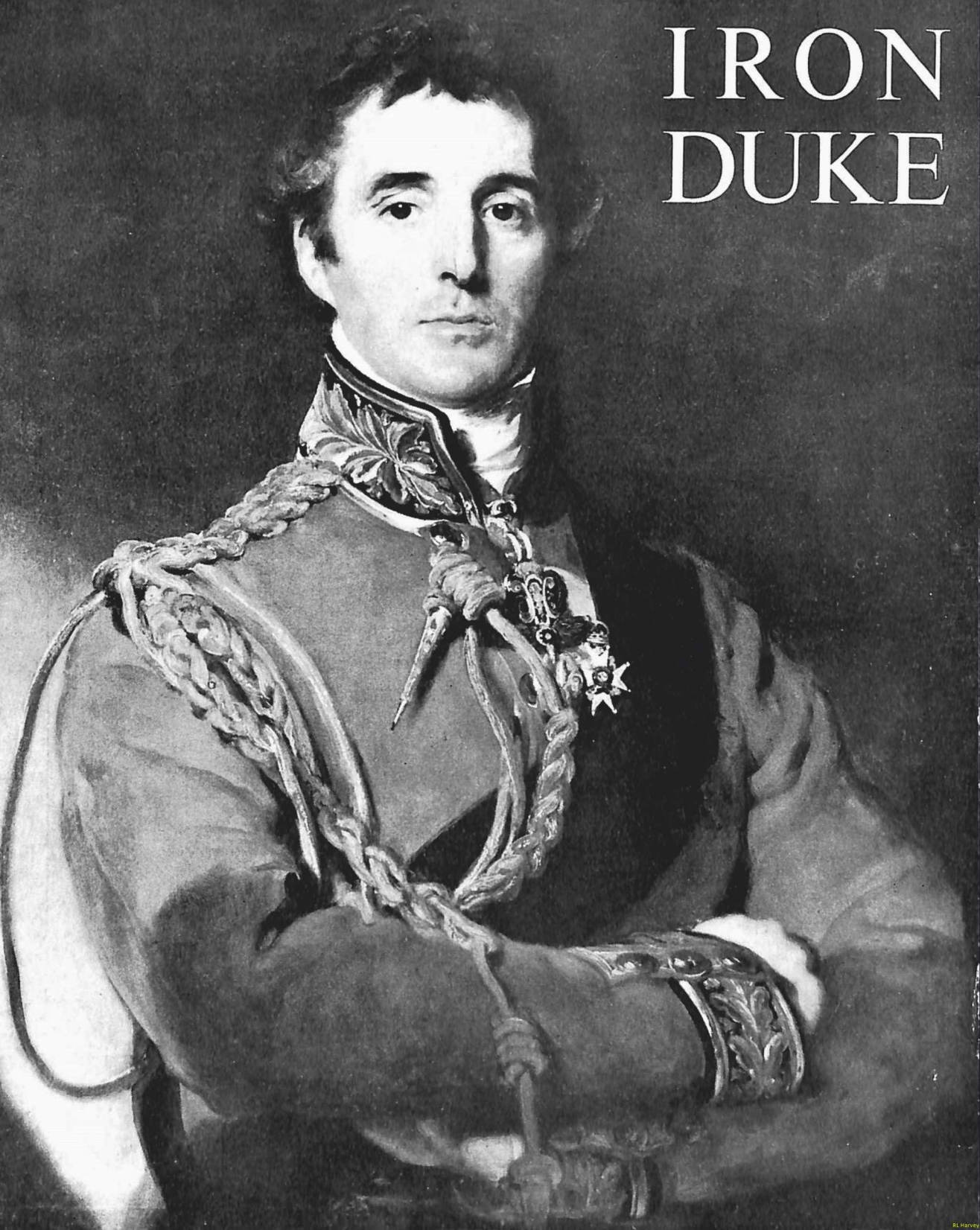


No.158 April 1972

THE  
IRON  
DUKE



# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Journal of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



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

Vol. XLVIII

APRIL 1972

No. 158

### BUSINESS NOTES

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

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

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Copy for the August 1972 issue should reach the Editor by June 20, 1972.

#### *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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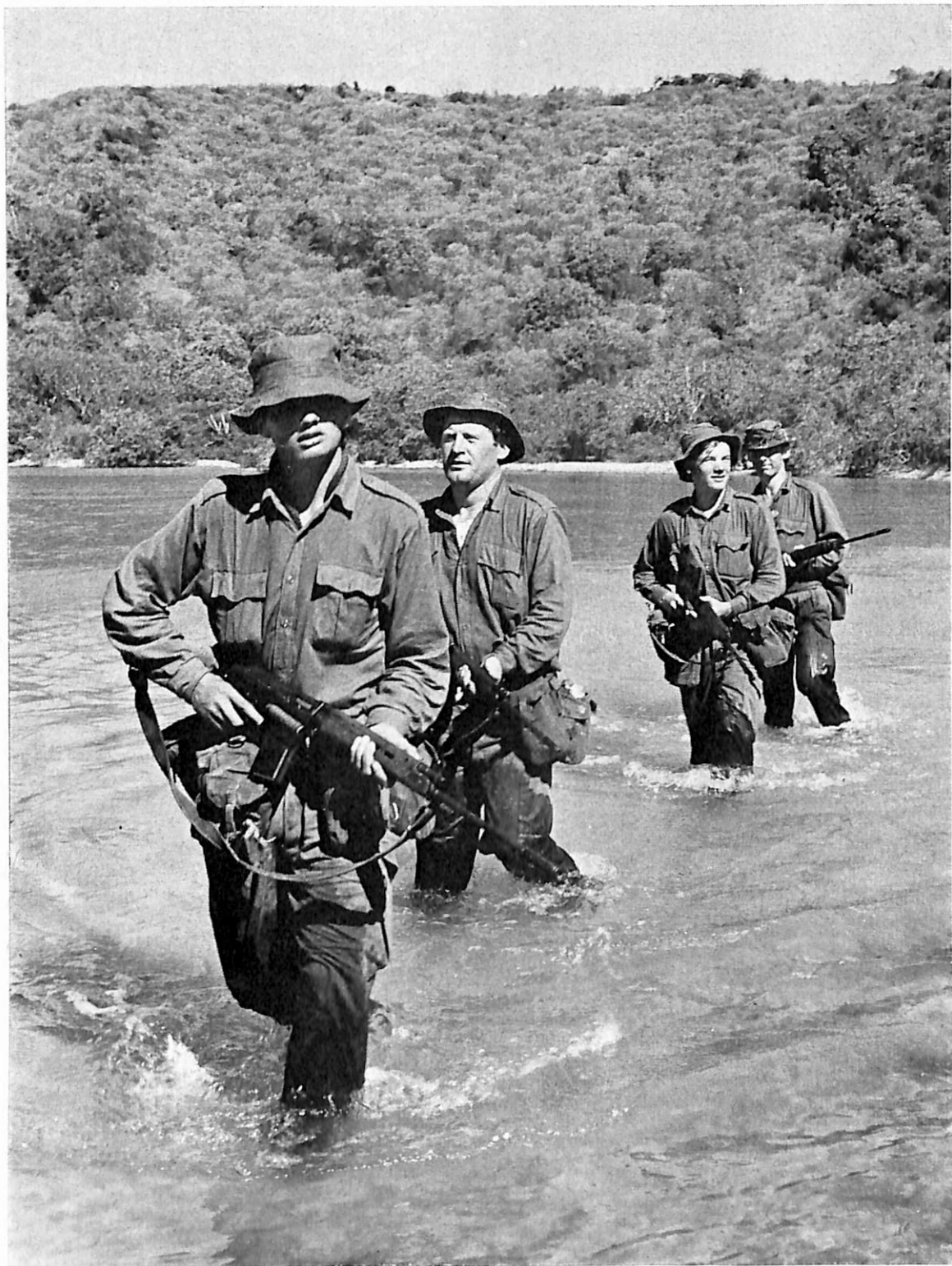


Photo : Central Of ice of In'ormation

**A patrol in the Caribbean**

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

The Regiment has lost a good friend by the death in January of the seventh Duke of Wellington at the age of 86.

Gerald Wellesley succeeded to the title in 1943 on the death in action of his nephew "Morny", the sixth Duke, who was a serving officer in the Regiment.

It was not long before the Duke showed that keen interest in the Regiment which characterised him for nearly 30 years. He was always present at such functions as the Grant of Freedom of the towns of Halifax and Huddersfield and the dedication of the 1939-45 war extension of the regimental chapel in York Minster. He presented the present stand of Colours to the 1st Battalion in 1956, and in 1969, in bitter weather, he attended the final of the Army Rugby Cup at Aldershot at the age of 83.

He was munificent in his generosity to the Regiment. He presented the Officers Mess of the 1st Battalion with a beautiful gold snuff box, containing a lock of the Great Duke's hair—one of two or three made up for the second Duke. Another splendid gift was a copy of the well-known Hoppner of the Great Duke which hangs at Stratfield Saye and portrays him in the uniform of Lieutenant-Colonel of the 33rd. One of his more appealing presentations was to the now defunct 7th Battalion inscribed "From the 7th Duke to the 7th Dukes".

Up to two years ago he was an annual guest at the Regimental Dinner and he invited the Regimental Council to meet every year in the library at Apsley House.

The Duke was the acknowledged authority on his great predecessor and on the history of the first Duke's period. He was generous in help to those seeking information on these subjects by making

available the papers at Stratfield Saye and Apsley House.

With him has gone a benefactor and friend of the Regiment who will be sorely missed.

He is succeeded by his son, Brigadier the Marquess Douro, MVO, OBE, MC.

### MEMORIAL SERVICES

Two memorial services were held, the first in Winchester Cathedral on February 10 and the second in the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on February 14. The 1st Battalion being away on an exercise in the West Indies we could not provide, as we would have wished, a representative detachment at either service.

The Regiment was represented at Winchester by Brigadier B. W. Webb-Carter, Lt.-Col. E. M. P. Hardy, Capt. C. N. St. P. Bunbury, CSM L. Wilson and L/Cpl. Gowing. The latter, attired in full dress, blew the Last Post and Reveille in faultless manner, a very moving moment in a memorable service.

Representation at the Guards' Chapel was provided by the Colonel, General Sir Robert Bray, the Regimental Secretary, Major J. H. Davis and by Mr. D. P. Benson and Mr. R. H. Temple on behalf of the London Branch of the Old Comrades Association. The address was given by Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templar, who mentioned the Regiment and the Duke's interest in it.

The Colonel subsequently received a letter from the present Duke of Wellington expressing his appreciation for the help given to him and the family at the services. He asked the Colonel to pass on his thanks to all concerned.

## Editorial Note

The 1st Battalion were engaged in an exercise in the Caribbean in February, and their notes could not be written and submitted until after they had returned to Catterick. As a result it has been a scramble to get this issue out in April and we apologise for resulting deficiencies in layout.

Once again the 1st Battalion has won the Army Rugged Cup, beating the Royal Regiment of Wales in the final by 15-8. They are to be particularly congratulated on this achievement in view of the interruptions to their training caused by their tours in Ulster and the Caribbean.

They are now about to return to Ulster and the thoughts and good wishes of all "Dukes" will be

with them during their three months' tour of duty there.

### Officers' Dinner Club

The annual luncheon and dinner of the Officers' Dinner Club will be held this year on Friday, September 15.

The change from the normal date in May has been made because the 1st Battalion has recently been ordered back to Northern Ireland for an operational tour from April 26 to July 26. They are already due to go to Northern Ireland on a normal tour in March 1973. Most regular serving officers would therefore be unable to attend a dinner in May in either 1972 or 1973.



# 1st Battalion

## AWARDS —BELFAST 1971

On behalf of all readers we heartily congratulate the recipients of the honours detailed below.

February 15, 1972

The Queen has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for gallant and distinguished services in Northern Ireland during the period August 1, 1971, to October 31 1971:

*To be an Additional Officer of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order, for Gallantry:*

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Richard Huxtable, MBE.

*To be an Additional Member of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order, for Gallantry:*

Captain Anthony Rowland Redwood-Davies.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the publication of the names of the following Mentioned-in-Despatches in recognition of distinguished service in Northern Ireland during the period August 1, 1971, to October 31, 1971.

Second-Lieutenant Keith Best,

Corporal Colin Fleming,

Corporal Anthony Goddard,

Private Gerald Martin Kelly,

Lance-Corporal Keith Lister.

## SUB-EDITORIAL

In our last sub-editorial we were looking back on Northern Ireland and looking forward to our exercise in the Caribbean—exercise "Sun Pirate". The position is now reversed, "Sun Pirate" is over, Northern Ireland looms large once again and we are back on IS training.

Exercise "Sun Pirate" was an amphibious exercise run by HQ 24 Airportable Brigade and the Flag Officer Amphibious Shipping. The exercise took place in the Caribbean during February and those taking part, besides ourselves, were 1st Battalion The King's Regiment, a battery of 25 Light Regiment RA and two troops of Centurions from The Royal Hussars as well as all the supporting services. The shipping for the exercise consisted of the assault ship, HMS *Fearless*, and three landing ships, logistic, *Sir Bedevere*, *Sir Geraint* and *Sir Tristram*. About two-thirds of the force sailed to the mounting base, the United States Naval Base at Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico, the remainder joined them by courtesy of RAF Air Support Command. Those of us who flew out counted ourselves lucky. Those sailing encountered one of the worst channel storms for years and they all suffered four days of considerable discomfort.

Once assembled, the exercise quickly got under way. Phase 1 was an amphibious landing, by both battalions supported by aircraft and naval gunfire, which culminated, 36 hours later, in a brigade attack supported by artillery, mortars, aircraft

and again naval gunfire. Phase 2 was an anti-guerilla exercise on four of the smallest of the British Virgin Islands. Phase 3 consisted of field firing at company level back on Vieques, a small island off Puerto Rico. Then, finally, the force dispersed with some of us sailing home and some flying back. Those who sailed back were lucky enough to fit in a port visit to Barbados on the way.

Besides a good sun tan and some splendid swimming we got a lot of training value from the exercise. The training area in Vieques is larger than most of those in England and the sea around it enables most weapons to be fired without too many restrictions. By the end of phase 2 of the exercise we were clambering in and out of helicopters and landing craft with as much familiarity as we use our Land-Rovers. It was the first real tactical training we had done as a battalion since this time last year and, needless to say, there were a lot of small points which had been forgotten. However, the Battalion quickly got back into the way of normal soldiering and all phases of the exercise went well as far as we are concerned. One of the points which came out very clearly was the importance of fitness if one wishes to acclimatise quickly. The amount of fitness training the Battalion had done paid dividends and, consequently, we had very few casualties as far as the heat was concerned. No doubt company notes will contain some of the more dramatic incidents.

We are due to return to Northern Ireland in April for a three-month tour. We had been expecting to go back to Belfast to 39 Brigade, but in the last few days we have heard that we are to join 3 Brigade. The Brigade look after the major part of the south of the Province, excluding Belfast, and although we do not yet know where we shall be based, we shall probably be more "rural" than "urban" this time. Although there is some sense in returning to the area one knows, especially if one is only going back for a short tour, there is no doubt that we shall, as individuals, be pleased to have a change of scene. We should return at the end of July and we hope to then be clear of Ulster until the Battalion moves there in March 1973.

## FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE

D.W.R.

### Regular Army

The following Lts. to be Capt., Dec. 17, 1971:

A. D. Palmer, P. T. Hirst.

Peter Jeremy Bird is reinstated on the Active List in the rank of Lt., Oct. 2, 1971 with seniority Sept. 1, 1969.

Lt. M. P. C. Bray to be Capt., Jan. 13, 1972.

Maj. D. S. D. Jones-Stamp retires on retired pay, Feb. 27, 1972.

# NEWS from the MESSES

## SERGEANTS MESS

At the end of our last notes we reported that John Wilkinson and Norman Wright were the only Mess casualties. It is with great pleasure we can now report that both are well. John (shot in chest) made a very speedy recovery; Norman is now getting about on sticks and making a slow but sure recovery. We congratulate him for keeping so cheerful. This in spite of the fact that he has had 18 weeks in bed (sixteen of which were spent in traction!).

We were glad to get back to Catterick where we soon got stuck into our social routine again. The first "Do" was a ladies dinner night which was very well supported. It turned out to be such a swinging night that the RSM has ordered another one to take place the week after he leaves the Army. The next big occasion was the Christmas draw; we were entertained to drinks and a first-class buffet in the Officers Mess on the day of the draw, which put us all in good form for the coming hectic evening; this was a huge success and much enjoyed by the large attendance. Brian Hartley and his hard-working committee laid on a first-class draw. The MTO won the star prize. During the draw we had a cabaret (the paid artists weren't bad either).

Pete Lindsey laid on an "a la Carte Night" on New Year's Eve which again was well attended and much enjoyed. The Sergeants Mess came out victors against the Officers Mess in the annual soccer match. It was a very even game in which a draw would have been a more representative result.

We departed for the sunny Caribbean by RFA *Sir Geraint* and HMS *Fearless*.

For four days and nights we tossed about in the North Atlantic. We thanked the Lord for the seasoned sailors in our midst like Tom Pic and Nobby Clarke who kept our spirits up. Pete Lindsey spent almost the whole trip helping out in the ship sick-bay. The journey was spent either cleaning the ship or doing PT. Fred Pickering and his staff worked hard to keep us in shape. For recreation we watched Dave Hughes beat all comers in his spoon fights.

Roy Kelly had an argument with the ship's capstan and lost; he had 14 stitches around his right eye. Suddenly it loomed in front of us . . . Puerto Rico at last. A certain captain got us assembled and told us we would pull alongside in a couple of hours. He said that after 12 days we would be allowed ashore to stretch our legs and have a look around. This we did; he forgot to mention that we would be dressed in PT kit and running at 8mph for about five miles.

The exercise was enjoyed by all. It was very realistic in that we moved about by ship, landing craft, helicopters, tanks, Stalwarts, etc., etc. The Battalion then split and some returned to Puerto Rico where they had a few days sun bathing before

flying back to England. The remainder went on to Barbados. We will find out about the Barbados trip in the next edition. At the moment of writing, the Barbados members are on the high seas on their way back to UK.

The following coming and goings have occurred since our return from Ulster: "Duke" Lawrence posted in from Bradford Recruiting Office (Re-posted again on promotion to staff-sergeant to UDR at Belfast). Ken Leachman from the Depot. Dave Hughes from Recruiting Office Halifax. Jock Glencross to 24 Bde HQ.

We congratulate the following on their recent promotion: Dave Hughes, Dave Pearson, Brian Stansfield, Alan Simpson to staff-sergeants. Toss Goddard, Colin Fleming, Doc Budden, Mick Rochester, Mick Brennan, Bob Heron, Ben Gunn to sergeant.

And, finally, a "well done" to Phil and Anne Hewson on their recent wedding.

## OFFICERS MESS

Since our last notes, we have come back, have gone again, come back again and are about to go once more. The simple interpretation of this is that we have come back from our Belfast tour, have been to and come back from a ten-week exercise in the Caribbean and are now preparing to move to Northern Ireland again. All very hectic and somewhat confusing.

The Mess started to function again in Catterick at the end of last November and we had a number of enjoyable functions over the Christmas period. The most notable was when we dined in our ladies and had a dance afterwards. It was a most colourful evening. On the day before we started the Christmas leave, the Sergeants' Mess visited us for a drink and buffet lunch. We were very pleased to see them and tales of Belfast were recalled by the dozen. The five-gallon silver beer mug had its annual outing on this occasion.

In preparation for the Caribbean exercise we had a New Year's Eve Dance with the theme of being shipwrecked in those waters. Rum punch, barbecue food and scanty dress. The whole atmosphere was there until you left the Mess and were faced with three degrees of frost.

During our Belfast tour last summer, the officers of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers very kindly entertained our wives to a curry lunch. In January we reciprocated this kindness and it was a great pleasure to have them. Our junior officers did noble work entertaining the children before lunch.

During the period covered by these notes we have had one Regimental Guest Night at which we entertained our Brigade Commander, Brigadier Perkins, and the Commander and five officers of HMS *Fearless*. Captain Branter RN, the Captain of HMS *Fearless*, regrettably succumbed to flu and was

not able to attend. It was a most enjoyable evening and the Royal Navy were last seen returning to their ship lustily singing "Ilkley Moor".

The departures in our last notes have been balanced by the arrivals in this period:

Chuck Ivey from HQ Wales.

David Pugh from HQ 24 Brigade.

Michael Stacpoole from HQ FARELF.

Charles Cumberlege from the School of Infantry. Jim Tetlow from the Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

Jimmy Nash has departed for the Brecon Beacons and HQ Wales.

The Mess in Catterick will be closing down again from the end of April and will reopen about the end of August. Company Messes will be the order of the day again in Northern Ireland.

## SPORT

### RUGBY

A week before the UK final and, if successful there, two weeks before the final itself is not an ideal time to write this issue's rugby notes. For this reason, facts and not opinions will be presented.

The side returned from leave at the end of November, unfit and with little match practice. Fixtures were a problem, the local units did not present enough opposition, and most civilian clubs were unable or unwilling to fit us into their fixture lists. Lt.-Col. Ridici and Roundhay RUFC came to the rescue, and our games against Northern Command and Roundhay were invaluable. We won both.

Our second game in the Army Cup was against the Army Apprentice College at Harrogate. This side, a mix between permanent staff and apprentices, had fully extended the XV in the Northern Command final last year. But our forward strength was such this year that they never got the ball. The result was a 38—9 win. Pte. Walker, newly arrived from Shorncliffe, scored two tries in this his first Army Cup game!

The next round was played back in Ulster at Ballymena against 9 Independent Parachute Squadron RE. The XV looked the better side in the first half, but did not take their three clear scoring chances. The half-time score was 0—0. The Engineers become more confident and their fitness began to show. They soon scored a penalty, and encamped in The Duke's 25. A quick raid into their half resulted in a Grieve blindside try. Although The Duke's were now leading 4—3, it still looked like an Engineer win. They came close several times, but a Sgt. Robinson interception put the result beyond doubt in the dying minutes. It was a very relieved and fortunate XV that returned to Catterick winners by 10 points to 3.

Our opponents in the UK semi-final were 36 Engineer Regiment from Chatham. The game was played on a very wet, windy Aldershot pitch, and with Capt. McGlynn putting in some useful high kicks the result was never in doubt. We won 29—9. A feature of this game was the number of penalty kicks awarded against the side.

The XV got the first plane back from the West Indies to play three games in the West Riding. The Drill Hall, Huddersfield, accommodated the side (I've no doubt the poor caretaker needs a week to recover).

The first game was against a strong Huddersfield side which included a current Yorkshire prop and

hooker. The first half is best forgotten—it was obvious that we were short of match practice. However, in the second half, the forwards began to get a bit of the ball, and from being 20—0 down, we fought back to a more presentable defeat of 26—12. Unfortunately, Pte. Beaumont, who was developing into a most useful second row forward, was carried off the field with a badly injured knee. He will be missed in the finals. Cpl. Cuss also suffered when an 18½ stone forward fell on him.

The following day, a rather sore XV played Roundhay again. Due to the power blackouts only 12 Roundhay players turned up. It was a somewhat alarmed Major Mundell who, with two other reserves, joined the opposition. This game was a 20—14 win to Roundhay, the features being the inability of the pack to deal with heavier, but slower, forwards and atrocious kicking by the three-quarters.

The final game, against Halifax, resulted in a 12—11 win. A poor first half with careless passing gave Halifax the lead, but in the second half the forwards began to surge forward and get the loose ball. The tour was a success, it gave the XV much needed match practice and it highlighted our weaknesses—slow starting, too much loose open play and the lack of a good place-kicker.

A result of Ulster, leave and exercises has been our inability to get the 2nd XV off the ground. The 2nd XV was given the task of going for the Northern Command Cup, whilst the 1st XV concentrated on the Army Cup. In spite of great efforts by 2/Lt. Meek and Cpl. Gill, fixtures were not forthcoming. The 2nd XV played 11 Signal Regiment in the first round of the Cup, only having had one previous fixture, and lost 0—8. It is essential next season to get a 2nd XV going, for several of the 1st XV are getting long in the tooth and there is no sign of any replacements.

It must be recorded that both Lts. Gilbert and Bird played wing forward for the Army against the Navy. A fitting tribute to our captain and vice-captain.

### STOP PRESS

The cup has come home!

UK Final: 1 DWR 12—SEE Aborfield 6.

ARUCC Final: 1 DWR 15—1 RRW 8.

The UK Final was played at Aldershot. It was a game in which the side played well, defensively. Aborfield had a large pack which dominated the

line-out and held its own in the tight scrum. L/Cpl. Spawforth, the Army scrum half, kicked and harrassed throughout the game, giving 2/Lt. Grieve many problems. But 2/Lt. Sinclair played well at full back, and all the three-quarters tackled like Trojans. Cpl. Cuss won the game by kicking four penalties. Although the REME never crossed our line, we never looked like crossing theirs. There was little method and imagination in our play, which looked ill for the final.

The final was played at Bad Lipspringe on a warm, dry, spring day. The Royal Regiment of Wales had beaten the Welsh Guards and were very confident. (An ex-commanding officer and international scrum-half forecasted a win for the Welsh!) Their supporters, with goat, were there in strength, but so were many Green Howards rooting for The Duke's. The Welsh strength lay in their half-backs and full back. This, however, was more than countered by our back row, Lts. Gilbert and Bird and S/Sgt. Hall; these three dominated the entire game. The first half belonged to us, Cpl. Parrott scoring a try, which was converted by Sgt. Robinson, with Cpl. Cuss kicking a penalty goal. In the second half we continued to press with Lt. Gilbert scoring another try, again converted by Sgt. Robinson. A lead of 15—0 seemed more than adequate, however, a careless pass allowed the Welsh to get into our half and they pressed for 20 minutes. They scored twice, but were unable to maintain the pressure, and in the last five minutes "the Dukes were coming up the hill"—nearly scoring again.

To win, in spite of Ulster, the Caribbean and other commitments, has been a great achievement. All members of the squad deserve a mention, but two stand out. Lt. Chris Gilbert, the captain, was confident throughout the season, and established himself as one of the best wing forwards the Regiment has ever seen. Sgt. Dickens now has five cup winners' medals. He plans to win at least three more in the near future.

### The Rugby Squad

Major Mundell, 2/Lt. Sinclair, Capt. McGlynn, 2/Lt. Grieve Capt. Gardner, Lt. Bird, Lt. Gilbert, 2/Lt. Meek, Lt. Thorn, Capt. Redwood-Davis, Capt. Fitzgerald, S/Sgt. Hall, Sgt. Dickens, Sgt. Basu, Sgt. Robinson, Cpl. Cuss, Cpl. Waqabaca, Cpl. Parrott, L/Cpl. Anderson, Pte. Walker, Pte. Beaumont.

### CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

This has been the first time for some years that the Battalion has produced a cross-country team, and the results have been most satisfactory.

An inter-company race for teams of 10 was run over a six-mile course at Catterick in December 1971. In spite of the cold and a real pea-soup fog, there was some good running. The results were as follows:

First	..	Alma Coy	..	127 points
Second	..	Corunna Coy	..	133 points

A team of 10 men were selected from the inter-company runners. These same 10 trained hard under WO2 Lindsay, and represented the Battalion throughout the season. They were: WO2 P. Lindsay, L/Cpl. C. B. Sherratt, L/Cpl. P. Simpson,

Ptes. B. Hughes, C. Jarvis, M. Goult, P. Whitely, D. Attiwell, L. Houfe, and L. Duffy.

On January 17, 1972, the team ran in the combined 3 Div and South Western District championships at Tidworth. The field comprised nine major and six minor units. Results were:

First	..	7 Para Regt RHA	..	68 points
Second	..	1 DWR	..	254 points
Third	..	1 Staffords	..	334 points

On January 27, the team ran in the combined Northern Command and Army in Scotland championships at Catterick. The results of this race were:

First	..	1 DWR	..	93 points
Second	..	QDG	..	147 points
Third	..	8 Sig Regt	..	159 points

This result qualified us for the Army Championships at Pirbright in February but, unfortunately, we were not able to take part due to exercise commitments in the West Indies.

Everyone has worked hard under the coaching of WO2 Lindsay, and the improvement over the season has been most noticeable. This is particularly so in the case of Pte. Hughes, who came in 5th at Tidworth and 2nd in the Northern Command race.

We look forward to a good season and the Army Championships in 1972-73.

### SOCCER

Apart from one game, which we lost, played in Northern Ireland against 1 Para in the Army Cup, we played no soccer until December on our re-assembly in Catterick. The series of games was broken into again on our departure for ex "Sun Pirate" at the end of January so it has been very much a stop-go season.

However, during December and January we played the following games with results as shown:

#### Northumbrian District League

v. 8 Signal Regiment	..	..	Lost	3—1
v. Queens Dragoon Guards	..	..	Won	5—2

#### Northern Command Cup

v. King's Div Depot, Yorks	..	..	Won	2—0
v. Depot RAVC	..	..	Won	7—2

#### Northumbrian District Cup

v. 1 King's	..	..	..	Won	5—2
v. 11 Signal Regiment	..	..	..	Won	2—1

#### Infantry Cup

v. 1 Gordons	..	..	..	Lost	3—1
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#### Friendlies

v. 11 Signal Regiment	..	..	..	Won	15—1
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Of these, the games really of note were, our good win over 1 King's, who were Army Cup semi-finalists, and our game against 1 Gordons at Fort George. Two late goals in the last five minutes gave the Gordons a good victory but we were always in with a chance despite injuries in the second half and we really should have taken a decisive lead in the first half.

Our late entry to the District and Command Cup gave us byes in the early rounds and we are through to the final of the District Cup, in which we meet our old friends 8 Signal Regiment, and in the semi-final of the Command Cup we meet 38 Engr Regt RE. If we win that one it is almost certain we shall meet 8 Signals again in the final.



We have infused quite a bit of new talent into the team since our return from Ulster and the following have represented the Battalion.

Sgt. Heron (capt.), L/Cpl. Jagger, Pte. Furness, L/Cpl. Millar, Cpl. Law (RAPC), L/Cpl. Marr, L/Cpl. Hayes, Pte. Woodward, L/Cpl. Burn, Pte. Lightfoot, Pte. Denton, L/Cpl. Pennington, Pte. Lomax, Pte. Edwards, Bds. Sollitt.

A hard-fought inter-company league was won by Corunna Company who turned out a most enthusiastic and competent side. League table as follows:

Coy	Played	Won	Lost	Goals for	Goals against	Points
Corunna	5	5	0	33	8	10
Com- mand	4	3	1	18	15	6
Burma	5	2	3	24	25	4
Alma	5	2	3	23	24	4
Somme	4	1	3	6	24	2
Admin	3	0	3	4	15	0

Nineteen teams competed in the inter-Platoon/Dept knock-out and it turned out to be an all-Corunna final with 9 Platoon taking a not-too-easy victory over 8 Platoon.

## Company Notes

### COMMAND COMPANY

Having all recuperated for a month after Northern Ireland we regrouped and prepared for a month of Worldwide Spearhead. However, for a month nobody seemed to want us anywhere in the world, not even in Malta.

Cadres, courses and Battalion "Fitness for Role" inspections seem to have kept the Company at full stretch for the last few months, not to mention helicopter training, Battalion HQ exercises, training for the Caribbean and practice Spearhead turnouts, it has been a period of mass activity.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the Christmas Social Calendar was the Company Dance in the King's Head Hotel in Richmond. Approximately 200 people were present and the evening was a great success. Cpl. Dare as MC and the Blues Syndicate providing the music, all helped towards a very enjoyable night out.

The prize for outstanding prophecy must undoubtedly go to the Second-in-Command who was able to forecast the weather three weeks in advance, long-range weather forecasters take note. His comment about melting snow to make tea as mentioned in the Battalion HQ exercise brief came all too apt. We managed to choose the only snowy night this winter; the worst thing, however, was that we were preparing for the Caribbean!

Before leaving for the Caribbean we were able to welcome our new Company Commander, Capt. Andrews, and we wish both him and Mrs. Andrews a happy tour with the Battalion and, in particular, with Command Company.

### Sun Pirate

When the time came for us to leave by sea there was some doubt as to whether RFA *Sir Geraint* would actually sail as she had damaged her rudder.

The Battalion "O" Group reluctantly withdrew from the boat party and decided to fly instead in order to be there by February 12, 1972. From the time that the rest of us arrived at Marchwood it was apparent that they had made a wise decision. RFA *Sir Geraint* hit a force 8 gale as soon as she passed the Needles and from then on there was very little sign of life on board till the Azores came into sight, four days later.

It was strongly rumoured that we passed through wind speeds up to Force 11! Our only consolation was that the echelon on RFA *Sir Bedevere* was in a worse state than we were due to her mexefloats coming adrift.

After the Azores it became a pleasant if somewhat boring trip enlightened by the daily efforts of the PT staff and some deadly shooting at anything that would float!

We were joined by the happy faces of the O Group for a two-day cruise to Vieques, which we landed on at dawn on February 15. Two days later we were at sea again in HMS *Fearless* for a whistle stop tour of the British Virgin Islands.

HMS *Fearless* deposited us all back on Vieques for a final exercise on the field firing ranges and then by one means or another the Company dispersed to return to England. Some chose to fly and others braved the sea, via Barbados. We are still awaiting the return of the party from RFA *Sir Bedevere* and to hear whether the RSM (ex-Merchant navy) kept his 100% record at sea.

Congratulations to Cpl. Lister on his award of a Mention in Despatches for bravery in Northern Ireland.

### Personalia

**Departures:** Sgts. Basu, Brennan, L/Cpls. Price, Frear, Cpls. Taylor, Wicks, Ptes. Hill, White.

**Arrivals:** Cpts. Andrews, Gardner, Lt. Tetlow, WO2 Middleton, S/Sgt. Carter, Cpl. Dare, L/Cpls. Foyle, Dent, Leskiewicz, Miller, Ptes. Cowan, Wright, Reynard, Beck, Scott, Goode, Williams, Prece, Hughes, Crawford, Slater.

**Promotions:** To S/Sgt—Sgt. Stansfield; to Sergeant—Cpls. Budden, Heron, Gunn, Rochester; to Corporal—L/Cpls. Lister, Sullivan, Morton; to Lance-corporal—Ptes. Blagbrough, Ijeh, Sudaby, Grant, Leskiewicz, Dent, Gowing.

**Marriages:** L/Cpl. Gowing, Ptes. Squires, Sisson, Kelly, Knowles, Hollis, Lee, Morley, Slater.

**Births:** Welcome to the Company junior team! Carol Mortimer, Shelly Cone, Richard Hall.

## RECCE PLATOON

On returning from a well-earned block leave at the end of November, we began thinking of Spearhead and all that it entails. Loading vehicles, packing kit. Who said  $\frac{1}{2}$ -tonners instead of  $\frac{1}{4}$ -tonners or was it  $\frac{1}{4}$ -tonners? The UEO kept us on our toes!

In spite of Spearhead we all managed to have a few days at home during the Christmas period.

January saw us in the snow on Catterick and Feldom areas exercising with Alma and Corunna and undertaking platoon training. Also towards the end of January the daily run became very popular with certain people amongst us.

### Sun Pirate

The Platoon flew out to the US Naval Base, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. After three days acclimatisation we sailed in HMS *Fearless* for the Bde Assault Landing on the island of Vieques. The Platoon landed by LCVP and undertook the task of clearing a ridge then adopting OPs to support several company attacks during the day.

Then followed the tasks of securing a start line for a Battalion night attack and route finding the next morning. Both vehicles we had on the landing came ashore without any problem under Ptes. Kelly and Peacock.

Phase II of the exercise was a success for us. We were given the task of landing 24 hours in advance of the Battalion on Norman Island, one of the islands in the British Virgin Islands chain, and reputed to be "Treasure Island"! Our task was to locate the enemy and their strength.

This we did with c/s 61 commanded by Sgt. Wilkinson playing a major role in the action. Some of the Battalion, when they landed, seemed surprised to find the enemy at the grid reference we had given them.

Phase III the field firing was mainly the companies, but we managed to do some fire control with the Mortar Platoon and fight fires with the Vigilant Platoon. During this phase we lived in a tented camp on the edge of your actual Caribbean beach which gave us the opportunity to swim and soak up a little sun.

The bulk of the Platoon flew back to UK on February 26 with the drivers sailing back on *Fearless* in yet another Force 10 gale.

There was a rumour "come to the Recce and get promoted"; congratulations on promotion to the following: S/Sgt. Stansfield, Sgt. Heron, Sgt. Rochester, Cpl. Hayes, and Capt. Gardner. Also welcome to Sgts. Heron, Rochester and Pte. Scott. Well-deserved congratulations go to Pte. Kelly on his recent award for bravery in Ulster last year and to Cpl. Hall on a further addition to his family.

## SIGNAL PLATOON

Our post-leave training took the form of a Standard II signal cadre with most of the Platoon NCOs being involved.

The running of any cadre within the Battalion is an undertaking which requires a great deal of concentrated effort and organisation. Consider, if you will, the following simultaneous events; Worldwide Spearhead, Northern Ireland Standby,

REME Tels inspection, UEI, Company signal training and (gasp) preparation for Warminster courses.

The logical result should be a catastrophe; however, the cadre got under way despite numerous admin problems and by January 24 we were ready for classification. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, the classification was deferred until sometime in April.

Prior to going to roast in the Caribbean for exercise "Sun Pirate" the Battalion was involved in a series of exercises to get us fit to face the heat. We didn't see any sun or palm trees, but we did see a lot of snow! On or about February 1 the Platoon split down among the Battalion and left Catterick to embark for the Caribbean. You will no doubt hear about the first six days at sea from other sources, all that remains to be said is that 90% of the Platoon have vowed never to go near water again!

The communications on the actual exercises were good, though we often had some interesting combinations of VHF, HF and A41 rebroadcast being employed all at the same time due to the odd terrain and distances from the ships. In the Virgin Islands Battalion HQ operated from HMS *Fearless* and it was a very interesting exercise for us to run the Amphibious Operations Room. It was just like being on "Star Trek".

Once the exercises were over we had a few days to relax on Vieques and were able to organise a platoon beach party with plenty of beer and vocal accompaniment.

The RSO made a lucky catch off the sewer pipe when he brought in two crayfish and this set Messrs. Parrott and Waqabaca scurrying down to show their skill at crayfishing much to the joy of some lucky members of the Platoon who shared the feast!

On leaving Vieques, the Platoon split up once more, most going home by sea via Barbados (reports later), whilst the remainder went on to Puerto Rico for a few days to enjoy the American hospitality before flying back to UK. All in all, the Caribbean trip was one not to be missed although there were few volunteers to stay when the time came to fly, or sail home.

We are now, at last, managing to get some drivers trained, namely Ptes. Gale, Ellis, Gledhill and Holt, who remained behind during ex "Sun Pirate" and will now be nearly ready for their test.

Congratulations to Pte. Woodward on obtaining a "B" grading on his B3 Clerks course and to Cpls. Waqabaca and Morton and L/Cpl. Ruding on passing their RSI course, to Blaggy on doing so well on his trained soldier cadre and earning his promotion as a result, and to Thackeray on his Jnr NCO cadre result.

Our bachelors get fewer and fewer and even the most confirmed one, Mr. Ward, has taken the plunge and will be married by the time we get into print and sinking with him will be Smith, Morton and Furness.

Finally, as ever, there are our arrivals and departures. It is with much regret that we say cheerio to Sam Basu who has given the Platoon such sterling service over the years. Our loss, Corunna's gain. He was so overwhelmed at leaving us that he was taken ill and never made the Caribbean!

## BORNEWS

Since October, when an Ulster-begrimed battalion of "Dukes" descended upon Catterick like the hordes of Attila the Hun, a more relaxed atmosphere has pervaded our ranks. Block leave and Christmas passed without incident, and when, in February, the lesser mortals departed for a "swan" in the Caribbean, a hard core of the BOR stayed in Catterick to get some work done. Four weeks without the Battalion was an admirable opportunity for this and BOR became a bustle of frenzied activity as long-forgotten skeletons were dug out of their various hiding places and ejected into waste disposal units (i.e. company offices and unfortunate delegated individuals) throughout the Battalion for final destruction.

Our members, as always, faced each new situation in their own distinct way; Pte. Wilson (posted in from Int because he made lousy coffee) ignores everything and continues his take-over bid for Casey's duplicator. Pte. Casey, looking remarkably unaffected by the Caribbean sun, seems disinclined to argue with a dishevelled maniac with ink-smearing hands who growls menacingly when anyone threatens to remove him from "his" machine.

Hidden behind huge piles of dead filing, L/Cpl. "Speedy" Nuttall remains aloof and in love; although, with the day of his wedding looming ever nearer, there are views that he might have last minute doubts. Rumour has it (although no one has ever seen the intended) that the girl plays rigger for St. Helens—why else would anyone travel there every weekend? Never mind, Speedy, there's always a chance that your nerves will hold out!

Across the office is the G Clerk, Cpl. Mortimer; to every question he answers "Check" in a loud voice and then proceeds to recount how the Army beat the RAF at chess in February (for the first time in eight years) just because he was playing! The story is becoming a little tedious . . . "Queen takes pawn, checkmate"!!

Travelling on, we find a distraught Sgt. Manion bemoaning the fact that he still hasn't come up on the pools. Who wants to buy a red mini? Still, if he *will* put Huddersfield down for score draws . . . ? In similar vein, Staff Milner cannot reconcile himself to the fact that Middlesbrough are out of the FA Cup, out of the promotion race, in fact out of everything.

Of Cpl. Wilson and Pte. Parkhouse there is little news, both having embedded themselves firmly in the annals of obscurity. However, the Pinkerton Detective Agency have promised to find out what they can and will furnish a report for next issue.

The final phase of this report is concerned with the Adjutant, who runs the essential service part of the BOR . . . while you were sleeping, the essential services were not . . . , etc. Being mainly a nocturnal creature he figures largely on the NIREP as will be testified by irate duty clerks who have been dragged out in the middle of the night, at week-ends and other inconvenient times. Everyone has heard the song "Nothing to do and nowhere to go . . ." However, it is hoped that the forthcoming N. Ireland tour will rectify this—as no doubt it will also give everyone *something* to do.

## ALMA COMPANY

At the time of the writing of the last notes, the Company had two weeks left in Belfast, and the arrival of the advance party of 2/RRF was eagerly awaited. Our friends the "Unitarians" decided to make our farewell a fairly warm one with several shooting and bomb incidents; as a result, war stories told to the RRF did not have to be exaggerated.

It was with no regrets that the Company finally departed from Brown Square, and the rough crossing to Heysham seemed like a holiday cruise. After a spot of leave the Company was soon back in the thick of it with a "Spearhead" duty over Christmas and preparations for exercise "Sun Pirate" in the Caribbean. Jungle training on Catterick and Feldom was a little difficult, but in the back of one's mind, as one battled with the mud, was the thought of leaping from landing craft into warm seas and into a steaming jungle.

Exercise "Sun Pirate" started once the Company had arrived in Puerto Rico after surviving a fairly rough sea journey on RFA *Sir Geraint*. The exercise started with an assault landing on Vieques followed by a CRW-type exercise on the British Virgin Islands. We then returned to Vieques for three days where the Company had a very successful field firing exercise.

It was then the start of the very complicated dismounting phase with some members going to Barbados and others coming directly back to UK from Puerto Rico.

## Personalia

**Departures:** Major Greenway to 1 (BR) Corps. Capt. Tighe to Corunna Company. Pte. Parr to Civvy Street.

**Inter-Company postings:** These are too numerous to mention.

**Arrivals:** Capt. Cumberlege from Warminster, 2/Lt. Sinclair from Corunna Company, Sgt. Brennan from Training Wing, Sgt. Blenkinsop from Singapore, L/Cpl. Kelly from King's Div Depot, Pte. Threlfall, Re-enlistment, Pte. Graham and Pte. Edwards from PWO.

From Depot King's Div came the following new recruits: Ptes. Bohannan, Lawson, Gritt, Hughes 12, Hughes 31, Taylor, 79, Kelly, Oram, Porter, Brear, Jowett, Hugill, Green 20, Duffy, Wilkinson, Lawrence, Maltby, Hartley, Ciritis.

**Marriages:** Lt. Bird, Pte. Heath, Taylor 98, Evans, Cpl. Wood, Pte. Branter. We wish them all the best and may all their troubles be little ones.

**Births:** Mrs. Waller, a daughter, Mrs. Mellor, a daughter, Mrs. Fereday, a son, Mrs. Larnder, a son. Congratulations to all and may they all grow up to be good Dukes and Duchesses.

## BURMA COMPANY

We managed to extricate ourselves from Ulster in one piece, though the record was nearly spoilt by Sgt. Wilkinson. We re-formed after block leave on November 22. The Battalion was on Spearhead duties immediately, and when our turn came round for Spearhead Company on December 28 the CQMS had discovered how to load his complete store into a Land-Rover and trailer—as long as it was not required to move anywhere. The Company

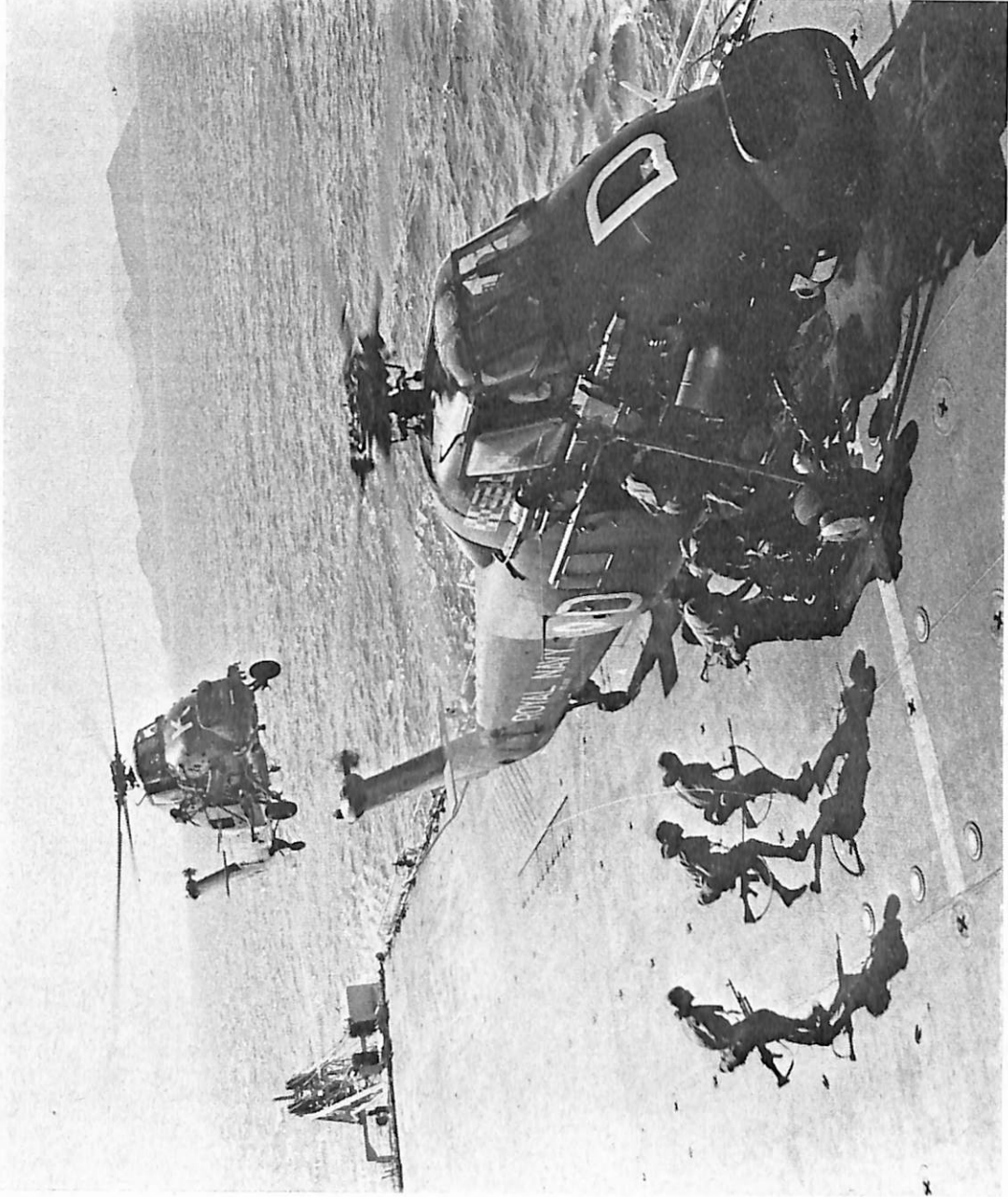


Photo : Central Office of Information

A patrol boarding a Royal Wessex helicopter from the flight deck of HMS "Fearless"



had also begun to twig the fact that being "airportable" meant nothing more than that you were loaded up like a Sherpa porter embarking on a solo conquest of Everest.

However, we soon exchanged Spearhead duties for planning and training for exercise "Sun Pirate". We are always, in the profession of arms, being asked to use the lessons of the past to solve the problems of the future. In this case anyone with any Kenya 60-61, BAOR, Hong Kong or jungle warfare experience was eagerly seized upon. In this respect, Sgt. Robson and Cpl. Theodore became the overnight experts on jungle warfare when in random conversation, they volunteered the information that they had actually "enjoyed" the course at the jungle warfare school in Singapore. It was difficult to find any jungle near Catterick, so the Company went for a change of scenery to Otterburn. Unfortunately, the scenery stayed much the same but the temperature dropped to sub-zero for our night training and, to make matters worse, the local mosquitoes were obviously wearing overcoats and had their football boots on.

Nevertheless, Otterburn was a success and brushed up many of the procedures that were to be used on exercise "Sun Pirate". During this training period the trained soldiers and junior NCOs cadres were being run, so the platoons were rarely at full strength.

Congratulations to the following on getting very good reports on both cadres: L/Cpl. Elgar, L/Cpl. Whitworth; and to Cpl. Smith 15 and L/Cpls. Wearing and Laws on excellent NCO Cadre reports.

Night training became a regular feature of the weekly programme with navigation exercises, patrols and ambushes. It is so much more realistic at night, but that's not what our wives said.

Talking about realism, the Company Commander produced a pickled tarantula in a jam jar at one lecture and passed it round for all to see. Unfortunately, someone spotted the words "Made in Hong Kong" so that was that.

The main complaint from soldiers on exercise is simply that "nobody tells me nothing". The complexity of the plot on exercise "Sun Pirate" made it vital that everyone knew exactly what was going on but, fortunately, we had none of the last-minute changes of plan that were a notable feature of exercise "Nelson's Touch". A small party under Sgt. Goddard reached the Pacific after an exhausting journey by sea; Pte. Green's comment "The journey was rough and the food was rough". The rest of the Company travelled in comfort by VC 10 to land at Roosevelt Roads.

We quickly embarked on quite an ambitious acclimatisation programme to "beat the heat" which succeeded in every case except Pte. Parker's, but other tropical hazards quickly came to light. In the cause of improving Anglo-American relationships Pte. Barron fell out of a coconut tree—without the coconut—and broke his wrist. Ptes. Mawson and Casson had an unfortunate encounter with sea urchins on the Company barbecue that put them into hospital for 10 days, and Pte. Downs badly twisted his ankle playing basketball.

However, those of us that were left found ourselves in the vanguard of the assault landing on Vieques Island on February 15. Vieques Island turned out to be full of surprises. The map contours were accurate but none of the range roads were marked. It was refreshingly cool on the hillsides but blisteringly hot in the valley bottoms. In the short space of 30 hours we cleared the brigade axis, 6 Platoon had a battle, the Company just missed a battle, we had a battalion day and night attack, a night cross-country march and a company lift on a troop of tanks culminating in a brigade attack. We finally marched to the beach and re-embarked on HMS *Fearless* to sail to the British Virgin Islands.

Much could be written about the B.V.I. that could not be found in the tourist brochures. Most of all, they will be remembered for the classic assault on the rebel stronghold of Cooper Island. The Company was landed at dead of night on the western edge of the island with a steep ridge and a lot of very prickly "jungle" between us and the "enemy". Inspection of the shore-line proved that it was impossible to reach the western tip of the island by that route at night. A volunteer machete party was then called for and set off in pitch blackness to tackle the steep hillside, under Sgt. Robson. They quickly reached the ridge but halfway down the other side found a steep drop to the sea of over 100ft. However, they discovered a set of steps on their return, leading back to the beach. Pte. White wrote in retrospect, "Going through the jungle at night is utter stupidity because you stand a chance of losing your men, or your eyesight or other vital parts of your body". This recce was invaluable when it came to a first light start as excellent progress was made to the ridge whence same rock scrambling amongst giant cacti was soon rewarded by the faint glimmerings of a long disused track. This helped us through some really atrocious undergrowth and enabled the whole company to be in position for the final sweep by 8 a.m. Half an hour later the enemy camp had been located, 15 had been captured and the umpire was busy re-writing his "pink" because, according to him, we had not been expected to reach the camp until the afternoon. Sportingly we "allowed" four of the enemy to escape and the subsequent chase provided us with some really tough country. 6 Platoon managed to scale a vertical cliff (well almost) Company HQ descended a vertical cliff "Look, no hands", and 5 Platoon flushed out the enemy—how dull!

We can't publish the pictures of the almost nude swim that we all felt we had earned because most of us were just wearing DMS boots. By the time the Brigade Commander visited us later that afternoon we were more respectably dressed. The next time he saw us was on the battle run. This was excellent value considering the number in each platoon that had never worked with tanks, or seen a Carl Gustav or Wombat fired live. 4 Platoon, on reflection, felt that the acclimatisation training at Roosevelt Roads was actually harder than the exercise itself. Company Commander's comment: "Hard in training—easy in war".

Our final four days in the Caribbean proved that the combination of hot sun, hot pants (PT) living

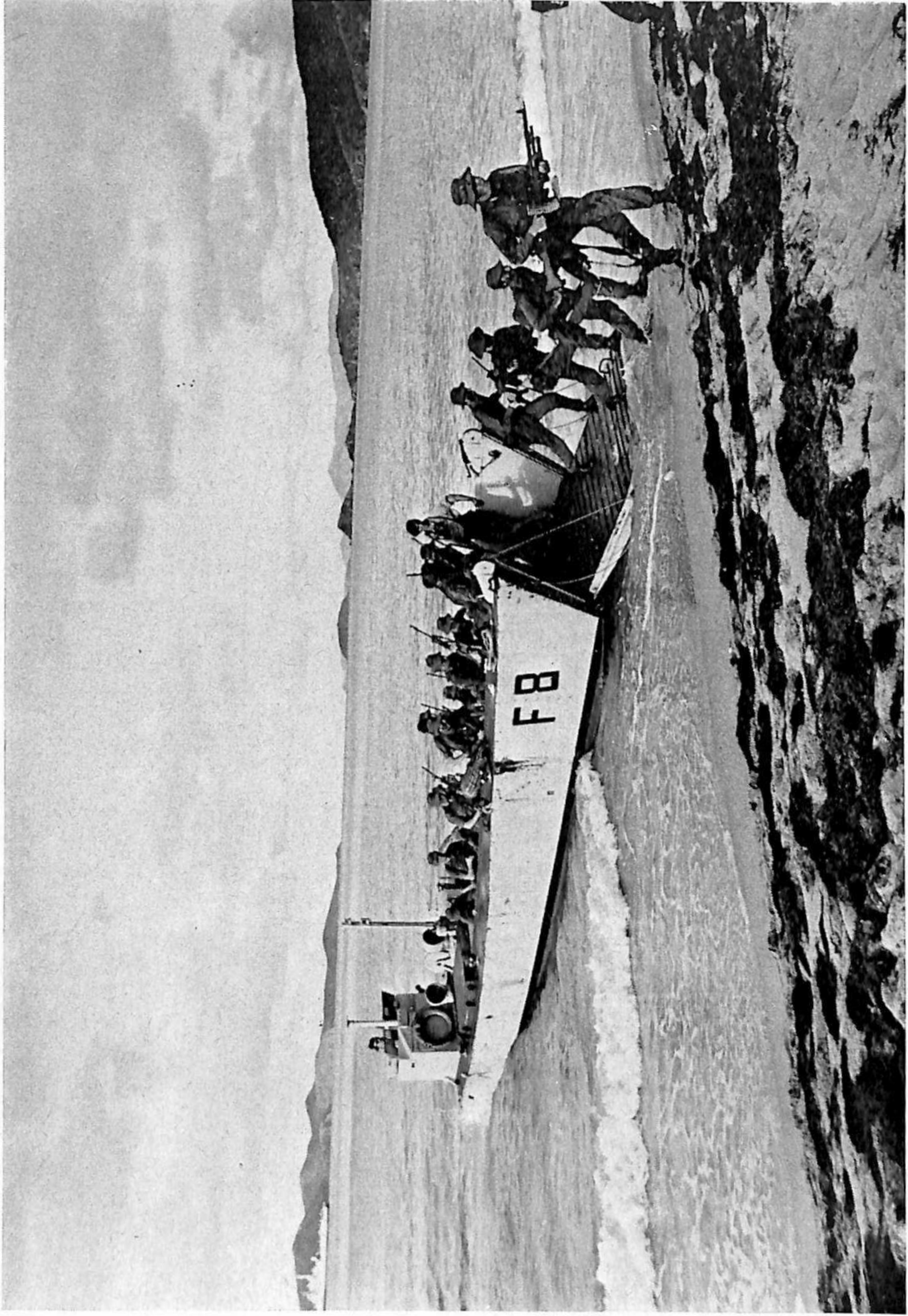


Photo : Central Office of Information

A platoon landing on Norman Island



close to nature and too little time to spend too much money was halting the process of evolution. With each day that passed the lesser brethren, helped by another barbecue, slipped back a thousand years. However, all good things must come to an end and most of us were only too ready to exchange the doubtful delights of Maple Leaf Camp and American food for some Yorkshire ale and double fish and chips.

### Personalia

Our best wishes go to Major Jeremy Cumberlege and Elizabeth on their excellent posting in BAOR—we hope we helped a bit. Welcome to Major David Pugh and Ann, but we hope for all our sakes that you have left your climbing boots behind. Also goodbye to Capt. Tony Redwood Davies who only leaves us to go across the road complete with MBE (we are all envious). Capt. Hugh Cartwright is now with us in the “hot” seat and we wish him a very happy stay. Sadly (yes, really) we said goodbye to CSM Hartley. We trust his enormous knowledge of the Company will stand him in good stead at the bar for many months to come when he fights it out with our new Company Sergeant-Major, CSM Coll. We wish him, likewise, a very happy stay with us.

### Postings in

Cpl. Wood and Cpl. Cowburn, from the Depot, Sgt. Goddard from Corunna, Ptes. Broadbent, Wallace, Frazer, Sutton, Glynn, McIntyre, McNichol, McKenzie, Kennedy, Marks from the Depot.

Congratulations to Cpl. Smith, L/Cpls. Harding, White, Wright, Whitworth, and Elgar, on their promotion.

Also to Lt. Keith Best and Sgt. Goddard for their Mention in Despatches and also to S/Sgt. Sewart for his GOCs Commendation. And to all those who worked hard but left no memorial—try again next time.

### Marriages

Pte. Ken Greenwood to Miss Julie Baker at St. Columbus Church, Belfast, on January 1, 1972. He needed those armoured wedding cars. Pte. Allan Nendick to Miss Marian Flood in Richmond on January 19, 1972. Pte. Malcolm Banks to Miss Gladys Charlesworth in Leeds; Pte. Kenny Harding to Miss Lynn Morley at Middlesbrough on November 6, 1971; Pte. David Walton to Miss Gloria Walker at Dewsbury on November 13, 1971.

## CORUNNA COMPANY

On our return from leave, it was a very different Corunna Company that re-formed in November. Those bottomless pits, Administrative, Command and Somme Companies had taken their toll again! For this new company there were basically two events on the agenda, Spearhead and conventional training in preparation for ex “Sun Pirate”.

Spearhead passed by uneventfully although our

Colour-Sergeant plot did not help! Was it Glen-cross that handed over to Walker, that handed over to Lawrence that handed over to Hughes? Anyway, S/Sgt. Hughes is Colour Sergeant now.

The training before Christmas was mainly individual with several company and battalion cadres. On the company side, 2/Lt. Isles ran a grade III to II cadre, and Cpl. Brennan ensured our GPMG (SF) teams were up to scratch. On the battalion cadres, Ptes. Ross and Bromley shone on the sniper cadre, Pte. Walker (Chalky) on the trained soldiers cadre. L/Cpl. Wolstenholme proved to be a promising instructor on the junior NCOs cadre.

After Christmas, we concentrated on platoon and company training. “Training for the West Indies”, the directive said. On the snowy top of Seat How in your parka, this stretched the imagination to the limit; not even a mosquito to be seen. On the inter-platoon battle drill exercise there was driving rain and mist, on the patrolling exercise fog and the blackest night, and on the company exercise, Muji Kas II (where does the Coy Comd get these names from?), it was bitterly cold, but fortunately dry. On Muji Kas II the GOC Strategic Command visited us, and pointed out to several the disadvantages of digging in on the edge of a wood. But the CSM’s treatment for frost bite was a great success, and is recommended to the medical staff—half an hour’s massaging and an hour’s doubling, on the reverse slope of course!

Ex “Sun Pirate” itself was a great experience, and an ideal way of spending February, although it was a pity that the exercise parts were so short. Highlights of the exercise were the first four days on LSL *Sir Geraint*, and the night approach march on Norman Island, where the sight of the umpire embracing a 6ft cactus kept the company going. Recreationally, we all got a sun tan, swam in the Caribbean, drank Schlitz and rum goodies and, at the Company barbecue, Beaumont proved less subtle than the Colour-Sergeant at the spoon game. We have yet to hear of the stories of Tighe group in Barbados.

On the sporting side, the Company proved most successful. A close second to Alma in the inter-company cross-country was the only event we did not win. Cpl. Kelly produced the necessary skill and spirit in his novices to win the boxing competition. The posting in of Ptes. Lightfoot, O’Garro, Walker and Ayrton was all that was required on the soccer front. The inter-platoon knock-out cup final was an all-Corunna affair, with 9 Platoon proving more skilful in attack than 8 Platoon, winning 7—1. The record of the Company side in the soccer league speaks for itself: played 5, won 5, goals for 35, goals against 8. Much of this success is due to the direction of CSM Collins, and to the support from Corunnas “Kop”.

### Personalia

Postings in and out are so numerous, that only a few can be mentioned by name. In: in November S/Sgts. Lawrence and Hughes from the TA and recruiting world, Sgt. Leachman from Command, Cpl. Kelly from Strensall, four from other companies and 21 new recruits; more recently, Lt.

Bird from Alma and Sgt. Basu from Command.

Out: Lt. Gardner to Recce, S/Sgt. Glencross to 24 Bde, S/Sgt. Carter to Command, S/Sgt. Lawrence to UDR, Sgts. Fleming and Minto to Somme, Sgt. Goddard to Burma, Sgt. Walker to Shorncliffe, Cpl. Blackburn to UNFICYP, eight to Command, four to Somme and four to Administrative Company.

Congratulations to: S/Sgt. Hughes, Sgts. Fleming and Goddard, Cpls. Butterworth, Gill, Hall, Franks and Wragg, L/Cpls. Hanley, Hird, Walker, and Wolstenholme on their promotions.

Cpls. Butterworth and Hall on getting good reports on their GPMG (SF) and NBC courses.

Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Simpson on producing two bouncing babies.

The Kelly's, Hewitt's, Steadman's, Hird's, and Wathey's on their marriages.

The following members of Corunna Company group received awards for service in Ulster last year. Mentioned in despatches Sgts. Fleming and Goddard, Pte. Kelly 89. GOC's commendation: Pte. Taylor 39. All are now posted out of the Company, so it's up to those that remain to emulate them in '72.

### SOMME COMPANY

In late January the Company said goodbye to Major Buckingham who left us for a job in the deserts of the Trucial Straits, basing himself on the old gold smuggling port of Dubai in the Persian Gulf. The Company is now commanded by Capt. Stacpoole who spent nine months in Sharsha (10 miles from Dubai) a year back. There is a definite "Dukes" representation in that part of the world.

After last year's tour of Northern Ireland each of the Company's platoons spent January in support company training. Company headquarters learnt how to be a SAP (Support Arms Post) which, together with our affiliated gunner battery HQ, co-ordinates all gun fire, mortar fire, helicopters and fighter ground attack. The aim of the SAP is to prevent our guns shooting down our aircraft, or our aircraft shooting up our mortars. This training had direct interest to us all since on our Caribbean exercise "Sun Pirate" guns, mortars, ships' guns, "gun ships", helicopters and American Marine counter-insurgency ground attack aircraft would all be firing us in on the beach landing and again as we pressed inland.

The Company moved out to Puerto Rico ("cross-roads of the Caribbean") by VC10, Assault ship or Logistic Landing Ship. Once there, all ships took on the troops who flew out. (The Navy had a term for this: "going to overload" which is their enthusiasm for cramming every corridor, cranny and deck space with soldiers sleeping when and where they can. They had other quaint terms: "Making a pipe" which means passing a message on the intercom).

Once the Company was contained, we sailed to a small island east of Puerto Rico called Vieques (pronounced V-A-KES). On this island a complex brigade assault landing took place. For the next 36 hours the two battalions pressed inland and forced those guerrillas who were not killed or captured to retire to the small islands to the east. These were four deserted islands of the Virgin Islands. Each

was about two miles long and half a mile wide. Some were as tall as they were wide and there were many hills which were as high as they were wide, with the contour lines almost merging in places.

Thus it was that in this phase support company, ever versatile, adopted the rifle company role. This phase of training was known as "jungle training" but, in fact, the islands were covered in thick thorn bushes and cactus. During this phase the Company made two pre-dawn assault landings. The first was a company task, the second the final battalion assault to eradicate the last guerilla position. It was in the final assault that the Anti-tank and Vigilant-cum-Assault Pioneer Platoons suffered heavy casualties assaulting a heavily defended guerilla encampment. They did not die in vain. They inflicted enough casualties on the enemy to enable Alma Company to take the position.

The Mortar Platoon had earlier made an excellent attack on a smaller enemy position, mainly due to their sunray who "misunderstood" the grid reference of his platoon task (an error rare for a mortar-trained orienteer).

Phase III was the live firing battle shoot back on the island of Vieques. The Mortar Platoon had a very useful shoot, and also assisted our old friends the Recce Platoon in directing mortar fire over the radio. The Anti-tank Platoon helped fire each company in on their live firing company attacks. Among many interesting features of these attacks were simulated enemy artillery and anti-tank fire. This was laid on by the attached Royal Engineer troop who were greatly assisted by the Assault Pioneers, otherwise known as the "plastiquers".

Phase IV was the journey home. The bulk of the Anti-tank Platoon and Assault Pioneers went to Barbados, whilst the Mortars and Vigilant Platoons enjoyed some sailing, snorkel diving and a company barbecue at Roosevelt Roads. American hospitality was of a high order, the beer had odd names such as Shlitz, Budweiser or Corna, but drink and cigarettes were cheap. All that was needed were some dusky maidens and few were lucky enough to find feminine company (and they aren't telling).

Next stop is the border county area of Northern Ireland. The preliminary recce has taken place. If all goes well, Support Company will have an "interesting" section of the border which will keep us well occupied for a hard three months.

Congratulations to: Pte. Coulson who married Lorraine Willox on January 15; Pte. Taylor and his wife, who have produced a boy; Pte. Lounds and his wife, who have produced a boy.

We welcome C/Sgt. Hall on promotion and posting as our CQMS. He takes over from C/Sgt. Butler, who served the Company well and very efficiently before moving on to Sheffield with "D" Company, The Yorkshire Volunteers.

### ANTI-TANK PLATOON

We, the Anti-tanks, would like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to Capt. Wonson (Woodbine Willy) to thank him for all he has done for the tankies, and wish him the very best of luck in his new appointment.

Now we welcome Lt. Gilbert, who has arrived just in time to take on the responsibilities of Exercise



"Sun Pirate" and to be stuck with the job of scrounging kit for it, now to be known as Scrounger. He should settle down well.

The day of sailing arrived, but the next three days proved to be too much for the poor land-lubbers—nevertheless, sea legs were soon found and a most enjoyable trip ensued. Big shocks on arrival at Puerto Rico, the gang plank was no sooner down when a mass exodus from *Sir Geraint*, everyone either road running or PT on quayside.

At the start of the exercise, the tankies were split into two sections, one to 1 King's the other to 1 DWR for defence. Corunna Company called for support on a hill feature up which the guns had to be man-handled. Thanks to a section of "C" Company, this was achieved without too much trouble; too bad they could not have helped again on the sudden cry of "Move" because we were then stuck for two hours trying to move silently down hill through scrub and darkness to the cry of "Ouch, bloody thorns".

The Virgin Islands proved to be a test for the tanks, who then became a rifle platoon and proved their worth by chasing the enemy up hill and down dale, through scrub and thorn—most remarks at this stage cannot be printed.

Live firing at Vieques was good value for the tanks who fired the companies into the attacks with, for a change, live ammunition. (Pity the King's used so much .5 as The Duke's were left without, nevertheless success was obtained through good gun management.)

Now congratulations to the following: Pte. Hughes, Cpl. Sykes, Pte. Evans 86 all of whom joined the married families—well done, and all the very best of luck and happiness.

Cpl. Sellars a boy, L/Cpl. Hayes a girl and Pte. Collins a boy; well done, lads, hope wife and children are keeping well.

Sgt. Minto and Cpl. Sykes, well done on your course at Netherhavon.

### ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

On our return from Northern Ireland (an interesting tour, but not to be repeated too often) we enjoyed a spot of leave, both well earned and enjoyed by all.

After this period of peace and calm, we returned to the bustle and rush of preparation for exercise "Sun Pirate" and the platoon cadre. The cadre went reasonably well, the highlight being a day on Feldon demolition range; the live explosives helped, not just the new lads but also some of the old hands who had grown quite rusty with misuse. Top of the cadre came Pte. Armitage, fresh out of the Sgts. Mess.

Next came exercise "Sun Pirate", the Platoon landed on the first phase with "Burma Company" to clear the roads to the north of the island but, as usual, nothing was to be found. On the second phase we were attached to the Vigilant Platoon, for this we went back to being true footsloggers PB; everything was going well until the Company was wiped out and the Company Commander was heard to say, "Well, who the hell is left then?"

Next came the phase everyone was waiting for Cpl. Adams, Ptes. Woodward and Thompson 99,

were left on "Roosy Roads" where the main occupation was bending the knee at the elbow and pouring down a substance to ward off dehydration (151). The rest of the Platoon went back on board *Fearless* to go on to Barbados. To them we three left behind must say "your tales sound a little tall".

### Comings and Goings

Since our last issue we have had quite a shake-up in the Platoon, we welcome: Sgt. Fleming, Ptes. Marshall, Thompson 99, Howorth, Hunter, Worsfold, Coatesworth and Armitage. Also returning for a short period only is our smiling Platoon Commander, WO2 Wright, who was taken away by a piece of Irish lead, nice to see you back and may you soon get full use of your leg.

Leaving are: Pte. Nee to civvy street and Pte. Kemp to Warminster.

Congratulations go to Pte. and Mrs. English on the birth of a daughter, Tina Maria, also to Ptes. Thompson 99 and Stagg on their weddings.

### VIGILANT (ANTI-TANK GUIDED WEAPONS) PLATOON

At last, after leave from Northern Ireland, the Vigilant Platoon was able to settle down to serious training. We spent several weeks of hard but enjoyable work on the Catterick training area. Its hill features have seen many of our number struggling up or along them. This was the first time we had worked together as a platoon. but the difficulties were soon overcome and we became an efficient anti-tank force—we had to, live firing at Netheravon was just around the corner.

When we arrived at the Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon, we found that there were large numbers of cadres in progress. Accommodation was very limited and we eventually had to sleep in the stables. Unfortunately, there were no beds at all, so we spent an uncomfortable first night on the ground. The next day a corporal was sent from one unit to another in the Southern Command, begging for camp beds and receiving such replies as, "Camp beds, I wouldn't sign you out a mug enamel". However, the Platoon Commander finally found a sympathetic quartermaster much to everyone's relief.

After two weeks extensive training on the guided weapons simulator we were ready to fire live missiles (or were we?). At this stage the Platoon Commander fell ill (a nervous breakdown?); he left us to be bedded down for six weeks at home with hepatitis. The firing took place on January 26, thanks to assistance from the school, in the shape of QMSI ("awful problems") Spurdle, due to the absence of Lt. Thorn. After firing the first four missiles without any luck, the hits started and the firing was a great success.

We arrived back to our wives and pubs after the firing, to say goodbye three days later. Embarking at Southampton on the now famous LSL *Sir Bedevere* for ex "Sun Pirate". We sailed late Monday evening and met a gale varying between force 9 and 11 at the harbour mouth, which stayed with us until we reached the Azores. During the period we spent 36 hours in "Corunna" (Spain!)



Photo : Central Office of Information

Preparing missiles for range firing. Cpl. Blood supervising

sheltering and doing a few running repairs. Several members of the Platoon were violently seasick during the voyage, and insisted the only cure was rest, the following were awarded the golden pillow: Ptes. Bye, Burke and Wilden. However, Pte. Gilbert came in by a short head to win the Rip Van Winkle statuette.

Due to our late arrival we had no time for sight-seeing when we finally hit Puerto Rico and we went straight on the Brigade exercise. This was the first time our Vigilant had been used tactically. We were split into two halves; one half, under Cpl. Dooley, was attached to 1 King's Regiment, the remainder stayed with The Duke's, commanded by Sgt. Hewson.

The Duke's half went ashore by helicopter. Unfortunately, due to a bush fire, we had to be dropped quite a distance from our objective; after struggling for an hour we finally met our vehicles. Not all our vehicles, L/Cpl. Briston had disappeared on a sightseeing tour, obviously checking the accuracy of the Vieques maps. For the next two days we were ordered round the Battalion, assisting where necessary in anti-tank defence.

We used our transport to move a large number of the Battalion for the final attack. When this attack was completed, we left our vehicles on the island and moved to LPD *Fearless*.

We amalgamated with the Assault Pioneers and quickly adjusted to being a rifle platoon, for the Virgin Islands "jungle" training. Operating from *Fearless* we spent two days searching for remnants of the guerilla force (partially destroyed on Vieques Island). After one action Sgt. Hewson was heard to say on the radio, "We have two corpses, unfortunately they are both dead, over". On the final assault the umpire ruled the Platoon dead. Cpl. Adams, after screaming and running down the track with a machete in his hand, was also declared "Unstable" by the umpire. The Platoon radio operator, Pte. Dugdale, being the only man alive, was seen blazing away at the enemy, to the cheers of the "deceased" platoon. The exercise completed, we moved back to *Fearless*, and sailed for Vieques once more.

The next two days were devoted to live firing our missiles on the Vieques American Marine Ranges. Little were we to know how it would eventually turn out. After the first day preparing the missiles we moved to the range to fire; the first two shots at the guerilla force targets—one steam roller and a jeep—were good hits. However, the third failed to launch, and the fourth exploded immediately after launch, setting fire to almost the whole of the eastern part of the island. Cpl. Ruding, the firer, was heard explaining, through the smoke and heat, that it could not possibly have been his fault. This ended live firing very abruptly, much to the relief of the American Range Control. All our launches were captured on film by the Central Office of Information photographer. His Vietnam experience hardened him to explosions and he may very well have a photo of the fourth missile exploding.

The last five days were spent awaiting our turn to fly home. We now got down to swapping hats with the Americans, souvenir hunting and sampling the local rum in the nearest town during the even-

ing. Alas, much too quickly we moved by RAF Andover to Roosevelt Roads Naval Base, Puerto Rico, where we didn't mind the living in tents, but we encountered insects named by one member of the Platoon as "flying teeth". We had three days of doing really what we wanted, sightseeing and relaxing, not to forget the Company barbecue which everyone enjoyed. After a month of either being on the ship or living in tents we were all glad to climb aboard the VC 10 to fly home. We are now back in Catterick, where we found our new "slimline" platoon commander fully recovered from his illness.

We offer our congratulations to: Sgt. Philip Hewson on his marriage to Miss Ann Bye, Cpl. and Mrs. Ruding on the birth of their son Paul. We say farewell to: Cpl. John Arundel to the DKD, L/Cpl. Peter Knapton to civilian life, and also to L/Cpl. Ian Lamont; we welcome L/Cpl. Kevin Topp (REME) and Cpl. Barry Blood.

### MORTAR PLATOON

The Mortar Platoon returned from block leave to the more serious business of Spearhead preparations for both rifle platoon and support roles. This was combined with the consecutive running of two cadres, one designed as a reminder to the erstwhile "keepers of the peace" in Belfast that mortars still existed and the other to initiate newly joined members from the rifle companies into the mortar world.

Our affiliation with 25 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery (which originated in Hong Kong) was further strengthened with combined instruction, exercises and live firing with 93 Battery. The system of using a combined artillery/mortar fire control net to direct any combination of six 105 pack howitzers and six 81mm mortars, was tested for the first time with live ammunition at Otterburn. The results were both highly successful and spectacular.

The Platoon "social" took place at the Batley Variety Club where we were entertained by the Charlie Williams show. An extra boost was added to the evening when Eamon Andrews appeared clutching the familiar "This is Your Life" book and the show was recorded with the Platoon providing part of the enthusiastic vocal support.

Congratulations go and are in order for SM Lindsay and Pte. Taylor who received the General Officer Commanding's commendation for their conduct in Northern Ireland.

We welcome the following to the Platoon on the successful completion of their cadre: L/Cpl. Foulds, Ptes. Fothergill, Pemberton, Dales, Slater and London. Our transport section has also been strengthened by the addition of L/Cpl. Whiteley, Ptes. Wooley, Lingard and Twinberrow. Our congratulations go to L/Cpls. Marr, Newton, Graham and Bradley on their recent promotion and to L/Cpl. Clarke for his efforts at Netheravon.

Congratulations also go to Ptes. London and Slater who have recently joined the married "pads". Cpl. and Mrs. Frear, L/Cpl. and Mrs. Marr and Pte. and Mrs. Maillard are all to be congratulated since each couple has produced a boy.

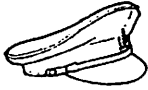


Photo : Central Of ice of Information

A patrol in the thick bush

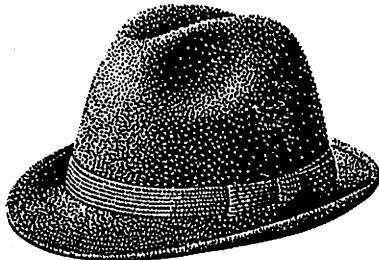


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## Exercise "Sun Pirate"

The Platoon's highlight in the Caribbean was undoubtedly the role that we played in the final brigade attack on the island of Vieques. For this epic a combined fire plan was produced incorporating a gun battery of 105mm pack howitzers, two mortar platoons (ourselves and 1 King's), 4.5in naval gunfire from HMS *Phoebe*, rocket and cannon support from the US Navy strike aircraft and our own Navy helicopter gunships. With no "rehearsals"—other than a safety briefing—the attack took place with the live fire being directed at an adjacent feature. Apart from the highly spectacular aspect of the live firing, it was a completely new and rewarding experience for all the Platoon to take part in a fire plan involving six different agencies and one which is unlikely to be repeated for a while. Having proved to the rifle companies in the Virgin Islands that we could "search and destroy" with the best of them, we returned once more to Vieques for the second live firing phase, not as spectacular as the previous phase it was nevertheless extremely valuable. The Recce Platoon joined us in the observation posts and controlled several shoots with very satisfactory results.

Back now in Catterick with only memories and the remains of a Caribbean suntan, we prepare to move to Larkhill for two weeks live firing, although Salisbury Plain does not quite measure up to the background of gently swaying palm trees, golden beaches and sparkling surf—not to mention, "Two Buds, one Schlitz and a rum goody, Mac".

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

After a well-deserved leave, the Administrators reassembled in Somme Lines in late November. November and December were spent between firing the annual classification and preparations for the various technical inspections. Christmas presented a pleasant interlude but was followed very quickly by the rush of the annual inspections. The Company lost two of its chief administrators during this period. Both the Company Commander, Major Nash, and the CSM, WO2 Coll, departed for new appointments. Major Nash went to that tribal area of Wales, as DAAG, and WO2 Coll to the trials and tribulations of Burma Company. To both go the well wishes of the Company. Fortunately for all, their replacements are known faces to the Battalion and the subsequent "wind of change" has not been too great.

January was occupied by preparations for "Sun Pirate", annual inspections and the final efforts of the Company Commander to complete the annual classification.

As reported elsewhere, we weathered the month of February in the West Indies. Although this was a very welcome absence from the rigours of a Catterick winter, we did leave some very envious families behind. The Company travelled out to Puerto Rico by air and sea. The air party consisted of those required to remain in Catterick doing the last-minute chores, while the sea party were the more expendable members. The sea party consisted of the MT Platoon in HMS *Fearless*, who, according to their Platoon Commander, were only going along

for the ride (and perhaps the beer) and a small party of the echelon on the LSL *Bedevere*.

Eventually, after considerable trials and tribulations, the Company consolidated in Puerto Rico. The party travelling aboard RFA *Sir Bedevere*, which included most of Company Headquarters and the Quartermaster, actually appeared one morning in Corunna harbour. They had been blown some 20 degrees off course in a force nine gale. It is reported that the Company Commander and the Quartermaster were seen planning the West Indies exercise in their deckchairs in the Spanish harbour.

The exercise itself was of tremendous value to the echelon, although at one stage the echelon was almost leading the Battalion's exploitation phase. Cries of "Forward the echelon" were heard non-stop throughout "Sun Pirate". The weather and conditions were not unlike those experienced in Kenya during our 1960 and 1961 tours there.

Subsequent to the assault landings on the island of Vieques, the Company formed a small echelon base on board HMS *Fearless* for the British Virgin Island phase of "Sun Pirate". This party supported the various company operations and went ashore on Norman Island for the final battalion operation. Norman Island is considered by the locals to have been the scene for Stevenson's Treasure Island. Several picks and shovels were ordered to be taken in the hopeful expectation that the PRI (who is also the Company Commander) might just make a killing. Unfortunately, the only treasure found was one bottle of wine and several beer cans. These were very popular and put to a very good use before leaving Treasure Island.

### MT PLATOON

The annual REME inspection, or PRE, took place in January, and this is always a testing experience for vehicles and drivers alike. At the same time we were waterproofing vehicles for amphibious training, and so Sgt. Plomer and his REME section, plus most of the MT, burnt a lot of midnight oil. In the end the hard work paid off, as it always does: a good inspection result was achieved.

On January 27, 1972, we craned the vehicles aboard HMS *Fearless* at Newcastle, and sailed for Puerto Rico. I draw a veil over the first four days during which time the only man who was possibly more sea-sick than the MTO was L/Cpl. Mizzi. When we reached blue seas and the gentle trade winds everyone came back to life, and the last week of the voyage was perfect.

The assault landing on the island of Vieques went well. None of the vehicles drowned, but those of the 2IC and OC Alma were damaged on leaving the landing craft due to overloading. On the actual exercise there was very little road work, which suited us fine. The Platoon had a good plonk-up on the beach when the rest of the Battalion had sailed away, and then we had a few days in Puerto Rico before flying home. Everyone looked brown; Pte. Thewlis was positively Sambo-ish. Everyone, too, spoke with a pronounced American accent, guys, but happily this is now wearing off.

All in all, a good experience, and one that we will remember as we again start to get ready for Ulster.

### THE BAND

November for the Band proved to be a month of hard preparation by all sub-departments to enable us to face the Kneller Hall Inspection which occurred on the 26th. This inspection of all Army Bands takes place every five years and is conducted on the lines of a Battalion administrative inspection. The Band Music Librarian who normally has difficulty in finding work, suddenly found hundreds of thousands of pieces of sheet music to sift through and catalogue. After consuming 10 cups of coffee and smoking 100 cigarettes, he decided that he would require some assistance.

The day finally arrived and all was ready. The inspecting officers from Kneller Hall were Col. F. J. Jefferson, MA (Commandant), and Lt.-Col. R. B. Bashford, MBE, LRAM, ARCM, psm (Director of Music). The Band and Corps of Drums paraded on the square in full ceremonial dress and, after a rather lengthy inspection, provided a 30-minute marching display.

A quick thaw out was required before proceeding with the second phase which involved testing of the Band on scales, sight reading, and the performance of a prepared musical work. The Band Sergeant-Major then adeptly demonstrated the art of rehearsing a band. The concert work having been completed, phase three featured our Recorder Group in traditional costume with an up-to-date version of a Handel gavotte. Members of the Band then aired their lungs with a rendering of two male voice choir items. Finally, our two Dance Bands vigorously performed. We are pleased to note that a classification report of "Very Good" resulted from the overall picture of the inspection.

Engagements during November, notably, were the Band's attendance at two Remembrance parades—the first being for 24 Bde at Barnard Castle and the second in the Garrison Church, Catterick. The British Legion were present on this latter one and after the service we paraded along with them for a march past.

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment is now able to provide additional medical cover for all serving soldiers with aches and pains. In keeping with MOD policy, the Band of 1 DWR commenced a course of medical training on December 1, which qualified successful candidates as Medical Assistants Grade III. The basic course was of six weeks duration with examinations (practical, oral, and theoretical) at the end. We now hold our own morning sick parades starting with reception at the BSMs Office. Any deserving cases may see Dr. Alexander, who is now looking into the possibility of having a new sign over his door (M. Alexander, A(MUS)LCM, MD, GP). Cpl. Crag has applied for attachment to Dr. Bernard dealing in the field of brain surgery and L/Cpl. Rochelle found the anatomy and physiology study very interesting especially the part about the development of Neanderthal Man. S/Sgt. Parkinson, who normally plays electric organ, is now an expert with various other (medical) organs.

In addition to the basic medical training, the Band was attached to 24 Fd Ambulance for 10 days field training and later to BMH Catterick for hospital training. To 24 Fd Ambulance and all the personnel involved with our tuition, we would like

to offer our thanks for the hard work put in by them. Out of the 38 candidates enrolled on the course, 38 received a pass mark. We are very pleased with this 100% result. Each member of the Band will receive a certificate of qualification in first aid from the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

In spite of the medical training we did manage to fit in a little musical work, playing at York on December 9 at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall and then on the 14th, we visited Nottingham where we played for the East Midland District Officers Mess Dinner Night at Bestwood Lodge. Within the Battalion, the Christmas period afforded us the opportunity to perform for the children's Christmas party, and for the officers mess Christmas dinner night. The Dance Band managed to fit in a few engagements.

With the arrival of the New Year, the chance to renew an old friendship came when the HMS *Fearless* docked at Newcastle. The ship had previously been our home for a period of 10 days when we visited Japan in 1969. As it is the custom of the Royal Navy to hold Divisions Parades, the Commander of the ship who remembered us well, invited us along for the occasion on January 25 (with instruments). After the completion of the parade, which was a resounding success, the captain informed the ship's company of his delight and said that each man would receive a present from him. We are not sure what it was they got, but now that the daily issue of rum is taboo, we might suggest that liberal supplies may have

been discovered from somewhere down below. The following signal was received by the Regiment the next day:

"Those Magnificent Men with their blowing machines,

Have captured the hearts of Blue, Brown and Marines.

I have just been informed the Inspection was grand,

This was due in large part to the work of your Band.

I wish I could take them to blow in the sun, But regret I am topped up with men and with gun.

Many thanks for the borrow,

See you tomorrow".

We insert here our comments:

"We've played for them before and we'll do it again,

The Crew of the "Fearless" are a fine bunch of men Even though the "Grog" is now not at hand,

Supplies of "Canned Beer" still taste very grand. So next time you're in port, just give us a call,

And we'll come running, Basses, Drums, Horns, and all".

We offer a belated but warm congratulatory message to Cpl. McArthur who last year entered into wedlock. We wish his wife Pat and himself a prosperous future. A welcome is extended to Bdsms. Bridges, Dunning, Jobling, Taylor and Nicholson, who joined the Band from KDD in early 1972.



Photo : Central Office of Information

On guard in the Caribbean

## 6th DWR OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

The Old Comrades of the 6th Battalion held their annual dinner on October 2, 1971, at the Unicorn Hotel, Skipton, when a large number of members partook of the most excellent dinner prepared and served by the efficient staff of the hotel.

A large union flag hung behind the top table and the tables were tastefully decorated by streamers in the regimental colours.

Our Col. F. Longden Smith presided and he was supported by many officers of the Battalion including Major J. M. Horsfall, Major T. P. Brighouse, Capt. D. F. Horsfall, Capt. S. Clough, Capt J. H. Turner, also many ex-warrant officers and men to the number of 44 who had served before, during and since World War I.

Col. Smith asked the company to join him in the toast "The Queen", then followed the toast "Old Comrades".

Our guest, Capt. P. G. Buxton, proposed the toast "The 6th Battalion Old Comrades" followed by a most interesting and impressive talk on the past achievements of the Battalion particularly while he was serving with them.

Major J. M. Horsfall made a brief reply thanking Capt. Buxton on behalf of the whole company.

Prior to the dinner the annual general meeting was held and the following officers were reappointed:

*President:* Col. F. Longden Smith, MBE,  
MC, TD

*Vice-President:* Major J. M. Horsfall, MC, TD

*Chairman:* Mr. W. Minnikin

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. H. V. Watson

*Secretary and*

*Treasurer:* Major T. P. Brighouse, TD

The secretary read out the names of 14 old comrades who had answered their last roll call during the year.

## TALES FROM MULTAN

by IMRAY

P.C. Wren said there was a disease in the Foreign Legion called "Cafard". I am sure this disease existed in the Regiment at Multan. Men did the strangest things for no reason at all. As our desert hero used to say, "Cafard. A form of sun madness."

The toilets at Muzzaffaghar were an open square of canvas and the shy lads retreated there to the privacy of the night. I heard two old soldiers one night plotting the downfall of the Soviet Union and they were quite serious about it. I mentioned the news to Digger Brent, my mucking-in chum who was not at all surprised. He said, "Old Albert and Joe, been too long in India." Cafard? Could be.

Two NCOs of junior rank made a bet. Victor Longfellow bet Jack Fricker that he would put more men on a charge before Company Orders on the Monday morning. Fricker accepted the bet and they set to work. An easy thing to do. There was always the untidy man or the forgetful one. On Monday the score was 21-21, and Victor who was Orderly Sergeant lined the accused up for Orders and he needed an escort. Pte. Norris (killed in Burma) was passing by and he became the escort and one of Longfellow's accused. He had a button undone and Victor won his bet. Cafard? No. Just pre-war fun and games. No one seemed to mind.

Frankie McCabe had been boxing since he was a schoolboy and attended his Catholic school in Leeds. His enemy at school and in The Duke's had always been Cpl. Duggan of "B" Company. But Frankie's nose was so awful he had had a piece of rib taken out of his side and put in his nose with strict instructions—no more boxing. Battalion boxing came along, our Company Commander, Capt. J. H. Dalrymple, needed a welter badly. He didn't ask. McCabe volunteered and beat his man who was, of course, his old enemy, Duggan. Just a case of the soldier's admiration for a good company commander.

It was a hot and torrid night as we sat around the boxing ring. A young 2nd lieutenant called Holland, who was attached to us, had put away his opponent with a vicious hook when we heard an awful commotion behind us. Everyone scattered as we thought of earthquakes of Quetta dimensions. Willie Prince jumped into the ring and appealed to everyone to keep calm. I joined him in the ring as I heard the beating hooves of the Battalion mules. "Discretion is the better part of valour", my squad instructor had taught me.

The bugles blew, "All NCOs" and after a while it blew again at the double so we hurried to the Company Orderly Room expecting news of the war which had just broken out. It was a war of another kind. Someone had removed L/C Brown's greatcoat and equipment and the Company Commander suspected revenge. Brown had been on the hunt for gamblers that weekend and had charged about 15 men who had lost money and no doubt got days to barracks. We searched every well and building but were unsuccessful. I was entering the Union Jack Club in Waterloo Road just after the Coronation in 1953 and met an ex-private of those days and he let me into a little secret. The goods were down a well in Muzzaffaghar and had been taken there by the Regimental bus driver who happened to be one of Brown's victims that weekend.

The bugles constantly blew that same call until I knew it off by heart and every time we went to find out the reason we were given a précis by our Company Commander with instructions to take them to war with us. Our haversacks were full of précis and we joked about the room we would need for other things. One piece of advice has remained with me throughout my service, "Appreciate the situation", he told us and good advice it was.

Two NCOs had qualified on a PT course and were showing we lesser mortals how to throw the shot. Everyone gasped as Bill Bentley and Long-

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fellow threw the shot over 36 ft. I barely managed 24 for my proficiency pay. A big-built Indian Army officer who was attached to us watched for about five minutes and then picked up the shot and with a little shrug of his shoulders threw the iron ball over 48 ft. If he had tried he could have done over 55 ft. seeing he had just returned from the Olympic Games at Berlin where he had been representing India. I think his name was Nazimullah.

Four local men joined us. Tutt because he knew we were bound for Delhi. His father was Private Secretary to the Viceroy; Sampson and Perkins were cousins. The first lad was ambitious and wanted a commission in the Regiment but, alas, he was killed in Burma as an NCO. Teal worked on Indian Railways for about 15 rupees per month as a greaser. He was also a problem to his father who was the local magistrate. He was only 15 in years but enlisted as a man with the consent of the CO. Perkins and Tutt are now commissioned in The Royal Corps of Transport after service in the Corps of Clerks. Teal was also a handful in the Regiment and after the war he returned to his railway job but with British Rail. I have met these men in all parts of the world. Teal going to embark on a train at Waterloo.

The Wright's skating rink, about the size of a postage stamp. The tin cinema with an interval after every reel. Multan Mabel and other girls. These were part of our lives. But in the background cheering us on were the wives and children who had to suffer the heat and conditions just as much as we did. Mrs. Dalton repaired the Honorary Colours and looked after a wee babe. Mrs. Robinson had a small family to look after as well as her husband, Sgt. Jack Robinson, later Major Robinson, MC. There were others too numerous to mention who lived in married quarters throughout the heat when they could have easily been in the hills.

May I conclude with Kipling:

I have told the tale of our lives,  
For a gentler people's mirth,  
In jesting guise,  
But ye are wise,

And you know what the jest is worth.

Imray.

## ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

In answer to a question in the House of Commons, The Prime Minister made the following statement: "The Queen has approved a proposal that the Statutes of the Order of the British Empire should be amended so that, when a person is promoted in the Order from the Military Division to the Civilian Division or vice versa, the insignia of the lower class may be retained and worn together with those of the higher class on the appropriate occasions".

Members of the Order who wish to apply for the return of insignia previously handed in on promotion from one Division to the other Division should write, stating full Christian and surname to The Secretary, Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, 8 Buckingham Gate, London SW1.

This ruling does not apply to persons promoted within the same Division of the Order.



# The Regimental Association

## NOTICES

### London and Home Counties Branch Dinner

The annual dinner will be held this year on Saturday, May 13, 1972, in the Drill Hall of the Queen Victoria's Rifle Association, 56 Davies Street, Berkeley Square, London SW1 at 7.30 p.m.

Applications for tickets, price £1 each, to the Secretary, Mr. R. H. Temple 59 Burnfoot Avenue, Fulham, London SW6.

### AGM and Reunion Dinner

Halifax in 1972. At the Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax, on Saturday, October 7, 1972. AGM 5.30 p.m. Dinner 7.15 p.m.

Tickets £1 each obtainable from RHQ or Branch Secretaries.

### Regimental Service—York

If the Minster renovations are completed, the service this year will be held in the Minster on Saturday, October 28, 1972.

Firm details will be notified later and published in the August issue.

### Regimental Sweepstake—1972

The St. Leger this year will be run at Doncaster on Saturday, September 9.

To aid our funds a sweepstake will again be held and some lucky persons will win £100, £50, £25, and £10 with £1 for every runner—also £5 to the seller of the winning ticket. Tickets, 5p each, books 50p, will shortly be sent out. AN APPEAL FOR MORE TICKET SELLERS IS MADE. If you have not previously received books to sell and you are willing to do so, please inform the General Secretary at RHQ DWR, Wellesley Park, Halifax. Last year a profit of £172 was donated to Regimental funds.

### A Thought to Ponder

Rich men, poor men, beggar men, thieves! Catholics, Protestants, Liberal, Labour, Conservative—shareholders, miners, directors, postmen, landowners, labourers, politicians, gamblers. In our Association we have them all—and others; yet, be it a chance meeting, a reunion, a call to help, or be helped—all barriers are down and goodwill takes over.

How pleasant it would be if that "mysterious bond and affinity" could be bestowed as a gift to all other walks of life.

### Enquiries

Mr. J. G. Jones, who served with the 2nd Battalion, wishes to obtain, if possible, a copy of the book of photographs of the 2nd Battalion taken in Cairo in 1925 with a foreword by Captain Armitage entitled "Our Sojourn in the Land of the Pharaohs" (Mr. Jones is the left-hand man in the top row of the photo of No 3 Coy).

If any reader has a copy to spare will he please

contact Mr. Jones direct. His address is: 111 Central Road, Partington, Urmston, Manchester M31 4EQ.

Mr. G. Fickling, who served in 1 DWR (MT Section) in Korea and Gibraltar, and who has now settled in Australia and lives at 14 Earden Crescent, Mulgrave, 3170, Victoria, is anxious to trace two great friends of his of those days. They are Charles Greaves from Sheffield and Philip Becket from Hull. If any reader is able to put them in touch with him he would be most grateful.

A distinguished member of our Regimental family wishes to obtain a copy of Vol. X, No. 27 (Feb. '34) of THE IRON DUKE. Will anyone who has a spare copy please inform RHQ.

### Visits

Over the Christmas period, the Regimental and Association secretaries made special visits to ex-soldiers and their dependants in the Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford, Mossley and West Riding areas. The warmth and appreciation shared by visitor and visited alike, especially in hospitals and homes, brought home the need of thought by the more fortunate for the many ex-servicemen—"Dukes" and others—whose killing ailment is *Loneliness*. There may be such people in your area.

"Dukes" ex-soldiers below would welcome a visit to chat about old friends and places visited:

### NOTTINGHAM/MANSFIELD

Mr. A. Frankland (1st War) At present in Clumber Ward, Ranson Hospital, Mansfield. Home address 58 Radford Boulevard, Nottingham.

### KEIGHLEY

Mr T. Wilkinson (2 DWR) 26 Peel Place, Keighley, Yorks.

### LEEDS

Mr. F. Taylor (1 and 2 DWR) 15 Acre Street, Leeds LS10 4DL.

### Handicapped People Living Alone

From reports received it is estimated that there are thousands of severely disabled elderly people living alone who are unaware of the facilities of the many social services that are available.

If anyone knows of such cases, whether "Dukes" or not, will they please notify the General Secretary at RHQ.

### Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Home—Lowestoft

This popular holiday home will be open from April until the end of September. Newly equipped, it provides an ideal two weeks' holiday for deserving ex-soldiers who are reasonably fit and capable of

fending for themselves. Disabled men are not debarred provided they can manage for themselves and need no nursing. (Wives or female relatives cannot be accepted.)

Nominations to General Secretary at RHQ who will make all arrangements.

### The Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows

Applications may be received from:

- (a) The widow of a regular soldier who married after he left the Army.
- (b) The widow of a soldier (non-regular) who served in the Army during either of the two great wars.
- (c) The widow of an officer who spent the greater part of his service in the ranks of the Regular Army, or in the ranks during either of the two Great Wars.

Further details from the General Secretary at RHQ.

### Post-War Credits 1941-46

These are now repayable. Full details and claim form (DC 251) obtainable from any post office.

### Regimental Ties

New stock arrived. Regret increase in prices:

Silk .. ..	£1.25
Terylene ..	£0.65

Orders to RHQ Halifax.

## BRANCH NOTES

### Bradford (by Jack Wardle)

On Saturday, January 22, the Bradford Branch held a Supper Social in the Sergeants Mess, Belle Vue Barracks. The Mess was kindly loaned to us by Capt. Callaghan and WO Kenny of the RE; to both we offer our thanks.

Invitations were sent to our branches at Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley and South Emsall, and also to the members of the Golcar Cricket Club. All accepted and our members began a brain-racking trial and error period of how to get a quart into a pint pot. One hundred and eighty had promised to come and, as the Mess can seat only 60 in comfort, our predicament can be appreciated. However, after much pushing and pulling, the required number of tables and chairs were finally in. Many of these had to be borrowed from the Other Ranks social room. This was a simple matter for us as the RE stationed at the barracks were only too pleased to help. Perhaps the young soldiers thought that we old men appeared too frail to sit on the chairs, let alone carry them.

As is usual on these occasions the ladies of the Bradford Branch had been requested to bring a few refreshments. The results of their efforts were so great that it was thought that the members and their guests would have to move out of the Mess to provide space for the food or serve meals-on-wheels outside. Neither measure proved necessary due to the large quantities served and eaten by all present.

Prominent amongst our guests were Major Davis and Mr. A. Wood, both from RHQ, Jackie Horne with 25 from the Huddersfield Branch, Bill Smith

and 16 from Keighley, Fred Stringer leading a huge Halifax contingent. These, together with 30 from the Golcar CC ably led by the Hewison family, made up the number of outside guests. Our chairman, Mr. John Goldsborough, had been able to produce a pop group, much to the chagrin of members whose previous experience of listening to such music had resulted in severe headaches. However, to the surprise of these and the appreciation of all present, this group provided excellent entertainment to such a degree that all the older members of the Branches are now fully paid up members of this group. In contrast to pop, Markey's Harmonica Trio provided old-time favourites, greatly appreciated by both old and young. Our thanks to the leaders of both groups.

### Halifax (by Fred Stringer)

The Branch is back to the good old days of good attendance, and for this we have to thank the PMC and members of "C" Company Yorkshire Volunteers who have allowed us the privilege of using their Sergeants Mess on Saturday nights; their co-operation is appreciated by us of the Branch.

The old stalwarts: H. Rowlands, F. Kennedy, E. Carter, D. Mitchell, B. Copley, D. McMahon, S. Adams, M. Reed, C. Pay, H. Webster, E. Hale (RE), A. Holt, W. Quirk, A. Wood and their wives are rallying round plus a few new faces who come along to see us.

There's always a welcome to any "Duke" who would like to pop in.

"Sax" is back as treasurer and London trip organiser, and Eddie Carter is keeping things going in the entertainments department, quite a feature being the ladies carpet bowls competition which they really enjoy.

We are now looking forward to our annual visit to London in May to meet up with our old comrades of the London and Home Counties Branch and no doubt with our "Old Boys" at Chelsea.

### Mossley

Jack Powell and Co. are certainly keeping our Mossley Branch to the fore—so much so they don't seem to have the time to put pen to paper and let their friends away know what's happening.

I hear of "trips", "outings"; attend occasional meetings, with all rituals observed, and a short while ago Mossley Branch were honoured at the opening of a new Social Room at Mossley Conservative Club, The names Tasker, Norcliffe, Taylor, Maude, Shaw, Simpson, Bardsley, Hallas, Warhurst, Lees and countless others flit through my mind—and the list of members increases monthly. All is well.

### Keighley

Bill Smith reports that their meetings and socials are now held in the newly decorated Mess at the Drill Hall, Lawkholme Lane, Keighley, where numerous Regimental photographs adorn the walls.

Meetings are held on the last Friday in each month. New members are enrolling monthly and any "Duke" in the area is cordially invited to attend any of their meetings or functions.

(Bill Smith's usual terminology of "A good time was had by all" caters for everyone.)

# The King's Division News

Northern Ireland continues to affect a large proportion of the Regular Army and in the last six months three King's Division units have been there for a tour. 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment completed their tour in mid-October and the 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment relieved the 1st Battalion The Green Howards at the end of November. During the parliamentary debates on Northern Ireland in both Houses on September 22 and 23 the majority of speakers made a point of mentioning the Army's magnificent conduct on operations in the face of extremely trying and provocative conditions. On December 11, Tees-side honoured the 1st Battalion The Green Howards by inviting them to exercise the Regiment's privilege, as Honorary Freeman of Middlesbrough, to march through the town. The Battalion was represented by two guards, under the Commanding Officer, all of whom were Tees-side men and had served with the Battalion in Northern Ireland.

The 1st Battalion The King's Regiment, who arrived back in the United Kingdom from BAOR in November, are to take part in an exercise in the Caribbean together with the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in February and both battalions are due to carry out a tour in Northern Ireland later in this year. The 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment are now moving to Northern Ireland from Colchester for a 20- to 21-month tour, to be joined in mid-1972 by the 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire on a similar tour, when the latter return from Cyprus. In October, the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers left BAOR for a six-month tour in Cyprus as part of UNFICYP; the Force Newsletter, *The Blue Beret*, took on a new look with the centre double-page devoted to news of, on one side, the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers and of, on the other side, the Southern Irish contingent. The 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers tour as Demonstration Battalion at Warminster has been brought forward to start in February/March this year. In the meantime, as followers of news broadcasts will be aware, they found themselves called on unexpectedly to stand by for possible tasks in assistance of a withdrawal from Malta.

Our T & AVR units continue to flourish and there has been welcome substantial progress towards target strengths in all the newly-formed battalions. On September 18 the 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Volunteers held a parade at which they received their Colours from their Honorary Colonel, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent. The 1st and 2nd Battalions The Lancastrian Volunteers held a Vesting Day parade at annual camp, also in September, to mark the formation of the 2nd Battalion.

At Bisley our Volunteer units have had a successful year and the Colonel Commandant congratulates the North Irish Militia on winning for the

second year, with a record score, the China Cup and the 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Volunteers on their win in the Westsex Volunteer Cup.

The appointment has been confirmed of Major-General W. N. R. Scotter, OBE, MC, as Chief of Staff the UK Land Forces in April 1972 and as Director of Military Operations at the MOD in November 1972. Brigadier C. W. B. Purdon, CBE, MC, is to be GOC North West District in May 1972. There has been one addition to the Divisional Headquarters staff with the arrival of Capt. (Retired) L. K. Borrett, MBE, late PWO, as SO3 (Soldiers) Manning.

The Winter Divisional Meetings took place on December 8 and 9 at which all Colonels of Regiments, Regimental Secretaries and Commanding Officers of Regular and Volunteer Battalions, or their representatives, attended. The dates for the next meeting were fixed for May 4 and 5, 1972.

A major change in the recruiting world took place on July 1, 1971, when all adult recruits from our area started to be channelled through the Recruit Selection Centre at Sutton Coldfield for selection and allocation. Before this, each individual ACIO selected and allocated recruits, in accordance with priorities laid down as controls by the Director of Army Recruiting. These priorities differed from ACIO to ACIO and some imbalance in our enlistments inevitably resulted. This was particularly noticeable in Lancashire and our Lancastrian Battalions suffered as a result.

With the control of priorities now being exercised throughout UK centrally at the Recruit Selection Centre this trend has been reversed during the last six months. We are now getting a fair share of good adult recruits from our recruiting areas. In addition, there has been an upsurge country-wide in the number of recruits coming forward. So we have benefited in two ways in the latter half of 1971. Our recruiting figures are encouraging and, although we are still below our manpower target, our strength is now starting to rise towards it instead of continuing to drop.

Those KAPEs forecast in our last notes for the 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment have been successfully completed. In addition, as already mentioned, 1st Battalion The Green Howards marched through Middlesbrough in early December. For 1972 we have bid for KAPEs for all our UK-based and BAOR-based battalions. We have also requested special authority for 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment to bring a contingent from BAOR to accept the Freedom of Preston during the 1972 Preston Guild Merchant.

## Appointments and Promotions

Major P. A. Mitchell has been provisionally

selected for promotion to lieutenant-colonel and for CO 1 DWR, November 19, 1972.

*The following appointments are also notified:*

Major S. J. Nash for DAAG HQ Wales, Jan. '72.  
Major P. L. B. Hoppe for SO2 (PT) HQ West Midland District, June '72.

Major T. D. Lupton for OC Training Wing, Depot King's Division, March '72.

Major J. E. Pell for 2IC JIB Shorncliffe, May '72.

Major J. B. K. Greenway G2 (EPS) HQ 1 (BR) Corps.

Major J. R. P. Cumberlege G2 (Ops) HQ 4 Div.

Major A. Dennison CBGLO, January '72.

Capt. D. R. D. Newell for 2/2 Gurkha Rifles.

Capt. A. R. Westcob G3 (Ops/Air) HQ 3 Bde.

Capt. C. R. Cumberlege for RMCS Shrivenham, Oct.—Dec. '72, then Camberley Jan.—Dec. '73.

Lt. (A/Capt.) A. D. Roberts G3 (Int) HQ 39 Bde.

Lt. M. S. Sherlock for Pl. Comd. IJB, July '72.

Major (QM) J. M. Hall, MBE, for Sports and Estates Officer, HQ Rheindahlen Garrison, Sep. '72.

WO1 R. C. Fenn for Garrison Sergeant-Major (LSL Post), HQ York Garrison, April '72.

## Depot, The King's Division

Those who, like the author of these notes, remember the Depot as a sleepy place in a charming setting which caters for a couple of platoons of recruits and a handful of noisy junior soldiers have a rude shock waiting for them should they come here. As is well known, the Depot now serves the six English regiments of the King's Division. As is equally well known, the army has recently experienced an excellent recruiting period. What may not be as well known is the fact that at Christmas last year the Depot burst at the seams, and when the dust settled on the New Year we found we had two training companies, and one of them was based at Deverell Barracks in Ripon.

In the golden days of yore, knights errant were

went to travel erratically across the face of the earth looking for maidens to rescue and monsters to slay, and from time to time they would stumble upon a notice proclaiming "Here be dragons" and they would know that this was where it's at. Dragons and maidens (especially maidens) we are short of, but we really believe that today the Depot is where it's at, as much as any battalion.

Before moving to notes from the companies, may we wish the 1st Battalion the best of fortune for the forthcoming Ulster emergency tour.

### Z (HQ) COMPANY

RQMS Sergeant is nearing the end of his tour here, and goes to 34 Cadet Training Team in

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Northern Ireland as WO1 in April; we wish him and his wife all the best in the future. Cpl. and Mrs. Fielding are to be congratulated on the birth of a daughter. Sgt. Wallace is still here, spending much of his time escorting drafts of recruits all over the country—he is considering buying a season ticket on the Heysham Ferry. L/Cpl. Heslop must walk miles every day between the ammunition compound and the RSM's office, carrying half a ton of keys which he wears round his neck like a mayoral chain. Capt. Newell handed over the adjutant's chair to Capt. Nicholson in just under 25 min. and pushed off to Hong Kong after taking his staff/promotion exam. The new adjutant is busily shovelling paper from one tray to another hoping it will go away (it never does), and playing hockey on Wednesday afternoons. Cpl. Akeroyd is shortly to return to 1 DWR! Sgt. and Mrs. Craig are to be congratulated on the birth of a son.

#### Y (Junior Soldiers) Company

Eleven juniors left the Depot last term for the Battalion, and at present there are 28 others here who are badged "Dukes". Lt. Newell recently arrived in

the Company, and reports that JL/Cpl. Swift, badged to The Duke's, is showing a lot of promise as a rugby player. Cpl. Millar is about to have to learn the mysteries of the highland kilt as he is transferring to the band of the newly reformed 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. With him around they won't have to be agile, but they certainly will suffer!

#### W and X (Trg) Companies

Sgt. Blood has just started a new platoon, and is busy licking them into shape on the square. It is thought that there may be complaints from the noise abatement society about the volume of his words of command. Sgt. Dowdall is shortly to leave the Depot for the 1st Battalion. Cpl. Cook is still waiting for his transfer to the SASC. L/Cpl. Broadbent, when not keeping goal for the hockey team, is guarding our weapons against any ill-intentioned persons. All the training staff are having to work extremely hard at the moment to keep pace with the number of recruits who are still coming in at a satisfactory rate.

## NO. 10 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

The last few months of the year have gone very well and, although things were a little slow to start with in January, 1972 looks to be a promising year.

October brought the '22 Shooting Competition for Huddersfield Youth Clubs which progressed happily to its conclusion just prior to Christmas. It also brought the Annual Duke of Edinburgh's Award Presentation Evening which was held for the second year running in the Drill Hall and which involved the team for a complete week. Our stand was centred round an indoor air rifle range and this undoubtedly was a major attraction to the large number of youngsters who attended the display.

Our next operation was exercise "Break Out" which was held in early November. It was a night scheme arranged by 59 (Huddersfield) Squadron ATC, with some assistance from the AYT, and involved some 60 cadets in a brief escape and evasion test in the green belt around Huddersfield. Although there were some worrying minutes, and despite atrocious voice procedure by the Squadron Leader, the evening was counted as most successful.

A week later saw the team, as well as a number of other guests, being royally entertained to a dinner at the Drill Hall by the ATC during the course of which we were presented with squadron ties and thus made honorary members of the Squadron. Also a plaque was presented to Capt. Hirst who, in turn, presented a "Dukes" shield to the Adults Mess on behalf of the team.

During the course of the next week Capt. Hirst and Sgt. Howard attended a Youth Committee reception at the Town Hall for people concerned with youth work in the Borough, and the following evening attended a showing, at the YMCA, of the film made of the Cadet Tattoo by the Huddersfield

Cine Club. This proved to be highly amusing and got an excellent reception from a packed audience. In fact, the film, along with some seven others, was shown every night for eight days and got a good write up in the *Examiner*.

In early December the West Riding ACF had its annual Detachment Commanders Conference and Capt. Hirst attended to look after the interests of AYT's in Yorkshire District. Other "Dukes" there included Major Mike Campbell-Lamerton in his capacity of G2 (Cadets) and Capt. Pat Puttock from 10 CTT.

At the conclusion of the schools programme, which had been continuing unabated from the end of September, we all disappeared on three weeks' leave only to return briefly for a Christmas party held by the officers of 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers for all permanent staff who operate from the Drill Hall.

Our return from leave in early January brought a fairly slack period prior to the change of leadership, with the main emphasis being on administration. We moved downstairs to a new office in the ACIO and had our Annual Ordnance Inspection by DADOS. We also had a visit from Major-General Somerville (GOC Yorkshire District) and from Brigadier Birkett, the latter being interested in the possibilities of reducing the number of King's Division Youth Teams. We can only hope that we convinced him that No. 10 should remain intact.

On January 19 we held our third annual discussion evening, the subject being the raising of the school-leaving age and its effect on recruiting. About 50 people attended, including Col. O'Kelly (CRLS) and Major Ronnie Johnson (PWO) from Strensall as well as some local headmasters and youth officers,



and it turned out to be a most useful evening.

All in all, 1971 was a most satisfactory year and it is of interest to note that the team travelled some 45,000 miles, assisted 62 different youth organisations and were in touch with some 2,200 young men and, although our figures are not wholly accurate, it is estimated that 50 youngsters with whom we

have had contact enlisted in the Army.

Finally, we say farewell to Capt. Toby Hirst who has gone to Aldershot and welcome Capt. David Wonson from the 1st Battalion. We also welcome from the 1st Battalion Corporals Verall and Sugden and wish them well in their stay in Huddersfield.

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

The time since the excitement of camp and the Colour presentation has been less spectacular but it is the time when the solid foundations of individual training are laid.

This comes on quietly most Tuesday evenings or Thursdays at Keighley, but the bigger steps forward are made on weekend training. This year the COT (Company Obligatory Training) weekends consist of cadres based primarily on Strensall. The Company's junior NCOs, trained soldiers, recruits, signallers, drivers and support weapon men all attend their respective cadres, run on a battalion basis. On other weekends there are cadres for junior officers and senior NCOs thus leaving them free to instruct on the COT week-ends.

The Company still gets away on company week-ends, however. Our most recent was at Bellerby for the purpose of firing our ARC. The weatherman

obliged with snow, and the OC and CSM (V) both swear that it was blown along parallel to the ground into their eyes when they fired! Fortunately, for the defence of the realm, we do have some better shots.

Some of these received trophies at the Company Dinner on Saturday, December 4, 1971. Mrs. Somerville, wife of the GOC Yorkshire District, Major-General R. M. Somerville, OBE, very kindly presented these. Cpl. Andrews received a tankard from the Company to mark his achievement in becoming joint best shot in the Battalion.

Cpl. Fountain received a suitable shield for the "best game shot" of the season, and Cpl. Kelly and Pte. Salt received tankards for their turnout as best trained soldier and best recruit respectively on Remembrance Sunday.

CSM Peckett very generously provided, at his own expense, prizes for the runners-up, L/Cpl. Bainbridge and Pte. Seghetti.

The dinner itself was a huge success. Two hundred sat down for the meal in a beautifully decorated and transformed drill hall, with our recently presented Colours on display.

Our guests, in addition to Mrs. Somerville, were the Mayor and Mayoress of Halifax, Councillor G. H. Smith and Mrs. Smith, the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Keighley, Councillor and Mrs. A. F. Trigg, the CO and Mrs. Norton, the 2/IC and Mrs. Curry, and the General's ADC, Capt. and Mrs. Fallon. The presence of the General's lady was particularly appreciated, as unfortunately the General himself was prevented from attending by illness.

Congratulations are due to CSM Peckett, CQMS Dolan and S/Sgt. Carey on the award to them of Lord-Lieutenant's Certificates in recognition of their valuable service to the TA and TAVR. We all sincerely commiserate with CSM Peckett on the death of his dear father, who was proudly looking forward to seeing his son on the presentation ceremony.

In addition, we have to congratulate S/Sgt. Carey on his recent well-deserved promotion. This has come about because CQMS Dolan is approaching the end of his three-year tour in the appointment. We are all very glad that, having completed his tour and well-earned his Lord-Lieutenant's Certificate, Brian Dolan was not content to rest on his laurels and be "bowler hatted". He has voluntarily elected to continue to serve, albeit in a lower rank and to continue to see that we are all well fed. That is the true volunteer spirit! "Well done, Q!"

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

We have continued to make progress. Our strength is, at the present moment, 112, even after discharging some 12 men for not fulfilling their obligations.

We are launching another recruiting drive, along with the national campaign, to fully recruit the Company and to produce further pressure on the bad attenders.

Capt. Ian Fillan, the 2IC, has resigned on account of business. He will be missed by all. In the 14 years he has served in the TA he has conscientiously done all that was asked of him and we are truly sorry to see him go although we understand that he is continuing his task of recording and cataloguing the Mess silver. His resignation highlights our acute shortage of officers. Obviously it is our wish for the "Dukes" company to have "Dukes" officers, but unless some come forward in the near future this will be impossible. Suitably qualified officers please note.

Fortunately for the company, Capt. Bruce Wadsworth, an ex-regular officer, had adopted us and is looking after training. Unfortunately, owing to a medical condition, he cannot be officially enrolled but he is a Volunteer in the absolute sense and he is doing a wonderful job.

We have had some excellent lectures in the Drill Hall followed by exercises over the weekend to practise what has been taught. Anyone knowing this area will sympathise with us when we tell you that part of one exercise was "bivvying out" on Deer Hill in the middle of January!

The annual FFR has come and gone and we are

awaiting news of the results with reasonable confidence, helped by the fact that for the whole of the GOC's visit we were "enjoying" a power cut. Incidentally, it was nice to see Jim Newton in attendance.

We are steadily receiving more and more kit. The latest items are our wireless sets (Pye Westminster)—no longer will we have trouble netting in: one just selects the appointed channel. However, as in all things, there are snags—one is, how does one know when a battery is fully charged? Whilst very sophisticated these new sets are by no means "soldier proof".

Training is now being directed to enable us to go to camp as a company capable of existing, training and operating efficiently. It is really remarkable to look back to February 1971, when we were still a cadre of eight, yet now we think and train as a company.

Our success over the last year is in no small measure due to the extremely hard work performed by our PSI (S/Sgt. Quayle, DWR). He has overcome every problem with cool efficiency, and his sense of humour has helped everyone with whom he has worked.

Our thanks are also due to Sandra Whiteley, our company clerk, who came to us last year knowing nothing of army forms, etc., and who is now a tower of strength.

Don't think we are becoming complacent, rather we are undergoing a period of self-examination to enable us to go to camp fit in mind and body.

## The Army Cadet Force Huddersfield Area (DWR)

### Annual camp

Camp this year is to be held at Warcop and, for the first time ever, is being organised on an area basis. Whereas in the past our camps have been organised on a county net we are, as an experiment, splitting the county and the various areas are going their own way. We have had to accept Warcop as our venue which is a bitter disappointment to us since we were due to visit our parent regiment. But, of course, Ireland comes first.

### Weekend camps

Our weekend training has been going on at a great pace with, probably, the most successful camp being at Bellerby in October. This involved training designed for the adult instructors and officers. A great deal of benefit was gained from this period which was organised by No. 10 Cadet Training Team which is run by Capt. Pat Puttock.

### Comings and goings

It is with great pleasure that we record the commissioning of Under Officer Stephen Lancaster and S./Sgt. Terry Bonds. To both these chaps we say: many congratulations and great success in the future.

We say a temporary farewell to Capt. John Tyler who has left us to help with the Bradford area for one year. Look out, you Gunners, you have got a soldier in your midst.

Capt. David Wonson has arrived in Huddersfield to take over No. 10 AYT from Toby Hirst. Welcome David and lots of luck with your new job—you'll need it.

On January 22, Capt. Toby and Su Hirst were dined out of the Officers Mess on the occasion of the ACF officers' dinner night. He was presented with a silver tankard and Su received a lovely bouquet of flowers; both were presented by Major Howarth,

## LONGMAN & STRONGI'TH'ARM

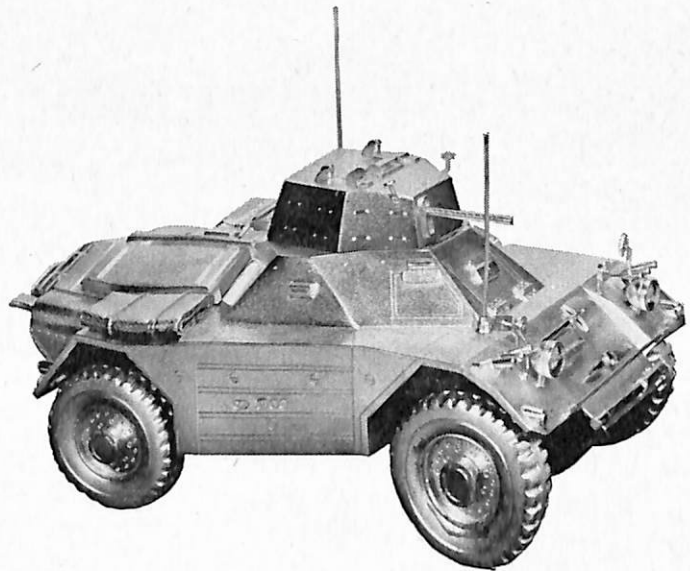
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our Area Commander, who, in his speech, stated that the gap which Toby was leaving in his team and the gap which he and Su were leaving in the Mess would long be felt. Toby replied that he came to work with cadets with a feeling of despondency and trepidation but was leaving us secure in the knowledge that everything possible was being done to weld the ACF into a successful organisation. He also expressed a mild admiration for the work being done by the adult staff and officers of the ACF.

On January 29 Toby and Su were once again guests of honour at the officers' and instructors' social evening when they were presented with a tea service. There is no doubt that we shall all miss Toby and Su and there is certainly no doubt that we wish them the best possible luck for the future.

### Here and there

All the area annual visits and inspections have now been completed. Our grading is as yet unknown, nevertheless we are all confident of good reports.

Saturday, February 12, was Awards and Dinner Night for the Huddersfield Detachment. This is an annual affair which the Parents Committee organise and finance for the benefit of the boys. This year the guest of honour was Lt. Trevor Windle who made all the awards and presentations. Trevor was detachment commander at Huddersfield until a year ago when he was forced to resign due to pressure of work. He was, in turn, presented by Lt. John Evans, who is now detachment commander, with a silver table lighter which had been subscribed towards by the parents committee and the Huddersfield cadets.

## RUGBY IN THE 2nd BATTALION

by Major-General R. K. Exham

Some readers will be aware that the 1st Battalion, in addition to their more recent rugby triumphs, made history in India before World War I by winning the Bombay Tournament for 10 years in succession. There was no All India competition in those days. Less may be known about rugby in the 2nd Battalion except that they won the Army Cup in both 1907-08 and 1913-14. Anyhow, I am now writing about some of the games played by this battalion in India during the period 1929-36.

Although their record was not so convincing as the 1st Battalion it was a most interesting time. I might add that not one of our many Rugby Internationals, since Horsey Browne's days, played for the 2nd Battalion.

We arrived in Ahmednagar from Singapore on December 1, 1928. This station is only about 100 miles from Bombay and it was not long before an invitation arrived from the Bombay Gymkhana Club asking our side to visit the city and give them

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a game. The earlier successes of the Regiment had not been forgotten and, when we accepted this offer, the coming game and our past achievements appeared on the front page of all the local papers. We had a good side, under the leadership of Bonzo Miles, but the Bombay XV was outstanding, having already won the All India for 1928-29 with a side which included two young Oxford Blues, both forwards, and a centre three-quarter named Hopkins, who had recently played for England. We were well beaten.

After this game Pat Woods, a first-class wing forward, took over the team and remained our captain until 1934. Some of our better-known players at this time, in addition to Pat Woods, were John Frankis and Ptes. Holt, Hardiment and Hurst and, later, Dick Cumberlege and "Bunny" Reynolds. The other ranks were all first-class players and, had they served in England, any one of them might well have played for the Army. I must also mention Ptes. Beeson and Wagstaffe who left us about this time and who, with Pte. Hurst, were our outstanding forwards and ended their rugby careers by getting caps for Yorkshire.

Before writing about the tournaments in which we played I must recall that, in 1930, the Bombay XV returned our visit and played us in Ahmednagar. Here we played on cotton soil which was particularly sticky when it was wet. In addition, for some reason, all cuts and grazes immediately went septic and, after a game, Pat Woods always acted as our doctor and administered the iodine. He has told me that he remembers chasing me round the dressing-room, after a game, with a large piece of cotton wool soaked in iodine when my hip had been badly grazed! Also I remember Pat marking our the ground for this game and making the measurements the smallest permissible as we were up against the same opposition and the Bombay outsiders were so much faster than ours. The game will be long remembered by those who played in it. By then we had got into our stride and we drew 3 points all.

During the period 1930-35, we entered each year for the All India Tournament which was played, in turn, in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta after the local competition had finished. We always played in both tournaments. When visiting these towns the other ranks always stayed with the local regiment whilst the officers were generally put up by the members of the home team. I think the soldiers much enjoyed the visits and, for the officers, I remember many excellent parties given for us after we had been knocked out of the competition.

I do not intend to give an account of all our matches as this is written in the old IRON DUKES where it can be read. However, we had many great games and did well in the local tournaments; but we never reached the final of the All India in my time.

The one match which sticks in my mind is a game in Madras against The South Wales Borderers who beat us, after a drawn game, and then went on to win the All India. This great Welsh side had no officer playing and was captained by a young drummer who played scrum half. This small man completely controlled a very tough side which played one of the hardest and cleanest games which I remember.

## BOOK REVIEW

After giving up command of the 1st Green Jackets, Brigadier Frank Kitson spent a year at University College, Oxford, on a Defence Fellowship. The outcome is a most important book entitled "Low Intensity Operations", on the techniques and theory behind the countering of subversion and insurgency and the practice of peace-keeping.

Frank Kitson is well qualified to tackle this subject and, as the CGS says in his foreword to the book, he has wide experience both of operations and intelligence against terrorists and also in the different field of peace-keeping. He is well known to many serving "Dukes" for he was the Battalion's Brigade Commander in Belfast in 1971 and, as CO 1 RGJ, he took over Limassol Zone from us in November 1967. Many will also have read his previous book "Gangs and Counter-Gangs" in which he describes his own important part against the Mau-Mau in Kenya.

The purpose of his study is to provide a clear and authoritative outline of the preparatory steps and the training that should be undertaken now to improve military efficiency in the countering of subversion and insurgency, a role with which the Army will undoubtedly be more and more occupied in the future. The principles of co-ordination and co-operation between military commanders, police and civil leaders at all levels are re-emphasised and there are some extremely well-written scenarios to illustrate and drive home how these should be achieved. The proper use of intelligence is noted as the vital factor and, on reading his forceful views on this, I was vividly reminded of the author's raised eyebrows and mutterings when Rodney Harms and I had to tell him that UNFICYP relied only on *overt* intelligence.

Perhaps the PRI could order a few copies of this book? Certainly it ought to be read by as many officers and NCOs as possible. D.E.I.

"Low Intensity Operations," by Frank Kitson (Faber, £3.00).

One of our best friends in India was Major Pratt who happened to referee one of our first matches and thereafter took on most of our games. He was a very strict disciplinarian on the ground but was, I thought, the best referee I have known. In the drawn game against the SWB he spotted Pte. Holt lining up too far and awarded a penalty kick which went over. Otherwise we would have won this game and, perhaps, the All India. Pratt was a Gunner and I last saw him in 1960, when he was a general, and when he told me that he was still refereeing the occasional game.

In 1936, after I had returned to England, the Battalion had its greatest success by reaching the final of the Calcutta Tournament, for the second time, and by being the co-winners of the All India. In this second competition they played Calcutta, each scoring a penalty goal, and agreeing that each side would hold the trophy for six months. I was very glad that the Battalion ended with this big success.



# Personalia

General Sir Robert and Lady Bray have found themselves a house in the Wylve valley about seven miles from Warminster and will be moving there some time later in the year. In the meanwhile, their address remains: Larkrise, Walkers Ridge, Camberley.

Major-General Roy Exham and his family have now left Woking. They have moved into a Georgian house which has been converted to accommodate 10 families and where they own one wing. It has 50 acres of parkland so should be very pleasant. The address is: 1 Lyne Place Manor, Virginia Water, Surrey.

Col. Donald Isles has been selected for the Brigadier's appointment at the British Embassy in Washington. He writes that the appointment is known by the rather quaint title of "Director of Munitions" and Assistant Defence Attaché. We offer our congratulations on the promotion to what should be a most interesting and enjoyable post.

Major Derek Wood has given us the news that Major "Topper" Brown has been ill for some time in Millbank Hospital but is now at home. We trust that he will make a speedy recovery. At the same time, we offer our sincere condolences to Major Wood whose father has just died after a long illness.

In a letter, James Faithfull writes: "I have now been with ICI for 13 years. Two years were spent in the Latin America/Caribbean area eight years ago and I am now back in Mexico for a three-year tour which started a year ago. I have three sons, Barry aged five, Guy aged three and Mark born here in March 1971. Cookie is delighted to be back and with more time for her painting.

"My brother, Brian, who served with 1DWR in Northern Ireland in 1958 now lives near Melbourne. Australia, with wife, Anne, and three children, and runs his own business."

James's address is: c/o ICI de Mexico, Apt Postal 235, Mexico, 1DF.

Lt.-Col. John E. Johnson, known among his friends in the Regiment as "Bullet", is now living in semi-retirement in Bedford. He will be remembered as a first-class weapon training instructor and a great character in the pre-war 1st Battalion. Since the war he has been connected with the Bedfordshire Army Cadet Force and has only recently resigned as its Commandant.

Col. Joe Bennett has mentioned in a letter that, during a recent visit to the USA he found his hostess's son, a man in his thirties and an officer in the 1st City Troop, wearing a "Dukes" blazer and also his old beret with the "Dukes" badge. When questioned about his right to do this he replied that,

when at school in Yorkshire, he had been a member of the Cadet Force which was attached to The Duke's. It appears that he was very proud of this attachment and of the fact that as an American boy he reached the rank of corporal.

Col. Bennett has also paid RHQ a visit. He looked remarkably fit and active and not greatly changed from his days at the Depot during the last war. He had time to visit the Museum as well.

Col. Bob Wathen and his wife have gone off again to Australia to visit their daughter, Jennifer who is married and lives in Perth. On their return journey they hope to see something of Lt.-Col. Maurice Davie and Major Jeff Reynolds when their ship calls at Cape Town.

Major Nick Naughton writes from Euskirchen in Germany that he has been selected as one of two interpreters to be supplied by our official government language office to assist in the equestrian events at the coming Olympic Games in Munich. The languages involved are English and German, as Russian, in which he is also an interpreter, is not an official language for the games.

He adds: "We have settled down well in Germany. The transition from army to civilian life has, perhaps, been easier for me than most since my duties involve continual instruction and discussion, in English, with personnel of all ranks of the three services on military subjects. It is a stimulating and most interesting job".

Major and Mrs. Bob Burton's younger daughter, Cecilia, became engaged in November last to Rees, elder son of Dr. Rees Jenkins of Kingwood Common and of Mrs. Jenkins of Crudwell, Wiltshire. They plan to get married on April 8. Major and Mrs. Burton became grandparents a year ago when their elder daughter, who was married in 1969, gave birth to a daughter.

James Smart, now a Public Relations Consultant in Nairobi, says in his interesting letter: "I like to get THE IRON DUKE, even though names from my 1940-41 sojourn with the 1st Battalion appear less and less frequently; but my contacts with the Regimental magazine go further back than that. As one of Mr. Code's first raw conscripts in July 1939, I contributed some youthful free verse which shattered all his notions on what recruits should do with their spare time!

"I left 1 DWR about March 1941 when I was on a battle course at Holkham Hall in Norfolk, and was posted to East Africa, where my career was somewhat chequered, and I was probably the only "Duke" infantryman to become a deputy chief engineer of a Command HQ with the rank of colonel! It was, I hasten to assure you, a very brief gazetting when my Brigadier died and pending posting of a replacement. My background was

camouflage and air photos, and I was very interested to learn that David Strangeways also gravitated into deception. A year or so ago I was listening at midnight to the BBC World Service and heard him talking from his village somewhere in the south of England. It prompted me to write and say "Jambo", and I was delighted to hear from him.

Life here has, perhaps, more frustrations but the sun still shines, and where, I ask, is there a better 'ole without the washing-up and someone to draw the curtains and bring a morning cuppa?"

It is a pleasure to hear from time to time from those who, despite having served so long ago and now living so far away, still retain their interest in the Regiment. Such a one is Mr. Rex Alter. He now lives in Los Angeles, California, and is a representative for the Farmers Insurance Group. He joined 1 DWR after the North African Campaign in June 1943 from the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and, as a member of "D" Company, was taken prisoner at Anzio in February 1944. He says that in those few months he had many friends in the Battalion but that it is difficult to recall names after all these years. However, he certainly remembers Brigadier Brian Webb-Carter, whom he describes as being "all over our sector on the beach-head". He was eventually liberated by the American 3rd Army in Bavaria in April 1945, having had to march there from Silesia in Poland during the previous three months.

He is married with one son and hopes shortly to return to this country for one of his periodic visits.

RHQ received an interesting letter from Robert Campbell-Lamerton who, sadly, had to leave the service in 1966 as the result of acute arthritis. He is now with HM Prison Service and at present at Guys Marsh (open) Borstal, Shaftesbury, Dorset, where there are up to 300 youths (16-22 years) of above-average intelligence. As an assistant governor (housemaster) he is involved in improving upon the 70% failure rate of youths leaving Borstal to stay out of prison.

He was married in 1968. His wife, Annie, was an occupational therapist but at present helps out at the local flying club. When he wrote, they were expecting their first child in the near future. They would be delighted to see any "Duke" who is passing near. The telephone number is Shaftesbury 3321.

#### Honours and Awards

Capt. Edgar Leach, TD, who served with the 6th and 2nd Battalions from September 1939 to October 1945, was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, 1971. On November 21 he attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace, held by the Queen Mother in place of the Queen who was suffering from chicken-pox. His wife and younger son, Jonathan, accompanied him.

Col. E. H. Buckland has been appointed an aide-de-camp to the Queen.

During the war Colonel Buckland served as a major with 1 DWR in North Africa and Italy and later in Palestine. He was selected as the British representative at the International Court of Justice

when the Ravensbruck Concentration Camp officials were brought to trial. Since the war he has been actively connected with the Territorial Army and commanded 274 Fd Regt RA (TA). He is now one of the two Territorial Army colonels of Northumbrian District. He is a schoolmaster and is at present headmaster of Shiremoor Middle School, Morpeth.

Pte. Keith Taylor of Somme Company (Mortar Platoon), 1 DWR, "Had a go" when he saw thieves smashing a window at Jackson the Tailor's branch in Northumberland Street, Newcastle upon Tyne. Pte. Taylor, from HMS *Fearless*, was badly cut in the scuffle that followed.

As a gesture of thanks, Pte. Taylor was presented by Mr. Graeme Peacock, sales promotions director of Jacksons, with a voucher for clothes worth £25 and a shirt, tie and cufflinks to replace those damaged in the fight.

Cpl. Malcolm Hirst, who has made a name for himself as a bi-athlete whilst serving with the Green Howards is, in fact, a "Duke", and so a few lines on his achievements are not out of place.

In 1971 he took part in the world Bi-athlon Championships, held in Finland, and, in finishing 17th, he was the best placed British entrant. In the ski shooting event he obtained a possible which, we are told, is a most rare achievement.

Earlier this year he was a member of the British team in the Winter Olympics at Sapporo, Japan. In the Individual Event, a 20 kilometres race with four bouts of shooting, he had 14 shooting penalties. Had he shot as he usually does, it is reckoned he would have finished 15th instead of 53rd. In the Team Relay Event he did the first leg and handed over in 3rd position and with no shooting penalties. Although the British team was placed 11th out of 13, Cpl. Hirst's time was the 9th fastest out of 52 competitors and only 90 seconds slower than the fastest time.

This is only his third year with the British team and it is expected that he will be at his best in 1976. We pass on to him our congratulations and best wishes for further successes in the future.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Lt.-Col. C. Barnes, TD, Field House, Bullroyd Lane, Longwood, Huddersfield HD3 4TB, Yorkshire.

Mr. R. L. Bye, 51 Castle Lane, Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire HX6 4JZ.

Lt.-Col. M. N. Cox, MC, c/o Gordon Cox, Esq. FRCS, Gibbets Field, Hanbrook Hill, Nr. Chichester, Sussex.

Major-General R. K. Exham, CB, CBE, MC, 1 Lyne Place Manor, Virginia Water, Surrey.

Mr. H. Foxley, 83 Newcombe Road, The Polygon, Southampton, Hants.

Mr. A. J. Selway, MM, The House, Culm View Poultry Farm, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2HF.

Mr. T. Wilkinson, 7 Braithwaite Avenue, Keighley, Yorkshire.

## Obituary

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

### ORQMS S. Ambler

Sam Ambler died on January 16, 1972, aged 67 years, after a long illness.

He enlisted at Sheffield on April 17, 1923, and, after recruit training at Halifax, he joined 1 DWR at Gosport, and served with that battalion continuously until his discharge to pension in 1946.

Employed in the Battalion Orderly Room for almost the whole of his service, he became the other half of the legendary BOR team of Tom Norman/Sam Ambler. It is said, and I know it was probably true, that he knew the army number and initials of practically every man in the 1st Battalion.

As a person, Sam was one of the very best: friendly, warm-hearted, generous to a fault and consistent and tolerant always in his dealings with everyone. After discharge from the Service he kept in touch with regimental affairs through the medium of THE IRON DUKE and by becoming a member of the London Branch of the Regimental Association. He was a familiar figure at the London and Halifax reunions at which he will now be sorely missed.

Following his discharge, he became a civil servant at the MOD at Stanmore and, in this capacity, he came into contact with many of our serving officers who were either doing a tour there or making a duty visit.

Although Sam has now gone, most of us "old 'uns" will remember him with much affection as one of the Regimental "characters" one comes across during one's service and never forgets.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

S. E. C.

### Major F. Firth, MBE, TD

Frank Firth died suddenly at his home at East Street, Golcar, on November 1, 1971, aged 72 years.

In World War I he served in France with the Royal Engineers and subsequently volunteered to go with the British Military Mission to Russia, where he was attached to General Denikin's White Army during the Revolution.

After his return to England in 1920 he became orderly room sergeant and later a warrant officer in 7 DWR at Milnsbridge, and he was commissioned quartermaster 2/7th DWR shortly before the outbreak of the last war. He served in France and was among those evacuated from St. Valery. He remained with the Battalion whilst it was being reformed and then in 1942 volunteered for service in India. He returned to his native Golcar in 1947 and took over as quartermaster 7 DWR and in 1949 went on to the Reserve after 27 years in the Regiment. In 1945 he had been awarded the MBE

(Military Division) for gallantry and distinguished services in the field.

He leaves a widow and one daughter.

*Col. George Taylor has written:* "When I first joined the 7th Battalion DWR at Milnsbridge in 1921, Frank Firth was the orderly room clerk and as a young subaltern I much appreciated his kindness and help.

"Later, he was promoted orderly room sergeant and his presence was much appreciated in the Sergeants' Mess and his immaculate handwriting in the Officers' Mess when he wrote out all the place names and band programmes on guest nights. When the Territorial Army was duplicated in 1938, Frank became QM of the 2/7th Battalion DWR and his energy and personality were such that other battalions in the 46th Division complained that somehow we were much better equipped than they were.

"He came to France with the 2/7th in April 1940 and when we first encountered the enemy at Abbeville he showed his usual courage and resource and the following day with a sly wink said "How sad that I've lost my equipment ledgers".

"After St. Valery I didn't see him again until the war was over. He had been sent to India and frequently wrote to me in my POW camp in Germany enclosing very amusing cartoons which he had drawn and painted.

"Old soldiers never die and Frank Firth will always remain in my memory as a good friend with an abundance of kindness, character, personality and courage and we shall all be the poorer for his loss".

### Mr. Albert Fox, MM

Albert Fox, MM, died on January 31, 1972, at Bradford two days after his 58th birthday. His passing will be felt by all who knew and served with him. *Sgt. Dennis Mitchell writes:*

"No. 4612387 Pte. Albert Fox started his military service at the Depot, Highroad Well, and from that day he was a 'Duke', his period of service extending from January 25, 1933, to December 29, 1943. On that date, because of wounds received in enemy action, he was transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps and served with that corps until his discharge in February 1946.

"To all and sundry he became 'Freddie' Fox and although, for that day and age, he was quiet, reticent and almost teetotal he was most popular with his comrades and NCOs—always dependable, smart, and a 'clean' soldier in every sense of the word. For his company in sport he was a very real asset representing them at boxing, rugger, soccer and water polo. It was at this latter sport that he really excelled, being a very strong swimmer which, in later years, was to stand him and his comrades in such great stead.

"Like so many other 'quiet' chaps his real worth and steadfastness became apparent when fighting against the enemy—the Japanese in Burma. It was there, whilst serving under the command of Major Jack Robinson—later awarded the MC and most unfortunately killed in action—in 'C' Company that Cpl. Fox was awarded the Military Medal for his part in the successful retreat across the Sittang River. Here the bridge had been prematurely

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'blown' and left 'C' Company stranded on the east bank without boats or rafts. Now it was that swimming became so important and that 'Freddie' along with Major Robinson and L/Cpl. Roebuck made it possible for the many scores of non-swimmers and some 500 'attached' Indian and Gurkha troops to cross the 1,100-yard wide Sittang River in safety—at least from drowning. Of their devotion to duty it was cited 'Never have decorations been more worthily won'."

#### **RQMS F. Kennedy**

Frederick Kennedy died at the age of 73 on November 20, 1971, at the Halifax General Hospital.

He had joined the Regiment in 1921 and for over 20 years he served with the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, Singapore, India and Burma. He left the service in the rank of RQMS in 1944 and for the next 23 years was employed at the Halifax Welfare Services Department as caretaker at the Halifax Registrar's Offices, eventually retiring in 1967.

*CSM Bill Norman adds:*

"I was saddened to hear of the death of Fred Kennedy (Spike) whom I first met at Tanglin, Singapore, where he lived next door to me.

"He would perhaps be best remembered as the provost sergeant with the 2nd Battalion in India where he was a plague to the forbidden card schools who used to assemble late at night in the wash-house or down the khud and he became affectionately known as 'Dat Der Man'. He gave me 'hell' when I was on 'jankers' at Dalhousie and I swore I would never go apple scrumping again. Despite this I never failed, even at that time, to hold him in the greatest respect, for a man with a greater sense of fairness could never be. He was one of those regimental characters of whom, if the tales were told, they would fill this edition, but my favourite one was at Multan on pack drill.

"Spike (to trembling squad resigned to their fate): 'I have some good news for you all, the new War Minister is a very kind man and in his army reforms has declared that there will no longer be any pack drill'.

(Silent cheers). Spike: 'So instead of doing pack drill today we shall have one hour's instructional drill, quick march, left right, left in double time'.

"Spike was a man, who to my knowledge, had no vices. He was devoted to the regimental boxing team and the fact that he even got Bdsm. Alfie Hatton regularly out of bed to train says something for his powers of persuasion. He was physically hard and absolutely devoted to the Regiment and my last recollection of him in uniform was at Gauhati on the Brahmaputra where I was passing through with a train-load of wounded from the 1942 Burma Campaign. A very joyful Spike met us and could not do enough to help any one of us. We told him of the tragic losses of many of his old 'Dukes' and I detected a tear in his eye as he listened. For all his toughness he was very much a human being.

"He leaves his wife, Nellie, who now lives in Halifax and looks no different from the Singapore days; his daughter Dorothy (Dot) is married and lives in Halifax and his only son, Pat, has emigrated to Canada but came to the funeral at Halifax. He

looks the image of his father and, if his character is the same, then he will be a man, for a man is about the best description I can ever think of for Spike, 'Dat Der Man'."

#### **Mr. William Littlewood**

William Littlewood, known to everyone as Bill, died at Huddersfield on January 12, 1972, at the age of 57.

In 1940 he joined 1 DWR and, after training as a stretcher-bearer, he accompanied the Battalion to North Africa where he was severely wounded, losing his left arm and the second and third fingers and the first joint of the thumb of his right hand.

After a long spell of treatment in hospital, he came home and joined the Huddersfield Branch of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, and soon became a committee member and the branch welfare officer. Then, for the last 20 years, Bill was the branch secretary. As such, all members knew how he drove himself in the service of others and the high standard he set in the branch. As a result of his efforts, the Friends of BLESMA was formed. He also served on the Executive Committee of the Huddersfield Council of Social Service, the Advisory Committee Huddersfield Welfare Centre and was a former member of the Huddersfield War Pensions Committee. All this time, for 27 years, he was employed at David Brown Tractors, Meltham, Huddersfield.

Three or four years ago Bill had a setback in his health which seemed to go from bad to worse. However, he still worked on in the service of others until in the last few weeks he became so ill that he was admitted to the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

Those who knew and worked with Bill are proud to have known him. He leaves a widow, daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren.

#### **Mr. J. Milnes**

Joseph Milnes died on June 24, 1971, at Airedale General Hospital, Keighley, aged 67, after a long illness.

Joseph joined The Duke's in 1919 and served with the 2nd Battalion in Egypt and Singapore, later joining the 1st Battalion. He was a good sportsman and represented the Battalion at boxing and soccer.

During World War II he served in the RA.

#### **Mr. Steve North**

"Steve", as he was known to all, died in the British Legion Home, Sharow, Ripon, Yorkshire, on September 13, 1971, aged 92. He is buried in the churchyard at Sharow.

"Steve" was a worthy old soldier and a character of distinction. Having fought in the Boer War with the 1st Battalion, and with the 4th Battalion in the first world war when he rose to the rank of sergeant, come the second world war and Steve was again serving—in the Holmfirth Home Guard. His shining row of medals which included the Queen's South Africa Medal were seen on nearly every military parade in Huddersfield or Halifax. Resplendent in the Army Veterans Association uniform, "Dukes" tie, with crimson sash he was a familiar figure—proud in manner and bearing.

A military man first and foremost, Steve still

found time to use his wit and charm in helping the elderly. He wrote the lyric of a song for the Good Companions Club at Stainland, Nr. Halifax, and, latterly, as a resident at Lister House, his bedtime lullaby of "songs the soldiers knew" was, in the main, welcomed and appreciated. As one roommate remarked: "We play hell with him, but hope he doesn't stop".

Small of stature, Steve belied his frame. He was a man of guts, iron and action, with an enormous store of humour and goodwill which he shed around wherever he went. A grand old man who will long be remembered.

#### **Mrs. R. M. P. Rusbridger**

We learn from her son, Lt.-Commander C. W. Rusbridger, RN (Rtd.), that Mrs. Rusbridger died in October 1971. Mrs. Rusbridger was the widow of Lt.-Col. G. S. W. Rusbridger who commanded the 1st Battalion from 1932 to 1936 and will be remembered by those who served in Aldershot and Malta during those years.

#### **Major Denis Siddall, MBE, TD**

Major Denis Siddall died on February 3 after a lengthy period of illness. He had been a "Duke" for so many years that there will be few officers of the past 30 years who did not have contact with him in some form or other.

Denis Siddall joined 7 DWR in 1939 and was commissioned from the Officer Training Company of the 2/7th. He served with 8 DWR and, when this was converted to an armoured role, in a staff appointment in weapon training in Southern Command. In 1944 he joined the 7th Battalion and served in France, Belgium and Holland; he later helped to train Dutch colonials while attached to the 6th Battalion in Colchester.

On the reformation of the TA in 1947 he was one of the first officers to rejoin and served in Halifax, Elland, Mossley, Keighley, Skipton and Huddersfield, eventually becoming second-in-command of the West Riding Battalion. He retired in 1965.

Denis was extremely well liked and respected by his colleagues. For one with much military background he was averse to orders and high command. How often did one hear him say: "Oh, we don't take any notice of what they say; they don't understand us at this level". There are former 7th Battalion COs who remember his cheerfully exasperating habit of short cuts—businesslike in civvy street but not always in accordance with the army book.

These habits were part of his endearing qualities—qualities which brought strong loyalty from those under his command. He gave much to his military life and a "character" was lost on his retirement. Even in the months of his illness he remained cheerful and optimistic of life.

He leaves a widow, Marie, and son, Peter.

#### **Capt. J. P. Symonds**

Capt. J. P. Symonds died at Chalfont Bois, Buckinghamshire, on February 8, 1972, aged 59 years.

"Johnny Pinder" was the war-time (1939-45) signal officer of the 7th Battalion, the man who built up and moulded that loyal and splendid platoon

under such difficult conditions in Iceland. Later, as Battalion intelligence officer, he took part in the Normandy invasion being evacuated wounded from Vimont. Typical of the selfless nature of "JP" and of his thought for others was his action, although in great pain when being evacuated, in handing over his chinagraph pencils—seemingly trivial, but very important items at the time.

A man of inestimable courage, integrity and honour, he was very proud of his regiment and played no little part in the success story of the 7th Battalion.

During the last few months of his life, though faced with a crippling malady, he retained the traits by which he is so well remembered, enduring his suffering bravely and with a smile and being ever thoughtful towards others.

#### **Col. J. B. Sugden, TD, JP, DL**

Lt.-Col. (Brevet Col.) John Bairstow Sugden, TD, JP, DL, died suddenly in the Coronary Care Unit of the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary on Saturday November 13, 1971, aged 63.

John Sugden was commissioned into the 5th Battalion (TA) DWR in 1930, and posted to "D" Company, Mirfield. He continued to serve with the Mirfield Company when it was converted into 373 S/L Company RE, in 1936, and at the outbreak of war he was 2IC of the company, as a captain.

In 1940 he was posted to 238 Training Regt RA at Buxton and was promoted major. In 1942 he transferred to 78 LAA Regt RA and went to India. In 1944 he was posted to the 3rd Independent LAA Regt, Indian Artillery, as commanding officer and was promoted lieutenant-colonel. He served with them in India and Burma and was in the Imphal Box where he was mentioned in despatches.

He returned to the UK in October 1945 for demobilisation and in 1947 he rejoined the TA as a battery commander in 578 (Mob) HAA Regt RA (5th DWR) TA. In 1949 he became 2IC of the regiment and in February 1951 he was promoted to command it. He continued in command till 1954.

On retirement from the TA he was promoted brevet colonel and in 1956 he was appointed chairman of the Organisation Committee of the WR T & AFA. In 1964 he was made a Deputy-Lieutenant of the West Riding and in 1964 he was appointed Honorary Colonel of the WR Battalion (The Duke of Wellington's Regt.) TA. In 1970, on the reorganisation of the WR T & AFA, he was made a vice-chairman of the new Yorkshire TAVR. That briefly is his military service.

Having played rugby at Sedbergh, and having got his colours, on leaving school he joined the Huddersfield Old Boys RUFC as scrum-half and later as full-back, and captained their first team for three or four seasons. He was also a keen playing member of the Huddersfield Lawn Tennis and Squash Club.

He was made a magistrate on the Huddersfield County Borough Bench in 1956 and in 1971 became its chairman.

At the time of his death he was chairman of the Huddersfield Drill Hall Trustees, and of the Huddersfield War Memorial Trustees; he was president of the Mirfield Branch of the 5th DWR

OCA and also president of the Huddersfield Branch, and was a vice-president of the Huddersfield and District Army Veterans Association. He was vicar's warden at his church, and president of the West Yorkshire Scout Council.

John Sugden will be missed by many people and organisations. He virtually gave his whole life to voluntary service, both military and civilian, and the energy and careful thought that he put into all these works possibly contributed to his early death.

At the funeral at Holy Trinity Church, Huddersfield, on Wednesday, November 17, the Vicar aptly summed up his life in the words "John Sugden served his Church, State and Community".

Representatives from Yorks District, Yorkshire TAVR, 1st Battalion Yorks Volunteers, 3rd Battalion Yorks Volunteers, 5th Duke of Wellington's OCA, The Duke of Wellington's Army Cadet Force, and some 54 members of the 5th Duke of Wellington's Officers Dinner Club attended and formed a Guard of Honour outside the Church as the coffin was carried away.

He leaves a widow and four sons.

#### Mr. A. Whitaker

CSM A. Whitaker died at his home, 44 Crowther Avenue, Calverly, Pudsey, Leeds, on November 3, 1971. He was 84 years of age.

He enlisted into the Regiment in 1904 and, after his recruit training, he joined 1 DWR, then stationed at York. In 1905 he accompanied the Battalion to India at the start of its overseas tour, and it

was whilst he was out there that his future wife went out to join him and they were married in 1911. On his return to UK, he did a tour of duty at the Depot before being posted back to 1 DWR in Ireland. In 1922 he was posted to 2 DWR in Aldershot, and moved with that battalion to Egypt later in that year. He completed his 21 years' service in Cairo at the latter end of 1925.

Now a civilian he joined NAAFI and was able to go abroad again to Saarbrücken and the Middle East, rising to become a manager. When the last war broke out he entered Vickers where he worked as an aircraft fitter.

He is survived by his son and daughter and by his brother, A. B. Whitaker, who served for 13 years in the Regiment and lives at 19 Cammel Road, Firth Park, Sheffield.

#### In-Pensioner R. Wilson

Reginald (Tug) Wilson (4610040) died on February 5, 1972, aged 61, at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

"Tug" served in The Duke's from 1928 to 1942, and from 1942 to 1952 with the KOYLI and West Yorkshire Regiment.

His own account of life with The Duke's in the 1930s (published in the August 1971 issue of THE IRON DUKE) bears testimony of a soldier good and true, and of a man with wit, sparkle and humour.

Bob Temple, Secretary of our London Branch, and friends from the Royal Hospital attended the funeral at Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, on February 12.

#### Late News

We deeply regret to report that:

Lt.-Col. Michael Cox died of pneumonia on March 28. Mrs. Cox died some days later as the result of injuries sustained in a car accident.

Mrs. Audrey Hoppe, wife of Major Peter Hoppe, died on April 5 after a short illness.

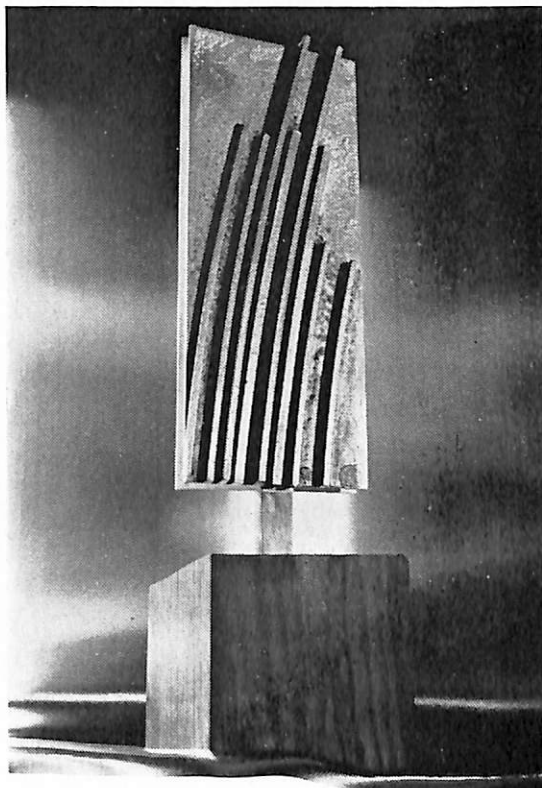
#### THE GARRARD TROPHY

This fine silver trophy was presented for the first time in 1971 by Garrard, the Crown Jewellers, to the winner of the Military Section of the RAC Round Britain Rally which took place from November 20 to 25.

The Military Section is open to members of Her Majesty's regular forces and T & AVR. It was won in 1971 by Major J. Hemsley, L. N., with his co-driver WO1 (ASM) F. E. Webber, REME. Major Hemsley was also the winner in 1970 with Major J. F. Skinner, REME, as co-driver.

The trophy, designed by Alex Styles of Garrard is a marked break from traditional rally prizes. The raised lines set on a textured silver background represent tracks of the competitors while the two golden centre lines mark those of the winner streaking away into the distance.

Members of HM Forces wishing to enter for the 1972 rally should contact Mr. R. N. Eason Gibson at the Royal Automobile Club, Motor Sport Division, Belgrave Square, London SW1.



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