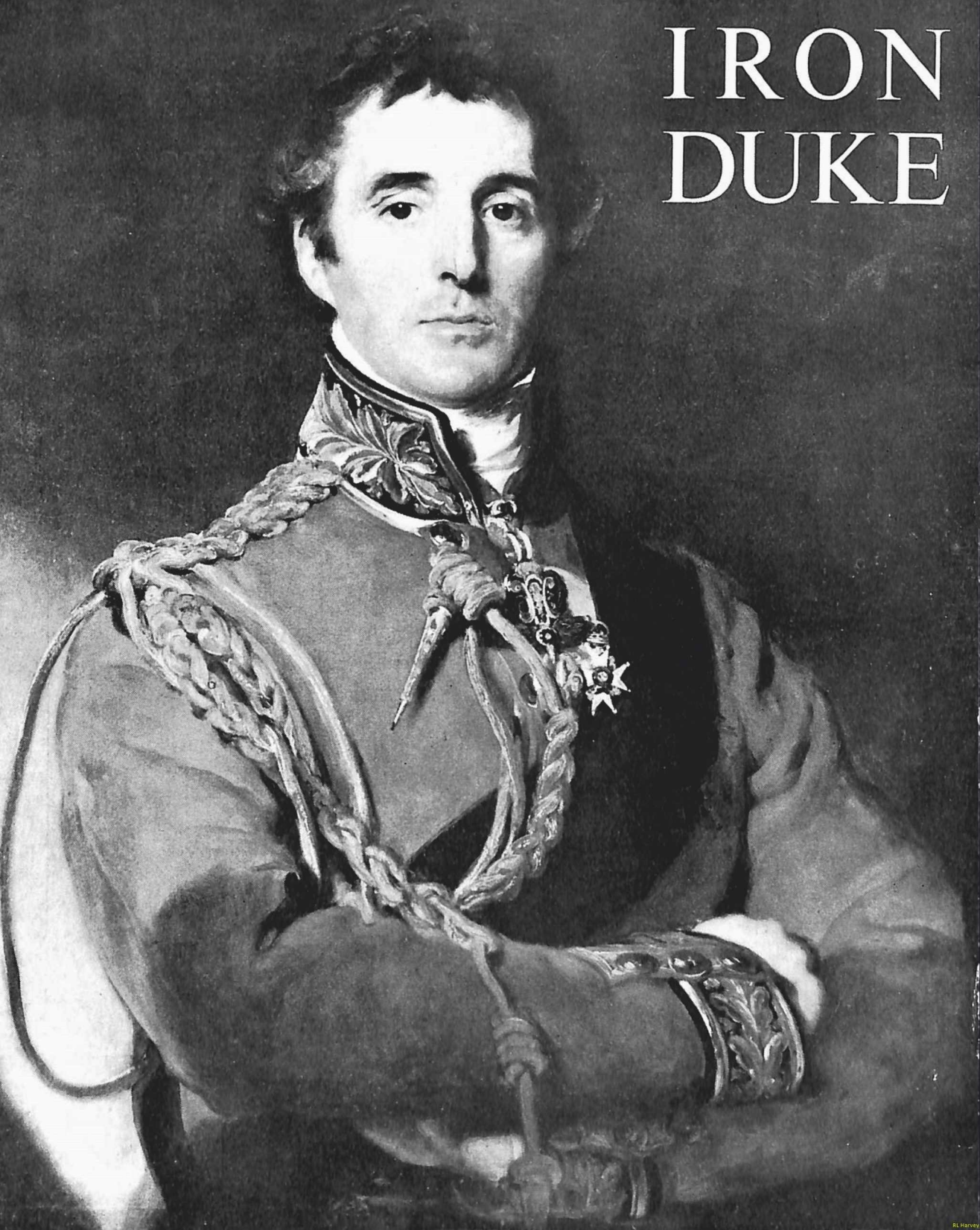


No.185 April 1981

THE
IRON
DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



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

Vol. XLV

APRIL 1969

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BUSINESS NOTES

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Acknowledgment

The portrait of The Duke by Sir Thomas Lawrence, P.R.A. (Canvas 1814) is reproduced on our cover, without fee, by kind permission of the Director of the Wellington Museum, Apsley House.

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Photo by J.S.P.R. Staff BFPO 1

BURMA COMPANY IN NEW ZEALAND

Major Mitchell presents a regimentsal plaque to the Mayor of Auckland. (See page 21)

REGIMENTAL NEWS

We are sad to record that the West Riding Battalion, like other T & AVR III units, has been reduced to a cadre of eight all ranks. This cadre, under Major B. N. Webster, TD, will hold the colours and property of the West Riding Battalion and keep ajar the doors of St. Paul's Street Drill Hall.

On it and "C" Company (DWR) of the Yorkshire Volunteers devolves the task of keeping alive the tradition and spirit of the volunteer movement in the West Riding which proved of such inestimable value to the country in two world wars but has now been jettisoned to effect such small financial saving.

To assist in this task there is to be formed The West Riding Battalion Association with the object of keeping together men of all ranks who have served in any of the territorial battalions of the Regiment. All our readers will wish the Association well; ways in which they can give it active help will be found on page 40. We hope to report its activities in future issues.

Another reduction in the armed forces—the disbandment of a sister regular battalion—has brought to us some six officers and 120 other ranks from the York and Lancaster Regiment. The loss of their old regiment must be a sad blow to them, but they are warmly welcome and we hope that they will find new happiness and success as "Dukes."

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

New Year's Honours

We congratulate the Colonel Commandant of the King's Division, Major-General H. E. N. Bredin, CB, DSO, MC, on his CB.

Mrs. W. E. Horsley accepted a *vin d'honneur* at Headquarters in recognition of her MBE. Her husband, Bill Horsley, served as an officer in 2nd Battalion DWR during the 1914-18 war, and was a companion and lifelong friend of the late Major Jock Huffam, VC.

Visitor

We were very glad to receive a visit from Mr. Fitter. He comes up regularly to Halifax to visit his son and never fails to call at RHQ. He is now a very young looking 70. He lives at 21 Maldon Road, Colchester.

R.H.Q. Staff

Major J. H. Davis has had a successful operation on his hip in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and is making a very good recovery.

Our modest Headquarters was recently flattered to receive a visit from a market research organisation. The subject was "The Reading Habits of Business Executives." We tried to explain that our functions, though exacting, were of a compara-

tively humble nature. The interviewer, who was an attractive blonde, was not deterred. Her company, she said, knew all about us and were anxious that we should be included in the survey. The interview would take 22 minutes. They would be most grateful if we could spare the time. We decided that we could.

Undiscouraged by the answers she received to such questions as "How many orders worth more than £15,000 do you personally place each year," she plugged away for her 22 minutes and then departed for the largest machine tool business in Halifax. A few weeks later we received the following letter: —

Lieut.-Col. Kelsey,
Headquarters,
Duke of Wellington's Regiment,
Wellesley Park, Halifax.

Dear Sir,

This letter is written to thank you for your co-operation in granting us an interview with regard to our survey into the reading habits of top management.

We realise that the loss of half an hour or so, to people who must be among the busiest in Britain today, is no small gesture, and we are deeply appreciative.

Yours faithfully,

A.B.

Associate Director.

NOTICES

Officers' Dinner Club

The annual luncheon and dinner will be held in London at the Hyde Park Hotel on **Friday, May 16**. Details have been notified to members by the secretary.

The Regimental Association

The annual reunion dinner of the London and Home Counties Branch of the OCA and Regimental Association will be held on **Saturday, May 17**, at 7.30 for 8 p.m. Members can meet in the lounge from 6.30 p.m.

Note change of venue. The dinner will be held this year at the **Royal Horticultural New Hall, Greycoat Street, London SW1**. The nearest tube station is St. James's Park; nearest bus stop—Army and Navy Stores, Victoria Street, SW1.

Applications for tickets should be sent to Mr. R. H. Temple, Secretary and Treasurer, 59 Burnfoot Avenue, London SW6. The price of a ticket is 15s., but any Old Comrade who is over 65 or, through adversity, cannot afford the price will if he makes application to Mr. Temple, be very welcome as a guest of the Branch. This is made practicable by the donations given by other Old Comrades to whom the Branch is extremely grateful.

H.Q. THE KING'S DIVISION



(Photo by courtesy of the Press Agency, Yorkshire)

The flag of the King's Division flying at the parade at Strensall on November 15, 1968.

The Headquarters came into the chain of command on July 1, 1968, and within a fortnight took on the functions of the former Yorkshire Brigade. The rather indecent haste of this operation was necessary as the Brigade Colonel had already departed on promotion! HQ Lancastrian Brigade formally disbanded on November 1, although for practical purposes all routine staff work had been passed over six weeks earlier. The last phase of the operation will be the closing of RHQ The Royal Irish Rangers, which is scheduled for March 1, 1969, by which date the disbandment of the 3rd Battalion will have taken place.

The HQ staff, all of whom belong to regiments of The King's Division, work in considerable comfort in Imphal Barracks, York. The Divisional Brigadier lives some 17 miles out of town at Brandsby and the serving officers live in Strensall Park alongside the officers of HQ Northern Command. The HQ staff now consists of:

Colonel Commandant: Major General H. E. N. Bredin, DSO, MC (late RUR) now DVT & C who works in the Ministry of Defence.

Divisional Brigadier: Brig. W. S. G. Armour, MBE (late PWO).

AAG: Lt.-Col. D. E. Crawley, MC, Loyals.

GSO2: Major J. F. Law, R Irish.

DAAG (Manning): Major G. C. Tedd, DWR.

DAAG (Recruiting): Major A. K. Preston, LAN R (PWV).

SO3 (Officers): Lt.-Col. P. D. Leighton, MC (Retd) (late Loyals).

SO3 (Soldiers): Major F. H. V. Wellesley (Retd) (late DWR).

To reassure any Irishman who may feel under-represented, the Chief Clerk, WO1 Lannen (Loyals) is a Fermanagh man and the ORS, Sgt. Armstrong (PWO) comes from Co. Wicklow.

Col. Doug Crawley was taken ill in August, but he has made a good recovery and is now back at work. While he was away the burden of the "A" side was shouldered by Graham Tedd, who didn't grumble as he got the "rate for the job!"

The first meeting of Colonels of Regiments, their Regimental Secretaries and Commanding Officers of the Division was held at Strensall on November 14 and 15. We were pleased to have among our guests Major-General M. Forrester, CBE, DSO, MC, Director of Infantry, Brigadier J. B. Scott, OBE, and Col. G. W. Crocker, MBE, MC. The main purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the Colonel Commandant to speak to the hierarchy of the Division and for everyone to get to know each other. On the second day a short but colourful parade was held to mark the occasion. The parade was commanded by Major W. J. MacWilliam, 1st Battalion The King's Regiment. Detachments and Colour Parties were provided by 1st Battalion The King's Regiment, 1st Battalion The Green Howards and 3rd Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers representing the three former brigades from which the Division was formed. The Bands and Drums of the King's and Green Howards in their scarlet, and the green of the Band, Drums and Pipes of the Rangers made a brave show. On this occasion the new flag of the Division was flown for the first time. It was chosen by the Colonel Commandant from entries of a competition which was open to all ranks of the Division and their families. The flag itself is royal blue with a gold St. Edward's crown set above a united red and white rose and a gold harp. After inspecting the parade the Colonel Commandant gave the following address:

"This parade today is the first time that a body of troops representative of the regiments of The King's Division have formed up on parade.

"Some of you may have wondered why you were told to take part in this parade and I want you to know that you are taking part in an historic event watched by the colonels of your regiments and the commanding officers of your battalions.

"Your regiments from Yorkshire, from Lancashire and from Northern Ireland, probably contain some of the most robust fighting material in these islands. And never forget that fighting is our trade. Study that trade and perfect it because when the time comes a little is going to have to go a very long way.

"From now on you will learn more about the other regiments in the Division and you will help them in exactly the same way as with the other regiments in the brigade system. Lancashire knows the Irish pretty well and Yorkshire has lived alongside Lancashire for some time now. And you are all from the North, which is important.

"King's Division HQ will administer your affairs in place of the brigades, but I want to emphasise that it is the individual regiment with its own customs and pride that really matters, and on which the astonishing fighting value of the British infantry is based. Your Regiment is your home, but your Division HQ is there to

look after your interests and to make sure that the Queen gets the maximum value from the seven regiments that will eventually make up the Division.

"When you march past in a moment, you may be saluting me, but I will be saluting you as the representatives of the nine great regiments, soon sadly to be reduced to seven, which make up the King's Division."

Unit moves

The 1st Battalion The Loyal Regiment returned from Malta to Dover at the end of 1968 and will amalgamate with 1st Battalion The Lancashire Regiment (PWV) early in 1970. The 1st Battalion The King's Regiment move from Catterick to BAOR in June 1969 and 1st Battalion The Green Howards from Colchester to BAOR in August 1969. Both these battalions are now busy converting to the mechanised role. The 2nd Battalion The Loyal Irish Rangers return from Gibraltar to Watchet, England, in October 1969.



(Photo by courtesy of Richards of York)

THE KING'S DIVISION HEADQUARTERS STAFF JULY 1968 ON FORMATION

Seated left to right: W.O.I. Lannen (Loyals), Major J. F. Law (R. Irish), Brigadier W. S. G. Armour (late PWO), Major-General H. E. N. Bredin (late R. Irish), Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Crawley (Loyals), Major G. C. Tedd (DWR), Major A. K. Preston (Lan. R. PWV).

Standing left to right: L/Cpl. Atkin, Mr. Haensler, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Welsh, Miss Goodwin, Sgt. Armstrong, Mr. Healeas.

1st BATTALION

Sub Editorial

The main event since the last sub-editorial has been the arrival of six officers and approximately 120 soldiers, all former members of The York and Lancaster Regiment. We welcome these new "Dukes" and their families. Already, after a short time, they have settled and we hope they will enjoy their service with their new regiment.

We hope their arrival marks the end of an extremely turbulent period for 1 DWR. Our unit moves have been well recorded. To this must be added the turbulence caused by the redundancy and additional postings linked with the disbandment of 1 Y & L. Readers may be interested to hear that during the past 12 months the following WOs and NCOs have moved to appointments with other units or left the Army: Half the WOs, half the Staff Sergeants, half the Sergeants, half the Corporals and a quarter of the Lance-Corporals. This is a formidable change-over and there is still a good deal to come. The number of times the "Revised Order of Battle" has been produced has become a joke; the last draft during the past week was scrapped before it reached the typist!

The arrival of our new "Dukes" gives us the chance to steady the internal organisation and to strengthen those parts where, to use Mr. Healey's phrase, there has been "over-stretch." So Somme Company is now complete, and all the rifle platoons are at full establishment. It is nice, also, to see smiles reappearing on the faces of the RSO and MTO.

The strengthening also means that duties will not fall so heavily and frequently on individuals, and commanders' training programmes will not be distorted. In addition, there will be more time to relax, and swim and sail, and so on.

And so, because they have come at this time, we are particularly pleased to welcome our new "Dukes."

Elsewhere in this edition there is an article on Korea by Donald Palmer. All members of his platoon enjoyed themselves, and it is clear from letters and reports from Seoul that, on this their second visit to South Korea, The Duke's have again set the highest standard.

The arrangement for Major Mitchell's company to visit New Zealand was made at fairly short notice and, though there was some difficulty due to the Battalion being on Border Duty during the same period, it was a trip which could not be missed and it was Burma Company's good fortune to go, together with the Anti-Tank Platoon and certain Hook Company specialists. Major Mitchell describes the visit in a separate article.

The Battalion went to the Border for the first time in early November, for a second time in early January, and the next duty is in March and thereafter at intervals throughout the year. Major Newton covers this duty very fully in another article.

It is sufficient here to say that this is an extremely demanding, and often boring, duty which has to be done well. The smallest mistake and error of judgment can produce an international and unpleasant incident, and the best units are those which are good enough to avoid causing them.

Mr. Michael Ramsden, editor of the *Halifax Courier*, came to stay with us in November, and the three articles he wrote for his newspaper on his return to UK show that not only did he enjoy himself but that in one week he gained a very clear idea of what is going on here. We were all pleased to see him and hope he will continue to visit us where ever the Battalion may be in the future.

It is pleasant to record that the annual Administrative Inspection is behind us. The "spring-clean" did a lot of good and, although an official report has not been received, the Commanding Officer has produced his own impressions and he appears satisfied that the unit is administratively sound and that all members did their stuff on the day. Some of our new arrivals were pitched in at the deep end after only two or three days in Hong Kong. Even so, it is to their great credit that they were indistinguishable in matters of dress and performance, and answered all questions with great aplomb.

The Christmas season produced the usual rash of parties and functions and most departments held their own celebrations. Perhaps the MT Platoon aimed highest by holding their dinner and dance in the world-famous Repulse Bay Hotel. It was a splendid occasion and an experience which all who were there will remember.

Events such as the Chinese Children's Party, the functions in the Officers Mess for the Stanley Kaifong, Christmas Dinner itself, and so on, were all great fun.

The Band is in tremendous form and has built for itself an enviable reputation throughout the Colony. During the festive season the dance band sections were continually in action earning praise, and plenty of dollars. Mr. Wood took time off to write and produce a Christmas pantomime. "Jack and the Beanstalk," in military rhyme and style, amused those who performed as well as those who watched, and was altogether a much appreciated effort.

Immediately the Administrative Inspection was out of the way, the Battalion was out on exercise chasing black-denimed guerrillas in the rugged Sai Kung Peninsula. This was a preliminary to a similar Brigade exercise to be held in late February and after that we are for amphibious training in HMS *Intrepid*, one of the new assault ships.

Our gaze, however, is now firmly fixed on the Colour Parade to be held on April 12. HE The

The address of 1 DWR is

Stanley Fort, BFPO 1.

Governor, Sir David Trench, has agreed to take the salute, and we look forward to seeing General and Lady Bray, and to the moment when the Colonel of the Regiment takes the new Honorary Colours into use. The new Colours have already arrived and are quite magnificent. Clearly this

event will dominate the next edition of our magazine.

Capt. Reid has been the Battalion sub-editor for almost four years and, as he is taking his Staff College examination later this year, this is to be his last edition. He has done his job extremely well.

NEWS FROM THE MESSES

OFFICERS MESS

It has been rather a coming-and-going period since our last notes, mainly due to Burma Company's visit to New Zealand, and the arrival of officers from the York and Lancaster Regiment. We will deal with this side of things later on, and now briefly outline the Mess events.

They have been notable by their absence really, particularly in November, except for the Sub-alterns' Party on November 30, 1968. This was a successful venture and one which will probably be repeated in the near future. Suffice to say that the "young marrieds" were there in force to see how much they had aged!

In December the main social interest centred round Christmas, naturally, and on December 16 we held a very good Ladies Guest Night. This is, perhaps, the most popular night of the year, and this year's was no exception. Peter Andrews did a fine job organising this.

The Stanley Village Kaiphong (the Chinese version of Village Welfare Committee—strictly male) were entertained in the Mess for drinks on December 9. Amid much toasting and flashbulb-popping an enjoyable evening was had by all, and already good relations between us were firmly cemented.

On Boxing Day the officers and sergeants fought out another battle on the soccer pitch and honours were even after a most exhausting game. After the game the sergeants' wives and children were entertained to a buffet lunch in the Officers Mess. This was a very successful event, and long overdue.

Border Duty from January 1-14 saw to it that it was a quiet month. A Regimental Guest Night was held on the 30th and Brigadier Illing was the principal guest at an enjoyable evening. Unfortunately, the Commanding Officer was laid low at the time and could not attend.

We extend a particularly warm welcome to our new "Dukes" from the York and Lancaster Regiment. They are Capt. Pat Puttock, Lts. Peter Gardner, David Wanson, Ian McGlynn, Tim Nicholson and Bob Tighe. We hope that they will be happy here and settle down again after the upheavals of the last few months.

Congratulations are due to Walter and Rita Robins on the birth of their son, John Patrick, on October 27, 1968; Pat and Penny Puttock on the birth of their son, David; and Andrew and Susan Robb on their daughter, Fiona, on November 17, 1968. Literally stop press as I am writing these notes, the Adjutant's wife, Jo, has broken Gel Westcob's record referred to in the previous issue

and produced Johnathan on February 17, 1969. Charles looks quite cheerful now, for a change!

Finally, a word of thanks for S/Sgt. Crawshaw, who is retiring from the Army and, therefore, leaves the Officers Mess to which he has devoted a great deal of his time. He has looked after us all extremely well and his deft touches will be much missed. We wish him well for the future.

SERGEANTS MESS

To everyone's surprise, life in Hong Kong is every bit as hectic as BAOR; indeed, for the first three months of 1969 it has been a veritable bedlam. In the brief periods when the whole battalion isn't moving about between Stanley and the Border, you can guarantee that half the Mess members will be crawling around the Malaya jungles or descending by helicopter on a Lantao patrol. Indeed, in early January CSM Bob Chilvers got so fed up with this that he took the whole of Burma Company off to New Zealand for a month.

This breathless pace didn't prevent us from enjoying a happy Christmas, however. CSM Cyril Curling laid on a most impressive table for 90 members and wives at the dinner, whilst CSM Bob Middleton and his committee made the draw its usual success. The annual battle between the Sergeants and Officers turned out to be the hardest-fought match within memory and both teams are to be congratulated on a really fine, fast game. It ended in a draw, but we think that we were clear winners on points.

Apparently we breed champions without realising it, for the Mess is suddenly filled with ten-pin bowling trophies; Sgts. Jud Dowdall and Geff Wilkinson appear to have really "cleaned up" as far as the Hong Kong Leagues are concerned.

We welcome Peter Robinson and Paul Wilkinson (son-in-law of Sgt. Tom Jackson) to the Mess. We more than welcome the newcomers from the York and Lancaster Regiment and their families. It has been a sad time for them but we are sure that, within a very short space, they will be as thoroughly "Duke" as the rest of us. Their fresh faces and outlook will do us a power of good.

Arrivals

From 1 Y and L: WO2 Pickersgill, WO2 Harris, Sgts. Skipworth, Horne, Harding and Waller. From KDD: Sgts. Blood and Rusby.

Departures

To Yorks Volunteers: WO2 Fee, Sgts. Glencross and Rawcliffe. To civillian life: Sgt. Atkinson.

SPORT

RUGBY

Rugby in Hong Kong is very much a parochial affair, with few sides, and it becomes difficult to maintain interest when you are meeting the same players at regular intervals. The HKRU try to widen the interest by the use of a "Pentangular Tournament," which consists of civilian sides, Club, Police and the "Dragons" who are the Club 2nd XV. The rest of the sides are the Army, Navy and RAF. The same problem of playing against the same people all the time is still there, but interest is stimulated by representing the Army, as opposed to The Duke's.

After hard training at the beginning of the season we made our mark on Hong Kong rugby in great style by defeating every side we came up against, including the Club and Police. The local rugby fraternity have been impressed by our open handling game, and we have been complimented many times.

The 2nd XV have played a good number of matches, and won more than they have lost. This is a splendid opportunity for giving newcomers a chance, and several "unknowns" like Cpl. Robson, Pte. Sullivan and Pte. Ratledge have made their mark. 2/Lt. Sharp leads an enthusiastic side well, and is supported by Lts. Ashton and Stone, L/Cpls. Shadbolt and Gill and Pte. Kelly. We feel sure that a strong 2nd XV and the fact that it plays regularly is an insurance for the future.

The Duke's provide a large number of players for the Army XV in the Pentangular, and they are as follows: Sgt. Robinson, Pte. Cuss, Pte. Waqabaca, Capt. Reid, Capt. Newell, 2/Lt. Stone, Cpl. Basu, Lt. Gilbert, Lt. P. J. Bird, Sgt. Cagilaba, 2/Lt. M. P. Bird, Major Hoppe and Lt. Thorn. With players like Lt. McGlynn, Lt. Gardner, Lt. Newell and Lt. Wonson, the competition in the future will be fierce from both The Duke's and Army XV's point of view.

We have had Major Campbell-Lamerton on the field occasionally for The Duke's and his presence has inspired big wins against Club and Police. His knowledge, advice and coaching have helped us, and the colony as a whole, immensely.

The outstanding event in Hong Kong rugby this season is the innovation of the Asian Games, to be held in Tokyo, Japan, Thailand, Taiwan and Hong Kong will be there, and this will provide a much-needed stimulus to Hong Kong rugby.

The games are from March 8-16. Capt. Reid has already been selected as captain of the Colony side, and Major Campbell-Lamerton is trainer and coach. With at least ten "Dukes" under scrutiny, we should have good representation.

We have found Hong Kong rugby to be a pleasant change from Army Cup rugger, allowing us to play attractive rugby and providing us with the opportunity of re-building the team for Cup battles in future years. Everyone has been

most hospitable, and we have been happily drawn into a true rugger club atmosphere and, perhaps more important still, we have functioned as such ourselves. We look forward to the rest of the season, and hope to complete it unbeaten, help the Army to win the Pentangular Tournament, and provide a large number of players for the Colony side.

RESULTS

1 DWR v. Sek Kong Select ...	won 43—0
1 DWR v. Garrison ...	won 39—0
1 DWR v. Club ...	won 30—6
1 DWR v. Police ...	won 31—3
1 DWR v. 48 Bde ...	won 28—0
1 DWR V. Co-optimists 8	won 11—3
1 DWR v. Club ...	won 25—6

CRICKET

The Battalion XI has played only four games so far this season but we won them all. Three of the games were in the inter-unit knock-out competition, which we won, and the fourth was against the Hong Kong Cricket Club, whom we beat convincingly.

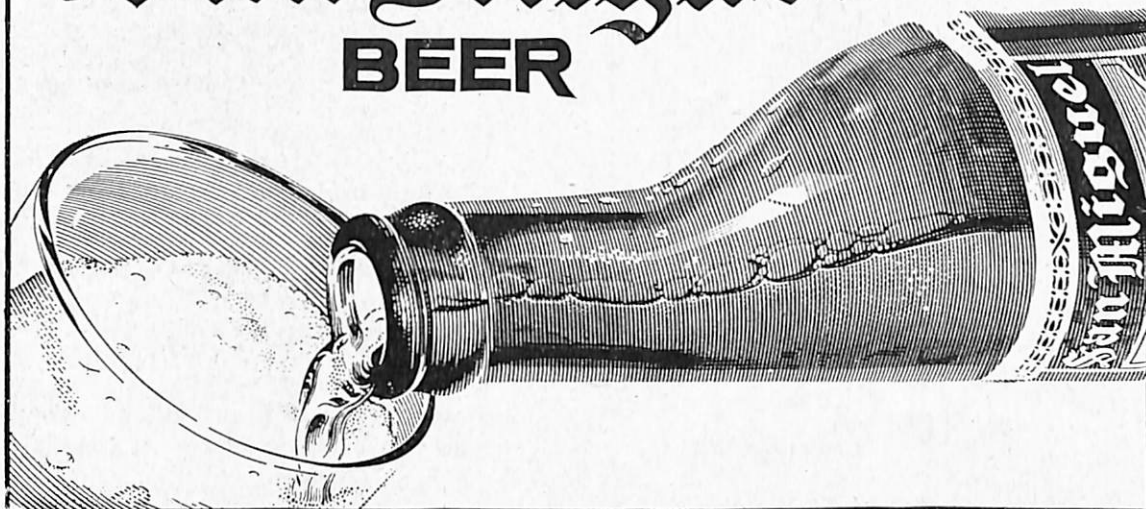
The knock-out competition is of Gillette Cup type of 30 overs each. In the early rounds we had a walk-over and two easy wins, however, the final was a different matter. We played the Royal Navy, Hong Kong, reinforced by the presence of an aircraft carrier and attendant ships, and batted first. We lost three quick wickets for 14 runs in six overs and were feeling uncertain. Cumberlege then joined Reid, who had been batting sensibly and solidly, and soon showed that aggression would pay off. Reid then departed for a sound 28 and Cumberlege (46) was joined by the Colonel (40), who is enjoying a golden season; these two put on 60 runs. The tail wagged, and at the end of 30 overs we had 151 runs on the board. Our Captain (Mitchell) thought this might just be enough—and so it proved. The Navy sailed into the attack, our bowling and fielding wilted and it looked all over at 101 for three with 10 overs left. However, the Colonel and Matchell bowled steadily and, despite numerous dropped catches, we eventually ran out winners by a palpitating two runs. We have, therefore, earned a trip to Singapore next September to play off for the Far East Championship.

Our other good game was against the HK Cricket Club. We scored 216 in pretty quick time, thanks to 87 from the Colonel, 32 from Reid, 21 from Roberts. When the club batted our opening attack was noteworthy for a live opening spell by Thorn, who bowled two overs of fast long hops outside the leg stump — luckily the batsmen couldn't reach that far! He bowled much better later on and took three for 23; the Colonel took three for 19, and Reid three for 55, and we had the Club all out for 127.

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Telegrams:
"Militaila Wesdo, London"

We have potentially a very strong side but, as all sports are played here during the same season, the problems of the availability of rugger players were great. The Colonel enjoys a great season with bat and ball, Cumberlege has scored a lot of runs, while Roberts has had his days when his edge was good and solid. All these together with Mitchell have played for the Army and Combined Services sides here. Reid, Newell and Pettigrew are players of great ability but can't get enough match practice due to rugby commitments, but they all had their moments. Pettigrew kept wicket quite excellently and would have scored many more runs if he had been able to resist the temptations of small grounds surrounded by high buildings with lots of glass windows just asking to be broken. Thorn bowled fast and aggressively and got a lot of wickets, he also played for the Army and Service sides while recovering from a nose injury which prevented him from playing rugby for a couple of months.

_____ batted once for 10 not out to put his average for the last few years at an astronomical level, but conditions were never quite right for his bowling. Gilbert, Caddle and Williams never got much chance to show what they could do with the bat and ball, but fielded well and enthusiastically.

All in all, it has been a satisfactory if disjointed season. The side has great potential, which we hope to realise fully next season.

AVERAGES

Batting

	I	NO	R	Avg	
Shuttleworth	...	3	—	167	54.6
Cumberlege	...	3	1	67	33.5
Newell	...	3	1	48	24.0
Roberts	...	4	—	94	23.5
Reid	...	3	—	64	21.3
Pettigrew	...	4	1	25	8.3
Mitchell	...	2	2	31	

Bowling

	O	M	W	R	Avg	
Thorn	...	36	10	11	98	8.9
Mitchell	...	34.5	6	9	86	9.6
Newell	...	17	—	4	63	15.7
Shuttleworth	...	22.4	3	5	85	17.0
Reid	...	23	2	3	95	31.7

SAILING AND WATER SKI-ING

During the last three months the water skiing and sailing have taken rather a back seat in the sporting programme. The cold weather and short evenings have cut down the time for them and the weekends have been very active with all the other sports being played at one time of year.

However, the keen dinghy sailors are still active and there have been some fine sailing days for enjoying the sport over the Christmas/New Year period.

At present there are six Enterprises ready with two others awaiting new equipment from England when they, too, will be ready for the water.

The Club has been active in helping the Schools'

Sailing Association run courses for teachers and have provided dinghies and instructors. Bdsms. McArthur, Ptes. Preece and Oswin have all given a lot of time and effort on these courses.

At present both water ski boats are being scraped and painted for the coming season. Ptes. Kelly and Wright, of Corunna Company, are hard at work at Shamshuip preparing *Water Witch II*, the Club's larger ski boat. When she is ready, with her two 40hp Johnstons going, she will have a fine turn of speed and be able to provide some good water ski-ing.

Within the last two weeks the Club has been given a 30ft cabin yacht. The *Peta Anne* will provide tremendous sport in the future and, being able to sleep three or four people aboard, will make weekend cruises to the outer islands and beaches possible. Besides being sail-powered, she has a very useful Yamati diesel to push her along when the wind drops away.

Mr. Johnston, who has lent the *Peta Anne* to the Club, is related to Sgt. Hodgkinson, of Somme Company, whom we have to thank for having such a generous and kind relation.

I hope by the time of our next notes more members of the Battalion and their families will have joined the Club and taken part in the good sport that sailing and water ski boats offer.



The 'Peta Ann' loaned to 1 DWR for the duration of their stay in Hong Kong.

ORIENTEERING

After a few false starts, we eventually got some company teams into training for the 51 Brigade Competition.

This is a new sport to the Battalion and has aroused interest. However, due to many commitments and pressure of work, we didn't have the same opportunity for training as had our opponents. "Orienteering" is quite a large and frightening word and caused a certain amount of alarm in certain places. The game is simple enough to explain, but not quite so easy to do. Basically, it is cross-country running involving map reading. The map reading needs to be of a very high order for large competitions, and the fitness required is that of sustained effort for two hours. One needs to wear boots and some form of ankle support, long trousers to protect the legs and, as if that wasn't enough, on hot days one needs to carry full water bottles.

The company teams set to prepare for this tough event and a crash programme of seven days' training got under way. Although asked to run and walk for two hours in the morning sessions, but not to overdo it, we still got a large and worrying number of injuries. The teams began to appreciate the task awaiting them. Afternoon sessions of map-reading problems brought to light some interesting comments: "Why didn't you have a bearing for this leg up to Beacon Hill?" "Because I will follow the railway line all the way." That should be interesting because Beacon Hill is at 1,300 feet and that railway is a tunnel! One had visions of soldiers coming flying out of tunnels chased by the Canton Cannonball. However, things improved rapidly and at last they were taken out on a trial run. It was a hard course and tricky conditions—fog!

The trial again brought to light time, distance and route problems. The would-be tunnel runners did well and walloped the rest of the teams. If they could produce that form on the day they would be in business.

BATTALION ORDERLY ROOM

I wandered lonely as a clerk searching for something new,
When all at once a voice said "Hark! You've got some work to do."
So down sat I with pen in hand and vainly racked my brain,
To find a way to write the notes for "Iron Duke" again.

So I'll tell you the epic tale of cabbages and kings,
Of station'ry and sealing wax and other erstwhile things,
Of hockey-playing Adjutants who never had a scratch
And yet who almost broke a leg during a FOOT-BALL match!

Of other funny incidents back in the days of yore,
Of Staff, returning back from leave, stranded in Singapore!

The competition was won by a 4 RRF side. Everyone congratulated them because in this event no one has it easy. The results stimulated our teams into demands for more training in order to reverse the decision next year. With a nucleus of participants in each company, it is hoped to produce more talent for the future.

Thanks go to all the runners for a determined effort, and the team captains, Lt. Ashton, 2/Lt. Stone, Cpl. Shaw and Cpl. Wardle, who had to make the decisions.

BASKETBALL

It can be said truthfully that, during the last year, a vast improvement has been shown in the standard of basketball, not a well-patronised sport when the Battalion was in BAOR.

In Gillingham we gained experience and in skill, which meant that we lost very few games and the results gave hope for the future.

Hong Kong has seen a successful DWR Basketball team winning the large majority of its matches against both civilian and military sides. So much so that it is justifiable to claim parity with almost any British unit in Hong Kong. We hope that the standard will be maintained and improved upon in the future. Under the enthusiastic promptings of S/Sgt. Norwood, APTC, there is every opportunity for us to do well, and it's up to us to take them.

RESULTS

1 DWR v. Western Police	...	...	Won
v. 4 RRF	...	...	Won
v. Ordnance Depot	...	...	Won
v. Western Police	...	...	Lost
v. HKSMC	...	...	Won
v. 252 Signal Squadron	...	...	Won
v. Western Police	...	...	Won
v. 253 Signal Squadron	...	...	Lost
v. Stanley Sea School	...	...	Won
v. St. Stephen's College	...	...	Won

L/Cpl. Hogg has studied hard and with great perturbations
To get a GCE, and now, many felicitations!
We're glad you've realised you hope for all the world to see,
Look up, young man, increase your scope to more than that of "G"!

L/Cpl. Mort needed a change—(he's typical of Norders),
And so he's got another job—Jim Briggs' Part Two Orders.
For good old Jim has left us now, returned to Civvy Street,
We hope he will be happy there, we hope that it's a treat.
Farewell, James Briggs, you've served us well as friend and brother grafter,
Remember us, drop us a line, as we will you hereafter.

And someone else has gone away—let's wish he won't regret it;
 Mr. Westcob's quit the BOR, we know he won't forget it.
 Yes, we shall miss his cheery voice, but now that he has gone
 We warmly welcome to his place (late "C" Coy) Mr. Thorn.
 Greetings to you, Sir, and to yours, but better take it steady,
 Until you've got the feel of things—we'll tell you when you're ready!

And now, by far the heaviest loss, we sing sad requiems,
 That jolly chap, our own Humph Craze, has gone to the QM's.
 We knew not who would take the post in face of things to come;
 Yes, we admit the problem was a really weighty one!
 But now we have one who, we hope, will make a happy start—
 A stranger from 1 Y & L, L/Cpl. Ken Wishart.

Darcy is down in Singapore, a trade test for to sit,
 But don't you worry, Mick, old son, we'll not your name omit.
 And from afar view R. L. Carr, that great playboy of yore,
 Who passed his test a while ago when down in Singapore.
 So keep it up, you budding clerks, do not forsake the creed,

And no doubt soon you'll win your place among the noble breed.
 Now Cpls. Craig and Manion we must mention together,
 They'll despatch anyone in sight in any kind of weather.
 Beware, deluded innocents, you might wake up some morning
 To find out things which not ye knew, and be "moved" without warning!

Last, but not least, is Sgt. M, lit'rally "in the pink,"
 He lives within a holocaust of paper clips and ink.
 Assisting Staff is no mean task when one hears every day
 "I'll peddle yer," and "Soup!" and endless war tales of Malay.

Our social lives are varied — golfing is Staffy's queen,
 "Chess" Mortimer and "Tennis" Carr, and Hogg of Trampoline!
 Alas, they're like the words we think and yet we never say them,
 We have these time-exhausting games and yet, no time to play them!
 And yet through this our motto stands, e'en when despair should loom:
 "Long Live the Duke of Wellington's Battalion Orderly Room!"

I wandered lonely as a clerk, my greatest fears diminished.
 Ta-ta, goodbye, dear friends, adieu, these notes at last are finished!

COMPANY NOTES

HOOK COMPANY

Early in November the Company had a social in the "White Rose" Club. During the evening entertainment was provided by a Chinese professional conjuror, a song group from the Signal Platoon and the Sergeants Mess Toppers. There was also dancing with music by Sgt. Parkinson's group from the Band. Sgt. Wilkinson of the Signal Platoon undertook most of the detailed arrangements, and everyone in the Company who was able to come thoroughly enjoyed the evening. There are plans afoot to have another social at the end of March, when it is hoped more of the Company will make the effort to come along and enjoy a get-together.

The Company shooting team did very well in the 51 Brigade Rifle Meeting and gained the "Runners-Up" trophy. Individual achievements were as follows:—

Sgt. Clarke won the Individual SMG, and Major Cowell and L/Cpl. Parkinson were 5th and 8th respectively in the Individual Rifle Competition.

The following represented the Company at the Meeting: Major J. D. P. Cowell, WO2 J. E. Sargeant, Sgt. G. Clarke, Sgt. T. H. Jackson, Cpl.

W. Ryan, L/Cpl. J. Parkinson, L/Cpl. S. Barnett, Cfn. D. G. Ricketts (REME).

The Company team for the 51 Brigade Orienteering Competition came 19th, which was not a bad effort considering the short time the team had for general training and practice. The team all came from the Signal Platoon and were as follows: L/Cpl. Shaw, Ptes. Morton, Brown, Raine, Furness and Baker.

Their experience will provide a useful basis for next year's team when an effort will be made to improve the team's placing.

We welcome the following to the Company — Sgt. Read from Corunna Company to the Regimental Police, L/Cpl. Bebb from the Depot to the Corps of Drums — and hope that they will settle down to life in the Company.

We congratulate the following on their recent additions to their families: L/Cpl. and Mrs. McLachlan, Bds. and Mrs. McGurty, Pte. and Mrs. Ibbitson, Pte. and Mrs. Panks, Pte. and Mrs. Jameson, and L/Cpl. and Mrs. Connell.

We also say congratulations to the following on their recent promotion: Cpl. Millar to Drum Major, Cpl. Wilkinson 21 to Sergeant, L/Cpl. Bower to Corporal, L/Cpl. Budden to Corporal,

L/Cpl. Lambton to Corporal, Cfn. Dailey to L/Corporal, and the following to L/Corporal, Ptes. Stevely, Parkes, Robinson 58, Cusworth, Beard, Orchard.

We say a last farewell to Cpl. Briggs and Pte. Winterburn on their regular release from the Army and hope that they settle down to civilian life.

We hope that Sgt. and Mrs. Collins have a pleasant tour at the Jungle Warfare School, Johore Bahru, Malaysia, and wish them both a fond farewell and hope to see them in the not-too-distant

M.T. PLATOON

Lt. (QM) W. Burke, MTO for the past 12 months, left us to take over the task of Technical Quartermaster. Sgt. Rawcliffe, Cpl. Wilson, Ptes. Kelly, Stenton, Waterhouse, Wooley, Winterburn and Lightowler have all left us on return to the UK on postings or to return to civilian life.

We welcome the new MTO, Capt. S. H. Kirk, who at the time of writing is busy with cadres, admin. inspection, courses. We also welcome Sgt. Harding and the drivers from the York and Lancaster Regiment who have eased the strain tremendously on an overworked platoon.

In between the work strain we managed to defeat the Signal Platoon at rugby by 14 points to three. This, we feel, was a great victory on our part as, unlike the Signal Platoon, we were unable to get the whole team together at any one time for training. The Signal Platoon are now crying for our blood in a return match.

Congratulations go to Cpl. Lambton and L/Cpl. McLachlan not only on their recent promotions, but also on the additions to their families, Ptes. Jameson and Ibbitson are also to be congratulated for the latter reason.

The future months for the Platoon will, as usual, be busy. A few quick exercises, border duties, driver upgrading, jungle training in Malaya, courses in Singapore and, of course, the Unit Equipment Inspection. Out of all this the one thing that are looking forward to is the summer months.

SIGNAL PLATOON

We are now more or less up to strength, but it can be safely said that we have not once had the whole platoon on parade together since our last notes. Education, border duties, remote area patrols and leave have ensured a varied life for us all, and for the Signals contingent attached to "B" Company an even more varied life in New Zealand. The future looks just as full with exercises in the Malayan jungle the climax. It is hoped to start signals cadres in May, but this may well be another pipe dream if life then is as it is at present. Interesting in the extreme, but certainly not inducive to classroom work.

On the sports field we have done well at soccer, thanks to Cpl. Basu and Pte. Waqabaca, and had an interesting experience on the rugger field. For the first time for many years a platoon rugby match was played and, unfortunately, we were beaten by the MT in a very open and robust game. Certainly it will be remembered by the

players as the injuries were many and varied and the party afterwards excellent. In this game no battalion players were allowed to play, but certainly a few players deserve credit. Pte. Furness, in his first game ever, proved to be a really safe full-back, Pte. Brown a fast and tireless wing forward, and L/Cpls. Barnett and Tolsen intelligent, useful players. Did it also prove that our front row were too old or just unfit?

We are sad to see the following leave the Platoon, the first two after many years of cheerful signalling: L/Cpls. Sykes and Shaw, Ptes. Butcher, Hoyle, Howarth and Dalladay.

Arrivals include Cpls. Attwood and Parrott, Ptes. Baker, Allen, Hollis and Knowles, all from the Y & L, Ptes. Verall, Flynn, Larnder, Corder and Godfrey, from rifle companies. We should now win our return rugby match with the MT.

THE BAND

Our weekly band concerts on the beaches and in the parks continued until the close of the summer season in mid-October.

At Christmas time we performed regularly for the Royal Navy, playing out HM ships from the RN base here in Hong Kong. We gave a Retreat Beating Display for HMS *Diana* and played for a carol service on the aircraft carrier HMS *Albion*. The brass section of the Military Band were invited by the "Mission to Seamen" to play carols to the ships anchored in Hong Kong harbour. A launch was provided and, with a choir of about 50, we toured the harbour spreading the Christmas message; our efforts did not go unrewarded as we were invited on board a Fleet Auxiliary Tanker for some of the Navy's Christmas spirit.

During this very busy period we managed to find time to hold our Band Annual Christmas Dinner, which we held at the Mariners Club in Kowloon. After an enjoyable meal we settled back to an excellent cabaret and finished the evening dancing to a band which we hired for the occasion.

At the end of December the Military Band visited the border village of Sha Tau Kok and gave an hour's concert to the local villagers.

The Dance Bands have been kept very busy over the Christmas and new year periods, sometimes both bands are out twice a week, and the work is still coming in. The engagement book is in a very healthy condition and this year promises to be very hectic, not to say remunerative.

For the second time we have been able to take our families on an outing, this time to the island of Lantao, the largest in the Colony, larger, in fact, than Hong Kong island. We gave a one-hour concert for the local people and it turned out that the villagers were more interested in our children than in listening to the Band.

On January 12 the Military Band played for the Lions Club Inauguration Ceremony at the City Hall, Hong Kong. We gave a 30-minute concert and afterwards received two cups, presented by the Lions Club in appreciation of the Band's participation in the programme.

We welcome to the Band Bds. Addison and Bds. Holmes, who have just joined us from the Y & L.

We offer our congratulations to Sgt. and Mrs. Parkinson on the recent birth of a son (Richard Neal), and also to Bdsm. and Mrs. McGurty on the birth of a daughter (Janet).

Congratulations also go to WO1 BM C. C. Wood and S/Sgt. B. Cooper on being awarded their LSGC Medals.

We wish every success to Sgt. and Mrs. Dean, who recently left us on completion of his service.

ALMA COMPANY

The last notes saw us thoroughly settled down in Hong Kong and preparing for an interesting number of exercises.

The first was a night internal security exercise with the Hong Kong Police in late September. By this time detailed reces had been made of our areas of responsibility down to NCO level and we had met our opposite numbers in the Police. The exercise served many useful purposes, the most valuable of which was as follows. We saw in detail how effectively the Hong Kong Police operate. We tested the command control and communications at all levels. Last, but not least, we had one opportunity to negotiate the tricky streets with the whole company on an IS task in conjunction with the police.

Within 24 hours of the IS exercise we were preparing to depart to Lantao island on a four-day Company Group amphibious exercise. We were fortunate in obtaining for the duration of the exercise a troop of the Hong Kong Recce Regiment, a Sioux helicopter detachment and an LCM, for the rapid movement of the odd platoon by sea to "look round" the enemy, and battle simulators courteously provided by elements of the Assault Pioneers and Drums. Useful lessons were learnt on inter-service co-operation on day three of the exercise by the arrival of six RAF Whirlwind helicopters tasked for troop lifts. One Whirlwind helicopter despatcher, having landed on extraordinarily difficult ground, informed a platoon runner that he was taking them back to Stanley

Fort. The soldier retorted that he didn't want to go back to Stanley but wanted lifting up that "so and so" hill. On one day we even exercised under the cover of RAF Hunter fighter ground attack. They appeared overhead during a four-hour period on the first day in a recce and harrassing role, but were unable to carry out pin-point strike actions as the wind direction at Kai Tak airfield meant that civil air traffic approach was over Lantao island. Altogether, it proved an interesting and enjoyable exercise.

There then followed an assortment of training of which range classification was the priority. An IS standby for Chinese Revolution Day on October 1, 1968, very nearly ended with Alma Company being deployed in Central District to assist the Police. We then soon found ourselves preparing for a battalion exercise in which Alma Company was fully employed in rapid switches by LCM in the early hours of the morning; struggling with stubborn mules to get our rations and water forward; blessing our skilled AAC pilots and our earlier experience in handling them for getting rations and water to us in ground that mules found it impossible to reach.

The end of the Battalion exercise found us preparing for a very different kind of activity — Border Duty. We had our first taste of this in early November for two weeks and again for the same period on December 31, 1968. For the first period on the Border, Alma Company was in reserve. This task proved to be far more interesting and rewarding than at first seemed the case. It involved responsibility for the central portion of the Border with each platoon occupying one of the most uncomfortable positions along the Border for five days. The rotation meant that each platoon was involved in patrols and liaison visits, the bulk of which was the responsibility of the Reserve Company. For our first tour on the Border we had many visitors. Our Brigade Commander, Brigadier Illing, asked one man what the food was like; he replied, "Very good, Sir." "But,"



Alma Company
Internal Security
Platoon during a
demonstration held
in Stanley Fort,
September 1968

pressed the Brigadier, "do you get enough to eat?"; "I ought to," replied the soldier—"I'm the cook."

After the November Border Duty we put the final touches to our preparations for the Brigade Rifle Meeting on Friday, November 29, 1968. We trained hard for this event, but, unfortunately, shot a little below our average scores in training but still managed to come a very close second to Hook Company in the Battalion results.

At this time we were talking in terms of working days to Christmas. These were not many as we had seven days' leave for the Company in mid-December before the Christmas break. The vast bulk of the Company headed for the comforts of the China Fleet Club, some took a recreational camping holiday to Lantao island and one progressive soldier, who should remain nameless, booked in at the Repulse Bay Hotel.

A company Smoker was held at this time. Thanks to sterling work headed by the committee of Mr. Sharp, CQMS Holliday and Cpl. Dare, we all had a most enjoyable evening. It was a particular pleasure to see all the marrieds at the Smoker, an inadequate title for a buffet dance with cabaret and raffle thrown in.

Christmas soon passed in a flurry of carols, good food and much to drink. One almost welcomed the non-alcoholic two weeks on the Border for the first two weeks of January. This was spent at the sensitive Man Kam To position, where the only railway and the main road cross to China.

With the January Border Duty behind us, we are now preparing for the annual spring-clean and our administrative inspection on February 11, 1969. Despite the busy programme and very little time to prepare, we entered the Hong Kong Orienteering Competition. The Company team, well led by Mr. Stone, came first in the Battalion and seventh overall out of 30 entries. It's been a very busy period and there is every reason to

believe that the next notes will cover an even busier period.

Personalia

It is sad to record the departure of CSM J. J. Fee. He has given long and valuable service to Alma Company, both as CQMS and CSM. Long will his cheerful face and famous battle-cry be missed. We wish him all the best in his new post and hope he has at last found the right place and time for a "families posting."

A good number of new arrivals are welcomed to the Company. They are: Lt. Wonson, 2/Lt. Newell, WO2 Pickersgill, Sgt. Hughes, Cpl. Wood, L/Cpls. Exley, Anson, Gascoigne, Scott, Ptes. Airey, Briston, Lee, Lovatt, Mellor, Pemberton, Potter, Shim, Walker, Waller, Barker, Wilby, Parr, Marshall, Wilson, Coulson, Allan, Hayes, Hynes, Clarkson, Smith 52 and Kendall.

Inevitably, there are postings out from the Company who go with our good wishes in their new employment:—

To Corunna Company: 2/Lt. Stone, Sgt. Robinson. To Hook Company Signals: Ptes. Verrall, Larnder 55, and Flynn. To Hook Company MT: Ptes. Banks, Kelly and Thompson 49. To Recce Platoon: Pte. Gilgallon.

Finally, congratulations to the following for various reasons: Cpl. Hewson, "B" Grading on a Regimental Hygiene Duties Course; Cpl. and Mrs. Rochester on the birth of a boy; Pte. Hey on promotion to L/Cpl.; L/Cpl. Noble 73 on promotion to Corporal.

BURMA COMPANY

Some of the Battalion notes, including those of Burma Company, were unfortunately not received in time for publication. A report of Burma's trip to New Zealand is on page 21.

CORUNNA COMPANY

The accepted textbook on the fall of Hong Kong in 1941 is called "The Hidden Years"; our chronicles recorded in the last issue that we were to spend our first six months at Lyemun, and these have since been called the hidden months. However, in spite of individual falls from grace, excused by our proximity to Wanchai, this period has shown an increased development of company spirit allied to a very close and happy working relationship with the Bay View Police Division.

Our first real test came with the period of Border Duty at Man Kam To in early November. We had 2 Platoon Alma Company attached with whom we developed a very happy liaison. For the first week practically every blade of grass that grew on Communist Territory was scrutinised and faithfully recorded. By the second week we reckoned we had our sector of the border "buttoned up" and into perspective. The standard of surveillance was high, and by judicious changes of location we remained alert and interested though, regretfully, the standard of spelling in the daily logsheets passed from just workable to quite unreadable.

On December 19 we abandoned our happy



Alma's Christmas Dinner, Pte. Bannister toasts the Regiment.



C Coy HQ loading mules on Ex Canter II in the rugged country of Saikung Peninsula.

association with Lyemun and rejoined the Battalion at Stanley. The pessimists saw this as a loss of personal freedom, but the optimists, who have since been proved right, welcomed the move for an increase in freedom of choice. Lyemun Camp itself had little to offer the single soldier, while in Stanley we have the NAAFI, White Rose Club, cinema, excellent sports facilities, to say nothing of the swimming pool. Of course, we are much further away from the bright lights of Wanchai and Central.

Just before we arrived at Stanley we celebrated with a week's leave, and also a Company Social (on dry land this time) at the White Rose Club. It began as an inter-platoon games evening, but it ended for the Company 2IC at 0230 hours, when it took him an hour in the pouring rain to get the hood of his car up.

We had not really finished celebrating Christmas before we had our second spell on the Border. This time the Company took up the proverbial "all round defence" in Sha-Tau-Kok, where two of our platoons lived practically within hand-shaking distance of the Communist sentries on CT. Unfortunately, our OC was the only one to "draw" the enemy's "fire" when he was unlucky enough to be hit on the shoulder by a pebble when on patrol in the village—he says it was half a brick! His idea of recruiting some loyal schoolboy "guerillas" to return the fire is the subject of this year's Brigade Study Period! We loaned to Burma Company Ptes. Blackburn and Butler for their New Zealand venture, so we anticipate that you will have read about them in your local papers by now.

In between Border Duty and Force Guards quite a lot goes on that does not catch the public eye. Our Company shooting team consisting of Cpl. Lever, L/Cpl. Wilson and Ptes. McEllhatton,

Ross, Bagshaw and Watson 82 and Pte. Holmes on the GPMG put up a remarkable fire performance in the 51 Brigade Shoot. We came third in the section match, fifth in the SMG match, and reached the semi-finals of the falling plates. 7 Platoon is fighting for the lead position with Admin. "A" in the inter-platoon football league, and we even managed to muster a Company orienteering team to prove our versatility.

Socially, the Company wives spent an enjoyable night out at the Showboat night club on December 2. They felt they had earned it and so did we, and we now hope to make it an annual event. We now number 52 married soldiers in Corunna Company, although regretfully not all of them have their wives or families out here. 9 Platoon ran an excellent Tramps Party in the White Rose Club. The standard of dress was rather what one expects from No. 9 (fancy dress wise — not muster) and the obvious corny gags about "why have you got your best kit out?" flew around as expected.

Departures

We are sorry to have to relate the departure of Lt. John Thorn. He has left 9 Platoon to be Assistant Adjutant and the helm has been taken over by 2/Lt. Adrian Stone. Sgt. Lawrence has also departed for the Jungle Warfare School, where, unhappily, on his first night out in the jungle, it poured with rain. Lastly, Lt. Peter Mellor has left 8 Platoon for the Mortar Platoon, where we hope his mathematics won't be put to the test too soon. Anyway, 8 Platoon won't be calling for any mortar fire; we welcome Lt. Bob Tighe to replace him in 8 Platoon.

Marriages

Ptes. Bond and Anderson 81 have now produced some official confirmation of their marriages. In Pte. Anderson's case this was none other than his



The Pioneer Sergeant, Sgt. Jackson, serving Christmas lunch to the lads.

attractive wife, Susan, who has now joined him out here. Unfortunately, there just is not space to record all the to'ing and fro'ing that has been going on within the platoons over the last few weeks.

New arrivals

A very warm welcome to our 16 new members from the York and Lancaster Regiment. Although arrival just before the Administrative Inspection was a traumatic experience, they can "Corunna" with the rest already.

SOMME COMPANY

Since our last notes there has been a great deal of activity, the final outcome being that the Company has moved to Lyemun Fort and are now at long last together as a whole company.

Prior to our move to Lyemun, we finished our Recce Platoon Ferret cadre and the Mortar Platoon had a two-day shoot at Port Shelter, which proved to be a mortar officer's nightmare. The base plates were on the mainland and the targets a series of small islands. The problem is getting a suitable moment to fire before a renegade fishing junk breaks through the safety boats' cordon. Despite the hazards of a possible "Court of Inquiry" into why a junk suddenly vanished, an enjoyable and profitable time was had by the Mortar Platoon.

The Assault Pioneers are to be congratulated on doing a magnificent job on the Stanley Village Nullah Project. The work was finished in record time and all credit goes to each individual who

worked on the project. Some of the working conditions were evil, to say the least; you don't have to have a very vivid imagination to picture what type of things floated down the Nullah from a wooden shanty town. All the people of Stanley Village showed genuine gratitude to the boys and now take their families down in the evenings to look at the new nullah (they must have immense pride in Stanley Village, or no sense of smell!).

After our spell on the Border (where we were reserve company), we packed up at Stanley and moved to Lyemun. It was a little chaotic to begin with, with plumbers, painters, electricians, grass cutters and boot boys all doing their various tasks in getting the place ready, whilst we were trying to prepare for the administrative inspection!

Everybody knuckled down extremely well and we were ready to receive the Y and L draft with a day to spare.

Once the sleeping accommodation was arranged all eyes focussed on the fort, where we have the platoon stores and lecture rooms. Despite detailed planning there was a mass exodus of keen platoon commanders and NCOs which was reminiscent of TV films of the Klondike Gold Rush, as underground tunnels and rooms were explored and staked. CSM Middleton grasped the situation and set up an assay office, unfortunately there was no gold, but he did hear each claim in turn and curbed the Recce Platoon's surveillance techniques and the Assault Pioneer booby-trap teams!

We mount a guard every night in the fort to ensure maximum security of our support weapons. Already, alarming rumours are circulating about ghosts and weird goings-on. We hope to give you a full report in our next notes.

The highlight of our move to Lyemun was the stocking of our goldfish pond. The boot boy brought some ferocious-looking "goldfish" and a number of small grey fish; when they were put together the goldfish descended on the little grey fish and devoured the lot! Unfortunately, we can't print what happened when the contents of a NAAFI sandwich accidentally fell into the pond!

Between now and June the company is embarking on a series of cadres to ensure we are at maximum efficiency for our support weapons concentration in Malaya.

The highlight of Somme Company's social scene since our last notes was a highly successful company psychedelic love-in. Some of the rigs were superb and it was a truly magnificent evening, and our thanks go to CSM Middleton, Sgt. Glen-cross and Sgt. Hodgkinson, plus his group, for making the evening so successful.

Personalia

We would like to welcome to the Company Lt. Tim Nicholson, OC Recce Platoon, Lt. Peter Gardner, OC Anti-Tank Platoon, Sgt. Blood, Recce Platoon, and all the Y & L draft who have joined the Company.

Unfortunately, we say goodbye to Lt. Sid Kirk, who has moved to MTO, and Sgt. Jock Glen-cross and Sgt. Mat Hall, who have been posted to

the UK; we wish them and their families every success.

We congratulate the following proud parents with additions to the family: Cpl. and Mrs. Adams, a son; Cpl. and Mrs. Ineson, a daughter; L/Cpl. and Mrs. Cook, a son; L/Cpl. and Mrs.

Fielding, a daughter; L/Cpl. and Mrs. Frear, a daughter; Pte. and Mrs. Dunne, a daughter; Pte. and Mrs. Leach, a son; Pte. and Mrs. Tones, a son.

There is no truth in the rumour that Somme Company is setting up its own maternity home.

“Exercise Oakleaf”

Burma Company visit to New Zealand, January 5-February 6, 1969

In November 1968 Burma Company was sitting in Sha Tau Kok, New Territories, Hong Kong, with the first fortnight of Border Duties almost complete. We received a signal from Battalion Headquarters saying that the Company had been selected to go to New Zealand for five weeks in January 1969 to undergo temperate zone training and act as enemy to the New Zealand Army in its annual exercise.

This was the start of a period of frenzied activity, as the Company was due to relieve Corunna at Lyemun Barracks before Christmas, and we had to build up to a strength of 120 for the trip. However, everything eventually sorted itself out and the first chalk boarded an RAF Hercules at Kai Tak airport on Sunday, January 5, and took off. Eight-and-a-half hours later we were at Darwin, where the “wet” season had just arrived and where we spent the night. The next day we had a further 10 hours’ flying and arrived in Auckland.

In Auckland we were met by Brigadier Bullock, the Commander of Northern Military District, and some pressmen who seemed very interested in whether we were importing Hong Kong Flu—as it happened, we were, although we didn’t know it at the time. The customs were severe on boots and groundsheets which might be a possible source of foot-and-mouth disease. We then moved in transport to Papakura Military Camp, about 18 miles south of Auckland, which was to be our base for the next 10 days or so.

The North Island is volcanic and we were to see evidence of this later in our trip. For those who don’t know it, New Zealand has a land area equivalent to the UK, a population of under three million and about sixty million sheep. The largest city, by far, is Auckland, which has a population of around six hundred thousand.

Chalk Two arrived on Friday, January 10, after an uneventful flight, to find that Chalk One had drawn up vehicles and equipment and made a number of local contacts. With Chalk Two came Mr. Strange and Sgt. Johnson, of public relations, who were to stay with us the whole time and who entered wholeheartedly into all our activities.

As we were due to move down to Waiouru—New Zealand’s Salisbury Plain—on Wednesday, 15th, we had a 36-hour company exercise on the Monday and Tuesday in a local range of hills called the Hunuas, just to get the feel of the country. This highlighted some of the difficulties we would be facing in the future and gave us the chance to sort things out. We had some initial trouble in

map reading as the scale in use in New Zealand is 1/50,000 or 1/63,660 as opposed to our usual 1/25,000. In the rugged and difficult terrain of the Hunuas, where 1,000 yards an hour is a good pace, a mistake in map reading cost time and sweat.

While at Papakura, the local Working Men’s Club was extremely kind and opened its membership to the Company. Also, various sightseeing tours were arranged in the Auckland area. These included a trip over “Nippon Clip on,” the Auckland harbour bridge which is currently being widened in a most ingenious fashion by a Japanese firm of engineers.

Then, on Wednesday, January 15, the Company got into buses for the move down to Waiouru, which is about 200 miles south of Auckland. On the way down we were lucky enough to break the journey overnight at Rotorua, the world-famous



Photo by J.S.P.R. Staff BFPO 1

CSM Chilvers at the docks.



FIRTH CARPETS

... a double investment

geyser hot spring area. We were entertained by the local branch of the Returned Servicemen's Association, who provided a genuine Maori concert party which was extremely popular. We spent the night in Maori meeting huts and the next day continued the journey south, stopping only to visit the Waitake geo-thermal development. This is a unique enterprise in the Southern Hemisphere, whereby hot water, lying anything up to 7,000ft. below the earth's surface, is tapped to provide steam for electricity generation.

We arrived in Waiouru about 4 p.m. on the 16th and made ourselves comfortable in Helwan Camp, a semi-permanent camp of the Bulford Fields type. We discovered that we were about 3,500ft. up and that towering over us to the west was Mt. Ruapehu, a dormant volcano about 10,000ft. high. The training area was, we found, of three quite different types. Firstly, the forest on the slopes of Ruapehu, then a plain about four miles wide and, to the extreme east, some very broken country with hills about 5,000ft. split by streams and cliffs.

At Helwan we met up with the 6th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR), commanded by Lt.-Col. George McLeod, with whom we were to operate as enemy against the 1st Infantry Brigade Group during the exercise. We discovered that the New Zealand Army has about 5,000 regulars from whom are provided the contingents in Malaya and South Vietnam. The remained of the regular force provide the cadres for the Territorial Force (TF), which consists of one

combat-ready infantry brigade and a number of reserve units. Thus, the New Zealand Army really is a citizen force and we were to be highly impressed with their performance on the exercise.

The exercise period of two weeks split up into two distinct phases. The first 10 days were at the disposal of unit commanders to train their units in various aspects of counter insurgency operations. The final four days were devoted to the Brigade Exercise which had a Vietnam-type setting in which we were to operate as guerrillas.

The day after arrival at Helwan the Company split up and platoons went off into the battalion areas to provide enemy activities as required and also to get used to living in the "bush." We took the opportunity of doing some training of our own in night movement and patrol work. After a couple of days the Company re-formed at Helwan and we found that we were to operate against the Brigade Maintenance Area (BMA), which we did by static observation posts by day and recce patrols by night. During this period 60 men of the Company went up Mt. Ruapehu. It was possible to go to about 5,500ft. by truck; fortunately, the ski lifts were open that morning and took the party up another 2,000ft. or so; from there on it was a fairly steady climb. There was still a great deal of snow about and it was a beautiful, cloudless day and, as we had no dark glasses in the party, it was decided to send a small party only right up to the crater. We got back to camp to find that the CSM and CQMS had set up "Bobo's Diner" in the stores



Photo by J.S.P.R. Staff BFPO 1

The New Zealand CGS with Lt.-Colonel McLeod and Major Mitchell.



Block by courtesy Huddersfield Daily Examiner

Private R. Baker with Mount Ruapehu in the background

selling hot pies, chips, etc. This proved popular and lucrative for company funds.

Also, during this time, Mr. Roberts and some of 6 Platoon ambushed the New Zealand CGS. This was a memorable battle as the CGS's RMP escort was slaughtered to a man but, due to an absence of umpires, walked through the hail of bullets and proceeded to take prisoners, none too gently. The escorts were enormous Maoris, so no one argued. Mr. Roberts was released early in order to attend a cocktail party—which did not amuse the remainder of his patrol who were held for three hours.

On Sunday, January 26, the Company Commander and 2IC attended the Brigade review, held on the airfield, and immediately afterwards we moved out for the main exercise. We moved into the Kaiori Forest and set up platoon bases from which we continued to patrol against the BMA. We were moving camp at least once a day and found that movement in the forest required a compass just as on a very dark night. On the Monday morning Cpl. Young rejoined 4 Platoon. We had infiltrated him into the BMA on the night of 25/26 and he had stayed there for 36 hours, spending the night with six enemy officers and having a splendid breakfast in their Mess the next day. This was a highly successful operation and we picked up a great deal of information. On the Monday night Mr. Bird went into the BMA, destroying staff cars,

the communications centre and cutting telephone wires, all without being detected.

At mid-day of Tuesday the Company, less 5 Platoon, left the forest to go to the northern edge of the training area and act as friendly villagers for a cordon and search operation. On arrival in the friendly village the RNZAF put in a series of attacks on us which gave us great scope during the interrogation next morning.

It poured with rain that night and we woke very early to find our village cordoned off. We spent 10 hours in detention and then this part of the exercise was called off, much to our relief.

By now the exercise was reaching its climax, and the Company received orders to attack the Fire Support Base and then make a night withdrawal back to the forest. The attack started at midnight, we broke contact about 2 a.m. and were back in the forest 20,000 metres away by 7 a.m.—exhausted, but the only company to make the journey complete. This had been a walk to compare with that on Ex. Bar Frost, four years ago, and the CSM is unlikely to forget the 3,000 yards of bog we crossed.

Filthy, tired, and very wet, we returned to Helwan for a shower and change before packing up our kit. That night there were farewell parties with the 16th Battalion, and early the next morning we moved back north. This time we went via the Kaitomo Caves and the fabulous glow worms, arriv-

ing back with our old friends in Papakura Camp in time for the evening meal.

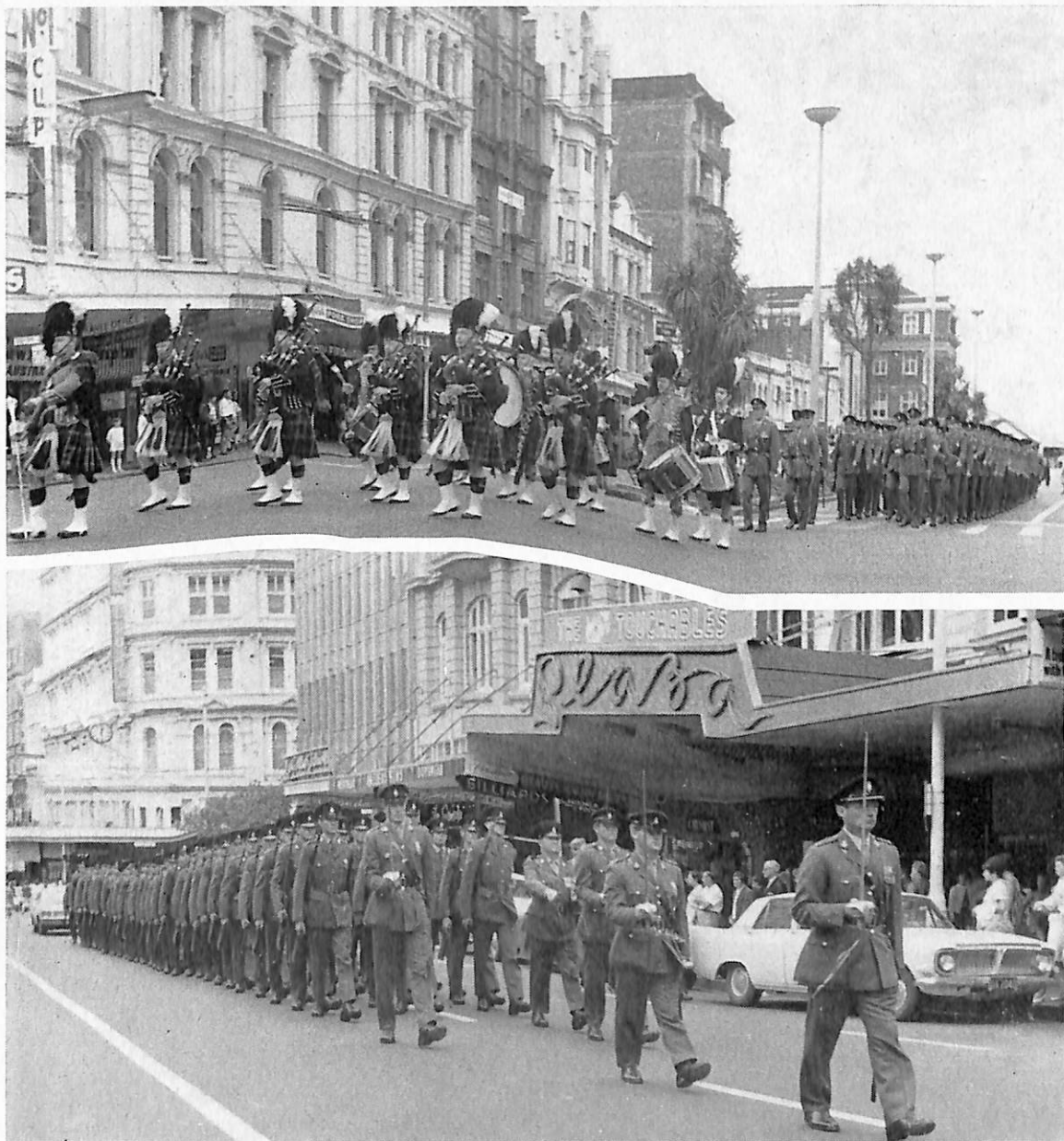
We had only a short time to prepare ourselves for the ceremonial march through Auckland, which was to take place on Monday, February 3. However, the Army Association entertained the whole Company on Sunday afternoon by taking us all out, either singly or in small groups, to their homes.

The march through Auckland the following day was successful; we were honoured with an invita-

tion to march with fixed bayonets. The band was the Auckland City Police Pipe Band, which was very good. After the march, Mr. Robinson, the Mayor, gave an address of welcome and refreshments were provided on a liberal scale. That evening all the Messes in Papakura gave official farewell functions for us at which plaques, ties, etc., were exchanged.

On Tuesday, February 4, the Company gave a "Hungi"—a traditional Maori feast—to which we

CEREMONIAL MARCH THROUGH AUCKLAND



Photos: Joint Services Public Relations Staff, BFPO 1

Burma Company led by the Auckland City Police Pipe Band



Two Officers of the Light Horse Volunteers of
London and Westminster
Circa 1805
Manoeuvring

LONGMAN & STRONGI' TH' ARM

ESTABLISHED IN THE REIGN OF GEORGE III

13 Dover Street, Piccadilly, W.1
Hyde Park 4677

REGIMENTAL JEWELLERS & SILVERSMITHS

invited a large number of guests. We expected a total of about 250 people, but the caterers counted 480 meals dished up. It was a huge success and over 120 gallons of beer were drunk.

On the following morning Chalk One flew out followed by Chalk Two the next day.



Block by courtesy Huddersfield Daily Examiner

L/Cpl. D. Price is shown how booby traps are set by a New Zealand veteran of the Vietnam war.

Thus ended Burma Company's trip to New Zealand. We all left with a great deal of liking for the country and its people, who were so warm, friendly and hospitable. We would all like to return one day and see more of the country, particularly the South Island which we didn't touch, and some are thinking quite seriously of emigrating. It was a happy and memorable visit, and, in both the narrow military and the wider senses, we all learnt a lot.

United Services Trustee reaches half century

The United Services Trustee celebrated its 50th anniversary on Tuesday, December 17, 1968, when the Ministry of Defence gave a dinner at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, for past and present directors.

The Trustee assists the Ministry of Defence in the administration of non-public funds and property of all three Services and at present holds in permanent custody about £7 million worth of securities. Since 1960 the Trustee has also operated its Combined Charitable Fund to provide additional facilities for the Navy, Army and Royal Air Force in the form of an investment pool under expert management.

Capt. Jasper Parrott, R.N., Secretary of the Trustee, said: "Few organisations can claim that their scale of charges has remained constant since 1918—yet such is the case with the Trustee."

At present, he said, 1,114 Service charities were taking part in the Combined Charitable Fund. Gross income for the year ended October 1968 was £348,927 and 5,560,139 shares had been issued. Market value of investments held amounted to £7.6 million.

Chairman of the Trustee is Mr. J. E. H. Collins, a managing director of Morgan Grenfell, and directors include nominees of the Queen, the Master of the Rolls and the three Services.

Border Tour

By MAJOR J. NEWTON

The primary role of the Battalion in Hong Kong is internal security — assisting the police in the maintenance of law and order when requested by them to help. A further task is that of manning positions on the Border from which the line of the International boundary can be observed.

Prior to June 1967 the task of manning the Border positions was entirely a police matter. However, in June 1967 and the following month, several incidents occurred on the Border which necessitated the military being called in to stiffen police representation in some parts or to replace it completely in others. The land frontier with China has for many years been a sensitive area, but has, in the main, been subject to a propaganda war carried out on the Chinese side of the

Border with only very few minor incidents. There had been demonstrations, often on a large scale; a loud speaker had been set up at the Border station of Lo Wu which, at regular intervals, poured out streams of anti-British propaganda; trains from China were plastered with posters, and even cattle imported into the colony had slogans on their sides!

There was no other violence until June 24, 1967, when a crowd of about 200 people attacked the police post at Sha Tau Kok with stones and bottles. They were dispersed by gas shells and order was restored. This incident was followed on June 26 by the first protest made by the Peking Government at diplomatic level since confrontation began. In a note to the British Chargé d'Affairs at Peking

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs protested at the police action and insisted that demands made in May that year during the riots in Hong Kong and Kowloon be accepted.

On July 8 there was a further mob attack at Sha Tau Kok. The police post was attacked and when the police opened fire with gas and wooden "baton" projectiles both the post and the Rural Committee Office, where another police company had been stationed, came under heavy sniping and machine-gun fire, including fire from Chinese militia. A detachment from the 10th Gurkha Rifles was called out to assist the police and, with the aid of armoured cars, they relieved the police companies which by then had five men killed and 11 wounded.

This incident received wide publicity and gave rise to some exaggerated and alarmist reports overseas. It was a serious affair, but it was not an attempt at armed invasion of the colony. No regular units of the Chinese Army were involved; throughout confrontation this force had been more concerned to prevent such incidents than to foment them. All the evidence suggests that it was a partly local affair organised and executed by the villagers in the immediate vicinity.

As a result of these incidents, and many other minor ones, the Army took over from the police the responsibility for patrolling the whole of the Border area. It is against this background that The Duke's have already completed two very successful tours on the Border and will soon be doing their third. Successful tours in that the *status quo* has been maintained without further incidents.

Along the line of demarcation, Lo Wu is the left-hand military post. The land to its west is swampy and marshy and vigilance over that area is maintained by the police with liaison visits occasionally from the Army. Lo Wu is the rail crossing post between China and the colony and is the place where the majority of people cross. Recently, it was at Lo Wu that Jaques Marcuse was prepared to offer himself in return for Anthony Grey; the Chinese showed remarkably little interest in this offer. It was at Lo Wu that Sir Michael Hobson crossed from Peking. As a station Lo Wu has little to recommend it. It smells.

The actual Border runs some 25 yards down the line.

The railway passes over a bridge and the official boundary is where it passes over the high water mark on the river. The boundary fence is, in fact, constructed on the British bank of the river; this is nothing more than an ordinary chain-link fence.

The job of the soldiers at Lo Wu is primarily one of observation. The threat, as elsewhere, is basically threefold. First of all, there are the Chinese regular soldiers whose job would appear to be similar to that carried out by our soldiers. They are there to prevent Chinese leaving the mainland and to curb the occasional exuberance of the militia and workers. Secondly, there is the militia. These are villagers who are armed but have no uniform, who from time to time attend indoctrination classes and are undoubtedly fervent supporters of Mao and his thoughts. Without support of

the Chinese soldier, the militia would probably instigate a lot of trouble. Thirdly, there are the workers who cross daily from China to farm fields on the British side of the Border. This is by agreement since the time the Border demarcation was agreed. About 30 a day come across Lo Wu, mainly women, but in this part of the world the women are probably tougher than the men. They certainly work much harder. They are an unpleasant, surly group who are on the lookout for trouble. Our soldiers have no contact at all with these people.

The Army is at Lo Wu to assist the police and Customs staff purely by their presence in ensuring the smooth running of the station. About 25 passenger trains a day go to Lo Wu and the passengers cross on foot to a train on the other side.

Life for the soldier is quite interesting, although living conditions are poor and very primitive. They sleep in what used to be the waiting room, and the other facilities are in keeping with those in the majority of village stations. A fortnight is considered quite long enough to be confined to Lo Wu.

The next major post is Man Kam To. This "Beau Geste"-type post overlooks the road crossing from China to the colony. Across this bridge comes most of the livestock and vegetables for the colony. In particular, at Man Kam To are a number of farmers living on the Chinese side who own land in British territory. They are allowed to work their fields by long-standing agreement, although the truculent attitude displayed by the farmers has led to constant friction. The Border bridge has had to be closed for periods of several weeks despite protests from the Chinese side. The last serious incident at Man Kam To was when two off-duty policemen inadvertently crossed the Border at this point and were forcibly detained; a senior Inspector of Police, who was engaged in trying to conciliate a group of villagers in the vicinity of the bridge, was seized by them and forcibly taken over the Border. The Inspector managed to escape after 36 days. On the British side of the bridge is the "lairage" area, open cattle pens into which livestock are driven before being transported further into the colony. The treatment meted out to these animals is often quite appalling and during our first tour of duty one idle pig was literally kicked to death and dragged back over the bridge into China.

The soldiers live in the police post sharing it with the police; the remainder are in bunkers and trenches around the police post. Recently, some corrugated iron huts have been built and will be occupied in future. They will be extremely uncomfortable in summer during the hot periods. This is one of the places where the Japanese crossed the Border during the last war.

The right-hand post is at Sha Tau Kok. As will be gathered, from what has been said earlier in this paper, this village is one of the potential danger areas on the Border. The village is unpleasant, dirty, and has very little to recommend it. Our soldiers live in what used to be the police station clinic and share a block of flats with some of the locals. The people on our side are pleased

to see us, probably because the British soldier has more cash to spend than the Gurkhas who man the Border more frequently than British troops. The Border divides the village and produces a tense and taut atmosphere. The police hate this post after what happened to their colleagues in 1967, and security is almost entirely left to the military. It is here that children, undoubtedly "egged on" by their elders, throw or propel stones at the nasty military knowing full well that nothing will come their way in return, although several forms of retaliation have been suggested by our soldiers from time to time! Sha Tau Kok is not the place for a holiday and is not even recommended for "genuine Chinese food" brought across the Border at great expense, as one company commander can verify. Needless to say, he had a food

taster.

As well as observing and reporting, quite a lot of time is spent in patrolling the primary fence to report and consequently make good any damage to it and also to show the flag along those parts of the fence which are not normally under observation or are some considerable distance from an OP. The patrols draw very little reaction from the Chinese apart from giving them something unusual to look at and, perhaps, report back to their HQs.

It is hoped that this article will have given you some idea of why we are on the Border, and roughly what life is like here. Elsewhere in the magazine, particularly in the Company notes, will be more graphic descriptions of day-to-day life in watching China.

With the 8th US Army Honour Guard Company

On October 2, 1968, the first "Dukes" to land in Korea since the conflict of 1950-53 touched down at Kimpo Airport, Seoul, at the beginning of their tour of duty with the Eighth United States Army Honour Guard Company stationed at Yong Saw. We then entered a hectic period of three days handover from the 4 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers' contingent. We worked hard at our American drill and took over our guard duties on October 4. Our handover/takeover went smoothly with a great many briefings and two parties, to say farewell to the Fusiliers, and to welcome us.

The Eighth Army Honour Guard Company, which was formed eight years ago, is composed of soldiers from five different nations. They are: The United States of America, The Republic of Korea (ROK), Great Britain, Thailand and Turkey. The platoons within the company are split as follows: The US Platoon, the United Nations Platoon, composed of British, Turkish and Thai soldiers, the ROK Army Platoon, ROK Navy and Marine Platoon, and the ROK Airforce Platoon. Under command of the British lieutenant and sergeant are nine Turks and five Thais.

The responsibilities of the Honour Guard Company are twofold. Firstly, to provide security for the Commander in Chief, Eighth United States Army, United Nations Command and United States Forces in Korea, at present General Charles H. Bonesteel III. The company's secondary mission is to provide ceremonial guards of honour for visiting and departing high-ranking persons.

The United Nations Platoon has additional duties. They are, firstly, to provide the guard of honour for all Secretarial and Military Armistice Commission's meetings at Panmunjom. Secondly, to provide orderlies at the United Nations Officers' Closed Mess whenever a reception is held for visiting or departing members of the United Nations Command.

Our first duty was on October 4 when we were required for the first of many visits to Panmunjom

on the Military Demarcation Line of North and South Korea. The meeting was between the North Korean and United Nations Secretaries of the Military Armistice Commission. As we later discovered these meetings were short and sharp in comparison to Military Armistice Commission Meetings, known to us as "MAC," between General Park of North Korea and General Woodward, US Army, of the United Nations Armistice Advisory Division.

This meeting left us little time to rehearse for our first ceremonial duty on October 7. Everyone in the British contingent was worried that someone would make a mistake. Much to our relief nobody did.

There were three different kinds of ceremonies performed by the Honour Guard Company. The first of these was the standard parade conducted for visiting or departing officers, and we mastered this by the end of our first week. The second was "Retreat," which took place every Friday and is comparable to a British Beating of the Retreat. The final and most impressive parade was the "Garrison Flag Ceremony." This was performed only on Bank Holidays, Thanksgiving, Remembrance, Christmas and New Year Days. This was the only ceremony in which no officer took part. It consisted basically of the lowering and folding of the Stars and Stripes by the US platoon, the UN flag by our platoon and the ROK flag by members of all three Korean platoons. It is interesting to note that the flags, all the same size, are 35 feet by 28 feet and require 18 men to fold them. They are reputed to be the largest flags used on any parade except for those used by the Presidential Honour Guard in Washington. As far as we could ascertain, there are also only two Honour Guards within the US Army. The "Old" or Presidential Guard and the Korean Guard.

During the period October 13-26 Exercise Focus Lens was held at Pyong Tek. It was the Command Post Exercise held twice annually by Eighth US



UN HONOUR GUARD, SOUTH KOREA
Pte. Oxley-Bates, 1 DWR, carrying the UN Colour.

Army. The Honour Guard Company was responsible for providing security guards around the Command Post Area. General Mock, US Army, acting Commander, summed up the good work done by the "Dukes" in his letter of appreciation to Ptes. Huntley, Hall and Kennedy. The whole platoon was doing two hours on and four hours off duty, day and night, for 14 days. On our return to Yong Sam we began to familiarise ourselves with the surroundings and wonderful facilities and clubs within the vast camp area. This did not take long, and the "Brits" soon found themselves well looked after.

It was not long before we were off to Panmunjom again, this time for a "MAC" meeting. On November 5, we provided the guard for the longest "MAC" meeting since 1953; it lasted 9½ hours because Generals Woodward and Park could not come to an agreement. Two later "MAC" meetings lasted nine and 8¾ hours respectively. We also attended many secretarial meetings giving us an unofficial record of more hours spent at Panmunjom than any other British contingent.

Later in November, the British contingent only was required for the laying of wreaths at the Gloster Valley Memorial by HE Mr. Ian C. McKenzie, Brigadier A. R. D. G. Wilson, MBE, British Military Attaché, and several Korean officers.

In Seoul on Remembrance Sunday we were on duty at church where a small, but very pleasant,

service was held. These were our only two completely British tasks during our 16-week tour.

Major Lane (Welch Regiment), who heads the British Liaison Commission in Korea, took several Americans and ourselves on a very interesting tour of Gloster Valley later in November. From the old "D" Company hill, held by the Glosters in the conflict, we had the battle described to us by Major Lane. We left feeling rather sad as we passed the famous position where the remaining few of the regiment made their desperate stand against the Chinese. From there we moved on to the banks of the River Imjin, well known to "Dukes" who fought in Korea. We then moved on, under armed military police escort, provided by our hosts from 25 ROK Division, to an observation post overlooking the DMZ and North Korea. From here we were able to see the Hook. Apart from Major J. M. Newton, who travelled with us for the handover, we were the first "Dukes" to return. The Hook now stands practically on the Military Demarkation Line, and for that reason we were not allowed on the feature. As far as we could tell from maps, the ROK Army has a "Ready Reaction Force" living underground on the feature once held by our Battalion Headquarters during the battle.

The reality of the tension and cold war in Korea was brought home to us on this trip. The artillery gun emplacements, guided-missile batteries, and tanks made us realise that the situation in Korea is extremely delicate.

During our stay we met Lt.-Col. John Steel (Retd), who works for UNESCO in Korea. Shortly after our trip to Gloster Valley and the Hook we had our first platoon party at John Steel's house. He was an excellent and very generous host and we owe him our thanks for this and other very enjoyable evenings.

Through him, and a soldier's intuition for finding night-spots, we discovered the village of Haewon, a small shanty area only two miles from Yongsam. Here we discovered everything which constitutes a good night out and it became the platoon's favourite haunt. JV (Japanese Village), or "The Ville" as the Americans called this part of Haewon, is about half-a-mile long with well-known names like "UN Club," "King Club," "7 Club," "007 Club," "Bunny Club," and several others all practically next door to each other. Here, too, we made several friends!

November passed quickly with several trips and a great many parades. December saw the extravagant preparations for Christmas under way. Our first duty, off the parade square, was on December 3 to welcome HMAS *Dudness* and HMAS *Derwent* of the Australian Navy to Inchon on the west coast. On December 16 Bob Hope and his glamorous team of entertainers arrived in Yongsam. Because of the excitement and battle for tickets the company had to provide a guard for the girls of the team, including "Miss World." An enviable task, one might think, but with soldiers doing one night in three on guard the additional responsibility was not welcome.

We received a mention from Bob Hope during



British Personnel of the UN Drill Platoon.

the show and three of the platoon succeeded in fighting their way into Collier Field House where the show was held. A few jokes were cracked about us, including one accusing us of trying to colonise Korea. On December 22 we went as a platoon to the Embassy as guests of the Ambassador. We found a large gathering of all the people in Korea registered at the Embassy. However, when the Salvation Army struck up with their Christmas carols, everyone was a little bashful about singing, that is until the "Dukes" rallied, and Major Lane, to his surprise, discovered that not only Welshmen can sing. On December 23 the unfortunate crew of the *Pueblo* were released. We hoped to go to Panmunjom as normal, but it was a completely American function and we had to be content with listening to the radio and sitting in full battle equipment for 4½ hours in case of an emergency.

During this period, 150 North Korean infiltrators landed near Pusan in South Korea and we were turned out a great many times to keep us on our toes. Fortunately, the alerts were released on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The curfew, from midnight till 6 a.m., was lifted, and, needless to say, we all had a wonderful time, except for the unfortunate people on guard. The latter made up for it later, however. On both days, December 25 and January 1, we had a Garrison Flag Ceremony,

which, despite 18 throbbing heads, went extremely well.

On Boxing Night, we were guests, as a platoon, at Brigadier Wilson's house. Another excellent evening. Was it Sgt. O'Donnell who, on departing, shook hands with Mrs. Wilson and said, "Thank you very much for a wonderful evening, Sir"?

We saw the New Year in, and in typical Korean winter weather. The temperature changed overnight on December 20 and dropped to well below freezing. Snow fell on Christmas Eve and the temperature remained below freezing until we left. Parades became few and far between. Our soccer and volleyball matches against the Korean platoons ceased, and PT had to be done in the barrack rooms. However, we still managed one final excursion to the Korean OB Brewery, where we made ourselves very popular with our compliments about the high standard of beer. This was, of course, to make sure we received a drink at the end of our conducted tour. It worked, and we were also presented with a box containing beer glass, bottle opener, ash-tray and matches. Unfortunately, Sgt. O'Donnell and four men left that day for our last visit to Panmunjom on January 9.

C/Sgt. Maxwell, 4 RRF, arrived on January 8 and, despite the weather, preparations were made for the handover. The Fusiliers arrived on Janu-

ary 14 late at night and discovered how cold Korea can be. On January 15 we held our farewell party which, again, set an unofficial record: it lasted longer than any of the previous ones. We had 150 guests, varying from the Ambassador to the company clerk and their wives. We were the waiters and worked extremely hard. The "combo" from the Eighth US Army Band did sterling work providing the music, and the evening went with a swing, ending up with everybody having a last night out in JV.

We drilled incessantly with the Fusiliers who were "lucky" enough to be on parade the day we left.

We said our final farewell to our American, Korean, Thai and Turk friends at 06 30 on Friday, January 17, before leaving for Kimpo Airport. Official farewells and presentations of Regimental plaques had been made over the previous two days with much pomp and ceremony.

LOE AGRA AND MOHMAND OPERATIONS 1935

By MAJOR-GENERAL R. K. EXHAM

In 1934 the Battalion arrived in Nowshera from Kamptee. Lt.-Col. Mike Cox took over command of the Battalion shortly after the move. I happened to be away, but was sent for to take over the adjutancy from Dick Cumberlege. I am sure that everyone was very pleased with the move and at being close to the frontier with the chance of active service. Also, we knew that we should have a really first-class winter and the opportunity to improve our polo. This article is about two operations which were carried out by the Battalion.

In early February 1935, the Nowshera Brigade was ordered out to cross the Malakand Pass and move into the Swat valley. In this area lies the village of Loe Agra, and the reason for the march was the activity of the Fakir of Alingar, a holy man of great influence among the tribes, who had promoted anti-British feeling in the district. After a palaver, run by the Political Agent, British control was agreed to and on February 27 the Brigade was withdrawn.

This, however, was not the end of the affair and on March 6 the Fakir, having reorganised his lashkar, crossed the Swat and threatened the levy post at Loe Agra. The Brigade was therefore ordered out again. This time the lashkar was attacked, driven out of the village and dispersed. The Brigade remained for a few days as a guard in the area and then returned to Nowshera.

The following statistics may be of interest to readers. During this march the Brigade crossed eight passes over 3,500 feet and, on most days, sent up picquets 2,000 feet or more above the line of march. It was a hard several days.

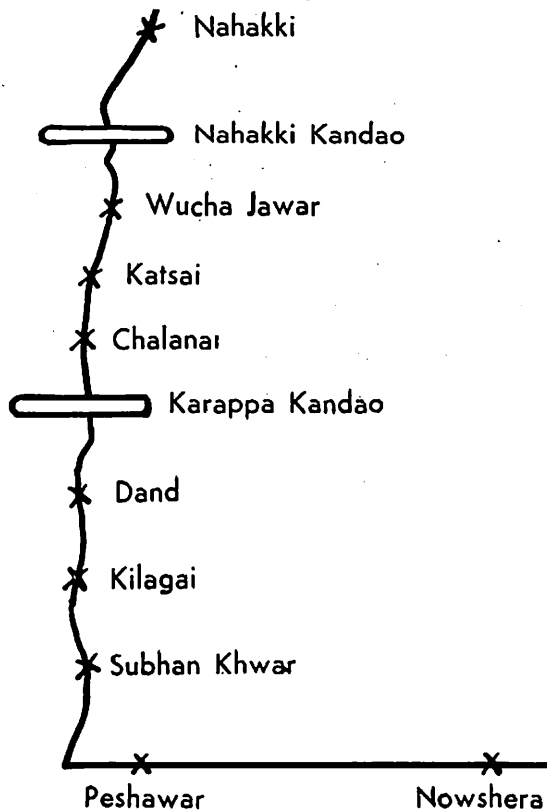
I now come to an account of the Mohmand Operation. This was the third column carried out by the Battalion during the year, so it was a fairly busy period for us.

On August 14 we received a report that a lashkar of about 1,500 tribesmen of Burhan Khel and Isa Khel had taken up positions on the Gandab

road between Dand and Karappa Kandao and had started damaging the road. As a result of this report both the Peshawar and Nowshera Brigades were ordered out. At the start, Mike Cox was temporarily in command of the Nowshera Brigade. The following is a rough sketch of the road we followed:

Note by Battalion sub-editor. In a letter to the Battalion, Major Lane (Welch) GSO2 at the Commonwealth Liaison Mission, himself about to leave Korea at the end of his tour of duty, wrote: "In my opinion they are the best platoon I have seen here." Well done, Lt. Palmer, Sgt. O'Donnell and all members of the platoon.

road between Dand and Karappa Kandao and had started damaging the road. As a result of this report both the Peshawar and Nowshera Brigades were ordered out. At the start, Mike Cox was temporarily in command of the Nowshera Brigade. The following is a rough sketch of the road we followed:





Road between Subhan Khwar & Kilagai

On August 20 all ranks were inoculated against cholera, and on August 31 we arrived at Dand having left Subhan Khwar early that morning. We were acting as rear guard; fortunately we were not followed up as we had to withdraw 15 road picquets mostly in darkness.

For those who have not studied mountain warfare, I should, perhaps, explain that a large picqueting force started out with the advanced guard of each column. As the column advanced this force was gradually used up to picquet the heights on either side from which the tribesmen could threaten the road. Each picquet was withdrawn by the rearguard when the column had passed beyond their protection. The withdrawal was a ticklish moment as there was always a danger that lurking tribesmen might quickly occupy the vacated post and attack the withdrawing picquet and rearguard.

By then the Battalion was again under the command of Mike Cox, who had handed over the Brigade to Brigadier the Hon. H. R. L. Alexander. The Force Commander was Brigadier C. J. E. Auchinlech. Both these officers have, of course, become very famous.

We remained at Dand until September 8, and those who were there will remember that the day shade temperature averaged about 105 degrees and that the camp was shut in on all sides by high hills. All ranks were dosed daily with quinine, but this did little to prevent malaria. I can only quote the case of the Regiment who evacuated 192 all ranks and whose strength dropped to 310. During

this period we were employed on road protection duties.

From September 8-16 the Brigades were closing up to the Nahakki Kandao. This is a pass leading to Nahakki village and, beyond it, the Mohmand country which, up till then, was unknown. The operation to cross the Kandao was quite a new departure in mountain warfare. Three infantry brigades, including the 3 Infantry Brigade, all moving by night on separate routes, culminated in six battalions climbing the precipitous hills of 3,500 feet on either side of the pass. Unfortunately, by this time, the lashkar had dispersed. The Nowshera Brigade then went into camp at W u c h a Jawar.

This camp was situated at the end of a short valley and we were heavily sniped each night—and sometimes by day. A memento of this exists in our Regimental Museum in the shape of the Mohmand Force Football Cup. This was presented by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Alexander, and was competed for, in an inter-company competition, by all units in the camp. It was won by our "HQ Wing." It was made by the 5th Field Company, KGO, Sappers and Miners out of kerosene tins and is decorated with a wreath of barbed wire. The "field" on which the games were played was well within the ring of camp picquets. In spite of this, during one of the early rounds, the tribesmen managed to get within close range and opened fire on the players who left the ground hurriedly—all except one keen sportsman. He remained behind and scored a goal. However,

the referee, having taken to his heels, this was disallowed.

As a result of the sniping it was decided that The Duke's would search two villages in the valley for weapons, whilst the Guides gave protection by occupying the high ground at the end of the valley. The night search went off without trouble, although we failed to find any enemy firearms.

Unfortunately, the Guides ran into serious trouble. During the early night they climbed the difficult high ground at the end of the valley, but it was very dark and, when continuing to the end of their objective along what turned out to be a knife edge, the Battalion got badly split up. The tribesmen, being warned in their villages, immediately started to climb the high ground, where they met the Guides face to face. According to the figures given at the time the tribesmen suffered 46 killed and 73 wounded, whilst the Guides' casualties were: British officers, two killed and four wounded, and other ranks, 37 killed and 49 wounded. This must have been one of the bitterest engagements in the history of the NW Frontier. Godfrey Meynell was awarded the posthumous Victoria Cross and there were two DSOs and one MC given. One DSO was awarded to the doctor, who was the only British officer remaining on the objective and who conducted the withdrawal. The enemy lashkar engaged was reported as being about 1,800 strong.

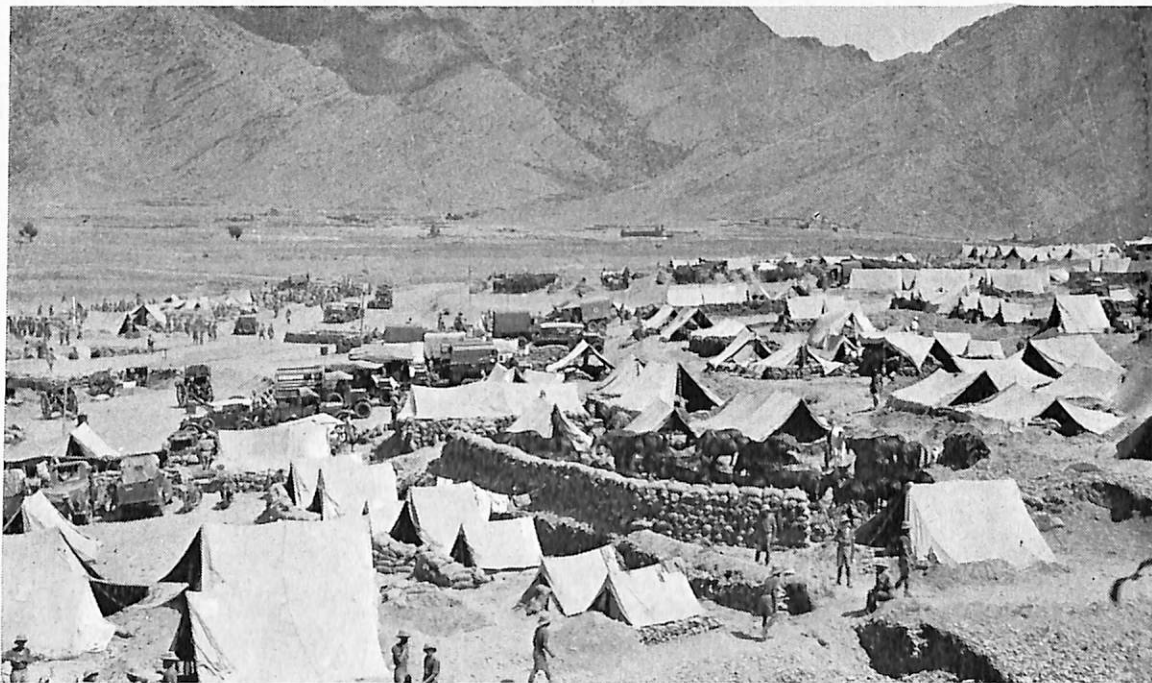
During this time our Sappers and Miners constructed a road over the Nahakki Kandao pass so that, in future, a column could move quickly into

the Mohmand country. They reached the village of Nahakki.

This was the end of the fighting. On October 15, HE the Governor and the Army Commander, for the first time in history, saw a fully representative jirga of all Mohmands, over 700 strong, at Wucha Jawar camp. The Government terms were agreed to and the attitude of the tribesmen was very satisfactory. The meeting was attended by all ranks of the Battalion who were not on duty and we provided a Guard of Honour of 100 rank and file. The Brigade, having withdrawn, arrived back in Nowshera on November 5.

All officers and men who were present were given the Indian General Service medal with bar covering both the Loe Agra and the Mohmand Operations and the Battalion were awarded 12 mentions for meritorious service. L/Sgt. Slater, L/Cpl. Britten and L/Cpl. Stone won the Military Medal. I only wish that I could remember the events leading to these awards, but it is 34 years ago and I have forgotten them.

I will end with a word about Mike Cox. He was a really popular CO, and after having carried out three columns on the frontier he had become an expert in mountain warfare techniques. On the last day of the move he insisted on marching the whole distance of 26 miles back to barracks. He was looking very tired, but he stuck to it and his charger was used to give lifts to one or two young soldiers. As adjutant, I owe him a great debt of gratitude.



Battalion camp at Wucha Jawar

UNFICYP Revisited

By CAPTAIN J. F. B. POWER

One always reminisces of previous postings, remembering mainly the good times and sub-consciously and conveniently forgetting the more distasteful and even boring spells that inevitably occur.

So, at the risk of exhuming any well-laid skeletons, it might be of interest to those hardened United Nations campaigners to know what has been happening in Cyprus since The Duke's left.

Although 18 months have passed since The Duke's wore the blue beret, the UN is still very much in Cyprus and the problem continues in much the same way that we remember it. However, the blue beret and the problem are the only things that make the situation recognisable. The tension has eased considerably and the Hampshires, UN BRITCON, are able to lead a considerably more relaxed life. True, they man outposts, but the number has been drastically cut and, when not on outposts, they are able to do normal training and range work virtually unimpeded.

The tension has eased to such an extent that the military are becoming undistinguishable from the police (UNCIVPOL) and the main situation is quickly becoming police routine as opposed to military presence. The trend now is to move the police out into the country and vacate all those palatial hotels. They are subdividing into smaller posts and taking over accommodation in more isolated areas. Recently an UNCIVPOL post was established in Polis, thus saving a long drive from Krima just to investigate some petty incident. Another is to be established shortly near Kyrenia which is void of UN since the Canadian Recce Squadron pulled out last year.

Those who remember Kophinou are unlikely to forget the name of Mehmet and his dismissal and return to Turkey. The luckless Green Jackets are unlikely to forget November 14-15, 1967, and the name of General Grivas. His deliberate and unmitigated attack on Ayios Theodorus, causing considerable bloodshed, resulted in his dismissal and return to Greece. Since the removal of these two over-zealous patriots the island has slowly but surely returned to a fair degree of normality. Talks continue day in and day out, seemingly achieving nothing, and every now and then the temperature rises slightly, just to remind the UN that there are other people on the island with an unsolved problem.

There has not been a serious outbreak since Kophinou, and Limassol Zone has remained extremely peaceful throughout recent months, to such extent that the outposts have been considerably reduced. They have also been greatly improved, and now, in the winter, are very comfortable.

The Duke's occupied 26 posts and camps as opposed to the present 17. Below are listed all

the outposts as manned by The Duke's in 1967, and in the remarks column can be seen what fate has befallen each since then. It is said that the gravestones on Grenadier Hill (Boot Hill) were left to posterity; no one knows whether the tin of chicken supreme alleged to be buried in each one is still there. All outposts are now in Nissen huts and the majority of tentage has been removed; in the winter this is a vast improvement; however, one wonders what it must be like in the summer. One can only imagine it as something akin to a Finnish sauna. They say the windows are removable.

Outpost
May-Nov., '67

Remarks as at Feb., '69

PAPHOS/POLIS

HQ Limni Mines ... Handed back to mines.
Polis Guardroom ... Now Polis HQ
Platoon strength only.

Hill 11A ... Dismantled.
Anadhiou ... Still *in situ*.
HQ St. Patrick's ... Still *in situ*.
HQ St. Barbara's ... Closed except Dist. HQ
in the house.

The Villa ... Two - section strength
now!

Junction House ... Handed back.
Mavroli ... Still *in situ*.
Xeros Bridge ... Unmanned.
Mandria Hill ... Now Platoon HQ for
Xeros Platoon.

Mandria Caves ... Dismantled — now din-
ing hall at St. Patrick's.
Still *in situ*.

Stavrokono ... Still *in situ*.

LIMASSOL

Episkopi Road ... Dismantled.
Turk HQ ... Still *in situ*.
HQ Polemidhia ... Still Zone HQ.

KOPHINOU

Mari ... Still *in situ*. Section
strength only.

Ayios Theodorus ... Still *in situ*.
Grenadier Hill ... Dismantled.
Water Tower ... Dismantled.
Skarinou ... Still *in situ*.
Tango ... Still *in situ*.
Radio Hill ... Dismantled.
Foxtrot ... Still *in situ*.
Bunker (Larnaca Road) ... Still *in situ*.
Compound ... Reduced in strength.
Still Dist. HQ.

There is much talk about UN being withdrawn, and the number of troops is being reduced gradually with each rotation; however, the end is

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still not within the immediate future. There is still the old guard of Turk Cypriots crying out for partition; however, the talks in progress at the moment between Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash have at least produced some common ground and ideas for discussion; one can only hope they are

fruitful, especially for the people of Cyprus. But until a decision is reached troops will continue to wear the blue beret and patrol the island attempting to pacify the locals and solve their problems. And when all is said and done, there is a lot to recommend a second trip!

KING'S DIVISION DEPOT, YORKSHIRE

OFFICERS MESS

The Mess lives up to its old reputation — the living-in members seem to be outnumbered by the living-in dogs! Current bachelors gay are Chris Jowett (just engaged), David Nicholson of 11 AYT, Charlie Alderson-Smith, Paddy Travers the dentist, and Adrian Naughton, who has just taken over from Ian Park-Weir as our resident ADC. However, despite the lack of numbers, Mess social life is fairly hectic: we entertained the officers of 1 Y and L during their last few days and helped them drown their sorrows in beverages of their own choosing. In January that hardy annual, the Administration Inspection, succeeded in stirring Mess staff and officers alike to achieve those unbelievable standards of tidiness in their rooms that only these occasions bring. The sergeants have been over to inspect the premises, test the beer, throw their darts and loose their money at Chris Adams' roulette table.

HEADQUARTER AND TRAINING COMPANIES

Since the departure of the 1st Battalion to Hong Kong and the disbandment of 1 Y & L, the flow of people passing through has continued at a bewildering pace. Sgt. Cooper is currently sawing wood for the Recruiting Officer and, despite being officially re-designated Pioneer Sergeant, he refuses to grow another beard. Sgt. Hall passed through

on his way to Huddersfield, Sgt. Toplis is off to Leeds to the Recruiting Office. Others who have gone out into the big, wide world are Cpl. Bill Davies, Cpl. Cronin, Cpl. Skirrow, Cpl. Baker and Ptes. Harrigan, Dunbar, Scriven and Nickerson. Amongst those whom we would like to welcome to the Regiment are CSM Keily, Sgt. Parkin and L/Cpl. Naiken, all from Y & L; we hope they will enjoy themselves as "Dukes."

"Dukes" figure prominently in the Depot football team—Sgt. Stansfield, Cpl. Smith, L/Cpl. Uttley and Rutherford, but, surprisingly, the only "Dukes" in the rugby team are L/Cpl. Willetts, Ptes. Afford and Farr.

JUNIOR SOLDIERS COMPANY

Despite the present cold weather the Juniors continue to amaze everybody by running around the cross-country course, playing hockey at all hours, ski-ing, boat building and canoe making, and still find plenty of time for work. "Just how do they do it?" many people ask. A team took part in the Northern Command Orienteering Championship in December after some stiff training, and acquitted itself well by coming second in the Junior Section. Lt. Jowett, when not canoeing, organised a week's dry ski-ing at Scarborough in preparation for a week of the real thing at Aviemore—only to find when he got there that the snow hadn't. He hopes for better luck in March when he takes another party over the border.

T & AVR II

"C" COY (DWR) THE YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

For some reason, probably not even known to the GPO, our last set of notes failed to make the printers. Most of that news is out of date except the fact that we took the opportunity to welcome S/Sgt. Hall to the Company. By now he has got his feet well under the table and is getting on with the business of issuing and withdrawing his stores.

Remembrance Day

November saw the Company march in force to Halifax Parish Church on Remembrance Day, the first time for many years, and in the afternoon a party joined the Civic Service at the Cenotaph. This was an excellent day, the Company drill and

turnout competitions being held in the morning. Later in the month we were all very pleased to have Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Hardy to the Annual Dinner and Prizegiving. In spite of the volume from the band, the CO still managed to circulate right round the room and speak to most of the members of the Company, a point which was greatly appreciated. Our prizewinners were:

Champion Platoon—Support Pl.
Champion Soldier—Pte. Whitley.
Champion Recruit—Pte. Fairburn.
Remembrance Day Turnout—Cpl. Simpson and Pte. Leach.

Recruiting Prize—Pte. P. Burnside.

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RIDING HALL MILLS - HALIFAX

Christmas Festivities

Christmas went with the usual social swing and in early January the children's party went off in the usual riot of games, films, sticky buns and orange squash. Sgt. Fossard, our administrative man, made an excellent job of organising both these events, and is to be congratulated and thanked for all his hard work.

Military Matters

However, readers will think life is all play, but no so. To help us get a grip with affairs military, WO2 Fee and S/Sgt. Glencross joined the Company in early February to take over the duties of "Con" Sullivan and Eric Wakefield. We welcome them and look forward to benefiting from their tour of duty with us. Our best wishes go with both the leaving members, with thanks for their hard work. There is a particularly soft spot for "Con" Sullivan, who has given so many years of service with an exceptional loyalty, knowledge and ability. "C" Company has benefited greatly from all this and we are grateful.

Cross Country

At the moment of writing the Company orienteering and cross-country teams are training hard for the forthcoming District and Command competitions and, of course, for the Battalion competitions beforehand. Our cross-country team of Messrs. Kelly, Abel, Ashton, P. Burnside, Connor, Lomas, Reidy and Datson have been working particularly hard, and carry a strong challenge in the T. & A.V.R. Championships.

Training and Recruiting

On a training note, with the formation of "E" (Leeds Rifles) Company in Leeds, our senior ranks and PSIs have been helping to start off their training. Weekly visits have covered introductory work on the weapons which hitherto have been unknown to AVR III soldiers. The interest

shown by the men has been most marked and made it all worth while.

At the same time we are swelling our own numbers with men from the W. Riding Territorials at Huddersfield, and this is opening a new recruiting area. Whether we maintain a sub-unit in St. Paul's Street depends entirely on the numbers available. Some very familiar TA names are joining us, so we should have a good start in this area. Perhaps the competition between Halifax and Huddersfield will encourage recruiting.

Our training over the last few months has concentrated on the useful basic subjects which always seem to get neglected. Battalion HQ have been running some excellent courses for specialists and NCOs. This year we are making an early start on classification and, weather permitting, the bulk of the Company should complete their course by the end of March.

Comings and Goings

The goings and comings include the retirement of C/Sgt. Kenny Hirst. In thanking him for all his hard work over the years, we wish him and his wife all the very best and hope that they will make the trip from Barnoldswick from time to time to visit old friends. Lt. Steele has moved to Birmingham and has transferred. We shall miss his intense enthusiasm and are sure he will be a great success in his new appointment. Capt. Cook, the Company 2 i/c, has had to leave due to business and personal reasons. We are sorry to see him go in the middle of a promising Volunteer career. His successor is Capt. Peter Mortimer, formerly of "A" and "HQ" Companies, but a native of Dewsbury, and a one-time "Duke" albeit early in his career. We wish him welcome and offer him the doubtful privilege of taking over the Company accounts and all the other administrative tasks allotted to him. Sgt. Berry is undertaking the duties of Colour Sergeant and by the time the next notes appear we should have the interesting news as to who will be our next Volunteer CSM.

THE WEST RIDING TERRITORIALS (DWR)

It would be appropriate if this sub-editorial were framed in a black border because it records the virtual decease of four Territorial Battalions of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, which combined through many amalgamations and reorganisations to form The West Riding Territorials, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. When this is read the Battalion, which has maintained the tradition of generations of part-time volunteer soldiers, will have disbanded and all that will remain will be a Cadre of eight all ranks to carry on the name of The West Riding Battalion, DWR.

It would be easy to fill this space with bitter thoughts and to indulge in a tirade against the short-sightedness which has dealt such a blow to the volunteer spirit which has stood the country

in such good stead in two world wars, but it is felt that to do this would be contrary to the spirit of the Territorials. Rather let us look to the future in the hope that there will come a time when it is realised that Territorial soldiers have, indeed, a part to play within the defence structure.

For many months active thinking has been going on as to the means of holding a "hard core" together after disbandment. The announcement of the formation of the Cadre was an unexpected and welcome bonus in that the Cadre, commanded by Major B. N. Webster, TD, will retain the Regimental property, Colours and traditions of the present Battalion. It also means that the doors of St. Paul's Street Drill Hall will remain open.

In addition to the Cadre it is proposed to form The West Riding Battalion Association with the object of keeping together all ranks for whom a place could not be found in the Cadre and who cannot transfer to "C" (DWR) Company, Yorkshire Volunteers. Membership of the Association will be open to all ranks who have served at any time with the Territorial Battalions of the Regiment. They will gather at regular intervals for lectures or talks on subjects of military interest, to meet comrades with whom they have served and to be kept up to date with the activities of the Cadre and the "Dukes" Company of The Yorkshire Volunteers.

One of the aims of the Association will be to assist the Cadre Commander in any way possible and to help recruiting for "C" (DWR) Company, The Yorkshire Volunteers. Our (unofficial) Band and Drums will continue as a "civilian" military band. Scarlet of a non-regimental pattern has been obtained although, if and when the time comes, it can be made regimental without difficulty. The Band and Drums are making a name for themselves and are well booked for engagements, although there are still vacancies for experienced musicians who should contact the Bandmaster, Mr. Vallance, during band practice every Sunday morning at St. Paul's Street Drill Hall.

It is emphasised that membership of The West Riding Battalion Association is open to any ex-members of any Territorial Battalion of The Duke's irrespective of when he served or what rank he held. We hope that many ex-Territorials who read these notes will get in touch with the Secretary, West Riding Battalion Association, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield. We should also wel-

come volunteer speakers who would be willing to give a talk on any military or near-military subjects—personal experiences of battles or campaigns; unusual extra-regimental employment; service with Colonial, Commonwealth or foreign troops; historical accounts of past battles or campaigns; development of weapons or equipment. We can assure speakers that they will be warmly welcomed and liberally entertained.

We hope that the Editor of THE IRON DUKE will allow space to report the activities of the Association once it has got off the ground.

In conclusion, we must thank all those who have assisted the West Riding Territorials during the last difficult twelve months. So many members of the Battalion and others have helped to make what should have been a sad and frustrating time enjoyable and worth-while. It is impossible to list them all by name, but special mention must be made of Cpl. Binns—Mine Host of the Terrier Tavern—and S/Sgt. Roberts who, between them, have organised so many parties and socials. Also Major Bob Callaby who worked so hard to ensure the success of the Battalion and made such efforts to ensure the run-down was completed smoothly, in spite of the fact that his long military service with the Regiment was to end with the disbandment of the Territorials.

Finally, we wish the West Riding Battalion DWR Cadre every success. They have taken upon themselves a heavy task—that of preserving the spirit and traditions of four Territorial Battalions of the Regiment. The task will not be an easy one but if the Cadre can maintain the high morale which has been evident in the past it will be a most rewarding one.

THE ARMY CADET FORCE

HUDDERSFIELD AREA (DWR)

Once again, as the time draws near for another issue of THE IRON DUKE, I am able to report that all is well on the Cadet Force front. Our recruiting figures have shown an improvement over the same period of 1968, and for once I can say that we have an abundance of adult instructors who, up till now, have always been in short supply.

I am very pleased to welcome to the ACF an ex-Duke whom a lot of you will know, namely Peter Turner, who was a member of the Signals Section in the Battalion until a few years ago. He joined us at the Thongsbridge Detachment, and will eventually take over there from John Evans who will move to Mirfield.

The Area has a very busy year ahead with the accent being placed on action training. This includes a weekend at the Bishop Monkton Watermanship and Bridging Site, RE. This type of training is always very popular with the cadets. There are also weekends at Strenshall WETC and Leek in Staffordshire. Add to this a few climbing and light-weight weekends and expeditions and you have a pretty fair idea of our activities.

Annual Camp this year is to be at Warcop in Westmorland, which is, in spite of its location, a very popular place with the cadets. I think that this is probably due to the magnificent training areas.

Again, I must place on record our thanks to Capt. John Moir and his very able team for stepping in at the last moment and helping out with our winter weekends which, without his gallant efforts, would have failed.

It is with a great deal of regret that we watch the final slaughter of the Territorials at St. Paul's Street. As a cadet force we can only feel that we are losing a part of ourselves. After all, we have been able to lean on a larger shoulder for many years; it has always been the TA to whom we turned with our problems of transport and administration, and the cadet force of Huddersfield Area say to Lt.-Col. Barnes and his fellow officers and men a big "Thank you" for all they have done to make life in the ACF just that little bit easier. Now look out, AVR II, your shoulders are about to be leaned on.

CORRESPONDENCE

Army Careers
Information Office,
26 Kirkgate,
Huddersfield.

Dear Sir,

Being a keen collector of cap badges, I recently wrote to all the Military Regiments in Canada, to which the Canadians responded in their usual generous manner.

On behalf of the Prince Edward Island Regiment, I had a letter from Mr. Earle K. Kennedy, of 46 Green Street, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, who remembers the Dukes in Italy, 1944, when his Regiment supported them, or were neighbours. Mr. Earle, as a former "tanker," sends his very best wishes to the Regiment and perhaps some of our readers can remember the Prince Edward Island Regiment of Canada, of whom at least one member certainly remembers us.

Yours sincerely,
W. NORMAN (CSM),

Burma Company, 1 DWR, BFPO 1.

Dear Sir,

On my return to Hong Kong from the Company training period in New Zealand I received the following letter from Mr. F. Dyson (lately 6078 Pte. F. Dyson), now residing at 9 Boscowen Street, Point Chevalier, Auckland:

"To all ranks of the Dukes — I would like to wish you all a safe and happy return to Hong Kong and wherever you are going after that. I was sorry to miss your parade in Queen Street. I served as a volunteer in the Dukes 1900-1901 in the Boer War. We were the first company of volunteers to go out and were known as V Company. We were dropped off at Silverton just outside Pretoria, the day before Col. Lloyd was killed at Rhenoster Kop. We were only enlisted for 12 months and returned home soon after that. Again wishing you all the best. (Signed) 6078 Pte. F. DYSON."

Pte. Laws, of my company, met another ex-Duke, Mr. Jackman, who had done his National Service as a member of the Anti-Tank Platoon in Gibraltar. He has been in New Zealand for the past 12 years.

The other interesting feature of the trip from a regimental point of view is that the 7th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, is an amalgamation of the Wellington and Hawkes Bay Regiments and the former's cap badge was the ducal crest and very similar to the 1st Battalion's.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. MITCHELL
(Major).

General Staff Branch,
HQ, BAOR.

Dear Sir,

Those who read in the August 1968 issue of THE IRON DUKE that the chief claim to Regimental fame of Lt.-Col. J. M. Harty was that it was he who, when in command of the 33rd, wrote to the Great Duke to suggest that the Regiment be given the title of The Duke of Wellington's, may be interested to hear that I have a framed copy of the Great Duke's reply.

This was given to me recently by Mrs. R. A. Scott, Scotty's widow, and it reads:

November 6, 1842.

Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Lieut.-Colonel Harty.

He has always felt the greatest interest in the honour and welfare of the 33rd Regiment and he is much flattered by the desire of its officers to record that he was for some time its commanding officer and their colonel. But he begs that they will observe that the honour solicited is of an unusual description, and will be posthumous and permanent.

The Duke must beg leave to decline to be a party of the solicitation of such an honour, to be conferred not upon the 33rd Regiment alone, but in the greatest (degree) upon an individual, and that individual himself. He hopes therefore that the officers of the 33rd Regiment will excuse him for declining to make known their wishes to the general commanding the Army in chief, and for suggesting that they should submit their desire through some other channel.

Lieut.-Colonel Harty,
Dublin.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. K. GREENWAY

(One can suppose that the old Duke was more gratified by the proposal than his formal reply at first sight suggests. As far as we know, the submission of the desire "through some other channel" has not been traced. The title was bestowed on the Regiment by Royal command in 1853, on the first Waterloo Day after the Great Duke's death.—Ed.)

47 Berry Avenue,
Watford.

Dear Sir,

I read with interest Major Graham Tedd's visit to Waterloo. I have been several times and have had the privilege of being conducted over the battlefield by Prof. Emile Dehoud, of the Ecole Royale Militaire, Brussels.

Perhaps I can fill in the odd details from my own visits.

The ridge at Mont St. Jean was much higher in

1815, but a lot of it was moved to build that eyesore — the Lion Monument.

The "Imperial Guardsman" was probably M. Nobert Bassin, a café owner. He is a great disciple of Napoleon and changed his name from Robert to Nobert in order to have the same initials as his hero. He is convinced that the French won. I met him at Hougoument in June 1965 and he believes that the French actually captured the farm.

The figures I have are: Wellington 93,643 with 186 guns. This includes 62 squadrons of cavalry (8,109). Of course, not all these men were effective as some of the Allies left the battlefield when the first shots were fired. Napoleon had 128,088 men (344 guns). This included 160 squadrons of cavalry (21,799 men).

Major Tedd's pinpointing of the 33rd position is about right. I must point out that I served as a subaltern in 2 DWR when Graham Tedd was adjutant; in those days I wouldn't have dreamed of "putting his facts right."

Although I have been a Queensman for many years now, I still have a chat with Col. Jack Dalrymple — he shares an office with the Secretary of the T & AVR Sports Board. About a year ago I met Col. Bob Moran in a pub. Hadn't seen him for 20 years.

Yours faithfully,

JACK SCHOFIELD

(Major J. Schofield, MBE, TD,
Hon. Secretary, T & AVR Boxing Association.)

A Chapter of Accidents

By LIEUTENANT-COLONEL F. P. A. WOODS

It all happened as a result of the first Hurdle Race ever run on the Singapore Race Course.

Willie Woods was jockey on a horse whose name I cannot call to mind. At one of the hurdles the horse failed to rise and crashed through the hurdle. Willie came a fearful cropper and, unfortunately, hit his head on the race-course rail. He was taken to hospital and remained unconscious for about 10 days. After a slow recovery the medicos thought that it would be advisable for him to get out of the tropics. He was therefore given two months' leave to go to Australia.

When the ship on which he was travelling arrived at Sydney the dockers were on strike, and all passengers had to hump their own luggage as best they could. Willie's luggage consisted of a small tin uniform case and, requiring a rest, he put the case down on the road. A lorry came round a corner and ran over the case. Fortunately, however, the contents were more or less undamaged.

Willie engaged a taxi to take him to his hotel. The fare was 17s. 6d. and Willie gave the driver what he thought was a pound note and told him to keep the change. The driver thanked him and drove off somewhat hurriedly. The Australian pound and ten pound notes are somewhat similar and it was one of the latter that the lucky taxi-driver had received.

At this period Willie was ADC to the Governor of Singapore, Sir Laurence Guillemard, who had written to the Governor of New South Wales, Admiral Sir Dudley de Chair, telling of Willie's visit to Australia. In due course, an invitation to dine at Government House was received. Willie was in somewhat of a dilemma as he had no tail coat to wear for the occasion. He had, however, observed that the German head waiter at the hotel was much the same build as himself. Willie explained his difficulty, and the head waiter expressed himself as honoured that the Herr Lieutenant should wear his tail coat for dinner at

Government House and arranged his night off to coincide with the dinner party.

Whilst in Sydney Willie attended the horse sales and purchased three polo ponies which eventually arrived in Singapore. At a later date he attended another sale where he bought another pony. Next morning the vendor called and asked where the pony was to be sent. Evidently Willie had not fully recovered his senses after his accident; he was quite unable to remember having bought the pony and, in any case, he had not got enough money to pay. The horse dealer saw the point and agreed to cancel the sale.

By now poor Willie's finances were very meagre and desperate measures were required. Before leaving Singapore he had borrowed an overcoat from Bonzo Miles which was necessary in the Australian winter. He pawned the overcoat and with the proceeds went to the races, and had one bet which turned up. In consequence he was able to redeem the overcoat and board his return ship, broke but solvent.

Tips to cabin steward, etc., were out of the question, but Willie solved the problem by handing out a pair of flannel trousers to one, a suit to another, etc., and arrived in Singapore in what he stood up in. The battered uniform case was abandoned.

On his return he was greeted with the news that a race horse called Nagus, which had been given to him by Lady Guillemard, had won 10,000 Straits dollars in stake money. So that was the end of Willie's chapter of accidents. Rags to riches.

"The Tiger and Rose"

Spare copies of the February issue of THE TIGER AND ROSE and the Disbandment Supplement are available from the Editor, RHQ, The York and Lancaster Regiment, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield S10 3EU, on application. The Journal (2s.) and Supplement (1s.) will be sent post free on request.

Regimental Ties

The subject of Regimental Ties was discussed at length at the Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Association on October 5, 1968. The Colonel of the Regiment has laid down the following policy on the matter:

There are a number of different ties which may be worn by members of the Regiment. Naturally anyone who is entitled to any tie may wear it when he wishes, but, on certain occasions, it is more appropriate to wear a particular tie.

The Regimental Tie

This is maroon and french grey. The official retailers are:

Gieves, 27 Old Bond Street, London, W.1.

Hawkes and Co., 1 Savile Row, London, W.1.

J. Dege and Son, 16 Clifford Street, Savile Row, W.1.

The tie can also be obtained from:

Sam Stocks Ltd., 34 Crown Street, Halifax.

Ernest Clough Ltd., Westgate House, Huddersfield.

Unfortunately, in recent years, some of these ties have been produced in a variety of shades which are not true to the official colours. Efforts are being made to ensure better standardisation in future.

Since this tie is the Regimental one and the

only one to which all who have served, or are serving, are entitled, it should be worn when supporting a Regimental occasion when all ranks of the Regiment are likely to be present. Such occasions are gatherings of the OCA, rugby finals, etc.

The Duke's Colour Tie

This is maroon with french grey badges of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. Anyone who has represented the 1st or 2nd Battalions at a major sport consistently may qualify to wear it on application to OC 1DWR. This application should give details of the applicant's claim. On being authorised to wear the tie, the applicant may purchase it from the PRI 1 DWR.

It may be worn at the owner's discretion, but should not take precedence over the Regimental tie, except perhaps when the owner is supporting a game for which he actually was awarded the tie.

The Officers' Dinner Club Tie

A black tie with red Regimental badges. Paid-up members of the Regimental Dinner Club are entitled to wear this. It can be bought from RHQ. It should not be worn on Regimental occasions when all ranks of the Regiment, past and present, are likely to be present.

PERSONALIA

Marriage

Moran—Morize

On February 24, 1969, at the Church of Notre-Dame d'Auteuil, Christopher de la Hogue Moran, son of Brigadier and Mrs. P. P. de la H. Moran, and Irene, daughter of Monsieur and Madame Paul Morize, of Boulogne-sur-Seine.

Birth

Cumberlege

On February 17, 1969, in Hong Kong, to Joe (née Shephard) and Capt. Charles Cumberlege, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment—a son.

Major and Mrs. Sam Robertson have returned from Malawi and are living at 10 Alexander Road, Strensall. Major Robertson is now Personnel Selection Officer, Northern Command.

Col. Harvey has returned from his visit to his son in Southern Rhodesia, and is back at The Glebe, Hinton Chanterhouse, near Bath.

New Addresses

We have been notified of the following changes of address:

Major Hubert Coop, TD, Dukes End, Beemire, Windermere, Westmorland.

Major D. Booth, RAOC, HQ RAOC, BFPO 51.

Lt.-Col. Sir Donald Horsfall, Bt., Glusburn, Keighley, Yorkshire.

Mrs. R. A. Scott, 7 Brookside, Headington, Oxford.

Major J. L. Streatfeild, MC, Glebe House, Hadstock, Cambs.

Capt. M. W. Summers, 1 Manor Gardens, Sheepdyke Lane, Hunmanby, Filey, Yorkshire.

Major-General G. F. Upjohn, CB, CBE, Downe House, Hazel Grove, Hindhead, Surrey.

Mr. E. Smith, DCM, has joined the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, as an In-Pensioner. Mr. Smith is very well known to many Old Comrades. He was RSM of the 1st Battalion in Aldershot and Malta. On his discharge from the Regiment he served for

many years in the War Department Constabulary. In later years he lived in Canada.

Owing to the death of Fred Stephenson, recorded elsewhere in this issue, Mr. Smith and Mr. Jim Yaxley are now our only two In-Pensioners in the Royal Hospital. They would be very pleased to see any Old Comrades passing through London and to show them round their beautiful buildings at Chelsea.

We congratulate Brigadier H. H. Evans, BA, on his appointment as Director of Army Education which he takes up, in the rank of Major-General, in November this year. Brigadier Evans comes from Huddersfield. He was commissioned into the 7th Dukes in 1936 and was transferred to the RAEC in 1939. He is at present Chief Education Officer, BAOR.

Lt.-Col. John Coulter has now emigrated to Australia. Early last year his daughter and son-in-law settled. Col. and Mrs. Coulter joined them there in September. They are living at 6 Glengarry Avenue, Burwood, Melbourne. Col. Coulter writes:

"In the short time we have been in this wonderful country, I can hardly be expected to give my impressions in any great detail. We have met with every consideration and much kindness from all the people with whom we have come in contact, and one is very struck with the enthusiasm and pride the Australian has for his Homeland. I hope to be joining one of the ex-Service Associations, which have branches in all the States. My kindest regards to all old friends who knew me in my long service in the old 2nd Battalion. To everyone in the Regiment go our sincere wishes for the future."

We offer our warmest congratulations to two Old Comrades who have both reached the age of 90 very recently.

The senior is Steve North, one of the most famous of our Old Comrades. He was 90 on January 21. Mr. North served in the 1st Battalion in the South African War, in the 4th Battalion in the First World War and in the Home Guard in the Second War. He now lives at Lister House, Sharrow, near Ripon.

A close second is Mr. Fred Hanson, of The Homestead, Almondbury, Huddersfield. He was 90 on February 10. He served for 14 years with the 1st and 2nd Battalions and took part in the Afghanistan War of 1919. After his discharge he worked in the brewery trade. The secret of his longevity? "Supping ale," he says.

We wish both of these splendid old soldiers many more birthdays to come.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE

REGULAR ARMY

The following retire on retired pay:

Major E. J. H. Dasent, October 24, 1968.

Major S. A. Berry, December 29, 1968.

The undermentioned officers of the York and Lancaster Regiment to be transferred to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, December 14, 1968, retaining their present seniority:

Major S. J. Nash; Major A. Dennison, Capt. A. E. Buckingham, Capt. P. J. Puttock, Lt. T. J. Nicholson, Lt. G. I. McGlynn, Lt. D. W. Wonsen, Lt. P. D. Gardner, Capt. (QM) J. M. Hall, MBE.

Lt. J. F. B. Power, to be Captain, December 21, 1968.

The undermentioned Captains to be Majors, December 31, 1968: J. B. K. Greenway, A. E. Buckingham.

Lt. C. G. Edwards, to be Captain, December 21, 1968, with precedence below D. M. Freeman, Loyals.

2/Lt. J. R. A. Ward to be Lieutenant, January 28, 1969.

SPECIAL REGULAR COMMISSIONS

WO2 Robert Alexander Tighe, DWR, to be Second-Lieutenant, October 10, 1968, with seniority October 10, 1964. To be Lieutenant, October 10, 1968, with seniority October 10, 1966.

Obituary

In-Pensioner F. Stephenson

The death occurred on January 27 at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, of In-Pensioner Fred Stephenson. He was 83.

In 1902, at the age of 17½, Fred Stephenson enlisted in the Green Howards, but was bought out by his parents after a few months' service. He then enrolled in the 1st Volunteer Battalion, West Riding Regiment, which, in 1908, became the 4th (TA) Battalion. He served (Regtl. No. 89) as a territorial until the unit was embodied and mobilised in August 1914 and served in France with the 2/4th Battalion.

After the war Stephenson re-enlisted as a Regular and was posted to the 1st Battalion Foreign Service Details, sailing in August 1919 for Palestine, where they were joined after a few months by the cadre from the 1st Battalion in India. He served continuously with the 1st (with tours of duty at the Depot and as PSI to the 7th Battalion) until February 1930 when he was drafted to the 2nd Battalion in Ahmednagar.

In November 1932 he was discharged to pension and became an Army Recruiter at Pontefract. He later worked for the Post Office. In 1940 he re-enlisted and spent the war years attached to The East Yorkshire Regiment as a PSI to the Home Guard.

He was admitted to the Royal Hospital in January 1960. As a Pensioner he was a great supporter of all Regimental occasions.

By Trooper to Malta

By IMRAY

Every man in the Regiment was given 28 to 34 days leave before proceeding to Malta or India to join the 2nd Battalion. That is all except three unlucky men who had stolen a Chinese officer's car on Salisbury Plain. They got detention and on to the first ship to India. Strangely enough, I believe the 1st Battalion ran into this officer during the war in Korea. It was mentioned in *THE IRON DUKE*.

I was one of an advanced party that left on January 8, 1935, for Southampton to load the *Nevasa* which was to take us to Malta. Sgts. (Gladys) Cooper and Dinger Bell were in charge of the party. We embarked and were shown our bed spaces and then went ashore to start our work putting the boxes of the two regiments on the quayside. Stevedores marked the pillars and walls of the shed up to about eight foot and that was as high as we stacked. I am sorry to say two lots of boxes got very little respect from some of the stupid handlers — those of the KOYLI and our own band. These silly men thought they were doing the right things by dropping these boxes with as little care as possible because they were not of our regiment or because they belonged to the Band who did not do fatigues.

That night we were given shore leave and were on our honour to be back on board by 10 p.m., but Albert Hull and George Tyas arrived back about midnight much the worse for drink, to be told by the Troop Deck Sergeant-Major that they were, "Naughty little boys." Need I say the two bad boys gave him an old soldier's reply which was drowned in loud laughter and the member of the staff did not hear it.

Next morning we were marched to a café on the quayside for breakfast and all the cutlery was marked. "This was stolen from Bennetts." Not a precaution against the troops, but the dockside labourers, who could beat anyone at pilfering, as I learnt later when I went trooping.

Friday, January 11, was a dirty, rainy day as the main party arrived in the shed ready to embark. Packs and rifles were passed along in a chain and put into storage below and then the men embarked on what was to be a farewell to England for some.

Troopdecks found and lifeboat stations allocated, men had little time to wander before that clarion call was heard, "All ashore, who are going ashore." Dockyard mateys and officials, high ranking officers and NCOs could be seen going down the gangway as we were ordered to boat stations for the last inspection and farewell, and we heard the nostalgic tune of Auld Lang Syne being played on our behalf. Handkerchiefs waved and some on board shed a few tears as the ship slowly pulled away down the Solent for Malta.

Life was hectic for about a few hours finding our way around. Learning how to adjust a life jacket. Matty gave us a demonstration of wearing

a jacket and showed how to hold it when jumping, and someone shouted, "Give us a demonstration, Sir," but he did not bite and glared back at us with one eye and stayed aboard.

Cap badges were ordered to be removed so that no regimental rivalry would arise. This suited us young soldiers, unknown even to our own NCOs. Any dirty jobs and we were Dukes to KOYLI NCOs and KOYLI to Dukes' NCOs, and I doubt if I have ever enjoyed a better voyage since.

The ship began to toss and screw and do awful things and most were seasick. I remember passing the Needles, unknown to me then, and I asked what country they belonged to and an NCO said, "We haven't left England yet." I was violently sick as were my comrades and that message was no consolation.

I shall never forget the smell and the stench of the troopdeck. Men lay in all kinds of positions. On tables and on the deck. In hammocks and out of hammocks. And retched all night. Of my table only Cpl. Gresham and Aggie Western asked for breakfast and they ate 22 men's rations of kippers and bread and cursed us as we came up for air. Sunday we lay like logs in the scuppers and just asked to die and then I heard a voice. I am sure it was the Angel Gabriel and I heard it say, "Who says a tuppenny house?" Men arose and searched for coppers and match sticks and that old Army game of housey brought them back to life and from that moment it was a lovely voyage.

Two bands on board. Good food. That beautiful bread and butter and the starlit nights. The Yorkshire boys who were dancers had brought the latest hits back with them. "I saw stars," "Where's that Tiger," "Isle of Capri" and night after night we lay on the open deck listening to one of the bands playing those wonderful tunes of our era. We had little money, but as long as we had enough for a cup of tea and packet of biscuits we were happy. The girls of Carlisle had placed messages in the biscuit packets and some wrote to them and got replies.

Gibraltar was just as I expected. A lot of khaki-clad buildings rising to the summit and a smell that I have come to detect in the East. It was adventure to new eyes and I thrill at the sight even now. Route marches and a march past the Governor, Sir Charles Harrington, and a bit of free time as we waited to disembark the KOYLI and embark the DCLI who were returning to England after three years in Gibraltar.

Saturday, the 19th, we were cruising past a low-lying piece of land and some one said it was the Lipari Islands, where Mussolini kept his prisoners, but it proved to be Malta, where the Army kept theirs. We were there and we disembarked next morning and headed by the Rifle Brigade Band, marched to St. George's Barracks, our home for the next three years.

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