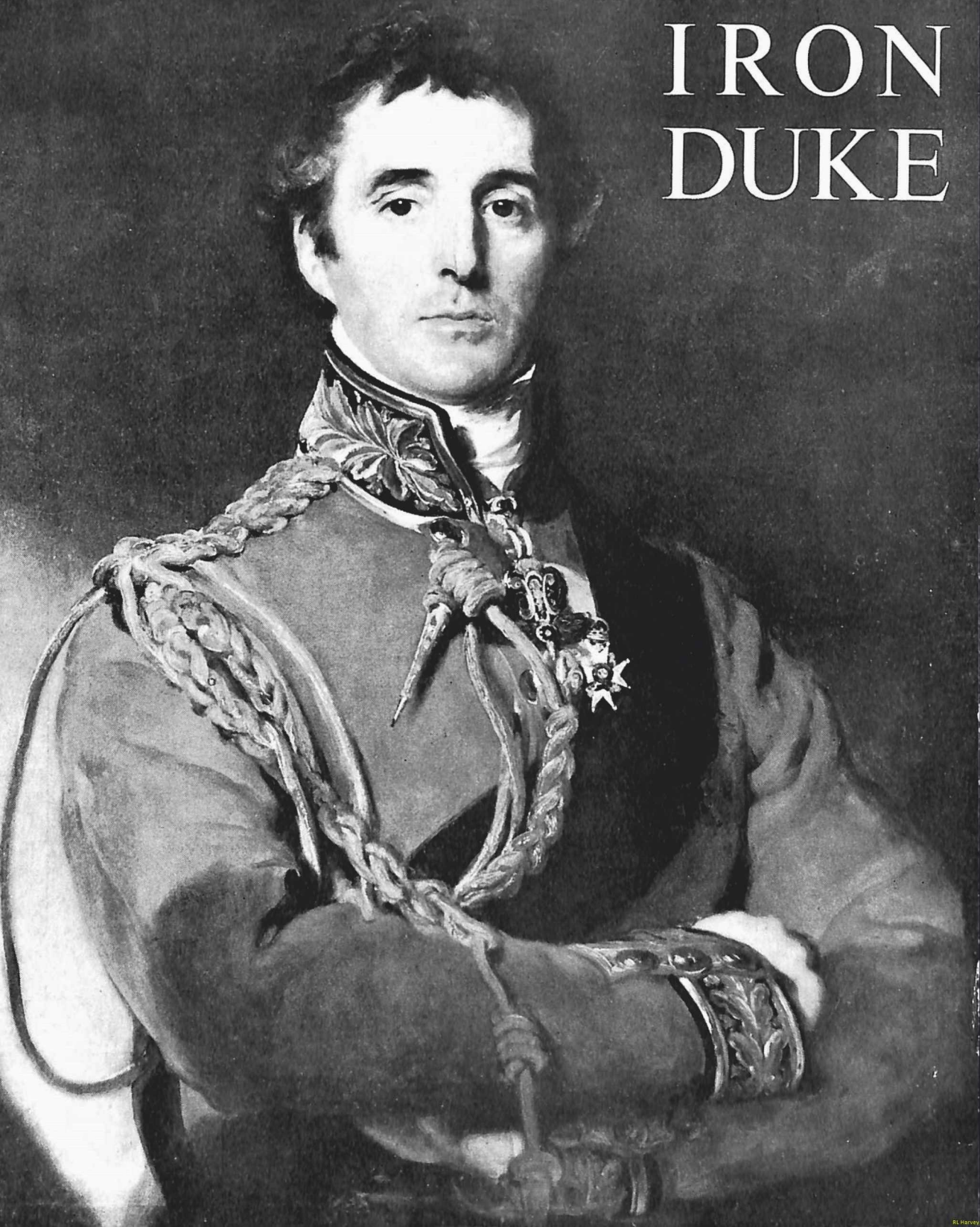


No.169 December 1975

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

DECEMBER 1975

No. 169

BUSINESS NOTES

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Acknowledgement

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

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THE REGIMENT

Colonel-in-Chief

BRIGADIER HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, MVO, OBE, MC, BA

Colonel of the Regiment

MAJOR-GENERAL D. E. ISLES, OBE

c/o Ministry of Defence (DGSW[A]), St Christopher House, Southwark Street, London SE1

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Wellesley Park, Halifax

Regimental Secretary: Major J. H. Davis

THE 1st BATTALION

Mons Barracks, Aldershot

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

RSM WO1 J. Collins

TERRITORIAL & ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE

1st BATTALION THE YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

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

Wellington Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax

Commander: Major K. Marsh

3rd BATTALION, THE YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

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

St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield

Commander: Major C. M. B. Bateman

ARMY CADET FORCE

Area Commander, DWR, ACF. Major P. R. Tattersall, AMBIM, 90 Dalton Green Lane, Huddersfield

AFFILIATED C.C.F.

Giggleswick School CCF, CO: Capt. N. J. Mussett

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Patron

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

President: Major-General D. E. Isles, OBE

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

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



Maj Gen D. E. Isles, OBE, Colonel of the Regiment

Message from The Colonel of the Regiment

I am very proud to have been appointed Colonel and my first duty must be to express the gratitude of all of us in the Regiment to my distinguished predecessor, General Sir Robert Bray. His has been a most important Colonelcy and we can all recall and appreciate how much the Regiment owes

to him for his wise and firm guidance over the past 10 years.

Under our Colonel-in-Chief and with the support and help of all members of the Regiment I shall do my best to serve the Duke's well.

James Isles

*Colonel, The Duke of Wellington's
Regiment*

Regimental Headquarters

THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

Maj Gen Isles was commissioned into the Regt on December 31, 1943 and joined 1 DWR in Italy in May 1944. He served with the Bn in Palestine, Egypt, Syria and the Sudan first as a platoon commander and then from 1946-47 as Adjutant. He returned to Halifax as Adjt of 33 PTC (DWR) leaving in 1948 to become GSO III of 49 Armoured Div (TA). He then attended the Staff and Guided Weapons Course at the Royal Military College of Science from 1950-53. Two further periods at regimental duty were followed by a tour on the directing staff of the Royal Military College of Science from April 1959 to October 1960 before attending the 1961 course at the Joint Services Staff College. In 1962-63 he commanded Burma Coy 1 DWR in British Honduras.

He was Assistant Military Attaché at the British Embassy in Paris from July 1963 to March 1965; and in May 1965 assumed command of the 1st Bn in Osnabruck. He took the Bn to Cyprus as part of the United Nations Force in May 1967 for the last six months of his command, and in 1968 was awarded the OBE.

From December 1967 to October 1968 he was an Assistant Military Secretary (MS 4) in the Ministry of Defence, moving on promotion to Colonel to the Staff of the Assistant Chief of the General Staff for Operational Requirements. This was followed by a tour at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment in Kent from March 1971 to November 1972.

He was next posted to the British Embassy in Washington as Assistant Defence Attaché and Director of Munitions, and returned to England in July 1975 to take up his present appointment of

Director General of Weapons (Army). He is the first Infantryman to hold this appointment, traditionally held since the early 19th century by officers of the Royal Artillery.

Replacement Colours 1 DWR

The Colours presented by the Duke of Wellington to 1 DWR in Chisleton on May 25, 1956, have nearly served their span of 20 years and are due for replacement.

It had been hoped to have been able to have got them in time to have a presentation ceremony in Aldershot before the Bn leaves for Germany. They will not now be ready until September so the ceremony will have to be deferred and held in Germany at a later date.

Ladies' Luncheon and Officers' Dinner

Lt Col John Greenway has offered to hold the annual Ladies luncheon in the Officers' Mess of the 1st Bn in Mons Barracks, Aldershot.

It will be held on Friday, May 21, 1976. He has also kindly agreed to make the band available for the Officers' Dinner which will be held in the Aldershot Club the same evening.

Congratulations

To Lt Col C. D. Hamilton, DSO, who was CO 7 DWR in Holland and Germany, on receiving the KBE.

To Lt Col J. E. Pell on the award of the OBE.

To Ssgt J. A. Topliss on the award of the BEM.

"Her Majesty's Tower of London"

From Gen Sir Robert Bray, GBE, KCB, DSO.

'On October 19, General Sir Robert Bray attended a Service in the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula in Her Majesty's Tower of London. At this Service five hassocks or kneelers bearing the Regimental Crest were dedicated and placed in the

Chapel to commemorate our tour of duty in the Tower in 1971. The Regiment thanks the Resident Governor for giving us permission and is most grateful to the Friends of St Peters who generously embroidered the crest.'

Bill Norman

Bill will have retired on November 2. He enlisted as a boy in 1934 so will have given 41 years of loyal and outstanding service to his Regt.

An appreciation of his earlier service up to 1960 was published in Iron Duke No 119 so these notes will be confined to the last 15 years.

One of his loves has been shooting so it was with regret that he had to give up SLR shooting owing to lack of training facilities after joining the recruiting staff.

He concentrated on target rifles representing the Army in short and long range teams and also in small bore. Among his many successes he has been 6th in the Queen's hundred.

He served for over 10 years on the Army Target Rifle Committee.

Regimental Headquarters have reason to be grateful to him. During Arthur Wood's stay in Leeds Infirmary he came over from Huddersfield two or three times a week to deal with Association cases and work.

Bill is proud to be the last Duke left in the Army with a Regimental number in the 46 group that was discontinued early in the 1939-45 war. Proud to have served four monarchs and still to be shooting regularly for Army teams.

One could say much about Bill. A man of many parts. A flautist in the Huddersfield Philharmonic Orchestra and winner of the dagger for the best commando soldier of his 420 intake under training in Achnacharry in Scotland in 1943. A delightful sense of humour and a great friend, and so on, but he himself unwittingly showed what sort of man he was at the Regimental Association dinner when proposing the toast of 'The Regiment' in an outstanding speech in which his loyalty to and love of his Regt shone through.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE

Army Department, Commands and Staff

Regular Army

Brig (Acting Maj Gen) D. E. Isles, OBE, late Infantry, to be Maj Gen, August 23, 1975, with seniority July 4, 1975. (LG August 22, 1975).

Infantry, King's Division

Maj Gen Donald Edward Isles, OBE, is appointed Col, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) July 7, 1975, in succession to Gen Sir Robert Bray, GBE, KCB, DSO, tenure expired. (LG August 19, 1975).

Infantry, King's Division

Maj-Gen Donald Edward Isles, OBE (304096),



CSM W. Norman

late Inf, Col, The Duke of Wellington's Regt (West Riding), is appointed Colonel Commandant, The King's Division of Infantry, September 1, 1975, in succession to Maj-Gen James Herbert Samuel Majury, CB, MBE (193883), Col, The Royal Irish Rangers (27th Inniskilling) 83rd and 87th), Hon Col, 2nd Bn The Mercian Volunteers, TAVR, tenure expired.

Royal Armoured Corps

Major Gen James Dorian Lunt, CBE, is appointed Col 16/5th The Queens Royal Lancers, August 1, 1975. (LG August 14, 1975).

King's Division

Capt (QM) F. Nichols, DWR, to be Maj (QM) July 26, 1975. (LG July 29, 1975).

Regular Army

The u/m Officer Cadet from Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to be 2/Lt June 28, 1975, King's Division. Short Service Commission. Simon Charles Newton (500286) DWR. (LG August 12, 1975).

Regular Army

Lt D. L. J. Harrap, DWR, to be Capt September 3, 1975. (LG September 1, 1975).

Regular Army

Short Service Voluntary Commission

2/Lt D. G. Massey, DWR, to be Lt April 15, 1975. (LG September 8, 1975).

Regular Army

Short Service Commission

WO1 (RSM) Tom Pickersgill, DWR, to be 2/Lt February 14, 1975, to be Lt February 14, 1975. (LG March 25, 1975).

Regular Army

Short Service Commission

WO1 (RSM) Annias John Welsh, DWR, to be 2/Lt April 1, 1975, to be Lt April 1, 1975, (LG May 28, 1975).

T & AVR, Group A

2/Lt (on probation) G. R. Lightbody (495024) 3 Yorks is confirmed as 2/Lt May 13, 1973. to be Lt May 13, 1975. (LG August 4, 1975).

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

The undermentioned 2/Lt is confirmed in his commn of March 8, 1975, with effect from August, 9, 1975.

Infantry, King's Division

Reg Commn.

M. A. Burton 499676 DWR. (LG September 22, 1975).

Appointment and Promotions

Col D. W. Shuttleworth appointed AD of D Pol (B) Ministry of Defence October 10, 1975.

Col C. R. Huxtable has been selected for promotion to the substantive rank of Brigadier with seniority from June 30, 1976.

Col E. M. P. Hardy has been selected for the appointment of Commandant, Small Arms Wing, School of Infantry in January 1976.

Lt Col M. R. N. Bray appointed Executive Assistant (GSO 1) UK Military Representative, Brussels September 1975. He was promoted Lt Col June 30, 1975.

Capt D. R. D. Newell promoted Maj June 30, 1975.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Capt E. W. Mattock, 16 Balmoral Road, Silver Street Lane, Trowbridge, Wilts.

Mrs D. A. F. Holdsworth, 48 Brow Lane, Shibden, Halifax.

Col R. R. St J. Barkshire, Highlands, Chiddingley Nr Lewes, Sussex.

Capt H. Middleton-Hands, Fettercairn, Broadwindsor, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3PX.

Maj P. B. L. Hoppe, 49B Strensall Park, Strensall Camp, York.

Lt Col M. R. N. Bray, Office of the United Kingdom Military Representative, NATO Building, Brussels, BFPO 49.

Mr S. Thompson, c/o 154 Bole Hill, Treeton, Rotherham.

Maj J. D. Moir, HQ DOS, Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot, Oxon OX11 7ES.



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1st Battalion

COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

It need hardly be said that the flurry of changes of plan which was given emphasis in the last issue led to yet more changes. We had no sooner adjusted to the delights of Episkopi in the Western Sovereign Base in Cyprus, than we were invited to move to the Eastern Sovereign Base, some 70 miles distant.

However, as other contributions may show, this move, which took place approximately halfway through our tour in Cyprus, was probably all to the good. Whereas in Episkopi there was no evident threat to British lives and property, in Dhekelia, our next base, the presence both of the Turkish regular army occupying Greek Cypriot property along over 20 miles of British border, and of some 5,000 displaced Greek Cypriot refugees within or close to British territory, made for a potentially highly combustible mixture. As is ever the case in such situations, one will never know whether it was good patrolling and observation by the platoons and good negotiation by the Coy Commanders and the Intelligence Officer, or merely good fortune, which kept the peace. One likes to think it was the former.

Meanwhile, in the United Nations Force, Alma and Corunna Companies not only played a major part in Operation Mayflower, the evacuation to the North of Cyprus of all Turkish Cypriot families in the South which wished to move; but they also took part in the very impressive Medal Parade which was held in Nicosia towards the end of their tour. It has been a pleasure to pass on to them the many compliments which have been paid to them by several members of Headquarters United Nations Force in Cyprus from Lt Gen Chand downwards.

It is with regret that we record two evacuations as casualties. The RSM WO1 J. P. Collins, suffered severe dehydration after a particularly, and typically, courageous effort on a route march; he is now a patient in the care of Millbank, although he is being allowed home from time to time. Sgt Theodore suffered severe injuries to his back following a motor accident; after spending a considerable amount of time in BMH Dhekelia was flown home for further treatment. We wish them both complete and swift recoveries along with other members of the Bn who were admitted to hospital during the tour.

A résumé of our tour in Cyprus would not be complete without mention, first of all, of the 1st Royal Tank Regt, under whose command Alma and Corunna Coys were for six months; they could not have looked after the two companies better and many firm friendships have been forged as a result of this liaison. We thank them and wish them well in the future. Second, we were delighted to find ourselves serving alongside the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regt once again, with their 'A' Coy actually under command. It was, for us at any rate, a very happy liaison, which culminated in a most successful joint Band Concert, 'Dukes in Concert', in the

Curium amphitheatre. We wish them a peaceful conclusion for their tour in Cyprus.

Dukes of 1956-57 vintage may be interested to know that Milikowi and Pano Panayia have hardly changed at all. However, the villagers are a good deal more friendly than they were in those days and Kykko Monastery is now smartly painted and open to visitors. Dukes of 1967 vintage would find, with the completion of Operation Mayflower, that the Turkish Cypriot villages are deserted and, in some cases, sadly derelict; while the erstwhile UN OPs have mostly been dismantled and the materials moved north to the current line of confrontation further north.

So, another unaccompanied tour has been completed and the Bn has returned, intact, to its home base. It is at moments such as this that a Commanding Officer is grateful for the steadiness of his soldiers, the reliability of his Rear Party and the steadfast loyalty of some 360 wives who, with their families, were yet again left behind.

It is good to be back.

Nine months with 16th Parachute Bde, including a major exercise, a spell on Spearhead and a full programme of mechanised conversion courses, gives us plenty to work on before our move to Minden in August. During this period we plan to take advantage of what will be our last opportunity for some time to visit the West Riding.

OFFICERS' MESS

By July 7, 1 DWR (SBA) as opposed to 1 DWR (UNFICYP) were complete in Episkopi. The officers moved into HQ NEARELF Mess, which was adjacent to HQ NEAF Mess which was closing down to become a joint Mess. Confusion reigned; did the DOE, SSAFA, etc belong to the NEARELF or NEAF Mess? Charles Bunbury as PMC denied taking over anything. He did, however, instigate 'Op Perkle', where on one blast of his whistle everyone changed rooms! It all became too much for the CO who moved out into a flat, and for Dick Mundell and Derrick Battye who took to the Troodos Hills. The shared Mess in Episkopi however, had its advantages; 'A' Sqn 14/20 H adding tone, and our lady doctor, dentist and SCA, decoration.

It was decided to delay the official entertaining until the Band arrived in September. However, the unexpected move to Dhekelia forced our hands somewhat; so a couple of official lunches and a barbecue concluded Cyprus phase one.

In Dhekelia the Mess was our own, idyllically situated 50 metres from the sea with palm trees and fountain. As one company was always deployed at Ayios Nikolaos, 'A' Coy 1 DERR (the other Dukes) were placed under command. Maj Ronnie Silk and his officers quickly showed that they were true 'Dukes'. Ronnie making his mark by swimming

to 'Alexandria' and back each morning, and by trying to drown his Bn padre. Two guest nights, an informal 'Monty Python' party, Beating of the Retreat and a band concert at the Curium were all great if somewhat expensive successes. Our many guests included Air Marshall Sir John Aiken, Lt Gen Prem Chand, Brig Holden, Col Chiswell and our brother officers from Alma and Corunna. In fact the only person we did not catch was the GOC, Maj Gen Purdon. Stories of this era are legion: Guy Shuttleworth being despatched to Nicosia to try and get some alternative white wine to Barsac (the CO did not want some French wine!); Jim Lattimore and Ernie Bousfield apart from walking 827 miles during the tour being the best gardeners that the Mess has ever seen; the Mess Committee taking out the Mess Staff and returning them individually from Larnaca between 2300 and 0400 hours; David Wonson riding not only his bike but a horse; SS Haggipavlu and the epic voyages to—

where did they go? Judith Greenway, Penny Puttock and Margo Newell came out to check on all these stories: so if you want the truth ask them.

We came out to save money, we didn't—but we will look back with fond memories to the mezes, Keos, sun and sea of 1975. No doubt Aldershot will be wet and cold, but we will be reunited not only with our families but also the wild men from Polis and Polemedhia (UNFICYP).

In this period Tim and Sheena Nicholson have departed to Staff College, Andrew and Sandy Meek to the School of Infantry and David Massey back to the Yorkshire Volunteers. Dick and Janet Ward return from Warminster, Tim and Louise Sinclair from Durham, and Simon Newton and Mark Burton have arrived from Sandhurst.

Congratulations to the two Pennys Thorn and Sherlock on producing two bouncing boys and last but not least our thanks to Vernon Davies on holding the fort in Aldershot in our absence.

From the Companies

ALMA COY

As these notes are being written the first elements of the Alma's advance party are firmly settled back in Aldershot and the main body is primed and ready to go. Six months seemed like a very long time to spend on an unaccompanied tour but all are agreed that time has flown.

A major factor in this has been operation Mayflower which kept 1 RTR Group working flat out moving Turkish Cypriots to the north following the Vienna agreement. RTR Group was responsible for moving nearly 8,000 Turks to the north of which Alma Coy was directly responsible for 1500. We were lucky in that our three moves were all within a week so it was possible to put in a concentrated effort to achieve our task. However, it did not all end there. Large numbers of packers, leaders and escorts were required to assist with all other moves in Paphos and Polis districts. Although the Alma was directly responsible for moving the smallest number of Turks we hold the record for the largest convoy of the move consisting of 555 persons and 118 vehicles.

Following the end of the move there was a slight feeling of desolation and anti-climax. We no longer had a job to do in the districts and it was a saddening sight to sit in a UN OP and gaze at an empty village that had once bustled with life and been our responsibility. However, OPs were shortly afterward handed over and we consolidated in Polemidhia.

This meant that for the first time in the tour Platoon Commanders could collect together their soldiers, some of whom they had not seen for six months!

So, a very successful tour has drawn to a close. Mention must be made of the co-operation and friendships made with 1 RTR. This relationship

could not have been better and it will be a sad parting. However, we all are looking forward to returning to England and meeting wives and girlfriends again. This UN Cyprus tour has been the highspot in most people's careers and will long be remembered.

Alma Coy Pronto's

Alma Coy Communications Section, as the elegant sign outside our five star accommodation reads:

Residents being:

Myself Cpl (Shultz) Brook.

2IC, Lcpl (Jackson) Cone.

3IC, Lcpl (Oliver Hardy) Gledhill.

Worker No 1, Pte (Stan Laurel) Holmes.

Worker No 2, Pte (Pronto) Evans.

On arriving in Cyprus the detachment was split into four groups and remained like that throughout the tour.

- 1 Two men on Comcen/SDS 24 hrs on 24 hrs off.
- 2 One man on telephone exchange 12 hrs on 24 hrs off.
- 3 One man running Stavrakomo Rebro one month tour.
- 4 CO's adviser, standby radio mechanic (permanent) Teacher, Stand-in (for people on leave) Iron Dukewriter.

Our tour in Cyprus has passed fairly rapidly with a much needed break for leave in between. Life in Cyprus has been both interesting and varied from the wacky race antics of Emerson Fiti pronto and Oliver Hailwood on the SDS run to Nicosia, to the sublime oblivion of Regina Street on local leave, but as they say all good things always come to an end, and at this moment we are awaiting our return to good Old Blighty with the thought of exercises and forthcoming signals cadres on our minds.



'Honestly, the shells were that size' 2/Lt Kilburn, Pte Bailey, Pte Hunt

1 Platoon

These notes are being written as the Platoon prepares to return to Aldershot after an interesting and enjoyable six-month attachment with UNFICYP. Time passed quickly and we have been involved in many varied and interesting tasks, most of which have required different skills and techniques, to which most of us were previously not acquainted.

The routine and duties of OP life have been related elsewhere, as has the successful movement of the Turkish Cypriot people from the southern half of the island. It only needs to be stated, though, how hard everybody has worked and it is this effort which has made the platoon's stay in Cyprus so worth-while.

Sgt Harston and Lcpl Warrior, more aptly their wives, are to be congratulated on their newly born. Also Ptes Colley and Wrightson for passing their driving cadres (better luck next time Pte Tordoff) and well done to Pte Jones and Ward on successful completion of a Potential NCOs Cadre. Best wishes must go to Lcpl Mitchell and Pte Wrightson (and of course their future wives) who both plan to become married during their leave.

With thoughts of fading sun tans in the pouring rain, we look forward to a busy future.

Two Platoon Unficyp 1975

With our time in Cyprus drawing to a close light blue berets are being replaced by dark blue ones with red backing. As our return to Aldershot is imminent we can reflect on our tour in Cyprus and see that it has been an enjoyable respite from the rigors of UK training. However, six months is enough and most of the platoon are looking forward to going home.

The tour was split into three two months stages, April to June as patrol platoon in Polemidhia Camp; June to August in Limassol district ob-

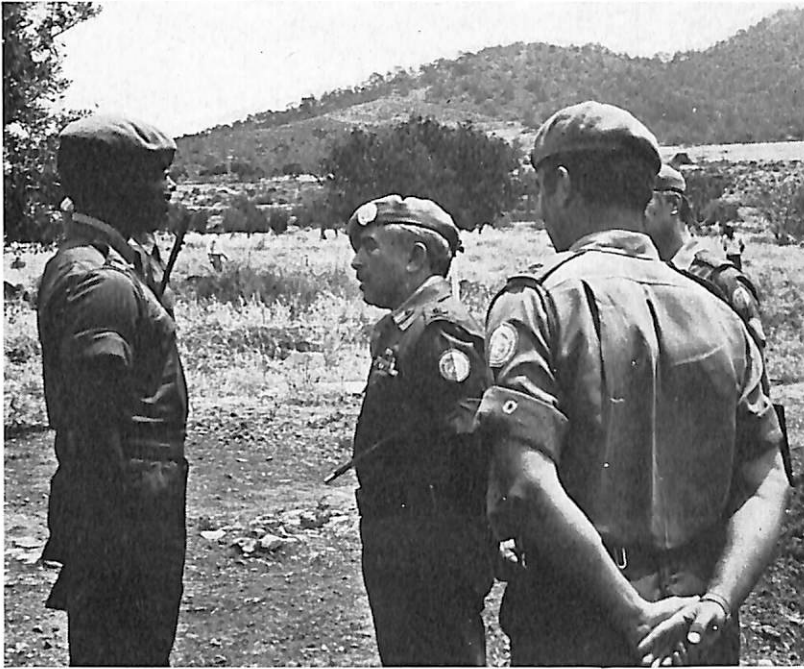
servations posts (OPs) and August to October in Paphos district OPs. In the event we never got to Paphos district. The first two months went by without much happening and seemed only a steady four months plod in OPs ahead of us. The anniversary of the Turkish invasion, however, did create a little excitement, with vigilance being increased and reinforcement coming to HQ Nicosia.

Among the reinforcement came a certain Sgt Makepiece who bought an 8mm projector and some films to go with it. Having shown what a good projectionist he was, errands of mercy were required to the Officers' Mess Polemidhia, twice; the Sgts' Mess twice; to Sapper Village, the Cookhouse and Austcivpol; I strongly suspect there were private showings for OC Alma and CSM Alma.

The end of July saw the Vienna talks make some progress and by mid-August an agreement had been made to allow Turkish Cypriots to move from the Greek controlled south to the Turkish controlled north.

The UN became involved and in Operation Mayflower evacuating some 10,000 Turks from the Britcon and Auscon areas. Once the operation had been carried out successfully we no longer had a Turkish minority to protect, so being without a job we converged on Polemidhia Camp. The whole platoon was in camp by September 14, so we faced a month of basic platoon training before the move from Cyprus. In our time in Cyprus, while preparing for 'C' Coy's arrival Pte Aston found a homemade weapon, which could have been a leftover from EOKA days.

Leave and exercises loom large in the future and our return to the UK and real soldiering will be welcomed. However, while on Salisbury Plain in the rain, I am sure minds will stray to fading memories of Cyprus, blue berets and peace-keeping.



The FORCE Commander—
Gen Prem Chand talking to
Pte Williams

Three's Up

At last our UNFICYP tour draws to a close. The past few months have been somewhat uneventful, but nevertheless, a 'chosen' few (no names mentioned, Pte Goldstraw) have done their best to 'break the peace'. With the disbanding of the various OPs, Polemidhia Camp has become our temporary refuge (refuse to some) and what's good enough for Kitchener is good enough for us.

But, for one reason or another, we never seem to be able to muster more than a section at a time, as I really don't know whether I am writing on behalf of 3 Platoon or 3 Section. Where have they all gone, Sarge? Well, there's guards for this and fatigues for that and . . . sir! All in all everyone has been kept fairly busy with the daily chores of barrack life and those who haven't been fortunate enough to be collared have been occupied with an assortment of devious and devilish tasks thought up by the hierarchy. PT (Physical Torture, Sir) has taken pride of place, but you all lap it up, don't you? I think we know more about call-signs and wiring than Cpl Brooks and Cpl Spare put together, what a thought!

Innumerable beach excursions have kept the sun-tans glowing and the beer consumptions soaring. It makes a very satisfactory combination. The end of tour 'gathering' allowed the duo of 'Bowen and Cairns' to show their possible potential—for what though I'm not quite sure!

The odd UNFICYP march and Bn cross country has kept the least sane of us physically fit and the Alma reputation in its rightful place—at the top!

So, the time has arrived to pack our bags and catch the big, white bird (by courtesy of Crabair) homewards. We may miss the sunshine but I'm sure our families and girl friends will make it all

worth-while. The old adage 'it's nice to go away, but so much nicer to come home' is as true now as it ever was.

Bon Voyage, bon vacances!

BURMA COMPANY

4 Platoon—The Evidimou Beach Camp

A week of sunshine, bathing and a bit of hard work was our aim for the week down on Evidimou Beach. To get the week off to a good start some splendid organisation by Sgt Craven had the camp looking like a picture from a holiday brochure. All the lads worked hard to have the camp finished in two hours and once finished we spent the remainder of the day sunbathing. Cpl Rod Elgar and Pte Pat Marshal were competing at one time for the best tan. Pat Marshal gave it up as a bad job, Cpl Elgar won hands down.

Our second day was full, with games and volleyball. To finish the night we had a night navigation exercise. We were delighted to hear that the last checkpoint was at the Kyrenia Bar. Bri Glynn and his muckers were first to finish. No one could understand Baldy and Bart saying it was because they were old soldiers; however, the Pl Comd had different ideas.

Lt Massey took it upon himself to organise a fishing trip for the next day. This meant an early rise but everyone was keen enough at the time. We arrived at Larnaca jetty to be greeted by a so-called friend of Lt Massey. He couldn't understand when asked the price of the whole trip, but off we went with beer, coke and some packed lunches, about 20 of us in all, and to our surprise only three fishing lines. Once out to sea we stopped and drifted. Cpl Ken Harding did not fish, he just hung over the

side feeding the fish. That is the third time he has been out with 'Fighting Four Platoon' and the third time he has found he is not cut out to be a sailor. All in all it wasn't a bad catch, all of three tiddlers, not forgetting the one that got away, which Bart claims was all of 3ft. He will doubtless spin this yarn for many a day to come. On returning to the jetty our local captain had learnt very good English, not bad for a few hours despite the Yorkshire accent. Mind you all he really learnt was 'that will be £15 please'. We paid him off and spent the rest of the day shopping in Larnaca.

Mr Massey then organised some volleyball with 'girls' from Episcopi for the next day. We waited and, to our surprise a Land Rover came along the dirt track to our camp with the figures of girls in the back. We were not surprised for long though, because it turned out to be only two young ladies could turn up. Typical! Anyway, we played them and let the ladies win three games to two.

We were all dreading the next day which meant a march to Troodos Mountains but again it ended up a successful day. The story is related below. Our Pl 'Booze-up' followed this which again proved successful. Cpl Dave Hayes joined us from his course at Brecon; he said he was glad to be back. This finished a most successful week for which some thanks must go to the Platoon Cooks. Master Chef Cpl Harding and his side-kick Pte Tower did a fantastic job of bunging us up.

4 Platoon

The Troodos Trot

It was 4 o'clock reveille for 4 Platoon. After a quick snack at 4.30 we were on our way to Troodos. I was in 3 Section, with Lcpl Welburn, Pte Acklam 11, Pte Jones, Pte Jackson, Pte McKnight. We set off from the crossroads at Evdihmou Beach. Cpl Elgar and his section took the same route as ours. Pl HQ and Cpl Harding's section took a different route. It was about six miles before we reached the first 'pop' shop. Here we stopped for a drink and a smoke, and set off again. The scenery was absolutely beautiful, we could see Troodos Mountain; it was getting closer and closer every step we took. It was a relief to see Ssgt Walker and his Land Rover. He got the breakfast out and the Jungle Juice, but we were soon back on the road again. There were numerous stops for Cokes and ice creams.

We got halfway there and stopped for a rest on a little bridge, and as we sat down a man and a boy came along on their donkeys. One of the lads gave the boy some chocolate, and he seemed very contented. The man then opened a bag and started giving us some apples which were lovely and sweet. However, as all this was happening Rod the Frog Elgar and his section kept hopping past us. Twenty-four miles done, and Jonah Jones had to drop out due to dehydration; Cpl Smudge Smith took care of him. We plodded on to Platres and then it was my turn to drop out for medical treatment for my feet. With two men down Lcpl Welburn and the rest of his section were ready to carry on. But alas Jacko Jackson decided he was unable to carry on. This made three down and three to go. They



The final Last Yards Cpl Harding's Section

set off up the mountain side. The OC dropped me and Jacko, alias Neck Jackson, off at a café in Platres, where we ordered the drinks. Jacko drank his and said to me, 'I'm off to try and catch up with the rest of the Section'. I replied: 'It's no good if your feet are bad', but nevertheless he went. When the OC came back and I told him where Jacko had gone, he wasn't too pleased. Little did I or Jacko know that there were hundreds of tracks up the mountain. Pl HQ and Cpl Harding's section were ready to go up so the OC asked them to keep an eye out for Jacko. We carried on in the Land Rover to the top and waited; eventually all the sections arrived. Then who should come along but Jacko, he got a right good telling off and then something to eat. The march to Troodos was a good laugh which included plenty of sightseeing. The Platoon, I think, all enjoyed it.

PTE ACKLAM

5 Platoon

Since the last instalment of the *Iron Duke* forum what have the fates thrust upon us? First of all our long awaited departure to Cyprus and Salamanca Bks. Episcopi and our arrival in the island of sun, sea, sand and Keo Beer and Brandy. We were thrust straight into our duties as Internal Security Coy and resident Bn of Tunnel Beach with its attractive young mermaids. Preparation for a Bn IS exercise followed, during which Harry Todd became the victim. More standby duties and more guards passed by smoothly until we were deemed fit to have a week of R & R. A week's camping down at Evdihmou beach provided the opportunity to develop our tans, play plenty of volleyball and devour plenty of grapes. During the week we also pioneered the walk to the mountain top of Troodos. Setting off at about 0400 hours we meandered the way through the villages for up to 40 miles to arrive at Troodos NAAFI leave camp in the mountains for a tea meal of stew and jungle juice. En route one member found himself in the private grounds of President Makarios's Summer Residence. Having seen the guards on the gate there were a few doubts whether we would see him again.

The final night of this busy week was barbecue night at Evidhimou beach during which Pte Hanley earned himself the name of 'Kung Fu King' for walking up and threatening to deal with Cpl Frear as only Kung Fu can. This was followed by a week as defence platoon up at RAF Troodos where the air is thin and four-a-side football is even more exhausting than normal.

On our return the news awaited us that we were being moved to the other end of the island, to Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia. The announcement was greeted with ill cheer mainly due to the inevitable block cleaning that would precede such a move. On arrival in Dhekelia we were deployed straight up to the border at Ayios Nikolaos to man the OPs, VCPs and look after the border of the Sovereign Base Area. The duties were quite strenuous but more interesting because we could finally see what we were here for; having a purpose in life. OP reports came in thick and fast and often amusing. One example went like this: 'There is a Turkish Officer having a meal on the balcony of the house OP. He is pulling faces at me. He hasn't got good table manners'.

Our stay with 9 Signal Regt was interrupted by occasional trips to Fig Tree Bay which proved to be the highlight of our stay with them.

We were entertained by the regular back flips of Wilkinson attempting to water-ski, and problems being caused by Williams, Hardy, Cole, and Townend who hired two speed boats and proceeded to joust with each other until they rammed. Who was to blame?

We returned to Dhekelia for our final two weeks of duties which passed relatively uneventfully, except for the problem of the 'phantom 30 minute Rover driver' who decided to go for a joy ride in the middle of the night. Not only did he damage the vehicle but tried to knock down the Coy block.

The upgrading tests passed satisfactorily and reasonably successfully. One of the answers which will be remembered was at the map reading stand where Sweeney, when asked to describe a convex slope, replied 'like Sgt Minto's stomach'. He got full marks. The final military effort was the five mile march and shoot with 60 lb of equipment, followed by the falling plates competition. Lcpl Whitworth's Section were the top Section in the Coy, and McNichol the top gunner. In the falling plates we had three teams in the semi-finals, but failed to win. Congratulations to all concerned. We are now on the eve of our departure after a few days hard buying and spending. I wonder how many practice packs have been done to get our air freight right?

In the sporting field we have had many participants in company teams: this includes six men in the unbeaten Coy football team; 4th, 6th and 15th place in the Bn cross-country race and a couple of bruised heads in the backstroke races in the swimming gala.

We bade farewell to Sgt Bob Peat and welcome to Sgt Jud Minto, and Ptes Townend, Fairburn. Our congratulations go to Parkin on coming top in the NCOs cadre and Lawrence on his promotion to Lance-Corporal. Cpls Sutton and Laws have departed for the Depot. Who's next?

Back to UK tomorrow, taking with us memories of the good, bad and unfortunate times. All will be pleased to get back but it can be guaranteed that by the time this is printed we will be longing for the sun again. As we track across Salisbury Plain we will all wonder when will we get our next sun tan and bottle of Keo.

6 Platoon

A week before our walk to Olympus the platoon spent a week at RAF Troodos as the defence Platoon. A good holiday enjoyed by all! We then moved to Dhekelia in the ESBA, and then on to Ayios Nikolaos the home of 9 Signal Regt. Here we spent three good weeks watching the Turks, who were watching us watching them. This arduous task was interrupted by trips to the famous Fir Tree Bay, an A1 sun-bathing and swimming spot.

Finally, we moved back to Dhekelia where, after doing three weeks as IS Co, we got our freedom for the last week and had a platoon social as well as numerous nights out in Larnaca.

We are glad to be home, but despite many grumbles, Cyprus had its good points which few can deny. We are now looking forward to a well deserved three weeks leave during which any hardships incurred in Cyprus will no doubt be made up.

Football Notes

On returning from an education course in England I was told that I was going back to Burma Coy, after an absence of six years. Back in those days, in Germany, Burma Co football team was by far the best in the Bn. The CSM approached me saying that there was potential in the company, that needed a little training and putting together.

We started training when we were at Ayios Nikolaos, and it was easy to see that what the CSM had said was true. The men were very fit and boiling with enthusiasm, and soon we put together a side that while in Cyprus, has never been beaten.

Although we had a little bad luck in the seven-a-side competition, this did not deter the team and we went on playing well in the 11-a-side games.

We achieved two very good results by holding the Royal Signals 2 Sqn team, who supply most of the players for the 9th Signals Carter Cup champions, to a 3—3 draw, and the Bn side to a 1—1 draw.

Finally, I would like to say that the best result came when we stopped 'A' Coy DERR in their tracks, by beating them 5—1.

Burma Coy March and Shoot Competition

On Friday, October 3, as a climax to their training in Cyprus, Burma Coy, held an intersection 'March and Shoot' competition. There were nine teams entered, three from each platoon, and nine teams successfully finished the course—without exception!

The competition began with the sections of six or seven men being inspected at Alexander Barracks and having their packs weighed (60lb per man, plus his personal weapon). Then the sections were timed as they went over the assault course and immediately afterwards set off for a five-mile march.



**Winning March and Shoot Section. Sec Comd,
Lcpl Whitworth**

The sections marched from Alexander Barracks, up around the Eastern end of Dhekelia, along the road past the BMH, and down the Larnaca Road and on to the ranges. Each section was marching against the clock.

On arriving at the ranges they were given a quick drink and a chance to get their breath back before going on to the shooting part of the competition.

The results of the competition were very good, with Lcpl Whitworth's section winning the section competition, and Lcpl Connolly's section as runners-up. The best platoon was 4 Platoon. The individual SLR winner was Lcpl Welburn. And the best GPMG gunner was Pte McNichol.

After lunch there was a falling plate knockout



**Maj Mundell presenting prizes to Lcpl Spencer
Winners Section Falling Plate**

competition. There were 14 teams entered, and after some good sporting fun Lcpl Spencers section emerged as the winners, with Cpl Frears section as the runners-up.

The day ended with the Bn 2IC giving away the prizes, and much celebrating by the winners.

This day was very testing for many of the soldiers, and yet not one man failed to complete the competition having started it. This in itself proves that training in Cyprus has been successful.

CORUNNA COY

A Final Epitaph to Cyprus

Looking back on our last six months' tour in Cyprus with the United Nations, there have been many incidents which one will reminisce on in the future. The highlight of the tour has undoubtedly been the successful evacuation of all the Turk/Cypriot population to the north of the island.

Op Mayflower, as the operation was named, was thrust upon us with very little notice as a result of the successful negotiations of the Vienna Talks. Up to the end of July, no one could have possibly conceived that any agreement was possible, let alone that all the Turks would be safely delivered to the North in less than one month. However it happened, and Corunna can claim a large share of the satisfaction gained from completing such a major international operation without a hitch. Everybody in the Coy played his part either as a loadmaster, escort, bus orderly, marshaller or convoy commander. The boys were magnificent and managed to retain the highest standards throughout the entire operation. Well done the 'Men in Blue' particularly when one considers that we landed for the majority of the evacuations—with Polis District some 18 Turk/Cypriot villages, consisting of approx 3,000 bodies, were moved between August 12 and September 5 in eight separate convoys.

On reflection it seems sad that all our successful efforts over the first four-and-a-half months to keep the peace and ensure that the various Turkish villages remained secure, should be so quickly evaporated by Op Mayflower. The now empty villages protected by the UN OPs gave us all a chance to think back on the good times we all have had; the daily meetings with the Mukhtars; the never ending cups of Turkish coffee; the everyday problems of the villages and our independent lives in our own empires.

One could not end this epitaph without finally mentioning our masters 1 RTR. Our marriage has been a success and on behalf of Corunna I must thank Col Tony Walker and 1 RTR for making our tour such a memorable and happy occasion. We were regarded right from the start as one of the family and when assistance and guidance was required it was given with utmost efficiency.

We now look forward to meeting up again in Tidworth or Aldershot and later on in BAOR when our two great Regiments can look back on our tour in Cyprus and bring out the War stories over a cold Carlsberg.

It has been an excellent tour.

Cpl Hall, Lcpl Frear, Pte Barber and Pte Hayton talking to the Mukhter of Yiallia



7 Platoon

Since last putting pen to paper, a chapter in the history has been written. It is therefore, very pleasing to have been in the 'thick of it' as it were. Out of the 17 moves (about 8,000 people) in the Britcon area, 7 Pl were involved to some extent in every one, a unique record of which we can be proud. It was, at times, an exacting job with private soldiers needing the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon and the muscles of Samson. However, all responded in the 'Yorkshire' style and the work was done with good humour and minimum of fuss.

It was in many ways rather sad to see so many of the people with whom we had lived leaving the houses where they, their fathers and grandfathers before them had been born. However, we wish them well and hope that before long the situation will be normalised. One thing we have learned here is that, in times of trouble, the innocent people always suffer most.

We spent most of the last four months of our tour in Paphos under command of 'A' Sqn 1 RTR. I think we viewed this part of our tour in Cyprus with some trepidation. However, we were made welcome at all levels and many of the Platoon have made lasting friendships.

So much for the past, now to the future. By the time this appears in print we shall have spent three well deserved weeks on leave with our families and girl friends. Then it is back to serious training in preparation for Exercise 'Advent Express'. Unfortunately, we shall be losing several of our 'Stalwarts' to 'Somme' Coy in January. It is a sad necessity, but I know they will continue to give maximum effort in their new jobs and I wish them well. To those who follow I say welcome—you have a lot to live up to!

8 Platoon

Since our last notes, there has been a change in command at the 'top'—Tony Pitchers having moved on to better pastures as the new RSO. I took over the Platoon in early September after a somewhat memorable introduction to the Corunna officers and senior NCOs.

As a result of my arriving after all the intense activity of Op Mayflower, there has been little chance to see the platoon in action. Indeed with individuals away on potential NCO cadres and Driving Cadres, it may be some time before we are all together. Still our time has been well spent doing some conventional training interdispersed with packing up for our move to Aldershot.

The period following Op Mayflower has inevitably been an anti-climax. Having been so busy with a job not directly connected with soldiering it has been hard to turn one's attention to normal soldiering. However, I have had a chance to meet the platoon and to meet such characters as Cpl 'I've just won £100' Hall, Lcpl 'Wacker' Walker, 'Banzie' Barber just to name a few.

From what I can gather the tour had been a great success and everybody has enjoyed the experience of being independent for such long periods, which has given the NCOs a chance to run their own little empires; a task which they relished. Nothing like keeping the OC, 2IC, and CSM off the boys' backs!

Everyone is now looking forward to a well deserved leave before returning to prepare for Exercise Advent Express. In concluding these notes I must pass on our appreciation and thanks to Mr Pitchers for the time spent with us as 'Gaffer'. We wish you all the best in the future.

9 Platoon

The situation in Cyprus has changed dramatically since our last set of notes. The evacuation of all

the Turks to the north has been completed successfully and we are now all together for the first time in the tour.

In a way it is sad that we could not spend the last half of the tour in Paphos area as originally planned. Many well thought out ideas and plans were dashed; such is life. Still, we have made it to Limassol and the sight of the Welsh Guards has brought smiles and comments of 'only six months to do' from the lads.

The tour out in Cyprus has been long but very enjoyable. '9' have definitely made the best out of a difficult tour especially when one looks back on the conditions one had to put up with on the OPs. The boys have all tested the fruits of the Island (9 being known as Munch and Crunch Pl), clothed themselves in exotic outfits (they fall apart after three months if made in Melandra) and seen the bright lights of Limassol (taken part by storm would be more appropriate after our nomadic existence for the last five months). British soldiers have never ceased to amaze me in the way in which they adapt themselves quickly to a new country and its customs. Cyprus was no exception. The horrifying thought of changing from Tetleys to Keo was made with few moans. The Goat Kebabs replacing Fish and Chips (it will be quite something to go back to English Stodge!) These examples are just some of the drastic changes we have had to make. Aldershot I'm sure will correct these hardships!

Just as soon as the Cyprus tour was mentioned in Aldershot in the early part of the year we started hearing tales of the 67 tour from the 'old sweats', so we shall be able to 'swing the lamp' for Cyprus 75, in the years to come. I hope there will be still some of us left when Cyprus 83 arrives!

A TANKIE'S VIEW OF THE DUKES

When I arrived in Cyprus in mid-August to start the last third of the tour with 1 RTR Gp, I was quietly informed that a certain Maj Tim Nicholson from 1 RTR was travelling with me. (Nobody in RTR of this name! ?). How wrong I was and I soon learned that Alma and Corunna companies from 1 DWR formed an integral part of 1 RTR Gp. Now at the end of the tour one feels that Alma and Corunna have always been part of 1 RTR and the 'B' and 'C' Sqns have never existed.

Even when 1 RTR and 1 DWR have gone on their separate ways memories will remain of characters unforgettable, incidents hilarious and occasions uncomfortable. A few illustrations will show a little of what I mean.

Pte Carr will always be remembered for his natural and highly indigenous Yorkshire accent and mannerisms. His 'Thees' and 'Thous' were almost biblical and it is rumoured that Col Walker was so entranced by Carr's oratorio that he almost dismissed the case he was trying at the time.

The Britcon Medal parade will remain an everlasting memory. The combination of marching soldiers from Alma and Corunna together with the white ferrets of 1 RTR and 4/7 DG, performing against a background of a beautiful Cyprus sunset,

was a superb sight. The band and drums of 1 DWR were the perfect accompaniment to this pageant. Both Alma and Corunna marched and drilled brilliantly. With their proud swagger, they show the trained eye that these are not just soldiers, they are really good soldiers. One really amusing incident was when COMBRITCON asked Mr Clark if he could play by the light of the ferrets. A dour Yorkshire voice was heard to reply 'You hum the tune lads and we'll play it!'

My final lasting memory of the Dukes was during the recent DANCON March Competition. 1 RTR Gp entered teams of three from each Coy/Sqn including mine. Everyone completed the course within the time, some with bigger blisters than others. The real point I make about this event is that it proves that Tankies can march if they have to, even though it is a painful experience. (Thank you CQMS O'Donnell for your excellent and now well broken in boots!—they really killed me!)

Messrs Atkinson, Hall and Kilburn all led their troops (sorry, sections) in fine style, beating home everybody less the odd flying Finn. My conclusion from this proves that one Brit (Yorkshireman) is worth 10 others when the going gets tough.

It has been fun serving together and I shall always remember our association as one of perfect 'Infantry/Tank' co-operation.

JOHN PRENDERGAST
1 RTR

SOMME COMPANY

Mortar Platoon or 10 Platoon

We are still the mortar platoon. For the duration of our tour in Cyprus we have lost various key personalities so that we could operate in a rifle platoon role without being 'top heavy' with SNCIs. Ssgt Cookson, after a very successful course at Netheravon, became the Bn equitation expert (or is it equestrian). Sgt Hogg took over the job of sgt of 12 Platoon (a combination of drums and recce) and Sgt Frear the odd job man. His various tasks have included CQMS, CSM, company runner and coy 2IC. Despite our change in role we have managed at odd intervals to keep our hand in with the mortars.

Our tour in Cyprus, as you will all know by now, has been split between the Eastern and Western Sovereign Base Areas. In Episkopi our time initially was spent in preparation for our internal security role, with many sweaty hours spent on the square under the hot Mediterranean sun. The culmination of this was a short IS Exercise. We had a very worthwhile two days acting as enemy against 'A' Coy of the Devon and Dorset Regt who were practising the basic skills of the infantry soldier and enjoying it, not least Cpl Whitworth who after a pre-dawn attack made his way through the centre of the enemy position. A hand grabbed him and a voice out of the dark asked what was happening. The reply was a gentle stroke with a rifle butt. Later he ambushed 'A' Coy's Headquarters to find the hand and voice belonged to their coy commander.

Probably the highlight of the tour was the week

as the defence platoon at Troodos. The duties were not arduous, the climate sunny and cool and with first rate sporting facilities on our doorstep. We proved our worth on the soccer pitch with a 5—1 win over the Signals mountain troop.

From Troodos we returned to Eipiskopi and then a platoon camp on the beach at Evdimou where we completed the final training before upgrading tests. Our spare time was taken up with endless games of volleyball and a lethal version of murder ball on the beach.

Upgrading and the preparation for the move to Dhekelia kept us fully occupied when we were again back in barracks. Somme coy was the last coy to complete the move almost losing the platoons commander and sgt who went to Nicosia instead of Larnaca, each blames the others map reading. In Dhekelia we had our first and only long period of freedom from operational duties. We used the time to run a mini cadre—congratulations to Lcpl Slater for coming top.

We took over duties in Ayios Nikolaos in mid-September where our tasks were various, ranging from observing the Turkish positions from OPs, manning a vehicle checkpoint, repairing the border fence and generally providing the security for the garrison. Occasionally a chance was had to meet our counterparts from the other side of the border line to exchange greetings and compare jobs through the medium of wild and demonstrative hand signals. Pte Mitchell assumed the position of official interpreter.

We are now on our last leg home before returning to England and leave, well earned after four months of being permanently committed to duties of one form or another.

Courses

Congratulations to Ssgt Cookson on gaining a good 'B' grading on his Mortar Officers course and to Lcpl Cole on gaining a 'C' on his Mortar NCO's course at the Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon.

A/Tk Pl Diary (11 Pl is so common)

July 6, depart England for Cyprus, stayed until 0500 hrs guests of RAF Brize Norton.

July 7, arrived in Cyprus 1125 local time. When we left Aldershot they were having a heat-wave, talk about out of the frying-pan and into the fire, through the heat haze a startled shout was heard 'look Butch has got here first', Lcpl Butcher that is, who had left us for civilian life at Aldershot, but it was a mistaken identification Greek. We were greeted with a large Cheshire cat type grim from Lcpl Evans 86 our 'advance party rep'.

It was then we realised we were in our new home for the next three months, after a day of sight-seeing around Salamanca Barracks, we started work in Dukes style, and at times during the silent hours these mumbled words could be heard issuing from the barrack blocks, 'halt 23 turn 23 in 23 on guard', we also got around to some Ulster type crowd control which we seemed to conquer very easily 'can't think why', as well as the normal IS drills, and duties.

We had hardly got to our feet under the table when the dreaded words were heard, Bn IS exercise. Throughout this exercise the Platoon excelled itself as usual, as CSM Hook (WO2 Robinson) who is afraid of nothing on the rugby field will verify. He was scared to death of our snatch squads but he cannot be blamed for that they scared me as well. Also fitted in with IS were the upgrading tests. Thank goodness we never got called out at this time as the people who were being tested down in 'Death Valley' behind BHQ would have been fit for nothing after climbing out.

August—We left Episkopi for Dhekelia, after making the accommodation at Epi shine. It was start again in Alexander Barracks Dhekelia. After a good day out, the blocks were made fit to live in. Then the good news, we were to have two days on the range firing the anti-tank guns. The range itself was a bit of a let down, 'only one tank' but with our normal scrounging abilities we managed to get some targets together 'what oil drums from the back of the QM's'? We had some very good shooting, even Sgt Sellars proved that its 'once learnt never forgotten' when he fired one round and left only the bottom of the barrel at 800 metres. Pte Cockson split the tank along the side, even the OC joined in the spirit until he realised why we didn't want him at that end of the firing line, 'thanks for the smile Sir, that's where we take the misfired rounds'.

Mid-September, we moved to Ayios Nikolaos. Our tour on the outposts was new and interesting. It was a chance to see Johnny Turk close up, and we found that the relaxation periods were helped along with friendliness supplied by the assortment of people up there. 9 Sigs Regt, Royal Pioneers, WRAC, and DOE; we would like to thank them all for their hospitality. We helped them with their training for their Minor Units Battle exercises. They broke the stranglehold of the Epi boys by being third but Ssgt Basu (acting CSM) was heard to say 'I'll crack their b... skulls, they were trained for 1st and 2nd not 3rd'.

Then it was back to Dhekelia to the cry of the 'days to do are getting few' (welcome Welsh Guards), the boyos are a decent set of lads after you defeat the language barrier. (God help us! Pte Abel has now got three languages to baffle us with; Greek, Turkish and Welsh). Sea freight is now on its way and we are really getting 'dinky', and to help us along for the last two days it has rained in the afternoons.

At this point we would like to thank the lads from the Recce Pl who have been attached to us out in Cyprus, 'Great Blokes'.

October 13, a day to remember, 'the day of the silver bird' comment heard from Pte 'hate a pad' Swithenbank, I don't care if there are pads on board just get me home.

Mentions in Despatches (or should it be hatches).

To the Boss and Mrs Sherlock a Son, 'he will never forgive you sir'.

Courses: Congratulations to Lcpl Harrison on attaining a good grade at Netheravon.

Nanouk of the Near East Memorial Prize (canoeing) 'The Boss'.

Departures: We bid a farewell to Sgt B. W. Sykes to Burma Coy. All the best for your future.

Recce Platoon and 12 Platoon

When a 'pineapple grenade' explodes everybody gets a little piece. The Recce Platoon suffered a rather similar fate. Just before our move to Cyprus, practically all our soldiers and NCO's were distributed liberally throughout Somme Coy. The remainder became known as 12 Platoon. On closer examination this was a mixture of five Recce personnel plus the Drums Platoon, commanded by a rather shocked Recce Platoon Commander, and two—one—charlied by an even more shocked Mortar Sgt, Sgt Hogg, and for the majority of the following four months the section commanders were Cpls Cockshott, Gowing and Giles. And so with the above well tried combination of one officer and 22 all ranks we set forth to Cyprus as the third 'rifle' platoon in Support Coy.

On arrival at Akrotiri we were briefed to go to Episkopi WSBA or was it Dhekelia, or what? Anyway we went to Episkopi to be greeted by Irish accents and the familiar aroma of Guinness. Hand-overs completed we got on with duties and commitments, TOETS, road runs, map reading exercises, a Bn exercise, shooting on the ETR, a Coy Camp at Evdhimou, a few close arrests and dare it be said, some free time. Limassol, Paphos, and Platres in the Troodos Mountains were the favourite spots, visited for weekends either by much appreciated MT transport or via hired cars and beach buggies. Hangovers were found in abundance

and everybody enjoyed themselves, seeing a good deal of Cyprus albeit from different angles. Some, who shall remain nameless even visited the no-go areas of Heros Square and some got caught. The Boss apparently knows the names of the two concerned but still will not let on. One of the most enjoyable weeks was spent at RAF Troodos where we in turn provided a four man guard at the Mt Olympus 'goldballs', known better to some as a large Radar station. When not on duty we had a good look around Troodos and the surrounding towns and hamlets. Volleyball was played against the RAF Fire Section who provided in return an excellent afternoon's abseiling down a 160ft cliff. Horse/donkey and pony riding was a well supported pursuit for little cost but the week was highlighted by the 'football match of the year' against the RAF resulting in an 11—10 defeat. This was followed by a mini display of Platoon weapons at the Troodos Leave Centre for the many children of servicemen who were on holiday there. It lasted all afternoon and we shall be well remembered for it, a very popular move.

After two months we left Episkopi and headed east for Dhekelia ESBA to take up rather similar duties, at the well sited Alexander Barracks, exactly 86 paces from the Coy block to the sea. Our first few weeks we were training Coy, which was enjoyable. Plenty of swimming, water-skiing, for some subaque, horseriding — sorry, Equitation courses, visits to Larnaca resulting in more hangovers and military training. The two months in Dhekelia was split by a two-and-a-half-week tour of duty at Ayios Nikolaos. The whole Coy provided security for 9 Signals Regt as well as watching the Turkish Regular Army from two permanent OPs, operating an ECP on the Famagusta to Dhekelia road, and patrolled the border. A more enjoyable task was the 24 hrs duty at Fort Bravo which prevented entrance to the Turkish occupied village of Athna. From this location we mounted security, confidence and 'showing the flag' patrols in Athna refugee camp. On our return to Alexander Barracks the Coy was back on to 'two hours stand-by duty', with the Platoon going temporarily out of action while the Drums element practised their part of the Beating of Retreat which was held on October 3. Their performance was excellent and a credit to the Platoon—soldiering one minute, musicians the next.

The Bn held two sports events during our last week. In the swimming the Coy came second with half-a-dozen swimmers being members of the Platoon. In the cross-country race the first member of the Coy to finish was placed 16th (a Recce Pl soldier), seven members of the Platoon were inside the first 45 runners including Sir! and his Platoon Sgt.

The next event in chronological order was the flight back to England. The return date is the 13th—not the best date to travel on—but at least its not a Friday. The future back in Aldershot holds a disbandment of 12 Platoon and a reforming of the Drums Platoon and a rather short-staffed Recce Platoon re-establishing their image of parkas and stripped-down Land Rovers.

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POSTINGS IN

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

Lcpl Blagbrough from 10 AYT.

Pte Fowler from School of Infantry, Warminster.

Ssgt Manion from School of Infantry, Warminster.

Sgt Minto from ACIO Leeds.

Pte Backhouse from School of Infantry, Warminster.

Sgt Brennan from Depot The King's Division.

Sgt Hey from Depot The King's Division.

Bdsm Castleton from RMSM.

Bdsm Mears from RMSM.

Bdsm O'Keefe from RMSM.

Bdsm Ralph from RMSM.

WO2 Clarke from 9 Cadet Training Team.

The undermentioned have rejoined the Battalion on re-enlistment:

Lcpl Ijey from Depot The King's Division.

Pte Fothergill from Depot The King's Division.

Cpl Nellist from Depot The King's Division.

The undermentioned have joined the Bn on completion of their Basic Recruit Training at Depot The King's Division:

Ptes Bagshaw, Hackney, McKnight, Bland, Hanley, Townend, Walters, Brown 91, Fairburn, Carter, Smith 86, Mullet and Brook.

The undermentioned have been posted on to our attached strength:

Pte Alderson (ACC) from 16 Para Bde.

Pte Lafferty (ACC) from Trg Bn and Depot ACC.

Pte Davies (RAPC) from AAC Arborfield.

Sgt Swap (APTIC) from ASPT, Aldershot.

POSTINGS OUT

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

Cpl Price to Depot The King's Division.

Lcpl Lomax to 10 AYT.

Pte Hayes to School of Infantry, Warminster.

Pte Carnell to APRE, Farnborough.

Sgt Arrowsmith to ACIO, Huddersfield.

Pte Cutts to School of Infantry, Warminster.

WO2 (ORQMS) Milner to Inf and GSC M and R Office (North).

Sgt Peat to IJLB, Shorncliffe.

Pte Nunns to RMP (vol transfer).

Sgt Fleming to Depot The King's Division.

Lcpl Henstock to IJLB, Shorncliffe.

Ssgt Hudson to AYSE (South).

Ssgt Butler W. N. to 3 Yorks.

Cpl Russell to Depot The King's Division.

Cpl Laws to Depot The King's Division.

Cpl Sullivan to Depot The King's Division.

Cpl Wolstenholme to Depot The King's Division.

Bdsm Clough to RMSM.

Bdsm Foxtan to RMSM.

Bdsm Mann to RMSM.

Bdsm Keenan to RMSM.

Cpl Sutton to Depot The King's Division.

Sgt Goddard to Depot The King's Division.

The undermentioned attached personnel have left the Bn strength:

Cpl Barham to Trg Bn and Depot ACC.

Lcpl Williams (ACC) to SEME, Bordon.

Sports & Clubs

RUGBY**Army Rugby Cup****SEME (Bordon) 4—1 DWR 6**

SEME were the only Army team to beat the Dukes in the 1974 season, so it was with slight trepidation and great determination that we faced them in the Cup in our second match of the season. It was a very windy and wet day and we opted to play with the wind in the first half. The Dukes set off at a fast pace nearly putting Lcpl Ena Elwell over for a try in the corner in the first few minutes. However, the opening storm was strongly weathered by SEME and they began to take control in the mauls and lineout. The Dukes, however, went ahead with a penalty by Lt Bill Atkinson, but then had to face a period of intense SEME pressure before Lt Bill Atkinson made the score 6—0 with another penalty just before halftime.

In the second half the Dukes had the better of it territory wise. The ball began to move down the backs swiftly and effectively with both centres, WO2 Peter Robinson and Lcpl Graeme Walker breaking through and being stopped just short of the line. The forwards were beginning to take charge of scrums but losing in the lineout. A bad defensive error in the middle of the second half led to a try being scored by SEME under the posts. Unbelievably they missed the conversion, so making the score 6—4 as it was to remain. The Dukes were still endeavouring to play open handling rugby which generally kept us in the opposition's half despite their desperate efforts for another score. The match ended at 6—4 and 30 players trooped off knowing they had been in a very hard match.

Team: Lt Atkinson, Lcpl Walker, Lcpl Elwell, WO2 Robinson, Lt Saville, 2/Lt Shuttleworth, Lt Grieve, Capt Thorn, Lt Pitchers, 2/Lt Kilburn, Pte Moorhouse, Lcpl Spencer, Pte Williams, Sgt Swap, Lt Drake.

London Universities 4—1 DWR 15

After the Cup match on Monday we faced London Universities with a slightly changed side. Lt Paul Saville and Cpl Dick Allen moved in the centre in place of WO2 Robinson who was away with the Combined Services and the injured Lcpl Walker. Pte Sam Fleury took part on the right wing and Sgt Wragg played prop in place of 2/Lt Kilburn. It was a wet day and consequently the ball was slippery, but from the start we moved it along the backs. We took an early lead through a penalty by Lt Bill Atkinson, then a well taken try by Cpl Dick Allen. So after 15 minutes we were surprisingly winning 9—0. Play switched from end to end, with neither side threatening to score. The forwards were beginning to take control in the tight and the loose, but as the rain was falling the backs were slightly restricted in their handling. In the second half the pattern was much the same, with each side getting an even amount of ball, until London Universities finally broke through for a try making

it 9—4. The opposition then started to apply consistent pressure until shortly afterwards the Dukes forced a scrum near London's line and from a grub kick by Lt Paul Saville, Cpl Dick Allen made a fine pick up to dive over for a try which was converted. The score remained at 15—4 for the remaining few minutes of the match, which meant that the Dukes had won three matches in a week.

Team: Lt Atkinson, Lcpl Elwell, Lt Saville, Cpl Allen, Pte Fleury, 2/Lt Shuttleworth, Lt Grieve, Capt Thorn, Lt Pitchers, Sgt Wragg, Lcpl Spencer, Pte Moorhouse, Pte Williams, Sgt Swap, Lt Drake.

1 DWR 26—Shrivenham 4

Yet another wet day heralded the match against Shrivenham. The Dukes set off at a fast pace and scored a try through Lt Drake in the first few minutes. Shrivenham pulled three points back through a penalty directly afterwards before unconverted tries by Lts Atkinson and Saville put us 12—4 ahead. For the first 20 minutes the Dukes played fast open rugby, but then moves began to break down and the score remained the same up to half time.

In the second half we continued to make mistakes for 15 minutes before settling down again and scoring three further tries through Lts Grieve and Saville and Pte Williams. One of these tries was converted by Lt Atkinson which made the final score 26—4. The second half went well in patches, but the eventual result was quite satisfactory.

Team: Lt Atkinson, Lcpl Elwell, Lcpl Walker, WO2 Robinson, Lt Saville, 2/Lt Shuttleworth, Lt Grieve, Capt Thorn, Lt Pitchers, 2/Lt Kilburn, Lcpl Spencer, Lcpl Moorhouse, Lt Drake, Sgt Swap, Pte Williams.

After the match the Commanding Officer presented Regimental Rugby Caps to the following members of the winning 1974—75 Army Rugby Cup team: Lt Pitchers, Capt Newell, Capt Carroll, Lt Atkinson, 2/Lt Shuttleworth, Lcpl Moorhouse, Lcpl Walker, Pte Williams.

Cpl Tom Waqabaca was presented with a CO's commendation for his services to Regimental and Army rugby. He left the Army on December 31.

INTER COY SPORTS

Following ex-Advent Express, the Battalion turned its attention to an inter-company sports competition. It was designed to sort out the unit talent in preparation for the 16 Para Bde Inter-Unit Warrior Trophy in February. Each company entered teams for soccer, rugby, hockey, cross-country, orienteering, volleyball, basketball, tug-of-war and boxing.

After several protests, much gamesmanship and tremendous effort 'Somme' Coy just pipped 'Alma' Coy to be champion company. Memorable events included Lcpl Pemberton's ('S' Coy) left jab in the boxing, Pte Hicklin ('C' Coy) running away literally with the cross-country, very close rugby games between 'C' and 'S' Coys, and 'S' and 'H' Coys (with OIC Rugby biting his nails over the many injuries!) 'A' Coy with '7' Bn players being pipped in the soccer 3—2, and a hockey final between lacrosse and karate.

The competition was a great success and we needed the two weeks leave at Christmas to recover.

RUGBY

1 DWR 49—HMS Vernon 0

This match was played in Portsmouth, and due to Army calls and injuries the Dukes fielded a much altered back division. 2/Lt Guy Shuttleworth moved from fly-half to scrum-half with Sgt Mick Cuss wearing the No 10 shirt. Cpls Graeme Walker and Dick Allen in the centre, and on the right wing Pte Barnes had his first 1st XV match. Lt Paul Saville moved to full-back. It took the Dukes about 16 minutes to settle down and score, but from then on tries were scored at regular intervals, with Barnes scoring a hat-trick. The scrum got plenty of possession, and the second phase ball was particularly impressive. The backs moved the ball well and were generally too quick for the opposition who played hard throughout.

Team: Lt Saville, Pte Barnes, Lcpl Walker, Cpl Allen, Cpl Elwell, Sgt Cuss, 2/Lt Shuttleworth, 2/Lt Kilburn, Lt Pitchers, Capt Thorn, L/cpl Spencer, Lcpl Moorhouse, Pte Williams, Sgt Swap and Lt Drake.

ARMY CUP

1 DWR 8—7 Para RHA 3

On a cold and icy pitch the match got under way with 7 RHA applying five minutes of hard pressure. From then to the last quarter the opposition never came really close to scoring. The Dukes forwards played extremely well and supplied the backs with plenty of ball. The backs moved the ball quickly but despite going close on the wings they were held back by fierce tackling. Half-time arrived with the score at 0—0. The Dukes had missed two kickable penalties and missed a further three in the second half. After continuous pressure in the second half the deadlock was finally broken with a try by Lt Tim Sinclair after a fine forwards drive. A second try was scored shortly afterwards with a superb run by Lcpl Ena Elwell. After that the Dukes became complacent and 7 RHA kicked a penalty and started to run the ball and began to look threatening for the first time. However, the score remained at 8—3 until the final whistle.

Team: Lt Saville, Lcpl Walker, WO2 Robinson, Lt Atkinson, Cpl Elwell, 2/Lt Shuttleworth, Lt Grieve, Capt Thorn, Lt Sinclair, 2/Lt Kilburn, Lcpl Spencer, Lcpl Moorhouse, Lt Drake, Sgt Swap, Pte Williams.

The next round, the UK semi-final, is to be played against the winners of 42 Survey Regt RA and the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. It will be played on a neutral ground, and is likely to be in late January early February 1976. Details will follow. The other semi-final is between Guards Depot and 1 WFR in Northern Ireland.

SOCCER

South-East District Major Units Cup

We played the 1st Round of the South-East District Major Units Cup on a cold wet day against SEE (School of Electronic Engineering) who last season beat us in the same competition by six goals to one. After playing only one friendly game against

an ACC scratch side we didn't fancy our chances at all. The Dukes were represented by:

Lcpl O'Garro, Sgt Heron (capt), Lcpl Slater, Lcpl Hughes, Pte Oakley, Pte Gray, Lcpl Smith, E, Lcpl Smith M, Pte Bucknor, Cpl Lightfoot, Cpl Sollitt. Substitute: Pte Bartnik.

It was soon apparent that we were in for a hard match with the visitors attacking from the first whistle. The Dukes could not settle down and the defence was guilty on many occasions of passing to the opposition. However, the finishing of SEE was all at sea and they missed chance after chance. Our position was not improved when our skipper Sgt Heron was injured and had to leave the field. Bartnik substituted. On one of our few attacks we did manage to get the ball in the net but it was disallowed for offside. For the remainder of the first half the visitors did all the attacking and were guilty of some glaring chances missed, but the Dukes were now playing a lot better.

Half-time: 1 DWR 0—SEE 0.

After the interval the Dukes had to play up a slight slope and after an initial burst of attacking by the visitors when more chances were missed, we gradually began to play much better and we got on top. After 70 minutes play Cpl Lightfoot sent Cpl Sollitt away down the left wing, he cut in and placed his shot inside the far post. Shortly afterwards Pte Bucknor should have scored when he was clean through but he delayed his shot and the keeper saved. After 80 minutes it was all over. This time Cpl Sollitt to Cpl Lightfoot on the left wing. He cut in and beat the keeper inside the far post. An exact replica of the first goal. This goal demoralised SEE and for the last 10 minutes the Dukes completely dominated the game.

Verdict: A good team effort after a shaky start.

Final score: 1DWR 3—SEE 0.

ARMY GYMNASTIC AND TRAMPOLINE CHAMPIONSHIP

Once again the Dukes won most of the trophies and medals at these Championships.

Star performances were by Lcpl Beck and Pte Sharp of 'Hook' Coy who won the Senior Team Trampoline and were placed 1st and 3rd respectively in the Senior and Intermediate trampoline events.

Other results were:

Lcpl Beck—Runner up in 1st Grade Gymnastics.

Lcpl Harvey—6th in Individual Trampoline (Intermediate).

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EDITOR KNOW OF ANY
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BRITISH ARMY MOTOR ASSOCIATION TRIAL-O-TEST

The Battalion has at last entered that glamorous world of Motor Sport, albeit not in the Formula 1 Class! Of the few competitors entered in a local civilian rally, however, we did succeed in taking the first two positions of the Landrover class, while, at the same time, having a thoroughly enjoyable day's rallying. The event held on Long Valley Training Area (not to be recommended for a family drive!) was organised by a local motor club and was open to British Army Motor Association drivers.

We only hope we do as well in forthcoming events.

The Dukes final positions in the Landrover class were as follows:

1st Sgt Grimwood; 2nd Lt Hall; 5th Lcpl Thackeray; 7th Lcpl Garner.

SUB-AQUA CLUB IN CYPRUS

The reason we failed to produce any notes for the last *Iron Duke* was quite simple. All diving kit was packed for Cyprus when the movement order was cancelled, hence for three months we did no diving, much to our disgust. However, we are now finishing

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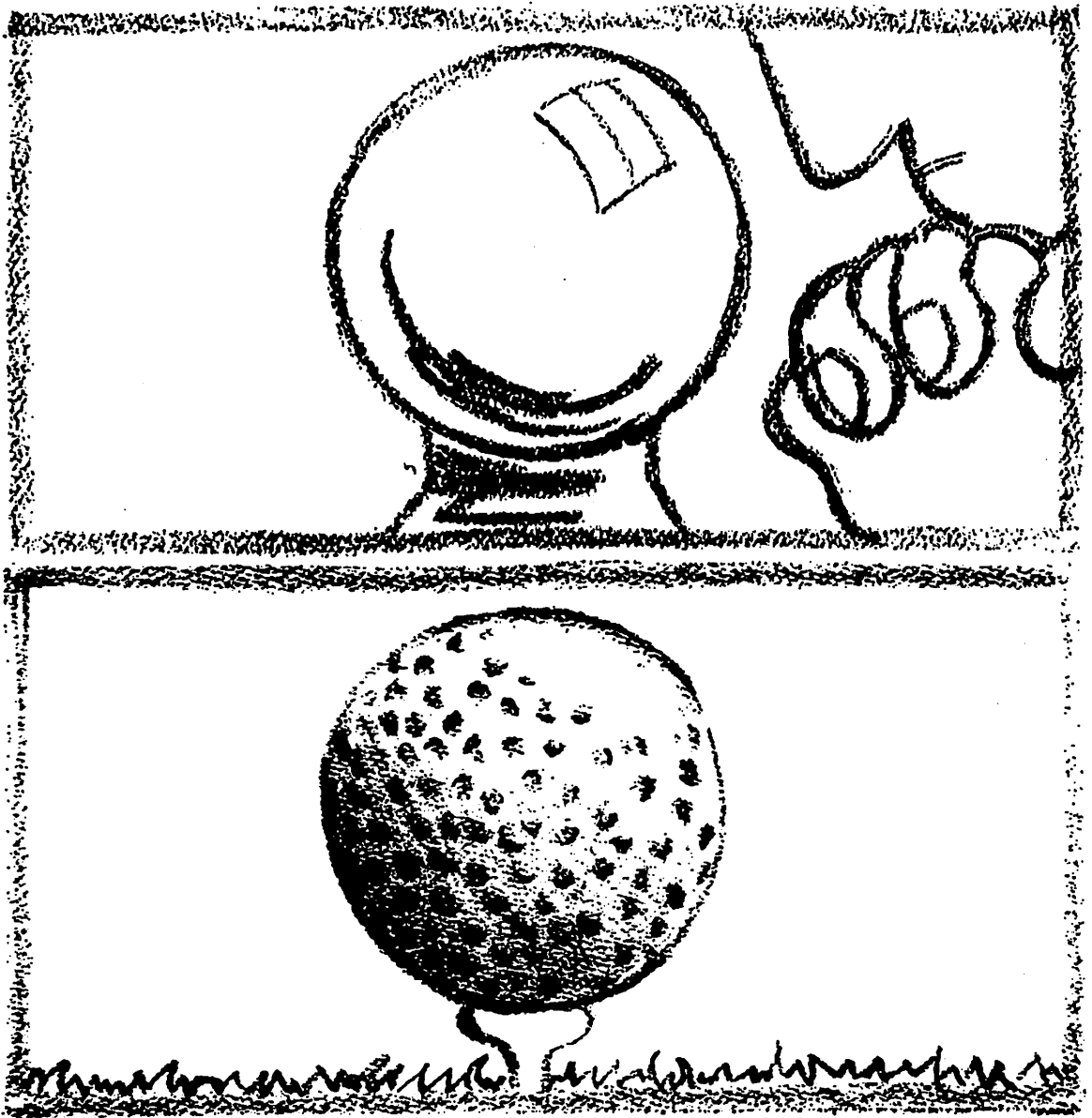


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our shortened tour in Cyprus and can say that it was worth the wait. To come in low over Akrotiri point as the plane lands, and see blue green water with excellent vis, is enough to wet any divers appetite.

Due to the delay in the sea freight, we spent three weeks diving on borrowed kit. We collected our boats and engines the day after arrival and set about finding good dive sites, by snorkelling all over the place. Finally, the kit arrived and even as we were unpacking it, a phone call was received from Sgt Paddy McCauley of 1153, Marine Craft Unit, asking for assistance to salvage some nets from an overturned fishing boat. In all £1,600-00-worth of nets were retrieved, and we were into diving at last. Shortly after, a 15-ton yacht went on the rocks in a storm, and once again our good friend Paddy McCauley asked us to help. Under his expert guidance, we patched the sinking boat and soon the pumps began to gain. Half-an-hour later, the boat was well afloat and being lifted from the water.

Everyone in Cyprus has found Roman Anchors, were no exception. We lifted two in one morning, but there after didn't bother with them. Fish and plant life are sparse out here, but one can always find shells to collect (not line ones please note) and we tried our hand at underwater photography. Octopus were the 'models' more often than not, but the odd Moray eel was asked to pose also.

Akrotiri point is good diving, but as we were diving nearly every day, and all weekend, we soon found it became boring. Miles of sea grass, with only small fish for company. In deeper water, however, we did find Wrasse, Grouper, and shoals of Tunny fish. I'd like to say here, that our thanks must go to Paddy McCauley who worked every trick in the book to ensure that we had air, boat moorings, weather information, etc. He also took us out on the Air Sea Rescue Launches which was of real value to those studying navigation for their 2nd Class. We hope we returned the favour by entertaining him and his good family to two very successful Divers only Bar-B-Ques, held on the beach.

Next we were moved from Episkopi to Dhekelia by order of MOD where we met with Branch 120 British, Sub-Aqua Club, and again another Irishman, Paddy Foster. Immediately, he took us under his wing and gave us not only his knowledge of good dive sites, but personally conducted us around them underwater. Places of interest are Pyla Point, with a three stage drop off to a sand bottom, and that wonderful divers heaven, Chappel Bay. Here one enters the water from a cave and by taking 'one pace step forward March' you enter into the most spectacular scenery. A sheer wall on your right drops to 40ft, and then slopes away rapidly to infinity. Here one can fin through a tunnel, a pottery wreck, or just bumble along at your own chosen depth in gin clear water, at 27½ deg C. The diver is in an underwater paradise collecting shells, or just looking in the holes.

Coral can be found, and some holes are large enough to get into. Grouper are fairly common, as are Moray eels, and its amazing how fearless they are. On many occasions divers fed fish with bread,



Sgt Terry Cooper helps to salvage nets

and while they would not touch your hand, they'd come right up to your mask. A beautiful experience, and one to be remembered.

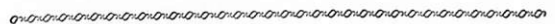
Two of our Companies are detached to the UN but when possible we got them to visit us and dive. Due to this splitting of the Bn, we lost seven good divers who were only able to get the odd dive in. However, the remaining 17 managed to bash in anything from 20 to 68 dives. To date with 10 days to go before we pack the kit we have logged a total of 460 dives in Cyprus so we can hardly be accused of being idle. On return to Aldershot, we will set the 2nd Class examination and hope to have at least another six 2nd Class divers. Apart from the pleasure of diving out here, we have achieved some practical results.

Night diving has proved popular with the club; we always start the evening dive with a 15-minute session on ropes and signals for each diver, just to keep him in trim. It's good to see lads progressing and for our part, the tour out there has been a Godsend. It's nearly over now, and soon we'll be back in Horsea Lake training new divers and continuing our activities throughout the winter.

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Depot, the King's Division

Life at the Depot has been somewhat hectic, to say the least over the past few months. There have been many procedural and establishment changes, all of which have served to quicken the pace of life. Added to this we have faced a sharp rise in the level of recruiting which has meant that platoons are starting training almost sixty strong, posing all sorts of problems of allocation and supply.

On the social side too the Depot Dukes have been kept well occupied. There was the Reunion Dinner in Halifax closely followed by the Memorial Service in York Minster to name but two events from our social calendar.

Sadly the increased pressures have left their mark on sporting activities. Whilst the fixtures continue to be honoured, spectators at Strensall are an almost extinct race. However, the Dukes are doing their bit in Depot Sport; Messrs Lyons, Col-

ville and Goddard making regular appearances in the Rugby side, Cpls Wykes and Fereday doing their own thing with hockey sticks, and Cpl Anderson starring at Soccer (turncoat!).

Other achievements include Bob and Ann Spearman's recent marriage, congratulations, and Sgt Hey's recent third Chevron, again well done.

We welcome the following to the Depot and wish them a happy and successful tour:

Sgt Goddard, Cpls Sullivan, Wolstenholme, Russell, Price, Sutton and Lcpl Uttley.

We also welcome the following re-enlistments who have realised the error of their ways!

Ptes Fothergill and Bowes.

Pte Porter who constantly cried 'RTU' has had his wish granted and has returned to the 1st Battalion.

We sadly regret the loss of Ptes Leo Terence Doran and Glenn Riley who died in a road traffic accident at Burley-in-Wharfedale. Our deepest sympathy goes to their bereaved parents.

We are also sorry that Capt (QM) Bill Burke has been in hospital and wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

10 Army Youth Team

Since the last Youth Team contribution many changes have taken place, not only in personnel but in methods of working. These changes together with a brief résumé of the Team's aim and activities will form the content of these notes.

Aim

Army Youth Teams form part of the Army's policy of operating in the United Kingdom designed to support youth organisations, schools and clubs where young men of recruitable age can be found isolated from the general public. They are not recruiters per se but are more concerned with establishing and maintaining contacts with society in line with MACC (Military Assistance to Civilian Community).

AYT work under a District Commander Recruiting and Liaison (CRLS) who allocates them priorities. Within Yorkshire these are schools (ACF) and other organisations.

Activities offered

Youth teams offer a whole range of Adventurous Training activities to their customers on a 'no cost' or minimal cost basis. The scope ranges from Expeditions through to canoe building, including of course a whole range of indoor activities. Our team specialises in Rock Climbing and Expeditions. Those indoor activities alluded to are covered as a matter of course. Thus all members of the team have to be competent at least in those activities mentioned. Proficiency can be achieved by practice



10 AYT abseiling from the Huddersfield Library

Acknowledgements to Huddersfield Examiner

and attendance at any of the numerous courses run by Joint Service Establishments or the ASPI.

Administration

The team are equipped according to a scale laid down by Director of Army Recruiting (DAR), supplemented out of an annual vote allocated to CRLS by DAR for specialist items such as Kernmantel ropes, or canoe moulds. Team members are responsible for purchasing their own climbing boots, etc, until an Army issue is authorised some time next year. Unit Admin is carried out by the nearest Army unit, in our case HQ 3 Yorks (V).

Resume of Team Changes and Activities

Personnel

Within the Team, Capt Gilbert has replaced Capt Thorn as OC. The latter speeding off to Cyprus to try his brand of PR with the UNFICYP contingent. Sgt Howard has left the Army and is now working for the TAVR. Lcpls Blagborough, Cooper, and Wilkinson have gone to be replaced by Lcpl Lomax only at present. Lcpl Pennington—remember him?—is still here but intends to leave the Service in March next year.

Lastly Sgt Kelly has assumed the mantle of Team Sgt. This despite a rock climbing course in Wales where he was asked to fall to test an instructor who was being assessed. The instructor failed by 40 ft.

Activities

Apart from the numerous mini activities that have taken place, we have organised an expedition along Hadrians Wall for the Haugh Shaw School in Halifax, and succeeded in carrying out a sponsored Abseil off the top of Huddersfield Library with the local ACF detachment in aid of Cancer Research. This raised a commendable £104. We are in the

process of requesting permission to use Wainhouse Tower in Halifax for the same kind of activity. This time money will be raised for BLESMA and the Hipperholme Det of the ACF will do the work. We hope that this venture will receive the local council's blessing.

Conclusion

The weeks speed by, preparations for next summer are well under way already. We have succeeded in being accepted by grammar schools, thus changing our emphasis in line with current recruiting policy. A word to sum up the past 10 months—Phew!

Programming

Contacts are made with ones 'customers' and activities arranged. Courses are planned and run as required. Examples are:

Duke of Edinburghs Award Shooting and Expeditions.

Scout Master at Arms Shooting.

Weekend camps for Schools and ACF.

Charity work and Army Shows.

Establishing contact and maintaining it are the hub of Youth team work. Once established high standards have to be maintained. Civilian organisations and youth officers are initially suspicious, hostile, overjoyed or flabbergasted that the existence of youth teams were unknown to them. Running parallel with this is the continual need to be aware, on the Teams part, of the image they are portraying of the Service in the eyes of the public. After all the only Army they see is on TV in Ulster, Shows and Tattoos, or the Youth Team. Thus such matters as dress, efficient performance, reliable and smart equipment are vital. A good impression created in dealing with the public can be of untold benefit to the Service. The opposite is also true.

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

Annual camp for 1 Yorks took place in September of this year at Thetford in Norfolk, this followed our last two camps which were held overseas in Cyprus and Germany respectively. After those last overseas camps the thought of staying on home ground this year tended to curtail those interesting and sometimes bizarre speculations that are invariably voiced by the older members of the Company before any visit which entails leaving the shores of our home country.

However, despite the apparent lack of romance which is attached to a home camp, Thetford proved to be a very interesting and enjoyable camp indeed. Our new Commanding Officer, Lt Col Richard Weare, took over from Lt Col Harry Ford in February of this year and so camp was a good opportunity for everybody to get to know our new CO's ideas on training. Right from the first day of camp everything went smoothly and the training was interesting and valuable. This year, whilst at

camp, all the trained soldiers had the opportunity of firing our platoon ATK weapons and the high ratio of hits with these weapons reflected the hard work and high standard of instruction put in by Sgt Bill Bailey, who was also acting as our CSM for the duration of camp. 1 Yorks have been fortunate in the past in having the opportunities of working with helicopters and assault boats, and camp this year was no exception as both forms of transport were integral parts of the final exercise.

At the end of the first week there was an inter-platoon march and shoot competition for an impressive trophy which was kindly presented by, and known by the name of, our Honorary Colonel Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent. This competition was a great success and the training in preparation for it fostered a strong feeling of enthusiasm and rivalry between the Coys which as yet show no sign of diminishing. Her Royal Highness made the presentation in the second week, as well as present-

**ANNUAL CAMP,
THETFORD 1975**



ing Territorial Efficiency medals to a number of members of the Bn including our own Cpl Barry 'Meet me under that star' Francis. The weather at camp was glorious and as the Thetford training area abounds with all species of wildlife it was especially pleasing to those who delight in disappearing into the undergrowth armed with nothing more lethal than a pair of field glasses.

A note of sadness was, however, present at camp as it was to be the last camp for both our padres, Maj Roy Mathews and Capt Bernard Funnell. Roy Mathews has attended no less than 22 camps with the Territorials, and that in itself speaks for the dedication and interest that he has always shown towards the Volunteers. We all send our best wishes to Roy and his wife Vera for the future. Father Funnell left us to serve with the Regular Army, and it is rumoured, not without foundation, that the reason for this is that Bernard was once rashly heard to say that he could guarantee to raise sufficient funds to finance the entire cost of supporting BAOR through the method of running even bigger and better Bingo competitions held on a NATO size scale. Both our padres have left spaces in the Bn which will be difficult to fill on account of their own individuality and enthusiasm, we all look forward to seeing both of them in the future when we hope that they will come back and visit us.

As well as our new CO, our Coy started camp with a new Coy Commander in the shape of Maj Keith Marsh who took over from Maj Desmond Tetlow, who himself has taken over as Coy Commander of 'HQ' Coy.

7 Platoon welcomed 2/Lt John Bimbo Taylor as their new platoon commander, and his theories concerning the use of the sun as an aid to map-reading, produced some remarkable results when attempting to apply it to cross country navigation by night—this flair for the scientific approach was equalled only by our RSO who, during the course

of an evening, came to the conclusion that fluid, on being discharged from the top of Thetford camp water tower, follows the natural laws of gravitation and results in an inevitable downward pattern of movement.

Now that Annual camp has passed we are concentrating upon building up our recruiting strength and with this in mind we have formed a recruiting team. The old saying that a 'Satisfied soldier is the best recruiter' is probably even more relevant today, as from our own efforts it is painfully obvious that many members of the general public are even today unaware of the existence of the Territorial Army despite advertising on a nationwide scale.

Editor's Lament

That this issue is late is greatly regretted. It has been unavoidable for technical reasons at the printers.

May I thank all contributors but make a plea for articles rather than a diary of events? Names of contributors are required.

Photos should be sharp but do not write on the reverse or use paper clips. When you do it sometimes shows up in the reproduction and cannot be used.

That our journal enjoys a good reputation is simply because you feed in good material. Bash on!

Huddersfield Area, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Yorkshire Army Cadet Force

This morning it occurred to me to wonder why I was carrying the August copy of the IRON DUKE in my brief case—the penny dropped with a resounding thud; to remind me, of course, the notes are due for the Editor on the 20th, and today is the 19th.

Happily on this occasion its not a case of what can I think of to put in, but rather what to leave out. Since the last issue we have had a very busy time. Not altogether unusual, except perhaps a little more newsworthy. Annual Camp was held in July, location Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, using Low North Field as the training area. The first three days were spent in barracks with some time spent on the beach with assault boats, this proved to be a great source of fun; to cadets and holidaymakers who had an unexpected free entertainment. The cadets soon gained in proficiency and some useful training was achieved, not so, however with the 'safety boat' which turned out to be an inflatable rubber contraption with a non-starting outboard motor. It was manned by Sgt Instructors Ray Battye and David Ellis, whose combined weight set the boat very low in the water, they paddled with great vigour almost, but not quite, in the proverbial ever diminishing circles. As a spectacle it was hilarious, as a safety boat well, thank goodness cadets have a strong sense of self preservation. The later half of the week was spent on the training area. Sgt Kelly and his band of merry 'Dukes' of 10 AYT gave us great assistance, particularly in the role of enemy. Training was carried on in the form of patrols from a permanent base camp and appeared to be successful, or so we were assured by our several visitors, including

Brig P. Prescott of NE District who paid us the compliment of visiting us in camp. One of the great problems of ensuring a good camp is that of feeding cadets, who are forever hungry. As usual, our other 'Uncle', 3rd Bn, Yorkshire Volunteers, gave us their ever willing assistance, not least with a goodly number of cooks who saw to it that cadets were well and truly fed, and thereby not fed-up.

Since annual camp we have had a number of weekends, both Area and Detachment, and some Detachments have 'done their own thing' with considerable success. Thongsbridge Detachment (DWR) and Huddersfield Detachment (DWR) combined to take part in a Signals exercise which proved to be excellent PR stuff, and which involved operating a radio net and laying telephone lines for the North Regional Caravan Camping Club. From the Friday through to the Sunday cadets were kept busy helping to direct traffic and parking, some 600 Caravans passing through the check points. During the Saturday evening entertainment, the Disco dance was stopped abruptly whilst some 400 people sang 'happy birthday' to Cadet Robertson of Huddersfield. As Sgt Maj Instructor Gordon Simpson remarked, 'you've never seen such a red-faced cadet, he lit up like a red flare'. But, typical of Robertson, he took it in his stride. He really is an unflappable cadet. In passing, a word of warning to 1st Bn, he is heading your way after he leaves school next year. During a quiet spell on the Sunday morning, the cadets put on a 'playtime' for the many children attending the week-end with their parents, after the style of any Army recruiting exhibition. The week-end concluded with marshalling the vehicles off the site. A good exercise and



Nijmegen Team
Some of the members with
RQMSI J. Fitton, MM

for which the cadets received considerable praise for their work, turn-out and behaviour. More recently, the good folk of Huddersfield town were given something to stare at when cadets of Huddersfield Detachment (DWR) abseiled down the wall of the Public Library throughout a Saturday morning. The event was organised by Capt Chris Gilbert of 10 AYT and of course the 10 AYT team with Sgt Kelly. Cadets did the abseiling, Maj Matthew Bateman and his 'C' (DWR) Coy of 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers did some useful recruiting and the Cancer Research Foundation some useful fund collecting. The event rated a brief showing on Yorkshire Television, with a commentary from our former OC, Lt-Col John Howarth. Our unofficial unit photographer, Vernon Hartley (he hasn't yet joined us officially) and recently of 1st Bn, took many 'pics', and the whole event was thoroughly enjoyed by all, including the old gentleman who was overheard muttering that 'the Duke's recruited 'em a bit bigger in his day'. He cheered up when it was explained they were Dukes Cadets, and had to grow a bit before they went to the Bn. 'A' Coy 3rd Bn, Yorkshire Volunteers have had cadets of Keighley Detachment (DWR) on a few weekends, and are arranging similar 'excitements' for Skipton Detachment (DWR) over the next few weeks.

Lt Terry Bonds, RQMSI Jack Fitton and 12 cadets of the Halifax and Mirfield Detachments (DWR) were successful in the Nijmegen March 1975. Completing both individual and team sec-

tions and gaining individual commemorative medals and a team medal. A considerable and praiseworthy effort on the part of all concerned, and worth all the hard work that went into the preparation. A small celebration party was held at Halifax Drill Hall on Thursday, August 28, when parents and guests were entertained. RQMSI Fitton handed over the Team Medal to the Area Commander, Maj P. R. Tattersall, for safekeeping, and a splendid shield commemorating the two marches, 1971 and 1975, which RQMSI Fitton has had made and which will now be given an honoured place among the Area Trophies. Since the event, three members of the Team, from the Halifax Detachment (DWR) have left to join the Regular Army, Cadet CSM Anton Zabrocky, Cadet Staff Sergeant Peter Leech and Cadet Sgt Peter Longridge, we wish them every success in their Army careers.

The Area goes to Proteous on the weekend October 25-26, thereafter a week-end in December at Strensall and which it is hoped to combine with a 'bit of a Christmas do', entertaining 130 cadets should keep a few officers and instructors on their toes.

We look forward to seeing something of 1st Bn, before they go off to BAOR, and thereafter perhaps a visit to Germany for some lucky cadets.

In conclusion, from the Officers, Instructors and Cadets of the Huddersfield Area, a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all readers of the Iron Duke, and 'Uncle' 1st Bn.

Views of a Frenchman

'In April 1975, the Bn was visited by a French newspaper reporter who was comparing the British, Dutch and West German Armies.

Translation from the French is by Lt David Massey'.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S IN FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD

Seated on a tiny stool, thighs covered with a yellow duster the man expertly polishes the enormous silver ewer, which he holds as delicately as if it were a fragile doll. On the shelves, on the table, on the ground stand other ornate vases, cups, goblets, trumpets and candlesticks, already shining brightly or still awaiting their weekly polish. All the Regimental Silver is going out on display. One might imagine oneself in a church vestry on the eve of a religious festival.

Lt Charles Grieve can at random pick out items in this extensive display. 'Here is his watch. Listen it plays "God Save the King". And his snuff-box with a lock of his hair on the lid was nearly lost at Waterloo. It was found on the battlefield the same evening full of dents as you see it today'.

Wanderlust

Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, who

is for the English the hero of June 18, 1815, has not just left his name or his illustrious memory to the Regt of Charles Grieve. He has also bequeathed a host of priceless objects to which have been added, in a century-and-a-half, presents traditionally offered by the officers who have served in The Dukes.

Polished every week, religiously kept (in the sacrosanct snuffbox the amount of snuff has not changed by a thousandth of a gramme since Waterloo), the silver follows the Regiment on all its travels; and heaven knows how numerous they are! The British Army perpetually has wanderlust.

'Look at our calender in these last few years', said Maj David to me. And he counts on his fingers, '1967: six months in Germany, six months in Cyprus; 1968: return to Kent; 1969: Hong Kong; 1971: Yorkshire, with two four-month tours in N. Ireland, and six weeks on Public Duties at at Buckingham Palace; 1973: back to N. Ireland—for a year-and-a-half this time.

'Now we have been in Aldershot since last November. Half the Regt has just left for six months in Cyprus. It is planned that we go to Germany in August of next year'.

More Travels

The great wanderers. And still the Major related details of movements in Canada, Puerto Rico, Malta and Kenya. Experienced traveller of seas and continents, Her Majesty's Army is still as present everywhere in the World as in the great days of the Empire. But for much longer? The last White Paper from the Ministry of Defence has just officially confirmed the end of an international role for British Forces which will soon be limited essentially to Europe.

This dark future leaves many servicemen in a state of indecision, whether he be in the ranks, an NCO, or Officer. 'I will not re-engage', says Pte Thompson, 'when my three-year contract finishes. I signed in the hope of seeing different countries and when all's said and done I haven't seen much'. So what will happen in the next few years?

His friend Dugdale is married with two children and does not agree. He is on a nine-year engagement—'I've been to Hong Kong, Cyprus, and the Caribbean, which isn't too bad. We'll move less perhaps but we'll be with our families more often'.

Laughter from the NCOs

The only black point put to me by NCOs of the Regt. 'Sometimes we have to stay away from our families, this averages five months a year. But which job hasn't its inconveniences'?

However, with each posting The Duke of Wellington's Regt move with armoury and luggage, wives and children, dogs and cats—not forgetting that snuffbox! Each British regt is equipped to be able to operate independently anywhere in the world.

Out of 600 men in The Dukes one third are married. Their families live in Army accommodation. They do their shopping in special shops, the NAAFI, and send their children to English teachers. Most of them prefer to send them to boarding schools in England in which case the Army pays half the cost plus two journeys per annum to visit parents, even in the Antipodes.

'In spite of everything', says Maj David, 'you cannot escape certain periods of separation; when we are in Cyprus or Northern Ireland for example'. How does the Army see their job in that hotbed corner of the UK?

'No problem. There, like elsewhere in the world, we have a duty to remain neutral and to make law respected, whoever infringes it'.

One has to say that these 'Soldiers of the Queen' do not waste time worrying about domestic or international politics. Less than 10 per cent of them make use of their right to vote and when I spoke of a Military Trade Union their laughter would I'm sure have made the Tower of London tremble, fortunately 40 kilometres away.

Soldiers of Korea

'What would we do with a Union?' asks the RSM, much respected in The Dukes. 'Whatever our rank we know each other so well that we know immediately if any one of us has problems. We try to be a big family. For example, there are 600 men in the regiment and I know at least 250 of their names and christian names!'

I could verify RSM Collins' words, since during my visit I was welcomed more as a friend than a fleeting visitor. This truly friendly atmosphere is easily explained; in the British Army, unlike many other countries, one rarely changes one's Regt.

In the Dukes there are still some soldiers who were involved in the Korean War. NCOs and Officers do likewise through their career except for time away on courses. Charles Grieve's father was an Officer in The Dukes and the reason Pte Thompson signed for three years might well be that his father and grandfather had served in the Regt.

Another peculiar system across the Channel is that each Regt has connections with Counties or Area in which their recruiting is done and this reinforces the links inside the Military community.

The warm side of relationships does not prevent the respect for strict discipline. You must not take The Duke of Wellington's Regiment for St Theleres Abbey painted in olive green.

In the Guardroom Lt Grieve showed me three beds.

On each one of them, placed in strict order, was the cap, vests and trousers of the uniform surrounded by four black shoes, shinier than any of a first-class undertaker's; this was the clothing of three soldiers who were prisoners for several days.

I saw them pass by, bareheaded, clean shaven, neck outstretched, marching in step or on the spot with the Provost Sgt barking at their heels. Punished, but, more important, excluded from the family unit until they have served their sentence.

Forgotten Family

'This discipline is necessary' the young Lieutenant comments. 'But you must not think that it is applied in an irresponsible way. Exercising authority is based on the loyalty of the soldier. If he obeys his superior it must be because he has confidence in him. We must moreover have troops disciplined and trained for all types of job. Our Army is small, 180,000 men, but it is an Army which requires the men to operate with very sophisticated weapons and in any theatre of operations'.

In a way the Duke of Wellington's Regt is very representative of the British Army tradition, friendship, discipline, and efficiency, all form a well proportioned mixture. However, does the Army fear the days of conscription—perhaps not too far away?

RSM Collins made a rapid calculation. 'There were few times as many detained in the guardroom'. For him that comment was a sufficient answer.

But one Officer did admit: 'In the case of a serious and drawn out conflict we would have to train more troops. In other respects we live in a fairly amicable climate, but the Army is separated from the rest of the country. There is a risk that the gap between soldier and civilian will increase even more and that is not a good thing. As you say in France "Out of sight out of mind". Will we one day become a forgotten army?'

Obituary

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

Maj Douglas Brisbane-Jones-Stamp

Douglas died on October 20 in Carlisle hospital after a short illness.

Born in February 1917, he was commissioned in August 1937, shortly after joining the 2nd Bn at Nowshera in the North-West Frontier Province, bringing with him his unique attitude to life, almost as if he belonged to an earlier age and was unprepared to conform to the alien attitudes around him.

An early example was his purchase of a pony and trap as a means of transport. Helped by small Indian boy, the first of a series of small boys, all called 'Buckwheat', he would get home safely after the Saturday dance at the club whereas his fellow subalterns on their more conventional bicycles were not always so successful.

His pack of Basset hounds which he hunted from the Yorkshire Brigade Depot at Strensall gave pleasure to a wide circle.

Generous and helpful, many a young officer has been grateful for his help and guidance so willingly given.

The Regt and his many friends are the poorer for the loss of a colourful and likeable character who lived his life in his own style and gave pleasure to so many.

Mrs Gwendoline Maffett

On October 2, 1975, in hospital as the result of a fall, Gwendoline Mary aged 100 years, beloved widow of Lt Col R. E. Maffett, late the Duke of Wellington's Regt, mother of Alan and the late John and Gerald, killed in action.

Mrs Maffett celebrated her 100th birthday on March 5. She was presented to Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace at the age of 17 and after marrying Reginald Maffett in 1911 was posted to India. Her husband commanded the 1st Bn there from 1916-20.

The Memorial Service on October 13 at St John's Church Maidenhead, was attended by Lt A. J. Pitchers of the 1st Bn representing the Colonel and Officers of the Regiment.

Mr Herman Harris

On September 17, 1975, in hospital, Herman Harris of 240 Warley Road, Halifax, husband of the late Dora and brother of Jim and Frank.

Mr Harris will be remembered by many generations of Dukes as the Newsagent to the Depot. A great supporter of the Regt, he presented the seat in the Rose Garden at RHQ on his retirement in 1963.

Mr Jim Ballard

It is with great sadness that we have to notify the death of Jim Ballard who died at London on August 4, 1975, through a heart attack though he had been in poor health for quite a time.

Jim enlisted into the 1st Bn in January 1932 and was posted to the 2nd Bn in 1934. He took part in the Mohmand operations on the North-West Frontier and was awarded the Indian General Service Medal. He left the 2nd Bn in 1938 and on the outbreak of war was posted to the Royal Engineers serving with the 51st Highland Division in France. After Dunkirk he took part in the invasion of Madagascar and from there returned to India and transferred back to the 2nd Bn to be with his brother Bob Ballard who was machine gun Sgt. Jim took part in the Burma campaign with one of the 2nd Bn Chindit columns.

I got to know Jim when the 2nd Bn was at Barambi (near Ranchi) where he was Platoon Sgt of the Assault Pioneer Platoon, the Commander of the Platoon being Lt G. Tedd. He was a rather quiet person for whom everybody had a great liking and was devoted to his twin brother Bob. At the time of his death he was chairman for the Regimental Association London branch and his absence will certainly be felt by the branch and mourned by us all.

W.N.

Pte L. T. Doran and Pte G. Riley

It is with great regret to learn of the death of Pte Leo Terence Doran and Pte Glenn Riley, who were killed in a road traffic accident on October 20, 1975, during the Bns end of tour leave period.

Miss Gale

Miss Sarah Gale, aged three months, daughter of Pte and Mrs Gale, at Aldershot on August 14, 1975.

Miss Gibbs

Our older members will be sorry to hear of the death of Miss Bertie Gibbs on September 1. She was the elder daughter of the late Col J. A. C. Gibbs, CB, and Mrs Gibbs.

Personalia

BIRTHS

- To Capt and Mrs C. J. W. Gilbert, a son, Marcus William, born March 26, 1975.
- To Capt and Mrs J. M. Thorn, a son, Richard Granville, born on July 23, 1975.
- To Mr and Mrs M. S. Sherlock, a son, Charles Rupert, born July 25, 1975.
- To Lcpl and Mrs C. Lomax, a son, Darrin Scott, born on September 29, 1975.
- To Isabel (nee Sugden) and Usama Hamza of Beirut, a second daughter, Omayma Jane.
- To Bdsman and Mrs Williams, a son, Trevor Andrew, born on March 23, 1975.
- To Pte and Mrs McDonnell, a son, Simon James, born on April 8, 1975.
- To Cpl and Mrs Handley, a son, Kevin Francis, born on May 2, 1975.
- To Ssgt and Mrs Rose (REME), a daughter, Sharon Louise, born on May 14, 1975.
- To Pte and Mrs Warrior, a daughter, Natalia Jayne, born on June 6, 1975.
- To Lcpl and Mrs Bragg (ACC), a daughter Nicola Elizabeth, born on June 8, 1975.
- To Lcpl and Mrs Tooley, a son, Adrian David, born on July 8, 1975.
- To Pte and Mrs. Gilbert, a son William Ronald, born on July 13, 1975.
- To Sgt and Mrs Hunter, a son, David Stewart, born on July 16, 1975.
- To Pte and Mrs Clarkson, a son, Steven Michael, born on July 23, 1975.
- To Pte and Mrs Threlfall, a son Richard Brian, born on August 4, 1975.
- To Cpl and Mrs Verrall, a son, David John, born on August 12, 1975.
- To Lcpl and Mrs McQuade, a daughter Emma Ruby, born on August 2, 1975.
- To Lcpl and Mrs Macdonald, a son Wayne, born on August 27, 1975.
- To Cpl and Mrs Waterhouse, a son George Anthony, born on September 1, 1975.
- To Lcpl and Mrs Waller, a daughter.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Faulkner—Hickman

On September 1, 1925, at Canterbury, Capt St. John T. Faulkner, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, to Winifred M. Hickman. Now at 31, The Grove, Cheltenham.

Horne—Stevens

On November 7, 1925, at Alverstoke Church, Gosport, Hants. Cpl J. E. Horne, Duke of Wellington's Regiment to Lillian Rose Stevens. Now at 9, New Street, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield.

Wilkinson—Rochford

On August 26, 1925, at St Anne's Church, Keighley, Pvrte T. Wilkinson, Duke of Wellington's

Regiment to Catherine Rochford. Now at 7 Braithwaite Avenue, Keighley, Yorks.

ENGAGEMENTS

Hoppe—LeMasurier

The engagement is announced between Maj P. B. L. Hoppe, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and Capt S. Le Masurier, QARANC daughter of Sir Robert and Lady Le Masurier of La Ville a L'Eveque, Trinity, Jersey.

MARRIAGES

Wilson—Booth

On August 9, 1975, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ambrosden, Andrew Myles Wilson, son of Lt Col M. K. Wilson, RAOC, and the late Mrs 'Pat' Wilson, of Whiteparish, Wilts, to Hilary Jane Booth, daughter of Lt Col and Mrs D. Booth, Ambrosden, Bicester.

The marriage of Lcpl D. Cusworth to Elizabeth Hilda Daimedo took place at Aldershot Register Office on June 7, 1975.

The marriage of Pte M. Ayrton to Anne Maria Perfect took place at the Parish Church, Ash, on June 28, 1975.

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The marriage of Pte B. Marland to Margaret Stanley took place at Oldham Register Office on September 6, 1975.

The marriage of Lcpl G. Irving to Elizabeth Ann Palmer took place at Haughton Le Skerme on September 6, 1975.

The marriage of Lcpl A. Sagar (REME), to Maria Christofides took place at SBA Administrative Office, Dhekelia, Cyprus on September 15, 1975.

In a recent letter to the Regimental Secretary Mr Dixon Pickup enclosed a photograph of his 'Pride and Joy' a 1947 Triumph Roadster bearing the registration number plate 33 DWR. Mr Pickup adds that he has had an article on a 76th Coatee (1829-30) in his collection accepted for the journal of the Society for Army Historical Research. He has also acquired two more 76th items: an ORs Shako Plate 1816-28 and corresponding cross-belt plate.

On the subject of registration numbers, members attending the Regimental Association Dinner on September 27 were intrigued to see a Rolls Royce parked in the Drill Hall Yard bearing the registration 1 DWR. Unfortunately it is not the property of a Duke but was loaned for the occasion.

Maj Dick Ince writes to say that from December 15, he will be taking up the appointment of RO3 on the RHQ of the Parachute Regiment at Aldershot. This was the post he hoped for when retiring

2½ years ago. We all wish him well in his new job.

We congratulate Lt Col George Taylor on his appointment on Vice-President of the British Society of Dowsers.

We congratulate RSM (now Lt) Tom Pickersgill on the well deserved award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

At the Annual General Meeting held at Lords earlier this year Maj G. C. Tedd was elected to the Council of the Association of Cricket Umpires, and was appointed Chairman of the Association's Policy Advisory Committee.

We apologise to Maj P. J. Mortimer for wrongly posting him in our last issue. He has, of course, been posted to 'A' Coy 3 Yorks prior to becoming Second in Command of the Bn.

Correspondence

Dear Sir,

I was recently passed the copy of IRON DUKE for August 1975, by a local Duke of the 2/7 F. S. Schofield of Saddleworth, and it gave me great pleasure and I must say some nostalgia to read the report of our former very worthy colleague—B. J. Howe of 1/7 Bn, who 'very truly' writes such a very true detail of our good old 'NCOs and Lads' of the 7th Bn.

I can confirm the story of our worthy Cook Sgt, Wilf Gudger (Slaithwaite) who when we were put down, in Arctic outposts with nothing to shelter the cook or prepare food Gudger just had to 'Flog' a shelter. I should know, I was 'Transport Sgt' of the 1/7 Bn and I drove the truck to do the carrying for him (happy days).

I note that B. J. H. also quotes other great personalities such as Bill Salmon, or Sgt Drm Wood; and RSM Turnbull 'C' Coy CSM (I wonder where he got to, we were great pals).

He also mentions our own Jackie Horne (Slaithwaite 'HQ' Coy) what a 'comic' never a dull moment when CSM Horne was around I can assure you.

It was about this time in the 'Seventh' that, Sgt J. Ollerenshaw 'C' Coy Mossley, and myself Bill Robbins, Transport Sgt got done for pinching 'Two Icelandic Coffee Pots' (for Sgts Mess use), we both got into trouble but soon got our stripes back.

I often wish we could all meet and reminisce of our former days of 'Glory'.

However in closing, may I thank again our colleague B. J. Howe for his splendid little feature in 'Memories of a 7 Duke' and hereby say 'Very best wishes to all former 7 Dukes'.

Yours sincerely (Bill) W. T. Robbins (Coffee Pot),
Transport Sgt, 1/7 DWR 1938-45,
(Mossley Branch, Regimental Association).

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Dear Mr Editor,

Lately, questions have been asked in Parliament and in the National Press regarding the cost of Regimental Bands and the possibility of their eventual abolition. This to my mind, if it came to it, would be a tragic loss both to the country and to the recruitment of a future Army.

During the war years, the 7th Bn were lucky enough to have their very own Bn band. All bandsmen were trained soldiers, many of them were stretcherbearers or medical personnel and all of them did sterling work apart from their band duties. Just after VE day—the Bn had an occupational role to perform—it was our band 'Beating Retreat' which impressed the local populace and made out 'policing' job that much easier. I myself, living in London, have possibly more opportunity to hear first class Regimental bands; for instance, the finest free show in the world is to see the new guard marching from Chelsea barracks on their way to the Palace. It is wonderful to see the pedestrians on the pavements straighten their backs and march in time with the band. The past summer season in the parks has been enlivened by many excellent military bands playing everything from Gilbert and Sullivan through the better known classics to the latest 'pop'. Last month I listened with great enjoyment to the RAMC band and was surprised to learn that their Regimental march (the final item) was 'Here's a Health unto His Majesty' and not 'Medicine and Duty' as I had been lead to believe.

Military bands apart, the great brass bands of the North like Brighouse and Rastrick, Cresswell, CWS, and many more are maintained at a great deal

of cost mainly for their advertising value. This should apply to military bands; it must be an economic method of influencing the foreign 'locals' and show the flag. The German Army in the last show found that the easiest method of 'liberation' after taking a town was to set up a soup kitchen and give a band concert.

These are some of the pleasures and advantages of retaining our bands and it is up to each one of us to take a stand against the abolitionists and to convince our MPs that our bands are good value for money.

B. J. HOWE

The Farmhouse,
Sherrington,
Warminster.

Dear Sir,

The Colonel-in-Chief and all Members of the Regiment were kind enough to mark my retirement from the Colonelcy of the Dukes by presenting me with a set of three decanters in a polished wood holder or tantalus. It is most attractive and useful.

It is impossible to thank personally all those who played a part in the presentation. I therefore wish, through the columns of the IRON DUKE, to let the many who were involved know how much I appreciate the gift. I shall always treasure it as a reminder of many happy years in the Regiment.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT BRAY



The Tantalus presented to the retiring Colonel of the Regiment by the Colonel in Chief at the 72nd Annual Dinner of the Officers' Dinner Club at the Army and Navy Club. The inscription reads: 'Presented to General Sir Robert Bray, GBE, KCB, DSO, by the Colonel in Chief and all Members of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment on his relinquishing his Colonelcy, 7 July 1975'

The Officers' Dinner Club

The 72nd Annual Dinner took place at the Army and Navy Club on Friday, July 4, 1975.

The retiring Colonel of the Regiment presided.

As guests we welcomed Lt Col P. H. Duberger and Capt Lapointe, Commanding Officer and Director of Music, Les Voltigeur de Quebec.

During the proceedings the Colonel-in-Chief presented Gen Bobby with a Tantalus to mark his Colonelcy of the Regt.

The Luncheon was held also at the Army and Navy Club, on Saturday, July 5.

Those who attended the two functions were:

The Dinner

Brig His Grace the Duke of Wellington (Colonel-in-Chief).

Gen Sir Robert Bray (Colonel of the Regiment).

Maj Gens: D. E. Isles, G. F. Upjohn, J. D. Lunt.

Brigs: P. P. de la H. Moran, B. W. Webb-Carter.

Cols: F. R. Armitage, R. R. St. J. Barkshire, P. G. L. Cousens, J. Davidson, E. M. P. Hardy, C. R. Huxtable, D. W. Shuttleworth, R. G. Turner.

Lt Cols: M. R. N. Bray, J. H. Dalrymple, A. B. M. Kavanagh, P. A. Mitchell, A. E. H. Sayers.

Majs: C. M. B. Bateman, P. Bruce Lowe, R. H. Burton, W. F. Charlesworth, C. R. Cumberlege, J. H. Davis, E. J. P. Emmett, C. F. Grieve, P. B. L. Hoppe, R. H. Ince, C. W. Ivey, D. S. D. B-Jones-Stamp, C. C. Kenchington, J. H. S. Lane, T. D. Lupton, K. M. McDonald, J. S. Milligan, C. D. d'E. Miller, W. R. Mundell, D. M. Pugh, P. J. Puttock, W. F. C. Robertson, W. Robins, A. C. S. Savory, R. L. Stevens, J. L. Streafeild, G. C. Tedd, E. J. W. Walker.

Cpts: M. P. C. Bray, A. D. Roberts, The Lord Savile, T. D. Sugden, D. W. Wonson.

Lts: S. F. Bruce Lowe, M. A. Burton, D. J. Harrap, S. C. Newton, G. A. Reddington, J. A. Shenton.

The Luncheon

Col and Mrs F. R. Armitage, Gen Sir Robert and Lady Bray, Lt Col and Mrs M. R. N. Bray, Capt and Mrs M. P. C. Bray, Maj and Mrs J. H. Davis, Mrs J. B. K. Greenway, Col and Mrs C. R. Huxtable, Mrs F. M. Ince, Maj and Mrs R. H. Ince, Maj Gen and Mrs D. E. Isles and Miss Isles, Maj and Mrs D. S. B. B-Jones-Stamp and Miss Jones Stamp, Maj and Mrs K. M. McDonald, Maj and Mrs J. S. Milligan, Lt Col and Mrs P. A. Mitchell, Mrs W. R. Mundell, Miss P. A. Ozanne, Lt Col and Mrs A. E. H. Sayers, Maj and Mrs J. L. Streatfeild, Col R. G. Turner, Brig B. W. Webb-Carter.

Regimental Association

NOTICES

London and Home Counties Branch Dinner, 1976

On Saturday May 8, 1976, at the Victory Club, Marble Arch. All Association members cordially invited. Applications for tickets, £3, to Mr Ken Waterman, 21 Vivian Court, 128-134 Maida Vale, London W9.

Annual General Meeting, 1975

Under the Chairmanship of our new Colonel, Maj Gen D. E. Isles, OBE, the well-attended meeting in the Drill Hall, St Paul's Street, Huddersfield, was held on September 27, 1975.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read approved on the proposal of Mr W. G. Smith, seconded by Mr J. E. Horne. There were no points arising. The Secretary then gave his report.

Welfare

During the year 103 cases had been helped with an expenditure of £2,622; six cases less than last year but an increase in expenditure of £71.

He said that the improved standard of the Social

Services which deal with normal hardships had caused less call on private and Regimental funds but that there were still cases of distress and misfortune befalling some of our comrades which called for additional help. Although we had good contact and liaison with the Social Services, SSAFA, FHS, RBL, and other organisations he appealed to all present to let RHQ know of anyone whom they considered might be in need of assistance.

After Care

The welfare of dependants of soldiers who die and of soldiers medically discharged now devolves upon the Regimental Association. All DWR casualties had been helped when necessary and we were in close touch with all cases should the need arise for further help. We worked in close cooperation with the Army Benevolent Fund whose resources were much greater than ours and could be called upon if required.

Finance

Association Funds were in a very healthy state and a surplus income over expenditure was again shown in the accounts, the audited copy of which was posted in the hall for inspection.

Social

Activities continued in full spate in all branches. Huddersfield had recently been on a trip to the Edinburgh Tattoo. Mossley were again entertaining the Old Comrades of HEM (Mossley's twinning town in France) and were later to make a reciprocal visit to HEM in France. Huddersfield Branch were also making enquiries about such visits with Huddersfield's twinning town in France. Branch membership kept steady and there appears to be quite a lot of interest being shown by younger soldiers.

Regimental Ties

New stocks have been received and are available from RHQ. Price £1 each.

OTHER BUSINESS**Skelmanthorpe Ex-Army Association**

A request had been received at RHQ from a group of ex-officers and soldiers of various Corps/Regts living in the Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield area, who had formed an Association named 'The Ex-Army Association', seeking affiliation to our Association.

The Chairman of the Ex-Army Association, Maj R. Shuttleworth, RA gave the meeting an account of the objects of their Association.

It was proposed by Col C. R. Huxtable and seconded by Col D. W. Shuttleworth that we extend a welcome to the Skelmanthorpe Ex-Army Association and establish a liaison between our Association and theirs.

Mr J. Ballard

It was proposed by Maj G. C. Tedd, seconded by Mr R. Wilkinson that our sympathy with Mr Bob Ballard and the London Branch be recorded on the loss during the year of their Chairman, Jim.

Visits

The problems of the old and sick were discussed. Maj A. C. S. Savory emphasised the value and good done by personal contact both by RHQ and branch members.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 1920 hrs.

ANNUAL REUNION AND DINNER—1975**St Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield**

After the AGM nearly 200 members and friends sat down to dinner presided over by Maj Gen D. E. Isles, our new Colonel. Amongst the guests were Col C. R. T. Cumberlege, Col N. T. Bentley, Col C. R. Huxtable and Col D. W. Shuttleworth. Apologies had been received from Gen Sir Robert Bray, Maj Gen R. K. Exham, Brig B. W. Webb-Carter and many others.

After dinner, proposing the Toast to the Regiment, CSM Bill Norman said he considered it a great honour. He had served in the Regt as a boy in India and was now near retirement after 41 years' service.

As a boy he remembered listening to the exploits of soldiers in the First World War and how they had looked at the recruited soldiers, saying it was

a good job those lads had not been in the trenches. But those 'lads' had gone on to prove themselves in the 1939-45 War.

The same opinion of new soldiers had been held by older soldiers in every campaign he added.

Bill also recalled with pride how National Servicemen added to the honour of the Regt, particularly in Korea at the Battle of the Hook. Uniforms, weapons and tactics might change but the lads of today's Duke of Wellington's Regt are of the same metal as their forebears.

Responding to the Toast Maj Gen Isles said it was a pleasure to be back in the West Riding after a long tour of duty in Washington, USA. He was pleased to see such a large gathering of members and friends.

Commenting on the work of the 1st Bn—now in Cyprus—he said that they had acquitted themselves well and would soon return to Aldershot.

He gave thanks to the CO and staff of the 3rd Yorkshire Volunteers, especially 'C' (DWR) Coy, who had helped so magnificently with the organisation and preparation for the evening's festivities; to Mr Tom Mawson for his ever generous provision of floral decorations and to the many volunteers and Cadets who had helped in various ways. He gave special thanks to the Band of the West Riding Bn Association under the conductorship of Mr Bill Rees for the splendid music provided.

Chairs and tables aide, bars open and music in full swing all present attempted to converse, dance, drink and meet old friends all at the same time making that huge hall echo and re-echo with 'good noises' and 'Old Bill' portrayed in a trench in the

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picture on the balcony was seen to smile.

OTHER ITEMS

Mr Haley, 117 Upper Batley Lane, Batley, Yorks, has informed RHQ that he has a colour transparency of the grave and headstone of '5381897 Pte L. O. Taylor, 2 DWR' who was buried in Delhi, India, on September 7, 1944, aged 27 years.

Lt Col (Retd) J. E. Frankis of Heather Lodge, Tower Road, Hindhead, Surrey, wishes to trace ex-Pte Walter Round who was serving in the 1st Bn at Aldershot in the early 30s. Pte Round was discharged in 1940 and lived in Castleford.

William Lees, MC, ex-RSM of the 4th Bn in the First World War and now aged 92, living at 13 Pages Gardens, Pangbourne, Reading, regrets he was unable to attend this year's reunion but 250 miles is a long way to come for about three hours but, in his own words, 'I'm still proud to be a "Duke" and will never forget you all, Good Luck to all, keep smiling'.

Johnny Sargeant ended his colourful career with the 'Dukes' on September 20, 1975, and is now employed as a Barrack Accountant at Strensall, York.

OLD COMRADES

Seventy years ago, on October 4, 1903, on his second birthday, Jackie Horne left York for Southampton and embarked with his parents on HMT *Plassey* for India to join the Duke of Wellington's Regt. Admittedly it can hardly be said that Jackie 'joined' at the age of two yet he was brought up

and educated with the Dukes; enlisted as a boy; served in the 1st and 2nd Bns; 5th, 6th and 7th Bns of the Territorials attaining the rank of Sgt Maj Instructor; lost an arm and an eye in NW Europe and, on his 72nd birthday, on October 4, 1975, he is still actively and energetically involved in the social welfare of members of the Dukes also tirelessly looking after the welfare of members of HM Forces who suffered loss of limb during the war—the popular President of the Huddersfield Branch of BLESMA.

At the present time both he and Rose, who celebrate their Golden Wedding on November 7, 1975, are busily preparing for a celebration party in Huddersfield on November 8, 1975, but more about that anon.

During service in India one of Jackie's duties was to escort 'band boys' to the Church on Sundays, one of these 'boys' was 'Sax' Rowlands, later Capt Rowlands, and now the Secretary and Treasurer of the Halifax Branch.

Drum Major 'Jock' Norman was next door neighbour to Jackie in married quarters in India and Jock's son, Bill, served in the Regt as a 'boy', Jackie then a Platoon Sergeant. Bill Norman is shortly retiring after 41 years service.

In a small smoky part of industrial Yorkshire, many years later, in 1975, these three worthy Dukes exemplify the spirit of the Regt past and present viz:

J. E. Horne: Chairman Huddersfield Branch.

H. Rowlands: Secretary and Treasurer Halifax Branch.

W. Norman: Late Recruiting Officer ACIO Huddersfield and member of our Huddersfield Branch.

In Civilian Life



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Your service to Queen and Country needn't stop when you leave the Forces. The British Legion has as much interest in and responsibility for young ex-servicemen and women of today as it has for those of two world-wars and looks to them for its leaders of the future.

The Royal British Legion, 49 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5JY

ARMY CHESS ASSOCIATION

The ACA is a thriving organisation of chess players, their skill varies from county player standard to those who just enjoy a game. It costs only 50p per year to join the Association and for this very small sum you can get the following:

A magazine full of correspondence, games and ideas, published six times per year.

The opportunity to play in ACA tournaments and matches.

Postal chess competitions.

Use of the books in the chess library.

Your Garrison or unit may have a chess club already in being. The Garrison Education Centre should be able to tell you. If not, why not start one? We can advise you.

Please write to the Treasurer:

Capt David Young,
RAPC Computer Centre,
Worthy Down,
Winchester, Hants.

enclosing your 50p and giving your unit address and names and addresses of anyone else, who may be interested. Postal orders/cheques should be made payable to 'The Army Chess Association'.

For further details contact Maj Brian Anthony at the same address.