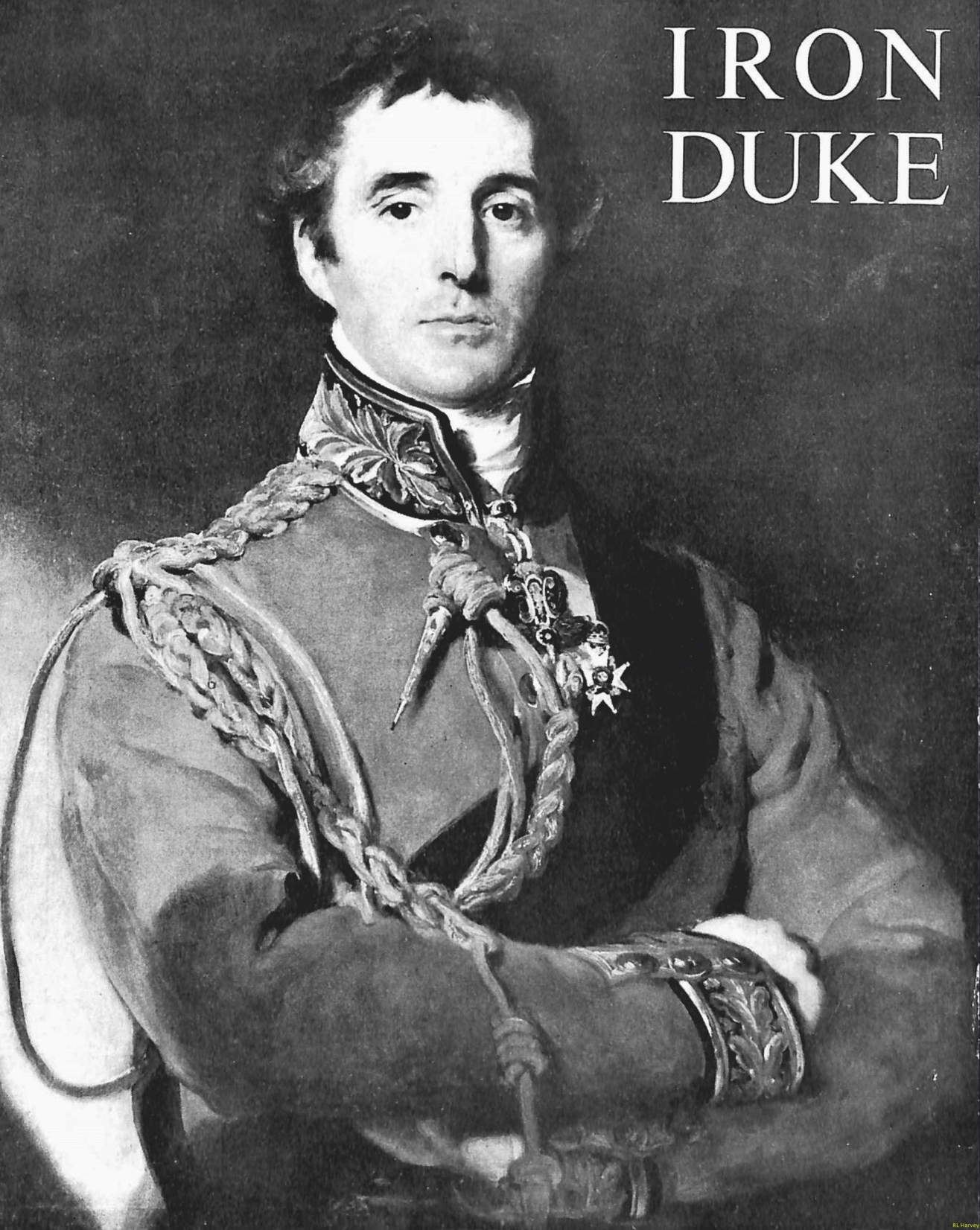


No.152 April 1970

THE IRON DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



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

Vol. XLVI

APRIL 1970

No. 152

BUSINESS NOTES

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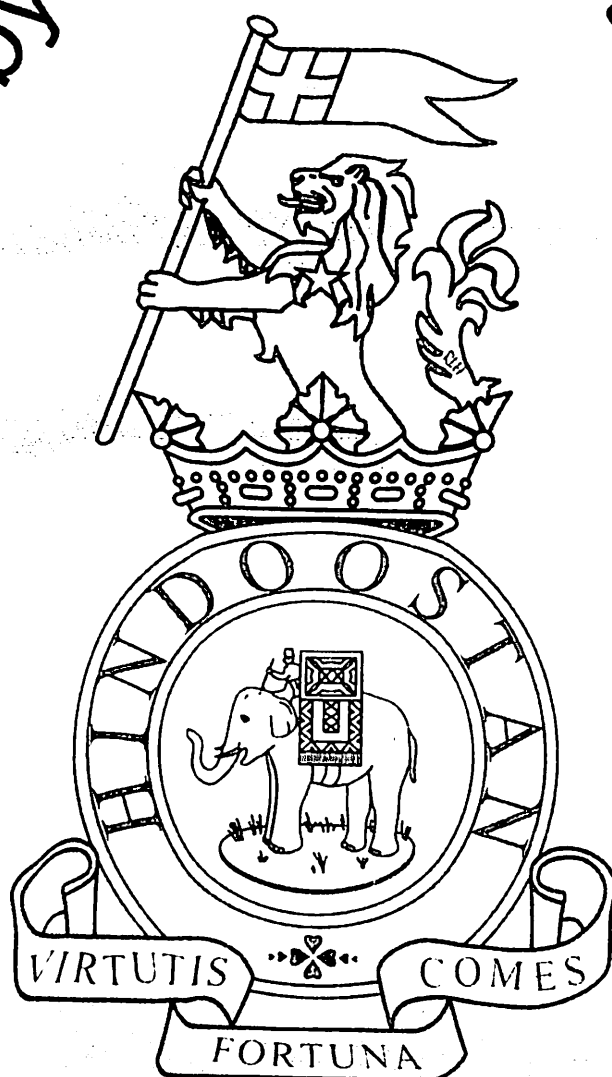
Acknowledgment

The portrait of The Duke by Sir Thomas
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THE REGIMENT

Colonel of the Regiment

GENERAL SIR ROBERT BRAY, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O., *Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, B.F.P.O.26*

Acting Colonel of the Regiment

COLONEL J. DAVIDSON, *Mount House, Terrington, York.*

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Wellesley Park, Halifax

Regimental Secretary: Major J. H. Davis

THE 1st BATTALION

Stanley Fort, B.F.P.O. 1

C.O.: Lt.-Col. C. R. Huxtable, M.B.E. (wef. May 12, 1970). Adjutant: Captain C. N. St. P. Bunbury

THE WEST RIDING BATTALION D.W.R. CADRE

St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield

Honorary Colonel: Col. J. B. Sugden, T.D., D.L., J.P.

C.O.: Major K. M. McDonald, T.D., M.A.

YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

C COMPANY (THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S)

Wellington Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax.

Commander: Major R. C. Curry, T.D.

ARMY CADET FORCE

O.I.C., D.W.R., A.C.F. Detachments: Major J. Howarth, *4 Heather Road, Meltham, Huddersfield*

AFFILIATED C.C.F.

Giggleswick School C.C.F., C.O.: Lieutenant R. J. Hargreaves

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Patron

His Grace The Duke of Wellington, K.G.

President: General Sir Robert Bray, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O.

Vice-President: Colonel J. Davidson, Mount House, Terrington, York.

General Secretary: Mr. A. Wood,



Lt.-Col. C. R. Huxtable, MBE.

Photo D. R. WanstaII, Lightwater, Surrey

REGIMENTAL NEWS

RHQ Staff

Our last notes recorded the hope that we would be able to find a "Duke's" replacement for Lt.-Col. Skelsey. The hope still lingers though the search has now been extended to include our sister regiments in what used to be the Yorkshire Brigade.

One rather promising starter withdrew his bid when he realised he would have to live in the Halifax area without hope of graduating later to York.

A sad loss to the RHQ is Anne Crapnell who has left us to get married. She takes with her our fond best wishes and regrets that she has moved too far away to be able to continue working here. Anne has been with us rather more than seven years and has identified herself with the Regiment so much as to feel herself a part of it. We hope she will continue to attend the annual OCA reunion as she has in the past.

Her replacement is Mrs. Joan Fish who, conveniently for all concerned, lives within walking distance of Wellesley Park.

Regimental History

Major-General James Lunt, CBE, the author of "Scarlet Lancer" and other books, is writing a new short history of the Regiment to be published in the Famous Regiments series.

General Lunt was commissioned into The Duke's in August 1937, serving his first few years in the army with 2 DWR in India and the Burma Rifles.

He later transferred to the Cavalry and commanded the 16/5 Lancers. He leaves his SHAPE appointment this summer to go to the Ministry of Defence as Vice-Adjutant General.

We hope the history will be available in early 1971.

(A glimpse of General Lunt as a second lieutenant can be seen in Mr. Imray's "A Passage to India" on page 36.)

DINNER DATES

Officers Dinner Club

The annual luncheon and dinner will be held on **Friday, May 22**, at the Hyde Park Hotel.

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 9**, at 56 Davies Street, London, W.1 (*a new venue*).

The 1970 Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner of the Regimental and Old Comrades' Associations will be held on **Saturday, September 26**, at the **Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax**.

Tickets, price 15s. each, are obtainable from RHQ Wellesley Park, Halifax, or from Branch Secretaries.

LT.-COL. C. R. HUXTABLE, MBE

Lt.-Col. Charles Huxtable is due to succeed Lt.-Col. Dennis Shuttleworth as CO of the 1st Battalion in May.

Charles Huxtable joined The Duke's as a recruit at Strensall in March 1950. In September he went to the RMA, Sandhurst, and, on passing out in February 1952, was commissioned into the Regiment and joined the 1st Battalion at Pontefract on its return from Minden.

He served with the Battalion in Korea as commander of No. 9 Platoon and as assistant RSO after John Reddington was wounded. In January 1954 he went to the Depot, Halifax, as training subaltern. This was followed by a regimental signal instructors' course at the School of Infantry, Hythe.

In January 1956 he rejoined the Battalion at Chisleton as RSO and remained in that capacity through Malta, Cyprus, and the return to Northern Ireland. Here, in April 1958, he was appointed adjutant of the Battalion and continued as adjutant (in Brentwood, Colchester and Kenya) until January 1961 when he was posted as an instructor to the Signal Wing of the School of Infantry.

In 1962 and 1963 he attended the courses at the Royal Military College of Science and the Staff College, Camberley, and was then appointed GSO 2 at Headquarters 2nd Division in Germany.

From February 1966 to December 1967 he was back with the Battalion as Company Commander of Corunna in Germany and Cyprus. From January to July 1968 he attended the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, and since then has been on the directing staff of the Staff College, Camberley, as a GSO 1.

He was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1961 following his tour as adjutant of the 1st Battalion.

Family Matters

Colonel Huxtable's father was commissioned into The Duke's in January 1915 and served with the 9th Battalion in France. He was wounded at Delville Wood in August 1916, rejoined the 9th early in 1917 and was again wounded in April 1917, losing a leg and being kept in hospital until 1921. He died in 1965.

In 1959 Charles Huxtable married Mary Lawlor, daughter of the late Brigadier John Lawlor and Mrs. Mollie Lawlor. Brigadier Lawlor joined the Duke's from the Munster Fusiliers in 1922. He was adjutant of the 1st Battalion in Malta in 1935-36 and commanded the 6th Battalion from 1940 to 1942.

The Huxtables have three daughters.

Museum Appeal

The Regimental Museum require the following badges for display:

1. (a) 1st Vol. Battalion, The West Riding Regiment (Halifax Battalion)
- (b) 2nd Vol. Battalion, The West Riding Regiment (Huddersfield Battalion)
- (c) 3rd Vol. Battalion, The West Riding Regiment (Skipton Battalion).

These are like the regimental cap badge but are of white metal throughout, the scrolls bearing the titles shown above.

2. The Dukes' bakelite cap badge. Made of a plastic substance issued during World War II for economy reasons.

3. The 2nd DWR crest used by the band on the flap of their card cases.

If you have any of these to offer please contact Regimental Headquarters, Wellesley Park, High-road Well, Halifax.

1 DWR in Japan

Evidence of the success of the band visit to Tokyo for British Week still comes in. Recently, a batch of colour photographs sent by a 21-year-old Japanese girl has been passed on to the bandmaster who is shown in one of them holding a small Japanese child in one arm and trying to conduct with the other.

Royal Hospital, Chelsea

The Royal Hospital staff have asked us to publish the fact that they are having a recruiting drive.

To be eligible to become an in-pensioner an ex-soldier must have an Army pension (a disability pension counts). He must be able to look after himself and, of course, cannot bring a wife.

Regimental Histories

There appears to be a new interest in "The History of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment 1919-52", edited by Brigadier C. N. Barclay, CBE, DSO.

This book is the story of Regular and Territorial Battalions in the years between the wars (1919-39), and of all active battalions of the Regiment during World War II.

Units of The Duke's fought in every major campaign during the years 1939-1945—Dunkirk, North Africa, Burma, Italy and in the liberation of north-west Europe—as well as participating in other unusual episodes, such as the occupation of Iceland and the amphibious assault on Pantellaria Island.

The appendices include the names of all commanding officers, the names of all members of the Regiment who were awarded decorations or mentioned in despatches and a Roll of Honour in the form of a complete list of fatal casualties.

The book is well illustrated with reproductions of photographs and numerous maps.

Obtainable from R.H.Q. Halifax, this excellent quality bound and Regimental crested book, 10in. x 7½in., is being sold at the fractional cost of 15s. a copy.

Late News

We are pleased to report that the approval of all concerned has been obtained for Major Charles Grieve to succeed Lt.-Col. Skelsey at RHQ as Assistant Regimental Secretary. He hopes to start there in mid April.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE D.W.R.

REGULAR ARMY

The following Capts. to be Maj., Dec. 31, 1969:

- M. R. N. Bray, C. W. Ivey, D. M. Pugh.
Lt. (QM) William Burke, from Short Serv. Commn. to be Capt. (QM), Apr. 1, 1969: w.e.f. Oct. 20, 1969, to take precedence in Infantry next below W. Mines, Lan. R. (PWV).
Lt. C. G. Fitzgerald to be Capt., Dec. 20, 1969.
The following 2Lts. to be Lt.: N. J. Newell, Feb. 2, 1970; A. D. Roberts, Feb. 11, 1970.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Class II

- Lt. D. H. Cole, from T & AVR, W. Riding, to be Lt., July 3, 1969.
Maj. B. N. Webster, TD, from T & AVR, W. Riding, to be Maj., Nov. 1, 1969.

TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE

- Maj. K. M. McDonald, TD, W. Riding, from Res. of Offrs, Class III, King's Division, to be Maj., Nov. 1, 1969, with seniority Aug. 31, 1968.

Appointments

The following appointments have been notified:

- Maj. J. M. Newton—DAAG, HQ Yorkshire Dist., Feb. 70.
Maj. P. A. Mitchell—2 I/C 1 DWR, Dec. 69.
Maj. P. L. B. Hoppe—SOPT, HQ WESTCO, Sep. 70.
Maj. J. D. P. Cowell—GSO2 (Cadets) HQ Yorkshire Dist. Jun. 69.
Maj. R. L. Stevens—GSO2(L) HQ Commonwealth Liaison Mission, Jan 70 (one year).
Maj. C. W. Ivey—DAQMG (Maint) HQ Wales, Jan. 70.
Capt. C. R. Cumberlege—Instr. PCD, School of Inf., Dec. 69.
Capt. I. P. Reid—SC(A) HQ 24 Bde, Apr. 70.
Capt. P. D. D. J. Andrews—SC (Q Maint.) HQ Eastern Dist., Dec. 69.
Capt. M. G. L. M. Stacpoole—GSO3 (Trg/Air) HQ British Troops Sharjah, Mar. 70.
Capt. (QM) F. Nichols—to 1 Div. HQ and Sigs Regt, Sep. 69.
WO1 R. C. Fenn—to Sheffield University, Jan. 70.

The following officer has been commissioned into the Regiment from RMA Sandhurst:
2 Lt. M. S. Sherlock

Colonel J. C. Moncrieff, TD assumed the appointment of Deputy Commandant (North) of the West Riding Army Cadet Force, w.e.f. Nov. 1, 1969. His new address is: Overdale House, Kebroyd Lane, Triangle, Halifax.

1st BATTALION

Sub-Editorial

On November 17, 1969, officers and soldiers of the 1st Battalion took down their Yorkshire Brigade cap badges and replaced them with the badge which has been worn by so many generations of "Dukes". All members of the Battalion were present at a simple dignified ceremony at Stanley Fort, which culminated in the Battalion marching past the Commanding Officer to the stirring sound of "The Wellesley".

Normal military activities apart, three items of news have been important to us. First, that Lt.-Col. Huxtable is to become Commanding Officer on May 12 this year. Second, that, although the unit is to return to UK in November and join 24 Brigade, no one has been able to say where the Brigade will be based at that time. Events in Northern Ireland, together with other proposed moves with a political flavour, have made life difficult for the military planners in MOD. However, we believe we may hear soon, perhaps even before these notes go to press. Third, that when we return from Hong Kong, two companies, a tactical headquarters and supporting elements, are to go to Gibraltar in February 1971 for a nine-months unaccompanied posting. This has been well received, though wives and families, affectionately known these days as "our 2nd Battalion", will feel happier when we hear about the Battalion's UK base.

Border duties, force guards, remote area patrols and other "bread and butter" tasks apart, our main emphasis on the military side has continued to be on individual training, junior NCO cadres and on shooting. Most of January we spent in the hills of the New Territories with two high-lights. The first was the inter-platoon tactical competition in which every platoon went through a 30-hour course of rigorous activities designed to test skill and stamina. It was very rewarding, and Sgt. Carter and the Anti-Tank Platoon are to be congratulated on winning the competition. In the Brigade test exercise the Battalion dealt with the enemy on Lantau Island in a rapid workmanlike way which left enemy, umpires and controllers rather breathless. It is interesting to note that helicopters, landing-craft and good communications in this area give units a similar flexibility, rapid response, and the ability to out-flank, as did the APCs in Germany.

On the shooting side, Alma Company won the 51 Brigade inter-company competition and we are hoping that this is the first real evidence that standards are rising following the emphasis we are according to this most important element of our training.

The Commander British Forces Hong Kong, General Sir Basil Eugster, did our Annual Administrative Inspection on February 17, and we believe all was well. General and Lady Eugster and Commander 51 Brigade, Brigadier Illing, later the

same week were the main guests of our Warrant Officers and Sergeants at their most excellent Paardeberg Ball in the world-famous Repulse Bay Hotel. It was an outstanding night and organisers of previous Paardeberg Balls were heard to say "Must admit—the best ever".



Photo Joint Services PR Staff BFPO 1
The Commanding Officer presenting the LS and GC medal to Pte. F. Davies. (QM Staff)

In October Major-General Bredin, the Colonel Commandant of our Division, came to visit us for a week. We were delighted to see him, and it was clear that he, too, took the greatest pleasure in meeting "Dukes" of all ranks.

It was also very pleasant to be able for a few days to entertain Col. Sturgeon, Officer I/C Records from York. Particularly so because we value the excellent working relationship we have with the Record Office, where the career interests of our soldiers are so carefully directed, watched and safeguarded.

Another visitor was Admiral Sir Peter Hill-Norton, C-in-C FARELF. He spent a long time in the Sergeants Mess and clearly enjoyed every minute of it, as did the Mess members.

From time to time we have commented on the continuing turbulence in the ranks from warrant

officer to corporal. This period has seen movement among the field officers. Majors Newton and Pell have already left for staff appointments and Major Lupton is on his way. Major Mitchell has assumed the mantle of 2IC and Majors Greenway, Cumberlege and Nash have arrived to take command of Alma, Burma and Corunna Companies respectively.

Many of our readers will be interested to hear that, for the first time in the memory of officers serving with the Battalion, the Sergeants Mess soccer team at Christmas thrashed the officers team in a serious game. This is an interesting consequence of the reduction in the average age of members of the Sergeants Mess. Visitors now notice that our senior NCOs are much younger and have a leaner, hungrier look—they certainly go up the hills in Hong Kong at great speed. Perhaps a good point to end this sub-editorial.

NEWS FROM THE MESSES

OFFICERS MESS

With our hectic programme over the last few months the Mess has not been what one could call over-crowded.

However, we have managed to fit in two enjoyable guest nights and we were delighted to be able to entertain the Colonel Commandant of the King's Division, Major-General Bredin, at a drinks party.

Our next commanding officer, who was visiting Hong Kong on er—official business, called in and we were very pleased to be able to welcome him at a curry lunch.

It was a great pleasure for us all to entertain the ladies in the Mess on Ladies Night and we trust they all enjoyed themselves.

The redecoration of the Mess continues and it should be in pretty good shape by the time we hand over to the Irish Guards.

Best wishes to those who have left us. Jim and Allison Newton in Yorkshire, Charles and Jo Cumberlege in Warminster, Peter and Ann Andrews in Colchester, and, finally, to Adrian Stone on his transfer course to RAOC.

We welcome Jeremy and Elizabeth Cumberlege and John and Judith Greenway who have just arrived. Jeremy has already taken over Burma Company from Peter Mitchell and John is shortly taking over Alma from Duncan Lupton.

Mike Sherlock has just arrived as junior subaltern and we trust that he is enjoying himself.

Finally, our grateful thanks to WO2 Harris and all the staff who work hard throughout the year to ensure the smooth running of the Mess.

SERGEANTS MESS

Christmas came and went, went well, in fact, but it was a long, hard slog with the festivities stretching over many days. The Christmas Dinner was its usual success, and the long table, set for a hundred places, was an impressive sight. The Draw was run by CSM Tom Pickersgill and the Alma

sergeants. All agree that it was one of the best on record.

Our annual football match against the officers is no longer the light-hearted, comic match of other years but a highly professional, deadly earnest one. This year we fielded an excellent team who went all out and for the first time, as far as can be remembered, beat the officers. This was followed by drinks in the Officers Mess where they had to stand quite an amount of ribbing about it.

The next major event on the social calendar was the Paardeberg Ball. We held this in the Repulse Bay Hotel which has a marvellous Old Colonial atmosphere. This lends itself to making the evening a success; certainly everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, thanks largely to the hard work of WO2 John Welch and his committee. The Band gave a short concert called Memories of Paardeberg which was admirably conducted by the Bandmaster, who is reputed to have been there on the original day.

Entertainment picked up during the quarter previous to Christmas, and Bob Stewart put in a lot of work to make things go with a swing. It is believed that the Entertainment Fund is now out of debt.

Again, we have had our share of movements and in the last notes it was recorded that Sgt. Jeff Wilkinson had departed for the Jungle Warfare School. Since then, however, he has returned, done a good job as Mess Caterer and again departed. This time he is bound for civvy street to become a prison warder. CSM Delaney has gone to the TA at Sheffield and Sgt. Peter Robinson to Sandhurst and, by the time of publication, John Cherry should be well into his Bandmasters course. We welcome into the Mess Sgt. Walker and congratulate him on his promotion and also welcome Terry Plummer, our new vehicle mech, and Geoff Coatsworth (R Sigs) who has now been attached to us to run the rear link.



Admiral Sir Peter Hill-Norton in the WOs and Sergeants Mess, November 11, 1969

We are doing well in the Hong Kong Darts League with the "B" team in third place, and the "A" team with an excellent chance of winning the competition. Tom Jackson is in the finals of the singles and Tug Wilson and Tom Pickersgill in the doubles final. We all wish them the best of luck on the day.

CORPORALS MESS

Since the last issue of IRON DUKE the Mess has been embroiled in the hectic activities of two border periods, sundry exercises and the rumpus of Christmas and the New Year. The Christmas Draw and Social was held on December 12 in the NAAFI Club and went down very well, Cpl. Macfarlane (who, incidentally, organised the draw) winning the first prize.

During this period, the Mess has had an unusually high turnover of members, and it is with regret that we say our goodbyes to the following, who have left the Battalion and also the Army: Cpls. Sadler, Pickles, Ryan, Toulmin and Loxam, L/Cpls. Staveley, McGurty, Scriven, Kitson, Robinson, Wilson, Clark, Coates and Connell. Also goodbyes to the following who have left us on postings: Cpls. Barnett, Ward, Bower, Dare, Lambton, and Atkinson. We also send our best wishes to L/Cpl. Allen, who was MEDEVAC to the UK on the VSI list, and express our sincere hope that he will have a speedy recovery.

Congratulations are in order for the following on their promotion into the Sergeants Mess. (*No names given—but it's the thought that counts.—Ed.*) We are sorry to lose them, albeit in the interests of

their careers! We have had more than our normal share of promotions internally, too, and congratulate Loxam, Lee, Mortimer, O'Rielly, Barnett, Cowburn, Crag, Ellwood and Exley on their promotion to Corporal, and the following Lance-corporals who have recently joined us from the Corporals who have recently joined us from the Corporals: Cooper, Hogg, Lewis, McArthur, Parkinson, Leach, Aspinwall, Butcher, Hunter, Middleton, Price, Smith, Whiteley, Haigh, Mann, Smith, Calvert, Cuss, Gilgallon, Jagger and Leskiewicz.

Last, but not least, we are glad to welcome back from the outside world Cpls. White, Booth, Loft-house, Murray and L/Cpl. Uttley; we are delighted to see them all again.

Everyone is at present engaged in frenzied preparations for the forthcoming Admin Inspection, whilst at the same time trying to enjoy the unexpectedly mild weather that we have experienced this winter. It is fervently hoped that it remains fine for the remaining exercises and the next border duty.

LATE NEWS

On going to press there is still no news of where the Battalion will be stationed on return to England in the autumn.

Obituary

We deeply regret to report the death at Kelso on March 30 of Colonel F. G. Peake, C.M.G., C.B.E. (Peake Pasha). General Sir Philip Christison represented the Regiment at the funeral service. An obituary will appear in our next issue.

SPORT

RUGBY

The last issue of *THE IRON DUKE* covered our participation in British Week in Tokyo. There we were enlightened as to our shortcomings and many of us realise that, outside our somewhat parochial sphere, we have our work cut out to survive. The simple facts are that we do lack strength in depth, and our rugby future will depend not so much on who is coming into the Battalion as on intelligent coaching of resources available. The potential is very good within the Battalion, and this year we have already had one or two players come forward who were virtually unknown last season and who are now holding, or challenging for, 1st XV places.

The season itself has been sketchy from the point of view of "Dukes" games. Once again the Pentangular Tournament, The Asian Games, and comings and goings of players have given us few opportunities of playing as a side. All the games played have been won: Co-ops, Club, 1 RWF, and Garrison twice. The game against Club was a very good win and produced the sort of rugby we want consistently in the second half of the season.

As stated, arrivals and departures have been many. 2/Lt. Stone, our scrum half, has departed and Sgt. Robinson, our stalwart on the right wing for the last five years, a player much respected by all for his enthusiasm, full bloodedness and real ability, has been posted for two years. He will be back, of course! We have acquired 2/Lt. Sherlock, a second-row of considerable build who will be a distinct asset. Capt. Walker, a centre or wing who was a member of the Army Cup teams in Germany, is also back in the fold, we are pleased to note. The evergreen Sgt. Hemmings has also returned and literally stepped off the plane and onto the field. That's nothing new to him, of course.

Improvement in players is always a pleasure to see and this season we have seen a number of players make great strides. Lt. Roberts has become a very perceptive and mobile lock forward. Lt. Gardener has shown power and mobility in the second row, and Pte. Brown, a newcomer at wing forward, is notable for his tireless running and tackling which, with added experience, will make him an excellent prospect. L/Cpl. Pearson has also emerged from somewhere to don his rugby boots and is showing good form, and Pte. Sullivan has shown determination and speed on the wing, and above all a willingness to learn. With Pte. Waqabaca back from injury we are now stronger than at any time during the season, and can face the immediate future with confidence.

The second Asian Games held in Bangkok saw six "Dukes" representing Hong Kong. They were Capt. Reid (captain), Lt. Thorn, Lt. Redwood-Davies, Lt. Newell, Sgt. Cagilaba, and Pte. Cuss. Lt. Redwood-Davies was outstanding as hooker, and Sgt. Cagilaba played well up to form. Colony

rugby as a whole suffered a cruel loss when Pte. Cuss broke his leg against Thailand which will keep him out for the rest of the season. Hong Kong had the misfortune to lose by four penalties to a drop goal and two penalties against Thailand, a result which was depressing in its construction and meant that we were unable to play against Japan in the final—a match a lot of people had been waiting for, even the Japanese.

The second half of the season looks interesting. Besides the league programme and the Pentangular, there is the visit of the Combined New Zealand Universities who are reputed to have four or five "All Blacks". This undoubtedly will be the hardest match of the season and competition for places will be fierce.

This will be our last season in Hong Kong and one hopes that we can withstand the challenge of the other sides out here who are trying their hardest to beat us before we depart. They make no secret of the fact, and it will be up to us to try and keep the flag flying.

FOOTBALL

At the time of writing we are just over half way through the season with lots of very good games behind us and, we hope, many more ahead. The Battalion team have lived up to most of our expectations and the large number of "Dukes" who are playing regularly for the Colony Army Side gives an indication of our standing in the Colony.

HKFA, Div 2

At this point we have played 14 games with four to go and we are currently in second place in the league table and right behind our strongest opponents—"Happy Valley". So far, they are the only team to beat us, which they did on both occasions that we have met by 1-0 and 2-0. They are a well-trained, well-drilled side who are so far unbeaten in two seasons in their fight back to the first division.

The league standing is as follows:

	P	W	D	L	Goals		Pts
					F	A	
Happy Valley ..	15	15	0	0	73	1	30
Army (1DWR) ..	14	10	2	2	63	17	22
Caroline Hill ..	13	8	2	3	40	27	18
RAF ..	14	6	4	4	39	38	16
Kwong Wah ..	15	7	1	7	27	42	15
Tin Tin ..	14	6	0	8	27	32	12
USD ..	15	6	0	9	31	46	12
Gymnastic ..	15	3	2	10	23	58	8
Kitchee ..	15	3	0	12	25	53	6
Sik Ying ..	14	2	1	11	14	48	5

Our two drawn games were to the RAF (1-1), and to a local team called Kwong Wah (3-3), both of whom we have beaten on other occasions.

Although for the Army (1 DWR) team we have a call on all Army players on Hong Kong Island, the team for various reasons has now developed into an all "Dukes" side and, providing we can maintain our position in second place in the league, the Army is assured of promotion to the First Division next season.

Major Unit League

Due to the small number of teams in this league the games are at fairly long intervals. Currently we are holding top place from 1 RWF on goal average, having beaten all comers except 1 RWF with whom we only managed to draw, one all, on their home ground. Other results, 1 DWR 9—RN 1, 1 DWR 8—31 Regt RCT 3, RAF 1—1 DWR 5, 31 Regt. RCT 0—1 DWR 7.

The result of this league will probably depend on the return game with 1 RWF, which will be played at Stanley where we hope to settle the matter in our favour.

Major Units Knock-Out Cup

Again the small number of teams entered limits the scope of this competition but, having beaten Royal Signals HK (3—1) in the first round, we now meet in the semi-final 1 RWF who got through on a "bye". The winner of this game must be hot favourite for the cup against either HK Pro Company or 25 Lt Regt RA who are the other semi-finalists.

Colony Inter-Coy Sevens

From the 40 teams entered, the "Dukes" got two teams through to the semi-finals in which Admin Company beat "C" Sqn QOH and Somme Company lost to 29 Sqn RCT. The finals saw a narrow win for 29 Sqn RCT who, all told, knocked out three "Dukes" teams to win the competition, so we can't complain that we didn't have a fair crack at them.

Inter-Company League

Due to training and other commitments we are a little behind in the fixtures but the current league situation is as follows:

Company	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Somme	..	6	3	3	0	18	9
Admin	..	5	2	3	0	16	9
Command	..	5	3	0	2	10	8
Corunna	..	7	2	2	3	22	6
Burma	..	7	2	1	4	13	5
Alma	..	6	1	1	4	9	3

Any of the first three could win this competition and, as they all still have to play the other two, it looks wide open.

Colony Army Games

The Battalion has been well represented in the Colony Army side with an average of seven to eight "Dukes" in each game.

In the Jubilee Cup the Army side reached the finals to play Happy Valley in a double-headed fixture which Happy Valley won on aggregate 7—1. Of the 13 runners-up medals, presented by the HKFA for this competition, nine went to "Dukes",

but we were still unable to beat our greatest league rivals Happy Valley.

Battalion and Army Players

The following players have represented the Battalion and/or Army (1 DWR) and of those listed the first ten have also played for the Colony Army Side.

L/Cpl. Jagger, Pte. Pennington, Cpl. McGivern, Pte. Backhouse, Cpl. Heron, L/Cpl. Ingham, Bds. Sollitt, L/Cpl. Haigh, Pte. Marr, Pte. Mathiot, L/Cpl. Bell, Pte. Lang, L/Cpl. Peat, L/Cpl. Tolson, Bds. Walker, Cpl. Willans, Pte. Hayes, Pte. Keyworth, Pte. Gilgallon, L/Cpl. Nuttall and L/Cpl. Woodward.

HINDOOSTAN BOAT CLUB

The club has continued to be very active over the winter months with a number of new members joining the Sailing Section. Early in November the club took six dinghies to the Gordon Hard Yacht Club Autumn Regatta. It had been decided to limit the regatta to Enterprise Class dinghies only and, altogether, nearly 40 dinghies took part.

During the two days of the racing the winds remained strong which made for some very interesting sailing. During the Saturday morning of the first day the strong monsoon signal was hoisted in the Colony waters and, during the first race, 14 dinghies capsized and the safety boat was kept extremely busy. In fact, to finish the race and come in with a good position was mainly a matter of keeping up and keeping going.

The first race was an inter-team event and, unfortunately, none of our club dinghies finished in a good place and the club came last out of four other teams taking part. However, as the day advanced our sailing as a club improved. The second race was a novice event and two club dinghies were in the lead at the first mark, L/Cpl. Lowth in the leading boat followed by L/Cpl. D'Arcy. On the second leg, which was a reach, all craft were able to get up on a very fast plane. At this time disaster struck L/Cpl. Lowth's dinghy when his boom split away from the mast, forcing him to retire. However, L/Cpl. D'Arcy went on to win the Novice Trophy against some keen competition.

During the remainder of the weekend a series of five races was sailed over a triangular course. The most dinghies on the line for any start was 37, which made for some excitement at the gun. Over the two days the strong wind gradually calmed and skill, instead of brute force, came into its own. Club results for the series were as follows:

11th place—L/Cpl. McArthur
14th place—L/Cpl. D'Arcy
17th place—Major Hoppe
19th place—Pte. Knight
22nd place—Pte. Hepworth

The remainder of the sailing during the winter has been at home in St. Stephen's Bay. During this time the club has held two small regattas. The first was an entirely internal affair which proved a great success. The winner of the series of three races being Mr. Martyn Booty, one of our keen civilian members.

The second was an inter-club regatta when we asked the Little Sai Wan Yacht Club over for a day's sailing in a three-race series and an inter-club race on February 8. The weather was perfect for the day with a fine breeze and a clear, bright and warm sun. During the winter time many keen members had been putting in a great deal of time on their dinghies, tuning and sailing them and the standard of helmsmanship has much improved. The work and training bore fruit and the club helmsmen won the first three individual places and the team race by a large margin of points. Results were as follows:

Series Races

- 1st—Mr. N. Turnbull, HBC
- 2nd—Pte. Knight, HBC
- 3rd—Mr. L. Beatty, HBC

Team Race

- 1st—Hindoostan BC "B" Team—6½ pts.
- 2nd—LSW Yacht Club "A" Team—20 pts.

There is no doubt that the four new suits of tails recently bought have helped to make the dinghies go better. The old sails are now over six years old and they are utterly worn out. There is now a regular Sunday afternoon series of two races and this has helped to enliven and improve the sailing.

In the near future, the club will be receiving two new Bosun dinghies to buy which the Nuffield Trust has given the club a major grant of money. The two Bosuns have been bought from Moore Sons of Wroxham, Norfolk, and the Royal Navy have very kindly agreed to bring them out from UK in one of their transport supply ships. With the introduction of another class of dinghy it is hoped that the interest in sailing will increase. The club is deeply indebted to the Nuffield Trust for the two new dinghies and to the Royal Navy for bringing them to Hong Kong for us. It is hoped that they will be available for sailing in early April.

The water ski-ing section of the club has gone into hibernation during the last three months, and during this time the ski boats and engines have been overhauled. It is planned to start water ski-ing again at Easter when the club will have a new 55hp OBM and a 40hp OBM ready for duty. The Commander-in-Chief's fund have kindly given the club the funds to afford the new engine and so all keen water skiers can look forward to some very good sport.

The *Peta Anne* saga has not been mentioned in these notes as it is being covered elsewhere. Sufficient to say that all members of the club were more than pleased to see *Peta Anne* and her crew safe and sound back on her moorings in St. Stephen's Bay. Since her trip she has once again been given a refurbish and is looking more like her old self. During the next months it is planned to make more use of her, though ensuring she stays very much within the Colony waters.

ORIENTEERING

Last year the Battalion was introduced to the mysteries and skills of orienteering. As with most events of this kind in Hong Kong, participation

becomes a question of priorities. This year we started early and, on November 21, 1969, Capt. Marsay organised an excellent and well run course in the Tai Tam Reservoir area. The result of the competition was a clean sweep by Alma Company who took 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places and all the prizes.

These results stung other companies into action to prepare for the Brigade Minor Units Competition scheduled for January 9, 1970. Before this event there was a practice run organised by Brigade on December 30, 1969. This proved a useful event to get over the excess of Christmas "Spirit" and to take a closer look at a new course. The course was also run by a WRAC team who performed extremely well, beating a number of men's teams.

For the main event on January 9, 1970, there were a number of visiting teams including teams from 40 Commando, Royal Marines, and the Royal Hong Kong Police. The problem of conflicting priorities can be well illustrated here. All companies were taking advantage of about the only week available for them to conduct company training from base camps in the New Territories. This necessitated passing details of timings, start point, etc., over the Battalion safety net on rebroadcast so that teams could arrive on time. This worked well and we ended up by taking three places in the first seven. Alma Company won the Major Units trophy but narrowly lost overall first place to 253 Sig Sqn owing to penalty points for one pair arriving 10 minutes late at the finish. Somme Company were 4th and Corunna Company 7th.

Orienteering has much to offer in the form of military training. It is competitive—so is war. It always involves good map reading, navigation, team-work, quick orders, physical fitness and the ability to make quick, sound decisions when fatigued. The time factor is vital. Finish too late and you lose 5 points per minute—too early and you produce lower scores. Orienteering should not be seen only as a "gladiatorial" activity but one that, militarily, ought to be pitched at the lowest possible level and as frequently as possible. Let us hope that our priorities in the future will permit more regular orienteering.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB NOTES

The PRI gave a generous grant towards buying some developing, printing and enlarging equipment in October, and on December 27 the Photographic Club officially got under way. Lt. Roberts is the officer in charge and Sgt. Pearson the expert.

Approximately three men and a dog turned up the first night, but a fairly heavy advertising campaign was launched and there are now approximately 20 people on the books with the prospect of more when camera weather reappears. At the moment we are simply teaching the arts of developing and printing, and we are fast getting members who are proficient enough to go into the darkroom at any time and without supervision. In the future we can see outings and competitions, as well as experts coming to talk about cameras, and ways and means of achieving better and more unusual photographs.

The money saved by printing your own is substantial out here, but will increase considerably when we return to England. And if the demand increases the club will flourish.

In the next IRON DUKE we hope to print the winning photograph in the first competition.

Battalion Personality

Mr. Alexander joined the Army in 1948 as a band-boy with the East Yorkshire Regiment, his father and grandfather having served a total of 58 years in that regiment before him.

He has been stationed in Gibraltar, Austria, Trieste, West Germany, Berlin and Malaya.

His first musical contact came with the choirs of York and Beverley Minsters.

Whilst serving in the Army, Mr. Alexander studied the bassoon, conducting and theory of music under Gustav Arhlson at the Graz Conservatoire of Music and Drama. He attended a Pupils Course at Kneller Hall in 1952 where he won the progress prize on his instrument.

After spending five months with The Duke's as Band Sergeant in 1965, he attended the Bandmasters Course at Kneller Hall, at the end of which he won the Choral Prize for 1968 and passed his Teaching Diploma at the London College of Music.

Mr. Alexander was appointed Bandmaster of The Duke's in May 1969 and joined the Battalion in July of the same year.



MR. M. ALEXANDER, A(Mus)LCM



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Telegrams: "Militaila Wesdo, London."

Company Notes

**Overall Champions and
Major Unit Winners — 51
Brigade Minor Units
Shooting Competition —
1969**

**Back row—left to right:
Pte. Broadbent, Pte. Hat-
tersley, Sgt. Lever, Pte.
Molin, Pte. Mellor, Pte.
Larnder (55).**

**Front row—left to right:
Cpl. Rochester, Sgt. Stans-
field, Major Lupton, 2/Lt.
Newell, S/Sgt. Holliday,
L/Cpl. Exley.**



ALMA COMPANY

The start of the period covered by these notes was what one would now describe as routine. It consisted of four weeks on border duty spread over six weeks. Our first spell on the border was in reserve at Fan Ling and the second was forward at Man Kam To. Happily there were no problems other than those of sorting out priorities of training and deciding which key personnel one could spare for education, orienteering training, team shooting practice and a host of lesser evils.

The effort involved whilst on the Border of begging, borrowing or stealing ranges was justified at the Brigade Minor Units Shooting Competition. The Alma finished the competition as overall champions, major units winners and inter-unit snapshooting match winners. It is interesting to record that our snapshooting score was only half a point behind the score of the winning team at Bisley this year. Mr. Newell deserves congratulation for his efforts as non-shooting captain, for his dedication and his varied and interesting approach to the preparatory training. Our famed "Bisley Bullet" CQMS Holliday only just qualified for the team on the day as he had missed much practice owing to education commitments. It was rewarding, also, to discover two young private soldiers (Molin and Mellor) who show definite "Bisley Bullet" potential for the future.

During the period we have spent a great deal of time in fitness training after the stagnation periods on border duty. One of the best ways of achieving this is by orienteering which tests military skills as well. Mr. Sharp set the Company orienteering team on the right lines but only after a vexed

Company orienteering day. This was a vexed day because many teams found that they lost most (and in some cases all) of their hard-earned points, chasing over the hills from one check to another, in penalty points by being late at the final check in. The lesson was well learnt, and, having seen so many runners, Company team selection was not difficult; the results of the Battalion Inter-Company Orienteering Competition proved this as Alma took 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places.

From this success we went on to win the Major Units trophy but came 2nd overall to 253 Sig. Sqn. in the Bde. Minor Units Orienteering Competition. It was unfortunate that one of our 1st team runners—Sgt. Wardle—was unfit to run owing to a sprained ankle. It is also interesting to record that we scored more points than the winners but lost 1st place owing to a 50-point penalty for late finish.

There has been some very interesting, varied and rewarding training over the period, but mostly in January. We considered ourselves by now as well-established bad weather sailors in LCMs. The start of our five-day Company Camp training in the New Territories was to be a beach assault landing near Tai Po and an approach march avoiding roads to the objective. The three-hour LCM journey started well enough but, as we escaped the shelter of the islands, we hit the roughest weather any of us had yet experienced. The personnel/vehicle deck was awash in three feet of water and the LCM had to slow down twice to pump out. Even some of the crew were sick. We had been warned for a "wet landing" but no one cared, as by then we were soaked from top to toe. The training programme for the week was geared to section and

and Smith in the orienteering where they got in a lot of practice for the better results they hope to achieve next time.

This took us up to Christmas with all its festivities and the usual banquet in the cookhouse on Christmas Day. Everybody enjoyed themselves despite, or because of, January rearing its ugly head. January meant exercises and we soon realised the hills had not got any smaller.

The Company camp came first with platoon training and a short test exercise in the New Territories. This was a warmer into the bank for the Battalion Inter-Platoon Test Exercise which covered certain aspects of counter revolutionary warfare and limited war. An exacting and revealing experience. 6 Platoon came third and 5 Platoon eighth. 4 Platoon commander, Lt. Redwood-Davies, was swanning in Bangkok with the Colony Rugby Team, and we are beginning to wonder whether he will ever deign to join us on exercise.

Shortly after came the Battalion exercise on the Sai Kung peninsula which was again a warm up, this time for the Brigade Test Exercise on the happy hunting grounds of Lan Tao. Lt. Sherlock arrived from RMAS just in time to be thrust in at the deep end of that exercise, as well as a remote area patrol where he and his men picked up four illegal immigrants. And that was January. Looking to the future we have the Annual Administration Inspection, a Boxing Competition, Athletics, Cricket and Rugby Competitions, a few more exercises, Korea Guards, Remote Area Patrols, Borders, Force Guards, Hearts and Minds tasks, so it looks like another quiet few months.

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Cpl. Robson, from officers mess
L/Cpl. Uttley, from KDDY
Ptes. Barker, Anver, Armitage, from KDDY

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Congratulations to:

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S/Sgt. Hartley, on obtaining 1st Class Education
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CORUNNA COMPANY

Somebody told me before I came to Hong Kong: "Nice place, on the beach every afternoon; lapped it up myself". Obviously times have changed!

It has, without doubt, been a period of intense activity for the Company. The problem has been how to fit everything into the programme.

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The Brigade Rifle Meeting was held during this border tour and we finished 5th; a reasonable result considering the amount of practice the team was allowed on the open range.

On our return to Stanley the Company Commander announced to our dismay that the Company would take part in an exercise on Lantau called "Xmas Rush". In fact, it turned out to be enjoyable and we re-learned all the old lessons in good time for the coming training season.

December, of course, was not without its social functions and we were delighted to be able to organise a party for 300 Chinese children from Stanley Village. It was a huge success but not without drama as Father "Hunter" Claus ran out of presents having given out some 317. Somehow we averted the riot. We were also pleased to assist the Families Officer, Lt. Tighe, in running a most successful Battalion children's party.

January saw us really earning our pay. The month commenced with a bang, and the Company 2IC disappeared on a Command and Staff Course in UK and we haven't seen him since!

We were allocated a very good area for a week's company training. The only snag was that we had difficulty in finding a suitable base camp. However, after many recces we finally settled down north of the Jubilee Dam and a very good time was had by all.

The Brigade Orienteering Competition was held on January 9 and we came a disappointing 7th out of 28 teams (disappointing because we won the Brigade practice competition).

An inter-platoon competition filled the second week and finally January ended with a Battalion

platoon level with a good deal of night training including an inter-section night shoot. We also managed some excellent helicopter training in Whirlwinds, Siouxs and Scouts at Sek Kong airfield. We were lucky to be the first troops to see and fly in the Scout helicopters which had recently arrived from Singapore. The end of the period saw us well prepared for the next phase of the inter-platoon tactical test exercise.

This exercise consisted of 30 hours in the field and covered a very large cross-section of military training. We were unfortunate to lose two platoon commanders at this time with Mr. Wonson departing to UK on an A/Tk platoon commanders' course and Mr. Newell to Bangkok as a Colony player for the rugby tour. This gave the platoon sergeants the opportunity to command. This they did extremely well and Sgt. Stansfield is to be congratulated on taking 2nd place out of 12 (749 points to 753) and Sgt. Harding on taking 4th place. The final company positions were Somme Company first with Alma Company second.

The next and immediate task was to prepare a strong platoon of 34 soldiers to go to JWS as the subject troops for energy/heat trials connected with diet and the provision of better and lighter rations for troops in conditions of extreme hardship. Mr. Sharp was the officer selected to prepare the team for the arduous visit to JWS. The preparation period included strenuous physical training, and large packs full of 40 lb of sand were much in evidence. The team even had their own doctor—Capt. H. McGavock, RAMC, from UK who conducted exhaustive medical and mental tests three or four days before departing from Hong Kong and will be in close attendance throughout the trial period of about five weeks. Capt. McGavock was good enough to say that the team were the best subjects he had seen and there was some little resentment when the reserves not to travel were selected.

As the energy trials personnel departed to Singapore so did the remainder of the Alma to Lantao Island for the Bde.-set Battalion ex "Golden Lion". For this exercise in counter insurgency we had the A/Tk platoon to replace trial troops. We started by landing from our LCM at 0500 hrs. on a beach in North Lantao. The CO had shrewdly ordered recce parties ahead after dark to recce the beaches. Cpl. Exley was selected for this task and advised us at about 0400 hrs. that our beach was occupied. It was a simple matter, still one hour out, to change the beach, risk a wet landing, but catch the enemy (Gurkha RCT) on the hop. This is exactly what did happen. It was too dark for re-deployment, the enemy hopped for the rest of the day and the umpire-controlled figure for enemy killed or captured by the Alma for that day was 71.

We have also had our lighter moments. Christmas, though it seems an age away now, was the usual mixture of carols, gay parties and too much to eat. The games and social v. Somme Company at Lyemun will long be remembered. The three-legged inter-company football match was hilarious and sabotage was suspected when the rope broke in the tug-of-war competition. We have also entered the Lyemun Football League with a

company second team. At present, we are the leaders of the league with the exotic title of "The Panzers".

It is sad to record the departure of Lt. Wonson to the A/Tk Platoon. He will be missed and his wife, too, who added so much to the Company socials and parties. We were also sorry to see Sgt. Lever depart, back to his old hunting ground at Stanley with Corunna Company.

Just now we are calmly preparing for the Annual Inspection on 17 February. This will be closely followed by the Bde. Exercise "Nine Dragons". At the same time training has started for the Novice Inter-Company Boxing Competition. More of these events in the next notes.

Personalia

Arrivals

From the Depot we welcome Ptes. Sugden, Morley, Gomersall and Cordingley, and from Command Company Sgt. Walker on promotion.

Departures

It is sad to record the following departures:

Lt. Wonson to A/Tk Platoon.

Sgt. Lever to Corunna Company

Cpl. Noble to Command Company (Trg Wing)

Pte. Sheeran to civilian life.

Promotions

L/Cpl. Exley to Corporal.

Congratulations go to:

Pte. and Mrs. Larnder on the birth of a girl.

Pte. and Mrs. Robinson on the birth of a girl.

Pte. Elvidge on his marriage during UK leave.

L/Cpls. Hey and Hutchinson on completing the 1969 Cross-Harbour Swim and being able to produce a certificate to prove it.

BURMA COMPANY

After the last notes where Malaya seemed to feature prominently, the following months have seemed ordinary for Hong Kong. That is, if any four months out here can be ordinary.

Probably the most significant feature of this period was the change of command. Major. P A. Mitchell left the company to become Second in Command after a very eventful year, which included New Zealand and Malaya, and Major J. R. P. Cumberlege took over. After the luxuries and the good life of Ghana, the Hong Kong hills received a good deal of respect.

Major Cumberlege arrived between two spells on the border. The first was at Man Kam To, which was as quiet as ever with the usual patrols and observation posts. We then had two weeks back at Stanley, followed by a second fortnight on the border, this time in reserve at Fan Ling. 6 Platoon were attached to Alma during this period, once again at Man Kam To, so they knew it well. During the border periods there were Brigade Shooting and Orienteering Competitions to think about and practice, as well as rugby and football training, so never let it be said that we were able to relax. Sgt. Waller led Ptes. Bentley, White, Thomas, Heath

and Smith in the orienteering where they got in a lot of practice for the better results they hope to achieve next time.

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The Brigade Rifle Meeting was held during this border tour and we finished 5th; a reasonable result considering the amount of practice the team was allowed on the open range.

On our return to Stanley the Company Commander announced to our dismay that the Company would take part in an exercise on Lantau called "Xmas Rush". In fact, it turned out to be enjoyable and we re-learned all the old lessons in good time for the coming training season.

December, of course, was not without its social functions and we were delighted to be able to organise a party for 300 Chinese children from Stanley Village. It was a huge success but not without drama as Father "Hunter" Claus ran out of presents having given out some 317. Somehow we averted the riot. We were also pleased to assist the Families Officer, Lt. Tighe, in running a most successful Battalion children's party.

January saw us really earning our pay. The month commenced with a bang, and the Company 2IC disappeared on a Command and Staff Course in UK and we haven't seen him since!

We were allocated a very good area for a week's company training. The only snag was that we had difficulty in finding a suitable base camp. However, after many recces we finally settled down north of the Jubilee Dam and a very good time was had by all.

The Brigade Orienteering Competition was held on January 9 and we came a disappointing 7th out of 28 teams (disappointing because we won the Brigade practice competition).

An inter-platoon competition filled the second week and finally January ended with a Battalion

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exercise, "Canter III", and a Brigade exercise, "Golden Lion II".

February sees us currently on Force Guard again.

Despite a very full programme outlined above we still managed to squeeze in helicopter training, remote area patrols, IS exercises, ranges, etc.

Our social side has not been neglected and the Company enjoyed a day off (is this a record!) in October on Big Wave Day. The beer flowed, the stories were tall, the food excellent. We must do it again next year when we get another day off! The "pads" were not forgotten, either, and 26 of us embarked on the Weatherite cruise for an evening and on to the "Dateline" night club. We also celebrated Corunna day in good fashion in the White Rose Club.

Our aid to the civil community during the period consisted of making a garden and basketball pitch for the Aberdeen Rehabilitation Centre. Part of our task was to build a 70-foot square brick wall two feet high—no easy task for tommies untrained in brick-laying. Some of us were invited to the open day and we were suprised and delighted to be presented with a handsome plaque by the staff and boys and girls of the centre. Having seen how the children work to overcome their difficulties our efforts seem puny in comparison.

The comings and goings within the Company have been extensive and are shown below. We have a great deal to do before we return to the UK next November and the next period promises to be just as busy as the last. The nine months tour to Gibraltar next year has been greeted with cheers by some and groans by others. If only we knew where we were going to be based. Does anybody know?

Arrivals

Lt. Gardner from Somme Company.
Cpl. Booth returns to the fold from Cameron Highlands.
Ptes. King, Allen, Bailey, Connor, Whittaker, Scott from Kings Div. Depot.
Cpl. Soper from Somme Company.
Pte. Roberts from Junior Leaders Regt.
Pte. Evans from the Cook House.
Sgt. Lever has returned to the fold after a brief spell with Alma Company.
Pte. Unsworth from Alma Company.

Departures

2/Lt. Stone to RAOC (maybe).
Sgt. Robinson to RMA Sandhurst (maybe).
L/Cpl. Robinson, L/Cpl. Wilson, Pte. Shaw, Pte. Harte, discharge.



Photo Joint Services PR Staff BFPO 1

Presentation of Regimental Cap Badges on November 14, 1969

Departures continued

L/Cpl. Parkinson to the Assault Pioneers.
 L/Cpl. Clarke Demob.
 Pte. Corder to Officers Mess.
 Pte. Hayes 01 to Somme Company.
 Pte. Hayes 44 to Sergeants Mess.
 Cpl. Brennan to Trg. Wing.
 Cpl. Pashby to Trg. Wing.
 Pte. Schofield transfer to PWO.
 Pte. Childerson to Admin. Company.
 Pte. Underwood to Cook House.

Promotions

Congratulations to L/Cpl. Anderson, L/Cpl. Middleton.

Births

Congratulations to:
 L/Cpl. and Mrs. Anderson—son born Jan. 7, 1970.
 L/Cpl. and Mrs. Nicol—son born Nov. 7, 1969.
 Pte. and Mrs. Johnston—son born Jan. 29, 1970.
 Pte. and Mrs. Watson—son born Oct. 17, 1969.

Marriages

Congratulations to Cpl. Ruding married on Oct. 18, 1969.

Deaths

Our condolences are extended to Pte. and Mrs. Chadderton on the death of their son Darren, on December 14, 1969.

SOMME COMPANY

We have had letters and comments from old Somme Company hands, saying "What's all this patter about a hectic military life. Hong Kong is a land of milk and honey with sun-drenched beaches and char wallers serving kingsize pots of tea". There are beaches and char wallers with king-size pots of tea but to prove our point a brief synopsis of our programme during the past five months is shown below:

September

- a. 2—Return from two weeks on the border.
- b. 10-17—Force Guard (daylight hours Government House guard and 24-hour guard on Commander British Forces' residence).
- c. 23-25—Ex "Dog House", an Internal Security exercise.
- d. 29-2 Oct.—Company Sailing Cadre.

October

- a. 3-26—Company Cadre Month.
- b. 28—Go on border for two weeks.

November

- a. 12—Return from the border.
- b. 17—Change of cap badge parade.
- c. 22-28—Bde. Rifle Meeting.
- d. 25—Go on border for two weeks.

December

- a. 9—Return from border.
- b. 11-23—Company Cadres continue.
- c. 30—Bde. Orienteering Competition.

January

- a. 5-10—Company training. New Territories.
- b. 12-16—Battalion Platoon Tac Competition, New Territories.
- c. 19-22—Battalion ex, New Territories.
- d. 26-28—Battalion ex, Lantau Island.

I think you will agree life is fairly full.

On the military side, the Company's greatest moment was winning the Battalion inter-platoon tactics competition outright, beating our nearest rivals, Alma Company, by 200 points. The Anti-Tank Platoon, commanded by Sgt. Carter with Cpl. Ineson as platoon sergeant, came first. We congratulate them on an excellent performance, also the Assault Pioneer/Recce and Mortar Platoons for coming in the top group of platoons.

The Company cadre period, although disjointed timewise, was highly successful and a great deal was achieved. All we need now is a decent range on which to put into practice all we have learnt in the classroom. We are hoping to return to Malaysia for a week to run our own support weapons concentration.

The Christmas period consisted of a joint carol service in the Fort with Alma Company. Padre Williams got each company to sing alternate verses, which had the required effect as each company tried to out-do each other. It was a very pleasant service and brought home to us all the true meaning of Christmas. The day before Christmas leave we had a potted sports morning with Alma Company: three-legged soccer, hockey, with a rugger ball and a grand tug-of-war, 60 a side! (The rope broke.) It was a grand morning, which was rounded off with a company happy hour—certain members stayed till tea time!

The month of January was a busy one, starting off with Company training at a place in the New Territories called "Laffins Plain". We were told that it was an excellent area with plenty of flat ground for support weapons training. Our recce revealed that a mountain goat would have the utmost difficulty in standing up, let alone move! We decided to do rifle platoon work in preparation for the inter-platoon tactics competition. It was an enjoyable week and much was learnt. Our final exercise was an inter-platoon free running one in two map squares. At one stage it looked as though a whole mountain side was moving, as heavily camouflaged recce patrols were trying to beat their respective enemy base camps. Fortunately, each enemy base camp was duffed up and honour was satisfied.

The Battalion exercises went off well. The Mortar Platoon had their proper role, the Recce Platoon, strengthened by the Assault Pioneer Platoon, were out in front as SAS-type observation posts, and the Anti-Tank Platoon were in a rifle platoon role with Alma Company, and Company HQ ran the Battalion fire support cell including helicopter tasking.

The umpires provided by HQ 51 Brigade were a little alarming militarily although charming as people. For example, the Mortar Platoon were umpired

SOMME COY. DRAGON DANCE

Left to right : Ptes. England,
Bateman, Sherratt, Nee,
Turner and Clarke 11



by "The Master Butcher and Master Equipment Repairer." Cpl. Eastwood and Cpl. Dickens, running the base plates, were required to teach their umpires how to umpire mortars. On one occasion, Sgt. Lindsay was in a helicopter directing fire on a group of enemy; he got fed up waiting for the Master Butcher and Equipment Repairer to make up their minds on how effective the mortars were; he came up on the mortar wireless net, saying, "Don't worry I have dropped hand grenades on them". A loud cheer was heard from the fire support cell.

On the sporting side, things seemed to be, all systems go.

Our sailing cadre was a great success, nobody got lost! There were, however, moments when our seafaring heritage came to the fore, as a small yacht tried to board an enormous fishing junk. The helmsman said he lost control! We couldn't understand what the junk skipper said!!

The Company orienteering team, L/Cpls. Lewis, Bell, Gilgallon, Hogg and Ptes. Sherratt, Attiwell, Lang and Mathiot are to be congratulated on coming second in both battalion and colony major units competitions.

The two Company soccer teams, under Cpl. McGivern in the Battalion league and Pte. McAlloon in the Lyemun league, are both topping the tables.

Since our last notes we have acquired a Somme Company farm. Cpl. Adams and Pte. Rushworth have gone in for chickens. Fourteen of them have produced one egg so far—the whole company had to admire this miraculous feat of nature. Meanwhile, Pte. McAlloon has gone in for pigeon racing. He was last seen up an enormous tree with a pea tin in his hand, trying to recover one of his birds, whilst up above six huge Hong Kong eagles circled around tossing up whether to nick McAlloon or the pigeon.

Pte. English (Assault Pioneer) has won the Company's most original act for the last half of 1969. He was bowling in a competition at the China Fleet Club when he got his finger stuck in the bowl, and had to stop the match whilst a carpenter cut his finger out! Pte. Cadman (Recce) came second. He

was climbing a very steep hill at night, on a recce patrol, when he fell over 100ft. down the hill with an A41 wireless on his back. He came back up smiling, no cursing was heard! We discovered later that he had almost swallowed the hand set and couldn't talk for some time!

On the social scene we have had two great occasions. Pte. Sherratt's wedding and the Company's "Rave In". Pte. Sherratt's wedding to Jennifer was held at Stanley Fort on October 18, 1969. It was a grand occasion. Jennifer looked stunning in a shimmering white dress, flanked by two adorable bridesmaids, Penny Anne and Patricia Monaghan. Jennifer was given away by L/Cpl. Frear and L/Cpl. Nuttall was best man. The reception was held at L/Cpl. and Mrs. Frear's house—our thanks to Mrs. Frear in organising everything so well. The Company's Christmas "Rave In" was tremendous fun; over 160 attended. The platoon cabarets were excellent and had us in stitches. Our thanks go to C/Sgt. Stewart, Sgt. Lindsay and their helpers for organising the party so well.

Personalia

There have been many changes in the Company. We say farewell to: Capt. and Mrs. Andrews, CSM and Mrs. Delaney, Lt. and Mrs. Gardner, C/Sgt. and Mrs. Hudson, Cpl. and Mrs. Atkinson, Cpl. Toulmin and Pte. Johnson. We wish them every success in their new appointments.

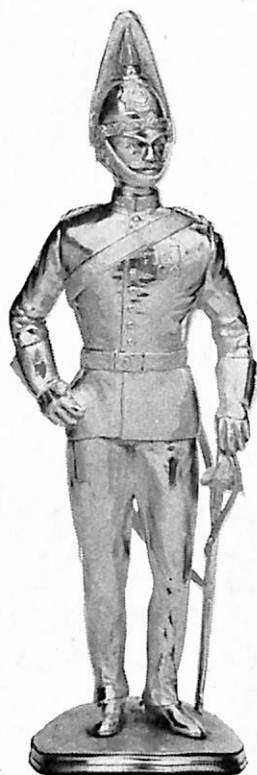
We welcome to the company:
CSM and Mrs. Wilson, Lt. and Mrs. Wonson, Lt. McGlynn and Cpl. and Mrs. Horne.

We congratulate:
L/Cpl. Lee on his promotion to Corporal and Ptes. Cuss, Aspinwall and Gilgallon on their promotion to Lance-Corporal.

We congratulate L/Cpl. and Mrs. Parkinson on the birth of a daughter, Lindsay, and Pte. and Mrs. Barlow on the birth of a son, Kevin.

LONGMAN & STRONGI'TH'ARM

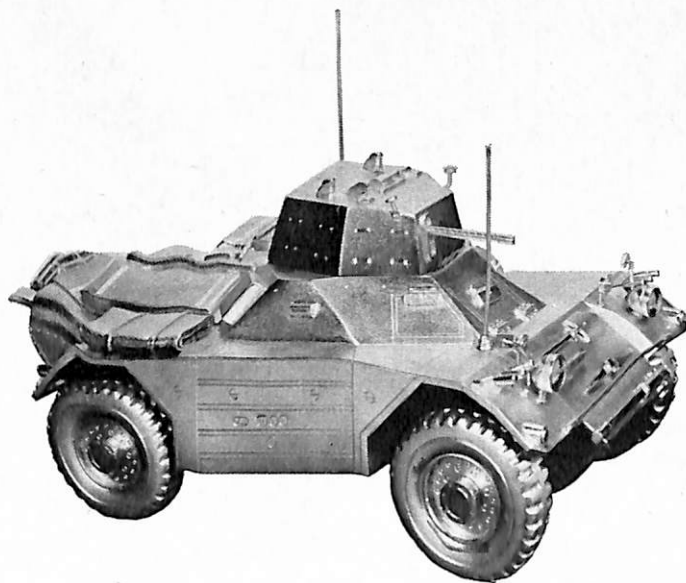
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ADMIN COMPANY

With most of the Company's department submitting their own notes, it is felt that it is sufficient for us to include only a Company Personalia.

Congratulations are extended to the following on their promotion: Sgt. Cooper to Staff-Sergeant; Cpl. Firth to Sergeant; Ptes. Butcher, Hunter, Price, Whiteley, Bds. Haigh, Mann, and McArthur to Lance-Corporal; also to Cpls. Roberts and Richards on successfully completing their RAPC BI Course.

We must also congratulate L/Cpl. Whiteley, Pte. Dawson, ACC, and Pte. Hoy on their recent marriages. Special praise to L/Cpl. Whiteley for "keeping it in the family" by marrying Susan, the daughter of our worthy Pioneer Sergeant "Tom" Jackson.

Whilst in a congratulatory mood we must also remember Sgt. and Mrs. Vaughan, Pte. and Mrs. Thewliss, and Pte. and Mrs. Sutton who recently increased their families.

The following have recently joined the Company; we extend our greetings and trust they will have a pleasant stay with us. Cpl. Hole from Burma, Cpl. Murray from the Depot, L/Cpl. Mitchell from Command, Ptes. Aspin, Twinberrow, and Broadbent from Alma, L/Cpl. Pearson, Ptes. Morris,

Garner, Cordner and Hayes from Corunna, and Cfn. Stone from 7 Armd Wksp, REME.

Out-going we have had: WO2 Pullen, Sgts. Page and Ellis, Cpls. Bower, Lambton, Pickles, and Robson, L/Cpls. Moon and Szeipetowski, and Ptes. Cooper, Billington, Wigglesworth, Hutson, Pye, Tinnion, Hanson, Beevers, Dykes, Jagger, Holdsworth, Williams, Bds. McGurty, and Cfn. Ricketts.

We wish them all well in their new posts, wherever it may be, and hope they had a happy and enjoyable stay with the Company.

Unfortunately, we must close on a sombre note by extending our deepest sympathy to Pte. and Mrs. Pennington on the sad loss of their son, David, and to Pte. and Mrs. Reynolds on the sad loss of their son, Shawn.

THE BAND

After a somewhat hectic and successful tour of Tokyo we were very glad to be back in Hong Kong. Our thoughts turned to the Festive Season which would be soon upon us, but before we lose ourselves in Christmas activities some important engagements had to be fulfilled.

Our host throughout the Tokyo trip was the Assault Ship HMS *Fearless*. To show our ap-



WHITELEY—JACKSON

The marriage took place at Stanley Fort Garrison Church on December 20, 1969, between L/Cpl. Jim Whiteley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mulvey, of 38 West Road, Golcar, and Miss Susan Jackson, daughter of Sgt. Tom Jackson, Pioneer Sergeant, 1 DWR, and Mrs. Jackson. The wedding group shows (left to right) Sgt. Wilkinson (best man), holding Alison and Christopher Wilkinson, Mrs. Jackson, L/Cpl. and Mrs. Jim Whiteley, Sgt. Jackson and Mrs. Wilkinson.



A village concert on Hong Kong Island.

preciation for the hospitality afforded to us, we gave a beating of the retreat display for the ship's company and, a few days later, we played the ship out of the harbour at HMS *Tamar*, the Hong Kong shore base. The ship was returning to Singapore.

With the Corps of Drums we entertained the Battalion and families to a two-hour band spectacular show under lighting on the square. A contrasting programme was performed featuring most types of music from sixteenth century recorder music, provided by a small group of musicians within the Band, wearing costumes of the period, to modern beat by the "Blue Tones", one of our small combos.

Although the weather was not at its best, the evening was enjoyed by a large audience.

The "Blues Syndicate" and the "Blue Tones" were very busy during December; every organisation seemed to want a dance band on the same day.

We took part in a military tattoo at the Hong Government Stadium. The tattoo was one of the main events during the Hong Kong Festival which lasted for one week. We also participated in the carnival procession which wound its way down Nathan Road, the Broadway of Kowloon.

After the Christmas and New Year rush of dances, we managed to take a few days leave, before playing at Government House for the Annual Investiture.

L/Cpl. McGarty, who had been a long-standing member of the Band, regrettably had to return to civilian life through compassionate grounds. We wish him every success in his new role.

COMMAND COMPANY

Command Company has now been in existence for very nearly eight months. Capt. Pettigrew, as Company Commander, made an excellent job of doing all the getting-off-the-ground work and has now left the Company to set the PRI to rights.

Capt. Puttock, with much rejoicing (on his part, anyhow), has finally broken free of the Officers Mess and taken over the Company reins. We also say goodbye to ex-C/Sgt., now CSM, Wilson who has

moved to Somme Company, also to Lt. Thorn who after many long months in the job, has now been replaced by Lt. Mellor as Assistant Adjutant; C/Sgt. Read has been promoted to take charge of the Company Administration. We welcome Sgt. Hemmings back to the Battalion from the wilds of Yorkshire to be Provost Sergeant.

We are currently in the midst of the training season. A mad gallop of exercises all in a very short period. All departments are split up on exercises. The only new task we have is the responsibility for running Battalion Headquarters in the field. The Drummers/Defence Platoon have a large and varied role and find themselves at short notice putting up the command post, providing local defence, escorting prisoners, or even dashing off in helicopters to produce snap ground clearance patrols.

Even the doctor was dragged out on the last exercise. He didn't have a great deal of work to do in the field of medicine, but he did manage to make himself extremely comfortable and he always produced coffee for any casual visitors who approached his area.

The Signal Platoon all converted themselves very convincingly into Hippies for an evening in January. They had a most successful party. I hope that in the not-too-distant future we may find time to run a company party, perhaps with each department being required to produce some form of entertainment.

We have one more long, hot summer here; ideal way to cool off is to get into a boat and spend the afternoon on the sea. We are running a series of sailing cadres in order to qualify soldiers to take out one of the Hindoostan Sailing Club Enterprise dinghies. The first course will take place in mid-February when 12 men, some from each department will spend one week on sailing. If this is successful we hope to be able to put many more of the Company through.

The next immediate hurdle is the administrative inspection; once this and the exercise are in the past I hope that the ideal opportunity for seeing a bit of Hong Kong will present itself.

BOR BULLETIN

It was with a cold feeling in the pit of the stomach that we read the last issue of IRON DUKE to find that all company and departmental notes were a copy of the last, except that a few names and dates had been changed in each. It is pitifully true that in this increasingly sophisticated world of ours everybody seems reluctant to state an opinion and that our erstwhile scribes who furnish material for ID simply copy out the relevant extract from the Historical Record and add a slight embellishment.

To give some backing to the above opinions we consulted a local critic who described ID notes as "exciting as Noggin and Nogg" and "a sort of Dudley's Den unleashed". We have, unfortunately, no contacts with Noggin, and therefore this ish (in the nature of an experiment) has been compiled by some of the resident guests from Dudley's Den.

"Wunse aponatyme thair wosamann called Bunbry who lived inabig howse ontopova hill. Bunbry wosanoffiser andadalot of mennwurking

inrooms with mashines anthings. Theezmenn wurcalled clarks anthair naymes wur Milny, Cray, Mannon, Hogy, Morter, Wishy, Darcky, Willsun, and Winstanleg. Anthair wosalso aman called Melly, buttee diddn't cumtillater. The bighowse ontopova hill woscalled Ordyrum, anevrywunells wascaired togothair costhaywur frytennd ofan-nuthermann called Arressemm Batee hoowos allways showingat themm.

Wunndey wennevrywun weskwite appy Bunbry sedd that thairwosgoingtube aninspekshun anall-theclarks wursorafayd costhay didnotlyke inspekshuns. Buttalongcayme amanhoowoskalled SeeO, andeesedd nott tobey frytennd coseewos shurtheywoodalldoowell. Anthaybeeleevidm anbee-cayme appyagayn. An nowthayall livappilly everafter inthebighowse ontopvahill thatiznoenas Ordyrum".

Will the villain Bunbry strike again folks? Will the Clarks continue to live happily in Ordyrum? Read next ish for another exciting episode!

Company Detail

Everybody reads Company Detail, they have to. Not everybody gets quite such enjoyment, perhaps, as others. Would you expect to see this sort of thing on your detail?

HATS TROPICAL

These will be worn as issued, floppy and horrible, not as:

- a. A film star would wear it.
- b. An American GI in Vietnam would wear it.
- c. A trilby.
- d. A cowboy would wear it complete with chin strap.

The hat will be worn Bill and Ben style and no other way.

Company Detail is the CSM's medium for communicating his orders for the daily running of the company. One does not expect to come across biblical quotes and personal messages thrown in at random. However, what about this?

COY COMD'S AWARDS

Pte. Taylor 02 — 7 Days RP — Absent 1 hour.
"The CSM is my shepherd I shall not want."

or:

COY COMD'S ORDERS

The following will parade at 1000 hrs. today:
"These things I write unto you that ye sin not."

These are just two examples of gems that have appeared on one company's Detail over the past 12 months. Below are a few more that I have collected to illustrate a new (or revolutionary) approach towards the writing of Company Detail. All are authentic.

Pay Parade is always a good target for humour. After all, it is the happiest moment in any soldier's week. Recent remarks include:

PAY PARADE

The golden eagle will hover momentarily over the concrete garden at 1100 hrs. All bird watchers will attend. Marshall—CSM. After pay parade debtors will line up and fork out. "He that giveth with the left hand taketh away with the right."

Humour undoubtedly serves to sweeten the pill and, after all is said and done, Detail is that much more interesting to read.

A fortnight on the border nearly always sharpens a CSM's wit and Details benefit accordingly. For those who accomplish a remarkable feat or who serve the company loyally, there is always a space in detail reserved for their achievements.

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

The Sha Tau Kok Order of the Mk 2 Eye-ball is hereby awarded to Pte. Dann (M.I.D.), who at Lone Tree Hill on or about last week sighted a Chinese Gunboat in Grid Square 1396 in 33 fathoms of water at a distance of 3 miles. This feat was achieved with the naked eye. Pte. Dann is now entitled to the letters M.I.D. after his name (Mentioned In Detail).

or for the loyalty and good service to the company:

COY COOKS

The Company bids farewell to the makers of the Queen's Duff. They are now entitled to wear the much sought after Sha Tau Kok Star with Cluster (of ladels soup).

Film nights on the border achieve front page billing:

CINE NIGHT

J. Arthur Brook will screen "The Devil's Brigade".

(Watch out for the Padre!)

Some months ago the Company was plagued by what were loosely termed hairy tree caterpillars. These savage monsters could deliver a very nasty blister; this prompted the following comment:

HAIRY TREE CATERPILLARS

Another one struck today. Pte. Earnshaw was savagely attacked resulting in his being sent to the MO with blisters on his forearm. Soldiers who see these loathsome creatures will report them to the Coy CP.

A short while before this there was a plague of weevils in the Company lines, no one was in any doubt as to the wisdom of the CSM's remarks:

WEEVILS

Weevils are small insects that eat army food! They are loose in the Coy lines at the moment and will shortly be moved by the QM's staff. The weevils must have come to the Company via the 24 hr packs (local variety). Any soldier with biscuits, rice etc from 24 hr packs will get rid before the weevils take over the Company.

Occasionally short heart-rendering messages are imparted like:

WARNING ORDER

Next Force Guard 4-11 Feb.
and the CSM's comment:

"Among the multitude there arose a wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Having received a Christmas card, depicting a heavily moustached soldier, from one of the platoons we saw the following message of thanks:

THANK YOU X PL

The CSM thanks X Pl for the Christmas card and begs to point out that the moustache is too short by 5" on each side.

I hasten to point out that his own moustache would shame any would-be wartime fighter pilot. Talking of Christmas and the festive season, let us not forget the emphasis on present giving:

RUMOURS

There is a rumour that the CSM will not accept Corona cigars for Xmas unless they are gift wrapped. This is wrong.

No points for guessing what he wanted for Christmas. However, no one was left in any doubt as to where he intended to go:

MACAU

The CSM will be spending the festive season on the Portuguese Colony of Macau. It is *Out of Bounds* to the Company.

It all goes to show that there is still a little humour about. After all, would you really expect to laugh while reading Detail?

.....on a Slow Boat to China

By one of those responsible

It all began after an inauguration meeting of the Enterprise Sailing Association (HK). Members of the Taipo Yacht Club invited some of the Hindoostan Boat Club to come over to sail against them on Sunday, December 14. We agreed and started planning our trip.

We set sail in the sloop *Peta Anne* (length 24 ft.; draft 3 ft. 8 ins.) from St. Stephen's jetty at 1425 hrs., running the diesel and using sail. The crew was L/Cpl. M. P. D'Arcy, L/Cpl. Hutchinson, L/Cpl. J. W. Lowth and Miss A. G. Stevenson. We encountered a heavy rolling sea across Tai Tam Bay and around D'Aguila but the *Peta Anne* was handling like a feather. 1530 hrs. we reached Tathong Point, that would be the last landmark that anyone on board could recognise from past cruises.

1610 hrs., heading for the channel between Bluff and Basalt Islands, I noticed the jib sheet was fast to a cleat, I asked L/Cpl. Hutchinson to go up forward and release it; on his return he slipped on the wet deck, almost going overboard. Fortunately, he managed to grasp one of the starboard shrouds and pull himself inboard without

assistance. The sea was beginning to get very choppy and the boat was swinging (yawing) from side to side, though this gave us no cause for alarm.

About one mile from Basalt Channel I asked for the chart (these were ordinary Military Land Maps). L/Cpl. Hutchinson searched his pockets and declared he had lost it. Without this chart I was not prepared to take the boat inside the islands, the direction I had intended to go, because of the semi-submerged rocks and reefs in this area. I had the lives of three people to think about, so it had to be outside the islands and deeper (but safer) water and heavier seas.

We went out to about 2½ miles from shore and started to head up towards the headland we could see approx. 8-9 miles ahead. I presumed this to be Fan Chi Chau. (On our return aboard HMS *Hubberston* I found out how hopeless it is trying to sail on dead reckoning in unknown waters.) It was, in fact, Tan Tsui and about two miles from where we should have had our land check. (No chart no check.)

It was completely dark and the quarter moon I had hoped for was hidden by cloud. We sailed across the mouth of the Tolo Channel, unknown to us, and out of the darkness a land-mass loomed. This I thought to be Tan Tsui so I handed the helm to L/Cpl. Lowth with instructions to wake me when he came to a reef which I had memorised, as it had seemed a bad place for an engine fault. We sailed on and then the weather really started to turn sour. With Hutchinson's help I lowered the mainsail and reefed it to the boom and got set for a heavy blow. Fortunately, the "narrow" channel between the island and the mainland came into view very vaguely in the darkness, so I swung the helm towards me and headed smack down the middle of the channel. Once inside we were back on the charts again. I had the compass bearings written down on the chart and sailed on "the required bearing" for approx. 25 minutes which should have brought us to a point around which we would be able to see the buoys in the Tolo Channel. But it seemed landlocked so I asked for a decision from the remainder on dropping anchor or trying to find the light. I got a unanimous "drop anchor."

We cut the engine and lowered the jib. Hutchinson rigged a deck light with two A 41 batteries and a bulb and we settled down to brew a cup of tea. It was during this brew-up that the junk started to circle the *Peta Anne*. It then came alongside and a voice ordered us to "Put up your hands or

we shoot". I don't think anyone thought twice about not doing so.

We were then boarded by four or five armed Militia. They bundled us below decks on the *Peta Anne* and we were told no talking or moving. WE DIDN'T. We were towed for approx. 25 minutes, then we were ordered out of the sloop and discovered that we were alongside a jetty. The leader of the Militia motioned us to move, so Gill Stevenson, Hutchinson and I linked arms and walked off down the jetty singing: "We are off to see the wizard, the wonderful wizard of Oz."

They put us into a room with a set of trestles and boards which turned out to be a form of bed. They let us sleep on it, but kept Lowth on the boat. We were all cold, hungry, wet and exhausted, but we were all that afraid of our future in Chinese hands that none of us slept a wink. We were aroused by the blowing of a bugle. I emphasise blowing because it wasn't any tune that was recognisable.

The door was opened and before you could shout Chairman Mao half the village was crowded into the room to see the imprisoned "Kwailos" (Foreign Devils). By this time our fear had left us and we decided we were going to inconvenience them as much as possible. From this moment on we never asked to go anywhere we just walked out of the room and they followed us. At one stage there was nobody in the room; Miss Stevenson decided she was going to the toilet. She went in a



... and the next question is ?

Left to right: L/Cpl. Darcy, Miss Gill Stevenson, L/Cpl. Hutchinson and L/Cpl. Lowth.

roundabout way (it was only 100 yards off) and was gone about 20 minutes. When she returned she said she had been for a tour of the village. Hutchinson and I went to the boat, supposedly to collect food and sleeping bags; we came back with as much equipment as we could carry.

Amongst the baggage we brought back was a pack of playing cards. We started a game but we were stopped after the first hand. We waited a little while then started again. Wong Tsin (he was the leader of the militia that originally caught us), said: "Not to be playing", but one of us said: "Yes playing cards". This went on for a while and he left.

Sometime during the morning or early afternoon someone thought of the idea of throwing tins of "Compo cheese" at the eyes that kept appearing at the windows. Unfortunately, the tins ran out before the eyes.

In the afternoon Wong Tsin came in with a book (no prizes for guessing the title). We had to read various paragraphs from it. One thing we did learn from it is: "Americans are all paper tigers and should be dealt with as such". We all agreed that, if it was published weekly, it would rate second only to the Beano! He left us with the words, "Think about our great leader Chairman Mao". Unfortunately, we dozed off and were rudely awakened by a rather irate Wong Tsin, asking what we were doing. L/Cpl. Hutchinson answered: "Thinking". (He later admitted it was about a large cool glass of San Miguel.)

Communist Army

At about 1600 hrs. we saw our first Communist Army troops. They then took us one at a time into the interrogation room. Questions asked varied—"What nationality are you?" "Where do you come from?" They were mainly about our parents, homes and employment. (They didn't yet have any idea that we were soldiers). They let us go back to our room until about 2100 hrs. when we were told to bring our personal baggage. All of the bags were emptied out, one at a time, then we had to empty our pockets. Once they found our ID cards they seemed to know almost immediately we were soldiers; they certainly knew what the ID card meant. They confiscated these plus razors, knives, our compass, bino's, camera, a medical kit, pens and even some of Miss Stevenson's cosmetics which baffled them completely.

They pushed in front of us the log from the *Peta Anne*, and we were told to make out a "Statement of Repentance". One of the special points I emphasised when drafting it was that we "accidentally strayed into Chinese Territorial waters". Everyone signed it and they took it away. We were sent back to our room. They then produced another "bed" for Miss Stevenson. It was then we upset them for the first time. We all took off our anoraks and sweaters and climbed into our sleeping bags. At this time there were about 15 Chinese in the room with us. Miss Stevenson blew out the paraffin lamp. All that was heard was a rushing of feet, the door opened once and we were alone. The door opened again and two figures were seen to enter very cautiously; the light came on and we saw the

muzzles of two rifles pointed at us. Wong Tsin came in and over the partition came a sub-machine gun. We all burst out laughing and rolled over in our sleeping bags. The lot of us just sniggered and laughed out loud. This seemed to irritate them, which pleased us even more. We all slept in fits and starts but we were left to ourselves. We just ignored them completely from then on.

Tuesday morning

"Lai", another of the interpreters, came in and asked us did we require anything. We asked for eggs; they brought us 15. Every one of them went into an extra-large scrambled egg.

At the time they changed the sentries on our room we got out the playing cards and our sentry (he can't have been more than 15 years old) got interested and before long, we had him playing knockout whist. He was deep in this game when Wong Tsin came in. Needless to say our sentry was relieved and the poor lad was not seen for the remainder of our stay.

Tuesday evening

Our first sample of Chinese food: fishballs, pork, garlic and rice. Nobody ate a thing. We all sat up chatting about our childhood and the different names we all had for the same games.

I was called into the interrogation room and they went through everything I told them again not once but three times over. Then they started on military questions. All I can say is that their Intelligence must be in an awful bad way, because some of the answers I gave were so far fetched they were impossible.

I went back to the room and told the others to prepare for a long stay, because halfway through the interrogation I lost my temper and told them in best barrack room language where to go. I then walked out; they just let me go so I got into bed and told the other three to play about with them as much as possible.

Wednesday

They came in about 0300 hrs. on Wednesday morning and told us to pack up everything, even take our rubbish and waste, as we were being released. This we did and went into the main hall of the Commune building. They returned all our property and I drafted another "Statement of Repentance" very similar to the first, with an additional paragraph to say that all our property had been returned and we had been treated well. (They treated us as well as could be expected for a poor fishing community.) They then had us read the *Peking Review*. I read an article about bumper crops, throwing little nonsenses in here and there just to keep the others happy.

They produced a table-tennis set so we proceeded to ruin that as quickly as possible. The ball got dented, so we decided, being "Dukes", that it should be oval shaped. Heating it up we managed to produce a very nice miniature rugger ball. The Chinese now have table rugby.

They put us on board *Peta Anne* (all the windows and portholes had been blacked out) and towed us

Continued at foot of next page

THE KING'S DIVISION

The year 1969 has proved to be an unusually full one for battalions of The King's Division. The highlights, perhaps, being an emergency tour in Northern Ireland for 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, training in Canada for 1st Battalion The Loyal Regiment, the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, to 1st Battalion The King's Regiment in Catterick in June, and Trooping the Colour in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales, by 1st Battalion The Lancashire Regiment (PWV) in Malta in November.

There have been no changes on the staff of Headquarters The King's Division but the Divisional Brigadier, Brigadier Armour, has been posted to take up the appointment of vice-president RCB Westbury in October 1970. His relief has not yet been nominated.

We were all particularly delighted at the award in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of the CB to the Colonel Commandant, Major-General Bredin.

The second annual Colonel Commandant's Meeting with Colonels of Regiments, Regimental Secretaries and Commanding Officers was held at Strensall on November 20. The meeting was extremely well attended and profitable.

The "numbers game" continues to cause us concern. However, there are now 517 junior soldiers of The King's Division under training against an establishment of 546. This figure is an increase on the summer term and is really excellent. The total of junior infantrymen at the Junior Infantrymen's Battalion, Shorncliffe, is 138, 15 above the Division target of 123. This, to some extent, helps to offset the shortfall in adult recruiting which we, in common with the rest of the army, are facing. To maintain battalions at their proper strength we need to draft 90 soldiers each month. Our figures for 1969 are a slight improvement on 1968 and as at October 31 we were averaging 68 a month. This is the best of the five infantry of the line divisions but behind the Guards Division and Parachute Regiment.

The Division proposal for a standardised No. 2 Dress for officers was approved initially by all Colonels of Regiments of the Division and has now been approved by the Army Dress Committee. The Colonel Commandant has ruled that henceforth all officers of the Division are to buy the new division pattern uniform. We understand that this is likely to become obligatory by 1975.

The change to regimental cap badges has proceeded apace. The Green Howards and The Duke of Wellington's Regiment have already changed and plans are laid for the Queen's Lancashire Regiment to adopt their new badge on the occasion of the Presentation of Colours at Dover by Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer on March 25, 1970, and for The King's Own Royal Border Regiment to do so on St. George's Day. The Army Dress Committee

have been asked to approve the White Horse of Hanover as the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire cap badge.

The Colonel Commandant wishes to congratulate Major W. F. C. Robertson of The Duke's on a very fine individual effort at Bisley last year. Major Robertson was selected for the Army Eight, was 2nd in the first stage of the Army Championship, 2nd in the Henry Whitehead, 2nd in the Secretary of State for War and 2nd in the Queen Mary. Congratulations also to the North Irish Militia on their excellent performance in the TARA and NRA Meetings and, in particular, Pipe Major McMahon who was 3rd in the TAVR Queen's Medal.

The outstanding sporting achievement of the year was undoubtedly the winning of the Army Swimming Championship by 1st Battalion The Loyal Regiment.

The year ahead of us will involve moves for all but one of the battalions of the Division. 1st Battalion The Green Howards, who have just moved to BAOR to Minden, are now alongside another battalion of the Division, the 1st Battalion The King's Regiment. 1st Battalion The Lancashire Regiment (PWV) return from Malta early in the New Year and amalgamate with 1st Battalion The Loyal Regiment in late March. The new regiment, The Queen's Lancshires, is under orders for BAOR in November to be stationed in Osnabruck alongside the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers who move there from Catterick in April. 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment return from Cyprus in the New Year and do a straight swap with 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire from Colchester. 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment and 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers are both earmarked for nine-month emergency tours starting next May, the former to Gibraltar and the latter to Bahrain. Finally, 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment are scheduled to return to UK from Hong Kong at the end of 1970.

Slow Boat *continued from page 28*

to about 1½ miles from Hong Kong waters and released us, saying "Taipo that way, Hong Kong that way". We arrived alongside the HMS *Hubberson* at about 1915 hrs., where we were given a typical Navy welcome.

Reflections

If anyone should get the opportunity to visit the particular area we were detained in, don't be alarmed; the locals have been subjected to the "Thoughts of the 33rd of Foot". You may also hear "Auld Lang Syne"; half the Commune had it on their minds by the time we left. We sang another song for them as we walked along the jetty for the last time. The song? "We've been to see the wizard, that wonderful wizard of Oz".

KING'S DIVISION DEPOT, YORKSHIRE

Junior Soldiers Company

Since the despatch of IRON DUKE notes always falls in the middle of a term we can never give a complete picture of one. Indeed, how many people, especially in the 1st Battalion, really understand the workings of the Depot's Junior Soldiers Company? Perhaps they can be forgiven, for the strange and wonderful workings often seem a mystery to the people in it—permanent staff and boys alike! Anyway, here is a quick run down on the orbat: Band Platoon—Cpl. Melvin, L/Cpl. Wilson; Drums Platoon—Cpl. Cole; Rifle Platoon—Lt. Jowett, Sgt. Leachman; New Intake Platoon—Lt. Palmer.

Sporting activities were curtailed towards the end of the Christmas term by the arrival of the winter snow. However, we managed to hold our orienteering competition towards the end of November up on the rough terrain of Broxa Forrest, Nr. Scarborough. Twenty-five teams took part, starting at two-minute intervals. No one actually managed to lose himself, though it was towards dark and four hours after starting out that the last mud-splattered and weary teams arrived at the finishing point. We will now hold this event every term for it is an excellent way of training in cross-country running and pin-point map reading.

Two new innovations rounded off the term. The first was a company party in the Yorkshire Tavern. This was an enormous success, no doubt due to a supply of free beer. The second was the company carol singing. The whole company, with accompaniment from the band, spent two nights touring the married quarters singing carols to a Dickensian backcloth of lanterns on poles, with the snow, deep, and crisp and even!

The Easter term has seen the accent on cross-country running. Under the expert guidance of Cpl. Gee a squad has trained daily. They have notched up a formidable list of successes. A team ran in the Northern Command Championships and would have taken the second prize if they had been old enough to qualify as an official entry. The team ran unofficially in the T & AVR Championships where they did even better, claiming four out of the first 12 places. The runners now go forward to the Army Junior Championships in the complete confidence that they are fully fit and experienced in competitions.

To turn to personalities. We welcome Sgt. Leachman to the Company; he is now keeping an eagle eye on the Rifle Platoon. We also welcome WO2 Morton, from the Loyals, who takes over from WO2 Keily who is now with the Recruiting Team. Likewise, Cpl. Bower has also joined the staff (he's not actually in our company—but acts as our clerk) in place of Cpl. Murray. Lastly, our congratulations to Cpl. Melvin on passing the entrance examination to the Student Bandmasters Course at Kneller Hall.

Finally, a word of praise to the Rifle Platoon who provided a very commendable quarter guard for Major-General The Earl Cathcart who carried out the FFR Inspection.

Training Company

The comings and goings of Training Company seem to be never-ending. Sgt. Blood has now rejoined us after being declared fit, and we are due to receive Cpl. Wood when he finishes his course at the School of Infantry at the end of February. At the other end of the scale, we have lost Cpl. Smith who has rejoined the 1st Battalion and Lt. Jerry Bird who leaves us at the end of February for civilian life. It will, indeed, be a sad occasion as Jerry has been a tower of strength both on the rugby field (particularly against the Springboks) and as a member of the Mess. Our best wishes go with him as he ventures forth in his new job with Shell.

After much pushing by the 2IC, Training Company have finally managed to produce a company mascot in the shape of Cpl. Lucky (a wire-haired fox terrier complete with ceremonial dog coat, collar dogs and chevrons). As readers may suspect, Cpl. Lucky is owned by the 2IC!

Rugby at the Depot continues to flourish and it is hoped that Chris Gilbert will be back in action before the end of the season. At present, he is still recovering from a cartilage operation. The Depot team has hopefully entered several Northern sevens tournaments on the off-chance of getting a swift trip to the Middlesex competitions!

Officers Mess

The social calendar is pleasantly full for the first five months of the year. A ladies guest night was held in early January and proved a great success, though "many a bob" was lost on the roulette. On February 6 a guest night was held when the RSM, WO1 Webb, Green Howards, and the Superintendent Clerk, WO1 Angell, Green Howards, were dined out. Both are shortly to retire and their wit and experience will be sorely missed in their respective departments. Two imminent departures are Jerry Bird and Jeremy Kerr. Jerry is off to join Shell BP, and we wish him the best of luck. Jeremy is getting married. We wish him and his prospective bride health and happiness. A record was set up in the Mess on February 10 when eight "Dukes" were present at the lunch after the FFR Inspection, outnumbering all the other regiments—Majors Cowell, Newton, Capts. Newell, Westcob and Lts. Jowett, Palmer, Bird and Gilbert.

Retirement of Range Warden

Mr. Young, or Charlie as he was known to many, has retired after nearly 33 years as a Chief Range Warden on the Strensall Ranges. He is, no doubt, known to many, not only those who have passed through the Depot in its present form, but many reserve and TA soldiers. His example of loyal service is outstanding. Before the war Charles was in the Warwickshire Regiment and was personal batman to Field-Marshal Montgomery whom he had the honour to meet recently. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

THE WEST RIDING BATTALION CADRE

First, we must say farewell, and thank you, to Major Brian Webster, TD, and Lt. David Cole who have both resigned from the Cadre. We are now commanded by Major K. M. McDonald, TD, BA. Owing to the change of command taking place on November 1, 1969, no notes appeared in the last issue, for which we apologise.

The usual question asked is "What does the Cadre do?" The answer is "Just about everything". So far the work has been of a purely administrative nature with everyone settling into run our orderly room reasonably efficiently so as to be ready for expansion should the need arise. But, with camp in Germany this year, a programme has been drawn up to enable all to brush up on weapons and wireless.

It is amazing how much time is taken up running the Drill Hall where we have other lodger units—two platoons of the Yorkshire Volunteers, the Army Cadet Force and, shortly, the Air Training Corps—and seeing that all sectional interests are sublimated and channelled into the good of the whole (easier said than done).

We have formed an Association for all ranks, and a programme of events will be published shortly. In the Officers Mess there is a mess night on the third Thursday of each month, enabling all officers to keep in touch and ensuring that the name of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment is kept in the public eye both in Huddersfield and Halifax.

We have, unofficially, a very good band which does splendid work in this sphere; their engagement book is filled both with outdoor ceremonies and indoor concerts and the enthusiastic acclaim at every engagement denotes their popularity.

So, all in all, the Cadre is very much alive and determined to give of its best and not get too obsessed with paper work.

We look forward to visits from Colonel Tony Hutton and the GOC, The Earl Cathcart, in the near future.

We regret that we have received no notes for this issue from 'C' Company, The Yorkshire Volunteers.

THE ARMY CADET FORCE

HUDDERSFIELD AREA (DWR)

"Imprimatur" ("let it be printed") is the cry from "Dukes" cadets as we chalk up another quarter-year of success in THE IRON DUKE.

Champions

Capt. Doug Bennett and his Skipton Detachment bring home to the Huddersfield Area, in magnificent style, the "Barnsley Efficiency Shield and Trophy", having competed with some 61 WR-ACF Detachments, and being finally adjudicated as the most efficient detachment for the year. Well done, Skipton.

The Area as a whole had a near miss in achieving second position (99.66 points) to Leeds Area (103 points) for "The Turnbull Trophy", awarded annually for the most efficient area. Congratulations, Leeds—pity about next year.

Comings and Goings

We welcome into the area SIs John Abel and Bob Durston, who join detachments at Halifax and Thongsbridge respectively. It should be noticed that Bob Durston has vacated the sheltered cloisters of CCF to "rough it" with the ACF, and clearly we have a case of "their loss, our gain".

SIs Stephen Knights and John Brezikis leave the fold for careers with the Regular Army—good luck to them both, we shall miss their youthful vigour.

Strensall

November and February heralded the return of the Area to the CTC Strensall and, on the latter

occasion, the adults were addressed by two eminent "Dukes", in Lt.-Col. T. Horsfall of the County Staff on "Orienteering" and Major D. C. Roberts, Cadet Executive with the TAVR Association, on "Administration". Regrettably, yet a further "Duke" was unable to be with us in Major R. E. Sugden, also from the TAVRA, due to an orienteering commitment. Capt. Tom Rumble ably completed a useful afternoon by indicating to us the latest techniques in the control of stores. Meanwhile, the Cadets, not the least reason for our presence at Strensall, received a "crash" programme on the LMG (still no GPMGs as yet) at the hands of Capt. Peter Rogerson and his excellent Cadet Training Team.

We look forward to our next visit to Strensall on March 21-22, when once again we shall be privileged to receive a visit from Major-General The Earl Cathcart, GOC Yorkshire District.

Social Activities

Saturday, December 6, witnessed an innovation for the Area—an officers' dinner night—and what a splendid evening emerged. SI Bill Fitzgerald and team truly excelled themselves with a first-rate dinner, served impeccably, amidst the splendour of the Officers Mess at St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield. Principal guests included Major Keith McDonald of the DWR Cadre, and Lt.-Col. C. G. Delaney, Assistant Deputy Commandant (WR-ACF South). With us also on the occasion was Lt. "Toby" Hirst who, it is interesting to note, emulated his father and grandfather, being the

third "Duke" of the family to dine in the Huddersfield Mess.

Annual Inspections

Lt.-Col. E. M. P. Hardy, OC Yorkshire Volunteers, spearheaded the annual inspections and, although the reports have yet to be published, we have our hopes that all is well. Fair, just, and not unreasonably critical was the experience in the detachments, and we neither ask nor expect anything more. Col. Hardy clearly took an interest in our affairs and he consistently urged close liaison with his company commanders and their staff. This we have adopted as our primary aim and we look forward to a progressive future to our mutual benefit.

A most hearty "well done" to Lt. John Evans and his Mirfield Detachment on obtaining an "excellent" grading in the annual DDEME Small Arms Inspections. All other area detachments achieved a "Very Good" which is, of course, a very high standard.

Sport

Back into the news are Skipton Detachment upon winning the WR-ACF Cross-Country Championships. Keighley Detachment, commanded by Capt. George Johnson, came third. A first-class effort, and even greater success is envisaged for both detachments in the sporting field.

Conclusion

All is most decidedly well within the Area. Recruiting remains constant at a very high level.

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NO. 10 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

It appears to be some time since there was a mention of the team in THE IRON DUKE, and 1970 is probably as good a time as any to reintroduce ourselves.

Since the Youth Team was started in 1963 its fortunes have steadily improved and its terms of reference have continually been altered. Most of our time is now spent in giving instruction in outdoor activities to local schools by day and assisting the Huddersfield Area Cadets (DWR) and a small number of youth clubs at night. The RAF are getting a greatly increased number of recruits as a result, a rumour has it that they have shelved their own plans for a youth team!

1969 was a most successful year, with a large number of weekend camps in the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales. We also had a very pleasant two weeks at Warcop with the ACF in July. August brought the departure of Capt. Johnny Moir who has gone to the RAOC, where we wish him all the best; he was replaced by Lt. Toby Hirst, a native of Huddersfield. The highlight of the year was in October when we took 60 schoolchildren from Huddersfield on an eight-day camp at Wharfedale. During the course of events we lost a caravan, due to a collapsed roof and a broken wheel, wrote off a mini-bus and gained a few extra pounds' weight due to Sgt. Tom Martin's cooking, which was first class. (It is regrettable that not all the children held this high opinion of his cooking.)

In December we held a party for some of the people concerned with youth work in the Huddersfield and Halifax area at the West Riding Battalion (DWR) Drill Hall. It made a very pleasant change to be able to repay some of the hospitality shown to us throughout 1969 by local organisations, and a very enjoyable evening was had by those who came.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Bill Parker in December. He did sterling work on the Youth Team for a number of years and is still very well remembered in the area.

In the near future, overall control of recruiting in the area is going to pass into the hands of Yorkshire District, and we are delighted to have a strong "Dukes" representation at Yarm in the form of Major Jim Newton, who is the DAAG, and Major David Cowell, who is GSO 2 (Cadets). We look forward to seeing them in Huddersfield occasionally.

Members of the team at present are:

Lt. Toby Hirst,
Sgt. Tom Martin,
L/Cpl. Mike Shaw,
L/Cpl. Ken Miller,
Pte. Tony Burke.

The nominal role of the team's dependants will soon be increased by Cpl. Mike Shaw's marriage in March, and we wish them both well in the years to come.

PERSONALIA

Marriage

Costello—Sugden

The marriage took place on February 3, 1970, in Slough, Bucks, between Lt.-Commander Frederick Anthony Costello, RN (Retd.), son of Mr. and Mrs. David Costello, of Waterford and Dublin, and Rachel Watt Sugden, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs. Roger Sugden of Shipton-by-Beningbrough, York.

Major Sugden writes that some "Dukes" may remember the bridegroom who was in a submarine based on Gibraltar while the 1st Battalion was there.

Golden Weddings

Gledhill

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Gledhill, of 24 Bellevue Rise, Shelf, on their golden wedding which they celebrated on November 6, 1969.

Mr. Gledhill served for 22 years in 1 DWR. After leaving the army Mr. Gledhill was a foreman in the textile mill of E. Illingworth & Co., at Shelf and, although officially retired, still works on half days.

In his spare time, one of Mr. Gledhill's occupations is watch repairing which has been his hobby for 40 years.

Hartley

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hartley who celebrated their golden wedding on February 12.

Mr. Hartley joined 2 DWR in 1912, his father having also served in The Duke's, and reached the rank of colour sergeant. He was wounded and captured in late 1914 spending the rest of the war as a prisoner.

We congratulate Mr. Jackie Horne, of 9 New Street, Slaithwaite, on the presentation of the BLESMA meritorious service certificate for long service.

He joined The Duke's in 1917 and first saw action when 15 years old. His 28 years of service ended in 1945 when he was discharged as a result of his injuries in the 1944 Normandy landings. He later lost an arm and the sight of one eye as a result of his wounds.

Mr. Horne is an enthusiastic supporter of the OCA and secretary of the Huddersfield Branch.

We also congratulate Major R. R. St. J. Berkshire who has been selected to Command the HAC in August 1970.

Mr. W. Watson (78), late of the 2/7th Battalion DWR, has joined Steve North (91) in the British Legion home, Lister House, Sharrow, near Ripon, followed closely by Mr. R. Gledhill of the 4th Battalion. Both were full of praise for the home and its staff. Old Steve had decided recently to go back to Holmfirth and was only just dissuaded from

getting on a Huddersfield bus and going AWOL. He said it was too cold now, but he'd try again when it got warmer.

Lt.-Col. John Coulter writes from Melbourne, Australia, where he and his wife emigrated in 1968 to be nearer their daughter, Pam.

THE IRON DUKE, showing the renewal of the honorary colours, brought back many memories to him as he still has in his wallet snippets of the silk from the old honorary colours repaired by Mrs. Dalton when the 2nd Battalion was in Multan.

In January, after a lapse of some years, Miss Patricia Ozanne entered for her 10th Monte Carlo Rally, driving her own Mini Cooper. In the final stages the car in front of her, a Hillman Imp with a Greek crew, skidded off the road and crashed 600ft down the mountainside. "Tish" Ozanne and her co-driver climbed down and rendered first aid and stayed with the men until an ambulance arrived.

This meant the end of the "Monte" for the girls but they earned the praise and thanks of the rally officials and a cordial invitation from the President of the Greek Automobile Club to take part in the Rally Acropolis next year at the Club's expense.

Meanwhile, Miss Ozanne is to compete in the

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16,000 mile "World Cup Rally" which starts from Wembley Stadium in April and eventually ends up (for those who get there) in Mexico City for the World Cup on May 27. Miss Ozanne has booked a room there "just in case". Marshalls of Cambridge are providing her with their Dayton-tuned Austin Maxi for this gruelling marathon.

Major Fawkes N. Potts (better, and not unnaturally, known as Guy) left Huddersfield recently to take up a three-year engagement with the Abu Dhabi Defence Force.

Major Potts was in the 7th Battalion before the war and served with the 1st Battalion in North Africa, Italy and Palestine. After the war he was on the War Crimes Commission in Germany. Later, he took a regular commission in the RAOC and served in Korea, Japan and Cyprus. For the past seven years he has been on the HQ Staff of Brigade of Gurkhas in Nepal.

The Abu Dhabi Defence Force is being enlarged following the announcement of the withdrawal of British troops by the end of 1971.

Alderman Albert Berry, who is to become Halifax's next Mayor in May, is a former member of the Territorial unit at Prescott Street Drill Hall which was converted from the 4th Battalion, DWR, to the 58th Anti-Tank Regiment before the last war.

Alderman Berry, who is 48, has been an alderman for five years and is leader of the Labour group on the Town Council which he joined in 1952.

He enlisted in the 58th in 1939 (he was then a year under age) and later transferred to the second line regiment, the 68th, with which he served for the duration. His wife, who will be his Mayoress, is a native of Colchester and met her husband while serving in the ATS. They have a married son and daughter.

A former Halifax man whose home is now in Johannesburg found his thoughts directed home-wards the other day when on holiday in Capetown.

He is Mr. J. K. Hodgson who trained as a journalist on the staff of the *Halifax Evening Courier* but who has been in South Africa for the past 20 years. He was on holiday with his wife in Capetown and was wandering round a secondhand shop when he came across what he describes as "a very attractive oak plaque on which is carved the crest of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment".

The plaque is circular, about 7½ in diameter and 1½ in thick. On a piece of paper on the back is noted "Carved for York Minster Duke of Wellington's Regiment by Wilfred J. Milburn personally". There is nothing to explain how it got to Capetown or why, indeed, it isn't in York Minster.

There is no record in RHQ as to when or why this plaque was carved. We do know that W. J. Milburn, who died in 1949, was a well-known sculptor. He worked at Varville's Court, Micklegate, York. Examples of his work are in St. James's Cathedral, Toronto, St. Wilfred's, York, and in other Catholic churches.

Obituary

We deeply regret to report the following deaths and, on behalf of the Regiment, offer our sincere sympathy to the relatives of those deceased.

Mr. D. Beverley

Douglas Beverley died in hospital in Leeds at the age of 51.

He joined The Duke's at the beginning of the last war and was a technical sergeant with 2/7th when taken prisoner in 1940 in France. He was interned in a camp in Poland and subsequently mentioned in dispatches for organising escapes. In 1945 he made his own escape, returning to England via Russia.

Mr. Beverley was appointed Mayor's Secretary in Huddersfield in April 1962.

Mr. G. Hallsworth

Many members of the 7th Battalion during the 1920s and 1930s will learn with regret of the death of George Hallsworth.

Having served with an artillery regiment during the 1914-18 war, he joined the 7th in the early 1920s and became well known as a member of the officers mess staff, barman at the canteen at Mossley

and, later, wearing three stripes, in charge of the sergeants mess.

He served with the 1/7th in the early part of the last war but was left behind when the Battalion went abroad in April 1940 and went back to his civilian job.

The last two years of his life was saddened by the disabling effects of a stroke. He died on February 9, 1969, aged 72.

Mr. C. B. Hopkinson

Ex-CSM C. B. Hopkinson died on August 8, 1969, after some months of illness.

He was one of our oldest Territorial soldiers, having joined the 7th DWR on formation in 1908. He went to France with the Battalion in April 1915 as CSM of "D" Company, but was quite soon wounded and returned to the Reserve Battalion in England, where he was employed for the rest of the war as an instructor.

There he started quite a distinguished career as an athlete, winning innumerable trophies, chiefly for the 440 yards and long jump, and was a member of the British team in the Empire Games in 1919.

After the war his great interests were the British

Legion, in which he was a leading local figure ever since its formation, and the local council. He was a member of the Saddleworth UDC for 29 years, twice its chairman, and a most enthusiastic supporter of all good causes in the district. His name is perpetuated in Hopkinson Close, a block of old people's flats in Uppermill.

Mr. J. Iredale

Jack Iredale died in Huddersfield on January 29, 1970.

Jack was the cheery Regimental Butcher of the 7th Battalion with whom he served before and after demobilisation.

Clem Hellowell, George Machen and Jackie Horne attended the funeral.

Major J. G. Lepper

Major Lepper died on December 9, 1969. He was 77 years old.

John Lepper, who was born in Bromley in 1892, was gazetted as a second-lieutenant to the 5th (TF) Battalion, West Kent Regiment, in February 1910. With this battalion he was mobilized and sailed for India in October 1914, thence to Mesopotamia with the MEF in 1916, where he was appointed GSO 3, 14 Indian Division, and in 1919 to Constantinople where he held a number of appointments in intelligence and counter espionage, reaching the rank of major.

In 1921 he was commissioned to The Duke's as a lieutenant and joined the 2nd Battalion in Aldershot in 1922. In October of that year he was appointed adjutant of the Battalion and served in that capacity during the 2nd's posting to Cairo. He retired with a gratuity in 1926.

He then went into Malcolm Campbell (London) Ltd. until 1931 when he left to go as Manager, Swanzy Transport Ltd., Sekondi, Gold Coast. In 1933 he became Transport Manager, Compagnie Française Côte D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast and Upper Volta). In 1935 he joined Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd., now known as Texaco Ltd., and remained with them until 1957 when he retired.

In 1940, however, he reported to the ITC, DWR, for duty. After a short period with the 50th Battalion, Rotherham, he was posted as GSO 3 Cambridge Area, and spent the remainder of the war in staff appointments in East Anglia, again reaching the rank of major.

Although his active period of service with the Regiment was short he remained a very keen and loyal "Duke" and was a regular attendee at the Regimental Dinner, while the passing years sat lightly on his tall, spare figure. He was also a member of the British Legion in which he took great interest. He loved motor racing which he did with his great friend Sir Malcolm Campbell.

He was married on September 12, 1936, and leaves a widow, Audrey, and a daughter.

Mr. J. S. Oakes

James Oakes died in Rosetown, near Saskatoon in Canada. He served in The Duke's in two world wars. In the first he rose to the rank of CSM and

was gazetted second-lieutenant in 1918.

After demobilisation he continued to serve with the Territorials at Milnsbridge Drill Hall and at the outbreak of the last war became RQMS with 2/7th DWR.

He again saw service in France and just after Dunkirk escaped from St. Valerie with a party of men. He was mentioned in dispatches.

Mr. D. Moorby

Mr. Moorby died at Hebden Bridge in December 1969, aged 42.

Col. J. C. Moncrieff writes:

Pte. Moorby was one of the characters of the old West Riding Battalion. He was one of those soldiers without whom no battalion can run, but sergeant-majors were not very keen to have him on parade so he was permanently employed in the Officers Mess.

The highlight of his regimental year came at the middle weekend of camp with the arrival of the Colonel of the Regiment, the Honorary Colonel and other guests, all with kit to clean. This made him temporarily a key figure in the Battalion. At the end of camp he was usually to be found wandering hopefully round the officers' car park after the departure of the main body.

He was a postman by trade and, like all postmen in small communities, he took a great interest in the mail he delivered. He was always cross when any mail was addressed to Major J. C. Moncrieff after I had assumed command of the Battalion. When I saw him, as I often did, in the street or in the local, I always had an immediate summary of any recent battalion activity, during which summary I would be addressed variously as "Colonel", "Sir", "Mr." and "Jim". He would have liked to have been a lance-corporal and often told me so.

He was a popular, loyal, hardworking, if somewhat unmilitary, member of the Battalion. One thing is certain: wherever he is now he will be dressed in denims diligently searching out any "Dukes" officers who may require his assistance.

He leaves a widow and children.

Mr. J. W. Parker

Bill Parker, recently a sergeant with 1 DWR, died at Huddersfield on January 9, 1970, after a short illness, aged 47. He joined The Duke's in July 1957, transferring from the RMP.

Over six feet in height he was a fine figure of a man who always made a good impression, and it comes as quite a shock to hear of his death. He will long be remembered in the Regiment because of his connections with the rugby team and as Provost Sergeant. When he left the 1st Battalion he was with the Regimental Recruiting team, which later became No. 10 Army Youth Team, taking his discharge in 1966 to become an assistant secretary with Huddersfield Rugby League Club at Fartown. His passion for rugby followed him into civil life. He was cremated at Huddersfield on January 14. CSM Norman, Sgts. Hall and Hughes of The Duke's acted as pall bearers with three members of the Huddersfield Rugby League Club. He leaves a

widow, three sons, of whom two are serving in the Royal Navy, and two daughters.

Mr. F. A. Simpson

Mr. Simpson died on December 9, 1969, at 158 Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury, aged 69. He served with 2 DWR in Egypt, Singapore and India from 1922-29 under command of Col. Pickering. He was employed as silverman in the officers mess.

He was a keen member of the Old Comrades' Association and helped with the formation of the Leeds Branch. Up to the time of his death he attended the main regimental functions.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Maud Annie Simpson.

Lt.-Col. C. F. Tissington, MC, TD

The death occurred on December 1, 1969, at his home in Lyme Regis, of Lt.-Col. Tissington who was, in the first years of the last war, a very popular second-in-command of the 1/7th DWR.

Commissioned into the 2/7th Battalion shortly before the war, he was transferred to the 1/7th when war broke out and served as second-in-command until the return of the Battalion from Iceland in

1942 when he took over command of the 1/6th Battalion until 1944.

During his period with the 1/7th "Tissie" was a tower of strength and his first-war experience gave a feeling of confidence to the younger officers. On one occasion he gave the whole Battalion a fright. Early in 1940 the Brigade had been chosen to attack Trondheim frontally. As a survivor of the Gallipoli campaign—he had been a bugler there with the Lancashire Fusiliers—"Tissie" addressed the Battalion on the landing from the *River Clyde* and caused some consternation by his description of climbing ashore over the bodies of the first 10 waves of assaulting troops.

Many will remember, too, how "Tissie" prevented a panic when a live artillery barrage during an exercise crept backwards towards the 1/7th instead of advancing in front of them. "Tissie" remained standing, although slightly wounded by a shell splinter, and kept everybody calm until the gunners were made to realise what was happening.

After the war, "Tissie" moved from Yorkshire to Axminster and carried on there a very successful business as manufacturer and renovator of sacks for agriculture. He leaves a widow and two daughters.

A Passage to India

Sax stood at the head of our mess table on the Somersetshire. In his hands was a very raw turkey—our Christmas dinner, and we numbered 22 hungry young soldiers.

He had tried to carve it with the regulation knife and fork but had given that up as a bad job and now his two hands had the bird by its legs to tear it apart when the captain of the ship arrived to wish us the season's greetings. They both saw the funny side of the business but we were not amused. The crew had been too drunk to make any breakfast and now it was the dinner. Never mind, there was always the Christmas pudding. That, too, was raw, but Pte. Griffin was so hungry he sat down and ate the lot.

Pte. Eley, a well-known character, was in festive mood. He volunteered to go and get the 22 rations of beer—one pint per man. We waited and waited but never home came he. Sax found him lying in the scuppers, drunk and incapable, and there and then he made him incapable for a little longer. Eley was on sentry that night so, to keep him out of trouble, Sax, like the good-hearted soul he is, volunteered to do the duty.

Ship's tea consisted of hard tack and watery cocoa, and that led to a fight with a draft of the Royal Tank Corps who, like us, were fed up to the teeth. The Orderly Officer intervened and peace reigned there that Christmas day of 1937.

Albert Hull climbed into the boxing ring. In his hand a comb and a glass. A bit of a dandy was our Albert, and we "Dukes" knew him to be a wonderful boxer, but the other troops had other ideas and thought him a little bit queer until he got to work with his left and showed everyone his skill. His

opponent, a trooper out of the 17/21 Lancers, was no mug and finding Albert's chin open put our gay lad on his back. That would have been all right if he had not committed the cardinal sin of ruffling Albert's hair. He hated it. I heard him say to his seconds, "Ee ruffled ma 'air". No one could do that to him and get away with it and Albert came out of his corner to give the finest display I have ever seen from an Army boxer. The whole audience rose to him and Captain Cullen, the ship's master, called him over to his seat and added his congratulations.

Before leaving this fine sportsman let me tell you a story of when Albert was a prisoner of war in Rangoon. The late Col. Kenneth Mackenzie, IMS, who was over 50 years of age when he was captured, found himself in Rangoon along with a lot of our regiment. In his book "Operation Rangoon Jail" he describes how the younger men kept him alive with gifts of food. Two men he specially mentioned: Albert Hull and Cushy Mason. (The latter was a well-known NCO pre-war and was commissioned during the war.) The Colonel tells how Albert would sidle up to him and give him gifts of food and, now and then, eggs. I can picture Albert, no respecter of rank, saying to the older man: "Eere lad, thee needs these". And he would be away on the scrounge for more. I fancy even the Japs liked Albert. He was that sort.

A young man in white PT kit and white sweater came along the deck breathing fire and brimstone to any "Duke" not on the officers' deck for PT. I was one and hurried to the deck muttering to myself, "Who is this so and so? Is he a 'Duke'? I resent him if he is not", etc. The PT was good fun and we all enjoyed ourselves and later we were to know

a very popular young officer who, like us, was going out to join the 2nd Battalion. 2/Lt. Jimmy Lunt. I carried his parents home from India when I was trooping and I told them this story and they enjoyed the telling.

It was midnight and 32 "Dukes" had agreed to get up and go to midnight mass if I woke them. We trooped to the officers' lounge and took part in a very moving experience. There were men there of many a varied nationality and colour (something new to me) and we were approaching the place where it all began. We arrived at Port Said on Christmas morning about 11 a.m.

That afternoon we moved down the Suez Canal to watch the scenes of our first visit to the East. Aden and Guinea Gold cigarettes, 10 for 1d., and I got a few thrills buying these horrible cigarettes from the bum boats.

India was getting near and a colonel in the Indian Army, McAndrews, gave us a lecture on that country. Someone at the back shouted out, "Stop bugging your load" as the Colonel mentioned he had served 29 years in India. A good yarn, and also plenty of reading from a good ship's library, prepared me for the long time that I had to spend in the country lots of us know well. We docked about midnight January 3, 1938, and disembarked next day ready to go by troop train to Multan and another story from,

IMRAY.

Correspondence

A CRICKET RECORD?

From Major C. H. Taylor, OBE

Sir,

The result of the cricket match between 2 DWR and an RIASC side in 1937 was grand to read in your last issue. In that match the RIASC made 92 in their two innings. The note ends with—"A Regimental record, perhaps?"

May I mention the final of the Governor's Cup in Malta in 1936? This took place between 1 DWR and the RAF, Malta. The latter had beaten the Rifle Brigade in the semi-final, largely due to an airman who produced the cow shot, with every "cow" either going over the ropes or into the hands of a rifleman who promptly dropped the catch. He made about 130. I add that the Rifle Brigade had three members who had played for the Army and other good players.

It was this RAF team, with their tails right up, that we met in the final. We won the toss, made about 360 and declared and left the RAF an hour or so to bat. They made about 27 all out and lost another three wickets before the end of the day's play. A message was received from Willie Woods (the Garrison sports officer) that, on the second day, we had got to keep the game going until 3 o'clock when the Air Force "Top Brass" would arrive.

Now competitive cricket is competitive cricket, so we started again with Pat Cousins at one end and L/Cpl. Dearnley at the other and three more wickets went down. I then put on Bertie Beutler and myself—probably the worst two bowlers in the

whole Army—with the threat that if he took a wicket he would end up in the guard room. After about four or five of the dullest overs ever, he did just that.

As we were all recovering from the shock I saw the Great Man arrive so put Cousins and Dearnley back, and that was that. All out for 33. A total of 60 for the two innings. They were both grand regimental bowlers and they were backed by a side whose members held their catches.

As a footnote I would add that we won both the Governor's Cup and the Soldiers' Cup which had not been done since The Duke's did so in the early 1880s.

May I sign myself off by a name which has long since been forgotten:

THE FARMER'S LAD.

Glazely Old Rectory,
Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

BOOK REVIEW

Montgomery—*The Field-Marshal*, by R. W. Thompson (George Allan & Unwin Ltd.—£2 5s. 0d.).

A critical assessment of the Field-Marshal's generalship and of the achievements of 21st Army Group in N.W. Europe 1944-45.

Students of military history will not discover much that is new to them in this lively and interesting book, but it is a comprehensive study of the Field-Marshal's personal military talents, his strategy, and the achievement of his troops.

Tribute is rightly paid to Montgomery's success in building up the morale and confidence of his Army before D-Day through his infectious self-confidence and understanding of soldiers. In the campaign itself there was great confidence throughout the Army in its commander and in the conduct of operations, and this contributed greatly to many successes.

Just and unreserved praise is given to the Field-Marshal's conduct of operations in Normandy and to the courage and determination of the British and Canadian troops. The final and overwhelming victory at Falaise was the direct result of his strategical and tactical leadership.

The accounts of the strains and stresses in Montgomery's relations with his American allies make sad reading, as does the carping criticism of the Field-Marshal by some senior British staff officers at Supreme Headquarters. He was sadly quite unaware of the irritation he so often provoked.

The failure to open the port of Antwerp and the Scheldt when the way lay open was a serious mistake which later involved the Canadians in bitter fighting.

Many readers will not agree with the author's final assessment of Montgomery's place in military history. The writer believes that no commander could have got more out of his armies, often in the most testing conditions and through prolonged periods of heavy fighting and physical strain. This is reflected in his great personal popularity today among his old soldiers and their families.

K.G.E.

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THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

A personal note from the General Secretary, Mr. Arthur Wood.

In this issue I would like to take the opportunity of making myself known, to republish the main aim and purpose of the Association and to add my own personal views on how we can collectively take advantage of the facilities this fine Association offers.

Stepping into the shoes of Sid Code is both rewarding and exacting. Rewarding in as much as his tireless and enthusiastic work for many years past has helped to leave a very sound and healthy organisation. Exacting in as much as any person worth his salt must maintain a standard, at least equal to that of his predecessor and, if possible, improve it.

In 1939 Brigadier H. G. P. (Bonzo) Miles, then Captain and Adjutant of 7 DWR, whether by the allure of an "unpaid lance-jack stripe" or by his persuasive manner in explaining to me the value and importance of "administrative types" in helping to "maintain the morale of the soldiers in the knowledge that their personal interests and dependants were being looked after", enticed a rather reluctant "boyo" into Battalion HQ. Apart from a few months release to civvy street in 1946 it has been my lot to comply with that very wise philosophy. Whilst it is not a glamorous job, maybe at times a dull one, I find a quiet satisfaction through being in a position to help others, especially in my latest appointment as General Secretary of The Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association.

The purpose and aim of the Association is two-fold and I quote from the Membership Book:

- (1) To maintain and promote *esprit de corps* and fellowship between all serving and past members of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and to recommend the Regiment to suitable men and boys who are desirous of joining the Army. To circulate information about the Regiment among members of the Association.
- (2) To receive and distribute on behalf of the Trustees any charitable or relief funds connected with or existing for the benefit of the Regiment in accordance with the conditions of such funds. These funds exist for the assistance of members and ex-members of the Regiment, their wives and dependants who may be in difficulty of distress.

The Regimental Association Headquarters is housed with RHQ DWR at Wellesley Park, High-road Well, Halifax (telephone Halifax 61671), and an invitation is extended to all members and ex-members of the Regiment to visit us whenever in the area.

Major John Davis is the Regimental Secretary of RHQ DWR. I am the General Secretary of the Regimental Association, and for assistance we have Mrs. Joan Fish, typist, Mr. R. A. (Victor) Prince as storeman and Mrs. Smith as cleaner.

The DWR Regimental Museum, Curator Mr. R. A. Innes, is housed in the Bankfield Museum, Boothtown, Halifax.

Branches of our Association operate from:

Bradford

Secretary: Mr. J. Wardle,
31 Woodhall Avenue,
Thornbury, Bradford 3.

Meeting Place:
Belle Vue Barracks,
Manningham Lane, Bradford.

Date/Time:
Details from Branch Secretary.

Halifax

Secretary: Mr. F. Kennedy,
18 Mayfield Terrace South,
Halifax.

Meeting Place:
Wellington Hall,
Prescott Street, Halifax.

Date/Time:
First Wednesday in each month. 8 p.m.

Huddersfield

Secretary: Mr. J. Horne,
9 New Street,
Slaithwaite, Huddersfield.

Meeting Place:
Drill Hall,
St. Paul's St., Huddersfield.

Date/Time:
Last Friday in each month. 8 p.m.

Keighley

Secretary: Mr. W. G. Smith,
1 Beech Street,
Steeeton, Keighley.

Meeting Place and Date/Time:
In process of change.
Details from Branch Secretary.

London

Secretary: Mr. R. H. Temple,
59 Burnfoot Avenue,
Fulham, London SW6.

Meeting Place and Date/Time:
Details from Branch Secretary.

Mossley

Secretary: Mr. F. Shaw,
325 Stockport Rd.,
Mossley, Ashton-Under-Lyne,
Lancs.

Meeting Place:
Friendship Hotel,
Manchester Rd., Mossley, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancs.

Date/Time:
First Wednesday in each month. 8 p.m.

All serving and past members of the Regiment are cordially invited to attend any of these meetings and I am sure the Branch Secretaries will be pleased to answer any enquiries. These are exclusive clubs and their programmes are arranged to cater for the varied tastes of members. Throughout the year socials and outings are arranged between branches, also between other regiments' branches.

The following annual events are arranged:

- May London Branch Dinner (a full week-end in London for Yorkshiremen).
 Sep./Oct. Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner. Huddersfield and Halifax alternate years. This year at Halifax on September 26, 1970. Details later.
 Oct./Nov. Regimental Service, York. This year at Strensall on October 31, 1970.

I have found, in my various duties involving ex-soldiers and their dependants, that many would like to contact their old friends and fellow soldiers, but in these days of mobility, changes of occupation and residence, contacts get lost and I think we should use our HQ, through the medium of THE IRON DUKE, as an information centre to enable contacts to be renewed and the inimitable *esprit de corps* of all "Dukes" fostered and strengthened.

I can help. You've got my name and address. Write and let me know what you want and, with the machinery at our disposal, every effort will be made to get the information you require. In so doing we shall all be helping each other to keep in contact, retaining the old spirit that has made our name respected by friend and foe. Also, if you know or

hear of any ex-"Duke" or his dependants who are in distress or whom you think require a little help, let me have their name and address and immediate action will be taken to investigate their plight and alleviate their misfortune.

GENERAL NOTES

On November 1, 1969, over 100 members of the Association attended the Regimental Service which, this year, owing to the repairs being carried out on York Minster, was held in the Garrison Chapel, Strensall. In the afternoon parties visited York for shopping and sight-seeing and returned to the Sergeants Mess for a social evening that could have only one result—when organised by RSM J. W. Webb and RQMS Johnny Sargeant—laughter and song—which continued on the coaches on our way home to the West Riding.

Dave Benson, "Bug" Hammond and Bob Temple attended the Remembrance Service at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster and report that The Duke of Wellington's plot looked "a picture". Local Remembrance Day services were attended by individual branches and wreaths laid.

The 5th Battalion Old Comrades' Association held their 51st Annual General Meeting and Dinner at Huddersfield on November 7, 1969. Almost half of the number attending were first world war veterans. The officials are: President, Col. J. B. Sugden, T.D., D.L., J.P.; Chairman, Mr. J. T. Gilleard; Secretary, Mr. T. Skinner-Berkeley; Treasurer, Mr. J. Robinson.

The 4th Battalion Old Comrades' Association are having their next Annual General Meeting and Dinner at Halifax on April 18, 1970.

Branch Secretaries and their committees should now excel at party organising after the spate of social functions held during the last quarter. Inter-Branch socials at Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford and Mossley have been held and, as branch membership continues to increase, the number of "turns" increase (at one event volunteers were having to be turned down!). This bodes well for the future and, if the majority of our members may be considered "squares" by present-day trends, the mods, rockers, skin-heads and other "what-have-yous" are certainly missing out.

Another very pleasant and successful innovation has been a visit by, in the words of Jackie Horne, "the XXXIIIrd and LXXVth to the XXth of Foot, The Lancashire Fusiliers" to a social at Wellington Barracks, Bury, on December 6, 1969, and a return visit to a social at Huddersfield on January 10, 1970. Old friendships renewed, new friendships formed, ale and song vied for place—and that combination produced an atmosphere of true "military social splendour". Our thanks to the "Lancashire Dukes" (Mossley Branch) for their splendid support and unpaid interpreter duties. We shall extend our activities in this field of closer liaison between branches of other regiments with the promise of more varied functions at new places with new faces, new friendships within this "soldier masonry."

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THE BOER WAR

A diary of Capt. F. S. Exham

(February to March 1900)

This diary was written by my father during the Boer War. As many readers will know, the details of the operations of the 1st Battalion in this war are given in chapter 27 onwards of Lee's History of the Regiment. The period of the diary mentions the Relief of Kimberley, describes the Battle of Paardeberg and, in particular, shows the great hardship facing all ranks of the Battalion during this long march. The diary ends with an account of the entry of the Battalion into Bloemfontein on Wednesday, March 13, 1900, which completed the annexation of the Orange Free State.

R. K. E.

The Diary

Monday, 12th February

The Division left Enselin at 2 a.m. Owing to the size of the column (10,000 men) we marched very slowly, little over 2 miles an hour. Heard heavy gun firing about 8 a.m. Arrived at Ramah Dam at 11 a.m. Went in the afternoon to bathe in the Dam which was full of leeches.

Tuesday, 13th

Started 4 a.m. from Ramah Dam. Arrived 3 p.m. at Riet River, crossed it and camped on other side. On day-outpost until 8 p.m. Nothing to eat till 9 p.m. and then some mutton, the sheep having been caught two hours previously. The transport did not get over till midnight.

Wednesday, 14th

Left Riet River at 1 a.m. everyone very sleepy. Arrived at Jacobsdahl about mid-day. I boiled some water and made tea in my canteen, afterwards had a swim. On returning heard some rifle shots and told that the M.I. had been attacked near Jacobsdahl. Ordered out to support them. Came into action at 2,000 yards with A and E Companies in firing line. No casualties in Regiment but M.I. lost a few. Returned to camp about 8 p.m. and found that the rest of the Division had marched for the Modder.

Thursday, 15th

The Regiment started at midnight with the convoy. All very sleepy and impossible, almost, to keep awake at the various halts. Arrived at 10 a.m. dead tired. Heard that Cronje had retired from Majersfontein. Crossed the Modder and saw French's Cavalry Division start for the Relief of Kimberley. In the afternoon went down to the river where I saw Kelly Kenny who said he hoped we should have a rest the following day.

Friday, 16th

We had no such luck. The Brigade started 2 a.m. for Graspan to support M.I. Came into action about 5 a.m., the Glosters and Buffs on the left and

the Oxforde and ourselves on the right. By 12 noon we had driven the Boers out of first position. We lost one man of my Company who was killed close to me. I gave him some brandy from my flask, but he had been shot through the head and although he groaned a little I do not think that he was conscious. The Boers retired 2 miles further back, to a second position and, as we then heard that they were Cronje's rear guard, we had orders to attack them again. Took position with fixed bayonets, E Company leading. The Regiment lost 1 killed and 30 wounded. We camped by the river, tired out after our hard and exciting day.

Saturday, 17th

Marched at 6 a.m. in direction of Paardeberg along the Modder. Halted at 11 a.m. when we killed and ate some sheep. Marched again till 5 p.m. when we halted and had tea. Did not fill our water bottles as we were told we should halt by the river 5 miles further on. We marched through thick dust and did not halt till 10 p.m. very thirsty but, alas, no river.

Sunday, 18th

The Battle of Paardeberg. Awakened at 5 a.m. by having a tot of rum poured down my throat. Continued our march and suddenly heard heavy firing on the left, the M.I. having run into Cronje's force lying along the river bank. The Regiment, which was leading the Division, extended for attack and advanced on the river, one company behind another, each extended to about 10 paces. The Highland Brigade had joined us during the night and the Seaforths and Black Watch were on our left. The 18th Brigade were on our right 2,000 yards away. No cover excepting the ant heaps and very hot. Everyone suffered from thirst and felt that no number of bullets would keep us from the river. The firing very heavy. Got to within 500 yards of the river when the whole Regiment lined up and then advanced by alternate rushes with bayonets fixed. The Boers were seen to cross the river. A storm broke over us in the afternoon and the thunder mingling with the roar of the guns, the pompoms and the rifles can be better imagined than described. We dug trenches and lined the river. Our casualties were 28 killed and 100 wounded. Total casualties over a thousand.

Monday, 19th

Ordered to retire 3,000 yards which we did early in the morning. Great excitement about 10 a.m. as the Boers put up white flags and we understood that they had surrendered. However, nothing came of it. In the morning Roberts and Kitchener rode down the ranks and were cheered by the men. In the evening the Regiment ordered out to support

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our guns which were blazing away. The Regiment remained on outpost duty.

Tuesday, 20th

Expected a quiet day. My half Battalion went to bathe in the river. On returning found that the other half had been ordered out to assist in a demonstration and hurried after them. Was hit by a very spent bullet that night on outpost duty.

Wednesday, 21st

Just after dawn noticed to our astonishment that two regiments of the 7 Division, who had arrived during the night, were crossing the enemy's front close to the river. The enemy opened a heavy fire and they suffered severely, besides losing 5 wagons. Out Brigade attacked a kopje north of the river and dispersed 600 Boers, 30 taken prisoner. The Regiment was out all the morning and one man was wounded. All had a quiet night except C Company who were on outpost. My servant, who had been missing since the 18th, came in. He had had a touch of the sun by the river and had been put in the Field Hospital.

Thursday, 22nd

Quiet day. In the evening terrific thunder storm and 2 men were struck by lightning. The Regiment on outpost duty. Our guns fired a salvo.

Friday, 23rd

In the morning the kopje north of river was attacked by relieving force of Boers. Enemy repulsed. In the evening Regiment marched to river to join the 7th Brigade. Pouring rain. Halted at night between Kitchener's Kopje and river. E Company on outpost duty. Slept in a puddle.

Sunday, 25th

Rained all Saturday night again and I got soaked. Sniping on Sunday morning. In the afternoon I was sent out with 50 men to complete advanced work. Firing pretty heavy. Boer laager about 600 yards away. In the evening enemy, evidently expecting attack, directed very heavy fire on our covering parties for about 15 minutes. A dark night and no casualties. No rain for a change.

Monday, 26th

Sniping all day. Four men hit. Rumour that 200 Boers with Cronje intended to escape that night.

Tuesday, 27th

Majuba Day. More white flags out this morning. Heard officially about 7 a.m. that Cronje and force had surrendered. At 3 o'clock got orders to march back to our old camp. We bivouacked on left bank of river for the night.

Wednesday, 28th

Marched into old camp at Ostfontein about 8 a.m. In the afternoon went and bathed. We saw the Boer guns and rifles.

Friday to Tuesday, 1st-5th March

Still at Ostfontein having a quiet time. There

was very little to eat. Daily ration was 2 biscuits and some goat, which had to be put through a mincing machine to make it eatable. Two or three big thunderstorms and terrific lightning. Boers in position 5 miles in front. Numbers estimated at 8,000.

Wednesday, 6th

Marched out at 2.45 a.m. to attack Boer position. Our Division on left, 7th Division in centre and 9th Division on right across the Modder. Guards Brigade in support and the Cavalry also on the right. By 7 a.m. Boers in full retreat. Marched till 6.30 p.m. and arrived at Poplar Grove.

Friday, 8th

Rested for two days. Men and animals done up. Arrival of English mail.

Saturday, 9th

Arrived at Driefontein about 11 a.m. when 6th Division came into action. The Regiment with the convoy under shell fire. One shell, which did not explode, pitched under a team of mules drawing a wagon and knocked the whole team over. Essex and Welsh Regiments suffered severely. Enemy evacuated position about 5 p.m. Our total casualties were 400, about 50 Boers taken and 100 left dead on the field. On outpost duty that night.

Sunday to Tuesday, 10th-12th

Marched on these days to Salisbury Plain, Venters Vlei and Gregorowski Farm. Average distances about 14 miles. Leg very painful. Then heading for Bloemfontein.

Wednesday, 13th

Raining steadily. Marched till 4 a.m., halted for an hour and a half and then continued to 8 a.m. Told to march through Bloemfontein which was decorated with flags and people waving red, white and blue rosettes. A very attractive place, broad streets, shops principally English as also the people. The Free Staters had cleared out which explains satisfaction at seeing us. Marched past Lord Roberts and his Staff at the top of the town and then bivouacked about a mile outside. All rather done up having marched for 24 hours. Went down to the town in the evening and bought stores.

TAIL QUOTE

The soldier—that is, the great soldier—of today is not a romantic animal, dashing at forlorn hopes, animated by frantic sentiment, full of fancies as to a love-lady or a sovereign; but a quiet, grave man, busied in charts, exact in sums, master of the art of tactics, occupied in trivial detail; thinking, as the Duke of Wellington was said to do, *most* of the shoes of his soldiers; despising all manner of *éclat* and eloquence: perhaps, like Count Moltke, "silent in seven languages".

Walter Bagehot
1826-1877