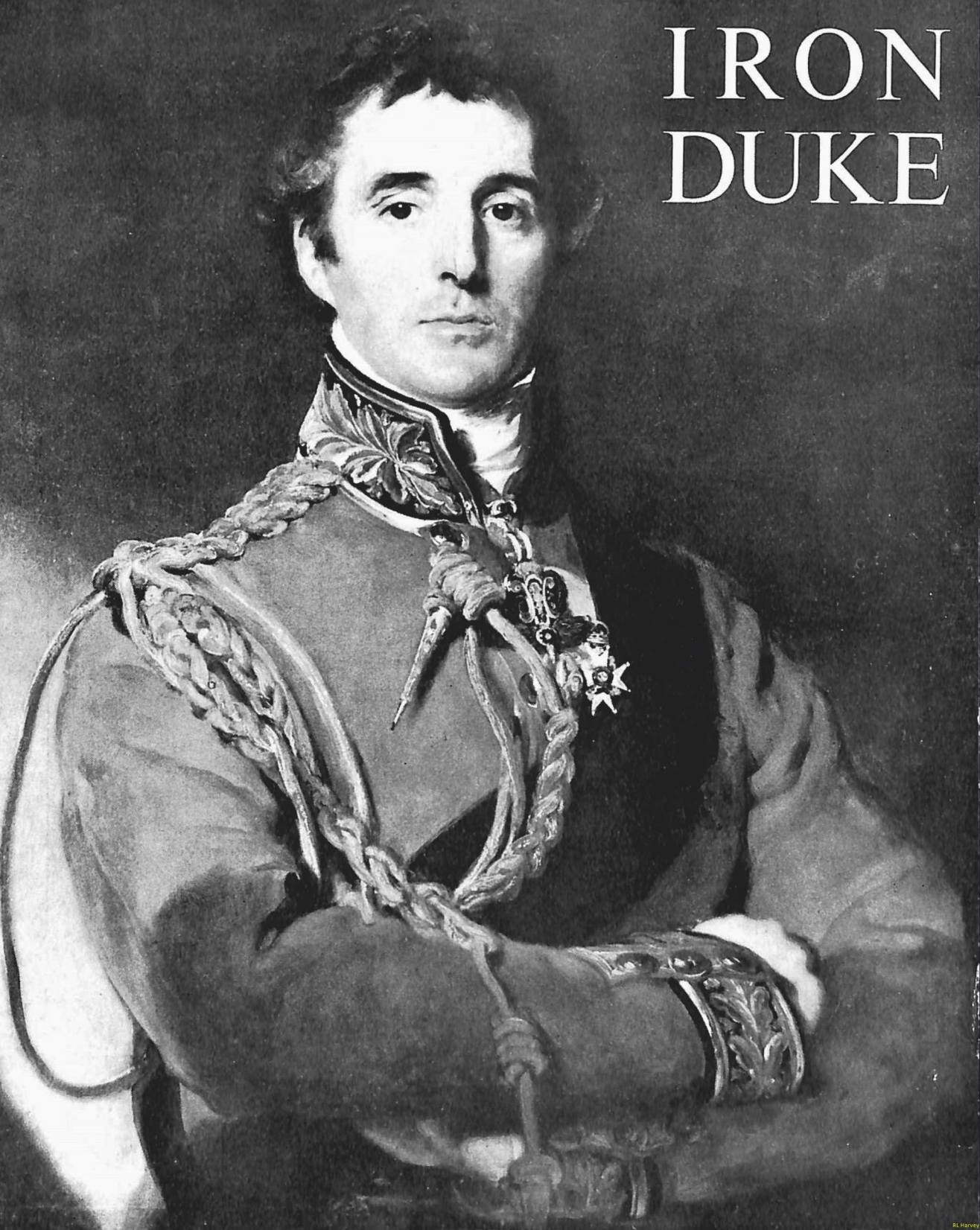


No.173 April 1977

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*  
*Abysinia*  
*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 Suwla*  
*Afghanistan 1919*  
*North-West Europe*  
*1940, 1944-45*  
*Dunkirk 1940*  
*St. Valery-en-Caux*  
*Fontenay-le-Pesnil*  
*Djeboul Bou Aoukaz 1943*  
*Anzio*  
*Monte Ceco*  
*Burma 1942, '43, '44*  
*Sittang 1942*  
*Chindits 1944*  
*The Hook 1953*  
*Korea 1952-53*

Vol. LI

APRIL 1977

No. 173

### BUSINESS NOTES

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*Business Manager* : MAJOR J. S. MILLIGAN  
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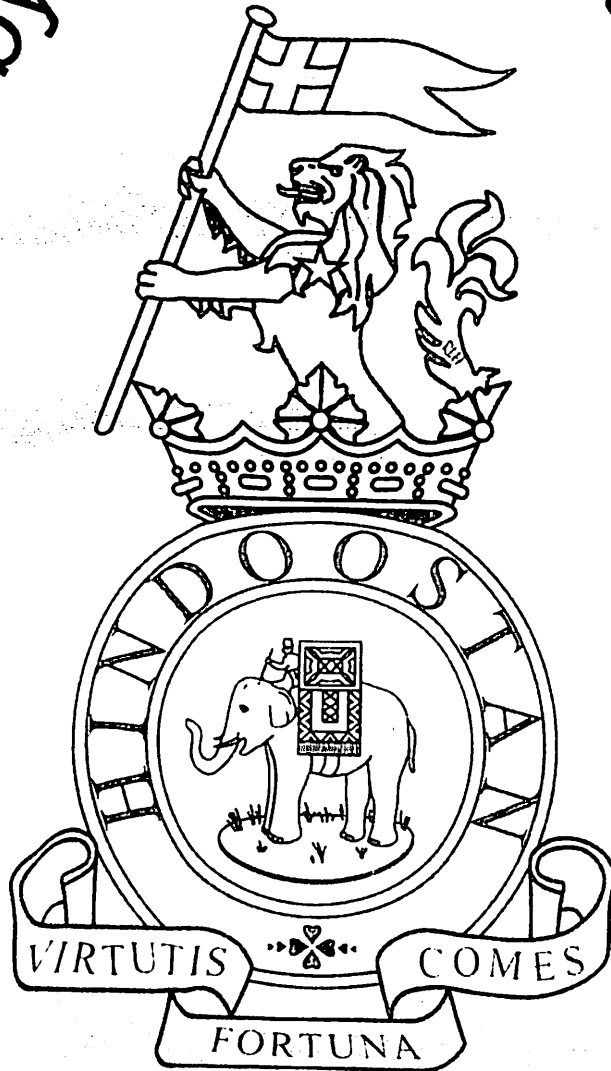
#### *Acknowledgement*

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

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# THE REGIMENT

## **Colonel-in-Chief**

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

## **Colonel of the Regiment**

MAJOR-GENERAL D. E. ISLES, OBE  
*Rochliffe 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**

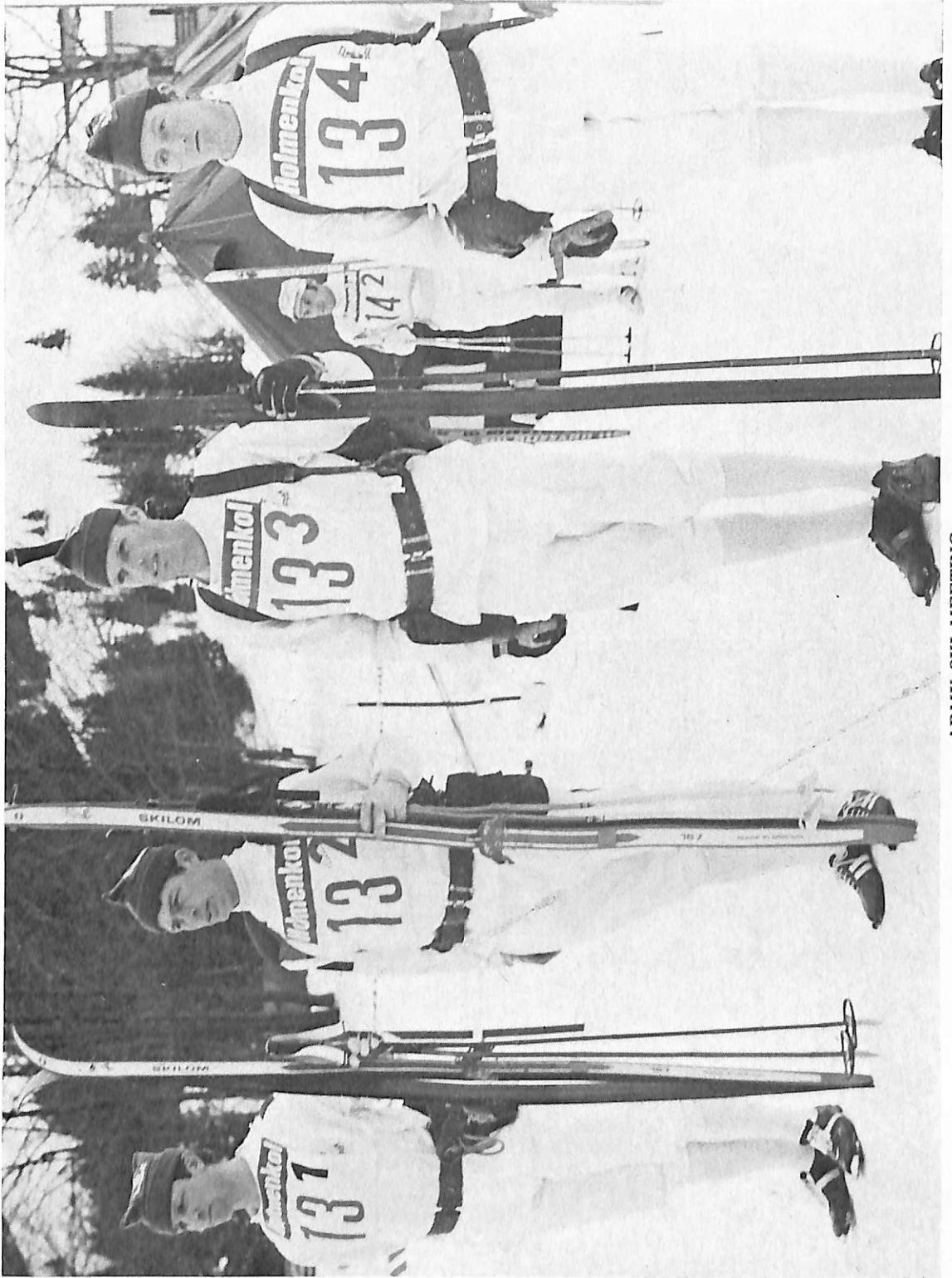
### **Patron**

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*



ARMY SKI MEETING  
The Patrol Race 1st Bn Team. Major Walker, Sergeant Hirst, Lance-corporal Tooley, Private Sweeney See Nordic Ski Championships page 134

# Regimental Headquarters

## MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

All who serve in and support the Regiment play a vital part in maintaining and enhancing its prestige. The 1st Bn's name, as always, stands high; the Battalion has continued, and will continue, to meet any and all challenges wherever it is called upon to serve. The name of the Regiment is also kept alive in the old West Riding of Yorkshire by our two TAVR Companies in the 1st and 3rd Bns of the Yorkshire Volunteers based at Halifax and Huddersfield respectively; by the Huddersfield Area of the Army Cadet Force—the Wellesley Coy—and by our affiliated contingent of the Combined Cadet Force at Giggleswick School; and also, of course, by our Regimental Headquarters at Halifax. I would like you all to know that I consider it to be a matter of the highest importance that the links between all parts of the Regiment be continuously fostered.

Standing four-square with the 1st Bn, the TAVR, the ACF and the CCF, are our Old Comrades and the five Branches of the Association in Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley, Mossley and London, with Mr Arthur Wood at the centre of affairs at RHQ. Their spirit is tremendous. Yet, it is a sad but inevitable fact that some of the Old Comrades are getting older and, moreover, their *average* age is increasing. This latter fact need not be inevitable and thus it causes concern; for it means that nothing like enough younger soldiers are taking advantage of the fact that, by paying a day's pay a year under the Day's Pay Scheme they are automatically members of the Regimental Association and, after their time with the Colours, are fully entitled to be part of a Branch, to attend its meetings and take part in its activities. There is an urgent need for more members to swell the ranks. Much of the strength of our Regiment lies in the unstinting support, backing and steadfast loyalty of the Old Comrades. It must, therefore, be our aim to increase their numbers and this I regard as vital. The Commanding Officer of the 1st Bn has revised his release procedures to ensure that every man leaving the Colours is aware that his presence is positively needed as a fully-fledged active member of his nearest OCA Branch. RHQ is to help with

co-ordination and, for the rest of us, I ask that we each do our best to recruit any Dukes who either do not belong to the OCA or do not attend any OCA or regimental functions. It goes without saying that such Dukes, at present temporarily outside the family, need us and the comradeship we offer to them just as much as we need their support.

Dwelling on the subject of the OCA I wish to say a few words about our Regimental benevolent work and reinforce what I and Mr Arthur Wood have said repeatedly at many gatherings of Old Comrades over the past year-and-a-half. You all know of the work the Regiment does in helping those Dukes—and there are not a few—who have fallen on hard times. We help all those we hear about who are in need, all over the country. However, we are far from sure that we hear of everyone and we do know that some old soldiers are too proud to ask for help. Again, I would ask you all to inform RHQ of any Duke you know who is in need of assistance, either financially or, possibly, just in need of a friendly visit and a talk about old times.

Finally, a word on the important topic of Recruiting. Although the recent Government measures do unfortunately mean some reductions in establishments the requirement to attract good potential soldiers and juniors continues to exist. And it always will. As a Regiment we cannot afford to be complacent, and a continuing positive effort by us all is necessary. The King's Division Recruiting organisation does all in its power to assist Regiments. But, we can do much ourselves. While I know that the 1st Bn is very conscious of the need and is doing a great deal to expand internal recruiting and to give full support to our excellent team of Recruiters in the West Riding, and to our Army Youth Team, there still remains a great deal that we outside the Battalion must do by encouraging the right sort of boy or young man to join the Dukes.

In all the above important matters I know that I can count on your help.

D. E. Isles, Major General

## CENTENARY OF THE OCCUPATION OF THE BARRACKS AT HALIFAX 1877-1977

Knowledgeable readers of the *Iron Duke* will recall two articles in the not too far distant past. The first by Maj A. C. S. Savory, 'Halifax and the Dukes' in November 1950 (ID No 78); and the second, 'The Depot Story' in July 1959 (ID No 113). The discerning reader, therefore, will not be surprised to be reminded that 1977 marks the centenary of the first occupation of the Barracks at Highroad Well in Halifax by the 33rd and 76th

Regiments, and the streets of Halifax began to ring with 'the nailed and brilliantly boned boots of the recruits walking out and pipe-clayed belts gleamed even on the dullest days'. We were all reminded of this fact by Mr George Beddoe, the Editor of *The Halifax Courier*, who, as the principal guest at the Regimental Association Dinner in September last year, mentioned it in his speech.

The association of the Regiment with the West

Riding of Yorkshire in general, and with Halifax in particular, is well documented and recorded in these two articles. As we know, in 1873, when the then War Office adopted a plan whereby Regiments were to be 'brigaded' and based on a Depot, in our case (the 33rd and the 76th Regiments) the location selected was Halifax, where new barracks would be built attracted a great deal of controversy in the town. Objections were voiced and petitions against the proposals were raised. In general, the objections were two-fold. First to quote from the previous articles—'this (petition) urged that such military centres should be established only at a considerable distance from the great centres of population, especially those engaged in manufacturing and industrial pursuits in that the temptation arising from frequent parades, reviews and other military spectacles offered inducements to irregularity and neglect of work'. Two speakers said that . . . 'Depots tended to gather together a number of idle men such as could not be employed in factories'; and . . . 'he had understood that a drum and fife band was to play through the streets to attract recruits, and this would keep factory operatives in a state of excitement instead of being "untroubled in their industry". The soldiers themselves were not necessarily immoral, but there was always a number of camp followers tending to irregularity and demoralisation of the town'.

The second point concerned the effect on morals in the town. The deputation presenting the petition pointed out that . . . 'Halifax already had some experience of the military for the militia came into the town once every year for a month's training. They were billeted in various public houses and the petitioners claimed that Halifax experience of this class of men was not entirely satisfactory.' This argument was turned against the 'anti' faction when the War Office pointed out that 'the establishment of the barracks was intended to eliminate the very evil of which they complained'."

The 'pro' faction naturally welcomed the establishment of the Regiment's Depot and a permanent barracks in Halifax and urged that 'bringing in contact of Regular members of the Military Forces and the general public of Halifax would produce a great military spirit.'

And so, the Barracks were built. They were finally completed in 1877, and on September 1 that year the 9th Bde Depot consisting of the Depot Companies of the 33rd Regt and of the 76th Regt was established in Halifax. The Depot Companies actually arrived on either August 30 or 31, by special train from Aldershot, and were met by a large gathering of townsfolk and the band of the 6th West Yorkshire Militia and marched up to Highroad Well. Thus the long and close association of the Depot with the town of Halifax began, culminating in the granting to the Regiment of the Freedom of Halifax on June 18, 1945, and ending, sadly, with the closure of the Depot in 1959. The link is maintained, however, by the presence of Regimental Headquarters in its small enclave of the old Barracks.

The Barracks, now appropriately named Wellesley Park, were bought by the town and now house a

number of municipal departments. It is also the centre of certain municipal activities, prominent amongst them being a youth music school. The old married quarters and buildings below the square, and the surrounding wall on that south side have been demolished, and in their place there are some tennis courts, a bowling green and a children's play area.

The Colonel of the Regiment decided that as 1977 is the centenary year, something, no matter how modest (even if meant simply inviting some of the civic dignitaries to drinks at RHQ), should be undertaken to mark the occasion. Unbeknown to us the civic authorities had also spotted the fact of the centenary and also wished to do something. RHQ was approached by the appropriate department of the Calderdale (Halifax) authority and the Regiment was invited to 'provide a military presence' in the Barracks and to make a contribution in a joint effort to mark the occasion. The Colonel agreed that joint discussions should take place, to decide on a date and to consider what the Regiment could do, albeit on a small scale, in support of Halifax, to mark the occasion.

Preliminary discussions have taken place and the date chosen is Saturday, September 3, 1977, with a slight overlap the evening before. The Calderdale idea is to have several events and displays in the Barracks, principally in the afternoon, with the emphasis on sport and youth. For our part, ideas are in their infancy at the moment but we have invited our two TAVR companies to take part and to arrange some kind of demonstration or show; also present will be our Army Youth Team and the King's Division Recruiting Team main display—and we certainly hope that our cadets of the Wellesley Coy will be present. The 1st Bn being in Northern Ireland will be unable to take part, but it is proposed that the Band and Drums shall be present and Beat Retreat on the Saturday evening. Finally, to make it a complete weekend we propose to hold the Old Comrades Association Dinner on the Saturday evening, the AGM in the afternoon, a reception at RHQ on the Friday evening, and a meeting of the Managing Trustees on the Friday morning. To sum up, the provisional outline programme looks like:

*Friday, September 2 :*

am—Meeting of the Managing Trustees at RHQ.  
Evening—Reception at RHQ at which the principal guests will be Halifax civic dignitaries.

*Saturday, September 3 :*

am—setting up the various demonstrations for the rest of the day.  
1600 hrs approx—AGM of the Regimental Association at RHQ  
1800 hrs approx—Beating Retreat.  
1930 hrs approx—Regimental Association Dinner at Prescott Street, Halifax, to which will be invited a few civic dignitaries.

Nearer the time, firmer details will be sent out to individuals concerned with the normal AGM and OCA notice.

## REGIMENTAL NOTES

**New Colours for the 1st Bn**

The news of the cancellation, or rather the postponement, of the Parade for the Presentation of new Colours to the 1st Bn planned for May 21, is now probably known to all. It must have been a big disappointment to the 1st Bn especially as the original hope was for the Colours to be formally presented in 1976. It was also a disappointment to the many friends in Yorkshire, in the TAVR & ACF, to those at the Depot and IJLB Shorncliffe, and to members of the Regimental Association—many of whom were planning to travel to Germany for the occasion. Nevertheless, the needs of the 1st Bn in its major role as an infantry unit must come first. And if it meant that either the preparation for whatever the Battalion is called upon to do or the standard of the Presentation Parade would suffer, then no one will argue over the postponement. Instead we wish the Bn well and will look forward to the time when the Presentation can take place. Current information is that, hopefully, it will take place in 1978.

**10 AYT**

Capt Sherlock has relieved Capt Gilbert as OC 10 AYT based in Huddersfield. The latter has had a successful and enthusiastic tour. He is to be congratulated on increasing the number of contacts in schools and local authorities which he has made, and in quietly publicising the name and presence of the Regiment throughout the area.

**Deputy Mayor of Kirklees**

The news that Maj Cyril Kenchington has been elected the next Deputy Mayor of Kirklees (based in Huddersfield)—see page 120—is particularly pleasing. A message of congratulations and good fortune for a happy and successful year of office has been sent to him on behalf of the Colonel and all ranks of the Regiment.

**An old Friend**

In our wanderings in the valleys round Halifax, we came upon an old friend who is well known to many, not least amongst the rugby fraternity, from about 1958 and onwards—(ex-Cpl) Jack Scroby. He is now 'mine host' at the Lord Nelson Inn in Luddenden. For the information of afficianados he serves traditionally brewed Webster's Best, from the wood!

**Appeals**

Two appeals recently received have been supported by the Regiment. Suitable donations have been sent to the Royal School of Needlework (who made the 1st Bn's new Colours) and Halifax Rugby Club who appealed for funds to rebuild changing rooms and to improve and extend other facilities at the Club.

**Wellesley Park**

Wellesley Park, the old Barracks at Highroad Well, is having a busy year. We received the news too late for its inclusion in the December issue of

the Iron Duke, but Calderdale made a successful application to partake in the television competition 'It's a Knock-out'. The first round takes place between Calderdale, Wakefield and Beverley on Sunday, April 10, here at Wellesley Park. That is the actual date of the competition. It will be seen on TV later in the year, but as yet the BBC have not set a date, and are unable to give a forecast. The other activity is on September 3, and concerns the Centenary of the occupation of the Barracks by the Regiment which is reported elsewhere in this issue.

**Visits**

We had the pleasure of entertaining the Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Mrs Mona Mitchell, OBE, and her Consort at RHQ just before Christmas. This was her first official visit to RHQ, but the occasion was informal and friendly.

We also entertained all our Regimental PSIs serving with the TAVR, our Recruiters, and the members of the Army Youth Team at RHQ at Christmas time. We intend to repeat this two or three times each year. Individual PSI's or Recruiters can feel very lonely, out on a limb as it were and out of touch with the Regiment. We believe it is important that they feel they are not forgotten and that they should have a focal point—we believe that it is RHQ's task to provide that focal point.

The Regimental Secretary and Assistant Regimental Secretary paid an official call in mid-January on the Mayor of Kirklees and the Chief Executive at Huddersfield Town Hall, and were most cordially received.

**York Minster Service**

The Annual All Saints-tide service in our chapel in York Minster this year, 1977, will be held on Saturday, October 29. The usual notices will be sent out nearer the time. It has been suggested to us that a wider number of individuals who do not live within 'striking distance' of York, and who therefore are not on the notification list—might wish to attend and be notified of this event in the future. Will those who are interested please notify either RHQ, or the Secretary of the Chapel Committee, Maj R. E. Sugden, South Court, Shipton by Beningbrough, York.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1977****A Reminder**

Spring Cocktail Party at RHQ—Friday, April 22  
 London and Home Counties Branch Regimental Association Dinner in London—Saturday, May 7  
 Presentation of New Colours to 2nd and 3rd Bns Yorkshire Volunteers, in York—Saturday, June 25  
 Meeting of the Regimental Council in the Library at Apsley House—pm Friday, July 15  
 Dinner of the Officers Dinner Club at the Army & Navy Club—Friday, July 15  
 Ladies Luncheon at the Army & Navy Club—Saturday, July 16  
 Meeting of the Regimental Association Trustees,



at RHQ—am Friday, September 2  
Barracks Centenary Cocktail Party at RHQ—  
Friday, September 2  
Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Asso-  
tion, at RHQ—Saturday, September 3 (late

afternoon)  
Annual Dinner of the Regimental Association at  
Prescott Street, Halifax—Saturday, September 3  
York Minster Chapel Service—Saturday, October  
29.

## Personalia

### Major C. C. Kenchington, MBE

Congratulations to Cyril and Edie Kenchington on their selection to be Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of Kirklees Metropolitan District Council for 1977-78.

'I am expecting to have a very busy year, with about half-a-dozen official engagements a week on top of the normal Committee and Council Meetings' Cyril told us when the selection was announced in February (the election ceremony takes place towards the end of May).

Kirklees MDC has its Headquarters in Huddersfield, but is an amalgamation of 11 former neighbouring authorities following local government reorganisation in 1974, and has a population of approaching 400,000. It covers a large part of the recruiting area of the Regiment.

Maj Kenchington made his home in Huddersfield when he retired from the Regiment and the Army in 1965. At that time he was Quartermaster to the TA Bn at St Paul's Street Drill Hall. He had



Councillor Major C. Kenchington, MBE, deputy Mayor-designate, Kirklees Metropolitan District

previously been Quartermaster with the 1st Bn up to 1959. He was awarded the MBE in 1949.

Active as ever, he soon became involved in Public service in Huddersfield. He was elected a Conservative member of the Huddersfield Town Council in 1971 and then of the new and much larger Kirklees Council in 1975. He is Chairman of two important sub-committees of the Council and in addition is President of the Huddersfield Pipe Band and is an official of the Huddersfield and District Army Veterans Association.

### Mr S. Kaye

Mr Stephen Kaye, a former Paymaster in the Duke of Wellington's Regt (TA) at Huddersfield, has been selected as prospective Parliamentary Candidate by the Colne Valley (Yorkshire) Conservative Association.

He is a 41-year-old Chartered Accountant and a partner in the Huddersfield firm of Kaye, Howarth & Co.

Mr Kaye, who lives at Slant Gate, Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, first joined the 7th Bn in 1955, left for his period of National Service, and then rejoined the newly-named West Riding Bn (TA) for a few years as Paymaster. He is treasurer of the Huddersfield and District Army Veterans Association.

### ENGAGEMENT

#### Mr J. M. Green-Armytage—

Miss R. LeMessurier

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J. W. Green-Armytage, of Winnipeg, Canada, and Susie, younger daughter of Lt Col and Mrs H. S. LeMessurier, of Thornton Grange, Thornton Steward, Ripon.

### POSTINGS AND APPOINTMENTS, OFFICERS

Lt Col R. M. Harms, MC. To HQ Northern Ireland as a Project Officer, for six months January to July 1977.

Lt Col M. J. Campbell-Lamerton, MBE, has been appointed to command 9 UDR for two years from March 1977.

Maj C. R. Cumberlege has succeeded Maj Mundell as 2/IC 1 DWR from April 1977.

Maj C. N. St P. Bunbury, MBE, has been appointed DAA and QMG HQ School of Infantry in February 1977 for a two-year tour.

Capt R. A. Tighe has been granted a Quartermasters Commission and is appointed QM2 of 1 DWR in April 1977.

Capt D. L. J. Harrap, LLB, has been selected for a vacancy on the Long Armour/Infantry Course at

Bovington, January to December 1977.

Lt G. D. Shuttleworth is posted to IJLB Shorncliffe as a Platoon Commander Instructor in April 1977 for a two-year tour.

Lt M. J. Stone, BA, joins 1 DWR in May 1977 (ex-RMAS and University)

2/Lt P. J. McDaid joined 1 DWR in October 1976 from RMAS.

2/Lt R. C. Stark, BA, joined 1 DWR in March 1977 (ex-RMAS and University)

The following officer having successfully completed Division 3 of No 10 Army Staff Course from October 6 1975, to December 19 1975, and Staff College Camberley January 29 1976, to October 28, 1976, is entitled to the symbol psc against his name in military records.

Maj T. J. Nicholson, DWR.

### Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

We congratulate the following members of the Regiment on the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal: Lt J. A. Welsh; Ssgt D. C. Skipworth; Sgt W. N. Butler.

### FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE

#### Regular Army

Lt William Anthony Nicholas Atkinson (496347) DWR, from Short Service Commission to be Second-Lieutenant December 15, 1975, with seniority June 30, 1973. To be Lieutenant December 15, 1975, with seniority June 30, 1975.

Simon John Neville Morgan (502752) DWR, to be Second-Lieutenant (on probation) (University Cadetship) September 3, 1976.

The undermentioned Second-Lieutenant from General List is confirmed in his commission at March 6, 1976, and transferred to DWR with effect from October 9, 1976. P. J. McDaid (501654) DWR.

2 Lt (on probation) M. J. Stone (498694) DWR, is confirmed at Second-Lieutenant June 28, 1976, with seniority August 1, 1972. To be Lieutenant June 28, 1976, with seniority August 1, 1974.

Lt K. Best (489892) DWR, to be Captain January 25, 1977.

Capt T. J. Nicholson (476594) DWR, to be Major December 31, 1976.

#### Short-Service Commissions

Robert Chisholm Stark (502913) DWR, to be Second-Lieutenant (on probation) (University Candidate) October 3, 1976.

Lt T. Pickersgill (499581) DWR, to be Captain February 14, 1977.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Bishop Eric Treacey, MBE, LLD, The Ghyll, Applethwaite, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4PL (Tel: Keswick (0596) 72425).

Maj G. V. Ashton, TD, Regent Cottage, Finningley, South Yorkshire.

Capt K. Best, 1 DWR, BFPO 29.

Mr A. E. Buckingham, Glenaster Lodge, New-

castle West, Co. Limerick, Eire. (Rank not to be used.)

Mr J. D. T. Faithfull, 58 William Way, Letchworth, Herts SG6 2HL.

Capt C. J. W. Gilbert, 1 DWR, BFPO 29.

Lt Col R. Glazebrook, Infantry Manning and Record Office, Higher Barracks, Exeter, EX4 4ND.

Mr G. M. Holroyde, 251 Keighley Road, Frizinghall, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD9 4JU.

Major S. H. Kirk, MBE, 1 Green Howards, BFPO 45.

Col P. A. Mitchell, 99 The Keep, Kingston-on-Thames, London KT2 5UD.

Mr R. Owers, 12 Waterloo Road, London N11 1JD.

Mr M. J. Perkiss, 6 Chiverton Way, Rosdudgeon, Penzance, Cornwall.

Capt M. S. Sherlock, 10 AYT, 26 Kirkgate, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

Lt G. D. Shuttleworth, Infantry Junior Leaders Bn, Sir John Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, Kent.

Mr C. Sullivan, 2 Holme Farm, Clifton Village, Nottingham.

Mr J. Sykes, 2 Carolsteen Park, Helen's Bay, Co. Down, Northern Ireland.

Mr R. Webb, 26 Creran Gardens, Soroba Estate, Oban, Argyllshire.

### LETTER TO THE COLONEL

The Colonel of the Regiment has received the following letter from Brig A. Q. Anjum, Commanding the Baluch Regimental Centre at Abbottabad, to which he has replied suitably.

My dear General,

I hope you are in the best of health and starting the New Year on a cheerful note. I am writing to say goodbye to you, on my relinquishing command of the Baluch Centre and moving out to command a Brigade. I want to express my deep sense of gratitude for your active communication with this Regimental Centre and keeping up the esprit-de-corps of this great regiment. I am sure that my successor Brig Hamal Mohammed, S. J. will continue to have close contact with you in the days ahead.

With warmest regards,  
Yours sincerely,  
A. Q. ANJUM,  
Brig

Kai Kai

### CORRESPONDENCE

Maj R. H. Ince,  
21 Stotley Rise,  
Bunch Lane,  
Haslemere, Surrey.

December 31, 1976

Dear Sir,

It may interest your readers to know that while spending a short holiday in Gibraltar during last November, Angela and I managed to get over to Spain for a few days. During our visit we made a point of contacting Pam and Bertie Beuttler and

having a day out with them. They are both flourishing—Bertie keeps fit by playing quite a lot of golf and also gardening. We also visited Dorothy and Dickie Bird who are the parents of the Bird brothers, both ex-officers of the Dukes. Incidentally, I was at school with Dickie.

In Gibraltar it was nice to make contact again with many old friends, who all remember the Dukes with great affection.

Yours sincerely,  
DICK INCE

#### Exchange and Mart

There is a constant demand for items of dress and accoutrements by officers and senior non-commissioned officers. In the present financial climate many items are becoming so expensive that people cannot afford them and try to borrow when the occasion demands.

It is known that there are a number of officers and senior NCOs who would gladly sell items, upon retirement, for a reasonable amount.

It is therefore proposed to introduce an Exchange and Mart Column in the IRON DUKE for people to insert Items Wanted and Items for Sale.

It is emphasised that on *no account* can RHQ act as a clearing office, and all advertisements *must* carry the name and current address of the advertiser.

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# 1st Battalion

## COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

Readers will already be aware of the postponement of the planned Presentation of New Colours. It was with great regret that I recommended to the Colonel of the Regiment that we should ask the Colonel-in-Chief to defer the Presentation to another occasion. The advancement of one month of the Battalion's tour in Northern Ireland simply did not leave us enough time in which to prepare properly for such an auspicious occasion. Planning for the Parade was well advanced and the plans will be most useful when the new date is decided. Nevertheless, there will be many Officers, NCOs and men who would have been proud to have been taking part in the Parade and who were looking forward to doing so, for them the postponement will have been a great disappointment; this I particularly regret.

It is sad also to be recording that we did not after all succeed in regaining the Army Cup this season. It was a particular blow to be eliminated when the side had been playing especially well and, if anything, better than at most stages of last season. Needless to say plans are already being laid to put this situation to rights next year.

Luckily, it is relatively easy to turn from the bad news to the good, for there is plenty of the latter. We have come successfully through a busy BAOR training season and, although we did not deploy as a Battle Group until a week ago, several elements of the Battalion have been well exercised in various aspects of training and they have all acquitted themselves well.

In the sporting field, I believe the Battalion can seldom have been involved so successfully in such a variety of sports. WO2 Clark, WO2 Lawrence and Ssgt Heron are to be particularly commended for leading and coaching the Battalion XI into producing some sparkling football under the Captaincy of Pte Pogson. Ssgt Kendrew urged some good results from the members of the Cross Country team and then, with the help of Ssgt Robson and Sgt Hirst, turned several of those individuals into cross-country skiers, thus helping us to win the trophy for the best Infantry Unit in the Nordic Section of the BAOR Championships. Ssgt Sheldrake of the LAD led the battalion team into second place in the Divisional Badminton Championships, whilst SI Swap is currently training the Boxing team for the Divisional Final of the Novices Competition.

I think I can assure the older members of the Regiment that the 1st Bn is thriving; many will be particularly cheered by the news that we are once again entering and doing well in Boxing Competitions. Perhaps I should extend that assurance to Col Michael Bray, who takes over command from me in a matter of a few weeks. However, he will shortly be here to find out for himself.

Despite the many changes of recent years both in the Army, and in Yorkshire, I can assure the

older members of the Regiment that our soldiers are still drawn, almost without exception, from the old West Riding of Yorkshire. It therefore continues to be a pleasure to serve in the 1st Bn and it remains a particular privilege to command it. As I prepare to hand over command I am very conscious of the extent of the loyalty and support that I have been given throughout my tenure and I shall leave truly indebted to all those with whom I have served in Aldershot, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and Germany. Leaving the Battalion could be a sad affair, but what one has really been doing over the past two years is forging some very firm friendships amongst all ranks which will last well into the future—and there is nothing sad about that.

## OFFICERS MESS

Usually at this time of year the Mess sees numerous comings and goings, and 1977 is no exception. We have said farewell to Charles Bunbury who has left us for the school of Infantry; to Jim and Maureen Lattimore; to David Harrap, and also to Paul Saville, who has decided to make his fortune (he hasn't yet told us how) in civilian life. No sooner were we getting to know Paul Mumford our tame REME Officer than he was very seriously injured in a car accident. As he was due to leave us shortly, it seems unlikely he will be with us again in Minden; we all wish him a speedy recovery. In their places we welcome back Peter and Annie Andrews, Peter and Pauleen Gardner, Chris and Angie Gilbert and most recently Paddy McDaid who has joined us from Sandhurst. Congratulations to Bob Hall on his recent engagement to Miss Hilary Keates.

Our Mess functions have continued unabated. Our curry lunches have proved popular and an excellent way of entertaining friends cheaply with the minimum of effort required by the busy mums. We have dined our ladies and consumed the usual quantities of beer with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants. On New Year's Eve most of Minden heard we were having a dance and came to an excellent party arranged largely under the guidance of John Thorn and Don Palmer.

Some thought we never would have a Guest Night, but we managed to squeeze one in February, to which we invited among others Brigadier Roden, the Brigadier Infantry from Sennelager. It was also good to have Chuck Ivey with us again and mercifully the mess steward remembered those spears just in the nick of time. Anyway, Chuck you can rest assured they will be on display for at least another 3½ years!

We have had the usual number of visits amongst which we have bade farewell to Brigadier Mike Swindells and welcomed our new Brigade Commander, Brig Barry Lane. Most recently, we had a most enjoyable visit by our Corps Commander Lt Gen Sir Richard Worsley.

Finally, but not least a word of thanks to our

Mess Steward Ssgt Skipworth and his staff for being so patient with us all and providing the service they do.

### SERGEANTS MESS

Now that we have settled down in Minden, our social life in the Mess has picked up and is in full swing with the hectic period of Christmas and a lively follow-up during January. The main event in December being our annual Christmas Draw. In all, 27,000 tickets were sold which gave us quite a bit of income to play with. Some of the main prizes consisted of a colour television, stereo units, washing machine and a couple of bicycles to name a few. As usual, we invited all the officers and their ladies to join in the merriment, and judging by the letters we received afterwards they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A first-class buffet was provided by SQMS Norman Bryson and his crew. Many thanks to John Toplis for all the hard work which went into what was undoubtedly an excellent evening. He has now lost half his hair, and the remainder has gone a dull grey. Could say, that's the luck of the draw John.

The Officers v. Sergeants football match once again turned out to be the festive-tide brawl we have come to expect, but this year we had to ban the use of tractors and various pieces of fire fighting equipment as the QM gets rather upset when his football pitches are churned up. With all of 7 minutes and 35 seconds of football being played, the officers, seeing impending defeat, reverted to their most ungentlemanly tactics. However, we also happen to have some most ungentlemanly gentlemen within our own Mess, so, as could be expected by two devious, unscrupulous, hell to the rules type of teams, the result was, of course, a draw.

Afterwards, everything was patched up as we were all invited into the Officers Mess for a few jars, curry and the presentation of 'The Rupert of the Year Award'. This is given to the officer making the biggest 'boob' of the year. Lt Colville won this hands down, when he was almost 'conned' by Terry Conley and Vinnie Pye into turning out the whole of Minden Garrison.

Back to football, the Sergeants Mess team played a team from the Kings Own Border Regt's Sergeants Mess. This was a 'straight' game of football, and we are glad to say that we won 8-1. Also our Mess darts team are now at the top of the Minden Garrison League.

Many thanks to 'Duke' Lawrence, our present PMC, who has really got the Mess swinging. First of all was a Folk Night which was a great success with quite a few of the local minstrels providing us with excellent entertainment. The most recent event being a Hippie Night, the Mess was transformed completely by six parachutes covering the roof, the furniture consisted of MFO boxes, mattresses, foam rubber and sawdust. The buffet was eaten out of mess tins, and we all drank out of cans or jars. Mess etiquette was put to one side for the night, so instead of good evening sir, gentlemen, cries of 'Rock On Tommy' and 'Groovy Baby' were heard.

A Regimental dinner was held on Thursday, January 27, and our official guests were Rev Peter Bayley and Tech QM Capt Lattimore, both of whom were in fine voice throughout the evening.

We would like to welcome Sgts Arundel, Fielding, Nellist and Wilkinson into the Mess on their recent promotions. Also the return of the Terrible Twins, 'Tosh' Goddard and Colin Fleming from the Depot Kings Div.

## FROM THE COMPANIES

### ALMA COMPANY

Since our last IRON DUKE notes we seem to have been away from Minden for most of the winter. Alma spent two weeks on the Lunenburg Heath practising Platoon and Company deployment drills and a revival of 'Company Smokers'. This was followed by another two weeks working alongside an American helicopter company which was an interesting experience for all. At one stage we were not sure whether we would see the Company in British Combat Clothing again, however, in exchange for a few beers the Americans provided a Sunday lunch in the field of steaks, salads, etc, which was a great improvement on compo. We had an enjoyable time with the helicopters especially as it reduced marching to an 'acceptable level'. There are surely few companies in BAOR who are so well trained in heliborne operations! Even after the helicopters withdrew we continued to attack bridges over the Wesser deploying from the back of 4-tonners.

In November, we met Americans again, this time near Munster where, after practising for two weeks, a US inspection team came to visit us. Fortunately, we passed their inspection and the tests were not too difficult.

The Company arrived back the week before Christmas and began a two-month period of leave, skiing and training for upgrading, numerous winter sports competitions have been taking place and the Acting CSM has spent much time in trying to arrange matches throughout the Garrison. The Company will be together again soon when our skiers return from Bavaria and we begin another round of Combat Team training in Soltau followed by Sennelager in April.

### ALMA COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

The time has come again to write THE IRON DUKE scriptures, and once again it is I who have been given the task, not only writing them, but typing them as well. I was told to write something

serious, but as my many followers who have read my previous 'entries' will know, I find that impossible.

I think all members of our little bunch have really settled down in Germany. One of us who shall not be named can only say one German word, and that is 'yes'.

The chain of command has been passed around a bit, Mr Bailey took over the task of Company Commander for two weeks and he thought all he had to do was annoy the Company Clerks which he never managed. Mr Bailey actually claimed that he could write Training Programmes better than our Leader, Maj Mellor, who we would not swap for anything under DM20! Due to our CSM being on leave, we have had various Acting CSM's like Sgt Noble, who liked the job very much and Sgt Hayes who likes the job as well apart from the Parade State on Monday mornings.

Rumours that Lcpl Fisher, our Storeman, did some work last week are untrue and whoever is spreading the rumour has to stop it as it is worrying him and he cannot get to sleep in the afternoons! Pte Plummer is doing all the work.

Coy HQ has received some new nicknames, Pte Hays has been tagged 'Lightning' due to the speed he gets things in a mess and Pte Gibson who has been called 'Nancy' for his rough manner! Lcpl Hall has the best one of all 'Punk Rock' Hall and the Arms Kote Animals. We cannot put the OCs for two reasons, firstly, he gets a new one every time the Training Programme is published, secondly, its 2066 report time soon!

We have survived two exercises due to the quick wit of our CSM, WO2 Wilkinson, who is just too hot to handle sometimes, and Cpl Cone who keeps mumbling something about 'Forming Up Point' through the mess he calls his moustache. Pte Holmes has been tagged as NCO material—they are going to cut him up and make chevrons out of him! Sgt Mann would like us all to know that we do not have to get down on one knee when he comes past in his new car and Lcpl Hall still says that the reason he got promoted was not because he wrote to 'Jim'll Fix It!' Congratulations to Pte Gibson on his recent marriage, don't worry Gibbo, your being married won't change our feelings towards you—you can still do Room Jobs.

We must say Goodbye to Lcpl Bartnick and wish him luck in his new found Glory, and welcome Lcpl Beck from Burma Coy.

## 1 Platoon

Now we have firmly established ourselves in Minden, especially in the bars and 'Brattie' shops, and 1 Platoon seem to be enjoying the German atmosphere.

Several changes have taken place since the last time of writing, Mr Drake has left us and is now commanding the A/Tank Platoon. Pte Keane who was our number one 'Action Man' has gone to the Sergeants Mess.

We also welcome the following Ptes Varley, John, Markwell, Harrison, Lowther and Kendrick to the Platoon.

Well the next exercise 'Full Stretch' will be

shortly upon us, and I'm sure all members of the Platoon are looking forward to the Mud, Blood, Sweat and Tears of Soltau.

The Christmas period went well, and the remains of the Platoon in station had an enjoyable six-day break. Our thanks to 'Butch' and his friend for providing the entertainment.

Congratulations go to Pte and Mrs Tillet on their recent family addition, and Pte Castleden on his recent marriage.

## 2 Platoon

On an exercise at Soltau we gained what must be the Battalion record for throwing tracks off 432s. In the course of not more than six hours the four vehicles between them managed to throw a total of seven tracks. The Platoon HQ vehicle actually threw both tracks—twice. The replacement of these tracks always in the most inconvenient places, caused the Platoon Cdr considerable anguish. In fact it was this night that it is believed he started to go somewhat 'Thin on Top' although he still claims that this is a sign of virility. It was the excessive head scratching and hair rubbing that he did while standing there in the pouring rain thinking 'How on earth do we get out of this one! ?'

Exercise 'Spearpoint' saw everyone somewhat relieved to be away from the 432s, operating with American helicopters proved an education for us all, and the deep penetration missions saw us in the thick of the action everywhere we went.

Cpl Ijeh was so impressed by the Americans that he ended up dressed as one right down to the vest and bootlaces.

Thus, we went into 1977 well and truly settled in Germany, and the new faces of the Platoon are Pte Clarke and Pte Elliott are now almost old soldiers. We also welcome back Pte Dobson from the Sergeants Mess and Pte Naylor who is now on a potential NCO Cadre, Pte Aston is now established and obviously enjoying himself in the MT Platoon. Congratulations to go to Pte and Mrs Nendic on their recent marriage.

## Three's Up (3 Platoon)

Since our last IRON DUKE notes we have been able to do some 'proper soldiering' on exercises in Soltau and Munster, and possibly the favourite with all the lads, was the one we did with the Americans. During the first few exercises the biggest problem was the servicing and maintenance of the 432's, however, during Exercise Spearpoint, we were air portable with the help of the Americans and their Heli's. This exercise was probably remembered and liked best by the Platoon many of whom who have never been in a helicopter before, and because some of the missions were almost Andy Murphy stuff!

Our time off during the exercises was one week-end where the CQMS organised a 'shin dig' with the Yanks. After many crates of ale and swopped uniforms nobody was quite sure who was who and it may have been a ghastly plot by the Blue Forces to foil us.

A non-ending argument about who is best Platoon finally came to a head, when out of four Ptes from Alma sent on a potential NCO's Cadre,

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three were from 3 Platoon. Good Luck to Pte Wroe, Pte Sheehan and Pte Pogson. We would like to welcome Pte Bent from the Mor Platoon. Also hurry back Pte Hudson as we need you for the football that we are still waiting to play.

## BURMA COMPANY

CSM: 'It's IRON DUKE time again Sir.'

OC: 'Yes, Sergeant Major, I know, that's what you said last time when I let you write them—ghosted by Ash—the camera. I think that I had better have a crack this time as I know your programme has to be packed into half-a-day with your rugby training every afternoon and your car not starting in the cold weather. Anyway, I wouldn't want you to have to stay in the office after 1230 hrs. Besides that "Wizard of the Ivories"—the company clerk, can't read your writing.'

Coy Clerk: 'That's right sir, I'd prefer your cackhanded scrawl any day.'

CSM: 'Right Sir, looks like it's you to write the notes then.'

OC: 'That's right, Mannering, I'll write them, you check them, and Pike (company clerk Pte Benson) can type them. Oh! And one more thing—stop blowing that smoke in my face, you are supposed to have stopped smoking!'

2nd Coy Clerk (Ashton): 'You dictate Sir and I'll take it down. But cut out the "ums" and "errs", otherwise I might think it is Mr Newton speaking.'

OC: 'Good idea Ashton. Are you ready? Well perhaps we had better start by jotting down a few notes on topics about which I can dictate later. I suppose Soltau seems a long time ago when we were in our tented camp in October, worked with the 17/21 L. Mr Shuttleworth spent his 21st birthday in a very wet tent having knocked off my oil stove—and there was a celebration around a huge fire. Ought to try it some time I suppose. That was all in preparation for that extravaganza Exercise Spearpoint. Oh yes, that was good fun and quite worthwhile, covering force and all that. Three COs too. In fact, it was Burma for 'Rentacoy' once again as we served under command QOH, 4 RTR, 1 RTR (all they could talk about was that African called Westmacob or something like that).

'Spearpoint was the exercise where 2nd Armoured Division was operating under the 'new' organisation in order to evaluate various operational and logistic systems. Far too highbrow for us. But it was really very good value for everyone to get out in the "tracks" with us all learning a great deal. Let's see, what sticks in one's mind most—was it Ptes Brown and Woodward getting lost in an APC for seven days before being turned back at Helmstedt (East German border town) whilst heading for Berlin? or, was it CSM Robbie giving instructions for a fuel replenishment and ending up getting doused in petrol so that he finished up a rather smelly walking Molotov cocktail? or even Sgt Pye giving the press a guided tour of our underground CP when he wasn't chasing yellow-backed tree rats?'

2nd Company Clerk: 'Steady on sir, not so fast, I'm only trained to 10 a minute.'

OC: 'OK, on we go. After Spearpoint we began to think about how we were going to plan a very

full winter period. We planned individual training for the company so that they could all get more money; we got as many people as possible booked in for Exercise Snowqueen—a fortnight's skiing down in Bavaria; Exercise Snowqueen is run by Mr Jenkins, OC 4 Platoon, who is currently rather over-worked and feeling tired from too much mountain air after two of his four months in Bavaria—amongst other places in the Alps. We tried to get people away on specialist courses in UK; and we ensured that everyone would get three weeks leave before April with only 25 per cent being away at one time! We all have location charts all over our walls and of course none of them match up! Oh! and we're all becoming keen on running as well as contributing a few to the battalion cross-country ski team'.

2nd Company Clerk: 'Come on, Sir, that's only so that you can get those foul smelling King Edwards out of your system.'

OC: 'Shut up, Ashton, and keep writing. What else is there of news?'

2nd Company Clerk: 'The boxing Sir, we got a good start to the inter-company competition by pulling that one off. Mind you, it was Csgt Simpson training the team that did the trick but young Bakes did pretty well and Bogle did alright by winning "Best Boxer" award. Pity was though that RSM Carter wouldn't let Pte Lawrence fight with that pot on 'is arm!'

OC: 'Yes, quite right Ashton—good point. Then there was Christmas. I remember Sgt Pye organised a very good Christmas party for all the company wives and children with Pte Smith 79 an excellent Santa, except for his DMS boots (young Brian Sykes: to Dad: 'Daddy, why has Santa got your boots on? !' Old Brian Sykes: 'Shut up, son, just

take your present.). Right, Ashton, have you got all that? Go and knock out a first draft and I'll see it at 1600 hrs before we go up to the company club and hear Mr Newton telling us all about his exchange au pair with the French forces but without the 'au pair.'

2nd Company Clerk: 'Well, I haven't got it all Sir—you see I can't do shorthand and I don't write very quick.'

OC: 'Oh! Gaud Ashton, stick to photography and send Pike in!'

#### 4 Platoon

After the completion of our training fortnight in Soltau we moved on to Exercise 'Spearpoint'. It didn't take long for us to realise that Burma Company was not the only Company taking part and that roads did not clear because 17 APCs were approaching.

The exercise was very fast moving to start with and we had to repel hordes of Danish soldiers and tanks. At one stage Pte 'Bugs' Moran and Hansell were trying to ward off eight enemy tanks with one 84mm and two thunderflashes. We had to liaise very carefully with the units we were attached to and there were times when, inevitably, we didn't liaise as carefully as we should have done.

Our APC's were invaluable when they were working and routine living became almost second nature. Coffee flowed at every spare moment, as did the sweat when the occasional track was thrown.

We found ourselves under command of various COs and consequently had various sets of signals instructions with different codes and different procedures. At one stage within half-an-hour we cancelled one ambush operation, almost took part in a heli-born assault and reverted back to our



5 Platoon (OC Lt Shuttleworth) jubilant after a good day on the range



original task, whereupon 5 Platoon brilliantly destroyed a whole mechanised company of 1 Staffords—friendly forces.

On about day four we lost 121A with Ptes Bob Brown and 'Woody' Woodward. They remained lost until seven days later and we subsequently discovered that they had been entertained by the Americans having been turned back from the East German border.

They probably had the most interesting time of all.

Throughout the exercise 121 was missing its star disc jockey in the form of Mr Jenkins who was attached to Coy HQ.

Sgt Theodore commanded and I'm sure he's greyer as a result.

All enjoyed the exercise as it was a new experience though it was nice to get away from the 'debus, cam up, sentries out' in each hide position. Apparently we also won.

### 5 Platoon

Since Exercise 'Spearpoint' life has continued to be hectic.

Competitions in all spheres of activity are taking place as well as detailed individual training.

We have been doing upgrading training and testing for the soldiers and on one particular occasion, passing stalking tests involved getting as white as possible to match the snow. Results have been quite good despite the intermittent availability of instructors and soldiers.

Most have now had a session of leave and many are about to go on a working holiday on Exercise 'Snow Queen' in Moosbach. Lcpl Tooley and Pte Sweeney have both been in the Battalion 'Langlauf' team which won the Infantry Cup. They have returned looking very bronzed and fit and will soon be away again on more courses.

The Platoon is in the semi-finals of the football competition and the chances of success look good. As would be expected there are several members in the Company team and also in the basketball, badminton and rugby teams as well as the champion Minden Indoor league darts team. Congratulations and good luck to our two boxers Ptes Salmons and Bakes who join the other two Company boxers Pryce and Bogle in the Battalion team having helped the Company to an all out win in the competition before Christmas.

The cross-country squad is training hard for March 25 and once again were well represented. It is at this time that the inter-Company competition reaches a head with military skills and shooting. Great emphasis has been placed on the latter and regular use of the .22 and 30 metre ranges is noticeably improving the standards required.

### 6 Platoon

Whilst this space is reserved for the notes on 6 Platoon, I feel it fit to include some notes on our new Company Club, especially as we live next door to it.

When we took over the Company Club from 3 LI it needed a lot of work doing to it, and it wasn't until December, that we were eventually able to open. It has had a complete facelift as re-

gards looks. Cpl Steve Mortimer and his fellow artists have repainted everything in a very professional manner and the facilities now range from drinks to assorted indoor games and food. The club is now run by Pte Percy Mitchell who has turned it into a very efficient and lucrative business and it is improving all the time. Most members of the Company are now 'regulars' and many also bring their wives in, particularly at weekends.

Thanks go to all who have assisted with the running of the club. We now have a darts team who are undefeated in six matches in the Minden Indoor League, and darts matches have become important functions in the routine of daily life.

Now, the platoon itself.

We welcome Ptes Millar, Bibbings, Whelan and Holden who have joined since last going to press. We hope they have a good stay, although some of them are being ear-marked for other jobs already.

By the time this issue is printed nearly all the Platoon will have been ski-ing, Lcpls Teall and Walker and Ptes Sykes and Oxley will have finished their J NCOs Cadre, and everybody should have finished their winter leave.

## CORRUNA COMPANY

### Company HQ

Life in Company HQ during the past few months has been an experience worth remembering. A Combat Team with all its attachments, mortars, anti-tanks, assault pioneers, artillery FOOs, REME and not forgetting the CSM's nightmare, the tanks, which have a personality of their own. It was rather like a circus on the move each part having its own individual personality and peculiarities. From the rifle section to the CQMS's temperamental stalwart all of which have to be catered for. In our minds all the time were the dreaded words 'in-experienced' what could we expect to happen to us. All our fears and dreads soon materialised, not funny at the time but hilarious when now looking back, like the time on entering a hide at night and losing threequarters of 33C in a bog with the Commander shouting 'save the eggs' then 'pass the tow-chain'. Then there was the time when the Company were down to five vehicles (including the land-rover) and 68 men and still had orders to continue (over enthusiastic umpire trouble). Just then up popped our beloved LAD 432s and Ssgt Flynn. He is still recovering from the shock of being 31, 32, 38 and 38A and point section.

Meals-on-wheels is another area of nostalgic memories. Sgt Barnett started 'Spearpoint' as the Company HQ chief Cook and finished up excused chicken supreme and sacked.

Our best erector in chief Pte 'Hoggy' Fitton was the only one to come through the exercise intact 'he eats owt!' The Adjutant has now taken him over on the RP Staff, 'don't worry Sir, he'll make sure you go hungry!'

We have had a hectic time since the exercises in Minden, Cpl Briston was flying Father Christmas and enjoyed it, the kids were surprised to see two santas in the chopper (it had another call to make as well). I think Jim Briston was too ! !

The Company Christmas 'do' got our club off to

a good start. We all enjoyed ourselves didn't we 28? Maj Cumberlege had a smart red shirt for the occasion consequently all the photographs taken had him on them! Have we discovered a hidden side to our squash champion'.

We have all now been leaved, cleaned, pressed and bulled, we are ready yet again for the road. Our only regrets—no hoggy this time, no umpires to blame it on. It is the Company Commanders last one with us. He then becomes Battalion 2IC—that is all the CSM needs!

## 7 Platoon

The Platoon is fully settled in since the last time we went to print especially since the exercise season is now over, and it is time for us to concentrate on individual training, to prepare everyone for upgrading.

At the time of the last notes we were living in the plush surroundings of Soltau training area, preparing for NATO Exercise, which meant learning to work with the tanks again. We had an enjoyable time working with the 17/21st Lancers.

We finished the week with some of the Platoon going to Hamburg for a night out (single men\*\*\*) and the remainder enjoyed an excellent barbecue with an excess of chicken, steaks, and bratties and plenty of beer, with the festivities lasting well into the night. With hardly a pause to recover, we were then preparing for the Battalion Exercise which went off without any major hiccups and finished in the early hours of Wednesday morning, leaving us the task of cleaning the vehicles and loading them onto the train and returning to Minden.

We had a week in camp to get ready for 'Spearpoint' which started just north of the Hartz Mountains with some nice scenery and trying time due to the lack of transport (knocked out by Umpires). At one time we were left with one 432 and 18 men to transport, which made life just a little difficult. It came as a bit of a surprise to see Cpl Elwell hugging one of the enemy not long after the start of the exercise during the heat of battle, the person turned out to be a Ssgt in the Danish Army who was with 'Dancon' out in Cyprus; unfortunately the reunion was cut short as the umpires were insisting that we moved back ready for the next phase.

After we had stood down for the weekend, we restarted the exercise by being attached to C/S 3 of the Queens Own Hussars, and given the task of defending a village with a small force. This made a pleasant change from defending the usual wood with which Germany seems to have an unending supply. This task lasted until the end of the exercise. Having reformed with the rest of the company we had a cold and damp night's drive back to Minden to a major clean-up job on the vehicles.

The leave periods started almost immediately on our return to Minden and up to now most of the Platoon have had their leave. Some of the Platoon have also had a chance to go ski-ing to Bavaria, with its own kind of hospitality and cheaper beer than Minden, most people enjoyed themselves.

Finally, to mention a few people, the drivers, Ptes Broadbent, Hicklin and Teasdale did an

excellent job on the exercise in keeping the vehicles going and the hard work to get them back up to scratch since the exercise season finished; well done. Also we failed to mention in the last issue the happy event of a girl being born to Cpl and Mrs Hird (the first 'Duke' born in Germany this tour). On the sporting side we had a good start in the football competition by beating the Mortars 6—2 with Pte Bent scoring two goals and several times looking like he was going to make it a hat trick. However, in the second round we were beaten, the Platoon Commander claims it was because he was away at the time and unable to play. Lcpl Smith (mit turnups) just managed to get into the side but unfortunately, couldn't turn the tables in our favour. Pte Hicklin has been doing well at cross-country running and is a regular member of the Battalion Squad, and to close we welcome to the Platoon Pte Chapman from the Mortars, Ptes Dufton and Chamberlain from the Depot.

## 8 Platoon

There is no truth in the rumour that 8 Platoon had ceased to exist on Exercise 'Spearpoint'. In fact, after a swift haggie with the umpires nearly 50 per cent were reincarnated and continued to soldier on! In all seriousness 'Spearpoint' was a very enjoyable exercise with (for the time of year) very good weather.

Perhaps the most pleasing sight on Exercise 'Dusty Tyke', the build-up to 'Spearpoint', was the demonstration by Cpl Hall that he now understands many of his vehicle's problems. It occurred during a quick withdrawal to a demolition guard held by Burma Company. The vehicle stalled and would not start again. Using an interesting set of tools, including a machette, the vehicle was started in about one minute thirty seconds. A very swift piece of work. His section meantime, by now used to the process remained in the vehicle waiting for the engine to start!

Cpl Briston well-known for his fire-raising habits on route to 'Spearpoint' carried on finally and had a very peaceful exercise, despite being lumbered with the platoon commander. Pte Maskill, platoon clown and free-fall parachutist, succeeded in causing havoc in two vehicles and disrupting life generally throughout the period of the exercise.

Back in camp life has been busy with many new arrivals to the Company and the Platoon. The inevitable disruption of life due to courses, cadres and maintenance of vehicles has taken but now we are beginning to work more as a platoon again. We are looking forward to the next exercise? Possibly a bit colder than the last two.

Congratulations are due to Pte Maskill for successfully completing his free-fall course, and Ptes Drewell and Ellis on passing their respective driving cadres. Best wishes to all who have left the Platoon in their future employment. To all those who went on 'Snow Queen' my deepest envy, watch out when you get back.

## 9 Platoon

Since the writing of the last notes the exercise season has ended and we had a period of three

months to orientate ourselves to normal routine life in Clifton Barracks.

The main aims after 'Spearpoint' were fourfold.

1. To upgrade all the Company where applicable.

2. To raise the standard of accommodation.

3. To get everyone away for three weeks leave in staggered blocks approx pers four on each leave block.

4. To get as many sports activities played for the inter Coy Shield, and people to learn to ski on Exercise 'Snow Queen'.

Although obviously, the Platoon had to provide instructors for the upgrading cadres, the problems of organising programmes for the cadres and for organising who went on leave, when and who went on 'Snow Queen' were the jobs of the OC and CSM. So as far as organisation went, the Platoon was only concerned in raising the standard of accommodation and amenities.

The responsibilities were divided between the three Platoons, 9 Platoon being the Company club and of course the Platoons own accommodation. The Company club (alias the Brown Hatters Bar) was handed over to us in quite a reasonable state needing only a few licks of paint here and there. Quite an easy task we thought until painting began. After the club had gone through several different changes of colour including ghastly pink black polka dots, it eventually finished in a two-tone brown. Hence the name Brown Hatters Club, not as is commonly believed that the barman Lcpl Steve Moorhouse (Mooruski) is one.

The club provides a variety of beers and spirits at low cost. It also provides a number of sporting ways to spend the evening with a table-tennis table, football machine, darts, dominoes, cards and a one-armed bandit, with music provided by a Juke Box it provides an interesting and entertaining night out. Also with luck we hope to get a pool table to add to the collection; already Cpl Butterworth is claiming to be champion pool player in the Company (he certainly is not at any other sport).

Exercise 'Snow Queen' is the most popular

Exercise out of camp at the moment. Pte O'Neill 85 was the first to go from the Platoon and come back with glowing reports about the course where he learned to ski, plus coming back with a sun-tan not bad for January in Germany. The next batch to go were Ptes Hyndman, Hoare, Hulme, Dooler, Drake and Price, we are still waiting for them to confirm O'Neill's first report. It is hoped that all the Platoon will get the opportunity to ski in the coming months.

### COMPANY HQ 'BACKBONE OF THE SOMME'

#### MT

Since our last contribution to THE IRON DUKE the whole of the Company Headquarters routine has been quite erratic.

Exercises have caused the MT Sgt 'Judd' Sellars and Lcpl Willetts our MT NCO to lose quite a few hairs and increase their smoking capacity to 60 cigarettes a day—and to think they try to tell everyone it's oil not nicotine on their hands. We believe you Judd ? ?

At the moment, Sgt Sellars is undergoing a nose operation to improve his complexion 100 per cent, so get well soon Sgt Sellars and keep up the good work.

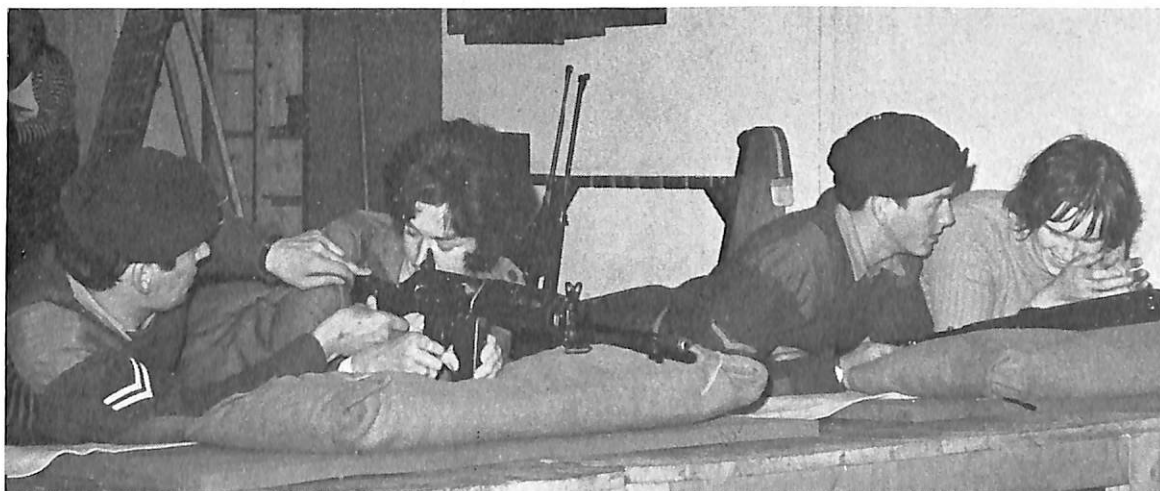
#### Stores

The stores which at the present is being successfully run by Ssgt 'Sam' Basu and his faithful companion 'Narrow Back' himself Cpl Harry Newton.

Both have done exceedingly well with supplies of food to the soldiers on exercises, and the administration side of the Company. Not forgetting Pte 'Elvis' Pickover the storeman, who is always ready to lend a hand on the Mortar Line.

#### Clerical Wing

Here in the office things have been quite topsyturvy, what with Dusty Tyke and the Mortar Concentration work has been piling up. However, those days are now in the past and we have managed to get back on top of things. Major Bunbury,



Cpl Whitworth and Lcpl Acklam giving Mrs Tyler and Mrs Vokes some instruction on small bore shooting

although his town of origin is Wimbledon shows he has the makings of a true Yorkshireman, by putting up a tremendous argumentative fight with the QM Capt Linsky over the Company barrack damages.

However, time passes and their friendship now thickens.

The 2IC, Captain Donald Palmer at the moment doesn't know whether he is coming or going. One day, in command of the Company, the next, back to his usual position.

The CSM, WO2 'Duke' Lawrence carries on his daily routine with enthusiasm and his 'on the spot' decisions in the office and also on the football field. With his clerk Lcpl Mac McCarthy there beside him ready to assist him whenever problems occur. (Problems occur often—but nothing much to say for the assistance.)

#### Arms Kote

Last but not least, Pte Charlie Davison (the man alone) the Arms Kote storeman who has had to work fairly long and inconvenient hours to aid with the present NCOs' cadre. Well done Charlie? ?

However, we must now look into the future and our main objective is to keep the Company running as smoothly as possible for the forthcoming Exercise 'Full Stretch'.

#### Last Farewell

We say goodbye to Lcpl Hartley who has left us and has gone to work as the Corporals Mess caterer. Not to mention Pte Tommy Troops who now wishes to put his clerical skills to practice in civilian life by

becoming a fork-lift-driver for a large farming firm in Doncaster. Best of luck to you both.

That's all the news for now—so until next time.

#### ANTI-TANK NOTES

Having joined the Platoon only recently, I find that one job that is just as regular in a Rifle Platoon, is that of writing the notes of this publication. Capt Sherlock has now left to inspire the youth of Huddersfield and we all wish him and his family well.

Life at the moment is varied and unfortunately, the last thought on our minds is Anti-tank work. The leave system is in full swing and this means a number of soldiers are always on leave. The 15 tan-green machines need constant attention and there is a feeling that vehicle mechanic qualifications are well deserved especially for panel-beating the track guards for the 53rd time! !

We would like to welcome into the Platoon Ptes Woodward and O'Toole who are up to now doing a successful job.

#### MORTAR PLATOON

Finding ourselves firmly established in Minden, we soon found commitments coming in thick and fast. Beginning with Exercise 'Dusty Tyke' on which we ironed out a few of the mortaring problems which we were becoming accustomed to in the mechanised role.

Dusty Tyke culminated in the Mortar Platoon arena moving straight from the Exercise up to Trauenlager Camp from which we were to carry

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out live firing practices for a week on the Munster-lager Mortar ranges. These proved to be a nightmare for the MFCs, due to bad weather conditions, namely very thick fog, we only managed two full days firing. Nevertheless, this was good training for the Mortar Concentration in which we were soon to be taking part.

### Mortar Concentration

The Mortar concentration consisted of all the Mortar Platoons in a division being tested in all aspects of war and was run by the SASC. The weather during the Concentration changed from bad to worse, but the lads remained cheerful throughout. We gained a lot of valuable experience at all levels in the Mortar Platoon and look forward to the next one.

The report we received from the Concentration was of a very high standard. Congratulations to all, we would also like to take the opportunity to thank Maj Bunbury and all the QM and Admin staff for coordinating and controlling the administrative side of things. Special thanks to Cpl (Fleet of Foot) Evans for running an efficient 'pony express' service.

The Concentration ended with a two-day exercise with the Gunners. We then settled down back in camp for a enjoyable Christmas 1976.

We would like to welcome Lt Hall as our new Platoon Commander and say a fond farewell to Capt Harrap and wish him all the best on his course.

Also we say farewell to Sgt Johnny Hogg and thank him for all the hard work he has done in the seven years with the Platoon.

### DRUMS PLATOON

Since our last notes, unfortunately, we have had no more musical jobs. Our time has been mainly taken up with exercises and servicing the 432s with the exception of a three-week cadre within the Platoon to enable the members to achieve drummers gradings. Unfortunately, the tests to the cadre were never taken because the Battalion run Infantry soldier grading cadres started rolling abruptly and it was decided that the money tests should take priority.

We welcome to the Platoon Sgt Wilkinson who is soon to take over the staff as Drum Major, Ptes Watson, Cooper and Denton from the Depot, probably the only two 19-year-old soldiers in the world.

On the sports side, we congratulate Pte Cooper for attaining a place in the Battalion Boxing team and Lcpl Smith in the badminton team.

On the kinder factory side, we congratulate Lcpl and Mrs Floss Sutton on the birth of their daughter Sharon.

The bugle competition was held on December 22 and Pte Doyle is now the CO's bugler and Pte Tyson won the Adjutant's Bugle.

### ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

The main theme of this edition's offering is about the largest exercise in BAOR for some years. Exercise 'Spearpoint' provided varying tasks for the Platoon. With 'Che Guevera' Wright acting as a super sleuth and managing to render a reserve

demolition bridge harmless with a pair of pliers.

Corunna detachment C/S 54A changes its call sign to 54 taxi due to having to carry just about everyone in the Company. Promotion was good though as 'Tex' Woodward really went from 432 driver to Platoon Commander in one fell swoop. Meanwhile in Burma Company, Bill Staniland was running a MASH service until returning from the exercise when his brakes failed. This sent the Germans scattering as they had veered to the other side of the road. Another role was that of Albert Drakes doing a 'Kane' from Kung Fu. However, all he succeeded in doing was badly bruising his hands. We now look forward to visiting Soltau for yet another exercise in February.

We welcome to Germany Julie and Laura, wives of Bob Kerry and Smudge Smith respectively and wish them a good time.

Our leave plot is now in operation and people are disappearing and reappearing rapidly. In between time people who need it are busily swatting for upgrading.

### RECCE PLATOON

With our first five months behind us BAOR seems to be a much less mysterious and complicated organisation. We think we have adapted well. The threatening clouds of different tactics, map reading at speed, and vast amounts of expensive and easily bendable kit, which hung over us, have now palled and are forming part of the furniture.

As the male underwear manufacturers said, 'Everything is so simple once you've got the hang of it'.

The Platoon meanwhile, or rather section, finds itself firmly gripped in the whirl of Bn life.

Upgrading, cadres, 'Snow Queen', leave, Battalion boxing, you name it we've got somebody doing it.

Many congratulations to Sgt Mick Brennan on his recent promotion to Staff Sergeant, and to Pte Brian Acklam and his wife for their latest addition to the family. His name has already been put forward for the next ferret conversion course. Congratulations are also due to Sgt 'Twiggy' Hutchinson and Sgt 'Big John' Frear, for returning to the land of the workers shortly before Christmas, and then disappearing for three debatably well-earned weeks of leave. Sell me your secret lads?

Lcpl O'Garro returned from leave a shadow of his former self, and two distinct shades paler, having condemned some poor girl to a lifetime of drudgery and consistently poor basha-making!

Lcpls Logan and Ciritis, that well-known combination of pilot and rear-gunner continue to run amok, and now (heaven forbid) have a faster, newer and racier machine. It is rumoured that not even the boss is allowed inside in case his delicate nose finds the hidden store of oatmeal blocks.

Our four 'ferreteers', Wally Swampers, Harry Zabrocky, Ray Stewart, and Stew Hunt (so-called 'cos he burns it) go from strength-to-strength, vehicle-to-vehicle, commander-to-commander, and if you've ever been driven by any of them, you'd know why. For instance, one of our so-called experienced drivers failed his annual Driver

Assessment Test—twice! They are a hard-working bunch of lads to whom we owe a lot (like grey hair and involuntary muscular spasms).

We welcome Ptes Collins and Brandon. Neither of them have had a chance to show their paces as along with Jimmy Preston and Willy Williams most of their energies are expended pursuing the noble art of fisticuffs for Company and Battalion.

On a sad note, I would like, on behalf of the Platoon, to extend our sympathies to the families of Staff Brennan and Pte Williams on the untimely loss of Staff's brother and Willy's father.

### BATTALION ORDERLY ROOM

It is time once again for you to read, as it has been called in the past, our 'Bor(ing) Notes'.

As the Adjutant is away on his well-earned leave (or so he says) Lt Sinclair is standing in, rugby ball and all.

The RSM has promised faithfully to return to his uniform after a night out with the 'Hippies'. We congratulate our Chief Clerk on his appointment to ORQMS. Now it means he can change the combination to the safe four times a day instead of three. By the time these notes are published Sgt Brian Wilson and his wife Avril's forthcoming event will have arrived. Best wishes from all.

Births and marriages are coming in at such a rate, that Cpl Wykes is thinking of becoming a Registrar. Lcpl Goult, or 'Herr Goult' as the case may be, will soon be the Orderly Room's Interpreter. Not forgetting our congratulations to Lcpl Grinsdale and his wife Ann on the birth of their baby boy Darren Charles born December 6, 1976. Also to Pte Beardmore and his wife Maureen on the birth of their daughter Francis Kemmey, born January 1, 1977.

We were all very surprised when Tipple actually walked into the office (without crutches) after his adventures skiing in Bavaria. Who ever said that white men are palefaces, never met our lad Beck. Since the arrival of our two new typists (female) one would think that Beck had been sunbathing.

Our 'Postie' Lcpl Cooper has swapped his mail for a full set of webbing (full of sand?) for the duration of an NCOs Cadre. Sounds like 'down test and adjust' and 'watch my tracer' will soon be heard coming from the Post Room.

Finally, we say farewell to Cpl Greenwood who moves on to Hook Company Office (Company Detail will never be the same) and we welcome Pte Coulson who takes over as 2ICs clerk.

### SIGNAL PLATOON

#### Orbat

RSO—Capt A. J. Pitchers  
A/RSO—WO2 J. O'Donnell  
Csgt—Ssgt F. Lowney  
Radio Sgt—Sgt D. B. Fielding  
Hook Coy MT  
Sgt/Sigs—Sgt T. A. Shadbolt (Cpl Brook)

We have been very busy training soldiers in both Casual and Regular Radio Users Cadres. We have put 130 soldiers through the mill, and now think they are capable of talking (coherently) to each

other, and sometimes to other people, over a radio net. Now that 130 (approx) soldiers know how to tune radio sets The British Forces Broadcasting Service has doubled its listeners.

The RSO and Cpl Cusworth have completed their 'Snow Queen' Course and claim they can ski. (Seeing is believing.) They returned to us looking very bleary-eyed and yodelling about the good Bavarian beer. Needless to say the RSO is away again learning basic Deutsche. His new call-sign is to be Zwei Und Neinten the Germans should be able to understand his VP as we can't.

### MT PLATOON

Came the cry from above infantry soldiering is finished we are becoming mechanised. Came the cry from below 'great, but where are we going to produce the drivers from?' Came the moan from the drivers 'I thought we were here to drive'.

Mechanised battalion sounded marvellous at last we can stop trudging round the countryside and ride in style. From the MT point of view this would be great if only the REME could produce fitters at the rate of one per vehicle. All that would remain is, for the powers that be to keep up with the demand on spares. We could then give the service one would expect. The one thing to remember is the motto: 'Don't despair, we'll get you there, even if you have to walk'.

Having been here some six months and seen some of the problems that arise, I am sure over the next month or two we will have found answers to them, but hey-ho away we go on to a new problem how we find the drivers for all the vehicles we take over in NI . . . So it goes on, anyone want a part-worn MTO?

Apart from trying to get the Battalion from A to B and the thousand and one other little details that crop up we are managing to get a fair number of personnel through various driving cadres, and providing we can keep up our present cadre rate, I would think during our tour on BAOR most people will have had the opportunity to drive.

Sport events unfortunately, do not play a very active part of our life but I do remember a certain football match where owing to poor acceleration and clutch control we struggled to keep the opponents from reaching double figures, and as we left the pitch one of the drivers said what date is our game next year, so I can put in for my leave.

We have managed to get away on Exercise 'Snow Queen' which is a fortnight skiing in Bavaria, and of course we have two drivers down there permanently. Beecroft who was one of the drivers, found a tin which he opened and inside was meat. Without ado Beecroft made a meal of it to be told it was dog meat, never mind who knows, if we get much more snow we might revert to dog sledges and it's much simpler ordering one type of food also a better rebate.

To mention the coming and going in the MT Platoon over the last period would probably mean an annex to the IRON DUKE, so it will be much simpler to say if you have left us, good luck and if you have joined us (hard luck) and welcome.

To all the wives of our new arrivals I would say, 'It serves you right, you shouldn't have joined'.

### REGIMENTAL BAND

By far the most important event of the last few months was our Band Inspection by The Commandant, Col M. ff Woodhead, OBE, and The Director of Music, Lt Col T. le M. Sharpe, MBE, LRAM, ARCM, from the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. These inspections of Bands take place once every five years and are designed to test the standard of the musicians, along with the complete running and organisation of the Band. It is therefore preceded by weeks of practice of scales, sight reading, marching band rehearsals, small group rehearsals, and a thorough check on the general administration of the Band. The prize for a good report is for the Bandmaster to relax again, however, the alternative for a bad one is to face another inspection six months later, or pack one's bags and hit the road. Fortunately, a grade of 'Very Good', was obtained and Mr Clarke has only a few more grey hairs by which to remember the occasion.

Our engagements have been many and variable by nature. We gave a concert in Minden for the German RSPCA in early October.

Then came the request for us to give a concert in Detmold. Having arrived at the location, we were herded into a Tailoring shop and proceeded to get changed in the storeroom lined on all sides with racks of 'New Suits' and 'Overcoats'. Naturally, we had to hang up our 'Old Suits', etc, and so we chose the most feasible spot alongside the 'New Suits'. The worry came when in the middle of the concert, we suddenly realised that while we were performing, some keen shop-assistant might well have been selling our clothes. On the other hand, it probably did occur to the management that when the engagement was complete, perhaps the Band might all leave the premises wearing 'New Suits'. We have not received any complaints as yet.

On November 13, we visited Wiesbaden and performed two short marching displays for the Wiesbaden Police sports. Also in attendance at the show was an American Air Force band consisting of male instrumentalists. However, we were rather surprised to discover that among the ranks, two female instrumentalists were performing. Upon tactfully questioning one of the standard bearers (we say tactfully, because it turned out that one of the lady members was his wife), we learned that the American Forces have introduced mixed bands over the last couple of years. Now we keep getting requests from our chaps as to why we can't do the same.

After Wiesbaden our travels took us to Koln for a Remembrance Parade at the Military Cemetery.

At the end of November, we were invited to the Band Social Club of 1 Cheshires. The occasion was a 'Welcome to Minden' for us. We had only been resident here for four months but owing either to their commitments or ours, we had not been able to get together socially prior to this. The Bandmaster of 1 Cheshires regrettably was not in attendance. Apparently, he had injured his ankle while on duty away from home and ended up in hospital. This

jogged our memories back to the time in September 1975, when our Bandmaster while on tour in Cyprus had an argument with a toilet floor, thus ending up in hospital himself. We really must take more care of our Bandmasters in future.

With the arrival of December came a rush of engagements. The Military Band performed at several officers mess dinner nights and also played at carol services. The dance band managed to fit in some engagements.

In January, we decided to close-up shop and took a spell of leave.

We extend our congratulations to Bdsm and Mrs Mann, Bdsm and Mrs Clough, and last but not least Bdsm and Mrs Dunning. The ladies all produced daughters during January. Perhaps when they are grown-up, they will all join the band. By that time we may have adopted the American idea.

Finally, we welcome to the Band Bdsm Clough (Philip) who joined us from the Green Howards. We already had a Bdsm Clough (Rodney) and in fact he is still with us. They are twin brothers.

### NORDIC SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

At last the time that many of us were waiting for had arrived. The Dukes were about to embark on the ski-ing scene again.

Sgt Kendrew was given the task of assembling all the well-known cross-country runners, training them hard in the hills around Minden, then taking them on the first 'Snow Queen' course. Once there, they would be taught the basic skills of Nordic ski-ing and would go on to represent The Dukes in the 1 Div and Army Championships.

For the benefit of older readers, I must remind them that Nordic ski-ing is basically running over mountainous country on lightweight skis.

A most important part of the sport is the application of different waxes to the bottom of the skis. Each different coloured wax contains certain properties which enable the skis to run up the hills with the skis gripping the snow, to move along the flat parts and also to slide down the hills. The colour of wax chosen depends on the many varied types of snow conditions.

The 'Snow Queen' hut was situated in a very small village called Moosbach, which is about 12 kilometres from the town of Kempton. It was there that training really started in earnest and soon all the normal cries of 'bend the knees' and 'slip and slide' could be heard.

Going fast downhill on thin skis can be a terrifying experience to the novice. So Pte 'Banzie' Barber soon developed his own 'fail-safe' system of sitting down in the snow whenever his skis got out of second gear. Who can blame him!

All too soon 'Snow Queen 1' was over and the final team selection of five soldiers had to be made. The five chosen were Lcpl 'Sas' Tooley, and Ptes Mick Sweeney, Dean Batty, Russ Whelan and Mike Jones.

With great anticipation for the future, we set off in the Battalion minibus to take part in the 1 Div Championships.

The meeting was to be held in the millionaires winter paradise of Seefeld in Austria, which, of

course, was the venue for the Winter Olympics of 1976. The team was accommodated in very pleasant hotels in a small village called Axams, which is about 15 kilometres from Innsbruck.

On arrival in Austria, the team was joined by Sgt Malcom Hirst, who had been released early from his duties of training the British 'B' team. His wealth of experience was to prove invaluable over the next four weeks.

Before we really knew it the day of the 1st race dawned. This was the 15km individual, which was also incorporated into a team event by adding together the timings of the three fastest skiers from a nominated team of four men.

Because we were entered as novices, Sgt Hirst could not ski in the team, but, of course, he could enter as an individual. A 1 Div ruling stated that each novice team could field one experienced skier, therefore it was a very proud Ssgt Kendrew who lined up with the rest of the team. The results were very encouraging, Sgt Hirst won the individual prize, and the team was placed 10th out of 22 starters. Our top individual placings went to Lcpl Tooley 29th and Ssgt Kendrew 43rd. Not bad from a field of over 130 skiers.

The next race was the 4 × 10km relay race, and again good results were achieved. The team was placed eighth out of 17 teams overall, third out of eight novice teams, and, as in the 15km, 1st Infantry team out of five. This time it was Pte Jones who was our fastest skier with a very fast time of 41 mins.

The biathlon relay was next. This involves a team of three skiers, each one ski-ing 7½kms, but carrying a rifle, and stopping twice at the range to engage five targets. For each target missed a penalty loop of 150m has to be run before the skier continues. Therefore good shooting is very important. This race produced our first disappointment, and although we fielded two teams we could only manage 12th and 14th place out of a total of 19 teams. 'Sas', you really must remember to wear your rifle the correct way up, and to put your muzzle-cover on.

The highlight of any ski meeting is the patrol race. This involves four men, ski-ing together for about 20kms and carrying a rucksack and rifle, making a total weight of 54lb. During the race, at about the 16km point, the patrol stops at the range to engage three targets. For each target not hit a penalty time is added to the actual running time, therefore, again, shooting is very important.

The patrol chosen was Kendrew, Tooley, Sweeney and Jones, and they put up a very creditable performance by being placed 6th overall out of 22 teams, 2nd novice out of eight teams, and best Infantry team. No penalty time was incurred on the range. No mean feat.

The final placing in the novice teams was 3rd out of eight, and although Sgt Hirst was the only one to go on stage at the prizegiving, it was well thought that 'The Dukes' had made a tremendous impact at the meeting.

The 1 Div meeting came to a close and we drove back to Oberjock in Bavaria for the BAOR/Army Championships. Now we were really playing with the big boys, and it seemed that every other skier



Pte Sweeney skiing in the Army Junior Biathlon

had a track-suit top with 'Great Britain' across the back of it.

The 4 × 10km relay proved to be a very exciting race for us, and put more grey hairs on the team captain's head than ever. First of all Pte Sweeney was going to set off on the 3rd leg of the race with a broken ski, which was only held together by the paint on top, and the wax on the bottom of it. The day was saved with about two seconds to go. 'Sas' Tooley came screaming home to hand over to him just as a spare ski arrived via a breathless team captain. His shout of 'Sweeney don't go' would have put any RSM to shame, and spectators and officials alike wondered what was happening. To crown it all, Sgt Hirst then set off on the last leg without having his skis marked. (The rule being that each competitor must finish the course with at least one of the original skis he started with.) He completed about half of the course before he was dragged back to the start to get his skis officially marked, and then, of course, had to start all over again. 'Never mind Mal, at least you chose the right wax for us on a very difficult waxing day'.

A field of over 200 skiers lined up for the 15km race, and on a day which was a waxing nightmare, Ptes Batty and Whelan were to prove to be our best men. They were placed 78th and 83rd respectively.

Our next event was the biathlon relay. The prize for this race was The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Trophy, which was presented by us in 1968. So we were anxious to put up a good show.

Twenty-six teams were to take part, but because of lack of range space, they had to be seeded into two groups of 13 teams. We were chosen for group 1.

After a tremendous run by Sgt Hirst we were



placed 7th. Not bad considering that the six teams above us each contained at least two members of the British National team, plus one other strong, well-known skier. Our timing would have placed us runner-up in group 2. The other two skiers for us were Kendrew and Tooley.

In a new race at the meeting, a 30km event, Sgt Hirst won the runner-up prize.

So once again to the highlight, the patrol race.

Because there are no novice teams at the Army meeting, we had to obey the rules of the rank structure of the patrol. The patrol consisted of one officer (Major Walker) one NCO, Cpl or above (Sgt Hirst) and two Lcpls/Ptes (Tooley and Sweeney). The team captain still swears blind that Sgt Hirst bribed Major Walker to let him be patrol 2IC.

At this point I must point out that Major Walker had been on skis for only seven days, and much depended on him if we were to get the good result needed in order to clinch a prize. The prize was a new trophy presented by KOSB for the best Infantry unit in BAOR in the Nordic combination. That is the 4 × 10km relay, the 15km team event, and the patrol race. (This is not to be confused with the infantry cup, which also includes alpine events, and if older readers will recall, the 'Dukes' were the first team to win that when it was presented in 1967.) Major Walker did not let us down, and the trophy was ours. The patrol was placed 14th out of 21 teams. Congratulations to Lcpl Tooley and Pte Sweeney, who again shot clear on the range.

In the overall competition the final team placing was 15th out of 18 teams.

At the prizegiving, it was a very proud team captain who went up on stage to collect the new trophy, to applause and shouts of 'Well done The Dukes' from the other skiers.

To all the young hopefuls who fancy their chances for the team next year, start training now! And when you have worn out three pairs of boots by running on Minden ridge, get your name in to Ssgt Kendrew and he will tell you what to do next.

### RUGBY

For the first time in many seasons the 'Dukes' were knocked out of the Army Cup in the quarter-final stage. On December 15, 1976, on a bitterly cold and windy day we were defeated by 7 Signal Regiment by 9 to 8 points. With snow and ice on the ground we scored two tries but, as usual, failed to convert them. 7 Sigs never really looked like crossing our line but succeeded in converting three penalties out of four attempts. The team never really got into its stride and the game lacked any spirit or excitement.

Once resigned to our defeat it was decided to concentrate on forthcoming Sevens tournaments and to build for next season by tackling our remaining fixtures as forcefully as possible. The ground was frozen throughout January and our first New Year fixture was against Brussels British in Antwerp on January 29. They were a hard, fit side of British exiles but were eventually worn down by a powerful display by the pack. Lcpl Williams, Pte Bucknor and Capt Palmer all gave outstanding displays of

different aspects of forward play. Given good ball the 'Dukes' backs are the best in the Army and we finally emerged victors by 26 to 3 points.

Our latest match was against the Queens Dragoon Guards who are ranked as one of the best Army sides in BAOR. Everyone in the 'Dukes' ran into form as we won by 41 to 3 points. Pte Fleary scored three excellent tries and took his total to 40 so far this season.

Several players have been selected to represent BAOR this season—Lt Sinclair, Lt Drake, WO2 Robinson, Cpl Elwell, Lcpl Williams, Pte Fleary and several more are attending the BAOR trials.

Unfortunately, the tour of Yorkshire had to be cancelled but the 'Dukes' will be touring Belgium in March. Captain Gilbert has recently returned to the battalion and as he is the current Army captain we hope he will soon command a place in the 'Dukes' side.

We hope to retain the Courage Army Sevens Championship and the Camberley Sevens, both of which we won last season. We have also entered the 1 Div Sevens, the BAOR Sevens and the Heineken Sevens in Amsterdam.

### RECORD UP TO FEBRUARY 9, 1977

Played	Won	Lost	Pts for	Pts Agst
18	14	4	668	129

### SOCCER

Since our last notes, soccer in the Battalion has had its most successful season since Hong Kong.

The most noted success is the fact that we can turn out two teams most weeks and still have players left over.

The 1st XI reached the 3rd round of the Army Cup and were only one goal away from the Qtr Finals when we met 26 Engineer Regt. (Away) and lost 4—2.

### Army Cup Results

1st Rd 2 Div RCT 2	1 DWR 5
2nd Rd 1 DWR 1	Scots DG 0
3rd Rd 26 Engr Regt 4	1 DWR 2

### I Div Cup

We were drawn to play 1 KOB at home and after a very close game and some excellent football from both teams the result after 90min was 1—1, extra time was played and the result was 2—2.

The replay took place a week later and again after a very entertaining game the result after 90min was 1—1. The KOB scored again in extra time to make the result 2—1.

### Int Cup

We were drawn at home to the Irish Guards for the 1st Round of this competition and after a very hard bruising battle the result after extra time was 2—2.

The following week the replay was staged at Buller Bks, Munster, and after a very good 1st half the scores were level at 1—1. The second half opened with Keith Pogson blatantly fouled which resulted in him being carried off for treatment. Billy Smith substituted, however the Guards had dis-

posed of our most effective player and the sides play suffered as a result.

However, with only 10min to go Stew Nicholson scored to give us the lead 2—1 and it seemed that we might just pull it off. This was not to be, with only five minutes remaining the Guards equalised through their No 9. Extra time was played and again in the last five minutes the Guards scored to take them into the second round.

**4 Div Premier League North**

As the table indicates the 'Dukes' are top of the league, we lost the 1st game of the season to 35 Engineer Regt, but have not looked back since, we have still six matches to play but the team is playing well and hopefully we can keep our consistency in the league and remain at the top until the end of the season and gain promotion.

**Bn 2nd Team**

The second team are working well under Brain Sykes and as the league indicates they have helped the 1st team by drawing with 1 RTR and beating 35 Engr Regt our newest rivals, 3—1 at home.

Ssgt Bob Heron leaves us for a two-year posting to 1 Yorks, all involved in Bn soccer would like to thank him for all the hard work he has put into the teams both as a player and as a coach this season, hurry back your experience will be sadly missed during the next two years.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 DWR A	6	5	0	1	16	9	10
35 Engr Regt	6	4	0	2	20	14	8
1 RTR	5	3	0	2	21	9	7
1 DWR B	4	1	1	2	8	13	3
4 Div HQ and Sig Regt	5	1	0	4	16	24	2
1 Cheshire	2	0	0	3	8	8	0
7 Signal Regt	1	0	0	1	1	6	0

**WARRANT OFFICERS, STAFF SERGEANTS AND SERGEANTS LOCATION LIST, APRIL 1, 1977**

(Alphabetical)

**Warrant Officers I**

- M. CARTER: RSM 1 DWR. For SSCC late 1977/early 1978.
- R. CHILVERS (LSL): GSM Episkopi.
- A. CLARKE: Bandmaster 1 DWR.
- R. FENN (LSL): GSM HQ, Northern Ireland.
- F. A. RENTON: Bandmaster, Depot King's Div.

**Warrant Officers II**

- G. CLARKE: 1 DWR.
- B. COLL: RQMS 1 DWR.
- T. M. CONLEY: 1 DWR.
- B. COOPER: Band Sergeant Major, Depot King's Div.
- D. HUGHES: PSI, 'C' Coy 1 Yorks. For WO1 in 1977.
- J. MANION: ORQMS, 1 DWR.
- D. R. MILNER: ORQMS, Docs Team at Records, York.
- G. K. LAWRENCE: 1 DWR.
- F. R. PARKINSON: Band Sergeant Major, 1 DWR.
- D. PEARSON: 1 DWR.
- G. QUAYLE: Transport WO, School of Inf.
- P. ROBINSON: 1 DWR.
- B. STANSFIELD: PSI, 'D' Coy, 1 Yorks. For WO1 in 1977.
- J. A. TOPLIS, BEM: 1 DWR.
- P. WILKINSON: 1 DWR.
- L. WILSON (LSL): Estate Warden, SSO Berlin.
- N. WRIGHT: 1 DWR.

**Sergeants**

- R. ARROWSMITH: ACIO Huddersfield. For 1 DWR, July 1977.
- J. N. ARUNDEL: 1 DWR.
- E. D. ATKINSON: ACIO Barnsley.
- S. BARNETT: 1 DWR.
- G. BLENKINSOP: 1 DWR.
- E. BOWDEN: 1 DWR.
- M. BUDDEN: 1 DWR. For ACIO Huddersfield, July 1977.
- P. COATES: 1 DWR.
- E. CRAVEN: Depot King's Div.
- M. CUSS: ACIO Bradford. For 1 DWR, June 1977.
- D. DICKENS: 1 DWR.
- B. ELLWOOD: Band 1 DWR.
- D. EXLEY: ACIO Halifax.
- C. FLEMING: 1 DWR.
- J. FREAR: 1 DWR. For 10 AYT, May 1977.
- R. FREAR: 1 DWR.
- T. W. GARRITY (LSL): HQ Rheindalen Garrison.
- A. GODDARD: 1 DWR.
- G. E. GREGOR: Drum Major 1 DWR. For AAC Harrogate, May 1977
- P. V. GREY: 1 DWR.
- B. HALL: 1 DWR.
- W. HARSTON: 1 DWR.
- D. HAYES: 1 DWR.
- J. HEMMINGS: PSI with 1 Yorks.
- B. HEY: 1 DWR. For IJLB Shorncliffe, July 1977.
- M. HIRST: 1 DWR (att 35 Engr Regt).
- J. T. HOGG: 1 DWR.
- G. HUNTER (A/Ssgt): 1 DWR.
- P. HUTCHINSON: 1 DWR.
- S. KELLY: 10 AYT. For 1 DWR, May 1977.
- F. KENDREW (A/Ssgt): 1 DWR.
- F. LOWNEY (A/Ssgt): 1 DWR.
- H. MANN: 1 DWR.
- J. D. NASH: 1 DWR.
- B. NOBLE: 1 DWR.
- J. PARKINSON: 1 DWR.
- R. B. PEAT: IJLB Shorncliffe. For 1 DWR, September 1977.
- I. W. PARROTT: 1 DWR.
- V. F. PYE: 1 DWR.
- G. ROBSON: 1 DWR.
- J. RUSSELL (LSL): Army Youth Selection Centre (N).
- G. SELLARS: 1 DWR.
- T. A. SHADBOLT: 1 DWR. For Sup Wpns Wing, Sch of Inf, July 1977.
- R. SPEARMAN: Div Recruiting Team, Strensall.
- B. W. SYKES: 1 DWR.
- G. TEMPLEMAN: 1 DWR.
- O. THEODORE: 1 DWR.
- M. L. TOLLEY: Depot King's Div.
- J. WALKER (A/Ssgt): PSI with 3 Yorks. For 1 DWR, December 1977.
- J. WRAGG: Depot King's Div.
- J. W. VAUGHAN: Band, 1 DWR.

**Staff Sergeants**

- I. AKEROYD: ORS, North Irish Militia.
- K. ALMOND: Band, 1 DWR.
- R. M. BASU: 1 DWR.
- M. J. BRENNAN: 1 DWR. For Tactics Wing, Sch of Inf July 1977.
- W. N. BUTLER: PSI with 3 Yorks.
- G. COOKSON: 1 DWR.
- G. E. DOWDALL: HQ 19 Bde. ROD August 1977.
- M. L. HALL, BEM: Northern Ireland.
- G. HARDING: 1 DWR. For PSI with 3 Yorks, September 1977.
- P. HEWSON: 1 DWR.
- R. HERRON: PSI with 3 Yorks.
- T. HUDSON (LSL): Army Youth Selection Centre (S).
- K. H. LEACHMAN: 1 DWR.
- J. K. LOFTHOUSE: 1 DWR.
- T. MARTIN: PSI with 3 Yorks. ROD, June 1977.
- J. O'DONNELL (A/WO2): 1 DWR.
- P. I. RAWCLIFFE: 1 DWR.
- L. W. RUSBY (LSL): Offs Mess Steward HQ NEARELF.
- L. J. SHAW: PSI with 1 Yorks.
- A. F. SIMPSON: 1 DWR.
- D. C. SKIPWORTH: 1 DWR.
- J. A. WALLER: 1 DWR. For PSI with 3 Yorks, December 1977
- J. E. WARDLE: PSI with 3 Yorks. ROD, November 1977.



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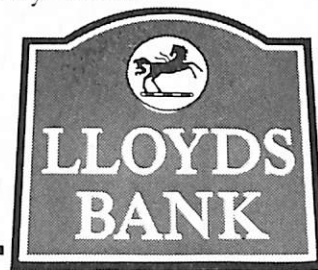
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## 'C' (DWR) Company, 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Volunteers

The main event which has taken place since the last issue has been Annual Camp, which was held in BAOR last November. We were very proud to muster a total of 96 all ranks on Friday, October 29, 1976, and after a few hours of intensive documentation we eventually departed from RAF Leeming at about 1800hrs for RAF Gutersloh, courtesy of the RAF, in one of their VC 10s. After an uneventful flight during which we consumed the contents of a standard RAF 'lumpy box' we touched down at Gutersloh, climbed aboard a number of German coaches and were duly transported to the four barns which were to be our home for the next week.

Our programme did not include much time for settling in so the following morning saw us begin our six-days work-up training ready to take part in exercise 'Spearpoint', the Autumn 1 Br Corps exercise.

The week went well enough and we practised, among other things, attack, defence, and withdrawal with special emphasis on digging in, movement by night and day, and the various individual skills which are necessary to enable a fighting force to live in the field under adverse conditions. Mercifully, the weather was kind to us; although quite cold as could be expected for the time of year, it remained basically dry. Notwithstanding this we were not entirely without casualties. Lcpl Whale spent a few days in hospital with a chest complaint, Sgt Mick Kennedy was nursing a couple of broken ribs sustained in a sporting event before camp, and Pte North was whisked away with a mild heart disorder.

Towards the end of the first week Pte McNamee was the unfortunate victim of an accident involving one of our anti-tank guns and spent the remainder of camp in hospital with bruised ribs and a crushed vertebra.

On Saturday, November 6, the Battalion moved to Sennelager and thus into the Corps reinforcement chain. After two good meals, a shower, and a short rest we were transported in coaches to the Corps rear area where we were reunited with our road party. From there we moved under our own steam to a battalion concentration area and were able to recce our main task which, as far as 'C' Coy were concerned, involved the blocking of a pass in a thickly-wooded ridge. There we remained until Tuesday morning and saw 2 RTR move through our position to counter-attack the enemy which had advanced to within a mile of our positions.

Later the same morning we were placed under command of 2 RTR and were given the task of securing a village about three miles to our front which had just been 'liberated' by our armoured colleagues. We duly advanced to our appointed task and established Coy HQ in a large farm and positioned 7 and 8 Platoons on either side of the village with one Mobat each. That day we saw little of the enemy, the only light relief being three recce patrols which we sent out at night to check for

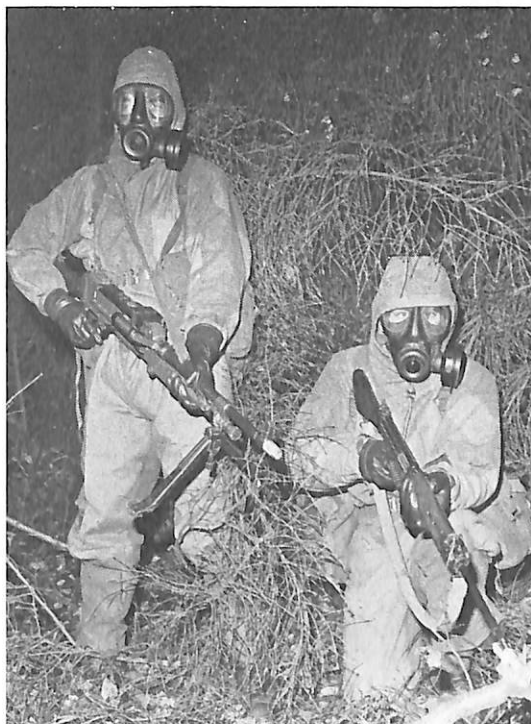
enemy activity at selected likely places.

Early on Wednesday morning, after fulfilling our task successfully, we came once again under command of 1 Yorks and returned to our original blocking position.

By this time the exercise was almost over as far as we were concerned as preparations for our return to UK had to be made. As a final fling, we were given orders to mount a heli-borne assault, at night, on the enemy headquarters, several kilometres behind the front line for which we were allocated three Wessex helicopters. In the event, only two aircraft arrived and our force was instantaneously cut by one-third. Add to this the complete impossibility of feeding before we set off and the reader can imagine that we were not without problems.

The feeding problem was solved by the Company Commander boarding the aircraft carrying a cardboard box containing two loaves of bread and a quantity of butter and jam. This is probably the only time that a patrol, on landing behind enemy lines just after last light, has made a bee-line off the landing site and proceeded, in a reasonably secure position, to issue jam butties as a first priority.

The action went well and we succeeded in attack-



If you see something like this at the bottom of your garden, phone your doctor or take a stiff drink. C(DWR) Coy, 1 Yorks on Exercise Spearpoint

ing the divisional HQ with small-arms and mortars and were picked up and returned to our original positions at first light the following morning.

All that remained was to withdraw to Allenbrook Barracks, Paderborn, where the Battalion, all but the road party, spent two days before returning to UK on Armistice Sunday, leaving behind Pte Fitzgerald who had been bitten by a dog and was undergoing anti-rabies treatment.

Apart from Annual Camp, our recruiting is still going well and we see a constant small stream of new faces.

Of the old faces leaving, we have recently said goodbye to Sgt 'Bill' Bailey, who has been in the Army for some considerable time in one form or another. Sgt Bailey once said that he started feeling old when he realised that his army number was older than those of the PSIs. We are sorry to see him go and wish him luck as a 100 per cent civilian.

Finally, we would like to take the opportunity to wish the Commanding Officer and all ranks of the 1st Bn the best of fortune in their forthcoming tour in Northern Ireland, and bid them a safe return to families and friends in Minden.

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

Since the last edition of the IRON DUKE we have been very busy over most of the weekends.

November saw every weekend working. The first weekend brought us to Bellerby, with a high attendance, for the Annual Classification. On November 13, we provided the safety check-points for the Masters Hike, covering most of the Huddersfield area. We completed the safety checks in the early hours of Sunday morning, had three hours sleep and reported for the Remembrance Sunday Parade. Finally, in November, there was the Battalion exercise at Swynnerton covering all aspects of NBC for which our 'Famous Leader' was in a world of his own being the Only qualified officer around. This meant that nothing was right unless he was in control. But we must admit he knows his job when it comes to NBC.

The main function that occurred in early December was the Company Christmas Social. It was the biggest social ever attempted by the Company and it was a great success, due mainly to the vast amount of time and effort put in by the Com-

pany members. Ssgt Walker chose an excellent act for the evening, a very good live group alternating with a disco. The size of the Drill Hall was reduced considerably by using parachutes draped from the roof. These were loaned by 4 Para for the occasion. It was good to see so many Company members and guests at the Social and it is hoped to hold similar socials regularly, the next one being March 25.

A surprise presentation was made to Ssgt Walker by Ssgt Wally Butler from 'A' Coy at the permanent staff annual Christmas do—our PSI could not understand what was happening and much to his surprise he was the recipient of a pair of bright red stilts suitably inscribed which add at least 18in to his stature.

We start the new year with all stops pulled out making ready for the recruiting campaign with Sgt P. Beaumont, using his camera to the Company's advantage by taking photographs of the training, enlarging them and using them for recruiting purposes.

On March 12, we are hoping to parade through



**C(DWR) Company 3 Yorks  
Best Shots of the Company at  
Section level. From left to  
right: Pte Mills, Pte Popiel,  
Cpl Ellis, Lcpl Hellowell,  
Lcpl Davidson**

Huddersfield with the Colours of the 5th/7th West Riding Bn DWR. The Mayor of Kirklees will be taking the salute in the Market Place. This will be followed with an 'Open Day' in Greenhead Park for the remainder of the day. We would like to express our thanks to Capt Gilbert—'Swan' (so named by 'C' Coy because of the job with 10 AYT) and the whole team for all their help with the display for Greenhead Park.

Along with the drive for recruits we also see changes within the Company with posting in and out and promotions. We say goodbye to Cpl Jimmy Ellis who will be joining 1 DWR in the next month and Pte Johnston. We welcome 2/Lt N. Lewis from Leeds UOTC, Sgt J. B. Tandy-Cockram (ex-LI) who is the new Administration Sergeant and Lcpl Dunne who used to be 'B' Coy storeman with the 'Dukes'.

#### Promotions

Cpl R. Bentley to Lance-sergeant; Cpl J. Senior to Lance-sergeant; Lcpl M. A. Dobson to Corporal;

Lcpl C. E. Dobson to Corporal; Pte Hales D. to Lance-corporal; Pte M. Hellowell to Lance-corporal; Pte A. F. Davidson to Lance-corporal.

We would like to thank Col D Hirst for the presentation of the Mark 4 Rifle as a shooting trophy and hope that in the summer months we can persuade him to come along and present it to our best shot.

#### Sergeants Mess

Our Mess is looking very well now that we have, at last, put up all the shields and plaques from the other regiments.

In the next couple of months we will be saying farewell to two of the PSIs—Ssgt Tom Martin and Ssgt J. Wardle (ex-Duke) and the rumour goes that we are getting two more Dukes. The RSM, WO1 D. M. Davison, R. Irish, was hoping he would be getting some support from another regiment but once again the Dukes outnumber them all. After the success of the last two socials we are now looking forward to the Summer Ball.

## Wellesley Company

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

The winter months have been very quiet with very little camping activity. The detachments have been busy keeping up with APC training during the dark winter evenings. A difficult business though; trying to teach map reading from a blackboard when it is pitch-black-dark and raining the proverbial 'cats and dogs' outside the cadet hut. However difficult, the theories have to be 'hammered home' ready to take advantage of the spring and summer to put the theories into practice, and when if the winter evenings' work pays off, cadets get through a week-end exercise without losing themselves anywhere over several miles of open countryside, to the dismay and consternation of officers and instructors alike who, on such occasions are to be heard re-assuring each other with 'nothing to worry about, they'll turn up presently', whilst each is silently contemplating the prospect of facing a cadet's Mum with 'please Mrs Smith, I've lost your little boy' or words to that effect. Cadets do have a habit of turning up eventually, none-the-worse, and with some amazing experience to relate in justification of the late arrival.

All detachments have now completed their Annual Inspection Visit, rather similar to an FFR although nowhere near as extensive. We are fairly certain of picking two if not three above average reports, and with the remainder passing comfortably if not spectacularly. Both Halifax and Huddersfield detachments were able to parade 50 cadets on the night, quite a good achievement.

Of recent changes it is to be noted that WO2 Sgt-maj Instructor F. R. Poulton of Skipton

Cadet Detachment (DWR) retires this month on the upper age limit after long and valuable service. The detachment will not lose his services altogether for he hopes to 'soldier on' a while longer as a Civilian Instructor. We sincerely hope he will be able to do so.

Congratulations are offered to Ssgts D. D. Ellis and R. Battye of Mirfield and Thongsbridge detachments respectively on their promotion to WO2 Sergeant-major Instructor, and to Under Officer David Chambers on obtaining his T & AVR Commission. David has taken command of Thongsbridge Cadet Detachment (DWR) from Captain Geoff Whittaker, who in turn has taken command of Mirfield Cadet Detachment (DWR) which had been temporarily commanded by Ssgt D. D. Ellis. Lastly, on this subject, and to everyone's delight Lieutenant Peter Turner has been promoted Captain. Whether the weight of metal on his shoulders will diminish his ebullient spirits remains to be seen, but the Company has lost a most 'colourful' senior subaltern. The 'cackle' of Captains had best look to their laurels for junior captain though he may now be, Peter is hardly likely to allow that to put an end to his Mess capers.

At the present time much quiet background work is going on in preparation for the party of 16 cadets due to spend 10 days with 1st Bn, at Minden in April. Hopefully, the next issue of the IRON DUKE will record the excitements and pleasures of those 16 lucky lads, in the meantime there is great anticipation.

## NO 10 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

Capt M. S. Sherlock took over as O.C. from Capt C. J. W. Gilbert in February 1977.

Recently the Army Youth Team have struck up a good relationship with the Calderdale Education Authority. This has all been due to Capt Gilbert and the members of the team.

Having arrived and 'settled in', I now realise that the job is 24 hours a day. There is so much to do, there is hardly time for a 'teabreak'.

The Education Authority keeps us very busy and by the end of the year we should know the Lake District like the back of our hands.

Apart from climbing and hill walking, we have now taken up canoeing. The only problem is we have no canoes but this will be dealt with shortly.

Cpl Anver has been on a trampoline course so Cpl Beck, watch out! Cpl Hughes has passed his

HGV test and we are willing to attach him to Huddersfield Corporation for a few weeks to drive the buses (for a small sub of course)!

Schools work carries on, although at this time of the year its mostly classroom tuition. We do run a couple of orienteering courses but the classroom work is preparation for the summer camps.

Capt Gilbert left the AYT in early February to return to the 'Fold' and we wish him and Angie the best for the future.

The hand-over was most interesting. Moving at speed from school to school and then to York and back to more schools. If I had known what it was going to be like I would have indented for a couple of 'bionic legs'.

Finally, we welcome Cpl Ward to the Team and hope that he has an interesting and happy two years.

## THE ATTACK AT FAMARS: NOVEMBER 1, 1918

by Peter N. Farrar

The impression of the 1914-18 War given by the media and by many books is one of endless trench warfare and futile attacks. Even when the victorious Allied advance of the summer and autumn of 1918 is not completely ignored, it is treated as a 'walkover'. In fact, the German army put up a stubborn resistance to the very end of the war, and the British army, which as a huge citizen army reached its peak of professional efficiency in the summer of 1918, played a vital part in the German defeat. One important new factor was the close support given to the infantry by field artillery. This was the 'creeping barrage', which from crude beginnings in 1916 became a fine art in 1918.

There was no better demonstration of the new skills than the attack which 1/6 DWR, under the command of Lt Col A. B. Clarkson, made on November 1, 1918. By chance, it proved to be their last action of the war. The Canadian Corps and 22nd Corps of Gen Horne's First Army were given the task of capturing Valenciennes which the Germans partially protected by flooding. The Canadians were to attack the city from the south, and 22nd Corps, including 49th Div, were to capture the high ground which commanded the city from the south-east. The 49th Div were dug in on a two-battalion front on a ridge SE of the village of Famars. 1/6 DWR had 1/5 West Yorks on their left and 1st Hampshires (4th Div) on their right. This account of the attack is based on unit War Diaries, which often include operational orders, preserved in the Public Record Office, and a visit to the site.

As the ration strength of the battalion was 400 officers and men (the nominal strength was 700), of whom 320 were effectively fighting men, 'A' and 'B' Coys, reduced to two platoons each, manned the 400 yard forward line of posts. 'C' and 'D' Coys, each of three platoons, manned the second line. 1/7

DWR was the support battalion. In front, bare open fields sloped down gently for half a mile to the Rhonelle, a stream about 10-12 yards wide and 4-5 feet deep—level to the top of the banks, since the enemy had dammed it. The German defences relied mainly on scattered MG posts on the near side of the stream and a cleverly dug-in series of MG posts and rifle pits in the fields which sloped gradually to a ridge beyond the stream. The Marly-Preseau road along the plateau of the ridge was the final objective of the attack; the intermediate objective was the Aulnoy-Preseau road on the crest.

The attack was planned in great detail and secrecy by all units involved. On the assumption that three hours would be sufficient time for the capture of the final objective, a creeping barrage, initially of great intensity, was to screen the infantry for three hours. As the first hour of the attack would be in darkness, the most precise co-ordination of infantry and artillery was essential. Every minute of the barrage was delimited on the barrage 'map' (a tracing to cover the 1:20,000 OS map) issued by 49th Div CRA. The concentration of artillery was unprecedented, as far as 49th Div was concerned. The two 'resident' brigades, 245th and 246th Bdes RFA, each consisting of three batteries of 18-pounders and one battery of 4.5-inch Howitzers, were reinforced by seven extra brigades. Two groups were formed. Right Group (five brigades), supporting 1/6 DWR, was commanded by Lt Col K. Duncan, DSO and Bar, nominally in command of 246th Bde. Its total fire power was 80 18 pounders each with 500 rounds and 24, 4.5-inch Howitzers each with 325 rounds. These batteries were scattered in an area between one and two miles behind the ridge and therefore out of sight of the enemy on the ground. But two sections of 18 pounders were given 'forward' (open sights)



A Coy 1/6 D.W. at Auby,  
January 1919

Back row, on right: Sgt Simpson; second from right, Sgt Reeder, MM. Others are unknown

Front row, from left to right! CSM A. Cutler, 2/Lt A. V. Whalley, Capt H. Farrar, M.C., 2/Lt F. Petherbridge, CQMS Birchenough, Sgt Jolly

duties, one stationary and one mobile. The mobile (horse-drawn) section was to join the infantry beyond the Rhonelle and to serve primarily as a protection against any tanks the enemy might use.

The heavy artillery support for the Division was supplied by 34th Bde, RGA, consisting of three 6-inch Howitzer batteries and one 60-pounder battery. A MG barrage to last 70 minutes was also laid on. The Dukes were allotted 'C' Coy, 102nd Bn MG Corps, who placed 16 Vickers guns along the jumping-off line. Close support was provided by half of 'D' Coy, 49th Bn who were to follow the Dukes with eight guns.

The Dukes were to attack in two waves. 'A' Coy (Capt H. Farrar) and 'B' Coy (Lt S. E. G. Bilham) were to lead, followed closely by six groups of eight men from 19th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers (Pioneers), each group carrying a 20-foot duckboard bridge to place over the Rhonelle. Ten minutes was allowed for crossing; during that time the barrage would fall on a stationary line 200 yards beyond the stream. 'A' and 'B' Coys would then advance and seize the intermediate objective. Again the barrage would be stationary for 10 minutes to give time for consolidation of the position. Then the second wave i.e., 'C' Coy (Capt H. J. L. Willink) and 'D' Coy (Capt J. Hart, MC) would leapfrog through 'A' and 'B' Coys and advance half-a-mile to the final objective, with a final 10-minute stationary barrage.

#### The attack

At 0515 hours (80 minutes before sunrise) the barrage along a six-mile front broke with a colossal roar. Right Group's barrage came down with superb accuracy on a line 200 yards in front of 'A' and 'B' Coys jumping off line. The HE shells lit up the darkness ahead like a theatre stage. The Dukes had three minutes to run forward and form up about 50 yards behind the curtain of exploding shells,

before the barrage moved forward at the rate of 100 yards per three minutes. They had 21 minutes to overcome opposition and reach the stream.

The Dukes soon came under MG fire mostly from the other side of the river but also on the nearside, particularly 'B' Coy's right flank. All 'B' Coy's officers were hit: Lt Bilham, 2/Lt H. E. Cartwright (killed) and Lt T.P. Brighthouse (wounded in the right eye). CSM T. Limmer, DCM, immediately took over and led an attack on the MG posts, destroying them all. The stream was successfully crossed by 'A' and 'B' Coys, all but one of the six bridges being placed in position. The first five minutes of the stationary barrage was accompanied by a smokescreen put down by the 4.5 Howitzers, which was repeated for 15 minutes during the advance from the stream. Both 'A' and 'B' Coys seized their objective about 0700 hours. 'A' Coy had the best luck, finding in their section of the sunken road many pack-horses carrying rations and about 100 enemy, who immediately threw up their hands. With great satisfaction, Capt Farrar and CSM A. Cutler sent these Germans to the rear.

It was now 'C' and 'D' Coys' turn to attack. There was no element of surprise in their favour and it was getting rapidly lighter. It was a fine, dry day, but with a haze of smoke. The barrage now crept at a slower pace—100 yards in five minutes—as the going was uphill, but its effectiveness depended on there being no setbacks to the Dukes. The Germans, although pushed back, and heavily punished by artillery fire, were determined to put up a stiff resistance. Their machine gunners had the advantage of magnificently clear fields of fire, for the ridge offered almost no natural protection whether hollows, hillocks or trees. A sudden burst of fire killed Capt Hart and several of 'D' Coy HQ. 'C' Coy on the left actually reached a section of the



road forming the final objective, but they found themselves under heavy MG fire from a thick wood on their right flank. Lt W. Spratt was now in command, Capt Willink having been wounded—mortally, as it turned out. At 0815 hours the barrage ceased and the attack stalled soon afterwards, as it also did with the flanking battalions. There was now a danger of a counter-attack. Consequently, Col Clarkson, after inspecting the positions at 0930 hours, ordered 'C' Coy to fall back in order to make a shorter and more secure line.

In the early afternoon, 'C' and 'D' Coys were reinforced by two companies of 1/7 DW. The counter-attack came at 1600 hours, but with the help of an SOS barrage it was not only repulsed but further ground was taken. When 1/7 DW relieved 1/6 DW at midnight, the enemy was only just clinging to the Marly-Preseau road.

Less than half of 1/6 DW plodded back over the Rhonelle to drop exhausted in the previous night's dugouts. No man was more thankful than my father, the only company commander unharmed, as he had been in the last big attack on October 11. Six officers and over 100 ORs had already been

evacuated wounded. Two officers and 27 ORs had been killed; 12 ORs were missing. But the casualties inflicted on the enemy had been crushing. 49th Div War Diary stated that about 300 enemy dead were found. The 1/6 captured 12 officers and 600 ORs, to which 1/7 added one officer and 25 ORs. Along the whole battlefield the enemy reeled under the blow delivered on November 1. The following day, the Canadians took Valenciennes and 1/7 DW pushed on in their sector. On November 4, 1/6 DW were billeted in the mining village of Aubry, near Douai. They were reorganising here when the armistice was declared.

Today, the countryside at Famars seems to be almost unchanged. The pleasant landscapes does not even hint that a brief but violent battle took place there, The fields are not pockmarked, and the military cemetery is tucked away in Maing.

The author is Senior Lecturer in History, Hull College of Higher Education and is the son of Captain H. Farrar, MC, who was Officer Commanding 'A' Coy in the action described above.

### ARMY 'POLISHES' ITS BANDSMEN WITH MUSIC OF THE PAST

A new sound of music came from within the Band Room of the Kings Div Depot . . . so different from the familiar rousing marches and even the pop tunes often rehearsed there.

Outside the brick building a young soldier paused to listen, then walked on with an approving smile.

Bandmaster Frank A. Renton from Idle, Nr Bradford, Yorkshire, had unwittingly won himself yet another fan of his music of 400 years ago.

The 16th and 17th century music is a new innovation just introduced to the Junior Bandmen at the King's Div Depot, Strensall, York.

The 37-year-old Bandmaster, who has been with Army bands for 17 years, has included it in his teaching curriculum as a method of adding 'polish' to his bandmen's playing.

And the budding Army musicians, heading for places in the military bands of 1979, have voted it top of their 'pops'.



**Bandman's eye-view of Bandmaster Frank A. Renton during rehearsals of the old music**

The music, of the type Henry VIII might have chosen to be played from the minstrels gallery at one of his lavish Court banquets, is described by the Bandmaster as 'fresh and clean and demanding perfection in playing from the musician'.

'If you strike the wrong note in this old music everyone hears it. There is no covering up', he says.

The peep into the past was also broadening the musical outlook of the young musicians.

Bandmaster Renton—an Associate of the Royal College of Music and Bandmaster of the Gordon Highlanders for seven years before transferring to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and going to York last August—forms his 38 junior bandmen into small brass and wood wind groups to practise playing the vintage music.

The works of old Italian, German and English composers—once played on lute, virginal, spinet and harpsichord—take well to modern wind instruments.

Although the music cannot be adapted for military parades and marches its teaching will add a lot of extra zest to the young musicians next rendering of 'Colonel Bogey'—or even such pop favourites as 'Sailing'.

And it will fit well into programmes when the junior bandmen make public appearances—as part of their training—in churches and schools.

The Bandmaster injected the old into the new (the majority of military marches were originated only this century) to give musicians 'a different feel of music'. He draws on the works of such composers as Gabrieli, Couperin and Giles Farnaby.

The 'student' bandmen will train for two years at Strensall, followed by a year at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall in Middlesex.

Then they will take their place in the bands of: The King's Own Royal Border Regt; The King's Regt; The Prince of Wales's Own Regt of Yorkshire; The Green Howards; The Royal Irish Rangers; The Queen's Lancashire Regt; The Duke of Wellington's Regt.

And Bandmaster Renton—he started his military music career in the Band of the Royal Irish Guards—is confident they will all have that extra polish because of their taste of the music of long ago.

'In spite of not having as much opportunity to play it in their bands, I'll bet they go on tinkering with it in private' he says. 'It has really captured their imagination.'

#### AFTERTHOUGHTS OF A VETERAN NOVICE BIATHLETE

For several years now, the following in the Army for Nordic ski-ing, and more particularly for biathlon, has continued to grow. Biathlon is the sport of combining cross-country ski-ing or langlaufing with shooting. Some of you will remember that in the '60s as a unit, we became quite good at the sport and over a four-year period of perseverance and training some worthwhile results were achieved. It was after this that Sgt Malcolm Hirst went on to achieve national fame as an Olympic biathlete. This year we endeavoured to take up the reins—or rather wax—from where we left off in 1967 and you will have already read of the results of the venture.

Like most of us I had always regarded langlaufers as a breed of people who required some sort of adjustment to their mental stability in order to keep them on the right track. I mean, what possible pleasure could be derived from driving one's body over miles of undulating snow-covered country, on two pieces of wood barely 2in wide whilst carrying a rifle in order to fire off a few shots at a balloon, only to arrive at the finishing post totally exhausted and, in some cases, speechless? ! (though not for want of trying to speak). And who in his right mind would ever want to take part in something that can only be described as sheer and unadulterated purgatory—the Patrol Race? The news that we had entered the Army Championships sounded splendid to me so long as I wasn't involved. I had begun to take an interest in langlaufing during last winter in Canada as it was a good form of exercise and was an unusual way of seeing some of the Ontario countryside along well-prepared tracks up and over very gentle

slopes.

It was therefore with a fairly cagey 'Yes' that I volunteered to take part in the Patrol Race when asked by Mr 'Snow Queen' himself (Lt Philip Jenkins) as he would be in England on the day of the race. In fact, he quite obviously had no intention whatsoever of getting involved with anything to do with the wretched race but knew that if he cast his fly fairly boldly his Company Commander would take the bait. With a few weeks to go before the race I began what I thought would be appropriate preparation for the 20km race. A gentle jog around the streets of Minden was stepped up from once a month to twice a week and even on one terrible occasion to twice a day. PTIs could be seen wincing at the sight of me using a variety of weights and ropes to try and put some life into tired and pretty useless muscles.

Departure day for Bavaria arrived and I set off still with the enthusiasm of youth and yet still not really fully aware of what I had let myself in for. A carefully planned training and coaching programme had been prepared for me and I would have the benefit of personal instruction from any one of three experts all of whom had one aim so far as I was concerned—somehow, to push/drag/drive or even coax me around the Patrol race course. I was taken to Oberjoch where it was all to take place and introduced to the biathlon 'scene' where our team would be racing that day. A voice boomed over the loudspeaker telling people to report to the 'Ziel'. Of course I would have been delighted to report to the aforementioned place but for the life of me did not know what the word meant and dared not ask.

(Surely, sir, you must know it's the start and finish.) People kept rushing by me on their way to the 'Ziel' dressed in bright-coloured one-piece racing suits, fancy stockings, woollen hats, and ear muffers. I was clearly in the way and made my way to the relative obscurity of the 'warming tent'. Inside a mass of fit young skiers were huddled around oil stoves, brandishing blowlamps, stepping over skis and poles and whispering in muffled voices about the key to it all—the wax for the day, for success or total failure can depend upon what amounts to a very thin layer of what appeared to me like candle-wax or alternatively, a tube of UHU or Bostik. Then disaster struck, it had started to snow. This meant, of course, that most people would have on the wrong wax and certainly those already out on the course who had started in sunny but icy conditions. Our team had half-an-hour to prepare for the race. I looked around the warming tent and there was clearly disagreement amongst some of the teams on the type of wax to apply to the skis. Those with sense listened to the voices of experience, but the hot-headed inevitably went their own way and would later suffer the consequences of using the wrong wax. This could be either too much 'grip' which results in three or four inches of snow on the bottom of one's skis and hence no ski-ing, or no grip but lots of 'glide' which results in the young hopeful slithering and sliding all round the course. I soon had a blowlamp and scraper pushed into my hands and was asked to help scrape off the original wax from someone's skis so that the required one could be applied. The bustling continued until our team was ready to move to the 'Ziel' at their start time and I was left with the blowlamp trying to melt some of the filthy wax from my hands without actually burning my fingers (the last of the white spirit had long since been used). I watched them go through a checkpoint where their skis were marked supposedly to prevent replacement skis being deposited about the course in the event of accident. This horrified me as I knew that the likelihood of my requiring spare skis on the day of the Patrol Race was quite considerable.

My turn came when the race was over and everyone had departed for lunch for only then did I dare to leave the warming tent and only with the course empty would my coach for the day dare to produce me. He was the most experienced of the trio and patiently set about improving my technique, not that I had any technique at that stage. I was introduced to the finer points of the 'diagonal gait' though the faster I moved my arms whilst running uphill the slower my legs went (the reverse should of course be the case). We kept climbing and I began to think not of my bursting lungs but of the horrors that lay before me with the descent. I need not have worried for once I lost control of my snow-plough the fastest way down for me was to sit on the back of my skis and just follow the tips. By the end of the day my coach was clearly exasperated and the following day I was passed to someone else who introduced me to the skating turn. I managed to master the skating part without difficulty though when it came to the turn 'the splits' would have been a more apt description. He also took me on my first

long run and though quiet by nature he soon realised that the only way to get me round a course such as would be used for the Patrol Race would be by driving. This had the desired effect but the citizens of Moosbach appeared to find this behaviour beyond their comprehension. The training continued back at Oberjoch over the next few days and gradually some sort of progress was made though I could sense that each of the three senior NCOs were beginning to draw lots for not competing in the Patrol Race! The more experienced one clearly felt some responsibility for me and so it was that the team of four assembled on the day. We were all kitted out correctly in our white suits with the patrol carrying their Bergens, rifles and added weight to make up the 54lb which included two spare cut-down skis for me. I breathed a sigh of relief at being given a pistol and pair of binoculars to carry though we had not got far before I realised just how heavy even these can be in such a race. We got off to a good start though the first 5km were more like an obstacle course than a patrol course. It wasn't long before there was a cry of 'Track' from behind and some ace team of four closed up to 15m and was passing us. This depressed me until not long afterwards, when we were in a similar position and were also able to shout 'Track' to some other unfortunate team. Depression turned to elation but this was short-lived for the course seemed to get longer rather than shorter. After an eternity we reached the range where I had banked on getting a few minutes breather whilst giving out the odd fire order. My rifleman let me down by shooting so well that we were soon on our way to the finish a mere 4km ahead. In my ear the voice that had been alternately hard, driving, soft, and encouraging for two hours and yet all the time in total control of the situation spoke for the last time—'Come on, sir, a final sprint, there is the Ziel, 400m to go and you will never ever race again'. I hadn't the breath to reply, but thought at the time, 'You're dead right I won't'. But on reflection it was all a very worthwhile venture, a challenge, and I suppose, really rather fun even for a veteran.

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Veteran=35 or older; Novice=rabbit as in any sport.

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### REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND SOLDIER MAGAZINE

*Soldier Magazine* are writing a series of short articles on 'Military' Museums. The February 1977 issue of *Soldier* contained the 49th article in the series which featured The Duke of Wellington's Regt museum. Copies can be obtained direct from *Soldier Magazine*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

This information was received too late for inclusion in the December 1976 issue.

### AN IRISH REBEL

By LT COL F. P. A. WOODS

The incident which I am about to relate happened in the early 1920s when the British Army were engaged in conflict with the IRA during that unhappy period of Anglo-Irish relations.

In order to tell you how I come by my narrative I must explain that at one time I was seconded to the 4th Bn the King's African Rifles in Uganda. One of my friends, by name Twining was a subaltern also seconded from his regiment for a term of duty with the KAR.

During the troubles in Ireland he served with the Worcestershire Regt and had been appointed as their Intelligence Officer. He told me the following story.

One evening he was walking in the streets of Dublin when he recognised De Valera, who was at that time a leading Sinn Feiner and was on the wanted list. Twining had him arrested and he was taken to Portobello Barracks.

Some time later Twining was returning from leave and was travelling on the boat between Holyhead and Dublin. De Valera was also a passenger on the boat, having attended a meeting in London concerning a possible truce between England and Ireland. The negotiations were successful and the Truce became operative in 1922.

De Valera recognised Twining and spoke to him as follows:

'Young man, next time you arrest a dangerous rebel I advise you to guard him more carefully. When I was taken to Portobello Barracks I was put under arrest in an officer's quarter with an officer to guard me. This officer left the room for a short time. I noticed a tin uniform case in one of the corners of the room, I lifted the lid and on top of some clothing was a .450 revolver and ammunition. If I had wanted to I could have shot my way out.'

The part that De Valera played on the world stage is well known, but I think some mention might be made concerning my friend Twining of long ago.

From the KAR he went into the Colonial Service where he had a distinguished career. He ended his Colonial Service as Governor of Tanganyika. Later he was given a life Peerage and elevated to the House of Lords.

### NUMBERING OF VOLUMES—THE IRON DUKE

The more knowledgeable reader will have noticed that this issue is not the first of a new volume, as has been the practice in the past.

In order to assist those readers who have their issues bound it has been decided that each volume will now contain six issues i.e. cover two years, thus reducing the cost of binding to some extent.

Volume LI will now cover 1976-77.

### BACK ISSUES—THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Secretary wishes to thank all those readers who kindly responded to the appeal for unwanted back numbers of THE IRON DUKE published in the December 1976 issue.

### SOME REFLECTIONS FROM GERMANY

Some years ago, I found myself, after a long journey, leaning on a bar in an old village pub in Eyemouth on the Scots border. Knowing nobody in the area I found difficulty in joining in the many sided conversations going on so I just listened.

Eymouth is a fishing village and it follows that most of the customers were deepsea fishermen. There were others, a ghillie, a doctor and a former marine engineer. As I listened to stories, anecdotes, jokes and downright lies I began to feel that the hundreds of years of travel and experience gained by this motley gathering was something worth paying to hear.

Just before closing time, 10 pm, I mentioned leaving and thanked the group for a very entertaining two hours. An elderly man walked across to the bar and said 'Did I hear that you enjoyed that chat?' Yes, I did, I replied. 'In which case laddie why are you here?' said the other. I looked blank. 'You will not be following my meaning'. 'Er no'. I muttered. The man explained:

If you live to be 70 you may do many things, you may do nothing. However, you will always enjoy others telling a tale. The young like to listen to the stories of other people's lives, their experiences, escapades, adventures in peace and in war. But, time spent in listening is time not spent doing. The time may come when the young, by then not so young, will wait in silence for their entertainment, for the old folk will have gone. The 'new old' having spent their time listening will have no experience to draw on and nothing to say.

'So young man, leave the pub and come back in 30 years.'

For those of you in your late 'teens and early twenties—consider: Given that you will last for 70 years and you have had 20 of them, why not spend another 30 years in living life? Now is the time to show off your muscles, to try the new sport to develop skills unthought of, if necessary to break the odd bone—be healed and laugh about it. Try and fail and then try again and laugh about it. Begin to store up knowledge and skills, find out who you are, what you are capable of. Learn to be the man you wish to be. It takes time, you have the time.

There is an alternative, live to 70, wait until 20 then hang on to the bar for 50 long uneventful and expensive years. It sounds good at first but consider—creeping age problems, failing health, damage to brain cells whenever the so-called 'blackout' happens and most of us are not too well off in that department. Of course there is the usual money problem—if you spend £5.00 per week on drink from 20 years to 70 years it means pouring away £13,000.00. Think of what could have been done with the same money spent more wisely.

As the old man said, you may have nothing to talk about and there will be no one left to talk to you. Not a very pleasant way to spend the autumn years of your life, so while you can, get out and do something. Leave the drinking for the celebrations, when you have done it, or tried and laughed about it.

B. C.

## Soldiering in India—II

The preamble was over. The unpacking, straightening, pitching, striking and repacking of tents had been practised for long enough. Surplus kit had been stored away and, in the case of the Band and Drums, rifles and bayonets had been handed in to Company stores. We had had our last meal in barracks for some four weeks . . . breakfast of either two 'battered steaks' or two rissoles (the type varied) but I forget just what it was. All of these things were now behind us and here we were on the Battalion parade ground formed up on the morning of January 4, 1929. Band and Drums in front with A, B, C and 'D M G.' companies behind formed up in review order and behind them the 'A T' section, the mules and their drivers . . . an understatement at times . . . and finally, the 'camp followers' made up of grooms, bearers, 'sweepers', char wallahs, etc. All were awaiting the order from our Commanding Officer, Col C. J. Pickering, 'Advance in column of fours from the right, "A" Coy leading', and that order having been given we were 'on our way'. Here let me explain that 'B' Echelon (bullock wagons loaded with tentage, greatcoats, blankets, the canteen contractor's requirements . . . and they were many and varied . . . all the paraphernalia associated with the Officers', Sergeants' and O.R.'s cookhouses, and items pertaining to the QM stores, etc.) had been 'on their way' for a good two hours and this happened every day.

The first day's march was from Ahmednagar to Imampur, a distance of some 17 miles and was to the majority of us the stiffest march of all. After leaving behind the environs of Ahmednagar 'metalled' roads were practically non-existent and we were marching on roads which for centuries (even perhaps as far back as the invention of the wheel . . . or when, that is, it reached India) had carried bare-footed natives, bullocks and the cumbersome and oft-times overloaded heavy vehicles they pulled. The result to us, the marchers, was purgatory. The 'road' surface was, from the left of it, about eight inches flat, deep wheel rut, less deep double ruts made by the bullocks, another deep wheel rut and another flat bit and on this we were marching(?) four abreast. On that first day the last eight or nine miles was a gradual uphill gradient which sapped at one's stamina. The camp site was about half a mile on the Ahmednagar side of the summit of Imampur Ghat and here we pitched tents, had as near to a bath as was possible, had our midday-meal . . . later than usual . . . and then that ritual of all route marches, 'Foot inspection'. Incidentally, the band corporal, 'Ginger' Rose, had promised each 'Boy' who completed the march to Kazipur, without 'falling out' five rupees (a full week's pay) and all were still in the running.

The second day started, as on all subsequent days, with the striking of tents, bundling of greatcoats and blankets and the loading and stacking them onto the bullock carts; washing and shaving, then breakfast and we were ready to be off again. Our first halt that morning was right on the summit of

the ghat and the view which stretched before us was one to be remembered for many a long year. A vast plain which we were informed was called the Godivari Plain, with the river from which it took its name flowing through it some two days' march away (we did not know that then of course), Indian villages, each with its own pall of smoke from the dung fires hanging over it and as yet undispersed by the rising sun and away in the distance the deep blue of the Aurangabad Hills which, the 'vine' informed us, was our destination 'roughly speaking'. On that day I am sure that many a man thought, 'Will I make it'. As a day's march it was an easy one, downhill and then very flat but with the bullock cart 'road' our constant companion, just 14 miles to Wadhala our stop for the night. The third day was the 'highlight' of the march, some 16 miles to Toka, but first we had to ford the Godivari River. Depending on one's height the depth of the water varied from knee-high to waist-deep but oh! the bliss, the ecstasy and the sheer joy of living that cold, dirty brown and slowly flowing water gave to us and what pleasure we would extract from it later in the day. The camp site was only a few hundred yards beyond the ford and we were soon settled in. The 'vine' informed all and sundry that the CO had graciously offered the battalion a day's rest to be taken there at Toka or the day after arriving at Kazipur, and that 'They' had decided to carry on, complete the march and then take the day's rest. Neither then, nor at any time since have I met anyone who voted, voiced an opinion or even remotely knew who 'They' referred to. But lessons are learned, albeit the hard way, and anyway, we had the rest of the day to splash around in the river.

The fourth and fifth days went past, as did the miles under our feet and then on the sixth day our goal was only 10 miles away and we passed through the ancient cities of Khuldabad and Dualatabad. I wonder now, as I did then, if such things as spirits there are, what the long dead citizens of those long since crumbled cities thought of our band and drums and their stirring renderings of 'Old Comrades', 'On the Quarter Deck', 'Washington Greys', 'The Thin Red Line', 'Great Little Army' and many other fine marches . . . including 'Fareham' composed and arranged by Rupert Gough our own bandmaster marching along with us. Then it was the last mile or so up a very steep and winding hill where, at the summit, our Brigade Commander, with Col Pickering astride his charger alongside him, awaited us to take the salute and the march past. We were a proud and happy battalion for (and I'm afraid that the 'Vine' must again take the blame) it was reported that prior to leaving Ahmednagar the Brigadier had said to our CO, 'Iron Dukes eh Pickering? When I've finished with 'em they'll need Iron Horses to pull 'em back.' But that did not, nor could not happen. We had arrived at Kazipur.

The day after was our day of rest. What a wonderful day we had, although in fairness it must

be recorded that reveille was one hour later than usual at 7am. Almost a mile for a wash and shave, with the latrines in exactly the other direction from camp. Breakfast followed at 8am, and then the 'sports' began. Companies fell in within their own areas and were greeted by the CSMs accompanied by the CQMS. The latter had with him several reels of 1-inch-wide white tape. NCOs were allocated to the working parties who, in their turn, were amazed at the numbers that were necessary to guide them in their work. The tents for the most part had to be struck and re-pitched to form dead straight lines in conformity with the white tapes by then in position; each tent had to be exactly the same distance from its neighbour and each row of tents had to be the same distance from the one on its right as from the one to the left. When that was completed to the entire satisfaction of all, there were cries of 'Break-off for 15 minutes.' The char wallahs were already

there (Kipling had his Gunga Din but we swore by the gods that our char wallah was his equal) and whether one had the ready or not there was always the katab (credit). After break we had to watch a specimen kit, blankets, greatcoats, spare boots, etc, being laid out. Those in their turn had to conform to more white tapes. There were lecture on camp hygiene, area cleanliness, what was 'in bounds' and was not, where Battalion Daily Orders would be posted, the times that Company and Battalion Orders would be held each day dependent on schemes and night Ops. Then it was dinner-time and the rest of the day was ours, after all equipment was blanched, brasses cleaned and rifles cleaned and ready for inspection at 5.30pm prompt. The band and drums had instrument inspection.

Oh yes, we had had a wonderful day's rest, but one learns and two years later we did have a day's rest at Toka. SAX

## Christmas in Malta

I first visited Malta while serving with the UN in Cyprus, and decided to return there for my Christmas leave.

The RAF could not let me have an indulgence flight so I decided to go by rail and sea. The first visit I made was to the Reiseburo (travel agency) in Minden to make the travel arrangements. After one week and a few grey hairs the girls in the agency arranged my journey from Minden to Valetta (Malta) for 367 DM return. And so on Sunday night December 19, 1976, myself and Phil Drewell of 'C' Company armed with passports left Clifton Barracks by taxi for Minden 'Hauptbahnhof'.

For Minden, we travelled to Hannover, where we boarded the Alpen-express to Rome. A journey that was to take 21 hours. After eight hours we arrived in Munchen (Munich) then crossed into Austria, at a point near Switzerland. We made only one stop in Austria at Innsbruck, the famed ski-resort. After some magnificent views of the Alps we crossed the Italian border and made the long journey south to the city of Rome.

My only regret was that we arrived in Rome at dusk (eating macaroni) and could not see enough of the city. We managed to see the Coliseum, and various other ancient reminders of the once great empire, before changing trains.

In Rome we boarded a packed train to Syracuse (Sicily) which was carrying hundreds of Italian soldiers home for their Christmas leave. This train was to take a further 14 hours, but the monotony was broken by one bottle of Vodka and the cheerfulness of everyone aboard. The journey was via Naples to the toe of Italy where we boarded the ferry to Sicily. After just one hour the train left the

ferry and we were on Sicilian soil. We then completed the journey to Syracuse via Catina, where we left the train for the ferry to Malta.

We boarded the ferry a little the worse for wear and half-a-bottle of Vodka but a shower had the desired effect. We managed to find the bar, and some drinks later arrived in Valletta for a glorious two weeks holiday.

The first few days were spent getting to know the island, and coming to terms with the fact that it was December, and that snow was unheard of, even at Christmas. We viewed the Island from the city walls at Valletta and were amazed how much of it could be seen. The island's population is approx 250,000, plus tourists of all nations, and wherever we went people were very friendly. The local attraction for tourists is a cruise around the three islands of Malta-Gozo at a cost of £3.50 including lunch, in my opinion very good value for money.

The sea was warm enough for swimming and we went down to the beach every day. (Just to watch the talent contest).

There was a great celebration over Christmas with millions of coloured lights. The whole island seemed to be one community and everyone was singing carols and enjoying life to the full.

All too soon the time came to leave, we said farewell to our many friends, and started back for Minden, travelling the same way as the outward journey.

We did not get a sun-tan, but we were never cold. I intend to go back again and advise any member of the Battalion to spend a holiday on the Island of the sun.

PTE GEDGE (Signal Platoon)

## Obituary

### **Brig C. H. E. Lowther, CBE, MC**

Brig Christopher Henry Erskin Lowther, CBE, MC, died at his home in Camberley on December 24, 1976. The funeral took place at St Michael's Church on Thursday, December 30. Col F. R. Armitage represented the Colonel and all members of the Regiment at the service.

Brig Kit Lowther was given a TF Commission in the 6th Bn of the Regiment in November 1915 and served in France from December 1, 1916. He was wounded in October 1917 and rejoined the Battalion in France in January 1918. He took over a company and was awarded the MC for leading an important raid on enemy trenches in August 1918.

He was released from Military Service in January 1920 and relinquished his Territorial Army Commission.

He soon rejoined the regular Army, being gazetted a Lieutenant in the Regiment in June 1922, joining the 2nd Bn.

In 1925 he transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps with whom he had a distinguished career, his final appointment being DOS Egypt.

He was retired on retired pay on account of disability in May 1950.

In his latter years he was a great supporter of the Regiment at the various Aldershot Rugby Finals and will be remembered by many for his unfailing kindness and courtesy.

### **Mrs R. E. Sugden**

On February 17, 1977, Mrs Dorothea (Dot) Sugden, wife of Maj Roger Sugden and mother of Rachel, Isobel and Victoria, died peacefully at her home at Southcourt, Shipton-by-Beningbrough, York, after an illness which had lasted three or four months.

Dot was in the strong and long tradition of regimental wives who accompanied their husbands wherever and whenever it was possible, made homes out of nothing, supported regimental functions and partook in regimental life to the full. In recent years in support of Roger as Secretary of the York Minster Chapel Committee, she took on the task of coordinating the work of all those individuals who are embroidering kneelers for the chapel.

The funeral service took place at Shipton-by-Beningbrough Parish Church on February 22 which was attended by Mrs Isles representing the Colonel of the Regiment and by many friends from the Regiment, the ACF, the local community, and from the many organisations with which she was involved.

### **Mr W. Stell**

Mr William Stell of 54 Mannville Street, Keigh-

ley, died suddenly at Airdale General Hospital on December 18, 1976, aged 73 years.

Mr Stell enlisted in 1922 and will be remembered by many who served with the 2nd Bn in Egypt and Singapore. He leaves a widow and step-daughter.

### **Capt F. C. Van den Bergh**

Officers and other ranks who served in Holland and Germany with the 7th Bn will be sorry to learn of the death at Nijmegen in April 1976, in his 67th year, of Frederick Carsten Van den Bergh who was attached to the Battalion as Captain Interpreter from the beginning of December 1944 to the end of August 1945. The cremation took place in Arnhem. He leaves his wife Elly, whom he married in 1937, his two children, Bram and Liberta, and six grandchildren.

Fred will be remembered best for his modesty and quiet, unassuming nature, which concealed considerable ability as a painter in oils and water-colour. Between January and August, when he was seriously injured in a motor accident, he painted without fee over 20 portraits of officers and men, from Brig Wood and Lt Col Hamilton downwards, amongst which the three-quarter-length of RSM Bush, standing to attention in full regalia outside No 37 Sumatraplein, was perhaps the most notable, including the 'pregnant' (i.e. 'impressive') stick—Fred's English was at that time still capable of improvement. He had no military background, being what his compatriots call 'a captain from the cold ground', joining the Dutch army after the liberation, which for him and Elly had meant release from a year-and-a-half's hiding, in a Nijmegen attic, from the Nazi anti-semitic dragnet, sustained only by the BBC news broadcasts. Some will recall his reunion with their small son, Bram, who had been on the German side of the line during the Battalion's winter on the 'Island'.

Fred had been trained in textile design and manufacture, and after the war, gave up his ambition to devote his life to painting in order to replace his brother in the family's carpet factory at Oss. The happiest time of his life, according to Elly, was the time he spent with the Dukes, and it is good to know that he got enormous pleasure from an unexpected and largely unrehearsed opportunity to act as host to the Battalion party revisiting the battlefields in 1973.

R.A.H.F.

### **Mr George Mabon**

Mr George Mabon died in Edinburgh on February 22, 1977, aged 99 years. He would have been 100 on August 26, 1977. George was an ex-4 DWR First War soldier and served on the Somme in 1916. He regularly attended the 4 DWR OCA Dinner in Halifax until 1972.

# Regimental Association

## NOTICES

### London and Home Counties Branch Dinner—1977

The Annual Dinner and dance will be held on Saturday May 7, 1977, in the Carisbrooke Hall, The Victory Club, Seymour Street, London W.1. Meet in in the Carisbrooke Hall bar at 7pm for dinner at 8pm.

Tickets £3-50 from Secretary, Mr Ken Waterman, 21 Vivian Court, 128-134 Maida Vale, London W9.

### Annual General Meeting, Reunion and Dinner—1977

The year 1977 is the centenary of The Barracks, Halifax, and on Saturday, September 3, the event is being celebrated in Wellesley Park, Halifax (the new name for the barrack area). For more details see RHQ notes.

For this special occasion our AGM and Dinner will be held in Halifax and not Huddersfield as would have been the normal custom.

The AGM will be held in RHQ, Wellesley Park, Halifax, approx 1600hrs.

The Dinner and Reunion will be held in the Wellington Hall (Drill Hall), Prescott Street, Halifax, 7.30 for 8.

Tickets £3-50 each obtainable from RHQ DWR or Branch Secretaries.

### Regimental Service—York Minster—1977

Saturday, October 29, 1977. Further details will be given in the August edition of this journal. Advance information will be given to any individual who may wish to attend on application to RHQ.

### Dunkirk Veterans Association

Huddersfield Branch. Week-end celebrations May 28/29, 1977, including dedication of new standard.

Full details from Mr J. J. Hollis, 655 Manchester Road, Linthwaite, Huddersfield.

## Items of Interest

### Regimental Benevolence

In 1970, the George Turner Trust made an annual grant for the benefit of a limbless ex-4th Bn First War soldier who was resident in hospital. The soldier died in December 1976.

The trustees have now increased this grant two-fold for the welfare of DWR soldiers/ex-soldiers living within 10 miles of the Town Hall of the old borough of Brighouse.

Capt George Turner, MC, now aged 82, who served in the 4th Bn and the Royal Artillery in the First War, is a former Mayor of Brighouse and lives in Auckland, New Zealand.

### Boosting Morale (1940 style)

Stripping off the wallpaper in the lounge of a North West country hotel a painted collection of near-naked or scantily-clad girls has been exposed. Rumour has it that the 'Dukes' were 'in residence' at the time of painting.

### Egypt—1920's

In a letter received from an old Regular of the 'Dukes', now married and living in Belgium, he gives a very graphic account of life in Egypt and the Kars-El-Nil barracks, Cairo, excerpts:

'The place was infested with bugs, every Thursday was bugging out day.

We had them iron pull-out beds, they weighed about half-a-ton, we had to take the bed to pieces to get at the bugs, bugs were everywhere where there were crevices, the little blighters got in the seams of our bed biscuits, we would kill every bug round our beds, put the bed up again, and in about 36 hours everything was just as bad. If a man was caught making a hole in the wall it was seven days CB. The bugs loved holes.'

'We had an armoured train and we used to go out every month. A company of men at a time went out, we had a powerful searchlight on the front of the train and a pom-pom gun mounted on the rear. The locals were terrified of the armoured train.'

'We had an open-air cinema in the barracks, silent films of course. Two "ackers" to go in'. (1p on today's value.)

'The 'Dukes' cap-badge won pride of place,' and a proud mention that he slept in the same barrack-room as Henry Tandy, VC, DCM, MM.

### Remember Him?

Mr B. Sellars (14842171) who served with the 2nd Bn 1941-44 would like to contact his service friends. His address is: 5 Kirkman Road, Loscoe, Nr Heanor, Derbyshire.

### History

Mr Henry Tandey, VC, DCM, MM, has requested to purchase, Vol I-II of *The History of the West Riding Division 1916-19* (Edward Wyrall). If anyone knows of any available copies will they please inform RHQ.

## LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES BRANCH

We must commence these notes by reminding you all that our Annual Dinner/Dance is once again being held in the Carisbrooke Hall of the Victory Services Club on Saturday May 7, 1977, and the bar will be open at 7pm. We can once again promise you an eventful evening with good food, wine and dancing to an excellent dance band. Tickets may be obtained from the Secretary of the London Branch at 21 Vivian Court, Maida Vale, W9, so don't be





**Regimental Association (Mossley Branch) Social Evening held at Greenfield Mill Social Club**  
 Left to right: Major Tedd, Colonel of the Regiment, Mr Powell, Mrs Isles, Mrs Mowat, Captain Mowat, Mr Horne, Mr Hallas, Colonel Howercroft

shy. Give the wife a treat, and come and join us on that day.

Even in London a 'Dukes' tie is as good as an introduction. When in the Victory Club last Sunday, for the odd noggin, wearing of course, my 'Dukes' tie, I was approached by a gentleman some of you may remember. A Mr A. D. W. Ross (how about those initials), of 'Rosellea', Dixter Road, Northiam, Sussex. He wishes to be remembered to any who know of him. I believe he was in the 7th Bn.

We still have our monthly meetings on the last Monday of every month at the above address and at the last meeting we were very pleased to welcome Andy Ancill who doesn't look any older and who helped us lower the Scotch. We are still open to any callers, whenever they feel like dropping in.

K. A. W.

### MOSSLEY BRANCH

Last year started very quietly, the first six months being spent in preparing for what turned out to be a very hectic season later on.

Starting in July was the 7th Bn Reunion organised by Mr W. Downs at Huddersfield Drill Hall. This Reunion Dinner is always a time for nostalgia, even though the numbers seem to get less every year.

October brought the annual visit from 'Des Ancienne Combatants De Hem'. This visit was reported in the December issue of the IRON DUKE.

It was with regret that we could not raise a sufficient number to raise a party to attend the Regimental Service at York, as most were recovering physically, and financially, and preparing for the return visit to Hem (France), on November 9.

On November 20 we were honoured by the visit of the Colonel of the Regiment and his wife at a social evening held at Greenfield Mill Social Club and amongst our guests were representatives from

Halifax and Huddersfield branches and Headquarters staff at the Halifax depot.

The host and hostess for the evening were Mr and Mrs E. J. B. Mowatt, the president of Mossley branch, and music was provided by Mrs Elsie Bardsley, widow of Mr James Bardsley, a member of Mossley branch committee for many years until he died in April last year. Mr Bardsley served with the 2nd Bn throughout the Burma campaign.

The success of the whole evening was due largely to the extreme generosity of Mr K. Ross, managing director of Greenfield Mill, who gave permission for the use of the social club and also provided supper and refreshment without charge. The cancellation of the trip to Minden came as a great disappointment to most members of our branch. 1/7th Bn members who fought from Normandy to Germany, we were hoping to pay a return visit and take our Polar Bear with us.

Now we look forward to another successful year and hope that we can continue to increase our membership.

T.H.

### OLD COMRADES VISIT BATTLEFIELDS

A tour of the Somme battlefields was the main purpose of a visit made to Northern France by 10 members of the Mossley Branch of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in November 1976, to mark Remembrance Day.

The group returned the recent visit of a group of Frenchmen to Mossley from Mossley's twin town, Hem.

Starting from Lille on Wednesday, the party travelled through Le Sars to Courcellette, where there was a brief stop to view the Canadian monument.

The spot from where the first British tanks went into action in 1916, at Pozieres, was the first major halt, after which the party went to Thiépyal to pay a

silent tribute to the graves of soldiers at a vast memorial where the French hosts laid a wreath. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment figures prominently at the memorial, the names of the dead occupying four large plaques.

The next halt was at St. Pierre Division to view the memorial erected to the 36th Ulster Division—the Ulster tower.

From St. Pierre they journeyed through the Ancre Valley to Beaumont Hamel, and were shown the difficult terrain encountered by soldiers who fought in the area. In Beaumont they also visited the statue of a Caribou, looking out over the battlefield, which marked the Newfoundland forces lost at Terre Nevve camp.

From the Ancre Valley the next stop was Albert, to see the famous statue of the Virgin and Child.

This was the group's final halt, and the return was through Amiens, site of the RAF's 'Operation Jericho' at the PoW camp, and finally on to the barracks of the 22nd (Parachute) Division, for a meal.

During the meal the Mayor of Hem, Dr La Plat was presented with a volume of the *Regimental History*, as a memento from the Mossley branch on his retirement after 30 years as Mayor.

After the trip the group returned to Hem and to Mossley on Friday. This was the fifth trip since twinning was started five years ago.

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