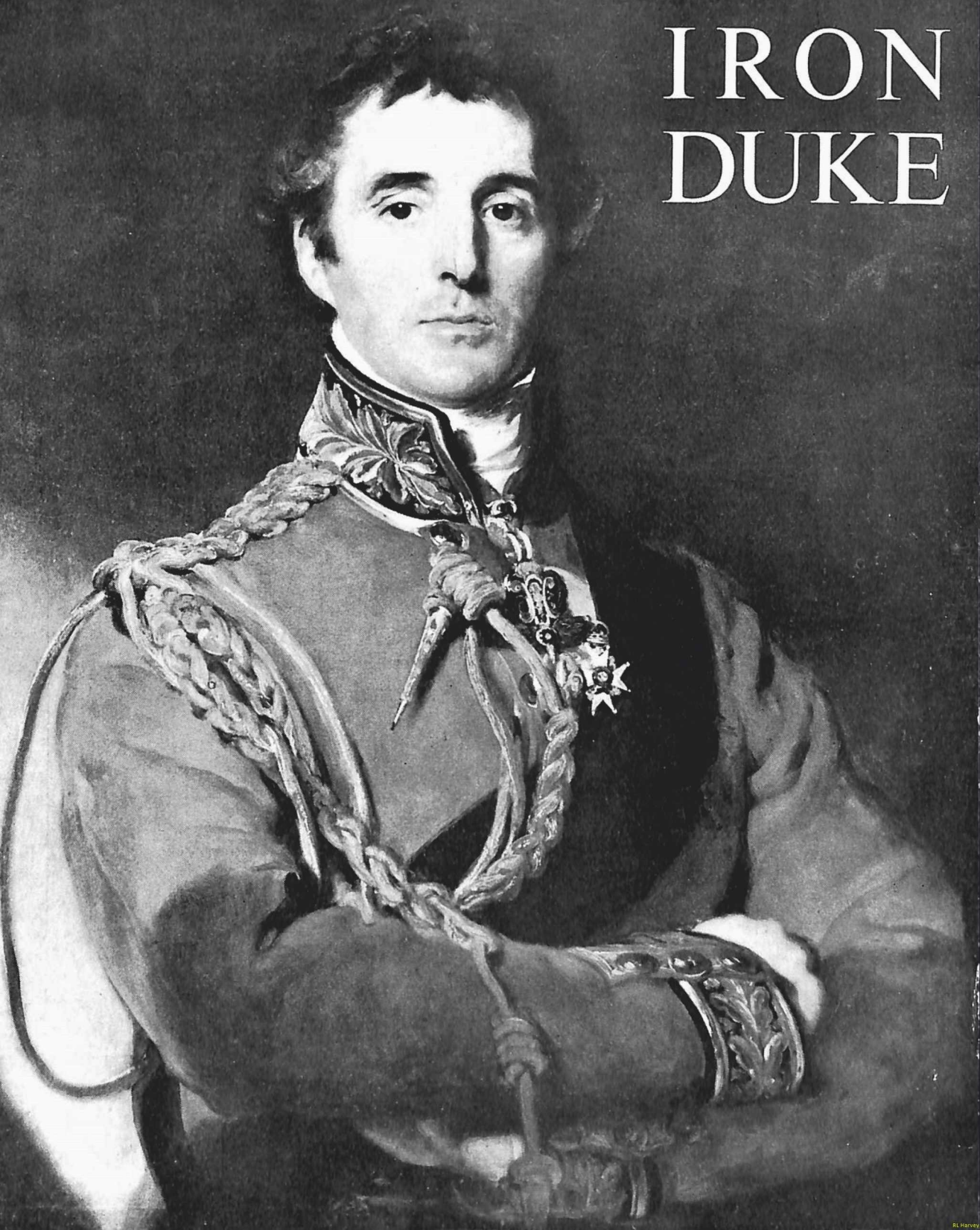


No.162 August 1973

THE  
IRON  
DUKE



# THE IRON DUKE

*The Regimental Journal of*

## THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



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

Vol. XLIX

AUGUST 1973

No. 162

### BUSINESS NOTES

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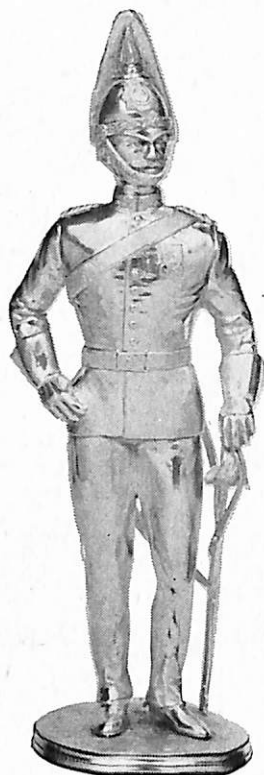
The portrait of The Duke by Sir Thomas Lawrence, P.R.A. (Canvas 1814), is reproduced on our cover, without fee, by kind permission of the Director of the Wellington Museum, Apsley House.

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## LONGMAN & STRONGI'TH'ARM

ESTABLISHED IN THE REIGN OF GEORGE III

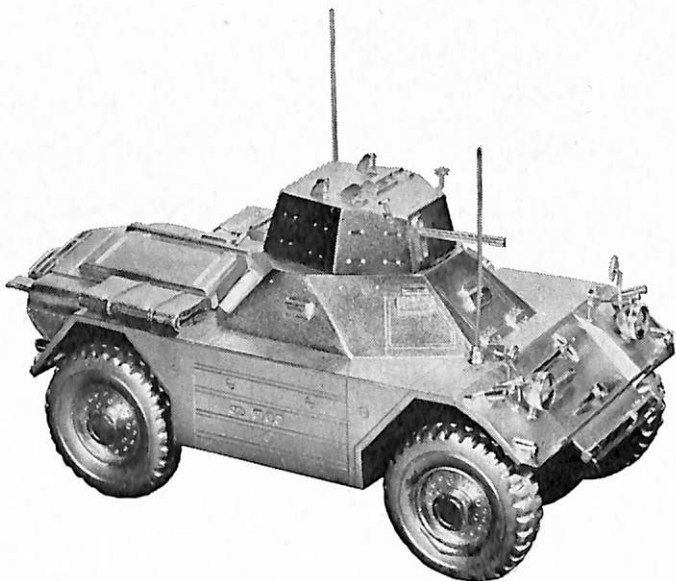


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# THE REGIMENT

## *Colonel of the Regiment*

GENERAL SIR ROBERT BRAY, GBE, KCB, DSO, *The Farm House, Sherrington, nr. Warminster, Wilts*  
*Telephone : Codford St. Mary 304*

## REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

*Wellesley Park, Halifax*  
Regimental Secretary: Major J. H. Davis

## THE 1st BATTALION

BFPO 801

CO: Lt.-Col. P. A. Mitchell      Adjutant: Capt. P. D. D. J. Andrews  
RSM WO1 T. Pickersgill

## TERRITORIAL & ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE

### 1st BATTALION THE YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS "C" COMPANY (THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S)

*Wellington Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax*  
Commander : Major T. D. Tetlow, TD

### 3rd BATTALION, THE YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS "C" COMPANY (THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S)

*St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield*  
Commander : Major P. D. Green

## ARMY CADET FORCE

OIC, DWR, ACF Detachments: Major J. Howarth, *4 Heather Road, Meltham, Huddersfield*

## AFFILIATED C.C.F.

Giggleswick School CCF, CO: Capt. D. P. Fox

## THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

### Patron

His Grace Brigadier The Duke of Wellington, MVO, OBE, MC

*President : General Sir Robert Bray, GBE, KCB, DSO*

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

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



# Regimental Headquarters

The proposed alterations to the barracks reported in the last issue are now progressing fast.

Workmen stripped the buildings below the old square and then mechanical equipment took over. The married quarters, which so many readers will

remember, were knocked down, loaded into lorries, and disappeared in a surprisingly short space of time.

A bulldozer took over and where the buildings once stood is now nearly flat enough for the tennis courts and bowling green that are to be made.

## From the London Gazette

### *Infantry* DWR

#### **Regular Army**

2/Lt. Keith Best, DWR, from Short Serv. Commn. to be 2nd-Lieutenant, Jan. 3, 1973, with seniority Jan. 8, 1972.

O/Cdts. from Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be 2nd-Lieutenants with seniority Mar. 8, 1973:

Raeburn Murray Longair Colville.

Lee Patrick Malcolm Lyons.

Paul John Yorke Saville.

O/Cdts. from Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be 2nd-Lieutenants with seniority Mar. 9, 1973, subject to confirmation:

Howard Ralph Fawley.

David Ian Richardson.

O/Cdt. from Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst,

to be 2nd-Lieutenant, Short Serv. Commn., with seniority Mar. 8, 1973:

Michael Trevor Westover Jenkins.

2/Lt. (on probation) D. L. J. Harrap is confirmed as 2nd-Lieutenant, May 3, 1972, with seniority Apr 8, 1969. To be Lieutenant, May 3, 1972, with seniority Apr. 8, 1971.

#### **Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve**

##### **Group A**

Capt. (Acting Major) P. D. Green, 3 Yorks, to be Major, Feb. 4, 1973, with seniority Oct. 1, 1972.

O/Cdt. David Gordon Massey, 3 Yorks, to be 2nd-Lieutenant (on probation), Apr. 15, 1973.

##### *Class II*

Lt. J. B. Widdop from TAVR, Group A, to be Lieutenant, Apr. 30, 1973.

## THE SPODE REGIMENTAL PLATE

Readers of THE IRON DUKE will have seen the notice in the April 1973 issue about the limited edition Regimental plate by Spode and will have received by now their copy of the brochure, and letter, from the Colonel. Although all the essential facts about the plate are contained in those three items, it was thought it would be of interest to record the various steps that were taken and the many factors that were considered.

The idea that Spode might produce a plate, in a limited edition, for the Regiment was first thought about in August last year, soon after the Green Howards' and Cheshires' plates were announced. Mulberry Hall of York, whose brain-child the whole project this is, were approached unofficially to ascertain their reaction to a suggestion that the next plate in the series, if such a series was really contemplated, might be for the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Mr. Sinclair, the owner of Mulberry Hall, confirmed that he and Spode were planning a series of plates for about six of the unamalgamated infantry regiments and that he would be happy for The Duke's to be the plate for 1973. After sounding out opinion within the Regiment the Colonel gave his agreement for the project to go ahead, and the

official exchange of letters began.

Spode and Mulberry Hall then asked for ideas for the design of the plate and, more particularly, for suggestions as to motifs and badges that we would like to see incorporated. It was appreciated that the design which would eventually be created was essentially a matter for Spode. For their part Spode made it equally clear that they relied very much on the Regiment's thoughts and preferences and that the final design would be subject to approval by the Colonel of the Regiment. A number of serving and retired members of the Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, were asked for ideas. The replies received were welcome and most helpful, and it was gratifying to find that, although one or two "wild" ones were put forward, there was considerable unanimity amongst the ideas for the principal features of the design. As a result the Colonel put forward some guide lines to be used as the basis for discussion with Spode. These were:

- a. The centre badge would not be taken from the Regimental Colour (as were Green Howards and Cheshires) but should depict our two badges side by side.



The Duke of Wellington is shown the design of the Spode plate by the Colonel of the Regiment.

- b. The tincture of the rim to be scarlet, or as near scarlet as possible.
- c. The Yorkshire rose to be incorporated.
- d. As many battle honours, on scrolls, that could be included, compatible with good taste and legibility, should be the main feature of the rim.

A meeting was held at RHQ in Halifax on February 1 this year, attended by Mr. L. R. Whiter, Spode's sales and marketing director, Mr. H. Holdway, Spode's art director and principal designer, Mr. Sinclair and the two officers deputed by the Colonel to represent him (Majors Davis and Tedd).

All our ideas were accepted, the only problem being the tincture for the rim. Scarlet is not a good colour to produce on china—the risk was that, after firing, it could turn out more orange or more pink than proper scarlet. A rich crimson was decided upon. The subject matter for the brochure was considered and a date for "publication" was discussed. Mr. Sinclair, thinking from the commercial and publicity aspects, suggested Waterloo Day, June 18, and this was agreed.

The following weeks were occupied in preparing varying lists of battle honours; drafting and checking the texts for the brochure, the certificates to accompany each plate, the Colonel's letter, and material for publicity; and in drawing up lists of individuals and organisations to whom the brochure would be sent. The final design, produced in the form known as "art work", and all the rest were approved by the Colonel in mid-April.

It was decided that Plate No. 1 would be presented to the Duke of Wellington. The Colonel visited the Duke at Apsley House in early June to show him the design and the Duke expressed his pleasure at the gift.

This, then, is the story of the plate.

For the record, the details of the plate are

repeated here. The plate is of fine bone china. The design is by Mr. H. Holdway, Spode's art director, and is executed in modelled 24-carat gold and rich enamels. The motif in the centre depicts the badge of the 33rd and LXXVIth, surrounded by a union wreath and surmounted by a crown. The border or rim consists of 33 battle honours scrolls, displayed in three panels, between which are three Yorkshire roses, all overlaid on a crimson panel decorated with a pattern of gold rose leaves. The plate measures 10½ in in diameter and is supplied in a satin-lined presentation case. The plate is produced in a limited edition of 500 only. Each plate is individually numbered as part of an inscription on the back and is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity signed personally by the Colonel of the Regiment. Distributors are Mulberry Hall of York and the price is: UK and BFPOs £28.75; all other overseas addresses £29.80, all including VAT, postage and insurance.

#### YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS NEW APPOINTMENT

Col. Geoffrey Norton has been appointed the first Regimental Colonel of the Yorkshire Volunteers. A former Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers, he is now responsible for co-ordinating career planning, inter-battalion postings and training of all three battalions of Yorkshire Volunteers.

The Regimental Colonel will be assisted by an Adjutant. The first holder of the appointment is Capt. Michael Sinclair, Director of Mulberry Hall, who lives in York.

Col. Norton lives at 22 Cortworth Road, Sheffield, and is managing director of his family's firm of builders' merchants and a vice-chairman of Shirley Aldred, Worksop. Col. Norton also holds the appointment of Deputy Commander, Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve, and is vice-chairman of the Yorkshire TAVR Association.

# 1st Battalion

## Sub Editorial

We have now been in Ballykelly, N. Ireland, for three months and are well settled in. It has been a period of intense activity and we have a fascinating, if at times frustrating, task.

For our external readers, it will be helpful to explain how the Battalion is deployed in general. We have one company detached to under command one of the Londonderry City Battalions. one company looking after Police Divisions O and P—an area of some 1,000 sq miles and 250,000 inhabitants—one company acting as Brigade reserve, and one company doing the guards in Ballykelly. We work on a 28-day cycle and thus the rifle companies can expect to be away from base for at least 50% of their time.

We have so far been successful in our efforts to erode the terrorists and their military potential. Luck inevitably plays a vital role, and the statistics given below show our successes up to May 20.

Weapons recovered .. ..	50
Explosives recovered .. ..	7,040lb
Terrorists captured/arrested..	79 (23 detained)

We have also been fortunate in that despite a large number of attacks upon us, we have had only two minor casualties. Pte. Cone was extremely lucky when a sniper hit his SMG and he received some minor fragment wounds in his arm, while Cpl. Franks received a number of stitches after being hit

by a brick during a riot in the city.

The border referendum and local government elections passed off generally quietly and we are shortly faced with the Assembly elections. After the latter, one hopes that the way ahead for N. Ireland should be clearer.

Our congratulations to Capt. Stacpoole, C/Sgt. Simpson and Cpl. Franks who have all recently been awarded Mentions in Despatches arising from the Battalion's last emergency tour over here.

We have said farewell to RSM Chilvers who, after his successful tour as RSM, has been appointed as Camp RSM, HQLF, Hong Kong. We have also said goodbye to Major David Miller who leaves after 2½ years' devoted service to the Battalion and the families, and goes to HQ 19 Brigade as Primary FAC.

We try to live as normal a social life as possible and this is reflected in the following notes. Sport inevitably has perforce to take a back seat but we take part in as much as possible and are currently still in the inter-unit Army Cricket Cup competition.

Finally, on a sad note we send our condolences to the families and friends of Pte. Duckett, killed in Catterick just before coming over here, Cpl. Timson and Pte. Oram both killed in a motor cycle accident soon after arrival, and Pte. McGregor, killed in a road traffic accident on May 24.

Some of the UDA weapons found by 1 DWR and the RUC on 15 Apr 1973. 2 x 7.62 SLR, 2 x Martin Henry and 3 x Unknown.



## The Regimental Sergeant-Major

RSM Pickersgill enlisted in the Army in March 1951 for service with the York and Lancaster Regiment, and served with the 1st Battalion until volunteering for service with the Special Air Service Regiment in January 1958. After successfully completing the selection course he was posted to 22 SAS Regiment in March 1958 and served with them

until returning to the York and Lancaster Regiment in BAOR in February 1960. On return to the Regiment he was promoted Sergeant.

He remained with the 1st Battalion until March 1966 when he was selected as a Recruiting Sergeant and was posted to the ACIO Sheffield for a two-year tour of duty.



# NEWS from the MESSES

## OFFICERS MESS

IRON DUKE readers may not believe, particularly Douglas Jones-Stamp and Baron Emert, that our Mess at Shackleton Barracks is rated in Ulster as a 5-star hotel, with *cordon bleu* culinary feats. This may be a little exaggerated, but in all honesty, the service and food is truly excellent.

We rarely thank our Mess staff in THE IRON DUKE but, on this occasion, we want all "Dukes" to know, what a wonderful job they are doing and how much it is appreciated by all the officers.

For those who don't know, the Mess is most likely one of the biggest the Battalion has ever had to run. The building is extremely large, it was built as an RAF Mess catering for approximately 200 officers. The anti room and dining room are enormous and allow us for once to display our Mess silver and property to advantage.

The Mess caters also for the *roulement* minor units living in Shackleton Barracks such as the RE Sqn, AAC Sqn, Workshops, Education Centre and numerous other minor units. The membership fluctuates from between 45-60 members, of which about 40 live in, so you can see that the Mess staff are kept extremely busy.

The PMC, who shall be nameless, ensures that the Mess standards are kept up and that the Mess menu is maintained at a very high level, including afternoon teas, where "delicate" cream cakes appear

whenever he comes in!! and woe betide anybody who bribes the Mess staff for a preview!! (N.B.—Major Dick Glazebrook will be pleased to know that the Stilton is sliced and not scooped!).

On the social scene we have done extremely well, considering that two or more companies are out on operations. Our events have been as follows:

April 14 Arrival cocktail party; 200 guests from all walks of civilian life and military units in our area. A highly successful party. Diana and the wives produced some magnificent flower displays which offset our Regimental silver to perfection.

April 27 Regimental guest night. Six guests attended including the Brigade Commander and our local RUC Chief Superintendents. A tremendous evening in which the Band were in great form.

May 4 Regimental guest night to dine out RSM Chilvers. This was purely a "Dukes" affair and none of the *roulement* Mess members attended. A wonderful and emotional evening. Col. Peter made an excellent speech and presented the RSM with a tankard from all the officers, finishing by reading out General Bobby's telegramme to RSM and Mrs. Chilvers, which was very well received. RSM Bobo made a super reply. A truly great evening that epitomised regimental family life. We will not disclose what time the party ended!

Apart from the above-mentioned functions, we run a fortnightly steak bar-cum-night club evening, open to all officers, wives and girl friends in 8 Inf Bde and is extremely popular, so much so that we have to limit the numbers.

To give you some idea of the banter that goes on between ourselves and, for example, the RE Sqn, we reproduce extracts from various letters below:

1. Extract PMC's guest night letter, April 27.



RSM T. Pickersgill

## RSM continued

RSM Pickersgill was promoted WO2 in January 1968 and, on the sad occasion of the disbandment of the York and Lancaster Regiment, transferred to DWR and joined the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong in January 1969.

He was appointed CSM of Alma Company in February 1969 and served continuously with the Company until being appointed RQMS of 1 Green Howards in August 1972.

On being promoted WO1 he returned to 1 DWR and was appointed RSM on May 14, 1973.

R.S.M. Pickersgill is married with three children, Garth and Timothy and daughter Gail.

*"d. For Non Battalion Mess Members attending*

"We do not have any peculiar Mess Customs, after dinner we listen to the band and sing Some Regimental Songs (Not Rugger Songs). There is however, one Mess Custom that regrettably falls on 27 April each year, and that is all non Regimental persons attending the dinner, buys two bottles of champagne each! Cheap champagne will do".

*2. Extract RE's reply*

"2. In reply to para 1d of Ref A, it is regretted that the purchase of Champagne by Officers of 5 Fd Sqn RE on this particular Friday would be most inappropriate, it being the first Friday after Easter, traditionally observed since the days of the Zulu Wars by all Sapper Officers as 'Still Friday'. This dates back to the day in January 1879 when Lt. John Chard was preparing to fight the Battle of

Rorke's Drift. He generously offered Mr. Bromhead of the 24th Foot a draught of his ice cold orange drink, which the officer disdainfully refused, replying 'I'd fain fight on fizzy Fanta'. Chard was so upset at this rebuff he declared that from that day forth no Sapper Officer would be permitted to buy any gaseous or fizzy drink for consumption by any Infantry Officer on one day each year. That day should either be the 7th April or the first Friday after Easter, whichever was the earlier. Thus, as a matter of conscience, even the purchase of a bottle of cheap champagne at the Guest Night would upset the traditions of the Officers of 5 Field Squadron RE (particularly the older ones)."

*3. Extract PMC's reply*

"5 Fd Sqn (known as Jimmy's Drifters or the Still boys)

RSM R. F. Chilvers' Farewell Guest Night on 7 May 1973.



*"Still Friday guest night, 27 April, '73*

"We thank you most sincerely for drawing our attention to this epic occasion and truly historical event and offer you our deepest apologies for any affront that our own domestic 'Hindoostan Champagne Grass Cutting Ceremony' may have given. We are a little perturbed about the Rorke's Drift anniversary date (being Feb. 1871) but in our ignorance we failed to appreciate that 5 Fd Sqn, have of course gone native and work off the ancient Zulu Zodiac slide rule calendar (which incidentally is quite good for 'Grass cutting and calculating speeding vehicles').

"In view of the significance of this unique historical occasion, we are making special provision to honour this great day by giving you CHAKA Zulu's own guest night menu, he had for his Chiefs after the battle, at his Kraal in Chathamsburg.

"The ingredients have been brought over at great

expense, including VAT and local Native Tax, by kind permission of one of Mr. Ian Smith's Boeings. The menu is:

Biltong .. ..	(Dried meat of unknown origin).
Boerworse .. ..	(Blood sausage, traditionally of Caucasian origin).
Sudza au Drift .. ..	(Ground corn and leak souffle) (Broomhead special).
Maatjies .. ..	(Pan cakes — normally elephants or water buffalo).

*Wines*

TCHWALA .. ..	(A 'Still Beer').
SKOOKIAAN .. ..	(An illicit sapper drink, brought up from Bloemfontein in 1871 via BAOR).
Vand Der Sap .. ..	(A liqueur made from Naartjies — the nearest thing to Fizzy Fanta of 1871).

"It is requested that all 5 Fd Sqn members explain to Mess Members during dinner the customs and traditions of 'Still Friday'."

As you can see, spirits are high and Mess life is, like the old days, a true family Mess—i.e. Sunday lunchtime the bar is full with wives, children and guests. The only sad note is that most of the husbands are out on operations.

#### New Arrivals

Since our last notes we have welcomed the following new officers: 2 Lts. Mike Jenkins, David Harrup, Murray Colville, Lee Lyons, Paul Saville and Andrew Drake.

## OBITUARY

### Rev. E. G. Wilkinson, MBE

The funeral of the late Rev. Wilkinson, who died on July 6, was held at St. Matthew's Parish Church, Leyburn. He was a distinguished chaplain to the Forces and served with our 2/7th Battalion in France from 1939-41, was DACG of the 7th Armoured Division in the desert and the 6th Armoured Division in Italy. Subsequently he was with the 2nd Infantry and 11th Armoured Division in Germany. He also served in Portsmouth, York, Cyprus and Oswestry.

He was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the MBE.

After leaving the Army he was Chaplain to the British Embassy in Bonn for two years.

He was instituted Vicar of Startforth in 1956 and retired because of ill health in 1967.

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## WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS MESS

THE IRON DUKE notes again, so soon? Perhaps it is a sign of this modern pace of life but it seems only a week ago that the last notes were written; however, as one glances at the calendar then the facts are quite plain. We are nearing the end of the third month here.

We arrived (the majority of us, that is) on March 1, and to those who had not done a recce the first shock was probably the immensity of the place. The second was the splendid and enormous Mess. Needless to say, the distance between the Mess and BHQ is also great and tea breaks are out.

A couple of days saw us settled in, although we had a problem of housing everyone. So many decided for various reasons to leave their wives at home that there was not sufficient bunks for all. This situation, with the departure of the Band NCOs, is now easing.

We soon deployed two companies and the other two were on guards or reserve. This meant that the Mess has been mainly supported by the "base rats". To those is left the honour of upholding the traditions of the Regiment in face of attacks from the sappers, pilots, civilians and the many others who share the Mess. We are winning.

Entertainments was made the responsibility of the Guard Company, and what a splendid job you did, Con. Every Saturday night something happened, even if it was only a booze-up. This was Conley's forte. Functions that the whole Mess were able to attend proved impossible but every effort was made to get them in from the outstations.

Of the major events, we first had a Regimental dinner at which we dined in Col. Mitchell, Major Campbell-Lamberton and Capt. Andrews. The meal was magnificent and Sgt. Collins, our Mess cook Sergeant, must be congratulated. The standard was set and the next month's dinner and the living-in members' dinner were equally good. On Easter Saturday we had a grand Easter dance. To this we invited members from the major units of our Brigade. Some were able to attend and some could not. Three members of the Gunners made it but only managed two pints before being recalled to the city. That's how it goes here.

We dined out RSM Chilvers and for once there was no complaint about the volume of wine consumed. In fact, we dined him out twice. The messing account was found to be well in credit so we blew the lot on the living-in members' dinner already mentioned.

RSM Pickersgill arrived a week earlier than we had expected and to him and Betty we extend a very warm welcome. At the same time we wish RSM and Mary Chilvers the best wishes for their tour in Hong Kong.

Now, finally, to scotch a rumour. Sam Basu was hit on the head with a brick during a riot in Derry. There is no truth in the tale that the brick was taken to Altnagelvin Hospital, where it was given three stitches.

# *Conway Williams*

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# Company Notes

## WATERLOO COMPANY

It's a long time since we told you who and what Waterloo (Command) Company consists of. We hope most of the Battalion know, but others may not. Our order of battle is as follows:

OC: Major M. G. L. M. Stacpoole.

CSM: WO2 Stansfield.

CQMS: WO2 Stansfield.

Clerk: L/Cpl. Cooper.

Sotremen: L/Cpl. Foyle, Pte. Smith 22, Pte. Palmer.

## Platoons

Recce Platoon: Lt. Bird, S/Sgt. Wilkinson, Sgt. Goddard.

Drums Platoon: D/M Gregor, Cpl. Lister, Cpl. Sullivan.

Signal Platoon: Capt. Gardner, Sgt. Gunn, Sgt. Shaw, Sgt. Garrick (REME)

## Departments

Battalion HQ: Adjutant, Capt. P. D. D. J. Andrews (see BOR notes); RSM, WO2 Pickergill; ORQMS, WO2 Milner.

OPs/Training: Capt. Fitzgerald, S/Sgt. O'Donnell (vice WO2 Quayle).

Dog Section: Sgt. Spearman, L/Cpl. Jagger.

Medical Section: Capt. Barber, Sgt. Bowden.

Assault Pioneers: S/Sgt. Martin (employed on community relations).

Regimental Police: Sgt. Lofthouse, Cpl. Gill, Cpl. Waite.

PT Staff: Sgt. Cross.

PRI Team: Cpl. Tolley, Cpl. Pollard (films and mail), L/Cpl. Willetts.

We have now been in N. Ireland for three months.

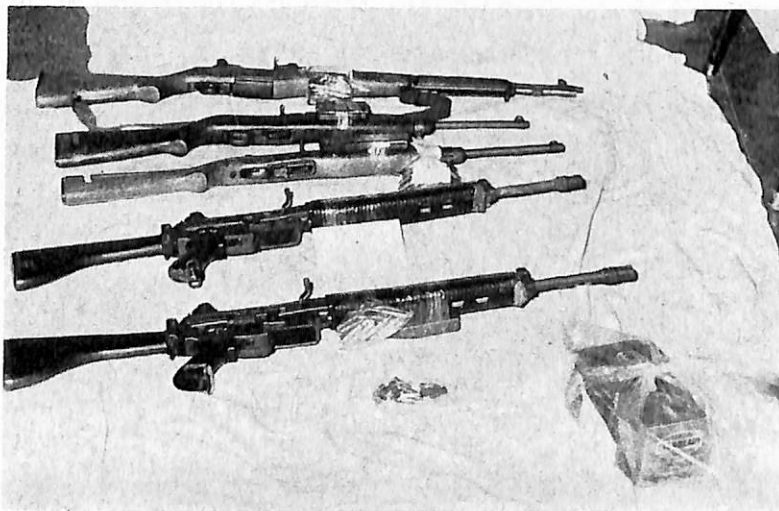
During this time we have made many arrests and captured a large number of weapons. Details of these operational successes will undoubtedly appear elsewhere in THE IRON DUKE. Many people have asked what life is like in N. Ireland. Shackleton Barracks, where we live, used to be an RAF air base. The camp is large and spacious and there are large areas of grass. The whole place is spacious, attractive and pleasantly quiet after a spell of duty in Londonderry or the county. Unfortunately, we pay for our large and pleasant camp. With an ever-present IRA threat the guards and duties needed to give even a small measure of security to us all eat deeply into soldiers' free time. The Drums and Recce Platoons have borne the brunt of the duties, averaging over two-thirds of the total time away from camp.

Life must go on and film shows, discos, go-karting, fishing trips and many sports help to make the off duty periods interesting. Since we have been here the swimming pool has been opened and, although this means extra duties for the PT staff, provides yet another facility for sport.

Although block leave seems so far away, we are managing to get four men away on R. and R. each week. This makes a very welcome break for the single men, who, above all, find the many restrictions irksome.

We congratulate ex-CQMS Stansfield on his promotion to CSM. This promotion heralds the departure to 1 Yorkshire Volunteers of CSM Kelly after two years' sterling service. In gratitude for his excellent service he was presented with a silver tray and a smallish beer mug both suitably inscribed as a present from the Company.

Finally, congratulations to the following not mentioned in the Platoon notes:—



Provisional IRA weapons found by 1 DWR on 4 Apr 1973 consisting of: 2 x AR18 Armalites, 2 x .30 M1 Carbines, 1 x 30 Garand.

*Marriages:* L/Cpl. Anver to Lynne, L/Cpl. Wright to Anne.

*Births:* L/Cpl. and Mrs. Greenwood (son).

*Departures:* L/Cpl. Dent to duty, Pte. Brown to civilian life, WO2 Quayle to Alma.

*Arrivals:* Cpl. Gill from Corunna, L/Cpl. Evans from Somme, S/Sgt. O'Donnell from Burma.

*Internal movements:* Pte. Ellwood from MI Room to Provost, Pte. Kelly from Recce Platoon to MI Room, L/Cpl. Uttley from Provost to Recce.

*Promotions:* S/Sgt. Stansfield to WO2, Cpl. Exley to Sergeant, Cpl. Bowden to Sergeant.

### Recce Platoon

The departure from Catterick was fairly uneventful, apart from the trip across, which had its amusing moments and proved a testing time for some of the cars.

On arrival in Ballykelly the Drums Platoon was transferred to us and a large Recce Platoon of five sections totalling 40 men was formed. The new large Platoon was then given the enviable task of looking after Dungiven, a small town about 12 miles from camp. We soon discovered that, apart from being the dirtiest outpost in the Battalion area, it had proved one of the most troublesome during the time of our predecessors. Within the first week, apart from cleaning and painting the building from top to bottom, the Platoon had managed to clean up most of the IRA units in the area and locate most of their weapons, thanks to the eagle eyes of "Tosh" Goddard (never one to miss a bit of spare kit).

The enemy succeeded in blowing up the post office and planting a car bomb in the town, both of which resulted in structural damage to buildings. The latter caused some slight injuries but nothing serious, thanks to Cpl. Hayes, who spotted the bomb and with his section managed to alert the townspeople. With some difficulty they were kept away from the bomb.

The terrorist also had a go at sniping at one of our sentries—who was more alert than they—and succeeded getting his shot off first, narrowly missing the terrorist's knee caps. Things in Dungiven then quietened down and just prior to the Platoon's departure were becoming quite friendly.

The Platoon had looked after Dungiven for three months. A month before leaving a section was detached to look after Toomebridge, which had prior to the sections arrival suffered rocket and shooting attacks. Since the arrival of the section all has been quiet; the terrorists have now switched their attention to the Company HQ, obviously considering it an easier target. The sections of the Platoon that have passed through Toome have succeeded in arresting a total of eight men. The majority of the Platoon's time is spent on routine patrolling, although a certain amount of use is made of the special surveillance equipment peculiar to the Platoon. One of our more recent jobs has been guarding a dam. It proved a pleasant break and "Sunray" attempted some fly fishing. A conversation overheard at the time: "If the boss swears at those flies much more he won't have to cast them; they'll fly!"

*New arrivals:* We welcome L/Cpl. Uttley and Pte. Watson, both of whom have a lot to say.

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**Departures:** Sgt. Lyons has departed—with his dog—to sort out Burma Company. We all say thank you and good luck.

**Promotions:** Congratulations to S/Sgt. Wilkinson, Sgts. Parrot and Lyons, L/Cpls. Grant, Ankers and Peacock on their promotions.

**Births:** Congratulations to L/Cpl. and Mrs. Grant (a daughter), Pte. and Mrs. Morley (a son), Pte. and Mrs. Squires (a daughter) and Lt. and Mrs. Bird (a son).

### Signal Platoon

Having completed an extensive pre-Ulster training schedule before leaving Catterick the Battalion HQ element of the Signal Platoon are now found in a situation that could come under the heading "and now for something completely different".

The Communications Centre at Ballykelly is run on a scale which is quite new to us. Not only do we clear teleprinter traffic for our own unit, but cater to the needs of seven other units in Ballykelly as well.

On the radio communications side of things the great distances of the outposts from Ballykelly have produced some very interesting comms problems for the RSO. Mobile and helicopter-lifted rebroadcast stations have solved most problems on mobile ops, but there is still a problem with distance on normal static operating. However, under the watchful eye of Capt. Gardner a 120ft high steel mast is being erected outside the comcen and by the end of the month we should have dispensed with our headaches.

One amusing development came out of our communications problem, though, this being the formation (unofficially, of course) of the Signals Platoon Trials and Development Wing. Instigated by Sgt. Gunn, this highly skilled team of signallers produced a fantastic conglomeration of home-made VHF antennae. In an attempt to overcome the comms problems all our resources were pitted against the elements, everything from broom handles to chicken wire reflectors being employed. However, all failed to produce the desired effect and our indent for a World War II barrage balloon on which to hang a rather large antenna was turned down. Eventually two home-made rod dipoles were settled upon and until now have given us sterling service. I feel that with the advent of the 120ft radio mast the Trials and Development Wing will, sadly, be disbanded.

### Personalia

We say congrats to Cpl. (Tom) and Mrs. (M.J.) Waqabaca on the birth of a baby daughter and to Pte. (Frank) and Mrs. Morton also on producing a bouncing baby girl, also Sgt. (Les) and Mrs. Shaw a baby boy!

Congrats are also in order for Cpl. (Tom) Shadbolt on passing his RSI course and for Ptes. ("Donkey") Bray and (Jack) Cone on a good result on their Standard I signallers' course.

Well done, Sgt. (Steve) Barnett, on his promotion and L/Cpl. (Pete) Hollis on attaining the dizzy heights. Finally, goodbye to Sgt. Ben Gunn, who leaves us to go to that signaller's Utopia, Warminster as Signal Platoon Sergeant. We wish him and his

family the best of luck.

### Bornews

We have been informed from various sources that Bornews was conspicuous by its absence from the last edition of the magazine. This can only be attributed to the move of the Battalion from Catterick and our scribe departing with the advance party to Ballykelly. However, he now has time to put pen to paper.

Due to numerous changes our orbat would appear to be in order:

Chief Clerk	WO2 (ORQMS) D. R. Milner
ORC	Sgt. J. E. Manion
"G" Clerk	Cpl. B. Wilson
Part 2 Order Clerk	Cpl. M. A. Nuttall
Registration and	
Filing Clerk	L/Cpl. R. Taylor
Movements and	
Documents Clerk	L/Cpl. C. J. Wykes
Despatch Clerk	Pte. K. Greenwood
Coffee King and	
Duplicating Clerk	Pte. P. Addy

and even this is out of date before it reaches the sub-editor, Sgt. Manion having been chosen to take up the appointment of Chief Clerk at the Officers Wing, School of Infantry, at the end of June.

Sgt. Akeroyd, currently serving with CATT, Iran, is due to join us in December to replace Sgt. Manion, so in the meantime we will be hard pressed to cover all the good work produced by Sgt. Manion over the last two years as ORC. We wish him and Ena all the very best in Warminster and hope to see them passing through from time to time.

L/Cpls. Wykes and Taylor, our recent arrivals, have contributed to the overall efficiency of Battalion HQ and, although not strong in numbers, due to their hard work and consistently high performance we can maintain our good name with the various headquarters and establishments with which we deal.

Our congratulations are offered to "Speedy" Nuttall, our Part 2/3 Order Clerk, on his promotion, and to Ken and Julie Greenwood on the birth of their daughter.

### Footnote

Overheard:

"X" to Chiefy's son: "Does your dad have any hobbies?"

Chiefy's son replied: "Only two. Sleeping and drinking".

### ALMA COMPANY

Was Cromwell faced with having to write notes for the Ironsides? If so, he would have shared our problem of having to decide on the balance of reporting between personalia, tactics, family events, politics, successes, disasters and guard rosters, for so much has happened since we arrived in February.

We first dealt with Brandywell, the tail end of the Bogside of Londonderry (read what you will into that). For all you read in the press, Londonderry has much improved since last year, when the Alma was in its rent-a-company role there, but it remains a social tragedy that people are frightened of being

seen befriending us, but wave their greeting whilst standing well back from the window. We guarded the Craigavon Bridge, the trunk route into the city, checking over 4,000 cars a day and trying to remember names.

(Quote: "Is Major Chichester-Clarke on the wanted list?" "No, he's the bloke that sailed round the world."—L/Cpl. Uttley.)

Towards the end of our three weeks the trouble in the Creggan started to overflow into our area in the form of gangs of ill behaved, rock-tossing skinheads. Pte. Cone stopped an armalite bullet with the handgrip of his Sterling while escorting the Company Commander and got some fragments in his arm. (He has not been offered a place in the Battalion cricket XI.) CSM Middleton came under fire the next day and used his squash court experience to dive for a convenient wall.

Next to Ballykelly and a belated settling-in period. The Company Club opened (now named Baralma) with a social evening. As an institute it is a great success, providing our own place for a drink, game of darts, a dance, an evening out for the wife or a spot for chatting up a bird. (The bird life is strange here. Some migrate from the front ranks of IRA demonstrations in Londonderry to the front of the queue for the Ballykelly disco nights. Odd.)

2/Lt. Drake left for his platoon commander's course at Warminster. ("What he will learn, which we didn't manage to teach him, will be of little use." Quote from 1 Platoon.)

Our first search operation in the strange country north of Lough Neagh did not produce the goodies we had hoped for. However, outsniffing the rest of Alma, Corunna, the Royal Engineers and two trained dogs, Pte. Green 74 surfaced with a tin of detonators. That makes 21 less murders. Our second, this time by helicopters through a belated snowstorm, ended in the arrest of all we went for.

The end of April and we became County Company, in charge of 1,700 square miles of bog, farm, town and forest. Here we split into three platoon posts—Kilrea, Maghera and Magherafelt.

At last we're in the country, a place they call Kilrea; There's water, bog and grassland, with farmers making hay.

I've heard ther's loads of wenches, but hav'nt seen them yet.

If I don't meet one very soon I'll have to call the vet.  
(Anon, 3 Platoon)

The IRA opened the bowling by firing a rocket and some bullets at the post at Magherafelt. With their brand of logic they thought they would be safe if they fired from behind a screen of trees at night. The inevitable happened: the rocket hit a tree just in front of the firer, a rapid burst of Duke's fire came back and the brave party retired, cursing, no doubt, their rocket expert. Fortunately no one living locally was hurt.

Worried civilian: "What were those red lights in the sky?"

"Duke": "Only tracer rounds".

W.C.: "That's all right, then. I thought they were bullets".  
(Reported by 2 Platoon.)

By now 2/Lt. Lyons had arrived from Sandhurst

and was running 1 Platoon at Maghera. They, together with an Ammunition Technical Officer and Scamp, the sniffer dog, unearthed half a ton of illegal fertiliser (the base and major constituent of current bombs). This was an excellent haul. 3 Platoon with 2/Lt. Meek extracted an unpleasant car bomb from a garage by a children's playground in Swatragh and 2 Platoon with S/Sgt. Stewart, aided by a section of the Recce Platoon, relieved the enemy of six rifles, 2½cwt of explosive, a mixed assortment of ammunition and two locals (who were caught, subject to the submission of their defence lawyer, red-handed).

Our loss, in two separate traffic accidents, of Cpl. Timson, Pte. Oram and Pte. McGregor has been published elsewhere and our grief expressed in less public places. Their absence is painfully noted in so many day-to-day events they shared with us.

Our personalia would take pages, so to pick a few. Our thanks are due to CSM Middleton for his hard work, his cheer and his humanity ("Shut up in the ranks, there!") and we expect him to continue to keep the Alma out of the soup in his new office as RQMS. Farewell to C/Sgt. Simpson in his departure to the Volunteers. As Platoon Sergeant, Platoon Commander and CQMS he has done much for us all, richly deserving his MID for his work in Ballymurphy last year. Also to both their wives for visiting the sick (and the sickening), for washing mounds of cloths from the Club, for supporting our social affairs and, in spite of all, their husband's sanity. Farewell, thanks and the best of luck to Sgt. Brennan away to a drill course and the Depot. Welcome to CSM Quale, C/Sgt. O'Donnell, Sgt. Exley, Cpls. Cuss, Ineson, L/Cpl. Sugden and all new boys.

Finally, our report would never be complete, nor our tasks possible, without a special thanks to our specialists — medic (L/Cpl. Mowbray), who managed to be on hand in any emergency, drivers, signallers, pilots, engineers, bomb experts and (almost all) cooks.

"Rare? I've never tasted anything like it."  
(1 Platoon.)

## BURMA COMPANY

The Platoon notes are very verbose this issue; Company HQ will therefore be brief. As reported below we have finished our city tour and are now engaged on a completely different type of operations. Here in the quiet rural areas the threat is the indiscriminate bomb. Our readers will imagine that the pleasant summer days make life rather nice in County Londonderry. Unfortunately, this is not so—there are people here who are determined that anarchy will win. However, we are more determined that it will not. The Company were sad to lose the services of 2/Lt. Best and Sgt. Blood. No doubt their successors will carry on the good work!

The photos of the Burma Boys show the results of a normal operation; this one was at a bomb-making factory on one of the local farms. The natives really are unfriendly!

And now to the important news from the platoons:

### 4 Platoon

By the time THE IRON DUKE goes to print we will



have completed four months of our tour here at Ballykelly and will have experienced the "Four ways of life" which will remain constant for the remainder of the tour. These being a month on Brigade Reserve and guards and duties, a month in the Brandywell area of Londonderry, a month on guards and duties again, and our fourth, deployed in the country. The tour kicked off in grand style with spectacular finds and lifts in the country while on reserve.

We moved to the city in late March and returned after four-and-a-half weeks. An incident-free first fortnight was followed by a lift, barricade shifting, being shot at, and mixing it with the Brandywell and Creggan "Youth Movement". The Platoon and the Company as a whole made their mark during the month and a lot of ground was gained. In between the abuse and stone throwing the boys remained unruffled and had made some friends amongst the locals including a Tea Stop.

April 24 saw us back in Ballykelly for guards and duties. We could relax off duty and go out. Battalion discos were a-plenty and one good Company party was thrown at which all, except a few on guard at Coleraine, turned up.

Five new recruits joined the Company during May of which one joined the Platoon. We now find ourselves at Magherafelt. The tour here is a month and at the time of writing is a week old. Since arrival the local council elections were seen safely through. This has been the main feature so far; however, no doubt the opposition will find something for us to do before June 22.

### Personalia

We bade farewell to S/Sgt. O'Donnell and welcomed 2/Lt. Jenkins as the new Platoon Commander. We thank S/Sgt. O'Donnell for his work and wish him well in his new job as CQMS Alma Company. Pte. Sparkes has left for Hook Company and our new recruit is Pte. Raine, whom we welcome.

Pte. Sheard has been posted to Company HQ.

Congratulations to Pte. Cassen on his marriage and our good wishes for the future go to him and his wife, Lynda.

Congratulations in advance to L/Cpl. Morton whose wife is expecting a baby any day now.

Engagements are announced by Pte. Bareham to Rose and Pte. Teale to Shirley. The Platoon is expected to be invited.

On behalf of 4 Platoon, we wish Sgt. Blood the best of fortune in civvy life and we are sorry to see him leave.

### 5 Platoon

Since our last notes were written saying we are getting ourselves established in Shackleton Barracks, 5 Platoon have had a very rewarding time.

Having settled in our new home we set about training very hard for our first operational tour in the city. Our training came on very well and the Platoon were raring to go.

It was in the latter days of the month, and just in time, that the Command Structure of "5" was given a new Platoon Commander. The Platoon would like to say welcome to our new gaffer and we wish him well in his new-found career in The Dukes.

We then packed up our kit and moved out in force to the city. Our first week we spent getting settled in our new quarters and getting to know our little patch. The local adults (yes, they do have them) seemed to be quite friendly towards us at first. We then spent a second quiet week but it was very plain at this stage that the locals knew that the Regiment patrolling their area was different from most and many a local was heard to comment on our expert patrolling and movement.

Week three started off fairly well but, after a lift op. in which we were fairly successful, the locals showed their true nature. Barricades were thrown up and there were threats of "NO GO" areas being



### BURMA'S DUNGIVEN OPERATION

Left to right: Sgt. Blood, Pte. Howarth, Cpl. Staniland, Capt. Cartwright checking various bomb-making materials.

set up again. Chuck's Commandos then went in to action and dispelled any doubts the locals may have had about "NO GO" areas in our little patch.

5 Platoon then made its debut. Having smashed through a number of barricades on Anne Street we were then unfortunate in getting our Saracen bogged down. This brought out the local cowboys complete with an Armalite.

Reaction from all concerned proved the effectiveness of the many hard weeks training all had received. Fire was returned by three different sub units within five seconds. It was thought that we may have hit one man though we have never found out for sure.

However, it did prove effective in one respect, the cowboys never again came into a direct confrontation with our lads. They then reverted to their true cowardly nature of sniping in the back.

The aggro we then encountered for our remaining days in the city made us pleased to see the arrival of 53 Battery of 22 Light Regiment while we returned to camp for a well-earned rest and to talk of successful tactics and near misses.

We then went on to guards and duties. This was a very good tour in which each man managed to get his breath back and to relax in the Company club. This was kept up over the month until we started to prepare for our month in the county. Training again took priority, being a different type of ground and we had to change our policy towards tactics. Once again, 5 Platoon proved its adaptability by making the change smooth and professional. Notes on this tour will appear in the next issue.

### Social Events

We would like to thank Mr. Harrap for the Company social which we all enjoyed very much. This was a rare chance to get our lads plus wives together. It is hoped we can get another one going (could 4 Platoon manage it?). There was a very good raffle with some very good prizes. In the next one we hope to have a genuine Dymo machine as the star prize.

We would like to say a fond farewell to Cpl. Jim Briston who has left us to add a little professionalism to 6 Platoon. We would also like to congratulate Pte. Stewart on his recent marriage and wish them all the best and a long and happy life together.

We would like to finish by giving a look forward. In the next issue we hope to give a very good account of our tour in the county which we know will be worth reading.

### 6 Platoon

Since leaving Catterick life has been divided into four phases: guard, standby, city and county. Guard time is the most boring phase but it is so necessary. One day on and one day off seems at first hard work, but there is the consolation of being able to walk out every other night. One enlightening incident happened when Cpl. Smith landed the Archbishop of Canterbury on a cliff top. The Archbishop was not able to get out of his helicopter as it was too near the edge. Is Cpl. Smith a secret sympathiser of the cause? Standby is perhaps the easiest phase of life in the sense of work as we are flown in as a "Rent a Platoon", do the job, and then

leave the other Companies to sweep up. Success was not hard to find for well-trained troops and we soon found weapons and explosives at Dungiven which set the mark for ensuing tasks whilst on Standby. Since then we have enjoyed 100% success on both our helicopter raids after wanted men.

When we went to the Brandywell we found out how useful our training had been. The first two weeks were routine, but after that Burma, and notably 6 Platoon, began to sort the Brandywell out. There are many amusing tales: Chopping Blood and the bullet hole in his rifle sling; L/Cpl. King and L/Cpl. Crowther who got mixed up with a certain oak tree in a cemetery; Connolly was mistaken for a dog after its favourite bone in the same incident; Sooty Sutton's command post in Mrs. Scott's toilet.

Whilst in the city we had the mundane task of Papa 3 which, due to Oriental wilyness, turned out to be so rewarding when six bombs were found in a car. The Brigadier is now a great admirer of our Fu Manchu and his Policeman Commander.

County life is proving to be the most pleasant phase of our work over here. We are billeted as a platoon in an old "B" Special hut which is not palatial but it is our home. We awaken every morning to the twittering of birds as opposed to the familiar chop-chopping of the city. Patrolling is more enjoyable as the weather is usually kind and the scenery variable. The roads are a blessing in disguise as they are so bumpy we are hoping our top-weights will slim down. (Corporals take note.)

In fact, everything looks and seems so harmless after the Brandywell that it is difficult to keep alert and on the boil. Eagle Flights are new for some of us and are proving to be great fun as well as good value.

We have two new soldiers with us here in the county and both have their own particular ideas on what they want to do when they leave the Army. Anderson wants to be a barrister and is practising by arguing with his rifle. Taylor wants to be a matador.

For the record, Barron prefers the NAAFI to area cleaning; the cultured Sanders won the cherished Golden Mattress award in the city but looks like losing it to Hill Billy Wallace in the county, and our sparks, Pickersgill and Gibson, are managing the challenge of the C42 despite some nasty shocks.

We would like to thank the RCT for their invaluable support in the city, Company HQ for the same and our Pioneers, Cpl. Staniland, and Ptes. Marshall and Howarth for their joinery, bomb making, bomb disposal and their explosive talks on booby traps.

**Pioneer Section:** Cpl. Staniland, Pte. Howarth, Pte. Marshall.

Since joining Burma Coy in Catterick, we have had some very interesting times. We made a few bangs at Hudswell Grange before we left which put the lads on their toes ready for N. Ireland.

Two weeks after reaching Ballykelly we had quite a good find at a farm in the Dungiven area. A couple of weapons were found but it was mainly a



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bomb-making factory. Cpl. Staniland had to be physically restrained from pinching all the materials. He kept mumbling something about the Brandywell which was to be our first stint not long after. After a few shooting incidents whilst there, Sgt. Blood was not convinced that the hole in his rifle sling was not a bullet hole and spent all his time in his "Command Pig". After the stint in the city we got off to make all our booby traps, thanks to the OC and the CSM. Major Ivey also gave us a room in which to display all our masterpieces, which include a Command Detonated Milk Churn Bomb and a pipe grenade. We also arranged for the platoons to have instruction on detecting mines and booby traps.

Our new Platoon Commander, Mr. Grieve, has now found a little respect for our talents. He has now put our room out of bounds to himself.

Pte. "Bomber" Howorth was very unpopular after a bell which was attached to a booby trap went off at 3 a.m. and woke half of the top camp up and stood the guard to.

Cpl. Smith, P. A. D., was also unpopular on the day he threw "Bomber" Howorth's nail bomb through the window into 6 Platoon's lesson and Cpl. Staniland was crushed in the rush.

We hope we can continue to carry on the work we enjoy doing and hope to add to our collection of booby traps. All other departments are welcome to come and view them.

### CORUNNA COMPANY

#### Reader, Who are you?

What do you hope to find in Company notes? If you are one of us you probably want to see your name and exploits in print, but if this to be interesting it will probably be insecure or indecent. If you were a Duke in Londonderry in 1957-59 you may like to know that the centre of the city is so damaged by bombs that it is profoundly depressing (the terrorists live in exceptionally nice housing estates outside the city); that there are no longer WRNS in Ebrington Barracks but the proportion of girls to men elsewhere seems as high as ever. If you are an older soldier in these parts, the problem is the same, only worse (if you are a very old campaigner we don't mean potatoes): there never was a truer saying than "an Irishman never knows what he wants but will fight to the death until he gets it", and that goes for the women, too. Unfortunately, when we are on duty here we see far too much of the worst sides of the Irish character. However, off duty the bachelors, and possibly some others, find the Irish girls as charming as ever and the Company Commander felt it necessary, after the Government announcement of generous pensions for servicemen's widows, to hold forth about girls from the city arriving at barracks with a ring in one hand, a pistol in the other and blank allowance books tucked in their handbags. It is a sobering thought that of the 29 marriages which resulted from our first four-month tour in Ulster one-third have already broken up. But, of course, one must not forget that in the Regiment we have many charming Irish wives and successful marriages. So, on this more optimistic note, and having failed to decide for whom we are writing, let us turn to other matters.

#### Ulster scene

It is difficult for a resident company in Ulster to achieve a satisfactory military tempo and apportion its time between operations, training and recreation. Operationally, everyone would like to go flat-out but one cannot work at the tempo of a four-month tour for 18 months. So far, the boys have worked very hard and the time left over has not been sufficient to allow a satisfactory balance between training and recreation. When not actually deployed we are usually on short notice to do so which caused certain stalwarts to be alarmed on arrival here by the prospect of having to stay sober for 18 months. However, each platoon, when in camp, is authorised to have one duty drunk daily who can be left behind if we are called out, so the soaks are mollified, occasionally. Our tasks change rapidly as we cycle through the city, the country, brigade reserve and guarding the home base. This has some obvious military disadvantages but the variety helps to overcome boredom, and at least boy meets girl, or pint, fairly frequently, albeit briefly. We are lucky to have in Ballykelly, a base which has good recreational facilities, good quarters and beautiful, though somewhat windswept, views. Local shopping facilities are poor and it's a long walk for a night out but we have recently set up a Company Club which will help to overcome the local limitations. Some companies were lucky enough to take over clubs from their predecessors but we have had to start from scratch. With the kind assistance of the QM's department and DoE we have done up some old rooms which are now well equipped with TV, indoor games, a bar and cooking facilities, so we should finish up with the best club in the Battalion.

#### Ulster programme

The Company started off with a long period guarding Shackleton Barracks before spending April deployed in County Londonderry with Company HQ and 7 Platoon at Magherafelt, 8 Platoon at Maghera and 9 Platoon at Kilrea. County operations are a slog and are generally less popular than city operations because there is so little contact with the enemy whereas in the City there is always some excitement to keep men alert. However, during a month's hard work we had several notable successes: L/Cpl. Carroll twice had to defend Toome RUC station with only three men when it was attacked by the IRA with small arms and Russian rockets: a sharp piece of observation by L/Cpl. Bagshaw unearthed a hide of bomb-making kit: a patrol of Cpl. Hall's found 80 rounds of ammunition in a ditch: Company HQ and 7 Platoon caught two terrorists with five loaded rifles and very nearly caught the top wanted men: a section of 7 Platoon had an experience, fortunately without loss, in a booby-trapped house, which they will never forget: 8 Platoon dealt with a large double milk churn bomb: an alert Pte. Swift prevented a man launching a rocket at the Kilrea RUC station: and, as usual, everybody spent a lot of time ambushing with varying degrees of success. In summary, 7 Platoon had the most exciting catches, 8 Platoon had the largest number, and 9 Platoon were the only people who kept their locals under control. In all, a very successful month. After a short spell at home we then had a



Corunna's champion sniffer section. Left to right: L/Cpl. Wathey. Pte. Pierce, Pte. Silcox, Cpl. Hanley and 2/Lt. Saville.

very interesting and valuable three weeks in the City, living on HMS *Rame Head*, working for 3 R Anglian as their Battalion reserve. By so going we covered a lot of ground west of the River Foyle and learnt some useful lessons dealing with riots in the Creggan. Sgt. Basu and Cpl. Franks got their heads split open (not seriously); why those two, one wonders: Capt. Gilbert became the most experienced riot gun operator: 7 Platoon had an interesting time getting local election ballot boxes out of a school under fire: and Cpl. Hanley's section, still with the smell of illegal fertiliser in their nostrils, had a useful catch on a VCP. So, after three months plenty has happened on the operation side and training and sport have received scant attention. We wonder if this is to be the pattern for 18 months.

#### Words of wisdom

From Company HQ:

OC, briefing a search party: "We are looking for men only".

CSM, talking about a night observation device: "When it gets dark it be too light to see".

CQMS, on May 9: "You pads are all the same; useless". On May 16: "You single men are a lot of wasters".

Company Clerk, note written to Company 2IC: "Sir, please speak reference your writing, I can't read it".

#### Personalia

*Married:* We congratulate: S/Sgt. Leachman, on May 12; Ptes. Beaumont, Naylor Tait and Pierce.

*Arrivals:* We congratulate: 2/Lts. Best and Saville, Sgt. Harding, Ptes. Harrison, Flaving and Gray.

*Births:* We congratulate: The Lightfoots and the Burns.

*Promotion:* We congratulate Cpl. Hanley.

*Departures:* With our thanks and best wishes: Lt. Grieve and L/Cpl. Kennedy.

#### SOMME COMPANY

Three-and-a-half months in N. Ireland has been both interesting and informative for Somme Company as members of a "permanent" Battalion in N. Ireland. If we had any illusions concerning the pace of life here, then they were quickly dispelled as from day one. Our main body arrived on March 1, and mounted Camp Guards on the morning of the 2nd. We continued until the 7th. Early in the morning of the 8th, the Company we deployed to the county as part of the Security Force for the Plebescite Elections. This lasted all day, and was followed on the 9th by a lift operation. On the morning of the 10th we deployed for a three-week stint in the county. To be honest, the Company had barely time to draw breath, but it was the only way to get into the swing of things, although some married personnel might have other views!!

The County Company role is extremely interesting. A staggering amount of real estate has to be covered, and one is constantly aware of the problems confronting one. The opposition can call the tune, and finding them smacks somewhat of the needle in the haystack problem. However, there is sufficient variety within the task to keep everyone busy, with helicopter flights, mobile patrols, route clearance, snap VCPs and looking for claymores. The lifting of suspects also provides great satisfaction, particularly if the charge sticks. Somme Company, before, after and during its time deployed in the county, had considerable success with regard to getting hold of the opposition. Also the finding of four "claymores" of considerable variety but equal menace was a sobering thought. One is always fortunate finding them rather than the other way round!!

Our return to Shackleton Barracks on March 31 provided us with a month's guards and reserve, giving everyone a chance to settle in properly. Some have sampled the local delights—few and far between—and husbands and wives were re-

Major-General P. J. H. Leng talking to Sgt. Blood and Pte. Morley of Somme Company on the "Rame Head".



introduced. We were not actually deployed as Reserve Company to Londonderry, but nearly made it once. Our next task was to go to Londonderry, and take over the North Ward. This was not very glamorous as it is a quiet area, and our tasks were the never-ending VCPs and guard on Rosemount RUC Station. The only consolation was being billeted aboard HMS *Rame Head*, an errant minesweeper "mother" ship which was "parked" at Fort George. This provided us with a comfortable base, and a pleasant existence. There was a slight case of verbal warfare aboard with the matelots failing to convince "Pongoes" that such terminology as "heads", "scuttles", and "bulkheads" were really necessary descriptions of toilets, portholes and walls. Overall the Navy won because you had to ask sensible questions in order to survive aboard a floating rabbit warren!! It was, however, a pleasant base and we were well looked after. A fortnight after our return to Shackleton Barracks we were back on board again, but this time only for a week, and that brings us up to date.

There have been a number of changes within the orbit. Lt. Ward has gone, posted to Warminster where we wish him a happy and successful tour. We welcome 2/Lt. Colville to the Company. We also have three other departures, L/Cpl. Evans 60, Cpl. Ruding and Cpl. Cuss, the latter temporarily we hope. We also welcome to the Company Cpl. Broadle, Ptes. Nicholson, Lee, Barker, Kilcourse, Hannan and Davison. Young additions to the Company are the new sons of Cpl. Sykes and Pte. Hughes who made their entrance into the world amid applause on May 11 and 13 in the Altnagelvin Hospital. Both fathers were close at hand on board the *Rame Head*. Congratulations to them both, and also to the respective hard-working mums!!

A word of thanks to all the Company wives for their support in circumstances which are very difficult. We appreciate their difficulties, but hope their support will be continued. Time is flying by now and we look forward to that long-awaited period of leave.

### HOOK COMPANY

In Hook Company its not *who* you are but *what* you do that is important. It's difficult to identify exactly what everyone does and so now and then we have a Russian type purge. We had one before the move to Ulster so that we could justify the retention in Hook Company of 178 soldiers.

Apart from getting the odd chap working a six-hour day, it follows that the purge proved we needed more men, not less; however, a compromise was reached and our skeleton staff in the Kremlin can happily cope with everything but a fire call.

### The move to Ulster

Fears of huge bills and absent soldiers proved groundless and the rumour that the Battalion Square was used as the start of this years Monaco Grand Prix—is true. The cry of "Every man for himself!" was heard more than once as 10-year-old cars loaded with family, pets, food and furniture forged out of the gates on their way to the ferry.

### Arrival and Departures

CSM "Nobby" Clarke bemoaned the fact that he had left his car and his golf clubs behind when he found he had to do half a circuit of the airfield to reach the office and the local golf club were asking for no green fees. Having found a golf course to his liking, he proceeded to annihilate the opposition to become "the top eliminator". We wish him a happy and successful stay in Strensall and thank him for the fatherly way he has shouldered our many problems over the last year. CSM Hughes soon found the key to Hook Company lies in the duty forecast book and he has our sympathies when doing this high wire balancing act.

It takes a long time to lay old ghosts and the phantom is not dead yet; it is rumoured that in the fortnight that he has been Families Officer he has changed from a dove into a hawk and is heard to offer to those in need such unhelpful advice as "What cannot be cured must be endured". We were indeed sorry to see Major Miller go and thank him

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for the magnificent way he has coped with many real and imagined problems that befall any family living our nomadic and turbulent existence.

### Personalities

L/Cpl. Richardson has left the Company Stores on promotion. He is now managing director of the Corporals Club.

L/Cpl. Frear passed his PE test and was promptly posted on the strength of it to look after the Limavady Hilton (White Rose Club).

Pte. Evans, sometimes filing clerk and permanent bus escort. It's money for old rope, pay rise or not!

The "Q" team Don Quixote and Sancho Panza are now left to run the "Q" side on their own. However, that relic of the Boer War, L/Cpl. "Dhoby" Broadbent, lends a hand occasionally, but so far he had eluded every arms check that has been done.

Cpl. White continues to produce excellent tripe on his tripewriter! He is also PMC of the Corporals Mess, which is rapidly becoming another Carlton Club.

The White Rose Club, rumoured to be either a front organisation for Hook Company or a limited company of unlimited wealth about to do a takeover bid for the Sergeants and Corporals Messes. We are happy to say it is very popular with a full weekly programme that includes discos, bingo, darts teams and a local group every Saturday. It's weathered the odd crisis (normal in Ulster), like the group that failed to turn up one Saturday because they had heard a rumour that they might be intimidated if they did. The cafe side of the club is also becoming more popular but we haven't got to take-away meals yet.

### MT

Spring finds us firmly established in Ballykelly, and not displeased with our lot. The MT yard was built for the RAF and consequently has many features which we have not come across before, such things as a purpose-built office, drivers' rest room, descent workshops and a tyre bay which is the last word in tyre bays. The yard and drivers' quarters are situated quite apart from the rest of the Battalion on the seaward edge of the camp. Surrounded by harefields and hedgerows we lead a simple, bucolic existence. This rural atmosphere is strengthened by the renewed presence of the faithful "Pig"; his brute weight increased by four tons since we left him behind in Bessbrook.

The Platoon is at night on company strength, being some 57 strong if you include the REME. In spite of this, it is rare to find more than four or five drivers in the yard at one time; those who are not working in the city or the country with the rifle companies are either on duty or on detail. There have been memorable moments for some of us, but fortunately of a more domestic nature. Ptes. Sagar, Wood and Lingard got married in spite of long harangues by the MTO; Plunkett and Fowler became daddies for the first time; the great Crowley went on the diet for the third time; Messrs. Simpson, Price, Withers, Woolley and Whitwam disappeared into hospital for various obscure reasons; Ptes. Whiteley and the Thompsons signed off, whilst Sagar and Pawson signed on; Pte. Tearne did

not have an accident in March; George "Sideburns" Waterhouse became the only corporal in the Army to have a colonel for a chauffeur.

The screamers REME are up to strength with the arrival of Cfn. Lowden and Mulholland. Finally, we have four splendid reinforcements in Mr. Smart, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Moore and Mr. Harrison; all of them too good to be really civilians.

During March and April we clocked up 110,314 miles and managed to keep the accidents down to nine. Our old 39-seater coach did 9,000 miles in March! Here's hoping for good weather so that it can convey our families and the occasional platoon to the seashore this summer. If you drink, don't drive.

### SERGEANT LAMB OF THE NINTH

The following extract from "Sergeant Lamb of the Ninth" by Robert Graves, based on the actual memoirs of an Irish sergeant who served in the 9th Regiment of Foot in the American War of Independence, has been forwarded by Mr. B. J. Howe of 53 Cheltenham Road, London SE15, in the hope that it can find its way into THE IRON DUKE. He says in his letter "As you will see, The Duke's were a fine Regiment even before they were called The Duke's."

"Harlowe and I were among the non-commissioned officers chosen to be instructed in the novel light infantry manoeuvres, lately introduced into the Army by General Sir William Howe and strongly approved by His Majesty the King. These manoeuvres were intended for use in broken country, the set hitherto employed having been designed rather for the open battlefields of Germany and the Low Countries. They were six in number and well designed to their purpose, and we of the Ninth were sent to the Thirty-third Regiment, then also quartered in Dublin, to learn them.

"I am bound to record here that I felt a certain shamefastness, on visiting the barracks of the Thirty-third, who were commanded by the young Earl of Cornwallis, to compare their high state of appointment and the steadiness of their discipline with the slovenly and relaxed bearing of most of our own companies. One can always correctly judge a regiment's capacities by the behaviour of its sentries. I have already described how Maguire performed his sentry duty at Waterford, and might well have remarked then that his behaviour was not exceptional. I have seen men go on duty in the Ninth dead drunk and scarcely able to stand. But with the Thirty-third the sentry was always alert and alive in attention; when on duty he was all eye, all ear. Even in the sentry-box, which he never entered unless in a downpour of rain, he was forbidden to keep the palm of his hand carelessly on the muzzle of his loaded firelock; for this was considered as dangerous an attitude as it was awkward. During the two hours that he remained on his post the sentry continued in constant motion, and could not walk less than seven miles in that time. The Thirty-third thus set a standard of soldier-like duty which made me secretly dissatisfied with the Ninth, and which I have never seen equalled since but by a single other regiment which was brigaded with the Thirty-third under the same Lord Cornwallis, in the later campaigns of the American War."



## **“C” Company (DWR) 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers**

Looking back to the time when the last notes were written it seems surprising that we Weekend soldiers have fitted in so much.

There has been a spate of shooting, where as so often happens the Company managed to come second in a number of things and then come away empty handed. Then there was the District Rifle Meeting, where despite the proximity to Catterick the Company ran one of the ranges. There it was good to see one or two old familiar friendly faces, including Major David Cowell, still heavily involved in running the meeting, and who is now Training Major of the Northumbrian Universities OTC. Another was S/Sgt. Glencross, formerly our CQMS/PSI.

After our lack of success in competition shooting we are now busy classifying whilst the weather is at its best, and we still continue to have a number of men in the Battalion team for Bisley. Also, as the summer weather is here, we are building up to annual camp with fitness training, and in addition have just completed the first Battalion exercise of the year. Camp is in Cyprus from August 4 to 18, and we are all looking forward to it very much, even our two PSIs, on whom the bulk of the organisational work will fall.

We continue to be well served by our PSIs and we are grateful to 1 DWR for sparing us senior ranks of the calibre of CSM Geoff Holliday and S/Sgt. Reddy.

Now we are on to the subject of personalities congratulations are due to a number of Company members. First of all to the Company 2IC, Capt. Keith Marsh, on his marriage. We wish him and Susan much happiness. In addition, he has just been awarded his Territorial Decoration and is currently only the fourth serving officer in the Battalion with it. Congratulations again.

Another of our long-established bachelors, Sgt. Phil Berry, also acquired that entry in Part 2 Orders

which qualifies him for marriage allowance, and we wish him and Jean every happiness.

We have lost O/Cdt. Roy Jones, who has gone to work in South Arabia, where we wish him well. His departure left a vacancy on his course at Sandhurst, which was fortunately filled from within the Company by Tim Newcombe, who had just passed his selection board to become an Officer Cadet. His successful completion of his Sandhurst training resulted in his being gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in what under present procedure must be record time from Private. Fortunately the Company has managed to retain him and once again is up to strength for officers. Congratulations, Tim, and also to the other well-deserved if less meteoric promotions, namely Cpls. Clay, Smith, B. T. R., Sweeney, Bainbridge and Croft; and to L/Cpls. O'Neill, Salt, Natynczyk, Sunderland, Woodcock, Doyle and Milton.

The social side has not been neglected either. Despite all the training there have been the St. George's weekend Dinner for past and present officers of all three Yorkshire Volunteer Battalions; the Officers Mess ladies night, at which the Company's officers had the pleasure of the company of Major Charlie Grieve from RHQ DWR and Mrs. Grieve; those two sumptuous affairs, the Company Sergeants' Dinner at Kershaw House, Luddenden Foot, and the Sergeants' St. George's Ball; the inauguration of the Corporals Mess and a Corporals Mess Social; and innumerable socials in the Wellington Club.

In addition, we supplied a detachment for the Halifax Mayoral Sunday Church Parade. As will be seen from the above summary, we continue to lead a full and active life.

By the way of stop press, the General Purposes Committee of York City Council has decided to award the Freedom of the City to the Yorkshire Volunteers.

## **“C” Coy (DWR) 3 Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers**

What a tour in the grand manner—Huddersfield, Proteus, Swinnerton, Salisbury Plain, Aldershot, Folkestone, Colchester, Ripon Park, Cropton Forest and back to Huddersfield. We toiled under the hot sun for 15 days and sunburn and lack of sleep were the order of the day. Our only casualty was the Company Commander's head (gaskets Land-Rover qty 1). For the first time our communications worked perfectly and we even managed to set the Battalion record for direct communication when we managed to contact the repeater station near Sennybridge from Salisbury Plain, a distance of about 150 miles.

We lived on compo almost all the time but, thanks to the expertise of CQMS Rutherford, aided

and abetted by L/Cpl. Squires (by courtesy of “B” Battery, and our other cooks, it never really tasted like it. The only grumble heard was CSM Taylor saying ‘If my wife gives me any beans you b . . . y well know what will happen!’

Training at camp was in line with our role “in aid of civil power”, culminating with a very difficult cordon and search in Cropton Forest, of which the cordon worked perfectly, but the search was extremely difficult owing to the thickness of the 10-year-old forest.

We have had several changes in the Company during the last few months and we welcome S/Sgt. Stanway from 1 Yorks/PWO as our new PSI to replace S/Sgt. Reid, who has left the Army on

medical grounds. On his first visit to Keighley we gather he passed his initiation tests with flying colours. 2/Lts. Gordon Lightbody and David Massey have now been to Sandhurst and we congratulate them. The new Company orbat is now

O.C. Major Peter Green, 2IC Capt. Matthew Bateman, 7 Pl (Huddersfield)—O/Cdt. Stephen Armitage, Sgt. Liversedge, SP1 (Huddersfield)—2/Lt. David Massey, Sgt. Trigg, 9 Pl (Keighley)—2/Lt. Gordon Lightbody, Sgt. Wakefield.

## Depot, The King's Division

The spring is always a good time for visitors and we have certainly taken our share this year. Our principal visitors have been Lt.-General Sir Alan Taylor, Deputy Commander-in-Chief UKLF, on February 15; Major-General J. M. D. Ward-Harrison, GOC North East District, on March 8; the Inspector of Army Bands on March 9; Major-Generals Dunbar and Majury, Director of Infantry and Colonel Commandant, The King's Division, respectively on May 9, during the Divisional Meeting; Mr. Peter Blaker, MP, Under-Secretary of State for the Army, on May 30; Major-General A. R. Carnock, Director of Quartering, on June 7. Happily all our visitors accepted programmes which involved minimum disruption to training.

WO1 Clarke and 1 DWR Band arrived safely in one piece on May 8. They managed to play at the passing-out parade of Arroyo Platoon on May 18, and will again be performing on June 28 in the Officers Mess. Our Junior Band is also in full cry just now, and the bedlam of martial noise when both bands practice at opposite ends of the camp has to be heard to be believed.

The Depot shooting team were overall winners and Minor Units Champions at the North-East District Shooting Competition held at Catterick ranges on May 12 and 13, 1973. The team was helped by the good results achieved by Cpl. Larnder and L/Cpl. Molin. It was pleasant also to meet other "Dukes" on this occasion, such as Lt.-Col. Le Messurier and RSM Collins.

Major Bray, his officers and NCOs of Burma Company visited the Depot on Wednesday, February 14, to discover at first hand what we get up to at our "large depot". We believe they found the visit interesting and useful. From our point of view it was very valuable as "feed back" is essential if we are to achieve our task successfully. We would be delighted to receive other visiting parties when the time is opportune.

Readers of the Journal may recall a cautious note of optimism in our last notes when discussing the chances of our soccer team in the Minor Units Championship, The York and Lancaster Cup. Most people will be aware by now that we won the final at Aldershot 1—0 on March 24. The team, led by Cpl. Smith, DWR, deserve the highest praise for their skill, effort and enthusiasm throughout the season. We can scarcely expect Lt. Newell and his cricketers to do as well, but results so far are encouraging.

The annual Depot fete, blessed for once with good weather, was held on June 9. The inevitable white elephant and cake stalls carried out a brisk

trade in assorted junk and sticky buns respectively and made some £100 between them and the various sideshows were constantly in use. Especially commended for bravery are the two bikini-clad young ladies who adorned the Cyclops' eye. This fiendish device consists of a large board painted on which is a Cyclops with his single eye. For a small fee one may throw wooden balls at the eye, and if it is hit a lever switches over and the girl sitting on a platform is unceremoniously dumped into an inflated rubber water tank. Whether by design or accident I couldn't say, but the poster advertising Cyclops' eye proclaimed the immortal phrase "knock her off for 3p", which may have accounted for the size of the crowd. All in all, we can declare the fete a success, and the proceeds, which will be divided amongst the Division's Regimental Associations, came to a total of around £168.

The Junior Soldiers are once again invading the Isle of Man in June for their summer camp. Their activities range from skin-diving to mountain walking and they devise for themselves full evening programmes. Behaviour last year was extremely good after a muscular Manx policeman had reminded them that the Isle of Man is the only place in the United Kingdom where the birch is still used.

There have been few "Dukes" comings and goings. L/Cpl. Catton has arrived to work in the Officers' Mess, and L/Cpl. Molin to "W" Company in Ripon. WO2 Clarke took over as CSM "X" (Trg) Company in early June. We wish them and their families a happy and satisfying tour at the Depot. Finally, a welcome to SQMS Vinson, ACC, whom many will remember from Hong Kong days. He is to be congratulated on his promotion to WO2, and we have already found his highly professional approach to his trade to be extremely beneficial.

### 10 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

The team has been very busy in the last few months covering a lot of country and contacting a lot more people, broadcasting the name of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in many parts of the country as well as the West Riding.

The earlier part of the period was spent finishing off a map reading cadre run for the ACF. This was punctuated by activities at youth clubs and schools and a very successful training weekend run for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Many school-

children are getting to know of 10 Army Youth Team's "Marsden trek" and "Bronte bash". These are two adventure training initiative exercises designed to give people experience of moor walking and outdoor awareness.

During this time the team was involved in the Children's Adventure Weeks at Butlin's Holiday Camp at Minehead. This is a new adventure in education, during which time Army youth teams run a great variety of activities for the school-children who take part. Each of the five weeks cater for up to 2,000 children and the name of The Duke's was spread further afield. There were some 25 to 30 different activities the children had to choose from: 10 Army Youth Team were involved in trekking, swimming, life-saving, indoor games, roller skating, boating, deer stalking, confidence course and it's a knock-out competition. As can be seen life in an Army youth team is exceptionally varied and different from the normal run of military duties—flexibility is the great cry.

From this venture the team went on to Southampton as guest of 17 Port Regiment to run a visit for 40 cadets from the Huddersfield area. The original idea was fostered when the OC went as training

officer to the RCT in Cyprus last autumn. Little did they know that such a contact would result in 40 cadets descending on them for a week. The first two days were spent seeing what the Army's "navy" got up to. One aspect of this resulted in the Prime Minister's newly launched yacht nearly being run down by a launch with a cadet at the wheel. Other days were spent with the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington, the Royal Navy, a hovercraft unit and the Beauhen Motor and Maritime Museums.

On return to the West Riding in May some of the team went away on courses and our normal round of schools, youth clubs, fetes and weekends away continued.

This came to a head in early June, when the team held an official party to introduce Capt. J. M. Thorn, the new OC, to the large number of youth leaders, educationalists, cadet personalities and other organisations with whom the Army Youth Team has constant contact.

The calendar is indeed very full as the team enters its busiest time, pausing in Huddersfield to quickly reorganise prior to setting out on yet another venture.

## The Army Cadet Force

### Huddersfield Area (DWR)

Since our last notes the area and the cadets have been very busy preparing for and taking part in the many events of the summer training programme.

All our detachments have been at full stretch, particularly Capt. John Evans and his boys from the Huddersfield detachment, who have made great achievements on the sporting field. They won the West Riding ACF Junior Cross-Country Championships and have won a splendid array of cups at the Huddersfield Youth Sports, together with individual medals for the 100m, 200m and 800m. Huddersfield also provided two boys for the West Riding team in the North-East ACF sports. Both did well, but Cadet Noel really excelled at 100m and 200m and in the relay team. Cadet S/Sgt. Hotchkiss of Heckmondwike Grammar School detachment won the senior 200m and discus, and we hope that these two will go forward to the national finals at Aldershot in July.

John Evans's Corps of Drums has been busy playing at local galas, and they put on a first-class display at Leek for the annual Leek Scout Field Day. This seems to be now an annual event, and the whole area goes to Anzio Camp at Leek, while the Drums perform under the direction of Sgt.-Major Jim Brooking. They will also be putting on displays in Eldwick and Marsden for their galas.

All our detachments have been putting in practice for the West Riding ACF Rifle Meeting, to be held in late June, and this year we hope to bring back a few pots and provide the West Riding with a Bisley team once again.

At Easter 30 cadets from the area, accompanied by Capts. Geoff Whitaker and Frank Fox, paid a

week-long visit to 17 Port Regiment RCT at Marchwood near Southampton and saw something of the life of these rather strange "sailor-soldiers" who operate the Army's only port and man its ships. They also saw the *QE2*, under heavy guard before its Mediterranean cruise; they visited the Isle of Wight, where the shops closed as the cadets stepped ashore; but they did see *Morning Cloud* as she was escorted out of Cowes on her maiden voyage, and a variety of salutes were thrown up as "the man" sailed past. Apart from hovercraft that did not hover, and DUKWs that would not swim (somebody pinched the water), they did see the National Motor Museum; paid a visit to the RAC at Bovington (their tanks did not work, either); and spent a day with the Royal Navy at Portsmouth. There they were shown round Britain's oldest ship still on the secret list, HMS *Victory*. It must be on the secret list; they would not let Geoff take any photographs.

The visit was arranged and organised by Capt. David Wonson as a sort of swansong (sorry) for the Huddersfield cadets. He will by now have left us, but for the trip and for all your work for the ACF over the past months, David, our most grateful and sincere thanks, and we look forward to seeing you again. As David leaves we welcome Capt. John Thorne, who takes over as OC 10 AYT, and we hope your stay in Huddersfield will be a pleasant one, John. We must also mention the two new officers recently arrived in the area from very strange parts. Major J. R. Brinley, TD, comes to us from RARO via the Wiltshire ACF and is now on area staff, whatever that means, but he already has

his problems. The RCT were able to provide him with a No. 1 dress hat, but the process of rebadging is proving very difficult and he has to make do with the canopy of the area Land-Rover. If any "Duke" has a "Blues" hat, size 7½, Jeff would be very grateful! Capt. Peter Tattersall has come to us from Glamorgan ACF via various other countries and is at present badged RRW, but this, too, will soon be changed, together we hope with "Barney's Bags", which may be correct in the Welsh mountains, but look rather odd in the Pennines. A sincere welcome to you both, you have already proved your worth at our Leek weekend and we look forward to many more splendid parties.

Preparations are now well in hand for our Cadet Sunday Parade on July 1, when our Area Standard is to be dedicated and then marched back to St. Paul's Street, escorted by two guards of cadets. But before this Geoff Whitaker (he's the ex-Gunner, by the way) is taking 40 cadets to Sowerby Bridge Water Carnival and will be messing about in boats. We won't take him on a visit to a RCT unit again!

We are all looking forward (?) to our annual week camp in Cultybraggan, of which we know very little, but have heard a lot, not much of it good. And as camp starts on the "Glorious Twelfth" we had better keep our heads down.

Lt. Peter Turner is busy setting up his Signals Platoon at Huddersfield, for which the Area Commander is truly grateful, for when Peter takes all his signals kit out John can get into his stores, if only Frank would move all the bukshee tinned food he's collecting. Accommodation is ever a problem at St. Paul's Street.

Capt. Doug Bennett and 2/Lt. Steve Lancaster and Terry Bonds are all off to the county shoot, and 2/Lt. Peter Mitchell is soon to be busy bivouacking with the little hairy men of Halifax. Meantime the poor ATO plods on and makes sure everybody gets paid and fed and transported, and the cadets put up with us all.

After our camp at Leek quite a few Huddersfield adults have been spotted sloping off into various wooded areas in search of "gurt sticks", with which they are no doubt hoping to "knock down" more than a few blackbirds, which since Leek have been becoming something of a problem in the area, but we daren't call in the RSPB, as this species already seems to be very well protected by a pair of major's crowns!

We hope to send a full report on Cadet Sunday and annual camp and, in the meantime, our best wishes are sent to our friends in the 1st Battalion for a safe and successful tour.

## CORRESPONDENCE

1 South Eaton Place,  
London, SW1.  
January, 1973

Dear Sir,

I am writing a history of the Chinese Labour Corps, the force of 100,000 Chinese labourers recruited by the British during the First World War. They helped to load and unload ships; to fill sandbags and dig trenches; to move munitions and timber; to build and maintain roads and railways; and to do many other jobs to release soldiers for fighting duties.

I am describing the inception of the idea, the recruitment in China, the voyages to Europe, the work and leisure in France, the deaths of some and the repatriation of others.

I wonder whether any of your members who served during the First World War remember these Chinese workers?

If you have a magazine or some other publication, or a notice board, could you possibly ask your members about this?

If anyone has documents or photographs relating to this fascinating episode I would be most interested to see them; they would be copied and returned at once and the cost of postage refunded.

In addition, if you have a library or a museum, it may have something on this subject. If so, I would be very happy to have a chance to see them.

Yours faithfully,  
M. B. SUMMERSKILL.

The 33rd at Bokstel

Sir,

May I please reply to Brigadier Webb-Carter's comment on my article? I purposefully skated lightly over the 33rd's temporary lapse from their high standards of discipline in 1799-1802. The sources of this information are as follows: For the need to bring in a CO from outside the Regiment, please see 'The Supplementary Despatches of the Duke of Wellington', Vol. III, pp. 115 and 184-6. The eventual choice, Lt.-Col. Arthur Gore, had been Adjutant of the 73rd Foot in the Seringapatam Campaign: his father, Col. John Gore from County Kilkenny, had served with the 33rd in the Seven Years War. The state of indiscipline in the 33rd at that time is well described by Brigadier Webb-Carter himself in THE IRON DUKE of October 1955.

With regard to the future Duke of Wellington, my object was not to make out that he was a bad CO, but to bring out that his relations with the 33rd when Shee was in command and 2nd-in-command were far less happy than when these appointments had been held by Sherbrooke. The clash of senior personalities, however efficient themselves, inevitably make for an unhappy, and therefore inefficient unit.

Yours faithfully,  
S. J. WATSON.

The Editor,  
THE IRON DUKE  
(33rd Foot: please see page 63—Ed.)



# Resident Battalion in Northern Ireland

For some unaccountable reason very little is known about life in a resident battalion in Ulster. Many of our readers who are not in Ulster will have a fair idea of what life is like for soldiers on a four-month tour—its pitfalls, its separation problems—and the press and television often give accurate portrayals of many facets of that way of life. But few people, including many soldiers of four-month battalions, have a clear idea of what life is like within the battalion which is placed in Ulster for 18 months with its families.

Perhaps to start with it is worth giving a short paraphrase on the tasks and problems of a four-month battalion. First the battalion leaves its families behind in the care of the rear party, and more specifically the Families Officer—not the complete answer possibly to that particular problem but one that, broadly speaking, has worked. The battalion can then concentrate on its task at hand and aim to do its job at its best ability in a relatively small area, knowing full well that at the end of the four months it can return to a normal existence at its home station. It is the brevity of the tour and the ability to concentrate on its task at hand which is the key to its problems. At the risk of oversimplifying that type of tour, it is, I believe, a reasonably fair way of looking at it.

For the resident battalion the problem is very difficult and different. First and foremost there is the very difficult problem for all ranks to cope with, the combination of operational commitments, and trying between times to live a normal life, either as a single person or as a married man. The battalion has (in our case) one specific task which occupies one company, and that is controlling the areas known as "O" and "P", two Police divisions. It also is responsible for looking after the security of the camp and surrounding area, including the married quarters. There is also one company which is tasked as Brigade Reserve, and up to press one other company has been permanently in Londonderry in one sector or another. This has just ceased but has had obviously a direct effect on our lives here in Ballykelly.

Working in the county area is interesting. There is a tremendous amount of ground to cover and working in close co-operation with the UDR/RUC and Special Branch provides us with considerable information about the opposition. The main threat is the claymore and ambushes of all kinds. However, the day-to-day existence in three locations in Magherafelt, Maghera and Kilrea, is fairly mundane, with ceaseless route clearing, snap VCPs, mobile and foot patrols, gathering information in the unending search for information on various "personalities" the security forces would like to interview. Guards are nothing new and each company tries to work a system whereby a soldier is on for one 24-hour period and off free the next. With

company strengths as they are, this system seems to work satisfactorily. Brigade Reserve means being ready to move within a certain time, and training can be done in this period. Finally our commitments in Londonderry have been in whatever sector, generally to patrol that area, curb violence and run permanent vehicle check points which abound in the city. Sometimes "aggro" occurs which can involve the company, and sometimes not. It's just the luck of the draw and perhaps also dependent on the overall Brigade policy at that point in time.

It can be said therefore that the Battalion "teeth" sub-units are kept pretty busy with two definite commitments and in reserve for another. Although the commitments are now down to one, plus the guards of the camp area, it is not difficult to see that the pace of life for companies is fairly severe. It is estimated that at the moment a soldier as a member of a section spends about 70% of the total nights out of his own bed. The situation improves as you go up the rank structure, but even so the point is very forcibly struck home, or should be registered, that such percentages—never less than 50%—are diametrically opposed to leading a normal life as a Battalion. Further evidence goes to show that the remainder of the time spent in the base area is not always time off. Lift operations whilst on reserve, reinforcement for elections in the county area and certain training which has to be done shortens the "normality" of life within the framework of the Battalion to a minimum.

The word "normality" is the key of course. Even when a single soldier is off work, he is extremely limited in his activities outside of the camp area. Strict rules govern where he can go, what he should frequent, time to be back in, signing in and out, and care that he does not establish patterns in his behaviour which can be noted by local sympathisers are factors which restrict a man in his leisure. For the married man the upheaval is perhaps as difficult. Here today, gone tomorrow unfortunately has been much the order of the day as the rapidly changing situation within our area has materialised. "Roulements", the Battalion's forecast of duties which try to give as much warning as possible for deployments—County, Londonderry, etc.—have been wrecked by unforeseen circumstances and events largely beyond our control. This does not help matters, but by and large all families have come to accept that such a situation, as is the case in N. Ireland, cannot be sorted out, categorised and everything put into compartments as is done in an exercise. One must adapt to the situation as it occurs, and one's personal feelings and inconveniences naturally must be put aside.

We are all impressed with the loyalty and cheerfulness of wives who cope with the separation problem. They are standing up very well indeed to this difficult aspect of our life here. There are many

compensatory factors here, though, not least the variety of activities laid on for all ages. Sport, naturally enough, including squash, badminton, swimming, cricket and soccer to name some. The Wives Club flourishes and go-karting on the airfield are just a few of the pursuits which means a full life can be led. For single soldiers who already benefit from the above the added bonus of R. and

R. is a welcome break from the province.

So one can see that life here is not all work and no play, and we are sure that since we have got over the teething troubles inevitable in circumstances such as these present ones life will become as normal as possible within the framework of the present situation in Ulster.

I. P. R.

## Personalia

### BIRTHS

#### Richardson

On 22 April, 1973, at Melbourne, Australia, to Jennifer (nee Wathen) and John Richardson, a son, Christopher Ian.

### ENGAGEMENTS

#### Webb-Carter—Young

The engagement is announced between Major David Webb-Carter, MC, Irish Guards, elder son of Brigadier B. W. Webb-Carter, DSO, OBE, and Mrs. Webb-Carter, of Ashton Cottage, Bishop's Waltham Hampshire, and Felicity, daughter of Mr. W. L. R. de B. Young and the late Mrs. E. E. Young, of The Old Rectory, Drewsteignton, Devon.

#### Rossouw—Savory

The engagement is announced between Pieter, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Rossouw, of Muizenberg, Cape Town, and Rozanne Barbara, elder daughter of Major and Mrs. A. C. S. Savory of Lennox Gardens, SW1.

#### Kington-Small

The engagement is announced between Miles Stewart, son of Mrs. S. B. Kington, of Ogle, Northumberland, and the late Lt.-Col. S. B. Kington, and Wendy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Small, of Redcar, Teesside.

### MARRIAGES

#### Kavanagh—Kelso

The wedding took place quietly on Saturday, April 7, 1973, at Malton, Yorkshire, between Lt.-Col. Barry Kavanagh, of Hovingham, Yorkshire, and Mrs. Josephine Kelso, of Thornton-le-Dale, Yorkshire. The wedding was attended by Dr. and Mrs. Kelso, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kelso, Mr. Richard Kavanagh and Mrs. H. R. Kavanagh.

#### Pearson-Adams—Davidson

The marriage took place on Saturday, May 19, 1973, at All Saints Church, Terrington, York between Richard Pearson-Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hilary Pearson-Adams, of Stearsby Hall, York, and Celia, younger daughter of Col. and Mrs. J. Davidson, of The Mount House, Terrington, York.

#### Zimmerman—MacLaren

The marriage took place on Friday, June 1, 1973, at St. Aidan's Church, Johnstone, between Herrn. Edouard Zimmerman, son of Herrn. and Frau Edouard Zimmerman, of Solbad Hall, Tirol, and Belinda, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs. C. J. MacLaren, of Dunavon, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire. They are to live near Innsbruck.

Donald and Jilly Palmer would like to take this opportunity of thanking everybody in The Duke's for their kind thoughts and sympathy after the death of their baby son, Guy. The "family" was never more appreciated. Thank you all.

We send warmest congratulations to Lt.-Col. Dennis Shuttleworth on his award in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of the OBE. For the past three years he has been Chief G3 (GSO1 Air/Ops), at HQ NORTHAG, which entailed working for NATO on air matters between NORTHAG and 2 ATAF, and it must be a matter of great satisfaction to him, as it is to us all, that his services have been recognised in this way. In the near future he is moving to Latimer, where he is to be GSO1 DS at the National Defence College.

Those who served in 1 DWR in Korea and Gibraltar will remember that Derek Booth, then a national service officer in the Battalion, transferred to the RAOC. Over the years he has maintained a close touch with the Regiment and, when due for a move, has always sent along his new address to ensure that his copy of THE IRON DUKE reached him. We have now had the good news that at the end of June this year he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel and given command of 16 Battalion RAOC. We congratulate him on his promotion and take the opportunity of passing on to him and Eva our very best wishes.

Major-General Jimmy Lunt moved house on June 1. He now lives at Hilltop House, Little Milton, Oxon. Since his retirement from the Army he has been connected with Wadham College, Oxford, where he is the domestic bursar.

Major Dick Ince, who was the last remaining pre-war regular serving officer in the Regiment, retired on June 7 after over 34 years' service. As mentioned

in our last issue, he and Angela have settled in Haslemere and he has applied for a RO appointment in the Aldershot area. We wish them both many years of happiness.

We are grateful to Lt.-Col. C. I. E. Haslock, now resident in New Zealand, for sending two interesting photographs for the Regimental Museum. They were taken at Bostandjik Camp about August 1923, when 1 DWR was stationed in Turkey as part of a force sent to try and contain a Turkish uprising. At the time he was Regimental Transport Officer. Unfortunately, the only names that he can recall of those who appear in the photographs are those of Sgt. Anderson, his transport sergeant, Pte. Lane, groom, and an attached RASC sergeant called Wisby, who was there to assist with vehicle maintenance. The farrier was a large, bearded Russian of prodigious strength who could carry a mule across his shoulders!

We recently had a post card from Mr. A. H. Ancill who was holidaying in Malta. He said that he had been looking around many of the old haunts on the island that he and others used to frequent when 1 DWR was stationed there from 1935 to 1937. He reported that up to the time of writing he had not been recognised by any of the locals!

We have heard from Mrs. Hartwell, widow of the late Mr. Joe Hartwell. She says that she still gets great pleasure from THE IRON DUKE, and particularly from the short items of news when they concern contemporaries of her husband. She has strong family connections with the Regiment. Lt. Col. J. E. Johnson is her eldest brother and the late ORQMS Sam Ambler was her brother-in-law.

Lt.-Col. Rodney Harms completed his tour as CO 1st Infantry Regiment, Abu Dhabi Defence Force, earlier in the year and he has settled at the moment at 42 The Street, Ash, Canterbury. The following is an extract from his letter:

"Since my return from Abu Dhabi I have become an indifferent carpenter and a mediocre general handyman, but at least the comfort level has risen, so I take some credit. Elizabeth and the children are all well. My next job, which I take up in mid-August, is GSO 1 (Int. and Secy.) HQ UKLF, Wilton, where my GSO 3 will be Wilf Charlesworth. We do have a telephone, ASH (Kent) 812143, and will always be happy to hear from and see any 'Dukes' who have the opportunity to get in touch".

John Reddington is out in Australia. He wrote in April from Mount Gravate College, PO Box 82, Queensland 4122: "I am working round the clock here, lecturing at this college in psychology and special education and studying for the postgraduate diploma in psychology at the university. It is meant to be spring but today was nearly 90°F, but I wouldn't swap it for the cold in England for anything. I spent Christmas in New Caledonia on a three weeks' French course run by the French Government. In May I am flying to the Aboriginal Reserve of Palm Island off Northern Queensland

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to test 30 aboriginal children on matrix-solving problems. You wouldn't believe it, but I have to get permission to enter the reserve. Luckily, an ex-special education student, now teaching aborigines, is putting me up with her family".

Capt. Frank Nichols, who has been QM to 1 Division HQ and Signals Regiment in BAOR for a number of years, has returned to the UK. He is now with the Junior Tradesman's Regiment at Kimmel Park Camp, Rhyl.

After his 2½ years as Unit Families Officer Major David Miller has left 1 DWR. In preparation for his next job, OC 601 Section (Tactical Primary Forward Air Control), which he takes up in August, he is to attend two courses, a short one at the Joint Warfare Establishment and a longer one at RAF Chivenor in Devon. When he finally takes up his appointment he will be based at Colchester with HQ 19 Brigade.

Capt. David Wonsom, who has been a close neighbour for the past year or so as OC 10 Army Youth Team, has handed over to Capt. John Thorn. After attending a Junior Staff and Command course at the School of Infantry, the former is to rejoin 1 DWR.

At the moment three of our officers are on the staff in Ulster. At HQ Northern Ireland Capt. Patrick Puttock is GSO 3 (Info Policy), having left 10 Cadet Training Team, and with him is Capt. Johnny Walker, who has moved from the Signals Wing, School of Infantry, to be GSO 3 (Plans). Major Charles Bunbury is the third and he is GSO 3 (Ops) at HQ 8 Brigade. In the meantime Capt. Alistair Roberts has completed his tour as GSO 3 (Int.) at HQ 39 Brigade and is back with 1 DWR.

News from Capt. Walter Robins has not been good. In June he wrote from the Royal Herbert Hospital, Greenwich, saying that he had been there for the past three or four weeks suffering from a slipped disc, but that he had made good progress and hoped to be sent, in the near future, to the Rehabilitation Centre at Hedley Court for a further two to three weeks. We trust that his recovery will be speedy and complete.

### Appointments

General Sir John Mogg, the Adjutant-General, is to be Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe from November this year. He takes over from General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick. Lt.-General Sir Cecil Blacker, Vice-Chief of the General Staff, will become Adjutant-General in June in the rank of general.

General Mogg (60) was born in Canada but educated in England before serving in the ranks of the Coldstream Guards for two years. In 1937 he was commissioned into The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He was posted to 9th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry in 1944 and was soon promoted Lieutenant-Colonel in command of the battalion.

After periods of both study and instructing at the Staff College, Camberley, after World War II he was given command of 10th Battalion The Para-

chute Regiment. He was later appointed Chief Instructor at the School of Infantry. He was promoted Colonel in 1955 and four years later Brigadier to command 28th Commonwealth Brigade Group in Malaya.

In 1961 he became Director of Combat Development at the War Office as a Major-General and five years later took over 1st British Corps in Germany as Lieutenant-General. There followed a period as Commander-in-Chief Army Strategic Command. He was promoted General in 1969 and appointed Adjutant-General in 1970.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Lt.-Col. D. Booth, RAOC, OC 16 Battalion RAOC, St. George's Barracks, COD, Bicester, Oxon.

Major W. Blakey, Humber House, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon.

Major P. J. Connolly, 52 Whitethorn Road, Clonskea, Dublin 14, Eire.

Mr. G. Fickling, Flat 8/13, Clapperton Street, Bentleigh, 3204, Victoria, Australia.

Col. E. M. P. Hardy, 4 Lake Road, Shrivenham, Wilts.

Lt.-Col. R. M. Harms, MC, 42 The Street, Ash, Canterbury, Kent.

Major-General J. D. Lunt, CBE, Hill Top House, Little Milton, Oxon.

Sgt. G. Minto, DWR, ACIO, 26 Kirkgate, Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

Capt. (QM) F. Nichols, DWR, The Junior Tradesman's Regiment, Kimmel Park, Rhyl, Flintshire.

Capt. W. Robins, MBE, 5 Oak Court, Portinscale Road, Putney, London SW15.

J. A. Shenton, Esq., 57 Coleherne Court, Old Brompton Road, London SW5.

Capt. J. M. Thorn, DWR, 11 Oastler Avenue, Huddersfield.

Capt. J. R. A. Ward, DWR, 94 Elm Hill, Warminster, Wiltshire.

Mrs. P. H. Watson, Snape House, Sheckleford, Godalming, Surrey GU8 6AY.

### THE STORY OF CATTERICK CAMP

*A History and Guide to the Catterick Camp Area and the Story of Catterick Camp from 1915 until today.* By Lt.-Col. Howard N. Cole, OBE, TD, DL, FRHISTS.

This book reviews the story of Catterick Camp from its beginning in 1915, through two World Wars, to 1972. The first chapter deals with the history of the neighbourhood from Roman time until plans were laid for a Garrison of the North of England in 1908. The name of Catterick Camp was changed to Catterick Garrison in 1973.

'The Story of Catterick Camp' has been privately published by Headquarters Catterick Garrison.

The book, size 8½in by 5½in (trimmed size), comprises 105 pages and includes 31 half-tone illustrations and a map of the camp. Bound in art board cover.

Price (including postage/packing/handling costs): £1.25.

To Order: Write to The Garrison Administrative Commandant, Headquarters Catterick Garrison, Piave Lines, Catterick Garrison, Yorkshire DL9 3JR.

# Operation "Eagle"

## 25th JANUARY 1952

BY MAJOR-GENERAL R. K. EXHAM, CB, CBE, MC

*Note:* The following article was first published in *The Army Quarterly* for October 1970 and is reprinted here with the kind permission of the proprietors.

The Editor's introduction was written by Major-General R. F. K. Goldsmith, who was Chief of Staff, British Troops in Egypt, during the events described by Major-General Exham.

### *Editor's Introduction*

This is an account of an unwelcome operation that was forced on the British forces in the Canal Zone during the period of tension following the abrogation by the Wafd Government in October 1951 of the Anglo Egyptian Treaty of 1936.

Abrogation put the British forces in the Canal Zone in an anomalous position. They were there by agreement with the Egyptian Government to maintain and guard the Middle East base, which was still regarded as a vital element in Imperial strategy. The base installations stretched from Port Said to South of Suez, and inland to Tel el Kebir, half-way between Ismailia and Cairo. They depended on Egyptian labour to keep them functioning, on the Egyptian port facilities and railways for their transportation services, on the Sweetwater Canal, originating from the Nile near Cairo, for their water supply and on the Egyptian police for the maintenance of law and order.

There were two field formations in the zone: the 3rd Infantry Brigade, detached from the 1st Division in Cyrenaica, and the 2 AGRA, part of the strategic reserve. In addition there was the 17th Brigade District, which included a brigade of infantry and was responsible for domestic security in the southern part of the Zone. GHQ Middle East, whose boundaries extended from Aden and the Sudan to the Persian and Tunisian frontiers, was at Fayid; and HQ, British Troops in Egypt, commanded by General Sir George Erskine, was at Moascar, next door to Ismailia, where also was Brigadier Exham's 3rd Brigade HQ.

The British forces in the Canal Zone were thus lodgers in a foreign land; apart from self-defence their civil security was the responsibility of the Egyptian police, supported as might be necessary by the Egyptian Army.

Abrogation did not automatically withdraw all the services on which the functioning of the base depended (the large Egyptian populations of Port Said, Suez and Ismailia depended on a number of them for their own needs), but they could no longer be counted on. Therefore the possibility of their being withheld at any moment made it necessary to prepare plans to meet the various contingencies that would they arise. The British, as was well appreciated by the more responsible Egyptians, were themselves in a position to apply damaging sanctions; they could control the communications on which the considerable Egyptian

forces in Sinai depended for their maintenance, and they could regulate, and if necessary cut off, the supply of fuel oil from the Suez refineries on which the economy of the Delta largely depended.

Thus each party to the dispute had an interest in keeping the situation in the Canal Zone stable, and it was no part of British policy to precipitate trouble. General Erskine attempted to co-operate with the Egyptian authorities until it became clear that to continue would put British lives to unacceptable risk. Only then did he resort to more direct methods of ensuring the security of the British position in the zone.

The story now passes to Brigadier Exham, who was throughout responsible for the protection of British lives and interests in Ismailia.

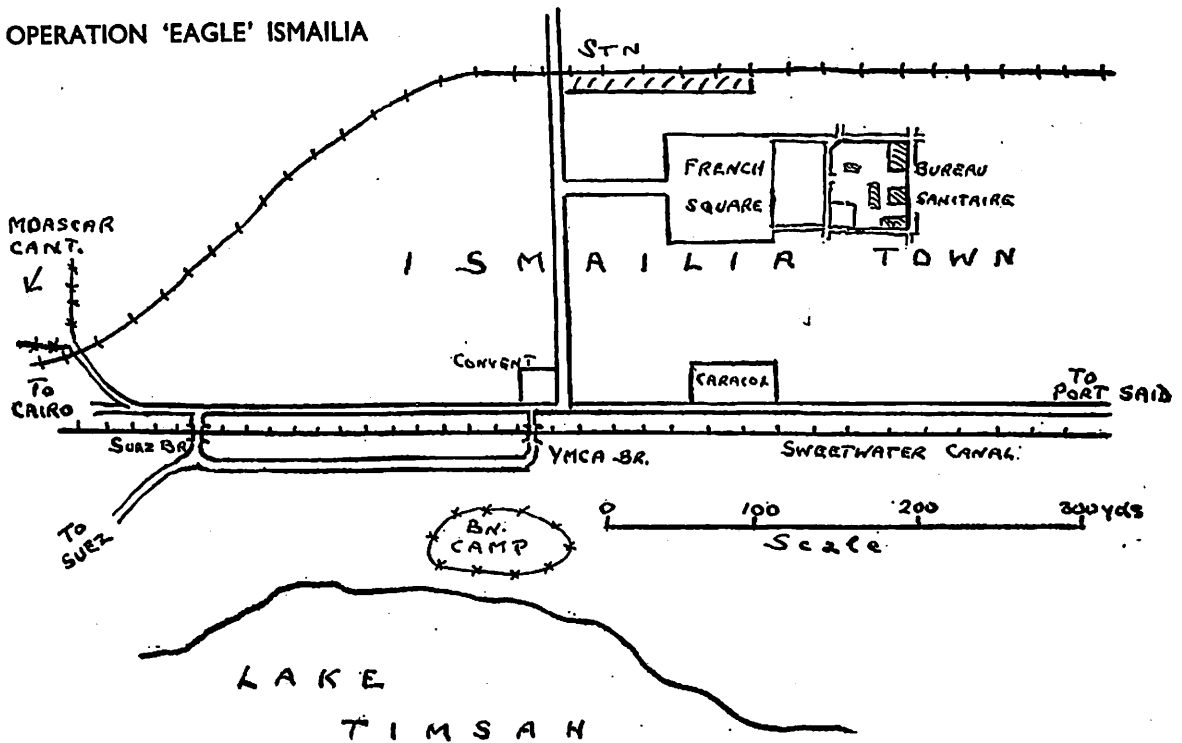
\* \* \* \*

Trouble started in Ismailia on October 16, the day after abrogation, when students, who had come down by train from Cairo, began to foment anti-British demonstrations. The Egyptian Government thereupon reinforced the Ismailia police, with many of whom we had been on good terms, with 600 auxiliary police from Cairo. These were the Bulak Nizam, used for the most part as anti-riot police. They were of low quality and poorly disciplined, but they were armed, and were therefore potentially dangerous. They were to be seen wandering about Ismailia in parties of 15 or 20 with nothing particular to do, and their fingers were light on the trigger.

On November 18 my Provost Officer was fired on and killed in the vicinity of the main police station in Ismailia, while he was carrying out his duties, and the military policeman accompanying him was wounded. This led to a virtual reign of terror in the town as each party of auxiliary police in turn, alerted by the sound of firing, began to engage in indiscriminate shooting themselves. At that time there were still British military families living in Ismailia, and my first preoccupation during this outbreak was to ensure their safety. When it was over we evacuated them to the safety of the Moascar cantonments and Ismailia was put out of bounds; but it was still necessary to maintain posts at key points along the trunk road that ran along the Ismailia water-front and on to Port Said.

After this outburst the Egyptian authorities tried to lower the temperature by relieving the Bulak Nizam with a fresh contingent from the Delta; but the returning police received a heroes' welcome when they arrived in Cairo, and the newcomers no doubt took appropriate note. Meanwhile, the centres of trouble switched for the time being to Suez and Tel el Kebir; but on January 19 a new type of incident occurred in Ismailia which set in train a chain of events which eventually spread to Cairo and largely contributed to the fall of the Wafd Government.

## OPERATION 'EAGLE' ISMAILIA



One of the key posts protecting our communications with Port Said was at the YMCA bridge on the Ismailia water-front, within 200 yards of the Egyptian police headquarters, the Caracol. On the afternoon of the day in question a barrow of oranges was left standing near the post by an Egyptian, and five minutes later a bomb that had been concealed in it exploded, killing two and wounding four soldiers. This was the signal for a general fusillade against the post from the neighbouring buildings, which the police did nothing to control. The fire was returned, and in the midst of the engagement a much-loved nun, Sister Anthony, was killed by a bullet as she was standing by the door of the nearby convent, the garden of which was being used as a firing position by some of the terrorists engaged in the action.

This incident was of a new order of gravity. It showed signs of careful planning with police connivance, and it threatened a vital road link where it ran past a thickly inhabited area. Having by this time had long experience of the futility of expecting any co-operation from the Egyptian authorities, General Erskine had to take his own measures for the security of this route, which there was no means of by-passing, and he ordered the evacuation of the houses immediately overlooking the stretch of road between the Suez and YMCA bridges, which were about 200 yards apart. The evacuation was carried out by the 16th Parachute Brigade, but security could not be regarded as fully satisfactory while there were still 600 or 700 Bulak Nizam

roaming about the town who might spark off further trouble at any moment. General Erskine decided that they must be expelled, and if they could not be persuaded to go quietly force would have to be used. To complicate the matter, the auxiliary police had by this time been allowed to become an integral part of the local police force, and if force proved necessary we should have, in the first instance, to disarm the force as a whole.

The task of disarming the Ismailia police was entrusted to my brigade,\* and I was warned on January 22 to start making the necessary plans. It was hoped that if a sufficient display of force was evident the police might be induced to surrender without resistance. Accordingly, a squadron of the Royal Dragoons, a squadron of the 4th Royal Tank Regiment and the 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment† were placed under my command.

According to the most recent available information there were about 400 police (including about 60 regulars) in the Caracol, which served as police headquarters, the Governor's office and a barracks. About 300 yards away, in the Bureau Sanitaire (normally the Health Office), the balance of the auxiliary police, about 600 strong, was being temporarily housed. Defences had been erected on the roof and verandas of the Caracol, but little was known about the situation inside the Bureau

\*Its casualties had already reached a total of 33 killed and 69 wounded.

†The Parachute Brigade had arrived in the Canal Zone as reinforcements during November.

Sanitaire, which consisted of a compound containing two large double-storeyed buildings and a number of smaller ones.

I gave careful thought to carrying out the operation in darkness. It might have caught the police asleep and unprepared, but it might also have involved hand-to-hand encounters in difficult conditions and perhaps have resulted in heavy British casualties. I decided therefore that the operation should take place at first light. This would still give reasonable prospects of achieving surprise, would find streets still empty and would allow the full use of all available weapons should this prove necessary.

On January 24 I was instructed that the operation was to be carried out next day and issued my orders that afternoon. My plan provided for an outer cordon (3rd Parachute Battalion) sealing off the whole operational area, which was to be established shortly before first light. Within this cordon the Caracol and Bureau Sanitaire were each to be surrounded by a force of armoured cars, tanks and infantry. As soon as these moves were completed the police were to be warned by loudspeaker that they were surrounded; that they must leave the barracks without their arms and that as soon as the regular police had been separated from the auxiliaries they would be allowed to return to their barracks and resume their normal duties. Failure to carry out these instructions would result in force having to be used. In order to give the police every chance of obeying these instructions, I ordered my own troops that fire, except in self-defence, would not be opened without my personal sanction.

As ordered the Egyptian liaison officer (a police officer who normally worked between HQ BTE and the local police) reported to me at 5 o'clock on the morning of the 25th and was handed a letter to give to the Governor of Ismailia, informing him of my intentions and the reason for them, i.e. that the auxiliary police had been firing on British troops and giving assistance to the terrorists. No reply was received, but the Major-General of Police, who received a similar message, replied that the police would resist any attempt to disarm them, in accordance with their orders from the Egyptian Government. In view of this statement the operations were put in train.

The operation against the Caracol was under the OC "A" Company, 1st Lancashire Fusiliers, but as the Governorate was involved I remained in readiness to intervene myself, as might be necessary. The troops were in position at first light (about 6.30 a.m.), and as there was no response to the broadcast I entered the courtyard and spoke to a police colonel at the main entrance to the building. He made it clear that resistance would be offered to any attempt at disarming the police. I gave him 15 minutes for further consideration, after which, I warned him, force would be used. In the hope that bloodshed might still be avoided I, in fact, continued parleying for several hours with various police representatives, and further broadcasts were made. The Major-General of Police was eventually told that, provided the auxiliaries were first disarmed, the regular police might leave the Caracol carrying their arms. While these talks were going on police were taking up

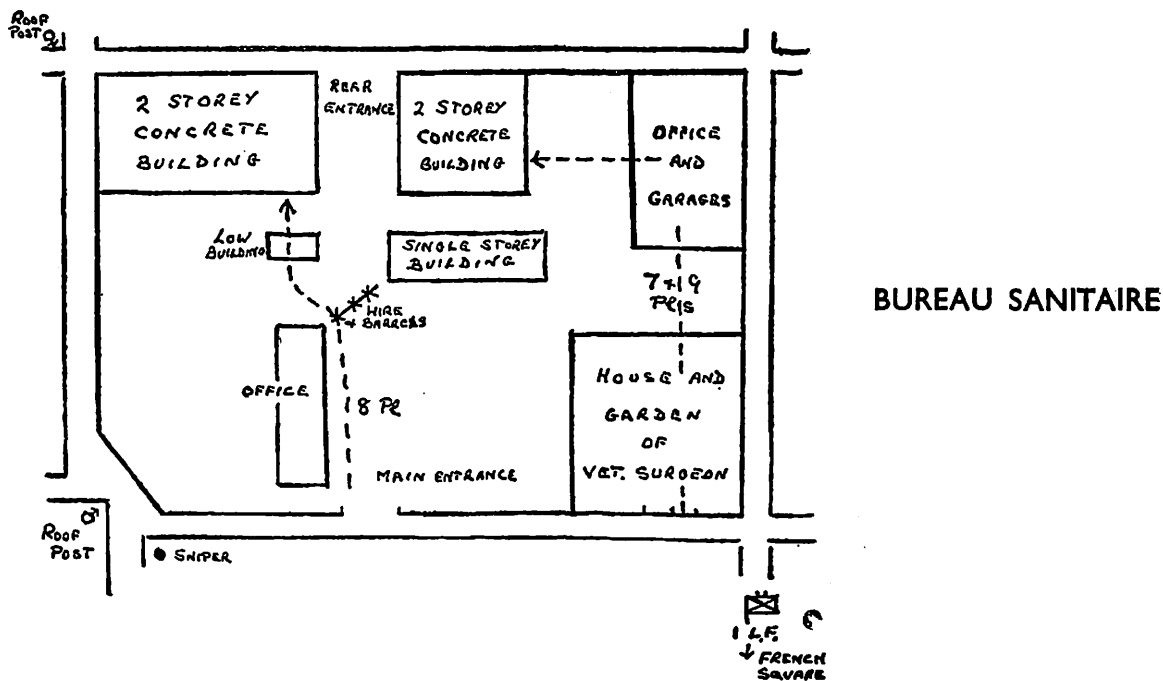
firing positions on the roof of the Caracol and there was some sniping, which was not returned.

Having met with no response to my overtures I gave orders for fire to be opened on the Caracol at 9.45 a.m., and the positions on the roof were engaged with fire from armoured cars and infantry automatics. In the pause that followed a further broadcast was made. At about 11 o'clock General Erskine instructed me to allow the police until midday to comply with my order, after which their surrender must be enforced without further delay. The police were informed of this by the same means as before. As there was no response, fire was duly opened, causing considerable damage to the fabric. Surrender followed immediately, the Caracol was occupied and all arms and ammunition were removed. The police casualties amounted to one killed and three wounded. There were no British casualties.

Meanwhile, much more stubborn resistance had been encountered at the Bureau Sanitaire, where the CO of 1st Lancashire Fusiliers was in charge of the operations. As at the Caracol, two broadcasts were made. During the 15 minutes' grace promised in the second of them there was vicious sniping from the barracks at the armoured cars and tanks drawn up outside. In addition, the police were seen to be taking up positions on the roofs and in the garden, where sandbagged positions protected by barbed wire and oil drums had been prepared.

In contrast to the situation at the Caracol, there were no senior officials at the Bureau Sanitaire who, if given more time, might have been induced to surrender in order to save useless bloodshed. When the second ultimatum expired at 7 a.m. a tank was therefore sent in to the main entrance, where it fired a round of blank ammunition. This was followed by intense fire from all parts of the barracks and, as a result, both tanks and armoured cars opened with their automatics. When this had been going on for some little time I arrived from the Caracol and decided that, after suitable further warning, the heavier weapons of the tanks and armoured cars would have to be employed. Between 7.15 and 8.15 there were two such engagements, each preceded by the usual 15 minutes' broadcast warning. The police kept up a steady fire in response and the CO ordered his sniper section with a wireless OP to establish itself on the roof of a high building overlooking the police compound. From here it was able to engage positions inside the barracks, and it played an important part in the later proceedings.

When the heavy weapons of the tanks showed no signs of inducing surrender, it was clear to me that an outright assault would be necessary, and that this would be the most likely way of avoiding a protracted operation with mounting casualties. I instructed the CO accordingly, and he made a simple plan whereby a company of the Lancashire Fusiliers was to capture the two main buildings, supported by a troop of tanks which would precede them into the barracks. Entry into the barracks would be covered by a smoke screen laid by a troop of the Royals. At the same time a detachment of the Lancashire Fusiliers was to occupy an adjoining building from which the police on the roofs of the



Bureau Sanitaire could be neutralised. Arrangements were put in hand to deal with the 600 or 700 prisoners that were to be expected, and a dressing station for casualties was set up. The CO gave his orders at 8.20 a.m. and the attack started 20 minutes later, led by "C" Company Commander, who was at once wounded.

On the right, two platoons advanced by a covered approach (see sketch map) and quickly reached the smaller of the two main buildings in the north-east corner of the compound. In forcing an entry one NCO was killed and a fusilier wounded. The second of the two platoons, in support, came under fire from a building across the road, which was quickly silenced by two well-aimed Piat bombs. The other platoon was meeting strong resistance in clearing the top floor of its objective, but with the aid of the bayonet and No. 36 grenades it was eventually successful, not without its own casualties.

Meanwhile, on the left, the remaining platoon had advanced behind the tanks, which were giving support by observed fire. After some sharp fighting on the approaches to their main objective, in which one fusilier was killed and two NCOs were severely wounded, the platoon succeeded in forcing an entry, suffering further casualties. No access to the upper storey could, however, be found, and it was from here that the main resistance was now based.

After some discussion it was decided that the only practicable solution was to withdraw the infantry and to threaten to flatten the whole build-

ing by tank fire if the police still insisted on holding out. This intention was broadcast at 9.45 a.m. and 10 minutes later the police started to surrender. Isolated pockets of them, however, continued their resistance for some time and had to be dealt with by using grenades. The Bulak Nizam put up a stout resistance and had shown considerable courage, and in this bitter engagement 40 of them were killed and 65 wounded. We lost five killed and 15 wounded, and a total of 886 police surrendered.

### Conclusion

The riots that broke out in Cairo the day after these actions in Ismailia were no doubt precipitated by them, but they had been long planned and the ringleaders were simply awaiting the first available opportunity. They resulted in the fall of the Wafd Government, and thereafter the situation in the Canal Zone began to improve.

It is to be regretted that despite all my efforts to bring about the peaceful disarming of the police the operation was accompanied with so much bloodshed at the Bureau Sanitaire. This is to be accounted for primarily by the fact that there was nobody in authority on the Egyptian side who was prepared to take the responsibility of bowing to the inevitable. It is, however, satisfactory to note that after the events above recorded not a single British soldier was killed or wounded in my area of responsibility up to the time when I relinquished command of the brigade in the following October.

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The Post Office is the main feature in the latest issue of the Services Resettlement Bulletin, No. 3 of 1973.

This issue also covers regional opportunities in N. Ireland, gives tables of a wide range of resettlement courses, and has 10 pages of situations vacant.

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# The Regimental Association

## Notices

### Racing in Doncaster

On September 15, 1973, the St. Leger will be raced at Doncaster. The first four horses home will win someone £100, £50, £25, £10.

These are the prizes in our Annual Regimental Sweepstake, the profits going to the Regimental funds. Books of tickets have already been sent out to known buyers and sellers. If you haven't received one, send off to RHQ, Wellesley Park, Highroad Well, Halifax HX2 0BA; your name and address and a book(s) will be sent.

### Reunion and AGM, 1973

This year to be held at the Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield, on Saturday, September 29, 1973. Applications for tickets (£1) to RHQ or branch secretaries.

### London and Home Counties Branch— Dinner 1974

The meeting and dinner will be held in the Queen Victoria Rifle Association Drill Hall, Davies Street, London W1, on Saturday, May 11, 1974. Details from Mr. R. H. Temple, 59 Burnfoot Avenue, Fulham, London SW6.

### Regimental News—Given or wanted!

Have you any news, requests or replies for the Regimental Journal, THE IRON DUKE? Make it "live" and send articles, requests, etc., either direct to the Editor, Lt.-Col. H. S. LeMessurier, Thornton Grange, Thornton Steward, Ripon HG4 4BQ, or to RHQ, Halifax.

### Regimental Histories

1919-1952 (Barclay) 75p. Both available from RHQ. Famous Regiment Series (Lunt) £1.25p.

### General Secretary's Notes

Two articles appearing in the press recently portray the activities of the men who have served in our Regiment and kept alive the comradeship found whilst serving together. The 4th Battalion (1st War) Old Comrades Association, who held their 54th annual dinner on April 14, 1973, report on members, now aged well over 90, who still attend their reunion and dinner. Fifty-two members attended this year's reunion. Another report from the lads of Sheffield who, as National Service men, served with the 1st Battalion in Korea. In an article, "The Battle of the Hook", written by Peter Howard of the *Sheffield Star*, he describes that battle participation by known soldiers—Herbert Brockelhurst, Alan Bunston, Ken Fetch, Ron Jones, Alan Hollis, Bill Clarke, Dennis Groves, RQMS ("Sgt.-Sgt.") Fred Kelwick, George Pickersgill, Bill Norman—and as a result the lads of Sheffield who served

with The Dukes are planning their own reunion in Sheffield. Full details are not yet known but anyone interested should apply to Ken Fetch, 116 Summer Street, Sheffield 3, or to me at RHQ, Halifax.

Branches report a growing membership and their individual activities are described elsewhere in these notes. These notes, however, generally written in a hurry well after the event, fail to describe the fellowship and well-being that pervades when forces friends and their relations meet. What might outwardly appear to be a dull, uninteresting evening or event (naturally with the inevitable human frictions at times) has the power to send one home feeling refreshed and re-energised and the present-day doubts and fears dispelled by the memories of past-day deeds performed and friendships known. Mr. Ward, now 75 years of age, in his letter published elsewhere in these notes, sums up, nostalgically, the memories of a first war soldier on the march to Ypres.

This year brings the 70th birthdays of three of our stalwarts—Jackie Horne, Bill Smith (and not forgetting Mrs. Horne)—"silver threads amongst the gold" and what a trio of dedicated "Dukes". Many happy returns this year, next year and many years to come.

By the time these notes appear in print many members and their families will have been on holiday. A few of our ex-soldiers, too, who otherwise would not have been able to afford it, will have spent a holiday at the seaside under arrangements made by our Association. This is a pleasant duty to perform. There are others, though, who need help and friendship over and above what the State can offer, and this last paragraph is a request that you let me, as general secretary of our Association, know of any "Duke" or his dependants who are really up against it or in need and could do with a helping hand. All information will be treated with strict confidence. (Also look in the notes column about the race at Doncaster on September 15!)

ARTHUR WOOD,  
General Secretary.

### Halifax Branch

With so much conflict going on in the world and unrest and bitterness in the industrial field it is with pleasure that the writer can report on one happy family where harmony of purpose and well-being rule supreme. It seems but yesterday that I was writing of the Branch's upsurge during 1971-72 and now at the end of another year the story remains the same. Our numerical strength is no greater but there seems to be a new enthusiasm engendered amongst us; to use the modern idiom, we are well and truly "with it".

The Branch annual general meeting was held on Saturday, June 9, in the Sergeants' Mess, Wellington Hall, and Messrs. D. Mitchell, H. Rowlands and E. Carter were again elected chairman, secretary/

treasurer and entertainments chairman respectively. Financially we are better off than at any time in the past and this, in large measure, is due to our ladies section who see to our refreshments and to the supply of raffle prizes at their own expense each month. Our main social venture, was, of course, our annual trip to London to attend the London and Home Counties Branch dinner. This year we had a party of 44, our biggest to date. Of these, the Huddersfield and Mossley Branches formed a large part and we were, and will continue to be, pleased to have their support. At the London end of the proceedings were those two ever-presents, Bob Temple and Dave Benson, who year after year do a great deal to ensure a happy reunion in convivial surroundings. The toast to the Regiment was given by Bill Holt of our Branch, and a splendid toast it was. The Colonel of the Regiment—and how grand a thing that is in itself—General Sir Robert Bray, GBE, KCB, DSO, replied and brought everyone up to date regarding our 1st Battalion and their successes in N. Ireland. After the dinner a raffle was held; the prize a stainless steel tea and coffee set with tray supplied and donated by Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Horne for the London Branch funds. It was presented to the winner by General Sir Robert—dare I commit it to paper—me! A really splendid get-together followed and, like all good things, came to an end too soon. A very welcome guest this year was Bob Martin, now aged 84. Bob was a founder member of the London and Home Counties Branch.

The next morning, Sunday, as is our usual wont, we visited Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and our In-pensioners there and then had a drink with them and their fellow pensioners in the Mess. All three, ex-RQMS Ramsbottom, Harry Barron and “Nobby” Clarke, seemed to be in good heart. It is, therefore, with a very deep regret that I have to report the death of “Rammy” on June 9, 1973 (an obituary will appear in the next issue). We look forward to May 1974 with keen anticipation and trust that our numbers will be even greater.

From we in Halifax to all Old Comrades we wish good health, good meetings and good fortune.

SAX ROWLANDS.

### Huddersfield Branch

The annual general meeting of the Branch was held in the TA Centre, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield, on Friday, April 27, 1973. The following were re-elected: President, Lt.-Col. G. Taylor, DSO, TD; chairman, G. H. Machen, MBE, secretary, J. E. Horne, 9 New Street, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield HD7 5AB; treasurer, R. Wilkinson.

The strength of the Branch as at the AGM was: 47 ordinary members, 26 honorary members and 2 widows. Total 75.

The secretary thanked all members for their very good support throughout the year at meetings and socials. Thanks were also offered to our general secretary and staff at RHQ for support given in welfare and information to the Branch. On behalf of the president and members the secretary thanked the Commanding Officer of the Yorkshire Volunteers for the use of the TA Centre, also all thanks for

their help and support.

As president of the British Limbless Ex-service-men's Association, Huddersfield Branch, I take this opportunity to thank all ranks and friends for their fund-raising efforts in aid of BLESMA.

Socials have been very good and a special thanks to the committee, Dave Clarke (barman), Bill Fitzgerald and all helpers for making our socials a success. Also thanks to the entertainers and we hope we will see them again in the near future.

To Sax Rowlands and the Halifax Branch a big thank you for another very enjoyable weekend in London, for the London dinner with all our comrades from the south. Well done, Bob and Dave.

We are looking forward to our trip to the “Duke of Leeds”, Newmill, on Friday, June 22, 1973, where the landlord is Eric Huntington, who served in the 7th Dukes in Normandy in 1944, and you may be sure we shall be in for a jolly time.

From Huddersfield to all “Dukes” we send our best wishes, and again I would like to say to all serving or past members of the Regiment, you will always be welcomed at our meetings and socials. Don't look at the hill; climb it!

JACKIE HORNE.

### Mossley Branch

We at Mossley again have had a most successful year—social evenings and Saturday evening drives.

In April our secretary, Mr. T. Hallas, was invited to attend a meeting in France between the town twinning committees of Mossley and the small industrial town of Hem, near Lille.

The information required from Hem was had they a similar organisation such as ours and if so was it possible to arrange a twinning arrangement whereby we could arrange mutual exchanges and visits between the two organisations.

At the meeting in Hem Town Hall, in the presence of the Mayor, various town officials and representatives of Mossley, they expressed a desire to know more about the The Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association, for no such organisation existed in France as such.

When it was explained that the reasons for it were pride of regiments, welfare of members and ex-members of the Regiment, coupled with an extensive social life to keep contact, the whole assembly were greatly impressed. In France the ex-Servicemen are in three groups—World War, Indo-China and Algerian War—and the only time when all groups get together is on November 11.

Arrangements in principle were made that, subject to confirmation from Regimental HQ, they would pay us a visit and accompany Mossley detachment to the Regimental service in York Minster, and we in Mossley would send a party to Hem and take part in their Remembrance parade and service on November 11.

On June 9 a meeting was held in Mossley Town Hall between representatives from Hem and officials of Mossley Branch (Mr. J. Powell, chairman; Mr. T. Hallas, secretary, and Mr. J. Wood, branch treasurer), when details for the interchange of visits were finalised.



Our French visitors will arrive in Mossley on Friday evening, November 2, Saturday they journey to York with Mossley people and follow the programme as laid down from HQ and Sunday will be in the form of entertainment by Mossley Branch. The visitors return home on Monday.

The return visit to Hem will be: Friday leave for France by midnight train ferry from Dover to Dunkirk, then train to Lille, where we shall be met by officials from Hem. On Saturday there will be a tour of war cemeteries and memorials with entertainment in the evening. Sunday will be the parade with French ex-Servicemen through the town of Hem to celebrate high mass in the town square. This will be followed by a civic reception. Monday journey home.

We are all hoping that it will be a success and that a deeper bond of friendship can be forged between the Regiment and the people of France.

T. HALLAS.

### Keighley Branch

Dependable Bill Smith in his retirement has been appointed honorary writer of THE IRON DUKE notes, but in this issue the general secretary will act as sub-editor and add his own comments because Bill could hardly be expected to write about his own participation in Keighley events. Tommy Gibson, the new secretary, I know will not be offended.

"The nicest birthday party I've ever had in my life" is how Bill described the party given to Mrs. Smith and himself at Keighley Drill Hall on Wednesday, June 20, to celebrate his birthday. "Rock", "pop", ale and eats, dancing, singing and presentations transformed the Drill Hall into a loud, noisy but exceptionally jovial hall. Bill, newly presented beer tankard in hand, his studio photograph (making him resemble a mayor or judge) watching from the bar, along with the other many presents, stood in the middle of the floor looking highly delighted as the younger element swirled round him in disco fashion. Mrs. Smith was presented with a bouquet of flowers and, although she said the music was rather loud, nothing could hide the happiness that showed in her face. Many congratulations, Bill, and every good wish to you and Mrs. Smith in the future.

Six members of the Branch attended the London dinner resplendent in their blazers, badges and ties. A welcome factor of the growing Keighley Branch is the age structure—amongst the new faces there are young men with beards.

### Other News Items

T. F. Shaw (4612136), a life member of the Association, has written enquiring about old friends (Jack May, Side Code—to mention by name). His address is 5 Picquets Way, Banstead, Surrey.

"Tich" Deighton, we hear, has recently gone into hospital for an operation. All the best, "Tich"; a successful operation and quick return to full health.

Fred Stringer's son, Jeffrey Mervyn, has been promoted sergeant in the West Riding Police Force.

### "Flanders—1918"

(This nostalgic letter has been received by OC 1 DWR.)

3 Wold Garth,  
Pocklington,  
York YO4 2RF  
May 12, 1973.

To The Officer Commanding,  
The Regimental Band,  
Duke of Wellington's Regiment.  
Sir,

I hope you will pardon the liberty I, a complete stranger, take in writing to you, and only as an old soldier in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, now in his 75th year, have I been encouraged to take that liberty.

I have read in our local press of the forthcoming visit of the band of the Duke of Wellington's and my mind flashed back over the years, 55 to be exact, when I last marched behind the Regimental Band. This was Flanders in February 1918. I was one of a draft which left Rugeley Camp, Staffordshire, having been stationed there with the 6th Reserve Battalion. If my memory serves me correctly, it was commanded by Col. Sugden, but in this I may be mistaking the name of the colonel who commanded the 1/4th Battalion we joined in France. We travelled from Etaples the usual way "40 hommes" to Poperinghe, and after a wash and brush up, and an overnight nap, we paraded in full marching order for the march to Ypres.

I cannot remember any fatigue during that march, I was just 19 years old and extremely fit. I do, however, recollect the dust raised by our marching feet mixed with the almost asphyxiating fumes from the many motor convoys we encountered. But the grand finale to that march was, when about three miles to go, we were met by the band of the 1/4th Battalion. Any drooping spirits, rose, faltering steps required no exhortation to "Pick 'em up" and the memory lives on. Even "Colonel Bogey" received the usual vocal accompaniment with renewed vigour.

What eventually happened to the Band, Regimental records may show. Came the March 21, 1918, I heard that all the instruments were lost and that the instrumentalists went into the line. In the weeks that followed we lost heavily in casualties and at one time the Battalion was almost surrounded by Jerry. We learned later that only the brilliance of our command prevented our being taken prisoners.

A not too serious wound brought me back to England, and I was at Scotton Camp, Catterick, on November 11, 1918.

My most prized possessions are two medals, around the edges of which is inscribed: 204939 Pte. J. H. Ward, W.RID.R.

Sir, I salute you and the Regiment.

J. H. WARD.

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