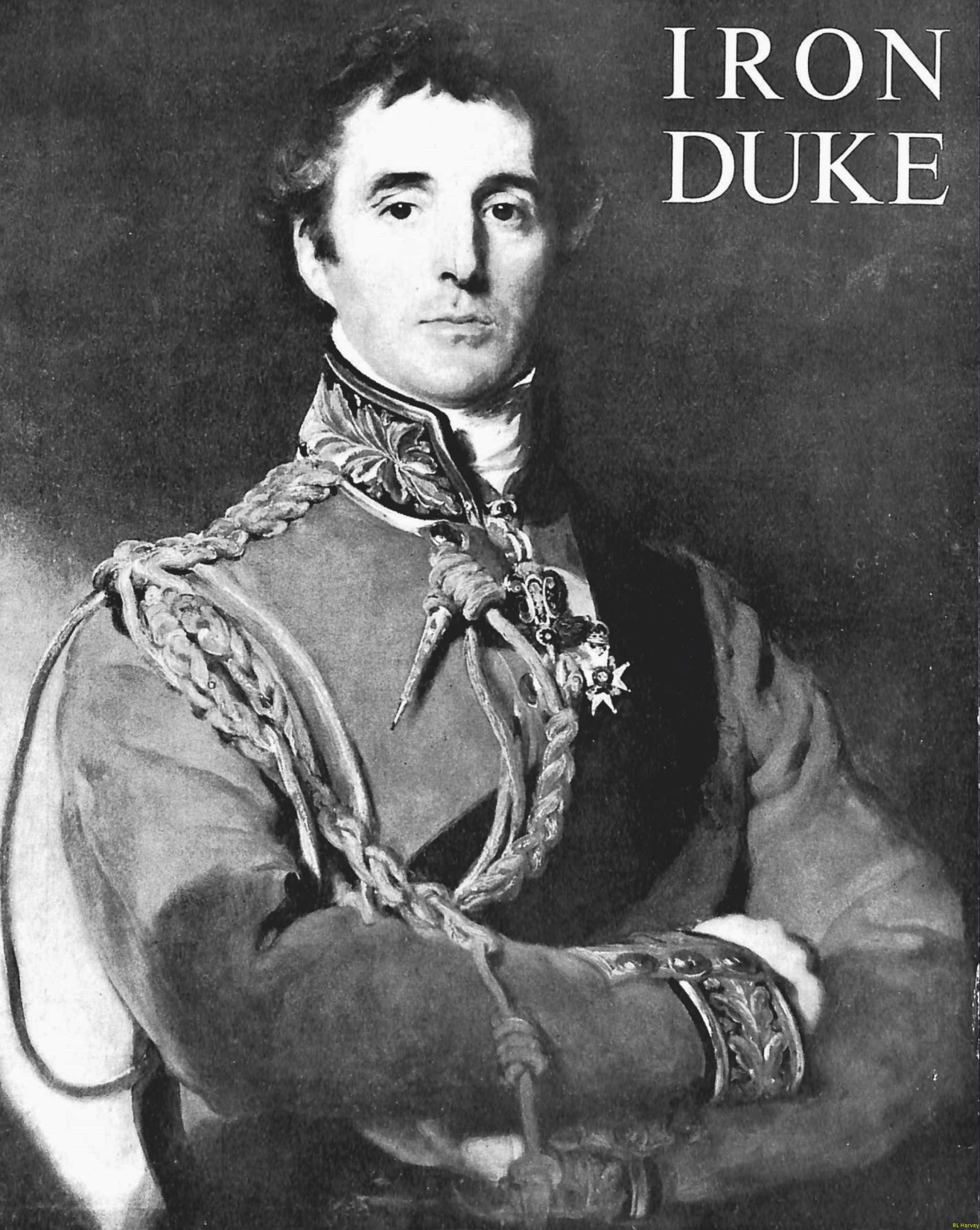


No.167 April 1975

THE IRON DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



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

Vol. LI

APRIL 1975

No. 167

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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REGIMENTAL JEWELLERS & SILVERSMITHS

THE REGIMENT

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Colonel of the Regiment

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Regimental Secretary: Major J. H. Davis

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Mons Barracks, Aldershot

CO: Lt.-Col. J. B. K. Greenway, MBE Adjutant: Capt. D. W. Wonson
RSM WO1 J. Collins

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Editorial

As some of our readers have noted, this issue of THE IRON DUKE marks its Golden Jubilee. That it has survived 50 years should give quiet satisfaction and it is appropriate to recall with gratitude those who were responsible for its inception and growth. We mention two names in particular, Lt-Col M. V. le P. Trench, editor for 23 years and Brig-Gen P. A. Turner, business manager for 15 years. An article on THE IRON DUKE is to be found elsewhere.

The 25th anniversary number was decked out in silver, but pleading poverty the present business manager jibbed at gold for this issue.

It is right to record here the editorial chair's gratitude to all contributors. Particularly welcome have been the articles depicting so vividly descriptions of life in the Battalion and also in the rest of

the family, the Volunteers and the Army Cadet Force.

We are also indebted to the President and Officers of the Association of Service Newspapers. It is noteworthy that the Association was founded in 1921 becoming incorporated in 1928. The Iron Duke was one of the six original subscribers to the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Agents for the Association have been Combined Service Publications Ltd since 1923 and we are grateful to the Directors particularly J. E. A. Thomas Esq. and R. P. Jarvis Esq. Our printers since 1949 has been F. J. Parsons Ltd and the kindness is acknowledged of S. A. Pelling Esq. whose masterly touch ensures the standard of production despite the Editor. Finally we thank our many loyal advertisers on whose support we greatly depend.

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental dates

Saturday, May 10: London Branch Regimental Association Dinner at the Victory Club, Marble Arch. Meet in lounge from 6.30 for dinner at 8.00.

Friday, July 4: Officers Dinner, Army and Navy Club.

Saturday, July 5: Ladies Luncheon, Army and Navy Club.

(Timings for July 4 and 5 will be sent out later.)

Saturday, September 27: Annual Reunion and Dinner of the Regimental Association in the TA Centre, Huddersfield. Meeting 6.30. Dinner 7.30.

RHQ Library

The reference library has been increased by the gifts of the following:

Volumes 1-21 of 'The Times History of the 1914-18 War' given by Mrs Holdsworth.

The military books of the late Col A. H. G. Wathen given by Mrs Wathen.

The story of the Special Brigade, 'Gas in World War I', given by Mr Fawley.

Mrs Holdsworth also gave us an etching of the Depot Officers Mess done for her late husband, Lt H. R. Holdsworth, 3rd (Res) Battalion DWR in 1917 by one of the Orderly Room staff.

The portrait shows two muzzle-loading guns on the grass in front of the Mess. Can any reader give us the history of the guns and what has happened to them?

Maurice Ford

Maurice, who has been deputy chief reporter of the *Huddersfield Daily Examiner* since 1960, retired on February 7.

Recently he concentrated on municipal affairs, but to us he is best known for his interest in service affairs. His fortnightly feature 'Redcoat', began in 1948, has been both welcome and interesting.

To many in the Duke's he is a well-known friend, having visited the 1st Battalion to cover the activities of Huddersfield soldiers at home and, over the years, in a number of overseas stations.

We thank him for all he has done for us in the past and wish him well in his retirement.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

1st Battalion

Congratulations to the following for their awards for service in N Ireland:

OBE: Lt-Col P. A. Mitchell.

MBE: Maj C. N. St P. Bunbury.

Mentioned in Despatches: Maj I. P. Reid.

Military Medal: Pte D. M. Hepworth.

GOC's Commendations: Cpl M. Sutton, Pt C. A. Wallace.

HM The Sultan of Oman has conferred the Distinguished Service Medal on Capt R. A. Tighe, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Changes of Address

Mrs J. Exham to Brick House, Llanfaynach, Brecon, S Wales.

Maj and Mrs C. D. d'E. Miller to 5 Leas Road, Maypole Green Estate, Colchester, Essex.

Major W. F. C. Robertson to 79 Woolwich Common, Woolwich, London SE18.

Maj W. Robins, MBE, to 31 Keble Park Crescent, Bishopthorpe, York.

1st Battalion

COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

As forecast in the last issue, our handover to 1 WFR went satisfactorily and we have made our various ways to Mons Barracks, Aldershot. We all had some leave, assimilated some 50 new recruits and threw ourselves into some basic training. In the past three months we have got ourselves physically fit and attended to the many important aspects of military life which, perforce, had to take second place during the Ulster tour.

On October 31 we had a Battalion Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance in the Garrison Church. We were very honoured that the Colonel-in-Chief was able to attend and take the salute. We were also pleased that many relatives of those killed in Ulster attended.

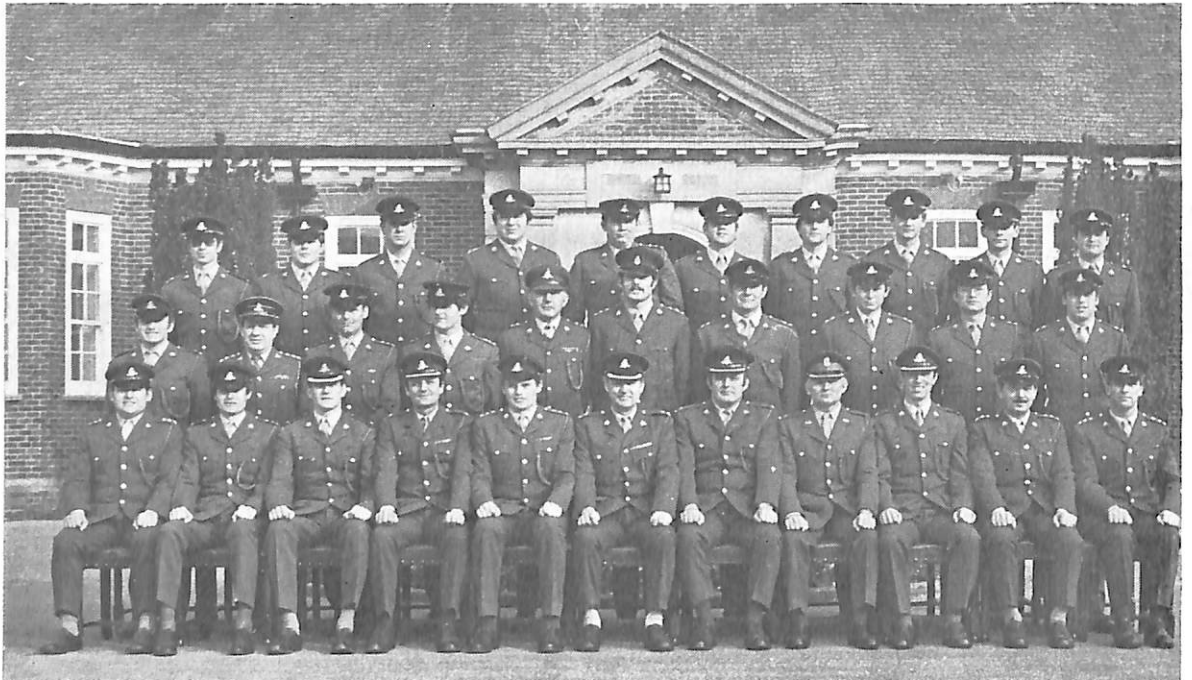
Sadly, there are two further tragedies to report. Mrs Casson, wife of Lcpl Casson died on December 14, 1974, and Pte Batham was killed in a motorcycle accident on December 23, 1974. We all send

our deepest sympathy to their relatives and friends.

On a happier note, we have been able to devote much effort to sport. The rugby is going well and the 1st XV won the UK final played on February 5 at Aldershot. The 2nd XV have been very successful and provide good rugby for many promising players. We are running two soccer sides and there is much potential which is not always reflected in the results. However, these are early days and there is little doubt that both teams need only a little good fortune before being very successful. The trampoline team continues its remarkable success with wins in the Army Trampoline Championships, which are shown elsewhere in this issue.

The Sub-Aqua Club are mounting a 10-day expedition off the Cornish coast and planning a large-scale expedition to the mid-Pacific in 1976. Besides all this, there are inter-company and inter-platoon soccer and rugby competitions which engender great enthusiasm.

All in all, it has been a busy and rewarding



Acknowledgment to Dennis Mustard

Back row
Lt Grieve, 2 Lt Kilburn, 2 Lt Massey, Lt Lyons, Capt Thorne, 2 Lt Atkinson, 2 Lt Jenkins, 2 Lt Shuttleworth,
Lt Hall, Lt Pitchers
Middle row
Lt Dowdell, Capt Bousfield, RAPC, Capt Battye, Capt Newell, Capt Latimore, Capt Carroll, RAMC,
Lt Sherlock, Lt Harrap, Lt Isles, Lt Meek
Front row
Capt Wonson, Capt Mellor, Maj Nicholson, Maj St P Bunbury, Capt Roberts, Lt-Col Mitchell, Maj
Mundell, Maj Davies, Maj Walker, Capt Linskey, Capt Tighe

period since our return from Ulster, with the promise of more hard work before the Battalion join UNFICYP in mid-April. I will by then have

handed over to Lt-Col John Greenway, whom I wish all possible success during his tenure of command.

News from the Messes

OFFICERS MESS

To our delight the Mess at Mons Barracks proved to be larger than anticipated and therefore not too much of an anti-climax after the stately dimensions of the Ballykelly establishment. The Mess is shared with the Para Logistic Regiment and the Para Field Ambulance, with both of whom we have a relaxed and friendly relationship that is mutually enjoyable.

Our opening cocktail party in November was a great success so far as we could tell, and we were fortunate in having as our guests so many civilian and military VIPs from the Aldershot area. Supper and dancing followed for members of the Mess who were tight—I'm sorry, I'll read that again—who were tired but determined to see the evening through to an enjoyable conclusion.

The success of the Ballykelly steak nights prompted us to try to stage one here. It proved to be a thoroughly pleasant evening and another is planned for the end of February. The big event of the Christmas season was surely the ladies dinner night, an occasion steeped in tradition, and yet one where the formal and the informal blended so well. The night finished in the small hours with an impromptu carol concert in the bar. A message to those mothers of play school age children who charmed us with 'When Santa got stuck up the chimney': don't call us; we'll call you.

We say a sad farewell in a few days to Peter and Di Mitchell, who have given such support and encouragement to the Mess over the last two and a half years. Can anyone recall a time when the 1st Battalion's officers and wives mixed so well together and had such a tremendous amount of fun, despite the unstable and difficult life we have led? We look forward to the arrival of John and Judith Greenway and wish them a happy and satisfying tour. A welcome, too, to Charles Bunbury, Bob and Angie Tighe, John and Penny Thorn, Tim Isles and Bob Hall, the latter newly commissioned from university. Bill and Doreen Burke leave soon for the Depot, which we are sure they will enjoy. Bill will find the parking restrictions there even more irksome than they are here! The strange Irish officer is Jim Lattimore, who has come as Tech QM, and who will soon be the most Yorkshire Irishman outside Leeds.

A photograph of the officers currently serving with the 1st Battalion is in this issue of THE IRON DUKE. Note the planners aim in producing a standard shape subaltern, a cross between a fly-half and a brick wall, has failed yet again. The stout jolly officer in the centre row would like it known that he is wearing a plaster cast round his middle. At least, that's his story.

Lee Lyons was married at the end of December

in a flurry of administrative chaos. The best man lost his trousers and between them they lost the registrar's certificate. No wonder we all enjoyed the wedding so much and were lucky there was a wedding, and we wish Lee and Patsy all happiness in the future. Another forthcoming marriage, although it will be long past by the time this issue of the magazine comes out, is—at last!—Michael Stacpoole's. All our best wishes to Michael and Sarah.

Doesn't anybody want Charles Bunbury?

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS MESS

Since the last edition of the Mess notes we have moved from our palatial surroundings in Ballykelly to the more down-to-earth accommodation in Mons Barracks. For several weeks after our arrival living-in members could be seen running around their rooms with various shades of paint in one hand and a brush in the other trying to make the bunks look something more than dungeons.

We opened our social activity in Aldershot with a ladies dinner night. This was the first time we had had all the Mess together for nearly two years, and it came as quite a shock to find our total numbers were somewhere around 140. Various permutations of seating were tried before finally, with the aid of three tents suitably positioned outside the Mess, we came up with a solution. Frank Parkinson and his merry men made music afterwards, and it seemed strange not to have to leave the Mess to beat curfew at 0200 hrs (only the breathalyser to fear now). Christmas was upon us before one really had time to think, with its usual round of festive activities. Its a toss up now whether serving the traditional Christmas dinner to the men is a privilege or a punishment. War was declared between the Alma and Corunna somewhere between the serving of the main course and Christmas pudding. Only the brave tried to negotiate the flying oranges, nuts and mince pies. It is rumoured that the QM is thinking of sending next year's dinner to the children in the Brandywell for ammunition.

Our Officers v. Sergeants soccer/rugby match went with its usual swing. A suitably placed thunderflash over exposed the officers' group photo whilst the Battalion 2IC took refuge in the stream adjoining the pitch, helped by a few willing hands from the Mess. As the game hotted up fire extinguishers were introduced from a commandeered tractor. The game finally ended with the two referees (RSM and CO) agreeing to disagree over who had won and it was decided that the result would depend on who had the most members still walking after our visit to the Officers Mess for drinks.

RSM Collins (right) takes over from RSM Pickersgill

Acknowledgment to Dennis Mustard



Last, but not least, we held the Christmas draw in the NAAFI complex, arranged this year by George Quayle and his hand-picked assistants. It was nice to see George and Jill Nuttall and 'Sandy' from Ballykelly over for the night. As usual, our cooks did us proud for the buffet and it turned out to be an excellent evening all round.

Old faces keep turning up in the Mess now we are back in England. Bob and Glad Spring called in whilst visiting their son in the district. Brian Hartley, ably assisted by Bob Stewart, made it down for the draw (we're not sure whether they made it back).

Finally, congratulations to all our new Mess members and good luck and *bon voyage* to those who, for whatever reason, have left us.

**Officers v. Sergeants Football
Christmas 1974**

The annual joke game between the officers and sergeants took place on December 20, 1974. The officers were escorted in grand manner to the ground by the Band and then performed a 'Haka' before the game. The result was four goals each, a ducking for the 2IC and Sgt Hunter and a running battle between OC 'B' Company, Sgt Fleming and Sgt Cross, who appeared from nowhere on a tractor.

Afterwards everyone adjourned to the Officers Mess for a curry lunch. OC Recce was voted by the Sergeants Mess 'Rupert of the year 1974' and was presented with a real Rupert Bear. Festivities ended and two weeks' leave commenced at 1500 hrs. Sighs of relief all round, especially from the Mess staff.

CORPORALS MESS

The last notes were written just prior to our departure from the 'Emerald Isle'.

Before the arrival of the main body the NCOs of the advance party had been working hard to set up a pleasant and functional Mess. Many thanks to Lcpl Mick Bedford and his helpers.

Once we had established ourselves in Aldershot

we began work on holding the Mess dinner and dance which we had been promising ourselves for the whole of the tour in N Ireland. We had great difficulty in finding a place large enough to accommodate our large numbers (320). Eventually the banqueting suites at Farnborough were booked and a menu decided upon by the whole Mess at a Mess meeting. The menu was shrimp mornay, roast sirloin of beef with appropriate vegetables, fruit gateau. An excellent white wine was served with the meal.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by Jonny Johnson promotions and consisted of a dance band and vocalist, a belly dancer, a drag artist, a comedian and a male vocalist. The star of the cabaret was Cpl George Hayton, who was dragged protestingly on to the floor to perform with the belly dancer.

The evening ended pleasantly at 0200 hrs, when the buses arrived to collect the happy, jovial merry-makers.

It cannot be decided whether it was good sense or the fact that the local 'cop shop' was just across the road with a large quantity of breathalysers on hand that kept members' cars, at home.

Cpl Barker has now left the job of barman and taken up the relatively simple task of deputy sheriff, and Cpl Tolley has moved in as our new Mess Steward. When this was announced at the Mess meeting it was also announced that we were to have a happy hour from 1630 to 1800 hrs every Friday. Cpl Tolley then told the RSM very meekly he had to be at the police station at 1800 hrs. The RSM's reply was, if anything, bombastic. 'You'll get done for speeding then, won't you.' This brought spontaneous laughter and tears to the eyes of all present.

Although the Mess is a lot smaller than our premises in Ireland, it is still as well supported and even though there are no restrictions on movement members are still bringing their wives for an evening out. My thanks to all concerned.

We have no entertainments planned for the near future but are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our new chief, RSM Collins, although we are sad to see the departure of RSM Pickersgill to the Green Howards.

On closing these notes I would like to congratulate and welcome all who have been promoted into

the Mess or within the Mess. I feel a little sadness at the loss of those amongst us who have departed for various reasons, but congratulate those who have climbed yet another rung on the ladder. Best wishes from all our members to those who have attained the envied status of 'Pad' and/or produced offspring.

From the Companies

WATERLOO COMPANY

Signal Platoon

Having returned and reorganised from a N Ireland orbat, we immediately found ourselves heavily committed to an intensive retraining programme. Fortunately we saved ourselves a good deal of work by some industrious preparation in Ballykelly. Capt Peter Gardner very kindly arranged for us to photo-copy a lot of the aids at the Signal Wing in Warminster; consequently our Aids Library is now very well stocked.

The Standard II cadre itself went very well with both the Platoon and the cadre working extremely hard. Pte Flaving is to be congratulated on winning the Commanding Officer's tankard for the best student, with Pte Dobinson running him a close second.

In addition to cadre training, TAC HQ also had to shake up for the series of Battalion/Brigade CPXs. Cpl 'Schultz' Brook gained a name for himself as something of an electronics wizard for his gadgetry in the CP Rover.

After a well-earned rest for Christmas, we pitched into the organisation of the platoon for 'Spearhead'. During this time we also undertook to provide a communications solution for a 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers exercise. We are at this moment preparing to depart on exercise 'Northern Lights', which was the name given to this venture.

We congratulate Lcpl Thackeray and his wife on the birth of a son and Cpl Brook and his wife on the birth of a daughter.

During the period under review we welcome to the Platoon Cpls Verrall and Waquabaca, who have returned to the fold, Sgt Worley and Lcpl Davison, our new Tels team, and the members of the cadre, Ptes Coulson, Dobinson, Down, Flaving, Gibson, Holmes, Kemp, Maltby, Mellard, Wilkinson, Benson, Bowen, Foster. We also said goodbye to Ptes Blair and Pickersgill.

Intelligence Section

There are no more wanted men,
There are no more suspect cars,
Thus work in the Int Section
Is cut by several hours.

With no more weekly Intsum
Flowing from every pen,
Grandstand every Saturday
Is viewed by Acorn's men.

Instead of Ballykelly
(We loved it, did we not),
It's the home of the Army,
Scintillating Aldershot.

There have been interchangers
(or changes within the Int)
And all those alterations,
We felt, should be put in print.

It is farewell to Pogo,
That strange mysterious beast.
Goodbye to long hairy locks
And trousers without a crease.

Adieu to our human friends
Who have left our company
To take their different skills
To other forms of soldiery.

And last, but by no means least,
Greetings to those who've arrived
To what some mistakenly think
Are the paupers' MI5.

Corps of Drums

On returning from leave following our tour of duty in Ulster we found ourselves facing a very full and compact training programme for the future months, fitness training being the main objective of the programme, and, of course, everyone participated with dynamic enthusiasm, as you can well imagine!

On looking back, the most interesting week so far has undoubtedly been the GPMG Sustained Fire Cadre. Most of us, I am sure, felt like a learner driver getting into a car for the second time in his life, the first time being told where the controls were, this time being instructed how to operate them all. Having gained all the knowledge required in the classrooms, we were then able, with the aid of 42,000 rounds, to go and gain practical experience on the adequate range facilities. The first time we fired the weapon opened our eyes, I think, to the kind of aid this weapon can be when used in this role and by a competent team.

To end these notes I should like to say, although 99.9 per cent of the week was spent in serious hard work, our vocabulary of jokes has increased by approximately 250, this being the lighter side of the week and much welcomed. For example.

Irish bloke goes to the doctor's, bandaged up to his neck and his right ear bleeding.

The colour party marches past the Colonel-in-Chief after the Memorial Service

Hon Queens' Colour Lt J. Dowdell, The Queen's colour 2 Lt W. A. N. Atkinson, CSM Quayle, Regimental Colour 2 Lt M. T. W. Jenkins, Hon Regimental Colour 2 Lt G. D. Shuttleworth



Doctor: 'How did you do that?'

Irish bloke: 'I was doing some soup for my dinner and the instructions on the tin said "Pierce 'ere and stand in boiling water for 20 minutes".'

Recco Platoon

In the last issue we were all looking forward to our new home in Aldershot. Well, we have arrived safe and sound and are enjoying a more relaxed period compared to the pressures of Ulster.

November found us fresh off leave and raring to do some conventional soldiering. Well, after all those months in Ballykelly even the most experienced of us had gone a bit rusty and certainly our newer members needed intensive training. Hence the six-week cadre which was run quite efficiently by 'Sunray' and his senior assistants.

Priority was also given to fitness and that meant the inevitable daily road run and gym work. Having a fitness fanatic as a Platoon Commander meant that all the extra pounds gained in Ulster were quickly shed and the lads were looking streamlined in next to no time.

Since our arrival here about eight of our members, including the boss and Sgt Goddard, have been back to Londonderry at least once, to attend court cases resulting from arrests made over there.

Lcpl Nicholls has finally taken the plunge and has since lost 2 stones in weight. Our congratulations and best wishes, Nick. Cpl Raine is the next to go and, not to be outdone, Lt Dowdell is also getting into the act and is soon to be hitched.

We have had our fair share of courses and cadres over the last few months. Lcpl Squires, enthusiastic as ever, successfully completed the JNCO's cadre; Sgt Goddard is, by all accounts, lapping it up on the Brecon Beacons; and the boss is racking his brain down at Netheravon. Pte Calvert enjoyed his fortnight at Portsmouth on Sub-Aqua, and Ssgt

Basu had a week off at RAF, Brawdy, controlling aircraft. However, the best laugh is yet to come. Can you imagine an out-and-out Fijian gibbering away in Turkish. Well, that is about to happen in the shape of Sgt Parrott, who is going away for 10 weeks to learn Turkish. No doubt he will come back full of eastern promises!

Cpl Raine, Lcpl Cockshott and Pte ('Swine') Donaldson went on an enjoyable six-week tour with 7 RHA to Malaysia. 'Swine' promised to sign on if we let him go to Malaysia, but has denied all knowledge since his return, and is at the moment doing his pre-release course in Catterick. Pte Austin did well in the sniper cadre and Lcpl Pemberton had a relaxing two months guarding the apes in Gibraltar.

All in all, the last few months have been busy, hectic at times, but all very worthwhile. The high standard achieved at the end of the cadre was particularly pleasing. Finally, our congratulations to Pte Moorhouse on his elevation to the Battalion 1st XV. Well done, lads, to Cpl Raine, Lcpl Whiteley and Pte Dixon for their efforts with the 2nd XV, to Sgt Theodore and Cpl Hayes on their big effort on the cadre, and to Cpl Verrall on his promotion and move to the Signal Platoon.

Regimental Police

Since our return from NI we are settling down to normal police work in Mons Barracks. Some of our time is being spent on getting the guest house ready for the summer season. All guests welcome, CSMs please note.

There has been a turn-round of staff since the last IRON DUKE notes. Sgt Hunter has taken over from Sgt Lofthouse, who has moved on as CQMS Waterloo Company. Good luck to Sgt Lofthouse on his new appointment. Staff White has joined us from 'B' Company; he finally got his promotion

after passing his probationary period. His voice is now deep enough for the job. Cpl Barker is helping out answering the telephone and making tea until his run-out date after serving 17 years with the "Dukes".

It has been said that Lcpl Urtley is taking up needlework after watching the MO put 25 stitches in a leg wound he received playing football. We hope it heals up quickly and have entered him for the Golden Needle award.

A final note for any soldier who is thinking of going abroad for his holidays: why not try our special holiday offer at the Mons guest house.

Mons Guest House: Special Offer

Free board and lodging in one of our model hotels. Hot and cold running water, central-heated single or a large family room no extra charge. Call at any time, 24-hour reception service. This offer includes:

Early call: 0530 Tea for staff only.

Free lunch: 1200

Free dinner: 1600

Entertainment at the Mons is varied and enjoyable, which includes the following:

0800 Daily. Nature study, i.e. log work by Uncle Terry Palmer.

0830 Rest. Staff only.

0830-0500 Modern Dancing. Quickstep to the Ken Urtley 150 to the Minute Band.

0900 Rest. Staff only.

0900-0500 Direction finding, i.e. left, right and about, with big Uncle Jim.

You see, we do have a sense of humour from time to time.

Malaysia '74

While on guard at Mons, in cold Aldershot, one Friday, feeling depressed and bored, an out of breath Pte came running into the Guards' accommodation panting a message, 'You are wanted on the phone urgent'. Thinking that the cat may have died or that World War III had started, I rushed to the phone. A voice at the other end said, 'Do you want to go to Malaya'. I said, 'Will I be back for Christmas?' The voice said, 'Yes', I said, 'Well, I'll go'. The voice said, 'Right, be ready to move at 0630 Monday morning. Lcpl Cockshott and Pte Donaldson (the 'Swine' to his friends) are going with you. You will be attached to 7 Para RHA for the duration of the exercise "Talaria"'.

Parading at Lille Barracks (the home of 7 Para) on Monday morning we were herded into chinks. We were then taken by coach to RAF, Brize Norton, where after the normal wait of three hours we boarded a RAF Transport Command VC10, which was to take us to RAF, Changi, Singapore. The flight lasted 22 hours and we stopped to refuel at Cyprus, Dubhi and Ghan with beer and aviation fuel.

On arriving at Pularda, Johore Bahru, in south Malaysia, we separated into the three batteries: Cpl Raine to 'I' Battery, Lcpl Cockshott to 'F' Battery and Pte Donaldson to 'G' Battery. We started to get to know the lads of 7 Para, and had

made some good friends by the time we departed.

The training was very hard as we had to cram a whole jungle course into three weeks, which included the special type of shooting which is required in the jungle, jungle navigation, river crossing technique, jungle survival and basic infantry tactics for the artillerymen which included booby traps and jungle demolition. The highlight of the training was the use of various helicopters, which included the New Zealand Air Force, and Huey Cobra gun ships, which were used to great effect by the Americans in Vietnam.

After the hard three weeks of jungle training we had two weeks of adventure training, which consisted of a large variety of sports and activities which included a climbing expedition to climb the highest mountain in Sarawak, which is approx 18,000ft, an invitation by the Sultan of Johore to use his polo ponies every day, a R and R trip to Hong Kong and to Penang in northern Malaysia for three days at a time.

The final week was taken up by various sports days, which included an inter-battery competition, a regimental competition against the Gordon Highlanders, who are resident battalion, a competition against the Blazer Battery RA, and the highlight being a meeting against the New Zealand Infantry Regiment, who were just down the road. We beat them in most of the sports, including rugby, which at times was more like a boxing match. But their ferociousness on the field was matched by their hospitality after. There was free beer for everyone, the most fantastic barbecue I have ever seen and the traditional maori hungy (food cooked in the ground by hot stones).

When the main body were on their way home I had the honour to be selected to play for 7 Para on their Malasian rugby tour. We won most of the games, including the games against Kuala Lumpur, Penang State, but lost to the Australian forces, North Malaysia, which was more of a game of league when the Australians had the ball.

All in all, the whole tour was beneficial and something not to have been missed.

CPL RAINE

ALMA COMPANY

One Man's Week

(with apologies to Alan Brien and the *Sunday Times*)

Monday. Full of zeal last week, so arranged vastly complicated and strenuous programme for today. Regretted it when crawling unenthusiastically out of bed this morning, but on arriving at the barracks found that fate had stepped in and saved the day. Thirteen men on parade, remainder either on guard or otherwise accounted for. The Army may be steeped in technology, but the infantry is strictly labour intensive: fatigues and duties swallow men up faster than all the piranha in the Amazon could ever do. Made a tentative alternative training programme for the gallant 13, now huddled at the far end of the square like the survivors at Little Big Horn, when a runner came hot-foot from QM's to demand 10 men for ammo escort. Resigned myself to the inevitable and went back to the office.

Tuesday. A better day, with just a hint of sunshine. On the way to work saw a real bird gasping for oxygen whilst flying over the tight-packed traffic. Probably escaping from the fierce garden gnomes that prowl the suburban jungles of Farnborough and North Camp.

Drafted three quick letters to the Adjutant on tortuous and long-standing problems and reckoned that would keep him quiet for a while, if no nearer a solution.

Wednesday. Read vaguely through the newspaper at breakfast and my attention caught by an advertisement which promised good pay, adventure and security. Read on and was reaching for my pen to fill in the coupon when found it was an advert for the Army. Wondered unenquiringly why we always complain at our lot, then read that many workers wages had gone up 28p in the pound while prices had risen 19p in the pound and knew why.

Thursday. Day got off to an excellent start when a long-haired youth tripped over by the bus stop and fell backwards into a large puddle. The remainder of the queue observed him dispassionately, as those watching a professional entertainer whose performance, though adequate, did not really justify the entrance money. Incident proved to be a good omen, as everything went according to plan thereafter. Lunch on the ranges a particular high spot, especially for the married men who appear never to be fed at home and who had to be hounded from the front of the queue by the CSM.

Friday. Invited to attend a short 2IC's training conference at 1000 hrs and emerged in time for a late lunch. Came to the conclusion that the Army is infinitely more democratic than the Students Union of a red-brick university most of the time. It just doesn't have to waste time proving it because no one expects or wants it to be. Rejected such weighty thoughts when attempting to stop my heart bursting out of my chest as my pulse was taken after the five-minutes step-up routine in PFA tests. Resolved to study Yoga to lower pulse rate. Cancelled resolve at tea time and had two sticky buns instead, which were beneficial to both body and mind. *Mens sana in sano corpore*—keep your strength up or your head will drop off.

Saturday and Sunday. Spent in the bosom of the family, dreaming of the next unaccompanied tour in the sun. Observed that my civilian neighbours looked much more worried and haggard than I and decided that a fast-moving life was inherently healthy if occasionally irritating. Decided to leave IRON DUKE notes to next weekend.

MAJ T. J. NICHOLSON

Exercise Fiery Cross

An exercise which must fill the heart of every company commander with nostalgia, if nothing else! To lesser mortals, exercise 'Fiery Cross' is a 24-hour exercise co-ordinated by the Company Commanders Wing of the School of Infantry. The aim, so I'm told, is to practise those potential commanders in the finer acts of modern warfare, the degree of finesse being a matter for debate.

This year, the "Dukes" were called upon to provide some of the troops for the exercise, and the Alma had the job. It was perhaps unfortunate that

the lads of 3 Platoon were split up to fill exercise appointments but that's the way it goes. The 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rangers kindly provided us with accommodation whilst we were in Warminster and, perhaps more important, let us use their bar!

The exercise itself began at a brisk pace and I think everyone enjoyed clearing Imber village, even though it was for the umpteenth time! Unfortunately, the wind then left the commanders' sails (if not Imber valley!) and things slowed down. From the lads it was 'What the —'s happening now?' No names mentioned, Cpl Bailey. Nevertheless, the final attack restored spirits and gave everyone the opportunity to use the ammo they had carried across Salisbury Plain. With the OC as acting medic no one fell sick; at least, they didn't report it!

After a quick clean-up and shut-eye we headed back to Aldershot, all of us having the greatest sympathy for the Rangers in their task of Demo Battalion.

Well done, lads!

Company Sport 1974

As the editor/secretary/club reporter of a new and flourishing sporting monthly (circulation at least 50) I have voluntarily (I'm waiving my fee) undertaken to comment upon the Company sports scene over the past year or so.

The major Company sport to date is undoubtedly soccer. As a rugby player I at first found this difficult to understand, until one hateful day when I fell under the charisma and influence of a much-loved CSM, affectionately known as 'Legs' (amongst other things). On behalf of the Company I would like to wish him a happy and long retirement from the soccer scene. The soccer 1st team remained unbeaten throughout the Ulster tour, but has since been sadly broken up by Aldershot re-organisation. 'Their name liveth, etc': 'Jonah' Jones, Carl Mellard, Lenny, Pete Bartnik, 'Smiler', 'Tex', 'Smudge', 'Scoobie', 'Malt', 'Mitch'. Since being back in Aldershot Company soccer has had mixed success and is breaking about even on results.

Devotees of the sport will remember the controversial (unfinished) tennis tournament of the summer of 1973. (I have it on good authority that unfinished tennis will be played at Wimbledon this year.) The company knock-out competition dragged on for some three to four months with sporadic breaks for sport of a different nature in the Brandywell. People who were eliminated in the early rounds would reappear for the quarter-finals, displaying that great British quality of dogged perseverance in the face of defeat (cheating!). One sergeant is reported to have been knocked out three times (bold fellow). The competition finally ground to a halt in the semi-finals, choked by the sheer weight of numbers (17 competitors still left). The struggle was continued verbally in various clubs and messes for a few more months. The final number of Company tennis champions for the year 1973 is still a very fluid one.

And now rugby (regular readers sigh). By the last six months of 1974 we at last produced a Company rugby team. Well, nearly! The game started with about 12 aside. Alma was up against a

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motley crew of sappers. However, once the Corporals Mess closed (about 15 minutes into the game), the numbers swelled to 17 a side.

This excess didn't affect the game unduly, as there was always a small huddle of forwards sharing a quick 'stogie' just off the pitch. Nobody really knows who won or how long the game lasted, as it finished when a four-tonner drew up and somebody shouted that the Sappers Club was open. The referee blew for a penalty. However, the two teams had tacitly agreed that this was the final whistle and, giving a feeble three cheers, crawled off the pitch, leaving it scattered with assorted human flotsam and jetsam. Cpl Sugden had not heard any of this and was still in a corner having a crafty drag 15 minutes after the game ended.

The only other time the Company aspired to compete in the gentleman's game was for the Battalion seven-a-side competition. After a really good run-up to the final, we lost 7-4 to Waterloo Company (we wuz robbed). Since coming to Aldershot we've had one match v. Hook and Waterloo Company. We lost 9-3.

NB — The facts herein contained are faithfully reproduced from verbatim reports by a friend of someone who knows the company clerk.

BURMA COMPANY

Farewell to Burma

It is a sad day when one hands over command of a company. However, on February 7 that's what I had to do. Maj 'Johnnie' Walker took over, having arrived home safely from N Ireland.

Burma Company has been a great company to work with. Time after time the boys have produced the goods. Many IRA terrorists have been captured and much bomb-making equipment, rifles, rockets and explosives have been recovered. Our last tour in the Brandywell was so quiet and friendly we got the impression that the local people were quite sorry to see us go.

When we got back to England we embarked on a mammoth retraining cycle. As a result of this there are some recent promotions. Pte Welburn and Pte Mortimer now have lance-corporal stripes. We welcome back Lcpl King, who is now as fit as a slightly out of tune fiddle. He has made a great recovery from the day a Land-Rover fell on him up at Glenullen. Pte Hepworth also is to be congratulated on winning the MM by firing at (?) the terrorists who sprung the mine in the same incident. Pte Wallace was also given a Commanding Officer's commendation for his action in the same incident.

Cpl 'Sooty' Sutton also received a Commanding Officer's commendation for saving the life of a man when we were down in the Brandywell. Lcpl Peel has now been promoted and has been posted to Corunna Company, from whom we have Sgt Middleton, who we congratulate on his promotion. In England he helps us with the training. In Cyprus he will be our Intelligence Sergeant.

Our CQMSs change over. The CSM is very glad that CQMS Walker has arrived so that at last he can look down on a senior rank (neither is a man of great height, but the CSM takes it by an inch!).

Csgt Dowdall departs from Burma Company and goes to Colchester, where he will help 19 Brigade HQ (older soldiers will remember being sent to Kenya twice by 19 Brigade HQ in 1960 and 1961).

Almost every soldier in the company who was in N Ireland has been sent on one cadre or another. Three of our younger men have done very well in the Battalion sniper cadre. Pte McNab came first, Acklam II came second and Kershaw came fourth. To get our three men in the first four places is very much in keeping with Burma Company traditions.

As the platoon commanders will undoubtedly mention, 6 Platoon came top in the first leg of the platoon competition; 5 Platoon came third. 4 Platoon was a bit lower down but determined to be near the top when the second leg of the competition takes place in February.

The Company has just finished our escape and evasion exercise round the local area. Everyone seems to have enjoyed their various roles and have learnt a lot about the art. Though the exercise only lasted 24 hours, every hour was crammed with incident. Everybody worked very hard.

4 Platoon, under Sgt Fleming, provided the hunter force and managed to put three men in the bag. 5 Platoon supplied the guerrillas who were to aid the escapees by attacking the hunter force and also agents to guide the escapees from one RV to the next. 6 Platoon had the most interesting role—that of escape and evasion. Only two teams made clean home runs: Sgt Craven and Rich and Lcpl King and Horsfield. Cpl Ruding with Ptes Cutts and Zabrocky were caught but rejoined the exercise later and successfully completed it. It is hoped that similar exercises will be run later with each platoon changing its role.

The Company had a Company party in the more select rooms of the NAAFI on January 23. There was a country and western group and also a disco. The catering staff produced an excellent bottle buffet. Many soldiers brought their wives and girl friends and I introduced my fiancée to the Company just to prove that, at long last, I was getting married! Very soon we shall have a dinner for all the NCOs in the Sergeants Mess to show the young lance-corporals what they should be aiming for. At that dinner I will hand over the Company to Maj 'Johnnie' Walker.

I thank everyone for the tremendous support they have given me and wish Maj Walker every success with Burma Company in Cyprus. CSM Hughes will surely guide Maj Walker with the same tactful manner that he has helped me.

Postscript

Sgt Lyons, who has been in and out of hospital many times with a bad back, has at last had the trouble correctly diagnosed. Two vertebrae have been removed from his spine in a long and painful operation. Burma Company wishes him the best for the future.

MAJ STACPOOLE

First Nine Months as a Regular

(or The Volunteer Recovers from Verbal Constipation)

In spite of the title, readers may be assured that the composition of this short contribution has involved a substantial amount of effort since I feel I have so much to say without the power to express it. How I wish I had been a journalist instead of a claims assessor, and I can only hope that shortcomings in style are forgiven for sincerity in motivation.

It is now almost four years since I called at the Drill Hall in Huddersfield having read advertisements for the TAVR (probably in the *News of the World*) and, encouraged by sound PR work from (as he was then) Ssgt Quayle, the first permanent staff instructor we had in Huddersfield, I signed, metaphorically at least, on the dotted line. The last thing I would want is that this article should appear as a personal potted history or, still less, a sort of glorified William Hickey column, but there are those I have encountered over the past few years who are either well known or not so well known in the Battalion and whose influence has greatly affected me.

We were fortunate when the 3rd Battalion of the Yorkshire Volunteers was formed in 1971 to have as Training Major David Cowell, who performed so much of the spade work with a brand-new unit. I am sure he does not need to be reminded how much we all appreciated his thorough knowledge and quiet courtesy. There are others with whom the Drill Hall is shared in Huddersfield and I made many friends amongst the ACF and ATC. Perhaps I might also mention this Regiment's Old Comrades Association, with whom I spent many happy hours and whose pride in themselves and their Regiment is a good example for soldiers today. It is pleasant also to say thank you to the members of BLESMA and, in particular to Jackie Horne, in whose presence I always feel humble. I know he would be embarrassed by too much praise; those who are prepared to give their time and energy to others invariably are, but thank you, Jackie, for the privilege of your friendship.

I have now completed one-half of my 18-month period with the Battalion and I was pleased to see that this scheme is now to be extended to all ranks, and at the risk of being accused of trying to lure TAVR soldiers I hope that one or two members of 'C' Company, 3 Yorks, will be able to participate and join the Battalion without too much disruption of their civilian jobs. I am sure they would be welcome and will benefit as I have. Conversely, all those who are leaving the Regiment and wish to maintain their service will find a visit to any of their local drill halls worth while, particularly if you happen to live in the Huddersfield or Halifax areas. You will find the same comradeship exists, and I use the word without any feeling of awkwardness, since its meaning has not changed from 50 or 100 years ago. Perhaps its links are forged stronger on the streets of N Ireland as they were 60 years ago on the Somme, but in any service unit that has any pride it's there just the same.

Looking forward now to the tour in Cyprus,

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which I hope will represent my highlight with the Battalion, I am grateful to those who have made the whole experience a valid one. I thank the members of the Mess who have been so receptive; the CSM, who has been (usually) so understanding, and the members of 4 Platoon for the enjoyment of working with you.

Perhaps in conclusion I may look forward to another article when my period of service ends and complete this one with apologies to those not specifically mentioned, the experience all having been worth while.

. 2Lt MASSEY

Exercise 'Scarlet Pimpernel'

'They seek him here; they seek him there'. 4 Platoon was seeking 6 Platoon every where.

The escape and evasion exercise began with 6 Platoon (escapees) being captured whilst being briefed by the Company Commander, Maj 'Paddy' Stacpoole. The prisoners were treated with the greatest of respect and the utmost gentleness (Ballykelly style) by their captors lead by Cpl 'Adolf' Lister. We were then systematically searched or, I should say, stripped to our birthday suits. Even though each person underwent such a thorough search, the amount of items smuggled through was quite impressive. These included 14 rounds 9mm (drill), one clasp knife, approximately 100 cigarettes and matches, and £20 cash.

The escape from detention did not go quite as planned by 'the agents', 5 Platoon. Later things fell into place and everyone began to arrive at the RV (the agents' camp) to collect their bags (sacks) containing food, a poncho, string, compass, etc. Cpl Ruding was still complaining about the removal of his wet suit during the search. I was not very pleased at having mine removed, either (our turn will come, Fleming. Revenge is sweet). The escape phase was finished. Phase two was the evasion for 24 hours. Our rations were given to us raw to simulate living off the land. These consisted of turnips, carrots, potatoes, cabbage, eggs, steak, etc. It sounds great but it presents one with a cooking problem. Raw eggs don't turn everyone on. During the evasion phase the Platoon was split down into pairs. My fellow escapee was Pte Rich. Our first meal was in an outbuilding on a chicken farm with the farmer's permission, who received us initially with a great deal of suspicion due to our dirty appearance and dress (full denim suit, no head-dress, carrying our belongings in a sack). I am sure to this day he is still not convinced that we were not escaped convicts and that we were Army as we said we were. All the time we were there he was never far away and neither was his pitch fork.

Our second meal was in the back of a derelict wagon in the middle of a field; unfortunately we burnt a hole through the floor. However, the bacon and beans were nice.

Our treks from RV to RV were in some cases long and wet (wet, thanks to Fleming (Sgt)). The civvy cars provided by 5 Platoon were a welcome sight when they arrived to pick us up and move us to our next RV. Pte Zabrocky was the first escapee to get caught by the hunter force, 4 Platoon. His mate managed to escape, who was

Pte Sykes. He had no map and was 12 miles from camp, but like a homing pigeon he managed to get back by bus and police car. Cpl Ruding was captured or handed over, as he said, along with our Intelligence Officer, Pte Cutts. Whilst being ferried from RV to RV he was caught in a VCP. Our final RV was back at camp. The last man to arrive was Pte Stead, who decided he had waited long enough at his RV and no one was coming to pick him up. He caught a bus but unfortunately for him it was going in the wrong direction. He fell asleep and woke up miles away from camp. He arrived back four hours after everyone else looking like a posh rag man. Lcpl Edwards was arrested, not by 4 Platoon but the fuzz, not once but three times, as a suspicious character, fast talking and a few phone calls set him free. I think everyone learned something from the exercise.

The younger members know now that before an exercise begins a lot of thought must go into what is required to make life more comfortable in the field. As Ptes Sharpe and Lambert, who forgot their mess tins, found out, cooking a steak over a hexy block can be difficult, and it doesn't taste very nice either.

SGT E. CRAVEN

5 Platoon

Since the last publication of Platoon notes there have been many changes within the Platoon. Of the 5 Platoon which left Ulster in September there are now just 14 members left who have been joined by a steady influx of new blood. On our arrival we happily accepted two weeks' leave before getting down to work again. For many it was nearly two years since they had done any basic conventional training but memories were surprisingly good. Perhaps the biggest shock of all came when we discovered that we had to walk to ranges and training areas. The more recent additions to the Platoon have continually had war stories about N Ireland related to them, but they had an advantage in that it is not so long since they did conventional training.

The pre-Christmas period was built up to a climax by the inter-platoon competition, which consisted of four phases. The first phase was administration for our air-portable role. After much tedious but thorough preparation by all, we emerged in the lead after day one, despite a slight discrepancy over packing lists. Day two was an SLR grouping competition, in which our shooting left something to be desired but was good enough to gain us second place behind 6 Platoon, but first overall. Day three brought us on to the assault course in full battle order. Although we maintained one casualty when one man forgot his assault course technique, we managed to reach fourth place after a lot of effort, but remained in first place in the whole competition. So we came to the last day with a slight lead over the other platoons, being pressed particularly closely by 6 and 7 Platoons. The last day consisted of the normal kit inspection followed by a 6½-mile route march, GPMG falling plates gallery and an SLR shoot at a moving target. We dropped a clanger in the inspection when not one of us had his jersey pullover wrapped in his poncho, thus suffering a severe penalty. The

route march was completed in a reasonable time, but not fast enough to make up for our previous mistake.

The GPMG shoot went very well and I would like to commend again Ptes Hird, Walker and Parkin on some excellent shooting. The shoot at a moving target was well done, but overall we had slipped back into third place behind 6 and 7 Platoons in the final ratings of the first phase. We will see what we can do in the second phase next month.

Throughout our stay so far we have had soldiers disappearing on cadres and courses. Congratulations to Pte MacNab on coming top in the Battalion sniper cadre. In the sporting circle we provided several players in the Company side which reached the semi-finals in the inter-company rugby competition, narrowly losing to the experienced Hook and Waterloo companies side. We have an intact record in the inter-platoon football competition and some keen basketball players. There are also less non-swimmers now than there were previously.

2LT SHUTTLEWORTH

6 Platoon

On arrival in Aldershot, Burma Company was greeted by some 30 recruits who, having been divided equally (?), between the platoons, swelled our numbers to an unprecedented level. This was just as well, because, as usual, many men went off on cadres; others were required for guard; still more on fatigues, so that in the end the numbers were so reduced that the Company was split into two platoons for the first four weeks of training after leave. As both the commander and sergeant were away on courses, 6 Platoon was the platoon which was divided between the other two platoons. This meant that no training was undertaken by the complete Platoon until late November. By then it was time to start training for the big event of the pre-Christmas training, the platoon competition. The training for this was a lot harder than the competition itself. The assault course was practised many, many times, kit checks were numerous, speed marches were practised and in the final week before leave the competition started. The first competition was the dress for an air-portable move competition. We did badly in this, only coming fifth out of nine platoons. It was a disappointing start, especially after all the work Eddie Craven and the NCOs put in. However, the CSM must be thanked for having our documents all present and correct.

The second competition was the grouping competition. Frankly, we were not too confident as we had never won an inter-platoon shoot in the Company. However, on the day the extra coaching put in by the NCOs and a general desire to give of one's very best gave us first place. Admittedly the scores in the whole Battalion were low, but nerves must take some blame for this. We were now lying in second place in the competition to 5 Platoon. The third day was the day of the assault course. We had done a lot of practice and were confident of doing well. The platoons we feared were from Corunna Company. And so it turned out. We completed the course in a very fast time. No one

was within 70 seconds of us. But two platoons from Corunna running after us beat our time. So we came a creditable third. Some mention should be made of Trevor 'Para' Farran, who showed a great deal of determination and drive throughout the competition, but especially on this day.

We were now lying a very close second and morale was very high. The last competition was a fitting climax to the overall competition. It consisted of a speed march over 6½ to 7 miles, followed by a GPMG falling plate competition and a rifle shoot at a moving figure 11 from 100m. We set off on the march with a very determined step. The time for the march had been described by the PT staff as a very difficult one. But once again it was shown that determination to succeed is a great driving force. We were one minute outside the time and two or three platoons even beat the time. Our gunners were then called on to do us justice. And they did. The plates were knocked down in the second fastest time of the day. Frank Grundy must have knocked down about 60 per cent of the plates on his own. Finally, it rested on the riflemen. We had 10 rounds each for 15 men. The target was a moving figure 11 exposed for about 20 seconds. We shot with all the determination of two days before. At the count we had scored 123 hits out of 150. No other platoon could come anywhere near this total and so we won the final part of the competition. We then returned to camp, cleaned weapons and went up for the Christmas dinner. It was announced at the dinner that 6 Platoon had won the overall competition by four points from 5 Platoon. The message from the competition is an old one. Determination, training, a will to give 100 per cent and good morale is a good formula for success. We look forward to the second half of the competition at battle camp.

Since Christmas leave ended we have once again been beset with the usual problems of men disappearing in all directions (including professional rugby training). However, we have managed to get together for some night training, which in general has been enjoyed. We are currently preparing for 'Spearhead' and we look forward to writing the next IRON DUKE notes in Cyprus. That is, we look forward to Cyprus, not the notes. (Shame.—Ed.).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the soldiers who served with 6 Platoon in Ulster and have since departed for other departments. In particular thanks must go to Bill Staniland and his side-kick, 'Pop' Marshall, for all the hard work they put in both in field operations and in training us.

LT C. GRIEVE

CORRUNA COMPANY

Company HQ

Reader, do not worry. Company HQ will not bore you with war stories. We will, though, tell you what has happened since our return from Ulster. Let us first start with the Company HQ Orbat, which has changed quite a bit in the past four months.

OC: Maj A. R. Westcob
 ('Kenyatta Kid')
 2IC: Capt J. M. Thorn
 ('Clarence')
 CSM: SM Lawrence ('Brian
 Clough')
 CQMS: Ssgt Waller ('Tich')
 Training Sergeant: Sgt Kelly ('Punchy')
 Company Clerk: Lcpl Horsfall ('28')
 Company Runner: Pte Hicklin ('Manxy')
 G1098 Storeman: Lcpl Kay ('Fats')
 Accommodation Storeman: Pte Shaw ('My brain
 hurts, Corporal')
 Arms Storeman: Pte Whiteley ('Walt')
 OC's Driver: Lcpl Kennedy
 ('Masher')
 Company Mascot: 'Lucky' ('The Black
 Savage')

Now that you know who I am talking about, let us get down to the nitty-gritty. We welcome to Company HQ the following: Capt Thorn, Ssgt Waller, Sgt Kelly, Lcpl Kay, Ptes Shaw and Hicklin. But we are very sorry to lose Cpl Nicol to the Families Office and Pte Naylor to Warminster, both from the Company Stores.

December 1974 saw Company HQ in the field for the first time since our return from Ulster, on a 36-hour exercise. Weather conditions were the worst recorded for some years. Lcpl Kennedy, after just completing a cross-country driving cadre, managed to get bogged down before the OC had left barracks. Then he succeeded in getting

bogged down taking the OC out to the exercise area. Finally, to top it all, he managed to park, with his front wheels in a ditch, across the middle of the road. So he decided to sack it and went to sleep. Eight hours later a recovery vehicle tried to help Lcpl Kennedy and his problem of keeping his vehicle on firm ground. Alas, poor Lcpl Kennedy had a nervous breakdown when the recovery vehicle got bogged down as well.

The Company held a social at the Airborne Forces Rugby Club in December 1974 and, of course, Company HQ was there to make sure the beer was not watered down. Pte Chadderton, with guitar, helped Company HQ to put on a little turn, which consisted of '28', 'Walt', 'Hoggy' and, of course, Lcpl Kennedy. Everyone had a laugh and a good time was had by all.

After a well-earned Christmas leave we were in the field again on Salisbury Plain. We had a slight accident, where, on the first night, Cpl Nicol upset the balance of the four-ton trailer by taking a jerrycan out of it, causing it to fall on Sgt Kelly's head while he was having a kip. Luckily, Sgt Kelly was not too badly injured (he nearly lost an eye), and after a brief visit to the local hospital he was back out in charge of the enemy complete with black patch. The exercise was a complete success as far as Company HQ was concerned and we succeeded in erecting the command post, auxiliary tent, No 1 burner pits and putting tea on the boil in less than 30 minutes in pitch black on three occasions. Not bad considering it was the first time we have tried anything like this for a good three years.



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Lcpl White 22 has been attached to Company HQ for a few months and has been a great asset to '28' in the Company Office, particularly over the 'Spearhead' build-up.

We now have to think of 'Spearhead' duties and, of course, Cyprus in April. That is if the OC is not on too much rugby training, the CSM not on too much football training and '28', 'Walt', 'Mash' and the rest of the gang are reasonably with it.

A.H.

7 Platoon

By now the reader will probably feel replete with all the war stories he has had dished up to him concerning N Ireland. However, before I gaze into my crystal ball I would like to briefly review the past 18 months and offer a sincere word of thanks to all the members of the 'Magnificent Seven' (both past and present) for their hard work, loyalty and last, but not least, their sense of humour. Chronologically, the main events have been:

1973

April

New Platoon Commander steps on booby trap bomb. Change of underwear for Cpl Hanley and his section, who were with him at the time.

Two terrorists arrested in farm building. Found with them five brand new rifles. They got two years and 18 months respectively.

May

7 Platoon goes to sea on the *Ramehead* (London-derry). Lcpl Wathey reports sick with seasickness.

Pte Frear stops car at a vehicle check point. Keen nose suggests explosives. Driver now spending six years in one of HMPs.

Sightseeing trip in Greggan Estate. Ssgt Basu heads the winning half-brick during injury time and Pte Broadbent gets shot at.

June

7 Platoon carries out a section attack on a crow scarer. Score: Crow Scarer, 0, 7 Platoon 1. Pte Jarman is attacked by a herd of savage cows. Patrol takes three hours to reorganise and find Pte Jarman.

August

Lcpl Jones and Pte Carroll find a pistol and ammunition during a seven-hour area search. Sgt Basu leaves the platoon. Sgt Kendrew arrives.

September

First long stay in the Brandywell. Platoon learns the true meaning of community relations! Pte Fitton goes on a diet.

November

Pte Fitton defies medical science by growing even larger. Truth uncovered after he is found raiding the kitchen after a midnight patrol.

December

For the first time the Platoon is completely free—mammoth drinking spree. Ptes Frear, Broad-

bent, Fitton and Wilson 30 not seen for three days.

1974

April

Cpl Butterworth and Pte Clayton find a 300lb claymore mine by jumping up and down on it. Cpl Butterworth has a nervous breakdown; Pte Clayton becomes a butcher. Two terrorists arrested at a snap vehicle check point in connection with attempted murder. Leads to arrest of top IRA man in the Kilrea area.

July

The Platoon camps out at the end of a command wire leading to a 200lb bomb. Two weeks later the ambush is called off and bomb cleared.

August

Cpl Whittaker fires his rifle in anger; misses from 50yd. 'Well, I was running at the time', he comments. Shooting pamphlet renamed 'Shoot to Frighten'.

September

Ptes Gill and Conlon 94 find two loaded M1 carbines under a blackberry bush. Would they have found them if they did not like blackberries?

October

Move into new quarters in Aldershot. Pleased to find it is condemned. Still, if it was good enough for officer cadets . . . !

Well, that's all about it. Aldershot seems very dull compared to our last tour's excitement. However, we are soon realising how much of our basic bread and butter work we have forgotten. As usual, we seem to learn more quickly than some; we came second in the first phase of the inter-platoon competition and would have come first if it had not been for a rather peculiar scoring system. Still, plenty of time to put that right.

As for the future—well, we have the prospect of sand, sea and sun in Cyprus. Let's hope we can keep the same spirit going. I for one feel certain we will. Finally, thank you, 7 Platoon, for all your efforts over the past 18 months. You have always given your best, as is only right. After all, you are the best.

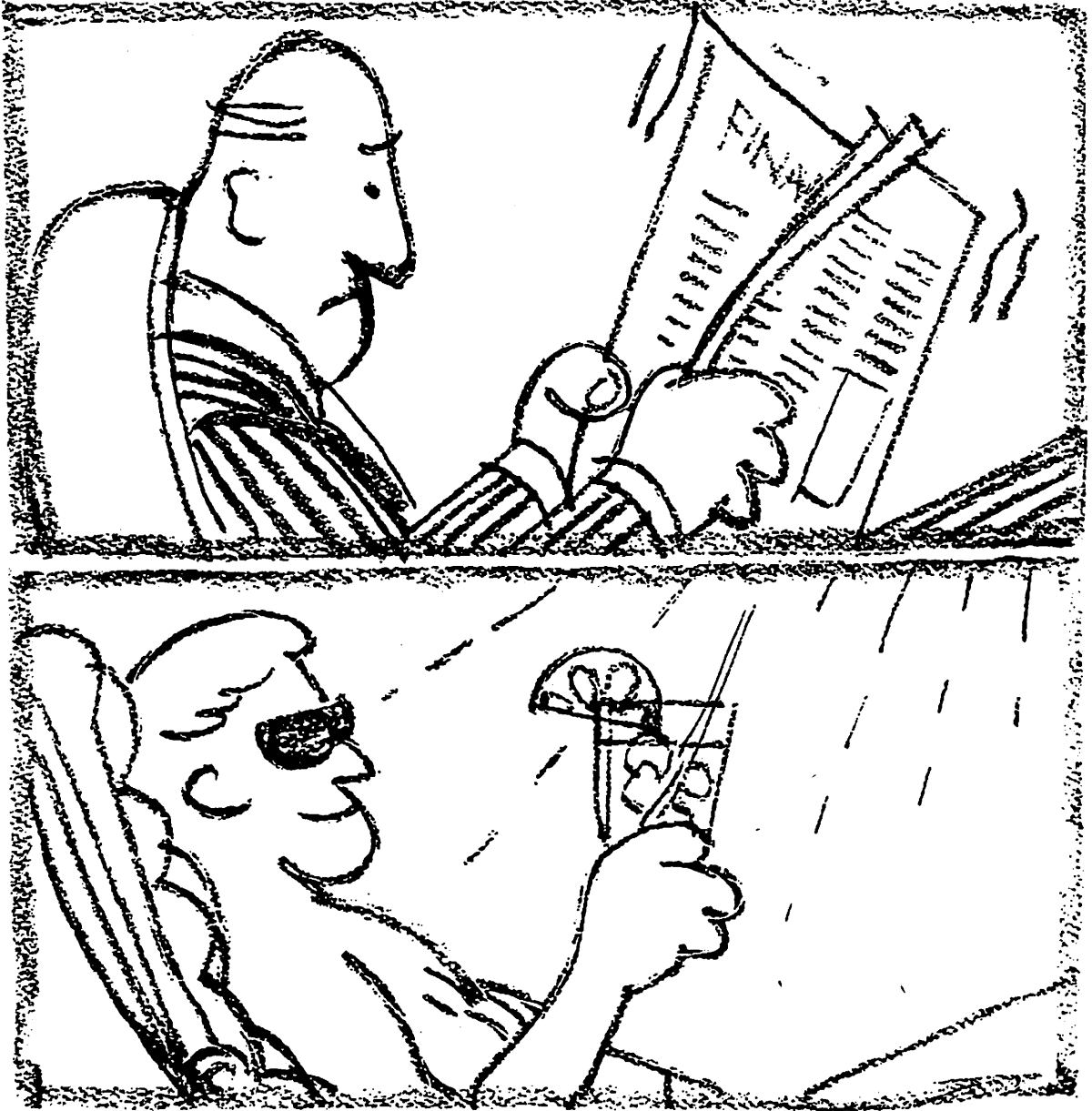
LT P. J. Y. SAVILLE

8 Platoon

Exercise 'Home Ground'

The first exercise that we had to do in Aldershot was a defensive one called 'Home Ground', basically because it was only 400m away from the quarters of one of the platoon commanders. However, it was to become better known as exercise 'Washout'.

It all started when we were told about a 48-hour exercise that was coming up. Well, that was discouraging for a start. Anyway, as the time grew nearer and nearer I began to feel more and more ill. We had been told to take extra kit and plenty of food. The latter did not bother me, but the thought of having to carry all that extra kit seemed a bit of



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a drag, but it turned out to be in our favour as you will find out.

The day finally arrived, having had three days solid rain beforehand with floods everywhere, and as I trudged to breakfast in the rain I remember thinking that even cookhouse food was worth eating, especially as I would not have a decent meal for a while (well, 48 hours is a long time). Well, the time came to set off—it was still raining—and we began our long march to the eventual position. After what seemed like hours Sgt Coates eventually turned on to the training area (boy, was I glad!), where he met up with Lt Pitchers. By this time the only thing I could think about was a pint of DD, but instead we just got more and more soaked.

The next thing I remember in my misery was being shown where to dig my pond—oops, I mean trench. By the time I had got 6ins down there was 7ins of water in it. I call that demoralising; I don't know about you. However, we all knew that either the Colonel or the 2IC were coming out to see us, so we just kept on digging or swimming, whichever you preferred. At about this point people began to turn blue around the edges.

We had got about 4 or 5ft down when we were 'stood to' as the Colonel was approaching, and after what seemed like hours he arrived. I could just hear the Land-Rover above the chattering of teeth and see it through the driving rain. Ours was the second trench he came to and if he had been five minutes earlier he would have seen our feet get covered by the top half of the trench, which caved in. He spoke to one of us—his name had better remain anonymous—and asked how he felt. Well, this took us rather by surprise, so he lay his rifle down on the sludge known as a parapet and thought for a while. Eventually, as if he had just remembered how he felt, he looked at the Colonel and said '—wet, sir!', turned back and picked up his rifle just as the other half of the trench collapsed.

After the Colonel had gone we were allowed to move back into the wood just behind us and set up bashas, although one section always had to be occupying the position. This improved morale but meant that we were going to stay out. However, if you think we were lucky, just think of the hardship the Company HQ, our enemy, had to put up with—tents, camp beds, fires, beer, food. I don't know how they managed.

Anyway, after everyone had taken part in a recce patrol and a fighting patrol, in which we did our best to upset Company HQ and had received the odd attack in retaliation, we were told by 'The Boss', Mr Pitchers, that we were going to march back *now* instead of waiting for the transport.

It was the fastest march I have been on because everyone knew that bed, warmth and sleep was at the other end, and, as it began to rain even harder, I thought 'Thank God that's over'.

BY AN ANONYMOUS 8 PLATOON
SOLDIER

9 Platoon

One can only reminisce on the present posting in Aldershot, and as one does so it looks more like a war memorial. So many people have left the Platoon it must now be unrecognisable to the old Platoon

Commander, 2Lt Richardson. The present one is away so often it is almost unrecognisable to him every muster parade. I could spend all these notes on saying goodbyes and hellos, but I feel they know who they are. There are, however, two exceptions, ex-Cpls Wragg and Middleton. I say ex because they are now sergeants. Both deserve it and we wish them well. Congratulations.

The Company has had a very difficult but enjoyable time in Aldershot. At the beginning of this posting we started all those famous name-making cadres and 9 Platoon stood on muster parade as one corporal and 12 privates if there was nobody sick. This made life difficult and caused problems, as everyone agreed, but I believe that the strength of character of this Platoon was shown in the inter-platoon competition. This competition proved to us that there was a lot of guts but no brains. Held in four phases, 9 Platoon, assisted by 8 Platoon, were the strongest platoons in the Battalion—holding up the rest! Is it just fate that only five out of 25 in phase two can count up to 25, or is it just good manners to save the butts the trouble and all fire on one target? Anyway, after two phases we stood in an unassailable position—we couldn't climb the gap to make the top. A disheartening thought, especially with all the hard work left. Phases three and four were both physical phases consisting of the assault course and 7-mile bash and shoot. Second in the assault course and third in the march and shoot showed there was spirit still left in 9 Platoon.

2LT ATKINSON

Exercise King Kong

Since returning from Ulster the Company has been working extremely hard completing a rigorous individual training programme. To assess the effectiveness of all the work put in, it was decided to put the Company through exercise 'King Kong', a three-phase exercise consisting of an escape and evasion, patrolling and a company night attack.

The Company complete set forth for Salisbury Plain on Friday evening prepared for a long arduous initial 24 hours. As it turned out, this was to be the case, for at least four groups managed to cross the dreaded plain several times and in two cases go out of it completely. The groups led by Ptes Oddy and Preston caused considerable amusement to all concerned. Oddy's group somehow managed to end up on the West Wiltshire golf course, where they managed to destroy the concentration of the future TQM, Capt Lattimore, who was in the process of having a quiet round of golf. The shock meeting up with members of his future battalion must have definitely put him off his game! Preston, famed for his physical fitness, managed to convince his group of Ptes Daggett and Ledder that they should continue on a straight compass bearing for a further 20 miles even though they had been told by their Platoon Commander that they were less than 1,500m from the Company RV! By late Saturday afternoon, when it was feared that they were lost, radio contact was established. The following transmission took place between CSM Lawrence and Preston:

'Hello, 3! This is 6. Radio check. Over'.

3: 'OK. Make sure you stand exactly as you are. Over'.

6: 'Roger. Over'.

3: 'Seagull speaking. Who is in command of your group. Over'.

6: 'Jimmy Preston. Over'.

3: 'State your location. Over'.

6: 'The signpost above my head says 7 miles to Devizes. Over'.

3: 'Roger. We're on our way to get you. Out'.

The relief on the CSM's face was a sight for all to see, as I'm sure his already grey locks had turned several shades lighter worrying about how we were going to find three wayward Tommies in the middle of Salisbury Plain!

The second phase commenced on Saturday morning, after each group had made its way independently to the Platoon patrol bases. Daylight recce patrols were carried out on the famous Imber Village by 7 and 8 Platoons and each patrol carried out successful attacks during the night. Whilst entering East Farm Cottages the 7 Platoon force under Lt Saville caused the enemy, consisting of Company HQ and the MT, some further amusement. As the group led by Lcpl 'Stockrat' Henstock entered the main building he somehow forgot the booby trap which had been laid across the door. The sight of him followed by his valiant section, all lying sprawled across the floor, was a picture. His comments were definitely unprintable, particularly as he ended up as an exercise casualty!

For the final phase, each platoon, less 9 Platoon, had to infiltrate some 4,000m to a prearranged Company assembly area. This had been set up by 2Lt Atkinson (complete with a dose of 'flu). The recce of the RV and final objectives were done by the same platoon and all appeared to go well. However, while waiting for battling 8 Platoon, led by Lt Pitchers, the weather turned decidedly cold. Young Paul Lawrence (son of the CSM), who had come on the exercise for the experience, began to turn a whiter shade of pale. Fortunately 8 Platoon arrived (we knew our map reading was up to standard, Mr Pitchers) and the planned night attack sequence could carry on. The OC's 'O' Group proved to be a bit of a problem as it was continually interrupted by the sound of chattering teeth and comments like 'I think I'm getting frost-bite', from Mr Saville! However, all seemed to come right in the end and a good attack was pressed home on The Rings, where 'Stumpy' Sullivan and his band of MT drivers had set up the position under the guidance of CQMS Waller and Sgt Kelly.

The exercise ended on a high note and most of the boys were left reflecting on how far they had travelled during the past 2½ days on about 2 hours' sleep. Well done, Corunna. You certainly proved that you have endurance, spirit and ability to do well.

Kenyatta

SOMME COMPANY

So much has happened since the last notes that it is difficult to know where to begin. Enough by far has been written on the tour of N Ireland and we do not intend to say much more on the matter.

We have had to say goodbye to some old and familiar faces, the first one being Maj I. P. Reid, who left the Company at the Liverpool Docks, after leading the Somme through 18 months of operations. As a farewell gift we were going to give him a two weeks' holiday, all expenses paid, in Magherafelt Police Station, but decided this would not be appreciated. Our thanks go to Maj Reid, and also his wife, for all the help and support given not only to ourselves, but also to our wives.

Maj Westcob left us to take over as OC Corunna Company, but has been granted an honorary life membership of Somme. Other internal departures include Sgts Harston and Coates to rifle companies and that fiendish duo, Cpl 'Schults' Brooks and Lcpl 'Have Tannoy, will travel' Tompson. The latter pair managed to wire up Magherafelt Police Station so that the lights could be switched on by simply flushing a toilet. 'Schultry' assured us they were safe, and who are we to argue?

The following have joined the Company:

WO2 Wright, Sgts Hudson, Sgts Nuttall, Lowney and Noble, to whom we extend our arms in friendship

We have also seen some very hard-earned promotions and our congratulations got to the following:

Sgts Sellars, Frear and Sykes, Cpls Hepworth, Lever and Maillard, Lcpls Dugdale, Sweeney and Smith 55.

We congratulate all those who have married or have received additions to their families and which are mentioned elsewhere.

The following soldiers received the CO's commendation for their work in Northern Ireland and our congratulations go to them for their achievement: Cpl Clark, Ptes Silcox, Abel and Pemberton.

Finally, we welcome Maj C. N. St P. Bunbury to the Company as our long-awaited new leader. We hope he has as happy a tour with us, as did Maj I. P. Reid.

Assault Pioneer Platoon

On arrival in Aldershot the Assault Pioneers reformed as a working unit. The event saw the arrival of new and young faces with a stiffening from Cpls Parkinson and Staniland. WO2 Wright is now back as Platoon Commander on his return from 9 CTT and Sgt Lowney joined us as Platoon Sergeant. The latter is now on his way to Chatterdean to get coursed up with five others of the Platoon.

After a brief settling period, the Platoon started a basic six-week cadre with the aim of refreshing previous Platoon members and instructing the new.

This proved extremely successful and a high standard was produced by all. The result is that we are now able to help the rifle companies again in their training, an advantage that is slowly being realised throughout the Battalion.

Early January saw the return of Pte Jenkinson from his hiding place in the G1098 stores and the Platoon Commander actually passing his BE test. However, it is now all go for 'Spearhead'. 'Pack this'. 'Not like that'. 'Paint it'!

Anti-tank Platoon

When the last IRON DUKE notes were written we still had three weeks to serve in N Ireland. Those weeks were uneventful and were spent on guard, administration and merriment, but not necessarily in that order.

After a well-earned leave the Platoon once again began to train for its proper role, but only after 10 days of physical education—not much education, perhaps, but plenty of physical.

The Platoon cadre started at the end of the physical period and the first month was spent mainly in the classroom and around camp learning how to take a Wombat on and off its vehicle. One small incident stands out during this training. Cpl ('Fat Boy') Birks was taking his squad on gun drills. Pte 'Pat' Nally, who was attempting to unjam a jammed round took a step back and fell down a manhole. Somebody remarked at the time that it 'certainly made his eyes water.' In the fifth week all the final tests had been carried out and the results proved rewarding for both students and instructors alike.

To complete the cadre the Platoon Commander, Sgt Mat Hall, BEM, took the Platoon to Larkhill for one week of concentrated shooting. During that time the new Platoon Commander, who was at Netheravon on his anti-tank course, spent a social evening with two senior ranks from the Platoon (no names, no pack drill). The social evening ended at 4 o'clock the following morning. Needless to say, the future Platoon Commander was feeling a little worse for wear the following morning. Just imagine firing Wombats with a hangover!

During the week at Larkhill the Brigade Commander came to watch us shoot and, we hope, was impressed with the standard of shooting.

Just before Christmas Mr Sherlock arrived fresh from Netheravon in time to pack everything away and proceed on Christmas leave.

The New Year has proved to be quite hectic with Cyprus drawing near and battle PT tests looming on the horizon. The battle PT test, in fact, presented few problems.

At the final two-mile marker the PTI announced that we could relax as we had 40 minutes to do two miles. Not bad, considering you are allowed 13 minutes to do one mile.

Courses

We would like to congratulate 'The Boss' on his good result at Netheravon and welcome him to the Platoon.

Promotions

We would like to congratulate the following on their promotion:
To sergeant, Cpls Sellars and Sykes; to corporal, Lcpls Hepworth and Lever; and Pte Dugdale to lance-corporal.

Mortar Platoon

Like the other support platoons, we began our tour in Aldershot with the formidable task of reforming the Platoon and training ourselves to fulfil our role within the Battalion. The nucleus in the

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form of the NCOs was still present from pre-Ulster days, but the main body had undergone an almost complete change, with men drawn from each of the rifle companies coming in to make up the Platoon. Our thanks are due to those companies for making available some of their best soldiers to join us.

Our initial priority was to run a cadre to train this new blood in the skills of mortaring and to teach them that, above all, success comes with teamwork. We had been allowed until Christmas to do this. The first few weeks taken up with learning the basic drills of mortar work, where the excellent instructional abilities of the NCOs proved their worth. We then progressed to putting these skills into practice on dry training exercise and firing sand-filled rounds on the waste ground behind the gym. This caused consternation amongst the PT staff, who believed this part of our curriculum to be excessive in the extreme.

The final week of the cadre was climaxed with three days' live firing on the Salisbury ranges, when for the first time we were able to appreciate the fruits of our labour, just how effective we could be and how much there was still to learn. The last day saw the pinnacle of our successes when one section, under Sgt Atkinson, with some excellent MFC work by Cpl Cooper, carried out a quick action in a time most sections with years of training would be proud of. It was a day when we also reached our nadir marked by the visit of the Brigade Commander and CO. From the moment they arrived our troubles started, the worst of which was a complete inability to adjust fire accurately. The fault was eventually found to be bearing scale slippage. If nothing else, a valuable lesson had been learned!

The end of the cadre was celebrated that night at the Bustard Hotel in grand style, with a presentation to Sgt Dickens of a silver tankard to mark the end of his service in the Platoon. A tribute to a man who has given an immense amount of loyalty and hard work to the Platoon over the years, particularly during the last few weeks since our arrival from Ulster.

Congratulations are also due to Ptes Cole and Jarman on coming first and second respectively in the cadre. The holder of the wooden spoon shall remain nameless.

But life is not all work. Sgt Frear and his merry men led the football team to glory in a knock-out competition with a victory over 8 Platoon by 8-0. Thanks due mostly to Pte Horsley. We are now looking forward to playing 9 Platoon in the hopes of gaining another similar victory.

MT Platoon

We are now settled into Mons Barracks, in the MT lines that are pretty poor stuff after the facilities of Ballykelly.

Petrol was scarce when we came here and we still are not using much of the stuff. In spite of this, life in the MT yard seems hectic as ever.

The rifle companies have been marching everywhere and there has been little demand from them for transport. In consequence, we were able to get

some valuable military training in before Christmas.

Sgt Rawcliffe and Sgt Grimwood ran a couple of hairy cross-country and vehicle recovery cadres. Sgt Mann supervised our zeroing and SMG classification, and Cpl Smith (ex-PTI) frogmarched us all through PFA and PE tests. In all these activities the results achieved were gratifyingly high. Driving cadres of all descriptions are continuing non-stop. We are lucky to have a large number of qualified instructors. For the benefit of older readers these are: Cpls Jameson, Smith, Price, Aspin and Lawrence, Lcpls Sharpe, Collins, and McQuade.

Several people have left us for the more mundane but saner life of Civvy Street. We wish them well and welcome in their places Ptes Gibson, Ford and Steel. They are settling in well and, like the rest of us, are looking forward to the warm skies and hot tarmac of UN, Cyprus.

REGIMENTAL BAND

With the completion of our band tour in Yorkshire at the end of July, it was time for us to return to Ulster for the final two months of the Battalion commitment. It had been said in certain quarters that the Band spent more time in England than it did in Ireland during the 18 month-tour, but we would like to convince our readers that only a sum total of six months was actually spent on this side of the water. We did have some leave in addition to the figures quoted, but, even so, still stayed there long enough to qualify for the GSM.

For our farewell to Ulster we attended HQ Northern Ireland on August 26 and performed a concert on the sports field as part of a festival organised by them. Within the Battalion, the rugby team challenged Coleraine to a match and the Band and Drums gave a small opening marching display on the pitch.

With the arrival of September it was time to start packing and once again the Band volunteered to assist with the movement of MFO.

Eventually, by the end of September, all the Band had arrived in Aldershot and after a couple of days in which to settle down everyone headed for the open road to take a spot of leave.

In October, by popular request, we again visited our Depot at Strensall and played for a pass-out parade of recruits. Due to wet weather, the parade had to be held indoors, but this factor did not in any way mar the first-class turnout or display given by the recruits.

On October 31 the Regiment paraded for a special memorial service for our comrades who lost their lives in Ulster. This service took place in St Michael's Garrison Church, Aldershot. The Battalion marched to the church and back again, with the Band and Drums providing the music. The Band also played throughout the service.

In the Aldershot area there are a number of bands with which we have never really had chance to work in the past. As it is the custom with most bands to have a social club, we decided to send out invitations to the Bands of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Parachute Regiment, and also, with much approval and delight from our single men,

The CO, Lieut-Col P. A. Mitchell OBE, leads the 1st Battalion to the church for the Memorial Service



the Band of the Women's Royal Army Corps. We are happy to note that a firm relationship has been cemented between all concerned and we look forward to 'performing' with them during the months ahead.

Our Dance Band has started work and has a number of interesting engagements in the area in the near future.

During December, in spite of it being the festive season, the Band had a relatively quiet time and in fact took leave covering the Christmas and New Year period. After leave we had a fortnight's refresher medical training.

We welcome to the Band the following personnel: Bdsm Mason, Arthington and Gregory, who joined us prior to Christmas.

To Sgt Tony Crag we offer our congratulations for his recent wedding, and also for having won the star prize (a freezer) on the Sergeants Mess draw. Tony has now left the Band to take up civilian employment. We wish him every success for the future.

Bdsm Shaw and Edwards have also taken up other employment. We wish them both good fortune.

Gibraltar Guard

On November 5 a composite Platoon left Aldershot for Gibraltar Task to take over duties from 3 Queen's, which was going to Kenya for six weeks' training. The Duke's platoon was part of a composite two-company group from 16 Ind Para Brigade. The Company was commanded by Maj Corbett, OC No 1 Ind Para Company.

Our first task was to take over frontier guards from the Queen's. The sangars were the same but the countryside different from Ireland. We watched the Spaniards and they watched us. We had enough stores and ammo to start our own private war, but the time passed very peacefully, so peace-

fully in fact that No 1 sangar watched the Mediterranean and No 2 sangar and No 3 watched the airstrip.

After two weeks of frontier guards (one day on, two days off) we had time for training and recreation. We had a couple of days on the range and in the IS village. We mixed this very successfully with the watermanship centre. We had complete free use of the centre except for water skiing (the boat was being serviced). We seemed to spend a lot of time in the assault craft, the only trouble being Cpl Blackburn thought he was Blackbeard the pirate. Lcpl Harrison spent more time fully dressed in the seas than the rest of the Platoon did in swimming kit. Cpls Wragg, Sullivan and Pemberton confirmed that there were more Watney than Courage houses. I think the score was 700 against 699. I do not think this included the All Ranks Club of the Gibraltar Regiment, where we had a good night's entertainment. Unfortunately they beat us at darts, but as we had won the volley ball in the afternoon we considered we were even. No one was counting the football match, which we lost 4-2.

Sgt Eddie Vincent of the Gib Regiment, kindly presented us with a plaque, which Lt Saville very quickly laid claim to. However Sgt Peat thought that it should belong to the Sergeants Mess in Mons Barracks, so the darts match of the century took place to decide a home for the plaque. Needless to say, it now hangs in the sergeants mess.

For our last two weeks we went on to mount the Governor's Palace guard. Well, the Duke's certainly caused a stir. On the second of our five guards Sgt Peat was outside the palace when a vehicle screeched to a halt. Out jumped a man of about 60, who proceeded to tell him all about the Duke's in Gibraltar (1954-55), how four young subalterns had carried four colours on parade at North Front. He wanted to know if we were still the only regiment with four colours.

On the next guard the local military expert came up to Sgt Peat and told him how nice to see the Duke's again. He then started to give him the life story of the great Duke and his battles, including India. Sgt Peat kept his mouth shut and tried to look intelligent.

So our six-week stay ended with our return flight being postponed for two days. We eventually got away and returned to Aldershot via Brize Norton.

SGT PEAT

POSTINGS IN

The undermentioned have rejoined the Battalion having successfully completed tours at 'E':

Sgt Heron from Junior Infantrymen's Battalion, Shorncliffe.

WO2 Wright from 9 Cadet Training Team, York.

Lcpl Coatesworth from Admin Wing, School of Infantry, Warminster.

Ssgt Hudson from 2 Division Headquarters and Signal Squadron, BAOR.

Sgt Lowney from Army Careers Information Office, Bradford.

Pte Stoddart from Admin Wing, School of Infantry, Warminster.

Cpl Wolstenholme from Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Oswestry.

Cpl Hall from Infantry Display Team, School of Infantry, Warminster.

Pte Earnshaw from Army Personnel Research Establishment, Farnborough.

WO1 (RSM) Collins from 1 Yorkshire Volunteers.

The undermentioned have joined the Battalion on completion of their basic recruit training at Depot The King's Division:

Ptes Stones, Wrightson, Cairnes, Chapman, Maystone, Stead, Hudson 53, Kershaw, Lawrence 775, Abel 08, Dickinson, Pickorer, McNichol, Metcalfe, Gibson 72, Rabjohn, Hays, Bentley, Gaie, Bailey, Gorringe, Walker 79, Nunns, Barber, Chamberlain, Tillett, Bates, Bent, Cole, Jacques, O'Neill, Creaser, Farrar, Thomas, Jackson, McCarthy 01, Chamberlain, Bryan, Gedge, Wroe 44, Greaves, Hardy, Richardson, McCarthy 42, Twibill, Backhouse, Carr.

The undermentioned have rejoined the Battalion on re-employment having spent a short spell in civilian life:

Cpl Waterhouse, Pte Ingram, Sgt Vaughan.

The undermentioned have been posted on to our attached strength:

Cfn Newstead, REME, from 9 Field Workshops, REME.

Lcpl Davison, REME, from School of Electrical Engineering (Technical).

Cpl Tollan, REME, from RHQ/D LAD, Windsor.

Sgt Worley, REME, from REME Wing, RA Ranges, Outer Hebrides.

Pte Kenny, ACC, from Depot and Training Battalion, ACC.

Cpl Tate, REME, from 50 Command Workshops, REME.

Pte Williams, ACC, from 4 Light Regiment Royal Artillery.

Ssgt Harling, RAPC, from Command Pay Office, United Kingdom Land Forces.

POSTINGS OUT

The undermentioned have departed to serve a tour at 'E':

Cpl Wykes to Depot The King's Division.

Sgt S. Barnett to 1 Yorkshire Volunteers, York.

Lcpl Grinsdale to Army Personnel Research Establishment, Farnborough.

WO2 Wilson to SSO, Berlin.

Sgt Grey to Army Careers Information, Bradford.

Lcpl Porter to Depot King's Division.

Pte Naylor to Admin Wing, School of Infantry, Warminster.

Pte Barron to Army Personnel Research Establishment, Farnborough.

Ssgt Rusby to Headquarters Near East Land Forces, Cyprus.

Pte Robinson to Army Personnel Research Establishment, Farnborough.

Pte Melnyk to Admin Wing, School of Infantry, Warminster.

The undermentioned have now completed their attachment with 1 DWR:

Sgt Nuttall, R Signals, to 1 WFR.

Cfn Mullholland, REME, to 1 WFR.

Cpl Hiscock, REME, to 1 WFR.

Lcpl Godfrey, REME, to 1 WFR.

Lcpl Street, ACC, to 1 WFR.

Sgt Garrick, REME, to School of Electrical Engineering (Technical).

Cfn Wiseman, REME, to 4 Royal Tank Regiment.

Pte Dowson, ACC, to 4 Light Regiment Royal Artillery.

Ssgt Ballard, RAPC, to 9 Signal Regiment, Cyprus.

Sports and Clubs

RUGBY

Rugby in Aldershot has proven to be very different from that in Ballykelly, yet surprisingly we have still had problems in getting all our players together. The 18 months in Ballykelly did us a lot of good in that there is a tremendous playing interest in the Battalion, so much so that if everyone was available we could put out three teams. As it is, we are running two successful teams with the 1st XV in the UK Army Cup final and the 2nd XV, under the expert leadership of Ssgt Basu, are about to represent the Battalion in the South-East District Cup.

The 1st XV, despite its success so far, has not really achieved its full potential—either the backs have not played well or the forwards have not played well. The most exhilarating match, and without doubt our best performance to date, was against SEE, Aborfield. The score at half-time was 8-6. We had 14 men as Maj Alan Westcob had to go off with a badly cut head and we were playing

**Army Cup UK Final
1 DWR beat 1 RRW 12-6**



uphill. The team played magnificently and won 8—6, although there were many narrow escapes.

Perhaps our most disappointing game was the semi-final against our old rivals, 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The team played badly, they were disjointed, easily upset and started to argue amongst themselves. The Fusiliers played hard rugby and persevered with destructive tactics, which nearly won them the day. Both sides scored a try and, having missed several kicks, notably one in front of the posts, Sgt Michael Cuss eventually put over the winning kick.

The Yorkshire tour proved to be worth while despite playing only one match because of bad weather. Halifax gave us a sound beating, but we learnt many useful points which were immediately put into practice. They obviously paid off because on February 5 we beat 1 RRW in the UK cup final 12—6.

Army Cup Final

The Cup is back with the 1st Battalion: 1 DWR 12—BAPD 6.

The match was played on a wet grey day at Aldershot. For the first 20 minutes the Dukes pressed hard; Capt Newell came close to scoring a try and Sgt Cuss missed a penalty. 2Lt Shuttleworth put some acute attacking kicks across the field—and the Dukes were unlucky not to score. Eventually this pressure was rewarded by a Cuss penalty. The side then appeared to relax and gave

away several unnecessary penalties; one of which the Ordnance side converted, another hit the upright. Half time 3—3.

The Ordnance pack was beginning to dominate the tight play. Although Lt Pitchers was hooking well, the Dukes were going backwards. Lt Grieve, at scrum half, was consequently having a difficult time. For the first 20 minutes of the second half, play did not get out of the Dukes 25. Though the Dukes defence looked sound, the Ordnance team were close with several penalty attempts, the woodwork being hit again. Eventually 3 BAPD scored their second penalty to put them in the lead 6—3. This jolted the Dukes into action. Good possession gave the backs a chance. A quick heel, a good pass from Grieve, Cuss moving into the line resulted in a Robinson try and Cuss converted. This score lifted the Dukes pack, another penalty by Cuss and the Cup was ours. And Sgt Dickens has won his sixth cup winners medal!

Team: Sgt Cuss, Capt Newell, LCpl Walker, WO2 Robinson, Lt Saville, 2Lt Shuttleworth, Lt Grieve, Lt Lyons, Lt Pitchers (captain), 2Lt Atkinson, Pte Moorhouse, Sgt Dickens, Lt Meek, Capt Carroll, Pte Williams.

Reserves: LCpl Elwell, LCpl Spencer.

The club as a whole has plenty of support and many good players are coming to the front and will undoubtedly be ready when the older members decide to retire.

Of personalities joining or away from the Battalion we hear that Capt Chris Gilbert has joined

Halifax, that Lt Andrew Drake is still playing in Headingley's 1st XV and that Lt Tim Sinclair is playing for Durham University and Northern UAU. Capt John Thorn arrived back to the Battalion encased in plaster due to a back injury (although some say it was the offer of 3rd XV captain that did it) and has been unable to play for us.

The following have been awarded or reawarded their colours: Maj Westcob, Capts Newell, Carroll, Roberts, Lts Grieve, Pitchers, Lyons, 2Lt Atkinson, SM Robinson, Staff Sergeant Basu, Sgts Cuss, Dickins, Cpls Fairclough, Frear, Lcpls Spencer, Walker 90, Elwell, Ptes Williams, Moorhouse.

The following have so far played for the Army: Capt Carroll, Lts Drake, Sinclair, SM Robinson, 2Lt Atkinson, Sgt Cuss and Pte Williams. Ptes Williams and Fleary are also likely candidates for an Army U19 cap.

SOCCER

On arrival in Aldershot we decided that because of the lack of organised soccer in Ulster we would start to build a balanced soccer squad built on fitness and 100 per cent drive and determination. Our aim for the 1974-75 season was to advance as far as possible in the Infantry Cup and by the end of the season to have two well-organised and fit sides.

Army Cup

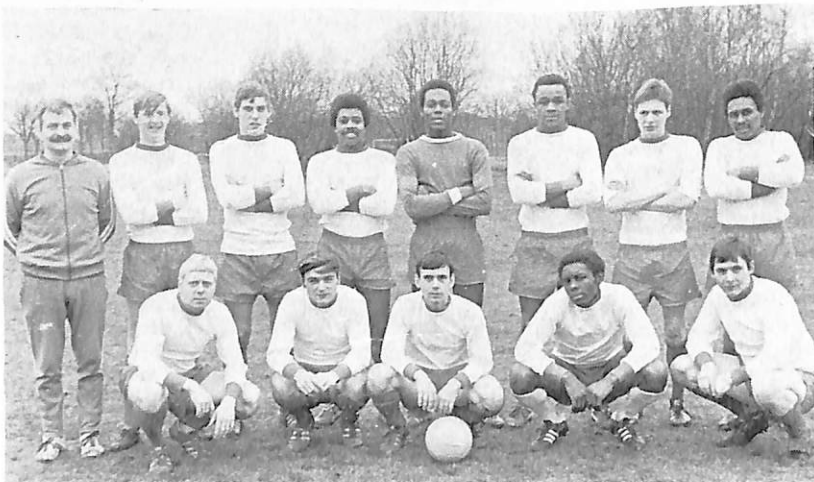
The first round proper of the Army Cup was played against the Training Centre, ACC, here in Aldershot and after a very hard-fought game the Duke's won 3-2. We were drawn in the second round against 70 (AC) Workshops, REME, and lost 2-1 after yet another very hard game.

South-East District League

The 1st XI are doing quite well in the league, which consists of some very good teams and includes the winners of last year's Army Cup. We are, at the time of writing, fourth from the top.

1st XI

WO2 Lawrence, Lcpl Sol-litt, Pte Bartnick, BdsM Barnes, Lcpl O'Garro, Pte Oakley, Pte Smith, Pte Mellard, Lcpl Lightfoot, Lcpl Woodward, Sgt Heron, Lcpl Bucknor, Pte Hughes



Infantry Cup

This is our main competition and one we expect to do well in. We meet 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment at Tidworth in the first round and the training is geared for this match.

Summary

The tour in Ulster plus six months in Cyprus has only served to hinder preparing the Battalion soccer teams. However, most of the other sporting activities are in the same position and we must battle on, and with the right spirit, drive and determination we can only get better.

CSM BRIAN CLOUGH

HOCKEY

We have had six matches so far this season, with mixed success. We were unfortunately too late to get into the league, which curtailed our fixture list. In the Infantry Challenge Cup, our first round opponents were 1 Green Howards who beat us 3-0.

Results: played 7, lost 5, won 2. Goals for 13, goals against 18.

The hockey squad is: Maj Nicholson (captain), Ssgt Walker, Ssgt Butler, Ssgt Rose (REME), Sgt Parrott, Cpl Watson, BdsM Bowes, Lcpl Broadbent, BdsM Dermot, Maj Davies, Pte Coulson, BdsM Fairclough, Lcpl Wigglesworth, Cpl Butterworth.

TRAMPOLINING

The Scottish National Championships

On November 9, 1974, the Duke's entered a team for the Scottish National Trampoline Championships. Permission was given by the 2IC, who was very co-operative throughout. Although training had only really started in earnest about a month before, we felt that we were ready to take on the challenge. During the days beforehand we went about our normal working routine and trained at nights in our spare time.

We left Aldershot on the morning of the 8th, and started our long journey, which turned out to be fairly eventful. Despite the train breaking down at

Preston, causing us a long four-hour wait, we finally arrived at Glasgow at 0030 hrs. Tired, but looking forward to a good night's slumber, we were somewhat shocked to learn that the lodgings that had been booked for us were 15 miles outside Glasgow itself! However, these drawbacks were eventually overcome and we settled down for the night.

At 0900 hrs we prepared for a morning of training and warming-up. As 'bouncing' started the awkward task of choosing which trampoline, out of a choice of three, was going to be best began. Each member of the team settled for different trampolines, and the ones that we picked were the ones that we would use for the actual competition. During the training mishaps were not uncommon. Whilst I was bouncing I misjudged a back somersault and fell through the springs with an oath!

The competition started at 1015 hrs in the morning. First on the tramp was Cpl Hogg, who completed a very neat routine with plenty of style. Second to perform was myself, and I went through my routine, putting every ounce of energy and skill that I could muster into it. By this stage of the competition we had completed the section of the competition known as compulsory sets. After a wait of about an hour it was the Duke's team's turn to perform again in what are known as voluntary sets. After a wait for the judges to give the go-ahead, I was first on the 'tramp' this time and went through my routine. I carried out five double somersaults and four and a half twists. Cpl Hogg then took the floor and gave a fine performance, during which he achieved two double back somersaults and one double front somersault.

The competition was over and we felt confident that we had both attained good positions. A tense 10 minutes followed and we anxiously awaited the results. The moment finally came and the scores were as follows:

Cpl Hogg: 8.5 (compulsory), 8.3 (voluntary).

Lcpl Beck: 8.7 (compulsory), 8.8 (voluntary).

The results were very pleasing and I was delighted to learn that I had taken first place and Cpl Hogg had come second. We collected our medals and had to leave for Aldershot at once. Once back in Aldershot, training was resumed for the Army Trampoline Championships, a date which was very important to us all.

This competition was held on November 24 at the Army School of Physical Training, which is only a short distance from Mons Barracks. The Duke's provided a strong team, which included Sgt Cross, Cpls Hogg, Sugden, Lcpl Harvey and myself as captain. We set off early on the morning of the competition and were grateful that we had none of the travel difficulties that we had encountered last time. On arrival at the School we limbered up in the normal way and kept our fingers crossed.

Sgt Cross was first on the 'tramp', followed by Cpl Sugden, Lcpl Harvey, Cpl Hogg, and finally myself. The previous training sessions proved very successful and we all gave good performances. All we had to do now was to wait for the results, which were very pleasing. They are as follows:

Sgt Cross, 3rd; Cpl Sugden, 6th; Cpl Hogg, 1st (individual and intermediate); Lcpl Beck, 1st

(senior individual and team championships); Lcpl Harvey, 5th.

(The above results are for the compulsory and voluntary routines.)

To sum up, 1974 was a highly successful year for the Duke's trampoline team. It would have been even better if Sgt Cross had bought some white tights of his own!

LCPL BECK

DIVING WITH THE IRON DUKE'S DIVING TEAM

In this world with its various senses of values perhaps only the sea offers the last real barrier beyond which man enters the unknown.

Two years ago, while on station in N Ireland, a hardy bunch of enthusiasts decided that it was high time that 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment boasted a sub-aqua club. From a slow start the Duke's built up a club of 30 members, and having proved that the demand for such an activity was very definitely there the Battalion stepped in and assisted with the purchase of equipment.

Diving training was carried out in Portrush and by the following year the club had soldiers attending advanced diving courses. Each weekend large parties of divers would take the boat out and dive in the many and varied dive sites around the coast. Wreck diving became the 'IN' thing, and the Duke's even managed to find an uncharted wreck of a three-masted tea clipper. One of the valuable finds was a large brass porthole with the glass still intact after 118 years under the sea.

The club then ventured into bigger things and hired the 60ft MV *Amber-Rose*, which is the new diving boat purchased by the BSAC. Instruction was given in navigation techniques and a total of 580 miles was logged during the voyage.

Aldershot proved to be a challenge due to its poor diving facilities. However, the club has recruited nine new members and various courses are under way, with the final exercise in Plymouth next January. From there we look forward to six months in Cyprus with the UN, during which time training will continue. Looking forward to the distant future, the Duke's are planning a big exercise to the Pacific for a study on marine life, and also to locate a lost ship's graveyard.

There is no doubt that diving brings out the very best in people. One does not have to an Olympic swimmer to participate, but fitness is important. Apart from the obvious attraction of swimming freely underwater, and seeing strange forms of marine life in their natural habitat, there are other less obvious factors which come into play. Powers of leadership are perhaps tested to the limit, as each diver in turn will plan and lead expeditions. They will conduct the whole of the proceedings and supervise the underwater work and this brings out their organising qualities and leadership capabilities. The very act of descending into the sea to areas where no man has gone before, and to depths in excess of 100ft, tests a man's nerves as never before. Good training helps the diver overcome some of his fear, and once back on the surface the smiles show that the individual feels that he has achieved something really well worth while by pitting his wits against the sea and winning. While

diving is perhaps a strange sport to pursue, there is little doubt that it does offer the ultimate in adventure.

WIVES CLUB

We are now all safely in Aldershot having coped with various BIAs and their 'little ways'. As usual, the majority left a clean quarter and got a dirty one! We had our first evening meeting in October; the idea was just a coffee together and to see each other and exchange new addresses. We had a very good attendance and soon found out the room was too small. We also had a lady selling various cosmetics at special Wives Club prices.

In November we had a Dorothy Perkins fashion show in the Wellington Theatre, which is in the camp; this was a great success. The modelling of the transparent micro mini-nightdresses was much appreciated by the minibus driver and his friend! Mrs Westcob organised this splendid evening and all her hard work was much appreciated.

In December we held the Christmas dinner in the Queens Hotel, Farnborough. We had a gorgeous meal, crackers and raffles, and it was considered to be a great success.

We also had a coffee morning for Lady Bray and three coffee mornings in Mrs Mitchell's house to wrap Christmas presents for the Children's Christmas party. There were 404 to wrap! We gave presents for children from 0-12 years. The party was held in the NAAFI Club in camp. The decorations were so attractive, having been given by an uncle of Mrs Wonson

At the time of writing we have three coffee

mornings planned for January and also the usual monthly meeting.

Depot, The King's Division

The powers of delegation being what they are, and literary ability not withstanding, the junior subaltern once again finds his way to your hearts with this long and doubtless eagerly awaited sequel to 'Tales of the River Bank', reproduced by kind permission of Capt Tony Redwood-Davies.

But, to coin a phrase, seriously, folks! We welcome to the Depot Lcpl Porter, who joins the RP staff. God bless their (any colour but white) cotton socks!

We next extend our cordialities to Capt Billy Burke who replaces Capt Mines. Hello and thank you respectively.

I am going to pre-empt the next issue of THE IRON DUKE by also hailing the arrival of Lt Lee Lyons, who with his newly issued wife moves to Ripon in the near future from the 1st Battalion in Aldershot.

Many sincere congratulations go to CSM Clarke on his award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and may he win many more!

Congratulations/condolences (delete where applicable) to Sgt Nash on being sent on yet another course. He must surely be the most well-coursed man in the Depot (not forgetting his EPC). Congratulations, also, on his move to training. The same to Sgt Prennan, who is soon to take over as Provost Sergeant.

At the time of going to press Sgt Lampton was standing by for Pirbright, the Depot waiting with baited breath for the outcome.

A word of congratulations and praise must also go to Lcpl Lownes for his superlative artistry. Various works of his are now brightening the Depot. Who said it needed it?

Padre Parkinson (now a major) who was the Duke's Padre in Gillingham in 1968, has passed through the Depot with the information that he will be in Cyprus at the same time as the Battalion and is looking forward to renewing old acquaintances.

Then there was the day that RSM J. Welsh, DWR, took his driving test. Recruits, awed by the occasion, sneaked by windows, training teams trembled, platoon commanders and sergeants locked themselves in their respective messes. It seemed to be the eve of Armageddon relived. Finally, the news spread like the proverbial wild-fire. He had passed! The relief had a tangible effect. The next progression was to buy a car, of which the RSM is shortly to take possession. Rest assured, the dates of all Mr Welsh's outings will be posted on DROs at least two days before!

The Depot managed to send a small contingent of supporters down to the UK Army finals and would like to congratulate the team on a good win. Hopefully we will be able to duplicate that message after the Army Cup final against the BAOR champions. More power to your scrimmaging!

On the same topic, congratulations go to Andrew

knit into fashion with Hayfield

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**Hayfield Mills, Glusburn,
Nr. Keighley, Yorks.**

Drake, DWR, for consistently winning an Army place (when he is not injured). Incidentally, we will be sorry to see him go at the end of March, although I feel that parting will not be such 'sweet sorrow' for him. But he may care to drop us a postcard or two from Cyprus.

At the Ripon end of the Depot, from the depths

of the Engineer's stronghold, the Duke's are still holding their own. Cpls Anderson and Waterman hold to their own inimitable style, but we bid farewell to Lcpls Molin and Hustwick, who return to the Battalion after a long and successful sojourn. Yours truly is also still 'hanging in there' awaiting the moral support of another Duke's subaltern.

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

This autumn and winter the Company training activities have been concentrated on shooting. We have been extremely fortunate with the weather, and when the spring and summer come, with annual classification behind us, we hope then to diversify our activities building up to next annual camp.

Changes of various sorts continue to occur. Under the TAVR review we have withdrawn our platoon from Keighley. The Drill Hall there is now the province of 'A' Battery 3 Yorks, including the old 'C' (DWR) Company 3 Yorks platoon. Keighley men can and do still remain in our Company. The situation is rather similar to our vacating St Paul's Street, Huddersfield, when 3 Yorks was formed. Hardy perennials from the Huddersfield area still swell our ranks, often in 'top soldier's' jobs, but our main recruiting effort is now firmly centred on the Halifax area. The February annual TAVR recruiting drive is just about to get under way at the time of writing.

Another change has been the loss to the Battalion of RSM J. Collins, who (without favouritism) had proved a good friend to us at the Duke's Company. He had a monumental dining-out, attended by members of the Sergeants Mess, mainly in mess kit. It is some indication not only of the esteem in which he was held by 1 Yorks, but of his influence on the Sergeants Mess. We wish him well in his new appointment as RSM 1 DWR.

Another loss to the Company is the steady stream of young men leaving us to join the Regular Army. If we have got to lose people, this is the best way for them to go.

Recent enlistments are: S. Brown DWR; M. S. Drake, RCT; J. S. Vikse, Royal Signals.

Most recent to announce their intentions are Pte Hey, who aspires to return to his old regiment (PWO), and Cpl Martin Doyle, also bound for King's Division, and, to put it neutrally, our SM Reddy has ideas, and, he says, influence!

On a foggy day in Halifax our thoughts go out to those poor devils from our Company who are with 'E' (Leeds Rifles) Company, and sundry other members of 1 Yorks are spending a fortnight on garrison duties in Gibraltar. This composite company is relieving the Support Company of 3 Queen's for training in UK. 'C' Company's contribution consists of Capt J. J. Hall, Cpls Ballinger, Green (ACC), Sweeney, Lcps Bentley, Bailey, S. Wright, Barkham, L. Wright, Ptes Swift, Rose, Folan, Atkinson, Dearnley, Schofield, Foster.

It is some time since we published a list of recent promotions:

To Corporal, M. J. M. Doyle and D. A. Sunderland.

To Lance-corporal, D. Bentley, B. Wright and L. Wright.

Lcpl L. Wright, Ptes M. Allert and K. Hunt did well on the recent NCOs cadre held at Strensall.

Picture shows members of C Coy having their last briefing in the Drill Hall, Halifax. From left are Lcpl L. Wright, Pte J. R. Atkinson, Pte J. Dearnley, Cpl R. Ballinger, Lcpl D. Bentley, Pte J. Folan, and Pte C. Schofield

Acknowledgment to Halifax Courier



Congratulations to Cpl B. Francis on the award of his Efficiency Medal (TAVR) and to Sgt Bill Bailey on his well-deserved Lord Lieutenant's Certificate.

Sergeants Mess

During the period approaching Christmas our main activity was preparing for the Christmas draw, which, incidentally, was an excellent night, even though our PMC, WO2 (Phil) Berry only won a box of chocolates, or was it his wife, Jean. At least, she got all the ribbing. During the evening it was announced that our PSI, Ssgt Ken Leachman, had passed his First Class Education and had also become the proud father of a lovely daughter. Congratulations, Ken, on both counts. Later in the evening, or was it early morning, it was evident that our WO2 (CSM) Mick Reddy was thoroughly enjoying himself.

On Christmas Day morning the Mess was open for the traditional visit of the officers. This was very well patronised once again and included four colonels.

On January 18 the Mess members descended on the Brigade Mess at Strensall. The occasion, a farewell dinner for RSM Collins, who has now left us and returned to the 1st Battalion DWR to take over there. Good luck, sir, and thank you from 'C' Company Mess for your help and guidance during your stay.

Once again we have had the Senior NCOs' Convention at Scarborough, which was well attended by our Mess members. This gave us the opportunity to meet the new RSM, WO1 Barham. Welcome, sir. We had a very pleasant social evening in the Mess. It was an excellent opportunity to meet old friends and, of course, new members of the Battalion Mess.

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

Since camp we have been involved in many things and changes, all of which are now bearing fruit.

38 Signal Regiment asked us to demonstrate section and platoon tactics, which proved highly entertaining. We managed to get them very wet and muddy and even managed to sink one of their PSIs up to his neck in mud. We realised that our cooks are, without doubt, some of the very best in the TAVR.

Huddersfield Scouts asked us some time ago to provide the communications for their annual masters hike. This involves a march of 40 miles round the television masts in this area. This year we had 14 different check points and a total of over 300 competitors, every one of which was reported through each check point. The radio net was extended to its absolute limit in the initial stages and until a few competitors had dropped out all the Signal Section were rushed off their feet.

• On the military side we are now very glad to do a little daylight training after a veritable mass of night work done mainly at Proteus, Warcop and Beckingham.

Remembrance Day parade in Huddersfield was very well attended and it was very nice to see (Sgt) Bob Wilkinson among the crowd of Old Comrades.

Christmas period was upon us very quickly once again and both the Officers Mess ball and the Sergeants Mess draw were great successes, but we in 'C' Company are beginning to suspect that it is always loaded against us in the Sergeants Mess draw, for, in spite of numerous tickets, we ended up with less than 2 per cent of the prizes.

Since Christmas training is back to normal with an IS weekend at Catterick, during which, to everyone's great amusement, 2Lt Armitage took a flying leap face first into 2ft of liquid manure and promptly hosed himself down under a farmyard tap with limited success. We all suffered on the way home!

The changes in command are now all in effect and the Sergeants Mess now has three new members from 'C' (DWR) Company, namely Sgts Trevor Payne, Alan Beaumont and Philip Beaumont. We offer them our congratulations.

Our congratulations on an 'A' grading on a company clerks' course go to Lcpl J. M. Senior.

Huddersfield Area (DWR) Yorkshire ACF

Congratulations on the fiftieth anniversary, especially to all who, now and over the years, have worked so hard and so well to ensure a fiftieth anniversary. If the interest shown in the Area is any indication, effort is not in vain, for each publication date is well heralded by the constant enquiry 'Has THE IRON DUKE arrived yet?' When the packet does arrive copies disappear like snow flakes in the sun.

The winter months have been quietly spent on absorbing the new APC (ACF) training syllabus. We now look forward to the spring and weekend

training. The bookings for the Area for the next few months are Strensall in March, April, May and June, followed by an unusually early annual camp at Burnistone Barracks, Scarborough, in the week commencing July 19, 1975.

The Area Commandor, Maj Peter Tattersall, recently had the pleasure of visiting the 1st Battalion at Aldershot, a visit which combined work with the opportunity of seeing the Duke's beat the Royal Regiment of Wales in the UK Rugby Cup final. The game, however, caused him a problem, as he wore the RRW cap badge for three years prior to

returning to the West Riding two years ago. He went to Aldershot with very clear instructions from the entire Area; to wear his Duke's tie and under no circumstances to utter his few words of Welsh. Report has it that he stuck to this through the game, but could not resist the temptation of singing in Welsh in the Warrent Officers and Sergeants Mess. He blames the lapse on the volume of the liquid hospitality. Seriously, however, the visit served a very useful purpose, and from it we hope to see a lot more of 1st Battalion on their return from Cyprus.

Detachments have endured their annual inspections since the last issue of THE IRON DUKE. Inspections have been carried out by Lt-Col H. M. P. Robinson, PWO, of HQ Kings Division, Lt-Col J. S. Symons, R.E., of 38 Engineer Regiment, Lt-Col J. A. Rymer Jones of 4th Parachute Regiment (V) and Lt-Col L. A. Welton R. Signals of AAC, Harrogate, who have evaluated the several successes and achievements and given us good reports.

Also since the last issue 10 of our Cadets have left us to join the Regular Army by way of the AACs and Junior Leader Regiments. We wish them every success and happy service. SSI D. J. Boshier of Keighley Detachment (DWR) and SMI J. Brooking of Huddersfield Detachment (DWR) have left us due to work commitments, whilst Capt John Evans and Lt Steve Lancaster have resigned for health reasons. We thank them for their services and wish them well.

We welcome into the Area John Trigg. With many years' regular service and recently of 3 Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers, John joins us as Area Quartermaster. Being a QM in the ACF is no easy job, but he has set about the task with cheerful enthusiasm and we look forward to a happy association.

Cadets of Huddersfield Detachment (DWR) and SMI Roberts have had a splendid letter of thanks and praise from the Huddersfield branch

of the Help the Aged Society for their efforts in marshalling several sponsored walks and swims. This is part of a Cadets' citizenship training, but undertaken voluntarily. The job is done wearing uniform and much praise is heard on these occasions from old soldiers who are delighted to see the Duke's cap badge again, and especially when the boys do so well.

Lt John Taylor, now OC Huddersfield Detachment (DWR), joined 'C' Company 1 Yorks for their camp in Denmark and exercise 'Bold Guard'. John relates his 'war' stories with considerable relish, but is reticent of some of the off-duty activities of he and the officers of 'C' Company. He is switching the scene completely in the near future when he and Capt Frank Fox are off to the mysteries of a short catering officers course. With Maj Geoff Brinley as our Area gourmet and presently weekend Messing Officer, we wonder what the three of them will be arranging for our future weekends.

The Area applied to enter a team for this year's Nijmegen march and were lucky enough to be accepted. The team will be under command of 2Lt Brian Hartley, ably assisted by the RQMS/I Jack Fitton. Capt Chris Gilbert and 10 AYT are also helping out with the training. Sore feet abound (or not) at the moment, but we hope 12 Duke's cadets will complete the March in July. The training is not really a problem with so many willing to help. The big problem is raising the cash. We have lots of ideas and plans and believe we shall manage in the event, but if any reader can put us in touch with a fairy godmother with a long pocket, please write and let us have the address.

On the sporting scene Cdt/Cpl Noel of Huddersfield Detachment (DWR) won the county cross-country, whilst, of the same detachment, Cdt Sgt Ryan, Cdt/Lcpl Ryan and Cdt Alexandra are in the county football team. At the time of going to press we are waiting to hear if we have two Cadets of Mirfield Detachment (DWR) in the county

'GETTING NETTED'

Lt Terry Bonds with cadets of Mirfield Detachment DWR and Huddersfield Detachment DWR at annual camp



rugby side.

We have an ambitious plan to add to our sporting achievement later in the year by taking up parachuting. This results from the enthusiasm of SMI Gordon Simpson of Thongsbridge Detachment (DWR), one time a member of the Parachute Regiment before becoming DWR (TA) and subsequently DWR (ACF). Great interest is being displayed by officers and instructors and a weekend at the Bridlington Flying Club is being negotiated for the purpose of training for and taking the first jump. It proves to be rather expensive because it is not of course normal training requirement, but if it can be got off the ground (sorry) it could be extended to include older Cadets, which is, of course, the basic intention. Age is no bar to the interest shown, but the older among us are to be seen looking from 'pints to tummies' and muttering about getting weight down before going to Bridlington. More of this anon, and if it leaves you with bated breath to hear of the outcome, it leaves me with fear and trembling for the future of the Area.

Before leaving you, having rambled on at some length, we are still seeking a competent journalist from the ranks of the Area. We wish the 1st Battalion a quiet and sunny tour of Cyprus and hope to see them on return to Aldershot, with lots of little 'Dukes' all very eager to play soldiers with big brother 1 Battalion.

We conclude with the sad news of the death of our County Commandant, Col (Jimmy) J. C. Moncrieff. On Monday, February 10 we had the

sad duty of providing a bearer party of officers and warrant officers and a guard of 30 Cadets to say farewell to a 'Duke' of many years' service, a duty we performed with great sadness, but honoured that we should have been asked to do so.

Correspondence

The Editor,
Dear Sir,

In September 1952 I sailed on the troopship *Devonshire*. Every morning my small son went on deck to his soldiers who had chosen to sleep on the hard boards rather than endure the heat of the troop deck. When they had gone below we watched the young officers being put through their paces by the sergeant-major. The worst part of my day was keeping my two children out of mischief during CO's inspection. The only time it rained was whilst the soldiers were on a route march in Colombo. Each evening a young red-headed private played the piano for the senior NCOs and the families. I felt sorry for him, but was firmly told he was on to a good thing and free beer too.

I left the ship at Singapore, but the soldiers went on, through a terrible storm in the South China Sea to Korea and the Hook, many to suffer and die, including, I was later told, the young pianist.

That was my first contact with the DWR. My second, 22½ years later, was watching my younger son (I hope and pray at the beginning of a fine career) as he proudly wore one red-outlined stripe on the passing-out parade at Strensall.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs X thought her son might prefer it if her name and address were withheld. Understandable and kind, but perhaps a pity!—Ed.)

34 Lake Lock Road,
Stanley,
Nr Wakefield,

Sir,

With reference to the last issue of THE IRON DUKE I read with great interest the thirtieth reunion of the officers of 8 DWR and 145 RAC.

Having served with both units during the whole 4½ years, I have some vivid recollections of North Africa and Italy. And as Col Armitage comments, the spirit and comradeship engendered during 4½ years had to be shared to realise it.

My respects to all the officers who have attended for so many years and may they carry on for a lot more.

I wonder what response there would be to a 145th RAC reunion.

I am, sir,

Yours respectfully,

J. JONES,
Ex-Ssgt 8 DWR and SQMS 145 RAC

Continued on page 37



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'The Iron Duke'

There were several attempts to produce a regimental journal. The first was *The Havercake Lad*, a quarterly published between 1897 and September 1899, until the untimely death of its editor, Lt F. J. Siordet, at the Battle of Paardeberg in 1900. It restarted under Lt D. Firth in April 1905 and continued in India until 1907. It is probable that at times Battalion notes were printed for internal circulation. Certainly CSM W. Norman has found a copy of 'Regimental Notes, 1/DWR, Siahkot, India, Feb 1916'. This consisted of eight pages about 8×5in. Maj R. E. Maffett was commanding and its contents cover general notes, sports, deaths (particularly news of those killed in action) and so on. After the war in 1921 'Regimental Notes' were published and in 1924 a regimental committee chaired by the then Colonel of the Regiment, Gen Sir Herbert Belfield, decided upon a regimental magazine.

In May 1925 the first issue came out. The 1st Battalion was in Gosport, the 2nd Battalion in Cairo and the Depot at Halifax. In those days 147 (West Riding) Infantry Brigade TA was a Duke's brigade with under command the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions. The issue included notes from the old comrades of the war-time 9th and 10th Battalions and also from the affiliated 1st Yorkton Regiment of Canada.

For those with time to spare to browse through the back numbers kept at Regimental HQ it can be both rewarding and frustrating. Rewarding for those interested in regimental or military history; the colour and detail adds immensely to regimental history books (how little in many ways things have changed!). Frustrating because names of senior appointments and of contributors were rarely given. Worse still, in war-time it was normal to see a photo entitled 'The CO of a battalion somewhere in England'. Future historians are going to be very cross.

The editorial for the 25th anniversary mentioned, *inter alia*, '... the financial crisis due to enormously swollen costs of production' and that '... the battle between economy and retaining the high standard set by our editorial predecessors is a source of perpetual worry'. That neatly sums up the position today.

The original objects have remained and are worth quoting: 'To give current regimental news to old comrades, to be a source of personal news whereby people can keep in touch with each other's doings, and to keep alive the history and tradition of the Regiment by articles and monographs on historical subjects, thereby encouraging an interest in such matters among the younger generation'.

The insistence that contributions from units should be descriptive and interesting is essential if the objects of the journal are to be met, for in fact history is being written. There is today vastly more opportunity for adventure for the soldier than was available to his counterpart of 50 years ago, so subject matter should present no problem.



Brig-Gen P. A. Turner, CMG, Colonel of the Regiment 1934-1938, Business Manager, 'The Iron Duke' 1925-1940

Over the years THE IRON DUKE and the Regiment as a whole have received much encouragement and help from a number of great journalists: Mr Alec Donaldson, late of the *Yorkshire Post*; Mr George Beddoe, editor of the *Halifax Evening Courier*; Mr R. O. Harrison, editor of the *Huddersfield Examiner*; Mr Alfred Lee, alas, now ill, late editor of the *Huddersfield Examiner*, who as a war correspondent covered the Duke's in the field; 'Red Coat' the *nom de plume* of Mr Maurice Ford, recently retired from the staff of the *Examiner*. To all these we are grateful.

Lastly, we publish the names of past editors and business managers to record your appreciation of the service they rendered to THE IRON DUKE:

<i>Editors</i>	
Lt-Col M. V. Le P. Trench	1925-48
Maj R. E. Austin	1948-50
Lt-Col O. Price	1950-58
Col R. G. Turner	1959-72

<i>Business Managers</i>	
Brig-Gen P. A. Turner	1925-40
Miss K. J. Turner (now Mrs Cameron)	1940-46
Brig V. C. Green	1946-48
Maj R. E. Austin	1949
Lt-Col D. J. Stewart	1949-61
Lt-Col W. Skesley	1962-70
Maj C. F. Grieve	1970-73

Correspondence—Continued

Sir,

I see in the current issue that your next publication will mark the golden jubilee of THE IRON DUKE. I am sure that I join very many regular readers who will wish to offer congratulations to the journal and to the Regiment on the anniversary.

I note from our records of the journal that when it was launched in May 1925 it was described by the Society of Army Historical Research as 'a good type of what we consider a regimental magazine or chronicle ought to be'. In noticing the silver jubilee issue in 1950, my own paper commented that 'the passing of a quarter of a century has brought even added dignity to what was obviously a well-born child'.

That 'well-born child' could, at 50 I suppose, be now described as middle-aged, but it is a vigorous middle age and the pages of THE IRON DUKE provide me with a great deal of interest in a regiment which has treated me over many years with great kindness and among the members of which I count many friends. May THE IRON DUKE long continue to serve the Regiment with the dignity which has marked it over half a century.

G. M. BEDDOE,

Editor, *Halifax Evening Courier*

RMS Queen Elizabeth 2.

Dear Sir,

As a former editor and also one of the dwindling band of those who can remember receiving the

first issue of THE IRON DUKE in May 1925, may I offer congratulations on the publication of No 167, 50 years later.

That first issue reached us of the 2nd Battalion in Kasr-e-Nill Barracks, on the banks of the Nile in Cairo, of which, I think, most of us who were there have happy memories. One forgets the bugs and flies and sand storms and remembers the sunsets over Gezirah Island and the big sails of native boats gliding silently by.

I don't recall that the first issue aroused more than mild interest in the Battalion. I probably remember it better than most, as I knew that my father was one of the prime movers in getting the journal started and was its first business manager. (He continued as such until his death in 1940, when my sister, now Mrs Cameron, carried on the job until the end of the war.)

The committee which initiated THE IRON DUKE made the happy selection of Lt-Col Mordaunt Trench as its first editor. He continued the task for 23 years and his skill and devotion were undoubtedly major factors in making THE IRON DUKE a going concern after all previous attempts at a journal for the Duke's had petered out after a few issues.

For those interested in links with the past it is perhaps worth recalling that first issue of THE IRON DUKE recorded the recent death of the last regimental veteran of the Crimean War. Can one, without seeming to wish ill to anyone, express the hope that THE IRON DUKE will continue to prosper beyond the date when it records the deaths of our last survivors of World War II and Korea.

Yours sincerely,

BOBBY TURNER

Obituary

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

Lcpl R. Natynczk

Lcpl Richard Natynczyk, a member of 'C' Company (DWR) 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers, was killed on October 28, 1974, in an accident at the Keighley mill where he was employed.

Aged 24, he lived with his wife and young son at 93 Westburn Avenue, Keighley, an address to which they had only recently moved.

Richard joined 'C' Company on April 13, 1972, and was made a lance-corporal in 1973. He was a popular, always cheerful member of the Company who was already proving to be a good NCO.

Members of his platoon acted as bearers at the funeral after Requiem Mass at St Joseph's RC Church, Keighley. Rev Bernard Funnell celebrated the Mass, which was attended by the CO, RSM and other members of the Battalion.

Maj R. E. Austin, MC

A cousin of Brig Tony Firth, Rudolf came to the Regiment from the King's in 1945. He came from a long line of soldiers traceable back to the Restoration in 1660 on the Austin side, and on his mother's side from the Habsburgs of Austria, hence his name and his looks. His grandfather was in The Duke's and became a Colonel, his father a Brigadier-General (H. H. Austin, CB, CMG, DSO), and his eldest son, in the Devon and Dorsets, was decorated and promoted for bravery in the field during last spring's Dhofar operations. A good military pedigree.

Rudolf went straight from Imperial Service College, Windsor, to the RMC, Sandhurst, in 1932, always wanting only to soldier. The war found him a temporary major as a chemical warfare expert (as it proved, a wrong horse), and it gave him a series of GSO2 staff appointments which continued till he went to command the Depot in 1948, going on to Greece for a while (where he was

mentioned in despatches). He returned to the 1st Battalion when they sailed for Korea.

Rudolf commanded 'A' Company with panache during most of our year on the 38th Parallel. He had felt that the glory of war had passed him by in the 1940s and was determined that it should not do so again. One of his fellow company commanders, Col Barry Kavanagh, writes: 'He was a worthy Duke and a good brother. He was intensely proud of his company and very determined to show its members that he was prepared to do anything that they were to effect the complete purpose of his leadership. To pursue this he even committed what brother company commanders would have called "a non-union act" by going on a fairly deep reconnaissance patrol'. After the Hook Battle he became the regimental historian, collecting and collating evidence of the battle for both War Office and Depot records. For his year in Korea he was awarded a Military Cross. (He had in all 11 other medals.)

After another spell on the staff, and in East Africa, he left the Army in 1959, joining a firm of Dorset agricultural merchants. In 1960 he bought Woolcombe Farm near Dorchester, far from the madding crowd, and farmed happily till his death, bringing up his three boys with Dinah (whom he had married in 1944). Loving uniforms and paramilitary activities, he joined the Dorset Special Constabulary in 1962, ending as a special chief superintendent much respected in the county. His coffin was borne by his fellow 'specials', the lesson being read by the Chief Constable of Dorset.

A.J.G.

Col A. H. G. Wathen, OBE

A. H. G. Wathen—known first as Willy and later as Bob—joined the 1st Battalion from Sandhurst at Gibraltar in November 1922. He went with the Battalion to Constantinople the following year and served regimentally in both regular battalions, only interrupted by a tour as Adjutant of the Depot until 1939. That year, in which he became a major, he was appointed Adjutant of the 1st Battalion and proceeded with the Battalion to join the BEF in France. He handed over the Adjutancy to David Strangeways the following year and distinguished himself in command of a small mobile force of carriers in the retreat to Dunkirk. He was mentioned in despatches for his skill and courage in this operation. Following service in England with the 1st Battalion he was posted as 2IC of the 2nd/7th Battalion, then commanded by the writer. In March 1942 he was selected to command the 1st Battalion, then in Scotland, in succession to Stuart Kington, thus achieving the ambition of any decent regimental officer. Early in 1943, however, he was appointed to command a beach group and took it to North Africa and subsequently to Anzio, where he encountered the 1st Battalion. At the end of the war he was commanding a sub-area with the rank of colonel. Back in the UK he held various commands and then took over as Administrative Commandant at the Combined Operations Centre when commanded by the writer. It is gratifying to

be able to say that the latter was able to obtain a belated recognition of Bob Wathen's services by the award of the OBE in 1953. In 1956 Bob retired and took a retired officer appointment in York for a few years. He had married—very early for those days—in 1926.

Bob Wathen was a quietly efficient and utterly reliable officer. He lacked the flamboyance of some of his contemporaries and this may have contributed to his being passed over at times for honours he deserved. He was a good horseman and rode frequently for the Regiment at Command horse shows. He was an excellent and very loyal regimental officer.

B.W. W.-C.

Maj Harold Charles Harker Taylor, OBE

Charles Taylor was born at Chester on July 23, 1904. He was educated at Charterhouse and the RMC, Sandhurst. Gazetted to the Duke's in January 1925, he joined the 2nd Battalion in Cairo shortly after. Serving with then in Cairo, Singapore and Ahmednagar, he was posted to the 1st Battalion at Aldershot in 1931. He was Adjutant at the Depot from 1934 to 1936 and then served with the 1st Battalion in Malta and Bordon until he transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps in April 1939.

Charles was a very good cricketer. With the 2nd Battalion he was in the side that won the Egyptian Command Championship for two years in succession. In 1927 he played for Singapore and an All Malaya side against the Australian touring team. In their last match he was top scorer with 49 not out and was presented with a bat signed by Macartney and Oldfield. Charles was also no mean performer on the golf course and in the squash courts.

In November 1928 he married Elizabeth Fraser, who was daughter of Maj-Gen Sir Theodore Fraser who was GOC Singapore when the Battalion arrived there from Egypt. They had four sons.

During the war he commanded the OCTU of the RAPC, stationed in the Isle of Man. He was awarded the MBE in 1942 and OBE in 1946.

Charles Taylor was always a keen gardener. In 1953 he married Celia Chance and lived in Glazeley Old Rectory, Nr Bridgnorth in Shropshire. Celia was also a knowledgeable and enthusiastic gardener and was a great help to Charles when he turned his garden into a centre specialising in herbaceous plants. He died of pneumonia after a fall.

C.R.T.C.

Col J. C. Moncrieff, TD, MA

On Wednesday, February 5, 1975, in hospital, Col James Conradi Moncrieff, TD, MA, of Overdale House, Triangle. The funeral took place on February 10 at St Bartholomews' Church, Ripponden. Men of the Yorkshire Volunteers and cadets of the West Riding ACF provided a guard of honour and pall bearers. The Regiment was represented by Col Davidson and Maj Davis, Regimental Secretary, and the ACF by Maj Sugden and Maj Roberts. A large congregation drawn from the Territorial Army and Volunteers and representatives of

sporting institutions in Yorkshire filled the church.

The following appreciation appeared in the *Halifax Courier* of February 6, 1975:

'Col James Moncrieff was an Oxford soccer blue, held a degree in modern history and was County Commandant of the West Riding Army Cadet Force.

'Col Moncrieff was born in Heptonstall, where he lived until a few years ago.

'He was educated at Sowerby Bridge Grammar School, from where he went to Jesus College, Oxford, on a Meyricke Exhibition in Modern History.

'That was in 1940 and Col Moncrieff was not to complete his degree until the war was over.

'Enlisting in the Army he saw service in North Africa, Italy and Greece. Wounded once and mentioned in despatches, he was made a captain at the age of 22 in January 1945.

'After the end of the war Col Moncrieff returned to Oxford, though his military career was not over.

'In 1947 he was commissioned in the Territorial Army and in 1952 received the Territorial Decoration.

'By 1962 he was a lieutenant-colonel and became the commanding officer of the Territorial Army West Riding Battalion of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

'His full colonelcy came in 1967 and by November 1973 Col Moncrieff had become the County Commandant of the West Riding Army Cadet Force.

'In addition to his soccer blue, he played for the English Universities XI and the FA Amateur XI.

'He took part in amateur international soccer trials and in 1949 was captain of the Yorkshire Amateur AFC. Playing as an amateur he made about 70 first-team appearances for Halifax Town.

'In the 1952-53 season at centre forward, he was in the town side which reached the fifth round of the FA Cup, losing to Tottenham Hotspur.

'Switching to Rugby Union in 1954, Col Moncrieff for several years had a regular place as a back-row forward in Halifax RUFC's first team.

'In 1946 he had taken part in the Oxford University senior cricket trials, and he played for the Oxford University Authentics Cricket Club. Locally he played for Todmorden CC in the Lancashire League from 1948 to 1954.

'Into the 1970s he was playing for Triangle CC.

'From 1947 to 1974 he was managing director of the family firm of Moorlands Bakery Ltd in Hebden Bridge.

'When the firm was sold last year Col Moncrieff joined the staff of the Highlands School, Halifax, to teach English and History. He leaves a wife and two children'.

Mr F. Stringer

As previously notified, Fred Stringer (ex-CSM) died in hospital at Halifax on November 9, 1974, aged 65, after a short illness.

Enlisting in the Regiment on January 10, 1930, he joined the 1st Battalion at Devonport on completion of recruit training.

His keen interest and enthusiasm for Army life, together with a practical outlook and personality to match, led to his early selection for promotion, which culminated in the rank of CSM in 1941. Keen on sport, he represented the Battalion as a boxer and water polo player. Later, as an instructor in the Territorial Army, his knowledge of Army training, procedure and man management was invaluable to seniors and juniors alike and Fred's boisterous songs in the Mess, on the march or *en route* anywhere will long be remembered. Regimental, rugby, formal or otherwise, he led the singing. A hard and conscientious worker himself, Fred had little time for shirkers, but would take an undue risk to ensure the welfare of men under his command. Similarly, any cause he adopted was pursued with vigour to its conclusion.

His marriage to Ella Page, daughter of Band Sgt Page, gave a sense of cohesion to his life in the Regiment and made continuing contact with it almost a necessity to him. Consequently, having settled in Halifax on retirement from the Army, he naturally gravitated towards the Regimental Association and as a founder member of the Halifax Branch of the Association he held office in all appointments and was a staunch member. He was always in the forefront of any activity.

Fred, who leaves a wife and married son and family, will long be remembered for many things, but mainly for having the courage of his convictions.

In-Pensioner Harry Barron

Harry Barron died in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on February 7, 1975, aged 67.

Harry served with the 2nd Battalion from 1926 to 1934 and was again with the Regiment during the last war. He will generally be remembered by old 2nd Battalion members as a very good boxer who represented the Battalion many times and as one of the Provost staff at Kamptee and Nowshera.

His funeral was on Friday, February 14, 1975, at the Royal Hospital Department at Brookwood Cemetery. The service was conducted by the padre of the Royal Hospital and attended by four members of his family, who came down from Sheffield, two of his comrades from the Royal Hospital, and two of the London Branch of the Regimental Association to represent the Regiment. Among the many floral tributes was one from Gen Sir Robert Bray and all members of the Regimental Association.

J. F. McGovern

We have just been informed that Jeremiah Francis McGovern (2nd Battalion) died in Peckham, London, on May 4, 1973.

C/Sgt R. Stewart

It was a shock to hear of the sudden death of C/Sgt Bob Stewart on Saturday, March 15, in the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot. He had come down for the Army Cup Final and was taken ill shortly afterwards.

Personalia

BIRTHS

- To Cpl and Mrs Sykes, a daughter, Angela Mary, born on August 12, 1974.
 To Lcpl (60) and Mrs Evans, a son, James Gerard, born on September 19, 1974.
 To Lcpl and Mrs Pierce, a daughter, Tammy Michelle, born on October 24, 1974.
 To Cpl and Mrs Brook, a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, born on October 22, 1974.
 To Bdsm and Mrs Barnes, a daughter, Katrina Louise, born on September 17, 1974.
 To Cpl and Mrs Taylor, a son, Paul, born on September 22, 1974.
 To Pte and Mrs Wright, a son, Richard David, born on October 7, 1974.
 To Cpl and Mrs Cooper, a daughter, Donna Maria, born on September 28, 1974.
 To Cpl and Mrs Hepworth, a daughter, Siobhan Ann, born on October 1, 1974.
 To Lcpl and Mrs Giles, a daughter, Victoria, born on August 17, 1974.
 To Sgt and Mrs Noble, a son, Simon Eric, born on November 14, 1974.
 To Pte and Mrs Hardy, a son, Darron, born on December 6, 1974.
 To Sgt and Mrs Kelly, a son, Anthony David, born on September 22, 1974.
 To Cpl and Mrs Jameson, a son, Mark, born on January 15, 1975.

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- To Pte and Mrs Houfe, a daughter, Michelle Nichola, born on December 20, 1974.
 To Lcpl and Mrs Whitworth, a daughter, Amanda Jane, born on December 28, 1974.
 To Pte and Mrs Wagner, a daughter, Joanne, born on December 28, 1974.
 To Lcpl and Mrs Thackeray, a son, Adam, born on January 20, 1975.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Lowther—Webb

On December 28, 1924 at St Phillips Church, Earl's Court, Mr Christopher Lowther, MC, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, to Eileen Webb. Now at Brackendale Cottage, Camberley.

MARRIAGES

Christison—Wallace-Smith

The marriage took place quietly on December 10, 1974 at Holy Trinity Church, Melrose, between Gen Sir Philip Christison and Miss Vida Wallace-Smith.

Bray—Johnson

The marriage took place on Saturday, January 11, 1974, in All Saints Chapel, Chapel of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in York Minster, of Capt Martin Peter Campbell Bray, son of Gen Sir Robert and Lady Bray, of The Farmhouse, Sherrington, Wiltshire, and Miss Judith Ann Johnson, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. N. Johnson, of Westhill, Deepdale Avenue, Scarborough, Yorkshire. The Bishop of Wakefield officiated.

The bride who was given away by her father, was attended by two pages, James and Oliver Bray, and a matron of honour, Mrs Elizabeth Webb. Maj Michael Bray was best man.

A reception was held at Merchant Taylor's Hall, York, and the honeymoon was spent abroad.

Lyons—Morgan

The marriage took place on December 21, 1974, at St Mary's Church, Bridgend, Glamorgan, of Mr Lee Patrick Malcolm Lyons to Patricia Ellen Morgan.

The marriage of Pte Threlfall to Miss Anne Lorraine Briffitt took place at the Parish Centre of Worship, St Francis, Stevenage, Herts, on August 15, 1974.

The marriage of Lcpl Green to Miss Agnes McMonagle took place at St Mary's Church, Ballykelly, N Ireland, on August 3, 1974.

The marriage of Pte Inglis to Miss Pamela Smith took place at Doncaster Register Office on October 5, 1974.

The marriage of Pte Flaving to Miss Deborah Anne Mullan took place at Christ Church, Limavady, N Ireland, on October 5, 1974.

The marriage of Pte Roast to Miss Dorothy Carol Johnson took place at the Parish Church of St John, Bradford, on October 3, 1974.

The marriage of Pte Myers to Miss Mary Ann Lewin took place at Leeds Register Office on October 5, 1974.

- The marriage of Pte Tearne to Miss Deidre Teresa Mary Roddy took place at Aldershot Register Office on October 23, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Moore to Miss Maureen Ann Dorrian took place at Limavady Register Office, N Ireland, on September 16, 1974.
- The marriage of Cpl Smith 68 to Miss Marion McKee took place at St Colman's Church, Lisburn, on September 21, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Warters 36 to Miss Margaret Evelyn Hynds took place at Thirsk Register Office on October 14, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Sheehan to Miss Marjorie Sharon Yvonne Barber took place at the Todmorden Register Office on October 12, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Batham to Miss Gwendoline Batham took place at the Parish Church, Windhill, Shipley, on October 16, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Mrozik to Miss Mary Elizabeth Anne Jackson took place at the Garrison Church, Ballykelly, N Ireland, on September 6, 1974.
- The marriage of Lcpl Allen to Miss Jean Western took place at the Parish Church of St Mary's, Hull, on October 5, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Nicholson to Miss Sally Anne Walker took place at St Mary's Church, Worthing on October 5, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Williams to Miss Susan Janet Benson took place at Bradford Register Office on October 26, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Medlock to Miss Elaine Atkinson took place at Dalton Parish Church, Rotherham, on November 9, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Gale to Miss Lynn Ann Sales took place at Leeds Register Office on December 7, 1974.
- The marriage of Lcpl Kay to Miss Diane Battersby took place at the Parish Church, Sheffield, on December 28, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Duffy 67 to Patricia Ann Brattley took place at St Nicholas RC Church on December 31, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Wood 36 to Miss Kathline Pauline Good place at Outwood Chapel, Wakefield, on August 17, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Logan to Miss Agnes Annet Fargent took place at Lancaster Register Office on November 26, 1974.
- The marriage of Pte Norton to Miss Sandra Doreen Drury took place at the Parish Church, Goole, on December 21, 1974.
- The marriage of Cpl Barham, ACC, to Miss Dianne Pauline Larder took place at Warminster Register Office on September 28, 1974.
- The marriage of Cfn Farley, REME, to Miss Hazel Amanda Henderson took place at St Martin's Church, Maidstone, Kent, on October 5, 1974.
- The marriage of Cfn Cunningham, REME, to Suzanne Elizabeth Pollard took place at Central Cleveland Register Office on December 23, 1974.
- The marriage of Lcpl Banks, REME, to Miss Suzanne Barbara Helen Swan took place at Kingswood Baptist Church, Basildon, on January 11, 1975.



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Col Bobby Turner writes aboard Cunard RMS *Queen Elizabeth 2*, having a wonderful trip around the world. He is playing duplicate bridge with Mrs Rosemary Wood, who is Col 'Swazi' Waller's sister. He hopes to meet Maj Jeffery Reynolds in Capetown, James Hayes and Robert Cartwright in Hong Kong and Michael Miles in Yokohama. He says that at the moment the South Atlantic is being rather rough. (Tough!)

Maj W. L. James has penned a short article on the 1st Battalion's stay at Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth. He says he found the article on the night march at Muzzafagher most interesting. He had good reason to recall it as manoeuvring round a sleeping village he walked into the village cesspool, thus adding to the suffering of all his comrades within range!

Donald and Jilly Palmer are home on leave with Matthew, who failed to remind his father to announce his birth in the last number of *THE IRON DUKE*.

Maj R. A. Burnett writes from his home in Kempston. He was sorry to have missed the dinner because of TA commitments. He is in HM Forces until September next year. His chief clerk is one WO1 Cox, RAPC, who was with the Battalion for six months in Gibraltar. He particularly recalls the impres holder, Maj Willy Blakey.

Capt B. G. Buxton writes on two counts. Firstly, to point out that Richard Snalham, an historian and lecturer at Sandhurst, who was in the Zaire River expedition, was a National Service officer with the Duke's. We gather he was in, and out of, the same boat as Maj Roger Chapman of the Green Howards.

Secondly, to forwarded details and photos taken by a member of the American Officers Christian Fellowship of a 2nd Battalion badge, carved in a rock near the Murree Christian School at Jhika Gali. One of the teachers at the school, currently on leave in Edinburgh, also wrote to say that the school is the old garrison church for three camps just outside Murree, which was and is a hill station at 7,000ft.

CSM W. Norman sent in a poem entitled 'The (Havercakes) 33rd and 76th Regiment of Foot' which he found in a copy of Regimental Notes 1/DWR printed at Sialkot, India, in 1916. We hope to be able to publish this soon.

Mr William James, of 40 Faulkner Close, Ainsdale, Southport, served in the 7th Battalion from September 1915 until wounded in the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. At that time he was 17 years old. He recently wrote to the President of France to inquire about the Medaille Commemorative de la Somme, to which he believed he was entitled. After much correspondence he was sent the medal, which is unofficial, by a private ex-Servicemen's association. His account of his adventures is now with Regimental HQ.

'OLD COMRADES'

Years ago, between the wars, the 1st Battalion returned from Ireland and was stationed at Tidworth. Our neighbours in the adjoining barracks were a famous cavalry regiment and all things being equal we would have got along very well with them.

Rivalry between cavalry and infantry was the accepted thing. The jingling spurs, mounted guards, trumpets sounding queer calls at all hours mildly irritated the Duke's and our noisy drill, habit of banging a huge brass gong every half-hour and so on did much the same for the Lancers. Little habits and customs which were mutually disliked but cheerfully accepted.

Unfortunately the Lancers had a big tradition which did not go down quite so well. I believe it dated from the Peninsular War. Every night just before 'Lights out' their band, or enough musicians for the purpose, marched quietly to the centre of the barrack square and proceeded to play hymns and sacred music. As they had been doing this for a very long time they rendered those hymns beautifully.

The first few performances were received with appreciation. By the second week the novelty wore a bit thin and the day inevitably came when the Duke's felt that enough was sufficient. Some of the men showed their disapproval by shouting from the windows 'Shove a sock in it' and similar uncouth remarks.

Needless to say, the Lancers took a poor view of this conduct and took every opportunity to show their displeasure. Fights broke out on the slightest provocation. The Military Police intervened on one or two occasions, when both sides demonstrated that it was a private quarrel by turning on them.

NCOs of both regiments did their best to curb the feuding without much result. Many faces showed visible signs of battle and it was quite surprising the number of soldiers who had got black eyes through falling downstairs, walking into lamp posts and so on. In short, the Duke's hated the sight of the Lancers, a sentiment which the Lancers heartily reciprocated. Fortunately our stay in Tidworth was short.

The morning came when the Battalion fell in on the square to march to the train for Southampton. Dawn was just breaking, it was bitterly cold, and there were no signs of our tormentors in the next barracks. Still in their warm little beds we had no doubt.

We marched off in column of fours, burdened with our full marching order, glad to be leaving Tidworth for warmer climes.

Suddenly, as if from nowhere, the immaculate cavalry band, their instruments glittering in the watery sun, swung in front of the leading company and struck up that grand march, 'Old Comrades'.

Along the roads were the troopers, who cheered us and shook our hands as we went by. That morning we saw a demonstration of true comradeship which I do not think any of us ever forgot.

MAJ W. L. JAMES

Regimental Association

London and Home Counties Dinner

The annual reunion and dinner will be held this year in the Victory Club, Marble Arch, London, on Saturday, May 10, 1975. Meet 6.30 p.m. Dinner 7.30 for 8 p.m.

Applications for tickets, price £2 each, to Mr K. A. Waterman, secretary, 21 Vivian Court, 128-134 Maida Vale, London W9.

AGM and Reunion Dinner

The AGM and reunion dinner, followed by a dance, will be held in the Drill Hall, St Paul's Street, Huddersfield, on Saturday, September 27, 1975. AGM 6.30 p.m., dinner 7.15 p.m.

Tickets £2 each, obtainable from the general secretary at RHQ Halifax or from branch secretaries.

Regimental Sweepstake, St Leger, Doncaster, September 1975

Books of tickets will be sent out in May/June. The first prize of £100 may not pay the rates, but the price of a book (50p) is the same as it was in 1960. The profit last year (£223) helped less fortunate members.

General Secretary's Jottings

Looking through the April 1950 Silver Jubilee number (which I hope the Editor will reproduce for me as amended) boldly calls 'ATTENTION, all ex-"Duke's". Here is how you can renew old friendships'.

The words 'old friendships', I think, is a grand expression and dwells in the mind alongside combined words such as 'cheese and wine', 'beef and pickles'—something proven, solid and accepted—associated with pleasant thoughts. It may sound a little old-fashioned, a term for the elderly and 'square', but it also has a ring of truth, honesty and sincerity.

Lads join, form friendships, maybe kick hell out of each other, but the overall feeling of sharing and belonging to 'something bigger' fosters friendships. Why this is so is difficult to define and hard to explain. A 'jar' together, a handshake, a cheery 'See you'; then a feeling of 'I should like to see old So-and-so again. Wonder where he is?' If an enquiry is made with no contact the disappointment is keen and leaves a void. I know this is true from my own experience, also from the number of enquiries I receive from ex-soldiers requesting information about their old pals.

Our branches, regrettably not country-wide, help reduce these voids, also allow old arguments to be carried on and new ones started, but the void is missing.

We're comfortably stocked with the 'old and bold', but the younger element are very thin on the ground, so why not, when you are in the vicinity of one of our branches, contact the secretary and arrange a 'get-together'? Young, not so young, old soldiers, ex-soldiers, wives and girl friends. Help

swell our 'soldier masonry'. If you've served in the Duke's, in any battalion or capacity, you're a member.

If you live in an area away from our branches/clubs and you think there would be sufficient support to start a branch, please contact the secretary at RHQ, Halifax.

ARTHUR WOOD, *General Secretary.*

PS—Please, don't ignore my appeal for sweep ticket sellers!

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

Branches/Clubs

Halifax and Bradford. Meet Wellington Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax. First Saturday in month. Secretary: Mr H. Rowlands, 41 Haigh Shaw Road Halifax.

Huddersfield. Meet Drill Hall, St Paul's Street Huddersfield. Last Friday in month. Secretary: Mr D. Clarke, 36 Maypole Road, Brackenhall, Huddersfield.

Keighley. Meet Drill Hall, Lawkholme Lane, Keighley. Last Friday in month. Secretary: Mr T. Gibson, 5 Bankfield Drive, Braithwaite, Keighley.

Mossley. Meet The Friendship, Mossley, Lancs. First Wednesday in month. Secretary: Mr T. Hallas, 33 Wyre Street, Mossley, Lancs.

London. As notified by secretary. Secretary: Mr K. A. Waterman, 21 Vivian Court, 128/134 Maida Vale, London W9.

The members of all the above-named branches hold regular meetings, social functions, etc. Ex-'Duke's' who are interested in attending these or who are desirous of renewing old friendships, or are in need of assistance, should contact the secretary of their nearest branch.

Mossley Branch

Apart from the annual exchange visits between members of our branch and members of Des Ancienne Combatants De Hem (OCA) (France—twinning town of Mossley), social activity seems to have centred around our monthly meetings at The Friendship and visits to the Top Club, sufficient one might say, but not for us. Amenities for social activities in Mossley are limited and we have this year been unfortunate with bookings, decorations, alterations, already booked, etc. We are now also faced with the soaring costs of everything and the problems that 'small item' brings with it, but, like everything else, we shall master this as we have previously mastered more difficult situations.

Twelve of our members travelled to Hem (France) at the invitation of members of Des Ancienne Combatants De Hem on the weekend November 9-12.

Staying as house guests with members of the Old Soldiers Association in Hem, the party were

welcomed on arrival by the Mayor, M Laplat, at an informal reception in the Town Hall.

On the Sunday the party were taken on a tour to Dunkirk, visting, on the way, Cassel, where Marshal Foch had his HQ during World War I. On arrival in Dunkirk old battles were again relived, beaches surveyed, now occupied by late season holiday-makers, but where once a different scene was portrayed, momentarily relived by some of the party.

After a typical four-hour French luncheon at the delightful Hotel Eole overlooking the sea, the visit took on a more solemn air as the party first laid wreaths at the Allied Forces monument alongside the beach in Dunkirk and at the British Military Cemetery, where the visitors book was signed by Mr Jack Powell, who also laid wreaths on the graves of two fallen 'Dukes' at the small military cemetery at Zuydcoote.

On the return journey the party visited the Menin Gate at Ypres in Belgium, standing in silence as the Last Post was sounded in honour of more than 54,000 Allied Servicemen whose bodies had no final resting place, a ceremony which has taken place daily since Armistice was declared.

The party returned home on the Tuesday, many much wiser for their visit to Dunkirk, and all firmly believing that this visit had done much to cement the already good relationship with the twin town of Hem, and indeed the people of France.

We are sad to report that two of our members have recently died: Charlie Hobbs, who served with 1/7th in World War I, and Mr Wilf Leach, who also served in the 1/7th in World War I and retired from service as a cook sergeant under Wilf Gudger in 1934.

London and Home Counties Branch

We feel very privileged to be allowed to write these notes for the Golden Jubilee edition of THE IRON DUKE. Some of us are so old that we can almost remember the first edition and we hope some of our younger members will be writing for the centenary edition.

Our annual service at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey was well attended last November, those present being Lt-Col Collins, Majs Savory, and Connolly, Messrs Temple, Benson, Woodward, Richardson, Stern, Waterman and the Ballard twins. Apologies were received from Tommy Shaw and Mr R. G. Owers.

Our monthly branch meetings are now being attended by 8 to 10 members and are very successful. We still have room for many more.

We look forward to seeing many friends at our annual dinner on May 10. We have now been allotted the Carisbrooke Hall in the Victory Services Club, and with Gen Sir Robert Bray presiding and the hopes of a very distinguished guest a good time should be had by all.

The secretary still keeps his telephone open for any ex-'Dukes' enquiring about the branch. The number is 01-624 7469 and the address is Mr K. Waterman, 21 Vivian Court, 128-134 Maida Vale, London W9.

THE DUKE OF YORK'S ROYAL MILITARY SCHOOL, DOVER

The Duke of York's Royal Military School offers a free secondary boarding school education for the sons of soldiers.

The only qualification for application for admission is that the boys' father or mother must have enlisted in the ranks of the Regular Army and must have served in the ranks for not less than four years.

A boy must be between 11 and 12 years of age on September 1 of the year of entry to the school.

The school was founded at Chelsea in 1801 as an institution for the children of soldiers of the Regular Army, with priority of admission for orphans and compassionate cases. This principle continues. The school moved to Dover in 1909 into purpose-built accommodation on the high ground east of the town above Dover Castle.

The school buildings are fully centrally heated and completely modernised with well-equipped classrooms, science block, language laboratory, workshops, gymnasium, indoor swimming bath, etc.

The grounds of 150 acres contain extensive playing fields, a fine athletics track, tennis courts, rifle ranges, cricket school and many other facilities. You name it, the school has it and is the envy of the finest boarding schools in the country.

The school contains 450 boys. At present over 60 per cent are the sons of serving soldiers, 30 per cent are sons of fathers who are ex-soldiers who are now in civilian life and 10 per cent are orphans.

There are two junior boarding houses for boys age 11 to 13 years and six senior houses for the older boys. There are also a central dining hall, sanatorium, C. of E. and R.C. chapels, library and theatre-cum-assembly hall. All boys remain at school to age 16 and take either the GCE "O" level or CSE examinations. Those boys who qualify for admission to the Sixth Form stay on for a further two years to take the GCE "A" level with a view to entry into the Services, professions or to go on to university. A comprehensive careers advisory service is maintained and boys may aim at any career they choose.

A unique feature of school life is the strong military tradition. The school has carried Colours since 1825, and troops the Colour in July every year in blue No. 1 dress as a Royal Regiment. All boys in senior houses belong to the Cadet Force.

The normal working dress is a dark blue school blazer with pocket badge, grey flannel trousers and black shoes.

Seventy-five boys are admitted to the school each year.

Registration for admission should be made between the ages of 8 and 10 years.

Enquiries are welcome from eligible parents.

Write to the school, or telephone Dover 203012 for further information, or make an appointment to visit.

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