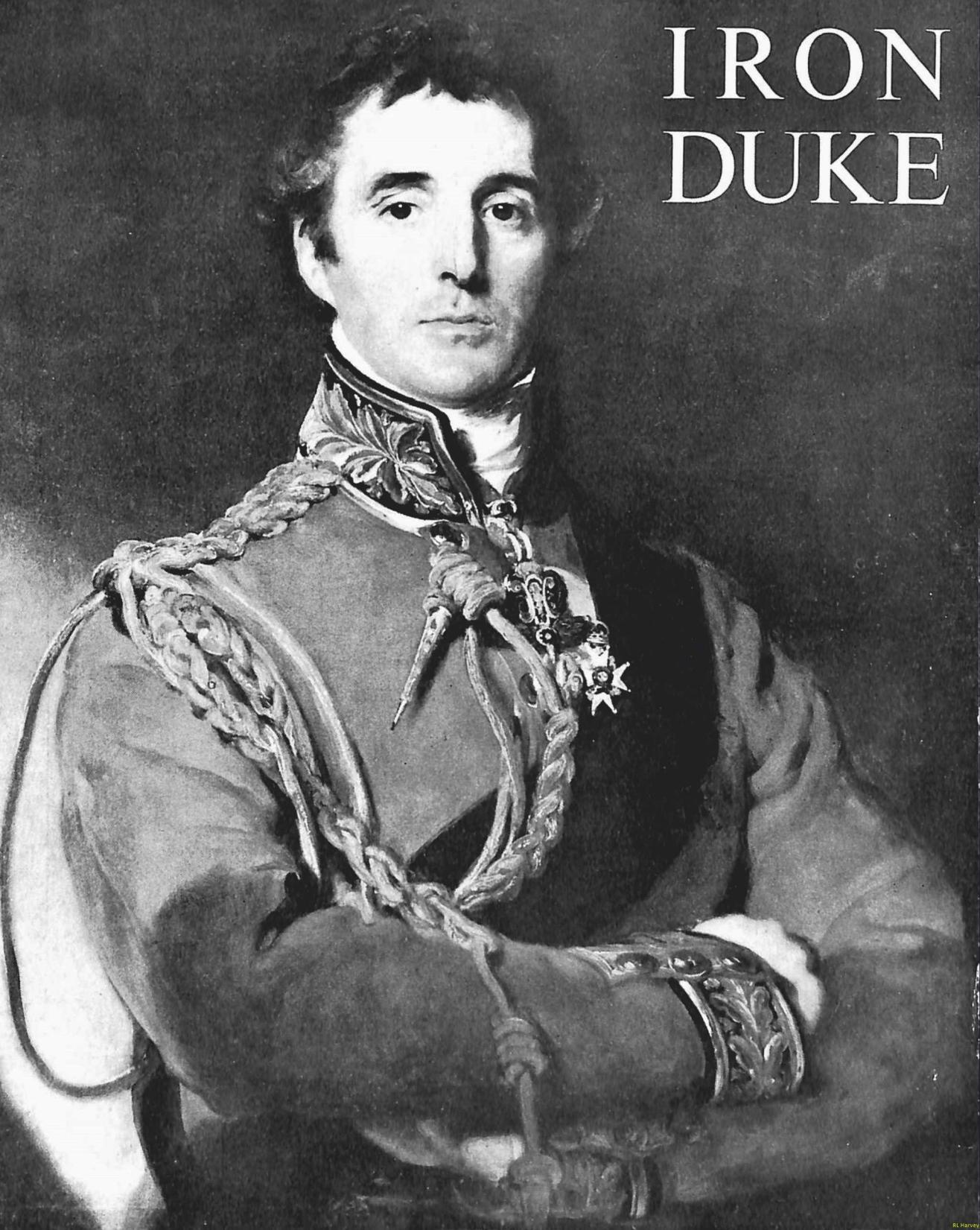


No.172 December 1976

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 1976

No. 172

BUSINESS NOTES

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

Annual Subscription—£2 payable in advance to the Business Manager on February 1.

Editor and

Business Manager : MAJOR J. S. MILLIGAN
WELLESLEY PARK, HALIFAX.
TEL.: 0422-61671

Copy for the April 1977 issue should reach the Editor by February 20, 1977.

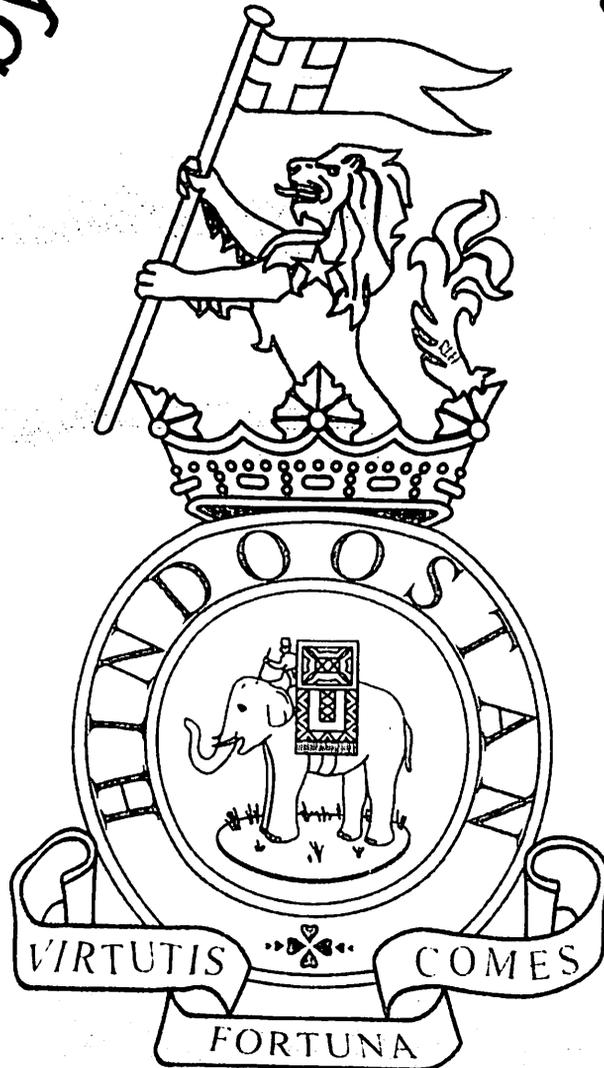
Acknowledgement

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
Roccliffe House, Easingwold, Yorkshire

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Wellesley Park, Halifax
Regimental Secretary: Major G. C. Tedd

THE 1st BATTALION

BFPO 29

CO: Lt.-Col. J. B. K. Greenway, MBE Adjutant: Capt. J. R. A. Ward
RSM WO1 M. Carter

TERRITORIAL & ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE

1st BATTALION THE YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

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

Wellington Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax
Commander: Major K. Marsh

3rd BATTALION, THE YORKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

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

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



**Lt Gen Sir James Wilson, GOC South East District, presenting the BEM to
WO2 Toplis on July 8, 1976**

Regimental Headquarters

EDITORIAL

Lt Col Hugh Le Messurier handed over the Editorship of THE IRON DUKE following the publication of the August issue.

He took over the Editorship from Col Turner in January 1973, a very difficult time due to the problems of rising costs brought on by ever increasing inflation. We all owe him a great debt of gratitude for the way he has managed to maintain the high standard of the Journal despite the many difficulties—Thank you Hugh.

There is no escape from inflation these days, for the past two years the Journal has been running into financial difficulties and has only been kept going by subsidies from Regimental Funds.

At their Annual Meeting in October, the Regimental Trustees, under the Chairmanship of the

Colonel of the Regiment, considered the finances of the Journal in great detail and reluctantly came to the conclusion that the annual subscription would have to be raised to £2.00 per annum for 1977 onwards. These subscriptions are, of course, due on February 1 each year. Details of the change will be found on page 83.

The subscription was last raised in February 1971 and will still be less than our sister journals of the Yorkshire Regiments. In order to hold the new subscription for some years, it is essential that the number of subscribers be increased, will all current subscribers please do their utmost to bring in new readers, and help to keep the magazine a going concern.

REGIMENTAL NOTES

NEW COLOURS FOR THE 1st BATTALION

The Ministry of Defence have prepared a new stand of Colours for the 1st Bn to replace those presented at Chisledon on May 25, 1956. They have already been inspected and approved by the Colonel in Chief and the Colonel.

The Ceremony of Presentation will take place at Clifton Barracks, Minden, on Saturday, May 21, 1977. The wishes of Her Majesty are being sought and approval has been requested for the presentation to be made on Her Majesty's behalf by the Colonel in Chief.

It is known that many officers, retired and serving, old comrades and ladies will wish to attend if possible. To this end, RHQ are exploring the possibilities and costing of charter flights and sea link or coach journeys. At this early stage no further information can be given. Nearer the time further and firmer details will be circulated.

THE BISHOP OF WAKEFIELD

The Rt Rev Dr Eric Treacy, MBE, LLD, Lord Bishop of Wakefield, retired on October 31, 1976.

Eric Treacy came to Halifax as Vicar of Halifax in 1949 from Keighley. He rapidly made his mark in the town and soon became associated with the Regiment through the Depot. He later became Suffragan Bishop of Pontefract and while holding this office was invited by the then Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen Kenneth Exham to become Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment. He was elevated to the Diocese of Wakefield in 1967.

His forthrightness and honesty has been much appreciated by the people of Yorkshire and the Regiment.

We wish him much happiness in his retirement coupled with our great pleasure that he is continuing to serve as our Honorary Chaplain.

REGIMENTAL SERVICE

The Annual Regimental Service was held in the Regimental Chapel York Minster on Saturday, October 30, 1976.

The service was conducted by the Rev Canon R. I. J. Matthews, Chaplain of the Wellesley Company (Huddersfield area) ACF and the Rev Canon A. Widdess, Canon in Residence.

The Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment, the Right Reverend Doctor Eric Treacy, MBE, LLD, Lord Bishop of Wakefield, dedicated a carved oak Lectern in Memory of the late Col Bob Wathen and gave the address.

The lesson was read by the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Junior Band of the King's Division Depot under the direction of Bandmaster F. Renton played during the Service.

A large representative gathering, headed by the Colonel of the Regiment, attended the service, having met for coffee in St William's College prior to the service.

Under 'Appointments' it will be seen that two officers have been selected for promotion during 1977 to the Rank of Colonel and four to the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel, this is surely a record.

We congratulate the Rev Roy Matthews, the Vicar of Brighouse and Chaplain to the Huddersfield Area ACF, on his appointment as an Honorary Canon of Wakefield Cathedral.

Back Issue Iron Dukes

HQ stocks of back issues of THE IRON DUKE are now very low, particularly for 1975.

If any reader has copies he no longer requires please forward them to RHQ. Postage will be refunded.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

The following officers have been provisionally selected for promotion to Colonel in 1977:

Lt Col R. M. Harms, MC; Lt Col P. A. Mitchell, OBE.

Lt Col P. A. Mitchell, OBE, has been appointed Colonel (GS/W, Project Manager, Mechanical Infantry Combat Vehicle, DGFVE(PE).

Lt Col J. R. P. Cumberlege has been selected to command 7th Bn Ulster Defence Regt in April 1977.

Lt Col M. R. N. Bray has been selected to succeed Lt Col J. B. K. Greenway as Commanding Officer the 1st Bn on completion of the latter's tour of command in June 1977.

Lt Col J. B. K. Greenway, MBE, has been selected as GSO1 (DS) at the Staff College, Camberley, in November 1977.

The following officers have been provisionally selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1977:

Maj M. J. Campbell-Lamerton, MBE; Maj C. W. Ivey; Maj T. D. Lupton; Maj W. R. Mundell.

Maj W. R. Mundell has been selected to be GSO 1 (MA), to the C in C BAOR in May 1977.

Maj C. W. Ivey has been selected to Command 1st Bn Yorkshire Volunteers in December 1977.

Maj D. M. Pugh has assumed the appointment of OC Junior Soldiers Company, Depot the King's Div (Ripon Outstation).

Maj D. R. D. Newell has been posted to the Army Youth Selection Centre, Uniake Barracks, Harrogate.

Maj A. R. Westcob has been appointed OC Peninsula Company, the Infantry Junior Leaders Bn, Shorncliffe.

Maj P. B. L. Hoppe has been posted to HQ King's Div as Divisional Recruiting Officer.

Capt (A/Maj) T. J. Nicholson has been selected for the post of GSO2 ASD5 MOD w.e.f., December 29, 1976.

Capt R. A. Tighe has been appointed to the Depot the King's Div.

Capt M. P. C. Bray has been appointed GSO3 SD/Air HQ 3 Commando Bde RM.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE

Regular Army

Commands and Staff

The undermentioned Colonel to be Brigadier, June 30, 1976: C. R. Huxtable, CBE (420858) late DWR. (LG, July 6, 1976).

DWR

The undermentioned Major to be Lieutenant Colonel, June 30, 1976: R. L. Stevens, MBE (451323), DWR. (LG, July 6, 1976).

Lt T. J. Isles (487279), DWR, to be Captain, August 4, 1976: (LG, August 10, 1976).

Lt A. J. Pitchers (494955), DWR, to be Captain, September 11, 1976: (LG, September 14, 1976).

TAVR (Group A)

Capt (A/Major) C. J. Tattersall (481148), 3 Yorks, to be Major, March 22, 1976, with seniority June 1, 1975: (LG, July 6, 1976).

Lt L. P. M. Lyons (495197), DWR, resigned his commission August 9, 1976: (LG, August 31, 1976).

LETTERS TO THE COLONEL

The Colonel of the Regiment received a letter from Brig Howlett, Commander 16 Parachute Bde on the departure of the 1st Bn from Aldershot. Extract from the letter is repeated below, and its contents speak for itself. The Battalion clearly had a successful tour in the Parachute Bde and are to be congratulated.

'In the next few days your Regiment will have left our Brigade for Minden after two years based on Aldershot. They have had a busy period with two Northern Ireland tours, one as Spearhead, and a rather muddled Cyprus tour as well. It isn't always easy for a Line Regiment to come into the very introverted parochial Maroon Machine, but certainly during the year that they have been under my command they have managed it with great panache and confidence. We will miss them greatly, for the cheerful way that they have accepted every event, popular or unpopular, and for the skilled way that they combine professionalism with fun.

We will all be very sorry to see the Dukes go and I know that I speak for all at my Brigade Headquarters when we wish them the best of luck in BAOR and in winning the Army Rugby Cup next year!'

The Colonel of the Regiment has received an interesting letter from Mr P. M. Quinn, better known to most as Sgt Quinn—Clerk at the Depot in 1947-48.

Mr Quinn left the Army in 1963 and emigrated to Australia, where he says, life has been good to him. He settled in Montmerency, Melbourne, and is now Assistant Town Clerk, he visited Halifax this year on holiday and was sad to see the Depot is now no more.

His address is: 100 Mayora Road, Montmerency, Melbourne.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

Looking for a job in civilian life? If so, contact your local office of the RFEA. Branch addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Resettlement Officers, Regimental Associations, Post Offices or Employment Offices.

Personalia

BIRTHS

WARD—At the B.M.H. Rinteln, to Janet (nee Collins) wife of Capt Richard Ward, DWR, a daughter (Emily Philippa) born September 17, 1976.

COSTELLO—At Odiham, Hants, to Rachel (nee Sugden), wife of Lt Comd F. A. Costello, RN (Ret'd), a daughter (Sinead Dorothea Ellen), born August 19, 1976.

MARRIAGE

The marriage took place on Saturday, September 25, 1976, at St Michael's Church, Chenies, Bucks, between Jonathan Nigel, only son of Maj and Mrs D. H. Wood, Chalfont St Giles, and Ruth Karen, daughter of Mrs E. T. Taylor of Little Chalfont.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Capt D. Batty, 14 Collinette Road, Putney, London.

Maj and Mrs R. A. Burnett, 34 Heather Farm Road, Harrowby, Grantham, Lincs.

Capt and Mrs R. D. Campbell-Lamerton, 1 Cransley Avenue, Wollaton, Nottingham.

Maj and Mrs J. D. P. Cowell, Rose Cottage, Trellech Road, Tintern, Chepstow, Gwent.

Mr M. H. Murphy, 2 Elmwood Close, Aston Centre, Shotton, Deeside, Clayd.

Maj and Mrs D. N. Pugh, 16 Bishopton Park, Ripon, N Yorkshire.

Mr and Mrs P. Ansley-Watson, 6 St Leonards Way, Ardsley, Barnsley, S Yorks S71 5BS.

Capt and Mrs M. P. C. Bray, 3 Seymour Place, Millbridge, Plymouth.

In a recent letter received from Maj Bob Burton, he suggests that anyone who remembers the Boer War Huts at Bordon in 1938 and 1939 should borrow 'The Longmoor Military Railway' by D. W. Ronald and R. J. Carter from his local public library and read Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 6 to get a couple of hours good entertainment.

HISTORY OF THE 3rd DIVISION

Headquarters 3rd Div are preparing a full history of the Division from 1809-1977. It is intended to publish this in the second half of 1977.

A letter has been received from the author making two requests. The first is that any reader who has any material such as photographs and correspondence, maps, etc, which they would be prepared to loan for possible inclusion write to:

Lt Col R. R. McNish, Glebe House, Wylye, Warminster, Wilts.

The author also wishes to assess the number of copies of the History (price approximately £3.00 per copy) will be required.

Any reader who is likely to require a copy is

asked to inform the Assistant Regimental Secretary at RHQ by January 31, 1977.

INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS

As you will have read in the Editorial, the Regimental Trustees have agreed that the subscription for 1977 onwards will be raised to £2.00 per annum.

This subscription will apply to all subscribers except the free list and is due on February 1.

All who pay by bankers order will have received a fresh bankers order form and covering letter from the Business Manager. If you have not already done so please complete this and return it to RHQ as soon as possible.

Serving Officers will pay the new subscription under the existing 'Day's Pay Scheme' and no further action is required by them.

Existing Deeds of Covenant will continue to apply until they expire when subscribers will be asked to sign a new covenant at the new rate. All new subscribers will be invited to sign a Deed of Covenant for the full £2.00 subscription.

Those who pay by cash or cheque are asked to please pay their subscriptions promptly on February 1.

A few subscribers are still paying at the old rate of 50p per annum, it is regretted that this can no longer be accepted and all subscribers must pay the full £2.00.

In cases where this entails hardship to a pensioner they are invited to submit an application to be placed on the free list, to R.H.Q.

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1st Battalion

COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

The rumble of tracks; the smell of oil; the memory of summer leave; the taste of 'bratties'; the thunder of cobblestones; the smell of German cigars; the distance of Yorkshire; the taste of cold beer; the thought of Christmas leave; the newness of the car; the strict rules—except that there seem to be no licensing hours; the Local Overseas Allowance; the unaccustomed tactics; the sub-standard accommodation (of a very reasonable standard); the pace of life; it will already be evident that Minden is providing us all with a kaleidoscope of first impressions. However, it is probably true to say that virtually all of those impressions have been good.

In addition, we were warmly welcomed on arrival by the Commanders, Brig Michael Swindells and Maj Gen David Alexander-Sinclair, and the staffs of Brigade Headquarters and Divisional

Headquarters respectively, as well as by Brig John Roden, the Brigadier Infantry. The Battalion cannot very often have been accorded quite such a friendly and helpful welcome.

We have been lucky enough to find *in situ*, and to welcome as part of the Battalion, a willing and competent Light Aid Detachment of REME under command of Capt Paul Mumford and WO1 (ASM) Cowell. We have already had occasion to be grateful for their hard work and skill during our first deployment on the Soltau and Luneberg Training Area this month.

We have also acquired a new Padre, the Rev Peter Bayley and a new doctor, Capt John Dixon; we are delighted to welcome them and their families to the 'Dukes'.

Prospects for the months ahead are as many and varied as the first impressions in my opening paragraph; we look forward to experiencing them all.



The GOC, South East District, in the Sergeants Mess with BM Clarke, BSM Parkinson, Drum Major Gregor and Sgt Almond

News from the Messes

OFFICERS' MESS

We arrived in Minden to find our Mess very different in character to that in Aldershot. It is in typically German style with three floors and the inevitable cellars. The building itself is deceiving in that there are less rooms than the size seen from the outside suggests. Nevertheless we have made ourselves extremely comfortable with most of our treasured possessions well displayed.

Duty free drink inevitably raises the tempo of life in Germany, and particularly so in the Mess. The kindness shown to us since our arrival is reflected in a mass invitation to the Mess for drinks by 1 Cheshires; and this has been followed by numerous invitations by other Messes in the area.

Our own entertainments started with a cocktail party to most of the Minden units and prominent local Germans. The party was followed by another faultless beating retreat performance by the band and corps of drums. Since then we have had families Sunday lunches and a ladies night, both of which we intend to continue on a regular basis, exercises

SERGEANTS MESS

I think it will be something of a record to be able to report in one edition of the Sergeants Mess Notes, two weddings. The details of which appear later. Our departure from Aldershot and arrival in Minden takes up the period of these notes.

We have said farewell to many Regimental Sergeant Majors over the years with the Traditional Mess Dinner and Presentation, but it was with sad regret that because of our move and the packing of Mess silver and property that we were unable to

permitting of course. At the time of writing the Battalion is at Soltau and for one who is living in a bog it is nice to know that Battalion HQ at least benefit from the continued high Mess standards! We also invited Richard Ward's father, Dennis Ward, who is currently deputy governor of a prison on the Isle of Wight, to talk to us after dinner. He gave us a thoroughly entertaining evening and a lot to think about.

As with all Battalion moves there have been a number of personality changes in the Mess and we welcome Johnny and Sue Walker back from their year's holiday in Canada at the staff college, Chris and Mitch Fitzgerald from Berlin, and David Richardson from Shornecliffe. We also welcome Peter Bayley our new padre and John Dixon our doctor.

A word of thanks must go to Sgt Skipworth, Cpl Hayton, and the staff for getting us off to such a good start in Minden. We are now living at a standard which we hope we can continue to afford, and judging from all the new cars parked outside the mess, life promises well in Minden.

uphold this Regimental Custom on the departure of RSM Joe Collins. However, we were able to say our farewells and thank you's at an informal 'Happy Hour' on Thursday, July 8, before he departed for Yorkshire, and his last six months Army service prior to retirement. We all wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

Also in July was the wedding of Sgt Owen Theodore to Mary Elaine Pollitt. This took place on Saturday, July 3, at the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints, Aldershot. The highlight being a horse and trap which transported the couple from



Sgt and Mrs Owen Theodore

the church to the Sergeants Mess, escorted by two mounted outriders, RQMS Coll and Ssgt Cookson. Daughters of CSM Lawrence stood as bridesmaids and Sgt Budden acted as best man and overall organiser, the wedding cake and buffet was created by SQMS Bryson.

To be eligible for admission to the Sergeants Mess, Mary was presented with a copy of the Mess Rules which she promised to uphold, and never question Owen's late arrival home after Mess Meetings and Happy Hours.

The next four weeks were taken up by leave prior to our departure for Minden, most of the members arrived during the first week in August and were pleased to find our new home quite adequate for the variety of functions to which we are accustomed.

We started off with a Mess House Warming Party held on Friday, August 27, to which we invited members from all the Major and Minor

units in the Garrison. This was an enormous success which enabled us to get to know some of our future friends.

Our second wedding of this period was between Ssgt John Lofthouse and Mary Rooney, which took place on Saturday, September 18, at the St George's Garrison Church, Minden. Sheena Atkinson, wife of Sgt Atkinson, stood as bridesmaid and CSM Toplis as best man, once again the Wedding Cake and Buffet were provided by SQMS Bryson. Don't worry Mary your copy of the Mess Rules will be available on receipt of our new re-prints.

Finally we welcome our new Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 Mick Carter, after spending the past two years as RSM/PSI with 2 Yorks in York. We all welcome him and his family and hope they have an enjoyable tour. We extend a warm welcome to our LAD Det and all newly promoted or posted in Dukes.

From the Companies

ALMA COMPANY

It is an odd coincidence that a few of us are back in Minden after a gap of some 23 years—but at that time we were toddlers running around the 'patch'. Gone are the trams from the town centre but in their place is a 'pedestrian-only' shopping area. However, there are many more houses stretching from behind our Barracks, which was occupied by the DCLI during Minden-one days, all the way to the Port Gap.

The difference between being an Airportable Company and a Mechanised one is staggering with many more weapons, radios and the vehicles on various NCOs 'flick'—the total value must surely be close to a million pounds. Reading maps at

25mph and trying to turn round APCs in a cul-de-sac on a dark night is not fun.

The German beer tastes different and so some of our more adventurous have hired cars and have spent weekends in Amsterdam and Paris.

We welcome many new faces to the Alma and congratulate Ptes Hall, Ward and Bartnick on their promotion to Lance Corporal, Lcpl Hughes to Corporal and Cpl Arundel to Sergeant who has left us to join Burma.

Congratulations are also passed to Pte and Mrs Wrightson and Lcpl and Mrs Withers on the birth of their daughters our first in Minden and Ptes Plummer, Backhouse and Gatenby on their marriages.



Ssgt and Mrs John Lofthouse



Alma Company on Parade

1 Platoon

Since the last edition of THE IRON DUKE the Platoon has had a very hectic time moving to Minden and getting acquainted with our new friends the 15-ton iron monsters. From the start everything seemed to be rosy. But as our readers who were in Osnabruck will no doubt realise this was a false illusion. The best way I can describe our new friends is by relating them to 'Donkeys'. For as everyone knows a donkey, for no apparent reason, will stop and refuse to move. Likewise with the monsters. After the Platoon Commander/Platoon Sergeant rubbing their hair away and shouting abuse at the drivers, it seems they have found their own solution. Although they did look odd the first morning when they appeared with a couple of rods and line with carrots attached, and to press, we have found that we have no problems, which makes them more convinced that the drivers daily first parades and weekly servicing have nothing to do with it!

To move on to a more realistic subject we are all looking forward to our coming exercises and hope that all the training and preparation we have done will make the coming weeks a worthwhile time. A number of the Platoon obviously don't think it will be, as they have had the doctor working overtime, or is it all this touch rugby we play in full battle order? German Language Courses are going down well in the Platoon. Lt Hans Drake and Cpl Herman Warrior have completed theirs. Cpl Otto Sugden has another week left, but when

last seen he was still looking his bright self, although muttering something that resembles, Ein, Zwei, Drie, Feir. If he gets the grade as the others we should at least hear a funf. The Platoon Sergeant keeps assuring the OC he could do better! Well as usual the Platoon has lost some and gained some. We say farewell to Pte 'Smiler' Williams who is now learning to cook. Pte 'Smudge' Smith who is pleasing the officers, and Pte 'Dobbo' Dobson who



'A not so Active Edge'
No. 1 Section, Lcpls Cowburn, Gouff and
Gilbert

is tormenting the Sergeants Mess members. Congratulations are in order to Sgt Arundell and Lcpl Ward on their promotion and a big welcome to all the new members of the Platoon.

2 Platoon

During our first few weeks in Minden we've seen the arrival of some new faces in the Platoon and some of the 'Old Un's' gone on to higher things. We say goodbye to 2 Lt Stone, who's gone to try and achieve a higher standard of Map Reading at Sandhurst! In his place we've acquired 2 Lt Bailey from 1 Yorks (who said 'Oh not another one'). We've also said goodbye to Pte Joe Carr, lookout the MT you've been warned. Congratulations to Pte Bartnick on his promotion to the dizzy height of Lance Corporal. We also welcome to our midst Ptes Largen, Bassett and Bland who joined us from DKD, poor lads.

Overheard on exercise 2 miles from camp

Pl Comd 'Somebody has moved the !/&?''/wood'.

Sgt . . . 'If they have Sir the've built these houses damn quick'.

Pl Comd (thrusting map at Sgt) 'You see where we are Sgt . . . '.

Sgt . . . 'You've got your map upside down Sir!'.

Cpl . . . 'Never mind Sir just toss a coin and hope' (half an hour later).

Pl Comd 'Well I got you here lads'.

Cpl . . . 'Yes Sir, but I didn't like the Upper Waser tour!'.

Three's Up (3 Platoon)

Now we have left the DMS Boot Country of Aldershot and Salisbury Plain we have found ourselves converting to our new life with the mechanical monsters (432) of BAOR.

This has proved to be a testing but amusing period for everyone. Getting to know our 432s and more so keeping them serviced and, on the road, requires a lot of man hours and nobody is excused, even the Platoon Commander can be seen up to his elbows in grease.

All our other skills are hastily being brushed up on as we prepare for our first major exercise in Soltau.

The biggest problem we have found and it can also be a major hazard is how to keep the inside of our 432 tidy with nine men living in the back. But we have four years here and I suppose we will be able to sort it out before we leave!

To add more to the confusion of our new life, the Platoon has had a major face lift. Lt Hall has left the Platoon and we wish him all the best in his new appointment as Mortar Officer. In his place we welcome Lt Richardson after two years holiday with the junior leaders. Cpl Eddy Ferreday has taken over the Corporals Mess en route for civvy street, and Cpl Dave Middleton is also en route to civvy street, and we wish them all the best.

We would also like to mention the following who have recently joined the Platoon:

Ptes Pogson, Batty, Sutcliffe, Mace, Helliwell, Johnson and Rose.

Finally we would like to congratulate 'Smiler'

Hughes on his second tape, and his good grade on the Section Commanders Course at Brecon. Also Pte Bob Gatenby on his recent marriage.

BURMA COMPANY

CSM—'It's IRON DUKE time again sir'.

OC—'Oh really, isn't that super Sergeant Major'.

CSM—'If you say so sir, are you writing them'.

OC—'Well er er it just so happens I'm playing Squash tonight, Soltau Recce tomorrow, Senne-larger the day after and saving up to buy a round in the Sergeants Mess the day after'.

CSM—'Say no more sir, nudge nudge wink wink, and all that'.

CSM—'Ashton'.

Ashton—'Siiir'.

CSM—'What grade did you get on your Clerks Course'.

Ashton—'An F with distinction sir'.

CSM—'Good, write THE IRON DUKE notes'.

Ashton—'Oh Snarly Gobs. Well if I must I must'.

'For those reading the notes from outside the Battalion Burma Coy is established in Clifton Barracks, Minden.

Some of you will probably remember Minden from the early fifties when the Dukes were last there.

We said goodbye to Maj Tighe on leaving Aldershot, and sir if you read these notes, thank you for your efforts for the past year.

Capt Thorn of, dare we mention, Corruna, stood in for three weeks in the absence of Maj Walker.

Pte Powell 96, would like to be remembered to Capt Thorn and says you can talk to him over the Battalion Command net any time.

Maj Walker is now firmly in the chair as OC.

Sir we welcome you and your wife.

At the time of accumulating these notes we are just starting a three-week stint at Soltau Training Area. One thing for sure the drought is certainly over.

Before we hand you over to the platoons we would like to welcome Mrs Meade to the fold, we are expecting the wives of Ptes Price, Chamberlain and Lofthouse 60 before too long. Congratulations to Pte and Mrs Pugh on the birth of their daughter.

Football

The Company football team have been entered in numerous competitions and, of course, the main aim is to win them all. This is the only real time the Battalion has had a real chance to organise a 1st and 2nd team for quite some time.

The Company has discovered new talent and we are supplying players both for the 1st and 2nd team, some of which will be there for a long time to come.

Because of various commitments the Company have had one game which was against Somme Coy, and although we lost 4—3 it was a close game, with the lads fighting to the end and very nearly snatching an equaliser; however, we were

expecting a hard match when it was realised that the opposing CSM had removed his false teeth.

In the inter-platoon matches 5 Platoon did very well and beat 1 Platoon, and 4 Platoon were very unlucky to lose against 3 Platoon.

4 Platoon

Sitting in a tent on Soltau training area is somewhat of a change since we last wrote to THE IRON DUKE in Aldershot in the comfort of the Company Office.

Overall there are few changes, we welcome back 'Bri' Lawrence from Somme Coy and congratulate Lcpl Campbell on his promotion, we also say hello to Pte Kennedy who is rapidly training the Platoon in the arts of commanding and driving 432s.

Having had a well deserved leave, before coming to Germany, we started training in Minden under Capt Thorn with the APCs, which since have been called other things than that.

We were lucky enough to be involved with the Minden Mass Band Show where we learnt various skills from building a Castle wall to operating spot-lights for the show itself, a great success, somewhat due to a great deal of hard work from the Platoon. We then went with the Company to Sennelager for a few days with the new Platoon mascot, a piggy bank by the name of Fu Fu, who has since collected DM120 in the local bar in Minden.

The range week was a few days of concentrated shooting where some good scores and groups were achieved by all.

On return to Minden the preparation for Soltau started, including a football match against 3 Platoon which we almost won with an immaculate goal by Pte Cheetham from just inside the halfway line.

Then we came to Soltau and have begun to train with tanks, an eye opener for our newest arrival Pte Dykes who we welcome.

The future looks rosy enough with the winter coming and some skiing to look forward to and the many other attractions BAOR has to offer.

5 Platoon

It doesn't seem long since the last notes had to be submitted although the outgoing OC relieved us of the task last time.

We welcome Maj Walker on his return as Company Commander. Our move to the fatherland went smoothly and everybody managed to get here somehow, although not without the occasional worry. After the initial two months we find ourselves on exercise for five weeks going through yet another transitional period. Sgt Hey has left us and I would like to thank him on behalf of the Platoon as well as myself for all his work during the past year. Sgt Arundel has arrived in his place and we welcome him.

Congratulations to Lcpl Butterworth on his promotion and welcome also to the other many new faces.

We won the inter-Section shooting competition by having the best three sections, and following up that by managing to get all our vehicles up to

Soltau in working order. No mean feat. We are progressing in the inter-Platoon football and have four members of the Battalion Cross Country team.

The Platoon Commanders runner is without glasses yet again. Rumour has it that some people did pass their highway code first time and that German beer doesn't always start a sledgehammer in the head. By the time these notes are published we should just about have dried out from our exercise and have cleaned our kit.

6 Platoon

Well here we are again. Yes all the many followers and fans of 6 Platoon will be glad to hear that we are still alive and kicking. And in a big way too.

First of all our gains and losses. We have had a sudden influx of super talent, namely in Lcpls Pete Williams and Frank Teall. The former to transform us all into typists, driver-operators and anything else we want to do? And the latter to teach us all how to look after our weapons. Many congratulations to Frank Teall on his promotion, and a well earned one at that.

We also welcome Pte MacNab—a soldier of previous experience in Burma Coy, and Pte Smith from the Band—yet more talent? Welcome also to Ptes Hemmings, Smith, Clegg and Ingram who recently joined us from the Depot.

Sadly we have also lost a few, namely Pte Ted Lambert who has gone for a quick cadre on Civilian life—and also Pte Harry Anderson who has been posted to another part of the Battalion due to the shortage of class elsewhere.

Lastly a quick mention for Lcpl Dave Hepworth, MM, who decided the regimental police needed some instruction.

I don't know who made the mistake, the typist or the police, but they certainly got a good deal. Good luck to all of you.

Our Platoon strength is 30 at the time of going to press, and we are just getting used to our mechanised role.

We have very quickly learnt that our armoured vehicles are not all plain sailing.

Our period prior to our move to Germany was spent doing some hard training, KAPE touring in Yorkshire, or in the case of the OC and Pte Kim Hesketh holidaying on the sunny ranges of England?

With regard to the hard work, congratulations to Sgt Brian Sykes and Cpl Keith Lister for successfully completing their Brecon courses.

The Platoon Sergeant having caught the bug has opted to go back for more, but this time to administrate rather than receive the punishment?

Whilst in Aldershot many members of the Platoon did some courses and cadres covering a number of things, including Land Rover Driving, APC Driving, Signalling, APC Commanding, Swimming, Life Saving and Education.

Well done to all who took part.

We are still finding our feet in Germany, but by all accounts it looks good enough for 6 Platoon and their families.

Perhaps our opinions will have changed by the time we go to press?

COMPANY MT

Eyes wide, mouths agape, saliva dripping from lower lips and mutterings of 'That one's mine?' 'I'll have the one with the least welding on'.

Burma Coy drivers finally had their very own AFV 432.

To the uninitiated, a 432 is similar to a Bryant & May match box, but slightly larger, and the way Burma Coy drivers drive them, they are just as easily crushed.

Being infants in the mechanised role, we are all learning to walk before we can run, that, dear readers, is not a proverb but pure fact.

It was only two weeks ago that we realised Summersgill hadn't been posted, he'd been in the LAD all the time, welcome back Summers lad, I've told the rest of the drivers you're not a new bloke, but you're bedding has been handed in to the CQMS.

According to the Tech QM the writer of these notes is to be appointed Battalion Fire Officer since we've exchanged 26 fire extinguishers so far and he thinks we know how to fight fires. We haven't had one yet?

Maintenance is hard work. Constant repairs and servicing are full time occupations for the drivers but they always manage to have a laugh, which sometimes makes me wonder about their sanity, because no one in their right minds laughs when covered from head to foot in oil and the prospect of working till 9pm looming over them.

At the moment we have just arrived at Soltau with the haunting prospect of five weeks constantly in the field as we go on to another two exercises after the first fortnight, 'Spearpoint' being the final test. I can see the drivers through the trees, all hard at it, except Mitchell who is brewing up again. I'm sure he has got shares in Nescafe?

As you can gather there isn't much to tell except that we've all been working hard, but I'm sure after 'Spearpoint' I'll be able to write a book on our exploits.

CORUNNA COMPANY

Our last notes were written in the comparative comfort of Aldershot. These are being written inside a half-erected company camp site in Saltau with the familiar sound of heavy rain on the tent roof. In Aldershot we looked forward to the time when the whole Company could get together again and tackle this business of mechanised training. To a very large extent this has happened. We have now been in Germany for two months (at times it feels like a year!), our drivers can drive, our signallers can signal, and at the time of writing all our vehicles are on the road, or rather mud.

We now have five weeks of intensive training, two weeks at Saltau and three more with Burma Coy on one of the largest exercises BAOR has seen for some years. New as we are to it Corunna will more than hold their own.

There has been a number of changes in the Company since our last notes. WO2 Toplis is now firmly in the CSMs chair, Sgt Robson has taken over 9 Platoon, Sgt Grey has arrived back from recruiting and temporarily has 7 Platoon whilst

Lt Paul Saville is in hospital. We also welcome Sgt Parrett who has been away from the real soldiering convalescing in the training office for the past few months.

Company HQ is getting bigger every day, Pte Sanders being the latest recruit to the Company office. Lcpl Hnatkiwskyj has finally convinced the CSM he is a Company Clerk and a Yorkshire man as well, consequently the CSM has promoted him. Cpl Bray has taken firm control of Pte Fitton, he now has him caddying every Saturday and Sunday trying desperately to get a twinkle in his eye, on a Monday morning. We have two APCs neither of which have been off the road yet, well done Baines and Wright 85.

On the lighter side the Company has gradually been finding out what the continent has to offer. The economic troubles seem just that bit further away and soldiers have already visited Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Paris as well as many parts of Germany. Sgt Robson has indoctrinated many towards fishing to the extent that Pte Greaves has already won a cup in a local Army competition.

The Company express their sincere condolences to Pte and Mrs Medlock on the recent bereavement of their baby daughter.

We wish to welcome the following lucky soldiers to Corunna Ptes: Jackson, Cresswell, both Prices, Leedham, Lawson, Dawson, Gee, Jones, Colman and Wimbles. Also to wish good luck to the following who have left us for new jobs in the Battalion. Pte Van-Eda, Butcher; Pte Creaser, Officers Mess; Pte Keeble, MT; Pte Halton, MI Room; and Pte Ware to Int Section.

Promotion congratulations to Lcpls Hnatkiwskyj, Elgar and Chapman.

7 Platoon

Since the last notes we have safely arrived and settled into Clifton Barracks (Colditz MK 2). Most of our time has been spent learning about the dreaded warpigs (432s) and preparing for the big exercise that has arrived at last.

We have had a lot of changes in the Platoon (names later), however, it is strongly rumoured that Lcpl Smith is throwing a party as there is at last one man smaller than he amongst us.

Congratulations to Cpl Elwell and Dixon on successfully completing a course at Brecon (SS School) and safely returning to the fold in Minden. More next time?

Personnel

Welcome to: Sgt Grey, ACIO Halifax; Lcpl Smith (Mit Turnups), Somme; Lcpl Lawrence (Thumper), Burma; Ptes Bent, Morgan, Jackson, Leedham, Colman (Stumpy Mk 2), Wilson, Wilkinson.

Farewell to: Ptes Halton, MI Room; Pte Keeble, MT; Pte Creaser, Officers Mess; Pte Sanders, Coy HQ.

8 Platoon

Since writing the last set of notes many changes have taken place, in particular there have been many newcomers, to whom we extend a warm welcome, there are Ptes Clark, Dawson, Drewell,

Greaves, Gresswell, Jones, Price, and last but not least Wimbles.

The Platoon has been busy familiarising themselves with their vehicles and attempting to keep them on the road Cpls Hall's section take note! Time has passed very quickly, even the evenings where the discovery of never-closing bars intrigued some people more than others. Quite a few people have been away on courses; Lcpl Chapman on a German language course, but he isn't quite fluent. Pte Harber who completed a free fall course at Sennelager and Pte Maskill who could also at the time of writing, be just jumping out of an aircraft on the same course. There have been several people on driving cadres some of whom have subsequently left the Platoon, namely Pte Jacques, who is now driving for Company HQ, and Pte Ellis has also completed a wheeled vehicle driving cadre.

Training-wise we have had one or two very interesting short exercises and, at the moment are at Soltau training area on exercise 'Dusty Tyke', and looking forward to 'Spearpoint' in a fortnight's time.

As I sit here writing these notes a tank has just rumbled by which is joining us for part of the exercise. Anyway I shall look forward to writing the next set of notes in better and more comfortable surroundings, at the moment I am in a tent and it is starting to rain, again!

9 Platoon

Here we are at last in Germany, with all the lads having arrived safely by the first week in August after a successful hand over in Aldershot. We have taken part in two Company exercises since our arrival both in training for 'Spearpoint' which is the first big mechanised exercise the Platoon has taken part in. So we are about ready for the three-weeks hard work which is coming up. After that we start a period of block leave which will run through until March 1977 and in between this we hope to get as many of the Platoon away on Skiing courses in southern Germany on exercise 'Snow Queen'.

We would like to welcome the new arrivals to the Platoon, Ptes: Lawson, Gee, Drake and Price and say farewell to Lt Colville who has gone to the recce Platoon (give me back my covers?). We would also like to congratulate Pte Ford in coming top in the 432 driving cadre.

It was also been said that the CSM has sent Pte Ware back to work, well done Sir. Well readers we will have to close now as we have to go to Soltau to start the six-week exercise.

HOOK COMPANY

Company Headquarters

The Company is completely under new management. The new OC is Maj Fitzgerald who has joined us from Berlin and as well as having 290 soldiers to command has had the PRI thrust on to him like a hot brick. The new CSM is WO2 Clarke who returns to the chair yet again after

having moved, single-handed, all the married families from Aldershot to Minden, and is growing accustomed to not having his office full of wives and little sticky fingers everywhere. The changes were completed by CQMS Leachman rejoining from the TAVR. After all the comings there must be goings and we have said our farewells to Capt Palmer, WO2 Wright, and Ssgt Lofthouse who have all taken up new appointments within the Battalion. The Company HQ set up is completed by CQMS Rawcliffe, Cpl Nicol, Lcpl 'Guns' Stoddart, Cpl Whiteley, and Bernie Burns not forgetting our Company Clerk Lcpl Earnshaw. We are not looking forward to Soltau but none the less we'll go and echelon the rest.

SOMME COMPANY

Due to lack of space in the last IRON DUKE it was impossible to outline the organisation of the Company. To all ex-Dukes I believe it would be of interest to show reasonably fully not only the organisation but the senior personalities.

Company HQ

OC Maj C. N. St. P. Bunbury
2IC Capt A. D. Palmer
CSM WO2 G. K. Lawrence
Csgt Ssgt R. M. Basu
Tech Sgt .. Sgt G. Sellars

Mortar Platoon

OC Capt D. L. J. Harrap
2IC Ssgt Cookson
CPOs .. Sgt Cooper, Sgt Hogg, Sgt Frear

Attack Platoon

OC Capt M. S. Sherlock
2IC Ssgt Kendrew
CPO Sect Comd Sgt Templeman

Recce Platoon

OC Lt R. M. L. Colville
2IC Sgt Brennan
CPOs .. Sgts Frear, Hutchinson

Drums

OC D/M Gregor

Pioneers

OC WO2 Wright

To the trained observer it will be seen that the Company is well below its full establishment of SNCOs. This has resulted in several Corporals and in one case a Lance Corporal filling posts normally undertaken by a Sergeant. Without any doubt the Company is operating well and efficiently and the JNCOs must be warmly congratulated on their professional approach which has helped the Company to reach such a high level of training. In addition a special mention should go to our drivers who have somehow managed to keep us mobile. Whether the strain has driven them to drink is not clear but as a drinking team these stalwarts are clearly unbeatable. The day of our first unexpected call out will surely sort them out!

It is now early October and tomorrow will be

the last time the five platoons will be together until early December. These facts clearly show the different training facilities still offered in BAOR and I am sure that we are all in for an interesting time. Oh! to be a Colour Sergeant in the modern Army. The good name of Fiji certainly rests precariously on the shoulders of Csgt Basu and Cpl Newton over the next eight weeks.

Drums Platoon

Since our last contribution to THE IRON DUKE notes, the Drums Platoon has taken on a new role within the Battalion—a role which now involves keeping in tune two armoured personnel carriers, not to mention our other equipment. The job is no mean task as these 15-ton monsters take a great deal of nursing to keep them mobile. None the less, our two Platoon drivers, Lcpl Eddie Smith and Pte Ben Casey do an admirable job. At the present time we are all involved in preparing the vehicles and ourselves for the move to Soltau Training Area on the Battalion's first shake-out exercise 'Dusty Tyke'.

On the musical side of life, we have been kept busy with commitments around Minden. The first event was a memorable concert given by the Massed Bands of several Minden Regiments. Together with the Drums Platoon of the Cheshires we gave a display which did us proud. Pipes, drums and bugles cut through the night air to the thunderous applause of the audience. Who said the Corps of Drums was a dying race! Our second event was the ceremony of the Beating the Retreat within Clifton Barracks—an occasion which was once again well appreciated. Our thanks go to the Signal Platoon for their excellent night visibility plan! Last but not least in our recent programme of events has been the local Guides unit fete which has helped raise several pounds for the kitty. Although the gathering was small, I'm sure we added touch of Regimental glamour to the occasion.

Finally, our congratulations go to the Drum-Major and his wife on the birth of a daughter, Rowena Alexandra.

Assault Pioneers

Since the last notes were written the Platoon has suffered the changes of time and location. WO2 Wright has returned, Ssgt Lowney has departed to the Signals Platoon. We welcome Pte Smith from Alma Coy. The Platoon has new toys to play with in the form of two AFV 432s and one stalwart HMLC.

Congratulations to Ptes Vokes and Kerry for now being licensed to play in the 432s and Pte Drakes in the Stalwart.

Having now left Aldershot we look forward to new challenges in Minden, with its cheap beer and cigarettes and the wonderful LOA it offers. Our immediate focal point is a fortnight in Soltau catching up on our own training and then showing off some of our skills to the Companies. Pte Drakes planned to miss this because of an operation to a certain part of his anatomy not named, and by getting two weeks leave in Blighty, however, he arrives back just in time. Hard luck Albert! Platoon

and Company competitions are in progress and we secured a place in the next round of the Inter-Platoon soccer competition by beating the LAD 3—2. Maybe this is our year.

On the subject of sport we have now become *posh* and our new sport is wait for it badminton. Our coach being WO2 Wright.

We wish good luck to our apprentice on his driving cadre and also to Lcpl Woods who is practising to become a 'Bisley bullet'. By the time the next notes are due we should have only one single man in the Platoon as Pte Kerry is to take the plunge in October. Good luck Bob and Julie. On that happy note I'll close looking forward to the next time I get caught for the Mark Twain bit.

Recce Platoon

Since leaving Aldershot we've made many changes, such as Landrovers for Ferrets, 'TC' for 'the boss', SLRs for SMGs and carefree enthusiasm for troubled anxiety.

However, we are struggling through and feel confident that we will all come up, smelling of roses. (With the possible exceptions of 'Swamprat', whose personal odour could be described as many things, but never roses!)

Platoon Commanders have again changed. Lt Tim Sinclair realising THE IRON DUKE notes were due, relinquished command (what a superbly military sounding phrase) to Lt Murray Colville.

Goodbye to Pte John Furness whose eyes (we always said), were bigger than his belly and has left us to work in the ration store.

As we go on, the dangers of vehicles become more apparent. Lcpl Bill Logan (and others) losing parts of their fingers when shutting hatches on them. Cpl Ernie Pemberton having to make almost daily trips to BHM Rinteln—(therein lies a tale, not the least bit related to vehicles, but still a good story).

At present Sgts Hutchinson and Frear are away from us, training a cavalry regiment to go to



The Recce Platoon preparing for its first exercise

Northern Ireland. Cpl John Cockshott is on another course, free falling this time and Lcpl O'Garro is about to embark on the longest course of all. He gets married in late November. We wish him well, but can't help wondering what grade he'll get. If its anything like his basha-making it'll be pretty low!

Sgt 'Stiffy' Brennan goes on in his own inimitable style, as I suppose do the remainder of us, all working hard but never seeming to get very far.

Well anyway Merry Christmas one and all. Here's to you . . . (all on Duty Free Booze).

The rather swift change from Landrovers to Ferrets has taken its toll on the Recce Platoon. After spending many hours on the road converting the drivers we arrived in Minden to find that a Ferret spends one hour on the road and requires two hours servicing. In this we have been aided and abetted by the REME, LAD, who insist on taking the vehicles off the road whenever we wish to use them. Our first exercise was somewhat hilarious.

Having been used to a Landrover for three people we now have a Ferret for two, sounds good, well its not. With all the kit required to keep the vehicle on the road it leaves two odd shaped bins for, sleeping bags, rations, stove, spare clothing, etc. Most of these items end up strapped to the engine decks, exposed to the elements.

Note.—Camouflage lesson One 'Disrupt all shape and silloutte'.

Amidst all this confusion the boss is heard to say 'how many are off the road now . . . what!

Alas, we are trying for a return of our beloved Landrovers so that peace and sanity may once more prevail in our small Platoon.

Anti Tank Platoon

It is time once again to write THE IRON DUKE notes. The move to Germany was uneventful apart from the boss ending up in hospital with a torn cartilage.

Now that we are part of the European community and required to have a fair understanding of a number of languages we have decided to start with 'Geordie'. You may remember that 10 AYT in the last issue gave us an excellent basic Yorkshire course.

Because there are quite a number of soldiers in the Battalion who hail from the far North we thought that Geordie was a fair language to start with.

<i>Geordie</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
Gan on lad	Go on my boy
Gan yam lad	Go home my boy
A dinna	I don't know
Wa hinnie	A term of affection (literally translated 'My Hen')
Gad see wor lass	I'm going to see the good lady
Pad a puddy yammer	Pass the b——y hammer
Ganning along	Going along
Wor mi lads	Nothing to do with a lady
(taken from Blaydon Races)	of ill repute
Harry hook	A gay boy

Apint of broon	Can I have a pint of Newcastle Brown
Wai I!	Yes
Breed and buta	Bread and butter
Tarra	Mate
Lowa	Money
Nisa bula vinaka	Hello how are you (we're not sure whether this is Geordie or Fijian!)

Most of these expressions are fairly simple. However, we hope to carry on the courses in the next few issues of THE IRON DUKE. That is of course, if we can find an interpreter.

Lt Andrew Drake has joined us for a few days to brush up on his gun drills before going to Netheravon. We wish him well, and there's a very good pub called 'the Crown' at Eversley Mr Drake!

We welcome to the Platoon Ssgt Kendrew (Freddie) as Platoon Sergeant and congratulate Mrs Backhouse on producing a boy.

Mortar Platoon

Since our last contribution to THE IRON DUKE our time has been taken up largely with busy preparations for the move to BAOR, a spell of well earned leave and finally settling in to our new barracks in Minden. During this period several members of the Platoon have been away on courses. Cpl Sherratt successfully completed a FV 432 Instructors course at Bordon. Lcpl Cole is to be congratulated on attaining a 'B' grade on his German language course. His new skill will be put to good use ensuring that the remainder of the Platoon can at least order a beer without too much confusion. Lcpl Lee astounded us all by passing his driving cadre first time and then purchasing a bicycle on arrival in Minden.

Our first task in Minden was to put as many NCOs as possible through their 432 commanders course. Some found the change in driving on the left to the right difficult to get used to. The Sweeney has assured us all that he now knows the correct way round a traffic island. Sgt Hogg has become an expert at changing track guards. The next test in store is to see if he can command a vehicle to Soltau and back on exercise and return it unscathed.

Lcpl Clarke has taken over as the top driver. Even his career in his new post has not been uneventful. While searching for an elusive Landrover that Pte Bent had managed to hide for the day, his seat collapsed. He promptly disappeared into the bowels of his metal monster clutching on to the right steering lever. Sgt Cooper, the vehicle commander was halfway through the Lords Prayer when eventually they came to rest deep in the woods off the road. Lcpl Clarke's only comment was 'it obviously knows a short cut'.

All systems are now go for the forthcoming Mortar concentration and exercise 'Dusty Tyke'. More about those in our next IRON DUKE notes. Capt Harrap (double top) is at present trying to interest the Platoon in a new game of darts. The rules are vague but the general idea appears to be to 'head' the dart across a bar room and into the board. He's the only scorer so far.

A warm welcome to Lt Hall who has joined the Platoon for pre-course training prior to his Mortar Officers Course at SWW Netheravon.

Finally congratulations to Pte Chapman on his marriage to Miss Coleen Ward of Aldershot. All the best to you both from the Mortar Platoon. Congratulations also to Lcpls Farrell, Jarman, Lee and Oakley on their promotions.

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MT Platoon

'Someone mentioned 'IRON DUKE notes again' but looking at the last issue there were none written for the MT Platoon anyway. Once again we are caught out by being asked to produce notes at a critical time when the trays are all full with unanswered letters, everyone is away doing something else. Yes we are now in Germany and as settled in to our new barracks as we ever will be. We successfully converted the Battalion drivers at Bordon during June and July and at that time they averaged about 150 miles each of driving over a three-week period. One now appreciates how valuable that period was as looking at the vehicles here and how reliable they are one doubts if they will manage the same mile-

age with these vehicles over the next four years. Other funny vehicles were given to us on our arrival by 3LI, perhaps because they didn't understand them either. Amongst them were some refuelling trucks that were filled up with 600 gallons (sorry 2,700 litres) of fuel only to find that nobody in the MT Platoon knew how to get the fuel out. Someone mentioned a mess tin but to refuel the 432s in that manner is really out of the question. After several days of deliberation and some winding, pulling and pumping Cpl Aspin managed to reduce the load to 2,000 litres. Pity of it was all 700 litres was on the ground and still no ideas how to get the fuel out to refuel the trucks. We now look forward to Soltau where we must find the answer or have 143 vehicles come to a halt. Congratulations go to Dave Woolley and Dave Brear on their recent promotions to Corporal and Lance Corporal respectively and Pte Stan Holt on his marriage in September. Not to be forgotten in the honours list are Pte 'Bin' McDonnell on putting three vehicles off the road in as many days (still smelling) and Pte Willetts for managing to evade the RMPs without knowing it. We all look forward to the next period here in Minden when we will endeavour to learn the whys and wherefores, misuses and damage that one can put an Eager Beaver to (posh name for a fork lift).

REGIMENTAL BAND

Aldershot now seems a long way off after having spent a couple of months in BAOR. The Band arrived in station in early August and were fully operational by the latter part of the month.

Engagements in BAOR always have been numerous and when we looked at our calendar for August and September, it soon became apparent that very few blank spaces existed, and we would be out and about most of the time. One aspect that did stand out was the fact that every weekend was taken up with some kind of engagement. This can present a problem as all Bandsmen like their free time, and so, in order to prevent a rebellion, the Bandmaster slipped in the odd day off here and there during the week.

A large part of a Bandsman's life consists of travelling and it is quite common to board a coach at 0630hr and travel over 100 miles, fix up the kit for a one-hour concert, and then travel all the way back. Most of the Band accept the travel and it does afford the opportunity to catch up on one's sleep.

The highlight of our engagements so far must be our participation in the Minden Massed Bands Display, which involved three days of rehearsal and then the actual performance (a one night stand only) in the Weser Stadium. The weather, however, did not share our enthusiasm for the worthy occasion, and throughout the rehearsals, it rained heavily. The performance day was, however, a happy event and not one drop of rain fell. The stadium was not full to capacity due to the necessary safety margin required for the Firework Display, but even so, the fairly large audience enjoyed the marching and music which included 'The Royal Firework Music' by G. F. Handel.

It was nice to be back in Barracks and out of the rain, or so we thought, but alas! this was not to be. On September 17, it was our chance to make our debut in Minden as a Regiment, by providing a Marching Display in Barracks. This naturally required a lighting rehearsal the night prior to the show. Again the rain descended and for two hours, the Band paraded up and down the sports field. Our spirits were not dampened by the weather. Even though we could not play music, all the Band sang their individual parts as they marched up and down. The snag was that the German people passing by in their cars kept stopping. One can imagine the comments they would utter, 'Look at those mad Englishmen marching up and down in the rain, and singing for all they are worth'. Such is the sense of humour displayed by Bands when they are feeling down and out. The day of the actual parade was in fact dry and so we produced a first class show.

On four occasions during the last month, the Band has performed locally outside large supermarkets to German audiences.

A large number of engagements are classified as Anglo-German Community Relations engagements and are designed specifically to promote better relations. We hope our music did just that in Verden and Dorsten when during September we managed to fulfil two such engagements. In the case of the Verden engagement, a German Army Band played alternate numbers with us and finally, we got together for the marches 'Colonel Bogey' and 'Old Comrades'.

One interesting engagement was our attendance at a local Stock Car Race meeting. The 'G Flat' and 'C Sharp' pitch of the car engines did not exactly harmonise with our music, but we think we won the race eventually.

Unfortunately, we arrived out here just a little too late to play at any of the Schutzenfests or Wine Festivals, but we are open to offers for next year.

Finally, we welcome back to the Band the following Bandsmen who have just returned from Kneller Hall: Bdsm Foxton, Mann, and Clough. Also, we extend a welcome to Bdsm Rimmer who originally went to Kneller Hall from the Depot and has now joined our ranks.

BATTALION ORDERLY ROOM NEWS

Since the last notes were published the Battalion has had a month's well earned leave and moved lock, stock and barrel to Germany.

Everyone in BHQ has settled down in Germany very well and seems to be enjoying Germany (or should I say the LOA!). The BHQ staff are still working hard (as usual), and finding plenty of paper to keep them happy—who said that there is a paper shortage?

The Chief Clerk has got the Adventure Training 'bug'—he disappears (with persons known, but not to be mentioned) every Friday for a weekend in the mountains; however, the definition of Adventure Training is yet to be confirmed.

Pte Beck (the Minden Mauler) our filing clerk has since become a boxing enthusiast but has been

persuaded by one of our 'friendly' Germans that his talents are elsewhere!

Lcpl Grinsdale has now finally set up his movements office, and one can often hear cries of 'help' from the area of his office.

Lcpl Gault is so busy publishing NOK and belated entitlements of LOA that the RSM has promised him 28 days' holiday if his LOA is not forthcoming.

We say farewell to Sgt Ian Akeroyd who was with the BHQ for three-and-a-half years and say thank you for a job excellently done and also congratulate him on achieving promotion to Chief Clerk on posting to—ssh you know who at you know where! (There is no truth to the rumour that I have started to get the ulcers that go with the job). Congratulations are also in order to Capt J. R. A. Ward and wife on the birth of their daughter Emily Philippa on September 17, 1976.

We welcome back Cpl Colin Wykes from a two-year posting at the Depot. He has now taken over the job as documents clerk from Lcpl Grinsdale.

SPORTS & CLUBS

RUGBY

The season has got off to a busy but only moderately successful start. Our first game on September 1 was against 7 Sig Regt, a very hard game to start off with particularly as they had been on a Yorkshire tour. After a tough even first half we tired rapidly and 7 Sigs eventually ran out at 30-8 winners. We then played Bristol Imperials who were on tour and after a scrappy match we emerged as convincing 4-0 winners. They were entertained into the early hours of the morning as their tour had been curtailed by the impending dockers strike. Bielefeld Javelins provided stern opposition on a day when the Dukes began to play more as a team and tactics began to work. The score of 36-12 belied the intensity of the required work rate and the final whistle was warmly appreciated. On September 18 the newly amalgamated Engineer Regt 2 Armd walked into a storm of open rugby from both backs and forwards and were only defeated by 75-9 due to our lack of a consistent goalkicker. The Devon and Dorset Regt provided sterner opposition but went down by the convincing margin of 24-0. This game was followed by a weekend in Berlin to contest yet again with our old rivals the Royal Regt of Wales. Fielding a team of 12 fully fit men and with six regulars missing we crashed by the margin of 38-10 despite some brave and desperate defensive work. We rarely entered their half and won very little ball. The Welsh played superbly and enjoyed every minute of their triumph. We lost again to the touring Exeter Saracens by 17-10 in a game which we could easily have won. A fortunate try for the Saracens put them firmly out of striking distance in the last minutes.

Lcpl Williams returned to England to join the Combined Services squad for their three games



WO2 Robinson getting more than his fair share of attention from the opposition. Watched by no. 10 Lt Shuttleworth

but unfortunately did not play. Cpl 'Ena' Elwell represented BAOR against Glamorgan Wanderers but so far others have been unavailable. To date 22 different players have represented the 1st XV due to injuries. We now have a break in fixtures, due to the BAOR exercise season, before playing the first round of the Army Cup against 17/21st Lancers on November 16.

The 2nd XV have now built up a healthy squad under the guiding hands of Lt David Richardson and Ssgt Sam Basu. They have taken on a couple of 1st XV fixtures and done very well losing the first by a few points and convincingly winning the second. All young and old players are welcome to attend the training sessions which are Monday and Friday afternoons.

SOCCER

Football in the Battalion has taken on a new look this season. Lcpl Andy Lightfoot and Sgt Bob Heron will be sadly missed in the side, but the latter is proving even more valuable as a 1st team coach. Sgt Brian Sykes is organising the 2nd team squad. CSM 'Duke' Lawrence still retains overall control.

After an initial trial game both 1st and 2nd XIs quickly settled down and won some gentle friendlies. But it was the match against the PWO, this year's winners of the Infantry Cup, which really signalled the start of the season. With all the first choice players available the stage was set for an entertaining match. The Dukes captain, Pte Keith Pegson, scored an early goal as both teams soon settled into a fast exciting game. The PWO scored two goals to take the lead by half-time. After considerable Dukes pressure Pte Wes Weston scored a fine goal to make it 2-2. With 30 minutes to go the Dukes deservedly took the lead through Pte Keith Pogson. Within minutes the PWO had equalised through one of their Army players and consolidated their position with a hotly disputed penalty to give them a 4-3 lead. A superb header

from Lcpl Malt Maltby saw the Dukes gain a well deserved draw.

After such a good start to the season the first XI are keenly awaiting the Army Cup and Infantry competitions. Support is always welcome on Wednesday afternoons.

BOXING

The boxing squad has been training now for over a month under the paternal eye of Sgt Dave Hayes. Fifteen of the squad recently attended a skills course at Sennelager and Ptes Brian Lawrence and Rich Penaluna returned with excellent reports. We have high hopes of a victory for Pte Jock Lindsey in the BAOR individual championships in January. We have entered a team for the 1 Div individual novices competition on November 23 and hope to gain valuable experience there.

CROSS COUNTRY

The team achieved third place in a field of 10 in the 1 Div Cross-Country League on September 29, and started the season on a high note. Pte Colin Hicklin came fourth and Pte Mick Sweeney sixth in a very demanding race. Training has been fast and furious and a few have literally fallen by the wayside. Cigarettes and beer are not for consumption by our runners, as many can tell. We have more races organised in the near future and hope to improve our performances as we gain more experience.

SQUASH

The season is about to start and we play our first friendly fixture on October 4, versus 1 Cheshire. We have entered the 1 Div league and have received a full set of fixtures for the season. We shall also be entering the Soldier Magazine Cup which is the equivalent of the 'Army Cup' for Squash. We are always looking for new players and to introduce more people to the game, so if anyone is interested they should let the Squash Officer have their names. Instruction and coaching can be arranged.

CRICKET

Cricket in Germany started very well with a match against 1 Staffords. Batting first on a matting wicket the 1 DWR side managed to score 120 in 35 overs. This was largely due to the useful contributions from Maj Charles Bunbury (30), Lt Paul Saville (22) and Lt Mark Burton (30). The 1 Stafford innings never really got off the ground and they were bowled out in 17 overs for 31. This was a good introduction to BAOR cricket.

Unfortunately, the next match against 26 Engineer Regt was abandoned after 6 overs with the 1 DWR side at 14 for 3. Since then there has been some representative cricket for various members of the team in the Minden cricket week. The outstanding performances came from Lt Philip Jenkins who scored 94, and Capt Nicky Newell who took 6 for 15 in the same match. Others who played in the cricket week were Maj Charles Cumberlege, Maj Charles Bunbury, Capt John Thorn, Lt Tim Sinclair, WO2 Peter Robinson and Ssgt Alan Simpson.

Looking back over the season as a whole the bowling aspect has been our strength with five bowlers taking 10 or more wickets. These were Capt John Thorn, Ssgt Simpson, Lcpl Jones, Lcpl 'Tracker' Oakley and Pte Dexter Landell. On the batting side congratulations are due to Lt Col Greenaway for an average of over 50 and Lt Charles Grieve who provided a steady start on many occasions. Our thanks must also go to the Captain of the side Maj Charles Cumberlege who had led the side extremely well during an unbeaten season.

FREE FALL PARACHUTING

Having tried and failed so many times in Cyprus and UK to establish the club we were delighted to be given 16 vacancies in BAOR this autumn. The medical examination proved too stiff for some of our earlier applicants but eventually we produced four suitable candidates: Ptes Landell (A), Fairburn (B), Harber (C) and Yeadon from the MT. Unfortunately Pte Landell did not complete the course. For details see below.

Cpls Cockshott and Gale (who said Windy?) and Ptes Maskill (A) and Bakes (B) are all at present trying to defy gravity and we have two courses yet to jump. Does anyone like living dangerously? If so, contact RQMS Coll who will try to end it all for you.

Nineteen-year-old Yorkshire soldier, Pte Steve Harber has found a way to cure his fear of heights. He's just completed a two-week free-fall parachuting course in West Germany in which he made 15 descents from over a mile high.

Stevens parents, Mr and Mrs William Harber, live in Wakefield. He volunteered for the free-fall course at the Joint Services Parachute Centre in Sennelager and paid £16 towards the cost.

'I had done some parachuting when I was in Cyprus, but I was scared of heights and decided I had to do the course to get over it. Now I've accomplished one of the two things I joined the Army to do', he said. 'I've learned how to parachute but I've still to pass my driving test'.

Steve who joined up in 1973, said he found the course exciting. 'It was all worthwhile', he added.

SUB-AQUA

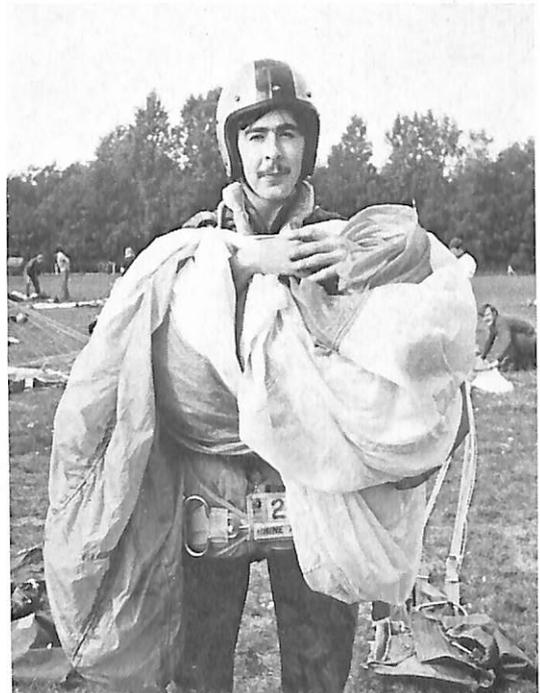
The 'Iron Dukes' Sub Aqua club has had a somewhat hectic time since last pen was put to paper. We lost three of our senior divers, one being the Diving Officer and time available to train new members on up to the quality of novice divers has been very short indeed.

Our major event was 'Wet Duke II' which was held at Fort Bovisand, Plymouth in June. Accommodation and backing was provided by the Joint Services Sub-Aqua Diving Centre which is based at Bovisand. The area is a divers paradise, situated at the entrance to Plymouth sound it has easy access to all good diving sites plus its own harbour. Due to our one and only supervisor being unable to attend we borrowed Bdr Bradley to run the supervisors side of things.

The party consisted of four 3rd class divers and eight novice divers. The aim was two-fold, to train novice divers to a 3rd class standard and to further the 3rd class diver in experience required for 2nd class. These aims were achieved to a high standard, leaving only the oral examinations to be taken by our own club supervisor on our return.

During the exercise a fishing vessel was hired to add to the experience and diving pleasure of all concerned. The exercise was described as a complete success.

Our situation at the moment is one of perpetual motion and to get the club in one place at the same time is impossible due to operational commitments. We are awaiting a grant for a compressor as our



Pte Steve Harber after his 15th descent

nearest air supply is an hours drive away.

Our pool is open air and evenings are dark and cold, so it has been decided to hold a pool training weekend to bring all the new divers to an acceptable standard.

We are looking forward to a very good seasons diving next year but do not intend to lie dormant all winter.

PTE 'DIFFY' DAVIES

Many readers will remember 'Duffy' who recently left the Battalion, after 26 years service, to spend his last few months at the Depot, Strensall, before leaving the Army to take up an appointment with 3 Yorkshire Volunteers, as Storeman.

'Duffy' joined-up in January 1951, as a Junior Bandsman and was described by his reporting Officer as 'not a very good boy' but as the story unfolds you will realise that Duffy has given the 'Dukes' very many years of loyal service.

He remained a Junior Bandsman until early in 1953 when he became an adult soldier and joined the Recruit Co. He spent five years as a Rifleman serving Platoon Commanders, Messrs Berry, Summers, Pugh, Ivey and Charlsworth, and then tried his hand as a Regimental Cook. In the early 60s he became a Mortar man and he then worked in Burma Coy HQ under the then Maj Shuttleworth. In early 1964 he began his long association with the QMs Department working for Capt Robbins as Batman and Sanitaryman. He remained in this department until 1973 when he was posted to the Officers Mess where he remained until the end of the Battalions recent tour in Aldershot.

'Duffy' has spent all his service with the Battalion and this included Germany, Malta, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Kenya, Honduras and Hong Kong. Despite all his travelling he and Mrs Davies had no less than eight daughters to their credit, and he must surely hold the record for the number of Guards and Duties attended during his service in the Army. In 1968 he was awarded the LS and GC which underlined his loyalty, service and cheerfulness, this was especially noticeable during his last few years in the Battalion where he served in the Officers Mess.

It is always a sad occasion when old soldiers leave the Battalion and 'Duffy', when saying goodbye to the Commanding Officer expressed a wish to take with him the flag under which he had served for so long, this he now proudly owns.

LCPL HARRY TODD

'Toddy' joined the Duke of Wellington's Regt in 1954. He was trained at the Regimental Depot, Halifax, and then joined the Battalion on its arrival in Chisledon in September 1955, where he was posted to 'S' Coy and became a member of the MMG Platoon.

'Toddy's' name first appeared in THE IRON DUKE in the January of 1956 edition (and it took quite a lot of reading to find it, 20 volumes in fact).

During the Battalion tour in Cyprus in 1957 'Toddy's' present engagement was coming to an

end, but a clever piece of internal recruiting managed to obtain 'Toddy's' signature, and the Regiment gained another one of its characters.

He was posted to Headquarter Coy while the Battalion were stationed in Northern Ireland in 1958, and his name stayed on that Companys Ration Roll until he left the Regiment in July 1976, a good innings by any standard. In July 1964, 'Toddy' was promoted to Lance Corporal and took over the duties of NCO IC Sanitation. One of the first jobs in his new capacity was to exterminate the moles that nightly dug up the sports field in Quebec Barracks, Osnabruck.

Many are the tales that could be told about 'Toddy' in the last 22 years. One though which still brings a smile to his face is the time he was delivering rations while the Battalion was on Border Duty in Hong Kong for the first time. The Platoon that were occupying the Sandy Ridge position collected their rations and asked 'Toddy' to carry up two jerrycans of water, it was quite a way up as many people could testify. However, 'Toddy' lugged up the jerrycans only to discover that at the top they had running water straight from the tap.

'Toddy' has served with distinction in every department of the Quartermasters and for the last 10 years has inhabited the Accommodation Stores, where, when time permitting he has pursued the only sport he said was worth mentioning, fishing.

Many are the times in one certain station the Regiment served in, when the sign on the Accommodation Stores, much to the dismay of the CQMS said 'Closed'. When Tug and Toddy, had in the words of the 'Old Groaner', 'Gone Fishing'.

It was because of his great interest in the art of hook and sinker that prompted the Quartermaster to hold a little ceremony and together with the rest of the department presented 'Toddy' with a new fresh-water rod (thats what he said it was anyway) suitably inscribed on the handle.

Harry Todd has served the Regiment well in the last 22 years. Not many can boast to the fact that they served their whole career and never left the Regiment till their day of demob. This 'Toddy' can claim.

We take this opportunity of now thanking 'Toddy' for all he has done for the 'Dukes' and wish him every success in civilian life and in the future.

STOP PRESS

ARMY RUGBY CUP (GERMANY)

First Round—November 16, 1976

1 DWR v 17/21 Lancers

Our superiority was evident from the start and by half time the score had reached 52-0 with the final score 130-0. This score breaks various records including our previous record score. Wingers Landell and Fleury each scored six tries.

The next cup match will be against 42 Heavy Regiment RA.

OFFICERS LOCATION LIST

As at January 1, 1977

Major General

D. E. ISLES, OBE: Director General, Weapons (Army), MOD.

Brigadier

C. R. HUXTABLE, CBE: Comd Dhofar Bde, Sultan's Armed Forces, to August 1978.

Colonels

E. M. P. HARDY: Comdt Small Arms Wing, School of Infantry, to January 1979.

D. W. SHUTTLEWORTH, OBE: AD of D Pol (B), MOD, to April 1978.

Lieutenant Colonels

P. A. MITCHELL, OBE: A/Col Col GS(W) Project Manager, MICV, DGFVE(PE). For Col in 1977.

R. M. HARMS, MC: Att HQ UKLF. For Col in 1977.

J. E. PELL, OBE: CO 1 UDR, to March 1977.

J. B. K. GREENWAY, MBE: CO 1 DWR, to June 1977. For GSO1 (DS), Staff College, Camberley, November 1977.

M. R. N. BRAY: Exec Asst (GOS1) UK Mil Rep, Brussels. For CO 1 DWR June 1977.

J. R. P. CUMBERLEGE: GSO1 (DS) Nigerian Staff College. For CO 7 UDR April 1977.

R. L. STEVENS, MBE: CO 2 UDR, to June 1978.

Majors

W. F. C. ROBERTSON: Chief Instr Army School of Recruiting, to February 1978.

J. D. P. COWELL: Adjnt AAC Chpewstow, to April 1978.

P. B. L. HOPPE: King's Div Recruiting Officer, to September 1978.

G. V. DAVIES (QLR): Families Officer 1 DWR, to September 1977.

C. D. d'E. MILLER: FAC & OC 601 GL Sec, to September 1977.

T. D. LUPTON: DADG(P), AMD 3/AG3, MOD, to September 1977. For Lt Col in 1977.

S. J. NASH: GSO2 HQ King's Div, to May 1978.

M. J. A. CAMPBELL-LAMERTON, MBE: DAAG HQ North West Dist. For Lt Col in 1977.

A. E. BUCKINGHAM: GSO2 MOD of United Aram Emirates. Retires February 1977.

C. W. IVEY: 2IC 2 R Irish. For Lt Col in 1977. For CO 1 Yorkshire Volunteers December 1977.

D. M. PUGH: Coy Comd Depot King's Div, to November 1978.

W. F. CHARLESWORTH: DAA & QMG HQ DSAS and SAS GROUP, to May 1977.

W. R. MUNDELL: 2IC 1 DWR, to May 1977. For Lt Col in 1977. For GSO1 (MA) to C in CBAOR, May 1977.

I. P. REID: Group Leader RCB Westbury, to August 1978.

C. R. CUMBERLEGE: 1 DWR, to December 1978.

M. G. L. M. STACPOOLE: DAA & QMG (Trg) HQ UKLF, to May 1977.

P. J. PUTTOCK: Coy Comd Sch of Electrical Engineering Aborfield, to May 1978.

P. D. D. J. ANDREWS: GSO2 (Int) HQ 8 Bde. For 1 DWR March 1977.

C. N. ST. P. BUNBURY, MBE: 1 DWR. For Grade 2 Staff April 1977.

E. J. W. WALKER: 1 DWR, to August 1978.

C. G. FITZGERALD: 1 DWR, to June 1978.

D. R. D. NEWELL: PSO at Army Youth Selection Centre (N), Harrogate, to July 1978.

A. R. WESTCOB: Coy Comd IJLB Shorncliffe, to August 1978.

P. J. MELLOR: 1 DWR, to May 1978.

T. J. NICHOLSON: GSO2 MOD (ASD5), to December 1978.

Captains

A. R. REDWOOD-DAVIES, MBE: A/Maj. Coy Comd Royal Brunei Malay Regt, to July 1977. For Staff College October 1977 to October 1978.

R. A. TIGHE (SSCC): Coy Comd Depot King's Div. For QM Commission April 1977.

D. W. WONSON: Staff Capt HQ British Forces Antwerp, to March 1978.

A. D. M. PALMER: 1 DWR.

M. P. C. BRAY: GSO3 (SD/Air) HQ 3 Commando Bde, RM, to April 1978.

P. D. GARDNER: 1 DWR. For Staff College October 1977 to October 1978.

J. M. THORN: 1 DWR. For Grade 3 April 1977.

C. J. W. GILBERT: OC 10 AYT. For 1 DWR February 1977.

J. R. A. WARD: Adjutant 1 DWR.

A. D. ROBERTS, MBE: Coy Instructor RMA Sandhurst. For 1 DWR April 1977.

N. J. NEWELL: 1 DWR.

D. L. J. HARRAP, LLB: Long Armour Infantry Course, Bovington, January to December 1977.

M. S. SHERLOCK: 1 DWR. For OC 10 AYT February 1977.

T. J. ISLES: 1 DWR.

A. J. FITCHERS: B.edn: 1 DWR.

Subalterns

K. BEST: IJLB Shorncliffe. For 1 DWR April 1977.

T. C. SINCLAIR: 1 DWR.

C. F. GRIEVE: A/Capt. OC 12 CTT Catterick, to September 1978.

J. DOWDELL: Instr Junior NCOs Wing. Sch of Inf (Brecon), to July 1978.

A. D. MEEK: Instr Skill at Arms Div, Sch of Inf, to December 1977.

R. C. M. HALL, BSC: 1 DWR.

A. H. S. DRAKE: 1 DWR.

P. J. Y. SAVILLE: 1 DWR. For Instr IJLB Shorncliffe April 1977.

R. M. L. COLVILLE: 1 DWR.

T. PICKERSGILL (SSCC): 1 DWR.

D. I. RICHARDSON: 1 DWR.

J. WELSH (SSCC): 1 PWO.

G. A. KILBURN: Depot King's Div, to June 1978.

G. D. SHUTTLEWORTH: 1 DWR.

W. A. N. ATKINSON: Depot King's Div, to August 1978.

M. J. STONE, BA: 1 DWR.

M. A. BURTON: 1 DWR.

S. C. NEWTON (SSC): 1 DWR.

P. M. JENKINS (SSC): 1 DWR.

P. P. DENIEFFE (on Prob): Oxford University, to July 1978. For RMAS September 1978 to January 1979. For 1 DWR February 1979.

P. J. McDAID: 1 DWR.

S. J. N. MORGAN (on Prob): Oxford University to July 1978. For RMAS September 1978 to January 1979. For 1 DWR February 1979.

R. C. STARK (SSC), BA (on Prob): RMAS. For 1 DWR March 1977.

P. R. S. BAILEY (SSVC): 1 DWR.

Quartermasters

MAJ J. M. HALL, MBE: HQ Rheindalen Garrison. Retires July 1977.

MAJ W. ROBINS, MBE: QM HQ York Garrison, to December 1977.

MAJ F. NICHOLS: Deputy SSO and Admin Offr Hohne Garrison, to October 1978.

MAJ W. BURKE: QM Depot King's Div, to February 1978.

MAJ S. H. KIRK: QM1 1 Green Howards.

CAPT L. LINSKEY (PWO): QM1 1 DWR.

CAPT J. LATTIMORE (R Irish): QM2 1 DWR, to April 1977.

GIGGLESWICK SCHOOL, SETTLE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

(Badged to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment)

ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS — SEPTEMBER 1977 ENTRY

11+ entry:

Two HALF-FEE boarding places.

Under 14 entry:

One FREE, two HALF-FEE boarding places and two exhibitions.

Sixth Form entry:

Two HALF-FEE boarding places for BOYS or GIRLS.

One or two of the Entrance Scholarships will be offered as Music Scholarships.

Further details and a prospectus from The Headmaster, Mr. R. A. C. Meredith.

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

The main event since the last edition of THE IRON DUKE in August has been the Battalion Annual Camp which was staged over a three-week period beginning with the last week in July. The first two weeks were a Battalion Recruits Camp having week one under canvas at Dibgate and then moving to hutted accommodation at Lydd. The recruits did all their training away from the main Battalion group which arrived at Lydd by train for the second and third weeks. Throughout the first week of the main camp there was no company training carried out as the Battalion was split up into cadres and each company designated so many soldiers to each cadre.

During the middle weekend two members of the Company (Cpl Ellis and Pte Hales) went on a two-day parachuting course with a club at a nearby airfield, but at the end of the course the weather was not calm enough for them to make their first jump and so they returned to the club each night after training. One night the weather was fair and they went up and made their first jump. Unfortunately Cpl Ellis landed in a tree and was suspended by his chute. It was then a lady came out of the house and said 'I suppose you are in the Army—you had better come inside for a cup of tea'—Luckily Cpl Ellis was not injured.

The second week of camp started with the Company reforming from the Cadres and any recruits who could stay for the third week. The training during the final week was split into range courses, dry training, inter-Company exercises and sport. The dry weather we had in August meant that no pyrotechnics could be used during the exercises and so the tactical training was limited. It was also limited by the time taken to get to the ranges or a suitable training area. Travelling time was usually in the region of three hours per day. On the sports field 'C' Coy won the inter-Company

Soccer Cup. This was presented to the team captain Lcpl Thomas by Lt Col Roper.

The only training weekend we have had since camp has been at Hawkesworth Ranges. On the Saturday there was a March-and-Shoot in preparation for Exercise 'Stainton Chase' followed by section competitions. On Sunday a families day had been planned, but the weather was so bad on Saturday it was thought that the family day would have to be cancelled. On Sunday the sky was blue and the sun was out. The families were brought from Huddersfield Drill Hall in mini buses. The children were able to shoot air rifles at balloons in the air rifle stall while the wives and parents were able to fire the SLR and LMG at figure 11 targets.

Ssgt Walker donated to the Company a large shield for inter-Platoon competitions and two small shields for the best SLR and LMG shot of the weekend. Lcpl Stead was the best SLR shot and Pte Mills the best LMG shot. Cpl Ellis's section were overall winner in the section competitions.

Exercise 'Stainton Chase' involved 31 teams from NE District, the preliminary training tests involving map reading, NBC, first aid, tactics and weapon training tests. Our examiners included RSM Joe Collins and a long haired Captain of Shillileagh waving habit, a noted warmonger recently retired to Catterick for CTT Duties by the name of G . . . E. Our marks were excellent! Then followed a five-mile forced march in full kit and a 10ft wall to be climbed in respirators. This preceded a competitive shoot where every point counted. We finished sixth which was very good indeed with a total of 449½ points only 42½ points behind the winners. Mr Robinson is slowly redeeming himself!

Our PSI Ssgt Walker has left us for a month to complete his education. We could have done it for him! But at least we are now guaranteed some excellent weather for weekend training.



**Cpl Ellis and son discussing
the pro's and con's of eating
out in the field**

Wellesley Company

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

Since the last notes we have welcomed Sgt Instructor G. Baume, an ex-regular 'tankie' who served with the 4/7th RDG, he is now with the Huddersfield Cadet Detachment and well on the way to becoming a good 'Duke'. We have welcomed back Lt Steve Lancaster who formerly commanded Skipton Cadet Detachment until his resignation through pressure of work some 18 months ago. Steve is now serving with Capt Douglas Bennet at Keighley Cadet Detachment. We have also welcomed the return of Capt John Evans who commanded Huddersfield Cadet Detachment until his retirement through ill-health, also some 18 months ago. John is now fit and well again as indeed he must need be for he has dropped into the 'hot seat' as Area Staff Officer. We are delighted to see them both back in harness.

We must congratulate two Instructors on their recent well deserved promotions; Sgt Graham Wilkinson of Skipton Cadet Detachment to Staff Sergeant Instructor and Ssgt Instructor Peter Cole of Huddersfield Cadet Detachment to Sergeant-Major Instructor.

We have said goodbye to Maj J. R. Brinley, TD. For the third, and his family fondly hope, for the last time—Jeff has hung up his hat. In 1947 he took himself off to do his National Service and, as he puts it, 'rather to his surprise became a Second Lieutenant of the Royal Army Service Corps' an event he was quite rightly rather proud of. He went on to serve with the TA of his native Devon, ultimately commanding a Squadron of the Royal Corps of Transport. With Regimental Command in the offing, the 'chop' of 1967 saw Jeff hang up his hat for the first time, but not for very long, he joined Wiltshire Army Cadet Force as an Area Commander.

He hung it up for the second time when his career as a schoolmaster brought him to the Yorkshire Dales in the first instance, and Meltham in the second in 1973 when, the khaki again proved irresistible and he joined us as Area Staff Officer. Although a 'corpsman' at heart Jeff proved to be a loyal 'Duke' whilst with us and as evidence of his switch from 'wheels to feet', never failed to take less than three pairs of boots on a weekend training camp. We shall miss him for he is something of a 'character' especially as a champion teller of stories. It says a lot for his ability that the Officers and Instructors of the Area never failed to delight in his telling old favourites whenever he had a new audience to regale. It is to be wondered though, how many will miss hearing that well known expression of his 'my dear sar'nt Major, what a splendid fellow you are' which signified that someone had again been charmed into taking on a job.

To be truthful he hasn't quite finished; his hat is again hung up, but not thrown away for he reverts to RARO. We shall see Jeff again at the Proteous weekend in December, when we hope to dine him out. It promises to be quite a party.

Annual Camp is now a memory; luckily a happy one. The prospect of a hundred and odd cadets to be entertained each evening was somewhat daunting; although in the event happily met by the use of field firing and CQB ranges most evenings. A novel experience to cadets but one they thoroughly enjoyed—making very effective use of the several weapons available in the way of LMG, SMG, SLR and pistol. Capt Chris Gilbert and Sgt Steve Kelly with the lads of 10 AYT gave cadets a very splendid day out rock-climbing and abseiling in the Cheviots and in so doing contributed to the enjoyment and experience of annual camp.

As usual Yorkshire ACF went to camp in two halves. The Areas of the South taking the second week, those of the North the first. For us camp consisted of the three Areas of the North-East, and the three Areas of the North-West of ourselves, Bradford and Leeds, under command of the Deputy Commandant (NW) Lt Col D. Hooper. As is our usual custom, we were determined to let everyone one know that the 'Dukes' were in camp. Its a dangerous game to play; but we think we acquitted ourselves quite well. We did not win as many of the competitions as we could—and should, have done, but emerged not too badly. We were, however, sad to lose the one competition we had set our hearts upon, the County Guard Mounting. It was won, and deservedly so—by Bradford Area. The cadets of the guard were beautifully turned-out, a splendid sight to behold and drilled to perfection; but, they made a couple of 'silly' mistakes, and that was that.

We also took to camp, and tried it out in public—our new set-up, hitherto confined to weekend camps, of working as a Company of four Platoons. The term Area is MOD(A) approved and used throughout the ACF (except Scotland where the term Bn is still used) to describe the units of each County ACF, with each Area comprising of a varying number of Detachments. Useful administratively, but difficult to work to as a military unit although it does overcome the problem of those Areas made up of Detachments of differing badgings. Luckily we have no such problem being entirely DWR badged. We fondly hope our new set-up is here to stay, of Wellesley Co, with the Detachments grouped as Anzio, Burma, Chindit and Dunkirk Platoons. It certainly enabled us to operate more effectively, whilst also permitting us to express our very strong loyalty to the Regiment. It is a subject deserving a separate article rather than the space permitted here, suffice it to say we are proud to be of the Regiment, and quite blatantly use that pride in our set task of helping boys to become good citizens

Since camp we have completed two weekends, both at Anzio Camp, Leek. The one in September coincided with beautiful weather, whilst the last, in October, was of very dubious quality. Having

'marched in' and bedded down in pouring rain, it was painful to contemplate what the weekend was going to be like if cadets were to be confined to lecture rooms. In the event the weather permitted a curtailed exercise on the training area during the Saturday morning, including lunch of 'bangers and beans' cooked by each cadet on a hexamine cooker. One-hundred-and-eleven cadets swore they had each and everyone had a splendid lunch, with not a burnt bean between them—but, 'please Sir, what's for tea?'

Since the last notes we have experienced the annual exodus of senior cadets to the Regular Army via all the Apprentice Colleges and Junior Leaders Regts. We look forward to seeing them on their first leave, as smart young soldiers, 'bright eyed and bushy tailed' and enjoying their service. Meanwhile we turn to the next batch of recruits to start again with 'well laddie, so you want to be a cadet; and you want to join the Army when you're old enough—splendid, splendid, but first; *what about a haircut?*' or words to that effect . . .

GIGGLESWICK SCHOOL COMBINED CADET FORCE

It is with some feeling of guilt that we submit a brief report of our doings for publication. To those who wonder what an 'Affiliated CCF' is, let me assure you that our sense of 'belonging' to, and being able to identify ourselves with, the Regiment is keenly felt. Capt David Fox handed over command to me in the summer of 1974 and I have been able to continue the strong links with the Depot, and the various units in the former West Riding. For instance, we meet up in the Messes in Halifax and Huddersfield from time to time and for the past two years have been able to attend the Annual Service in York Minster and renew acquaintances, at the Buffet Lunch afterwards at Strensall. In return, we are pleased to welcome 'Dukes' Officers to the school on various training activities.

There are just over 100 cadets on the roll of the cadet unit at present and about 60 of these are involved with basic training to Proficiency standard. The introduction of the APC has tended to raise the standard of training in schools and at Giggleswick there is a healthy interest shown in things military. Although we are only able to train for two hours per week, we send a fair proportion of the cadets to annual camp, adventure training and the various cadet courses that are held throughout the year during the holidays. Perhaps our chief regrets are that we send so few young men into the Regular Army and that we see so little of the Regular Bn, which always seems to be training miles away from its native Yorkshire! During their time in the school, boys are given the opportunity of learning about the role of the Services in the life of the nation and become sympathetic with the aims of the armed forces.

Last year, we had the good fortune to train in BAOR (dare I say so, with the 13/18 Royal Hussars!) and this year we were at Bellerby Central Camp. Largely as a result of the efforts of our retired Editor, Lt Col Hugh Le Messurier, there do I now submit these brief notes to let readers

know that the CCF at Giggleswick is alive and well. We shall try to add further items of interest in the future.

N.J.M.

10 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

Summer 1976

The events forecast in the last edition, as well as many others all passed off successfully. However, a few comments are appropriate.

Regimental KAPE

As expected, this tour was warmly received. Despite the enormous socio-economic pressures upon the Modern Army, the increased work load of Northern Ireland and the technological advances concurrent with defence thinking, it is marvelously refreshing to witness ordinary people proudly acknowledging 'our soldiers' in the way that the inhabitants of the West Riding respect and lay claim to the Dukes as their own. Just a glance at the 'in memorium' dedications in the St Paul's Street Drill Hall can quickly enlighten any visitors mind as to the extent to which the Dukes re the West Riding personified.

More the pity that the 1st Bn is in BAOR—'when are they coming back' is a question we on the team have always to answer.

Camps Various

The boys camp and the ACF Camp were held during the fabulous weather which blessed us this summer. During the summer, we ran a climbing course at Brimham rocks and the latter found us at Crag Lough near Housesteads on Hadrian's Wall—you guessed—'climbing'. The cadets especially showed great enthusiasm for rock climbing.

Shows

The Catterick and Great Yorkshire Shows were attended by thousands of people respectively. The latter is the most interesting of course because its aim is agricultural. The Adventure in the Army stand is always well set out and attended. This year was no exception.

Current Events

Our daily routine remains much as before. Camps and Climbing whenever and wherever possible, and now that the winter is approaching indoor activities resume their importance. Team members continually need retraining and course training. The winter weather usually denies us the pleasure of outdoor work so that attendance on these courses is feasible.

Personalia

Capt Gilbert returns to the fold in February 1977 as forecast. Sgt Kelly is due for relief in May 1977, but it is determined to pass his intermediate assessment at JSMTTC Wales next Spring. I know whose side my money is on!

Cpls Anver and Hughes are rapidly acquiring all the attributes of a 'Crag rat' and now signify that they wish to canoe as well. What's wrong with dangling 200ft up a mountain anyway?

Obituary

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

Mrs G. C. Tedd

Mrs Gwen Tedd, wife of Maj Graham Tedd and mother of Victoria and Jonathan, died in the Halifax Royal Infirmary on October 3, 1976.

Her many friends were shocked by the death, after a mercifully short illness, of Gwennie Tedd. She married Graham while serving as a Junior Commander in the ATS and accompanied him in his many postings both at home and overseas.

A vibrant personality she brought much happiness and gaiety to all who were privileged to know her.

The funeral took place on October 7, at the Garrison Church, Strensall, where she had spent so many happy hours. It was attended by Mrs Isles representing the Colonel of the Regiment and by a large number of members of the Regiment and their wives, and many other friends.

Mr F. Ashton Jones

Mr Frank Ashton Jones died suddenly at his home, Beech House, 301 Stainland Road, Stainland, on October 21, 1976, aged 70 years.

Mr Jones became bandmaster of the 1st Bn in 1934 joining from Kneller Hall. He retired in 1945 and became associated with the former Halifax Special Constabulary band. He also coached woodwind at Calderdale School of Music and was conductor of the Halifax Music Centre Band.

An Appreciation

Wing Commander Henry Arden Crommelin, AFC

'Crums' as he was affectionately known to his contemporaries joined the 2nd Bn Dukes in April 1918. For the very good reason that he was following in his father's footsteps.

His subsequent service is somewhat confusing as he was seconded to the RAF on three separate occasions, rejoined the Regiment after each spell of service with the RAF and finally retired in April 1935.

His heart was in flying and anything to do with aeroplanes.

After retirement he went into civil aviation.

On the outbreak of War in 1939 he was recalled to the RAF and was employed as a flying instructor. He taught many future RAF pilots to fly, probably the best known was Gibson, VC, of 'dam buster' fame. From my own personal knowledge of 'Crums' I am quite sure he was an instructor who gave his pupils complete confidence. He was quiet, painstaking and thorough and gave the impression of complete unflappability.

F.P.A.W.

Walter 'Geordie' Bye

Walter (1st and 2nd Bns) died at Ryton-on-Tyne, Co Durham, on March 15, 1976, aged 72 years.

Joining the 2nd Bn in November 1922 he served in Egypt, Malaya and India, later as cook with the 1st Bn and Regiment Depot and terminated his service in the rank of Sergeant in September 1945, after 23 years' service.

Mrs Sophia Clarke

Sophia, wife of Csgt G. Clarke, died in hospital on February 15, 1976, aged 47 years.

George, who retired in December 1974, after 23 years' service, lives at 28 Arbroath Road, Farringdon Sunderland.

MAJ STEPHEN GERARD DUNN

The August issue gave the sad news of the death of Maj S. G. Dunn in May.

Steve joined the TA in the old 2/6th Bn in early 1939 and eventually became a Sergeant. Commissioned in October 1940 he joined the 10th Bn and eventually joined the 2nd Bn in India in September 1941, where I think they were still in Delhi. He accompanied the Battalion on the first Burma campaign and was wounded in March 1942. He remained with the 2nd Bn for the rest of its time in India becoming Intelligence Officer of the Battalion, then of 76 Column during the second Chindit operation and later in 1945 at HQ 16 Bde.

After the war he returned to UK and served for some years as a Carrier Borne Liaison Officer, a role which he liked and which suited him—including a tour on HMS *Ark Royal* with the Mediterranean Fleet. He returned to the 1st Bn in early 1949, married Cynthia, and departed in mid-1950 for a further tour in the Air Liaison business, this time on active service in Malaya. He returned to the 1st Bn in October 1952, served in Korea as 2IC 'B' Coy, and returned to UK in the spring of 1953 to command the 1st Bn's official Detachment at the Coronation. He took over as Adjutant and then Training Officer at the Depot in mid-1953, and then in 1955 he started his long period in Malaya with the Federation Forces, which lasted until late 1962. A final tour with PR in Germany and he decided to retire and go into the business world.

I met Steve for the first time on joining the Battalion at Ranchi in October 1942. It was soon apparent that he was a man of great self-confidence, and his firm belief in the ultimate defeat of the Japanese and his determination to be at them again without delay astonished the new arrivals like myself who had heard so much about the hardships of the long march out of Burma a few months earlier. Here was a man who so recently had been badly mauled by the enemy yet already he was looking forward to the day when he could return to Burma! We had not long to wait. In February

1943 Brig Wingate had led his Expedition into North Burma. Operations on a much larger scale were planned for early 1944 and the 2nd Bn joined Gen Wingate's new Special Force, 3rd Indian Div, or Chindits. The Battalion was divided into two columns, the 33rd and 76th. Steve Dunn, already Battalion Intelligence Officer, became IO of 76 Column and I his opposite number in 33 Column. Steve, now launched on the road back, was in his element. His work in organising Naga scouts and guides, in finding interpreters and in gathering intelligence concerning enemy locations and movements proved to be of incalculable value to both columns. I remain eternally grateful to him for the help and guidance which he gave me so readily and of which I was in such need as a new boy in the role of column IO.

All too soon, or so it seems in retrospect, those days came to an end. The lucky ones came home, some like Steve to remain in the Regiment to serve with distinction for many more years, others to take their chance outside. Fortunately there were two or three years to follow when some of us got together on the flimsiest of excuses for a celebration—Operations 'Bacchus' and 'Bacchus again' mounted in Halifax were typical. These were certainly stirring times but they are also great days which shall be everlasting. Unhappily and much to my regret I saw little of Steve after the War. He was undoubtedly a man of courage and determination and he inspired those not so gifted. We who had the privilege of his friendship, indeed of serving with him, mourn his early passing and will remember him.

Our thoughts and sympathy go to his widow Cynthia.

E.J.B.M.

Correspondence

The following letter reached RHQ via the Mayor of Calderdale and the 1st Bn. If any readers of THE IRON DUKE are able to help M. Lerat would they please write to him direct.

5 Rue Renoir,
'Le Champ du Cerf',
59790 Ronchin,
France

Dear Sir,

I am doing some investigations about the BEF which is often forgotten in France. I am now working about the Somme.

It is quite extraordinary but in France there are no books about the part of the British Armies.

I think that the personal experience is the high-class documentations. So I collect some testimonies of ex-service soldiers of many English, Scottish and Irish Regiments.

It is a great deal of work for me to find survivors so I shall be most grateful to you if you could publish an insert in one of your local newspapers.

I am researching ex-service officers, NCO, and privates who fought in the Somme 1916-18 or in Cambrai area 1917-18 of the West Yorks Regt,

Green Howards, Duke of Wellington's Regt, East Lancs Regt.

Also of Royal Tank Corps, RFC or RAF, Royal Engineers, Machine Gun Companies, Trench Mortar Batteries, Field Ambulances, Divisional HQ and Local Yeomanry Regiments.

If there is still any ex-officer who served with any Indian Cavalry Regt or any piper of any Scottish Regiment, please contact me.

I am doing these investigations since two years and I am not ending. The BEF is a very large subject and interesting too.

In visiting all these cemeteries I didn't understand why the British Army was so forgotten . . .

There are so many buried in the Somme.

Well, I hope that you will understand my work and feelings. It is difficult for me to express them in the English language.

At least, I thank you warmly for your kind co-operation.

With all kind wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

PHILIPPE LERAT.

206 Bradley Mills Road,
Rawthorpe,
Huddersfield,
West Yorks HD5 9PE
August 14, 1976

Sir,

It was very sad to hear of the 'passing on' of 'Old Stamper', I refer of course to the late 'Maj Douglas Jones-Stamp' who was known affectionately by that name by all who had the pleasure of serving under him, he was a rather colourful officer and horses were his greatest joy, I well recall when the 2nd Bn 'Dukes' were stationed at Nicholson Lines, Delhi Cantonment in 1940; on frequent Sunday mornings we used to watch him go out riding in his open 'landau' with Cpl 'Snap' Carter, IC Mule Transport, in full livery-dress including top hat up in the driver's seat and two small Indian boys also in Livery standing up very proudly on the back step, sometimes there would be two grey mules in the traces and on some occasions four, but as always handled very skilfully by Cpl Carter, it was indeed a splendid and colourful sight; it was said that 'Old Stamper' used to buy Indian tonga-ponies and train them for polo but I knew he was a good judge of horses and if he bought a horse it would be a good one.

When I was a Drummer attached to his Company at Escort Lines (these were the quarters for British troops doing guard duties at Viceregal-Palace, the guard would mount in the centre court facing road leading up to the palace. If D.J.S. was Orderly Officer there was no doubt that the guard knew to be on its toes as regards to their preparation, D.J.S. had an ingenious method of inspection which consisted of the sleeves of two cigarette packets, one 'Players' and one 'Woodbine' the dress for guard was KD tunic and shorts, pith helmets, long puttees and red hosetops. The regulation was that the amount of hosetops showing turned over puttees was a specified length, D.J.S. discovered this was exactly the length of a Players fag packet,

he used the Woodbine one as a tube to inspect buttons, putting the tube to his eye he would zoom in to an inch from them and this gave a kind of polarising effect and clearly showed up any dirt which had not been brushed out of the titles. When we went to Jhansi in 1940 I was again attached to B Coy, 'Busty' Jones was CSM and I can't be certain but I think D.J.S. was acting Company Commander, we were doing quite a lot of training on brigade level and one night the Company Bivouacked in a hollow against a high ridge. We made a Recce of this ridge, there was a steep slope of about 150 yards on to an undulated plain and enemy activity was observed, D.J.S. decided to send out a Patrol and we were ordered to get what information we could, cause confusion and if possible capture a Prisoner. As soon as darkness fell we went over the ridge with just rifles and bayonets, cap-comforters on heads, cardigans, slacks, canvas shoes and hands and faces blacked, we went about three miles at a fast pace, but up to then we hadn't seen or heard any human activity then suddenly we saw lights to our right. We went towards them silently and over the Bund was a camp with lights and tents all around, nearest us was a big marquee and we could hear men having a meal and making a lot of noise about it, so after making sure there were no sentries we went hell for leather for the marquee and snatched as many maps and documents as we could. Then a chap came in and was at once taken prisoner he accepted our statement that he was bound and gagged and wouldn't escape but as we made our withdrawal he ran for a truck and drove away shouting enemy then his own men started shooting blanks at him and we got clean away with our loot. We arrived back at base and D.J.S. was delighted with our success, a slight drizzle was falling when we crept into our bivvies, next morning at first light we stood to and D.J.S. told us we were to expect an assault on our position, but no attack came until later, and we could see the umpires coming up the hill as we kept up rapid fire, then: (a catastrophe) D.J.S. shouted throw rocks and shout hand grenade. Up the hill came a giant of a man on horseback, he was shouting Jones-Stamp: where is this Jones-Stamp! It turned out that this umpire was in fact the Area Commander, 'Old Stamper' was rather worried one of the rock 'hand grenades' had hit this officer on the head, but he wanted to congratulate D.J.S. on his ingenuity. Then the cease fire was sounded and the 'Dukes' had won the day thanks to the tactics of 'Old Stamper'.

Maj D. S. D. B. Jones-Stamp didn't go into Burma with us, he went on to pastures new, in a way it was a good thing he didn't, it was a bad war against an inhuman enemy (I myself was a 'guest' of them for three-and-a-half years after Sittang and like all 'Dukes' I bounced back into the Regiment after the war but due to Burma I am now 100% disabled).

'Old Stamper'! those of us who had the honour and pleasure to serve under him will always remember him for what he was, an Officer and a Gentleman, when I hear 'The Galloping Major' I say to myself, yes I remember him well.

D. T. NOON, *Ex-Drum Major*

Woodend,
Crawley Ridge,
Camberley,
Surrey GU15 2AN

Sir,

Recently I visited Stratfield Saye, the home of the first Duke of Wellington near Reading.

In case some of the Regiment do not know the fact, may I say that in 1942 the sixth Duke of Wellington was killed at Salerno in Italy on the seventh day of the battle.

He had served in the Duke of Wellington's Regt. Then he transferred to No 2 Commando and was commanding No 3 Troop which had already been decimated. However, he and his Troop Sergeant Major with the remnants of No 3 Troop attacked 'The Pimple' where the Duke was killed by a grenade. Col Jack Churchill recommended him for the VC, but it was not granted.

His grave reads:

'Virtutis fortuna domus'

'To Morny. The Happy Warrior'.

(No doubt Morny was his nickname in the light of the fact that he was the Earl of Mornington before he became the Duke.)

We in the Regiment are proud of the first Duke but also of this, his descendant, who served the Sovereign with such courage.

Yours sincerely,

B. GODFREY BUXTON, *Captain*

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Soldiering in India

It is the writer's aim, in this short series, to give a pen picture of life in the ranks, both serious and not so serious, during the early days of the 2nd Bn 'Dukes' in India.

The 2nd Bn 'Dukes' left Singapore on November, 21, 1928, two days after I had attained the glorious heights of 'man's service', two shillings a day and being able to smoke openly without the trip to the latrines. Our conveyance from Singapore to Bombay was the HMT *Somersetshire* and, so far as I can now well remember, it was an uneventful but pleasant enough trip. Perhaps the one and only landmark which indelibly placed itself in ones memory on entering Bombay harbour was the 'Gateway of India'. It could not be missed, nor could it be forgotten, for not only was it the gateway to a massive sub-continent but also a gateway to a new life and a new type of soldiering; especially after Singapore.

Our introduction was pleasant enough. After disembarking on to the quayside, rough ground liberally mixed with stones and interspersed with railway tracks, the gauge of which was far wider than I had ever seen before or since, and after much shouting of orders. 'No 1 company over here'. 'HQ Wing over here', etc, some semblance of order appeared. It must be remembered that each man had all his kit and possessions with him. Then came the issue of the items peculiar to India in that, where the owner went the items went. Three blankets, three sheets (if I remember rightly), dhurrie (a blue carpet looking item which took the place of a ground-sheet) and a bedding roll strap of leather with a brass buckle. This latter for securing blankets, sheets (and on subsequent occasions when one had grown 'wise to a thing or two', various other items) and the dhurrie on the outside. Then, the gods and whoever provided them (Ahmed Din our contractor I think) be praised. Sandwiches of small tea cakes with two freshly fried eggs in each, a pint of tea and, yes its true, 50 cigarettes per man. The cigarettes were 'Scissors' made by WD & HO Wills of whom we had all heard before. 'Scissors' were by all and sundry always called 'Kenchies'—if that is wrongly spelt and for any other such errors I bow the knee and apologise. So much for Bombay and which I was not to see again for almost five years.

Our station Ahmednagar, was reached without incident but shocks and incidents there were plenty in store for us—they only needed to be drawn out at the whim of the powers that be. Upon detraining at Nagar we received our first shock. One of the out-going regiments welcoming party informed us 'Oh! y' barracks is only round the corner—about five miles up the road'. I think all of us there and then were convinced that India was a wonderful place on posters, inside the pages of novels but to be actually there was ruthless and forbidding and so soon after leaving Singapore which was Paradise. However, such is initiation and Sandhurst Barracks were quite soon a reality; a large area of barrack single-storey buildings each in its own right capable of withstanding a

siege so strongly were they built. Comparison with our last station was odious. There everything was green where it should be, pleasant to the eye and the senses. Here brown, stone strewn ground, many paths crossing it and seemingly miles from A to B. Not only was it odious, it was painful and so I will refrain from mentioning Singapore again.

I cannot recall ever having seen a map of Sandhurst barracks but, if one imagines the top of this page being North, then the Bandroom was at the extreme south of barracks with some 80 yards north the Drums room and, to its right the Signals, Pioneers and Admin offices and stores. To the extreme north as it were, was the Garrison Children's school, the Regimental School and Sgt Maj and Mrs Sinclair's married quarter. So much then for the topography of the barracks—the parts of pulsating life will be filled in in due course.

Our second shock was our first night in barracks—no electricity, our illumination being supplied by two ordinary paraffin lamps hung in a tin and glass case hung over the rifle racks, one at each end of the room which was some 80 yards long. This was something which had to be rectified and that right quickly—how can one write for postal orders, parcels or answer the girl friend's last letter already some weeks old without a light? However, the British soldier if he never had anything else always had a sense of humour albeit dry at times.

The next day Daily Orders settled for all time the many rumours that had been bandied to and fro. Both pairs of boots were to be 'dubbed' at once; the Battalion would start training immediately in readiness for Brigade Training in early January by doing a series of route marches each week and each one would be longer than its predecessor; company commanders would be responsible for the holding of 'foot inspections' after every march (those unfortunates prone to blistered feet found out very quickly that we had a wonderful MO—his one and only remedy was 'Vaseline dressing, M & D', in a very Irish accent but of the many so treated not one wished for his sudden repatriation to the Emerald Isle). Also that day in 'Battalion Detail' and later, but not much, issued in 'Company Detail' under the signature of those harbingers of good news, the Company Sergeants, all ranks were informed that, under company arrangements, that evening the companies would march round the 'Barrack Bounds', and cryptically, 'no exemptions'. As it was five miles round the bounds it was not bad for 'starters' and certainly meant good trade for the char wallahs—supper had not then been heard of as a part of a soldier's sustenance.

The first march was of some seven to eight miles, started on the half hour with 20 minutes march to the first ten minute halt. This allowed for the easing or tightening of any chafing brace or similar part of one's equipment and, of course, a 'drag or two' if you happened to have a cigarette. From then on it was strict march discipline—50 minutes march then 10 minutes halt and ere long the dubbin had, along with the dust, taken over from the shine

on our boots. ('Hours I spent on mi boots for guards'. 'They'll never shine agin', and 'Cost me a fortune in Cherry Blossom they did', were some of the printable remarks one heard re-Boots, IP Soldiers for the use of). Apart from the route marches there were, of course, all the other day to day regimental, company and platoon duties to be done and, less one tends to think otherwise, we found we had plenty of time for sport and other leisure activities.

Christmas cards began to arrive from home and

for lucky ones parcels also. Such, however, was comradeship that, in the majority of cases, the one who got least out of a parcel, large or small, was the recipient. By Christmas Day we had done a '14 miles' march and were by far a fitter, healthier and I think happier regiment of men than when we had first taken up residence in Sandhurst Barracks and we looked forward with growing confidence to the march to Kazipur on January 4, 1929.

SAX

Huddersfield and District Army Veterans' Association Visit to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea

Being, so far as we know, an Organisation unique in Great Britain, the Committee felt that a visit by some of our Veterans to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, would be interesting and appropriate. Accordingly, with the help of the Adjutant of the Royal Hospital, a visit was arranged for September 4-5, 1976.

At 0800hr on Saturday the 4th, 20 Veterans, the eldest being 83, and the youngest 64, many having served in the Duke of Wellington's Regt, and seven members of Committee left Huddersfield by coach. After lunch in London the party was taken for a coach tour of the City before returning to their hotel for dinner. During the coach tour the Veterans created much interest and were photographed by tourists of many countries. We have since received letters from Denmark and Mexico.

On Saturday evening we had been invited to the In-Pensioners' Club at the Royal Hospital, and after being welcomed by RSM Lamb the Veterans were given the freedom of the club and spent an enjoyable evening chatting with the In-Pensioners and other visitors.

At 1030hr on Sunday the Veterans paraded for Chapel with the In-Pensioners. The Veterans were a credit to the Association, having obviously made a lot of effort to shine up their medals and shoes and generally present a smart appearance. The RSM handed the parade over to the Captain of Invalids, Maj Arthur Wellesley who in turn handed over to the Lieutenant Governor who carried out the inspection. He was most interested

in the Association and I think he spoke to every Veteran on parade.

After Chapel we were again entertained in the In-Pensioners' Club and given a really fine lunch. Before leaving we were taken round the Royal Hospital and were most impressed to see how well the In-Pensioners are looked after and, by the magnificent surroundings in which they live.

We were seen off by RSM Lamb at about 1500hr and 20 rather tired but very happy Veterans arrived back in Huddersfield at 2000hr.

The whole weekend was a tremendous success due mainly to the kindness of RSM Lamb and the Staff of the In-Pensioners' Club (who incidentally wouldn't let any of us buy a single drink) and the interest shown in the Association by everyone we met from Gen Hobart, the Lieutenant Governor to the In-Pensioners themselves.

Whilst at the Royal Hospital we were informed that there are plenty of vacancies for In-Pensioners and any ex-Regular Soldier who has reached retirement age and who has no dependants should seriously consider entry. The Royal Hospital is *not* an 'institution' and from what we saw during our visit, ex-Soldiers there are given a wonderful time in their retirement.

Postscript.—The Adjutant of the Royal Hospital is Lt Col W. M. Mackay, DSO, MC, who commanded the Gunner Battery which supported the Dukes on The Hook in Korea. I am sure he would be delighted to meet any Duke who visits the Royal Hospital.

Survival (or) Poaching with the Recce Platoon

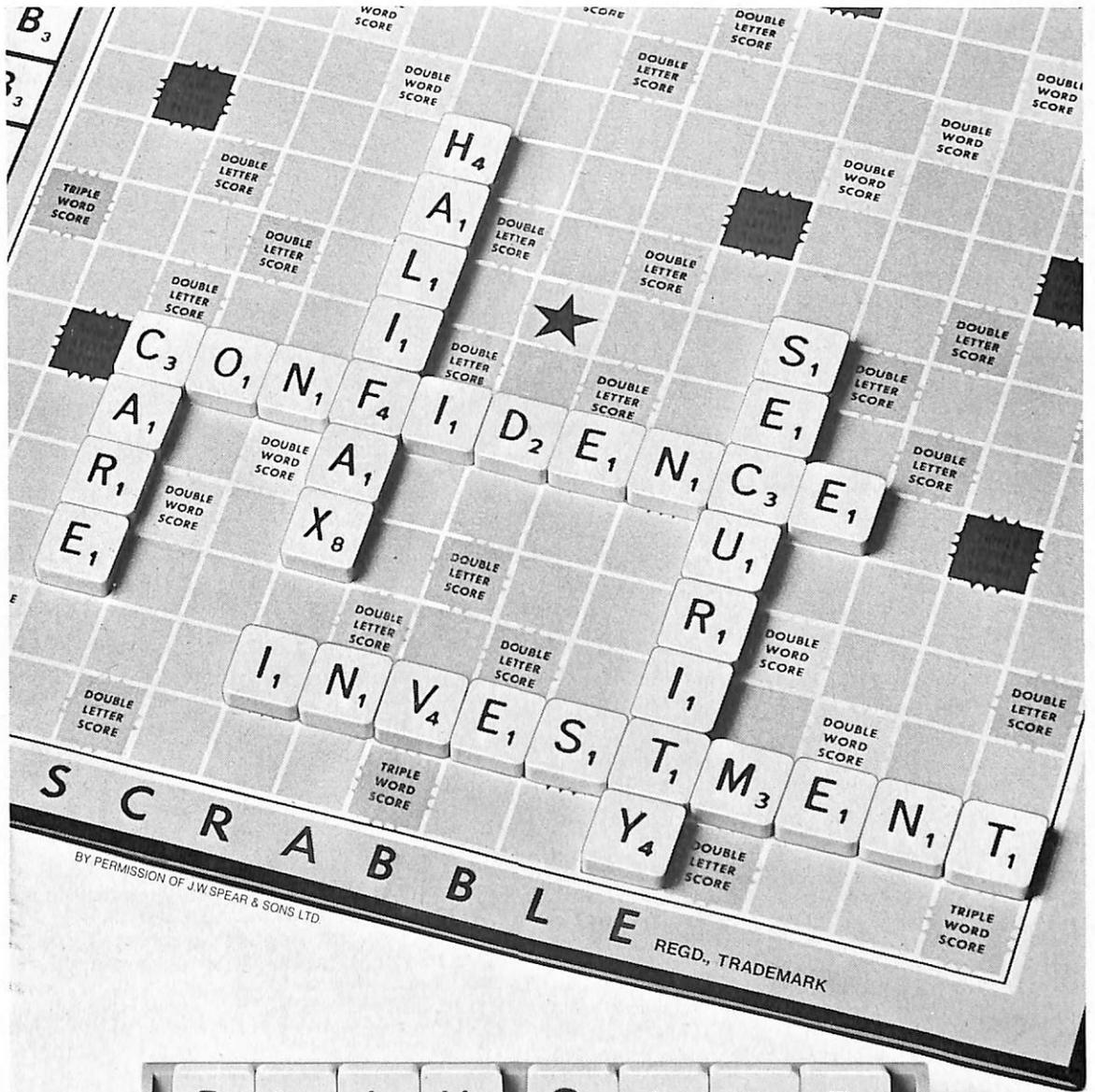
During the latter few weeks of our stay in Aldershot, Cpls Pemberton and Cockshott were sent to the wilds of Ripon to undergo a short course on Basic Survival. Both passed and are now qualified to teach Basic Survival at unit level. Needless to say on arrival in Minden, a Recce of good training areas with survival in mind was the first thing our two budding Robinson Crusoes did. A quick reshuffle of the training programme by the boss, and it was on.

We all found the lectures very interesting and learnt the types of edible plants and roots, how to light fires (with no paper). How to gut and cook

game, how to make traps and set snares and many more useful tips for survival.

The part we all enjoyed most was when we were given a fish each, gutted them (ugh) and baked them in grass and mud, ourselves. Our first attempts at setting snares were not a great success, but practice makes perfect and all in Recce are now armed with snares, looking for likely rabbit runs every time we get on the area.

Our only hope now is that with leave coming up, none of our over enthusiastic survivors are up before their local magistrates in the West Riding for poaching. (We'll wait and see.) Thank you Cpls Pemberton and Cockshott.



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NOTICES

London and Home Counties Dinner, 1977

Saturday, May 7, 1977, at the Victory Club, Marble Arch, London, 7.30 for 8.0. Details and tickets (price will be £3.50) from Ken Waterman, 21 Vivian Court, Maida Vale, London W9.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1976

Preceding the reunion and dinner in the Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax, on Saturday, September 25, the meeting, presided over by Maj Gen D. E. Isles, OBE, Colonel of the Regiment, was attended by 54 members.

Minutes

The previous meeting—Huddersfield, September 27, 1975, were read and approved on the proposal of Mr A. Holt, seconded by Mr J. E. Horne, MBE.

Secretary's Report

Mr Arthur Wood, General Secretary, reported:

Welfare

Ninety-eight cases had been helped during the year with grants totalling £3,182.

Army Benevolent Fund Assistance

Aid in direct support of IDWR totalled £2,158.

Holidays

For three ex-soldiers had been arranged at Lord Kitchener's Memorial Holiday Home, Lowes-toft, and a holiday, sponsored by Sir Fred Pontin for the widow and child of a DWR young soldier killed in Northern Ireland had been arranged at Pontin's Holiday Camp, Blackpool.

After Care

Soldiers invalidated out of the Army and widows and dependants of those who die.

Three cases had been helped during the year and all cases had been investigated. Forces compensation and increased State aid had reduced the call on Regimental Benevolent Funds.

Finances

Our funds remained in good heart but were only sufficient to cope with present day distress situations and keep pace with inflation. Overall they could only be called meagre and could have been over-expended during the year had we paid all the huge gas, electricity and fuel bills submitted.

It was becoming increasingly difficult to assess the cause and degree of distress and help required by claimants. Cases had been submitted where there was no apparent real distress, the applicants merely wishing to augment their income to meet increased costs of living.

Regimental Journal—The Iron Duke

The General Secretary informed the meeting that the journal was facing a financial crisis and

that steps would have to be taken to either reduce the number of issues or increase subscription rates and get more subscribers if the journal was to continue in publication.

Many ideas and suggestions were put forward and discussed and the new Editor/Business Manager (Maj J. S. Milligan) said he would investigate.

Accounts

It was proposed by Maj Savory, seconded by Mr F. Kennedy that a copy of Regimental Association accounts be sent to branches after the Finance Committee meeting annually. The General Secretary said that this would be done.

Branches and Branch Membership

Bradford Branch had ceased to function as it was uneconomical to continue as a separate branch, but members had now joined the Halifax Branch whose meetings and functions they attended regularly.

Huddersfield, with new Committees, were now re-organising whilst the Mossley and Keighley branches kept the flag flying in their 'outposts'.

The influx of new members is slow and now that the 1939-45 War members were reaching retiring age, 'younger blood' was needed. Everyone should make an effort to introduce new members and get them actively involved.

Other Business

New Colours

The Chairman gave details of the presentation of new Colours to the 1st Bn in Germany on May 21, 1977, and said that RHQ were making enquiries regarding travel, accommodation, dates, etc, for Association members who might wish to attend the ceremony. It was generally agreed that if suitable arrangements could be made ladies should be invited.

Sweepstake

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Management Committee had agreed to temporarily suspend this annual effort, but it would be reintroduced when conditions were more favourable or should our finances require extra support.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr G. Woodward to Mr and Mrs Frank Kennedy for their ever-willing assistance in providing accommodation for members of the London branch.

ANNUAL REUNION AND DINNER

Drill Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax
Saturday, September 25, 1976

Some 182 members and friends dined in the newly decorated drill hall which had been polished and scrubbed and set out for such a noble gathering, presided over by Maj Gen D. E. Isles, OBE, Colonel of the Regiment.

Guests included Gen Sir Robert Bray, Brig B. W. Webb-Carter, Col J. Davidson and Col D. W.

Shuttleworth. Also attending were eight members of the 4th Bn who served in the 1914-18 War. Other welcome guests were RSM and Mrs Joe Collins.

Apologies came from Col N. T. Bentley, Col W. Skelsey, Maj J. Davis, Maj R. E. Sugden, Col C. Barnes, Maj B. Murgatroyd, Messrs Sid Code, Fred Croach, Bert Howe and Jimmy Hough and many others.

Music by the West Riding Association Band, conducted by Mr Selwyn Horner, was played during dinner and later dancing to 'Sounds on the Level' (Huddersfield). Other entertainers were the Victorian Harmony Singers.

After a first-class meal, our Chief Guest, Mr George Beddoe, Editor of the 'Halifax Courier' in proposing the Toast to the Regiment, spoke of his long association with the Regiment; as a Territorial soldier, war-time soldier and as a journalist in the company of the 1st Battalion in Kenya, Norway, Ireland, Germany and other places. Humorous incidents, exciting incidents he recounted—to the pleasure of all present—and he concluded by saying how the Regiment had always been, and still is, held in high regard by its garrison town—Halifax; 1977, he told his audience, will be the centenary of the establishment of the Barracks in Gibbet Street, Halifax.

Replying, Maj Gen Isles announced that the 1st Bn is to have new Colours, handed over by the Colonel in Chief, the Duke of Wellington, at a ceremony in Minden, West Germany, on May 21, 1977.

Last year, said Gen Isles, the 1st Bn was serving in Cyprus and when it returned it expected a few months' respite before moving to Germany, but was then called on to do emergency tours in Northern Ireland. He had visited as many sections of the Regiment as he could during the year, and everywhere he had found a strong spirit prevailing.

Tables away, 'Sounds on the Level'—dancing for the few, but for the 'non-dancers' (most) the usual drill of elbow-bending was in full swing and these 'performers' had their own music which produced raucous but joyful sounds which got louder as the night slipped by.

A very special 'thank you' to Dave Hughes, his men and lads for providing the 'back-room' efforts that made this reunion go with such a swing. An exceptionally pleasant function in pleasant surroundings with pleasant folks.

LONDON BRANCH

After the summer recess, we held our AGM on Monday, September 27, 1976. A very disappointing attendance re-elected the Branch Committee in its entirety for a further year.

We still struggle along with a monthly meeting held on the last Monday of the month at the Secretary's address, and would always welcome a few more attenders.

We are looking forward to meeting a number of old friends at the Remembrance Service this year.

Nothing of any importance has happened in the Metropolis this time, so we will sign off wishing all Association Members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

MOSSLEY BRANCH AND FRIENDS FROM FRANCE—1976

For the annual visit of the 'Old Soldiers of Hem' this year we decided to take them on a visit to Blackpool to see the illuminations.

With the help of the Twinning Committees of Mossley-Hem, a programme was made to entertain them for three days, billets found and transport arranged.

Friday night October 22, when the party arrived in Manchester at 8pm, they reported that one of their members had had an accident on Euston Station and had been taken to hospital and that Mr Meyor, the French Twinning Committee secretary and interpreter, had stayed behind with him and would follow later. Thanks to Mr Lawrence Hayden, of the Mossley Twinning Committee, who volunteered to wait for them, the party was completed at midnight.

Saturday morning at 9.30am found us on our way to Blackpool. The first port of call was at the Town Hall in Ashton under Lyne, to be met by the Mayor and Mayoress of Tameside, who extended a warm welcome to the Mayor of Hem and spoke of the benefits and advantages to be gained in the Twinning of English and Continental towns. He also congratulated the branch on their activities and their efforts to meet their former comrades of two World Wars.

On leaving Ashton under Lyne the coach took a route to Blackpool, to avoid the motorways and show the French party as much of Lancashire as possible, including the trip over the moors at Belmont from Bolton.

Lunch was taken at the Roma restaurant in St Annes on Sea where the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackpool greeted the French people and took lunch with us.

The rest of the afternoon was spent shopping in Blackpool with Marks and Spencers being well patronised by the French.

Tea was taken again at the Roma restaurant, and then the party boarded the coach for the tour of the illuminations. As a tour it was more like stock car racing in slow motion finally reaching Fleetwood Royal British Legion Club after three-and-a-half-hours. The French impressions of the 'lights' was 'magnifique' tres bon and better than anything Paris could produce.

An hour was spent in the club and lost time was soon made-up then passed, altogether a very convivial day.

Sunday followed the usual pattern, a wreath laying ceremony by the French at Mossley cenotaph followed by lunch-time drinks in the Mossley Central Conservative Club.

The evening was spent at our Headquarters at the Friendship Hotel, Mossley, the chief guest being the Mayor and Mayoress of Tameside with Col G. B. Howcroft also honouring us with his presence.

We said 'au revoir' to our visitors the next morning and we shall now 'recuperate', prepare and look forward to our visit to Hem on November 9 to 12.

The French party included a lady, Madame DuBar, who we understand with her husband had

quite a career in the French Resistance Forces. Her husband had been decorated by the French, Belgian and American Governments and held the British DSO, altogether 10 medals, whilst she herself held three.

M DuBar died in a German concentration camp.

In this narrative we would wish to thank the Mossley Twinning Committee, Mrs Howard-Coffield, our hostess at the Friendship Hotel, and those who had helped in any way in making this visit the great success it was.

T.H.

OTHER NEWS

Walter Downs once again organised a very successful 7th Bn Reunion at the Drill Hall, Huddersfield, on July 3, 1976. Over 60 attended and to cut it short—it was another marvellous get-together, with the now 'senior-citizens' ageing, greying, balding, but, pleased to say, still laughing, drinking and eating as of yore.

Capt (Retd) T. C. Dalton, MBE, writes to announce his retirement from the Civil Service where he has been employed since leaving India in 1947.

Tom left Aldershot in 1922 for Egypt with the 2nd Bn and from RQMS in Delhi 1941, was appointed to the Special List of Quartermasters, Indian Army.

Now aged 73, Tom lives at 6 Templeton Place, London SW5 9LZ.

Kenneth Barron, brother of the late Henry Barron (DWR) has handed over to the Regiment Henry's boxing medals and trophies (11) won during his service with the 2nd Bn in India 1931-34.

'Con' Sullivan has moved from 'The Travellers Rest', Bradwell, Sheffield, and is now resident at No 2, Home Farm, Holgate, Clifton Village, Nottingham.

A call from the moors above Colne Valley brought us in contact with Charles 'Snap' Carter, one-time Transport Sergeant with the 2nd Bn in India and Burma.

He would like to hear from old friends. His address is: Wool Clough Farm, West Slaithwaite, Nr Huddersfield.

Mrs 'Tom' McMahon has moved to 168 Hanson Lane, Halifax.

Percy Shaw, Halifax (the inventor of 'cats eyes' road studs) died on September 1, 1976, aged 86 years.

PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS May 21, 1977

Further to the notice on page 81, after 'shopping around' it is clear that the minimum cost to attend the ceremony in Germany will be approximately £40 per head. Travelling to Germany on May 19 and returning to UK May 22 or 23.

In order that we may have some idea of the numbers wishing to attend, will anyone interested please inform the Secretary, Regimental Association, as soon as possible.

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