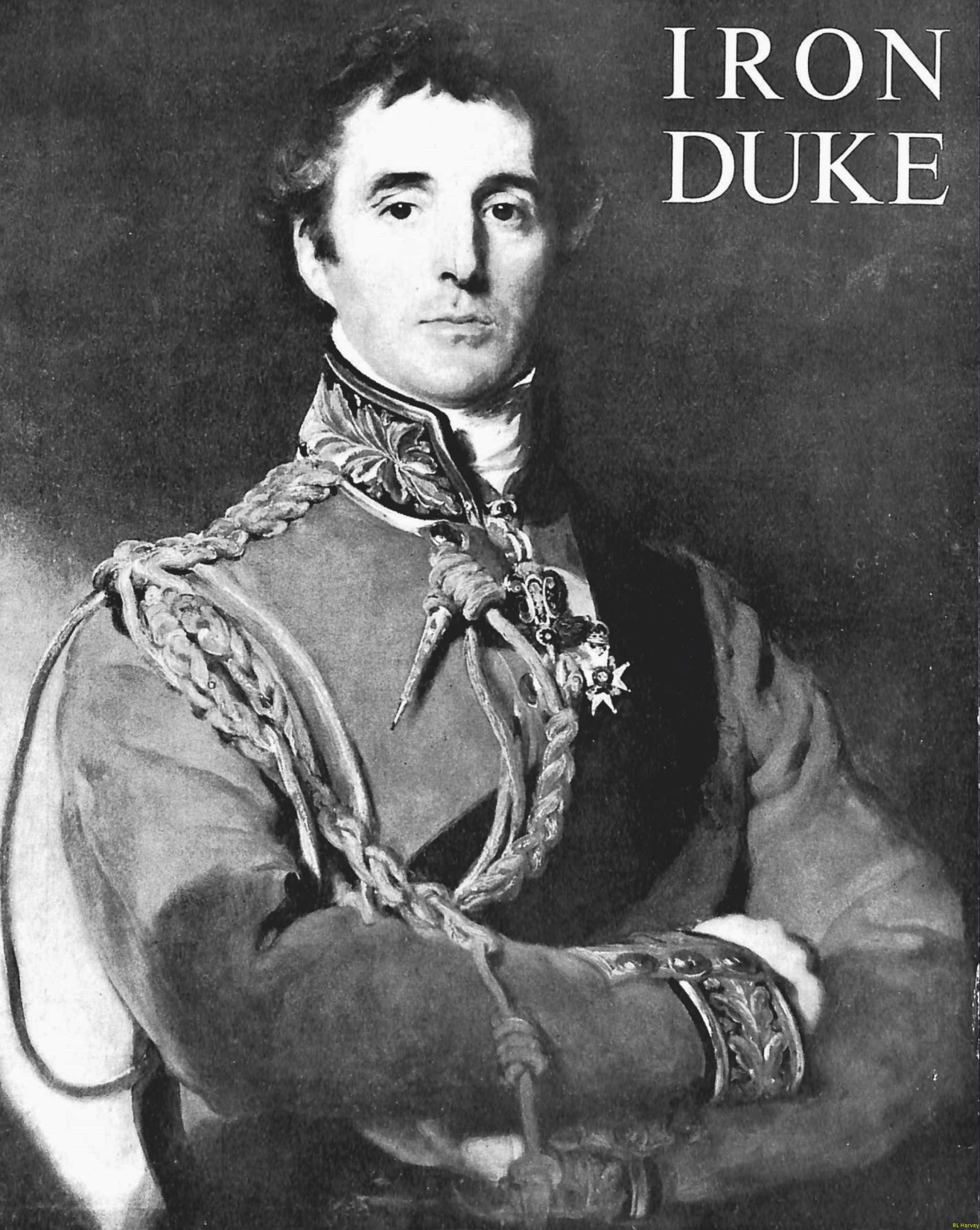


No.176 April 1978

THE IRON DUKE



THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Journal of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

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



*Hill 60
Somme 1916, '18
Arras 1917, '18
Cambrai 1917, '18
Lys
Piave 1918
Landing at Suwa
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. LII

APRIL 1978

No. 176

BUSINESS NOTES

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WELLESLEY PARK, HALIFAX.
TEL.: 0422-61671

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
Rockliffe House, Easingwold, Yorkshire

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

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

THE 1st BATTALION

BFPO 29

CO: Lt.-Col. M. R. N. Bray Adjutant: Capt. J. R. A. Ward
RSM D. Hughes

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Commander : Major M. Hawley

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WELLESLEY COMPANY (THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT)

Huddersfield area ACF
Major J. K. Tyler, 37 Woodside Road, Silsden, Keighley

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

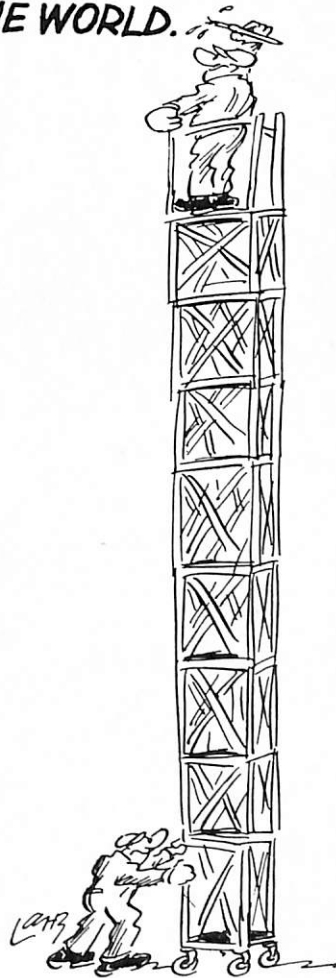
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General Secretary : Mr. A. Wood, Wellesley Park, Halifax

LIFE AX

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'AULD LANG SYNE'

The Colours of the West Riding Battalion TA are marched off parade for the last time. Colour Party — Lt B. Robinson — Colour Sgt J. A. Rutherford — Lt C. M. Senior. Photo — W. T. Robbins

Editorial

Once again we apologise for the slightly late publication of this issue, however, we are glad to report that all is well on the industrial front at our Printers and we hope to be back on schedule with the August issue. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all readers for their forbearance during the last few months.

Our readers cannot fail to have noticed the current debate in the Press concerning Pay and Conditions of Service of the Armed Forces. Indeed, it is true to say that never before has there been so much feeling in the forces as there is today on the subject of Pay. Our soldiers see and hear what, for example, the Police are doing

and time after time the Army is required to undertake tasks for which it was never intended nor trained, such as the recent Fireman's Strike; but, constitutionally, servicemen are constrained in what they can say in public and no one disputes that this is correct.

It is therefore, probably, the duty of those of us who no longer serve to bring home to those who decide such matters the urgent need for a substantial improvement in Service Men's pay and conditions of service.

We hesitate to dabble in what is a political matter but our serving members of the Regiment need and deserve our help—now.

Mr H. Tandey, VC, DCM, MM

Henry Tandey died on 18 December 1977, at his home in Coventry, aged 86, after a short illness. He was born and bred in Leamington in Warwickshire and in his early days worked as an engineer at the Regent Hotel in Leamington. He enlisted into the Regular Army in 1910, into the Green Howards, and served with the 2nd Bn from 1911 to 1916, going to France with them in 1914. In the period from 1917 to July 1918 he served with other battalions of the Green Howards — the 3rd, 9th, 3rd again, and the 12th.

On 26 July 1918 he was transferred to the 5th Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, joining it some time later. He remained on that battalion's strength until the end of the War, although the late Lt Col Keith Sykes who was Adjutant of the 5th Bn at the time, confirmed that Mr Tandey actually served with the battalion for only about six weeks. He was severely wounded in his last action at Marcoing and left the 5th Bn in late September or early October 1918 never to return to it. And it was during this short period of five weeks or so that took place the deeds by which he became known and famous. During the war he was wounded three times.

Mr Tandey was discharged in March 1919 from his parent regiment, the Green Howards, and the following day re-enlisted into the Duke's in the 3rd Bn at Halifax, where he was employed on recruiting duties, until he joined the 2nd Bn in February 1921 which was then stationed in Ireland. He remained with the 2nd Bn, ending his travels with them in Egypt and was finally discharged in January 1926. He returned to his native Warwickshire and settled in Coventry where he lived for the rest of his life, working until his final retirement, with the Standard Motor Company.

In 1919, whilst still a serving soldier, the Freedom of Leamington was conferred upon him.

As is now well known Mr Tandey won the VC,

the DCM and the MM, in the incredibly short period of time of five weeks — to be exact, from 25 August 1918 to 28 September 1918. The story of these historic events are fully described and recorded in the Iron Duke of October 1933 (Vol IX, No 26) by Brig Gen P. A. Turner. Here, as our salute to the passing of a gallant soldier, we repeat the citations which won Mr Tandey these awards, in chronological order.

His first award was the DCM, and the citation runs —

'For most determined bravery and initiative during operations from August 25th to September 2nd 1918, particularly during the attack on a system of trenches on August 28th. He was in charge of a reserve bombing party, and finding the parties in front temporarily held up he called on the two other men of his party and worked across the open in the rear of the enemy and rushed the post, coming back with 20 prisoners, after having killed several of the enemy. His daring action and initiative largely contributed to the capture of the Northern Trench. He was an example of daring courage throughout the whole of the operations.'

Next came the MM —

'During an attack at Havrincourt on September 12th 1918 this man (Pte Tandey) exhibited great heroism and devotion to duty. He went out under most heavy shell fire and carried a badly wounded man on his back. He then went out again and found three more wounded men and put them under cover and fetched a party of men to bring them in. During a bombing attack on the Hindenberg Line on September 13th he volunteered to be leading bomber and then led the party over the open. He made himself responsible for holding the bombing block in the trench and whilst doing this the post was attacked by the enemy in strength. The German officer shot at him point blank

and missed. Pte Tandey, quite regardless of danger, then led his party against the enemy and drove them away in confusion. This soldier's conduct was throughout of the highest order and for gallantry and determined leadership beyond all praise.

And, finally, the supreme award, the VC (taken from the Special Order by the GOC 62nd (West Riding) Div, and not from the official citation quoted in ID No 26, because it is more descriptive) —

'For desperate bravery and great initiative during the capture of the village and the Crossings at Marcoing and the later counter-attack on September 28th 1918. During the advance on Marcoing this soldier's platoon was held up by machine-gun-fire and stopped. He at once crawled forward under heavy fire, located the machine-gun position, led a Lewis gun team into a neighbouring house from which they were able to knock out the gun, and his platoon continued the advance.

On arrival at the Crossings the plank bridge was broken, and under heavy fire and seemingly impassable, he crawled forward, putting the planks into position and making the bridge passable under a hail of bullets, thus enabling the first crossing to be made at this vital spot. Later in the evening, during an attack by his

company to enlarge the bridgehead and capture Marcoing support trench, he, with eight comrades, was surrounded by an overwhelming number of Germans, and though the position was apparently hopeless, he led a bayonet charge through them, fighting so fiercely that 37 of the enemy were driven into the hands of the remainder of his company in the rear and taken prisoners, the party winning clear though he was twice wounded. Even then he refused to leave, leading parties into dug-outs and capturing over 20 of the enemy, and though faint from the loss of blood, stayed till the fight was won.'

The funeral service took place quietly at the Church of Christ the King, Coventry, followed by Cremation at Canley on Friday 23 December 1977. At Mr Tandey's own wish it was a private occasion but the two boroughs of Leamington and Coventry were represented by their respective Mayors, and the Royal British Legion, provided a Guard of Honour. Mr Tandey's ashes will be interred in the British War Graves Cemetery at Masnieres, the nearest to Marcoing where he won the VC, and where, if the French authorities would have permitted, he wished his ashes to be scattered. He leaves a widow, Annie, whom he married in 1958.

Regimental Jubilees

1977 was not only a Royal Jubilee year. It marked also the Jubilee of a number of Regimental occasions.

1952 marked the 250th Anniversary of the raising of the 33rd Regiment, and this event was suitably and ceremoniously marked on Saturday 24 May 1952. The Regiment exercised its Freedom privilege of marching through Halifax, the salute being taken by the then Duke of Wellington, the father of our Colonel in Chief, accompanied by HM Lieutenant for the West Riding, Lord Scarborough, the Colonel of the Regiment, and the Mayor of Halifax. In the afternoon a display was put on at Manor Heath Park. There were parties at the Depot that night and the following Sunday 25 May, a special service of commemoration was held in Halifax Parish Church.

On 13 September 1952 the Regiment — 1st Bn, Territorials, Old Comrades and Cadets—paraded at Greenhead Park, Huddersfield Depot, to receive the Freedom of Huddersfield and then marched through the Town with bayonets fixed, Colours flying and bands playing. The following day, Sunday 14 September, the 1st Battalion paraded at the Depot, was inspected by the Colonel of the Regiment, and handed over its Colours to the Depot for temporary safe keeping. The Battalion then attended a special service in Halifax Parish Church conducted by the then Vicar and Archdeacon of Halifax, now Bishop

Eric Treacy — and afterwards marched through the Town, the salute being taken by the Mayor of Halifax, Alderman W. Regan.

Sunday 14 September 1952 was also the centenary of the death of the Great Duke of Wellington. A Commemoration Service was held in St. Paul's Cathedral which was attended by our present Colonel in Chief and his father, and some fifty members of the Regiment.

The Advance Party having already sailed for Korea on 20 August 1952, the main body of the 1st Battalion sailed from Liverpool on HMT Devonshire on 22 September, and landed in Korea at Pusan on 29 October.

Earlier, in June 1952, the 1st Battalion distinguished itself at Bisley under the guidance of the then C.O. Lt. Col. Bunbury, to a degree that hasn't been repeated since.

The War Memorial of the 4th Battalion (TA) first established in the Prescott Street Drill Hall in Halifax was moved to Halifax Parish Church, and was rededicated there in a special service on 23 November — the service again being conducted by the then Archdeacon Eric Treacy.

The above are the important occasions which took place in 1952, which we can recall. There may be others worthy of mention which we have not included and we would be glad to hear from any reader who can recall other events whose jubilee fell in 1977.



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REGIMENTAL JEWELLERS & SILVERSMITHS

Regimental Headquarters

REGIMENTAL NOTES

ARMY CADET FORCE

We are informed that the Army Cadet Force is always on the lookout for adult instructors, with military experience to help run, organise and train their detachments. In West Yorkshire we are particularly fortunate in that the large ACF Group with which we are concerned, the Huddersfield Area ACF has all its detachments affiliated to and badged to the Regiment. Hence the subsidiary title they have adopted of Wellesley Coy.

This appeal therefore is directed towards those soldiers, NCOs and Warrant Officers who when coming to the end of their Colour service would be willing to help in a worthy cause and to pass on their knowledge and expertise to the cadets. One of the big advantages is that those who do so would be able to maintain their regimental connections, and sustain a tradition of service.

Those who are interested should contact OC Wellesley Coy, Huddersfield Area (DWR) ACF—Maj J. K. Tyler, at The Drill Hall, St Paul's Street, Huddersfield HD1 3DR, West Yorkshire.

COMMEMORATION OF GREAT SOLDIERS OF WORLD WAR II

There has long been a need for National commemoration of the military leaders of the Second World War. The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force wish to commemorate theirs separately so the Army has decided that it should erect a Soldiers' Memorial.

The Memorial will be formed of 10 plaques round the walls of the chamber in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral which contains the Duke of Wellington's sarcophagus. Each plaque will commemorate individually one of the 10 distinguished soldiers, who were created Field Marshal during or immediately after the War. These are:

Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke, Field Marshal Earl Alexander, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Field Marshal Sir John Dill, Field Marshal Viscount Gort, Field Marshal Lord Ironside, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, Field Marshal Viscount Slim, Field Marshal Earl Wavell and Field Marshal Lord Wilson.

The plaque to Viscount Slim is already in position having been sponsored by the Burma Star Association. Happily Sir Claude Auchinleck is still with us and knows of the project.

There will also be two dedicatory plaques in the Chamber which will show that the memorial is intended to commemorate all—British, Imperial and Allied—who served with the Field Marshals in war. A taped commentary will be available in the Chamber for visitors and will outline the contribution the Field Marshals made to victory.

It is intended that the memorials will together create a shrine in this part of the Crypt and

focus attention on soldiers who have served their country in war.

This proposal is supported by the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's, The Army Board, The Duke of Wellington, the families of the Field Marshals, and all Colonels of Regiments in which the Field Marshals served. Viscount De L'Isle has agreed to head a committee to arrange completion of the memorials. Dr Bernard Feilden will act as consultant to the project and Mr John Skelton as co-ordinating sculptor. Her Majesty The Queen has graciously approved the project.

The estimated cost of the memorial and its dedication is £35,000. No public funds are available to meet any part of this sum.

All branches of the British Army are subscribing what they can towards it, but they have no great funds at their disposal and cannot meet the whole cost. It is therefore felt right that all who served in the war, all who had close connections with the Field Marshals, and the public in Great Britain and the Commonwealth should be given an opportunity to subscribe to this National Memorial at St Paul's.

Any donation large or small will be welcomed and should be sent to Williams and Glyn's Bank, Holt's Branch, Kirkland House, Whitehall, London SW1 for the credit of the account for Commemoration of Great Soldiers Fund (Account Number 33365805). Cheques should be made payable to 'Commemoration of Great Soldiers Fund'. Every effort is being made to cut down administrative costs and donations will NOT be accepted unless this is particularly requested.

Should there be a surplus of funds after the Memorial is completed, this will be donated to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Anyone who wishes to get further details of the project or its progress may do so from Viscount De L'Isle, VC, KG, c/o Adjutant General's Office, Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB or Colonel J. A. Aylmer, Project Co-ordinator, Room 7198, Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (01-218 4024 or 01-218 6893).

THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES 1978

The Commonwealth Games are being held in August 1978 in Edmonton, Alberta, in Canada. Edmonton is the location of the HQ of the Northern Alberta Militia District. HRH The Prince of Wales has been invited to become the patron of the District Officer's Mess, and it is highly likely HRH will visit the Mess during the official visits as part of the Games programme.

The District HQ has decided to prepare and produce a Display of Cap Badges of the Canadian Militia and Regular units together with the Cap

Badges of their affiliated Units in the British Army and other affiliated Commonwealth Units, as part of the ceremonies. To this end we were asked if we could supply an officers cap badge, and this has been sent. So, the cap badge of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment will be on display in the above Mess during the Commonwealth Games.

THE KNEELERS FOR THE REGIMENTAL CHAPEL IN YORK MINSTER

In the August 1977 Issue of the Iron Duke (ID No 174) we wrote about the Kneelers for our Regimental Chapel, and launched an appeal for individuals or families to donate money towards a kneeler. To date the response has been very gratifying; so far 14 individuals or 'groups' have donated £10.00 each. But there are quite a few 'undoneated' as it were. The Secretary of the Chapel Committee Maj R. E. Sugden has also reminded us that he did receive at one time last year promises from 13 individuals or groups that they would wish to donate a kneeler; so far only four of those 13 have positively responded. We would be very glad if those who have not yet responded in practical form would confirm to us at RHQ that they still wish to donate a kneeler, or otherwise, as the case may be.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE

Kings Div, Regular Army

The undermentioned Lt Col to be Col, December 31, 1977, with seniority June 30, 1977: R. M. Harms, MC (407858) DWR (LG January 10, 1978)

The undermentioned Maj to be Lt Col, December 31, 1977, with seniority June 30, 1977: C. W. Ivey (451684) DWR
T. D. Lupton (433182) DWR (LG January 10, 1978)

The undermentioned Capt to be Maj, December 31, 1977:
P. D. Gardner (477414) DWR (LG January 10, 1978)

Lt R. C. M. Hall (497772) DWR to be Capt November 20, 1977 (LG November 22, 1977)
Christopher Alexander Harvey (504832) to be 2 Lt (on probation) (University Cadetship) September 2, 1977 (Supp to LG 1 November 1977)

Short Service Commission

Jonathan W. Wood (504989) to be 2 Lt December 9, 1977 (LG September 1977)

Timothy Joseph Coburn (504439) to be 2 Lt August 6, 1977 (September 20, 1977)

23648586 WO1 (RSM) Michael Carter (504991) DWR to be 2nd Lt, 12 December, 1977, with seniority June 12, 1973. To be Lt, December 12, 1977, with seniority June 12, 1975.

TAVR Group A

Maj T. D. Tetlow TD (460428) 3 Yorks from TAVR Gp A 1 Yorks to be Maj September 15, 1975 with seniority October 2, 1970.

Capt M. Hawley (492737) 3 Yorks is granted acting rank of Maj September 16, 1977.

Lt D. G. Massey (495025) 3 Yorks to be Capt October 1, 1977.

Lt C. J. Brown (499315) is granted acting rank of Capt October 1, 1977 (LG November 15).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1978

London and Home Counties Branch Regimental Association Annual Dinner, Victory Club, London—Saturday May 13.

King's Div Col Commandant's Meetings; Infantry Records Meeting, Strensall—Wednesday and Thursday, May 17 and 18.

Waterloo Day—Sunday, June 18.

1st Bn small KAPE tour in the West Riding; with the Band. The Band continues to August 17—Friday July 23 to August 7.

Colonel, of Regiment's Cocktail Party at RHQ—Friday, September 22.

Regimental Association Trustees Meeting at RHQ—Friday, September 22.

Regimental Association and Old Comrades Association AGM and Annual Dinner, St Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield—Saturday, September 23.

Officers Dinner, Gimcrack Banqueting Suite, Racecourse Stand, Knavesmire, Yorks—Friday, October 6.

Annual Regimental Service Regimental Chapel York Minster—Saturday, October 7.

BAND LP RECORD—DUKE'S IN CONCERT

In September 1977 the Regimental Band visited England to attend the Centenary of The Occupation of The Barracks at Wellesley Park, Halifax. While in the United Kingdom we decided to take the opportunity to make an LP record. The original idea had been instigated several months earlier but could not be finalised until the last minute due to the hectic programme of studio bookings. We eventually boarded a coach and arrived in London faced with a 6 hour recording session in 'Audio International Studios'. Charles Asnavour had kindly stood down to allow our session to take place.

Owing to the fact that we had not made a record since 1969, we chose a programme of music to suit all tastes including a slight German flavour. Items included on the album are:

SIDE 1

Titles	Composer	Arranger
Bandology	Eric Osterling	Eric Osterling
Eldorado	Sammy Nestico	Sammy Nestico
Tranen Lugan Nicht (A Child is Born)	Zacar	Hans Kilditz
Also Sprach Zarathustra (2001 Space Odyssey)	Richard Strauss	Johnnie Vinson
Farandole from L'Arlesienne Suite No 2	Bizet	Herman Finck

SIDE 2

Toccata for Band	Frank Erickson	Frank Erickson
The Sweeney		Pop Plan
Mariachi	Harold L. Walters	Harold L. Walters
My Way	Paul Anka	
Midnight Rider	Greg Allman	
Elkla Moor	Anon	J. Seed
I'm Ninety Five	Anon	J. Seed
Scotland the Brave	J. Ord Hume	J. Seed
The Wellesley	Anon	J. Seed
Rule Britannia	Anon	R. Barsotti

The sleeve of the album is edged with the Regimental Colours, Maroon and French Grey and a large fully coloured photograph of the Band fills up the middle area. The photograph shows the Band in Concert on the steps leading up to the Kaiser Wilhelm Monument in Minden. The title

of the album is 'The Dukes in Concert'. Copies of the record can be obtained from The PRI, 1 DWR, BFPO 29 at a cost of DM12.50 each or alternatively from RHQ in Halifax at a cost of £3.00 plus 50p P and P.

Personalia

Maj (QM) W. Robins, MBE, DWR

Maj Walter Robins has been selected for the post of Staff Quartermaster. We heartily congratulate him on two counts — first, on being selected to go to Sandhurst in that post and secondly in being selected for one of the very few Infantry vacancies of Staff Quartermaster. He goes to RMAS at the end of June and officially assumes the appointment on 11 September 1978.

WO1 (Bandmaster) S. A. Renton, ARCM, DWR

WO1 (BM) Renton came from being Bandmaster of the Gordons to be Bandmaster at the Depot of the King's Division in 1976. On joining the Division he was badged to the Duke's. His time with us has been all too short as we now congratulate him on being selected for commissioning and posting as Director of Music of the Parachute Regiment in the rank of Captain. He takes up his new appointment at Aldershot in early July 1978, and we wish him all good fortune for the future.

Coun Maj C. C. Kenchington, MBE, late DWR

In the April 1977 issue of the Iron Duke (ID No 173) a short article appeared notifying our readers that Cyril and Edie Kenchington had been selected as Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Kirklees Metropolitan District for the Mayoral year 1977-78, expressing our pleasure at the news, and offering our congratulations.

It now gives us even greater pleasure to include here the latest news that they have been elected Mayor and Mayoress of Kirklees for the current Mayoral year 1978-79. Their selection will give his many friends much satisfaction — and is a just reward for the considerable civic work and effort voluntary undertaken by Cyril, ably supported by Edie and their family. They will be inaugurated on 17 May.

We also like to believe that it reflects credit on the Regiment that in our heartland of the West Riding the Mayor of one of the largest Metropolitan Districts (the fifth largest in the country) should be an ex Duke. As a mark of our esteem, the Colonel of the Regiment expressing the wishes of the Regimental Association has invited Cyril and Edie to be our Guests of Honour at the Annual Dinner in Huddersfield on 23 September this year, and also has invited Cyril to propose the Toast of the Regiment.

To Cyril and Edie, on behalf of the Regiment, we offer our warmest congratulations and good wishes for a happy and satisfying year of office.

Col Peter Mitchell

Col Peter Mitchell has been selected to be Chairman of the Army Cricket Association, and also Chairman of Selectors for the Army XI.

ENGAGEMENT

Captain T. J. Isles and Miss D. J. Knowlson.

We regret that there was a printer's error in the spelling of Miss Knowlson's name in the announcement of their engagement on page 200 of the December issue.

We offer our sincere apologies to Captain Isles and Miss Knowlson.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Lt Col J. E. Johnson, 37 Leven Walk, Tyne Crescent, North Brickhill, Bedford.

Mrs J. H. C. Lawlor, Forge House, Kemble, Cirencester.

Col and Mrs P. A. Mitchell, 38 Eaton Drive, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2.

Mr and Mrs J. P. Collins, 11 King Street, Withernsea, North Humberside.

Maj F. Nicholls, No 6 Newbrooke Drive, Bays-ton Hill, Shrewsbury.

Mrs M. Crommelin, No 4, Coombe House, New Church Street, Tetbury, Glos GL8.

Maj R. E. Sugden 15 Hambleton View, Toller-ton, York, North Yorkshire.

Col Barbara M. Laverack, MBE, WRAC, and Mrs Lily Laverack, 19 Ashdown, 7 Cambalt Road, London SW15.

Maj and Mrs S. Waite, Marstan, Bradgate, Bowdon, Cheshire.

Mr E. Smith, DCM, 16 Bridge Road, Char-mouth, Bridport, Devon DT6 6QS.

Major F. Allsop, 3 Simon's Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, S. Yorks S73 8SW.

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Please phone 01-499 8040 ext 7028 or write to Area Civilian Staff Manager, London District (Central), Room 713, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA for an application form.

A Short Guide to the Ministry

Every soldier knows that somewhere in London there is an organisation called the Ministry of Defence. The imagination of the front line soldier rarely extends to painting a mind picture of the MOD as a whole. What the regimental man sees is a single dried up gnome in a dank dark corner, whose sole function it is to make life difficult not to say impossible, for the proud Regiments of the Line.

The regimental march of the MOD, say the cynics, is 'Old MacDonald had a farm'. And the words?

'With a cut cut here
And a cut cut there,
Here a cut, there a cut,
Everywhere a cut cut.
The Warsaw Pact is on the Rhine,
And the staff are in the pub.'

Lies, We never go to the pub. Except at lunch-time. And in the evenings.

I see it as my duty, therefore, as your grade 2 representative in London, to provide you with a glimpse of the workings of the Ministry.

You get there via the guano splashed platforms of Waterloo Station: (you can easily tell the pigeons from the Army officers. The officers have sandwiches in their brief cases.) Cross the Thames on Hungerford rail bridge, ignoring the retired members of the Army Board playing mouth organs for pennies to eke out their meagre pensions, and you have arrived.

Or not.

Because the first thing to learn about the MOD is that it is not all in one place. It has spread itself about several very big buildings across central London. Main Building, Old War Office, St Christopher's, Metropole, 1st Avenue, Empress State, Lansdowne House, and so on. We should perhaps concentrate on Main Building.

It is a large grey ugly building, flanking Whitehall to the west, and the Thames to the east. Over the principal entrance in Horseguards Avenue are two naked ladies, constructed on generous lines but made, alas, of concrete. John Le Carré once referred to them as typical Fascist statuary. Just round the corner Henry VIII kept his wine cellar, and nowadays in summer Japanese tour groups park their coaches three deep in the Avenue.

Entrance to the building is effected by flashing your railway season ticket at the security man. You then ascend the escalator (called by some the 'moving staircase'. These same worthies are on tenterhooks to discover who won the Boer War.) You are now in the most comprehensive maze in the entire country, not excluding Hampton Court.

The long lined corridors have a life of their own, and strange beasts lurk therein. Beware of dragons. These are fierce little men, disfigured by yellowing moustaches, who lurk outside doors and delight to ambush the unwary. One false move and they will tell you all about the extraordinary thing that happened to them and Pasha Rascid in the Kyber Pass in '32. The retired officer (RO), is the county council's grit on the icy road of the General Staff, and, if well treated, will prevent the two year tour regular from falling too often on his gilded butt.

But who is this young pinstriped sprite, head down, feet a-twinkling, arms clutching files? Shrink back to the wall, gentle reader, for it is a lowly grade three staff officer. Given only a whiff of encouragement he will thrust into your hand a flag bedecked brief, and wring from you a decision which you cannot possibly give until 45 other branches have all been consulted. The corridors of Main Building are no place for a good Samaritan.

The sides of the corridors are studded with doors. There must be between three and four thousand doors on the eight above ground floors, each leading to someone's office. You will at once say, 'what the hell do all these people do?' I will be honest. I do not know. Often they do not know. But take it from me, they are busy. Everyone who works here is busy. The Ministry is like a nuclear bomb. This hierarchial blot on the landscape is so designed that it has all the characteristics of a critical mass of uranium. It is in a constant fever of energetic molecular activity, rushing either crusader fashion to the promised land, or lemming like to the sea. The tragedy is that it will not know which until it gets there.

Let us pop into this office here. It contains, as you can see, three dark suited persons, each barricaded into a corner behind walls of pink, green and beige files. Pencils scribble madly, and hee haw voices bellow down telephones. Desks and walls bear signs. Says one: 'Would the last officer to leave the Army kindly lower the flag'. And another: 'When you're up to your ass in alligators, it is hard to remember that your mission is to drain the swamp'. Yet a third: 'Your country needs YOU for the working margin'. (SD joke, ho ho.)

Believe it or not (and I suspect you will not, but it is none the less true for that), these people do have your interests very much at heart. It is to their advantage to do so, as at least half of them are dreaming of the day that they can get into uniform and away from there. They would swap your muddy trench for their desks in a twinkling

of an eye. If they make a hash of what they are doing the chances are that it will catch up with them on their return to real soldiering.

Your tour of the MOD would not be complete without a visit to a tri-service meeting.

In solemn conclave anything from a dozen to five dozen people sit. The Chairman coughs, and opens the meeting by thanking us all for coming (from next door?), and points out that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss operational enhancements to our contribution to NATO, but warns that proposals which cost more than three and a half new pence cannot be entertained. He sits down.

The naval representative jumps to his feet and declares that he doubts that many of those present have noticed it, but if you travel far enough, in any direction, from anywhere on land, you will come to the sea. What we need therefore is more ships.

A smooth soldier then cuts in to say that if, when on the sea, you travel far enough, in any direction, you will come to the land. What we

need therefore, is more tanks, guns and soldiers.

A shrivelled RAF officer is heard to say that if, when on land or sea, you go upwards, hardly any distance at all actually, you come to the air, and what we need therefore . . . but he is howled down. His tears drip unheeded onto the polished mahogany table.

After an hour or so of this, the chairman makes a few closing remarks, and asks the secretary if he has got the minutes down all right. The secretary wakes up and says, 'pardon Daddy?', and we hurriedly leave.

As we dash to catch our evening train we can hear the Ministry messengers singing in the canteen, two floors below — 'Wash me in the water that you washed the Colonel's daughter, and I shall be whiter than the whitewash on the wall' — but we cannot stay, for behind us is the rumble of ten thousand civil service feet, and if we are not out quick we will be trampled to death.

Another day, another dollar.

T. J. N.

The German Offensive of March 1918

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF THE BRITISH RETREAT FROM CAMBRAI IN MARCH, 1918 BY O.C. 'D' COMPANY NINTH BATTALION THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S WEST RIDING REGIMENT

(These notes were completed by Capt K. B. MacKenzie, MC at the request of his Mother and were found among his papers after his death in April last year.

Captain MacKenzie was awarded the MC for his gallant part in this retreat.

We are indebted to his Sister in Law, Mrs C. F. MacKenzie for permission to publish this most interesting account.)

On the morning of the 21 March my Battalion the 9th Bn the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was holding the support line while the 10th Bn the Lancashire Fusiliers and the 12th Bn the Manchester Regiment held the front line. My battalion was distributed in depth, that is to say three companies were in close support in London Trench whilst my own was lying a short mile to the rear. Our position was a series of horizontal shafts driven into the Yorkshire Spoil Bank on the Canal near Havrincourt. The spoil bank was a huge heap of excavated material, about forty feet high, which had been excavated during the construction of the unfinished Canal du Nord. The canal was a huge piece of engineering and incomplete, some sections containing water and others being dry, and the particular section which crossed the front line at right angles in the neighbourhood of Havrincourt was dry. It had a smooth concrete bed and the walls, built of blue brick, rose on each side almost vertically to a height varying from 40 to 60 feet. Where it

passed through the front line it was badly knocked about and breast works had been formed. The dry canal bed formed such a good road that it was constantly used by night and relieving parties, and waggons carrying rations and water and stores for trench life were glad of the rapid progress it was possible to make on it. It was shelled very little indeed and it was a constant wonder that it was not made unusable, as it could have been. In the light of subsequent and immediate happenings it seemed clear to me that the Hun wanted us to use it fully and when the great day came get a bloody harvest. I cannot imagine a worse death trap in heavy shelling where every shell would detonate well and the fragments would fly and rebound everywhere.

My company 'D' were not enjoying a complete rest cure in the Spoil Bank but were employed, by day, in strengthening the defences of Havrincourt Wood. I recollect that I spent my birthday whilst in this position and my Mother had most kindly sent me a book entitled 'Germany at Bay', describing how the Germans had already lost the war, and also some Yorkshire parkin. Both of these presents were got rid of as the situation developed. The book I carried in a pack on my back for the best part of a week, though I lost everything except a blanket and spade and was so tired after as I was getting more and more exhausted from fatigue, lack of water, food and sleep from day to day. Eventually, near Senlis, when we were ordered out to make a counter-attack and expected hand-to-hand work I hurled the book of the false prophet away as I had no wish to be found with it in my possession by the victorious Hun. It may have come to rest with a lot of bottles of sweet champagne in a latrine, I forget, but I know I hurled more bottles of

champagne into one than I like to think of. However, everything in its place and we are describing events of a week earlier.

To return to the Spoil Bank and the commencement of the Great German Attack. We turned in on the night of the 20th March with the usual Gas Guard posted. At about 5am I was awakened by a furious bombardment of our area and gas was immediately recognised and the Gas Alarm given and 'Stand To' ordered. 'Stand to' was an order to all ranks to be fully equipped and ready for immediate action. At about 7am a runner arrived from Brigade Headquarters, which was on the opposite side of the canal to where I was and about half a mile in rear, in a very exhausted condition with a written order from Brigade HQ: 'Reinforce your Battalion immediately.'

The four platoons were fallen in at once and I was faced with the problem of how to reach the support line quickly and with as few casualties as possible. I knew that a little overland path existed across the open but I did not know it well, and there was the canal route—the normal way up. I decided to take the track across the open as I argued to myself that the Hun would in all probability plaster the canal with shells hoping troops would reinforce up it. Out into the grey misty dawn thick with gas and flashing detonations, we went wearing our respirators and the net result was that one could see only about two yards and that very indistinctly. The air shook, and the ground as well, with heavy drum-fire of every kind of shell and, largely by intuition and good fortune, we reached our Battalion in London Trench. I recollect that as I was going along with Sgt Maj Holmes, little Freddie Holmes my second-in-command's servant and the rest of the Company Headquarters, a shell pitched on the ground about a yard from my feet and spewed out its filthy content of liquid gas. Had it been high explosive we should have had no chance of survival. We had very few casualties and our stretcher bearers stayed and dressed the cases, joining us soon after. When I reported I was ordered to hold a trench running at right angles to the canal with our left resting on the canal side. All the time a furious bombardment was kept up by the enemy on the front line on our right front. In this position we remained all day and the situation was obscure. The fire was heavy but our Division held its ground.

When night fell nerves got worse and I was amazed to hear men passing along past my dug-out in the communication trench. I asked them what they were doing and they said the enemy was in our trench and that someone had passed the word to retire. This was a repetition of what must have happened so many times in all armies and never can you find who used the forbidden word 'retire'. I went into the fire trench with them again and restored order and confidence with a revolver in my hand and satisfied myself that things were fairly normal and posted the sentry groups again. Twice later the men opened rapid fire, firing as hard as they could into the pitch

black night. This took a good deal of persuasion and threats backed by a loaded revolver to stop. It was obvious that no one would attack in force over unknown ground in utter darkness and even if patrols were about they would lie down in cover after the first round or two had been fired. Ammunition was very precious in the circumstances we were in and the likelihood of getting more, if the Hun advanced, was small. No one knows better than I do what nerves are when strained to near breaking point and you could hardly blame the men, but the waste of ammunition had to be stopped and this was done without punishment.

Next morning, the 22nd, we withdrew to hold Jermyn Street Trench. As the fog cleared we could just see the lines of grey figures advancing repeatedly against Velu Wood on our right front and being as often stopped by a shrapnel barrage which our gunners were able to fire very effectively. Whilst this was going on there was an exchange of bombs in my line and my men went out and secured a prisoner who was in our wire in front of our position. I called up the little school German I possessed and said: 'Wie viele sind sie?' He replied: 'Ein Division.' Good enough, I thought, this is a serious show and the show the Staff have been so windy about all these weeks. The condition and equipment of the prisoner confirmed this for he was in new uniform and carried a good ration of brown bread and sausage and also two empty sandbags for consolidating positions taken from us. He was unwilling to give me any more information so having been relieved of his arms and ammunition, he was taken to battalion headquarters to be forwarded eventually to the Corps Cage where prisoners on a corps front were collected. Having decided that we were in no mere raid but a serious attack and that, remember I was holding the support line and not the front—Huns were through the front line—I did a thing I had never before done in over two years' trench warfare: I fired the SOS rocket which should have brought artillery fire from every gun able to bear on my sector. The damned rocket went gracefully up, shot out its appropriate number of coloured stars and faded out, and no more artillery support was given than if you fired it in your back garden at home. This was due partly to mist and partly to the fact that the guns were on very serious targets already. It must always be remembered when reading this that we had no idea of what was happening elsewhere than on our immediate front and we did not even know how the Manchesters were faring on our immediate front.

As the day wore on the men got very nervy and jumpy for, although we had had no more than exchange of bombs with the enemy, all felt that he was very near and in no mood to stay where he was. Heavy fighting was still going on in front and the situation as far as we were concerned was very vague.

I had occasion to visit the old front line battalion headquarter dugout immediately prior to its demolition. In it there had been a wireless

apparatus, in charge of some technical unit and a very rare thing in those days, and I remember it hurt one to see a delicate piece of scientific apparatus being smashed up with a pick-axe, though such things happened in war and in those days convinced one of the folly of it all. The adjutant was just leaving and picked up his copy of 'The Oxford Book of English Verse' from the table, it being about the only bit of kit he felt he wanted to carry away. The dugout was then set on fire and burned all day though we could see the Huns in its vicinity within an hour or two. There was a slight compensation in cramping their style as far as one could.

About 10pm I was called to Battalion headquarters and told to occupy a line of trench about a quarter of a mile to my rear running at right angles to the canal and as before with its left resting on the canal bank. This was a problem. I had never been there and it was pitch dark and it was a godless sort of thing to undertake. Still it had to be done and with a view to doing it as efficiently as possible I took a sergeant, Bryant, a very stout fellow, and a corporal and runner with me, my idea being to post the sergeant and corporal so that we should have some chance of finding the place again when I led

the company in. I placed these two men in what I considered the position but, as so often happened, what was described by superior authority as a 'trench' was non-existent and there was only an area of mud and shell holes and no means of identification. This took a long time and when I got back I received orders to go again to Battalion Headquarters and on doing so received new orders to take up a defensive position away on the right flank. My feelings at leaving Sgt Bryant out in abandoned ground with the corporal were most bitter but only I knew approximately where he was and I could not leave my company for two hours or so and I did not feel justified in sending the runner off into the blue to search out the guides I had posted. As it happens this story has a happy ending as often happens if you do your utmost to do your best in rotten circumstances. Eighteen months or so later when I was working in London I was going along Oxford Street when I walked straight into Sgt Bryant. I was thankful to see him and apologise and hear his tale. It appears the Huns came along in the dawn and took him and the corporal prisoners and that he had not much to complain of in regard to his treatment. He told me the corporal was all right too. *(To be continued)*

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Handover of the Colours of the West Riding Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment TA

At a short but moving ceremony held at St Paul's Street Drill Hall in Huddersfield the very last Colours of the last of the Territorial Battalions of the Regiment were handed over to the custody of RHQ on 26th February 1978.

These Colours were not 'laid up' in the traditional sense of handing them over to a Church, but in exercising the flexibility now permitted by the Ministry of Defence they were handed to Regimental Headquarters of the Regiment for safe custody. There they will be displayed on suitable Regimental occasions.

History of this stand of Colours

These were the Colours originally presented to the 7th Bn in July 1956. The following 20 years saw many organisational changes in the TA and the 7th Bn with the 5th and the Colours became emblazoned with a V in addition to VII. A further reorganisation in 1961 brought 382 (DWR) Medium Regiment RA (TA)—the successors of the 4th and 5th Bns into amalgamation with the 5th/7th Bn as the newly formed West Riding Battalion. This necessitated in the removal of the V and VII from the Colours. This addition

The Colonel of the Regiment having received the Colours hands the Queen's Colour over to the Colour Party.
Photo — W. T. Robbins.





The Colonel of the Regiment inspects the Quarter Guard on his arrival at St Paul's Street Drill Hall.

The Colonel is accompanied by Lt Col G. B. Roper, TD, Commanding Officer 3rd Bn The Yorkshire Volunteers.

Photo — W. T. Robbins.

and subtraction of numerals makes the Colours somewhat unique in the British Army. This is in addition to their proud place in the fact that they are the first TA Colours to bear World War II Battle Honours.

This West Riding Bn itself became subject to reorganisation in 1967. It detached a company which became 'C' Coy (DWR) Yorkshire Volunteers based in Halifax. In 1969 the Bn was reduced to a cadre of 8 men, the last surviving and direct line of the old TA Bns of the Regiment. The Colours remained in their custody until 1971 when the TAVR was expanded and the Cadre became C (The Duke of Wellington's Regiment) Coy, 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers. Custody of the Colours devolved onto the Company, based in Huddersfield. 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers themselves received their first Colours in June 1977 from HRH The Duke of Kent. It then seemed appropriate for the TA Colours to be handed to the custody of RHQ.

The Ceremony of Handover

It was the task of 'C' Coy 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers to provide the various detachments taking part in the Ceremony. The Colonel of the Regiment, General Isles, who is also Honorary Colonel of 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers, was met on arrival at St Paul's Street by the Commanding Officer 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers Lt Col G. B. Roper. Buglers of the Yorkshire Volunteers played a General Salute and the quarter guard was inspected. General Isles entered the packed Drill Hall with the assembly facing the War Memorial and the Band of the

Yorkshire Volunteers formed up. The Colours were marched on to Scotland the Brave. After compliments were paid to the Colours they were placed in the stand in front of the war memorial by the Quartermaster, 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers, Major N. D. Taylor. The Officer Commanding 'C' Coy, Major Matthew Bateman, addressed the Assembly referred to the history of the Colours. He then asked General Isles to accept the Handover of the Colours to the custody of RHQ.

The General replied and in so doing explained the significance of the custodianship of the Colours as opposed to the laying of procedures.

He then took the Colours formally into RHQ custody and then handed them back to the Ensigns. The assembly then stood and the 'Wellesley' was played. The General then ordered 'March off the Colours' and to the proud sadness of 'Auld Lang Syne' they were slow marched away. The ceremony ended with the National Anthem.

The assembly consisted of many former Commanding Officers of all the Bns who were associated with the Colours along with their Officers and other members of the Regiment. It was really quite an impressive gathering of Duke's—the like of which St Paul's Street has not seen for many a long year. Many old friendships were renewed and many new ones made, for in the ranks of the 'old and bold' were the young soldiers of the 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers both men and women (for there is a WRAC Platoon) who saw what a long history they belonged to and had experienced one of these rather special

moments of Regimental Life—a regimental life which encapsulated our relationship with the civic heads of the Freedom Towns. They too have undergone reorganisations and instead of us having the Mayors of Halifax, Huddersfield, Spenborough and Mossley, there were the Mayors of Calderdale, Kirklees and Tameside. Despite the fact that so many things have changed there was one thing that had not—and that was the notion of being 'a Duke'. Everybody there either was one, or was the wife or girlfriend of one, or simply someone who was paying his or her tribute to these Colours. Most people there were glad that the Colours which held so many memories and so much history would continue to be seen and cared for in RHQ.

THE FOREVER SOLDIERS, by N. SORBIE

When the guns have closed their barrage,
and the last round is spent,
who mans the silent trenches? whose rifle fills the vent?

In the abundance of the harvest,
with warrior pomp arrayed,
beneath that surface, what heart and hope are laid.
The ghosts of past arising from shattered
landscape dread,
the voices that are rising are the voices of the dead.

The marching feet grow louder with a sound that
is not denied,
the shadows marching onwards,
are those of they that died.

Motherland and fatherland with ghostly
steps in time,
Vimy, Arras, Bapaume, Anzio, and the Rhine;
no language that is different one uniform
for all,
the forever soldiers marching to eternal clarion
call.

The trench lines have vanished, the shattered
trees have gone,
the ploughman turns the ground up where a
million feet passed on.
The field grey and the khaki, the blue and
the brown,
marching in death together through a
ghostly town.

A million voices shouting might cannot be right,
for we do not sleep in peace,
that march by the night.

Paschendaal and Ypres, how heavily they tread,
but onward, go ever onward, go the marching
dead.

Salerno and Arnhem and those from Alamein,
singing a requiem for what might have been.
Betray us not betray us not, is their common cry,
seek then peace as we do that die.

Motherland and fatherland with ghostly
steps in time,
Vimy, Arras, Bapaume, Anzio and the Rhine,
no language that is different, one uniform for all,
the forever soldiers marching to eternal
clarion call.



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1st Battalion

THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

On our return from Londonderry last November, we reorganised the Battalion on to the establishment which resulted from the recent Defence Review, and I had better start by explaining how we now look. Amongst the Review's aims were reducing the size of the Infantry without reducing the number of battalions, and placing a greater proportion of our strength in the front line. Within the Battalion, Somme (Support) Company has been abolished and has been replaced by a fourth rifle company, Dettingen. The Recce Platoon has been abolished and we are now dependent for this role on the RAC. The Assault Pioneer Platoon has been abolished and a rifle section in each company is to be trained in their tasks. We no longer have the Drums as our Defence Platoon and they are now a rifle platoon in Dettingen, most of whose other men have to be produced by "double hatting" men in administrative posts that used to be in Hook Company. Thus the likes of Regimental pioneers, some cooks, Mess staffs, storemen etc are also in a rifle platoon in Dettingen. I need not elaborate on the difficulties involved.

The Mortar Platoon, soon to have a fourth section, and the Anti-Tank Platoon, put on a particularly impressive display in the semi-final of the Divisional Novices Boxing. The battalion had one man from each of our three rifle company areas in Londonderry honoured in the latest Northern Ireland operational awards, and we won the Army Junior Badminton title. So as we leave behind a highly successful ski-ing season in which we easily outshone any Infantry rivals, we look forward to a most interesting summer during which nearly every man in the Battalion will go to Canada to take part in the excellent mechanised training run at Suffield.

AWARDS

The following awards were made after our recent tour in Northern Ireland.

C/Sgt DC DICKENS	British Empire Medal
Cpl WPJ LORD	British Empire Medal
Major PDDJ ANDREWS	Mentioned in Dispatches

OFFICER'S MESS

On our return from Ulster the principal task in the Mess was to get the place in good order for the several parties arranged whilst we were in Derry. The redecoration had clearly benefited from the influence of the wives on colour schemes, patterns and curtains. The first task was the hanging of the pictures which had all the potential for a drama but with the feminine influence the job

was completed to most peoples satisfaction once everyone had had their say on where each picture should be hung.

Before going on block leave in December we had some good parties as well as informal gatherings. The Corps Commander, Gen Sir Richard Worsley, came to dinner and surprised us all by staying so late. We all enjoyed the Ladies Guest Night and an excellent meal. The wives got the treatment and were more than well looked after; it was also nice to see some of the single Officers with their girlfriends. As always the band were on great form with everyone in good voice after dinner. But perhaps the presence of WO2 Parkinson and the Blues Syndicate after dinner really made the evening as we all danced on until gone 3am. We also managed to fit in a steak night with dancing in the Kellar. It was good to see Wilf Charlesworth who was out visiting someone somewhere (we never found out who or where). The final party was a lunch time 'do' after the Officers/Sgts soccer match; fortunately no one needed too much to eat as Col Mickey had been producing barbecued 'bratties' from the middle of the pitch throughout the game.

The New Year has seen a relatively quiet period save for a good party for the Task Force (Bde to most people) Study Period and a Curry lunch for Gen Donald during his visit in January. In February the battalion moved to Soltau — again — and it was great fun to have a full Mess of nearly 40 Officers including our guests from the Blues and Royals, the Royal Regiment and Sappers. This did not include the rugby players who joined us for a night which meant we needed two sittings at dinner so they beat a hasty retreat to Minden and Cpl Hayton came down from 50,000! Throughout the Soltau training period CSgt Hemmings and his Staff gave us all an excellent service for which we are grateful.

As usual faces change in the Mess. The Gardners left for Shrivenham during the Ulster tour — we know Peter got there as his picture is in 'Soldier' magazine! Alistair and Carolyn Roberts left for Shrivenham, via Bavaria and we wish him all the luck in the world chasing X's at Shrivenham for a year. Bob Hall was married in Plymouth over the leave and we welcome Hilary to the Regiment. Martin and Jane Minogue have replaced John and Linda Dixon, Martin is the Doctor. Martin has made a fine start by representing the battalion in the Army Ski-ing Championships though as he is a former Guy's Hospital No 8 they are probably the only ski championships he will do whilst with the Dukes; welcome to you both. Jonathan Wood has joined us from Sandhurst and David Harrap is trying hard not to clank tracks everywhere he walks. We are happy that Claire Pitchers little Rebecca is now

fit and well and hope that young Mark Andrews waits a few years before he starts poking people in the chest! Well done Claire and Annie.

Finally many officers will be interested to know we commissioned Ken Howard to paint two pictures for us. His excellent watercolours of Minden and Londonderry now have pride of place in the ante-room.

SERGEANT'S MESS

I almost believe that there is an ancient spell that reads: 'PMC's who's Duty falls within the period of submitting the Iron Duke Notes, will when seeking new and exciting material, be doomed'. However, we have managed to obtain the following report from our Mess correspondent in Moosebach. 'While most of you are soldiering on, the Mess remains well represented in the world of ski-ing.

CSgt Geoff (Mr American LOA) Robson is running the Snow Queen hut and SSGt's Fred Kendrew and Mal Hirst ran the Langlauf team.

Results were excellent. At the 4 Div meeting in Austria Fred Kendrew was the proud winner of the Veterans Cup for the 15km individual race, and in the Biathlon Relay achieved the 7th best time out of 60 skiers.

Mal was not at this meeting as he was on an international coaching course in Finland.

At the Army meeting held in Germany, Mal managed some incredible results for 'The Duke's', proving he is still one of Britain's top langlaufers. His best result was achieving 5th place in the 15km individual. In the same race Fred Kendrew was placed 3rd best veteran, so the Mess was well represented at the prize giving.

Already plans are being made for next year's team, and strong rumour has it that another ancient langlaufer, 'Tosh' Goddard, is fighting for his place. So to all the old hands from the Osnabruck days now in the Mess, Fred Kendrew says 'Get training lads, you may be younger than you think'.

On a less energetic note, Sgts Mess life in general continues. We were able to fit in our Christmas Draw on the 25th November which took place at 'The Frobose' a Gastatte well suited for the large numbers attending the evenings entertainment, which together with excellent draw prizes and a superb buffet proved to be a memorable occasion. Christmas was spent quietly, with many members taking leave in UK, but we did manage a New Years Eve Social where we sang Auld Lang Syne some three or four times, this according to Csgt Vinny Pye was because of the time change throughout the world, and he didn't want to leave anyone out.

The 7th December saw us dining out RSM Mike Carter who was Commissioned on the 12 December and left us to take up the post of QM 2 Yorks. We will miss both Mike and Anne and wish them all the very best of luck for the future.

Another Dinner night was obviously due, and on the 5 January we were able to dine in our

new RSM, RSM Dave Hughes and also the CO. The evenings entertainment was provided by a party piece from each Coy group, the lack of rehearsal added the finishing touches. Whilst in N. Ireland we managed to have the Mess decorated and are now in the process, with a selected improvements committee, of turning our small bar into a 'Yorkshire type Lounge Bar', a new bar is in the process of being built and we have purchased smoked glass-topped tables, cash permitting we hope to add further soft furnishings.

All offers for the post of Barmaid will be considered, applicants must state age and vital statistics. RQMS (TC) Conley will be available for personal interviews if the applicant so wishes.

To conclude these notes we would like to say a special welcome to eight new members who have joined our Sgt Mess. They were part of 11 Field Workshop REME, which after 25 years in Minden, closed at the end of 1977, to be replaced by 58 Station Workshop REME. This left only the eight military members in the unit as opposed to 250 which meant the closure of the 11 Field WOs and Sgts Mess. To ASM Dick Wales and his members we say welcome. Duke's moves are many; and we wish those departing the best of luck, and welcome to those returning.

RSM D. HUGHES

RSM Hughes a native of Todmorden joined the Army in January 1960 and after completing basic



RSM D. Hughes

training at the Yorkshire Brigade Depot Strensall joined the Battalion in Brentwood, Essex, where he was posted to the Mortar Platoon. The Platoon Commander at that time was Lt M. R. N. Bray. During his 18 years with the Dukes he has served in Kenya (twice), British Honduras, Hong Kong (with three months in Malaya), Cyprus (twice), Germany, Northern Ireland and finally back to Germany. Appointments held in the Battalion include Pl Sgt Mortars, Pl Sgt 2 Pl A Coy, CQMS C Coy, Pl Comd Somme Coy (rifle coy role Northern Ireland), CSM Hook Coy, CSM Burma Coy. In 1975 he was awarded a GOC's Commendation for services in North Ireland. Appointments away from the Battalion have been Recruiting Sgt ACIO Halifax, and Permanent Staff Instructor (WO2) with C Coy (DWR) 1st Bn Yorkshire Volunteers again in Halifax, where he was prior to taking up his present appointment of RSM 1st Bn.

HOOK COMPANY

Writing notes for this Company is rather like producing a quarterly report for a small departmental store. By asking the various departments to submit their own notes one inevitably receives parochial stories which are of interest only to those within the department concerned. For this reason and with a view to making the Hook Company epistle more appealing to a wider audience I have been brutal in my editing. The other purpose of severe editing is to give each department about the same amount of space. Here goes then.

Are you being served?

Store Detectives Office (Int Section)

This organisation found itself well employed in Ulster but in Germany has been limited to vetting our mail and issuing fabricated stories and maps to our representatives when they depart on field projects. They say they have a good deal to do with countering subversion from the East but their work is so sensitive that the rest of us have no need to know about it. As a result they like us to remain in the dark.

They have what they call the inner sanctum, a hangover from Ulster days, which comprises the head dick (slang for detective . . . nothing else implied) and his side kick. The only difference is that the inner sanctum drink out of china pots whilst the rabble use plastic ones. The head dick has been away learning his job and his second in command leaves this month so crime should go undetected for a little while longer.

Music Centre (Regimental Band)

Realising that selling records has limited financial reward this department has discovered a more lucrative business in utilising its own band and group, charging enormous fees and keeping their president quiet by feeding him back-handers.

They have worked hard since the last notes, however. They play at the opening of other Department Stores, play and participate (and how

they participate) at local shooting festivals such as the Sinbeck Schutzenfest last October from where they even get invited to breweries . . . and participate again!

The ever enthusiastic president suggested a band cabaret for the wives whilst the rest of us were in Ulster. Another success. So now the band marches, bebops, acts the goat, opens stores, performs to Old Folks Homes (some of them should join), Schools and occasionally to military units including the Dukes. They even run their own flourishing club in camp membership being restricted to bandsmen alone . . . no one else can afford the fees.

Sports Department

Sgt Swap our resident coach is the only surviving member of the original staff. The rest were bought up in a takeover bid by Dettingen Ltd. They, however, continue to work for our men. Contractual rights are still not fully understood.

Sgt Swap continues to represent the firm on the rugby field and is once again coordinating the boxing team in its efforts to win the novices cup and we wish him luck.

Our gymnasium thrives and the daily 'Keep-Fit' classes for the whole organisation are meeting with their normal popular response. Even 'jogging' for older executives is keeping pace with the national interest in this activity.

Motor Sales (MT)

Our show room has lost many of its interesting but not necessarily new models. This is because of recent restructuring throughout the firm. Unfortunately even some of those that are left don't have qualified drivers to test their paces. Our leading Salesman and test driver Captain Pickersgill has also been invited to run our welfare funds. This additional commitment has created dark bags under his eyes, increased his jibbering rate and brought a smile to the lips of his newly promoted under manager WOII Rawcliffe (congratulations!).

Free driving lessons continue to be this department's big attractions though not many people pass their tests it seems. Such a pity because there is a wide variety of fun cars to learn on! Our smiling, friendly driving instructors are of a high quality too, no wonder they feel frustrated. No one has yet made a film about their confessions; could this be food for thought?

Kinky Klink (Guardroom)

We run a personal service for those who believe in bondage and the desire to be punished for wrong doing. Because this is a confidential service most of the departments activities are conducted 'behind bars' so to speak. However, this little group thrives and works hard and asks us not to advertise its treatments too widely for fear of losing the associated mystique.

Anyone wishing for further details should apply to Sgt Fleming or any of his assistants.

PS bring your own polish!

Hi Fi and Stereo (Signals Platoon)

This department has always dealt mainly with fanatical radio hams, stereo freaks and people who talk in megahertz instead of English. It has never held much attraction for those not totally absorbed with radio. Rumour has it that the department is going to do a nice line in telephones in future because we won't be allowed to use the wireless anyway (something about electronic silence). I hope the lads laying the line don't have any navigational problems (parochial pun).

The department manager Captain Pitchers and his under manager WOII O'Donnell both leave us soon and we wish them every good fortune with their new firms. Many of us have never met the manager. This is because he is hard to see over the counter.

The Bank (Unit Pay Office)

This busy little organisation keeps us all amused by giving our pay to other people, moaning about our claims and shutting at 4.30pm. If they couldn't take a joke I wouldn't have written that first sentence.

We welcome Ssgt Kirkpatrick, Sgt Breach and Pte Pendlebury to the organisation and bid farewell to Sgt Jameel.

Motor Spares and Accessories (Technical Quartermasters)

The new manager Capt Tighe can't stand the pace and has gone on a course. He also has a new under manager WOII Pearson. Part numbers could be a problem.

Business has been prosperous particularly in the field. Rumours of a merger with the LAD are fabricated lies but the two do work closely together. The LAD motto of 'Arte et Marte' or 'You Bend 'em we Mend 'em' would not work without a satisfactory spares and accessories service which we provide. Mr Hesketh is now a real civilian and we wish him all good fortune in his new life.

Restaurant and Cafeteria (Catering Pl)

This department from the Heavy Weapons Division provides the only professional killers in the firm. 'Cooks Consolidated' as they have become known since coming under one roof from the string of restaurants run in Ulster have done us proud. This was most noticeable during the recent firm outing to Soltau when the quality and quantity of the catering was indeed praiseworthy.

The LS and GC was awarded to Lcpl Stewart for decades of undetected cruelty to consumers. Congratulations.

General and Durables (Quartermasters)

No one really knows what goes on in this department. The manager, Capt Linskey, ably assisted by the new sub manager (WOII Connley who was recently transferred from Spares and Accessories) continue to maintain that unique control over General and Durables.

The smile on the face of the manager and his less frequent use of the phrase 'no chance' are due to the result on his morale of his pending appointment to one of our Far East branches in Hong Kong. Nothing else has changed, however, and if you want any kit then loyalty takes a jolt and I recommend the Army and Navy Surplus Stores.

Mothercare (Families Office)

With the staff divided between Hook Inc and Dettingen Ltd it is difficult to decide who should represent mothercare. During the Ulster Trip this organisation undoubtedly provided us with a reliable and helpful service. Much credit must go to Ssgt Harding for his help in the field. The change from the old Wives Club to the new look committees and functions including candle lit dinner dances is still to be experienced. We wait with baited breath.

Congratulations must go to Sgt Nellist on his award of the BEM in the New Years Honours List. He managed to fix so many of us up with houses when we moved to Germany that estate agencies are offering to buy him up. Congratulations are also in order to manager Maj Davies for remaining sane . . . or so some people say.

Dispensary (Medical Room)

We welcome our new Sawbones (or sorebones?) Captain Minogue both to the firm and the rugby squad. Due to the shortage of doctors in Minden and the intensive training of the rugby squad our doctor is as elusive as a soluble aspirin . . . now you see him now you don't.

The Kodeine Kids or Disprin Dispensers have all been issued with smart white tunics and walk around with thermometers and spatulas sticking out of top pockets. They look like failed auditioners for a remake of 'The Interns'.

Sgt Parrott leaves shortly and expects to return to Hi Fi and Stereo. The remainder of our resuscitators continue unchanged. The only addition to treatment for flu other than two codeine and bedding down for two days is that you have to take your bed with you to the MI Room (Soltau only).

Sgt W. G. Nellist BEM

Sgt Nellist was awarded the BEM in the Queen's New Year Honours List. He joined the Army as a junior soldier in 1959 maturing the following year. During his service he has served with The Green Howards and The York and Lancaster Regt as well as The Dukes. He is very well qualified and his career to date demonstrates his versatility since he has served as a Rifle Section Commander, a NCO in the Corps of Drums, MT NCO, Technical Storeman and an Instructor at The King's Division Depot. His most recent appointment to the Families Office is where his performance has particularly merited the award of the BEM.

Sgt Nellist has been a tower of strength in the Unit Families Office and there can hardly be any married soldier, whatever his rank, who has not



Sgt W. G. Nellist, BEM

at some time or another been thankful for his help. For those in hirings he has been the constant link between the landlords and themselves. No minor problem of communication is considered too small by him and throughout his period in the Families Office he has worked selflessly and tirelessly to ensure a smooth relationship between landlord and tenant.

In particular we can all be grateful for the assistance Sgt Nellist has given to the Families Officer in keeping up the spirits of the families when the men have been away. This was particularly so during the recent N Ireland tour. He always works long hours to iron out the countless problems which occur in the absence of the heads of families and he has driven hundreds of miles in his own car and mostly at his own expense in the service of the unit families.

Throughout his time in the post of Families NCO, Sgt Nellist has worked with a rare dedication, well beyond the call of duty.

ALMA COMPANY

It would seem that whenever these notes are due all we speak about is change, and these notes are no exception. To those who (through no fault of their own in some cases) are separated from the Regiment, it must appear that all is confusion, chaos and disorder. However, this is not the case and I am pleased to be able to report that Cpl Sugden has the whole situation completely under control.

For Iron Duke Notes, platoon commanders or department representatives, in their enthusiasm, produce reams and reams—always late, however. To reduce these mammoth milestones in English literature to a readable size, without losing any of the cultural appeal and omitting spelling mistakes is a difficult task, shunned by even the editor of Readers Digest. But an attempt must be made, so read on.

For Coy HQ, Pte 'Lightning' Hays feels that Alma's new boss Maj Peter Andrews 'will eventually make the grade . . . once the Rugby season has ended'. Whilst CSM Paul Wilkinson still works miracles producing men needed for guards and fatigues.

The MT platoon, joined on 4 January 1978 also has a little to say for itself. But basically we'd like to congratulate all members in working so well for us over the past couple of months. Even keeping their vehicles on the road at Soltau where temperatures were so severe, even the anti-freeze froze.

Now's your chance to hear from the platoons.

1 PLATOON

On return to Minden the platoon regretfully said farewell to Lt Stone who has moved on to become the Assistant Adjutant and Sgt Wayne Harston who is at present running the services bar (Macs Club). However, we welcome Lt Dixon, Sgt John Hogg and our three new arrivals, courtesy of Strensall finishing school. They are Ptes Sladdin, Whiteley and Robshaw.

The year 1978 promises to be a busy one with a full forecast of events. One item being the exercise in Canada. The platoon dubiously looks forward to this with talk of countless platoon and combat attacks, hundreds of square miles of training area to play in and some mention of a few days leave at the end. (To recover no doubt).

Since returning from Northern Ireland the Company has taken part in, and won, the Battalion Boxing Championships, one platoon providing a major part of the final team. Pte Landell continues to astound us in the Bn Rugby team. Pte Varley exceeded all expectations in winning the Army Trampoline Championships assisted by Lcpl Beck who yet again 'fell off'. Pte Dowdall, another new member is at present involved in both boxing and rugby.

So to finish, we leave you with the reassuring knowledge that the tax payer's money is not being wasted.

2 PLATOON

2 Pl left Ireland complete and intact, glad to be away, but on reflection in many ways thankful for the experience. The tour was rounded-off with a 'pub-check' and a dinner and dance, in which platoons from other Coy's took part. The locals did not appreciate the intrusion and showed their disaffection with a hail of abuse, beer (still in glasses and bottles), chairs and tables. The OC's cabaret performance of trying to quieten down the situation from the bandstand, was undoubtedly the most unappreciated of all. Luckily,

no injuries were incurred and the event was treated as a highlight in what was otherwise a comparatively quiet second half to the tour.

The return to Germany saw many departures from the platoon—Sgt Hogg has gone off to temporarily command 1 Platoon, Cpl Roy Pierce to the Training Wing and Cpl Max Ijeh to the Medics (perhaps a wise move in view of his unhealthy attempt at locating the IRA remote controlled claymore directed at the Alma). Lcpl 'Stan' Wroe, Ptes Lloyd, 'Charlie' Brown, Alan Nendick, Philip Elliott have gone to Dettingen Coy, while Pte Bassett has swapped his baton for a spatula and entered the Cookhouse as a Regt Cook. Ptes George Bryant and 'Tich' Mullett are now hard-core members of the Anti-Tank Platoon.

Arrivals, to complete what has been almost a complete change of hierarchy, have included Sgt Theodore from Burma Coy, and Waterloo Car Park—PAPA 7 (HGV checkpoint), Cpl 'Rick' Huxley from Corunna, Cpl 'Ernie' Pemberton on a temporary stop-over from the Recce Platoon and Lcpl Robinson from the Regimental Police. We are still trying to convince Lcpl Robinson that he does not always have to march the Platoon around at the double, and make them mark time while he catches up.

Our new intake of recruits, who arrived while we were in Ireland, must have spent many weeks wondering whether the Platoon actually existed, while they suffered the fatigues and guards of Rear Party. They started working with the platoon in January and are now fully-fledged members having endured the rigours of Soltau-Luneburg in sub zero temperatures. Welcome to Ptes Chappell, Narey, Willmott and Walters.

3 PLATOON

The platoon has had many changes personality wise over the period covered by these notes. The most noticeable being we have had three Sgts. We said 'goodbye' to Sgt Brian Noble who is now serving with the Mortar Platoon. Cpl Geoff Bailey did platoon Sgt throughout the Northern Ireland tour, well done Geoff, we hope it isn't very long before you get your well deserved promotion. Sgt 'Twiggy' Hutchinson took the chair for a very short time before going on a posting to the Depot for two years. In the chair at the moment is Sgt Mick Sullivan who joined us from C Coy.

To mention all the comings and goings within the Platoon would fill two pages, but to one and all we wish them 'Good Luck' in their new jobs be they Army or civilian.

Having heard from the platoons, it merely remains for me to comment on one or two things.

The revamped Coy Club is in operation and needs more support so we can afford the topless barmaid. Well done to Ptes Maskill and Lowther for their hard work and contribution to the profits.

On the sporting scene the Coy put up an excellent performance to win the boxing and so well done to them too.

I apologise to all those whose names, for one reason or another, have failed to appear in this journal. But it really is a simple matter of crossing my palm with silver, or full beer mugs.

BURMA COMPANY

Introduction

Since the last Iron Duke the champion Company has returned to Minden after the Bn's successful tour in Londonderry. The highlight of the last few days there, apart from our reliefs arriving — and how tall they were! — was the presence of TV crews from Germany who were making a film of Maj Walker for German television about the life of a British Officer serving as a part of the UK NATO contribution. The Major was first off the plane into the glare of the spotlights and we have subsequently heard that when it was shown it captivated an audience of approximately 15 million — a star is born.

Restructuring

Our lives in Minden prior to our Christmas leave were taken up with settling back into the BAOR lifestyle and carrying out restructuring. We have had to give up our share, the saddest loss was the Recce Pl with whom we established such a fine rapport in Ireland. However, suffice to say that life is a constant challenge to Officers and Men alike, and whilst this policy does not make it easier we will cope as always.

Leave arrived none too soon and the whole Battalion vanished literally to the far corners of the earth, San Francisco, Halifax, Austria and the Canary Islands just to mention a few exotic places visited. Christmas leave is always a wonderful boost and we arrived back thoroughly refreshed.

Spring at Soltau

The individual training period followed next which culminated with a fortnight at Soltau where the freezing weather was consistent throughout. This is the time of year on which we place great emphasis in training the individual soldiers in their skills and techniques. They are tested at various levels of proficiency and graded accordingly.

They receive an increase in pay for a higher standard. Although cut short by Soltau, much was achieved. Our Soltau sojourn was ferociously cold but taken in its stride; it's always the same with a hard exercise, it is remembered with pride by all those who took part, and envied by those who missed it. Who can forget Otterburn in 1967? The training involved all those units who will fight alongside us in our new role and thus was very interesting. We saw and practised with Scorpion, Swing Fire and Chieftain for the first time since Ex Spearpoint in 1976. For some it was revision, but for the majority an insight into our way of life in NATO. Do the LAD get a mention for changing a power pack at 3am in conditions of -27 deg C.

Pre Skills at Arms Camp

We have been subject to the ARU and are now thinking in terms of Canada and shooting. Another busy time when one adds the usual commitments and activities that go on despite all else. This year we really are heading for some shooting trophies, and aim to oust Alma from the top — some struggle.

SPORT

Ski-ing. The Bn successes are well documented, but as a Coy we supplied the lion's share and are proud of those who worked so hard. It is difficult nowadays to find time to ski at all which makes their result all the more creditable. Our stars are: Maj Walker, Lt Jenkins, Cpl's Tooley and Holmes, Lcpl Broadhead and Pte Sweeney. Next year who knows we may do even better.

Snow Queen, of course, continues and the Coy continues to be very ski-ing orientated.

Boxing. Congratulations to Lcpl Oxley as Combined Services and Army featherweight champion and for Pte Bogle who was a beaten Army finalist but represented the Army this year.

At Bn level we are now into the novices final at Div level. We supply the following: Hanley, Salmon, Swallow, Smith, Bakes, Swain and Ramsden.

Hockey. Ptes Hardy, Swain and Farrar have represented the Bn this year.

Rugger. Well, we won the Army Cup, Lcpl Fleary an impressive winger if you get close enough to see and Capt Gilbert were in the winning side with 2 Lt Drake as well. A separate account appears elsewhere.

Soccer. Lcpl Acklam 11, Pte Smith 27 Western have represented the Bn.

Basketball: CSM Simpson, Pte's Palmer, Meade and Pryce have represented the Bn, CSM Simpson and Pte Palmer have been selected for BAOR trials.

CORUNNA COMPANY

The last six weeks in Londonderry proved to be exceptionally quiet. Because of troop reductions in the Brigade, the static duty commitments for the Company increased and we were given the Letterkenny permanent vehicle checkpoint to man. This was a fairly popular duty as it amounted to a separate command for the platoon who was responsible for it. We were very grateful for the work done by the Engineers on the accommodation at the checkpoint and by the end of the tour it was fairly palatial. The duties at the checkpoint were varied and this meant that the soldiers had very little time to get bored; we also made a lot of friends with locals who passed through the checkpoint and gifts of beer and other goodies were popular.

In the middle of October, we were very pleased to welcome the advance party of the 2nd Battalion The Grenadier Guards who were due to take over from us in the middle of November. On 20

October we made our first 'red handed' arrest. The Company was patrolling in the Brandywell area in the early evening and the intelligence patrol, which was a mixture of Duke's and Guardsmen, became suspicious of three persons who were walking along Deanery Street. The patrol followed them into the Bookies Shop where they were stopped, searched, and were found to be carrying two .38 Pistols and a quantity of ammunition. The subsequent follow up operations continued until the early hours of the following morning but nothing else was found. The three characters involved are now in custody awaiting trial.

At the beginning of November the advance party of the Grenadier Guards arrived and we began our move back. We were fortunate to be able to arrange for all the single soldiers to move back to Germany via the United Kingdom where they had a long weekend. The married soldiers flew straight back to Germany. After the long weekend we began to restructure. In general terms this meant the formation of a fourth rifle company and the disbandment of the Recce Platoon and Somme Company with the Anti Tank Platoon and Mortar Platoon joining Hook Company. We were sorry to say goodbye to Captain Andrew Drake and his Anti Tank Platoon which had been under command in Northern Ireland where they served us extremely well. It was also very sad to say goodbye to our quota of Corunna men who were posted to form Dettingen Company.

The restructuring managed to take place relatively smoothly. As a final farewell we had a large party, with most of the wives attending before the Battalion went on block leave on 12 December.

January has been devoted to Individual Training, Battalion Cadres and Ski Training; by the end of March nearly half the Company will have attended either Exercise Snow Queen which is run by the Battalion or one of the ski-ing courses run by 1 British Corps at Silberhutte. As Lieutenant Bob Stark was a member of the Battalion Ski Team, we will persuade him to write an article on it in the next issue of the Iron Duke.

This month we are going up to Soltau to do some mechanised training. Because of Northern Ireland, one year has elapsed since we were last able to train in our armoured personnel carriers and because of the change over within a Battalion this will be the first time for many members of the Company.

We would like to say farewell to those who have left the Company for 'greener pastures'. Sgts Bob Blackburn and 'Dinky' Hall, Lcpl Harrison, Ptes Hayton, Greaves, Colman, Ellwood, Wier, Jacques, Lcpl Collins, Ptes Fenton and Wade. We would like to welcome to the Company Cpls Ennis, Logan and Wood, Lcpls Barron, Scott and Welburn, Ptes Barnett, Fabian, Fieldhouse and Williams.

Congratulations go to Cpl Elgar and wife on the birth of their son, Dale Simon, Cpl and Mrs Elwell on the birth of their son Andrew Phillip,

Lcpl and Mrs Frear on the birth of their daughter Karen Louise, Cpl and Mrs Walker on the birth of their son Alan Lee.

DETTINGEN COMPANY

Dettingen Coy came into being as a result of the Bn restructuring after our last tour in Northern Ireland. The company formed on 21 November 1977.

The company was formed up in the Gym where the Colours were on display. The CO gave the company a short talk and then presented the new OC Maj P. J. Mellor with the company name plate. It was very apt that the Colours should be on display as Dettingen was the first battle honour ever to be won by the Bn in 1743 and is emblazoned on the Regimental colour in the top left-hand corner.

Little did the OC and CSM know but their problems had only just begun. People had joined the company from the other companies and departments, some remained from the old Somme Coy, along with their many attributes they brought their many problems.

The CSM had the problem of starting a company office off with all its files and documents, he had the help of Lcpl McCarthy who left the army soon afterwards (we wonder why?) and the newly trained and consequently relatively inexperienced but keen Pte Denton.

One of the CSM's many other problems was trying to find people to do duties and fatigues. As the company stands at the moment IOPl is the drums platoon so they wear two hats, as drummers and as infantrymen. 11 Pl is a normal infantry platoon, and 12 Pl is made up of employed personnel, such as MT, Families office staff, QM staff, Regimental cooks and so on, thus they also

wear two hats. Consequently every time the CSM puts out a duties list, he has a queue outside his office waiting to inform him that they cannot do guard duty because they are duty cook, duty driver, or duty drummer or the like that day.

The Drums platoon have done a really good job along with 11 Pl under the able leadership of the Drum Major and Sgt Hall in getting themselves organised and trained and this they proved on the recent Soltau exercise where they put in a very creditable performance.

Twelve platoon have the greatest problem and certainly present the company with the biggest headache as apart from muster parade no-one ever sees them together as a platoon, as straight away afterwards they disappear off to their various departments.

Hopefully one day we will get them all together on exercise to practice combat team attacks or the like, the OC is dubious about that day when it eventually comes as he is not quite sure of what he might see debussing from the back of c/s 43: APC's — the Regimental pioneers with boxes of six inch nails in their ammo pouches, the regimental cooks with cam cream smeared all over their whites and brandishing meat cleavers, the families office staff with a baby under one arm and an A10 in the other hand? Well we'll have to wait and see.

The company orbat seems to change daily, in the early days it was a case of finding that soldiers whom other companies had said that they were sending to us had not arrived. When this was queried it was generally discovered that the companies had changed their minds and decided to keep them. In one or two cases the companies concerned assured us that the soldier had left them. This was found to be true it was also found out that they had left the army as well.

**FORMATION OF
DETTINGEN COMPANY**
The Commanding Officer
presents the Company sign to
the Officer Commanding,
Maj P. J. Mellor,
on the inauguration parade of
the Company.



When the new 2IC arrived in January he discovered to his relief that there was one officer platoon commander, 2 Lt Dixon commanding 11 platoon. However he was away on his platoon commanders course at Warminster. This was a major blow as it meant that the 2IC had to do all the arms and ammunition and MOD Controlled stores checks, all the pay parades and all the other menial tasks a 2IC can delegate to his platoon commanders. — Roll on February and the return of 2 Lt Dixon.—February eventually came and 2 Lt Dixon returned only to be claimed by Alma Coy to command 1 Pl. The company 2IC thereafter became a very bitter man.

Sgt Hall was a bit confused by the whole issue as well, as he now finds himself in full control of 11 Pl on a permanent basis.

Hopefully by the time the August issue of Iron Duke is due Dettingen Coy will have settled down a bit more and sorted out a sizeable amount of the problems that have been incurred upon us including hopefully, it's 'Double Hatted' one.

ANTI TANK PLATOON

Since returning from Northern Ireland and leaving the role of Rifle Pl work, the Platoon has seen many changes. The Platoon was attached to Corunna Coy for its tour of duties in Northern Ireland. On return the now disbanded Somme Coy was reformed for a brief while until our move to Hook Coy.

During the months of November and December the Battalion was restructured and the Platoon found itself in the middle of the upheaval having to change companies, but by the time we went on a well deserved leave the task was complete.

The Battalion returned from block leave at the beginning of January. The Platoon was then 10 men under established strength and so new members were welcomed to the Platoon. Five hard weeks of training followed to reach a satisfactory standard before the Battalion Exercise at Soltau and the Platoon's own firing period during March.

The next hurdles in sight are Exercise Medicine Man in which each section in turn will visit Canada. Following the Canadian trip the Battalion should be due its issue of the Milan Anti Tank System to replace Wombat. This will mean converting the Platoon's role and a great deal of hard work ahead.

TRAINING THE MORTAR PLATOON

The Platoon at the time of writing these notes is yet again in the middle of a mortar numbers cadre. So its not unnatural for the underlying theme to be centred around the training of the Platoon.

In these days of dwindling manpower a mortarman, like so many others, has to be a master of all trades. He needs not only to be No 1, 2 or 3 but also Assistant Control Post Operator, driver, signaller, map reader and in some cases 'prose' writer. To meet such demands he has to be a versatile chap with a smile a yard wide! After six

weeks of training both abilities come as second nature. Well, you have to laugh or you'd soon cry in this game!

With OIC Cross Country and Orienteering sitting in the chair, map reading has taken a high priority (now you know why we need a smile a yard wide!). The opportunity to couple fitness with map craft has led to some sore feet. This years Golden Compass Award for the longest trek in the wrong direction must go to Pte Towell for his nature ramble around the television tower on Minden Ridge.

With the final written tests culminating the six weeks work pamphlets replace barrels and drill rounds 'Prof' Ware is thinking of rewriting the pamphlet, in his spare time and all we can say is the 'best of pamphlet 24 No 71059/26/GSTP!'

Compliments must be paid to all the hard work of the instructors, which had been admirable as always, whether they suffer from ulcers or not! In fact, well done all round and lets hope the success is shown in the training ahead!

Keeping in touch

The 'Evening Courier' keeps the people of Calderdale in touch with their community— & their Regiment.

EVENING COURIER
King Cross St, Halifax.
Telephone 65711

Sport in the Battalion

BAOR ARMY CUP SEMI-FINAL 1 DWR 36pts — QDG 0pts

After many delays, mainly due to the weather and exercise commitments the semi-final between the Duke's and the QDG was finally played at Hohne on February 26. A warm, sunny day provided ideal conditions for a fast open game and both teams responded accordingly. The Duke's had to sustain intense pressure from the QDG for the first 20 minutes but thereafter they found their rhythm and began to control the game.

2 Lt Paddy McDaid scored the only try of the first half and with the Duke's leading by just four points to nil the second half promised to be exciting. The Duke's went straight into the attack and with Capt Chris Gilbert and Lcpl Steve Moorhouse controlling the loose play the tries soon came thick and fast. Capt Gilbert himself scored two tries as did Pte Dexter Landell on the left wing. Lcpl Sam Fleary scored after a strong run and Cpl Graham Walker capped an excellent game with the final try of the match. Much to everyone's surprise Sgt Mick Cuss kicked four conversions and the Duke's ran out winners by 36pts to nil.

BAOR ARMY CUP FINAL 1 DWR 16pts, 7 RHA 8pts

Note: Due to an error in transmission the Dukes opponents were shown as 7 Sig Regt in the STOP PRESS news of the previous issue.

Upon their return to Bad Lippspringe, which holds memories of mixed fortunes for many Duke's, the 1st XV were greeted by a large load of supporters and another warm, dry day. The

last time the two sides had met two years ago the contest had been a gruelling one and there was no reason to think that this game would be any different. As it turned out the Duke's squandered many try scoring opportunities and ended the game by defending stoutly.

The match was hard but clean and well refereed by Col Mike Bragg. The first try was scored by Lcpl Sam Fleary after some good work by Cpl Graham Walker. Cpl Ena Elwell failed to convert. 7 RHA responded immediately with a try by their flanker Lewis which Capt Nigel Cook failed to convert. After some untidy play by both sides the Duke's produced their first worthwhile move of the match and Lcpl Steve Moorhouse plunged over for a try which Cpl Elwell converted. Not to be outdone 7 RHA once again hit back and the half time score read 1 DWR 10pts, 7 RHA 8pts.

Ten minutes into the second half a superb run by fly-half 2 Lt Simon Dixon led to a try by Pte Dexter Landell who had an excellent all-round game. Once again Cpl Elwell converted. The Duke's then looked to sit back a little, as if content with that score line. 7 RHA ran until they dropped but failed to break the Duke's defence. At the final whistle the Duke's skipper Capt Tim Sinclair stepped forward to receive the Cup from Gen Worsley. The Duke's supporters were overjoyed and 7 RHA after putting up a terrific display consoled themselves with champagne.

ARMY CUP FINAL—MARCH 15, 1978 1 DWR 13 pts—IRRW 12pts

On a bright but windy and cold day the Duke's regained the Army Cup in a close and memorable game at Bad Lippspringe.

The Duke's kicked off into the wind and settled

Right-wing Sam Fleary steps outside RRW full-back Evans to initiate another Duke's attack.





The 1st Bn Duke of Wellington's Regt team which defeated the Royal Regt of Wales team 13-12 in this year's Army Challenge Cup final at Bad Lippspringe in West Germany.

down almost immediately. However, it was the Welsh who went into the lead with a penalty goal after 15 minutes. After squandering several chances the Duke's were pushed back to their own goal line and following an untidy maul the Welsh flank forward intercepted a pass back to score under the posts. This was followed by another penalty. Lcpl Sam Fleary, who had an excellent game, broke away on the right to score half way out. The Duke's turned round at half time losing 12 pts to four but having had far more scoring chances.

Early on in the second half Cpl Ena Elwell reduced the leeway with a penalty kick which crept over the bar. This followed some exciting back row play by Capts Chris Gilbert and Andrew Drake and No 8 Lcpl Steve Moorhouse. They played superbly throughout and much of the success was due to their sterling efforts in open play.

After having two more tries disallowed the Duke's pressure finally paid off. Sgt Bill Swap set up a maul, the ball was fed back to the skipper Capt Tim Sinclair. Cpl 'Waga' Walker spun the ball away to Sgt Mick Cuss whose swerving run put WO2 Peter Robinson through. It was his beautifully timed pass which gave Cpl Dek Allen the opportunity to burst through the Welsh defence and score just outside the posts.

Sgt Mick Cuss calmly slotted over the conversion, and but for a few flutters near the end, the Duke's were home.

The team played splendidly and were a tribute to their coach Major Vernon Davies and to OIC Rugby Major Peter Andrews both of whom have put in some noble work on behalf of the team.

The team: Cpl Ena Elwell, Pte Dexter Landell, WO2 Peter Robinson (vice-capt), Cpl Dek Allen, Lcpl Sam Fleary, Sgt Mick Cuss, Cpl Waga Walker, Lcpl Lee Patten, Capt Tim Sinclair (capt), 2Lt Paddy McDaid, Sgt Bill Swap, 2Lt Martin Drake, Capt Chris Gilbert, Capt Andrew Drake, Lcpl Steve Moorhouse.

SKI-ING

Introduction

The 1977-78 ski-ing season has been a great success for the Regiment: We have continued with Exercise Snow Queen, competed in the Divisional and Army Cross Country meetings and, for the first time ever, we entered an Alpine team in the Divisional meeting that later qualified for the Army Championships. This enabled us to enter the Princess Marina Cup Competition, a combination of Alpine and Nordic events, also for the first time ever.

The detailed story of the training and racing follows but there are a few points that are worth highlighting. First the subject of Nordic ski-ing. Many of you will know that in the Osnabruck days of the mid 1960's it took us four years to win the Patrol Race. We are still competing against Corps, Service and Royal Artillery units that are permanently based in Germany and this is why it takes us so long to get in amongst the front runners. We are, however, getting there albeit slowly. Our results this year clearly put us amongst the top langlaufing units and one sincerely hopes that with continued perseverance and training we will shortly be in the top three. A couple of results will illustrate our progress as

a second year ski-ing unit. Last year we were 14th out of 19 in the Patrol Race and this year 7th out of 24 teams. In the final results of the Cross Country meeting last year we were 15th out of 19 and this year 6th out of 20. This is really very encouraging when one considers that every team that beat us had at least one current or former GB skier. The second point of note is the part that has been played by Ssgt Fred Kendrew who has two years running taken off a number of novices and turned them into skiers. This year he was racing better than ever at 37 years old and his run in the Divisional Battalion Relay that placed him 7th out of 60 was a fine example to all of us. He has now retired and takes with him not only various 'Veterans' prizes but also our thanks and appreciation for all his help. Next a brief word on the Alpine ski-ing, a new venture for Lt Philip Jenkins and his team. Until the 4 Div Giant Slalom none of the team had ever competed in a race before and Pte Smith had learnt only last year on a dry slope in Yorkshire. Their results are very creditable. And finally we managed to add to the stock of ski-ing trophies in the Sgt's Mess.

Lcpl Russ Whelan won the Swedish Trophy for Juniors in the Divisional meeting; we managed to retain the KOSB Cup for the best infantry unit in the Nordic Combination: and we now have the Infantry Cup for the best placed infantry regiment in the Princess Marina Cup. I should add that the latter two trophies were not difficult to win—there were no other infantry regiments in the Army Championships.

CROSS COUNTRY SKI TEAM

The team that began training at Urnerboden in Switzerland on 3 December 1977 was a mixture of the old (even the very old) and the new, four from last year's squad who had begun the struggle for the top with little or no experience and very little training, and six of us who had our eyes opened for the first time to the 'Diagonal Gait', the remarkable effects of gravity, and the mysteries and horrors of waxing. Happily our first two weeks' training were blessed with fabulous conditions in our remote secluded perch in a high level valley, where the sun always shone and the temperature never rose above freezing. The mountain pass which led for 8km from the valley floor direct to Urnerboden was itself such an ordeal that we were rarely distracted from a full day's ski-ing, and learned quickly in these ideal conditions. Our living accommodation in the famous 'Matratzenlager' was intimate to say the least, with up to forty beds in three tier platforms in each room, and a number of other teams for company, but our Swiss hosts made us very welcome and we were loathe to leave.

However, by the time we reached Moosbach and the Duke's Snow Queen Hut all of us had come to terms with basic technique and our falls were not so frequent although even more spectacular. Even so, our first outing in front of the CO we were still at square one, as Lt Stark and Lcpl Marshall careered frantically down an ober-

joch slope, inextricably locked together in the most unrepeatable position, unable to stop or turn as the course plummeted away like the Cresta Run. Still, a bad dress rehearsal and all that . . .

As Christmas and New Year came and went so the weather deteriorated and we were forced to use mind boggling combinations of glue-like klister wax on wet and icy tracks. Back at the Snow Queen Hut we were royally entertained by the local farmers, who came in all shapes and sizes, from a Rasputin-like giant to a short, round fellow in moustache and jackboots, and of course our host Martin Mader, a guinea a minute with the sense of humour of a Duke.

Daily training and nightly revelry saw the time pass quickly so that 7 January came on us all too suddenly and it was time to put our training to the test in the 4 Armd Div Championships at Galtür in Austria.

By now we had been joined by Maj Walker, fresh from the delights of restructuring. Once again we were back to the kind of conditions we had enjoyed in Switzerland, and the intensive race programme proved excellent preparation for the Army championships on the 19th. Our accommodation was now of a very superior kind, a fact which escaped Pte Mark Varley, best known for antics on the trampoline, who thought he had better bring his 'diggers' to the Hotel's main dining room for his four course dinner. Confusion was not only on our side, the management, in the shape of a rather gorgeous receptionist understood Maj Walker to be 'Mr Wellington' which he became.

However, the excellent arrangements and weather obviously encouraged the team, by now whittled down to two four-man squads with one reserve. Our performances improved with race experience and the other teams began to sit up and take notice of the Duke's who should have been, like other infantry units present, rank outsiders in the company of gunners, sappers and cavalry who have traditionally had an iron grip on langlaufing because of permanent stationing and prearranged postings in Germany. Our best results were, A team 4th in the Patrol Race and Biathlon Relay, Lcpl Whelan Best Junior in 4 Div, Best Veteran for Ssgt Kendrew. All our team results were in the top eight, and the B team performed very well also, e.g. 8th for Patrol Race.

Feeling inspired by the Austrian meeting, the team moved up to Oberjoch, by now familiar stamping ground, for the Army Championships. To add to our morale we were joined at this stage by Ssgt Hirst, former Olympic skier and now coach of the British Biathlon Team, hot foot from Finland to provide our mainstay for the coming races.

Ssgt Hirst had already helped us with periods of invaluable coaching while in Switzerland, where the British Team were also based.

The weather at this stage turned sour again, this time with ten days of continual snow fall, making track-laying a nightmare and very heavy conditions in which to race. Nonetheless the momentum we had gathered in the Divisional

Championships was maintained now and our results were very encouraging indeed. In the Patrol Race for instance, both A and B teams shot clear on the range, both were complimented by the General at the inspection, and the results were A Team 6th, B team 8th, a great finale to the season, with the B Team the highest placed B team and the A team beating those that came 2nd and 3rd to our 4th in the Divisional Meeting race, while the winners won again at the Army. This rate of improvement was the hallmark of the Winter's racing. Throughout we went faster and faster and came away with trophies to support this. In addition to the Divisional prizes, we won the Infantry Cup, and the KOSB Cup for the best infantry unit in both Nordic and Alpine Events. Ssgt Kendrew, our irrepressible veteran and coach carried off yet another Veteran's prize and a group prize in the 15km, as did Cpl Tooley. But far more important, the Dukes, by appearing throughout in the top ten in the Army (effectively The British Championships), by shooting consistently better than almost any other unit, and by beating seasoned and heavily subsidised Corps teams, have in the two years raised themselves from the fringe obscurity to the leading group of contenders against all the disadvantages inhibiting Infantry units. Coupled with an excellent start for our downhillers which left us sixth in the combined events Duke's Langlauf Ski-ing is now firmly established. Two more years in Germany offering tremendous opportunities now that we have a hard core of a team. We have learned a lot, especially about biathlon in which we can compete effectively with our special Anschutz Rifles, and about training methods on and off skis. With the great support given us by the Battalion this year, we can look forward to 1980 and a crop of prizes, amongst which we would dearly love to get our hands on the Duke of Wellington's Trophy for the Biathlon Relay, outstandingly the finest trophy there, and never held by the Regiment. Hopefully that will soon be righted.

Team. Maj Walker, Lt Stark, Ssgt Hirst, Ssgt Kendrew, Cpl Tooley, Lcpl Whelan, Lcpl Marshall (reserve), Pte Sweeney, Pte Varley, Pte Wade.

BOXING

Having set a standard last year, by reaching the BAOR semi-final it was going to be interesting to see how we would fare this year.

We got off to a good start, with an excellent inter-company competition. Alma Coy became champions and Burma Coy, last years champions, were runners up; but the standard was far better with a larger, more skillful and fitter entry than last year.

The Inter-Company result produced a squad of 14 for the battalion team and 10 days training resulted in a our winning our first round match, by defeating 28 Amphibious Regiment, Royal Engineers by 5 bouts to 2. The Duke's winners were:

Feather: Pte John Swain (Burma); Lightweight: Pte Ian Bakes (Burma); Light Welter: Pte Phil

Rhodes (Alma); Welter: Pte Mick Doyne (Alma); Light Heavy: Pte Leroy Salmon (Burma).

Our two defeats were:

Pte Frank Stirk (Corunna) and Lcpl Brian Lawrence (Hook) at Light Middle and Middle respectively who lost by a cut above the eye and a KO, both in the 2nd rounds.

The 4 Div semi-final on 10 March will be v 7 Signal Regt in Minden with the winners fighting the Queen's Own Hussars at Detmold on 21 March. Can the Duke's do it again? Well the next edition will give you the result.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

This Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. It exists to help Servicemen to find suitable employment when they leave the Forces. It also take a long term interest in ex-Regulars, who may use its services as often as they wish.

The Association has 42 Branches covering the United Kingdom, and its Employment Officers— all ex-Servicemen — are in close touch with employers. It provides all services free.

In 1977 the Association placed over 5,900 men and women from the Services in employment; of these jobs some 2,400 were for men and women from the Army and 16 were from the Regiment.

Addresses and telephone numbers of Branches can be obtained from Corps and Regimental Associations — or from Post Offices, Employment Offices or local telephone directories.

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We come from both world wars. We come from Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus . . . and from Ulster. From keeping the peace no less than from war we limbless look to you for help.

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Help BLESMA, please. We need money desperately. And, we promise you, not a penny of it will be wasted.

Donations and information: Major The Earl of Ancaster, KCVO, TD, Midland Bank Limited, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX.

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

'GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE — PLEASE'

Duke's Pubs in Yorkshire

On Dec 15th 1977 The Old Cock in Halifax became the first adopted home for Duke's in Yorkshire. The idea came from the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion Lt Col Michael Bray. The reason for adopting pubs in various towns in the West Riding is so that serving Duke's and ex-Duke's can have a focal point for meetings, parties, re-unions and the casual pint. Mr Jack Arrowsmith, the landlord of the Old Cock and father of Sgt Roy Arrowsmith, very kindly consented to be the first in what we hope will become a pattern of Duke's pubs in West Yorkshire.

The first inaugural party took place during block leave and the Old Cock was crowded with Duke's. On behalf of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment Major John Milligan presented a bandstand banner in a wooden case to Mr Arrowsmith and it is now prominently displayed above the door of the Savile Bar. The next gathering at the Old Cock will be announced in the next issue of the Iron Duke.

The second pub to become a Duke's pub was the Royal Unicorn in Huddersfield. The landlord, Mr Wally Gooding made the rugby team and the other Duke's who attended the inaugural party on Jan 5th 1978, very welcome indeed. The Colonel of the Regiment presented a Duke's bandstand banner to Mr Gooding and thanked him for taking the Duke's into his home. It is hoped that these two pubs are the first in a long chain of Duke's pubs in the West Riding.



Dukes Pubs

The Assistant Regimental Secretary presents a Regimental Banner to Mr Douglas Addison of Messrs Webster during the inaugural party of The Old Cock Hotel in Halifax as a Duke's Pub. Also in the photograph are Miss Jill Mathewson, and Mr Jack Arrowsmith, the Manager and Father of Sgt Roy Arrowsmith.



The Colonel of the Regiment hands over the Regimental Banner to Mr Wally Gooding, landlord of the Royal Unicorn, Huddersfield on the inauguration of the Hotel as a 'Duke's' Pub.
Photo — Huddersfield Examiner.

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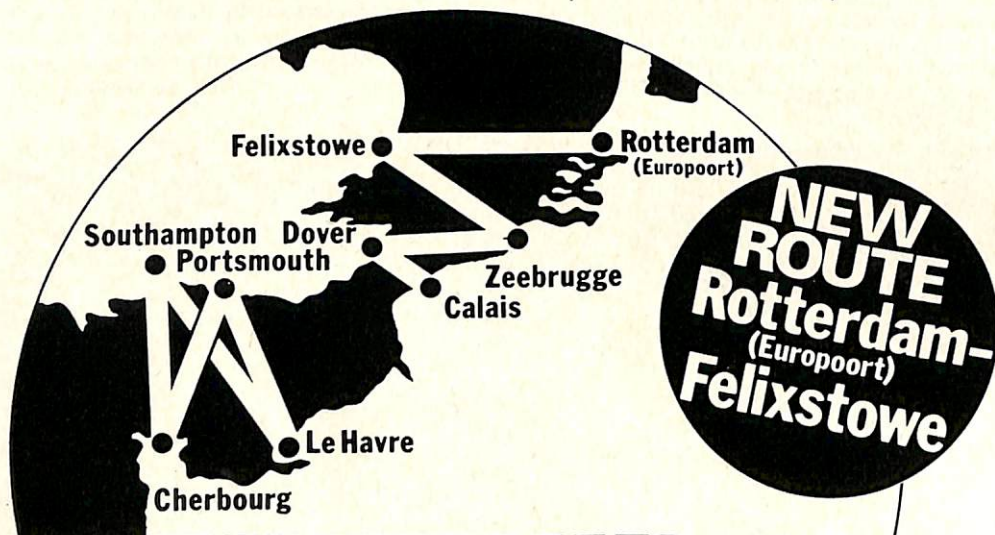
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The European Ferries

ID 4/78

The Infantry Demonstration Battalion

In February 1978 The Secretary of State for Defence announced the formation of The Infantry Demonstration Battalion (IDB). This Battalion is now forming at The School of Infantry in Warminster and will take over the role of Demonstration Battalion from the 1st Bn The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment in August of this year. The aim of this article is to inform those who have never served in a Battalion, whilst it is carrying out this role, something of the task and organisation of this new Battalion.

The Battalion will be formed by posting in soldiers from all Battalions of Infantry. Initially soldiers will serve for a period of between 12 months and two and a half years. However once the Battalion has formed, tours will be for two years except for any recruits who may come straight from Depots who will only serve for one year.

The Battalion will initially use Knook Camp about 5 miles from Warminster as a Barracks in which to form. This camp used to be the permanent home of the Demonstration Battalion until 1965 when The 1st Bn The Welch Regiment, moved into Battlesbury Barracks. Battlesbury, into which the new Battalion will move in August, is a self contained Barracks, with all its own facilities such as Messes, NAAFI and sports fields. It is located about one mile from the School of Infantry and from the entrance to the Salisbury Plain training area.

The Battalion has the use of about 240 married quarters in Warminster, and it is hoped that by August all married officers and soldiers will be settled in these quarters. However until 1 DERR have moved to Germany the IDB will be able to use quarters in Devizes as a staging area.

The task of the IDB is to support the School of Infantry by providing formed units and sub-units to take part in exercises, demonstrations and presentations. The scale of these tasks varies from a whole Battle Group on major Combat Team Commanders courses to one man to demonstrate shooting techniques for the Small Arms Wing. The exercises cover mechanised, air-portable and internal security phases of war. This means all ranks must be thoroughly proficient in all infantry skills. The Battalion holds more equipment than in a Line Battalion, therefore there are more specialists. On many exercises the Battalion is required to provide enemy troops or indeed angry crowds of rioters.

The Battalion must therefore carry out an intensive and continuous internal training programme to maintain and confirm their skills.

It is a very busy life in the School of Infantry and Mondays to Fridays are packed with training. However nearly every weekend is free and leave can be planned twelve months in advance. This of course is subject to helping out during national emergencies!

The Battalion organisation is based on the

650 Battalion establishment but because of its specialised role the internal organisation is different. Bn HQ has the addition of a 'Demonstration Officer' and 'Demonstration Warrant Officer' whose tasks are to liaise with The School of Infantry and to ensure that the Companies receive the correct exercise instructions.

There are two Rifle Companies (A and B Companies). A Company has four platoons, one of which is based permanently at Brecon to support The NCOs Tactics Wing who run the Section Commanders and Platoon Sergeants Courses. B Company also has four platoons but these are all based in Warminster. C, or Technical, Company holds centrally all the vehicles and radios (except Company Radios) required in Warminster. It has in addition to Company HQ, an MT (wheeled) platoon, a signals platoon and an APC platoon with 56 FV 432s. It is the largest of the Companies with 149 all ranks.

Finally in Warminster is an HQ Company which is slimmed down from that of a Line Battalion. It has all the usual platoons such as QMs, Catering and Pay.

In Netheravon is a large Support Company who assist the Support Weapons Wing. This Company in addition to the normal Company HQ, Wombat and Mortar Platoons has a Milan Platoon and a Surveillance Detachment. Each of the platoons is trained and equipped to fight on foot, or from Landrovers or APCs. They work on a day to day basis at Netheravon but join the remainder of the Battalion on the Plain for Battle Group exercises.

All the usual Battalion activities will take place such as sports, wives clubs meetings and social functions. Warminster is a fairly quiet country town with very reasonable shops and facilities. Bath and Salisbury are the main shopping centres, about 20 miles away. London is only one and half hours by train or two hours by car.

If any Officer or soldier who hears that he is being posted to the IDB wishes to know more about our life in Warminster he should write to:

Adjutant,
The Infantry Demonstration Battalion,
Battlesbury Barracks,
Warminster,
Wiltshire.

SILVER JUBILEE 1977—LOYAL GREETING

In the August 1977 Issue of the Iron Duke (ID No. 174), the purists will have noticed an error. On page 161 the fifth line includes mention of the Saxon King Robert. There was of course no such person. It should have read King Egbert, and was so originally drafted. Somehow this error managed to escape detection at all stages, and for this we apologise.

OFFICERS LOCATION LIST

As at May 1, 1978

Major General

D. E. ISLES, OBE: Director General Weapons Army) MOD and Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Commandant The King's Division, Honorary Colonel 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers.

Brigadier

C. R. HUXTABLE, CBE: Comd, Southern Oman Bde, to August 1978.

Colonels

E. M. P. HARDY: Comdt SA Wing, School of Infantry.
D. W. SHUTTLEWORTH, OBE: Chief of Policy Section, HQ SHAPE.
P. A. MITCHELL, OBE: Col GS (W) FM, MICV, DGFVE (PE).
R. M. HARMS, MC: DA, Caribbean.

Lieutenant Colonels

J. E. PELL, OBE: GSO1 (Psy ops) Joint Warfare Estab (from May 1978).
J. B. K. GREENWAY, MBE: GSO1 (DS) Staff College, Camberley.
M. R. N. BRAY: CO 1 DWR.
J. R. P. CUMBERLEGE: CO 7 UDR.
R. L. STEVENS, MBE: CO 2 UDR, to June 1978, then for GSO1 HQ Belize Garrison July 1978.
M. J. CAMPBELL-LAMERTON, MBE: CO 9 UDR.
W. R. MUNDELL: MA to C in C BAOR.
T. D. LUPTON: GSO1 HQ NE Dist.
C. W. IVEY: CO 1 Yorks (V).

Majors

W. F. C. ROBERTSON: Chief Instr Army School of Recruiting. Retires June 1978.
J. D. P. COWELL: Adjnt AAC Chepstow.
P. B. L. HOPPE: King's Div Recruiting Officer, Strensall.
G. V. DAVIES (QLR): UFO, 1 DWR.
S. J. NASH: GSO2 HQ King's Div to May 1978. For DAAG (Ops Plans) HQ 1 (BR) Corps, July 1978.
D. M. PUGH: OC JS Coy, Depot King's Div. For Trg Maj 3 Yorks, May 1978.
W. F. CHARLESWORTH: British Instr at US Mil Academy West Point.
I. P. REID: Group Leader RCB, Westbury, to September 1978.
C. R. CUMBERLEGE: 2ic 1 DWR.
P. J. PUTTOCK: Coy Comd Sch of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield.
P. D. D. J. ANDREWS: 1 DWR.
C. N. ST. P. BUNBURY, MBE: DAA & QMG, HQ Sch of Infantry. For 1 DWR September 1978.
E. J. W. WALKER: 1 DWR, to August 1978.
C. G. FITZGERALD: 1 DWR. For GSO2 HQ King's Div, October 1978.
A. R. WESTCOB: Coy Comd IJLB Shorncliffe, to August 1978.
P. J. MELLOR: 1 DWR. For GSO2 (PR), HQ 3 Armd Div, August 1978.
T. J. NICHOLSON: GSO2, MOD (ASD5), to December 1978.
A. R. REDWOOD-DAVIES, MBE: Staff College (Australia), to December 1978.
P. D. GARDNER: Staff College, Camberley, to October 1978.

Captains

A. D. M. PALMER: 1 DWR (A/Major).
M. P. C. BRAY: Coy Comd Depot The King's Div (A/Major).
J. M. THORN: GSO3 (Ops) HQ BAOR. For Staff College (Pakistan), October 1978.
C. J. W. GILBERT: 1 DWR.
J. R. A. WARD: Adjnt 1 DWR.
A. D. ROBERTS, MBE: Staff College—Shrivenham, to December 1978; Camberley January 1979 to October 1979.
D. L. J. HARRAP, LLB: 1 DWR.
M. S. SHERLOCK: 1 DWR.
T. J. ISLES: Sultan's Armed Forces, Muscat.
A. J. PITCHERS, B Edn: 1 DWR. For Coy 2ic IJLB, June 1978.
K. BEST: 1 DWR.
T. PICKERSGILL (SSCC): 1 DWR.
T. C. SINCLAIR, BA: 1 DWR.
C. F. GRIEVE: OC 9 CTT, to December 1978.
A. D. MEEK: 1 DWR.
R. C. M. HALL, BSC: 1 DWR.

Subalterns

A. H. S. DRAKE: 1 DWR.
M. J. STONE, BA: 1 DWR.
R. M. L. COLVILLE: 1 DWR.
D. I. RICHARDSON: 1 DWR.
R. C. STARK (SSC), BA: 1 DWR.
W. A. N. ATKINSON: Depot King's Div, to August 1978, then 1 DWR.
G. A. KILBURN: 1 DWR.
G. D. SHUTTLEWORTH: IJLB Shorncliffe.
P. M. JENKINS (SSC): 1 DWR.

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

P. R. S. BAILEY (SSVC): Depot King's Division.

P. P. DENIEFFE: Oxford University. For RMAS, August 1978; for 1 DWR, January 1979.

S. J. N. MORGAN: Oxford University. For RMAS, August 1978; for 1 DWR, January 1979.

P. J. HARVEY: 1 DWR.

M. J. B. DRAKE: 1 DWR.

S. H. DIXON (SSC): 1 DWR.

T. COBURN (SSC): 1 DWR.

C. A. HARVEY: Oxford University, to July 1980.

J. W. WOOD (SSC): 1 DWR.

J. A. C. KILBURN: 1 DWR.

Quartermasters

MAJ W. ROBINS, MBE: QM, Int & Sy Gp (NI), to June 1978. For Staff Quartermaster, RMA Sandhurst, June 1978.

MAJ W. BURKE: QM, Depot The King's Div.

MAJ S. H. KIRK, MBE: QM, 2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt.

CAPT L. LINSKEY, PWO: QM, 1 DWR. For QM, Gurkha Bn, Hong Kong, June 1978.

CAPT R. A. TIGHE: QM2, 1 DWR.

CAPT J. A. WELSH: QM, Belize Defence Force.

LT M. CARTER: QM, 2 Yorks (V).

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



Presentation of TAVR Efficiency Medal

The TAVR Efficiency Medal was presented to Cpl Terence Widdop at a recent ceremony. L. to R. Cpl Allen White, Lt Col C. W. Ivey, CO, Pte Philip Richardson and Cpl Widdop. Cpl White and Pte Richardson are Canada bound (see Coy Notes).
Acknowledgement: Halifax Evening Courier

At the time of writing the TAVR is in the middle of a National Recruiting Campaign. For our part, with the help of various agencies, notably the Halifax Courier, who have given us some excellent publicity, we have managed to interview 30 potential recruits. Hopefully when documentation is complete they will all become successful applicants.

The 1st Bn's exercises in Canada this year have proved a welcome bonus to Volunteer life, Cpl Allen White and Pte Philip Richardson having been selected to represent the Company on exercise 'Medicine Man 3' with 'Burma' Coy 1 DWR. We were sure they will be well looked after and have an enjoyable tour.

November 1977 saw the departure of WO2 Dave Hughes to 1 DWR as RSM and WO2 'Duke' Lawrence has replaced him as CSM PSI. Csgt Fred Kendrew has recently arrived to take over the post of CQMS PSI from Csgt Les Shaw who is returning to the 1st Bn as A/RSO. Well done Les, you have done a fine job whilst you have been here, we wish you every success with your new job.

We congratulate the 1st Bn rugby team on winning the Army Rugby Cup, Halifax and the 'Old Cock' await your next rugby tour with baited breath.

In Civilian Life



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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION,
49 PALL MALL, SW1Y 5JY.

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

Time has again flown round to the date for completion of the contribution to the Iron Duke, and it is amazing how, at this time, our two usual contributors are noticeable by their absence. There are advantages in writing the notes though, it means that you can get your own back on your predecessors.

Since the last notes, there have been two major changes in the Company Orbat, Ssgt Geoff Harding now replacing that mountain of a man Joe Walker. The advantage of having Staff Harding is that we now have an official interpreter for the CSM's dulcet Barnsley tones.

The other major change is that of OC's, Major Bateman leaving 'C' Coy to command 'A' Coy, and our old 2I/C Maj Mike Hawley returning to command.

Now down to training, during the new year we have been fairly busy at both Coy and Bn level. The training started with a Coy shooting competition, during which the PSI demonstrated his prowess with the LMG (rumour has it that his team trained on malt whisky the night before). This shooting match was followed by a Bn Exercise in which many of the enemy resembled members of 10 AYT. On the point of 10 AYT we would like to thank Capt Mike (The feet) Sherlock (ask him when he gets back), for the assistance he gave during our Company IS weekend at Swynnerton. He was most helpful during the weekend inventing the Mark 1 Sherlockovian mortar, and also an excellent culvert bomb which

almost required a change of underwear for the troops in the vehicle that was unlucky enough to be 'blown up'.

During the week ending the 26th of February, we turned our thoughts to the ceremonial, providing a quarter guard on the night of the presentation of the Lord Lieutenants Certificates, and followed by the handover of the DWR colours (West Riding Bn) to custody of the RHQ at Halifax. General Donald Isles received the colours on behalf of the RHQ, from Major Bateman.

Looking to the future, we are fighting off bids for our two vacancies on Ex Medicine man in Canada. We are also training a team for Nijmegen, their training includes two extra drill nights for fitness training, one of which seems to take the form of a keep fit club for the Coy 2I/C, who swears he loses two pounds each time (most of it over the bar counter).

To round off we must mention that CSM Hickling was unfortunately taken ill in Barnsley and taken to hospital. After an emergency operation for a perforated ulcer, he is now making a fine recovery (it's amazing how short a time it took the new 2 I/C to give the CSM ulcers!)

At the time of writing these notes, we are snowed under with potential recruits, so much so that Sgt 'Doc' Budden of the ACIO is in danger of becoming unemployed.

PS. The PSI would readily accept any duty free contributions from the 1st Bn.

Wellesley Company

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

'The time has come the Walrus said,
to talk of many things'
and indeed Wellesley Company have much to talk about as we reach for pastures new, and set the pace on the Army Cadet Force scene.

Comings and Goings

As these notes are penned, Capt Frank Fox prepares to depart the company for an appointment as 2IC and Area Staff Officer at Leeds Area ACF, which is now commanded by Maj Ron Addyman late of 3 Bn Yorkshire Volunteers. We shall miss Frank's healthy enthusiasm but as a 'Duke' thro' and thro' he'll soon forge a mighty team with Maj Ron and give Leeds good leadership.

We have a substantial waiting list for entry into the Company with Messrs Turner, Wall,

Walton and Kelly waiting in the wings as their papers get processed.

Sadly, however, we record the death of Stanley Holt, who was also being recommended for adulthood into the ACF. A former cadet from Mirfield, and helping out at Huddersfield pending a posting, he passed tragically away at the age of 25. He served from 1969 until 1977 with 1st Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regt. His father Joe, has subsequently presented two rifles to the Company for suitable award — they will be used to perpetuate the name of a 'Duke', a Gentleman, and a dear friend.

Weekend Camps

Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, witnessed an avalanche of Dukes cadets during the period 10/12 December — Scarborough town will never be the

same again. A compact group of officers and instructors generated an enthusiasm that would be a credit to any organisation. All kinds of skills were taught, practised, and tested with the emphasis on skill at arms and fieldcraft (note fieldcraft in mid - December). This was the springboard for a training year to remember and how they lapped it up. Only transport restrictions and financial constraints prevent us from camping monthly, but we look forward to an Adults Seminar and Senior Cadets Cadre at Proteus in February, followed by the entire Company at the Cadet Training Centre, Strensall, during 6/8 April. Reports in our next set of Iron Duke notes.

Area Mess Activities

The Sergeants Mess at TAVRC Halifax set the scene for the launching of our Social Calendar for 1978. A Social Evening featuring continuous music for all tastes and dancing supplemented by a truly magnificent buffet splendidly prepared and presented by SMI Bill Fitzgerald and his family team. A total of 79 savoured the occasion, and we were delighted to welcome people like Jack and Kathleen Fitton, Trevor and Jacky Windle, Jeff Brinley, Frank Poulton — 'characters' and old friends each and every one.

Voted a marvellous success, the pressure is now on to consolidate and repeat the occasion at frequent intervals — a task we shall relish.

Regimental Association

J. Powell, Chairman of the Mossley Branch DWR Regimental Association, writes to thank us for arranging a small ACF party to perform with bugle at the private wreath laying ceremony at Mossley on 30 October. Their French Old Comrades (11 in total) from the twin town of Hem were present, and the Mayor of Tameside was particularly impressed. We were delighted Mr Powell, thank you for the privilege of sharing the occasion with you.

Annual Visits

At the time of writing, Lt Col R. M. Weare

has already completed his Annual Visit to Halifax, Mirfield, Thongsbridge, and Huddersfield. The results for Halifax and Mirfield are to hand with 'Above Standard' and 'Standard' respectively. We are proud to quote from Colonel Weare's letter to the Area Commander as follows:— '... ask you to pass on my congratulations to your detachment commanders and adult instructors on their dedication and achievements. I was tremendously impressed by the general standard of the Cadets and their enthusiasm for soldiering which was an inspiration to me. Very well done'. Wellesley Company are currently walking 10 feet tall but we shall strain and strive to improve and improve — this is no ordinary ACF Area, we aim to sell ourselves — but what is more important give a first class after-sales service. You the reader, must surely be a 'Duke' and we intend that you will be proud to declare that Wellesley Company have an honourable place in your Regiment.

Maj Tony Farrell, Training Major to 3 Yorks will visit our Skipton, Keighley, and Heckmond-wike Detachments in the near future, and we shall report in due course.

The Way Ahead

- a. Annual Camp at Standford PTA in Norfolk looms on the horizon . . . we now slip quietly into gear for a build-up in training . . . we envisage taking at least 170 of our 240 Army Cadets and we need them in peak condition.
- b. A thriving parents committee at Huddersfield; the magnificent Welfare Committee at Mirfield; and now another springs up at Skipton. Everyone wants to help, so can we enlist YOU:—
 - i. Any old band equipment you don't want?
 - ii. Old sports gear more than welcome.
 - iii. Have you a military (or other) skill to offer as a civilian helper — write to Maj John K. Tyler — you'll get a reply before the ink is dry.
- d. We ask you for help, but remember — can WE help you. We're only a 7p stamp away — give us a whirl!!

NO 10 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

It is normally quite sad when any organisation 'folds up'. 10 AYT like all the other AYT's will have ceased to exist by the beginning of April and the members will have moved to their new jobs. I have returned to the Bn for a stint of 'real soldiering', Sgt Frear has moved on to 10 Cadet Training Team keeping our link with the West Riding and Cpl Butterworth has gone to the Recruiting Team at the Depot. On the surface it is understood that AYT's will never be resurrected but reading between the lines it seems highly

likely that the Recruiting world will eventually require an organisation to fulfill the tasks that AYT's performed. Whether this means that AYT's will be resurrected is anybody's guess, only time will tell.

Finally, on behalf of 10 AYT, I would like to thank all 'Duke's', Regimental Headquarters and others too numerous to name, for helping me and in particular the AYT during its interesting and colourful short history.

M.S.S.

Obituary

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

Mr F. Haywood

The death occurred early in the year of Mr Frank Haywood. He enlisted in the Regiment in 1922 and was posted to the 2nd Bn in India, where he took part in the Looe Aggra operation, and was mentioned in Despatches, he served in various training units during the 2nd World War and was discharged in the Rank of Coy Sgt Maj.

Mr D. P. Benson

Mr Dave Benson died in St James Hospital London on February 4, 1978 after a long illness, aged 72.

He was taken ill in April 1977 whilst on holiday in Corfu and flown home to hospital at Ashford, Middlesex, where his left leg was subsequently amputated.

The funeral service was held at St John's Church, Fulham, followed by cremation and was attended by Maj A. C. S. Savory, representing the Regiment, Mr K. Waterman, Mr and Mrs K. Walker and Mr R. H. Temple.

An appreciation will be found in the Regimental Association notes.

Colonel F. R. Armitage OBE

Frederic Rudolph ('Boy') Armitage was born at the turn of the century and was educated at Marlborough and the RMC Sandhurst. One of his forebears was Col Frederic Rudolph Blake who led the 33rd up the slopes of Alma in 1854 and was severely wounded while so doing. This family connection may be the reason why 'Boy' chose The Dukes as his Regiment.

Though posted to the 1st Bn he, in fact, joined the 2nd Bn and did most of his regimental service with it.

'Boy' was always an efficient and conscientious officer and it was no surprise when Col Pickering selected him to be Adjutant of the Bn at the early age of 25.

The Bn moved to Singapore from Egypt the following year and it was perhaps here that 'Boy' had the happiest period of his life. After modest beginnings he became the most successful Gentleman Rider on the Malaya Turf and was never at a loss for a mount in races all over the country. This combined with proving an efficient and respected Adjutant gave him a full life.

Having passed through the Staff College in 1935, 'Boy' was appointed Staff Capt 2 Div and remained in various 'A' staff appointments until 1940 when he became the first CO of the newly raised 8th Bn of the Regiment. His officers all hoped that 'Boy' would lead them into action but

this was not to be. In November 1941 the Bn was converted to armour and became 145 Regt RAC. An RAC officer was appointed to command and 'Boy' once more reverted to the Staff. Having held numerous 'A' and 'Q' appointments he had command of the 2nd Bn in India for under a year and then once more was claimed by the Staff. He had been awarded the OBE during this period.

Finally retiring in 1952 he was employed as a Retired Officer in his old branch in the War Office for some years.

'Boy' somehow exuded an air of integrity which commanded respect, yet totally lacked pomposity. He was a loyal 'Duke' and will be sadly missed by the dwindling band of officers who served with him.

B.W. W.C.

Col L. B. B. Beuttler, OBE

All of us who knew him well will have learnt with shock and great sadness of the recent death of 'Bertie', following a serious heart attack before Christmas.

His father was commissioned into the Regiment but transferred to the RASC where he had a notable career. Bertie joined the 1st Bn in Aldershot in 1933 and soon made his mark. As a young subaltern he was given command of the Signals Platoon.

Bertie's was a complex character to analyse and assess. There was the outward man, debonair good looks with a d'Artagnan-esque manner to match them; the face of the casual, light hearted amateur with the uncanny knack of producing excellent results with, seemingly, a minimum of effort and no fuss; the gift for witty and perceptive criticism of the stuffy and unimaginative. The other Bertie was a serious soldier with a deep interest in and love for his profession and for his Regiment. For those who merited it in his eyes, he had great admiration and he gave them his absolute loyalty, even when his estimate conflicted with popular opinion. He was nearly, but not quite, unflappable. Bertie had a most attractive individual style and was deservedly very popular with all ranks.

He was never a man to suffer fools gladly and he could display intolerance of anyone who seemed to him to be 'letting the side down'. It was this trait in his character which was to bring about a brush with authority in Cyprus and, very sadly, to his missing command of the Battalion and all that might have followed from a successful tenure of command for a man with his charm, ability and flair. He accepted this severe blow with good grace and went on to become a full Colonel but for him the real challenge was no longer there. Although an experienced and highly com-

petent Staff Officer he was first and foremost a leader of men and the prospect of spending the rest of his career as a desk soldier had little appeal. In 1963, he decided to retire and settle in Spain. He and his wife Pamela eventually found a perfect site on the Costa del Sol and built themselves a delightful house where some of us have had the good fortune to be entertained. It is typical of both of them that they should have learnt to speak fluent Spanish and to avoid the club life which can so easily become the focus of existence for exiles. 'Don Pedro', as he became known, was a respected and popular member of the local community.

Bertie was a natural games player who represented the Regiment in a wide variety of sports without really excelling at any one in particular. He loved his golf and was probably fonder of this than of any other game and he was a great competitor.

To Pamela, his wife, and to their three children, we offer our very deepest sympathy and we share their feeling of irreplaceable loss. 'This was a man.'

P.G.L.C.

Lt Col C. S. Moxon, DSO

Lt Col C. S. Moxon, DSO, died at his home in Huddersfield on January 5 1978.

He was commissioned direct from his Public School OTC and joined the 2nd 5th Bn DWR TA in January 1915. He was awarded the DSO for his exploits in the first Battle of Cambrai. He led

his Platoon far in advance of other troops and continued on by himself bombing the Germans, it was thought, with their own bombs. The Adjutant of the 2nd/5th, Capt H. S. Jackson, DSO, went out to look for him in a Tank and managed to recover him from the German lines and bring him back to his Company. He was later wounded and on recovery went for training with the RFC in Ireland; it is not known if he became a Pilot. In 1919 he rejoined the 5th Bn and served till 1926. He was a good cricketer and played with the Craven Gentlemen till a few years ago. In the 2nd World War he became 2 IC of the 25th Bn DWR Home Guard. This was disbanded at the end of the War and when a new Home Guard Cadre was raised he was appointed CO. He was always an outspoken critic of any Military parade in Huddersfield if in his opinion it was not up to standard, and had a very good memory of events and people during the First War. He leaves a widow and one son. D.H.

Mr S. Holt

Mr Stanley Holt died very suddenly at his home in Huddersfield on January 9, 1978, aged 25 years.

Formerly a Sgt in the Mirfield Detachment of Wellesley Company ACF, he joined the Regiment on a seven year engagement in 1969 and served with the 1st Bn until his discharge in May, 1977 on completion of his service.

He leaves a wife who is expecting their first child in June.

Regimental Association

NEWS ITEMS—NOTES OF INTEREST

NOTICES

London and Home Counties Dinner 1978

Saturday, May 13, 1978 at the Victory Club (Carisbrooke Hall), Marble Arch, London. 7.30 for 8.0. Tickets (£3.50) and further details from Ken Waterman, 21 Vivian Court, 128-134 Maida Vale, London W.9.

AGM, Reunion Dinner — 1978

Huddersfield, St Paul's Street Drill Hall. Saturday September 23, 1978. Guests of Honour — Maj (Ret'd) and Mrs C. C. Kenchington, Mayor and Mayoress elect of Kirklees 1978.

AGM in the Sergeants Mess 6.30pm. Dinner 7.30 for 8.0 Main Hall. Tickets (£3.50) from RHQ DWR, and Branch Secretaries.

Regimental Service, York Minster 1978.

Saturday, October 7, 1978

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 DWR.

LONDON BRANCH

At our Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 26, volunteers being a little thin on the ground, the present Committee was re-elected for a further year. The Treasurer, Mr Bob Ballard resigned on health grounds, and the Committee decided to combine the duties of Treasurer with those of Secretary, so Ken Waterman is now stuck with both jobs.

Our annual Dinner/Dance and Re-union is once again to be held in the Carisbrooke Hall of the Victory Services Club on Saturday, May 13, 1978 and the Committee, in consultation with Headquarters are trying to keep the cost down to the same as this year, £3.50 each. We will publish further details in the New Year when we have all particulars from the Victory Club.

Our monthly meetings are still held on the last Monday of each month, and are still attended by the few old faithfuls. We would gladly welcome new members.

Contact Ken Waterman, 21 Vivian Court, 128/134 Maida Vale, London W.9. Tel: 01-624 7469.

AN APPRECIATION

I very much doubt if our trip to the London and Home Counties Annual Dinner and Re-union will ever again seem to be the same. On the Saturday mornings, following our arrival, we were greeted by the Chairman and Secretary of that branch of our Regimental Association. But it is of the former of whom, most regrettably, I must now write. No single one of us who was present at those meetings and greetings can ever forget the ruddy complexion and the smile which lit up, not only his own face, but all of those who were within radius of it. Our journey to London, if for no other reason, had been made worthwhile. Yes! I refer to David Benson on whom the 'Reaper', who makes exception of no Man, called on February 4 after a long, painful and tragic illness. Dave, as he was affectionately called by all who knew him, was holidaying in Corfu when he was struck down by a serious illness.

He was admitted to Ashford (Middlesex) Hospital in April 1977 and, where later, his left leg was amputated. He suffered much pain and a steady deterioration in his condition. I bring to mind a couplet which I once read, but have forgotten where, which to me seems most apt. 'We mourn that which we have lost, But rejoice that we ever had'. That must be doubly true to Bob Temple who, for the past many years, was his most close associate and confidant.

Dave enlisted in 1922 and served with the 2nd Bn of our Regiment in Ireland, Egypt, Singapore and India. Whilst I was still on Boys' service I met him on one of his frequent visits to the band-room at Tanglin Barracks, Singapore. He was friendly with all the occupants but in particular with the late 'Bertie' Kingston. Dave was not a gifted ball player but to sit, or stand, beside him at a cricket, football or hockey match was to learn something of the niceties of that sport and the rules which governed it. He was a good and sober soldier, clean to the point of fastidiousness and always very cheerful.

For many, many years he, along with Bob Temple the secretary, organised the London branch dinner and gave us all countless hours of much appreciated enjoyment and the opportunity to re-live yet again our past years as comrades in fun and adversity. His passing is indeed a great loss to us all.

'LADS' OF THE SOMME (1916)

These incredible men are always in the news, the latest being the recent receipt of a French ('Those of the Somme') Association medal by Arthur Hollingsworth of 20 Dryclough Road, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield — for his part in the Battle of the Somme — 62 years after it took place.

Arthur, who already holds the Meritorious Service Medal for his work during this battle, celebrates his 90th birthday on April 16, 1978.

Other known surviving Duke's who fought in this battle (July 1916) are listed below, with their addresses.

F. Ashworth, 2 Diamond Street, Ashton under Lyne.

W. Farrington, 17 Benyon Street, Lees, Oldham, Lancashire.

M. Jackson, 96 Abbey Road, Shepley, Huddersfield.

W. H. James, 10 Moss Lane, Southport, Lancashire.

J. Manton, 21 Curzon Street, Mossley, Ashton under Lyne.

A. Rowley, Chadderton, Manchester.

Harry Smith, Station Road, Golcar, Huddersfield.

J. W. Stephenson, 10 Tinshill Lane, Cookridge, Leeds.

The General Secretary at RHQ DWR would be grateful for the names and addresses of any other surviving member of The Duke's who took part in this battle.

NEWS ITEMS

'Bobo' Chilvers writes from sunny Cyprus with no complaints about his tour as Garrison Sgt Maj being extended for a further year. Fit and well, he was inquiring about the belated issue of December Iron Duke. One can picture that character at ease in the sun, behind a glass, browsing through the Regimental news and adding his own little silent (vociferous) comments.

Ex RSM, Joe Collins, called in at RHQ recently looking exceptionally fit. Joe is now in business as a vehicle battery agent and distributor with headquarters in Withernsea.

Mick Reddy is safeguarding our interests on the staff of Securicor, but still finds time to call in for an occasional chat and probe for news of Regimental life.

Bob Middleton, mine host at Newlands Inn, Eynsham, Oxon, sent in some excellent photographs of himself and pub customers taking part in a 5 mile walk and run event in which over £120 was raised for charity. (Owing to Bob's speed he appeared as a white blurr on the photograph!)

We have received a letter from ex CQMS Roy Kilner who served in the 1st and 2nd Bns in Malaya, India and Malta and throughout World War 2.

Roy, now aged 67, would like to hear from any old comrades of that era. His address is, 35 Argyle Avenue, Weston-super-Mare, Avon.

We have heard that Donald Myers, who served with the 1st Bn in Honduras, was killed in a motor cycle accident at Huddersfield in April 1977.

REGIMENTAL TIES

Our latest stocks, available from RHQ, now cost £1.35.

Comrades in Arms and in Civvy Street

The British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (BLESMA) is closely linked to every branch of Her Majesty's Forces and the Merchant Navy and, although a voluntary organisation, is almost a branch in itself. It cares in virtually every possible way for any soldier, sailor or airman who loses an arm, a leg, or an eye while serving his country, as well as for ex-Servicewomen.

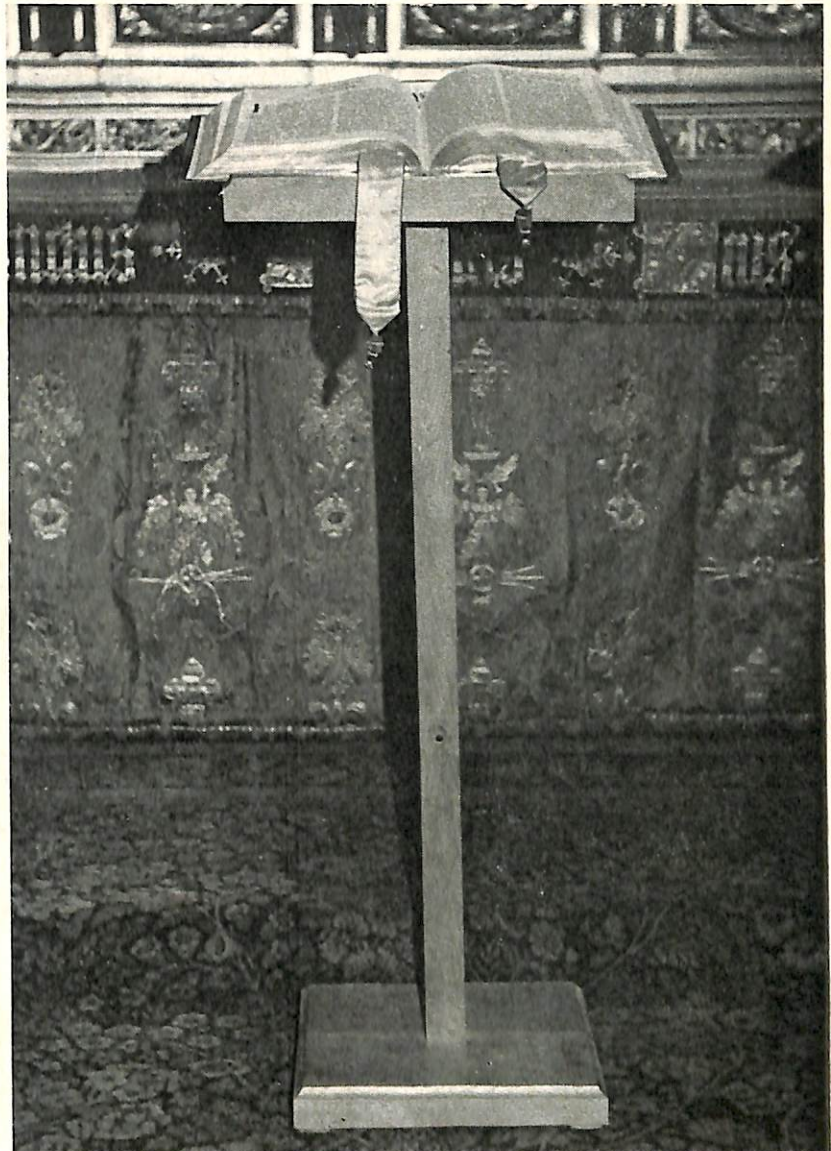
But little of this would be possible if it were not for the magnificent financial support given by members of the armed Services, as well as of the Cadets and of the Territorial Army. They help BLESMA not only to care for the veterans

of the First World War, but also for those who lost limbs in the Second World War, as well as in Aden, Cyprus, Korea, Malaya and many other peacetime conflicts right up to the present time, including Northern Ireland. This care includes nearly everything from providing grants to electric bath dryers for double-arm amputees.

Dr Elizabeth Frankland Moore, Honorary Secretary of BLESMA's National Appeal, said in London today, "The support which we have received from the Services has enabled many disabled ex-Service men and women to be helped by BLESMA to lead as normal a life as possible.

THE REGIMENTAL CHAPEL IN YORK MINSTER

The Bible presented by Mrs Joan Exham in memory of her husband, the late Maj Gen K. G. Exham, CB, DSO, is shown resting on the Lectern provided from the bequest of the late Col A. H. G. Wathen, OBE. Readers are reminded that the Annual Minster Chapel Service will be held this year on Saturday, October 7th.



I am grateful for this opportunity to express my gratitude for Service support. Unfortunately, the list of those who have raised funds in a variety of ways is far too long for publication, but typical of the donations which we have received recently is one from the Moenchengladbach Garrison; another from all ranks and their families at RAF Bruggen, to name two beds at BLESMA's Home in Blackpool and one at the Home in Crieff; and some from HMS St Angelo, Malta, HMS Daedelus, Lee-on-the-Solent, and from the Garrison Church at Chatham. All this helped BLESMA to give grants of more than £50,000—an all-time record—where the money was most needed. I would also like to pay tribute once more to all the members of BLESMA's 111 branches who, although limbless themselves, continue their splendid welfare work, particularly case-visiting. The First Staffordshires have in fact 'adopted' BLESMA's Chelmsford Branch'.

Other BLESMA services, all of which will undoubtedly be required for many years to come, include grants to widows—more than £20,000 in 1977; Residential Homes for permanent residence, convalescence, or change of air, as well as a break for relatives from nursing care; placing in employment, and pensions case-work.

Will you please continue to help BLESMA to keep all this work going. The Association now urgently needs further substantial finance to improve its Blackpool Home to maintain the highest possible quality of accommodation.

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