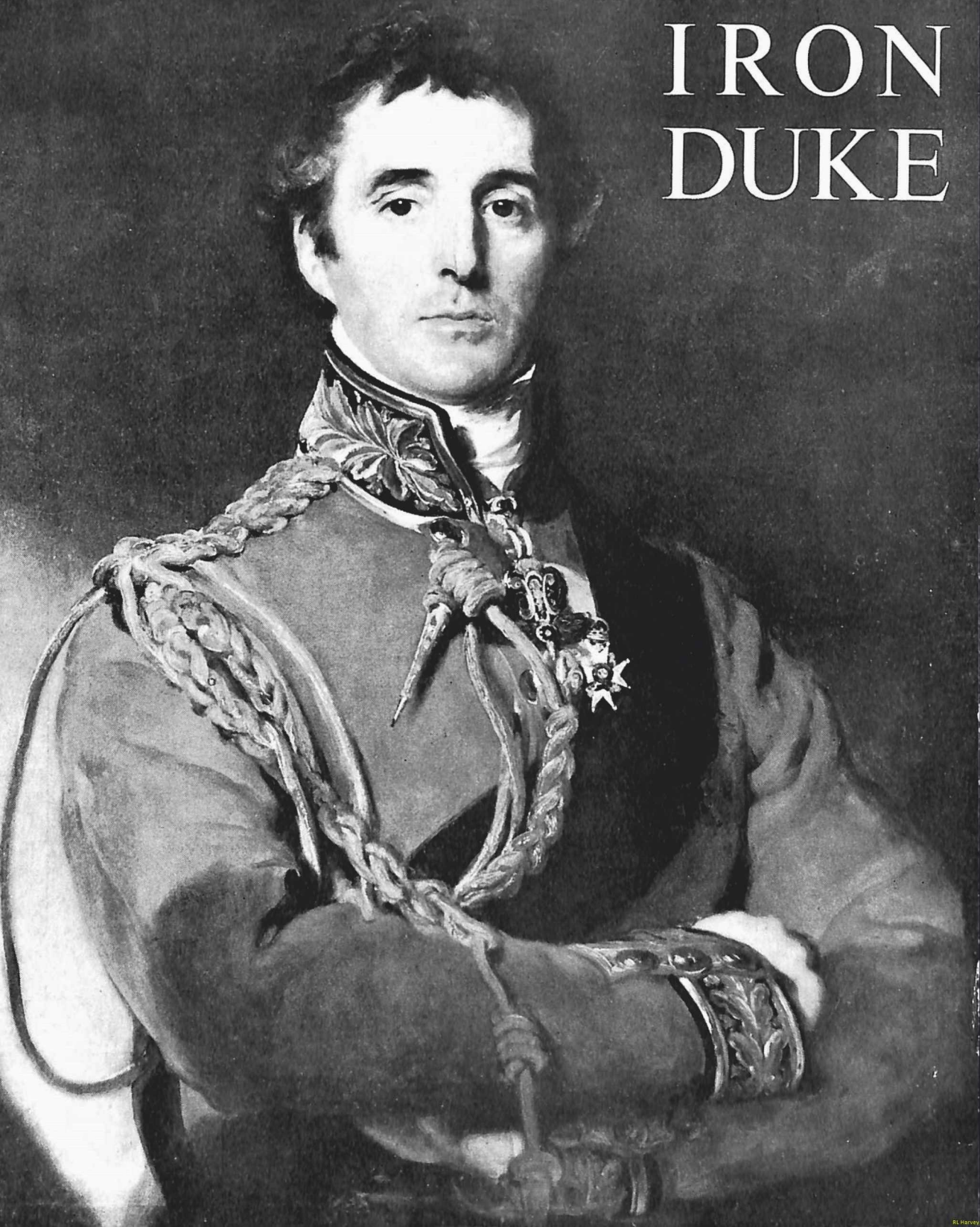


No.156 August 1971

THE
IRON
DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



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

Vol. XLVII

AUGUST 1971

No. 156

BUSINESS NOTES

Published three times a year — April, August, December.

Annual Subscription—£1 payable in advance to the Business Manager on February 1.

Editor: COLONEL R. G. TURNER,
13 AMHURST COURT,
GRANGE ROAD, CAMBRIDGE.
TEL.: 0223-50923

Business Manager: MAJOR C. F. GRIEVE,
WELLESLEY PARK, HALIFAX.
TEL.: 0422-61671

Copy for the December 1971 issue should reach the Editor by October 20, 1971.

Acknowledgement

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

CONTENTS

Notes and News	PAGE
1st Battalion	53
Officers' Dinner Club	78
Regimental Association	73
T. & A.V.R.	
"C" Coy., 1st Yorkshire Volunteers	71
"C" Coy., 3rd Yorkshire Volunteers	72
K.D. Depot Yorkshire	70
Army Cadet Force	76
Regular Features	
Correspondence	81
From the London Gazette	84
Appointments	71
Obituary	79
Personalia	77
Special Features	
Laying up of Honorary Colours	48
The Band in Venezuela	50
General Goodpaster's Speech	51
Commendation of Pte. R. Hill	80
Farewells: C.G.S. and General Bredin	52
76th Badges—1829-45	69
Reminiscences of a Chelsea Pensioner	83

Exercise Nelson's Touch



Photo PR, HQ 3rd Division

The Dawn Landing on the Mull of Kintyre

The Laying up of the Honorary Colours

On April 17 the Honorary Colours which were presented to the 2nd Battalion in Lichfield on October 20, 1906, by the fourth Duke of Wellington, and which were retired in Hong Kong, were laid up in the Bankfield Museum, Halifax.

The decision to place them in the museum rather than in a consecrated building was taken owing to the rapid deterioration which colours hung in a church or chapel inevitably suffer. It is hoped that in the museum these colours will be preserved in their present condition for many years.

The events of April 17 are reported in detail elsewhere in this issue. The 1st Battalion paraded on

the old Depot barrack square and, after inspection by the Mayor of Halifax, Alderman A. Berry, and the Colonel of the Regiment, exercised their privilege of marching through Halifax to the Drill Hall in Prescott Street.

There the men were fed and met old comrades. Meanwhile, the officers, serving and retired, were entertained by the Mayor to a buffet lunch. To mark the occasion, the Colonel of the Regiment presented the Mayor with a copy of General Lunt's history. At the request of the Mayor all "Dukes" present inscribed their signatures in the book.

After lunch, the Colours, with Burma Company



Photo Halifax Courier Ltd

The Colonel of the Regiment making his address

as escort, were drawn up outside the main entrance to the museum. The Colonel of the Regiment addressed the Mayor as follows:

Mr. Mayor,

The Honorary Colours you see before you, now on parade for the last time, were, after being duly consecrated, presented to the 2nd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment some 65 years ago. They were a link in the succession that began with the award of our Honorary Colours in 1803 for outstanding bravery and devotion to duty.

These two Honorary Colours have been carried in many parts of the world, on many memorable occasions. Finally, they in their turn were replaced in Hong Kong. The time has now come to put them in a secure and safe resting place.

These Colours have meant a lot to many "Dukes". We are proud of them as emblems unique in the British Army. We treasure them for their story. Spiritually and morally their importance cannot be measured.

Nearly 100 years ago, in 1873, The Duke's began their connection with Halifax, though of course their association with the West Riding is much older. We, the Regiment, are proud also of this link and value it. Therefore when you offered to provide a haven for our Colours and to safeguard them for us, we accepted gratefully.

Speaking for The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and speaking for all its members both past

and present, may I ask you, Mr. Mayor, on behalf of Halifax, to take charge of these Colours for us.

Treat them as we have treated them. Care for them as we have cared for them. Honour them as we honour them.

Let them continue to be seen, and be a reminder of some of the more important things in life—service to others, duty, loyalty and comradeship.

Now by our handing over our Colours and by your acceptance of the charge, we, The Duke's and Halifax, reaffirm the ties of respect and friendship that have existed for so long between us.

The Mayor accepted custody of the Colours on behalf of the people of Halifax and, after a blessing had been given by Bishop Treacey, Lord Bishop of Wakefield and Chaplain to the Regiment, they were marched into the museum. Here, in a very short space of time, Mr. Innes and his assistants had them mounted in a temporary position on the wall and the guests moved in to inspect them and the other exhibits of the museum.

The 1st Battalion's notes in this issue were written before they left Catterick for Northern Ireland, where they now are. We have had no news of them in Belfast but think that this is a case where it can truly be said that no news is good news. They will be much in the thoughts of all Old Comrades during their unenviable assignment.

The Band in Venezuela

The 1st Battalion Band had an unusual assignment in June when they formed part of a British delegation which flew to Venezuela to attend celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Carabobo.

We understand that Carabobo, which was fought on June 24, 1821, freed Venezuela from Spanish rule. It does not figure among any British regiment's battle honours but a force of British veterans, picked locally, took part. After the battle Simon Bolivar reported: "The British battalion, led by the worthy Colonel Ferriar, managed to distinguish itself among all those stout-hearted men, but it suffered heavy officer casualties".

The Band's own account of the visit must wait until our next issue but we are proud to print here the letter received by the Colonel of the Regiment from HM Ambassador in Caracas.

British Embassy, Caracas.

June 30, 1971.

My dear General,

I am writing to thank you for authorising the Band of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment to come to Venezuela as part of the British delegation invited to participate in the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Carabobo. You will, I am sure, be glad to hear that they performed magnificently.

They were (with the possible exceptions of Lord Eccles and myself) the most hard-worked members of the British delegation. They were kind enough to play at an evening reception at my Embassy only a few hours after arrival. The next evening they gave a public concert in the Plaza Bolivar in Caracas, to a crowd which I am told was larger than any since the days of the Revolution itself. This concert was also broadcast on nearly all the television channels. Next day they gave a special programme on national television, and on Carabobo Day itself, June 24, they led the British military contingent in the March Past, wearing their full dress uniforms in spite of the considerable heat and humidity.

On all these occasions, everyone remarked not only on the excellence of their performance but on their smart and cheerful bearing. It seems generally agreed that, in the presence of many other foreign delegations, "the British stole the show". If we did, a great deal of the credit must go to the band.

I am told also that their bearing and behaviour off parade was just as exemplary. They were deservedly popular with all concerned.

I should be grateful if you would pass this on to the Officer Commanding the First Battalion with my thanks and congratulations to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Hopson,
HM Ambassador.

Remarks by General A. J. Goodpaster, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, at the Farewell Ceremony for General Bray, SHAPE Belgium, November 27 1970

Our last issue carried a report of General Sir Robert Bray's farewell parade at SHAPE and mention was made of General Goodpaster's speech as being a tribute which should be printed in THE IRON DUKE for all "Dukes" to read.

We have obtained a copy of the speech by the courtesy of General Goodpaster's office and are pleased to be able to reproduce it here.

General Bray, Lady Bray, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

We are gathered here this morning to honour our departing Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, General Sir Robert Bray.

Today, General Bray leaves both the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe and his last active military assignment. He has served the cause of freedom for 42 years as a British Army officer in varied assignments around the world. Although many of his previous assignments were internationally oriented, his last two assignments were directly and deeply involved with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, in positions of great responsibility and trust.

As Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Northern Europe, from 1963 to 1966, General Bray developed within that international headquarters a team spirit and a strong feeling of solidarity that furthered the aims of our command and of NATO. This spirit had a most positive effect on relationships with the Ministries of Defence of the countries of the Northern Region. With these General Bray enjoyed an outstanding rapport, which has carried over most usefully in his present assignment.

Since March 1967, General Bray has served Allied Command Europe as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander with great distinction and dedication. His soldierly example, his unstinting devotion to the principles of the Atlantic Alliance and his wise counsel have been an inspiration to all of us at SHAPE and, indeed, to the whole of Allied Command Europe.

General Bray's distinguished military abilities were developed not only in times of peace but in the tests of war. He was commissioned in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, which is represented here today, after graduation from The Royal Military College at Sandhurst in 1928. In the Second World War and the Korean War, as a combat leader on the battlefields of Europe and Asia, General Bray conducted himself with conspicuous gallantry and outstanding leadership.

His broad experience has thus given him a perceptiveness and a sagacity which have been of great account in the decision-making processes of which he has been a vital part at SHAPE. In this respect, I know I speak for my predecessor, General Lemnitzer, in saying that General Bray has been

of immeasurable value in the role that he has played throughout Allied Command Europe as Deputy SACEUR. His deep knowledge of the various components of military forces of Allied Command Europe—the Allied armies, air forces and navies—has given him a perspective which has been of great assistance to us all in the accomplishment of our vital mission. His familiarity with the weapons systems of our multi-national forces and their employment, as well as his thorough understanding of the strategy of NATO, have contributed toward his success as Deputy—both here at SHAPE and as the representative of SACEUR on many exercises and on many missions to the capitals of our allied nations. The most important annual exercise here at SHAPE—SHAPEX—has been a matter entirely in General Bray's hands and was accomplished throughout his tour of duty in a most brilliant manner.

The high regard in which he is held by his associates, civilian and military alike, rests solidly upon his incisive reasoning, his unswerving dedication to duty and his integrity. A hallmark of his character has been his keen and unflinching interest in the welfare of others.

We esteem General Bray as a truly international officer, dedicated to the preservation of peace—the principal cause for which our Atlantic Alliance stands. He has epitomised the finest qualities of the soldier-statesman, and the contribution he has made to the successful accomplishment of the mission of Allied Command Europe has been truly outstanding.

To Lady Bray, who so beautifully exemplifies the gracious traits of an English lady and who has been at the General's side these many years, goes great credit, as we all know, for the contributions she has made in countless ways, both official and unofficial; all of which have played such an important part in our many day-to-day activities. Both General and Lady Bray have earned the deep gratitude and high esteem of all who have been fortunate enough to have served with them.

On the occasion of his departure from SHAPE and his retirement from active duty, we honour not only an outstanding soldier but a great friend.

With appreciation for the magnitude of your past services to us all, I know that I express the sentiments of all here assembled when I say to you, sir, and to Lady Bray, good health, happiness and God-speed.

Farewell Messages

From General Bredin

Major-General H. E. N. Bredin, CB, DSO, MC, who has been Colonel Commandant of the King's Division since its formation, handed over to his successor, Major-General J. H. S. Majury, MBE, on April 30, 1971.

We were lucky to have had so staunch a supporter of the regimental system as our first Colonel Commandant.

"During the last three years I have been privileged to be the first Colonel Commandant of the King's Division.

"Reasonably enough, the innovation of the divisional system was looked upon with suspicion in some quarters. Some thought it went too far. Others thought it had not gone far enough.

"The former were wrong because they did not perhaps understand the concept and because the number of regiments of the infantry of the line were sadly enough being contracted to a point where some new reorganisation was necessary.

"The latter were wrong because they did not understand what that peculiarly British institution, the regimental system, meant to the infantry, and how it was capable of adaptation to meet new conditions.

"HQ The King's Division is now firmly rooted in business. It has not usurped the powers of commanding officers. Neither, I believe, has it rendered the position of colonels of regiments any less necessary.

"I have been fortunate enough to visit battalions of the regiments of the Division almost everywhere where British troops are still stationed, from Hong Kong to Northern Ireland. This has been a pleasure and an honour.

"I believe we have dispensed with any "us" and "them" attitude between Divisional HQ and units, and I like to think that it is just "we". Divisional HQ to the best of their ability, looks after the interests of the seven regiments of the Division, and particularly the interests of individual careers in a progressively professional Army. The wastage and recruiting situation is always with us and both the Division and the regiments are fully involved with it.

"We must look forward, not backward, but remembering the standards and ideals which have served us well. There are indeed changes which we need. We need more and better anti-tank weapons and a good infantry anti-aircraft weapon. We need lighter and lighter equipment to carry, and more vertical lift machines both for transport and fire power. We need a better share of the more intelligent recruits and we need longer recruit training. We need to shoot a great deal straighter. There is an awful lot to learn today in the infantry.

"Above all we need more time for the leaders to stay with the same platoon or company in order to acquire that relationship between the ranks which has always been the great strength of our infantry.

"The one thing we do not need is further re-

organisation in the foreseeable future.

"The King's Division must train and organise always for war and not for peace. Their leaders must have initiative and professional expertise and be genuinely interested in their soldiers. The soldiers must always be physically fit and be experts with their weapons and equipment.

"I take the courage of all for granted. The North Country and the Irish soldier have a formidable world-wide reputation.

"My successor, Major-General Majury, needs no introduction from me. We are old friends and there is no one to whom I would rather hand over.

"The very best of luck to you all and your families, and to your regiments".

From the Chief of the General Staff

The following message was received from General Sir Geoffrey Baker, GCB, CMG, CBE, MC, ADC on relinquishing the appointment of CGS:

1. On relinquishing the appointment of Chief of the General Staff, I want you to know how proud I am to have been the professional head of the Army these last three years.

2. My tour as CGS has seen many changes: the thinning out of our presence overseas: reduction in the size of the Army: and above all, the tragic events in Northern Ireland. Not all the changes have been for the worse: for example, the future of the Gurkhas is assured: the TA Order of Battle has been enlarged: we have a new and improved pay structure: some excellent new equipment has come, and is coming into service: considerable progress has been made in the Barrack rebuilding programme. Above all, we have a sense of purpose and the way ahead is clear.

3. One thing, however, has remained constant, and that is the tremendous spirit and sheer professionalism of all ranks in the Army. From all that I have seen during my travels, I am convinced that our Army is second to none.

4. I am fully aware of the extent to which the present situation in Northern Ireland has exacerbated the problems of unaccompanied service and general turbulence, particularly in the Infantry. It is, however, a source of great pride to us all that the soldiers there have done and are doing such a magnificent job: I have no praise high enough to commend them.

5. We all hope for a period of greater stability in which we can build on our better recruiting figures and consolidate all the good work being done in Rhine Army, in Garrisons overseas and in the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, it is a challenge to all of you to do what you can in difficult circumstances. I know you will accept this challenge cheerfully and willingly.

6. May I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for giving me the right to say that we have a superb Army in which Britain can be justifiably proud. I wish each one of you all good fortune in the years ahead."

1st Battalion

Sub-editorial

Our last sub-editorial was written while the battalion was in London. Our duties there came to a successful conclusion and we returned to Catterick and more conventional soldiering in mid-March. Before closing the chapter on Public Duties it is worth recording that the Commanding Officer received many compliments from disinterested people on the standard of drill, turnout and discipline of the Battalion, and no complaints. The company notes contain a number of anecdotes of the six weeks in London—there were undoubtedly some amusing moments but, above all, we shall remember our pride in having the opportunity to do the Public Duties for six weeks, although we were all thankful that we did not have to do it for longer.

Once back in Catterick we got down to tactical

training in earnest and all companies made full use of the excellent training areas around Catterick. We marched and dug and patrolled; we attacked and defended and advanced and—we went to sea—but not in Catterick. The culmination of our period of tactical training was exercise “Nelson’s Touch” an exercise run by 24 Airportable Brigade. For this exercise the whole Battalion moved to Southampton where we embarked on amphibious shipping and sailed for the Mull of Kintyre. During the voyage, which was blessed with really lovely spring weather and sea as calm as the proverbial mill pond, information was received which necessitated changing the landing plan and rebriefing the soldiers. The day of the landing on Kintyre dawned with little wind and some ground mist. These conditions, coupled with one helicopter breaking down on the flight deck,



Photo PR, HQ 3rd Division

EXERCISE NELSON'S TOUCH

The flight deck of HMS Fearless as she leaves the Solent

slowed down the air landing but those landing over the beaches went ashore on time. All the battalion vehicles, which had been waterproofed, waded ashore and by 9 a.m. we were firmly established in the beach-head and starting to move south. There followed two days of hectic activity which covered many miles of glorious country in beautiful sunshine. The result was one of the most enjoyable and useful exercises any of us had taken part in. Our hard training in Catterick stood us in good stead and we managed to appear in unlikely places rather earlier than the enemy expected. We understand that the enemy commander at one stage complained to the Brigadier that we were not following the "pink"—which, needless to say, we hadn't got!

The other major event of the period has been the day in Halifax when we marched through the town and laid up the old Honorary Colours in the Bankside Museum.

The day started early in Catterick with the Battalion moving in buses to Halifax where the first event on the programme was a parade on the old barrack square. Those of us lucky enough to have served there in the past recognised the wind which was sweeping over the square with all its old venom. After the parade had been inspected by the Mayor

and the Colonel of the Regiment we marched down to the Drill Hall with the Band playing, Colours flying and bayonets fixed. We were very pleased to be joined by a detachment of Old Comrades for the march through Halifax. After lunch Burma Company paraded at the museum for a brief ceremony in which the Colonel of the Regiment handed the old Honorary Colours over to the town for safe keeping. There was a gratifyingly large crowd in the afternoon to look round the museum and to visit the display and listen to the Band playing in the park. All in all it was a most enjoyable and successful day and we thoroughly enjoyed being back in Halifax, even if it was only for one day.

Foremost in our minds now is our tour in Ulster. On our return from Nelson's Touch we got down to training for our four-month tour in Belfast. The advance party leaves for Northern Ireland on the day these notes are being written and the main body follows in a week's time. There can be little doubt that we are in for a hard four months but we all recognise that, unpleasant as the task may be, it is one which must be done and consequently there is a feeling of anticipation throughout the Battalion. We are not sure whether to hope for a wet or dry summer in Belfast.

News from the Messes

OFFICERS MESS

The Regiment's tour of Public Duties in London provided one of those rare occasions where the majority of the officers of the Battalion, both married and single, live together in Mess. This, provided it does not last too long, usually generates a good communal spirit, which is punctuated from time to time by an excess of camaraderie on the part of certain elements returning from some celebration or other. Our time in Chelsea Barracks was no exception.

However, in addition to enjoying ourselves amongst ourselves, we also enjoyed the opportunity that six weeks in London offered of meeting a large number of friends, both in the Chelsea Mess and in the St. James's Palace Mess. Space does not allow enumeration of the full list, but our guests ranged from the Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Bray, through Major-General The Hon. Michael Fitzalan Howard (Commanding The Household Division) and Major-General Jimmy Lunt, the author of the recently published Regimental History, to a number of serving and ex-national service officers. We were delighted to see all of them and were only too sorry that some of the officers of the rear party in Catterick were not able to join us at some stage, although one particular party was arranged for this purpose. In addition, it was fun to be able to entertain a number of relations as well.

The St. James's Palace Mess is well remembered by all regiments which have carried out Public Duties, largely due to the very competent but somewhat autocratic management of S/Sgt. Sturge and his staff. "No you can't have a drink yet, Sir, the

Ensign has to . . ."; "Sir, Mr. Sharp's guest is wearing hot pants and she can't come into the Mess—orders from the Brigade Major, sir". (Obviously the Brigade Major had never seen Mr. Sharp's guest!) "What time would you like breakfast sir?"—"Staff Sergeant, all we 'Dukes' officers are starving by 8 a.m., but we know you won't let a cornflake pass our lips before 9.30, so 9.30 it will have to be". Despite all this, or perhaps because of it, we presented the St. James's Mess with a regimentally crested silver matchbox holder-cum-ashtray. In the Chelsea Mess we survived the double transition from Grenadier to "Dukes" Mess and back again without mishap, although one wondered whether the Grenadier insistence on serving double tots of spirits instead of draught ale might incapacitate one or two of us.

We continued to make provision for the Household Division Luncheon Club, which is normally based on the Chelsea Mess, and this led one day to the following exchange: Luncheon Club member, "Have you any Rosé?" Dukes waiter "No sir, we only serve pink wine at lunchtime".

Maybe this chronicle of our affairs is too lengthy but it is perhaps proof that we enjoyed our spell in London—and we have not mentioned the nefarious nocturnal activities of some. During our time in Chelsea Barracks we were glad to welcome Andrew Meek to the regiment from Mons.

After London we found ourselves in Catterick only at intervals, as varying numbers of officers went afloat on amphibious exercises or ran normal exercises or attended study periods in Plymouth. Afloat, aboard the LSL *Sir Geraint*, Jeremy

Cumberlege was heard to ask for a beer from a tankard hanging above the bar which he indicated to the Chinese steward, the latter replied "No sir, those are for officers only". Talking of Cumberlege, we feel Jeremy deserves an accolade, if not a Mars Bar, for the stoical way in which he has borne the barbed comments of those who still boggle at his gargantuan appetite.

In Catterick itself we have been able to do a small amount of entertaining and we were pleased to see the Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Bray when they came north for the ceremony of the laying up of the Honorary Colours in Halifax. We held a guest night on April 14 and were glad to welcome General Armitage, our GOC, and his ADC, Lt.-Col. Geoffrey Norton, who is commanding The Yorkshire Volunteers, Michael Campbell-Lamerton, John Golding and Graham Allen. The latter two will be remembered as national service officers of the 1958-60 era and as rugby players of merit. In addition, several "Dukes" of various vintages have dropped in or stayed informally. We hope that people will continue to do this after we return from Ulster in October.

We were sorry to say goodbye to John Sharp when he left at the end of March, as he has made a colourful contribution to the Mess in his time. However, we gather he may appear again, so we will say no more for now. Pat and Penny Puttock and Charles Bunbury have left, temporarily we hope, for York and the RMA Sandhurst respectively, while Hugh Cartwright slipped away to the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment at Rhyl earlier on.

Chris Gilbert has returned from Strensall and we would particularly like to welcome Angela, who is new to regimental life, although she is making it difficult for us by continuing to live at Strensall.

The months ahead will see the officers living in a series of mini-messes in Ulster, which should lead to a charivaria of notes for the next publication.

SERGEANTS' MESS

A clutch of sergeants have just recently descended on the Mess, at the last count it was seven, or was it eight? The RQMS went into shock when he was told to produce sashes infantry red quantity seven, and was last seen heading towards Bicester RAOC supplies depot muttering something about monthly maintenance stocks. As the lucky seven, with eyes shining brightly, stumbled from the Commanding Officer's office a kindly voice and a helping hand lifted them from their knees, slapped a set of chevrons, three bar, gold/scarlet, into their twitching hands and spoke, "Parade by tonight". You see, dear reader, someone else has heard of that excellent military maxim which gives "Preparation and Planning" (that makes two of us now). Thus into the deep end were thrust Sgts. Dickens, Minto, Kench, Pye, Wilkinson, Robson and Webb (again). From NAAFI to the hub of the Battalion—and on Paardeberg Day. All of the above-named sergeants are married except "Wilky", who is married to the Regiment anyway, so to their lady wives may we add "happy to have you aboard."

The code name, signal-wise, for warrant officer is seagull, and the Mess has been blessed by two

more. Wally Waltham said that there were more seagulls in the "Dukes" Mess than on Blackpool beach at ebb tide; however, it makes two more for orderly officer and two more for the pace stick competition which this year will be held at Magilligan Point, Northern Ireland; Tom Dicky will be there as service support. Dear demented reader I will not keep you in suspense any longer:

WO2 with appointment as Company Sergeant-Major of Administrative Company

I give you Conley, T.

WO2 with honorary title of road runner and dead eye on the mortar line

I give you Lindsey, P.

Sgt. Jock Glencross tried very hard for his warrant rank but as there is now a world-wide shortage of warrants and large crowns they gave him a staff-sergeant's crown and made him a platoon commander in some obscure company called Corunna; well done, you colonial you.

CSM Harris, P., went out in a blaze of glory on the last dinner night; he just missed sitting on the top table by two chairs but we cheered him no end when, in addition to his tankard, he was presented with a Gussunder mark IV, suitably painted with E I R. The potty had been picked up whilst we were on Public Duties at St. James's Palace by someone as potty as to think of presenting it at a Mess dinner with our new Motor Transport Officer present who had just been presented with a super cigarette box, engraved on the lid with his name D.B. The ladies enjoyed the presentation and Jean Conley very nearly exploded with mirth.

The Mess was honoured on April 15 by a visit from General Bray. The PMC was absent and had to be sent for by the RSM, and on arrival got the "come and see me" routine (it wouldn't happen in the King's).

And now, dear reader, just a short note about the stalwarts without whom life would be but an empty shell; at every one's beck and call, at the receiving end always, get this, get that, that gay debonaire crew who staff our Mess and hover in the background awaiting on our slightest whim and fancy.

- a. The impeccable L/Cpl. Davis, a veritable Jeeves.
- b. The Lord of the bar, what a prince and king indeed.
- c. The waiter with a memory like a computer bank, Pte. Flayes (one arm) and Armitage with brother Preece, who both just recently clocked 21st birthdays and who have both been offered positions at the Dorchester, where they are going to show the waiters how to serve soup into someone's ear.

CORPORALS MESS

Owing to a number of factors of which most of us are aware from endless "muck and buller" stories or photos of Buckingham Palace, the Corporals Mess in Catterick has been very quiet. The few members left in Catterick during London Duties exercises and so on have had to be content to use the main NAAFI.

A dance and social was slotted in between our various duties on April 16 at the Harewood Club. The Dance Band did us all a good turn by stepping in at very short notice and all in all the evening was an enjoyable success. This was vouched for by the RSM at the Mess meeting following the dance!

We welcome all who have newly joined the Mess and say farewell to those who have left. (We do

note an increase in the numbers leaving for civvy street—doubtless some of them will be back!)

To summarise, nothing much has happened and, owing to our impending tour, nothing much will happen that will not be reported in individual company notes. We must therefore endeavour to collect as many anecdotes as possible for inclusion in our next issue.

SPORT

SOCCER

Our return to UK soccer in mid-season was not helped by a six weeks lay-off during the disembarkation leave period, and the UK-type heavy grounds are a big change from the hard playing surfaces the teams had become accustomed to in Hong Kong.

However, having entered the Infantry Cup and Northern Command Cup before leaving Hong Kong, our advance party entered us for the Northumbrian District Cup and League on arrival here; so we decided to have a go and hope for the best.

Our first game was in the Command Cup in early February when we played 38 Engr Regt RE at Ripon and won 7-2. This was a good start and was followed by a District Cup game at home v 8 Signal Regt, which was played for the most part in a snow storm. It was to be the first of a number of games versus 8 Signals and having built up a lead of 3-1 by just after half time we thought we were home, if not dry. Perhaps we underestimated the opposition, or perhaps it was because we lost Pte. Marr from the back line with a knee injury, but the full-time score was 4-4. The referee refused to play extra time due to the bad weather conditions and we lost the replay with a much weakened team due to loss of players through injury, regular release and Public Duties in London.

We lost again to 8 Signals in the Command Cup and to 1 RRF in the Infantry Cup; at neither of these games were we at full strength. 1 RRF went on to win the UK Section of the Infantry Cup only to be beaten in the final by 3 R Anglian.

There were only four teams in the senior section of the District League which is a very sad state of affairs after the very strong league that was running during our last tour in Catterick. We again met up with 8 Signals A Team, ending with equal honours by winning one game each. We had good wins against QDG, 8-1 and 8-2, at the end of the league but, as will be seen from the league table, we were forced into the runners-up position on goal average. 8 Signals conceded only five goals in the competition and we scored four of these.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
8 Sig Regt A	6	5	0	1	29	5	10
1 DWR	6	5	0	1	39	10	10
QDG	6	2	0	4	13	24	4
8 Sig Regt B	6	0	0	6	7	49	0

The leading goal scorers in all competitions were as follows:

L/Cpl. Pennington 13, Pte. Lang 9, Bds. Sollitt

6, Pte. Woodward 5, Pte. Backhouse 3, Cpl. Heron 3.

The following made regular appearances for the battalion first eleven during the season:

L/Cpl. Jagger, Cpl. McGivern, Cpl. Bell, Pte. Marr, L/Cpl. Hayes, Pte. Woodward, Pte. Backhouse, Pte. Mathiot, Cpl. Ingham, L/Cpl. Pennington, Pte. Lang, Cpl. Smith, Bds. Walker, Bds. Sollitt, Pte. Warrencia, Cpl. Heron.

To Pte. (Eusebio) Mathiot and Cpl. "Inky" Ingham, who have now left the army, we send our best wishes and, although we hope that our left-back Pte. "Black Jack" Backhouse and left-wing Pte. "Wee Jock" Lang will reconsider their decision to leave the service, we wish them well in civil life if they don't.

RUGBY

The rugby notes of the previous edition ended with reference to the coaching of Major Mike Campbell-Lamerton and a good win against the Northern Command XV. That was the encouraging start to a short, rather fragmented, home season. Shortly afterwards Major Mike left us for a staff appointment and this is the time to thank him for his guidance not only at the beginning of 1971 but also out in Hong Kong in 1969 and 1970. It goes without saying that we shall sorely miss his experienced advice.

The aims of the short 1971 season were threefold: to win the Northern Command Cup, to win the Northern Command Sevens, and to give as many players as possible the opportunity to re-acclimatise to UK conditions and standards. The full XV achieved the first aim by defeating our old rivals, 8 Sig Regt, comfortably in the semi-final and AAS Harrogate, after a very exciting game, in the final. We built up a comfortable lead of 14-3 early in the second half, only to see it whittled away by a series of Harrogate scores, which were the result of bad tackling, until minutes from full time the score was 17-16. Only a last-minute try gave the score some respectability, bringing it to 20-16 and allowing the spectators to breathe again.

The first side had a series of comfortable wins in the Sevens: the second side had to work harder, until the two sides met in the final with a good win for the first seven who had played a polished brand of football throughout the day.

The third aim was achieved, too. In addition to competition games, the 1st XV lost narrowly to a 3 Div XV which was skippered by Capt. Ian Reid, while a number of players represented Northern

Command. Capt. Tony Redwood Davies, Lt. Chris Gilbert, Lt. John Thorne and Cpl. Mick Cuss all played for the Army and the former is to be congratulated on receiving his full Army Cap against the Royal Navy. Capt. David Wonson ran an enthusiastic and successful A XV which enjoyed its season and ran up some good scores, while individuals played a number of additional games for other teams.

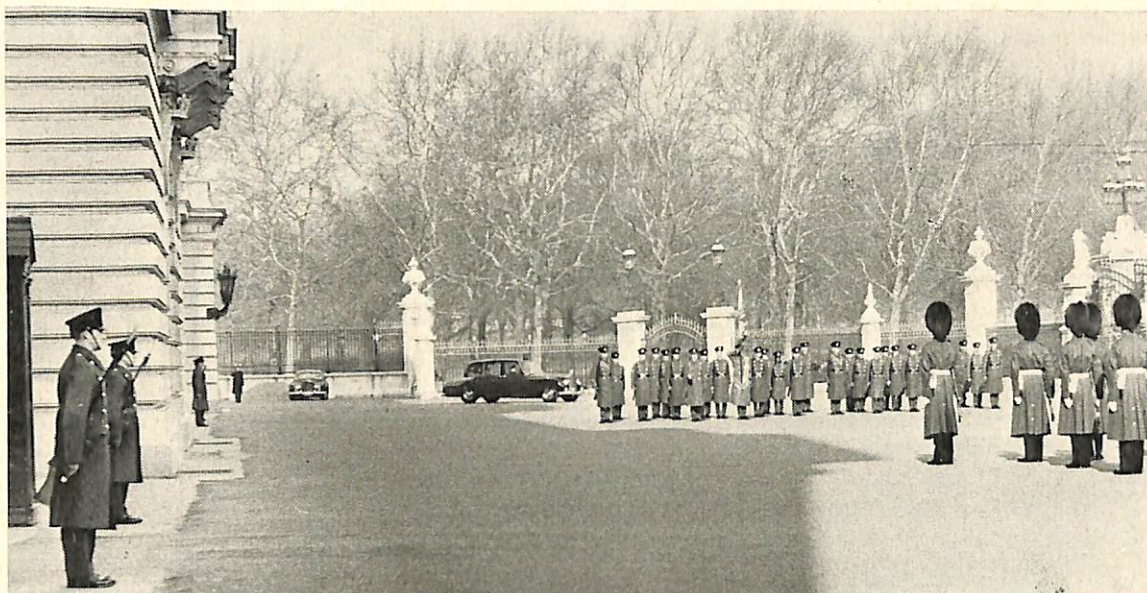
We believe we have made a quiet but effective re-

entry to the UK Army rugby scene and we look forward to setting our sights rather higher next season. The new management will be: OIC-Major Dick Mundell; Captain-Lt. Chris Gilbert; Secretary-Lt. Alistair Roberts.

The Old Guard would commend to the New Management two points for next season.

- a. More and better tackling.
- b. Find a consistent place kicker.

The Companies



HM The Queen leaves Buckingham Palace while Alma Company mounts guard

ALMA COMPANY

The soldier of the seventies could probably be more accurately described as the variety artist of the seventies, for variety has been the keynote of our recent activities.

The last issue of THE IRON DUKE referred to our spell on Public Duties, but some additional points are worth recording. Overall we enjoyed the experience, but there were no applications from the men of Alma for transfer to the Household Division and we were all glad that we were only required to carry out the duty for a limited period. The expense of living in central London was one major factor for example, there is 4p difference between the price of a pint in London and a pint in Catterick.

Two comments heard amongst the crowds watching a "Dukes" guard mounting are worth repeating since they were made quite spontaneously by individuals who did not know the identity of the listener. In one case a couple hurried up the steps of the Victoria Monument in order not to miss the parade and, on seeing the "Dukes" guard marching

on, one said "Oh . . . they're not Guards, they're soldiers"! On another occasion an old policeman turned to his neighbour and said "This is the best line regiment I've seen on Public Duties"—which is very flattering and a reward for the amount of hard work which the NCOs and men put into their preparation and performance.

One other comment has been bandied about so much that it is probably now old news, nevertheless it is one which ought to be recorded for posterity: Lt. Sharp was patrolling with his Guards' colleague when the two "Captains of the Guard" passed by and the Guards' subaltern commented to Mr. Sharp, "That's a very wizened little 'captain' you've got on parade today"! Since that day Major Greenway has been forcing down pies, crisps and chocolate bars in order to repair his emaciated profile.

Enough of London. Since our return we have dug holes in the Yorkshire hillsides, and covered many miles on our feet; we have been afloat in LSLs, LPDs, DUKWs, RPLs and LCVPs (various

forms of amphibious shipping to the uninitiated) and we have flown in Wessex, Beaver, Britannia and Belfast aircraft; we have covered more miles on our feet and yet more in troop trains; we have carried weapons, batons, shields and, in some cases, each other and, as stated at the beginning of this column, we feel more like variety artists every day.

However, our move to Belfast is almost upon us and we have begun to concentrate very closely on the problems which are likely to face us there. The Alma is taking over the post of Janitor of Unity Flats and we shall welcome all visitors to our base at Brown's Square.

We were delighted to have Capitaine De La Roque, of the French 51st Inf Div, attached to the company for the Brigade exercise in Scotland. He was impressed by the fitness, cheerfulness, and vocabulary of the soldiers—so much so that, having pondered for some time on that well-known soldiers' seven letter expletive/adjective, he turned to the Company Commander and said "Excusez-moi Major, 'ow you spell . . . ?"

Personalia: We are sorry to record the departure of Lt. Sharp, Sgt. Harding and Sgt. Walker, who were stalwart Alma men, as were Cpls. Dawes, Ingham, Mitchell, Kelsey and Soper and Ptes. Lovatt, Legg, Wydell, Smith, Flynn and Moore who have left us, mostly, but not all, for civilian life.

However, life goes on, and in their place we welcome S/Sgt. Hall, Sgt. Simpson (from 1 PWO), Sgt. Toplis, Sgt. Hunter and L/Cpls. Waterman, Frear and Raine and the following who have joined in recent months from basic training: Ptes. Washington, Adams, Villanyi, Austin, Varley, Gerke, Crawford, Mounsey, Somma, Turner, Dent, Mellard, Haynes, Chalmers, Archer, Moran, Taylor, and Green and Lee who each have a brother already serving with the company. I have not mentioned those who have moved from us to other companies as we still see them about the place, but the ex-Alma men appear to be the backbone of Somme Company and the MT.

Congratulations are due to Cpls. Larnder, Bone and Fereday and L/Cpls. Woodward, Sugden, and Elvidge on their recent promotions also to the wives of Major Greenway, L/Cpl. Waterman and Pte. Robinson on the births of their respective children.

Question: What does VTOL stand for?

Answer: A leprechaun with a 30lb parcel bomb under its backside.

Heigh Ho for the Emerald Isle.

BURMA COMPANY

Our notes from the previous edition finished with the company about to move to Chelsea Barracks for a six-week period of London Duties. We forgot platoons and sections for a while and thought in terms of Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace and Tower of London Guards. The company thoroughly enjoyed its time in London and, although sporting facilities were sadly lacking, we worked hard and played hard throughout.

The company achieved a high standard of drill and on the whole the individual turnout by the guards was excellent. Credit must be given to Major Cumberlege for not losing his voice (some said that

his words of command could be heard in Battersea) and to the Company Sergeant-Major who expected such a high standard of drill from the company that he could not believe it was really true when he found the company out of step with himself whilst marching out of the forecourt.

We moved back to Catterick in early March and entered a phase of platoon tactical training. This was a rude awakening for some who had been used to a comfortable bed every night in Chelsea. All respirators were tested in the gas chamber and it was a great pity to find that some senior people in the company had defective respirators. CS gas in confined spaces is particularly nasty as General Small from the company office will tell you. The platoon training terminated with a company exercise written and run by the Company Commander. We were all fortunate in that the weather remained reasonably fine for the duration of the exercise and many of the finer points of tactics were ironed out. In all a thoroughly useful period of training to prepare us for the battalion and brigade exercises to follow.

At the end of March about 40 members of the company embarked on RFA *Sir Geraint* at Hull. After 30 hours in a force 7 wind (some said it was a gale) we arrived at Gosport and carried out a beach assault using the old but nevertheless useful DUKWs. Whilst the drivers were negotiating the mexi float and other hazardous methods of landing we joined the other rifle companies for a spot of competition shooting on the ranges. The least said about the Cox Medalist and his selected company team the better (and the Sergeant-Major is not selecting the next team either). This exercise proved to be a useful "warm up" for the brigade exercise "Nelson's Touch" when we were to meet *Sir Geraint* again.

The battalion exercise in late April brought to light the fact that exercise casualties are a wretched nuisance, particularly when they have to be carried by stretcher. Two of the stretcher bearers were severely reprimanded for telling a chest and head wound casualty that he could bloody well walk the last 400 metres to the RAP. With this excepted, the exercise went well and, like the other companies, we reckon we walked further than anyone else. Footsore and weary, we returned to camp with just enough time to clear up before the Company Commander left for a highly informative "recce" of Ulster the following day.

On Saturday, April 17, the company took part in the Colour Parade at Wellesley Barracks, Halifax, and then marched through the streets of the town to the Drill Hall where we had lunch. After lunch we formed the guard at Bankfield Museum and were the last to see the old Honorary Colours on Parade.

On May 1 we boarded a troop train at Darlington along with the remainder of the Battalion and travelled overnight in cramped conditions to Southampton docks where we saw our old friends RFA *Sir Geraint* and HMS *Fearless*. With the remainder of the battalion, less Alma Company, we embarked on *Sir Geraint* in the cold, clear light of dawn. Exercise "Nelson's Touch", the brigade exercise, had started.

We spent May 2 and 3 travelling up to the Mull of Kintyre in the Firth of Clyde. Forty-eight hours on a ship with the battalion plan changing approximately every hour gave plenty of headaches to all in command. The familiar sound of "Do you hear—all Company 'O' groups to the Military Office now—that is all", could be heard on many occasions throughout the voyage.

It was eventually decided (to our horror) that we were to do the beach landing and "C" Company were to take our places in the Wessex helicopters. So dawn of the 4th saw us swarming down the scrambling net and into 3 LCVPs for an assault landing on the beach approximately one mile away. The last memory of *Sir Geraint* was the beaming figure of Corunna's Sunray leaning over the rail on the "hoop" deck.

When the ramps of the landing craft were lowered, the first man was so overcome by the distance of water between him and the shore, that he fell flat on his face in the surf. The sea was not too deep, however, and the majority of the company only got wet from the thighs down.

Everyone worked hard on the exercise and, under quite testing conditions, spirits remained extremely

high. 4 Platoon under Sgt. Hodgkinson produced an excellent "recce" patrol, led by the platoon commander, which pin-pointed exactly the main enemy position for the battalion to attack the following day. 5 Platoon, led by 2 Lt. Sherlock, after a long and arduous approach march, bumped a company-plus of the enemy (some reports say it contained only 11 men), and had to be restrained from attacking the whole position on their own. Lt. Gilbert's 6 Platoon, having contacted the enemy, executed such a speedy attack that none of the enemy had a chance to withdraw.

At the end of the exercise the company moved back to Machrihanish Airport where we had a morning of personal administration which included eating all the food the CQMS had been hoarding throughout the exercise.

The more fortunate members of the company flew by Britannia from Machrihanish to Tees-side; the not-quite-so-fortunate spent an uneventful night travelling by train and arriving at Darlington in the early hours of the following morning.

PERSONALIA

Promotions

L/Cpls. Harris, Sisson and Wilson are congratulated on their recent promotions.

We also congratulate Sgts. Robson and Wilkinson (to 6 Platoon from Alma Coy) on their promotion to the Sergeants Mess.

Arrivals

Among the many new arrivals to the company we would like to mention our new CQMS, S/Sgt. Stewart, and L/Cpls. Cole and Dyke from Strensall.

Departures

During the period covered by these notes we have said goodbye to a number of eminent members of the company:

Lt. Thorn to Vigilant Platoon.

Lt. Gilbert to Alma Company.

S/Sgt. Read to the Officers Mess.

Cpl. Smith, E., to the Depot at Strensall.

Cpl. Cowburn to the Depot at Strensall.

Cpl. Mortimer to the civilian world.

The have all played a large part in the company activities during their stay, but Cpl. Mortimer must not depart without our saying how valuable he has been to the company and the battalion. His knowledge of the individual weapon skills and section tactics along with his instructional ability were excellent. He is a sad loss.

Marriages

We congratulate three soldiers on their recent marriages:

L/Cpl. Ian Thomas to Christine Austin at Oswestry on February 27.

L/Cpl. Peter Laws to Janet Hessey at Bradford on March 20.

Pte. Michael Pashby to Linda Norton at St. George's Church, Scarborough, on March 20.



[Photo: W. T. Robbins, Dobcross]

The last escort for the old Honorary Colours

CORUNNA COMPANY

These notes are written one week before our advance party deploys to Dunmore Park, Belfast. What has happened in the last four months—what hasn't?

London Public Duties with Guards at Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace, the Tower of London and the Bank of England proved to be a most enjoyable six weeks. However, we don't envy the Brigade of Guards, as six weeks was enough. Corunna was called upon to provide both the first and the last guard.

On our return, the Company shortly found itself on the Yorkshire Moors, digging, marching and more digging in the bitter March weather. An exercise called "Muji Kas" (Gurkali?) was the climax to this intense period of Company training. On it a combination of an epic night march and the colour-sergeant's excellent field cooking made the Easter break most welcome.

After Easter we formed three detachments for the march through Halifax on Saturday, April 17. April 19 saw Corunna digging yet again on the Battalion exercise "Ground Nut", in glorious sunshine this time. Another week's pause, then we were off to Scotland via Southampton—something to do with the Navy. Two pleasant days were spent sailing up to Scotland on the LSL *Sir Geraint*. The amphibious exercise began with a dawn assault. Due to a well-timed change in plans, Corunna did not get their feet wet. We were later to find out why—we needed them—never have so many miles been covered by so few, so fast.

The actual landing was not without its amusing points: the whole Company was flown in by Wessex to the exact RV less the Company Commander's party who were dropped in error some 2,000 metres away. Then Pte. Beaumont found himself in waist-deep bog within seconds and, to round it all off, 7 Platoon killed the enemy commander within minutes of landing, under the eye of the Divisional Commander.

This brought to an end our conventional training, and we plunged into Ulster matters the following week. New words like "agro", "disco", and "inter face" became commonplace. This training culminated in exercise "Disco", to the amazement of the citizens of Catterick, Co. Ulster! The Company, now geared up to its task for the next four months, then departed on a week's well-earned leave.

Amongst all this variety we managed to hold an inter-platoon competition, 9 Platoon being the eventual winners. Perhaps it was something to do with the size of their platoon sergeant (or commander).

PERSONALIA

Postings out

After his three years' service to Corunna, we said good-bye to CSM A. J. Welsh on March 21; it was good to see Command Company on muster two days later. Other departures were:

To Alma—Sgt. Hunter.

To Somme—Sgts. Hewson, Martin; Cpl. Ruding; Ptes. Bye, Kelly 10, Thompson 48 Johnston, Wilden, Sharpe, Blackwell, Coulson and Dugdale.

To Command (Sig Pl)—Ptes. Bray and Woodward.

To Admin (MT)—Pte. Wilkinson 21.

To the outside world—Ptes. McEllhatton, Hargreaves, Hill, McIntosh and Anderson 74.

To the Ski Club (where's that?)—Cpl. Booth.

Postings in

CSM Collins from JWS Malaysia.

Sgt. Glencross from C Coy Yorks Volunteers.

Sgt. Shaw from the Sig Pl via Brecon.

Sgt. Nash from Somme.

Sgt. "Big Joe" Walker from Alma.

Cpl. Broomhead from SAS.

Two from Burma, two from MT and 21 from KDD.

Congratulations

Well done, to the good ladies of Lt. Gardner, L/Cpl. Bebb and Pte. McDonnell on producing three bouncing babies.

Also to S/Sgt. Glencross, Sgt. Minto, L/Cpl. Harris, Whiteley 93 and Wragg on their promotions.

To the best of our knowledge none of the Company fell by the wayside and got married this quarter, although Ptes. King, Simpson, Slater and Wolstenholme 30 are making nesting noises.

SOMME COMPANY

These notes are being written on the morning after the Sergeants Mess Paardeberg Ball. Therefore, unlike our last notes, what these lack in literary merit will be balanced by their brevity . . . The Pain!

If Pte. Hoy can read this as he types he will see that we welcome him as our new clerk.

After several months of very concentrated support work, in which inscrutable Far Eastern cobwebs were dispersed, the Company is back to its conventional high standard. Several new techniques have been developed and thoroughly practised—even military ones.

We have now finished reorganising into a rifle company for Northern Ireland and we welcome the support of 34 attached personnel who shall be nameless.

MORTAR PLATOON

The Platoon parted ways on February 1—some going to Alma and Burma Companies to lend support of a different kind on the assorted parade grounds of London and others remaining in Catterick in order to run a mortar numbers' cadre. We welcomed the following to the Platoon on successful completion of the cadre: Ptes. Clayton, Dack, Maillard, Hattersley.

Whilst in London the good work was carried on in the shape of instruction to NCOs from the rifle companies on mortar fire control. Much to their surprise, they found later on in April that it worked!

We regrouped in Catterick in March and started our live firing programme with two Part I shoots on Feldom Ranges which achieved their aim of switching people on again after the long break from the mortar world.

The highlight of April was a very enjoyable few

days at Warcop in glorious weather where the Platoon did its most useful shooting for a long time.

At the end of April and for the first week in May we were involved in the Battalion exercise and the Brigade exercise. The drivers deserve special praise for their efforts to keep us mobile in the latter.

We reverted to our role as a rifle platoon on May 10 for Northern Ireland training and the mortars have been packed and will "hibernate" until November.

Cpl. Dickens returned recently from the first of the advanced MFC courses full of the latest cries from Netheravon to find that, in his absence, the Platoon had furthered their liaison with 25 Lt Regt RA on the Brigade exercise and were muttering such phrases as "Rebroadcast", "Fire Control Net", "Guns and Mortars Free" and "Fire Mission Battery and 6 Mortars"—all excellent training after our absence in Hong Kong from the conventional scene—we look forward to carrying on the good work towards the end of the year.

Our congratulations on promotion go to: WO2 Lindsay, Sgt. Dickens and L/Cpl. Sherratt.

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

The Anti-Tank Platoon forsook seeing "Christopher Robin" or "Falling in Love with Alice" and stayed behind in Catterick to concentrate on more military things; learning about our new anti-tank gun—the WOMBAT. This was the chance to get stuck into some real anti-tank work. All went well with two shoots at Warcop and actually going on exercise with rifle companies as an anti-tank platoon. The guns arrived in the right position but, on the well-practised cry of the DC to the driver of "Drive away 25 yards and cam-up", which was said so often in gun drills on the square, the vehicles no longer found tarmac under their wheels and many a red-faced driver was with "m' wagon up t'its roof in t'mud".

Then things started happening thick and fast. The Platoon took on its chameleon role again—one week we were the Anti-Tank Platoon with our WOMBATS, next week we turned ourselves into a GPMG (SF) Platoon manning the Battalion machine guns, later we went back to our WOMBATS and after a few more lightning changes we have ended up as a rifle platoon ready to go across the Irish Sea (song). The platoon commander kept saying "flexibility is the cry!" On exercises we were known as the "meals on wheels service" or the "anti-tank platoon omnibus Co" and even on some occasions as "Willie Wombat's taxi service". However we came through in the end, although our vehicles were somewhat depleted. Unfortunately misfortune struck the Platoon on exercise "Nelson's Touch" in Scotland when one of our Land-Rovers turned over. Miraculously, all the section were all right except for Roberts who is still, at the time of writing, dangerously ill—we hope he will soon recover.

Now we prepare for Ireland, welcoming Sgt. Martin along with some members of the Drums who have made up our numbers after the loss of our drivers for our Belfast tour.

We say goodbye to Sgt. Kendrew who has left us to go recruiting.

Our congratulations go to:

Cpl. Cuss on being selected to play for the Army XV.

L/Cpl. Sykes on his promotion.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

During the period of these notes very little has happened to us and nothing very exciting. Two exercises with sore feet and aching shoulders to prove we march like the rest of 'em. We are now involved in extensive training for Northern Ireland.

Congratulations to Pte. and Mrs. Jenkinson on the arrival of a son. We welcome the drums to our Call Sign (54). They are swelling the ranks to make us once again a rifle platoon—too easy. Congratulations go also to Cpl. Dickens on his promotion to sergeant and his arrival to carry out the duties of Platoon Sergeant in Northern Ireland—don't despair 50, he'll be back.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

As soon as the battalion had returned from London the cry was "Amphibious Operations", and it wasn't long before "selected personnel" were on exercise "March Hare"—a work-up for exercise "Nelson's Touch".

We embarked on *Sir Geraint* at Hull and sailed down to Marchwood. At the crack of dawn (about 8 a.m.!) we practised getting ourselves and our vehicles ashore. Many valuable lessons were learnt, the main one being that *Sir Geraint* was very comfortable and one should try and get on it for "Nelson's Touch".

Exercise "Ground Nut" followed, and at the end of April all the "Chiefs" dashed off to Belfast on a recce.

At the beginning of May the battalion set off on exercise "Nelson's Touch". Embarkation took place at Marchwood on HMS *Fearless*, *Sir Geraint* and other assorted craft. (The Technical Quartermaster and his party received hard-lying allowance!) The Mull of Kintyre loomed up out of the mist and the battalion carried out an assault landing. (Well done the MT for waterproofing the vehicles so efficiently.) Even the CSM got his feet wet! Having beaten the enemy, the majority of the battalion flew home to Teesside Airport, some went by train and the gallant few travelled with the vehicle party.

Special training for Northern Ireland was the order of the day, from then on and departments have cheerfully made their 'specialists' available for road runs, shooting, gas training, etc., etc.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following:

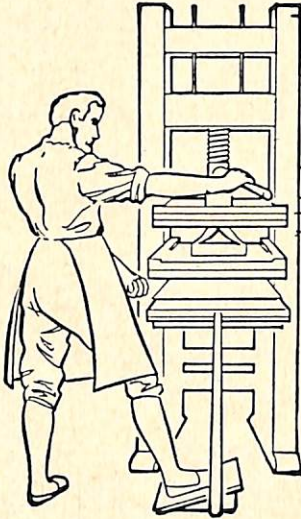
To *Corporal*: L/Cpl. Petre, L/Cpl. Robinson, L/Cpl. Jameson. To *WO2*: S/Sgt. Conley, S/Sgt. Cooper. To *Lance/Corporal*: Pte. Banks, Cfn. Lancaster, Pte. Withers. To *Sergeant*: Cpl. Vaughan Cpl. Ellwood.

Departures

The Coy say farewell to the following and wish them all the best in the future.

To *Somme*: Pte. Best, Pte. Collins, Pte. Rogers,

Over a Century-old Partnership...



PARSONS
AND
PRINTING

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, W.C.2 · Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill, Lewes and Seaford

FAMOUS DRINKS IN YOUR MESS



Rutherford and Miles
OLD TRINITY HOUSE
Bual Madeira

LEMON HART JAMAICA RUM.
LAMB'S NAVY RUM.

Tia Maria COFFEE LIQUEUR

Bénédictine
DOM
La Grande Liqueur Française

NOVAL LB
The style is
Vintage but not
the price

*These and all other
famous drinks
are obtainable
through N.A.A.F.I.*

Lanson
BLACK LABEL
CHAMPAGNE

Drambuie
THE LIQUEUR YOU PREFER TO BE OFFERED



CROWN
OF
CROWNS
LIEBFRAUMILCH

DUFF GORDON
EL CÍD
Amontillado Sherry

Deliciously Different
CINZANO
THE BIANCO

Offer your
friends
South African
Sherry

Pte. Baker, Pte. Fowler, Pte. Brown, Pte. Hoy. *To Corunna*: L/Cpl. Whiteley, Sgt. Nash; *To Comd* Pte. Goode, Pte. Greenhow, Pte. Billingham. *To Alma*: L/Cpl. Butcher, Pte. Marshall. *To Burma*: L/Cpl. Pennington, S/Sgt. Stewart. *To KDDY*: L/Cpl. Haigh.

Arrivals

Welcome to the following on being posted to the Coy:

From Comd: WO2 Conley, Cpl. McLachlan, Pte. Dawson. *From Corunna*: L/Cpl. White, Pte. Twinberrow, Pte. Wilkinson. *From Burma*: S/Sgt. Read, Pte. Robshaw. *Misc.*: L/Cpl. Wood, L/Cpl. Allan, L/Cpl. Waterhouse, Pte. Smith, ACC, Cfn. Lancaster, REME, Cfn. Beattie, REME, Pte. Leonard, ACC, Pte. Hustwick, PWO.

COMMAND COMPANY

The pace never eases in this company, and to prove it we are now on our fourth CSM in six months!

Since April we have had two Bn CP exercises which showed us to ourselves and pointed us in the right direction for the brigade exercise. The first one was a somewhat ritzy affair and battalion headquarters in the field looked like a divisional headquarters under canvas. This was hastily rectified and in Scotland we became combat and streamlined.

The battalion exercise in April got all the company on to their feet and prompted the RSM to march every step of the way. The RAP did a roaring trade in sore feet and the CQMS got to grips with the problem of feeding a floating population of 80 in the HQ.

On April 17 we provided a guard for the laying-up of the Honorary Colours in Halifax and were proud once more to march through the town with the Band playing, colours flying and bayonets fixed.

We set sail for Scotland on May 1 on exercise "Nelson's Touch". Nobody at Darlington station would believe that 500 combat troops were going to

Scotland, particularly via Southampton!

Again we marched and ferried and squeezed into Land-Rovers like sardines. The whole company, including vehicles, landed safely, even though the RSO's Land-Rover gave up the ghost when it hit the beach.

The Regimental Police did sterling work particularly by pulling the CQMS's trailer, which was a great bonus in so far as we had a continual "Meals on Wheels" service.

Finally, one must mention the drastic cuts in manpower that the company has undergone for Ireland. Out of 153 we have managed to attach 100 to other companies and have received 14 in return. This is only a temporary measure and we look forward to seeing them back in October.

BOR NEWS

Once more we number seven, although we have suffered two tragic losses in the last four months. Winny, that immortal whose legendary skill at the art of filing posting letters upon the "Ecclesiastical" file can never be forgotten, departed for Morley with visibly drooping shoulders and a tear in his eye waving a bedraggled-looking receipt for £200. And Darcy, the salt crystals forming in his hair, upped sail in the direction of his temporary harbour with the RP staff, shortly to begin that longest of all voyages into the sunset (the Boro) with a following wind billowing his sails. Farewell, Winny, bon voyage, Miles, a safe journey to you both.

We prepare for Ulster. L/Cpl. Nuttall looks for a posting letter on the "Ecclesiastical" file; L/Cpl. Wilson wrestles with the problem of how not to change Pte. Snooks's engagement to one of 99 years and Cpl. Mortimer (happy that "G" Branch is back in CE hands) scribbles out a joining instruction for a rat-catchers' course. These three souls possess the unique distinction that, on various clerks courses, they gained BOR three "A" gradings in four months. Asses!

A noise from the despatch office! Pte. Parkhouse



PACK 'EM IN

Battalion HQ goes ashore on Exercise Nelson's Touch

is busily trying his hand at mastery of the Gestetner Mark III rotary duplicator, hands smeared with ink, brow creased in his frenzy of concentration. Pte. Casey (another new member) looks on, absently addressing envelopes, while all the while his thoughts are really about the great enigma of his despatch-filled life:—*where* are the pigeons to fit in those holes?

Our latest report of Sgt. Manion is a little sad. It is rumoured that he wakes up at night shivering, victim of nightmares of winning the Australian football pools or the Daily Sport fashion competition. After all, he *did* receive a mystery free gift from *Reader's Digest*!

S/Sgt. Milner, too, has had his share of misfortune. It is said that he battles regularly with numbers—157s, 2078s, 2077s, 2048s and so on. Numbers also let him down when he lost 2-7 in the Haircut Challenge Cup against the RSM!

That, then, is the situation—endless struggle. But whether we win or lose we can all be proud to say that we partook in the greatest struggle of all: the Demon Paper versus the Great Eraser in the sky.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Since the last IRON DUKE notes we have continued preparations for our N. Ireland tour. Our biggest cross to bear has been the battalion conference room or information office. A better map and daily



Int. overboard

sitreps, which are marked on to a street plan, have been added to the press cuttings and pamphlets. When these notes go to press Lt. Roberts, Pte. Roberts and Twinberrow, as their driver, will have been in Belfast over a month and, as no word has yet been received from them (not even a postcard), we are now having to squeeze a short daily prayer session into an already crowded programme. The remainder of the section will not say, even under pressure, whether they are praying for or against!

We have also taken part in all the battalion exercises, and the photograph shows the undaunted Acorn shinning down from RFA *Sir Geraint* (ex "Nelson's Touch") ready to leave for shore in the LCA. Fifteen minutes after the photograph was taken he and Acorn Minor found themselves wading crutch deep in water (at least Sgt. Waller was) whilst L/Cpl. Harston, Ptes. Wilson and Roberts managed to get ashore with dry knees and L/Cpl. Jagger had the gall to arrive with the vehicle bone dry

RECCE PLATOON

At the end of February, the platoon re-formed as its members drifted back from the innumerable courses they had been attending. We can now boast an invaluable source of knowledge on junior command and staff, drill, air portability, akido, surveillance, first aid and football. Only on the latter has theory been successfully put into practice. The platoon has four battalion players—Cpls. Bell and McGivern and Ptes. Lang and Attiwell and six Coy players—the above and Sgt. Stansfield and Pte. Hayes.

On the training side, the platoon's first task was to provide an enemy force against 48 Field Squadron Royal Engineers at Otterburn. Enemy was also provided by the platoon for the company and battalion exercises. After the amphibious brigade exercise in Scotland the platoon has been preparing for its keeping the peace role and combat of the urban guerrilla in Ulster.

SIGNAL PLATOON

We started April with a series of "warming-up" exercises in the local training areas. These proved useful as our orbat has changed considerably in the last few weeks. The first of the amphibious exercises was "March Hare" which meant a voyage from Hull to "Breezy Browndown". During this two-day trip we got our "sea legs" and developed a high degree of skill in the game of quoits. We also practised "hanging procedure" but had to stop when Smith 36 complained that the rope hurt.

The platoon put on a display of signal equipment, in Akroyd Park, as part of a recruiting effort, which was a supporting attraction to the ceremony taking place at Bankfield Museum.

Next followed exercise "Nelson's Touch" during which we sailed on the RFA *Sir Geraint* for the second time this year. Most of us enjoyed this exercise. L/Cpl. Tolson certainly ought to have done, as a helicopter allotted to the Brigade Commander was tasked to fly our clerk from the hills of Kintyre to HMS *Fearless* in order to produce our daily issue of signal instructions. This publication is becoming

increasingly popular in the Battalion. We now issue 70 copies daily on exercises. After the tour in Northern Ireland we may well try to boost sales by adding a colour supplement for our weekend readers.

We move to Belfast without Capt. Walker who is leaving us for a tour as an instructor at the Signal Wing, S of I. He should enjoy this tour. It is good to see yet another 'Duke' teaching the rest of the infantry just what signalling is all about. The platoon held a party at the Walkerville Hotel in order to say thank you and to wish him and Mrs. Walker good fortune in the future.

At the helm now is Lt. Ward who drives a car called "Think Morse" and has more "sit and wait" chairs in his office than can be seen in a doctor's surgery.

Cpl. "Steve" Barnett is now a Pad! He's suddenly changed his mind and agrees that married soldiers make better soldiers. To him and Mrs. Barnett, Pte. and Mrs. Thackeray and Pte. and Mrs. Cone, who also got married recently, we wish the best of happiness.

THE BAND

February 2 was an eventful day for the Regiment, as will no doubt be recorded in the annals of history, in so much as it was the day when The Duke's departed for London to take over Public Duties. The Band accompanied the battalion to give them support for this very worthy cause.

On our arrival in London, it was discovered that the vehicle containing some of our instruments and



Disruptive Patterns of Power

kit had gone astray somewhere *en route*. Eventually it became apparent that it would arrive in time for the first parade and so we were all able to breathe a sigh of relief. On Saturday, February 6, we paraded for our first guard mounting. It was a sobering thought after the completion of this one, that we only had another 28 parades to attend. The title,

J. DEGE & SONS LIMITED



TAILORS BY APPOINTMENT TO
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT



16, CLIFFORD ST., SAVILE ROW, LONDON W1X 2HS

TEL. 01-734 2248

Also at 40A LONDON ROAD, CAMBERLEY, SURREY. Telephone: 24071

Afternoons Tues, Wed & Fri during RMA terms

LONGMAN & STRONGI'TH'ARM

ESTABLISHED IN THE REIGN OF GEORGE III



*REGIMENTAL
JEWELLERS &
SILVERSMITHS*

Specialists in
producing fine
Silver Models

13 Dover Street,
Piccadilly,
London,
W.1.
Tel: 01-493 4677

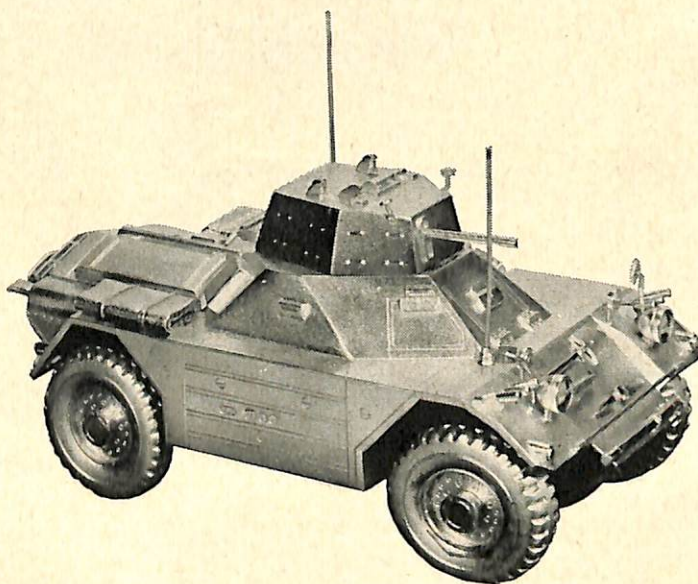




Photo Halifax Courier Ltd

The Band and Drums in Ambassadors' Court, St James's Palace

"Veterans of the Forecourt", soon became the cry and we all settled down to the steady routine of mounting and dismounting of the guards. We returned to Catterick on March 13.

Another memorable day for the battalion was April 17, when we attended a parade in Halifax for the laying up of the old Honorary Colours. After a parade at Wellesley Barracks, we set off to march to the Drill Hall in Prescott Street where we met many of our "Old Comrades." During the afternoon the laying up of the Colours in the Bankfield Museum was followed by a band concert in Bankfield Park. A very interesting day was had by all who participated in this ceremony.

We have been having a useful time between these trips away from station. The Band attend the Garrison Church once a month, and provide music at the officers and warrant officers messes throughout the Garrison from time to time. The Military Band played music at the final of the Northern Command Rugby Football Cup held in the Garrison Stadium between 1 DWR and AAC Harrogate in April. We will avoid comment on the match itself as the rugby team are certain to give coverage in detail. It is, however, hereby mentioned that "tumultuous support" was heard from the Band and Corps of Drums during the match.

The Dance Band has yet to get off the ground locally where old-established engagements exist;

however, as usual, they are playing out and about and are becoming well known.

We finish off this month of May with a few notable engagements. The Military Band played at Selby near York for an RAOC Sunday. This event consisted of a church parade, followed by a march-past for the unit. The Band almost were lost when they travelled to Warcop to play for a passing out parade. The barracks, situated in the wilderness, made Catterick appear like the heart of the entertainment world.

On May 21, we played at the Paardeberg Ball, held this year at the Scotch Corner Hotel. The guests at the Ball gave ample applause upon hearing the regimental marches and old-time songs performed by the Military Band, under the baton of a white-haired gentleman who bore a striking resemblance to Mr. Alexander.

We travel to Beverley on May 28 when we will again play at a ball in the evening, and the following day give a marching display at the Racecourse in aid of the Police Dependents' Trust Fund.

A warm welcome is offered to Bdsm. Clegg, previously from KDD Jnr Soldiers Coy, and Bdsm. Lee who came from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. We reiterate this welcome on behalf of Bdsm. Dawson who, after playing bass drum with the Corps of Drums, has now elected to do likewise within the Band.

HOME OR ABROAD
the
GREEN FINAL

will keep you in touch with
local sporting affairs

Paper 3p
UK postage 2½p per issue

Subscriptions to

HALIFAX COURIER

King Cross Street, Halifax,
Yorkshire

knit
into fashion
with

Hayfield

The most beautiful knitting yarns known to fashion come from Hayfield. Deliciously soft textures and lots of colours to choose from. There are some really exciting patterns specially designed for Hayfield knitters. They're tops in fashion and wonderful to wear.

Hayfield yarns are available at:
**Hayfield Mills, Glusburn,
Nr. Keighley, Yorks.**

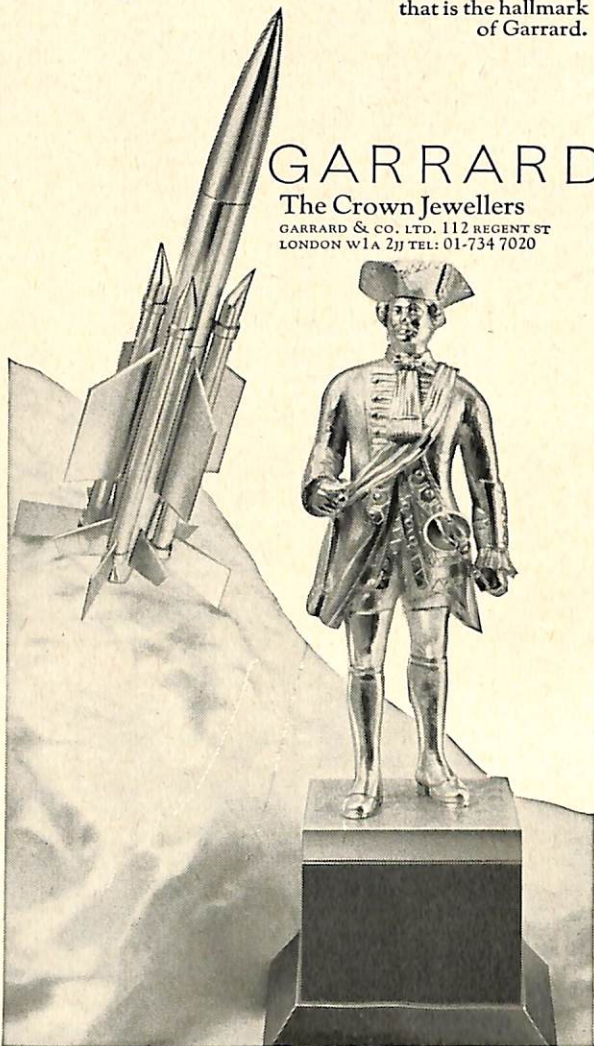


BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN,
GOLDSMITHS & CROWN JEWELLERS,
GARRARD & COMPANY LTD., LONDON

The Pride of the Regiment.

For over two hundred years Garrard have commemorated, in finely-worked silver, the achievements of great Regiments. Today this tradition of service to the military is firmly established.

As Regimental Silversmiths Garrard maintain close contact with a large number of regiments and individual serving members. We offer you unrivalled traditional skills of our designers and craftsmen and the personal service that is the hallmark of Garrard.



GARRARD

The Crown Jewellers

GARRARD & CO. LTD. 112 REGENT ST
LONDON W1A 2JJ TEL: 01-734 7020

Badges of the 76th Regiment 1829-45

by K. D. PICKUP

During the peace that followed the resounding battlefield successes of the British Army in the first 20 years of the nineteenth century, the Royal Family began to take a sartorial interest.

The Prince Regent, later George IV, himself a fervent 10th Hussar and dedicated follower of fashion, was determined to completely redesign the practical and neat uniforms of the Peninsular and Waterloo days. In this he succeeded, later aided by the efforts of William IV and the young Victoria. The overall result was that Britain's Army was far more suited for appearances at the theatre than on the battlefield. Only after the debacle of the Crimea, 1854-56, did the Army start to dress a bit more as the occasion demanded.

The intervening period, however, did allow regiments excellent opportunity of displaying their individual badges and honours, not only on their Regimental Colours but also on their personal dress and equipment. One can say quite safely that the badge-makers art reached its zenith in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. I hope the accompanying photographs and descriptions illustrate this statement sufficiently.

The 76th Regiment of Foot was raised for the third time in 1787 and, apart from the period

1807-12 (76th (Hindoostan) Regt. of Foot), maintained that simple title right up to 1881, when it became the 2nd Bn The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regt.). Only two other regiments had a "number only" title in 1881: 94th and 96th.

Figure 1 shows the officers' shako plate 1829-44, known in the collecting world as the "bell-top" from the shape of the actual headdress, or shako. This was the largest headdress badge ever worn in the British Infantry. Its exact proportions are 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height, 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in width. The star-shaped back-plate is gilt on die-stamped copper, the crown is part of the plate.

On this back-plate are five separate mountings: firstly, in cast silver plate, an eleven-pointed, diamond-cut, star. Secondly, in gilt on die-cast copper, laurel sprays, the Honours: PENINSULA (granted April 6, 1815), HINDOOSTAN (October 20, 1806) and the Elephant with Howdah (January 17, 1807). The howdah and/or cloth were not always shown on early officers badges—reason unknown. Thirdly, in sheet metal, silver plated, the domed centre piece. Upon this are mounted the numerals which are of gilt brass and have a "milled" finish.

The silver star and gilt wreath have eyelet fasten-



Photo Pat Laurie, Derby

Fig. 1. Officer's shako plate 1829-44



Fig. 2. Officer's sword belt plate 1830-45

ings which pierce the back plate and are held in place by brass wire pins. The central dome is located within the empty centre of the silver star and is held in place by the gilt wreath mounting. The overall weight of the plate is 5 ounces.

Figure 2 illustrates the officers sword belt plate for the period 1830-45. Until 1855 all infantry officers below field rank carried their swords from a leather belt slung over the right shoulder. The fastener for this belt was developed from a simple buckle to a most ornamented badge.

The back-plate in Figure 2 is of gilt brass and measures $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches \times 3 inches. Thereon are six silver mounts, naturally similar to those on the shako plate. The notable difference is the Roman LXXVI. This was used on all sword belt plates of

the Regiment except the first pattern (1780-1806). The Elephant and LXXVI are die-cast silver, the remainder being die-stamped silver.

The mounts on the plate are all removable being held by eyelets and brass wire pins. The device on the reverse for fixing the plate to the belt consists of two raised, round studs and two hooks. The plate illustrated also has the original soft leather liner on the reverse. The total weight of this item is again 5 ounces.

The pattern described had been in use since 1816, but with the back plate in silver, with gilt mounts. The 76th had been a silver laced regiment, and when, in 1830, all line regiments had to become gold laced the "metal change" took place on sword plates and field officers' waist belt plates.

The King's Division Depot, Yorkshire

W (Ex-Training) Company

The departure of Lt. Chris Gilbert back to the Battalion has left a gap. We now look forward to Lt. Nicky Newell's arrival to keep up the "Dukes" figures. Capt. Alan Westcob has taken over the company but is rarely present. Both he and Capt. Robin Newell seem to be permanently away on courses in preparation for the Staff Promotion Examination which is looming up rather rapidly.

Since the last notes we have managed to acquire a new face from the King's Own Border Regiment—Cpl. Wood 541—an excellent recruit! Sgts. Blood and Dowdall are ever present producing excellent "Dukes" material, ably supported by Cpls. Wood 778, Cook and Exley.

Cpl. Blood is coming to the end of his tour and returns to the Battalion after competing at Bisley for the Depot team. We thank him for all his work and wish him all the best. Rumour has it that he is sleeping at home with his gas mask on to get into practice! On the addition side, we expect Cpl. Cowburn, shortly, to keep up the tradition of the "Dukes" running Training Company.

7 (Junior Soldiers) Company

With an intake of 65 this term it was decided to form two intake platoons, to be called "Wellington" and "Wolfe."

Sgt. Kelly (congratulations on your promotion) left the Rifle Pl to become Platoon Sergeant of Wellington Pl. Cpl. Noble arrived from "W" Coy to become Platoon Corporal of Wolfe Pl; we hope he will enjoy his stay with us.

Seven of the Rifle Pl were sent to an Assault Pioneers' Course at Ripon in March. J/L/Cpl. Watson must be congratulated on gaining a "C" grading, whilst J/Cpl. Wright and J/Cpl. Jarvis gained a grade 3 pass. The "Dukes" who attended the course were J/Cpl. Wright 88, J/L/Cpl. Watson 74, J/L/Cpl. Grange, J/L/Cpl. Jarvis, J/Inf Drakes.

J/L/Cpl. Watson 74 has subsequently been posted to the Junior Parachute Regiment on a two months'

probationary transfer-in course; we wish him the best of luck in his new environment.

Cpl. Hiley (King's) has been posted to the company from "W" Coy and is making his presence felt with the Rifle Pl.

Dukes PS are: Sgt. Leachman (Rifle Pl). Sgt. Kelly (Wellington Pl), Cpl. Millar (Drums), Cpl. Noble (Wolfe Pl).

Z Company

As can be seen by the heading Headquarter Company is no more. We now go under the title of "Z" Company. We are told that this is due to the forthcoming amalgamation of the Depots; there is no substance in the rumour that the Companies were given the prefixes of W, X, Y and Z to help recruits learn the alphabet.

Capt. Newell continues to carry out the duties of Adjutant (in between rounds of golf.) He is at present training his dog—Wellington—in the finer arts of a caddie (present score: balls found—nil; bitches—20.)

A little-mentioned detachment of "Z" Coy is the Regimental Recruiting Team of which WO2 Bob Keily, Sgt. Paddy Craig, Pte. Mick Bond and, finally, Pte. Dave Woolley are prominent members. They continue to do a fine job in recruiting the future generations of "Dukes", besides, of course, making out 1771s.

Cpl. Ian Akeroyd is the present PMC of the Cpls. Mess. Congratulations are in order on the birth of his second daughter on May 22. This, incidentally, makes the present total of children accountable to the Orderly Room Staff to 22. L/Cpls. Colin Rutherford and Barry Bagshaw assure us that the "Corner Shop" is now escape-proof. RQMS Sargeant is now back in full swing after a very enjoyable evening at the Paardeberg Ball.

Finally, we would like to say farewell and thank you to Cpl. Terry Laherty, L/Cpl. Mick Hodgson and L/Cpl. Ian Willetts on their recent posting to the Battalion.

Appointments and Commissions

Col. J. B. Sugden, TD, DL, JP, has accepted the appointment of Deputy Honorary Colonel of the 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers. This appointment is for one year only while MOD is reconsidering the requirement for regimental honorary colonels in the Yorkshire Volunteers.

The following appointments have been announced:

Col. D. E. Isles, OBE—Controller Military Projects, RARDE.
Major J. R. P. Cumberlege for DAAG, HQ 4 Div., Nov. 71.

Major J. D. P. Cowell, Training Major, 3 Yorkshire Volunteers.

Capt. D. W. Wonson for 10 AYT, Jan. 72.

Capt. T. J. Nicholson for Adjutant KDDY, Oct. 71.

Lt. N. J. Newell for KDDY, Nov. 71.

The following officers have been commissioned into the Regiment:

From RMAS

2/Lt. C. M. Grieve.

2/Lt. J. Dowdall.

2/Lt. T. C. Sinclair.

From Mons OCS

2/Lt. A. D. Meek (Short Service Commission).

Expansion of the T&AVR

The following is the message sent by the Prime Minister to the Chairmen of all T & AVRAs and is republished to indicate how he is personally interested in the expansion and rebuilding of our Reserve Army.

10 Downing Street,
Whitehall.

'Now that recruiting for the new units of the T & AVR has begun, I want to send all T & AVR Associations, and through them all members of the T & AVR a personal message of encouragement.

I want to make clear the Government's conviction, as well as my own, not only as Prime Minister but also as a former Commanding Officer of the Honourable Artillery Company, of the value of service in the Volunteers.

I am sure the country fully appreciates the vital part which the T & AVR plays in Britain's contribution to the security of Europe. While existing T & AVR units are tailor-made for a role in support of

NATO the new units which are now being formed will create a much-needed flexible reserve ready to deal with any situation. It is to meet this need that we have authorised the current expansion.

I know that Volunteers are as busy, in their civilian jobs, as anyone else, and we are grateful to them for the special effort which they make to find time needed to complete their annual training. I also hope very much that employers will co-operate fully to make this possible.

It is a great credit to all Volunteers that the T & AVR has developed into a thoroughly professional force, that it has been steadily growing in strength and that it is now embarking enthusiastically on a much-needed expansion.

I wish you all every possible success in your worthwhile task.

(Signed) EDWARD HEATH

16th April, 1971.

'C' Company (DWR) 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers

On April 1, which, ironically is the usual day for such changes, the TAVR expanded and consequently our battalion became the 1st Bn The Yorkshire Volunteers. Having 1st Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and our own 3rd Battalion close at hand one has to be careful how one uses such a familiar expression as "The 1st Battalion".

An interesting feature of our recruiting in recent months has been the number of Regular Army Reservists who have come to join us. We welcome them and are delighted to have them with us to help improve our military efficiency, and to keep their hands in at their various skills. Only one of these recently joined, Cpl. Rhodes, is an ex-"Duke", but there must be many more living in Yorkshire, and

they would be welcome at Halifax or our other Drill Halls. If you have left or are leaving the Army, are fit and of military age, and miss the comradeship, come in and see us. No strings are attached. You don't have to join, but naturally we hope you may.

Training has continued taking in such exotic beauty spots as Proteus, Strensall, Bellerby and Warcop, and last Saturday at Hawksworth Ranges, on the edge of Ilkley Moor, some useful coaching was given to our most promising shots by our PSIs WO2 Morris and S/Sgt. Holliday. The proof of the pudding, namely the Battalion Rifle Meeting, is close at hand.

Sgts. Carey and Taylor have been away on courses, and CSM Peckett is due to go away on a

drill instructors course. This will be his second. He must like it. So "Wake up that idle man in the rear rank"! Sgt. Berry, Sgt. Lamb and Cpl. Purvis are on a course at Netherhaven at the moment, and Sgt. Simpson is due to go on a signals course in the near future.

The company was proud to have some small part in the ceremonies of Saturday, April 17, by providing a party of men to line the stairs at the Regimental Museum in the afternoon when the Honorary Colours were laid up. In addition, we were pleased to see, and to have the opportunity of drinks with men of the 1st Bn DWR when our canteen was open that afternoon.

The day proved a long and very regimental one for some of our members, as the 1st Bn were later succeeded in the Drill Hall by the 4th Bn Old Comrades Association for their AGM and supper. It was a great pleasure to us to see this band of grand old gentlemen, and to be able to allow them the use of the Drill Hall where so many of them had volunteered and commenced their service in the dark days of 1914.

Whilst Cpl. Robinson and his volunteer barmen and waiters soldiered on at the Drill Hall, the sergeants had retired, if that is the right word, to their ball at Colliergate Drill Hall, York. This function maintained the by now customary high standard. Even a non-dancing teetotaler, if such a person would be invited, couldn't fail to enjoy the superb buffet.

Finally, we congratulate Sgts. Lamb and Taylor on attaining their substantive promotion, Cpls. Robinson and Kennerdale, and L/Cpls. Kennedy,

Burnside, and Green on their recent well-deserved promotion.

Sergeants Mess

It is rumoured that we are being "decorated" again, due to damp walls. We hope this is correct, for we can have another house warmer if training permits. Our thanks to TAVRA when it happens!

Since the last notes appeared we have been busy entertaining guests on Thursday evenings, namely the Police, CID, and Webster's engineering department, losing only once, to Webster's. As this was classed as an "away game", we have yet to lose in the Mess! Carpet bowls, dominoes, fives and threes and shooting are popular on games nights. Excellent buffets make the night. He does well, does Walt.

We have had a Tramps' Social which turned out a good night, the PMC not quite with it, he was a hippy.

Dago Taylor still lives for social evenings, among other things. Brian Dolan was "Pork" of the year when he turned up at the wrong Registry Office for his daughter Elizabeth's wedding. Norma wasn't too pleased either!

Arthur and Bert keep doing their bit for the Mess, for which the PMC is most grateful, although they still can't play dominoes. Roger is the luckiest bloke ever to play on our one-arm bandit. If they had two arms, he'd still win. If it isn't the Mess bandit, it's the canteen bandit.

The next social in the mess is on August 14, our Hippy rave-up when the Wellington Mews is taken over by all kinds of "objects".

'C' Company (DWR) 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers

Formerly The West Riding Bn. (DWR) Cadre

As you will see from the heading the reorganisation mentioned in the last issue has taken place, and we have succeeded in stressing our proud parentage by having "DWR" as early as possible in our title. At the present time we are having difficulty in being allowed to keep our "Dukes" collar badges, but since the Colonel of the Regiment is "actively engaged" in this direction the least said on this matter at the moment the better for all concerned.

We are pleased to let all our readers know that, at the time of writing, we are leading the recruiting figures in both 2nd and 3rd Yorkshire Volunteers, having some 92 people either finally approved or in the pipeline.

Lt. Mathew Bateman is to be congratulated for his splendid work in raising 9 Pln in Keighley, and also for acting as "Clerk of Works" for the many alterations, and complete redecoration, of Keighley Drill Hall.

We have succeeded in getting together a formidable team of senior NCOs, most being ex-regular PSIs so that our instruction should be good. These include CSM "Spud" Taylor and Sgt. Wakefield, both ex-1DWR, Sgt. Trigg, ex-KOYLI,

and S/Sgt. Quayle, our PSI from 1DWR. David Cowell is our training Major, and WO2 Fee is RQMS, so the "Dukes" are very well represented! !

Under the new set-up we have the luxury of a civilian clerical officer for each company, and we are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Harrison to this post. No doubt there will be many who breathe a sigh of relief when they haven't to decipher the OC's atrocious writing in the future.

Camp this year is to be at Ripon in the last week of August and first week in September. This location has been chosen so that Yorkshire District can help us out administratively and we can have all hands on training.

Training is being done on a progressive basis on drill nights with a weekend of two days every fortnight. The recruits are to be congratulated for their keenness and the terrific improvements already made.

The OC and 2IC were privileged to be on parade when the Queen visited the 1,900th celebrations at York.

The time since April has been well spent, and we are all looking forward to camp.

The Regimental Association

AGM and Reunion Dinner

The AGM and Reunion Dinner, followed by a dance, will be held in the Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield, on Saturday, September 25, 1971.

AGM 5.30 p.m. Dinner 7.15 p.m.

Tickets for the dinner, price £1, are obtainable from the General Secretary at RHQ, or from Branch Secretaries.

Normal branch activities during the period covered by these notes have been highlighted by two special events; firstly, on April 17, when the retired Honorary Colours were handed over for safe keeping to the Regimental Museum, and, secondly, on the long week-end May 14-16, the occasion of the London and Home Counties Branch Annual Reunion and Dinner.

April 17 was indeed a "Dukes" day. Around noon 500 men from the 1st Battalion paraded on the old square at Wellesley Barracks, Highroad Well, together with a contingent from the Old Comrades Association headed by Joe Annesley. Welcome visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Sid Code from Blackpool, Mr. Len Sullivan from Lincoln and many others who mingled with the assembled spectators. Coachloads from Huddersfield and Mossley brought members with their wives and friends to the ceremony and what was later to become a full day's outing. Keighley and Bradford branches were also represented whilst Halifax members were on "their own ground".

At Wellesley Barracks, now known as Wellesley Park, closed as a military depot in 1959, the parade was inspected by the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Robert Bray and the Mayor of Halifax, Alderman Albert Berry, JP, who took the salute. Then, headed by the Band and Drums in scarlet uniforms and wearing spiked helmets, to the familiar strains of "The Wellesley" we marched off the square with a firm swing and straight back, inwardly warmed with pride, that turned the bitterly cold wind into a warm, friendly breeze.

From the Barracks, headed by two horse-mounted policemen and led by the Band and Drums, the battalion marched through the town of Halifax with bayonets fixed and Colours flying. It was a grand, colourful and heart-warming spectacle, now aided by the sun as the battalion wheeled round Bull Green roundabout to stirring martial music, the beat of the drum and the call of the bugle. The assembled crowds acknowledged the presence of their own regiment with a dignified acclaim, many a little perplexed by missing the nostalgic thud of the steel-studded boot.

Prescott Street Drill Hall, now known as Wellington Hall, presented a gay scene as the soldiers returning to Catterick attempted to replenish the inner man whilst surrounded by girl friends and relatives with their excited chatter.

In the afternoon the formal ceremony of handing

over the Honorary Colours was carried out with a quiet dignity becoming to such an occasion. After speeches by General Sir Robert Bray, The Mayor of Halifax and the blessing of the Colours by the Chaplain of the Regiment, The Lord Bishop of Wakefield, the Colours were finally put on display in the Regimental Museum adding the proudest adornment to its walls.

Ceremonies over, the Band played in the grounds of the Bankfield Museum and, despite the cold wind, ardent enthusiasts grouped around the musicians who appeared oblivious of the cold. Display teams from the Battalion and Army Youth teams attracted much attention although the age group of the spectators would have aided recruiting better had it been a little older.

4th DWR OCA Reunion

Evening, and a quick-change Wellington Hall saw the 51st Annual Reunion Dinner of the 4th Battalion OCA. Guests from Regimental Headquarters were Major J. H. Davis, Major C. F. Grieve and Mr. Arthur Wood. Considering that this Association is composed of First War soldiers only, the attendance was very good and after a little liquid refreshment, thanks to the staff of "C" Coy (Duke of Wellington's) Yorkshire Volunteers, all sat down to an excellent dinner. After dinner speeches by Major Davis and Major Grieve were replied to by Sir William Fenton, President of the 4th Bn OCA, who spoke of the wonderful spirit of our Regiment, then and now, and went on to say that all their members were now approaching, or had reached, advanced age. He spoke of the loneliness of the aged and of how, in this present perhaps selfish age, many of them were forgotten and neglected and it was up to all of us who were in a position to offer help, friendship and companionship to do so.

Many that night had travelled from far afield to attend the reunion and one aged pensioner, over 80, was conveyed back to the inn where he was staying for the night and left, with a glass of whiskey, enjoying the revels of the younger generation doing an impromptu dance to music from a juke box in the corner of the bar.

BLESMA Social

Still on the evening of April 17. The Terrier Tavern at St. Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield, was full to capacity with the Huddersfield, Halifax, Mossley and Bradford members and their friends. Jackie Horne had utilised this day and occasion to organise a social evening with the aid of a "group" of young musicians who had offered their services free, proceeds from social to go to BLESMA funds. Atop events earlier in the day, the music, wild and gentle, the drink mild and bitter, a happy generous crowd thoroughly enjoyed themselves well into the early hours, and contributed £27 to BLESMA funds. Nice work, Huddersfield

Branch, and many thanks too to Nobby Clarke, John Rutherford and other members of "C" Coy (Duke of Wellington's) 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers, for their willing and cheerful chores that help to make these occasions such a success.

2/6th Battalion DWR

The 1914-18 war veterans of the 2/6th held their 49th reunion in Skipton on May 1.

This annual event is held on the nearest Saturday to May 4, the anniversary of their effort to break through the Hindenburg line at Bullecourt.

This year's president was Mr. Maclean from Defford, Worcester; the member from farthest away was Mr. Mason from Bognor. The oldest present was Mr. Tom Robinson (95), once the Battalion tailor, and the youngest was Mr. Mitchell (71) who, as is apparent from his present age, enlisted considerably under age.

The 2/6th reunion has for many years carried on without any of their 1914-18 officers. The continuation and success of the reunions has been due entirely to the devotion and energy of Mr. P. A. Winter of Bingley.

Branch Notes

All branches continue their monthly meetings and all have held their Annual General Meetings and officials remain as before with secretaries who will be only too pleased to supply any information to would-be new members. Their names are:

HALIFAX—Mr. F. Stringer, 26 Savile Parade, Savile Park, Halifax.

HUDDERSFIELD—Mr. J. E. Horne, 9 New Street, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield.

BRADFORD—Mr. J. Wardle, 31 Woodhall Avenue, Thornbury, Bradford 3.

MOSSLEY—Mr. F. Shaw, 325 Stockport Road, Mossley, Ashton-U-Lyne, Lancs.

KEIGHLEY—Mr. W. G. Smith, 1 Beech Street, Steeton, Keighley, Yorks.

Summer Holidays

Arrangements are again being made for some of our elderly ex-soldiers to spend a fortnight's holiday at The Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Home, Lowestoft. This must be an exceptionally well-run and pleasant holiday centre according to the warm thanks and enthusiasm shown in letters we have received from "Dukes" who have stayed there. Names for consideration for a holiday between May and September may be submitted to the General Secretary at RHQ at Halifax.

Money—1971!

As every reader knows, making money spin out these days can cause no little headache. It's bad enough when there's just sufficient, worse when scraping the pan bottom, but when misfortune strikes there are times when a friend and helping hand is needed. The Regimental and Old Comrades Association is ever ready at such times to lend a helping hand, but in order to do so we have to keep the coffers filled. Over the years a little help has been given from the profits on a sweepstake held on the result of the St. Leger race, this year run at Doncaster on September 11. Prizes are good and

well worth winning—£100, £50, £25, £10, with £1 for each runner drawn. (Also this year a special prize of £5 will be presented to the seller of the winning ticket).

Price of tickets 5p each, books of 10, 50p.

Books of tickets are being sent out this week (June) to known sellers but more sellers are needed, so if you are prepared to do your bit, either by buying or selling tickets, and you have not received any books by the time you read this notice, send off immediately to RHQ DWR, Wellesley Park, High-road Well, Halifax, for book(s) — there may still be some left.

London Visit

After the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, the battle which was destined to set the pattern of life in Europe, the Great Duke, soldier and statesman, returned to London. Although this is now past history, when members and their wives of The Duke of Wellington's Regimental and Old Comrades Association, West Riding branches, travelled to London on May 14, 1971, on the occasion of the London and Home Counties Branch Reunion Dinner, it appeared but yesterday and had the Duke himself appeared on Copenhagen riding down the Mall the action would have been fitting to the mood of us fiercely proud "Dukes" walking through London feeling just a little taller and more erect than the crowds, even looking a little indignantly at some of the weaker elements that seem to have accumulated in that great metropolis. "No. 1 London, Duke of Wellington Place, Wellington Arch, Wellington Museum, innumerable statues, reminders wherever one went, boastful notices informing visitors and tourists that this or that building or place had been associated with the Duke; reminders everywhere of the impact of that great man on the life of the British.

From locals and visitors alike we heard with a feeling of pride how our present day soldiers of the 1st Battalion had carried out ceremonial guards second to none, a brief respite after duties in Hong Kong and before preparing for duties in Northern Ireland—all history in the making.

At the dinner, near Berkeley Square, the Colonel of the Regiment was fortunately able to be present, along with other notable guests including RSM Bob Chilvers and the RQMS from the 1st Battalion and our "Dukes" from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in their colourful uniforms. Freak weather tried its best to cool that evening but failed to penetrate the inner warmth of men and women of like ilk gathered together. Grace was said by Dave Benson, Chairman of the Branch, who also proposed the toast to Her Majesty The Queen who had sent the following telegram: "Please convey to Members of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Association dining together this evening sincere thanks for their kind and loyal greeting."

Jackie Horne from the Huddersfield Branch, proposing the toast to the Regiment, said how proud and honoured he was at being asked to propose this toast. He spoke of the deeds of the regiment and life as a soldier serving and of the pleasure it gave to him now, his soldiering days past, to be in a position to remain in contact with fellow officers and soldiers

and to know that the reputation and traditions of the Regiment were still being maintained, even enhanced, by our present day officers and soldiers. He had joined The Duke's in India over 60 years ago at the ripe age of 2 when his parents joined the 2nd Battalion, a fact that General Sir Robert Bray humorously verified and compared to his own length of service in the Regiment.

During the evening a barometer, kindly given by Mr. and Mrs. Horne, was raffled and the sum of £8-50 was contributed towards London Branch expenses.

Thanks of all to Dave Benson, Bob Temple and all members of the London Branch for their "behind-the-scenes" efforts to make this event so popular. We know the problems and difficulties that beset such occasions and all members and guests are truly grateful. We are already looking forward to next year's event.

Royal Hospital, Chelsea

Sunday morning, in the foyer of the Victory Club, Marble Arch, where the West Riding contingent were staying, members met for their annual visit to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where seven "Dukes" are in residence. In the hospital wing we visited Jim Yaxley and Oliver Ramsbottom. Both were looking fit and well which was easily understandable with the ministrations of such a pleasant staff under perfect conditions.

At the service in the chapel we sang heartily with the Pensioners and choir and once again heard the deeds of the Regiment and men serving with it extolled by the Chaplain in his address welcoming our party to Chelsea. Later in the Club we were royally entertained by the Governor, Sir Charles Jones and Lady Jones and staff, and the "Dukes" Pensioners: Harold Bartrop, Tug Wilson, Nobby Clarke, Percy Morley and Henry Barron. Glasses were filled, raised, refilled and raised again, a befitting end to another memorable visit to London.

Let it also be reported here that, in addition to the activities recorded above, not one spare second was wasted during our stay. The encounters, visits to places of interest, tours of restaurants, bars, theatres and cinemas, etc., the mixing with the teeming throngs under the myriads of lights, will be talking topics for months to come.

Food for thought

We hear a lot these days about the loneliness of the elderly and often of the neglect that adds misery to their plight. To maintain our policy that "The Dukes look after their own" there's a lot we can do to ensure that any "Duke" we know never reaches that state. Men join, serve, return to civilian life marry, move, change jobs and locations and are scattered round the globe. But—it's surprising what a small world it is when we put ourselves about to find out and act. Any "Duke" in your locality whom you think needs a helping hand? Any soldier pal you'd like to trace? The quest may be hard, seemingly hopeless, but it's surprising what success there can be, too.

Remember this little paragraph, maybe I'm making a rod for my own back, but I can also

visualise our organisation being the means of spreading happiness and dispelling gloom to a great many.

Legacies

The following legacies have been bequeathed to the Regimental and Old Comrades Association for the benefit of soldiers and their dependants in distress:

£50 from the late Major T. St. G. Carroll of the 1st Battalion. (The obituary to Major Carroll appeared in the April issue of THE IRON DUKE.)

£200 from the late Mrs. L. J. E. Sheppard whose former husband, Lt.-Col. A. A. St.-Hill, DSO, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, was killed in action whilst serving with the 11th Northumberland Fusiliers in France in 1918.

The Army Benevolent Fund

Major-General P. N. White, CB, CBE, who has been controller for 11 years, is to retire on July 15. At the annual meeting in York he introduced his successor, Major-General D. N. H. Tyacke, CB, OBE.

General Nap White, with the support of General Jimmy Steele, is very largely responsible for getting the finances of the Army Benevolent Funds onto their present sound basis. He is also responsible for the understanding and trust with which Regimental Secretaries now deal with Headquarters of the ABF.

He has our very best wishes after what has been an outstanding contribution to the Army welfare.

Jarratt, Pyrah & Armitage Limited

Timber Importers & Merchants

Turnbridge, Huddersfield HD1 6QU
(and Victoria Dock, Hull)

Established 1770 Tel. Huddersfield 28461

Yellow Pine	Interwoven Fencing
All types of Softwoods	Plywoods
Mouldings	Wallboards, etc.
Kiln-dried Hardwoods	Doors

If you are considering modernising your offices, showrooms or warehouses, may we invite you to inspect our various offices, which are panelled with a variety of decorative plywoods and wallboards.

The Army Cadet Force

Huddersfield Area (DWR)

Pot-boilers

A nickname which we narrowly missed acquiring when one old soldier asked if "our cadets ever smoked *Cannibals*". He was very swiftly informed that "Dukes" cadets were far too busy to even get curious about such a habit. We are, however, able to say . . .

Congratulations

To Lt. John Clegg of our Halifax Detachment on his marriage to Pamela Margaret Pullan at Gomersal Moravian Church on Saturday, April 17. Messrs. Howarth, Tyler, Evans, Windle and Fitton provided a "Dukes" guard of honour, and the event was celebrated in traditional style.

Terry Bonds, now OC Mirfield Detachment, earns a well-deserved promotion to the new ACF rank of staff-sergeant instructor.

We are particularly pleased to say "hello" to Beverley, a beautiful little daughter for SI Peter and Margaret Cole. Congratulations to you both.

Weekend Camps

The weather was extremely kind for a February visit to the Scarborough Signals Centre at Burniston Barracks. Map reading (with 10 AYT) first aid (with Major Ben McCaffrey, County MO) and orienteering (with Lt.-Col. Tom Horsfall, CCTO) ably backed up the obvious training activity at Burniston of signals under the guidance of Lt. George Carmichael and his 4 AYT.

April provoked a visit to our own WRACF County Training Centre at Strensall, where some intensive range work produced splendid results at the ACF Skill-at-Arms meeting reported below.

April also renewed our useful association with 10 CTT at Proteus Training Camp, and was the first opportunity BSM Goddard had of getting back into his stride after a long illness and convalescence. Although rather damp (sounds better than continuous rain), a splendid night patrol occurred, confirming that our cadets certainly gain with Regular Army tuition.

We next renew acquaintance with this team at Leek Training Camp in June and we look forward to working with their new OC, Capt. Patrick Puttock, now of the DWR.

Shooting

WRACF Annual Skill-at-Arms Meeting was held at the CTC Strensall on May 8-9. No less than three "Dukes" teams, Halifax, Skipton and Heckmondwike, reached the semi-finals of the falling plate competition, with Skipton and Heckmondwike gaining 1st and 2nd places. Many Area cadets classified, and Halifax Detachment managed an excellent third place in the overall team event.

We are also pleased to record that the WRACF team, which included Capt. Doug. Bennett of Skip-

ton, came first in the Army Section of the Yorkshire Rifle Association Meeting on June 13.

Comings and goings

A very warm welcome is extended to ex-cadet Darrel Tate on his appointment as an SI and subsequent posting to our Mirfield Detachment.

Capt. Geoff. Whitaker breezes in from Bradford Area ACF on transfer, as Assistant Training Officer (DOE and Adventure Training). His first venture—a 42-mile Lyke Wake Walk scheduled for annual camp—heaven forbid when he's been here a while!

It is with regret that we say farewell, ACF-wise, to Major David Cowell, GSO2 (Cadets) HQ Yorkshire District on his appointment as Training Major to the 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers, and at the same time say a big hello to his successor Major Mike Campbell-Lamerton, with whom we are sure we shall have an equally happy association.

Here and there

John Clegg's Nijmegen team maintain a high standard with their training and 10-mile, two-hour sessions are a regular feature down Halifax way.

A series of visits by 5th Light Infantry (Royal Artillery) to detachments of the Area have been secured, and are extremely popular with the cadets.

Rehearsals for the Cadet Tattoo, to be held in Greenhead Park on August 8, are well in hand. Even a weekend at Strensall was reserved for combined training by ACF, ATC, SCC, Royal Marines, etc. and, if the efforts now experienced in rehearsal are anything to go by, the Tattoo will surely be a roaring success.

Army Cadet Sunday was celebrated in Huddersfield on June 13, with a parade and service at the Parish Church. The poor weather played no small part in a disappointing attendance, but this is not wholly surprising when one considers also that the Area ranges from Skipton in the north to Thongsbridge in the south. A reception lunch followed in the Officers Mess at St. Paul's Street for officers of the Area and their guests.

The whole area forwards the very best of wishes for a speedy recovery to full health of our friend and colleague, SI Jack Blenkarn of Keighley.

Lt. John Evans takes over Huddersfield Detachment *vice* Lt. Trevor Windle who is now on leave of absence, and so yet another sticky little hand reaches for the tankard handle.

Conclusion

We have very few vacancies for instructors, but for officers we can still find a slot or two in the Area structure and would be pleased to receive any applications for consideration from ex-"Dukes" personnel—so how about it?—get fell in with the Army's own youth service, and let fortune favour the brave.

Personalia

On July 9, 1971, General Sir George Baker, President of the Army Rugby Union and late Chief of the General Staff, made a presentation to Lt.-Col. Jack Dalrymple, who retired this year as Honorary Secretary of the Army Rugby Union after some eight years in office. Jack's connection with Army rugby started in the 1930s as a player and continued after the war as a selector and committee man before becoming secretary. In a sense, therefore, the presentation was to thank Jack not only for his sterling work as secretary but also for all that he has done for Army rugby. This is a very great deal—as so many "Dukes" know well.

The presentation took the form of a magnificent cut-glass decanter and a substantial cheque to which regiments, the ARU and individuals had all contributed. It took place, fittingly, at the annual general meeting, when representatives of all UK Commands and BAOR were present. Dennis Shuttleworth, Chairman BAOR Selectors, and Donald Isles, ARU Committee, were there; unfortunately Mike Hardy, Chairman ARU Selectors, was away on duty in Germany and could not be present.

The Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal has been awarded in York to PC Harold Arthur Sanderson who served in the Regiment in 1949. In 1958 PC Sanderson volunteered for service with the British Police Unit in Cyprus for two years and was awarded the General Service Medal afterwards.

Congratulations are due to Major Cyril Kenchington on his success in the Lindley ward of the Huddersfield County Borough Elections where he and the other Conservative candidate both topped the polls last May. He says that the area he represents has about 9,000 voters and that in opposition were two Labour and two National Front nominees. He and his family put in two weeks of hard canvassing and distributing of leaflets and were delighted that, despite the general swing to Labour, he was successful.

Ex-CSM Mick Reed, who played rugger for the Regiment at Devonport and Aldershot, and later for the Depot, has written from Plymouth. He says that older members of the 1st Battalion might be interested to know that Raglan Barracks has been demolished, except for the main arch which is for sale at £15,000! He left the Army in 1950 and, since 1954, has been a BIA in the Barrack Services. He is due to retire on August 12 this year. He occasionally sees Major Harry Lauder in the distance and he always has a chat with Captain Ian Reid when he visits HQ 24 Airportable Brigade.

Mr. A. M. Ancill, who used to be in the cook-house when 1 DWR were in Malta and Bordon, lives at Gunns Farm, Liphook, Hants. He has been

there for many years. His three boys have all got on well. The eldest is in "Telecommunications" in South Africa, the second is a colour-sergeant in the Royal Marines, and the youngest is in a local electronics firm. He spends what time he can playing golf and trying to get his handicap below 12. He complains that there are not many old "Dukes" in the area but he keeps in touch with those there are.

Lt.-Col. "Cocky" Haslock has written from New Zealand where he now lives. He says how much he enjoys reading his copies of THE IRON DUKE, but how sad it is that with each issue the names of those he knew grow fewer. It is now 40 years since he took a gratuity at the end of his tour at what was then 'The Depot'.

Major Nick Naughton writes to say that he and his family have settled down well at Euskirchen in Germany and that they are enjoying life there. He finds the work (he is senior lecturer in English and Russian at the Central German Language School) stimulating without being too exacting and he gets plenty of free time. There are several English and Americans on the staff and all his instruction is given in English so he has hardly noticed the change in scenery, especially as all his students are uniformed military.

We are pleased to have seen in her Majesty's Birthday Honours List the well-earned award of the MBE to Captain Walter Robins.

Major Bruce Murgatroyd was fortunate enough to go for a business trip to South Africa during the early part of the year. He took the opportunity to meet up with Major Jeffrey Reynolds at his hotel in Simonstown and Major Chris Newton Thompson in Johannesburg. The last British Lions team in South Africa stayed at the former's hotel during their time in Cape Town.

A great honour has been conferred on Col. Pat Cousens: he has been made a member of the "Seniors" Golfing Society. This distinction has, so far as we know, only been conferred on two other members of the Regiment: the late General Willy Ozanne and General Paddy Beard.

After many years as an Army "boffin", Lt.-Col. "Nick" Nicholson is due to retire on August 17. He will then join the Scientific Civil Service and will become a civilian staff member of Col. Donald Isle's Department at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, Fort Halstead.

We hear, incidentally, from Col. Donald that he and Mrs. Isles—and the whippets—are much enjoying life at Halstead. His office is 10 minutes

walk from their quarter which is a great improvement on commuting from Bushey to the MOD.

Our congratulations to Col. J. B. Sudgen who has been a magistrate since 1955 and, on June 22, was elected chairman of Huddersfield Borough Bench.

Miss Jennifer Wathen, whose engagement was announced in our last issue, was married to Mr. John Spenser Richardson on May 15, at St. Mary's Church, South Perth, Western Australia. Col. and Mrs. Wathen hope to visit Mr. and Mrs. Robinson next February.

Major Graham Tedd has been appointed to the committee of the Combined Services Cricket Association for 1971 as representative of the umpires associations of all three Services.

Major Douglas Jones Stamp, writing from HQ Far East Land Forces, which is apparently located in Tanglin Barracks, mentions that James Hayes had been staying with him, after an antiquarian congress in Canberra. He adds: "This place is very different now from when it was our Mess. However two sons and a son-in-law of Ahmed Din are still in business within a quarter of a mile of where I write."

Major Jones-Stamp sent us a short cutting from *Country Life* about the old bridge at Grantown-on-Spey having been built by the 33rd Regiment in 1754.

There have been reports in past IRON DUKES of their having built the road between Tomintoul and Grantown, and of the stone recording this at the Well of Lecht, but we do not remember previous mention of the bridge. The cutting says that its construction was "not too sound". However, it survived famous floods, was only replaced for wheeled traffic in 1930 and is still used by pedestrians, so the Havercake Lads do not really seem to have built too badly.

Mr. E. Smith, DCM, who was RSM of 1 DWR and retired in 1935, is now living at No. 2 Parkway, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset.

Mr. 'Jock' Imray was unable to attend the London OCA dinner as he was spending a week acting as a stretcher bearer for pilgrims at Lourdes. He does this every year but this year the two engagements clashed.

Colonel H. Harvey has been in the wars again. In his own words: "You know the old rhyme about the swallow who met a fearful hawk who pulled out all his feathers and said now, you blighter, walk. That was about my situation when on my way back from London (*the day after the OCA dinner*) I had rather a nasty smash-up—not 20 minutes from home. I collided nearly head-on with a car. The impact lifted me clean out of my seat as the wheel was pushed back. Luckily it caught me under the ribs, and not in the old stomach which

would have undone all the surgeons' good work and might have resulted in the big stone being put over me. It shook me up! The Police did and said all the usual things: breath test—which proved nil! Statement—"I thought I was on Z cars". Car towed away—about £150 damage. A neighbour was phoned who very kindly took me home—4.30 a.m. I am on the recovery list and becoming an expert bus catcher—which I hate."

THE REGIMENTAL DINNER CLUB

The Officers' Regimental Dinner Club held its annual dinner at the Hyde Park Hotel on Friday, May 14. There was a large attendance of 80 members including nearly all the officers of the 1st Battalion. The Colonel of the Regiment presided.

As guests we welcomed Brigadier the Marquess Douro, MVO, OBE, MC, BA, Major-General J. D. Lunt, CBE and the Hon. F. F. Fisher, MC, MA, Master of Wellington College.

The luncheon, held earlier the same day, was also well attended.

Those who attended the two functions were:

THE DINNER

General Sir Robert Bray (Colonel of the Regiment).

Major-General K. G. Exham

Brigadiers: Bunbury, Firth, P. P. de la H. Moran, Webb-Carter.

Colonels: Armitage, Cousens, Cumberlege, Davidson, Harvey, Howcroft, Isles, Turner.

Lieutenant-Colonels: Barkshire, Dalrymple, Huxtable, Le Messurier, Sayers.

Majors: Austin, Buckingham, Butterfield, Campbell - Lamerton, Cartwright, Coop, Cowell, Crowther, Cumberlege, Davis, Glazebrook, Greenway, Grieve, Hoppe, Ince, Kenchington, Kilner, Lane, Lupton, Miller, Mitchell, Mundell, Nash, Newton, Pell, Savory, Streatfeild, Tedd, Webster.

Captains: Bunbury, Cartwright, Cumberlege, Fitzgerald, Mellor, Newell, Nicholson, McGlynn, Pettigrew, Power, Robins, Sugden, Tighe, Walker, Westcob, Wonson.

Lieutenants: Arnold, Batty, M. P. Bird, P. J. Bird, M. P. C. Bray, Bruce-Lowe, Gardner, Gilbert, Isles, Meek, Newell, Roberts, Sharp, Sherlock, Thorn, Ward.

THE LUNCHEON

Col. and Mrs. Armitage, Mrs. Boufflower, General Sir Robert and Lady Bray, Mrs. M. R. N. Bray, Major and Mrs. Cartwright, Mrs. Chatterton, Colonel and Mrs. Cumberlege, Colonel Davidson, Major and Mrs. Davis, Major and Mrs. Dunn, Major-General and Mrs. K. G. Exham, Brigadier Firth, Major and Mrs. Greenway, Major and Mrs. Grieve, Mrs. Grimley, Colonel Harvey, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Huxtable, Major and Mrs. R. H. Ince, Col. and Mrs. Isles, Lady Landon, Mrs. J. H. C. Lawlor, Major and Mrs. Mitchell, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Price, Major and Mrs. Savory, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Sayers, Col. Turner, Brigadier Webb-Carter, Capt. and Mrs. Wonson.

Mrs. Glazebrook joined us for coffee after lunch.

Obituary

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

Mr. G. W. R. Annesley, M.B.E.

George William Robert Annesley, universally known as Joe, died suddenly at 31 Harewood Avenue, Highroad Well, Halifax on June 3.

Joe was one of the outstanding characters of the regiment during the past 50 years. Born on July 5, 1903, he joined the 2nd Battalion as a boy in 1919, and came to man's estate in that battalion at a time when it had many wild and tough characters left over from the 1914-18 war. Joe, a solid, burly figure, with a heavy moustache until such adornment went out of fashion, was as tough as any, but if he was wild as a young soldier no record of it now remains.

He had not had much schooling and it was not until 1931, after more than 10 years of man's service, that he took his first stripe, but during those years as a private soldier he became more and more known as a strong influence in the battalion. His sporting prowess helped him in this. At the age of 17 he boxed as "light-heavy" for the battalion and won his weight in the Garrison Championships in Dublin. He was for many years the champion "shot putter" of whichever battalion he was in. But it is as a rugger player that he is chiefly remembered. As a heavy second-row forward he was the mainstay of all the 2nd Battalion sides until he was posted home to the 1st Battalion. It is recorded, too, that he was invaluable in finding and encouraging new talent. In England he immediately gained his place in the 1st Battalion team, winners of the Army Cup in 1931 and 1933. In 1930 he played for the Army against the Air Force.

In 1935, when the battalion moved to Malta, Joe was posted to the Depot with most of the other rugger stars, to keep the Regiment's rugger flame burning. In Halifax he became a corporal and in 1939, back with the battalion in Bordon, he was appointed lance-sergeant. The war finally brought out his full worth.

Brigadier Webb-Carter writes:

"All of us who served with 1 DWR in North Africa and Italy in World War II will be saddened to hear of the death of Joe Annesley.

"He was CSM of HQ Company when the battalion disembarked in North Africa and became the RSM in succession to RSM French in May 1943 when the latter wounded himself seriously whilst dismantling a captured Luger pistol. I have known RSMs who were extremely efficient and RSMs who were popular, but Joe attained the rare achievement of being both. He had a sort of blatant sincerity combined with complete imperturbability which inspired respect and affection in all ranks. He was a rock.

"Throughout the long-drawn-out agony of the Anzio beach-head the battalion suffered more than 100% casualties in the rifle companies and this involved the absorption of hundreds of reinforcements unknown to the Regiment and often cowed at being sent to a strange unit. Part of the RSM's duty was to see these men introduced and assimilated into the battalion. Joe did this effortlessly.

"Many stories can be told of Joe Annesley. An incident that impressed itself on my mind occurred during the Djebel Bou Aoukaz battle in North Africa. He was still CSM of HQ Coy. and, as such, was keeping his eye on some German prisoners we had taken. An hysterical and slightly wounded soldier came staggering down from one of the forward companies. His eyes lighted on the prisoners and raising his rifle, he said "They've killed my mate—I'm going to shoot the bastards!" We held our breath. Anything might have happened. Joe regarded the soldier sternly. "Be off!" he said, quite quietly. The man lowered his rifle and the mad glare left his eyes. He tottered on to the RAP. I doubt if anyone else could have so effectively dealt with the situation.

"It is not a disparagement to say that probably it was only in war that Joe could have become a RSM. In peacetime the authorities demand educational qualifications which the pressure of war makes them dispense with. But surely war is what soldiering is all about."

The years passed and Joe Annesley, M.B.E., now with a mane of snow-white hair, was a notable figure at our reunions. It was indeed fitting that on the last regimental occasion before his death Joe should have led the contingent of Old Comrades on the march through Halifax on April 17.

Joe leaves a widow, Elizabeth. His funeral was attended by many Old Comrades, including Major Grieve, CSM W. Norman, Fred Stringer, Bernard Boon, Joe Brennan, Bill Holt, Jackie Horne, Joe Kane, Victor Prince, Fred and Mrs. Pearce, Mick Reed, Len Sullivan and Bernard Wadd.

Col. L. E. Bishop, M.C.

As was briefly reported in our last issue, "Bish" died in hospital in Cambridge on April 9 as the result of a motor accident.

Lawrence Edward Bishop was born on June 3, 1896, and was educated at Alleyn's School, Dulwich. In 1915, on leaving school, he enlisted in the Inns of Court OTC and was soon commissioned into the 7th London Regiment. He joined the 1/7th Battalion in France in October 1916 and by January 1917 was commanding a company in the Ypres salient. In September 1917 he was awarded the M.C. for his part in an attack by the battalion on Cryer Farm.

He was wounded and invalided to UK in April 1918 and was demobilized in 1919, rejoining the "Shiny Seventh" when it was reformed in 1920 as a territorial battalion.

In the following year he obtained a regular commission and joined 1 DWR in Gibraltar in November 1921. He was soon at home in The Duke's and served with the 1st Battalion in England and as adjutant of the 4th Battalion (TA) from 1926 to 1930. He was then posted to the 2nd Battalion in India and from 1932 to 1936 was Station Staff Officer, Secunderabad. He returned to UK in December 1938 and commanded 305 ITC, Portland, in 1939 and 1940.

B. W. W.-C writes:

"It was in the spring of 1941 when 'Bish' took over command of the 1/7th Battalion in Iceland. That battalion, at the time, was in no happy state. The year before their popular CO had been replaced in the mad scramble to dispose of TA commanders and his successor, who was from another and Scottish regiment, had never really come to terms with the Yorkshiremen of the 1/7th.

"'Bish' had the advantage of being a 'Duke', and a sincere and sympathetic one at that. It was remarkable how his battalion rose to him and improved in all respects. Though he did not have the fortune to command the battalion in action, no one could have prepared them better for the ordeal."

Subsequently "Bish" held a number of administrative staff appointments in England and India. He retired on September 14, 1948.

In 1949 he joined the staff of International Computers Ltd. and rose to be deputy manager of their sales department. Due to retire in 1961 he was kept on for three extra years, finally retiring in 1964 to Cambridge where he and his wife were able to indulge in their great love of watching cricket.

He married on November 29, 1923, Marguerite, daughter of Mr. P. W. Gray of Cambridge. Mrs. Bishop was also injured in the motor accident but is, we are glad to say, well on the road to complete recovery.

The cremation was attended by Col. Turner, also representing the Colonel of the Regiment, Major Davis and Mr. Arthur Wood and Major B. V. Thomlinson, late of the 7th Battalion.

Major G. Fell, M.B.E., T.D., J.P.

Major Geoffrey Fell died at his home, Bob Hill, Chapel Road, Steeton, on March 27. He was 67. He was a partner in the family firm of Robert Fell and Sons Ltd., Skipton. He was a native of Skipton but for a long time he had lived at Keighley. For a number of years he was a member of Keighley Town Council as a Conservative and was Deputy Mayor for 12 months. In 1945 he was awarded the M.B.E. for his public services. He had joined the Territorial Army between the wars and served in the 6 DWR, rising to the rank of major in the last war.

He had a flair for sport. He won numerous trophies in the Skipton and Keighley Golf Clubs and, after his playing days were over, he organised a number of tennis championships including the Yorkshire Championships. He was also an inter-

national bridge player and had represented Yorkshire and England. Shortly after the last war he took on the job of Tournament Secretary to the English Bridge Union and was largely responsible for its growth. He also acted as non-playing Captain for many English teams in the Camrose cup and also for the British Team in the European Championship.

He leaves a widow and two sons.

Mr. A. E. Hemblys

Albert Hemblys joined the Regiment in 1921 serving with them in Ireland, Gibraltar, Constantinople, Gosport and Plymouth. From there he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, serving with them in Ahmednagar and Nowshera.

His father and grandfather both served in the Regiment before him. Details of the service of the Hemblys family was given in Volume X of THE IRON DUKE in the fifth of the series on notable family records in the Regiment.

Albert Hemblys was a fine athlete, winning the 440yd in the battalion sports with great regularity. His only attempt at boxing was in India, when he entered so that his company team should have a full entry. His brave effort got him a severe beating but the cup for the best loser.

Shortly before the end of the war in 1945, while serving as a squadron sergeant-major with 146 Regiment RAC, he was invalided out with the disease from which he died on June 8, 1971.

Albert Hemblys is survived by his wife and their son and two daughters. Over the 26 years from his discharge he needed the care and attention of his wife to an ever-increasing extent. Her courage and cheerfulness have been the admiration of all who knew her.

GOC-in-C's COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

24163717 Pte. Hill, R.

On May 3, 1971, 24163717 Pte. Hill, R., 1 DWR, was in his quarter at 88 Beckwood Estate, Catterick Camp, when he was told that the house next door was on fire and there was a young child upstairs. A number of people had tried unsuccessfully to get into the house through the ground floor.

Pte. Hill climbed into 87 Beckwood after breaking a window and, in the face of thick smoke, found the child, aged 2½, who was trapped upstairs, and lowered her from the bedroom window to safety. He then climbed out of the window himself and reached the ground via a drainpipe.

The courageous and unselfish conduct of Pte. Hill has been brought to the notice of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, who directs that entries are to be made in his AF B120 in accordance with Queen's Regulations for the Army, 1961, para 1633 (p).

(Extract from Northern Command Order 400 of July 13, 1971.)

Correspondence

31 Digby Road,
Ipswich.
April 24, 1971.

Dear Sir,

If you had been in Museum Street, Ipswich, fairly early one morning a week or so ago you would have seen a man leaving a building suddenly stop and look at a man on the opposite footpath who was staring at him. Within a second or so recognition was mutual and they simultaneously walked to the middle of the road and shook hands. They were John Martin and myself and we had last seen each other when we were serving in the 1st Battalion in 1946. We were then serving in Moascar where John was a sergeant in the Signals and I was pay clerk of Headquarter Company.

We did not linger in the middle of the road, but moved on to John's office where work was somewhat delayed for the next half hour or so whilst we reminisced over a cup of coffee. It was indeed a very pleasant experience for both of us. Whilst John has been a resident of Ipswich for many years, I only arrived here in 1966, and am therefore still a foreigner in the view of any true East Anglian. Our conversation brought to light the fact that we had, over the last few years, been in regular business correspondence without being aware of each other's identity. It goes without saying that, the link having been re-established, it will not be easily broken.

It would be interesting to know whether any other ex-members of the Regiment have had similar experiences.

Yours faithfully,
L. Pearce,

3 Lonsdale Avenue,
Portchester,
Fareham, Hants.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing this photo as a matter of interest to your older subscribers.

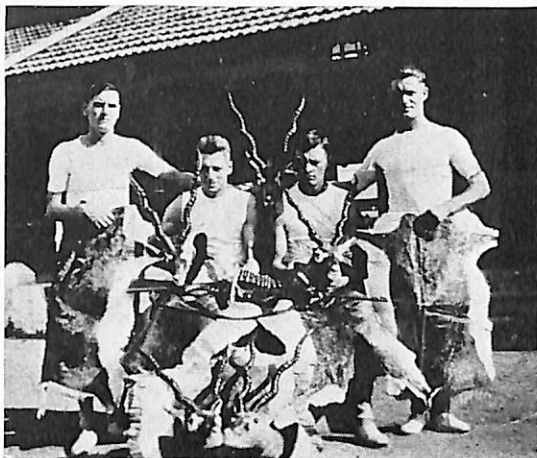
What made me think of this was the Hammond who was recently in the obituary column. Could this be Cpl. "Bug" Hammond of "A" Company, 2nd Battalion, in Ahmednagar round about 1931? (*It was—Ed.*). My photo was taken then by Cpl. Oliver; the names were, left to right, Cpl. Wilcox, Cpl. Ackroyd, Cpl. "Bugg" Hammond and myself, lance-corporal i/c anti-malaria. Capt. Kavanagh was our company officer.

Lt. Webb Carter had just returned from his spell as ADC and was trying to sleep on his verandah without the aid of a punkah. Ahmed Din (the contractor) was trying to sleep with the aid of his harem.

Pte. "Tiny" Coyle had just been knocked out once more by Birch in the boxing finals.

Sgt. Holder was still leading with his chin.

Lt. Harker-Taylor was using a metal shaving-soap tube for a cigarette case. It cut him down to five a day—more for cricket than cancer, I think.



No more of this nostalgia. Would you please send me the next three issues of the magazine. £1 P.O. enclosed.

Yours sincerely,
4608570 A. Anderson.

Mr. Wood has also sent us the following letters from a very old member of the Regimental family which speak for themselves.

43 Dalesfields Crescent,
Micklehurst,
Mossley,
Ashton-under-Lyme.

Dear Sir,

I would like the book about the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, the Havercake Lads, as my Dad, the late Company Sergeant-Major (Robert Robinson) was at Halifax Barracks in 1905. Also myself and my two sisters were born in Halifax. We came to Mossley when I was four years old. Dad joined up again in Ireland and went out to India when he was 16, he was under age. I might tell you that my mother made a dinner on Mayor's Sunday for the Volunteers, when Mr. Iredale was Mayor. My mother made Christmas puddings, roast beef, potatoes and carrots, also used to make teas for the Band from Huddersfield. She made the decorations for the Crimea Veterans and they had a dinner and Mr. Silverwood was on the Committee.

The Volunteers would do anything for my mother. Also my mother brought Harry Laming up. Also Sgt. Allot, he went to the South African War.

I might tell you I went out to Pretoria to an aunt, father's sister. But there was no work for me so I came back. There are four gates to the Cemetery in Pretoria.

I think I will close now. Please let me know how much I owe for the book as I shall give something. Please don't forget me when anything comes off.

Yours faithfully,
Miss Robinson.

May 22, 1971.

Thank you for the book of the Regiment. I am very pleased with it, it brings back memories

Uniform quality

always
in a Gieves
ready-to-wear



*Regimental Tailors
and Outfitters to
the Duke of
Wellington's
Regiment.*

g | Gieves

27 Old Bond Street, London, W.1

Bath · Brockenhurst · Cambridge · Cheltenham
Chester · Cranwell · Edinburgh · Harrow · Leicester
Plymouth · Portsmouth · Winchester · Malta

Life Assurance

POLICIES COVERING
WAR RISKS

for Children.
Convertible Whole Life.
Death Duties. Education
Endowment. House Purchase.
Retirement. Unit Trust
and Share Purchase
by Endowment.



EVERY INSURANCE INCLUDING

Officers' Kit. 75p per £100 world wide.
Hospital Schemes (33½% Group discount—Officers
and Retired Officers.)
Personal Accidents. Personal Liability.
Motor Competitive rates for New and Old Cars.
Home and Foreign Policies.
Bloodstock, Camera, Caravan, Golf, Gun, Holidays,
Hunter, Transit, Television, etc.

B. E. THOMPSON & CO., LTD.

Incorporated Insurance Brokers

11 KING STREET, RICHMOND, YORKSHIRE
Telephone No. 2308

Hawkes of Savile Row

The British have regularly gone into battle with glory and Hawkes' uniforms. Enough have survived to keep the firm going . . . and on victory parades and ceremonial occasions their splendid Hawkes' uniforms have always lent colour to the occasion.

Hawkes of Savile Row go back to the 1770's.

Every year hundreds of people go back to Hawkes to be dressed for the 1970's. You'll know our reputation for made-to-measure tailoring but you may be surprised at the extent of our hand-made ready-to-wear range. Drop in and see both at

1 SAVILE ROW · LONDON · W1

Telephone: 01-734 0186/7

12a LONDON ROAD · CAMBERLEY · SURREY

Camberley: 63829

Illustrated catalogue sent free on request

although I was four years old when we left Halifax and I am 82 years of age now. When I sit by myself I think of bygone years. I buried my youngest sister a month ago.

I am disappointed that I can't come to the reunions. It would be a treat if I could go to Halifax. We used to go to all the Church Parades with mother and we had to behave ourselves.

When the Regiment marched through Yorkshire dad was to lead them into Huddersfield but an old soldier that was in the regiment before dad was allowed to wave the stick and he died a week afterwards.

Mam and dad went to see the Regiment off to India when they went out.

Also you may have permission to reproduce my letter in your magazine. I doubt if any of the Old Comrades will remember my father, Company Sergeant-Major Robert Robinson. It was his birthday on May 17 and he died on his birthday in 1924. He was buried in uniform, which was his wish. Four soldiers and a Bugler from Ashton Barracks carried him and also four soldiers from the barracks carried mother, that was on March 28, 1917. We had a snow fall.

I think I will close now with kind regards to all ranks. I don't know if they knew father. Mother used to wash and mend for 30 soldiers when we lived in Barracks. Dr. Macherny was our doctor.

Miss Robinson.

Reminiscences of a Chelsea Pensioner

In our last issue we mentioned that three "Dukes" who had served together in the 2nd Battalion of the North West Frontier had taken up residence at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

In response to our request for details, ex-Sgt. Reginald (Tug) Wilson (4610040) has written the following letter.

With such a store of memories and tales to tell one can well understand how the atmosphere that pervades the halls of the Royal Hospital seems charged with echoes of past deeds shared in tranquility.

I noticed in THE IRON DUKE that Col. Fallon had passed away. He was our draft conductor on HMT *Somersetshire* in 1931. The Battalion was stationed at Ahmednager. When we arrived with our white Blighty knees you should have heard the comments.

The lads were eager to hear about the homeland and whereabouts you were from. The usual jokes happened when the "Wet Canteen" closed such as the other Tug Wilson let his pet iguana loose and one of the draft ran out of the room shouting he was being chased by an alligator. Tug's pal, Reg Day (later Harry Garbutt) was also in the plot.

I was initiated into the various ways and methods of the charwallah, dhobiwallah, bearer, bhisti, underwallah, gharrywallah and the nappy. The last one scared me stiff when he came around on the first morning to shave me in bed whilst I was asleep.

Our main guard there was in the Fort where one sentry was on the Main Gate and two around the Magazine in the centre of a wood. On my first night I was on the Magazine when the other sentry said he would have the first hour kip. Amid the screech of the flying foxes and the hyenas howling in the distance there was a devil of stamping and banging. Being scared stiff I challenged "Halt who goes there?". The row suddenly stopped and everything went dead quiet including the flying foxes, hyenas and piedogs. The other sentry, who was awakened by the challenge, came into the land of the living and amid a repertoire of army vocabulary managed to convey to me that in the wood were

also stables in which reposed the officers' chargers. I stuck my tongue out at him and told him to inform the next young soldier who he did sentry with.

1933 or was it the end of '32? We entrained for Kamptee. A hot, sultry train journey across India to the C.P. brought us to our destination. The temperature for that part of the year was 120° in the shade and no shade. The sentry was only allowed to do one hour on and four off. A *chicko* (native boy) had to keep throwing water on the straw sentry box to catch the least bit of breeze. It was here, whilst we were guarding the fort at Nagpur, that I was promoted to the dizzy heights of Lance-Corporal along with Reg Mitchell, Geordie Bye, Britton and Stone; our CSM was the late Mattie Clinch. CQMS Busty Melville was quite liberal with the issue of "blue lights". These were vouchers printed by the Contractor for during the week when one was broke. They were deducted from our pay on Friday.

It was there that the Gandhi riots broke out and I and L/Cpl. Britton were on Regimental Police from the fort to ensure that none of the men went over the bridge which separated the cantonment from the city and brothel area. Whilst we were patrolling along the bridge we saw at the other end about 400 Gandhi wallahs. Knowing that they believed in passive resistance, and as we were only armed with bayonet and regimental cane, we decided to walk straight through that crowd without looking back. We did. They parted to let us through and then closed up again behind us.

A few days later a company was turned out to quell riots at Sholapur. All this consisted of was that a section went forward with the District Commissioner, facing a mob of about 2,000 Gandhi wallahs with their white caps and *lathis* (long cane). They were first warned to disperse. They did not do so. Then two men of the section were ordered to fire over their heads. They did and the mob dispersed like magic. The next day the headline of an Indian newspaper was "West Riding gallop into action at Sholapur".

In 1934 we moved to Nowshera to relieve the Hampshires. We practised mountain warfare

until everyone thought they were fit. I say "thought". After a long and tedious journey I realised why Kipling had composed "Gunga Din". Water was so scarce. It was here at Nowshera that I learned the truth of the saying that your best friend is your rifle. We all had a chain issued and you had to chain the damned thing to yourself if you were in camp or on sentry. You would be able to buy back any of your equipment which had been stolen by the "loosewallahs" (thieves) in the loose-wallahs bazaar, but never your rifle or ammo. One morning in a camp we went over to the latrines. They had gone. Canvas and the lot.

I wonder how many of the 2nd Battalion are left who remember "Paino's Cafe" and the grand fight by Reg Day and his pals against the 25 Battery RA in the defence of the honour of Mrs. Paino?

Sgt. Tommy Yates was our Platoon Sergeant, 2/Lt. Gerrard was our Platoon Commander, Lt. Waller 2IC and Capt. V. C. Green, OC "B" Company. I was section commander of 11 Section. It was in 1935 that we had our first taste of active service at Kalangi against Badshah Gul. The *Yorkshire Post* quoted "Duke of Wellington's Regt crash into action at Kalangi". We were ordered by the CQMS to collect our empty cartridge cases, a fact that made a staff officer and the CO of The Queen Victoria's Own Corps of Guides laugh so much, and then order us to forget them. What a great set of men were the officers and men of the Guides. The Duke's were alongside them in every action at Kalangi, Loe Agra, Dhand Banda, Wucha Jowa (where 2,000 men went down with malaria) then on to Kats hi Ghalanhi.

Brigadier Alexander, later Lord Alexander of Tunis, was the instigator and brain behind what should have been the finest thoughtout piece of military strategy of the Frontier except that something went wrong on Hill 4080 and The Duke's were left gnashing their teeth because they were unable to assist a company of the Guides who were surrounded by about 2,000 tribesmen of the Upper Mohmands. In this action Capt. Mendal and Shuttleworth Randle, two gallant officers, lost their lives. The Captain was awarded the posthumous VC. Finally came the *jirga* and the signing of peace, the aftermath of which left us helping the now-friendly tribesmen to build the road up to the pass at Katsai where our cap badge should still remain as a lasting souvenir.

On Christmas Day 1935 we were enjoying our dinner back at Nowshera. After the dinner Jimmy Spellman told me that someone was after a young lad just out from Blighty. As I turned round to look I felt a crash on the head and a boot in the ribs. It was a champion Battalion boxer, as I learned later. Anyway, I finished up *non compos mentis* in hospital. Bill Brenchley came down to see me when I recovered and he was very pleased when I refused to put a charge in against the chap. I told the RSM that I had a load of drink down me and my thoughts were not clear enough. It saved a court martial and the man was allowed out of the Guard Room to come to see me. I met him at Halifax when war was declared. We had a few jars together.

General Sir Robert Bray may not remember

when he asked the CSM to march in L/Cpl. Wilson, the incident was so insignificant to him. But it made my chest swell out as he read out the message from Brigadier Alexander. "Section Commander of 11 Sec. good NCO, wonderful control of his section".

It was a few weeks later that I said a sad farewell to the lads I had been with so long and, handing over my section to L/Cpl. Griffiths, all I could say was "look after them". So to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" we boarded the train for Bombay and Blighty, the snow of Halifax and, after six weeks, out to the 1st Battalion in Malta.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

TUG WILSON, Mk II.

From the 'London Gazette'

COMMANDS AND STAFF

General Sir Robert Bray, GBE, KCB, DSO, relinquishes his appointment as Deputy Supreme Commander Allied Powers Europe, Dec. 1, 1970.

Retires on retired pay, March 9, 1971.

Maj.-Gen. H. E. N. Bredin, CB, DSO, MC, to relinquish his appointment as Director, Volunteers, Territorials and Cadets, MOD, March 15, 1971.

Retires on retired pay, Apr 12, 1971.

KING'S DIVISION

Regular Army

Maj.-Gen. James Herbert Samuel Majury, MBE, is appointed Colonel Commandant, The King's Division of Infantry, Apr. 30, 1971, in succession to Maj.-Gen. H. E. N. Bredin, tenure expired.

D.W.R.

Regular Army

Lt.-Col. H. S. Le Messurier retires on retired pay, Nov. 13, 1970.

Maj. J. N. H. Naughton retires on retired pay, Nov. 15, 1970.

The following to be Capt., Dec. 18, 1970: G. I. McGlynn, D. W. Wonson.

Lt. J. N. Sharp resigns his commn., Apr. 1, 1971.

2nd Lt. M. S. Sherlock to be Lt., Jun. 19, 1971.

Short Serv. Commns.

WOI (RSM) Derrick Battye to be 2nd Lt., Nov. 30, 1970. To be Lt. Nov. 30, 1970.

O/Cdt. Andrew Donisthorpe Meek (from Mons Officer Cadet School) to be 2nd Lt., Feb. 6, 1971 (Direct Entry).

Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve

Capt. T. D. Tetlow to be Maj., Oct. 2, 1970.

Lt. I. J. Foster to be Capt., Oct. 1, 1970.

Capt. I. Fillan, TD, 3 Yorks, from T & AVR, DWR (Cadre) to be Capt., Apr. 1, 1971, with seniority Feb. 1, 1966.

Maj. K. M. McDonald, TD, 3 Yorks, from T & AVR, West Riding, to be Maj., Apr. 1, 1971, with seniority Aug. 31, 1968.

Lt. C. M. B. Bateman, 3 Yorks, from T & AVR, West Riding, to be Lt., Apr. 1, 1971, with seniority Mar. 27, 1968.

Digitised by The Regimental Archives

