash which had been thrown on a bandit position!

Now the year's highlight is over training is being started again at square one with emphasis on .22 shooting, recruiting and special cadre training. A detachment from our Support Platoon Commander's (Lt. Ian Fillan) Mortar section, is to appear at the famous Denby Dale Pie Celebrations, on September 5, where about 30,000 people are expected to attend. This conforms well with our ever-present aim of trying to keep ourselves in the eyes of the public, and thereby to attract volunteers both to the Regular and Territorial Army.

### "C" COMPANY

The Company was very fortunate in having an excellent recruiting response immediately before we went to camp, with the result that we were the largest rifle company there. The quality of these new recruits is of the highest class, and in a short time there will be extremely keen competition for promotion. One of the most satisfying events of the past three months is the fact that the Company won the Recruits' Cup at the Battalion Rifle Meeting, and followed this at camp by being joint winners of the drill competition. There is tremendous enthusiasm in the Company, and since camp we have had at least five firm enquiries from potential recruits, all of whom have been brought in by present members.

Camp was enjoyed by everyone. It was a success from every point of view at a company level. The training went very smoothly and efficiently, and living conditions and other amenities were of as high a standard as we have experienced recently. We had the misfortune to be duty company on the middle weekend, so that very few if any of the Company were able to go on the trips which had been arranged, but, as part compensation, a party was invited to look round a submarine which was in the base at Faslane. The quarters for the crew surprised everyone. Eight or more men appeared to live, eat, sleep, and do everything but wash and work, in a space about 9 ft. square, whereas at camp we had a Nissen hut to 12 men.

We have had several promotions in the Company. Sgt. Perrin is now Colour-Sergeant, Cpl. Tennant has been promoted to Sergeant, L/Cpl. Wright to Corporal, and Ptes. Bush, E., Akrigg, C., Gibson, T., and Blenkarn to Lance-Corporal. Inevitably there have been several losses, but the strength of the Company is increasing. We have produced two recruits for the Regular Battalion: Pte. Leach, who has been with us for only a few months and has enjoyed all he has seen, and Pte. Marsden, the brother-in-law of C/Sgt. Perrin, who has left us this week for Strensall. We wish them every success in the Regular Army.

We believe that we shall have a most successful autumn and winter, and we look forward to it with enthusiasm. There is only one sad note. In a very short time we shall be losing Sgt. Wilkinson who

will be returning to the Regular Army. He has been with us for three years and has worked very hard, not only for the West Riding Battalion, but also for cadet units at nearby schools. We all are extremely sorry to see him go, and we hope that he and Mrs. Wilkinson and their family will have a happy and successful stay with the Regular Battalion. Sgt. Kelly has come as Sgt. Wilkinson's replacement, and we trust that he and Mrs. Kelly will enjoy their posting to us.

### "D" COMPANY

Since our last notes much has happened within the company. First our "Ever Readies" returned from their training with the 1 D.W.R. It is gathered from the many tales that are told over a pint that they enjoyed themselves.

Now we turn to some of the events of annual camp. For some it proved very successful, but the poor C.Q.M.S. was seen here, there, and everywhere—with the aid of a stick. The usual cadres were held and the recruits settled in quickly. Middle weekend soon came around and Commander R. Webb along with his No.1 L. Newton were really showing the Royal Navy guests from the Submarine base how to "Dive, dive, dive." (Anyone going for a swim in the loch.)

The Battalion exercise saw the company split up. Some were temporarily posted to the other companies and the remainder turned tribesmen. "Gunga Din" (the C.Q.M.S.) assisted Sheik Huffam in the enemy "element" along with the "bangs" department. The exercise passed off very well, with weather of "desert type," but the following day hard words were said about the "enemy" feeding so well, when the Company Commander, who commanded the exercise, only got one cold sausage for his breakfast—enough said.

When all had returned to camp, the company spruced themselves up for the annual smoker party. This was held in a hotel overlooking Loch Gare. During the evening a wristlet watch was presented to W.O.II R. Webb who has been the P.S.I. since 1962 and had almost completed his tour. (He will by now have rejoined the 1 D.W.R.) The Company Commander, Major Barnes, made the presentation and paid tribute to the fine work he had done for "The Company." Our very best wishes go to Rex and Marie and we hope they will enjoy their stay at Osnabruck and won't forget us in the black hills of Dakota, sorry, Mossley.

Since returning from camp it is our very sad duty to announce the passing of "Butch." Many will remember him at Strensall and the many other places where Rex and Butch have been stationed in the past few years. He will be sadly missed.

In the past few weeks we have been visited by no less than three of our former members now serving in the Regular Army. They were Gd. J. Morris of The Grenadier Guards, Pte. L. Povey of the Lancastrian Bde. and J/D. W. Larnder (son of the C.Q.M.S.). All look fit and well and wish to be remembered to all members of the company. Also to visit us on his way back to 1 D.W.R. was W.O.II

*(continued at foot of next page)*

## PERSONALIA

**We remind readers that the annual Regimental Service in York Minster will be held this year on Friday, October 30, at 11 a.m.**

The Colonel of the Regiment has been suffering from vertigo. We understand he is on the mend. On behalf of all readers we wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Colonel Trevor Bentley is being succeeded shortly, as Honorary Colonel of the West Riding Battalion, by Colonel J. B. Sugden, T.D., D.L. We hope to have a photo and "profile" of Colonel Sugden for the next issue.

Brigadier Firth has now returned to England and has taken over command of his Brigade, 127 Inf. Bde. (T.A.). His address is: 107, Manchester Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

As reported in our last number Major Jeffrey Reynolds has assumed the appointment of manager of The Country Club, Auckland Park, Johannesburg, South Africa. Major Reynolds has written to say that he hopes very much that any old "Duke" who passes through Johannesburg will get in touch with him. The Country Club is the principal club in South Africa with a membership of 5,700. It has extensive facilities for catering and for tennis, bowls, golf, swimming, cricket and squash.

We congratulate Major Jim Newton on attaining his substantive majority.

Captain Edward Dasent has left his appointment Uganda and is now G.S.O.3 (Ops and S.D.), H.Q. Northern Rhodesia Army.

### D Coy. WR Bn.—(continued from page 180)

C. Sullivan who is shortly to succeed W.O.II R. Webb as P.S.I. to this company. We look forward to welcoming Con and his family to Mossley.

Now we get back to normal training, winter cadres and winning the Champion Company competition again (we are in second place at present). Also the Q will be polishing his latest addition which is to be seen outside the Drill Hall practically every spare moment.

Finally, Pte. J. Lewis who has recently joined us from the Cheshire Regiment (T.A.) has been promoted to L/Cpl., and Pte. E. Armitage and Pte. J. Knott are promoted Cpl., congratulations to you and also to Pte. and Mrs. G. Brett on the birth of their daughter. Congratulations also to Pte. P. Brooks on his marriage to Joan. Our very best wishes are extended to them all.

#### Footnote:

There is no truth in the rumours that the C.S.M. is marrying a W.R.A.C. catering adviser.

Captain Wilf Charlesworth, now serving with 22 S.A.S., has moved to Singapore.

Mr. Percy Hickox retired recently after 25 years as a postman in Halifax. Before his service as a postman Mr. Hickox served in the Regiment for 23 years and reached the rank of quartermaster sergeant. On his retirement from the Halifax Post Office Mr. Hickox was awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

R.S.M. R. Todd writes from H.Q.17 Div, Land Forces, Borneo, B.F.P.O.660:

*I arrived in FARELF in August, 1962, to take over C.S.M. of H.Q. FARELF. I had just settled down when I was sent to Brunei in January, 1963, as R.S.M. (Local) to Forward Admin. Complex, which consisted of all the small units, i.e. Inf. Workshops, Det Field Amb., Det Port Sqn. R.E., Det Coy Gurkha A.S.C. and so on. Whilst there I had a visit from Major (Bugsy) Milligan whom I greeted in the true traditional style of The Duke's. He, incidentally, is residing in H.Q. FARELF as public relations officer.*

*I eventually left there in August, 1963. I went back to H.Q. FARELF and shortly after, in December, I was on the move again. This time as R.S.M. H.Q.17 Div. in Malaya, an old division being revived. After four months of getting organised, yet another move was afloat, this time Divisional H.Q. to Labuan, a small island off the West Coast of Borneo, of which I am a resident until when! Who knows? I have also met Major (Bill) Blakey who is with 1st Singapore Guard Regt., but one could hardly recognise him now with songkok and all. So wherever one goes throughout the world one will always find a "Duke!"*

Ex-C.S.M. G. W. Jones, of whom mention was made in our October 1963 number, now writes to inform us that he and his family are to try their luck in Australia. Mr. Jones joined the Regiment at Halifax in September, 1924, and later joined the 1st Battalion at Gosport. In 1926 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Singapore. He served in the then newly formed M.G. Company from 1928 until 1940: when he became C.S.M. of 'B' Company. After a few months he was posted to the Border Regiment as R.S.M. He eventually retired in 1946. Mr. Jones' daughter, Pattie, is now employed at Aberdeen University and is hoping to take up an appointment in Australia towards the end of the year.

All old Dukes will join us in wishing Mr. Jones and his family every good fortune in their new venture. Their address in Australia is c/o Commonwealth Migration Officer, 18/20 York Street, Sydney, New South Wales.

A reredos, painted by Mr. David Shepherd, was dedicated at St. George's Garrison Church, Bordon, on July 22 by the Chaplain General.

It is a memorial to the regiments and corps of the British, Canadian and United States armies who have been stationed at Bordon Camp since it was built in 1903. The Regiment and Old Comrades were represented at the dedication by Major Lennon and Mr. A. Ancill.

Readers may have seen the name of M. Ralph (Myron A.C.) selected for the triple jump in Britain's team for the Olympic Games. Mike Ralph served as a national service officer with the 1st Battalion when they were in Northern Ireland. He was then already a noted performer at the "hop, skip and jump" and was in the English team.

The 1st Battalion sent him a congratulatory telegram on his selection and we wish him great success.

Major Davis, on behalf of the Regiment, sent £10 in response to an appeal for funds for repairs to the Army Church at Kamptee where the 2nd Battalion were stationed in the thirties. The church is now used by the Christian community in the Indian army units stationed there.

The only response to our suggestion in the last number that someone might write their personal recollections of "D" Day came from Lt. Colonel Donald Isles. He sent an old cartoon by the 8th Army cartoonist, "Jon," showing the "two types" pushing their jeep through the mud of Italy and one saying: "Which 'D' day do they mean, old boy ...?"

Lt. Colonel Donald was just about to re-visit Italy for a holiday on the Adriatic (or 8th Army) side. He has been told by M.S. that he will finish his job as A.M.A. in Paris in March 1965 and take over the 1st Battalion in May.

Major Sam Robertson was due to join the 1st Battalion in mid-September to take over 2 I/C from Major Graham Tedd who expected to fly home on October 1 en route for Strensall and the post of D.A.A.G., The Yorkshire Brigade.

Major Tedd tells us that he and the C.O. are the last officers in the 1st Battalion who served in the old 2nd Battalion before the amalgamation in 1948. Lt. Colonel Kavanagh was with the 2nd for quite a short period only: Major Tedd served in it for six years.

Mr. Nicholls, the new R.S.M. of the 1st Battalion is another link with the 2nd. He joined it towards the end of the war and Major Tedd remembers him as a young lance-corporal on one of the first N.C.O's cadres he ran after the war in 1945, under Lt. Colonel Dalrymple.

Mr. Godfrey Bellamy is back with the 1st Battalion from Shrivenham with the degree of B.Sc. (Engineering)—London University.

Major Lewis Kershaw has had to give up his hotel at Exford which he found too much for him. He now has an R.O.2 appointment at H.Q. Mercian Brigade, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield.

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## 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.

### **Mrs. R. O'D. Carey**

Mrs. Rupert Carey died in Halifax on August 28, aged 72.

She was well known to members of both battalions between the wars when she was with her husband in Singapore and India with the 2nd Battalion and in England and Malta with the 1st, taking her part in regimental life.

When Major Carey retired in 1937, on completion of his time as O.C. of the Depot, they settled in Halifax. Mrs. Carey suffered from ill health for many years and, after the death of her husband in 1961, lived more or less in seclusion.

Lt.-Colonel Skelsey attended the funeral, representing the Colonel of the Regiment.

### **Brigadier F. H. Fraser, D.S.O., M.C.**

Francis Hugh Fraser was born in 1893, son of Colonel A. H. H. Fraser, late 33rd and Royal Berkshire Regiments. He was educated at Wellington and Sandhurst.

He was commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in February 1914 and served in France and Belgium throughout the first world war, except for a period of six months spent in recovering from a wound. He was adjutant of the 2nd Battalion from May 1916 to June 1917 and subsequently served on the staff as G.S.O.3 and Brigade major.

During this war he won the D.S.O. and M.C. and a mention in despatches.

From 1919 to 1921 he was Brigade Major, Black Sea Area, and was then posted to the 1st Battalion at Bostandjik in Turkey. He was adjutant of that battalion from 1924 to 1927. He then returned to the 2nd Battalion in India. He was awarded the brevet of major in 1933 and was promoted substantive major in 1935 in which year he took part with the battalion in the Loe Agra campaign on the North West Frontier.

In 1938 he was selected to succeed Colonel Christison as C.O. of the 2nd Battalion and held this appointment until the end of 1940 when he was appointed to command the 2nd Malaya Infantry Brigade. This appointment inevitably resulted in his spending the years 1942 to 1944 as a prisoner of war in the hands of the Japanese.

He returned to England, seeming little affected by his experiences, and retired from the army in December 1946, after 32 years' service.

He settled at Itchen Abbas in Hampshire and became active in local affairs. He was associated

with the Army Cadet Force and was appointed County Commandant in 1948, a post he was to hold until his retirement in 1958. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire in 1953. Since 1962 he had been president of the local branch of the British Legion.

*Brigadier Webb-Carter writes*

"Perhaps the period when he was adjutant of the 1st Battalion from 1924 to 27 was when Hugh Fraser made his greatest impact on the Regiment. He had to deal with a number of high-spirited subalterns and guide some not strikingly proficient company commanders. This he accomplished with the minimum of ostentation but with marked success. His prestige was considerable. A most distinguished war record and an impressive efficiency combined with 'unflappability' made him a formidable figure in the orderly room and on the parade ground for those were days before an adjutant became irretrievably chair-borne and overwhelmed by military paper.

He was a neat and proficient horseman though his temperament made him shine more in the hunting field and show ring than on the polo ground.

Hugh's last years in Hampshire were spent in public service both in the county, where he was a most successful county commandant of the A.C.F., and locally where he was conspicuous in all those demanding and unpaid jobs that foster a community spirit in English villages. He will be much missed."

At the funeral, which took place at Martyr Worthy, the Colonel of the Regiment was represented by Brigadier Webb-Carter. Members of the Regiment who attended included Brigadier E. W. Rogers, Maj. General R. K. Exham, Lt. Colonel Cox, Major and Mrs. Kavanagh, Colonel Armitage, Lt. Colonel and Mrs. Faithfull, Lt. Colonel Dalrymple, Major Sir Nugent Everard, Major and Mrs. Burton, Lt. Colonel J. Coulter and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Webster who travelled down from Halifax for the service.

Brigadier Fraser left his decorations and medals to the Regimental Museum and £100 to the O.C.A.

### **Mr. G. A. Greagsbey**

George Alexander (Bob) Greagsbey died after a short illness at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital on 20th July, 1964. He was cremated at Putney Vale Cemetery on 24th July. The funeral was attended by Mr Bob Temple of the London Branch.

*Bob Temple writes:*

Bob Greagsbey enlisted in 1919 and served with the M.G. Company of the 1st Battalion in Palestine, Ireland, Tidworth, Gibraltar, Turkey and Gosport. He joined the 2nd Battalion in Egypt and went on to Singapore, still with the M.G. Company.

He took his discharge to Army Reserve in 1929 with the rank of sergeant. On leaving the Army he joined London Transport, becoming an inspector on the buses, and was in London throughout the Blitz.

He and his wife went into business in Luton



some few years ago and made a great success of it. It is only just over 12 months ago that he decided to give the business up and move to Flitwick in Bedfordshire.

Bob and I were very close friends for many years and served together continuously from 1921 to 1929. In 1929 he introduced me to his sister who is now my wife.

He was an active member of the London Branch and attended all the dinners.

He leaves a widow, Win, and a daughter, Janet.

### Mr. T. McMahon

The Regiment lost one of its most faithful servants by the death of Tom McMahon, after a heart attack, on September 7. He was 71 years of age.

Tom McMahon, the son of an old "Duke," ex-C/Sgt. J. McMahon, enlisted into the 4th D.W.R. in January 1910 and served with that battalion in France and Belgium. After being wounded at Thiepval in 1916 he was posted to the 3/4th Battalion as a drill instructor.

In 1919 he re-enlisted for 4 years under the bounty scheme and served with the 1st Battalion continuously, rising steadily in rank, until 1936 when he was posted from Malta to the Depot as R.Q.M.S.

In 1941 he went to H.Q. Northern Command as their R.Q.M.S. and remained with them until his discharge to pension in 1946. He had earned the following medals: 1914/15 Star; 1914/18 General Service and Victory Medals; 1939/45 British War Medal and Defence Medal; L.S.G.C. and Meritorious Service Medals; King George V Jubilee and King George VI Coronation Medals.

On his discharge he took employment at the Depot as a civilian clerk and remained at Regimental Headquarters until he finally retired officially on November 5, 1963, after 53 years continuous service to the Regiment. Even then he continued to serve on the Case Committee of the Regimental Association.

His completion of 50 years' service had been marked at an informal ceremony after the St. George's Day service at Halifax in 1960 when the Colonel of the Regiment presented him with a silver cigarette box. In returning thanks Tom said: "For me, and I hope for all of you, there is only one regiment—and that is The Duke's."

For the Regiment, too, there was only one Tom McMahon.

Tom was married at Ludd in Palestine on February 1, 1921. He is survived by his widow, who gallantly came to the O.C.A. reunion, and by his son, Donald, and daughter, Kathleen.

Tom was interred at Warley Cemetery on September 11 after a requiem mass at St. Columille's Church. Brigadier P. P. de la H. Moran represented the Colonel of the Regiment and a large number of Old Comrades were present. The bearer party was composed of sergeants of the West Riding Battalion which also provided a bugler to sound the Last Post and Reveille.

### Captain Louis Sykes

Captain Louis Sykes died at his home at Thomson's Falls in Kenya on August 21. He was aged 83.

Members of the 1st Battalion met and admired Captain Sykes during their visits to Kenya when, on several occasions, units camped on his estate.

At the time of his death he was about to return to England, after more than 40 years in Kenya, as his farm had been made the subject of a Government compulsory purchase order. He had been invited to come to the O.C.A. dinner as a guest if he was back in time and it is sad that his death has denied old friends the opportunity of meeting him again. One feels, however, that he may not have been too unhappy to die before having to hand over the farm which he had managed so well for so long to face life in an England which he had not seen since 1920.

Just too late for the last issue we received from Captain R. M. Weare, The Green Howards, an account of a visit he paid to Captain Sykes in June. We are printing this article below as, apart from its interest, it is a fitting tribute to a grand old warrior.

Captain Sykes is survived by a son.

We have also just received the news of the death of Alderman William Regan, J.P., a former Mayor of Halifax and of Mr. T. F. M. Smelt also of Halifax. They both served with the Regiment during the 1914-1918 War. We also regret to record the death, on October 6, of Capt. R. H. D. Bolton, O.B.E.

Obituary Notices will appear in our next issue.

## LOUIS SYKES

by Captain R. M. Weare, The Green Howards

Captain Louis Sykes is well known to many "Dukes." I visited him the other day on his farm at Thomson's Falls some 120 miles from Nairobi. He had written saying he had some articles for the Brigade Museum at Strensall, and it was with the object of collecting these treasures that I called.

Louis Sykes was born on July 2, 1881, at Leeds. He attended a local school run by an old naval captain. He was later apprenticed to a Leeds engineering firm for four years before joining the Yorkshire Regiment at the outbreak of the South African War. He completed his training at Richmond and was drafted to South Africa. His service took him to India, Somaliland, and back to South Africa at the time of the Zulu rebellion. He was seconded to the West Africa Regiment in 1910 and went to Sierra Leone, returning in the summer of '14.

Sykes went to Belgium and France with the 2nd Battalion The Green Howards in the early months of the war. He was commissioned into The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and was a company commander in December 1915.

In 1920, he came out to Kenya under a Government scheme to colonise the country. The qualification was £1,000. "Of the 1,034 that came out, 950 went bankrupt," he says, "They should have advertised for 1,000 mugs. They sank their pensions

and wound gratuities into their farms and lost everything. It was just wild bush, lion, leopard and buffalo everywhere. There were more zebra than one could count. I would shoot ten of a morning with a .350 rifle. That would cost me fifteen bob, and there were thousands left."

His apprentice training came in useful when the local farmers decided to build a creamery. Although he had not been an architect his experience on the drawing board was useful. There were countless problems, not least the £8,000 capital required to build and equip the creamery. Thirty years later the plant is still there.

Later, the Governor refused to build them a hospital on account of lack of funds. "We paid 75% of the taxes and the other 25% was paid by the Indian traders who made their money from us. The truth is they spent the money on what they wanted to. Our wives were getting old and could not continue to tend the sick including Africans. Sometimes they made a mistake and it would prey on their minds." Some gave timber from their farms, others gave labour and money and the hospital was built. It is still there.

During the last war he was Adjutant of the District. He was not personally molested during the Mau Mau time. He puts it down to the fact that the Africans knew he was a good shot and had seen him down game. "They did not think it was worth it," he says. At the age of 83 he still carries a gun, a .38 Smith and Wesson Special, as he has done since he arrived in Africa.

The Kenya Government are now going to buy up his 4,000 acres as part of their African Settlement scheme. He is waiting to hear the price offered. He plans to return to England and wonders how his old bones will stand up to an English winter after forty years in Kenya.

Louis Sykes spends his leisure time reading history. He wants to read Fortescue's "History of

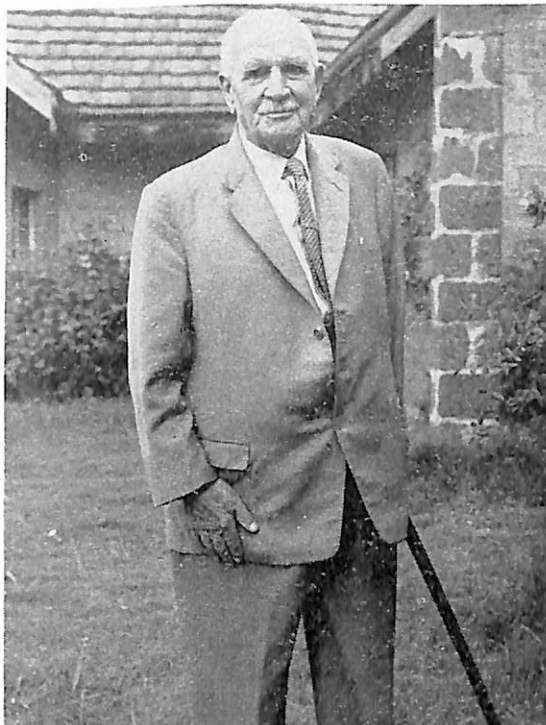


Photo by A.P.R., H.Q. British Land Forces, Kenya

**Captain Louis Sykes**

the British Army." It is contained in about fourteen volumes. Louis is a bit deaf now, but his mind is as clear as can be, and his handwriting is as bold.

The Sykes saga is a fascinating story of a soldier, company commander, pioneer and farmer. It was a privilege to meet him.

## **REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION**

### **The General Secretary's Report**

Mr. Chairman and Old Comrades,

Once again I have pleasure in presenting my report to the Annual General Meeting of the Regimental and Old Comrades' Associations of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, covering the period September, 1963 to September, 1964.

#### **Case work**

Since my last report your R.H.Q. Case Committee have dealt with 132 applications for financial assistance from the benevolent funds at our disposal. 112 were granted aid and 20 were turned down as either not being in real need or not coming within the scope of the funds. This compares favourably with last year's figures when we had 167 applications

with 150 helped and 17 turned away. Then the average grant per individual worked out at about £8—this year it is approximately £10 per head.

Once again may I point out that in many cases where either the British Legion or other Regimental or Corps Associations have been concerned the individual has received a similar grant to ours; thus, where, say, a war widow has been awarded £10 by us towards bedding requirements, she has also had the same amount from the Legion or other Associations. I make this point so that you will understand that a good deal of co-operation goes on between service benevolent bodies to the benefit of our less fortunate ones.

A summary of monies disbursed in grants and subscriptions follows:—

**O.C.A. Fund**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
9 Grants in Aid ..	94	7	6			
Donation — Kamptee Church ..	10	0	0			
IRON DUKE Subs. ..	20	0	0			
Chelsea Pensioners ..	25	0	0			
Pensions List ..	312	0	0			
				461	7	6

**Regimental Association Funds**

101 Grants in Aid ..	924	16	2			
Donation to Bath School	25	0	0			
Local Charities ..	7	7	0			
IRON DUKE ..	20	0	0			
				977	3	2

**McGuire Bate Fund**

3 Grants in Aid ..				157	10	0
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**Mitchell Trust Fund**

2 Grants in Aid ..				17	12	0
				£1,613	12	8

**Pensions Grants**

There have been no new additions to the O.C.A. Pensions List since the last A.G.M. Contact with our pensioners is maintained through the good offices of S.S.A.F.A. or Regimentally appointed agents and we are pleased to be able to say they are all in fairly good health.

**Accounts**

I now present the audited accounts of the Old Comrades' Association and Regimental Association Funds, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, as at close of business on March 31, 1964. The accounts have already been published in the July issue of THE IRON DUKE.

I now ask you to formally adopt these accounts as a true and correct view of the affairs of the Associations.

Our Trustees have taken various steps to increase the income and the capital of our funds. A new investment policy has been adopted; the result of this has been that the capital value of our investments has risen from £37,358 to £40,650, an increase of £3,292. At the same time, our income from investments has increased from £1,873 to £1,993, an increase of £120 per annum.

Secondly, by covenants from serving and retired regular officers we have received a total of £237 12s. 6d. a year. This money has not yet been invested and is additional to the figures above.

Thirdly, the Colonel of the Regiment has made an appeal for covenants or subscriptions from persons in the West Riding connected with the Regiment. This has so far resulted in £70 6s. 8d. being received by covenants and £140 5s. by subscriptions.

Fourthly, the Day's Pay Scheme. This is a scheme for annual voluntary subscriptions from serving regular soldiers, which has so far brought in £90 from the 1st Bn. D.W.R. and £7 16s. 6d. from the Yorkshire Brigade Depot, a total of £97 16s. 6d.

**Army Benevolent Fund**

No application for a supplementary grant from the A.B.F. has been made for the year 1964-65. We did, however, receive from them a basic grant of £110, which represents a re-imburement at one pound per head in respect of cases given financial assistance from our own benevolent funds.

**Sweepstake**

The Sweepstake run by R.H.Q. on the Doncaster St. Leger Race has yielded a profit of £240, which has been credited to the Regimental Benevolent Funds. The first prize of £100 was won by Captain H. Middleton-Hands, who very generously donated half of his winnings to the Regimental Association funds, thus swelling our profit considerably. We are very grateful to him. We also extend our thanks to all who helped our cause this year.

**Membership**

We are sorry to have to report a drop in the recruitment of new members as compared with the figures presented last year. Then we reported 170 and 88 additions to the roll from the 1st Bn. and the Depot, respectively. This year the figures have fallen to 64 and 37. The drop in the numbers from the 1st Bn. can possibly be accounted for by the fact that their source of O.C.A. recruitment has been fully tapped; but we hope that the Depot will be able to improve their efforts during the coming year.

**Branches**

Branches on the whole continue to flourish although, whilst loss of membership is not evident, increase in membership is slow, due, no doubt, in no small measure to the multifarious attractions offered elsewhere.

Bi-yearly meetings are held when the General Secretary and Branch Secretaries get together to compare notes and plan future activities. These meetings are popular and usually well attended.

**Tom McMahon**

I cannot conclude this report without mentioning the great loss to the Regiment as a whole, and the O.C.A. in particular, occasioned by the death of Tom McMahon. As everyone knows, Tom devoted both working and leisure hours to the well-being of the Regiment and his activities on the welfare side extended over 40 years.

We shall miss his wise counsel and help in many fields. Our deepest sympathy is offered to Mrs. McMahon and his family.

**Conclusion**

I now take this yearly opportunity of thanking once again the representatives of S.S.A.F.A. and The Forces Help Society, and all other voluntary bodies who so kindly undertake, on our behalf, the investigation of cases. Also, our Honorary Auditors, Messrs. Whitham, Smith, Mitchell and Co., our Honorary Solicitor, Major J. E. Driver, and our Honorary Stockbroker, Major H. Coop, who advises us so efficiently on our investment policy.

This concludes my report.

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