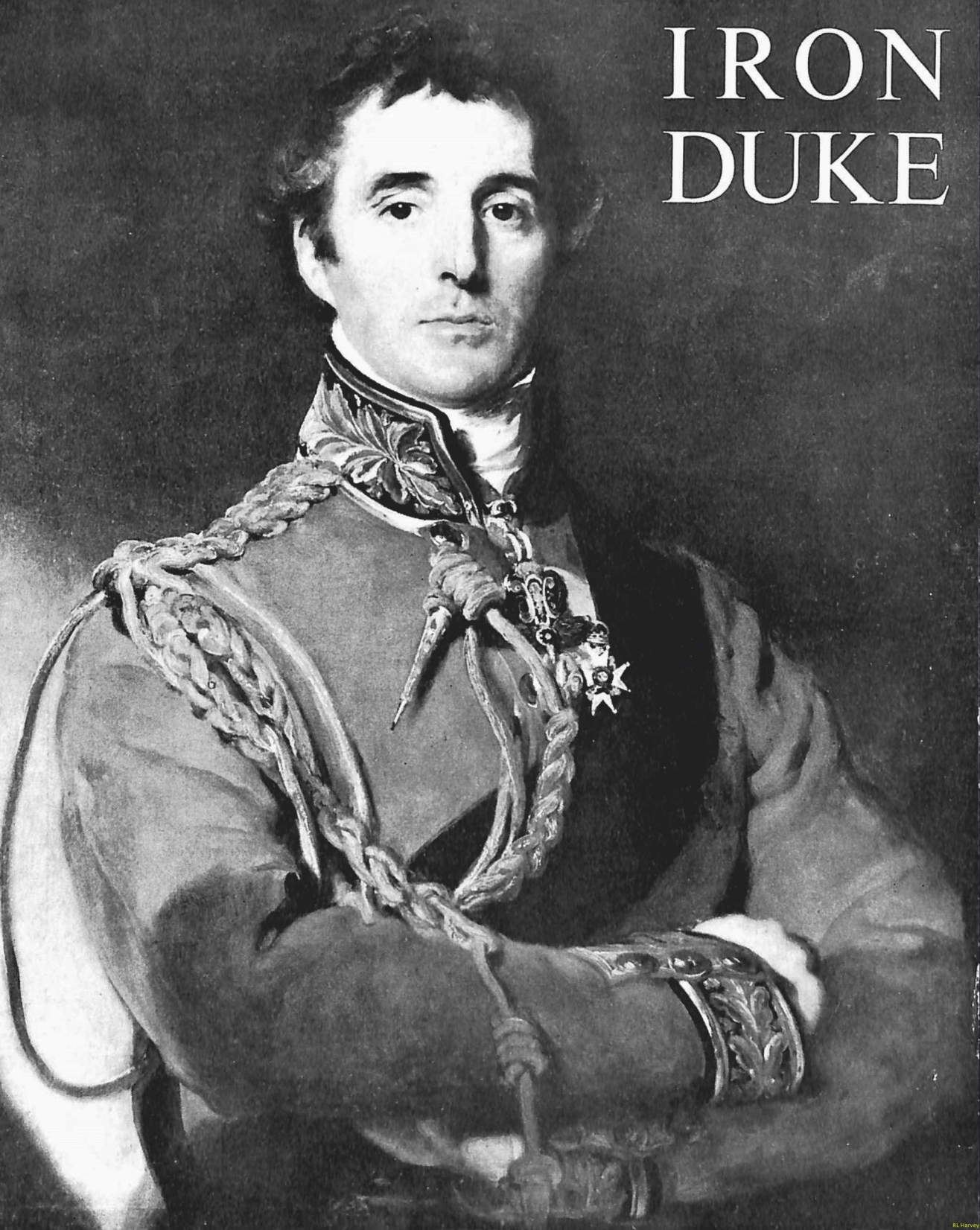


No.157 December 1971

THE IRON DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



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LXXVI

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

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BUSINESS NOTES

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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.

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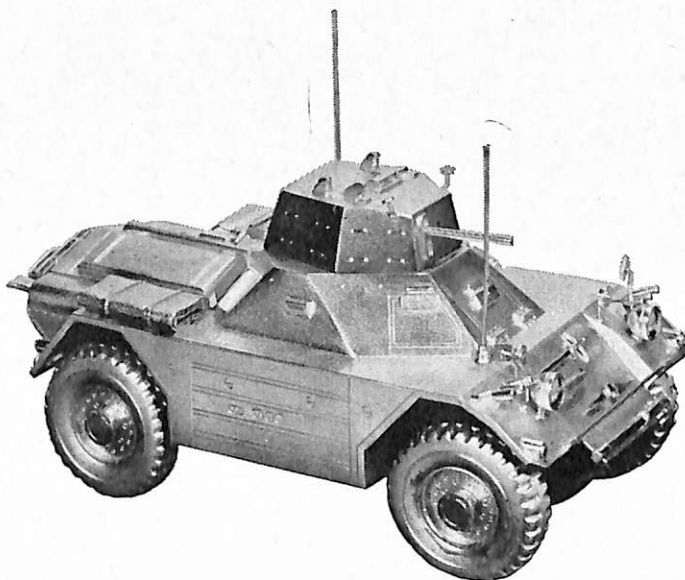


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THE REGIMENT

Colonel of the Regiment

GENERAL SIR ROBERT BRAY, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O., *Larkrise, Walkers Ridge, Camberley (Tel. 21062)*

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Wellesley Park, Halifax

Regimental Secretary: Major J. H. Davis

THE 1st BATTALION

Somme Line, Catterick

C.O.: Lt.-Col. C. R. Huxtable, M.B.E. Adjutant: Captain P. J. Mellor

TERRITORIAL & ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE

1st BATTALION THE YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

"C" COMPANY (THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S)

Wellington Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax.

Commander : Major T. D. Tetlow, TD

3rd BATTALION, THE YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

"C" COMPANY (THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S)

St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield

Commander : Major K. M. McDonald, TD, MA

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AFFILIATED C.C.F.

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

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Patron

His Grace The Duke of Wellington, K.G.

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

General Secretary: Mr. A. Wood, Wellesley Park, Halifax



Photo by courtesy Daily Mirror

Crumlin Road Gaol after bomb blast

FROM THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

This issue of THE IRON DUKE will be published shortly after the Battalion has returned to Catterick, having completed its four months' tour of duty in Belfast.

I am writing this to congratulate all ranks in doing a difficult and unpleasant job so well.

Some may think, because the name of The Duke's did not appear very frequently in the newspapers, that they had an easy area of responsibility and that they had no difficulties.


This was not so. They had a difficult and dangerous area and they did their job superbly.

Their casualties were few and in this they were lucky. But they deserved their luck by virtue of their skill, courage and good leadership. They lived up to the high traditions of The Duke's.

Their families in Catterick and elsewhere deserve some of the credit. They supported those in Northern Ireland in proper fashion.

I hope the Battalion had a good leave and I wish them the best of luck in whatever comes their way in 1972.

And to all "Dukes" everywhere I wish a happy Christmas and good fortune in the future.



ROBERT BRAY
Colonel.

Regimental Headquarters

Colonel Commandant's Visit

Major-General J. H. S. Majury, MBE, the new Colonel Commandant, visited RHQ on November 18. The visit, first planned for early October, was to have been made by helicopter, but the postponed visit was made by car.

It was disappointing that he was not able to be the first officer to arrive by air on the old Depot square but we hope he enjoyed his first visit to Halifax.

The King's Division

A further step bringing the Yorkshire and Lancashire elements of the King's Division closer has been the disbandment of the training Depot at Preston and concentration of training for soldiers of the English regiments of the Division at Strensall.

The Officers Mess at Strensall celebrated the event with a cocktail party on October 8 to which the Lord-Lieutenants of Yorkshire and Lancashire, the Mayors of all freedom towns, and many other guests were invited.

The 350 attending far exceeded what the Mess building could take. A marquee was therefore erected on the lawn and the mild evening helped to make the party the undoubted success it was.

Halifax Parish Church

We have had to say farewell to Canon and Mrs. Hardy who have moved to Cumberland where we hear they are very happy. Bill is now Vicar of Haile and Archdeacon of West Cumberland.

In his place we welcome as vicar the Reverend Raymond Harries who, for the past 10 years, has been Provost of the Cathedral of the Highlands in Nairobi.

Cyprus 1956-59

Those who were with 1 DWR will well remember those two staunch members of the Police Special Branch, Bill Sharp and Joe Mounsey, who so often accompanied the Battalion on its searches for terrorists.

Bill Sharp is now Detective Chief Superintendent of Devon and Cornwall and Joe Mounsey a Detec-

tive Chief Inspector in the Lancashire Constabulary.

Joe Mounsey was with 1 DWR when Afxentiu's hide below Makhaeras Monastery was found. He had been largely instrumental in obtaining the information of its location from an old shepherd who took supplies to the hide from the monastery.

Readers of the national press may remember his part in the Moors' Murder Case and more recently his success in the hunt and arrest of Sewell.

He wrote recently saying he remembered with pleasure his association with the Regiment and that he would be pleased to see old friends at his headquarters where he could guarantee rest and refreshment.

We believe those who knew Joe will wonder what he means by rest, but we look forward to his promised visit to RHQ.

Collection of Regimental Badges

Mr Dixon Pickup, who is now the professional at the Leicester Golf Club, has a remarkable collection of Regimental badges starting with early shako plates of the 33rd and 76th. He has a fine display of the various changes of badge up to modern times. The various volunteer, militia and TA units are also well represented.

One of the reasons for his interest in "Dukes" badges is, of course, the fact that he served in 1 DWR, most of his time with Battalion being in the period Brigadier Firth was CO.

We first heard of his collection from the author of a book on Regimental badges in the office of a London publisher. The actual collection, its careful layout and documentation is most impressive.

Mr Pickup wrote the articles "Badges of the 76th Regiment, 1829-45" in the August Iron Duke and will, we hope, be writing more articles on Regimental badges.

BINDERS FOR THE IRON DUKE

Easibind folders which will each hold up to 16 copies of THE IRON DUKE can be supplied at a cost of £1.25 per folder.

The folders can be used for the 85 issues of THE IRON DUKE since No. 71 of January 1949. They are bound in green balacron and will have THE IRON DUKE in gold lettering on the spine of the binder.

Will those who wish to order folders please apply to Regimental Headquarters, stating number required. Six folders will be needed to bind the complete set since 1949.

If there is sufficient demand to warrant a bulk order (minimum 50 binders) red balacron could be substituted for the green available for retail orders.

New Addresses

We have been notified of the following new addresses:

B. D. Batey, Esq., Little Spinney, Froggart Lane, Froggart, Sheffield, S30 1ZB.

M. P. Bird, Esq., 4 Ballbrook Court, Wilmslow Road, Didsbury, Manchester, 20.

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Mr. S. E. Code, MBE, 2 First Avenue, Woodside, Moss House Lane, Presall, Blackpool.

Lt.-Col. M. N. Cox, MC, Carylls Hotel, Faygate, Horsham, Sussex.

Major H. A. Cullen, Wayside Cottage, Horncliffe, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Major St. J. T. Faulkner, 31 The Grove, Hales Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

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M. J. Granger, Esq., 6 Gainford Avenue, Gatley, Cheshire.

C. R. Green, Esq., 22 Brackendale Grove, Harpenden, Herts.

Col. D. E. Isles, OBE, 4 Beckman Close, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Lt.-Col. J. E. Johnson, c/o Lloyds Bank Ltd., 19 High Street, Bedford.

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W. M. Plewman, Esq., The Retreat, Church Green, Witney, Oxon.

M. Ralph, Esq., c/o The Midland Bank Ltd., 177 High Street, Boston Spa, Yorkshire.

Major D. E. Reddiough, TD, JP, Moorcroft, Park Road, Cross Hills, Nr. Keighley, Yorkshire.

Major W. F. C. Robertson, 2 Hill Road, OSDD, Branston, Nr. Burton-on-Trent.

J. N. Sharp, Esq., 3 The Willows, Off Street Lane, Leeds, 17.

Capt. R. A. Smith, 4 Bridge Cottage, St. James, Exeter, Devon.

Mrs. Sam Smith, Flat 2, Hanover Court, Prince of Wales's Mansions, Harrogate.

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Capt. M. W. Summers, "Fourways," Church Hill, Hunmanby, Filey, Yorkshire.

Major T. D. Tetlow, TD, 83 Fox Wood Lane, Acomb, York.

1st Battalion

Sub-Editorial

The Battalion is now back in Catterick, with the exception of a small rear party from the Quartermasters Department, and very thankful we are to be home, too. Now is, therefore, perhaps the time to look back over the past four months to try to summarise our thoughts on the tour in Belfast.

We have seen a great change in the security situation in Ulster during our tour. When we arrived in June the city was comparatively peaceful, but as the weeks went by the bombing of shops and offices grew in frequency until towards the end of July there were nightly explosions in the city. Rumour and discussion of the "Protestant backlash" and of internment became more prevalent and confrontations between the two sections of the community grew in frequency and size. At this time there was little or no shooting against the Security Forces but it was evident to all of us that it would be necessary to wrest the initiative from the IRA. During the first week in August clashes between the Security Forces and sections of the civil population became more frequent, although they mostly consisted of stone- and bottle-throwing crowds.

On August 9, 1971, the Government invoked the clauses of the Special Powers Act which enabled them to introduce internment. There was an immediate reaction throughout the Catholic areas of the city and we found ourselves at once involved in a campaign to break down the barricades and to destroy the urban terrorists who now emerged in their true colours as ruthless murderers prepared to risk the lives of innocent people, including children, in their campaign against the Army and Police.

It was, perhaps, unfortunate that the public at large was allowed to believe that internment would automatically end the insurgency. This was, of course, never the military view. It must be understood that internment is a necessary weapon in any counter-insurgency campaign which will, over a period of time, help the Security Forces to destroy the insurgency. It never has been and never will be an immediate solution. Since the middle of August the cumulative effect of internment has become more and more evident to everyone. There is no doubt that, given time, the IRA will be defeated. They are now suffering very severe losses, both in terms of manpower and equipment. As they do so, and as public confidence in law and order increases, so also does the flow of information available to the Security Forces.

It is not suggested that the insurgency is over, or that there will not be many more outrages and murders perpetrated by the IRA. However, it is quite clear to all of us that the tide has turned and is now flowing in our favour.

How have we come out of our tour in Belfast? First of all we must be thankful that no one from the Battalion was wounded more seriously than

was in fact the case. We suffered six casualties as a result of gunshot wounds or explosions, but thankfully they are now all well on the way to recovery. Many others suffered cuts from flying bricks and bottles, while bruises were too numerous to count. We all got tired — very tired at times; we all got cross — very cross at times; and we all got to the stage where we never wanted to see Hillman Street, or the New Lodge Road, or Unity Flats or Seaford Street again.

However, on the credit side we got quite a lot out of our tour, too. We are all competent and confident on the radio, we can react quickly and arrive at the right place with the right kit, we can search anything, we can deal with crowds, we can deal with barricades, we know what shots fired in anger sound like and we have learned patience. Patience is probably one of the most precious commodities in Belfast and without it nothing is achieved. So much for our individual skills, but we also had a great bonus from the training of section commanders and platoon commanders and sergeants to accept responsibility and to act quickly and soundly on their own initiative. There were many occasions where quick resolute action by a young NCO with half a dozen men prevented an incident from developing into something much more serious.

Finally, on Northern Ireland, it would be wrong not to mention the campaign of vilification which has been mounted by the IRA against the Security Forces. The readers of THE IRON DUKE will hardly need assuring that the British soldier in Northern Ireland is no rougher, tougher or more likely to resort to brutality than he ever has been in the past. The current campaign is a typical example of the terrorists' tactics in attempting to destroy the will of the people of Britain to fight a campaign that they can and must win.

So much for the past. For the next few months we settle down to a more normal soldiers' life. After leave we are pushing ahead with our training for movement by air, with cadres, and with our preparations for an amphibious exercise in the West Indies in early 1972. Whatever else one can say about the life we lead in the Army today, it isn't dull.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE D.W.R.

Regular Army

Maj. R. M. Harms to be Lt.-Col.; June 30, 1971.

Capt. D. Marsay to be Maj.; June 30, 1971.

Lt.-Col. R. W. Nicholson retires on retired pay, Aug. 18, 1971.

Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve

Arthur Christopher Jowett, 2 Yorks (formerly DWR) to be Lt., Apr. 1, 1971, with seniority Sep. 27, 1967.

OFFICERS MESS

By the time this issue goes to print we shall all be back in England, sleeping normal hours, supping normal quantities of beer, walking around with our eyes in the front of our heads for a change and wondering just what it was all about. The four months have flown by but how long will it be before we stop jumping every time a door slams, or go to bed before 2 a.m., or even do without the mandatory 10 cups of coffee a day? Wives and mothers, beware.

Those of us who were in Cyprus will remember the various company messes many miles apart, and the fact that a whole six-month tour was completed without meeting up with some of your fellow officers. How often on this tour were Somme Company officers able to pass the time of day with Corunna? Each company had its own Mess, its own TV, its own special company flavour with invitations to dine out being received with more excitement than if they had come from the Queen herself. However, one did not feel so comfortable travelling through another company's area; who knew whether Chris Gilbert's vigilantes were really harmless or Dick Mundell's old ladies were not going to throw stones? Safety was standing on your own ground with your own Irishmen around you.

Burma had the pleasure of Battalion Headquarters in a joint Mess where Dick Glazebrook produced magnificent steaks for other people to pay for on their birthdays, and mushy peas for the rest of the time. Actually, we must not grumble, champagne was produced when he became a father. Many congratulations to you both. Admin Company were rudely moved from steamship luxury on *HMS Maidstone* to the rigours of Hollywood in the early hours of August 9 (Internment Day). It is rumoured, however, that the QMs were able to slip into civilian clothes on the odd evening.

As always after a spell away, a few bachelors fall by the wayside when they return. Mike Sherlock and Nicky Newell get married on October 23 and 30 respectively. Good luck to you both. A few departures take place also:

John Greenway in November.

Jeremy Cumberlege to Germany in October.

Tim Nicholson to Strensall in November.

David Wonson to Huddersfield in November.

Nicky Newell to Strensall in November.
Alistair Roberts to remain in Ireland!

SERGEANTS MESS

"The end is nigh," or at least does not seem far way. Welcome has been said to 2 RRF and the red and white hackle has never been more welcome.

There are mutterings and murmurings in the ranks; such as "10 days and two doom watches to go" or "Only four more foot patrols."

The state of peaceful co-existence which existed between Burma and Command Companies has ended. The move to Glenravel finally took place. During the many recesses of the place it seemed that the DOE were being over-optimistic when they said it would be ready. But, true to form, they weren't. Almost, that is; we moved in two days late as the workmen were just finishing. Armour plate had been fitted at the windows and the streets at the back and front sealed with knife rests and sangars. We were safe, almost. The Mess in Girdwood was safe until we moved into the house of the station sergeant of Glenravel police station. It is rumoured that he is now squatting somewhere in the "Buffer Zone."

Formal social life has been difficult, to say the least. 74 Regt., RE, kindly lent us their Mess for an evening; Sgt. Vinson prepared a buffet and all systems were GO. Unfortunately, we didn't invite Mr Faulkner and he decided internment was on so the social was off.

Of course life did not revolve entirely round Girdwood. There were other places where the detached companies continued their daily tasks. These gentlemen were seldom seen but often heard over the air.

With internment, Admin Company were given 12 hours to abandon ship and were moved to Palace Barracks where they were the guests of 1 Para. It is reported that one could lead an idyllic life in Hollywood but this is emphatically denied by all of the echelon. In fact, in times of stress, we often saw the heavy gang (Waltham, Firth, Jackson, etc.) on the streets.

All in all, our tour was quiet with only sporadic outbursts of violence and remarkably few casualties on our side. Sympathy must, however, be offered to Norman Wright and John Wilkinson, our only two Mess casualties, and we wish both a speedy recovery.

Company Notes

COMMAND COMPANY

There's one consolation in Northern Ireland: one certainly couldn't die of boredom. Battalion HQ experienced everything from the Compton brutality inquiry to moving into a special care school, from explosive sewers to a bazooka in the graveyard, not to mention the more mundane day-to-day occurrences such as riots, bombs and shootings.

It was a hard four months during which all

members of the company played their part well. We started and nearly completed our tour in that happy home-from-home, somewhat akin to a Butlin's holiday camp, Girdwood Park, but, ironically, finished up, for the last three weeks, living in the special care school! There must be some significance.

We all had a ringside seat on internment day and were able to watch the internees running the gauntlet through the barbed wire tunnel that

we had erected at 0400 a.m.! Brutality? They were only hurried along by three 17-stone RMP and an Alsatian war dog that hadn't been fed for a week! What could be more humane?

To try to write an account of all our doings would take a volume, indeed, the daily diary of the SDS reads like a potted version of "War and Peace." Not only did all departments carry on their normal daily office work but they guarded, escorted and patrolled like everyone else.

On moving to our new home at Glenravel we experienced our share of excitements. On the second night a bazooka was fired from the graveyard and hit the police station roof. Luckily the warhead was only a practice one. Three nights later a shot was fired at one of the OPs, again injuring no one. In retaliation, the CQMS and CSM got busy setting up an "intruder alarm" system linked to the guardroom, an ambush patrol every night, trip flares in the graveyard and additional lighting on the graveyard post. The graveyard was so well illuminated that the poor old ghosts couldn't tell night from day. As we prepared to leave, the words of the well-known song "Haste ye back" seemed only too real. The question is "how soon"?

BORNEWS

It is quite obvious that most pages in this issue will be devoted to riots, shootings, bomb scares, and so on. Unfortunately, our company friends can hardly compare with our figures for Belfast although their boastings are louder. During our tour we have accounted for almost a quarter of a million of the enemy (sheets of duplicating paper, that is), dealt with ferocious riots (in the form of disgruntled soldiers who were made to go home on leave by sea instead of air). But, perhaps, our most notable achievement was to become the most wanted band of desperados in N. Ireland by refusing to supply anyone with stationery. Also, when bombs are mentioned, what is the achievement in wrestling with a simple home-made explosive device when compared to the skill and nerve required to master the intricate and subtle mechanism of the highly dangerous photocopier or the highly inflammable photostat machine? Such gallantry, and at such risk, should not go unrecorded.

We remain unchanged as far as the orbat is concerned but the events of the tour have had their effect. During the scenes following August 9 (when everyone else, it seemed, was having fun on the streets) the whole of BOR went Ops and we passed through the period nursing the clerks' frustration of knowing what was going on but being unable to get on the scene to witness it. Fortunately, one of our number did get a chance with the water cannon crews, for which he earned himself the immortal name of "WC Willy."

During the latter part of our stay, Command Company (including BOR) played the Arab and, lifting their tents quickly and without confusion, moved from the wide expanses of Girdwood Park to the close confines of Glenravel Street RUC Station. This turned out to be an interesting, if terribly industrious, unit, partly because there was nowhere to hide in Glenravel for any would-be shirkers! Here our offices were much more spacious and comfortable and many was the night that the

staff could be seen, each in his own private world, working long and hard and late and all emanating the possibility that, after all, there might perhaps be within each BOR clerk a Sir John Wylder trying to get out.

At last, though, came the long-awaited day and, with bleary eyes and tired minds, boxes were packed hastily (although hasty is hardly applicable to 5 minutes), personal belongings were crammed into too-small suitcases and we began in ones and twos to move back to home and England — each one of us glad to be going and yet each having undoubtedly left a part of himself in Ireland — even though it may only have been the hours spent in a sangar in Girdwood Park or in languishing through long, lonely nights on doomwatch in the ops room!

OPERATIONS ROOM

In Ulster, the ops room filled every role from confessional to market place. In the hushed stillness of the early hours there were as a rule only two people "doomed for a certain term to walk the night," whereas often during the day it was packed to bursting with chattering fellows. The illusion of being in a railway station on a Friday evening was completed by the electronically distorted downtown Belfast accents booming incomprehensibly from the police radio set.

The quality of ops room life depends solely on the people who work there, and when one considers that every officer and SNCO in Command Coy and a number from Admin Coy all did their bit there with the minimum of friction and fuss that alone is a compliment to them all.

When writing about people it is always as well to start at the top, so the spotlight turns first on the Assistant Director of Operations, Defender of the Sangars and Escort Extraordinaire, Pte Willy Wilson, who for four months solid put up with the vagaries and eccentricities of a multitude of people, and did it willingly and cheerfully. Next the (sshh, lower your voices) . . . Directors. In theory, the Directors sat at a blanket-covered table and made policy decisions, though in reality they were more likely to adopt a crouch position behind the duty officer's right ear, or to pace about the room "as one who fears a frightful fiend doth close behind him tread."

On again to the duty officers, who all became so blasé as time wore on that a new situation was treated not only with suspicion, but with downright disbelief and high indignation. One officer became convinced that, as he moved a magnetic symbol on the map, so moved on the ground the thing that the symbol represented. Four strong men had to be summoned to prevent him hurling two brigades at the New Lodge Road, not to mention marching the Shankill lemming-like into the River Lagan.

The backbone of the ops room, if I might borrow a bit from Mr Kipling, was the non-commissioned man. Most of the SNCOs who did duty came from administrative jobs and had not used radios, etc., for a long time. In a remarkably short time they all became budding field commanders, not of mere platoons and companies, but of brigades and armies. Many an operator will remember the dulcet tones of the Chief Clerk "Hello charlie charlie this is zero, suspicious

car . . ." that he heard whilst huddled in the back of a Land-Rover in the pouring rain at three in the morning. Another SNCO hit upon a plan for solving the Ulster problem by the simple expedient of colouring the blue bits on the map (Catholic) red (Protestant) in the unshakeable conviction that thousands of people would instantly change step.

A number of ghastly habits came to light. The RSO, for example, would never use the phone without plugging an ear with his index finger, forearm parallel to the ground in the approved style. Needless to say, this caused ill-concealed fury as the rest of us in the room expected him to use his "free" ear to listen to us. The adjutant had a neat and much-envied trick of closing his eyes and leaning back in a coma if too many radios and telephones all went at once, and the ops officer and OC Comd Coy would wake each other up for doomwatch with the day's problem which obligatorily consisted of complex statistics and mind-blowing facts.

And, finally, there is one man who gives the lie to the old saying that practice makes perfect. After four months he still cannot make a decent cup of coffee. So if anyone who has worked in the ops room is given an old coffee jar with about 2½ new pence in and a posting order to Lithuania he knows the reason why.

RECCE PLATOON

It is difficult to write about a tour of duty before the tour is completed. Normally something dramatic occurs at the eleventh hour which completely alters one's impression. One feature of Ulster is that the platoons are now the most proficient movers within the Battalion. Our first home was the *Maidstone*. A few hours before internment we were moved from the *Maidstone* to the car park at Girdwood. The internees did at least have a roof over their heads and were given camp beds and blankets. We then moved to Dunmore and, finally, back to Girdwood where we occupied the buildings vacated by the Headquarters. Fellow nomads have been the Vigilant Platoon who can bear out the fact that with each successive move our accommodation got worse.

The role of the Recce Platoon has been flexible, to say the least. Because of this, many of the Battalion personalities use the Recce Platoon as an instrument on which to exercise their powers of command without becoming too involved in the more mundane aspects of command. The Recce Platoon Commander has to categorise the officers. Firstly, those junior to him, they can easily be deterred. Secondly, those senior to him but whose charter does not include giving patronising advice and broad brush directives to the platoon. These require special handling. Finally, there are those who have every right to direct the platoon and they must be instantly obeyed.

To begin with, our main task was that of escorting the mobile library, the mobile fish and chip wagon — nicknamed "Codpiece" — and anything else which required an escort. On one occasion Sgt. Stansfield had to insist on escorting a party of officers who were equally adamant that they did not require an escort. They were travelling

in civilian clothes in a "civilianised" army minibus and they felt that a military escort would only encourage the IRA to have a go. The Recce Platoon won this battle and escorted them on an uneventful trip round Belfast.

For the last two months the Recce Platoon combined with the Vigilant Platoon and were given a specific operational task. We had a fair amount of success and guaranteed ourselves a certain amount of independence.

On the more personal side, we would like to congratulate Pte. and Mrs Grant on their recent marriage, and the Dunnes and Prices on the recent additions to their families. Our best wishes go to Sgt. and Mrs Horne. Sgt. Horne has just left the army and should now be well established in his new career. Pte. Steadman has left the Platoon on a posting with an aviation squadron and should now be able to tell the difference between a Sioux and Scout.

A special mention for Cpl. Hall, MT NCO, L/Cpl. Price and Ptes. Dunne, Peacock, Owen and Nicholls, the platoon drivers. The transport has never let us down and to date the platoon has not been involved in a serious accident — at any rate, not one that counts — MTO note.

Under the watchful eye and sarcastic tongue of master signaller Brown, the standard of the platoon's voice procedure has improved. We are also indebted to the many social contacts that Sgt. Stansfield made among the Territorial Army. They have often helped us out with wireless equipment and once they allowed us the use of their transport.

Finally, we would like to welcome Lt. Peter Gardner, who is due to take over the platoon on its return to Catterick.

SIGNAL PLATOON

Since our last notes the platoon has sailed its way over to "This neat little town called Belfast" being deployed in the many and varied outposts around the city. The accommodation, whilst not being quite up to the Hilton, at least keeps out the rain and bog-mist off the blankets.

Signalling has benefited greatly from our tour here and the requirement for around-the-clock radio watches has brought out the best in the individual signallers — and the worst. Those who faltered invariably heard the falsetto voice of a rather haggard RSO over the telephone.

All members of the platoon managed to get home once and some twice, for a well-deserved change of air. Whether these short leave periods could be described as "rest" periods or not is doubtful as most returned complaining of sleepless nights! Whether this was due to the absence of the all-too-familiar explosions or just the wife, is not known.

At the time of writing, we are in the last two weeks of the tour and Battalion HQ are just getting over their move from Girdwood to Glenravel Street (a move of some 500 yards). Having hoped the move would never come off from the day of our arrival in Belfast, it is nevertheless a pleasant change and it gave us a wonderful opportunity to organise the communications from scratch. The building we now occupy was formerly

a children's special care school, though some insist that it must formerly have been occupied by fanatical followers of Irish folk-lore, as most of the toilet facilities are placed at a height which would only suit leprechauns.

During our period in Girdwood Park the Battalion control station operated from a B.E.R.ed Bin vehicle which we all got very attached to and which L/Cpl. Ruding actually got going. He repaired it out of sheer spite as he heard that the REME LAD had said it could not be made workable. Up the LAD! The RSO got so fond of the binner that he wanted to drive it to Glenravel and use it as a bedroom but that idea was scotched by the 2I/C. We are now the proud owners of a real radio room which, we must admit, is just what the doctor, or was it the 2I/C? ordered.

Our only complaint about the radio room was that it lacked ventilation but that was put right by L/Cpl. Brook who, whilst laying line around the Battalion HQ complex, managed to hurl a pack of D10 cable through the skylight. This resulted in the rude interruption of the CO's "O" Group and the very undignified evacuation of the radio room by Cpl. Barnett and Co. who thought someone had lobbed in a bomb.

Our thoughts now turn to a well-earned rest in the form of block leave and, of course, reunion with our families in England. We also remember sadly having to say goodbye to two staunch platoon members and their wives: L/Cpl. (Viny) O'Shea and Mary and L/Cpl. (Pete) Holden and Sandra who are now both civvies. We wish them the very best of luck and hope they'll pop in and visit us sometime. WO2 Coll has left us (again), this time to take over Admin Coy CSM in transit to Burma and we welcome in his place WO2 Conley who we hear is doing very well on his RSO course at the moment. We have quite a crowd at Warminster at present since Cpl. (Old Man) Shadbolt and L/Cpl. (T(h)ick) Thackeray are on their RS course, under the expert instruction of Capt. E. J. W. Walker, and Cpl. (Bill) Parrott is on the RSI course.

Finally, we round off these notes with congratulations to Pte. and Mrs Cone on the birth of a son, L/Cpl. Brook and Sgt. Kench on their respective promotions, Sgt. Kench and Cpl. Bowler (who got a "B") on passing RSI courses, and L/Cpl. Brook and Pte. Smith on passing RS courses.

P.S. There is no truth in the rumour that Sgt. Kench has asked Mr. Ward if the platoon fund is rich enough to buy him Mess kit for next year's Paardeberg Ball!

VIGILANT PLATOON

The Vigilant Platoon was formed in April this year, when the detachment commanders and assistant controllers attended a Support Weapons Wing Course at Netheravon. It was here that the majority of the platoon first saw a vigilant missile. The course was extremely hard work, but enjoyable. The only trouble was that during live firing we were not particularly successful. However, it is easy for spectators to make comments on our misses, but they are not flying a missile, which costs more than a brand-new Ford Cortina!

THE BOMBS AND THE COLONEL'S BOOTS

(Reprinted from "Dukes' Diary")

It is said when an Irishman shoots
That the Yorkshire lads care not two hoots,
But they lose their aplomb
At the thought of a bomb
When their Colonel takes off his boots.

In Girdwood 'tis commonly said
(And the source of this info's the Head)
That, though sceptics may scoff,
Those damn bombs will go off
If the Colonel retires to his bed.

If at night an explosion shocks
Then the CO is changing his socks,
For when he gets his boots off
The dynamite shoots off
And all of Belfast city rocks.

The rebels on each Belfast street
Are finding that life's not so sweet,
Because just to bemuse them,
Frustrate and confuse them,
The CO's boots stay on his feet.

The moral of this tale's a bite
Of nitro PE and cordite,
Of our Colonel in bed
(Fully dressed it is said)
With his bomb-firing boots laced up tight.

B.E.M.

Congratulations to Cpls. Riding, Grey and Arundel on achieving "Bs" on the Commanders course and to L/Cpl. Knapton on getting a good "C" on the same course.

After the course finished, the platoon returned to an empty Somme Lines (as the battalion had already left for Belfast) where we were joined by the remainder of the platoon, namely the drivers and signallers. A crash cadre was held for them, to teach them all about their role. The cadre ended with a small exercise, which was remarkable for the fact that, with the whole of the Yorkshire moors to play about on, two vehicles still managed to run into each other!

We landed in Northern Ireland on July 5 to be met by the Recce Platoon and escorted to the *HMS Maidstone*, which was to be our home for the first six weeks. Our task was to be a second Recce Platoon. We found ourselves working in all the company areas, doing mobile patrols and VCPs and foot patrolling. After the powers that be decided to use the Maidstone as an internment centre, the platoon was forced into a nomadic life and we moved, with all our stores, no fewer than six times; it just seemed that nobody wanted us. In fact, we nearly had the proud distinction of sleeping on the floors of all the company locations during the first week after internment, but we missed going to "A" Company. It is rumoured that the Platoon Commander asked "Higher Formations" for us to be sent to Brown Square for at least one night, to make the record 100 per cent, but he was turned down!

The platoon saw its fair share of action in Belfast. Having been involved in the troubles of Ballymacarrett, New Lodge and Tiger's Bay, as well as being bombed outside Unity and in the Buffer. We were responsible for numerous arrests, as well as having searched over a thousand cars. We have also lurked in Ops over the last two months in the hope of ambushing a bomber. Not a bad record for a small platoon.

Now for a month's well-earned leave, and then back to our conventional task of hitting tanks instead of "Paddy Pushing."

Congratulations to the following: Ptes. Sharpe, Bye and Gilbert on their marriages; Pte. Bristow on his promotion to lance corporal.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

Having written three monthly bulletins for the "Dukes Diary" a fourth bulletin is now required for THE IRON DUKE. Looking back on our four months in Ulster, life has certainly proved hectic, if occasionally frustrating. Every man has pulled his weight. The companies have been fed, clothed and paid and the transport has kept rolling. Well done, one and all! The period June 16-August 9 saw us on the Maidstone which was built in 1938 and served as a submarine depot ship during World War II. In 1958 she was reconstructed as a nuclear submarine support ship, and in 1967 she was placed on the scrap list. In 1969 she was towed to Belfast and has been used since then as an accommodation ship for the security forces.

The echelon was very comfortable on board and, although life at times became rather cramped, it had its compensations — disco nights, for instance! Fishing trips on the MFV proved popular and WO2 Waltham, Sgt. Jackson and Toddy were regulars, while the mackerel proved most welcome. On July 12 (The Big March) we provided guards at the Press Centre, the Cromlin Jail, an oil refinery, and the ship. Normal administration came to a grinding halt for about three days. We caught up eventually. Towards the end of our stay we provided a house search team which worked under the command of OC Alma and frightened some poor women to death at 0430 hrs. This team consisted of Lt. Battye, WO2 Waltham, RQMS Ashby, CSM Conley, CQMS Reddy, and Sgts. Pearson, Firth, Jackson and Plomer.

Finally, internment arrived on the morning of August 9. It certainly came as a shock to us when we learnt that we had to leave the Maidstone because it was going to be used as a temporary detention centre. Lt. Battye led a platoon in the Ballymacarrett area and got near to the "Aggro." I think the rioters were impressed by his cry "Red backing, boots and haircut" and kept out of the platoon's way. The rest of us, together with the Band (God bless 'em! — what would we have done without them?) started moving the stores at 0430 hrs. and 12 hours later we were safely settled into Hollywood Barracks.

Life at Hollywood has proved to be just as hectic. CSM Coll took over from CSM Conley (who swanned off on a signals course) and Cpl. Tolley, who went back to Catterick to stand in as families office clerk, returned to the fold —

eventually. The advantage of being at Hollywood Barracks is that we are able to make full use of the football pitches that surround us, duties permitting. The team is being built up for the inter-company competition next year. So far we have played 3, won 1, drawn 1 and lost 1. The following have represented the company: S/Sgt. Burrows, Sgt. Firth, Sgt. Bowen, Cpls. Law, Taylor, Tolley, White, Bell, L/Cpl. Morrison, Ptes. Evans, Furness, Wilson, Cfn. Ansell.

We must congratulate the Quartermaster, Capt. Walter Robins, on his well-earned award of the MBE in the Birthday Honours List. Congratulations also to Pte. Evans on becoming a dad. Most of the company managed to get home and how nice it was to get away. We are now all looking forward to our month's well-earned leave. Attachments and detachments are too numerous to mention but good luck to the following: L/Cpl. Withers on posting, Brecon. Pte. Stannard on posting King's Division Depot. L/Cpl. Mitchell and Pte. Teale on release.

BATTALION MT

Northern Ireland has been a testing time for both vehicles and drivers. When we came here we had a driver for each of the 81 vehicles on charge. Even this hasn't been enough, and many varied faces have been seen behind the wheels on this tour. The vehicles, too, have comprised those Rovers and Bedfords which we brought from England plus the malignant and ancient "Pigs" which feature so largely in this edition.

The figures prove just how hard everyone has worked. With two weeks to go, here are a few samples:

Mileage from mid-June to end of September—190,222;

Fuel issued to the end of September—25,836gal; (The Battalion's annual fuel allocation to April '72 is—40,000gal.).

All the drivers have done well, and so have the REME personnel who kept the wheels turning. Our only unfortunate casualty was Pte. Jim Lee, acting as shotgun guard, for a change. He was thrown from his vehicles and broke both skull and ankle. Some people will do anything to get off detail.

L/Cpl. Withers has gone to Brecon to drive at the Battle School; Stannard has gone to drive at KDD where McQuade and Billingham shortly join him. As ever, we run short of drivers. There are plenty of vacancies for likely lads. Anyone like to apply?

ALMA COMPANY

The Company was stationed apart from the rest of the Battalion in an old police station on the main route from the Shankill to the city. Although an old building, each platoon had a floor, and the senior ranks their own rooms. The vehicles fitted snugly into the yard, and the old jail-house became the company canteen. We were compact and not too overcrowded. The problem of feeding 114 hungry soldiers in a dining room with seating for 30 was overcome as was that of four showers between the same number. The answer lay in the

RQMS JOHN WELSH

RQMS John Welsh joined the Regiment on January 19, 1950, at Strensall as a drummer boy and served with the 1st Battalion for the next 21 years. He left the Corps of Drums in Northern Ireland in 1956 on promotion to sergeant and, having successfully completed a Small Arms Course at Hythe, was posted to "C" (Training) Company to assist in the running of NCO's cadres and continuation training.

He returned to the Corps of Drums as Drum Major and attended a course at the Royal Marines School of Music. In 1964, at Catterick, he was posted to Hook Company on promotion to CQMS.

He then moved to Corunna Company and attended the All Arms Drill Course at Caterham and then joined the Quartermaster's Staff when the Battalion served with the United Nations in Cyprus.

The Battalion returned to Germany and he joined Corunna Company as Company Sergeant-Major. He stayed with Corunna throughout the Hong Kong tour and, although a strict disciplinarian, he was a much-liked and respected figure. This was a job that he did extremely well and he found it most satisfying. Soldiers from other companies used to stop and read his amusing company detail. The phrase "Through me, Corunna" became well known. He was meticulous in his work both in the office and in the field and he was dedicated to the company.

On the return of the Battalion to Catterick in November 1971 he moved to Command Company as CSM but, after a few weeks, was posted as RQMS to the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment. Our loss is their gain.

We all wish him and his family the very best of luck for the future.



As Drill Sgt. during Public Duties

age-old solution of flexibility. The very top floor had a spare room which, when not a youth club, was the Brown's Square Cinema. Needless to say, it was packed on film nights.

The area centres mainly around Unity Flats, a Catholic stronghold right on the main Protestant thoroughfare to the city, and at the intersection of the main (Catholic) route from the New Lodge to Divis and the Falls. The flats are thus a flash point and most of our attention was paid to them. Frequent incidents arise as the factions pass by, e.g. funerals, parades, bands and football supporters. The latter sometimes twice a week. The area of City Centre that we patrolled gave us light relief from the drab surroundings of Unity with shoppers, shop windows and normal town life. It was interesting and we were constantly called to suspected bombs and odd goings-on as the business area has become the target of the terrorist.

Like everyone else, the Company worked odd hours, rising at 10 a.m. and sleeping from 2 a.m. on a normal day. Our area was the quietest of all. For two months we had not a murmur and were able to settle in quietly, perfecting our patrolling, car checks, house searches and getting to know the area intimately.

Our first real action came during the internment period, with several "lifts" (arrests) in the Unity area and a minor disturbance of stone-throwing to

follow. The relief was plain on the soldiers' faces — at last they were doing something. However, Unity did not have the heart for a riot and things soon returned to normal. Subsequent "lifts," one other stone-throwing incident and a few shots and explosions kept us on our toes.

Everybody has been in good spirits and whilst we were not overworked in comparison with other units, all deserve their leave, and it is much yearned for.

Among the memories are: the "queer" who came around a second time for searching, 1 Platoon's substantial ammunition finds, 2 Platoon's arms find, 3 Platoon's quick reactions after a blast to prevent a serious confrontation, Sgt. Simpson's midwifery, Uncle Fred the PE Master, the CSM's unceasing humour and the red-hot line to Catterick each and every night from 6 p.m. to midnight. We searched over 50 houses, more than 1,000 cars, and the number of hours spent on our feet must lend encouragement to Yorkshire chiropodists. Wives are warned that if their husbands wake suddenly shouting in the night, grab the nearest clothes, and rush downstairs shouting "Standby out" it is nothing to worry about.

We look forward to getting back to Catterick routine although the "Forecast of Events" makes one wonder how much time will be spent at home.

Personalia

Arrivals: We would like to welcome the following to the Alma: L/Cpl. Raine, Ptes. Taylor, Marshall, Duckett, Moorhouse, Sissons, Hughes, Harrison, Farrel, Keenan, Whiteley, Beck, Barnes.

Lt. Bird arrives at the time of press, and a special welcome back is extended. We hope that this time we do not lose him.

Departures: Hello and goodbye to Lt. Gilbert after a short stay as our trusty Admin Officer, OP's Officer, Anti-Tank Officer, and Mattress Tester. Also to Sgt. Hunter, L/Cpl. Robinson, Ptes. Airey and Woodward. All have played an integral part in the Alma "team" and we wish them well in their future employment.

Promotions, births and marriages: We congratulate Ptes. Ryan and Robinson on their promotion, to Lance Corporal; Cpl. Fereday, Ptes. Dack and Haynes on their marriages; L/Cpl. Frear, on the birth of a son, Pte. Dack a daughter, Pte. Mounsey a daughter and Pte. Evans a son.

We would like to say a word of thanks to those attached to us during our Ulster tour: cooks, drivers, signallers and the (I'm glad to say) under-worked medic. All put in sterling work and we shall miss them.

Finally, a word of appreciation for the patience and support of our wives and girl friends; we realise that they, too, had to suffer difficulties and strains during the absence of their menfolk.

A TRIBUTE

Articles written in the first person can be tedious, but I should like to replace my usual contribution by a simple tribute to the soldiers with whom it has recently been my privilege and pleasure to serve — the men of Alma Company. However, I do not believe that those who serve, or have served, in the Alma are so very different from those who serve in other parts of the Battalion. So, in a sense, this is a tribute to all "Dukes" soldiers.

The Englishman has a tendency to withhold praise until he has to compose an obituary, whereupon he loses his restraint and waxes eloquent. At the time of writing, here in Ulster, no-one shows any signs of needing an obituary, indeed, quite the reverse applies and every man is showing a healthy determination to live and, it must be added, to take some well-earned leave.

Many a "Dukes" officer has pondered over his ale as to what it is that makes the Regiment tick, what it is that has enabled it to achieve success so often in roles as different from each other as the Korean War and Public Duties, or United Nations duties and amphibious training. The truth is that, rather in the same way that a father is often the worst judge of his children, so the officers are almost too close to their men to be able to judge their full worth.

The cry is heard "The warrant officers and sergeants are the backbone . . .". On that basis it might be said that the officers provide the head and that the junior non-commissioned officers with the soldiers make up the flesh and blood of this imaginary military body. Several neat similes come to mind, but I should like to express my

firm conviction that the greatest asset of the Regiment is its Yorkshiremen. The soldiers, mostly small of stature, who are prepared to stand as steady on ceremonial parade as under enemy fire and who will deal as patiently with Greek or Turk as with the angry Irish.

Our soldier has a dry sense of humour which comes to the fore however great the tension and a dogged determination which will carry him through every physical trial. He is not inclined to random violence and has left behind him in many corners of the world a reputation for friendliness—gentleness even. Nevertheless, when duty demands it, he will apply the degree of ruthlessness necessary for the completion of his task. It is these and the many other qualities of our soldiers which make our Regiment what it is.

In writing this short tribute to our soldiers I am doing no more than giving praise where it is due and explaining why it has been such a privilege and a pleasure to serve once again with the Regiment and with the Alma.

J.B.K.G.

BURMA COMPANY

The end of the last edition saw us returning from the exercise "Nelson's Touch." We then underwent a period of IS training in Catterick to prepare us for our stint in Northern Ireland. This practice in riot controlling, "paddy bashing" and street-lining culminated in the two-day exercise "disco."

This training, at the time, provided quite a few laughs but, in fact, helped us considerably in Belfast. We did at least get a fairly realistic idea of the number of boring, frustrating and painstaking hours we would have to put in whilst in Belfast itself.

After this exercise the company departed on 10 days' leave reappearing again on June 7. This was the day on which the advance party left for Belfast to get into the swing of things before the main body arrived. Apart from Lt. Sherlock complaining that he was seasick before we got anywhere near the ferry, the trip was calm and uneventful. However, a rumour did get around that "Q" Stewart had a last pint (or six) knowing that he would have to go dry for the next four months!

Having eventually taken over the luxurious accommodation from the "Jocks" (talk about field conditions — Long Kesh is a veritable holiday camp compared with Girdwood Camp!) we anxiously awaited the arrival of the main party on the ferry on June 14. On their arrival there was many a beaming face to be seen amongst the ranks of the "Jocks" and many a tear shed by the Irish "disco" girls at the "Jocks" departure.

One event of note which did occur before the main party arrived was when two members of the Company were "riding shotgun" on the back of a mobile patrol (led by the RHF) and were less than 100yd from a building when a bomb went off. Had it not been for the patrol commander stopping for a few seconds to do a spot of map reading the patrol might well have been right inside the building. The corporal concerned remarked to the officer "Blow (?) this for a

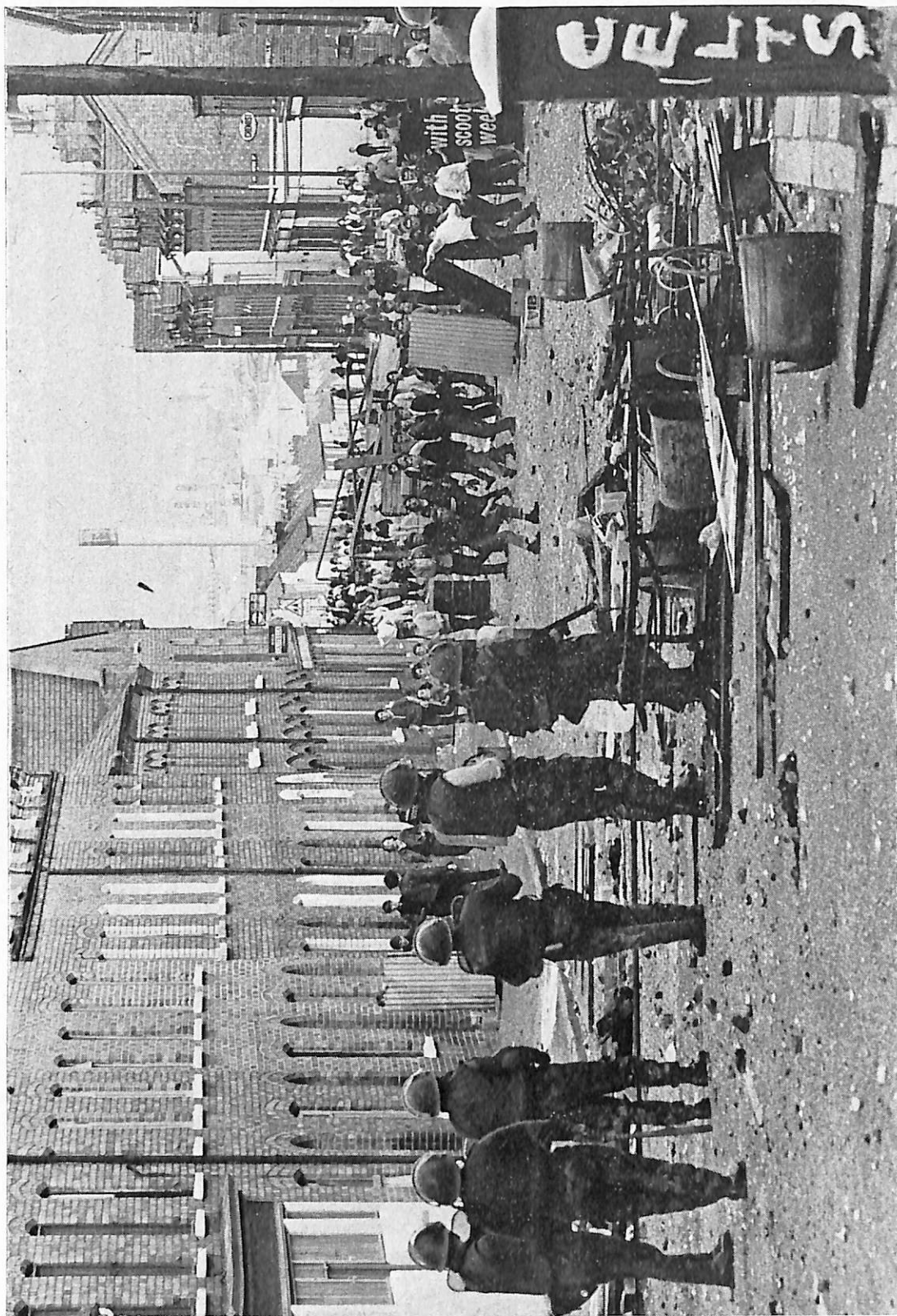


Photo by courtesy Daily Mirror

Defence—6 Platoon facing the rioters in the New Lodge Road on August 9



Counter Attack

Photo by courtesy Daily Mirror

laugh!" One did feel that the remark was justified, it being only our second night here!

The first six weeks were spent on getting to know the area and gathering intelligence. The latter proved a bit of a headache to the senior ranks of the company in that they were trying to gain information about various places and personalities in the area, whilst one got the impression that "disco material" and "tea stops" were top priority in the soldiers' minds. No, to be fair, a great amount of good information was gained by the constant vigilance and patience of all members of the company and much credit is due to all concerned.

Midnight Sunday, August 8/9, saw the Company deployed to deal with what was the first of the riots that we had to tackle. The gallant 5 Platoon were the first to make contact with the restless natives when they were bricked and bottled in amongst the flats. Lt. Sherlock obviously got carried away as he went into action without his skid-lid on and promptly got hit on the back of the nut with a half brick! This, however, turned out to be only a minor injury and merely required six stitches. Some say that it might even have knocked some sense into him.

There followed early on Monday morning the internment round-up which really went off well in the circumstances and which produced a further three days and nights of continuous rioting. Even Pte. Ramshaw, normally such a quiet, peaceable and thoroughly docile fellow, expressed surprise at the eloquence of some of the more outspoken women of the area!

During a lull in the hostilities on the Monday afternoon, Pte. Alan McDonald of 4 Platoon was tired enough to play football with one of about a dozen shots fired at him from a machine gun. Unfortunately, he was good enough to connect with one of them which inflicted a none-too-serious wound on his foot; it was not until some moments later that he realised that he was hit. The only regrets that he now has are that it was not serious enough to keep him out of action for the rest of our tour here. We are pleased to say the gallant lad is now back fully fit once more and on duty.

On the Thursday morning it was obvious that our friendly natives had had enough and we completely cleared the area of barricades and rioters. We did, in fact, have a couple of small bombs thrown at us just to let us know that they hadn't all gone on holiday and a few well-aimed shots hit a nearby chimney pot, but otherwise all was quiet.

We have been having trouble trying to make Pte. Ernie Pemberton understand that a baton is replaceable if broken but that one's hand isn't — he has recently disjointed his right fist for the third time!

After that we had several shooting incidents as well as one or two minor disturbances. On September 15 we had a confrontation with a large crowd in the New Lodge Road which developed into considerable stone-throwing and bottling. The Mortar Platoon (they were attached to us) carried out a baton charge only to find the crowd splitting and a machine gun opening up. No one was



We're only here for the Beer

Photo CPO HQ Northern Ireland

injured nor was anyone hit when a second burst of fire was directed at a patrol from 6 Platoon half an hour later. At about 8.30 p.m. that night a large lorry was hijacked and used as a barricade half-way down the New Lodge Road. Armoured pigs were sent in to clear it and when Capt. Redwood-Davies, with "Q" Stewart, Sgt. Robson and Pte. Barker, the signaller on the back, followed up behind, an ambush was sprung. The Land-Rover was caught in a vicious cross-fire from automatic weapons. No injuries were sustained by us and we did hit one, or perhaps two, of the gunmen. A gelignite bomb was thrown at one of the vehicles just before the ambush was sprung. Pte. Barker, sometimes known as "fuse brain," was heard to ask the CQMS in the middle of the shooting "Ere, how long do you reckon that fuse was, Sir?" He received a fairly curt reply and has now landed himself with the nickname for ever.

Minor incidents continue to keep us busy, but so long as we can keep Major Cumberlege in food we reckon we can deal with anybody that comes our way.

Personalia

We are pleased to welcome a number of new faces to the Company and among them we should mention 2 Lt. John Dowdell to 4 Platoon and Sgt. John Wilkinson to 6 Platoon.

We say au revoir to Sgt. Frank Lowney and wish him good fortune in the Halifax Recruiting Office.

Many congratulations to L/Cpl. David Wearing on his first stripe.

Marriages

Pte. Rodney Elgar to Miss Ivy McDonald on August 17 at St. John The Divine Parish Church, Bradford.

Pte. Michael Small to Miss Marion McBride on September 28 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Keighley.

Births

To Pte. Brian Jackson and Elizabeth, a son, Tony, on September 20, at Catterick Military Hospital.

To Cpl. Ian Thomas and Chris, a son, Michael Ian, on September 29, at Oswestry General Hospital.

To Cpl. Robert Heron and Linda, a daughter, on October 6, at Catterick Military Hospital.

To Pte. Roland Hill and Doreen, a daughter, Joanne, on September 1, at Halifax General Hospital.

CORUNNA COMPANY

These notes are written two weeks before the end of our tour in Ulster. Corunna Company Group, that is the company, 11 drivers under Cpls. McLachlan and Waterhouse, Cpl. Bowler's signal team, three cooks and several employed men from Admin and Command, arrived in Dunmore Camp in early June. Dunmore Camp is one of the more comfortable company locations: several Twynham huts in the North Irish Horse TA Centre. We had the good fortune to have ample

parking room and even a volleyball pitch. From this camp the Company was responsible for the area from Spamount Street to Monkstown, a distance of seven miles in North Belfast. The most common disturbances occurred on the interface of Duncairn Gardens between the Catholic New Lodge and the Protestant Tigers Bay, or around Newington, a small Catholic enclave in Tigers Bay. For variety we were involved in several operations further north and then we always shared the "Lodge" with Burma Company when there was "aggro."

The Irish were kind to us on our arrival, as the first few weeks were very quiet. This breathing space allowed the Company to get to know the area and settle in. The main concern then became July 12 and the marching season. On the 11th, Tigers Bay went wild, numerous bonfires and drunks kept the Company busy all night. The amount of damage these bonfires did was incredible. All this was televised, with that well-known military adviser Capt. "Bob" Tighe going round with the TV team. The 12th itself presented no problems other than sorting out the difference between the York Street and York Road Girls Bands. A result of this day and all other marches is that "The Sash" is in the Company's Top Ten. (Invariably whistled at the wrong time, i.e. when the Company Commander is seeing Catholic dignitaries.)

There was then a lull in the battle, routine patrolling with the odd dawn search to break the monotony. 9 Platoon had bricks and boomerangs thrown at them by the Protestants, but had little difficulty in sorting it out. Their Platoon Commander became known as "Rocky," and as "Rocky" and his boys are bigger than most we haven't had a squeak out of the Bay since. 7 Platoon also had its characters; the Lodge continually complaining to Burma about the "wee little sergeant."

Internment broke the peace. Burma and Corunna shared the Lodge. The stories are numerous; Cpl. Fleming chasing 40 up four floors of Artillery Flats, Sgt. Shaw's dash to capture a hijacked bread van (to be repeated in later riots), Cpl. Brennen and his sniperscope, Cpl. Goddard having his face sliced up in Hardinge Street with Henstock and Brearley helping the man who did it away to the RUC Station, Taylor (39) (the Jinx) having his pig blown up four times, the Franks/Kane arrest squad, and the Company Commander's comment every time he handed over to the 2IC: "Now you play it cool." His other notable remark was giving L/Cpl. Harris a rocket for not listening on the radio, when poor Harris was unconscious. (Coy Comd.: "He never listens anyway".) The CSM claims to have arrested and delivered the first detainee — 0431 hrs — it took him one minute. S/Sgt. Carter's achievement was to be accused of rape. The days on the Lodge were enjoyed by all, and it was gratifying to hear the locals say "Watch it, the big circle is coming."

After that day, life became more hectic. More bombings, searches and continual ferreting out of wanted men. A night swoop on the Tartan Gang in Rathcoole, the closure of Carrickfergus resulting in 19 men being detained for questioning and the second phase of internment were the most exciting of many operations. Most amusing



Maj. Mundell in the unloading bay with Ptes. Lord, Ennis, Tooley and Boguszewski

incident in this phase was Beaumont's unusual way of gaining entry to a house, it was nearly as bone-shattering as Thomson 74's method of stopping a car. Most dangerous moment was the petrol bombing of 7 Platoon HQ's pig, the only pig to let us down, with a broken back axle. This incident ended with the shooting of two of the petrol bombers. "Those that play with fire . . ."

Training was not entirely forgotten, Sgt. Shaw, Cpl. Brennen and Middleton completed a Grade II cadre in which Walker 30, Horsfall 28 and Warenycia gained good results. On the sporting side, the soccer team actually won a game 8-2! Company HQ "A" side is in the finals of the volleyball competition and the CSM played table-tennis! Socially, the sergeants had the TA Mess, the boys had two or three discos a week and the officers had TV!

It has been a great experience. The Company has knitted together and got to know each other. Our record from June 15 to October 1 was:

Baton rounds fired—89

CS grenades thrown—5

Live rounds fired—3 x 9 mm

Accidental discharge—1 (and that was an attached cook)

Arrests made—77

Wanted men caught—16

Houses occupied, searched—44

Houses empty, searched—268

Cars searched—7,575

Explosions in our area—21.

Now we are looking forward to our return to Catterick, some home comforts and Yorkshire beer.

Personalia

Corunna's chiefs for Ulster were: OC, Major Mundell; 2IC, Capt. Tighe; CSM, WO2 Collins; CQMS, S/Sgt. Glencross; Ops Sgt., Sgt. Nash; Sigs, Cpl. Bowler; MT, Cpl. McLachlan (L/Cpl. Waterhouse); Cooks, Cpl. Wade (Cpl. Joyner). 7 Pl: 2/Lt. Isles, Sgt. Walker. 8 Pl: S/Sgt. Carter (2Lt. Grieve), Sgt. Minto. 9 Pl: Lt. Gardner, Sgt. Shaw.

Postings in: 2/Lt. Grieve from Sandhurst; Ptes. Bratley, Saville and Lever, from KDD.

Pte. Boguszewski from (MT) Admin (OC's driver—lucky fellow!); Ptes. Butcher and Watson from (MT) Command (returning to the fold);

Pte. Heath 41 from (Med Centre) Command (returning to the fold).

Postings out: Cpl. Broomhead, Pte. Mullen and Pte. Graham to the outside world; Pte. Whiteley to Alma.

Congratulations to: Mrs. Goddard and Mrs. Anderson on producing two bouncing babies.

Cpl. Russell, L/Cpls. Taylor 44, White 78 and Holmes on their promotions.

The King's Wolstenholme 30's, Simpson's, Slater's and Pawson's on their marriages.

SOMME COMPANY HQ

These notes are being written during our last two weeks in Belfast — also very fast as they should have been in two days ago (Seagull has only just seen the letter). We can tell our stay is coming to an end by the amount of bump that the SDS is dropping us each evening.

We in Somme Company take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the attached who have roughed it with the Big "S" in Ballymacarrett this past four months. To the cooks who not only produced very good meals at any time of the day, but also on occasions did their turn on sentry and escort. To the Signallers who have kept us in contact "most of the time" and spent countless hours sitting in the Ops Room (Thank God for scrabble!). To the drivers who have kept the Big "S" on the move and, last but not least, to our Mess waiters. To you all, we say again, well done, and thank you.

These notes would not be complete without mentioning the rest of Company HQ. First in order, we have Somme's War Chief — The Sheriff of Seaforde Street. You're better with a .22 than a 9mm, and can we have that spare box of ammo when you leave?

Second, we have our Singing Bank Manager, the 2IC, who I'm sure will be able to manage to buy that new car now, that's if he does not leave his key in the safe again.

Third, we have W. D. Grace ("I always thought his name was Clarke") our CSM, who for three long months has made Molar suffer by the amount of cricket that we have had to watch.

Fourth, we have Sleeping Beauty, our CQMS, who has shortly got to rough it in Sheffield while the Company is in Ballykelly.

Fifth, we have the whistler, Sgt. Eastwood, who has kept our bar well stocked, no matter how much aggro there was on.

Sixth, and last, is the parrot man himself, L/Cpl. Aspinwall, whose call can be heard at any time of the day over Radio Paulett (OC's vehicle now, OCs vehicle now). So to all of Big "S": "Well done."

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

We say goodbye to the gallant members of the Drums who joined us for our tour in Northern Ireland. We also part with the handful of new recruits who stood up well to the continual bantering from the older soldiers about the campaigning in China and tales that ranged from boozing to battling. This, however, was put a stop to when the new recruit Preston (one of the unfortunate chaps to be involved in an explosion) said as he was lifted into the ambulance "You Hong Kong Wallahs beat that for a story!"

In spite of the intensive campaign that was executed to keep some of the "St. Matthew's gang" in the congregation of the Anti-Tank Platoon it has transpired that they are all off to different corners of the Battalion. The regulars, I am sure, wish them luck and those who remember as far back as their rifle platoon days have passed on a few good tips. So, after leave, it is the case of once more back to the big guns with cadres, shoots and exercises. Rumour has it that we may even maintain our title of Anti-Tank Platoon and not adopt the chameleon type of life we have had this year of changing our role so often. The game of playing charades on muster parade with Company HQ guessing what platoon we are that day may not happen so frequently as it has in the past — anyway, flexibility is the great cry.

Yet another sergeant joins the Platoon, Sgt. Minto, and we also welcome Ptes. Potter, Burgess, Henstock, Goddard, Leach, Meek, Allan and Butcher along with the drivers who were separated from us in Northern Ireland.

11 PLATOON— ASSAULT PIONEERS/DRUMS

This highly successful combination of Assault Pioneers and Drums has, at least for the time being, been laid to rest. Their reputation still strikes fear into the hearts of all dissidents in Ballymacarrett. This peculiar set-up functioned extremely efficiently and well, and, especially so in the "Disco"!

Few were sad to be returning home; in fact, few want ever to return, but apparently that's just what we will be doing in the near future.

So, as the "battle weary" elements of 11 Platoon are finally dispersed, there only remains to mention the forthcoming weddings of L/Cpl. Gowing and Ptes. Stagg and Cleary; may they enjoy many happy years. Also congratulations to L/Cpls. Gowing, Gallagher and Williams on their promotion. Farewell to 2/Lt. Sinclair, who joins Alma Company, and Sgt. Dickens who retreats to the Mortars. It was a strange, but oddly happy union.

A HERO

Dedicated to all those soldiers who have lost their lives in Northern Ireland.

No greater hero could be found than that young soldier who stood his ground. He thought to protect the children inside, and for this action it was he who died.

He could have run well out of the way, so what was it that made him stay?

Whatever it was, it made him brave, only the children he thought to save.

They call themselves Christians, the ones who mocked.

And I, like others, was deeply shocked.

He was no hero, the one who fled; for that action a soldier lay dead.

No one can justify this bloody crime. It will be remembered for a long, long time.

RUGBY

Twelve years ago the Regiment played some of its best rugby under Captains Shuttleworth and Gilbert-Smith in Ulster. It has been most gratifying to discover that Ballymena North and the other clubs remember those days. Now, unfortunately, rugby and Ulster are not compatible. The facts that the companies are split up all over north and east Belfast and that it is virtually impossible to get the 15 players off the streets at the same time, have made training and playing most difficult. But efforts are being made, SI Pickering has tortured those he could get his hands on, and games have been played. The record to date is played three, lost three!

v Donaghadee—lost 7-11

v NIFC—lost 10-18

v Donaghadee—lost 7-8

Both games against Donaghadee followed the same pattern. A disjointed shambles in the first half, which improved in the second half as the team began to knit together in both games too late. Against North the team was weakened by the absence of Lts. Gilbert and Thorn and Cpl. Cuss away on an Army Tour. North scored 10 points early on, then The Dukes rallied with two penalty goals and a fine try by Pte. Beaumont; we should have scored more. But the lack of fitness eventually showed and North ran in two tries in the last five minutes.

The team has the potential: in the backs, Cpl. Waquabaca and Cpl. Cuss are as good as ever, with 2/Lt. Grieve at scrum half and 2/Lt. Sinclair at full back, both new arrivals from the RMA, showing promise. Sinclair hooked at the RMA! In the forwards, Thorn, Redwood-Davis and Dickens form a solid enough base for any pack. Lt. Gerry Bird has just re-enlisted, the back row awaits his arrival. But the success of the side will depend upon the ability of the new captain, Lt. Gilbert, in moulding this talent into a side. Ulster, leave in November and exercises in the new year make his task unenviable.

Later News

On Tuesday, October 5, on a windy grey afternoon, the Battalion played its first Army Cup game since 1968. The opponents were 1 Para,

the pitch was at Holywood Barracks. All was set for a close, hard game.

But in spite of our lack of team practice, it soon became evident that the Paras were no match for us. The final result was 1 DWR 54, 1 Para 0. Cpls. Cuss and Waquabaca were too quick for their opposite numbers. 2/Lt. Sinclair did not put a foot wrong at full-back. Lts. Thorn and Bird, and S/Sgt. Hall shone in a pack that was carrying a lot of extra weight. Capt. Redwood-Davis dislocated a shoulder, Capt. McGlynn pulled a hamstring and Lt. Gilbert twisted his knee; but still the Paras could not cross our line.

This match was our last in Ulster. Our sights are now set on the 5th round of the cup to be played in UK before December 8. For this, the side must get fitter and find a consistent place-kicker.

Latest News

The 5th round Army Cup match is against the winners of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, and 11 Signal Regiment. It is to be played on December 8 which is unfortunately too late a date for us to be able to report the result in this issue.—Ed.

SOCCER

As we go to press the season is just starting, so we have no reports of games played.

Although we didn't expect to compete in any competitions until our return from Ulster we find ourselves drawn against 1 Para in the Northern Ireland section of the Army Cup. Being a "resident" battalion stationed in Palace Barracks they will be hard to beat on their home ground but, providing we can get 11 players off the streets and into soccer boots on the day, we shall have a go.

We have entered teams in the Northern Command Cup, Northumbrian District Cup, and League but, with our training commitments recently published, we shall be hard-pressed to complete our fixtures before we depart for six weeks on January 31 for exercise "Sun Pirate."

However, despite the problems, the soccer officer is still on the look-out for new talent.

The Regimental Band

Variety is said to be the "Spice of Life," and the Band certainly drew a mixed bag of engagements during the period of June to October.

The Dance Band commenced June for us by providing music for the Officers Mess Summer Ball at Strensall on the 4th. They performed magnificently and were much appreciated.

Mid-June was a period devoted to massed bands marching displays, when two events took place. An Open Day at Catterick Camp was concluded by a massed bands' performance at the Central Sports Ground in the early evening of June 12. A similar performance took place in York when

all the bands attended the Command cocktail party on the 15th.

Venezuela

During the month of June, the Regimental Band were honoured to be chosen to represent the Regiment and Great Britain by visiting Venezuela, from the 21st to the 26th at the invitation of the Venezuelan Government to mark the celebrations commemorating the Battle of Carabobo 1821-1971. The story of Carabobo and its importance to Venezuela is given in a separate article "Venezuela—June 1971" later in this issue.

The Band, after much weighing of instruments, and last-minute preparations, boarded an RAF Comet of Support Command and took off for Venezuela via Shannon, Gander and Washington DC in the United States of America. The long flight over the Atlantic was highlighted by the courtesy and consideration of the flight crew, one of whom proved to be quite an accomplished magician. We stayed overnight at the Holiday Inn, a sumptuous hostelry near to the Andrews Air Force Base in Washington. Most of the Band spent their few hours playing with the intriguing gadgets in their rooms (colour television, 12 channels in every suite).

On our arrival at La Guaira Airport we were met by a most impressive array of Venezuelan Army, Naval and Air Force "Brass" who presented us with ice-cold drinks before we boarded the buses which were to take us to our billets in Caracas. Our first impression of Venezuela was that first journey, from the airport on the coast, up by a superb highway to Caracas, 3,000ft above us. The gradient of the road may be judged by the fact that at every 100 metres, a water supply could be found at the side of the road for all vehicles "boiling up!" After a hair-raising trip through the centre of Caracas, we arrived at our billets in a Venezuelan Army Camp. The members of the Band found that they would share a large hangar-like room with members of detachments from the following countries: Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Chile and Argentina. The language problems in this international dormitory can be imagined! Capt. Walker, the Bandmaster, and BSM Cooper fared better as they were given VIP suites in the nearby Military Academy. Mr. Alexander states that the Academy, which has only recently been completed, could hold three Sandhursts, Mons, and a couple of Westminster Abbeys within its walls and still have plenty of room left.

Our first engagement took place the same evening we arrived. After a quick meal, we arrived at the British Ambassador's residence to play at a reception given by Sir Donald and Lady Hobson for the Minister of Defence and VIP guests. Sir Donald Hobson was extremely kind to us and during our refreshment period we realised that his interest in our tour of Hong Kong last year was motivated by the fact that he had suffered many indignities and imprisonment by the Chinese whilst he was ambassador in Peking during the troubles in 1967-68.

The following day, the Band gave a live TV show over the National TV network. It was very interesting, although very hot, work under the studio lights and without air conditioning. On the Tuesday evening, we gave an open-air concert in the Plaza Bolivar, the centre square of Caracas in front of a very fine equestrian statue of Simon Bolivar. The square had been conserved over the years and was a small oasis of pleasant Spanish architecture, ferns and palm trees amid the skyscrapers and bustle of modern Caracas which towered above. The Bandmaster had been well briefed about the statue of Bolivar, which is almost sacred to the people of Venezuela, and only just prevented an international incident when Cpl. Crag,

of "Stanley Mound" fame, decided that the plinth surrounding the statue would make a fine rostrum for his bass drum!

An estimated crowd of some 50,000 attended our concert, some of whom had been waiting for a good seat for five hours or more. We had a tremendous ovation when we appeared on the scene, and the concert was televised to three South American countries. At the reception in the City Hall afterwards, the Mayor of Caracas remarked that there had never been such a crowd since the revolution.

The following day began with a five-hour television recording in yet another studio. This time we managed to have many breaks for water during the "takes," the camera crew eventually learning the English equivalent to cries of "agua, agua." This was a successful event, however, appreciation may be judged by the fact that when we went into our version of "Hootenanny," the camera crew were so "gone" that they quite involuntarily applauded at the end so we had to "shoot" again.

Carabobo Day

The day which, to us, was probably the most important of our visit, dawned on Thursday, June 24. We say "dawned" because we left Caracas in a massive convoy for the Carabobo battlefield at 0430 hrs. We were to take part in the gigantic parade of 18 nations at Carabobo which lay some 230 miles west of Caracas. It seemed to us as we travelled the super-highway that every single person in Venezuela was travelling in the same direction, and in every conceivable type of vehicle. (The game of counting broken down vehicles soon palled.)

It became apparent that setting out at 0430 hrs. was insufficient precaution as the traffic ground slowly to a halt when we were still some 20 miles from our destination. The conditions were chaotic, to say the least, a complete three-lane blockage for as far as the eye could see. After a long interval, during which an interesting discussion took place between our bus driver and another bus next to us (they mistook us for Russians!) an army helicopter shot over the trees and hovered above us buzzing angrily and covering everyone with a fine red dust. Out of this chaos came a police car with motor-cycle outriders, and amid much beeping of horns and cries of "Viva Brittanico" we moved away down the centre grass strip between the dual carriageway after the escort; some say at least 80mph was achieved on this stretch!

We arrived at our destination much scarred but without serious injury and changed into our ceremonial uniform ready for the parade. Two hours later, and in a temperature of 103 degrees, the parade began. We had with us a detachment of Coldstream Guards and eight cadets from Sandhurst as colour party carrying the large Union Jack. The route of the march took place on a wide flagstoned runway which stretched into the far distance between vast crowds of people accommodated in huge stands on either side. The British Detachment took the place of honour following in the wake of the colour parties from all the invited countries. As we were the only band on parade, other than the Venezuelan Army Band, we

were straining at the leash ready for the off, when we were told by the marshals that the President had insisted that we should wait until all the other detachments had marched past before setting off. The waiting time was relieved quite pleasantly by the local people, who could see that we were rather warm, and liberal supplies of iced water were passed around an extremely grateful detachment. At long last we were given the word, and to our own music we stepped off down the parade vista.

The Bandmaster said that this was the first time that he was totally unable to hear a note of music, due to the tremendous reception given by the multitude of people. Amid cries of "Viva Brittanico," "Viva el Bravos," etc., etc. we marched past the saluting base and the President of Venezuela playing our own "Wellesley." We can truthfully say that our proudest moment was attained at this time. After the parade, it was an extremely tired, but happy Band which motored through the night back to Caracas. Our bus was by now well known by the returning populace, and every member of the Band now sported a straw sombrero and various other items of apparel. We had taken with us a bag full of the old pattern collar badges, and these proved to be a useful exchange medium. The following day was free and the Band, not being used to Venezuelan Army food, were taken by bus on an outing to a hacienda near Maracay, where they found a whole roast steer, and other refreshments awaiting them. This was an extremely pleasant and relaxing day, spent with a British manager and his family (only 12,000 acres, old boy!). Many of the Band took advantage of the swimming pool which was freshwater and the more daring tried their hand at a spot of horse-riding. One of our souvenirs gracing the Social Club is an enormous beef bone, almost 3ft. long!

We said our farewells to Venezuela the following morning and soon found ourselves back in Washington, this time with a few hours more to spare. We took in a sight-seeing tour of all the famous spots such as the Washington Memorial, The White House, and Lincoln's Tomb. After boarding the aircraft again we called in at Gander for our "Duty Free," and then all too soon arrived back to the sights and sounds of Catterick once more.

Reflections on the trip

A beautiful country, the people courteous and extremely friendly to the British. The food was interesting, to say the least, consisting mainly of fish, rice and maize cakes with the occasional egg thrown in.

We have not mentioned the times when we were invited to receptions and parties, which were crammed in between engagements. We are grateful to the European Club who laid on a wonderful party for us. We arrived late but still managed to provide a dance group and all of us thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The Minister of Defence asked when we left if we could come again for the next celebrations. We agreed and asked when that would be. "2021" was the reply, in all seriousness! "We are hoping."

After a couple of days' rest, we travelled to

Goole on July 3 and participated in a gala procession. As soon as we had completed this engagement, we boarded our transport and set off for Chilwell in Nottingham where, after an overnight stay, we gave a concert for the RAOC personnel and their families.

Welbeck College in Nottingham is an interesting place as it is a college where "Young Gentlemen" can receive further education with a hint of military training, which is designed to prepare candidates for possible admittance to a military academy. The Band had the chance to see some of their training put into practice when we were invited to provide inspection and marchpast music for one of their parades. A concert performed in Leeds at the Garden of Rest on July 8 was followed by the Pudsey Show on the 10th, where we gave a marching spectacle and, later, a concert. The remainder of July featured for us a concert at Butlin's, Filey, a church service and march for the British Legion at York Minster, and on the 28th and 31st we attended the World Archery Competition at York. On this occasion our task was to lead the procession of archers on laps of the competition field and supply fanfares as the various winners of the events were announced. A young American lad took most of the honours at this meeting.

Belfast

August arrived and we all decided the time had come to visit our "Comrades in Arms" over the water. It was intended that the Band would give a considerable number of concerts in the parks and local schools, but, after we had given one concert in the Stanley Rupert School and another at Girwood Park, it was decided that our crotchets and quavers could not compete against the other types of missiles ejected and so we found ourselves other types of employment, assisting the QM's Staff and providing the occasional vehicle escort. Thus, we were able to show our "skill" on the small arms. On the more serious side, our reflections of the eleven days spent in this troubled land gave us a deep sense of admiration for our comrades who are faced with an extremely difficult situation.

On our return to England, we had 10 hours in which to prepare ourselves for a series of concerts in the London area. These concerts were performed in Regents Park, St. James's Park, and also near the King George VI Steps on the Mall. After one week of playing two concerts daily, we eventually returned once more to Catterick where we had a short spell of leave.

The Rotherham Centenary on August 28 afforded us the prospect of performing a retreat display and also a processional march. Unfortunately, the weather did not hold good for the latter and everyone received quite a soaking; however, the right conditions did prevail in the early evening and the retreat beating ceremony went off without a hitch. The successful display was much appreciated by the spectators. We were invited by the Lord Mayor for drinks after the show ended.

September's main highlight was the Band's participation in the York Tattoo. This Tattoo,

SCENES IN



1. Ptes. Dalliday, Conner, Watson, Thompson and Toddy on patrol in the Buffer on August 9

2. The "Heavy Squad" from Admin Coy working with Somme Coy in Ballymacarrett on August 9

3. Will they never forget 1690? 2/Lt. Isles and L/Cpl. Harris watch the "girls" go by



4. A Junior Orange Lodge marches by



ELFAST

5. L/Cpl. "Richie" Richardson and Pte. "Diffi" Davies on duty in Upper Meadow Street on August 9

6. The "Heavy Squad" again on August 9

7. The CO at Carlisle Circus as the Lodges march to a service. The RMO can be seen nattering with RSM Chilvers and Sgt. Forrest

8. L/Cpl. Eddy Sharpe and Pte. John Furness with the Maidstone in the background



lasting 2½ hours, took place on the racecourse from September 13 to 18 inclusive, and featured two matinee performances in addition to the evening shows. It was an excellent spectacle and a very varied programme.

Other engagements during this month involving the Band consisted of a marching display and concert at the Keighley Show and, more recently, a visit to Helmsley. Looking back, it has been a very busy period with the Band, out of station most of the time.

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

COMPANY NOTES

Much has happened since we last went to press. Then we were on the verge of the Battalion Rifle Meeting. There was the anticipated improvement in the Company's shooting standard. "A" Company from York came out on top but we can pride ourselves on having prevented a complete runaway victory by them. Our team (O/Cdt. Hawley, Cpl. Brown, L/Cpl. Kennedy and Pte. Barkham) won the Rifle Section Match, and Cpl. Andrews tied for the title of Best Individual Shot.

We sent a team to the TAVRA Rifle Meeting at Bisley the following month. There it was the PSIs who covered themselves in glory winning the Wessex Cup, and our S/Sgt. Holliday coming second in the PSIs match.

In the meantime, we had a taste of the ceremonial side of soldiering when the Battalion provided a route-lining party for the visit of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to York on Monday, June 28. We were the first troops the royal party passed on the way to the city. A number of officers, including Major Tetlow and Capt. Mortimer, were amongst the military ushers at the royal garden party in Museum Gardens that afternoon, and were privileged to be amongst the escort for the royal personages as they circulated amongst the invited guests.

Also amongst those so employed was our padre, Major Roy Matthews, who was chosen to bear a large umbrella when escorting Her Majesty. As the Duke of Edinburgh's party passed by in the opposite direction, HRH spotted this fact and asked,

"Why are you carrying that umbrella, padre?"

"They seem to think I have some influence up there."

"They can't have much faith in you, then."

Typical of the way we have divided our time between real and parade ground soldiering is the fact that Sgt. Berry emulated CSM Peckett's example and also went on a Drill Instructors Course at Pirbright, having barely returned from his course at Warminster. Sgt. Simpson, not to be outdone, attended a course at the Signal's Wing.

In August we enjoyed exercise "Bog Trot" set by Major P. Kendall-Jones, of RIR and Yorkshire District, who accompanied us to Germany last year.

On August 10 we were visited by the Mayor of

We offer a warm welcome to Bdsm. Bradwell, Edwards, Foxton and Kirby, who have recently arrived from KDD. The welcome is reiterated on behalf of Bdsm. Barnes, Dermott, and Wigglesworth who returned from Kneller Hall in September. Our congratulations are extended to Bdsm. Sollitt who on September 11 became a married man. We offer him and his wife every good wish for the future. Last, but not least, congratulations to all those who benefitted under the new rank structure for promotion in the Band.

Halifax, Councillor George Smith, MIL, ex-RA and Intelligence Corps, who showed a lively interest in our training, and picked out two of his cousins on a 1939 photo of 68 (WR) Anti-Tank Regiment RA (TA) in the OC's office.

Camp was at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, from September 4 to 18, so naturally there was a pre-camp social the Saturday before, which was the usual swinging success. Camp was orientated towards our Colour Parade on Saturday the 18th, but nevertheless it was not all drill. On the first day we had a team in the Northern Command Orienteering Championship. There was a fair amount of time off, sports on the football field and on the beach, and the weather was great. We had the three-day Battalion exercise "Blind Approach" at the end of the first week, and arrived back in camp suitably worn out at Saturday lunch-time — but not too exhausted to enjoy the weekend.

During the second week we had four morning rehearsals at Imphal Barracks, on the last of which the Lord-Lieutenant of York and the West Riding, Brigadier K. Hargreaves, CBE, TD, took the salute, and presented a number of medals including Sgt. Berry's TAVR Efficiency Medal. That night, Wednesday, we held a most enjoyable Company Smoker at the "Copper Horse" at Seamer.

The Colour Presentation

Saturday, September 18, the sun shone brightly. We were up at 0530 hrs. to hand in our bedding and accommodation. The CQMS/PSIs and drivers not on parade, whilst not getting the glory, certainly deserve praise for their efforts, whilst the rest of us went off to Imphal Barracks for the Colour Presentation.

"C" Company provided the majority of No. 3 Guard, but a few were to be seen elsewhere. Lt. J. J. Hall received the Queen's Colour from HRH The Duchess of Kent, to whom Capt. P. J. Mortimer was ADC.

Cpl. Hollis was on the escort to the Colour, and Pte. Ashcroft lent his able services to the Corps of Drums. Meanwhile, off parade but in the public eye were Sgt. Carey, and our Company Clerk, Cpl. Byrne, who was "NCO i/c the press."

After we had proudly marched off our Colours we joined our families and friends at the Company tent. There we were visited by HRH who, after

a few formal presentations, circulated amongst the men of the Company and their families. The sun continued to shine, our Honorary Colonel was as usual warm and radiant, and it was for all of us a most enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Colour Parade Details

The Consecration Service was conducted by the Chaplain General to the Forces, The Venerable Archdeacon J. R. Youens, CB, OBE, MC, Chaplain to the Queen, attended by the Rev. N. S. Metcalf, DSO, QHC, MA, CF, the Rev. R. I. J. Matthews, TD, MA (C of E padre to the Battalion), the Rev. T. C. S. Welbourne (Methodist), the Rev. B. A. Funnell (RC padre to the Battalion).

The Colour Party consisted of: Lt. J. J. Hall, Lt. M. P. Newton, WO2 T. Parker, CQMS K. Mitchell, CQMS W. Edwards.

The band was the Band of the Yorkshire Volunteers, formerly The Yorkshire Brigade (Leeds Rifles) Band.

After the parade, HRH visited each company in turn, accompanied by the CO, Lt.-Col. I. G. Norton. The following were presented to HRH by the Company Commander, Major Tetlow: Col. J. Davidson (acting Hon. Col. of DWR in the absence

of General Bray) and Mrs. Davidson, Col. and Mrs. J. B. Sugden, The Mayor of Halifax, Councillor Geo Smith, MIL, and the Mayoress, Mrs. Smith, the Mayor of Keighley, Alderman Bancroft and the Mayoress, Mrs Bancroft, CSM D. V. Peckett and CQMS B. Dolan.

Afterwards, HRH was the guest of honour at luncheon at Lumley Barracks.

In the evening, HRH, this time accompanied by her husband, HRH The Duke of Kent, attended the Officers Colour Presentation Ball at Lumley Barracks.

District Rifle Meeting

After camp, the PSIs had a couple of weekends to arouse the enthusiasm of our better "shots" at Hawksworth, and Rowlston, and then on October 9-10 we had the Yorkshire District Rifle Meeting at Strensall. The improvement over last year's efforts in competition was sustained despite increased competition, and we finished higher up in almost every match. The Company's team (S/Sgt. Holliday, Sgt. Berry, Sgt. Simpson, Cpls. Kelly, Hollis, Robinson, Andrews and Brown), won the "China Cup" competition for SLR and GPMG, and we're pleased to report that, as is only right



Photo Yorkshire Evening Post

H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent inspecting No. 3 Guard which was largely found by C (DWR) Company

and proper, the Battalion won the Major Units Championships. Our rivals, "A" Company, won the Minor Units, we being placed sixth, and Cpl. Andrews took his usual share of the Pool Bull.

In all, it has been a very stimulating few months in the life of the Company, testing almost every aspect of our training. Now we prepare for our annual "fitness for role" inspection in which our administration will be tested, and for a fresh recruiting drive.

By the time this appears we will have a platoon in being in Keighley, and training each Thursday evening at the Drill Hall, Lawkholme Lane, which we share with a platoon of our friends, "C" Company of the 3rd Battalion, who train on Tuesday evenings. Like them, we have high hopes of this traditionally good recruiting area, and feel that we have something to offer to counter the popular fallacy that the TA is dead.

OFFICERS MESS

The Mess has recently taken on a new lease of life in the form of our "First Tuesday" of each month. On most of the occasions the PMC (Padre Matthews) and the CQMS contrive to lay on a buffet as an added stimulus to attendance.

Visitors to the Mess on these occasions have included our CO, His Worship The Mayor of Halifax (Councillor George Smith, M.L.), Colonels Sugden, Bentley and Crossley, Majors Haws, Crowther, Iredale, Knowles and John Davis, the CO and 2IC of the 3rd Battalion, Lt.-Col. Tattersall and Major Frampton — kindly shown the way to Wellington Hall by Major McDonald — and Mr. George Beddoe of *The Halifax Courier*.

We hope we may see them there more often.

There have been some changes in the Mess's personalia. We welcome back Capt. Peter Mortimer after a year in the wilds of Essex, where his sole amusement seems to have been visiting the MCTC at Colchester, and who no doubt finds the discipline here quite relaxed. Seriously, though, we understand that he did useful work there as Welfare Officer.

We say farewell to Lt. J. B. Widdop, the last officer founder-member of the Company, who has transferred to "D" Company (Hallams) at Sheffield. Apart from the wrench of leaving "Dukes territory," where he has soldiered from being an ACF cadet, he should settle in well there as it is nearer his present home, and he should find greater scope for his talents as Support Platoon Commander.

Finally the one-upmanship award of the year must go to our frequently far-flung Capt. Ivan Foster who, absent on a business trip, did not forget us on the day we received our Colours, and sent his good wishes in a telegram datelined — Katmandu.

This was second only to his apologies for absence being presented to the Audit Board, viz:

Question: "Where is the Account Holder?"

Answer: "In Bangkok."

SERGEANTS MESS

Well, we seem at the moment to be waiting for an excuse for a social or two. The next affair is the Xmas Draw on December 18, which will turn out as our seventh. If it had not been for Fred Pearce, senior, we might never have started.

There are a number of Thursday socials on the way again, these always turn out to be grand affairs and everyone enjoys themselves. Not much, however, can be fixed up as yet, for we are waiting for the painters to come to redecorate the Sgts. Mess and, of course, the whole Drill Hall.

By the time these notes are read the Carpet Bowls Competition will be well on its way. I wonder who will win the trophies this year? Howell and Morris? They did well last time, and don't forget Walt invented this game. Doc Holliday reckons he'll win, so I suppose we'll have some good bowling, and don't reckon without the PMC who intends to go further than the first round this time.

The Halifax OCA Branch have switched their traditional first Wednesday evening to an available Saturday in the Sgts. Mess and made the evening a social as well as a meeting. I hear from Spike that the switch is most popular, I hope it keeps up for them. I'm afraid we cannot manage a Saturday in December for them; however, I have no doubt they will look forward to January 1972.

On November 24 we entertain the Halifax Branch of the Licensed Managed Houses to carpet bowls, dominoes, darts, etc., and expect to have a very good night. We haven't lost at home yet, so here's hoping we keep our record. On November 26 we entertain a select "bunch" of officers to a five-course dinner at the Shibden Mill Inn, and this, of course, includes our hard-pressed civvy staff, Arthur, Bert, Roger and Barrie. My thanks to them for services rendered.

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

Our notes in the last issue left us looking forward to camp; this duly came round in the last week in August and was a great success, both as the first camp of the new Battalion, and also for the "Dukes" Company. We went to camp 80 strong, which was extremely good out of a then possible figure of ninety, particularly when one takes into account that some employers were unable to release people to attend camp.

Training at camp was on a cadre basis, which meant that all companies and batteries were intermingled, and the Battalion as a whole came together as people on the ground rather than as mere locations.

The weather was kind, the food excellent, and the training was imaginative and realistic, so a good time was had by all. No one dropped out of the "march and ride" from Ripon to Catterick area, although it was rumoured that the OC's feet were uncomfortably hot!

Since camp, we have been practising for the District Rifle Meeting, where our results were frankly disappointing — no comments, although I can say here and now that next year will see a marked improvement in more ways than one.

Matthew Bateman succeeded in attaching himself to 1 DWR in Belfast for a few days in early October. He reports that he thoroughly enjoyed himself; he learnt a lot, but was thankful when he was safely on the boat for home. His admiration for 1 DWR is unbounded for the way they have done a most difficult duty.

Recruiting is still continuing and we have undertaken to be 100 per cent recruited by December 31. At this moment we have an actual strength of 103 officers and men (our full establishment being 123). We are pursuing a realistic policy of only keeping those people who attend and are an asset to the Company and the Battalion.

We were able to help RHQ and Arthur Wood stage the annual OCA dinner in Huddersfield, when we were pleased to welcome the Colonel of the Regiment.

Finally, if any ex-1 DWR soldiers reading these notes feel that they would like to know more of the Reserve Army, please come to the Drill Halls in Keighley or Huddersfield any Tuesday, make yourself known, and we will do all that we can to enrol you!

To all past and present Territorials/Volunteers a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 1972.



RIDING HALL MILLS - HALIFAX

Depot, The King's Division

"W" COMPANY

The departure of Capt. Alan Westcob to his new job at 3 Inf. Bde. has left "W" Company with only seven "Dukes." Needless to say, still the backbone of "W" Company. We shall miss Cpl. Lucky.

We are awaiting the arrival of another member of the "Cook clan" "to badge him a Duke." Sgt. Dowdall is again at Otterburn and Sgt. Blood has started a new Platoon of 84 strong.

It was nice seeing old faces at the Regimental Reunion. We look forward again to it next year.

Congratulations go to Sgt. Dowdall on his impending promotion to S/Sgt. and to Cpls. Cook and Exley on their substantive promotion. L/Cpl. Broadbent was the last of many "Dukes" recently promoted, our congratulations to him also.

"Y" COMPANY

The only event of significance over the past three months was the annual camp, this year held on Anglesey, followed, of course, by the summer break. Sgt. Steve Kelly was in charge of the fell-walking expeditions, Cpl. Terry Haigh controlled the sailing, whilst Cpl. Mugs Millar is reported to have been at Camp HQ; nobody knows exactly

what he was doing, but then, again, nobody ever does.

Cpl. Terry Haigh has once again taken his boots down off the wall to help out a previously weakened Depot football team. Needless to say, he is the mainstay of the team.

We have lost two "Dukes" in the process of the Summer Term. Firstly, Cpl. Wilson decided he could fare better in civvy street, we wish him well in his new-chosen career, and, finally, Sgt. Ken Leachman, who has rejoined the Battalion; all the best to him, the Sgts. Mess will never be the same again.

"Z" COMPANY

Life at the Depot has become rather hectic now that the redesignation has transpired. One of the first problems encountered was "beds," not that we could not get any, but where were we going to put them? It was even rumoured that they were going to take over the MSQs. The problem is still a long way from being resolved but no doubt sanity will prevail.

All that is heard from RQMS Sargeant's (Skid Solo) office these days is "We need some more cap badges, send a signal" (rumour has it that they now fetch £1 for 100). Capt. Newell (the "Nightworker") retorts every now and then "Staff Course make a note for Capt. Nicholson" (probably another "nightworker"). In the course of the past three months "Nightworker" has had an interview published in the Daily Express and his hair cut (no one knows which was the biggest social event but it is reported that Mrs. Newell has told him he now looks younger — either with the weight off his mind from the interview or the weight off his head from the haircut). Cpl. George Hayton has just completed his EPC and is anxiously awaiting the results, he has not had his hair cut and constantly gets insults and headaches. Sgt. Eric Wallace (Slim) has now settled into his mansion (we did not bother leaving him a food parcel when he moved in as Wimpeys had not finished building the extension to the larder). We now have a new QM's Clerk, L/Cpl. Barry Fielding (Oxo). I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the "Dukes" to welcome Barry and Doreen and hope they have a pleasant tour.

Where one comes another goes, this time it was L/Cpl. Colin Rutherford (Rubberlips) who has retired to civilian life. We wish Colin and Glenda all the best and hope they manage to keep in touch with some of their old friends in The Duke's.

Congratulations to Cpl. Ian Akeroyd on his substantive promotion. There were many more "Dukes" promoted and no doubt they will appear elsewhere in the Depot Notes; our congratulations to them also.

Finally, a contingent from the Depot went to the Regimental Reunion at Huddersfield where a good time was had by all.

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NO. 10 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

Eight months have now passed since we last put an article in THE IRON DUKE and in that period we have been busily employed in a variety of activities, not least of which was the Huddersfield Cadet Tattoo (an article on which appears later in this issue).

First things first, however, and March saw the end of the winter course for schools when some 120 lads received their AYT Certificates. It also brought the end of the 1970 Youth Clubs' .22 Competition between the Huddersfield, Halifax and Four Valleys Areas, the 10 AYT trophy being won by Huddersfield.

On April 1 the 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers were officially recognised as the new tenants of St. Paul's Drill Hall. At the same time, we moved into our new office-cum-store at the Drill Hall and as 3 Yorks are now our Admin Unit we are greatly benefiting from sharing the same roof. It is, perhaps, an opportune moment to express our gratitude to 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers who, until April, had been our Admin Unit for a number of years. In particular, our thanks go to the QM, Major Alan Sedgewick, and the RQMS, Mr Christie, who have been most forbearing in dealing with our sometimes quite outrageous demands.

Having completed our move, we settled into our normal summer activity of running camping expeditions to the Peak District and Dales. This was slightly aggravated by the loss of our minibus in June. However, 3 Yorks gallantly came to our rescue with their brand-new vehicles (not without considerable trepidation on the part of Andy Hardy, their QM) and they have continued to support us with transport whenever we have required it.

Most of the summer was taken up with preparing for the Cadet Tattoo and to a great extent we had to curtail our usual programme of work with the cadets and adjust our ideas to band practices and to training and rehearsing the various displays.

In July, along with 19 AYT from Catterick, we were involved in the running of the first Northern Command Schoolboys Leadership Course at Strensall. This was organised by Major Mike Campbell-Lamerton who was taking time off from planning the District Rifle Meeting among other things, and who considerably added to our entertainment by continuously passing uncomplimentary remarks about the team.

After the Cadet Tattoo in early August we went to Scarborough for a week to assist the West Riding Army Cadet Force in their annual camp. Most of the time was spent as enemy in a couple of complex exercises, during the course of which we disposed of some 9cwt of pyrotechnics and a large quantity of explosives much to the discomfort of those against us.

After two weeks' leave we returned to take part in the York Armed Forces Display and, while the OC was sunning himself in Germany, Sgt.

Howard and Pte. Michael Goult (who joined us for the duration of the Battalion's tour in Ulster) were entertaining youngsters by demonstrating canoe capsizing drills in a special tank. This, in fact, was quite relaxing compared with Cpl. Mike Shaw's non-stop job of driving the Noddy Train round the display area with some 50 children aboard. He must be commended for his perseverance.

The District Rifle Meeting has just taken place and the Recruiting and Liaison Staff Team consisted of 12 people, 6 of whom were Dukes; 3 from the AYT, CSM Bill Norman from Huddersfield ACIO and Sgts. Kendrew and Harding from Sheffield ACIO. Many who have served with the TA in Huddersfield will remember Deer Hill range near Meltham. This was sold in the 60s and is now owned by a civilian club. Needless to say, Major David Cowell (Trg Major 3 Yorks) has managed to get the use of it and we spent some time there practising for the meeting. Despite this we did not have any outstanding individual success, although we came third in the visiting Minor Units Championship.

We are now nearly back to normal, though slightly understaffed, a problem which is being

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remedied shortly. We are involved in a D of E Presentation and Exhibition week later this month and then we have the start of our annual Youth Club's Shooting Competition which has attracted a record entry of 30 clubs from Huddersfield alone. All this along with our usual series of courses with local schools. It may be of interest to note that these courses include a visit to the Regimental Museum where the pupils are shown round by Mr Innes.

Over the last eight months we have been visited by the GOC Yorkshire District, Major-

General R. M. Somerville, and more recently by the GOC-in-C Northern Command, Lt.-General Sir William Jackson. In May, Col. Huxtable paid a visit to the ACIO and ourselves. Our connections with the 1st Battalion have been somewhat tenuous over the last few years and so it was gratifying that the CO was able to call in prior to his departure to Ulster.

All in all, it has been a most interesting eight months and we can only hope that the rest of the year proves as rewarding.

The Army Cadet Force

Huddersfield Area (DWR)

Nijmegen Marches 1971

Voilà—the team award, thirteen individual medals, and the cycle orderly award, is ample (and total) evidence of the magnificent success by Lt. John Clegg, SMI Jack Fitton and their 11 "little diddy men" from our Halifax and Thongsbridge detachments — without a falter they marched themselves and "The Dukes" to even further glory; 100 per cent success achieved in splendid style. Very much credit must be attributed to John Clegg and Jack Fitton for nine months of training graft, urging each individual cadet to greater and even greater achievement, step by step. To that erstwhile "Duke" Austen Collier, we cannot repay our debt to you for overlordship of the training which culminated in this splendid achievement, thank you so very much.

Annual camp

Burniston Barracks, Scarborough — and it will never be the same again — 400 Cadets of the WRACF (North) descended for an eight-day camp (and even the Scarborough hippies fled temporarily — a battle honour?) in August past, to enjoy the thrills of platoon attacks, LCTs, bivouac camps, and Scarboro' scampi and chips (Yes, scampi — fish was yester-year). A most enjoyable camp emerged and the kids voted it a "hit."

Weekend camps

Sandwiching our Scarborough camp, were long weekends at Anzio Camp, Leek, in June and Strensall in September. Both camps were sponsored by 10 Cadet Training Team under Capt. Patrick Puttock, and adult cadres were very successfully completed — so successful in fact that yet a third adult weekend is to be held at Bellerby Camp Leyburn in October by popular request.

The Strensall Weekend saw the departure of BSM Dennis Goddard of 10 CTT after four excellent years with West Riding ACF. Dennis Goddard not only bids farewell to the ACF but also brings to an end a most successful Regular Army career, and he will be missed. To BSM Goddard, our very best and most sincere good wishes go with you, and the adults and cadets of our area say thank you for your enthusiasm and expertise over the past four years.

Shooting

The West Riding ACF Team, in excellent form,

won the Services team trophy at the Spring Meeting of the Yorkshire Rifle Association at Strensall, and the Huddersfield Area was once again represented by Capt. Doug Bennett of Skipton Detachment.

Comings and Goings

We have pleasure in recording the appointment of Lt.-Col. D. Hooper, formerly OC Bradford Area, as assistant deputy to Col. J. C. Moncrieff, our Deputy Commandant (North).

A very warm welcome is extended to Under-Officer Steve Lancaster who has been posted to our Keighley Detachment, and to both SMI Jim Brooking on HQ Staff, and ex-Cadet, now SI Grahame Wilkinson to our outlying unit at Skipton.

Pleased we are to announce the promotion to SMI of Frank Poulton, but at the same time must reluctantly say farewell to SIs Jack Blenkarn (ill-health), John Bredikis (Regular Army) and Bob Durston (on being granted a Regular Commission). To these three we say many thanks for sterling work; we've enjoyed having you with us — good luck for the future.

Here and there

Congratulations to Capt. John and Brenda Tyler, upon the arrival of a beautiful little daughter, Carol Louise, on July 2.

Cadet Sgt. Earnshaw of Keighley Detachment gained first place in Class C high jump at the Northern Command ACF Athletics.

5th Light Regiment (Royal Artillery) are back from Northern Ireland and, at the time of writing these notes, they are in verbal contact so that they can speedily pick up the threads of their suddenly interrupted tour of our various detachments. We look forward to seeing Capt. Peter Morphew and his team (which includes two ex-Mirfield Cadets) back into action on the ACF scene, and this is imminent.

Area HQ move office from the main building at TAVRC St. Paul's Street into joint occupation (with 10AYT) of a prefabricated building within the curtilage of the TAVRC and by the end of October should be firmly entrenched.

Conclusion

The effects of the Army Board's ACF Review are beginning to show, and all is to our satisfaction. ACF-wise everything is rosy, but despite our

quarterly pleas, the doors are not being burst down by "ex-Dukes" personnel who would like to soldier on with the ACF. Once again we declare, give us a try, we think you will be pleasantly surprised.

HUDDERSFIELD CADET MILITARY TATTOO

Sunday, August 8, saw what is believed to have been the first cadet tattoo of its kind in this part of the country. Army, Sea and Air Cadets from many parts of the West Riding gathered to put on a 2½-hour display in Greenhead Park in Huddersfield as part of the 1971 Summer Entertainments Programme.

The whole thing started in October last year when the suggestion of a tattoo was first put to local cadet unit commanders. A committee was formed to investigate the possibilities and to go ahead with the planning if it was found to be a feasible proposition. Represented on the committee were Huddersfield Area ACF (DWR), 59 (Huddersfield) Sqn ATC, T/S Nelson (Huddersfield SCC) and No. 10 Army Youth Team (DWR) and it was from these local units that the majority of the cadets and adults were to be drawn.

The idea was given the go-ahead, the aim being the promotion of the cadet movement in Huddersfield and the surrounding areas. It was further agreed that the theme should be one of inter-service co-operation and that the items on the programme should be chosen accordingly. It was also felt that there should be no participation by regular servicemen in this first attempt. T/S Ark Royal (Leeds Sea Cadets) were invited to put on a guest appearance event with further support being made available by Sea Cadets from Barnsley and Army Cadets from Halifax, Keighley, Mirfield and Thongsbridge.

Training and rehearsals of the displays started in the New Year and continued throughout the summer under the direction of 10 AYT, who were the only people who, through the very nature of their role, were able to devote nearly all their time to the tattoo. The units were obliged to carry on their normal programme of drill evenings and weekends and this fact combined with the problem of transporting cadets to and from rehearsals proved the main snags in the production of the tattoo. The final month covered the period of the annual holidays and, as a result, attendance at rehearsals was very poor, to the extent that for the dress rehearsal only 170 took part compared with 250 who turned out on the day.

Approximately 2,500-3,000 people came to watch the tattoo and amongst the audience was the Mayor of Huddersfield and many other local dignitaries.

The programme started with a performance by the Combined Band. This consisted of some 55 cadets and an adult drum-major, all of whom had been involved in a number of guest appearances at local shows prior to the tattoo, including one at Harden Moss sheepdog trials in June.

To all who read THE IRON DUKE, and particularly those kind enough to read our ACF notes, we bid a very Merry Christmas and an extremely Happy and Prosperous New Year.

They were followed by an assault course competition. There were nine obstacles and it was the first time that the teams had either seen or been over them. Needless to say, this event caused some amusement; however, the times were good and there were no casualties. This was one of the combined events, with each team consisting of a mixture of cadets rather than one service competing against another.

The Army Cadets then put on the first individual display. This was based on two aspects of their training and consisted of precision drill in period costume and tent pitching.

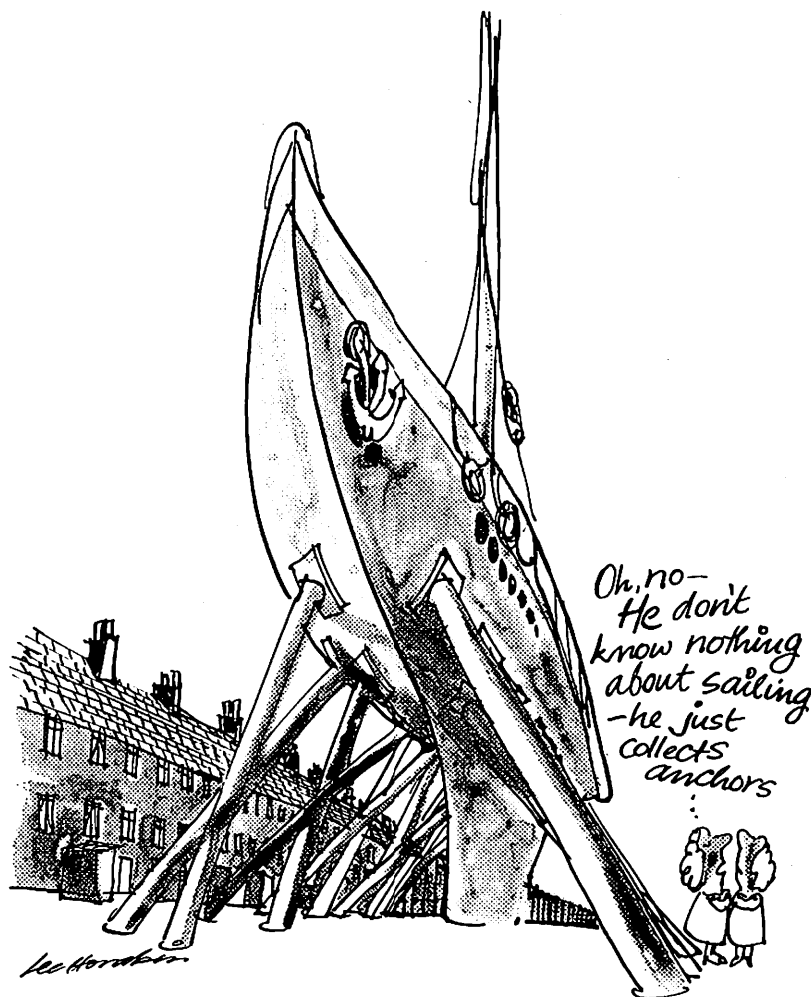
Then came the highlight from the audience's point of view: a field gun competition between Sea Cadets from Huddersfield and Barnsley. This was conducted on the lines of the Royal Tournament but with smaller guns weighing only ½ ton, and with no sheerlegs. Despite this, there was considerable crowd participation and the final winners were the Huddersfield team who were presented with their prizes by the Mayor at the final parade.

After the interval, during which the Huddersfield Pipe Band entertained the lovers of Scottish music, there was a display of battle PT by a combined team of some 28 cadets who varied in height from 4ft. to 6ft. Cpl. Shaw, of 10AYT, who ran the display is still somewhat mystified as to how the smallest cadets managed to lift the logs. This certainly was the most amusing of the displays and at the same time it had required the most practice.

The final display was given by the Leeds Sea Cadets who first gave an excellent exhibition of unarmed combat illustrating one aspect of the Marine Cadets training and then erected a set of sheerlegs and a bosun's chair. All the participants then formed up in the arena for "Last Post" and then marched back through the town centre to the Drill Hall and supper.

Overall, it was considered a great success and certainly the aim was achieved. However, the disruption to normal training was so great as to make it unwise to hold such events too frequently. Many comments have been passed that, without a central unit available to devote their attention full time to running the tattoo, it would not have got off the ground. This is by no means correct, as, without the enthusiasm of the cadets and their adults, no cadet tattoo would be a viable proposition and without support from TA and regular sources it would be most difficult to equip. It is probable, therefore, that this was the most valuable lesson gained from the tattoo, that cadet units, if they work together, can benefit their units and cadets more than if they try and go it alone.

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VENEZUELA—JUNE 1971

By CAPT. E. J. W. WALKER

June 24, 1971, was the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Carabobo, a battle fought by Simon Bolivar to gain Venezuelan independence from Spain. Every year since the battle, Bolivar's victory has been celebrated, and this year our regimental band was fortunate enough to participate in the anniversary celebrations.

Where is Venezuela? You may well ask. Certainly more than one "Duke" had to take a close look at a map of South America before he could speak authoritatively on the precise position of this Latin American country bordered by Colombia and Guyana. Venezuela covers an area of some 350,000 square miles (nearly four times the size of the UK) and has a population of over 10,000,000. Oil is "King" in Venezuela, making her the third largest petroleum producer in the world and giving her, too, the highest per capita income in Latin America. The capital is Caracas, a city which celebrated its 400th anniversary in 1967, and is now a still rapidly expanding metropolis of skyscrapers, motorways and huge "clover-leaves." Caracas, over 3,000 feet above sea level and surrounded by a coastal range rising to 9,000 feet, is a particularly beautiful city at night.

The next question one might ponder upon is, just exactly what the connection is between the British Army and Simon Bolivar's fight for Venezuelan independence from the Spanish. The fact is that the most significant unit in Bolivar's army was made up predominantly of British soldiers and commanded by one Col. Ferriar. Briefly, the legion was raised in Europe from English, Irish and Hanoverian volunteers after the Napoleonic wars. Apart from experience gained in Europe, most officers and men had already been well acclimatised, having encountered the rigours in the Sabanas — the forest — and great heights on the Andes in previous campaigns. The Battle of Carabobo is to the Venezuelans what the Battle of Waterloo is to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. As a result of the major role played by the legion, commanded by Col. Ferriar, the British people are still held in high reverence by present-day Venezuelans.

Preparations for the Band's visit to Venezuela began in earnest several weeks before the day of departure. The Quartermaster enhanced his reputation at MOD by being able to give size rolls of the Band for number 3 dress, to a man, over the telephone, at a moment's notice. Such a request had never before met with such a prompt and readily available answer!

It is one thing to hear a band play music of a foreign country, but it is quite another to hear it played as it should be played. And so, a record was obtained of the Venezuelan National Anthem and also of "Alma Llanera," a piece of music held in similar high esteem. Within days "El sub oficial" Alexander and the Band had mastered the intricacies of these two important pieces of music with, perhaps, a little judicious rearrangement.

The officer in charge was bidden to the Consulate in Hans Crescent where a highly detailed briefing on Caracas was delivered, and more than suitable answers were given to questions on soldierly-like pursuits in a South American capital city.

Journey out

We left Catterick on Saturday, June 19, and stayed overnight at RAF Hendon. After the familiar early rise, we were on board RAF VIP Comet Task No. 1097 at Heathrow in time to be joined by Lord Balniel for a doors-close time of 08.55 hrs, local. Soon afterwards we were on our way to Gander and Andrews AFB, Washington DC.

The evening spent at Andrews was certainly pleasurable, if a little disappointing, as the city of Washington was "off limits" to all the "Dukes" on the outward journey — the management was anxious that the party should at least arrive intact at Caracas! However, most people enjoyed the stay at the Holiday Inn, if only to savour a huge steak and to watch Lee Trevino win the US Open on colour TV.

We were perhaps lucky to travel with Lord Balniel, as the overnight stay had put us into the time zone, tired and hungry in Washington, but considerably fresher in Caracas; after a further five-hour flight the Comet arrived at Maiquetia Airport in Venezuela.

Friendly reception

The arrival was but a taste of what was to come, for the friendly reception by both Venezuelan and British residents was particularly encouraging for the bandsmen. When the programme for Mr. Alexander and the band was seen, it was soon realised that there would be very little relaxation for the next six days. Also in the British contingent were six Sandhurst cadets under command of Capt. Ian Fowler, RA, and a detachment of Coldstream Guards under Capt. Digby Thornewill. Unlike the band, their main task was the Carabobo parade on June 24. This meant plenty of free time. On the other hand, the band was to be committed on every day of the visit.

The day of arrival continued at a pace that never really relaxed throughout the visit. After a long climb uphill to the city from the airport on the coast there was just time to sort out instruments, unpack one of four variations of uniform, and get to HM Ambassador's Residence to play "light airs" at a reception to be given in the garden. The band got off to a magnificent start that evening, setting a high standard that was to be maintained throughout the stay. The evening was also significant in that the officer-in-charge realised his full potential as ADC to the Bandmaster!

Tuesday, June 22, was a particularly successful and enjoyable day. It began with a recording session for an hour's concert on TV. To produce one hour of music means a good deal longer

being spent in rehearsals, takes and retakes. The producer had requested that the band should play in scarlet, and this they did in an almost unbearably hot TV studio without air conditioning. But after a Queen's Birthday Parade in Hong Kong in scarlets, there are not many places where they could not play in full dress. Tuesday evening was one of the highlights of the visit — an open air concert in Plaza Bolivar in front of 5,000 people, including the Governor of the city, HM Ambassador and Lady Hopson, Lord Balniel and Lord and Lady Eccles. A police escort through the crowd was needed for El Director de Banda Alexander and his men; later it was nearly needed for protection after outstanding renderings of "Alma Llanera" and "Hooten Anny," the likes of which had never been seen before in South America! As the concert was covered live by all channels on TV it is likely that an extremely large number of people saw the band performing. The evening ended at the British Consul's house where a party was given by Mr. and Mrs. Cade-Hughes for the "Dukes" and the remainder of the British contingent.

The next day there was another TV performance, this time for the Government station, but the day never to be forgotten was Thursday, June 24, the actual anniversary of the Battle of Carabobo.

The Anniversary Parade

The parade was due to start at midday. In order to be there on time we needed an early start for the six-hour coach ride. Reveille at the Military School, where we were staying, is announced in a somewhat extraordinary manner. The school band plays reveille on the square — but with every instrument purposely played out of tune. The cacophony that greeted our ears at 04.00 hrs. really needed to be heard to be believed, suffice to say that it does have the desired effect.

The journey from Caracas to the Campo de Carabobo was one that will never be forgotten by those who made it. It started as a reasonably orderly exit from Caracas on the super four-lane highway, which climbs up out of the city, over the mountains and down onto the plain. Some 40 miles from Carabobo traffic control started to lapse; 10 miles later there was chaos. The bus carrying the band twice crossed the centre way, part of which was a monsoon drain ditch, ending up travelling into the oncoming traffic on both occasions. At one stage, the coach literally straddled the ditch and progressed under police escort between two huge traffic jams going to and from Carabobo. All control of the many thousands of cars was lost, so that even more thousands of people never saw the actual parade at all! After a helicopter recce the organisers realised that, without the "Dukes," their parade could not progress, and so with air recce and ground escort we arrived in time.

The parade consisted of a march by dismounted troops along a straight wide roadway to the Carabobo arch. The President of Venezuela took the salute. Every South American country was represented on parade, together with numerous Caribbean countries, the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Spain. Representing these countries were military cadets from their respective cadet schools. The splendour and colour of all the

different uniforms was magnificent. For all countries except Great Britain the music played for the march past was canned Venezuelan military music, played at a speed a little faster than our slow march. Most of our former colonies in that area of the world still run their ceremonial parades on British lines; it was therefore somewhat amusing to watch several of these contingents desperately struggling to master the odd rate of step.

Fortunately, there was no such problem for the RMA cadets and Coldstream Guards. After a suitable gap, the taped music stopped and the "Dukes" struck up. Having waited over two hours in the heat, the result was excellent. The parade ground was lined with masses of people who all gave both the band, and the marching contingent, a magnificent reception. We even had the Coldstream Guards marching past to "The Wellesley," and very fine they were, too.

There followed a march past and drive past of the major part of the Venezuelan army. This lasted over six hours which is one reason why the music was canned! Official estimates put the crowd attending Carabobo at around half a million, so that the departure from the Campo de Carabobo was similar chaos to that of the arrival. Rather than being irritating, the return journey was really very amusing, as several of the "Dukes" managed to nurture acquaintances of the day from the coach windows. We even had Miss Venezuela posing for photographs by leaning out of a car window whilst the traffic column was moving at about 10 mph.

It was a weary crew that returned to Caracas at midnight. But the day was not over, and after a shower and a change of rig, we all attended an excellent party given by the Defence Attaché, Commander Donald Corner, RN. Almost needless to say, the tiring coach journey was soon forgotten.

Barbecue

The final day was something of a change for the band. A barbecue had very kindly been laid on for the British Contingent by one of the local British residents. A huge animal was roasted on a spit. When it was ready, everyone was issued with a knife and then let loose to cut off huge pieces of steak. At the same time "steins" of beer were thrust into eager hands so that within a very short space of time a typical "Dukes" party was in full swing. The day finished with yet another party, this time given by the British residents of Caracas in the Black Horse grill — the one and only English pub in the city. We had to sing for our supper, but with Parkinson, Harrison and Co. all in great form, the dance band went a considerable way to repaying the excellent hospitality we had received during the week-long visit. It is rumoured that some were even tempted by the offers of over £250 a night! Fortunately, everyone had packed for the return journey before the evening began, so it was a pretty weary crowd that mustered for departure at 07.00 hrs. on June 26.

The return trip followed the same route as the outward journey, but there was more time spent staging in Washington. However, we all heeded the warning from the locals of not going into the

Continued on page 123

THE NEW NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

The National Army Museum's splendid new building next to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, was opened by Her Majesty the Queen on November 11, 1971.

The main permanent display illustrates chronologically the history of the British Army to 1914, of the Indian Army and of the colonial forces. The displays follow modern methods with the exhibits set against colourful, often symbolic, backgrounds in uncluttered cases. A narrative outside each gives the salient facts of campaigns and battles, and describes developments in the army's organisation, equipment and techniques, its defeats and victories and its professional and social activities. Among the wealth of material on view it is invidious to mention only the most important items: suffice it to say that, among the exhibits are weapons and uniforms, medals and decorations, prints and photographs, silver, glass and china, manuscripts and letters, relics of British commanders and of enemy forces, and mementoes of Britain's soldiers who fought in every part of the world, from the reign of Henry VIII until World War I.

Many of the exhibits are the fruits of the almost overwhelming generosity of many donors and lenders. Gifts and loans from Her Majesty the Queen, private individuals and regimental, regional and national museums complement the museum's own collections. The result is a truly outstanding commentary on the history and traditions of the army.

The chronological display of uniforms on the top

floor shows their evolution towards comfort and camouflage. All arms of the British regular army are represented as are auxiliary forces, the Indian Army, and some colonial forces. The display is aided by material of a peripheral nature such as personal equipment, musical instruments, horse furniture. Specialised displays include head-dresses; belt plates, gorgets; and the orders and decorations of Viscount Gough, Lord Kitchener and Viscount Wolseley.

Next door, the picture gallery houses the pick of the museum's large collection of paintings with a military theme. These include portraits by Reynolds, Raeburn, Romney and Lawrence, battle scenes and pictures of Indian regiments.

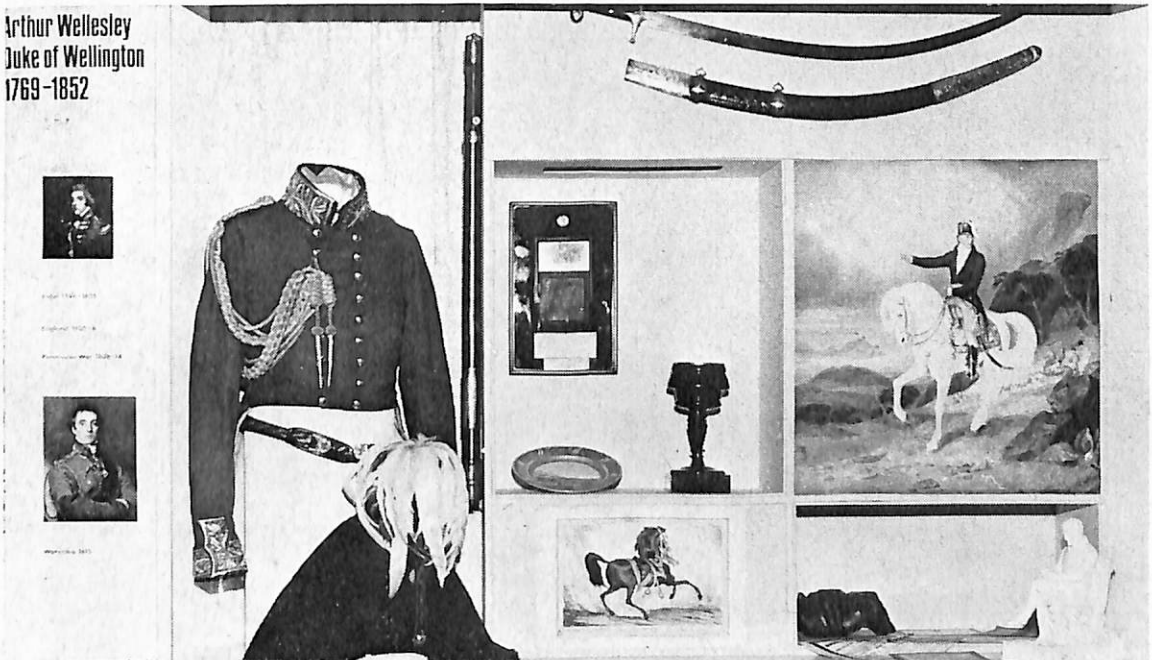
Anyone wishing to consult the museum's uniquely important collections of manuscripts, prints and photographs dating back to the Crimean War and of the Indian Mutiny, should write for permission to the Director. The Reading Room will be open from 10-12 and 2-4, Mondays to Saturdays.

The Department of Weapons' reserve collection may be seen, by prior arrangement. The Department of Uniforms' reserve collections, including badges and medals, are not yet available to students.

The years of fund-raising are not yet over, as only the first phase of the building, representing more than three-quarters of the project, is finished.

Continued on page 123

Arthur Wellesley
Duke of Wellington
1769-1852



Wellingtoniana in the new Army Museum

Conway Williams

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Personalia

MARRIAGE

Sherlock—Skinner

The marriage took place on Saturday, October 23, 1971, at St. Francis's Parish Church, Pettswood, between Michael Stuart Sherlock, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. W. Sherlock, of 34 Shirley Avenue, Acomb, York, and Miss Penelope Jane Skinner, niece of Mr. and Mrs. E. Allee, of 38 Nightingale Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent.

BIRTH

Glazebrook

On August 20, 1971, at Keighley Hospital, Yorkshire, to Caroline Lilian (née Wade) and Dick Glazebrook a son, John Kirkland.

Lt. Jerry Bird, who resigned his Commission on March 1, 1970, has been reinstated and rejoined 1 DWR in early October.

Mr. J. S. Bailes, famed during his service in the Regiment for many shooting achievements, has moved from his house "Paardeberg" in Cramling-

Army Museum—Continued from page 121

The whole, containing special exhibition galleries, a restaurant, storage for reserve collections, and offices, will be completed once a further £350,000 has been received.

The Museum is open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday from 10 until 5.30 (2.00-5.30 Sundays).

Admission is free until the end of 1971. From January 1, 1972, charges may be introduced to conform with the recent White Paper.

Venezuela—Continued from page 120

city after dark, and so were quite happy to make a quick tour by day of some of the sights of Washington. President Kennedy's grave site was visited, and the Lincoln, Washington and Jefferson memorials were seen. Several photographs entitled "Me outside The White House" will also doubtless hold pride of place in various albums!

After a rocket-like Atlantic crossing of a little over four-and-a-half hours, the Comet touched down at RAF Lyneham early in the evening of June 27. A magnificent trip was over. Once again, as on previous occasions, the band really put the regiment on the map — this time that of South America. In true fashion, Mr. Alexander and his men worked hard and played hard with the result that the whole trip was nothing short of a huge success.

ton New Town, Northumberland. He is now a prison officer at HM Prison Gartree, Leicester Road, Market Harborough. We wonder what he has named his new house!

Lt.-Col. Dick Collins wrote recently. He is still working as a retired officer at the Ministry of Defence and looks forward to the possibility of 1 DWR reaching the finals of the Army Rugby Cup next year and to meeting then a lot of old friends.

Lt.-Col. Maurice Davie and his wife have left Totnes in Devon. They now live in South Africa and he can be contacted through the City Club, Queen Victoria Street, Capetown.

Major A. Driver, late 6 DWR, is anxious to trace an ex-TA officer named Lt. D. J. Hilton, who used to attend the Keighley Drill Hall in 1968. If any reader can help in any way, would he kindly get in touch with Major Driver at 90 Skipton Road, Silsden, Keighley.

Major Edward Emmett (the Baron) is Adjutant of the 33 (Lancashire and Cheshire) Signal Regiment Volunteers. This summer the Regiment spent 10 days at camp, based on Burniston Barracks, Scarborough. When off duty he was able to visit a number of the serving and retired officers who live in these parts. He has changed little and he obviously enjoyed being in the company of his old friends.

Mr. A. A. Fitter (ex-RQMS) goes up to Halifax twice a year for weekly visits. He never fails to drop in at the RHQ to have a chat about the old days and to rekindle old memories. For many years he has lived in Colchester where he and his wife run a boarding house. His married daughter has developed a love for riding which has resulted in her buying a hunter which, in turn, has led to her moving from a new house into one with paddock and stabling!

Mr. G. Fickling (MT Section 1 DWR 1951-54), a resident of Mulgrave, Australia, for the past 11 years, was back in Yorkshire this summer to visit his sick mother. He says he thoroughly enjoyed his day in Halifax, visiting the RHQ and browsing through the Museum.

Sgt. David Hughes has completed his tour of duty at the ACIO Halifax and he has rejoined 1 DWR. It is worthy of note that recruiting figures have been above average over the past year at this office. His successor from the Battalion is Sgt. Frank Lowney.

Lt.-Col. Rodney Harms was home on leave from Abu Dhabi during the summer. He was unable to fit in a visit to the RHQ as he was about to drive

up with family to the North West Highlands. His only other piece of news was that Major Chris Edwards, who is one of his squadron commanders, was also on leave, sailing in the Mediterranean based on Barcelona.

Lt.-Col. Hugh Le Messurier has at last found himself a house: Thornton Grange, Finghall, near Leyburn. A number of alterations have still to be made before he and Rosemary take up residence there.

David Borwell, who won an MC in Korea as a National Service officer, has written to say that he now lives in Sheffield and works for a Suffolk firm of brewing consultants. He has a son who he hopes will get into a university next year. How times flies! David has been made Chairman of the Dronfield RUFC which, though recently formed, is expanding rapidly. He hopes to arrange a friendly fixture with 1 DWR when they are back in this country.

Mr. W. G. Ruddock, who served in 1 DWR during the 1914-18 war, has taken up residence in the British Legion Home at Halsey House, Cromer, Norfolk. Although now 80 years of age, he would welcome any visitors who may live in, or be in, the Cromer area.

Lt. Adrian Stone has completed successfully his Long Ordnance Course and was transferred to RAOC on September 22, 1971. We wish him every success for the future.

Major Rudolf Austin was presented with the Police Faithful Service Medal by the Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset at a big parade on Sunday, October 3. Apart from being invested, he was also in command of the parade, and, at the time of writing, "thanked Heaven for past Army experience in organising ceremonial." He also mentioned in his letter that Major Derek Harris lives not too far away from him in Dorset. Both recently had long sessions with Col. A. J. Barker, formerly 15th Foot, who is about to write his next military history book on The Hook.

We have received recently several letters from Lt.-Col. J. K. Sugden, late RAMC. He has, however, a DWR background. In 1937 he was commissioned into 7 DWR, was transferred to 2/7th DWR as a company commander in September 1939, was attached in France to "A" Company 1 DWR, commanded by the late Major Terence Carroll, during January and February 1940, and then went over to France again with 2/7th DWR in April 1940. He was evacuated from St. Valery in June 1940 and in February 1941 he was disembodied and allowed to continue his medical studies. When qualified he was commissioned into the RAMC and after the war continued to serve. He finally retired from the Army in 1965, at the time consultant anaesthetist, BMH Singapore and FARELF, and went to live in Australia where he has been consultant anaesthetist at Rockhampton in Queensland ever since. When in the UK he was a regular attender at the officers' annual dinner

and, should anyone wish to get in touch with him, his address is 10 Bakara Street, Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.

We have had news of J. A. Williams (John Willie) who served during the war with 2 DWR in India and finished his Army days in Colchester with 6 DWR. He has been retired for about a year from HM Overseas Civil Service, his last post being in Fiji, and he now works for the Distributive Industry Training Board in Stretford, Manchester. He lives at "Redcroft," Cow Lane, Ashley, near Altrincham, Cheshire, apparently only about two miles away from an old 6 DWR officer, Major Gerry Fontes.

Mr. J. Sykes, who served in the MT Section 1 DWR for many years, finishing up as a sergeant, wishes to gain contact with any of his old contemporaries. His address is Road Transport Industry Training Board, Training Centre, Nutts Corner, Near Crudlin, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Martin Summers, who retired as a captain in November 1967, writes to say that he recently qualified as a solicitor and is in partnership with a practice in Scarborough. He would be delighted to see any "Duke" who is in the area. He has moved house and his address is now: "Fourways," Church Hill, Hunmanby, Filey.

Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Le Messurier have joined the Grandparents' Club. Their elder daughter, Jacquine, who is married to Jeremy Gaskill of the King's Regiment, gave birth to a daughter on July 28.

The account in the last IRON DUKE of the Regimental Association party's visit to the Chelsea Hospital caught the eye of Lt.-Col. H. K. O'Kelly of Claren House, Bray, Co. Wicklow. He saw that one of the In-Pensioners was ex-CSM Oliver Ramsbottom who had been a lance-corporal in his platoon in 1914. They have since corresponded and Col. O'Kelly wrote that he was arranging for his daughter to visit Mr. Ramsbottom who is, unfortunately, in the hospital's infirmary, having suffered a stroke.

Col. O'Kelly's brother bred Athens Wood which won the St. Leger — and £100 for lucky L/Cpl. Verrall of 1 DWR.

In our last issue mention was made of the award of the MBE to Captain Walter Robins. On Tuesday, November 16, accompanied by his wife, Reta, and their two daughters, Susan and Gillian, Captain Robins was presented with his award by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Your editor is always anxious for more items of personal news of "Dukes" and their families. Please remember to drop a line to him, or to RHQ, about anything which you would like your friends to know.

Obituary

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

Major J. H. Charlesworth, TD

John Henry Charlesworth, son of Major Mitchell Charlesworth, TD, was born in Cawnpore, India, on February 17, 1896. In April 1909 he joined the 7th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (TF) as a drummer and, on the outbreak of the 1914-18 war, he was embodied and commissioned into the 7 DWR. Transferred to 2/7th DWR, he served with them in France as signal officer from January 1917 till June 1918. Next he was in India, firstly with the 38 Dogras and then with 1 DWR, and returned home in 1919. As a TARO he rejoined 7 DWR on its re-formation in November 1923. When war broke out again in 1939 he was recalled and saw service with 2/6th DWR in France, being one of the last to be evacuated from Brest. In 1941 he was transferred to the Pioneer Corps and was employed on prisoner of war duties till his release in 1945. In March 1943 he had been awarded the TD.

He had various occupations between the wars but went back to his trade, that of woollspinner, at Kirkburton in 1945. On account of poor health he retired at the age of 65 and lived in Kirkburton till the death of his wife in 1969. Then, finding the winters rather severe and at the invitation of Lt.-Col. J. K. Sugden, who was a cousin of his late wife and had served as Company Commander "Z" Company 2/7th DWR and later HQ Company 2/7th DWR, he went out to Rockhampton, Australia. Here he lived quietly in his new surroundings and busied himself giving assistance to Legacy, an Australian organisation which cares for the widows and children of service personnel who die outside the country. In September 1970 he died as a result of a motor accident.

He had married in 1922 Mary Armitage, only daughter of Henry Armitage of Kirkburton. There was no issue and he is survived by his sister, Mrs. S. I. Hoyle, of 9 Grosvenor House, Bishop's Stortford.

Lt.-Col. Sugden has written "Harry Charlesworth was a quiet person whose only real regret was that he did not remain in the Army after the 1914-18 war. He retained all the skills he had as a signal officer and spent some time teaching me 'Morse' in the latter 1920s. To the best of my memory the result of this instruction was put to use only once. This was when I established contact with the Royal Navy on the night of June 11/12, 1940, with a pocket torch, when the 2/7th DWR was being evacuated from the St. Valery area in company with elements of the 52nd Highland Division, to whom we were attached."

Mr. G. W. Jones, MBE

4607677 CSM George William Jones, MBE, died suddenly at his home, 19 Lings Lane, Wickersley, Nr. Rotherham, on August 9, 1971, aged 66 years.

George enlisted into the Regiment at Leeds on September 24, 1924. After Depot Training he served with 1DWR at Gosport until being posted to the 2nd Battalion at Singapore in January 1926. He went to India with the Battalion in November 1928 and served on with it until 1941. Most of his service was spent with "D" (MG) Company, 14 Platoon, 2/Lt. Savory Platoon Commander. He was on the NW Frontier operations in 1932-33 and was awarded the IGSM. In 1941, as a PSM, he transferred to the Border Regiment and became a W2 (CSM). He came home in 1943 and was posted to the Manchester Regiment and went to NWE in October 1944. He was discharged to pension January 1946. George was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List, 1945. For some years after leaving the service he was employed on security duties with the Corps of Commissionaires. Then followed two years in Australia in business as a grocer. Coming back home two years ago, he again took up employment as a security officer with a local firm until his decease.

He was a keen supporter of the Regiment and an authority on "Iron Duke" news and items for he read the magazine from cover to cover and could quote any item for years back. As a soldier he was one of the best: popular with all ranks, he was, nevertheless, a good disciplinarian and could get the best out of his subordinates without fuss.

One of his hobbies was seeking out old comrades wherever they were to see how they were faring and to talk over old times. For that and other reasons he will be sadly missed, especially by those of us who had the privilege of serving with him. He leaves a wife and two daughters.

Lt.-Col. N. R. Whitaker

"Syd" Whitaker died on July 20, 1971, aged 84 years.

Noel Ralph Whitaker was born on December 27, 1886, as the youngest son of the late Col. C. H. T. Whitaker. He was commissioned into the West Yorkshire Regiment in 1906 and, after service in the Indian Army from 1910 to 1912, he was transferred to the Royal Fusiliers. He was promoted captain in 1915.

Having served in Greek Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Turkey, and as a staff officer in England, Ireland, North Russia and Egypt, he was transferred to The Duke's in 1923.

He was appointed adjutant of the 6th (TA) Battalion DWR from 1924 to 1927 and was promoted major in 1929.

He was CO of the Depot, Halifax, from 1931 to

1934 and, after the death in 1934 of his wife, Gladys Ella (mother of Colleen and Vaudie who are both married) he attended the Senior Officers' School prior to being posted to the 1st Battalion in Malta where he completed his regular service in 1936.

From 1936 to 1940 he was Zone Recruiting Officer, Midlands, and Chief Recruiting Officer for Wales from 1940 to 1946 when he finally retired with the honorary rank of lieutenant colonel.

He remarried in 1941 and is survived by his widow, Margaret, and their two sons and one daughter who are all married.

LATE NEWS

In-Pensioner H. Bartrop

In-Pensioner (RQMS) Harold Bartrop collapsed and died on Sunday, September 26, 1971, whilst

visiting relatives in Sheffield after attending the Regimental Association Reunion in Huddersfield.

Major F. Firth, MBE, TD

Major Frank Firth, late of the 7th Battalion (TA) DWR, died suddenly at Golcar, Huddersfield, on November 1, aged 72.

Mr. S. North

Mr. Steve North, a veteran of 1 DWR and 4 DWR, who fought in the Boer War, died at the British Legion Home, Ripon, on September 13, aged 92.

Colonel J. B. Sugden, TD, DL, JP.

Colonel Sugden, Honorary Deputy Colonel of the 3rd Bn., The Yorkshire Volunteers, died suddenly in hospital on November 13.

Obituary notices of the above will appear in our next issue.

Book Reviews

The recent publication of Gregory Blaxland's "**The Regiments Depart**" is an important military event. The book's sub-title indicates that it is a history of the British Army from 1945-1970; yet, it is more than that, for it also traces the Army's part in the post-1945 retreat from Empire. India, Palestine, Egypt, Cyprus, Africa and Aden are all brilliantly documented, as is the last imperial fling at Suez, and the whole sorry political saga, showing the often ambiguous role of the Army under its Whitehall masters, is clearly shown; there are many lessons in these chapters.

Gregory Blaxland was educated at Sandhurst, fought through WW 2 with the Buffs and was invalided out from Kenya in 1954, and it is largely due to his experience and operational background that he has captured so well the atmosphere and flavour of soldiering and all its vicissitudes since the war. As a history it is detailed, in that all regiments, their actions and moves, are described as they enter and leave the various theatres.

The book has clearly been written only after a prodigious amount of research. The appendices in themselves, showing sources, commanders and organisation, are alone of great value and interest, while the Index is a model of completeness and clarity. The deeds and moves of The Duke's as well as many of our senior officers are all there, with the Battle of the Hook naturally taking pride of place; the emergencies in Cyprus are well covered and even our companies in British Honduras are mentioned in the Caribbean chapter. The book, at £6.25, is expensive but it is a book that many people will wish to possess.

It is a perfect complement to Correlli Barnett's "**Britain and her Army**" which is a broad military, political and social survey from 1509-1970. Barnett's last chapter covers the years of Blaxland's book, a fact which neatly puts both books into perspective. At a fiver this book is also a fancy

price; but no other book examines so clearly and succinctly, as a background to its main theme, the key topics of recruitment, higher administration, pay, the social origins of officers and men and supply and equipment. Developments in continental armies are also well contrasted with those of the British Army.

Finally, Lt-Col. Colin Mitchell's book is now available in the Mayflower paperback series. At six bob you can't go wrong and it is just as well to read this if only for his personal account of the Argylls in Aden. It is a sad story. Different readers will, inevitably, draw different conclusions from the clash of personalities in the heated Aden scene, but now that the dust has settled and the *Evening Standard* and *Private Eye* have withdrawn from the fray, it is possible to take a balanced view and, above all, to learn how and how not to get the "right answer."

Again, this book also covers the years 1945-70 from Mitchell's experience in the many theatres in which he was engaged in anti-terrorist campaigns. He knows more about this sort of stuff than most of us and for this reason alone perhaps some of the views on Northern Ireland which he now pronounces upon as a Member of Parliament may be worth examining.

Three books to be read: the first two scholarly, authoritative and soldier-like in their precision and clarity; the third, well written — if emotive and angry — but all undoubtedly of vital interest to all military men.

D.E.I.

"The Regiments Depart," by Gregory Blaxland. William Kimber. £6.25.

"Britain and Her Army," by Correlli Barnett. Penguin Press. £5.00.

"Having been a Soldier," by Colin Mitchell. Mayflower Books. £0.30.

The Regimental Association

ST. LEGER SWEEPSTAKE

The result of the Regimental Association's Sweepstake on the St. Leger was as follows:

1st	Athens Wood	L/Cpl. Verrall, 1 DWR	£100
2nd	Homeric	Major Pell, DWR	£50
3rd	Falkland	H. Earnshaw	£25
4th	Valdraque	Pte. Hartley, 1 DWR	£10

Runners (£1 each): Alderney, J. M. Parker, Keighley; Frascati, Pte. Rogers, 1 DWR; Wenceslas, Cpl. Timson, 1 DWR; Guillemot, Mrs. B. Dymott, Southampton.

The prize of £5 for the seller of the winning ticket also went to 1 DWR.

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the REGIMENTAL and OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATIONS of THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT held at HUDDERSFIELD DRILL HALL on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1971, at 18.00 HRS

The Colonel of the Regiment expressed his pleasure at being able to be present. In his last two appointments, as C-in-C Allied Forces Northern Europe in Norway, and as Deputy Supreme Commander SHAPE in Brussels, he had been unable to get away as September was the busiest exercise period for NATO forces for whose training he was responsible.

Previous Meeting

1. The minutes of the meeting held at Wellington Hall, Halifax, on Saturday, September 26, 1970, were read by Major Davis.

It was proposed by Mr. R. H. Temple and seconded by Mr. S. R. King that they be accepted as a true record. Passed unanimously.

Points Arising

2. There were no points arising.

Secretary's Report

3. A summary of the secretary's report appears below.

Accounts 1970-71

4. The Regimental Secretary reminded the meeting that the annual review of the Association accounts was now done in three phases.

First a detailed examination was made of the RHQ case work and expenditure from

all charitable funds by the Finance Committee. The accounts were then presented to a meeting of the trustees who considered any finance committee reports, gave policy rulings and authorised investments or reinvestments as required.

The accounts were then brought to the annual general meeting, firstly so that anyone who wished might examine them and, secondly, that their acceptance might be recorded.

Proposed by Mr. J. Horne and seconded by Mr. D. Benson that the accounts be accepted.

Other Business

5. (a) Mr. Bob Temple drew attention to the pleasure a visit can make to someone lonely or ill and asked that Regimental visitors to London should try to find time to visit Chelsea Hospital and, in particular, our Regimental pensioners in the Infirmary.
- (b) Mr. Temple also asked if the appreciation of the London Branch could be recorded in thanking Mr. J. Horne for his generous gestures in donating prizes to be raffled in aid of the London Branch Dinner expenses.

SECRETARY'S REPORT, YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1971

Mr. Arthur Wood, General Secretary, reported.

Accounts

1. The overall result of the year's business is that income exceeded expenditure by £1,073. £600 of this amount has been invested on the advice of the Hon. Stockbroker and a further loan of £300 has been made to the ABF.

Investments

2. On the advice of the hon. stockbroker and the approval of the managing trustees, our investments have been reviewed and transactions carried out during the current year which will increase our investment income.

Day's Pay Scheme

3. This scheme, whereby serving soldiers can elect to contribute one day's pay annually towards Association and Benevolent Funds, is a growing source of income. 86 per cent of DWR soldiers now contribute. A contributor becomes a Life Member of our Association.

Assistance given during the year

4. There was a decrease of 15 in the number of cases assisted this year against 1970 figures of 162. A total of 147 cases have been helped financially; 46 receiving grants of over £20, 101 cases receiving grants up to £20.

The total expenditure on grants was £2,532, an increase of £6 over 1970. The number of cases in the present year show a marked increase; the position at today's date shows that 83 cases have been dealt with since April 1, an increase of 22 over the same period in year ending March 31, 1971.

OCA Pensions

5. The number in receipt of the special weekly allowance of £1 remains at 10, two new recipients replacing two casualties.

ABF Assistance

6. During the year an interest-free loan of £500 was obtained for a serving soldier on release, £130 in supplementary allowances and a special major rehabilitation grant of £250 for a seriously ill ex-DWR soldier whose condition necessitated the installation of central heating.

Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Home—Lowestoft

7. Two ex-DWR soldiers spent a two weeks' holiday at this home during the summer under arrangements made by our Association. (Seven ex-soldiers have enjoyed this facility this summer.)

The Royal Hospital, Chelsea

8. Seven DWR soldiers were now resident in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Branch News

9. Branches were still functioning in spite of present-day apathy and we could face the future with confidence. He appealed to the younger ex-soldiers to join the Association.
10. Thanks to Major Savory, Dave Benson and Bob Temple for organising the ever-successful London Dinner and weekend.
11. Notified dates of Regimental Service at Strensall on October 30, 1971, and the following activities.

Regimental Sweepstake

12. The Secretary gave results of 1971 Sweepstake and stated that the profits will again exceed £170. He appealed for more ticket-sellers.

Thanks

13. To SSAFA, FHS, British Legion, Mr. Quimby, WPWS, F/Lt. Mann, Regular Forces Employment Association.

Conclusion

14. The Secretary stressed the necessity for all to look around and see if there were any aged, sick or distressed ex-soldiers and to let Branch Secretaries or the General Secretary know. Special attention to aged who appreciated visits and the knowledge that they were not forgotten.

THE REUNION DINNER AND DANCE

Over 220 members and their wives and friends attended the Reunion Dinner and Dance, following the Annual General Meeting, in the Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield.

General Sir Robert Bray presided and our guests, headed by Lt.-Col. C. R. Huxtable and RSM Chilvers of the 1st Battalion, included Colonels Harvey, Isles, Kavanagh and hosts of others from all corners of the country. It was a splendid, colourful sight in that great hall as we dined to the splendid music played by the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Battalion Territorial Association Band. (A very special thank you to this Band composed entirely of volunteer and unpaid musicians whose loyalty to the old Territorials, coupled with their love of music, have kept "The Wellesley" echoing through the halls and streets of the West Riding.)

Lt.-Col. Huxtable, proposing the toast to the Regiment, spoke of the activities of the 1st Battalion whilst serving in Northern Ireland, grim and otherwise, but how, in face of the unpleasant situations often facing our men, they had remained cheerful, willing, and maintained their humour. Now that they were nearing the end of their tour of duty in Northern Ireland they were eagerly looking forward to their return to England (loud cheers).

Replying, General Sir Robert said how pleased he was to be able once again to attend this dinner and reunion in person; during the past few years his duties abroad had prevented him from doing so. He spoke of the distinction and honour the Regiment had been given in being allowed to maintain its name and title and of the necessity, in which we could all help, of ensuring a good flow of recruits of the right calibre. When they joined the Army, he said, they must make it clear that they wanted to join "The Dukes."

Bars reopened, groups assembling, pleasant music from the dance orchestra, old friends meeting, groups changing, memories refreshed, faces scanned, glasses clinking — once again a "Dukes" reunion that "buzzed" with excitement until the early hours (and a further reunion within a reunion continued later with some old "die-hards" who shall be nameless).

We had three very welcome guests from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, with the attendance of Harold Bartrop, Nobby Clarke and Percy Morley. Huddersfield welcomed them with open arms and their proud and colourful bearing at the dinner added lustre to the occasion.

Regimental Service — Strensall, Saturday, October 30, 1971

This event grows in popularity. A solemn occasion, followed by the meeting of old friends in familiar surroundings, added together, made another day of enjoyment. Four coaches in the early hours combed the West Riding (and o'er t'hill) to convey over 100 members, their wives and friends to the service, held in the Garrison Church. The chapel in the Minster is unavailable owing to Minster repairs.

Hot coffee and biscuits in the gymnasium on arrival after a fog-bound journey set the mood of the day as we met old friends and acquaintances. Later, as we listened to the address—"A Christian Gentleman"—given by the Chaplain to the Regiment, The Right Reverend Eric Treacy, MBE, The Lord Bishop of Wakefield, one could almost "feel" the togetherness and comradeship that put to flight both the serious and petty disturbances that are attempting to harm the finer points of living.

A happy crowd strolled over to the Sergeants Mess, the fog now dispersed with sunshine. A cosy ante-room, a warm welcome and pre-dinner drinks kindled the start to the day's festivities. The inner man was royally looked after by the usual feast and in the afternoon the more active and womenfolk descended on York whilst others stayed to chat and reminisce in the Mess. Come evening, the return from York of the "fitter" and soon the whole building echoed to the songs and laughter of our members and members of the Sergeants Mess singing in harmony and high spirits. A buffet of baronial magnitude, followed by further songs and refreshment ending all too soon saw the departure of a crowd of happy contented "Dukes" who had spent another glorious eventful day in military surroundings as guests of the Sergeants Mess, The Depot, King's Division, Strensall.

Thank you, RSM Helmn, RQMS Sergeant, members and staff — you did us proud once again.

NOTES AND NEWS

Greetings

Fred Crouch, of 565 Sedlescombe Road North, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, sends his good wishes to all his friends in the Regiment. He regrets he was unable to attend the annual reunion in Huddersfield.

News wanted

A letter has been received from Mr. A. Scott, of 308A Handsworth Road, Handsworth, Sheffield, who would like to hear from any of his old friends whom he served with in World War I, seeing action at Cambrai and Bethune.

Mr. F. Taylor (4613213), of 15 Acre Street, Leeds, would like to hear from any of his old friends with whom he served in the 1st and 2nd Battalions.

Mr. R. Garside, 81 Langley Park Road, Sutton, Surrey, appeals for any information about his

father, Charles Ernest Garside, who was born at Lockwood, Nr. Huddersfield, in the 1890s and joined ? 1/5 DWR in 1916. He attended an infantry unit camp at Clipstone, Nottinghamshire, prior to moving overseas where he was badly wounded by shrapnel in 1917.

Old Soldiers in Residence

A visit — a letter — can make a difference.

Mr. W. G. Ruddock, DWR 1914-18. Aged 80. British Legion Home, Halsey House, Cromer, Norfolk.

Walter Petch, 8 DWR (1915-17). Aged 77. BLESMA Home, 539 Lytham Road, Blackpool.

Dates to Note

April 15, 1972. 4th Bn DWR OCA AGM, Supper and Reunion. Wellington Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax. Apply: Mr. Arthur E. Whitaker, "Alberni," 2 Savile Park Gardens, Savile Park Road, Halifax.

May 13. London and Home Counties Branch Annual Dinner. Apply Mr. R. H. Temple, 59 Burnfoot Avenue, Fulham, London, SW6.

Thanks

To Tom Mawson, Savile Lea Nurseries, Halifax, for his ever-willing efforts and unselfish donation of supplying the floral decorations for our annual reunion dinners.

To Golcar Cricket Club for the enjoyable time spent by the Bradford Branch at the cricket match (which we narrowly lost!) followed by the social evening in the club. (Thanks also to Eddie.)

Congratulations

To: F/Lt. W. Mann and Mrs. Mann, on F/Lt. Mann's retirement as Employment Officer of the Regular Forces Employment Association (Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford and western part of the West Riding), a post he has held for the last 15 years. He has been instrumental in placing many ex-"Dukes" in employment in civilian life on return from military service. Best wishes and good luck for the future.

New Branch

Mr. F. H. Jones, 11 Hollins Mount, Hemsworth, Nr. Pontefract, would like to hear from any old comrades or members of the Regiment with a view to the formation of a branch in the Hemsworth area.

Visits

On a recent trip to the south, Walter Downs and Arthur Wood paid a visit to Capt. J. P. Symonds (ex-Signals officer 7th Battalion). "Johnny Pinder," alert as ever despite a serious malady, re-lived old "7th" days and we all spent an exceptionally pleasant afternoon in that beautiful little corner of the Chilterns. "J.P.'s" address is: 66 Long Park, Chesham Bois, Bucks.

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NOTES.

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- Under the Whole of Life policy there is an option to effect on each of the 3rd and 6th policy anniversaries an additional Whole of Life or Endowment for up to half the original sum assured irrespective of your state of health at that time.
- Subject to satisfactory proposal no medical evidence of any kind will be required.
- Irrespective of Health in the future the Income Benefits may also be converted to a Whole of Life or Endowment for a sum not exceeding half of the total amount of Benefit outstanding at the time.
- The Equity Linked policy is at present subject to long term capital gains tax of 20% on profits only.

Correspondence

Signal Wing,
The School of Infantry,
Warminster.

Hampstead,
London, NW3.

Dear Sir,

After reading "Reminiscences of a Chelsea Pensioner" in the August issue of THE IRON DUKE I was prompted to visit the reminiscer, Mr. Wilson (Tug), personally. Having experienced, as no doubt many other 2nd Battalion men did, the same things that Mr. Wilson wrote about made my reason for a visit more interesting. Fortunately for me, the Chelsea Hospital is only a moderate bus ride from Hampstead.

On arriving, I presented myself at the Guard Room (a strange experience for me after so many years) and made my inquiry. Being told various places where Mr. Wilson might be found, I decided first one first, the club. Lo and behold, no sooner had I entered the club and stood at the bar, there as though by magic, on the bar counter was standing a pint. My immediate reaction was to turn round knowing full well that Mr. Wilson must be behind me. My guess was correct. Had I not been wearing the "Dukes" insignia I would have sworn he could sense an ex-Duke. I considered this to be an extremely fascinating coincidence. But above all, the fastest pint placed on any bar counter for me.

I spent a wonderful afternoon and evening, speaking to, and visiting Mr. Yaxley, Mr. Ramsbottom, Nobby Clarke, Mr. Barron and the rest of our in-pensioners.

I was very pleased indeed to meet Nobby Clarke, because we both served in "15" Platoon "D" Support Company on the North West Frontier. We also played in the same football team, and hockey team.

It would take far too much detail to reminisce (for this was only meant to be a letter) but I must emphasise how much I enjoyed myself, especially the company of them all, so much so that I am most certainly going again whenever my duties permit. For this is the type of friendship one loses on ceasing to be a serviceman. A comradeship not experienced by those that have never come across it.

Yours faithfully,
A. Sykes (Basher).

26 Savile Parade,
Halifax.

Dear Sir,

After all these years I wish to draw attention to an error in Brigadier Barclay's "History of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment 1919-1952."

On page 29, in the order of battle of 1 DWR as it landed in France in 1939, "A" Company, No. 9 Pl is shown as commanded by Sgt. P. F. Connolly. This is incorrect. No. 9 Pl was commanded by Sgt. F. H. Stringer.

Yours faithfully,
F. H. Stringer.

Dear Sir,

I think the following letter would be worth publishing in THE IRON DUKE.

It is a copy of a framed parchment, supposedly written by the Duke of Wellington, which hangs on the office wall of a high-grade US Army officer working in the Pentagon at Washington. He insisted that I, as a member of The Duke's, should have a thermofaxed copy of his treasured document. It apparently keeps him sane in times of stress.

Yours sincerely,
John Walker (Captain, DWR).

(Written to Secretary of State for War,
Lord Bradford, about 1800.)

My Lord,

If I attempted to answer the mass of futile correspondence that surrounds me, I should be debarred from all serious business of campaigning.

I must remind your Lordship — for the last time — that so long as I retain an independent position, I shall see that no officer under my command is debarred, by attending to the futile drivelling of mere quill driving in your Lordship's office, from attending to his first duty which is, and always has been so, to train the private men under his command that they may, without question, beat any force opposed to them in the field.

*I am my Lord,
Your obedient servant,*

Wellington.

Notice

THE UNITED SERVICES CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION

The United Services Catholic Association (which was the subject of a Defence Council Instruction in March 1971) is publishing a Year Book for Catholics in HM Forces of whom there are some 52,000.

The Year Book includes feature articles and news items on religious and secular subjects, as well as a directory of Catholic churches and chaplaincy services and a reference section on boarding schools.

The 1972 issue will be available from December 1, 1971, at 25p per copy and can be ordered through unit or station RC Chaplains and OCFs or by post from the Association at Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, Chelsea, London, SW3.

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